

Appendix 3 Responses to debate on poverty discrimination

Below are responses to a debate held within the stereotyping and discrimination seminar. The following statements (**in bold**) and youth responses to these statements. The quotes are taken directly from participants. We have included a couple of quotes.

Debate:

Do you think that discrimination around poverty is increasing or decreasing over time and why?

“Some people are still being judged.”

“The government are saying stuff like: people without jobs, need to find jobs on their own”

“Poor people are being left to just deal with it”

“There is a stigma within society”

The young people through discussions felt that discrimination around poverty is increasing. Having spoken to staff from Street Angels and the Foodbank, we know that for some people lining up to get ‘hand outs’ can be very embarrassing, therefore there are families out there not accessing this support in case someone that they know sees them lining up. Also, through discussions we were told that people feel that they are stereotyped, and that it is only families accessing benefits, or single parents, the unemployed and elderly etc that are struggling to manage to pay the bills day to day. In fact, there was also a discussion around parents who were working, but on a low wage and could not pay their bills, even families with two parents working, but again being paid a low wage were also struggling to make ends meet. There should be more support to help these parents. Jobs need to pay a decent wage that people can live off. There does not appear to be many jobs which in fact pay a decent wage. And young people starting out working and living on their own are still paid minimum wage. They struggle to pay their bills and afford to eat. In the discussion it was talked about that those seeking help may feel guilt and shame that they are in this position. This is not right, and we need to find a way to support everyone. There was also discussion about period poverty.