

Summary of findings May 2021

Louise Cartledge surveyed students at the National Star College for their views on Choice and Control. This is what she found:

Summary

Young people seem clear that they want to have choice and control in their lives. Whilst they feel they are not listened to as much as they could be, they are mostly happy with choices they have.

Family and friends are hugely important to young people, almost half of them wanting to continue living at home for the foreseeable future.

Young people recognise a range of areas in which they need help and support and identify their parents, other family members and friends as their preferred helpers.

Seeing family and friends, making friends and getting out and about are the prime aims young people have for when they are older. Roughly half of them hope to get some form of paid employment, most wanting only part-time work.

Young people have a range of aspirations for possible day opportunities and for places they would like to visit. They recognise several areas in which they need help when going out, indicating that they are likely to need support.

Young people mostly feel safe and again family and friends are often cited as helping. All the young people feel college staff help them to feel safe.

Whilst most replied that they never or rarely felt unsafe, they identified several factors which make them feel unsafe.

With medical and hospital appointments/visits, most young people feel they are made welcome, their needs are understood, they are given time, they receive good care and medical professionals are polite and kind. They feel, however, that things are not always explained well to them.

The young people are all aged between 16 and 25, an equal mix of girls and boys, and most had some help completing the questionnaire. Two young people did so independently.