Contents

Fairfield Academy feedback

Student profile	What is your local library?
- Male 6 - Female 12 - Ages 15- 17 - 18 young people	- St George x 1 - Henleaze x 5 - Junction 3 x 3 - Bishopston x 2 - Horfield x 2
Library use	**Reasons for use**
- 14 out of 18 young people have used the library service more than once. - 3 out of 18 people never used the library. - 1 out of 18 people has used it once when they were younger.	- Reading and borrowing books x 12 votes - Study/homework x 5 - Needing a quiet space to relax x 1
What are your reasons for not using the library?	**What would make you use the library?**
- Have access to books at home - Travelling to my local library isn't practical too far away - The school library has a wide range of books and can order in books, if they haven't got them. - Do not have a library card as you needed ID to get one and I don't have any.* *You can join the library without ID – just ask the staff*	- More computers for studying x 3 votes - Better variety of books, different genres x 2 votes - IT support- help to use computers better. - Transport to library
What is missing in your community?	**Does public transport affect you accessing the library?**

Henleaze - Afterschool activities or childcare over summer holidays. **Easton** - Sports activities for young people, activities for people with disabilities. - Baptist mills - A cool place where young people can study together and meet. **Bishopston** - Art or craft workshops for young people. - Carers clubs to give young carers and adult carers a break from their daily commitments.	- 11 of the group said that public transport wasn't an issue. - 7 said that they don't use public transport as it was too expensive or it's not convenient. - 1 said that it did affect access to their local library - "unless my parents take me to library, I can't easily get to the library, the buses take too long"

Volunteering and careers

- Four out of the eighteen young people said that would be interested in in volunteering at the library, but it isn't an activity that they first consider.

- Three young people said volunteering at the library was not for them.
- The remainder of the young people explained they did not know that was an option and if they had more information about it, they could consider it.

What young people want from libraries?

- Opening times
- "Junction three library closes at 5pm, so by the time I get home from school, I don't have much time to spend there."
- It's easier to use our school library as it has most things we need, plus the school can order in books for us.
- Increased advertising.
- Food facilities
- Arts and music activities
- Dance activities
- More computers and people to help you use computers better
- Different software like Photoshop or InDesign
- Gaming and virtual reality facilities
- Comfy seating like bean bags

Ideas

- Libraries should be a community centre and offer a variety of activities for those young people that are not comfortable at home.
- Lego workshops for those who are socially challenged and who have autism. (an Autism Club, where individuals with Autism can interact and develop skills through Lego)
- Music workshops
- The library could run a gaming day, so they could incorporate different activities on specific days/ For example, they could have Gaming days on a Tuesday and a reading club /or study group on a Thursday.

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Princes Trust Feedback

Young person profile	What is your local library?
- 5 males - 6 females - Aged 17 – 20 years - (all engaged in Princes Trust Fairbridge Programme) - 11 young people	- Keynsham x 1 - St George x2 - Bishopsworth x2 - Central library x2 - Junction 3 x 1
Library use	**Reasons for use**
- 8 out of 11 young people have used the library service more than once but are not current users. - 2 out of 11 had never used the library service at all. - 1 young person uses the library regularly	- Read x 9 - Study x 5 votes - DVDs x 2 - Quiet space to sit x 2 - Graphic novels x 1
What are your reasons for not using the library?	**What would make you use the library more?**
- There is no need to use the library as have everything at home. - It's not a place where I go as I don't feel like it's a place for me. - It's not a place I think of going, I used to go when I was a younger child.	- If the library had relevant events for young people such as employability workshops. - Increased and better advertising of the library, particularly on social media. better visibility of library services. - If more young people went.
What is missing in your community?	**Is public transport a barrier to accessing your local library?**
- A hub for young people (not a youth club) but a place where young people can meet, relax and take part in activities. (Bishopsworth) - Wellbeing activities that are local and not in the city centre. (Kingswood/St George)	- Not really as I walk everywhere, but they are expensive. - I would probably make more effort to go to places to the library is the buses were cheaper.
Volunteering and library careers	
- 2 out of 11 young people said that they would volunteer at the library but hadn't considered it as an option. - One of the young people has started volunteering at the library, helping older people to learn how to use computers and the internet. He has just started training and is looking forward to delivering 1:1 session.	

What young people want from libraries?

Opening times
- Some of the individuals commented that later opening times for libraries would be incentivise them to go.
- "I would probably be more likely to go if the library was open later in the day, usually by time I have finished my activities in the day, the library is closed".

Careers/Employability/training and learning
- The topic of career fairs and employability support is again something that the group was interested in happening across main libraries in Bristol. Having 'pop up' events at the library that focused on Apprenticeships and CV workshops, would encourage young people to come into the library, but also serve as useful activities for younger people.

Arts, creative and cultural activities and events
- Young people in this cohort were very interested in gaming (board games and online) music, developing an art skills and specialist books such as graphic novels and sci fi. Having themed activities held at the libraries which focused on these topics, would encourage attendance.

The library space and atmosphere
- Adding bright colours to the external facade would attract passers-by and being creative with the building lay out.
- "sometimes I will just walk straight past the library without realising it was there".

Advertising and branding of the library services.
- Advertising of the library across social media
- Working with partner organisations such as Princes trust to help cohorts of young people familiarise themselves with library services.
- "if someone from the library came into our sessions, to talk about what is on offer at the library, we would be introduced to library activities".

Ideas to be submitted

- Craft and knitting clubs for 20 – 30 yr. olds, led by local individuals.
- Free job fairs for small and independent businesses to show case the different businesses across the city.
- Healthy eating and wellness sessions e.g. how to cook healthy meals and meditation.
- A talk series like TED talks with inspiration people.
- Opportunities for young people to host or lead 'meet up' sessions with common interests such as Gaming or arts/crafts.
- Independent art shows that tour around the city, but from exciting artists or high-profile artists.
- Coding clubs at the local library.
- Community swap shop of clothes and fashion run by young people or local community members.
- Open mike nights working in collaboration with local musicians.
- Health and wellbeing sessions working in partnership with local services.

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St Brendan's Sixth Form feedback

Student profile	What is your local library?
- 4 males - 6 females - Aged 16-17 years. - (Students and members of the Student Union) - 10 young people	- Keynsham - UWE Library (Uses UWE library as there are more young people there) - Fishponds - Hanham - Bedminster - St George
Library use	**Reasons for use**
- 8 out of 10 young people have used the library service more than once. - 2 out of 10 hadn't used the library service.	- Study x 4 votes - DVDs x 1 vote - Reading books x 4 vote - Using computers x 2 votes
What are your reasons for not using the library?	**What would make you use the library?**
- Unable to get a library card until very recently. Didn't have any official ID to obtain a library card. - Unable able to find books that are of interest or relevant to my subjects and interests. (sports/music performance) - Use the school library.	- More computers for studying x 2 votes - Being encouraged to go by peers, school or family.
What is missing in your community?	**Is public transport a barrier in accessing local library services?**

Fishponds - Afterschool and weekend activities for children and young people. (childcare for working families) **St George** - Mental health services that are local and not in the city centre. **Bedminster** - Opportunities for young people to work together outside of school on fundraising for social issues and to use arts and culture to raise awareness of social issues. - The group thought that the mental health and sexual health information services were important to them and felt the using the libraries as a multi-use space could be beneficial.	- The group explained that the bus wasn't really a barrier in them accessing local library services as they are used to using the bus for school. They all agreed that bus costs were expensive generally.
What young people want from libraries?	

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Opening times
- Later or evening opening time, if possible, Sunday opening hours.
- "By the time you have finished school and got home, most libraries have closed"
- "Some families have many siblings at home, and you need a quiet space to study after school".
- "Sunday opening would be great, particularly in the afternoons or early evening. We often study on Sunday night before school on a Monday."

Careers/Employability/mentoring/training and learning
- The group were particularly interested in how the library could host careers fairs or having pop up shops that offer students information on careers, Apprenticeships and Universities. There was a focus on knowing more about Apprenticeships. The group were interested in meeting 'inspirational' individuals like business leaders from across the city and having them come to the library would make this feel more accessible.
- "It would be great to meet with careers advisors at the library, as well as finding out about Apprenticeships and Universities."

The library space and atmosphere
- Young people in this group put an emphasis on wanting a designated space for students or people in their age bracket. They felt some libraries do not offer enough space and this can be off putting to them.
- "The spaces in the library often feels cramped, if the spaces were airy, spacious and had more areas to sit, more young people would come.
- "Designated spaces for students or young people. We want privacy and don't want to feel like we a getting in the way of others who are using the library. "
- Individuals also felt that is they saw people closer to their age group working in the library, it would make them feel more comfortable using the space and would encourage them to use the library more. (at this point we began discussing volunteering and how having younger volunteers at the library could support this to happen)

Advertising and branding of the library services
- The group all agreed that the library isn't a place that they actively think about in day to day life. They think is mainly due lack of visibility of local library services online and in school.
- One young person, said that they walk past the (St George) library most days, but doesn't necessarily think of it as a place to utilise for study or activities, but probably would consider it if he saw social media advertising, an A boards on the street or posters around the school.
- The library website doesn't appeal (they understand that the council has certain branding) but the library's brand isn't appealing to young people and could be more modern, colourful and generally vibrant.
- Students who are studying graphic design or related subjects could design elements of the advertising campaigns (maybe a different college or 6th form could be chosen each year to design something)
- Social media advertising is important. We use social media Snapchat; Facebook and Instagram It may be good to pay for some advertising across some of these channels to get our attention and the wider public.
- One young person suggested that the library services should be promoted more across schools as sometimes when books in the school library are unavailable, they would go the one of the local libraries to get it.
- An overall better web presence, and social media content.
- Having certain lessons at local libraries that could accommodate us, would help us to familiarise with the library and would encourage us to go there in the future.

Volunteering and library careers
- 7 out of 10 young people said that they would volunteer at the library but hadn't considered it as an option. - In terms of volunteering, young people would like to offer skills in running reading clubs for younger children, checking books out and organising shelves and helping the older generation with online/digital skills.
Ideas to be submitted
- Library services working with Off the Record to create mental health services or counselling in libraries. If you live in St George, you must travel into the centre to visit Off the Record, but if you knew they held sessions at the local library if would be beneficial. That way you be encouraged to use library services too. *(The student had mentioned that this had been done before and students had fundraised to make this happen and would be interested in doing this again)* - Libraries working closely with 6th forms, so extra lessons or classes could be arranged at the weekends (or in half terms) which would be held at libraries. Maybe the larger libraries like central library. Some ambitious students (and their teachers) would be interested in this. Maybe students could lead the sessions if teachers weren't able to. - Social services like mental health services and sexual health services at the library. - Arts, craft sessions run by young people to raise awareness of issues that may affect young people. - Arts/poetry sessions or something that helps young people embrace culture. This can be youth led or young people would pay a nominal fee.   - Career/employability/inspirational talks from inspirational business leaders and professionals. - Reading/art clubs for young children led by 6th form students. - After school facilities for children and young people so working families have somewhere to drop off children

Cotham/North Bristol 6th Form centre feedback

Student profile	What is your local library?

- 1 male - 5 females - Aged 16-17 years. - 6 in total	- Redland 4 - St Pauls 1 - Central 1
Library use	**Reasons for use**
- 2 use the library regularly - 3 have used the library once. - 1 has used the library more than once but is not a current user.	- Study x 4 votes - Reading books x 4 vote - Using computers x 1 votes
What are your reasons for not using the library?	**What would make you use the library?**
- Unable to get a library card until very recently. Didn't have any official ID to obtain a library card. - Can access needs at home and online e.g. computers and kindle for books. - Using the library doesn't appeal as feel more comfortable elsewhere	- Welcoming/friendlier environments - Better technology /software/gaming facilities - If more friends/peers used the library. - If it had a café or food facilities.
What is missing in your community?	**Volunteering and library careers**
- More places for young people to 'hang out', not necessarily youth clubs, but places to access a variety of activities after school or on the weekend. (Redland) - Coffee shops or quiet places to relax, get food and drink. (St Pauls) - Places to study (St Pauls)	- 4 out of 6 young people said that they would volunteer at the library but hadn't considered it as an option, as they don't have enough information about library careers.
Is public transport a barrier in accessing local library services?	
Not really, but it is expensive to use First bus. I walk most places or ride my bike, so not really.	
What young people want from libraries?	

Careers/Employability
- The group were interested in finding out more about Bristol businesses and how they could speak or hear from local business leaders.

The atmosphere
- The group explained that they didn't feel comfortable in certain library settings.
- Central library felt more accessible, maybe due to the size of the space.
- Individuals wanted areas that were "just for them", that had comfortable, relaxed seating.
- One individual explained that ST Pauls library always felt cramped and wasn't a suitable place for studying.

Advertising of library services
- Individuals describe that the advertising of the library services was none existent.
- The group agreed that if their peers used the library more, they probably would do the same, or if they heard through friends that there were interesting workshops or talks at the library, they would probably consider attending.

Ideas to be submitted.

- Maker/craft workshops run by young artists to encourage young people to express themselves or engage in arts activities.
- To run tech/IT workshops for less privileged young people, adults or elderly.
- Writing workshops run by local writers
- Career/employability fairs
- After school facilities for children and young people so working families have somewhere to leave children.

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City of Bristol college Feedback

Student profile	What is your local library?
Male 2 Female 1 Ages 17 3 young people	Central x 3
Library use	**Reasons for use**
3 are current users.	Study x 3 Read x 2 A quiet place in the city centre to go when you have nowhere else to go.
What are your reasons for not using the library?	**What would make you use the library?**
n/a	n/a
What is missing in your community?	**Does public transport affect you accessing the library**
St George Activities for young people, craft or arts workshops.	All three stated that public transport does not affect them.

Volunteering and careers
- One of the three young people explained that they would consider volunteer at the library. - Two out of the three said that it isn't a role that appeals to them.

What would make libraries more attractive to young people?
- Better advertising of their services, "we use the library as it's close to where we study, but some of my friends have never been as they don't see the point in going". - More youth focussed activities – tailored for older young people, there seems to be lots of activities more young children and families. - Seeing young people as staff members - More IT equipment and a wide range of software - Employment and apprenticeships events

Ideas
Central library could have set days per week or month, where the library could be taken over by young people. Different youth groups could 'takeover' the library for an evening and host different events depending on interests. For example, young people could run writing workshops for other young people and then next time, it could be focused on mental health or arts. Young people could work with local organisations and make use of the library space in evenings or weekends and run wellbeing projects.

Appendix 1 Bristol Library youth engagement

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