

# Alternative models for delivering youth services

## Summary Report

### South Gloucestershire Council

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# Consultation

## Background

Positive leisure-time activities provide young people with things to do, places to go and people to talk to in their own time. The council is looking for new ways to deliver these activities and wanted to get a better picture of what youth activities are most needed in South Gloucestershire, where they should be, and how they should be provided within available resources.

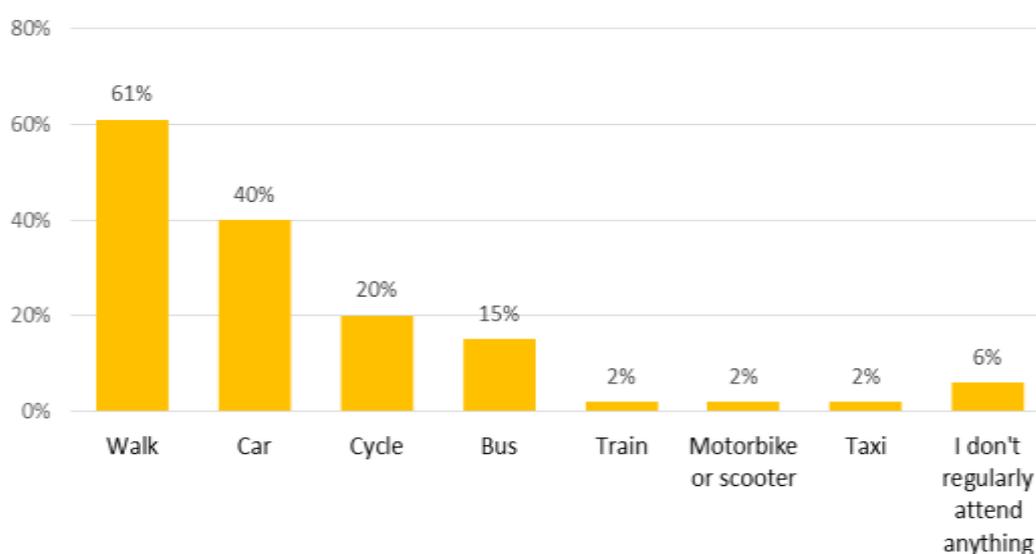
The Positive Activities consultation was open between 14<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> November. Three different consultation surveys were widely circulated for young people, the wider community (including parents and organisations), and positive activity providers. 172 people responded to the survey, the majority (108) of them being young people. Focus groups were held with the Children in Care Council and Youth Board, and a meeting for current and potential positive activities providers was held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017, attended by 17 providers.

## Access to Positive Activities

- Most young people (61%) walk to a positive activity, with the next most popular mode of travel being by car (40%). 73% of young people who attended a youth club said it took less than 15 minutes to get there.

### Q5 Mode of travel to youth activity

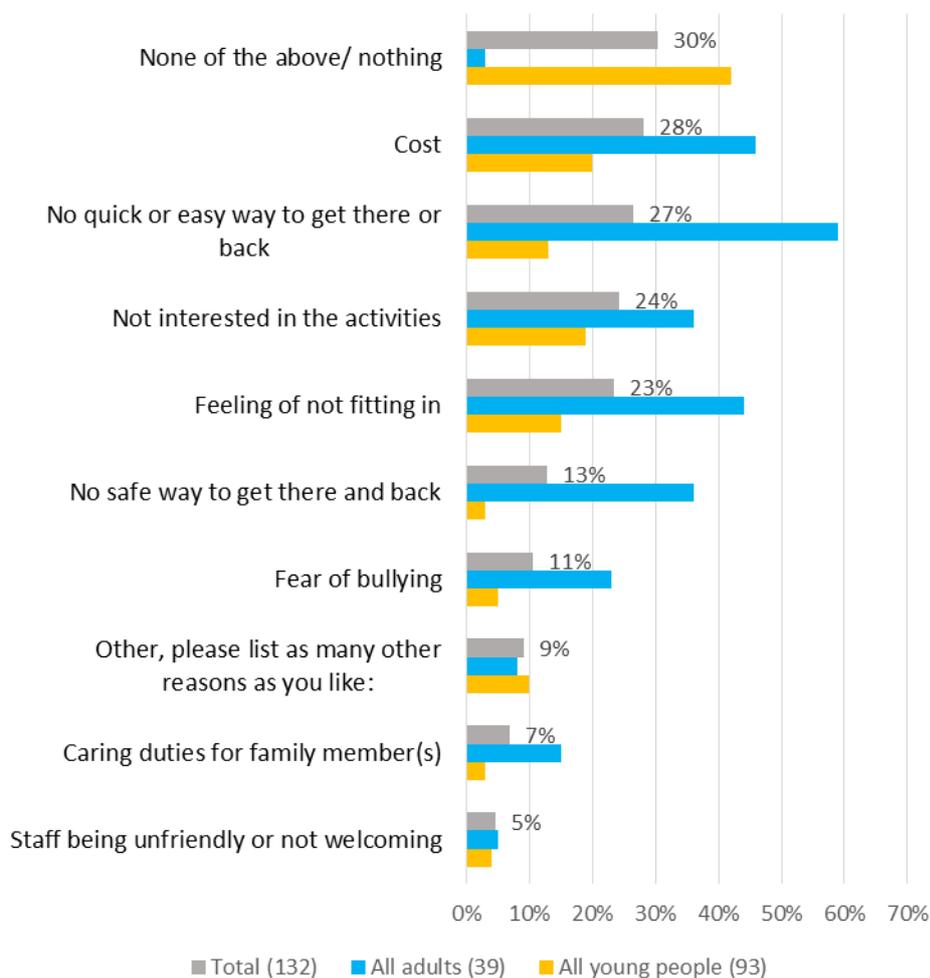
Base: Young people (101)



- Overall, 79% of young people said they found getting to and from activities easy and only 9% found it difficult.
- 42% of young people who responded said there were no barriers to attending positive activities, but 20% highlighted cost as a barrier and 19% not being interested in the activities. Young people who were less likely to be interested in the activities offered were aged 16+ (22%), male (26%), disabled (22%) or 'White Other' (43%).

### Q11 & Q12 Barriers to accessing activities

Base: all respondents (n= see key)



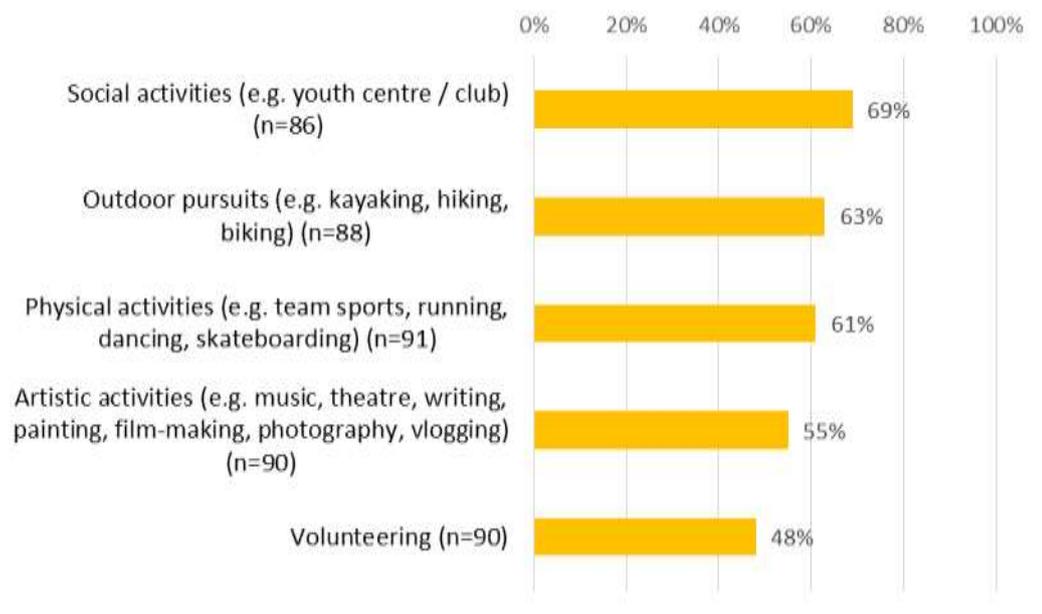
- Adults did perceive more barriers to accessing positive activities. 59% highlighted transport and 'no quick or easy way to get there or back'. The next most popular responses for adult respondents was cost (46%) and a concern about not fitting in (44%)

## Demand for Positive Activities

- At least half of all young people responding would like more positive activities (physical, artistic, outdoor, social and youth clubs), apart from volunteering. Despite social activities (meeting friends) being the most participated in activity, it is also the one with strongest unmet demand; 69% of all young people would like to do this more.

### Q3 Interest in trying or taking part in activities

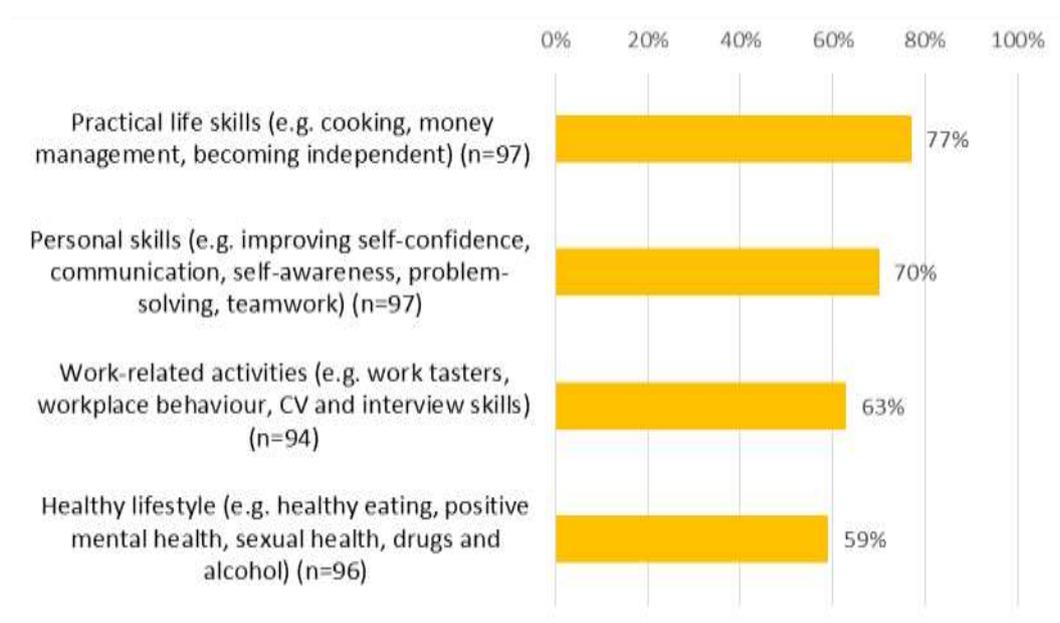
Base: Young People



- Young people are very keen to participate in positive activities that develop their skills. 80% of young people would like practical life skills such as money management and 77% would like activities which improve their personal skills (self-confidence, teamwork and problem solving). 63% supported the idea of work related activities (CV building and interview skills) and 59% sessions around healthy lifestyles.

## Q4 Interest in trying or taking part in skills or development

Base: Young People



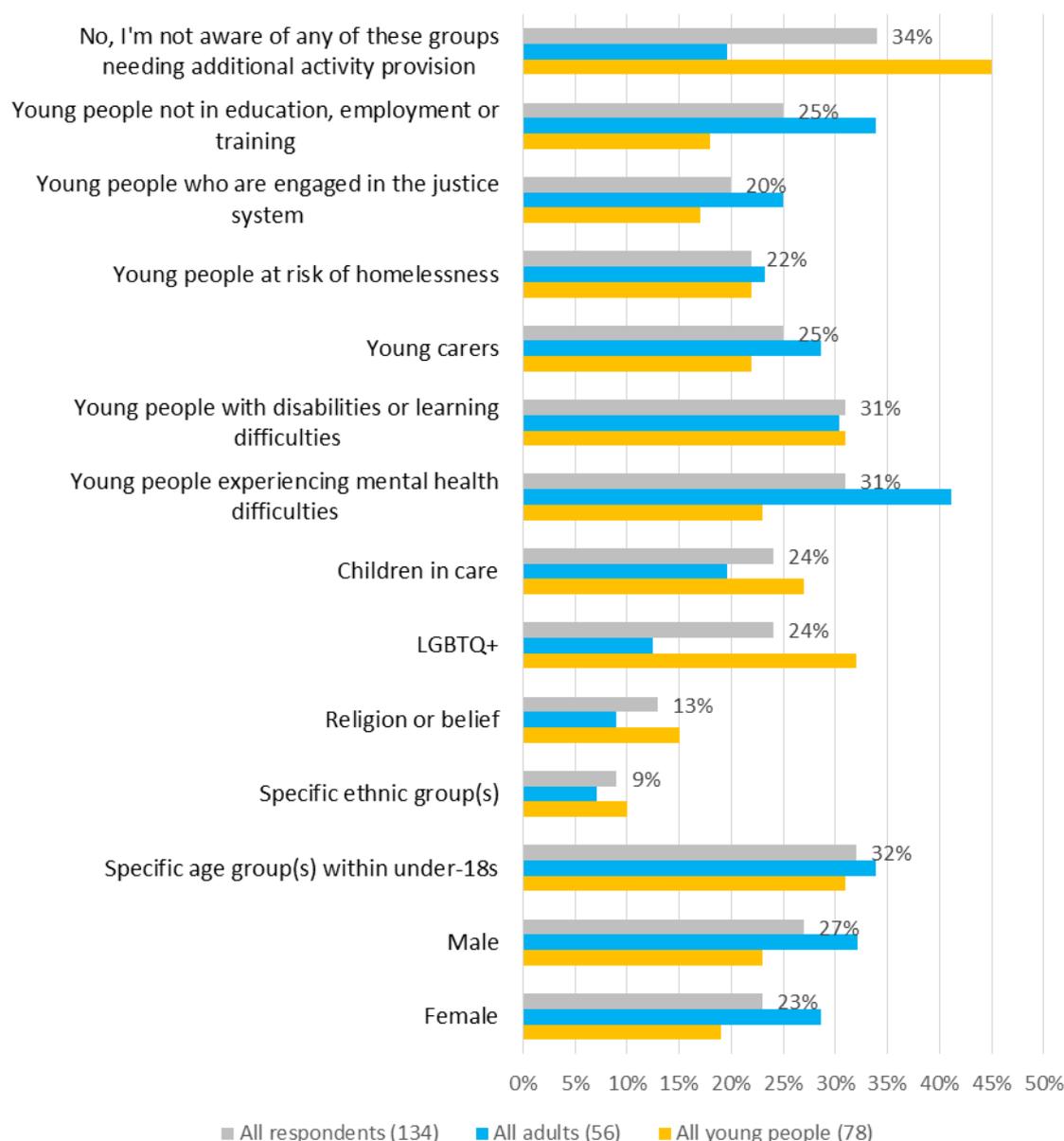
## Delivery of Positive Activities

- There was strong support (by 81% of respondents) for the need for appropriately trained staff to work with young people
- In terms of priority groups who may require additional help, young people which were most often considered to need separate provision were those in a specific age group within under 18s (32% of all respondents identified this need). Another key group were young people with disabilities or learning difficulties (need identified by 31% of all respondents). Young people experiencing mental health difficulties were identified by 31% of all respondents as needing additional provision; a need particularly noticed by parents/ carers (43%) and providers (62%).

Amongst positive activities providers there was agreement that many groups of young people should be welcomed into the standard youth groups in order to make them inclusive spaces, however some unique needs were identified. Mental health was seen as crucial since it was relevant to all groups of young people, and those at risk of homelessness were seen to need extra provision. Providers acknowledged that there is already specialist provision for young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, LGBTQ+ young people and Young Carers, however it was felt that greater availability was needed.

### Q23 Groups needing additional provision

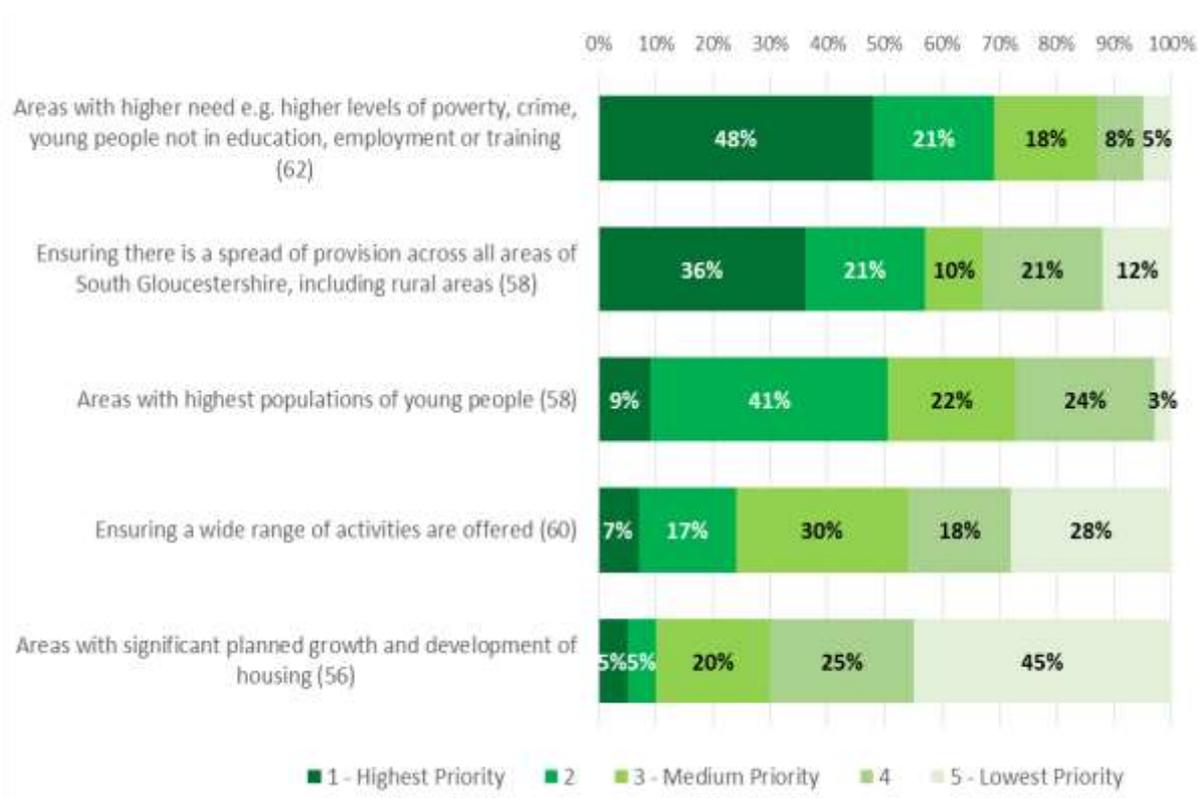
Base: all respondents (n= see key)



- In terms of where provision should be located, areas with higher need were selected as the highest priority (by 48% of respondents from providers and the wider community). This was followed by ensuring there is a spread of provision across all areas of South Gloucestershire, including rural areas (36% considered this highest priority). Although not considered the top priority, overall, high population density of young people is considered to be an important factor, with 50% of respondents placing it in the top two. Almost half (45%) of respondents considered the lowest priority to be providing for areas of significant planned growth and development of housing.

## Q16 priority of need

Base: providers and wider community (n= see individual columns)



- Both provider and non-provider organisations would like to arrange provision in a way that maximises flexibility in order to meet changing needs over time and geographical locations. To do this, a largely centre-based provision is the preferred method. In discussion with providers, a flexible number of geographical lots was considered most able to meet the priorities of delivering to highest need and enabling a wide spread of provision. More detailed feedback from providers on the different options for organising provision can be found in the full consultation output report which is available on request.

This summary report was produced by South Gloucestershire Council's Corporate Research & Consultation Team.

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