



## DCMS Youth Survey Pilot Report November 7th 2024

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# 1. Executive summary

## 1.1 Introduction

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) helps to drive growth, enrich lives and promote Britain abroad. It supports culture, arts, media, sport, tourism and civil society across every part of England — recognising the UK's world-leading position in these areas.

DCMS commissioned Verian (formerly Kantar Public) to conduct a development study to design a new Youth Survey. This survey is intended to provide insights into the level of access to out-of-school activities, it will provide new evidence in this area and help understanding of what further programs could be needed in the youth sector.

The survey focused primarily on young people's engagement with five key activities:

- **Sports clubs or fitness classes** like football, netball, running club, dance, or swimming.
- **Art or music groups, courses or clubs** such as a painting class, crafts club, drama club, choir or music lessons.
- **Youth clubs or centres.**
- **Uniformed groups**<sup>1</sup>.
- **Any other group or club**, such as cooking club, science club or IT club.

This report presents the findings from the pilot survey. There is a separate technical report for the pilot survey. Tabulations of data from the pilot survey are published alongside this report. The statistics in this report are labelled as [official statistics in development](#)

All differences commented on in this report are statistically significant at the 95 per-cent level of confidence.

## 1.2 Participation in clubs and activities

Two thirds of young people (66%) had participated in any of the five activities of interest over the past year and a third (33%) had not. Participation rates were lower for many groups, including those aged 16-19 ages (44%, compared with 84% of those aged 10-12 and 75% of those aged 13-15%), those with long-term limiting illnesses or disabilities (56%) compared to those with no long-term illnesses or disabilities (67%), in the most deprived IDACI (Index Deprivation Affecting Children Index) quintile (56%) compared to those in the highest IDACI quintile (76%) and young females<sup>2</sup> (62%) compared to young males (69%).

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<sup>1</sup> Young people of different ages were prompted with different types of uniformed groups appropriate to their age. For those aged 10 or 11 the list included Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides, St John's Ambulance, Police Cadets, Boys/Girls Brigade, Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade, Army Cadets; for those aged 12-17 the list comprised Scouts, Explorers, Guides, Rangers, St John's Ambulance, Fire Cadets, Police Cadets, Boys/Girls Brigade, Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade, Army Cadets; and those aged 18 or 19 were asked about Scouts (Explorers, Network) Girlguiding (Rangers, Girlguiding Inspire), St John's Ambulance, Fire Cadets, Police Cadets, Boys/Girls Brigade, Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade, Army Cadets.

<sup>2</sup> The question asked refers to a young person's gender and was worded 'which of the following best describes you?' With the following answers to pick from 'male, female, identify in another way, don't know and prefer not to say'.

Sports clubs or fitness classes were the most widespread activity, with around half (52%) of all young people having participated in these in the past 12 months.

A fifth of young people (19%) had taken part in art or music-related activities over the past year. Around one in ten (11%) had participated in a uniformed group in the past 12 months and a similar proportion (8%) had been to a youth club or centre. One in ten (10%) had participated in any other group or club (such as cooking clubs, science clubs and IT clubs).

Among those who had participated in the past year, participation was typically on at least a weekly basis. Focusing on the most frequently attended activity for each young person, 45% participated once a week and 45% participated more than once a week.

A quarter (24%) of non-participants did not know of anywhere in their local area where they could go to take part in any of the five activities. A lack of awareness about somewhere to go for each individual activity was higher among non-participants in art and music-related activities (46%) and, youth clubs and centres (44%).

Fewer than half of all respondents (45%) actively agreed that there were enough clubs and activities in their area (14% agreed strongly and 31% tended to agree).

Certain groups were more likely to actively feel that there were not enough clubs and activities for young people in their local area. These included those with a long-term limiting illness or disability (40%, compared with 24% of those without such an illness or disability), those in the most deprived IDACI quintile (34%, compared with 22% in the two least deprived quintiles) and those aged 16-19 (33%, compared with 23% of those aged 10-12 and 20% of those aged 13-15). There were no reported differences by regions.

When identifying barriers to participation, the most common response was a lack of interest. Overall, four in ten young people (39%) reported that 'I'm not interested in going'.

### **1.3 Participation in activities involving overnight stays away from home**

Four-in-ten (40%) of those attending a school or college in the past year had taken part in an activity involving an overnight stay in the last 12 months. Three-in-ten (30%) had been on an overnight stay organised by their school or college and one in ten (10%) had an overnight stay that had not been organised by their school or college<sup>3</sup>.

The groups who were more likely to have gone on an overnight stay include those young male (43%, compared with 38% of young female), those aged 10-12 (54%, compared with 38% of 13-15s and 27% of those aged 16-19) and those who did not receive FSM (43%, compared with 36% of those who receive FSM).

The most common reasons for not going on an overnight stay include their school or college not offering overnight stays (45%), a lack of interest on the part of the young person (32%) and cost (21%). The barriers experienced by young people differed according to gender, age, region, long-term limiting illness or disability, ethnicity and eligibility for FSM.

### **1.4 Volunteering**

Overall, slightly more than two in five young people (44%) had done some kind of volunteering activity in the past 12 months. Some groups of young people were more likely to have volunteered than others. These include young female (48%, compared with 39% of young male), those aged 13-15 (48%, compared with 40% of those aged 10-12), those who

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<sup>3</sup> This question has limitations as respondents could only pick one answer.

did not receive FSM (47%, compared with 39% of those who received FSM), those from the North East and London (51% and 48% respectively, compared with 38% of those from the East of England), and those from less deprived areas (50% for the least deprived IDACI quintile, compared with 38% for the most deprived quintile).

The most common forms of volunteering were raising money for charity, for example through a sponsored event (20%), helping a non-family member (15%) and volunteering through the Scouts, Girl Guides, Cadets or other similar groups (8%).

More than half (54%) of those who had not volunteered in the past year said that they were not aware of any opportunities to volunteer or help people in their local area and a further 17% indicated that they weren't sure. When non-volunteers were asked about the barriers to volunteering, the most common reasons were being too busy with other commitments (30%), not knowing what is available or how to get involved (26%) and not being interested in volunteering (20%).

## **1.5 Participation in social action**

Nearly half (47%) of young people had taken some kind of social action in the last 12 months. The most popular social action was helping to improve the local area (24%), followed by organising or signing petitions (22%) and campaigning or raising awareness (9%).

Young females were more likely to have taken part in any social action (52%, compared with 41% of young males). Young people from Asian/Asian British backgrounds (52%) were more likely than those from White backgrounds (46%) to have taken part in any social actions.

The biggest barrier to taking part in social actions was a lack of interest (40%), followed by being too busy with other commitments (22%) and not knowing what was available in their local area (21%).

## **1.6 Involvement in DCMS sector activities**

From a prompted list of ten activities, the most commonly done were playing video games (88%), going to the cinema (87%) and visiting historic places (70%). The least widespread activities were watching live dance events (24%), live music events (41%) and going to a library (43%).

Participation in most activities was lower for those in the most deprived IDACI quintiles. Video gaming was the only activity that was more frequent among young people from the more deprived IDACI quintiles (62% of those in the most deprived IDACI quintile played video games at least once a week, compared with 54% of those in the least deprived IDACI quintile).

## **1.7 Wellbeing**

The mean overall life satisfaction score was 7.33 out of 10<sup>4</sup>. Life satisfaction scores were lower for young people with a long-term limiting illness or disability (6.55), those aged 16-19 (6.60) and young females (7.15). Nearly one in ten young people (8%) had a low life satisfaction score of 0-4.

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<sup>4</sup> This is lower than Children's Society's findings from their survey for the Good Childhood report with the mean score being 7.6 out of 10. Though there are some differences with this survey as it is run with a slightly different age group 10-17 and fieldworks took place at a slightly different time of June to May 2023.

Life satisfaction decreased with age. The mean satisfaction score for those aged 10-12 was 8.24, falling to 7.39 for those aged 13-15 and 6.60 for those aged 16-19.

One in seven young people often felt that they have no one to talk to (15% rising to 28% for those with a long-term limiting illness or disability).

The same overall proportion reported that they often felt left out (15% rising to 32% for those with a long-term limiting illness or disability).

Overall, 16% of young people said that they often felt alone and 15% said that they often felt lonely. Those who received FSM were more likely to say that they often felt alone (21%, compared with 14% of those who did not receive FSM) and were also more likely to say that they often felt lonely (20%, compared with 12% of those who did not receive FSM).

Young people from Black/Black British backgrounds (13%) and Asian/Asian British backgrounds (9%) were more likely than those from White backgrounds (5%) to say that they didn't have an adult they could talk to about their issues and problems.

## 2. Participation in clubs and activities

### 2.1 Key findings

66% of young people had participated in any of the five activities of interest over the past year. Participation rates were lower for those aged 16-19 (44%), those with long-term limiting illnesses or disabilities (56%), those in the most deprived IDACI quintile (56%), those from Asian/Asian British backgrounds (57%), those who received FSM (61%) and young female (62%).

Sports clubs or fitness classes were the most widespread activity, with around half (52%) of all young people having participated in these in the past 12 months.

A fifth of young people (19%) had taken part in art or music-related activities over the past year. Around one in ten (11%) had participated in a uniformed group in the past 12 months and a similar proportion (8%) had been to a youth club or centre. One in ten (10%) had participated in any other group or club (such as cooking clubs, science clubs and IT clubs).

Participation rates for each of the five specific activities tended to be lower in areas which had higher levels of deprivation. Furthermore, among those who had participated in any of the five activities, those in more disadvantaged groups tended to have participated in a narrower range of activities as 72% of those who received FSM had participated in only one activity in the past year, compared with 57% of those who did not receive FSM.

Two thirds (63%) of those who had participated in the past year said that their school/college/university had been involved in the organisation of an activity they had participated in. The involvement of educational institutions was lower for those from White backgrounds (59%, compared with 84% for those from Black/African/Caribbean/Black British backgrounds).

Focusing on the most frequently attended activity for each young person, 45% participated once a week and 45% participated more than once a week.

Fewer than half (45%) actively agreed that there were enough clubs and activities in their area. Certain groups were more likely to actively feel that there were not enough clubs and activities for young people in their local area. These included those with a long-term limiting illness or disability (40%, compared with 24% of those without such an illness or disability), those in the most deprived IDACI quintile (34%, compared with 22% in the two least deprived quintiles) and those aged 16-19 (33%, compared with 23% of those aged 10-12 and 20% of those aged 13-15).

When identifying barriers to participation, the most common response was a lack of interest. Overall, four in ten young people (39%) reported that 'I'm not interested in going'.

16-19 year olds were more likely to see social media as one of the best ways of finding out about activities (67%, compared with 56% of 13-15 year olds and 41% of 10-12 year olds).

## 2.2 Overall participation levels and types of activities

### Participation in any activities

Young people were asked whether they had participated in five different activities in the past 12 months<sup>5</sup>:

- **A sports club or fitness class** like football, netball, running club, dance, or swimming.
- **An art or music group, course or club** such as a painting class, crafts club, drama club, choir or music lessons.
- **A youth club or centre**, this might be in a local hall or youth centre.
- **Uniformed groups**<sup>6</sup>.
- **Any other group or club**, such as cooking club, science club or IT club.

Overall, two thirds of young people (66%) had participated in at least one of these five activities in the past 12 months. Accordingly, a third (33%) of young people had not participated in any of the five activities during the past year. A very small proportion (1%) did not know whether or not they had participated in the past year.

Participation in at least one of these five activities was less widespread amongst:

- Young female (62%, compared with 69% of young male).
- Those aged 16-19 (44%, compared with 84% of those aged 10-12 and 75% of those aged 13-15).
- Those who were eligible for Free School Meals (61%, compared with 73% of those who were not eligible).
- Those from Asian/Asian British backgrounds (57%, compared with those from White backgrounds (67%) and Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds (71%).
- Those with a long-term limiting illness or disability (56%, compared with 67% of those without such illnesses or disabilities).
- Those in the West Midlands (57%, compared with 64% or higher in all other regions).
- Young people in urban areas (64%, compared with 73% of those in urban areas).

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<sup>5</sup> Those aged 16-19 were additionally asked whether they had gone to the gym to exercise/work out when it was not part of an organised class. This data is generally excluded from the report, which primarily focuses on the five activities suitable for all age groups. Where data relating to gym attendance is considered, this is flagged clearly in the relevant text.

<sup>6</sup> Young people of different ages were prompted with different types of uniformed group appropriate to their age. For those aged 10 or 11 the list included Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides, St John's Ambulance, Police Cadets, Boys/Girls Brigade, Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade, Army Cadets; for those aged 12-17 the list comprised Scouts, Explorers, Guides, Rangers, St John's Ambulance, Fire Cadets, Police Cadets, Boys/Girls Brigade, Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade, Army Cadets; and those aged 18 or 19 were asked about Scouts (Explorers, Network) Girlguiding (Rangers, Girlguiding Inspire), St John's Ambulance, Fire Cadets, Police Cadets, Boys/Girls Brigade, Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade, Army Cadets.



There was also a decline in participation according to levels of area deprivation, with participation falling from 76% in the least deprived IDACI quintile to 56% in the most deprived quintile.

### **Types of activities participated in**

Looking at the more specific activities that young people may have participated in over the past 12 months, sports clubs or fitness classes were the most widespread activity, with around half (52%) of all young people having participated in these.

A fifth of young people (19%) had taken part in art or music-related activities in the past 12 months. Around one in ten (11%) had participated in a uniformed group and a similar proportion (8%) had been to a youth club or centre. One in ten (10%) had participated in any other group or club in the past year.

Those aged 16-19 were additionally asked whether they had gone to the gym to exercise/work out when it was not part of an organised class and around half had done so in the past year (49%).

Overall, around a quarter of young people (23%) had not participated in any of these six prompted types of activity in the past year.

Participation in specific activities tended to be lower for young females (with the exception of art or music groups), those aged 16-19, and those who received FSM (with the exception of youth clubs or centres, and attendance at gyms outside of organised classes for those aged 16-19).

Young people from Asian/Asian British backgrounds were the least likely to have participated in a sports club or fitness class (42%, compared with 54% of those from White backgrounds or 54% from a Mixed/Multiple ethnic backgrounds)<sup>7</sup>. Those from White backgrounds most likely to have gone to the gym outside of organised classes (51%) and to have participated in uniformed groups (12%) compare to other ethnic groups.

Young people with a long-term limiting illness or disability were less likely to have participated in a sports club or fitness class, though participation in this type of activity was still fairly widespread (36%, compared with 56% of those without such limiting illnesses or disabilities).

Young people in rural areas were more likely to have attended a sports club or fitness class (59%, compared with 51% of those in urban areas).

As shown in

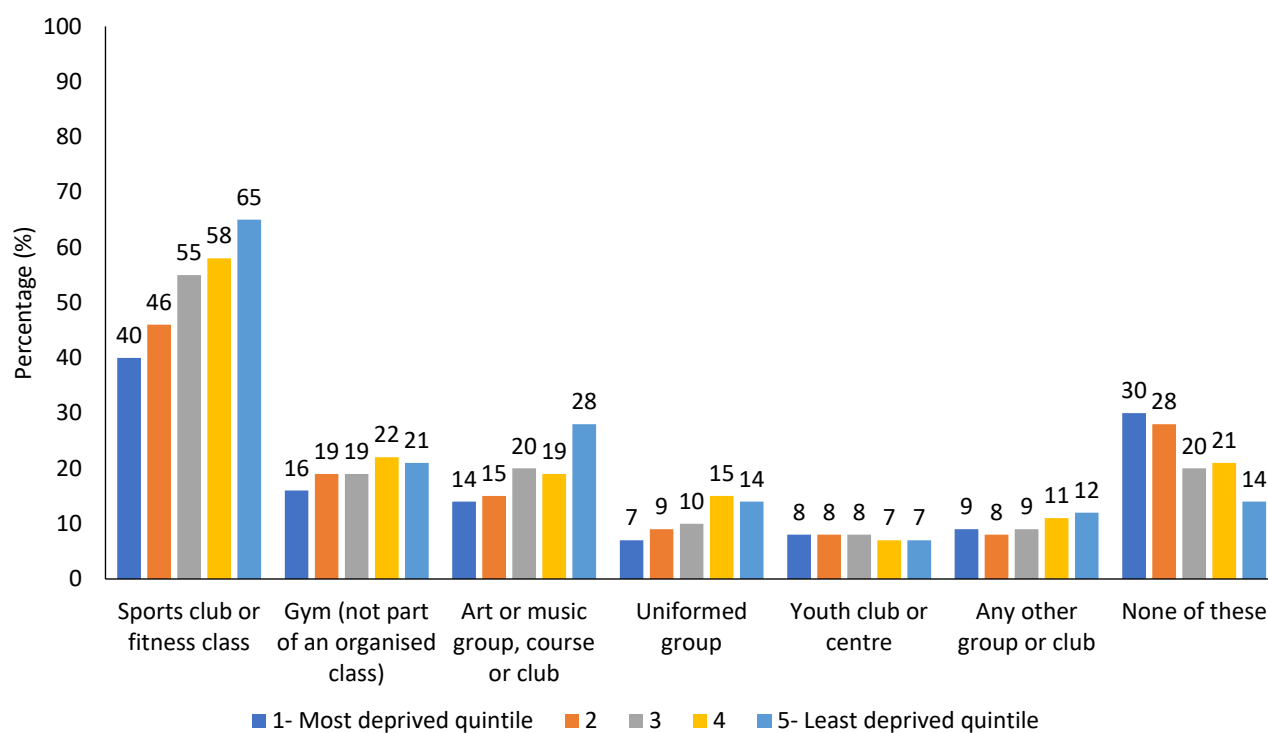
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<sup>7</sup> Similar patterns in participation by ethnicity have been reported in the Sport England's Active Lives Surveys for children, young people and adults:

[https://www.sportengland.org/research-and-data/data/active-lives#report\\_archiveaccess\\_the\\_data](https://www.sportengland.org/research-and-data/data/active-lives#report_archiveaccess_the_data)

Figure 1 there was also a pattern of higher participation rates for most activities among those living in less deprived areas. This did not, however, apply to participation in youth clubs or centres, for which participation rates were similar across all five IDACI quintiles (and, as alluded to above, those who received FSM were more likely than those who did not receive FSM to have participated in youth clubs or centres).

Figure 1 - Participation by area deprivation



Base: Most deprived quintile (420); Quintile 2 (398); Quintile 3 (390); Quintile 4 (387); Least deprived quintile (385).

Source question: Have you taken part in any of the following groups or activities in the last 12 months?

### Overall number of different types of activities participated in

Among those who had participated in any of the five activities which were suitable for young people of all ages, the majority had participated in only one of these activities (61%) in the past 12 months. Around a quarter (28%) had participated in two of the activities, just over one in ten had participated in three or more of the activities (11%). No young people had participated in all five of the different activities in the past year.

Those aged 16-19 were more likely to have participated in only one activity (73%, compared with 60% of those aged 13-15 and 55% of those aged 10-12) in the past year.

Among those who had participated in any of the five activities, those in more disadvantaged groups tended to have participated in a narrower range of activities. 72% of those who received FSM had participated in only one activity in the past year, compared with 57% of those who did not receive FSM. Similarly, there was a consistent pattern whereby those in successively more deprived areas were more likely to have participated in only a single activity, ranging from 69% in the most deprived IDACI quintile to 55% in the least deprived quintile.

### Overall number of specific activities participated in

Young people were also asked how many different specific activities they had participated in during the past 12 months. For example, a young person may have taken part in separate sports clubs for football and hockey, in which case this would be counted as two specific activities.

Among those who had participated in any activity there was a relatively broad spread in the number of specific activities that young people participated in. Around a fifth had participated

in only one specific activity in the past year (22%) while a similar proportion (18%) had participated in six or more.

For those who had participated in any activity, the overall mean number of specific activities was 3.2. The number of specific activities was higher among those aged 10-12 (3.5), those without a limiting long-term illness or disability (3.3) and those from the least deprived IDACI quintile (3.6).

### **Whether activities were organised by school, college or university**

Young people who had taken part in any activities in the past 12 months - and had attended school, college or university in the last 12 months - were asked if their educational institution had been the organiser.

Overall, around two thirds (63%) reported that their school/college/university had been involved in the organisation of at least one of the activities they had participated in. The involvement of educational institutions was lower for those from White backgrounds (59%, compared 84% for those from Black/African/Caribbean/Black British backgrounds). It was also lower for those aged 16-19 (49%, compared with 67% for those aged 13-15 and 68% for those aged 10-12).

Educational institutions were more likely to have been involved in London (72%) than in the rest of England (61%).

### **How often attend most frequently attended activities/classes/clubs/groups**

Those who had taken part in any activities in the past 12 months were also asked how often they had attended them. Focusing here on the most frequently attended activity for each young person, they tended to participate either once a week (45%) or more than once a week (45%). Only a small proportion reported that their participation was fortnightly to about once a month (4%) and a few times in the last 12 months/just once in the last 12 months or only during school/college/university holidays (4%).

### **Length of involvement in activities**

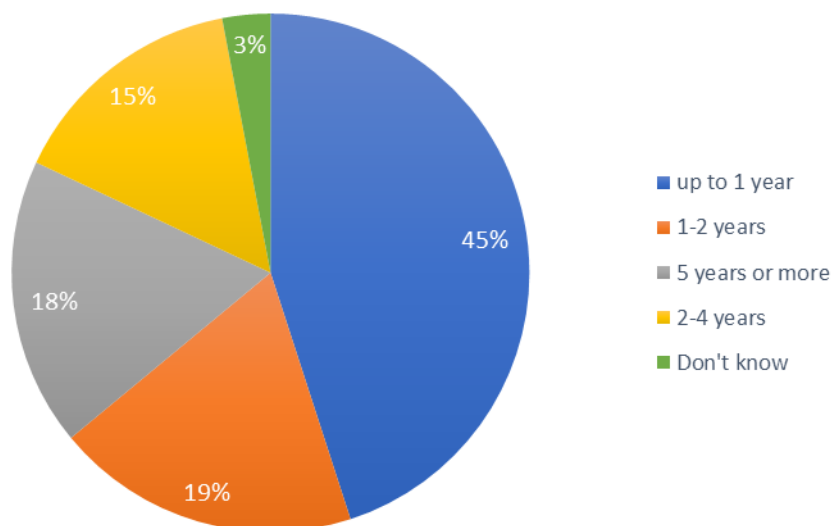
Young people who had participated in any activities in the past year were also asked how long they had been attending them. Focusing on the activity that they had participated in for the longest time, around half (52%) reported they had been involved for more than a year. Slightly less than half (45%) had been involved for a year or less (15% for 1-3 months, 12% for 3-6 months and 18% for between 6 months and a year).

Around one in five (18%) had participated for 5 years or more, rising to 28% among those aged 16-19.

Participation for a year or less was more common among the following groups:

- Those who received FSM (59%, compared with 41% of those who did not receive FSM).
- Those with limiting long-term illnesses or disabilities (59%, compared with 44% of those without such illness or disability).
- Those in the two most disadvantaged IDACI quintiles (49%, compared with 39% of those from the least disadvantaged quintile).

*Figure 2 - Length of participation in longest standing activity/class/club/group*



Base: All respondents who took part in any activity or club in the last 12 months and at least monthly (1256).

Source: Derived variable – Length of time of attendance of longest standing class: How long have you been going to this sports club/fitness class? How long have you been going to this art or music group, course or club? How long have you been going to the group? How long have you been going to the youth club or centre? How long have you been going to the other club or group?

## 2.3 Clubs and classes participated in

### Number of different specific activities of each type

Participants in four different types of activity<sup>8</sup> were asked how many different specific activities of that type they had participated in over the past year. For example, if a young person had participated in a football club and a netball club, that would count as two different sports clubs. Similarly, if they had participated in two different football clubs, that would also count as two different sports clubs.

Those attending uniformed groups tended to have only attended a single one in the past year (75%). In contrast, those attending sports clubs or fitness classes tended to have attended two or more of them (21% had attended two and 45% had attended three or more).

Amongst those participating in each type of activity, the mean number<sup>9</sup> of specific activities that the young person had attended was 2.3 for sport clubs or fitness classes, 1.7 for art or music groups/courses/clubs, 1.4 for uniformed groups and 2.5 for other groups or clubs. All differences between the means of these four activities were statistically significant.

Differences among key groups of interest were most pronounced for art or music-related activities. The number of specific art or music-related activities participated in was higher for:

- Young females (1.8, compared with 1.6 for young males).
- Those aged 16-19 (1.8, compared with 1.6 for those aged 13-15).

<sup>8</sup> Sports clubs or fitness classes, art or music groups, courses or clubs, uniformed youth and other clubs.

<sup>9</sup> Prefer not to say and don't know answers were removed to calculate the mean number.

## Whether different types of activity were organised by educational establishments

Those who had attended school, college or university - and had participated in each of the four activities shown in

Figure 3 - were asked whether the activity/activities they participated in had been organised by a school/college/university.

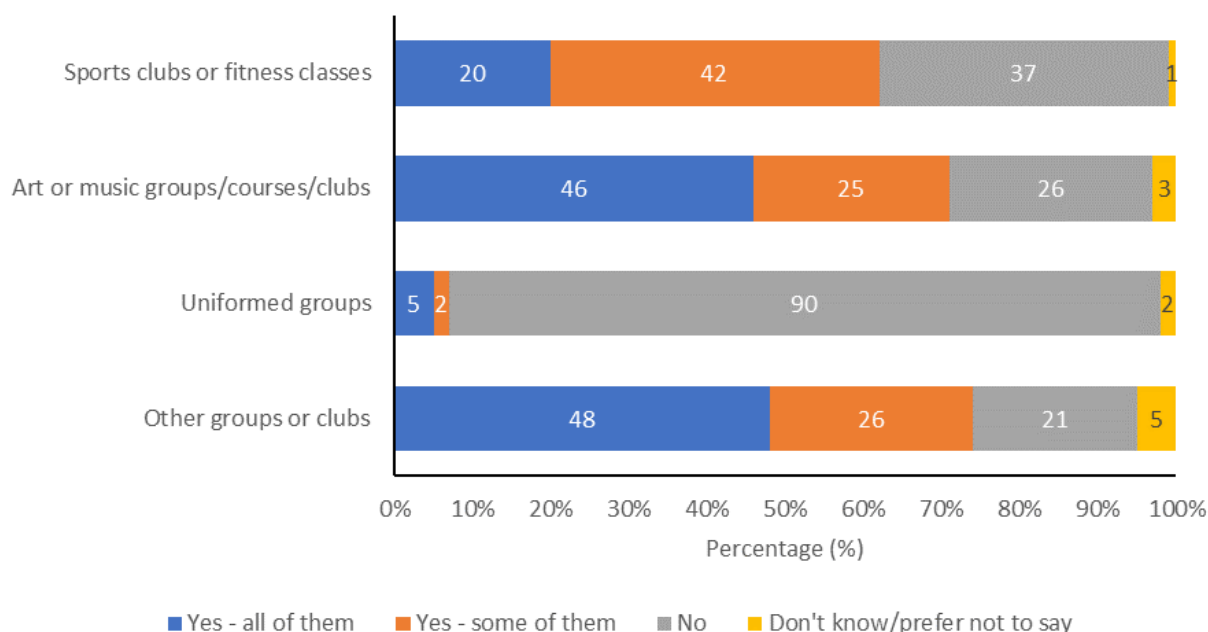
A majority of the young people who had participated in sports clubs or fitness classes in the past year said that an educational establishment had organised either all of them (20%) or some of them (42%). However, those aged 16-19 were more likely to report that a school/college/university had **not** been involved (54%).

Educational establishments were also heavily involved in the organisation of art or music groups/courses/clubs. Almost half (46%) said that a school/college/university had organised all the art or music-related activities they had participated in, while a further 25% said that an educational establishment had been involved in some of them. Young males were more likely than young females to say that an educational establishment had **not** been involved (33% and 23% respectively).

There was a similar pattern in terms of the involvement of educational establishments in other kinds of groups or clubs, with 48% reporting that a school/college/university had organised all of them and 26% saying that an educational establishment had been involved in some of them.

However, there was only limited involvement from schools/colleges/universities in the organisation of uniformed groups. Nine in ten (90%) of those who had participated in uniformed groups said that they had **not** been organised by educational establishments.

Figure 3 – Whether educational establishments organised different types of activity



Base: All respondents who took part in sports clubs or fitness classes / art or music groups, courses or clubs / groups like Scouts or Girlguiding / other activities in the last 12 months and had attended school, college or university (1051/387/218/204).

Source questions: Was this sports club or fitness class organised by school or college [or university]? Was this art or music group, course or club organised by school or college [or university]? Was this group organised by school or college [or university]? Was this other club or group organised by school or college [or university]? Don't know and prefer not to say removed due to small sample size.

### **Frequency of attending each type of activity over the past 12 months**

Young people who had participated in each of the five activities were asked how frequently they had participated in each activity over the past 12 months. Those who had participated in more than one example of a specific type of activity (e.g. attending two different sports clubs) were asked to answer about the one they had attended most frequently.

Almost half (47%) of those who attended a sports club or fitness class reported that they participated in it more than once a week. A further 44% reported that they participated once a week, meaning that nine in ten (91%) of those taking part in a sports club or fitness class did so on at least a weekly basis.

Around one in five (19%) of those participating in an art or music-related activity said that they did so more than once a week and three in five (62%) reported that they participated once a week. As such, eight in ten (81%) of those taking part in an art or music-related activity did so on at least a weekly basis.

Those participating in a uniformed group were also highly likely to do so on at least weekly basis (90%).

The frequency of participation in a youth club or centre tended to be lower than for the activities above. Around six in ten (57%) of those participating in a youth club or centre did so on at least a weekly basis.

Three quarters (75%) of those participating in some other type of group or club did so at least once a week (22% more than once a week and 53% once a week).

### **Length of involvement in different activities**

Those who had participated in each of the five activities over the past 12 months were asked for how long they had been participating. Those who had participated in more than one example of each type of activity (e.g. attending two different sports clubs) were again asked to answer about the one they had attended most frequently.

Two thirds (64%) of those who had participated in a sports club or fitness class reported that they had been doing so for more than a year (17% for 1 to 2 years, 17% for 2 to 4 years and 30% for 5 years or more).

The length of participation in a sports club or fitness class tended to be shorter for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Around half (54%) of those who received FSM reported that they had been participating for less than a year, compared with around a quarter (27%) of those who did not receive FSM.

Around half (52%) of those who had participated in an art or music-related activity had been doing so for more than a year (21% for 1 to 2 years, 17% for 2 to 4 years and 14% for 5 years or more). Young males were more likely to have been taking part for more than a year (61%, compared with 49% of young females).

Long term involvement was widespread for those participating in a uniformed group. Almost three quarters (73%) had been taking part for more than a year, with 24% reporting participation for 5 years or more and 25% having participated for 2 to 4 years.

Around half (48%) of those who had participated in a youth club or centre said they had been involved for more than a year.

Involvement with some other type of group or club tended to be shorter term, with six in ten (60%) reporting that they had participated for less than a year (35% for 1 to 6 months and 25% for 6 months to a year).

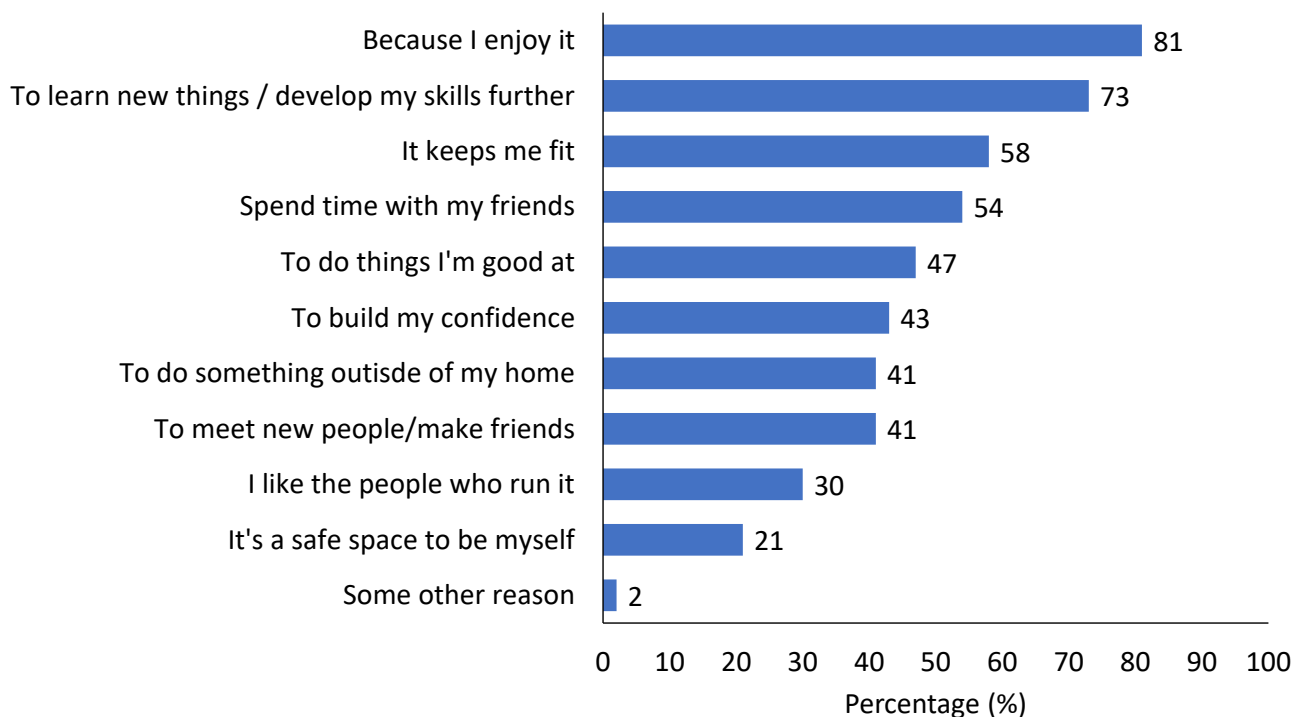
## 2.4 Reasons for attending and barriers to participation

### Reasons for attending

Young people who had taken part in any of the five activities in the past 12 months were asked to give the main reasons for their participation, selecting responses from a prompted list. The main reason for participation was because the young person enjoyed the activity and this was mentioned by eight in ten (81%) of those participating in any activity. Around three quarters (73%) of those who took part in any activity said that they did so to learn new things or develop their skills further. More than half (58%) mentioned the fact that their participation 'keeps me fit' or allowed them to 'spend time with my friends' (54%).

There were many differences among key groups of interest, though it is likely that a significant number of these were attributable to the fact that some groups participated in a greater variety of activities than others (and therefore selected a greater number of responses to this question). It is, however, notable that young females were more likely to say that the activity provided 'a safe space to be myself' (25%, compared with 17% of young males). And Black African/Caribbean/Black British participants were particularly likely to say that they took part 'to learn new things/develop my skills further' (84%).

Figure 4 – Reasons for attending



Base: All respondents who took part in any activity or club in the last 12 months (1333).

Source question: Thinking about all the groups, activities and clubs you've told us you have been to in the last 12 months, what are the main reasons you go?



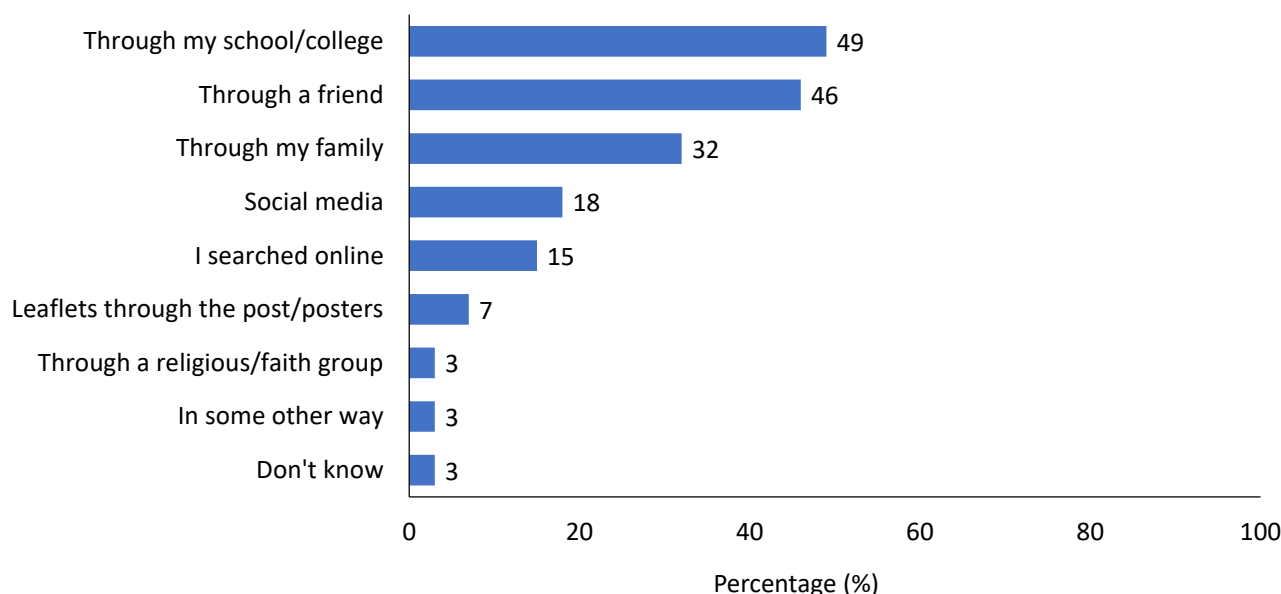
## How young people found out about activities

Those who had participated in one of the five activities were also asked how they or their parents had found out about them<sup>10</sup>. As detailed in

*Figure 5*, the most frequently mentioned sources were ‘through my school/college’ (cited by 49% of participants), ‘through a friend’ (46%), ‘through my family’ (32%), ‘social media’ (18%) and ‘I searched online’ (15%).

Again, there were many differences among key groups of interest but, as outlined above, in some cases these may be attributable to differences in the range of activities that different groups participated in. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that young females were more likely to have heard about the activities through their school or college (53%, compared with 46% of young males) and were less likely to have heard about them from a friend (43%, compared with 49% of young males).

*Figure 5 –How found out about activities*



Base: All respondents who took part in any activity or club in the last 12 months (1333).

Source question: Thinking about all the groups, activities and clubs you've told us you have been to in the last 12 months, how did you find out about them?

## Reasons for not attending or not attending more frequently

Regardless of whether or not they had participated in activities in the past year, all young people were prompted with a list of potential barriers and asked whether any of the barriers had prevented them from going to clubs or activities in their area.

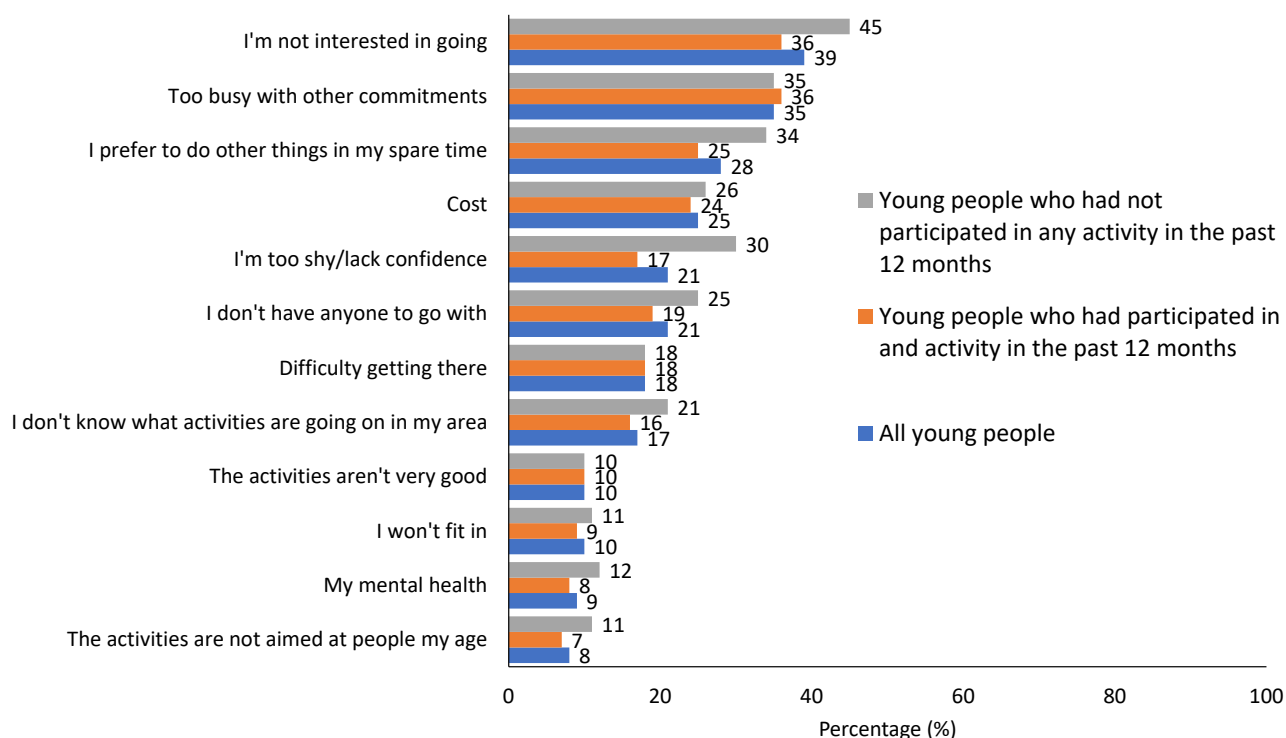
<sup>10</sup> The question wording for those aged 10-12 was ‘And how did you and your parents find out about them?’. The question wording for those aged 13 to 19 was ‘And how did you find out about them?’

Figure 6 shows the most commonly mentioned barriers for all young people and also shows how barriers differ between those who had participated in any activities in the past 12 months and those who had not.

When identifying barriers to participation, the most common response was that there was a lack of interest. Overall, four in ten young people (39%) reported that 'I'm not interested in going'. A third (35%) were 'too busy with other commitments' and around a quarter (28%) said that they 'prefer to do other things in my spare time' or mentioned 'cost' as a barrier (25%). One in five (21%) said that 'I'm too shy/lack confidence' and the same proportion (21%) reported that 'I don't have anyone to go with'.

Those who had not participated in any activities tended to mention a greater number of barriers than those who had. In particular, those who had not participated were more likely to mention shyness or a lack of confidence as a barrier (30%, compared with 17% for those who had participated). Non-participants were also more likely than participants to say that they preferred to do other things in their spare time (34%), weren't interested in going (45%) and didn't have anybody to go with (25%).

Figure 6 – Main barriers to participation



Base: All respondents (1981), young people who had participated (1333), young people who had not participated (616).

Source question: Do any of the following stop you going to clubs or activities in your local area?

### Best ways for young people to find out about clubs and activities

When prompted with a list of options and asked for their opinion about the best ways for people of their age to find out about clubs and activities in their local area, young people were most likely to say that the best way was 'through my school/college' (63%), 'social media' (56%) or 'through a friend' (53%). Around a third of young people mentioned 'searching online' (35%) or 'through parents/family' (34%) and a quarter mentioned

'community notice boards/leaflets through the post' (25%). Relatively few said that one of the best ways to find out about clubs and activities was 'through a religious/faith group' (4%).

Those aged 16-19 were less likely to see school/college as one of the best ways of finding out (55%, compared with 65% of those aged 13-15 and 71% of those aged 10-12). Those aged 16-19 instead preferred social media (67%, compared with 56% of those aged 13-15 and 41% of those aged 10-12).

Young people who received FSM were more likely to mention community notice boards/leaflets through the post (30%, compared with 23% of those who did not receive FSM) and religious/faith groups (7%, compared with 4% of those who did not receive FSM).

Religious/faith groups were more frequently mentioned by those from Black/African/Caribbean/Black British backgrounds (16%) and those from Asian/Asian British backgrounds (10%). Only 2% of those from White backgrounds mentioned religious/faith groups.

Those from Black/African/Caribbean/Black British backgrounds were also more likely to identify their school/college (73%, compared with 61% of those from White backgrounds) and their friends (60%, compared with 46% of those from Asian/Asian British backgrounds) as being one of the best ways of finding out. There was a highly similar pattern for those from Mixed/Multiple ethnic backgrounds.

### **Perception of availability of clubs and activities in local areas**

Young people were also asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed that there are enough clubs and activities for young people in their local area. Fewer than half (45%) agreed that there were enough clubs and activities in their area (14% agreed strongly and 31% tended to agree). One in five (21%) neither agreed nor disagreed that there were enough clubs and activities in their local area and around a quarter (27%) actively disagreed that there were enough (17% tended to disagree and 10% strongly disagreed). A further 7% said that they did not know.

Disagreement that there were enough clubs and activities in the local area was higher for:

- Young females (29%, compared with 23% of young males).
- Those aged 16-19 (33%, compared with 23% of those aged 10-12 and 20% of those aged 13-15).
- Those who received FSM (30%, compared with 23% of those who did not receive FSM).
- Those with a long-term limiting illness or disability (40%, compared with 24% of those without such an illness or disability).
- Those in the most deprived IDACI quintile (34%, compared with 22% in the two least deprived quintiles).
- Those in the North East (36%), Yorkshire and Humberside (31%) and West Midlands (30%), compared with those in the South East (20%).

## 3. Participation in activities involving overnight stays away from home

### 3.1 Key findings

Four-in-ten (40%) of those attending a school or college in the past year had taken part in an activity involving an overnight stay in the last 12 months. Three in ten (30%) had been on an overnight stay organised by their school or college and one in ten (10%) had an overnight stay that had not been organised by their school or college<sup>11</sup>.

The groups who were more likely to have gone on an overnight stay include young males (43%, compared with 38% of young females), those aged 10-12 (54%, compared with 38% of 13-15s and 27% of those aged 16-19) and those who did not receive FSM (43%, compared with 36% of those who received FSM).

The most common reasons for not going on an overnight stay include their school or college not offering overnight stays (45%), a lack of interest on the part of the young person (32%) and cost (21%). The barriers experienced by young people differed according to gender, age, region, long-term limiting illness or disability, ethnicity and eligibility for FSM.

### 3.2 Whether took part in activity involving an overnight stay

Young people who had attended school or college in the past year were asked whether they had taken part in an activity involving an overnight stay away from home in the last 12 months.

Four-in-ten (40%) had taken part in an activity involving an overnight stay. The remainder said they had not had an overnight stay in the last 12 months (57%) or did not know (3%).

The following groups were more likely to have taken part in an overnight stay:

- Young males (43%, compared with 38% of young females).
- Those aged 10-12 (54%, compared with 38% of 13-15s and 27% of those aged 16-19).
- Those who did not receive FSM (43%, compared with 36% who received FSM).
- Those without a long-term limiting illness or disability (42%, compared with 29% with a long-term limiting illness or disability).
- Those living in rural areas (48%, compared with 38% living in urban areas).

Additionally, there were differences by region. Those from the North East were the least likely to have taken part, with just a quarter (26%) reporting that they had been on an overnight stay. This is lower than most other regions, with a particularly large difference, compared with the South West (50%), North West (44%), South East (43%) and London (42%).

The likelihood of a young person going on an overnight stay also varied by deprivation levels. Young people in the two most deprived IDACI quintiles were less likely to have gone

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<sup>11</sup> Please note there are limitations to this question as that respondents were only able to pick one option.

on an overnight stay (33% in the most deprived quintile and 32% in the second most deprived quintile) than those in the two least deprived IDACI quintiles (47% in the second least deprived quintile and 50% in the least deprived quintile).

### **3.3 Whether overnight stay activity was organised by school or college**

Young people who had attended school or college in the past year were also asked whether their overnight stay was organised by their school or college<sup>12</sup>.

Three in ten (30%) had been on an overnight stay that was organised by their school or college, equating to 75% of those who had been on an overnight stay of any kind. Those aged 10-12 (43%) and those aged 13-15 (30%) were more likely to have been on an overnight stay organised by their school or college than those aged 16-19 (17%).

One in ten (10%) had been on overnight stays that were not organised by their school or college. Young males were more likely to have been on these types of overnight stays (12%) than young females (8%). A further 3% said that they did not know whether they had taken part in an overnight stay in the past year.

### **3.4 Reasons for not taking part in activities involving an overnight stay**

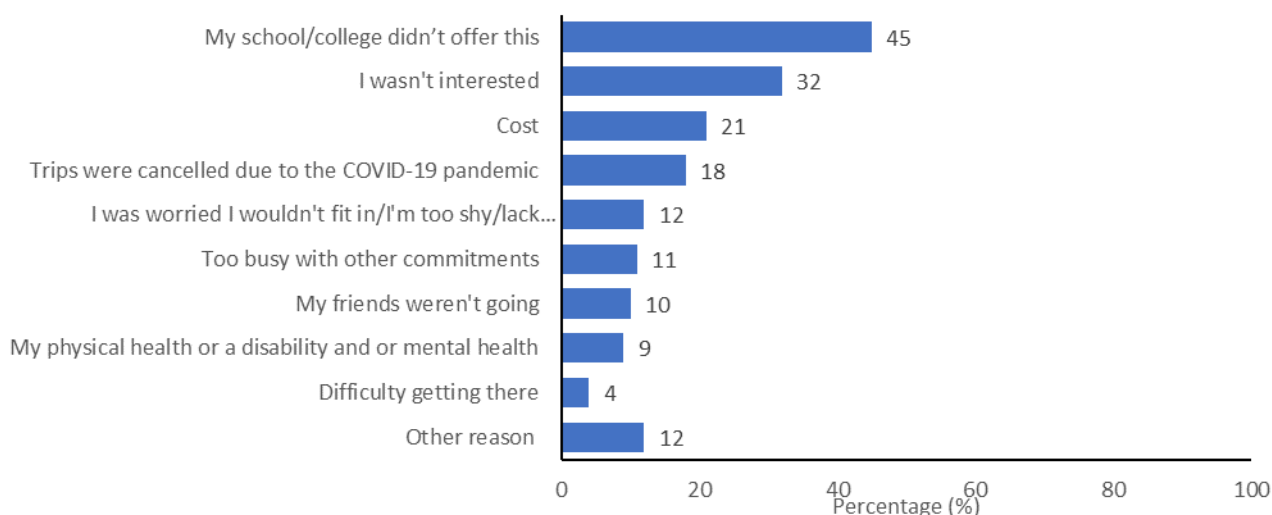
Those who had attended school or college in the past year, but had not taken part in an activity involving an overnight stay, were asked their main reasons for this. They were prompted with a list of options and could select more than one response.

The most common barrier was that their school did not offer this (45%), followed by lack of interest on the part of the young person (32%), cost (21%), trip cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic (18%). Other, less common barriers included issues relating to physical health and/or disability and mental health (9%) and, difficulty getting there (4%).

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<sup>12</sup> Please note there are limitations to this question as that respondents were only able to pick one option.

Figure 7 – Reasons for not taking part in activities involving an overnight stay



Base: All young people who had not gone on an activity that involved an overnight stay away from home in the last 12 months (1025).

Source: Youth Survey Pilot 2023. What are the main reasons you haven't taken part in an organised activity that involved staying away from home overnight?

There was age- and gender-related differences in the proportion reporting that one of the main barriers to going on overnight stays was their school not offering them. Among those who had not been on an overnight stay, young females were more likely to report this (49%, compared with 41% of young males), as were those aged 10-12 and those aged 16-19 (54% and 46% respectively, compared with 37% of those aged 13-15).

The likelihood of young people reporting a lack of interest varied by gender, age, long-term limiting illness or disability and region. Among those who had not been on an overnight stay, the following groups were more likely to say that a lack of interest on their part had been one of the main reasons:

- Young males (35%, compared with 28% of young females).
- Those aged 13-15 (40%) and 16-19 (31%), compared with those aged 10-12 (21%).
- Those without a long-term limiting illness or disability (33%, compared with 22% of those with a long-term illness or disability).
- Those living in areas of England outside London (33% compared with 24% of those living in London).

Among those who had not been on an overnight stay, the likelihood of reporting cost as a main barrier to taking part varied by gender, age, FSM and ethnicity. The following groups were more likely to report cost as one of the main barriers:

- Young females (25%, compared with 17% of young males).
- Those aged 13-15 (23%, compared with 17% of those aged 10-12).
- Those receiving FSM (33%, compared with 18% of those not receiving FSM).

Older children (those aged 16-19) were more likely to say that trip cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic was one of the main reasons for not taking part in overnight stays (23%, compared with 16% of those aged 13-15 and 10% of those aged 10-12). Those aged

16-19 were also more likely to mention being too busy with other commitments (16%, compared with 8% of those aged 13-15 and 6% of those aged 10-12).

## 4. Volunteering

### 4.1 Key findings

Overall, slightly more than two in five young people (44%) had done some kind of volunteering activity in the past 12 months. Some groups of young people were more likely to have volunteered than others. Young females (48%, compared with 39% of young males), those aged 13-15 (48%, compared with 40% of those aged 10-12), those who did not receive FSM (47%, compared with 39% of those who received FSM), those from the North East and London (51% and 48% respectively, compared with 38% of those from the East of England), and those from less deprived areas (50% for the least deprived IDACI quintile, compared with 38% for the most deprived quintile).

Looking at the frequency of volunteering, 57% of volunteers reporting that they had participated less than once a month over the past year.

The most common forms of volunteering were raising money for charity, for example through a sponsored event (20%), helping a non-family member (15%) and volunteering through the Scouts, Girlguiding, Cadets or other similar groups (8%).

More than half (54%) of those who had not volunteered in the past year said that they were not aware of any opportunities to volunteer or help people in their local area and a further 17% indicated that they weren't sure. When non-volunteers were asked about the barriers to volunteering, the most common reasons were being too busy with other commitments (30%), not knowing what is available or how to get involved (26%) and not being interested in volunteering (20%).

### 4.2 Volunteering participation, frequency and organisation

Young people were asked whether they had engaged in a range of different types of volunteering in the last 12 months (see Section 5.3 for the full list of volunteering activities).

Slightly more than two in five young people (44%) had done some sort of volunteering in the last 12 months. Half (49%) had not done any volunteering, and around one in ten (8%) said they did not know or preferred not to say whether they had volunteered.

The following groups were more likely to have taken part in some form of volunteering over the last 12 months:

- Young females (48%, compared with 39% of young males).
- Those aged 13-15 (48%, compared with 40% of those aged 10-12).
- Those who did not receive FSM (47%, compared with 39% of those who received FSM).
- Those from the North East and London (51% and 48% respectively, compared with 38% from the East of England).
- Those in the two least deprived IDACI quintiles (50% for the least deprived quintile and 47% for the second least deprived quintile, compared with 38% in the most deprived IDACI quintile).

There were no differences in overall volunteering engagement based on ethnicity, disability or rurality.



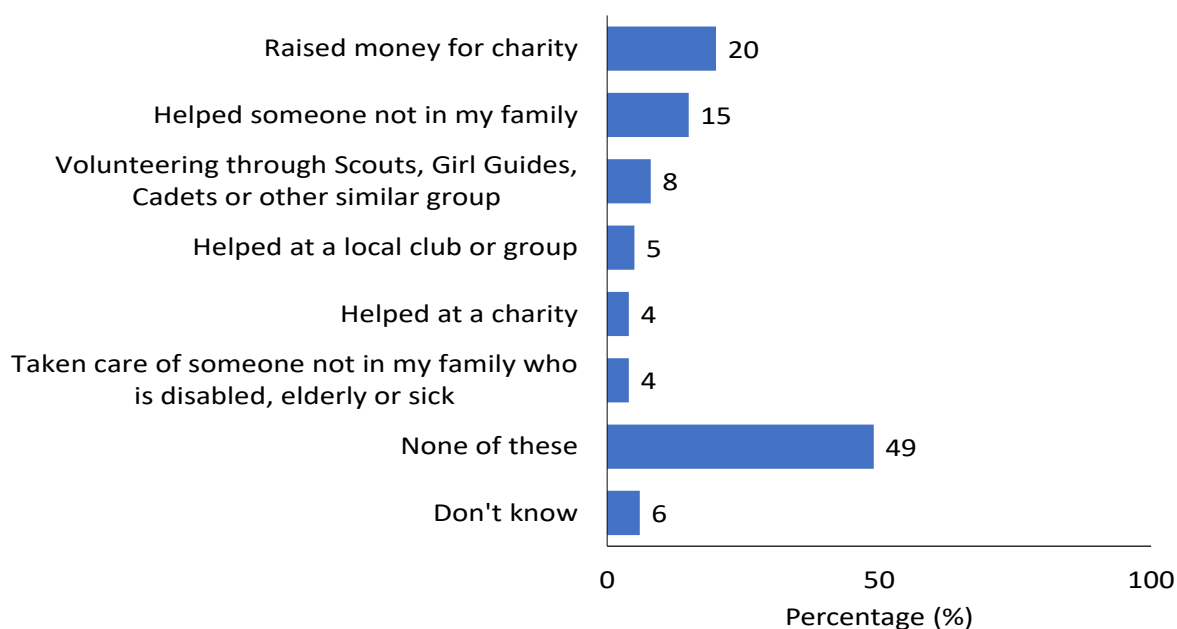
Young people who said they had volunteered in the last 12 months were asked how frequently they had volunteered. Over a quarter (26%) had volunteered at least once a fortnight, one in ten (10%) volunteered about once a month and more than half (57%) said they had volunteered less than once a month. Young females tended to volunteer more frequently with 23% volunteering at least once a week, compared with 16% of young males. Older volunteers tended to participate more frequently (25% of those aged 16-19 volunteered at least once a week, compared with 9% of those aged 10-12).

Young people who had volunteered in the last 12 months were also asked if any of the volunteering was organised through their school or college (if they had attended an educational establishment in the past year). Almost two fifths (38%) said some of their volunteering had been organised by their school/college and three fifths (59%) reported that none of their volunteering had been organised by their school/college. Younger volunteers were more likely to have taken part in volunteering organised by their school (52% of those aged 10-12, compared with 38% of those aged 13-15 and 28% of those aged 16-19), as were those from a Black/African/Caribbean/Black British background (53%, compared with 36% of those from a White background).

### **4.3 Types of volunteering**

A fifth of all young people (20%) said they had raised money for charity (e.g. by taking part in a sponsored event) and this was the most widespread form of volunteering. Around one in seven (15%) had volunteered by helping a non-family member and 8% had volunteered through an organisation such as the Scouts, Girl Guides or Cadets or with other similar groups. Other forms of volunteering were less widespread, with around one in twenty having helped at a local club/group (5%), helped at a charity (4%) or taken care of a non-family member who is disabled, elderly or sick (4%).

Figure 8 – Types of volunteering participated in over the past 12 months



Base: All respondents (1981).

Source: Youth Survey Pilot 2023. In the last 12 months, have you volunteered or helped people in your local area (unpaid) in any of these ways?  
Please note 'None of these' is equivalent to no volunteering.

### Raising money for charity

The likelihood of having raised money for charity in the last 12 months was found to decrease with age. Three in ten (29%) of those aged 10-12 reported having raised money for charity, compared with less than a quarter (23%) of those aged 13-15 and just 10% of those aged 16-19.

Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds were less likely to have raised money for charity than those from more advantaged backgrounds. Almost a quarter of those who did not receive FSM (23%) reported having raised money for charity, compared with 18% of those who did receive FSM. Similarly, young people in the least deprived IDACI quintile were more likely to have raised money for charity (23%) than those in the most deprived IDACI quintile (17%).

### Helping a non-family member

Engagement in volunteering through helping a non-family member followed the overall gender pattern for any kind of volunteering, with young females being more likely than young males to have volunteered in this way (19%, compared with 12%).

Similarly, in line with the overall pattern, those aged 13-15 were more likely to have helped a non-family member in the last 12 months (19%, compared with 12% of those aged 10-12 and 15% of those aged 16-19).

### Volunteering through Scouts, Girl Guides, Cadets or similar

Again, those aged 13-15 were more likely to have engaged in volunteering through the Scouts, Girl Guides, Cadets or similar (13%, compared with 9% of those aged 10-12 and 4% of those aged 16-19).

Young people who did not receive FSM were more likely to have volunteered through the Scouts, Girl Guides, Cadets or similar than those who received FSM (10% and 5% respectively).

#### 4.4 Barriers to volunteering

Young people who said they had not volunteered in the last 12 months were prompted with a list of options and asked which had stopped them from volunteering. The most common barrier, mentioned by three in ten (30%), was that they were too busy with other commitments (such as school/college work, working, and extra-curricular activities). Other key barriers were not knowing what was available or how to get involved (26%) and not being interested in volunteering (20%). Slightly fewer than one in five (17%) said they preferred to do other things in their spare time and around one in ten (12%) said they were too shy or lacked the confidence to get involved. One in ten reported not having anyone to go with (10%) and difficulty getting there (9%) as barriers to volunteering participation.

The least frequently mentioned barriers to volunteering participation were the cost of getting there (5%) and mental health and/or physical health/disability (7%). Around one in five (21%) said there was no reason in particular that had stopped them from volunteering.

Figure 9 – Barriers to volunteering



Base: All respondents who had not volunteered in the last 12 months or volunteered less than once a month (1662).

Source: Youth Survey Pilot 2023. Did any of the following stop you volunteering or helping people in your local area (unpaid) in the last 12 months?

Young males were more likely than young females to say they weren't interested in volunteering (26%, compared with 14%) and that they preferred to do other things in their spare time (19%, compared with 15%). In contrast, young females were more likely to say they were too busy with other commitments (34%, compared with 26%), didn't know what was available or how to get involved (31%, compared with 21%) and were too shy or lacked confidence (14%, compared with 9%).

Those aged 16-19 were more likely to say they hadn't participated in volunteering due to being too busy with other commitments (40%, compared with 25% of those aged 13-15 and 21% of those aged 10-12), not being interested (23%, compared with 16% of those aged 10-12), the cost of getting there (8%, compared with 4% of those aged 13-15 and 4% of those aged 10-12) and the difficulty of getting there (12%, compared with 7% of those aged 13-15). Those aged 10-12 were more likely to highlight not knowing what's available or how to get involved (32%, compared with 20% of those aged 13-15 and 24% of those aged 16-19) as a barrier to volunteering.

Those who received FSM were more likely to mention the difficulty getting there (13%, compared with 8% of those who did not receive FSM) and the cost of getting there (9%, compared with 4% of those who did not receive FSM) as barriers to volunteering. In contrast, those who did not receive FSM were more likely to say they were too busy with other commitments (30%, compared with 22% of those who did not receive FSM).

Respondents with a long-term limiting illness or disability were more likely to say they were too shy or lacked enough confidence to take part in volunteering (25%, compared with 9% of those without a long-term limiting illness or disability). Those with a long-term limiting illness or disability were also more likely than those without to report the cost of getting there (11% and 5% respectively).

Young people living outside of London were more likely to mention being too shy or lacking confidence (12%, compared with 8% of those living in London), the difficulty of getting there (10%, compared with 6% of those living in London) as barriers to volunteering.

Those living in rural areas were more likely to say they preferred doing other things in their spare time (23%, compared with 16% of those living in urban areas). Similarly, those in rural areas were more likely to say they were too shy or lacked the confidence to volunteer (18%, compared with 10% of those living in urban areas).

Respondents from the least deprived IDACI quintile were more likely to say they were too busy with other commitments (38%, compared with 27% of those from the most deprived IDACI quintile) or preferred to do other things in their spare time (24%, compared with 16% of those from the most deprived quintile).

### **Awareness of Volunteering Opportunities**

Young people who said they had not participated in any volunteering in the last 12 months were asked whether they were aware of opportunities to volunteer or help people in their local area. While almost three in ten (28%) were aware of such opportunities to volunteer in their local area, more than half (54%) said they were not aware of these opportunities, and a further 17% indicated that they weren't sure.

Non-participants aged 10-12 were more likely to report being unaware of volunteering opportunities (60%, compared with 51% of those aged 13-15 and 51% of those aged 16-19).

Those who received FSM were less likely to say they were aware of opportunities (17%, compared with 30% of those who did not receive FSM), as were those with a long-term limiting illness or disability (19%, compared with 29% of those without a long-term limiting illness or disability).

Non-participants from the East Midlands were more likely to report being unaware of volunteering opportunities in their local area than those across the southern regions of England (65% in the East Midlands, compared with 52% in London, 48% in the South East and 49% in the South West).

## 5. Participation in social action

### 5.1 Key findings

Nearly half (47%) of young people had taken some kind of social action in the last 12 months. The most popular social action was helping to improve the local area (24%), followed by organising or signing petitions (22%) and campaigning or raising awareness (9%).

Young females were more likely to have taken part in any social action (52%, compared with 41% of young males), particularly organising or signing petitions (25%) and campaigning or raising awareness (11%). Young people from Asian/Asian British backgrounds (52%) were more likely than those from White backgrounds (46%) to have taken part in any social actions, though there was no individual social action flagged as being particularly popular amongst this group. Young people from Black/African/Caribbean/Black British backgrounds were twice as likely to have campaigned or raised awareness in the last year (17%, compared with 8% of those from White backgrounds).

Differences across age and area deprivation weren't seen at an overall level but were apparent for some individual social actions. Older age groups were more likely to organise or sign petitions (31% of those aged 16-19, compared with 22% of those aged 13-15 and 11% of those aged 10-12) but less likely to do something to improve their local areas (16% of those aged 16-19, compared with 23% of those aged 13-15 and 35% of those aged 10-12). Those from the most deprived areas were least likely to have done something in the past 12 months to improve their local area (18%, compared with 27% of those in the least deprived IDACI quintile).

The biggest barrier to taking part in social actions was a lack of interest (40%), followed by being too busy with other commitments (22%) and not knowing what was available in their local area (21%).

### 5.2 Participation in any social action

Young people were asked whether they had taken any social actions in the last 12 months. More specifically, they were asked whether they had done any of the following for an issue they believed in:

- Campaigned and/or raised awareness (for example displaying a poster, sign, distributing leaflets).
- Contacted someone about it (for example an MP, councillor, media).
- Joined an organisation or group related to it.
- Done something to help improve their local area (for example litter picking, cleaning up their local area, planting trees, plants and flowers).
- Been involved in Young advisors groups, such as the youth council, youth parliament or youth board.
- Organised or signed a petition.
- Attended a demonstration, protest or public meeting.

Almost half (47%) of young people reported taking any of these social actions in the last 12 months. The remainder said that they hadn't taken any social action in the past year (52%). The following groups were more likely to have taken any social action:

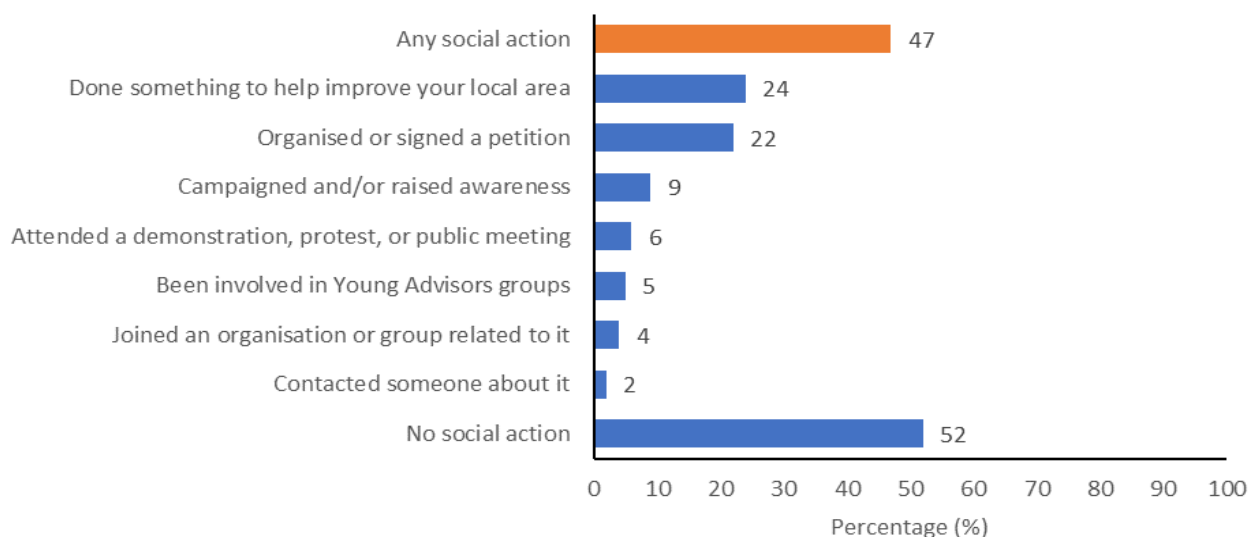
- Young females (52%, compared with 41% of young males).
- Those who did not receive FSM (49%, compared with 43% of those who received FSM).
- Those from Asian/Asian British backgrounds (52%, compared with 46% of those from White backgrounds).
- Those from the North West (54%, compared with 40% of those from the East Midlands).

There were no statistically significant differences in overall participation in social actions according to age, presence of a long-term limiting disability or illness, rurality or area deprivation.

### 5.3 Types of social action participated in

A quarter of all young people (24%) said they'd done something to help improve their local area and this was the most frequently mentioned social action. Just under a quarter (22%) had organised or signed a petition in the last 12 months. Fewer than one in ten had done each of the other types of social action in the past year, with 9% having campaigned or raised awareness for an issue they believed in, 6% having attended a demonstration, protest or public meeting, 5% having been involved in young advisors groups, 4% having joined an organisation/group related to an issue they believed in and 2% having contacted someone about an issue they believed in.

Figure 10 – Social actions taken



Base: All respondents (1981).

Source: Youth Survey Pilot 2023. In the last 12 months, have you done any of the following (relating to an issue you believe in)?

## **Doing something to help improve their local area**

Whilst overall participation in any social action did not vary by age, there was a pattern whereby the likelihood of doing something to improve the local area decreased with age. Over a third (35%) of those aged 10-12 reported having done this, compared with less than a quarter (23%) for those aged 13-15 and 16% of those aged 16-19.

Similarly, although overall participation in any social action did not vary by area deprivation, there were differences in terms of whether young people had helped improve their local area. Young people in the most deprived IDACI quintile were less likely to have done anything to improve their local area (18%) than those in all four of the less deprived IDACI quintiles (ranging from 24% to 27%).

## **Organising or signing petitions**

Following the pattern for overall participation in social actions, young females were more likely than young males to have organised or signed a petition (25%, compared with 19%).

In contrast to the pattern for doing something to improve their local area, the likelihood of organising or signing a petition increased with age. One in ten of those aged 10-12 (11%) had done this action, increasing to one in five of those aged 13-15 (22%) and almost a third of those aged 16-19 (31%).

## **Campaigning and/or raising awareness**

Young females were again more likely to have campaigned or raised awareness for an issue they believed in than young males (11%, and 6% respectively).

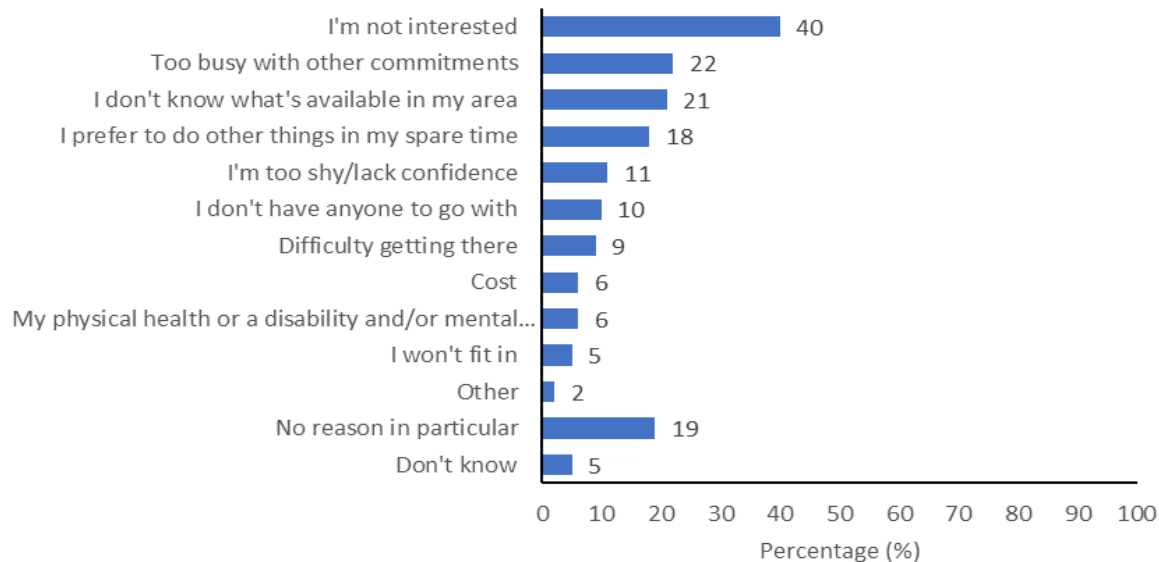
Those from Black/African/Caribbean/Black British a high incidence of campaigning backgrounds (17%) when compared to those from White backgrounds (8%).

## **5.4 Barriers to participation in social action**

All young people were asked what stopped them from participating in social actions for issues that they believed in. Young people were asked this regardless of whether they had reported taking part in social actions or not.

The most commonly mentioned barrier was that they weren't interested (40%), followed by being too busy with other commitments, such as school/college work, working or other activities (22%), not knowing what's available in their area (21%) and preferring to do other things in their spare time (18%). Less commonly mentioned barriers were being too shy or lacking confidence (11%), not having anyone to go with (10%) or having difficulty getting there (9%). The least common barriers were cost (6%), their physical health and/or a disability or mental health (6%) and worries about not fitting in (5%). One in five young people (19%) said there was no reason in particular that prevented them from taking social actions.

*Figure 11 – Barriers to social actions*



Base: All respondents (1981).

Source: Youth Survey Pilot 2023. Is there anything that stops you doing these sorts of things?

Whilst all young people were asked what stopped them from taking social actions, it was those who had reported not taking any social actions in the last year who were more likely to say they weren't interested (49%, compared with 32% of those that had taken any social action). Conversely, those who had taken any social action in the last year were more likely to identify difficulty getting there as a barrier (12%, compared with 7% of those that hadn't taken any social action). Those who had taken any social action were also more likely to identify being too busy with other commitments as a barrier (26%, compared with 19% or those who hadn't taken any social action).

Young males were more likely than young females to say they weren't interested in taking part in social actions (48%, compared with 32%). Young females were more likely to give other reasons, including being too busy with other commitments (25%, compared with 19%), not knowing what is available in their area (26%, compared with 14%), and being too shy or lacking confidence (14%, compared with 6%).

Interest in social action varied by age with 44% of those aged 13-15 choosing I'm not interested as a barrier, this fell to 41% of those aged 16-19 and 36% of those aged 10-12. This was also the case for too shy or lacked confidence (12% of those aged both 13-15 and 16-19, compared with 8% of those aged 10-12). The eldest age group (aged 16-19) were most likely to report being too busy with other commitments (29%, compared with 19% of those aged 13-15 and 17% of those aged 10-12).

Those who received FSM were more likely to identify cost (14%, compared with 5% of those who did not receive FSM) and not having anyone to go with (13%, compared with 9%) as reasons why they didn't take part in social actions.

Cost was more likely to affect those from Asian/Asian British backgrounds (9%) and Black/African/Caribbean/ Black British backgrounds (13%). Difficulty getting there was also more widely flagged as a barrier by those from Asian/Asian British backgrounds (13%) and those from Black/African/Caribbean/ Black British backgrounds (15%). White respondents were more likely than all other ethnic groups to say they didn't take part in social actions because they weren't interested in them (42%).



Young people with a long-term limiting disability or illness were more than twice as likely to highlight cost (14%, compared with 6% of those without a long-term limiting disability), shyness/lacking confidence (22%, compared with 9%), not fitting in (10%, compared with 4%). Those without a long-term limiting disability were more also likely to say that there wasn't any particular reason for their non-participation (20%, compared with 13% of those with a long-term limiting disability).

Cost and difficulty getting there were more likely to be identified as barriers by young people in the most deprived IDACI quintile compared with those in the least deprived quintile. In the most deprived IDACI quintile, 11% identified cost as a barrier (compared with 3% in the least deprived quintile) and 12% mentioned difficulty getting there (compared with 6% in the least deprived quintile). Those in the least deprived IDACI quintile were more likely to say they preferred to do other things in their spare time (22%, compared with 16% of those in the most deprived IDACI quintile).

## 6. Participation in other DCMS activities

### 6.1 Key findings

From a prompted list of ten activities, the most commonly done were playing video games (88%), going to the cinema (87%) and visiting historic places (70%). The least widespread activities were watching live dance events (24%), live music events (41%) and going to see live sport (46%).

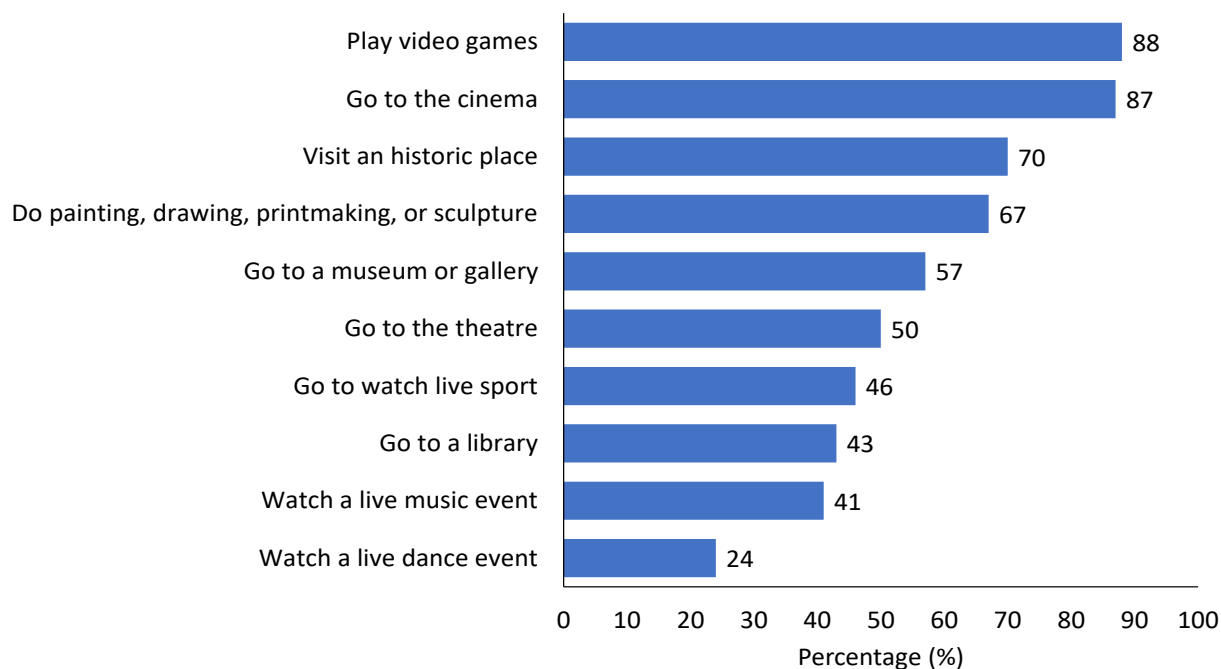
Participation in most activities was lower for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Video gaming was the only activity that was more frequent among young people from the more deprived IDACI quintiles (62% of those in the most deprived IDACI quintile played video games at least once a week, compared with 54% of those in the least deprived IDACI quintile).

Over half (52%) of young people said they had attended or watched the FIFA Football World Cup. Three in ten (28%) had seen the UEFA Women's EURO 2022 football championship, one in five (18%) had seen the Commonwealth Games and one in ten (11%) had seen the Rugby League World Cup.

### 6.2 Involvement in other DCMS activities

All young people were asked how frequently, if at all, they had taken part in each of the ten activities shown in figure 12. Six of the ten activities had been done by a majority (i.e. more than 50%) of young people in the last 12 months. The most widespread activities were playing video games (88%), going to the cinema (87%) and visiting historic places (70%). The least widespread activities were watching live dance events (24%), live music events (41%) and going to see live sport (46%).

Figure 12 – Participation in different activities

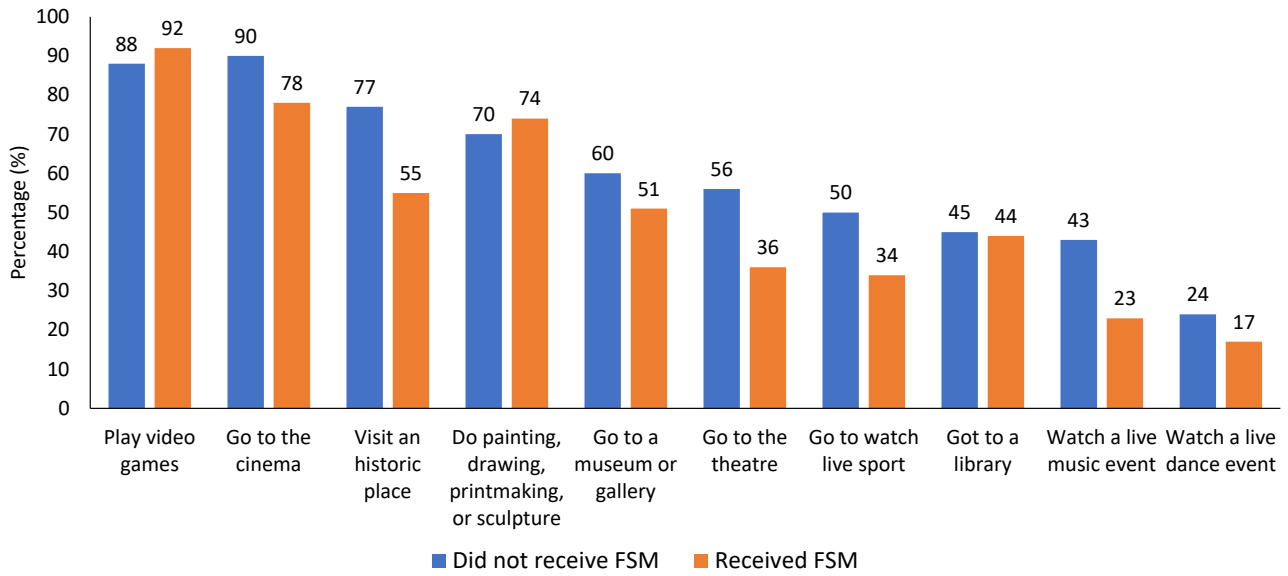


Source: Youth Survey Pilot 2023. Thinking of the last 12 months, have you done any of the following activities...?

Young people who received FSM and those living in areas with higher deprivation levels were less likely to have done most of the activities in the past year:

- Gone to the cinema:
  - 78% of those who received FSM, compared with 90% of those who did not receive FSM.
  - 82%-83% of those in the two most deprived IDACI quintiles, compared with 90-92% of those from the two least deprived quintiles.
- Visited historic places:
  - 55% of those who received FSM, compared with 77% of those who did not receive FSM.
  - 56% of those in the most deprived IDACI quintile, compared with 81% of those in the least deprived IDACI quintile.
- Gone to museums and galleries:
  - 51% of those who received FSM, compared with 60% of those who did not receive FSM.
  - 50% of those in the most deprived IDACI quintile, compared with 66% of those in the least deprived IDACI quintile.
- Gone to the theatre:
  - 36% of those who received FSM, compared with 56% of those who did not receive FSM.
  - 39% of those in the most deprived IDACI quintile, compared with 61% of those in the least deprived IDACI quintile.
- Gone to watch live sport:
  - 34% of those who received FSM, compared with 50% of those who did not receive FSM.
  - 37% of those in the most deprived IDACI quintile, compared with 58% of those in the least deprived IDACI quintile.
- Gone to live music events:
  - 23% of those who received FSM, compared with 43% of those who did not receive FSM.
  - 32% of those in the most deprived IDACI quintile, compared with 54% of those in the least deprived IDACI quintile.

*Figure 13 – Participation in different activities by FSM status*

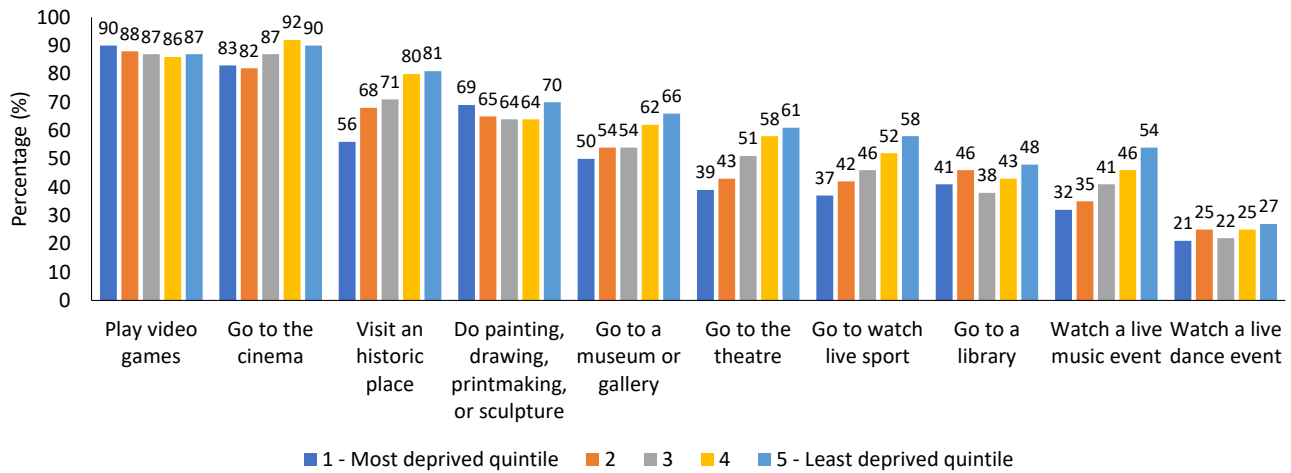


Base: Did not receive FSM (1419); Received FMS (293).

Source: Youth Survey Pilot 2023. Thinking of the last 12 months, have you done any of the following activities...?

In contrast, video games were played more frequently by young people from the more deprived IDACI quintiles (62% of those in the most deprived IDACI quintile played video games at least once a week, compared with 54% of those in the least deprived IDACI quintile).

Figure 14 – Participation in different activities by IDACI quintile



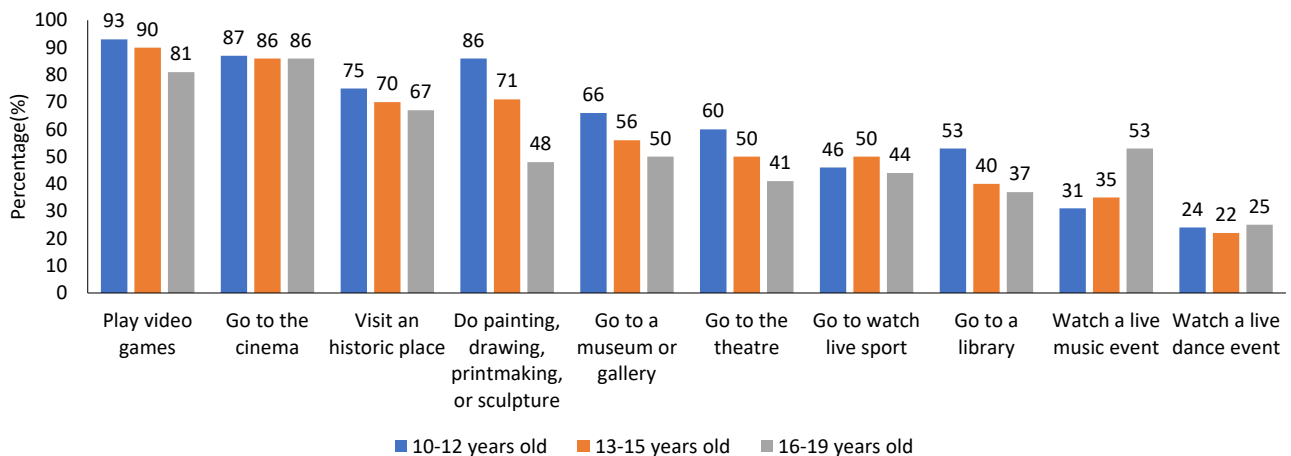
Base: Most deprived quintile (420); Quintile 2 (398); Quintile 3 (390); Quintile 4 (387); Least deprived quintile (385).

Source: Youth Survey Pilot 2023. Thinking of the last 12 months, have you done any of the following activities...?

Most of the activities followed a pattern whereby participation in each activity decreased with age. As shown in

Figure 5, this applied to playing video games, visiting historic places, painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture, going to museums or galleries, going to the library and going to the theatre or going to the library. The only activity with higher participation rates amongst those aged 16-19 was going to live music events (53% had gone in the last 12 months, compared to 31% of those aged 10-12 and 35% of those aged 13-15).

Figure 15 – Participation in activities by age



Base: 10-12 years old (579); 13-15 years old (646); 16-19 years old (756).

Source: Youth Survey Pilot 2023. Thinking of the last 12 months, have you done any of the following activities...?

Young females were less likely to have played video games (78%, compared with 96% of young males) or to have watched live sport (38%, compared with 55%) in the last 12

months. Conversely, young males were less likely to have done painting, drawing, printmaking or sculpture (58%, compared with 75% of young females), gone to the theatre (42%, compared with 57%), gone to live music events (34%, compared with 49%) or gone to dance events (18%, compared with 30%).

### **Attending or watching live sporting events**

Young people were also asked whether they had attended or watched different live sport events in the last 12 months (2022/23). Over half (52%) of young people said they had attended or watched the FIFA Football World Cup. Three in ten (28%) had seen the UEFA Women's EURO 2022 football championship, one in five (18%) had seen the Commonwealth Games and one in ten (11%) had seen the Rugby League World Cup.

Notably, young people were more likely to have seen the Commonwealth Games and Rugby League World Cup if they were from regions where the events were hosted or had stadiums where the games were played. For the Commonwealth games, hosted in Birmingham, young people from the West Midlands were more likely to have seen or watched the games (35%, compared with 12% to 17% across all other regions). A similar pattern was seen for the Rugby League World Cup which was more likely to be attended or watched by young people from the North West (13%), Yorkshire and Humberside (14%), East (11%) and South West (16%), compared to those from London (6%). These were all areas which had host venues (including Old Trafford in Manchester where the opening ceremony took place) though differences may equally reflect regional differences in the preference for Rugby League versus Rugby Union across the country. Involvement with the FIFA World Cup 2022 (which was hosted in Qatar) showed no differences across regions.

Those in the least deprived IDACI quintile were more likely to have seen or attended the UEFA Women's EUROs (38%, compared with 20% of those in the most deprived quintile), the Commonwealth Games (25%, compared with 12% for the most deprived quintile) and the Rugby League World Cup (13%, compared with 8%). This difference was not, however, present for the FIFA World Cup.

# 7. Wellbeing

## 7.1 Key findings

The mean overall life satisfaction score was 7.33 out of 10, though life satisfaction scores were lower for young people with a long-term limiting illness or disability (6.55 compared with 7.50 for those without such illnesses or disabilities). Life satisfaction was also lower for those aged 16-19 (6.60) and young females (7.15). Nearly one in ten young people (8%) had a very low life satisfaction score of 0-4.

There was a pattern whereby life satisfaction decreased with age. The mean satisfaction score for those aged 10-12 was 8.24, falling to 7.39 for those aged 13-15 and 6.60 for those aged 16-19.

One in seven young people often felt that they have no one to talk to (15% rising to 28% for those with a long-term limiting illness or disability).

The same overall proportion reported that they often felt left out (15% rising to 32% for those with a long-term limiting illness or disability).

Overall, 16% of young people said that they often felt alone and 15% said that they often felt lonely. Those who received FSM were more likely to say that they often felt alone (21%, compared with 14% of those who did not receive FSM) and were also more likely to say that they often felt lonely (20%, compared with 12% of those who did not receive FSM).

Young people from Black/ African/ Caribbean/Black British backgrounds (13%) and Asian/Asian British backgrounds (9%) were more likely than those from White backgrounds (5%) to say that they didn't have an adult they could talk to about their issues and problems.

While the base size for young people who picked 'gender- identify in another way' is too low to reliably report figures, there are signs that these young people may have lower levels of wellbeing. This group appears to have lower life satisfaction scores and to feel more lonely than other young people. They also appear less likely to have adults that they can talk to about issues or problems at home. Further research would be needed to determine whether these findings are generalisable to this wider population of young people.

## 7.2 Overall satisfaction with life

Young people were asked how satisfied they were with their life nowadays<sup>13</sup>, using a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 meant they were not at all satisfied and 10 meant they were completely satisfied.

Overall, the mean life satisfaction score was 7.33 out of 10, though there were differences in life satisfaction levels for some groups of young people<sup>14</sup>. Nearly one in ten young people (8%) had a low satisfaction score of 0-4.

Young females tended to be less satisfied with their life than young males, with mean scores of 7.15 and 7.57 respectively.

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<sup>13</sup> This question is in keeping with ONS harmonised standard around measuring life satisfaction.

<sup>14</sup> The mean score is lower than Children's Society's findings from their survey for the Good Childhood report with the mean score of the same question being 7.6 out of 10. Though there are some differences with this survey as it was undertaken with a slightly different age group 10-17 and fieldwork took place in May to June 2023.

There was a pattern whereby life satisfaction decreased with age. The mean satisfaction score for those aged 10-12 was 8.24, falling to 7.39 for those aged 13-15 and 6.60 for those aged 16-19.

Young people with a long-term limiting illness or disability had lower life satisfaction (6.55) than those without such illnesses or disabilities (7.50).

Those who had participated in any of the five activities had a higher average life satisfaction score than those who had not participated (7.61 and 6.74 respectively). However, it is not possible to say whether participation increases life satisfaction or whether this difference is actually because those with higher life satisfaction are more inclined to take part in activities (or, indeed, some combination of the two).

There were no differences in mean life satisfaction according to FSM eligibility, ethnicity, region, area deprivation and rurality.

## **7.3 Loneliness**

### **Feeling that they have no one to talk to**

Four in ten young people (41%) said that they hardly ever or never felt that they have no one to talk to. Around a third (36%) said that they felt this way some of the time, while around one in seven (15%) often felt that they have no one to talk to.

The following groups were more likely to say they often felt that they have no one to talk to:

- Young females (18%, compared with 12% of young males).
- Those aged 16-19 (21%, compared with 15% of those aged 13-15 and 9% of those aged 10-12).
- Those from White backgrounds (16%, compared with 12% of those from Asian/Asian British backgrounds).
- Those with a long-term limiting illness or disability (28%, compared with 13% of those without such illnesses or disabilities).
- Those who had not participated in any of the five activities (18%, compared with 14% of those who had participated).

### **Feeling left out**

When asked how often they feel left out, 37% of young people said that they hardly ever or never feel this way. Four in ten (41%) said that they feel left out some of the time and around one in seven (15%) said that they often feel this way.

The following groups were more likely to say they often felt left out:

- Young females (20%, compared to 10% of young males).
- Those aged 16-19 and those aged 13-15 (20% and 16% respectively, compared with 9% of those aged 10-12).
- Those from White backgrounds (17%, compared with 10% of those from Asian/Asian British backgrounds).
- Those with a long-term limiting illness or disability (32%, compared with 13% of those without such illnesses or disabilities).
- Those living in rural areas (22%, compared with 14% of those in urban areas).



## **Feeling alone and feeling lonely**

Young people were also asked how often they felt alone and how often they felt lonely. The pattern of responses for these two questions was highly similar. Overall, 43% of young people reported that they hardly ever or never felt alone and 42% said they hardly ever or never felt lonely. A third of young people said they felt alone (33%) or lonely (35%) some of the time. A smaller proportion said that they often felt alone (16%) or lonely (15%).

Sub-group differences were generally similar to those already described in relation to feeling left out. Young females, those in older age groups, those from white backgrounds, those with long-term limiting illnesses or disabilities and those in rural areas were all more likely to say that they often felt alone and/or lonely.

However, in contrast to the other measures of loneliness, there was a disadvantage-related aspect to feeling alone and feeling lonely. Those who received FSM were more likely to say that they often felt alone (21%, compared with 14% of those who did not receive FSM) and were also more likely to say that they often felt lonely (20%, compared with 12% of those who did not receive FSM). Those in the most deprived IDACI quintile areas also had a relatively high incidence of often feeling alone (20%) or lonely (19%).

## **7.4 Presence of a trusted adult and where**

### **Whether have an adult to talk to**

The majority of young people (87%) said that they had an adult they could talk to about any issues and problems they may have, while 6% said that they did not have such support. A further 5% said that they didn't know, while 3% reported that they preferred not to say.

Those aged 16-19 were more likely to say that they did not have an adult they could talk to about any issues and problems they may have (11%, compared with 4% of those aged 13-15 and 2% of those aged 10-12).

Young people from Black/African/Caribbean/Black British backgrounds (13%) and Asian/Asian British backgrounds (9%) were more likely than those from White backgrounds (5%) to say that they didn't have an adult they could talk to about their issues and problems.

Those in London were also more likely to say that they didn't have an adult they could talk to (10%, compared with 6% in the rest of England).

### **Where supportive adults are to be found**

Those young people who reported that they had an adult they could talk to about issues and problems were asked where that adult was to be found. They were able to select multiple responses from a prompted list.

Around nine in ten (92%) reported that the adult/adults they could talk to was/were at their home. Four in ten (38%) mentioned a supportive adult at school, college or university and one in five (20%) said there was a supportive adult somewhere other than home or school/college/university.

Among young people with a supportive adult, those aged 10-12 were most likely to report a supportive adult at home (97%, compared with 91% of those aged 13-15 and 89% of those aged 16-19).

There was a decline in the proportion saying they had a supportive adult at school, college or university by age, falling from 50% of those aged 10-12 to 27% of those aged 16-19.

Those from White backgrounds were slightly more likely to report a supportive adult at home (94%, compared with 89% of those from Asian/Asian British backgrounds).

# 8. Background to the survey and interpretation

## 8.1 Background

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) helps to drive growth, enrich lives and promote Britain abroad. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) helps to drive growth, enrich lives and promote Britain abroad. It supports culture, arts, media, sport, tourism and civil society across every part of England — recognising the UK's world-leading position in these areas.

DCMS is responsible for out-of-school youth policy and programmes, supporting the youth sector to deliver high quality services to young people. More broadly, DCMS and its Arm's Length Bodies create further opportunities for young people across Sports, Arts and Heritage, to enrich young people's lives and help them fulfil their potential.

This covers delivering and/or funding national level programmes and priorities, strengthening the evidence base and holding policy responsibility for local authorities' statutory duty regarding youth provision in their areas.

In direct response to young people's priorities, identified in the 2021 Youth Review, Government committed to a National Youth Guarantee:

“By 2025, every young person will have access to regular out of school activities, adventures away from home and opportunities to volunteer”.

In order to help achieve this target, DCMS is delivering a number of programs, including the Youth Investment Fund, the National Citizen Service and the Uniformed Youth Fund.

DCMS commissioned Verian (formerly Kantar Public) to conduct a development study to design a new Youth Survey. This survey is intended to provide insights into the level of access to out-of-school activities, youth participation more generally.

The development study concluded with a pilot survey, designed on the basis of findings from the study. As well as providing valuable insights, the results from this pilot survey will be used to help the department decide whether the planned full-scale survey should be turned into a vehicle for official statistics.

This report presents the findings from the pilot survey. There is a separate technical report for the pilot survey. Tabulations of data from the pilot survey are published alongside this report.

## 8.2 Official Statistics in Development

These statistics are labelled as [official statistics in development](#). Official statistics in development are official statistics that are undergoing development and will be tested with users, in line with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). They are being published as official statistics in development because:

- they include new measures of participation in a range of youth activities which have not previously been tested
- the methodology was being tested and was in development.

The Government Statistical Service has a [policy of monitoring and reducing statistical survey burden](#) to participants where possible, and the burden imposed should be proportionate to the benefits arising from the use of the statistics. As a producer of statistics, DCMS is

transparent in its approach to monitoring and reducing the burden on those providing their information, and on those involved in collecting, recording and supplying data. The compliance cost of a survey is calculated by [Number of responses to the survey multiplied by the median time spent completing the survey (in minutes)]. This Survey had 1,981 respondents in June 2023 to August 2023, and the median survey completion time was 17 minutes, therefore the compliance cost for the survey this year was 561 hours and 17 minutes.

### 8.3 Methodology

Full details about the survey background and methodology can be found in the technical report, published separately. Key details are as follows:

- The sample of young people aged 10-19 years old was drawn from the National Pupil Database (NPD) and the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) held by the Department for Education.
- All sampled individuals were sent a letter inviting them to take part in the online survey. The contact approach for young people varied depending on their age at the start of fieldwork:
  - Young people aged 16 or over were written to directly with no requirement for parental consent.
  - For young people aged 13 to 15, all correspondence was directed via parents and guardians; parents were asked to hand over the survey invitation letter to their child if they were happy for them to take part.
  - For children aged under 13, an additional level of consent was required<sup>15</sup>. Before the selected child could access the survey online, parents were asked to complete a short online consent survey to confirm that they were happy for their child to take part. Parents were also asked to complete a small number of demographic questions about their child.
- All respondents received an incentive for taking part. An incentive experiment was incorporated within the survey design to understand the optimum incentive rate. A £10 incentive was offered to 45% of the sampled young people on completion of the survey and the remainder (55%) were being offered a £5 incentive.
- An extensive stage of cognitive testing took place prior to the online survey. Survey questions were tested with young people aged 10-19 years. To ensure the inclusion of young people from a range of backgrounds, quotas were applied to age, gender, ethnicity, eligibility for free school meals, region, rurality and participation in activities.
- Respondents could complete the survey on any online device, including PCs, laptops, tablets and mobile phones.
- 1,981 respondents completed the survey between 28<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023. The unweighted response rate was 37.7%, however the design-weighted response rate (which adjusts for oversampling of certain groups) was 40.1%.

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<sup>15</sup> As outlined in the Information Commissioner's Office notes on GDPR regulations, for any information society service (ISS) an adult with parental responsibility must provide consent for the processing of personal data for children aged under 13.  
<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/childrens-information/children-and-the-uk-gdpr/what-are-the-rules-about-an-iss-and-consent/>

- The response rate was achieved after sending an initial invitation letter and leaflet, followed by up to two reminder letters.
- The data were weighted to ensure that reported figures are representative of the population of young people in England aged 10-19.

## 8.4 Achieved sample

*Table 1* below gives a breakdown of the number of respondents in different demographic groups who completed the survey. These are the unweighted and weighted totals.

*Table 1 – Unweighted and weighted profile of achieved sample*

	Unweighted n	Unweighted %	Weighted %
<b>AGE</b>			
10-12	579	29	31
13-15	646	33	30
16+	756	38	39
<b>GENDER</b>			
Male	969	49	50
Female	959	48	47
Identify in some other way	28	1	1
Don't know/Refused	25	1	1
<b>ETHNICITY</b>			
White	1407	71	71
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic	123	6	6
Asian / Asian British	285	16	13
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	112	6	7
Any other ethnic group	27	1	1
Don't know/Refused	27	1	2
<b>DISABILITY</b>			
Has a long-term limiting illness or disability	165	8	9
Does not have a long-term limiting illness or disability	1671	84	84
Don't know/Refused	145	7	8
<b>FREE SCHOOL MEALS</b>			
In receipt of free school meals	293	15	18
Not in receipt of free school meals	1419	72	66
Don't know/Refused	269	14	15

<b>IDACI QUINTILES</b>			
1 – Most deprived	420	21	23
2	398	20	20
3	390	20	19
4	387	20	19
5 – Least deprived	385	19	18
Missing	X	X	X
<b>REGION</b>			
North East	95	5	5
North West	243	12	13
Yorkshire and Humberside	190	10	10
East Midlands	164	8	8
West Midlands	226	11	12
East	229	12	11
London	291	15	14
South East	353	18	18
South West	189	10	10
Missing	X	X	X
<b>URBAN/RURAL</b>			
Urban	1651	83	84
Rural	329	17	16
Missing	X	X	X

## 8.5 Interpretation of data in this report

This report presents the overall findings of the survey, along with analysis by the key groups outlined below:

- **Gender:** All analysis by gender is based on a comparison of respondents who described themselves as male or female. It was not possible to focus on respondents who identify in any other way, as the subsample of this group (30 or less) was too small to allow for detailed analysis.
- **Ethnicity:** Where analysis by ethnicity has been conducted, we have in general compared findings across four subgroup categories: White, Mixed / Multiple Ethnic, Asian / Asian British and Black / African / Caribbean / Black British. There was also an 'other' ethnic group (defined as 'Any other ethnic group (including Arab and any other ethnic group)'). However, the base size for this group (30 or less in total) was too small to allow for any detailed analysis.

- **Limiting disability or illness:** This is defined as a self-reported long-term illness or disability which limits activities in any way.
- **Social disadvantage:** There are significant challenges to asking young people directly about parental income or parental socioeconomic group. Two measures were used as a proxy for family income levels: receipt of free school meals (FSM) and the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) quintiles.
- **Area:** Analysis of two area-based classifications are included in this report: Region and the Urban-Rural classification<sup>16</sup>.

### Reporting convention's

All differences commented on in this report are statistically significant at the 95 per-cent level of confidence. However, we do not comment on all statistically significant differences that are present in the data. All percentages reported are weighted to account for differential non-response.

Where percentages do not sum to 100 percent or to net figures, this will be due to either (i) rounding or (ii) questions which allow multiple answers.

Respondents were able to refuse to answer questions by selecting 'Don't know' or 'Prefer not to say' responses. These are included in the base for all reported data unless otherwise specified.

All data quoted in the body text, charts and tabulations of this report is taken directly from the Youth Survey Pilot 2023, unless otherwise specified.

## 8.6 Glossary

Across the report a number of acronyms and abbreviation are used. These are as follows:

- **Young People:** For the purposes of this report, young people are defined as being aged 10-19.
- **FSM:** Free school meals. The report uses receipt of free school meals as an indicator of disadvantage.
- **IDACI:** Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index – a measure of the proportion of children in an area living in low-income households, developed by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities which is part of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Respondents' addresses have been allocated to five groups (quintiles) according to the level of deprivation in their area. The most deprived IDACI quintile has the highest incidence of children in low-income households. The least deprived IDACI quintile has the lowest incidence of children in low-income households.
- **ILR:** Individualised Learner Record. A database of students enrolled in further education and work-based learning in England, maintained by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (an executive agency of the Department for Education).

**NPD:** National Pupil Database. A database of pupils in schools and colleges in England, maintained by the Department for Education.

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<sup>16</sup> Further details of the Urban-Rural classification can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2011-rural-urban-classification-lookup-tables-for-all-geographies>