

RIVERSIDE

M.F.C

HEAR OUR  
VOICE!

HOPE

HACK

MY  
THOUGHTS





# HOPE HACK TEESSIDE 2024



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# WHAT IS A HOPE HACK?

A Hope Hack is a day-long workshop that gives young people a voice on a range of issues and captures their hopes for the future.

Hope Hack events were established by the Hope Collective, which is an organisation created to support the legacy of 10-year-old Damilola Taylor, who was killed in 2000. Before his untimely death, he wrote a poem capturing his hopes for the future.

The Hope Hack events, which have taken place across the country over the last three years, are dedicated to helping young people explore their aspirational hopes for the future.

Across the UK, these events are hosted by local Violence Reduction Units (VRUs). In the Teesside area, we have Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV), who work in partnership with other agencies to prevent and reduce violent crime.



## TEESSIDE HOPE HACK 2024

This report has been created to summarise findings of Teesside Hope Hack, which was a full-day event held at the Riverside Stadium, Middlesbrough on Thursday 9 February 2024. It has been prepared by the CURV team, who led on the organisation and delivery of the event.

Almost 100 young people from Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland attended the Hope Hack, joined by their teachers or other adults.

They worked in small groups on a specific topic, supported by facilitators with expert knowledge in that area.

Attendees also heard the personal stories of two inspirational young people, who brought their own story of hope to the event.

We hope you enjoy reading this report.

### **BUILDING AND EVENT FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE, BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE!**

To ensure the Hope Hack was tailored to the needs of young people, we were assisted in planning the event by Cleveland Youth Advisory Group (YAG).

They supported and advised on matters such as, venue, food, and refreshments, and worked with an allocated budget to select items for the free goody-bags. They had a preview of the venue and arranged the entertainment and music. They also prepared the questions for the guest speakers.

The YAG participated in two workshops on the day of the Hope Hack. We can't thank them enough for their help and support in making it a day to remember!





Almost

**100**

young people from across  
Cleveland attended

**9**

workshops with  
expert facilitators

**2**

local inspirational  
speakers with amazing  
stories

## OUR HOST AND INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS



### **JONATHAN CAMPBELL - HOST**

Jonathan Campbell was our energetic host on the day of the Hope Hack. He's previously worked for ITV as a warm-up act for the Jeremy Kyle Show, Judge Rinder and Steph's Packed Lunch. He has delivered workshops for the Prince's Trust and other educational organisations.



### **VLAD OSTAPENKO - INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER**

Vlad is a 17-year-old from Ukraine. He began his music production business during the Covid-19 lockdown, but was forced to flee his home following the Russian invasion in 2022. Since arriving in Teesside, his company has grown to have 20 million subscribers!



### **GOLDIE - INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER**

Local actress Goldie appeared with a recorded message, to talk about starring in recently released movie, Jackdaw. Goldie was raised in Middlesbrough and shared her lived experiences from childhood to becoming an actress.



# WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE DISCUSSED

We created a day that was designed to give young people the opportunity to explore and understand a variety of different themes, including the overarching theme of poverty and inequality. They needed to work collectively to come up with solutions on how to create a fairer society through the eyes of young people.

-  **Poverty and Inequality: supported by Middlesbrough Local Motion**
-  **Politics and Democracy: supported by a former local councillor**
-  **Racism and Division: supported by Show Racism the Red Card**
-  **Sports and Recreation: supported by Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation**
-  **Social Media: supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**
-  **Environmental: supported by Middlesbrough Environment City**
-  **Community Safety: supported by Cleveland Police**
-  **Education: supported by Middlesbrough College**
-  **Mental Health and Physical Health: supported by a local cardiovascular surgeon**





# COLLECTING THE VIEWS OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE

During their workshops, the young people worked with their expert facilitators to:



***Research their topic***

***Identify key challenges***

***Develop solutions***

***Present ideas***

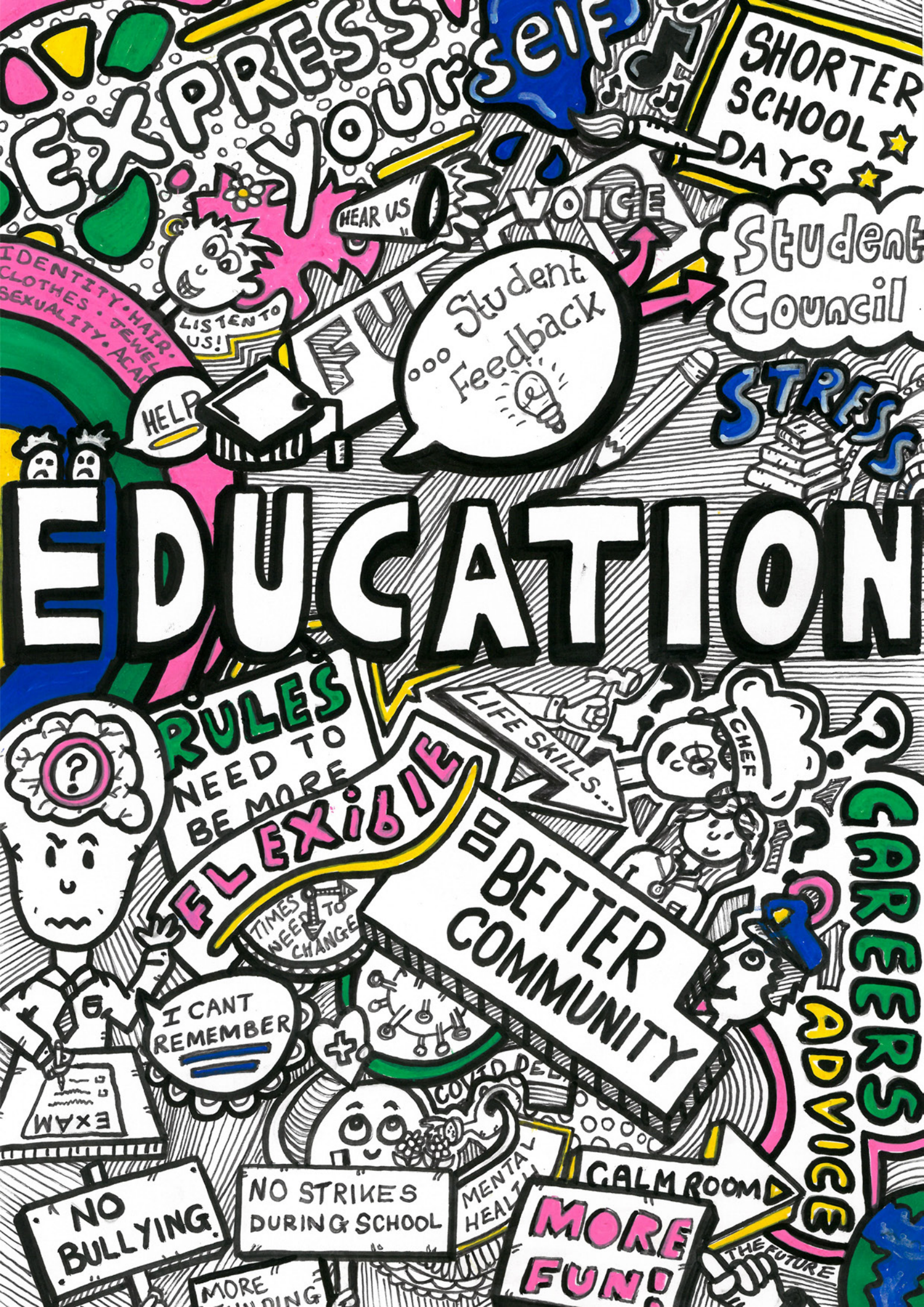
The young people remained in the same groups throughout the day, working intensively on the same topic with their facilitator.

The discussion points, experiences and ideas of the young people were recorded in notes and by recording their final presentations to the room.

To help capture their ideas in a visual and powerful way, they have been transformed into 'doodle stories' by Chris from Open Door Art. You will see his illustrations throughout this document – look closely to see all the little details!







EXPRESS YOURSELF

SHORTER SCHOOL DAYS

HEAR US

VOICE

Student Council

Student Feedback

STRESS

EDUCATION

RULES NEED TO BE MORE

FLEXIBLE

BETTER COMMUNITY

LIFE SKILLS...

EXAM

I CAN'T REMEMBER

NO BULLYING

NO STRIKES DURING SCHOOL

MORE FUN!

CALM ROOM

CAREERS ADVICE

MENTAL HEALTH

THE FUTURE

IDENTITY • HAIR • CLOTHES • JEWELRY • SEXUALITY • ACAD

LISTEN TO US!

HELP

CHEF



# EDUCATION

## ***High-level feedback:***

Pupils feel that teachers are unable to relate and empathise with the modern issues they are facing in today's society due to being too focused on an outdated and rigorous curriculum.

Educational establishments are overwhelmed by Ofsted visits, tick-box exercises, and rules – causing the root causes of young people's problems/reactions to be overlooked. This is having a detrimental effect on young people's mental health which is not supported fully in schools.

Lessons should be more focused on preparing young people for the future and general life skills – such as money management, job opportunities, career development, mental health, and the importance of a work-life balance.

## ***Ideas/solutions:***

There should be a flexible education system that allows pupils to be able to balance the national curriculum with set mental health days – allowing them to re-set, evaluate, and decide whether they are working towards what it is they want from life.

Education establishments should have regular mental health training days for teachers and staff, so they are kept up to date with trending issues on a national level.

Youth days - invite case studies and speakers in to discuss serious topics and gather pupil feedback.









# COMMUNITY SAFETY

## ***High-level feedback:***

Lack of respect in the community for safe spaces. Young people often find themselves trapped in a cycle from previous generations. Lack of activity choice for children in the area results in children hanging around the streets out of boredom which leads to animosity within friendship groups.

## ***Ideas/solutions:***

A neighbourhood police officer who is a regular point of contact. Low-cost activities and more youth clubs for after school can assist with mental health worries.







MORE SCHOOL EDUCATION

MORE BINS PLEASE!

COST OF ENERGY

PLANT

# ENVIRONMENT

NEWS FLASH

HOT

WORLD TO FACE 40°C by 2070

USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

EDUCATE ALL

WE NEED TO WALK MORE

RUBBISH

PLASTIC

POLAR ICE CAPS MELTING

OIL

MY HOME



# ENVIRONMENT

## **High-level feedback:**

Young people don't know much about the environment and the effect it's having on the future. When they hear the facts about climate, mass pollution, life-threatening flash floods, wildfires, and the distinction of animals – it scares them.

## **Ideas/solutions:**

Create more youth groups dedicated to talking about the environment and what can be done to help.

Funding for parks and green spaces which have maintenance measures in place carried out by young people.

Litter picks, protests, adverts, mass planting of trees.

Climate change should be part of the school curriculum.







EMOTIONAL

HEART DISEASE

MENTAL

REGULAR EXERCISE

WESAY

YES

Physical

HEALTH

ABUSE

EXERCISE

SOBER



SIGNPOST

SEXUAL

CHART



# MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

## High-level feedback:

All topics of the day had a mental health aspect to them. Some of the causes listed for poor mental health from school age to adult life were bullying, addiction, social media, trauma, and lifestyle pressures.

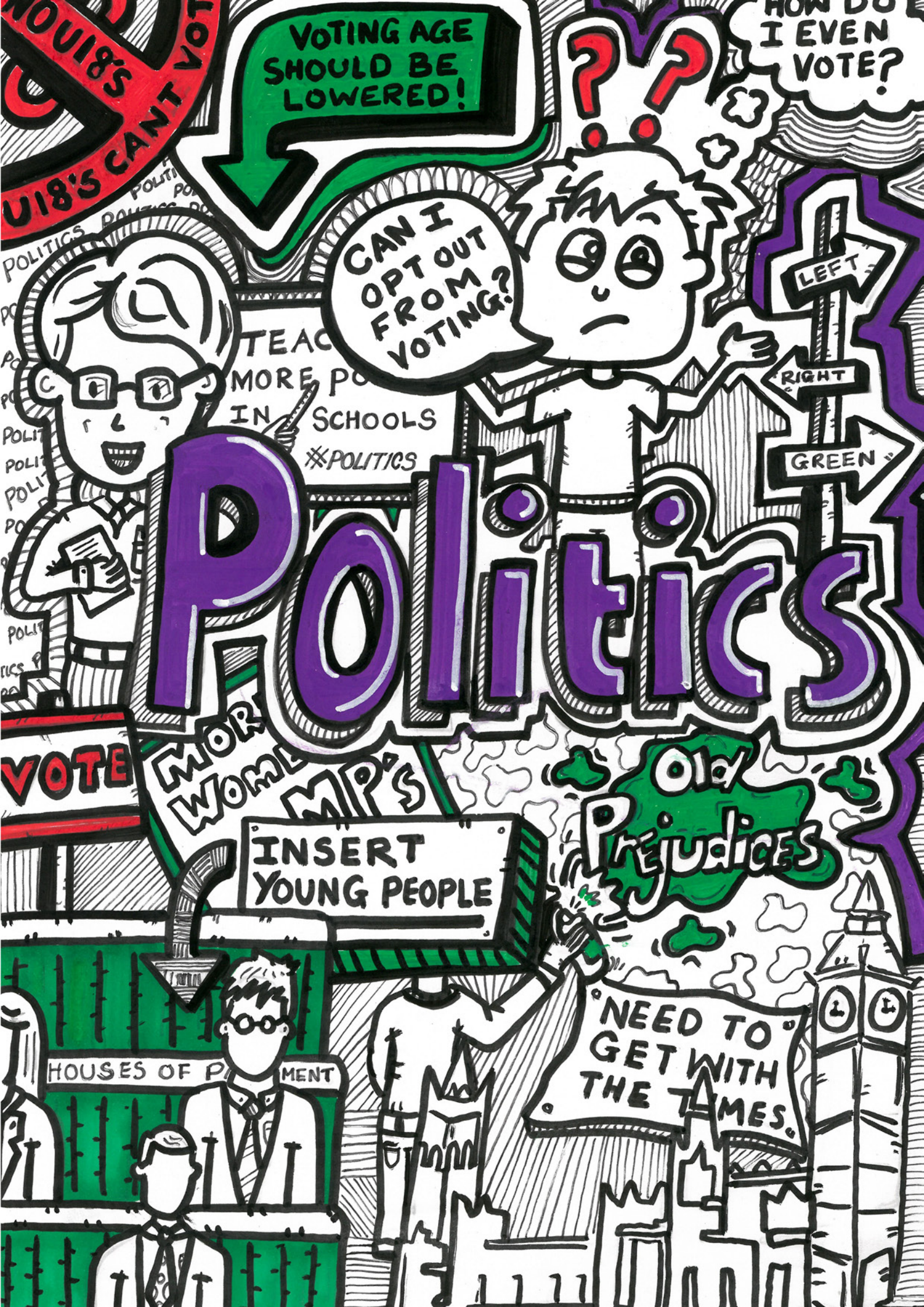
## Ideas/solutions:

The group wanted to create a youth movement to identify young people as upholding beliefs and abstaining from being caught up in the above list.

The code would have a series of belief statements - for example 'we say no to drugs', and the positively affirming statements of 'we say yes to...' Also, in the charter/booklet would be reasons why - so facts and figures, and then signposts to various local organisations that can help support/sustain their positive actions.







18'S CANT VOTE

VOTING AGE SHOULD BE LOWERED!

HOW DO I EVEN VOTE?

CAN I OPT OUT FROM VOTING?

TEACH MORE POL IN SCHOOLS  
#POLITICS

# POLITICS

LEFT  
RIGHT  
GREEN

VOTE

MORE WOMEN MP'S

INSERT YOUNG PEOPLE

Old Prejudices

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

NEED TO GET WITH THE TIMES.



# POLITICS AND DEMOCRACY

## ***High-level feedback:***

Young people feel that there is a lack of knowledge about politics in school as it doesn't appear in the curriculum and therefore those aged 16-17 aren't in a confident position to know whether they are voting for the right thing or not.

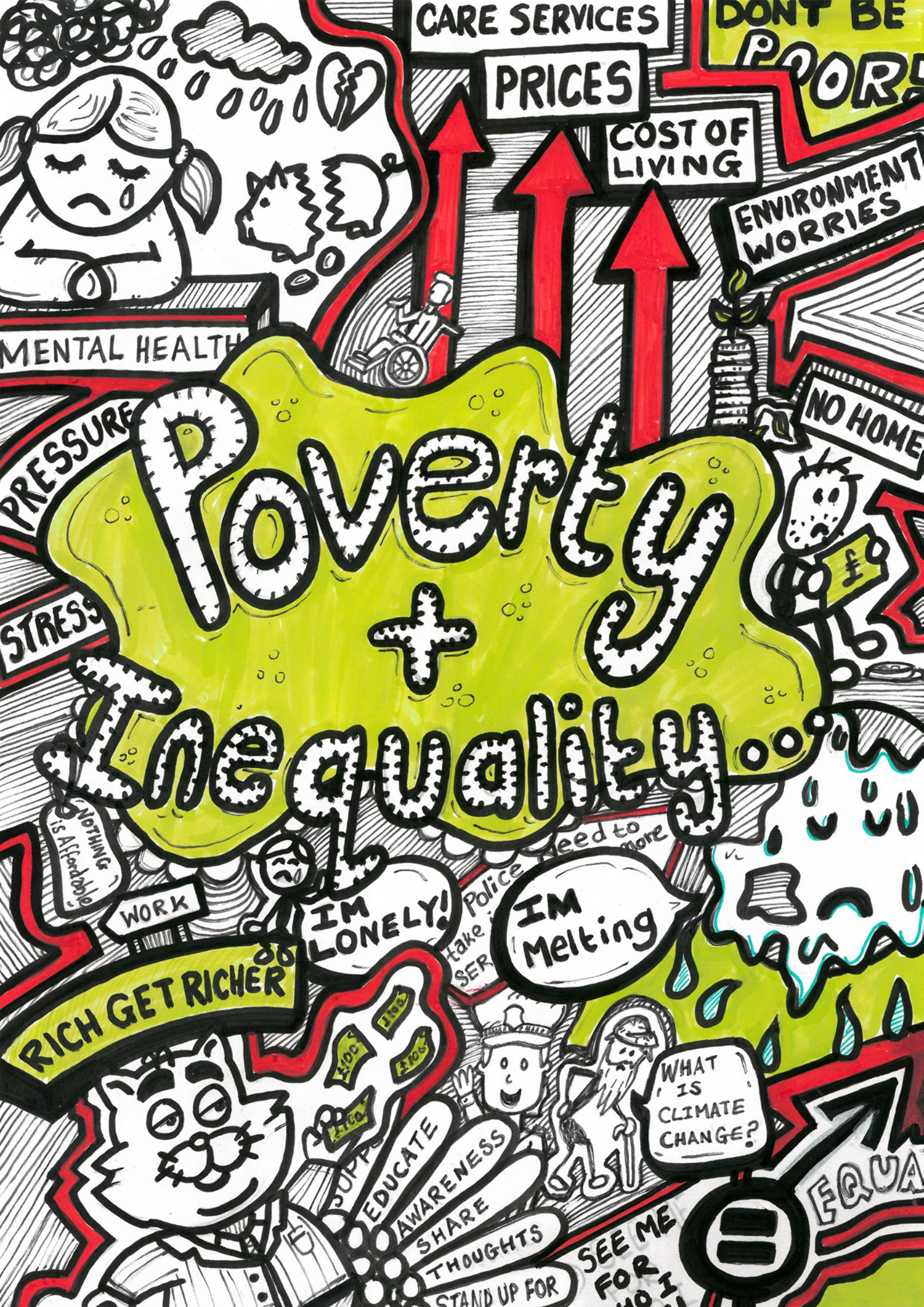
Pupils feel the current government doesn't address young people's needs and so would rather not vote.

## ***Ideas/solutions:***

More education in school about politics and the creation of digital ID cards.









# POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

## ***High-level feedback:***

Poverty is more common than you think. Young people say they often fear that they could one day find themselves homeless.

## ***Ideas/solutions:***

Increase minimum wage. Find a way to abolish inequality with stricter laws and punishments.









# SOCIAL MEDIA

## ***High-level feedback:***

Some of the worst things about social media listed by young people included peer pressure to look a certain way, trolling, fake news, fear of sexual predators, and addiction.

## ***Ideas/solutions:***

Apps-off August - a full month phone break. A logo such as #fitlersused – should be mandatory on social media photos.

You should have to prove your age when using social media accounts and there should be lifetime bans for people who don't abide.





GET OUTSIDE

UK

RUN MORE

Fifa24

WEATHER = NO SPORT!

GYM

LOCATION

SPORT

DOWN  
LOAD

SPORT APP

SPORT

RECREATION

GENDER EQUALITY

SUPPORT YOUR KIDS

FREE TASTE

GIRL POWER

Hi! I'm Joe...  
Let's Get Fit!

CHILD DIABETES ON THE RISE



EAT ME!





# SPORT AND RECREATION

## ***High-level feedback:***

Young people aren't encouraged to participate in sport and many families can't afford to join activities. Obesity is a massive problem in society.

## ***Ideas/solutions:***

Sports Education – free fun days – Make sure parents and carers are informed on fun events available.







LET'S TALK MORE...

ALL LIVES MATTER

RISING

RACIST INCIDENTS AFFECTING YOUNG PEOPLE ARE RISING...

CHALLENGE

UNDERSTANDING

REPORT

...WE ARE THE SAME!

SHARE STORIES...

EDUCATE

ANTI-RACISM

RACISM

Which Path will you Take?



# RACISM AND DIVISION

## ***High-level feedback:***

The high-level statistics of racist incidents affecting young people stood out to the group and how it can affect people in a wide range of contexts.

## ***Ideas/solutions:***

Educating others to understand what racism is and how it affects ethnic communities, particularly young people through workshops at schools.

Talking to each other more. Sharing stories and learning about language. Challenging racism online using a report button.





# WHAT NEXT?

We want to use this report to inform policy and funding decisions regarding young people at a local, regional and national level.

The contents of this report will contribute to the new 'Reimagined' report produced by the Hope Collective. This report sets out to achieve the biggest needs assessment of what young people think a fairer society should look like. It will allow young people to be stakeholders in the levelling up discussions.

Locally, we plan to share this report with senior leaders, including the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chief Constable of Cleveland Police, leaders of local councils and the Tees Valley Mayor.

We're committed to hosting more Hope Hack events in late 2024, focusing on further education (FE) establishments in each of Cleveland's four boroughs.

If you're interested in Hope Hacks, contact us now on [pcc.office@cleveland.police.uk](mailto:pcc.office@cleveland.police.uk)

Check out our [Hope Hack 2024 short film here](#) for a snapshot into what our day looked like.





# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Attendees were asked three questions on the day and we collected their answers on large boards in the main presentation room.

## What is your biggest challenge in life?

- Watching people suffer from bullying
- Dealing with stress
- Having a daughter at 15
- Performing in front of lots of people
- Dealing with anxiety and stress
- Self-confidence issues due to health problems
- Living up to expectations

## What do you aspire to be?

Actress Baker Vet Artist  
A good dad  
Forensic anthropologist  
Famous Singer  
Doctor Actor Welder  
Archaeologist

## What is your one wish to make a change in the world?



Unlimited supplies to stop world hunger



For people to be kind to each other and to help in times of need



To stop bullying and make the world a better place





ART

#

Your Voice  
Your Future

Doctor

A HOPE LEAK

ACTOR

SINGER

TEESSIDE 2024

A SPARK

SUPER DAD

NICE