West Yorkshire Youth Collective
Young People's Safety Recommendations

Why these recommendations matter

Feeling safe is an important part of good health and wellbeing. When young people feel unsafe, it can affect their confidence, education, mental health, and ability to enjoy and engage in their communities.

The West Yorkshire Youth Collective has worked together to identify the issues that matter most to young people across West Yorkshire. These recommendations aim to improve safety, increase trust, and ensure young people know their rights and where to get support.

Our Recommendations

1. Increase visible safety measures

Young people told us they feel least safe around transport hubs, town centres and areas close to colleges, particularly where there are large groups of adults or drug-related activity.

We recommend:

- More visible neighbourhood policing during peak travel times.
- Increased CCTV and lighting in areas where young people report feeling unsafe.
- Regular safety patrols around colleges, schools and transport hubs.

2. Improve awareness of anonymous reporting

Many young people do not report crime because they fear being labelled a "snitch" or worry about what might happen afterwards.

We recommend:

- Better promotion of anonymous reporting options.
- Youth-friendly information explaining what happens after a report is made so the process is clear.
- Greater awareness of services like Fearless.

3. Build trust with young people

Positive relationships with trusted adults and police help young people feel safer.

We recommend:

- More opportunities for young people to meet local police officers in informal settings.
- Regular engagement through schools, youth clubs and colleges.
- Continued involvement of young people in designing community safety campaigns.

4. Promote wellbeing alongside community safety

Feeling safe supports positive mental health.

We recommend:

- Every safety campaign should include information about emotional wellbeing and where to access support.
- Young people affected by crime should be offered both practical support and mental health support where needed.
- Community safety partners continue working together with NHS services, schools and youth organisations.

5. Listen to young people's voices

Young people are experts in their own experiences.

We recommend:

- Young people continue to co-produce safety resources.
- Regular opportunities for young people to influence local decision making.