

Customer Perception Tracking Research

Young People Survey

BMG Research



Research Report No
DCSF-RW056

Customer Perception Tracking Research
Young People Survey

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The views expressed in this report are the authors' and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

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1 Introduction

Background

In 2006, the DCSF commissioned BMG Research to undertake a 3 year Customer Perception Tracking study of the general public, parents of children and young people aged up to 19, and young people aged 10-19.

The aims and objectives of the tracking study are to:

- Monitor perceptions of the overall quality of state education provision at all stages from early years provision through to Higher Education.
- Measure attitudes towards various issues such as children's safety and wellbeing at school and in the community, children and young people's role and role in the community.
- Understand perceptions towards participation in higher education.
- Understand the overall perception of England as a place to grow up.

This report covers the findings from the survey of young people.

Methodology

Interviews were conducted by telephone between December 2007 and January 2008 amongst 1002 children and young people aged 10-19.

Quotas were set according to the age of the child or young person. Hence the following quotas were set and achieved:

Table 1: Quotas achieved on final sample

| Young People sample | Young People sub sample | Achieved |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Secondary | Key Stage 3 - Ages 10-14 | 252 |
| | Key Stage 4 - Ages 14-16 | 250 |
| 6 th Form | School 6 th Form | 199 |
| | College 6 th Form | 94 |
| 16-19 | FE learners / Apprenticeships | 82 |
| | HE learners | 58 |
| | Not in learning | 67 |

Data was weighted back to national proportions, which means that analysis of “all young people” at a total sample level remains reflective of the population of young people across the country. A demographic profile of respondents is provided in Section 9.

Tests for statistical significance are based on the number of interviews achieved and the relevant percentage figure. The maximum standard error at the 95% level of confidence for the total sample, based on a 50%:50% response is +/-3.1%. The nearer the percentage reported moves to 100% or 0% (i.e. there is a majority responding one way or another), the smaller the standard error. A reported percentage of 90%/10% would be subject to a standard error of just +/-0.6% at the 95% confidence level.

Format of report

This research report details findings from the survey of young people, with analysis of subgroups by education stage. The findings are structured around DSO objectives, with data provided on key question area for each DSO:

- DSO 1: Secure the wellbeing and health of children and young people
- DSO 2: Safeguard the young and vulnerable
- DSO 3: Achieve world class standards in education
- DSO 4: Close the gap in educational achievement for children from disadvantaged families
- DSO 5: Ensure young people are participating and achieving their potential to 16 and beyond
- DSO 6: Keep children and young people on the path to success
- England as a place to grow up in (cross-cutting DSO objectives)

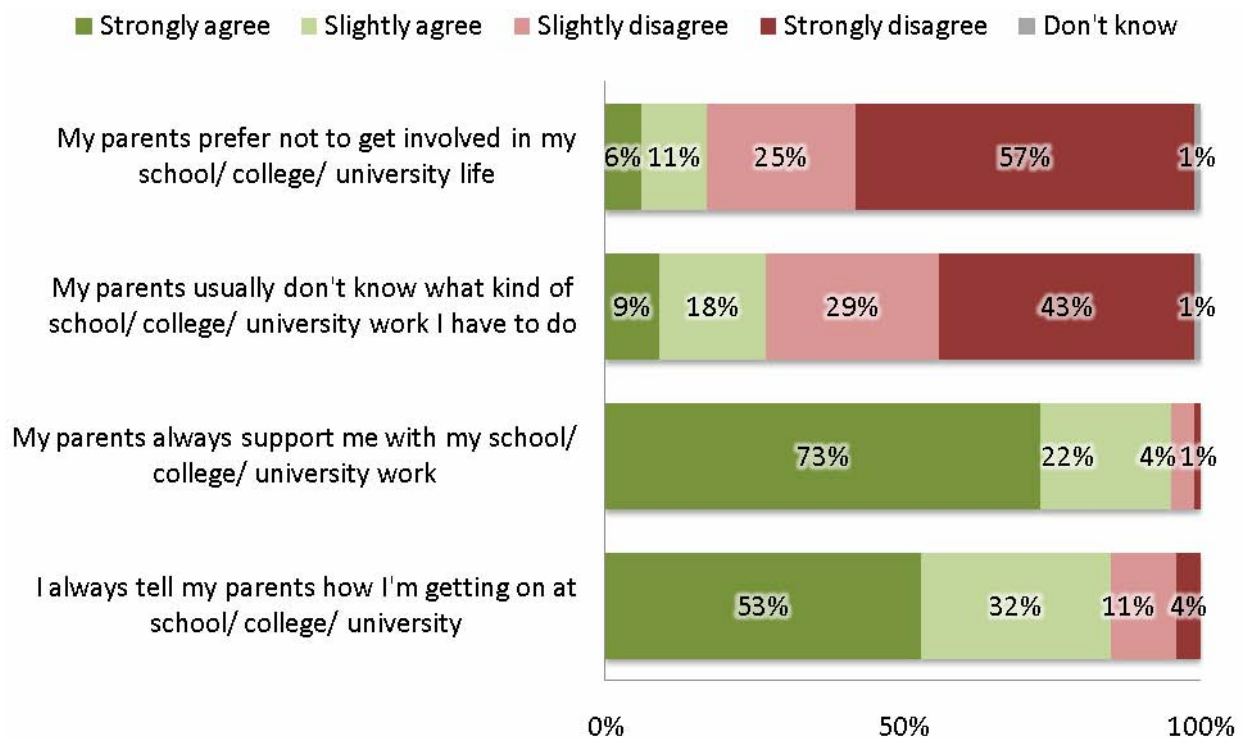
Tables and figures have been used throughout the report to illustrate the data. Where tables are used to collate total scaled responses, such as those who agree (strongly + slightly) versus those who disagree (strongly + slightly), the total positive responses (ie, total agree, total very + quite etc) are illustrated in **bold**, while the total negative responses (ie, total disagree, total not very + not at all etc) are illustrated in grey.

2 DSO 1: Secure the wellbeing and health of children and young people

2.1 Parental involvement in education

Young people in learning were asked to rate the extent of their agreement with a number of statements regarding their parents' involvement in their education. The figure below illustrates that young people report that their parents are generally involved in their school or college life (82% disagreed that their parents prefer not to get involved), they feel supported by their parents in their work (95%) and they generally always tell their parents how they are getting on in their education (85%). The majority of young people also reported that their parents usually know what kind of homework they have (as 72% disagreed that their parents do not know what kind of work they have).

Figure 1: Q13: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?



Sample base = 935

DSO 1: Secure the wellbeing and health of children and young people

Some slight differences between education stages exist, however in general the findings show that young people of all ages report that their parents are supportive and involved in their education. Young people at Sixth Form College and learning at a Further Education college or through an apprenticeship are most likely to agree that their parents prefer not to get involved with their education (21% and 22% agree respectively).

The youngest and oldest groups of learners are most likely to report that their parents do know what kind of work they have on, as 78% of children at Key Stage 3 disagree that their parents usually don't know what kind of work they have to do, as do 72% of HE learners.

Young people aged 14-16 at Key Stage 4 and those in school sixth form are most likely to disagree that they always tell their parents how they are getting on at school, as 23% and 22% of these groups respectively disagree.

Table 2: Q13: To what extent do you agree with the following statements...?

| | Secondary | | | | | | 6 th Form | | | | 16-19 | | | |
|---|------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|---------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|-------------|-----|
| | ALL YOUNG PEOPLE | | Key Stage 3 – Ages 10-14 | | Key Stage 4 – Ages 14-16 | | School | | College | | FE learners/ apprenticeship | | HE learners | |
| | % + | % - | % + | % - | % + | % - | % + | % - | % + | % - | % + | % - | % + | % - |
| My parents prefer not to get involved in my school/ college/ university life | 17 | 82 | 17 | 81 | 13 | 86 | 16 | 84 | 21 | 79 | 22 | 78 | 19 | 81 |
| My parents usually don't know what kind of school/ college/ university work I have to do | 27 | 72 | 20 | 78 | 30 | 69 | 34 | 66 | 37 | 60 | 35 | 63 | 28 | 72 |
| My parents always support me with my school/ college/ university work | 95 | 5 | 95 | 5 | 94 | 6 | 96 | 4 | 95 | 5 | 93 | 7 | 93 | 7 |
| I always tell my parents how I'm getting on at school/ college/ university | 85 | 15 | 93 | 7 | 77 | 23 | 78 | 22 | 85 | 15 | 85 | 15 | 88 | 12 |
| Sample bases | 935 | | 252 | | 250 | | 199 | | 94 | | 82 | | 58 | |

DSO 1: Secure the wellbeing and health of children and young people

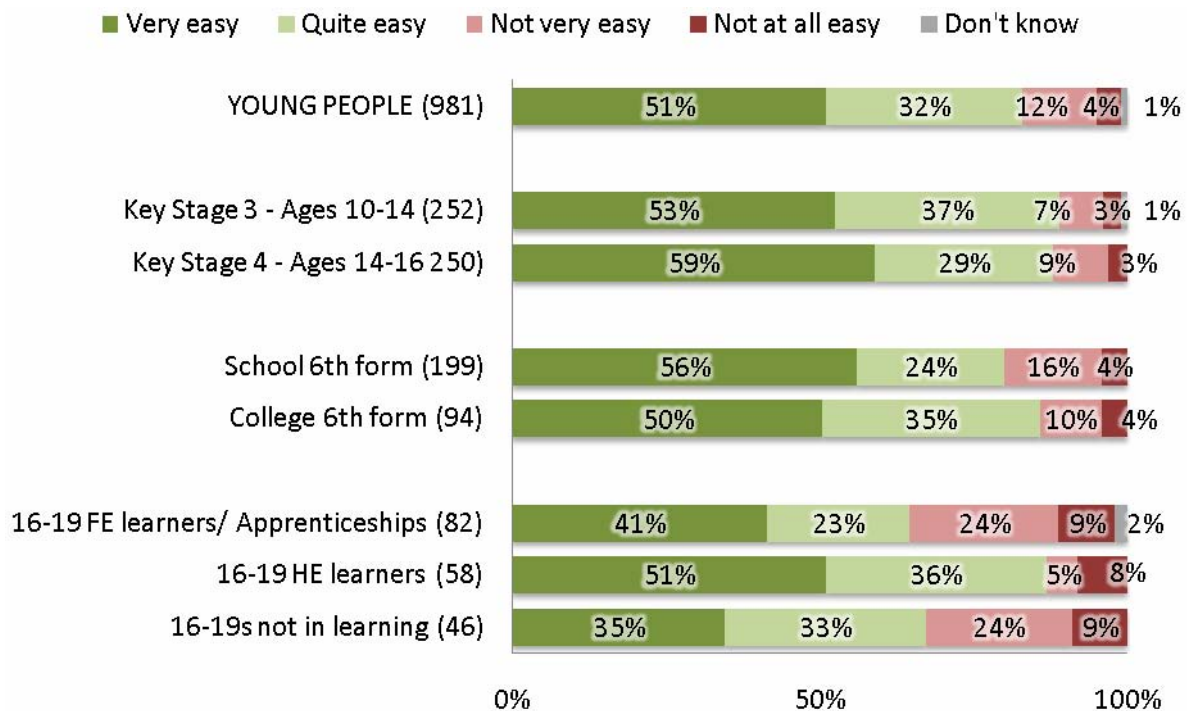
2.2 Ease of using public transport

Young people were asked to rate how easy it is for them to get to school, college, university or work without travelling by car (i.e. to catch public transport, walk or cycle).

The majority of young people (83%) report that they find it easy, including half (51%) who find it very easy, and a further one in three (32%) who find it quite easy. Around one in six (16%) find it not very or not at all easy.

Young people at school, at school or college, sixth form or at Higher Education are most likely to find it easy to travel to school, college or university without using a car, as 80% or more of these groups report. Young people learning at a Further Education College or learning on an apprenticeship and those not in learning but at work are least likely to find it easy to travel without using a car, as one in three of both these groups (33%) find it very or quite difficult, comprising one in four (24%) who find it quite difficult, and a further one in ten (9%) who find it very difficult.

Figure 2: Q17. Thinking about transport, how easy would you say it is for you to get to school/ college/ university/ work without travelling by car - that is to catch public transport, walk or cycle?



Sample bases shown in parentheses.

DSO 1: Secure the wellbeing and health of children and young people

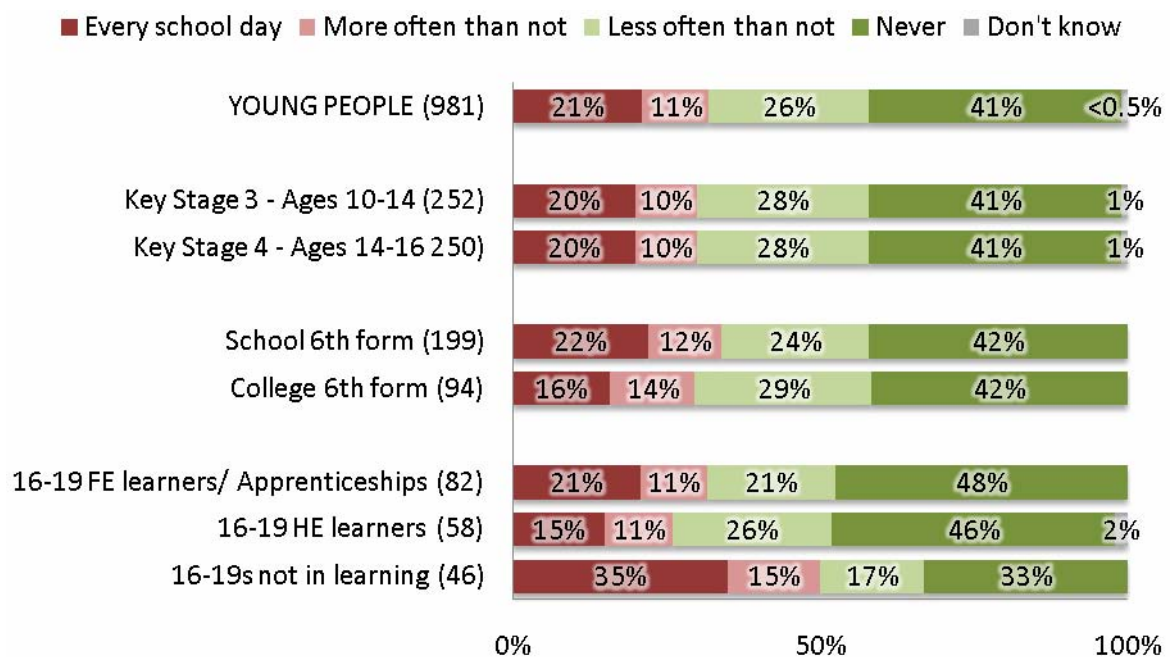
2.3 Frequency of car use to school/college

Young people were then asked how frequently they travel to school, college, university or work by car.

In general, car usage amongst this group is the exception rather than the norm, as two in five (41%) young people report that they never travel to school, college, university or work by car, and a further one in four do so rarely (26% travel by car less often than not). The remaining one in three (32%) travel by car every day or more often than not.

This is a consistent finding across young people at most education stages, with the exception being young people not in learning but at work who are more likely to travel by car, as one in three always travel by car (35%), while a further 15% travel by car more often than not.

Figure 3: Q18. How often do you travel to school/ college/ university/ work by car?



Sample bases shown in parentheses.

DSO 1: Secure the wellbeing and health of children and young people

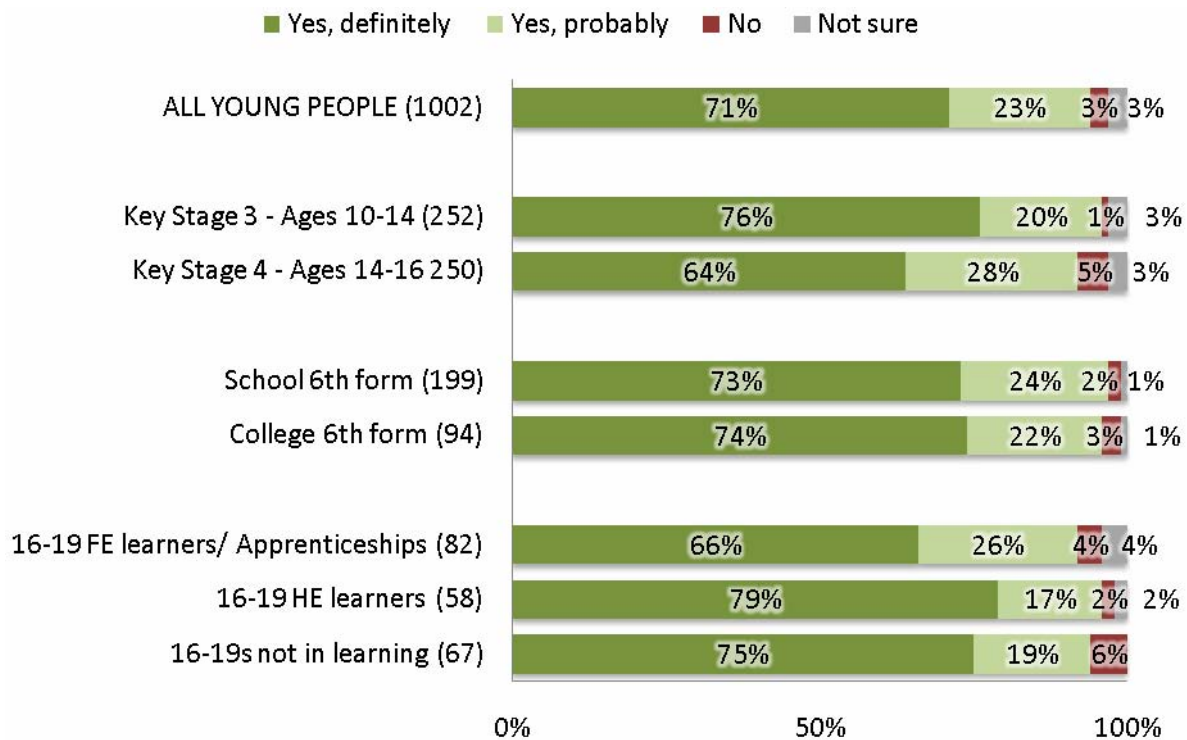
2.4 Someone to talk to

All young people were asked whether they have someone they could talk to about things that matter to them if they were feeling worried or angry. The majority of young people feel they *definitely* have someone they could speak to in such a scenario (71%), while a further one in four (23%) feel they *probably* have someone they could speak to. A minority of 6% feel they do not have someone to talk to, or are unsure of whether they do.

Children aged 14-16 at Key Stage 4 are least likely to respond that they definitely have someone they could talk to (64%), while 8% of this group feel they do not have anyone to talk to, or are unsure. Following this, learners at Further Education college or those learning through an apprenticeship are next least likely to feel they definitely have someone to talk to in such a situation, as 66% report that they definitely have someone to talk to, and 8% feel that they do not, or are unsure.

The youngest learners aged 10-14 at Key Stage 3 and those at Higher Education are most likely to feel they have someone to talk to, as 76% and 79% respectively feel they definitely have someone to talk to, and 4% of both groups do not have anyone to talk to or are unsure.

Figure 4: Q20. If you were feeling worried or angry about anything in your life is there someone you can talk to about the things that really matter to you?



Sample bases shown in parentheses.

DSO 1: Secure the wellbeing and health of children and young people

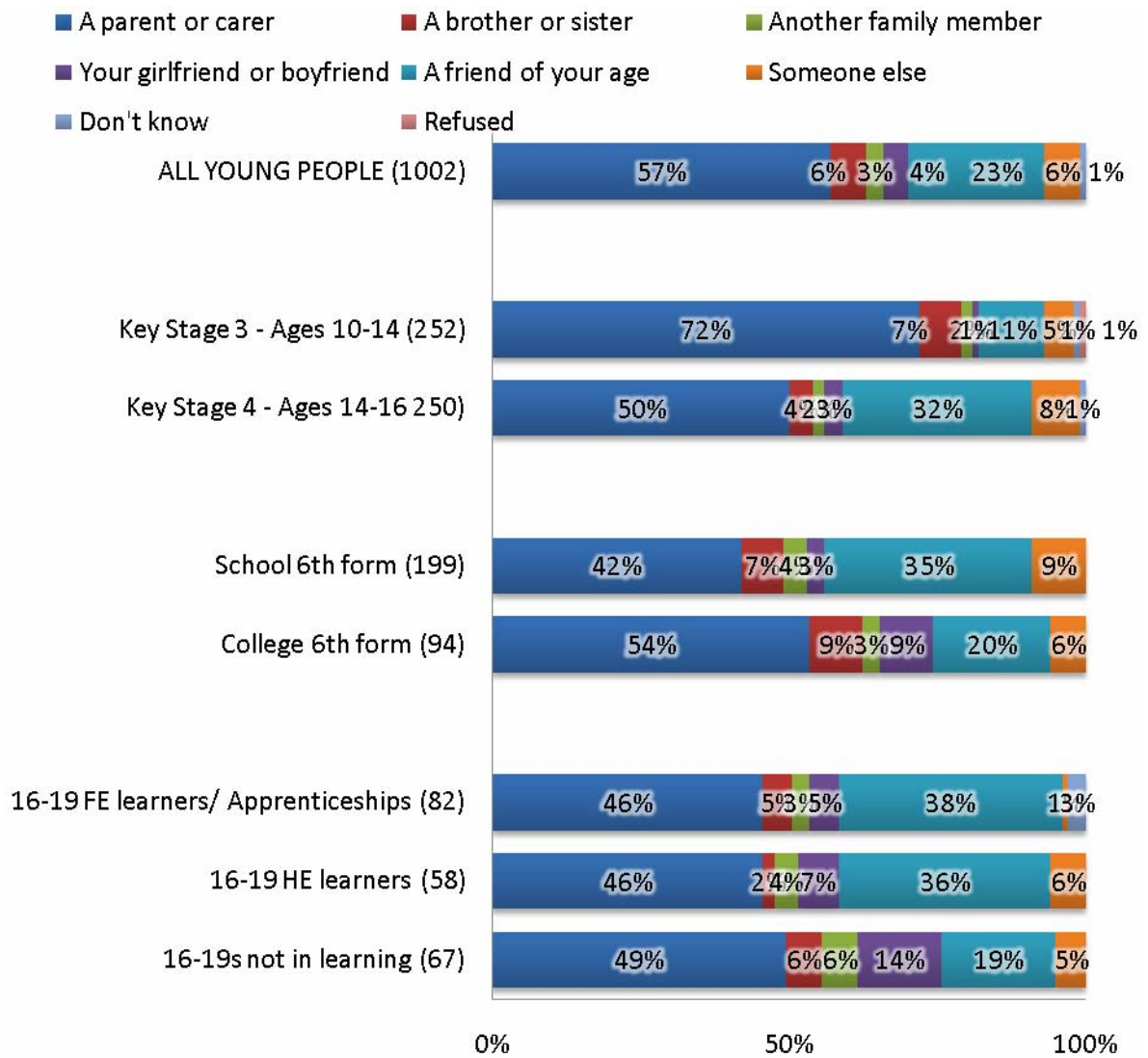
When asked who they would speak to if they were feeling worried or angry, young people were most likely to feel it would be a parent or carer (57%), followed by a friend of their age (23%). Less commonly young people would talk to a brother or sister (6%), a girlfriend or boyfriend (4%) another family member (3%) or someone else (6%).

Differences exist between young people of different age groups and educational stages, as the youngest age 10-14 and at Key Stage 3 are most likely to talk to their parents (72%), while those in school sixth form are least likely to do so (42%). 16-19 year olds in Further Education or learning through an apprenticeship are most likely to turn to a friend of their age (38% would), followed by learners at Higher Education (36%) and those in school sixth form (35%).

Young people aged 16-19 who are not in learning are the group most likely to turn to a girlfriend or boyfriend, and less likely than the other groups to talk to a friend (14% would speak to a partner, while 19% would turn to a friend), and half of this group would speak to a parent or carer (49%).

DSO 1: Secure the wellbeing and health of children and young people

Figure 5: Q21: Who is the person you would be most likely to talk to about these things?



Sample bases in parenthesis

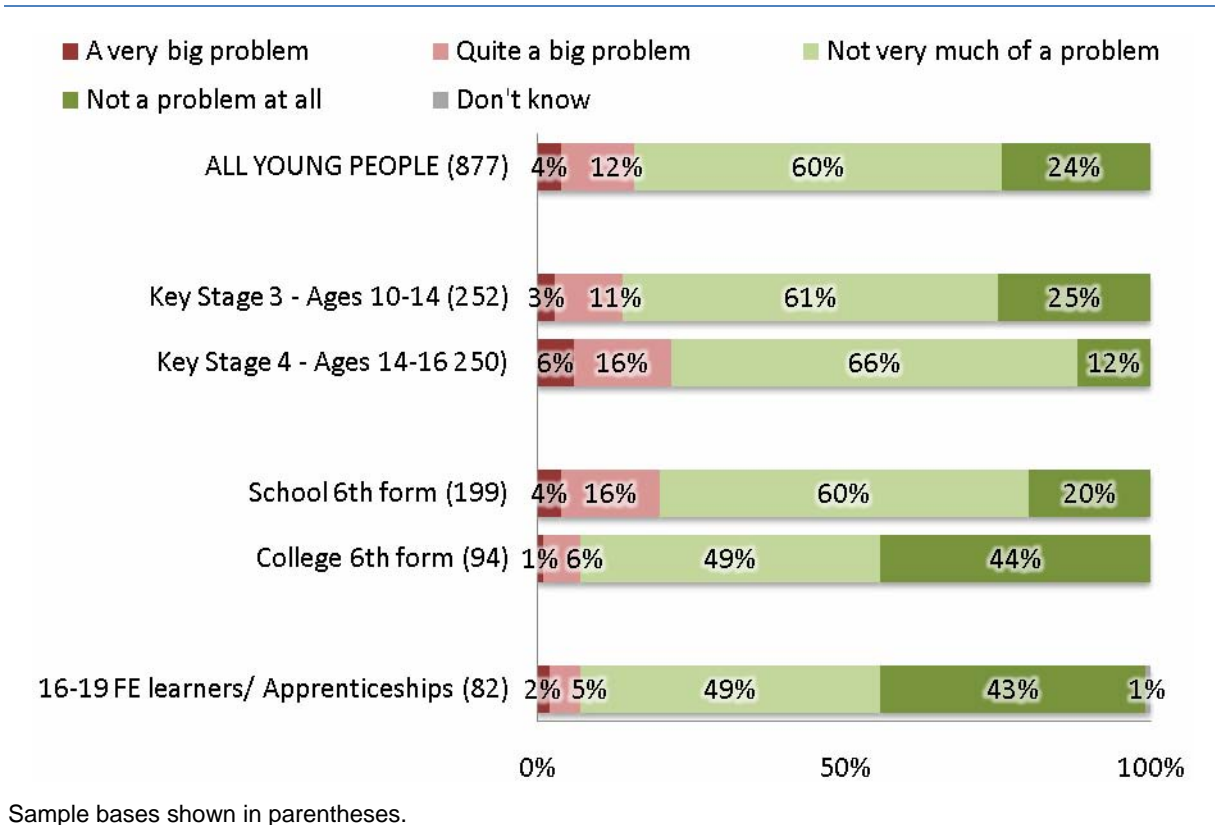
3 DSO 2: Safeguard the young and vulnerable

3.1 Bullying

Young people in learning at school or college were asked the extent to which they feel bullying is a problem in their school/college.

Overall, young people feel that there is not very much of a problem of bullying in their school or college, as reported by over eight in ten (84%). This comprises one in four (24%) who feel that bullying is not a problem *at all*, while six in ten (60%) feel it is not very much of a problem. Just over one in ten (12%), feel it is quite a big problem, while a minority of 4% feel that it is a very big problem. This means that in total, three quarters of young people (76%) report some extent of bullying in their school or college, including all those who feel it is a very big problem, quite a big problem, or not very much of a problem.

Figure 6: Q9. To what extent do you think bullying is a problem in your school/college?



DSO 2: Safeguard the young and vulnerable

The extent of bullying reported by young people varies considerably by education stage. Young people at Key Stage 4, aged 14-16 are most likely to report bullying as a big problem (22%, comprising 16% who report quite a big problem, 6% who report a very big problem). Just over one in ten young people in this group (12%) report that bullying is not a problem at all.

This is closely followed by young people in school sixth form, 20% of whom report bullying as a big problem (comprising 16% who report quite a big problem and 4% who report a very big problem), while the same proportion (20%) report that bullying is not a problem at all.

In the youngest group, one in seven young people aged 10-14 at Key Stage 3 report a big problem of bullying (14%), while one in four report no problem at all (25%).

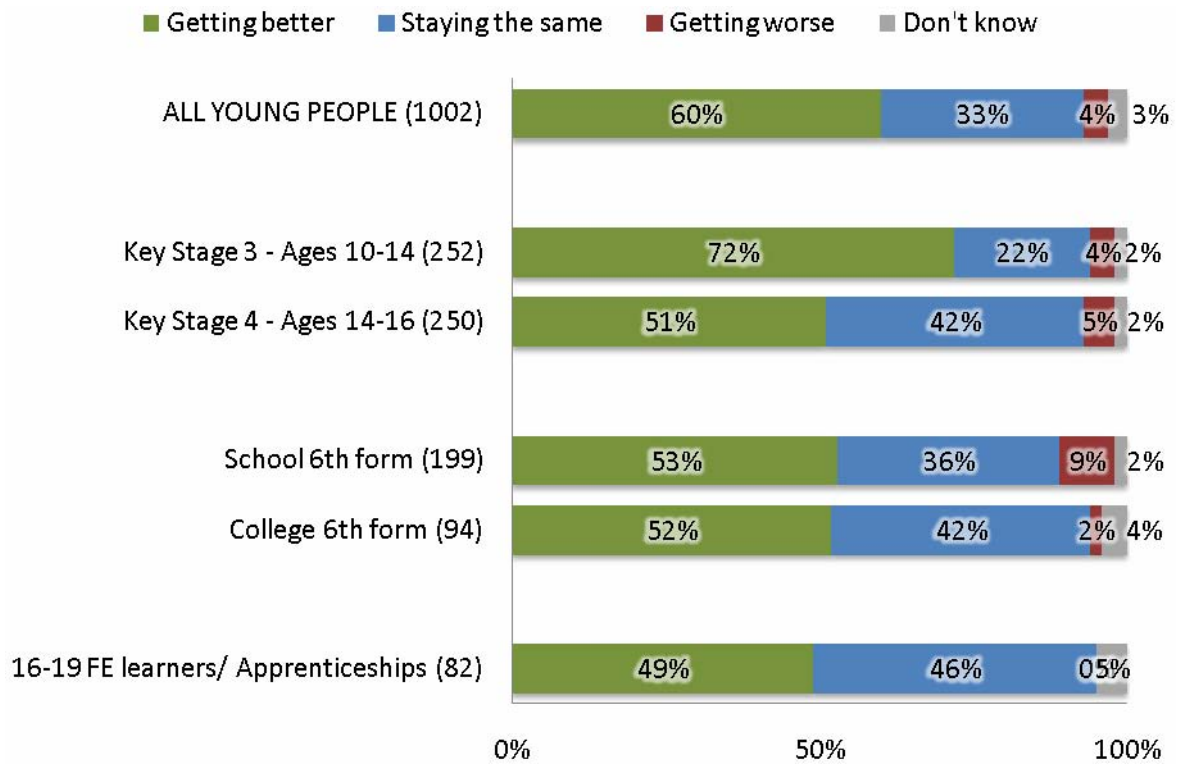
Bullying at college is reported to be far less of a problem, as 7% of both those studying at a sixth form college and those at a Further Education college or learning through an apprenticeship report a big problem, over two in five (44% and 43% respectively) report no problem at all.

These young people at school or college were then asked whether they feel the problem of bullying in their school/college is improving, staying the same, or getting worse. Six in ten young people overall (60%) feel the extent of the problem is getting better, while one in three (33%) feel the problem is staying the same. A minority of 4% feel that the problem is getting worse.

The opinions of young people at different education stages vary less than when considering the overall extent of the problem of bullying. The youngest group at Key Stage 3 (ages 10-14) are most likely to feel the problem is getting better (72%), which compares to around half of young people at all other stages who feel it is getting better.

Young people in school sixth form are most likely to feel the problem of bullying is getting worse (9%).

Figure 7: Q10. Do you feel that the problem of bullying in your school/ college is?



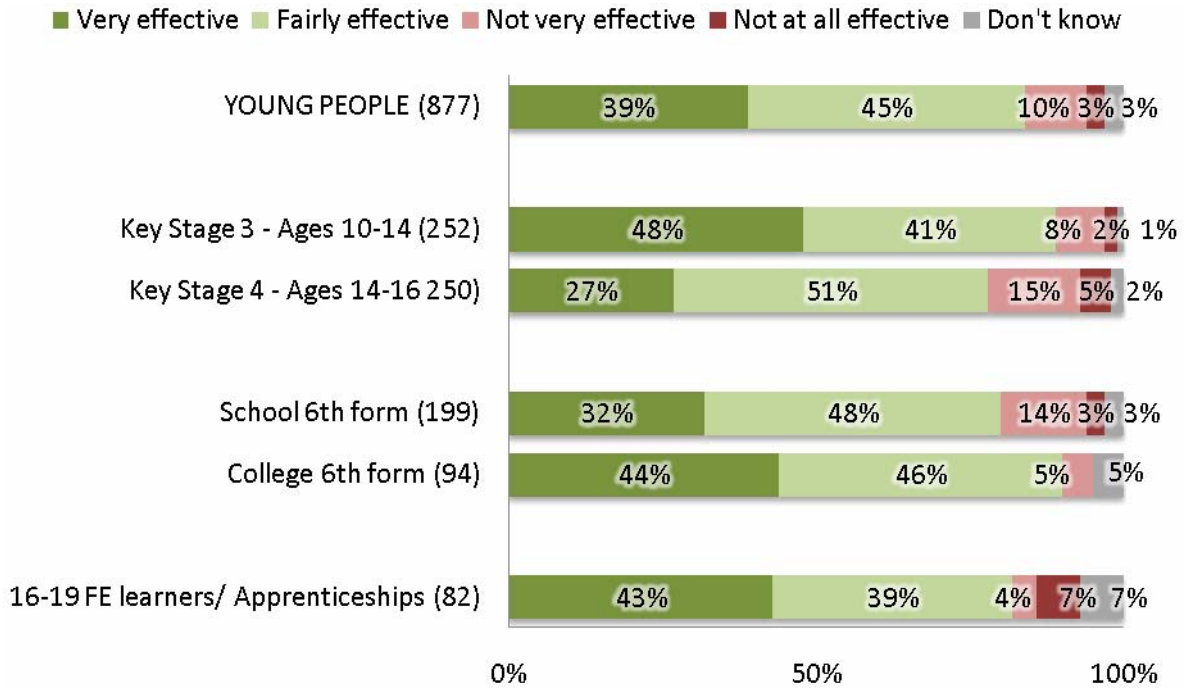
Sample bases shown in parentheses.

Young people at school or college were then asked in general how effective they think school or college staff are at dealing with bullying. The majority of young people (84%) feel that staff are effective, which includes two in five who feel they are very effective (39%). One in eight (13%) feels that staff are not very effective or not at all effective.

Views of young people differ again by educational stage, with those at Key Stage 4 and those at school sixth form being most likely to feel that staff are not effective (20% and 17% respectively feel they are not effective). These two groups are also the most likely to report that bullying is a big problem, as illustrated in the previous Figure 6.

Those that report bullying to be a problem are less inclined to feel that staff are effective at dealing with the problem, as 67% think they are effective, while 31% think they are not effective, which compares to 87% of those that think bullying is not a problem who think that staff are effective, and 10% who do not.

Figure 8: Q11. In general how effective do you think school staff are at dealing with bullying?



Sample bases shown in parentheses.

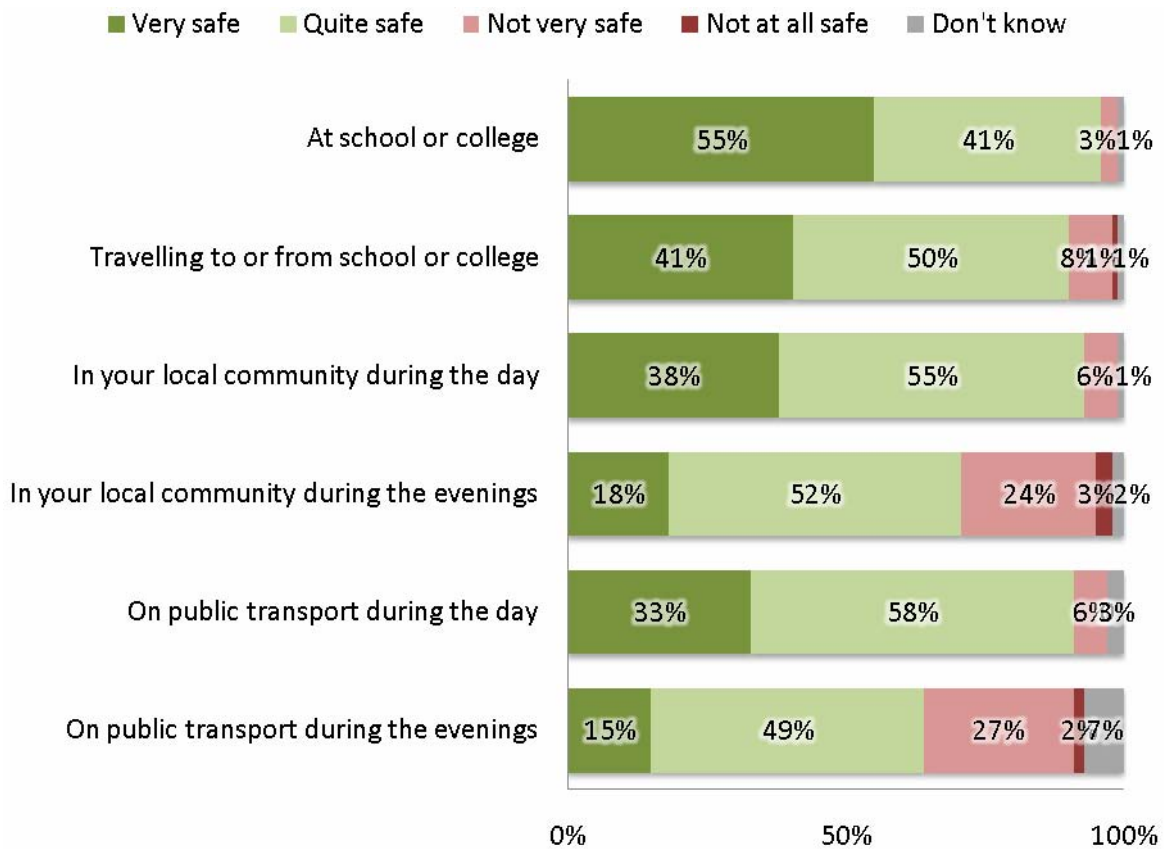
3.2 Safety of Young People

Young people were next asked to think about how safe they feel in a range of situations.

As illustrated in the figure below, around nine in ten young people feel safe during the day in the given situations. Over nine in ten (96%) feel it is safe in school or college, over nine in ten (93%) feel it is safe in the local community, and just fewer feel safe on public transport during the day (91%) or travelling to and from school or college (91%).

Young people are less likely to feel safe in the local community during the evenings, or on public transport during the evenings (71% and 64% respectively feel safe, while 27% and 29% respectively feel not safe).

Figure 9: Q12. How safe do you feel...?



Sample base: 1002 All young people

DSO 2: Safeguard the young and vulnerable

These findings are largely consistent across age groups, with little subgroup variation. Young people aged 10-16 at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 are slightly less likely to feel safe using public transport during the day (88% and 89% respectively feel safe), while 16-19s not in learning are more likely to feel safe using public transport at night (75% feel safe, compared to 64% of all young people).

Table 3: Q12. How safe do you feel...?

| | ALL YOUNG PEOPLE | | Secondary | | | | 6 th Form | | | | 16-19 | | | | | |
|--|------------------|----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|----------------------|----|---------|----|-----------------------------|----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | | | Key Stage 3 – Ages 10-14 | | Key Stage 4 – Ages 14-16 | | School | | College | | FE learners/ apprenticeship | | HE learners | | Not in learning | |
| | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | %+ | %- |
| At school or college? | 98 | 2 | 98 | 2 | 98 | 2 | 98 | 2 | 97 | 3 | 96 | 4 | 99 | 1 | Na* | na |
| Travelling to or from school or college? | 94 | 6 | 96 | 4 | 94 | 5 | 93 | 7 | 96 | 4 | 88 | 12 | 93 | 7 | Na* | na |
| In your local community during the day? | 93 | 7 | 93 | 5 | 92 | 7 | 93 | 7 | 91 | 9 | 94 | 6 | 94 | 6 | 91 | 7 |
| In your local community during the evenings? | 71 | 27 | 72 | 24 | 70 | 29 | 68 | 32 | 73 | 27 | 67 | 32 | 83 | 17 | 67 | 31 |
| On public transport during the day? | 91 | 6 | 88 | 7 | 89 | 7 | 93 | 5 | 97 | 3 | 98 | 2 | 96 | 2 | 93 | 6 |
| On public transport during the evenings? | 64 | 29 | 61 | 28 | 64 | 32 | 67 | 30 | 69 | 28 | 60 | 34 | 63 | 34 | 75 | 22 |
| Sample bases | 1002 | | 252 | | 250 | | 199 | | 94 | | 82 | | 58 | | 67 | |

**Young people aged 16-19 and not in learning were excluded from the analyses relating to schools and colleges*

4 DSO 3: Achieve world class standards in education

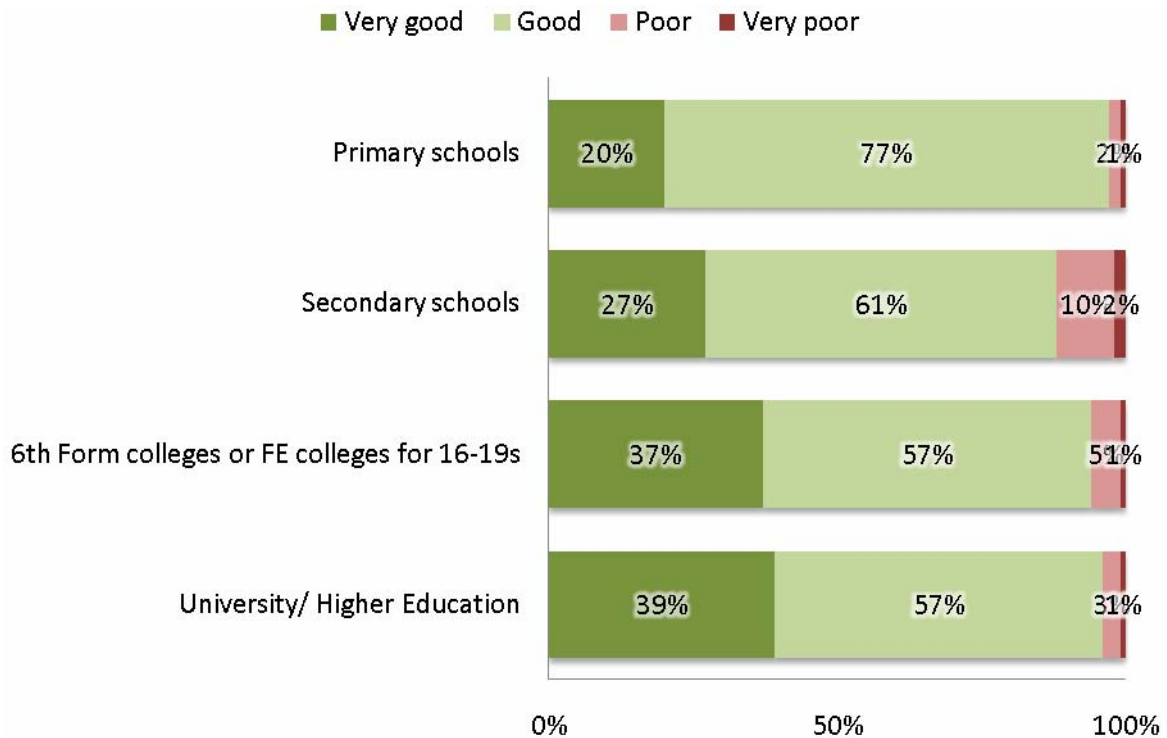
4.1 Quality of education

Young people were asked how they would rate the current quality of various stages of publicly funded education on a four-point scale from very good to very poor. The figure below shows the positive and negative ratings for each aspect amongst all respondents who provided a valid response (don't know responses are therefore excluded).

Amongst all young people primary schools are rated positively (good or very good) by the highest overall proportion (97% rate them as good), followed by universities (96%) and 6th form colleges or Further Education colleges for those aged 16-19 (94%). Secondary schools are also rated positively by the majority (88%).

However universities are rated as very good by the highest proportion (39%), followed by sixth form colleges and further education colleges for 16-19 year olds (37%) and then secondary schools (27%), with primary schools rated as very good by one in five young people (20%).

Figure 10: Q1. How would you rate the current quality of publicly funded education in ... (SCHOOL TYPE)?



Sample base: 1002 All young people

DSO 3: Achieve world class standards in education

The table below highlights some general differences by education stage of the young person:

- Young people aged 10-14 at Key Stage 3 provide the highest ratings overall, as over nine in ten rate each stage as good (97% or 98%);
- Those aged 16-19 and no longer in learning provide the most negative ratings overall;
- The most negative ratings of secondary schools come from those who have left secondary education, those at sixth form college, those in Further Education college or on an apprenticeship, at Higher Education or no longer in learning (as 19%, 24%, 20% and 19% of these groups respectively rate secondary schools as very/ quite poor).

Table 4: Q1. How would you rate the quality of publicly funded education in...?

| | Secondary | | | | | | 6 th Form | | | | 16-19 | | | | | |
|--|------------------|----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|----------------------|----|-----------|----|-----------------------------|----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | ALL YOUNG PEOPLE | | Key Stage 3 – Ages 10-14 | | Key Stage 4 – Ages 14-16 | | School | | College | | FE learners/ Apprenticeship | | HE learners | | Not in learning | |
| | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | %+ | %- |
| Primary schools | 97 | 3 | 98 | 2 | 98 | 2 | 95 | 5 | 97 | 3 | 97 | 3 | 100 | 0 | 95 | 5 |
| Secondary schools | 88 | 12 | 97 | 3 | 88 | 12 | 87 | 13 | 81 | 19 | 76 | 24 | 80 | 20 | 81 | 19 |
| 6th Form colleges/ FE colleges for 16-19s | 94 | 6 | 98 | 2 | 98 | 2 | 90 | 10 | 98 | 2 | 94 | 6 | 93 | 7 | 82 | 18 |
| University/ Higher Education | 96 | 4 | 97 | 3 | 97 | 3 | 99 | 1 | 96 | 4 | 96 | 4 | 95 | 5 | 88 | 12 |
| Sample bases | 1002 | | 252 | | 250 | | 199 | | 94 | | 82 | | 58 | | 67 | |

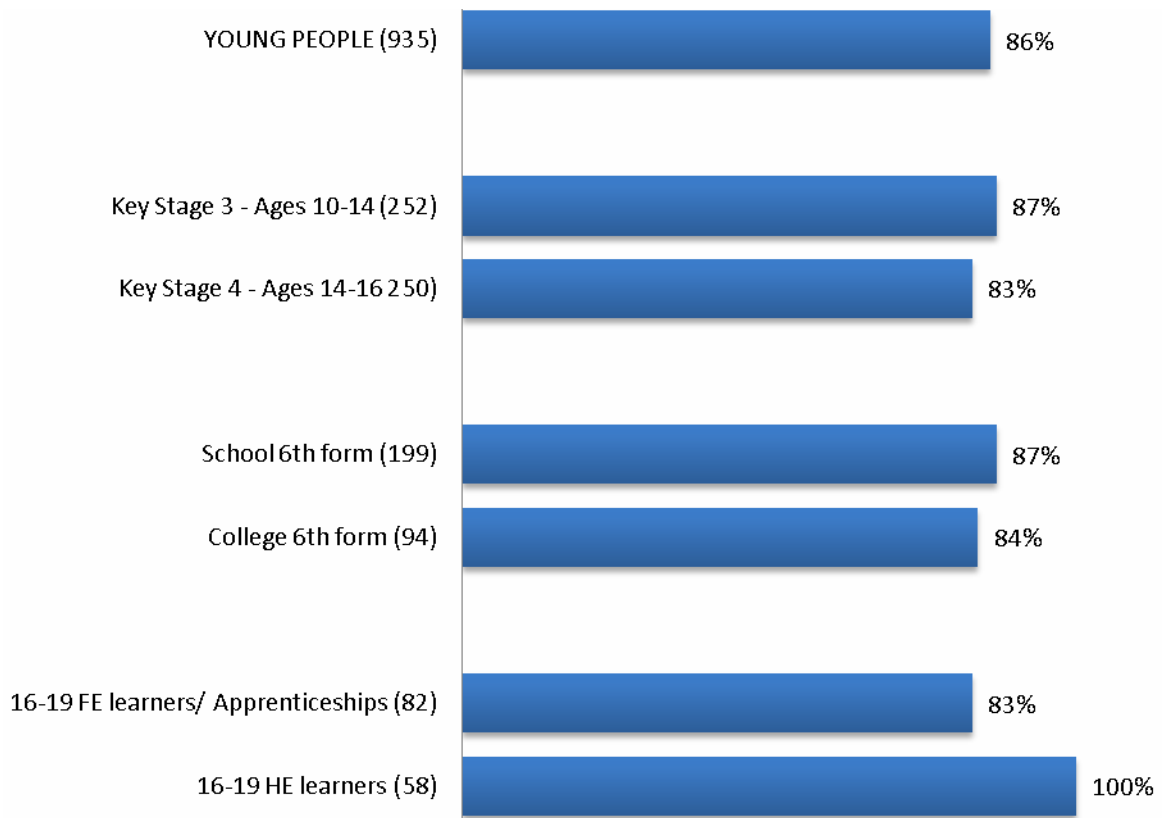
4.2 Choice

Young people in learning were asked whether they would say they had enough choice of which school, 6th form, college or university they went to. Those at Key Stage 3, 4 and at school 6th form were asked about their choice of school, those at school or college 6th form were asked about their choice of 6th form, those at further education college or learning on an apprenticeship were asked about their choice of college, while those at university were asked about their choice of university.

Overall young people feel that they did have enough choice of where they went for their education, with 86% in agreement.

Higher Education learners unanimously feel that they had enough choice of where they went to university, as 100% agree.

Figure 11: Q2. Would you say that you had enough choice of which school/ 6th form/ college/ university you went to? % Yes



Sample bases shown in parentheses.

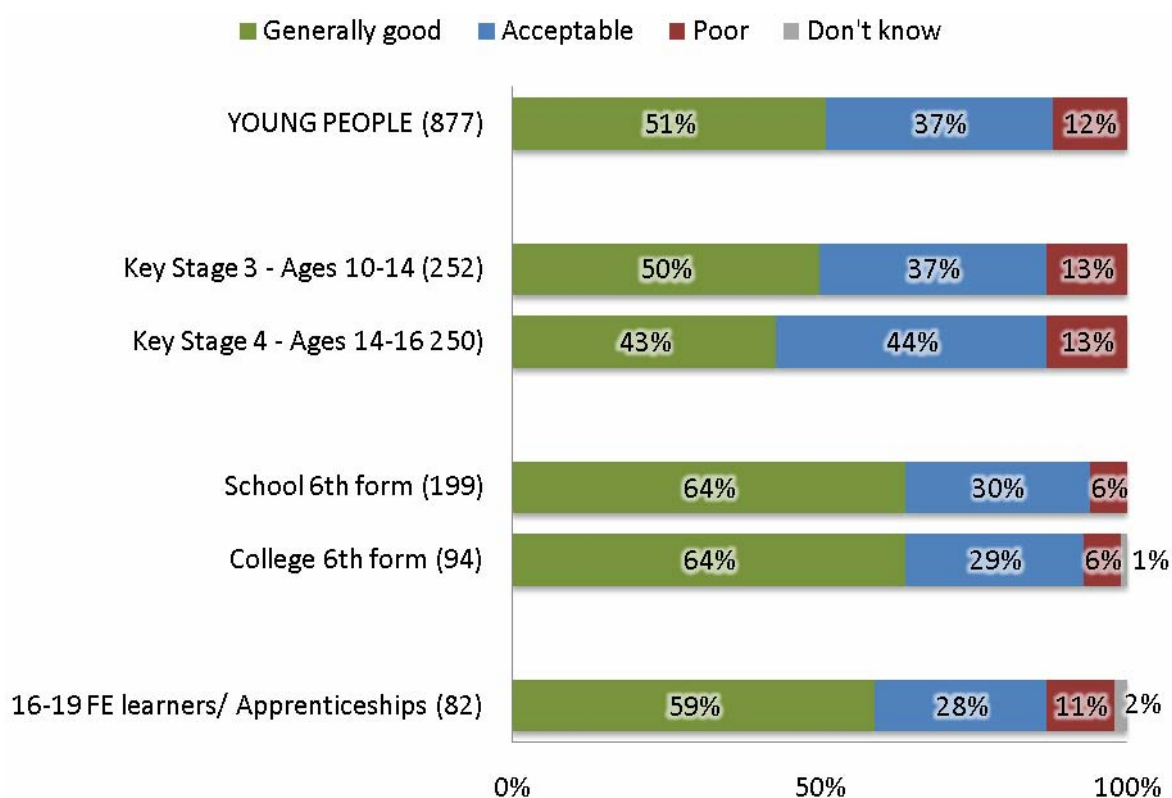
5 DSO 4: Close the gap in educational achievement for children from disadvantaged families

5.1 Behaviour at child's school or college

Young people were asked how they would describe pupil behaviour at their school or college. Half feel that pupil behaviour is generally good (51%), while just over one in three (37%) feels it is acceptable, and one in eight feels it is poor (12%).

Young people at school or college sixth form are most likely to rate behaviour as good (64% of both groups do so), while those aged 10-16 and at Key Stage 3 or 4 are most likely to rate behaviour as poor, as 13% of both these groups feel behaviour is poor.

Figure 12: Q7. Would you describe pupil behaviour at your school/ college as...?



Sample bases in parenthesis

Pupil behaviour is more likely to be rated as poor by those who rate bullying as a problem in their school or college, as 29% of those who feel that bullying is a problem also describe pupil behaviour as poor, while 9% of those who feel that bullying is not a problem feel that pupil behaviour is a poor.

DSO 4: Close the gap in educational achievement for children from disadvantaged families

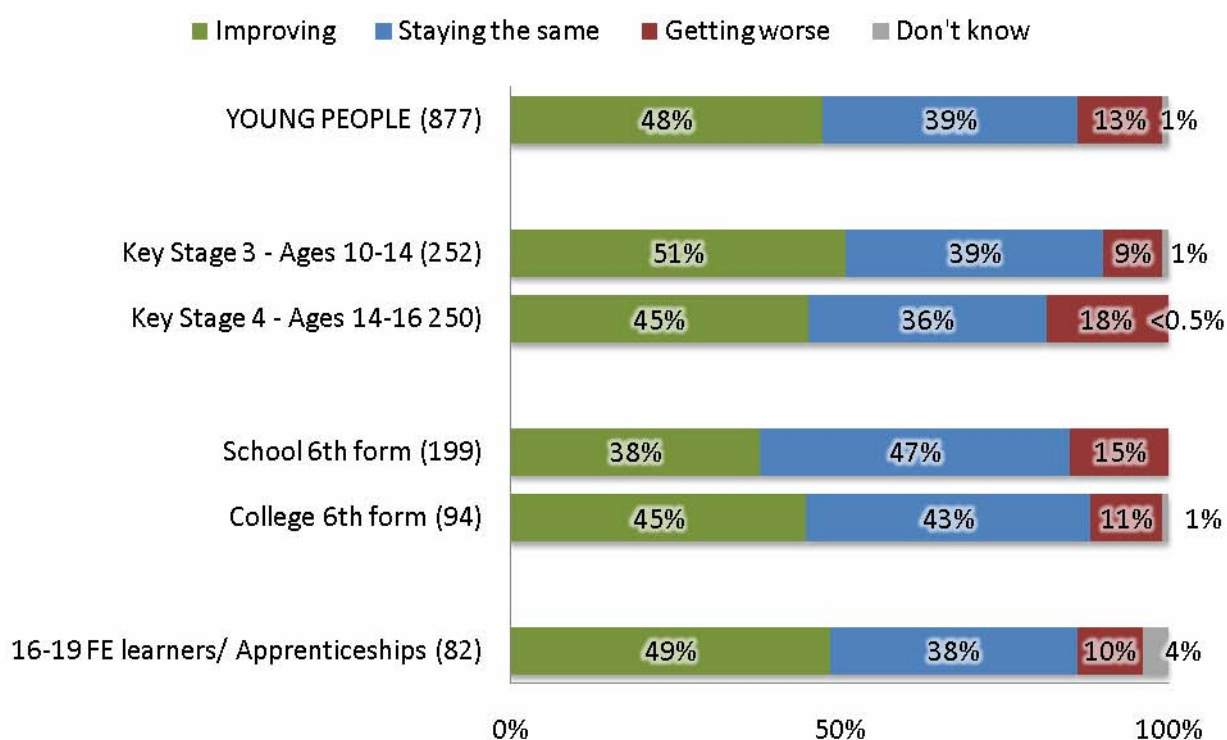
5.2 Improvement in pupil behaviour

Young people were then asked whether they felt standards of pupil behaviour at their school or college are generally improving, staying the same or getting worse. As illustrated below, almost half felt that standards are improving (48%), while two in five (39%) feel behaviour is staying the same and one in eight feel it is getting worse (13%).

Young peoples' views on improvements in pupil behaviour vary according to their education stage. The highest reported levels of improvement are at Key Stage 3 and the Further Education stage, where half report improvement (51% and 49% respectively).

Those most likely to report that standards of behaviour are getting worse are those at Key Stage 4 and at school sixth form (18% and 15% respectively feel behaviour is getting worse).

Figure 13: Q8. Thinking about your school/college, do you feel that standards of pupil behaviour generally are improving, staying the same or getting worse?



Sample bases shown in parentheses.

DSO 4: Close the gap in educational achievement for children from disadvantaged families

Young people who describe pupil behaviour as poor are more likely than those who describe behaviour as good to feel that standards are getting worse. A third (32%) of those who rate behaviour as poor feel standards are declining compared to 6% of those who feel behaviour is good. However those reporting behaviour as poor are slightly more likely to report standards are improving than getting worse, as 36% feel they are improving, compared to 32% who feel they are getting worse. Young people who describe behaviour as good are most likely to feel standards are improving (53%).

Similarly, improvements in behaviour appear to be linked to improvements in bullying, as young people reporting improvements in behaviour are also more likely to report improvements in the problem of bullying, as 57% of young people who report an improvement in the bullying problem report an improvement in behaviour (while 7% report a decline in pupil behaviour).

Conversely, 58% of young people who report a decline in the problem of bullying also report a decline in pupil behaviour (although still 19% of young people who report a decline in the problem of bullying report an improvement in pupil behaviour).

5.3 HE financial barrier

Young people were asked to what extent they agree or disagree that it is still more difficult for students from lower-income families to go to university than it is for students from families that are financially better off.

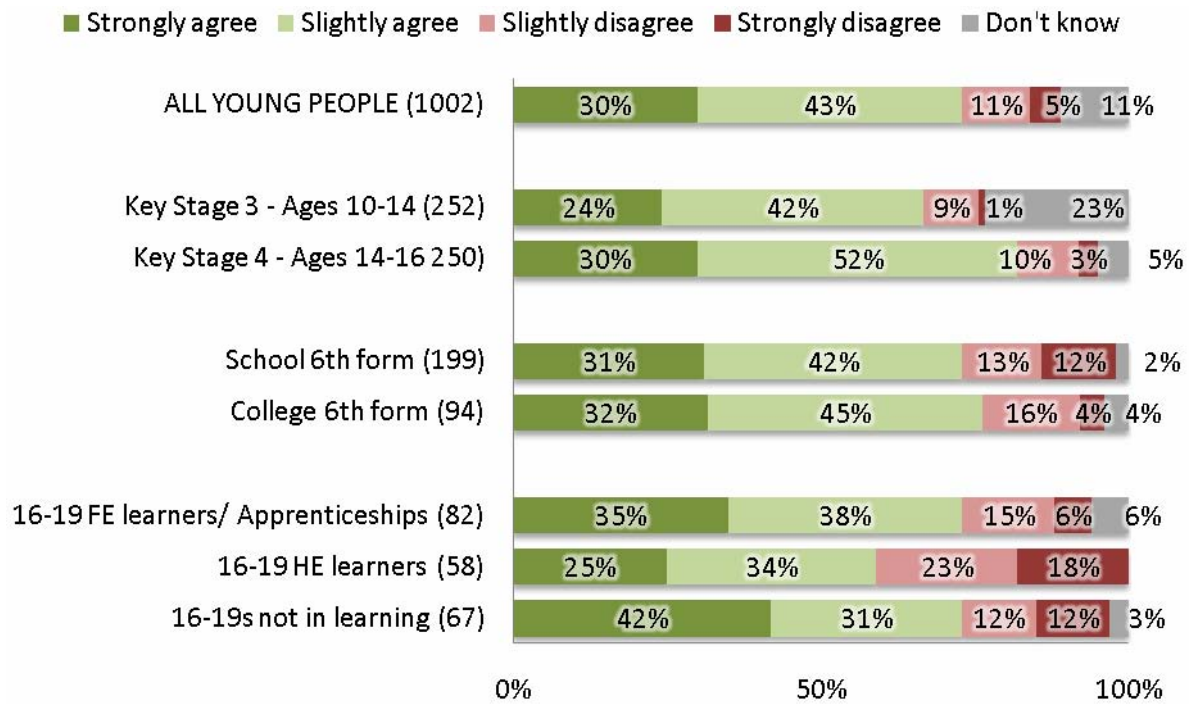
Three quarters of all young people (73%) agree that it is still more difficult, while one in six (16%) disagree that this is the case.

The group of young people most likely to disagree that children from lower-income families might encounter more difficulties are those at university currently, as 41% disagree that this is the case, and 59% agree.

Those most likely to strongly agree that it is still more difficult for students from lower income families to go to university are those aged 16-19 and not in learning (42%).

DSO 4: Close the gap in educational achievement for children from disadvantaged families

Figure 14: Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree that it is still more difficult for students from lower-income families to go to university than it is for students from families that are financially better off?



Sample bases shown in parentheses.

6 DSO 5: Ensure young people are participating and achieving their potential to 16 and beyond

6.1 Schools and colleges as preparation for working life

Young people were asked how well they feel schools and colleges in England prepare young people for working life.

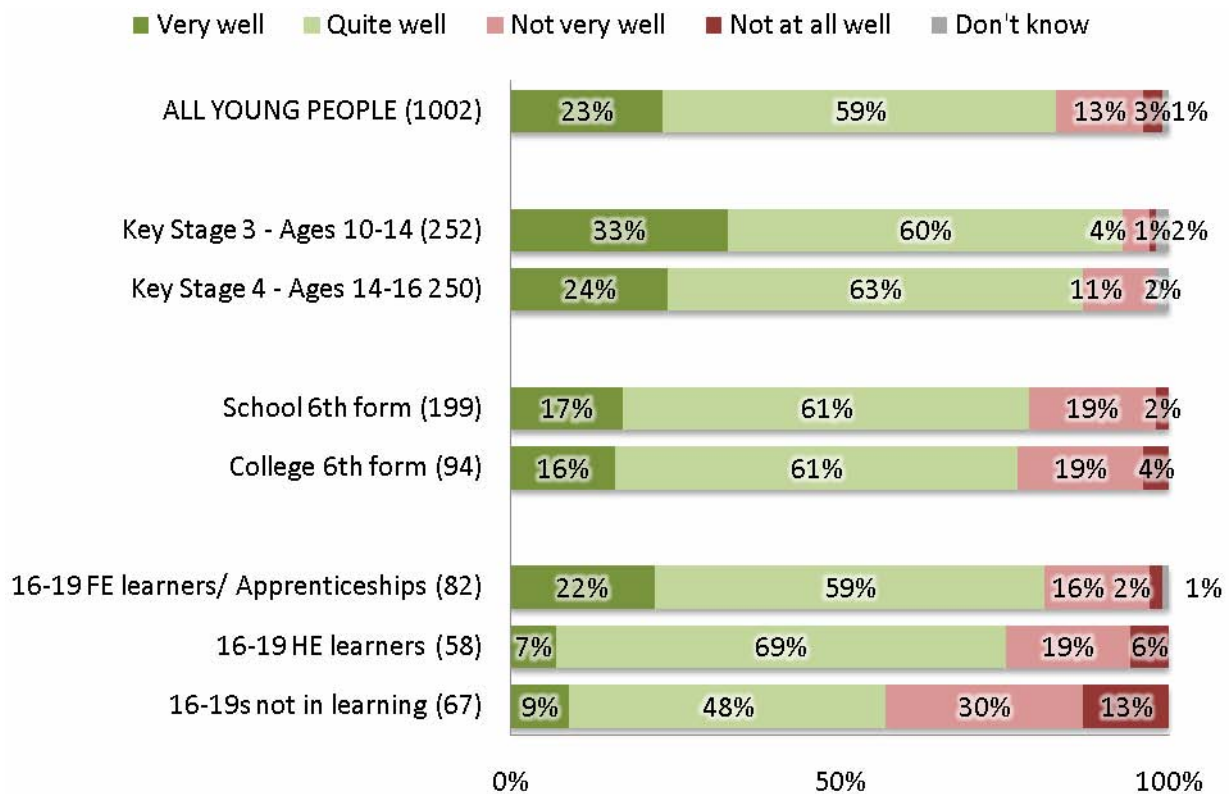
The majority of young people (82%) feel that they prepare young people very or fairly well, while one in six (16%) feels that schools and colleges do not prepare young people well for working life.

This view varies amongst young people by education stage, with the general pattern being that as the age of the respondent increases, so does the likelihood that they will feel schools and colleges in England do not prepare young people well for working life. Amongst 16-19 year olds not in learning, 43% feel that this is the case, compared to 57% who feel they do prepare young people well for working life.

This compares to 5% of those aged 10-14 and at Key Stage 3 as 93% feel they do prepare young people for working life.

DSO 5: Ensure young people are participating and achieving their potential to 16 and beyond

Figure 15: Q4. Overall, how well do you feel schools and colleges in England today prepare young people for working life? Please tell me whether you feel they prepare them...



Sample bases shown in parentheses.

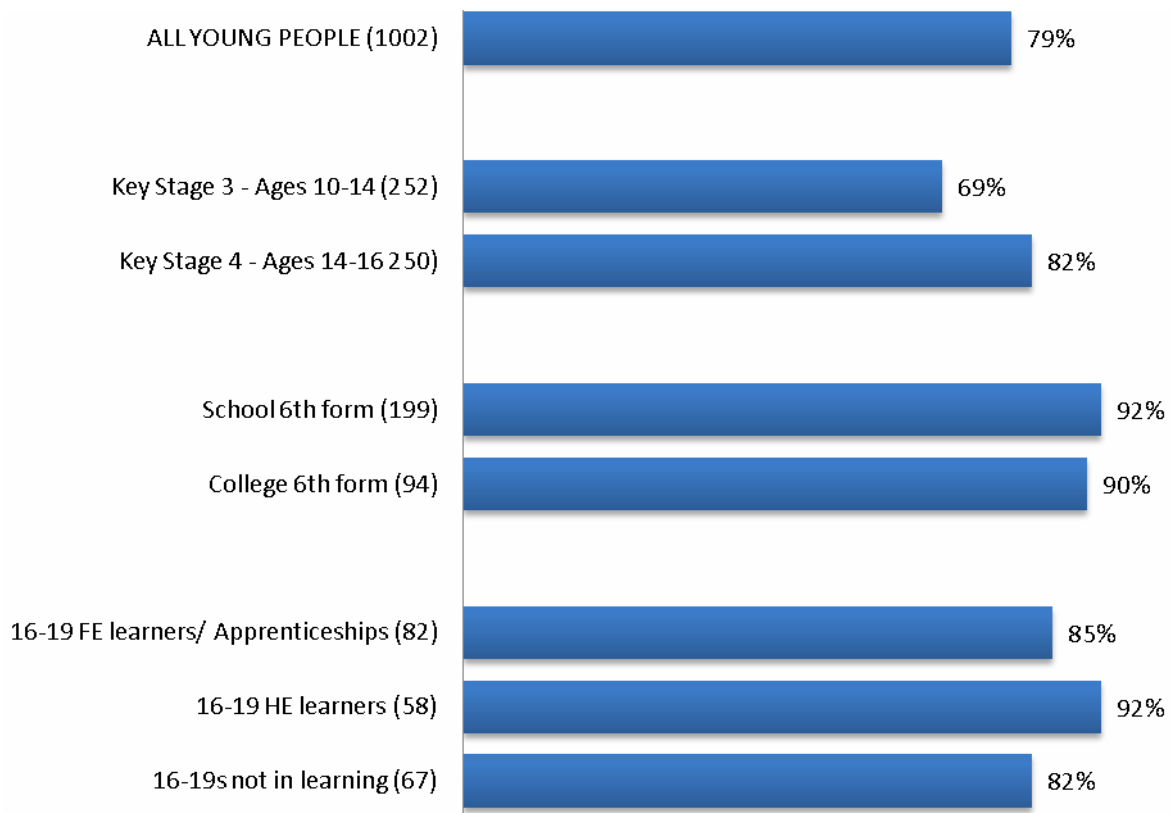
6.2 Advice on further learning and careers

Young people were asked whether they would know where to go to obtain advice or information about their learning or training options, such as which subjects to study, whether to go on to university, training options available and so on.

The majority of young people (79%) are confident that they know where they can find such information, with this being more likely amongst the older education stages. Young people aged 10-14 and at Key Stage 3 are least likely to know where they can obtain such information (69%), while those most likely to know are those in school sixth form or in Higher Education (92%) of both groups.

DSO 5: Ensure young people are participating and achieving their potential to 16 and beyond

Figure 16: Q3a. Would you know where to go to obtain advice or information about your learning or training options, such as which subjects to study, whether to go on to university, training options available to you and so on (% 'yes')

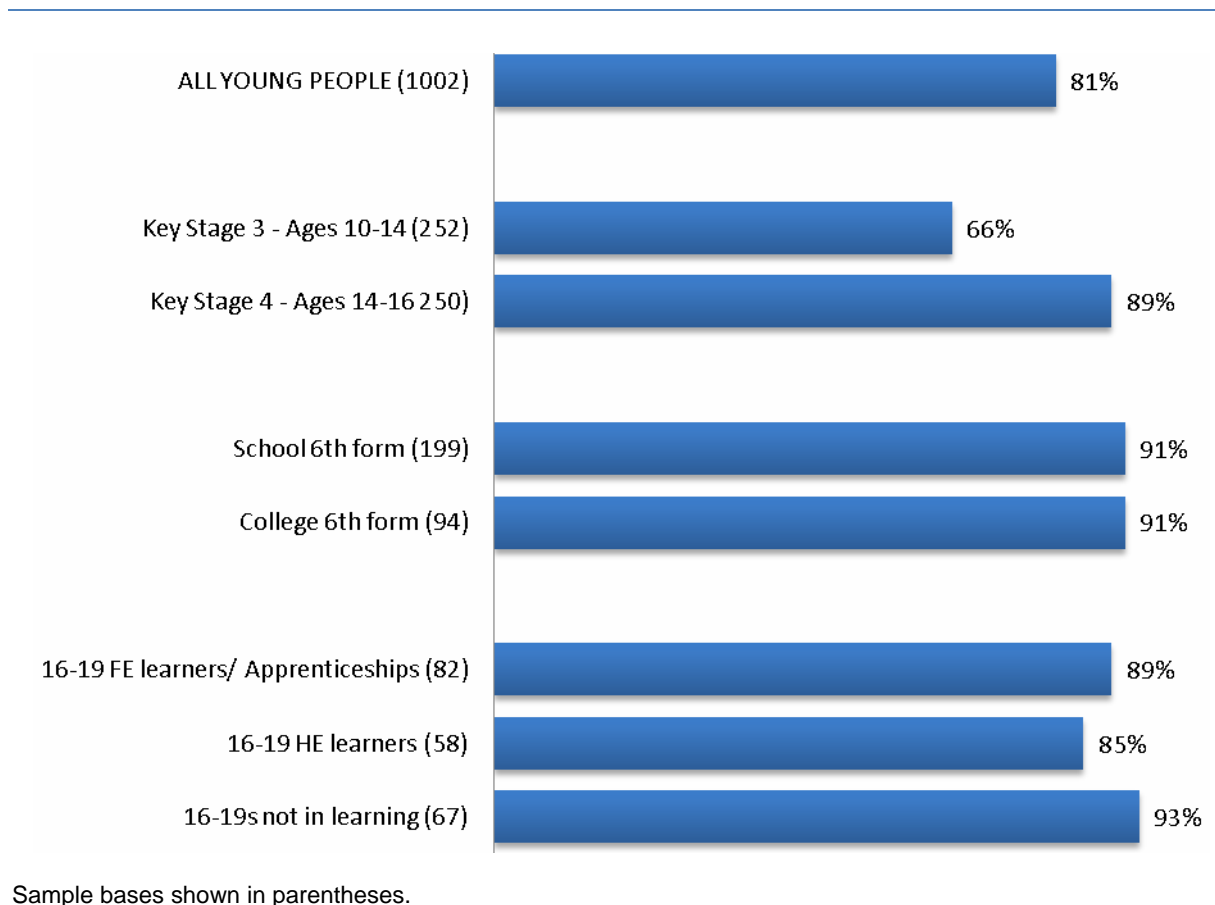


Sample bases shown in parentheses.

Young people were also asked whether they would know where to go to obtain advice or information about their career options. Again the majority of young people (81%) feel they know where to obtain this information, which is less likely amongst younger people aged 10-14 at Key Stage 3 (66%), and most likely amongst 16-19 year olds who are no longer in learning (93%) and those in either school sixth form or sixth form college (91% of both groups).

DSO 5: Ensure young people are participating and achieving their potential to 16 and beyond

Figure 17: Q3b. And would you know where to go to obtain advice or information about your career options (% 'yes')



DSO 5: Ensure young people are participating and achieving their potential to 16 and beyond

6.3 Likelihood to attend HE

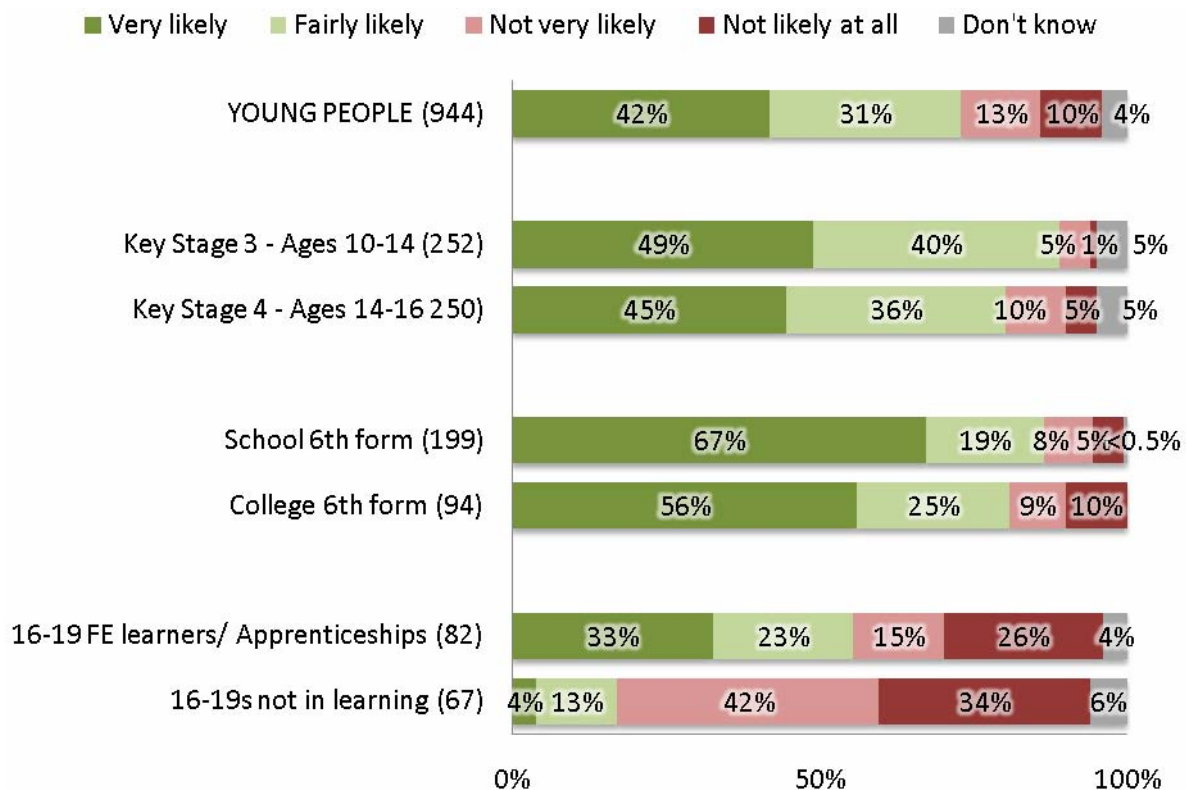
Young people who are not at university currently were asked to consider how likely it is that they will go to university. Three quarters of young people (74%) feel it is likely that they will go to university, with this being most widespread amongst those in secondary school or sixth form.

Young people at secondary school Key Stage 3 most commonly feel they are likely to go to university (89%), followed by those in school sixth form (86%, including 67% who feel this is very likely), those at sixth form college (81%, including 56% who feel it is very likely) and those at Key Stage 4 (also 81%).

A higher proportion of young people aged 16-19 and learning at a Further Education college or through an apprenticeship feel that going to university is likely than those that feel it is not likely (56% feel it is likely they will go, while 41% feel it is unlikely).

Those aged 16-19 and no longer in learning however are more inclined to feel that university is an unlikely option, as 76% of this group report that it is not likely they will go to university (including 33% who feel this is not likely at all), while 17% feel it is fairly likely or very likely.

Figure 18: Q6. How likely is it that you will go to university to do a degree?



Sample bases shown in parentheses.

7 DSO 6: Keep children and young people on the path to success

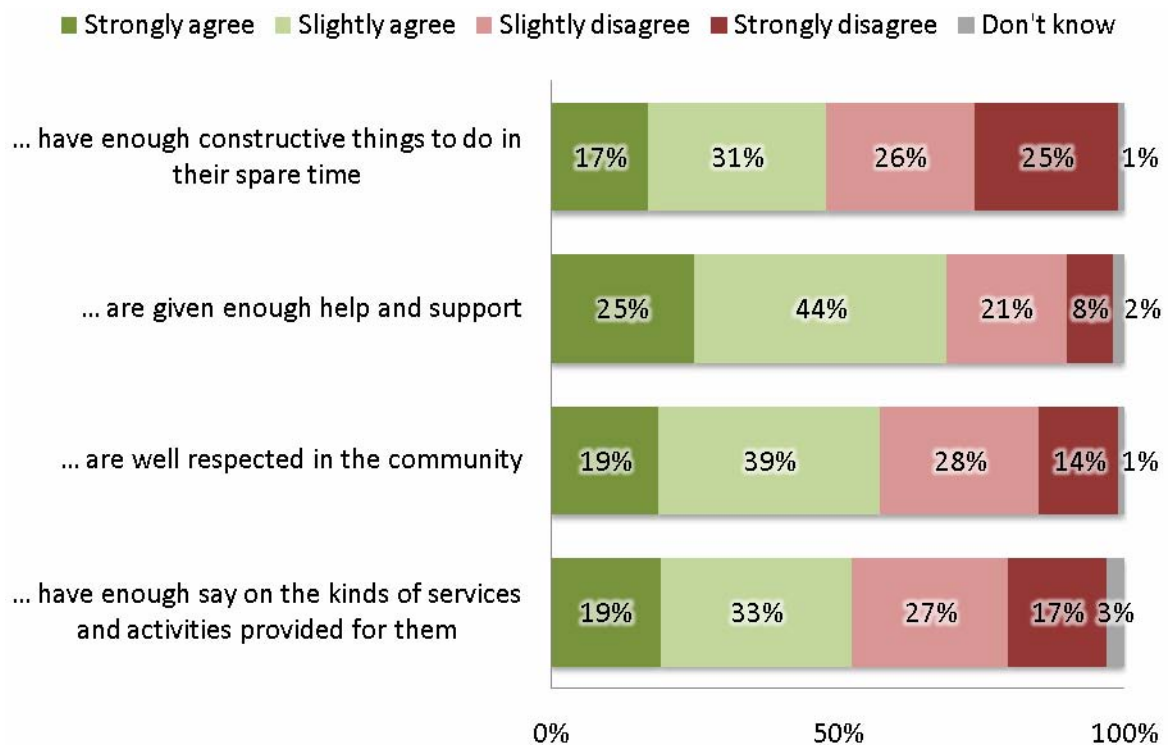
7.1 Young people's role in the community

Respondents were asked to think about young people generally in their local community today, and to rate their agreement with a number of statements.

Overall the majority of young people responding agree that young people in their local community are given enough help and support (69%, while 29% disagree that this is the case), or are well respected (58% agree while 42% disagree).

However their opinions are divided regarding whether young people have enough constructive things to do in their spare time (48% agree, while 51% disagree) or have enough say on activities and services provided for them (52% agree, while 44% disagree).

**Figure 19: Q14. To what extent do you agree with the following statements...?
Young people in your local community...**



Sample base: 1002 All young people

The table below summarises the overall positive and negative ratings given for each statement amongst young people at each education stage.

The pattern of responses is very similar across all subgroups, in that agreement is strongest that enough help and support is provided, and disagreement is strongest regarding whether young people have enough constructive things to do in their spare time.

Table 5: Q14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements..?

Young people in your local community...

| | ALL YOUNG PEOPLE | | Secondary | | | | 6 th Form | | | | 16-19 | | | | | |
|--|------------------|----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|----------------------|----|---------|----|-----------------------------|----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | | | Key Stage 3 – Ages 10-14 | | Key Stage 4 – Ages 14-16 | | School | | College | | FE learners/ apprenticeship | | HE learners | | Not in learning | |
| | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | %+ | %- |
| ... have enough constructive things to do in their spare time? | 48 | 51 | 67 | 32 | 45 | 55 | 34 | 66 | 41 | 57 | 28 | 71 | 38 | 62 | 34 | 66 |
| ... are given enough help and support? | 69 | 29 | 83 | 15 | 69 | 29 | 70 | 30 | 56 | 41 | 60 | 39 | 56 | 44 | 45 | 54 |
| ... are well respected in the community? | 58 | 41 | 77 | 22 | 55 | 45 | 47 | 52 | 40 | 57 | 43 | 56 | 33 | 64 | 42 | 57 |
| ... have enough say on the kinds of services and activities provided for them? | 53 | 45 | 69 | 28 | 55 | 43 | 43 | 54 | 46 | 54 | 33 | 66 | 41 | 57 | 31 | 64 |
| Sample bases | 1002 | | 252 | | 250 | | 199 | | 94 | | 82 | | 58 | | 67 | |

However views are most positive in all areas amongst the youngest group aged 10-14 and at Key Stage 3, and most negative amongst those aged 16-19 and no longer in learning, with negative views increasingly common in the other education stages.

Where 83% of young people at Key Stage 3 feel that young people are given enough help and support, this decreases to 45% of those aged 16-19 and no longer in learning. Regarding young people having enough constructive things to do in their spare time, 71% of learners aged 16-19 and at Further Education college or on an apprenticeship disagree that this is the case (while 28% agree), compared to 32% of those aged 10-14 at Key Stage 3 (67% of whom agree that young people do have enough constructive things to do in their spare time).

The group least likely to agree that young people are well respected in the community is the group of HE learners, as one in three agrees (33%), while almost double this proportion disagree (64%).

Finally with regard to whether young people have enough say on the kinds of services and activities provided for them, those most likely to agree are again young people aged 10-14 and at Key Stage 3 (as 69% agree and 28% disagree). Those most likely to disagree that this is the case are those aged 16-19 and learning at Further Education college or on an apprenticeship (66% of this group disagree while 33% agree) as well as those aged 16-19 and no longer in learning (64% disagree while 31% agree), as the proportion of these groups that feel they do not have enough say on services and activities is twice that of those who feel they do have enough input.

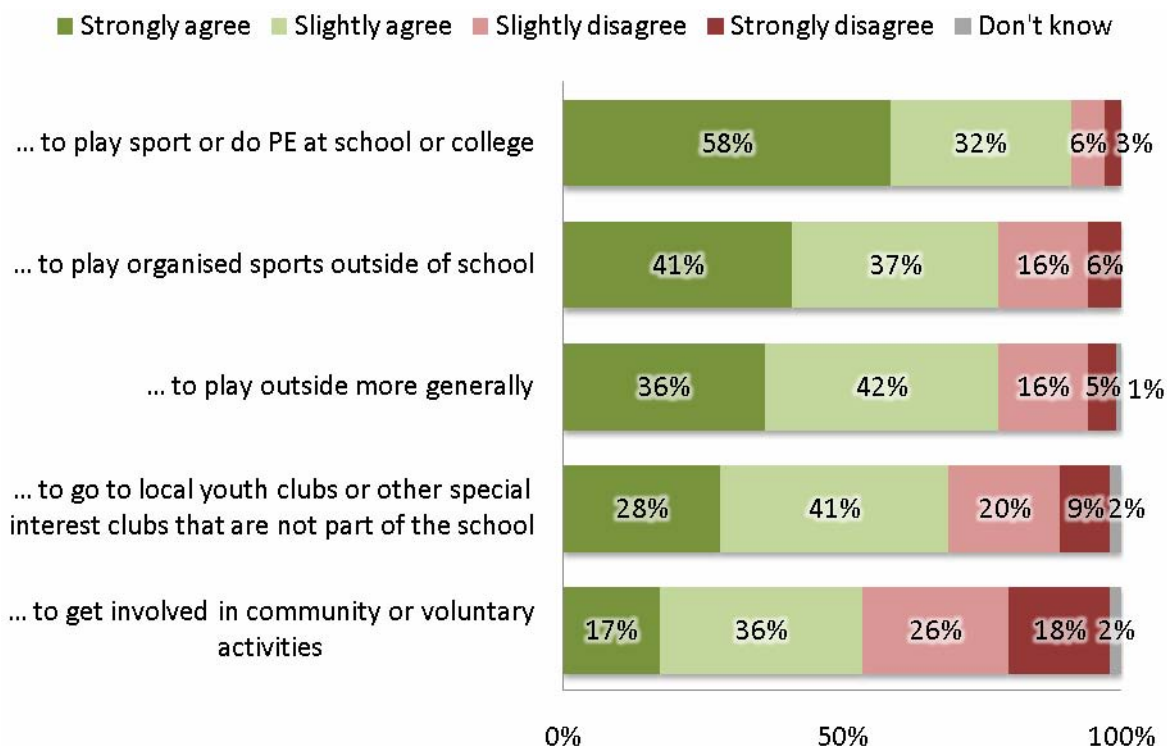
7.2 Young people's access to sports/ clubs/ community activities

Respondents were then asked to consider in more detail the activities available to young people in their local community. They were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with a range of statements concerning whether young people are offered enough opportunities to take part in a range of activities.

The vast majority of respondents (90%) feel that young people are offered enough opportunities to play sport or do PE at school or college, while almost four in five (78%) feel that there are enough opportunities for young people to play organised sports outside of school or college, or to play outside more generally (also 78%).

Figure 20: Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Young people in your local community are offered enough opportunity...



Sample base: 1002 All young people

Agreement is lower regarding whether young people have enough opportunities to go to youth clubs or other special interest clubs that are not part of the school or college, although still the majority view is that there are enough opportunities in this respect, as 69% agree, compared to 29% who disagree that this is the case.

In general young people feel more divided as to whether there are enough opportunities to take part in community or voluntary activities, as just over half of young people agree that there are enough opportunities in this area (53%), while just over two in five (44%) disagree.

Young people aged 10-14 and at Key Stage 3 are most likely to have positive views regarding provision in the local community for young people. They are most likely to agree that young people are offered enough opportunities opportunity to play sport or do PE at school or college, as 96% agree, although amongst all subgroups agreement is strong in this respect, with the lowest level being 80% of learners aged 16-19 and at Further Education college or on an apprenticeship.

Young people aged 10-14 and at Key Stage 3 are also most inclined to feel that young people are offered enough opportunity to play organised sports outside of school or college, as 89% agree. This is also the view held by the majority of all subgroups, although agreement decreases to 60% of both those aged 16-19 and no longer in learning as well as those at Further Education college or on an apprenticeship.

Table 6: Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Young people in the local community are offered enough opportunities...

| | ALL YOUNG PEOPLE | | Secondary | | | | 6 th Form | | | | 16-19 | | | | | |
|---|------------------|----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|----------------------|----|---------|----|-----------------------------|----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | | | Key Stage 3 – Ages 10-14 | | Key Stage 4 – Ages 14-16 | | School | | College | | FE learners/ apprenticeship | | HE learners | | Not in learning | |
| | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | % + | %- | %+ | %- |
| ... to play sport or do PE at school or college? | 90 | 9 | 96 | 4 | 91 | 8 | 89 | 11 | 87 | 13 | 80 | 18 | 84 | 16 | 87 | 13 |
| ... to play organised sports outside of school or college? | 77 | 22 | 89 | 10 | 80 | 19 | 75 | 24 | 71 | 29 | 60 | 37 | 67 | 31 | 60 | 40 |
| ... to play outside more generally? | 78 | 21 | 86 | 13 | 80 | 19 | 75 | 25 | 78 | 22 | 70 | 30 | 68 | 32 | 66 | 34 |
| ... to go to local youth clubs or other special interest clubs that are not part of the school? | 68 | 30 | 79 | 18 | 71 | 29 | 59 | 41 | 65 | 35 | 57 | 43 | 49 | 47 | 58 | 39 |
| ... to get involved in community or voluntary activities? | 54 | 44 | 64 | 32 | 49 | 49 | 57 | 43 | 55 | 44 | 43 | 56 | 36 | 64 | 45 | 55 |
| Sample bases | 1002 | | 252 | | 250 | | 199 | | 94 | | 82 | | 58 | | 67 | |

Amongst most subgroups of young people the majority feel there are enough opportunities to go to local youth clubs or other special interest clubs that are not part of the school, although amongst of learners aged 16-19 and at Further Education college or on an apprenticeship equal proportions feel there are enough opportunities (49%) as feel there are not enough (47%).

In relation to opportunities for young people to get involved in community or voluntary activities, respondents' views differ by education stage. Those at Key Stage 3 feel there are enough opportunities (64% agree, while half this proportion disagree, 32%), while the views of those at Key Stage 4 are equally split (with 49% agreeing and 49% disagreeing). Sixth formers both at school and at sixth form college are slightly more likely to feel that there are enough opportunities for young people to get involved in community or voluntary activities, as just over half of both groups agree (47% and 55% respectively), whereas amongst learners aged 16-19 and at Further Education college or on an apprenticeship, and 16-19 year olds who are no longer in learning, just over half feel there are not enough opportunities in this area (as 56% and 55% of these groups disagree respectively).

Higher Education students are more likely to disagree that there are enough opportunities for young people to get involved in community or voluntary activities as these make up almost twice the proportion of those that feel there are enough opportunities (as 64% disagree, compared to 36% who agree).

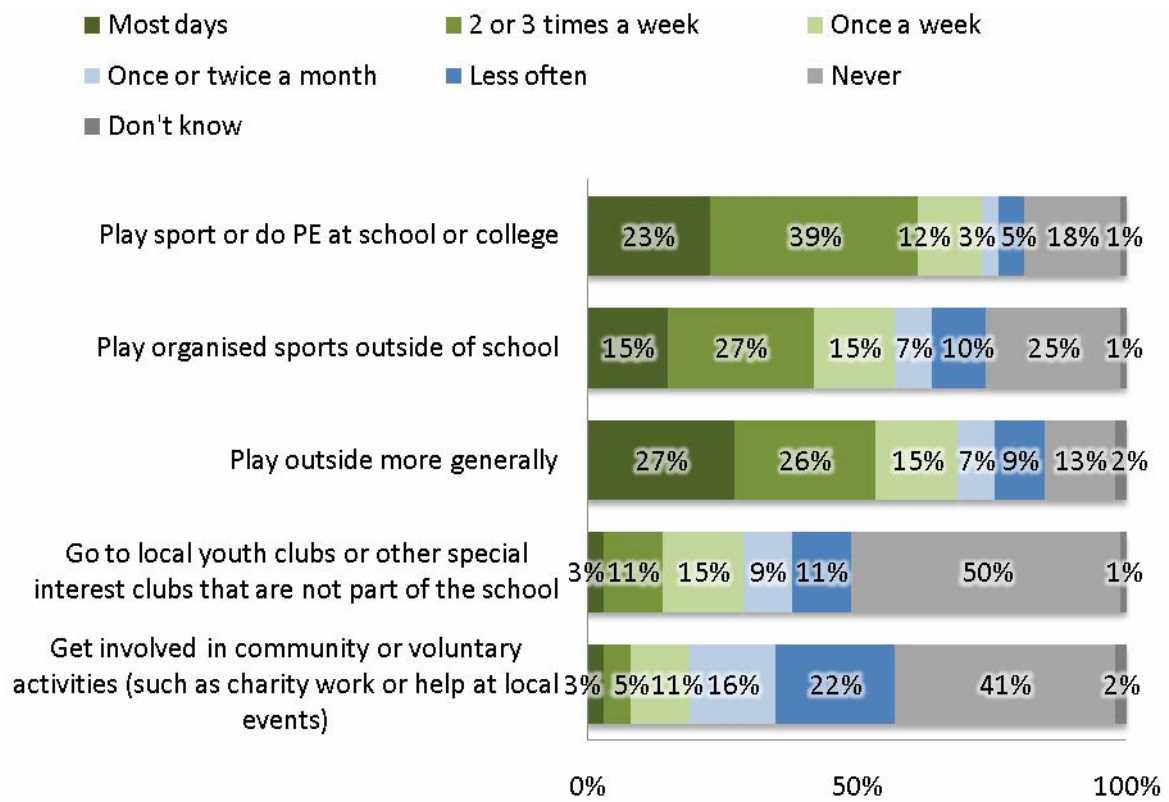
7.3 Young people's involvement in sports/ clubs/ community activities

Young people were next asked how frequently they take part in the activities specified.

Sports and PE at school or college, general outside play and organised sports outside of school or college are most popular, with over half of young people being involved in any of these activities at least once a week. Three in four young people (74%) take part in sports and PE at school or college at least once a week, seven in ten (68%) play outside more generally at least once a week, and 57% play organised sports outside of school or college at least once a week.

Young people are less likely to be regularly involved in the other activities specified, as half (51%) report that they never go to a local youth club or other special interest club outside of school or college, while two in five (41%) are never involved in community or voluntary activities. Just under two in five young people (38%) go to a local youth club or other club once a month or more often, while around a third (35%) are involved in community or voluntary activities at least once a month.

Figure 21: Q16. How often do you take part in the following activities?



Sample base: 1002 All young people

Young people vary by education stage in how frequently they take part in the activities specified. The table below summarises these differences, illustrating the proportions that take part in each activity once a month or more often, compared to the proportions who take part less often than once a month or never. Don't know responses are not illustrated.

Table 7: Q15. How often do you take part in the following activities?

| | Frequency | ALL YOUNG PEOPLE | Secondary | | 6 th Form | | 16-19 | | |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | | | Key Stage 3 Ages 10-14 | Key Stage 4 Ages 14-16 | School | College | FE learners/apprenticeship | HE learners | Not in learning |
| Play sport or do PE at school or college | At least once a month | 77 | 99 | 94 | 54 | 55 | 39 | 59 | 33 |
| | Less often or never | 23 | 1 | 5 | 36 | 45 | 61 | 37 | 62 |
| Play organised sports outside of school or college | At least once a month | 64 | 79 | 56 | 62 | 65 | 44 | 58 | 46 |
| | Less often or never | 35 | 20 | 44 | 39 | 34 | 46 | 42 | 51 |
| Play outside more generally | At least once a month | 75 | 90 | 76 | 68 | 70 | 68 | 52 | 51 |
| | Less often or never | 22 | 9 | 21 | 31 | 30 | 31 | 39 | 44 |
| Go to local youth clubs or other special interest clubs that are not part of the school | At least once a month | 38 | 50 | 39 | 38 | 25 | 25 | 29 | 21 |
| | Less often or never | 61 | 49 | 61 | 62 | 75 | 74 | 69 | 74 |
| Get involved in community or voluntary activities (such as charity work or help at local events) | At least once a month | 35 | 38 | 32 | 43 | 40 | 30 | 47 | 26 |
| | Less often or never | 63 | 59 | 68 | 54 | 56 | 67 | 52 | 68 |
| Sample bases | | 1002 | 252 | 250 | 199 | 94 | 82 | 58 | 67 |

Young people in compulsory secondary education at Key Stages 3 and 4, and aged 10-16 are most likely to play sport or do PE at least once a month, as reported by the vast majority of both groups (99% and 94% respectively). Over half of those in school sixth form, sixth form college or studying at the Higher Education stage play sport at school or college at least once a month (as reported by 54%, 55% and 59% respectively).

Participation in organised sports outside of school or college is most likely amongst those at Key Stage 3 (79% do so once a month or more often), and least likely amongst those no longer in learning (51% do so less often than once a month or never, compared to 46% who do so at least once a month).

Participation in local youth clubs or other special interest clubs is most common amongst those at Key Stage 3 (50% take part once a month or more often), and least likely amongst those no longer in learning (74% take part less often than once a month or never, while 21% do so once a month or more often).

Community or voluntary activities are most common amongst those in school sixth form, sixth form college or studying at the Higher Education stage, as two in five or more of these groups of young people do so once a month or more often (43%, 40% or 47% respectively).

7.4 Advice on alcohol, drugs, sex

Young people were asked whether they would know where to go to obtain advice if they had any queries about drugs, alcohol or sexual health.

As illustrated below, the majority of young people are confident that they know where they can obtain advice regarding these issues, as at least eight in ten of all young people report.

Table 8: Q19. Would you know where to go to get advice if you had any questions about the following issues? (% yes)

| | ALL YOUNG PEOPLE | Secondary | | 6 th Form | | 16-19 | | |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | | Key Stage 3 – Ages 10-14 | Key Stage 4 – Ages 14-16 | School | College | FE learners/ apprenticeship | HE learners | Not in learning |
| | | % + | % + | % + | % + | % + | % + | %+ |
| Drugs | 88 | 81 | 89 | 90 | 87 | 87 | 94 | 85 |
| Alcohol | 84 | 77 | 87 | 89 | 83 | 84 | 92 | 76 |
| Sexual Health | 91 | 81 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 90 | 92 | 93 |
| Sample bases | 1002 | 252 | 250 | 199 | 94 | 82 | 58 | 67 |

In general there is little difference in awareness levels across young people by education stage, with at least eight in ten of every group aware of where they can obtain advice on drugs or sexual health, and at least three in four aware of where they can go to obtain advice on alcohol issues.

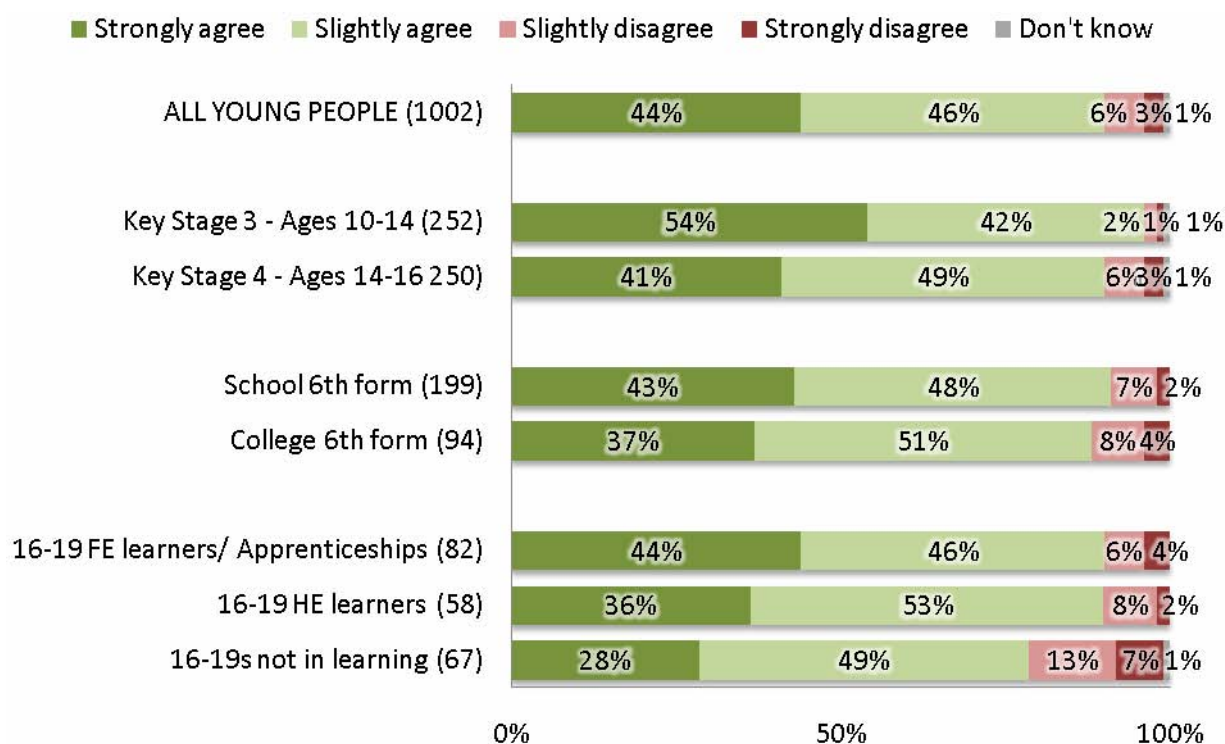
8 England as a country to grow up in

Young people were asked to rate their level of agreement that England is a good country for children to grow up in. This section analyses their responses in more detail, to understand how young people's opinions on other issues covered in the survey relate to their overall views on England as a country to grow up in.

Overall, the vast majority of young people (90%) agree to a strong or slight extent that England is a good country for children to grow up in, including over two in five (44%) who agree strongly, while one in ten (9%) disagree strongly or slightly that this is the case.

While the proportion of young people that agree overall that England is a good country for children to grow up is broadly consistent across the various age groups, the proportion that agrees *strongly* declines with education stage, so that those no longer in learning are least likely to agree strongly (28%), although overall the majority of them agree overall (77% agree strongly or slightly). Young people at Key Stage 3 are most likely to strongly agree that England is a good country for children to grow up in, as over half do (54%), and a further two in five agree slightly (42%, to comprise 96% who agree overall).

Figure 22: Q22. To what extent do you agree or disagree overall that England is a good country for children to grow up in?



Sample bases shown in parentheses.

Young people on the whole are consistently positive in their view that England is a good country for children to grow up in. Some differences exist amongst groups of young people who have differing views on other aspects of the survey, with those most likely to agree that England is a good country for children to grow up in described below:

- Young people who feel they had sufficient choice of school/ college/ university (93%, compared to 80% of those who did not have enough choice),
- Young people who feel that schools and colleges in England prepare young people well for working life (94%, compared to 70% of those who feel that they do not prepare young people well),
- Young people who feel they are likely to go to university (93%, compared to 82% of those who feel they are not likely),
- Young people who rate the standard of behaviour in their school or college as good (95%, compared to 87% of those who rate behaviour as poor), and
- Young people who feel the standard of behaviour in their school or college is improving (96%, compared to 81% of those who feel behaviour is getting worse).

It is therefore clear that young people with a negative view of another aspect are more likely to also have a more negative view in relation to whether England is a good country for children to grow up in. However, the majority of all groups of young people, including those with more negative views on other areas, do still agree that England is a good country for children to grow up in.

9 Profile of Respondents

Table 9: Profile of respondents

| Profile of Young people | | % |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Gender | | |
| | Male | 49 |
| | Female | 51 |
| Age | | |
| | 10 | 3 |
| | 11 | 9 |
| | 12 | 11 |
| | 13 | 9 |
| | 14 | 13 |
| | 15 | 11 |
| | 16 | 13 |
| | 17 | 11 |
| | 18 | 10 |
| | 19 | 7 |
| Number of parents/carers | | |
| | 0 | 1 |
| | 1 | 20 |
| | 2 | 78 |
| | 3+ | 1 |
| Number of siblings | | |
| | 0 | 10 |
| | 1 | 42 |
| | 2+ | 47 |
| Ethnicity | Ethnicity | Ethnicity |
| | White European | 90 |
| | Other white background | 2 |
| | Black Caribbean | 1 |
| | Black African | 1 |
| | Other black background | * |
| | Indian | 1 |
| | Pakistani | 1 |
| | Bangladeshi | * |
| | Other Asian background | * |
| | Mixed background | 3 |
| | Other | * |
| | Refused | 1 |
| Sample base: 1002 | | |

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