

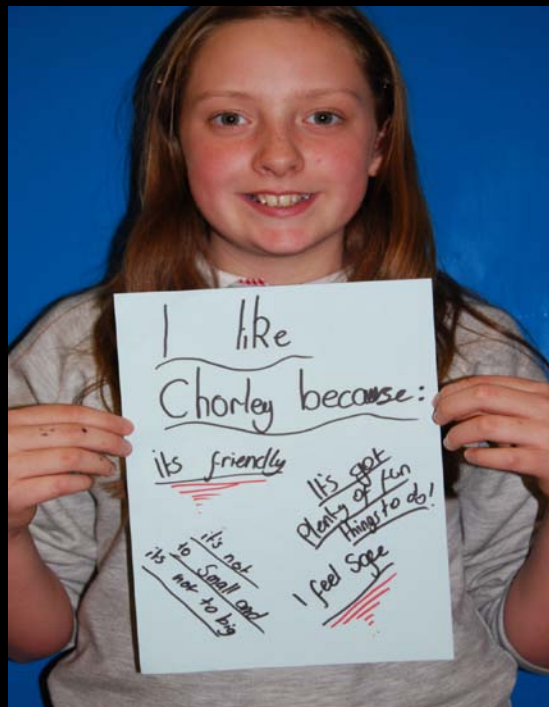
One Big Chorley Voice

Children's Trust

Consultation

Report

June 2011



One Big Chorley Voice

Project Report

Compiled by: Chorley Youth Council ,Emma Johnson, & Val Lawson (YPS Staff)

Background

This project is part of an ongoing partnership between Chorley Children's Trust and the Young People's Service, in particular Chorley Youth Council.

Chorley Children's Trust feels that it's vital to involve young people in the planning of their work and priorities. This led the Trust, Young People's Service and Chorley Youth Council to look at a mechanism for gathering young people's views on a large scale.

As Chorley Youth Council is a representative group of young people from the district, they were tasked with managing the consultation and feeding back to the Trust.

The themes for the consultation negotiated between the Youth Council and the Trust were:

The Children's Trust six priorities:

1. Poverty (employment and education)

2. Housing and homelessness

3. Parents and parenting

4. Resilience to risk taking behaviours

5. Staying safe

6. Children with particular needs

Process

In October 2010 young people from Chorley took part in a residential at Tower Wood in The Lake District to explore different forms of consultation. Young people explored the benefits of consultations, why consultations need to be done, who should be involved and most importantly, how they could go about doing it so that other young people would engage and participate. The young people wanted to make sure lots of young people had the opportunity to take part but also wanted good quality feedback that the Trust could use in their long-term planning.

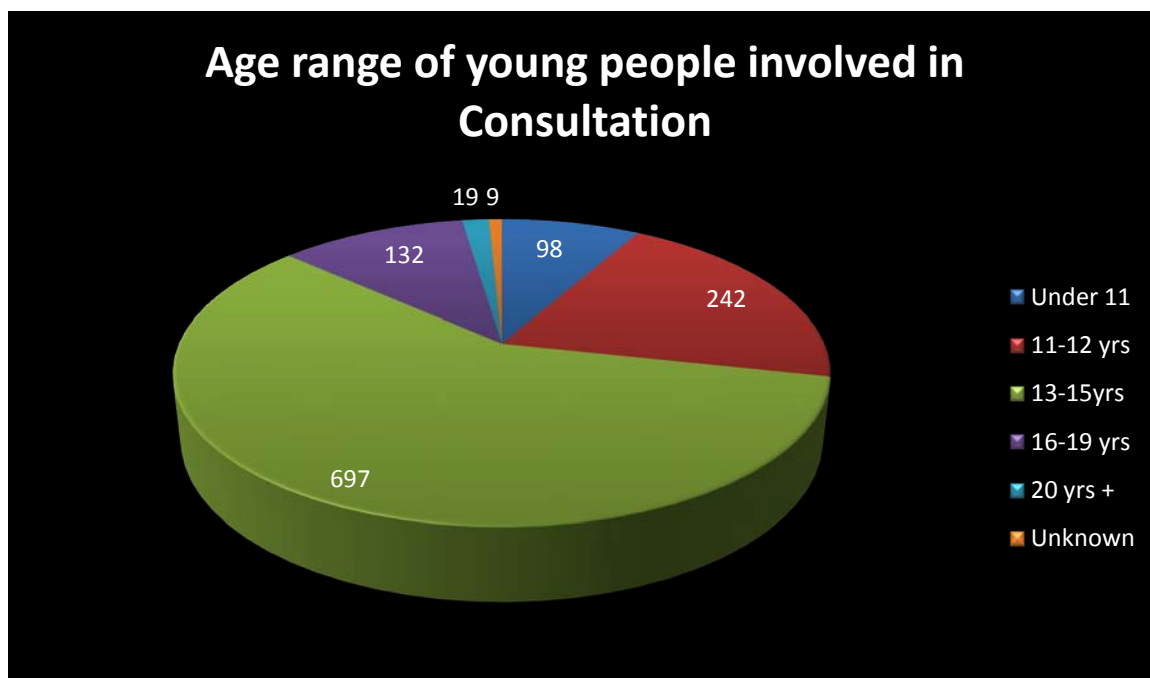
The most effective methods chosen to facilitate the consultation process were a questionnaire, a workshop plan which included video interview as part of it. This lasted

around 1 hour (please see appendices for copies of these). The young people on the residential wanted to ensure that young people could participate in different, creative ways and that the methods used would be suitable to their needs. Chorley Youth Council then invited a variety of groups from the district to be involved, from Young People's Service groups to Voluntary Organisations, Faith sector groups, Primary, Secondary and Further Education. Where possible the workshop sessions were peer-led by members of Chorley Youth Council. All the questionnaires and face-to-face workshops took place in February, March and April 2011.

What follows is a summary of the priorities that young people identified. The report also contains the results from the consultation full facts, figures, ideas, opinions and suggestions that young people have made to help shape their local area in the future.

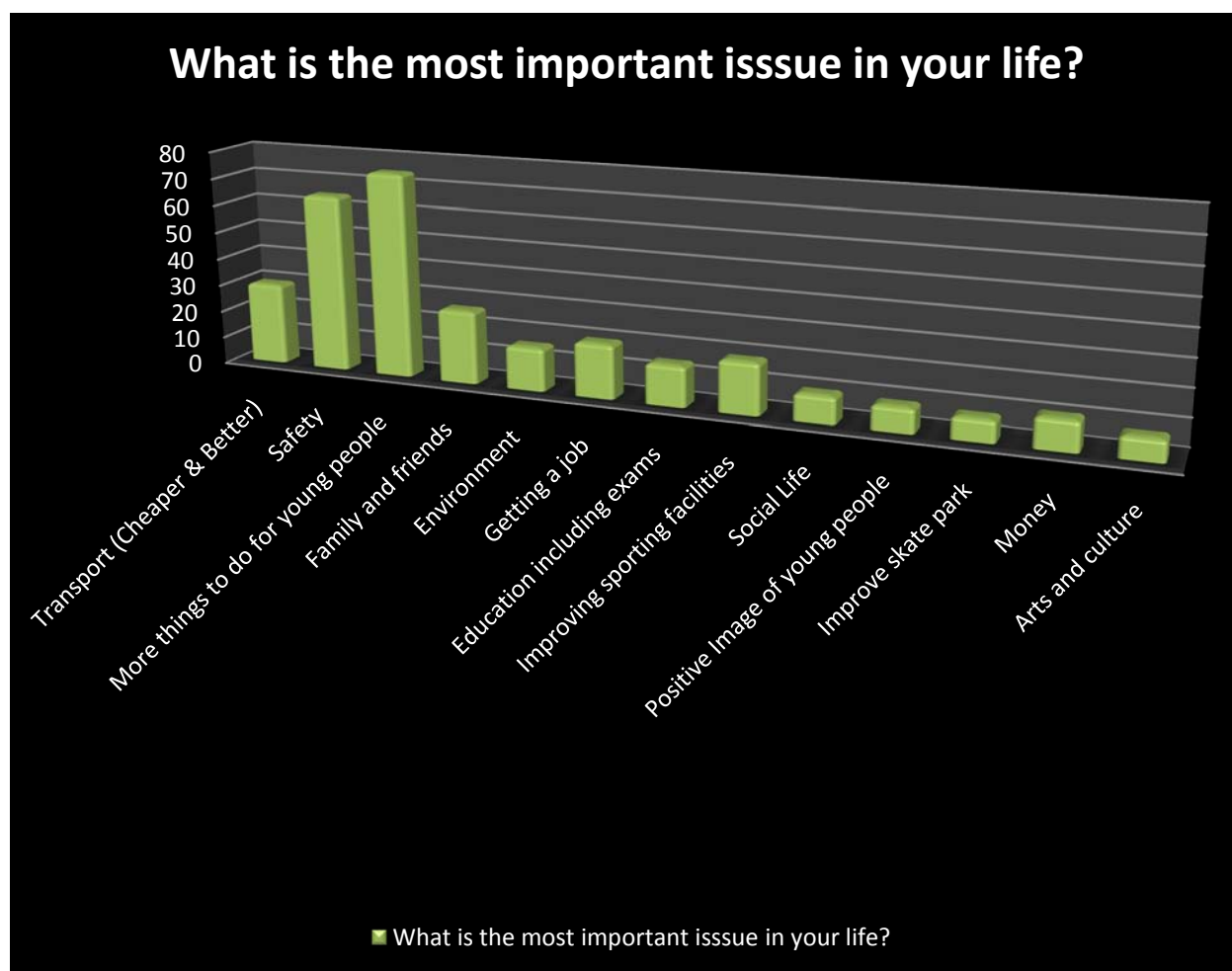
The Youth Council hope others find it interesting reading and welcome comments and feedback.

Key Findings

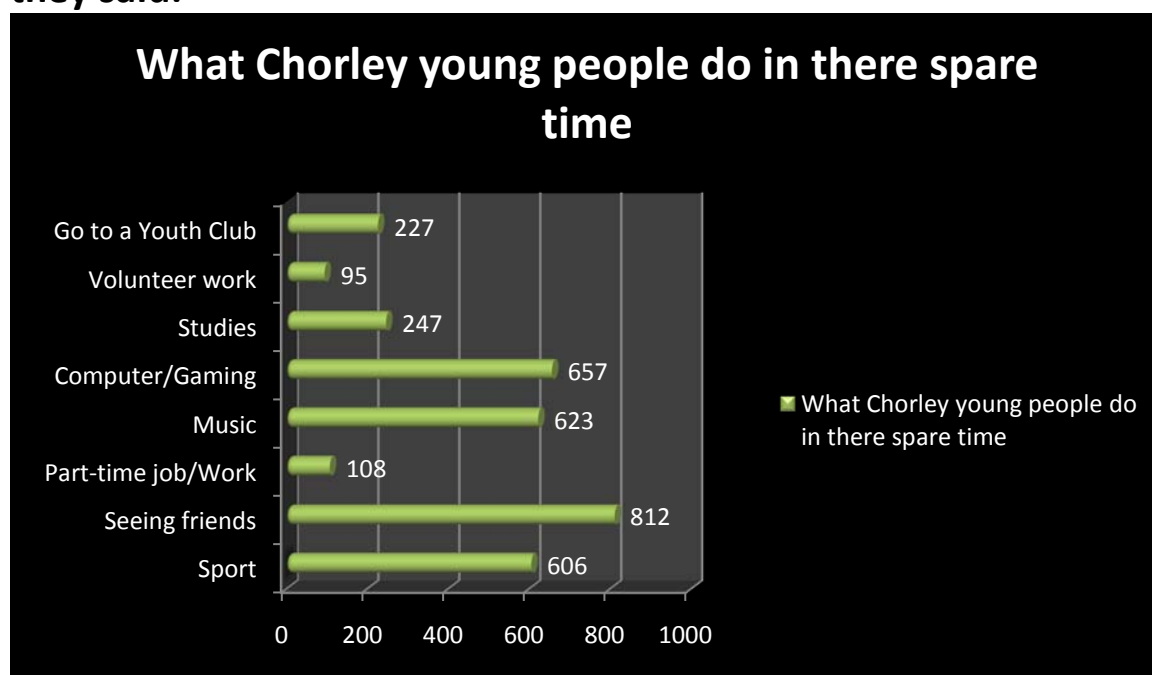


Total number of young people involved: 1197

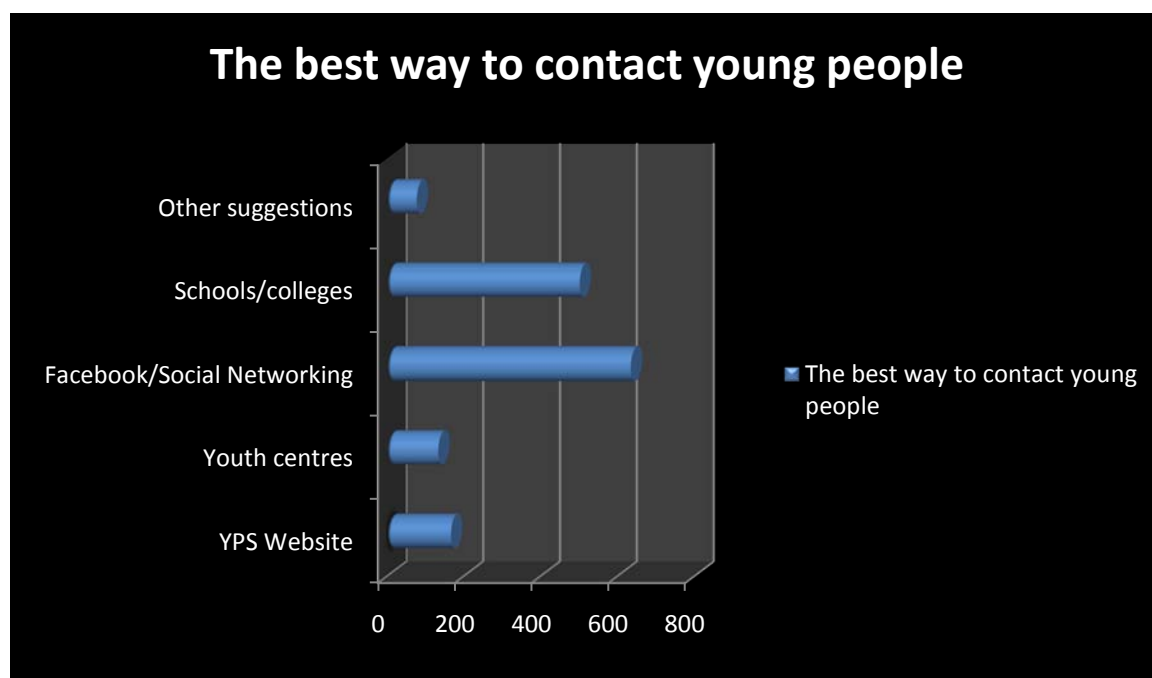
When asked the most important issue in their lives young people said :



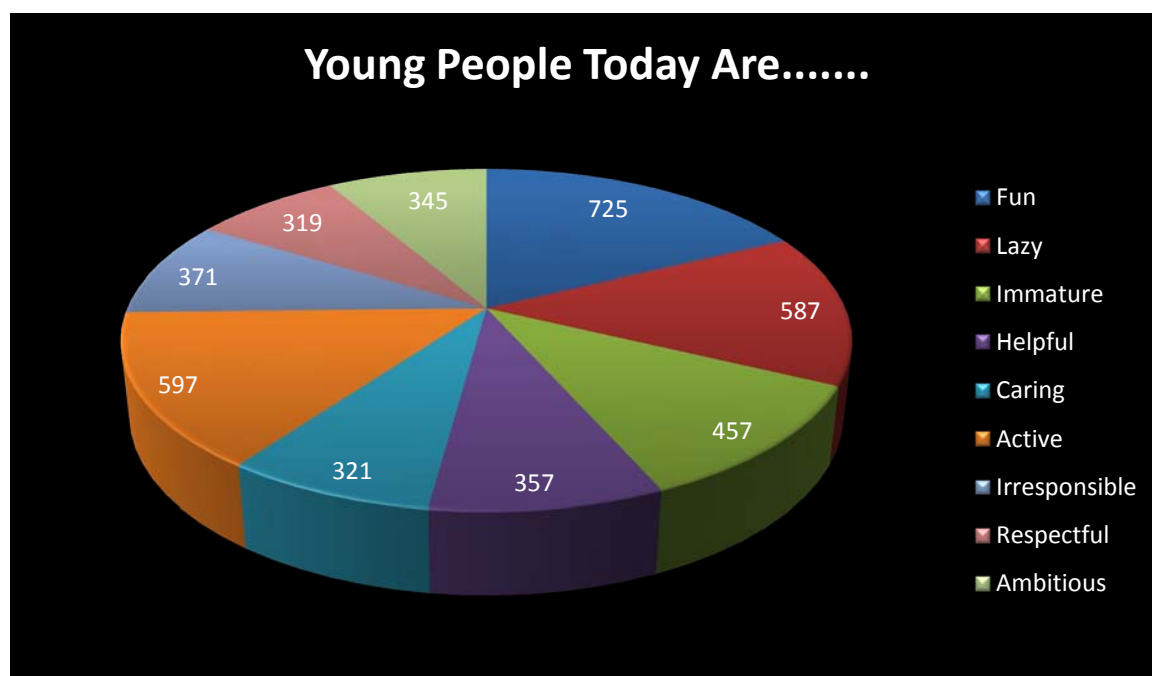
Young people we asked the question 'What do you do in your spare time?' they said:



When asked 'What is the best way to contact you to let you know what is happening for young people in your area ?' they said:

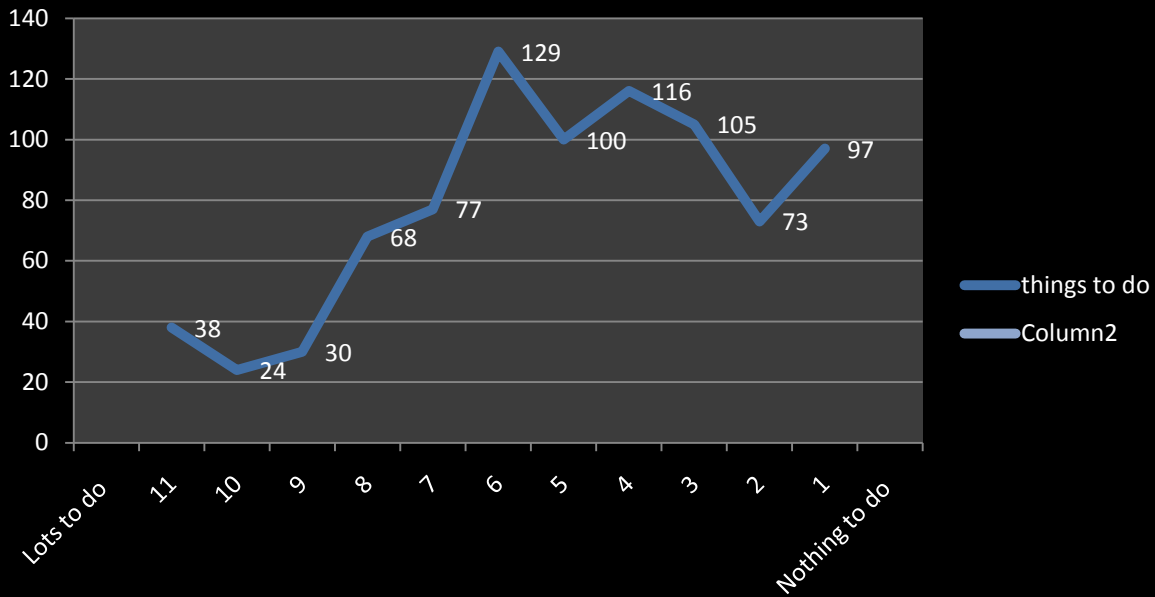


Young People were asked about their views of other young people in the following question 'I think other young people are.....'



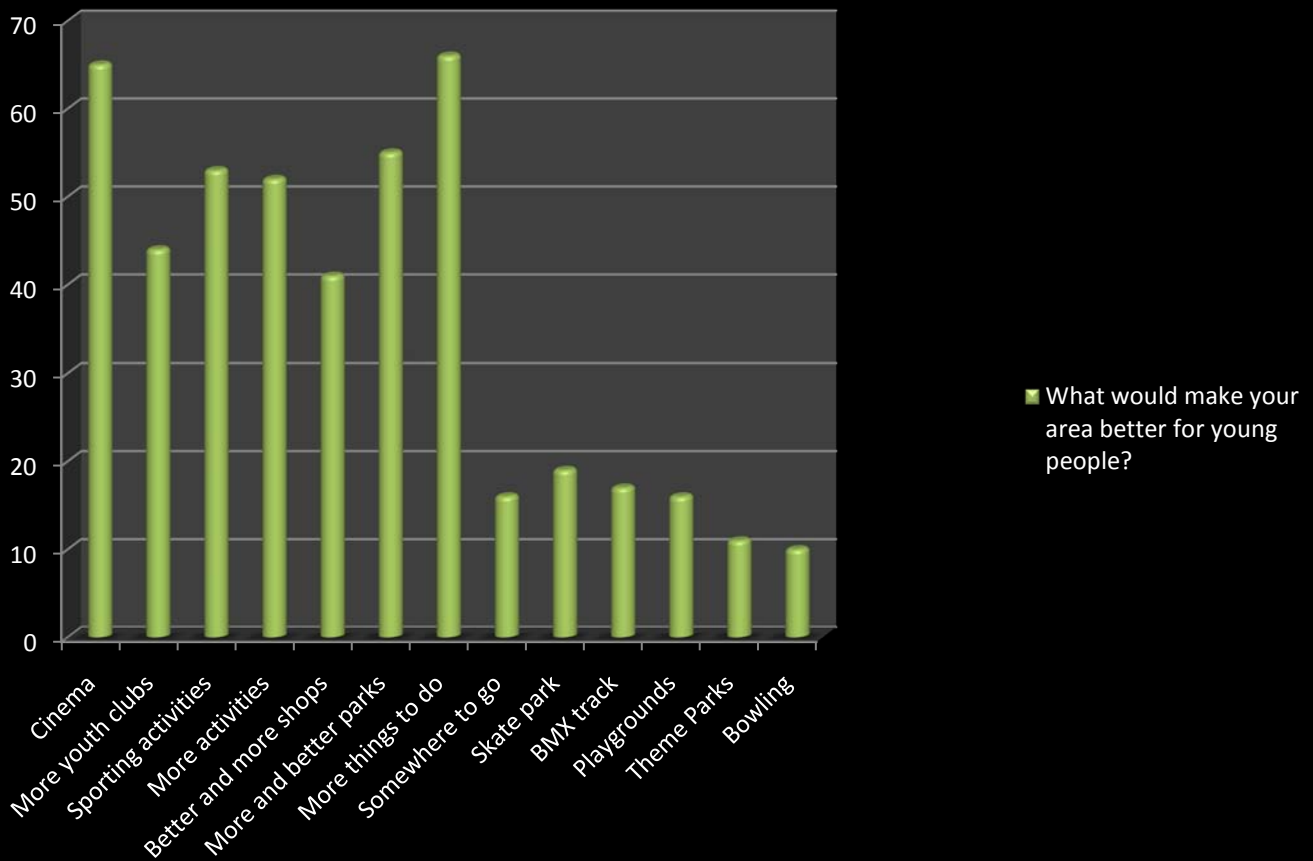
We then asked young people to on a scale to vote how much they thought there was to do for young people for young people in Chorley.

Things to do for young people in Chorley

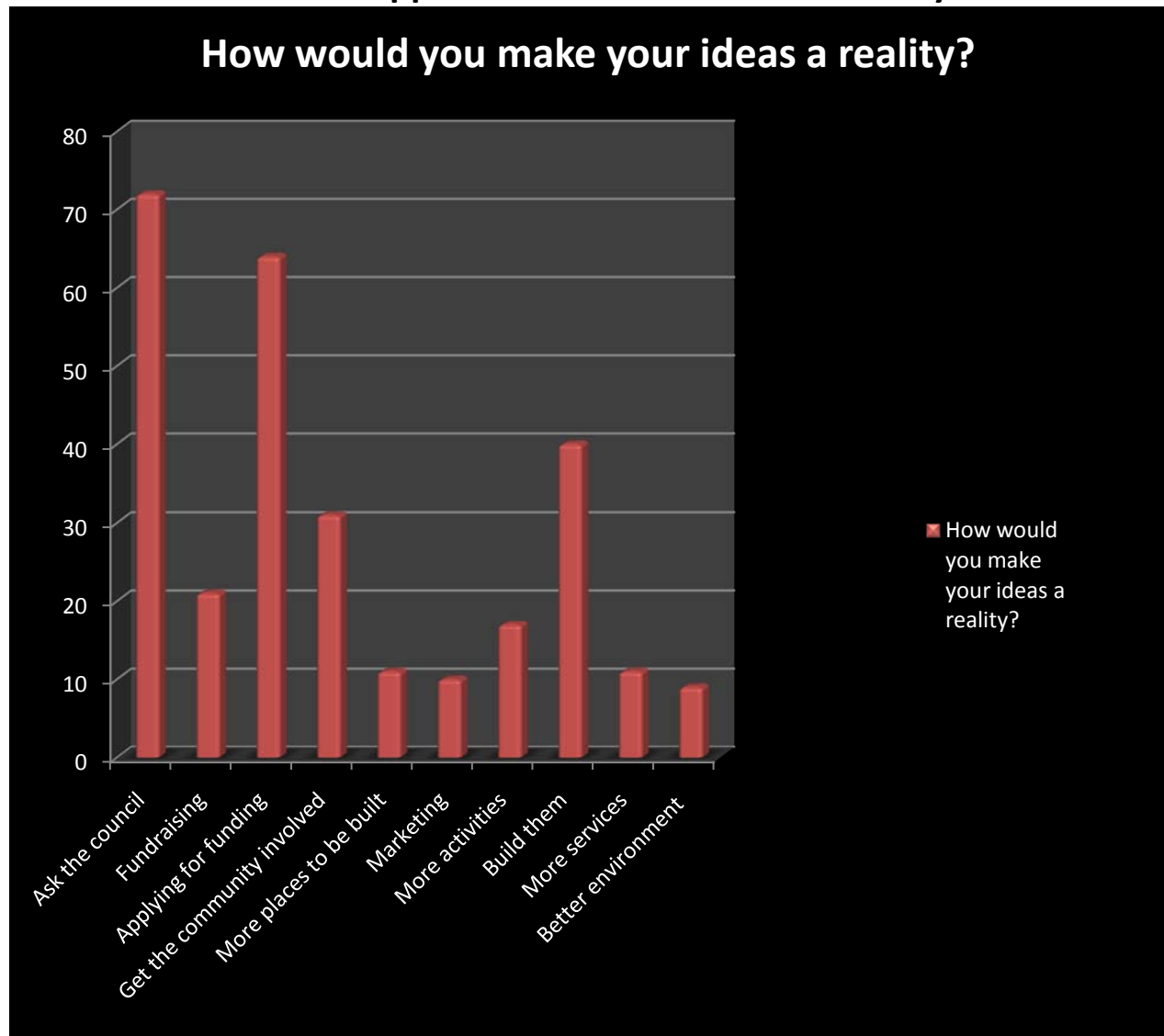


What would make your area better for young people?

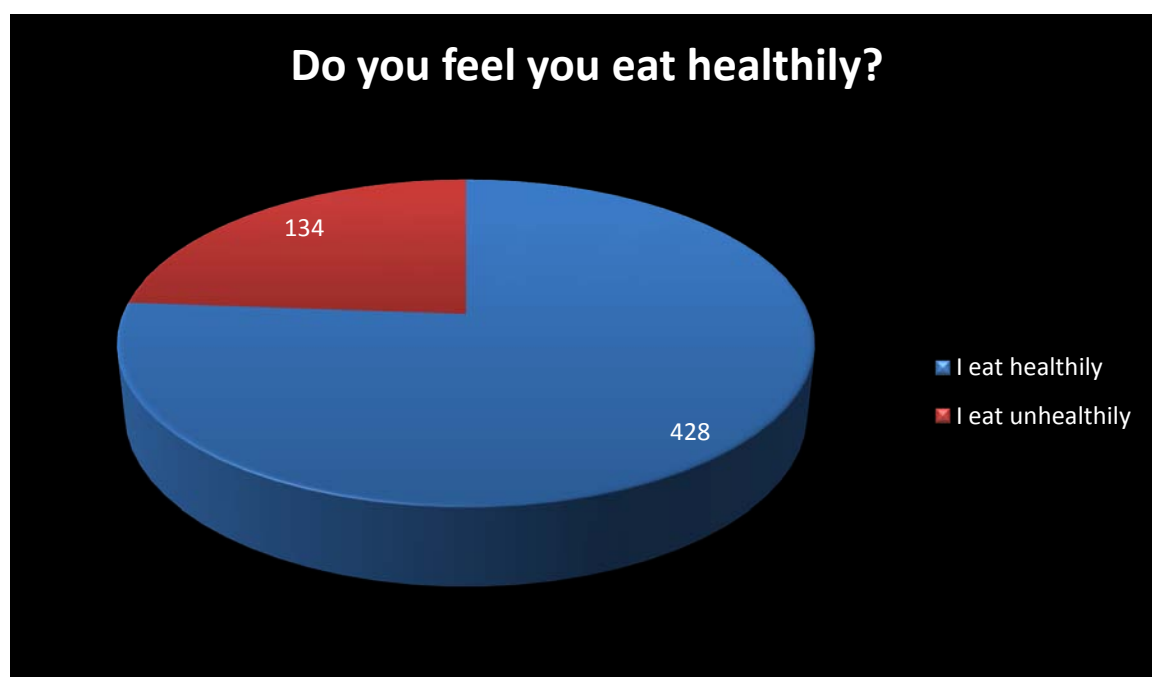
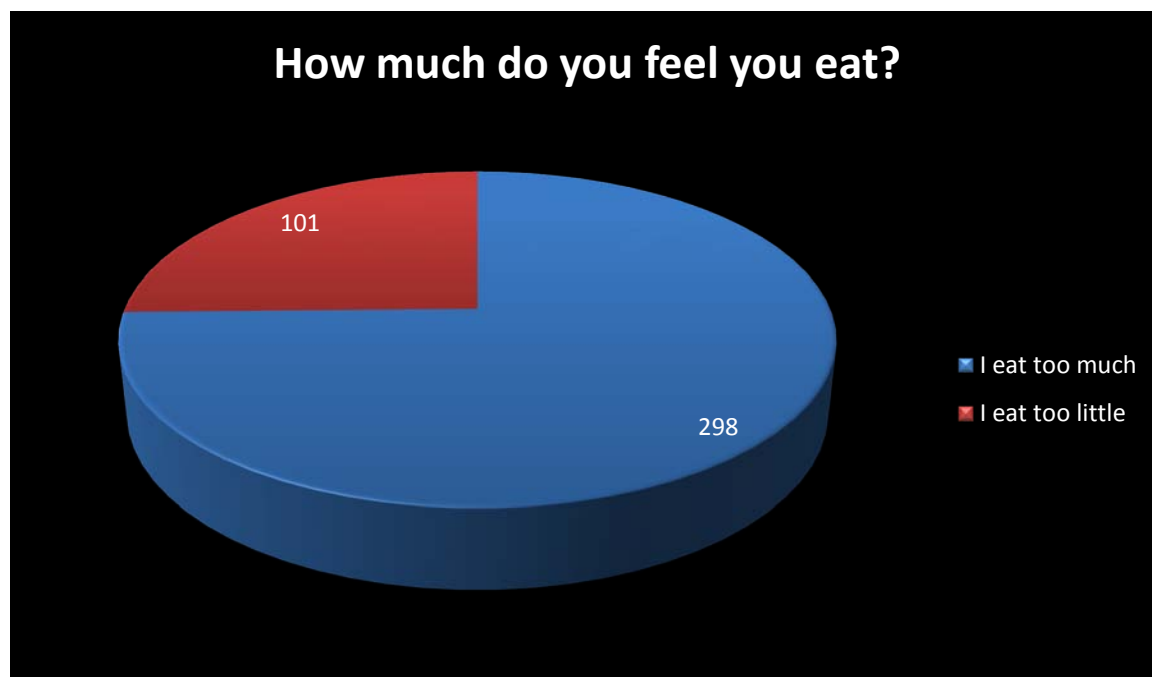
What would make your area better for young people?



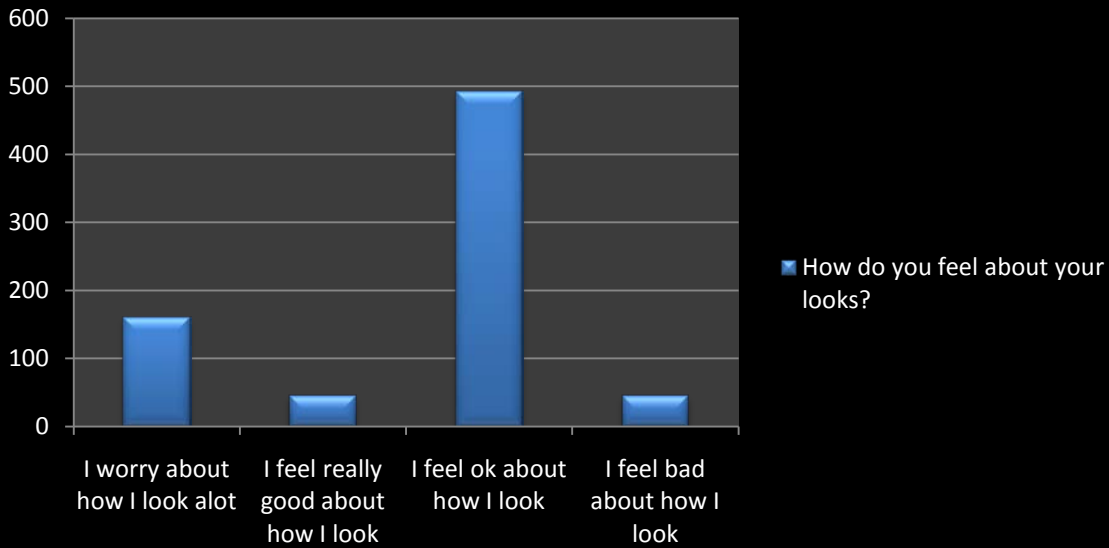
What would have to happen to make these ideas a reality?



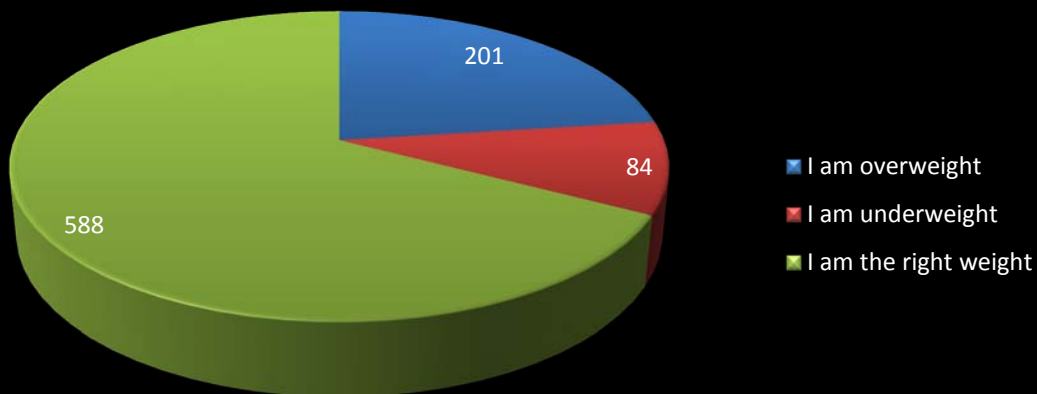
How do you feel about your health?



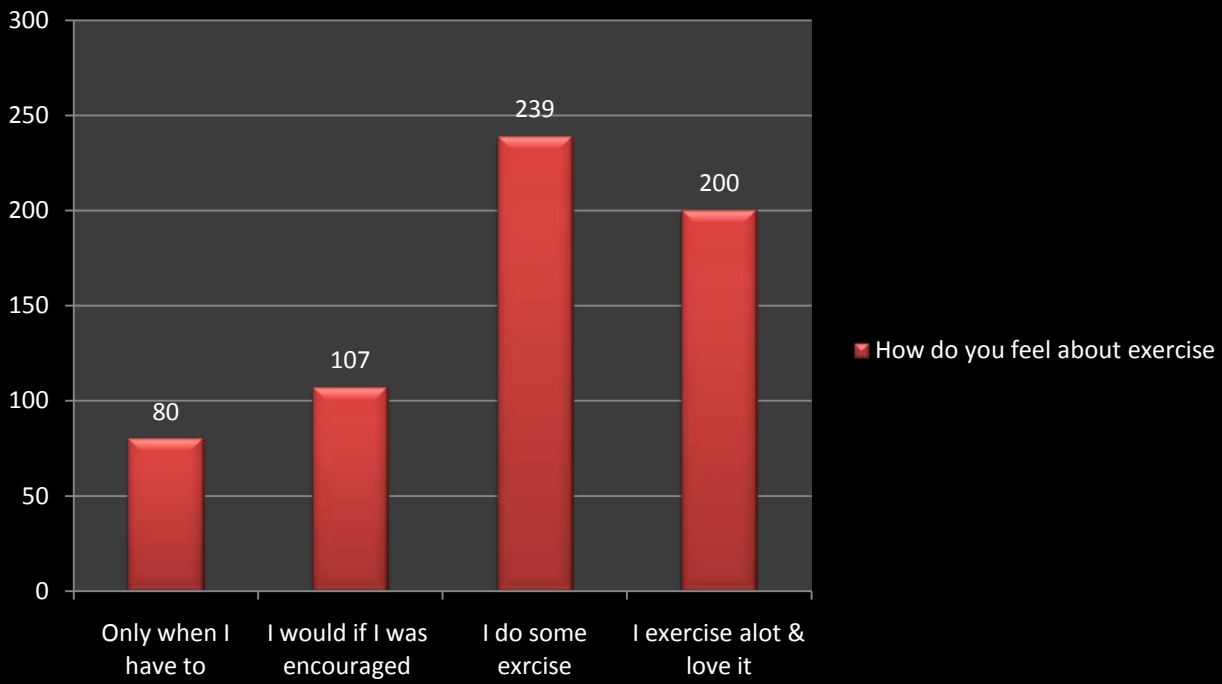
How do you feel about your looks?



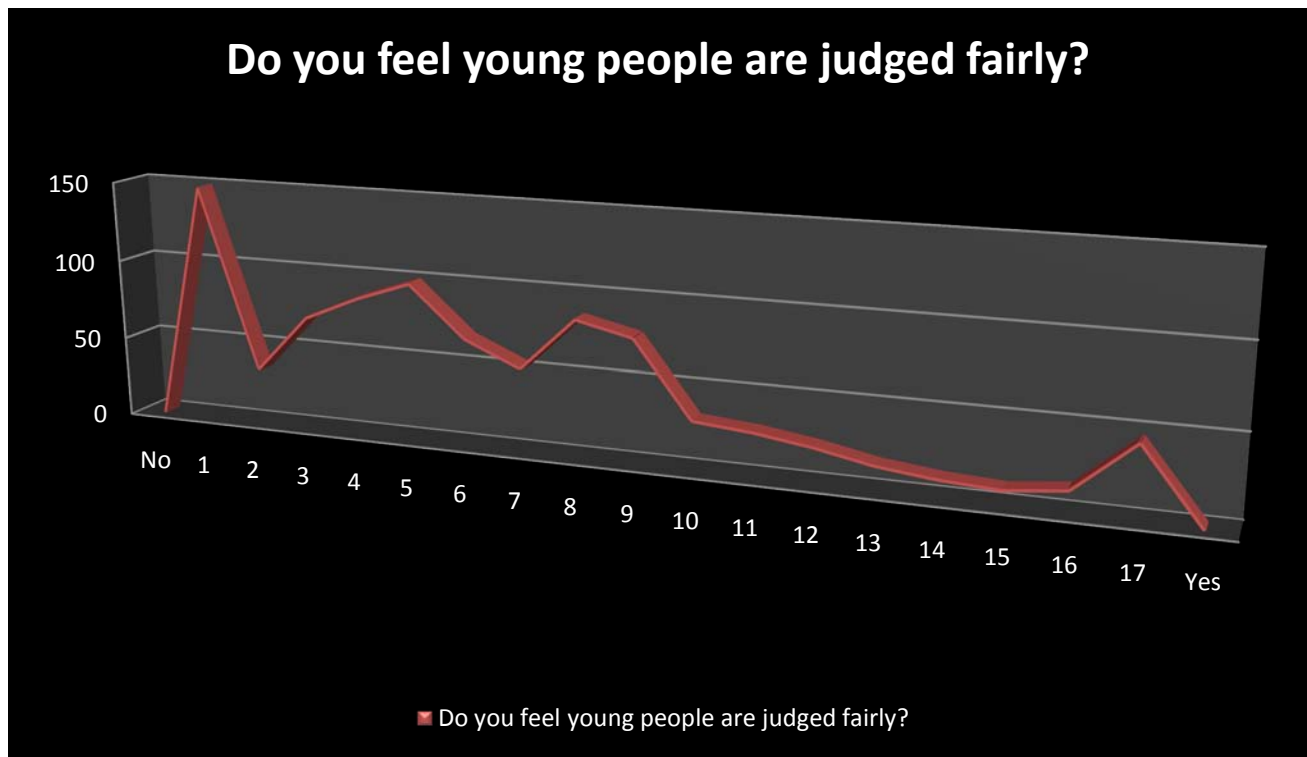
How do you feel about your weight?



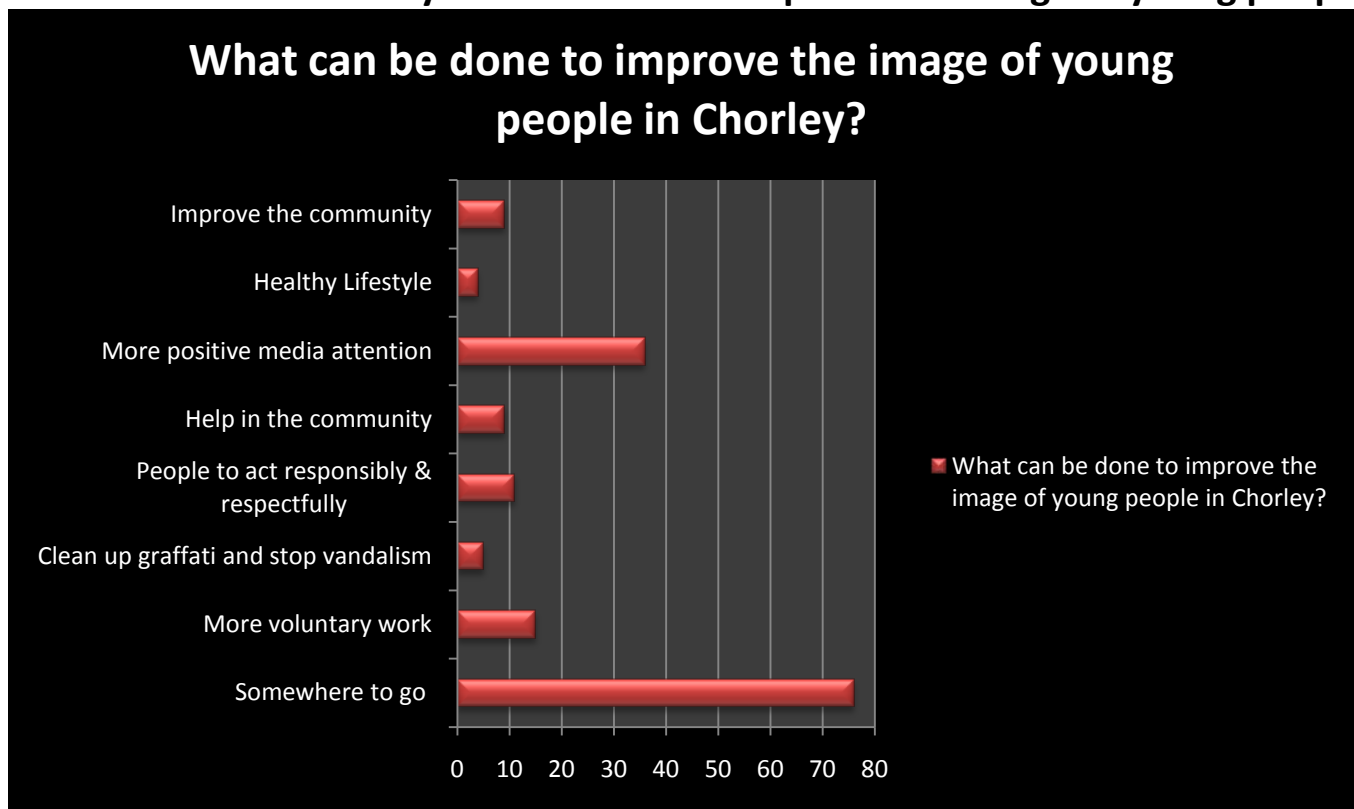
How do you feel about exercise



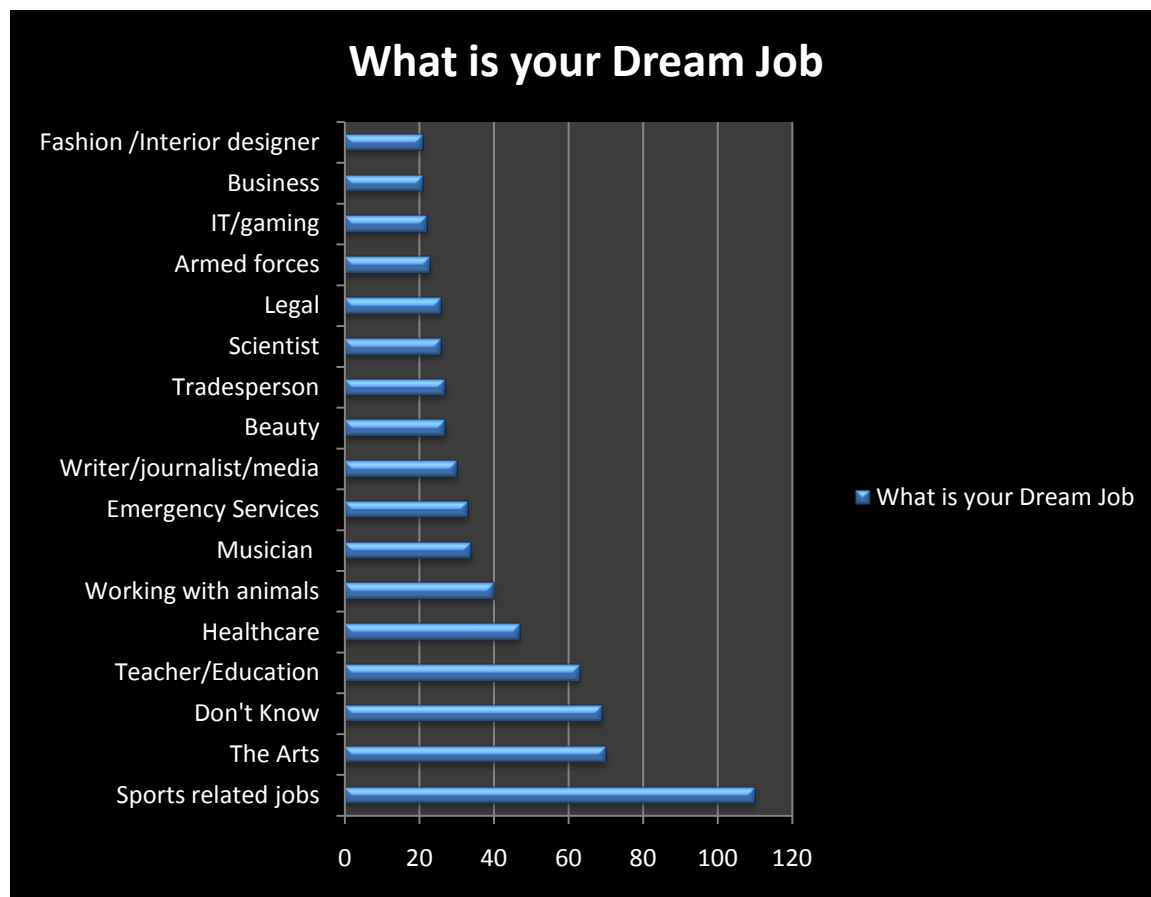
How fairly do you feel young people are judged by adults and other young people?



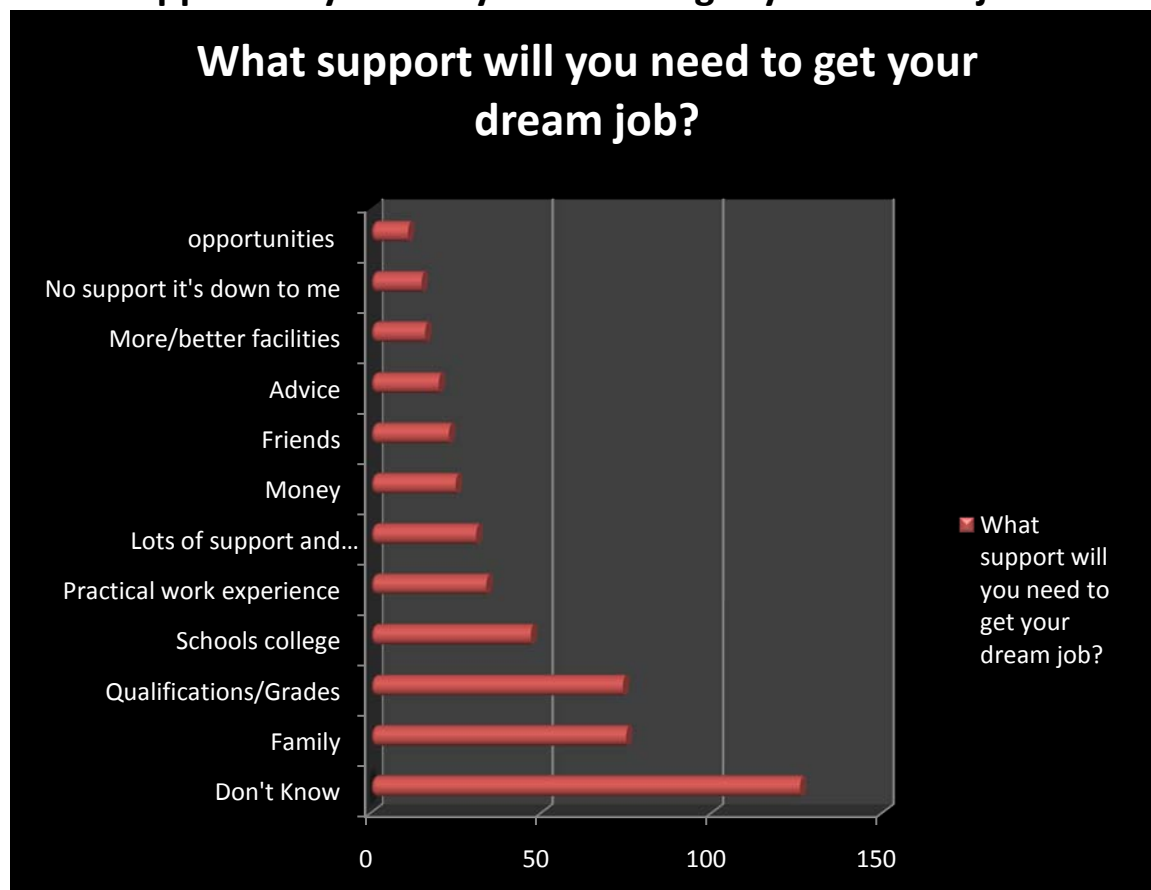
What could be done in your local area to improve the image of young people?



What would be your dream job?



What support do you feel you need to get your dream job?



Do you feel safe where you live?



Do you feel safe in your community when you're out and about?

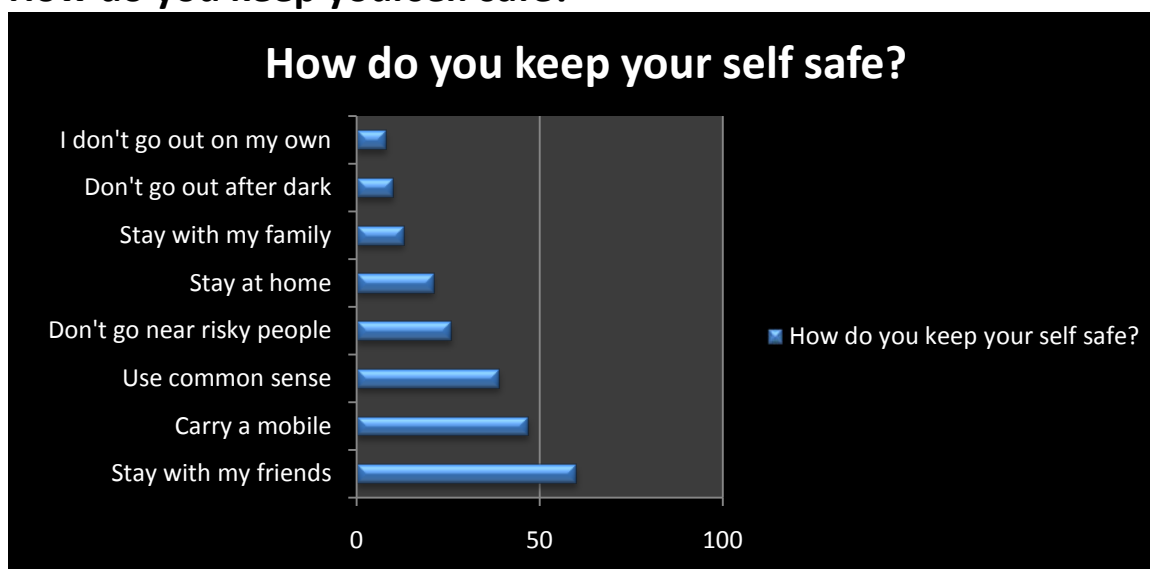
Yes , Most young people said they felt safe

If you don't feel safe why not?

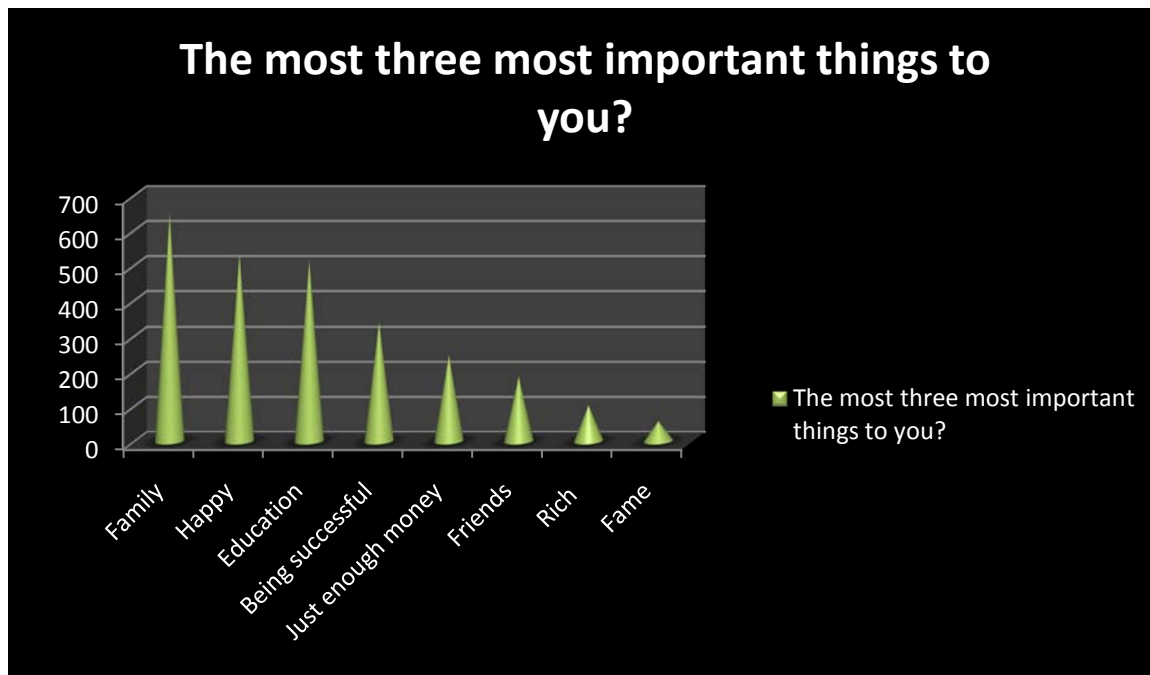
Because of

- *Chavs/Gangs/Hoodies*
- *Threatening people*
- *Scared of strangers*
- *Feel general its an unsafe environment*
- *People under the influence of drugs and drink*

How do you keep yourself safe?



What are the three most important things to you?



Do you volunteer?

No – The majority of young people said they didn't

If yes – what do you do?

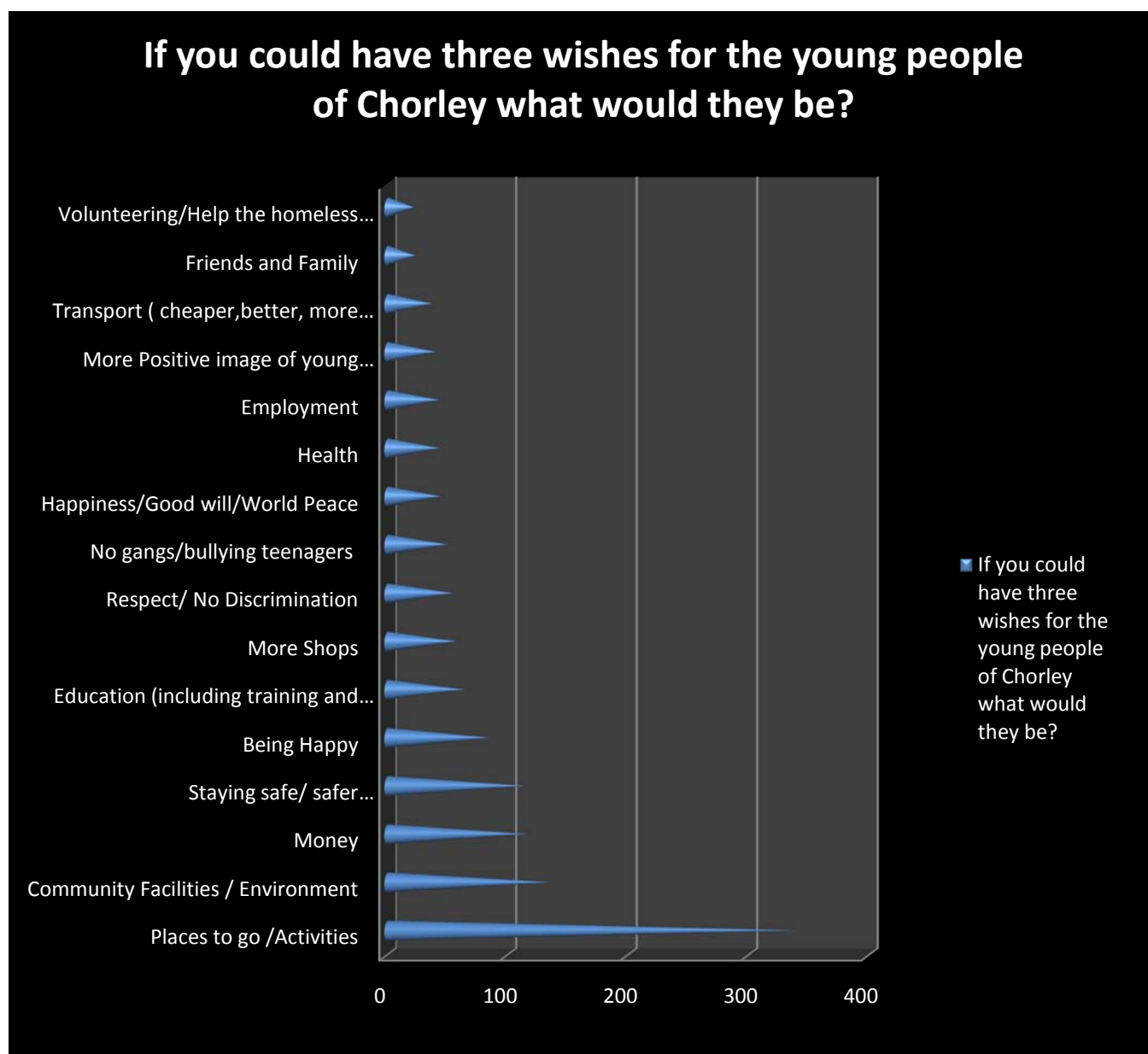
Young people said they volunteer doing the following :

- *Work with the elderly*
- *Help family members*
- *Work with children and young people*
- *Volunteer with animals*
- *Help at the local church*
- *Support disabled people*
- *Charity work and fundraising*

Those young people who don't volunteer but would like to said they'd like to:

- *St. Johns' Ambulance*
- *In the Special Police*
- *Sports coaching*
- *Working with young people*
- *Working with children*
- *Working with the disabled*
- *Working with animals*

If you had three wishes from Aladdin's lamp for the young people of Chorley what would they be?



Workshop/Focus group Feedback

POUT (LGBT YPS Youth Project)

18 young people

Scales exercise - young people were asked different questions and asked to stand on a scale of whether they agreed or disagreed – their comments were...

"There's lots for young people to do where I live" (approx 8 agreed, 6 disagreed, 4 in the middle)

- Can be expensive to travel to activities
- No knowing what's on offer
- Getting moved on by the Police (Tesco & Worden Park)
- Having a service just for LGBT young people is vital
- Treated with suspicion, young people are expected to do something wrong
- Not being able to express their sexuality / be open about their relationships in public

"Young people are judged fairly by others" (approx 3 agreed, 13 disagreed, 2 in the middle)

- Being verbally abused in public
- Being judged for clothing / appearance
- Young people are encouraged to respect their elders but that isn't returned

"I feel safe where I live" (approx 5 agreed, 7 disagreed, 6 in the middle)

- Out of town centres feel quite safe, near home, I know the people around me
- On estates, in town centres, feel less safe, on my guard, ready for someone to say something

Other issues that emerged:

- Having a group like POUT is vital
- Support and strong role models
- LGBT young people's choices are seen as 'wrong'
- Could be more support and advertising of groups
- The staff at POUT are really supportive
- How teachers deal with and challenge homophobic comments and bullying
- Some schools are really good and others do nothing, big gaps in the support the young people receive
- Teachers not feeling confident to challenge, their personal vs. professional values
- Sex and Relationships Education should be included from an LGBT point of view
- College is better for support, can offer counselling and direct people to support groups

The feedback was this was particularly bad in school and that teachers weren't challenging homophobic bullying and the words 'your gay' and your 'so gay'.

They felt teachers should not tolerant this language like they wouldn't if it was racism. That teachers should not ignore the prejudice that goes on but should own their classrooms

Pout is a group for young LGBT people from Chorley and South Ribble. Transport for young people to access this weekly group from such a wide area is difficult and potentially there are young people struggling to attend a group unique for this area.

Workshop Feedback

Shaftesbury House & Prince's Trust group

10 young people

Issues from discussion:

- Relationships between young people and the Police, having alcohol taken off them, some Police being ok but wanting respect to be mutual and their treatment of young people to be consistent. Potentially building relationships between young people and Police on a local level.
- Young people who'd had bad experiences with their Schools felt that the situation could be improved if teachers and young people were encouraged to be polite and respectful, if they treated pupils with consistency and that punishments were relative to the issue at hand. Young people who struggle with behaviour should be offered 1-1 support or should have a system for expressing how they feel without having to speak (card system).
- How are young people excluded from school? What the process for someone being excluded?
- Young people from Shaftesbury House commented on how much better their education has been since attending the school. They complemented the teaching and support staff, the structure and atmosphere of the school.
- Young people wanting to spend time together but large groups appearing to be a problem.
- Wanting to do practical courses and (very rare) apprenticeships – needing support to apply and complete.

Young People with Offending Behaviour

Lancashire Attendance Centre

20 young people aged 16-25

Things to do places to go

- Get high
- Associate with birds

- Football with mates
- Listen to music – hip hop, rap, drum and bass, classical
- Go to college – 1 young person at Runshaw and another at Preston
- Watch video games
- Get “blazed”
- Go to gym
- Be with mates
- Chill at home

What’s the best way for young people to find what’s going on in their area?

- Face book
- Text
- Internet
- We won’t answer a withheld number

Youth Clubs

- Full of kids – “what’s a kid??” “ Immature 14 year old girls”
- Would go if they had a pool table & somewhere you can get food
- 2 people did
- They get closed down
- You get barred

What would you like to do?

- Somewhere to listen to our type of music
- Play football but on our own estate
- Motor cross bike track
- Skateboard
- Play sports – football

What do you think of other young people?

- “I hate them”
- Depends where they are from
- You stay within your own areas
- Don’t like people coming onto your own estate
- Depends how you and they are dressed
- Depends what job people do as to what they think of us

Where do you go for health information?

- GP
- Youth Club
- Ask Parents
- West Paddock
- FRANK

What do you think about voluntary work?

- Don’t see the point
- It looks good on your CV

Travelling community focus group

5 young people

- Chorley has a very small travelling community at Charnock Richard
- These families are fully engaged with the traveller education service and have a strong and good relationship with them. The children on site are all at school except one young teenage girl who is being home schooled with support from traveller education,
- Another has left school and at 17 already has his open business and the others are all at school and enjoying it.
- This small community have been very keen to be involved with the consultation and have been very positive about being included.
- From the consultation session done with the children in their homes one of the boy said he would like to tell people about his life as a traveller both the positives and negatives.
- So it was discussed with traveller education, with support from his school and alongside this particular young person we will work on a short film about him and his life to feedback to you as a trust later this summer and for Lancashire Traveller Education to use as part of their work.

The main issues discussed were:

- Young people struggle more at high school as they more likely to be bullied for being a 'traveller'
- The parents had some concerns about high schools because of what their children may be exposed to by other young people that they would deem inappropriate such as sex and relationship issues, swearing, street wise behaviour, drugs and alcohol etc.

Young People in Care

Focus group – Chorley hall Road Children's Home

3 young people

How do you feel about being in care?

- I feel I have grown out of being in care
- I hate being in care
- I don't like it

What's been good things about being in care?

- holiday
- getting lifts
- We don't get much clothing allowance however if we need something we normally get it – for example I needed football boots for football and staff are helping me to buy them.

- We are supported and encouraged to take part in positive activities we are interested in by the care staff.
- How do you feel about leaving care?
- I feel I can cook for myself and budget money
- I feel all young people should be going into supported accommodation rather than straight into your own place
- I think I might get lonely so I would rather live with a friend when I do get my own place.
- Ideally after semi-independence and some help to get set up initially in my own place I just want to be left alone.
- Young people talked about their dealings with the police and petty crime and going missing from home. They acknowledged that police aren't going to be nice to you all the time when you are committing crimes however they explained that although some police officers are fair and reasonable some are unnecessarily rude and ignorant/aggravated when dealing with them.

Other things discussed

- Young people hesitate going for counselling as they feel it's intrusive
- They felt they can talk to care staff
- Ideally they would like a games room and computers in the children's home
- What they said about Chorley
- They would like a cinema and better shops like Preston, Wigan and Bolton
- A shooting range for older young people
- Asda and Primark
- One young person was into graffiti art so would like somewhere to be able to do that
- One young person who was 17 said they didn't want to go to YPS youth centres as he felt he was too old for them
- They suggested there should be lamp posts along the footpaths in Astley Park
- One young person was into DJing/mixing
- Transport isn't too much of a problem as they can get help with bus fares/lifts from staff

Young Homeless Focus Groups

The Bridge and Cotswold House

8 young people

- Some of the issues young homeless people are facing living in a hostel:
- It is scary when living in a mixed aged hostel as some people have drug/alcohol addictions it's not right for young people.
- The support we get is limited, staff support is more about management of the building.

- When you arrive you don't know people and you could be mixing with the wrong crowd but you don't know each person's background etc. It just feels your vulnerable to the older adult tenants sometimes.
- It's harder living in hostel when you have children as you have to be careful they don't make too much noise, also you can't control other people making noise around you keeping you and your children up.

If you had gone to the council and they had said you could have a flat immediately would this have helped?

- No because we wouldn't have had time to learn the skills needed no one's going to come and do your chores you have to do it for your self
- They have kept me the hostel along time but this helped me grow up
- Single young people projects are a good idea where young people can build independent living skills
- Some adults assume you have the knowledge that they have. We might know some things but not everything!

What would be the ideal support you could get?

- More staff time for general help, support and advice and people to teach us the following:
 - budgeting and about financial matters such as banks
 - cooking
 - how to do your washing
 - cleaning
 - hygiene
 - keeping up with bills/ budgeting so not leaving the hostel with no money or in debt
 - first aid for the home
 - health and safety for the home
- Young people thought it would be good if they taught independent living skills/life skills in schools including some of the more basic skills such as how to put a washing machine on

What are you worried about when you do move into independence?

- Worried not enough money to live off and want have the essentials I need
- I'm not too scared as learnt some skills in the hostel
- I'm worried about being bored and not having a lot of people around me to ask.
- At first I think I will struggle but think I will get the hang of it.
- I would like to stay the hostel
- I would struggle in my own place the hostel feels like home
- I have made friends in the hostel
- I have learnt from living in the hostel it has built up my skills

Young Mum's Focus Group

Highfield Children's Centre Chorley

3 young people

- Enjoy using the children's centres both child and parent enjoy it
- Make some friends
- Don't really get out of the house otherwise
- Wanted another parent to come at first
- Liked centres because lots of activities and resources
- Nobody came to visit me scan first thing going for scan and then got midwife
- Could have had more support
- More support needed to meet other pregnant young women much earlier
- When you're a young mum you feel like everyone is looking at you it feels like people look at your child and then at you so as to say 'how old you are?'
- Would have been good to have support from other young mum's in the same boat
- Maternity ward staff were good however midwife only came round to weigh and check him more practical advice needed assumed I could do it all
- Keen to get back into work and gain qualifications

Young Carers Focus Group

6 Young People

- Young people said they struggled to concentrate in school and focus
- That sometime it is difficult to do their homework at home as they have other distractions
- They worry about their family a lot.

What Next?

Young people from Youth Council will be submitting these results to the Children's Trust for them to consider and will meet with them to discuss it further.

In order to ensure the consultation process is robust and maintain the relationships developed during this process, all the groups who took part in the consultation will also receive the summary feedback.

Contact details

Any questions or comments on the info contained please contact:

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Huge thanks are due to all the people listed below for being so welcoming and receptive to the project😊

‘The Young People of Chorley’

YPS Staff

Steph English

Clare Smith

Val Lawson

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Laura Eccles

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Staff Coppull Youth Club

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Chorley Street Pastors team

Michelle and her team at the arts partnership

Adlington Scout group

Rachel from Clayton youth centre and Mormon community

Clayton le wood youth Club staff

Juke Box café staff

Jill Gray and Karen Rhodes at Runshaw College

Anna Bailey at NHS Central Lancashire

Hannah Peake

Staff at Astley Park School

Staff Mayfield Special School

Martin Violet and Anne Clark at Shaftesbury House

Staff at LEMS School

Staff at Buckshaw Primary School

Staff At St Georges Primary School

Staff Adlington Primary School

Staff at Parklands High School

Staff at Southlands High School

Staff at Holy Cross High School

Staff at St Michael's High school

The Bridge Supported Housing `project

Cotswold House

Lancashire Traveller Education Service –Seb

Travelling community in Chorley

Chorley Highfield Children's Centre

Catherine Ashcroft and Rob at Prince's Trust (Shaftesbury House)

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Councillor John Walker Chair of the Children's Trust

All members of Chorley Children's Trust for their funding support and guidance