

# Leeds Community Anchor Network :

## Listening Exercise Findings Report year two

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# Contents

|                                                   |           |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Foreword</b>                                   | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Executive summary</b>                          | <b>4</b>  |
| All themes from focus groups                      | 4         |
| <b>Background</b>                                 | <b>5</b>  |
| Who was involved?                                 | 6         |
| How did the listening exercise work?              | 7         |
| <b>Findings</b>                                   | <b>10</b> |
| Equality monitoring                               | 10        |
| Valued assets in communities                      | 17        |
| Valued assets in communities by other communities | 19        |
| Focus group feedback and opportunities            | 20        |
| Recommendations for future listening exercises    | 31        |
| Analysis by ward                                  | 33        |
| <b>Next steps</b>                                 | <b>69</b> |
| <b>Appendices</b>                                 | <b>70</b> |

# Foreword

This piece of research, led by the Leeds Community Anchor Network (LCAN), isn't just a report. It's a conversation – ongoing, growing, and deeply rooted in place. And crucially, it has been facilitated by community anchors and our local ecosystems of partners – local organisations that are trusted, embedded, and hold both a deep local knowledge and a city-wide perspective. These are not organisations who come and go. We stay. We care. We're part of the neighbourhoods we serve, and that gives this project its integrity.

We approached this work with an Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) lens. That means we didn't ask what's wrong. We asked what's strong. We didn't come to fix. We wanted to listen. And when people spoke, we heard not only their views, but also their visions and their capacity to lead change.

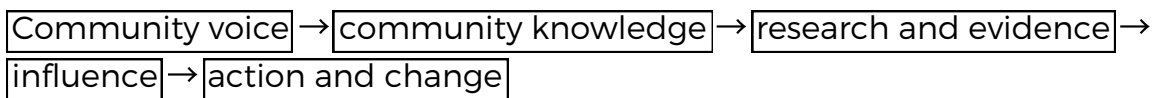
As we complete another year of the city-wide LCAN Listening Process, we want it to lay a strong foundation of community, recognising that community voice and community knowledge needs to be at the heart of the process from the outset. The ambition isn't another one-off consultation. It's to develop a way of listening that becomes embedded within communities and community anchors across the city. Listening becomes part of how we work, rather than something we occasionally do.

Too often organisations come into communities, collect information and take it away. We want the knowledge, skills and capacity to remain within communities – supporting local people and organisations to listen, understand what they're hearing and use that insight themselves.

People need to see what happened because they spoke. Communities shouldn't simply provide information for somebody else to interpret. They should be involved in making sense of what we're hearing, identifying priorities, deciding what happens next and, wherever possible, being part of the solution.

A key aim from this exercise is that the knowledge and insight that comes from communities taking part is then used to drive wider action, policy and decisions. If LCAN can develop a strong community listening infrastructure, how do we connect what communities are telling us with universities, research, Leeds City Council and policy-making? And crucially, how do we make sure communities remain involved throughout that process rather than simply being the source of the original information?

The opportunity is to create a genuine route from:



It is from the findings in this report that we aim to continue the above route, reflecting the different voices in communities so that their knowledge, insight and experiences can ultimately lead to action and change that comes from the community for the benefit of the community.

From this listening, key areas have been re-explored and expanded upon that we're keen to also explore further with partners:

- Increased communication – what's happening locally?
- Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and improve community safety
- More activities, opportunities and support for children & young people
- More local community-led activities to increase unity and reduce isolation
- Development of local green spaces for communities to utilise
- Improved public transport to increase connectivity
- Improved high street and infrastructure that better-serves communities

We don't have all the answers. But we believe – deeply – that by working with communities, and with each other, extraordinary things are possible.

So as you read this document, we invite you to listen too – with openness, curiosity, and the same belief we carry: that every voice has value, and that change rooted in community and strength is not only possible – it's already happening.

Warmly,

**Leeds Community Anchor Network**

# Executive summary

This report summarises the second year of a city-wide Community Listening Exercise conducted by the Leeds Community Anchor Network (LCAN) from November 2025 to April 2026. LCAN, a network of 29 locally rooted organisations covering all 33 wards in Leeds, serves as a vital bridge between grassroots organisations, local communities and decision-makers in Leeds.

This is a follow up to the previous year one listening exercise which took place from March to August 2024.

## All themes from focus groups

- **Increased communication – what’s happening locally?**
- **Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and improve community safety**
- **More activities, opportunities and support for children & young people**
- **More local community-led activities to increase unity and reduce isolation**
- **Development of local green spaces for communities to utilise**
- **Improved public transport to increase connectivity**
- **Improved high street and infrastructure that better-serves communities**

# Background

This report outlines the key themes from the second year of a community listening exercise conducted by Leeds Community Anchor Network between November and April 2026 across the city. This is a direct follow up to the first year Listening Exercise that took place between March and August 2024, with a full report and findings available from this exercise[1].

Leeds Community Anchor Network (LCAN) is a network of locally-rooted organisations covering all 33 wards in Leeds. These organisations act as the 'gateway' in their community, connecting and facilitating collaboration between smaller and grassroots organisations in the area, to better serve their local communities, with an emphasis on collaboration not competition.

LCAN designed and planned an annual community listening exercise as a core element of their network activity. The Listening Exercise provides a regular opportunity to hear from local communities on what they value about where they live, strengths and assets in the community and ideas for making change. The primary aim of the Listening Exercise is to inform and shape the activities of LCAN as a network, and of the Community Anchor organisations themselves, ensuring that these reflect and respond to community priorities. The process enables us to ask questions of community members at a hyper-local level but then analyse responses and track trends; this will give LCAN a mandate to advocate for change to decision makers at city / strategic level. This aligns with our belief in the wisdom of communities, and that those facing the most challenging situations hold the key to developing sustainable solutions.

The Listening Exercise involves all wards of the city, with Community Anchor organisations carrying out listening activities in their own ward in a collaborative, city-wide effort to hear community voices from across Leeds.

This report outlines findings from the second year of the Listening Exercise, which was funded by the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

**[\[1\] Community Anchor Network Listening Exercise findings report](#)**

# Who was involved?

The Listening Exercise was carried out by 29 Community Anchor organisations who gathered views from their communities through structured activities. These views were recorded and subsequently returned to Voluntary Action Leeds who then collated, processed and thematically analysed these findings.

Community Anchor organisations listened to people who attended their regular activities as well as seeking out new communities and voices to hear from through collaborative working with other groups and organisations.

Year 2 saw more than double the amount of community members engaged in the Listening Exercise when compared to year 1, significantly increasing the amount of community voices that had the opportunity to be heard. A breakdown of the equality monitoring information from the people who took part in the Listening Exercise is available on page 13.

The organisations involved across each ward, and the number of people who took part in listening activities were:

| Ward or area                | Organisation                                           | No. of postcards completed | No. of focus groups completed | No. of focus group attendees (total) |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Adel and Wharfedale         | OPAL                                                   | 191                        | 2                             | 23                                   |
| Alwoodley                   | MAECare/Moortown West Community Association            | 153                        | 2                             | 8                                    |
| Ardsley & Robin Hood        | Groundwork                                             | 140                        | 2                             | 26                                   |
| Armley                      | New Wortley Community Centre (on behalf of Armley CAN) | 185                        | 3                             | 48                                   |
| Beeston                     | Hamara                                                 | 70                         | 2                             | 20                                   |
| Bramley & Stanningley       | Barca                                                  | 141                        | 3                             | 28                                   |
| Burmantofts & Richmond Hill | BRHCAN (Community Learning Partnerships)               | 209                        | 4                             | 36                                   |
| Calverley & Farsley         | Pudsey Community Project                               | 140                        | 2                             | 12                                   |
| Chapel Allerton             | Black Health Initiative                                | 100                        | 2                             | 16                                   |
| Crossgates & Whinmoor       | Cross Gates & District Good Neighbours Scheme          | 145                        | 2                             | 26                                   |
| Farnley and Wortley         | Armley Helping Hands                                   | 123                        | 5                             | 106                                  |
| Garforth & Swillington      | Garforth Net                                           | 129                        | 3                             | 20                                   |
| Gipton                      | Space 2                                                | 108                        | 1                             | 5                                    |
| Guisley & Rawdon            | AVSED                                                  | 144                        | 2                             | 27                                   |
| Harehills                   | Give a Gift                                            | 161                        | 1                             | 30                                   |
| Harewood                    | Community Matters                                      | 59                         | 2                             | 23                                   |
| Headingley & Hyde Park      | Rainbow Junktion                                       | 194                        | 2                             | 22                                   |
| Holbeck                     | Holbeck Together                                       | 107                        | 2                             | 24                                   |
| Horsforth                   | Belong                                                 | 152                        | 3                             | 15                                   |
| Hunslet and Riverside       | St Lukes Cares/Hamara                                  | 211                        | 3                             | 37                                   |
| Killingbeck & Seacroft      | LS14 Trust on behalf of We Are Seacroft                | 143                        | 4                             | 55                                   |

|                           |                                                        |             |           |            |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Kippax & Methley          | Garforth Net                                           | 125         | 3         | 19         |
| Kirkstall                 | Kirkstall Valley Development Trust                     | 151         | 6         | 50         |
| Little London & Woodhouse | Leeds African Communities Charity Trust (LACCT)/Oblong | 119         | 1         | 12         |
| Middleton Park            | Health for All/DAZL                                    | 161         | 3         | 44         |
| Moortown                  | InterAct/Local Community Spaces Moortown Anchor        | 119         | 2         | 13         |
| Morley North              | Groundwork                                             | 140         | 2         | 8          |
| Morley South              | Groundwork                                             | 141         | 2         | 23         |
| Otley and Yeadon          | Otley Action for Older People                          | 192         | 2         | 18         |
| Pudsey                    | Pudsey Community Project                               | 140         | 2         | 12         |
| Rothwell                  | CROWN                                                  | 70          | 2         | 22         |
| Roundhay                  | Brackenwood Community Centre                           | 143         | 2         | 25         |
| Temple Newsam             | HOPE                                                   | 151         | 2         | 19         |
| Wetherby                  | Community Matters                                      | 59          | 2         | 47         |
| Weetwood                  | OPAL                                                   | 191         | 2         | 29         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              |                                                        | <b>4907</b> | <b>85</b> | <b>948</b> |

## How did the listening exercise work?

The Listening Exercise was designed by LCAN as a way of gathering insight from communities across Leeds that builds upon the expertise that Community Anchor organisations already have.

### Training

Year one of the Listening Exercise had seen individuals from all Community Anchor organisations complete training and development around active listening in partnership with the Leeds Poverty Truth Commission (delivered by Together for Peace). The purpose of this training was to provide some consistency across Community Anchor organisations, whilst allowing each organisation to use methods and approaches that they know work in their communities. The training covered:

- Listening well – moving from listening to the things we want to hear towards generative listening
- Listening in groups, creating space to hear all voices and being mindful of different contexts
- Moving conversations from listening to words to acting together

The methodology involved two structured activities in each ward; postcard activities and focus groups.

## Postcards

Postcard activities made up the first step for Community Anchor organisations in gathering views from communities.

The questions included in these postcards were considerably different from year one, with year two attempting to convey a sense of progression and new conversations taking place.

Anchors undertook brief 5-10 minute discussions where residents were asked two short questions, with Community Anchors recording notes from these on a postcard (appendix A):

- **Do you agree with what people said last year? What else would you like to add?**
- **If you could bring together your skills and the skills and experience of local people, what could we change together?**

These questions were intentionally asset-focused, to reflect the values of LCAN by purposely seeking to highlight the strengths of communities, what communities can achieve collectively, and identify what change could be supported by the third sector (in this case, local anchors networks) and by the local or regional authority.

Participants in the postcard-based activity were then invited to participate in a focus group in order to gain more in-depth views from the participants and to have conversations focused on between three to five particular themes that participants had chosen as the most important in their community.

Community Anchor organisations would then summarise the key points from all their postcard discussions, add their own reflections and return this summary document (appendix B) to Voluntary Action Leeds.

## Focus groups

Focus groups were structured in a way that both asked participants specific questions but focussed on particular themes they had flagged up in their area. Questions in focus groups were posed as follows for each theme identified:

- Opportunities (What does change look like?)
- Ideas and Solutions
- Each focus group was asked to summarise their discussion as a 'lift question':

***“If you had 30 seconds with the head of Leeds City Council (or whoever is the decision maker in this scenario) what would you tell them about what you have talked about today?”***

Having this structure coupled with the 'themes' in each area meant that all groups could address opportunities specific to their communities whilst also making it easier to compare findings from different groups and establish where there are key similarities and differences.

The data from these focus groups and postcards was subsequently collected and shared with Voluntary Action Leeds to analyse the feedback and present overall findings from across the Listening Exercise.

# Findings

## Equality Monitoring

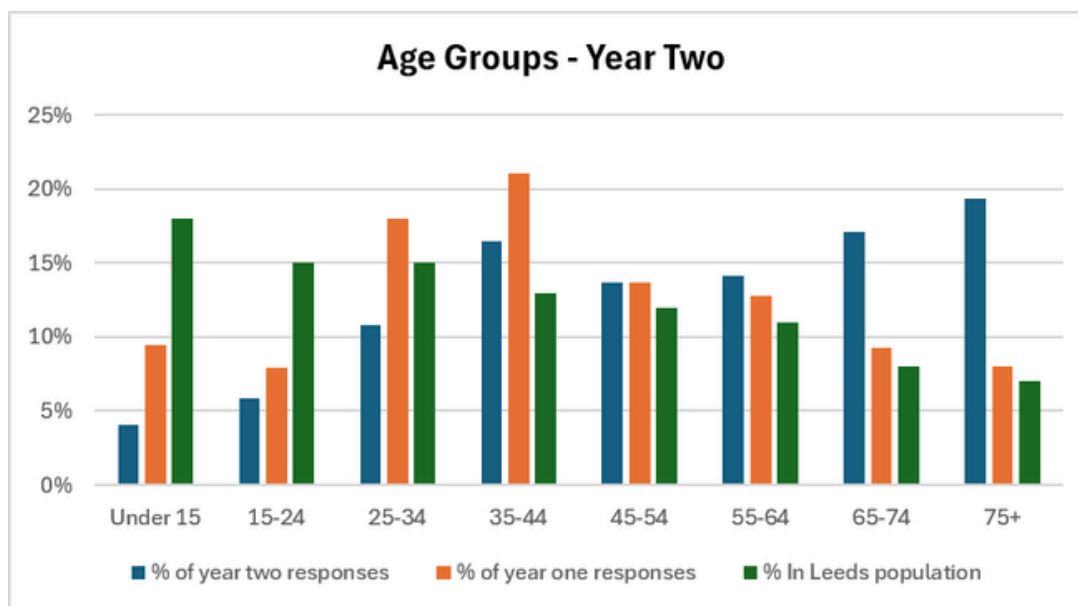
People who took part in the Listening Exercise postcard activity were invited to share some information about themselves for equality monitoring purposes.

In this section of the report, responses have been compared to data from the 2021 Census, from people living in Leeds. As noted throughout, there is not always data available from the census that is directly comparable. However, this has been included to give an indication of how representative those that community anchor organisations listened to were of the Leeds population, and to identify any groups who had not been included.

### Age groups of participants

As with the previous year, community anchor organisations listened to proportionally fewer people under the age of 25 when compared to the general population, Year 2 also saw proportionally fewer participants between 25-34 involved, compared to more in Year 1, meaning all ages between Under 15s and 25-34 were under-represented.

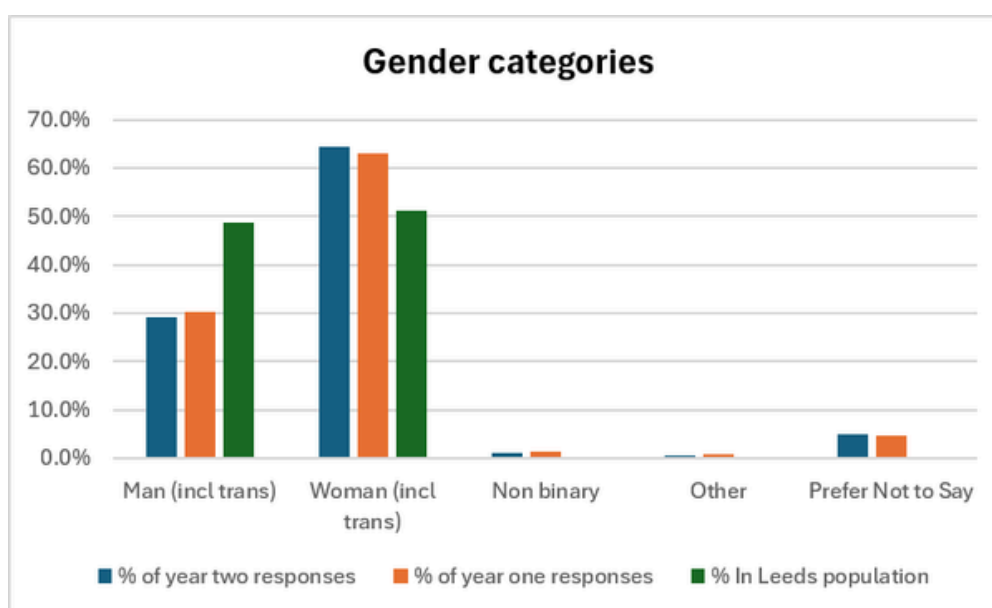
Conversely there was an increase in the percentage of participants involved from ages 55-64 upwards, with all these age categories representing a significantly higher proportion when compared to the average in Leeds.



## Gender of participants

The gender split of participants in year 2 of the Listening Exercise was near-identical to the previous year, with less than a percentage difference in each category. This meant that, as with last year, community anchor organisations listened to proportionally more people who identified as women, and proportionally fewer people who identified as male.

Wider gender categories were also included in equality monitoring forms such as 'Non-Binary' and 'Other' which accounted for 1% and 0.5% of the respective participants. 5% of the participants meanwhile answered 'prefer not to say' with regards to their identified gender.



## Ethnicity of participants

As part of the postcard activity, participants were invited to select their identified ethnicity. Unlike the previous year, where participants could write whatever they felt best described their ethnicity, they had to select a category that they felt best fit their ethnic background.

All responses have been included in the following table and graph:

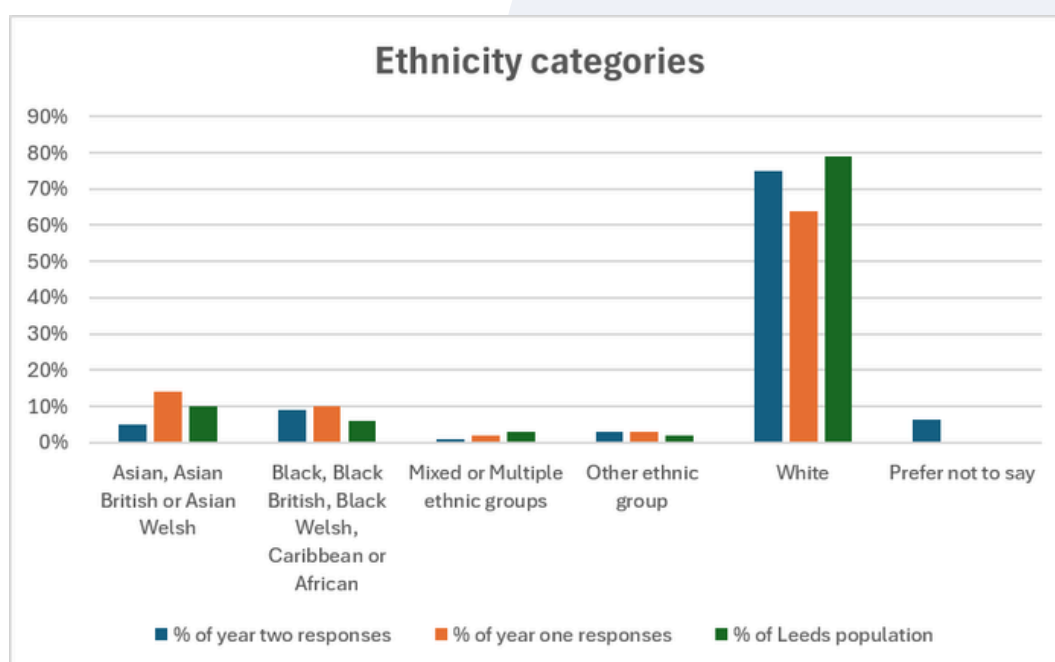
| Ethnicity                                                      | Frequency  | Percentage |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh</b>                     | <b>207</b> | <b>5%</b>  |
| Asian British                                                  | 63         | 1.4%       |
| Asian Indian                                                   | 30         | 0.7%       |
| Asian Pakistani                                                | 41         | 0.9%       |
| Asian Other (Chinese, South Asian, Sri Lankan etc.)            | 72         | 1.9%       |
| Asian                                                          | 1          | 0%         |
| <b>Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African</b> | <b>403</b> | <b>9%</b>  |
| Black African                                                  | 125        | 2.8%       |
| Black British                                                  | 180        | 4%         |
| Black Caribbean                                                | 71         | 1.6%       |
| Black Other                                                    | 27         | 0.6%       |

|                                        |             |             |
|----------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups</b> | <b>64</b>   | <b>1.4%</b> |
| White & Asian                          | 20          | 0.4%        |
| White & Black                          | 47          | 1.1%        |
| <b>Other ethnic group</b>              | <b>57</b>   | <b>3%</b>   |
| Gypsy/Traveller/Roma                   | 8           | 0.002%      |
| Other                                  | 44          | 2%          |
| <b>White</b>                           | <b>3338</b> | <b>75%</b>  |
| White British                          | 3235        | 72.7%       |
| White European                         | 82          | 1.8%        |
| White Irish                            | 21          | 0.5%        |
| <b>Prefer not to say</b>               | <b>289</b>  | <b>6.5%</b> |

Community anchor organisations listened proportionally to more people with Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African ethnicities along with people who identified under ‘other’ ethnicities.

Meanwhile, anchors listened to proportionally fewer White people overall, along with fewer people from Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh ethnicities and from mixed or multi-ethnic backgrounds.

6% of respondents meanwhile selected ‘prefer not to say’ when asked to select their ethnic background.

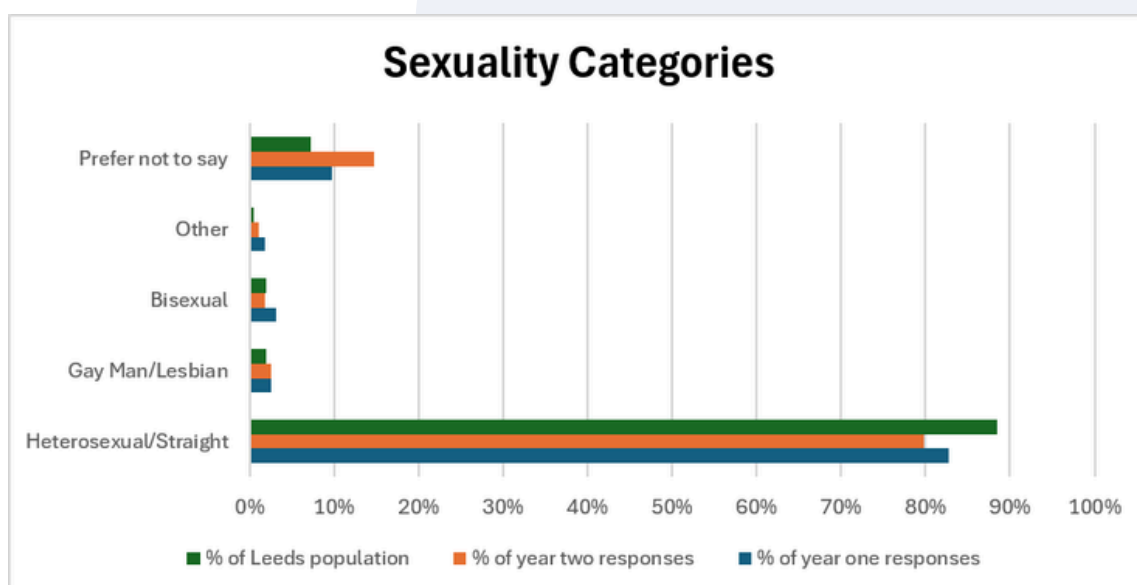


## Sexual orientation

Participants were asked “how would you describe your sexuality?” and given the following options:

- Bisexual
- Gay or lesbian
- Heterosexual/Straight
- Lesbian/Gay Woman
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Community anchor organisations listened to proportionally fewer people who described their sexuality as heterosexual/straight, than those who answered the same way in the 2021 census. Proportionally more people in the listening exercise said they would prefer not to say.



*N.B. Census data only captures whether people identify as homosexual, rather than a gay man or lesbian/gay woman, and therefore these categories have been grouped on the graph above to provide a clearer comparison.*

## Disability

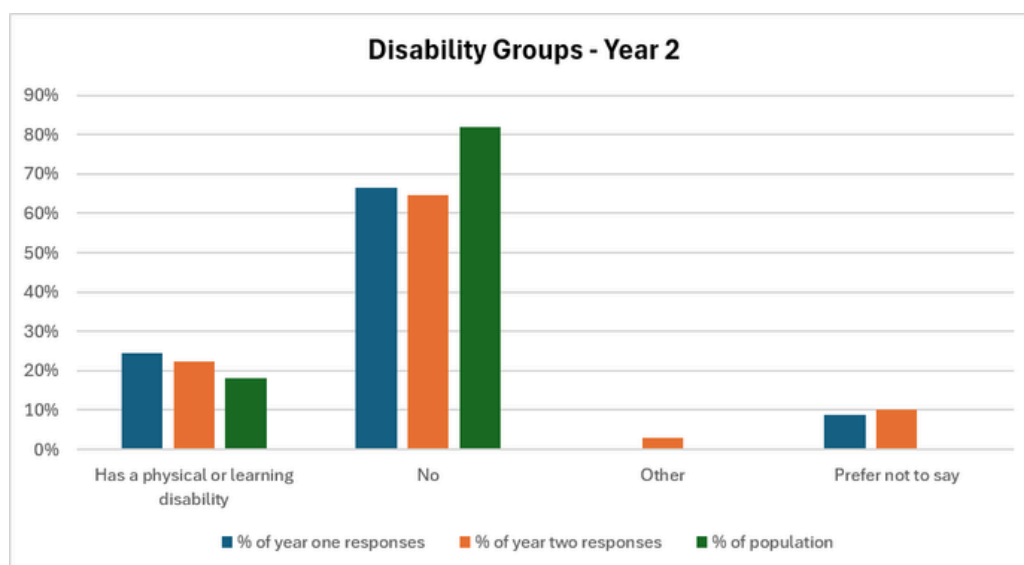
Participants were asked “do you consider yourself to have a disability?” and given the following options:

- Yes, learning disability
- Yes, physical disability
- No
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Responses were:

| Do you consider yourself to have a disability? | Frequency | % of respondents |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Yes, learning disability                       | 236       | 5%               |
| Yes, physical disability                       | 762       | 17%              |
| No                                             | 2875      | 65%              |
| Other                                          | 132       | 3%               |
| Prefer not to say                              | 453       | 10%              |
| Grand Total                                    | 4458      |                  |

Census data does not differentiate between physical and learning disabilities, but records whether or not someone is disabled under the Equality Act and whether their day-to-day activities are impacted a little or a lot. For the purpose of comparison, the data used here is from people in Leeds who have a long-term condition, including those considered disabled under the Equality Act and those who are not. This will not be a fully accurate comparison.



Community anchor organisations listened to slightly more people proportionally who had a physical or learning disability, with 5.3% of participants indicated that they had a learning disability while 17% ticked that they had a physical disability.

# Valued assets in communities

Throughout year one of the Listening Exercise, people named specific assets that they valued in their communities. These ranged from parks and green spaces to community and public buildings.

This was also the case in year two, with a number of assets named that were not previously mentioned in the year one Listening Exercise.

To reflect this, we have included the new assets mentioned below, with assets previously mentioned in year one included in italics while year two assets are listed in regular text:

## **Armley:**

*New Wortley Community Centre*  
*Armley Festival*  
*Wortley Recreation Ground*  
*Armley Park*  
*Armley Library*  
*Armley Action Team*  
*Charlie Cake Park*  
**ARLFC**  
**Jailey Field**  
**Gotts Park**  
**Multi-Use-Games-Area at Oak Road Recreation Ground**

## **Holbeck & Hunslet**

*Holbeck Together*  
*Holbeck Moor Park,*  
*SlungLow*  
*Holbeck Gala*  
*JamYang Buddhist Centre*  
*Holbeck In Bloom*  
*Youth VibeZ*  
*St Lukes Cares*  
*Holbeck festival*  
**South Leeds Urban Task Force**

## **Gipton & Harehills:**

*The Old Fire Station,*  
*Space2*  
*CATCH*  
*Henry Barran Centre*  
*Gipton Together*  
*Church of the Epiphany*  
*Shine*  
**Fearnville Fields**  
**Killingbeck Fields**

## **Beeston:**

*Hamara Centre*  
*Bengal Square*  
*Beeston Library*

## **Roundhay:**

*Brackenwood*  
*Community Association*  
**PACT meetings**

## **Headingley & Hyde Park**

*Rainbow Junktion*  
*Bedford Fields*  
*Woodhouse Moor*  
**Sparkling Community**  
**Hyde Park Christmas**  
**The Cardigan Centre**  
**Left Bank**

## **Seacroft:**

*LS14 Trust*  
*SCOT/Denis Healey Centre*  
*Kentmere Community Centre*  
*Chapel FM*  
*Rein Park*  
**Imagination Station**  
**The Green**

## **Garforth, Kippax & Methley:**

*Garforth NET*  
*Garforth Linesway*  
**Incredible Edible**  
**Garforth in Bloom**  
**Kippax in Bloom**  
**Kippax Wildlife Corridor**

## **Chapel Allerton:**

*Potternewton Park*  
**Black Music Festival (BMF)**  
**LWC**

## **Alwoodley:**

*MAECare*  
*Wigton Moor Church*  
*Moortown Methodist Centre*  
**Alwoodley Wombles**

### **Pudsey**

*Pudsey Community  
Project  
Pudsey Carnival  
Pudsey Leisure centre  
Pudsey Scarecrow  
Festival  
Music Box Festival  
Bands in the Park*

### **Guisley and Rawdon**

*Guisley Senior Citizens*

### **Ardsley and Robin Hood**

*Ardsley Reservoir  
Cherry Tree Walk*

### **Temple Newsam**

*Matalan car park  
Wombles  
Halton in Bloom  
New Hub at the library*

### **Moortown**

*St. Alfred's Field  
Moortown Baptist Church  
Tree Tops Community Centre  
The community noticeboard  
Area behind Stonegate Road*

### **Bramley and Stanningley**

*Bramley Library  
Bramley Shopping Centre  
Bramley Baths  
Bramley Parks  
Canal  
Bramley St. Peter's  
Bramley Wombles  
Bramley Arts Festival  
Bramley Community  
Centre*

### **Morley North & South**

*Sandpit  
Scatcherd Park*

### **Otley and Yeadon**

*Otley Action for Older  
People  
Otley Park  
Otley Carnival  
The Chevin  
Otley Market  
Otley Action Groups*

### **Weetwood**

*OPAL  
Welcome in Community  
Centre*

### **Wetherby**

*WiSE  
Wetherby U3A  
Boston Spa Green Group*

### **Middleton Park**

*Middleton Park  
DFOM group  
Urban Bike Park  
Hunslet Club  
Cranmore & Raylands Centre  
BITMO  
DAZL*

### **Calverley and Farsley**

*Farsley Women's Institute  
Canal  
Farsley Library  
Sunny Bank Mills  
Farsley Celtic  
Farsley Festival  
Farmer's Market*

### **Farnley and Wortley**

*Armley Helping Hands  
Western Flats Bowling  
Club  
Farnley & Wortley LCAN  
Facebook page*

### **Adel and Wharfedale**

*OPAL  
Scarecrow Festival  
Holt Park Leisure Centre*

# Valued assets in communities by other communities

Throughout the exercise, communities mentioned different assets or activities taking place in other areas that they felt were positive and could be replicated in their own area.

These included:

## **Pudsey - Kirkstall**

“arcade club (like at Kirkstall – very popular idea)” (Pudsey),

## **Moortown - Seacroft**

“community kitchen like they have at Kentmere” (Moortown),

## **Calverley & Farsley - Horsforth**

“a skate park (the one in Horsforth is always full)” (Calverley & Farsley)

## **Wetherby - Boston Spa**

A 'Green Group' (as in Boston Spa) has [had] a beneficial effect on the environment and community. Planting, renovating, planning for the future” (Wetherby)

These findings are covered in further detail in the ‘Focus group ideas and opportunities’ section, which is hoped will reflect the potential partnerships and shared learning that can potentially take place across different communities in the city.

# Focus group ideas and opportunities

## What was said in year one?

Year one had a range of themes that were explored in focus groups, with some being more commonly mentioned while others less so. The full list of the themes from last year were as follows:

- **Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and improve community safety (discussed in 40% of the focus groups)**
- **Cleaner streets (litter) (mentioned in 38% of the focus groups)**
- **Access to improved green spaces (discussed in 28% of the focus groups)**
- **Improved connectivity through public transport (mentioned in 26% of the focus groups)**
- **Improved high streets & infrastructure (mentioned in 26% of the focus groups)**
- **More activities, opportunities and support for children & young people (mentioned in 26% of the focus groups)**
- **More local community activities and events (mentioned in 26% of the focus groups)**
- **Less traffic/improved road infrastructure (discussed in 22% of focus groups)**
- **Better use of existing community spaces (discussed in 17% of focus groups)**
- **More accessible, safe and affordable housing that people want to live in (mentioned in 17% of focus groups)**
- **Tackling discrimination and promoting better understanding of differences (discussed in 17% of focus groups)**
- **Communication - what's happening locally? (discussed in 14% of focus groups)**
- **More inter-generational opportunities (discussed in 10% of focus groups)**
- **Improved access to health and other services (discussed in 8% of focus groups)**
- **Feeling heard (discussed in 8% of focus groups)**
- **Climate action in communities (discussed in 8% of focus groups)**

Participants' general views and feedback on these separate themes were written in detail throughout the year one report, with full findings available [here](#).

During the year two postcard and focus group activities, participants were asked whether they agreed with the key themes from their ward in year one, while subsequently being asked if there was any new feedback they wanted to add, either expanding on the existing themes or adding new ones.

As such, the aim of year two was to uncover any new opportunities, ideas and insights that participants had in their communities, along with finding out whether any of the existing themes from last year had progressed or remained the same.

Therefore, the findings from this year two report aim to once again explore how these specific themes had emerged throughout the different focus groups in communities, while also aiming to uncover any new feedback, views and solutions from communities around these themes. In particular, the findings aim to highlight any existing strengths amongst communities and how they can be utilised by the community to enhance their different areas of the city.

Some of the themes from the previous year were ultimately not mentioned in this current year or not covered in a specific depth that highlighted existing solutions and assets in communities.

Therefore, seven of the most prominent themes from year one have been explored again in year two of the Listening Exercise, this time dividing the feedback into 'what was said' and 'existing solutions and examples'.

## What was said in year two?

### **1 - Increased communication – what's happening locally? (Discussed in 25% of focus groups)**

While this was not the most mentioned theme amongst participants in the Listening Exercise, 'increased communication' of local opportunities was the main theme that linked closely with other prominent themes such as 'community activities' and 'development of green spaces', as it formed a key part of how to action these other more widely mentioned themes.

Overall, increasing communication was a slightly stronger theme amongst communities compared to the previous year of the Listening Exercise, with a general feeling that increased promotion and advertising of what is already taking place as well as new ideas being formed in each area should be implemented to make sure they can reach the wider community.

## What people said

A mixture of digital and print communication methods was suggested as being effective ways of increasing communication around areas. While digital methods can be much more widespread, communities pointed out that *“Elderly and people with learning disabilities struggle with digital”* and that *“Leaflets are still a viable tool for communication and accessing information”* (Farnley & Wortley).

Communities could therefore use print methods of communication such as *“noticeboards”* (Rothwell), a *“monthly printed digest for non-digital residents”* (Horsforth) or a *“community newsletter”* (Rothwell), where local businesses *“could place copies in their shops and offices, cafes etc.”* (Rothwell).

Digitally, communities mentioned that online newsletters could be developed that *“goes to every young person through their phones of what’s on offer”* (Armley), while also building a *“youth friendly website”* (Armley) to target young people in the area.

It was felt that ultimately both print and digital methods should be combined when looking at how to increase communication in each ward, which could be carried out through *“a multi-channel comms system: website + noticeboards + WhatsApp + print”* (Horsforth) so that multiple residents can be reached and communities can *“share events in one central place”* (Horsforth).

## Existing solutions and examples

While most of the feedback around communication was around things that needed to happen, some communities used examples both of existing digital and print facilities that could be utilised more in communication.

Participants in Moortown asked *“The community noticeboard hasn’t been used for 7 years. Why?”* suggesting that communities had the chance to reclaim the community noticeboard as a central space that they could use for communication.

An existing *“Farnley & Wortley LCN Facebook page (Completed and 157 followers)”* (Farnley & Wortley) was also mentioned as a currently existing online platform that could be built upon in the community, while *“Youth VibeZ”* was also described as an existing *“website in creation for young people to look up what’s going on for them in inner South Leeds”* (Hunslet), directly addressing the idea of a *“youth friendly website”* mentioned elsewhere.

Both ideas and facilities are therefore available in communities that can be used to increase communication of the existing groups, events, projects etc. in each area. Community involvement in these projects could therefore help build upon these ideas and resources to help create “one central place” for information in each community.

## **2 - Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and improve community safety (Discussed in 72% of focus groups)**

Across many different wards with highly varying levels of crime, participants felt that antisocial behaviour and crime was a common theme in their area, often contributing towards them feeling unsafe when they went outside. Communities therefore shared ideas about how community safety could be improved for residents in their individual wards.

### **What people said**

Residents felt that an increase in community activities would be an effective way to improve community safety and “bring people together” (*Harehills*). Suggestions included “Family-focused activities such as: Tea-time clubs, Parent and child cooking sessions, Community meals” (*Armley*), “Walking group and a Men's health talking group” (*Burmantofts & Richmond Hill*) and “Art panels in the community to reduce vandalism” (*Kirkstall*), identifying the different ways that communities could promote togetherness and cohesion.

Some felt that more direct methods to address community safety could be added in communities such as “self-defence classes” (*Roundhay*) (*Moortown*) and spreading information on how to report incidents in neighbourhoods “Information on what to report to and how” (*Weetwood*), which could help communities feel more assured in their area.

There was some acknowledgement during the Listening Exercise that a lack of access to community activities and opportunities was a contributing factor towards antisocial behaviour from young people; “a lot of the antisocial behaviour comes from boredom. There's nothing for teens to do in the evenings” (*Kirkstall*). Creating opportunities that young people could be involved in such as “volunteer(ing) in community things” (*Guiseley & Rawdon*), projects where young people can “gain a skill” (*Temple Newsam*) and identifying “Positive role models” (*Horsforth*) for young people were seen as positive methods that could help young people feel part of the community rather than making them “feel unwanted.” (*Killingbeck & Seacroft*).

## Existing solutions and examples

Multiple other themes emerging from the Listening Exercise could help to address this particular theme in communities; namely 'Activities for young people', 'Community activities', 'Access to green spaces' and 'Increased communication'.

The existing facilities highlighted in these themes such as the activities that already take place in communities, different established community groups, projects and regular green spaces were all mentioned as ways that communities can use to come together, build relationships and work towards a more cohesive, safe community.

Meanwhile, further promotion of these different activities can increase the likelihood that they will reach those in the community who will utilise them, helping residents to feel less isolated and more supported in their community, ultimately leading to them feeling safer in their area.

### **3 - More activities, opportunities and support for children & young people (Discussed in 63% of focus groups)**

This theme was significantly more common during this latest round of the Listening Exercise, with communities suggesting a variety of ways that their area could develop activities that could consistently engage local young people.

As with the previous year, this theme was also talked about in a range of different areas, including inner-city areas (Armley, Burmantofts & Richmond Hill), low-income outer areas (Seacroft, Middleton Park) and more affluent outer areas (Pudsey, Guiseley & Rawdon, Horsforth), suggesting that this theme was still common amongst a variety of different types of communities.

#### **What people said**

Across the different areas, communities felt that young people needed more local activities available for them. It was felt that *"young people tend to go out and be antisocial because they are bored and have nothing to do"* (Morley South), therefore having these different activities available for them could help decrease antisocial behaviour amongst young people and help them *"feel more comfortable in the community"* (Alwoodley).

A variety of activity types were suggested, including educational sessions *"workshops for young and older people to develop practical skills."* (Rothwell), *"Study Groups"* (Chapel Allerton) recreational activities *"Drama, Music, art and dance groups"* (Farnley & Wortley), *"Running groups, badminton clubs"*

(Middleton Park), while one group of young people in Ardsley and Robin Hood suggested a new social activity; *“(we) would love an underage nightclub. Somewhere we could dance, sit, hang out, dress up smart. There’s nothing like that for us here”*.

This suggests there are multiple ideas in communities for youth activities in their area, with many also stressing the importance of involving young people in designing these activities so that they are *“led by young people for young people”* (Roundhay), with the activities also being held during flexible, less fixed hours so that they can involve as many young people as possible *“I go to a local youth club in New Wortley, I just wish they opened more evenings for my age group”* (Armley).

## **Existing solutions and examples**

To help build on these ideas from communities for youth activities, there were existing assets in wards that were identified by the communities in the Listening Exercise. Suggestions included *“Windmill Youth Club”* (Rothwell), *“Farsley Library and the Mill”*, *“Activities at Farsley Celtic”* (Calverley & Farsley), *“Western Flatts Bowling Club”* (Farnley & Wortley) and *“Chapel FM, Imagination Station”* (Seacroft), highlighting the existing resources that communities could utilise to develop activities for young people.

Communities also took examples of existing assets in other wards that could also work in their area, such as *“arcade club (like at Kirkstall – very popular idea)”* (Pudsey), *“community kitchen like they have at Kentmere”* (Moortown), *“a skate park (the one in Horsforth is always full)”* (Calverley & Farsley), which suggests that there may be opportunities for communities to learn from each other when developing activities for young people in their individual wards.

*“Better publicity”* (Temple Newsam) and *“promotion”* (Seacroft) were also described as needed for youth activities as, while there are currently useful assets for youth activities, communities may not be aware of them and as such there may be *“significantly more happening than many residents realise”* (Seacroft).

These findings fall closely in line with key points made during Child Friendly Leeds’ consultations with young people in Leeds, which includes families wanting to “find information about what is happening in the city”, a “safe space” in their local area with activities that take place after school and on weekends, more volunteering opportunities and involvement of young people in decisions [2][3].

## **[2] What we already know wish 7 briefing**

## **(3) The 12 wishes**

Overall, community feedback highlighted youth activities as a significant theme in the majority of areas in the Listening Exercise. There were many different ideas on what activities could take place, with existing assets highlighted as a way to make these happen, with opportunities to also learn from communities in other wards and to further promote the activities that are already taking place.

#### **4 - More local community-led activities to increase unity and reduce isolation (Discussed in 69% of focus groups)**

A significantly higher number of groups compared to last year shared a desire for more community-based activities to take place in their wards, with these different activities aimed at increasing unity amongst communities and leaving individuals feeling less isolated in their area.

This was another theme prevalent across multiple types of wards, including inner-city areas (Hunslet, Burdantofts & Richmond Hill), low-income outer areas (Gipton, Bramley & Stanningley) and more affluent outer areas (Alwoodley, Otley & Yeadon, Wetherby).

#### **What people said**

It was felt that community activities could have a variety of purposes, including “sharing skills” that would *“enhance our community”* (Alwoodley), running events that would celebrate the different cultures contained in wards *“Chapeltown has a rich culture & history. That would be attractive to tourists.”* (Chapel Allerton) as well as local festivals that that all the community could attend *“More events and activities on the local green spaces...to celebrate the spaces, bringing people together and encourage people to take care for the spaces”* (Gipton).

Creating volunteering opportunities were also seen as a way to proactively involve community members and enhance the community *“Volunteers to run some groups – Book club etc.”* (Alwoodley), *“More litter picking (we need more volunteers)”* (Farnley & Wortley), *“Develop volunteering opportunities for young people, including Duke of Edinburgh participants and students”* (Otley & Yeadon).

Participants felt WhatsApp Groups would be useful for communities to organise these activities, along with *“noticeboards”* (Temple Newsam), *“newsletters”* and *“social media”* (Otley & Yeadon) to promote them.

#### **Existing solutions and examples**

Different community spaces were mentioned as existing places that could host

community events such as local parks “Scatcherd Park” (Morley South), “Stanningley Park...Bramley Park” (Bramley & Stanningley), “Fearnville Fields, Killingbeck Fields” (Gipton), “Potternewton Park” (Chapel Allerton) and general indoor spaces “Make use of the new Hub when it arrives at the library” (Temple Newsam), “Use an empty building, such as St. Margaret’s”, “Bramley Community centre” (Bramley & Stanningley).

Existing local events were also mentioned as existing activities that could be built upon “Hunslet/Beeston festivals are great” (Hunslet), “Farsley Festival and the Farmer’s Market are very good and popular” (Calverley & Farsley), along with existing community groups that can help organise community activities “Litter picking – Bramley St. Peter’s and Bramley Wombles are good examples” (Bramley & Stanningley), “St Luke’s CARES Youth Team”, “South Leeds Urban Task Force” (Hunslet), “Music heritage tours - Link BMF & LWC” (Chapel Allerton), suggesting that communities knew of local activities and groups that could be built upon in their area.

Promotion of these existing events and groups was also suggested, with “Youth VibeZ” being mentioned as a unique, locally run “website in creation for young people to look up what’s going on for them in inner South Leeds”, with participants also suggesting “Could there be something like this for all community groups in South Leeds?” (Hunslet).

Shareable assets are therefore present in communities that can be built upon to increase community activities in wards, as well as examples of groups that can be liaised with and methods to promote them to the wider community.

## **5 - Development of local green spaces for communities to utilise (Discussed in 44% of focus groups)**

A higher number of different areas involved in the Listening Exercise saw access to local green spaces as something they would like to see increase in their area, with many ideas on how the existing local green spaces in their areas could both be developed and utilised, claiming that “there’s so much green space that we could use better” (Seacroft).

### **What people said**

Numerous thoughts were shared on how local green spaces across different wards can be developed and utilised more by the communities, which could “encourage residents to take ownership of local spaces.” (Chapel Allerton).

Different ways of keeping these spaces clean were suggested such as “litter picking” (Gipton) (Ardsley & Robin Hood) (Hunslet), having “dog wardens” present to make sure dog owners clean-up after their pets (Armley), or a general “youth community cleanup” (Middleton Park).

Communities suggested how they could also keep developing these areas through “Tree planting” (Seacroft) (Chapel Allerton), “fundraising to buy flowers and trees” (Alwoodley), “Set up community garden spaces / allotments” (Rothwell), overall making them a greener, more colourful area that the community could take ownership of.

These spaces could also be utilised to run numerous community events and facilities, with suggestions including “opportunities for exercise and recreation”, “Local artist Music Events”, “Community Picnics” (Chapel Allerton), “Heritage trails”, (Seacroft), “Walking clubs that meet and explore local areas” (Weetwood).

### **Existing solutions and examples**

In addition to the suggestions of what could take place in green spaces, communities mentioned different examples of existing groups, activities and projects already taking place in their area that can help to address the suggestions made.

Existing groups that could be built upon included “Resurgence of Holbeck in Bloom” (Holbeck), “Incredible Edible – set up in Garforth & Kippax” (Garforth), (Kippax & Methley), “Promote the local ‘Crown Wombles’ group more.” (Rothwell), “Kippax in Bloom needs additional support in continuing its great work (Kippax & Methley), highlighting the foundations that exist in communities in terms of groups.

Projects that currently exist in communities could also be built upon with suggestions such as “Make Cherry Tree Walk a one-way system” (Ardsley & Robin Hood) and “Kippax Wildlife Corridor – individuals in the community taking back spaces which have been neglected or no longer tended to by LCC” (Kippax & Methley), highlighting what could be built upon in the green spaces in communities and examples of community initiatives that currently work well.

There is ultimately a significant amount of enthusiasm in multiple communities to see their existing green spaces kept clean, built upon and used for many different events and projects that can be run by the community. Existing examples demonstrate which projects can be key in bringing these ideas forward along with successful projects that have taken place in different communities.

## 6 - Improved public transport to increase connectivity (Discussed in 44% of focus groups)

As with the previous year, communities expressed overall dissatisfaction with public transport in their area, with participants in Alwoodley even mentioning that it had “worsened” since last year. It was felt that buses were “unreliable”, “expensive” and “limited” in terms of how often they ran and the locations they went to. Therefore, communities were keen to speak about how this could potentially improve for their area, commenting that “if transport improves, people can get out more, feel less isolated and become more involved in their community.” (Crossgates).

### What people said

An emphasis on “Community-led transport initiatives” (Crossgates) was placed by some areas, which could include sharing of information about public transport from a locally trusted source “More community information on local services including bus access” (Farnley & Wortley), “Information sessions about how to get about in Gipton” (Gipton).

Alternative, community-led transport mechanisms were also suggested, such as “A flexible minibus to fill the gaps” (Temple Newsam), which could be used to help residents get to local amenities more easily “It would be great to have a bus that goes from Crossgates to Temple Newsam, this would get me out more” (Crossgates).

Some felt that more direct liaising with those providing public transport services was required, which the local community could lead on with help from locally trusted organisations “If we could get all our voices together as a joined campaign and then talk to the bus providers...co-ordinate a campaigning group where organisations like St Luke’s facilitate.” (Hunslet).

### Existing solutions and examples

Previously existing services were mentioned as being valuable to communities in terms of transport, “MHA have apparently lost their minibus and older people are struggling to get even to lunch clubs. The access bus could definitely do more than currently.” (Calverley & Farsley). A revamp of services such as this could therefore form part of “a joined campaign” in communities to increase community-owned transport.

Where these minibus services do exist, details about them could be included in

the suggested “community information” initiatives, which could lead to more community members getting involved and potentially expanding the service in a way that can best benefit the communities who currently face difficulty with public transport.

## **7 - Improved high street and infrastructure that better-serves communities (Discussed in 41% of focus groups)**

An increased number of participants from the previous Listening Exercise felt that further action could be taken to develop high streets and facilities in communities, sharing ideas about how existing facilities could be expanded upon as well as what could also be added to high streets so that communities could “take pride in the area” (Temple Newsam).

### **What people said**

Restoring or repurposing buildings in communities was seen as a positive way to develop community high streets, meaning that communities could have more activities to run in the buildings while also lessening vandalism in these buildings “Restore unused buildings, this attracts young people to cause damage” (Armley), “Repurpose empty buildings whether they be commercial or residential, before building more” (Ardsley & Robin Hood).

Making improvements to community high streets would also involve greater publicity, with communities talking about how they could promote and spread the word about facilities on the high street so that more people could find out about and visit them regularly “More cohesive and better sharing of event information, particularly with adjacent communities, perhaps using social media, word-of-mouth and cross-promotion” (Wetherby), “Publicity to support new business” (Temple Newsam), “Promote Otley as a destination for shopping, markets and independent businesses” (Otley & Yeadon).

### **Existing solutions and examples**

Ideas were shared on how to make the best use of existing community buildings and spaces, involving more community members in organising activities there and developing their overall layout, “The (Pudsey) Market – we want it, we care about it. It would be great if it was COVERED and a little more permanent/weather-resistant” (Pudsey), “Better use of local libraries for events for the community - local speakers and family reading mornings etc. - especially during academic holidays” (Wetherby), “A community centre is a good thing to bring people together...hopefully, the new Hub at the library will help once it’s opened” (Temple Newsam).

Pudsey in particular saw communities suggesting how existing events in their area could be used to boost these spaces *“Perhaps combine with other activities on same day – like the Carnival – or, and this would make a day of it around the Park: the same time as the Bands in the Park...? Sundays were quieter in the calendar, so more room there” (Pudsey).*

Overall, communities have ideas and skills that can be used to repurpose currently empty buildings on community high streets as well as developing existing high street facilities such as community centres and markets. Communication of these ideas was seen as being a key way to get the wider community involved in these ideas so that the community can take a higher sense ownership towards changes to their local high street.

## Recommendations for future listening exercises

With two years of the Listening Exercise complete and findings available to compare and contrast, this report looks to recommend key methods to approach future listening exercises in order to identify existing assets, strengths and opportunities across the city, as well as making sure the exercise can include as many different community members as possible.

- **Increase youth involvement across wards in the Listening Exercise**

While useful feedback was gained directly from young people in the listening exercise in some of the wards involved, an increased, cross-ward emphasis on gaining a greater number of youth voices is important to emphasise for future years of the listening exercise.

Many wards spoke in detail about the need for more youth-based activities which would help to combat anti-social behaviour amongst young people and increase young people's sense of involvement, belonging and pride in their community.

- **Increased focus on ideas around communication of existing assets and opportunities**

Communication, while not the most directly focussed on theme in focus groups, was an aspect of the Listening Exercise that often linked in closely with each theme, with communities seeing communication as a key aspect of how to more greatly involve the wider community in both existing and new opportunities.

It could be beneficial therefore in future Listening Exercises to adopt a more direct focus on asking communities about the regular communication methods they use in their area or any potential ideas they have around communication. This can both build on what is already in place and to spread the word about new opportunities,



# Analysis by ward

This section of the report sets out analysis of the key themes and findings from the exercise in each ward. Some wards are split into specific areas; for instance, Gipton and Harehills are shown separately, detailing the findings of the listening exercise that was carried out by different Community Anchor organisations in each area.

Findings from the previous year are also incorporated into the year two ward by ward findings, aiming to display a sense of progression and comparison between the two years.

The ward analysis is designed to be printed by each Community Anchor organisation to display in community centres and to be used to feed back to people who took part.

\*The following ward summaries provide a snapshot of the views, experiences and priorities shared through the Listening Exercise. They highlight some of the key themes we heard within each ward, but they do not capture the full breadth and depth of the conversations that took place. There is a wealth of additional insight and data available, and we encourage anyone interested in learning more about a particular ward or community please contact [lcan@val.org.uk](mailto:lcan@val.org.uk)

# Listening exercise in: Adel & Wharfedale



**191 postcard  
responses**



**23 focus group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Enhanced community spaces**

**Improved public transport**



**Communities that feel safe**



**Feeling heard**



Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
Communities in Adel & Wharfedale felt that:

- Bringing together existing groups and projects in the community would be highly beneficial, addressing areas such as use of community spaces, reducing isolation, keeping the area clean and pushing for improvements to transport and policing

**“When a  
community comes  
together it can  
achieve great  
things!”**

## Activities for the youth/Anti-social behaviour

More activities for younger people could take place in the community, with these activities happening in a wider range of locations and times so that they can be accessible to as many young people as possible. Local schools could also work with community organisations to advertise and organise these activities with local young people.

***“Kids don’t want to be left behind or felt like they aren’t thought of”***

## Increased police presence

Communities wanted the chance to speak more often with police, suggesting increased frequency of PACT meetings, pop up police events in local buildings and more information shared on how to get in touch directly with police.

## Transport

Higher bus-stop maintenance and more frequent transport was seen as important, with shuttle services suggested as an effective way to provide better transport for the area

# Listening exercise in: Alwoodley



**153 postcard  
responses**



**8 focus group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Improvements to public  
transport**



**Communities that feel safe**



**Community activities**



**Promoting the town centre**

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Alwoodley felt that:

- While transport is still a notable issue for communities, there were community-led solutions on how to address this such as car-sharing and the access bus
- Communities felt MAECare provided a great range of activities for older people which could be utilised more, while parents expressed a willingness to lead on youth groups

**“Being kinder to  
each other,  
listening to people’s  
needs and  
helping.”**

## Transport

Car-shares were seen as a positive way for communities to address transport difficulties, with those who took part in the listening exercise expressing willingness to offer transport to those who could not drive or found trouble parking. The access bus was also mentioned as a valuable method of transport that older people could register for.

## Community-led activities

Parents were prepared to take a lead on running local youth clubs, whilst older people spoke about options for trips out they could take part in, mentioning MAECare’s partnership with Blue Sky Coaches, as well as opportunities to liaise with Probus and Yorkshire Countrywomen’s Association.

# Listening exercise in: Ardsley & Robin Hood



140 postcard  
responses



26 focus group  
attendees

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



Strengthening infrastructure



Improved transport links



Better use of community assets



Opportunities for teenagers

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Ardsley & Robin Hood felt  
that:

- There is enthusiasm from community members to help develop existing green spaces which are seen as hugely valuable to the area, while community centres can help to provide a wider range of flexible activities for young people in the area

Our green spaces,  
woodland and  
the environment  
are important to  
us. They matter a  
lot to us"

## Transport, roads, and traffic

Transport was seen as a continual, prominent issue in the area, requiring more frequent services and links to Leeds city centre.

***"We have to leave the house extra early on a morning"***

## Youth provision and places for young people

Community centres can organise activities for young people such as an underage nightclub, forest playground or activities where young people can come and go as they please rather than having set times.

***"Me and my friends would love an underage nightclub. Somewhere we could dance, sit, hang out, dress up smart. There's nothing like that for us here."***

## Protecting the reservoir and green space

Ardsley Reservoir is a frequently-used space and seen by some as "the best part of Ardsley". This space can be therefore be enhanced by community litter picks, while frequent activities in the space can also help increase feelings of safety in the area.

***"My Grandma is in a walking group (at Ardsley Reservoir) and they pick litter sometimes. Could more people do that?"***

## Cherry Tree Walk

Ideas were shared on how to develop Cherry Tree Walk, such as making it a one way system, carrying out a transport audit and paving to increase parking.

# Listening exercise in: Armley



**185 postcard responses**



**48 focus group attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**High street and infrastructure**



**Communities that feel safe**



**Supporting young people**



**Investment in green spaces**

Using your skills and the skills and experience of local people, what could we change together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise, communities in Armley felt that:

- A safer community could be built towards by developing the youth clubs currently in place, with more flexible opening hours, while outside spaces such as skate parks and green spaces can have more frequent maintenance and community activities to make them a more welcoming space for the community

**"To have a sense of belonging and a safe space would be something young people would be proud of. A space to call our own"**

## Community Safety

Existing activities such as MUGA, youth clubs and local skate parks could be more well maintained and open more often so that more community members can get involved and feel safe there.

***"Kids need opportunities to have a good life and get a good job"***

## Lack of activities for children and young people with SEND needs

Expanding and promoting existing youth clubs and involving young people in the clubs' development could help provide young people with their own space and reduce anti-social behaviour.

***"A safe place for children and young people to go after school, with trusted adults, to learn and thrive in an informal setting"***

## Lack of support services – Mental Health & Physical Health

Online platforms could be built upon to create a central space for young people to access updates, campaigns and information about what is on offer in their area

***"A website or newsletter that goes to every young person through their phones of what's on offer"***

## Green Spaces

There are multiple green spaces regularly used in the area, these could be developed through gardening groups, running activities such as bowling groups and having dog wardens to keep them clean

***"I like to see green spaces where people can relax, sitting on benches and looking at flowers"***

# Listening exercise in: Beeston



**70 postcard  
responses**



**20 focus group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Sense of community**



**Community events**

**Better access and use of  
green spaces**



**Caring for each other**



**Clean Streets**



Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
Communities in Beeston felt that:

- Promotion of initiatives aimed at keeping streets clean, along with promotion of youth clubs, community centres such as Hamara, events and initiatives such as the wombles would help bring more people together and help the community feel more cohesive and safe

**"We need more  
community  
groups where you  
can talk about  
local issues."**

## Cleaner Streets

Communities could create flyers to promote keeping streets clean and sharing initiatives around this with the wider community.

***"It involved certain charities in the community, but it was also involving volunteers and setting up a project, a renovation project, and also involving the local resident"***

## Unsafe area/antisocial behaviour

Information could be shared about the current youth clubs available, which could discourage young people from anti-social behaviour on the streets.

***"You have to do your own investigation (to find youth clubs)."***

## Dangerous Roads

Speeding and dangerous driving was seen as common in Beeston, with more lighting and involvement from police to speak to residents about what can be done.

***"Maybe asking [council/police] to come in and have a kind of a group basically to actually outline what they can actually do."***

## Creating a more caring community

Community centres such as Hamara and groups such as parkrun and womblers should have more promotion, involving the wider community and helping people feel safer.

***"I do a voluntary litter pick and would like to get more people involved."***

# Listening exercise in: Bramley & Stanningley



**141 postcard  
responses**



**28 focus group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Bramley Park improvements**



**Community events**



**Reducing litter**



**Green spaces**

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise, communities in Bramley & Stanningley felt that:

- Feelings about what the area could offer were overall positive, with many existing events and potential for new groups and projects to take place. The key was how to spread these events wider in the community and how to utilise existing spaces for new ideas to flourish

**"The energy in the room represents the energy in the community. Everybody has got the same goal: to be connected."**

## Being Neighbourly

Activities such as a skills exchange, community BBQs, men's groups, bin watches, general information sharing and digital peer support were ways that communities could support each other, form bonds and help each other feel safe.

***"Our street is in the process of setting up a neighbourhood watch group, and the police are going to contact to help with this."***

## Community events to bring people together

Existing events such as Bramley Community Arts Festival and Bands in the Park can be promoted further through noticeboards, WhatsApp groups, Instagram etc. while also providing a platform for new community events.

***"Everyone has a voice, and it's about time people listened to that voice."***

## Community groups to bring people together

Numerous existing groups and assets were named as ways to bring the community together through events, with Bramley Wombles seen as a popular group, while spaces such as Bramley Community Centre, Bramley Park and Bramley Fall Woods were mentioned as places to host events. West Leeds Dispatch can also be used to share news about these events

***"People don't always know what is going on and which groups they can get involved in"***

# Listening exercise in: Burmantofts & Richmond Hill



**209 postcard  
responses**



**36 focus group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Crime and ASB**



**Amenities**



**Transport links**



**Safe roads**



**Activities for young people**



**Enhancing green  
spaces**

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Burmantofts & Richmond Hill  
felt that:

- Safety, cohesion and clean streets can be developed in the community through different activities and projects. These different activities can be run in local community centres and by local groups such as Bridge Community Church women's group and others, making them community-led and beneficial to the area

**"Community  
centres doing  
youth clubs,  
media and  
music"**

## Amenities, support and services, activities

Local community centres are valuable spaces to run free after school clubs, teach young people skills and provide leisure activities such as media and music.

***"Children are the future if you're not getting it right for them it won't work"***

## Roads/cleanliness/safety

Local areas such as Shannon Street, Harold Walk and Kitson Street are examples of places that can be improved to encourage more cleanliness, adding features such as green bins, street lights and cycling facilities.

## Anti-social behaviour

More community events can bring together people from different backgrounds, provide young people with activities, build relationships with police officers, promote men's health and overall build a safer, more cohesive community

***"Women like us need to be able to go out on our own and feel safe"***

## What's working well

Diversity was seen as a big strength of the area, while church organisations such as Bridge Community Church women's group were highly valued

***"Churches are doing a lot – Bridge Community Church Women's group"***

# Listening exercise in: Calverley & Farsley



140 postcard  
responses



12 focus group  
attendees

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



More activities for young people



More engagement in community activities



Improved public transport links

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Calverley & Farsley felt that:

- The area is full of great places to host community activities, with Sunny Bank Mills, the canal and Farsley Festival among the many examples people gave. However, many in the communities also felt that local public transport solutions would make these activities easier to enjoy, particularly for older people.

**"Farsley is amazing -  
sometimes posh, often  
expensive but with lots  
going on and generally  
things are very  
positive."**

## Young people's provision

There's already plenty on offer for young people in the area, and people felt these activities and facilities could be better highlighted and developed further to reach more young people. Some felt there wasn't enough on offer for older young people.

***"There are youth clubs and groups for older young people (e.g. at Farsley Library and the Mill)"***

## Public transport

Views on public transport were mixed: many felt it was poor and getting worse, while others thought it was great. There was support for expanding transport services for older people to run at weekends, helping them enjoy activities on Saturdays and Sundays too.

***"We older people wish we had something to do at the weekend, but all our activities are during the week"***

## Pride in a vibrant locality

Despite regular traffic issues, communities in Calverley and Farsley love what their area has to offer, from events like Farsley Festival and the Farmers' Market to spaces such as Sunny Bank Mills.

***"People are proud to live in both Calverley and Farsley"***

# Listening exercise in: Chapel Allerton



100 postcard  
responses



15 focus group  
attendees

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



Cleaner streets



Lack of cohesion between  
different cultures



Lack of sports facilities

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Chapel Allerton felt that:

- The vast culture, history and wealth of knowledge in the area was seen as a huge strength of Chapel Allerton. This could be used to spread knowledge amongst the community, provide activities, opportunities and attract visitors from other areas that would enhance the community.

**"LS7 is a melting  
pot of cultures; a  
food guide/  
tasting tour may  
be a good idea."**

## Lack of youth services

Something similar to 'Host' that used to be in the area would be a good way to realise the potential of the area, which has a wealth of knowledge that could be used to organise multiple different opportunities for young people.

***"The area has huge potential."***

## Outdoor green spaces

Outdoor green spaces in the area provide a great opportunity to organise more events, activities and groups that can link communities together.

***"It would be great to see more activities happening outdoors that bring different communities together."***

## Upskilling and job opportunities

Communities in the area would welcome the opportunity to share their knowledge and skills for the benefit of others to help improve career opportunities for each other.

***"We have so much knowledge and experience within the community. We need more opportunities for people to share those skills."***

## Local economics

The history and culture of the area was mentioned as a huge factor to attract tourists, businesses, performers and marketplaces to enhance the area

***"Chapeltown has a rich culture & history. That would be attractive to tourists."***

# Listening exercise in: Crossgates & Whinmoor



145 postcard  
responses



26 focus group  
attendees

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



Supporting the vulnerable & elderly



Bringing people together



Improved public transport

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Crossgates & Whinmoor felt  
that:

- Increased communication, initiatives and coordination between local organisations can help get community members more involved in existing initiatives and help people access groups, services and information that will be important to them.

**"We could see more  
ideas implemented  
and quicker action to  
get things done in the  
local community"**

## Transport, Accessibility and Connectivity

Transport was described as linking closely to wider activities in the community, with community-led transport initiatives highlighted as important to maintain this connectivity

***"Everything is connected – if transport improves, people can get out more, feel less isolated and become more involved in their community."***

## Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour

Involvement in existing initiatives such as Wombles should be increased, along with strengthening existing community partnerships.

## Support for Vulnerable People, Loneliness and Wellbeing

Befriending initiatives could help spread information about activities available, while also helping to develop activities for children and young people.

***"There are plenty of facilities and groups in the area...I am always able to access additional information and support if required, I would be lost without them"***

## Communication, Community Connection and Awareness of Services

Organisations in the area could coordinate sharing information and potentially revamp the previous community hub

***"I miss the hub in the shopping centre"***

# Listening exercise in: Farnley & Wortley



**123 postcard  
responses**



**106 focus  
group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**More activities for young people**

**More accessible  
transport  
options**



**Communicating what's on**



Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise, participants  
in Farnley & Wortley felt that:

- The opportunities and activities available in the community could be enhanced through
  - Increased communication of what is already taking place
  - Working more closely with local groups to enhance existing spaces and activities
  - Developing a range of activities for young people such as arts, music, sports etc. that are flexibly run

**"We could work more  
in collaboration to  
create a community  
that share skills and  
resources making us  
more self sufficient"**

## Transportation

Connections could be made with independent transport services (such as PEG Bus) where communities could work with them to develop a transport service that works well for the community.

***"Peg 253 bus service excellent we need more small shuttle bus services"***

## Communication

A range of communication methods should be used in communities such as digital methods (Farnley & Wortley LANCASHIRE Facebook Page) along with print methods such as notice boards and monthly magazines.

***"Leaflets are still a viable tool for communication and accessing information"***

## Young People

Increased connections between existing groups (Western Bowling Club linking with Scouts and sports clubs linking with schools) can expand opportunities for young people to get involved in wider activities.

***"Young people do not want to do after-school activities within the school. We need more community activities"***

## How can we Improve our Community

Green spaces could be developed through community litter picks while community groups can be key to developing social spaces.

***"Improve social spaces by working more with community groups and assets"***

# Listening exercise in: Garforth & Swillington



**129 postcard  
responses**



**20 focus group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Green spaces**



**Communities that feel safe**



**Improving high streets**

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Garforth & Swillington felt  
that:

- Local groups like NET, Incredible Edible and Garforth in Bloom are seen as positive groups that can help drive change such as developing green spaces and linking residents with MPs to lobby for changes to their high street

**“NET works in  
Partnership with  
Incredible Edible  
long may it  
continue.”**

## Green Spaces

Incredible Edible and Garforth in Bloom were seen as groups that could be built upon to develop green spaces in the area

***“Support more Volunteer Groups”***

## Anti-social behavior and crime

Communities felt Parish Meetings were useful ways to discuss concerns around crime directly with a policeman, while community centres and churches could also be used to hold reassurance sessions, which ideally would be during the day

## Improve the shops and facilities on the main street and high streets

Community groups such as NET can provide a platform for communities to approach for a community hub bank, along with lobbying MPs about how to make sure high streets have a wider variety of shops and less vacant buildings that encourage vandalism.

## Listening exercise in: Gipton



108 postcard  
responses



5 focus group  
attendees

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



Wider use of community assets



Cleaner streets

Communities that feel safe



Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Gipton felt that:

- Opportunities should be made for the community to come together more and:
  - Share ideas
  - Understand each other
  - Take action e.g litter picking groups, events in green spaces, connecting different parts of community e.g. cross-cultural and inter-generational events

**"We could work together to bring awareness of what's going on in the community"**

### Places and opportunities for people to come together

Existing community spaces such as Henry Barron Centre, Fearnville Fields and Killingbeck Fields should be used to run community activities that bring people together such as events, groups, volunteering opportunities and social gatherings.

***"A local gala or festival would be great – get people out of their houses and involved in the community."***

***"I help in a community garden. I'd love to share the things I've learnt to improve more spaces in the area."***

### Taking care of green spaces

Events such as community action days, skill swaps and events that highlight existing litter-picking groups can help encourage communities to take ownership of green spaces and teach each other valuable skills to regularly make the spaces cleaner.

### Transport

Community information sessions around transport can help raise awareness and build solutions towards transport options in Gipton while also pushing for further involvement from Leeds City Council.

***"We want to get around Gipton better, transport to the city centre is good but getting from one part of Gipton to the other is really tricky."***

# Listening exercise in: Guiseley & Rawdon



144 postcard  
responses



27 focus group  
attendees

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



Street safety



Youth Problems

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Guiseley & Rawdon felt that:

- The sense of safety and intergenerational connections in the community could be enhanced by highlighting existing community activities, creating opportunities for different generations to interact and working alongside young people to develop opportunities that they can get involved with.

"Encourage  
people of  
different ages to  
talk to each other  
more."

## Community Safety & feeling safe

Communication and community activities were seen as positive ways to increase feelings of safety, connecting residents closer together and increasing ownership of community spaces.

## Youth activity and opportunities

Young people can be consulted directly about what activities they would like to take part in, as well as increasing their awareness of activities that are currently already available to them.

***"Can inspiring people give talks at schools?"***

## Intergenerational respect & relationships

Positive stories and contributions from young people could be shared to help alter perceptions, along with providing events where young and older people can come together and increase interaction

## Community action & working together

The visibility of volunteering opportunities could be increased, while local community champions could be identified, supported and linked with wider organisations in the community

# Listening exercise in: Harehills



**161 postcard responses**



**30 focus group attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Free or affordable activities for children**



**Cleaner streets**



**Improved parks and green spaces**

**Communities that feel safe**



Using your skills and the skills and experience of local people, what could we change together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise, communities in Harehills felt that:

- There are many existing skills, talents and a willingness to create stronger neighbourhoods amongst the community. Having the opportunity to unlock these factors such as through involvement in groups, community events and links with support services can go a long way to uncovering this potential.

"There are talented people in our community who just need the opportunity to prove themselves."

## Community Safety

Events in the area can be a positive way to bring communities together and help them to feel safer

***"My kids can't play out as boys in gangs are always there"***

## Green Spaces

Existing resident groups carry out activities that make the local area nicer through growing flowers. Increasing these activities could have a more positive impact on the area overall and help to enhance existing green spaces

***"If we get funding, we could help do this which would be fun"***

## Job prospects for diverse communities

There are many valuable skills amongst diverse communities in the area which can be realised through greater routes to jobs and assistance with application forms and interviews

***"I know I can do the work but I can't complete the application form to get a chance to be interviewed"***

# Listening exercise in: Harewood



**59 postcard  
responses**



**23 focus group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Intergenerational connections**



**Enhancing safety and accessibility**



**Supporting communities**

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Harewood felt that:

- There are many opportunities and ideas around how to bring the community together, providing activities, support groups and education, while also increasing publicity of activities already taking place in the community.

**"Needs more  
community spirit.  
More people to  
get together and  
talk"**

## Intergenerational activities

There are numerous ideas amongst communities for activities that can be set up to connect generations together, while existing ones in the community should also be promoted to make sure they are used rather than replaced or replicated

## Infrastructure

Increased communication across the area can help to address speeding, traffic and transport in the community, helping to develop infrastructure and increase connectivity in the area

***"More volunteer based groups - would be nice if groups could be formed based on skills and interests".***

***"Transport links for East Keswick could be better to allow villagers to connect with Wetherby community for elderly/youth/gardening societies."***

## Educational

Groups focussed on providing education for adults and young people in communities could help to share culture and knowledge around different topics such as Neurodivergence, as well as helping to set up groups for parents such as SEN parents.

***"More groups for Early Years children to reinforce more skills from birth"***

# Listening exercise in: Headingley & Hyde Park



194 postcard  
responses



22 focus group  
attendees

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



Places to connect



Connecting with people



Clean streets



Inclusive spaces

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Headingley & Hyde Park felt  
that:

- There are opportunities to further connect local residents and students through different activities and spaces in the area. This would allow people to share skills, preserve green spaces and create community spaces where everyone feels safe and welcome

**"We need more opportunities to get out and about with our community, build each other up"**

## More sober spaces

Inclusive local spaces such as Left Bank, Cardigan Centre and Gardening Groups in Woodhouse could open more frequently, allowing people in the community to attend on a flexible basis, with alcohol-free events for those recovering from addiction.

***"These spaces should be open and people should be able to go without feeling that they need to justify their reason for being there."***

## Youth and intergenerational spaces

More awareness needs to be spread around existing projects at Rainbow Junktion, Cardigan Centre and Sparking Community that can bring generations together.

***"It's strange that people don't know what is happening in the place where they live. There is a lot of loneliness and isolation"***

## Skill sharing and peer support including PIP and job applications

Connecting local residents and young people was seen as an important aspect of skills sharing, with opportunities including environmental activities and destigmatising homelessness.

***"There's a massive divide between permanent residents and students and it's so hard to change because the students change every year so something deeper needs to happen."***

## Tackling litter and growing community gardens together

Existing litter picking groups can link up with students to set up initiatives and use woodhouse moor to run groups that encourage maintaining green spaces and clean streets

# Listening exercise in: Holbeck



**107 postcard  
responses**



**24 focus group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Improved housing**



**Communities that feel safe**



**Community activities**



**Updating of parks**



**Transport links**

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Holbeck felt that:

- Communities were keen to get involved in bringing back Holbeck in Bloom to help enhance local green spaces, adding regular maintenance and adding additions such as dog parks and regular cleanups. This could potentially bring the community together and create a greener space that can feel safer

**"A lot of the skills  
and community  
spirit has already  
been brought  
together at  
Holbeck Together".**

## Improvement to local services

Response times from the council were seen as an area for improvement in Holbeck, along with bin collection services which can be disrupted by parked cars on narrow streets

## Better security in the area

Residents expressed a desire to be more confident in police response times and to have increased security through street lights in the area, which sometimes did not work or had been removed

## Improved transportation locally

Residents wanted more consultation with bus services so that they could speak to them directly about their transport needs for the area

## Improvement of green spaces

Communities were keen to see Holbeck in Bloom return as a way to build on the green spaces in the area, which could lead to useful additions such as a dog park and less litter

# Listening exercise in: Horsforth



152 postcard  
responses



15 focus group  
attendees

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



Spaces for young people



More community spaces



Communicating what's on

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Horsforth felt that:

- Young people recognised the benefits of having free, accessible spaces to socialise, while adults and young people could work together on different projects to learn skills and enhance their community.
- Having a central space to share opportunities could make sure that local activities can reach as many people as possible.

**"We need more places for children and teens to play and hang out safely together, shelters that are accessible and free."**

## Need for Safe, Free, Youth-Friendly Spaces

Young people should be worked alongside to develop free, accessible places to gather that run throughout the year and span multiple locations in the area.

***"We need more places for children and teens to play and hang out safely together, shelters that are accessible and free."***

## Crime & Antisocial Behaviour

Intergenerational projects and youth volunteering can help build positive, lasting relationships and reduce barriers between older and younger people around the community.

## Youth Engagement, Ownership & Employment

Numerous projects can be set up to teach young people skills (building shelters, art projects, gardening, cafe help) which can increase their future prospects and employment.

***"A shelter gives them a bit more of a focus... a sense of belonging."***

## Communication Across the Community

Having a central place to share opportunities in the community can help increase awareness of what is taking place in the area

***"There's so much going on, but we don't know where to look — we need one place to find out what's happening."***

# Listening exercise in: Hunslet & Riverside



211 postcard  
responses



37 focus group  
attendees

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



Communities that feel safe



Improved public transport



Green spaces



Housing



Community activities

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Hunslet & Riverside felt that:

- Activities and ideas that encourage safety, looking after the area and also provide leisure were ways that communities wanted to contribute to Hunslet & Riverside. These opportunities also need to be communicated, with existing local websites and organisations seen as useful ways to do so

**"I would like to  
see more  
community  
activities, better  
communication."**

## More activities and groups for young people, and adults

Websites such as 'Youth VibeZ' are valuable central spaces to find out what is taking place and to also post activities for the community. This could be shared wider and used by all the community.

## Transport

A local campaign group around transport needs can be set up by residents with local organisations such as St Luke's facilitating, allowing community voices to be heard wider.

***"We could get all of our voices together  
as a joined campaign and then talk to  
the bus providers"***

## Community

Groups such as South Leeds Urban Taskforce can support street cleaning and gardening initiatives, while the Rowland Road Park can also host community groups to encourage art and togetherness

***"Great street art there now, but it's never  
used. (Rowland Rd Park)"***

## Bins, littering, fly tipping

Community action days could be set up with litter-picking groups involving community members in keeping the area tidy

## Safety

Awareness could be shared around different contacts to use for anti-social behaviour, flytipping etc.

# Listening exercise in: Killingbeck & Seacroft



**143 postcard  
responses**



**55 focus group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Communicating what's on**



**Communities that feel safe**



**Improving community facilities**



**Environmental improvements**

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Killingbeck & Seacroft felt  
that:

- There are opportunities for community members to lead on projects and shape decisions in their area, while existing spaces such as Chapel FM and Imagination Station and local green spaces are valuable platforms for projects that can bring the community together

**"People think  
it's just a big  
council estate...  
there's masses  
of history."**

## Welcoming Places, Belonging and Connection

Local spaces such as Imagination Station, Chapel FM and various community centres should be more greatly promoted across the community as places that harbour connections in the community

***"Spaces like this are almost all about the people."***

## Feeling Safe, Healthy and Proud

Building stronger, more connected communities can be a huge contributor to increasing safety and health, promoting Sure Start, the Neighbourhood Health Hub and community-led leisure.

***"People are there to support you."***

## Green Spaces, Creativity and Local Pride

Green spaces were seen as one of the area's greatest assets, with ideas to capitalise on this such as community gardens, festivals, arts events and more

***"There's so much green space that we could use better."***

## Community Power: Growing Leadership, Skills and Confidence

There are many opportunities for communities to lead on initiatives, share skills and contribute to their area in a positive way, particularly with young people.

***"We're becoming the next generation of people who will run the community."***

# Listening exercise in: Kippax & Methley



125 postcard  
responses



19 focus group  
attendees

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



Green spaces



Communities that feel safe



Improving high streets

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Kippax & Methley felt that:

- There are valuable groups in the area that, through further support, can contribute a lot to developing green spaces. The Parish Council, local community centres and churches are also spaces that communities can come together to feel safe and reduce isolation

**"Kippax Wildlife Corridor - individuals in the community taking back spaces which have been neglected or no longer tended to by LCC."**

## Green Spaces

Kippax wildlife corridor and Incredible Edible Kippax and Kippax in Bloom should be supported more by community members to help develop green spaces and increase pride in the area.

***"Support more Volunteer Groups"***

## Anti-social behavior and crime

Community centres and churches are good places for communities to come together for parish meetings and meet PCSO's, while an online community could also be developed to connect the community together and help each other feel safe.

***"Kippax Parish Council are very good"***

# Listening exercise in: Kirkstall



**151 postcard responses**



**50 focus group attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Information and support**



**Volunteering**



**Community activities**



**Communities that feel safe**



**Wider range of shops and activities**

Using your skills and the skills and experience of local people, what could we change together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise, communities in Kirkstall felt that:

- The existing skills, spaces and overall potential of Kirkstall is there and could be expanded upon through:
  - Development of existing green spaces that caters and appeals to young people
  - Opportunities for residents to share skills with each other
  - More regular use of existing community spaces

**“There’s so much goodwill in Kirkstall – we just need a simple way to connect people to opportunities.”**

## Facilities for the younger generation

Existing spaces could be developed to appeal to teenagers such skate parks, outdoor gyms, as well as opening up church halls and community rooms for young people to attend

***“There are loads of buildings in Kirkstall, but none of them seem open when young people actually need them.”***

## Crime prevention

Developing activities such as community safety walks, along with a range of pop-up events, clean-up days etc. can help communities take ownership of spaces and put more “eyes on the street”

***“I help in a community garden. I’d love to share the things I’ve learnt to improve more spaces in the area.”***

## Community-Building Opportunities

Activities that highlight the skills within communities, along with regular, smaller activities such as a “community living room” or repair cafe could provide accessible, low-pressure opportunities to meet others in the area on a regular basis

***“We don’t need massive events — just small things that bring people together.”***

# Listening exercise in: Little London & Woodhouse



**119 postcard responses**



**12 focus group attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Communities that feel safe**



**Clean and green streets**



**Social integration and cohesion**



**Safer roads and improved transport**

Using your skills and the skills and experience of local people, what could we change together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise, communities in Little London & Woodhouse felt that:

Woodhouse Community Centre is a space that could be used by the community to provide more frequent, wide-ranging activities for residents, where they can meet other people in their community, feel safe and form valuable bonds with one another

**"The community Centre is the perfect place for many of us women talking and learning about each other and our different cultures and backgrounds"**

## Feeling safe within our community

Regular meetings with the police and council can help to encourage community solutions around safety along with addressing the large amount of potholes in the area

***"I wish my local council would listen safety is necessary for our community to thrive"***

## Waste management/ pest control measures

Cleaner streets and green spaces were seen as important, with bigger bins seen as a potential solution to discourage littering

***"We need regular cleaning of open spaces especially our park those bins are not good enough"***

## Better transport

More frequent, reliable transport would be an important factor in increasing connectivity for residents and lessening the cost for them to get around the city

***"If the bus is on time everything in my day flows better"***

## Better use of the local community centre

The Community Centre was seen as a great place to host more frequent activities for the community such as a crafts club, social groups, playgroups, zumba and more.

***"I would love more classes and groups its nice to socialise with people within my community"***

# Listening exercise in: Middleton Park



**161 postcard  
responses**



**44 focus group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Activities for children & young people**



**Increased community safety**



**Education and awareness of disabilities and neurodivergence**

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Middleton Park felt that:

- Opportunities could be made for the community to work together, meet in local spaces such as DAZL and share ideas around how to make the community safer and more inclusive for all. This could be done through events that aim to create understanding and education on different accessibility needs.

**"Let's turn hate into love and build more compassion. We want more understanding and less judgement in our community."**

## Activities for people with a physical or learning disability

Through local organisations such as DAZL, community events, peer mentoring programmes and accessible transport could be set up to increase inclusivity in the area

***"Let's open the doors for all young people to join in and be part of our community both with and without a disability."***

## Community Safety

Promoting inclusion, education and cohesion was seen as key to developing a community that felt safe for all, with everyone feeling included and understood

***"We must work together to create a community where everyone feels equal and included."***

## Advocacy and awareness

A key to greater advocacy and awareness is having a central space to gain correct information around which places are accessible

***"A central information system or place so we can get the correct information easier with peace of mind it will be correct."***

## Accessibility

People in the community with disabilities can work with existing community spaces to help them be accessible for all of the community

***"Change is where we are included and feel the same as everyone else".***

## Places and venues

There was a desire to have an 'inclusive marketplace' to share information, meet other community members and speak to providers

# Listening exercise in: Moortown



**119 postcard responses**



**13 focus group attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**More activities for young people**



**Communicating what's on**

**Communities that feel safe**



Using your skills and the skills and experience of local people, what could we change together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise, communities in Moortown felt that:

There was an agreement with the priorities raised in Year 1, with communities also wanting to see:

- More opportunities to bring people together and to celebrate differences
- Better use of the existing spaces in the area, including green spaces

**"It's a lovely community. Everyone is helpful, and if there's always someone to ask if you don't know something"**

## Community Safety

Police and Community meetings and police contact points could be more useful if more people knew about them.

***"Can we put a permanent banner outside every relevant venue saying 'This is a police contact point – scan or search here for more details' with website info that gives upcoming dates"***

## Improved Communications

There was a strong feeling that improved communications would help with many of the issues raised.

Physical facilities such as noticeboards could be used more, alongside social media and electronic communications. Lots of people were also keen to see a centralised, online platform for information about the area.

## Better use of the spaces that we have

Existing spaces such as Tree Tops, St Alfred's Field, Moortown Park and the area behind Stonegate Road are all great assets.

People want to see them better used and offered to take part in clean ups as well as encourage activities for people of different ages.

## Building Community

Lots of people offered their time and skills for activities that help break down isolation and connect people better.

They also encourage larger scale community events for different people to come together, build cohesion and share information around the community.

# Listening exercise in: Morley North



140 postcard  
responses



8 focus group  
attendees

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



High street & infrastructure



Promoting community events



Coordinated roadworks



Spaces for young people

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Morley North felt that:

- The use of local buildings and spaces can help provide more activities for young people, which in turn can help reduce anti-social behaviour and influence improvements to the high street, keeping it clean and supporting local businesses

Very happy living in Morley. Impressed with the refurb Morley Towns Deal, shop fronts with new stone work. If you get the infrastructure right, it raises the whole area"

## More for young people

A mix of youth provision can take place through the use of the town hall and parks, providing sports, skate parks, gaming and skill-building opportunities

*"I used to love youth clubs as a kid and worked as a youth worker so can appreciate the value of it."*

## High street and local businesses

Ideas were shared on ways to develop Morley's high street and facilities, with community-based solutions involving litter picks, while it was felt in general that local businesses should be provided with more support from the council

*"We need to help and support businesses rather than watch them fail."*

## Reducing anti-social behaviour

Community-led campaigns can make a big difference to feelings of safety in the area, with ideas around working more with the police and campaigns encouraging the public to report crime seen as positive ways to encourage change.

*"We should be more proactive and work with the police. It's just not how it used to be and that's not always a bad thing"*

# Listening exercise in: Morley South



**141 postcard  
responses**



**23 focus group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**High street & infrastructure**



**Promoting community events**



**Coordinated roadworks**



**Spaces for young people**

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Morley South felt that:

- A community that is inclusive for all should be the aim for the area, creating more regular community events to reduce isolation, building on existing activities for young people and supporting local businesses that operate on the high street

**"If everyone in our community worked together and really put our minds together we could change the world."**

## Community Events

Community organisations and spaces can be highly valuable in organising collaborative, community events that bring people together and help to reduce isolation

***"If there were more free events in the town, people wouldn't feel so excluded about being unable to attend paid-for events"***

## Young people and activities

A mixture of leisure events such as sports alongside volunteering opportunities can help young people feel more involved in their community and bring out their individual skills

***"More courses and opportunities for young people."***

## Safety, crime, and policing

Communities in Morley want to feel more connected to local police, encouraging Morley police to have a similar presence on Facebook to West Yorkshire Police

***"I don't see many police in Morley. It tends to be reactive not proactive"***

## Shops, market, and town centre change

Communities should work with local businesses and companies to make sure highly valued shops can stay open long-term and keep the high street revitalised

***"Companies need a joined-up approach so works are planned at the same time to avoid digging up roads at separate times"***

# Listening exercise in: Otley & Yeadon



**192 postcard  
responses**



**18 focus group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Variety of shops**



**High street and infrastructure**



**Improved transport links**



**Reduced traffic**

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Otley & Yeadon felt that:

- Further involvement in existing Otley Action Groups as well as use of the market, developing the town centre, supporting local businesses and potentially recovering the civic centre could make a significant difference for local communities, helping them get more involved in their local area and also having more options for activities and amenities in the town centre.

**"We don't need to  
reinvent the wheel.  
We've already got some  
brilliant organisations  
here - we just need to  
help them reach more  
people."**

## Social isolation and loneliness

Otley Action groups were mentioned as a space that has made a big difference to people's lives and could reach many more in the community with extra promotion and support.

***"They've got the experience and they know what works. I'd love to see them supported to do even more"***

## High street infrastructure and better variety of shops

Emphasis was placed on encouraging community involvement in developing Otley town centre, which could include further development of Otley Market, encouraging the support of local businesses.

***"The market is one of Otley's strengths - it'd be great to see it grow even more."***

## Community Engagement

There was a strong desire for communities to see the civic centre brought back into use, as it could be an important platform for events and projects that bring the wider community together and host pre-existing community groups.

***"The Civic Centre could be the heart of the town again if it was brought back into use."***

## Listening exercise in: Pudsey



140 postcard  
responses



12 focus group  
attendees

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



Improvements to public  
transport



Communities that feel safe



Community activities



Promoting the town centre

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Pudsey felt that:

- There's already so much happening here, it just needs to be seen. Promoting existing facilities and activities more widely, building on them, and linking them together could boost participation. Shared spaces like the park and the market could also host new events that bring the community together and celebrate the best of the area.

"We need to be proud of ourselves that Pudsey's a great place to live and I'm so glad I live here... I love living here and we should just shout from the rooftops how fab it is."

### Make up of town centre

People clearly value what their town centre already has to offer, and they're full of ideas for developing these assets and linking them together, from opening the market alongside the carnival or other calendar highlights to bringing more live bands into the park.

### Young people's activities

There's already a good range of facilities and activities for young people in the area, and people shared plenty of ideas for boosting attendance and adding new activities to the mix. Support for wellbeing came through strongly:

***"Could more be offered that supports young people with mental health and emotional/relationships?"***

### Community safety

"Social media was seen as fuelling fears about community safety that don't always match the reality on the ground. There's an opportunity to share more positive messaging that better reflects what the community is really like, as well as a recognition some concerns are well-founded.

### What do people want in their local community?

People were keen to see more events in their community, with ideas ranging from food festivals and Christmas fairs to events showcasing local businesses – because of their positive experiences with existing or recent events.

## Listening exercise in: Rothwell



**70 postcard  
responses**



**22 focus group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Warm homes**



**Support around neurodiversity**



**Communication**



**Empowering young people**

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Rothwell felt that:

- There were many community assets in the Rothwell that could help to enhance different aspects of the community such as youth activities and green spaces. Ideas around developing communication was also seen as key to helping the wider community get involved in these different activities.

**“Bring younger and  
older members of  
the community  
together through  
volunteering”**

## More Opportunities & Support for Young People

Windmill Community Centre was seen as having significant potential for young people in the area, with a feeling that the club could be open more often to support young people with volunteering and being involved in the community.

***“We need to get younger volunteers in community, volunteer groups so they can learn from the generations before them”***

## Local communication

A local newsletter, an online noticeboard and neighbourhood groups were seen as ways that communication could be shared around the community both digitally and through print.

***“Advertise local activities and opportunities online and on noticeboards”***

## Improving Parks, Green Spaces and the Environment

Numerous local groups such as ‘Crown Wombles’, ‘In Bloom’ groups along with scouts, brownies etc. were seen as valuable, local groups to involve in developing local green spaces

***“I’d like to get involved in collecting rubbish with my kids”***

# Listening exercise in: Roundhay



**143 postcard  
responses**



**25 focus group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Communities that feel safe**



**Communicating what's on**



**Cleaner street and spaces**



**Activities for young people**

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Roundhay felt that:

- Common community issues such as youth activities, safety and littering can be addressed through community-led groups, fundraising efforts and information sharing, creating initiatives that are made for the benefit of the community and also led by the community

**"We (teenagers)  
could organise an  
activity for the  
younger kids (8 - 12  
yrs)"**

## Younger People

Young people said they don't find out about activities the same way older people do, so sometimes miss out. They felt they would like movie nights, pool, basketball and trips out. Also to consider what we can do for neurodivergent kids.

***"Activities led by young people for young people"***

## Litter Picking

A community litter picking day with incentives of refreshments, with dogs welcome to make it more inclusive. We need to share information on where to leave the full purple bags.

***"Litter picking is not fun but we do want the place to look nice"***

## Adult Classes

There are existing activities for adults in our area. Residents want affordable or subsidised, variety of different activities, accessible as well as promoting car sharing, particularly at night.

***"I don't like going out on dark nights"***

## Safer Community

Information sharing was seen as a positive way to increase safety, particularly around advertising PACT meetings. Increased Police presence on the street on an evening was felt important.

***"Most people felt reporting crime doesn't work"***

# Listening exercise in: Temple Newsam



**151 postcard  
responses**



**19 focus group  
attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Shops and cost of living**



**Clean and safe streets**



**More accessible transport**

Using your skills  
and the skills  
and experience  
of local people,  
what could we  
change  
together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise,  
communities in Temple Newsam felt that:

- There is a lot of potential for the new hub opening in Halton, which could provide a valuable community space for youth clubs, community activities and a general space to reduce isolation. Existing local groups can also help with keeping the area tidy while also sharing information about what is taking place and where to find different services/amenities.

**"I would like to have a space for all ages of the community to use..like Cipton Fire Station but for Halton Moor/Osmondthorpe"**

## There is not enough for young people and children

Residents saw the upcoming new building as a great opportunity to host numerous youth activities such as a youth club, arts and crafts, music etc. which could help reduce antisocial behaviour. Consideration should be put in about how to promote the groups

***"When we get our new building, adults with children will know about the area and come"***

## Pavements and Parking

Local groups such as Halton in Bloom could place flower displays on pavements to discourage people from parking on them, while there could also be further use of the car park in Matalan, lessening the amount of people parking on pavements around Halton.

## Cleaner and safer streets

Further publicity and involvement of local charities are positive ways to spread awareness of where litter can be placed and to lessen fly-tipping incidents

***Publicise where to go to get rid of rubbish..list of charities that collect. Put it on social media"***

## Tackling loneliness and improving a sense of community

The community centre can be a great place to revamp the lunch club, bring existing groups together to take part in social prescribing and help to reduce antisocial behaviour

***"A community centre is a good thing to bring people together."***

# Listening exercise in: Weetwood



**191 postcard responses**



**29 focus group attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Improved community spaces**



**Feeling heard**



**Communities that feel safe**



**Improved transport links**

Using your skills and the skills and experience of local people, what could we change together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise, communities in Weetwood felt that:

- Community spaces such as OPAL are seen as a 'life saver' and if opened more often could facilitate many intergenerational initiatives that promote cohesion, skill-sharing, reduce isolation and increase feelings of safety.
- Residents were also keen to help each other with transport issues through car shares as well as using empty spaces for transport initiatives

**"Listen to communities before making changes, we are the experts in our area"**

## Feeling safe

Community centres could open more frequently and on weekends to reach as many community members as possible, providing them with a regular, safe space to visit.

***"People need to be included"***

## Youth /Intergenerational

There are many ways that older and younger community members can learn from each other as well as generally interacting together. Having community buildings open more often would allow for more opportunities to organise initiatives such as this.

***"We know what works in our communities. We just need the funding to make it happen"***

## Transport

Empty space can be used for transport initiatives such as park and rides, while communities can also organise regular car shares.

# Listening exercise in: Wetherby



**59 postcard responses**



**47 focus group attendees**

Year one of the listening exercise saw these points raised as important to people:



**Wider variety of shops**



**Affordable housing**



**Activities for young people**



**An accessible high street**

Using your skills and the skills and experience of local people, what could we change together?

In year 2 of the listening exercise, communities in Wetherby felt that:

- There are many existing skills and spaces in the community that can be utilised to develop different intergenerational activities to reduce isolation in older people and connect them closer with younger people. These activities can also provide education around different conditions and disabilities.

*"It would be nice to have some intergenerational activities for young, elderly and everything in between"*

## Intergenerational activities

Using an example such as the 'Green Group' in nearby Boston Spa can help spark ideas on what activities can be set up to help support older people in the community, helping them to stay connected to their community and have regular activities that they enjoy

*"A 'Green Group' (as in Boston Spa) has [had] a beneficial effect on the environment and community. Planting, renovating, planning for the future"*

*"Better use of local libraries for events for the community - local speakers and family reading mornings etc."*

## Infrastructure

Many existing facilities such as vacant buildings and community skills can be utilised through sharing event information, linking with local businesses and making activities flexible and low cost

## Educational

Groups focussed on providing residents with training around different conditions such as BSL classes, neurodiversity training etc.. can provide communities with the education they need to support each other

*"More internet classes can be organised in the area which bring the community together and inspire neighbourly relationships"*

## Next steps

The next steps for this work are for the Leeds Community Anchor Network to shape. They will meet to review the findings of this report and discuss what each community anchor organisation is doing in its local area in response to this exercise.

# APPENDICES

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- [Postcard feedback template](#)
- [Focus group feedback template](#)