

# **Make a Positive Contribution**

## Key Issues

- Our children and young people, their parents and the Children's Trust are concerned about the **negative portrayal of young people in the media** and the impact this may have on their emotional well-being and their sense of belonging and ownership within their communities.
- There needs to be **greater consistency of practice** across the Council in demonstrating **to young people how they have influenced decisions**.
- We need to **develop strategies** for children and young people who do not engage in mainstream activities.
- As corporate parents, it is essential that we fulfil our responsibilities by developing a range of mechanisms to **listen to the voice of children in care** so that their rights as a child are upheld and their well-being is improved.
- Our young people have identified '**sex and relationships**' as a continuing issue that they wish to see better addressed.
- The 'Tellus Survey' 2008 indicated that, compared to their peers across London, **far fewer Haringey children participated in activities with an adult after school**.
- The Youth Council has identified as a **key priority "improving understanding and unity between different groups of young people"**.
- The Tellus Survey indicated that a higher proportion of children and young people than the national average were **worried about crime**.

## **1. Introduction**

If Haringey is to be a strong, prosperous place to live, it is important that we have strong communities. This section is about ensuring that children and young people make a positive contribution, to themselves, their families, and their communities. This means that children and young people are active citizens, with the ability to engage in decisions that affect their lives. It also means that they avoid engaging in anti-social behaviour and crime.

This section covers the following:

- Context
- Young people's perceptions
- Place survey
- Consultations
- Bullying
- Youth Offending Service
- Children in Care
- Youth Service
- Haringey Youth Council
- UK Youth Parliament (UKYP)
- Young Advisors
- Level 2 and 3 attainment by young people aged 19
- Positive activities
- Implications
- Gaps in data
- National Indicator Set

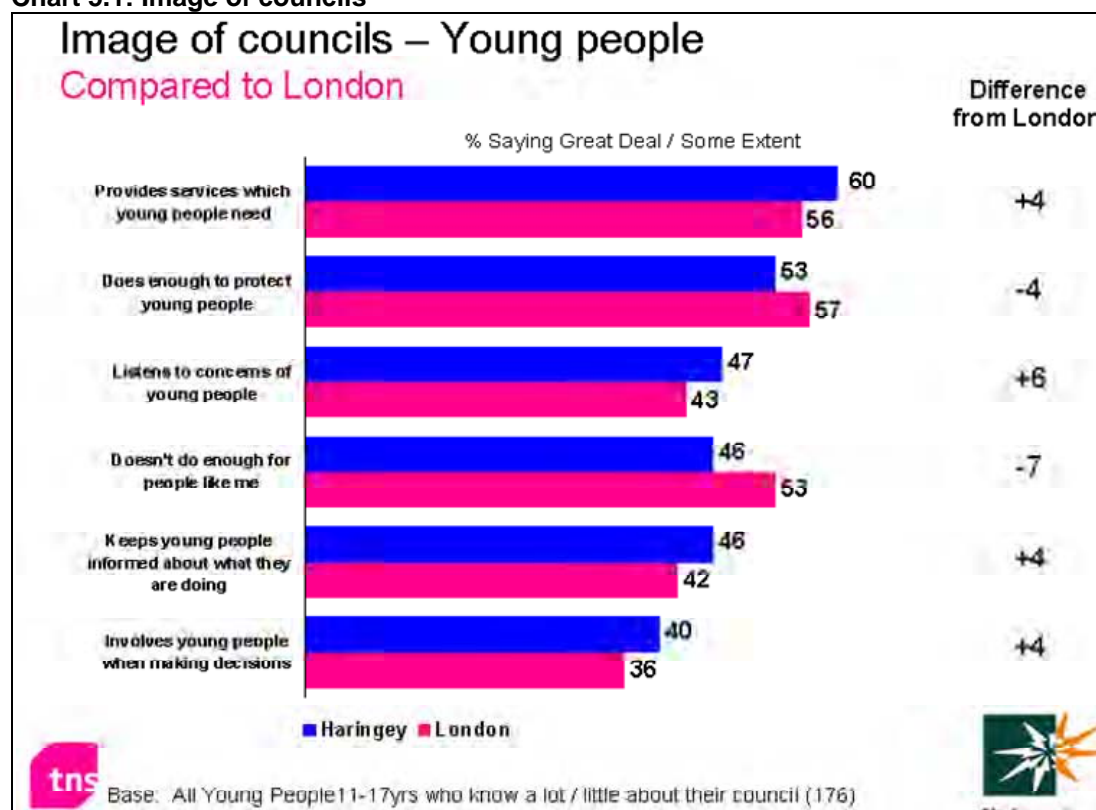
## **2. Context**

Haringey is committed to empowering children and young people to have a more effective voice in decision-making and to promoting their positive participation.

### 3. Young people's perceptions

#### a) Image of Haringey Council among young people

Chart 5.1: Image of councils



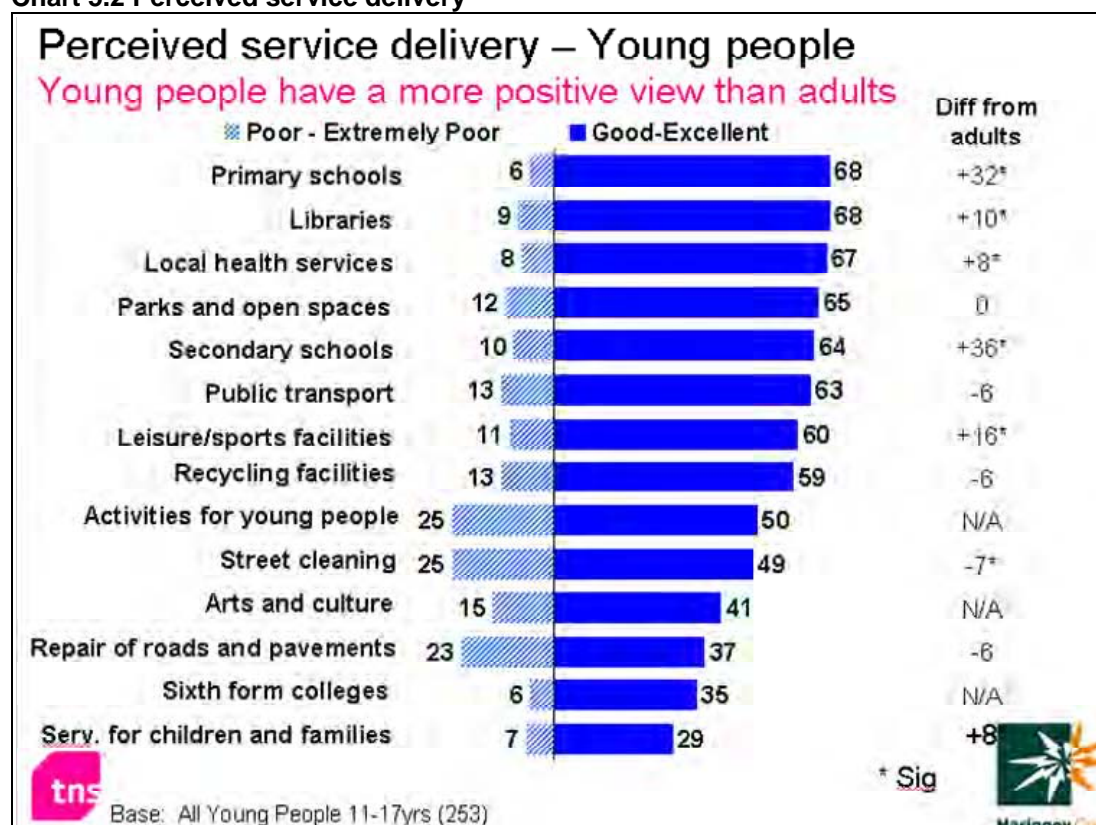
Source: Haringey Residents survey, 2007/08

Haringey's 2007/08 Young People's Residents Survey shows that our young people's perceptions of the image of Haringey Council is broadly in line with young people's perceptions of councils across London. Sixty per cent of young people agree that Haringey Council provides services which young people need. Although this is 4% higher than in London, it represents a 6 percentage point decrease on the 2006/07 Survey.

Since last year there has been an 8% increase in the proportion of young people who agree that the council listens to concerns of young people and that it keeps young people informed about what they are doing, which means these perceptions are higher than the average for London councils. Also, there has been a 17% increase in the proportion of young people who agree that the Council involves young people when making decisions. This is reflected in the significant decrease of 12% points in the proportion of young people who say that the Council 'doesn't do enough for people like me'.

## b) Perceived service delivery among young people

Chart 5.2 Perceived service delivery



Source: Haringey Residents survey, 2007/08

Chart 5.2 shows that there are significant differences in the perceptions of young people and adults for service delivery:

- 68% of young people compared with 58% of adults believe that libraries are good-excellent
- 68% of young people compared with 36% of adults believe that primary schools are good-excellent
- 64% of young people compared with 30% of adults believe that secondary schools are good-excellent
- 60% of young people compared with 44% of adults believe that leisure/sport facilities are good-excellent
- 49% of young people compared with 56% of adults believe that street cleaning is good-excellent.

Since the 2006/07 Young People's Residents Survey there has been a significant increase of 11% in the proportion of young people who believe local health services are good-excellent.

## c) Areas of personal concern

The areas of personal concern for our young people are broadly in line with perceptions of young people across London – though these concerns are very different from their adult counterparts. As with adult residents, crime is the top concern for 56% of our young people, down 4% on the 2006/07 Survey, but

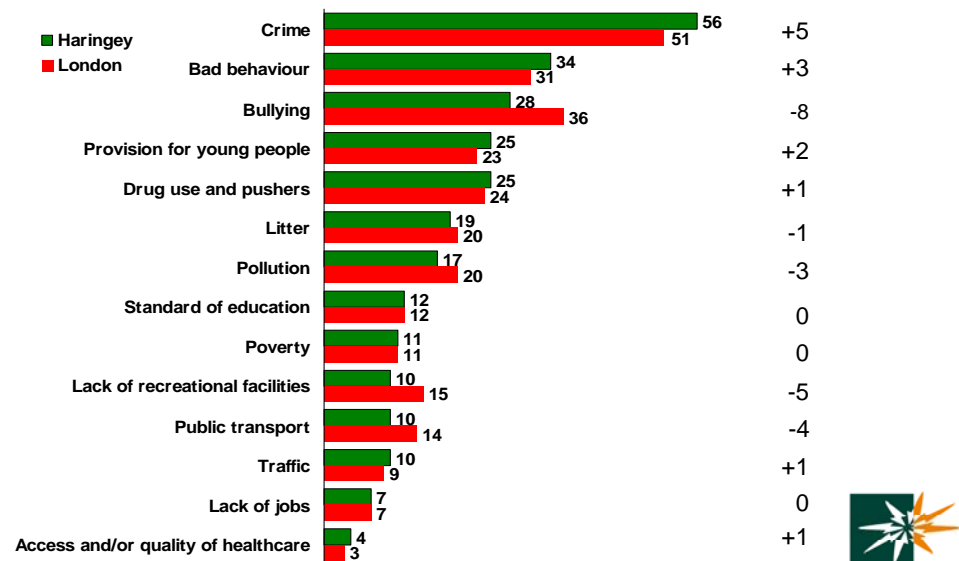
the top concern for 56% of our young people, down 4% on the 2006/07 Survey, but 5% more than London overall. This is followed by bad behaviour (34%), which has increased by 6% since last year, and bullying (28%), which is down by 9% on last year.

Chart 5.3 Areas of personal concern

## Areas of personal concern – Young people

Greatest concerns: Compared with London

Diff. from London



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Base: All Young People 11-17yrs (253)



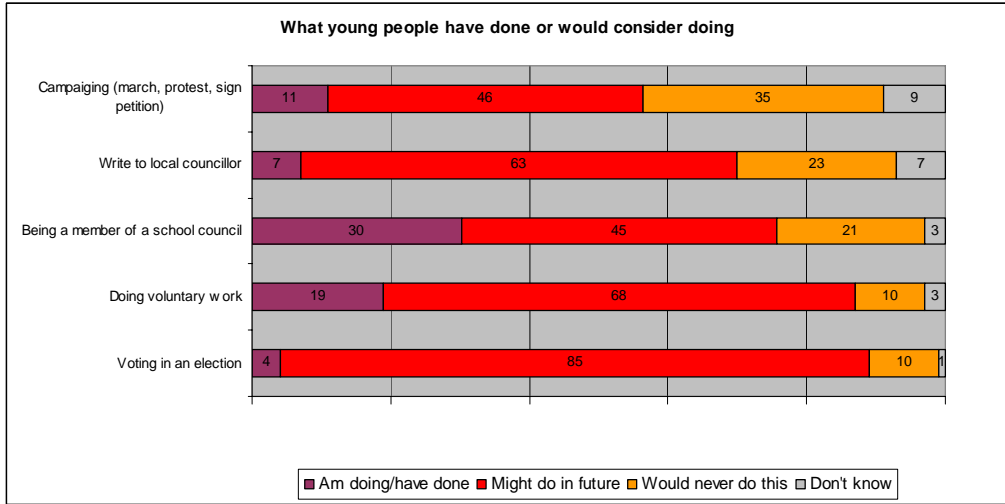
Source: Haringey Residents survey, 2007/08

### d) Civic Participation

In the 2007/08 Residents Survey, young people were asked what they have done or would consider doing, and the following findings were made:

- 57% have done or would consider campaigning
- 70% have done or would consider writing to a local councillor
- 75% have done or would consider being a member of a school council
- 87% have done or would consider doing voluntary work
- 89% have done or would consider voting in an election.

**Chart 5.4 What young people have done or would consider doing**



Source: Residents' Survey 2007/08

#### 4. Place survey

The 2008 Place Survey provides information on people's perceptions of their local area and the local services they receive. The following findings were made.

- 17% feel that activities for teenagers are in the top five most important things that are most important in making somewhere a good place to live.
- 31% feel that activities for teenagers are in the top five things in the local area that most need improving.
- 14% feel that facilities for young children are in the top five most important things that are most important in making somewhere a good place to live.
- 12% feel that facilities for young children are in the top five things in the local area that most need improving.
- 30% either tend to agree or agree that in the local area parents take enough responsibility for the behaviour of their children.
- 47% feel that teenagers hanging around on the street is either a very big or fairly big problem.

#### 5. Consultations

The agencies that form the Children's Trust have consulted with children and young people on a range of issues including participatory budgeting and anti-bullying, as well as ascertaining the views of those with special educational needs (SEN) and those in care. The feedback received from these consultations has been fed into strategy development and has helped to inform service delivery.

The findings from some key consultations are given below.

### a) TellUs 3 Survey results 2008/09

In 2008, 32 Haringey schools took part in the TellUs 3 survey, which is run by Ofsted.

#### ▪ **Be healthy**

↓ 12% of pupils responded that they had not spent at least 30 minutes doing sports or other active things (national 4%).

↑ A significantly smaller proportion than national said that the information they get on alcohol, smoking, drugs, sex and relationships was good enough.

↓ A higher proportion than national said that they were worried about crime.

↓ A smaller proportion than national said that they have one or more good friends.

↓ A smaller proportion than national said that they could talk to their friends or mum or dad when they were worried about something.

#### ▪ **Stay safe**

↓ A higher proportion than national said that they felt a bit unsafe when using public transport.

↓ A higher proportion than national said that they felt unsafe when going to and from school.

↑ Haringey pupils feel more confident about how their school deals with bullying.

#### ▪ **Enjoy and achieve**

↑ A higher proportion than national said that they might benefit from more help from their teachers.

↑ A higher proportion than national said that they would like to go to a local park, join a sports club or class, take part in a music group.

↓ A smaller proportion than national said that in the last four weeks they had participated in any group activity led by an adult outside school lessons.

- **Make a positive contribution**

- ↓ A smaller proportion than national said that in the last year they had given their time to help a charity, a local voluntary group, a neighbour or someone else in the local area.

- ↑ A higher number of pupils have given their views in the last year and feel their views are listened to at a local level.

- **Achieve economic well-being**

- ↓ A higher proportion than national said that they would like their area to be cleaner and have less litter.

- ↑ More hope to study up to the age of 18 and then get a job and slightly fewer hope to go to university.

- ↑ More pupils responded positively when asked about their local parks and play areas.

These responses highlight areas where the experiences of children and young people in Haringey differ to those across England. On a positive note, more responded positively about areas of education, parks and how their schools deal with bullying. Nonetheless, the survey also underlines existing concerns about social and emotional aspects of learning, levels of participation both in and out of school and how students are able to access learning support.

Of the 32 schools that responded, 26 were primary, three were secondary, two were special schools and one was a pupil referral unit.

## **b) Powerful Voices**

As part of our commitment to listening and responding to the voices of all children and young people, Haringey held its first Powerful Voices Conference in 2008, involving 120 children. The aim of Powerful Voices was to consult Year 5, 6, and 7 students including those with disabilities and special educational needs and to learn their opinion on education and other services that affect them. The format of the conference enabled pupils to actively participate and demonstrates a practical, creative approach to developing a culture of involving and listening to children. The theme of last year's conference was 'Places where I learn and play'.

Some of the key messages from the report are that pupils:

- are nervous but also excited about going to secondary school
- would like more green spaces at school and a 'calm place' in each school
- want more inclusive play opportunities and more opportunities to swim
- want safe parks, free of dog poo and litter

- value opportunities to meet pupils from other schools and to learn about disability

### **c) SEN Pupil Survey**

Special schools and secondary schools in Haringey were contacted, inviting them to complete the survey with children and young people in their school who were on the SEN Register.

Twelve schools in Haringey took part in the project, with different numbers of children and young people in each school completing the two questionnaires. In total, 138 children and young people completed the 'About School' questionnaire in ten schools, and 198 children and young people completed the 'About Learning' questionnaire in nine schools.

The aim of the project was to gather the views of children and young people with special needs attending schools in Haringey. The project aimed to gather children and young people's views about their experience of school, of learning and of planning for education in the future.

### **Key findings**

- Around two-thirds of the children and young people said they definitely felt happy at school or enjoyed school, with just over half saying they definitely felt clever at school.
- Most of the children and young people were positive about having good friends at school and about accessing help and support, with three-quarters saying they could definitely talk to their teachers about problems.
- Under three-quarters of the children and young people said they definitely felt safe at school, although a small number of children said they felt unsafe at school.
- Over a third of the children and young people reported experiencing bullying at school, with most saying they were bullied in the playground and a quarter saying they were bullied in the classroom.
- A quarter of the children and young people said they were bullied outside school.
- Most, though not all, of the children and young people said they could definitely talk to an adult about being bullied.
- Most of the children and young people said they liked break and lunchtimes. However, some of the children and young people said they could not choose the food they ate at lunchtime and a number of children and young people said they did not get all the help they needed at lunchtime.
- Under half of the children and young people said they went to school clubs, with only a third saying they could go to all the school clubs they liked. Similarly, although over half of the children and young people said they went to clubs or activities outside school, again only a third said they could go to all the clubs they wanted outside school.

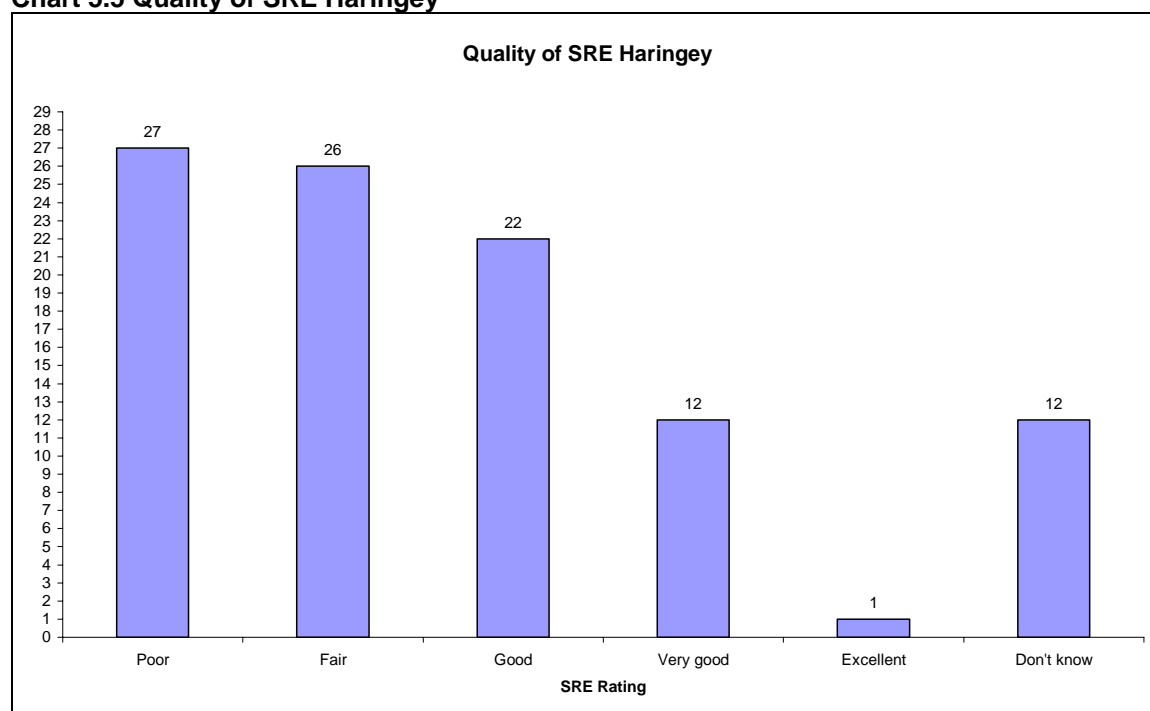
- Across all of the Key Stages, the subjects most children and young people said they liked were IT/ICT, art and numeracy/maths.
- Young people in KS3/4 were more positive about getting the help they needed at school than the KS2 group. Half of the children in KS2 said they definitely got the help they needed at school, with a tenth saying they did not.
- Across all the Key Stages, the children and young people most commonly said they needed more help with numeracy/maths or literacy/English, with around half of the children in KS2 and around a third of the young people in KS3/4 selecting these responses.
- Although the children in KS2 who were moving to another school were largely positive about their new school, only half of the young people in KS4 said they were definitely looking forward to their new school.
- Not all of the young people in Key Stages 3 and 4 said they had discussed college or jobs and around two-thirds of the young people responding said they wanted to learn more about college or jobs.

#### **d) Young people's views on sex and relationship education (SRE)**

100 young people participated in the survey. All were elected members of their school council and were spread across the 11 to 18 age range. The survey was undertaken over a period of the Summer term 2008. Eight schools participated in the survey.

The headline results show that 46% found their SRE useful while 47% did not. Chart 5.5 details the quality of SRE on a range from poor to excellent.

**Chart 5.5 Quality of SRE Haringey**



**Source: Haringey Council - CYPS**

We asked participants about the subjects they had learnt. The most common five topics were human reproduction, puberty, sexually transmitted infections, peer pressure and contraception. When asked what they would like to learn about, the most important five topics were being a parent, self awareness and emotional resilience, strategies for making choices, managing risk and assertiveness skills and same sex relationships. The emphasis on aspects of relationships issues and emotions reinforces the findings of the UK Youth Parliament '*Are You Getting It?*' report (based on a survey of over 21,000 young people nationally).

We also asked students how they would like to learn. Interactive and participatory approaches came out top underlining the importance of making lessons active and varied in the style of delivery. The top preferred learning approaches were DVD/Film, visiting speakers/experts, debate, discussion, theatre groups and TV programmes. Least popular were textbooks and worksheets.

So far as knowledge of sexual health services is concerned, 57% knew where to go for help and 67% had heard about 4YP services, while 28% had not. This indicates that information is getting across to a significant majority but a sizeable minority is not aware of the existence or location of support services.

We also asked students if they had someone in school who they could ask for advice on a sexual health problem. Only 45% said that they did know of someone they could ask for help.

Another question asked them if they had been asked for their views on sex and relationships education. Just over a quarter or 26% agreed that they had

while 66% said they had not been asked. Some schools showed more positive assessment of learning or assessment for learning outcomes with a more even split, but a significant majority indicated that no consultation had been undertaken with students.

When asked for ideas about what information they would put on a school notice board a wide variety of ideas were recorded. Many included telephone numbers of Childline, local sexual health services, 4YP, hospitals and clinics. Most participants gave some points for the board.

## **6. Bullying**

Young people's views have played a major role in the development of local strategies for children's safety. The Participation Crew, a voluntary group of children and young people, have attended Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) meetings, shared their views on Haringey's action plan for safety and played a lead role in training other young people on the importance of participation. Haringey Youth Council (HYC) regularly discusses aspects of bullying with Cabinet Members and members of the LSCB. This led to a successful Anti-Bullying March in November 2007. Almost 200 young people from 12 secondary and special schools attended the very successful anti-bullying march which was followed by HYC members leading anti-bullying awareness raising in schools. An outcome of the borough's anti-bullying work has been that fewer young people consider bullying to be one of their greatest concerns, reflected in this year's Young Residents Survey; 27% of young people considered bullying to be one of their greatest concerns compared to 37% last year. This figure compares with 36% in London as a whole.

Further details about bullying and discriminatory incidents can be found on in the Stay Safe chapter.

## **7. Youth Offending Service (YOS)**

Details about the YOS can be found in the Stay Safe chapter.

## **8. Children in Care (CiC)**

Evidence of us responding to the voices of children in care and the impact on service delivery is the development of our award-winning mentoring project for children in care, which the young people asked for and which involves them in the recruitment phase and as peer mentors. Since 2007, over 20 mentor relationships have been established.

The project has gone from strength to strength, receiving positive feedback from mentees, carers and schools. The project also won an Xtra Mile award in 2008. This year's mentors have been recruited from across the Council (last year's mentors were from the Children and Young People's Service [C&YPS]) and include staff from Better Haringey, Member Services, IT and Early Years. Volunteer staff mentors are joined by peer mentors from Leaving Care and receive a range of support and training from internal and external specialists.

The project aims to provide mentoring for children in foster care and residential settings, towards improving educational attainment, enabling them to participate more confidently in positive activities outside of school and to improve their self esteem, coping skills and ability to enjoy and achieve.

A further initiative was the 'Changing Me – Changing You' event in March 2009 where children and young people in Haringey's care performed a presentation for Members, key staff and audience members who have a relationship with the children about their views and feelings.

The main project aims were to:

- encourage Haringey CiC to have a voice when it comes to issues of identity
- allow them to express how they feel about their situation
- enable them to voice their concerns and what they would like to change
- explore how they would like to improve their situation and people's perceptions of CiC

## **9. Youth Service**

Thirteen Youth Centres are run across Haringey for 13-19 year olds. The smaller centres have 10-30 users and the larger centres up to 90 users. Activities range from arts, sports and media/music, with a number of centres providing specialist programmes such as the Funky Bunch (special needs), Irish Travellers Group at the Bruce Grove Youth Centre, the DIVA Zone (girls) Young Advisors and Autism Group at the Muswell Hill Youth Centre.

Particular needs have been identified in the three main centres - Bruce Grove, Muswell Hill and Wood Green including:

- Gang involvement
- Drug misuse related to gang involvement: Bubic (Bringing Unity Back into the Community) is working with both Muswell Hill and Wood Green Centres
- Sexual health: Chlamydia is seen as a big problem. 4YP has a nurse stationed at each youth centre operating on a fortnightly basis
- Illegal/unsafe driving of mopeds: PEDSAFE was piloted in Campsbourne which saw young people undertake their Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) licence and assistance with insurance. This programme is now rolling out to Coldfall Estate
- Housing: Young People in Bruce Grove and Stroud Green have raised this as a particular issue. A Youth Housing Officer from the Council now works with a caseload within the service to assist young people with rent arrears.

## **10. Haringey Youth Council**

In 2006 Haringey created the Haringey Youth Council (HYC). The council is made up of representatives from Haringey schools, colleges, and youth groups and has the following aims:

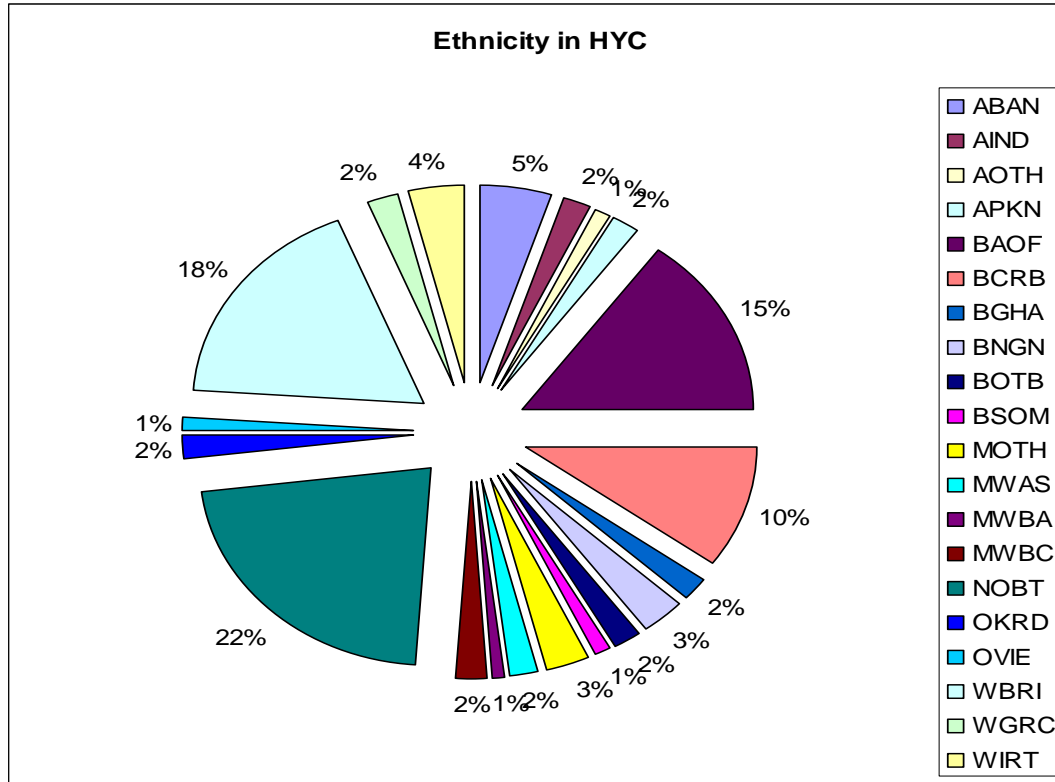
- to represent the views of all children and young people in Haringey
- to work to promote the quality of life and opportunities for children and young people
- to work for improved understanding and unity between different groups of young people.

Participating organisations can send two member representatives to attend meetings of the council. The HYC currently has 65 registered members, evenly split between male and female. HYC membership includes looked after children, young people from special schools, young carers and young travellers. In January 2009 youth councillors elected their latest Cabinet.

The successful candidates will represent young people in Haringey at a local level and take forward the agenda of the whole Youth Council. These new members will be joined by the new UK Youth Parliament Representatives for Haringey.

The HYC is focusing among other things on combating bullying, supporting work against gun and knife crime and promoting good community relations, particularly between young and old.

Chart 5.6 Ethnic breakdown of the Haringey Youth Council



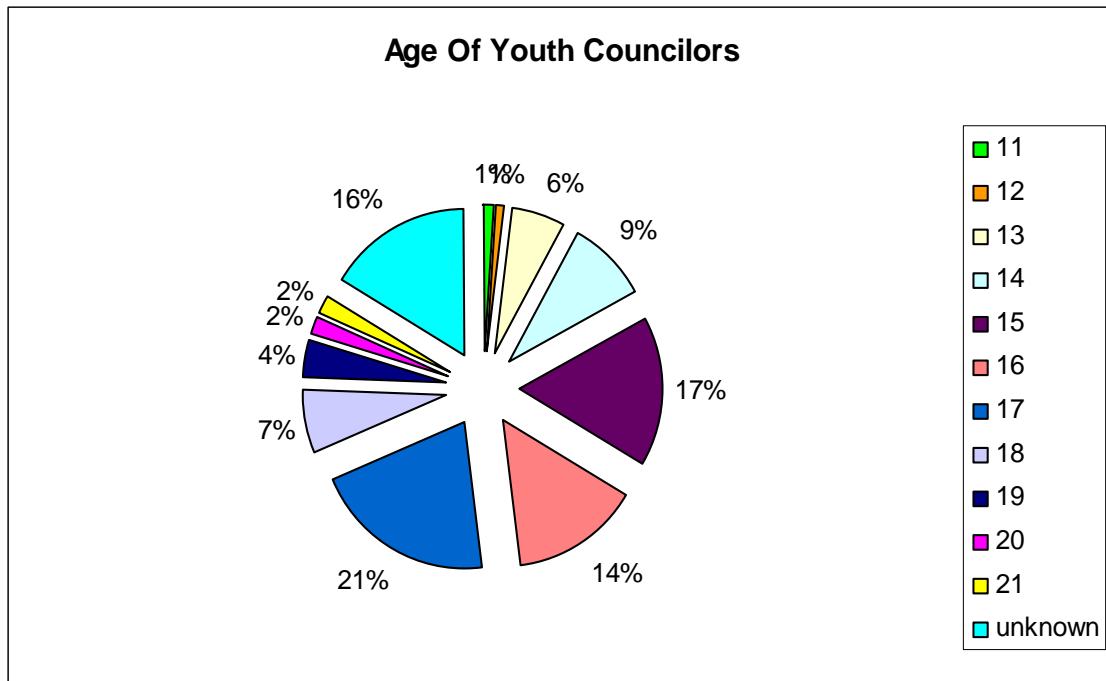
**Ethnicity Codes**

Ethnicity code	Ethnicity Description	Amount
ABAN	Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	5
AIND	Asian/Asian British: Indian	2
AOTH	Asian/Asian British: Any other background	1
APKN	Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	2
BAOF	Other Black African	15
BCON	Congolese	
BCRB	Black/Black British: Caribbean	10
BGHA	Ghanaian	2
BNGN	Nigerian	3
BOTB	Other Black	2
BSOM	Somalian	1
CHNE	Chinese	
MOTH	Mixed: Any other background	3
MWAS	Mixed: White and Asian	2
MWBA	Mixed: White and Black African	1
MWBC	Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	2
NOBT	Information not obtained	21
OKRD	Kurdish	2
OLAM	Latin American	
OOOTH	Any other ethnic group	
OVIE	Vietnamese	1
REFU	Refused/Preferred not to say	
WALB	Albanian	
WBRI	White: British	18
WGRC	White: Greek Cypriot	2

WIRI	White: Irish	3
WIRT	White: Traveller of Irish Heritage	
WKOS	Kosovan	
WOTW	Other White	
WROM	White: Gypsy/Roma	
WTUC	Turkish Cypriot	
WTUK	Turkish	

Source: CYPs, Haringey Council

Chart 5.7 Age of Youth Councillors



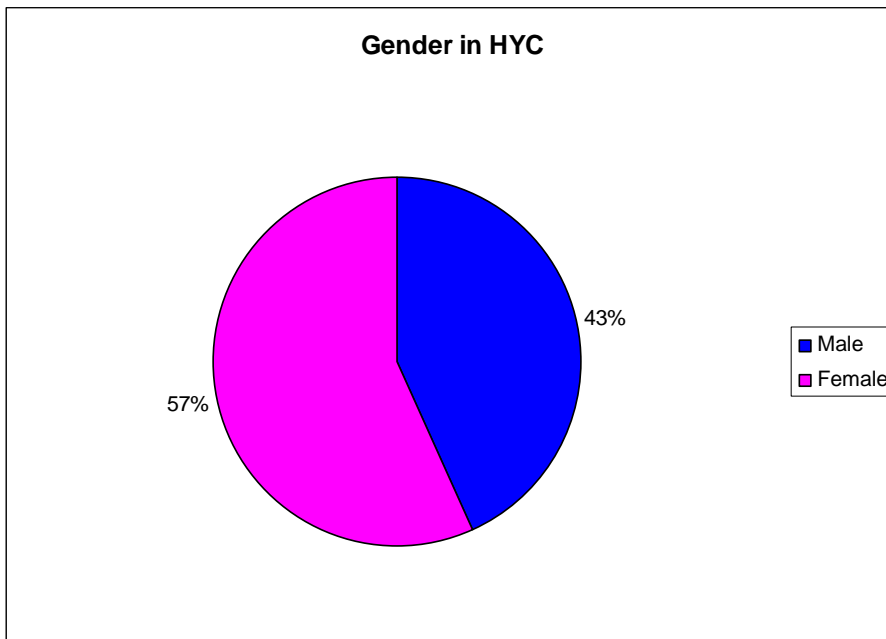
Age	Number
11	1
12	1
13	6
14	9
15	16
16	14
17	20
18	7
19	4
20	2
21	2
unknown	16

Source: CYPs, Haringey Council

## Disability monitoring:

The HYC began in summer 2006 and we introduced more comprehensive equalities monitoring measures in 2007. Whilst we have representation from Moselle and mainstream school representatives who have learning needs and disabilities, we have found it hard to accurately monitor disability. This is mainly because young people often complete their own form and they may not want others to know that they attend a special school or have a disability. We will be revising how data is collected this year towards improving equalities monitoring.

Chart 5.8 Gender make up of Haringey Youth Council



Source: CYPS, Haringey Council

## 11. UK Youth Parliament (UKYP)

- Since 2007/2009, 7000 Haringey young people have voted in UKYP elections; 3500 young people voted in 2008/09.
- 11 young people have represented Haringey in UKYP – five young people are representing Haringey in 2008/09.
- The ethnic breakdown of the 11 candidates is: Asian Bangladeshi, Asian Pakistani, Black Caribbean, Black African, Black British, White/Black African, Kurdish and White British.
- 60 young people have attended Haringey UKYP election process workshop from 2006/08; 24 young people attended the workshop in 2008.
- 44 young people have stood as candidates in the elections from 2007-2009; 14 young people stood in this year's election.

## **12. Young advisors**

Haringey has 25 young advisors aged 15-21. They are trained consultants who carry out peer outreach and other community projects. They have proved effective in engaging young people in a range of issues and specialise in regeneration and renewal.

## **13. Level 2 and 3 attainment by young people aged 19**

Please refer to the chapter Enjoy and Achieve for further information.

## **14. Positive activities**

The Youth Council will, in 2009-11, develop an action plan to prioritise building on the anti-bullying initiative, supporting work against gun and knife crime and ways to improve community relations, particularly between young and old.

The Community Safety Partnership provides and commissions a range of programmes designed to support young people and prevent youth crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). Further details can be found in the Stay Safe chapter.

## IMPLICATIONS

- Haringey has been very effective in creating strategic opportunities for young people to collaborate and contribute to decision making, however **the process for demonstrating to young people how they have influenced decisions requires greater consistency of practice across the Council.** We will develop ways of showing them what impact they have had on policy.
- The Children's Trust has made clear its commitment to listening to children and young people, and we now need to focus on **developing strategies to involve those who do not engage in mainstream activities.**
- We must get better at **publicising positive activities** for children and young people and pay particular attention to **improving access for those with special educational needs and disabilities.**

### Gaps in data

Haringey Youth Council held their Shout Event in November 2008 which was attended by 220 pupils. The aim was **to get young people's views on the environment, gun and knife crime, intergenerational dialogue, poverty and sex & relationship education.** Issues highlighted will be fed back to local decision-makers.

## National Indicator Set

The National Indicators detailed below are taken from the Every Child Matters (ECM) Outcomes Framework and cover quality of life indicators and quality of service indicators.

Indicator	Indicator Name	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09		2009/10 Targets
		Value	Value	Value	Target	
NI 85	Post-16 participation in physical sciences (A Level Physics, Chemistry and Maths)	New Indicator	153	190	160	165
NI 91	Participation of 17 year-olds in education or training	New Indicator		To be published by DCSF (no date)		No target
NI 43	Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody	6.9%	7.8%		7.8%	No data for this range
NI 44	Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals	No data for this range		No data for this range		No data for this range
NI 45	Young offenders' engagement in suitable education, training and employment	66.6%	75.0%		75.0%	No data for this range
NI 46	Young Offenders' access to suitable accommodation	96.9%	97.0%		97.0%	No data for this range
NI 79	Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19	62.0%	66.0%	To be published by LSC (no date)	68.0%	68.5%
NI 80	Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	43.0%	44.0%	To be published by LSC (no date)	45.0%	46.0%
NI 174	Skills gaps in the current workforce reported by employers	13.00%		No data for this range		No data for this range
NI 15	Serious violent crime rate					4% reduction on 2008

Indicator	Indicator Name	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09		2009/10
		Value	Value	Value	Target	Targets
NI 19	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	No data for this range		No data for this range		baseline
NI 24	Satisfaction with the way the police and local council dealt with anti-social behaviour	Collected through APACS survey 2009/10				No data for this range
NI 25	Satisfaction of different groups with the way the police and local council dealt with antisocial behaviour	Collected through APACS survey 2009/10				No data for this range
NI 27	Understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police		Place Survey	No data for this range		No data for this range
NI 28	Serious knife crime rate		441	505	595	No data for this range
NI 29	Gun crime rate - Rolling Year		131	75	75	No data for this range
NI 35	Building resilience to violent extremism		2	1	2	No data for this range
NI 90	Take up of 14-19 Learning Diplomas	New Indicator		To be published by Diploma Aggregation Service (no date)		No data for this range
NI 110	Young people's participation in positive activities	New Indicator		50.7%	No target	No data for this range
NI 149	% of Adults receiving secondary mental health services in settled accommodation	No data for this range		81.0%	Delayed until 2009/10	No data for this range
NI 150	Adults receiving secondary mental health services in employment			4.0%		No data for this range
NI 21	Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police	24%		27.9%	24%	No data for this range