

# LANCASHIRE'S HOPE HACK REPORT

2023



HOPE COLLECTIVE



**LANCASHIRE**  
VIOLENCE REDUCTION  
NETWORK

# SUMMARY

Lancashire Violence Reduction Network embraced the opportunity to bring young people from across Lancashire together and host a 'Hope Hack'. Supported by The Hope Collective, the findings from the event will contribute to the national 'Reimagined' report. With the goal in mind to create a safer and fairer society, Lancashire focused on 6 themes and encouraged the young people in the room to create solutions for their county.

Following the format of previous Hope Hacks, each theme was explored in break out rooms by groups of between 5 and 8 young people. These groups were each facilitated by youth workers and local professionals to give the young people a chance to speak openly and freely away from their teachers/chaperones. At the end of the day, each group had the opportunity to present their findings/solutions in any way they liked. We had raps, poems, role play, posters and much more.



*"But I will remember this day... as I saw ambition shared without fear. A collective of young people, with a united message, so clear, that hope exists... and together, towards it we can steer."*

# 85+

**YOUNG  
PEOPLE  
ATTENDED**

# 35+

**PROFESSIONALS &  
LOCAL LEADERS  
ATTENDED**

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## THEMES

Education

Money & Opportunities

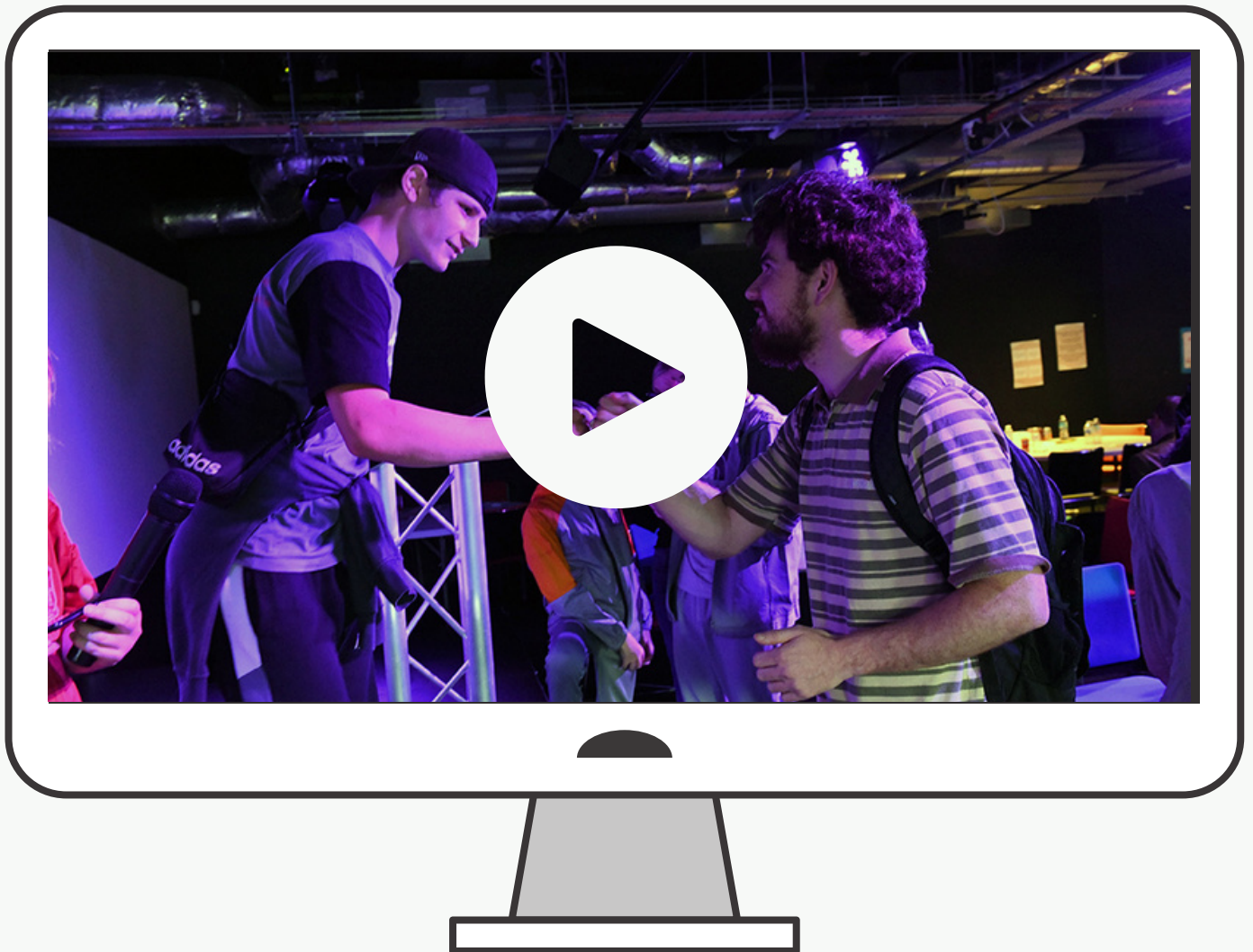
Community Safety

Media & Social Media

Relationships with the  
Police

Mental Health

**WATCH THE FULL  
EVENT VIDEO HERE.**



**LISTEN TO PARKER WORDS  
SUMMARY OF THE DAY  
HERE.**

# FEEDBACK

“Our students really valued the experience and I’m hoping that they can maintain the passion that they were showing and communicating!”

- **Lathom High School**

“We had the best day, our kids will not forget it.”

- **Park High School**

“The young people were really happy they got the opportunity to have their say, without being judged, they don’t often get the chance.”

- **Participation Works**

“I enjoyed feeling heard. The people we worked with were so kind and genuinely cared about what we had to say.”

- **Chloe, Year 10**

# YOUNG PRESTON

We are here to change things,  
to get our voices heard,  
how you see people  
has become a little blurred.  
You see the negatives,  
the news will portray,  
we wanna bring the positive,  
and show the youth in a different way.

Young Preston Radio,  
for young people, by young people.  
Focus on local,  
where we get vocal,  
about the good, the bad,  
and the stuff that isn't shown.  
Cos we've outgrown,  
these stereotypes  
this media hype  
that keeps us down.  
But its time to show our strengths,  
the times we succeed,  
time to pass the baton on,  
and let us take the lead.

# WHAT'S NEXT?

The views collected from the young people at Hope Hack events will contribute to the new 'Reimagined' report produced by the Hope Collective. This report sets out to achieve the biggest needs assessment of what young people think a fairer society looks like and to allow young people to be major stakeholders in the levelling up discussions. This report will be presented to political parties for consideration as they produce their manifestos ahead of the next General Election.



## HIGH LEVEL FEEDBACK

## IDEAS/SOLUTIONS

### EDUCATION

Young people feel that teachers don't understand or empathise with the modern issues they are facing in society. Educational establishments are too driven by rules, Ofsted visits, results that they are missing what is going on with young people and the 'why'. This is one of the contributing factors to a decline in young people's mental health which it is felt that there is minimal support for in schools. The curriculum should include subjects that prepare you for the future and general life skills, especially while people are stressing about money and job opportunities.

**"Kids are pushed to achieve academically but don't have the people around them to do so."**

There should be regular mental health training for teachers so that they understand what young people are currently going through as things have changed a lot since they were in school. There should also be dedicated lessons towards mental health so students can understand it more as well, these should be built into the PSHE curriculum. There should be access to mental health support for everyone in school, not just the students already on the radar and there should be safe spaces and dedicated mental health support workers in every school.

Education establishments should introduce more life skill-based learning into the curriculum to help prepare people for the future. This should include information about money and practical career advice but also more opportunities to learn about jobs such as decorating or building.

Youth days in schools with speakers and conversations about difficult topics chosen by students.



## HIGH LEVEL FEEDBACK

## IDEAS/SOLUTIONS

### COMMUNITY SAFETY

More safe spaces and activities for young people. Currently no youth clubs or places to go. Areas commonly known for sexual assaults or drug problems aren't having anything done about them by the police.

Phone numbers to text when you feel unsafe, this will help because then things will be reported and ultimately prevented. More knife bins and awareness of their locations. Young people need safe places to go, and safe ways of getting there.

### RELATIONSHIPS WITH POLICE

Young people have negative views on the police, see them as judgemental, corrupt, harsh, small-minded and violent. There needs to be an understanding that police are human too but this needs to work both ways.

There should be more education on why police do the things they do, maybe through videos on YouTube. Police should explain more about what they are doing in communities and talk to young people rather than just at grown ups. Police need to interact more with young people. Use social media such as TikTok and Instagram to post positive police moments involving young people. Set up groups between young people and the police and have police spend time with young people in the community and places where we like to be, not in uniform to break down barriers and see them as human too rather than just using power. Spend time in youth clubs with no uniform.

Social campaign created jointly with the police and young people to create a positive perception.

## HIGH LEVEL FEEDBACK

## IDEAS/SOLUTIONS

### MENTAL HEALTH

Throughout each theme, young people always came back to the topic of mental health. Some of the causes they listed for poor mental health were racism, bullying, lots of homework, social media, lots of rules, liars, fake friends and addiction. There needs to be more done to recognise and appropriately respond to the signs of declining mental health in young people.

**“Mental health and physical health are interlinked. IF PE is compulsory, shouldn’t mental health support be as well?”**

More recognition within education establishments on how mental health impacts young people for both teachers and students. Comfort before criticising. More safe spaces in school where you can sit and chill and talk to someone. School ‘mums’ and ‘dads’ that are there to offer support we might not be getting at home. Teachers need more training on mental health. Local influencers to speak out about mental health. We need to look at the type of support available for young people, telling us to breathe and count 5 things we can see isn’t helping us at all.

### MONEY & OPPORTUNITIES

Family background has a huge impact on opportunities and young people want equality of opportunities, regardless of demographics and circumstances. Young people are feeling the affects of the cost of living crisis and the pressure on them to start earning money straight away rather than taking an academic route.

**“My aspiration is that people have equal opportunities and that money wasn’t a barrier.”**

More funding into schools to offer free breakfasts and in school food banks. College/universities to help with part-time work while studying. Government to fund opportunities for young people. Learning skills rather than subjects. Education establishments to teach how to budget and look after money. Hop on/hop off bikes in smaller towns.

## HIGH LEVEL FEEDBACK

## IDEAS/SOLUTIONS

### MEDIA & SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently no representation of young people in the media unless it is negative. Young people listed the worst things about social media were the threatening messages, being abused by random people, paedophiles, arguments, fake filters and lack of confidence. Media is always reporting negative stories about us, nothing ever positive.

**“Some teens are doing bad things but the majority of them aren’t, and they just assume that we are all the same.”**

A radio show or podcast by young people for young people. Hosted by young people and aimed at 11-18 year olds which would have interviews with young people on our experiences, both good and bad, playlists with local/young artists and live commentary of grassroots sports.

There should be more young people’s points of view on mainstream news and they should be invited to discuss topics when it involves young people rather than just talking to adults. Create ‘Media Buzz’ which is a company to spread positivity about the youth instead of all the negative news that is currently posted... Media Buzz would only post positive stories to try and change some of the narrative.

You should have to prove your age when using social media accounts and there should be lifetime bans for people.

