

# **Trowbridge Child Wellbeing Partnership**

**Presentation to Trowbridge Area Board  
Thursday 7<sup>TH</sup> July 2022**

# Who are we?

- A group of key stakeholders who work with children, young people and families in Trowbridge. Our members include
  - Wiltshire Council Family Learning
  - Trowbridge Town Council
  - Trowbridge Children's Centre
  - HCRG Healthcare Health Visitor Team
  - Collaborative Schools
  - Trowbridge Future
  - Youth Action for Christ
  - Selwood Housing
  - Trowbridge Town Hall

# What do we do?

- We work strategically to
  - improve the life chances of children young people and families
  - give children and young people a voice
- Using the work done in Leeds, Bristol and elsewhere we aspire to make Trowbridge a ‘child friendly community,’ a town where no child is left behind, where young people are supported to be actively involved in envisioning the future of their community
- We have
  - raised money to buy digital devices for disadvantaged pupils during the pandemic
  - run a successful pilot in developing training on how to respond to trauma induced behaviour for the broader community
  - worked with Trowbridge Youth Parliament
  - carried out research into the views of children, young people and families

# Trowbridge Through the Eyes of a Child

- Online survey completed summer/autumn 2021.
- 40 respondent spread across Trowbridge but none from deprived areas.
- Gender 45% male 55% female.
- Age an equal spread across the age 1 to 14 with no responses from 9 year olds 57.5% aged 1-8 and 42.5% 10-14.
- Ethnicity 97.5% white British 2.5% white other.
- 17.5% of respondents had some special need or disability.
- Questions about how they spend their time, best and worst things about the town.

# General Flavour of Responses

- The sample is small and not representative, but provides a wealth qualitative information about the experience of living and bringing up children in Trowbridge.
- This is completely different for different families. Some find it positive others very negative.
- Spending time with friends and family is very important to all respondents.
- The pandemic had a major impact on activities and at the time (summer 2021) some activities had not been restarted – there was a particular frustration about swimming lessons.
- 57.5% of respondents felt their child was concerned or worried. These worries ranged from friendship and school to the pandemic and environment.

# Main Positives

- Parks, green spaces and the closeness to nature were mentioned throughout as a big advantage about living in Trowbridge.
- The range of organised activities especially sport were mentioned
  - 55% of those in school took part in clubs and after school activities
  - 48% take part in organised activities at the weekend.
- Other facilities such as the cinema, museum, library and town hall are also valued.

# What are the things you like about Trowbridge that benefit your child

- Parks and playgrounds 15 (37.5%)
- Lots of activities 7 (17.5%)
- Access to nature 6 (15%)
- Sense of community 6 (15%)
- Good transport links 5 (12.5%)
- Proximity to amenities 5 (12.5%)
- Museums 4 (10%) Library 2 (5%)
- Swimming pool 4 (10%)
- Schools 3 (7.5%) Children's Centre 1(2.5%)
- Cinema 3 (7.5%)

# Main Negatives

- A lack of activities and facilities especially for older children and teenagers.
- The perceived prevalence of antisocial behaviour and linked to concerns about safety in the park, the multi storey car park and other public spaces.
- Some concerns about schools especially secondary schools.

# What would you like to change about Trowbridge to make it better for your child?

- More activities/facilities 21 (52.5%)
- Safety & anti-social behaviour 13 (32.5%)
- School & education 8 (20%)
- Better maintenance of facilities 4 (10%)
- Cycle paths to link areas 3 (7.5%)
- More and better toilets 2 (5%)

# How could you and others make the change happen?

This attracted a range of different responses

- Some respondents were prepared to get directly involved by volunteering.
- Others believed change could only be brought about by the action of Wiltshire Council and Trowbridge Town Council because it requires significant investment.
- Others offered specific solutions to specific concerns such as greater police presence to tackle antisocial behaviour.
- Others had no ideas at all.
- 13 respondents 32.5% provided their email addresses for further contact. These have all now been sent a copy of the findings.

# Community Foundation Research

- Hannah Parry as part of a university placement with Wiltshire Community Foundation undertook some research with young people in Trowbridge beginning in September 2021.
- She worked with 26 young people attending sessions run by Trowbridge Future.
- She worked with 2 groups of young people, one aged 8 to 12 and the other 12-18. All live in areas ranked high on the Index of Multiple Disadvantage.
- The young people were asked to respond by writing answers on post-it notes to a series of questions.
- Although a small sample it provides a useful insight into perceptions of young people.

# Key Findings

- The younger group expressed concerns about bullying in school and wanted safe spaces in schools.
- The older group found schools very stressful places.
- Covid and the isolation it imposed had a very negative impact on both groups.
- The older group were concerned about a lack of trust from adults, and that adults do not understand that growing up today is completely different and the pressure on mental health much greater.
- The older group wanted spaces, groups and activities in the community where they could express emotions and talk about issues.
- Most support came from friends , family and gaming.

# Overall Conclusions

- Both sets of responses are from small groups which may not be representative but nevertheless offer insights into how parents and young people experience life in Trowbridge.
- Safety and the prevalence of antisocial behaviour remain a big concern for a significant number of families which has an impact on their behaviour.
- While there are many organised activities in the town there is a strong perception that there is little for teenagers.
- Young people themselves say they would like a safe space in the community. At the moment although Trowbridge Future runs youth clubs in 3 neighbourhoods there is nothing in the town centre.
- Parents and young people care about the town and have strong and articulate views about how it could be improved. It is critical to give both a voice in the future.

## Future actions.

- The findings of the survey helped to inspire the Youth Parliament in a project to develop and display a code of conduct for play areas.
- Work is about to begin on planning the provision of a new leisure centre. Is this an opportunity to do something to provide more activities for teenagers and also create a central safe space?
- Will the Trowbridge Area Board support and endorse the Partnership's aspiration to make Trowbridge 'child friendly?'
- Will the Area Board continue to look for ways to engage young people so their voices can play a central part in shaping the future development of the town?