



LONDON BOROUGH OF
MERTON



YOUTH SERVICES



YOUTH SERVICES

Youth Services provide young people with somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to when they are not in school.

Youth services play a significant role in safeguarding young people and supporting their development, particularly for those who are at risk but not yet known to statutory services.

Regardless of a young person's background, youth services can help them harness skills to do better in education, improve mental wellbeing, and develop life skills to help them get the job they want, and make a positive contribution to their communities.

Crucially, these services help young people to build a life-long belief in themselves.



STATISTICS

On average, children and young people spend 86% of their time from birth to 18 out of school and mainly at home. (NAESP)

It is estimated that in England 1 million young people are from vulnerable families, of which 450,000 are unknown to formal or statutory services (National Youth Agency)

In England, child sexual exploitation was identified in 16,330 children in need assessments completed by local authority children services. (Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse)

London's youth unemployment rate stood at 14.1% in the 2nd quarter of 2023 compared with 17.7% in the previous quarter. (Statista)

9% of Merton's 5-16 year olds are estimated to have a diagnosable mental health condition.





*In his 2007 book 'The Good Teen', Richard M. Lerner included this additional outcome

YOUTH SERVICES

YOUNG MERTON

[Young Merton](#)

Young Merton provides information about all services and organisations that are available to children and young people within the borough. Young Merton is part of the Merton Family Service Directory.



[Pollards Hill Youth Centre](#)

Pollards Hill Youth Centre provide activities for children and young people from the age of 9-19. Activities range from cooking, sports, arts and crafts, homework club, circuit training, music production workshops, career workshops and general activities. 020 8274 5195 / pollards.hill@merton.gov.uk



[Phipps Bridge Youth Centre](#)

Phipps Bridge Youth Centre provide activities for children and young people from the age of 9-19. Activities range from cooking, sports, arts and crafts, homework club, circuit training, music production workshops, career workshops and general activities. There is also a weekly MAGIC (Mixed Ability Group in the Community) club for young people with learning disabilities on Saturdays between 10.30am - 2.30pm. 020 8274 5194 / phippes.bridge@merton.gov.uk



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[Acacia Adventure
Playground](#)

The Acacia Adventure Playground is free for all children and young people aged 5-16. It is a stimulating and challenging play space where play workers are on site at all times when the playground is open. Facilities include a giant climbing frame, fire pit, trampoline, and treehouses. Registration forms are required. 020 8274 5130



[Everyday Youth
Church](#)

Everyday Youth is for anyone aged 11-18 (within school years 7-13). Their teams are passionate about bringing out the best in every young person who comes their way. Alongside nightlife on Friday evenings, they run activities for young people on Sundays in Wimbledon. 020 8947 1859



[South London
Refugee Association](#)

The South London Refugee Association provide a weekly Youth Club with Da'aro Youth Project for young people ages 14 to 21 years on Thursdays (5.30 – 8.30pm), where they provide ESOL and support with English and maths homework (5.30 – 6.30pm), art workshops, games, sports and a community meal. Call to refer young person. 02034903443



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[Endeavour Youth Club](#)

Endeavour Youth Club located in Morden provides a safe environment for young people 9- 18 to enjoy many activities, including Football, Pool, Air Hockey, quizzes and cooking. Young people also have the opportunity to take part in trips to theme parks and residential outdoor centres. 020 8540 3129 / nick.skilton@btconnect.com



[Woodcraft Folk](#)

Collier's Wood Community Centre hosts Woodcraft Folk which is a group that accommodates all age groups and encourages social change in children and young people. The weekly sessions offer a programme that includes drama, arts, crafts and co-operative games, to name but a few. The young people go camping in the better weather and often get together to go ice-skating or take trips to other attractions. joel@collierswoodcommunityassociation.co.uk



[NEMCA](#)

North East Mitcham Community Association (NEMCA) hosts a youth club which is for young people aged 11+ years. The club runs 7:00-9:00pm every Friday night during term time. There is a cost of £2.00 per session. 020 8685 9452 / nemca@btconnect.com



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Holiday activities and food clubs

Holiday activities and food clubs (HAF) projects offer lots of fun things to do during the school holidays for children and young people from 5 to 15 years old. They run during main school holidays and half-term holidays. All the projects are free for children on benefits-related free school meals. Parents and carers of eligible children should receive their vouchers before the school holidays with information on how to book activities. HAF@merton.gov.uk



Scouts

Scouts is where young people can make new friends, have amazing adventures, and learn new skills. There are many scout groups across the borough where boys and girls aged between 10 and 14 years can attend. Scouts are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities as part of their programme. After Scouts, young people can join Explores which is for 14- 18 year olds.



Guides

Guides is a relaxed, welcoming space where girl aged 10 to 14 years old can have fun, learn and meet new friends. There are many Guide units across Merton and during meetings girls will do fun activities, play games and earn skills builder badges, all while being supported by trained volunteers. After Guides, girls can join Rangers which is for 14-18 year olds.



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[Sea Cadets](#)

Sea Cadets aims to give young people an experience that will help them grow into the person they want to be in a safe and friendly environment. Through various activities and adventures, they learn teamwork, respect, loyalty, self-confidence, commitment, self-discipline, honesty and how to be the best version of themselves. Sea Cadets (12-18): Tuesdays and Fridays, 7.30pm - 9.30pm / Junior Cadets (10-12): Tuesdays and Fridays, 7.30pm - 9.30pm. 020 8646 5998 / mertonssc@aol.com



[Fire Cadets](#)

Fire Cadets offers young people 13-17 the opportunity to develop their confidence and personal skills. Young people gain real-world skills, make lots of new friends, learn to work as a team, and will also have the opportunity to gain a BTEC Level 2 in Fire and Rescue Services in the Community. Young people can apply to join Fire Cadets online. 020 8555 1200



[Volunteer
Police Cadets](#)

Volunteer Police Cadets offers young people aged 13 – 18 the opportunity to make new friendships, take part in fun and exciting activities, support their local community through volunteering and social action projects, develop new skills and gain an insight into British policing. Young people can apply to join Volunteer Police Cadets online.



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[Army Cadets](#)
[UK](#)

Army Cadets is a national voluntary youth organisation sponsored and supported by the Army but not part of it. Army Cadets is open to young people aged 12 to 17 years old and is a safe place for them to learn new skills, develop themselves and try activities they might not get the chance to elsewhere. There are several detachments in Merton. Parade nights in detachments are free, but some detachments may request a small weekly subscription to go towards detachment events and visits.



[Royal Air](#)
[Force Air](#)
[Cadets](#)

Royal Air Force Air Cadets is a diverse and inclusive youth organisation, sponsored by the Royal Air Force for young people from the age of 13 years old. Cadets hold national camps as well as focused activities and experiences in flying, gliding, sport, adventurous training, drill, target shooting and cyber skills. There are several squadrons in Merton with young people expected to attend parade nights twice a week. Most squadrons charge around £10 per month to cover running costs, transport and other expenses.



[DofE](#)

The Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award is a charity which works to increase opportunities for young people in the UK. 14-24 year-olds can do a DofE programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, leads to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Through a DofE programme young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem, build confidence and gain essential skills and attributes for work. Young people can complete DofE through most schools or organisations such as Girlguiding or Scouts. Over 18's can complete via DofE Direct.



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[Detached
Youth Work
Team](#)

Merton Detached Youth Work Team travel around the borough, to establish positive relationships with young people based on mutual trust and respect. The team travel to where young people are and engage with them on personal levels in their territories. The team can be identified by purple or black uniform with the logo "Detached Team". 020 8274 5801 / detached@merton.gov.uk



[Merton
Youth
Parliament](#)

Merton Youth Parliament allows young people in Merton to have a say on how we can make Merton a better place to live, study and socialise. Young people can become a member of the Youth Parliament if they live or study in Merton and are aged between 11 and 19 years old, or up to 25 years old if they have a disability. Being part of Merton's Youth Parliament gives young people the opportunity to meet and work with new people, share ideas and about improving things for all young people in Merton and gain new skills. The Youth Parliament meet every month in the evening in Morden. youth.participation@merton.gov.uk.



[Young
Carers](#)

Young Carers Merton support young people 5-17 who's life is being impacted by the health condition, disability or substance misuse of a close relative. Young Carers provide one-to-one support sessions, school drop-in sessions, and help with accessing local activities and clubs. Self-referrals are accepted. 020 8646 7515 / info@csmerton.org



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[Merton Mencap](#)

Merton Mencap run ACES youth club for young people aged 14 – 18 who have a diagnosis of high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Asperger's. The club runs on Thursday evenings (6:30pm – 8:30pm), either in the community or at their Phipps Bridge base. 020 3963 0599



[Baked Bean Company](#)

Baked Beans provide performing Arts, Therapy, Social Activities and Holidays for adults and young people with a learning disability. Projects include drama, dance, singing, DJing, life skills sessions (arts and crafts focussed), drama therapy, holidays away, Saturday and school holiday youth activities (ages 12 to 19) and social groups. Services take place at Battersea and Clapham. 020 8944 0024 / info@bakedbeancompany.com



[My Futures](#)

My Futures supports young people aged 13-19 in Merton either at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or who are currently NEET. The team also offers support in a variety of schools in the borough providing one-to-one and group work sessions for the 13-16 age group, with the main goal to prevent young people becoming NEET. 020 8274 5958 / MyFutures@merton.gov.uk



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[Motivate Merton](#)

Motivate Merton, led by Merton Connected, is a mentoring programme for young people aged 11 – 24 to help them develop, grow and reach their full potential. Mentoring supports self-esteem issues, stress and anxiety, relational bullying, family breakdowns, involvement in criminality and gangs, and those who may be at risk of exclusion. Mentoring is free and schools can refer along with the Children and Family Hub and the Family Information Support Hub.



[Uptown](#)

UPTOWN provides support to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, with disabilities, young carers and those involved in gangs, crime, drugs etc. Support is provided via a youth club environment which has historically offered five three-hour sessions a week targeted at youths aged 11-17, or up to 25 for those with disabilities. 07957 112260 / uptownyouthservices@gmail.com



[Catch22](#)

Catch 22 supports Merton's young people aged 11-24 who have been using substances, reported missing from home or care, or exploited. Young people are then supported according to their individual needs, such as through one-to-one work, drop-in sessions and awareness-raising training. Self-referrals are accepted as well as referrals from parents/carers and professionals. 0203 701 8641 / mms@catch-22.org.uk



THE PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT TEAM

The Participation and Engagement Team organise a range of ways to ensure the voice of young people are heard and to give them access to decision-making.

The team runs the Youth Parliament, the Children and Disabilities in Care Council, and the Merton SEND Youth Advisory Forum. The team also includes the young inspectors, who help the local authority hear the voices of children and young people on a wider range of issues.

The team have a newsletter which is aimed at children and young people and includes information on services available, competitions and opportunities to have a say.

The team have also recently launched a new podcast for young people, with the aim of highlighting the work of the team and opportunities for further engagement.

My Voice Merton
youth.participation@merton.gov.uk




MERTON LOCAL DIRECTORIES

Merton Local Directories are great resources to keep up to date with activities and services available for children, young people and adults in Merton.

[Merton Local Directories](#)

Welcome to Merton Local Directories

Support, services, advice and things to do



Family Services Directory

Support and information for expectant parents and families with children and young people aged 0-19.

- [Activities and leisure](#)
- [Childcare and education](#)
- [Community groups and places](#)
- [Family support and parenting](#)
- [Health and wellbeing](#)
- [Information, advice and support](#)

[See more](#)




SEND Local Offer

Support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities aged 0-25.

- [Activities and leisure](#)
- [Education and childcare](#)
- [Employment and training](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Preparing for adulthood](#)
- [Social care](#)

[See more](#)




Young Merton

Support for care leavers moving into adulthood and independent living aged 16-25.

- [Education and learning](#)
- [Have a say. Get involved](#)
- [Keeping safe and healthy](#)
- [Local offer for care leavers](#)
- [Things to do](#)
- [Work, money and living](#)

[See more](#)



Adult Support Services Directory

Support for adults on employment, education, health, housing, financial advice and things to do in the community.

- [Activities and leisure](#)
- [Health and wellbeing](#)
- [Housing matters](#)
- [How to access help](#)
- [Keeping safe](#)
- [Money matters](#)

[See more](#)



Family Hubs Directory

Connecting families and young people with access to help, when and where they need it.

- [Family Voice](#)
- [Home life, finances and staying safe](#)
- [Keeping your family healthy](#)
- [Play, youth and family learning](#)
- [SEND support \(Special educational needs and disabilities\)](#)
- [Start for Life](#)

[See more](#)






ACTIVITY FINDER



Merton's Activity Finder is a great resource to keep up to date with all sporting activities available for children, young people and adults in Merton.

There are hundreds of free or low-cost activities in Merton to choose from.

[Activity finder](#)

 <p>Free</p>	2.9km away Premier League Kicks - Free Football Session 📍 Plough Lane Stadium, Plough Ln, London SW17 0NR, UK 📅 Thu 30th Nov at 16:30pm
 <p>£2.20</p>	3.5km away Indoor Soft Play 📍 David Weir Leisure Centre, Middleton Road, Carshalton, Greater London, SM5 1.. 📅 Fri 24th Nov at 16:30pm
 <p>£2.20</p>	3.5km away Indoor Soft Play 📍 David Weir Leisure Centre, Middleton Road, Carshalton, Greater London, SM5 1.. 📅 Fri 24th Nov at 17:30pm



FURTHER SUPPORT

Families can receive further information on youth services available throughout the borough through the Family Information Support Hubs (FISH).

FISH provides parents/carers with information, support and guidance on all aspects of family life.

FISH sessions take place Monday – Friday with FREE face-to-face or telephone appointments available. Appointments can be booked via [Eventbrite](#) either by a parent/carer or a practitioner on their behalf.

Or parents/carers can come along to one of the FISH drop-in sessions (no appointment needed):

Family Hub at Church Rd Children Centre – Mondays, 1.30pm-4.30pm
Family Hub at Acacia Children Centre – Wednesdays, 9.00am-12.00pm



MERTON FAMILY HUB FACEBOOK

Merton Family Hub's Facebook page is also a great place to keep up to date with information and services available.

[Merton Family Hub Facebook](#)

Follow us!

