

Issues Impacting on Young People in HEREFORDSHIRE Due to Covid 19

Compiled by **No Wrong Door** in association with
the **Herefordshire Youth Representative Group**

3rd June 2020

A message to Youth Services working in Herefordshire

From the Herefordshire Youth Representative Group

- *We want young people to have the kind of support they need, delivered by youth services who care.*
- *We would like the youth services to understand our needs.*

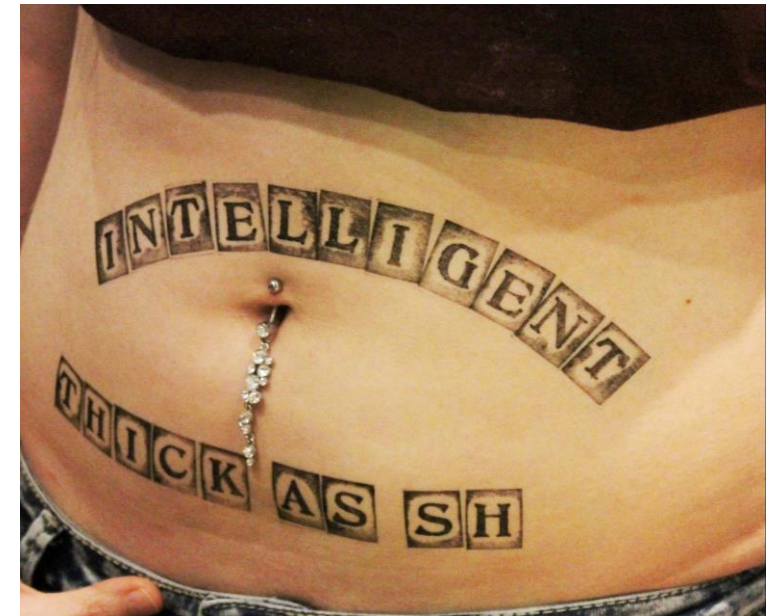


“What are the main issues affecting young people because of Covid 19”

From the

Herefordshire Youth Representative Group:

- They feel **forgotten** – young people have been **separated** from services, physical social networks, school, youth clubs and community groups
- They’re **anxious** – what will happen to them, their loved ones, the world?
- Domestic **violence risk** with personal space gone in families that are breaking down
- They’re **lonely** isolated
- Their pathways to jobs and further education are either *confused*, **unexplained** or **gone**
- They’ve **lost jobs**
- They’re **bored** – there are much fewer positive things easily to do



Main Issues Affecting Young People Due to COVID-19 - Identified by National Research

- Increase worries about their mental health
- Potentially unsafe environments – break down of family & home environments
- Increased self harm, homelessness, poverty
- Unsure about their futures
- Worried about the impact on wider impact on society

*“Unless urgent action is taken to support vulnerable children and young people, whose needs are often unseen, the long-term damage caused will be **“unimaginable”**,
Leigh Middleton, NYA chief executive*



Youth services must be prepared to respond to the aftermath of the lockdown

- Support before lockdown ends
- Some Young People are not ready to come out
- Concerns of more CYP becoming reclusive
- Need for adjustment
- Immediate response - No waiting lists
- Provide someone to talk to who will listen to concerns, insights and challenges



Response to the aftermath of the lockdown - A new mechanism of support

Prevention is better than cure

- Provide safe space to chat
- No waiting lists
- Mental health does not wait for a convenient moment
- Weekly chats promote improved mental health
- *Subtle* support works
- Confidence building helps wider issues
- Access to a range of agencies is necessary



Support is needed for those who are vulnerable.....

Issues include:

- Domestic Violence
- Families with problems
- Homelessness
- Travelling communities
- Unemployed – lost careers
- Mental Health
- Neurodiversity – Autism – PTSD
- LGBTQIA+
- Rural Isolation
- Young Carers



Ensure there is a support mechanism where we all work together

NEED TO CONSIDER

- New ways of working
- Mechanism for Young People to take part in decision-making and help implement change.
- Easy accessible support for all young people
- Peer Support
- Outreach work
- Online 1:2:1 & Groups
- Conferences
- Workshops for all agencies to enable to enable young people to know *what* support there is available and *how* they can get involved



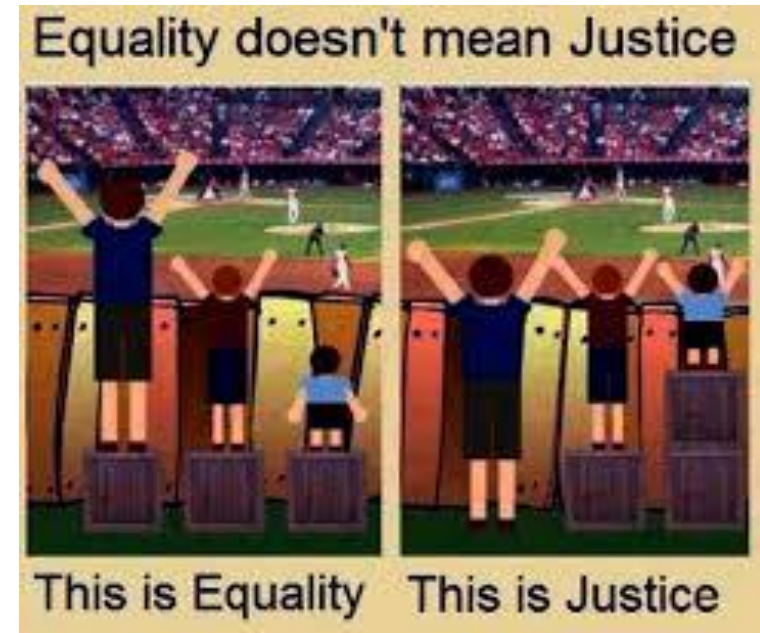
Youth Services Need to Respond to Inequality

We Need to Outline Any Inequalities to be Able to Promote Justice and Bring About Change

Tolerated:

- Almost ignored
- Seen when already critical or too late
- Brushed off
- Bare minimum of help
- Not listened to
- Not taken seriously

- ### Acceptance:
- Undivided attention (when 1-on-1)
 - Listened to
 - Don't leave feeling stupid
 - Makes time for you
 - Acknowledges you
 - Checks up on you
 - Not being judged
 - Makes you feel just as important
 - Opinion is respected



In Summary.....

- Listen to views of Young People
- Prepare for the Aftermath
- Need safe space to access support services that listen and care
- Prevention is better than cure
- Support needed for vulnerable groups
- Stimulate and Harness “Synergy”
- Consider new ways of working

