



Denton Youth & Community Project Limited

Report on the DYCP Community Survey - April 2025

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1. Executive Summary

Denton Youth and Community Project Limited is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee, driven by the local community, supporting children, young people, families, and adults.

DYCP was founded 25 years ago by a group of local residents to address high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and a lack of activities for children and young people in Denton.

DYCP provides a wide range of services focussed on health and wellbeing, social, learning and skills development, and is based in the Denton Ward of Newcastle upon Tyne.

DYCP is focussed on sustainable community development principals and believes in investing in the people and places in which the organisation works, with our focus being on building resilience, capacity and sustainability.

In April 2025 we conducted a community survey to assess our impact within the local community, to reflect and review our current service provision, and to assist with our planning for service delivery for the next few years

Key findings

- DYCP is improving the long-term wellbeing of people in Denton - 100% of participants who said they had accessed DYCP services, said it had improved the wellbeing of themselves and/or their children and families.
- Most people found out about DYCP by word of mouth. This confirms that we are important to the local community, that they are talking about DYCP, are recommending us to others, and trust us to provide high quality services.
- Our services are good value for money and affordable to local people.
- DYCP provides essential services that are not available from any other local community organisation.
- Parents do not feel it's safe for children to play outside in Denton, however parents and children feel DYCP is a safe place, in an area which continues to experience high levels of crime and antisocial behaviour.

2. Introduction

The purpose of the survey was to collate views of residents of Denton on the following issues:

- Current provision of play and youth services in Denton.
- Current support and activities for families and older people in Denton.
- What residents would like to see in Denton, that does not currently exist.
- For those who have accessed DYCP services, whether this had an impact on their wellbeing or the wellbeing of their family members.

Methodology

We used the following methods:

- Face to face interviews at the local shopping centre.
- Online survey.
- Verbal informal interviews.

Scope

- 102 people participated in the survey.

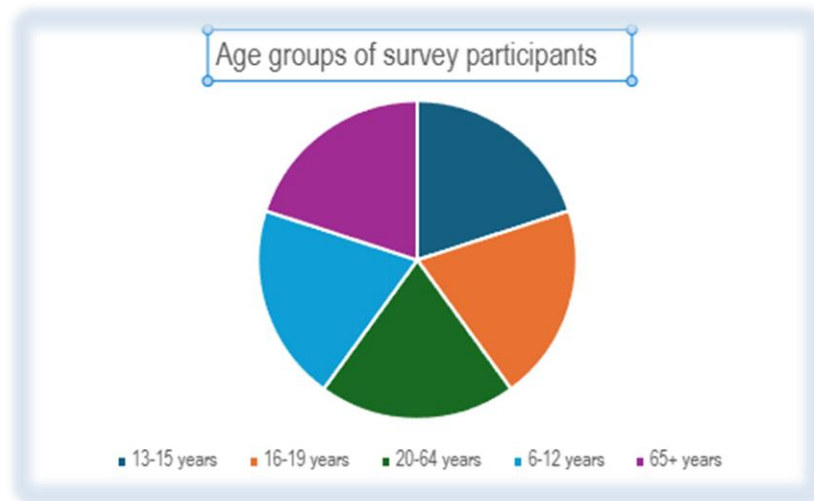
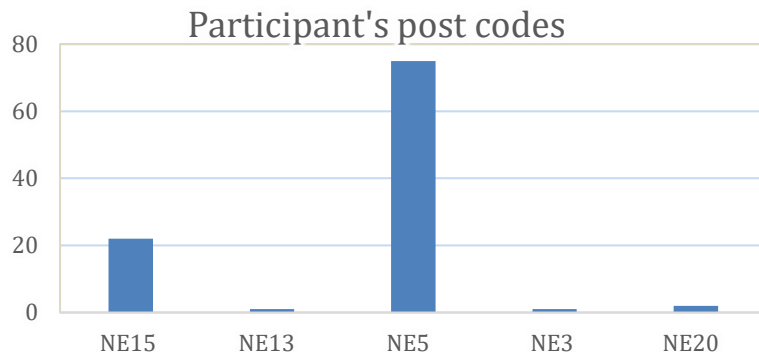
Objectives

- To gain a better understanding of the impact of DYCP service provision, in order to reflect, review, and assist with mapping of future plans and activity provision.
- To confirm our services are of high quality, affordable and are value for money.
- To produce a clear impact study to funders who provide valuable support for the project.

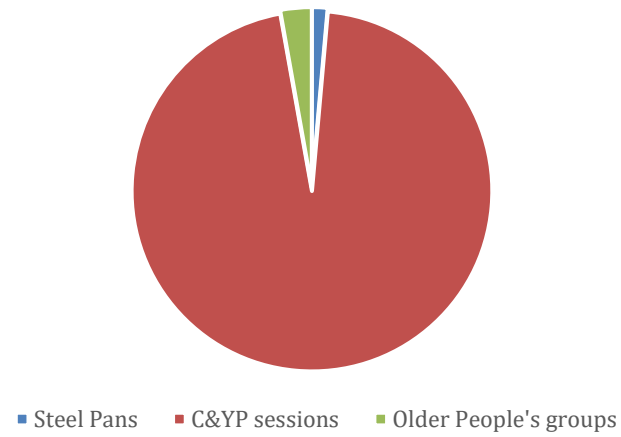
3. Results

Analysis of the survey results.

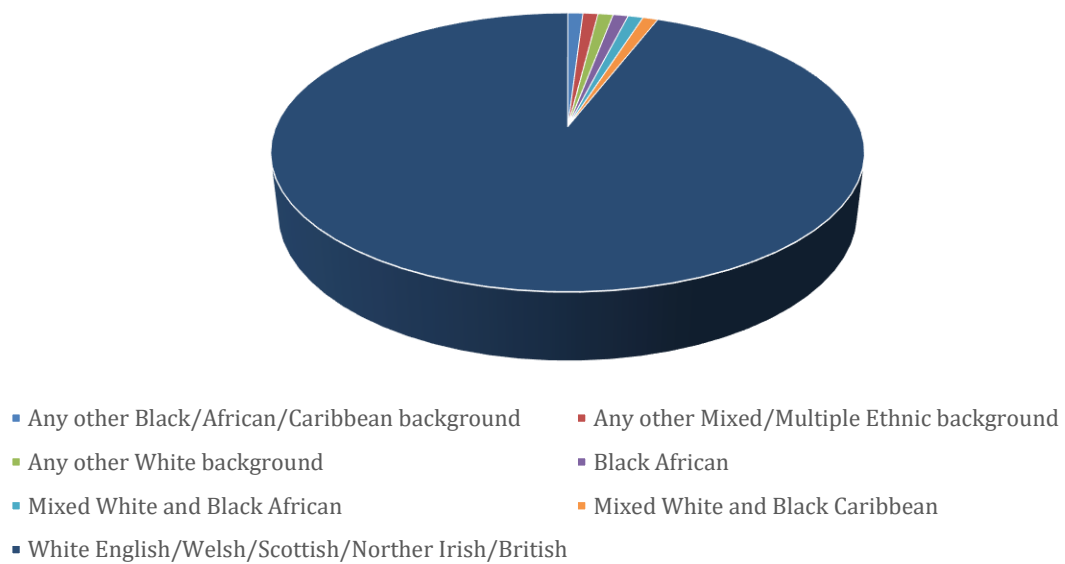
Demographics of survey participants

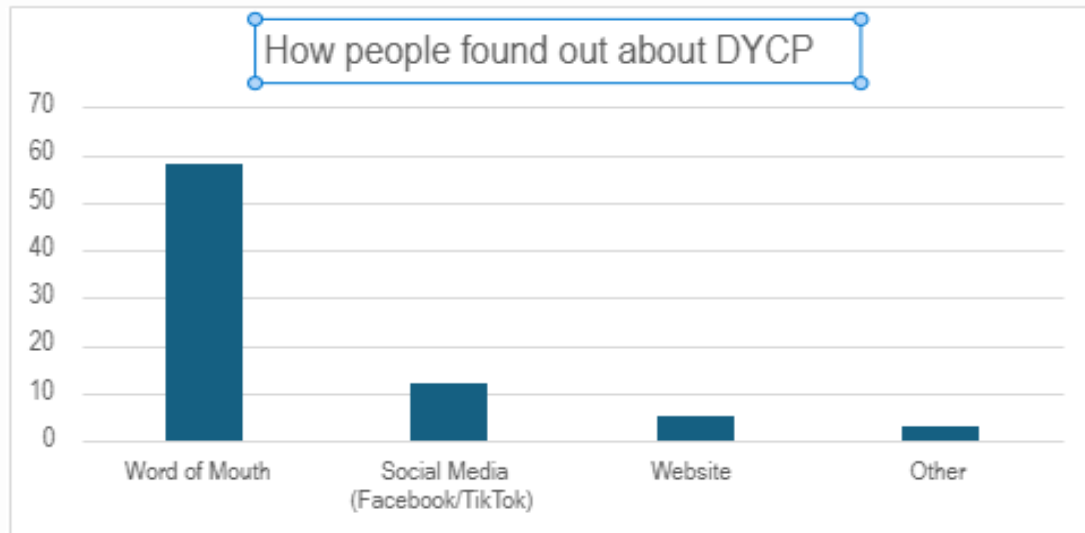


Sessions attended by you or your children



Ethnicity





4. Findings

Examples of what people also told us they would like to see more of in Denton:

- More clubs for adults.
- More to do during school holidays.
- Support for children and families.
- Play areas, parks with equipment, somewhere to play football and basketball.
- More community-based groups.
- Family exercise sessions for children and adults to take part in together.
- Benches and places to sit.
- More social activities for adults.
- Swimming, sports activities and outdoor games areas.

Examples of what people do not like about Denton:

- Litter and fly tipping.
- There are not enough green spaces.
- I feel there needs to be more things for the whole community
- The place needs a good tidy up; the streets are a disgrace.
- Anti-social behaviour at night that scares me.
- Bikes and scooters are a big problem in the area.
- There are not enough parks so it's hard to find nice places to play out with your friends that are safe.
- There is a lot of broken glass everywhere. Teenagers set fire to stuff.

- I worry about older people that are stuck in the house.
- Chances for people to make friends or romantic relationships. Day trips out for adults and families.
- Some teenagers are menacing and spoil the area for others.
- I worry about my son when he plays out because not all of the kids are nice, some are really out of control and can be a bad influence.
- The place looks messy, unmaintained hedges and public areas, litter, dog fouling. Antisocial behaviour is on the rise especially with teenagers on motorbikes- there needs to be more places for kids to go.



The DYCP Graffiti Squad.

Transforming the vandalised subways in West Denton with fantastic artwork.

Examples of comments on how DYCP improves the wellbeing and quality of life of people in Denton:

- The service is amazing. It has made my children very happy
They have taken part in a wide variety of activities that have helped their social development and given them opportunities to do things with their peers they would not have otherwise been able to do.
- Giving my grandkids opportunities life skills brilliant support by the youth leaders Sara Roxy.
- I have somewhere nice to hang around with my friends after school and we get to do fun things in the school holidays. There's always something to look forward to.
- Very inclusive organisation for Neuro divergent children.

- My children enjoy going to youth club with their friends and it gives me and my partner a break and time to ourselves. They feel comfortable there, they've tried other places but haven't stuck with it.
- Gave my children new confidence and great experience.
- Promoting independence and social skills.
- Having something to look forward to after a hard week at school. I can relax and let my hair down a bit. Exams are stressful.
- It's really important that children in the area have somewhere safe to go.
- I like knowing I am sending my children somewhere safe where they can improve their lives through positive activities with their friends
- It provides a safe place for our daughter to socialise with her friends outside of school. Also gives her the chance to try new activities that she has not done before.
- I like that I can be myself. Sometimes I find that hard to do but everyone at youth club makes me feel comfortable.
- I feel like I fit in here and the staff don't hassle us for every little thing. We all get on well and go to nice places in the holidays. I like to be out of the house so it's good for me.
- Wider friendship groups and activities for the kids. Help with work/life balance for us parents.
- I've been going to youth club for most of my life. It's been great for my other family members too.
- I feel like I can be myself at youth club. School is very strict, and I have to sit down all day so having somewhere to go where I can run around and burn off energy is good for me.
- When I moved to the area it was hard to work and keep my children occupied so it was a lifesaver having a youth club close to home
- I love having fun things to do in the school holidays. It would be boring if we didn't have youth club. I get to see some of my friends from other schools too.
- My kids get really good opportunities at DYCP that I wouldn't be able to afford usually
- It has supported us in so many ways and has given me opportunities not only in the community but in trips and training courses I would never have done otherwise
- I've been given amazing opportunities at youth club. I would have been very bored in school holidays without it. I now volunteer at the younger youth club as a way to give back.
- Fantastic opportunity for young people with great staff and activities that are affordable

- I don't get out very much now, so my weekly lunch club is a great way to keep in touch with friends. We have a nice dinner and talk.
- I love coming to see my friends every week at lunch club. When you get older you need places to go, we don't get out much and it can get lonely.
- The Steel Pan class is so enjoyable and meet new people who enjoy the experience.



Lunch Club Helpers.



Junior Trustee's Training – provided by
Connected Voice.



DYCP young people are no dummies! You're in safe
hands with us. First aid training.

Future Youth Workers in the making.

Our fantastic Young People's Management Group



Lunch Club birthday club celebrations.



DYCP Trips, where we take up the whole bus.

Words people used to describe DYCP



Overview of the most important trends and patterns.

- Attendance and continuity - Children and young people tend to stay with the project from an early age (4 years) through to teenage years. and return as volunteers.
- Safety - Parents trust DYCP to provide safe and high-quality services for their children.
- Opportunities - DYCP provides a range of activities that children and young people would otherwise not have access to.
- There are no similar projects to DYCP that local people attend.

5. Recommendations

There is clear evidence that there is a real need for DYCP to continue and possibly expand its current service provision.

- In order to do this, DYCP will need to secure additional funding; this is an ongoing issue.
- Our sessions are very popular but are currently limited by staff capacity and we have waiting lists for our youth clubs and holiday activities. It would be beneficial to examine the possibility of employing additional sessional staff or another part-time youth worker.
- Older people's group numbers have decreased over the past few years. DYCP should restructure the current format of the luncheon club and the mature action group e.g. a merger of the two groups to promote cost effectiveness.
- The number of BME community members taking part in the survey was low. We need to ensure our reach extends to all members of the local community going forward.



DYCP social action project – our Young People provided essential hygiene items for local refugee & asylum seeker families and to the local food bank.



Prepping the hygiene packs.

Plans

- Secure additional funding on an ongoing basis.
- Recruit additional sessional workers, internally, if possible, from our current team of volunteers.
- Continue with our current activity programmes for children and young people.
- Review our older people's service provision with an aim to increase uptake.
- Work with refugee and asylum seeker organisations who have local links, to increase the uptake of BME community members that benefit from our services.

6. Conclusion

- Denton residents feel that the area continues to have issues with anti-social behaviour.
- DYCP is considered to be a 'safe sanctuary' in an area where pockets of high levels of multiple deprivation, crime and anti-social behaviour still exist.
- Local residents expressed their concerns regarding litter, broken glass and dog fouling on the streets. There are not enough safe places and green spaces for children to play in Denton.
- It is clear from the survey results that DYCP is highly valued by the local community.
- Despite the fact that funding for the project and staff capacity were drastically reduced 9 years ago, the previous and current Project Managers were able to maintain high quality youth and community work provision, and after 25 years, the project is still an essential part of community life in Denton.
- DYCP is trusted by local parents, grandparents and carers, with their most treasured possessions – their children.
- Should DYCP be unable to continue its work, there are no other local organisations that could provide similar play and youth services in Denton.

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