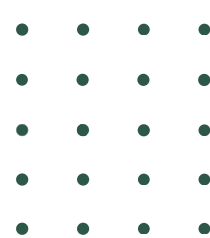


# Seen & Heard Impact Report

# THE EVENT



Seen & Heard is a youth-led engagement programme linked to the Government's Youth Matters National Youth Strategy, designed to bring young people together with local leaders and decision-makers to discuss the issues that matter most in their communities. Through open discussions, facilitated workshops and direct conversations with those in positions of influence, the events aim to ensure that young people help shape how the strategy is implemented locally. The initiative focuses on youth voice, meaningful participation, local problem-solving, and making sure services and opportunities better reflect the real experiences and needs of young people.

The event in Blackpool Tower took place on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026, and brought together over 135 individuals from across the Fylde Coast and beyond - even bringing organisations from Liverpool, all of which had a vested interest in working alongside young people to establish how the National Youth Strategy can best be embedded.



# BEING SEEN & HEARD IN BLACKPOOL, FYLDE AND WYRE

## Overall:

The responses from Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre show that young people define being “Seen and Heard” as far more than being asked for their views. They want to be taken seriously, involved in decisions that affect them, and able to see clear, tangible outcomes from their participation. Overall, the findings suggest that young people want a local environment where they feel respected, protected, empowered and genuinely valued as active contributors to their communities.



# THE CHANGES

*The Government has committed to doing 10 key things over the next 10 years to make real changes in young people's lives. Each of these 10 things has come directly from what young people told the Government through the DCMS Hackathons 12 months ago.*

More Trusted Adults

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Strengthening the Workforce

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Friends and Relationships

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Richer Lives

---

Good Work

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Keeping Young People Safe

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Places to Go

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Health and Wellbeing

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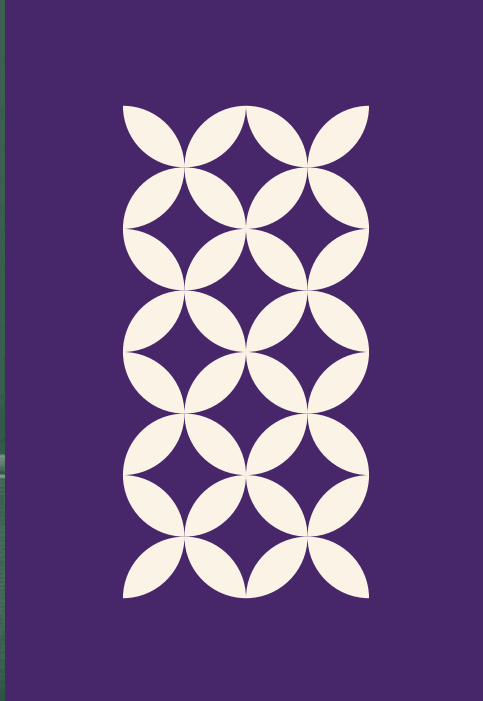
Delivering With Young People

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Holding Us to Account

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## KEY THEMES

- Young people want meaningful voice, not tokenism
- Safety and protection are a major priority
- Young people want better access to support and more joined-up services
- Inclusion, identity, and representation matter
- Young people want more opportunities to grow, connect and develop
- Cost and accessibility are real barriers
- Relationships with adults and the wider community need to improve
- Young people want to see visible change





# WHAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

**“Take us  
Seriously”**

“MORE ACCESS TO

*creative*

OUTLETS”

“TAILORED  
*access for  
young people”*

*“We want to feel*

**SAFE”**

“TANGIBLE IMPACTS -  
**let us actually  
see the  
changes”**

“More inclusivity  
- especially of

*hidden*  
communities”

“MORE COLLABORATION  
BETWEEN YOUTH  
**SERVICES”**

# HOW WOULD LIFE BE DIFFERENT IN 3 YEARS?

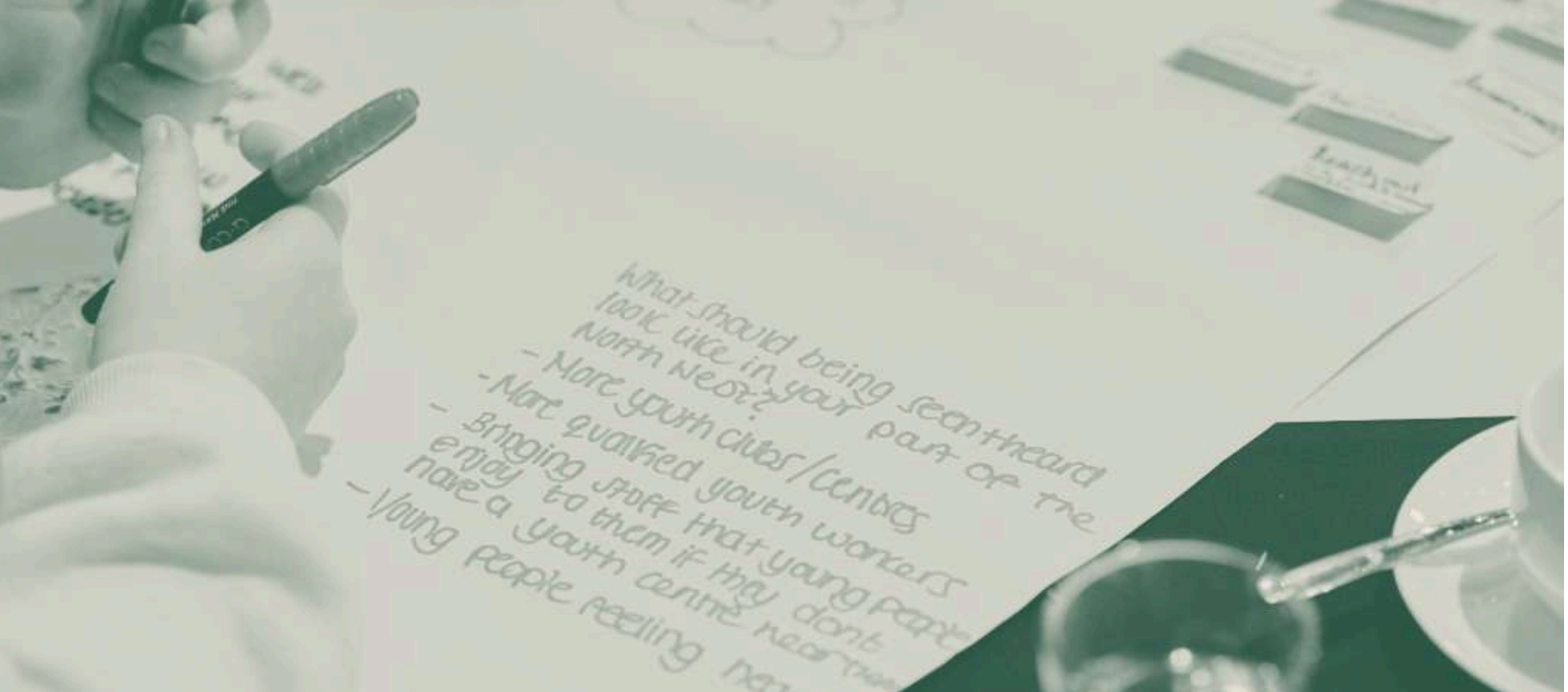
The responses show that young people imagine a better future as one where they are listened to, respected, and actively involved in shaping the services and opportunities around them. Their vision for the next three years is not only about having more activities, but about creating a more inclusive, supportive, and connected community. Overall, young people describe a future where they feel safer, happier, more empowered, and better able to thrive in their local area.



# KEY THEMES:

- Young people want to be heard and involved
- There is a strong demand for more opportunities beyond school
- Access and inclusion are a major concern
- Young people want stronger support systems and trusted relationships
- Safety, crime reduction, and positive alternatives matter
- Community, respect, and belonging are central
- Awareness and communication are currently a gap





# WHAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

“Young people involved  
in decisions that  
*affect* us”

“MORE  
*outdoor*  
ACTIVITIES”

“more  
*trusted*  
adults”

“MORE  
collaboration”

“KNOW WHERE TO GO FOR  
WHAT **SERVICE**”

“REMOVE  
*accessibility*  
BARRIERS”

“We want to feel  
**SAFE**”

“SENSE OF  
**COMMUNITY**”



# WHAT NOW?

- DCMS have committed to taking on board the feedback from the event and relaying this back to Government, with promise for a future update
- Developing more youth voice
- Facilitating more place based opportunities for young people to have their voice heard
- Developing youth leadership and opportunities for young people to be leaders in their local communities
- Youth workers to facilitate safe spaces to lead on social action projects in their local areas

