

13-19 Youth Survey 2008

**Produced by The Corporate Research Team, Borough of
Poole in January 2009**

**On behalf of Children and Young People's Integrated
Services**

Purpose of the Report

This report summarises the findings of a self-completion survey of young people in Poole. The aim of the survey was to develop greater understanding of young people's lifestyles and related needs across the Borough to help inform planning across services for this age group. The survey was conducted in November 2008. It was able to reach 10% of local young people aged between 13 – 19 years, and to reflect this local population by gender, ethnicity and area of residence.

Executive Summary

- a) Improved activities are the 'one change' that young people would make in the Borough, given the choice. Although 91% of the young people surveyed have participated in at least one leisure activity in the past month, 83% would like to get more involved in activities than they currently are. However, a lack of information, time, and local availability are felt to be key barriers to participation, followed by affordability and 'not having anyone to go with'.
- b) 37% of the respondents feel valued as a young person. Those who didn't felt that young people were stereotyped, and that their opinions were not respected by adults. However, young people were almost twice as likely than adults to feel that they could influence the local decision making process.
- c) The young respondents generally have a positive perception of advice and support services in Poole. Although their overall preference is to seek advice about their problems from their parents or friends, around a fifth of young people would be happy to approach their teachers and youth workers for assistance. In terms of future information provision, statutory sources also rank well. The young people would particularly like information about advice and support services communicated to them 'via school', 'via the internet', and 'via youth centres'.
- d) 90% of the respondents travel by bus – 55% of whom do so at least once a week. However, further use is discouraged by limited local routes and the cost of bus fares - in particular the need to pay an adult fare when still under 18 or in full time education.
- e) 42% of the respondents did not know if they had a Healthy Schools Programme in their school. 61% of the young respondents eat less than 5 pieces of fruit and vegetables each day, although 52% stated that their consumption has increased over the past year, and 57% have increased the amount of exercise they do each week.
- f) 79% of the respondents are currently non-smokers. However, drinking is more prevalent, with 74% having tried alcohol more than once, and 44% having been drunk on more than one occasion. The respondents reported that most often their initial introduction to alcohol had been through their parents / carers.
- g) Less than a fifth of respondents had tried illegal drugs, and only 12% had done so more than once. For a significant majority of these respondents, cannabis was the tried substance.
- h) Young people generally feel safe in Poole. However, like adults, their feelings of safety when out and about are notably lower during the evening. Their fears arise particularly as areas tend to be less well lit at night and they feel that they can rely less on the police being easily available. Concern was also expressed about drunken behaviour

and about fighting between groups of young people; over a quarter of respondents feel that young people from different backgrounds are unable to get on.

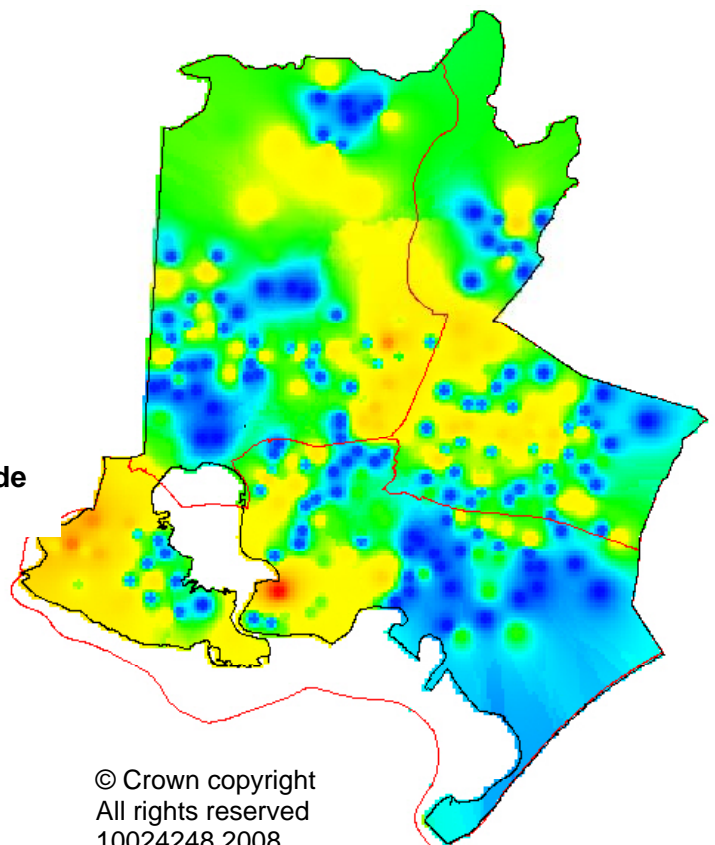
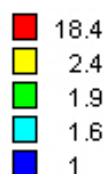
- i) 14% of the young people who had responded to the survey stated that they had a long term illness, health problem or disability that limited their daily activities. A third of these young people felt that they did not receive enough support.
- j) Over two thirds of respondents reported experiencing at least one form of bullying over the past 12 months – most often in the form of social stigmatisation or segregation. Experiences of being bullied were notably higher amongst respondents with a disability or ill health.

The Respondents

In total, 994 young people completed the Youth Survey. They came from across the Borough and represented a range of ages and backgrounds:

- 53% of the respondents were male, 47% female.
- 68% of respondents recorded their age as between 13 –16 yrs, 12% were aged 17 – 19 yrs and 20% recorded their age as outside of the 13 – 19 age range.
- 14% of respondents stated that they had a long term illness, health problem or disability which limited their daily activities.
- 85% of respondents were White British. The remaining 15% was made up of 1.6% of Asian origin (eg. *Bangladeshi / Malaysian*), 1% of Black origin, 0.4% of a Chinese background, 3% from a mixed race background, 4% from an 'other white background' (including *Irish, Australian, South African*), and 1% from an 'other' ethnic group (eg. *Gypsy*). 4% of respondents did not state their ethnic group.
- Of those respondents who provided their postcode and who lived within the Borough of Poole (648), 27% lived within the Children's Locality East area, 39% within Locality South, and 34% within Locality West. The adjacent Hotspot Map shows in more detail the spread of respondents from within the Borough of Poole.

Count of respondent postcode within census output area

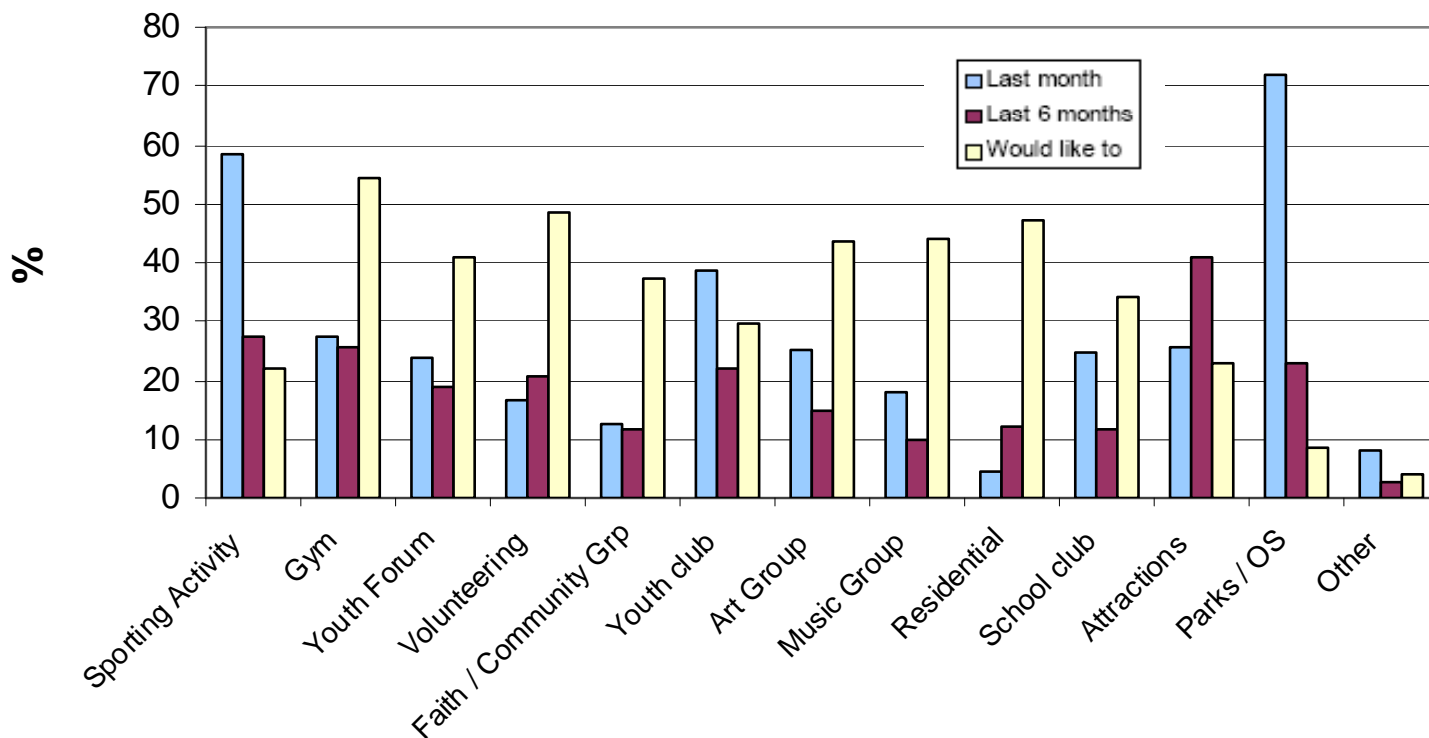


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Section One – Participation in Activities

The chart below (Fig.1) shows reported participation in a range of activities available to young people in Poole. In addition to providing data on activity for the past month and six month periods, it also compares where young people would like to participate, but are not currently doing so.

Fig.1: Participation in Activities
(Base:Q1a), b), c) Valid %)



The respondents were given a choice of twelve activities, and the opportunity to add any that they felt were relevant, but not on the list. These activities ranged from sports and arts based activities, to membership of youth or community groups, volunteering, involvement in organised residential or school activities and independent visits to local parks and attractions.

As the chart shows, the young people's responses indicated that visiting parks and open spaces (72% during the past month) and sporting activities (58% in the same period) were the most commonly undertaken activities. These were followed by involvement in a youth club or youth group with organised activities (39%).

It is also notable that the proportion of young people who have visited local attractions is higher when the past six-month period is taken into account (41% compared to 26% in the past month). This longer period would, of course, have encompassed the school summer holidays.

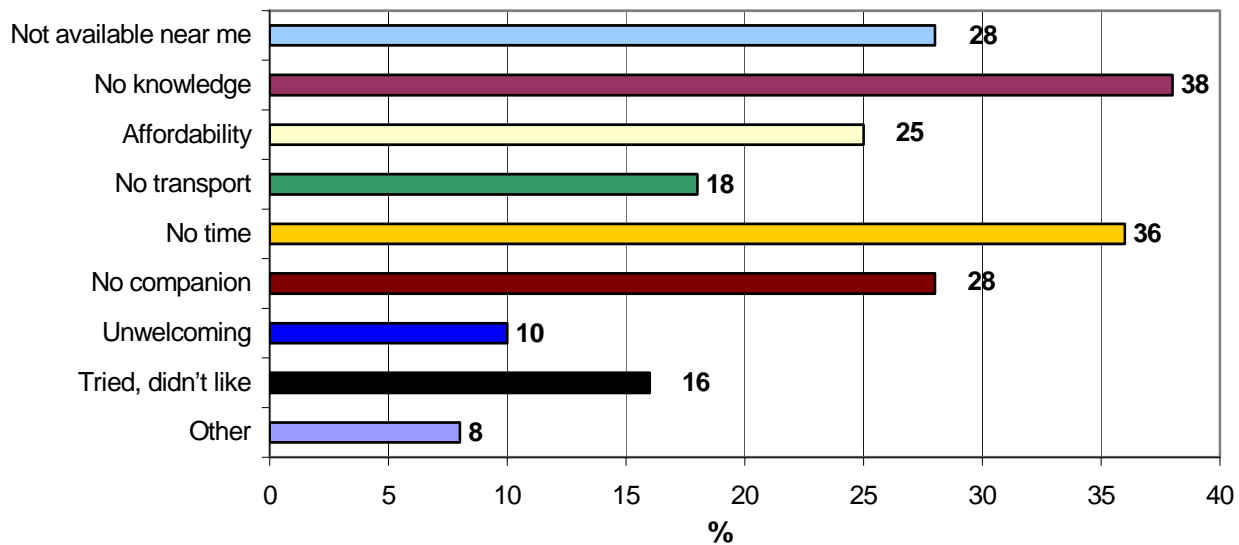
Overall, 91% of the young people who responded to the survey stated that they had participated in at least one activity during the past month. However, as the chart suggests, many (83%) would like to get more involved in activities than they currently are.

The most common aspiration was for further opportunities to ‘visit the gym’. 54% of the young people who responded would like to do so, but currently do not. The survey also revealed that over two fifths of respondents would like increased involvement in volunteering (49%), residential courses (47%), music and art groups (44%) and youth forums (41%). In addition, around a third of respondents would like to become more involved in youth clubs (30%), faith or community groups (37%) and after school/breakfast clubs (34%).

So, given this high level of desire – what is stopping these young people from getting more involved in local activities?

Fig.2: Barriers to Participation in Activities

(Base: Q2. 846 respondents)



As the chart above (Fig.2) shows, the young people felt that there were a number of barriers to getting involved. Most prominent of these was that they simply ‘don’t know what activities are available’ (38%), or that they ‘haven’t got time to take part’ (36%). However, lack of local availability, affordability and ‘someone to go with’ were also concerns for over a quarter of respondents.

Finally, the young people were asked what they thought about the range of activities available to them in the local area. Under half (47%) felt that the range of activities was ‘good’, with only 8% feeling that there was a ‘very good’ range of activities for young people in their area. Indeed, a quarter of respondents (25%) felt that the range of activities for young people in Poole was ‘fairly poor’ or ‘very poor’ – mainly as they felt there was ‘nothing to do’ in their local area, limited facilities available, or that the activities they could do were too costly. The remaining respondents (29%) felt that local activities were neither good nor poor.

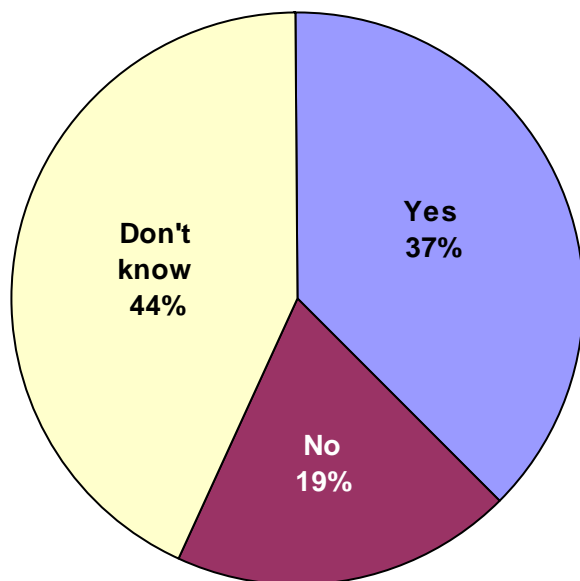
Section Two – ‘Your Place within Poole’

Surveys previously undertaken in the Borough would suggest that young people in Poole are often subject to negative perceptions and preconceptions relating to their behaviour. In 2007, for example, half of the adults responding to the Poole Opinion Panel survey felt that ‘groups gathering on the streets’ was a big problem for the area, and 64% felt that a lack of responsible parenting was a significant issue.

The Youth Survey aimed to consider the other side of the story – to discover what the young people themselves felt about their ‘place within Poole’.

Fig. 3: As a Young Person, Do You Feel Valued?

(Base: Q4. 548 respondents)



As the adjacent chart (*Fig. 3*) shows, only 37% of those who responded to the survey feel valued as a young person.

It is also particularly notable that there is a large proportion of young people in Poole who are unsure whether they are valued in local society (44%).

19% of the young respondents felt that they weren't valued.

In order to learn more and to better understand and address any underlying issues the respondents who felt under-valued were asked why they felt this way. They replied that they felt under-valued due to what they perceived as society's stereotypical views of young people.

They felt that because of a few troublemakers they were all perceived as a nuisance. A sense of strained intergenerational relations between old and young people was particularly apparent.

Some felt that adults did not value their opinions, and that this made them feel that they themselves were of little worth to society. They also felt that the lack of provision for them in terms of activities and facilities reflected how little they were valued.

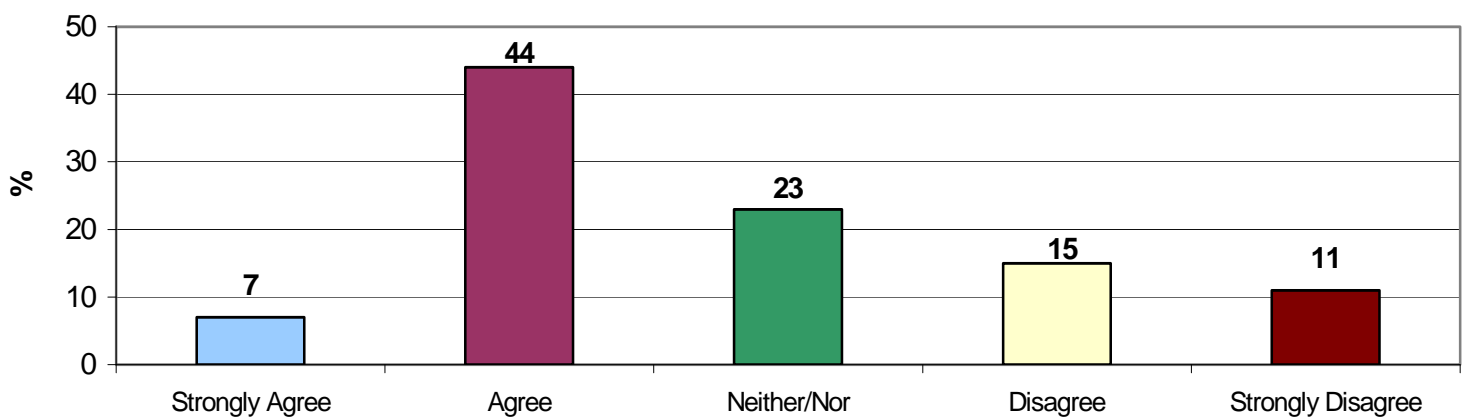
Despite this, over half of the young people surveyed (57%) felt that they were able to influence decisions affecting young people in Poole, with 10% strongly agreeing, and 47% agreeing that this was the case. This figure is particularly encouraging as when a similar question was last posed to adults in Poole (*2006 Best Value Residents Survey*) only a third (34%) felt that they were able to influence the local decision making process.

Nevertheless, in order to better understand and address possible barriers to further involvement, those young people who did not feel that they could influence decisions (21%) were asked why they felt this was the case.

Their responses suggest they feel that they are not listened to and that others do not value their opinions. Many of the young people who commented felt that their opportunities to influence decisions were limited, and when they were consulted, their opinions were given less weight than those of adults.

The young people were also asked how they felt about their relative place in Poole. Did they feel that Poole was a place where young people from different backgrounds can get on well together?

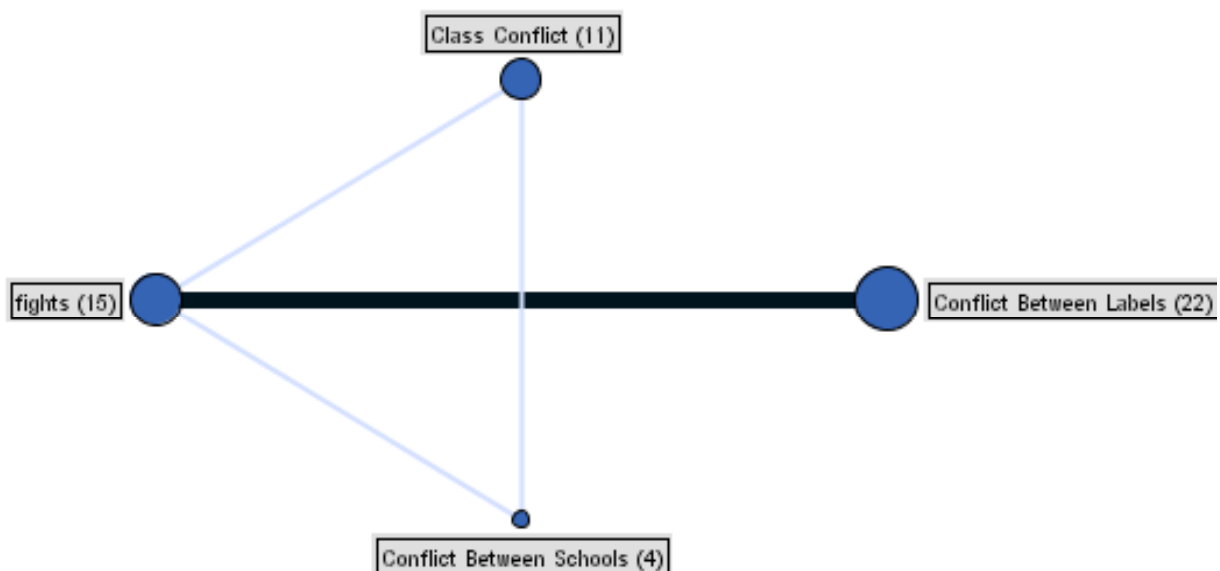
Fig. 4: Young People From Different Backgrounds Can Get On
(Base: Q5b. 775 respondents)



As the chart above (Fig.4) illustrates, half of the survey respondents (51%) felt that young people from different backgrounds could get on well together in Poole – although only 7% strongly agreed that this was the case.

It is also notable that over 25% feel that young people from different backgrounds do not get on well (the remaining 23% had no strong opinion on this subject).

The network diagram below considers why these respondents felt that young people could not get on well together. The circles show the reasons that were mentioned most often by respondents. The linking lines demonstrate the relationships between these categories, with the thicker and darker bars indicating the stronger relationships.

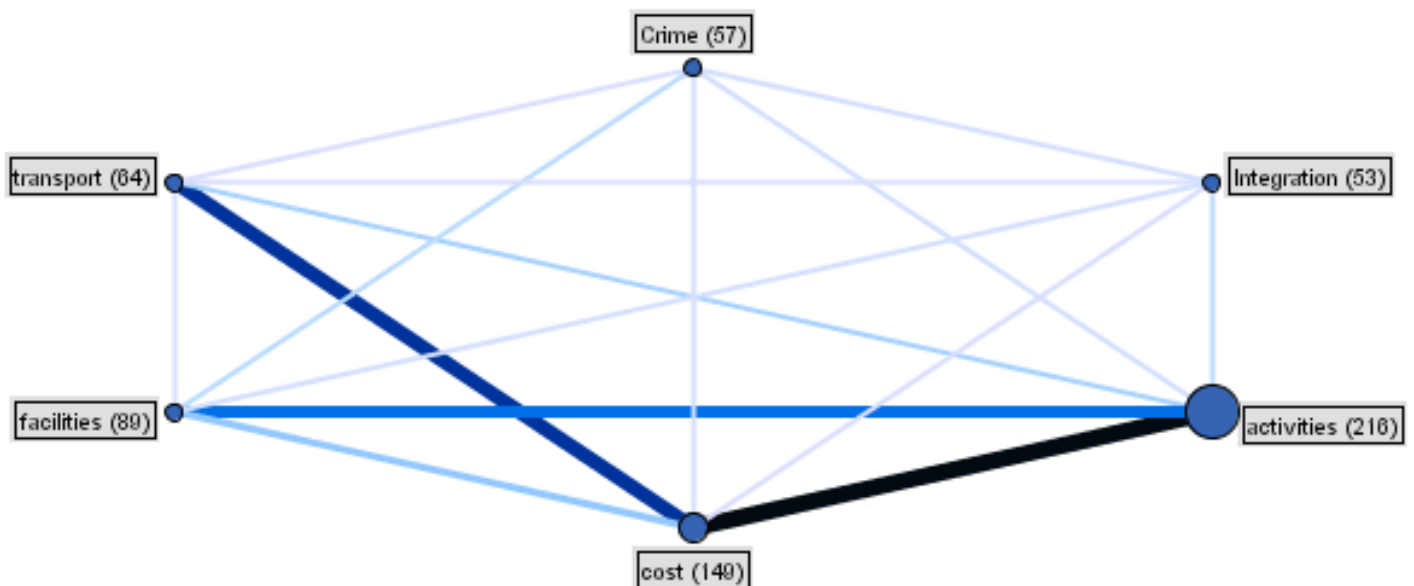


As the large circle on the network diagram above shows, the reason put forward most often as to why young people are not felt to get on well appears to be related to conflict between 'labels' –groups of young people, such as chavs, pikeys, and emos, who are defined by their differences.

Class conflict was also felt to exacerbate issues between people of different backgrounds – differing opportunities and outlook can be seen to create a barrier between, for example, 'rich' and 'poor', or young people from different estates. As the thick bar identifies, these conflicts can manifest themselves as fights between differing groups – another key example of why respondents felt that young people from different backgrounds did not get on.

It is also worth noting that in relation to both influence and integration, there were a significant number of respondents who simply stated that they 'do not know'. It is worth considering whether this response reflects a lack of information or engagement, rather than an uncertainty of opinion.

Given their previous responses, the young people were then asked to suggest how the lives of young people in Poole could be improved. As before, the circles in the network diagram below show the categories that the majority of their responses fall in to and the bars indicate the strength of the relationship.



According to the respondents, the aspect most in need of improvement was 'activities'. In particular they would like to see more opportunities for participation in organised activities such as sporting activities and youth clubs. As the thicker bars on the diagram suggest, often the comments relating to improved activities were also closely related to concerns about the cost of those activities in particular, and a need for improvements to the facilities available both to run these activities (*such as sports centres and youth centres*), and for young people to use in their own, unsupervised activities (*eg. parks and open spaces, skate parks, football pitches*).

The young people would also like to see improvements made to transport for young people within the Borough. As most of the respondents were too young to drive, public transport was seen as important in enabling them to get around the Borough in order to

meet up with friends or access activities. As the thick bar on the diagram indicates, their suggested improvements were often related to the cost of public transport. Many young people would like to see reduced price transport for teenagers (*as discussed in further detail in Section 4*).

Further suggested improvements also reflected concerns raised in the previous section relating to integration of different groups of young people. The respondents felt that the lives of young people could be improved if there was greater understanding between generations, if there was less bullying, or if the culture of groups of young people hanging around on street corners could be addressed – perhaps by improving activities.

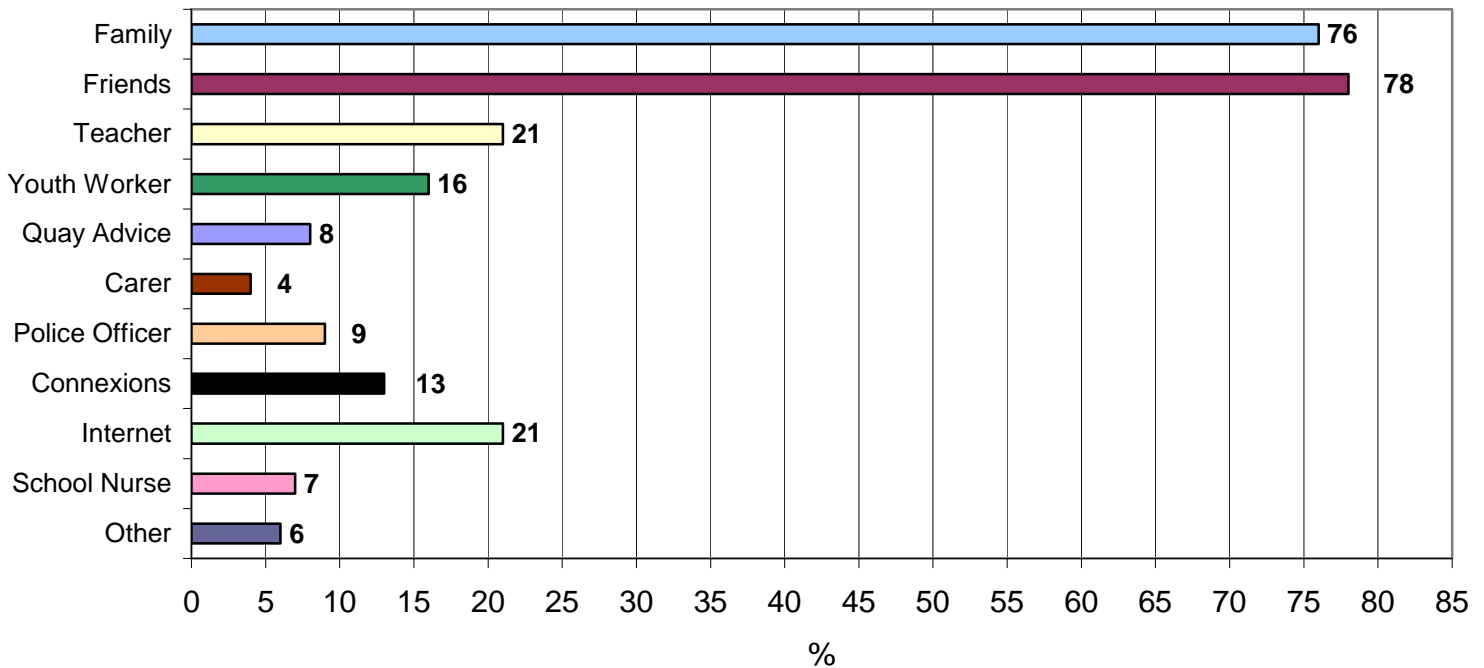
The remaining key aspect for improvement can be defined as relating to ‘crime’ in the area. The young people were concerned about high-profile aspects such as knife crime, but also would like to see less anti-social behaviour and littering. However, this category related not only to a hoped for reduction in the instances of crime, but also to developing a better relationship between the police and young people.

Section Three – Information and Advice

This section of the survey explored how young people access information and advice to help them with their problems, and their thoughts about improving the services provided.

Fig.5. Where would you go to for help / advice about a problem?

(Base: Q7. 971 respondents)

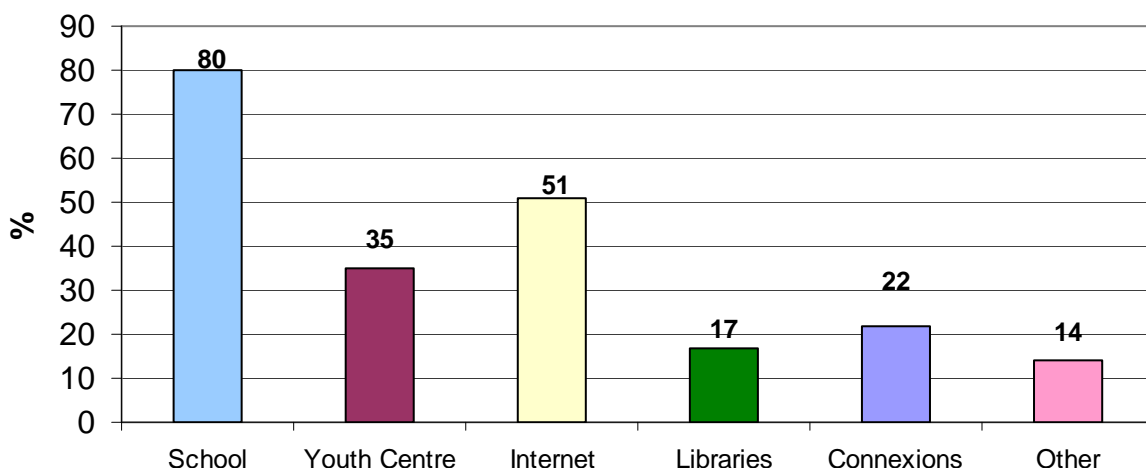


The chart above (Fig. 5) shows where young people would currently go to seek help or advice about a problem. It very clearly indicates that the young respondents rely primarily on their friends (78%) and family (76%) to help them address their issues.

In terms of statutorily provided channels of advice, teachers (21%) and youth workers (16%) are the most preferred sources. These responses are reflected in the young people’s preferences about future provision too. When asked about how they would like to receive information about local services, ‘via school’ (80%) and ‘via youth centres’ (35%) were two of the top three preferences, as the chart below (Fig. 6) illustrates.

Fig.6: Preferred Means of Communicating Information

(Base: Q9. 947 respondents)



'Other' suggestions for communication made by the young people included leaflets posted to their homes, posters or billboards, and more modern methods of communication – for example via email. This new 'virtual network' of support is also one that the respondents hope to see extended. Given a choice of methods (Fig.6), over half of the young people (51%) would like information about services communicated to them via the Internet.

Currently, 21% of the young respondents use the Internet as a source of advice and support. The single site most regularly used to seek help and advice was the Connexions website, although a high number of young people also reported using search engines to seek the answers to their questions.

More general use of the world-wide-web amongst young people is much higher – with 96% of respondents stating that they log on at least once a week, and 63% doing so on a daily basis.

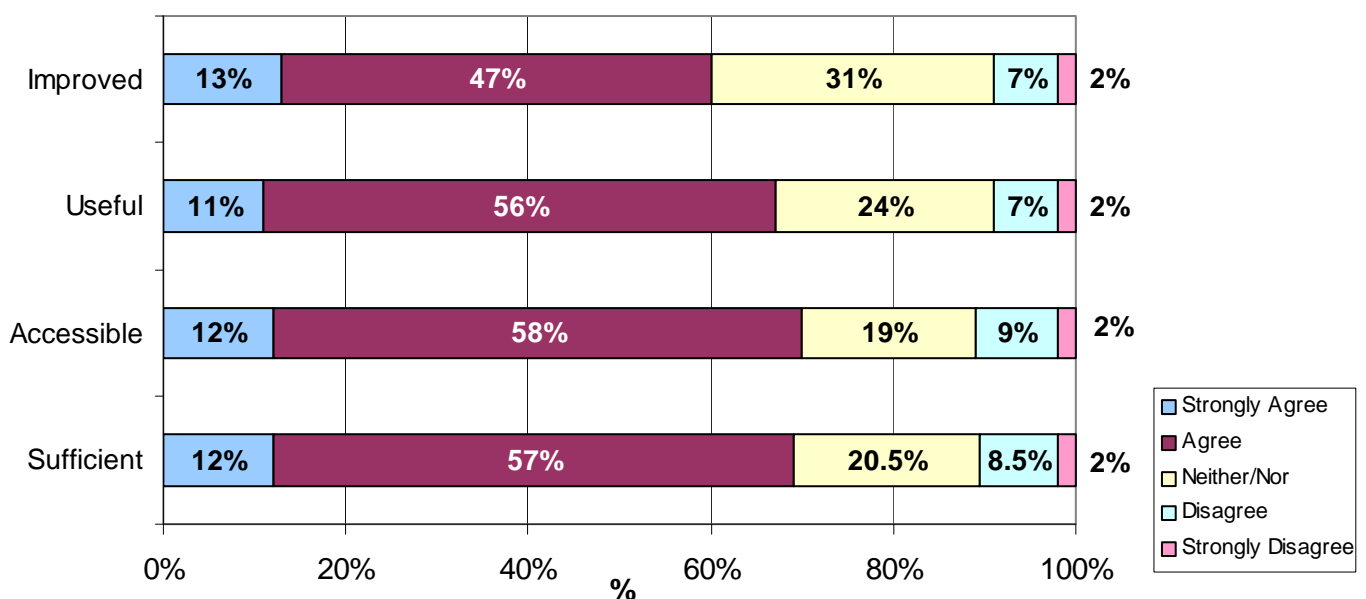
To find out what's going on their area, most of the respondents make use of social networking or messaging websites such as Bebo, Facebook and MSN, or search engines – primarily Google. Encouragingly, the local authority website also seems comparatively well used.

Social networking and messaging sites are also those most used to discuss young people's issues. Highest usage appears to be on Bebo, although MSN and Facebook are also popular methods for debating issues with their peers.

Overall, it can be noted that the young people had a fairly positive perception of local advice and support services available to them in Poole.

Fig.7: Perceptions of Advice and Support Services

(Base: Q8a)b)c)d). Valid %)



69% of the responding young people felt that there is enough information about advice and support services in Poole.

A similar proportion (70%) felt that this advice was also easy to access when required, and was useful to them (67%).

Notably fewer respondents were able to comment on any improvement to advice and support services in the past 12 months (46% of respondents' answer to this question was 'don't know' – perhaps reflecting limited ongoing use). However, of those young people who provided comment, 60% felt that there had been an improvement to the local advice and support services available for them over the past 12 months.

Those young people who had found the information and advice available to them to be unsatisfactory were asked why they felt this way in order to identify possible areas for improvement. The respondents commented that there remained a lack of information about available services. A number of these young people commented that they simply did not know where to go to access advice.

For others, the barrier was more about physically accessing the advice – the centres were not open at convenient times, or were not located near to where they lived.

Others were worried about the actual process of seeking advice. These respondents felt uncomfortable in the situation – particularly the requirement to share their problems with strangers. Some were also concerned that they might be seen going in to the building.

14% of the young people who responded to the Youth Survey stated that they had a long-term illness, health problem or disability that limited their daily activities. A third of these young people felt that they did not receive enough support.

In order to improve their situation, these young people would like to receive further support from doctors in informing them about their illness and helping them to manage it effectively, and improved access to support groups so that they can share with and learn from others.

Section Four – Getting Around

Safe and reliable transport can be vital to ensuring that young people are able to access the services and activities available to them. In order to better understand their use of various transport methods, the respondents were asked to provide further details about the destination and frequency of their local journeys.

Overall, the form of transport used most regularly by the respondents was walking, which 72% do almost every day, and 91% do at least once a week.

In particular, the young people walked to visit their friends (76%) to go out in the evening (54%) and to get to and from school (52%).

Reported use of a car for transport was also high. 64% of the young people travelled by car almost once each day, and 91% did so at least once per week. This was most often in order to get to activities or to go out in the evening (both 74%).

It was also interesting to note that only 48% of the respondents reported travelling to school by car.

In contrast, the train was the least used form of transport – perhaps a reflection of limited rail coverage within the Borough of Poole. 39% of respondents stated that they ‘never’ used the train, and only 19% used it more than once a month. Where the train was used, this was most often to ‘go shopping’ (51%).

Bus travel, however, was a much more regularly used form of public transport. 27% of the young people stated that they took the bus almost every day, and a further 28% did so at least once a week. In contrast to train travel, only 10% of the respondents never used the bus.

Most notably, the young people used the bus to ‘go shopping’. 78% used the bus for this purpose – indeed it was their most popular means of getting to the shops. However, use of the bus to travel to other locations and activities was markedly lower – for example only 37% used a bus to get to school or to visit friends, 29% to go out in the evening and only 24% to travel to activities.

So, what would encourage further use of the local buses? Perhaps unsurprisingly the young people were particularly keen on a suggestion of ‘cheaper fares for younger people at all times’ (97%), and others requested free passes. This suggests that cost is a currently a key factor discouraging use.

More regular services in both the daytime and evening were encouraged by over a third of respondents (37% and 36% respectively), as was a need for more routes around a local area (37%).

‘Other’ things that would encourage the young people to use the buses more often included improved conditions on the buses – in terms of cleanliness and comfort in particular.

Some young people were also discouraged from using buses by the attitude of the drivers, who they felt looked down on young people.

The young people also felt that they were more likely to use the buses if the timetables were made easier to understand. They also raised concerns about the reliability of the buses.

Only 10% of respondents had no interest at all in using the buses.

Finally, the young people were asked to comment on their use of bikes to get around. 17% of respondents stated that they travelled by bike almost every day, with a further 19% doing so at least once a week – mainly to visit their friends (77%) or to get to activities (49%). Around a quarter of the respondents currently 'never' cycle (26%), and 20% have no interest in doing so.

Safety appears to be the main concern amongst the young people when undertaking journeys by bike. 58% of respondents would be more likely to cycle if the roads were safer, and more cycle lanes would encourage 51% onto their bike. The security of the bike itself was also an issue for the one-third of respondents (33%) who requested additional secure storage. Time was also seen as a barrier to cycling by 36% of respondents, although access to a bike (16%) and confidence on it (15%) were felt to be of less concern.

Section Five – Your Health

This section of the survey aimed to provide an insight into the health of young people in the Borough of Poole, through measurement of consumption and activity.

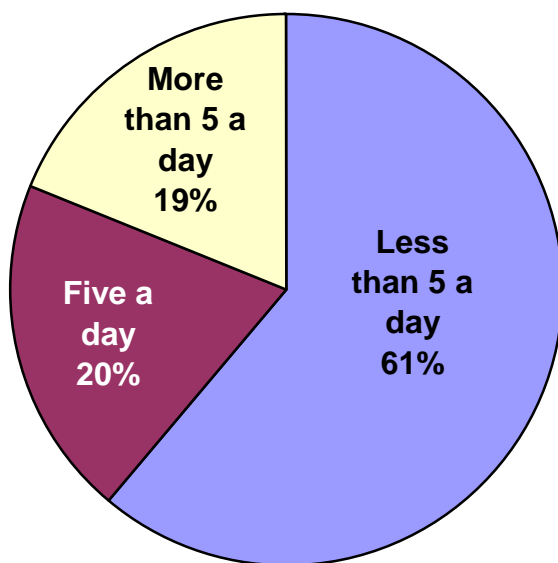
The National Healthy Schools Programme aims to equip children and young people with the skills and knowledge to make informed health and life choices and to reach their full potential. 78% of Poole schools have currently achieved National Healthy Schools Status – but to what extent are the young people aware of this initiative?

51% of the young respondents confirmed that they had a 'Healthy Schools' programme in their school, and 7% stated that they did not. However, 42% of the respondents stated that they 'did not know' whether a 'Healthy Schools' programme was in operation at their school.

The young people were also asked about their consumption of fruit and vegetables. The pie-chart *below* (Fig.8) shows the number of pieces of fruit and vegetables eaten by respondents on a daily basis.

Fig.8: Pieces of Fruit and Veg Eaten Per Day

(Base: Q17. 931 respondents)



As the chart illustrates, 61% of the young people reported eating less than five pieces of fruit and vegetables each day. Within this figure their consumption ranged from 5% eating zero pieces, through 10% eating one piece, 14% two pieces, 19% three pieces and 13% four pieces of fruit and vegetables each day.

The remaining two-fifths of respondents ate five (20%) or more (19%) pieces of fruit and vegetables each day.

More positively, 52% of the young respondents reported an increase in the amount of fruit and vegetables they have eaten during the past year.

Only 12% of respondents reported a decrease in their fruit and vegetable consumption, and the remaining 36% reported no change over the past year.

The Department of Health recommends that 'children and young people should achieve a total of at least 60 minutes of at least moderate intensity physical activity each day' (*At Least Five a Week Report 2004*).

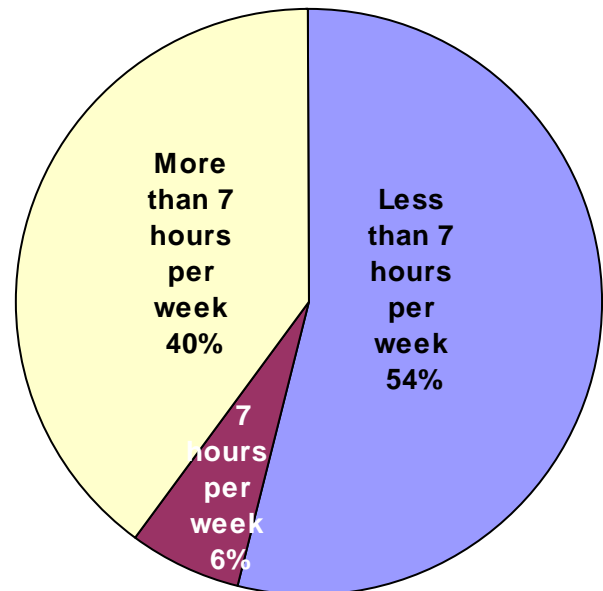
Although not a direct comparison, the young people's responses suggest that this target may be being better met than that relating to fruit and vegetable consumption.

As the adjacent pie chart shows, overall, 46% of the young people reported doing seven or more hours of exercise outside of school each week.

54% of respondents stated that they undertook less than seven hours of exercise outside of school each week. However, it is likely that many of these young people will have completed at least a further 2 hours of physical education within school.

Fig.9: Hours of Exercise Per Week Outside School

(Base: Q18. 900 Respondents)



Only 38% of the young people reported doing less than 5 hours exercise per week out of school. Within this figure their levels varied from zero hours (4%) through one hour (7%), to two hours (10%), three hours (9%) and four hours (7%) per week.

Overall, 57% of respondents felt that the amount of exercise they do has increased over the past year. In contrast, 19% felt that the amount of exercise they do has fallen. 24% reported that the amount of exercise they undertake has remained unchanged.

The survey also explored the young people's less healthy lifestyle choices – covering aspects such as smoking, drinking and use of drugs.

According to the survey, 79% of the young respondents don't currently smoke, with 61% considering themselves 'non smokers' and a further 18% have discontinued smoking – either having tried a cigarette only once (13%) or having successfully quit their smoking habit (5%).

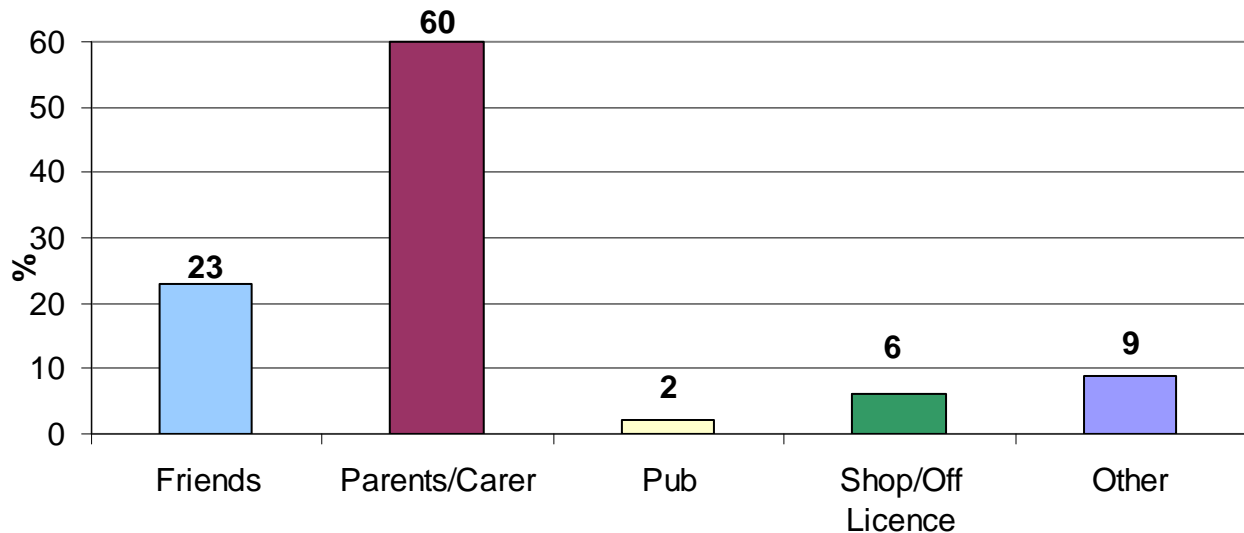
21% of the respondents reported being current smokers, of whom 14% smoke regularly, and 7% smoke on an occasional basis.

In terms of alcohol consumption, 90% of the respondents reported having tried alcohol – 74% of whom have done so more than once.

Of those young people who have tried alcohol, over 50% have had so much that they became drunk. 12% have been drunk once, and 44% have been drunk on more than one occasion.

The chart below (Fig.10) shows how those young people who have tried alcohol accessed their first alcoholic drink.

Fig.10: Accessed First Alcoholic Drink Through.
(Base: Q22. 842 Respondents)



As it illustrates, the predominant source of the young people's first alcoholic drink was their parents or carers. 60% of the respondents first accessed alcohol in this way, compared to 23% who received the alcohol from their friends, 6% who obtained it from a shop or off-licence and 2% who first drank alcohol in a pub. Only 9% of respondents obtained their first drink from another source – mainly via siblings, wider relations, on a special occasion (eg at a wedding) or by 'borrowing it' from home.

Reported consumption of illegal substances was much lower than that of alcohol and tobacco. Overall, less than a fifth of respondents (169 people) had tried any drugs¹, of whom two thirds (111 people) had done so more than once.

Most often the drug of choice was cannabis. Of the 127 young people who specified the type of drugs they had taken, 121 reported trying cannabis. For 88 of these young people, cannabis was the only drug they had tried.

Use of 'harder' drugs usually arose in young people who had tried more than one substance. Those who reported trying two drugs (12) had most often used cannabis and ecstasy, speed or poppers.

The aforementioned substances were usually found in the list of drugs taken by those who had gone even further in their usage. Additional substances reported by those respondents who had tried three or more drugs (17 young people) included cocaine (all 17), and hallucinogens such as mushrooms and LSD. Two respondents reported trying heroin.

¹ Other than alcohol, tobacco or medicines.

Section Six – Your Safety

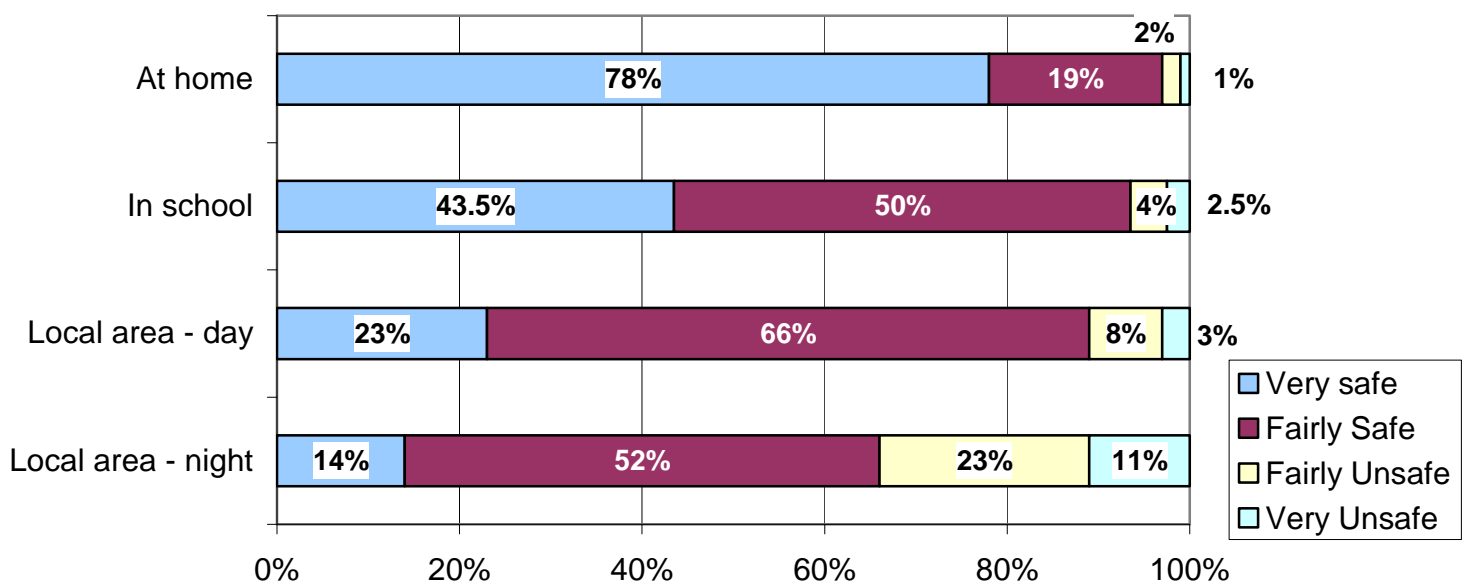
The questions in this section relate to the young people’s perceptions of their personal safety and their experiences of bullying.

Generally, the picture is positive - the data shows that young people do feel safe in Poole. 98% stated that they feel safe at home, 93% feel safe in school and 89% feel safe in their local area during the day.

However, a look at the following chart (Fig.11) in more detail, suggests that perceptions of safety do still vary depending on circumstance.

Fig.11: How Safe or Unsafe Do You Feel. . . ?

(Base: Q24a)b)c)d). Valid%

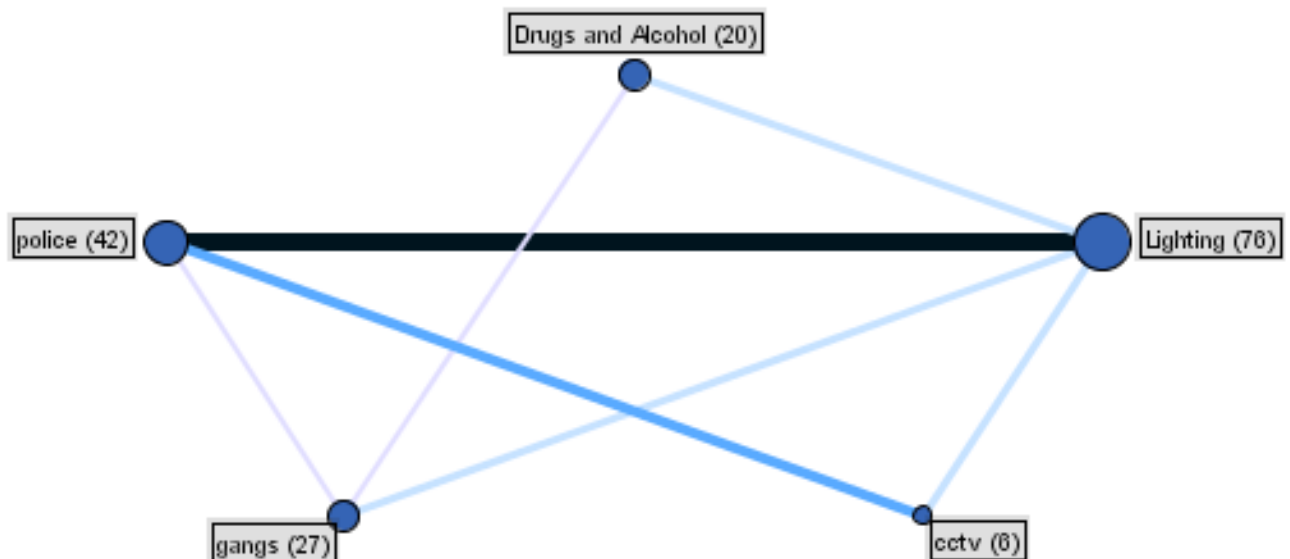


This is most notable when comparing young people’s feeling of safety ‘when out and about in the local area during the evening’, with the other three circumstances. Overall, 66% of young people feel safe when out and about in the evening – around a quarter less than feel safe at home, at school, or when out in the daytime.

There is also a marked variation in the proportion of respondents who felt ‘very safe’ in each circumstance. For example, the chart shows that only ‘at home’ did more young people feel ‘very’ safe than ‘fairly’ safe. Most notably, only 43.5% felt ‘very safe’ in school.

In order to improve their feelings of safety, the young people would most like to see five particular improvements in their area, as the following network diagram shows.

First of these was improved lighting in the area – perhaps an unsurprising suggestion given that the majority of those who felt unsafe, did so ‘at night’. More lights were requested along the streets and also in alleyways – which were less well overlooked.



Many of the young people who requested better lighting, also felt that having more police patrolling the streets would make them feel safer. The young people felt that this would make them feel safer as they would know that someone was looking out for their wellbeing, and were in easy reach if they had a problem.

They would also support more CCTV cameras watching them, for similar reasons.

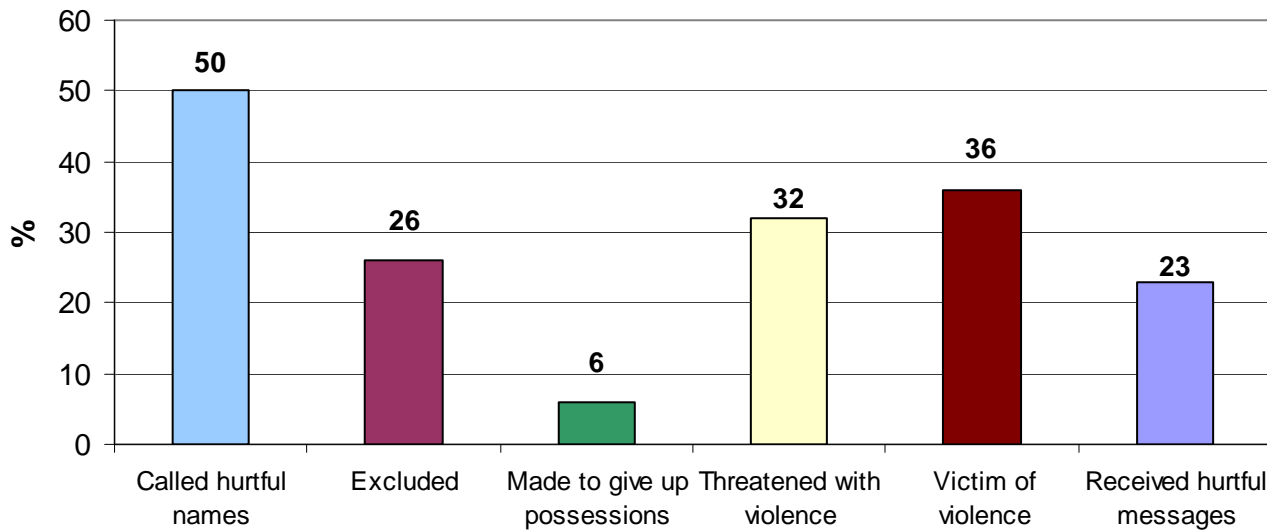
Current issues that the young people felt threatened their safety included the 'gang' culture, and excessive substance misuse. They found large groups of teenagers to be intimidating, and were fearful of knife crime.

In essence, this related to what other young people could be capable of – particularly when 'egged on' by their group or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The young respondents, like adults and older people in the Borough, were in fact very concerned about the amount of 'drunks' in the area – seeing this issue as a direct influence on their feeling of well-being when out and about in their local area.

The following chart (Fig.12) considers the level of bullying and aggression experienced by the young people responding to the survey. The data relates to incidents occurring within the last 12 months.

Fig. 12. Reported Bullying in Past 12 Months
 (Base: Q25a)b)c)d)e)f). Valid %)



Overall, around two-thirds of the respondents reported experiencing at least one form of bullying over the past twelve months. Most often, this was in the form of social stigmatisation or segregation, such as upset caused by being called hurtful names (50%), receiving hurtful texts or emails (23%) or exclusion from friendship groups or activities (26%).

In addition, almost a third of respondents reported experiencing more aggressive bullying, such as being threatened with violence (32%). Just over a third of the young people surveyed (36%) reported physical aggression - being hit, kicked or having other forms of violence used against them.

Any Other Comments. . . ?

The final question in the survey asked the young people if they would like to comment further on any of the issues raised or to raise awareness of any other issues of importance to them. This question helped to draw further attention to aspects that the respondents felt particularly strongly about – including the price of public transport, a desire for a wider range of activities, more job opportunities for under 16s, the cost of school meals, and an aspiration that their responses to the survey would be heard and acted upon.