



DERBY YOUTH ALLIANCE

#THISISDERBY

2023

April

2024

March

Our Annual Evaluation

Contents

Introduction and Overview	1
Membership and Growth	2
Local Information about Derby	3
Youth Alliance Referrals Overview	4
Partner Led Projects - Elite Programme	5
Partner Led Projects - Derbion	6
Partner Led Projects - CANVAS Project	7
Derby City White Ribbon Campaign	8 - 9
Inspire and Innovate Projects	10
Safe Places Derby	11
Youth Alliance Youth Voice Group	12
School Events and Engagement	13
Children and Young People's Network	14 - 15
Our New Website	16
Case Studies	17
Reflections	18
Reflections and Moving Forwards	19

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

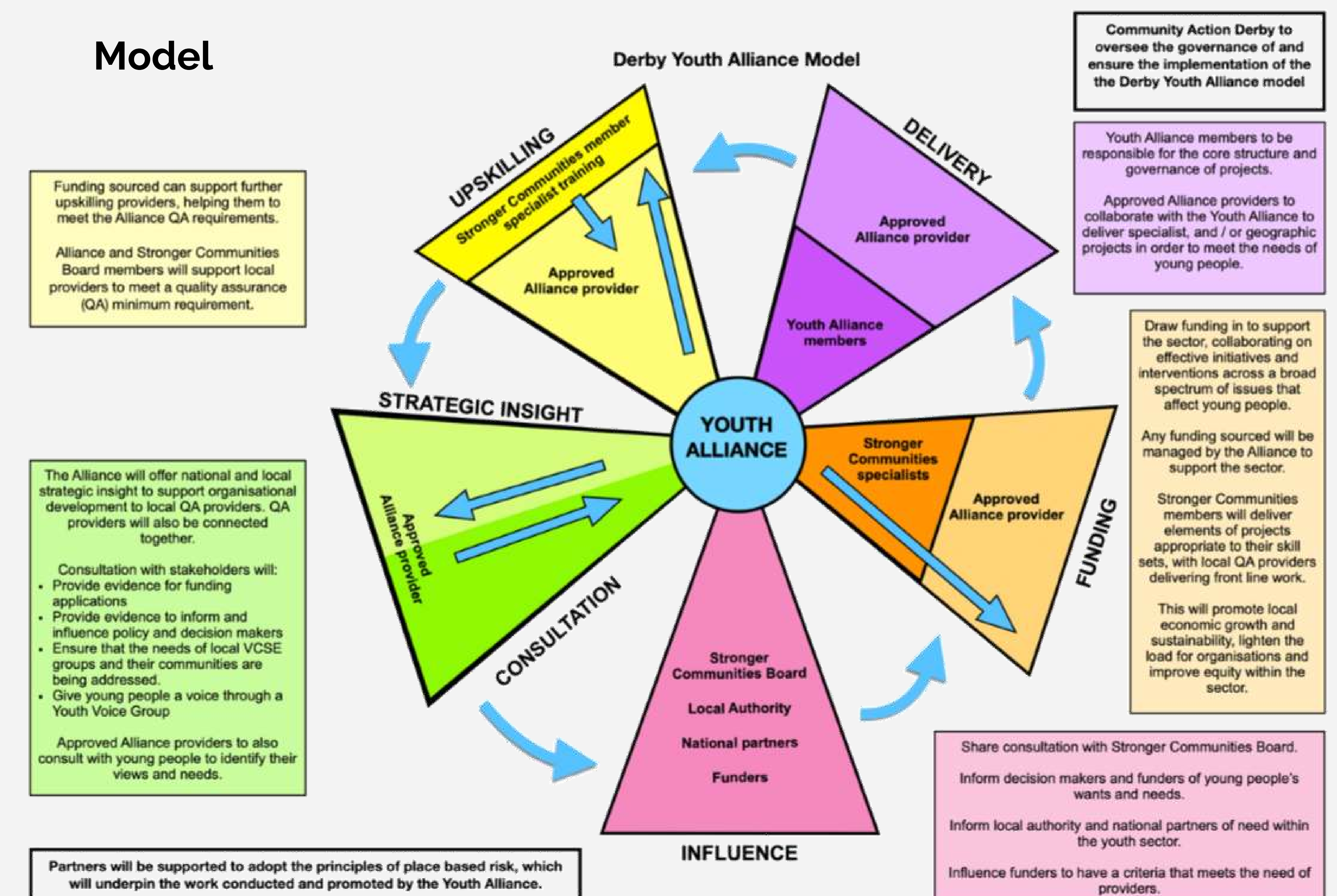
During the 2023/24 year, we received grants from Derby Homes, Derby City Council and Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing. Our Youth Alliance Coordinator role has been funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

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 Disability (SEND) and inclusivity
- The environment and climate crisis
- Youth voice and participation

Model



Membership and Growth

Strategic partners

- Baby People
- Children First Derby
- Community Action Derby
- Community One
- Derby County Community Trust (DCCT)
- Derby Theatre/Derby Cultural Education Partnership
- Safe and Sound
- Sporting Communities CIC
- Umbrella
- YMCA Derbyshire

Key supporting partners linked to the Youth Alliance

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

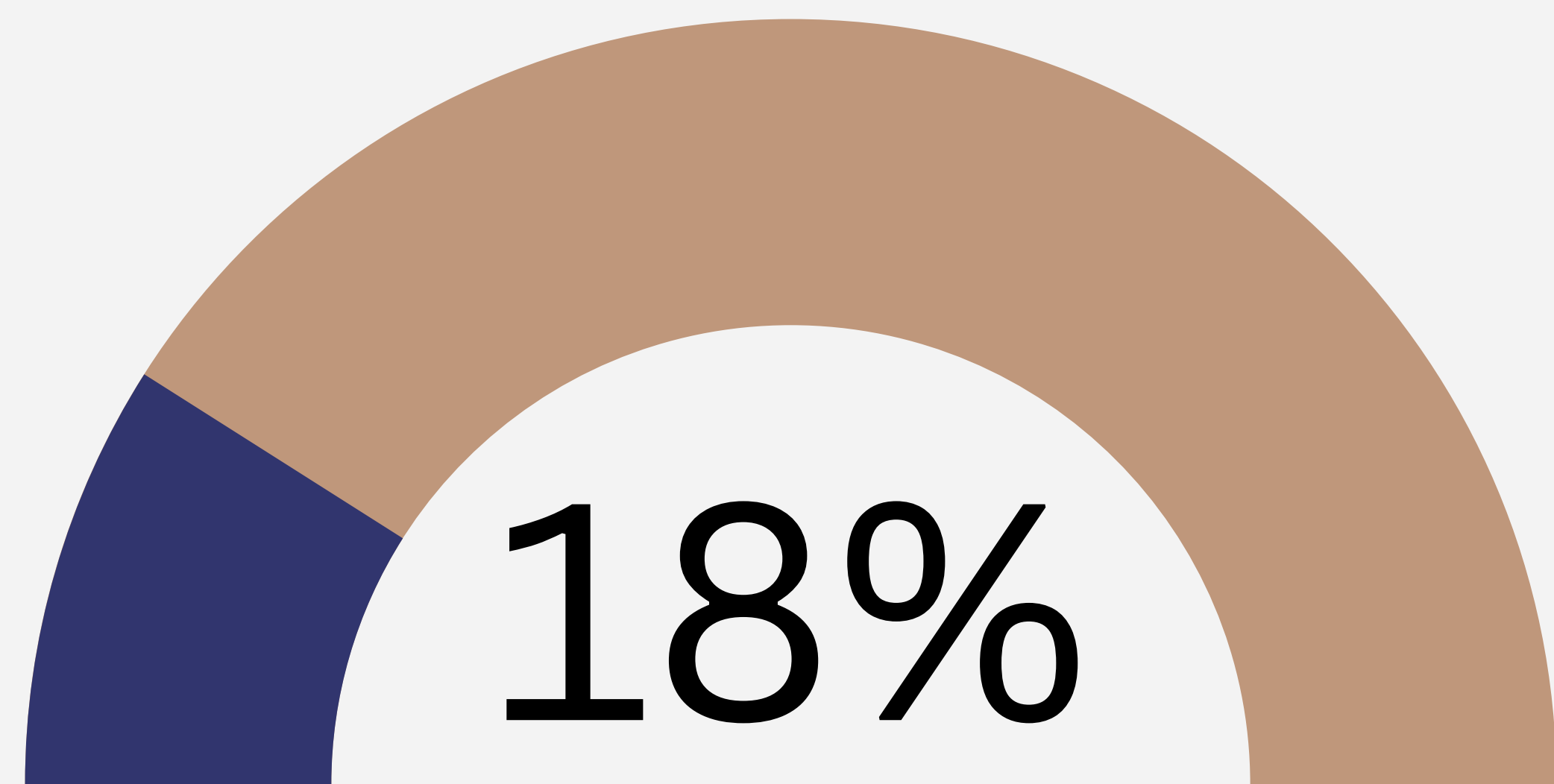
Youth Alliance members

- Anansi Theatre
- Aspire Community and Wrestling Alliance
- Aspire2Succeed
- Bridge the Gap
- Déda
- Derbyshire Cricket Foundation
- Derbyshire LGBT+
- Engineered Learning
- Enthusiasm
- Epic Risk Management
- Evergreen
- Everyone Active (Moorways Sports Village)
- First Steps ED
- Freedom Foundation
- Inspirative Arts
- Introverted Moves
- Love4Life
- Lunarmind
- M-Prez
- Mantis Martial Arts
- Nadia Jane Dance Academy
- Opus Music
- Premier Education Derby
- QUAD
- Shield Derby
- St Werburgh's
- Supporting Communities
- Trailblazers
- Youth Matters - Train4Change



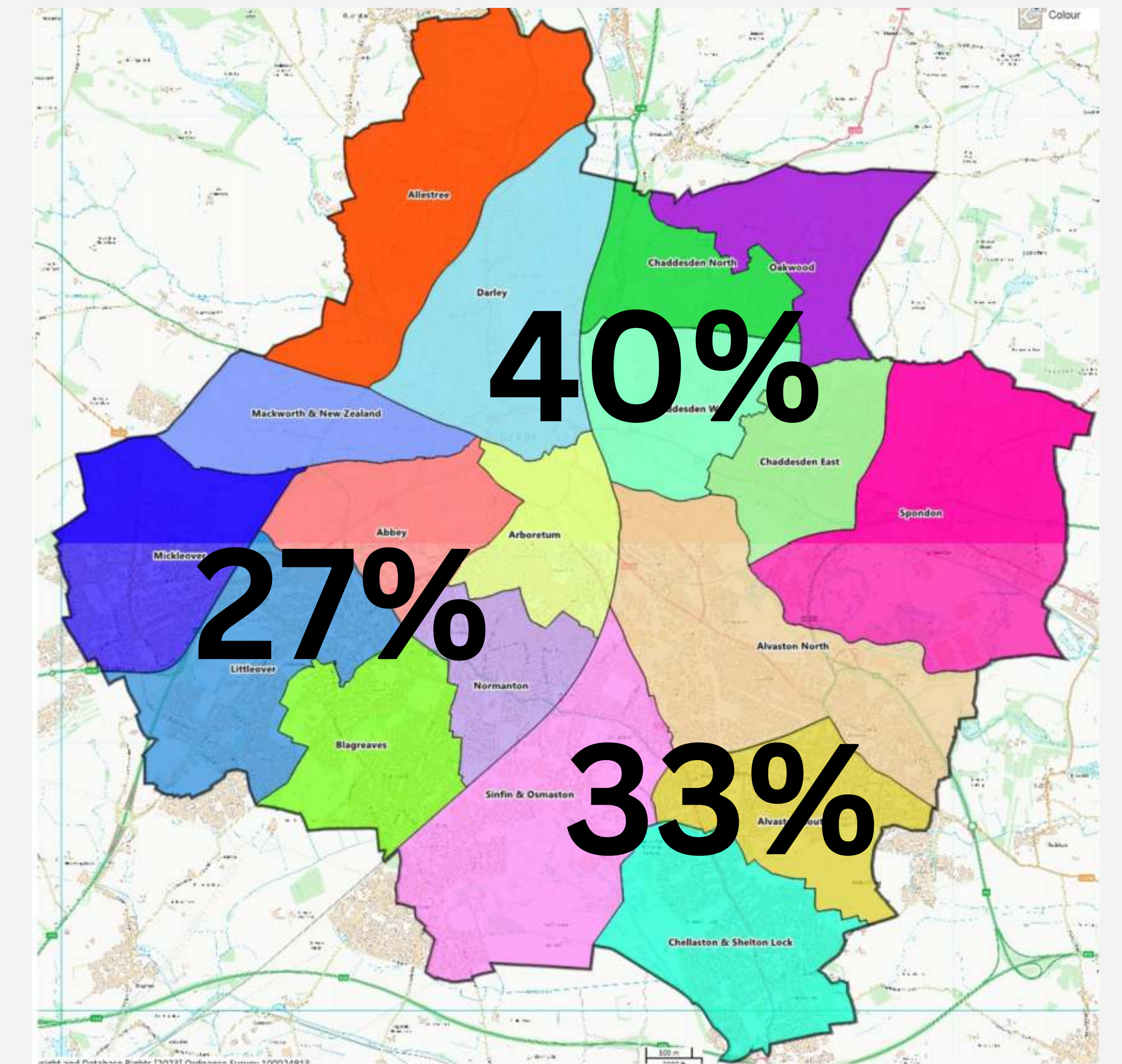
Local Information about Derby

Derby, the main city in the county of Derbyshire, had a population of 261,364 at the time of the 2021 census, with a BME population of approximately 26.2%. In 2023 the average crime rate in Derby was 10.48 crimes per 1,000 people - 49.9% higher than the national average. The average rate of anti-social behaviour in Derby was 24.2 incidences per 1000 people - 60% higher than the national average. Violence offences, stalking and harassment, public order, and criminal damage were the most prevalent crime types committed. [1]

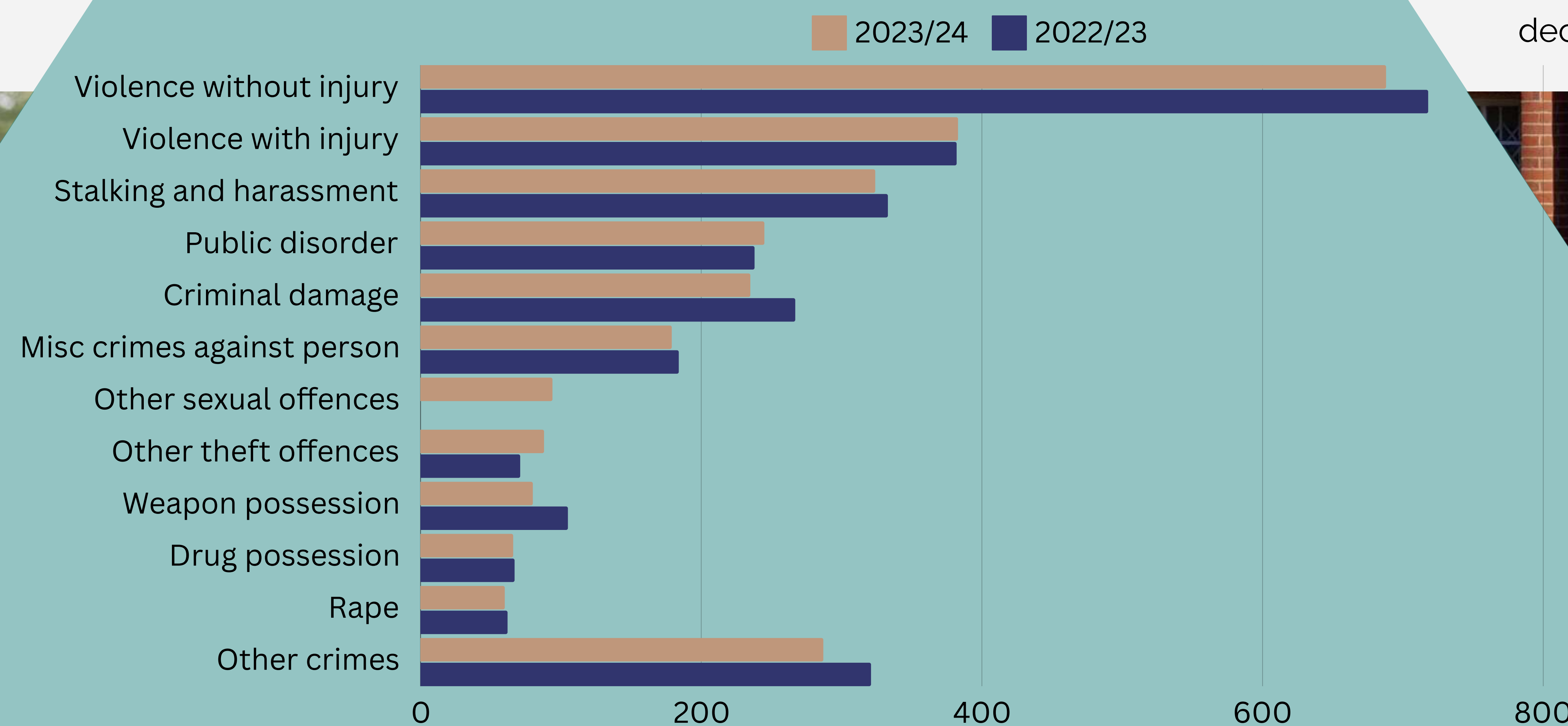
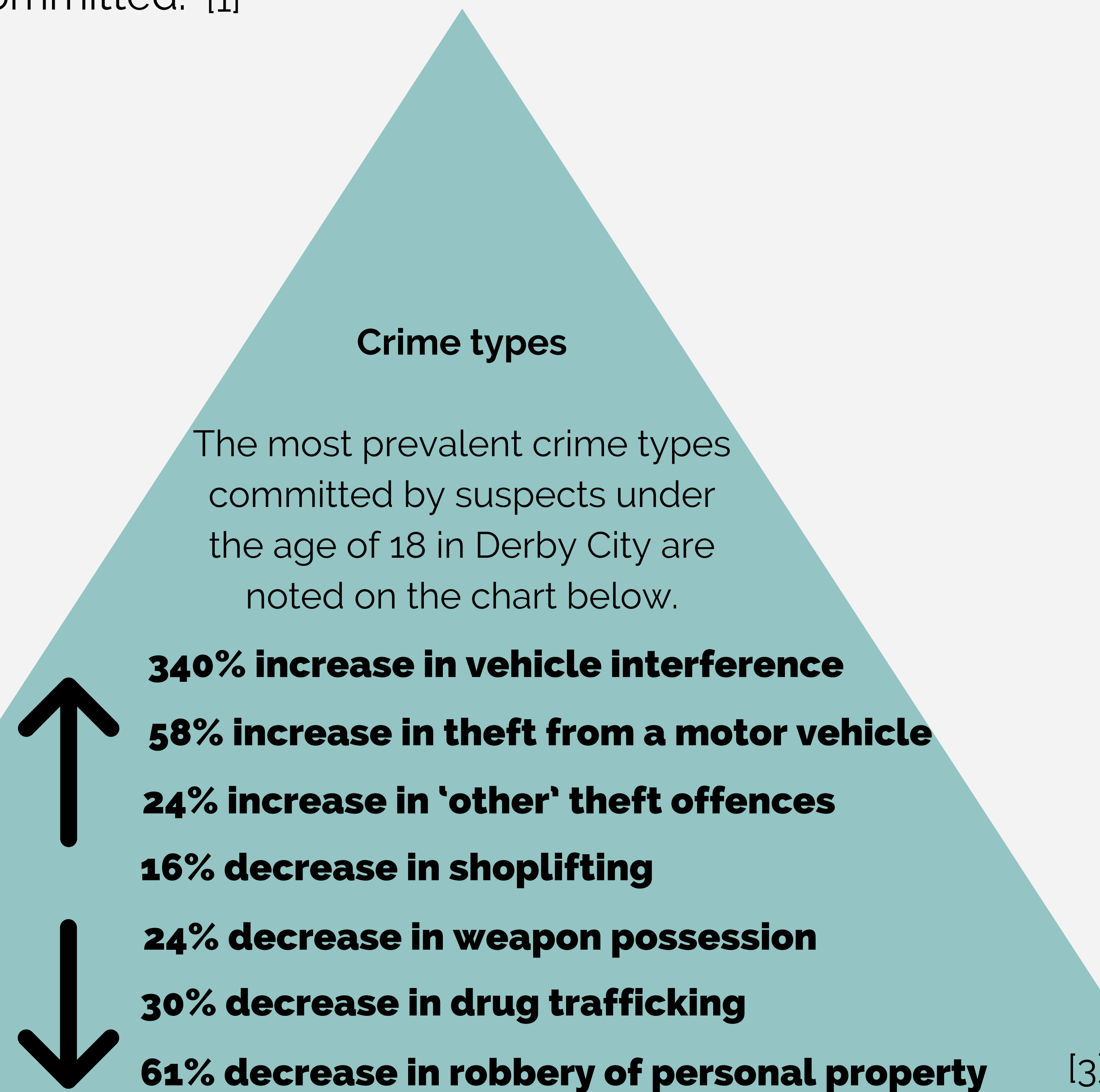


[2]

Across Derby City policing areas, between March 2023 and April 2024, 18% of all crimes committed were by a suspect under the age of 18. This is a slight decrease from 2022/23 where the average across the city was 19%.



Derby North is the neighbourhood policing area with the highest prevalence of crimes committed by young people under the age of 18 - this area covers Allestree, Darley, Chaddesden, Spondon, Derby City, Derwent, Oakwood, Mackworth and Morley. The total amount of crimes committed by under 18's has decreased across the city by 4.88% over the past year. [4]









References

[1] <https://info4derby.derby.gov.uk/crime-and-community-safety/> - January to December 2023
 [2], [3], [4] - Freedom of information requests to Derbyshire Constabulary.

Youth Alliance Referrals Overview

Direct referral types:

<p>Person A young person aged eight and up</p> 		<p>Place A specific area in Derby city where issues are arising</p> 
	<p>Family Siblings and parents/guardians</p> 	

Referrals from:

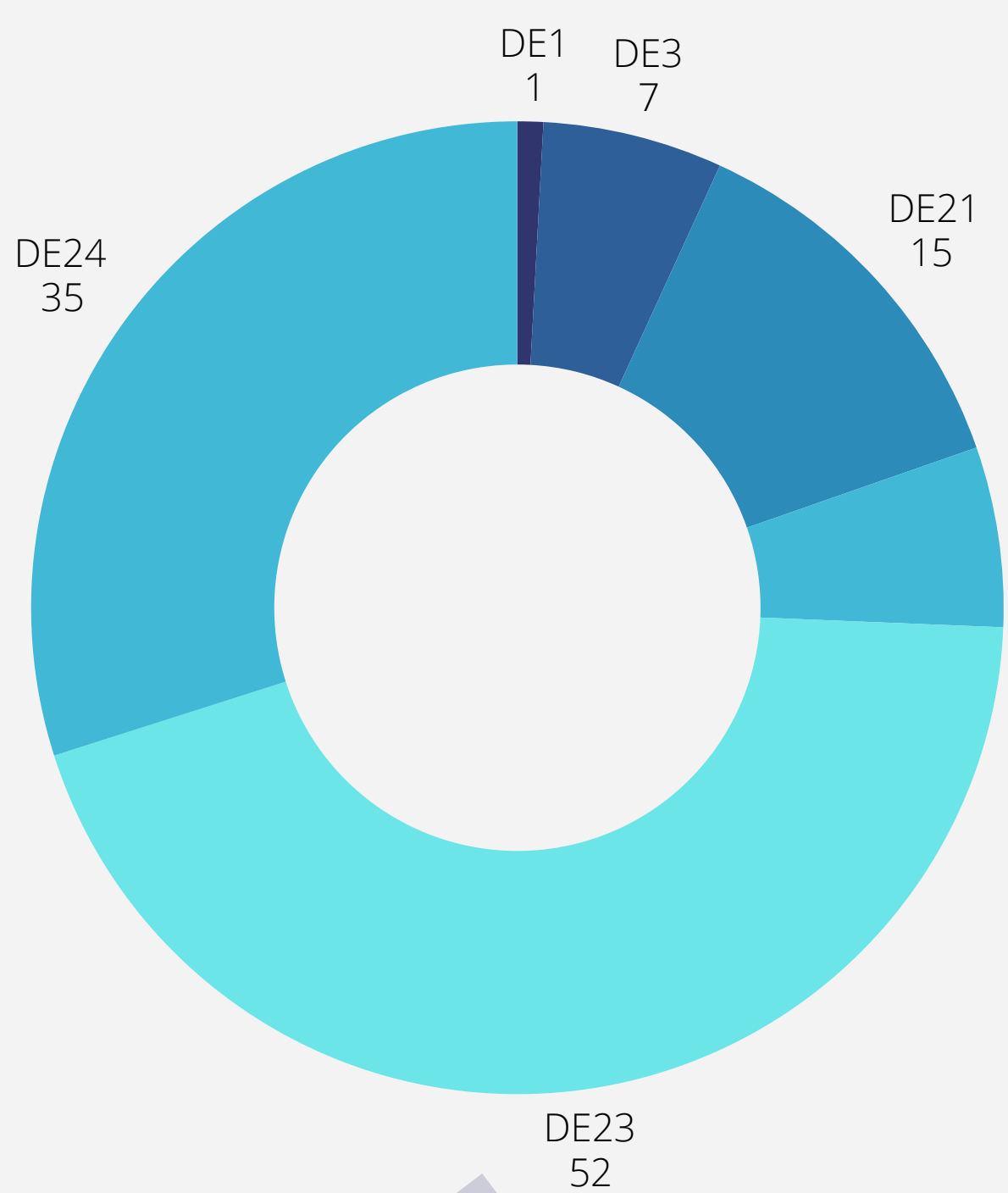
- Derby City Council
- Schools and Further Education settings
- Housing providers
- Youth Offending Service
- Derbyshire Constabulary

Referred to:

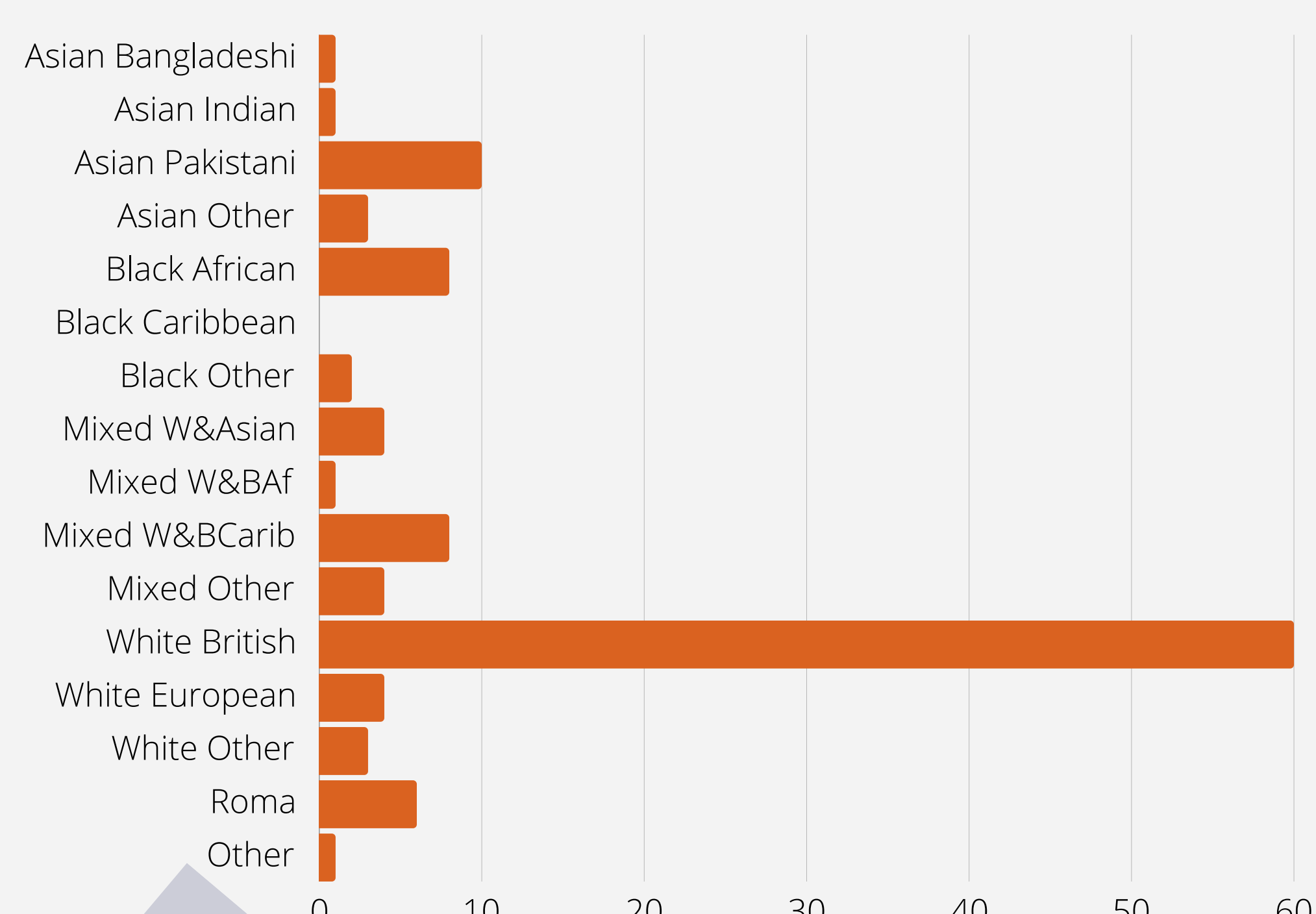
- **Baby People** - Mentoring support and youth group work, centred around art and music activities.
- **Children First** - 1:1 mentoring support and diversionary activities.
- **DCCT** - Place-based community engagement and outreach, sporting activities and 1:1 mentoring support, catering for raising 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 CIC** - Place-based community engagement, sporting activities and mentoring support around young people's mental health and wellbeing - signposting to Youth Alliance partners for higher level mentoring if needed.
- **Umbrella** - SEND specific support, groups and mentoring.
- **YMCA** - 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 - 116 referrals

Number of Referrals by Postcode



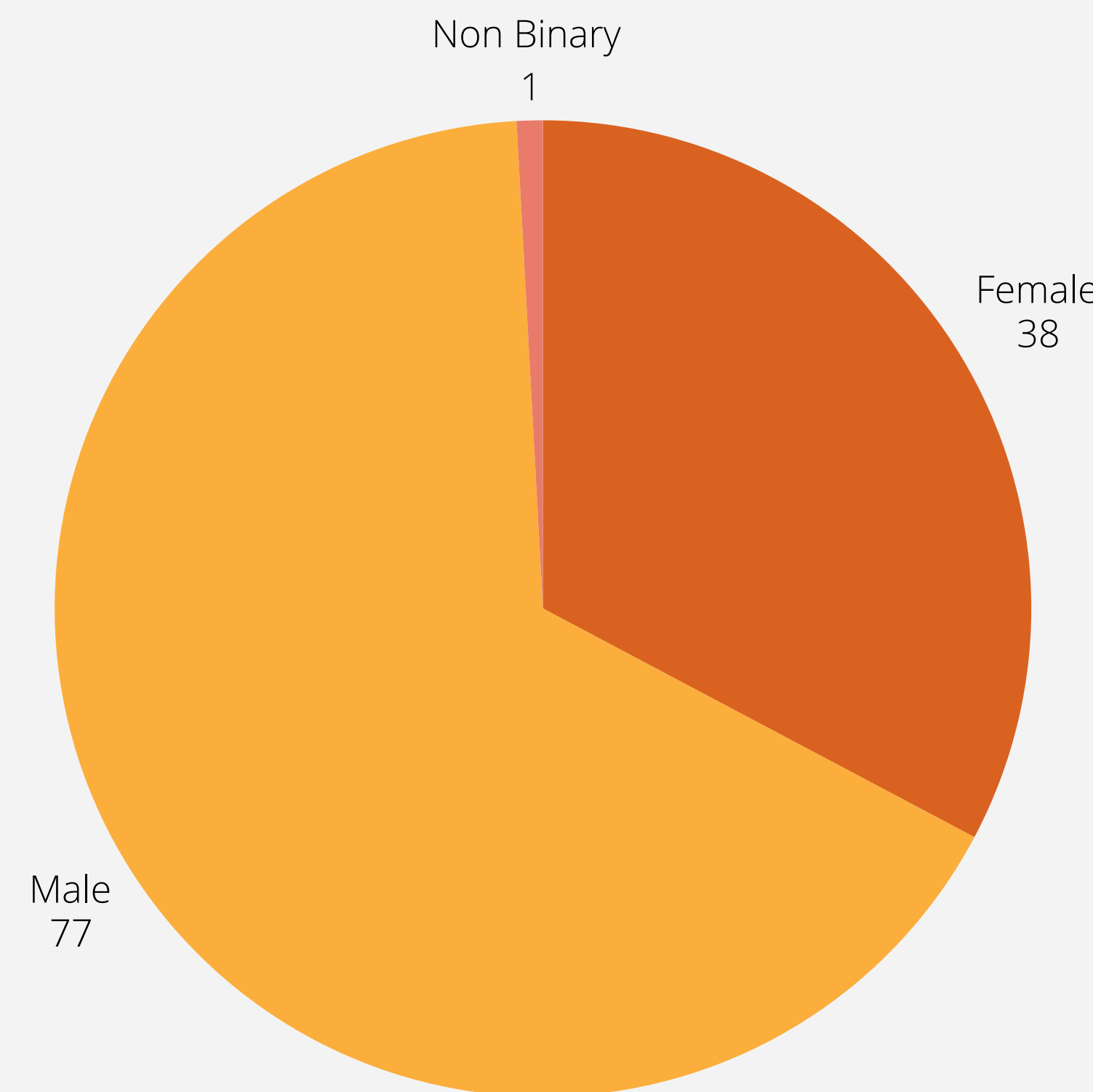
Number of Referrals by Ethnicity



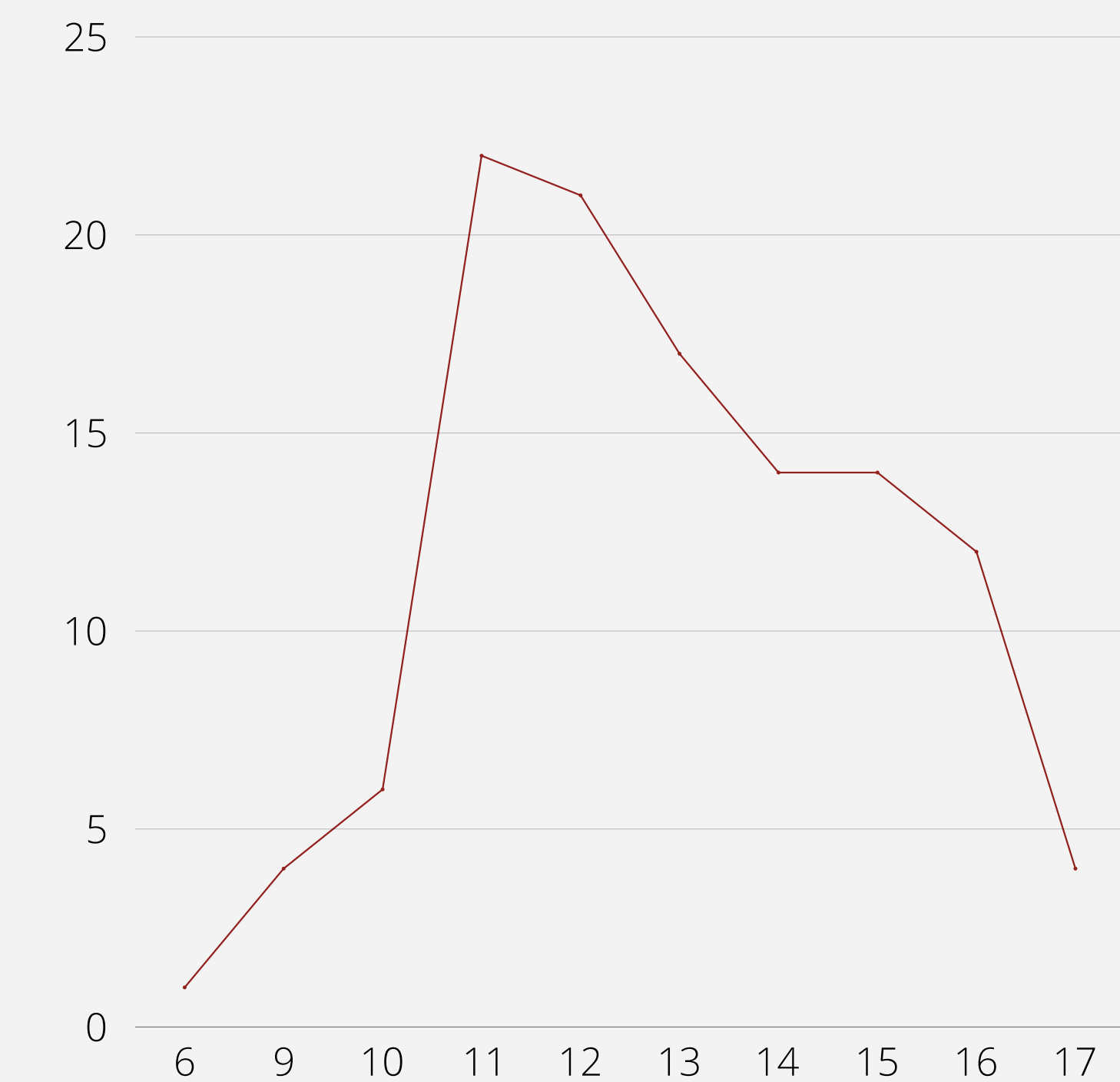
Referrals by SEND



Referrals by Gender



Number of Referrals by Age



Postcode: DE1 (1), DE3 (7), DE21 (15), DE22 (7), DE23 (52), DE24 (35).

Ethnicity: Asian Bangladeshi(1), Asian Indian (1), Asian Pakistani (10), Asian Other (3), Black African (8), Black Caribbean (0), Black Other (2), Mixed White & Asian (4), Mixed White and Black African (1), Mixed White and Black Caribbean (8), Mixed Other (4), White British (60), White European (4), White Other (3), Roma (6), Other Ethnicity (1).

SEND: Yes (49), No (57).

Gender: Male (77), Female (38), Non Binary (1).

Age: 6 (1), 9 (4), 10 (6), 11 (22), 12 (21), 13 (17), 14 (14), 15 (14), 16 (12), 17 (4).



Partner Led Projects - Elite Programme

In the summer term of 2023, we approached Ashwood Spencer Primary Academy in Allenton following the success of our 2022/23 Elite Transition programme. They were keen to engage and we began to work with 12 of their least engaged year 6 students with a view to prepare and support them in their transition to Alvaston Moor Academy and Noel Baker Academy after the summer break

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.

Delivery of the project involved classroom activities and physical activities including football, drama and music provided by Baby People and Community One. The students were also given a stationery and maths set to enable them to start their secondary school with the right equipment to succeed. The project continued through the summer term and into the summer holidays where the young people were engaged with a bowling trip and ongoing support from the Community One team. Mentoring and family support from Safe and Sound was also put into place for the most vulnerable families within the first few weeks of the children settling into their new schools. The new schools were supportive of this process and were involved in shaping the programme and working with Ashwood Spencer whilst the children were still in primary education, and continued to work alongside the families whose children had been a part of the Elite Programme to ensure smooth transitions into year 7.

As this is the second successful Elite programme we've delivered, it is something we are keen to offer to more schools should funding allow.



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ELITE
Summer 2023

The **ELITE** programme is designed to Engage young people to Live and be Inspired to work Together and achieve Excellence

ELITE young people will have access to:

- 1-2-1 or group mentoring
- Family support
- In-school workshops
- External activities
 - Graffiti
 - Music production
 - Arts
 - Sports
 - Many more...

Together we will encourage young people to unlock their abilities, realise their qualities and support their journey into secondary school as part of the **ELITE** crew

Workshop Themes:

- **Why me?**
- **My area**
- **Teamwork**
- **Wellbeing**
- **Leadership**
- **Ways out**
- **Exit pathways**



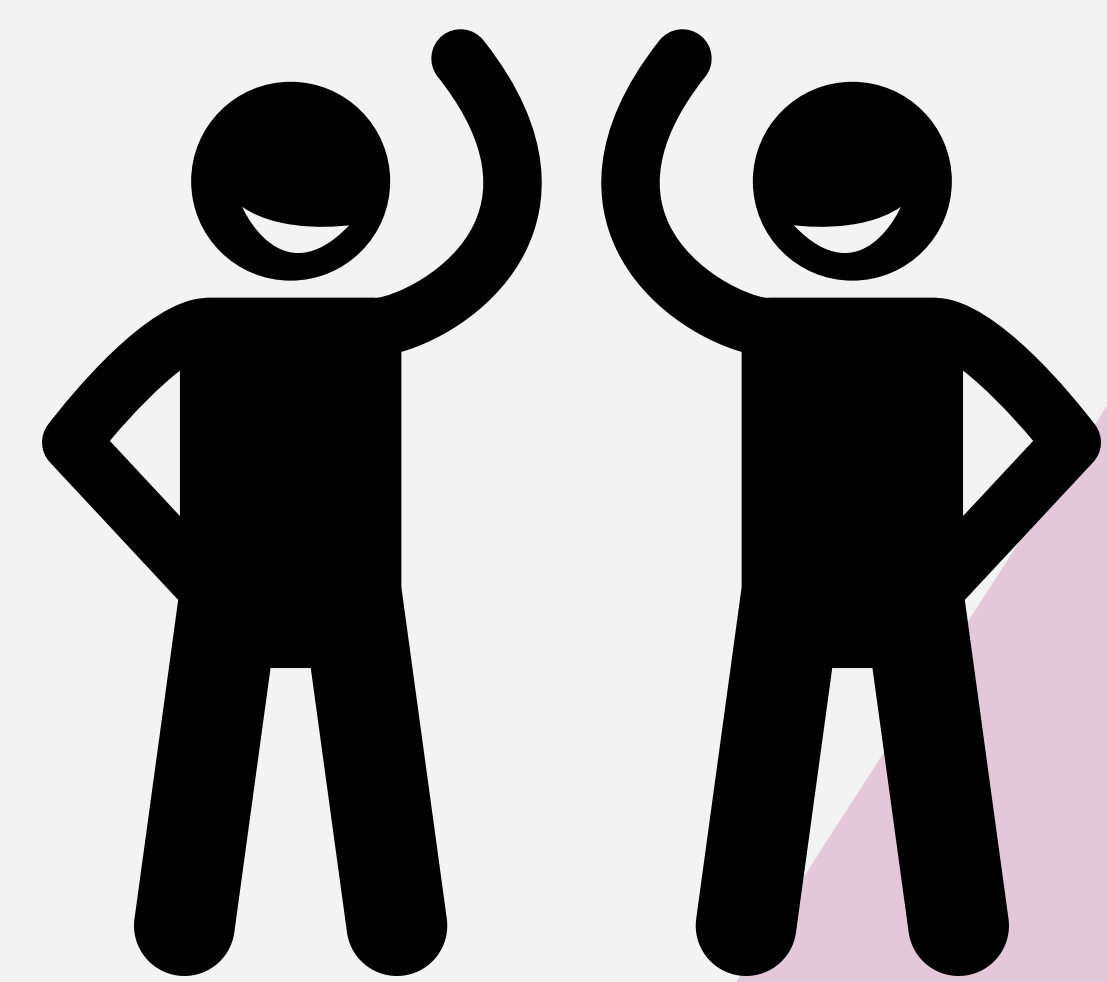
Partner Led Projects - Derbion

Derbion is the central hub in the city centre where locals can meet and shop in a comfortable and safe environment. Derby Youth Alliance has worked with Derbion over the past couple of years to support them in keeping the environment positive for visitors.

To help overcome concerns of anti-social and negative behaviours, Sporting Communities, Safe and Sound, Enthusiasm, Community One and Derby County Community Trust teamed up to collaboratively offer a mix of youth outreach engagement at the centre, and facilitate activities at the dedicated youth-oriented Derbion Community Hub space. This approach has led to young people becoming more aware of their behaviour in and around the city centre, and being able to tackle boredom through accessing activities such as pool and table tennis.

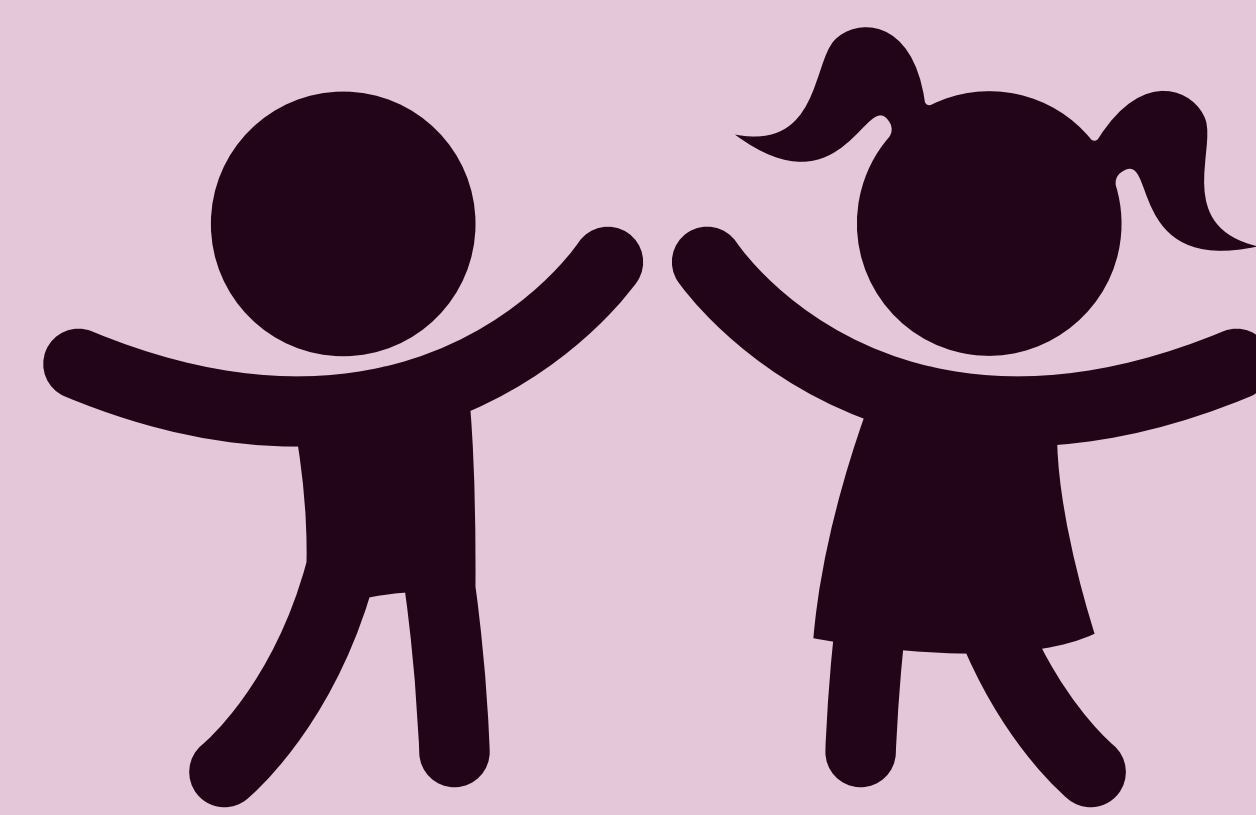
The outcomes that we have acknowledged from our interactions include:

- **Prevention of Anti-Social Behaviour** - Anti-social behaviour in the centre causes distress to shoppers and staff. We have worked with the Derbion team to offer a practical and effective diversionary solution to encourage young people to direct their energy into activity and to form positive relationships between young people and staff. We have inspired and supported young people to consider their behaviours and attitudes in their community.
- **Greater Community Awareness** - Derbion is in a central location, and this has allowed us to engage not only with young people but shoppers, staff and members of the public who were visiting the centre. This instils reassurance that there are diversionary activities available for young people to access.
- **Reducing Violence** - Anti-social behaviour had been prevalent at the centre, and we worked with staff, local police and young people to disperse incidents of anti-social behaviour, and encourage positive interaction. Partnership working was key to ensuring the provision was safe at all times.
- **Positive Engagement with Young People** - We effectively built relationships with young people, which was crucial to encouraging positive engagement with the activities on offer at the Community Hub. Many of the young people increased in confidence through working with our staff and engaging in the activities. This in turn has increased motivation to behave more appropriately and with a more positive outlook in the community outside of the hub.
- **Confidence Amongst Staff** - Supporting Derbion staff to look after shoppers was a key outcome of the Community Hub, allowing them to focus on keeping shoppers safe and knowing that, with the Hub offering activities, the anti-social behaviour of young people had decreased. The staff were able to direct young people to the Hub and had more confidence knowing they were able to rely on our positive interactions and communication with any young people who may have been difficult.



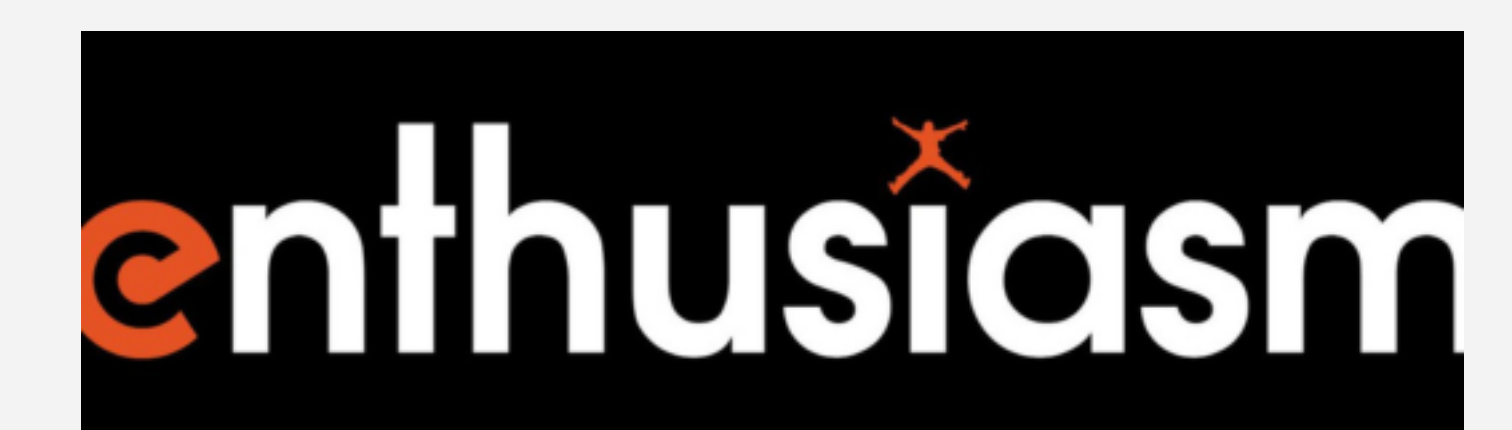
419

Outreach interactions with young people



341

Attendances at the Community Hub



Partner Led Projects - CANVAS Project, DCEP

CANVAS Connects young people with Arts organisations and creatives across Derby City. Nurturing the next generation of creative Voices through workshops, mentoring and live events. Ensuring Access for all to engage in free activities in safe Spaces.

HUBS

- Weekly Creative workshop led by partners in community settings: Sinfin & Osmaston/Allenton (Baby People), Abbey (Derby Theatre), & Normanton (Artcore)
- SEND Hub - Weekly creative activities for young people with special education needs & disabilities (Hubbub Theatre)
- Early Years Hub - Weekly creative activities for ages 0-5 years & parents/carers in Osmaston/Allenton & Derwent Family Hubs (Deda)

202 sessions

223 young people

"These sessions being local to us has been a massive part of why we are able to attend, I'm so happy to have something close by as commuting when you have children can be tricky without transport!" Abbey Hub Participant

"My daughter has enjoyed making new friends and has grown more confident. Attending the art classes is improving her social skills, her art development, and overall she enjoys her time with everyone at Artcore."

Normanton Hub Participant



TAKEOVER

Curated by the Future Creatives & Derby Theatre Youth Ambassadors. An evening filled with young people performing on Derby Theatre's main stage, from young people who like to perform to semi-professional young artists looking for a career in the arts.

"[I want] more performances with more young people."
"The Takeover amplifies local young talent professionally. It was fab!"

"Great way to get the youth involved & inspire others."



"This workshop was a memorable experience because it was my first time in a music booth"

"I found the workshop and environment to be very inclusive."

"I felt able to speak up & share my thoughts and not having a 'right' or 'wrong' answer."

"I enjoyed trying new things that I've never done before."

70 young people

22 workshops

15 mentoring sessions

3 work experience placements

5 networking events/visits



FUTURE CREATIVES

Creative & skills based workshops for young people aged 13-30

Creative Workshops in Y1 included

Choreography, Costume Design, Set Design, Technical Theatre, Lyric Writing, Music Production, Poetry, Playwriting, Lino Printing, Art for Wellbeing, Textiles, Singing, Mural Making

Skills Workshops in Y1 included

Transferable Skills, Confident Communication, Resilience & Mindfulness, Growth Mindset & Goal Setting.

Derby City White Ribbon Campaign



White Ribbon Day is an international day of awareness campaigning to prevent violence against women and girls by encouraging active allyship from men and boys. It is marked annually in the UK on November 25th. In 2023 Derby Youth Alliance worked alongside Derby City Voices in Action Youth Council, Derby City Youth Mayor and Derby Theatre to produce a video for a Derby City White Ribbon Day campaign. In addition to the video (which was co-produced by young people), we reached out to all Derby City secondary schools to encourage them to show their students the video and a presentation in their assemblies or form time; for male students and school staff to show their support by wearing a White Ribbon, which we provided; and for a competition to be held within schools where their male students could create a giant White Ribbon in any format to win one of our donated prizes.

Our campaign video featured:

- Joe Wildsmith, First Team Goalkeeper - Derby County Football Club
- Wayne Madsen, First Team Captain - Derbyshire County Cricket Club
- Scriptz, a local music artist - Derby Theatre

The video was widely promoted locally and nationally across social media channels and individual press and organisation websites. We featured on the national White Ribbon Day charity website and social media pages, and through its involvement with the campaign, Community Action Derby is now registered as a White Ribbon Supporter Organisation.



“Upon feedback raised by young people during my presentations at secondary schools, it is evident that cases of violence amongst young people (especially young women) are still prevalent and require our urgent attention. So, I see the White Ribbon Campaign as a valuable step towards the right direction in not just educating our young people on appropriate behaviour and language towards women but taking what they have learned into action - for everyone's benefit” - Muhammad Muntasir, Derby Youth Mayor



Derby City White Ribbon Campaign cont.



National Crimebeat is the youth crime prevention charity of the High Sheriff's Association. The National Crimebeat Awards recognise innovative and successful crime prevention projects from across the country, conducted by those aged 5-25. The Derby City White Ribbon Campaign was nominated for an award and won not only 3rd place overall but also the High Sheriff's Association Award. The young people involved in the co-production of the campaign were invited to a prestigious awards ceremony in London, following which they were given a tour of London on an open-top bus, and the opportunity to visit the London Eye as part of the day of celebration for their achievements. Our team was joined for the awards by Theresa Peltier, Derbyshire's High Sheriff who expressed to the room how proud she was of the achievements of the group and the project.

The campaign video was also nominated for a Smiley Charity Film Award and although we faced tough competition and didn't progress further than the nomination stage, the online platform enabled our campaign to reach a further 81,000+ people!

2364 + Campaign video YouTube views

98,395 + Campaign views on social media

11 Derby City Secondary Schools that took part

6000 + White Ribbons distributed



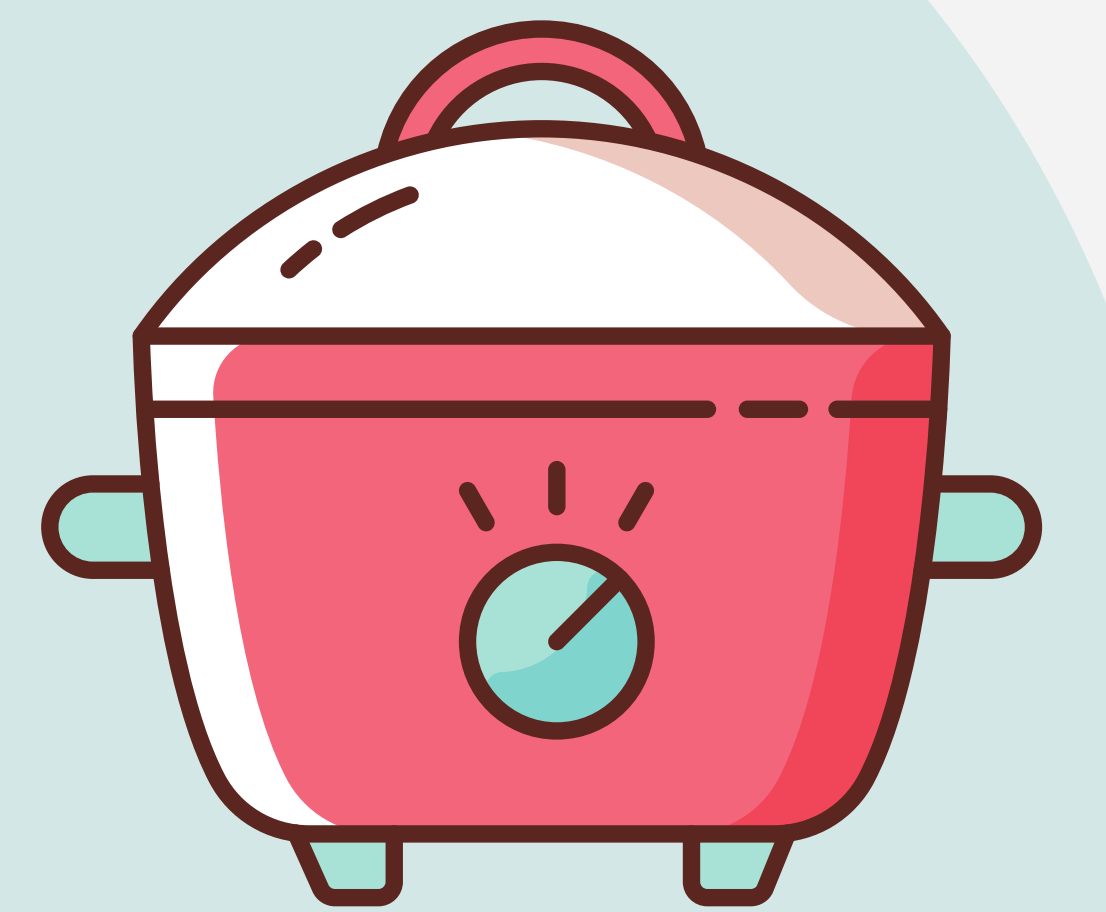
Inspire and Innovate Projects

The Inspire and Innovate Fund enabled local groups to provide activity sessions and mentoring for the young people in their area. This year, five groups were funded:

- God's Love Food Fountain
- Enthusiasm
- Derby Trailblazers
- DWICA
- Derbyshire Tennis Centre

Cook Slow and Go!

Two local groups set up sessions based around creating healthy meals for families using Slow Cookers. As part of the funding for these sessions, the groups were provided with slow cookers to give out to participating families who attended all of the cooking sessions. The slow cookers were kindly donated by Derby Food for Thought Alliance as a contribution to supporting families experiencing food poverty.

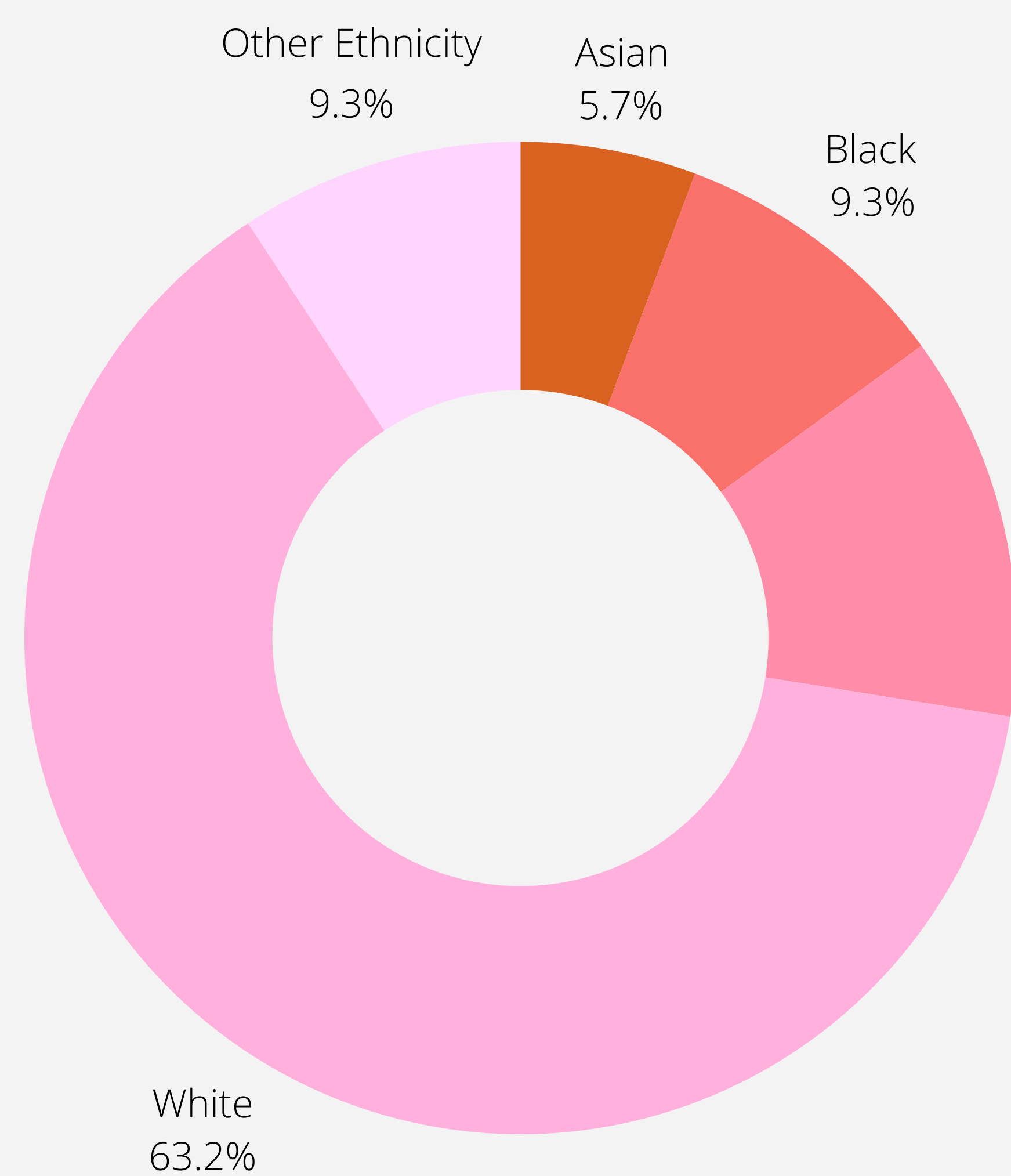


454 Children engaged

244 Male

197 Female

41 Receiving ongoing support



Safe Places Derby

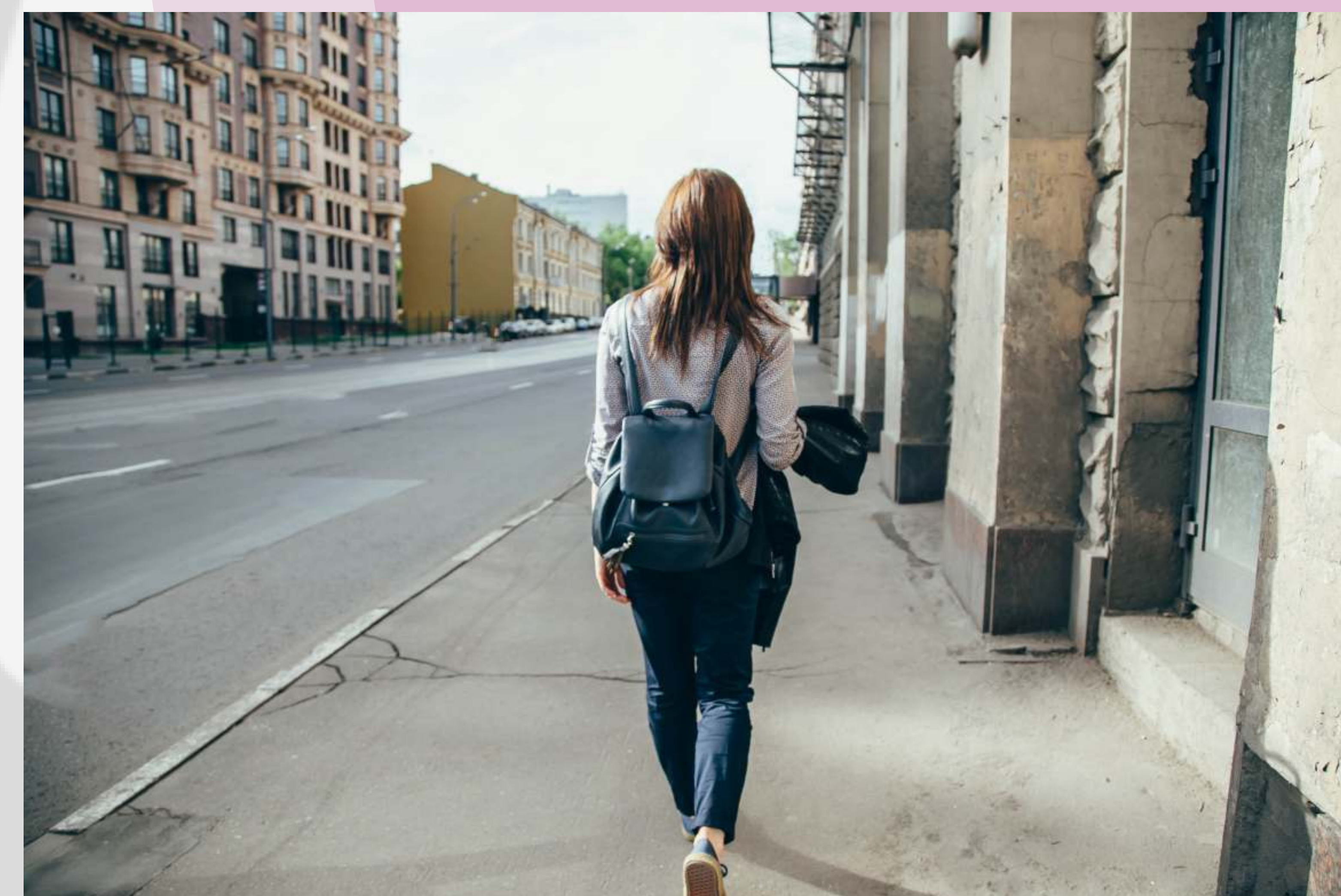
'Safe Places' are a network of venues across Derby City where women, girls, vulnerable adults and young people can seek help and support if they are concerned about their safety while away from home.

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 this year, 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.

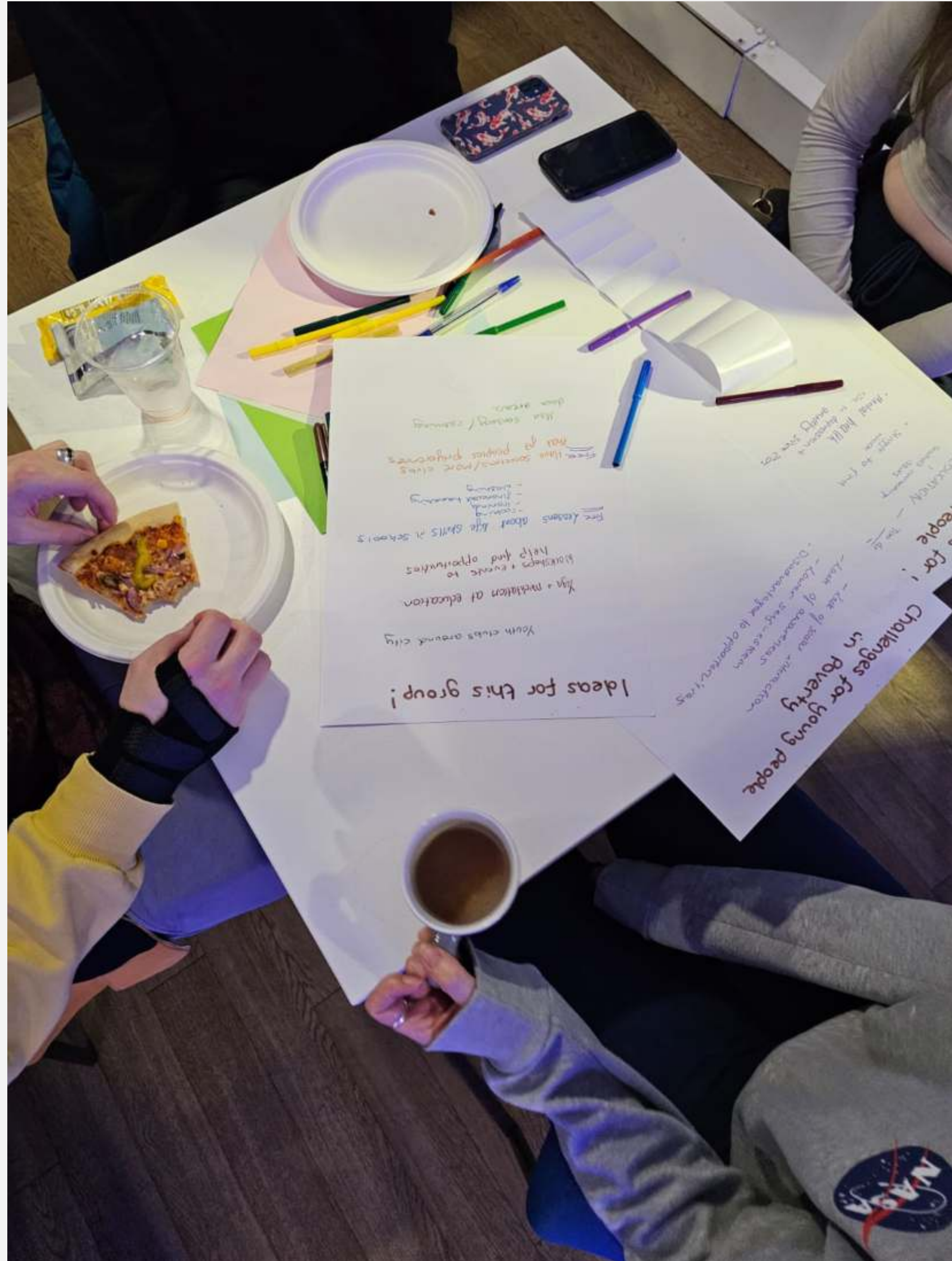
The webpage also features an interactive Google Maps widget where page visitors can adjust the map to find their nearest Safe Place, or to familiarise themselves with Safe Places near to locations in the city that they regularly visit for social, education or work purposes.



68

Venues signed up as Safe Places

Youth Alliance Youth Voice Group



The Youth Alliance works to support the most disadvantaged and at-risk children and young people in Derby City, so it is key that the young people we work with have a voice that feeds into the strategy and goals of the work that we are doing.

Young people supported by our strategic partners were invited to attend the inaugural 'Youth Alliance Youth Voice' focus group session in March 2024.

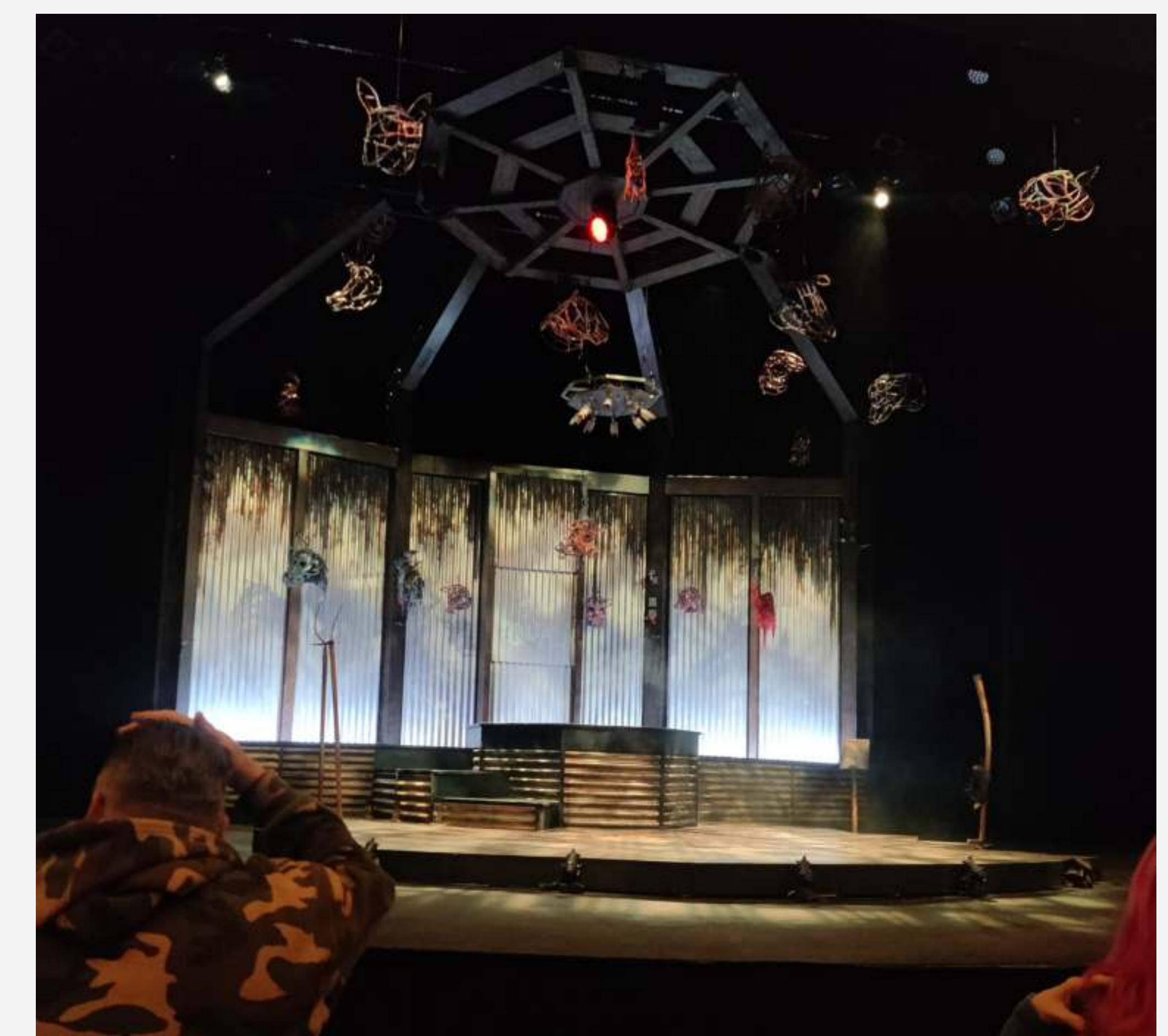
15 young people came together, as representatives, to discuss what the formation of this group could mean for them and what changes they would like to see implemented in Derby City to enable them and their peers to live safer and more fulfilling lives.

The young people who attended were shown presentations about the history and structure of the Youth Alliance to enable them to have a full understanding of what we strive to achieve and our successes so far, in order for them to make suggestions for improvements.

As an initial focus group topic, we presented and discussed the upcoming Child Poverty Summit, and then in groups discussed what issues mattered to them as young people, what issues they thought would be affecting children in poverty within the city, and whether the issues that mattered to them were likely to be exacerbated further by living in poverty. It was explained to the young people that their comments and feedback would be fed back to the Child Poverty sub-group of the Derby City Poverty Commission and would be instrumental in the formation of new policies and support packages.

The young people who attended were given a tour of Derby Theatre and also the opportunity to watch its production of Animal Farm following the focus group session.

Going forward into 2024/25 we already have plans for our Youth Alliance Youth Voice group. Sporting Communities will be the Youth Alliance's strategic partner leading on its progress and development. Sessions have been planned at Normanton Park Community Centre, with a view to our young people creating a social media strategy for the group, recruiting more young people to attend to have their say, and the opportunity to plan social action projects together around the causes that matter the most to them.



School 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.

Derby Cathedral School Marketplace Event

We organised a Marketplace Event at Derby Cathedral School themed around Health and Wellbeing. This was attended by all Year 11's on the build-up to taking their GCSEs. 14 organisations attended and offered advice on: activities available locally, alcohol and substance misuse, support around being a victim of crime, sexual health, mental health and much more.

Littleover Community School Marketplace Event

We supported Littleover Community School with a Marketplace Event themed around local provision available to students and parents. Staff had identified that they have a cohort of students and parents from new and diverse communities who aren't aware of what is available to them or how to access it. We had a Derby Youth Alliance stand promoting our website and social media channels, as well as being able to signpost to a wider range of other organisations that we know, or work with.

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. Following the success of our White Ribbon Day campaign, we were approached to support Year 13 students with a workshop on Positive Campaigning during their drop down day. We engaged with over 60 students around topics such as peaceful and legal protesting, how to organise a successful campaign and how to appropriately challenge those who don't support your campaign.



All of our students went away with plenty of information - some students even stayed after the end of the school day to find out more! - Derby Cathedral School

Children and Young People's Network

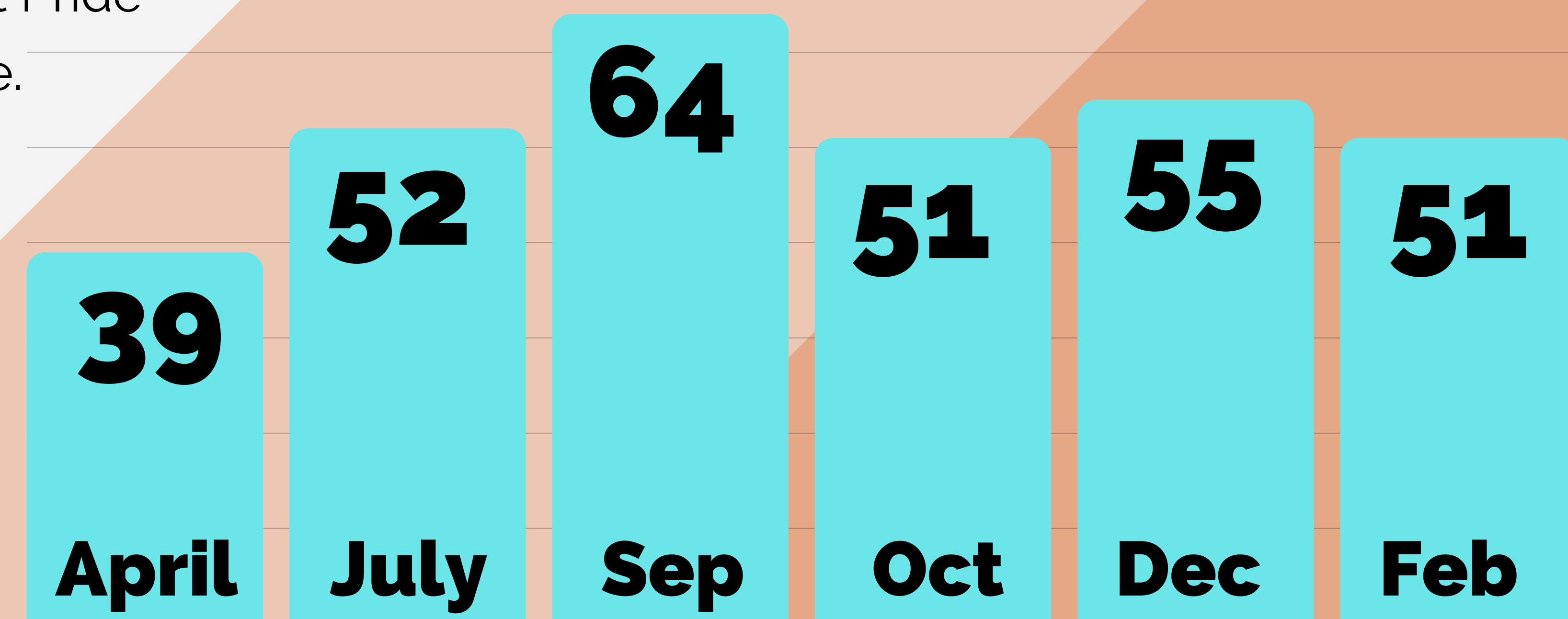
In 2021 the existing Children and Young People's Network (CYPN) became part of the Youth Alliance. Meetings are held bi-monthly for our strategic partners and a wider network of professionals working with children and young people in Derby City.

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.

This year our meetings took place face-to-face at the following venues: Oddfellows Hall, Deda, Harrison's Hub at Pride Park Stadium, St Alkmund's Church, Pakistan Community Centre and Umbrella at the Annie Hall Memorial Centre.

Our current CYPN distribution list has over 350 professionals from over 80 organisations and attendance continues to grow with a total number of 312 attendees over the six 2023/24 CYPN sessions - a 70% increase on last year's attendance figures.

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. We also used the round-table tasks to support the delivery of one of our school events, asking professionals to write inspirational messages to young people who were feeling anxious before sitting their GCSE exams. These messages were collated and displayed at the school event and then displayed in the school sixth-form room for ongoing motivation.

Below are some comments which were written in response to the question "Do you have a success story as a result of attending CYPN meetings?"

“ I was able to refer a young person to another organisation ”

“ Meeting to enable voice of asylum seeker and refugee children and young people ”

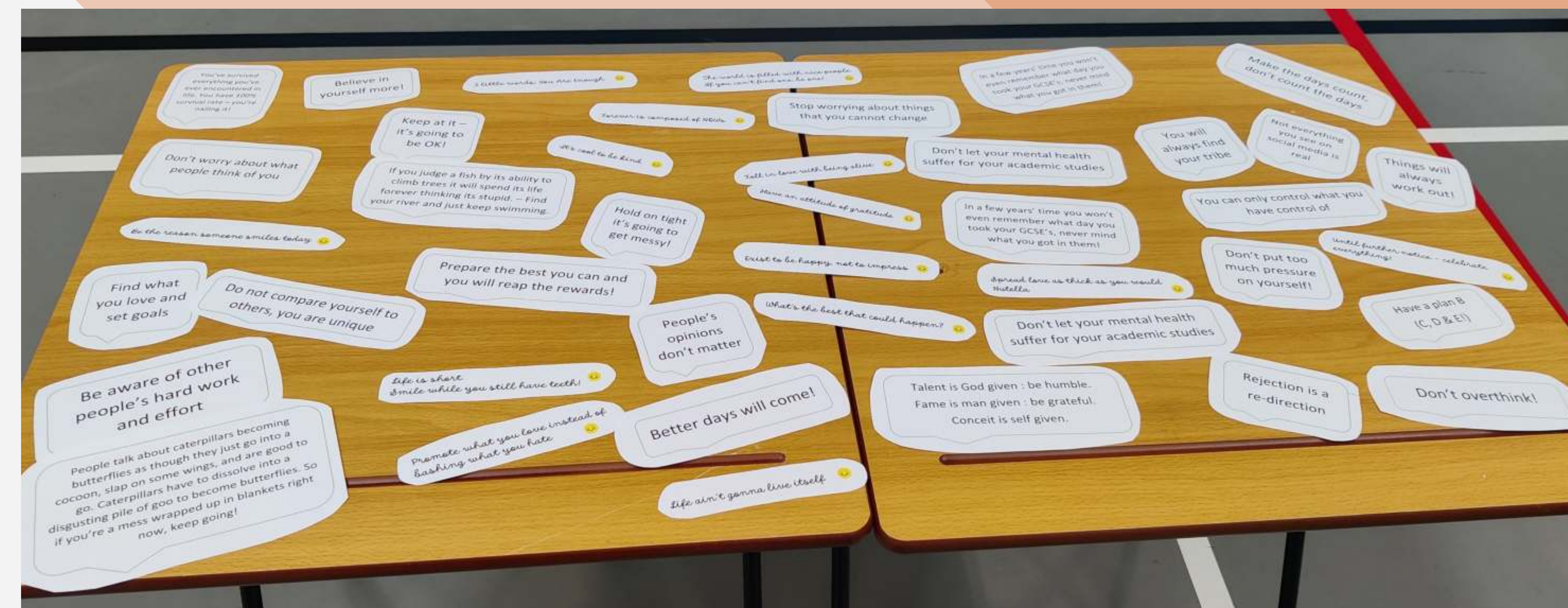
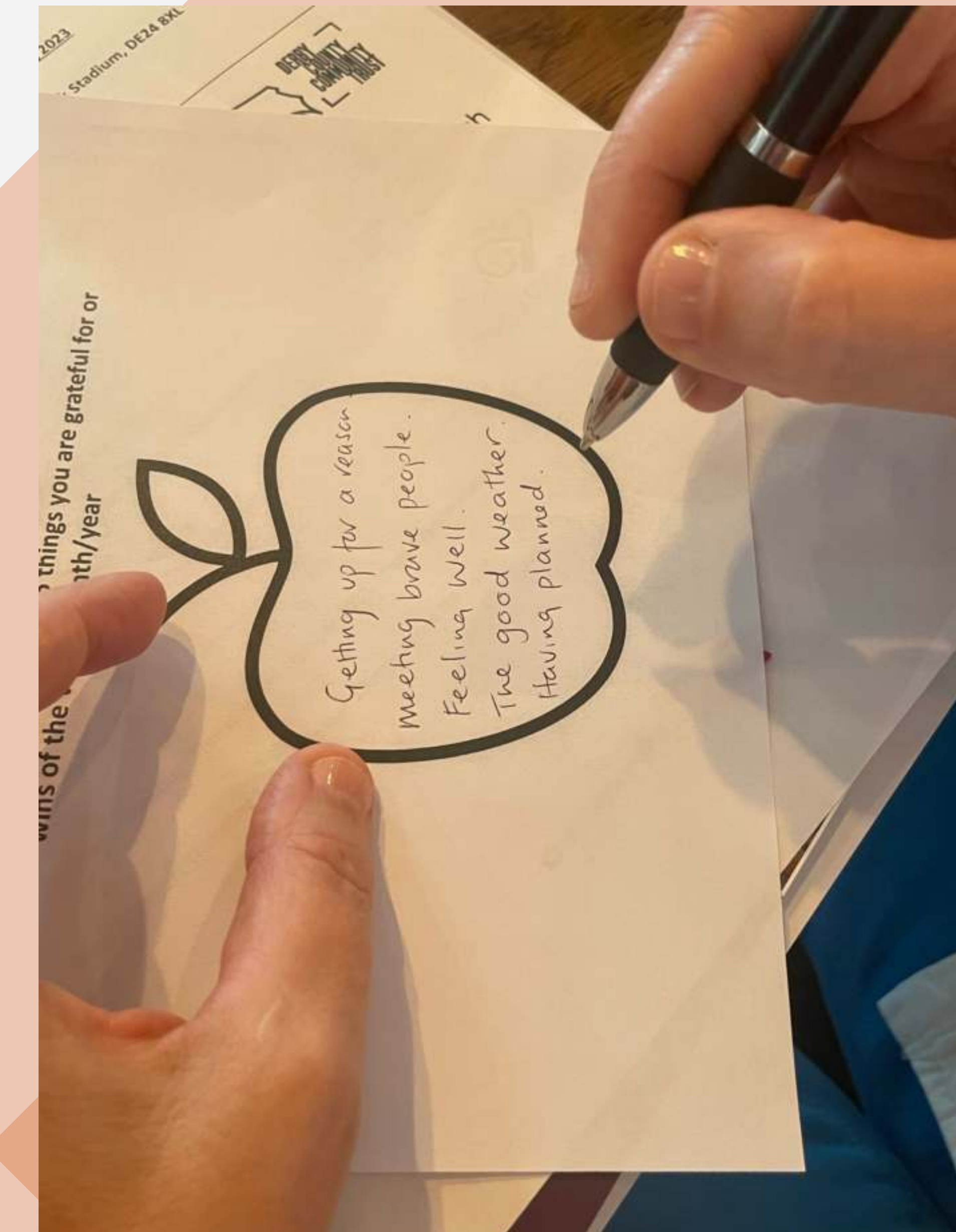
“ New connections gained for student placements ”

“ Putting a face to a name, building trust and having more confidence to refer ”

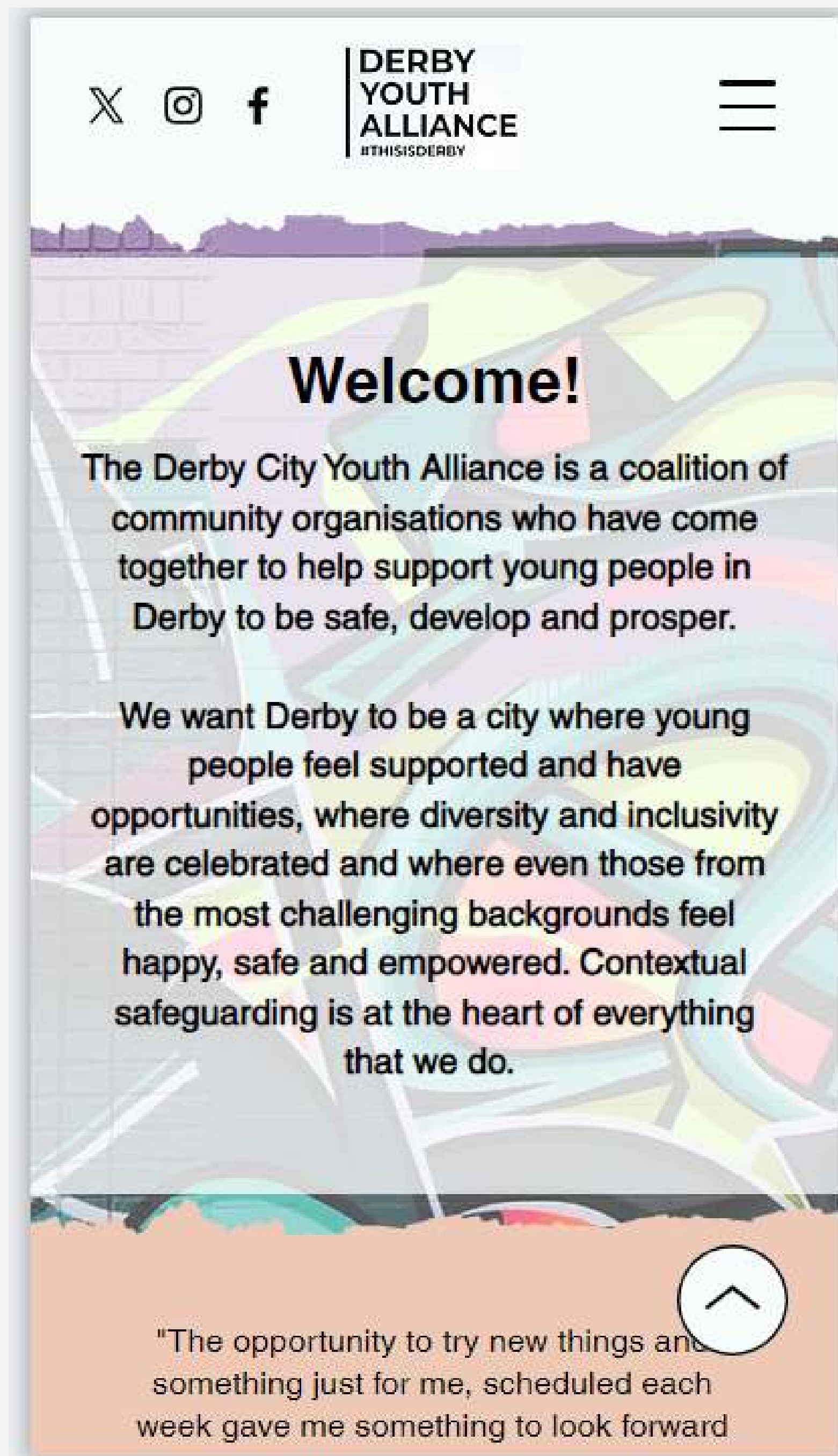
“ More aware of services available to children and young people ”

“ Made people aware of our service through a presentation to the network ”

“ After the third meeting I was able to facilitate safeguarding and child protection training ”



Our New Website



Our new Youth Alliance website launched in October 2023, with associated social media channels - Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

Our website and social media channels enable us to further share and promote the work that we do to support young people and families, and to keep local organisations involved and aware of our events. We have pages for professionals to find out more about Youth Alliance membership, the CYP Network and our referral process.

There are pages for young people to find out what activities are going on in their area that they can access, and for helplines and organisations that can help them if they are experiencing difficulties and are unsure where to turn.

There are pages for parents, carers and family members to find out about support groups to help with any concerns they have about the young people in their lives and to meet other parents in their area, as well as a list of useful local and national helplines and organisations that offer specialist support.

There are also pages offering advice and information about Safe Places Derby, Safer Together, and the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme.

The blog page keeps our website visitors up to date about local news and events that are beneficial to professionals working in the youth sector, or young people and families themselves.



www.derbyyouthalliance.org.uk



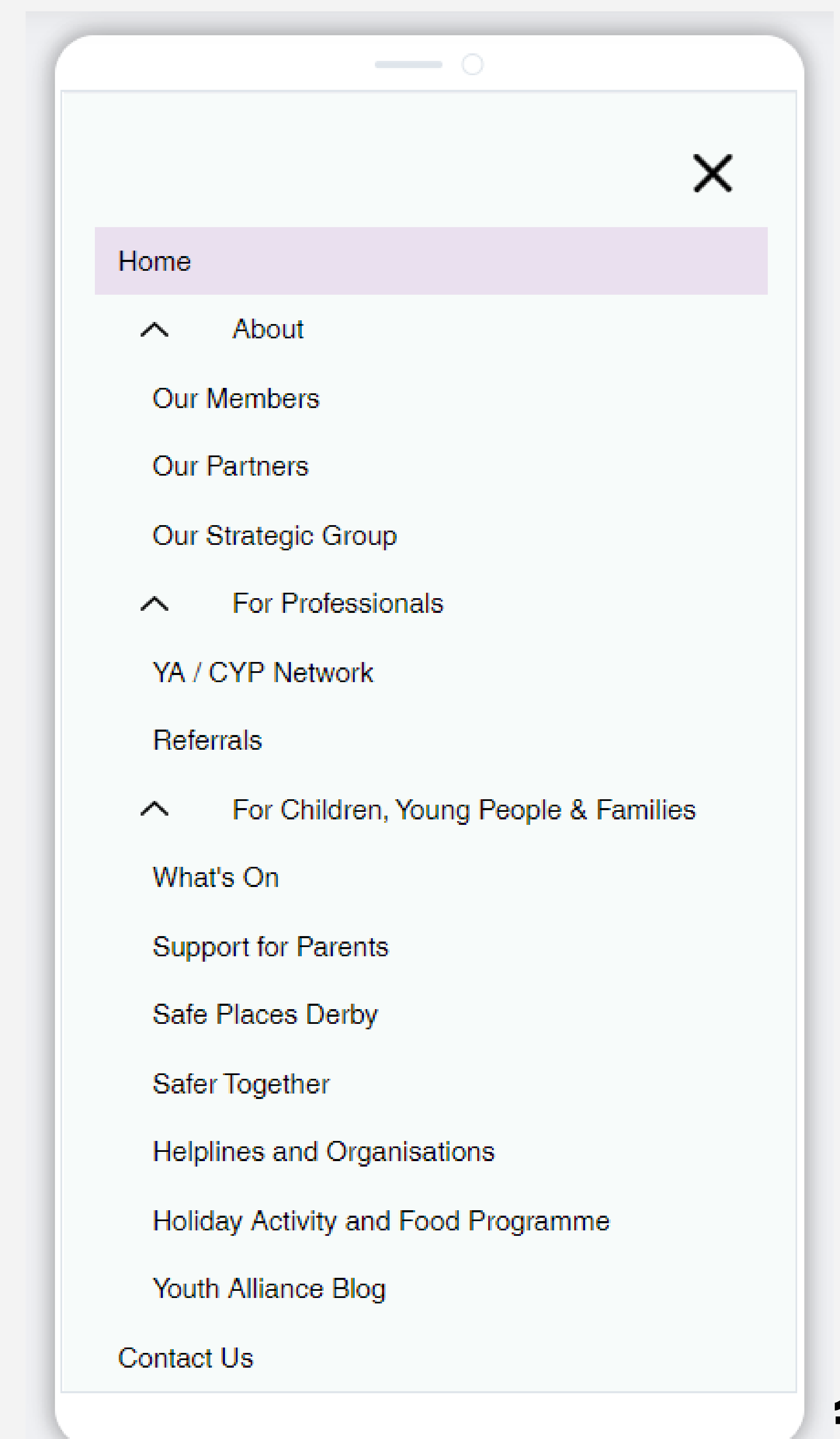
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x.com/YADerby



Case Studies

F

F was experiencing low self-esteem and confidence, depression and isolation when he was referred. He struggled to regulate his emotions, and this was impacting on his relationships with his parents and siblings. Following eight months of one-to-one support from a mentor, his confidence slowly increased, and his communication improved. By the end of the mentoring support, F was able to manage his emotions more effectively and enjoyed the benefits of journaling.

Quote from F's mother:

"The mentoring staff have tapped into how to advocate and transform young people's personal development. They provide support when required but encourage young people to make independent choices. My son has improved dramatically, with the right support he was able to independently decide for himself to improve his social skills. This has changed the whole family life situation".

Children First

C

C came to the YMCA due to a conflict between his parents. For the first few months, he did not want to leave his room, his meals were brought to him, and he became increasingly withdrawn. Recognising the need for intervention, his Housing Navigator, in collaboration with the in-house therapist, and project lead for Youth Activities, encouraged C with invitations for a simple walk through the park. C's engagement increased and he started to open up, forming friendships with other residents. His confidence led him to move to an off-site, more independent property which he shares with a friend he made at the YMCA. Together, they have motivated each other to participate more actively in various Youth Alliance activities.

Through engagement and mentoring, C developed the confidence to engage in support beyond the YMCA, he has now achieved several qualifications and gained temporary employment to develop his work experience. This milestone was a tremendous boost to his confidence, self-esteem, and overall well-being. C now has clear goals and a renewed focus. Previously told he was unlikely to achieve much, he now recognises that he has potential—not just for personal betterment but also for positively impacting those around him; his experience and confidence place him as an excellent candidate to be a mentor for others – a journey we're working on.

L

L has been in care for most of his life, moving from 11 different placements around the country since he was 5. L's Mother was a heroin addict and has only recently become drug-free. L struggles with his emotions and behaviour, leading him to act out or become aggressive at times. He hasn't been in any form of education since he was 9. This means he sometimes has a communicative age of around 11.

In the last month, L has really tried to calm down his episodes, leading to him having free reign over his activities and day-to-day schedule. I believe that our sessions have been bringing him out of his defensive and aggressive approach towards his peers and support network. L has got to a point where there is hope he can push on and get himself some work or maybe even education to help him move forward on his own. I think that the consistency I have shown L with his attitude, emotional support and control over his future has paid off massively in the last few months.

L is now at a stage where he contacts me to see when we are meeting up, which, from the place we began where he didn't like many people around him, shows we are at a point where he is far more accepting, helpful and mindful of others around him. This is a real triumph in my eyes. I am proud of the young person he may now be able to be, but also who he thinks he can be.

Safe and Sound

O

When O first started attending Baby People he was very talkative and hyperactive. O had no idea what he would like to achieve in session but was willing to give anything a try. His mother explained that he was getting into trouble for being disruptive in school and wondered if we would be able to talk to him.

In the first few sessions, O worked on learning how to rap and record lyrics, which he was very excited about. He often liked to introduce me to new artists he had discovered and explain why they were his favourites. After getting to know O more I discovered his passion for skateboarding and we made a plan for him to create a skateboarding vlog. O was very interested in creating a YouTube channel where he could do skateboard videos with his friends. We worked on this for a few weeks and he now has his own channel with songs and videos he has created – some at Baby People and some by himself at home.

O has been very engaged in all the sessions even though sometimes he has trouble concentrating or staying focused. Overall he is a polite individual who likes to joke around but understands what is required of him and has very creative ideas when a task is set.

Reflections

“ Working together in partnership with the other organisations allows us to offer more and work in the most effective way to support the young people in Derby ”

Baby J, Baby People



“ The last year has been tough for the city, with further cuts to services and even greater challenges for our young people. So, it is more important than ever, that we roll up our sleeves and get on with it – together, in partnership. We have been able to be fleet of foot in the way we work, sometimes working as a whole partnership and sometimes in smaller groups, to meet need with the right skills. The wider Youth Alliance network is vital and this year ahead we will focus on how we ensure everyone’s voices are included in this vital work, especially those of young people. ”

Caroline Barth, Derby Theatre



“ Derby County Community Trust continues to place great value on partnership and collaboration, and this is displayed throughout our work with the Youth Alliance. With the rising need across the city for mentoring and interventions for young people, the Youth Alliance and their partners continue to offer vital support through these targeted interventions and DCCT will continue to champion this through our dedicated support. ”

Simon Carnall, DCCT

“ The Youth Alliance has become a recognised group within Derby. Adapting to emerging needs and societal changes, we have been able to work with efficiency between the partnerships, reducing waiting times for referrals and transitions and creating stronger bonds with young people. ”

Ben Rigby, Sporting Communities CIC



“ Being part of the Youth Alliance is really important to YMCA Derbyshire as it enables those we serve to have a wider variety of opportunities and support available to them. Having the Alliance to bring like-minded organisations together to collaborate on projects is critical to ensuring young people in the city of Derby are getting the tailored support they need to enable them to thrive. Through the Youth Alliance we regularly share best practice, work together to secure funding and are each other’s sounding board. It’s remarkable to see what is being achieved and we can’t wait to grow further in this coming year. ”

Louise Curd, YMCA Derbyshire



“ 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

“ Being part of the Youth Alliance ensures Umbrella is able to raise the awareness of young people with SEND and to share young people’s views, which have been collected by other SEND specialist organisations across the city. ”

Ann Rowlands, Umbrella



“ Having the Alliance embedded across the city has enabled us to keep our young people safe, allow them to grow and to experience new opportunities. Listening to their concerns and feedback allows us to change and adapt what we do. ”

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

“ In 2023 the Derby Youth Alliance continued into Year 3 of our journey and it has certainly been another busy one! We have been fortunate to build on our resources behind the scenes, particularly in terms of staffing, communication tools and funding support, and in doing so we have been able to achieve more together.

Much of our work continues to be referrals for young people, families and places. Although the volume of referrals has been similar to last year, due to our enhanced monitoring system we have more detailed data and have seen a change in the type of support needed, especially around mental health and behavioural issues. Whilst our aim continues to be to support the most at-risk and vulnerable young people, the increase in organisations joining the Youth Alliance and Children and Young People's Network has meant that we have been in a much better position to signpost more young people towards the right support. This network (see pages 14-15) is a great opportunity to link with others in Derby, learn about what they do, spotlight what you do and contribute to making Derby a better place for young people to be supported and flourish.

It's important to note the cost-of-living crisis continues to significantly impact young people and their families, not only those out of work but for working parents too. This is a real area for concern and we are working closely with the Derby Poverty Commission with a specific focus on child poverty. With approximately 33% of all children in Derby living in poverty, (this is much higher in some wards), it's crucial we continue this work and support where we can. The 'Cook Slow and Go' project (see page 10) was a great way to help families understand more about cooking healthy food on a budget and we aim to offer support in a similar way this year.

The Youth Voice (see page 12) is making great progress and it's vital that we collaborate with partner organisations and their young people. I'm really looking forward to seeing how young people contribute to and help shape our future plans. The award-winning White Ribbon Campaign video (see pages 8-9) is just one fantastic example of how young people can collaborate and co-produce with great results!

We are ambitious for the coming year, aiming to refine and improve our services, communicate more effectively to a wider audience and, with the support of our steering group partners, be involved in positively influencing a better future for young people in Derby.



We couldn't have achieved what we have this year without the support of our funding partners, so a big thank you to Derby Homes, Derby City Council, Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing and the National Lottery. This support enables the Youth Alliance to enhance our delivery, embark on new support projects relevant to Derby and offer training to add to, develop, and upskill the workforce. We will be actively seeking new funding streams and support for 2024 onwards. ”

Helen Britten, Youth and Physical Activities Manager, Community Action Derby

Moving Forwards:

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

