

The overwhelming response was youth groups including the Lowdown, Free2Talk and Inspiration, African Youth arise, parents, sports clubs, teachers. They also mentioned, GP's, schools' engagement teams including the University of Northampton, The Performing Room and The Yard. Political party organisations, school counsellors and nurses and youth councils were noted with young people saying that there aren't currently many events for young people or engagement in school holidays.

They look up to their support workers and know that they are people that care, they have careers leads at schools but need more care and engagement from councils and political parties although youth MPs featured as people they knew cared. Youth advisory boards and friends were high on the list of those people they know they could go to and places included sports centres, football pitches, bowling and cinema although these could be expensive.

They want less litter, more bins, more protected wildlife and nicer walks in green spaces, more after school clubs and less irrelevant shops like vape shops, bringing in more local shops and things that young people need.

Family including aunts, uncles, siblings and grandparents are incredibly important, school, camps and sports, teachers, youth mentors and leaders, churches and libraries, museums and cheap restaurants too.

Public transport is expensive and often inaccessible but public places can feel unsafe, and overcrowded with lots of fighting and some knife crime.

They feel that 'youth workers are heroes and need to be paid, not volunteer', everything is defunded and activities that they would like to take part in are expensive.

They feel that they're not seen and heard in schools, that adults overreact and think about things only from an adult perspective. They share their views online more than in person because of this. Kettering has a place that people can drop into if they have worries and young people think that this should be mirrored elsewhere.

Young people aren't sure where to go for help in a crisis and don't feel clear on what is done with their ideas when they are asked.

Once this was complete, the tables were moved around slightly and ambassadors asked the groups to focus on what being Seen and Heard in Northamptonshire could look like in three years' time, exploring their ideas and presenting back to the room what they thought. The overarching themes were around having safe spaces to go and take part in sports and activities that were affordable, and more reliable and accessible transport.

Group One would like to see:

Youth groups – funding, youth leads, marketing (social media and word of mouth), engagement, larger activities

Sports – accessibility, safer / more places to play, advancements in careers in sport, effort into one, variety “unconventional”

Outside – places to seat more than 3 people, green spaces, cleaner areas, lighting, more facilities - sports

Knowledge / involvement – splits in authority, reliability, letting people know what is happening

Transport – reduced prices and better reliability

Connections – networking

Town – variety, places to sit, new local shops, young people-based centres, outdoor swimming

Safety in all key areas stated

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Group Two would like to see:

Cheaper transport to access sports and things to do
More apps to connect YSA across uni / schools / local authority
Access to life skills
More astroturf grounds in local area
Remove barriers to access for things to do and places to go
Accessible sports facilities, more activities for young people
Better youth directory – a place / site / app to know whats happening
Cheap, accessible youth programmes (cadets and advisory groups)
Expressive arts centres that are free to access

Group 3 would like to see:

Town – lots of aggressive people, large knives, drugs, fights, no security, no privacy, overcrowded
Advertise support more, making sure that the youth knows that there are people there to support them
In Northampton, being seen and heard looks like being in structured communities made for the youth as a safe place to share how you truly feel as there isn't many at all at the moment
Make more youth safe targeted areas as a safe space
Place more security around town

Group 4 would like to see:

More buildings / spaces for young people
Structured time in youth spaces for sharing info
More youth groups
Less people doing drugs
Having trusted adults in the community where we feel less safe e.g parks, shops etc
More clubs inside of school
More bins in parks
Less knife crime
Less bullying in the community
Access to trusted adults in the community
More activities
Young people sharing on social media
More youth social events / workshops
Youth voice champions in all services

Group 5 would like to see:

More places to play
Bonding (around town centre)
More cinema

Youth centre
More job opportunities for people
Arcades / game centres
Skateboarding
More accessible and cheaper transport
Cheaper bowling and entertainment
Trampoline parks
Waterpark
Festivals and concerts
More marketing for stuff like youth groups
Stricter laws on littering and more bins / litter pickers

Group 6 would like to see:

Better lighting for safer streets
More opportunities for young people to get involved in local politics
Cheaper transport and free busses for students (under 21)
Better transport links
More funds to charities so they can provide more social spaces for young people
Youth clubs working together
Better roads – not learning to drive because cost and then cost to repair when there's so many potholes. Makes travel harder because public transport isn't good, but learning isn't accessible or affordable. Social mobility.
Library opening times should be longer and more frequent, would be happy to volunteer there if it meant it was open longer.

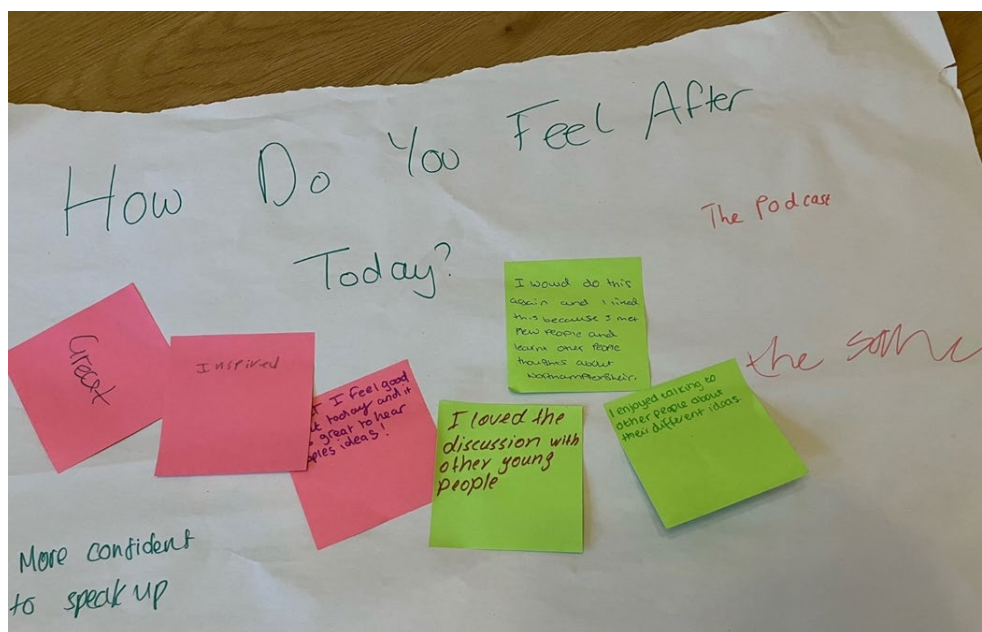
We then asked the young people to let us know how they felt after the day and what they would like to see next in Northamptonshire:

- More talking points on what the session amounts to in the NYS, gives young people hope in the movement
- Try to notice the more quiet kids so they can come out of their shell
- More positive change for the youth of today
- I'd like to see more of today's events
- More meetings for young people, I feel amazing

We then asked how they felt after the hack:

- Conversations were different and informative of new voices
- Conversations need to have more meat – give more talking points for younger young people
- It was alright and I want to see more change
- Inspired
- Great

- I feel good about today and it was great to hear people's ideas
- I loved the discussion with other young people
- I would do this again and I liked this because I met new people and learnt about other people's thoughts about Northamptonshire
- I enjoyed talking to other people about their different ideas
- Today was good because we were heard out and we were able to voice our opinions



Conclusion

The first Place of Social Action Hack in Northamptonshire brought together a diverse mix of young people who openly shared their experiences, hopes and frustrations about growing up in the county. Their contributions highlighted consistent themes-such as the need for safer public spaces, more accessible transport, affordable activities, trusted adults and visible youth-friendly services. Across all groups young people expressed a strong desire to feel genuinely listened to and to see meaningful action taken because of events like this.

This Hack has provided a rich evidence base that will help Young Northants and other youth led organisations shape future youth engagement, strengthen collaboration between local organisations and ensure that people's priorities drive change. The passion, honesty and creativity shown throughout the day demonstrate not only the challenges young people face but the incredible potential they hold to shape a better Northamptonshire.

As we move forward, the next stage is to share these findings widely, involve young people in prioritising key themes, and develop youth-led actions that can be delivered across the county. This event marks an important first step towards building a Northamptonshire where young people are truly seen, heard and valued, and where their ideas can influence real improvements in the places they live, learn and spend time.