



*Information gathered from Ignite & Connect meetings September-November 2021. This appendix outlines the questions asked to the youth panel as part of the Children and Young People's strategy review.*

## **Education**

### **1. Is there anything that you haven't learnt in school that you would like to learn?**

The young people had mixed opinions of their school's provided career support. Overall, from a mix of the 3 different schools they attended, they felt "not ready" and "not clear" about what they wanted to do after school. One member stated that they felt their self-esteem had been put-down because they had been told they "wouldn't amount to anything" and didn't feel they would get support when applying for a job after GCSEs. This member later applied for on of our Apprenticeship, and was supported by Derby Homes to prepare for the interview.

Other members said they didn't feel fully informed about what was expected of them at college and were funnelled into post 16 education which wasn't what they really wanted to do. All members said they only had information about DH apprenticeships from Ignite & Connect not from their school. The young people also mentioned they felt their PSHE sessions were not always relevant to them, or that their teachers were embarrassed or not up to date with information around issues such as Black Lives Matter, Sexual Health and Sexual Assault and basics like personal finance and running of a household/bills etc.

## **Community Safety**

### **1. Where in your community do you not feel safe? Be specific, is it a particular road, row of shops or a park?**

Young people shared some information about areas in the city they felt "unsafe" or would not go to, even if there was an event/friend social occasion etc. It is noted that most of the information which led them to feel this way was what they called "common knowledge" / "just what people say". They said that areas of Chaddesden, especially around Racecourse Park and all roads and "jitty" leading to estate behind this area, Beaufort Street and St Mark's road. Other areas including "Sainsbury's path" from Mackworth to Kingsway Sainsburys and surrounding roads. City centre, especially Green Lane, Macklin street and Beckett street "behind the Wardwick".

Also, the River Gardens in the city centre were mentioned, towards the train station/pride park/Roundhouse as well as Darley and Alvaston Park. Normanton and Arboretum areas were considered not "safe" by young people who didn't live in that area, but fine by the people who did. The same was seen with the initial concern with Chaddesden, whereas the young people from this area felt it was a lot safer than perceived. They

acknowledged that there was a lot of misinformation and “rumours”, and living in different areas of the city, they had very different perceptions of areas.

- **What is it about that area that makes you feel unsafe?**

They felt unsafe areas are more likely to have:

- Litter/ refuse/ broken items
- Graffiti/ vandalism
- Overgrown garden/hedges of pathways
- Closer to city centre
- Near shops where there is ASB
- Unemptied bins/refuse in gardens or streets
- Poor street lighting/broken streetlight etc.
- Young adults lingering in the late evening in streets near parks/communal areas etc.

Ignite & Connect are conscious about the rise in knife crime and would like to see more bleed kits in public areas and spoke about following information tiktoks and other forms of social media about them and preventing knife crime. They would like to know more about youth crime, and especially recognising signs of abuse, both in intimate relationships and with other young people. They liked the idea about Safe Places Scheme from the Youth Alliance, and were unaware of where to seek help if they were in a difficult situation or worried etc. Also spoke about “roadmen” and they type of individuals and groups that they feel are causing ASB/would make them feel uncomfortable or be indicative of an unsafe area.

### **Work & Apprenticeships**

- **How do you feel about employment and training opportunities in Derby?**

The young people, of which 50% were in school, 25% were currently NEET and 25% were in employment/apprenticeship. Through our discussions and them sharing their own experiences, they said they would like to have more information about apprenticeships, especially DH, but also other areas.

Also, they would like to know about employment laws like when they can be given notice, what rate of pay they are entitled to etc. Alongside the opportunity to learn more about work related jargon around issues like taxes pensions etc, and what to expect.

Another more practical suggestion was that they would be beneficial to have taster sessions for apprenticeships, as there are often opportunities that are not familiar to them or their families lived experience- for example one member said they had no idea about skilled trades work. As for the paperwork side, we had a discussion around the barriers for employment, and would like to see workshops including CV writing/job application and mock interviews and learning jargon busting etc.

### **Ignite & Connect**

- **What opportunities would you like to see for young people in your community?**

Opportunities and activities, they would never have through school/day to day life, e.g. awards nights, youth voice, community workshops. Services which add value and improve Derby and create legacy for Ignite and Connect/positive life experiences Fundraise for things such as anti-bleed kits, amnesty bins, educational tools etc.

- **What do you think a ‘good youth panel’ should do?**

Building confidence through new opportunities and pushing the boundaries, example Stephen Lawrence event, Creative Workshop at Deda/Derby Theatre/QUAD. They would like additional support with jobs and employment process, would like to see 2x sessions, one on CVs/Applications and one for Mock Interviews with real interviewers as a panel. This feedback would be essential to their growth and development, and helps reduce anxieties around face-to-face interview process. As well as doing rewards style activities such as fun events and team building like Go Karting, Rock Climbing, escape room etc.

Two members stated that they loved awards nights they have been to in the past would like to go to more events like this if possible, as they feel recognition and a special event is “once in a lifetime” for them and supports with aspirational values. Most young people shared that they did not feel “heard” at school to varying degrees, and when they do not feel listened to this can either lead to poor behaviour, disengagement from teachers and low self-esteem.

They would like to:

- be part of visiting school themselves, so they can be the ones promoting Ignite & Connect etc.
- be part of guest speakers/trips to services where they can learn about topics they are passionate about from the source etc.
- Mix with other youth services and groups.
- be involved with planning large event and being volunteers within events to gain experience etc.
- link in with other volunteering opportunities in the city, and have more information about how to get involved.