



South West Regional Survey of young people's involvement in 'Positive Activities'

"What young people do, or don't do, out-of-school matters. Research demonstrates that the activities young people participate in out-of-school have a significant bearing on their later life outcomes. Positive activities include a wide range of sporting, cultural and recreational activities and opportunities for volunteering. The key is that activities are structured, good quality, adult led and support development towards the ECM outcomes." (NYA progress update – positive activities data collection, 2008)

In March 2008, a new national indicator, NI110, was introduced for Local Authorities by Government, to measure and drive increased participation of young people in positive activities. This will be measured through the TellUs survey, using responses from young people in school year 10, and through Connexions data collection system, CCIS. The SW Regional Survey is proposed as an additional measure for our region, to provide more qualitative data about young people's engagement in positive activities.

1. About the survey

The SW Survey allows local authorities to establish their own baseline data for involvement in positive activities by young people aged 13-19 to supplement any results produced by CCIS and Tellus3.

This extra questionnaire is needed because:

- The TellUs 3 survey is only for age 8-16
- The questions about positive activities in TellUs 3 use a definition of the term that does not reflect the different forms of positive activities outlined in the Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities (Section 507B Education and Inspections Act 1996). In addition, TellUs does not ask young people about obstacles to accessing positive activities.

The SW Regional Survey was carried out through local authority youth projects and in some areas through schools and Pupil Referral Units in October – December 2008.

2. Levels of response

The regional report provides information about young people's involvement in positive activities across 6 authorities in the South West: Somerset, Poole, Dorset, Bath and NE Somerset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. 6,231 young people's questionnaires were returned. This breaks down as:

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Somerset	3115	50.0
	Poole	994	16.0
	Gloucestershire	977	15.7
	Dorset	76	1.2
	Bath	217	3.5
	Wiltshire	852	13.7
	Total	6231	100.0

Section 1: About You gives details of the demographic make up of those that responded. It is important to note that 50% (3,115) of those that responded to the survey were from Somerset, however replies from this area did not show a significant variation from those from the rest of the region.

In the SW as a whole, 92.5 % of children aged 0-15 are classified as White – British. In our survey, 89.5% of young people classified themselves in this way. Also within the age group 0-15 in the South West 51.24% are male, compared to 45.4% who responded to our survey, and 48.77% are female compared to 53.7% who responded to our survey.

3. Results

This report presents the questions in the same way as they were presented to young people. Responses may not always add up to 100% if some responses were illegible or inappropriately completed.

PART 1 ABOUT YOU:

First of all we would like to ask some questions about you. Please remember that your name is not written down and no one else will see your answers.

1. Are you..

	%
Male	45.4
Female	53.7

2. How old are you?

	%
10 or under	.2
11	4.3
12	8.8
13	16.1
14	14.9
15	14.1
16	17.0
17	12.1
18	5.3
19	1.8
20+	1.3

NB this section excludes figures from Poole

4. Which one of these best describes you?

	%
White - British	89.5
White – Irish	.8
White - Traveller of Irish Heritage	.2
White - Romany or Gypsy	.4
White - any other White background	1.8
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	.5
Mixed - White and Black African	.2
Mixed - White and Asian	.5
Mixed - any other mixed race background	.8
Asian or Asian British - Indian	.1
Asian or Asian British – Pakistani	.3
Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi	.1
Asian or Asian British - any other Asian background	.4
Black or Black British – Caribbean	.3
Black or Black British - African	.2
Black or Black British - any other Black background	.3
Chinese	.4
Any other ethnic background	.5

5. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

	%
Yes	5.8
No	89.9
Don't know	2.8

6. Which one of these best describes you?

	%
I live with one or more of my birth parents	77.3
I live with adoptive parent(s)	.7
I live with foster parent(s)	.5
I live in a Children's home	.3
Other	3.5
Don't know	1.0

7. Do you receive free school meals?

That is a meal provided by your school for free (you and your family do not have to pay for it.)

	%
Yes	6.2
No	73.8
Don't know	1.6

PART TWO: YOUR FREE TIME

This part asks some questions about what you do in your free time, that is after school and at weekends and in the school holidays.

We are interested in whether you have taken part in *positive activities* – activities outside school lessons that help you develop your talents.

1. Participating in activities

	Tick any you have participated in over the last month %	Tick any that you would like to go to, that you don't at the moment %
An organised sporting activity e.g. sports club or class (where I've done sport not just watched it)	47.4	18.5
A youth forum, focus group or a meeting outside school about making things better in my local area	16.7	20.5
Volunteering ie giving your time to help a charity or local group	16.8	25.1
A youth club or youth group with organised activities (eg Youth café, scouts, guides, cadets)	31.7	17.1
Art, craft, dance, drama, film/video making group or class (not in school lesson)	21.1	28.5
Music group or lesson (not in school lessons)	16.9	23.4
A residential course (eg Do It 4Real, Outward Bound)	7.9	24.8
After school or breakfast club	13.6	16.7
Faith or community group (eg Church Club)	8.1	16.9
Something else	12.5	11.5

2. If you'd like to take part in activities but don't at the moment, why not?

	%
The activities are not available in my area	25.8
I don't know about what activities are available	31.8
I can't get to the activities I want to attend	12
There is no public transport available to get there	11.3
I can't afford the cost of the activities I enjoy	19.4
I have tried an activity and didn't like it	11.8
I haven't got time to take part in activities	31.1
I have no-one to go with to the activities	21.6
The facilities are not welcoming	7.7

3. Overall, what do you think of the range of positive activities in your area?

	%
Very good	7.5
Fairly good	29.9
Neither good nor poor	21.1
Fairly poor	11.5
Very poor	12.2
Don't know	13.1

4. Key findings

- Over 20% of the young people that completed the regional questionnaire were over 16 (with 1% being 20 or over)
- The most common activities that young people are taking part in currently are: sporting activities, youth clubs and arts and craft groups.
- The activities that young people say they would most like to try are: arts and craft sessions, a residential course and a music group.
- The activity where there is the biggest differential between young people wanting to take part and the numbers of young people actually taking part is a residential course.

- The principal reasons that young people are not taking part in the activities they would like to at the moment, are that they do not know what activities are available, and they haven't got time to take part in activities.
- A third of young people in our region believe that the range of positive activities available is fairly good.

5. Recommendations

- It is recommended that the survey is repeated in October – December 2009 with more participating authorities to provide a clearer picture across the region
- Each authority taking part in the survey should nominate an officer to liaise with the RYWU on the development and implementation of the survey in their area to ensure consistency

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