Hopes re YF hubs in the North-East

- Reduce the stigma around accessing support
- Highlight the importance of young people being consulted in relation to new provision
- Listening to voice of the child
- Engage with whole families – siblings, parents etc
- Listening to the voice of local communities – to ensure that the provision meets preferences/needs
- Bring in increased sense of community
- Very early intervention
- Increased participation in FE and HE – requires conversation/link-in with FE and HE settings (to ensure smooth transitions) – particularly important given relatively low rates of HE participation in NE
- Potential to build on existing provision and multi-agency partnerships – don't replace/parachute/duplicate – recognising good practice and not trying to reinvent this
- The 'right' role for the police – potential to build positive relationships between police and young people
- 'Bring back the buses' – detached youth work as part of the Hub provision/offer. Going to young people where they are, meeting them where they're at.
- Enhanced collaboration in services – a one place for everything approach could allow for more holistic support to be offered
- Potential return of a 'youth club' environment
- Potential to reduce waiting list times for accessing services

Concerns re YF hubs in the North-East

- Longevity and sustainability – focus on short-term periods of funding (and of audit). How do we keep it going if it is successful? It takes a long time to build trust and achieve impact with children and young people
- Might add additional burden of work onto already-stretched workforce
- Logistics – how can it work geographically? How many buildings/spaces do you need to meet the needs of geographically dispersed young people?
- Concerns about young people who are connected to gangs, involved in territorial conflicts/violence, might be unable/unsafe to attend depending on location of the YF Hub
- Effects of transport/rural poverty – if there's only enough funding for one hub within a particular city/area, transport limits will significantly affect how many young people to access it
- Potential for a 'postcode lottery' of provision
- Ensuring that the provision meets the needs – gets the 'right' people through the doors (especially those who've previously been underserved or may feel alienated from services)
- Adding to complexity of navigating multiple services
- Will this provision attend to the significant differences between different neighbourhoods in the same unitary/regional/local authority areas?
- Where will KPIs come from? Sufficiently attentive to *local* data/issues?
- Important to attend to granularity of data when setting up provision – especially their location
- No capital funding – resources not meeting the aims of this initiative
- Doesn't address the sharp cuts to youth services and youth spaces in many areas
- Ergo reliance on existing spaces – this will vary greatly between different places. You need "one a hell of a spare space"! Who's in it or not in it currently?
- Having all the agencies in one place (depending on the reputation of the agencies locally) could *alienate* as opposed to engaging some young people
- Stringent criteria to be eligible to 'get' a YF hub – could mean that areas with existing provision miss out from much-needed funding to enhance it
- Sufficient youth voice and influence? Existing consultation exercises actually gaining sufficient insight into young people's perspectives?
- 'Inappropriate' role for police – in a manner which alienates young people?
- Reliant upon the success/effectiveness of existing multi-agency partnerships
- Concerns about stigma in identifying the 'next generation' of offenders
- Confidentiality concerns for young people in an 'open access' space

Questions we still have about YF Hubs

- What do we mean by 'Hub'? this word suggests a physical entity?
- How will it fit with existing provision? E.g. the community family offer in Early Help? Family Hubs?
- How to recruit for YF Hubs, or who will be seconded?
- Who in LA will lead this? CSC? Early Help? MASH?
- What will be the role of the various statutory agencies?
- Where will they be located?
- What will the eligibility criteria be? Will this be standardised nationally?
- How will impact be measured? What will be the approach to this when LA arrangements vary so significantly? How do you measure an absence – i.e. how do you prove what you've prevented?
- Will there be an overriding body? How will it be regulated/reviewed?
- How will young people be consulted in their design?
- What will the role of families be in YF Hubs?
- How to ensure these are suitable for a broad age range of young people, with a broad range of needs?