

THE ISSUE

Barton Hill is one of the youngest and most diverse neighbourhoods in Bristol, home to people of **77** nationalities. It's also one of the most deprived. Did you know that?

- Young people in the population

19% National average
27% Barton Hill

- Children in low-income families

19% National average
38% Barton Hill

- Unemployment in young people

7.7% National average
15% Barton Hill

The Barton Hill community have been telling us that there is nowhere for young people to go and be safe.

Funding for youth services is expected to decrease from £1.42 million in 2023/24 to £825,000 by 2025/26¹, meaning the number of young people supported may decrease. This could leave young people even more vulnerable.

Since the start of 2023, there has been on average over one knife crime incident per week in Bristol², driven by a combination of poverty, fear, marginalisation and exploitation².

THE SOLUTION

Wellspring Settlement and Bristol Somali Resource Centre are collectively designing and delivering a brand-new, dedicated youth space in Lawrence Hill. This will:

Improve social connections and confidence in young people, and improve community cohesion.



Improve economic opportunities for all ages through integrated financial, employment and other advice and support.



Host partner organisations who can deliver youth specialised services



Community groups are calling for action to prevent the escalation of negative impact towards our vulnerable youth. Initiatives must consider socioeconomic factors, education and support.
Would you like to join us?

TIMELINE

April 2020: Funding granted for purchase and initial building works

May 2020: Purchase of The Swan

May 2021: Work started to make the building safe

December 2022: Youth consultations started

2023: Funding granted for main build and youth work

January 2024: Building main work started

May 2024: Consultation with local young people and local services

New space to be opened in Autumn 2024



1: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-64914003>

2: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-68478476>