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Young People's Leisure Time 'Post-Covid'

- *We need more stuff to do and more places to go*



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**CENTRE FOR RESEARCH
IN HEALTH & SOCIETY**

Overview

- Consultation in Copeland in Cumbria, a district with high levels of deprivation
- May to August 2021
- Purpose was to understand what activities, events, facilities, or services 11 -18 year olds might want to take part in out of school hours to boost recovery from Covid.

Methods

Online survey

813 survey responses from five secondary schools (18%)

Mixed demographics (11 to 18).

- What did you do outside school before Covid?
- What three things would you most like to do after Covid and why?

Workshops

100 workshop participants in 10 organisations

Mixed demographics (8 to 20)

- Can you explain the survey findings?
- What is missing from them?
- How should spending be prioritised?

Before Covid

- Young people mostly took part in informal activities that were social or sport oriented.
- Participation in organised activities opportunities was very low due to:

Social barriers, access issues, personal interest, knowledge.

Range of 29 different activities young people would like to access, the 10 most popular of which were:

- Sports activities x 35 (229)
- Sports facilities (190)
- Retail and hospitality (96)
- Activities general (89)
- Social spaces x 9 (85)

- Educational opportunities (80)
- Parks and green space (65)
- Outdoor activities (64)
- Leisure x 7 (52)
- Arts and crafts (41)



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Making sure everyone around you
has something to do and is not
just bored

I would like it if there were
rural crafts available

Opportunities for finding out
about opportunities such as
courses, exchange students, help
and advice, the studying of
other topics not taught in school

Safe place to meet & be social
inside when it's wet & cold
outside

I would like to have more
public parks and quiet
places to meet with my
friends.

Explanations for survey results

- Popularity paradox - *The ones with lower scores are because not as many people would benefit from them and so not as many young people voted for them*
- Cost - *People who can't afford transport can't access activities either*

- Access and availability of activities in each town - *We need lower cost transport with more bus stops that run later into the night*
- Representative of mainstream youth and not inclusive - *There is nothing for people with mental health difficulties. Those with mental health difficulties may struggle to leave the house in the first place*

Missing from the survey results:

- youth focused events
- online collaborative gaming
- traditional gaming and activities
- spaces to charge phones or get help
- outdoor exercise equipment

- volunteering opportunities
- creative arts activities
- a youth café and clubs
- public toilets
- a voucher scheme.



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Festivals and celebrations – there are less of these now even after covid than there used to be

We need phone booths so we can call home in an emergency when our phones are flat or broken

The other thing we could have would be a games centre with consoles in it so people could come and play games together

A voucher to help everyone afford to go places would be good use of the money

We need more support to get jobs, we lack work experience and that really sets us back. We need more than one work experience at school too

Something like a youth club where we can talk freely and get support if we need to

Prioritising spending:

Different views and consensus on;

- Multi-use spaces or projects
- Spaces to gather safely outside
- Activities to promote mental and physical health
- Educational and employment opportunities.

To be honest, if I had the money I would just buy a building and fill it with things for people to do and for people to eat

Spending the money on people who need help, social spaces where people can talk and can support their mental health

Doesn't have to be something new, maybe spend the money on things we already have



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Council commissions £55,000:

- Improved communications about activities
- A youth festival
- Multiple youth spaces
- Volunteer opportunities
- Leisure opportunities and venues
- Creative activity opportunities

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