

YOUTH VOICE CENSUS 2023 PRESS RELEASE



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‘Disconnected and disaffected’ young people torn between fight or flight: Youth Voice Census 2023

Pressures including the pandemic, educational disruption and last year’s mental health crisis have left young people opting out, with a growing sense of ‘them and us’.

Over 4,000 young people aged 11-30 took part in the Youth Voice Census, an annual temperature check on how young people feel about their life, study, work and general prospects. The full report will launch today on 18th September.

Key findings:

Young people are feeling disconnected from where they live with increasing concerns of what their futures might hold:

Where they live:

Only 12.4% of young people think quality opportunities are available where they live

- 4 in 10 young people do not feel safe where they live
- 3 in 10 feel unsafe within their learning environment
- Only 3 in 10 young people have a role model
- Parents are 40% more likely to be the main providers of all support including specialist mental and physical healthcare.

Where they study:

- 55.1% of young people in education said their learning had been disrupted
- 42.9% of young people have changed their study choices in the last year

Looking for work:

- 51.6% of young people currently in work changed their career plans and choices in the last 12 months
- 10% of employed young people have been suffering from depression

Disconnected and disaffected

2023 saw disruption and uncertainty for young people stuck in the middle of a cost of living crisis driving fear and competition for services, support and opportunities. Disconnected from their peers, young people are either fighting for opportunities they have no confidence in their ability to get, and it is leading them to shy away from their next steps.

“We have to recognise where young people are, where the systems do not work for them and understand what their new normal is.

It is time for better leadership for young people. They need to hear us become their champions and fight for their rights for equality and social justice.

Just wanting it to go back to 2019 will not make it so.”

Laura-Jane Rawlings

The 2023 Youth Voice Census was spearheaded by Youth Employment UK with support from Amazing Apprenticeships, Edge Foundation, and Pearson.



Laura-Jane Rawlings

CEO of Youth Employment UK

Assets

[Download the report](#)

Images

[Copyright-free images of the report's launch](#) - hi-res and additional assets available on request.

Resource link

<https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/youth-voice-census/>

About Youth Employment UK

[Youth Employment UK](#) is an independent, not for profit social enterprise founded in 2012 to tackle youth unemployment. As experts on youth employment and unemployment, they are ideally placed to understand the complex landscape facing young people, educators, employers and policy makers.

Notes for editors

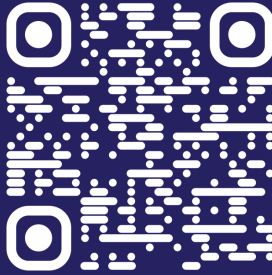
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