

Dewsbury Town Deal Board

Date: 25.04.22

Title of report: Kirklees College Youth Engagement

Purpose of report: For information – update on collaboration with Kirklees College

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? No personal info provided.

1. Summary

This report outlines the actions Kirklees College has taken in support of engaging youth voice in the Dewsbury Town Investment Plan.

Due to low engagement with the those under 25 for the consultation around the Dewsbury Regeneration, collaboration has been initiated with Kirklees College (by Palvinder Singh – Principal & Dewsbury Town Board member) to ensure that people within the under 25s category have the opportunity to engage and voice their thoughts and opinions around the future decisions for the town.

The Youth Engagement Brief outlines the approach (Appendix 1). This is the second collaboration with Kirklees College students; previous activity includes a focus group in December 2020 (appendix 2).

2. Information required to take a decision

Not applicable

3. Implications for the Town Deal

3.1 Working with People

Kirklees College has 1951 students attending one of the two Dewsbury Kirklees College Centres (705 16-18 year olds and 1246 19+), of which 795 reside in Dewsbury postcodes.

A proposal to form a Youth Group, led by Kirklees College, was accepted as we are best placed to engage with this cohort as KC has 2 campuses based in the town: Pioneer House and Springfield 6th Form Centre. The aim was to form a Youth Voice Champion group, and for this group to consider questions around the regeneration of the Dewsbury Town Centre. Questions were posed around:

- Increasing activity
- Improving attractiveness
- Improving Accessibility.

Suggested questions in Appendix 1

Activity to engage students

The Student Community Development Officer ran 2 Youth Voice Champion recruitment sessions

- 1 Pioneer House 29th March (38 students engaged)
- 1 Springfield Sixth Form Centre 1st April (42 students engaged)

Students had the opportunity to:

Come along to the pop-up stall for a chance to

- Watch a bird's eye view video of proposed plans – Dewsbury blueprint video
- View the Dewsbury Town investment plan, covering all 9 areas.
- Give some feedback on the proposals
- Chat to Michelle from the Council
- Sign up as a 'Youth Voice Champion'

Present at the student sessions were Rachel Ellis – Student Community Development Officer, Michelle Illingworth – ER Project Manager and John Lambe – Townscape Heritage Initiative Officer.

Students were asked 3 questions:

- How safe do you feel?
- What do you think needs to happen to bring more footfall into the town centre?
- What mode of transport do you use and why?

Student responses to the 3 questions: Appendix 3

Students were asked to register their interest in becoming a Youth Voice Champion or just being kept up to date with progress, via a QR code.

- 7 registered to become Youth Voice Champions
- 2 registered to be kept informed of progress

25th April – The first Youth Voice Champion meeting took place. This meeting aimed to further introduce the students to the Town Board and future activities, including the walkabout. Four students have taken on the role of Youth Voice Champion and four students plan to attend the walkabout.

3.2 Working with Partners

Not applicable

3.3 Place Based Working

Not applicable

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not applicable

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

Young people feel valued, heard and empowered in decision making on matters that affect them. Young people have the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in matters affecting them and to have their views considered and taken seriously.

3.6 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions

Not applicable

4. Next steps and timelines

28th April - Walk about, to view some of the areas under development
TBC – Youth Voice Champion meeting – action planning
19th May Dewsbury Town Board meeting

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

Youth Voice initial feedback on the following questions – Appendix 3.

- How safe do you feel?
- What do you think needs to happen to bring more footfall into the town centre?
- What mode of transport do you use and why?

6. Contact officer

Rebecca Swallow – rswallow@kirkleescollege.ac.uk
Rachel Ellis – rellis01@kirkleescollege.ac.uk

7. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Not applicable

8. Service Director responsible (If applicable)

Palvinder Singh (Kirklees College Principal and Dewsbury Town Board member)

Appendices

1 – Youth Engagement Brief



Kirklees College
Youth Engagement |

2 – KC student focus group Dec 2020



Report KC 11 12
2020.docx

3 – Student feedback on:

- How safe do you feel?
- What do you think needs to happen to bring more footfall into the town centre?
- What mode of transport do you use and why?



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you feel when visitir



DTB What do you
think.docx



DTB Transport.docx