

## Lancashire County Council budget consultation 2015/16-2017/18

### Responses from Young people's engagement forums

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#### Your name

Lancashire Youth Council

#### Your views on the budget options

The following feedback on the Lancashire County Council Budget is offered by Lancashire Youth Council. We are a diverse group of young people aged 12-25 from across the county, supported by the Young People's Service.

At one of our elected member meetings, we considered the service offers, in particular the Public Health and Wellbeing information and specifically focussing on Wellbeing, Prevention and Early Help.

As there is currently no detail about the intended structure of those services and no consultation questions to shape our response, we wanted to put together a list of priorities which we feel are vital to remain for young people in Lancashire as the County Council changes.

These are:

✓We feel that young people who are vulnerable in some way should have access to 1-1 support. They may need support with motivation, self-confidence, access to training and education, help developing their CV or directing to positive activities to do in their spare time.

✓We feel that young people who may particularly need support are those who are NEET, those at risk of committing crime or those involved with the Youth Offending Team, those with mental health issues, suffer from abuse, become homeless, have issues with substance misuse or who have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities.

✓We feel that we should continue to work with other partners for the benefit of the young person and if need be broadening our age range to work with young people at a younger age before possible issues they may have become a major problem.

✓We feel we should offer open drop-ins for young people to get impartial information and advice, particularly around accessing training and work.

✓We feel that Youth Zones should continue to offer a variety of provision, including open youth clubs and discreet / closed groups (e.g. LGBT groups or young men's/women's groups) as are necessary. We understand that the offer in these venues may have to reduce but we feel that where possible we should continue to have youth provision open in different parts of each district rather than only having a single Youth Zone venue. We feel that staffing ratios are important to maintain a safe environment for young people and run a high quality service.

✓We feel that continuing to have Youth Councils is important. Lancashire Youth Council have developed to be a significant group of young people in the county who have led their own campaigns and been part of advising LCC and partners on a variety of issues.

✓We feel that the YPS is a vital preventative service for young people as the opportunities that are available through the YPS provide stability, give young people safe places to socialise, prevent young people's isolation, help them learn about others and build tolerance and give them someone impartial to talk to. Informal learning also builds confidence and contributes to a greater sense of wellbeing and independence, allowing young people to take responsibility and improving their chances in their chosen futures.