

In November 2021, we started work with the first of the Alternate Provisions to understand what is important to the young people who attend. We've focussed on getting to know each other up to present, but from January 2022, we are moving on to helping shape and review services. Here are the highlights so far...

We've worked with a small group of KS4 young people

We've played quizzes and games, eaten snacks and talked and listened...

To really understand what things matter to each of the group.

This has included our interests, hobbies, things we know we are good at and the things which we find a challenge.

So far, its been about building relationships and getting to know each other.

We are starting to do some work that will help shape services offered to help and support young people.

THE LIVED EXPERIENCES, THOUGHTS WISHES AND FEELINGS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCE ATTEND ALTERNATE PROVISIONS



WHAT REALLY MATTERS, WHAT DO WE ENJOY, WHAT'S MISSING? IT'S ALL UNDERSTANDING OUR LIVED EXPERIENCE

What have we learned?
Here are the most commonly occurring themes

It's like they can see what I'm good at here. In my last school they didn't do that. They just looked at what I didn't do or got wrong"

We like our school and the people who support us, because they see our strengths and recognise the things we do well. It's really easy to point out what isn't possible or what people can't do; but rephrasing this to what is achievable and seeing our strengths is really important.

"I can recite the questions on the form, that one they bring and ask you, when you've been missing. I know them in order...[goes on to recite in a 'posh' voice]"

We can take risks-it's what young people do! We feel we are well aware of the dangers. We can be frustrated that people don't listen to our views about risk or let us make our own decisions. Sometimes we feel we take risks, like going missing because it gives us space to think, saves us facing things that can be really hard or because we are making our own choice to do something. Some key decisions in our lives was made for us, by other people-like where we live, who we can spend time with and having a partner. Sometimes taking risks makes us feel 'more in control' of our choices.

"I'd get rid of my family forever-they 'd go straight in room 101"

Our lives are complex. When things are challenging outside of school, things can become very difficult at in school. We've experienced complex relationships. Helping us to manage these challenges and supporting us through the hard times is essential. Listen to the things we say, make note of the times when traumas and crises have happened. Work with us to get through this.

WE'VE LISTENED TO THIS... SO WHAT NEXT?

- It's a great start understanding these thoughts, wishes and feelings, but we need to work together to make changes! We will now develop project work in partnership with group, which is led by the young people; what do they want to change the most? What can we work on together?
- We will share these key messages with our Decision Makers and Commissioners (the people who 'buy' our services). So that these issues can be considered in how we do things moving forward.
- We are developing our Youth Offer ("Places to go, People to See, Things to Do"), working on our Mental Health and Wellbeing Services and Transforming how we deliver our services and work with people who experience SEND. Lets see how we can continue the conversation and influence this.

