

Summary of sessions: The Lakes College and Ewanrigg Juniors, June 2026.

Process used:

CDEC ran 2 sessions (Year 6 class at Ewanrigg Juniors: 16 pupils) and Foundation Studies group The Lakes College (24 students)

Pride in Place: setting the scene

The students were introduced to the Pride in Place programme for Maryport: its overall aim and how the community are informing the plan. It was explained to the students that the conversation they were part of would

Warming up:

We started with a concept line: to get them warmed up and making decisions about how they felt about certain statements eg: I like being in outdoor spaces, it is easy for me to travel to school/ college, There are things for me to do in my spare time.

World Café:

We created- with the pupils- a map of the place- starting with the school as a central place and all the places they could think of in Maryport. This gave them anchor points/ visual markers for the next part of the session. We then moved onto a world café activity: each flipchart page had a different theme on it. The groups rotated round and answered a central question of 'what bothers me about...

- Youth provision
- Transport links
- Green spaces
- Town centres/ high streets
- Community safety

They then wrote down all the things that 'bother' them. At the end of this we fed-back and then every young person had 3 votes per page to choose what they would most like to change.

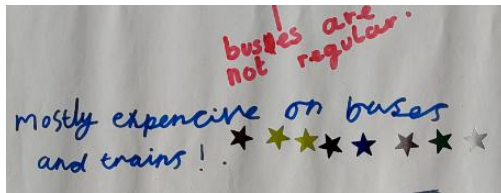
Summary of feedback

The young people highlight significant **barriers to youth provision**, mentioning high costs, a lack of funding, and poor accessibility for those with additional needs. Concerns regarding **community safety** are prominent, with notes mentioning insufficient lighting, a lack of safe hubs, and anxiety over antisocial behaviour. **Public transport** is identified as a major struggle due to expensive fares, unreliable bus schedules, and poor connectivity to education or employment. They would like improvements to **town centres and green spaces**, specifically requesting more diverse activities, cleaner parks, and better maintenance of communal areas.

Priorities:

These are the nine key priorities for funding, weighted by the young people using a star voting system (the more stars, the more this was a collective priority):

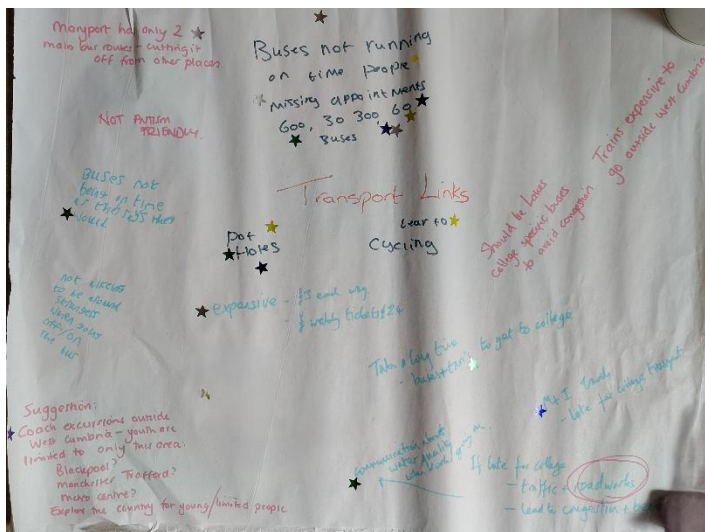
1. **Transport Affordability:** Reducing the cost of travel is a major priority, as young people noted that "buses and trains" are "mostly expensive," making it difficult to travel within and outside the area.



Ewanrigg pupils feelings about transport

2. **Transport Reliability and Frequency:** Funding is needed to ensure buses "run on time" and are more "regular". Young people highlighted that late buses cause people to miss appointments and college.

- The routes also came up with the college students mentioning that to travel from Maryport to Cockermouth, you have to take 2 buses which makes possible employment options limited



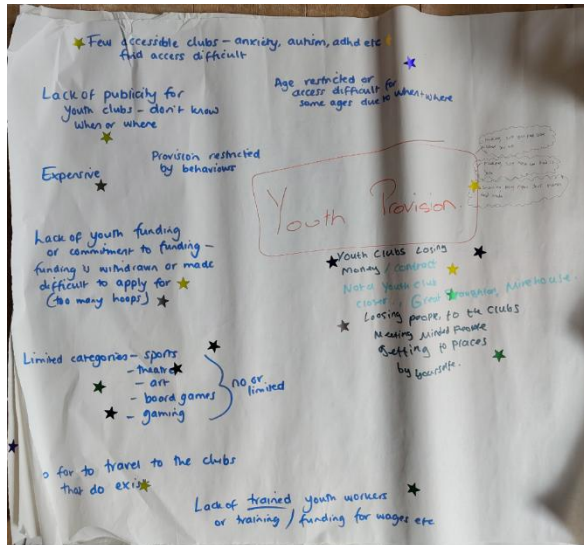
Lakes College feedback on transport

3. **Sustainable Youth Provision:** There is a clear call for "youth funding or commitment to funding" because current clubs are "losing money/contracts" and provision is often "restricted". **Diverse and Inclusive Youth Activities:** Young people want funding for a wider variety of activities beyond just sports, including "theatre," "art," "board games," and "gaming". They also stressed the need for "accessible clubs" for those with "anxiety, autism, [and] ADHD".

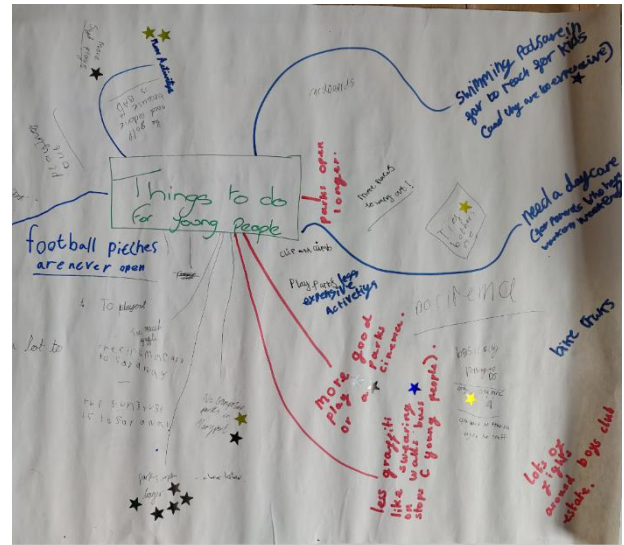
- Ewanrigg pupils noted that there is nothing to do on their estates but when they go to where there are activities, they feel unsafe due to anti-social behaviour. There is a call for more hyper-local activities
- More activities on offer closer to where they live

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- Invest in trained youth workers (detached and in clubs)



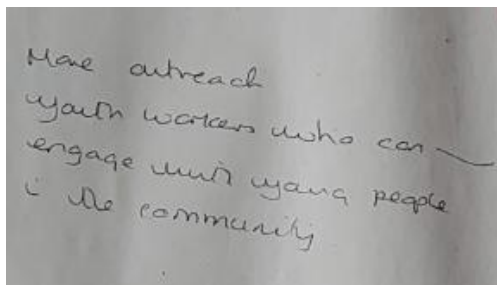
*reflections from The Lakes College Students
looking at Youth Provision*



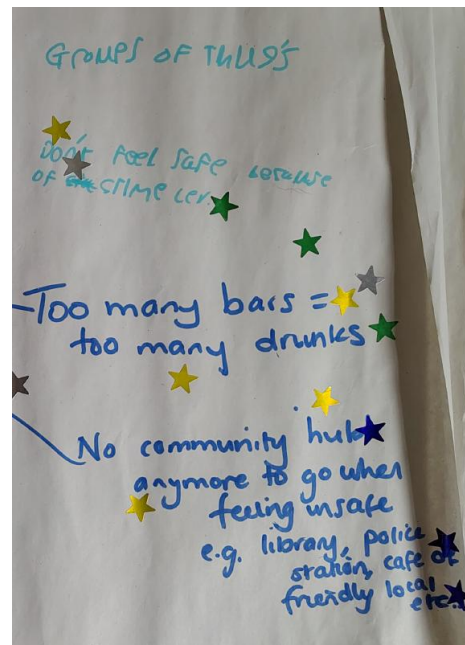
feedback from Ewanrigg pupils

4. **Enhanced Community Safety and Policing:** Young people identified a need for "more police doing their job right," increased "patrols around the area more often," and trained youth workers to help people "stay safe when you are outside".

- Specific mention was made (by both groups) of fights linked to pubs/ alcohol and YP feeling really unsafe due to this. They felt there are too many bars and pubs

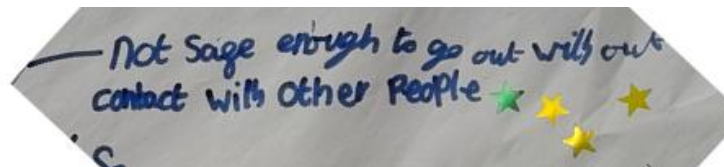


The Lakes College students feedback, expressing their feelings about pubs, lack of community hubs and need for detached youth workers



5. **Creation of Safe Community Hubs:** Funding is desired for "community hubs" where people can go if they are "feeling unsafe," such as libraries, police stations, or "friendly local" cafes.

- They aren't aware of anyone being able to use the community centre (close to Ewanrigg) unless you have an event. They'd like to be able to use it as somewhere to go/ be connected with
6. **Maintenance of Parks and Green Spaces:** There is a priority for "money to maintain" these areas. Specifically, young people noted needs for "picking litter," cleaning up "glass," and "making grass greener" or shorter.
- Places just don't look nice (graffiti, litter) and this makes them feel less pride for where they live
 - They would love for art projects to replace the graffiti and that could be co-created by them, artists, rest of community
 - They want opportunities for the community to do more to clean up spaces, connect with nature. Involve community groups in up-keep
 - Accessibility: they want to make sure all of the green spaces can be accessed by people in wheelchairs, with prams, with SEN



7. **Road Infrastructure Improvements:** Addressing "pot holes" on roads was a recurring issue identified for improvement.
8. **Town Centre:** they felt the town centre is unwelcoming, with lots of shops closed and very little to do other than 'shop'.
- **Increased Parking Infrastructure:** A "lack of parking" was identified as a significant issue in both the town centre and near Green Spaces.
 - They suggested more parking with larger parking spaces
 - Reduce the number of vape shops
 - They want more things to do in town: not necessarily shops but more variety of activities that would make them want to be in town
 - They also mentioned they'd like more choice in places to eat and hang-out

9. **Extended Facility Access and Services:** Funding is needed to keep "parks open longer" and to provide "daycare" for parents who work weekends.

- They reflected on park closing times and wanted them to stay open later so they had somewhere to play/ride bikes/play football, etc

