**Young People Take the Initiative**

*How YPFI members are streamlining projects*

PACT, or Physical Access, Attitude, Communication and Training, was created by YPFI (Young People for Inclusion) members who were experiencing barriers accessing services and organisations throughout London. PACT offers disability awareness training and assessments of site accessibility to organisations such as schools, youth clubs, shops, leisure centres and libraries.

In the past, PACT has completed 12 assessments per year, however, YPFI has been working to streamline the evaluation process and increase the program’s reach.

“It’s not easy, but our goal is to have 24 PACT assessments completed by the end of the year,” said David Slater, PACT outreach worker for YPFI. “We want to finish as many assessments as possible because there are so many things that young people want to do and may not be able to do easily.”

This updated assessment process has enabled PACT to increase its goals for the future. PACT is now working towards assessing public libraries. “One of our big goals is to complete an assessment of all 15 libraries in the Camden area,” David said.

Changes in the project will also create more time for team members to go back to sites they have already assessed and find out if these organisations have improved the accessibility of their facilities.

“Evaluating the accessibility of organisations is something I did before PACT. It is a part of my life and something I think about every day,” David said. “It is possible to make places more accessible just by pointing out the little things.”

David has high hopes for the future of PACT. “We are making PACT much sleeker, he said. “Who knows, maybe by next year we can start to evaluate restaurants and cafes!”

PACT is one of the many projects that YPFI members are working on to give young disabled people a voice and to help them to overcome obstacles in their communities.