



DERBY YOUTH ALLIANCE

#THISISDERBY

2024 | **2025**
April | March

Our Annual Evaluation

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Introduction and Overview

The Derby Youth Alliance was created by Derby's Stronger Communities Board. Its aims are to promote openness, trust, responsibility sharing, innovation, high performance and the alignment of interests between delivery partners. Members are committed to working 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 on 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

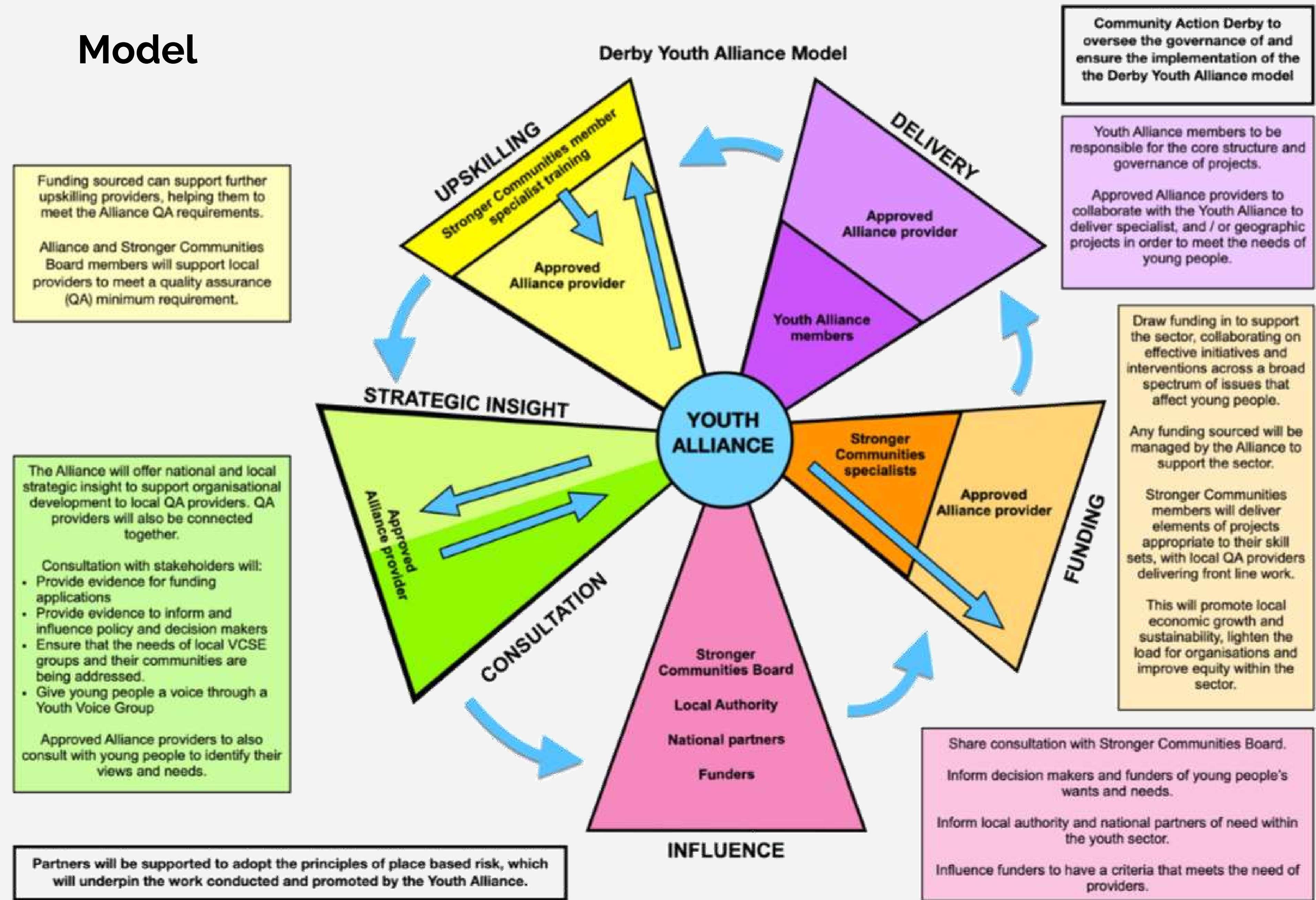
During the 2024/25 year, we received grants from Derby Homes and Derby City Council. Our Youth Alliance Coordinator role has been funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Priority Areas

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

- Abuse and exploitation
- Alcohol and drug use
- Anti-social 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 Disabilities (SEND) and inclusivity
- The environment and climate crisis
- Youth voice and participation

Model



Membership and Growth

Throughout 2024 we engaged with external support to review and streamline our processes and as a result of this we gained a different perspective on our offer and the opportunity to adapt and make beneficial changes.

We have evolved our membership structure to be more representative and governed for the work that we do, with clear expectations for involvement at each tier of membership.

Our Strategic Group focus on governance, strategy surrounding identifying trends and themes of issues that young people are facing in the city, representation of the Youth Alliance on various local and regional boards, and upskilling the youth sector. Members contribute expert advice and guidance from their own specialist areas of work, around young people in our city.

Our Operational Group is responsible for delivery across specialist projects and referrals, to deliver and receive training and to offer thematic input into the overall strategy to support young people in our city. The group's input will be valuable to those in the Strategic Group and also to the YA/CYPN members.

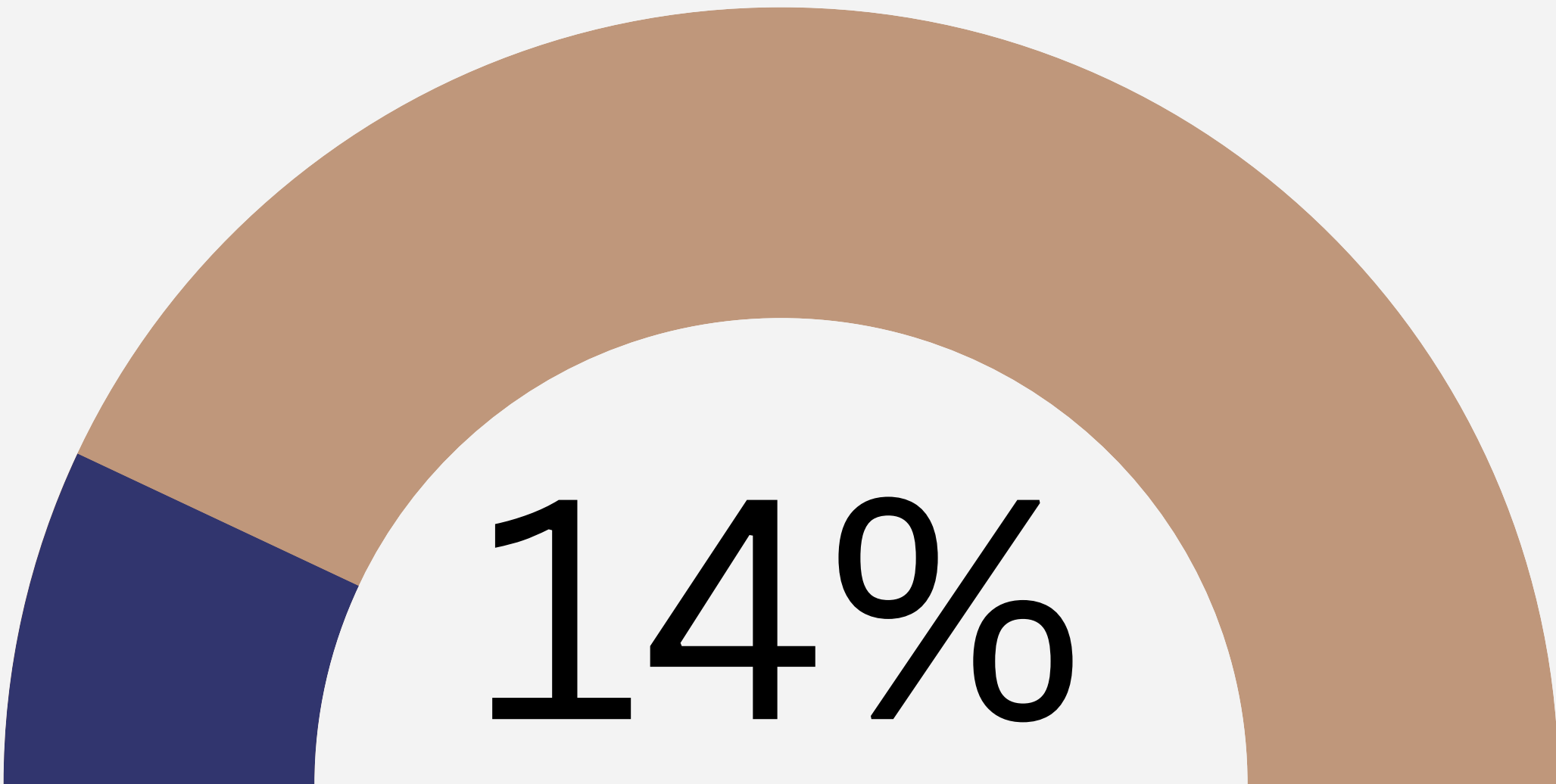
Our YA/CYPN members may be an organisation or an individual working in the youth sector. They are able to feed into thematic discussions and strategy, and apply for funding as communicated through our distribution list. They are welcome to attend or present at our CYPN meetings and events, encouraging them to develop their offer and work more collaboratively with other organisations in the city.

Key Stakeholders are involved with supporting the Youth Alliance to grow and develop, and aim to include us in discussions around the welfare of our city's young people in order for us to strive to work together to resolve ongoing issues and community tensions, and make Derby a more welcoming and inclusive city.

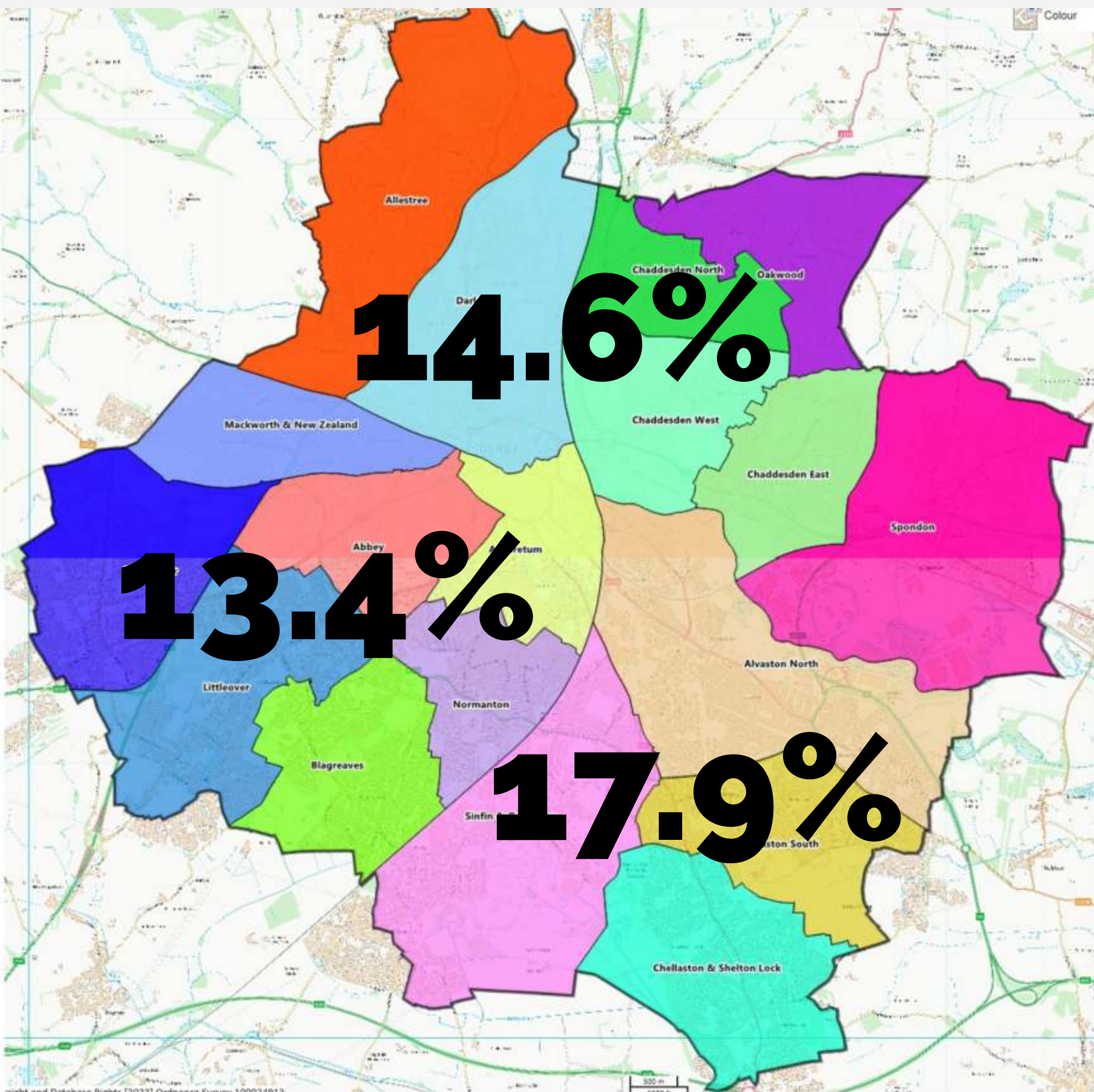
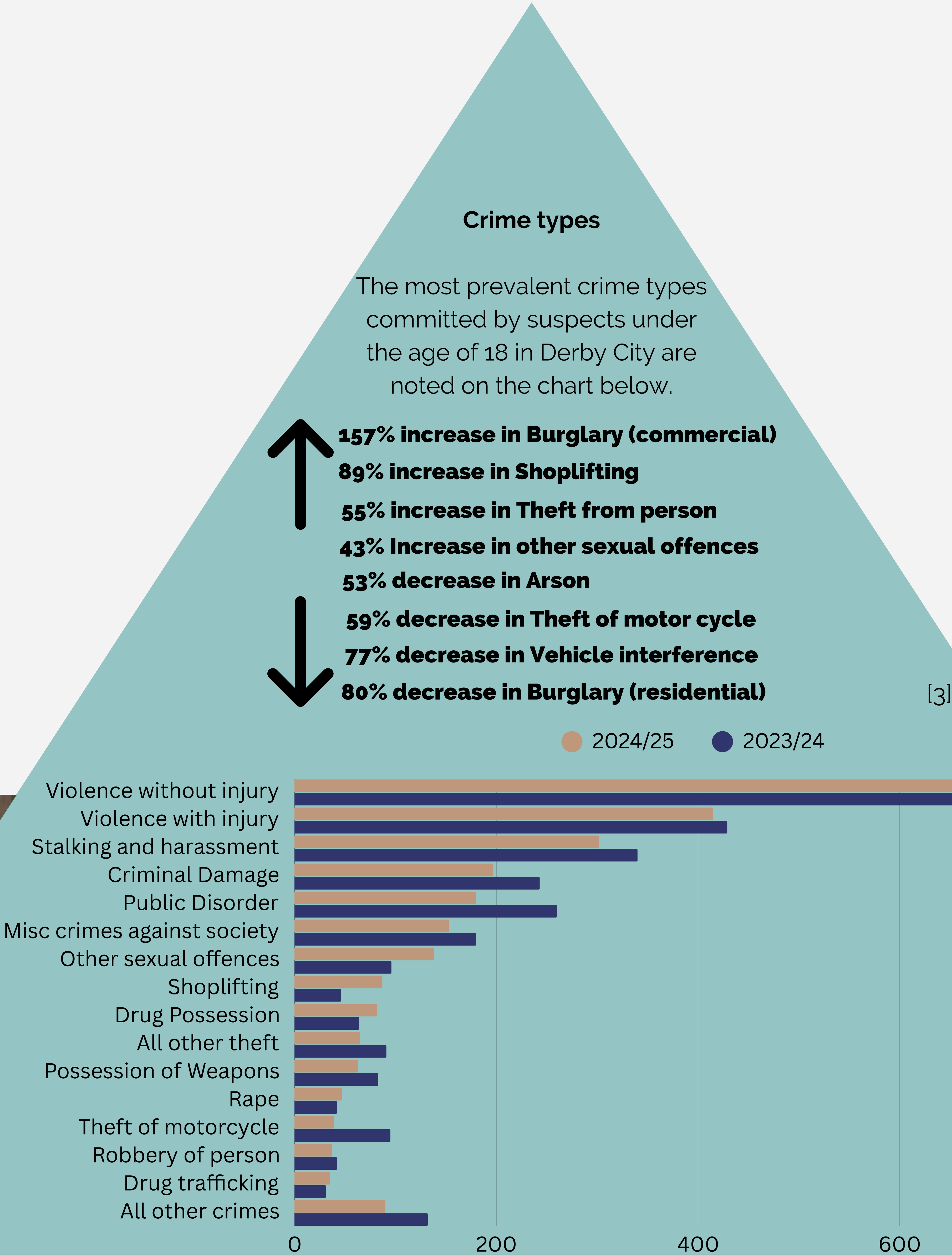


Local Information about Derby

Derby, the main city in the county of Derbyshire, has a population of 263,500, with a BME population of approximately 26.2%. [1]
Between March 2023 - April 2024 the average crime rate in Derby was 113.5 crimes per 1,000 people - 28.3% higher than the national average (last year 49%). The average rate of anti-social behaviour in Derby was 29.3 incidents per 1000 people - 74% higher than the national average (last year 60%). Violence offences, theft offences, stalking and harassment and public order offences were the most prevalent crime types committed. [5]



[2]
Across Derby City policing areas, between March 2024 and April 2025, 14.3% of all recorded crimes committed were by a suspect under the age of 18. This is a slight decrease from 2023/24, when the average across the city was 15.5%.



Derby East is the policing area with the largest mean percentage of crimes committed by under 18's measured as a proportion of all crimes. Boulton has a prevalence of 23% while Sinfin & Osmaston record 18%. Other notable area is Mickleover (within Derby West) with 22% prevalence.
The total amount of recorded crimes committed by under 18's has decreased across the city by 7.5% over the past year. [4]

References
[1] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth?lad=E06000015> - Census 2021
[2] , [3] , [4] - Freedom of information requests to Derbyshire Constabulary.
[5] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/recordedcrimedatabycommunitysafetypartnershiparea> - April 2023 to March 2024

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

Siblings and parents/guardians





Referrals from:

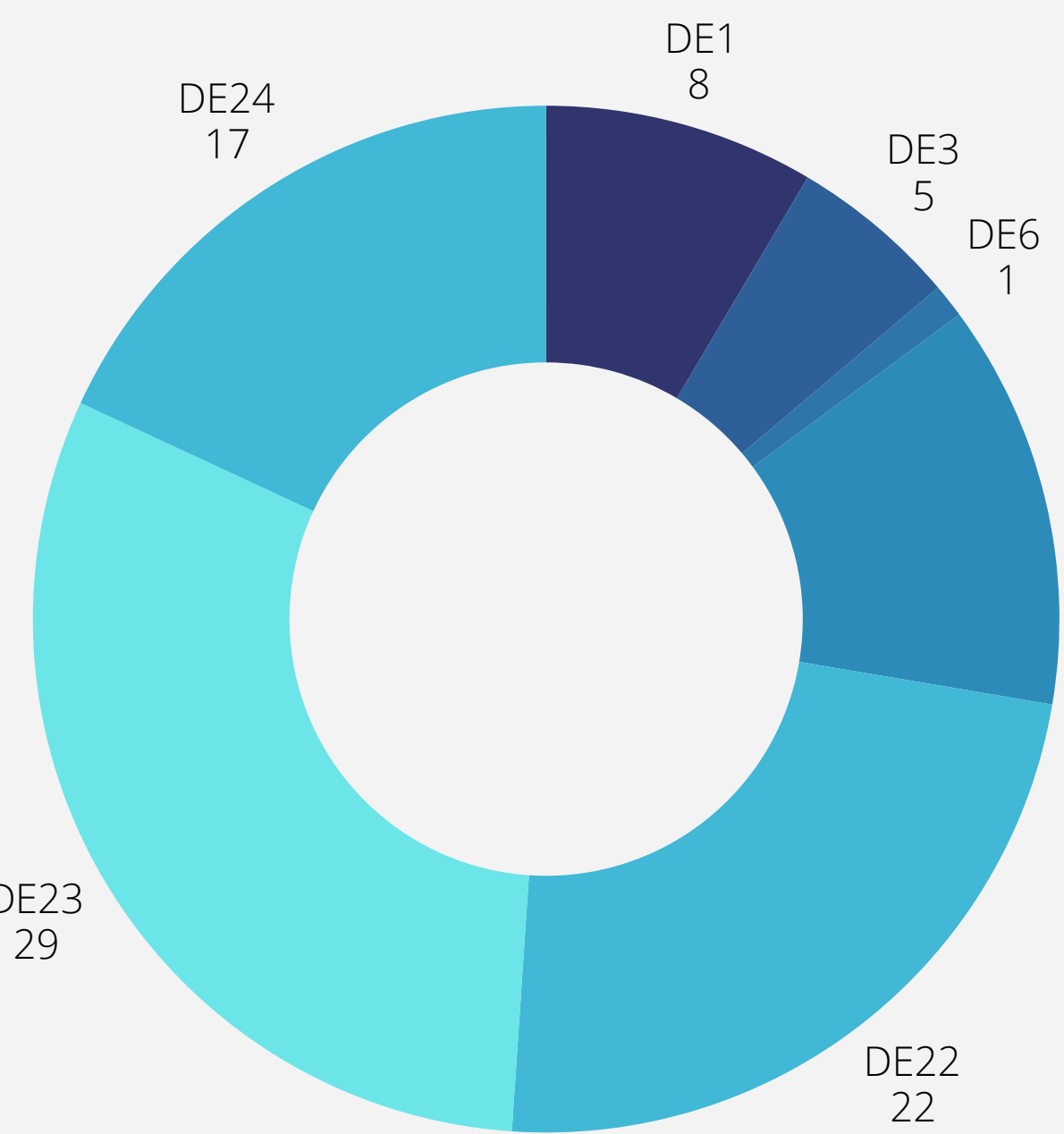
- Derby City Council
- Schools and Further Education settings
- Housing providers
- Youth Offending Service
- Derbyshire Constabulary

Referred to:

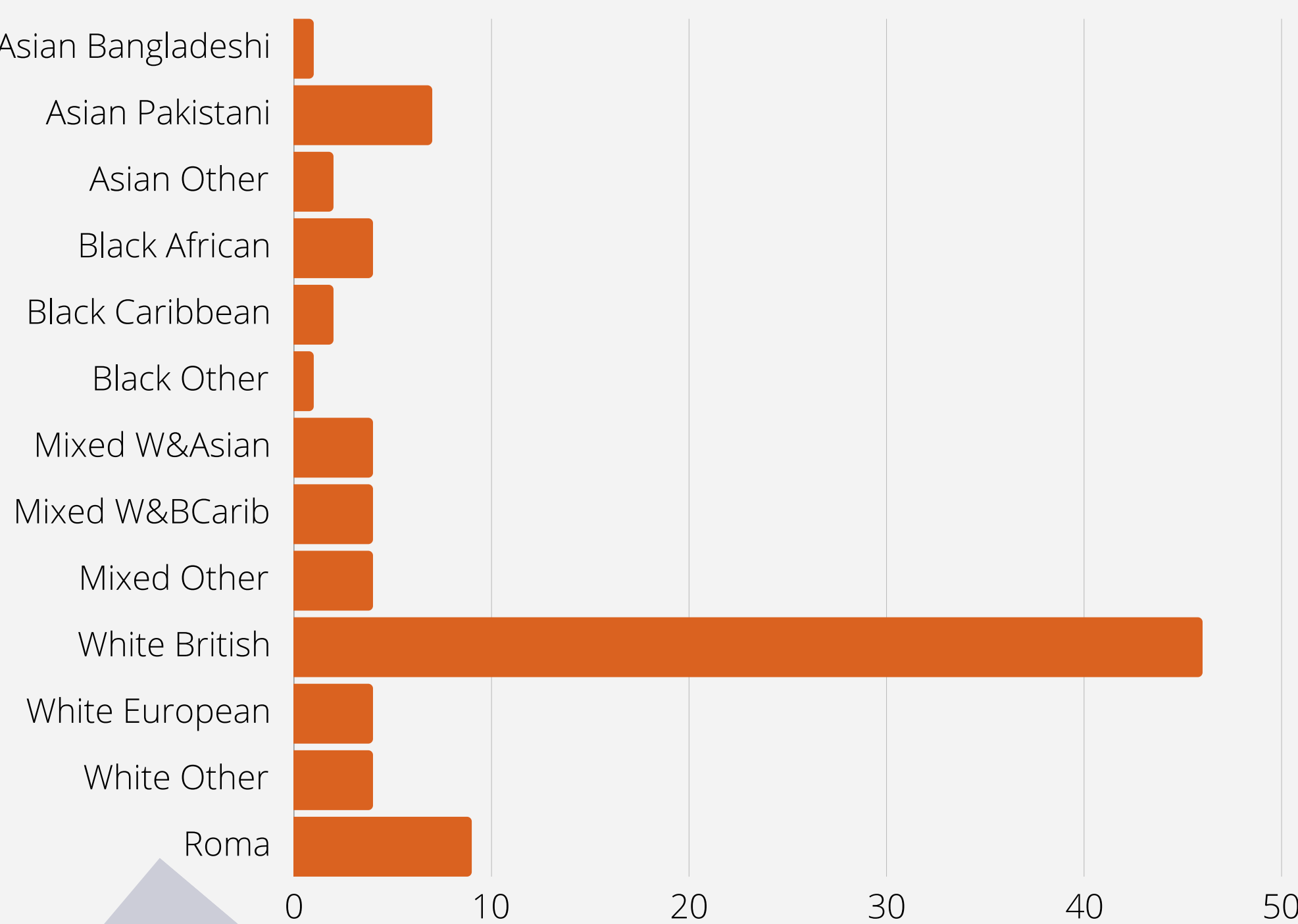
- **Baby People** - Mentoring support and youth group work, centred around art and music activities.
- **Children First** - 1:1 mentoring support and diversionary activities.
- **DCCT** - Place-based community engagement and outreach, sporting activities and 1:1 mentoring support, catering for raising 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** - Place-based community engagement, sporting activities and mentoring support around young people's mental health and wellbeing.
- **Supporting Communities** - 1:1 mentoring support around resilience and wellbeing, and complex and multiple family support needs.
- **Umbrella** - SEND specific support, groups and mentoring.
- **YMCA Derbyshire** - Place-based community engagement, sporting activities and mentoring support around mental health and wellbeing. Young Leaders qualifications and volunteering opportunities are also offered.

Person and Family Statistics - 130 referrals

Number of Referrals by Postcode



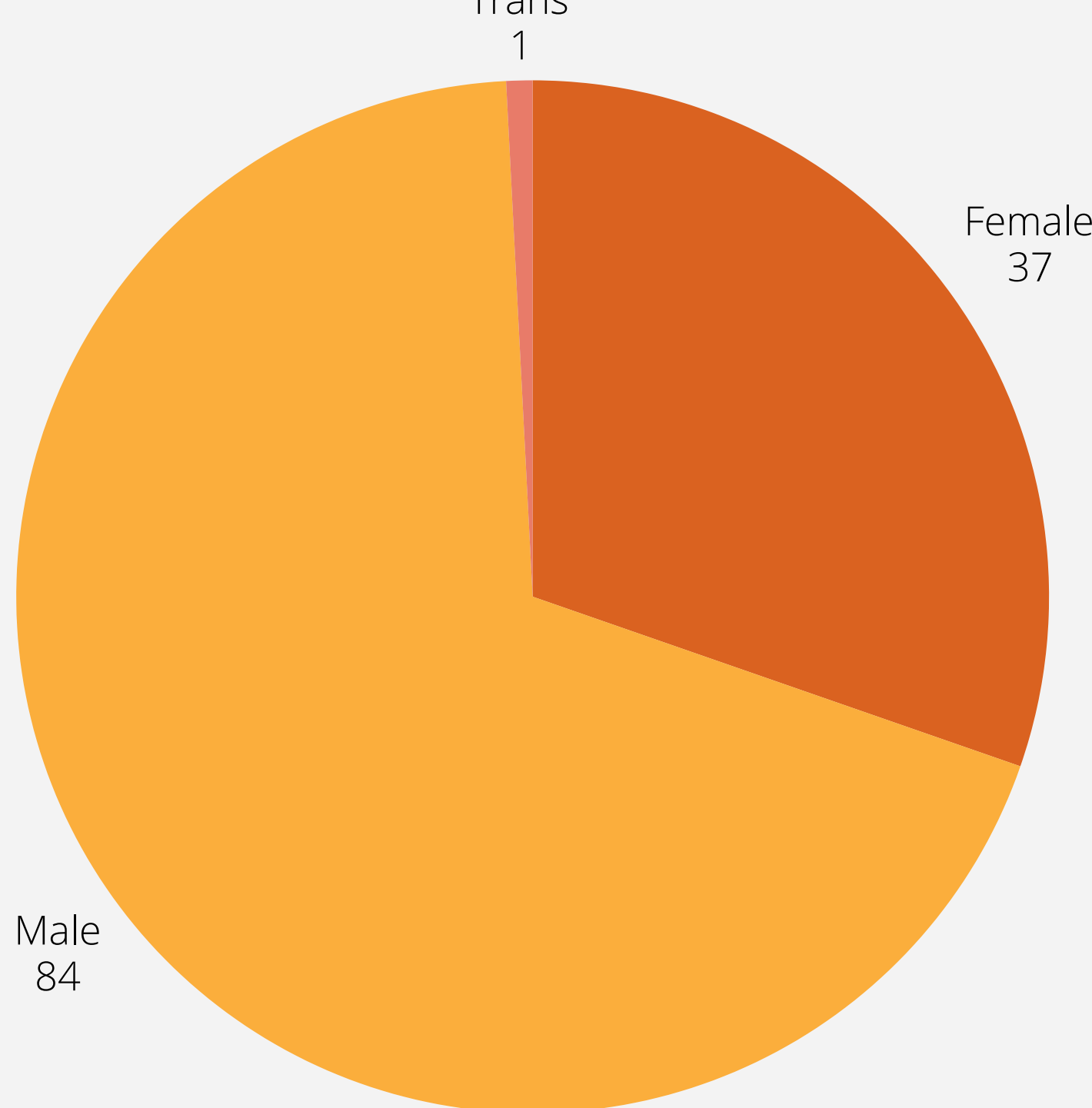
Number of Referrals by Ethnicity



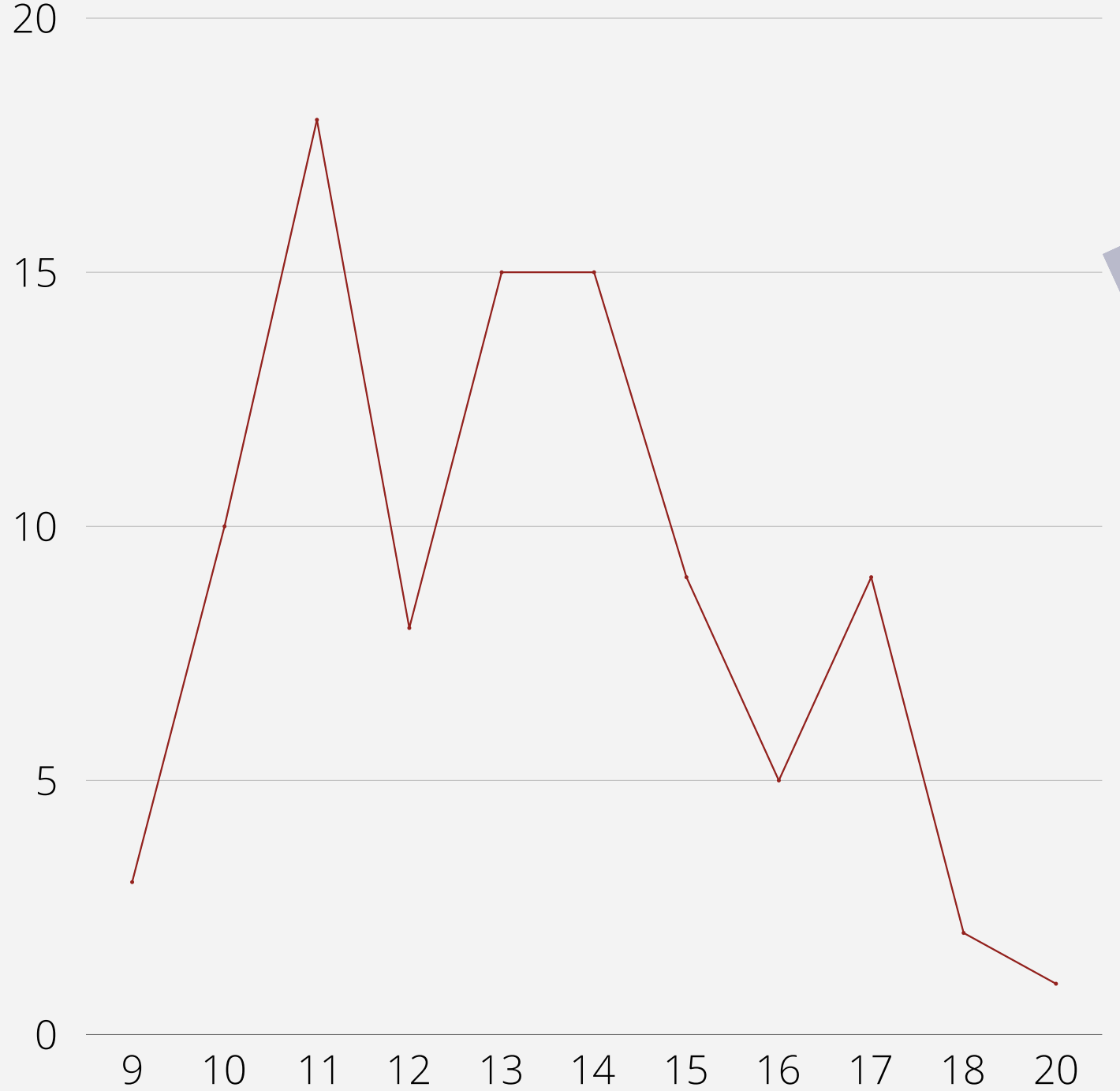
Referrals by SEND



Referrals by Gender



Number of Referrals by Age



Postcode: DE1 (8), DE3 (5), DE6 (1), DE21 (12), DE22 (22), DE23 (29), DE24 (17).
Ethnicity: Asian Bangladeshi(1), Asian Pakistani (7), Asian Other (2), Black African (4), Black Caribbean (2), Black Other (1), Mixed White & Asian (4), Mixed White and Black Caribbean (4), Mixed Other (4), White British (46), White European (4), White Other (4), Roma (9).
SEND: Yes (64), No (57).
Gender: Male (84), Female (37), Trans Male (1).
Age: 9 (3), 10 (10), 11 (18), 12 (8), 13 (15), 14 (15), 15 (9), 16 (5), 17 (9), 18 (2), 20 (1).

Partner Led Projects - Elite Transition

Following the success of previous Elite Transition programmes, in the summer term of 2024, we were approached by Derby City Council's In-Year Fair Access team to support 12 individual referrals for young people transitioning from year six primary school provision into year seven secondary school provision. The 12 referrals were from five primary schools across the city - Pear Tree Junior School, Becket Primary School, Hackwood Primary School, Gayton Junior School and Shelton Junior School - and were allocated to five of our partners - Safe & Sound, Derby County Community Trust, Supporting Communities, Baby People and Children First Derby.

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

Throughout the summer term and the summer holidays the young people were engaged with a range of diversionary activities and 1-1 mentoring. The new schools were supportive of this process and partners continued to work alongside the families whose children had been a part of the Elite Programme to ensure smooth transitions into year 7, and in some cases for a more extended period of time where additional support was needed for the young person.

Case Study:

Our involvement began before A left junior school, allowing us to build a trusting relationship and provide a safe space for them to express their concerns about starting at a new school. By continuing sessions through the summer holidays, we were able to maintain this connection and help them feel more confident about the change ahead.

The transition brought added pressures for the family. They faced the cost of a new school uniform and a winter coat, as well as the challenge of a longer school journey. Public transport was unaffordable, and safety concerns arose as A had to walk without a mobile phone to contact family in an emergency. We responded by providing a spare winter coat, sourcing a basic mobile phone with a SIM card, and securing funding for a bike during the Christmas period to support safe, independent travel.

At the same time, we worked closely with the new school to ensure they were aware of the young person's challenges and could offer ongoing reassurance as our direct involvement gradually reduced. This collaborative approach meant the young person felt supported both at home and in school, enabling them to settle well, make friends, and adapt positively to their new environment.

The family expressed heartfelt thanks for the support provided, sharing photos of the bike and explaining how it had transformed their child's journey to school. They highlighted how this practical help, combined with emotional reassurance, gave their child the confidence to return to school in the new year.

Supporting Communities



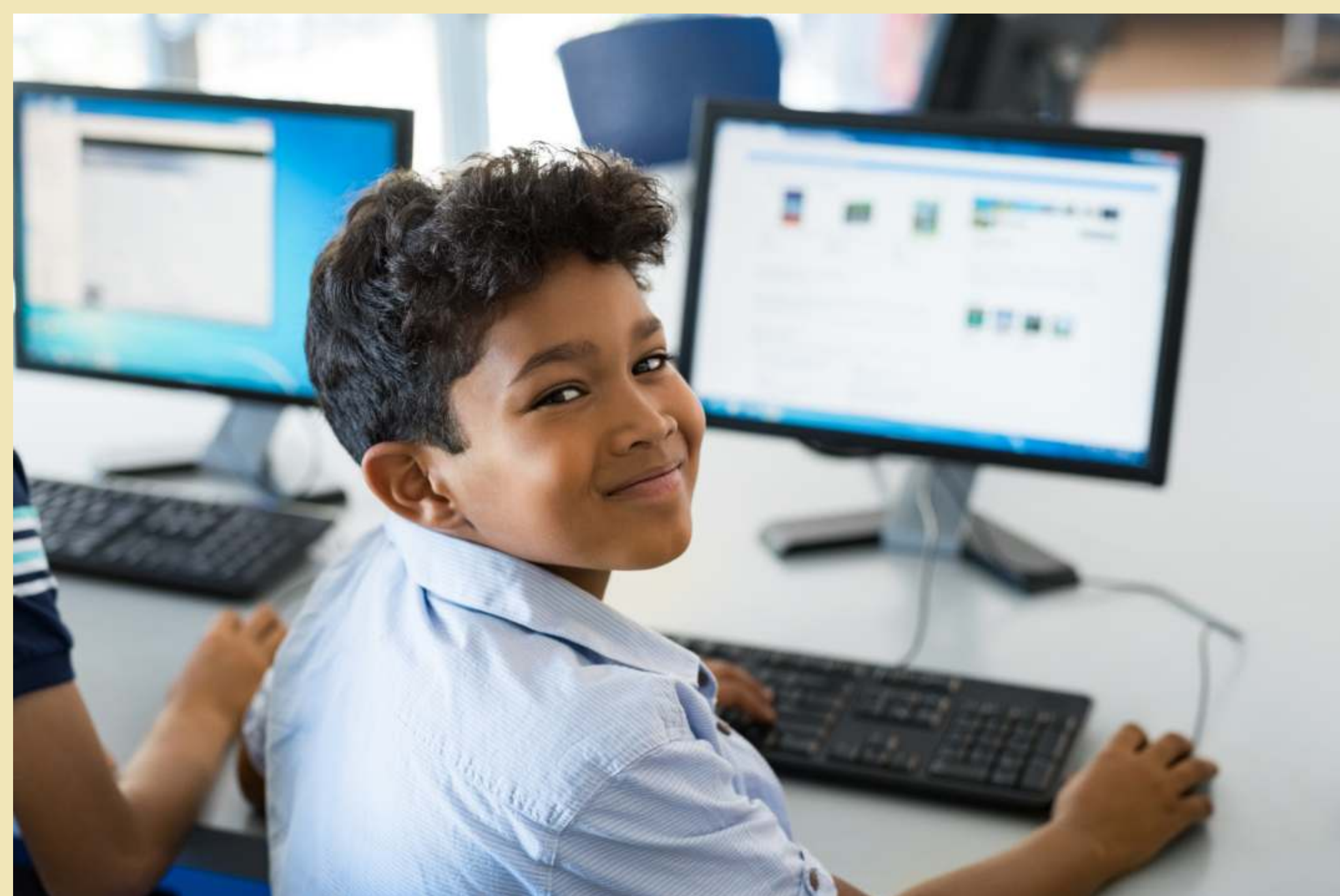
Partner Led Projects - Elite SEND Transition

In the summer term of 2024, following discussions with Derby City Council's SEND Transformation Programme Lead around approaches to SEND transition in mainstream school provision, we approached Noel-Baker Academy to support with SEND children moving from year six to their year seven classes. Noel-Baker were keen to engage and we initially received 25 referrals for young people who were interested in our parent and child drop-in support sessions, summer holiday mentoring and youth group provision led by Umbrella.

Over the summer break, Umbrella ran a series of five youth clubs for children to encourage new friendships to be made with their new peer group which could continue into the autumn term, and also to manage worries around such a big transition. Sessions were planned by the young people in conjunction with the staff team and included board games, physical activity, opportunities to get out into the local community, crafts and cooking and there was an offer to be open to accessing ongoing youth club sessions held at Umbrella.

The young people talked about their concerns around making friends, managing at a much bigger school, the structure of the school day, getting lost in school or on the way to school, managing classwork/homework and managing their anxiety and behaviour in school. The staff were able to support the young people to manage these anxieties and talk through how things work at secondary school. They were also able to offer specialist support to the young people in a way that supported their wider SEND needs. These sessions enabled young people to open up about their concerns and anxieties within a safe and supportive environment where they were free to express themselves openly, and to be armed with some practical solutions and coping mechanisms to improve their transition.

This work was accompanied by two coffee morning events run by Umbrella's Family Support Team to support parents with their worries about transition too. Parents spoke about managing anxiety-based school avoidance, concerns about whether enough support or the right support would be offered to their young people, Education, Health and Care plans, managing their children's behaviour and supporting them through a challenging transition.



All the young people and their parents who attended our sessions were positive about the support and said that it had made a difference to their feeling ready for school in September. They were all positive about starting at Noel-Baker and felt better equipped to know what to expect. One young person continues to attend Umbrella's sessions and is supported by the team on an ongoing basis.

"The Youth Alliance funding has enabled young people with disabilities the opportunity to make friends and gain confidence especially when transitioning to secondary school. The support of members is invaluable, ensuring support is in place at the right time for young people in the city."

Ann Rowlands, Umbrella



Derby City White Ribbon Campaign 2024



Following on from the success of 2023's White Ribbon Day campaign, in 2024 we coproduced a selection of images which were circulated around Derby City through engagement with our partner organisations, public sector and statutory organisations, and schools. We also ran a social media campaign based on these images which were produced by Goldbox Productions, who successfully orchestrated our campaign video in 2023.

The three images were aimed at a wider audience this year, with a view to more partners getting on board to share the message. The theme was "It Starts with Me(n)" and our young people chose to interpret this as tackling generational behaviour around misogyny with the progressional taglines "Call it Out", "Be the Change" and "It's time to Evolve".

Call it Out was about being an active bystander, and the imagery was themed in a workplace - this was targeted at corporate organisations based within Derby City who may choose to use the campaign to open up discussions about misogynistic behaviour in the workplace.

Be the Change was about having the choice to continue generational behaviour, or be the person that breaks the cycle and chooses to act differently. This image displayed a son watching his dad behave poorly to his mum, but then choosing to treat females as equals in a sports environment outside of home. This was targeted at young people and also at sports groups.

It's Time to Evolve was about how a change can be made at any period of time, and the earlier the behaviour stops, the fewer women are affected. The imagery shows a generation of men whose behaviour was unacceptable, but one child who made a change and chose to be better than what had gone before. This was a hard-hitting image suitable to be displayed by any organisation or educational setting.



2290+ - Campaign impressions over social media

31.2% - Engagement over social media

63 views - On the Youth Alliance website



Safe Places and Purple Flag accreditation

'Safe Places' are a network of venues across Derby City where women, girls, vulnerable adults and young people can seek help and support if they are concerned about their safety while away from home.

The initiative is part of the Safe Derby campaign, which is backed by the Home Office's Safer Streets funding stream, secured through the Office of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner. The Safe Derby campaign is jointly led by Derby City Council and other key voluntary and charity partners, including Safe and Sound. It aims to rally communities across the city to tackle, challenge and prevent violence against women and girls in public places, and to stand as a city free from, and with zero tolerance for, gender-based violence, abuse, harassment and exploitation.

Venues in the network display the 'Safe Places Derby' purple hand sticker to show that they are a safe place for people to ask for help if they feel unsafe, and staff are given a briefing sheet to explain what it means to be a Safe Place and how to act if someone accesses their venue needing help or a space to sit.

Following the creation of the new Youth Alliance website, Safe Places Derby now has a dedicated webpage with information about the scheme, website links and addresses of the venues which are on board, as well as the hard-hitting video created by partners of the Safe Derby campaign when it was first launched, to signal Derby's zero tolerance towards, and promotion of a city free from, gender-based violence, abuse, harassment and exploitation.

The webpage also features an interactive Google Maps widget where page visitors can adjust the map to find their nearest Safe Place, or to familiarise themselves with Safe Places near to locations in the city that they regularly visit for social, education or work purposes.



68

Venues signed up
as Safe Places



Safe Places and Purple Flag accreditation



Following on from the Safe Places initiative, Derby Youth Alliance was approached to get involved in Derby City's application for ongoing Purple Flag accreditation. Purple Flag accreditation recognises cities that meet and surpass standards of excellence in providing a diverse, vibrant, safe and enjoyable experience between the hours of 5pm-5am.

Derby Youth Alliance conducted an online consultation survey for young people to have their say on evening and nightlife in Derby City - including whether and where they feel safe, and what improvements could be made. Purple Flag accreditation was awarded to Derby City in May 2025.

- **Do you feel the city centre is a safe place for you in the evenings and at night? (178)**



- **What places do you feel welcome to go to in the city centre in the evenings and at night? (210)**

The most popular themed answers were mixed, ranging from everywhere to nowhere and indoors only to only at named outside places.

Derbion was the most named venue, followed by restaurants, shops, cinema, pubs, and the bus station.

- **What spaces or activities do you feel should be in the city centre for young people in the evenings and at night? (125)**

Other indoor entertainment 29%, Sports 22%, Youth Club 18%, Food places 14%

- **What could be done to make you feel safer in the city centre? (167)**

More Security 22%, More Police 21%, More Lighting 20%,
Reduce the Crime Rate 11%

- **Is transport or the cost of transport, an issue for getting into the city centre? (178)**



Youth Alliance Youth Voice

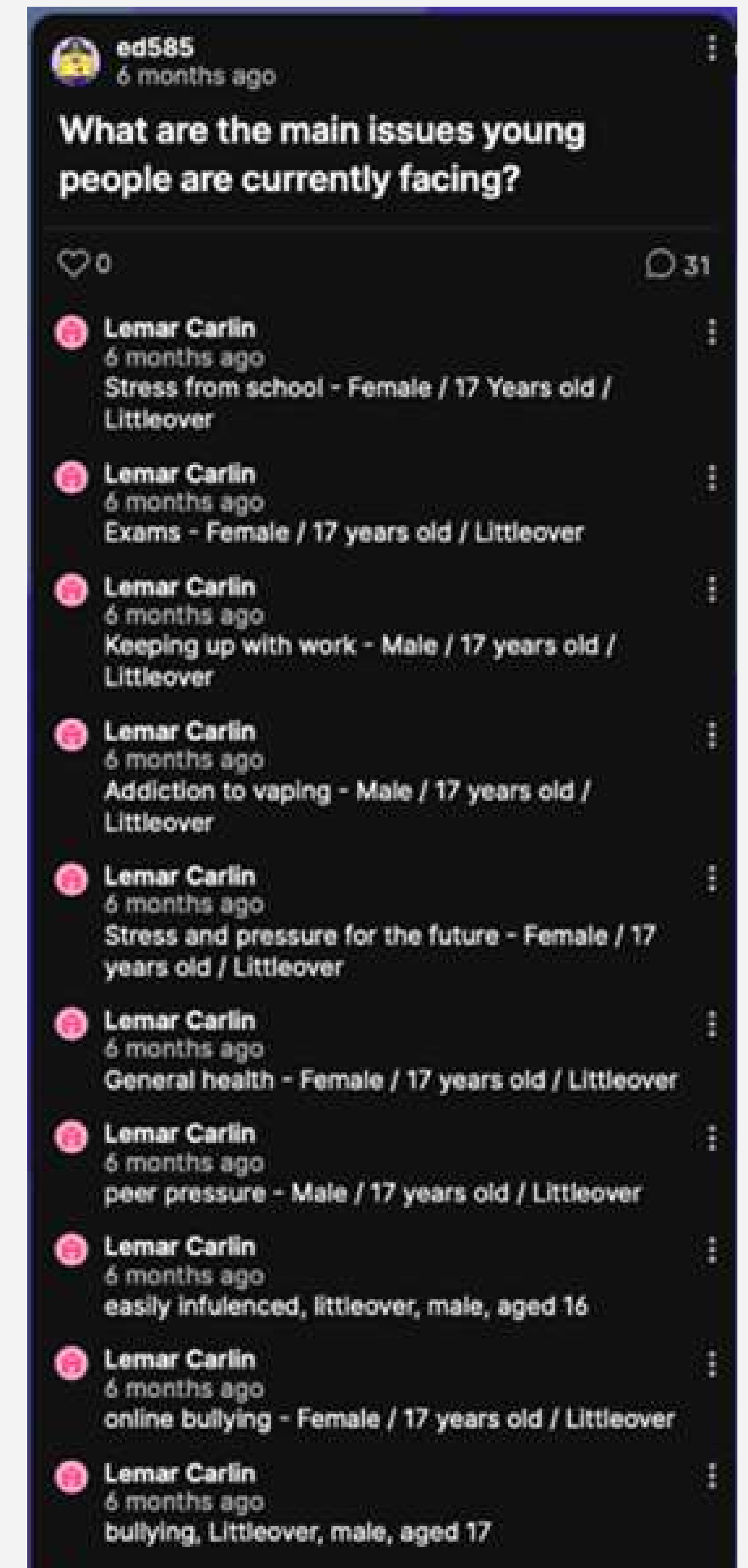
Through its National Lottery funding, which included a focus on strengthening its existing Youth Voice Network, Sporting Communities enabled young people's perspectives to be channelled into the Youth Alliance and contribute directly to the group's development.

Sporting Communities has been actively gathering youth voices for some time, with a strong focus on amplifying the perspectives of young people who are often overlooked or feel unheard. It collects this feedback through various methods, with Padlet being the primary platform. To date, Sporting Communities has gathered over 250 responses from young people across Derby City, representing a wide age range from eight to 25 and diverse backgrounds.

This insight is invaluable - it directly informs our work, helps shape our programme design and funding priorities, and ensures our approach remains relevant and responsive to the real and current needs of young people in our communities. Regularly engaging with young people gives us an up-to-date understanding of their feelings, concerns, personal challenges and systemic barriers encountered, allowing us to better advocate for and support their needs.

Following on from this, Sporting Communities' commitment to youth voice has been recognised at a national level. Director Ross Podyma was recently invited to speak with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) policy team - headed up by Lisa Nandy MP - to share insights on youth work, youth voice, and the role of the 'trusted adult' — a concept central to much of our work. This engagement was part of the evidence-gathering process to inform the upcoming National Youth Strategy, which is being developed by The National Youth Agency (NYA) and expected to be published this autumn.

Additionally, Sporting Communities' youth voice expertise has supported the development of Sport England's own Youth Voice Strategy, with their contributions acknowledged during the strategic planning phase.



Events and Engagement

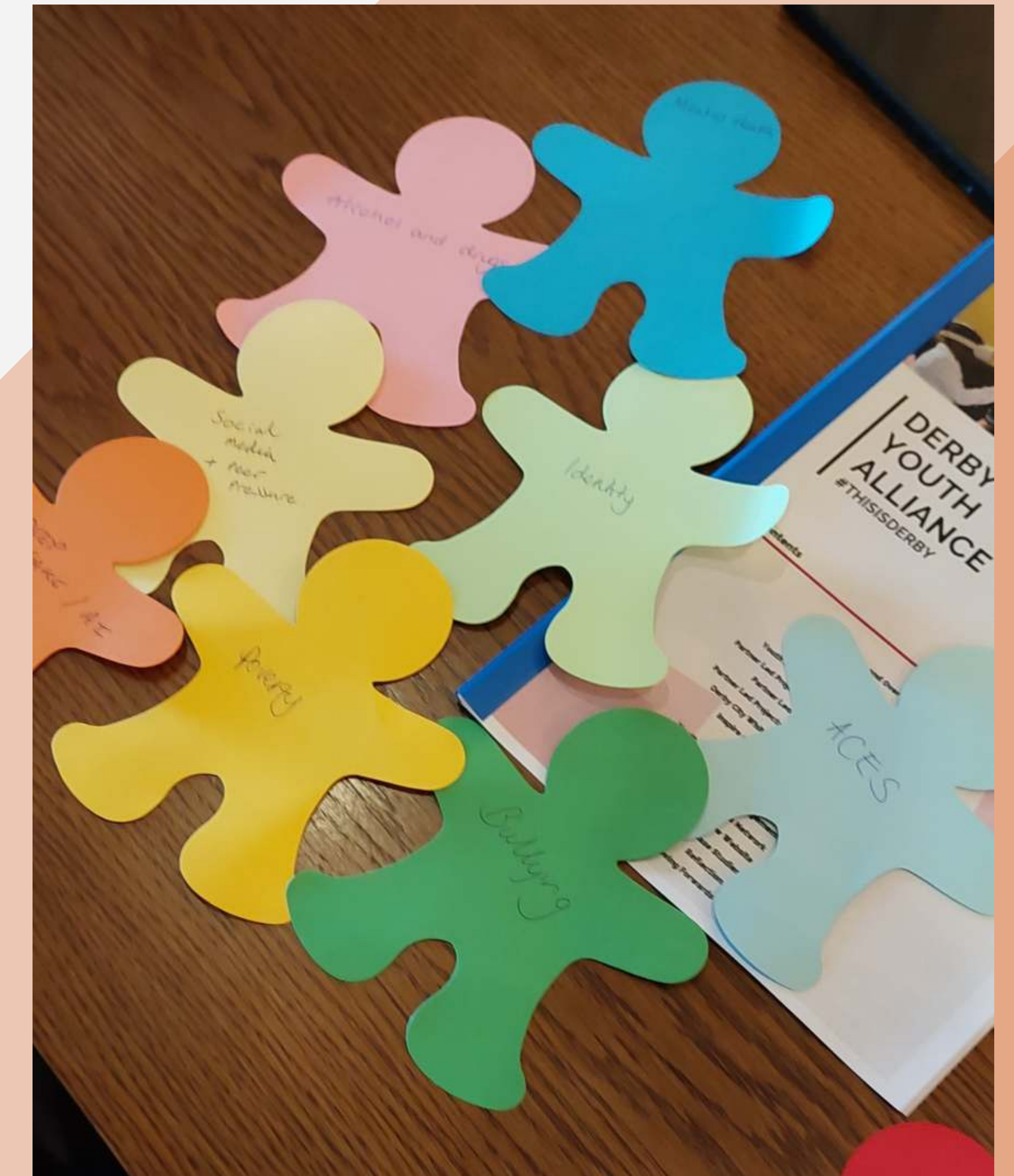
In February 2025 we held an event to celebrate our first five years, titled “Celebrating Success and Shaping Our Future”, where our Strategic Group and all key stakeholders, funders and partners were invited to learn more about the projects and referrals we had worked on and the wider impact we had achieved as a result of our collaborative working.

We started the morning by giving an overview of the history of Derby Youth Alliance and its success over the last 4 years, and our partners supported by sharing their experiences of the ways it has highlighted the importance of partnership working.

Our attendees took part in a group activity to identify which priority areas we should focus on for our young people. The findings showed that the majority of our attendees considered mental health to be the biggest priority/issue, followed by online and social media concerns, poverty and social mobility, and knife crime.

We shared a presentation about our new membership structure, introducing the roles and responsibilities for each tier of membership and how our offer has evolved to meet the changing needs of the most disadvantaged young people and families in our city. We also had the pleasure of Liz Fothergill, Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire, attending the event and expressing her gratitude for the Youth Alliance!

We rounded off the morning by asking stakeholders to consider how they can get involved in supporting the Youth Alliance going forward, and what their next steps could be to promote the amazing work we continue to do within their own networks and organisations.



Events and Engagement

This year the Youth Alliance and the wider network have taken part in and supported three school events. A large amount of Youth Alliance referrals come from secondary schools and it is clear that often for this age group, a lot of support is needed. School staff, parents and students themselves are quite often not aware of the help and support services available to them, or how to access them, so it was important for us to take the service providers to the schools to make this knowledge available to those needing it.

Locality 3 Marketplace Event

We organised a Marketplace Event at Derby West Indian Community Centre alongside Local Area Coordinators from Locality 3 (Normanton, Arboretum and Abbey Wards). We worked together on establishing the needs of the area, and invited interested organisations and professionals to showcase their offer, network, and start conversations around what we could do collaboratively to tackle the pressing needs of the most disadvantaged young people living in these areas of the city.

Inclusion Partnership Conference Marketplace Event

We supported the Inclusion Partnership with their Marketplace event, and were on hand to discuss the Youth Alliance with various organisations in attendance, including representatives from primary and secondary schools and alternative provisions, and other local organisations who would benefit from being involved with our networks. We look forward to supporting the Inclusion Partnership Conference annually.

Derby Moor Spencer Academy Drop Down Day

Derby Moor Spencer Academy holds regular drop down days for its students to access enrichment workshops that complement their educational learning. We were approached to support Year 13 students with a workshop on positive campaigning. We engaged with over 60 students around topics such as peaceful and legal protesting, how to organise a successful campaign, how to use the creative arts to facilitate a campaign, and what good campaigns look like.



"Thank you for your brilliant workshop once again. The students really appreciated it. Your team were fantastic and it was great that you were able to use the campaign including our students."

- Derby Moor Spencer Academy



Children and Young People's Network

In 2021 the existing Children and Young People's Network (CYPN) became part of the Youth Alliance. 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 format of the meetings changes with each venue and allows attendees to view presentations from multiple sectors of work across the city - including sports, health, statutory teams, safeguarding, and community and charity groups - as well as having the opportunity for free or structured networking with those in the room, and a tour or demonstration of the offer that each venue boasts for professionals or young people in the city. Our October meeting was a spotlight on Youth Voice, and we held a workshop that was led by the Derby City Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor. Our February meeting was a group training session around LGBTQ+ Awareness and supporting LGBTQ+ young people - a training request which had been received as a result of previously asking attendees what training they felt they needed to support their roles in the youth sector.

This year, our meetings took place face-to-face at the following venues: Umbrella at the Annie Hall Memorial Centre, Leisure United Derby Racecourse hub, Moorways Sports Village, Association of Ukrainians of Great Britain and Safe and Sound (Cotton Lane hub).

Our current CYPN distribution list has over 500 professionals from over 170 organisations, and attendance continues to grow with a total of 313 attendees over the six 2024/25 CYPN sessions.

Attendees of CYPN



Children and Young People's Network cont.

To enable us to keep the Children and Young People's Network meetings useful and relevant to professionals in Derby City, we conduct regular round-table task sessions to gain feedback and suggestions for changes or improvements.

At December's CYPN meeting we asked attendees what they have found the most valuable part of attending, in exchange for one response to be drawn at random from the gift bag to take a hamper back to their office. Here are some of the responses:

“ Blown away that there are such a wide variety of organisations here to support young people ”

“ The group has shown us provisions across the city that we didn't know existed. ”

“ I have forged links with other youth teams who have provided me invaluable support with my new venture ”

“ It's been a great opportunity to network and share and I have also made some good friends over the past couple of years ”

“ Awareness raising of work in the city is so useful ”

“ Being a new joiner this year, I have found a sense of belonging in the professional community and LOTS of connections. ”

“ Being part of the group means I get all the new information! Great network event. ”

“ Great to meet some amazing people who have the same passions when working with young people ”

“ I have found the CYPN to be like a blossom tree. It has branches everywhere full of incredible people who work so hard for our city's young people. ”



Case Studies

M

“Before the gym was provided to me with the YMCA, my mental and physical health were plummeting, as pointed out by multiple staff members on multiple occasions. Since even 1 session at the gym I feel so much better about myself. It's great for mental health as it releases dopamine, it's a good way to relieve stress and it's great to feel like I can add the gym into my routine. Training at the gym is correlated with eating more as well, so hopefully all the skinny and ill comments stop.”

YMCA Derbyshire

H

“The cooking and budgeting sessions with my mentor have made a significant difference in my journey to manage my own household, eat well, and live within my means. With better planning around food and finances, I feel more stable and less overwhelmed.”

YMCA Derbyshire

M

M was referred to us to improve his challenging behaviour and engagement in education. He initially refused the service. However, after consulting with his mother and the referrer, a meeting was arranged to discuss the benefits of mentoring, to encourage his active involvement in planning and decision-making to shape his own support and development. The mentoring support began the following week and took place on a weekly basis - the mentor initially engaged in activities to build a rapport with his mentee and then supported him to think independently, take ownership and responsibility to reach his goals. Support was also provided to improve his emotional regulation, anger management and to motivate and encourage him to actively participate in his learning. The mentor collaborated with M's school by attending meetings and sharing, as well as asking for, information to ensure M was receiving the holistic support needed to help him progress. M's mum reported that M's behaviour has improved significantly. She also stated that M wasn't as reluctant to attend school. At his recent review, mum expressed her gratitude - she felt that M was spiralling out of control before meeting his mentor and wasn't interested in listening to anyone. He would hold in his emotions and take his anger out on her. She stated that she was pleased someone finally got through to him and helped him to get the help he needed. M stated that he felt that his interest in attending school had improved, and he feels mentoring has helped. The mentor feels that M has great potential and, with continued support, will find the motivation and direction he needs for his academic journey and beyond.

Children First

A

A was referred by Derby Youth Alliance due to struggles with family relationships, where they had become very isolated and had a complete breakdown in the relationship with their mother, which had resulted in A living with a friend. There were significant concerns around well-being and a lack of support network due to A's lack of trust and openness towards professionals. This individual's relationship with their family had completely broken down and was causing significant emotional distress. The implications that this was having, was a myriad of negative messages back and forth between family members on a regular basis, and ongoing conflicts.

The young person is now thriving in their next stage of education, and they have a good support network around them at home. They are also on a positive path, rebuilding relationships which were once broken. The young person now feels comfortable speaking openly, which was initially challenging due to the young person's difficulties in forming positive relationships and trust. However, through consistent weekly sessions, we saw a positive change in this dynamic. This young person now has a toolkit of healthy coping strategies to turn to, which has allowed them to express themselves in a more positive way. This young person has a strong support network around them and has the knowledge of support available in the future.

Supporting Communities

Z

Z participated in a creative mentoring programme focused on music, designed to help young people develop skills in music production, instrumental performance, and songwriting. Over the course of 12 one-to-one sessions, he was mentored by a professional music tutor in a supportive and engaging environment. From the beginning, Z showed great enthusiasm and curiosity about the creative process. He quickly established a positive working relationship with his mentor, which laid the foundation for open collaboration and exploration.

By the end of the programme, Z had developed a deeper understanding of how songs are created—from initial ideas to full compositions. His mentor was especially impressed with Z's commitment, progress, and willingness to try new things. The sessions not only improved his musical skills but also boosted his confidence and ability to express himself creatively.

Tutor Feedback:
“Z really embraced the process. He was open, eager to learn, and brought great energy to each session. It was inspiring to see him grow in confidence and start crafting his own sound. The progress he made over 12 sessions was fantastic.”

Baby People

Reflections

“ Youth Alliance allows the organisations that support young people in the city to work more effectively and to recognise trends and specific problems, whether they be thematic or geographic. It makes us stronger as a city and gives more opportunities for young people. ”

Baby J, Baby People



“ The Youth Alliance project has enabled YMCA to offer supportive and enriching activities for our residents and learners. We have seen small wins and large jumps in confidence, which, with the help of word-of-mouth, has increased engagement as the project progresses. By being able to extend the opportunities available for our young people, their potential to thrive and succeed grows in parallel. ”

Louise Curd, YMCA Derbyshire



“ Over the past year, being part of the Youth Alliance has been a hugely positive experience for Sporting Communities. It was beneficial to be involved in such a collaborative and supportive network, where organisations worked together with a shared aim of improving outcomes for young people. The regular information sharing and open communication meant we were well-informed about the services and opportunities available locally, which significantly supported our ability to effectively signpost and refer young people to additional help when needed. ”

Ed Chrayah, 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



“ Umbrella is proud to be part of the Derby Youth Alliance, which enables us to raise awareness of the issues facing disabled and neurodiverse young people. Through partnership, we can consider the broad range of challenges affecting young people across the city - ensuring that all young people are supported, empowered, and given the opportunity to thrive. ”

Laura Bowey, Umbrella



“ Youth Alliance is a vital forum for growing the voices of young people and empowering them to create the futures they deserve. Our partnership working has created new opportunities, and together, we have identified strategic gaps, formed new collaborations, shared information and helped change the lives of the most vulnerable young people. For the forthcoming year, it will be important for us to further systematise the way we give leadership to young people in order to genuinely make the most relevant change and help Derby to be and feel like a safe, thriving and vibrant city for all. ”

Caroline Barth, Derby Theatre



“ The collective work that has been achieved by the Youth Alliance across the city has had a lasting impact on the young people and families that we are able to support. Now more than ever, we are facing demands to support young people in overcoming challenges they encounter through mentoring programmes or diversionary activities. DCCT are privileged to be sat around the table and be a part of the collaborative work that the Youth Alliance is providing across the city, and being able to network and partner with other charities has had a lasting benefit to our organisation. ”

David Goulding, DCCT



“ The Youth Alliance has grown over the past few years with increased delivery of collaborative work across the city. We ensure young people are at the heart of our work, and it is so important we listen to young people, keep them safe, and give them a voice. They are the future of our amazing city. ”

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



Reflections

“This evaluation phase saw the Youth Alliance progress into our fourth year, and we remain committed to ensuring credible provision for young people is available across Derby and to developing better opportunities for them to prosper and progress. In a sector where funding and resources are declining, our focus centred on reflection, unity and cohesion. We felt it was a good point to take some time to review our journey to date and to build on our systems, refine our structure and assess our needs.

During the spring and summer of 2024, we enlisted some external support to assess and review our practices. This was certainly beneficial; being viewed through an external lens gave us a different perspective. As a result, we refined, restructured and shared our changes in February at our five year 'Celebrating Success and Shaping the Future' event. We gained some critical feedback at this event from our peers and stakeholders, which continues to shape our work.

Derby faced some challenges this year around crime and anti-social behaviour, resulting in local tensions. Our specific focus was on the most vulnerable and challenged young people and their families. We worked with local teams and organisations to best tackle this and support young people better in a way that they want to be supported. Referrals for young people, families, and places continued at a steady pace, and the challenges our young people faced were varied and complex. Offering bespoke support is vital, and signposting to the right service is a large part of the Youth Alliance offer.

Youth Voice continues to be integral in shaping our work, and our collaborations with partner organisations and their young people continue to steer us. We worked closely with key partners around consulting with young people on their perception of Derby in terms of it being a safe city, and this contributed to Derby achieving Purple Flag status.

As we move into our fifth year, we aim to increase our resources and reach, and want to encourage partners, communities and stakeholders to participate in helping us to continue changing young people's lives in Derby. We are confident we have the resources and track record to be able to support in a way that works for them, whether it is those who are vulnerable and at risk of exploitation and also those who are unsure of their future path in life. Many of the young people we have supported do not have the luxury of being able to access opportunities to be socially or physically active, or to follow their cultural interests; we know that we have the reach to be able to offer this to them, to support them during their transitional life stages and help them gain the confidence they need to continue growing and discovering themselves and what their individual needs are.



However, we can't do this on our own. We know that the next few years are going to be challenging in terms of funding, and we've been very grateful for the funding we have received over the last four years; the Youth Alliance has enabled a culture of collaboration and an approach which has worked well. We need to continue to build on the foundations we have created, but can only do so with the support of partners. We also realise that it is not just about funding - support comes in many ways, such as resources, facilities, educational support, employment opportunities, life experiences and more. Once again, many thanks to Derby Homes, Derby City Council, Metropolitan Thames Valley and The National Lottery for your continued funding, support and guidance. ”

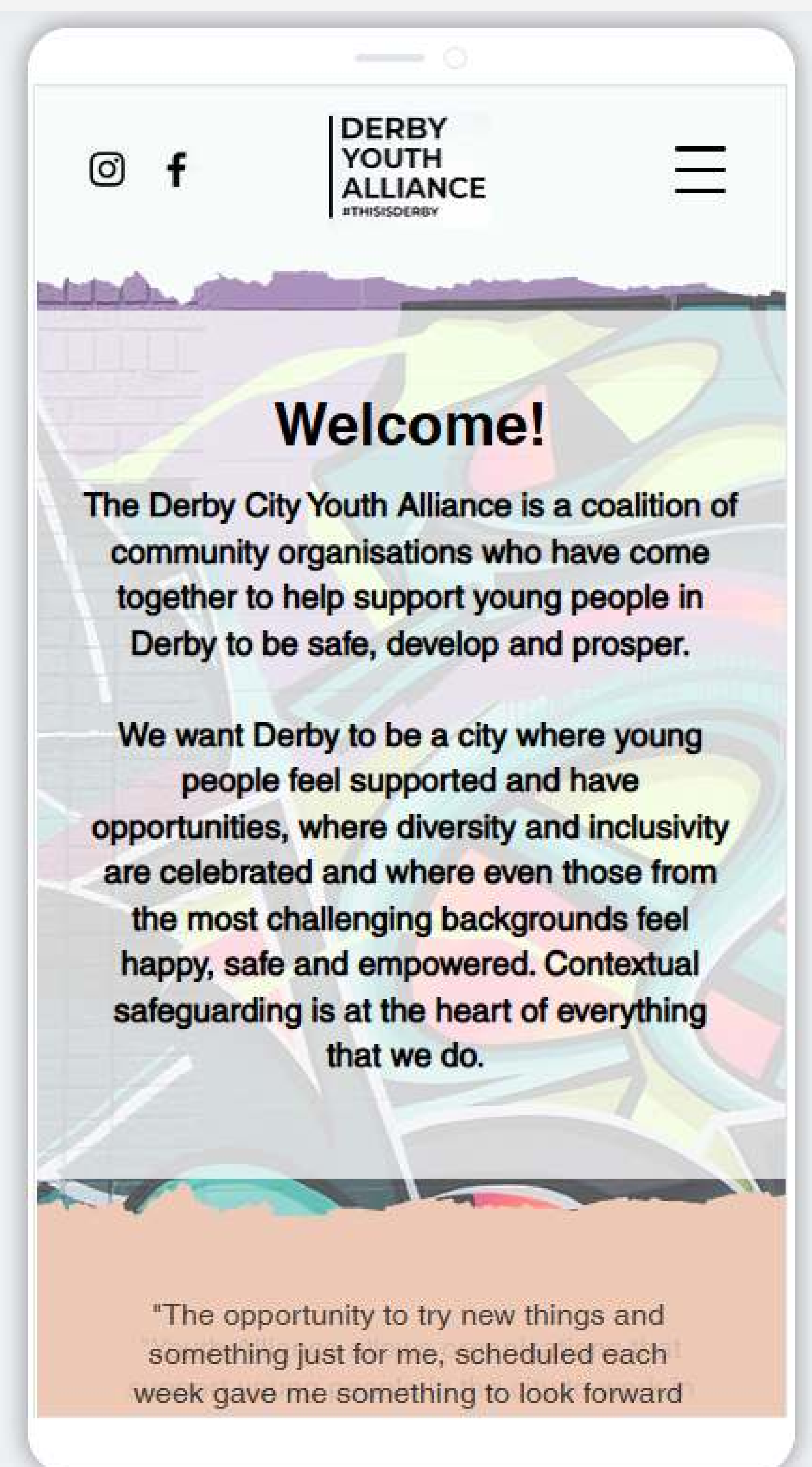
Helen Britten, Programme Lead, Community Action Derby

Moving Forwards:

- **Raising awareness** of the Youth Alliance and showcasing the work that we do
- **Refining referral and monitoring systems** and processes
- **Specialist projects** for wider audiences
- **Expansion** of Safe Places Derby
- **Events in schools and venues** across the city to show children, young people and other professionals what service provision is available to them
- **Website and social media** - increased presence
- **Funding** - sourcing sustainable funding in order to continue our work.



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