

KNOWSLEY SHORT BREAKS PROVISION CONSULTATION

March 2017



DRAFTv01

Knowsley Youth Mutual

INTRODUCTION

Knowsley Youth Mutual (KYM) was commissioned by KMBC Whole Life Commissioning Team to consult with learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD) young people and hear their views and opinions on Short Breaks Provision in Knowsley. The aim of the consultation is for LLDD young people to help inform future service design and delivery. Over a two week period, **69** young people participated in consultation sessions from **8** LLDD groups across Knowsley.

METHODOLOGY

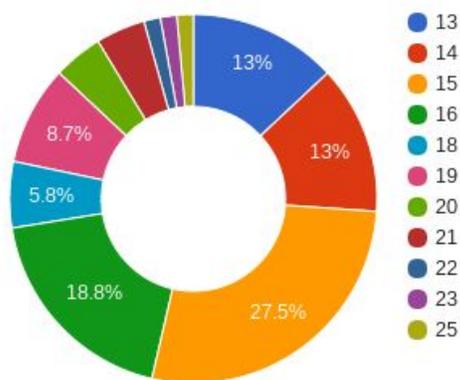
An adult questionnaire was provided by commissioners, which KYM adapted for use with LLDD young people. The questionnaire was then tested with a small group of LLDD young people, to establish if it was appropriate for use and changes were made following feedback. Where possible, questions were kept the same as those asked to adults.

Following the test session, KYM staff ran focus groups and supported young people to use the questionnaire and understand the questions being asked. Due to the cohort of young people engaged and the high number of questions requiring an answer, the majority of data captured is quantitative. Where possible, comments from participants have also been gathered and included in the following findings.

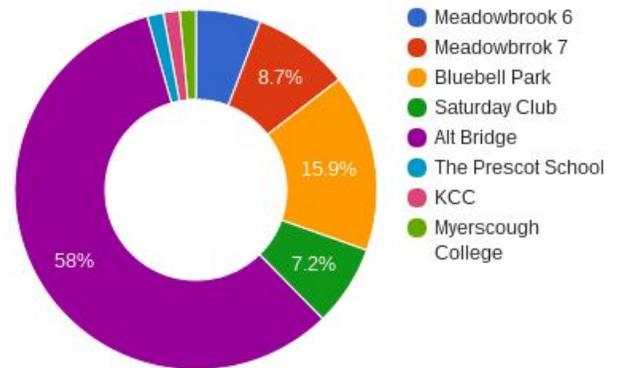
DEMOGRAPHICS OF PARTICIPANTS

Detailed below is the demographic breakdown of LLDD young people who participated in the consultation exercise.

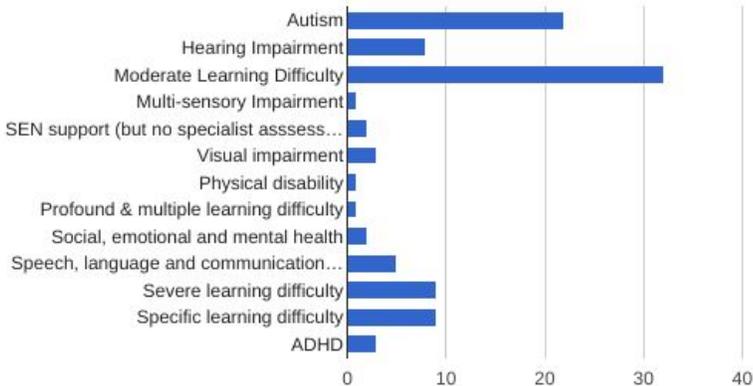
Participant Ages



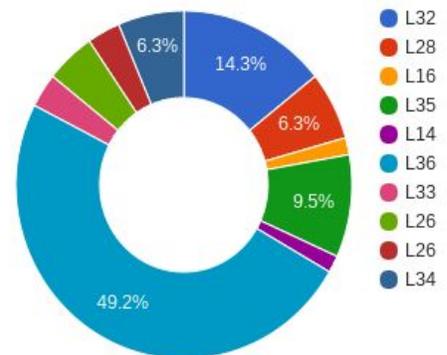
School/ College



Category of Need



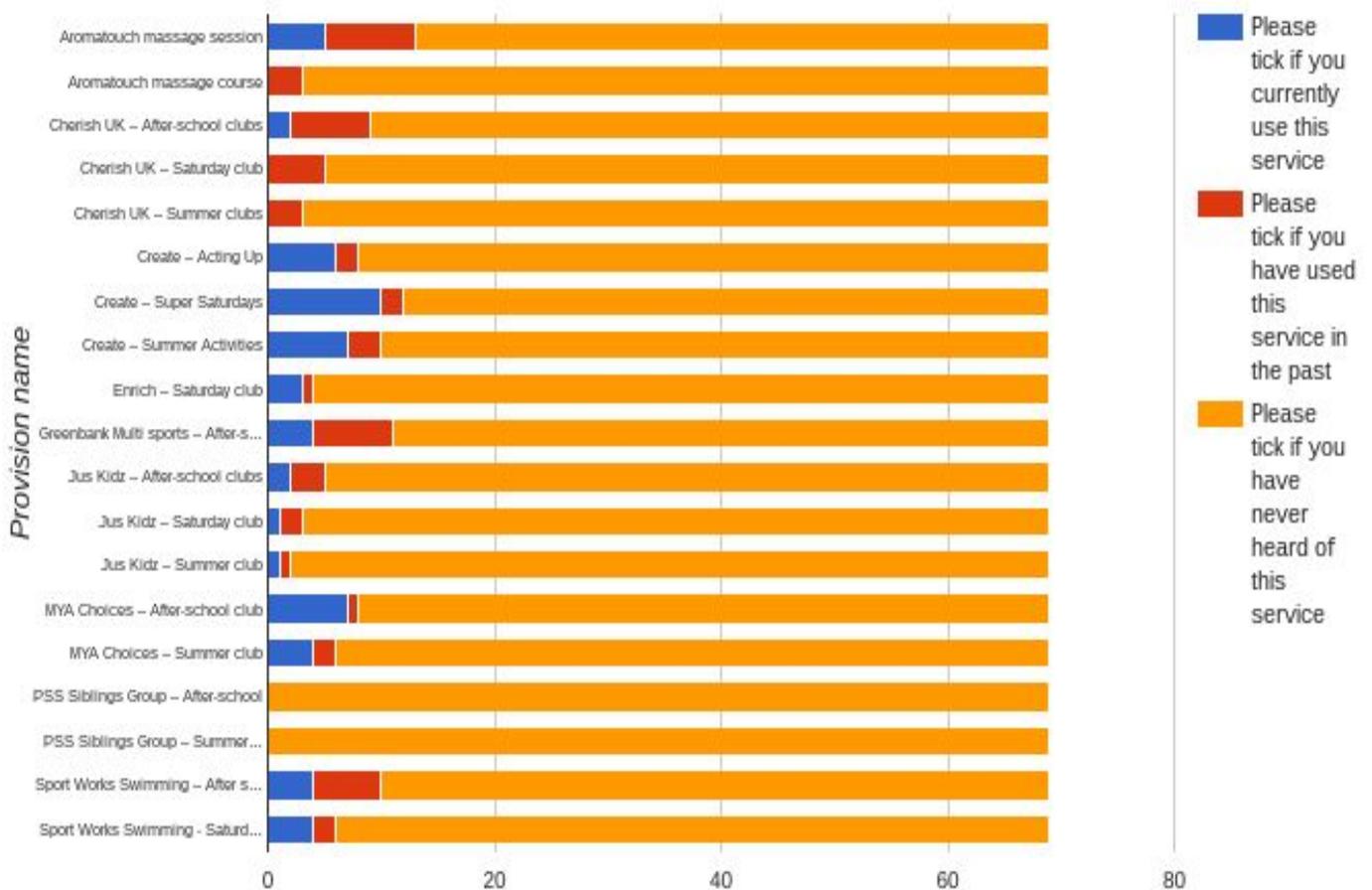
Participant's Postcode



FINDINGS

Detailed below is the findings gathered from the surveys completed by LLDD young people participating in the boroughwide consultation sessions.

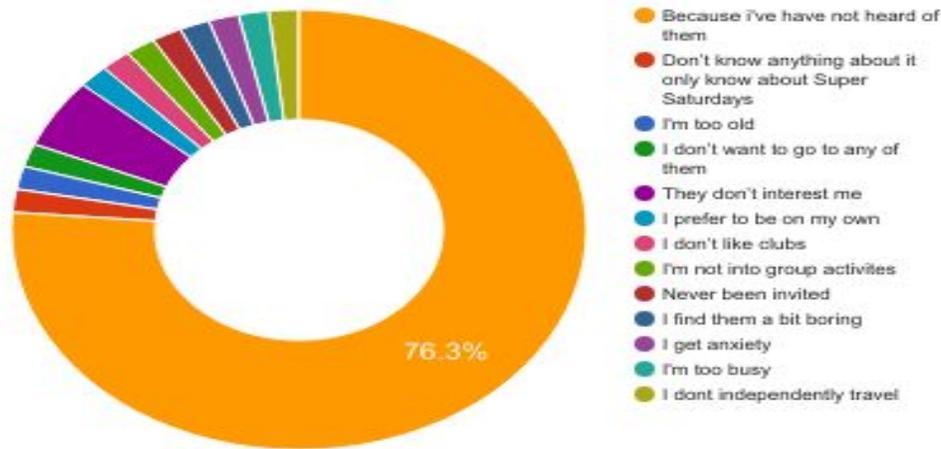
Q. Do you currently use, or have you used in the past, any of the Short Break services listed below?



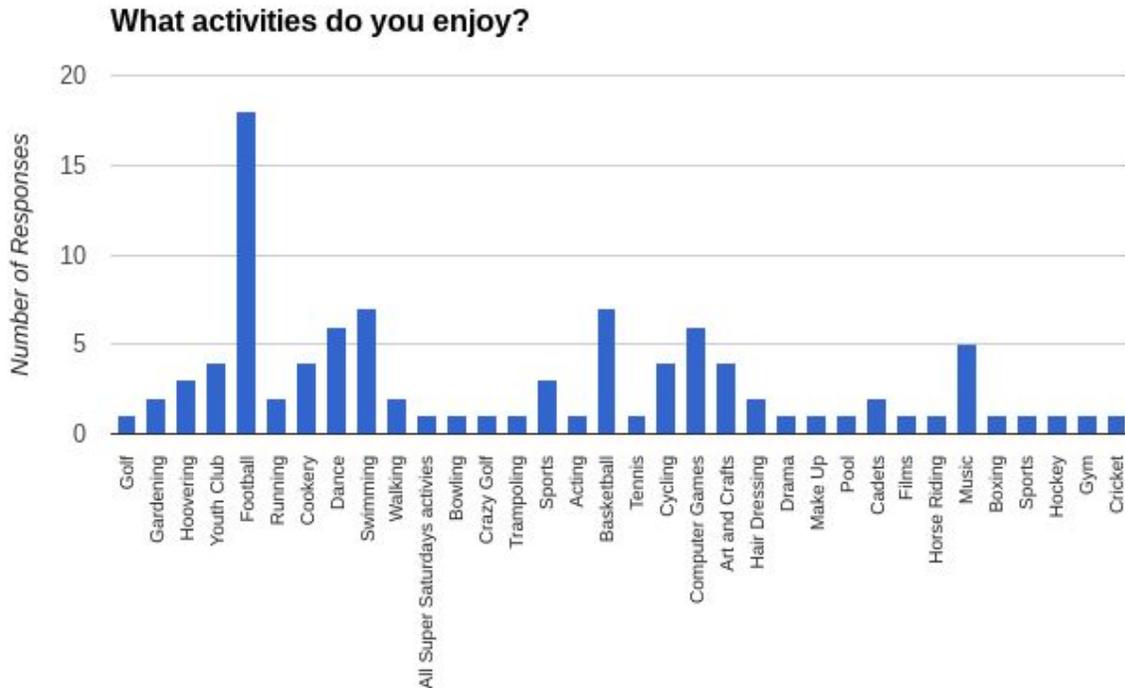
Q. If you do not use any of the Short Break services listed, please tell us why?

From the responses given, over three quarters (76.3%) of respondents said they HAD NOT heard of any of the services listed.

If you do not use any of the short break services listed, please tell us why?

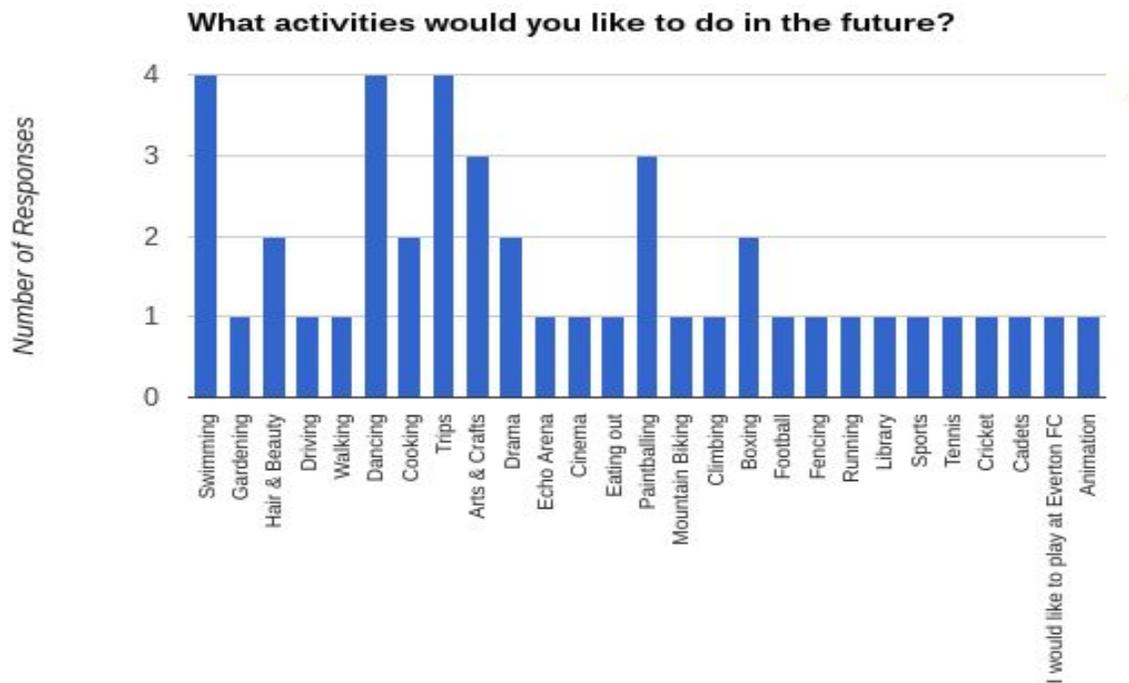


Q. What activities do you enjoy?



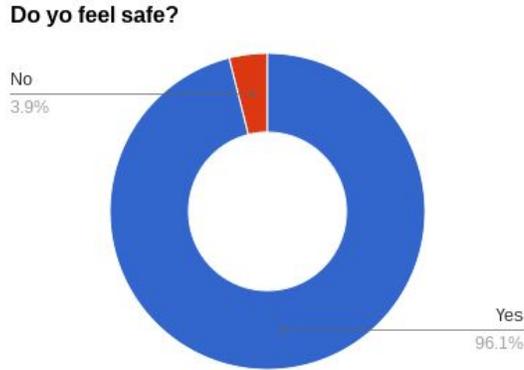
Participants identified a wide range of activities they enjoy. The majority of these activities had a sport/ physical activity focus (e.g. Football, Tennis and Cycling), however, young people also identified other cultural or skill based activities such as acting, arts crafts and music.

Q. What activities would you like to do in the future?



Similar to the previous question, participants have identified a wide variety of activities they would like to do in the future. Not all participants identified activities they would like to take part in, because they were happy with the activities they currently do, or were unable to identify anything different they would like to do.

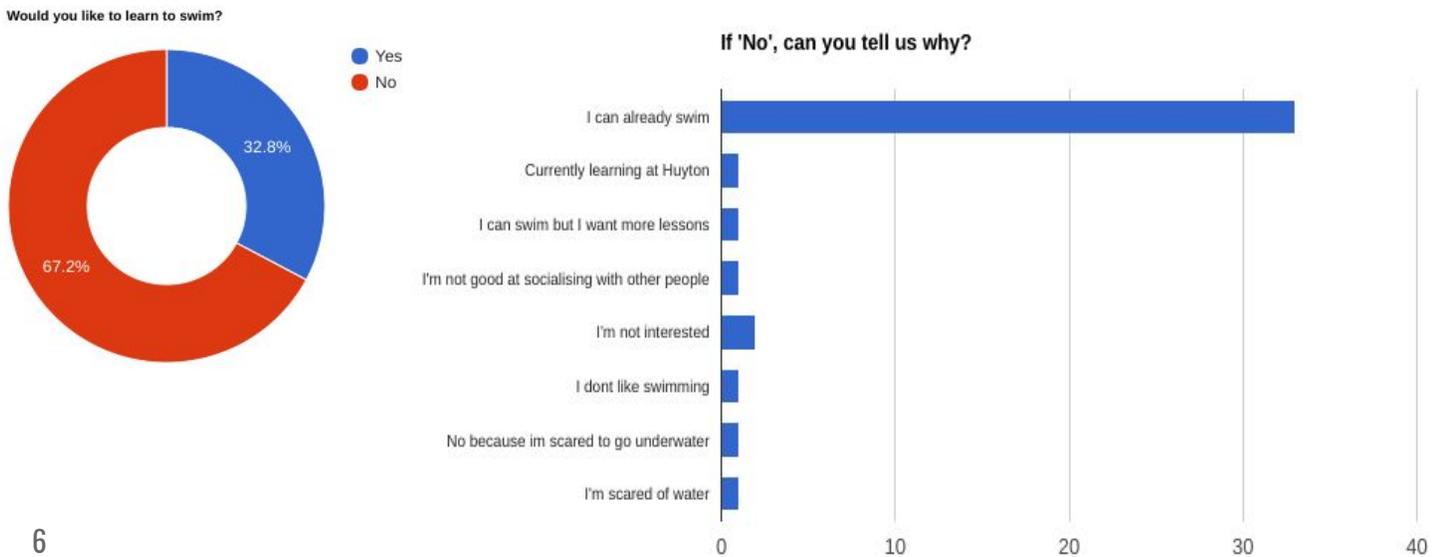
Q. Do you feel safe?



Most of the participants responded that THEY DO FEEL SAFE (96.1%) when accessing Short Breaks provision. Of those who commented ‘No’ the main reason for not feeling safe was due to not knowing other young people accessing the activities. When asked what could be done to make young people feel safer, participants identified 2 key areas which they felt would improve their feeling of safety:

- **“Having ‘good’ staff who can help make young people feel safe”**
- **“More activities for young people to get to know other young people in the group”**

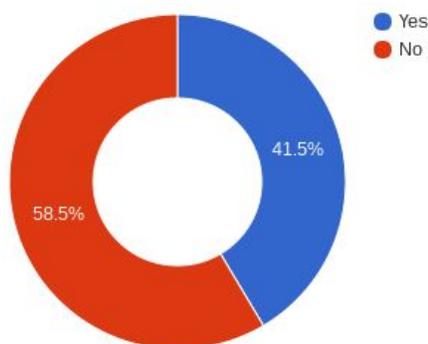
Q. Would you like to learn to swim?



As you can see from above, over two thirds (67.2%) of participants, commented that they DO NOT WANT TO LEARN TO SWIM. From those participants who responded 'No', the main reason for not wanting to learn to swim was because they can swim already. In conversation, learning to swim mainly happens at school and many young people questioned had learned to swim at school.

Q. If Yes, would you like your parent/carer to get in the pool with you?

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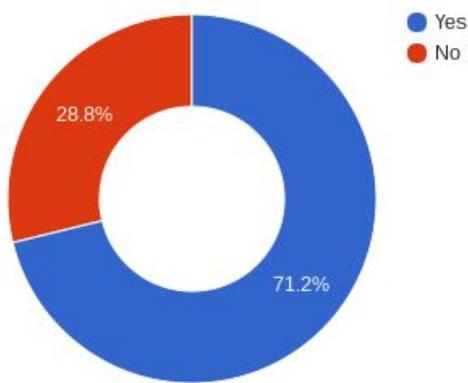
Over half of the participants responded that they DO NOT want parents/carers to get in the pool with them. A majority of participants commented that they feel old enough to use the pool without parents/carers and did not want to be **“treated like a little kid”**.

Q. If you have brothers and sisters would you like them to be able to join in with the swimming lessons?

Similar to the previous question, over half of the participants also felt they DO NOT want their siblings taking part in swimming lessons with them. During conversations some participants referenced the desire to be able to do activities away from family members, so they felt like they had their own independence. Comments included **“On My Own, because my brother gets on my nerves”** and **“I want to be left to do things for myself”**

Q. Would you like to have play sessions at a swimming pool? (Not swimming lessons)

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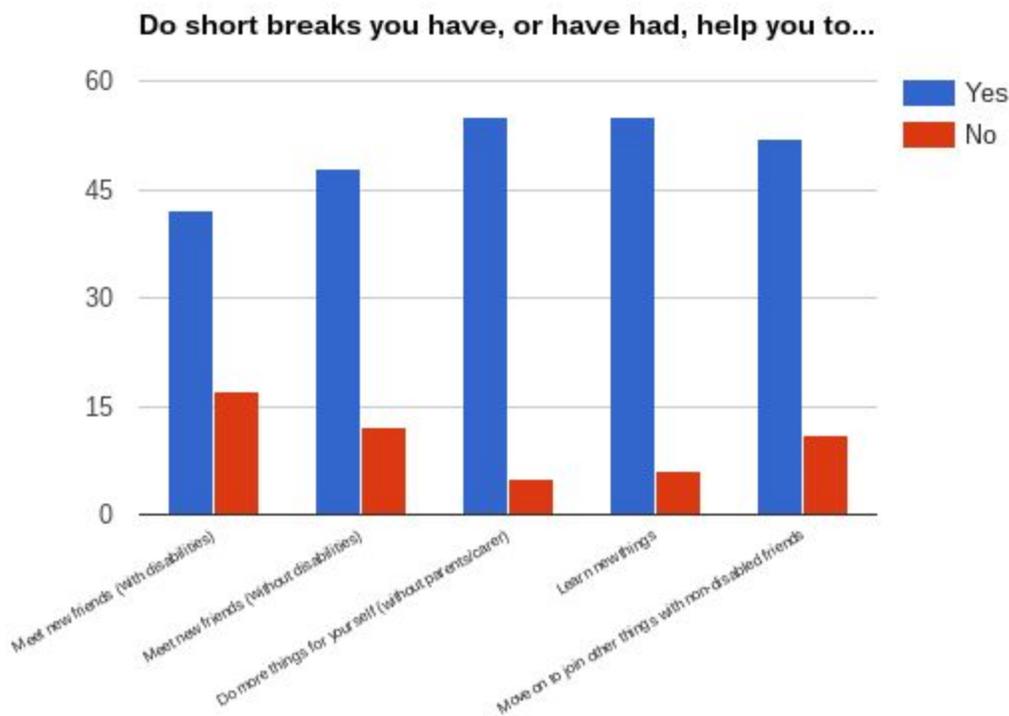
From the responses given, almost three quarters of participants (71.2%) commented that they WOULD LIKE PLAY SESSIONS AT A SWIMMING POOL. Young people want to play but did comment that it should be called something other than ‘play sessions’ as this is a ‘childish’ term. Comments received included; **“Not ‘play sessions’, I’m not 5”** and **“I want to have fun...don’t want to be treated like children”**.

Q. If Yes, Would you like your brothers and sisters to join you with the play sessions?

Just under half of the participants (42.9%) commented they would like siblings to join in play sessions. Participants responding for both ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ provided further comments as to why they had selected the option they did. Many of the participants who selected ‘No’ commented that they would rather use that time having fun in the water with friends/mates rather than family members. For those participants who commented ‘Yes’ the main reason centred around the activity being something fun they can do together with siblings.

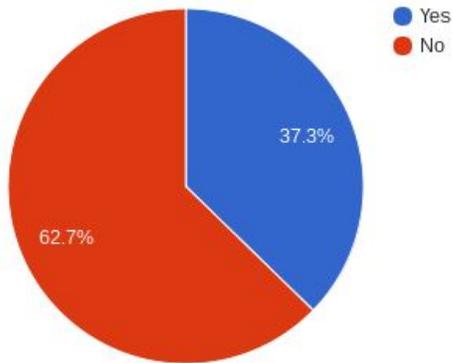
Q. Do the short breaks you have, or have had, help you to...

A



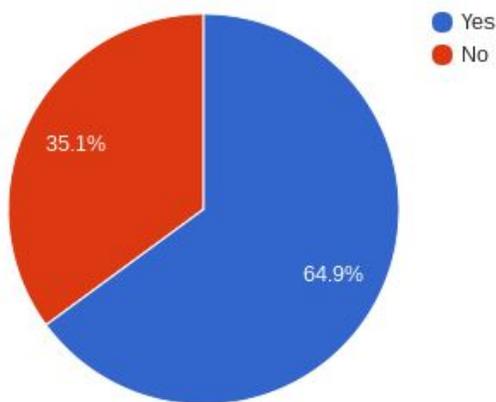
large number of participants responded to this question, despite only a small number having identified as accessing the listed Short Breaks Provision in questions one. From analysis we believe those young people who have not accessed Short Breaks Provision responded to the question by answering in terms of the school/college/provision they were accessing at the time of completing the survey. The information provided is still valuable, as it highlights that overall participants are having a positive experience in their current school/college or the Short Break Provision they are accessing.

Q. Some shorts break activities currently need your parents/carers to stay with you. Do you want these types of short breaks to continue?



Almost two thirds (62.7%) of participants selected 'No' for this question. Some young people did comment that they **“enjoy doing activities with parents and PA”** and it **“gives more time to spend with family that live far away”**. However, a vast majority of comments focussed on wanting to be more **“independent”** and doing more activities **“with friends”**.

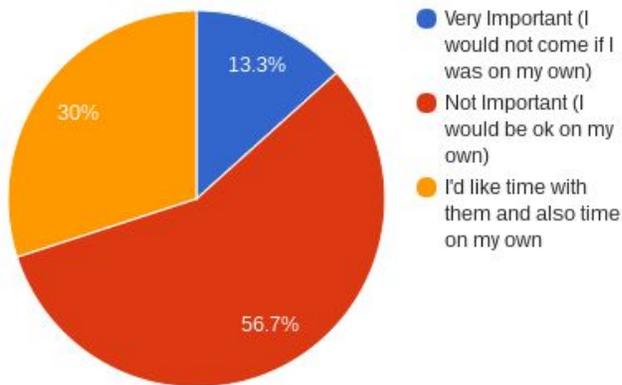
Q. For those activities where your parent/carers leave you - do you feel you have enough time to enjoy this break?



Almost two thirds (64.9%) of participants selected 'Yes' for this question. Participants did not provide any additional comments as to why they had selected 'Yes', however for

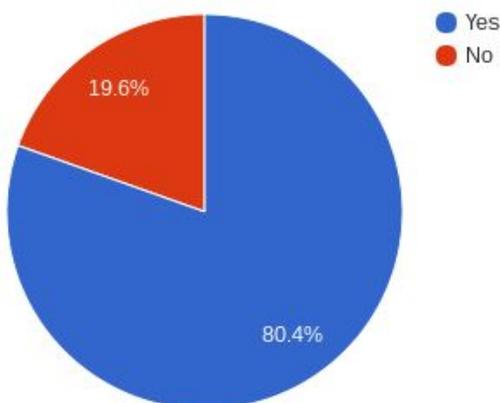
those who responded 'No', their additional comments focussed on the need for more time and that having more time would allow them to enjoy activities more, **“some activities take a long time to do”** which can mean participants only get a limited opportunity to take part or do not get the full benefit of the break.

Q. Some of the short breaks allow for your brother and sisters to attend with you. How important is it to you to have this with them?



Over half of participants (56.7%) responded that A SIBLING ATTENDING WITH THEM WAS NOT IMPORTANT. Comments included, **“I’m better on my own”** and **“I like my sister but I like doing things without her”**

Q. Are the places you go for short breaks easy to get to?

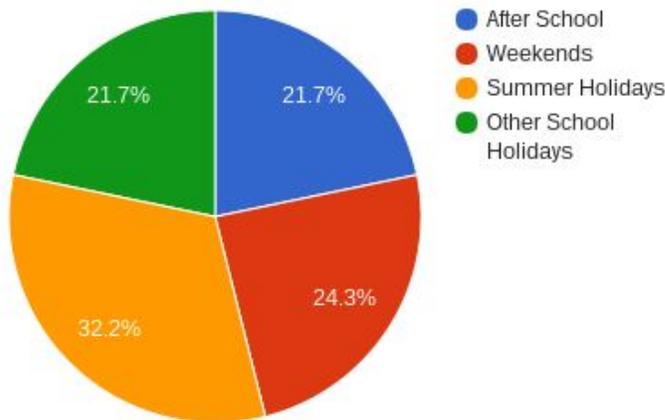


The majority (80.4%) of participants commented that the places they go for short breaks is easy to get to. Those participants who responded 'No' commented that transport was

the key reason as to why they made the selection they did. Below are some of the comments recorded in relation to transport:

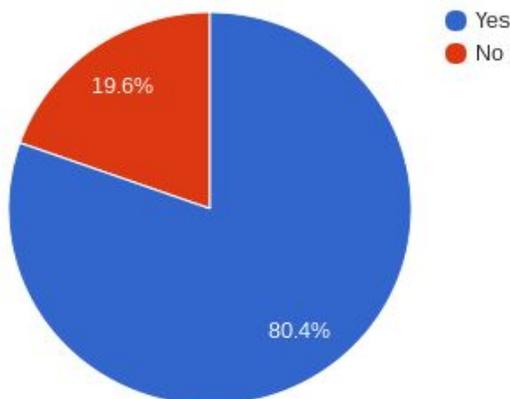
- “because I have to get a taxi”
- “I have to travel far”
- “No, I have to get 2 buses then walk”
- “No because I don’t independently travel”

Q. When are short breaks best for you?



All 4 responses received relatively equal answers, with many participants commenting they would select all 4.

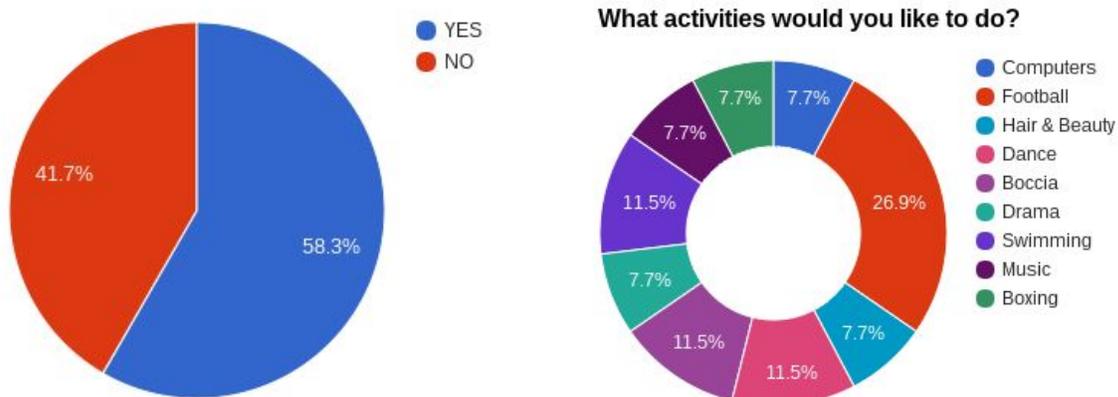
Q. Do you get a chance to feedback on the services you use?



The majority (80.4%) responded ‘Yes’ to the question. No additional comments were

provided by participants, with many struggling to identify how they feel this could be improved or done differently.

Q. Would you like to be supported to attend more activities at Leisure Centres, Youth Clubs, Scouts and Brownies etc? If Yes, please tell us what activities you would like to do and why it is important to you?



As you can see from the responses given, over half (58.3%) of participants responded ‘Yes’ to this question. Those participants who responded ‘Yes’ identified a wide variety of activities they would like to do, varying from sport, cultural and skill based activities. Sports based activities appear to be the most popular with Football (26.9%), Dance/Boccia/Swimming (11.5%) receiving the most responses. In conversations during sessions young people talked about Leisure Centres and Youth Clubs as the venues/ places they wanted to be able to attend and access these activities from.

Q. If there is anything else you would like to say about short breaks that you feel we need to know, please tell us here?

From the comments received in this section, nothing new was identified that had not already been captured elsewhere in the report, with the exception of age limits. Several participants commented that they are worried about age limits for activities. Participants identified that they are either too old to access certain Short Breaks Provision or are coming to the age where they will have to access solely adult provision and they are worried/scared about leaving friends they have made and having to go to different venues/ providers who they do not know.

SUMMARY

Although the consultation focussed on a paper based questionnaire, the opportunity to discuss together and for KYM staff to explain the questions with this cohort of young people was important. The responses given seem to suggest that the majority of LLDD young people participating were unaware of much of the Short Breaks Provision currently on offer, and very few had accessed the activities listed.

Those participants who had accessed the listed provision felt safe and also felt it provided them with the opportunity to meet new friends, learn new things and increase independence. Whilst access for many was also positive, transport does appear to be an issue, especially for participants looking to access provision independently.

When looking to identify future provision, the majority of participants appeared to indicate that whilst spending time with siblings and parents/carers can be valuable they want more time with friends away from their family. Participants highlighted a number of new activities they would like take part in, ranging from sports, cultural and skill based activities that they can access during evenings, weekends and school holidays.

Whilst conducting the consultation sessions 4 key themes emerged that cut across multiple questions, or generated wider discussion, these are:

- Not wanting to be treated as ‘a child’ with activities that are provided;
- The importance of a wide variety of activities that cover a range of disciplines;
- Transport;
- Age limits for Short Breaks provision/activities and the concerns of transition from Young People Short Breaks provision to Adult provision.

It is recommended that further discussion based consultation and engagement is undertaken with LLDD young people, in order to gather greater insight and understanding of their needs. The young people involved enjoyed being asked and most were happy to have the opportunity to inform future design and delivery of Short Breaks provision, however time was limited and a more in-depth analysis would be welcomed.

For further information:

Colin Scicluna, Operations Manager, Knowsley Youth Mutual:

Tel: 0151 443 5745

Email: colin.scicluna@youthmutual.co.uk