



# DERBY YOUTH ALLIANCE

#THISISDERBY

**2021**

April

**2022**

March

How our journey has  
evolved



# Introduction and Overview

The Derby City Youth Alliance is a sub-group of the Stronger Communities Board. It aims to promote openness, trust, risk and responsibility sharing, innovation, high performance and the alignment of interests between parties who aim 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

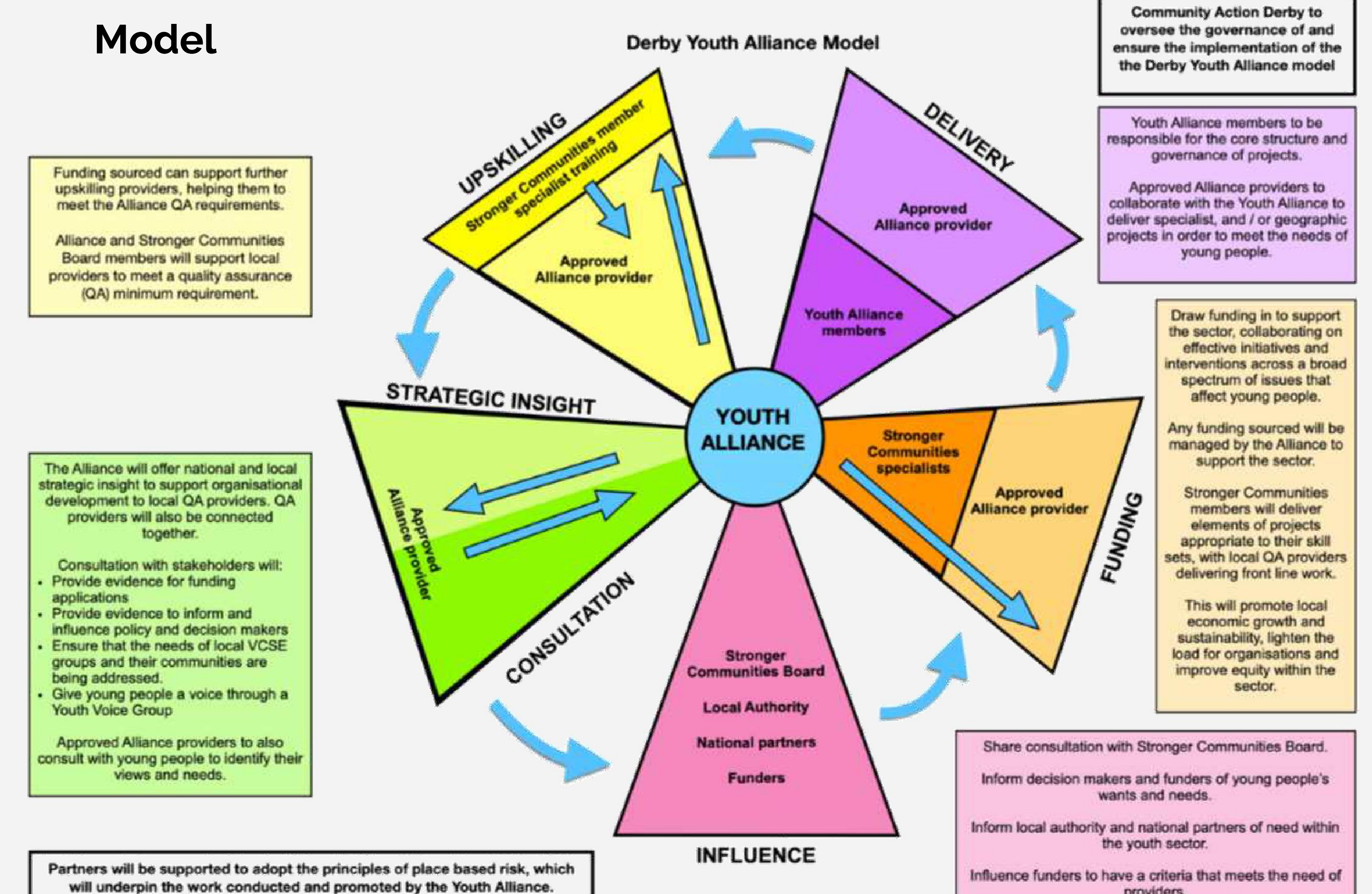
## Funding

During the 2021/22 year we recieved a grant from Derby Homes and Derby City Council. The Mentoring Project was funded through the Derby Recovery Grant Fund and matched funding from 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





# 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
- YMCA Derbyshire\*
- Safe and Sound
- Sporting Communities CIC

\*New member 2021

## Youth Alliance members

- Aspire Community and Wrestling Alliance
- Derby City Sport Forum
- Derby Homes
- Engineered Learning
- Enthusiasm
- Evergreen
- Inspirative Arts
- M-Prez
- Nadia Jane Dance Academy
- Opus Music
- Premier Education Derby
- QUAD

## Key supporting partners linked to the Youth Alliance

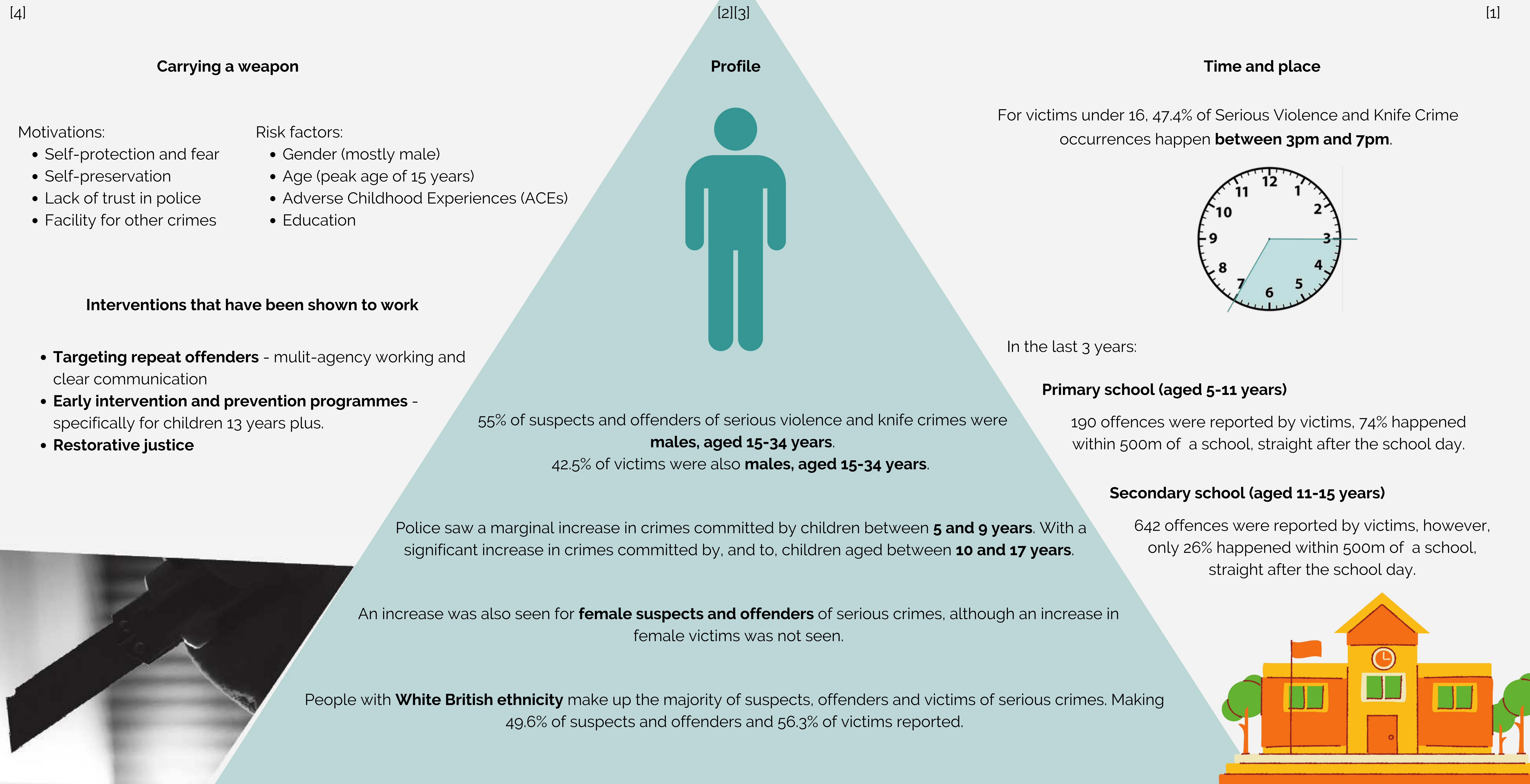
- Active Partners Trust
- Derby City Council
- Derby Homes
- Derbyshire OPCC
- Derbyshire Police
- Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing





# Local Information on Derby

Derby, the main city in the county of Derbyshire, had a population of 248,700 at the time of the 2011 census, with a BME population of approximately 25%. In 2021 the overall crime rate in Derby was 121 crimes per 1,000 people, 15 times higher than in 2020 and 33% higher than the Derbyshire rate of 81 per 1,000 residents. Violence and sexual offences, antisocial behaviour and shoplifting are the most prevalent crimes committed.



References

[1] Skarlatidou et al., (2021) 'Understanding Knife Crime and Trust in Police with Young People in East London'. Available at: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/353073379\\_Understanding\\_Knife\\_Crime\\_and\\_Trust\\_in\\_Police\\_with\\_Young\\_People\\_in\\_East\\_London](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/353073379_Understanding_Knife_Crime_and_Trust_in_Police_with_Young_People_in_East_London) (Accessed: 23 June 2022).

[2] Bailey L, Harinam V, Ariel B (2020) Victims, offenders and victim-offender overlaps of knife crime: A social network analysis approach using police records. PLoS ONE 15(12): e0242621. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0242621>

[3] Ford, C. 2022. Serious Violence Strategy for Derby. 23 March 2022, Pakistan Community Centre, 103 Harrington Street, Derby, DE23 8PB.


[4] McNeill and Wheeler. (2019) Knife crime Evidence Briefing. Available at: [https://assets.college.police.uk/s3fs-public/2022-03/Knife\\_Crime\\_Evidence\\_Briefing.pdf](https://assets.college.police.uk/s3fs-public/2022-03/Knife_Crime_Evidence_Briefing.pdf) (Accessed: 23 June 2022)




# Youth Alliance Referrals Overview


## Direct referral types:


**Person**  
A young person aged 8 and up







**Place**  
A specific area in Derby city where issues are arising





**Family**  
Sibling and parents/guardians





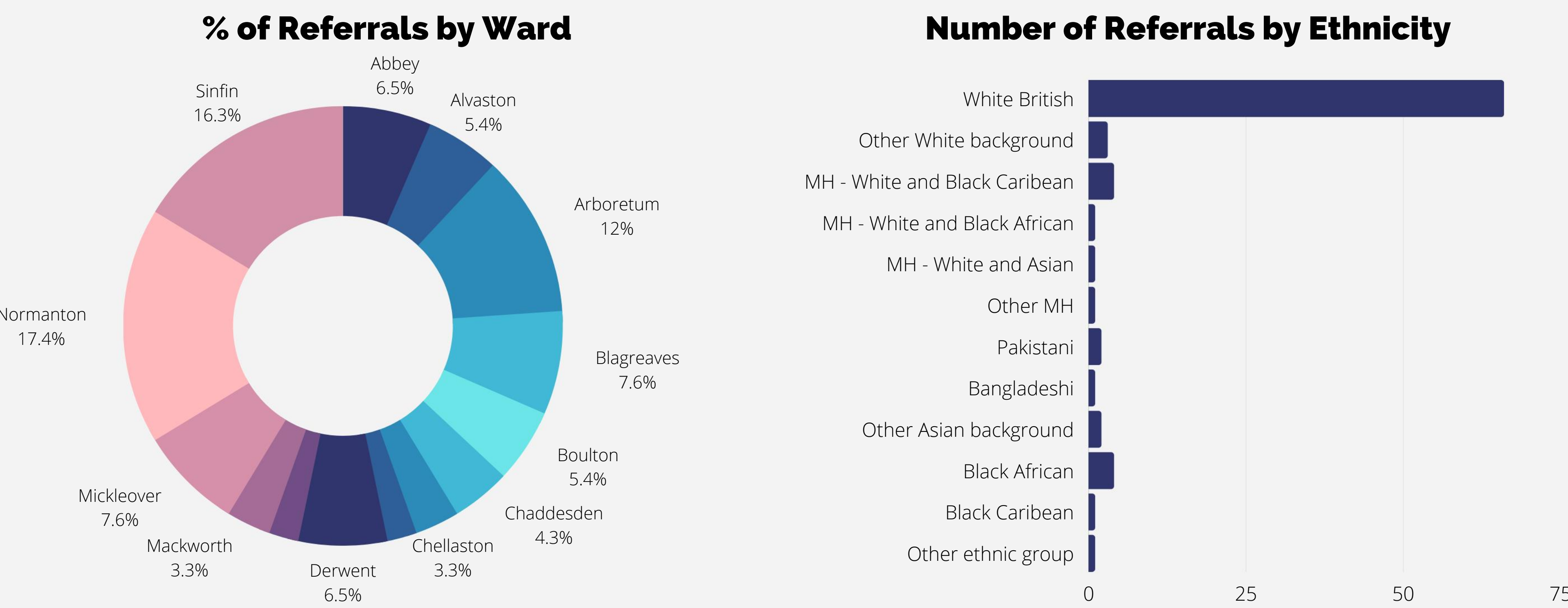
## Referrals by:

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

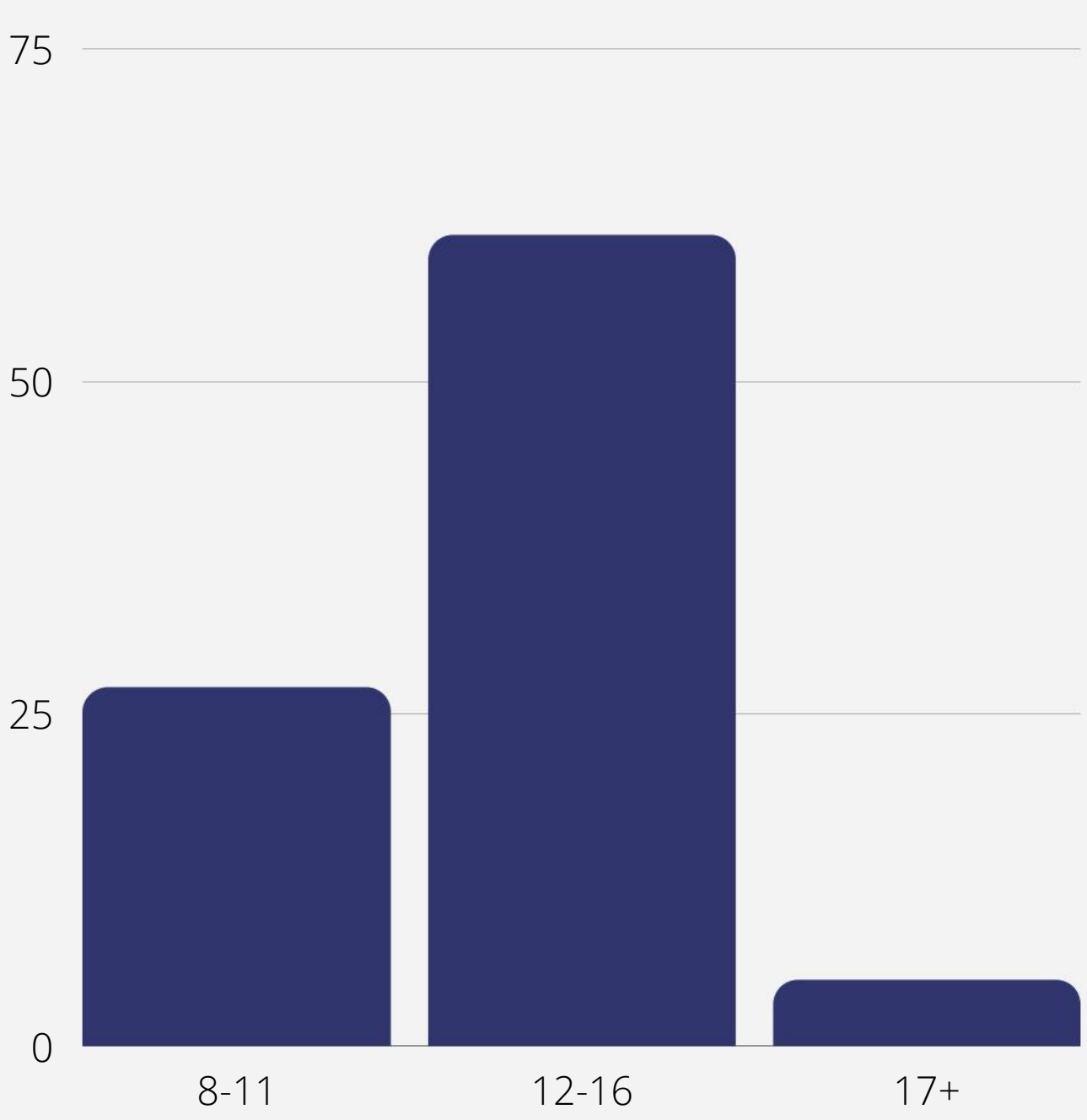
## Referred to:

- **Baby People** - Mentoring support and youth group work, centred around art and music activities.
- **Children First** - 1:1 mentoring support and diversionary activities.
- **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. Medium to high risk CRE/CSE 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/DCCT** - Place-based community engagement, sporting activities and mentoring support around mental health and wellbeing. Young Leaders qualifications and volunteering opportunities also offered.

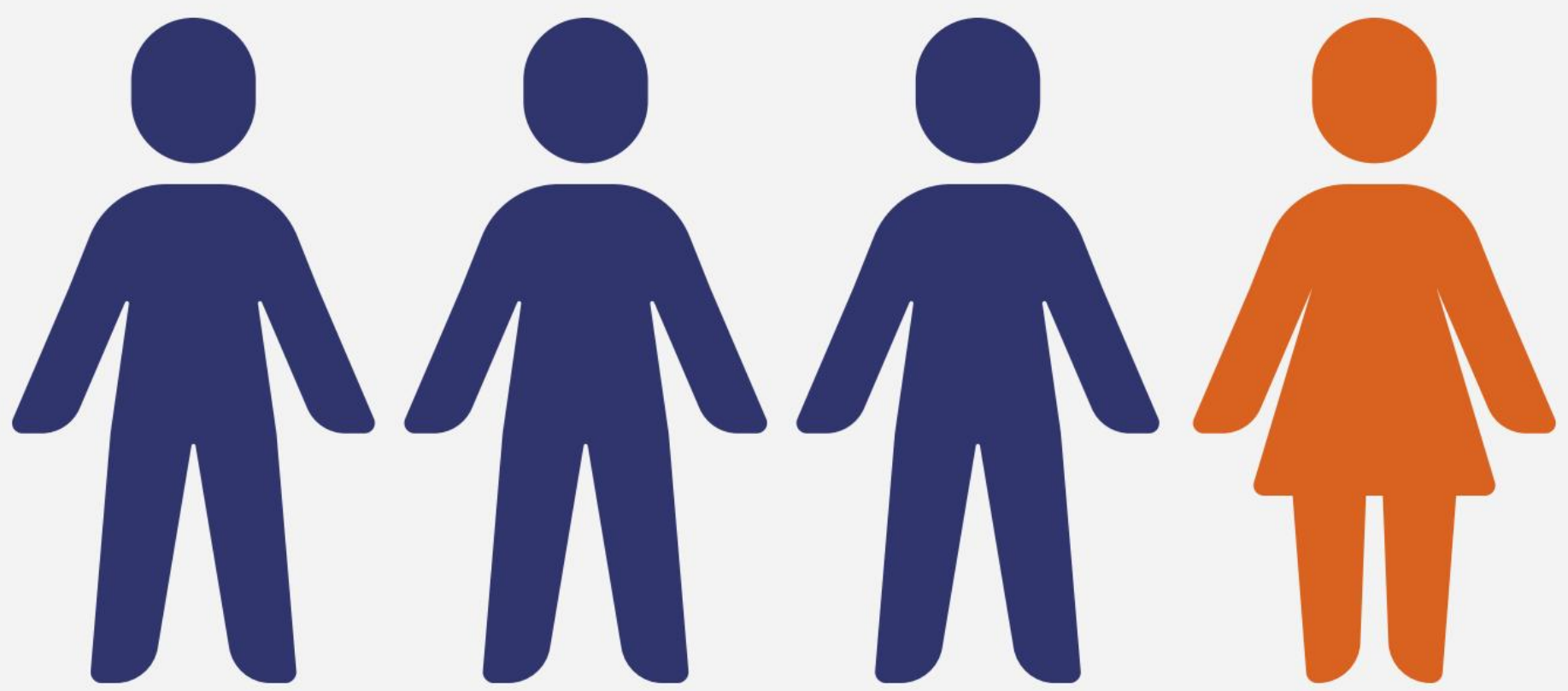
## Person and Family Statistics - 96 referrals



## Number of Referrals by Age



## Referrals by Gender





# Partner Led Projects - Place-Based

Projects were delivered by Baby People, Community One, Sporting Communities CIC and YMCA & DCCT to tackle **place-based referrals**.

Projects which specifically targeted young people and the spaces they occupy were based on the following project themes:

- Mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Mentoring and support for individuals and families
- Outreach work and diversionary activities
- Equality and diversity
- Poverty
- Education/employment
- Youth Voice
- CRE (CSE/CCE)

They covered the following locations:

- Abbey
- Alvaston
- Arboretum
- City wide intervention



**Community Reassurance**

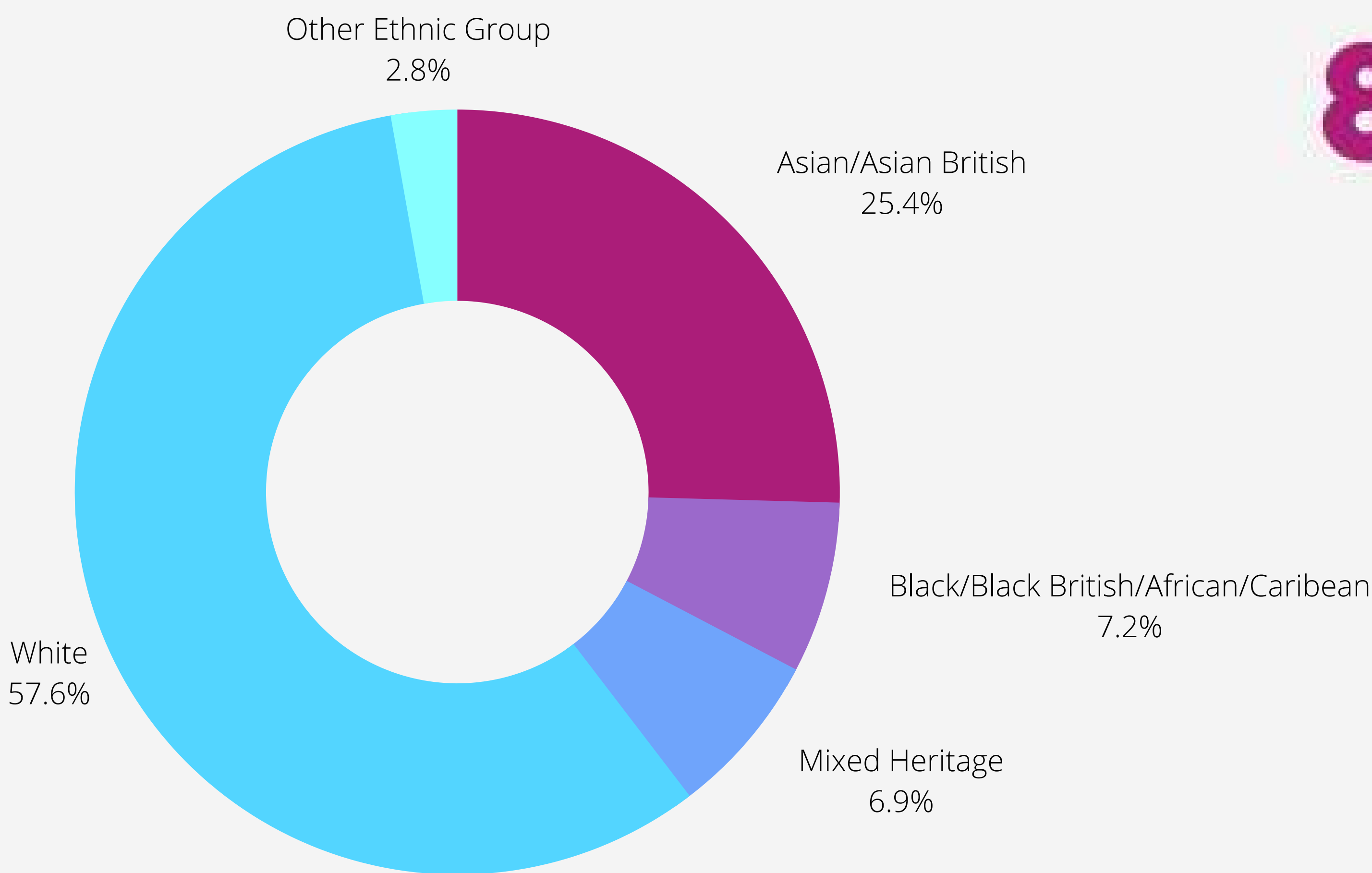
**Youth Club**

**Youth Alliance - Allenton**

**This is Derby**

**1056**

Children engaged



**844** Male

**205** Female

**7** Preferred not to say

**25** Exited positively

**35** Recieving ongoing support

**15** Signposted to other YA provider

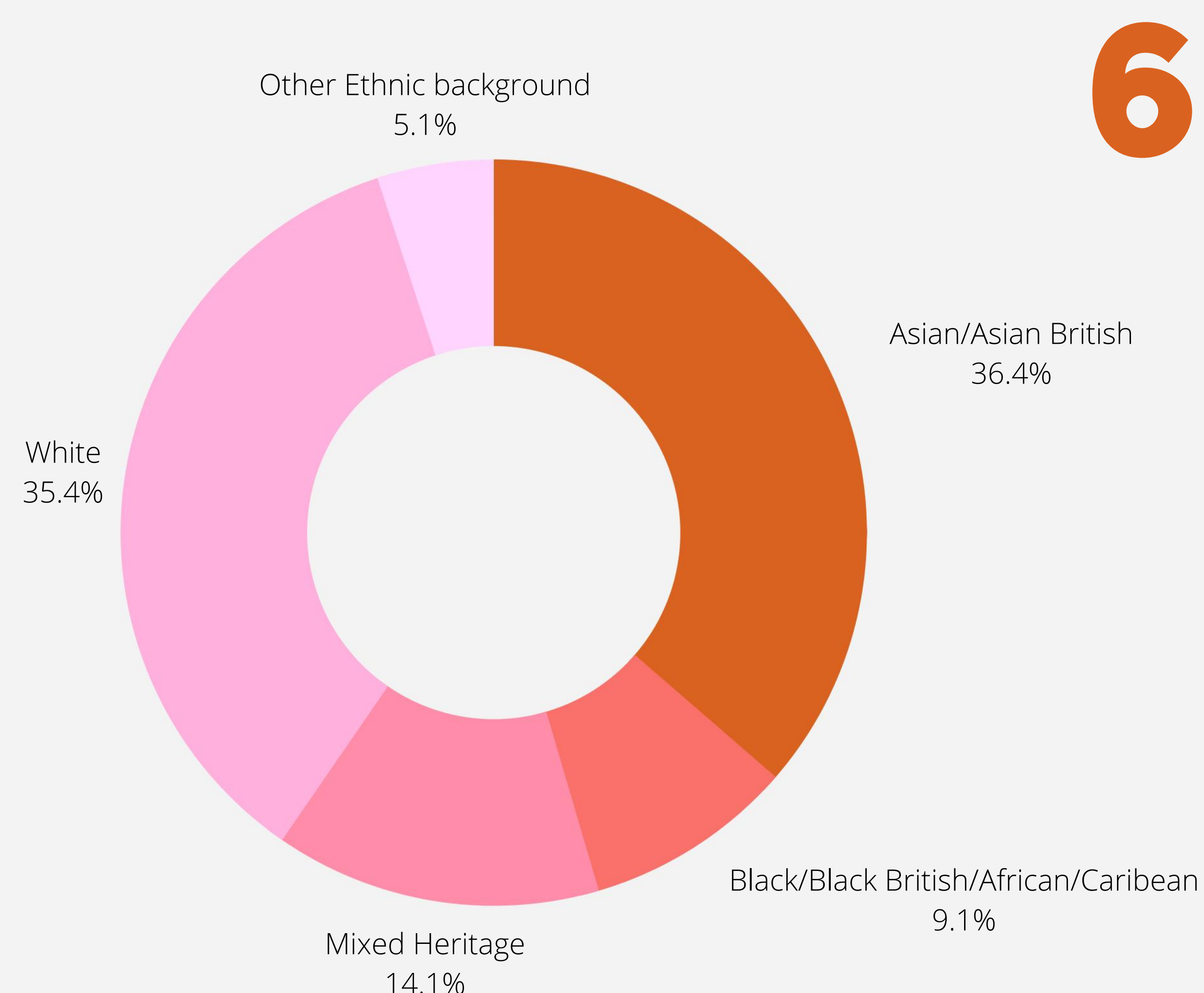
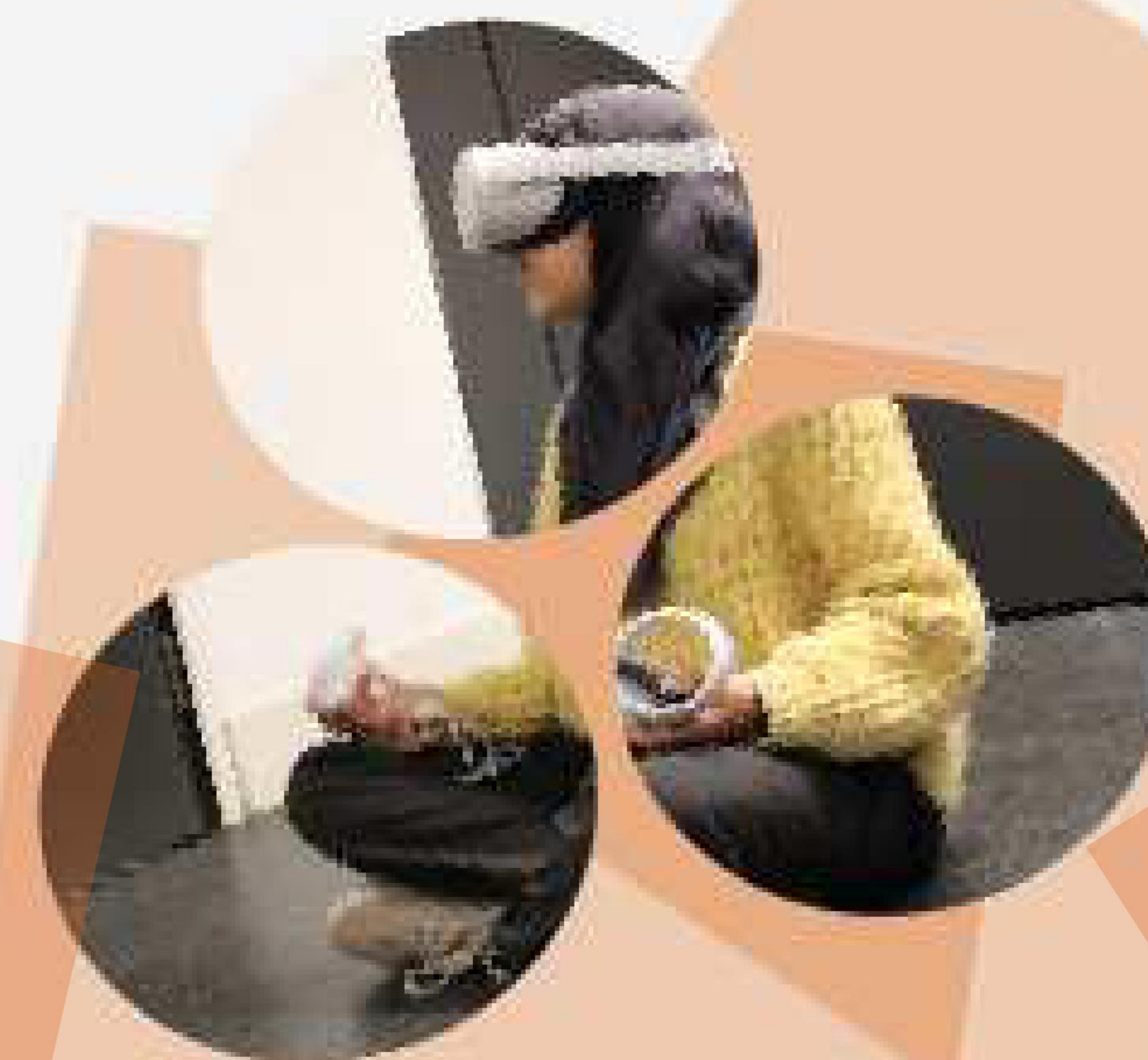


# Inspire and Innovate Projects

The Inspire and Innovate Fund enabled local groups to provide activity sessions and mentoring for the young people in their area.

- Enthusiasm Trust
- Evergreen
- Influence and Inspire
- Nadia Jane Dance Academy
- Derby Trailblazers/Engineered Learning
- QUAD

**132** Children engaged



**68** Male

**64** Female

**53** Receiving ongoing support

**49** Exited positively

**5** Signposted to other YA provider

*“I enjoy going to basketball because I like basketball and the people that also come to it, as well as playing, I get to compete and obviously both clubs boost my confidence as well as my self-esteem.”*





# Mentoring Programme

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

## Overview and outcomes

The difference the project made - Young people in Derby were provided with the opportunity to improve their aspirations and situation post COVID 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 post COVID.

## How

- Young people, who partners of the Derby Youth Alliance work with, have access to a trained mentor. 15 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 post COVID.
- 11 mentors have been given the skills needed to train other mentors in their organisation. This will ensure that the mentoring programme rolls forward and the number of mentors continues to grow, providing more young people with the opportunity to work with a trained mentor.
- 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 (7) 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 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.

## Feedback

“ Thank you for the mentoring sessions, I really enjoyed the group and found the content interesting, I like how it was an open forum for everyone to contribute their ideas and own experiences as well as you giving your expertise on the various subjects. I also liked that it was practical and gave us all a chance to see examples of different ways of how we would train the mentees, and the shared resources between everyone was also helpful. ”



“ The mentoring is going well, thank you. We are working with a fair amount of young people and families so it has been busy; but we are both finding the tools and resources that we gained through the training days very useful! ”



“ I really enjoyed both of the training sessions I attended. You kept us all really focussed and engaged. I liked that you got us all interacting with one another and trying out the resources (if a little challenging at times).

I think I will be better prepared to mentor parents and young people and it has given me more confidence to transfer my skills and knowledge within our organisation. ”





# Case Studies

## K

After working with K I have seen a change in his approach to lyric writing. When K first started coming to sessions he spoke about things he wouldn't be doing and tried to celebrate modern day gang culture (common Drill Music content).

K has matured since he first started coming to sessions, through his expression and by directly addressing personal issues in his music. K has also started to bring more focus to making music and wants to create an EP.

During his time with me he has expressed about his personal life with regards to getting into trouble with the police and actually being involved in low level crimes at the given time. Since attending the sessions nothing has come of it and so far he seems to be on the right path.

From working with this young person I've learned how to engage him in music and keep him motivated on what he wants. I think, from doing music, he has learned a lot about himself, which is important. And from learning about himself he can choose and pinpoint areas he feels he needs to improve, evolve and see changes in his life.

### Baby People

## T

T was referred due to experiencing anxiety, isolation, challenging behaviour and struggling to regulate his emotions. T expressed an interest in our group work but was initially scared to attend.

Although T was reluctant to participate in the first few sessions, he soon relaxed, and it was a delight to observe him laughing and joining in with the other members. During our discussions, T listened to others sharing and soon began opening up about his challenges.

T then agreed to take on a role in the play despite feeling worried that he would forget his lines. It was clear to see that he was nervous, however, T's confidence increased every week. He no longer expressed feeling fearful and cleverly improvised when necessary.

At the Quad T was given the opportunity to participate in a digital session with the other members of the group and discovered a natural talent for photography.

T is no longer isolated and expressed his desire to attend our second group work.

### Children First

## J

J and their brother started out as 'at risk' of CRE. Safe and Sound covered staying safe in the community and produced a safety plan for them, sessions were also delivered around knife crime, grooming, county lines and CRE awareness. J was struggling with his anger within the home and when we explored this, it became apparent that he was facing bullying issues while he was out in the wider community that translated to displaying frustration within the home. We advised the family to involve the police, resulting in the individuals leaving J alone. This, alongside talking to and supporting J, made life within the home a lot smoother according to their mother and with provision of youth activities this helped the situation settle. Despite a recent upheaval, J continues to talk his feelings through on a weekly basis, with Safe and Sound collaborating with relevant agencies to best support the family. On top of this, J was struggling to complete his homework, having to share his mum's phone to access the internet. Safe and Sound donated tablets for the boys to be able to access their homework. J can now go out into the wider community without fear of intimidation from other people and knows how to stay safe if he finds himself in a difficult situation. The Safe and Sound case worker can listen and be there for J for support through this testing time. This intensive support will continue throughout their journey in whatever form they need.

### Safe and Sound

## E

E has been apart of the Active Hands Partnership Basketball sessions since January 2022. E came to the sessions as a shy, quiet and very reserved young lady who was referred to me by school. With support from Da Vinci Academy we were able to continue sessions free of charge. E found it very hard to make new friends and socialise in already established groups (E lost her mum in 2019/20 ). Through the sessions we offer, including basket ball, drop-in sessions and chat & chill, E started to open up and share her feelings. E and I, over a short space of time, built a lovely positive working relationship in a safe and fun environment. E has been able to overcome many barriers, one being shy and lacking self-belief. E was able to find herself and build on her own personal qualities. It's not just the basket ball E joined, as she has since started to attend sessions run by Baby People, which continue at EL Active Hands (opposite Rollerworld) and also attended summer school at EL. Today, E's confidence has continued to grow and she now helps other young people who are in similar situations.

### Engineered Learning Active Hands/Derby Trailblazers



# Reflections

“Youth Alliance has allowed for a joined up way of working, allowing additional value for money as partners can signpost within the alliance and access each other's resources. This also allows young people to have experiences they might not otherwise have had.”



**Baby J, Baby People**



“Meeting with likeminded organisations who have a passion and commitment to improve and support the lives of young people in the city is refreshing. The biggest challenge moving forward is to ensure that the Youth Alliance continues to be representative of the range of organisations in the city and truly has youth voice at the heart of it. There is also the need to ensure that a legacy is created by the Youth Alliance and that the work it delivers creates a sustainable impact.”

**Pete Collins, DCCT**

“Working together in true, meaningful partnership, we are able to co-ordinate higher quality services, making use of the specialisms within the city's youth sector and conduct support swiftly and with immense efficiency, providing immediate, effective support rather than a waiting list.”



**Ben Rigby, Sporting Communities CIC**



“It has enabled us as a service to learn and enrich our delivery, by exposing our young people to a wider range of positive working relationships. For example, the opportunity to work with a director and producer at the QUAD. The young people found this empowering, and it was apparent to see how proud they felt when parents, family members, referrers and their mentors attended their film premiere that they had worked so hard on.”

**Kerreene Davidson, Children First**

“After some initial “storming”, with some lack of clarity about who was in the partnership and some power struggles, I feel like we have covered a lot of ground recently. Our diversity is a strength but it has also led to us taking a while to find where we add value and can work together to achieve more. One of the challenges to starting in a pandemic was that it took longer to build those relationships.”



**Caroline Barth, Derby Theatre**



“There are so many things that I would pick out from the projects we've involved in that I am proud of. However, I think the thing I am most proud of is how responsive we are as a Youth Alliance, constantly demonstrating our ability to work in partnership to build effective working relationships with our commissioners.”

**Louise Curd, YMCA Derbyshire**

“It has been great to grow the membership and support projects in other organisations. Working together to give a greater response to a problem in a local school has shown the strength of the Alliance. I have two stand out reflections on the past twelve months. Firstly, hearing and being influenced by young people in the city and seeing them grow, having a stronger voice about what they want and how we can support them. Secondly, expanding Safe Places in the city giving young people a safe place to go to if they need support or help.”



**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

## COVID challenges

The Youth Alliance started operating in the autumn of 2020, six months in to the Covid-19 global pandemic, the world was disrupted to an extent of which we had never before experienced. The pandemic triggered severe social and economic disruption and Derby suffered as much as any other urban city. Supply chain issues resulted in food shortages. Poverty struck many who had been previously financially stable and health inequalities were severely escalated, affecting the disadvantaged and vulnerable the most. Employment and education were hugely disrupted and this had a major impact on adults and, in particular, young people, with some support mechanisms reaching crisis point.

Youth organisations within the city continued to support the most vulnerable young people and communities throughout the duration of the Covid lockdown and were determined to work together to maintain the highest possible quality provision. The Youth Alliance enabled them to collaborate to offer bespoke programmes to those people and communities most in need. Despite the challenges faced, the strength of the Youth Alliance partnership overcame these and the network grew, in both numbers and the range of services provided. This has now prompted us to consider the support needed moving forwards from the pandemic. In an ever-changing environment, many of those who have been supported now need longer term support plans than they previously did. The way we worked has been significantly affected and we have had to adapt and discover better ways to work together. Funding support remains crucial to our work and we are grateful for the support we have received this year and look forward to building on, and generating additional funds, for the future.

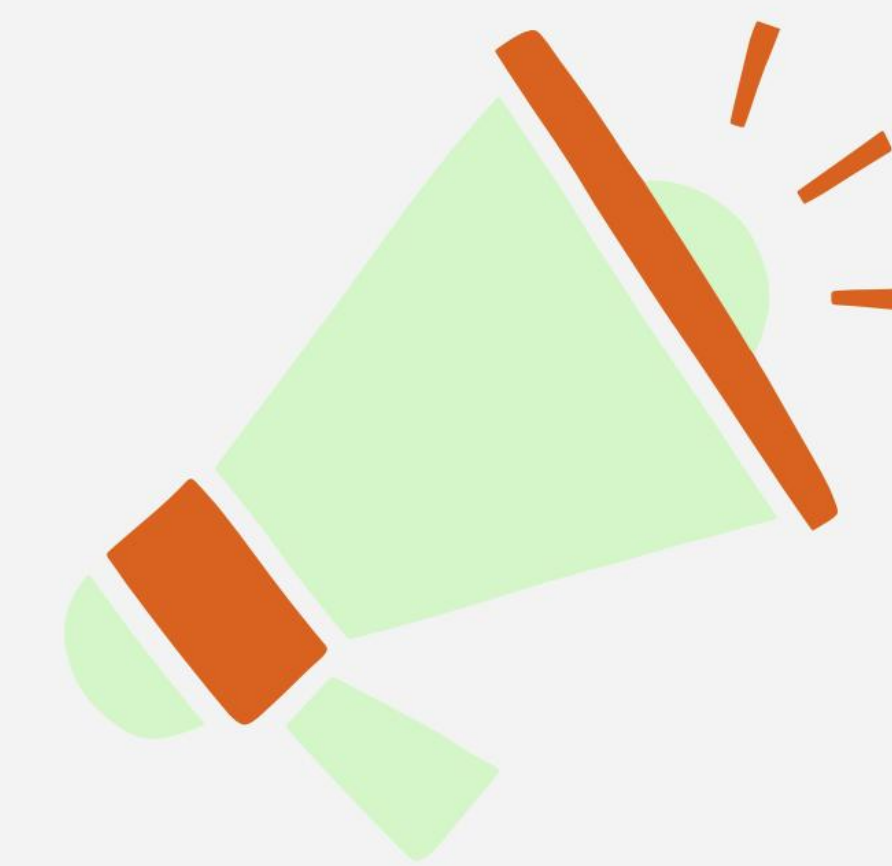
## Marketing

Materials:

- [Flyer](#)
- QR code to the website

Website:

The Community Action Derby website hosts the [Youth Alliance page](#).



Media Coverage:

- **BBC** - Our Derby Dance School, episode - [We are England](#)
- **Radio Derby** - Safe Places Derby campaign

## Future Plans

- **Raising awareness** of the Youth Alliance and showcasing the work that we do at a launch event
- **Resources** to support the work of Alliance, including funding, training and development, systems
- **Ensure the capacity** of the workforce in order to deliver
- **Fundraising** strategy

