



HYPE (HESTERCOMBE YOUNG PEOPLE EVOLVING)

6 MONTH UPDATE – SALC GRANT FUNDING SEPTEMBER 2025

Background

In March 2025, Hestercombe LCN's CYP Group were awarded a grant totalling £35,000 from the SALC Community Health and Wellbeing Main Grant towards the HYPE Project. This funding was offered on a match-funding basis, and the seven councils within the Local Community Network (LCN) committed to matching this amount from their Precept for the 2025/26 financial year, based on the number of young people under 15 in their parish.

The aims of the project were to:

1. understand youth provision and the gaps in provision across the LCN, and to hear from our young people about their needs.
2. establish activities young people identified with to gauge their impact and how well they are supported in practice
3. adapting and amending the programme to ensure that the activities we end up with at the year-end are sustainable, in terms of duration and affordability- to continue beyond the life of the grant.

1. Research

The research element of the project to establish young people's needs has included:

- surveys;
- detached street work;
- the BoomBox (a youth club in a van); and
- drama sessions in primary schools with Somerset Youth Theatre

The research element lasted until the end of July and so is the main element that we can report on now.

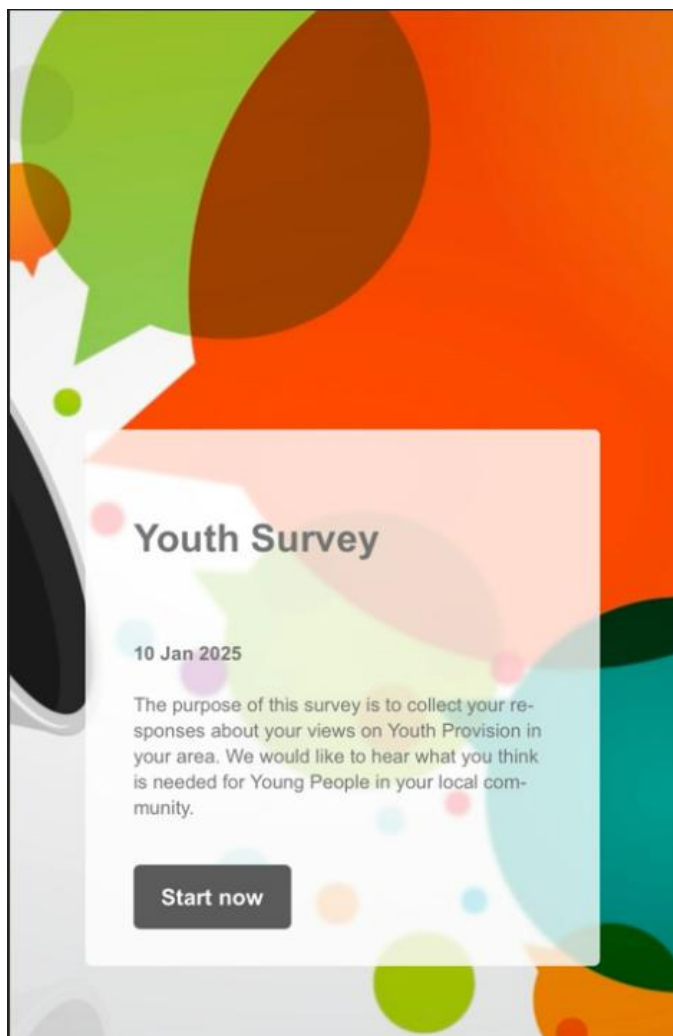
Additionally the work the BoomBox undertook during the Summer break moved onto delivering activities, and feedback from those sessions was captured and is also included in this report.

We had previously been awarded a SALC Health and Wellbeing Small Grant Fund at the end of 2024, which facilitated the collection of feedback from young people. However, our efforts were constrained by challenges in reaching a sufficient number of participants, largely due to the inclement weather. To enhance our outreach to local youth, we engaged Creative Outbursts, which operated the Boombox—a mobile youth club—across the Hestercombe LCN area. Creative Outbursts employed two qualified Youth Workers who conducted 27 sessions in the Boombox at ten distinct locations. During these sessions, young people participated in a variety of activities and were supported in completing questionnaires to provide their perspectives on youth services in their community.

Furthermore, we established connections with Primary Schools within the Hestercombe LCN to offer collaborative sessions with Somerset Youth Theatre. This initiative involved workshops with Year 6 students aimed at gathering insights regarding their perceptions of the community and their aspirations for local improvements. North Petherton Primary School and West Monkton Primary School accepted our proposal, and Somerset Youth Theatre has subsequently provided us with invaluable feedback specific to the area. The plan is to offer sessions to other primary schools in the Hestercombe area.

Hestercombe LCN Area – Survey Results

Number of Young People	Male/Female/ Prefer not to say	Ages	Current activities	Activities they may be interested in	Transport	Barriers to engagement
113	39/49/24 1 (non binary)	23 (10-11) 52 (12-13) 27 (14-16) 7 (17-18) 4 (18-25)	74 YP – Sports 22 YP – Drama/Arts/Music 14 YP – Cadets/Scouts/Guides 20 YP – Youth Club/Café	77 YP - Sports 48 YP - Arts/Drama 66 YP - Youth Club/ Youth Café 71 YP - Activities in local area	36 YP – would benefit from transport support	25 YP – Anxiety 13 YP – Too busy 7 YP – Not enjoying 13 YP – Cost 7 YP – Transport 9 YP – Bad behaviour 4 YP – lack of info 1 YP – Sports clubs only for boys not girls



A total of 113 young people aged 10 to 25 completed surveys across the Hestercombe Local Community Network (LCN). The majority of participants were between the ages of 10 and 16. Among the respondents, 39 identified as male, 49 as female, 24 preferred not to disclose their gender, and 1 identified as non-binary.

Most of the young people (74) already participate in sports clubs. Additionally, 22 are involved in drama or arts groups, 14 participate in Cadets, Scouts, or Guides, and 20 attend youth clubs or youth cafés.

When asked about their interests, 77 respondents expressed likely interest in sports activities, 71 were keen to attend activities in their local parks, 66 showed interest in joining a youth club or café, and 48 were interested in arts and drama activities.

Out of 113 respondents, 36 suggested that they would benefit from transport to and from clubs, and 7 felt that transport was a barrier to attending activities outside of school. Other barriers included anxiety about meeting new people (25 young people), being too busy (13), not enjoying the activities (7), cost concerns (13), issues with the behaviour of other young people (9), and a lack of information about available activities (4). One young lady mentioned that she felt only sports for boys were available in the area.

It was the difficulties experienced with detached work and the fact that the majority of those who completed the surveys were already involved in a club or activity that prompted us to engage the Boom Box to go to the areas where Young People hang out to get to those who are not already engaged.

BOOMBOX Feedback Across Hestercombe LCN



Many young people in all the communities had never experienced youth provision before. They were surprised and delighted to hear that attendance was on a voluntary basis. They were unsure of what to expect or how they should behave. They really enjoyed meeting new people, talking, and taking part in the team card/board games.

When asked what difference the youth sessions had made, many young people said it was something to do, that without it they would have been bored and would have been at home in their bedroom playing on their phones, reported that being at the Boombox was better, that it was good to meet other people, that it was fun, that they felt safer in the park (North Petherton Memorial Park) because they were scared of the older teenagers and that they enjoyed the activities.

It was interesting that two families from Kingston St Mary were visiting the playground at Creech and attended the Boom Box session there, having already attended at Kingston. Hopefully we can encourage young people from the smaller parishes to use the hubs of West Monkton, Creech St Michael and North Petherton, with Parish Councils and parents supporting transport and communication.

A core group of young people began to develop at a number of sites - North Petherton Memorial Park, Creech St Michael Recreation Ground and at Kingston St Mary Sports Fields.

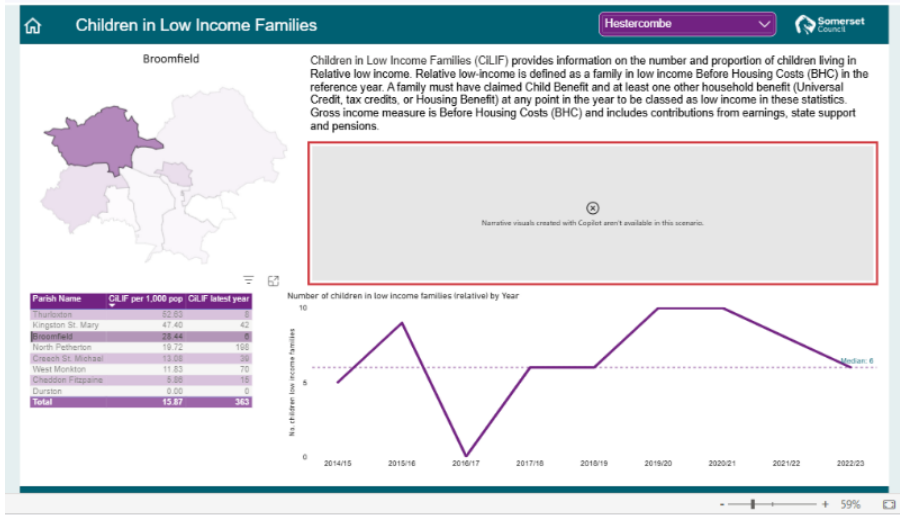
BROOMFIELD PARISH Population: 211 YP <15: 35 as %age of pop: 16.6%

Broomfield Parish – results of survey

Number of Young People	Male/Female/Prefer not to say	Ages	Current activities	Activities they may be interested in	Transport	Barriers to engagement
2	1 / 0 / 1	1 x (12-13) 1 x (14-16)	1 attends sports club, the other not interested in clubs	Sports	Not an issue	Introverted

Two young people from Broomfield Parish completed surveys: one young man and one individual who preferred not to specify their gender. They were aged between 12 and 13 years and between 14 and 16 years old. One of the young people attends a sports club, while the other is not interested in joining any clubs. One individual expressed potential interest in sports activities, whereas the other mentioned being introverted, which they identified as a barrier to engagement. Transport was not an issue for either of them.

Comment: Feedback from Broomfield PC is that the majority of YP in the Parish are privately educated; that extra-curricular activities are largely provided through the schools; and that private school hours leave little time for other activities. Figures from Somerset Council show 6 children in low income families in Broomfield Parish. Hopefully we can encourage young people from the smaller parishes to use the hubs of West Monkton, Creech St Michael and North Petherton, with Parish Councils and parents supporting transport and communication.



CHEDDON FITZPAINE PARISH Population: not available from 2021 census due to more recent boundary changes
YP <15: estimated 25

Cheddon Parish – survey results

Number of Young People	Male/Female/Prefer not to say	Ages	Current activities	Activities they may be interested in	Transport	Barriers to engagement
3	2 / 1 / 0	2 x (10-11) 1 x (17-18)	All attend out of school activities/clubs	2 YP (Sports /Youth Club/Activities in local park) 1 YP (Youth Worker to talk to)	1 YP would benefit from transport	1 YP (cost and timings) 1YP (meeting new people)

Three young people from Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish completed surveys: two males and one female. Two participants were aged between 10 and 11 years, while the other was aged between 17 and 18 years. All three young people attend out-of-school activities and clubs.

Two of the young people showed interest in sports activities, local park events, and a youth club, while the third expressed interest in engaging with a Youth Worker outside of a club setting. One of the young people could benefit from transport support. The barriers to engagement identified included the costs of activities, the timing of clubs, and anxiety about meeting new people.

BOOMBOX VISITS TO CHEDDON

The Boombox attended Cheddon Primary School car park on 2 occasions during the term time to gather survey information from those that attended. Unfortunately the first session was not sufficiently advertised and no young people attended, however on the 25th June nine young people attended and the young people engaged well in activities, feedback was that they enjoyed the session and it was better than staying at home.

Comment: A significant percentage of pupils at Cheddon Fitzpaine who attended the Boom Box sessions live within the Taunton LCN area, which shows the cross-overs between parishes both within the LCN and neighbouring LCNs/parishes/towns, and how they should be working together for the benefit of young people.

CREECH ST MICHAEL PARISH Population: 2981 YP <15: 534 as %age of pop: 17.9%

Creech SM Parish – survey results

Number of Young People	Male/Female/Prefer not to say	Ages	Current activities	Activities they may be interested in	Transport	Barriers
7	4 / 1 / 2	4 x (12-13) 2 x (14-16) 1 x (18-25)	5 YP attend Sports Clubs 2 attend Youth Club/Café	7 YP interested in sports 1 YP arts/drama 3 YP youth club/café 4 YP activities in park 1 YP would like to see a Youth Worker	3 YP would benefit from transport to clubs	1 YP too busy 1 YP fear of meeting new people

Seven young people from Creech St. Michael completed surveys: four male, one female, and two who preferred not to specify their gender. Among them, five currently attend sports clubs, and two participate in a youth club or youth café.

All seven expressed interest in sports activities. Additionally, four are interested in activities in their local park, three would like to see a youth club or youth café, one is interested in arts and drama activities, and another prefers to engage with a youth worker outside of a youth club setting.

Three of these young people mentioned that they would benefit from transportation to clubs. One individual cited a busy schedule as a barrier to participation, while another expressed a fear of meeting new people.

BOOMBOX VISITS TO CREECH ST MICHAEL

The Boombox made 6 visits in the holidays to the Creech St Michael Recreation Grounds, attendance was between 7 and 11 at each session, participants returned from previous weeks and engaged in a number of activities which included fun games and outdoor sports activities such as football. The young people reported making new friends and were glad for a chance to get off their phones and do something more engaging.

Comments: Creech St Michael Parish Council have invested heavily in playground equipment and have exemplary facilities. The Community Youth Project (CYP) deliver term time youth club sessions in the playing field pavilion, which is not ideal in the winter months. The HYPE project will fund the cost of holding the youth club in the Village Hall during the winter months if the Committee agree to its use. With new development imminent we expect increased numbers of young people, making the sustainable future of a thriving youth club even more essential.

KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH Population: 907 YP <15: 126 as %age of pop: 13.9%

Kingston St Mary Parish – survey results

Number of Young People	Male/Female/Prefer not to say	Ages	Current activities	Activities they may be interested in	Transport	Barriers
9	3 / 6 / 0	2 x (10-11) 5 x (12-13) 1 x (14-16) 1 x (18-25)	Most attend out of school activities/clubs (2 YP to not attend any clubs)	7 YP - Sports, 5 YP - Youth Club 4 YP - activities in local park 1 YP - would like Art/Drama	3 YP would benefit from transport to clubs	2 YP too busy 3 YP fear of meeting new people 1 YP cost

A total of 9 young people completed the surveys: 3 male and 6 female. The age distribution included 2 individuals aged 10-11, 5 aged 12-13, 1 aged 14-16, and 1 aged 18-25. Most participants attend out-of-school activities or clubs, while 2 do not attend any clubs.

In terms of interests, 7 young people expressed a desire for more sports activities, 5 indicated they would attend a Youth Club or Youth Café, 4 showed interest in activities in their local park, and 1 person was interested in arts or drama activities.

Additionally, 3 young people mentioned they would like support with transportation. Barriers to engagement included being busy (2 young people), fear of meeting new people (3 young people), and cost (1 young person).

BOOMBOX VISITS TO KINGSTON ST MARY

The Boombox visited Kingston St Mary's playing fields twice during the term time, nine young people attended the first time and 7 the second time, 6 of whom were returning young people. Young people engaged in games and enjoyed football. Seven young people rated the sessions 10/10 and two rated it 9/10, they shared that they would otherwise have been home on their phones. A few local councillors and the local PSCO also popped by to chat to the young people.

Comment: Note that a core group of young people attended these sessions and also travelled to Boombox sessions at Creech St Michael. Hopefully we can encourage young people from the smaller parishes to use the hubs of West Monkton, Creech St Michael and North Petherton, with Parish Councils and parents supporting transport and communication. However young people here were keen to have further youth provision in Kingston St Mary.

NORTH PETHERTON TOWN Population: 10,456 YP <15: 2169 as %age of pop: 20.7%

North Petherton Town – survey results

Number of Young People	Male/Female/Prefer not to say	Ages	Current activities	Activities they may be interested in	Transport	Barriers
17	9 / 5 / 3	7 x (10-11) 3 x (12-13) 5 x (14-16) 1 x (17-18) 1 x (18-25)	10 YP attend sports clubs 5 YP attend Scouts/Guides/Cadets 2 YP attend Arts/Drama club 1 YP attends a Youth Club 3 YP do not attend any clubs	9 YP interested in Sports 8 YP interested in Arts and Drama 11 YP interested in Youth Club	3 YP may be interested in transport to clubs	2 YP cost 5 YP not wanting to go or not enjoying it 1 YP Gang Violence 1 YP having other clubs

Seventeen young people from the North Petherton parish completed surveys: 9 were male, 5 were female, and 3 preferred not to say. Among them, 7 young people were aged 10 to 11, 3 were aged 12 to 13, 5 were aged 14 to 16, 1 was aged 17 to 18, and 1 was aged 18 to 25.

Ten young people participate in sports clubs, 5 are involved in either Guides/Scouts or Cadets, 2 attend arts/drama clubs, and 1 goes to a youth club. Additionally, 3 young people do not attend any clubs.

Nine of these young people expressed interest in more sports activities, 8 are interested in arts and drama, and 11 would like more opportunities through a youth club.

Three young people indicated they might need assistance with transportation to activities. Barriers to engagement in clubs included cost (mentioned by 2 young people), a lack of interest (not wanting to go or not enjoying it, cited by 5 young people), concerns about gang violence (noted by 1 young person), and feeling too busy to participate in more clubs or activities (mentioned by another young person).

BOOMBOX AT NORTH PETHERTON



In North Petherton there were a total of 12 Boombox sessions, where between 5 and 28 young people engaged at each session.

There were 5 sessions at the Memorial Park where between 9 and 25 young people engaged at each session. Young people engaged in activities which included games, crafts and outdoor activities. At the Memorial Park young people shared that they felt safer with the Boombox and youth workers being there as some of the children are fearful of going to the park due to antisocial behaviour and bullying. Some young people who attended the Stockmoor sessions travelled up to the Memorial Park for Boombox sessions.

At the Holiday Inn, three sessions were delivered, attracting between 10 and 28 young people who engaged positively. Participants took part in games and activities and shared their aspirations. The Boombox initiative sent a clear message of welcome to both families and young people. Despite protests occurring outside the hotel during the week, families felt that the Boombox was a safe and welcoming space, which provided some hope during these challenging and uncertain times. The youth workers actively listened to the young people's aspirations and encouraged them to pursue their chosen paths. Unfortunately, the final session at the Holiday Inn was quieter due to families feeling fearful because of the political protests.

At Stockmoor, two sessions were held with between 7 and 16 young people participating in each session. These sessions proved to be the most challenging in terms of engagement. However, the young people who did participate enjoyed the games and activities, discussing their aspirations and feelings about school. Two 13-year-old girls mentioned that they enjoyed drinking alcohol, prompting the youth workers to engage them in a discussion about the associated risks. These young girls would benefit from regular youth work sessions to build trusted relationships.

At Somerset Bridge School, 12 young people engaged and played games and activities and engaged in discussions about school and their aspirations. Feedback was 9/10 or 10/10 for this session and young people shared that they enjoyed being off their phones.

At North Newton, 5 young girls engaged with the activities and games. They also shared their reservations about going to the Memorial Park in North Petherton as they are aware of anti-social behaviour at the park. They suggested using a larger space at North Newton for future sessions.

Comment: North Petherton Town Council are fully supportive of youth provision as reflected in their budget. However, the new developments across Stockmoor and Wilstock have not been designed around community, and this was noted by our Youth Workers whilst at the Stockmoor Estate where they sensed a lack of community connection and cohesion, which is often the case in new developments where infrastructure for community buildings are not high on the list of priorities.

The project extended an offer to support the hotel, which currently houses asylum seekers. This offer has been warmly received, as the provisions for young people at the hotel are limited. As a result, this initiative has enhanced community cohesion during a challenging political period.

SOMERSET YOUTH THEATRE - Research with Y6s from North Petherton Primary School

Somerset Youth Theatre's report is shown in Appendix 2, please follow this link to see the animated findings: [SYT's Youth Consultation report: N. Petherton/ Hestercombe LCN](#)

This research from Somerset Youth Theatre provides valuable insights into the ambitions and inspirations of the next generation and will help shape and improve future youth services in North Petherton.

Findings from a qualitative study conducted with Year 6 students, gathered through drama and improvisation, discussions and creative activity and brainstorming sessions. The research was carried out by Somerset Youth Theatre CIC with 56 children, ages 10-11, and their teachers, in North Petherton. The aim of the study was to explore students' imaginative ideas, aspirations, and interests regarding SYT's '*Cheers Drive!*' project, part of Somerset Youth Theatre's longer term vision for creative, cultural and open access opportunities for rural youth. The research has been used to feed into and inform the development of Hestercombe LCN *HYPE* project - both providing opportunities for young people in rural areas, in partnership with local LCN's, town and parish councils.

THURLOXTON PARISH Population: 211 YP <15: 35 as %age of pop: 16.6%

Thurloxtton Parish (Questionnaires completed)

Number of Young People	Male/Female/Prefer not to say	Ages	Current activities	Activities they may be interested in	Transport	Barriers
1	1 / 0 / 0	1 x (17-18)	Sports Clubs	Interested in more sports clubs	Some issues with transport when parents working	Transport

Only one young man completed a survey from Thurloxtton, they were between ages 17 and 18, they currently attend sports clubs but would be interest in more sports activities. Barriers to attending more clubs would be transport as parents sometime busy working on not able to transport them.

BOOMBOX VISIT TO THURLOXTON

One session at Thurloxtton Fruit Farm was organised on the 2nd July, where 9 young people attended.

Comment: The fruit farm was an ideal spot for the Boom Box as it combined activity with fruit picking and attracted a few young people from other parishes. Again we would encourage the provision of transport, either organised through parents or the council for any young people to access the provision at the hubs.

DURSTON PARISH Population: 128 YP <15: 11 as %age of pop: 8.6%

Comment: The census data shows us that there are only 11 young people under 15 in Durston Parish, so it is impractical for the Parish Council to provide youth provision. The layout of the parish is also difficult for the Boom Box. However, the Parish Meeting were in support of allocating a budget for the young people in Durston and we would encourage the provision of transport, either organised through parents or the council for any young people to access the provision at other hubs.

WEST MONKTON PARISH Population: 5918 YP <15: 1353 as %age of pop: 22.9%

Monkton Parish – survey results

Number of Young People	Male/Female / Prefer not to say	Ages	Current activities	Activities they may be interested in	Transport	Barriers
54	14 / 23 / 17	8 x (10-11) 32 x (12-13) 11 x (14-16) 2 x (17-18) 1 x (18-25)	37 YP attend sports clubs already 11 YP attend Youth Café/Club 11 YP attend Drama or dance activities 5 YP attend Scouts/ Guides or Cadets	40 YP would be interested in sports activities 26 YP would be interested in arts/drama activities 27 YP would be interested in youth club 34 YP would be interested in activities in their local park 6 YP would like to see a Youth Worker	13 YP would benefit from transport to activities	8 YP have anxiety about meeting new people 4 YP do not have time 4 YP say there is a lack of info about clubs 4 YP have concerns about safety 4 YP struggle with transport 3 YP concerned about cost

A total of 54 young people completed surveys in West Monkton Parish, consisting of 14 males, 23 females, and 17 individuals who chose not to disclose their gender. The participants' ages ranged from 10 to 25 years: 8 were aged 10 to 11, 32 were aged 12 to 13, 11 were between 14 to 16, 2 were aged 17 to 18, and 1 was aged 18 to 25.

Among these young people, 37 already attend sports clubs, 11 participate in the Youth Café, 11 are involved in drama or dance activities, and 5 attend either Scouts, Guides, or Cadets.

Interest in community activities is high; 40 young people expressed a desire to engage in sports activities, 34 would participate in events at their local park, 26 showed interest in arts or drama activities, 27 would like to join a Youth Club, and 6 young people would appreciate the presence of a Youth Worker outside of a club setting.

Additionally, 13 young people indicated that they would benefit from support with transportation. The barriers to engagement in clubs and activities included anxiety about meeting new people (8 responses), lack of time (4), insufficient information about clubs (4), safety concerns (4), difficulties with transportation (4), and cost-related worries (3).

BOOMBOX VISITS TO WEST MONKTON PARISH

There were 4 sessions organised at the BACH in Monkton Heathfield during the school holidays, unfortunately, in 2 of these sessions no young people attended, perhaps due to the location or that families were away on holiday.

In the 2 sessions that were delivered, 4 young people engaged in the first session and 6 in the final session. At these sessions young people enjoyed learning new games and had some meaningful discussions about their aspirations and what it means to be human. Feedback on sessions was really positive and young people said that coming motivated them to get out of bed.

Comment: West Monkton PC have been fully supportive of youth provision from the outset, with the Community Clerk being a qualified youth worker. The Youth Café/ Youth Club has gone from strength to strength and the model is an example of how new youth provision can succeed. The Community Clerk has been managing the project on a day to day basis, and as a council with the General Power of Competence WMPC have been managing the grant monies on behalf of the LCN.

*Somerset Youth Theatre have completed further research with Y6s at West Monkton Primary School – the report will be ready later in September and will be added to this report.

FEEDBACK FROM YOUNG PEOPLE WHO LIVE OUTSIDE THE HESTERCOMBE LCN AREA

18 young people who attended the Boombox activities across the Hestercombe LCN lived outside of the area but this demonstrates the movement of young people between Taunton and the outside parishes and Bridgwater area into the areas within North Petherton, and the other way round. A summary of responses are listed below.

Ruishton Parish (Questionnaires completed)

Number of Young People	Male/Female/ Prefer not to say	Ages	Current activities	Activities they may be interested in	Transport	Barriers
1	0 / 1 / 0	1 x (14-16)	Sports Clubs	Interested in more sports clubs/art and drama and youth club	No issue	None

Bridgwater Area (Questionnaires completed)

Number of Young People	Male/Female/ Prefer not to say	Ages	Current activities	Activities they may be interested in	Transport	Barriers
7	4 / 3 / 0	2 x (10-11) 1 x (12-13) 3 x (14-16) 1 x (17-18)	All attend a club/group outside of school 4 YP attend sports clubs 3 YP attend dance/drama 2 YP attend Youth Club	5 YP = Sports 5 YP = Youth Club 4 YP = Activities in local park 3 YP = Drama/Arts	2 YP may need support with transport	1 YP is too busy 1YP anxiety about meeting new people 1 YP concerns about behaviour of others

Taunton Area (Questionnaires completed)

Number of Young People	Male/Female/ Prefer not to say	Ages	Current activities	Activities they may be interested in	Transport	Barriers
10	1 / 8 / 1	1 x (10-11) 6 x (12-13) 2 x (14-16) 1 x (17-18)	4 YP attend sports clubs 3 YP attend Arts/Drama activities 3 YP attend Scouts/ Cadets 4 YP attend Youth Club	5 YP interested in Sports 5 YP interested in Arts/Drama 6 YP interested in Youth Clubs 0 YP interested in activities in park	7 YP would benefit with support with transport	3 YP Anxiety about meeting new people 2 YP cost 1 YP bad language 1 YP no time

Comments:

Responses from young people who live outside of the Hestercombe LCN were similar to those within. Interestingly, young people from these areas travelled within the Hestercombe LCN to complete the survey, indicating that they move between different locations. The same will also be true of those within our LCN seeking activities in neighbouring areas, especially Taunton and Bridgwater.

DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF HYPE ACTIVITIES

Members of the Hestercombe Local Community Network Children and Young People Working Group, known as the HYPE Project, have been convening on a bi-weekly basis to coordinate activities and collect information from young individuals throughout the Local Community Network. This structured approach has facilitated progress on the project and ensured that all Parish Councils received pertinent information regarding the surveys and the Boombox Schedule, thereby promoting the initiative across all parishes within the Hestercombe Local Community Network. Each Parish Council will be encouraged to actively promote HYPE activities within their communities, using social media or by placing posters on local notice boards as they deem appropriate.

FINANCES – please refer to the schedule of expenses in Appendix One.

SUMMARY

The research work through the three approaches has given a body of information on the needs of young people across Hestercombe LCN, providing Town and most of the Parish Councils with pertinent information specific to their areas.

The plan is to continue the Somerset Youth Theatre sessions in other primary schools to gain that insight from year six pupils about their needs and the areas they live. Primary school sessions provide a captive audience based largely on their local area, for year sixes approaching adolescence.

The project now moves onto the Activity stage, based on the feedback from young people. We have initially engaged with Go Create for artwork, Adosalove for dance and SASP for multisports to deliver activities of young peoples' choosing through the existing youth clubs in North Petherton, West Monkton, and Creech St Michael. The success and impact of the activities will be reviewed leading up to Christmas when we'll plan for the rest of the year, with the same or alternative activities/ providers. We will be looking to the councils to promote the activities, and for transport to be arranged for the smaller parishes either by parents or by the parish councils.

We also plan to continue the Boombox sessions in the spring/summer/autumn school holidays in areas where the need has been identified during the Summer of 2025 (Kingston St Mary, Stockmoor, Holiday Inn and North Petherton Memorial Park).

Should smaller parishes wish to have monthly or irregular activities within their spaces then this could be organised through HYPE.

The intention is to build a model that will continue to engage young people, based on their expressed needs, which can demonstrate positive impact and is sustainable. This will encourage the LCN Councils to value, to continue funding and to enable future funding for relevant youth provision in the Hestercombe area.

Appendix One - Finances

West Monkton Parish Council

5 September 2025 (2025-2026)

Listing of Payments & Receipts in each Code for All Cost Centres

(Between 01-04-2025 and 05-09-2025)

Cost Centre | Youth and Community - LCN CYP Project

Code Number

Vchr.	Date	Description	Supplier	Vat Type	Net	Vat	Total
	01/04/2025	Carry forward of Seed Grant funding from 2024/25			1410.00		1410.00
4	01/04/2025	Receipt - SALC Grant	SALC	Z	35,000.00		35,000.00
	01/04/2025	Code transfer - WMPC Capacity			-5000.00		-5000.00
54	10/04/2025	Payment - Hype Banner	Pixartprinting	S	-62.09	-12.42	-74.51
55	10/04/2025	Payment - Bank Charges	Lloyds Bank	Z	-2.04		-2.04
57	11/04/2025	Payment - Hype Boombox	Creative Outbursts	S	-8,290.50	-1,658.10	-9,948.60
65	23/04/2025	Payment - Hype Boombox	Creative Outbursts	S	-8,290.50	-1,658.10	-9,948.60
294	09/07/2025	Payment - Youth consultation activities	Youth Unlimited	Z	-900.00		-900.00
381	13/08/2025	Payment - HYPE Project Consultation	Somerset Youth Theatre CIC	Z	-450.00		-450.00
		Subtotal for Code:	LCN CYP WG Project		£13,414.87	£-3,328.62	£10,086.25
TOTALS					£13,404.87	£-3,328.62	£10,076.25

Appendix 2



www.somersetyt.co.uk
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Qualitative & Quantitative Data Report

Children & Young People's consultation: Cheers Drive!

North Petherton Primary School (03.03.2025)

Introduction

This report presents the findings from a qualitative study conducted with Year 6 students, gathered through drama and improvisation, discussions and creative activity and brainstorming sessions. The research was carried out by Somerset Youth Theatre cic with 56 children, ages 10-11, and their teachers, in North Petherton. The aim of the study was to explore students' imaginative ideas, aspirations, and interests regarding SYT's '*Cheers Drive!*' project, part of Somerset Youth Theatre's longer term vision for creative, cultural and open access opportunities for rural youth. The research has been used to feed into and inform the development of Hestercombe LCN *HYPE* project - both providing opportunities for young people in rural areas, in partnership with local LCN's, town and parish councils. Through the study, young people were asked three key questions:

- 1.) What do you like about where you live?
- 2.) What do you dislike about where you live?
- 3.) If you could bring anything to the place that you live, what would it be (and why)?

The insights collected from the written and recorded data have been collated into key themes, shared by the Yr6 North Petherton students through the workshop.

Demographic Overview

The Youth Consultation included the voices and inputs of 56 young people from nearby and surrounding villages within the Hestercombe LCN area, representing a diverse sample from both rural and semi-rural locations, including Stockmoor, North Petherton, Morland and Willstock. Participants ranged in age from 10 to 11 years old. The majority of young people, or 62% lived in North Petherton, with 12.5% living in Willstock and Stockmoor.



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Q.1 & Q.2 Responses

Comparative to question 3 and due to the nature of the workshop, including large number of participants, time limitations of the school period, North Petherton responses to Q.1 and Q.2 were limited. Key outcomes from overall recordings included:

Q.1

- Parks
- Tesco
- Shops
- After school clubs
- Hanging out with friends/ family
- Football club at school
- Dance clubs in Bridgwater
- Cubs
- Gaming
- Alone time & time with friends/ family - noting the balance of both
- Being with friends/ socialising was the top outcome.

Q.2

Rather than what they disliked about their area, children shared that there was 'not a lot to do' in North Petherton specifically, with some mentioning travel to Bridgwater and Taunton to attend clubs. Children noted speaking to parents/ carers ("my mum looks on Facebook and tells me") to find out about opportunities.

Q.3 Key Themes Identified

We have collated the data around what Yr6 children would like to see in North Petherton into key themes, with numbers below. This is supported by quotes in the attached Audio/visual presentation, showing the pictures of the model bus, lego, plasticine, written thoughts and doodled pictures (1.2).

Fun & Entertainment (25 mentions)

- Disco / DJ / Dance floor / Dance class / Dance on tour (8)
- Pool party / Swimming pool / Water parks / Trampoline parks (6)
- Ninja warrior course / Trampolines / Gymnastics / Roller coasters (4)
- Xbox / Playstation / Fifa / Fortnite (4)
- Magic number / Private concert (2)
- Mansion (1)



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Food & Drink (20 mentions)

- Sweets / Chocolate / Slushies / Slush puppy machines / Nutella fingers (7)
- KFC / Endless Chinese takeaway / Bread and cheese / BBQ (4)
- Coca-cola / J20 / Drinks / Free drinks / Costa (5)
- Londis turns into a sweet shop (repeated) (2)
- Unlimited good / Making shop free (2)

Beauty & Fashion (9 mentions)

- Getting nails done / Get your nails done (3)
- Make-up / Hair done / Fashionable / Stylist / Superdrug (5)
- Clothes/mall/shops that teens like (1)

Toys, Games & Creative Play (10 mentions)

- Cooking / Kitchen supplies (4)
- Pens, paper, chalk, paint, needles, thread, fabric (3)
- Books / Book shop (2)
- Characters (1)

Animals & Nature (8 mentions)

- Puppy dog / Jack Russell / Dog (3)
- Animals (2)
- Fishing / Rabbiting trip (2)
- Be nice to nature (1)

Sports & Outdoor Play (10 mentions)

- Football (mentioned 4 times)
- Rugby, basketball, netball (4)
- Gym (2)

Friends & Family (9 mentions)

- Friends / Sleepovers / Always be with friends (4)
- Cousins (2)
- My family / Spend time with cousin / Me and my cousin (3)

Dreams & Imagination (12 mentions)

- Dream farm / Dream life / Dream job (5)
- Trip to heaven / Magic number (2)
- The world has peace / No school / No sickness / No fear or sadness (5)

Money & Shopping (7 mentions)

- Money (3)
- Shops / Mall / Superdrug / Fashionable places (4)

Celebrities & Music (6 mentions)

- Taylor Swift / Sabrina Carpenter / Drake / Diddy (4)
- Singers (1)
- Ronaldo (1)

Travel & Experiences (6 mentions)

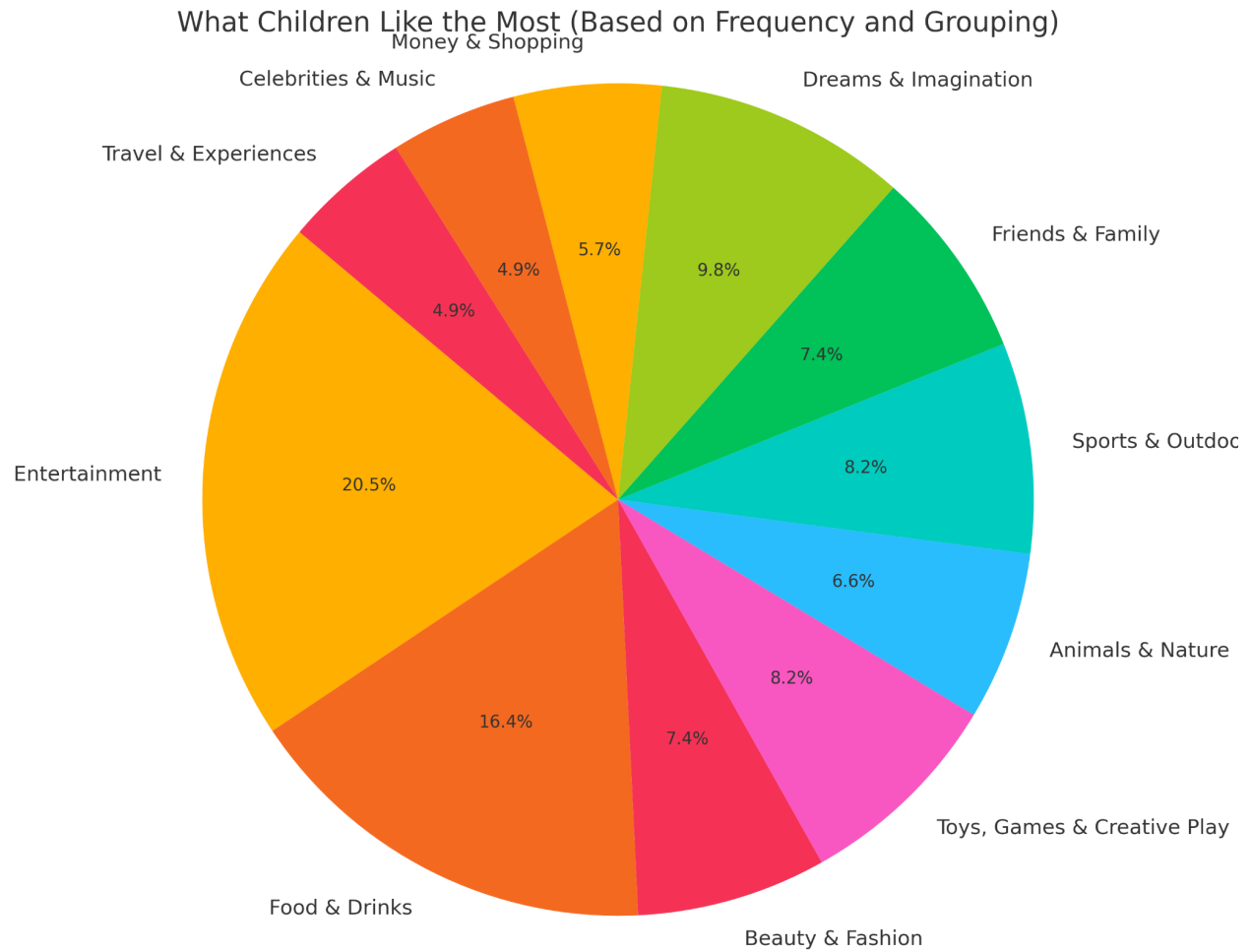
- Travel / Fly / Go places (3)



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- Plane (1)
- Fishing/rabbiting trip with a party bus to Devon and France (1)
- Train station (1)





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Analysis

Based on outputs from SYT's Youth Consultation in North Petherton through 'Cheers Drive' workshops, we have collated the following implications and recommended actions for future planning of youth activity.

1. Fun & Entertainment (25%)

Implication: Children communicated thrive in energetic, social environments that stimulate fun and creativity.

Recommended Action: Organise events such as discos, DJ nights, game zones, and pop-up party spaces. Offer activity that involves dance, play and social interaction within the North Petherton area and Hestercombe LCN.

2. Food & Drink (20%)

Implication: Food was really important to the children - shown in the lego and plasticine models! They expressed it as a joyful, connecting experience and part of shared memories.

Recommended Action: Consider incorporating fun food experiences into future programming—snack bars, slushie machines, and themed food days (e.g., 'Sweet Shop Day' or 'Street Food Night').

3. Dreams & Imagination (12%)

Implication: The children at North Petherton Primary were very imaginative, dreaming of ideal worlds filled with hope and positivity.

Recommended Action: Offer programmes that encourage storytelling, imaginative play, and visioning (e.g., dream boards, "design your perfect world" workshops, and creative writing clubs).

4. Toys, Creative Play & Arts (10%)

Implication: Through the workshop delivery, we witnessed how creative play supports emotional well-being, social and cognitive development.

Recommended Action: Offer art corners, cooking and reading areas. Offer regular art/craft sessions and creative challenges.



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5. Sports & Outdoor Play (10%)

Implication: Physical play - football, rugby, running around the park, provides the children with a vehicle for fun, teamwork, and health.

Recommended Action: Maintain and promote access to football, rugby, and basketball areas. Include regular tournaments, girls football, mixed games, and a variety of physical activities.

6. Friends & Family (9%)

Implication: Social bonds with friends and family were a recurring part of the consultation, for many of the young people.

Recommended Action: Create programmes centered around friendship and family - helping build confidence and connection.

7. Beauty & Fashion (9%)

Implication: Self-expression through appearance is emerging as an important part of identity and for a particular group caused great excitement in the workshop!

Recommended Action: Host beauty and fashion-related sessions (e.g., nail art stations, dress-up zones, 'dress-to-impress' themed, confidence through style workshops).

8. Animals & Nature (8%)

Implication: The children in North Petherton, and throughout the research project as a whole, communicate a real connection to animals and value the natural world.

Recommended Action: Partnerships with local farms or animal shelters. Create programmes involving gardening, nature walks, and animal care.

9. Money & Shopping (7%)

Implication: Yr 6 children communicated a developing sense of independence and ownership through interest in money and shopping.

Recommended Action: Run mini-enterprise activities, market days, or budgeting games. Set up a youth-run snack shack or mini store.

10. Celebrities & Music (6%)

Implication: Pop culture was a major influence and talk around Youtube and music was evident through the workshop.



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Recommended Action: Organise music-themed nights, music talent shows, and lip-sync battles, spoken word. Use popular music in delivered activities.

11. Travel & Experiences (6%)

Implication: Interestingly, children expressed a crave for adventure, novelty, and the idea of exploring the world.

Recommended Action: Offer local trips/excursions, “world explorer” themes. Include story-based journeys that tap into adventure.

Conclusion

The data gathered highlights a blend of imaginative, practical, and aspirational desires, offering valuable insights that could shape future youth-focused initiatives and community engagement projects among the participants. The themes identified suggest a strong inclination towards entertainment, social bonding, and imaginative play beyond traditional clubs. The approach to the youth consultation, using Drama, creativity and imagination to gather youth voice, opened up an expanded possibility of provision - through a wider, blue-sky perspective, to be considered alongside the traditional methods of surveys with multiple options.

The insight of this report, alongside other research carried out in the LCN area with a variety of ages, can help inform the development of future youth-focused community initiatives, creative projects, and recreational spaces. It is important that delivery aligns with the interests of children and young people in North Petherton. Somerset Youth Theatre cic is thankful to use our skills as an organisation to be part of the research and representation of young people’s voices through the CYP consultation.