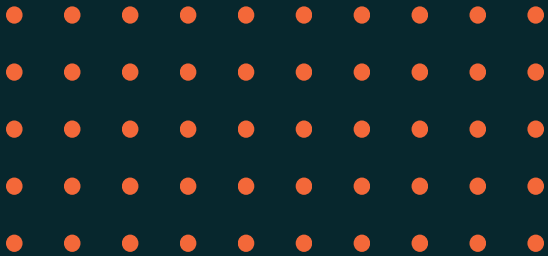




West Yorkshire Citizens AGM

4th April 2025



WEST YORKSHIRE CITIZENS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – UPDATE

On Friday 4th April, 70 members from 12 institutions of West Yorkshire Citizens gathered at Dixons Trinity Academy, Bradford, to hold our Annual General Meeting. In between all the necessary business we had a great time getting to meet each other, celebrating the work we have done together and planning for the future. Thank you so much to everyone who came and took part.

We had musical contributions to start and finish from the Dixons Choir, and from Lydia at Chapel FM – thank you so much for your inspiration! Our meeting was then seamlessly chaired by our West Yorkshire Co-chairs Tony Macaluso ([Chapel FM](#)) and Jim Lauder ([Dixons Trust](#)), Eve Maloba ([Complete Woman CiC](#)), Adam, Esha and Khizer ([Dixons Sixth Form](#)), and Min Duyen ([Leeds Beckett Students' Union](#)) our timekeeper, who made sure that we all finished early.



We looked back at our work over the last year or so, with stories from Sharon Hill (**Connecting Crossgates**) about poor housing, the **Co-op Leeds** about their work with Roma students, and Oluwaniyi OJO (**LBSU**) about the campaigns for better pay for part-time work and employment opportunities. The Bradford team also shared around the mental health campaign and an update from their recent Delegates Day around Racial Equity.

Celebrating wins always brings the joy, and Mike Austin (**LBSU**) came to share the news with us that Leeds Beckett SU have agreed to become a Real Living Wage employer. Well done! A great moment for all of the students and staff that work for them and a commitment to a fairer way of working.


Eve then brought an update from the Migrant Health and Social Care Workers campaign, which is listening to the experiences of care workers being exploited. They have already met with the Home Office team in our region to share their concerns and build relationships.



Winnie Chinyadza (LBSU) and Oscar Moussima (Chapel FM) spoke about the Buses campaign – it was a packed update with much to tell. This campaign team have been very busy locally and with other teams across the North taking action to improve public transport. There are five institutions working regularly with this work, with many others supporting them.

After our 121s, we moved to looking forward to working together over the next year – on the Buses campaign (Peter Cordwell - Leeds Methodists), the Racial Justice in Education campaign (Dixons Trinity students), and the Social Care campaign (Donna Eastham – Leeds Trinity University). Please do get in touch with the campaigns as we need everyone to work together to make change happen.






Jim then brought our launch of Chapter-wide listening to find out what is putting pressure on our communities – and we can start now! We are aiming to hold issues workshops in the week beginning the 20th October, with a Delegates Assembly after that. We all will need to develop our current campaigns and see if there are other issues on which we want to take action together.

We then all paused as Shirley Watson (**Beckfoot Trust**) gave us a timely reminder of how working together as diverse institutions is our power, and a personal reflection of how, for her, the personal is political and built on deep relationships and understanding.

After that came the necessary work on finances from Joe Barnes (**Leeds Sanctuary**) and Leadership Team elections (Eve and Steven Burgess, **LBSU**) as we organised our money and our people. We recognised that times were financially difficult for many of our members, but that we were an alliance that is built from the power of our collective dues together. Please do **contact your organiser** to talk more about finances if you wish.

We are aiming to hold elections to the Leadership Team at our Delegates Assembly and there is now a solid process to enable this to democratically happen. Our leadership needs to be active, diverse and representative, and we would genuinely welcome your nominations! Again, please do **speak to your organiser**.



We closed by looking ahead to our actions this term, including Young People's actions around Racial Justice on the **4th July**, and by noting that Citizens UK now has a fourth strategic aim around building **Relationship across Difference** (Do you know what the other three are?) We are looking forward to building on this aim over the next year.

A huge thanks to everyone who took part, and to everyone who helped with planning and shaping the meeting even if they could not attend.

Our next regional training is on 28th/29th April in central Leeds and there are still spaces available. Local training is free to all of our members.

After then, the next session is planned for 7th/8th July in Bradford.

Please see the next page for our full schedule of upcoming training dates for 2025.



WEST YORKSHIRE CITIZENS

KEY TRAINING DATES 2025

Type of Training	When	Cost	Find out more
Local Chapter Training			
As a Chapter, we deliver local training to equip local leaders to organise in their own communities. This is taught alongside leaders from across the alliance and is free to all member organisations.			
2 Day Local Chapter Training	28 th & 29 th of April 2025	Free for all member organisations	<u>Sign up here</u>
2 Day Local Chapter Training	7 th & 8 th of July 2025	Free for all member organisations	<u>Sign up here</u>
2 Day Local Chapter Training	7 th & 8 th of November 2025	Free for all member organisations	<u>Sign up here</u>
National Citizens UK Training			
A chance for you to develop relationships and skills alongside leaders from across the UK, and learn from the experiences of leaders organising from a wide variety of backgrounds. Taught by organisers from all over the UK.			
<p>3-day Community Leadership Training (Online):</p> <p>This National Citizens UK three-day community leadership training takes place online and is accredited by Birmingham Newman University as a Professional Graduate Certificate in Community Leadership.</p>	<p>13 - 15 May, 2025 (FULL)</p> <p>16 - 18 September, 2025</p>	<p>£230 for member organisations, discounted from £1,920 for non members</p>	<p>https://www.citizensuk.org/leadership-training/community-leadership-training-regional-or-online/</p>
<p>Learning Thursdays:</p> <p>We host a free online training, Learning Thursdays, designed to support Citizens UK leaders and member institutions apply learning from Organising stories, methodology and actions to their own change-making.</p>	<p>Regular Thursdays</p>	<p>Free for all member organisations</p>	<p>https://www.citizensuk.org/leadership-training/learning-thursdays/</p>
<p>6-day Community Leadership Training (Residential):</p> <p>Our national community leadership training is a 6-day immersion in Community Organising theory and skills, with a particular emphasis on building the method into the culture of your organisation through institutional development. This course is accredited by Birmingham Newman University as a Professional Graduate Certificate in Community Leadership.</p>	<p>8 - 13 June, 2025 (FULL)</p> <p>23 - 28 November, 2025</p>	<p>£230 for member organisations, discounted from £3,660 for non members</p>	<p>https://www.citizensuk.org/leadership-training/six-day-residential-community-leadership-course/</p>
<p>Community Organising in Schools and Colleges (Online):</p> <p>This 5-part training is specifically designed for college and school leaders. We cover the following: 1) Building Power, 2) Planning & Strategy, 3) Taking Action, 4) Planning Ahead and 5) Evaluation as a tool for Leadership Development</p>	<p>Summer (2025) Wednesdays, starting on 4 June 2025 and finishing on Wednesday 2 July 2025. Times: 4:00-5:30pm</p>	<p>Free for all member organisations</p>	<p>https://www.citizensuk.org/leadership-training/community-organising-in-schools/</p>