

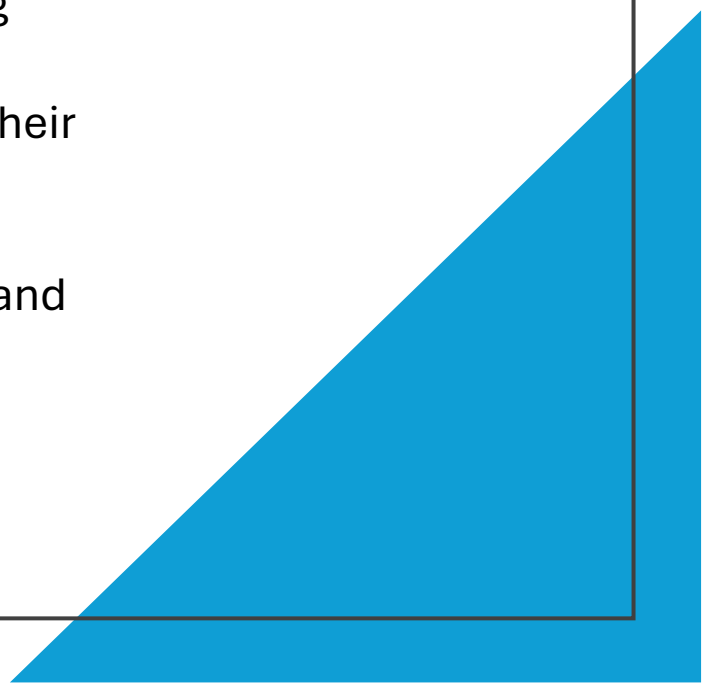
# School exclusions and youth violence

Peer Action Collective, McPin Foundation

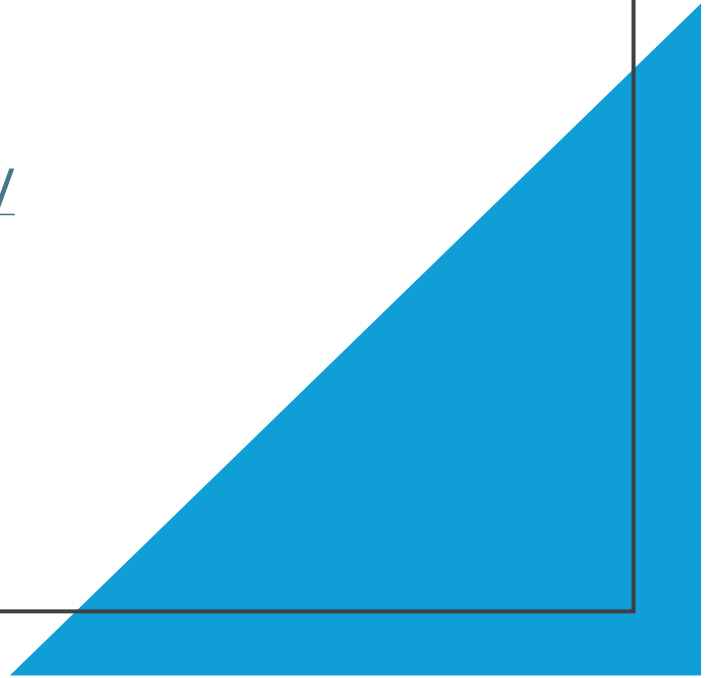


The peer research included workshops, focus groups and an online survey gathering insights from 71 young people aged between 12 and 23-years-old.

**Key findings and recommendations include:**

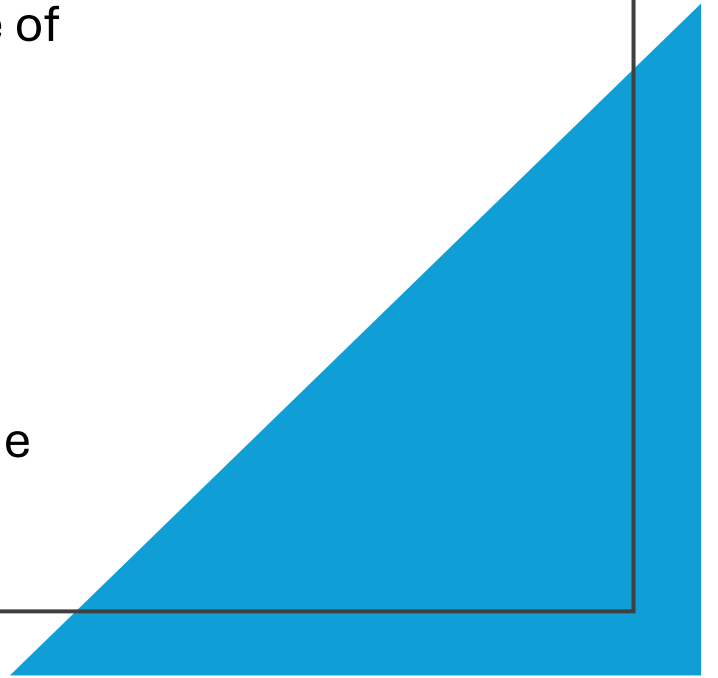
- Young people felt that experiences of exclusions could increase a young person's likelihood of becoming involved in violence.
  - Holistic support from schools is needed to help young people manage their emotions and build their emotional intelligence and resilience.
  - Schools should adopt a personalised approach to supporting students before, during and after exclusion, to help them feel valued, supported and understood.
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- The report recommends eight solutions for schools, both in order to protect young people from becoming involved in youth violence, and to support those who are involved.
- <https://mcpin.org/resource/pac-summary-oct-2024/>

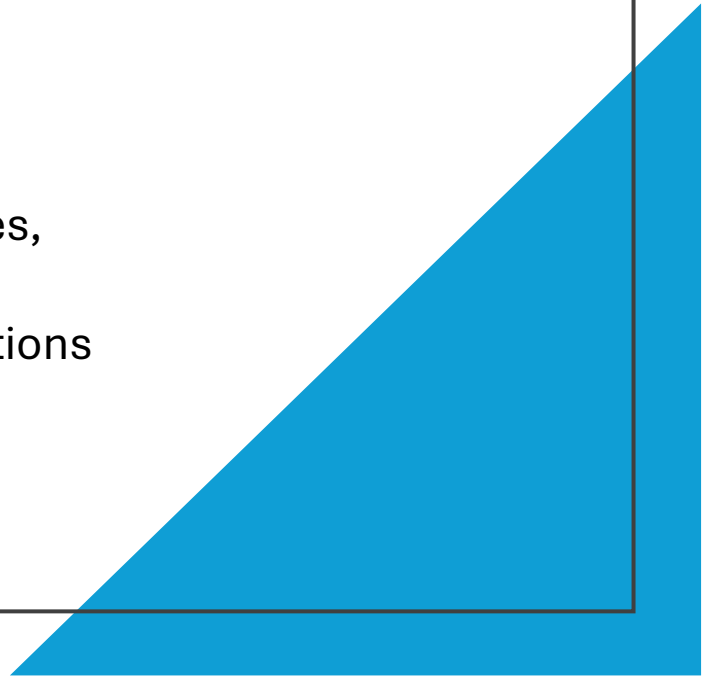


## THE SOLUTIONS:

- Involve the student, and potentially parents, as early as possible in the decision
- Ensure consistency across all students.
- Have a supportive and open conversation to hear the perspective of the student
- Keeping teaching support as a constant for excluded students to encourage them to stay engaged with work and school.
- School should consider the root cause, the students' impacts. The students home and life



- Supporting engagement in the school community
- Supporting young people affected by gangs, don't kick them out
- Spot the early signs and provide support
- Prioritise understanding the root cause of students' violent behaviour instead of punishing.
- Providing programmes like anger management, mental health support, aspiration building, academic support, help groups
- Safety of child walking home after late detention.
- Impact of learning and exam periods.
- After an exclusion schools should keep children engaged with activities, hobbies, outlets during and after exclusion to help them process.
- Support students to reflect on their behaviour, understanding their actions and impacts and how to change their behaviour.



- Schools should provide space for conversations, guidance and advice to raise awareness of and prevent students getting involved in violence. This should include conversations with people who have lived experience of things like violence, prison and gang membership.
- Schools need to take a holistic approach to supporting young people, considering and addressing the student's wider environment.
- The relationships students have with teachers is vital to their experience of school and potential exclusions. Teachers should provide positive connections with students as this can help motivate them not be excluded.

