



POSITIVE STEPS

SUPPORT | CHALLENGE | CHANGE

'Youth Now' – Developing a pilot project to help improve the safety of pupils in school and local communities and reduce serious youth violence in Oldham.

Youth Now is a team which works within Positive Steps in Oldham, a Charity who supports young people and adults in a variety of ways to help improve lives. Youth Now is a pilot study developing work independently within local schools in order to improve the safety of young people in the local community and school and reduce serious youth violence.

Invitation to participate in the Youth Now Pilot focus discussion groups.

You are invited to take part in a research study happening in school which will explore your views and perspectives on how safe you feel in the places and spaces that you visit both in school and surrounding areas, such as local parks. We are also interested in your views about how you can be part of helping to improve the safety of you, your friends and fellow pupils, both in school and the wider community.

What would you be expected to do and how will the discussion groups be organised?

We would like to recruit your voluntary participation in a focus group. This will involve up to 7 volunteer pupils attending each group to talk about your experiences and perspectives on issues connected to your sense of safety in school and your local community and what you think could be done to improve this. Each group discussion will last 30-45 minutes. The discussions will be confidential and individual students will not be identified. Whilst the sessions will be audio recorded, this is for accuracy and to assist the researcher to help produce the findings of this research. This will be then presented to the school in spring next year. Participants will also receive a short report outlining what we have found, which we will produce with the University of Bedfordshire who are supporting the pilot. You will be required to sign a 'consent form' on the day of the focus group, just to remind you that the session will be recorded confidentially.

To reward you for your time, we will enter you into a raffle where you could win a prize for sharing your perspectives!

We very much hope you will consider being involved, as your perspectives will be a valuable contribution to improving the safety of all pupils.

Please register your interest with your form tutor who can put your name forward to attend this focus group. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Workers on the 'Youth Now' team, who will conduct the focus groups include; Claire Hudson (Team Manager), Rachael Dale (Case Manager), Lauren Wilmot-Carter (Case Manager), James Brennan (Support Worker), James Attenborough-Lee (Mentor), Aliya Sikander (Mentor).