

Review of the Children and Young People's Plan 2010

Messages from Children and Young People

The views of children, young people and their families formed a vital part of drawing together the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). It is important to make sure that any review of the plan also includes a review of these messages.

The consultation for the full plan reached over 4,000 children and young people through many different channels. It is not be practical to carry out such a large-scale consultation for a review of the CYPP. This review has focussed on the existing messages and priorities identified in the CYPP to check if these are still relevant and important.

To do this messages were drawn together from several key groups and forums, including:

- School council conference
- Looked after children group (Show me that I matter)
- York Youth Council
- Parents of children with disabilities and additional needs
- Through the YorOK website
- Tell Us 4 (TellUs4 is a voluntary survey of children and young people in year 6, year 8 and year 10 which asks about their experiences and views of their life, their school and their local area¹)

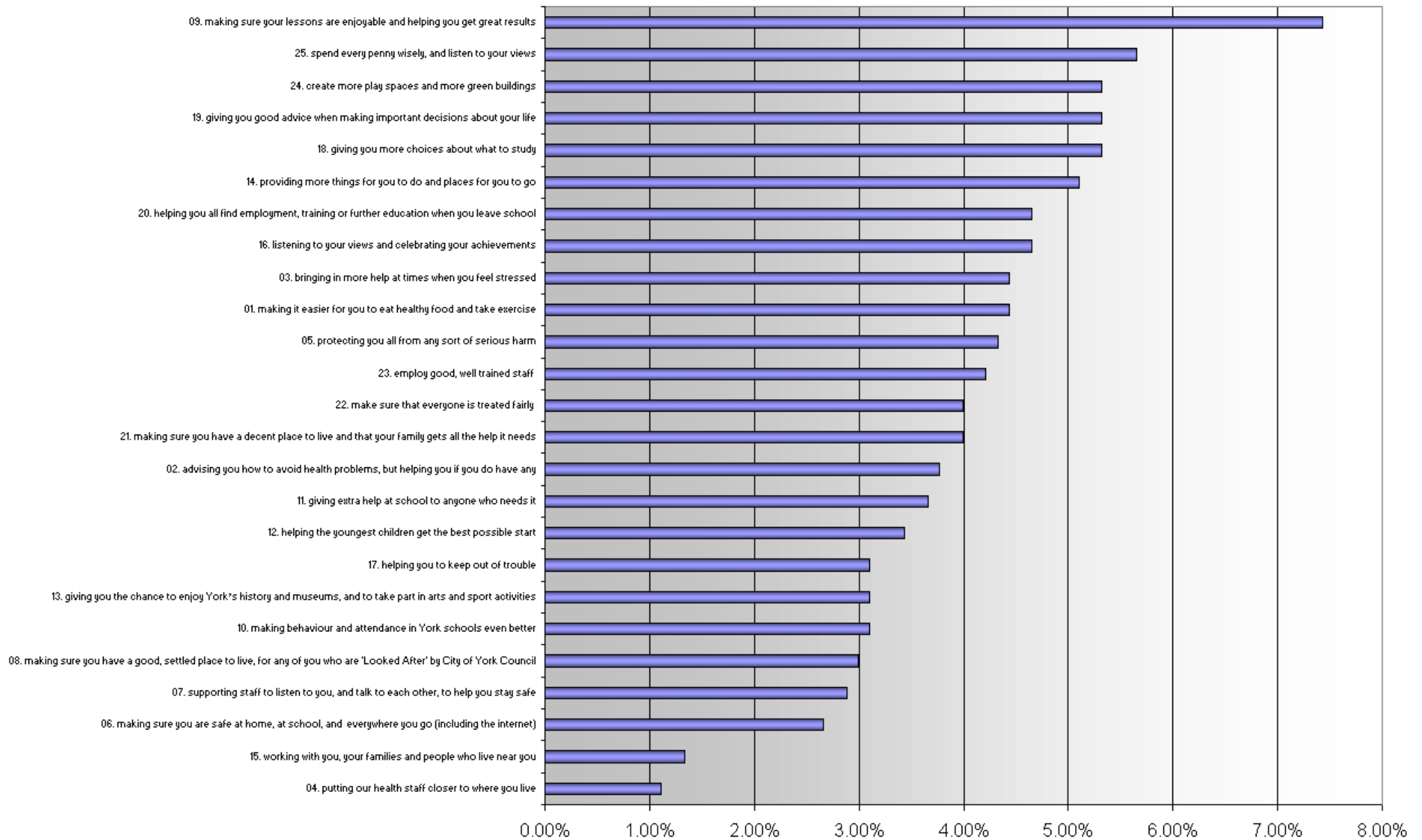
Although this process does not go to the depth of the full consultation previously carried out it gives a flavour of what priorities people feel are important to them. Around 2,100 children, young people, parents and carers have been involved in this review.

The YorOK Priorities

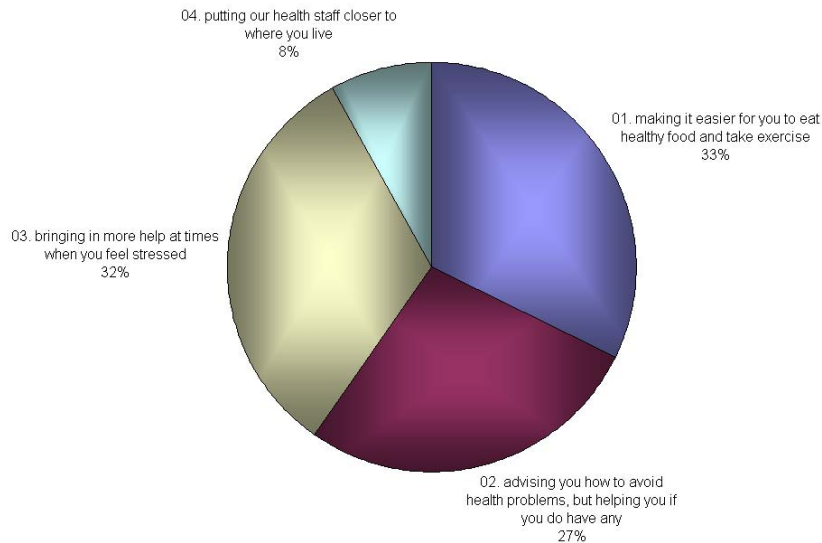
The CYPP identified 25 key priorities split across the five Every Child Matters outcomes. As part of the review people were asked to highlight what priorities they felt were important to them. The chart on the next page gives the overall picture of how people responded to this question.

¹ Note: Treat results with caution due to the low number of year 8 and year 10 pupils that took part in the survey.

The 25 CYPP priorities ranked by children and young people



Being Healthy



The chart to the left shows how people ranked the priorities in this area.

Key messages that were raised included:

- Some young people wanted health workers to be more accessible. For example being based on bus routes or have work mobile phones.
- Support needed for siblings of children or young people with disabilities. Want to be able to access activities together. Dolphin Swim was given as an example of how this can work well.
- Adults felt that the quality of school meals had improved but some young people weren't so sure.
- Parents of children with disabilities wanted to be able to access more information and support before reaching crisis point.
- Other ideas included subsidising bikes for young people and making leisure centres cheaper for students.

Feedback from Tell Us 4 survey

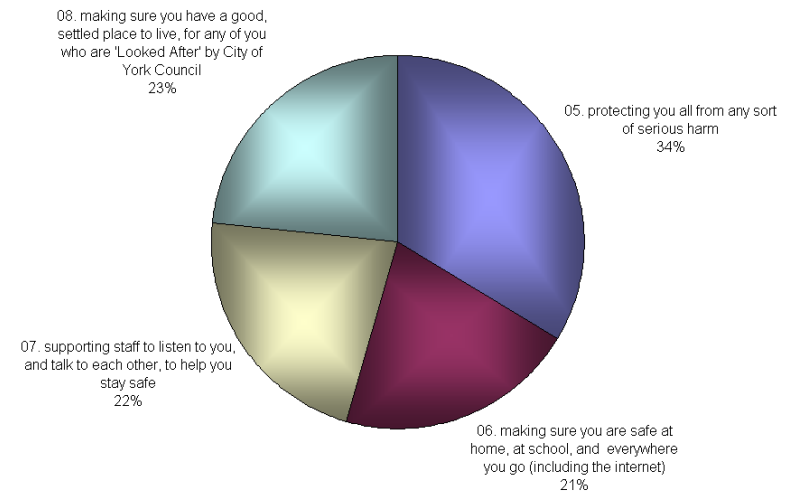
- The survey found that two-thirds (67%) of children feel happy about life at the moment. The national figure was also 67%.
- 77% of respondents say they have never smoked a cigarette and 87% of the year 8 and year 10 pupils asked say that they have never taken drugs. However, nearly half (46%) claim they have had an alcoholic drink and 8% said they have been drunk at once in the past four weeks. This mirrors the national picture.
- The results do indicate that more needs to be done to encourage healthy eating, as only 22% of respondents say they manage to eat five portions of fruit and vegetables every day. However, this is significantly higher than the national result.
- Children and young people also have clear views about the information and advice they receive. A significant minority of year 8 and year 10 respondents think they need more helpful information and advice on healthy food + lifestyle (13%), alcohol (18%), smoking (17%), drugs (16%) and sex and relationships (19%).
- The things that pupils often worry about are; school work & exams (48%), what to do after year 11 (35%), the way they look (32%), friendships (30%), being bullied (26%) and parents or family (26%)

Staying Safe

The chart on the right shows how people ranked the priorities in this area.

Other key messages that were raised included:

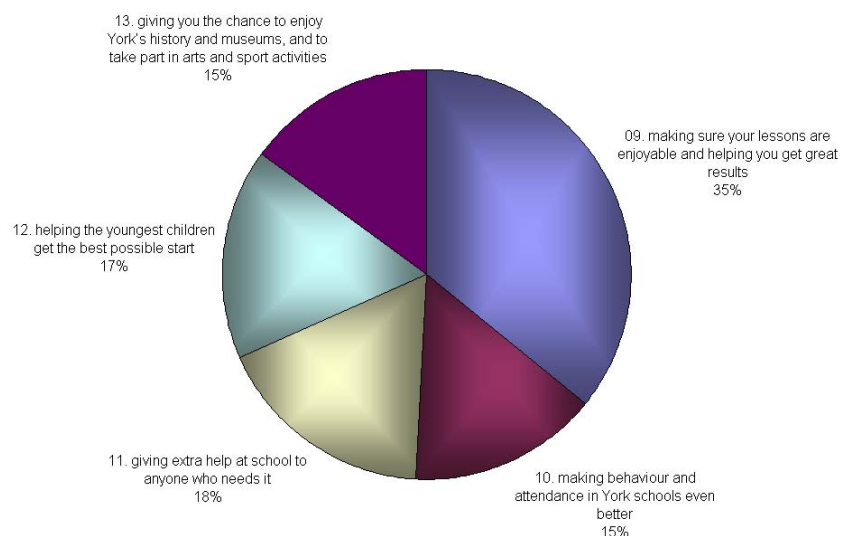
- Both adults and young people raised internet safety. Adults felt that progress had been made at school but some young people did not feel confident about what to do.
- Having well lit cycle tracks was important to some young people.
- Looked after children fed back that they should have a greater option in foster placements and get to know about those that were rejected as well as those that they were placed with.
- Some adults were worried that children who are home schooled or have a non-diagnosed disability may slip through the net.
- Some adults wanted parenting programmes where the child has a disability or additional need.



Feedback from Tell Us 4 survey

- The survey found that 84% of children feel quite or very safe in the area where they live (this result is significantly higher than the national average), 75% feel safe on public transport, 87% feel safe going to and from school and 88% feel safe in school.
- Some 80% of respondents say that they have not been bullied in the last four weeks. However, 53% say that they have been bullied at some point during their time in school. 58% of pupils say they think bullying is handled quite or very well, 27% say it is handled not very well or badly and 4% say that bullying is not a problem in school.

Enjoying and Achieving



The chart to the left shows how people ranked the priorities in this area.

Other key messages that were raised included:

- Making sure everybody understands and respects each other.
- Being listened to and not turned away.
- Adults felt that Children's Centres had improved support for the youngest children with disabilities but that more could still be done.
- More information to adults in order to support children and young people with learning outside of school.
- Having more approachable teachers helped children and young people to do better at school.
- Where young people were in foster care sometimes they had to get up really early to get to school from the address where they were staying
- There were lots of messages about lessons should be interesting. One idea was to have lesson plans written by a group of people at school council where the ideas come from the young people.

Feedback from Tell Us 4 survey

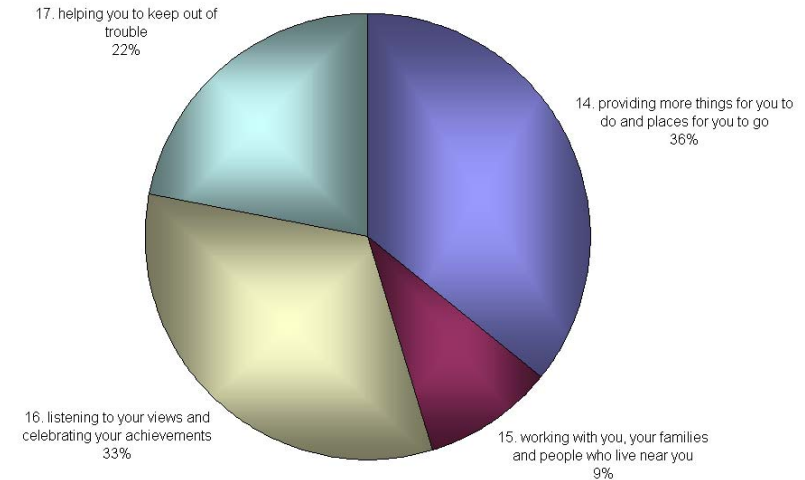
- The survey found that 77% of pupils agree that their school gives them useful skills and knowledge. The national figure is 76%. However, only 68% of respondents say that school has lots of activities to take part in at lunchtime or after school, compared to 74% nationally.
- Children and young people also have clear views about what would help them to do better in school. Over a quarter (28%) of pupils called for more opportunities to learn somewhere that is not in a classroom. 26% wanted more fun and interesting lessons and 19% wanted lessons disrupted less by other pupils.
- The main places that respondents had been to in their free time in the last four weeks were; a local park or playground (63%), sports club or class (53%) and a youth centre or club to take part in organised activities (30%).
- Nearly half (49%) of children and young people said that they think their parks and play areas in their area are very or fairly good. The national figure is 54%.

Making a positive Contribution

The chart below shows how people ranked the priorities in this area.

Other key messages that were raised included:

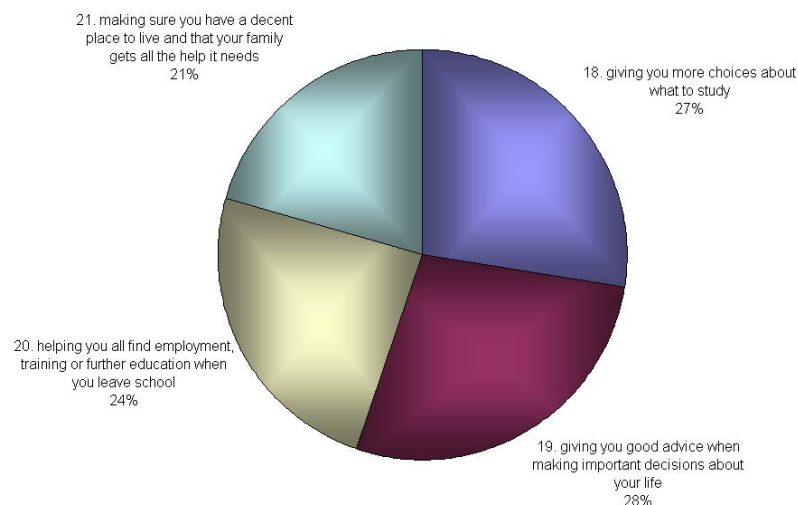
- Both adults and young people said they wanted their views to be listened to. Some people felt that they weren't consulted or that they were being consulted to late to affect key decisions.
- York Youth Council highlighted the need for a city centre venue for young people. Adults also highlighted this need but other young people also spoke about having more to do closer to home.
- Both adults and young people wanted more information about things like careers advice and what groups are running across York. Young people in particular said they wanted to be contacted through social networking sites.



Feedback from Tell Us 4 survey

- The survey shows that only 29% said that their views are listened to in the running of their school. The national figure is 33%. Asked about giving their ideas about things that are important to them, out of the year 8 & year 10 respondents, 26% have filled in a questionnaire, 14% have given ideas to a school council, 7% have given ideas by telephone, text or online, and 4% have given ideas to a youth council or youth parliament.
- Only 13% of respondents have given time to help a charity, a local voluntary group or done some organised volunteering, in the last 4 weeks. The national figure is 17%.

Achieving Economic Well-being



The chart to the left shows how people ranked the priorities in this area.

Other key messages that were raised included:

- The need for free or cheap activities for children and young people.
- York Youth Council and young people highlighted the need for discounted bus travel for 16 to 18 year olds.
- That there should be longer periods of work experience or opportunities for volunteering.

Feedback from Tell Us 4 survey

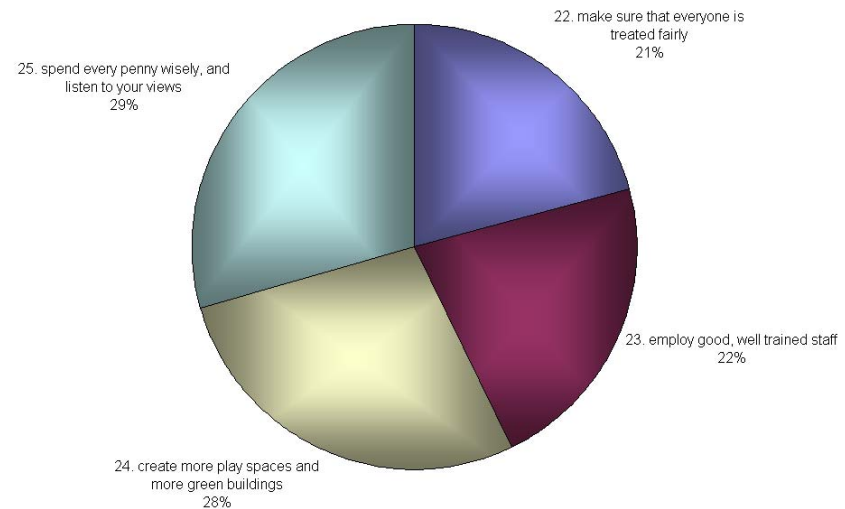
- 40% of year 8 & year 10 pupils think that the information and support they get to plan their future is good enough. The national figure is 43%. Asked about their plans after year 11, 35% would do a course at college, 23% would do a course in a school sixth form, 14% would get a job with training and 4% would do an apprenticeship.
- 57% of respondents would like to go to university. The national figure is 62%.
- Asked about what would make their life better, 43% said that having more places where they could go to spend time with their friends would make a difference, and 36% said more interesting lessons.

Service Management

The chart below shows how people ranked the priorities in this area.

Other key messages that were raised included:

- Changing negative views of young people. Celebrate all children's achievements across York.
- Adults felt that everybody should be given an understanding about children with disabilities and additional needs so they can be treated fairly.



Aspirations of Children and Young People

Children and young people were also asked about their aspirations as part of a conference held in York in January 2010. There were lots of different messages and it is not possible to include all of them here. Later in 2010 a booklet called "Voices of York" will be produced that will show the messages that children and young people gave about their aspirations as part of the NEEC (North of England Education Conference) conference. A short selection are shown below:

- *"What I would like is more houses with gardens. I am begging you please treat all people the same, if you do we all will be grateful. Please don't sell cigarettes, families are dying and no one is there for the children. Please choose my idea because I don't want much."*
- *"My hopes and dreams are more skate parks in the area so that there will be less bullying in the area because the people in the area bully me all the time, but if you build a skate park they people who bully me won't be interested in me, they would be interested in the skate park."*
- *"When I grow up I would like to be an outdoor instructor after I experienced the fun with my school. In order to get this job I will need to become more friendly and less shy."*
- *"I definitely want to go to a GOOD High School because I'm really keen to learn. I want to have a good education because I'd like to be clever. I don't want to meet any bullies because I hate being picked on. I'm quite nervous but I'll probably be ok."*
- *"I am six years old. When I grow up I want to be an explorer. I wish I can have a clean house. I want to go to university."*
- *"My first hope is that all the cracks and hills on the roads could be straightened and made so there's no more cracks. My second dream is that all the pupils in the school have their own laptop with Internet so the children like me don't have to do it all on books. I also think people should sort out the Internet so there's no rude pictures or videos. My last dream is about places, my idea is that there are more swimming pools in schools so that when they go to secondary school they can't get laughed at."*

- *"I believe that some young children are suffering too much cruelty and I would like to prevent this from happening. I think we need to be educated better in how to respect one another, become more tolerant, and take care of other people."*

What do young people do that makes them feel proud?

At the secondary school council conference and through the online consultation children and young people were asked about what they did that made them feel proud. A short selection of responses are shown below:

- *"Being a member of York Youth Council"*
- *"I take part in Scouts where we help the York Community"*
- *"Take part in different activities"*
- *"Help by holding doors open"*
- *"Recycle"*
- *"Making friends"*
- *"I cycle around York (it is fun!)"*
- *"Raising money for charity"*
- *"I breakdance in the breakdance crew 0.2.ILL. I have won the UK bboy champs 2 times with them. I play the violin, bass, drums and guitar. I play football for York Cubs. I'm the captain. On the 25th of April were going to London to defend our breakdance title. We have already won the Northern heats."*
- *"Help younger students in my school with their textiles and food lessons so they leave school with good domestic skills and help them learn about healthy diet"*
- *"I swim for York City Baths Club and volunteer there as well. I am also a member of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and have started my gold award"*