

THE BIG QUESTIONS

What you told us
about what matters

March/April 2023



The
FOYER
Federation

THE BIG QUESTIONS is our bi-annual survey of young people living in Foyers and supported accommodation services around the country.

Thank you to everyone who answered the survey and shared their thoughts. We received 175 responses from 25 Foyers: Aberdeen, Basingstoke YMCA, Bath, Blackburn with Darwen, Braintree, Bridge, CHADD On-Route, Coops, Crewe YMCA, Crouch End YMCA, Derbyshire YMCA, Doncaster, Dove Cott, Eden Rural, LandAid House, Milton Keynes YMCA, Monarch Court YMCA, Ravenhead, Salford, Sheffield, South Lakes, Swan House, Verve Place, Wiltshire and Worthing YMCA.

Now we want to tell you what we learned from what you said, and what we're going to do with the information.

If you have any feedback or comments, let us know by emailing issy@foyer.net or texting 07512 315160.



YOU SAID: "We're **STILL** really worried about the cost of living."

"I definitely think cost of living is causing a lot of young people a lot of worry and stress because it doesn't just affect the money side of things, it can affect relationships of all kinds and add a lot more stress onto their life when the problem is all about money and how much everything has went up in price."

75%

said the cost of living is one of their biggest challenges

#1

the cost of living was the top worry **AND** the top challenge

"The affordability of everything rising yet people's money doesn't."

"Cost of living, can't afford to life well and can't afford to move on to our own properties."

The cost of living is still a big worry and it's on our minds a lot at the Foyer Federation.

This year, we started a programme called the Moving On Up fund to help with the costs of moving out of the Foyer. Young people can apply for up to £1000 to pay rent in advance, a deposit, utilities in advance, or other necessities.

We'll also keep running out talent bond programme, which awards up to £300 to young people to grow a strength or skill.

Thanks to our partner Deloitte, we sent out 50 laptops for young people to use in Foyers. We also gave out 1000 prepaid SIM cards to help you stay connected.

We'll keep looking for ways we can offer support in this area.

YOU SAID: "We want to make change happen."

"I think a positive thing for young people is the small communities coming together against racism/homophobic behaviour."

92% feel confident to tell your Foyer what you think

65% would like to make your voice heard by talking to staff

31% would like to be involved with resident rep meetings

82% want to be involved in leading change in the Foyer

"Young people can change the world as we are being listened to more."

"My generation are speaking out on topics that other people are too scared to speak about."

It's exciting to see the number of young people who are driven and ready to make change happen increasing – whether that change is in your Foyer, in your community or in the wider world.

We can't build the kind of future we want to see without your energy, experience and ideas. But at the moment, only 55% of you are seeing things change quickly when you tell your Foyer what you think. 24% said change happens, but it takes a long time.

As the Foyer Federation we will continue to work with Foyers to improve how they listen to you, communicate with you and involve you in making the change happen.

At our events, visits and meetings with Foyers, we'll continue exploring how they can listen and involve you more in the way the Foyer runs. We'll also share what we find out from our Youth Power Fund programme, which gave seven Foyers funding to experiment with power sharing, and Power Pioneers, which is focused on young people learning changemaking skills.

Lastly, we'll share with our Foyers any opportunities we come across for young people to have your voice heard.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

We want young people's voices and experiences to influence everything we do at the Foyer Federation. Responding to our surveys is one way you can do that. We share the results (anonymously) with our Trustees, and with the managers and staff in your services so they can respond where you live.

The staff in your Foyer will be able to tell you all the ways you can currently get involved and make your voice heard in the Foyer. If you want to suggest something but don't know how, they can let you know. If you want to get involved in leading change, ask the staff how you might be able to do this.

You can find out about ways to get involved with the Foyer Federation by visiting our website, www.foyer.net, and looking at our programmes. Share your ideas with us or ask questions by emailing Issy at isabella@foyer.net or texting/WhatsApping her at 07512 315160.

