



One-minute guide

Surrey Youth Focus and The Third Sector

What is the third/voluntary sector?

The “third sector” is the collective name given to charities and community organisations working in Surrey. These range from large organisations with paid staff, such as Barnardo’s and YMCA, smaller organisations such as [Appeer](#) and [Change of Scene](#), through to those led entirely by volunteers, such as Guides and Scouts.

Most charities were started by passionate people, who identified a need that was not being met. These organisations are a lifeline for many in the community, helping them cope with their daily challenges or providing support to enrich their lives. Each organisation has its own governance arrangements, which may include a board with trustees or a management committee.

Every organisation will have a safeguarding policy and designated safeguarding lead. They will also have other policies such as equity and diversity and GDPR. Charities often have to juggle to gain appropriate funding from a range of sources including public fundraising, foundations and, for some, the public sector.

In Surrey there are 100s of children’s and youth organisations and charities catering for a wide range of needs and interests. From those who offer 1-2-1 mentoring or counselling to those who offer outdoor activities and social activities. Many charities and community organisations offer support for young people with SEND or additional needs. You can find details of organisations we have in the third sector please visit – <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/families>

Who are Surrey Youth Focus?

Surrey Youth Focus is an independent charity working collaboratively across children’s and youth organisations and the public sector (Surrey County Council, District and Boroughs, Health and Surrey Police) to improve the lives of children, young people and families in Surrey. Our role is integral to ensuring the “health” of the children’s system by bringing the right people together to create meaningful change which benefits young people in Surrey.

We are involved in a wide range of initiatives across Surrey, bringing fresh perspectives to cross-sector issues and providing professionals with trusted advice on how to better serve the needs of children and young people in Surrey. Our work includes emotional wellbeing and mental health, SEND, voice of children and young people through Surrey Appreciative Inquiry and Learning (SAIL) as well as being the custodians of Time for Kids.

This provides us with extensive knowledge of public and third sector organisations and services. We have been affectionately referred to as the “honeybees” spreading nectar to enable the system to grow. For more about Surrey Youth Focus, Time for Kids or SAIL, please visit -

<https://www.surreyyouthfocus.org.uk/>



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