



The **Benjamin** Foundation

Breckland Youth
Advisory Board
Young Persons' Needs
Analysis



Contents

Introduction

Breckland Youth Advisory Board Members

Consultation Methods

Initial Findings

Data Breakdown

Mapping Document

Conclusion

Appendix available on request –

Breckland YAB Priorities 2012-2013

Summarised Multi Agency Needs Profile

Youth Engagement Plan

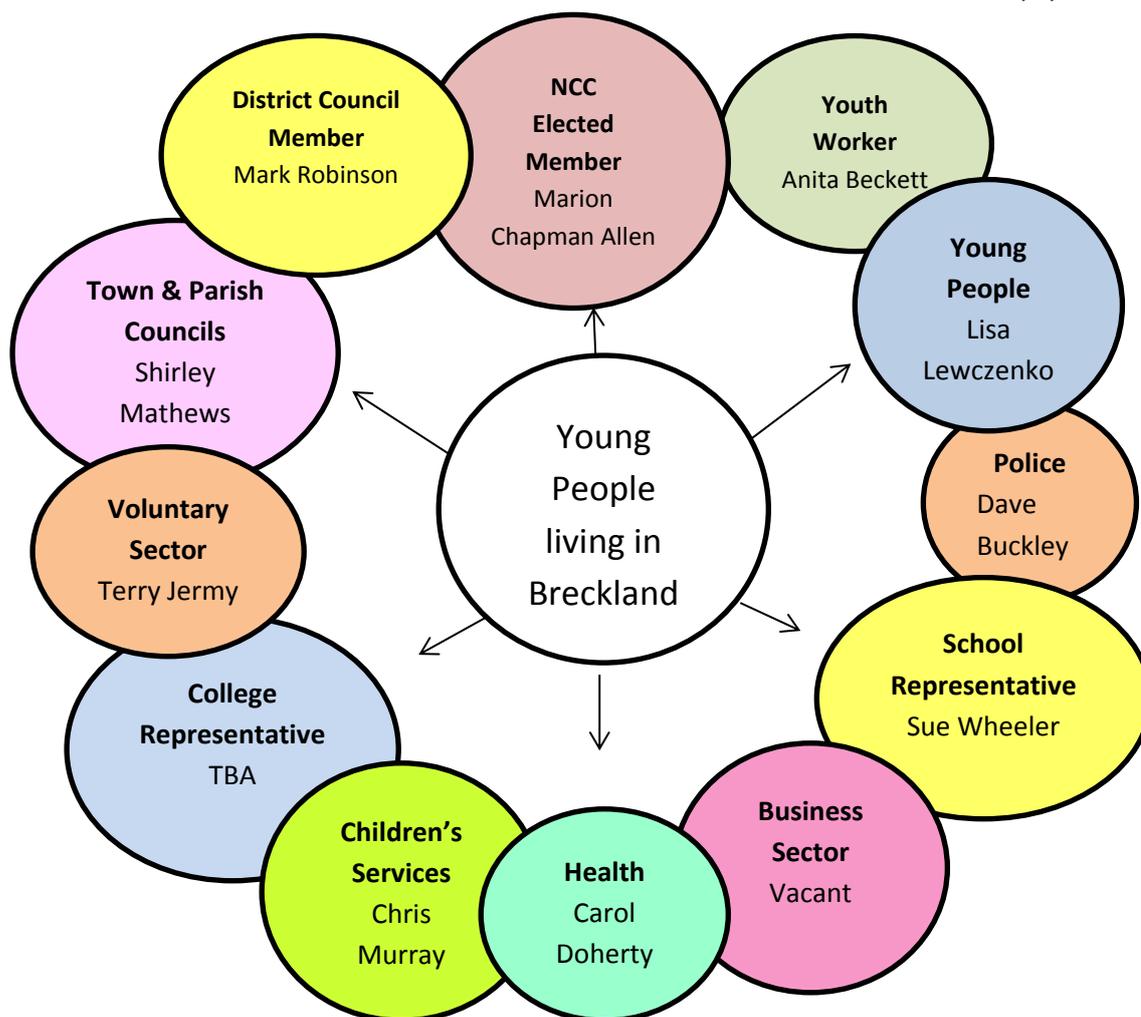
Introduction

This research has been completed by the Benjamin Foundation on behalf of the Breckland Youth Advisory Board. The purpose of this research is to determine the demographics and needs of young people within the Breckland District. This process will enable the Board to identify priorities that inform and determine what Youth Services are commissioned for young people.

The focus has been to ensure young people actively participate in all elements of the research and commissioning processes. Action has been taken to identify a variety of young people to participate in this research. To learn more please request a copy of the Youth Engagement Plan, this is available on request to anita.beckett@benjaminfoundation.co.uk

Breckland Youth Advisory Board Members 2012

The Youth Advisory Board has been created to share the needs of young people with organisations who can support the development and collaboration of youth services within the Breckland District. The Board representatives have been invited to reflect their field of practice on behalf of the Breckland District as a whole. The members as it stands 24/1/2013-



Consultation Methods

When conducting this consultation the focus was to ensure maximum participation. To enhance this I facilitated small group consultations and attended community engagement groups. The cycle of consultation is a process of 'Research, Plan, Do, Review'. Currently each action has been planned and then reviewed with young people before being put into action and presented to the Board.

To enable the maximum range of young people to participate in the consultation process. A variety of consultation techniques were used. The sample group of young people invited to participate in consultation were aged 11-25years and reside in the geographical area of Breckland District Council.

The initial method of consultation was conducted using a questionnaire. The questionnaire was disseminated online using Survey Monkey and sent in a paper format to schools and youth venues. The questionnaire was made available on Facebook, Twitter and facilitated through Youth Groups, Parish Councils, Schools and Colleges.

To disseminate the questionnaire to the widest audience a Facebook AD was created and this promoted the Breckland Youth Advisory Board and its purpose to approximately 70,000 Facebook users.

The questionnaire was created using input from young people attending the BOOM project and on the Customer Service course in Dereham Norfolk. The questions chosen were related to current concerns that may be affecting young people and questions not addressed in the current needs profile.

Before the questionnaire was launched an initial consultation with young people identified possible issues related to wording and layout of the questions. Changes were made in response to their input, young people were consulted twice. Their help was invaluable in understanding youth culture and how young people may perceive the questions. It is fair to say this group were aged 16/17years and this could have influenced some of the more specific questions related to sexual health and access to employment/training support.

It became apparent after the questionnaire was launched that to engage some groups of young people in this process using a written form would be difficult. To enhance some of the questionnaire data it was decided to visit groups and projects. I asked questions that

were related to a young person's perception of the area in which they live and what they see and understand in their everyday lives. This proved to be a really positive and productive way to conduct consultation. A number of Youth Groups such as Breckland Youth Council, The Surge, Wayland Youth Forum, Girls Allowed, Meet Up Café, TCA Football and cooking club were visited as part of the consultation. The challenge with face to face consultation was that it is very time consuming and there was a time constraint involved when conducting this consultation.

The geographical area of Breckland is very large and to travel to remote villages is a challenge. To address this I sent questionnaires to all the parish councils. I attended specific community forums such as at the Wayland Partnership. I met with key members within the communities of Swaffam, Thetford, Watton and Dereham. All members of the Youth Advisory Board were asked to support this consultation process.

Initial Findings

This information relates specifically to each Market Town and some of their surrounding villages within the Breckland District. This information was gathered through consultation with adults and young people within each community.

Dereham initial findings :

- Limited meeting venues for young people to associate safely
- Some reports of anti-social behaviour in Shipdham
- Swanton Morely village would like a youth club or venue
- There is a leisure centre, Bowling Alley and Cinema
- Princes Trust are due to start a Team Programme in September
- Swaffam Sixth form will be moving to Dereham Sept 2012
- No Youth Forum

Watton initial findings :

- Meeting venue for young people called the 'SURGE'
- Limited financial stability for youth venue
- Limited access to youth activities for young people living on the Blenheim Grange Housing development.
- Concerns raised around access to post 16 education
- Positive community cohesion
- There is a Youth Forum

Thetford initial findings :

- Positive Youth Venue 'Meet Up Café' Operated by The Benjamin Foundation
- Thetford Community Action running football and cooking activities
- Need to explore expanding collaborative working
- No current Youth Council/Forum
- Low aspirations and negative perception of Thetford
- Access to leisure centre is limited
- Keystone Trust has a lot of activities
- Limited access to young people's mental health services ,Family solutions and CAHMS.
- Ethnic tension
- Mental geography restrictions – Territorial
- Alcohol use

Swaffam initial findings :

- Youth venue 'ICENI'
- Positive collaborative working
- Youth Forum well established
- Need for more specialist support for young people such as sexual health and one to one.
- Social isolation due to transport difficulties
- Post 16 education soon to be moved to Dereham

Attleborough initial findings :

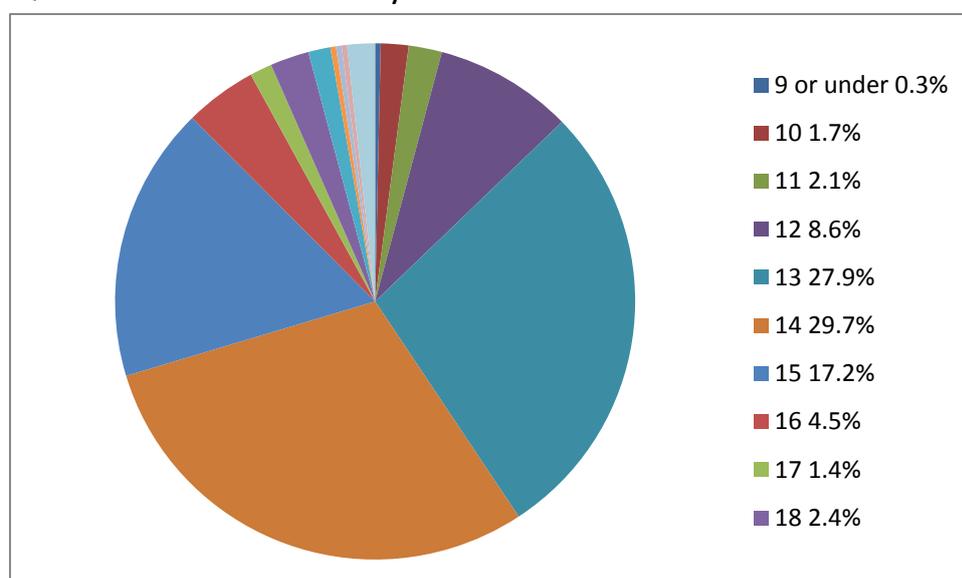
- Attleborough is an isolated area of the Breckland District
- More consultation required in this area

Data Breakdown and Qualitative Feedback

This section of the needs analysis concentrates on the data collected using the Survey Monkey questionnaire within schools and online. It has been helpful to align the qualitative feedback from young people with the questionnaire breakdown. There were 294 responses to this questionnaire and approximately 35 young people consulted using face to face discussion. The questions were selected using discussion with YAB members, Young people and the summary of a previous needs analysis that is available on request.

The Quantitative data has been collated in a visual way to enable easy access to the findings however the information can also be viewed numerically on request.

Question 1. How old are you ?



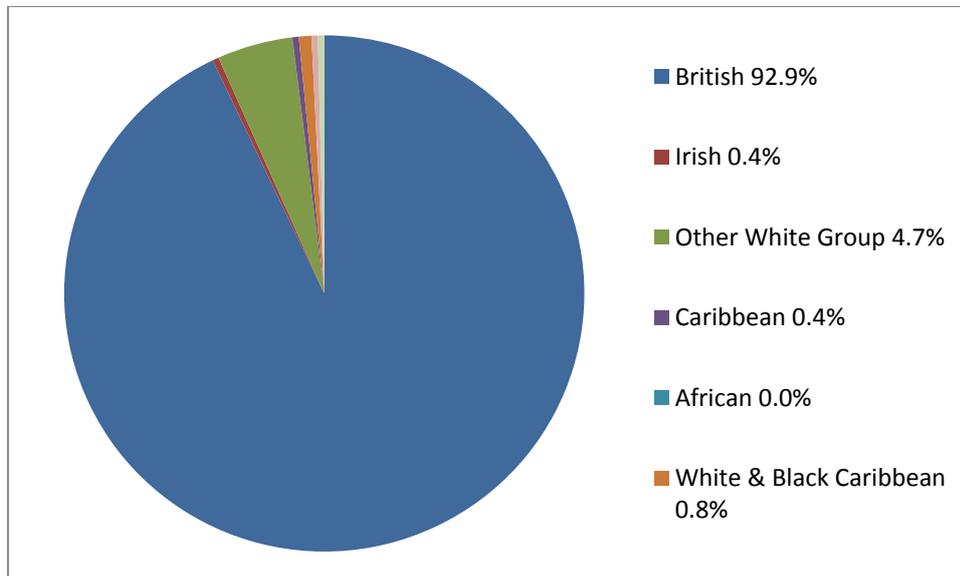
There were five respondents who did not answer this questions and five young people aged 25years and over. We can see that the majority of respondents were aged 13 to 15years. It is important to consider the target age range for future consultation as specifics related to sexual health and employment may be more significant in relation to needs. Young people from a range of ages were consulted during youth club visits; the majority were under 16years but there was a higher average age in the Youth Councils, BOOM and TCA Football. Not many group members completed questionnaires they did however discuss specific topics.

Question 2. What is your post code ?

A total of 270 young people completed this question and 25 young people skipped it. A number of young people did not give their full postcode. However a map has been populated to show where the respondents reside, this is their street only and not individual houses. The link to the Google Map shows that young people in the Watton area of Breckland completed the highest number of questionnaires. Its shows that there was very limited consultation in the Attleborough area of Breckland.

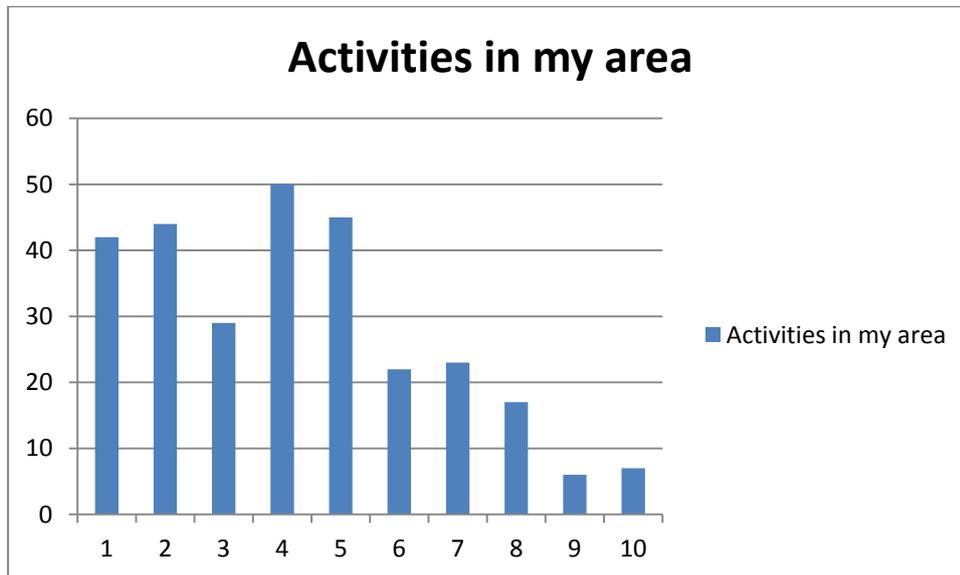
<https://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?msid=217963689103177139419.0004c349d520e3c5511ca&msa=0&hl=en&ie=UTF8&t=m&z=10&vpsrc=1>

Question 3. Which of the following best describes your Ethnicity ?



This pie chart shows clearly that the majority of participants in the questionnaire are of white British origin. Alongside the questionnaire there was some face to face consultation completed with BAME young people it still falls significantly short in relation to white British participants. 40 young people decided not to complete this question. Some of the verbal feedback received from young people was related to racial abuse, they felt this was common place in the area of Thetford. Young people said they never reported abuse as it was felt to be an every day part of their lives. It was highlighted that there are an increasing number of Eastern European families moving to the Breckland area, and the highest number of Traveler families in the county, it is important to recognise these groups and their participation in consultation.

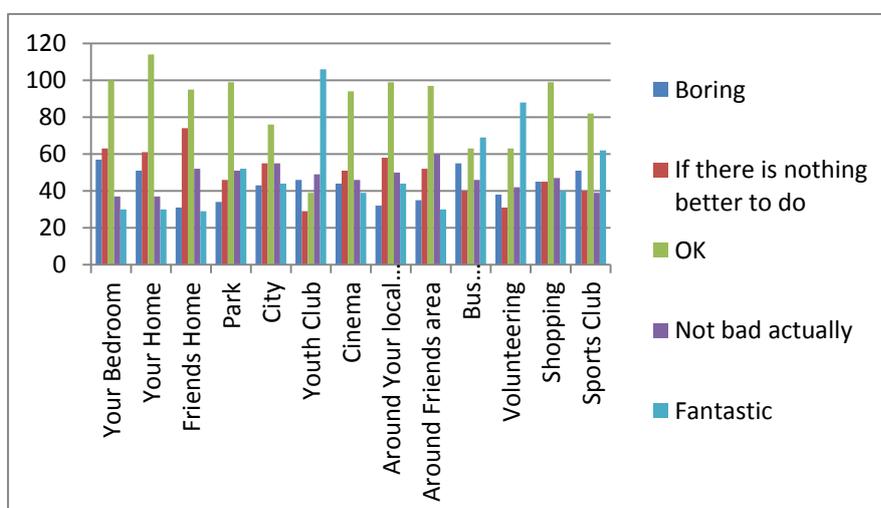
Question 4. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being rubbish and 10 being brilliant, how would you rate activities for young people in your area ?



Most young people seem to feel that the activities in their area were either ok or really rubbish. This could be linked to the geographical area in which they live and their access to activities in the local area. When discussing activities with young people the feedback was mixed. The majority of young people felt positively but the nature of where the consultation took place many young people were already involved in positive activities. There was a negative feeling within Thetford and young people did not feel positive about their community, references to peer pressure and violence were given. The older young people 14+ wanted to access age appropriate services such as C-Card, Volunteering, Careers support and young parents support.

Question 5. What do you think of where you spend your leisure time ?

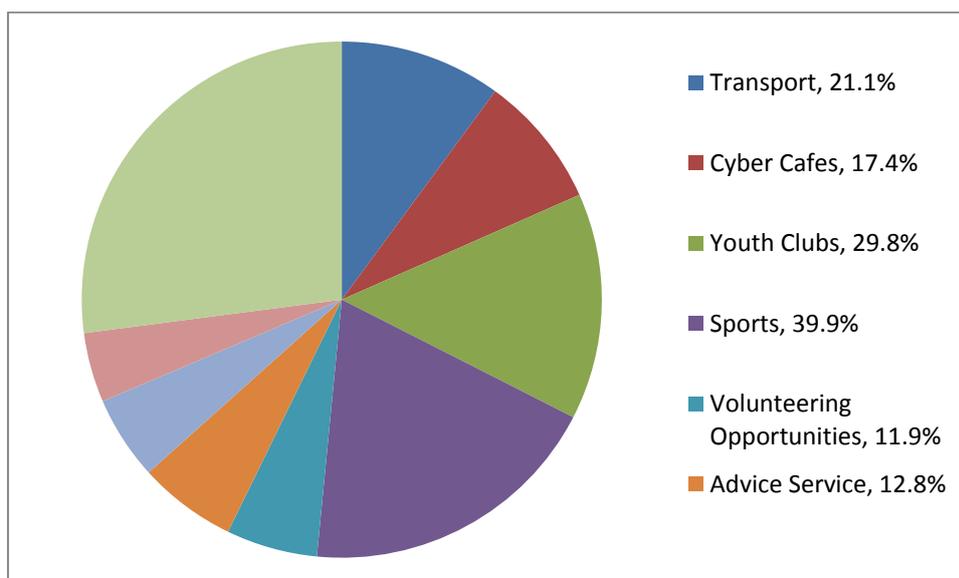
You can score each place.



Question 5.

The responses to this question were varied and complex. There were a total of 294 young people who answered this question. It should be noted that the majority of young people completing this questionnaire live in the Watton area that has a really positive Youth Club and this will have an influence on this answer. As a result Youth Clubs were identified as the most popular activity with over 100 young people rating this activity as fantastic. The following two activities to score highly are Volunteering and Sports clubs. Most activities were rated as OK. The young people valued the groups that they currently attended and they could demonstrate the positive impact the group had on their well being and social development. Through observation it was clear to see the positive relationships between facilitators and young people. When discussing this question with young people who did not attend a youth project they felt these types of group could be really beneficial if they were organised as 'One Stop Shop' for young people of all ages to access activities and support.

Question 6. What activities and support would you like to see for young people in your area ? Tick all that apply.

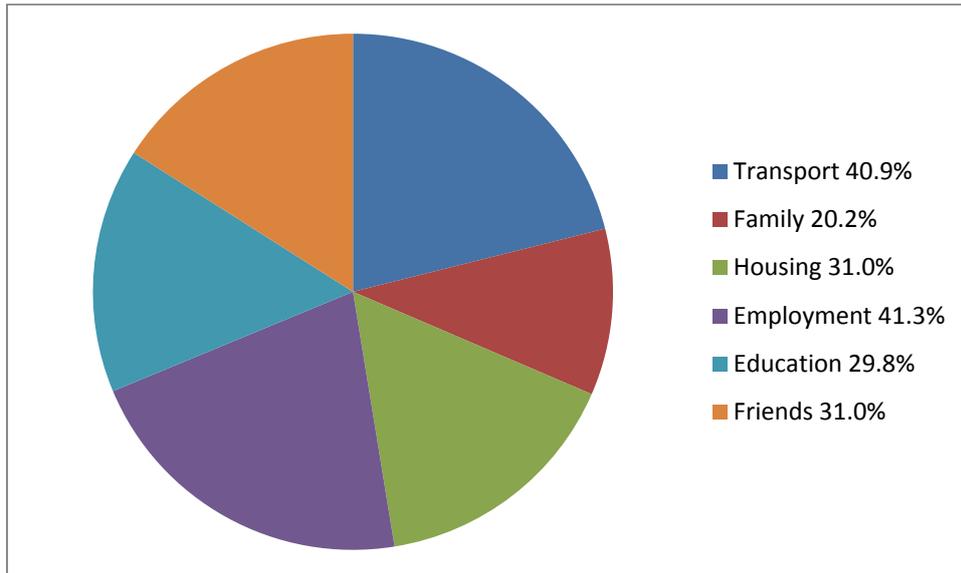


Young people identified that they would like to see more Sports Activities and Youth Clubs. There were a large number of comments made and this is the grey section these will be covered in the next chapter under qualitative data where individuals suggestions will be explored. 77 young people did skip this question. There was some very specific comments made in relation to this question and some of the activities not identified above were –

- Skate Park
- Parks and open play areas for young people to meet.
- Cinema
- Swimming Pool
- Teen Shops

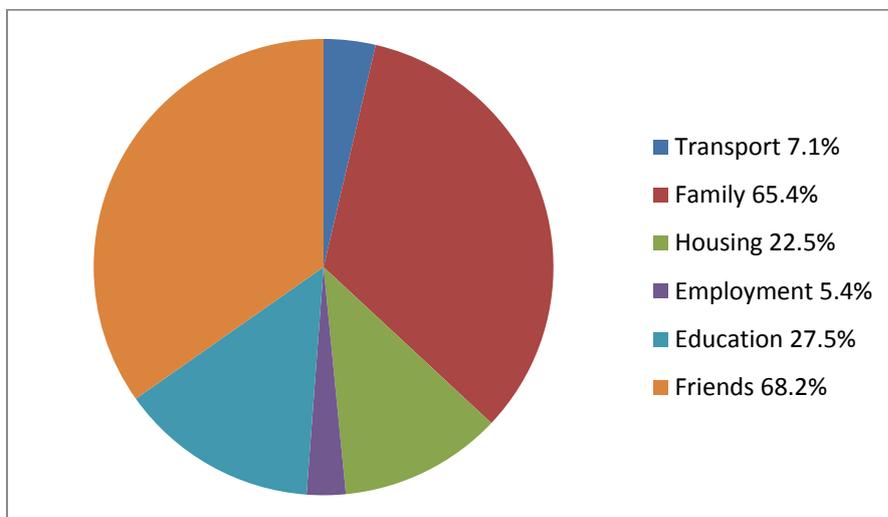
Young people felt there limited places for them to meet and just hang out with friends, this was not just related to buildings but outdoor areas. Some young people said they did not go out, this was due to transport, cost implications.

Question 7. Please tick two reasons why you may want to move from the area you currently live in ?



The information in this pie chart would suggest that there is a multitude of reasons that young people may move from their home town. The two most common reasons were Transport and Employment, after discussions with young people face to face there were also needs identified related to accessing shops, entertainment and general leisure activities.

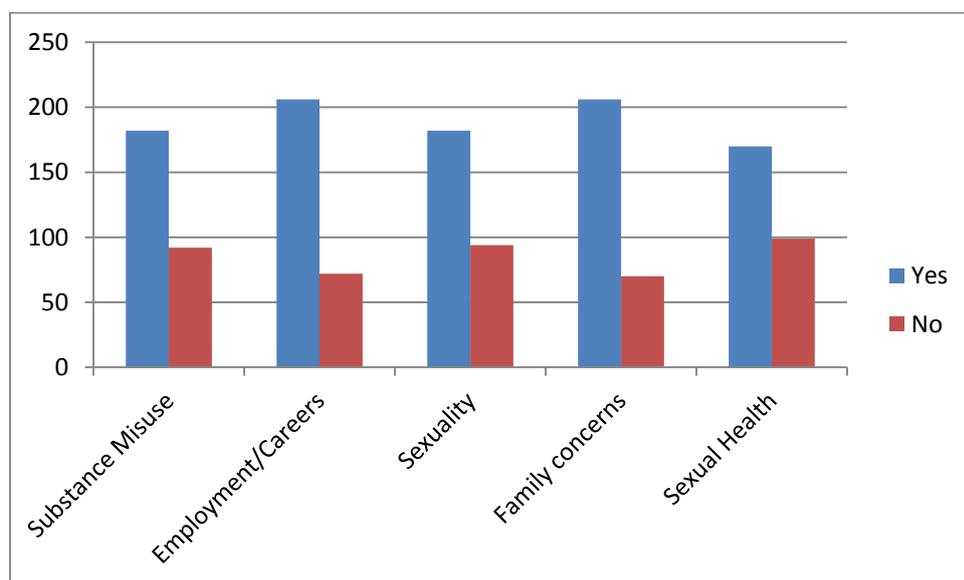
Question 8. Please tick two reasons why you might want to stay in the area you currently live in ?



Question 8.

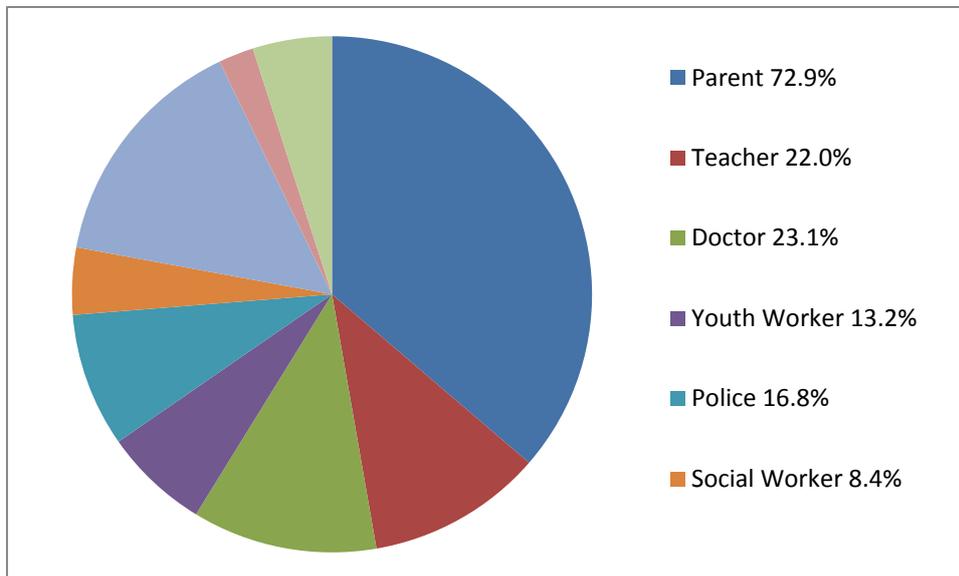
This pie chart clearly shows the two reasons that young people would stay in the area they currently live and these are related to Family and Friends. This confirms that young people are not motivated by Employment or Transport to stay where they currently live. When discussing this topic with young people they wanted to work in the area that they live in and a number of young people never want to leave their home town. This could indicate a lack of aspirations.

Question 9. Is there an adult you trust and could talk to about the following topics ?



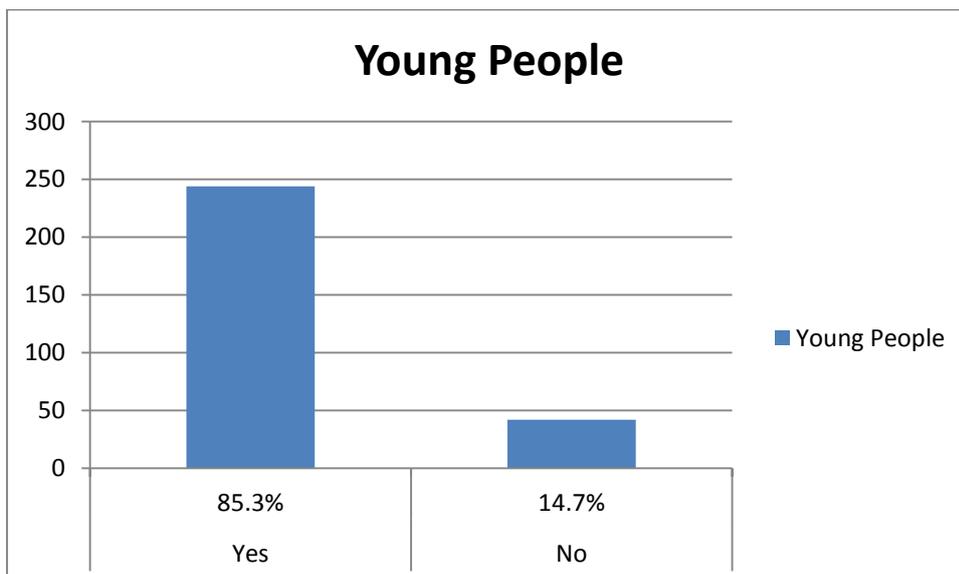
There was a total of 280 respondents to this question, and whilst a NO response answer is slightly higher for sexual health, sexuality and substance misuse young people answered mainly Yes. The age range of participants could influence this answer and younger respondents may feel that they would talk to an adult about specific subjects.

Question 10. Which of these people would you be most comfortable talking to if you had a problem ? Tick all that apply.



Young people identified that parents are the person they feel that they can trust. However the second significant response was related to an older brother or sister this made up 30% of responses. Doctors and teachers also featured quite highly. There were some young people in Thetford who discussed access to contraception. The feedback was they had been denied access to the C-Card scheme although they were of an appropriate age. They were unaware that they could purchase contraception under the age of 16. This anecdotal evidence could demonstrate that these young people had limited support/information in relation to this subject. One young person felt they could not talk to their own parent but would be happy to talk to a friend's parent.

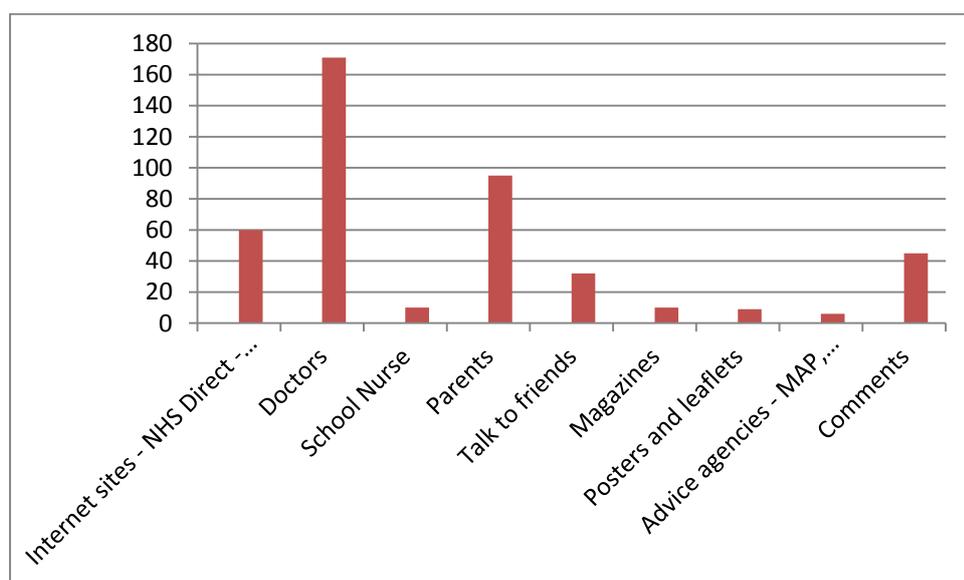
Question 11. Do you ever think about your health ?



Question 11.

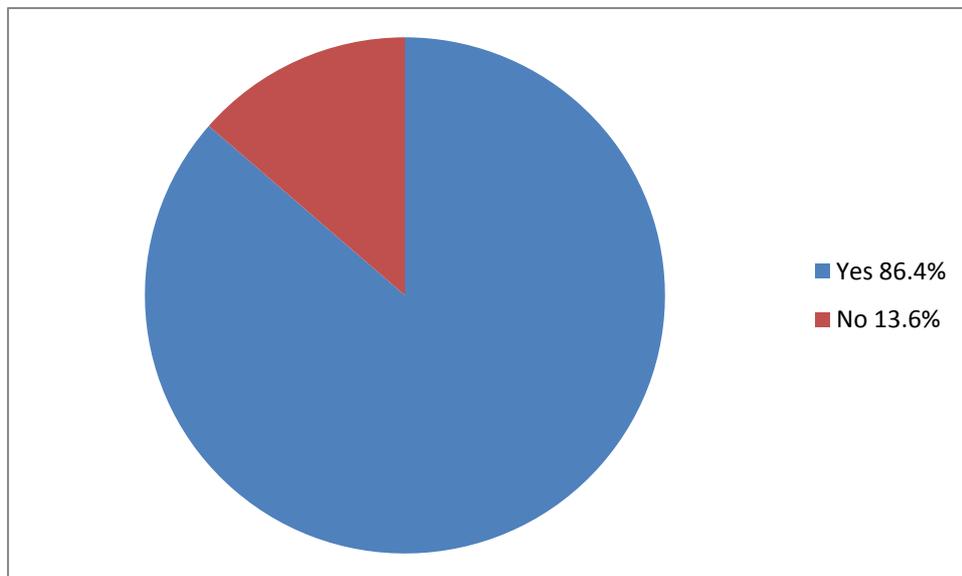
Most young people who completed the questionnaire do think about their health. This question does not define which elements of their health. This topic was explored during face to face discussions. There was however discussion around substance misuse and young people using alcohol. Young people did not relate this behaviour to their health or well being.

Question 12. Where do you go for information about your health ? Tick all that apply.



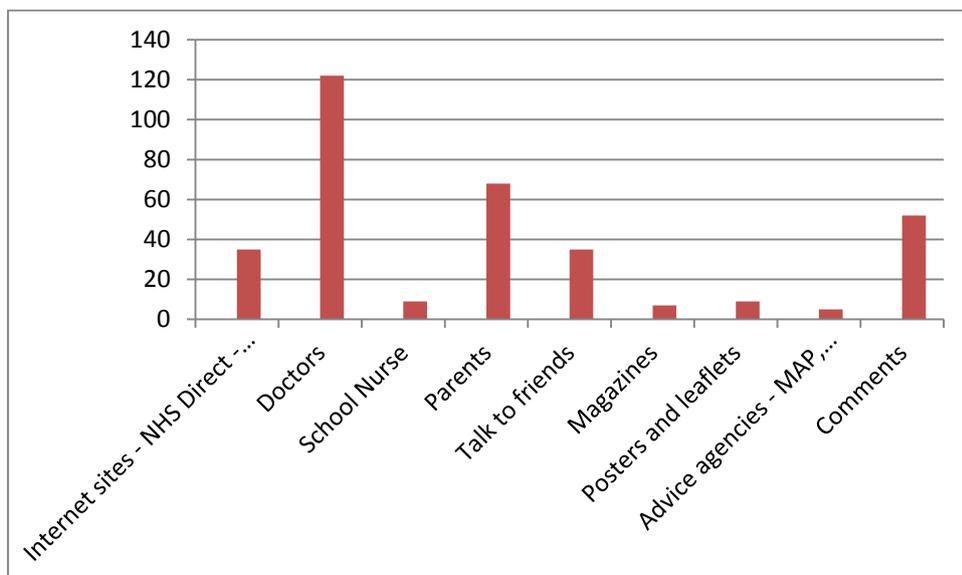
Young people identified that they currently go to the doctors, parents and internet for information on health. The age range of young people completing this questionnaire could have an impact on the answers given. To address this some specific research related to post 16 young people should be completed. This question again did not determine which elements of their health that they would seek support for.

Question 13. Are you aged 13 or over ?



The majority of young people completing this questionnaire were aged 13+ years. This question was asked in relation to Gillick competencies to ensure that young people were competent and understood the question being asked in relation to sexual health..

Question 14. Where would you go for contraception and sexual health advice ?



This question was completed by young people over the age of 13 years, and it shows that those who completed the questionnaire would discuss sexual health with doctors, parents and friends. There were 97 young people who declined to answer this question which is a significant number. When discussing this topic with young people it had not been a question they had thought about

previously with young people 14/15+ they expressed a view that their parent would not be the primary person they would talk to. There was confusion about their right to confidentiality in relation to sexual health advice. Internet sites and phone help lines gave young people autonomy.

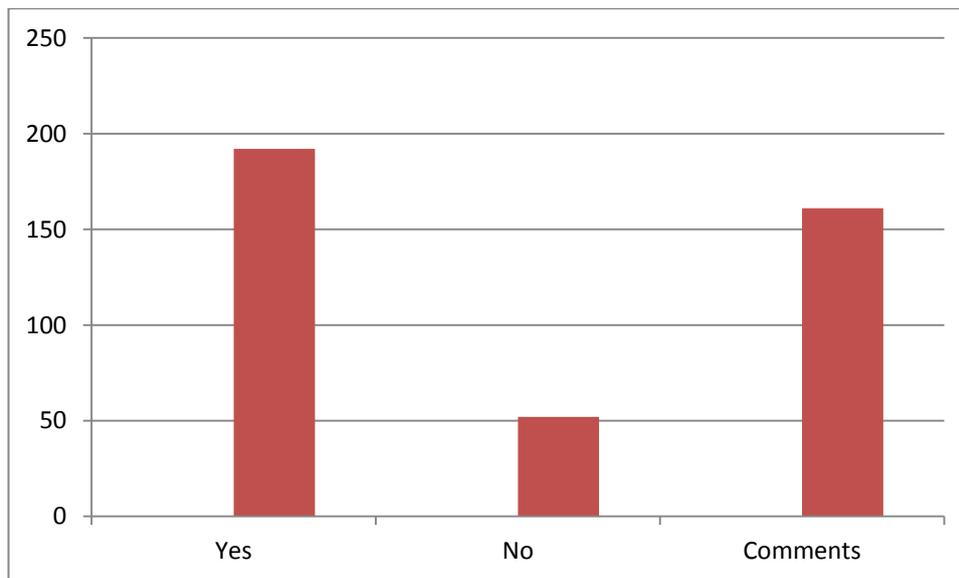
Question 15. Where can you travel to for activities and events without relying on others ?

This question had different answers for each individual and may have been hard to understand. The main answers were –

- No Where
- Local Town or Norwich

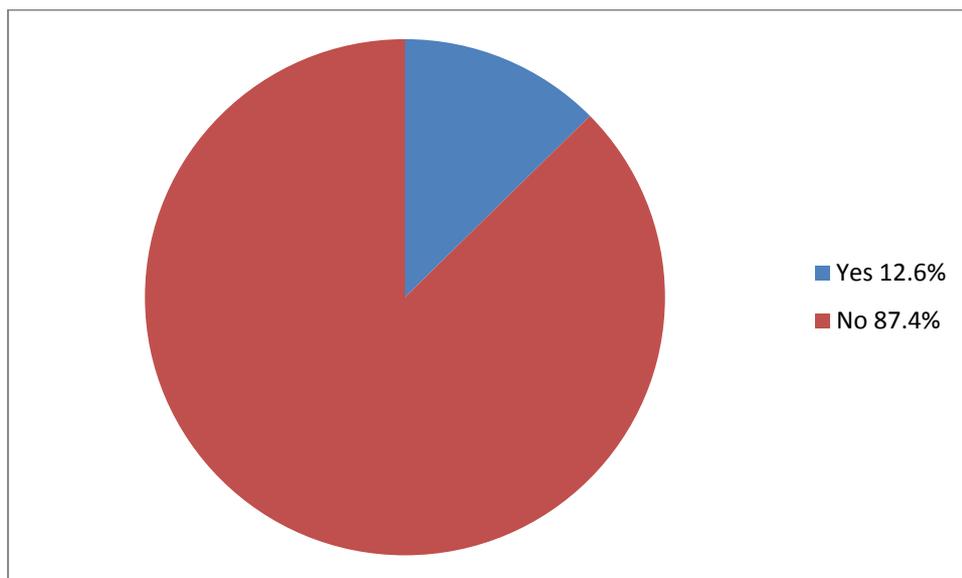
Young people identified that Norwich was the main destination they could reach using a bus. Local activities required a parent, bike, walk or bus. There was a comment about no pavements to walk on when travelling to local villages or towns. When talking to young people they felt the buses did not offer services in the evening or frequently enough, they cost a lot of money to use all the time and often do not go to destinations they might want to travel to.

Question 16. Would you like a part time job in your area ?



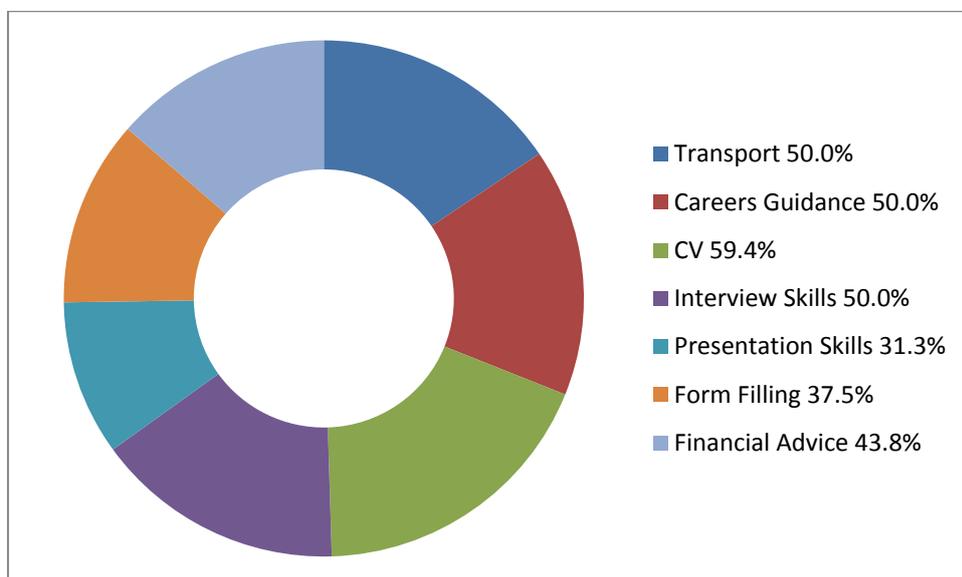
The answer to this question shows that a significant number of young people would like to work in some capacity regardless of age. 244 young people completed this question. Young people consulted would like work to boost their income whilst at school or college. Feedback was also given regarding the halt to EMA and how this meant young people had limited funds to use recreationally or for transport costs.

Question 17. Are you aged 16 or over ?



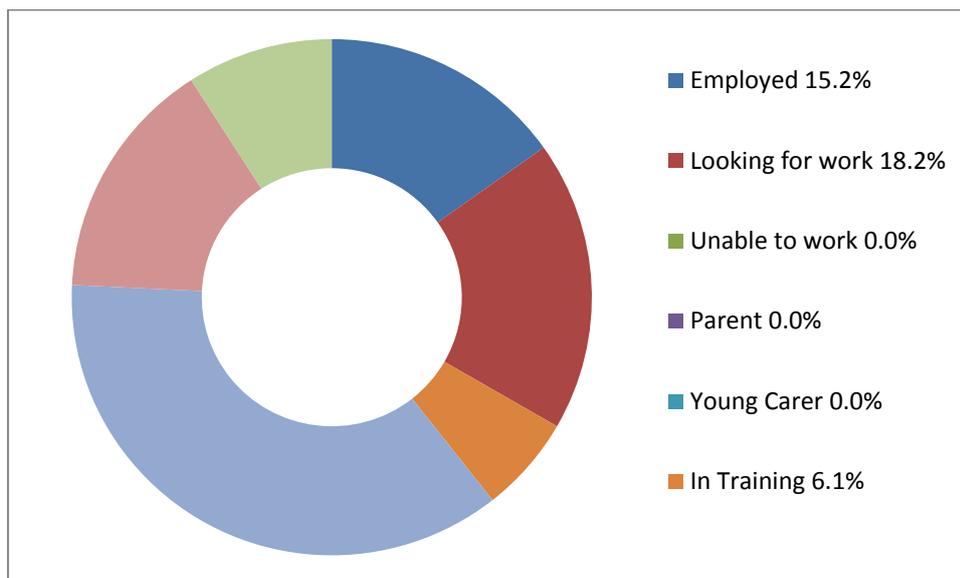
The majority of young people completing this questionnaire were under 16 years this would suggest that those post 16 need more access to consultation opportunities and some targeted research with this age range 16-25..

Question 18. What help and support would you like to find work or access training ? Tick all that apply ?



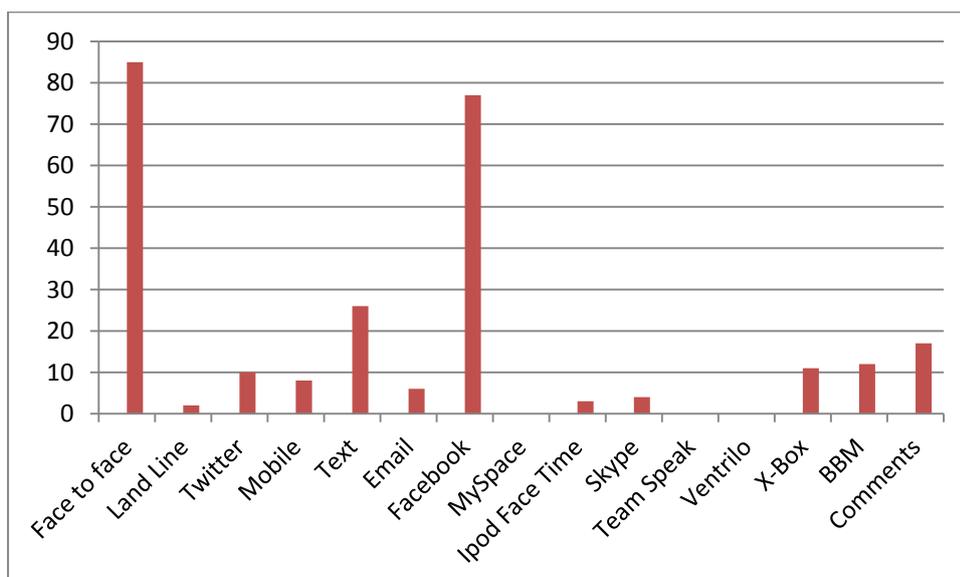
This chart shows need and types of support young people would like in relation to employment and training. It would suggest that young people require an all round service that supports them in a holistic way in the transition to employment or higher education. Young people gave feedback stating that careers guidance was limited and sometimes they just wanted someone to discuss their options with, limited access to the internet meant this was not an option for careers advice.

Question 19. What is your current status ?



Due to the age range of young people participating in this questionnaire the responses to this question were limited however 33 young people did answer. The light blue section not identified is for young people in college. The pale red section is for young people in part time work and the pale green identified young people in education and part time employment. There are still 18.2% of young people looking for work. There were a number of young people that were NEET but had started to engage in the BOOM customer retail skills course.

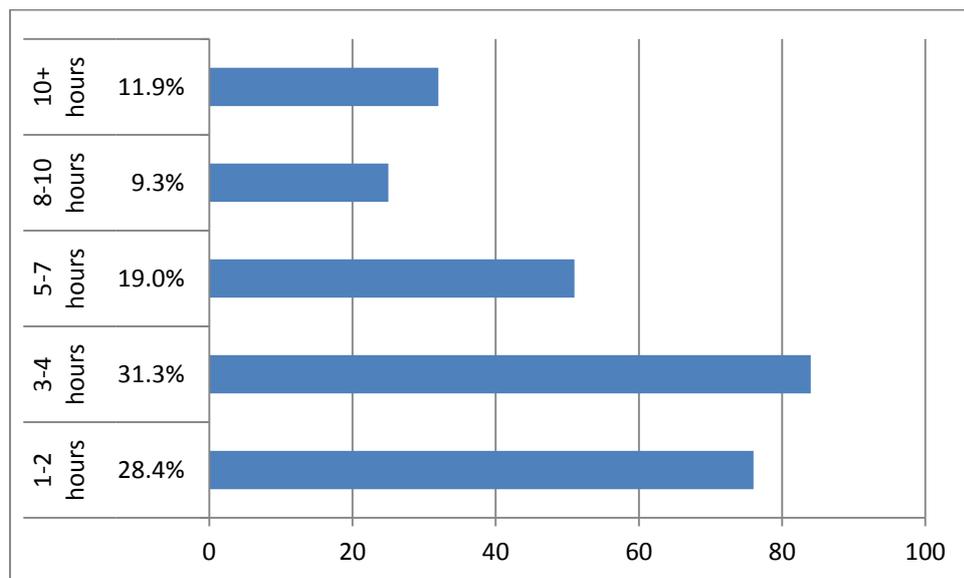
Question 20. What is the most regular way that you communicate with friends, relations and the wider world ?



Question 20.

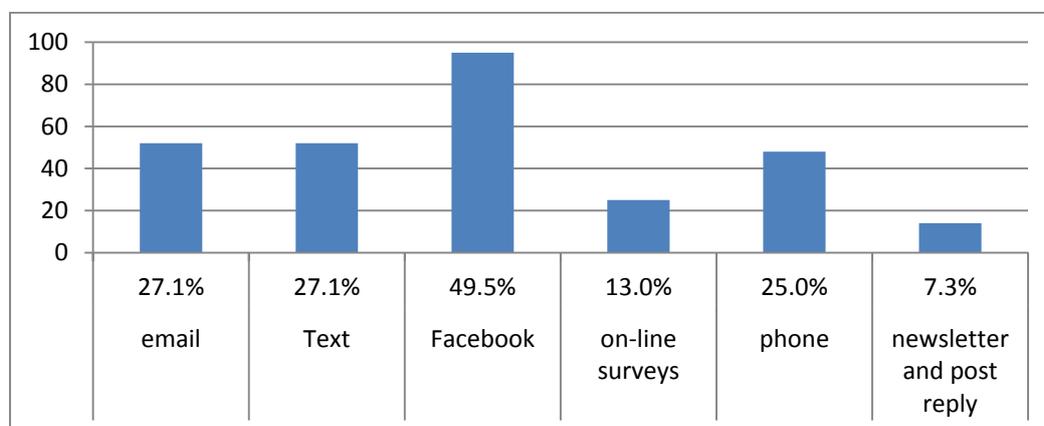
This question is not completely accurate as young people completed paper questions and this meant that they ticked more than one option and this was not possible to replicate when inputting on the Survey Monkey. However it is apparent that Face to Face communication and Facebook are very popular ways to stay in touch. Young people appreciated the opportunity to discuss needs face to face.

Question 21. How many hours a day do you spend socialising on your computer/Smart phone ?



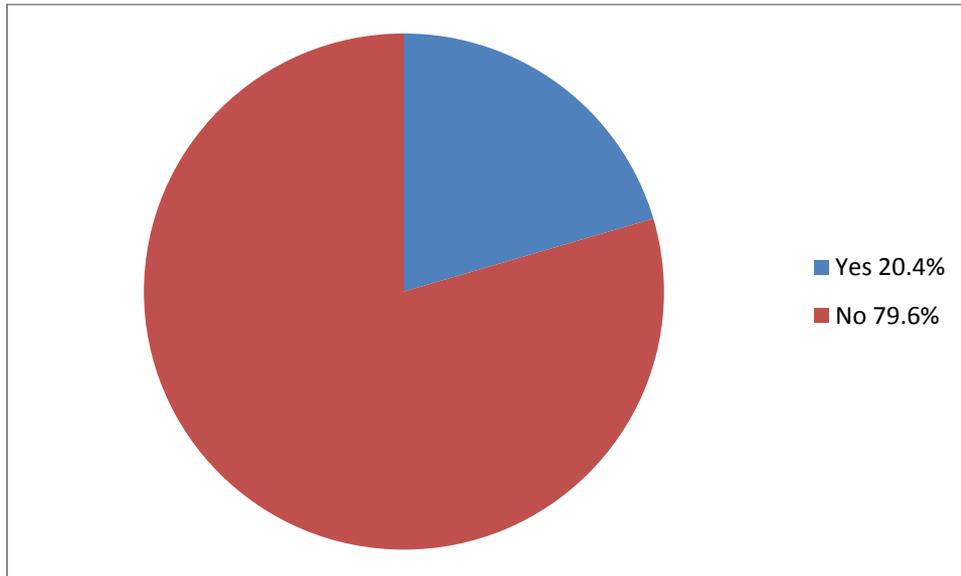
This bar chart shows how significant computer and phone technology has become in young peoples lives with the majority of young people spending 3-4 hours a day online or communicating. Young people said to me that Facebook is a helpful way to communicate with them and keep young people up to date.

Question 22. What is the best way to find out your opinions without meeting you face to face ?



Young people chose facebook as the best way to contact them alongside email and text. There were 192 young people who completed this question and 103 decided to skip the question.

Question 23. Do you think you veivs make a difference within your community ?



Young people felt very strongly about this question and responded accordingly. In the next chapter this question will be expanded on as it has direct relevance to the Youth Advisory Board and its purpose. When talking to young people they felt very strongly that they did not have any power to make decisions in their communities some of the following statements were made.

Question 23.

'I live in a village with very few teenagers so my veiw is irrelevant because it is full of adults' '

Lack of confidence and hard to tell people what I want'

'NOBODY REALLY CARES ABOUT MY OPINION'

'NOTHING NEW EVER HAPPENS WHERE I LIVE SO IF I SAID SOMETHING IT PROBABLY WOULD'NT MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

'I'm a small person in a big world'

'A lot of adults brand all teenagers as bad without even trying to get to know us. I've tried to make difference but i've been ignored just because of my age on countless occasion's'

'It's not that I think it isn't valued, but I very rarely hear about things being changed that are because people have simply given their opinion. Usually it is some protest or because the authorities think it will make them better. Also, I have very rarely been asked for my opinion on something and it has actually changed apart from very small things like school, nothing that will really effect the whole community'

Some young people did respond positively saying –

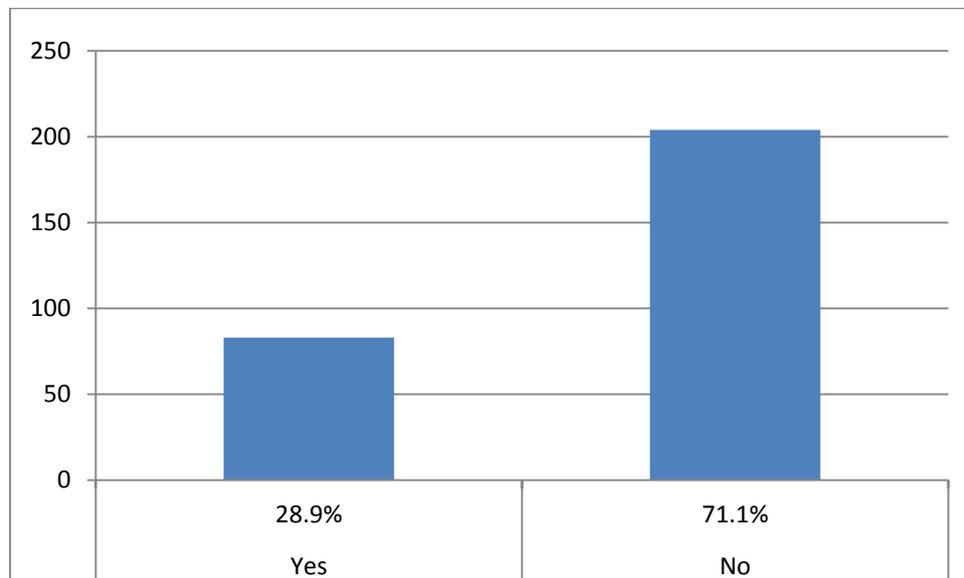
‘if people know what you want / like they can try and do something about it.’

‘because it helps make the area better for living and activities’

‘because everyone can make a difference’

Young people I spoke to feel that they are listened to at times but then there is no follow up or change and this has created apathy towards consultation or involvement in politics.

Question 24. Would you be interested in telling us what you think again in the future?



Young people strongly felt that they did not want to participate further in consultation. There were 287 young people who completed this question. A subsequent question asked for details of young people who would be interested in becoming more involved. There were details from 66 young people and these young people will be consulted in future alongside other youth groups.

Mapping Document

The purpose of this mapping document is to assess what provision is currently available to meet the needs of young people. This will enable informed decisions to be made when allocating resources and enabling current provision to be supported. Another positive element of mapping services is that organisations and groups can collaborate more effectively to provide a holistic service to young people; this can also monitor duplication and innovation.

I have created an electronic map of current services this is so it can be updated regularly ensuring that services are relevant. I am aware that there may be some groups missing and if you have any you would like to add please contact Breckland Youth Advisory Board through The Benjamin Foundation on 01692 403036 where you can leave any details it is important to have a post code a small blog about what the group does and how they can be easily contacted either e-mail, website or phone number will do.

To access the Mapping document please type into your search engine the following link –

<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?vps=1&hl=en&ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=217963689103177139419.0004c3890598da1836c97>

If you have received this document electronically just click on the link above.

Conclusion

To ensure the YAB can address some of the needs identified within this document it is important that the needs are prioritised. A meeting was held with the YAB Board and it was identified that to address the needs of young people requires infrastructure and people who can facilitate activities. It was recognised that since the decommissioning of County Council Youth Services there has been a drop in capacity to facilitate activities. This is related not only to staff reductions but also a lack of Youth Venues.

The second key finding in this needs analysis identified that young people showed apathy towards community consultation. There was clear feedback that young people felt their views were not respected and they felt there was little change as a result of consultation.

In conclusion it is a priority to create a foundation within the Breckland District where young people know they have a voice and can achieve change together with adult support. There will be a focus initially on support for Adult and Youth Volunteers who can access training to develop the skills required to facilitate community activities and action new initiatives that meet the needs of local young people.

To enable communities to identify consistently the needs of the young people residing in Breckland there should be a Youth Engagement Plan that enables the creation of Youth Consultation Forums that have a clear pathway to the political decision makers within the Breckland District. This will support a holistic view of community life to be shared and solution focused in a way that promotes well being for all.

