# DERBY YOUTH ALLIANCE #THISISDERBY

SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE

**PILOT REPORT** 





# INTRODUCTION

The Derby Youth Alliance (DYA) is a collaboration of organisations that has been formed to help develop the youth sector and best support young people in Derby City. It is a partnership between several Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations and is supported by a number of statutory and non-statutory groups.

Learning from the This is Derby project, which saw the sport and arts sector joining together, the DYA builds on the strengths of each organisation, developing shared goals and agreeing a common approach to youth engagement. From this comes bespoke services to address identified local needs as part of a formal cross sector partnership.

The co-designing process is based on insight and intelligence, promoting openness and trust across the partnership.

### **PERSON**

- EARLY INTERVENTION MENTORING: PRIMARY
  - INTENSIVE MENTORING: SECONDARY AND TERTIARY
    - GROUP MENTORING: TERTIARY

### **PLACE**

- DETACHED WORK: SECONDARY AND TERTIARY
  - COMMUNITY REASSURANCE: SECONDARY
    - DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

### **FAMILY**

 FAMILY SUPPORT: PRIMARY AND TERTIARY

## **OVERVIEW OF THE PILOT**

Youth crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) cost the government at least £4bn a year [1]. One in five young people reports being involved in crime and/or ASB [2] and there are around 75,000 new entrants into the youth justice system every year [3]. Youth crime is clearly an enormous problem, but it is not without solutions. One of the most successful and innovative ways to tackle crime is to engage young people and create opportunities for them.

Most crime committed by young people is not premeditated. It is committed on the spur of the moment, often in groups and under the influence of alcohol or drugs. When asked, young people give a range of reasons for offending, including excitement, enjoyment, or boredom. Despite significant government investment in national initiatives, many young people still lack the support and rehabilitation that they really need to move away from crime, including positive activities, help with education and relationships with trusted adults.

Tackling crime, ASB, violence, and the causes of violence amongst young people is a priority for Derby City Council and its partner organisations that form the Safer Communities Board. The vision for young people in Derby is to prevent and divert them away from ASB, street conflict and violent crime so that they feel safe and can reach their life potential.

The impact of crime and serious violent crime on society is significant. There is a huge cost to individuals, families, and communities through loss of life and the trauma caused through both the physical and psychological injuries suffered. Derby City Council have drafted a Serious Youth Violence Strategy (SYVS) and Action Plan taking a Public Health Approach, with Primary, Secondary and Tertiary stages aimed at addressing these issues. To ensure the successful implementation of the Serious Youth Violence Strategy it was agreed locally that the DYA would deliver a range of interventions through the pilot project. The development of the wider associated network of providers which would be crucial to build capacity and connectivity between organisations working with young people within the City.

# PROVIDING A HIGH QUALITY SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN DERBY

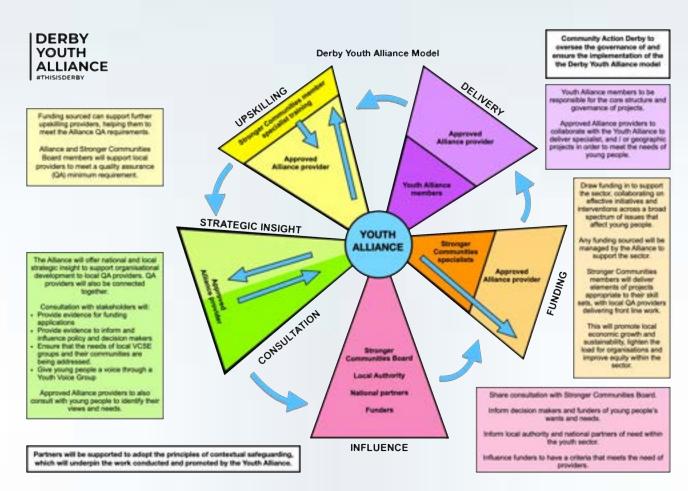


# YOUTH ALLIANCE MODEL

Developed as a sub-group of the Stronger Communities Board the DYA aims to be the recognised collaborative partnership that all Partnership Outcome Boards adopt and recognise as the approved Local Youth Provision partnership.

The DYA members involved in the development of the initial model are: Community Action Derby (acting as the Vanguard member), Children First Derby, Derby County Community Trust (DCCT), Derby Cultural Education Partnership, Safe and Sound and Sporting Communities. The development has been supported, and will continue to be, by Derby City Council, Active Derbyshire, StreetGames, Derbyshire Constabulary and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The DYA works with and supports youth providers in the City to raise the standards and quality of youth provision and has developed a DYA network of locally trusted providers who meet the values, principles, and standards of the Alliance. This aims to ensure that there is high quality youth provision across the city that is supported with the collective strength of the DYA members.



### **OBJECTIVES**

- To share and provide information on any issue affecting children and young people in Derby, working together to reduce risk, improve wellbeing, resilience and create opportunities.
- To identify and collaborate on effective initiatives and interventions to tackle a broad range of issues (e.g. asb, violence, mental health and exploitation), with appropriate funding applications and, importantly, to add value and prevent duplication of efforts.
- To advocate for children, young people and families and influence policy and decision makers strategically in the adoption of effective crime and risk prevention strategies, ensuring that children and young people's voice in at the heart of what we do. We will ensure our children and young people (CYP) are involved through youth forums and other CYP groups.





# LOCAL CONTEXT OF DERBY

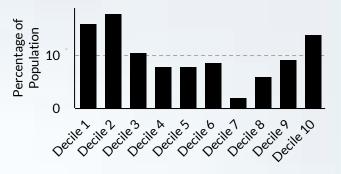
Derby is a small, culturally diverse city with a population representing 182 nationalities, speaking 71 languages and 83 distinct dialects. Approximately 25% of Derby's population are from BME communities, with its largest ethnic group comprised of the Asian / Asian British community. Derby's ethnic diversity is mirrored by its great variations in levels of deprivation.

Overall, the city is within the 25% of most deprived areas in the country with many wards falling within the top 10% of most deprived areas in England. These wards are characterised by poor health, high rates of unemployment, and households with a lower than average annual income. 21% of children live in lowincome families.

The number of young people aged 16-24 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) rates in Derby are also high, as well as ASB and first-time entrants to the Youth Justice System, which are significantly higher than national averages. Derby also has a major issue with social mobility for young people, ranking 316 of 324 for overall social mobility in the 2017 Social Mobility Index.

Mental health and wellbeing are big issues within the City. Self-harm is significantly worse than the national average, as is alcohol-related harm. The prevalence of children's mental and emotional disorders are also higher than national averages.

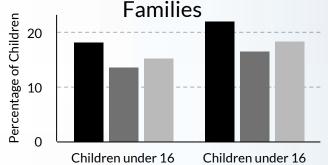
### Index of Multiple Deprivation [6]



1 = Most Deprived, 10 = Least Deprived

IMD Decile

### Children in Low Income [6]



living in families with Absolute Low Income

living in families with Relative Low Income

Status

Derby East Midlands England

# **DERBY CRIME SUMMARY**

111

The crime rate in Derby City per 1,000 people [4]

308

The crime rate in the most affected ward (Arboretum) [4]

2/3

Proportion of Derby City crime that is Anti-Social or Violent Crime [5]

10.2

Crime rate per people throughout March 2021 [6]





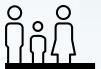
# OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME



This comprises of a flexible, targeted, accountable, and scalable mentoring service for young people at risk of, or engaged in ASB, gang culture or criminality. Following initial assessment and in consultation with the referring agency, the category leads will allocate the young person to one of the following:

• Early Intervention Mentoring - Mentors will support an identified young person, by meeting either weekly or fortnightly for a few hours to engage in activities outside the family home to increase self-esteem, improve engagement in education and reduce ASB. Carried out by trained and supervised mentors, mentoring will be one-toone and fortnightly, with each session lasting between 1 and 3 hours. Sessions will focus on addressing the wellbeing, vulnerability, and risks that a young person is facing. This improves social and emotional development, broadens the young person's support network and creates a better attitude toward the agencies and the young person's community. This mentoring helps the young person step away from exploitation, criminal behaviour and ASB.

 Group Mentoring - A weekly workshop programme that provides a setting for positive, peer interactions for a group of young people. Sessions focus on activities that develop skills, change attitudes and promotes the importance of education, choices, and consequences.



### **FAMILIES**

We know that young people at risk of, or engaging in ASB, gang culture and criminality are better safeguarded where the whole family are empowered and supported. These risks with a young person have a significant impact on family relationships, health, economic stability, and social life.

 Family Support - Family support services are there to support the families, children and young people who are experiencing long term or short-term difficulties. Emotional support, practical help, advice, and guidance will be given to those who are referred and in need.



### **PLACE**

This is a pro-active and flexible service delivered at the heart of where young people come into contact with community based influences. Place based intervention identifies the appropriate level of intervention required and types of services suitable to the young people's needs:

- **Detached Work** Operating in identified hotspot areas, this work goes directly to where young people are at most risk of being involved in, or are already involved in, criminal activity. It focuses on preventing ASB and crime as it is occurring, communicating with young people on how they can conduct themselves in a manner that doesn't negatively impact their community and gathering local intelligence.
- Community Reassurance Often run in parallel with Detached Work, operating in locations where there are high calls for service, this element of the programme focuses on working with local residents to defuse and mediate any growing tensions between residents and challenging young people.
- Diversionary Activities identify suitable venues/facilities for sustainable activities that meet the needs of young people. These may be sports, arts or generic (i.e. youth club) based activities. If DYA members already have activities operating in an identified area, they signposted into those before setting up something new, providing it was appropriate to do so. This added considerable value to the service.



# OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME



The DYA are committed to ensuring credible provision is available across the city. They act as a capacity building and innovation body for organisations to align positive activities and personal development opportunities for young people.

A list of Approved Alliance Providers (AAP); local delivery partners who have an agreed minimum standards and abide to the DYA's ethics has been developed. As this network of partners has grown, we are able to signpost into both DYA and AAP activity provision, allowing us to offer a breath of opportunities to young people so that they could have the most appropriate and effective support. It has also allowed the DYA to support partners to raise their standards and increase their capacity to positive diversionary activities.

The ambition for the DYA is for a live document to be produced whereby DYA members and AAP can input their ongoing activities. This would allow for there to be a central location where providers could effectively map out what activities are available across the city and young people could identify what is available to them. Through this they will be able to both understand what provision is available to young people and what expertise that each session / provision has. This would allow the DYA to refer young people into suitable, sustainable connections that are most appropriate to their interests, ambitions and support needs. Through the AAP we will also be able to connect with wider social issues that affect young people and play a part in leading young people away from crime and into education and employment.



# ESCALATING AND DE-ESCALATING

The aim is to have all young people at a point whereby they only require Universal Services. The benefit of this approach is that the category leads are able to escalate, de-escalate and refer young people into diversionary activities depending on the ongoing needs of the young people. Having a co-designed alliance of partners allows for the fluid movement of young people to ensure that they are getting the most suitable service and without delay. The Place referrals were reviewed monthly to ensure that detached target locations and diversionary activities remain suitable to achieving outcomes that contribute to the SYVS.

This fluid referral infrastructure and process also allows the young people to move within the DYA until they are in a position whereby, they only require Universal Services.



### **INTELLIGENCE**

The intelligence-led and outcome-oriented practice lies at the heart of community safety partnerships and is the most effective possible vehicle for tackling crime and re-offending at a local level. To achieve this, efficient and effective information sharing between relevant partners was essential to:

- prevent and reduce crime, disorder and ASB
- apprehend and prosecute offenders
- reduce re-offending
- address issues associated with the misuse of drugs and alcohol
- enhance public reassurance and confidence in the services that are in place to improve community safety

Each organisation collected information that relates to certain community safety problems, so in order for these problems to be understood it required each agency to share this information. If a certain problem is only considered from the view of a single agency then key aspects of the problem can be missed, the problem can be poorly understood or even misunderstood, resulting in decisions being made on little substance and ineffective responses being deployed.

The DYA has a framework that can be used to help improve upon existing arrangements for information sharing.

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# THEORY OF CHANGE

The SYVS pilot has been operating under a Theory of Change model to ensure all aspects of preparation, delivery, and evaluation are considered and mutually agreeable as an alliance throughout.

Below is the implemented Theory of Change model.

| Local Context  | Inputs   | Outputs   | Impacts  | Outcomes (MT)   | Outcomes (LT)  |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| Population size There are 59,500 children and young people (aged 18 and under) in Derby, 25% live in low-income families.  Social Mobility Derby is ranked 55th out of 32% authorities in terms of deprivation and is renked 303rd out of 32% districts on the Social Mobility Index.  Youth Violence Reports suggest that 67% of the population have at least one adverse childhood experience (ACE). Those who experience 4 or more adverse thildhood experiences are at a significantly greater risk of the following (Bellis et al. 2012), in 2017/18, the estimated cost of volunt offers to Derby city was approximately £23,719,567.00 (Derby city outnot, 2018). The information below is extracted from the Public Health England lingertips profiles (2019), in 2017/18, there were 5,190 violent offences in the local population, which equates to a rate of 20.3 per 1,000. This is significantly lower than the national average, but significantly higher than the regional everage, Recombined that this has increased since 2013/14.  Education Overall, Derby's educational performance is improving but reasons standards and there is widespread underperformance in mathematics and English at both the primary and secondary schools. Generally, results at primary service and Derby's children face increasing problems in speech and language development. NEET rates are high in Derby. Acti-social behaviour in the city and 1st time entrants to the Youth Justice System (10-17-year old's) are also significantly higher than national average.  Metall hastith and wellbeing are a significant issue in Derty, Pravalence of children's mental and emotional disorders are higher than readonal average. 25% of the Decly population aged 16+ are inactive.  Culture  Although difficult to quantify, it is reported that too many children and young people in Derby do no | Governance The key members of the YA include:  Sporting Communities Detry County Community Trust Children First Derby Sale&Sound Derby Cultural Education Partnership The YA is also supported by: DCC Community Action Derby Active Derbyshire Derby Homes Derby Homes Derbyshire Police Derbyshire Police Derbyshire Police Derby Clift Sport Forum Metogolitan Housing Derby Cones Metropolitan Housing Derby Police Derby Homes Metropolitan Housing Any others  Areas Priority wards: Aftertion Alvestion Denvent Sinfin Normanion Delivery Partner The YA will deliver elements of the programme and also use AAP to deliver where appropriate.  Programmes Person centred: Early Intervention Mentoring Internity Mentoring Group Mentoring Group Mentoring Family Support Placed based: Detversionary Activities | Partnership Capacity # Partnership governance documents # Partnership meetings # Level of investment into organisational delivery # Level of external organisations engaged with in support of staff and volunteers.  Organisational Delivery Each organisation has specific priority area programmes delivered by specialism required to meet the needs. # Sessions delivered - delivery hours # Artists coaches and mentors deployed # Volunteers deployed  Participants engaged # Participants engaged # Participants attending from targeted groups in danger of becoming involved in Serious Youth Volunce # Participants with SEN # Participants with SEN # Participants with a disability # Participants engaged who are inactive # Participants engaged who are inactive # Participants at risk of offending # NEET participants # Excluded/at risk of exclusion from education # With specific health / wellbeing issues | Partnership Development  Pathvers intend to work in partnership going forward to increase the Alliances effectiveness.  Pathvers demonstrate improved knowledge on understanding of other partners ways of working increasing efficiencies.  Partners have increased confidence to adopt a shared way of working.  Partners are committed to continuing delivering a diverse range of programmes to support the young people within Dorby.  Increased investment into the youth sector specifically surrounding Family support, Early Intervention and Intervention and Intervention and Intervention and Intervention and Intervention for access into programmes that support the reduction in Serious Youth Violence.  Development of pathways from intervention into support programmes and nurture programmes and nurture programmes that help to descalate tensions.  Participants in engaged in activities that provide opportunities for personal growth and self-mailsation.  Number of new opportunities supported that improve physical and mental wellbeing increasing participation.  Participants in activities that reduce the risk of ASB, offending or recifiending.  Participants in activities that release swereness of the factors contributing community collection. | Embedding the Partnership  Measured sustained involvement in the partnership from the identified organisations  Conventment from all partners to the rese way of working to support the serious youth violence strategy  Coordinated way partners deliver serious youth violence strategy  Raised ambition within the city for cross-sector working to support the serious youth violence strategy  Ambition across the city to embrace a new approach to service delivery increased investment into the partnership  Strong communication channels within and across partners  Young people involved in the design and delivery of specific partnership activities  Realising Potential  Participants making active participation in the development of programmes  Improvements in behaviour attributable to work with young people  Participants avoiding exposure to negative behaviours resulting in serious youth violence  Improved social mixing, more cohesive communities  Inproved community provision and opportunities  Increase in participates making active community contributions | New Collaborative ways of Working Embedded scross Darby  The city has fully embraced a new way of partnership working to support the Senous Yould Crime Strategy.  Sustained young people's partnerships operation across the city through the youth Alliance approximates the city through the youth Alliance approximates and strategies for the city acting as a collaborative solution.  Partners no longer working in isolation from each other or each other's agends.  A commitment to shared resources between partners to maximise efficiencies.  Realising Potential  A community where everyone is has a collective responsibility tawards each other and a place will communities on thrive under a spirit of cooperative want to create a culture where we challenge behaviour but elso support communities with an interestive but deso support communities with an interest when young people become confident individuals, affective change and promote responsible citizenship. We support residence and coping strategies for young people, so they become aging to change and contributors to their community wellbeing.  Strenger, Safer and more Realisest Communities.  b Provide young people with the resource's life shad of choices so they are a in a position whereby they can confident back into their community.  Creation of a community which supports such of and embraces diversity and promotes both equal and equity.  All neudents encouraged feel empowered to, shand contribute to the communities in which they |

**External Factors** 

Investment and resources provided to the sector Programmes delivered by YA and AAP Could-19

Partnership influence locally, regionally and nationally

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# PLACE: EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT

As a collective of qualified and experienced ground-workers, DYA members responded to place based referrals based on the severity and frequency of instances occurring within considerable hotspots within Derby City. The offer through Community Reassurance, detached youth engagement and diversionary activities created a pro-active and flexible service that could be delivered at the heart of where young people come into contact with community based, toxic influences. The place category leads identified the appropriate level of intervention required and type of service suitable to young people's needs and then quickly acted to input that intervention.

The consistency in engagement with young people and the ability to explore needs and desires holistically enabled the DYA to consider wider interventions, such as person and family referrals as well as AAP exit routes. The flexibility to offer a combination of youth work, diversionary activities, as well as an integrated and continuous referral pathway enabled workers to harness young people's development and divert them away from ASB and crime, building the confidence within young people and creating positive, mutual outcomes that benefit both the young people themselves and the wider community.

Both Sporting Communities and DCCT have connected with housing teams and agencies within the City to implement a targetted approach to ensuring solutions for young people and communities. In addition, the utilisation of in-depth reporting mechanisms, such as comprehensive outreach logs that detailed progression and impact ensured the sustainability of relationships with young people and maintained consistency in suitable referral pathways for all that required additional services.

**Q** 14

322

The number of Place-based Referrals

The number of Young People engaged

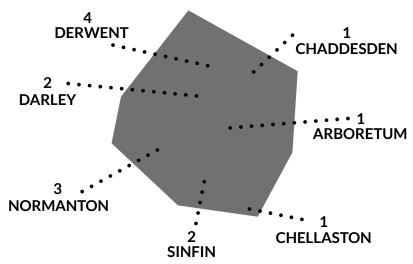
22 11

Hours delivered through Community Reassurance 20

Hours of Diversionary Activities delivered



# DERBY CITY REFERRAL LOCATIONS



### **CASE STUDY**

Issues relating to fear and intimidation of violence have been an ever-present factor of the youth engagement sessions. An example of such derives from work conducted in the Derby City ward of Derwent whereby reports of youth intimidation and possible theft and burglary intentions.

Following identification by Derby Homes of such issues, the Community Reassurance team at Sporting Communities focused on engaging the young people involved and members of the locality; exploring reasoning and solutions.

'Derby Homes are currently investigating complaints of youths congregating; allegedly drinking, smoking drugs, nuisance motorbikes, and generally being disruptive.

On arrival, two young youth males were on a motorbike in the footpath area. Another youth male came out of the block of flats identified in the original referral. One male was wearing a black balaclava and another had come from the property with a pair of bolt cutters. The youth engagement team attempted to approach and engage the males, however, they quickly got on the motorbike (all three of them) and sped off.

The youth engagement team spoke to a female member of the public passing by and she identified that these males go around on their motorbike at all times of the day attempting to steal from passes by and warned us to be careful.'

(Community Reassurance Team - Sporting Communities)



# FAMILY: CONTINUOUS SUPPORT

Upon assessment of young people's needs and personal implications, we utilised a combination of family support and mentoring services to understand the root causes of adverse behaviour and distress. Many of the referrals that were taken on as an alliance demonstrated underlying domestic reasoning for engagement in toxic actions. This enabled us to explore personal implications in further detail; utilising the varying expertise and remits in a multi-agency approach to ensure the young person and wider family benefit from the continuous, holistic support.

### **CASE STUDY**

Referral received from Derby Homes because the family were living in a chaotic environment and would not engage with any services. The three youngest children were at medium risk of exploitation associating with older men, visiting unsafe internet sites, and going missing. School had neglect concerns as they are dirty and unkempt with reoccurring headlice, the house had rents arrears, was in a state of disarray with lots of rubbish and clutter and there were medical issues not addressed.

The risk for the family has significantly reduced to a low level of social care support and the Youth Alliance have had regular contact with the whole family. They have worked as a team to improve the young person's living environment and the children have space, eat, and play together and speak without shouting. In addition, the Youth Alliance has supported an application to a charity who awarded the family brand new beds, other furniture, and household items.

The Youth Alliance has also supported mum to address the rent and arrears providing stability for the family as the tenancy is no longer at risk, including support to mum with GP and dentists visit for her and her children. We have also supported their 17 year old to take a course with DCCT to prepare him for work and gain an apprenticeship.

There were 4 family referrals between October 2020 to April 2021. One of the place based referrals was also assessed and it was decided through the DYA assessment that it would be better placed under the family referrals. This showed the importance of referring agencies being able to refer into a single location. Without this model the place based referral would have been acted upon and then a family referral would have been required to be made, delaying the process of intervention. Through parallel working and collaborations between Safe and Sound and Children First Derby, young people and families have reported feeling increasingly focused, connected, and safe following the bespoke level of support received. **'I'VE STOPPED GETTING INTO** TROUBLE NOW AND HAVE **NEW MATES THAT DON'T TRY** AND CAUSE TROUBLE ALL THE TIME' YOUNG MALE **AGED 15** 



# PERSON: SUSTAINABLE MENTORING

There were **29** young people referred in, including those from youth offending, social care, the police, housing providers and contacts made on the ground by providers. All these young people were aged between 8 and 18yrs old. Whilst **1** individual declined to support and failed to engage with the program, a service was offered to all referred young people and around **5%** referred on to AAPs.

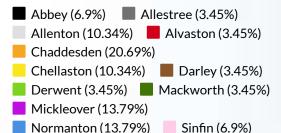
Upon assessment of young people's needs and personal implications, we utilised mentoring to understand the root causes of adverse behaviour and distress. Understanding severity in need has enabled us to consider the pathway for young people to receive necessary and holistic intervention.

As a collaboration between Safe and Sound, Derby Cultural Education Partnership, Children First Derby and Sporting Communities, we offered a range of mentoring approaches.

Through the differing mentoring strategies, we were able to provide suitable and necessary action plans, empowering young people to achieve their chosen outcomes, which helped to dramatically alter their behaviour.

# Number of Person Referrals by Ward











14
The average age of the young

people

6
Differing enthnicities

### **CASE STUDY**

TJ (not real name) was part of an Urban Street Gang (USG) in the area where he lived, and they were referred to the DYA with concerns that the family were causing ASB in the local community. TJ was high risk and supported by another organisation, but the family support worker referred him into the pilot project for diversionary activities. He was not engaging with school or the high-risk services involved and his behaviour at home was challenging. It was agreed that a male worker would support him to go to boxing by picking him up and staying with him while he was there and facilitating him meeting the youth worker and the boxing club leader.

TJ also struggled to be aspirational, feeling unable to think long term of what he would like to do after school, what career he thinks he would enjoy and how he could get there. This resulted in him being difficult to motivate and encourage to be involved as he did not have a goal to work towards, a reason to be involved in sessions.

Over time this changed and the youth worker recorded a significant change. The impact of boxing on TJ has been huge. The biggest impact has been on his confidence, beginning being shy and reserved to becoming the most engaged in sessions, leading on the stretches showing the rest of the group how to do these. He has also become one of the main characters in the group, having jokes and conversations with the others that attend and being well engaged with the staff. He can make eye contact comfortably and speak more louder and clearer when in a conversation. He is also now able to manage being challenged on what he might say or do and be able to either defend his own point or accept a new one. For example, the coach for boxing can be very strict and authoritative which TJ, is now able to take his advice and comments on board and realise that this is for his own benefit.

Boxing has also allowed the opportunity for parents and staff to know that TJ is in a safe environment where he is able to develop on his confidence, fitness, and communication without any worries that he may be in danger.

The family support worker reported that mum had said that TJ's behaviour in the house has really changed and he is even helping around the house. She knows where he is and is not going out and about anymore.



# CHALLENGES

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Whilst the pilot has demonstrated significant positive outcomes for young people, families and communities in Derby, there have been evident challenges. As an alliance, we have worked collaboratively to overcome the varying obstacles which, without intervention, would have impacted the quality and efficiency of the support being offered. Throughout the pilot there were several challenges that needed to be overcome. From theimpact of COVID-19 to internal communication we have noted these difficulties and explained explained our methodologies in overcoming them.



# PRESSURE OF COVID 19 ON YOUNG PEOPLE AND PROVIDERS

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic presented many challenges. The DYA had to adapt and in some cases put services on hold as Government restrictions were implemented. This led to the extension of the pilot project agreed period until May 2021.

As COVID-19 developed, the risk to young people had never been greater, with children not in school and experiencing changes to their routine, increased stress and social isolation. The DYA reviewed their work and the way in which they deliver to make sure that they could respond effectively, despite the restrictions on interaction.

Contact with young people continued through virtual and face to face one to one support. They also offered online youth work and activities in open spaces. Although face to face activities reduced, updated resources and virtual sessions were available through the lead organisations websites and were developed in several languages to meet the needs of the young people of Derby.

### COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPARENCY

Communications with other VCSE organisations proved problematic for the initial period of the pilot project. The official launch of the DYA was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing face to face meetings for a period of time with the young people. All partners felt it was imperative that young people designed the launched event and played a key role in the delivery.

Due to this delay the profile and details of how the DYA was formed and operated was not delivered in a consistent manner. This led to a lack of understanding from a number of wider partners, including potential AAPs creating a feeling of exclusion from the DYA. Following this feedback the DYA have developed a simple document explaining what the DYA is about and what it can offer. Strategic membership has also been widened with additional partners joining including the Derbyshire YMCA, Baby People and Community One.





The introduction of the COVID-19 restrictions has impacted the range, consistency and accessibility of services provided, in particular the diversionary activities. Whilst the flexible ability of the interventions has meant that engagement and support for young people could be achieved, the opportunities for young people to access sustained provision became limited. An example of such derives from the diversionary activity opportunity which was considered a disturbed service throughout the pilot with the evident need to suspend and reintroduce the services at differing points.

This meant that the quality of relationships with young people became ever more paramount to ensuring sustained support.



# LEARNING



- Working collaboratively on referrals has allowed for a maximisation of resources and sharing of intelligence.
- The DYA are acutely aware that COVID-19 has created additional pressure on everyone, but young people are now even more vulnerable than before. A collective city response is the only way to move this forward to ensure recovery and long-term solutions to any issues young people identify.
- The development of a DYA Youth Voice is a crucial next step. Having young people inputting into the DYA will allow young people to further influence the services and partners within Derby City and wider afield.
- The DYA will be able to become a body within the city where partners and organisations can consult and liaise with around matters affecting young people.
- The pilot demonstrates that the VCSE sector can co-produce and collaborate on projects that are much more cost-effective and timely. Co-production, collaboration and strategic connection are vital for the future of the DYA.



### **CONSISTENCY**

- Resource constraints the pilot project was delivered on a limited, short-term budget. To ensure consistency for young people the approach would require long term funding.
- Parent / Carer engagement needs to be considered as the next development of the DYA. Raising the profile of the DYA through the launch help to achieve this. An opportunity for young people to self refer is also an opportunity being explored.
- The mapping of activities that take place within the city will be a useful tool for both young people and service providers and will be accessible online.



- The fluid referral process and the level of information provided by the referring agencies allowed for the referral to receive the most suitable and tailored support.
- Co-designing the service and not being commissioned with objectives from funders allowed the project to be flexible and agile. A key strength of the project was that delivery was able to continue during the pandemic when a number of organisations funded to deliver within the city were unable to. The lead agencies are all locally based, flexible and able to adapt their services where possible in line with changing Government restrictions.
- The terminology and language used needs to be refined to suit young people and encourage the start of a solution; referrals suggest that there is a problem rather than an opportunity for a young person.



- Community Action Derby's role as the Vanguard is vital and they must continue to independently take the lead role in chairing and facilitating meetings and ensuring that strategic providers and AAPs adhere to the ethical code of the DYA.
- More internal updates across place, family and person referrals would aid the understanding of what is being offered. More regular updates to wider partners, such as referring agencies would also be beneficial.
- Factors influencing participation were affected in one case by the parent's lack of understanding of what mentoring could provide. A simple information sheet will be provided for future referrals to rectify this.
- The wider alliance network and partnership allows for sharing of best practice and learning. It also reduces duplication and encourages networking and collaboration. The pilot allowed for the development of this partnership structure and will allow for an improved level of provision within the city.

### DERBY YOUTH **ALLIANCE**

# **SUMMARY**

The collaboration and true partnership working in such a new and innovative way has streamlined the process of support that young people have received, ultimately speeding up the journey between a referral and resolution. Whereas young people may have otherwise experienced a lengthy waiting list, allowing the time for issues to escalate, they have instead become embroiled in a holistic network of support that has provided them with a number of positive outcomes and exit routes.

This pilot has changed the way that statutory early intervention teams and local organisations such as housing associations make referrals. Rather than seeking a prescribed output for a young person, family, or hotspot area, referrals have come into a single location and then the Youth Alliance strategic partnership team have been able to identify bespoke support in accordance to each referral.

Having a collective of partners working with the same ethical values and philosophy has ensured the commitment and high quality provision of this project.

Despite the current pandemic, the Derby Youth Alliance have been able to overcome the obstacles associated with amending provision to meet new, ever changing guidelines for engagement.

Helen Faulconbridge, City Centre Neighbourhood Manager of Community Safety and Partnerships at Derby City Council said "This approach really has revolutionised the way that partners work together. It has completely changed the way that young people, families and communities are able to access support, ultimately making residents across the City feel safer. We see this as the way forward now and look forward to upscalling the approach."



£104,000

Amount invested into the pilot

£224,000

Money saved from the intervention based on prevention of first time offenders and case management processes

the impact on young depression / anxiety

[7] [8]



The Derby Youth Alliance network would like to place on record its gratitude to the funders of this pilot; Derby Homes, Derby City Council and Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing.





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