Youth Identified Issues

During 2017 and 2018 On the Table conversations, youth participants identified the following areas as top priorities that need to be addressed: bullying, mental health, job opportunities for teenagers, and drug use.

Keep these points in mind

- Lake County has over 115,000 youth under age 18.
- Lake County ranks 74 out of 92 counties in the state of Indiana for clinical care.
- 8% of Lake County residents ages 16-19 are neither working nor in school.
- According to the 2018 Indiana Youth Survey, approximately 10% of Northwest Indiana 6th graders have used alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs in the past 30 days. Approximately 18% of the Region’s young adults (18-24 years old) do not have a high school diploma.
Prompts

1. Think of a way your community can support youth leadership and activism. Do you know of any groups currently doing this in your community?

2. How can we work together to ensure youth receive proper support for positive mental health? Do you believe this is something that should be incorporated in the classroom?

3. Thinking about jobs for teens, how can local businesses support job opportunities and career readiness?

4. Does your community currently have a support system for drug addiction for youth? What resources do you think are needed, and how can this be implemented throughout the county?