



THE 2025 SUMMER RESIDENTIAL



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THE FEATHERS ASSOCIATION



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INTRODUCTION

The 2025 StreetGames summer residential took place from the 25th to 27th August at Plas Y Brenin in Eryri National Park. The three-day residential brought together young people who attended Locally Trusted Organisations in Derbyshire and Birmingham.

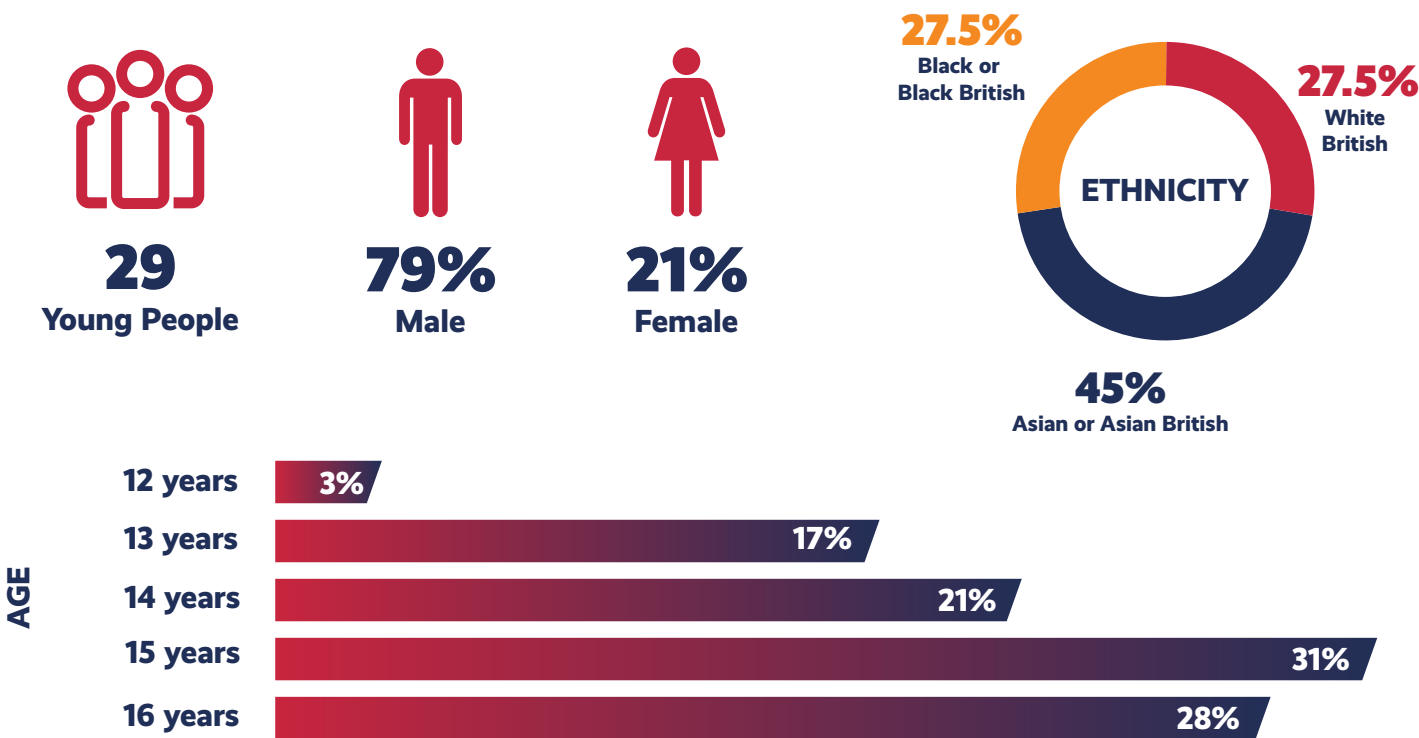
The event was organised by StreetGames in partnership with the staff at Plas Y Brenin. The residential aimed to provide young people with a variety of new experiences, with a particular focus on:

- Taking part in outdoor and adventurous activities
- Exploring a new environment
- Challenging themselves and stepping outside their comfort zone
- Enjoying positive and memorable experiences
- Developing teamwork and collaboration skills
- Interacting and building connections with young people from outside of their normal setting

StreetGames has been delivering residentials since 2007, giving young people from underserved communities the chance to step outside their local area, try new activities, and build confidence. For many, it's their first opportunity to spend time away from home, which is an experience that broadens horizons, creates lasting friendships, and develops skills that stay for life. They often return home with different outlooks on life and feel motivated for the future.

PROFILE OF ATTENDEES

The young people who attended were identified by their local community organisations, based on their positive engagement in previous youth sessions. Below provides an overview of the participant's profile:



The community organisations involved were summer HAF providers that StreetGames selected based on their experience working with young people as well as the cohort of young people they engage. Members of staff from each organisation attended the residential to provide support for the young people who attended their provision.

 **Locally Trusted Organisation Location**

 **Plas-y-Brenin**



AuraUp – Birmingham

Blesst CIC - Birmingham

Crescent Archers - Birmingham

Infinite Wellbeing - Derbyshire

Parkside High - Derbyshire

Pitch2Progress – Birmingham

RESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES

The young people took part in the following activities over the course of the residential:



Kayaking & Canoeing



Paddle Boarding



Climbing



High Ropes & Zip Lines



Mountain Walking & Navigation Skills



Team-building Activities



Abseiling



Orienteering



Raft Building



Low Ropes

The activities were all delivered by the expert instructors from Plas Y Brenin. The activities gave young people the chance to try new things outside their usual environment. The young people were encouraged to work together, problem solve, support each other and face their fears.

Outside of these activities, the young people had the opportunity to meet new people from other organisations, which gave them the chance to broaden their social horizons and gain an understanding of different cultures and perspectives.

OUTCOMES

The evaluation process for this residential involved gathering feedback from the participants and project leaders.

- A short survey with the participants before attending the residential and towards the end of the residential.
- A short project leader survey
- Informal conversations with young people and staff onsite.

PARTICIPANTS

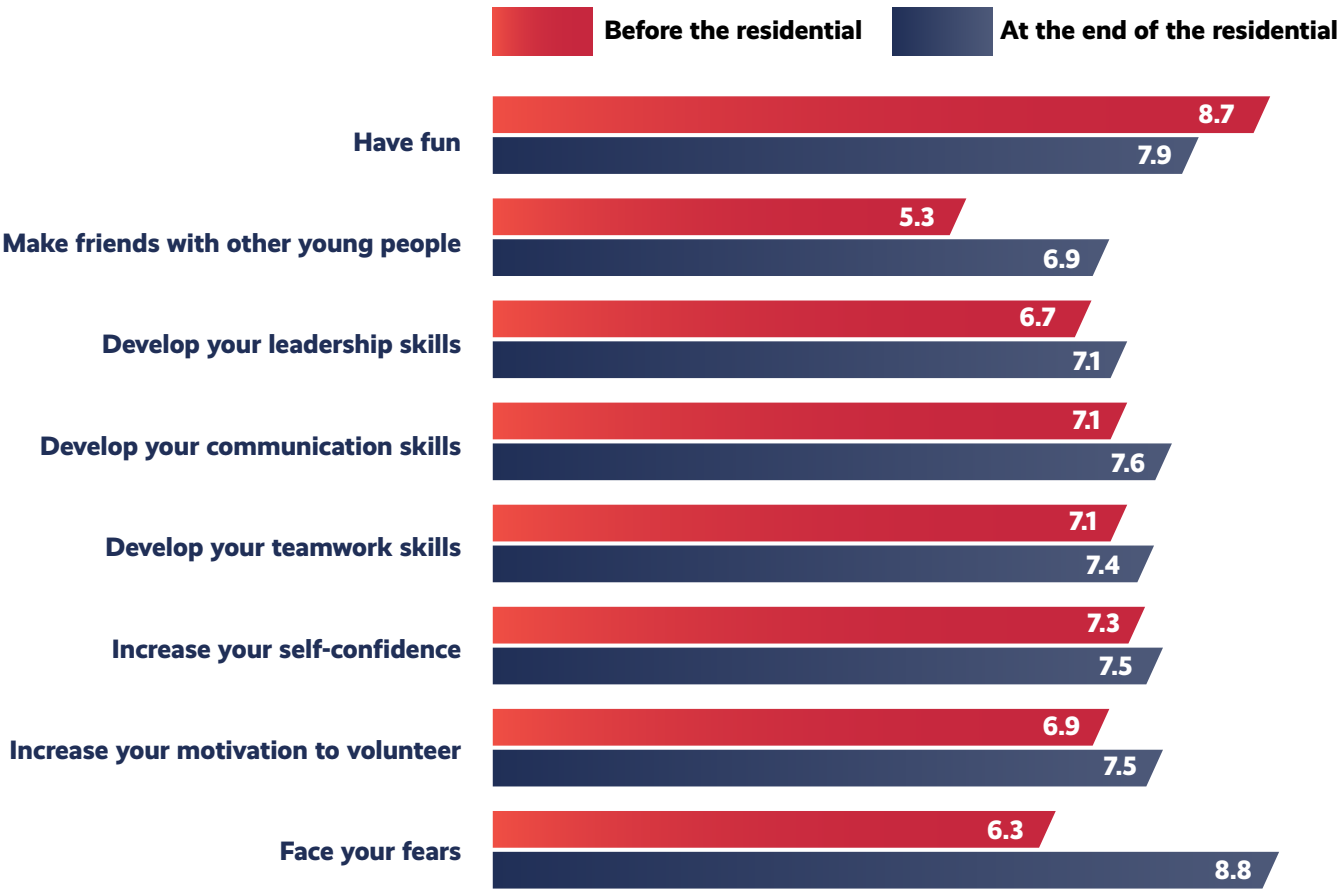
Before the residential, participants were asked to complete a short baseline survey. The aim of this exercise was to establish how important, on a scale of 1-10, each aspect was to them at the outset of the residential.

Another sample of participants were then asked the same questions towards the end of the residential, allowing us to show how much they felt they had learnt with regard to each aspect, during their time at Plas Y Brenin.

The chart below compares the responses from before and towards the end of the residential.

Before the residential, participants were asked “how important is it to...”. On day five they were asked “how much have you...”. Responses were given on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being least important and 10 being most important.

**Due to practical constraints, not all participants completed a survey. The table highlights the sample size for each survey.*



The responses indicated that the young people had a positive and impactful experience during their time at Plas Y Brenin. The most significant change was in the number of participants who felt they had faced their fears, with scores rising from 6.3 to 8.8. This suggests that the activities were successful in encouraging young people to step outside their comfort zones, supported by their peers.

Observations from supporting staff reinforced this. Many young people were initially hesitant to take part in the activities, whether due to fear, unfamiliarity, or fear of failure. However, with consistent encouragement and support from staff from their own organisations, StreetGames, and Plas Y Brenin, they engaged. Over the course of the three days, staff noted a visible shift in many participants’ confidence and willingness to try new things.

Another notable increase was in making friends with other young people, which rose from 5.3 to 6.9, highlighting the value of bringing together young people from different backgrounds and organisations. These interactions often help participants expand their perspectives and understand alternative beliefs and ways of thinking.

There were also improvements in areas such as leadership, communication, teamwork, self-confidence, and motivation to volunteer, showing that the residential provided a well-rounded experience that supported development.

Interestingly, while having fun was rated highly before the residential (8.7), it slightly decreased to 7.9 by the end. This may be due to an increased focus on the development aspects of the residential. However, fun was still the second highest scoring aspect in the follow up survey.

PROJECT LEADERS

As part of the evaluation process, project leaders were also asked to provide feedback via an online survey. The project leaders were asked to rate on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being excellent, 1 being poor) how they had found a number of aspects of the residential. The chart below shows the average response.



The project leaders were also asked how much they felt the young volunteers from their project had gained by attending the residential. The chart below shows the average response to the question “At this residential, how much do you think the young volunteers from your project have ...”, on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being ‘not at all’ and 5 being ‘a lot’.



Had fun



Made friends with young people from other organisations



Developed leadership skills



Developed communication skills



Developed team working skills



Increased in personal confidence



Increased in self-esteem



Increased motivation to volunteer



Faced fears

The majority of results from project leaders demonstrated a clear increase in the skills successfully developed through the residential, however, it also highlighted an opportunity for further development. These results can help us shape future residentials to create further chances for connection between young people from different organisations, as well as a chance to increase leadership skills.

Thank you to the funders who made this residential possible: StreetGames, Bring it on Brum!, It's About Me Derbyshire and Feathers Association.

