



November 2021

Introduction & Methodology

Welburn Hall is a North Yorkshire County Council maintained special school, working with children and young people who have a wide range of special educational needs. The school offers a dynamic, innovative and highly individualised learning journey for pupils aged 8 to 19 years.

The current residential offer at Welburn Hall School is for young people aged 16-19, who are completing the college course at the school, and who have an assessed need for residential provision. Residential placement is available Monday – Friday (4 nights) during term times. North Yorkshire County Council wishes to changes this to accommodate children and young people aged 8-19, who have communication and interaction needs and / or learning disability, where there is an assessed need for residential provision. Under the new proposals, residential provision would be extended to be available on a term time basis up to 38 weeks per year, including weekends.

Since 2017 the number of young people using the residential provision at Welburn Hall has been declining. It is forecast that this will make the current residential offer unviable for the school within the next 3 years. This would result in NYCC having **no** residential offer for children and young people with communication and interaction needs and / or learning disability.

The current residential offer at Welburn Hall School can result in children and young people who require residential placement *prior* to age 16, being placed in independent settings, which are often outside of county and away from their family / networks. Under the new proposals, pupils at Welburn Hall School who have an assessed need for residential placement will be able to consider this *at any age*, rather than for post-16 only as per the current system.

Young people moving onto the post-16 college course would attend as day pupils, unless there is an assessed need for residential placement – applied equally to all age groups. This does mean that young people currently approaching the post-16 transition, who have been expecting to move into residential placements under the current offer, may no longer be given the opportunity to do so.

In order to gain young people's views on the proposed changes, The NY Voice Team attended Welburn Hall School to speak to the pupils there. There were two groups of young people involved, of which all had self-selected to engage in the discussions. Welburn Hall School Staff were also present during group discussions, and played a vital role helping with the young people's understanding and communication where necessary.

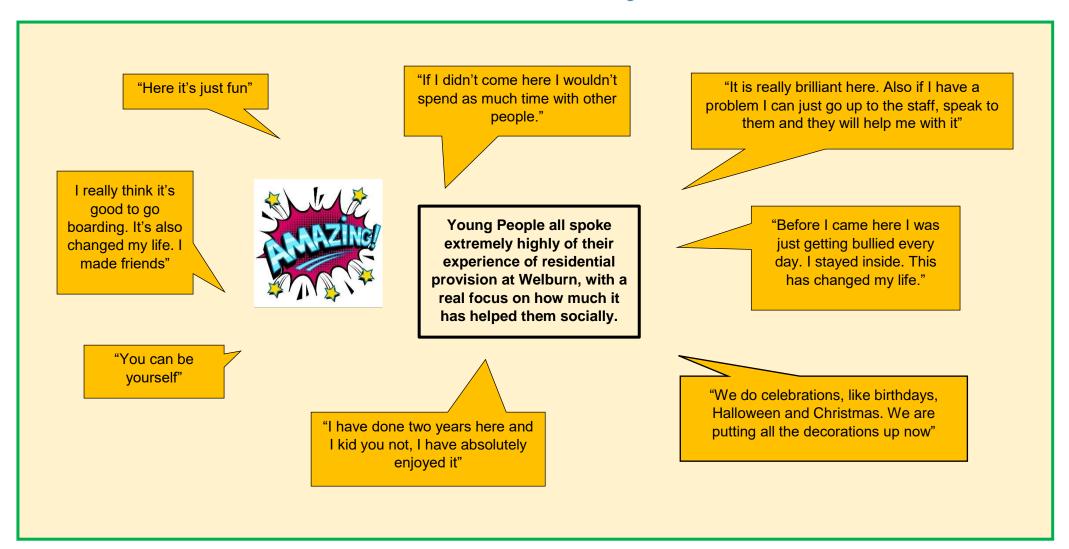
The first group consisted of seven young people, aged 16-19 years old, who were boarding at the school under the current post-16 offer.

The second group was made up of four young people, aged 14-16 years old, on the cusp of post-16 transition – i.e the age group expecting to move into residential in the next 1-2 years, but who under the new proposals may now be unable to do so.

Discussions were fluid and informal, held in a relaxed atmosphere in a familiar and safe environment. The following pages provide a summary of what young people in each group told us during the engagement, with some direct quotes and narratives included in each section.

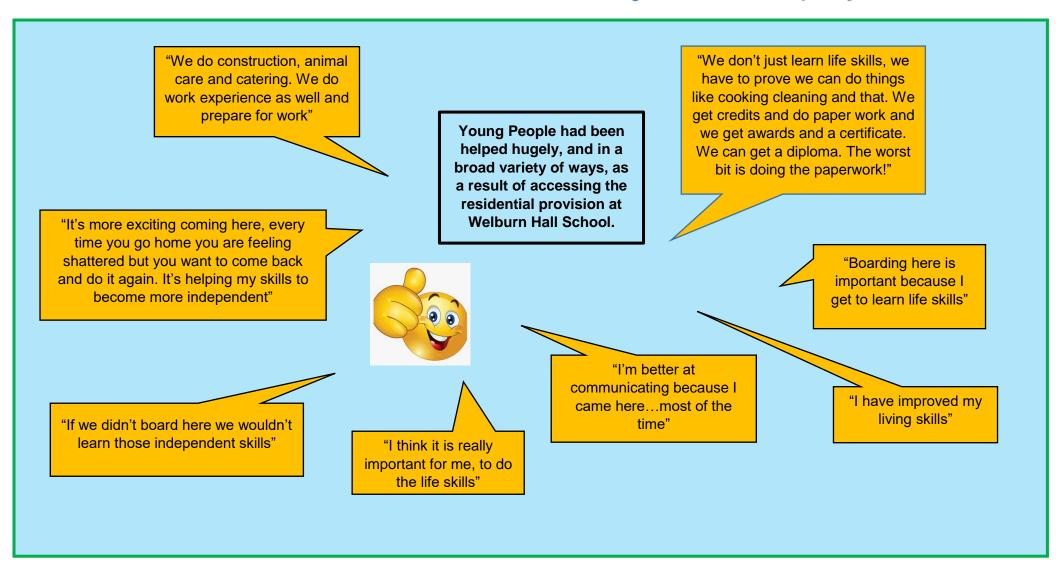
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Post-16 Current Residential Students – What is it like boarding at Welburn Hall School?



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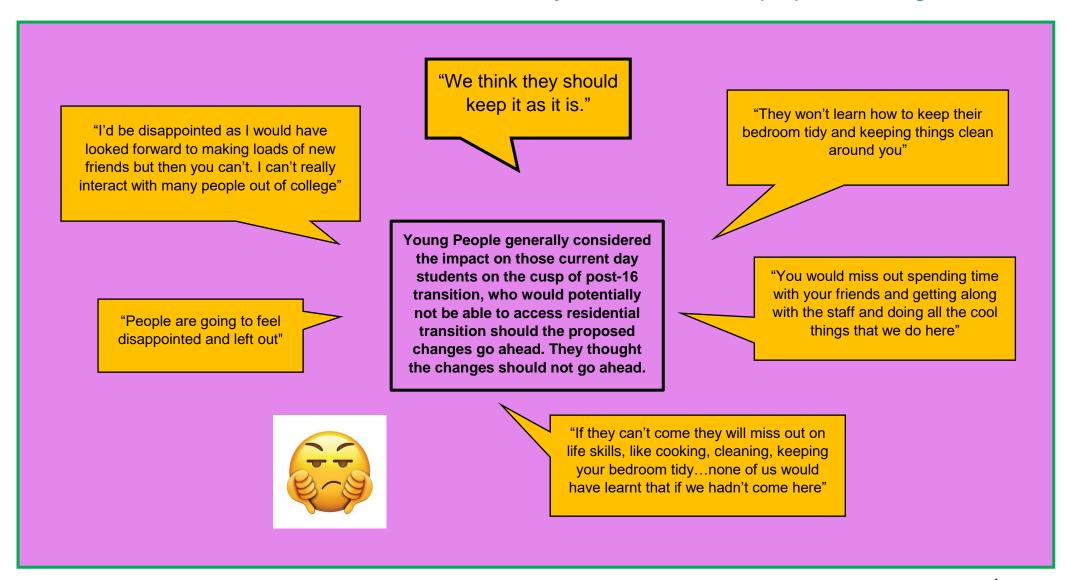
Post-16 Current Residential Students – How has boarding at Welburn helped you?



Student Consultation

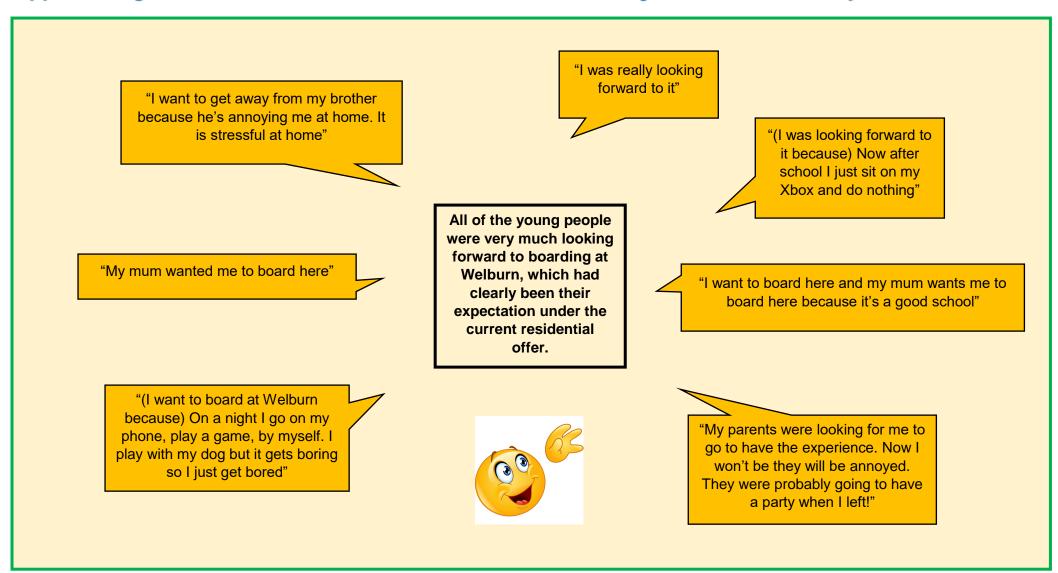
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Post-16 Current Residential Students – What do you think about the proposed changes?



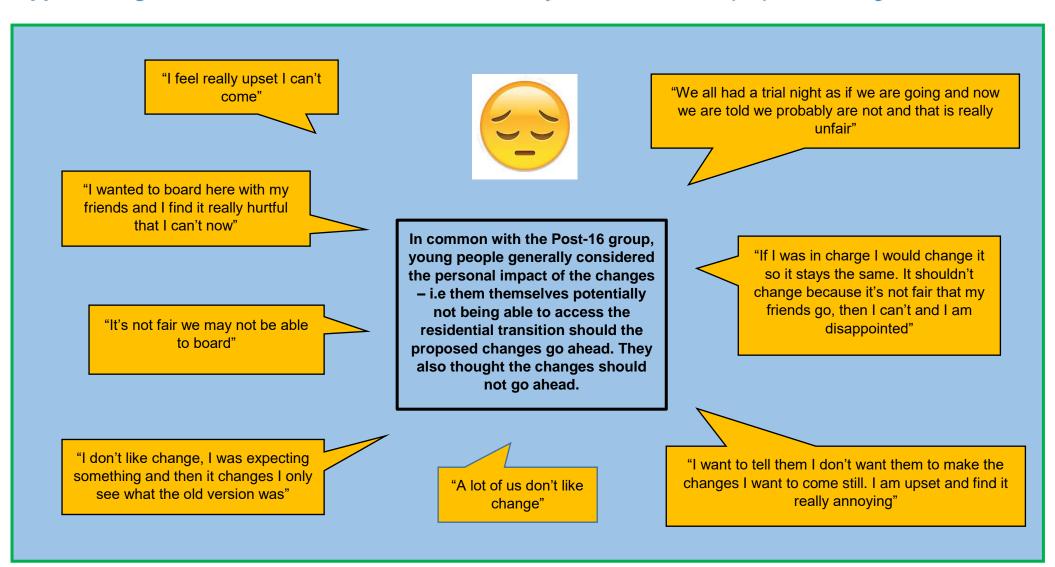
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Approaching Post-16 Transition Students – What does boarding at Welburn mean to you?



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Approaching Post-16 Transition Students – What do you think about the proposed changes?



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Approaching Post-16 Transition Students – How would the proposed changes affect your life?

