



SHAPE

Annual Report 2021/2022

"Where every child's voice matters"

Staying
Safe

Being
Healthy

Enjoying &
Achieving

Making a
Positive
Contribution

Economic
Wellbeing

Meet the SHAPE Team



Neesha Patel
SHAPE Programme
Manager



Tariq Karim
Youth Services Manager



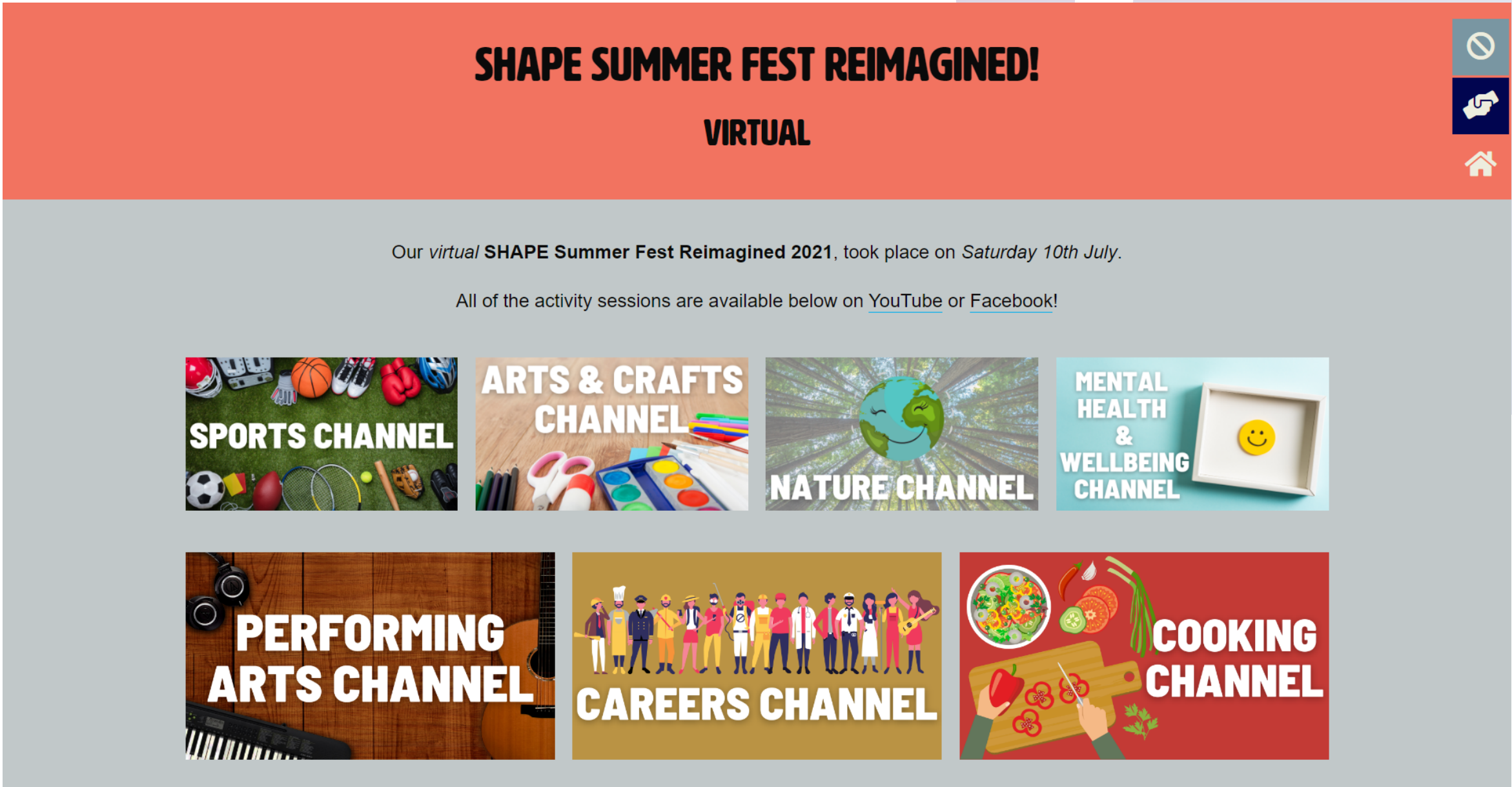
Asha Lawrence
SHAPE Project Support
Officer



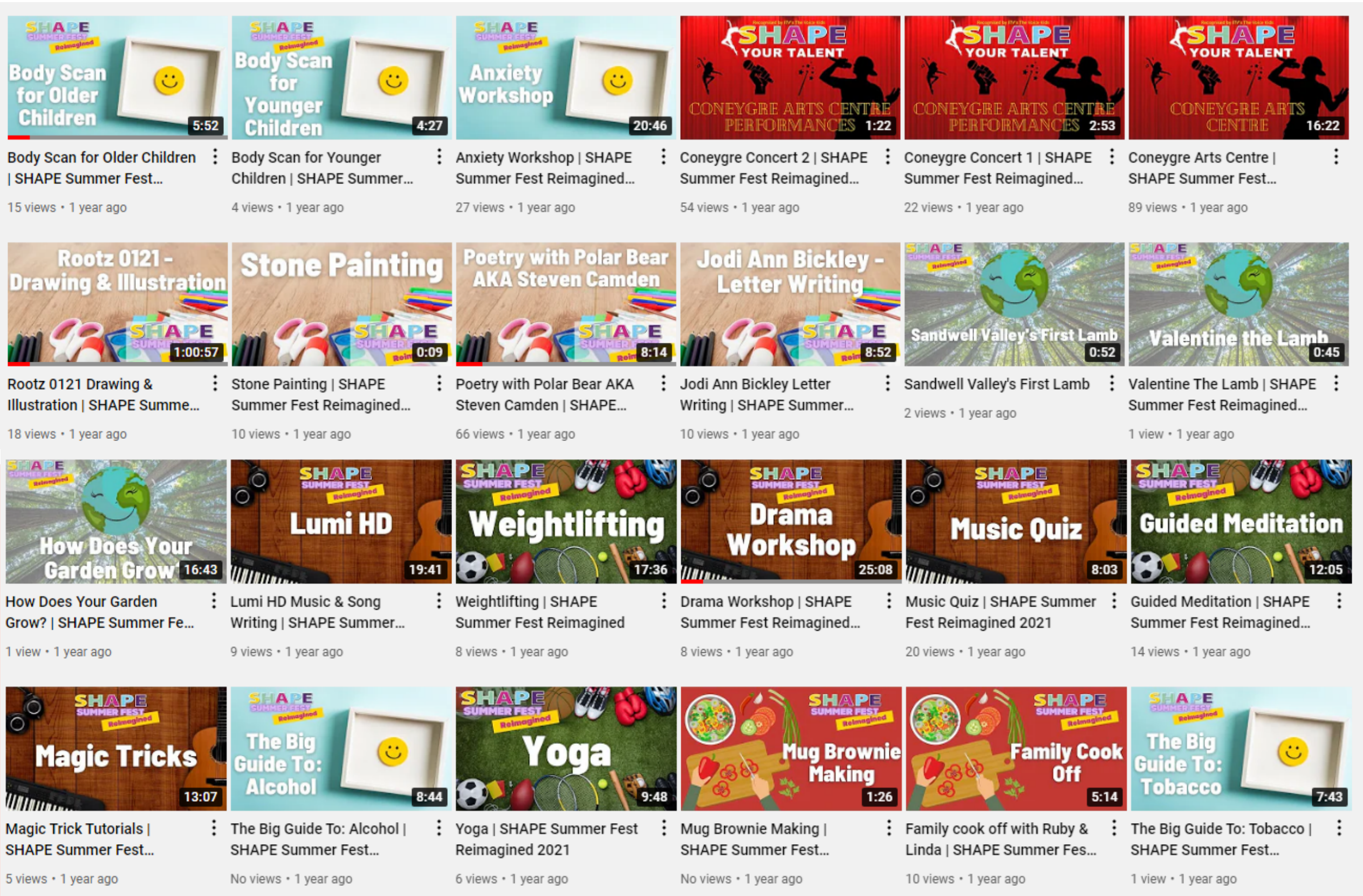
Emily Rees-Woodhall
Social Media, Marketing
and Communications
Apprentice

SHAPE Summer Fest Reimagined

On 10th July 2021, we held our annual SHAPE Summer Fest – but this time it was virtual! Children and young people from across Sandwell could access both interactive virtual sessions, and pre-recorded video sessions from our Just Youth website.



Activities were split into different channels including: sports, arts and crafts, nature, mental health and wellbeing, performing arts, careers, and cooking.



Anti-Bullying Roadshow

Between 15th - 19th November, SHAPE, Youth Services and PC Treasure visited 9 primary and secondary schools, as well as Sandwell College as part of our annual anti-bullying roadshow.

We presented a workshop around this year's theme of #OneKindWord and looked at how kindness is shown to us, and how we show kindness to others.

Every session was a real success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all children and young people who took part.

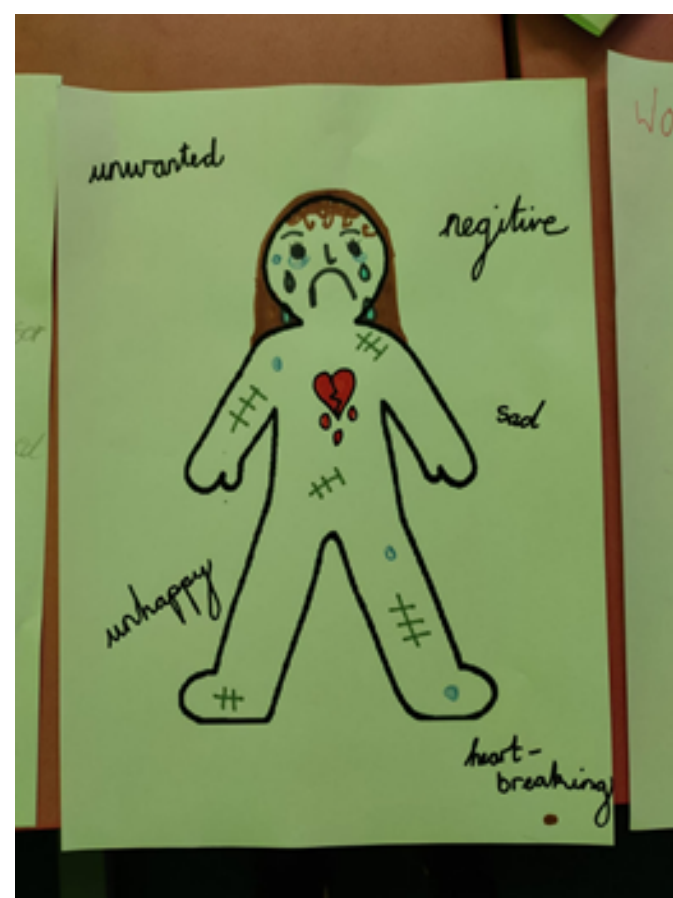
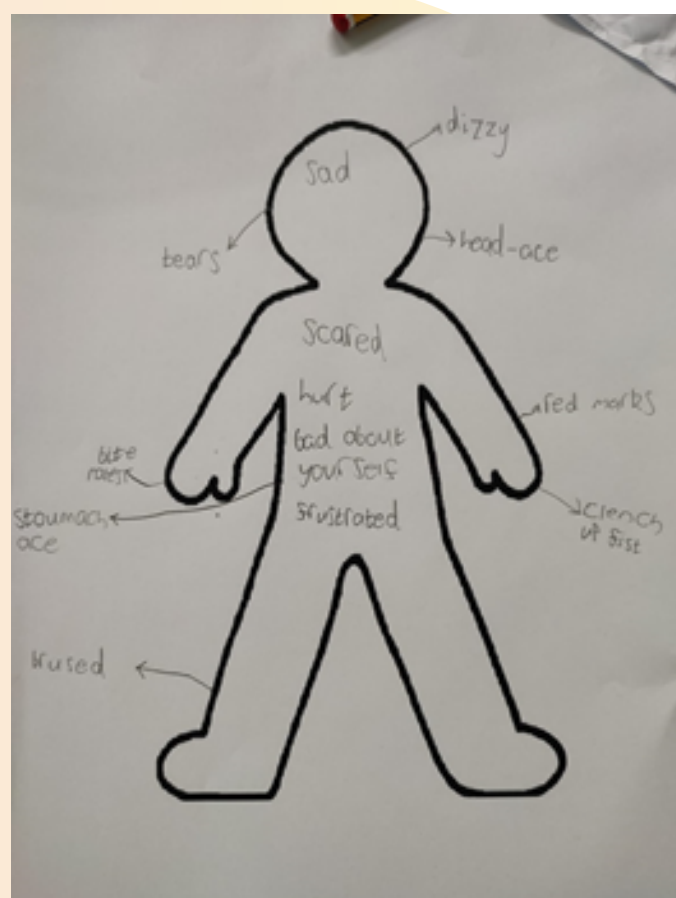


Our Primary School sessions included a variety of activities for children to get involved in including: the crumpled paper activity, understanding how a person being bullied may feel, bullying debates and bullying scenarios.

Our Secondary School & College sessions included a variety of hard-hitting real life videos where young people have been affected by bullying, and there was also lots of discussion around bullying scenario's to help young people understand what to do if they find themselves or their friends in a bullying situation.

We finished the sessions by asking everyone to write down one act of kindness they will do or one kind word that they would say to someone from what they had learnt during the sessions. Some of the answers included:

- "I will help mom at home with washing the dishes"
- "I will always use my manners and say please and thank you"
- "I will give my family a hug and tell them I love them"
- "I will say thank you to my dad for my meal tonight"
- "If someone is alone, I will invite them to play with me in the playground"



Online Safety Review

One thing that covid has taught us, is that when we are at home, we turn automatically to mobile phones, laptops, gaming consoles and TV for entertainment, and this is particularly true for young people today. Unfortunately, along with this level of entertainment come more risks. Although schools teach online safety to young people and generally young people have a good knowledge of it, social media influences are not going to go away, and young people need to become more aware of the dangers encountered online as do their parents and professionals who work with them.

SHAPE is leading on an online safety review for Sandwell Council to ensure a coordinated offer of training is developed for children and young people through schools and via the Just Youth web platform. The offer will also extend to parents through Sandwell Adult and Family Learning (SAFL) and to professionals through Sandwell Childrens Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP) and will enable all groups to access free and consistent training with online resources.

Be Internet Citizens Training

As part of the Council's Online Safety Review, the SHAPE team is currently developing a training module to be taught within schools and the community based on ISD (Institute for Strategic Dialogue), YouTube and Parentzone's 'Be Internet Citizens' campaign.

The different lessons will include:

- Fact VS Fiction – To understand what the terms 'disinformation' and 'misinformation' mean, the consequences they have on people, and how to slow their spread online
- Three Sides to Every Story - To learn about different forms of biased writing, and how online filter bubbles can shape our own biases and opinions
- Us VS Them - To understand what stereotyping is and how it leads to 'us vs them' thinking, and to reflect on individual biases and how they affect our opinions and worldview
- Speaking Up, Speaking Out - To understand the difference between free speech and hate speech, and how to effectively respond to online hate and abuse
- Becoming an Internet Citizen - To understand what digital citizenship means to them and consider actions to demonstrate it.
-

This new training module will hopefully be ready to deliver in the new school year – from September 2022.

SHAPE Youth Forum

Since September, SHAPE Youth Forum has been back meeting face to face, and the meetings are being thoroughly enjoyed by all who are attending.

Some of the main things that our Forum members are taking part in at the moment are:

- Creating a Young Person's Version of the Council's Corporate Plan
- Discussions about recommendations from the 2021 SHAPE Surveys & why our young people said what they did
- Open Lens Media Training in Video Production - for an Anti-Bullying Project that will be happening early 2022
- New Chair & Vice Chair Elections



SHAPE Youth Forum Away Day

During October half term, SHAPE Forum Members joined staff for an exciting away day at Malthouse Stables!

Our young people had a choice of activities they wanted to be involved in, and they chose canoeing and wall climbing.

It was a fantastic experience for our young people to get to know each other better and try different activities that they wouldn't usually have the opportunity to take part in.

We would like to thank the staff at Malthouse for an amazing day!



SHAPE Youth Forum - Anti-Bullying Project

SHAPE Youth Forum took part in Open Lens Media Video Production Training, where they are now learning key camera skills and storyboarding skills.

"I have enjoyed learning new camera skills and doing the 10 shot challenge where we had only ten shots to tell a story" – Krish

Muneerah has "enjoyed learning about all of the different camera angles, and learning how to use the camera to show them"

We also have lots of guests and exciting projects coming up for forum in the next few months including financial awareness training with Citizens Advice Bureau and the development of 60 second news videos for young people.



Anti-Bullying Training Module

Bullying is a very common issue that young people face, and needs to be tackled, which is why we are creating a training session for teachers, professionals and parents, educating them on being aware of the risks and impacts of bullying for them to teach and convey these to children and young people.

The module is being co-designed with a range of young people from Sandwell including SHAPE Youth Forum and Sandwell College's performing arts students who are creating videos to use in the sessions with bullying scenarios they have developed. The young people will also be involved in production of the content and resources of the training too.

We anticipate in the future to also create an online training module too for teachers, parents and professionals to use.

Members of Youth Parliament

SHAPE is proud to introduce our new Members of Youth Parliament, Mohammed All-Hasan and Olivia Gall.

After the initial expressions of interest, all applicants were invited to a briefing evening where candidates took part in a series of activities and shortlisted their peers.

Six finalists were shortlisted and voted for by seven secondary schools and Sandwell College. The Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Mushtaq Hussain, announced the two elected Members of Youth Parliament, as voted for, by over 2400 young people in Sandwell. We also had Councillor Suzanne Hartwell, Cabinet Member for Adults, Social Care and Health and Councillor Karen Simms, Cabinet Member for Children and Education join us for the evening



Youth Commissioners

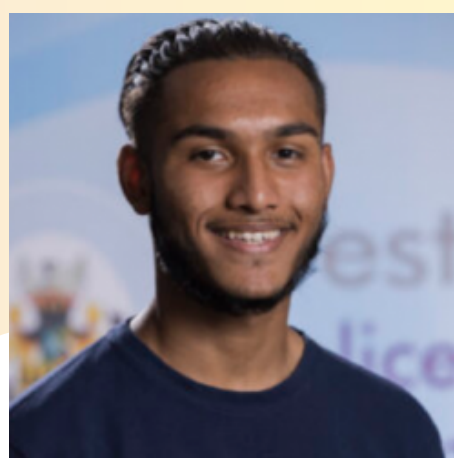
Youth Commissioners represent young people across the West Midlands. They are aged 18 and under. The job of the Youth Commissioner is to advise the Police and Crime Commissioner on issues affecting them and their peers.

Each Neighbourhood Policing Area has two elected Youth Commissioners serving two year terms.

As a Youth Commissioner you can be asked to do the following:

- Consult young people on the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan.
- Speak directly with the Police and Crime Commissioner, police officers and decision makers, raising issues affecting young people including community safety, youth justice, victim services and crime prevention.
- Engage and consult with other young people in their local communities and listen to their views.
- Hold West Midlands Police to account for the service they provide for young people.
- Build relationships with police and break down barriers that exist between officers and young people.

Sandwell's Youth Commissioners are Mohammed All-Hasan & Rhea Rhatti!



Make Your Mark

At the same time as the Member of Youth Parliament elections, we also asked the young people of Sandwell to vote in the national Make Your Mark ballot.

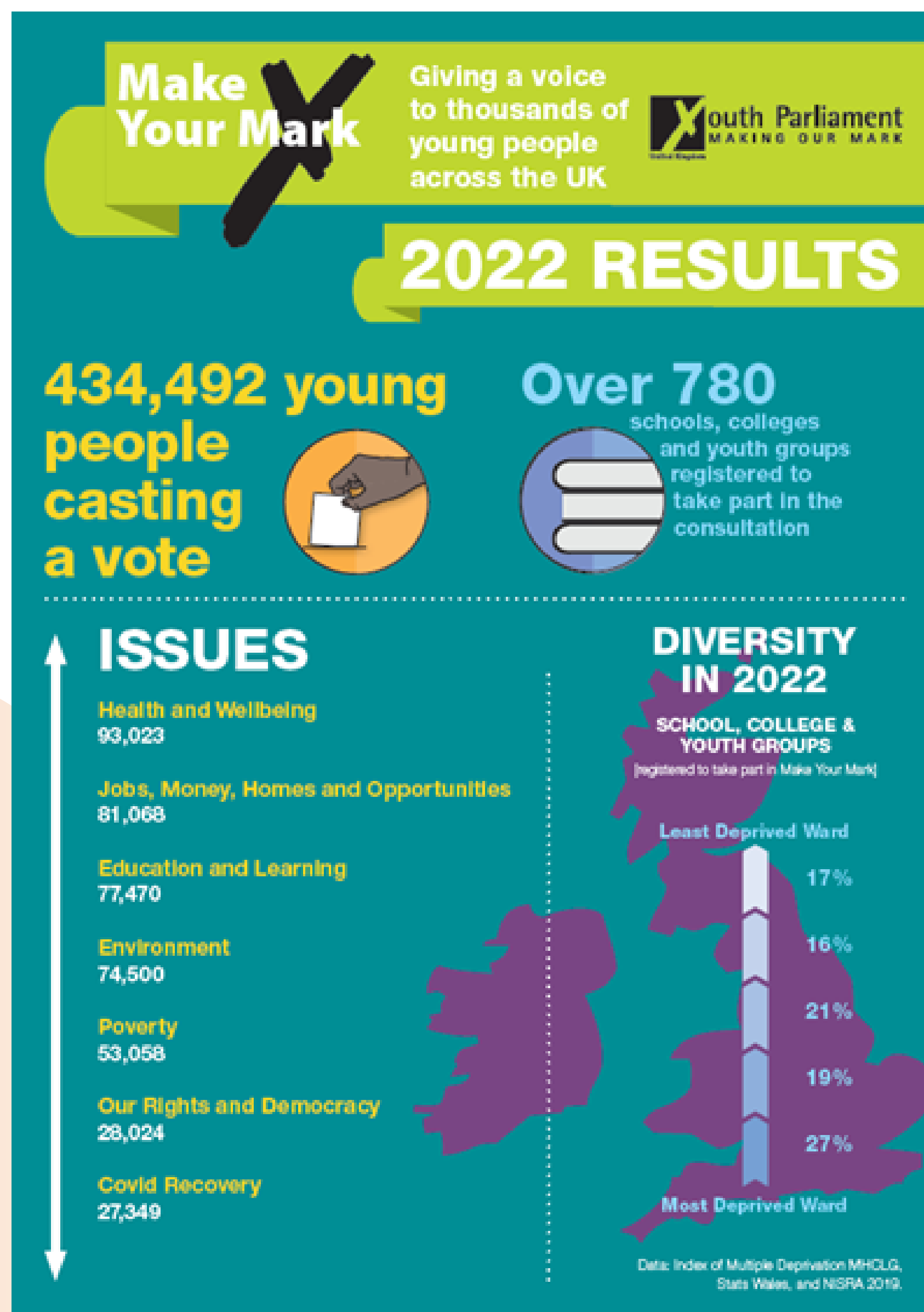
This year's topics included; Covid Recovery, Education and Learning, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Jobs, Money, Homes & Opportunities, Our Rights and Democracy, and Poverty.

In Sandwell, we had a total of 2,422 votes.

The votes were as follows:

- Covid Recovery – 220 votes
- Education and Learning – 379 votes
- Environment – 335 votes
- Health and Wellbeing – 521 votes
- Jobs, Money, Homes & Opportunities – 513 votes
- Our Rights and Democracy – 191 votes
- Poverty – 263 votes

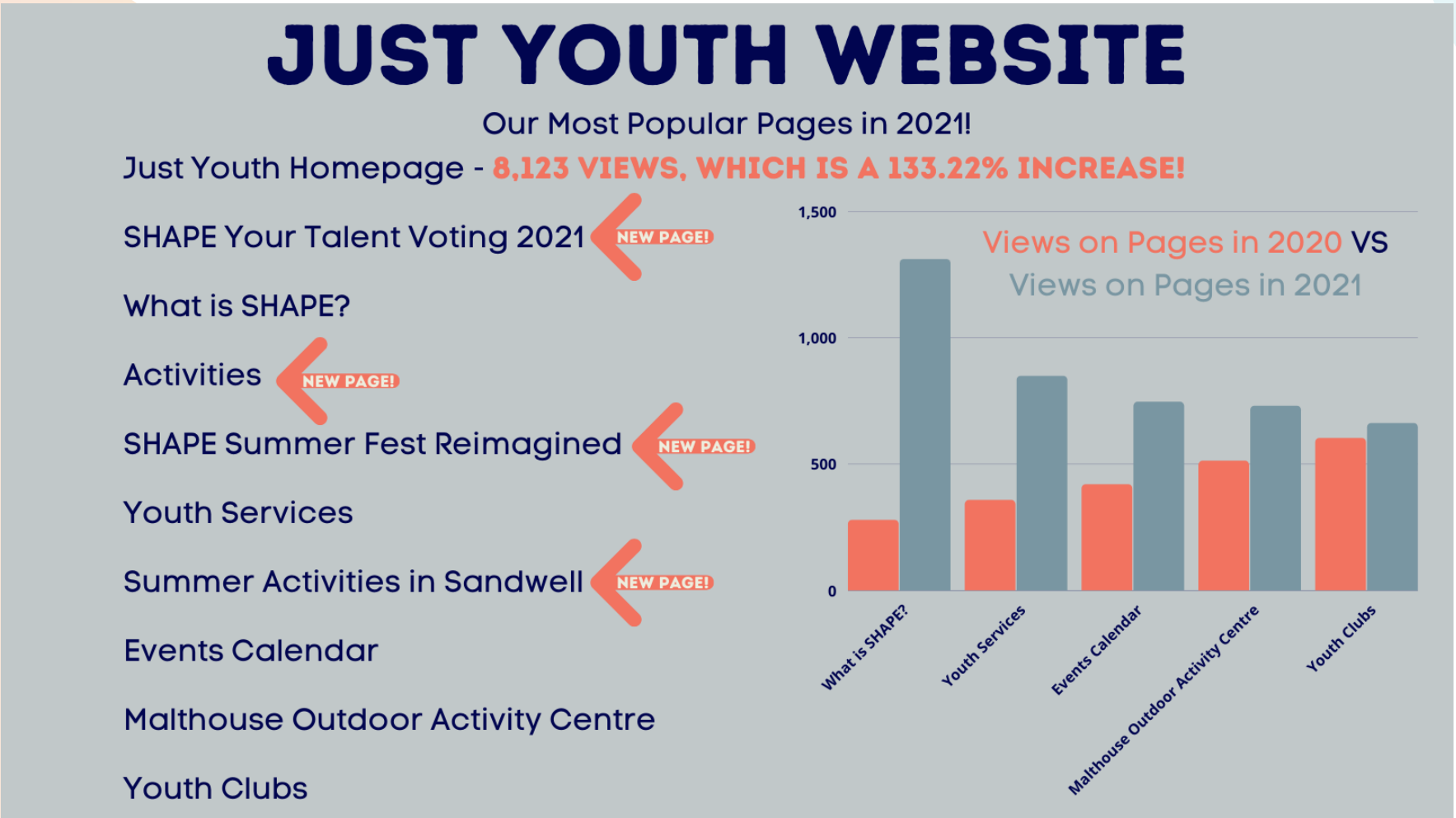
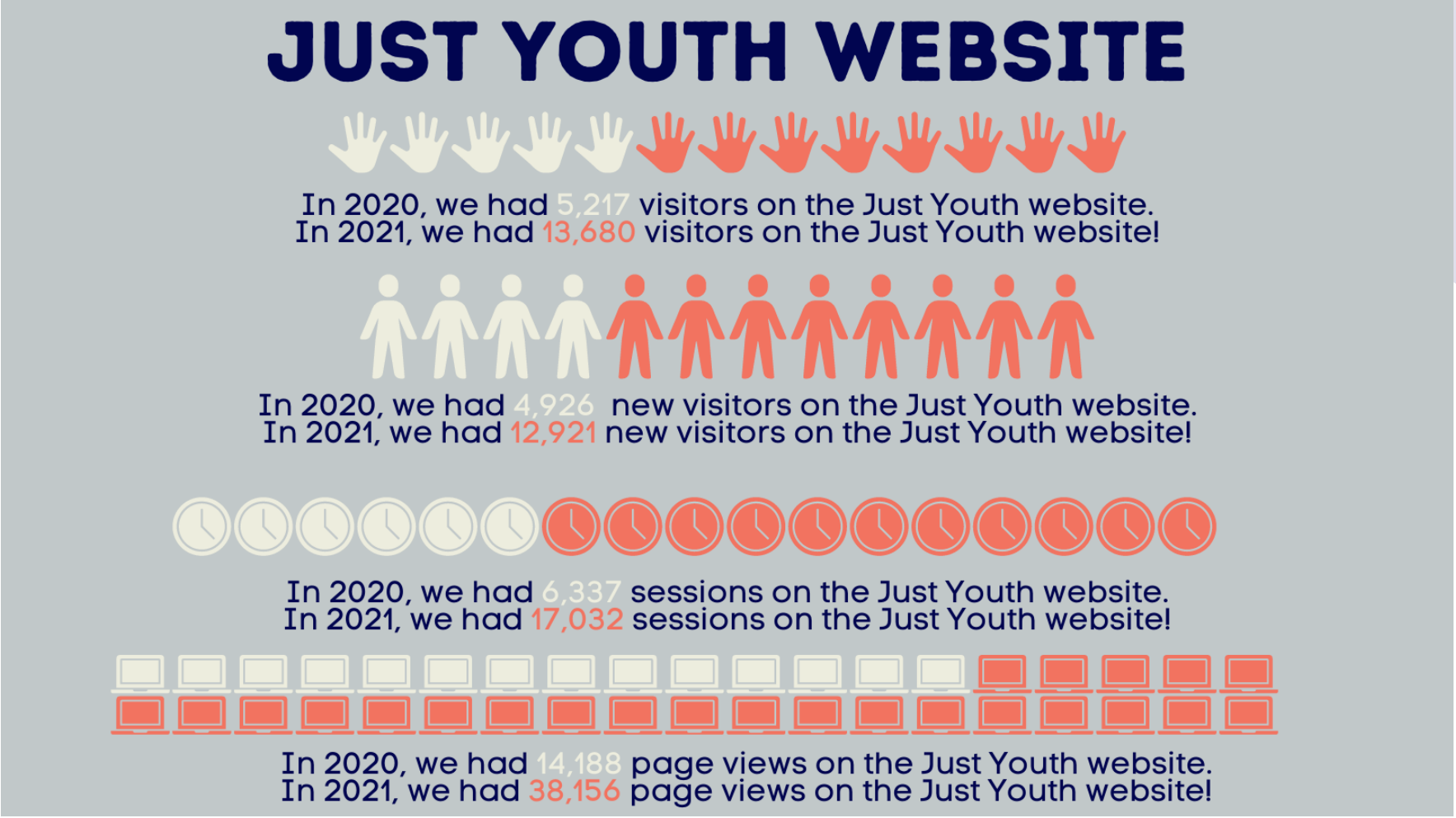
We would like to thank all schools in Sandwell who took part, and all young people who voted!



Young People's Communications

Just Youth Website

In 2021, we have seen our young people's communications offer take off! We have seen amazing increases across all our platforms, but particularly in our Just Youth website. It is fantastic to see so many young people now accessing the wide variety of resources that can be found across the website. Here are some of the statistics from 2020 and 2021:



Young People's Communications

Our Just Youth website now also includes the ReachDeck toolbar, providing visitors with instant access to assistive features and reducing barriers between our content and our diverse audience of young people. The features of this toolbar include:

- Text-to-Speech reads on-screen text out loud with read along highlighting
- Translation allows words to be translated into multiple languages
- Picture Dictionary displays word meaning through illustration
- MP3 maker converts online content into MP3 files for easy listening
- Screen Mask with reading pane reduces visual stress and improves focus
- Text Magnifier magnifies text and reads it out loud. This increases accessibility of even the smallest web text
- Webpage Simplifier creates a simplified view of a webpage and removes distracting content



We have also had lots of new pages on Just Youth including:

- Hate Crime Self Help Page
- Suicide Self Help Pages
- Tanhouse Youth Club Page
- Malthouse Outdoor Activity Centre Webpage
- Useful Apps Pages
- Sexual Violence and Harassment Self Help Pages
- PREVENT Self Help Pages
- Understanding the Russia VS Ukraine Conflict

SHAPE's Quarterly Newsletter

We have also started our SHAPE quarterly newsletter, which is sent out to all of our partners and stakeholders to keep them up-to-date with everything that SHAPE are doing.

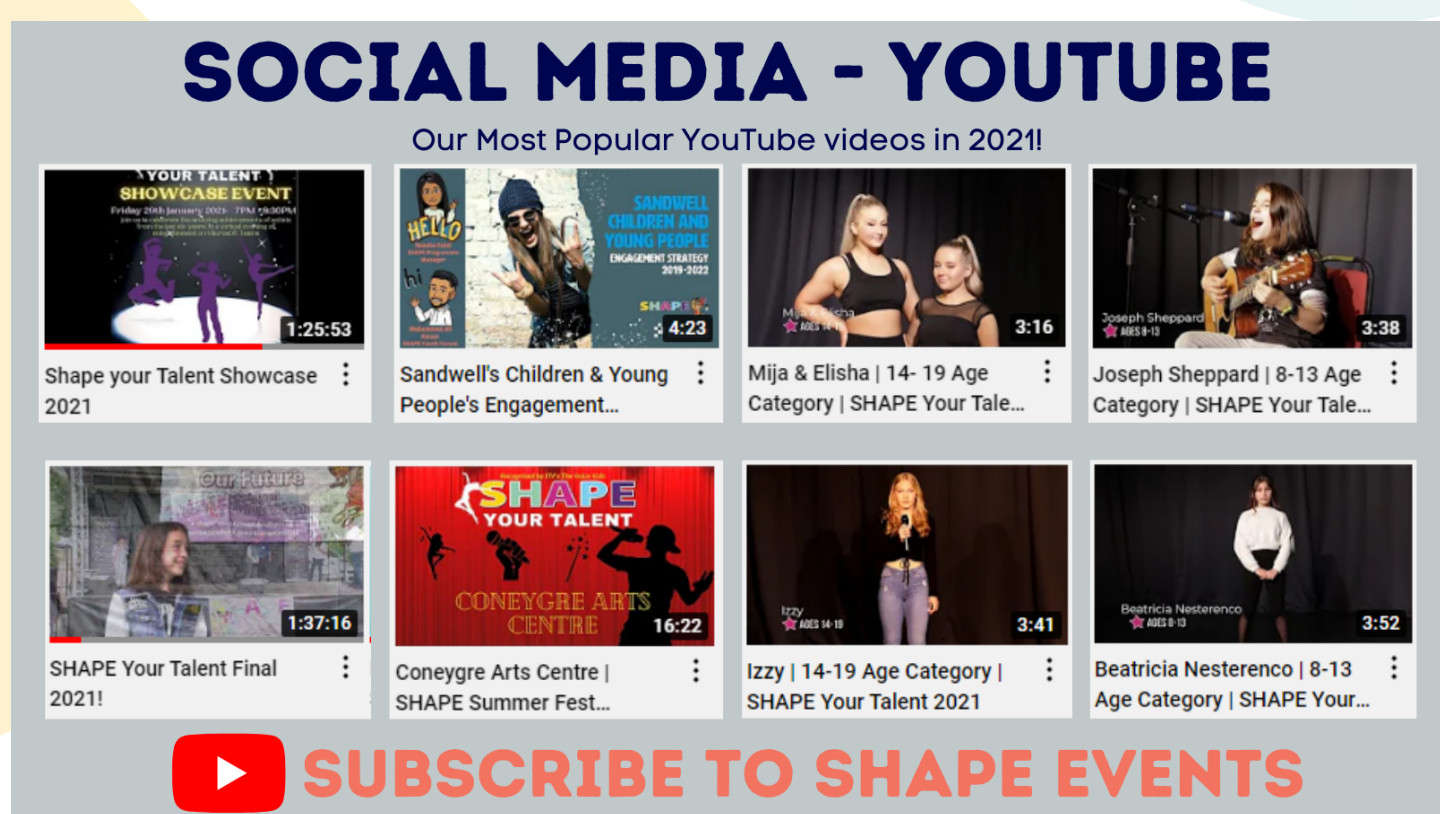
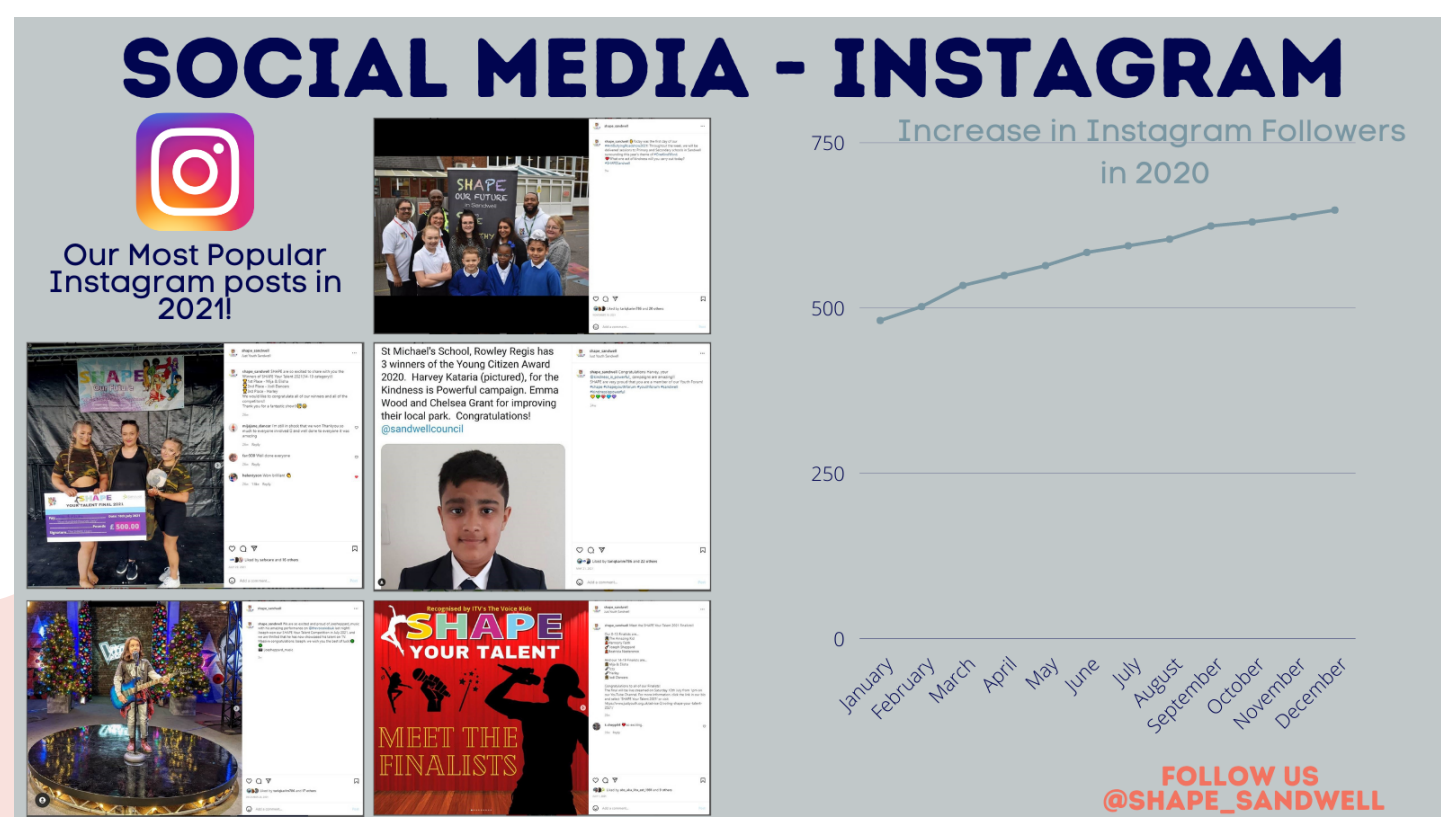
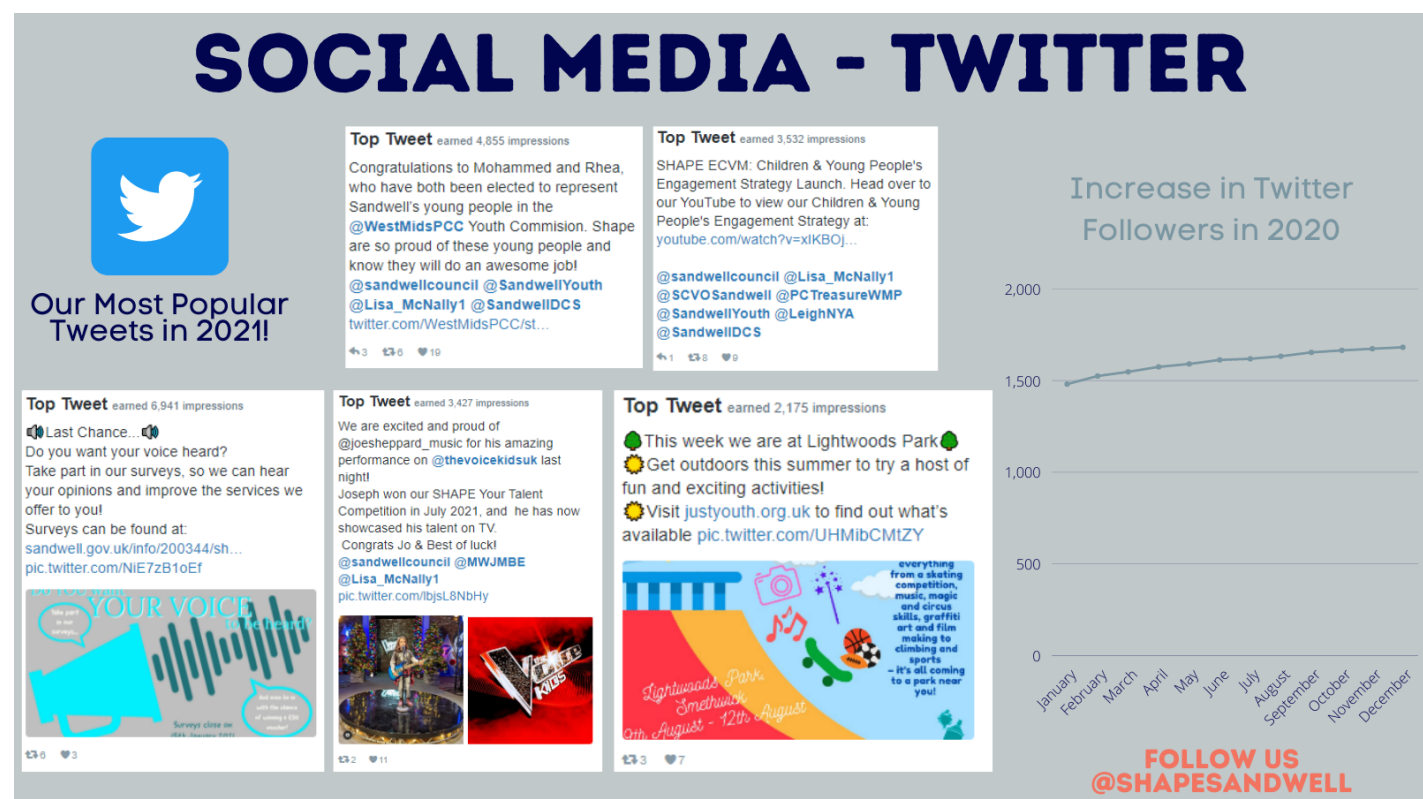
So far, we have had two editions of the newsletter sent out in December 2021, and March 2022.

To be added to our mailing list, please email shape_events@sandwell.gov.uk.

Young People's Communications

Social Media

Our social media has also been a big success as a part of our communications plan!



2022/23 SHAPE Programme Dates

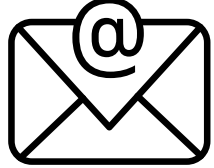
- Anti-Bullying Training - Thursday 15th September 2022
- National Youth Takeover – Sandwell Children’s Safeguarding Partnership - Thursday 6th October 2022
- Be Internet Citizens Training - Friday 25th November 2022
- Anti-Bullying Week 2022 - W/C Monday 14th November 2022
- National Youth Takeover – Thrive Board - Thursday 8th December 2022
- SHAPE Your Talent 2023 Applications Open - Sunday 1st January 2023
- National Youth Takeover - Children and Families Strategic Partnership (CaFSP) - Tuesday 17th January 2023
- National Youth Takeover – Health & Wellbeing Board - Wednesday 8th March 2023
- SHAPE Survey - Monday 17th April 2023
- Create Your Future – Youth Summit - Wednesday 26th April 2023
- SHAPE Our Future Conference – STEPs - Tuesday 23rd May 2023
- SHAPE Our Future Conference – Primary - Tuesday 27th June 2023
- SHAPE Our Future Conference – Secondary and Over 16s - Wednesday 28th June 2023
- SHAPE Your Talent Final - Friday 30th June 2023
- SHAPE Youth Festival - Saturday 15th July 2023 (TBC)
- Council Cabinet Members and Leaders – Takeover Challenge - TBC
- SHAPE Our Future Conference – Home Education - TBC
- Make Your Mark 2023 - TBC



If you are a young person who would like to be part of the SHAPE programme through SHAPE Forum, which meets every two weeks, or if you are a school who would like to be involved and nominate SHAPE Champions or would like further information about SHAPE, please contact us...



www.justyouth.org.uk



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