

SPELTHORNE YOUTH SURVEY 2022

Introduction

This is the first trial survey in response to the need to consult with young people in Spelthorne.

This survey looks to capture the hopes and worries of young people. It looks to inform decisions made by institutions where young people's voices are not heard, but the results impact on them.

Approach

The survey questions and method of delivery were co-ordinated by a group of young people from the Phoenix Project in Ashford. These questions were then shared to various organisations including Stanwell Conversation, Spelthorne Youth, Staines Rotary and Mathew Arnold Interact club. Spelthorne Council's communications team provided valuable advice around question phrasing and lay out.

The questions were shared with young people by local schools and youth groups. All surveys were completed by April 2022.

The data has been collected and organised anonymously. Analysis of the data and reflection on this trial, highlighted many successes including several key findings. It also raised areas for the development and refinement of future surveys.

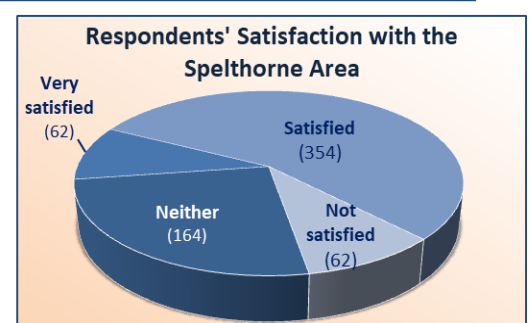
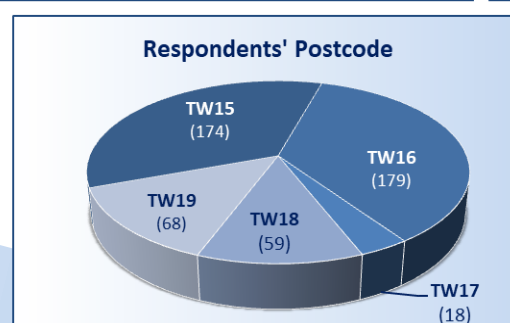
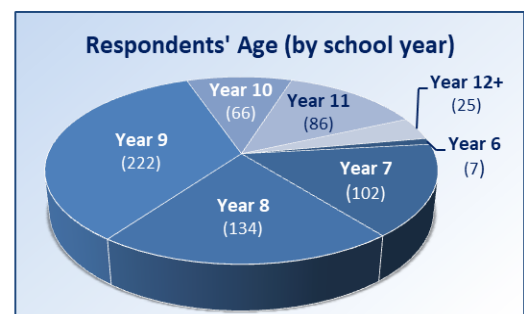
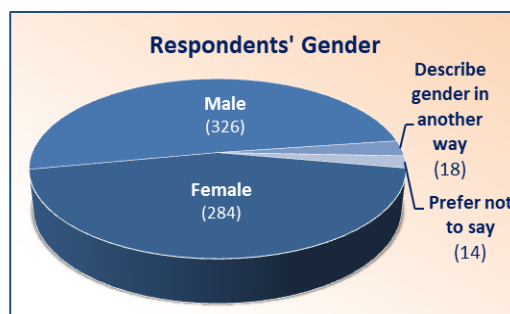
In addition to collecting respondents' post codes and gender, the following questions were asked:

- Overall, how satisfied are you with the local area as a place to live?
- Do adults ask your opinions about the local area?
- What would you say are the three best things about living in Spelthorne?
- What are the three things which concern you most about living in Spelthorne?
- What do you do in your spare time? (e.g. do you belong to any groups/ take part in regular activities/use local facilities such as leisure centres or parks?)
- What help do you need for future career opportunities?

Profile of Respondents

642 young people completed this survey.

Their ages (represented by school year group), home postcode, gender and their relationship with Spelthorne (via their satisfaction with the area as a place to live) were collected:



Key Findings

This survey collected a huge amount of information directly from young people in the borough. Each question and respondents' answers are presented in more detail throughout this report. The 8 main points are summarised here:



The **shops** in Spelthorne were reported as being one of the best things in Staines.



The environment, represented by **parks and open spaces**, were important to the young people surveyed.



Crime was the overriding concern among young people, noted in 45.6% of responses.



24% of young people raised concerns about the **local environment**.



66% of respondents were involved in **sport**, either at club or recreational level.



Support with **careers guidance** was the biggest requested need by young people when considering their futures.

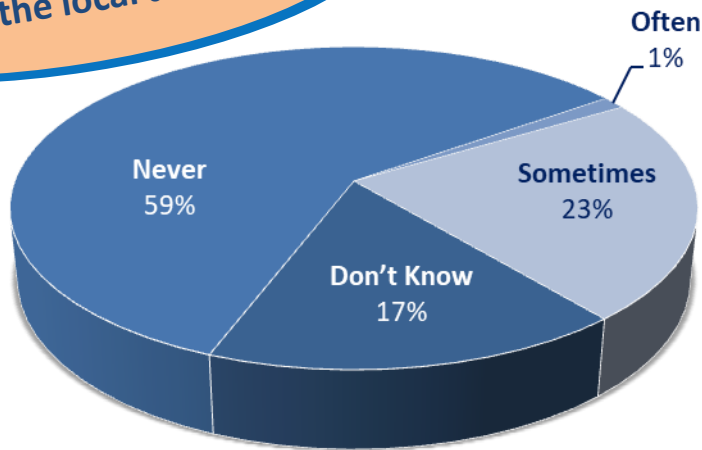


The **arts sector** was raised as an area where there were limited local opportunities.



Over half of respondents felt that **their opinions** were not asked for, with less than 1% believing that they were consulted often.

“Do adults ask your opinions about the local area?”



Over 50% of young people (378) felt that they were **never** asked for their opinion about the local area, while **17%** (108 respondents) **didn't know** whether or not their views were sought.

Only 8 young people responding to this survey (less than 1%) **believed that they were often consulted about their local area.**

“What would you say are the three best things about living in Spelthorne?”

This was an open question, to which there were **840 different items mentioned by 642 respondents.**

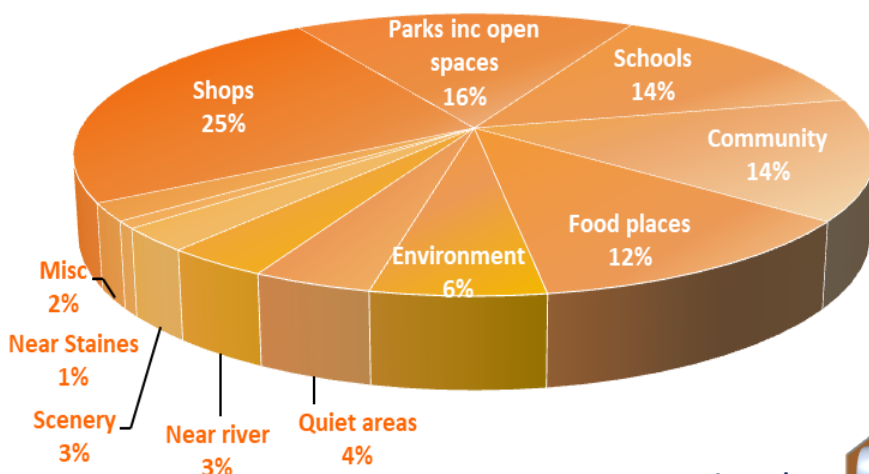
Upon analysis, these items suggested four themes:

Environment	Activities	Transport	Other
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The theme, “Environment” included physical features, location and local facilities, which can be further broken down thus:

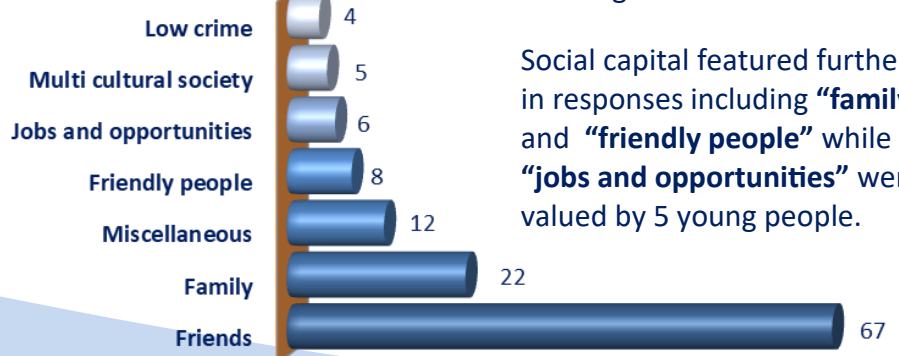
- Shops (146)
- Community (82)
- Quiet areas (24)
- Near Staines (5)
- Parks inc open spaces (97)
- Food places (72)
- Near river (21)
- Misc (12)
- Schools (82)
- Environment (35)
- Scenery (16)



Among those mentioning “Available Activities”, the **skate park** and the **leisure centres** were named.

Over half of the “Other” responses (8% of all answers to this question) identified “friends” as one of the three best things about the area.

Mentioned 146 times, “Shops” was the single most common answer given. Young people also appreciate both the schools in the borough and their local community, with each of these mentioned by 82 respondents.



Social capital featured further in responses including “family” and “friendly people” while “jobs and opportunities” were valued by 5 young people.

“What are the three things which concern you most about living in Spelthorne?”

This open question elicited a range of responses which were grouped into main three areas:

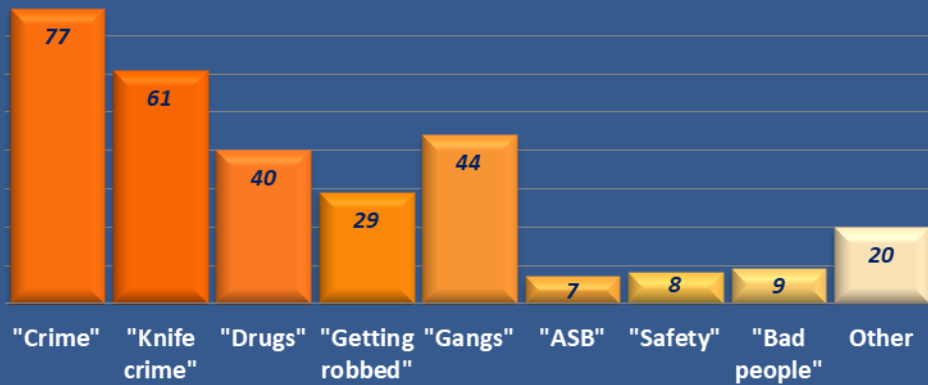
Crime

Environment

Miscellaneous

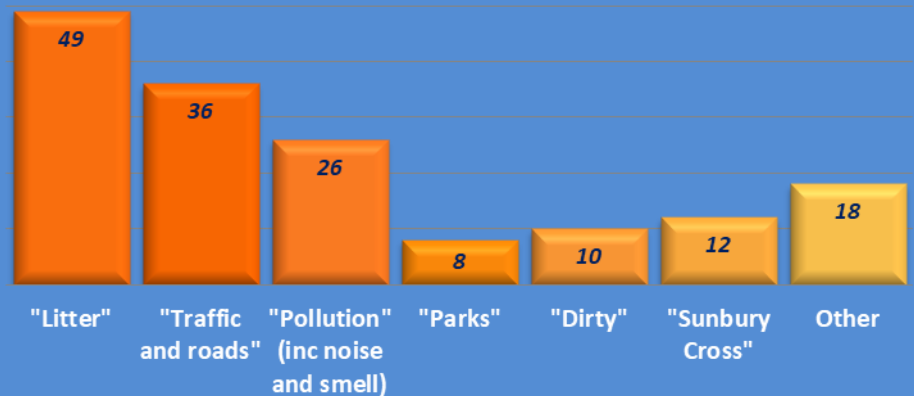
45% of all concerns raised by young people revolved around crime; it was mentioned by 295 respondents.

Of these, 26% had concerns about crime in general; while 21% were worried about knife crime, and 15% about gangs and “chavs”.



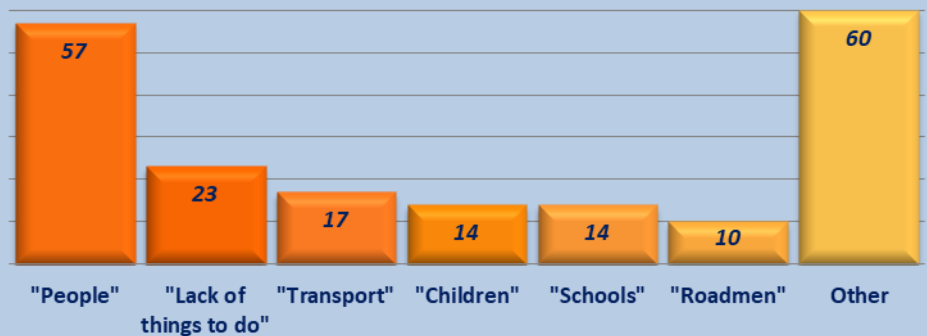
The term ‘environment’ was specifically mentioned by 159 respondents as an area of concern.

Almost a third of these raised concerns over litter, while ‘pollution’ (which included both noise pollution and ‘bad smells’) made up 16% of responses in this area.



A further 157 varied responses were grouped under the heading ‘miscellaneous’.

11% of these had issues with transport, while for 23% (4% of all responses to this question) “a lack of things to do” was a concern.

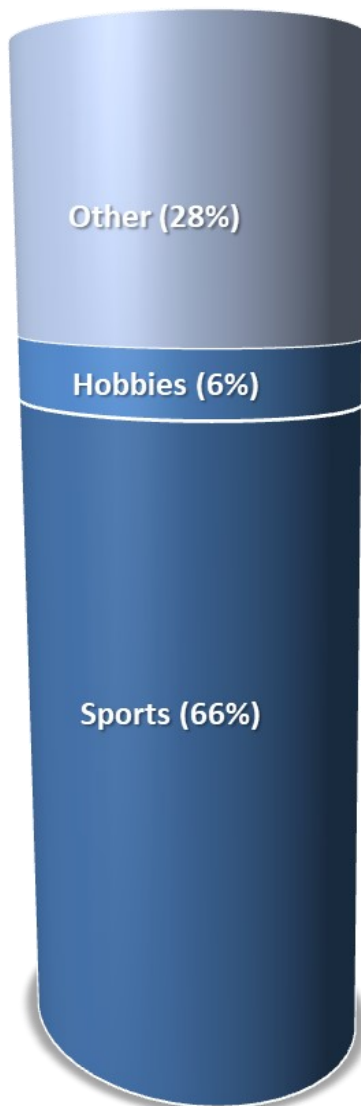


The key finding here was how concerned young people were about crime.

Please refer to the *learning* section on page 6 for further analysis of this question.

“What do you do in your spare time?”

Again, this was an open question, to which there were a huge number of different responses. When analysing these, they could be organised into three themes:



Sports	199
Football	47
Basketball	28
Swimming	22
Gym	13
Badminton	12
Rock climbing	10
Rugby	8
Tennis	8
Skating	7
Boxing	6
Martial arts	5
Trampolineing	4
Volleyball	4
Athletics	3
Cheer leading	3
Indoor sports	3
Netball	3
Table Tennis	3
Golf	2
Hockey	2
Horseriding	2
Archery	1
BMXing	1
Roller skating	1
Yoga	1

Hobbies	19
Anime Club	4
Baking	2
Camping	1
Chess club	1
Drama	1
Environment	1
Motocross	1
Mountain Climbing	1
Photography	1
Pool	1
Pottery	2
Theatre	3
Walking	1
Zip line	3

Other	85
Parks	5
Youth Clubs	8
Clubs	31
Activities	1
Airsoft	1
Arcade	1
Bowling	6
Cinema	3
Go Karting	7
Lazer tag	2
Paintballing	3
Sky diving	2
Theme park	2
School	1
Work	4
Volunteering	7
Don't know	1

The theme ‘Hobbies’ includes a range of activities, many linked to the arts. This is significantly lower than sports and may merit investigation whether this is due to a lack of interest, facilities or awareness of opportunities.

The range of sports mentioned suggests a wealth of sporting opportunities are available and are successfully accessed by young people

The theme ‘Other’ can be further divided into five sub-categories:

‘Other Provision’ e.g. youth clubs; we have also included unspecified clubs and activities here.

‘Free Leisure Facilities’ includes parks; and could be expanded in future to include other free facilities such as the skate park.

‘Paid Leisure/Entertainment Facilities’ (these are venues that young people can pay to visit with no element of instruction or belonging. Public swimming, driving ranges and trampoline parks could be included here in future, rather than under sports).

‘Employability & Self Development’ includes school, work and volunteering.

‘Don’t Know’ is the fifth sub-category.

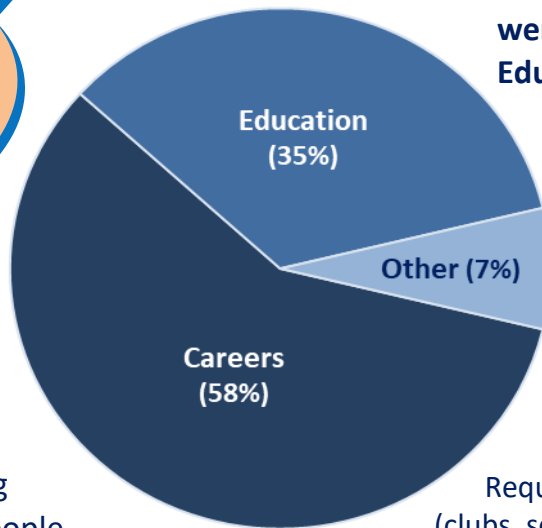
The responses included many, many positive uses of spare time; there was no mention of social media use, watching TV, gaming, shopping, relaxing at home or ‘just hanging out with friends’.

There was also no mention of reading, studying or revising, caring for pets, playing listening to music, uniformed groups, helping at home or babysitting.



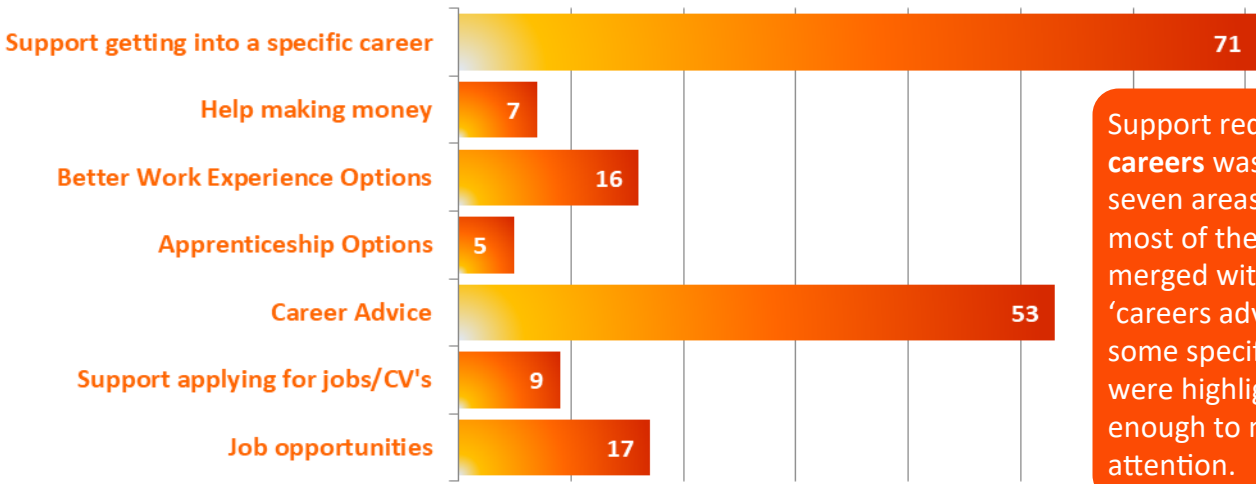
“What help do you need for future career opportunities?”

Responses to this final question were also varied; however, the majority (93%) were linked to either Careers (58%) or Education (35%).



The remaining 7% of answers, although not common, identify areas that may be worth offering support for to all young people.

Requests for a wider range of ‘experiences’ (clubs, school trips, community projects) around named activities could have alternatively been classed with either ‘Education’ or ‘Careers,’ however answers were not specific enough.



Support requested around careers was organised into seven areas. Although most of these could be merged with the generic ‘careers advice’ response, some specific requests were highlighted often enough to merit further attention.

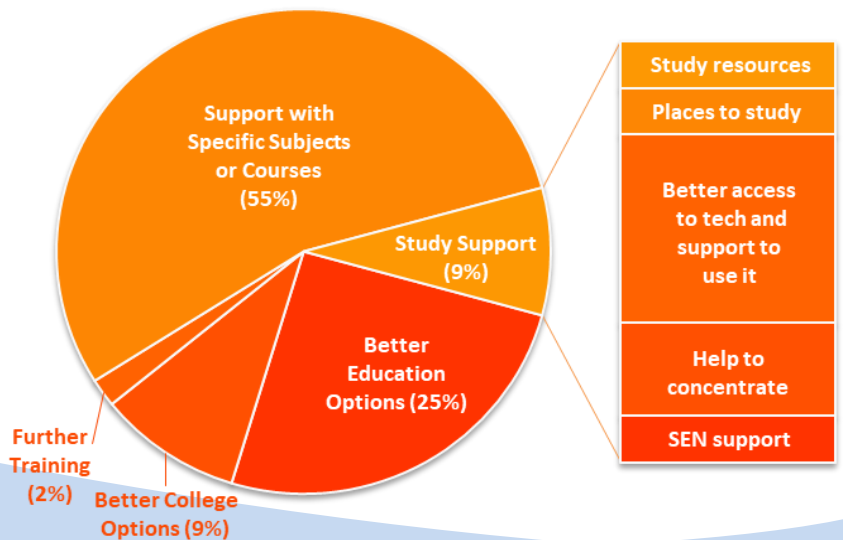
Art Careers'	4
The arts'	7
Help to be an actor	2
Work experience in a theatre	1
Places to audition	1
Jobs involving music	1
Local music studios to use	2
Film editing clubs	1
Help learning how to edit	1
Animation skills	2
Help studying i-media	1
Photography opportunities/clubs	3

In terms of specific careers, 28 respondents listed 18 sectors which they hoped to work in, and asked either for “help to become a XXX” or for “opportunities” or “experience” in a certain sector.

In addition to these industries, a further 17 respondents made requests towards working with **sport** (which may reflect the high participation levels in sport during spare time), while 26 young people made requests for support to work in **the Arts**, making this by far the most sought after area of employment in this survey.

55% of respondents required assistance with specific areas of study or courses, suggesting both that they were aware of their weaknesses and were motivated to do perform as well as possible in education.

9% asked for a range of support to study or learn more effectively. This may be an area that could be addressed in part via effective signposting to local facilities and providers.



Our Learning

This survey was the first of its kind, designed and delivered by young people. The responses were collected electronically and analysed. While reviewing and evaluating the data, we were also able to reflect on the effectiveness of the questions and consider any adjustments that would add extra value for future surveys.

Consideration should be given to recording the environment in which the young person has responded to the survey, as this variable has the potential to affect the type of answers given.

All answers were recorded independently of each other. It would be useful for future surveys to be able to link information (such as age or gender) to answers, in order to be able to further analyse trends and needs and design appropriate responses.

The range of responses to the question, “What are the three things that concern you most about living in Spelthorne?” suggests a need for refinement for future surveys. For example, grouped under the heading ‘Other’ are responses such as ‘people’, ‘children’ and ‘roadmen’; these could potentially have been recorded under ‘Crime’, as ‘bad people’ or ‘gangs and chavs’, but this is impossible without further context, which was not collected. A multiple choice question, with room for opportunity for respondents to rank concerns would also be worth exploring, as some respondents may have written three answers which could have all be grouped in one of these categories, or selected two answers which were not particularly concerning, just to fulfil the criteria of three.

Although sports activities were by far the most common use of young people’s spare time, the format of questioning means that we cannot distinguish between those who use the local park with friends to play football or tennis, and those who pay to attend community clubs or sessions run by providers. Future surveys may wish to consider whether this can be addressed in the wording of the question.

The question “What help do you need for future careers” elicited the widest range of answers and were most difficult to present . Some answered could have been grouped under multiple headings, while others were very personalised and/or specific. Depending on the intended response, multiple choice options, or an option to rank pre-selected responses, along with the opportunity to provide individual open replies, may be worthy of consideration.

Although data could be organised more easily with closed questioning, caution should be applied as the current style has allowed young people’s voices to be truly heard, by capturing their own thoughts and responses. While there may be areas which would benefit from multiple choice options, too many suggestions would lose the validity of this being a survey that represents young people’s views.