

# **Children and Young People Draft Topic Review Report**

## **Early Intervention and Youth Outreach Support Engagement**



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## **Working Group Membership**

### Children and Young People Scrutiny Board members

Councillor Danielle Lind, Chair  
Councillor Kirk Kus, Vice Chair  
Councillor Paul Hezelgrave  
Councillor Ross McCristal  
Councillor Miles Pattison  
Councillor James Testro

### Co-opted Members of Children and Young People Scrutiny Board

Gillian Butler, School Governor St Martin's School  
Tracey Churchill, Catholic Diocesan Board Representative  
Nick Fenton, Church of England Representative  
Stephen Grundy, School Governor, Firs Primary School  
Chris Hulse, School Governor, Ashgate Primary School  
Geoff Sweeney, Other Faith's Representative

Connie Spencer, Youth Mayor  
Priya Gill, Deputy Youth Mayor

### Contributing Organisations

Derby City Council  
Youth Alliance  
Community Action  
Community Safety Partnership  
Derbyshire Constabulary  
Derbyshire Fire Service

**Foreword by Cllr Danielle Lind**  
**Chair, Children and Young People Scrutiny Board, 2020-2021**

Availability and access to suitable and appropriate activities for young people in Derby is essential for the City's overall social health and prosperity. It is useful to have information to determine the prevalence of service delivery, levels of engagement currently offered, and by whom, across the City to determine gaps, duplication or recommend good practice. One of the aims of this topic review was to provide a provision map of everything available for young people in the City. Unfortunately, it was not possible to bring this to fruition as the information was not available to us.

There is also a need for a robust Youth Strategy and for communicating this effectively with young people. This strategy should be formulated to ensure that it is city-wide, clearly embedded on the Derby City Council website and feeds into the local offer for children with SEND. This would benefit young people especially given their difficulties during the pandemic, such as isolation and mental health issues. Young people are unaware of services that are available for them to access. There needs to be a robust policy and, whilst it should be a co-produced effort, it needs to be put in place as soon as possible using the resources available.

The Youth Alliance is in its infancy and there are still gaps; the biggest gap is that young people are unaware of what is on offer for them to access. It is likely that in the future COVID funding would go; and it is a challenge to have a constant grasp of what services are available. There are lots of initiatives that schools are missing, even dynamic schools don't have the capacity to know what's available for their pupils. There is a need to be able to say there is one place where activities for young people can be listed and accessed. To help the recovery of the City from the Pandemic we need to ensure that Derby City Council work in co-production with services, stakeholders and children and young people to produce a youth offer which promotes the availability and accessibility of services in Derby. This offer could be hosted by Derby City Council alongside and linked with the local offer which entails statutory responsibility on the council to include information about leisure activities available to children and young people with SEN or disabilities as per the SEN code of Practice 2014. And we could also ensure that it is linked to school websites.

There is also a need for Derby City Council to seek ways of enhancing the involvement of our looked after children within a co-produced youth strategy for the city.



Councillor Danielle Lind, June 2021

## Draft Recommendations

1. Derby City Council to work in co-production with services, stakeholders and children and young people to produce a youth offer which promotes the availability and accessibility of services in Derby. This offer to be initially hosted by Derby City Council alongside and linked with the local offer and linked to school websites. It is important that this does not become just a static directory of services available, but that it is clearly communicated to and regularly reviewed by children, young people, parents/carers and stakeholders to ensure it is kept up to date and that any gaps are easily identified.
2. Derby City Council to seek ways of enhancing the involvement of our looked after children within a co-produced youth strategy for the city.



## **Scope of the Review**

### **Topic Review – Early Intervention and Youth Outreach Support Engagement**

Availability and access to suitable and appropriate activities for young people in Derby is essential for the City's overall social health and prosperity. Information would be useful in determining prevalence of service delivery, levels of engagement currently offered, and by whom across the City to determine gaps, duplication or recommend good practice.

#### **Evidence presented to scrutiny by a range of providers in the city covering**

- Target group
- Areas of delivery in the city
- Accessibility
- Take up of service and reach
- Impact
- Evidence of partnership working to support effective inclusion of young people

#### **Suggested providers**

- Local authority
- Early help and children's social care
- Community Safety Partnership
- Youth Alliance
- Community Action
- Community Safety Partnership
- Derbyshire Constabulary
- Derbyshire Fire Service

## **Evidence Gathering**

The CYP Board undertook five evidence gathering sessions two at their Scrutiny Board meetings in 2020 (October and December), and three Working Group meetings in 2021 (February, March, and April). The Board and Working Group received evidence from the representatives of local organisations and officers over the course of the review. The members of the Board were able to question and request further information on issues of concern. Notes of these discussions were taken and from these key areas of concern were highlighted and summarised in the following sections.

### **Local Authority Youth Offer (Early Help)**

The Board heard that the Youth Offer (Early Help) was just one part of the Council which delivered a Youth Support Programme. This service was a targeted provision, not a universal service, and children are referred by an Early Help assessment.

The resources that were available were described and it was explained that they were limited in range and volume. There are 7 full time youth workers across the City, and 9 part time youth workers for 11-25 years with moderate learning disability, who are based in the Light House. Currently there was no face to face group work in youth clubs due to COVID 19. Detached Youth Work took place across city hot spots, eg, Derwent, Chaddesden, Mackworth, Morley, Arboretum, Austin, Sinfen and Alvaston. A service was provided to schools to support the most vulnerable young people in Derby.

Services provided are:

- Targeted one to one support and direct work by youth workers on open Early Help cases
- Small group work sessions in schools where requested
- Support for Young Carers in Locality 2. No group activities during half term are provided, but individual contact and visits are maintained
- There was good knowledge of providers supporting half term activities and those most vulnerable are signposted to these activities.

The Board were surprised at the amount of support available and were interested to know what kind of offer was available in other cities across the country. It was confirmed that some areas have disbanded their youth offer, and it was emphasised that the Early Help Service in Derby was only one of a range of services who provide support. Communities were becoming more resilient in being able to support vulnerable children in Derby; the will is there to step up around safeguarding needs. The Board noted that cases will begin to decrease if intervention takes place at an early level.

### **Youth Alliance**

An overview of the Youth Alliance was given, and it was explained that there are several youth provision organisations all doing different things to support young people and provide activities, engagement, and interventions.

Youth Alliance was a collaboration of organisations, social enterprises, charities, the Council, Police and Derby Homes, who have got together to form a partnership to understand what each organisation does, to work collaboratively to try and give the best appropriate youth provision for children and young people in the city.

The Youth Alliance focuses on the priority areas and areas where support for young people and their families was needed most. The response was underpinned by contextual safeguarding, so the focus was on the families, schools, environment and place, rather than just the individual children and young people.

The members of the Youth Alliance include Community Action Derby who are the alliance vanguard. There are also five other children's charities involved; Children First Derby; Derby County Community Trust; Derby Cultural Educational Partnership; Safe and Sound; and Sporting Communities. Surrounding them there was a network of trusted providers who offer a variety of quality opportunities and activities for young people across physical activity, sports, culture and the arts. This was not an exclusive alliance; any other organisation can be a part of the alliance. It allows us to find the best solutions to support the young person, family or place, looking at what's already exists rather than duplicating it, and to working with those giving the provision already. All providers must have certain policies in place for safeguarding and health and safety. They must have the right insurance and understand what the Alliance is trying to achieve.

The Alliance works to improve the quality of all the provision across the city, to make sure there is training available, providing mentorship for some of the smaller organisations to enable them to work collectively and upskill them in the process. It is a good opportunity for organisations across the City to work together and share good practice, with the focus on children and young people rather than funding.

The aims of the organisation are:

- To share information and intelligence on issues that affect children and young people. There is responsibility on organisations to share information, there are forms and processes in place. Organisations work to a format and share information on activities and on the effectiveness of what they do.
- To identify and collaborate on effective initiatives like youth violence strategy ASB, violence, knife crime, mental health and exploitation. Young people are at risk of all of these if they are vulnerable. If these issues are tackled together, there would be more success than if it was tackled independently in different pockets or boxes.
- To advocate for children, young people and families and influence policy and decision makers. The Youth Alliance allows young people to have a voice including Derby Homes Youth Forums, Safe and Sound Participation Group. Children and young people and their families can influence what is being done and feedback to policy makers, enabling them to make decisions which are more informed by the views of children and young people.

The Board were informed that a pilot scheme started two weeks ago (November 2020). It was funded by Derby City Council, Derby Homes, Police, Youth Offending, Police Crime Commission (PCC) and an independent Housing Association. Collective funding was available to use to tackle Derby youth violence strategy. It would help those children and young people most in need in priority wards. The officer then explained the referral process to the Board.

The Board asked if was planned to further expand the Alliance and bring in other local groups to work with them. It was explained that they were looking to expand in future but for the pilot they did not want to grow too much. Work was undertaken with other organisations and they were not working in isolation. Any organisation, if they fitted the safeguarding and



other criteria, could be a part of the Alliance. Hopefully it will grow to have everybody in the City who support children and young people on board.

The Board asked if the whole city was covered or just specific areas? It was confirmed the work was citywide, but it was dependent on where the referrals came in as to where energy was focused; it was about prioritising response as they cannot be everywhere. They would be directed by their funders and would focus on a particular area with the greatest need, rather than spreading themselves too thin and not be able to make an impact.

The Board asked if there were any noticeable trends in the issues mentioned like Anti-social Behaviour, Mental Health, Exploitation? It was explained it was too early to give a view on trends in the pilot of the Alliance. However, from experience the trends in city revolve around vulnerability and isolation of young people through Covid. A lot of services have closed, and children and young people feel they do not have the places to go to. The biggest gap was that young people are unaware of what was on offer; part of Young Peoples Group's work was to try and publicise the activities available. There was also concern around the risk for children with SEND.

### **Community Action**

Community Action work with Youth Alliance and Derby City Sport Forum providing access across the City. This is a Derby Provider Network with areas of youth provision. At the next meeting they are planning to open areas to invite providers to join. There is a list of groups we need to know about; this will be pulled together in the coming months.

The Working Group asked if there was an aim of pulling together into a City-Wide Offer. It was explained that the networks are merging, and provision is linking together: the aim will be to link all the providers/organisations together. Currently they use "This is Derby Website".

The Working Group were interested in accessibility and asked the officer to update the working group on how it will be accountable, and how it will be incorporated into the SEND strategy. The officer highlighted the following:

- *SEND Hub and "This is Derby Website"*
- *Sports Forum mixed ability sessions*
- *Linking with Youth Alliance*

The Working Group asked where the areas of delivery were, and was the cover citywide as a whole? It was explained that currently there was good work in Derwent and Sinfen, but that the idea was to eventually spread across the city, as they wanted to be pro-active. There are gaps in the service, and it would be useful to identify where those gaps are. Community Action communicate with the employment services, not young people at risk or children missing school.

The Working Group asked if a strategy needed to be formulated to ensure that this was a city- wide strategy, clearly embedded on the website, that feeds into the local offer for children with SEND. It was explained that it was planned to think about the Youth Strategy at the next meeting of Community Action.

The NEETS issue was highlighted by the Working Group and they asked if there was a focus on continuing contact with NEETS, to continue education and training. Once contact continuity is lost young people drift and this can lead to a poor careers' outcome for the future. It was explained that they have been able to help some NEETs and that a network was being built up to provide opportunities.

The Working Group queried if space or a location was needed, or can the provision work on an outreach basis. The officer stated that at the moment, due to COVID, it was mostly virtual contact but in the future more face to face contact was planned.

The Working Group heard about Referrals; it was explained that they were currently building up more referrals in Youth Offending as they have not worked in that area before. It was asked if the police had referred more young people. It was explained that the difficulty was working in the current time period in the COVID pandemic, with lockdowns, followed by Christmas and then more lockdowns. More work will be done in the future, with more presentations to Youth Offending service planned. Communications and feedback are becoming more positive. It is important that this is a two-way conversation.

The Working Group queried if targeted intervention packages were available? It was highlighted that it was about working together and that this must be sustained. It was important not to assume what young people want. Police and Referral partners know how to speak to young people; they are the connectors on the ground who know what is needed. It was highlighted that they do want to expand the provision; they are passionate about creating opportunities for young people and getting them onto the right path.

### **Community Safety Partnership**

A presentation was provided at the meeting on 11.02.21 which covered the structure of the Community Safety Partnership Team, areas of intervention and youth crime Prevention. The team comprised of one Community Safety Manager and two officers and the areas of intervention included; Crowded Places/Centre Terrorism and HVM, Planning – secure by design, Public Area CCTV system, Serious Youth Crime Prevention, Multi-Agency Disruption Team, Cyber Crime, Knife Crime, Serious and Organised crime, Anti-social behaviour, Environmental Crime, Social Care and Safeguarding Support, Safer Derby

The Working Group heard about Serious and Organised Crime. It was explained how Organised Crime Groups operate and that they are always recruiting young people. Urban Street Gangs are a factor, and petty anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance quickly escalates into violence and more serious crime. The multi-disciplinary team's work begins by briefing and obtaining intelligence, giving verbal warnings, providing safeguarding mediation. Enforcement tools used are prevention to make it more difficult for someone to commit a crime

The issue of County Lines was highlighted. This was a child grooming experience, and the number of young people being used by groups or gangs was increasing. It was market driven from an urban to a more rural area. Young people are coerced and trafficked into modern slavery. Young people can be a victim and an offender at the same time. The officer highlighted the need to spot the signs, one of the key signs being of young people missing from home and/or education.

The Community Safety Team was involved in two projects

- locally Operation Zao
- nationally Operation Sceptre, which was linked to reducing knife crime. The officer highlighted that the “knife angel” was brought to Derby city as a part of this project.

The Working Group were informed that the Safer Derby Website was currently in need of updating. A councillor was concerned that the website was not updated and queried whether this was due to staff capacity. The officer confirmed that this was purely a capacity issue, there was a gap in resource which was being recruited to; once someone was in place it was planned to update and refresh the website. The site was a specific branded website as young people do not associate Derby City as being a point of contact for them. The

Community Safety Partnership would like to keep their website separate and non-branded as Derby City Council for this reason. They would like to get more hits to the website but knew that it needed updating.

The Working Group heard that the inability to access the school environment was of concern to the Community Safety Partnership; it was an issue of getting into schools where there was a captive audience of young people. The Community Safety Partnership also only has a small budget which was nowhere near the money available to the drugs market. The partnership was concerned about the current narrative of young people being driven to take poor or bad choices.

### **Youth Crime Prevention**

A councillor felt that support for young people needs to be integral to the City's recovery from the pandemic and queried if there were any other areas where more resources were needed for the partnership.

The officer highlighted that there was negativity surrounding young people. Ninety nine percent of young people don't have issues; there are about one hundred and fifty young people referred to the Youth Offending Service out of thousands. The work increase was one of the bigger challenges in the last ten years. During the second wave of the pandemic a small group of young people had begun to use violence. There was a need to get a central narrative in place to block the "whisper" of easy money available. The partnership works closely with the Youth Alliance but there are gaps that could be missed. However, in comparison with other places in the country, Derby was performing well in this area.

It was suggested that the work was only looking at a small number of young people who need help and are vulnerable. There was a need to look at the reasons for a young person's misbehaviour, to find out the reasons and not just provide a solution. There was a need to build up trust with young people and offer them opportunities. If a person has opportunities, that gives them a chance to focus. Opportunities can be offered across the board eg Sport/ Dance/ Drama, until the young person finds one that works for them. It was key to keep these opportunities open, especially with the push towards science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

### **Derbyshire Constabulary**

The officer provided a presentation. The aims and objectives of the Derbyshire Constabulary Youth Engagement programme were explained

- To help young people make informed choices about their futures
- To provide education around offences
- To reduce crime
- To build positive relationships with young people in our community
- To showcase the brilliant work of young people in Derbyshire
- To focus on issues that are important to young people

One of the key areas was to keep in touch with young people through the school programme which covered three areas, Early Years to Secondary School, Derbyshire Wide, In Development – Fit for purpose. The officer explained that the delivery was currently not as targeted as they would like, however, it was an ongoing piece of work.

The officer also highlighted Partnership Working as a key area. Derbyshire Constabulary had partnership working arrangements with the Police and Crime Commissioner, the City and County Councils, Children's Services, Education, Drug and Alcohol workers, the NHS and Community Safety Partnerships.

There was a cadet programme in place with three bases Derby City, Chesterfield and Glossop. The age range was ten to seventeen years and there was a varied programme of youth events/virtual sessions, taking young people on patrols. The aim was to build up relationships and become approachable to young people. The Working Group were informed that community engagement and involvement is a key priority.

The Working Group were informed about Derbyshire Constabulary's plans, after COVID, for the youth engagement programme. It was hoped to put in place more face to face, youth focused events and to develop additional youth interventions/outreach. Also, to resume the college/university visits and education programme, and to create a more tailored programme to address current youth issues. The aim was that young people became used to seeing and dealing with the same police officers, so that they became confident in their relationships with them. It was important not to judge young people on past mistakes but help them to move on and gain new experiences. The officer explained that they were looking at establishing a Youth Instagram Channel with a Derby youth focus, and any ideas to increase followers would be welcomed.

The Working Group asked if Derbyshire Constabulary was working pro-actively with the Youth Alliance? The officer explained that currently they were not formally a part of it. Meetings with regular partnerships like health had taken place to identify crossovers. It was an ongoing task to see where alignments existed. The officer highlighted that there were a number of funding bids by schools taking place across the City, and it was hoped that in future more schools, both in the City centre and the outskirts, would receive the same opportunities if links were established across the City. The councillor explained that it was about targeting support where it's needed in the City; there was a lot of focused on schools now.

The Youth Mayor offered support with social media by facilitating a group of young people from Voices in Action to help with improvements. The officer thanked the Youth Mayor, any help, tips, or feedback would be appreciated. They would like to have a broader perspective of young people views and be able to work with them make improvements to their social media platforms.

### **Derbyshire Fire Service**

The Working Group heard about three key areas of work with youth in Derbyshire Fire Service:

**Fire Cadets** - Derbyshire Fire Cadets is a programme where young people commit to attend one night a week at one of four units based at Ascot Drive; Ilkeston, Shirebrook and Staveley during term time. The programme provides young people with an insight into working within a uniformed service. However, it was not used to recruit young people to the service, but to engage with young people, and is based round personal development. The programme gives young people opportunities to develop skills in teamwork and citizenship by undertaking firefighter activities. Cadets also have the chance to gain recognised qualifications, including a BTEC and First Aid. They are also taught basic firefighting drills.

**FireSAFE** – this scheme has been running since 1995 and is designed to advise children and young people up to the age of 18 years with fire setting behaviour. Trained advisors help children or young people to understand the results of their actions through a series of visits. This can range from one to eight visits, and educational exercises at the child's home, school or a neutral venue. The scheme is aimed to discourage children and young people from setting fires, and to help them understand and control the feelings and circumstances that lead them to set fires. Children and Young People can be referred to this scheme from Schools, Parents and Carers.

Youth Engagement Scheme (YES!) These compact courses are targeted at young people aged 13-16 years who may have low self-esteem, be at risk of exclusion, disengaged with education, or may be young carers. The YES! compact programme is run over a week and includes a BTEC level 1 qualification in personal skills and teamwork. The scheme works with individual schools or agencies, using additional specialist skills from partners such as Derbyshire Constabulary. Students gain an insight into Derbyshire Fire & Rescue activities through a mix of classroom and 'drill type' activities, which are aimed at improving their self-confidence/self-esteem and promote teamwork. The scheme also aims to contribute to the following outcomes:

- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Improve school and work placement attendance levels
- Develop an understanding and appreciation for the communities in which the young people live
- Develop an aspiration for a more positive future

An alternative project was highlighted, which was run in partnership with Derbyshire police, initially called the Blue Light Project but was now called "SWITCH". The project targets young people on the fringe of/or involved in criminal behaviour with the aim of trying to change their behaviours. It is an alternative way of building relationships using a mix of firefighter and police skills. Only two pilot schemes have run so far.

The working group were impressed with the work going on with young people who need help and support. They felt it helped young people to develop skills and routines. A Councillor asked if the Fire Service liaised with Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) or Schools to build on what was being achieved by young people on the courses. The officer explained that, as part of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) for running the course, the young people have to be accompanied by a member of staff who also have to share and experience the same learning as the young people. Schools generally notice an improvement in behaviour, improved relationships with key staff and a reduction in negative behaviour in school. The course itself costs £1,500 for eight students.

The Working Group asked whether the Fire Service would get involved in local ward area work where there was a fire risk. The officer explained that there were currently only two team members and most of their resources are used to support local fire crews. A councillor felt that it was important to publicise the FireSAFE programme. There was a need to communicate the existence of this course widely. The officer explained that the course was targeted at secondary school children for health and safety reasons, mainly because they would be able to manage the weight and size of the equipment used for training. It was noted that the YES Compact Course was run for groups of eight young people.

### **Comments from Working Group Attendees**

The Youth Mayor was asked how do you envision the council promoting activities? How do you think young people would like to be informed? The Youth Mayor felt that using Social networks or by "This is Derby Website", or perhaps sending a newsletter out to Derby Schools, would be good ways. The council has ideas but does not know how to promote them. There are a lot of opportunities available for young people, but they are not aware of them. There's a lot of scope for development in marketing and promotion of these opportunities. Communications need to be improved and it was important to ensure that young people know about the opportunities available to them. It was good that partners are working together as they all had different audiences which could be brought together.

Another attendee commented that Early Intervention and Youth Outreach Support Engagement was a huge area and there are always improvements to be made. It was important to acknowledge the work that has been done, Derby City has a strong and committed voluntary and community sector that was central to the Pandemic response and

recovery; however long term resilience will only work if the community stay involved. There's a need to map and understand what is currently in place, and to understand what is required before, designing a service to respond. It was also important to remember the role of the local authority, which was to be an enabler and facilitator; they are not the best ones to be delivering a service. A strategy might be to create a platform to enable the function to happen.

### **Activity Poll and Findings (Appendix 1)**

At the meeting on 11.03.21 the Chair was interested in creating a survey or poll, with the help of "Voices in Action" (VIA), to ask young people their thoughts on current youth services available, how they would like the information about what services were available for them to be presented to them, for example using Social Media, Instagram or FaceBook. The survey would have to be short, perhaps about five questions. It was felt that the questions should be framed in a way to manage expectations of children and young people. The Chair suggested that she work with the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor to prepare the questions. The results of the poll/survey could then be brought back to a further meeting of the working group. The working group felt that there was a need to ensure that good evidence could be provided from the survey, evidence that could not be questioned.

Questions should follow the pattern of asking children and young people what they needed, rather than what they might like. For example, ask young people what they needed in terms of managing behaviour, letting off steam, or perhaps gaining a qualification. Once prepared the survey could be sent out w/c 22.03.21

It was agreed by the Working Group that the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor, with the help of the Chair and Participation Officer, would work with VIA to facilitate questions. The poll/survey to be circulated w/c 22.03.21 and brought back to a further working group meeting in early April

At the meeting on 15.04.21 the Participation Officer explained that, due to the short timescale and pressure on young people returning to school, and being asked to undertake a lot of surveys, it had been decided to undertake a Poll which only allows you to ask one question. The Question was "DCC and Partner Organisations would like to know where children and young people would prefer to receive information on different activities happening across Derby", and an "other" box with multiple choice responses to allow children and young people to provide an alternative response. It was sent out at the start of the Easter Holidays, and was circulated to Youth Alliance, all secondary schools, Voices in Action, and the Youth Council, and was open for responses for two weeks.

The Poll results are attached at Appendix 1; the Youth Mayor and Participation Officer detailed the responses received. There had been 1210 votes; this does not give the number of people taking part but there had to be at least 408 young people. The highest response to suggested options was School Websites, with 408 votes, the next was Instagram with 287. Facebook was the least liked option with 42 votes. A common response for "other" was receiving information by School email and emails to parents. The Working Group were informed that there were no demographics available on who had responded so care should be taken with the results, and that the Poll was just a snapshot in time. They were informed that more young people used Instagram than Facebook.

It was highlighted that demographics need to be considered, as well as the fact that there are children who are home educated, and children who attend Academies and Maintained Schools. How can we best ensure that we are disseminating information out to them? There was also a need to meet the Local Offer. It was felt that a central platform to maintain and co-ordinate information about provision of activities for young people would be appropriate; it was important that services work with CYP and stakeholders to ensure that it would be a moving projection and not static.

The Chair suggested the draft recommendation below for consideration and comment by the Working Group, which could be included in the final Topic Review report as Recommendation 1:

**Derby City Council to work in co-production with services, stakeholders and children and young people to produce a youth offer which promotes the availability and accessibility of services in Derby. This offer to be initially hosted by Derby City Council alongside and linked with the local offer and linked to school websites.**

The Working Group were informed by an attendee that it was important that there should only be one platform, and that a co-produced platform/website “This is Derby” had already been set up with Opportunity Area Funding. The platform was already linked to Derby City Council’s Home Page.

**Comments from the Working Group on the proposed draft Recommendation 1 included:**

A link could be set up on School Websites to “This is Derby”, as it was felt that children and young people would be likely to access this.

An attendee commented that children always use either their school or the Derby City Council website; he was not aware of “This is Derby” platform.

It was explained by another attendee that “This is Derby” was a project developed by young people for young people; it had not been possible to expand it further due to a lack of funding. It had done a good job and there was a need to develop it further; currently Opportunity Areas and the Youth Alliance were looking for resources.

People were unaware that the platform was available, that it would be better to have a platform on the DCC website and put further resources in to maintain that.

The council does have a statutory duty to maintain information for SEND, (SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25> page 66 – 67 para 4.29 and 4.30) and information about a youth offer which promotes the availability and accessibility of services in Derby, could be included on the site. Also, more children and young people are aware of, and inclined to use, the DCC website.

The “This is Derby” platform was a tried and tested platform already in place; it had already been marketed to young people and it would be better to run with that. Schools could be asked to promote the platform, but there were concerns that Schools use different platforms for their websites and may not be able to link to “This is Derby”.

In terms of linking to school websites this could be easily accomplished. Schools are willing to work in partnership and they want to promote positive activities after school for children to access. The main issue was what platform was the best place for the information to be sited.

The Youth Alliance was in its infancy; the biggest gap was that young people are unaware of what was on offer for them to access.

It was likely that in the future COVID funding would go; it was a challenge to have a constant grasp of what was available. There are lots of initiatives that schools are missing, even dynamic schools don’t have the capacity to know what’s available.

There was a need to be able to say there was one place where activities can be listed and accessed. The draft recommendation was suggested because it was not already happening.

The Derby Local Offer must ensure that we are communicating with Children and Young People, because DCC has a statutory duty to do this. It would make sense to link with that sector; it would ensure that any website or information collated would be sustainable, but it would also need to be working with the Youth Alliance.

Concerns were raised about a website/platform being hosted by DCC. The environment of tracking activities on offer was one that was dynamic, fluid, and fast-moving; would DCC be best suited to deliver this service or would it be better delivered by the Youth Alliance.

It was suggested that either options should be given, or it should be determined by which organisation would be best at tracking a dynamic marketplace. Would people have the expertise to determine this; the working group attendee was not convinced that DCC would be best place and it would probably be best to explore with other parties

It should be a co-produced offer and it would be better to work in co-production with the Youth Alliance.

### **Provision Map of Services available for CYP**

At the meeting on 11.03.21 the Chair explained that one of the aims of this topic review would be to provide a provision map of everything available for young people in the City. There was a need for a robust Youth Strategy and for communicating this effectively with young people. This would benefit young people especially given their difficulties during the pandemic, such as isolation. Young people don't know about services that are available for them to access. There needs to be a robust policy and, whilst it should be a co-produced effort, needed to be put in place as soon as possible using the resources available.

It was highlighted that the Council should not actually provide the service but should enable/facilitate its provision by scoping, understanding what services are in place, and then working with young people to find out how they want to access the information. The Working Group then considered if there would be an opportunity to target Children in Care (CIC) for Fire Cadet Courses, to show them this is what the Fire Service offers. Could the opportunity to liaise with colleagues who work with CIC be used to target them for places on the courses. The fire officer highlighted that currently members of the public were not allowed onto the fire station due to COVID restrictions; there was not likely to be any places available in the near future.

The Working Group considered whether a list of services in the City could be brought back to the working group, where priority access could be given to CiC. The Chair would like to ensure that the final product, a list of services, could be effectively communicated in the City for young people to access and use. Everyone should be aware of a central point of access for these services.

The working group then discussed access for children and young people; it was felt that children at risk would be unlikely to engage with a Police Cadet Scheme. This type of training and discipline would be most useful but CIC do not tend to have a positive relationship with police. The fire service or military cadet schemes would be a better option. Could these services be used strategically for CIC ? Support could be provided to facilitate this provision. CIC are often not on the Schools radar, how can we better provide CIC with access to these training options ?



The working group agreed that a list of known services should be created, scoping and mapping to give a snapshot of what was available currently. Community Action was suggested as a starting point. Once a list was in place with a central point of access, it could be updated regularly.

At the Working Group meeting on 15.04.21 it was confirmed that a list of youth providers in Derby City had been requested but had not been provided as yet.

### **Priority Access for Children in Care (CiC)**

The question of priority access for CiC was also discussed. The Working Group queried whether it was being ensured that CiC are being enabled to access activities.

An attendee asked how can we level the playing field to them, as there was a group in place to do that and looking at what other work opportunities are available. The Council are already hosting that work.

The Chair highlighted that this was an opportunity to present something to Cabinet, that is something that we don't currently have but do need. How can the work be expanded, she suggested the following draft recommendation for the working group's consideration and comment, which could be included in the Topic Review report as draft Recommendation 2.

### **Derby City Council to seek ways of enhancing the involvement of our looked after children within a youth strategy**

An attendee stated the need to endorse the Alliance Frameworks with a commitment to support the voluntary sector led development. The Voluntary Sector Organisations are more agile and dynamic. Community Action was a neutral platform.

The Chair asked how the Topic Review could be used to support these emerging workstreams.

An attendee commented that he felt statutory duties were being off-loaded onto Local Voluntary Organisations. They must work together, there was a clear line where council statutory duties stop.

Another attendee stated the need to fill the void. In response to the Pandemic the voluntary sector has been in the driving seat providing food and help in neighbourhoods. It was about better value for money.

The Chair stated that everyone should be working together and thanked everyone for all the work they are doing.

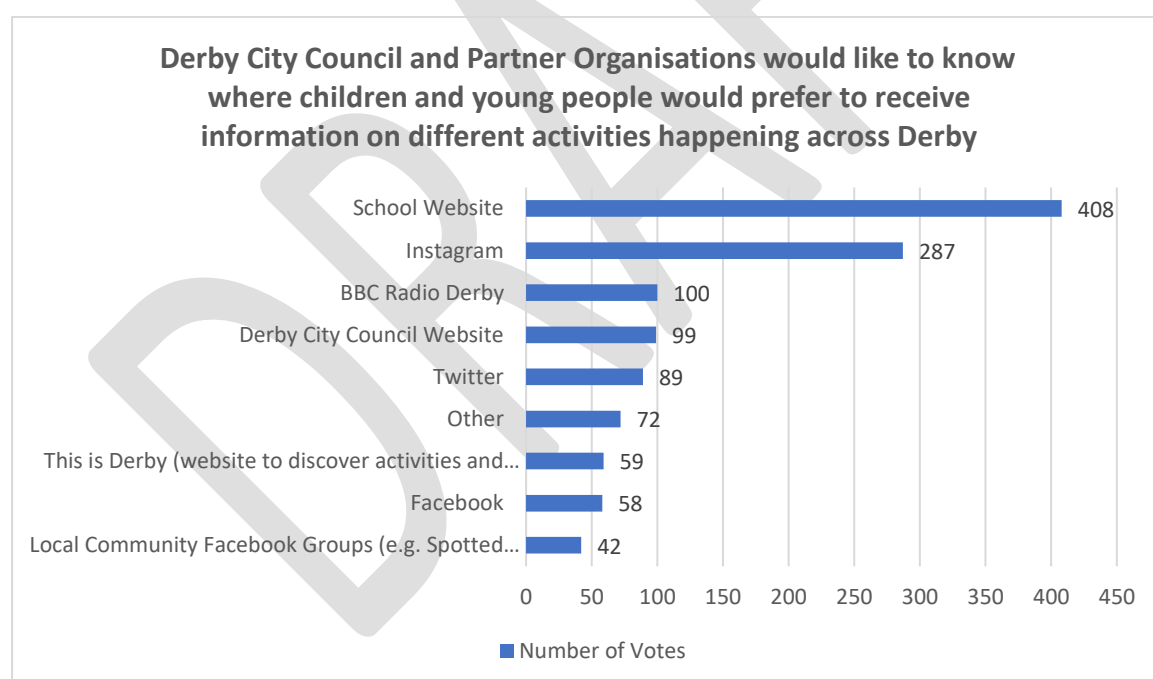
## Appendix 1 - Activities Poll Findings April 2021

The method of a poll was chosen due to the timescales and young people feeling over consulted with multiple surveys. The poll was circulated through the Youth Alliance, Schools and Voices in Action Youth Council and was open for a period of 2 weeks. A poll only allows you to ask one question and we provided multiple choice responses with an 'other' box allowing children and young people to provide an alternative response.

In total 1210 votes were cast; the poll doesn't tell you the total number of young people who voted but from the table below we know there were at least 408.

The results in table and pie chart shows the numbers and percentages on the place where children and young people would like to receive information on different activities happening across Derby. The highest result is school website 408 (34%) votes, followed by Instagram 287 (24%) votes. The place they would least like to receive information was Facebook 42 (3%) votes. The most common response to 'other' was email through school emails and parents emails 28 votes.

Care must be taken with the results as there are no demographics on who has responded.

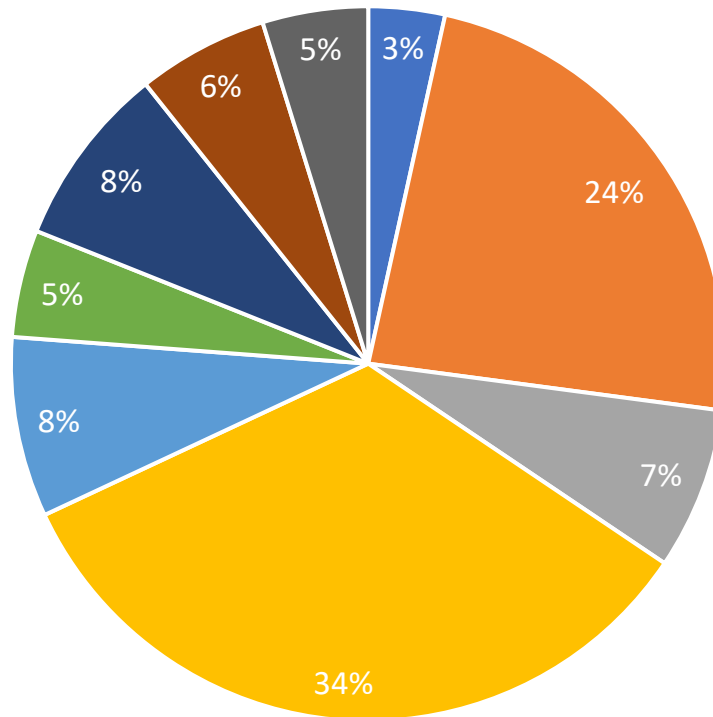


### Other:

- Email/School email/email parents: 28
- Discord: 8
- Snapchat: 7
- Carrier pigeon: 3
- Tiktok: 3
- News/BBC East Midlands: 3
- Text message: 2
- Schools to tell pupils in form time: 1

- YouTube Channel: 1
- Reddit: 1
- Owls: 1

**Derby City Council and Partner Organisations would like to know where children and young people would prefer to receive information on different activities happening across Derby**



- Local Community Facebook Groups (e.g. Spotted Alveston)
- Instagram
- Twitter
- School Website
- Derby City Council Website
- This is Derby (website to discover activities and opportunities for children and young people in your local area)
- BBC Radio Derby
- Other
- Facebook

64XXXX

We can give you this information in any other way, style or language that will help you access it. Please contact us on: 01332 Minicom: 01332 640666

Polish 01332 64XXXX

Aby ułatwić Państwu dostęp do tych informacji, możemy je Państwu przekazać w innym formacie, stylu lub języku.

Prosimy o kontakt:

Tel. tekstowy: 01332 640666

Punjabi 01332 64XXXX

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Slovakian 01332 64XXXX

Túto informáciu vám môžeme poskytnúť iným spôsobom, štýlom alebo v inom jazyku, ktorý vám pomôže k jej sprístupneniu. Skontaktujte nás prosím na tel.č: Minicom 01332 640666

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Derby City Council