



# Youth & Development Report

December 2021 BCA Council Meeting

## CHECC

Lots of universities have been reporting strong freshers intakes. This was followed up by a very successful CHECC event, hosted at Yorkshire Dales Guides Barn, despite Storm Arwen doing its' best to stop the show. The Y&D group are in discussions with the CHECC committee as to how best the BCA can support the learning from this event going forwards.

As convener of this group I'd like to take this opportunity to thank and praise the CHECC committee for all their work and support over the last 18 months. They've come out the other side of several lockdowns calmly and competently being a point of contact for many universities, whilst managing their own studies.

## Website Development

Further articles are being prepared for the website highlighting Youth, Development and Diversity & Inclusivity issues, and what the average caver can do about them.

If you have any topics you would like to see covered please contact the convener of this working group.

## Experience Caving

In the last report from this group, earlier in 2021, plans were laid out for improving accessibility to caving for young people, through creating an 'experience caving' program of weekends aimed at under 18s run by clubs. Prior to these weekends becoming viable work needs to be done to ensure that as many clubs as possible are set up to allow young people to join them with minimal barriers. This piece of work would be best left until clubs have had a chance to get up to their normal levels of caving, before we look to encourage them to do caving voluntarily leading groups.

Some clubs have reached out to the working group looking for advice for amending their constitutions to allow for younger members. A new document and process is available through Chris Boardman, the safeguarding officer, that assists in the vetting of members for the purpose of taking young people caving. This process will be published in greater depth shortly, and provided to clubs.

## Diversity & Inclusion

At the BCA AGM this year, a proposal by the convener of the Y&D group amended the equality and diversity policy, to add clarity as to who is covered by this policy, and to clarify the recommended actions in case of a BCA member breaching this policy. The convener believes that this being passed overwhelmingly shows the association's commitment to ensuring the sport is inclusive as possible leading to greater diversity.

## Girlguiding

A member of this group now works for Girlguiding, and has offered his assistance to any discussions that occur with Girlguiding around caving. The existing issues centre around insurance. The working group hopes to be able to get Girlguiding to recognise the scout caving permits as opposed to requiring commercial caving tickets. This will make caving much more accessible for a massive organisation of young adventurous people.

## School Reach Out

Discussions have occurred within the group to create some free materials for school, teaching elements of speleology and directing towards the BCA website and the new to caving website.

## Scout Caving

Many areas are now running scout caving events again, however the pandemic has affected the number of volunteer resources. If you have been a previous scout permit holder, or have benefited from scout caving yourself, the convener of this working group would love to hear from you, and can look to put you in touch with the relevant caving team.