

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health**Children and Young People's Conference****1. Purpose of Report**

To inform Members of the report from the Children and Young People's Conference in line with the Council's vision of a greener, safer, healthier Broxtowe, where everyone prospers and its priorities of a healthy and supported community and a safe place for everyone.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the report and action plan.

3. Detail

In autumn 2025, focus groups led by a research fellow at Oxford University were held in schools across Broxtowe to capture the voice of children and identify what young people consider to be the reason for a deterioration in connectivity between young people and their peers, families, schools and communities.

A conference was held in February 2026 at the Youth Centre in Beeston to further explore findings from the focus groups. 66 young people aged 11 to 16 years attended from five schools taking part in research exercises alongside fun activities and lived experience key speakers. During the event, an artwork was also created by the young people which is currently on display at the Beeston Youth Centre. It is hoped that permissions will be granted for this to be displayed in the Council's reception area.

The young people exchanged perspectives on social media and ways to navigate the complexity of issues that arise ranging from cyber-bullying and questionable influencers to extremism and predators. They discussed conflicting identity issues arising from social comparison, fear of missing out, belonging, peer conflict and rejection.

A second discussion group explored the meaning of community and whether young people feel a sense of connectedness and belonging to their school and local community. They also considered how young people can be more involved in co-creating the communities they belong to.

The group explored the extent to which they have real mentors and role models in their lives and how strengthening bonds with trusting adults can support their needs and aspirations and how strengthening relationships between home, school and community might buffer the effects of negative social media and decrease reliance on non-expert influencers for guidance.

The report has been distributed to:

- House of Lords Select Committee - Communications and Digital
- Cross party Parliamentary Committee - Culture, Media and Sport
- The Children's Commissioner
- The Mayor of the East Midlands Combined County Authority
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire
- Nottinghamshire County Council Children's Services
- The Violence Reduction Partnership
- The Council's Culture and Events team

The report from Oxford University can be found at **Appendix 1**. An action plan has been drawn up following the conference and can be found at **Appendix 2**.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications for the Council at this stage. Any significant cost implications in the future would require approval by Cabinet.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no legal implications at this stage.

8. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

HR comments are not required for this report.

9. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

Union comments are not required for this report.

10. Climate Change Implications

Any climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

As this is not a policy an equality impact assessment is not required.

13. Background Papers

Nil.