

## Youth Matters (*Workshop*)

Benjamin Britten High School, Lowestoft

Poppy Lovell, East Suffolk Youth Development Officer, Community Action Suffolk

Caroline Rutherford, Charity Manager, Just 42

Sharon Harkin, Communities Officer, East Suffolk Council

## Workshop Notes

### Group work current day YP challenges as perceived by adults

- YP treated as an 'object'
- Accessibility of social media 24hrs = no down time, follows you home – no respite
- Unwanted attention/harassment via social media 'sugar baby' posts
- Grooming/catfish
- YP 'beneficiaries' of the impact of parent's mental health = potential lack of attention
- Radicalisation
- Deprivation 40% poverty
- School pressures = constant evaluation and testing
- Backlash of older generation re freedom to express who you want to be
- Lack of role models
- Lack of support services
- Teachers keeping abreast of how to manage different conditions e.g. partially sighted causing affected YP to attend 'special unit'
- Victims of trends & brands e.g. fashion, sport
- Gang & knife culture
- Risk averse
- Body Image

### Participants Pledges

#### ***What one thing would you do differently to support YP in your local community?***

5 common themes emerging:

1. Creating safe spaces
2. Transport
3. Youth engagement
4. Community safety
5. Sex education for parents/carers – LGBTQ+inclusive

### **Full list of comments:**

- Fund youth leaders to have direct contact with YP
- More detached youth workers
- Could ESC develop a transport/leisure card – local businesses would support
- Greater and cheaper transport access for youngsters
- Youth representatives/school council links
- Make places safer – adults present and have known safe spaces in town centre
- Creating safe spaces fit for purpose for our current generation x 2
- To keep pushing the local council for better street lighting
- Share access to community clubs with schools
- Work with schools and community groups to create safer spaces for after school and weekends
- Pop up youth club
- Push for meeting places and return of proper community places for YP
- Provide opportunities for YP to talk to trusted adults
- Reach out to organisations working with YP to provide work – community payback probation service
- Develop more interactive ways of getting feedback, ideas, views from YP
- For SCC to do similar pupil engagement for ALL youth projects. Stop the 'doing to' with funding – ASK children not assume the spend
- Remind policy and decision makers that adults think YP are the issue with community safety, but YP are afraid of adults in their communities and on the streets
- Sex education for parents & carers that is LGBTQ+ inclusive
- Tolerance, flexibility of thoughts around YP
- Request more workshops to find out what YP would like to see
- Not assume what YP want or have issues with – engage with them and find out!
- I will work harder not to make generalisations/ assumptions about YP
- How can East Suffolk provide better support?

**Thank you for your participation!**