



**Sefton CVS**  
Supporting Local Communities



# Have Your Say Sefton

# Activities Report 2025



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# **Who are Sefton Young Advisors?**

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# Who are Young Advisors

Sefton Young Advisors are a group of professionals aged 15 to 22, trained and employed by Sefton CVS to amplify youth voice within the community.

The Young Advisors bridge the gap between young people and professionals by offering services such as youth proofing, facilitating focus groups, and providing training to organisations.

By consulting with councils, schools, health organisations, charities and other agencies Sefton Young Advisors work to ensure that young perspectives are valued and reflected in local decision-making, helping to create a more inclusive Sefton.

Some example of organisations Young Advisors have worked with are: Merseyside VRP, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, NHS and Sefton MBC.



# **What is Have Your Say Sefton?**



# What is Have your Say Sefton?

Our youth voice initiative, previously known as SYMBOL, was refreshed and rebranded as **Have Your Say Sefton!**

At its core, Have Your Say Sefton aims to be a platform for young people in the area to be heard on issues that are important to them.

This new approach aims to engage young people more directly in spaces where they feel comfortable and at ease, such as youth groups, schools, and familiar community settings.

Through Have Your Say Sefton, we consult with young people using a wide range of methods, including focus groups, surveys, and interviews to gather honest and valuable feedback. This input will be shared with community leaders and decision-makers, helping shape the services and support that impact young people in Sefton.

Our work is guided by a "You Said, We Did" approach, ensuring a cycle of feedback where young people's voices are not only heard but lead to meaningful action. We will provide updates from community leaders, so young people see the results of their input and the positive changes inspired by their voices.

# **Activities for Young People in Sefton**

# Activities

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## Planning

Sefton Young Advisors asked young people in a survey what topic that they would like to discuss for Have Your Say Sefton.

Activities for Young People in Sefton came out as the most popular topic. Young Advisors had previously consulted on this topic for a SYMBOL meeting in 2021.

In total we engaged with **over 150 young people** via virtual workshops, face-to-face workshops and via an online survey.

We conducted focus group consultations at four local youth groups and held two virtual consultations with four schools across Sefton and created and shared a Sefton-wide survey consisting of themes:

- What activities young people do
- Barriers to accessing activities
- Cost and accessibility
- What improvements could be made



## Action

# **Consultation Feedback**

# Consultation Feedback

## What Young People Enjoy and the Benefits

### Current

Young people shared that they enjoy a wide range of activities, including sports like football, swimming, running, and dance. Many are also interested in creative hobbies such as art, music, singing, and drama. Some enjoy more adventurous options like rock climbing, horse riding, and watersports. Gaming, cooking, and youth groups were also mentioned as things they like to do. It's clear that young people value having opportunities to be active, creative, and social. They want spaces where they can have fun, try new things, and spend time with friends.



Young people highlighted a range of positive impacts that come from taking part in activities. These include improving social skills, supporting mental health, and helping them stay active, healthy, and fit. Activities also give them the chance to try new things, feel part of a community, and stay busy in a positive way.



### Benefits

# Consultation Feedback

## What Young People Want More of in Sefton

### Future

Young people shared a range of activities they would like to see more of in Sefton. A big priority was having more social spaces, such as gaming spaces, food places, and venues where they can meet friends. Many also wanted activities that offer fun and challenge, including trampoline parks, dodgeball, paintball, and Ninja Warrior-style courses. There was also interest in more opportunities for creative and cultural activities, such as art clubs, museums, and special interest groups like Dungeons and Dragons clubs. Sports like rock climbing and racket sports were also suggested. Overall, young people want spaces that help them socialise, be active, and explore their hobbies and interests.



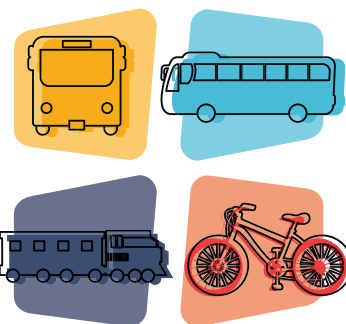
# Consultation Feedback

## Barriers

As part of our consultation, we asked young people what barriers they experience when trying to access activities in their area. The following key themes were highlighted:

### 1. Travel and Transport

- Difficulty getting to activities
- Reliance on being dropped off by car
- Activities located far away
- Concerns about crossing roads safely



### 2. Money

- Cost of bus fares to attend activities
- High cost of hiring football pitches

### 3. Accessibility and Safety

- Concerns about personal safety when travelling to or attending activities

### 4. Lack of Information

- Not knowing what activities are available
- Difficulty finding basketball teams or other specific activities
- Not having anyone to go with

### 5. Confidence and Self-Esteem

- Feeling shy or anxious
- Not knowing other people involved in the activity

### 6. Limited Opportunities

- Not enough opportunities to learn languages or experience different cultures
- Lack of free time to take part in activities
- Closure of libraries limiting accessible spaces for young people

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# Consultation Feedback

## What Young People Think Would Help

Young people shared several ideas for making it easier to access activities in Sefton. Many suggested reducing the cost of activities, offering more free options, and increasing funding for local spaces like libraries. They also wanted more opportunities to socialise and make friends, as well as better promotion of what's available including advertising and information shared in schools. Improved sports facilities and a wider range of activities were highlighted, particularly more indoor spaces. Travel was another key concern, with calls for free bus passes and bus stops located closer to activity venues.

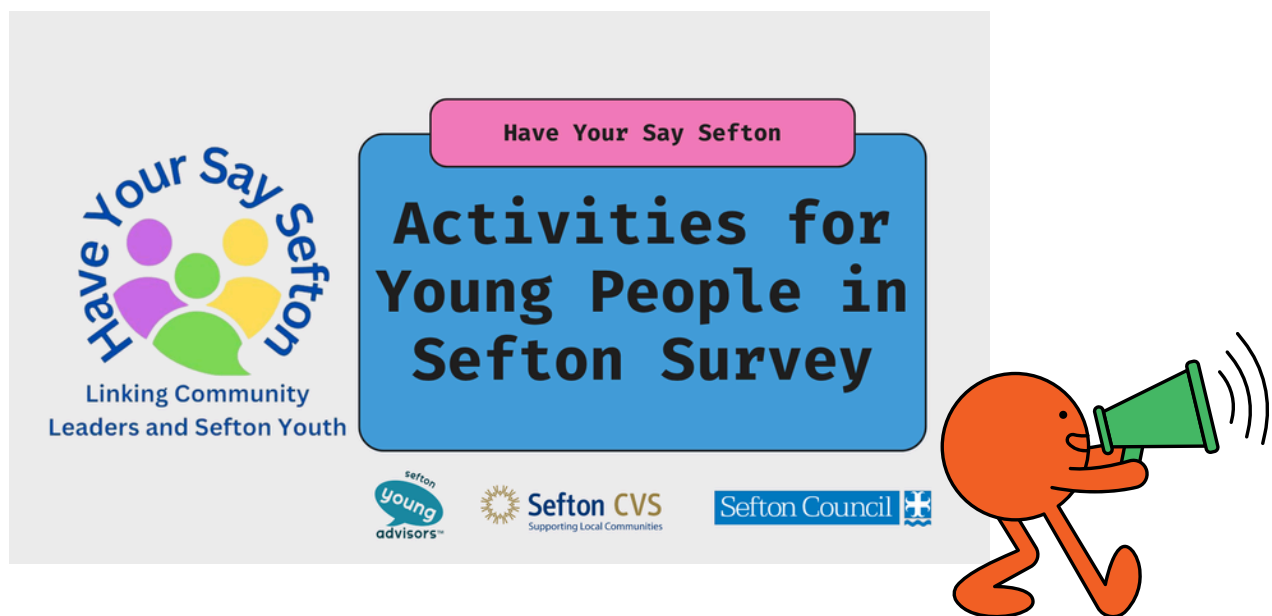


# Survey Video

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# Survey Video

**[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO](#)**



Sefton Young Advisors created the survey using Survey Monkey which contained questions covering a range of subtopics such as sports and art and culture, giving young people the opportunity to share their experiences with activities in Sefton. The findings of this survey were then made into a short video which you can watch by clicking the link at the top. This video contains graphs to display the findings as well as comments from young people.

# **Recommendations**

# Recommendations

**Based on the feedback gathered from the survey and focus groups, Sefton Young Advisors made the following recommendations regarding activities in Sefton:**

- Continue with the high quality of activities delivered in Sefton
- Provide a more diverse range of places for young people to socialise eg. youth clubs, gaming spaces
- Assess the current offer of sports available for young people in Sefton, in regards to variety and skill level
- More research into how the cost of living is affecting young people taking part in activities
- Initiatives and incentives aimed at young people to encourage them to take part in activities for the first time
- To work with partners to better promote activities for young people in Sefton
- Ensuring there are activities that are inclusive of physical disabilities
- Aim to reduce cost related barriers eg. more free youth sessions

# **Meeting with Senior Leaders**

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## **Meeting with Senior Leaders**

A meeting was held by the Young Advisors to feedback on the views of young people regarding activities in Sefton.

This took place via Zoom on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and had Elected Members and Senior Leaders from across Sefton in attendance. The meeting was facilitated and planned in its entirety by Sefton Young Advisors. The feedback as detailed earlier in this report was shared, including the survey video. Subsequently, possible actions were discussed regarding how to improve the current offer of activities in Sefton.

Following the meeting an action tracker was created and shared with attendees at the meeting.

# Actions

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# Actions

To improve the likelihood of meaningful improvements being made, attendees at the Have Your Say Sefton meeting were asked for actions that they could take away from the meeting.

Some actions are ongoing and Young Advisors can track the actions with an action tracker that was created.

Since the meeting in March 2025:

- Young Advisors have delivered Youth Voice and Participation Toolkit Training for Right to Succeed. This was delivered to partners that deliver youth activity in the Linacre Ward
- Young Advisors worked with Right to Succeed as part of their community group to feed in information gathered from this consultation in relation to what young people wanted as activities in their area as part of this programme
- Young Advisors took part in a Youth Grants Panel for grants for youth activity in Linacre Ward as part of Right to Succeed
- Young Advisors have met with Jenny Currie to discuss some very small pots of funding for youth led activity

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# Updates from previous meetings

Since the Transport Meeting in October 2024:

- Young Advisors were commissioned by Sefton Council to work on a Travel Support piece of work, delivering three workshops in SEND schools and creating an online survey
- YAs have met with Sefton's Transport Team in November 24 and September 25 to discuss the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
- The presentation from the October 2024 meeting has been shared with colleagues from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority



## Contact Us

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