

**MEETING**

**BARNET CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**DATE AND TIME**

**WEDNESDAY 13TH JULY, 2022**

**AT 4.30 PM**

**VENUE**

**VIRTUAL MEETING - ONLINE**

**TO: MEMBERS OF BARNET CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD (Quorum 3)**

Chair: Chris Munday

Tony Vourou	E Burton-Lee	C Spybey
Pauline Coakley Webb	J Baines-Holmes	E Waters
B Thomas	G Bradley	M Serrao
L Robinson	N Marlow	C Posen
C McCarthy	C Collier	L Longworth
R Morris	J Matthewson	E Rosen
S Curran	J Kelly	S Sands
M Miah	T Howarth	

**Substitute Members**

S Olusanya	D Bezalel	J Osbourne
N Taylor	V Wicks	

In line with the Constitution's Public Participation and Engagement Rules, requests to submit public questions or comments must be submitted by 10AM on the third working day before the date of the committee meeting. Therefore, the deadline for this meeting is Friday 8 July 2022 at 10AM. Requests must be submitted to Allan Siao Ming Witherick, Governance Officer

**You are requested to attend the above meeting for which an agenda is attached.**

**Andrew Charlwood – Head of Governance**

Governance Service contact: Allan Siao Ming Witherick, Governance Officer

Media Relations Contact: Tristan Garrick 020 8359 2454 [Tristan.Garrick@Barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Tristan.Garrick@Barnet.gov.uk)

**ASSURANCE GROUP**

*Please consider the environment before printing.*

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

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5.	My Say Matters	Verbal Report
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### FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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## Barnet Children's Partnership Board

Minutes of the meeting held 4.30 pm on 8 February 2022  
Held online virtually

AGENDA ITEM 2

### Board Members present:

Chris Munday	Executive Director for Children's Services
Councillor David Longstaff	Lead Member for Children, Education & Safeguarding
Ben Thomas	Assistant Director Education, Strategy and Partnerships
Lee Robinson	Commissioning Strategy & Policy Advisor
Collette McCarthy	Assistant Director Commissioning
Rebecca Morris	Participation Officer
Emma Burton-Lee	Senior Communications & Campaigns Manager
Ian J Harrison	Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning (BELS)
Janet Matthewson	Chief Executive Officer, Young Barnet Foundation
Joanne Kelly	Community PRU Headteacher

### Others in attendance:

Councillor Caroline Stock	Chairman of Health & Wellbeing Board
Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb	Substitute Barnet Children Partnership Board Member
Jayne Abbott	Resilience Programme Manager
Joyce Mukoko	Youth Engagement Officer
Dr Anindita Sarkar	Clinical Lead Barnet
Jess Baines-Holmes	Director of Integrated Commissioning
Dr Tamara Djuretic	Director of Public Health & Prevention
Penny Mitchell	NHS North Central London CCG
Tony Lewis	Barnet Safeguarding Children Partnership
Allan Siao Ming Witherick	Governance Officer

### 1. WELCOME

The Chairman, Chris Munday, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 03 November 2021 be agreed as a correct record subject to the correction in the title of the Director of Integrated Commissioning.

It was agreed that for future Minutes action points would be recorded and reported on at the next meeting.

### 3. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Inspector Bradley, Metropolitan Police.

Apologies were received from some of the Youth Parliament and Youth Assembly members.

Apologies were received from the representatives of the Parent and Carers' forum.

#### **4. BARNET FIT & ACTIVE FRAMEWORK**

The Executive Director Adults and Health presented the second strategy covering Fit and Active in Barnet which was being promoted by a broad partnership. They were working to increase the opportunities for individuals to become more physically active in a way that works for the individual. The aim was that physical activity should be easy to access and part of everyday activity.

A range of consultations have been undertaken for the new strategy with a focus of rebuilding after the pandemic. They were keen to hear how young people could be engaged and inequalities addressed.

- The partnership worked with schools through the resilience and public health programmes.
- It was noted that referral routes needed to be maintained and promoted on a regular basis to ensure traction.
- Clarification was given that this was about sport and activity, including everyday movement such as walking and dancing. The partnership was currently developing an app which would also include other activities, gardening for example.
- They had been successful in bringing in external funding to help improve access and provide interventions.
- Other efforts were on mapping opportunities to ensure that they supported local groups and helped to address gaps where applicable.
- The implementation plan included support for volunteering and training to help increase access.
- It was noted that inequalities could take many forms, including non-financial, ability to access open walking spaces, as well as those with disabilities.
- Other projects such as the BACE Holiday Programme were highlighted.  
(BACE Holidays: Barnet. Active. Creative. Engaging. Holidays)

#### **ACTION:**

**Executive Director Adults and Health to speak to the representatives of the Pupil Referral Unit and how they provide support in accessing the voice of excluded children and young people.**

**Executive Director Adults and Health to provide data analysis for use of Leisure Centres by young people to the Assistant Director Education, Strategy and Partnerships.**

#### **5. JOINT HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY**

The Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board introduced the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the work that was being undertaken alongside partners to help promote and improve the health and wellbeing of young people in Barnet. The Director of Public Health & Prevention highlighted that it could not cover everything that individual partners did, but looked to help integrate health into strategies and policies across the Council and with partners.

It was noted that they were currently recruiting across the five boroughs for a lead on Children and Health issues. Their work should link in to the Barnet Children's Partnership Board on health issues for young people.

Members of the committee queried:

- How well the strategy picked up those with vulnerabilities and whether more needed to be done.
- Whether the targets were good enough.
- What the new innovations would be as a number of the things were long running projects.
- Whether the student health checks included mental health.

The Director responded that it did cover looked after children in the area and that they were looking at how added value could be focussed on those most in need. Work could be undertaken to see if it needed to be more targeted if there are identified gaps as part of the implementation plan.

Work was ongoing to improve things around targets. This included improving the acceptability of breast feeding and looking to change things incrementally to create better and more supportive environments.

## **6. DRAFT NCL ICS OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK**

The Director for Population Health Commissioning – Strategic Commissioning Directorate for NHS North Central London (NCL) Clinical Commissioning (CCG) Group presented the draft NCL Integrated Care System (ICS) outcomes framework. It was being taken to all five of the local partnership forums. It looked at future targets and how the partners worked together on a number of areas including for example preventative measures. The framework is currently being consulted on and the next stage would be identifying where differential effort might be required:

- There was a need to consider what initiatives and projects are already being undertaken.
- Improvements to investment in prevention.
- Looking at support for maternity including the impacts of ante-natal care.

Other activities included looking at what the NHS could do as an exemplar to support others, and to show how their activities could highlight good practise. It was important to ensure that this aligned with the other strategies. A level of pragmatism was required to ensure that it was possible to get momentum behind the actions.

The Committee responded with issues such as:

- The disconnection through the use of "health" which at some levels was seen to be inaccessible, whereas wellbeing was more inclusive.
- How food insecurity and food education could be included.
- How health support messaging through positive activity programmes such as HAF Fund (Holidays, Activity and Food).
- How to connect with the voluntary sector who felt that they had limited influence on health.
- How this would aid the Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP).

- How physical activities could be included.

**Action:**

**Executive Director for Children’s Services and Director of Public Health & Prevention to meet to look at improved and inclusive indicators for the NCL framework.**

## **7. BARNET SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP**

The Barnet Safeguarding Children’s Partnership Manager introduced the draft business plan that was due to start in April. They hoped that it would provide an opportunity to enhance links with the safe and secure aspect of the Children’s Partnership and improve outcomes.

The external scrutiny of the partnership had shown that there was clear evidence of the impact and strength of the partnership. There had been positive feedback on the support provided during the COVID-19 pandemic.

They had also given recommendations linked to local and national needs. Areas of focus coming forward included neglect, domestic abuse, self-harm and suicide. There were challenges in trying to ensure that the strategy was linked to what was happening on the ground and meaningful to Officers and partners.

**Action:**

**Barnet Safeguarding Children’s Partnership Manager to liaise with the Commissioning Strategy & Policy Advisor to look at how the Barnet Children’s Partnership Boards plan would incorporate the Barnet Safeguarding Plan.**

## **8. WORK PROGRAMME 2022-2023**

The Chairman noted that the current Work Programme was coming to an end and that the Board needed to consider what they would like covered in future meetings. Suggestions which came forward were:

1. Deep Dives - As undertaken by the Health and Wellbeing Board where they looked at sections of the plan in detail at each meeting.
2. Integrated Care Pathways - There was interest as to how young people were supported through these.
3. Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers – This might cover those from Hong Kong for example. It was noted that a paper was going to the Safe Guarding Board with regards to designated hotels.
4. Barnet Parent Carer Forum – As part of a theme on co-production, it was agreed that the Barnet Parent Carer Forum should be invited to table an item to a future meeting.

The Board were keen to hear from the different partners. They agreed to look at how co-production was undertaken at other boards and their interaction.

## **9. YOUNG PEOPLE'S ITEM - TBC**



Apologies were given on behalf of the young people. A number of the members had been taking part with mock exams and the Youth Assembly had not formally restarted.

It was reported that there had been a good turnout with a record number of candidates for the Youth Parliament and youth Ambassador roles.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Action:**

**Sustainability update from the Environment Strategy and Project Officer for the next meeting**

The meeting finished at 6.01 pm

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# BARNET COUNCIL – YOUNG PERSONS SURVEY 2021/22

June 2022

Research conducted by:



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# Introduction

This presentation reports on the main findings from the most recent Young Peoples Perception Survey (YPS) 2021/22. It also includes comparisons to the most recent Adults Residents Perception Survey (ARPS) 2021/22 where available.

The Children's Partnership Board are asked to consider the YPS findings in context: to the Children and Young Peoples Plan and what we are striving to achieve in terms of outcomes; how the results can be used to inform service delivery and next steps.

To aid in these discussions the detailed analysis that has been conducted on the whole data set has also been provided in this presentation, namely:

- Segmentation analysis in terms of key demographics, including protected characteristics
- A breakdown by the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), the measure of relative deprivation for neighbourhoods in England. The IMD ranks every small area in England from the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods to the least deprived 10% of neighbourhoods. In this presentation, the most deprived areas are referred to as 'deciles 1-3' while the least deprived areas are 'deciles 8-10'.
- Constituency analysis.

It should also be noted Family Services has already commissioned the Consultation and Research Team to run a series of Constituency based workshops with young people, and a focus group with those young people who have a disability to help unpack the findings in more detail.

# Methodology and benchmarking

## Methodology

- Barnet Young Persons Survey is a face-to-face quota survey of Barnet residents aged 11-18
- It measures reputation, service and local area perceptions, as well as a range of demographic and usage indicators.
- 500 Barnet young people were interviewed between 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- Confidence intervals for a sample of 500 is +/-4.3% at the 95% confidence interval.

## Benchmarking

- This is the fourth wave of the YPS, the first was conducted in Autumn 2016 and the second in Autumn 2017 and the third in Autumn 2019. The intention is to bring out the voice of young people – what may be important to adults may not be important for young people.
- Where possible, findings from the YPS are also compared with the Adults Barnet Resident Perception Survey (RPS) 2021/22 where a representative random sample of 2,000 Barnet residents (aged 18 or over) were surveyed between 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021– 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. 800 RPS interviews were conducted via telephone and 1,200 were conducted face-to-face.
- This presentation also uses national data from a variety of sources primarily the LGA's national polling on resident satisfaction with councils, which surveyed a representative random sample of c.1,000 British adults (aged 18 or over) between 22<sup>nd</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022. All interviews were conducted via telephone.

# Summary of key findings

# Key highlights

- On the whole, the results show a positive direction of travel on most perception measures – a trend which is also evident in the most recent LGA national polling and the council’s Adults Residents Perception Survey.
- The positive results could be attributed to young people enjoying a ‘feel good factor’ as they come out of COVID-19 restrictions and the return to relative normality. The council has also played an important and high profile role in supporting residents during the pandemic which may have impacted residents’ perceptions of it. However, it is difficult to know how much the positive results can be attributed to COVID-19 restrictions ending and it is important to flag there is a chance that the results for future surveys may return to pre-COVID levels.
- There are, however, some results that have remained stationary or shown a negative direction of travel. The proportion of young people who think the council is doing a good job and providing services young people need has shown small declines. Satisfaction with libraries has also continued to decline year-on-year and is now at its lowest recorded level.
- In terms of the demographic analysis, and in particular equalities, there are some clear themes emerging across questions, where residents are less likely to agree/ less satisfied if they:
  - live in a deprived area
  - live in the constituency of Hendon (in particular with regard safe guarding, crime, and community safety)
  - are White (BAME YP tend to be on average more satisfied)
  - are older (11- 13 year olds tend to be on average more satisfied)
  - have a disability



# Key headlines

## Barnet as a family friendly place to live

**Nine in ten young people feel Barnet/your local area is a family friendly place to live, the highest of percentage of any survey conducted.**

Young people in Barnet are significantly more likely to feel that Barnet is a family friendly place to live (89%) compared to adults (83%).

Residents of Finchley and Golders Green are more likely to agree that Barnet/your local area is a family friendly place to live.

## Council's image

**Most measures of the council's image have improved in 2021/22 compared to 2019.**

Young people think that the council is doing a good job (90%), provides services young people need (81%), do enough to keep young people safe (78%), acts on the concerns of young people (75%), listens to the concerns of young people (73%) involves young people when making decisions (70%) and keeps young people informed (65%).

Those who are BME or aged 11-13 were more likely to view the council highly across a number of these measures.

+ The rating scale was changed in 2017 to align to the adults survey, year on year comparisons should be treated with caution.

\* Change is statistically significant with a p-value lower than, or equal to, 0.05.

# Key headlines

## Satisfaction with the local area as a place to live

**Over nine in ten young people are satisfied with the local area as a place to live (94%). The highest recorded percentage.**

The proportion of young people satisfied with the local area is significantly higher than in adults.

Those from Chipping Barnet are more likely to be satisfied while those who are disabled are less likely to be satisfied.

## Satisfaction with the local services

**Young people are more satisfied with all local services compared to adults**

Satisfaction with some services have significantly improved, this includes: parks, playgrounds and open spaces (89%) up 7 percentage points\* and activities for teenagers/young people (66%) up 8 percentage points\*

Only satisfaction with libraries (65%) was lower than in 2019 but only by 1 percentage point.

# Key headlines

## Top concerns

**Young people's concern with crime (41%) has significantly decreased by 15 percentage points\* when compared with 2019 but remains young people's biggest concern.**

When compared with the 2019 survey there has also been a significant decreases with concern in litter and dirt (29%) down 8 percentage points\*, the lack of affordable housing (12%) down 8 percentage points\*, and the number of homeless people (12%) down 7 percentage points\*.

There have been significant increases in concern in traffic jams/congestion (26%) up 8 percentage points\* and how well roads and pavements are looked after (13%) up 5 percentage points\*.

Concern with the impact of Covid-19 was measured for the first time this survey. 14% of young people were concerned with the impact of Covid. The inclusion of the Covid-19 option may explain some of the relative decline of some other concerns.

## Feelings of safety

**Young people feelings of safety have improved in most situations**

When compared with 2019, there has been a significant increase in young people's feelings of safety when travelling to and from school (90%) up 6 percentage points\* and in local playgrounds and open spaces (87%) up 8 percentage points\* While the percentage of young people feeling safe while out at night remains low (49%) it has increased four percentage points compared to 2019.

# Key headlines

## Top safety concerns

**Young people's top personal safety concern remains knife crime (51%), but the level of concern over knife crime has seen a significant decrease of 20 percentage points since the question was first asked in 2019.**

Those who are between 16 and 18 were more likely to be concerned with knife crime

When compared with 2019, there has been a decrease in concern with gangs (down 17 percentage points\*), but an increase in concern with safety on public transport (up 7 percentage points\*) and bullying online (up 6 percentage points\*).

## Council priorities

**Young people's views on the main priorities for the council and its partners are broadly similar to 2019.**

Their top priority is now protecting people from crime and ASB (41% - a decrease of 4 percentage points), followed by protecting young people from harm (48% - a decrease of 5 percentage points) and supporting young people with mental health problems (29% - the same as in 2019). A number of areas have also reduced in priority, for example parks and open spaces which dropped 6 percentage points\* and sports and leisure facilities fell 4 percentage points\*.

The largest increases in priority were improving town centre (increased by 3 percentage points\*) and promoting reading and learning (increased by 3 percentage points\*) but these remain at the bottom of young people's list of priorities.

# Key headlines

## Community and Cohesion

### **All measures on community and cohesion have increased compared with 2019**

There were significant increases in the percent that think Barnet is a place where you can live a healthy life (92% - increase of 8 percentage points), a family friendly place to live (89% - up 5 percentage points) and that they feel valued and respected (77% - up 13 percentage points)

## Communication with the Council

### **In terms of preferred method of communication, young people indicated they prefer to be contacted by schools or email newsletter**

As in 2019 'through schools' was also the most popular response when young people were asked for their communication preferences (33% - down 1 percentage point compared to 2019), followed by email newsletter (22% down 6 percentage points compared to 2019\*).

## Awareness of the Council's Work

### **Just under three quarters of young people surveyed have heard of at least one piece of work that the Council is doing, which is similar to the level in the 2019 survey.**

The top things that young people have heard of are Kooth.com (36% - 15 percentage points higher than in 2019\*), Unitas Youth Zone (30% - 1 percentage point lower than in 2019), and the Youth Parliament Elections (18% - 13 percentage points lower than in 2019)

# Key headlines

## Personal Wellbeing

### **Most young people seem satisfied with their life, this has increased since 2019.**

The mean satisfaction score (0 = not at all satisfied; 10 = completely satisfied) was 8.70, higher than the 2019 mean of 8.49.

Those who are age 11-13 have a significantly higher average life satisfaction.

### **8 in 10 young people would want to talk to someone if feeling depressed or anxious.**

Young people who are male, older (14 – 18), and are white are significantly less likely to want to talk to someone if feeling depressed or anxious.

### **85% of young people are fairly active or active doing over 30 minutes of physical activity a week.**

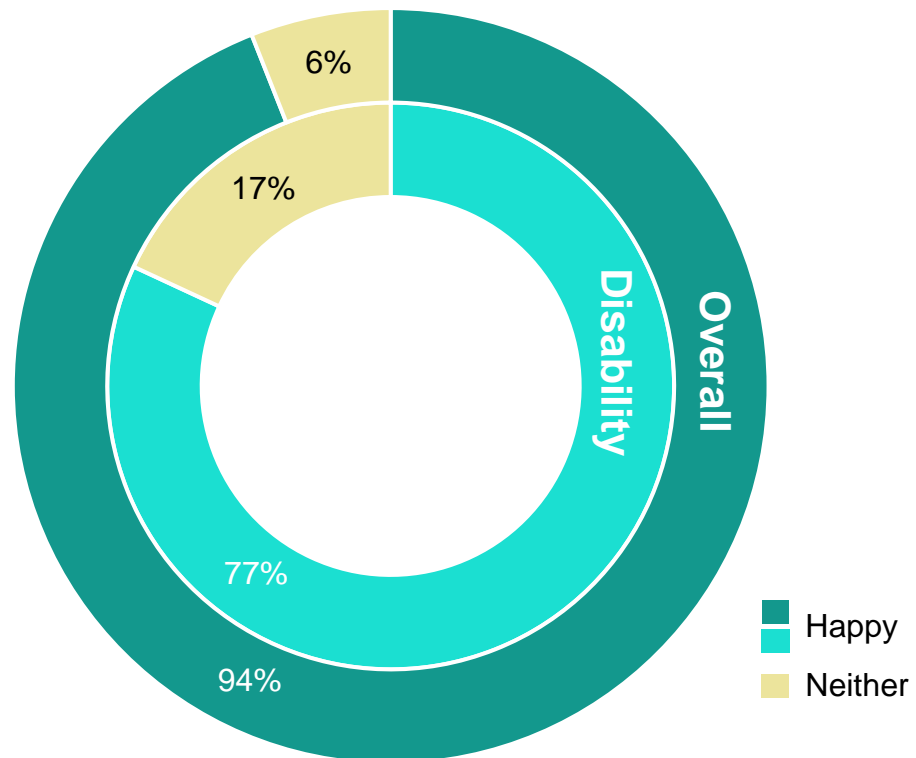
This is a higher percentage than the Active Lives Children and Young People Survey found for young people in England (67%).

However, young people who are female are significantly less likely to be active or fairly active.

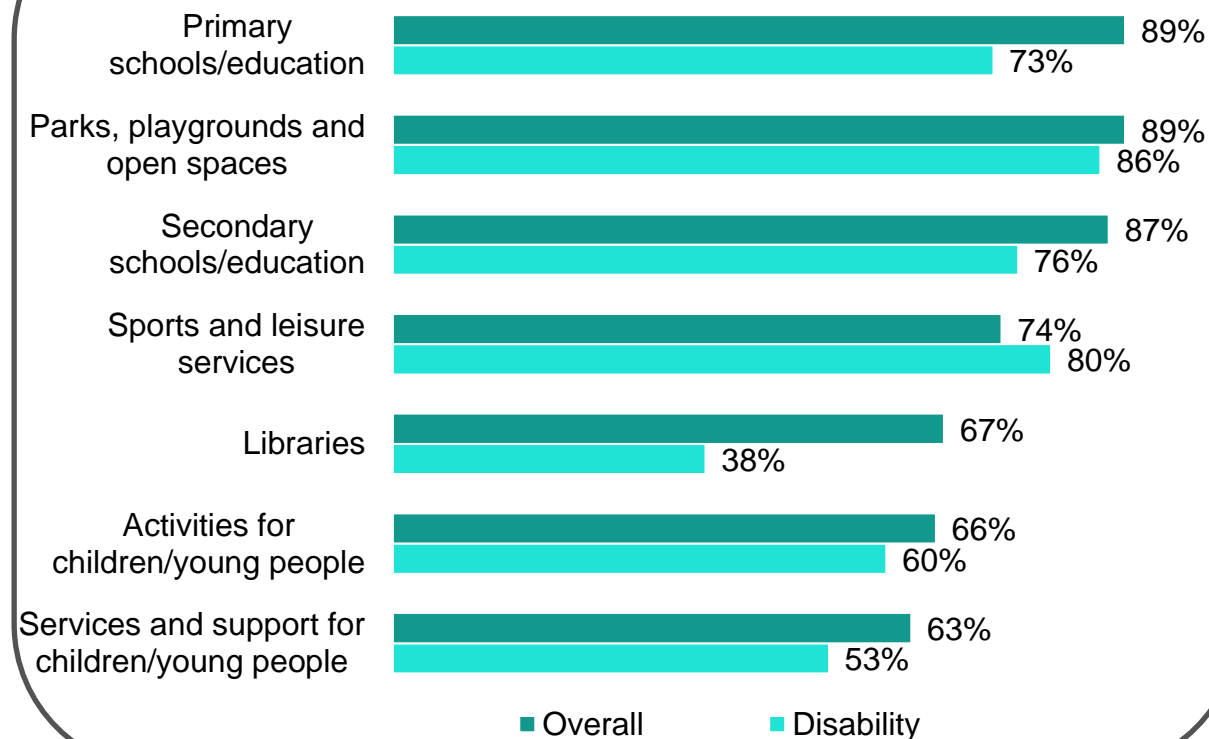
# Summary of disability segmentation analysis

- Those who have a disability are less likely to say they are happy with their local area as a place to live and say they are satisfied with local services (especially libraries).

## Happiness with local area as a place to live



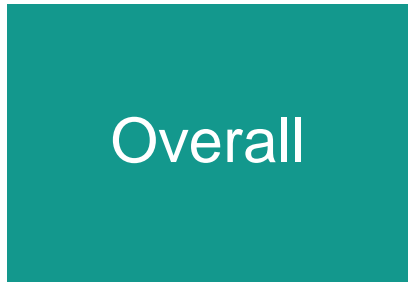
## Satisfaction with services



# Disability

- Those who have a disability are more likely to be worried about how good health services are. A quarter of disabled young people are (25%) worried about the quality of health services.

## Top Worries



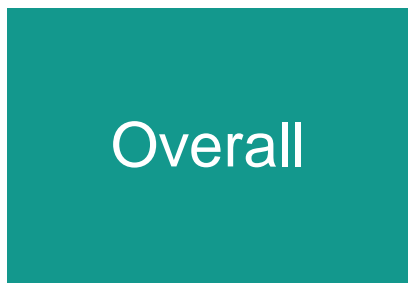
- 1<sup>st</sup> Crime (41%)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Litter/dirt (30%)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Traffic jams/congestion (26%)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Lack of jobs (21%)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Not enough being done for young people (21%)



- 1<sup>st</sup> Crime (42%)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Traffic jams/congestion (29%)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Lack of jobs (26%)
- 4<sup>th</sup> How good health services are (25%)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Litter/dirt (23%)

- Those who have a disability are more likely to want the council to focus time and money on supporting those with long-term health problems or disabilities and those with emotional and mental health problems.

## Top Priorities



- 1<sup>st</sup> Protecting people from crime and ASB (42%)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Protecting you people and children from harm (38%)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Supporting those with emotional and mental health problems (29%)



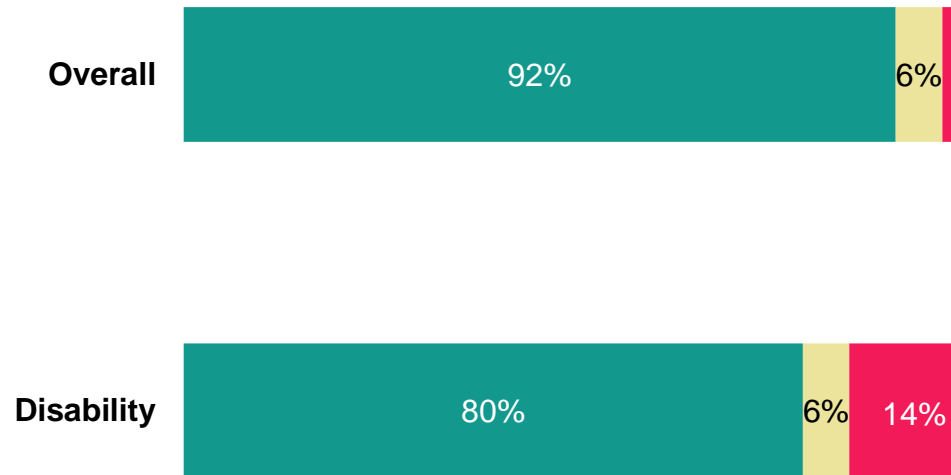
- 1<sup>st</sup> Protecting children and young people from harm (52%)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Supporting those with long-term health problems or disabilities (50%)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Supporting those with emotional and mental health problems (43%)



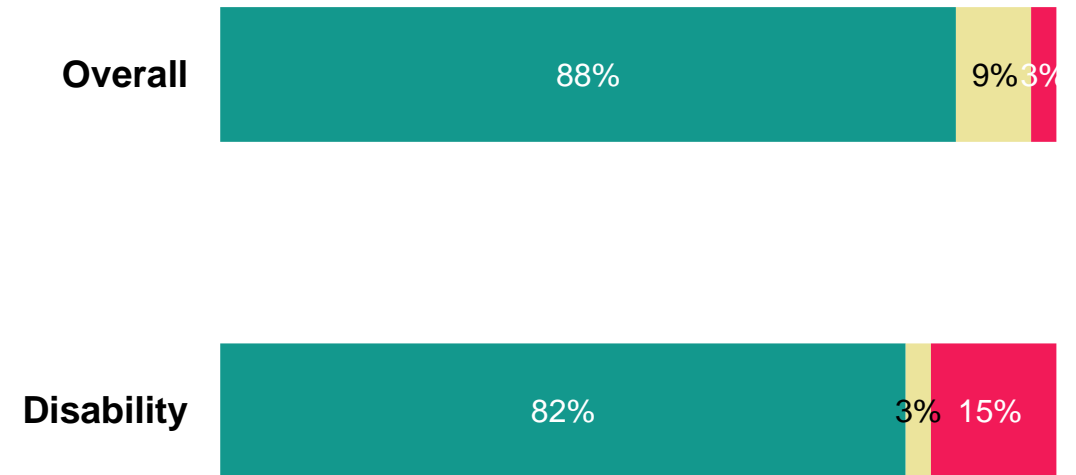
# Disability

- Those who have a disability are more likely to disagree that Barnet/your local area is a place where you can live a healthy life and that the local area is a place where people from different backgrounds/groups get on well together

## Barnet/your local area is a place where you can live a healthy life



## Barnet/your local area is a place where people from different backgrounds/groups get on well together



■ Agree ■ Neither ■ Disagree

# Disability

- Those who have a disability are less likely to agree that the council provides services which young people need but more likely to agree that they do enough to protect young people from harm.

## Agreement that the Council is...?



# Findings in Full

## Key perception indicators



94%  
Are happy with Barnet  
as a place to live



89%  
Agree Barnet is a  
family friendly place



70%  
Agree young people have  
a say on things the council  
is going to do



78%  
Agree the council protects  
young people from harm



90%  
Agree the council is  
doing a good job

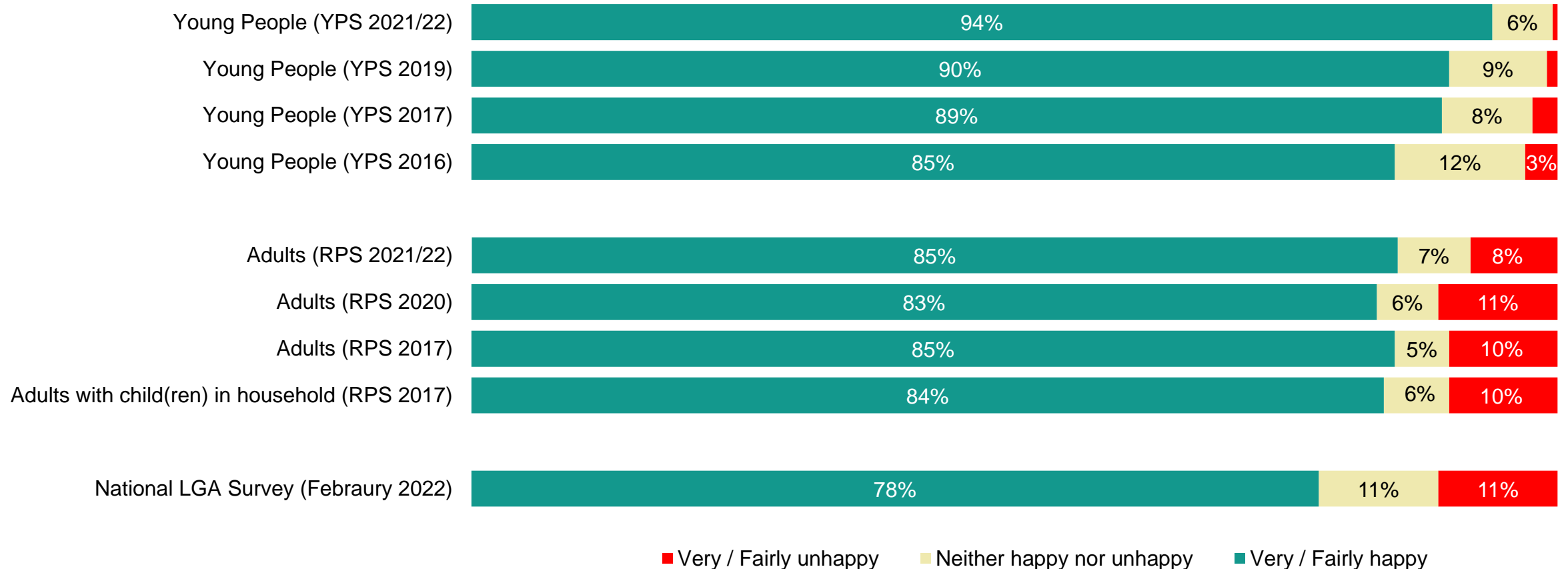


65%  
Agree that the council  
keeps young people  
informed

**Happy with Barnet as a place to live**

# Satisfaction with the local area

The majority of young people (94%) are happy with their local area as a place to live, which is a significant increase on the 2019 YPS and also significantly higher than the 2021/22 result for adults.

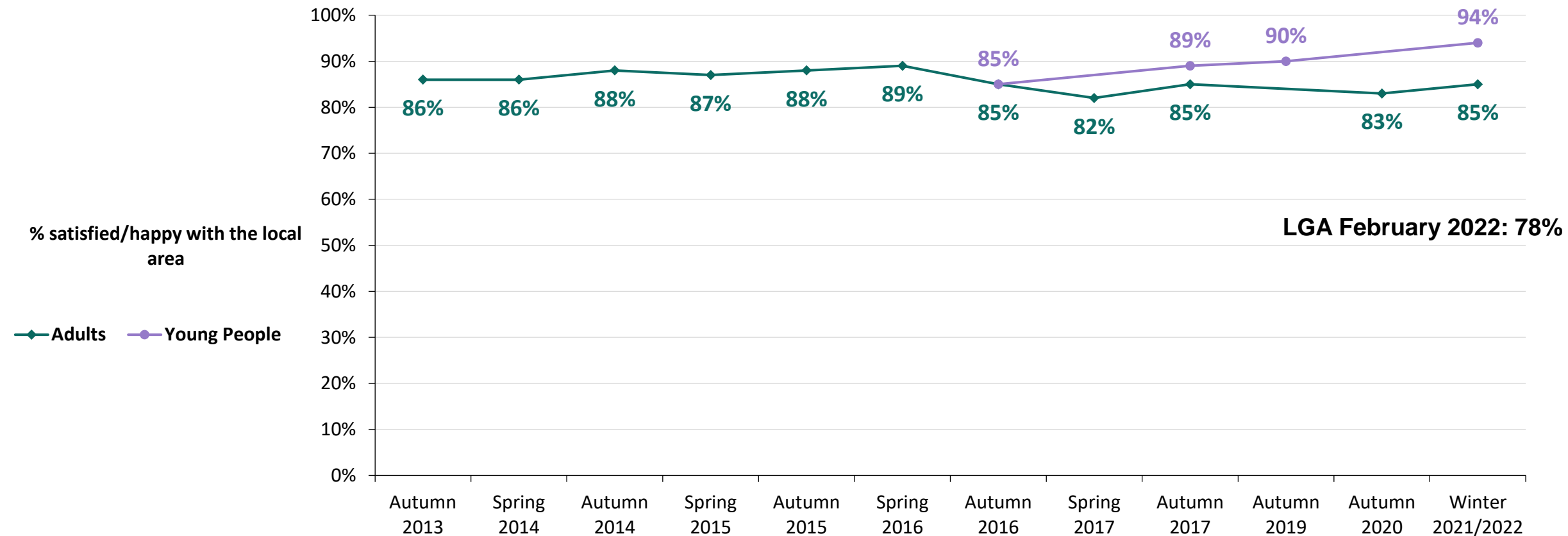


**NOTE:** YPS survey uses a very happy to very unhappy rating, RPS and LGA surveys use a very satisfied to very unsatisfied rating.

# Satisfaction with the local area (long term trends)

Adult satisfaction with the local area has remained consistent and higher than the LGA average for a number years.

**Young people's happiness with the local area has increased year-on-year and is now 9 percentage points (significantly higher) than the 2021/22 result for adults.**



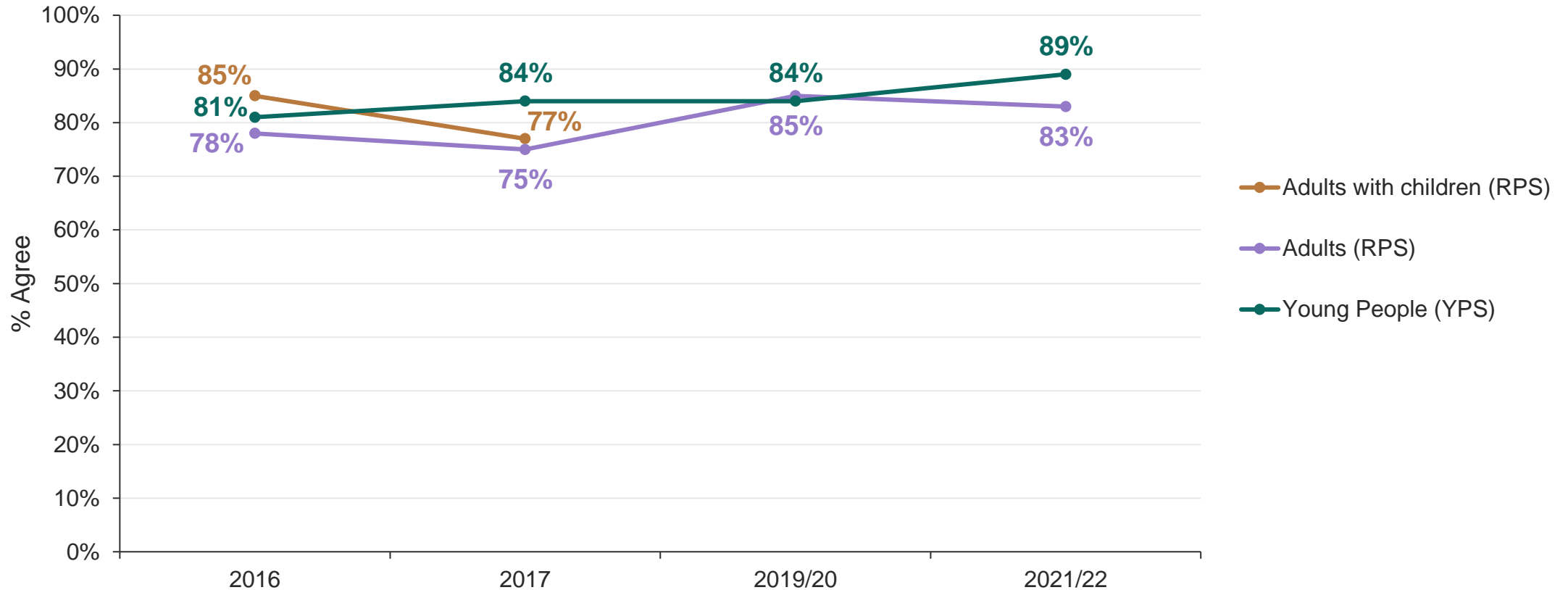
# Barnet a Family-Friendly Borough



# Barnet a family-friendly place to live

The proportion of young people who feel Barnet is a family friendly place to live is significantly higher (5 percentage points) than the previous wave in 2019/20.

When compared with the adults survey, young people are significantly more likely to feel that their local area is a family friendly place to live (+6%).



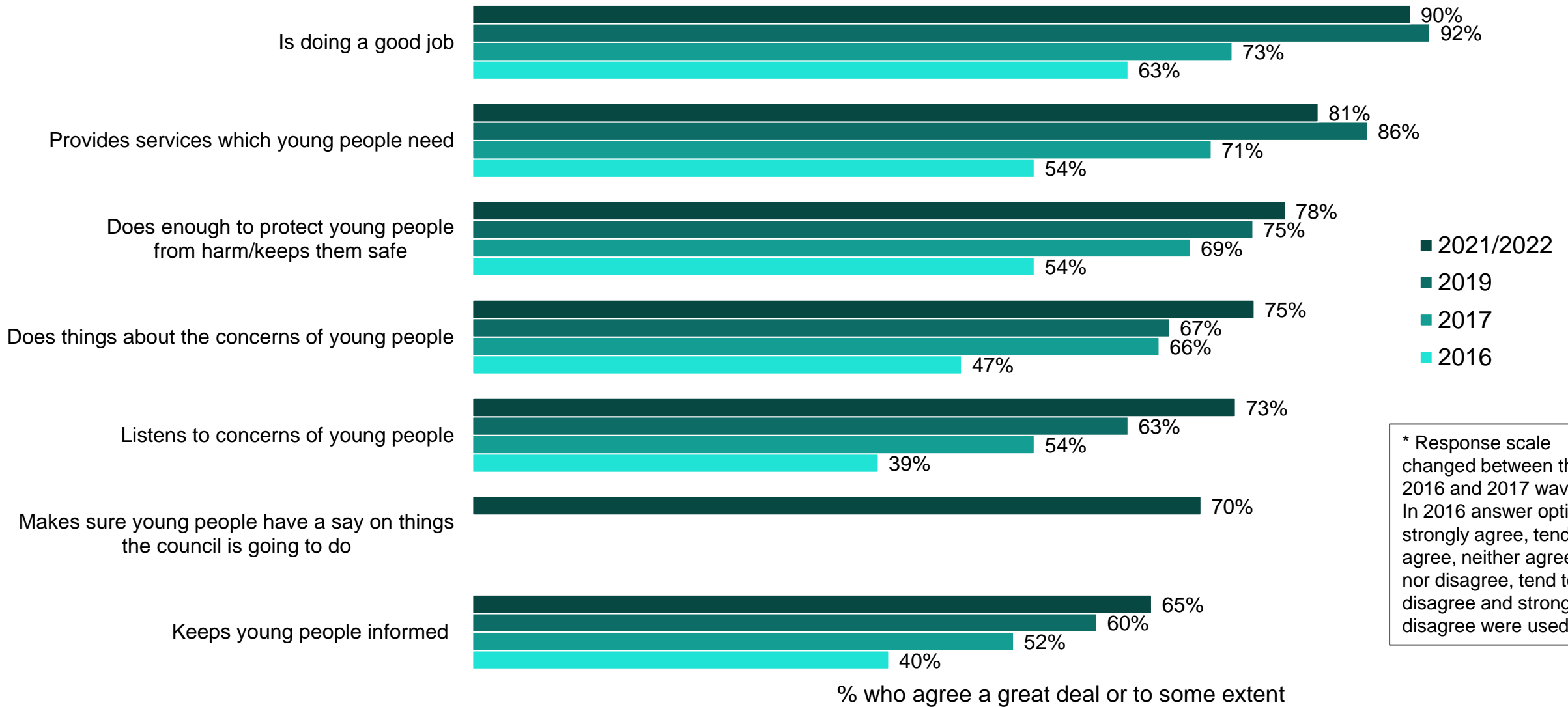
Questions: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the borough of Barnet is a family-friendly place to live? (YPS/RPS)

Source: Barnet Council Young People Survey (2021/22) of 500 residents aged 11-18, carried out by face-to-face/Barnet Council resident perception survey of c.2000 residents 18+, carried out by telephone and face-to-face

# Image of the Council

# Image of the Council – over time

Since 2019 five of the seven measures of the council's image have improved amongst young people.

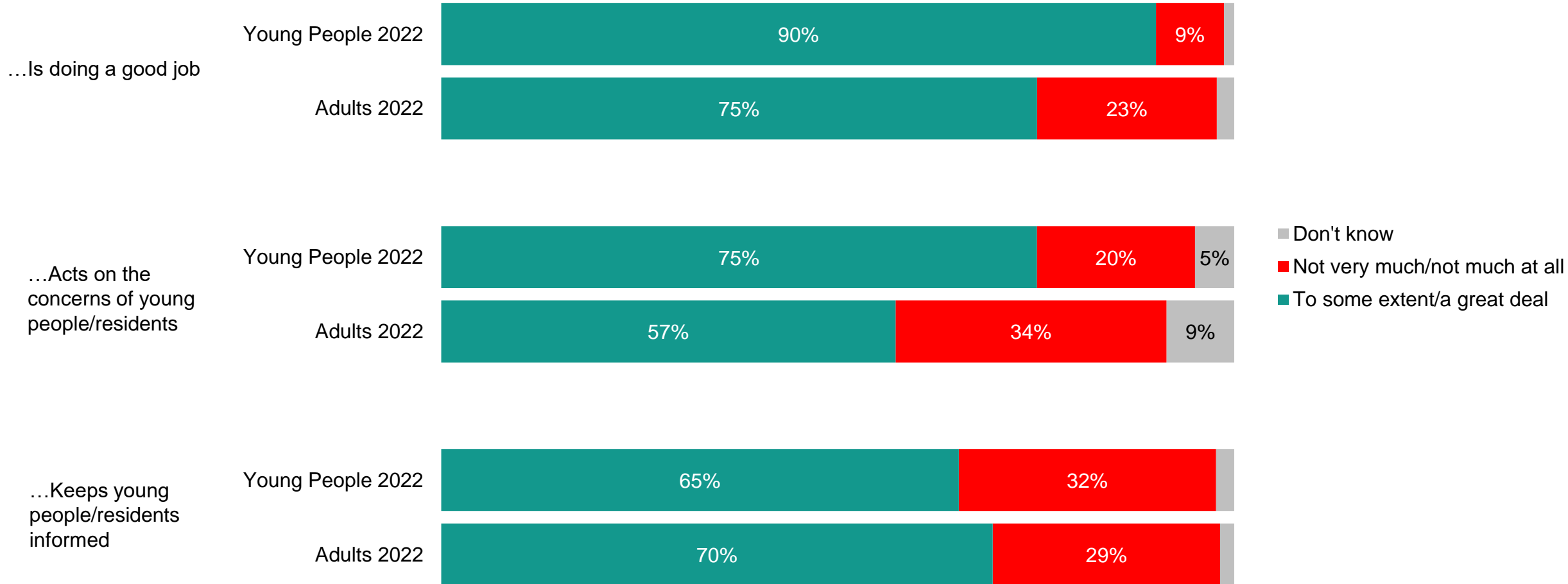


\* Response scale changed between the 2016 and 2017 waves. In 2016 answer options strongly agree, tend to agree, neither agree nor disagree, tend to disagree and strongly disagree were used.

# Image of the Council

There are some differences between adults and young people\* – more young people agree to some extent/a great deal that the council is doing a good job and acts on the concerns of young people. However a smaller proportion of young people agree that the council keeps them informed.

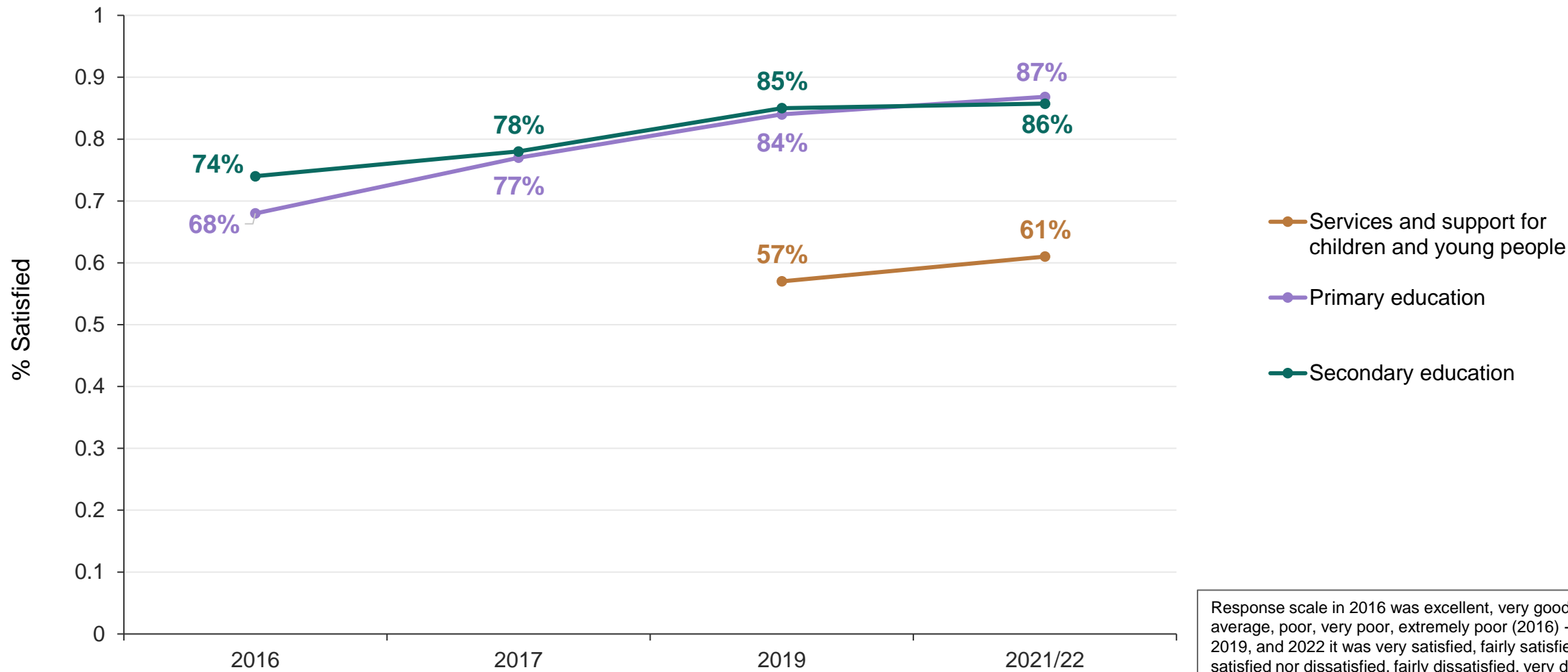
\*The options scale for this question was different for those in RPS. While only 'is doing a good job' can be directly compared with RPS, the rest presented here are for reference - they are not for direct comparison.



# Perception on council services

# Children and family services – comparison to previous years

Satisfaction with services for children and young people as well as secondary and primary education have all seen their highest level of satisfaction recorded.

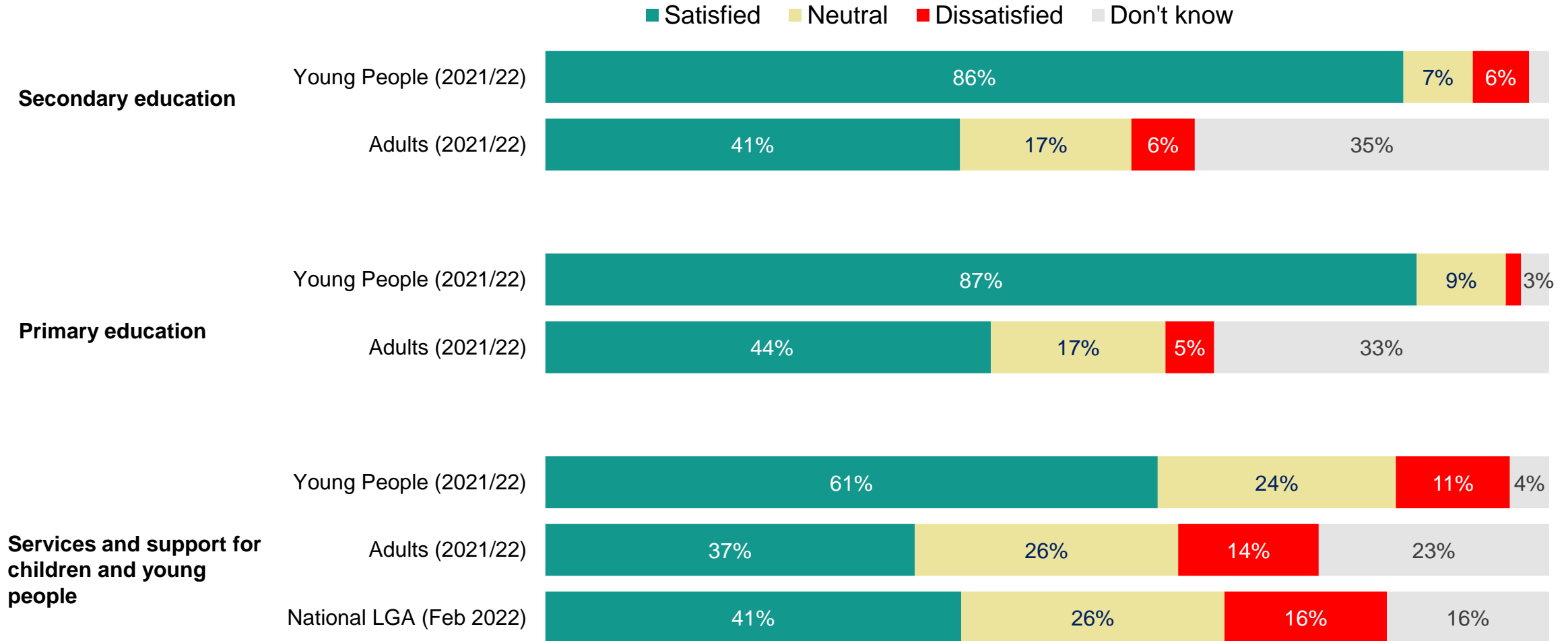


Question: We would now like to know what you think about different services in this area. Please say what you think about these services even if you have not used them yourself (YPS/RPS)

Source: Barnet Council Young People Survey (2021/22) of 500 residents 11-18, carried out by face-to-face

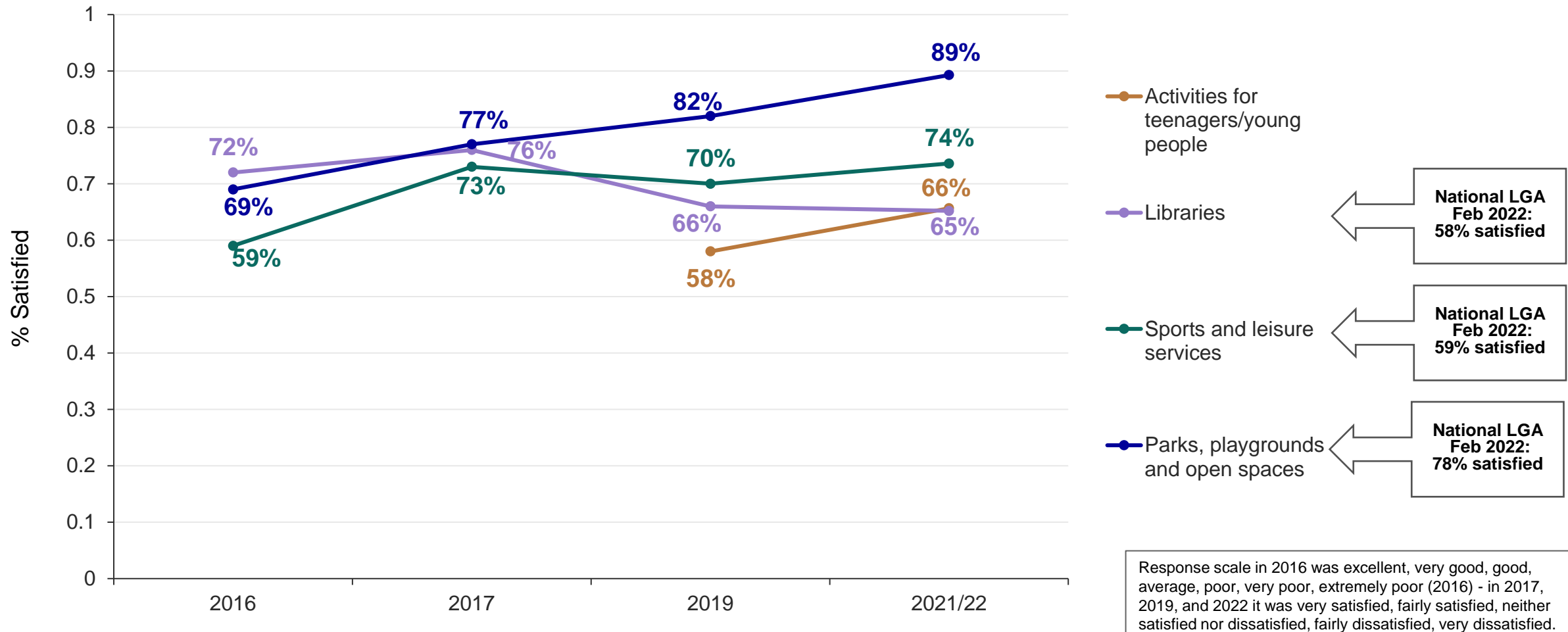
# Children and Family Services – Young People vs Adults

Young people are significantly more likely to be satisfied with all of the council’s children and family services compared to adults.



# Other services satisfaction – comparison to previous years

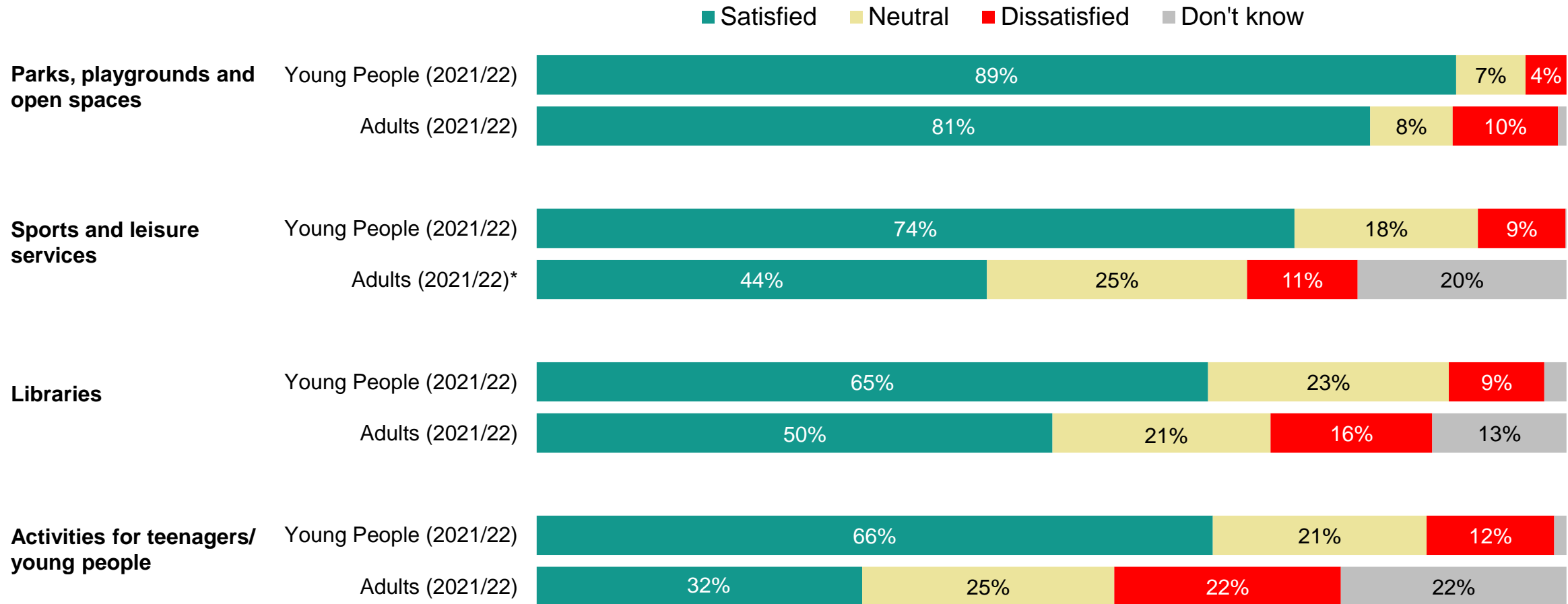
Satisfaction with parks, playgrounds and open spaces has increased significantly by 7 percentage points since 2019. Satisfaction with activities for teenagers/young people has also increased significantly by 8 percentage points.





# Other Services – Young People vs Adults

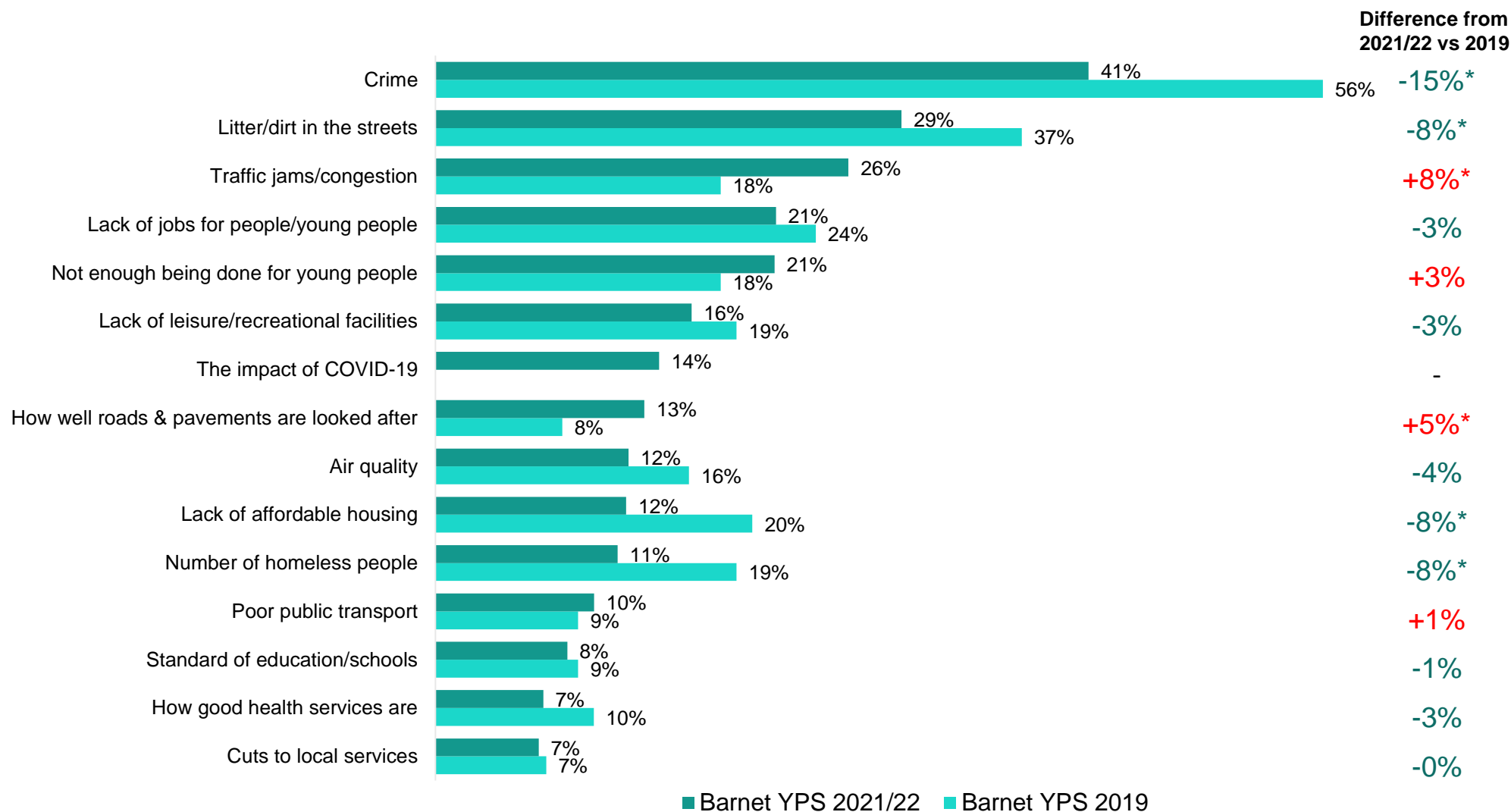
Compared to adults, young people are significantly more satisfied with parks, playgrounds and open spaces, sports and leisure services, libraries, and activities for teenagers and young people.



# Young People's Concerns

# Young peoples' top three concerns 2021/22 vs. 2019

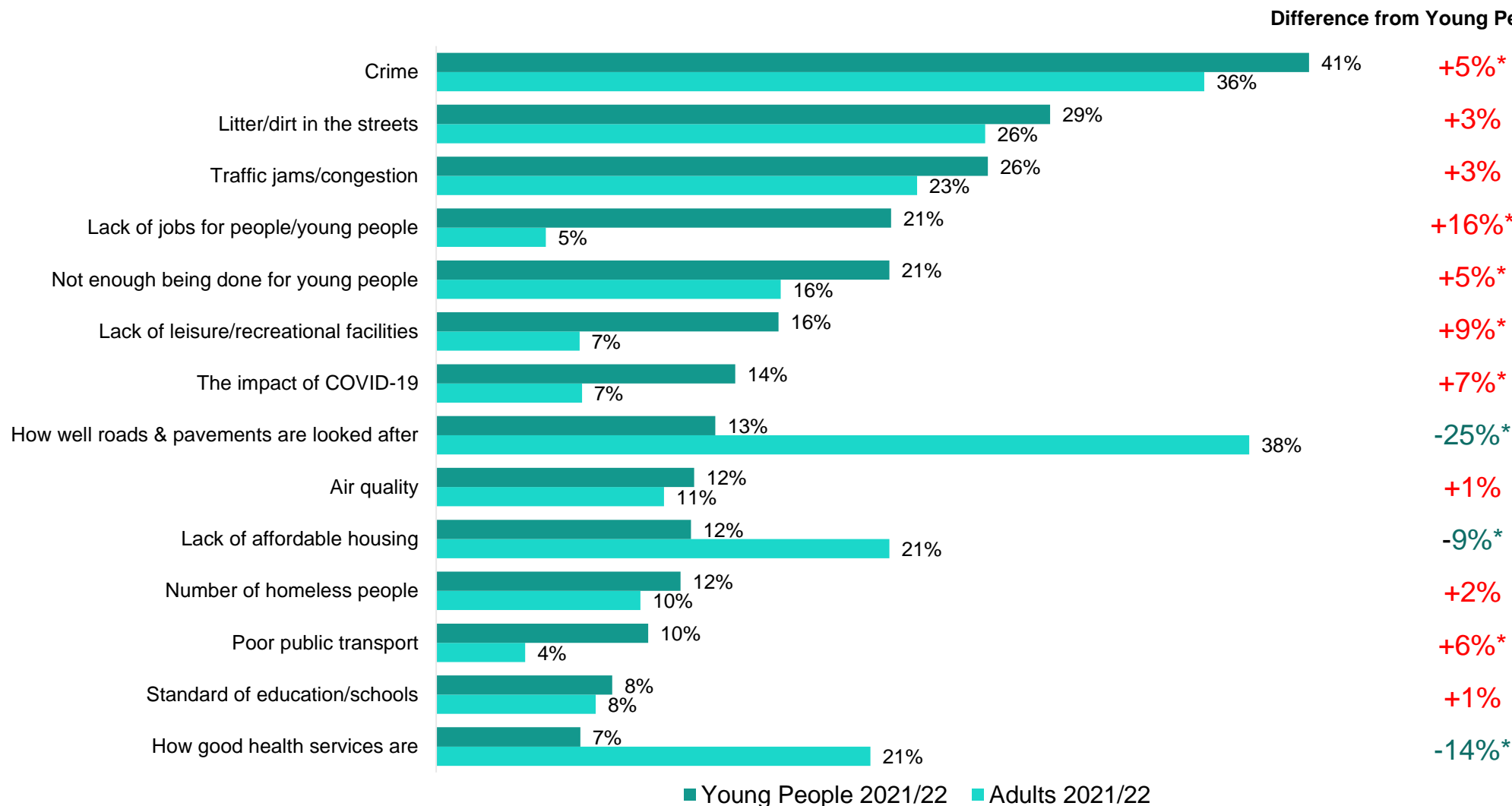
Crime remains the main concern for young people but this has seen a significant 15 percentage point decrease since 2019. Concern over litter/dirt in the streets has also significantly declined whilst concern over traffic jams/congestion has seen a significant increase.



Some of the downward shifts in the graph can be explained by the addition of the new 'impacts of Covid' option – i.e. many have chosen this option, meaning other issues have moved down the list in relative importance, although they still remain a concern.

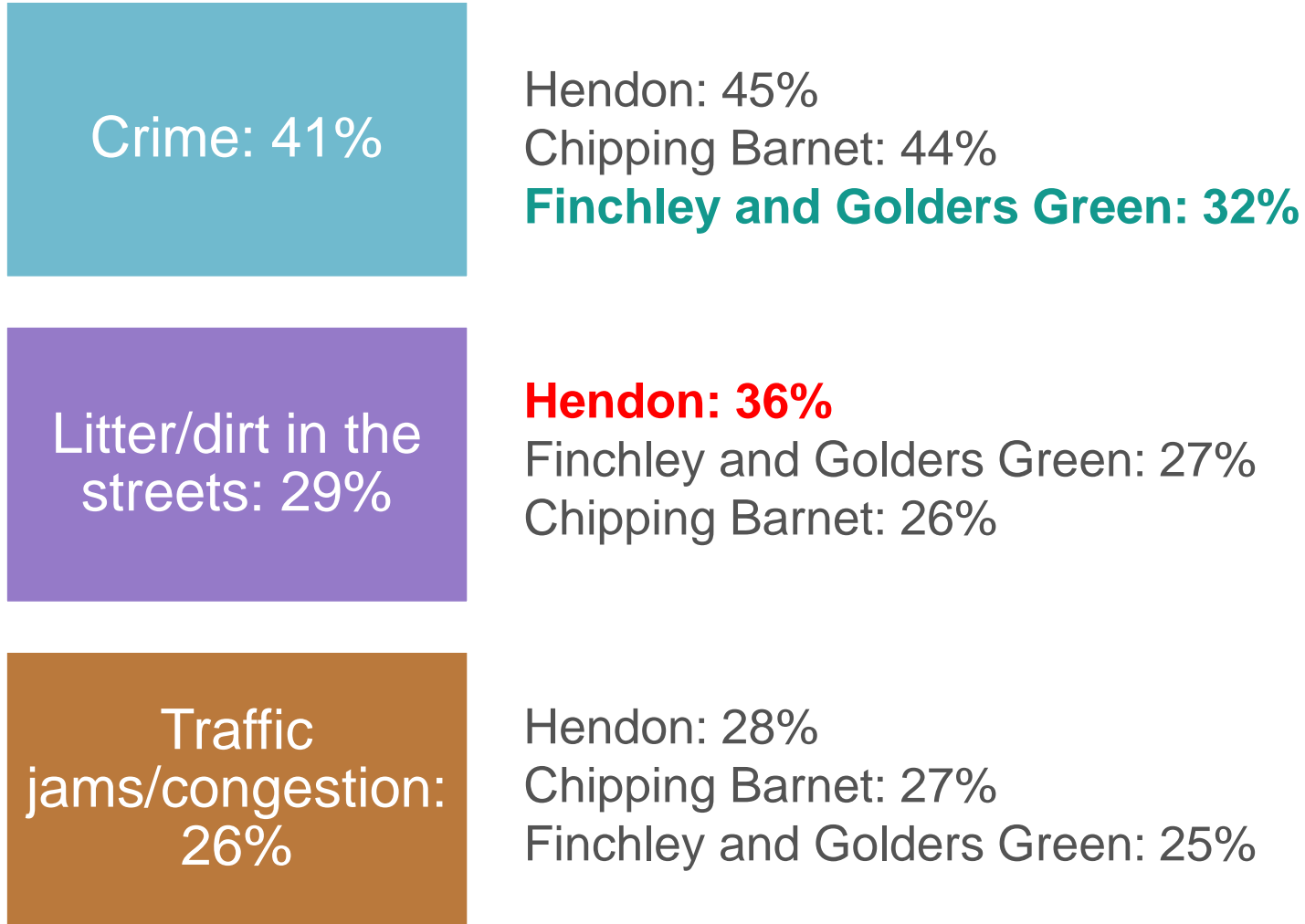
# Young peoples' top concerns compared to adults

Crime is the number one concern for both young people and adults. But young people are significantly more concerned about crime, a lack of jobs, not enough being done for young people, a lack of leisure and recreational facilities, the impact of Covid-19 and poor public transport.



Some of the difference in the graph can be explained by the RPS survey having more options for this question – meaning respondents three choices are more spread out over other issues

# Young people's top three concerns by resident constituency



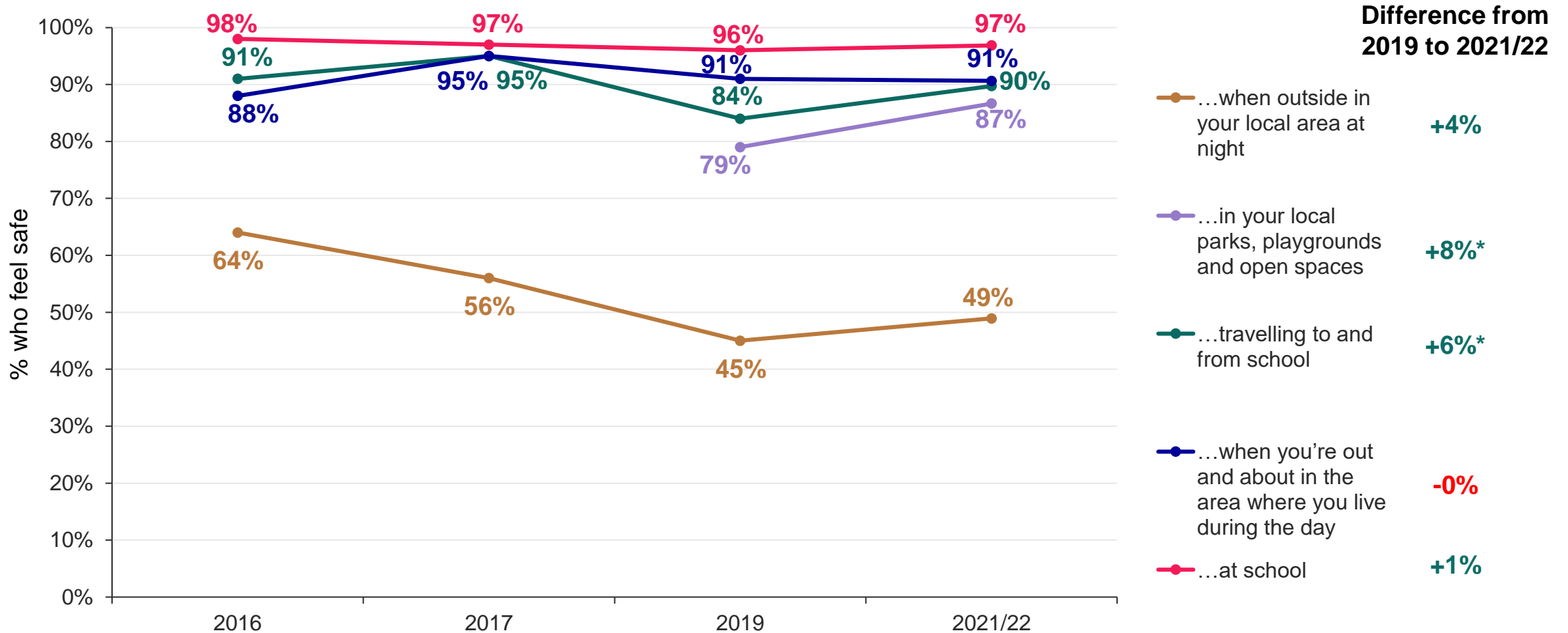
**Green** indicates result is significantly lower.

**Red** indicates result is significantly higher.

# Young People's Personal Safety

# Where do young people feel most safe?

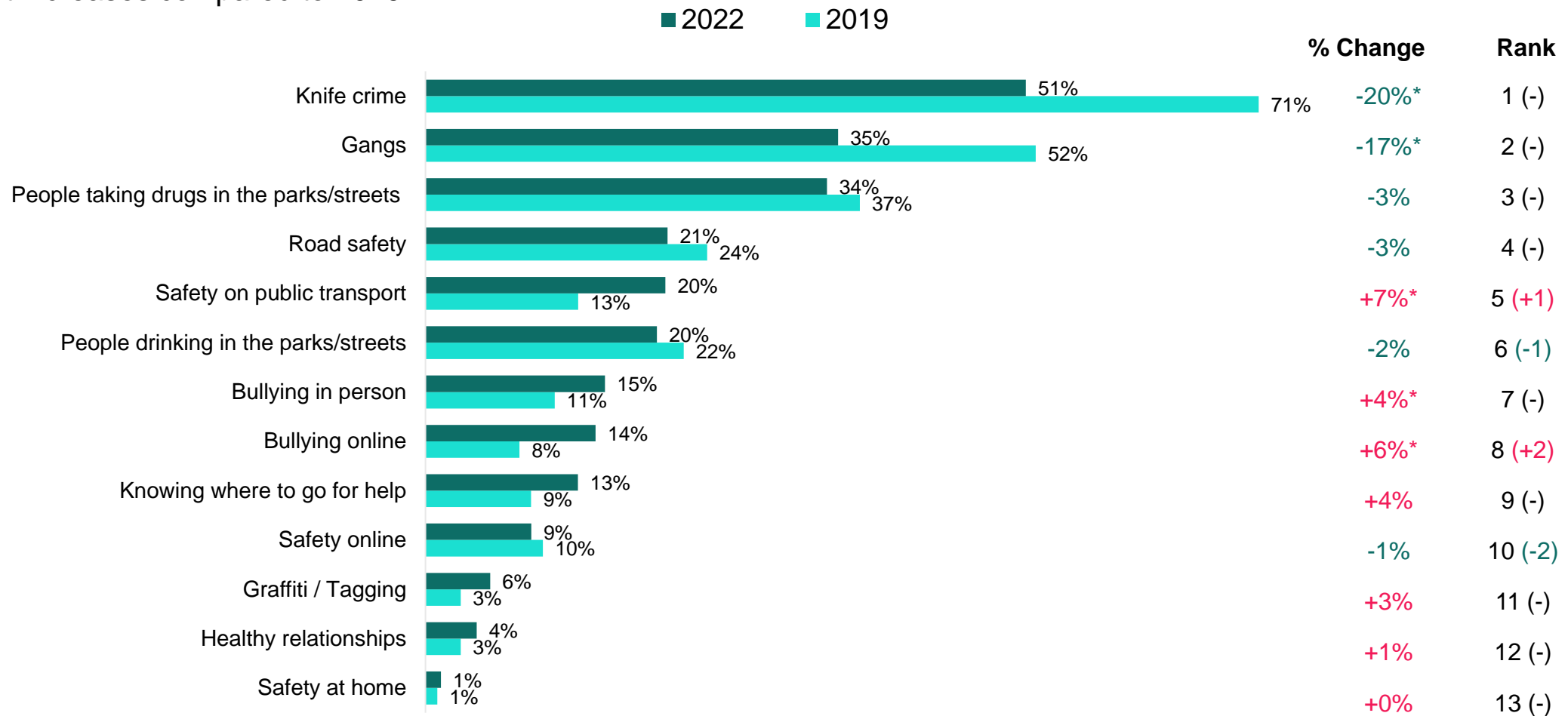
Feelings of safety among young people have broadly improved since 2019. There has been a significant increase in feelings of safety when in local parks, playgrounds and open spaces and when travelling to and from school.



# Young people's personal safety concerns

Knife crime (51%) remains young people's top personal safety concern, but the percentage of young people putting it in their top three concerns is significantly lower than in 2019. Similarly, the level of concern over gangs (35%) is also significantly lower than in 2019.

On the other hand, concerns over safety on public transport (20%) and bullying – both online (14%) and in-person (15%) – have seen a significant increases compared to 2019.

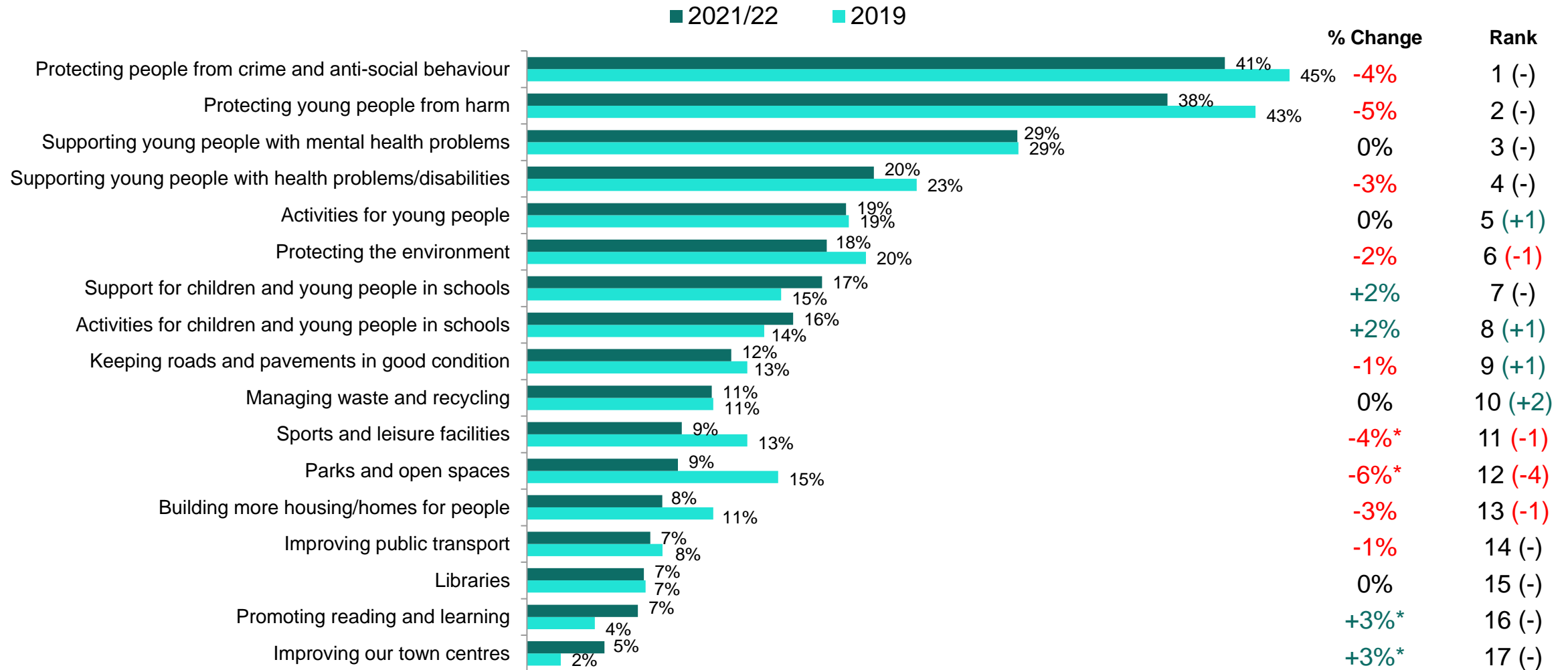




# Improving the Lives of Children & Young People

# Young People's top priority for the Council and Partners

Young people's top priority remains protecting people from crime and antisocial behaviour (41%) followed by protecting young people from harm (38%). There have been changes, for example, parks and open spaces (9%) has dropped from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> most chosen priority.



Question: Where do you think they need to focus the most time and money to make things better for children and young people?

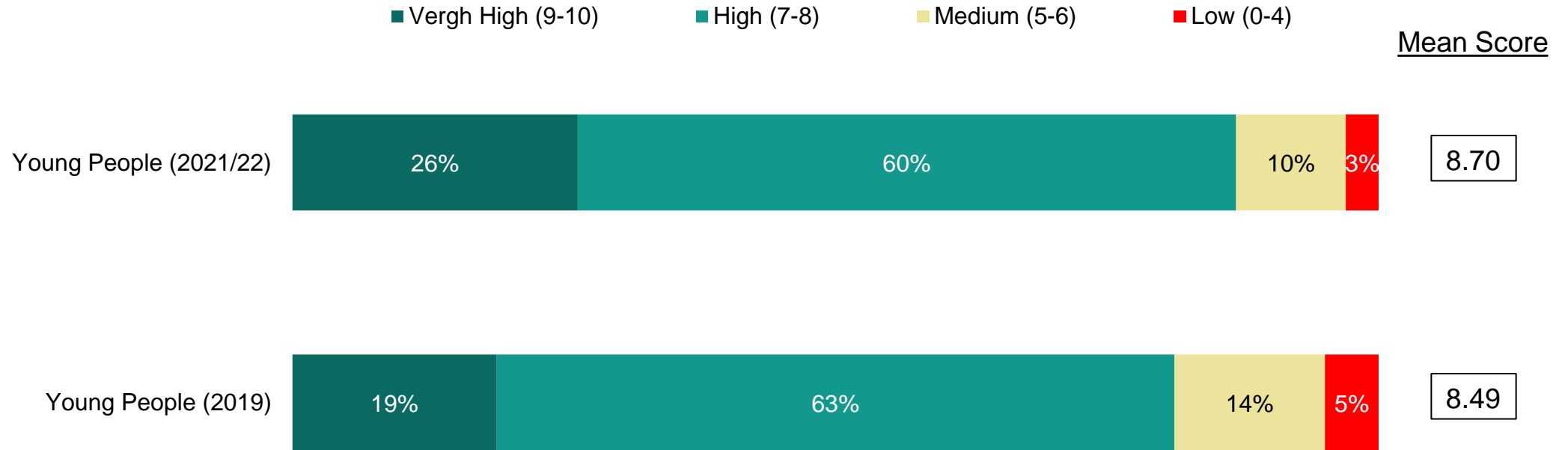
Source: Barnet Council Young People Survey (2021/22) of 500 residents aged 11-18, carried out by face-to-face

# Personal Wellbeing

# Satisfied with life...

Satisfaction with life among young people has improved between 2019 and 2021/22. The percentage of young people with a high or very high level of life satisfaction has increased from 82% to 86%. The percentage with a low level of life satisfaction has decreased from 5% to 3%.

The mean satisfaction score has seen an increase from 8.49 to 8.70.

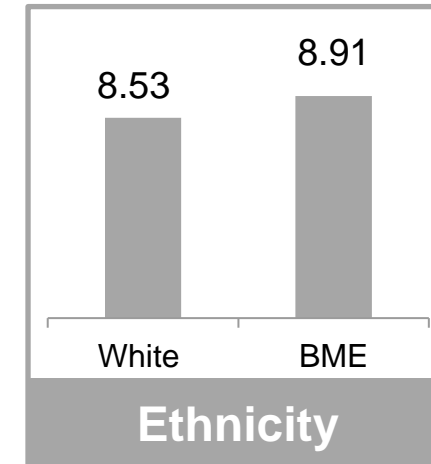
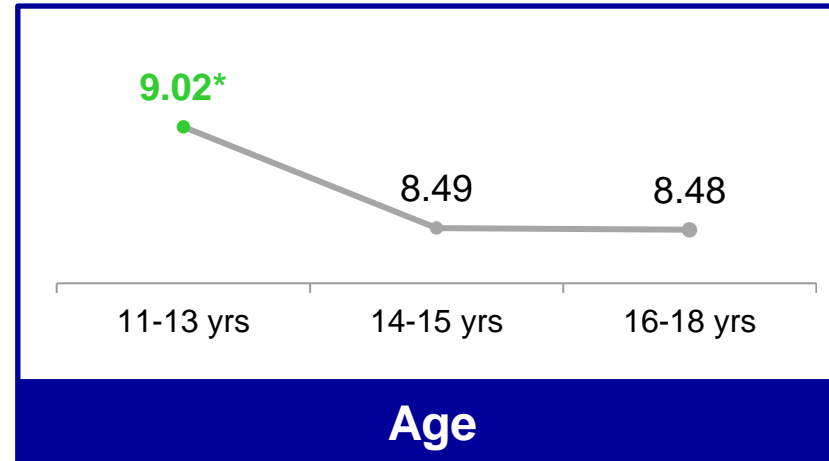


# Satisfied with life...

The mean life satisfaction score for young people is 8.70.

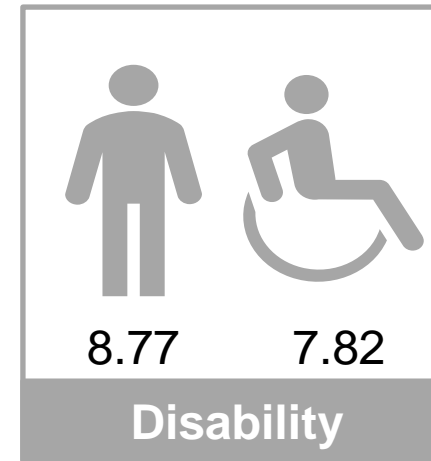
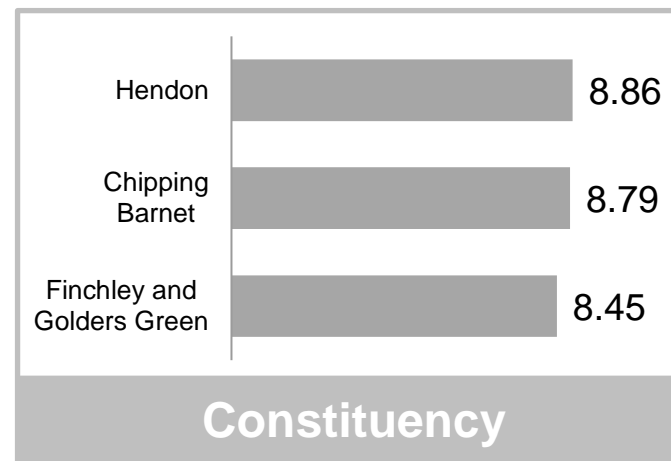
There is significant variation in mean life satisfaction by age, with those aged 11-13 having significantly higher life satisfaction on average.

Young People Survey  
(2021/22)



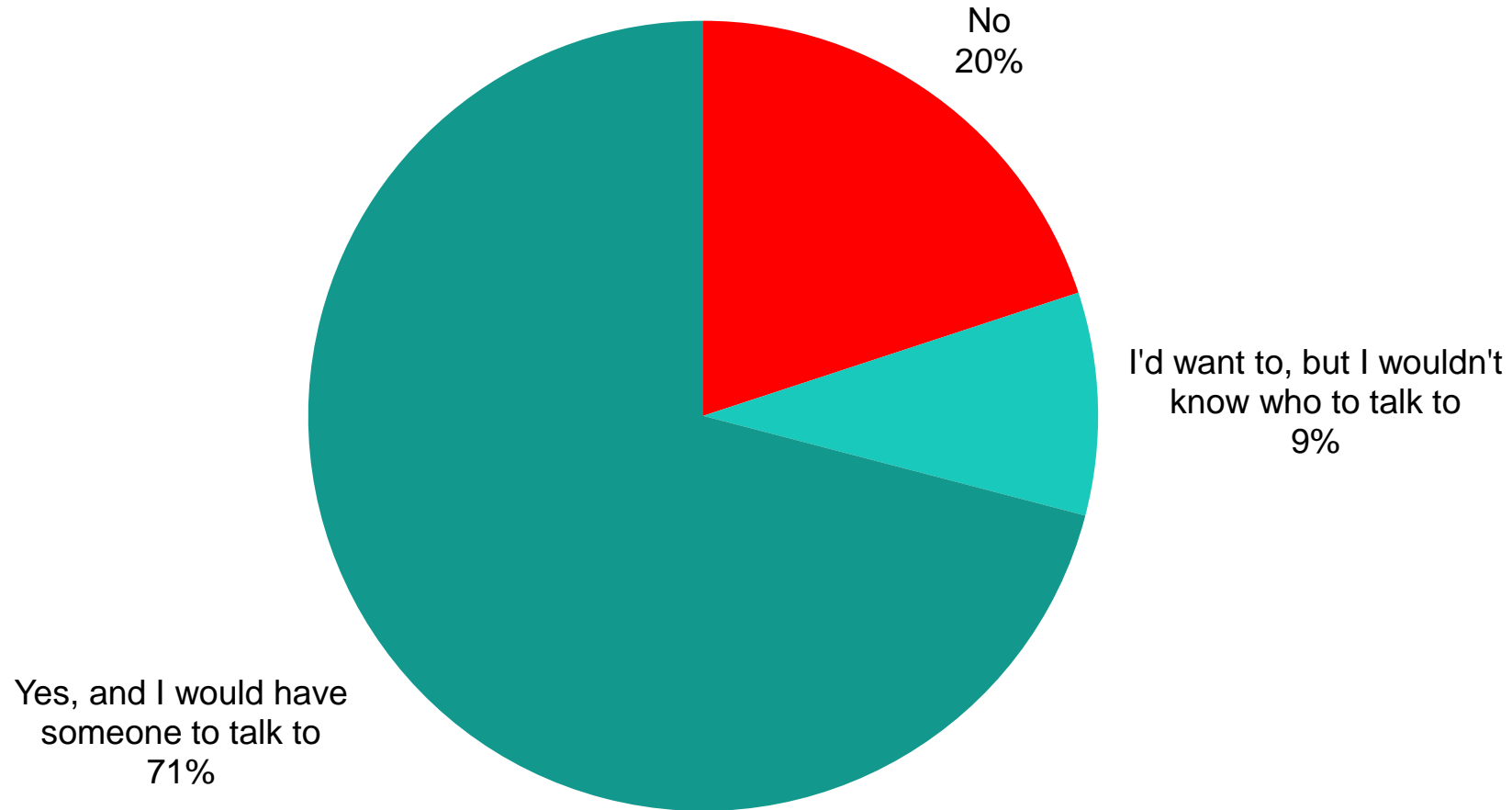
1-3 decile (most deprived)	4-7 decile	8-10 decile (least deprived)
8.75	8.57	8.80

IMD deciles



# Someone to talk to when depressed or anxious...

8 in 10 young people would want to talk to someone if feeling depressed or anxious. However 9% wouldn't have anyone to talk to about it. The remaining 20% of young people wouldn't want to talk to anyone about feeling depressed or anxious.



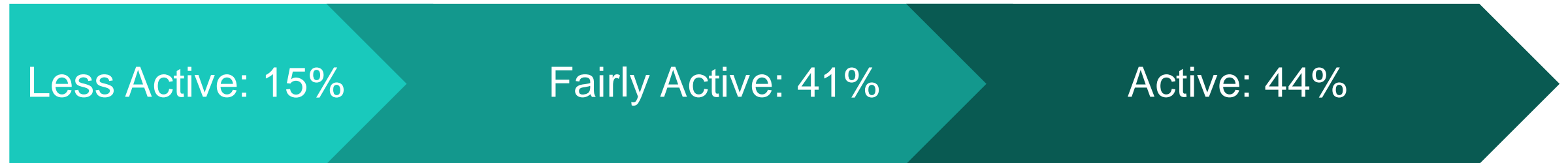
# Physical activity...

**85% of young people are fairly active or active doing over 30 minutes of physical activity a week.**

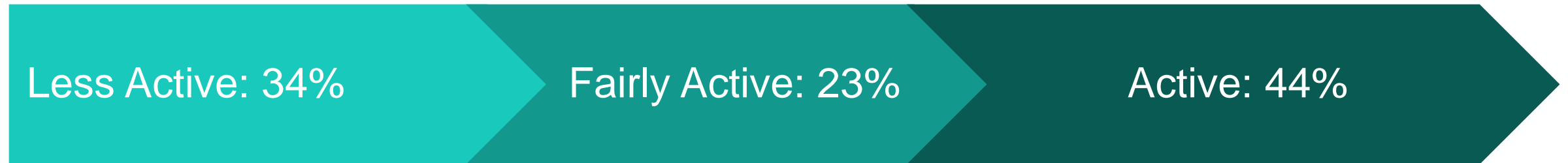
This is higher than the national average (66% - Active Lives Children and Young People Survey Academic Year 2020/21).

However, it should be noted that the national survey was conducted on young people of a slightly different age range and at a different date so comparison should be treated with caution.

## Barnet Young Persons Survey 2021/22 (Ages 11 – 18)



## England 2020/21 - Active Lives Children and Young People Survey (Ages 11 – 16)



**Less Active:** Less than an average of 30 minutes a day

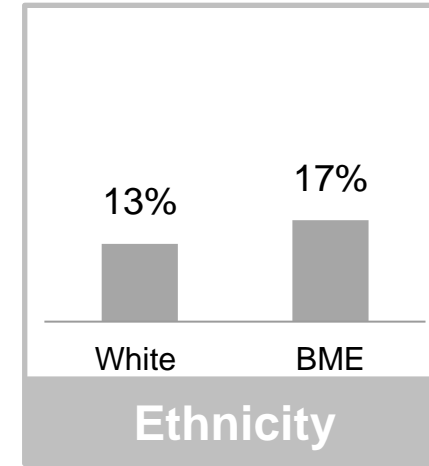
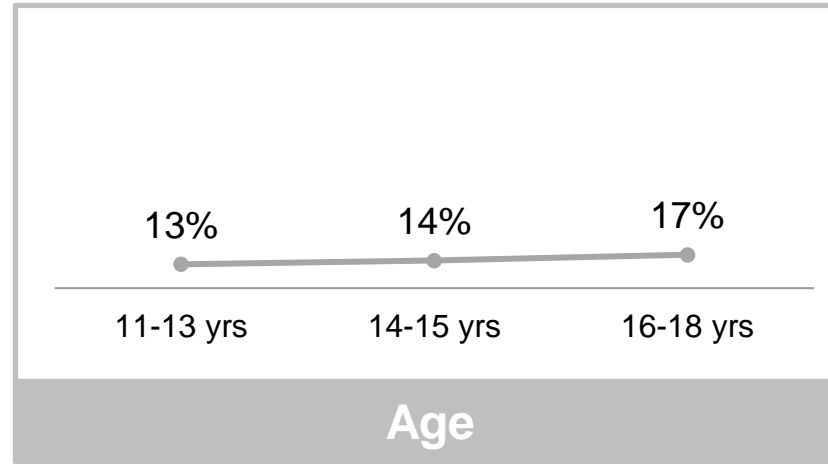
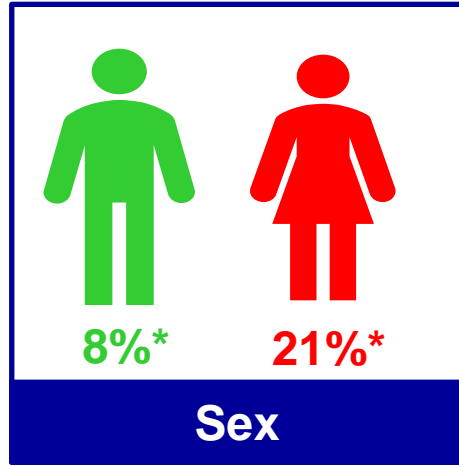
**Fairly Active:** An average of 30-59 minutes a day

**Active:** An average of 60+ minutes a day

# Those who are physically less active...

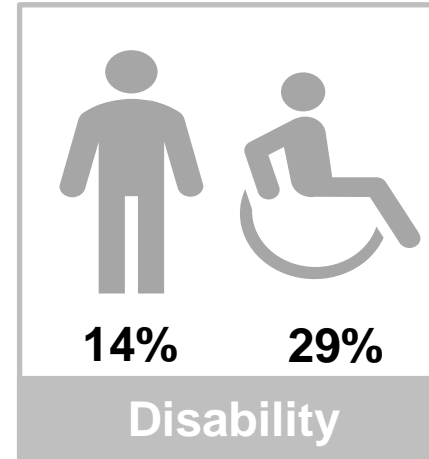
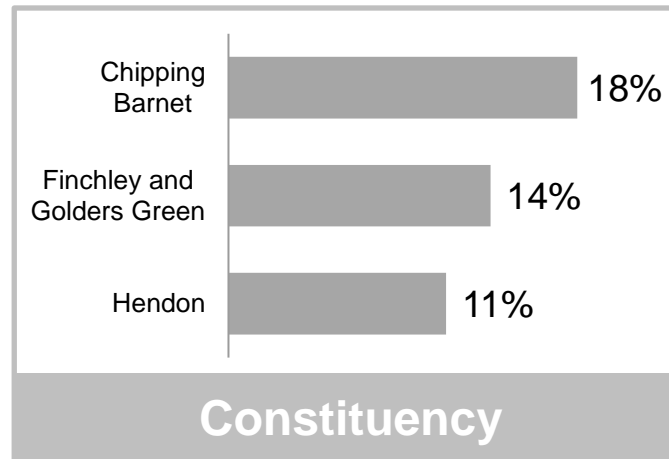
15% of young people are physically less active (doing on average under 30 minutes of exercise a week). There is significant variation in this by sex, with females over twice as likely to be inactive than males.

Young People Survey  
(2021/22)



1-3 decile (most deprived)	4-7 decile	8-10 decile (least deprived)
16%	12%	13%

**IMD deciles**

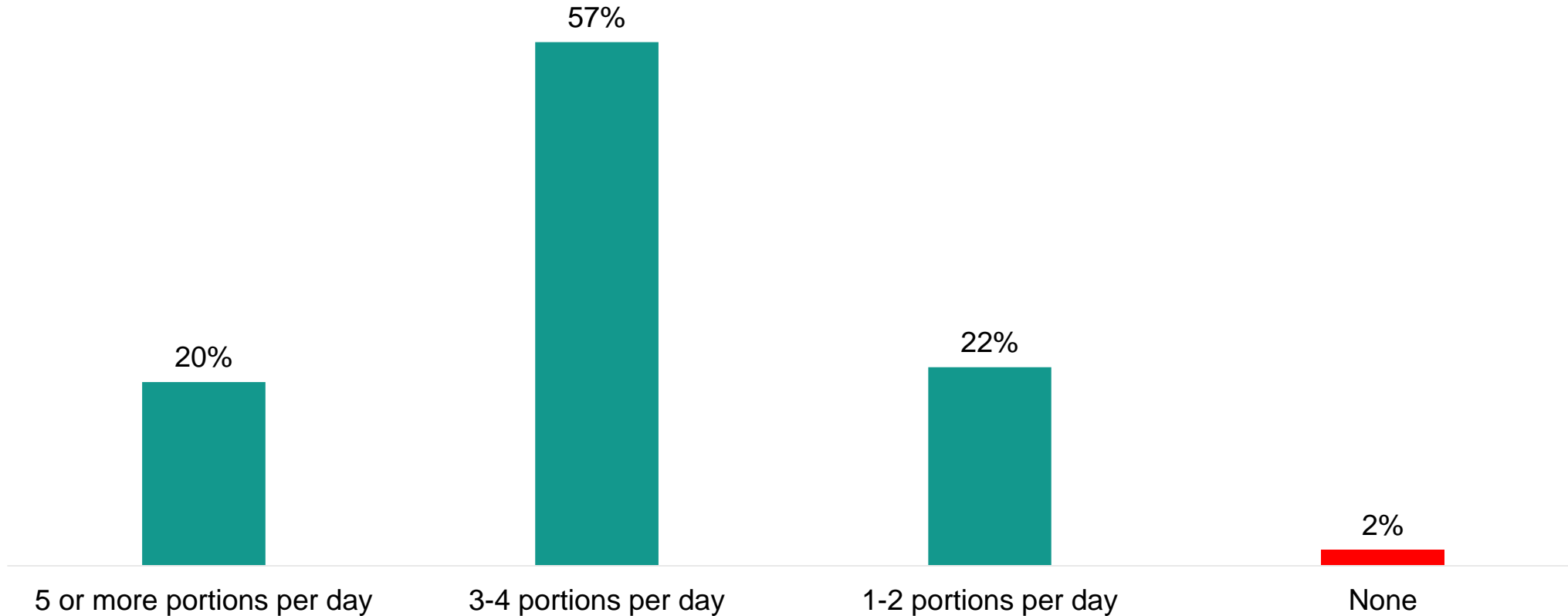




# Eating fruit and vegetables...

**20% of young people in Barnet eat the recommended 5 or more portions of fruit and vegetables each day.** This is in line with the share of children in England that eat 5 or more portions of fruit and vegetables (18%)\*.

Just 2% of young people eat no portions of fruit and vegetables each day.



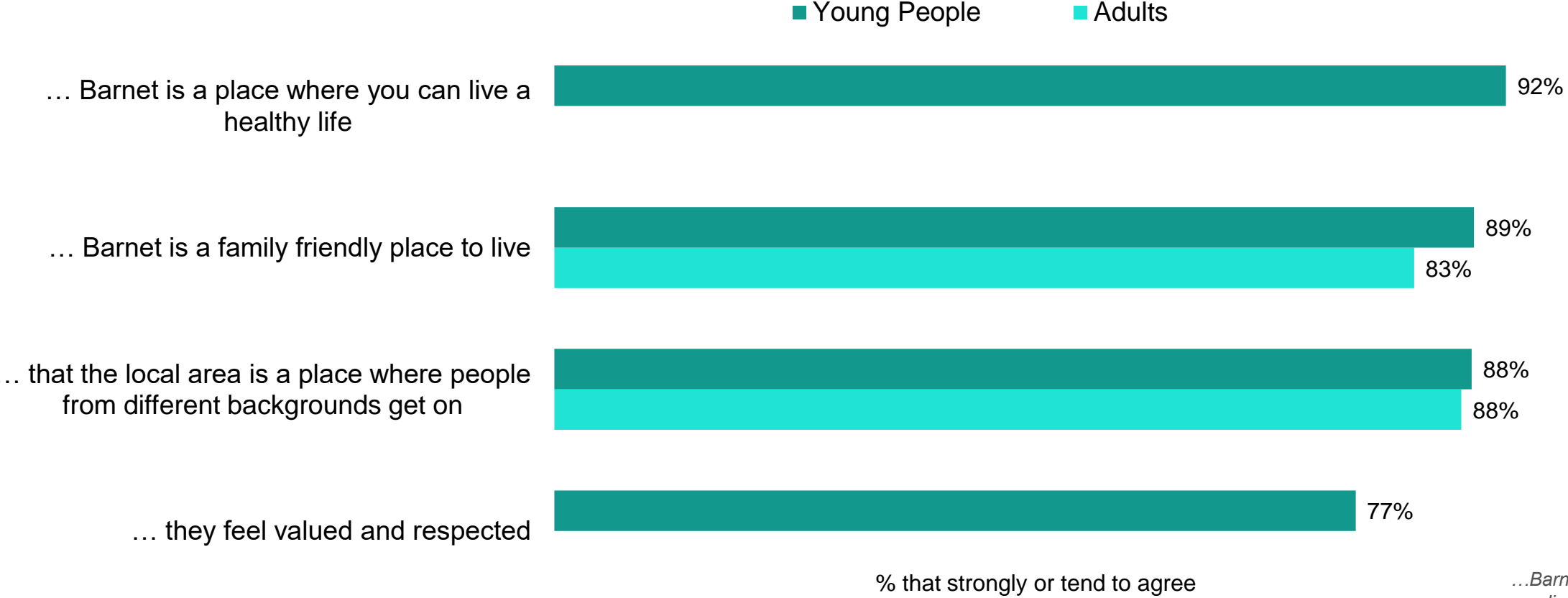
*\*England data from the 2018 Health Survey for England looking at children age 5-15*

# Respect and Consideration

# Community and Cohesion

The majority of young people rate Barnet positively on all measures of community cohesions.

When compared with adults, young people are marginally more positive about the local area being a place where people from different backgrounds get on, but significantly more likely to agree that Barnet is a family friendly place to live.

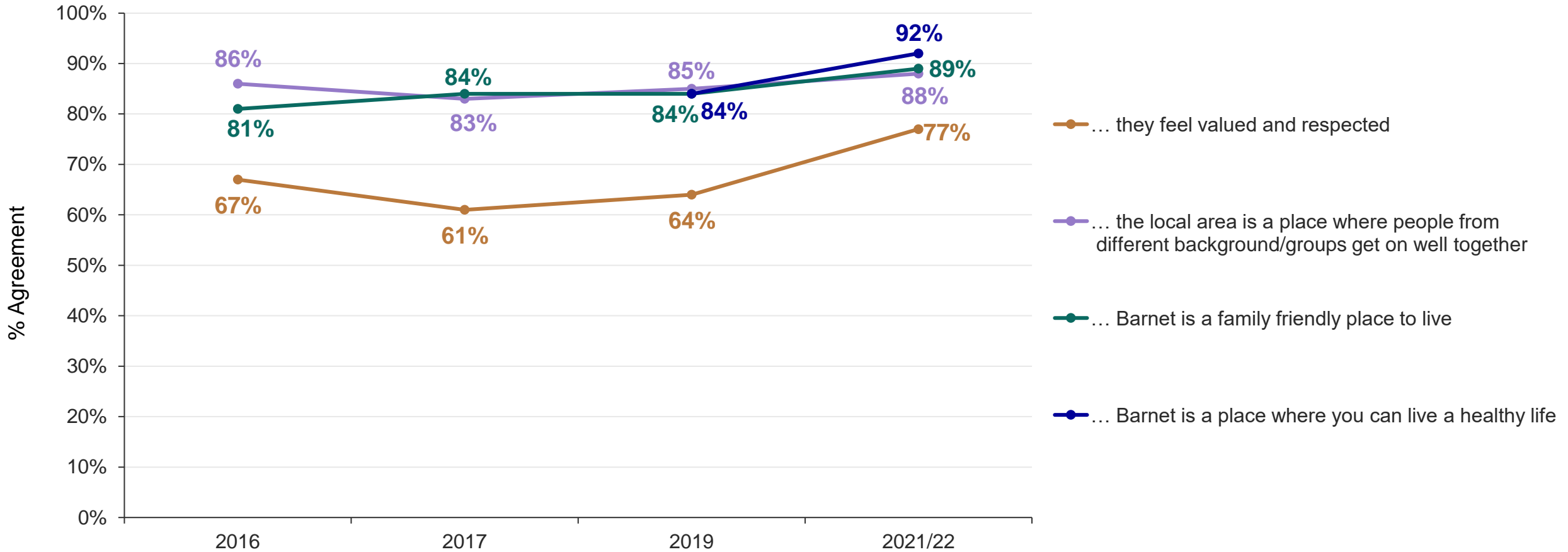


*...Barnet is a place where you can live a healthy life and ...they feel valued and respected were not asked in the adult survey*

**Questions:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that your local area is a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together?; To what extent do you agree or disagree that Barnet is a family friendly place? ...To what extent do you feel valued and respected?; To what extent do you feel that Barnet is a place where you can live a healthy life? **Source:** Barnet Council Young People survey (2021/22) of 500 residents 11-18, carried out face to face / Barnet Council Resident Perception Survey (2021/22) of c.2000 residents 18+, carried out by telephone and face-to-face

# Community and Cohesion – over time

All measures of community and cohesion received a higher percentage of agreement than in any prior survey. There were significant increases in agreement between 2019 and 2021/22 for the following statements: *Barnet is a place where you can live a healthy life, Barnet is a family friendly place to live, and they feel valued and respected.*

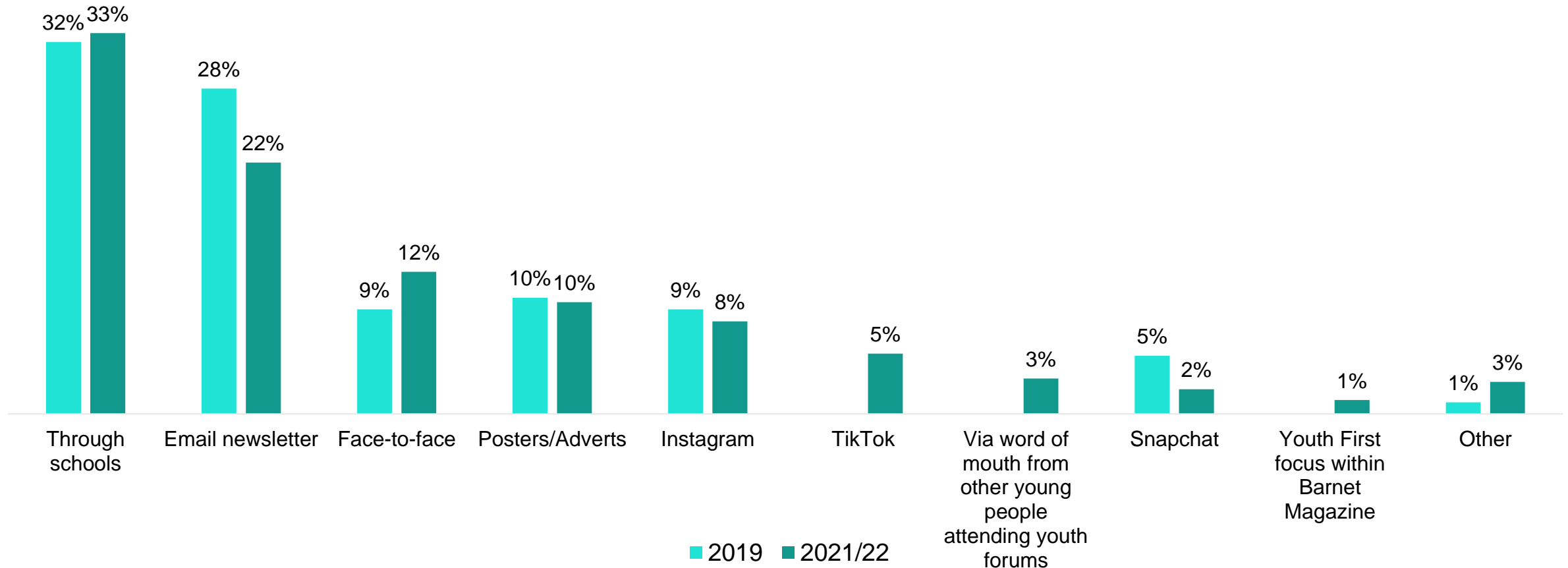


# Communications

# Young people's preferred methods of communication

**33% of young people would prefer the council to communicate through schools, As in 2019 this was the most popular method of communication.**

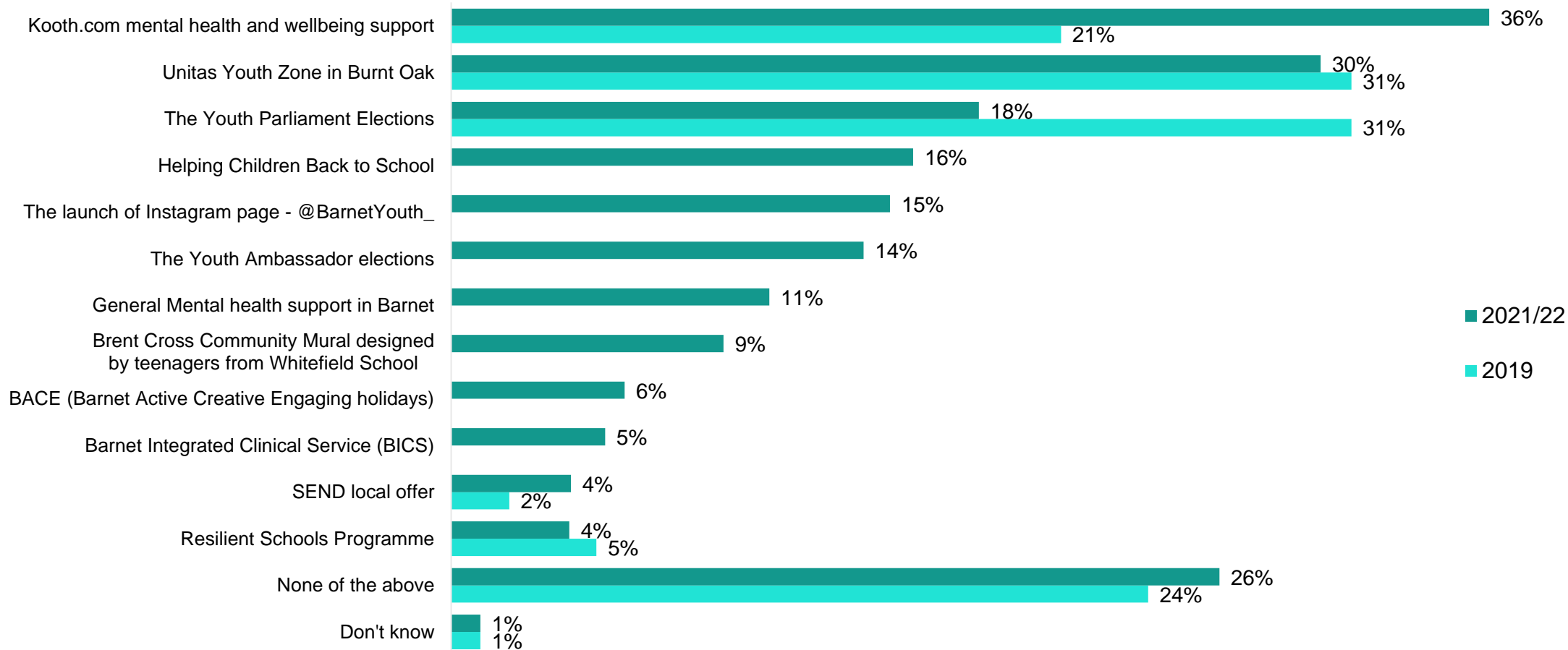
There were two significant changes between 2019 and 2021/22. Firstly, there was a decline in the proportion of young people who would prefer an email newsletter and secondly, there was also a decline in the proportion of young people who would prefer Snapchat as their method of communication.



# Awareness of what the council is doing

Three quarters (73%) of young people surveyed have heard of at least one of the following pieces of work Barnet Council is doing – this is in line with the 2019 survey (75%).

Only a few comparisons can be made with the 2019 survey. A significantly higher proportion have heard of Kooth (+15%) and significantly smaller proportion have heard about the Youth Parliament Elections (-13%).



# Next steps



## Next steps for dissemination and further research

- Full briefing provided to Leader and the Deputy Leader of the council
- Full briefing provided to Leader of the opposition
- All-Member briefing to be offered
- Young people constituency based workshops will be used to gain more in-depth understanding of results, we will also be running focus groups with young people with a disability.
- Information will be used to inform development of a new Children and Young People Plan
- Full presentation will be used to roll out further deep dive presentations to the different Barnet Plan workstreams and also presented to the Tackling the Gaps Operational Group. Each workstream will be presented with key findings that are pertinent for their workstream, however the presentations will ensure each workstream has access to the full set of analysis too
- Sharing of presentation and analysis with CMT

## Next steps for dissemination and further research

- Presentations to be offered to CMTs Senior Management Teams on request
- Findings to be disseminated further to staff via First Team and an all-staff Breakfast Briefing.
- Detailed results, and how the council is acting on the results, will be fed back to residents via <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk>.
- Full press release to be issued
- Featured article on the RPS and YPS results is also planned for the Banet First July paper edition.

# BARNET COUNCIL – YOUNG PERSONS SURVEY 2021/22

June 2022

Research conducted by:



# CONTENTS

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# Introduction

This presentation reports on the main findings from the most recent Young Peoples Perception Survey (YPS) 2021/22. It also includes comparisons to the most recent Adults Residents Perception Survey (ARPS) 2021/22 where available.

The Children's Partnership Board are asked to consider the YPS findings in context: to the Children and Young Peoples Plan and what we are striving to achieve in terms of outcomes; how the results can be used to inform service delivery and next steps.

To aid in these discussions the detailed analysis that has been conducted on the whole data set has also been provided in this presentation, namely:

- Segmentation analysis in terms of key demographics, including protected characteristics
- A breakdown by the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), the measure of relative deprivation for neighbourhoods in England. The IMD ranks every small area in England from the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods to the least deprived 10% of neighbourhoods. In this presentation, the most deprived areas are referred to as 'deciles 1-3' while the least deprived areas are 'deciles 8-10'.
- Constituency analysis.

It should also be noted Family Services has already commissioned the Consultation and Research Team to run a series of Constituency based workshops with young people, and a focus group with those young people who have a disability to help unpack the findings in more detail.

# Methodology and benchmarking

## Methodology

- Barnet Young Persons Survey is a face-to-face quota survey of Barnet residents aged 11-18
- It measures reputation, service and local area perceptions, as well as a range of demographic and usage indicators.
- 500 Barnet young people were interviewed between 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- Confidence intervals for a sample of 500 is +/-4.3% at the 95% confidence interval.

## Benchmarking

- This is the fourth wave of the YPS, the first was conducted in Autumn 2016 and the second in Autumn 2017 and the third in Autumn 2019. The intention is to bring out the voice of young people – what may be important to adults may not be important for young people.
- Where possible, findings from the YPS are also compared with the Adults Barnet Resident Perception Survey (RPS) 2021/22 where a representative random sample of 2,000 Barnet residents (aged 18 or over) were surveyed between 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021– 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. 800 RPS interviews were conducted via telephone and 1,200 were conducted face-to-face.
- This presentation also uses national data from a variety of sources primarily the LGA's national polling on resident satisfaction with councils, which surveyed a representative random sample of c.1,000 British adults (aged 18 or over) between 22<sup>nd</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022. All interviews were conducted via telephone.

# Summary of key findings

# Key highlights

- On the whole, the results show a positive direction of travel on most perception measures – a trend which is also evident in the most recent LGA national polling and the council’s Adults Residents Perception Survey.
- The positive results could be attributed to young people enjoying a ‘feel good factor’ as they come out of COVID-19 restrictions and the return to relative normality. The council has also played an important and high profile role in supporting residents during the pandemic which may have impacted residents’ perceptions of it. However, it is difficult to know how much the positive results can be attributed to COVID-19 restrictions ending and it is important to flag there is a chance that the results for future surveys may return to pre-COVID levels.
- There are, however, some results that have remained stationary or shown a negative direction of travel. The proportion of young people who think the council is doing a good job and providing services young people need has shown small declines. Satisfaction with libraries has also continued to decline year-on-year and is now at its lowest recorded level.
- In terms of the demographic analysis, and in particular equalities, there are some clear themes emerging across questions, where residents are less likely to agree/ less satisfied if they:
  - live in a deprived area
  - live in the constituency of Hendon (in particular with regard safe guarding, crime, and community safety)
  - are White (BAME YP tend to be on average more satisfied)
  - are older (11- 13 year olds tend to be on average more satisfied)
  - have a disability



# Key headlines

## Barnet as a family friendly place to live

**Nine in ten young people feel Barnet/your local area is a family friendly place to live, the highest of percentage of any survey conducted.**

Young people in Barnet are significantly more likely to feel that Barnet is a family friendly place to live (89%) compared to adults (83%).

Residents of Finchley and Golders Green are more likely to agree that Barnet/your local area is a family friendly place to live.

## Council's image

**Most measures of the council's image have improved in 2021/22 compared to 2019.**

Young people think that the council is doing a good job (90%), provides services young people need (81%), do enough to keep young people safe (78%), acts on the concerns of young people (75%), listens to the concerns of young people (73%) involves young people when making decisions (70%) and keeps young people informed (65%).

Those who are BME or aged 11-13 were more likely to view the council highly across a number of these measures.

<sup>†</sup> The rating scale was changed in 2017 to align to the adults survey, year on year comparisons should be treated with caution.

<sup>\*</sup> Change is statistically significant with a p-value lower than, or equal to, 0.05.

# Key headlines

## Satisfaction with the local area as a place to live

**Over nine in ten young people are satisfied with the local area as a place to live (94%). The highest recorded percentage.**

The proportion of young people satisfied with the local area is significantly higher than in adults.

Those from Chipping Barnet are more likely to be satisfied while those who are disabled are less likely to be satisfied.

## Satisfaction with the local services

**Young people are more satisfied with all local services compared to adults**

Satisfaction with some services have significantly improved, this includes: parks, playgrounds and open spaces (89%) up 7 percentage points\* and activities for teenagers/young people (66%) up 8 percentage points\*

Only satisfaction with libraries (65%) was lower than in 2019 but only by 1 percentage point.

# Key headlines

## Top concerns

**Young people's concern with crime (41%) has significantly decreased by 15 percentage points\* when compared with 2019 but remains young people's biggest concern.**

When compared with the 2019 survey there has also been a significant decreases with concern in litter and dirt (29%) down 8 percentage points\*, the lack of affordable housing (12%) down 8 percentage points\*, and the number of homeless people (12%) down 7 percentage points\*.

There have been significant increases in concern in traffic jams/congestion (26%) up 8 percentage points\* and how well roads and pavements are looked after (13%) up 5 percentage points\*.

Concern with the impact of Covid-19 was measured for the first time this survey. 14% of young people were concerned with the impact of Covid. The inclusion of the Covid-19 option may explain some of the relative decline of some other concerns.

## Feelings of safety

**Young people feelings of safety have improved in most situations**

When compared with 2019, there has been a significant increase in young people's feelings of safety when travelling to and from school (90%) up 6 percentage points\* and in local playgrounds and open spaces (87%) up 8 percentage points\* While the percentage of young people feeling safe while out at night remains low (49%) it has increased four percentage points compared to 2019.

# Key headlines

## Top safety concerns

**Young people's top personal safety concern remains knife crime (51%), but the level of concern over knife crime has seen a significant decrease of 20 percentage points since the question was first asked in 2019.**

Those who are between 16 and 18 were more likely to be concerned with knife crime

When compared with 2019, there has been a decrease in concern with gangs (down 17 percentage points\*), but an increase in concern with safety on public transport (up 7 percentage points\*) and bullying online (up 6 percentage points\*).

## Council priorities

**Young people's views on the main priorities for the council and its partners are broadly similar to 2019.**

Their top priority is now protecting people from crime and ASB (41% - a decrease of 4 percentage points), followed by protecting young people from harm (48% - a decrease of 5 percentage points) and supporting young people with mental health problems (29% - the same as in 2019). A number of areas have also reduced in priority, for example parks and open spaces which dropped 6 percentage points\* and sports and leisure facilities fell 4 percentage points\*.

The largest increases in priority were improving town centre (increased by 3 percentage points\*) and promoting reading and learning (increased by 3 percentage points\*) but these remain at the bottom of young people's list of priorities.

# Key headlines

## Community and Cohesion

### **All measures on community and cohesion have increased compared with 2019**

There were significant increases in the percent that think Barnet is a place where you can live a healthy life (92% - increase of 8 percentage points), a family friendly place to live (89% - up 5 percentage points) and that they feel valued and respected (77% - up 13 percentage points)

## Communication with the Council

### **In terms of preferred method of communication, young people indicated they prefer to be contacted by schools or email newsletter**

As in 2019 'through schools' was also the most popular response when young people were asked for their communication preferences (33% - down 1 percentage point compared to 2019), followed by email newsletter (22% down 6 percentage points compared to 2019\*).

## Awareness of the Council's Work

### **Just under three quarters of young people surveyed have heard of at least one piece of work that the Council is doing, which is similar to the level in the 2019 survey.**

The top things that young people have heard of are Kooth.com (36% - 15 percentage points higher than in 2019\*), Unitas Youth Zone (30% - 1 percentage point lower than in 2019), and the Youth Parliament Elections (18% - 13 percentage points lower than in 2019)

# Key headlines

## Personal Wellbeing

**Most young people seem satisfied with their life, this has increased since 2019.**

The mean satisfaction score (0 = not at all satisfied; 10 = completely satisfied) was 8.70, higher than the 2019 mean of 8.49.

Those who are age 11-13 have a significantly higher average life satisfaction.

**8 in 10 young people would want to talk to someone if feeling depressed or anxious.**

Young people who are male, older (14 – 18), and are white are significantly less likely to want to talk to someone if feeling depressed or anxious.

**85% of young people are fairly active or active doing over 30 minutes of physical activity a week.**

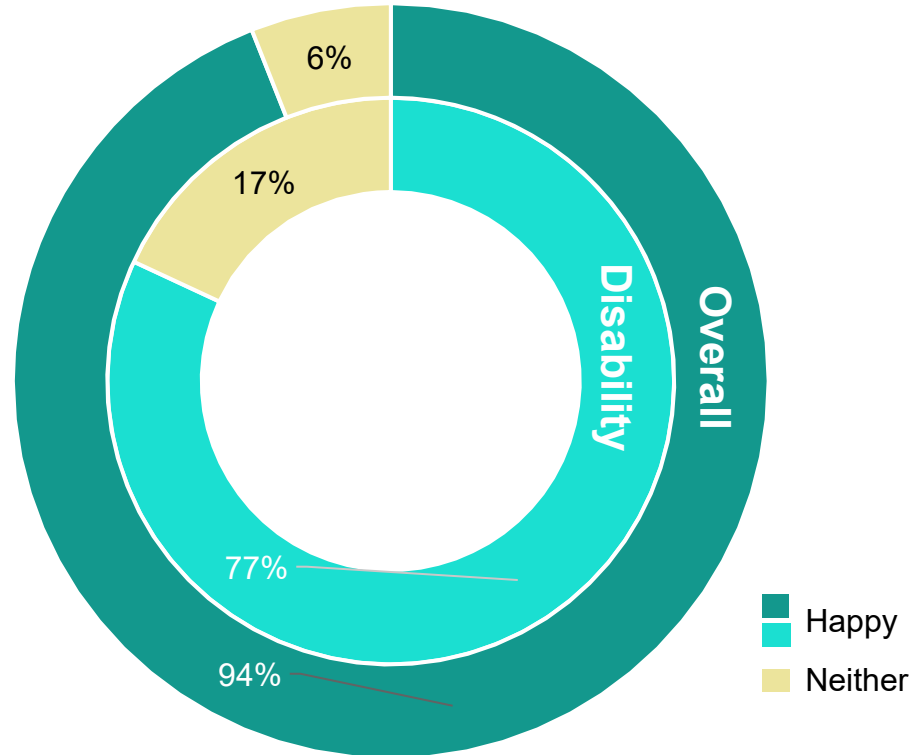
This is a higher percentage than the Active Lives Children and Young People Survey found for young people in England (67%).

However, young people who are female are significantly less likely to be active or fairly active.

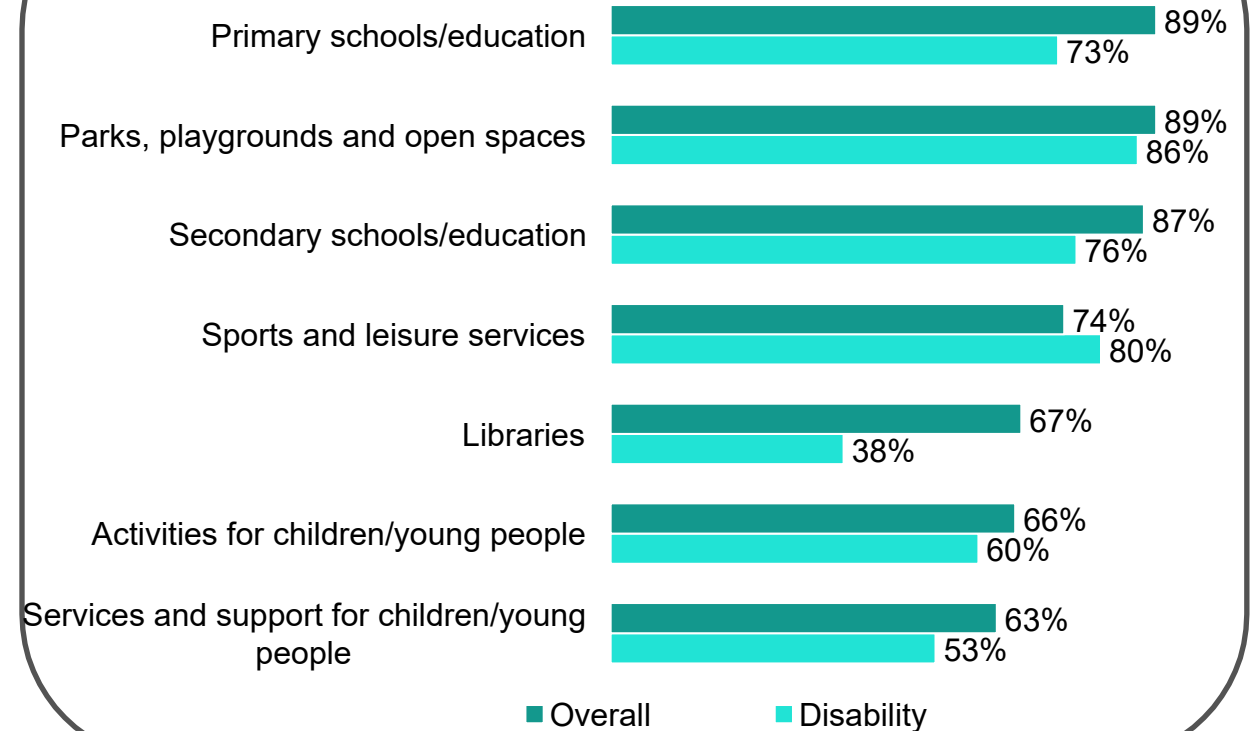
# Summary of disability segmentation analysis

- Those who have a disability are less likely to say they are happy with their local area as a place to live and say they are satisfied with local services (especially libraries).

## Happiness with local area as a place to live



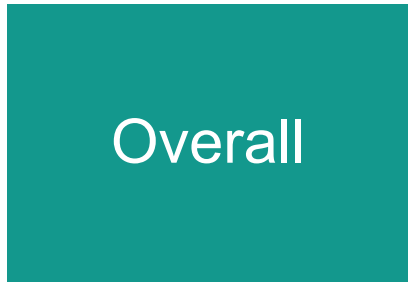
## Satisfaction with services



# Disability

- Those who have a disability are more likely to be worried about how good health services are. A quarter of disabled young people are (25%) worried about the quality of health services.

## Top Worries



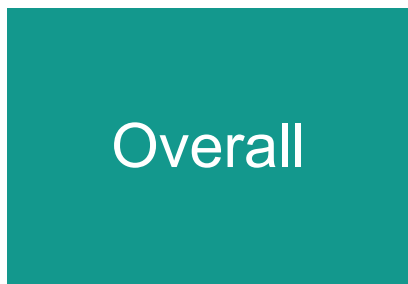
1<sup>st</sup> Crime (41%)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Litter/dirt (30%)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Traffic jams/congestion (26%)  
4<sup>th</sup> Lack of jobs (21%)  
5<sup>th</sup> Not enough being done for young people (21%)



1<sup>st</sup> Crime (42%)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Traffic jams/congestion (29%)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Lack of jobs (26%)  
4<sup>th</sup> How good health services are (25%)  
5<sup>th</sup> Litter/dirt (23%)

- Those who have a disability are more likely to want the council to focus time and money on supporting those with long-term health problems or disabilities and those with emotional and mental health problems.

## Top Priorities



1<sup>st</sup> Protecting people from crime and ASB (42%)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Protecting you people and children from harm (38%)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Supporting those with emotional and mental health problems (29%)



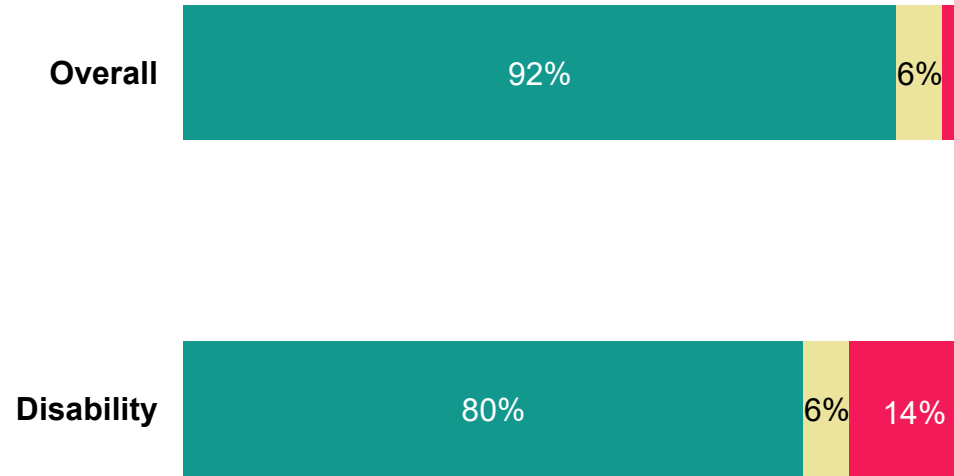
1<sup>st</sup> Protecting children and young people from harm (52%)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Supporting those with long-term health problems or disabilities (50%)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Supporting those with emotional and mental health problems (43%)



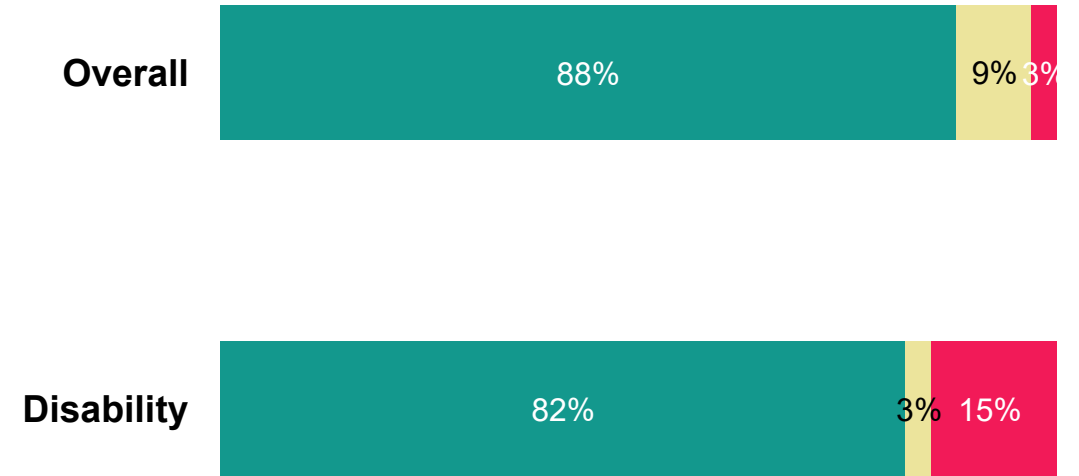
# Disability

- Those who have a disability are more likely to disagree that Barnet/your local area is a place where you can live a healthy life and that the local area is a place where people from different backgrounds/groups get on well together

## Barnet/your local area is a place where you can live a healthy life



## Barnet/your local area is a place where people from different backgrounds/groups get on well together

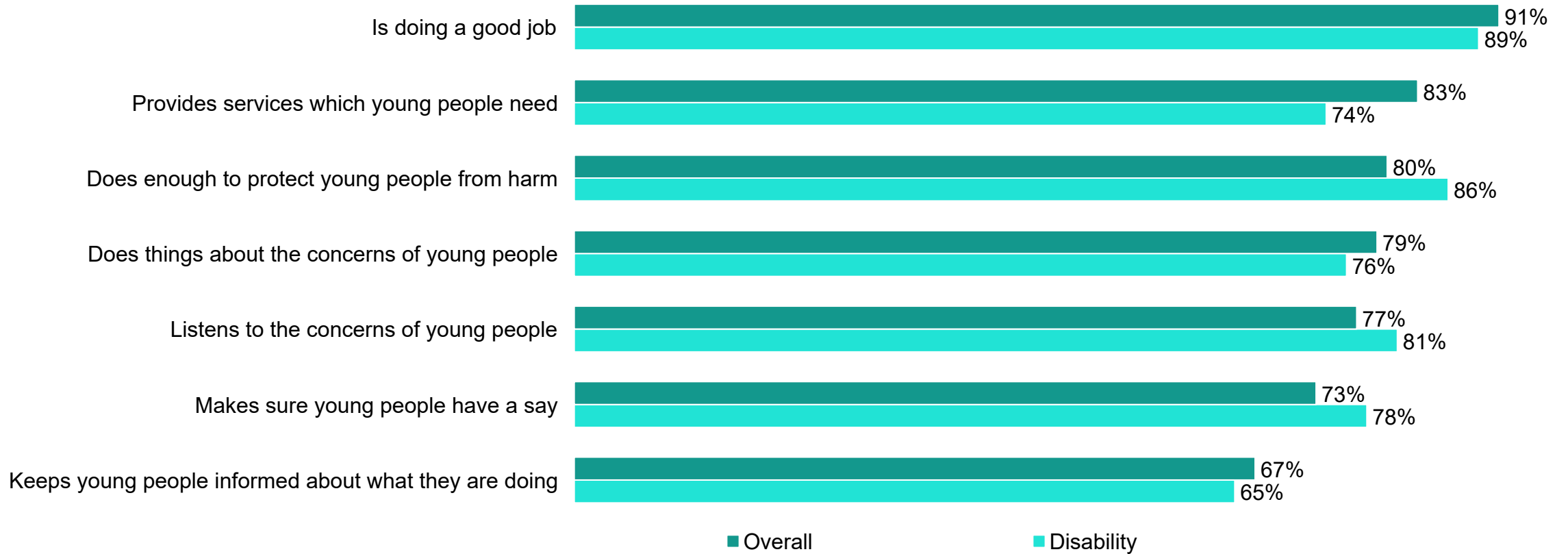


■ Agree ■ Neither ■ Disagree

# Disability

- Those who have a disability are less likely to agree that the council provides services which young people need but more likely to agree that they do enough to protect young people from harm.

## Agreement that the Council is...?



# Key perception measures

# Key perception indicators



94%  
Are happy with Barnet  
as a place to live



89%  
Agree Barnet is a  
family friendly place



70%  
Agree young people have  
a say on things the council  
is going to do



78%  
Agree the council protects  
young people from harm



90%  
Agree the council is  
doing a good job

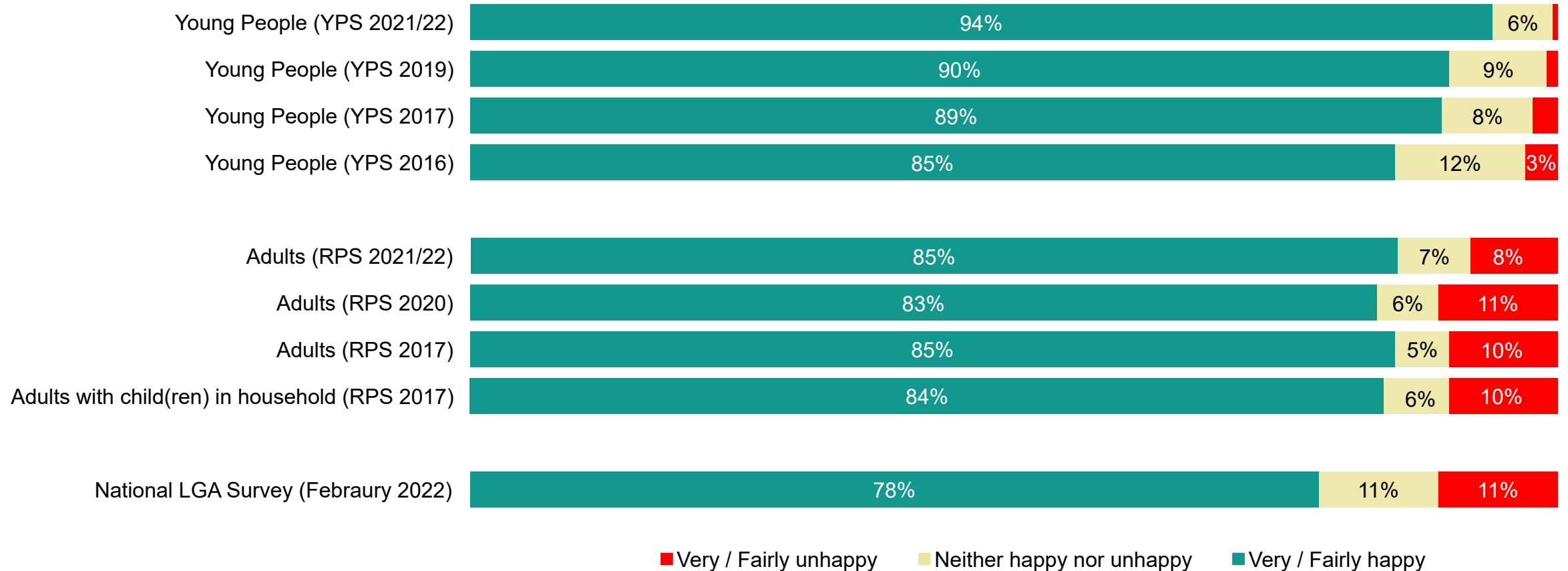


65%  
Agree that the council  
keeps young people  
informed

**Happy with Barnet as a place to live**

# Satisfaction with the local area

The majority of young people (94%) are happy with their local area as a place to live, which is a significant increase on the 2019 YPS and also significantly higher than the 2021/22 result for adults.



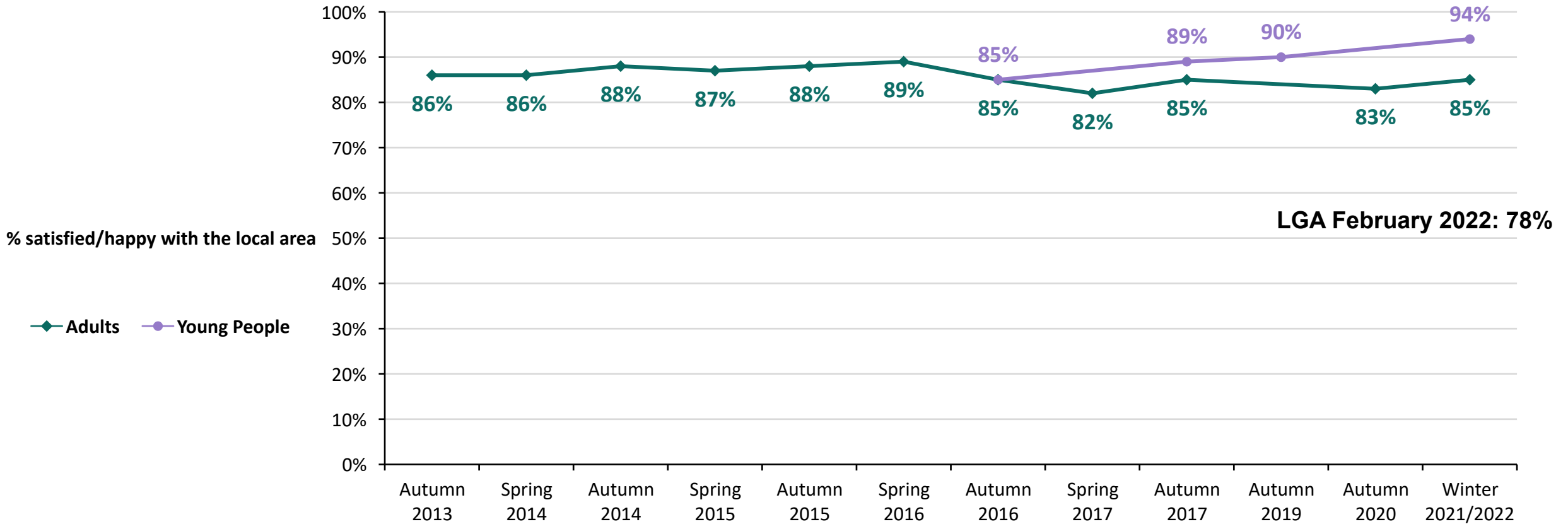
**NOTE:** YPS survey uses a very happy to very unhappy rating, RPS and LGA surveys use a very satisfied to very unsatisfied rating.

**Question:** Overall, how happy or unhappy are you with your local area as a place to live? / Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live? (RPS)  
**Source:** Barnet Council Young People Survey (2021/22) of 500 residents 11-18, carried out by face-to-face; Barnet Council Resident Perception Survey (2021/22) of c.2000 residents 18+, carried out by telephone and face-to-face

# Satisfaction with the local area (long term trends)

Adult satisfaction with the local area has remained consistent and higher than the LGA average for a number years.

**Young people’s happiness with the local area has increased year-on-year and is now 9 percentage points (significantly higher) than the 2021/22 result for adults.**



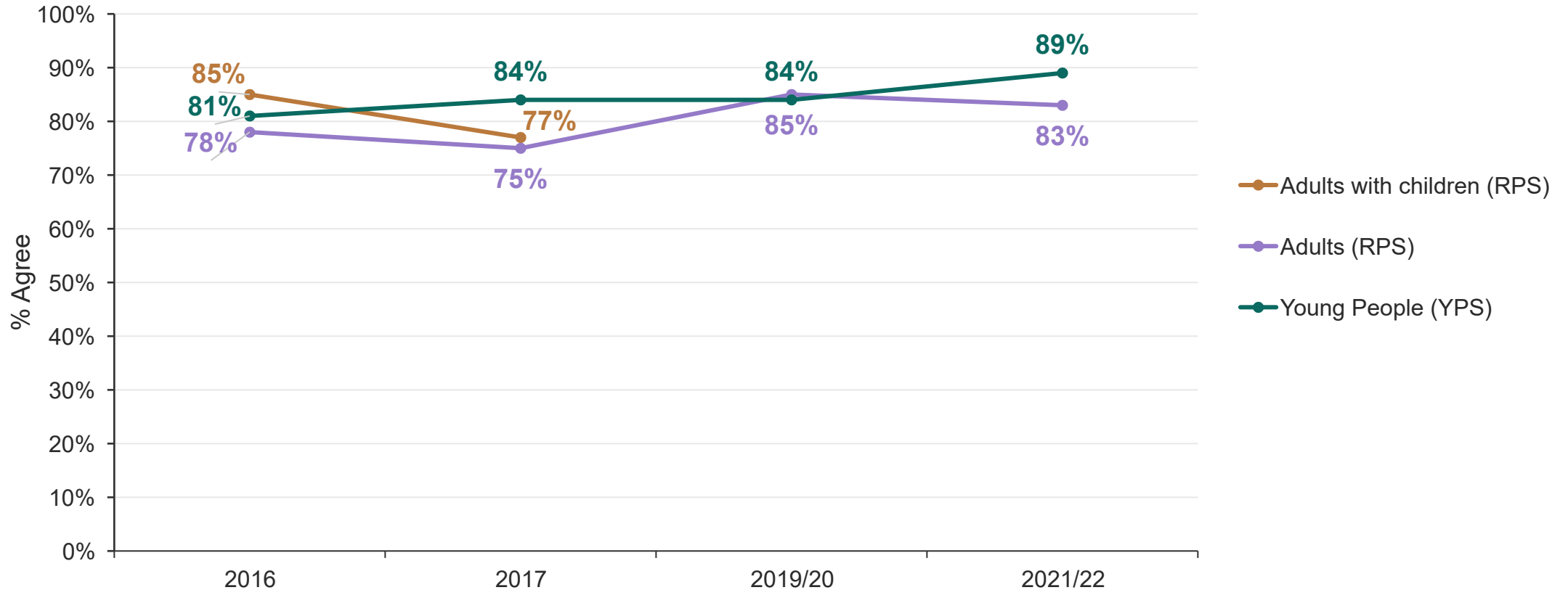
# Barnet a Family-Friendly Borough



# Barnet a family-friendly place to live

The proportion of young people who feel Barnet is a family friendly place to live is significantly higher (5 percentage points) than the previous wave in 2019/20.

When compared with the adults survey, young people are significantly more likely to feel that their local area is a family friendly place to live (+6%).



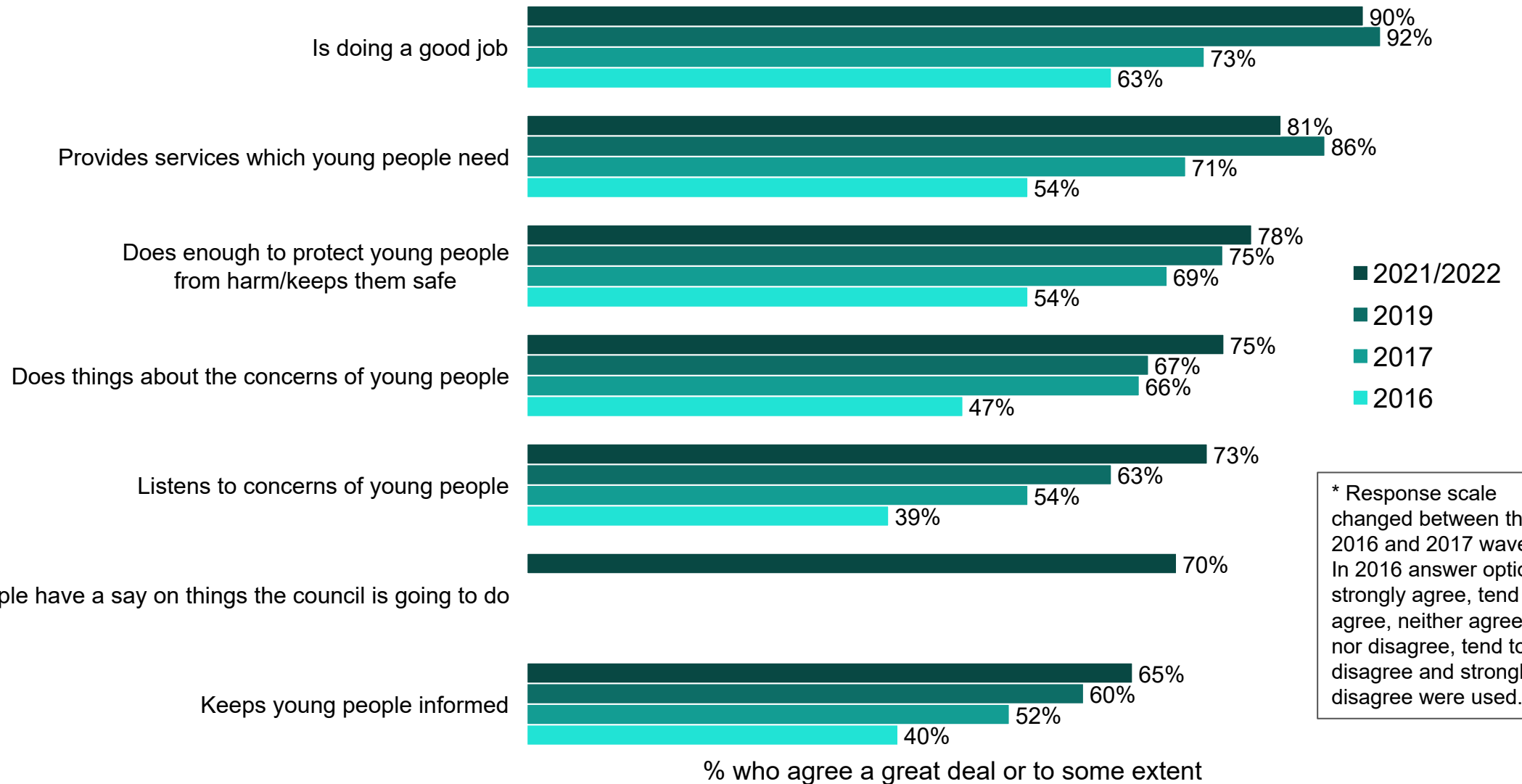
Questions: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the borough of Barnet is a family-friendly place to live? (YPS/RPS)

Source: Barnet Council Young People Survey (2021/22) of 500 residents aged 11-18, carried out by face-to-face/Barnet Council resident perception survey of c.2000 residents 18+, carried out by telephone and face-to-face

# Image of the Council

# Image of the Council – over time

Since 2019 five of the seven measures of the council's image have improved amongst young people.

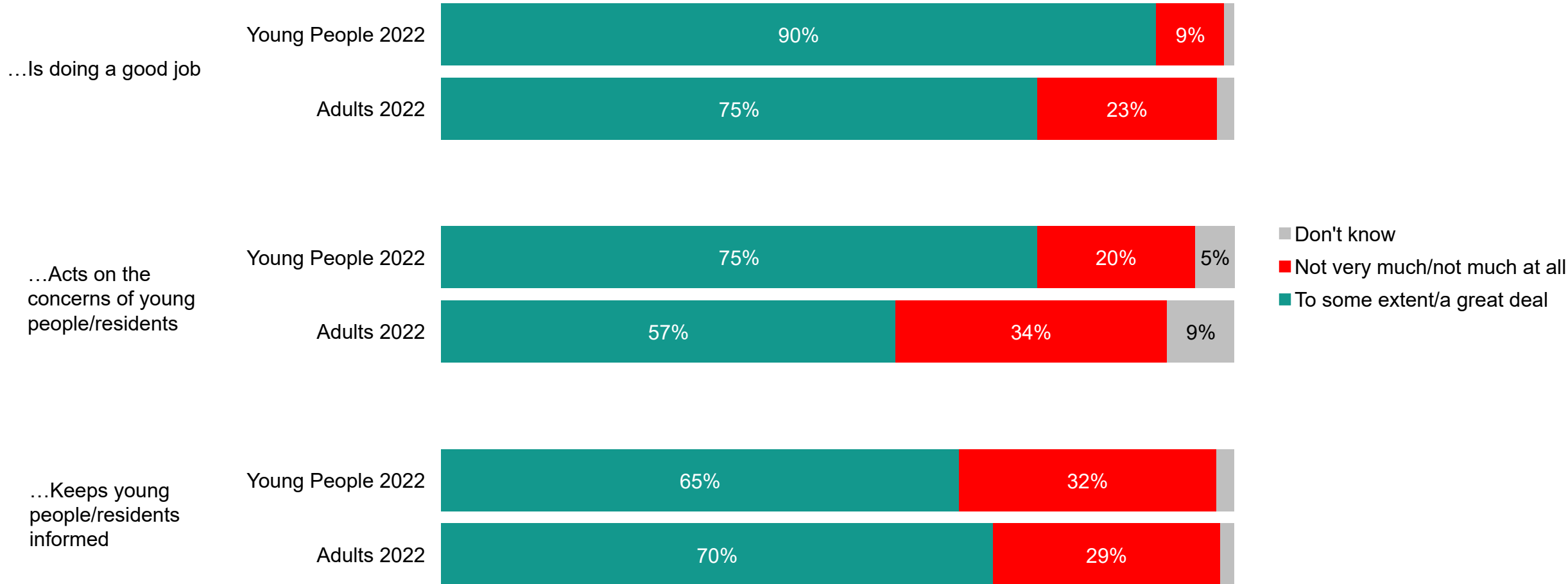


\* Response scale changed between the 2016 and 2017 waves. In 2016 answer options strongly agree, tend to agree, neither agree nor disagree, tend to disagree and strongly disagree were used.

# Image of the Council

There are some differences between adults and young people\* – more young people agree to some extent/a great deal that the council is doing a good job and acts on the concerns of young people. However a smaller proportion of young people agree that the council keeps them informed.

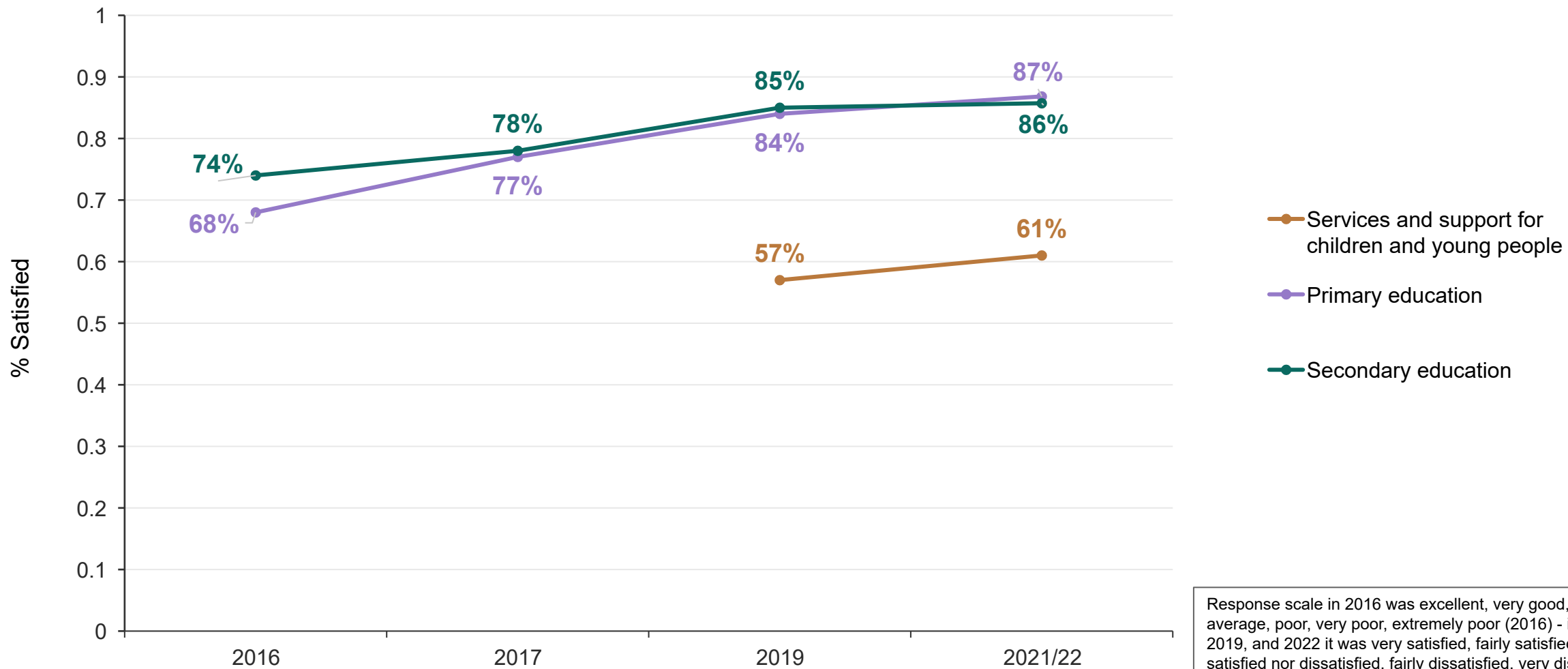
\*The options scale for this question was different for those in RPS. While only 'is doing a good job' can be directly compared with RPS, the rest presented here are for reference - they are not for direct comparison.



# Perception on council services

# Children and family services – comparison to previous years

Satisfaction with services for children and young people as well as secondary and primary education have all seen their highest level of satisfaction recorded.

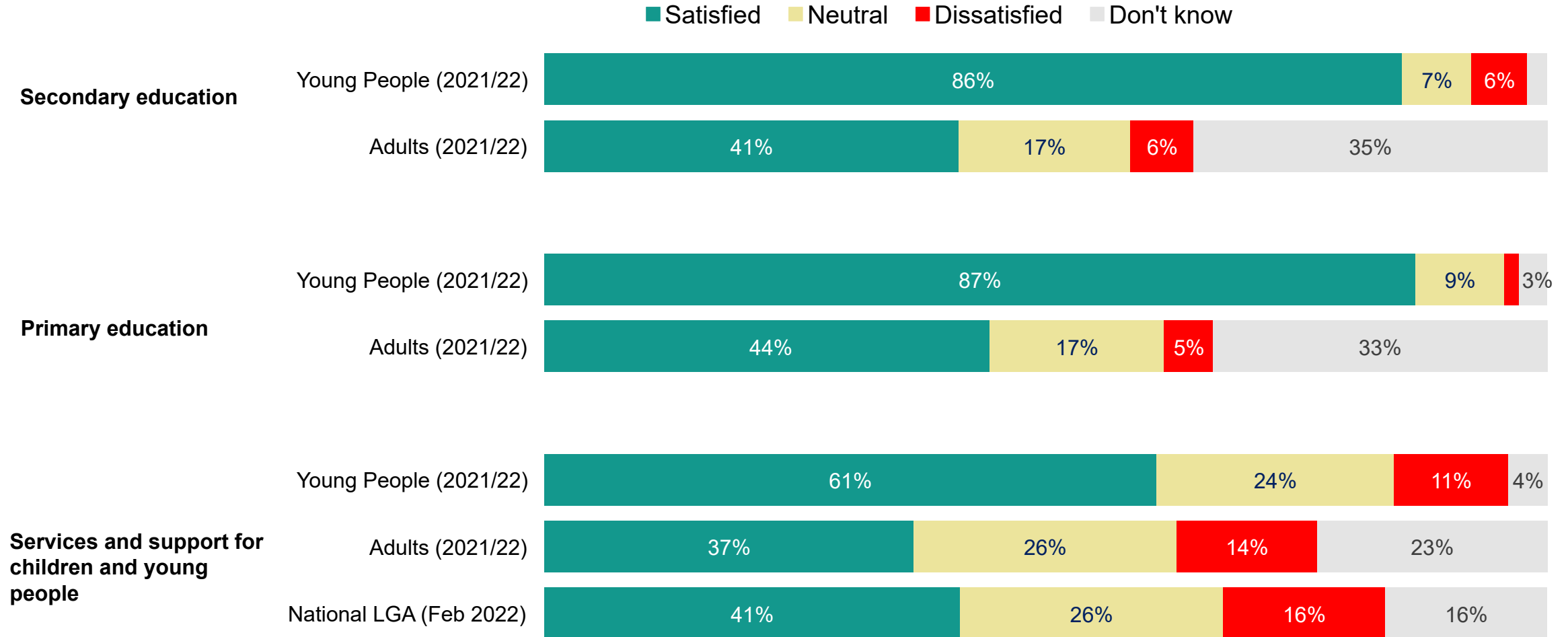


94  
Question: We would now like to know what you think about different services in this area. Please say what you think about these services even if you have not used them yourself (YPS/RPS)

Source: Barnet Council Young People Survey (2021/22) of 500 residents 11-18, carried out by face-to-face

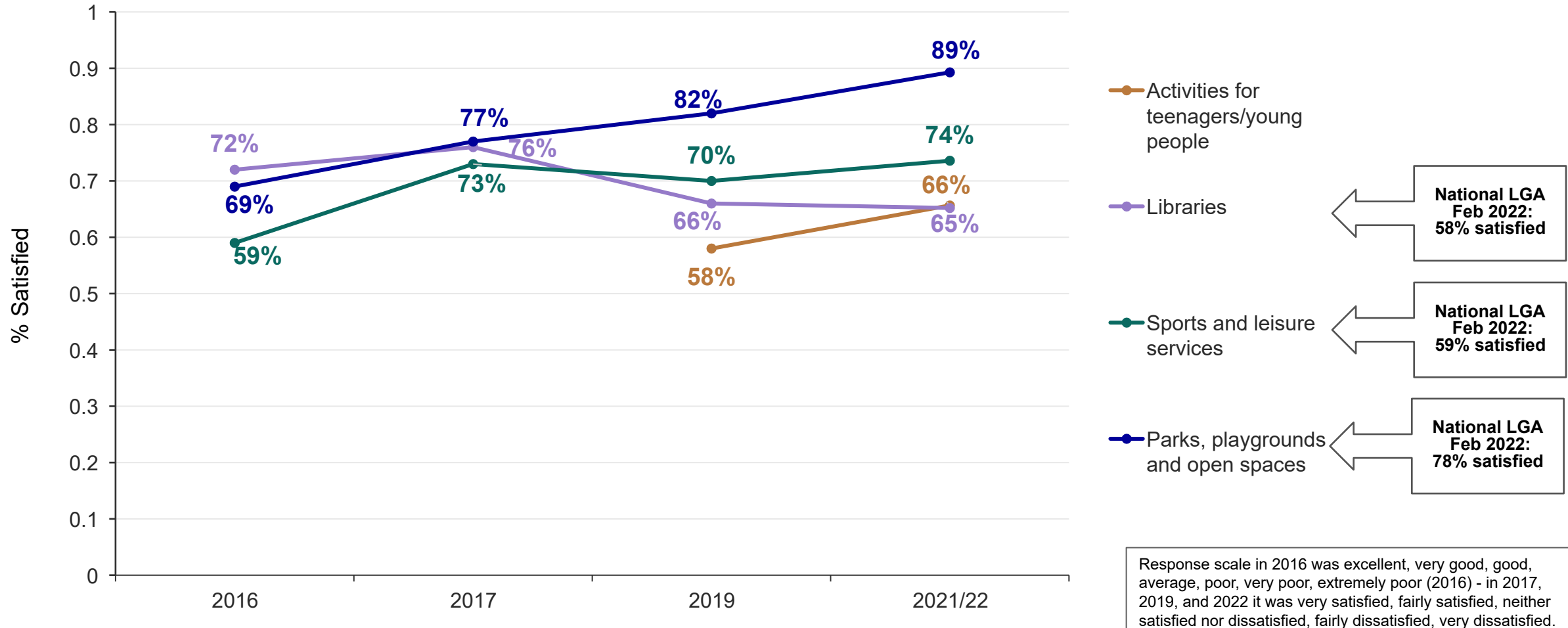
# Children and Family Services – Young People vs Adults

Young people are significantly more likely to be satisfied with all of the council’s children and family services compared to adults.



# Other services satisfaction – comparison to previous years

Satisfaction with parks, playgrounds and open spaces has increased significantly by 7 percentage points since 2019. Satisfaction with activities for teenagers/young people has also increased significantly by 8 percentage points.

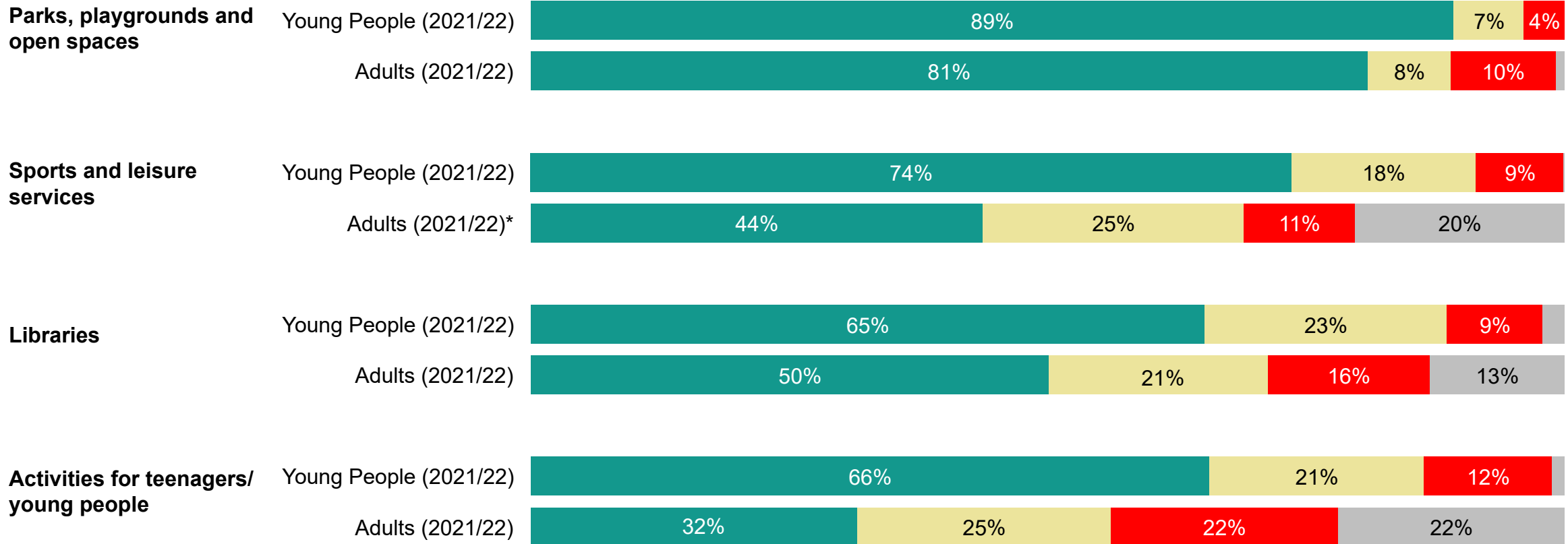




# Other Services – Young People vs Adults

Compared to adults, young people are significantly more satisfied with parks, playgrounds and open spaces, sports and leisure services, libraries, and activities for teenagers and young people.

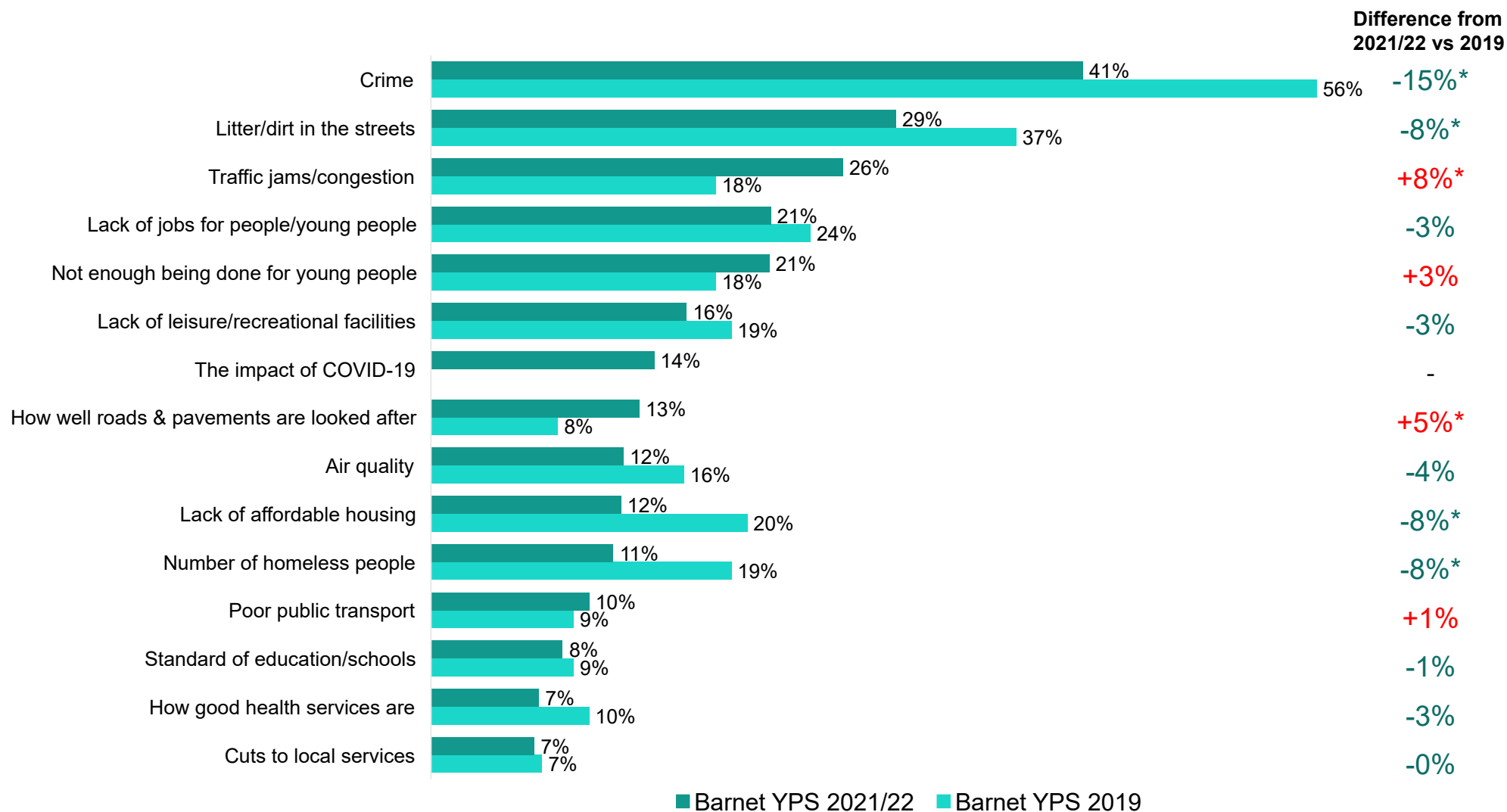
■ Satisfied ■ Neutral ■ Dissatisfied ■ Don't know



# Young People's Concerns

# Young peoples' top three concerns 2021/22 vs. 2019

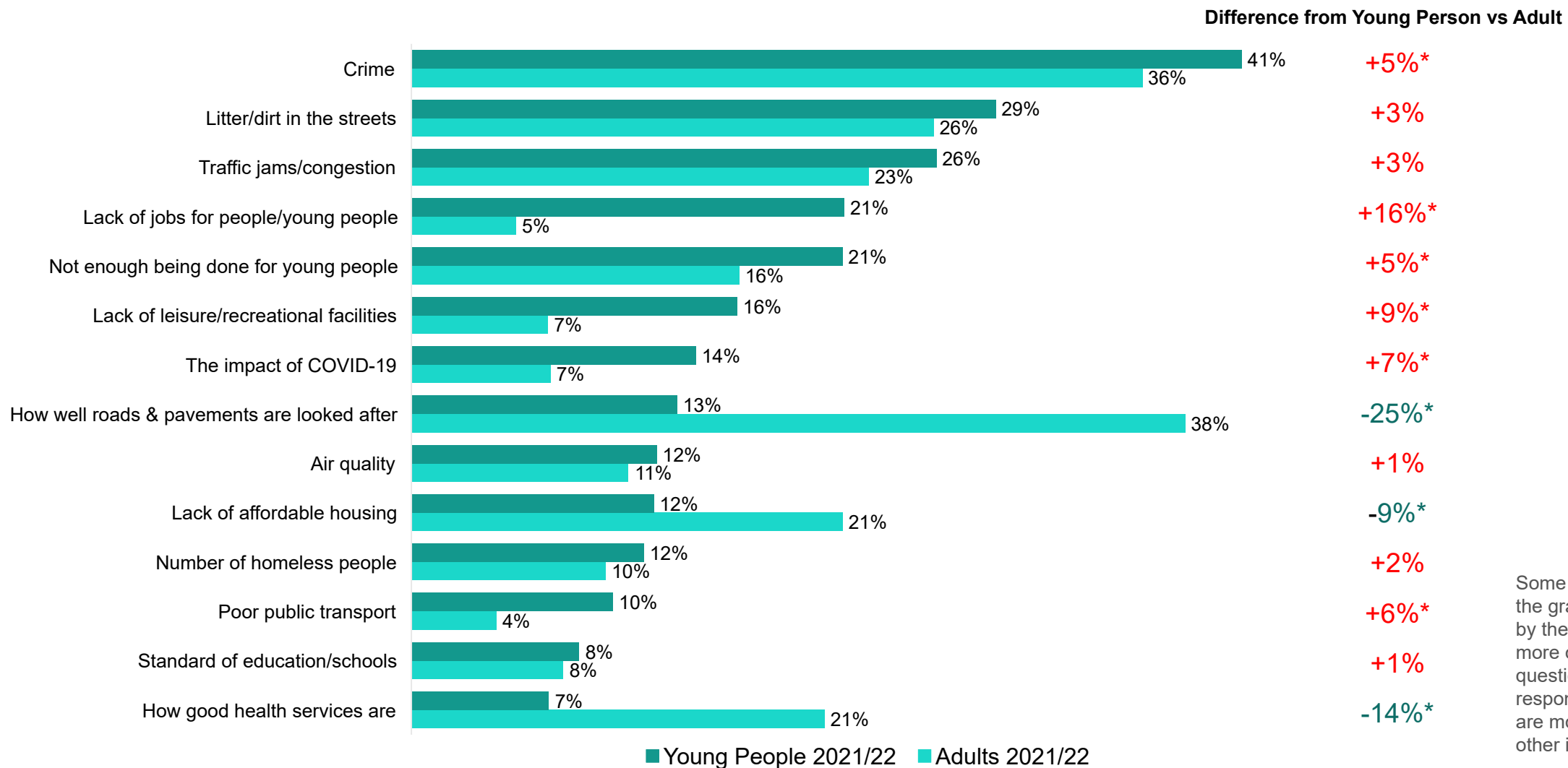
Crime remains the main concern for young people but this has seen a significant 15 percentage point decrease since 2019. Concern over litter/dirt in the streets has also significantly declined whilst concern over traffic jams/congestion has seen a significant increase.



Some of the downward shifts in the graph can be explained by the addition of the new 'impacts of Covid' option – i.e. many have chosen this option, meaning other issues have moved down the list in relative importance, although they still remain a concern.

# Young peoples' top concerns compared to adults

Crime is the number one concern for both young people and adults. But young people are significantly more concerned about crime, a lack of jobs, not enough being done for young people, a lack of leisure and recreational facilities, the impact of Covid-19 and poor public transport.



Some of the difference in the graph can be explained by the RPS survey having more options for this question – meaning respondents three choices are more spread out over other issues

**Question:** Which, if any, of the following are you worried about? (YPS) / Of these, which three things are you PERSONALLY most concerned about? (RPS)

**Source:** Barnet Council Young People Survey (2021/22) of 500 residents aged 11-18, carried out by face-to-face/Barnet Council residents survey (2021/22) of c.2000 residents 18+, carried out by telephone and face-to-face

# Young people's top three concerns by resident constituency

Crime: 41%

Hendon: 45%  
Chipping Barnet: 44%  
**Finchley and Golders Green: 32%**

Litter/dirt in the streets: 29%

**Hendon: 36%**  
Finchley and Golders Green: 27%  
Chipping Barnet: 26%

Traffic jams/congestion: 26%

Hendon: 28%  
Chipping Barnet: 27%  
Finchley and Golders Green: 25%

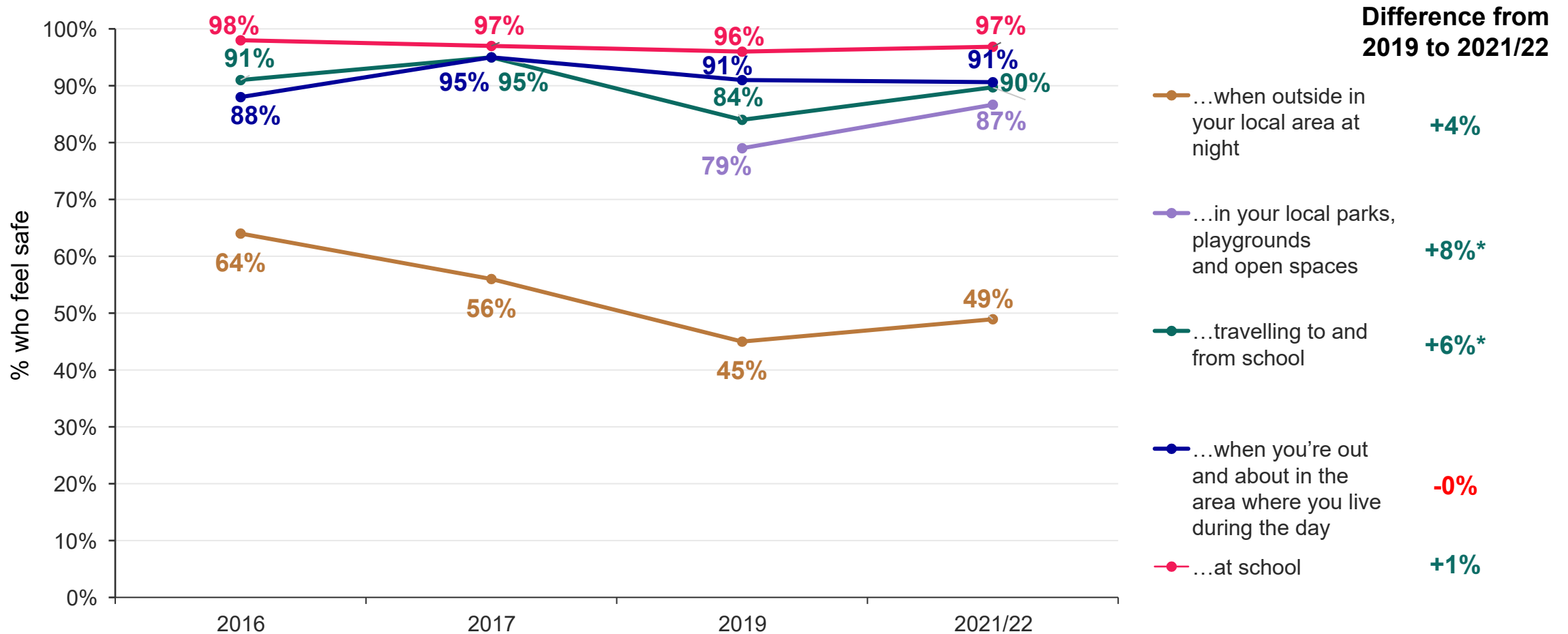
**Green** indicates result is significantly lower.

**Red** indicates result is significantly higher.

# Young People's Personal Safety

# Where do young people feel most safe?

Feelings of safety among young people have broadly improved since 2019. There has been a significant increase in feelings of safety when in local parks, playgrounds and open spaces and when travelling to and from school.



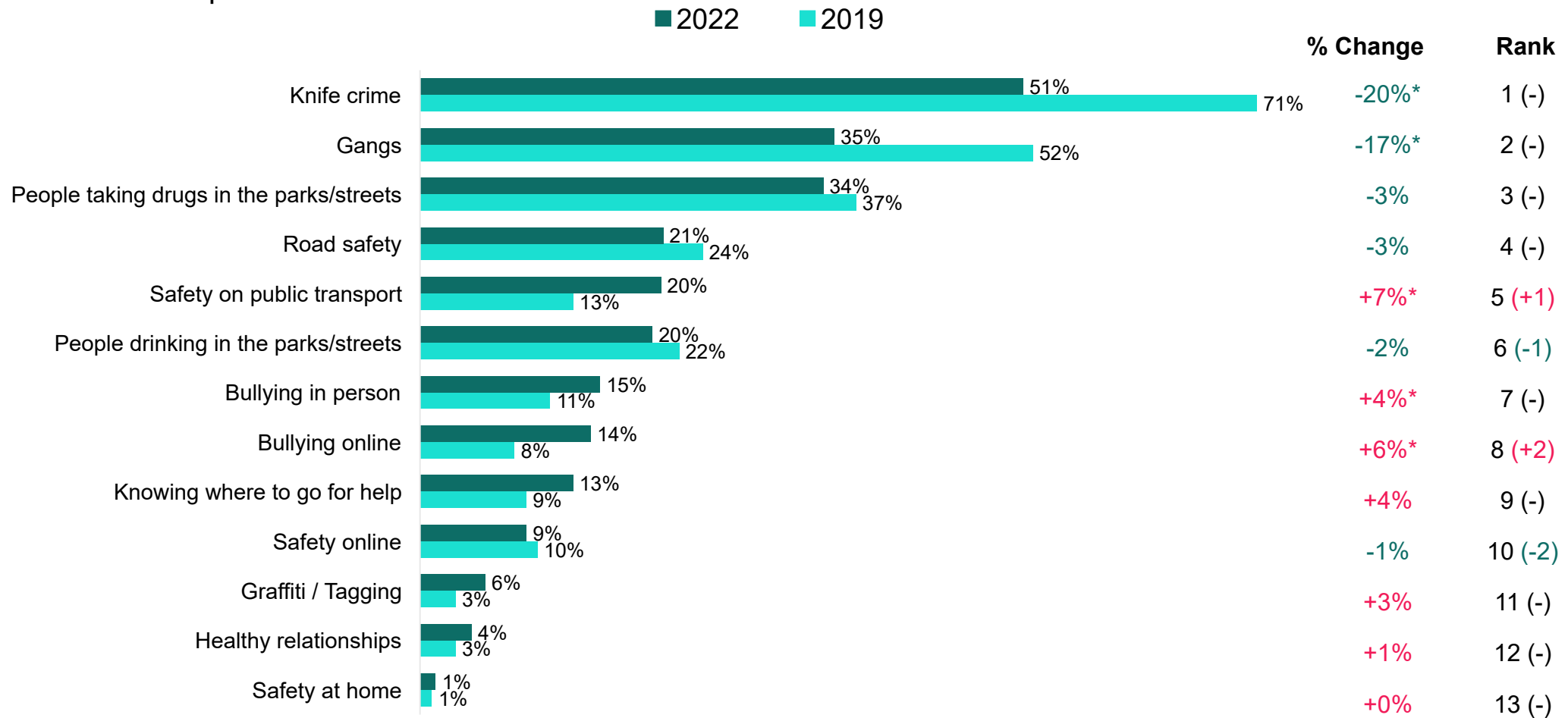
Question: Thinking about your local area, how safe/unsafe do you feel...

Source: Barnet Council Young People Survey (2021/2022) of 500 residents aged 11-18, carried out by face-to-face.

# Young people's personal safety concerns

Knife crime (51%) remains young people's top personal safety concern, but the percentage of young people putting it in their top three concerns is significantly lower than in 2019. Similarly, the level of concern over gangs (35%) is also significantly lower than in 2019.

On the other hand, concerns over safety on public transport (20%) and bullying – both online (14%) and in-person (15%) – have seen a significant increases compared to 2019.



**Question:** Thinking about your own safety, what issues are you most concerned about? Respondents chose up to three most significant concerns.

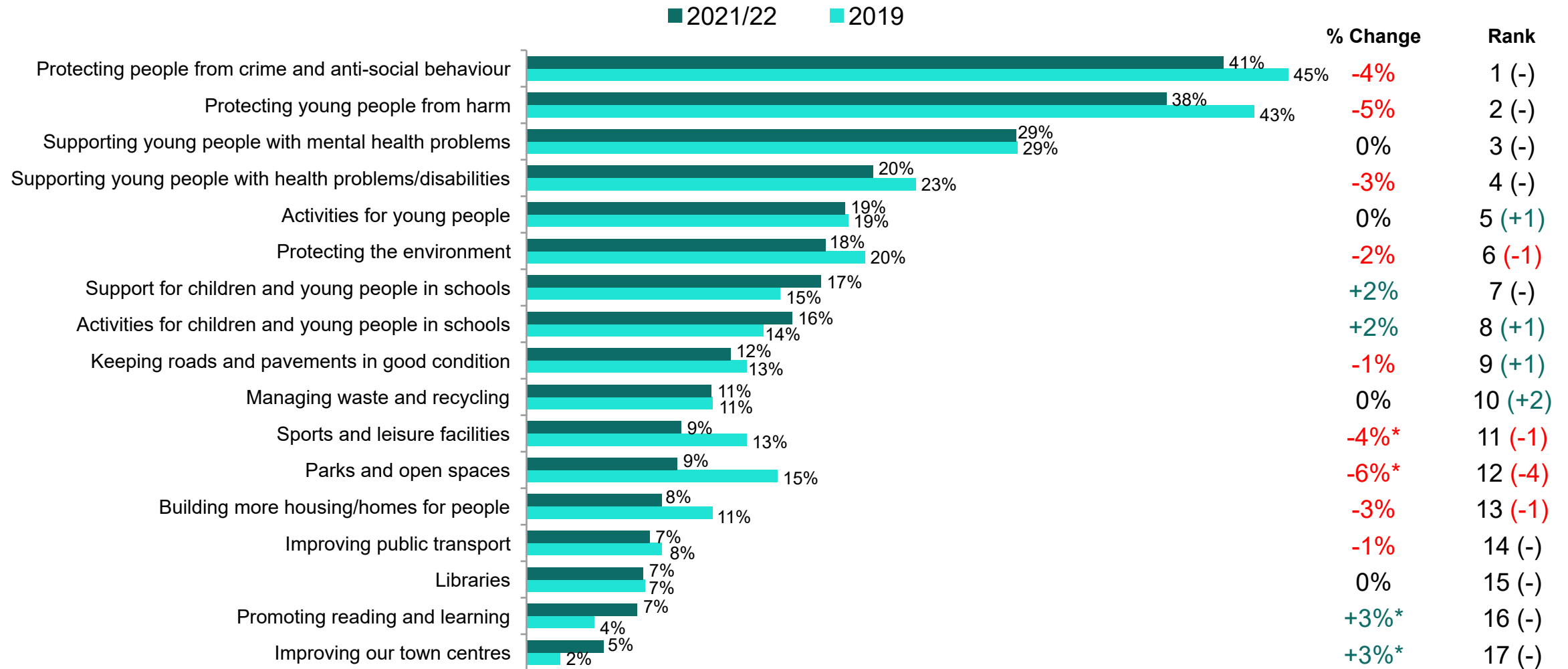
**Source:** Barnet Council Young People Survey (2021/22) of 500 residents 11-18, carried out by face-to-face



# Improving the Lives of Children & Young People

# Young People's top priority for the Council and Partners

Young people's top priority remains protecting people from crime and antisocial behaviour (41%) followed by protecting young people from harm (38%). There have been changes, for example, parks and open spaces (9%) has dropped from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> most chosen priority.



Question: Where do you think they need to focus the most time and money to make things better for children and young people?

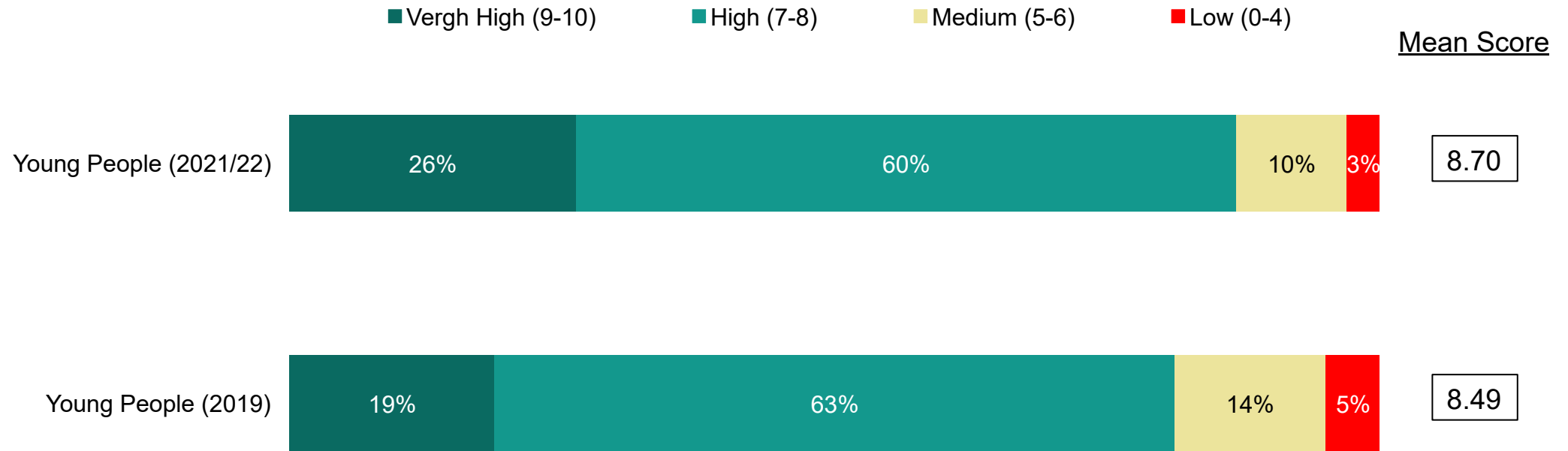
Source: Barnet Council Young People Survey (2021/22) of 500 residents aged 11-18, carried out by face-to-face

# Personal Wellbeing

# Satisfied with life...

Satisfaction with life among young people has improved between 2019 and 2021/22. The percentage of young people with a high or very high level of life satisfaction has increased from 82% to 86%. The percentage with a low level of life satisfaction has decreased from 5% to 3%.

The mean satisfaction score has seen an increase from 8.49 to 8.70.

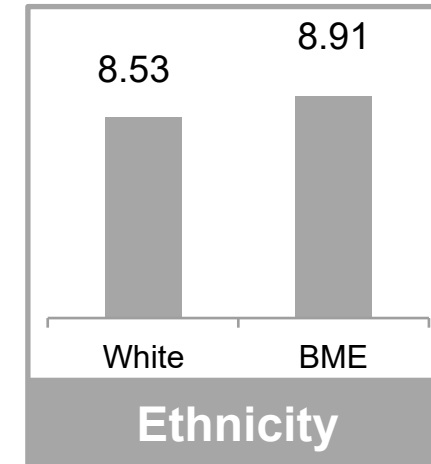
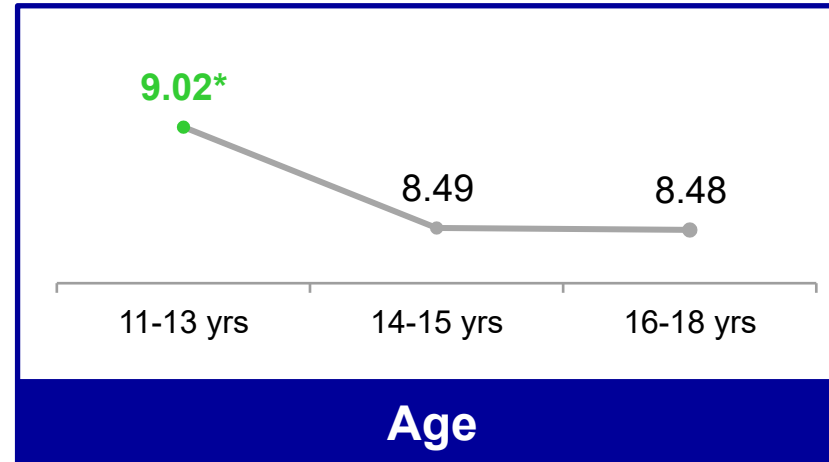


# Satisfied with life...

The mean life satisfaction score for young people is 8.70.

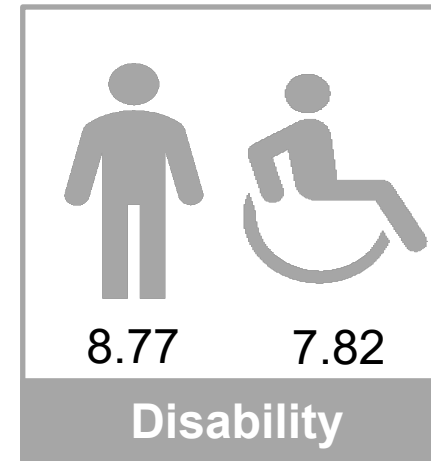
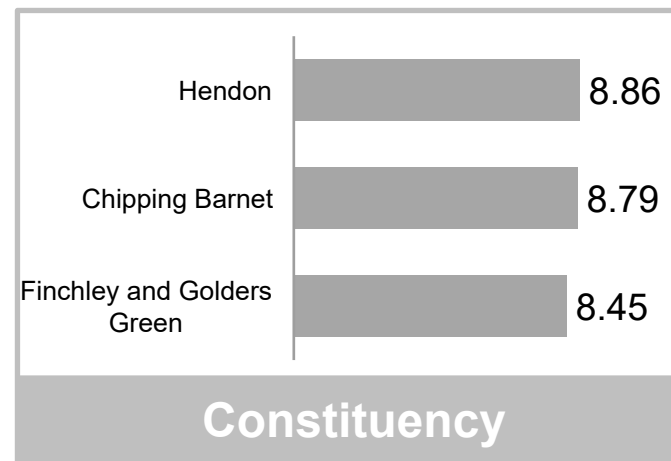
There is significant variation in mean life satisfaction by age, with those aged 11-13 having significantly higher life satisfaction on average.

Young People Survey  
(2021/22)



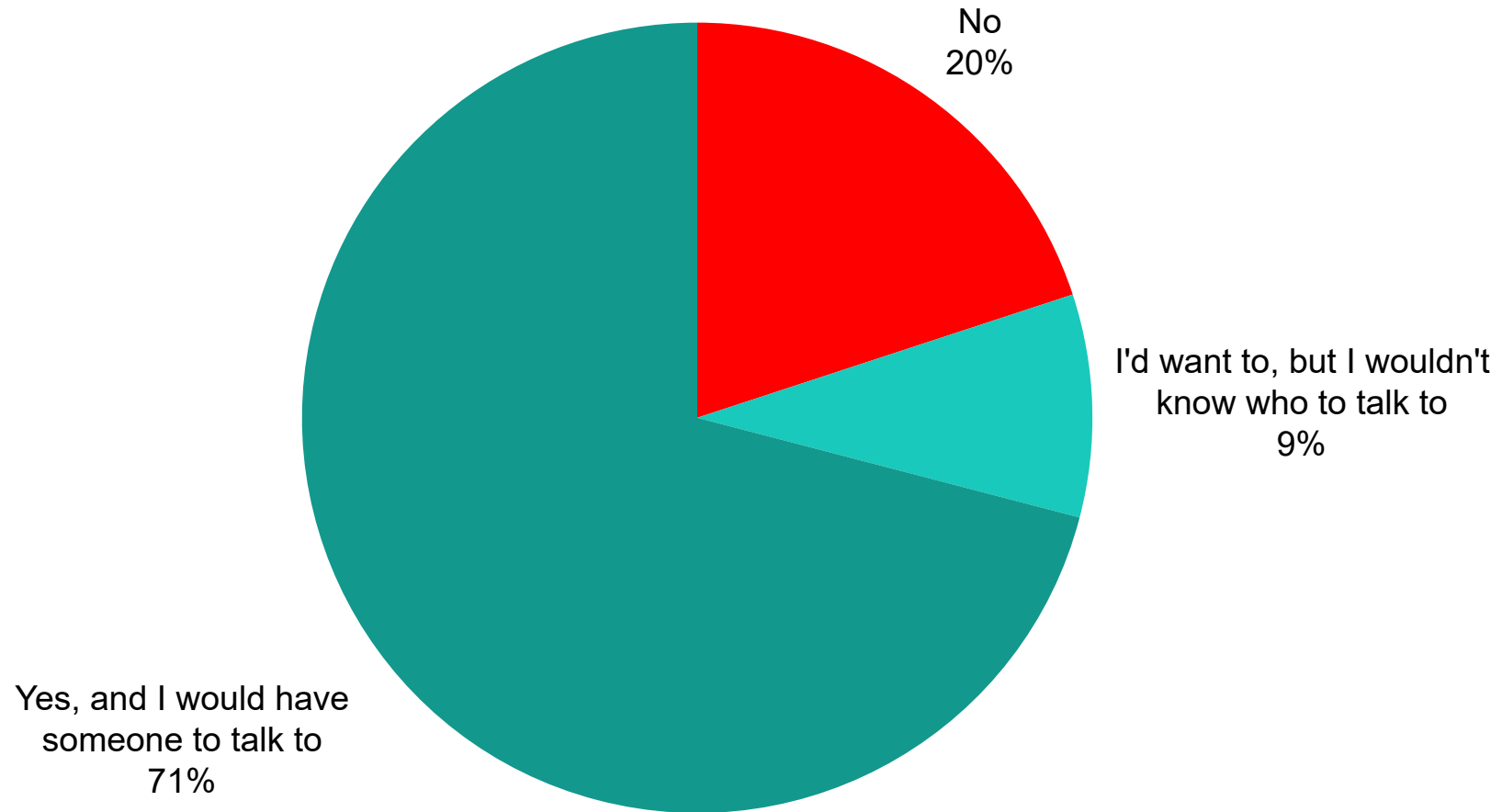
1-3 decile (most deprived)	4-7 decile	8-10 decile (least deprived)
8.75	8.57	8.80

IMD deciles



# Someone to talk to when depressed or anxious...

8 in 10 young people would want to talk to someone if feeling depressed or anxious. However 9% wouldn't have anyone to talk to about it. The remaining 20% of young people wouldn't want to talk to anyone about feeling depressed or anxious.



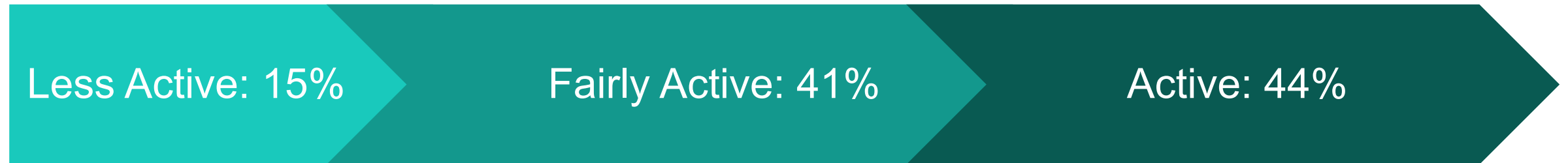
# Physical activity...

**85% of young people are fairly active or active doing over 30 minutes of physical activity a week.**

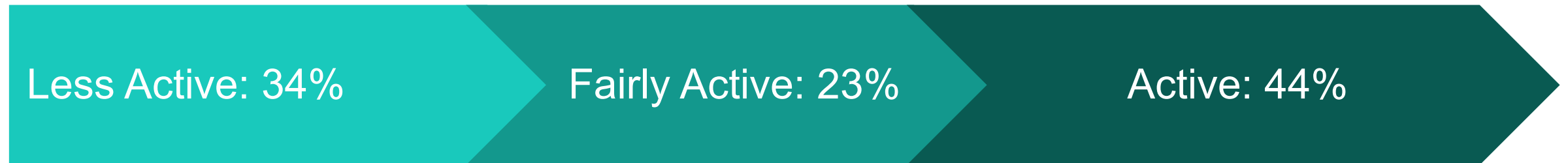
This is higher than the national average (66% - Active Lives Children and Young People Survey Academic Year 2020/21).

However, it should be noted that the national survey was conducted on young people of a slightly different age range and at a different date so comparison should be treated with caution.

## Barnet Young Persons Survey 2021/22 (Ages 11 – 18)



## England 2020/21 - Active Lives Children and Young People Survey (Ages 11 – 16)



**Less Active:** Less than an average of 30 minutes a day

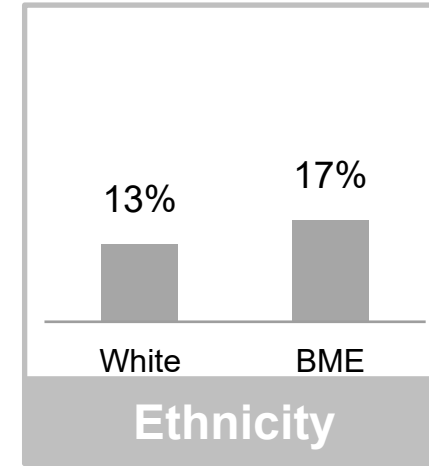
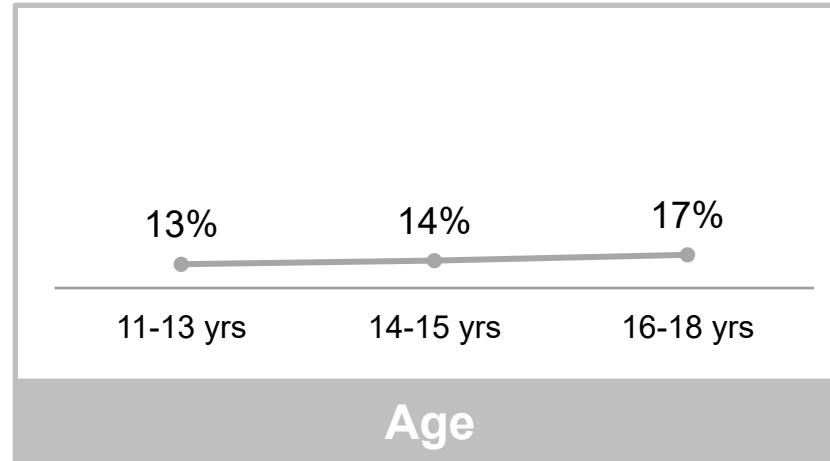
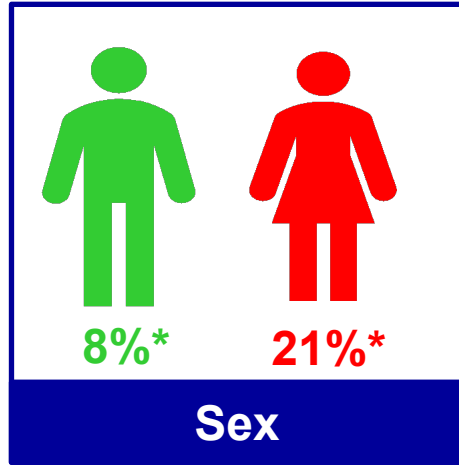
**Fairly Active:** An average of 30-59 minutes a day

**Active:** An average of 60+ minutes a day

# Those who are physically less active...

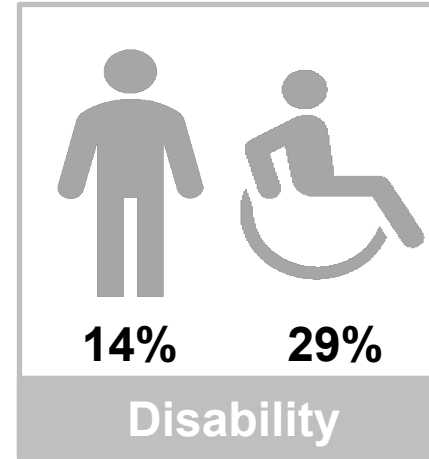
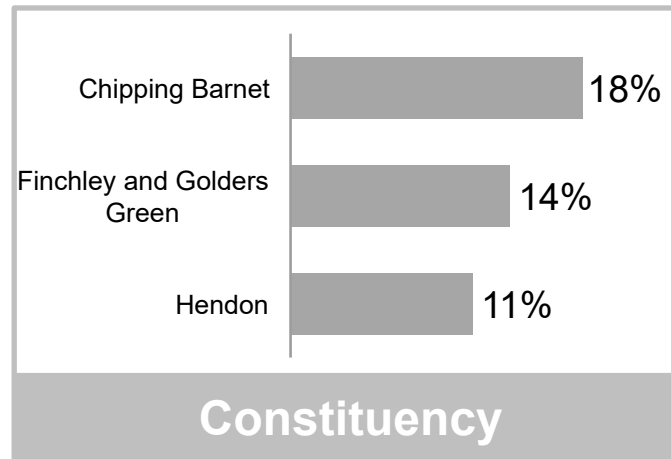
15% of young people are physically less active (doing on average under 30 minutes of exercise a week). There is significant variation in this by sex, with females over twice as likely to be inactive than males.

Young People Survey  
(2021/22)



1-3 decile (most deprived)	4-7 decile	8-10 decile (least deprived)
16%	12%	13%

IMD deciles

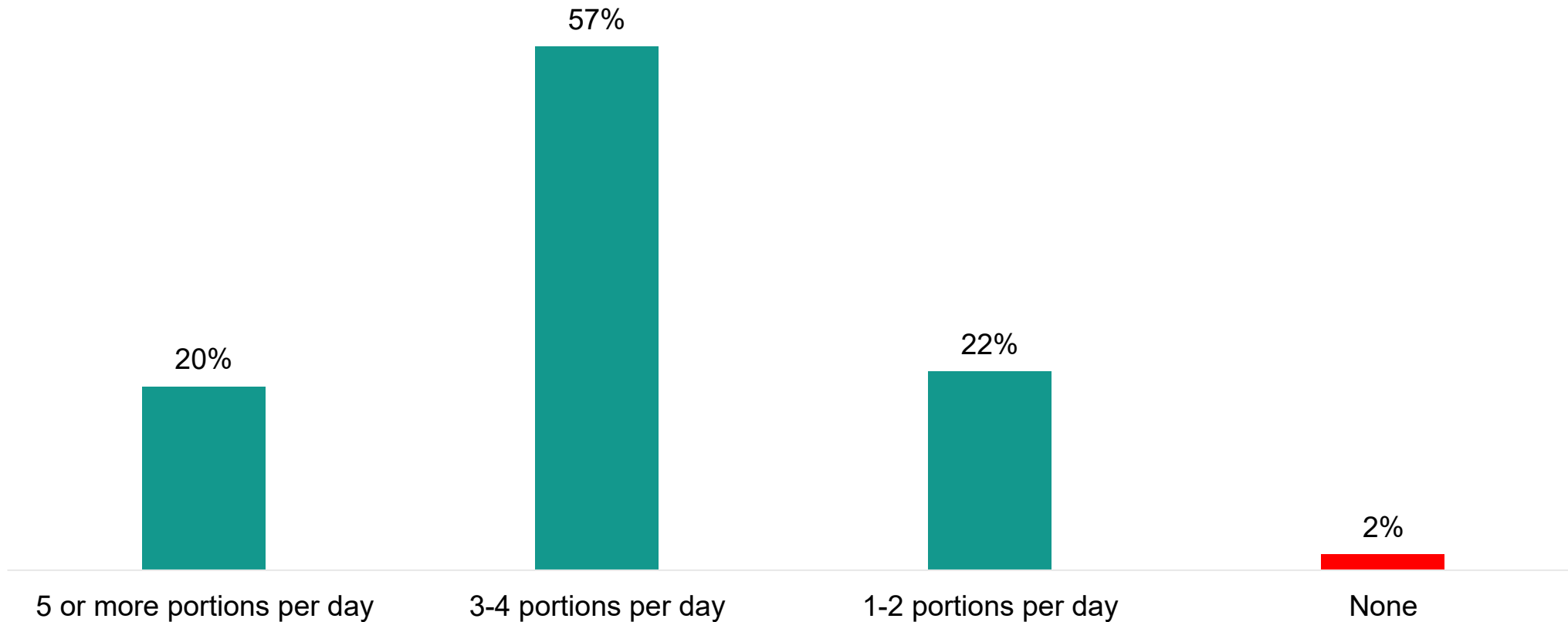




# Eating fruit and vegetables...

**20% of young people in Barnet eat the recommended 5 or more portions of fruit and vegetables each day.** This is in line with the share of children in England that eat 5 or more portions of fruit and vegetables (18%)\*.

Just 2% of young people eat no portions of fruit and vegetables each day.



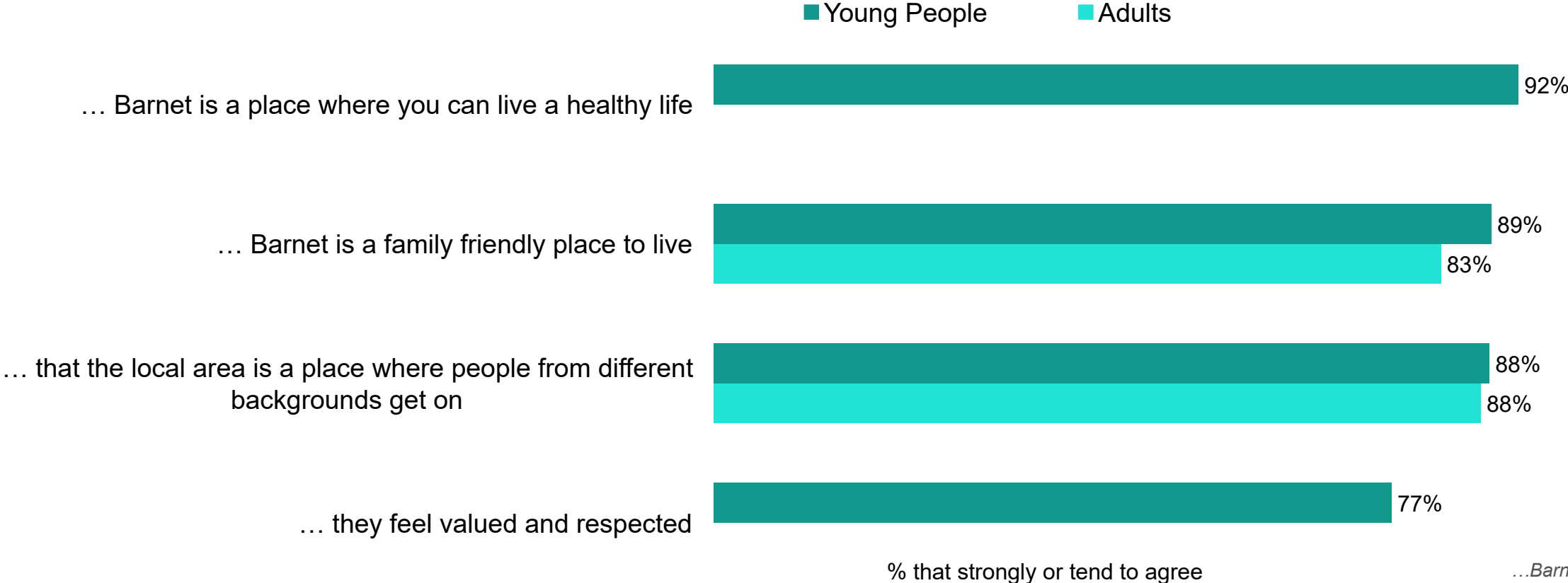
*\*England data from the 2018 Health Survey for England looking at children age 5-15*

# Respect and Consideration

# Community and Cohesion

The majority of young people rate Barnet positively on all measures of community cohesions.

When compared with adults, young people are marginally more positive about the local area being a place where people from different backgrounds get on, but significantly more likely to agree that Barnet is a family friendly place to live.

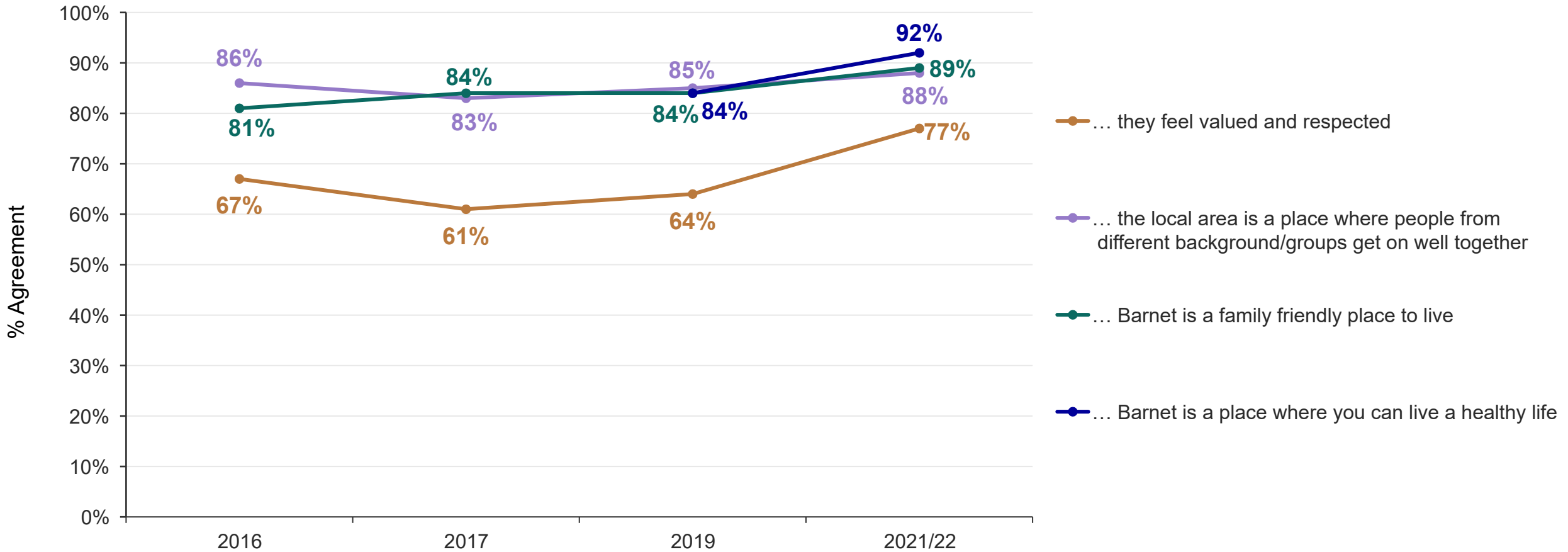


*...Barnet is a place where you can live a healthy life and ...they feel valued and respected were not asked in the adult survey*

**Questions:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that your local area is a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together?; To what extent do you agree or disagree that Barnet is a family friendly place? ...To what extent do you feel valued and respected?; To what extent do you feel that Barnet is a place where you can live a healthy life? **Source:** Barnet Council Young People survey (2021/22) of 500 residents 11-18, carried out face to face / Barnet Council Resident Perception Survey (2021/22) of c.2000 residents 18+, carried out by telephone and face-to-face

# Community and Cohesion – over time

**All measures of community and cohesion received a higher percentage of agreement than in any prior survey.** There were significant increases in agreement between 2019 and 2021/22 for the following statements: *Barnet is a place where you can live a healthy life, Barnet is a family friendly place to live, and they feel valued and respected.*



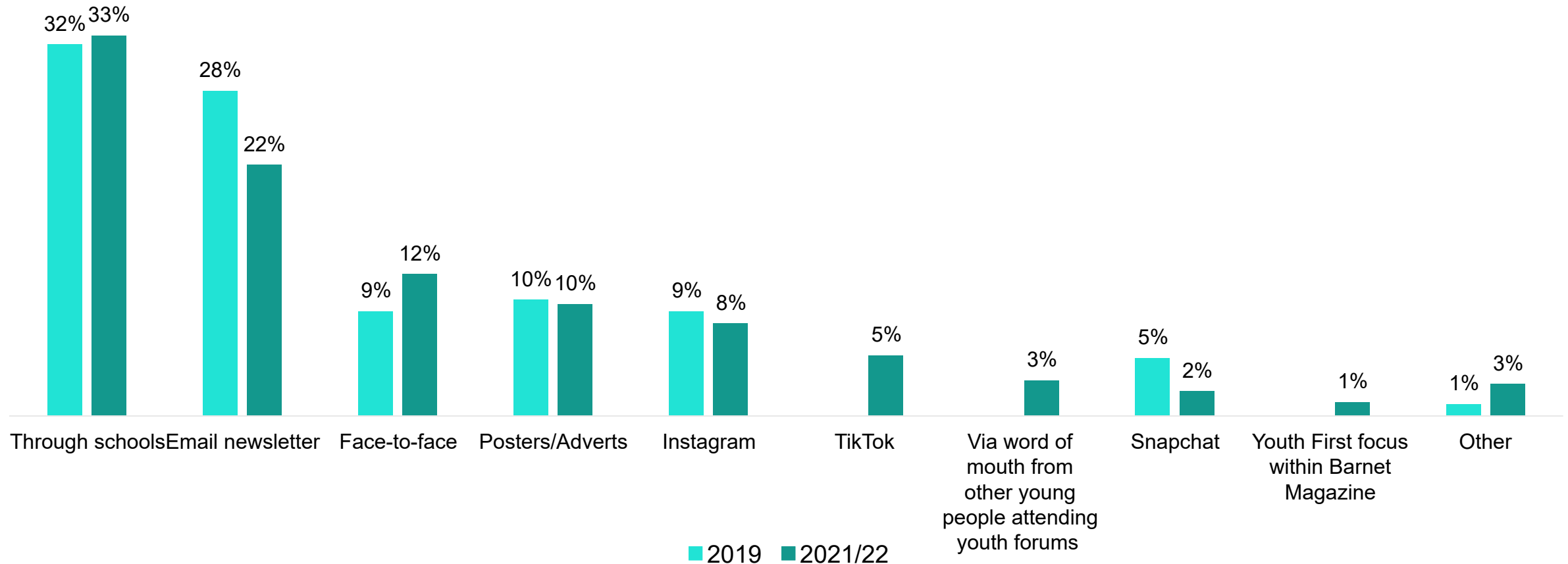
**Questions:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that your local area is a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together?; To what extent do you agree or disagree that Barnet is a family friendly place?; To what extent do you feel valued and respected?; To what extent do you feel that Barnet is a place where you can live a healthy life?  
**Source:** Barnet Council Young People survey of 500 residents 11-18, carried out face to face

# Communications

# Young people's preferred methods of communication

**33% of young people would prefer the council to communicate through schools, As in 2019 this was the most popular method of communication.**

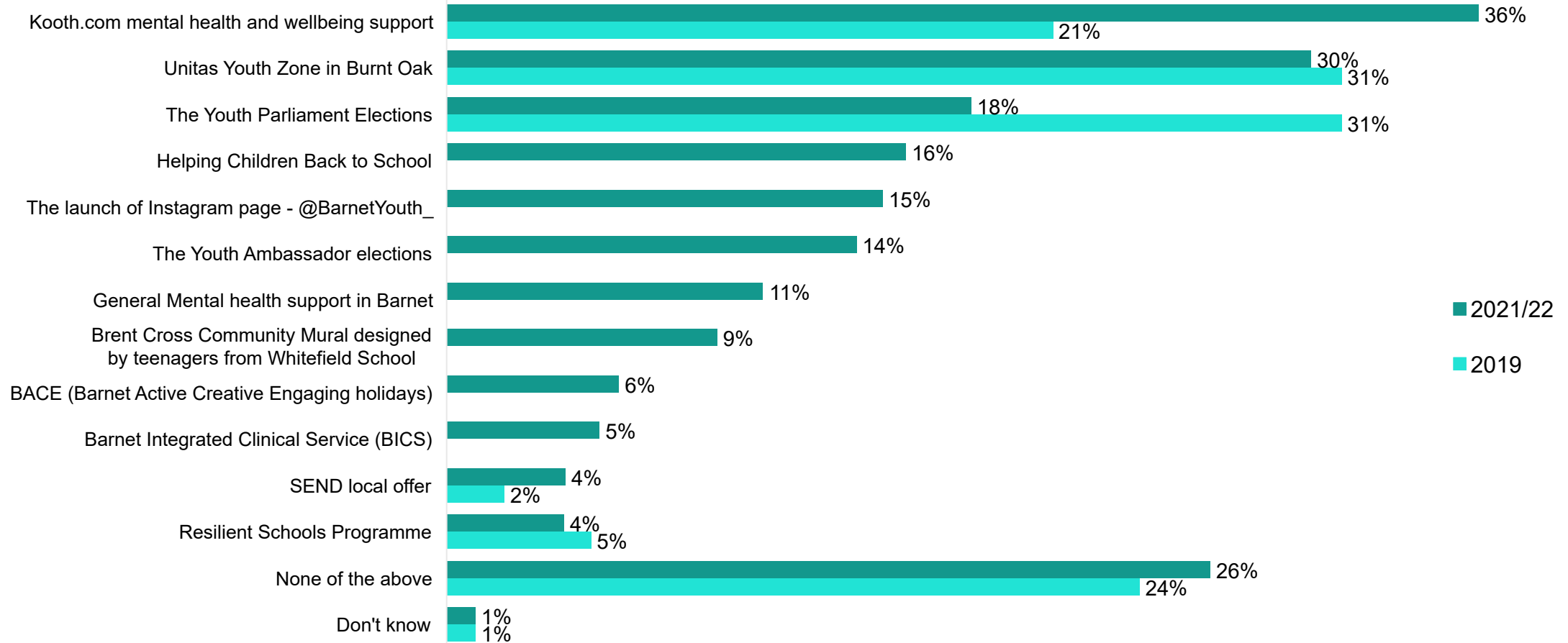
There were two significant changes between 2019 and 2021/22. Firstly, there was a decline in the proportion of young people who would prefer an email newsletter and secondly, there was also a decline in the proportion of young people who would prefer Snapchat as their method of communication.



# Awareness of what the council is doing

Three quarters (73%) of young people surveyed have heard of at least one of the following pieces of work Barnet Council is doing – this is in line with the 2019 survey (75%).

Only a few comparisons can be made with the 2019 survey. A significantly higher proportion have heard of Kooth (+15%) and significantly smaller proportion have heard about the Youth Parliament Elections (-13%).



# Next steps

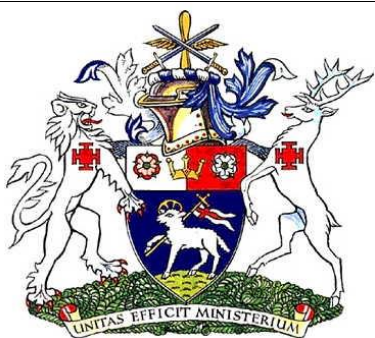


## Next steps for dissemination and further research

- Full briefing provided to Leader and the Deputy Leader of the council
- Full briefing provided to Leader of the opposition
- All-Member briefing to be offered
- Young people constituency based workshops will be used to gain more in-depth understanding of results, we will also be running focus groups with young people with a disability.
- Information will be used to inform development of a new Children and Young People Plan
- Full presentation will be used to roll out further deep dive presentations to the different Barnet Plan workstreams and also presented to the Tackling the Gaps Operational Group. Each workstream will be presented with key findings that are pertinent for their workstream, however the presentations will ensure each workstream has access to the full set of analysis too
- Sharing of presentation and analysis with CMT

## Next steps for dissemination and further research

- Presentations to be offered to CMTs Senior Management Teams on request
- Findings to be disseminated further to staff via First Team and an all-staff Breakfast Briefing.
- Detailed results, and how the council is acting on the results, will be fed back to residents via <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk>.
- Full press release to be issued
- Featured article on the RPS and YPS results is also planned for the Banet First July paper edition.



# Children's Partnership Board BOARD ITEM 8

## 13 July 2022

<b>Title</b>	Deep dive report into Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children
<b>Report of</b>	Brigitte Jordaan, Director of Children Social Care, Family Services
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Kate Jeffrey (kate.jeffrey@barnet.gov.uk)

### Summary

Barnet, like many other local authorities within London, has traditionally had an increasing population of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC).

The numbers of young people being accommodated into our care during a 12 month period, in March 2019, was 82 unaccompanied minors, whereas in March 2021, 120 unaccompanied children had been looked after locally. This is an increase of 46%.

Years	Total UASC	Difference
Mar-19	82	
Mar-21	120	+38 (46% increase)

A snap shot of age range of the presenting unaccompanied children as at 1 June, see chart below:

#### UASC coming in to care in Barnet

Age Grouping	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
11 to 13	1	2	2
14-15	4	12	8

16-17	30	28	25
18+	2	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>35</b>

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children typically became known to Barnet through:

- Pan – London Rota, or through the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) managed by the Home Office
- Presenting directly at a local police stations, Council Offices or hospital

Up until the age of 18, these young people are considered children in need of care and protection under S. 20 and/ or S. 31 of the Children Act (1989). After their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, they remain in receipt of services as care experienced young adults until they turn 25.

The usual outcomes of asylum applications are:

**Positive Decisions**

- Refugee Status
- Humanitarian Protection
- Other leave to remain

**Negative Decisions:**

- Refusal
- possible appeal

Since July 2020, Barnet has been home to four asylum seeker contingency hotels and the current population (as of 06/06/2022) stands at 992 people. Of these, 207 have been confirmed to be aged under 18, with 73 children under five years old across all hotels. Of the current population all under 18 years are accompanied by their parents. Since the opening of these hotels in 2020, Barnet has received in total 81 referrals for putative unaccompanied children seeking support for the period between July 2020 until June 2022.

Specifically for the last 2 years, 59 referrals were received in total from individuals claiming to be 16 and 17 years old, wrongly assessed as adults by the Home Office, and in need of care and support as children and from June 21 to June 22, 22 putative children originating from asylum seeker contingency hotels have been accommodated by Barnet Council.

**Officers Recommendations**

1. That members note the report

**1. Why this report is needed**

**Background to Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children in the UK**

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) are children and young people who are seeking asylum in the UK but who have been separated from their parents or carers. While their claim is processed, they are cared for by a local authority. London continues to have the highest proportion of UASC in the UK by a considerable margin and the number of UASC receiving support and assistance from Local Authorities across the capital has increased to 1606 as at December 31 2021.

The table below provides a range of trends, which creates a London picture of newly arrived UASC to the capital.

1) New Arrivals via the Pan London Rota from Croydon Asylum Intake Unit from January 2021 to December 2021

Temporary Accommodation Statistics	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Total
Total number of new arrivals	1	11	8	6	3	7	11	13	6	10	8	9	93
Total number of male new arrivals	0	9	7	5	3	7	9	12	4	9	6	9	80
Total number of female new arrivals	1	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	1	2	0	13
Total number age disputed	0	4	0	0	1	1	2	5	0	0	1	1	15
Total No who went missing prior to transfer to LA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

In addition to the Pan London referrals, a number of UASC present directly to Local Authorities. The table below illustrates those who self-referred directly to Barnet versus the total number of UASC direct presentations across all London Boroughs.

For comparative Pan London information, please see appendix 1

Local Authorities	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Barnet	4	2	0	Left Blank	10	7
<b>Total UASC directly presenting each month Pan London</b>	73	62	83	119	102	89

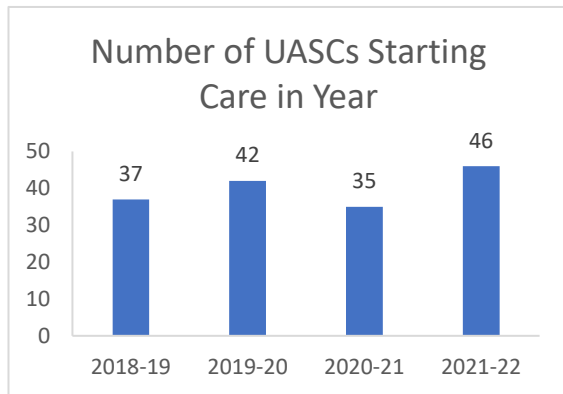
Children and separated young people arrive in the UK by a number of different means, including

- Spontaneous arrivals: most UASC arrive in the UK by their own means and are encountered at their port of entry, at the Asylum Intake Unit in Croydon or are otherwise encountered by police / children's social care. The local authority in which the child first presents is normally responsible for their care
- Dubs. Amendment – resettlement of UASC already in France, Greece or Italy, prioritising children aged 12 and under, at high risk of sexual exploitation and children of Sudanese or Syrian nationality. Transfer to the UK must be determined to be in their best interest.
- Dublin III Regulation – children / close family / dependents reuniting to have their asylum claim dealt with together. The local authority is responsible for undertaking family assessment to ensure the placement is suitable.
- Children are also accommodated in Barnet through the Pan London Rota and the National Transfer Scheme (NTS). The NTS first began operating in 2016 when it was a voluntary arrangement to try and achieve a fairer distribution of children across Local Authorities. In July 2021, following a consultation, it remained voluntary but operated on the basis of a regional rota system. In December 2021 it became mandatory, whereby LAs under the 0.07% threshold cannot refuse to accept referrals allocated to them on the NTS. Pan London rota operates simultaneously to support Croydon and children included in overall NTS allocations.

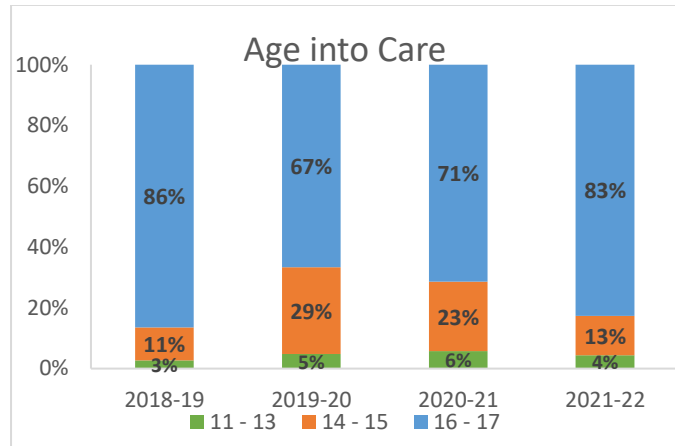
The number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people receiving a service in any local authority is determined as 0.07% of the child population. There are 98,900 children and young people living in Barnet, and therefore, the UASC population for Barnet is set at 69. Each local authority

receives £114 per child per night as a Home Office grant to provide care and support for these children. Local Authorities over the threshold of 0.07% receive the upper threshold for UASC of £143 per child per night.

The average population of UASC young people in Barnet over the last 4 years is currently 71 (as at 17/06/2022).



Graph 1:



Graph 2:

The above graphs demonstrate the increase of UASC young people coming into the care of the local authority and reflects that the majority of young people coming into care are aged between 16 and 17.

As you will see from the above graphs, there are currently 67 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children supported by the Local Authority, all of whom are boys. The far majority of these children are aged 16 and 17, with a small number aged 14 and 15. The majority (83%) of these children have fled their home countries across the African continent, Syria, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. Graph 3 highlights the nationality and cultural background of the UASC young people receiving care from the local authority and demonstrates the trend data whereby the majority (31%) of UASC young people requiring support and assistance from the local authority continue to be from Afghanistan with small numbers of young people coming from Iraq (13%), Sudan (13%), Albania (9%) and Vietnam (8%).

Over the last year (2021/2022) there has been an increase with presentations of children from Iran (24%) and Iraq (11%) and a significant decrease in young people coming from Albania (2%).

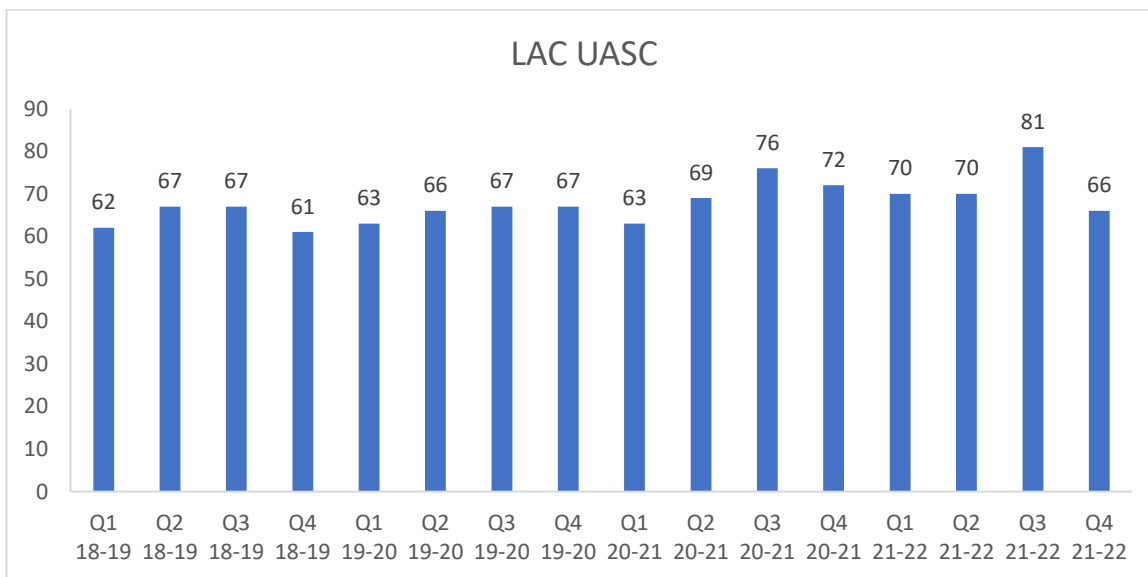
Nationality	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Grand Total
Afgan	14%	38%	40%	30%	31%
Albanian	22%	14%	0%	2%	9%
Algerian	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%
Chadian	0%	0%	9%	2%	3%
Egyptian	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%
Eritrean	19%	2%	0%	0%	5%
Ethiopian	11%	0%	9%	4%	6%
Guinean	0%	0%	6%	0%	1%
Iranian	8%	14%	0%	24%	13%
Iraqi	0%	5%	0%	11%	4%
Kurdish	3%	0%	6%	0%	2%
Kuwaiti	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%
Nigerian	0%	0%	3%	0%	1%

Not Stated	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%
Pakistani	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Sudanese	5%	7%	29%	13%	13%
Syrian	3%	0%	0%	7%	3%
Vietnamese	14%	12%	0%	4%	8%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Graph 3:

The below graph (4) shows the increase in accommodating young people in Barnet in correlation to the contingency home office hotels located within the borough. This coincides with the period of lockdown measures and restrictions which on the one part resulted in a drastic reduction of missing children, child protections referrals, S. 47 investigations etc however at the same time did not appear to curb entry into care of self-referring 16- & 17-year-olds from local hotels.

In Quarter 2 of 2020/2021 there were 69 UASC in Barnet requiring support and assistance, however this increased to 76 in the following months linked to the presentation of young people assessed by the Home office as adults and placed in contingency hotels located across the borough. This causality saw the increase in number of UASC young people requiring support as looked after children to 81 in quarter 3 (October – December) at the end of 2021. This number has significantly reduced to 66 in the proceeding 3 months (Q.4 – January – March 2022) generally attributed to the number of young people celebrating their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday with a date of birth of January 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a common date of birth provided to young people who do not know their date of birth and have been ascribed one by the Home Office. This correlation of young people becoming adults is evident in the data of care leavers (Graph 5).



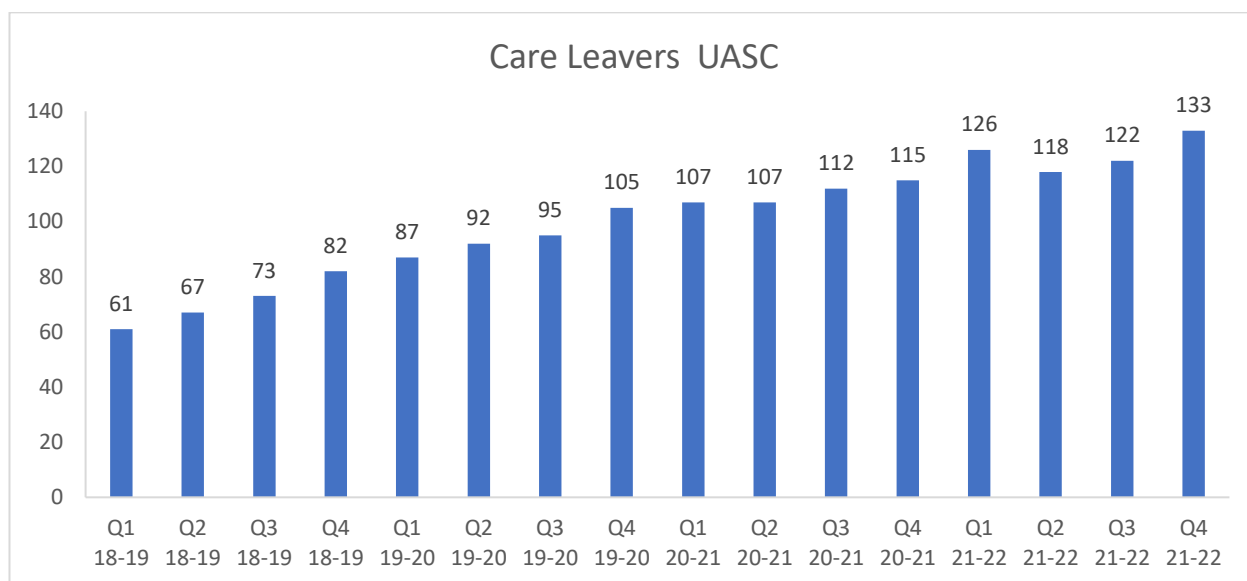
Graph 4:

As of 31/03/2022 there were 339 care experienced young adults open to the leaving service, known as Onwards and Upwards, 133 of these are former UASC. 39% of Barnet’s care experienced population are asylum seeking young adults, the wide majority of whom are men. The number UASC coming into the care of the local authority, with a definite correlation to the Home Office hotels, have a direct impact on the rising numbers of former UASC becoming asylum seeking care leavers (see Graph 5).

Most of these young adults will have an outstanding asylum claim with the Home Office and will be awaiting a decision on whether they will remain in the UK. Many of these adults have been in the local authority since they were 15 and 16, and will have formed relationships with friends and intimate partners in the UK.

However, with an uncertain future, and whilst they await for a decision from the home office, or await an outcome of their appeal following an initial negative decision, they will live in the grey areas of uncertainty. This uncertainty impacts on these young adults’ mental, emotional and physical health.

Following their completion of ESOL language classes, they are unable to access further education, although many of them have high aspirations with academic potential, and furthermore, are prevented from accessing the job market and from becoming gainfully employed, as they are unable to obtain the necessary national insurance number. They are unable to access benefits, and are reliant on the £61.05 weekly allowance and provided with temporary accommodation through the local authority emergency housing department. If and when an individual’s asylum claim is granted, they will then become entitled to access Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) statement benefits whilst they look to access employment, education or training, and will also be assessed and banded by Barnet Homes to access their permanent housing offer.



Graph 5:

### Support provided to Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

UASC children receive the same support and care by the local authority as children born in the UK and who cannot remain in the care of their birth families. However, many require additional support on account of their traumatic and difficult journey to the UK. Young people have reported their journey taking anywhere between 6 weeks to 3 and 4 years, and many young people will describe how their families pay people traffickers and smugglers thousands of pounds to assist their child with safe passage to the UK.

#### Saleem’s story:

**At the age of 14 Saleem’s circumstances in his home country of Sudan changed and he and his family no longer felt safe. He began his long, frightening 7-month journey separated from his family to England where he was told he would be safe and could be happy.**

*Saleem overcame many challenges along the way and even when arriving in England challenges remained. He needed to let authorities know he was here and that he was a child, however he didn’t speak English or know anyone. He was scared and did not know where he would end up. Saleem was taken to a foster family with 2 other Unaccompanied children.*

*Saleem is now 19 years old, he speaks English well and is studying at university. He remains with his foster family under a staying put arrangement. With the support of this foster family, Social Worker and*



*later his Personal Advisor in the Leaving Care Service Saleem has learnt to feel safe and cared for again. He continues to receive support to help with his past trauma, unique to UASCs as a result of their difficult journey and experiences en route to the UK, and support from his Personal Advisor for his asylum application and housing. Now when you ask Saleem to describe himself it is clear that he remains impacted by traumatic events, but he says he is happy, he feels he belongs and is grateful for the support and compassion of everyone who supports him.*

The local authority has responded to the pressure of the increase of UASC requiring care and support through the development of a specific UASC team located within the leaving care service Onwards and Upwards. This team is made up of both social workers working with children and young people under 18 requiring statutory child in care services, and personal advisors to provide support and guidance for those over 18.

## **Education & The Virtual School**

There are currently 23 UASC young people of statutory school age accessing secondary education, the majority of whom are attending Barnet schools.

	<b>2018/ 2019</b>	<b>2019/ 2020</b>	<b>2020/ 2021</b>	<b>Autumn 2021</b>	<b>Spring 2022</b>
Number of UASC	18	25	35	21	23

Table 1

The O&U Service work in partnership with the Virtual School, providing education provision and support to young people with ESOL classes before moving into more mainstream college education. The remaining UASC young people who are not in secondary school, and over 16, are likely to be attending college and participating in an ESOL program to assist with their language skills. Barnet virtual school has partnered up with Whitefields School to develop a specific UASC pathway into education, that also seeks to support these young people with their understanding of life in the UK and the British values.

The UASC Working Group, a collaborative partnership with the virtual school and Barnet Onwards & Upwards is well established. The new post-16 education booklet (translated into 6 languages) which has been created to help new Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers to understand the education system more effectively was shared with key stakeholders and young people. A video is also being developed to support those young people who may be illiterate in their own language. A mapping document providing information to school and colleges on how to recognise, assess and refer UASC young people where concerns about learning needs arise has also been developed. A workshop is in development for local schools and colleges to further promote this document and to encourage our education colleagues to feel more confident about how to access support for UASC young people.

### **Clinical Support:**

Children and young people are also supported through the specialist UASC clinician from Barnet Integrated Clinical Services (BICS) recognising the specific challenges that young refugees and asylum seekers have faced and continue to face on their journey's to seeking safety.

*The hope is that this pathway will positively impact how young people engage with their own wellbeing. We aim to listen to young people who have travelled to the UK for safety, to learn from them and understand how we can contribute to improving their future outcomes. We promote wellbeing and the reduction of symptoms of emotional distress using trauma and attachment informed approaches that facilitate cultural integration and the strengthening of social identity.*

We offer a range of specialised individual interventions and targeted, community-based groups to help promote wellbeing and optimal mental health, that children and young people can access while within, and after the asylum-seeking process.

The BICS clinician also works closely with our social care colleagues and other multi-agency colleagues, providing consultation and support. Over the last 8 months, the mental health care pathways for asylum seeking and refugee young people have increased the capacity to offer psychologically informed screening and early intervention through partnership working.

Historically, BICS received several referrals from GPs following initial health assessments (IHA). These referrals were often inappropriate or lacking in enough information to make clinical decisions and so, a targeted, partnership working approach was developed with a system in place to routinely attend all UASC Initial Health assessments, providing an initial mental health screening. This is to support early intervention and detection.

Since mid-November 2021, the UASC psychologist has accepted 22 referrals appropriate for psychological support. This work has included

- Nine young people who were of significant enough complexity to be offered multiple consultations over time.
- Nine young people were offered psychological assessments, with the view to exploring their suitability for talking therapy within BICs
- Eight young people have engaged/are engaging in some form of psychological therapy within BICs

## **Background to contingency hotels in Barnet**

The UK has a statutory responsibility to provide people, who have entered the country seeking asylum, with temporary accommodation and subsistence expenses while their claim is being considered. This is in accordance with the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. The responsibility to provide this support lies with the Home Office.

When asylum seekers arrive in the country, a number of commissioned accommodation providers working under contract from the Home Office disperse them into temporary housing (known as dispersal accommodation or DA). The Covid-19 pandemic caused a bottleneck in this process. In order to maintain social distancing and avoid making people homeless during the pandemic, all decisions on asylum claims were paused for most of 2020. This greatly increased the demand for dispersal accommodation, with huge numbers of people being held in the system while awaiting the outcome of their claims.

As a stop-gap solution, asylum seekers began being accommodated in hotels, which were otherwise unused due to lockdown restrictions. These are known as contingency hotels. Around half of the contingency hotels being used are located in London.

Despite Covid restrictions lifting, and asylum claims once again being considered, the hotel population remains high. As of 13 May 2022, there were 12,625 people accommodated in contingency hotels across 23 London boroughs. Barnet's contingency hotel population currently stands at 992 people, accommodated in four hotels. As a result of the increased asylum seekers population in Barnet, the local authority received an increase in UASC referrals from solicitors and other charity organisations in the borough, supporting individuals who were initially identified as an adult, and now claiming to be a child. For many, an age assessment is required, as they have no documentation or paperwork to confirm their claimed age, or the age the Home Office has determined them to be.

As of May 2022, 30 of the 67 UASC young people accommodated by the local authority had initially been placed in Home Office accommodation following being assessed by Home Office officials as an adult upon their entry into the UK. A proportion of the hotel referred cohort have also aged out of care and are now being supported by the Onwards and Upwards Service.

## **The impact of contingency hotels on Barnet's Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) population**

The volume of asylum seekers being accommodated in Barnet has a consequent impact on the numbers of young people entering Barnet's care system as UASC. As most UASC do not have recourse to public funds at 18, the local authority remains fully responsible for the cost of their subsistence and accommodation until their asylum application is finalised or until they are 25. This means that the financial burden of this increased UASC cohort will be felt by the council for several years to come.

### **Age assessments**

A snapshot of the current cohort: 30 have been referred from a contingency hotel where they had initially been accommodated as an adult. Of these, 26 were identified as requiring an assessment of age. Following the age assessment only eight were confirmed as adults and referred back to the Home Office. Therefore, a large majority of the UASC accommodated in Barnet have been assessed as adults by the Home Office on arrival in the country and this judgement is consistently disputed and challenged by the young people and their legal representatives. The age disputes increase the overall workload and impose demand for the Local Authority to fund independent Merton compliant age assessments as well as subsequent legal challenges and Judicial Review.

The local authority age assessment process is costly and time consuming. It has to be conducted along guidelines set by the Merton Judgement<sup>1</sup> by specially trained social workers. Barnet has already had to recruit two new social workers to accommodate this additional workload. Further costs can be incurred if an asylum seeker mounts a legal challenge to the age assessment. Defending a Judicial Review is costly and difficult as age assessments are not scientific exercises but are determined through the experienced professional views of social workers which may differ between workers and young person's narrative tends to change with time.

## **2. Reasons for recommendations**

2.1 This report was a requested agenda item.

## **3. Alternative options considered and not recommended**

3.1 None

## **4. Post decision implementation**

4.1 There is presently no implementation of changes to be agreed.

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<sup>1</sup> In [R \(B\) v Merton \[2003\] EWHC 1689 \(Admin\)](#), the High Court set down broad guidelines as to how age ought to be assessed in respect of unaccompanied minors who arrive in the UK without documentary evidence to prove their age. The court confirmed that the local authority "cannot simply adopt a decision made by the Home Office" and outlined a number of criteria for a lawful assessment.

## **5. Implications of decision**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 The council has a responsibility to ensure the welfare of all residents regardless of their status. We are committed to ensuring the best possible life chances for adults, children and young people in Barnet, especially those facing disadvantage.

### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 The impact of the contingency hotel population on council finances is significant and outside of established budgets.
- 5.2.2 In September 2021 the Chief executive wrote to the Director General for Asylum and Protection at the Home Office stating that to date, the council had incurred costs of over £600,000. At least another £200,000 has been spent since that letter was written and there remains both an ongoing financial burden as well as continued future pressure.

### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 None

### **5.4 Insight**

- 5.4.1 Data in this report is provided by Clearsprings Ready Homes and London Councils.

### **5.5 Social Value**

- 5.5.1 N/A

### **5.6 Risk Management**

- 5.6.1 The contingency hotels pose a potential risk to community cohesion and are a potential target for far-right groups. The council is alert to this risk and monitors it carefully. We do not publicise the names or specific locations of the hotels and have on one occasion advised the Home Office not to stand up a further contingency hotel due to the likely tension it could generate in that neighbourhood.

### **5.7 Equalities and Diversity**

- 5.7.1 Asylum seeking children and children separated from their families are an extremely disadvantaged group by their very status. The population also comprises people with numerous intersecting protected characteristics.

### **5.8 Corporate Parenting**

- 5.8.1 This report concerns the increased pressure on the council's Children's Care service. Asylum seeking young people make up a disproportionately high number of our care cohort and care-leaver population. This mostly a direct result of the contingency hotels.

## 5.9 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.9.1 Informal engagement with asylum seekers takes place on a regular basis through the outreach support services we commissions.
- 5.9.2 More formal engagement is planned as part of a health needs assessment being delivered by the council's Public Health team.

## 5.10 Environmental Impact

- 5.10.1 There are no direct environmental implications from noting the recommendations. Implementing the recommendations in the report will lead to a positive impact on the Council's carbon and ecology impact, or at least it is neutral.

*Note: Officers may revise this statement if they are aware of any environmental implications as a result of their recommendations.*

## 6. Background papers

- 6.1 None

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Local Authorities	July-21	Aug-21	Sept-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	2	0	0	0
Barnet	4	2	0	LB	10	7
Bexley	0	0	1	2	1	0
Brent	4	5	9	9	9	7
Bromley	0	0	0	0	0	2
Camden	2	1	18	DNS	2	2
City of London	1	0	0	0	0	0
Croydon	6	5	4	12	7	6
Ealing	5	10	3	8	8	4
Enfield	0	0	0	1	2	1
Greenwich	0	0	0	2	2	2
Hackney	0	1	1	1	4	DNS
Hammersmith and Fulham	11	8	4	1	1	1
Haringey	1	0	0	0	0	1
Harrow	0	0	3	6	0	0
Havering	LB	LB	LB	LB	DNS	DNS
Hillingdon	LB	LB	LB	LB	LB	LB
Hounslow	4	1	9	6	0	6
Islington	0	0	0	2	8	23
Kensington and Chelsea	3	1	4	4	6	4
Kingston-Upon-Thames	0	6	DNS	2	2	0
Lambeth	0	1	1	6	4	DNS
Lewisham	0	1	0	1	1	2
Merton	0	0	0	0	0	LB
Newham	4	1	5	3	16	4
Redbridge	0	0	0	6	6	4

<b>Richmond-Upon-Thames</b>	3	0	DNS	3	0	0
<b>Southwark</b>	17	7	7	16	2	3
<b>Sutton</b>	0	4	2	1	0	DNS
<b>Tower Hamlets</b>	0	0	3	14	8	3
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	0	2	2	1	0	1
<b>Wandsworth</b>	0	0	2	DNS	DNS	3
<b>Westminster</b>	8	6	3	11	3	3
<b>Total UASC directly presenting each month Pan London</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>89</b>

\*Hillingdon is not part of Pan London Rota.

\*\*LB –Left Blank by local authority (however data was submitted)

\*\*\*DNS – local authority did not submit data

## 5. Transfer Arrangements of UASC to London Local Authorities

The last quarter October – December 2021 has seen a steady flow in service operations surrounding the Pan London Rota and safe transfer of young people to receiving local authorities. There continues to be zero escalation of matters surround the Rota, temporary accommodation or transfer. Receiving local authorities have maintained good practice and work with LASC and Croydon to either transfer directly from Croydon AIU or arrange next working day transfer from LASC temporary accommodation.

The NTS remains an ongoing agenda with London Local authorities and is discussed at LASC meetings which provides a platform to capture key issues that are shared with the Home Office colleagues present at the meetings. The mandatory scheme may reveal further developments that local authorities experience in day to day operations.

The Pan London Rota and the NTS are operating effectively alongside each other. LASC data collation and monitoring should determine any impact from both operations.

### **LASC Temporary Accommodation and the Pan London Rota Quarterly Report: October 2021–December 2021 London Asylum Seekers Consortium**



**London Borough of Barnet  
Barnet Children's Partnership Board  
Forward Work Programme  
2022 / 2023**

Contact: Allan Siao Ming Witherick (Governance) [allan.witherick@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:allan.witherick@barnet.gov.uk)

Subject	Decision requested	Report Of	Contributing Officer(s)
<b>13 July 2022</b>			
<b>Business items</b>			
Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassador elections and Youth Assembly update	The Board to receive a verbal update.		Practice & Learning Manager (Liz Shaw)
My Say Matters	The Board to receive verbal input from young people.		Practice & Learning Manager (Liz Shaw)
Sustainability	The Board to receive a verbal update.	AD Sustainability (Yogita Popat)	Environment Strategy and Project Officer (Robert Poole)
Young People's Perception Survey - ORS			
<b>Deep Dive</b>			
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers	The Board to note the update	Director Children's Social Care (Brigette Jordaan)	Head of Service Corporate Parenting (Kate Jeffrey)
<b>Reference items</b>			
List of abbreviations	The Board to note the list	Chair of the BCP Board	Governance Officer
Forward Work Programme	The Board to note the Programme	Chair of the BCP Board	Governance Officer
<b>9 November 2022</b>			
<b>Business items</b>			
My Say Matters	The Board to receive verbal input from young people.		Practice & Learning Manager (Liz Shaw)
<b>Deep Dive</b>			

\*A **key decision is one which**: a key decision is one which will result in the council incurring expenditure or savings of £500,000 or more, or is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards

Subject	Decision requested	Report Of	Contributing Officer(s)
	<- Every time, topic to be decided		
<b>Reference items</b>			
List of abbreviations	The Board to note the list	Chair of the BCP Board	Governance Officer
Forward Work Programme	The Board to note the Programme	Chair of the BCP Board	Governance Officer
<b>14 February 2023</b>			
<b>Business items</b>			
My Say Matters	The Board to receive verbal input from young people.		Practice & Learning Manager (Liz Shaw)
<b>Deep Dive</b>			
	<- Every time, topic to be decided		
<b>Reference items</b>			
List of abbreviations	The Board to note the list	Chair of the BCP Board	Governance Officer
Forward Work Programme	The Board to note the Programme	Chair of the BCP Board	Governance Officer
<b>27 April 2023</b>			
<b>Business items</b>			
My Say Matters	The Board to receive verbal input from young people.		Practice & Learning Manager (Liz Shaw)
<b>Deep Dive</b>			

Subject	Decision requested	Report Of	Contributing Officer(s)
	<- Every time, topic to be decided		
<b>Reference items</b>			
List of abbreviations	The Board to note the list	Chair of the BCP Board	Governance Officer
Forward Work Programme	The Board to note the Programme	Chair of the BCP Board	Governance Officer

# Action Tracker

Meeting	Item	Description	Status
8 February 2022	Barnet Fit & Active Framework	Executive Director Adults and Health to speak to the representatives of the Pupil Referral Unit and how they provide support.	
8 February 2022	Barnet Fit & Active Framework	Executive Director Adults and Health to provide data analysis for use of Leisure Centres by young people to the Assistant Director Education, Strategy and Partnerships.	
8 February 2022	Draft 2022/23 BSCP Business Plan	Barnet Safeguarding Children's Partnership Manager to liaise with the Commissioning Strategy & Policy Advisor to look at how the Barnet Safeguarding Plan would incorporate the Barnet Children's Partnership Boards plan.	

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Acronym	Long title	Description
AVA		
BACE	Barnet Active, Creative Engaging	The council have worked with the Young Barnet Foundation to provide the Barnet Active, Creative Engaging (BACE) holidaying scheme which is DfE funded for all free school meal children and vulnerable children to access fun activities with a hot meal, activities include learning about healthy eating and exercise.
BCU	Borough Command Unit (Check)	Policing
BEA	Barnet Equalities Allies	
BECC	Borough Emergency Control Centre	
BEHMHT	Barnet Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust	
BELS	Barnet Education & Learning Service	Barnet Education & Learning Service (BELS) is a local authority controlled company which is responsible for providing the Council's Education & Skills service to Barnet schools.
BING	Barnet Inclusive Next Generation	Barnet Inclusive Next Generation (formerly Barnet Development Team Youth) is our SEND Youth Voice Forum.
BOOST	Burnt Oak Opportunity Support Team	Multiagency team with staff from Jobcentre Plus, Barnet Homes, Councils Benefit Service, Education and Skills Team. We are an employment, benefit advice, skills and wellbeing project helping Barnet residents.
BPSI	Barnet Partnership for School Improvement	BPSI is a school improvement traded service to pool funding for training, consultancy and support.
BSPP	Barnet Suicide Prevention Partnership	
BYOD	Bring Your Own Device	Use of personal devices for limited business use.
CAMHS	Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services	
CAW	Case Assistant Worker	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panels	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
CEAM	Child exploitation and missing tool	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
CESC	Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee	Barnet Committee
CETR	Care, Education and Treatment Reviews	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy	Planning obligation to raise funds for local infrastructure. Also see S106
CSC		
CWFS	Covid Winter Fund Scheme	
CWP	Children's Wellbeing Practitioners	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
CYP	Children & Young People	
CYPP	Children & Young People's Plan	
DCT	Disabled Children's Team	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
DPR	Delegated Powers Report	Report on a decision made at Officer level.
EHCPs	Education, Health and Care Plans	Used for children with specific needs.
FPC	Financial Performance and Contracts Committee	Barnet Committee

Acronym	Long title	Description
HEP	Health Education Partnership	
HEYL	Healthy Early Years London award programme	Healthy Early Years London (HEYL) is an awards scheme funded by the Mayor of London which supports and recognises achievements in child health, wellbeing and development in early years settings.
HOSC	Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee	(Pronounced Hosk)
HSL	Healthy Schools London award programme	Taking part in Healthy Schools London (HSL), and working successfully through the tiered awards, will enable schools to directly support the health and wellbeing of their pupils and staff.
ICP	(Borough Based) Integrated Care Partnerships	Health reference to joined up services.
ICS	Integrated Care System	Health reference to joined up services delivered by an ICP.
IRIS	Identification and Referral to Improve Safety	
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference	
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub	
MHFA	Mental Health First Aiders	
MHST	Mental Health Support Teams	
MOPAC	Mayors Office for Policing and Crime	
NCIL	Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy	Planning obligation to raise funds for local infrastructure. Also see S106
NEET	Not in Education, Employment and Training	
NRPF	No Recourse to Public Funds	Asylum/refuge status
P&R	Policy & Resources Committee	Barnet Committee
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit	Specialist educational support unit supporting schools with pupils with additional needs.
PVIs		
RON	Risk of NEET	Educational at risk group.
RRR	Recovery, Reset and Renaissance Project	Recovery, Reset and Renaissance (RRR) Project - part of schools related COVID-19 recovery.
S106	Section 106	Legal agreement for planning obligations in a local area (also see CIL)
SARG	Safeguarding Adolescents at Risk Group	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
SCAN	Service for children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental difficulties	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
SEF	Self-Evaluation	"The Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND inspection and Self-Evaluation (SEF))" Educational reference.
SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	Education related.
SENCO	Special Educational Needs Coordinator	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
SEND	Special Educational Needs & Disability	School and educational terms for those with additional support requirements
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Therapy	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
SFSC		
SMI		Health reference
STP	Sustainability and Transformation Plan	Health reference



Acronym	Long title	Description
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and Young People	
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and Young People	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
VARP	Vulnerable Adolescents at Risk Panel	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls	Used in a health and wellbeing context.
YOT	Youth Offending Team	Used in a health and wellbeing context.

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