



Lockdown#1: Impact on Wiltshire Youth

Dear Supporters,

We are publishing a new report which summarises the impact that the first national lockdown had on 11-18 year olds across Wiltshire. This report is based on time that we spent, directly speaking with our region's young people, to understand their concerns and fears about the pandemic, as well as their hopes for the future. We are now also undertaking a further study into the ongoing impact.

The full story can be found below. The link to the summary report is at the bottom. I hope you find this an interesting read!

A new report has revealed the impact that the first national lockdown had on Wiltshire's youth.

The report summarises the findings of the charity's conversations with nearly 300 11-18 year olds from Devizes, Trowbridge and surrounding Wiltshire villages, asking for their views and concerns following the first UK lockdown.

It was discovered that while the negative impact of the first lockdown was handled well by many, almost a third (27%) of youth surveyed said they felt a degree of hopelessness, unable to do anything to change their situation.

The five greatest challenges, difficulties and fears faced by Wiltshire's teenagers were identified as: issues around education, completing work, exams and returning to school (17%); mental health (16%); maintaining friendships (15%); loneliness (15%) and having no one to talk to (12%).

Respondents expressed concerns including "feeling stressed and anxious about going out", wanting to be in school to "get the best education I can", wanting "the world and my life to get back to normal" and now feeling "extremely awkward talking to people in real life".

The report also positively highlights that the majority of the young people surveyed were hopeful about the future and were looking forward to getting back to school. 91% had friends or family members they trusted and can talk with, while those with good relationships at home (51%) and with friends (37%) coped well.

WYFC is currently in the process of undertaking a follow-up survey via Wiltshire secondary school pupils with Wiltshire Council endorsement that will give an up-to-date and comprehensive picture of the pandemic.



[Full report](#)