

# Cheshire West and Chester Youth Partnership

## Needs Assessment

Between January - May 2025, Youth Focus North West were commissioned by Cheshire West and Chester Youth Partnership to carry out a Needs Assessment of the Youth Offer. Guided by an adult and young person's steering group, the work aimed to understand:

- What is working well for young people
- What is missing from the current offer
- What changes are needed to improve it

Over 500 people took part, including young people, parents and carers, youth workers, and professionals across the borough.

The outcomes of this report will help shape the future youth offer in Cheshire West and Chester.

### What Did Young People Say?

Young people enjoy:

- Sports and fitness
- Music, art, and drama
- Volunteering
- Meeting with friends

But lots of young people said there aren't enough activities, especially in rural areas or for older young people and those with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

Many of young people said that youth clubs and centres feel safe and friendly. They are places to go to meet with friends, relax, and talk to Youth Workers you trust.

### Support Young People Need

Young people said they want more help with:



Mental health



Careers and jobs



Life skills

Mental health came up again and again, with young people, parents and carers and the youth sector all agreeing that long waiting lists and not enough early intervention support has an impact on young people.

***"We need more support, more people around who get it."***

## What's Getting in the way?



### Transport & Travel

Poor public transport, especially in rural areas, makes it hard to get to places.

*"Late buses are unsafe."*

*"It takes too long to get anywhere."*



### Costs & Accessibility

Even free things can feel expensive if you don't have the money to get there. Some youth spaces aren't designed for young people and aren't accessible for everyone.

*"We need better buildings, more rooms, chill spaces, places to eat."*

## What needs to happen?

The report has a set of recommendations which suggests:



### Improve Mental Health Support

- More early help and support
- Less waiting times
- Access to nature-based wellbeing activities



### Make Services Easier to Access

- More youth work outreach, mobile youth services, detached youth work
- Better spaces designed with and for young people



### Spread the Word

- Use social media, schools, and word of mouth to let young people know what's on offer
- Have an easy to use central website that lists the youth offer



### Help with Life Skills and being work ready

- More work experience and training opportunities
- Learn skills like budgeting, cooking, and CV writing



### Young People should be central to shaping services

- Young people should be involved in service design, staff recruitment, and decision making
- Youth voice should be central to everything

Young people across Cheshire West and Chester were clear, more places to go, more things to do. This report is about making that happen.



Cheshire West  
and Chester

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