

Our Blueprint for Belonging

Young people's feedback shaping the West Sussex Belonging Strategy.



On September 9, 2025, young people met with the Children First Board to share what "belonging" means to them. This infographic captures their key feedback on challenges and solutions for a better sense of community.

PROBLEM



"Safe spaces" don't always feel safe.

Some young people feel excluded, preventing them from getting help from trusted adults.

SOLUTION



Create social "zones" for different needs.

Offer separate areas for quiet time and socialising instead of one large open space.

PROBLEM



It's hard to get to clubs and activities.

Activities are often at the wrong time, too expensive, or hard to reach without transport.

SOLUTION



Make activities more accessible.

Provide more free/low-cost options, more choices, and shared transport solutions.

PROBLEM



Moving from school to college can be lonely.

Without established community groups, this transition can make people feel unseen and unheard.

SOLUTION



Set up a support system for transitions.

Introduce a mentorship or buddy system, course taster sessions, and a dedicated pastoral lead.

FUTURE STRATEGY

KEY FINDING:
YOUR FEEDBACK IS SHAPING THE FUTURE.
ALL THESE IDEAS WILL BE USED TO CREATE THE OFFICIAL WEST SUSSEX BELONGING STRATEGY.

QUOTE

"Belonging is human connection... one of our fundamental basic needs."