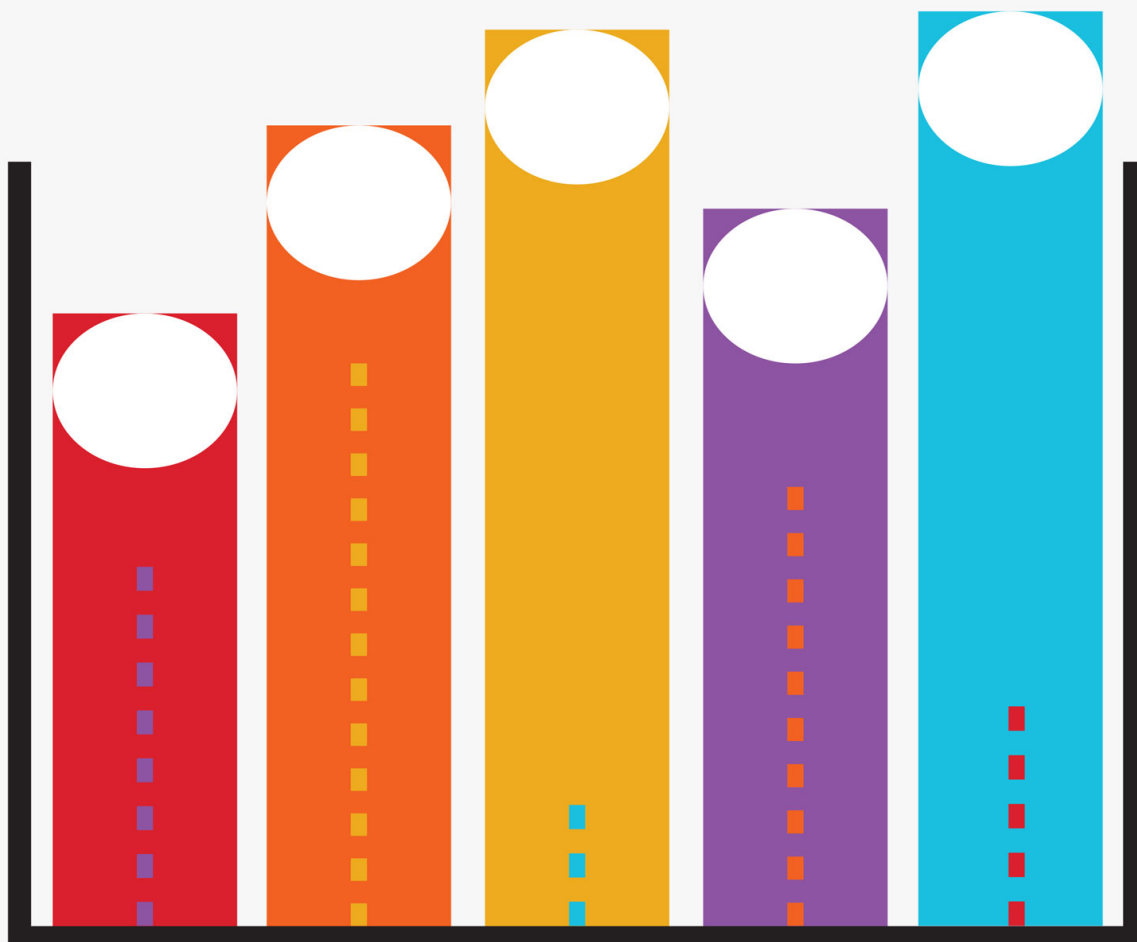




The Amelia

Your Voice Matters - Youth Consultation 2025

Accessible version

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
delivered by Bethan Minter
The Amelia Scott Creative Learning Coordinator

The
Amelia 
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Learning



Content

- 1. Executive Summary3
- 2. Introduction4
- 3. Background.....5
- 4. Methodology7
- 5. The Questions10
- 6. Findings11
- 7. Recommendations19
- 8. Implementation19
- References24
- Appendices.....27

1. Executive Summary

Your Voice Matters – Youth Consultation 2025. The consultation aimed to understand young people's aspirations, concerns, engagement patterns, and barriers to participation, informing future youth provision and the development of The Amelia Youth Programme. It was delivered by The Amelia Scott on behalf of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, engaged 554 participants (492 young people aged 12–25 and 62 youth leaders) through online surveys and targeted workshops between July and October 2025 in the Tunbridge Wells Borough.

Key Findings

- **National Context:** National youth services have faced a 73% funding cut since 2010, with Kent County Council reducing external youth contracts by £913,000 in 2024. Youth unemployment remains high at 15.3%, and mental health conditions among 16–24 year-olds have risen to over 25%.
- **Engagement:** 29% of respondents do not participate in activities outside school or work—above the national average (33%). Non-engagement is highest in urban postcodes (TN1: 34%, TN4: 39%) and lowest in rural areas (TN17: 6%, TN18: 0%).
- **Pastimes:** Staying home (52%), social media (49%), and hanging out with friends (49%) dominate leisure time. Only 5% attend drop-in youth clubs.
- **Aspirations:** 51% intend to obtain a degree; 32% are considering one. Grammar school students show higher ambition (87%) than non-grammar peers (49%). Apprenticeships attract interest (42%) but uptake is low (2%), hindered by poor awareness and visibility.
- **Career Interests:** 56% of young people would consider arts, (63% of female identifying, and 37% male identifying) media, or cultural careers, contrasting with 41% of youth leaders who view these as non-viable.
- **Concerns:** Top fears are cost of living (21.4%), health (12.9%), jobs (12.3%), housing (12.1%), and climate (9.7%). AI and technology rank lower (3.3%). Youth leaders cite social media, mental health, and exam pressure as primary concerns.
- **Community Sentiment:** 67% feel safe alone; 80% feel welcome. However, 66% do not believe their opinions matter to decision-makers, and 36% are unsure they will vote.
- **Access:** 54% have never visited The Amelia Scott, rising to 86% in rural TN17.

Recommendations

- Expand affordable, creative activities that build transferable skills and confidence.
- Embed youth voice in programme design and governance.
- Develop employability pathways, life-skills training, and career exposure events.

- Improve visibility and understanding of apprenticeships and vocational routes.
- Strengthen social cohesion through safe spaces, mental health support, and civic engagement initiatives.
- Collaborate with local organisations to address systemic barriers and workforce shortages.

Next Steps

The Amelia Youth Programme will adopt a threefold strategy, Young Creatives, Emerging Professionals, and Young Company, to deliver skills-based, future-ready interventions over the next three years, supported by partnerships and youth-led practice.

2. Introduction

Youth voice is the practice of meaningfully involving children and young people in decisions that affect their lives, ensuring their ideas, concerns, and experiences are listened to, valued, and acted upon. When embedded effectively, youth voice strengthens young people's sense of agency and supports the development of confidence, transferable skills, and real world experience. It also enables organisations and services to become more responsive, inclusive, and relevant to the communities they serve. This approach reflects Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that every child has the right to express their views in all matters affecting them, and for those views to be taken seriously.

In this spirit, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council commissioned The Amelia Scott to lead a borough wide Youth Consultation to better understand the experiences, aspirations, and challenges of young people living, studying, working, and socialising locally. As George Herbert observed, "The person who wears the shoe knows best where it pinches." To understand both the pressures young people face and the opportunities for positive change, it was essential to gather insight directly from young people themselves, alongside the perspectives of the professionals and volunteers who deliver youth services. This dual lens ensured the consultation captured both lived experience and sector expertise.

The consultation explored young people's attitudes towards their local area, their hopes and concerns for the future, how they currently spend their time and how they would like to spend it, and their perceptions of the strengths and challenges within local youth services. Questions focused on future aspirations, education and employment, interests and pastimes, well-being, and feelings of belonging and opportunity within the borough. Findings from this work will directly inform the development of The Amelia Youth Programme, the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Youth Hub initiative, and future support for youth services and funded youth projects. With youth provision having significantly declined over the past decade, a key objective of this consultation was to understand not only the challenges affecting young people, but also the difficulties faced by the organisations that support them. This insight will help identify ways to strengthen, sustain, and safeguard local youth services within available resources.

The consultation was led by Bethan Minter, Learning Coordinator at The Amelia Scott, and took place between July and October 2025.

3. Background

Tunbridge Wells Borough

Tunbridge Wells Borough is a diverse area combining vibrant urban centres with extensive rural communities, making it one of Kent's most distinctive regions. Located in the south-west of Kent and bordering East Sussex to the south, the borough spans approximately 326 square kilometres and has an estimated population of 119,694 residents (2024). It shares boundaries with Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling, Maidstone, and Ashford in Kent, as well as Rother and Wealden in East Sussex.

Around 54.2% of residents live in urban areas, while 45.8% are based in larger rural or dispersed communities, reflecting a stronger rural character compared to many other Kent boroughs. The borough has a slightly older population than the national average, with a median age of 43 years compared to 40 for England (2021). Between 2011 and 2021, the number of residents aged 50–64 increased by approximately 2,700 (13%), while those aged 35–49 decreased by around 2,800 (10.8%). Ethnic diversity has grown slightly over the past decade. In 2021, 91.6% of the population identified as White, down from 94.9% in 2011.

Youth Services

Between 2010 and 2023, local spending on youth services fell Nationally by 73%, to lower than in 2010. In that period, more than 1,000 youth centres closed, and more than 4,500 youth worker roles were lost. In Kent, the County Council reduced external youth service contracts by £913,000, ending funding for many providers by March 2024 to address budget deficits. These cuts have had a significant impact: thousands of youth workers have been lost nationally, and in Kent alone, services that reached more than 9,700 young people were affected. The situation is particularly stark for older teenagers, as four of Kent's twelve districts now have no provision for post-16s with low or no GCSEs.

Employment

In 2025, the UK unemployment rate among young people aged 16 to 24 stood at 15.3%. Concerningly, nearly one in five unemployed young people have been out of work for at least a year. According to the Youth Futures Foundation's Youth Outlook Report 2025, more than a third (37%) of unemployed young people have now been jobless for over six months, a figure that has surged by 124% in just three years. The country, one in eight young people are neither earning nor learning, and apprenticeship opportunities have declined sharply, with available places down by 30% since 2016. Current trends show the labour market tightening. Vacancies have fallen sharply, from 1.29 million in mid-2022 to 726,000 in mid-2025, while unemployment has risen to 4.8%. Youth Futures Foundation's Youth Employment Report 2025 has identified Hiring intentions are at their lowest since the pandemic, and entry-level opportunities are shrinking. Sectors that traditionally employ young people have been hardest hit: hospitality vacancies are down 46% since 2021, retail has seen the largest workforce reductions, and roles most accessible to young people (such as elementary jobs and customer service) have dropped by over 50%. In contrast, senior roles have barely declined. Three factors drive this vulnerability: heavy concentration in sectors like retail and hospitality, which shed jobs quickly during economic slowdowns; over representation in insecure roles

such as casual, short-term, and gig work; and limited experience, which leaves young job seekers disadvantaged when employers prioritise seasoned candidates.

A 2023 Lloyd's Banking Group report found that 11.7 million people aged 15 and over in the UK lack the essential digital skills needed for everyday life online. This concern is echoed across research from the Department for Education's Employer Perspectives Survey and CBI/Pearson's Educating for the Modern World. Employers consistently place greater value on practical experience and broader skills than on academic qualifications alone: 65% rate relevant work experience as significant or critical, while 60% prioritise problem-solving skills. Nearly three-quarters (75%) prefer candidates with a mix of academic and technical qualifications or view all qualifications equally.

Mental Health

According to UCL's study, published in The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health journal January 2025, Common mental health conditions in 16-24 year olds rose from under 19% in 2014 to over 25% in 2024. Mental health admissions for young people increased by 65% in a decade (ending 2024), far outpacing overall admissions trends.

Youth engagement

Young people are difficult to engage with due to a multitude of factors. Including the dismantling of 'third spaces' (social setting outside of home), weakened community ties, increase in digital living and political disillusionment. According to the 2025 youth matters: state of the nation report, many young people don't feel heard by those in power, and it's a big problem.

Young people are the most politically disengaged group in the UK, with estimated voter turnout in the last general election at 37% among 18-24 year olds. Only 40% of young people in the UK (14 to 24) said that they would be likely to vote at the next general election.

Crime and Safety

The 2025 Youth Matters: State of the Nation report raises serious concerns about young people's safety, crime, and online security, highlighting the need for trusted adults to provide support and guidance. Over half of girls in the UK (53%) have encountered sexist comments or hate speech online, while 16% of young people feel unsafe in their local areas. Young women are significantly more likely to feel unsafe than young men, and safety disparities are stark among transgender youth, only 25% feel safe compared to 52% of non-transgender peers. The report also reveals that boys aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales are more than twice as likely as girls

to lack a trusted adult in their lives. Queuing the government's 2025 Youth Strategy pledge to empower half a million more young people to have access to a trusted adult outside of their home by 2035.

4. Methodology

Scope

Between July and October 2025, The Amelia Scott delivered a borough-wide youth consultation on behalf of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. The consultation aimed to better understand the hopes, challenges, and needs of young people aged 12–25 who live, work, study, or socialise in the borough, which is home to approximately 15,000 young people.

Data Collection Methods.

A mixed-method approach, combining online surveys and facilitated in person workshops, was used to ensure robust, inclusive evidence to inform future youth-focused strategies. The two online surveys were developed and distributed were:

- A Young People's Survey
- A Youth Leaders Survey

The young people's online survey was launched in July with a planned initial focus on digital responses, it was circulated through:

- Local youth networks and mailing lists
- The Amelia Scott's mailing list
- Secondary schools and colleges
- Social media platforms

The Youth Leaders Survey was distributed via:

- Local youth network communications
- Schools and teacher newsletters
- Churches and youth organisations
- Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's newsletter

Youth Leaders included teachers, youth workers, social workers, and arts and sports practitioners working within the borough.

In-Person Engagement and Outreach

High visibility in-person canvassing of high traffic areas at school end times, such as bus stops and school walking routes, with QR coded flyers attached to small packets of sweets had a very successful impact on the response rate and survey circulation. This was delivered by a DBS checked and youth work experienced member of staff, in clearly branded uniform to ensure a reputable and safeguarded approach.

Mid-Point Review and Targeted Gap-Filling

To ensure the data collected was a true representation across the borough, responses needed to be gathered from every birth year, school and borough ward.

The data was reviewed at the mid-point on the last week of August 2025. From this 'dark spots' in the data collection were identified (boys, over 18's, TN18-Hawkhurst & Benenden, TN3 – Langton Green, and TN17 – Cranbrook post code areas). To ensure that these data

dark spots were filled, we delivered area specific poster/flyer drives and targeted mitigation measures included teacher engagement, social media posts on postcode specific community pages, and additional in-person consultation workshops were arranged. Targeted consultation workshop groups included Paddock Wood Youth Club, Hawkhurst Scouts group, a young professionals' lunch, Southborough Guides, and Cranbrook YMCA Youth Club.

Participation and Sample Profile

We gathered a total of 554 responses across the consultation. Of those responses, 393 were from Young People online and a further 99 from Young People who attended In-Person consultation workshops. 57% of the young respondents identify as Female, 38% male, 2% non-binary, 1% did not disclose, and 1% self-described. Every birth year of the demographic were represented, with average age of the young respondents was 15. The most responsive Birth Year 2012 who were aged 13, and least engaged Birth Year 2006 who were aged 19 at the time of the consultation. The consultation engagement of 492 young people, representing around 3.3% of the borough's youth population, gives the findings a margin of error of approximately 4.3% at a 95% confidence level.

As well as consulting young people, we sort and received a further 62 responses from Youth Leaders who were consulted via an online survey only. Youth Leaders included teachers, social workers, youth group leaders, and sport and performing arts coaches who operate within the Borough.

Responses were gathered from every secondary school, and borough ward through an online survey and targeted in-person workshops. The Post Code with the Highest engagement was TN12 (Paddock Wood Area) with 112 responses; largely in thanks to the positive engagement with Leigh Academy Mascalls. In contrast the Post Code with the Lowest Engagement was TN3 (Langton Green area) with 15 responses total.

Youth-Led Design and Accessibility

It was vital young people actively shaped the consultation process. Applying youth voice as part of the design and development process greatly improved accessibility for young people and successful engagement of the target group.

The online Youth Survey was piloted by 6 young people aged 13, 15, 18, 22, 23 & 24. Their feedback on readability, phrasing and ease of access was incorporated in the final product. Contributions included listing the specific schools rather than school type and including 'completed a degree/apprenticeship' as an answer option.

The consultation workshop was piloted twice in the development phase, once with a group of 19 youth theatre students and once with a group of 2 home education students. Subsequent improvements included the creation of an answer collection tally sheet to ensure accurate and swift collection of responses. The post it notes, dot vote, and movement response activities were honed in, and made as straightforward as possible.

Adaptability was key. The in-person consultation workshop approach needed to be altered for each group to be appropriate to the age, groups size and venue.

Data Analysis

The dataset was anonymised and analysed utilising Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Business analytics – Business Intelligence placement Apprentice (under 25), who created a visual and dynamic format in which the data could be scrutinised – incorporating young people's input in every step of the project.

Barriers To Participating and Mitigation Measures

Reducing barriers to participation was a priority. The platform chosen did not require account creation or personal information, as an estimated one-third of young people under 16 do not have their own email address. The survey was optimised for all devices—particularly mobile phones—to ensure accessibility and ease of use. We selected Culture Counts, a digital platform that supports the creation of surveys measuring cultural, social, and economic impact. It uses standardised metrics to enable benchmarking and reporting on public value, accessibility, and quality for funded organisations and beyond.

Questions were kept clear, jargon-free, and easy to answer without being patronising. Multiple-choice options, sliding scales, and voting buttons were used wherever possible, alongside opportunities for respondents to express their views in their own words.

Online vs in-person

Online respondents were reached by utilising local youth networks, built through a mixture of research, and pre-existing community contacts from extensive previous youth and school programme delivery. To ensure easy access to digital reach we utilised the use of QR codes on posters and flyers, a clear landing webpage, the use of The Amelia social media posts on Instagram (4.7k followers), Facebook (4.2k followers) and LinkedIn (155 followers), targeted Facebook posts on community specific group pages, and inclusion in both school, mailing list and borough council newsletters.

The data was reviewed at the mid-point on the last week of August 2025. From this 'dark spots' in the data collection were identified. The mid-point review informed where further promotions were required, and where the targeted in-person consultation workshops needed to take place. The interim data review was also

used to inform and shape our October 2025 Young Creatives Programming; in which we ran a documentary making course, where the topics researched and suggested to explore were the Housing Crisis, and Cost of Living (identified by the most frequent concerns expressed by young people. One group went on to make a documentary titled 'How the Housing Crisis is Affecting Tunbridge Wells'.

Although the online consultation data was swifter with a greater reach, the in-person workshops provided helpful additional anecdotal evidence that otherwise would not have been possible to obtain in a solely digital format. It enabled conversations around their responses and built stronger community connections.

5. The Questions

Young Peoples Survey Questions:

- What year were you born?
- What is the first half of your postcode?
- How would you describe your gender?
- What best describes you at present?
- In my free time I like to...
- How often do you take part in organised activities?
- What following activities/skills would you like to try?
- “I feel welcome to exist where I live and spend my time.”
- “I feel safe to be on my own.”
- “If I need help, I feel confident to ask and know who to turn to.”
- “I feel my opinions and needs matter to those in positions of power in Tunbridge Wells Borough.”
- “When I’m old enough, I plan to vote at both Local and General elections.”
- What industry would you like to work in in the future?
- How likely would you consider a career in arts, media or culture?
- Would you like to get a degree?
- Would you consider an apprenticeship?
- What are your top 3 concerns for the future?
- If you had a magic wand, and could change just 1 thing for young people locally, what would you wish for?
- In 2035 I hope that...
- How often do you visit The Amelia Scott?
- If you use The Amelia to study, what more could we do to help you?
- Youth Leader Survey Questions:
- What best describes the organisation you work for?
- What is the first part of your organisation’s postcode?
- What age group of young people do you work with?
- What activities and support services does your organisation presently offer young people?
- In your opinion, what are the 3 biggest challenges facing young people today?

- What are your 3 biggest challenges that you are facing in supporting young people right now?
- Young people's involvement in extracurricular activities have a negative impact on young people's school attainment.
- It is important for young people to take part in activities outside of education for their personal development and overall wellbeing.
- Young people in Tunbridge Wells have enough access to art and culture opportunities.
- Arts and cultural activities are easily accessible to the young people I work with.
- Arts and cultural careers are a valid and viable option for the young people I work with.
- I believe the young people I work with have a safe and considerate place to spend their free time.
- How confident do you feel in signposting young people to additional services?
- What youth provision, support, or activities do you think young people would enjoy or benefit from that are not presently available in Tunbridge Wells Borough?
- If you had a magic wand, and could change just 1 thing for young people locally, what would you wish for?

Youth Leaders, in this instance, are defined as individuals who work directly with young people in a leadership capacity within the borough. This includes teachers, social workers, youth group leaders, and coaches in sports and performing arts.

6. Findings

Understanding how young people in Tunbridge Wells engage with activities, spend their time, and perceive opportunities is essential for shaping effective youth provision. This consultation provides a detailed picture of current participation levels, preferred pastimes, and barriers to engagement, alongside insights into aspirations, concerns, and community sentiment. The findings highlight patterns of social isolation among non-participants, postcode variations in activity levels, and the influence of digital habits, while also revealing gaps in access to arts and cultural opportunities. These insights will inform the development of targeted initiatives, such as The Amelia Youth Programme, designed to reflect young people's interests, address structural challenges, and strengthen pathways to education, employment, and wellbeing.

Present Engagement

Of our respondents, 29% (129) reported that they do not participate in any activities outside of education or work; 65% of those who reported non-engagement were young women. Meaning our young people fall 4% above the national average in participation (33% of young people do not participate in Extracurricular activities nationally - 2024 DCMS Youth participation report). Understanding young people's levels of engagement in extracurricular activities, and their preferred pastimes, helps shape and inform how best to reach young people within the borough. Those who are not engaging in additional activities, and with a high digital pastime rate, will be the most socially isolated and hardest to engage with.

Interestingly, our data set shows that young people in rural post code - TN17 (6% no activity), TN18 (0% no activity) and TN3 (18% no activity) are more likely to be engaging in extracurricular activities, that their urban counterparts - TN1 (34% no activity), TN4 (39% no activity) and TN2 (26% no activity).

How often do you take part in organised activities?

Responses: 446

Not at all: 29%

1 a week: 27%

2 a week: 19%

3 a week: 13%

4+ a week: 12%

Pastimes

We explored how young people spend their time. The ranking pastime activities young people report to engage with are:

Pastime activity	Overall	Male	Female	Non-Binary
Stay home	52%	51%	53%	86%
Go on social media	49%	43%	53%	43%
Hangout at friends' houses	49%	38%	57%	57%
Hangout with friends in public spaces	44%	40%	49%	57%
Online gaming	43%	71%	23%	86%
Draw, paint, write, make - be creative	30%	15%	39%	43%
Hangout with friends in public spaces (specifically parks)	26%	28%	25%	29%
Take part in organised/competitive sports groups	25%	37%	18%	14%

Pastime activity	Overall	Male	Female	Non-Binary
Attend live events (gigs, shows etc.)	20%	12%	5%	43%
Workout at the gym	19%	28%	15%	14%
Take part in non-organised sports activities (skateboarding, jogging, football with friends etc.)	19%	26%	14%	14%

Hanging out at Friends' houses (57%), going on social media (53%) and staying home (53%) being the 3 highest reported pastimes of young women, whereas online gaming (71%), staying home (51%) and going on social media (43%) being the highest reported pastimes of young men. Those who identify as non-binary reported that their three highest reported pastimes are staying home (86%), Online gaming (86%), hanging out at friends (at houses and in public – 57%). Attend support groups obtained just 1% (5 votes) of respondent's overall, resulting in it being the lowest reported pastime of young people. Just 5% of respondents presently engage with drop-in youth clubs across the borough.

The findings from this consultation will directly shape the design of The Amelia Youth Programme. Access to arts and cultural activities emerged as a significant concern: only 26% of youth leaders felt these opportunities were easily accessible to the young people they support, and just 27% believed that young people in Tunbridge Wells have sufficient access overall. These insights underscore the need to expand and diversify provision. In response, the programme will prioritise activities and skills that young people themselves identified as areas of interest, ensuring that future opportunities reflect their aspirations and address current gaps. The activities and skills young people identified they were interested in exploring are:

- Photography – 32% (129 votes)
- Film making – 27% (110 votes)
- Self-defence – 27% (109 votes)
- 3D printing – 24% (98 votes)
- Costume/clothes design and making – 22% (88 votes)

The lowest 5 activities interesting young people from the consultation are:

- Mask/puppet making – (3% (11 votes)
- Youth panel – 3% (12 votes)
- A mentorship – 3% (12 votes)
- Youth action group – 3% (13 votes)
- Drop-in youth group – 5% (19 votes)

Young Peoples biggest concerns

Across all responses gathered expressing concerns across the questions ‘3 concerns for the future’, ‘in 2035 I hope...’, and ‘magic wand’ responses, young people’s concerns are led by the basics of day to day survival and progression: the cost of living dominates, followed by fears about personal health and mortality, securing and keeping work, and the challenge of finding affordable, stable housing; climate and environmental decline rounds out the top five. War and geopolitical instability also register, as do exam and education worries and mental health pressures. AI and broader technology concerns are present but sit below these immediate economic, health and education issues, while personal safety and crime are mentioned least frequently. Taken together, the pattern suggests that while future facing anxieties (like AI and geopolitics) matter, young people’s foremost fears remain the tangible pressures that shape their ability to live, study, work and secure a home now.

Rank	Theme	Mentions	Share (%)
1	Money & Cost of Living	318	21.4
2	Physical Health & Death	191	12.9
3	Jobs, Careers & Job Security	182	12.3
4	Housing & Home ownership	179	12.1
5	Climate & Environment	144	9.7
6	War & Geopolitics	93	6.3
7	Exams, Grades & Education	68	4.6
8	Mental health & Loneliness	53	3.6
9	AI & Tech (replacement/overreach)	49	3.3
10	Safety & Crime	28	1.9

Interestingly, this isn’t perfectly echoed by the Youth Leaders responses, who’s Five biggest concerns for young people are:

Rank	Theme	Mentions	Share (%)
1	Social media & phones	27	65.9
2	Mental health & wellbeing	13	31.7
3	Academic & exam pressure	11	26.8
4	Identity, inclusion & peer pressure	9	22
5	Housing & affordability	6	14.6

Youth sector challenges – With the 73% cut to youth services nationally in the last 15 years, and KCC’s £913,000 cancellation of Youth Service Contacts in 2024, local youth services in Tunbridge Wells Borough (and nationally) are in a fragile state. The 2025 National Youth Strategy has identified ‘as many as 1-in-5 don’t have one outside of their home.’ And plan ‘for half a million more young people to have access to a trusted adult outside of their home.’ by 2035.

The National Youth Agency declared a ‘Workforce Crisis’ in the youth sector in March 2025, with the key challenge facing youth organisations being a lack of staffing and funding. This is echoed in our dataset, with local Youth Leaders reported that the key challenges they are facing are...

- Funding / Money — 15 mentions (39.5% of responses).
- Volunteers / Leaders availability — 13 mentions (34.2%).
- Time constraints — 12 mentions (31.6%).
- Facilities / Space availability — 8 mentions (21.1%).
- Resources / Capacity (e.g., equipment, staff capacity) — 6 mentions (15.8%).

One of the National Youth Strategy’s key aims for 2035 is to half the engagement gap. However, 5% of surveyed youth leaders believe ‘Young people’s involvement in extracurricular activities have a negative impact on young people’s school attainment’, while 37% of youth leader respondents skipped this question, therefore there may be some resistance to supporting young people to participate in activities outside of a classroom.

Broken Social Contract

The TWBC Youth Consultation comment datasets (youth responses and youth leader responses) highlight structural worries (housing, cost of living, jobs, and AI) that signal a fraying social contract between generations.

Category	Leaders (41)	Youth (354)
Housing & affordability	6 (14.6%)	92 (26.0%)
Cost of living & finances	3 (7.3%)	66 (18.6%)
Employment & jobs	3 (7.3%)	64 (18.1%)
AI & automation	2 (4.9%)	29 (8.2%)

There were explicit mentions of a broken social contract- can’t afford to get on housing ladder and have a family. Secular ideology is rammed down their throats and not all feel able to question it. Uncertain job market makes it hard to plan for a future due to AI. As well as anecdotal evidence from both Young People and Youth Leaders - Only 33% of youth respondents felt their opinions and needs matter to those in positions of power. Additionally, 36% were unsure whether they would vote in future elections. In consultation workshops, young people who said they would not vote explained their reasons, with most expressing that the system feels “rigged” and voting “doesn’t make a difference,” including one comment

stating, “because they won’t change anything.” These findings highlight concerns around trust in institutions and social cohesion, suggesting a need for stronger youth engagement and empowerment strategies to foster civic participation and community confidence.

Findings indicate widespread concern about blocked pathways to adulthood, secure work, affordable housing, and financial stability, alongside specific references to a broken social contract. These anxieties are echoed in both leader narratives and youth fears, suggesting urgent need for systemic and local interventions. Concerningly 66% of young respondents do not agree that they feel that their needs and opinions matter to those in positions of power. Yet 64% intend to vote when old enough.

Hopes for the future - Despite the narrative driven by many contemporary tabloids, our evidence shows that young people aren’t hoping for ‘too much’. From the 663 written responses in the ‘free text’ responses across both the ‘Magic wand’ and ‘in 2035’ questions, the hopes most frequently expressed gather around economic security, accessible housing, opportunity, and belonging.

1. Jobs & stable income – wanting a job they enjoy that pays enough to live on, strong interest in work experience, apprenticeships and fair wages. (e.g., “I will have a stable job,” “Better job opportunities so young people are able to get the work experience they need.”) — 14.9% of responses.
2. Affordable housing & cost of living – hopes to afford housing/rent and see lower prices/inflation. (e.g., “Affordable housing,” “Cheaper housing,” “Lower prices of public transport.”) — 12.1%.
3. Financial security / money – desire to be financially comfortable or “rich” and not worry about bills. (e.g., “Make enough money,” “I have a sustainable amount of money.”) — 11.2%.
4. Education & achievement – passing exams, university entry, and qualifications that lead to chosen careers (e.g., “I will have passed all my GCSEs... and got a degree.”) — 8.9%.
5. Youth spaces & things to do (arts/sport/cafes) – accessible, low-cost places to hang out, be creative, and be active. (e.g., “A youth hub with multi activities,” “More art activities... pottery.”) — 7.7%.
6. Safety, kindness & social cohesion – safer towns, visible policing, anti-bullying, and communities where people are kind and respectful. (e.g., “The town to be a safer place for everyone,” “Everyone to be kind.”) — 7.7%.

Young people’s hopes emphasise security (work, income, housing), fair access to opportunity (education, affordable transport), and belonging (safe, kind community spaces)—pointing to priority areas around employability pathways, affordable housing, low cost youth spaces/activities, mental health & wellbeing, public transport, and visible safety measures that strengthen social cohesion.

Career and Educational aspirations

Survey findings indicate strong academic ambitions among respondents. 51% stated they intend to obtain a degree, with a further 32% considering a degree and 9% already enrolled in or having completed a degree programme. The aspiration gap between school types is notable: 87% of grammar school students plan to achieve a degree, compared with 49% of non-grammar students.

Interest in apprenticeships is more mixed. 42% of respondents said they would consider an apprenticeship, while only 2% were currently undertaking or had completed one. Feedback from in-person consultation workshops suggests that a key barrier is limited understanding of what an apprenticeship entails, coupled with low visibility of opportunities. Many young people reported not knowing anyone who had pursued an apprenticeship, reinforcing perceptions of inaccessibility. Among non-grammar students, 46% would consider an apprenticeship, compared with 33% of grammar students.

Career preferences also highlight a strong creative inclination: 56% of young people surveyed expressed interest in working in arts, media, or culture. This contrasts with the views of 41% of Youth Leaders, who do not regard these sectors as viable career paths for the young people they support.

The Amelia Scott reach

The question 'How often do you visit The Amelia Scott' provided an interesting insight into the reach of the Amelia Scott within this demographic. Overall, 54% of respondent reported to 'Not heard of it/never been' to The Amelia, compared to the 46% who had. Unsurprisingly, the number of respondent who had not heard of/ had not engaged with The Amelia increases greatly in the more rural postcodes. Only 36% of respondent completed the question regarding how we could better improve revision spaces within the building, which could indicate the amount of respondent who utilise the building for revision.

Post Code	Not heard of it/never been (%)
TN1	47.62
TN2	17.78
TN3	11.11
TN4	28.07
TN12	74.73
TN17	86.21
TN18	78.26
Beyond the borough	59.55

Community sentiment

As part of the project we attempted to ascertain the collective feeling, attitude young people had to the borough and the area in which they live. Through collating responses to statements, such as “I feel welcome to exist where I live and spend my time.”, “I feel safe to be on my own.” And “If I need help, I feel confident to ask and know who to turn to.”, we were able to assess the local sentiment of young people within the borough.

70% of respondent felt that they had someone they could turn to if they needed help (59.48% of young men, 57.56% young women, 71.43% non-binary). Concerningly, those living within the TN17 postcode reported that 41.94% of them do not feel that they had someone to turn to if they needed help; this is significantly higher than any other postcode within the borough, with the same only being reported 16.66% in TN18, 12.5% in TN1, 23.52% in TN2, 20% in TN3, 28.33% in TN4, and 37.89 of respondents from outside of the borough.

On a positive note, 67% of respondent ‘feel safe’ to be on their own within the borough and a further 80% feel welcome to exist where they spend their time. The feeling of safety doesn’t alter much depending on postcode, however it unsurprisingly differs slightly between genders. With young men feeling the safest (80.64%).

just 57.46% of young women and 57.15% of non-binary persons report feeling safe on their own within the borough.

The sense of young people feeling welcome to exist where they spend their time does not alter greatly depending on gender. However, young people living in TN4 postcodes feel the least welcome with 38.61% of TN4 respondents disagreeing that they feel welcome to exist where they spend their time.

Post Code	Do not feel welcome to exist (%)
TN1	7.5
TN2	16.99
TN3	20
TN4	38.61
TN12	21.35
TN17	12.91
TN18	12.5
Beyond the borough	17.77

7. Recommendations

To address the challenges identified, we recommend creating meaningful and affordable arts activities that emphasize transferable skills. These initiatives should contribute to reducing the career readiness gap, identified by the Youth Matters: State of the Nation report and echoed by our findings, by developing employability skills, offering meaningful career exposure events, and providing life skills training. Such programmes will help alleviate young people's concerns about job security and financial stability in their future. Opportunities should be designed to strengthen interpersonal skills, self-esteem, and creative critical thinking through hands-on artistic and performance-based interventions.

Empowering young people and rebuilding trust in local systems must be a priority. This involves reinforcing the social contract and promoting social cohesion through swift, proactive improvements to local provision. Youth voice and youth-led practice should be embedded in all future initiatives, ensuring participants have ownership, opportunities for self-expression, and a platform for advocacy. The Youth Consultation exercise should be integrated into the design process and redelivered at appropriate intervals; potentially every 2 to 3 years.

Beyond The Amelia, efforts should extend across the wider borough to support and enable access to activities, volunteering, and work experience. These experiences are vital for developing skills for both life and work. There is a clear demand for better preparation for future careers through high-quality education, training, and meaningful employment opportunities. Collaboration with local organisations and businesses is essential to foster homegrown talent.

Evidence from the Cultural Learning Alliance (2017) highlights that students who study arts subjects have higher employability and are more likely to remain in work. Learning through arts and culture fosters behaviours that improve academic performance, including attainment in Maths and English, and participation in structured arts activities can increase cognitive abilities by up to 17%.

Finally, there is significant potential in developing future-readiness programmes. These could include housing literacy and rights clinics, pathways into work and apprenticeships, confidence-building sessions on AI and the future of work, and financial wellbeing modules.

8. Implementation

Based on the findings of the dataset and the recommendations outlined above, we propose that The Amelia Scott develops and delivers a Young People's Programme designed in direct response to feedback from young people, thereby embedding youth voice in practice.

While we acknowledge that resources are limited, we have significant expertise within our team in creative education, heritage and cultural engagement, youth participation, event production, and strong community connections. We cannot address every challenge, but we can play to our strengths. Where gaps exist, we will collaborate with, and empower, community groups and partner organisations best placed to deliver activities beyond our scope. This programme will take time to develop, with intention of having it fully functional in the next 3 years.

To achieve this, we recommend a Threefold strategy:

Young Creatives: Building transferable skills through hands-on creative practice (ages 12–19).

Emerging Professionals: Supporting the next generation of professionals (ages 16–25).

Young Company: Fostering communication, oracy, resilience, and self-expression through performance-based practice (ages 13–21).

Young Creatives

Building transferable skills through hands-on creative practice (for 12-19 year olds).

‘Intensive’ programmes

Informed by the dataset given of skills young people would like to try I propose the following Young Creatives Intensive programmes.

- **Film Making**
 - Documentary
 - Narrative based
 - Content Creation/ Media Marketing
- **Photography**
 - Portrait photography
 - Observational photography/photojournalism
 - Event photography
 - Fine art photography
- **Costume Design**
 - 3D Printing
 - 3D scanning
 - Model making
 - Digital conservation
- **Coding/Game Making**
 - Twine/David Blandy
 - Girls Can Code

Youth Signposting

Clear and concise signposting of Youth activities to improve access and visibility for the present Youth offer; ideally based on borough postcode. Including a Directory of youth services; as well as a young person specific mailing list for Amelia activity.

Arts Award Programme Silver/Gold

Enabling young people to obtain accreditation for their transferable skills and leadership experience through their own arts practise.

Youth Volunteer programme

Enabling young people to gain work experience and employability skills through community engagement, while also exploring career paths and developing a sense of purpose.

Youth Summer of fun youth volunteer programme

During the summer holidays, young people aged 16+ can apply to join the Amelia team as Summer of Fun volunteers. The main focus of the role is engagement-based and involves encouraging families to take part in craft activities, supporting them along the way and helping maintain a welcoming environment.

Emerging professionals

Supporting the next generation of professionals (for 16 – 25 year olds)

Work Experience

Creating formalised and practical work experience programmes to enable young people to gain essential soft skills like communication, and problem-solving, alongside crucial professional behaviours, technical abilities, and a deeper understanding of a specific industry, such as:

- **Young consultants programme** - Working with specialist FE colleges run work experience tasters and have piloted a volunteering programme which we hope to roll out again in the coming months. We also run a programme called 'Young Consultants'. This provides an opportunity for students to learn about the Amelia, while at the same time advising us on improvements to our programmes and site from their expert perspective.
- **Young Curators** - empowering young people to co-create exhibitions, and content, giving them skills in heritage, arts, and curation.
- **Admin based Work Experience programme** – Formalised work experience programme looking at the administrative roles, while exploring creative careers, within The Amelia Scott aimed at Key stage 4 students.
- **Degree Student placements** – Working in collaboration with Southeast universities create and deliver curation based placements that expand workplace based knowledge and employability skills.

Young Professional Networking

Collaborate with an external business partner to develop and deliver Networking events for Local young professionals aged 18-25.

Masterclasses/Meet the professional events

Produce and deliver The Careers exposure programme, informed by the aspired careers identified within the dataset. Enabling young people to meet and interview professionals from multiple industries, such as:

- Creative Marketing
- Entrepreneur
- Fashion designer
- Game Coder
- Authors
- Artistic baking

- Sport Coaching
- Artist
- Architect/Engineer
- Building/quantity surveyor
- Solicitors
- Journalist
- Publisher
- Skilled Trades

Youth Fellowship placements

Create 6 month paid placements for young creatives aged 13-21, to be our contracted event photographer/videographer. This is designed to provide young people with practical experience, professional development, an insight into the freelancing world, and a platform for their work, while providing The Amelia with a youth perspective.

- Youth videographer placement
- Youth Photographer placement

Young Producers Programme

Empowering young people to co-create exhibitions, learning resources and content, giving them skills in heritage, arts, and project management.

Sustainable futures/ Life tools programme

Creating vocational life skill future-readiness programmes, addressing young people's fears for the future, such as:

- Sustainable choices
- Saving for tomorrow
- Budgeting
- Cooking on a budget

Future Professionals sessions

Create and deliver workshops to upskill young people for better preparation for future careers and the present job market.

- CV Writing workshops
- Interview technique
- Pitch writing and presentation skills
- How to write a funding application
- Project evaluations
- How to navigate companies' house
- How to network
- Linkin and Self promotion

Mentoring Programme

Collaborate with Local businesses to deliver a 6 month Mentoring placement, that gives both an insight into an industry of interest for a local 18-25 year old, as well as upskilling of the businesses present staff.

Apprenticeships

Deliver vocational hands-on learning opportunities wherever possible.

Young Company

Fostering communication and oracy skills, resilience and self-expression through performance-based practise (for 13-21 year olds).

Summer intensive performance projects

Continue to build and deliver 1 to 2 week intensive performance programmes exploring different theatre forms and themes. Resulting in an original participant led performance, such as:

- Shakespeare programme
- Radio play/podcast programme
- Immersive theatre programme
- Scripted performance programme

Skill specific short courses

Informed by the young company alumni, and active participants, create upskilling short courses focusing on skills young people would like to try, such as:

- Audition technique
- Technical theatre
- Devised theatre

Youth Assistant Programme

Engaging with Young Company alumni, recruit Youth Assistance for each Young Company project. Enabling young people to build leadership, facilitation and project management skills.

Role Specific Young Company sub-groups

In reflection of the industry, create specific young company sub-groups to provide additional targeted upskilling, and enhanced creative practise, such as:

- Young directors
- Young Writers

Interwoven programmes

Once role specific young company groups are established, projects that interconnect the subgroups could be delivered in a collaborative and creative approach. Demonstrating how these roles would interact and collaborate within the theatre industry, such as:

- 1 act play festival

- Short Film Projects (in collaboration with The Amelia Young Creatives Film making programme)
- Local radical History Videos/Podcasts
- Beacon Girls R&D

Youth Organisation support

In addition to the main three pillars of the programme, we recommend supporting present provision. Through providing accessible CPD opportunities to existing Local Youth organisation, we can help to prevent the further decay of local youth offering. We can create networking events for youth organisations, empowering them to build connections with others facing similar challenges; as well as training in writing funding proposals, fundraising and Health and Safety management.

Thank you

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance and effort provided by the following groups and organisations, without whom this could not have been possible.

- West Kent YMCA
- Paddock Wood Youth Club
- Cranbrook Youth Club
- Southbrough Girl Guides
- Hawkhurst Scouts
- Assembly Hall Theatre Young Company
- Leigh Academy Mascalls
- Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Young professionals
- Culture Counts
- Everyone who shared the surveys with their teams and clients.

References

Careers & Enterprise Company. (2025) *Examining the skill gap: Inspiring young people to take up careers in health and social care.*

Available at: https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/media/sqrpfdh/examining-the-skill-gap_inspiring-young-people-to-take-up-careers-in-health-and-social-care-2.pdf

(Accessed: 21 September 2025).

Centre for Social Justice. (2021) *A Level Playing Field.*

Available at: https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/CSJ-A_Level_Playing_Field.pdf

(Accessed: 22 September 2025).

Cultural Learning Alliance. (2017) *Key findings.*

Available at: <https://www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/CLA-key-findings-2017.pdf>

(Accessed: 22 September 2025).

Department for Culture, Media & Sport. (2024) Pilot youth participation survey: Findings report.

Available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/672b4bcd69e1861921bff/DCMS_Pilot_Youth_Participation_Survey_Findings_Report_final_accessible.pdf

(Accessed: 22 September 2025).

Department for Culture, Media & Sport. (2025) Barriers and enablers to participation in youth activities: Executive summary.

Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/barriers-and-enablers-to-participation-in-youth-activities-research/barriers-and-enablers-to-participation-in-youth-activities-executive-summary>

(Accessed: 7 November 2025).

Department for Education. (2024) Youth participation pilot survey: Executive summary.

Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-participation-pilot-survey-findings/youth-participation-pilot-survey-executive-summary>

(Accessed: 7 November 2025).

Department for Education. (2025) Changes to the national curriculum.

Available at: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2025/11/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-changes-to-the-national-curriculum/>

(Accessed: 7 November 2025).

Education Endowment Foundation. (2015) Arts education: Evidence review.

Available at: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/evidence-reviews/arts-education>

(Accessed: 7 November 2025).

Joseph Rowntree Foundation. (2025) Unlocking the potential of young people furthest from the labour market.

Available at: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/work/unlocking-the-potential-of-young-people-furthest-from-the-labour-market>

(Accessed: 11 November 2025).

King's College London. (2024) Addressing the overlooked challenges faced by young people: A call for a government mission.

Available at: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/addressing-the-overlooked-challenges-faced-by-young-people-a-call-for-a-government-mission>

(Accessed: 11 November 2025).

Lloyds Banking Group. (2025) Essential Digital Skills 2025.

Available at: <https://www.lloydsbankinggroup.com/assets/pdfs/who-we-are/what-we-do/financial-wellbeing/lloyd-essential-digital-skills-2025.pdf>

(Accessed: 11 November 2025).

Department for Education. (2025) Assessment of priority skills to 2030.

Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/assessment-of-priority-skills-to-2030/assessment-of-priority-skills-to-2030>

(Accessed: 25 November 2025).

Youth Endowment Fund. (2024) Children and young people's activities review (CVV24_R5).

Available at: https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/CVV24_R5_Activities-1.pdf
(Accessed: 4 December 2025).

Youth Futures Foundation. (2025) Youth employment 2025 outlook.

Available at: <https://youthfuturesfoundation.org/publication/youth-employment-2025-outlook/>
(4 Accessed: December 2025).

Local Government Association. (2025) Post 16 education and skills strategy: Implications for local government.

Available at: <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/post-16-education-and-skills-strategy-implications-local>
(Accessed: 10 December 2025).

National Youth Agency. (2025) Youth work workforce crisis: Urgent action needed.

Available at: <https://nya.org.uk/youth-work-workforce-crisis-urgent-action-needed/>
(Accessed: 9 December 2025).

UNICEF UK. (2016) UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Available at: https://downloads.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/UNCRC_united_nations_convention_on_the_rights_of_the_child.pdf
(Accessed: 9 December 2025).

UNICEF UK. (2019) UNCRC summary.

Available at: https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/UNCRC_summary-1_1.pdf
(Accessed: 11 December 2025).

Department for Education. (2025) Youth Matters: Your national youth strategy – Executive summary.

Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-matters-your-national-youth-strategy/youth-matters-your-national-youth-strategy#executive-summary>
(Accessed: 15 December 2025).

Department for Culture, Media & Sport. (2025) Youth Matters: State of the Nation.

Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-matters-state-of-the-nation/youth-matters-state-of-the-nation#state-of-the-nation--at-a-glance>
(Accessed: 15 December 2025).

Appendices

Young Peoples Survey Questions:

- What year were you born?
 - 2014
 - 2013
 - 2012
 - 2011
 - 2010
 - 2009
 - 2008
 - 2007
 - 2006
 - 2005
 - 2004
 - 2003
 - 2002
 - 2001
 - 2000
- What is the first half of your postcode?
 - Free text response
- How would you describe your gender?
 - Man/boy
 - Non-binary
 - Woman/girl
 - Prefer not to say
 - Prefer to self-describe
- What best describes you at present?
 - I am in home education
 - I attend college for A-Levels
 - I am in higher education (qualification above A-Level)
 - I am in an apprenticeship
 - I work part-time
 - I work full-time
 - I am not in education, employment or training
 - I attend Bennett Memorial Diocesan School
 - I attend Beacon Academy
 - I attend Broomhill Bank School
 - I attend Cornwallis Academy
 - I attend Cranbrook School
 - I attend Hadlow Rural Community School
 - I attend Hillview School for Girls
 - I attend Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre

- I attend Judd School
 - I attend Leigh Academy Hugh Christie
 - I attend Leigh Academy Tonbridge
 - I attend Malling School
 - I attend Mascalls Academy
 - I attend Robertsbridge Community College
 - I attend St Gregory's Catholic School
 - I attend The Skinners' School
 - I attend The Skinners' Kent Academy
 - I attend Tonbridge Grammar School
 - I attend Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School
 - I attend Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys
 - I attend Uplands Community College
 - I attend Weald of Kent Grammar School
 - Other (please specify)
- In my free time I like to...
 - Stay home
 - Online gaming
 - Go on social media
 - Create digital content (e.g. videos for TikTok)
 - Attend a drop in youth club
 - Attend uniformed groups (Scouts, Cadets, Explorers)
 - Take part in organised/competitive sports groups
 - Attend performing arts classes or groups
 - Attend live events (gigs, shows etc.)
 - Draw, paint, write, make - be creative
 - Play a musical instrument
 - Play in a band
 - Take part in non-organised sports activities (skateboarding, jogging, football with friends etc.)
 - Workout at the gym
 - Hangout at friends' houses
 - Hangout with friends in public spaces
 - Hangout with friends in public spaces (specifically parks)
 - Attend support groups
 - Volunteering
 - I do not feel I have 'free' time
 - I do not feel I can explore my interests
 - Have we missed anything? (please specify)
 - How often do you take part in organised activities?
 - Not at all
 - 1 a week
 - 2 a week
 - 3 a week
 - 4+ a week

- What following activities/skills would you like to try?
 - Film making
 - Animation
 - Digital art/graphic design
 - 3D printing
 - Photography
 - Upcycling
 - Costume/clothes design and making
 - Podcast creation
 - Creative writing - fiction
 - Creative writing - script
 - Open mic music events
 - DJing
 - Dungeons and Dragons
 - Open art classes
 - Debate group
 - Journalism
 - Mask/puppet making
 - Special effects make-up
 - Technical theatre
 - Curation (working with and restoring historical objects)
 - Chess club
 - Drop in youth group
 - Pottery
 - Volunteering
 - Self defence
 - Yoga/Pilates
 - Try a musical instrument
 - Mindfulness activities
 - A mentorship
 - Youth panel
 - Youth action group
 - Have we missed anything? (please specify)
- “I feel welcome to exist where I live and spend my time.”
 - Sliding scale from ‘Strongly Agree’ to ‘Strongly Disagree’.
- “I feel safe to be on my own.”
 - Sliding scale from ‘Strongly Agree’ to ‘Strongly Disagree’.
- “If I need help, I feel confident to ask and know who to turn to.”
 - Sliding scale from ‘Strongly Agree’ to ‘Strongly Disagree’.
- “I feel my opinions and needs matter to those in positions of power in Tunbridge Wells Borough.”
 - Sliding scale from ‘Strongly Agree’ to ‘Strongly Disagree’.

- “When I’m old enough, I plan to vote at both Local and General elections.”
 - Sliding scale from ‘Strongly Agree’ to ‘Strongly Disagree’.
- What industry would you like to work in in the future?
 - Free text response
- How likely would you consider a career in arts, media or culture?
 - Sliding scale from ‘Very Likely’ to ‘Very Unlikely’.
- Would you like to get a degree?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Maybe
 - I already have a degree
 - I am on a degree programme
- Would you consider an apprenticeship?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Maybe
 - I have completed an apprenticeship
 - I am on an apprenticeship
- What are your top 3 concerns for the future?
 - Free text response
- If you had a magic wand, and could change just 1 thing for young people locally, what would you wish for?
 - Free text response
- In 2035 I hope that...
 - Free text response
- How often do you visit The Amelia Scott?
 - Most days
 - 3-4 times a week
 - 1-2 times a week
 - 1-2 times a month
 - A few times a year
 - Once a year
 - Not heard of it/never been
- If you use The Amelia to study, what more could we do to help you?
 - More places to sit
 - Study guides & resources
 - Library de-stress activities
 - Specific study area for young people
 - Career talks or panels
 - Creative competitions
 - Laptop or phone charging lockers

- Advice on student support services
- School assembly/visit on the student support offer at The Amelia.
- Anything we have missed? (please specify)

Youth Leader Survey Questions:

- What best describes the organisation you work for?
 - Grammar School
 - High School/Non-Selective Academy
 - College (Sixth Form Equivalent)
 - Higher Education Provider
 - Alternative Education Centre
 - Uniformed Youth Group (e.g. Scouts, Cadets, Guides)
 - Non-uniformed Youth Group (e.g. Youth Club, Church Group)
 - Sports Group
 - Performing Arts Group (Youth Theatre, Dance school, Music school)
 - Arts/Cultural Centre (Theatre, Museum, Library)
 - Youth/Family Hub
 - Detached Youth Service
 - Other (please specify)
- What is the first part of your organisation's postcode?
 - Free text response
- What age group of young people do you work with?
 - 12-14
 - 15-16
 - 17-18
 - 18-21
 - 21-25
- What activities and support services does your organisation presently offer young people?
 - Free text response
- In your opinion, what are the 3 biggest challenges facing young people today?
 - Free text response
- What are your 3 biggest challenges that you are facing in supporting young people right now?
 - Free text response
- Young people's involvement in extracurricular activities have a negative impact on young people's school attainment.
 - Sliding scale from 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree'.
- It is important for young people to take part in activities outside of education for their personal development and overall wellbeing.
 - Sliding scale from 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree'.

- Young people in Tunbridge Wells have enough access to art and culture opportunities.
 - Sliding scale from 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree'.
- Arts and cultural activities are easily accessible to the young people I work with.
 - Sliding scale from 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree'.
- Arts and cultural careers are a valid and viable option for the young people I work with.
 - Sliding scale from 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree'.
- I believe the young people I work with have a safe and considerate place to spend their free time.
 - Sliding scale from 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree'.
- How confident do you feel in signposting young people to additional services?
 - Sliding scale from 'Very Confident' to 'Not at all confident'.
- What youth provision, support, or activities do you think young people would enjoy or benefit from that are not presently available in Tunbridge Wells Borough?
 - Free text response
- If you had a magic wand, and could change just 1 thing for young people locally, what would you wish for?
 - Free text response

Poster/flyer design.

Social Media Asset used.

Workshop Tally response sheet.

Pastime dot sticker vote chart.

Birth year dot sticker vote chart.

Gender Demographic collection post it page.

'I would like to try' dot sticker vote poster.

Workshop consultation session guide

Demographic questions

- How would you describe your gender? (post it) stick on Q
- What year were you born? (dot vote)
- What is the first half of your postcode? (post it) stick on Q
- What best describes you at present (occupation/education)? (post it) stick on 4

Data Gathering

- In my free time I like to... (dot vote)
- "I feel welcome to exist where I live and spend my time." (Sliding Scale)
- "I feel safe to be on my own." (Sliding Scale)
- "I feel my opinions and needs matter to those in positions of power in Tunbridge Wells Borough" (Sliding Scale)

- “If I need help, I feel confident to ask and know who to turn to.” (Sliding Scale)
- “When I’m old enough, I plan to vote at both Local and General elections.” (Sliding Scale)
- I would Consider a Career in arts, media or culture. (Sliding Scale)
- How often do you take part in organised activities? (Sliding Scale)
- What industry would you like to work in in the future? (post it) stick on 13
- Would you like to get a degree? (Wall Touch) Yes/No/Maybe/On-it
- Would you consider an apprenticeship? (Wall Touch) Yes/No/Maybe/On-it
- What are your top 3 concerns for the future? (post it) stick on 17
- If you had a magic wand, and could change just 1 thing for young people locally, what would you wish for? (post it) stick on 18
- In 2035 I hope that... (post it) stick on 19
- What following activities/skills would you like to try? (dot vote)
- How often do you visit The Amelia Scott? (Wall Touch) most days/twice a week/a few times a month/ a few times a year/ once a year
- If you use The Amelia to study, what more could we do to help you? (post it) stick on 21
- Email for prize draw (post it) stick on 22

Poster/Flyer Design



Social Media Asset used



Workshop Tally response sheet

	Strong agree	Agree	Neutral/Don't know	Disagree	Strong disagree
Welcome to exist...					
Feel safe...					
Opinions matter...					
If I need help...					
Will vote?					
Arts career?					
Extra-curricular activities?	None	1 a week	2 a week	3 a week	4*

Degree?	Yes	No	Don't know	On one	Done one
Apprenticeship?	Yes	No	Don't know	On one	Done one
How often Amelia	Most days	2 a week	1 a month	A few times a year	Once a year

Pastime dot sticker vote chart

Stay Home	Online gaming	Social media
Attend drop in youth group	Attend uniformed group (scouts/guides/cadets)	Take part in organised/competitive sports
Attend live events (gigs/shows/matches)	Draw, paints, write – be creative	Play an instrument
Take part in non-organised activities (jogging/football with friends/skating)	Gym	Volunteer

Hangout at friends' houses	Hangout in public space	Hangout in parks
I do not feel I can explore my interests	I do not feel I have free time	Attend support groups
Play in a band	Create digital content (videos/ hats)	Attend performing arts classes/groups

Have we missed anything?
(Post it here!)

Birth year dot sticker vote chart

2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
2004	2003	2002	2001	2000

Gender Demographic collection post it page

How do you identify?

He/Him	She/Her	They/Them	Prefer not to say	Prefer to self-describe
				

'I would like to try' dot sticker vote poster.

Film making	Debate group
Animation	Journalism
Digital art/ graphic design	Mask/puppet making
3D printing	Special effects make-up
Photography	Technical theatre
Upcycling	Curation
Costume design/making	Chess club
Podcast creation	Drop-in youth group



Creative writing - Fiction	Pottery
Creative writing - Script	Volunteering
Open mic events	Self Defence
DJing	Yoga/Pilates
Dungeons and dragons	Try a musical instrument
Open art classes	Mindfulness activities
A mentorship	Youth action group
Youth panel	Documentary film making



Workshop consultation session guide.

Demographic questions

- How would you describe your gender? (post it) stick on Q
- What year were you born? (dot vote)
- What is the first half of your postcode? (post it) stick on Q
- What best describes you at present (occupation/education)? (post it) stick on 4

Data Gathering

- In my free time I like to... **(dot vote)**
- "I feel welcome to exist where I live and spend my time." **(Sliding Scale)**
- "I feel safe to be on my own." **(Sliding Scale)**
- "I feel my opinions and needs matter to those in positions of power in Tunbridge Wells Borough." **(Sliding Scale)**
- "If I need help, I feel confident to ask and know who to turn to." **(Sliding Scale)**
- "When I'm old enough, I plan to vote at both Local and General elections." **(Sliding Scale)**
- I would Consider a Career in arts, media or culture. **(Sliding Scale)**
- How often do you take part in organised activities? **(Sliding Scale)**
- What industry would you like to work in in the future? **(post it)** stick on 13
- Would you like to get a degree? **(Wall Touch)** Yes/No/Maybe/On-it
- Would you consider an apprenticeship? **(Wall Touch)** Yes/No/Maybe/On-it
- What are your top 3 concerns for the future? **(post it)** stick on 17
- If you had a magic wand, and could change just 1 thing for young people locally, what would you wish for? **(post it)** stick on 18
- In 2035 I hope that... **(post it)** stick on 19
- What following activities/skills would you like to try? **(dot vote)**
- How often do you visit The Amelia Scott? **(Wall Touch)** most days/twice a week/a few times a month/ a few times a year/ once a year
- If you use The Amelia to study, what more could we do to help you? **(post it)** stick on 21
- Email for prize draw **(post it)** stick on 22