

Belong Collective: Tackling Youth Loneliness and Isolation

Update Report to Astra Foundation and Co-op Foundation

15 March 2023

Overview

UK Youth (UKY) and Youth Focus North East (YFNE) have been successfully building on the momentum our collaborative work set up during the Year 1 of the project. We have been expanding on all areas of the work and have started noticing the wider impact of our work on our communities. The profile of youth loneliness and isolation has been raised as a priority issue for our overall work and our collaboration is strengthening. Acknowledging that we are currently at the half-point of our work, we are keen to start building a legacy of the project. Our focus will now be on connecting various strands of our work together while building on recommendations of the 'We choose to be here' report at both local and national levels. We will also look at lessons learned through this project to outline best practices for mobilising resources on local, regional, and national levels to create change.

We are very grateful for the support of Astra Foundation and Co-op Foundation and are delighted to submit this report for the period of October 2022 – March 2023.

Activities, learnings and activities planned for the next 6 months

We met as a partnership group in early March 2023 to discuss our successes and learning, outline our work for the next 6 months, and consider the emerging wider priority areas for our final year of the project. Below please read about our achievements over the last 6 months, learnings and plans for the next reporting period in specific areas of the project. We are also including three case studies reflecting the impact of the project in the Appendix 1 at the end of the report.

Youth Engagement and Leadership: The Youth Leadership Group (YLG) is still actively involved in the design of all elements of the Belong Collective. Over the last year, we have been working with 13 youth leaders who have dedicated their time to the development of this project. Some of them have now moved onto other valuable social action activities, such as #iwill Movement (please see Case Study 1) or have been focusing on their studies, some are still actively involved. We are now planning to further the reach of the engagement to other young people involved in UK Youth activities while embedding this opportunity in the wider UK Youth offer to young people.

Learnings: We know that involvement of young people in the project has been high and very valuable, with many activities being solely youth-led. However, we also know that the capacity of young people to be involved at this level is limited. We will now be looking at ways how we can further support young people involved in the project.

Activities planned for the next 6 months:

- Co-develop inclusive, accessible, scalable 'Belonging Champion' role (name / scope TBC), with the help of members of the YLG. The role will receive support similar to the #iwill Champions offer. This will be discussed and planned in the next YLG meeting in April.
- Review policy and practitioner recommendations from the 'We choose to be here' report and incorporate them into young people's role.
- Explore transition of the YLG to the UKY Young Leaders Collective and/or #iwill Movement. This transition will allow for further promotion of the Belong Collective and the issue of youth loneliness and isolation across these larger collectives of young people, leading to an increase of reach and engagement.
- Review the practitioner training to be adapted for young people, building on the City Year model (please see below for more information).

- Pilot the new 'Belonging Champion' role with UKY Young Leaders Collective and #iwill Ambassadors, as well as the City Year volunteers and cohort of young people in Barnsley as part of Tackling Loneliness Residential (please see below for more information).

Training, resource and support dissemination: YFNE has led on delivery of training sessions as well as presented our work to a wide range of organisations, companies and schools, while also building partnerships for resource development. We have been seeing glimpses of system change, especially in the educational sector. Activities delivered in the last 6 months include:

- Training sessions delivered to **70 City Year peer mentors** supporting young people in schools across Manchester and Birmingham (City Year is an education charity which places young, full-time volunteers in schools, where they act as mentors to students providing pastoral and educational support). City Year staff also attended the training, enabling them not only to better support their peer mentors, but also re-evaluate their mentoring programme to incorporate work around youth loneliness and isolation.
- Delivery of loneliness awareness workshops to **240 Key Stage 2 (ages 7-11) students at a local school**, with teachers being present at these workshops. This led into further discussions on embedding learnings from the workshops in the school's practice – please see Case Study 2 for more information.
- Working with and presenting our resources to cohorts of professionals from health and finance sectors, employability professionals and even a group of local organisations' CEOs – please see the Case Study 3.
- Meanwhile, we have been trying to keep in touch with practitioners who took our previous training to track their progress and understand the impact and spread of the knowledge gained in the training.

We have also started a targeted recruitment of young people to help with development of resources tackling isolation and loneliness for specific groups. We held workshops with Newcastle Prince's Trust to finalise the Mindfulness colouring book, a resource developed with their current group. The book draws upon the young people's own experiences, highlighting a number of aspects that bring difficulties and feelings of isolation and loneliness while it shows solutions supporting other young people to overcome similar situations.

We also have reached out to and held meetings to develop resources with:

- Barnardo's – The Base (LGBTQ+ focus): we held 7 meetings with mixed groups of approximately 20 young people, with 9 being a core group. These young people are from various backgrounds but the majority are classed as highly vulnerable. Within the groups are young people identifying as LGBTQ+; those living in poverty; those experiencing exclusion from school/interventions from police/social services; those identifying as having mental health issues/ experienced bullying/ lacking in positive social interactions.
- Best of Bensham (focus – supported living): we held 12 meetings with a group of 11 young people. These are young people from across Gateshead who all experience struggles linked to transitional periods in their lives and impact of this on their mental health.
- Burnside First School (focus – bullying): we held 8 sessions with a core group of 8 young people from the school's ambassadors group. The resource developed will be shared with students from across the school for their feedback. The need to address this issue was identified by the school.

- D-Rock and Blyth “Manshed” (focus - men’s mental health): a group organising community workshops to give individuals sanctuary and escape from isolation and loneliness, while also recognising the links between this and mental health and how this has been a growing concern for men. We are currently planning our work and next steps.
- The Bostey Youth Groups (young people from disadvantaged backgrounds): meetings are currently being planned.
- Shanti Bee (a holistic well-being centre committed to making holistic health accessible, while specifically aiming to provide services that support those at risk of, or suffering from, mental health illnesses and social isolation) – we are in the process of developing collaboration.
- Newcastle Law School - Street Law Ambassadors (law students who work with local community groups, youth groups, and schools to deliver sessions on legal issues) – in process of starting collaboration.

We have also held meetings with community leaders/professionals and other organisations to support additional work with groups to create resources, including:

- Scott Latty (neurodiverse film maker) - (focus - awareness/impact on neurodiverse YP)
- Elswick Mosque (focus – diversity)

Learnings: While we have been increasingly connecting with practitioners working on the wider loneliness agenda, such as employees of the employability services or those working with homeless people, we have also noticed reluctance to share resources and approaches. To mitigate this, we are now working with the Tackling Loneliness Hub to engage their community of 400 practitioners working on loneliness in the youth agenda and bring our groups to this space. We believe this collective approach will encourage more open collaboration of practitioners while providing evidence of the value of sharing good practice.

Activities planned for the next 6 months:

- Develop next steps offer for practitioners engaged in the training and how to engage them Belong Collective National Community (see below).
- Continue targeting and working with organisations and groups from various sectors (education/employability/health etc) and priority groups of young people (LGBTQ+, disabilities, racialised communities etc.)

Policy, Research and Influencing: The launch of the new research [‘We choose to be here’](#) saw a good engagement from young people, practitioners and government and we want to take this momentum to move forward with our policy and influencing work. We have been actively engaging with DCMS, APPGs and ministers on this topic and seen increasing awareness and interest in policy spaces around young loneliness and isolations. It is evidenced in [this article](#) in Children and Young People Now, the increase in mentioning loneliness in Department of Education’s [State of the nation report on children’s mental health and wellbeing](#) released in February 2023 and the release of a [new fund to tackle youth loneliness in March](#). Our involvement includes:

- We have been engaging with DCMS on the [Campaign to End Loneliness](#) and their Loneliness Strategy and linking in with [Tackling Loneliness Hub](#).
- We are also engaging with the APPG on Loneliness and there is increasing interest in our research findings and work and we are in discussions on hosting a parliamentary roundtable on the issue.
- We are continuing to link loneliness with the Mental Health Agenda – we invited the CEO of Mental Health Foundation to speak at Belong Collective Launch.

Learnings: Our influencing work has evidenced that there is traction in continually promoting the issue and drawing on our report and evidence base from our work with practitioners. We will continue to focus on this promotion in the coming months and equip the regional and local youth organisations we engage with to also do so. In the next phase of the project, we will be continually taking every opportunity to push for inclusion of youth loneliness and isolation in the wider Mental Health Agenda as a crucial success factor in our objective of raising cross sector awareness of this topic.

Activities planned for the next 6 months:

- Develop an influencing plan on youth loneliness and isolation and integrate it into Mental Health strategy.
- Trial local influencing approaches in raising awareness of youth loneliness and isolation in priority areas while using UK Youth’s Local Influencing Toolkit and support.

Belong Collective National Engagement: Since the launch of the Belong Collective in February 2022, we have seen good cross-sector interest to become part of it, with over 40 organisations signing up. We have also held two well-organised and engaging national events – the launch of the collective itself and the launch of the ‘We choose to be here’ report in October 2022.

Learnings: Events in the first year have been well organised and informative; however, being virtual, they were mostly a broadcast sharing information with discussion. We want to take the opportunity to develop more participatory events in the second half of the project, drawing on creative approaches to understanding and tackling loneliness and isolation. As for the Belong Collective, we want to create a national vision for the collective, so all practitioners and professionals engaged in it understand its national role. This could also help with our ongoing challenge of losing contact with trained practitioners who move on from the original organisation/services as we hope they could see the offers of the collective as a way to stay in touch.

Activities planned for the next 6 months:

- Develop our Belong Collective National Community Offer, which will include explorations of what the engagement offer is as well as digital networking potentials such as chat function on Tackling Loneliness Hub and ways to share resources.
- Promote and integrate Belong Collective and Tackling Youth Loneliness website on wider DCMS supported Tackling Loneliness Hub.

Priority Areas: We have finalised our mapping of areas of highest levels of youth loneliness by identifying 19 priority areas. Please see Appendix 2 for the description and methodology of selection of the areas. The main 19 priority areas are:

| Local Authority Area | Region |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Blackpool | North-West |
| North East Lincolnshire | East Midlands |
| Nottingham | East Midlands |
| Stoke-on-Trent | West Midlands |
| Barnsley | Yorkshire and Humber |
| Bradford | Yorkshire and Humber |
| Darlington | North-East |
| Derby | East Midlands |

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Fenland | East of England |
| Gateshead | North-East |
| Hastings | South-East |
| Knowsley | North-West |
| Norwich | East of England |
| Peterborough | East of England |
| Southampton | South-East |
| Stockton-on-Tees | North-East |
| Wakefield | Yorkshire and Humber |
| Bristol, City of | South-West |
| Lewisham | Greater London |

We have now started an exercise considering our existing work, contacts and partners to narrow down the areas where we can have the biggest impact and learning. We are now actively engaging in the following 4 priority areas:

- **Gateshead** – trainings delivered, follow up with services and other engagement areas;
- **Stockton-on-Tees** – working with local youth services to support development of youth partnerships and progress youth loneliness agenda;
- **London** – training sessions for the City Year peers are now scheduled;
- **Barnsley** – currently developing a two day Tackling Loneliness Residential for practitioners and young people, which will also include local systems mapping and next steps action planning – please see next section for more information.

We will be evaluating our approaches and their success and look into how we can further expand our work, drawing on partnerships and connections to other organisations’ work and local engagement.

Activities planned for the next 6 months:

- Mapping of relationships and loneliness/mental health activity in priority areas.
- Develop an engagement approach with the Young People’s Foundation Trust to further our impact in priority areas.
- Development of Belong local areas engagement offer including: training, resources and support, youth leadership role, Belong Collective National Community, local policy influencing tools and support, local Tackling Loneliness Residential opportunity.

Events: We had planned to host two events in September for the launch of the report – one in person and one online. However, the in-person event had to be cancelled due to the passing of the Queen and logistical challenges and timelines. Our online report launch was attended by over 30 sector and cross sector leaders, practitioners and young people with strong endorsement of the findings and recommendations of the report.

Learning:

As mentioned in the section on national engagement, we valued our events conducted during the first half of the project but we want to develop more creative approach for in person events. We will be testing our local event offer in the form of a two day Tackling Loneliness Residential in Barnsley, which, if successful, we will look to offer in other areas.

Activities planned for the next 6 months:

- Holding a two day Tackling Loneliness Residential in Barnsley, date TBD. YFNE staff held meetings with staff from youth organisations in the area to test this idea and saw a wide support for it. The event will host both staff and young people from the area while offering to undertake training, hear about the developments and findings of the research, and learn about opportunities offered through the Belong Collective National Community Offer, as well as the Belonging Champion role while also being able to feed into the development of the resources. We will also use this opportunity to conduct local systems mapping and plan actions for our policy and influencing work.
- Scoping already planned activities across both organisations and in engaged priority areas for both the loneliness agenda and Belong Collective promotion, especially during the Mental Health Awareness Week.
- Plan a national event and potential regional events for Loneliness Awareness Week.

Progress against KPIs:

Now in Year Two and with the programme set up, tested and scaling, we are on track for our annual KPIs in Year 2. As the project is increasing its reach and implementing learnings from the set-up phase, we are furthermore confident that we are in a good position to exceed our Year 2 KPIs in Year 3. This is partially due to increasing our reach through implementing a train-the-trainer model, and further scaling efforts as detailed below. Progress is indicated as of 05th of March 2023. Please note that Year 2 figures will be updated for the annual report, as the programme continues.

| KPI's over the timeframe of the project | KPI for the whole grant period | Annual KPIs | Year 1 Sep 21 – Aug 22 | Year 2 Sep 22 – Aug 23 (as of March 23) | Running Total |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Total number of practitioners introduced to a range of resources and tools and signposted to local networks. | Direct 750 Indirect 900 | Direct 250 Indirect 300 | Direct: 50 Indirect: No indirect in 1 st year KPIs. Total: 50 | Direct: 150 Indirect: 450 Total: 600 | Direct: 200 Indirect: 450 Total: 650 |
| Total number of young people reached through delivery of resources in hotspot areas | 6000 young people | 2000 young people reached annually | ~300 | Direct: 342 Indirect: 700 Total: 1,042 | 1,342 |
| At least 100 practitioners cascade train the trainers awareness session in their organisations each year | 300 | 100 practitioners receiving training annually | Total: 50 | Total: 130 | 180 |
| Total number of co-designed resources developed to better equip practitioners to tackle youth loneliness. | 6 | 2 or more resources to be developed yearly | Total: 4 | Total: 1 | 5 |
| 90% of engaged organisations feel better equipped to tackle the issue of youth loneliness | 90% of engaged organisations | 90% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

UK YOUTH

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------|------|--|-----------------|
| through engagement with the network | | | | | |
| At least 100 organisations undergo the youth led self-assessment process over the life of the programme, building the evidence base around what works in tackling youth loneliness. | 100 | 50 per year | N/A | This is still in development but once finalised will be incorporated into the practitioner/organisational training package and the wider Belong Collective offer. We will also be promoting it through the Tackling Loneliness Hub online community of over 400 practitioners working in this area. We will be able to report on this in the annual report. | tbc |
| At least 1500 practitioners engage in the Belong Collective including; resources, toolkits and events | 1500 | 500 per year | 50 | 150 accessing toolkits 38 attending Research Launch event 40 signed up to Belong Collective to receive information and resources. We are now ready to scale the reach and engagement with the Belong Collective, launching the online community as part of the Tackling Loneliness Hub and engaging the wider UK Youth movement and our mental health programmes with the collective and our offer. | > 200 |
| 90% of participants in the Collective have increased | 90% of participants | 90% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

UK YOUTH

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------|--|-------------|
| knowledge on the issue of youth loneliness | | | | | |
| 80% of participants feel better connected to practitioners from across different sectors as a result of the Belong Collective | 80% of participants | 80% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| At least 50 young people are involved in the co-design, research and evaluation of the programme and report a high satisfaction rate in their involvement with programme governance, delivery and evaluation. | 50 | 25 young people per year | 38 | Total: 16 8 Youth Leadership Group 8 Bensham Young people involved in co-design of resources | 52 |

We are excited to deliver our outlined activities and further monitor the wider impact this highly valuable project is making – such as the impact presented in the case studies below. We are looking forward to working with Astra Foundation and Co-op Foundation on the next stages of this project.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Appendix 1 – Case Studies

Case Study 1: Blog from Young Person involved in the Belong Collective, Molly Taylor

Belong Collective

I never felt like part of anything before joining the Belong Collective. I didn't even realise that the isolation, saying "no" to social situations, lack of interest in doing things, sadness, and feeling of disconnection I was experiencing were real. I had no idea that loneliness existed, and that it is more common among young people than any other age group. When I was applying to join the Belong Collective, the word "loneliness" sent shivers down my spine, and I immediately felt that this was the community in which I would thrive and be able to put my personal experience to good use.

By becoming a part of the Belong Collective, I have reclaimed control of my voice and choices in life, I have been able to break through walls I never thought were possible, and the Belong Collective has been and continues to be a catalyst for change in my life. Via the Collective, I've been able to recognise the significance of sharing space with other young people to improve our lives collectively. Through research, I've discovered my passions, and it fascinates me that I can now transform obstacles into change. It also empowered me to honour, represent, and recognise young people who confront loneliness daily at a national level and to drive a broader activism for good. I was further empowered by being recognised as an #iwill Ambassador, which has provided me with tools and possibilities I could never have anticipated a year ago, and most importantly, connection to other young people who are also transforming obstacles into change.

I have realised that while the Belong Collective and #iwill Ambassador role have provided me with leverage and resources to effect change, the inner drive and passion have always existed and will continue to exist regardless of whether I am in a leadership position, as I have heard and seen my fellow activists say. For example, when us young people organise events like I did with Lonely not Alone Day on the campus of my university, it was my ideas, passion, life experience, instinctive compassion for others, hard work, and organisation that made it possible. It was then the platform provided by Belong Collective and #iwill allowed me and other young people to truly elevate our voices.

We young people don't go through hardship for nothing, so it's crucial that organisations follow in the footsteps of movements like UK Youth and #iwill Movement and enable us to reclaim and activate our experiences to make a difference in the world.

Case Study 2: School Workshops (delivered by YFNE)

Whilst holding a stall at a local wellbeing event run by Newcastle City Council, we were able to showcase the Belong Collective opportunities and resources. Through networking, we met a mental health lead working in a local primary school and we were able to share our resources, have a discussion about the subject matter and how YFNE could support the work she was trying to do in the school. We discussed the clear link between loneliness and isolation and the impact on mental health and highlighted a range of options of our offer, including training for staff, assembly presentations, class workshops, working with a young steering group within the school, and enhancing youth voice.

YFNE were asked to deliver workshops to all of the Key Stage 2 students as an introduction to their mental health week at school. We were given two full days to kick off the planned weekly activities. Workshops were delivered to 240 children aged between 7 and 11 years, with all of these children

expressing feelings of loneliness at some point in their lives. Only 9 children, when asked if they had spoken to anyone about these feelings, had said they had.

The workshops incorporated a range of topics, including discussions and creative activities to raise awareness of what loneliness and isolation is, types of feelings and characteristics present and how the young people can prevent, respond and support themselves and others in feeling less lonely and isolated. With teachers present during the sessions, we also had an opportunity to showcase how these types of sessions can be easily run with other students while the teachers were also exposed to the participants' feedback and themes coming through.

Discussions with the staff after the event revealed the level of need for loneliness and isolation to be addressed in their school as they were shocked by their students' responses. They also talked about the lack of knowledge and experience preventing them from addressing these issues as well as their capacity, and the importance of having external support. The school has actively considered the feedback and recommendations and created strategies and support enhancing the school's approaches. We will also be working closely with the school's young ambassadors to draw upon the feedback and create their own resources/support for fellow students.

Feedback from one of the teachers:

"The general feeling is that the interactive workshops supported pupils' personal development and helped build positive individuals who were able to confidently manage their problems. The workshops in Year 3-Year 6 were positively embraced by both our staff and pupils and our pupils really enjoyed this experience. This unique learning experience offered a platform for pupils to explore 'Loneliness' with carefully planned and well thought activities. Pupils were engaged and were keen to explore the work surrounding 'Loneliness' and the skills that could help them to manage these feelings when faced with this. The activities helped pupils to build resilience and have also supported pupils to build key life skills to support their wellbeing.

Pupils took part in group work and were also able to discuss this topic with their peers. This learning experience gave the pupils the opportunity to learn new things with a trained educator who helped enhance their personal skills. These include: coping skills, understanding others, and problem-solving. It is hoped that our pupils will have reduced anxiety levels at school and at home and that it will not serve as a barrier to learning, withdrawal from social activities as well pupil's self-esteem decreasing."

Case Study 3: Workshop with CEOs of local organisations (delivered by YFNE)

We were approached to present at a peer learning forum made up of CEOs of small/medium sized charities across the NE and Cumbria, funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation. The topic of their session was on isolation and loneliness and we were invited as experts on the topic, given the work we had done through the Belong Collective.

Supported by a young person from the project, we gave a presentation on our learnings and facilitated a discussion with the group on the following areas:

- The context - definitions of isolation and loneliness and how they are manifesting in today's society; key points from recent research; the scale of the issue; lessons learned; and what the future could look like.
- Stories and case studies to illustrate these points.
- Strategies on how organisations can support people experiencing loneliness and isolation and opportunities and resources supporting them in this work.

The young person we brought to this meeting has personally experienced loneliness and isolation due to a number of contributing factors (rural isolation; poverty; exclusion; being a single parent; family dynamics). She was able to draw upon these experiences and also stress the importance of the

interactions and support she had received in actively making a difference to these feelings and how that contributed to her personal success moving forward (she now runs her own charity and supports others in her local community facing similar issues). The discussion showed that while loneliness is a common theme highlighted by workers across the field, they are very rarely directly addressing it. There needs to be more effort in doing so and/or recognising the links between themes they are already addressing e.g. mental health, wellbeing etc. They were very keen to be linked into the opportunities highlighted in our session and to share the learning with their staff and potentially incorporate it into their work.

Appendix 2 – Briefing Note on Belong Collective Priority Areas

Introduction

As part of the Belong Collective Movement we have compiled a list of potential priority areas that we could direct resources and tools towards so we can test and develop these to ensure they are meeting the needs of young people.

This briefing note provides guidance on potential priority areas based on available categorised data and literature highlighting social factors behind loneliness.

Priority Areas

| Local Authority Area | Region |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Blackpool | North-West |
| North East Lincolnshire | East Midlands |
| Nottingham | East Midlands |
| Stoke-on-Trent | West Midlands |
| Barnsley | Yorkshire and Humber |
| Bradford | Yorkshire and Humber |
| Darlington | North-East |
| Derby | East Midlands |
| Fenland | East of England |
| Gateshead | North-East |
| Hastings | South-East |
| Knowsley | North-West |
| Norwich | East of England |
| Peterborough | East of England |
| Southampton | South-East |
| Stockton-on-Tees | North-East |
| Wakefield | Yorkshire and Humber |
| Bristol, City of | South-West |
| Lewisham | Greater London |

In addition, to support with decision-making, we are also proposing that the following are considered

- **Regional spread:** ensuring that all regions are represented as a priority area
- **Youth Service Support:** To ensure there is sufficient support to implement the tools and resources

- **Rural representation:** To ensure that ‘overlooked’ communities are represented in priority areas

We recommend that 4 priority areas (‘hotspots’) are chosen from these 19 areas based on the above considerations

Methodology note

We used generalised and available data to identify potential priority areas that may be experiencing higher levels of youth loneliness. We chose 7 datasets based on literature highlighting social factors behind Youth Loneliness. Not all the datasets available were directly comparable due to differences in years they were published or the geographical area they were collected. Where possible the data was considered at a Local Authority level. Each area was highlighted because they appeared in the top 30% of each dataset. The data is to be used as guidance for this research.

We acknowledge that youth loneliness is a complex issue, relating to personal, social and cultural factors (see, for example, Action for Children 2017) Therefore, we recognise that in any community there may be young people experiencing loneliness.

The purpose of this collective data was to highlight areas that are likely to benefit the most from implementing specific interventions towards youth loneliness and thus maximise learning from the research.

The data we used to compile the priority areas was based on 7 datasets. These are as follows:

English Indices of Deprivation (2019) – Office for National Statistics, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

English Indices of Deprivation, income deprivation affecting children index (2019) – Office for National Statistics, available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

Social Mobility Index, low youth social mobility (2016) – Social Mobility and Child Poverty

Commission, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-mobility-index>

Social Mobility Index, low school social mobility (2016) – Social Mobility and Child Poverty

Commission, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-mobility-index>

Young People not in education, employment or training (NEET) Jan -Dec 2020 (2021) - Office for National Statistics, available at

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplenotinwork/unemployment/bulletins/youngpeoplenotineducationemploymentortrainingneet/march2021>

Youth Homelessness statistics 2019- 2020) Centrepoin, Youth Homelessness Databank, available at <https://centrepoin.org.uk/databank/>

YMCA (2019) 2019-20 planned spending on Youth Services, available at [2019/20 Planned spending on youth services \(ymca.org.uk\)](https://www.ymca.org.uk/2019-20-planned-spending-on-youth-services)

These datasets were chosen because of literature describing social factors behind Youth Loneliness. These include

- Social mobility
- Wealth inequality
- Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) levels
- ‘Hidden’ young people ie. Those not coming into contact with public services
- Lack of youth specific services

This is based on literature that we compiled through a Rapid Evidence Review (see additional slide deck).



Further information:

Please contact James, Research and Learning Manager james.found@ukyouth.org