DERBY YOUTH ALLIANCE

#THISISDERBY

2022 | **2023**

April March

Our Annual Evaluation

Introduction and Overview

The Derby Youth Alliance was created by Derby's Stronger Communities Board. It's aims are to promote openness, trust, responsibility sharing, innovation, high performance and the alignment of interests between delivery partners. Members are committed to work together to reduce risk and improve wellbeing and services for young people, in a collaborative and constructive way..

Mission

To provide a network of providers working collaboratively to support Derby City's young people to be safe, develop and prosper. The focus of the Youth Alliance should always be based around the needs of the most vulnerable and challenged young people and deprived communities.

Vision

The vision of the Youth Alliance is to work towards Derby being:

- A city where young people are safe, feel supported and are celebrated
- A city with diverse opportunities for young people to do activities in safe supported environments
- A city that puts the needs of the most challenged young people first
- An inclusive city where young people are listened to and have a voice
- A city where young people feel happy, safe and empowered

Funding

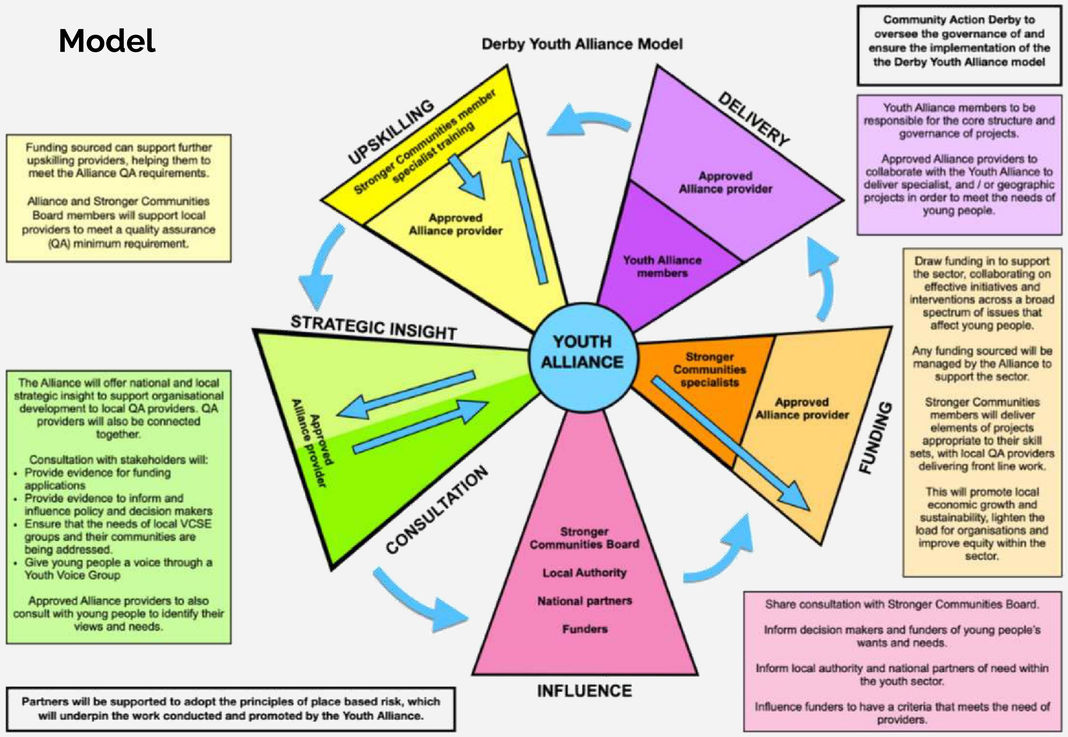
During the 2022/23 year we received grants from Derby Homes, Derby City Council and Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing. The Mentoring Project was also part-funded through Youth Alliance partners.

Priority Areas

The Youth Alliance should prioritise tackling issues that are related to young people, including, but not limited to:

- Abuse and exploitation
- Alcohol and drug use
- Antisocial behaviour and crime
- Education and employment
- Exposure to new experiences
- Extremism and radicalisation
- Facilitating the engagement and connection with authorities
- Financial stressors, poverty and destitution
- Health and wellbeing (physical, mental and emotional)
- Life and family changes
- Cohesion, integration and isolation
- New and diverse communities
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and inclusivity
- The environment and climate crisis
- Youth voice and participation

Model



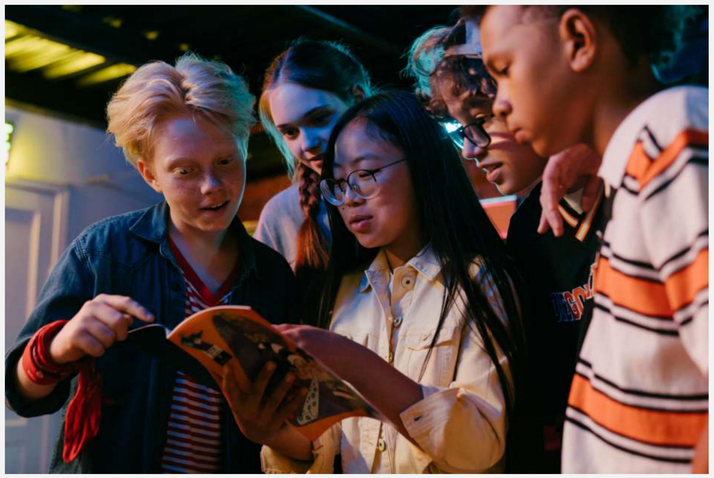
Membership and Growth

Strategic partners

- Baby People
- Children First Derby
- Community Action Derby
- Community One
- Derby County Community Trust (DCCT)
- Derby Theatre/Derby Cultural Education Partnership
- Safe and Sound
- Sporting Communities CIC
- Umbrella
- YMCA Derbyshire *New member 2022

Key supporting partners linked to the Youth Alliance

- Active Partners Trust
- Derby City Council
- Derby Homes
- Derbyshire OPCC
- Derbyshire Constabulary
- Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing

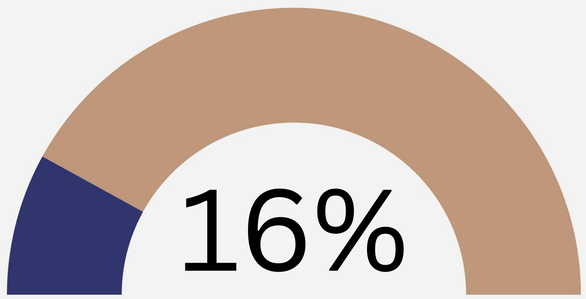


Youth Alliance members

- Al Hurraya
- Anansi Theatre
- Aspire Community and Wrestling Alliance
- Bridge the Gap
- Déda
- Derbyshire Cricket Foundation
- Derbyshire LGBT+
- Engineered Learning
- Enthusiasm
- Evergreen
- First Steps ED
- Freedom Foundation
- Global Education Derby
- Inspirative Arts
- M-Prez
- Mantis Martial Arts
- Mojatu
- Moorways Sports Village
- Nadia Jane Dance Academy
- Opus Music
- Premier Education Derby
- QUAD
- St Werburgh's
- Trailblazers

Local Information on Derby

Derby, the main city in the county of Derbyshire, had a population of 261,364 at the time of the 2021 census, with a BME population of approximately 26.2%. In 2022/23 the average crime rate in Derby was 10.28 crimes per 1,000 people, 46% higher than the national average of 7.03 per 1,000 residents. Violence and sexual crimes and offences, public order, criminal damage and arson were the most prevalent crime types committed. [1]

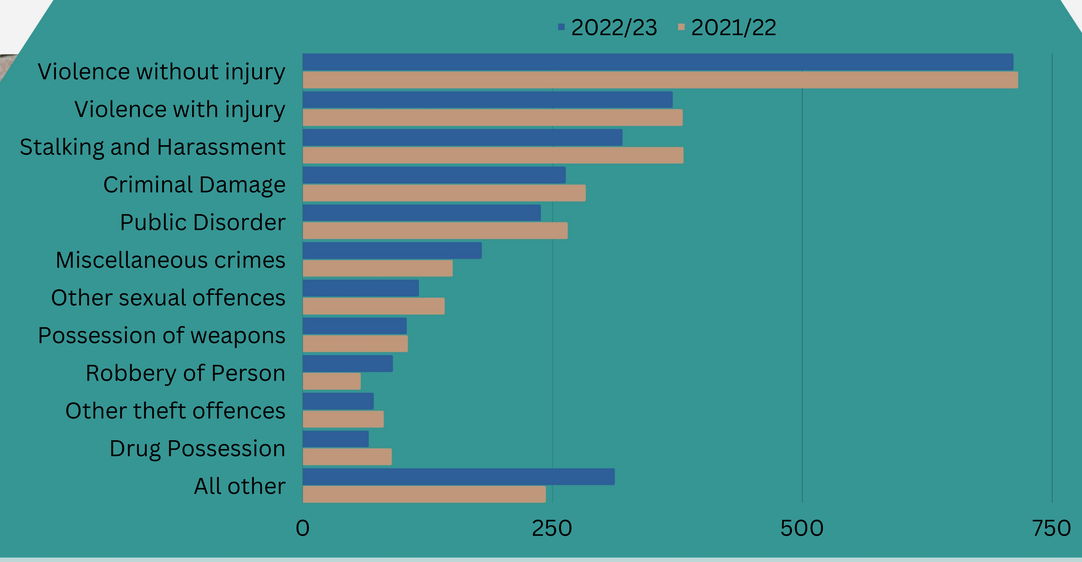


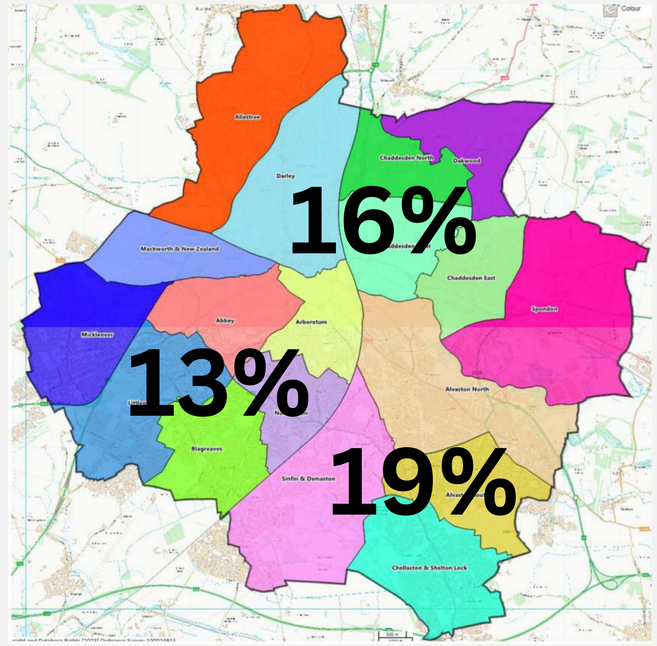
Across Derby City policing areas, between March 2022 and April 2023, 16% of all crimes committed were by a suspect under the age of 18. This is an increase on 2021/22 where the average across the city was 14%. [2]

Crime types

The most prevalent crime types committed by suspects under the age of 18 in Derby City are noted on the chart below.

89% increase in residential burglary
64% increase in shoplifting
55% increase in robbery of person
35% increase in rape
26% decrease in drug possession
16% decrease in stalking & harassment
10% decrease in public disorder [3]





Derby East is the neighbourhood policing area with the highest prevalence of crimes with suspects under the age of 18 - this area covers Alvaston, Boulton, Chellaston, Osmaston and Sinfin. The highest increase year on year is in Derby North which has increased from 13% in 2021/22 to 16% in 2022/23. [4]

References

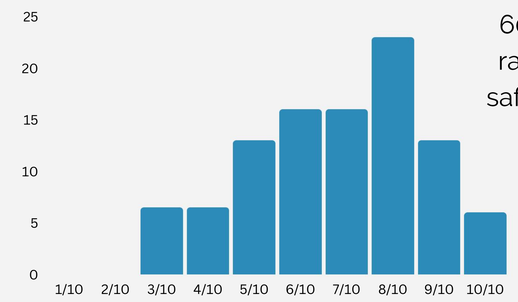
[1] https://info4derby.derby.gov.uk/crime-and-community-safety/
[2] , [3] , [4] - Freedom of information request to Derbyshire Constabulary.

The Future Leaders Project Survey

In August 2022, a group of young participants of a programme called The Future Leaders Project prepared a number of questions they wanted to seek answers to, from Derby's young people, whilst also having the objective of finding ways to better the connection between Derbion Security and disruptive youth.

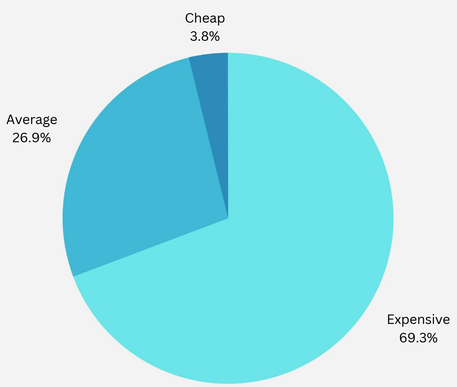
There is a clear need for a range of affordable and safe youth activities to be provided in the city centre. Young people feel they have nowhere to go and nothing to do, and a lack of financial backing to be able to access opportunities. To be able to access these activities it is also important to consider how safe young people feel in the city, and how accessible it is for them to access if they feel there are barriers to using public transport.

Teen Safety in City Centre

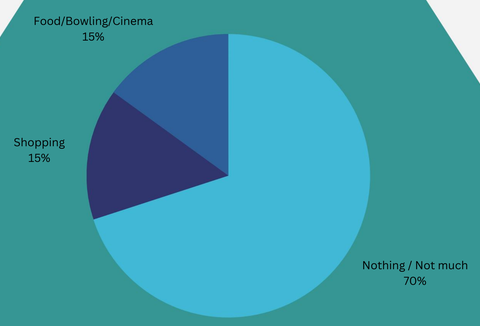


60% of young people rated their city centre safety as 7/10 or lower.

Affordability

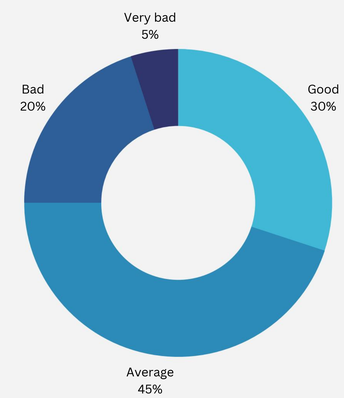


What do you like to do in Derby?



70% of young people said 'nothing' or 'not much' with the remaining 30% saying they liked to go shopping, bowling, to the cinema or to get food.

Public Transport



Although the young people's opinion of public transport was mixed, the main issues raised were the prices of tickets, anti-social behaviour on buses, and reliability of buses.

How could Derby be better for you?

When asked what young people feel could make Derby better for them, the answers were:

16% Activities

12% Finance related

12% Fitness related

11% Better shops and restaurants

9% Support for students and young people

Other responses at less than 7% each included friendlier security guards (Derbion), youth spaces, access to cheaper or free food, support for homelessness, environmentalism, mental health resources and support and more opportunities in general for young people.

References

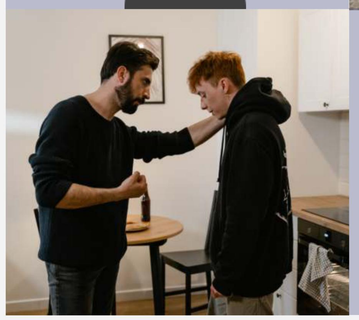
Qualitative and quantitative data from 'Derby Youth Alliance report, Outreach, engagement, and youth activities supporting Derbion and the City Centre - The Future Leaders Project Survey'

Youth Alliance Referrals Overview

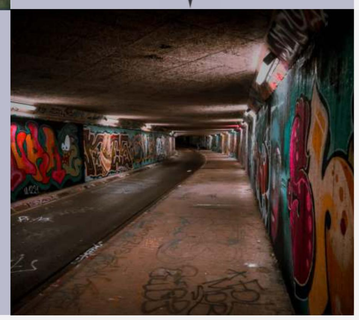
Direct referral types:

Person
A young person aged eight and up

Place
A specific area in Derby city where issues are arising



Family
Sibling and parents/guardians



Referrals by:

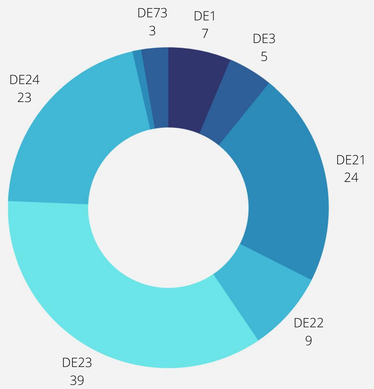
- Derby City Council
- Schools - primary and secondary
- Derby Homes

Referred to:

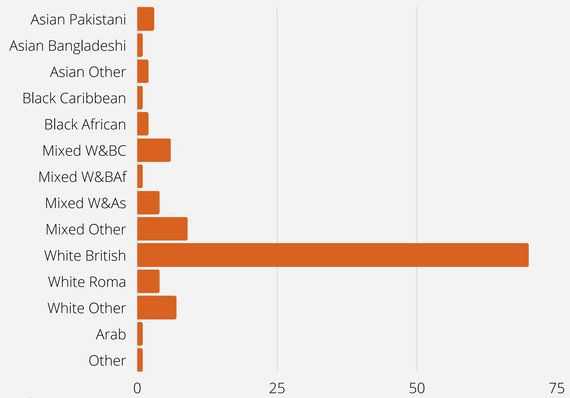
- **Baby People -** Mentoring support and youth group work, centred around art and music activities.
- **Children First -** 1:1 mentoring support and diversionary activities.
- **DCCT -** Place-based community engagement and outreach, sporting activities and 1:1 mentoring support catering for raising aspirations, supporting wellbeing and personal development. Pathways into Young Leaders qualifications and volunteering opportunities are also offered..
- **DCEP -** Mentoring and group support centred around cultural activities and experiences.
- **Community One -** Youth groups with activities, support and parental engagement workshops. Culturally specific provision.
- **Safe and Sound -** 1:1 mentoring support, outreach and diversionary activities. Child exploitation specialist.
- **Sporting Communities CIC -** Place-based community engagement, sporting activities and mentoring support around young people's mental health and wellbeing - signposting to Youth Alliance partners for higher level mentoring if needed.
- **YMCA -** Place-based community engagement, sporting activities and mentoring support around mental health and wellbeing. Young Leaders qualifications and volunteering opportunities also offered.

Person and Family Statistics - 113 referrals

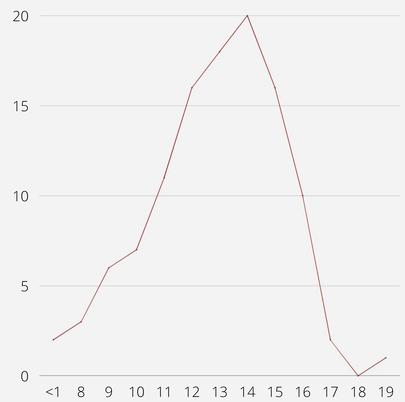
Number of Referrals by Postcode



Number of Referrals by Ethnicity



Number of Referrals by Age



Referrals by SEND

Referrals by Gender

Postcode: DE1 (7), DE3 (5), DE21 (24), DE22 (9), DE23 (39), DE24 (23), DE72 (1), DE73 (3).
Ethnicity: Asian Pakistani (3), Asian Bangladeshi (1), Asian Other (2), Black Caribbean (1), Black African (2), Mixed White & Black Caribbean (6), Mixed White and Black African (1), Mixed White and Asian (4), Mixed Other (9), White British (70), White Roma (4), White Other (7), Arab (1), Other Ethnicity (1).
SEND: Yes (48), No (63).
Gender: Male (83), Female (29).

Partner Led Projects - Elite Programme

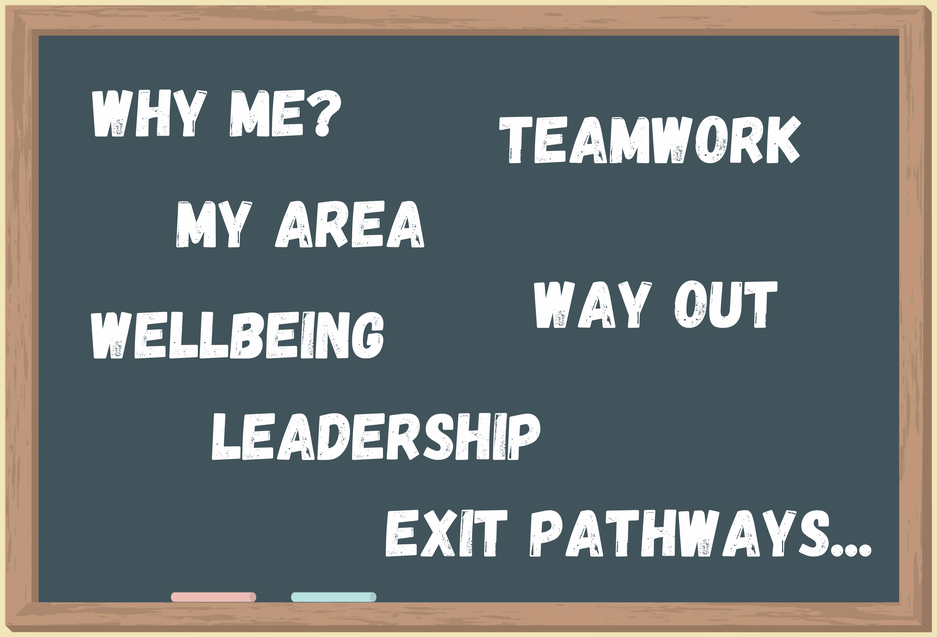
In the summer term of 2021/22 Grampian Primary Academy in Sinfin approached the Youth Alliance for help and support with seven of their hard to engage year 6 pupils.

The aim when embarking on this project was to provide targeted intervention for the nominated children, and a wraparound support for their families throughout the summer term and school holidays in the lead up to their transition into secondary school.

Delivery of the project involved classroom activities and physical activities including football, drama and music provided by Baby People and Community One. The project continued through the summer term and into the summer holidays where the young people were engaged in some day trips and outings including paintballing. Mentoring and family support from Safe and Sound and Children First also continued throughout the summer break, and during the first few weeks of the children settling into their new schools. The new schools were supportive of this process, working alongside the families whose children had been a part of the Elite Programme to ensure smooth transitions into year 7.

The initial feedback was very positive and there will be a full review of the project in October 2023,
Due to the success of this project, it will be a programme that will be promoted to other schools going forwards.

Community One provided a seven week training programme both inside and outside of school covering the following themes:

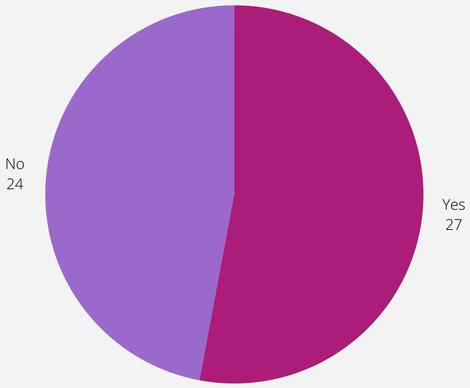


Partner Led Projects - DERBION

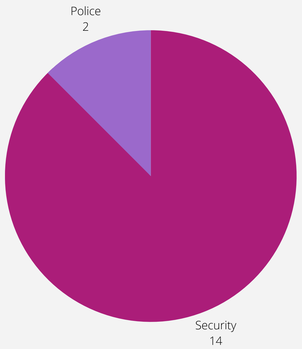
Due to increasing concerns in the Derbion shopping centre and surrounding areas, Derby Youth Alliance was tasked with a project to engage with young people and advise on improving the current situation.
The issues included: anti-social behaviour from young people primarily aged between 11-16 years, damage to car parks and furniture in the food courts, drug use on the stairwells and in carparks, vulnerable young people (including those reported missing to the police) frequenting the centre and causing concerns for staff, and issues spreading outside the centre to St Peters Quarter, the bus station, and the river gardens.
Derbion had tried to address the issues with support from the police, council and with increased security but were looking for a more coordinated, multi-agency approach with organisations that have the expertise of working with young people and the ability to engage and divert their activities in the city centre.

Derby Youth Alliance worked throughout the six weeks of summer to engage with young people at Derbion through sessions on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. All organisations engaged with an average of 40 young people per session with a total of 831 young people and 274 adults and families engaged. There was a slight increase week on week for attendance at the sessions that included activities and food in the Hub as young people chose to return.
A lot of feedback was received around activities and spaces that the young people would like to be able to access, and the current issues around engaging with security staff at the centre.

100% of children surveyed who attended Enthusiasm sessions, stated that they felt safe at the sessions, felt that it was accessible and fun, and would return in future.



Have you ever been asked to leave Derbion?



If yes, who asked you to leave?

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday activities were run by:

Qualitative and quantitative data from 'Derby Youth Alliance report, Outreach, engagement, and youth activities supporting Derbion and the City Centre'. Enthusiasm figures - surveyed 51 children and young people.
Have you ever been asked to leave Derbion? Yes: 27, No: 24. If yes, who asked you to leave? Security: 14, Police 2.

Partner Led Projects - SDSA Transition

During the spring term of 2022 the YA teamed up with the Schools Development Support Agency (SDSA) to support vulnerable pupils at risk of becoming NEET post-16, which is a high concern for many secondary schools with limited resources. There was targeted support for those students not achieving Grade 2 GCSE in English and maths between March 2022 – November 2022.

The aims and ambitions of the project were to:

- Integrate an offer of English and maths support within existing provision
- Provide high quality mentoring that is built on best practice
- Coordinate direct support for overcoming transition barriers linked to English and maths
- Increase awareness and signposting to additional support e.g. maths taster sessions
- Develop and signpost resources specific to English and maths life skills

Additional aims were to increase students' confidence and security in their post-16 journey, specifically supporting their access routes into Further Education and on into employment, or Higher Education. Students will feel better equipped to engage with the induction and on-boarding activity that takes place at their new setting.

The project initially targeted between 60 – 100 students from 6 secondary schools. Using our existing pool of mentors from the Youth Alliance partnership, a supportive framework was developed to equip mentors to have resources in their 'kit bag' to help students become 'post-16 destination ready'. This was underpinned by some core English and maths support e.g. life skills taster sessions. In conjunction with the SDSA, a mentor training programme was developed and coordinated, to build on existing and effective practice. This was especially useful when new mentors joined the programme.

Framework included themes such as:

- Becoming post-16 destination ready
- Supporting planning visits, understanding expectations, plus the idea of having some E&m lessons in the new settings to get a feel of things
- English and maths life skills support and signposting
- Signposting to E&m taster sessions via post-16 providers or other
- ·Secure and confident placement at Further Education
- Addressing any specific needs that are identified

Further activity continued beyond the project as YA partner Sporting Communities hosted seven post-16 Skills Workshops including themes of employability skills, CV writing skills, interview skills and mock interviews, networking with real-life employers and the opportunity to be part of a social action project.

community one

baby people

"I am grateful for all the support I was given and without this I am unsure where I would be now. The CV has opened doors for employment and their knowledge has given me the choices of what colleges I could go to and let me know I am able to change if it's not right for me. - ST"

YMCA

Sporting communities

Place Based Projects - Spondon

In early summer 2022 we received a referral from the Safer Neighbourhood Team at Derby City Council/Derby Homes about some issues in Spondon. The issues being reported, were that groups of young people were congregating after school time and over the weekend. The location had historically suffered from ASB, however since the youth club provision stopped, ASB incidents were on the rise again. Residents reported that groups were smoking cannabis, under-age drinking, riding mopeds at speed and blocking access for pedestrian users. This caused residents to feel intimidated, especially when using the Arnhem Tunnel which is a short-cut to go through to the village centre shopping area. Residents no longer felt safe in - or using - the area.

We met with local groups, councillors and the police and agreed that we can work together to tackle these issues.

Community Engagement

Sporting Communities carried out community engagement over the summer months. They attended an event at West Park School and engaged a number of young people, using a number of these sessions to identify issues going on in Spondon and the wider community. Sporting Communities engaged specifically with 11 of those young people who were hanging around in the tunnel - five females and six males aged between 13-16 years. A survey was carried out with these young people to identify some of the services they want in their community. These young people were happy to engage with staff and discuss that they were still in school and what they did in their spare time. When asked, the young people expressed how little there was for them to do in the area and that any nearby community areas such as parks are more appropriate for much younger children. They expressed that they would like more in the area for them to do, even if it was just a space where they could socialise with friends. It was clear that they had not specifically chosen the area but felt they didn't have many other places to meet up. After time spent with the young people, staff explained that they would be returning each week and would be happy to speak with them, share their views and voice their opinions.
Staff attended another session and walked around the area, engaging with nine further young people (nine females) between the ages of 12 - 15. The area was heavily littered with polystyrene all through the tunnel and entry. The young people stated that they were unhappy with the mess and expressed a keen interest in having a youth club provision in the area that they could attend, such as one that they had previously, which had been unable to continue running due to funding cuts. They had mentioned strongly that this was a service that they wanted back in the area.

Future Plans

A new youth group in the Derby Homes Community Room in Craddock Avenue started in January 2023 with Baby People (session delivery) and a Youth Worker, with the focus being around music and engagement. Baby People have had some discussions about updating the tunnel graffiti wall and involving young people in this.

Safe and Sound started an additional youth group.

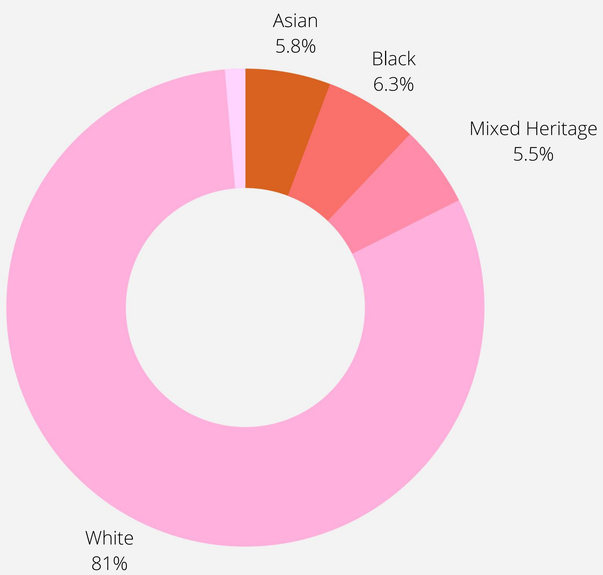
Sporting Communities and DCCT ran outreach multi-sport sessions, and are looking at ways to continue funding these sessions during the summer of 2023.

Inspire and Innovate Projects

The Inspire and Innovate Fund enabled local groups to provide activity sessions and mentoring for the young people in their area. This year nine groups were funded:

- Anansi Theatre
- Bridge the Gap Mental Health
- Brill CIC
- Déda
- Derby Trailblazers Basketball
- Engineered Training CIC
- Mojatu Foundation
- Nadia Jane Performing Arts
- St Werburgh's Derby

366 Children engaged



155 Male

206 Female

50 Receiving ongoing support

346 Exited positively

"'I feel like I have had a good session'"

"'It covered a lot of skills and encouraged me to learn lots of new ones'"

"'Feeling energised and happy!'"

"'I feel like I have unlocked new skills'"

"'I was very nervous to do something new but I enjoyed it'"

Quotes from Déda - Youth Dance Project Evaluation

Inspire and Innovate Projects

Case Studies - Déda

'Upon arrival we felt as though it might be a tricky session as the girls seemed nervous and slightly uncomfortable. Five minutes into the session they started to un-tense their shoulders, move more freely and crack a few smiles. It was clear that contemporary dance was new to them and after a few warm-ups and group tasks/games they were soon fully immersed into creative tasks, creating their own movements and moving to music and stimuli. At the end they chatted to us and expressed the joy of dancing. Six Students went home with Bounceback letters to join our audition only dance company, as we could see some real talent!' **- Dance Tutor, on completing a session at Noel-Baker Academy**

'A particular student seemed nervous and reluctant to join in fully at the start of the session. As the session progressed their body seemed to relax and dancing ability began to show. By the end they were working with a group of three others and were communicating their ideas and expressing confidence.'

- Case study student, Derby Moor Academy

'In the class we taught a set phrase, a student struggled with a few of the movements which we could tell was getting them down. We decided to break it down further and offer alternatives, by the end they had the phrase perfected including the movements that they struggled with. We are happy we were able to support them to get the movements as the smile on their face when they finally nailed it was unforgettable'.

- Case Study student, Noel-Baker Academy

Case Studies - Bridge the Gap

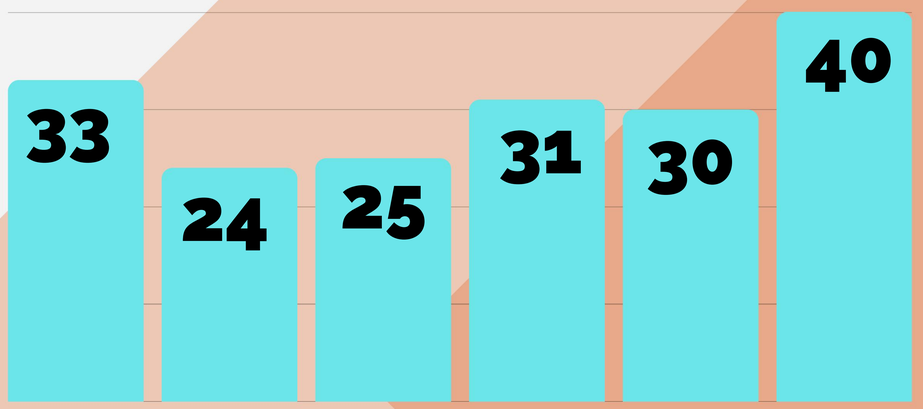
'Bridge the Gap have been a delight to work with on this project, our school would like to thank them for the opportunity that these children have had - invaluable support that we would love to continue next term, following this success.'
- Headteacher, St Peter's Junior School, Littleover

Children and Young People's Network

In 2021 the existing Children and Young People's Network became part of the Youth Alliance, and meetings are held bi-monthly for our strategic partners and a wider network of professionals working with children and young people in Derby City.

The meetings were held on Teams throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, but attendees have been happy to return to face to face sessions since April 2022 at these venues: YMCA Derbyshire, Enthusiasm, Derby City Council, Sporting Communities, Pakistan Community Centre and Moorways Sports Village.

Our current CYPN distribution list has over 200 professionals from over 80 organisations, and attendance continues to grow with a total number of 183 attendees over the six 22/23 CYPN sessions!



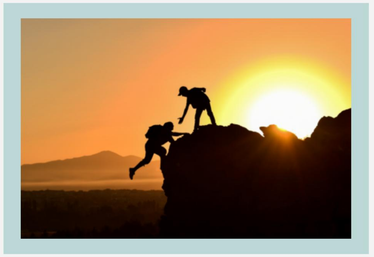
Mentoring Programme

The mentoring programme was funded through the Derby Recovery Grant Fund and the Youth Alliance partners.

Overview and Outcomes

Young people in Derby were provided with the opportunity to improve their aspirations by giving them an opportunity to develop and train as mentors, equipping them with additional skills to support their development and options for their future employment and education. The project also provided an opportunity for young people to be part of Youth Voice, representing young people in Derby and playing a part in making changes that will benefit all young people in Derby.

How



Young people, who partners of the Derby Youth Alliance work with, have access to a trained mentor. To date, 20 mentors across the Youth Alliance partners have been trained in mentoring skills and are also being supervised to ensure ongoing development, reflection and quality assurance.

These mentors are now supporting young people that come through their organisation to provide them with additional, on-going support, improving their aspirations and situation.

Partners of Derby Youth Alliance are being supported on the implementation of in-house mentoring programmes, ensuring the structure, processes and systems are in place to deliver a mentoring programme to their clients.

Delivered

- A peer mentoring programme has been delivered, training young people on their skills when mentoring their peers.
- Peer mentors are being supported through supervision and 'check-in' sessions to support their mentoring practice and ensure quality assurance.
- A peer mentoring group will be set up, where peer mentors will facilitate group mentoring sessions, supporting young people and parents.

Not only has the peer mentoring programme provided young people and parents with the skills to go on and support their peers, but it has also given them an opportunity to develop their own skills to help them achieve their aspirations and future employment and education goals.

M

"The mentoring training has taught me to listen properly and understand other mums' pain. I was very 'me me me' before the training, and just happy to hear I wasn't alone, whereas since the training I've come to grow a lot of compassion and understanding of the painful and trying times that mums and kids go through, I feel closer to the mums because of this and actively try to support them where I can especially when it comes to online protection and online searching/tracking methods. In other ways I know where I can direct them to more support that I've had to resource for myself and my daughter. I have a lot more understanding of an exploited child's life and no longer blame the child as I did for a very long time, I know now that children are just that - children - and they don't have the thinking skills and understanding of that of an adult. We have to always be mindful of that to be able to move forward as parent and child. I would say actively listening to other mums is a major part of being able to support emotionally and actively, and also to grow a good connection and trusting relationship. It 100% makes you grow stronger in knowledge, listening & understanding skills."

Case Studies

T

Prior to joining the music project, T was involved in Anti-Social Behavior, not engaged in her education, experiencing behavioral difficulties at home and easily influenced by her peers in a negative lifestyle.

Since attending this music project T has discovered that she has a keen interest in developing her music skills. Over the past few months, she has taken a different direction in her life, where she has moved away from some of her negative behaviours. This has helped in building a better bond at home with her mother as T has a purpose and something positive to focus on. There is still work to be done as T still has the same friendship group and at times the negative influences can have an impact on what she is capable of achieving.

During the sessions T has actively engaged with the Music Tutor and the Youth Worker has mentored T to achieve positive outcomes in regards to doing something positive and constructive.

The Tutor has helped T learn and be able to use musical equipment, to make her own beats and music tracks.

With T we are still taking small steps as there is still some way to go to achieve her potential, but the start is encouraging and she has shown what she is able to achieve when she puts her mind to it.

Baby People

C

C became involved with DCCT though the 1:1 mentoring support we offer, the referral came though after she was involved with an assault and having to work with the Youth Offending Service. Our engagement began with a 1-2-1 session within her school to identify areas for support and to help C. We developed various toolkits and resources for supporting her to regulate her emotions and providing an outlet for stress and concerns. C has engaged with a few different staff members extremely well and has grown and developed though positive engagement within our activities around values and lifestyle choices. Through C's engagement she was invited to come along to our Inclusion residential where her aim was to engage positively with the trip but also to try and build a new friendship group. This was done with unprecedented success, not only as she developed her confidence and social skills but has made impactful changes to her peer group and is actively looking for engagement with DCCT via other activities including Youth Social and volunteering. We are continuing our support of C as she transitions in to further education or work.

Derby County Community Trust

T

T was referred to Safe and Sound via Derby Youth Alliance from Youth Offending Services, and after three weeks was assigned a boys and young men Case Worker. T stated to our Case Worker 'he wants to pull away from the old crowd he was running with, and make something in his life, he was fed up with getting into trouble'. At this point T was not interacting with any of his old associates and was staying out of trouble, sticking to curfews set by mum and no poor behaviour, drugs, or drugs paraphernalia.

The Safe and Sound Case Worker worked with T on the topics of knife crimes and living with that impact as a victim and offender, CRE, drugs and the effects on young people mentally and socially, county lines (grooming), projection of where will you be in five years, and making better decisions.

T engaged well while working through these topics. T would discuss in the third person situations he might have been in when discussing some of the above topics.

In January 2023 T was threatened by a group of young people impacting on the family home and he was further assaulted in Derby by two young people. Police were involved and T was able not to retaliate.

T through support, one to one sessions, and mentoring sessions changed his life around. He started interacting with school again, he stopped his criminal activities, he broke down his relationships with risky peers, regardless of threats. T started to think about where his life was heading and changed his direction.

On reflection T has done well over the period he has worked with Safe and Sound and should be proud of his successful journey.

Safe and Sound

D

D is a complex young man and professionals have struggled to engage with him and achieve outcomes that have been set for him in recent months. However, D speaks positively and enthusiastically about his recently allocated mentor, and she has started to build a positive relationship with him. In one particular conversation with D not only did he speak positively about her, but his body language became relaxed, and his face was full of smiles. This mentor has been able to engage with him and I feel that this relationship will allow for some outcomes to be achieved for this young person.

Thank you again for providing this valuable service to the family I am working with and please pass on these comments to the mentor for D.

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Children First

Case Studies

M

"I came to the YMCA last year after a relationship breakdown with my parents, I had nowhere to stay so was referred to YMCA Derbyshire." M has been living on site at the YMCA for just over a year and regularly takes part in youth and community activities at the Wilmorton Community Gardens. "I come to the community gardens twice a week every week, YMCA staff make sure I am up and help me get motivated to do something with my day. If I wasn't at the gardens, I would probably just stay in my room playing video games." M started out sharing an allotment plot with a volunteer to learn the ropes, within a few months his passion for growing his own vegetables and maintaining the plot was clear, so he was offered his own space to manage. "I have grown potatoes, tomatoes and mint on my plot, I gave the potatoes to the campus kitchen to use for the residents meals. I get involved with a bit of everything down there including digging trees out and painting fences, I find it chills me out". M is now pursuing further education by taking a Railway Engineering course as he has a keen interest in trains. His aim is to work within the railway industry.

With the help of our Youth Worker funded by the Youth Alliance, M been supported to connect with nature and engage positively, M is now moving along his pathway positively and we are grateful to the funding from the Youth Alliance that enables us to provide the 1:1 support young people need to thrive.

YMCA Derbyshire

ST

I first met ST at City of Derby Academy. She was worried about her exams and leaving school. ST wasn't 100% sure of what she wanted to do and was considering an apprenticeship in Early Years, and she was also applying to colleges to study Child Care. ST was offered a place at Derby College at the Round House on the Health and Social Care course. When ST received her exam results, she was very disappointed. We spoke about how she could still do well by giving 100% at college. She was concerned about how she would fit in at the college and what she should wear.
ST wanted to get part-time work and needed a CV, and so together we produced a CV. Even though she had no previous work experience she was happy about how we demonstrated her transferable skills through the things she does for her family, and added these to her CV. ST handed this into a local chip shop and was offered a trial, and from this she gained a job. Although ST isn't very happy in the chip shop she continues to attend whilst still applying for other jobs.
ST started at Round House and very soon found it overwhelming and found that she wasn't enjoying Health and Social care. She remembered that I had spoken to her about alternative colleges and took it upon herself to apply to Key College to study Child Care. ST spoke to me about this and I advised how well she had done, and how mature she had been, to realise that she could change the course/college. I supported ST with the assessment, Induction, and interview at Key College.

YMCA Derbyshire - SDSA Transition Project, post 16 options

E

E joined the Baby People session being delivered in Derwent and prior to this she had never taken part in any type of music project. E lacked self-belief and confidence in her ability to achieve anything positive as she was dealing with her own identity issues. To develop her confidence and self-belief through the music project, she mixed and established friendships with other young people. E has a friendship group of peers who have similar interests and hobbies including music and performance. Over a short period of time, you could see her confidence increase and she developed new friendships that made her feel like she belonged and was valued.

During the sessions she developed skills where she was able to perform at Baby People End of Term Show. To others this might not seem like a massive milestone in their life but for E this was a huge personal achievement, giving her direction and a purpose in developing her music skills.

E is grateful to the Youth Worker and the Music Tutor who encouraged and helped her to attend and take part in the sessions. E states that she feels now that she is listened to and that she is not judged about who she is as an individual.

Baby People

J

J became part of our programme due to their absence from school. After Covid they were in very low moods. Recently one of her friends attempted suicide and J felt strongly that they could identify with all that the friend was saying to her for the reasons of her wanting to attempt this.
J began the process extremely socially isolated, and did not meet with anyone else socially. After choosing to give mentoring a go, they selected their mentor and met for a total of twenty four sessions. They spent the time together making pottery, seeing performances from across the cultural organisations and found time to check in weekly. The below is from J's feedback from their time together.

'My mentoring journey has helped by getting to know someone new and to be comfortable around people again. The opportunity to try new things and something just for me, scheduled each week gave me something to look forward to. Its been so nice to have someone outside of my family. My mentor gave me someone to talk to when I had to make some difficult decisions in my life, and an opportunity for me to relax in order to try new things'.

Derby Cultural Education Partnership

Reflections

Youth Alliance allows organisations that support young people in the city to work in partnership. Ultimately this creates more opportunities for young people and supports organisations to run more effectively.
Baby J, Baby People

As a city we continue to work collectively and collaboratively to ensure that we support those who need it the most in the right place and at the right time. The Youth Alliance are a key contributor to the great work being undertaken in the City and we will continue to play our part within the network to meet the challenges head on.
***Simon Carnall*, DCCT**

The Youth Alliance has become a recognised group within Derby. Adapting to emerging needs and societal changes, we have been able to work with efficiency between the partnerships, reducing waiting times for referrals and transitions and creating stronger bonds with young people.
Ben Rigby, Sporting Communities CIC

Being part of the Youth Alliance has provided huge benefits for young people within Derby City, especially in these ongoing, challenging times.
Working in partnership with individual organisations has helped to create a wealth of knowledge and good practice that continues to enhance our service delivery.
Kerreene Davidson, Children First

Being part of the Youth Alliance ensures Umbrella is able to raise the awareness of young people with SEND and to share young peoples views which have been collected by other SEND specialist organisations across the City.
Ann Rowlands, Umbrella

I am really proud of the way this partnership has developed over the last year. As the cultural sector, it's brilliant for us to learn so much from other charities. We are able to reach new young people, providing creative pathways, unlocking confidence and nurturing new skills. Together, our collective offer is strengthening all the time and the strategic response to gaps in service through partnership working, I think is truly unique to Derby.
Caroline Barth, Derby Theatre

Being part of the Youth Alliance is really important to YMCA Derbyshire as it enables those we serve to have a wider variety of opportunities and support available to them. Having the Alliance to bring likeminded organisations together to collaborate on projects is critical to ensuring young people in the city of Derby are getting the tailored support they need to enable them thrive. Through the Youth Alliance we regularly share best practice, work together to secure funding and are each other sounding board. It's remarkable to see what is being achieved and we can't wait to grow further in this coming year.
Louise Curd, YMCA Derbyshire

Having the Alliance embedded across the city has enabled us to keep our young people safe, allow them to grow and to experience new opportunities. Listens to their concerns and feedback allows us to change and adapt what we do.
Tracy Harrison, Safe and Sound

The Youth Alliance has brought together organisations supporting young people in the city which has added value to what's on offer. The Alliance recognises the need for a tailored approach, which includes culturally specific interventions when working with diverse communities. Over the past 12 months, awareness & recognition of our work has increased & allowed us to create more safe spaces & support for young people in Normanton. Innovative referral pathways are being established, which allows young people to access support with confidence.
Amjad Ashraf, Community One

Moving Forwards

2022/23 has been a busy and exciting year continuing our Youth Alliance journey. The prior learnings and outcomes have enabled growth and refinement, this being demonstrated by increasing the partnership and member network as well as expanding on our portfolio of projects.

Coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic, 2022/23 has seen a significant rise in young people needing support, whether this is around mental health, behavioural or exploitation issues. Referrals into the Youth Alliance have increased by 22% from the previous year. The Youth Alliance has cultivated collaborations between key partners and the Network, meaning that we can offer bespoke programmes of support. Schools have reached out more than in previous years, and we are continuously striving to develop our offer to them.

The cost-of-living crisis has also impacted significantly. With approximately 1 in 3 of all children in the UK living in poverty, these children most exposed to the cost-of-living crisis are most likely to be in the most vulnerable situations. Growing up in poverty can harm children's life chances and limit opportunities - this can hold them back in education and can lead to worse physical and mental health outcomes. Derby Youth Alliance continues to support the most at-risk and vulnerable young people and their families in the city.

The appointment of our new full-time Youth Alliance Coordinator - Michelle Butler - means that we have more than doubled the dedicated capacity to the cause and we are ambitious for the coming year.

We are, of course, ever grateful for the support from our funding partners, so thanks go to Derby Homes and Derby City Council for the ongoing support, and to MTVH for their contribution. This allows us to continue and fine tune our existing support offer as well as being more proactive in identifying the needs across the city. We were also delighted to acquire funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund. This invaluable funding support will enable the Youth Alliance to enhance referral service provision, deliver new projects and offer training, to add to, develop and upskill the workforce.

We look forward to the year ahead!
Helen Britten, Youth and Physical Activities Manager

Future Plans

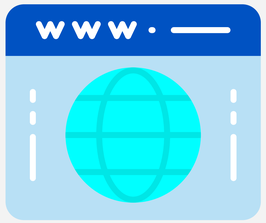
- **Raising awareness** of the Youth Alliance and showcasing the work that we do
- **Refining referral systems** and processes
- **Specialist projects** for wider audiences
- **Expansion** of Safe Places Derby
- **Events in schools and venues** across the city to show children and young people what service provision is available to them
- **Website and social media** presence
- **Funding** reach

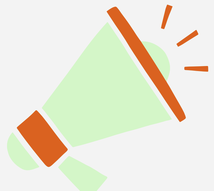
Marketing

Materials:

- Flyer
- QR code to the webpage

Website:
The Community Action Derby Website currently hosts the Youth Alliance page and a new dedicated Website is due to launch summer 2023.





Media Coverage:

- **Derby News -** interview
- **BBC -** Our Derby Dance School, episode of We are England
- **Radio Derby -** Safe Places Derby campaign
- **YMCA** - Young Achiever of the year Jamie - who accessed Youth Alliance programmes