

Voice of West Yorkshire - Tackling Serious Violence Together

Consultation Summary – Online and in person engagement, meetings and co-production events.



Background	3
Section 1: Our consultation and engagement	4
Our objectives	4
How we engaged	4
In person meetings including Specialist Interest Groups and events	6
Partnership Input	6
Co-production Events	10
Our approach - who we spoke to - overall summary	11
Key issues impacting consultation and engagement in 2025	11
Section 2: Executive Summary	11
Key Findings – Adult Serious Violence Survey	11
Key Findings: Children and Young People/Easy Read Survey (Safety Survey)	15
Section 3: Survey Results	16
Adult Survey – Serious Violence	16
Experiences of communities as a victim or witness of Serious Violence	16
Gang Activity and Criminal Exploitation	19
Concerns about Knife Crime	21
How Serious Violence affects how we use our Town/City Centres	24
Serious Violence – our biggest safety concerns	26
People Impact Summary based on the Free text responses	28
Children and Young People/Easy Read Safety Survey Results	36
Feelings of Safety	41
Feeling Unsafe	45
Section 4: Specialist meetings and events	47
Overview	47
Section 5: Call for Evidence	49
Overview	49
High level summary Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund – Call for evidence by district	53
Appendices	58
Appendix 1: List of high footfall community events – In person surveys	58
Appendix 2: High Level Summary – Specialist Groups	59
Appendix 3 – Co-production Model	62
Appendix 4: High Level Summary – Serious Violence Co-Production Events	63

Question 2 What ideas for actions do you have based on the proposed priority and cross-cutting themes?	68
Knife Crime	68
Education, Awareness and Prevention	68
Support for Young People, Mentoring and Safe Spaces	69
Community Empowerment and Restorative practice	69
Gangs and Organised Crime	69
Prevention, Early Identification and Education	69
Family Support, Housing and community stability	69
Support for Young People, Diversion and Safe Opportunities	70
Employment, Rehabilitation and Positive Futures	70
Financial Disruption of Organised Crime	70
Community Safety, Reporting and Intelligence.....	70
Violence Against Women and Girls.....	70
Education, Healthy Relationships and Cultural Change.....	70
Trauma informed Person Centred support	71
Tackling Online Harms.....	71
Appendix 5 - Details of the knife crime campaign	74
Appendix 6 – Demographics	75
Appendix 7: Acknowledgements	83

This report contains detailed feedback which includes descriptions of serious violent crime, including knife crime, graphic violence and references to sexual violence and abuse. The content may be distressing or triggering to some readers including survivors. Details of support services can be found here (note for the team these are included in the strategy itself)

The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime have a duty to consult on the development of their Police and Crime Plan. The plan sets out the Mayor's policing priorities and the direction of West Yorkshire Police over a four-year period, focussing on three key priorities and five cross cutting themes.

When the Mayor was elected for a second term, she also promised a long-term strategy to deal with serious violence. Consultation on the Plan took place July 24-October 24, the plan and supporting documents can be found [here](#).

The spotlight on serious violence in the 2024-28 Police and Crime Plan is part of the journey to make this a reality. When we consulted on the Police and Crime Plan during 2024, we received strong support for the spotlight on serious violence, with many highlighting its wide-ranging impact on victims, families, and communities.

Young people, particularly those in schools, colleges, and universities also identified serious violence as a major concern. Parents raised issues around child vulnerability and criminal exploitation, with several sharing personal experiences. Many participants also discussed the connection between organised crime and issues such as drug-related offences, knife crime, and gun violence.

Co-producing a Strategy to tackle Serious Violence

This report follows on from our original consultation and covers our journey to co-produce an effective strategy to tackle serious violence, one which our communities and partners own and can help us deliver.

Our 2025 work explored new and additional views on serious violence from a wide range of individual members of the public and groups, including those personally affected by serious violence this work is all part of our Co- Production. The consultation was a vital part of fulfilling the Mayor's promise to co-produce a strategy with the support from communities across West Yorkshire.

Background

In 2024 the Mayor consulted on the definition of serious violence as part of the Police and Crime Plan development. This definition was widely accepted and supported by communities and partners:

'Violence and serious violence include specific crime types where there is the use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community. The specific crime types for West Yorkshire include homicide, knife crime,

violence against the person, personal robbery, gun crime, violence against women and girls, organised crime (including county lines), sexual exploitation and domestic abuse’.

In 2025 our work began by looking at what we had learned in 2024 and most importantly what else we needed to understand.

To inform the development of the serious violence survey questions, we conducted a gap analysis. We drew on insights from the Police and Crime Plan Consultation to understand the key issues raised in relation to serious violence. This helped us identify the areas that residents of West Yorkshire wanted us to prioritise and where further exploration was needed. The consultation highlighted several recurring themes: overall feelings of safety, concerns about town centres, the influence of social media, knife crime, gangs, criminal exploitation, and levels of trust in the police. These themes shaped the focus and structure of the serious violence consultation.

It is important that all our communities and partners have their say, and this includes those impacted by serious violence. All the views and information collected were used to co-produce the strategy to tackle serious violence.

Alongside the themes that emerged from the public consultation, the strategy was also shaped by the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) from the Violence Reduction Partnership and data from West Yorkshire Police. These documents reinforced what the public told us and provided a robust evidence base to support the development of the strategy.

Section 1: Our consultation and engagement

Our objectives

- Ensure everyone can share and have their views heard on what should be included in the serious violence strategy.
- Support understanding on the Mayor’s definition of what will be covered in the strategy
- Continue the conversation to support the co-design of the serious violence strategy and ensure that all the stages of co-production are adhered to and understood.
- Ensure victims of crime and those impacted by serious violence are heard.
- Raise awareness of the Mayor/Deputy Mayor’s role on tackling serious violence, and the work of the Violence Reduction Partnership
- Find out how communities want serious violence to be tackled.
- Ensure all our engagement is fully inclusive.

How we engaged

We have continued to widen our consultation and engagement methodologies in 2025 which allowed those we have engaged with to focus on particular types of serious violence which mattered to them most. We also produced a toolkit for organisations to undertake their own consultation with a survey designed for children and young people. A range of resources were shared via our website with additional support available.

Online and in-person surveys - communities

Throughout 2025 public surveys continued to be one of our main tools to engage large audiences and have proved useful in opening a broader conversation with members of the public. We have ensured we could incorporate free text responses where possible so we can gather more insight into the reasons behind the feedback and subsequent statistical responses.

Overall, we have received thousands of comments which have really helped us understand how individuals, groups of people who share the same protected characteristics and entire communities are impacted by serious violence. Individuals have been incredibly honest about their thoughts, feelings, perceptions and experiences, and you will see many of those quotes reflected throughout this report.

Our formal consultation on our 2025 work opened in mid-July and closed on 30 September. However, our in-person work ran mid-May to 31 October offering more time to speak to people in person. Of note both our online and in person serious violence survey aimed at adults asked the same questions and served as a baseline for work with Children and Young People.

During that time, we received **2,245** responses from those who live, work or study in West Yorkshire. Our survey designed for an adult audience focused on experiences and perceptions of safety, the impact of serious organised crime including criminal exploitation and gang activity, we also asked about concerns around knife crime, including online knife crime, how serious violence impacted people's feelings on their Town/City centre picking up on the serious violence issues which made them feel the most unsafe.

A further survey was designed as suitable for children and young people, in an easy read format, which many adults also chose to complete (**2,793**). Our Safety Survey explored in an age-appropriate way feelings of safety in local town centres and explored what made people feel the most safe/unsafe.

Ensuring our consultation is inclusive is key to how we work, therefore we have focussed on high footfall community events in addition to work in schools/colleges with an aim to reach the maximum number of people possible.

This report details our consultation across both surveys, representing the views of **5,038 people**. Of note we also spoke to more people who for many reasons, mostly personal, choose not to complete our survey but did want to share their thoughts. All of the feedback from the consultation has given us a better insight into how serious violence can have an impact, especially based on who you are.

Our report provides the details of those responses, calculating the numbers, and highlighting key issues for the themes discussed and is also supported by additional consultation activities, again detailed later in this report.

In person meetings including *Specialist* Interest Groups and events

During the consultation period we attended several key meetings and engagements with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for policing and crime, which included members of the public. The important discussions in those meetings are detailed in our co-production which started in May 2025 and finished in March 2026. Feedback from engagements with specialist interest groups are also included.

Targeted work with Children and Young People

Keeping a Child First lens was part of the Mayor's manifesto pledge, ensuring a focus on children and young people across all areas. We therefore knew we needed to do even more to listen to what children and young people had to say about serious violence which we know affects children and communities across West Yorkshire. Whilst only **88** children and young people completed our serious violence survey, most preferred our child friendly/easy read version with **1778** responses (64% aged 17 and under). This was in addition to our routine consultation with the Mayor's Young Communities Network and the VRP Youth Commission plus ongoing engagement in communities which also involved partners who work on our behalf with children and young people.

The child friendly/easy read survey comprised 7 safety questions, both qualitative and quantitative, to gather overall feelings of safety, in relation to the area they lived, at different times of the day. In addition to asking how safe respondents felt, and what contributed towards feelings of safety, the survey also asked which crimes and behaviours made respondents feel unsafe. Finally, the survey also captured some information about the respondent.

This survey was designed in line with the Child First Framework. The survey was created to be used alongside the adult serious violence survey throughout the summer consultation period, intending to capture focused children and young person data at high footfall events such as College and University Freshers' events, community events such as Armed Forces Day, Pride events, and festivals. A full list of our event attendance can be found at Appendix 1. The following report will show the data gathered from each question, and present emerging themes, both from individual questions, and relationally throughout the question set. The survey results, along with our 'call for evidence' findings from across West Yorkshire, will provide an insight into children and young people's views on Serious Violence, community safety and crime, to inform the Mayor's Co-Produced Serious Violence Strategy.

Partnership Input

The West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership engaged with partners with statutory responsibilities under the serious violence duty, alongside wider system partners, throughout the consultation process.

Partners supported the work by:

- Promoting the surveys and engagement activity through their networks and frontline services

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- Facilitating access to communities and groups who may be at higher risk of serious violence
 - Sharing local insight, intelligence and contextual information
 - Contributing professional perspectives on what is working well and where gaps remain

Alongside community consultation, the Violence Reduction Partnership sought input from partners across West Yorkshire to inform the development of the serious violence strategy. This ensured the consultation was grounded in professional expertise, statutory responsibilities and lived experience. Partnership input was gathered from organisations with statutory responsibilities under the serious violence duty, as well as wider system partners from policing, local authorities, health, education, Youth Justice and the VCSE sector.

Community Engagement- Community Leaders West Yorkshire (CLWY)

Community Leaders West Yorkshire supported the consultation and co-production of the serious violence strategy by hosting two community engagement events that enabled local voices to be heard. The first event supported the Deputy Mayor's "Tell Tracy" consultation. CLWY members facilitated a positive-deviance community consultation exercise, providing a safe and trusted space for community members to share their experiences and views. The feedback gathered through this engagement was shared with the Violence Reduction Partnership and informed the wider final analysis. The second event formed part of CLWY's Community Voice work and focused on supporting the co-production of the Serious Violence Strategy. This engagement enabled community leaders and residents in Bradford to contribute insights and priorities, helping to ensure community perspectives were embedded within the development of the strategy.

Community Engagement – West Yorkshire Youth Commission (WYYC)

The West Yorkshire Youth Commission was established by the Violence Reduction Partnership with Leaders Unlocked in 2023. The Youth Commission allows young people and under-represented groups to have a stronger voice on the issues that affect their lives. Their "Big Conversation" in 2024 highlighted a perceived lack of available opportunities and support for young people and not enough awareness about the services that do exist.

In light of this, the Violence Reduction Partnership asked the Youth Commission to focus its next community engagement on services and opportunities for young people, exploring their thoughts on what support is most needed, the barriers faced in accessing support, and how support and opportunities can help to reduce serious violence. The Youth Commission spoke to 1,247 young people through a series of engagement events, including stalls, peer-led workshops, and one-to-one conversations.

Young people told the Youth Commission about good quality services in their area. The young people named specific organisations, services, and places that they access, for example local places of worship, young carers support, and voluntary organisations. They referenced being able to access good after school clubs, for example Scouts and Guides, chess, and Cadets. Being able to join and enjoy these clubs was viewed positively by the young people as they said these places helped them channel their emotions in a healthy way. Young people also referred to individuals who had supported them, including the police, both local and in school, and their school guidance counsellors.

Sports centres and leisure activities were also reported to be readily available both as spaces such as gyms and extra-curricular clubs, for example boxing. Additionally, young people were able to access Youth Justice services where they could have fun, express themselves, learn new skills and make friends. The Youth Commission asked young people what opportunities were missing that they would like in their local area. Overwhelmingly, young people shared that they wanted paid opportunities or apprenticeships. These either weren't available or young people did not feel they had the correct skills to be able to access jobs or apprenticeships. They felt stuck as employers will not hire low experienced workers, but this leaves young people unable to get experience. Young people also wanted to see more help available for those struggling from substance use or prior involvement in criminal activity and this was linked to the need for more skills development related to adult life.

The need for mental health support was clear. Young people wanted free therapy sessions for young people as cost was a consistent barrier mentioned. In addition, young people wanted there to be more safe spaces in their local area.

The key barriers young people faced were accessibility, consistency of services, and stigma. Young people are unable to access services due to limited transport options, the cost-of-living crisis which has left them unable to find employment and/or take part in certain activities and lengthy waiting lists for mental health support. The consistency of services was referenced with young people commenting that children and young people's services frequently close or are unavailable in their local areas. Young people also said they feel there is a stigma around asking for help but also embarrassment about using certain services such as child/young person's clubs. Some of the ways these barriers could be removed suggested by the young people were:

HOW CAN WE REDUCE

BARRIERS

COST AND FUNDING	TRANSPORT AND LOCATION	ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION	TIME AND SCHEDULING	CONFIDENTIALITY AND TRUST	AWARENESS
Price - free/low cost eg 25p per session like CATCH	Good location	Accessible for all	Appropriate time 4:30-6pm	Confidential	Normalise reaching out for support
No Entry fee	Close to home	Accessible for all disabilities - hidden and visible	Reasonable timed sessions	Anonymous support	Make it less of a big thing to need support
Affordable	City centre location	Translator provided when language barrier	Different options for sessions	1-1 support opportunities	Let people know its okay not to be okay
Introduce discounts to learn new skills	Free transport/shuttle	Flexible ways to communicate	Personalised with time and place	Ensuring all info is confidential	Remove stigma from CAHMS
Decrease price in sport clubs, making it affordable - use school premises	Lower transport costs	Online	Flexible	More reassurance	Show young people its not just you
Payment plans for people that don't have the money in full	Better bus times	Disability friendly	Permission to leave school early	Trusted and comfortable spaces	Make support normal
Introduce discounts to learn more skills	Provide travel costs	Access via phone	Longer youth club sessions	Let people know their information is private	Detach stigma from reaching out

The Youth Commission also explored how young people want services and opportunities to be advertised to them. Overwhelmingly, young people thought social media platforms should be used to advertise services and opportunities, and they specifically mentioned Instagram and TikTok. Other digital means mentioned included WhatsApp groups and chat forums. TikTok was most frequently mentioned and for some young people this platform is viewed as a search engine for finding out information and they would rather use this than Google. Using school assemblies or having awareness days/drop-ins were also mentioned as ways to advertise services and opportunities. Having an app where relevant services and opportunities are brought together in one place was suggested.

As well as advertising services and opportunities, young people wanted information on how to get help and content that raises awareness, e.g. mental health, to be included on these platforms. It was important to the young people that the information shared was done so in a safe and confidential way.

Young people discussed how the opportunities currently available to them and the additional services and opportunities they desired would reduce violence and exploitation. Being able to access jobs, volunteering, apprenticeships, social clubs and sports as well as mental health support and mentoring would:

- Encourage young people to talk more about the challenges they face, and therefore change negative attitudes

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- Give young people more choices in their lives
 - Give young people communities and purpose which is good motivation for a positive future
 - Improve mental health amongst young people which is a factor that influences being a victim or perpetrator of violence
 - Help young people understand how they are feeling and that they are not alone
 - Allow young people to learn from each other and see how people can make bad choices but grow from these and change their lifestyle

Co-production Events

The team supported a series of key co-production events in line with the co-production model at Appendix 3.

The events provided key check points with communities and partners throughout the consultation to:

- Review and discuss key consultation (online and in person results at different stages and discuss emerging priorities
- Learn from lived experience, talk about what is working and what needs to change
- Identify gaps in service delivery, barriers and look at solutions to overcome them
- Agree and confirm key priorities and cross cutting themes
- Outline how the VCSE sector, communities and partners could help deliver strategy
- Agree areas for priority action, including any quick wins
- Discuss how we can continue to work together after the launch of the strategy.

As part of the co-production of the strategy in January 2026 the Mayor launched the people's fund with £500,000 available to support projects which focused on: Tackling Knife Crime, Violence Against Women and Girls and Gang and Criminal exploitation, which were the emerging priorities from the co-production events. However, projects tackling all forms of serious violence were also invited. Projects pitched their ideas to local communities who voted on what they want to see funded at a further five YOU DECIDE events which took place in May 2026 with £100,000 available for each district. These interventions chosen by communities will work alongside other community-based interventions and were a vital part of our co-production journey.

The results from the co-production events held in July, November, January and March are attached at Appendix 4.

For the latest detail on the successful Peoples Fund Projects in your district:
[The People's Fund | Community Grants To Tackle Violence](#)

Our approach - who we spoke to - overall summary

This report presents feedback from:

- A public online/in person survey on serious violence designed for adults (SV Survey) – completed by 2,245 (1378 in person, 867 online) - 88 people told us they were aged 17 and under. 385 people also asked us to provide email updates on the Mayor's work to tackle serious violence.
- A public survey in person designed for children/easy read (Safety Survey) – completed by 2793 people (1015 adults and 1778 children/young people aged 17 and under)
- In person engagement, meetings and events, responses detailed in our high-level analysis
- Call for Evidence – details of key national or local reports shared with us
- Responses from partners

Note: some meetings are very sensitive and/or relate to individuals. The overall views shared have informed the consultation but are excluded from the summary.

Key issues impacting consultation and engagement in 2025

Based on feedback during the consultation period we can say with confidence that some major issues flagged below impacted the feelings and concerns of those we engaged, especially in respect of Community Cohesion:

- The Russian invasion of Ukraine and the Israeli/Hamas conflict have continued to highlight risks faced by communities here in West Yorkshire. We have also seen an increase in concerns regarding protests in general around the conflict, alongside rising concerns about faith-based hate crime and racism.
- The protests and counter protests regarding asylum seekers, not only impacted on their feelings of safety but also was raised by children, young people and adults who spoke to us within the consultation period based on activities here in West Yorkshire and what was being shown across national media including social media channels.
- Concerns were raised in respect of the placement of St George's flags, and many people spoke to us about their concerns regarding hate crime linked to the threat of serious violence.

Section 2: Executive Summary

Key Findings – Adult Serious Violence Survey

Reporting serious violence - Most people (69%) told us they did report being a victim or witness to serious violence to the police and said they would report in the future. Based on those who told us their gender, nearly twice as many women than men said they would report. This was based on the seriousness of the offence, the risk that if they did not report that the perpetrator would commit further offences and positive personal experiences with the Police.

Several people who attended individual meetings with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, and special interest groups spoke about their own personal experiences of being a victim or a survivor, often of sexual violence and/or domestic abuse. They shared the challenges they had faced in reporting to the police and the impact of their journey through the criminal justice system.

Through in person consultations, via the survey or in meetings, some of the people who said they would not report, were often women or members of the LGBTQ+ community who lacked trust and confidence in the police's ability to handle sexual offences. These respondents were often additionally vulnerable based on their age, gender, ethnicity or they had previous negative experiences of dealing with the police. For some, there was a real fear that they would not be believed.

Others also shared challenges they had talking about perceptions and experiences reporting crimes against them that were linked, in their view, to their protected characteristics such as gender, race, faith, and disability. Both women and some male survivors of Domestic Abuse shared similar experiences in reporting with both genders wanting to see better and more informed training for police officers dealing with these crimes.

Impact of Gang Activity and Criminal Exploitation - 22% of adults who completed our adult survey said that they had been impacted by gang activity and criminal exploitation and just under half spoke about their experience of both these crimes. Examples of the types of activity experienced personally or that were taking place nearby, such as next door or on the same street where they lived, were shared. People spoke about wanting to move out of the area, but this wasn't an option for everyone, and those with no option told us they were stuck, afraid to go out, especially at night. Many people also spoke about the fear that their children could be criminally and sexually exploited. A lot of people spoke about drugs, its connection to serious organised crime, and the associated violence linked to knives and other weapons. A few people even shared that they carried a knife for their protection after family members had been injured. One person spoke to us about gang activity and said he had his hand amputated on a trip into the city centre. Others also shared that they did not feel safe, even in their own home or garden.

In meetings, individuals shared their recent and past experiences of being a survivor of sexual abuse, which for some included being groomed at a very young age. They spoke in detail about the lifelong trauma caused and their expectations from the National Inquiry.

Fear impacting towns and city centres - Personal Robbery, Knife Crime, Violence Against the Person, Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), Gangs and Organised Crime came out as the top concerns from our adult survey when we asked people about fears regarding towns and city centres. Whilst fewer people ticked sexual exploitation, gun crime and domestic abuse, for many, they were already subject to VAWG and/or involved Gangs and Organised Crime, and most respondents ticked multiple options. Some people who felt especially vulnerable often based on age, gender, race and sexual orientation ticked most if not all of the options offered.

Other specialist interest groups spoke about their added vulnerability based on who they were, their job, and how they lived.

They especially highlighted the support of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector (VCSE) in supporting them as survivors and the need for more early intervention and prevention, including the type of activities/interventions and support that may have prevented them from becoming victims in the first place. Some people also spoke about children being recruited into county lines' activities based on their vulnerability, stating it was often hard to find help, support and information.

Parents were similarly worried about their children walking to and from school, teenagers being groomed, intimidated, or 'pulled into gangs', young people carrying knives for protection due to local tensions and the exposure to violence, stabbings, or online content showing the prevalence of local crime. Many parents and carers spoke of communities where 'children can't play outside anymore'.

Both knife crime and VAWG were identified as early themes in the consultation and explored in detail at the co-production events, with discussions and learning about what was needed being informed by those who spoke in detail about their lived experience.

Concerns about knife crime – Just under half the people we spoke to (47%) were worried or very worried about knife crime, with the majority talking about their concerns that young people were carrying knives to protect themselves, as well as the number of knife crime injuries, deaths or wounding incidents that they were aware of, including via social media. There was a frustration that more needed to be done to enforce, educate and divert young people from being drawn into knife crime, especially those using zombie knives. Easy access to knives and the sale of knives online was flagged as a major concern. Some people also shared that they had lost young people in their community and spoke about the impact of this on their fear of serious violence. Many people felt that knife crime was increasingly linked to intimidation and gang activity. 51% told us they were worried or very worried about knife crime online, however, many people struggled to understand the term 'knife crime online'. During in-person consultation we specified it included online glorification of carrying and using weapons through media channels including social media, or online purchasing of weapons.

Fear of Violent Crime – whilst many people spoke about actual serious violence that they had experienced or seen, by far the majority of people we spoke to talked about their fear of becoming a victim of serious violence in the future. The perceived risk of being a potential victim impacted how people lived, including travelling into town and city centres to work, shop and socialize, especially at night. For some, this was based on their own feelings of vulnerability and their personal characteristics. This had a significant impact on their behaviour including what they would let their children do.

People spoke about how they would not put themselves in 'risky' situations and would choose to stay in, especially at night, and would also stop their children from going out when it was dark when they felt they were at greater risk. Many people spoke about how the fear of being

a victim of serious violence impacted their fear of crime, including community wellbeing, anxiety and their mental health.

Social media – amplified fear in communities as often local incidents were rapidly shared across community pages, videos of violence were circulated widely, raising fear levels as well as sharing misinformation which could further negatively impact community tensions. The result was a heightened anxiety and a perception that serious violence was everywhere.

Hate Crime - Harassment, hate crime, and community tensions were discussed with communities talking in detail about Racism, Islamophobia, Antisemitism, Homophobia, and Transphobia in shared public areas. There was increased unease about groups expressing hostility or extremist attitudes both in person and online and people spoke about the social divisions being created between communities. For many, these tensions created fear and reduced feelings of belonging. This was exacerbated amongst Black and Asian communities.

Trust and Confidence – there was a lack of overall confidence in tackling serious violence with a fear from some that it was getting worse. Whilst some people aimed criticism at the police directly, others were more frustrated with the lack of provision for positive interventions and support for young people both locally and nationally. Others expressed frustration at the Criminal Justice System, as a whole. A common feeling was that police presence was too low to reassure communities, but respondents acknowledged they were too afraid of reprisals to report crime. There were also concerns that different communities were policed unevenly and for some this resulted in a sense that communities must “deal with things themselves.”

Community and safe spaces feel less safe – Fear of serious violence played a huge part in how people used community spaces which included avoiding parks, ginnels, public transport hubs, and town/city centres. At night, poor lighting contributed to feelings of vulnerability, as did street drinking, shouting, and disorder with people altering routines to stay safe (e.g., not going out alone). It was felt this reduced social contact had impacted community cohesion. The report provides more detail about the additional impact of serious violence based on protected characteristics on page 28.

Hope for the strategy – Whilst citizens shared their fears, experiences and perceptions of serious violence there was hope that a new strategy would have a positive community impact. People spoke about their communities, good neighbours and strong local identity, pride in local traditions, resources in schools and colleges, strong family connections and positive support from statutory partners including the police and the VCSE sector. Essential to the success of the strategy was community cohesion helping people feel safe in community areas, visible and more timely policing, increased interventions and provision for young people. This provision included the need for safe spaces, mentoring, activities, action and enforcement on drug dealing, gangs, and knife carrying and more support for families affected by violence or exploitation.

There was a call for stronger community engagement from all local services and a clear desire for community-centred, preventative approaches, not just enforcement.

Key Findings: Children and Young People/Easy Read Survey (Safety Survey)

Feeling Safe – 84% of children and young people reported feeling safe both in their local area and their town during the daylight. When asked what made them feel safe, young people said to their family and friends. This was followed by the police, and a nice neighbourhood and community, with nice neighbours and community members. This theme was followed by a strong sense of safety from street lighting, CCTV and open clean outdoor spaces.

A few examples of the things which contributed to feelings of safety included “community and community hubs, neighbours, family”, “nice people, not much vandalism, not many balaclavas”, “People are kind. Safe area. Nice community.” And friendly neighbours, good communities, watch out for other.” As things which contributed to feeling safe.

Feeling Unsafe – 27% of children and young people did not feel safe when it was dark. Night-time confidence dropped across all ages and characteristics. In addition to this, night-time confidence was low across all town/city centres. Overall, night-time safety was affected by reports of intimidation by groups of people, visible intoxication, dangerous driving and weapons and gangs. Attacks and theft and abuse and hate were also concerns.

When asked what made children and young people feel unsafe, the top results were:

- Guns/knives or criminal gangs
- Fear of being attacked/having something stolen
- People drinking alcohol / who might be on drugs
- People hanging around in cars / dangerous driving,
- Hate (shouting or hurting me because of who I am).

When asked to share what else made them feel unsafe, they stated, ‘people shouting and being loud’, and ‘groups of people’. In addition, young people said ‘men and boys’, and ‘shady unlit areas also made them feel unsafe.

Physical Environment - Children and young people’s immediate physical environment played a large role in their feelings of safety, as well as the behaviour of those around them. Street lighting and walkways were significant. This was a clear theme that young people felt safer when they were in well-lit open areas. Some said “dealers openly dealing drugs day and night”, “when people have knives or are drunk”, “in town - a lot of beggars makes me uncomfortable” and “parks at night as hear of attacks in the news so avoid going out during the dark” about their experiences of feeling unsafe.

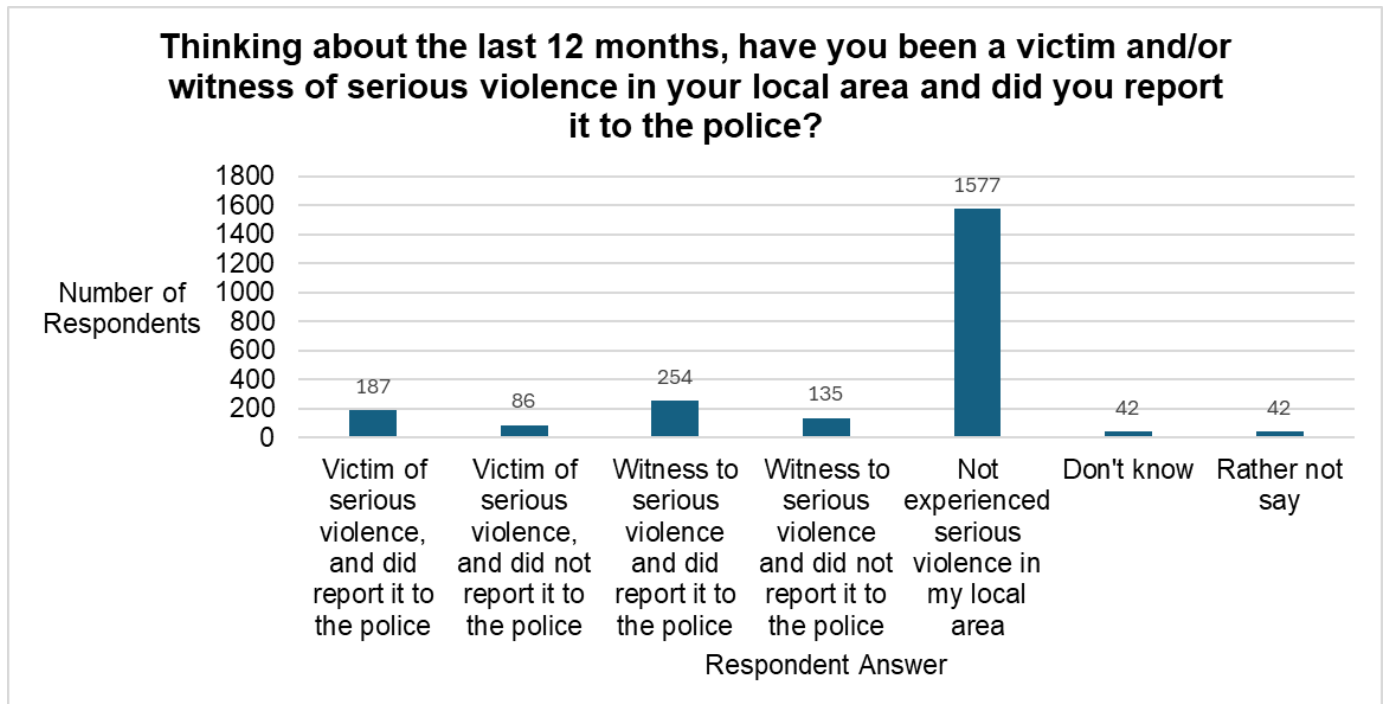
Section 3: Survey Results

Adult Survey – Serious Violence

We received 2,245 responses to our serious violence consultation survey. Of note both the online (867) and in person (1378) results followed the same pattern so the following charts represent the combined feedback.

Experiences of communities as a victim or witness of Serious Violence

Figure 1: A bar chart showing the number of respondents who had been a victim and/or witness of serious violence in their local in the last 12 months and whether they reported it to the police, based on 2,237 responses.



The chart shows experiences of serious violence in the local area over the last 12 months and whether people had chosen to report to the police. The majority (1577) had not experienced serious violence in their local area. Among those who had, 187 positive responses reported being a victim who did report the incident to the police, while 86 said they were a victim who did not report it.

For witnesses, 254 said they witnessed serious violence and reported it, whereas 135 witnessed it but did not report it.

Overall, the data shows that although most people had not personally encountered serious violence, those who had were more likely to report it than not, both as victims and witnesses, though again a notable minority still chose not to report incidents. Based on those who told us about their gender, women (140 victims) were more likely to have experienced serious violence than men (89 victims). Victims identifying as non-binary or other gender identities were both less likely to report.

“I would report but only anonymously because I don’t feel safe.”

“PCSOs can be targeted by gangs.” (relating to fear and policing vulnerability)

Figure 2: A bar chart showing whether respondents would report being a victim of or witness to serious violence in their local area in the future, based on 3504 responses (multiple choice).



We then repeated the question asking people what they would do if they were to be a victim or witness in the future and most people said they would report to the police.

Only small numbers said they would *not* report to the police (100) would not report as a victim compared with 96 people as a witness. A further 108 said they *didn’t know* whether they would report, and 22 said they would *rather not say*. Overall, the chart demonstrates that almost all respondents intend to report serious violence in the future, with reporting levels slightly higher for victims than witnesses.

We also asked people to talk in more detail about their responses to questions 1 and 2 (based on 420 responses):

Police Support - Many people explained they would report and shared the detail of why, for example, stating they felt that it was vital to report to the police so they could take action. This was often based on the seriousness of the crime and people did share positive examples where their reports had been actioned and they had very good interactions with the police. This related to both the nature and speed of the response and the manner in which they had been treated as both a victim and a witness.

“Because it is the right thing to do. And whoever committed the crime should be brought to justice so they can’t hurt anyone else in the future.”

“It’s complex but the consequences of not reporting are worse than the discomfort of reporting”

Barriers to reporting - Those who provided more detail around why they would not report shared previous personal negative experiences of reporting to the police, or detailed issues they were aware of when colleagues, friends or family had previously reported to the police. Others said it would depend on the nature of the crime and the vulnerability of the victim.

“I don’t feel comfortable and safe with police.”

“I don’t trust the police to make things better and follow the law themselves.”

For example, some women and members of the LGBTQ+ community said they were concerned they would not be believed and that the report would not be handled appropriately with concerns shared especially around sexual related violence. There was also a separate view that the police were just too busy to provide an effective response.

For many, there was also the stigma of being a ‘snitch’ and a real threat of repercussions ranging from ostracization to violent retribution, especially if they were known in the area or known to the perpetrator. There was a need to change the narrative to empower communities, increase trust in the police and local services and support individuals so they could speak up to support community safety. People also spoke about feeling safe/unsafe in general when thinking about serious violence.

“Depends on who it involves as lived in area whole life, if it’s a risk then not reporting. If they know it’s me can’t take risk, had it before when reporting hate crime’

“snitches get stiches!!”

Others spoke about a general distrust or lack of confidence in the police or apathy regarding the Criminal Justice process as a whole,

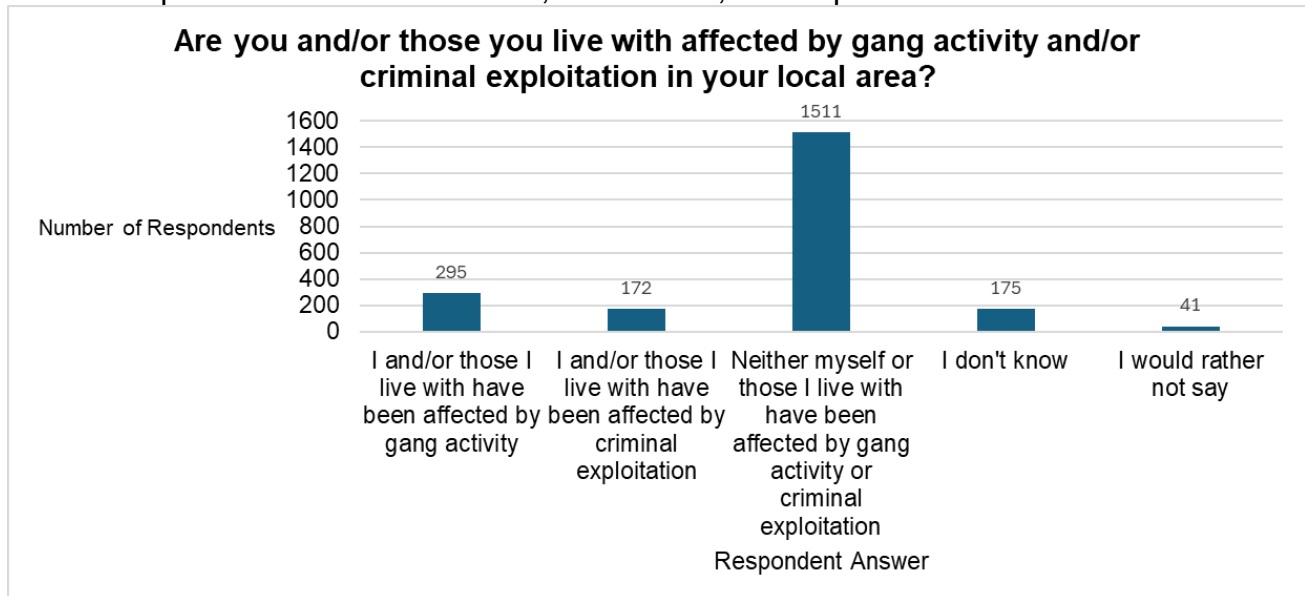
“don’t have much faith in our justice system, violent offences get a minimum sentence - posting on Facebook gets you longer sentences’.

Finally, people also spoke about reporting specific serious violence concerns such as knife crime, stabbings, and people carrying knives, concern about the escalation of serious violence, safety, and interventions for children and young people. In terms of children and young people reporting, they talked about bullying, the social media links to violence, the need for school-based prevention and child/young person engagement.

Place was also a real issue with people referencing specific streets, parks, bus stations, town/city centres, and other named localised hotspots. People referenced requests for funding, resources, and community-based projects with sustained, local solutions including more awareness, workshops, campaigns, and preventive education.

Gang Activity and Criminal Exploitation

Figure 3: A bar chart showing whether respondents were affected by gang activity and/or criminal exploitation in their local area, based on 2,194 responses.



Our survey qualified what we meant by gang activity, detailing that urban street gangs were: ‘An Urban Street Gang is usually a group of younger people who meet as a group and are known by others as a gang. They may get involved in crime and violence and sometimes fight with other gangs. These gangs often claim certain areas as their own and might wear certain colours, signs, or symbols to show who they are.’ We also explained criminal exploitation is the deliberate manipulation or abuse of power and control over a person.

Most people we spoke to had not been affected by gang activity or criminal exploitation, but we received 467 responses stating they had been affected by one or both. However, we had 295 responses from people that said they or those they lived with had been affected by gang activity, 175 reported being affected by criminal exploitation and 129 responses to say they or their household had experienced both issues. Only small numbers selected “I don’t know” or “I would rather not say”. Overall, the chart suggests that although most respondents have not been personally affected, a significant minority (**around one in five**) have experienced gang activity and/or criminal exploitation in their local area.

Gangs and Intimidation - When talking about the impact of gang activity and how the issues affected those we spoke to or those who they lived with, based on **383 responses**, by far the majority of people spoke about how frightened and fearful they were.

Many people related worry that their children/grandchildren would be groomed into a criminal gang and many people stated that the fear of crime meant that they stopped their children going out on an evening, others spoke about knowing someone personally who had been stabbed or injured and many people also said they had seen violent local gangs in action literally outside their home. People spoke about the different types of gang activity such as street gangs, and gangs involving young people, referencing groups of teens or young men "hanging around", Balaclava wearing young people, on bikes and scooters frequently calling them "Roadmen", and "gangsters" and also referred to intimidation in parks, on local estates, in bus stations, and town and City centres.

When looking at Organised Crime gangs people spoke more about street level drug dealing, county lines, cannabis farms and homes being taken over "cuckooing". They also spoke about gang meetings and territorial behaviour and threats through damaging cars, property, or local shops.

Linked to gangs and intimidation people spoke about knife carrying, stabbings, robbery and muggings. Many people shared that they had faced harassment, particularly young people and women. Some people also spoke about hate crimes particularly racism, homophobia and transphobia. Concerns about grooming, online influence, and social media normalising gang culture

"We had considered moving because of this, my youngest child had nightmares for some time"

Open drug dealing, drug use and cannabis were frequently mentioned in terms of links to grooming and gang activities. For some, the fear was very real again based on personal experiences either living next door or close to people they believed were involved in criminal gangs or an awareness in communities based on content often shared and glamourised on social media.

"I have just moved from an area affected by gang activity - mainly drug related. I have moved to a less affected area now (mainly for this reason), so I feel safer. My sister is still subjected to exploitation (she has learning difficulties) and is a big risk"

Some people also spoke about the use of e-bikes and young people with balaclavas, which made people feel unsafe. Other issues included violent Anti-Social Behaviour such as vandalism, harassment and intimidation, and alcohol related crime and disorder. Many people also mentioned that it was their neighbourhood environment that made them feel the most unsafe, and this was often linked to concerns with hate crime and community and social cohesion

Fear and Mental Health - People also spoke about the fear and anxiety of leaving their home, for those who felt additionally vulnerable (often linked to gender, age, disability, race, faith and sexuality), and this was often worse. People spoke about being scared, and about how fear gave them sleep issues, nightmares with some people also talking in more detail about trauma linked to what they had seen. People also spoke about avoiding certain routes or places, not going out after dark, preferring to stay at home if they could or changing their travel routines.

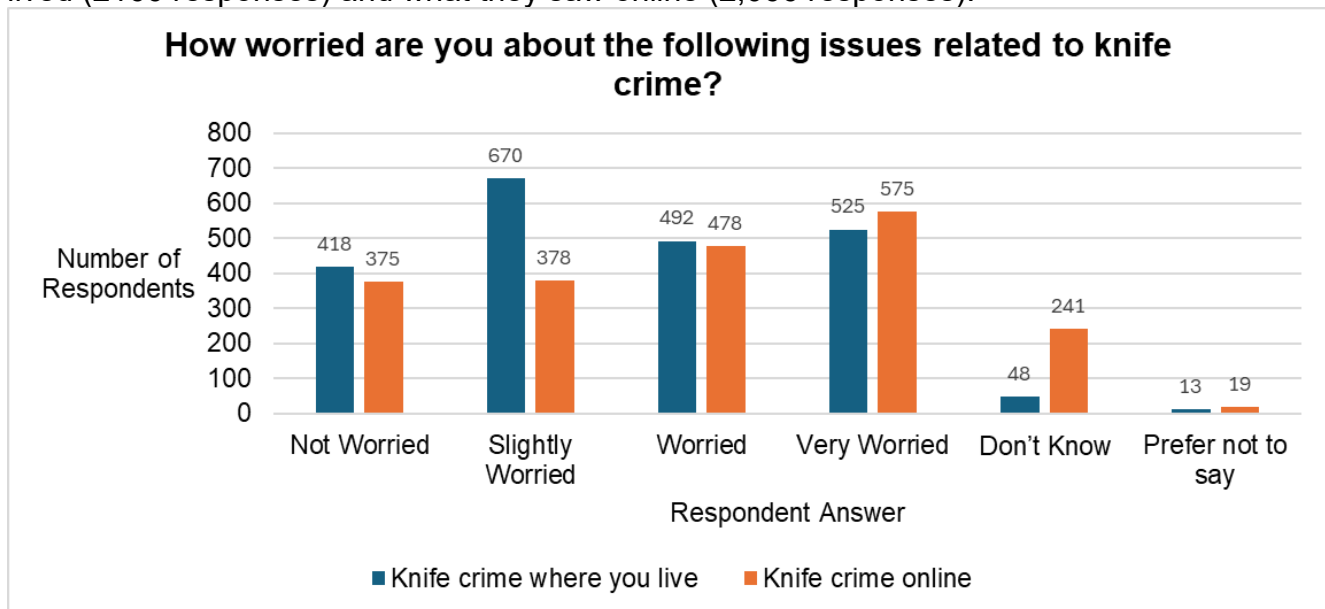
Some people said they were hyper-vigilant and some had installed additional security such as CCTV. People spoke about the fear of criminal exploitation of young or vulnerable people and parents repeatedly expressed fear about children being targeted or recruited, their exposure to knife-carrying peers and their safety travelling to and from school. Speaking about repercussions from gangs some people also spoke about the distrust or lack of confidence in the police response based on cases of previous reports which they felt had been dismissed or not followed up.

“My son was jumped by 15 boys and was seriously injured”

People also spoke about the impact on workplaces and local businesses including robberies, burglary and how this impacted their feeling of safety at home and when they went out.

Concerns about Knife Crime

Figure 4: A bar chart showing how worried respondents were about knife crime where they lived (2166 responses) and what they saw online (2,066 responses).



Nearly half of those we spoke to (49%) stated they were worried or very worried about knife crime where they lived with just over half (51%) stating they were worried or very worried about knife crime online. One notable difference is in the “Don’t know” category, far more respondents chose this for online knife crime (241) compared with knife crime where they live (48), suggesting greater uncertainty about the scale or nature of online knife crime. The concern about knife crime was high in all forms.

Fear of and glorification of knife crime - Most people who added further comments about their fear of knife crime spoke in detail about their concerns for their family and community based on their awareness of crime and gang activity, this included fear for children and young people with some concerns shared that daughters may be more likely to be sexually exploited whereas sons may be criminally exploited.

Others shared that whilst they were not concerned about themselves or their family, they were afraid for young people in their local area citing again having witnessed knife crime personally or being aware of what was happening because of what was being shared predominantly online.

“I have two kids 8 and 5, I am very worried about social media/influence and Andrew Tate”

“Knife crime is getting worse, too many YP dying and kids carry knives to feel safe.”

Many people believed knife crime is rising, especially among teenagers and young adults with people saying it was becoming more common, normalised and part of everyday life for young people with links as previously discussed to gang culture, drugs, and intimidation

Parents and carers repeatedly expressed fear of children travelling to and from school, were worried about knives being carried by pupils, concerns about online influences such as violent content, and the glorification on gang culture across social media platforms and some families reported children having nightmares, avoiding going out, or asking to move area. Again, the fear of knife crime impacted the use of town and city centres after dark, bus stations, parks, alleyways, shopping areas, transport hubs and poorly lit streets

Many people spoke about knives being easily purchased online, and this included “zombie knives”, machetes, swords and large blades, weapons ordered online and being delivered with no checks and young people being able to buy knives in shops. People wanted to see stricter controls, mandatory ID checks, retail enforcement and knife amnesties

“I have seen a teen pull a zombie knife.”

As with gang crime the fear of knife crime for many had resulted in anxiety, stress, trauma, hypervigilance, people restricting their own movements, reduced confidence in public spaces and for some isolation for vulnerable residents. Some people said they had considered moving because of knife-related crime.

“My best friend died from being stabbed.” “My son had his throat cut.”

“Knife crime needs to improve to make people safe.” “Rise in knife crime and drug use.”

Women, LGBTQ+ and minoritised groups felt disproportionately unsafe and knife crime concerns intersected with VAWG, homophobia and transphobia, racist abuse and hate crime and harassment in nightlife settings. These groups reported feeling especially vulnerable in public spaces. Knife crime was one of the top three safety concerns across all demographics. People felt unsafe, especially after dark, frustrated with weak enforcement, fearful for their children, overwhelmed by rising gang/drug activity and often discouraged by police response and reporting barriers. At the same time, communities expressed strong willingness to support prevention, education, and visible policing to reduce knife-related harm.

“The culture of carrying a knife seems to be more acceptable. This needs to change. I have noticed there is little support for young people, and I have seen a massive decline in young person’s support for lots of vulnerable young people”

There was a strong desire for more prevention, education, and early intervention with people asking for children/young person’s services and diversionary programmes, education in schools about knife crime consequences, better community engagement with local services, more early help and safeguarding support, Mental health and trauma services and learning from other public health approaches. Many people felt knife crime is a symptom of deeper issues such as poverty, exploitation, boredom and the lack of safe spaces for children and young people.

Some people also emphasised the need for more enforcement such as more visible policing, including PCSOs, stop-and-search noting some people were supportive and some were critical of its current use, harsher sentencing and mandatory custodial sentences, the use of knife arches in transport hubs and busy centres and better lighting and CCTV coverage

A major barrier to tackling knife crime for some was a lack of trust in the police, including a belief that “nothing will be done”, fear of retaliation or being labelled a “snitch”, past negative experiences of reporting, the fear that reporting would expose their identity and the concerns with the wider criminal justice system in respect of delays or weak sentencing. Many people would prefer to stay anonymous, and some said they would *never* report.

Knife crime on the back of gang activity was a major concern, its prevalence coupled with the concern that young people carried knives to defend themselves but were more likely to be injured if they were carrying was discussed and the need for intervention and education for young people was seen as vital.

“My son is transitioning to high school in September; I am petrified and scared. I am spending a lot of time educating him and praying he does not get recruited or involved in crime as a victim or as an offender”

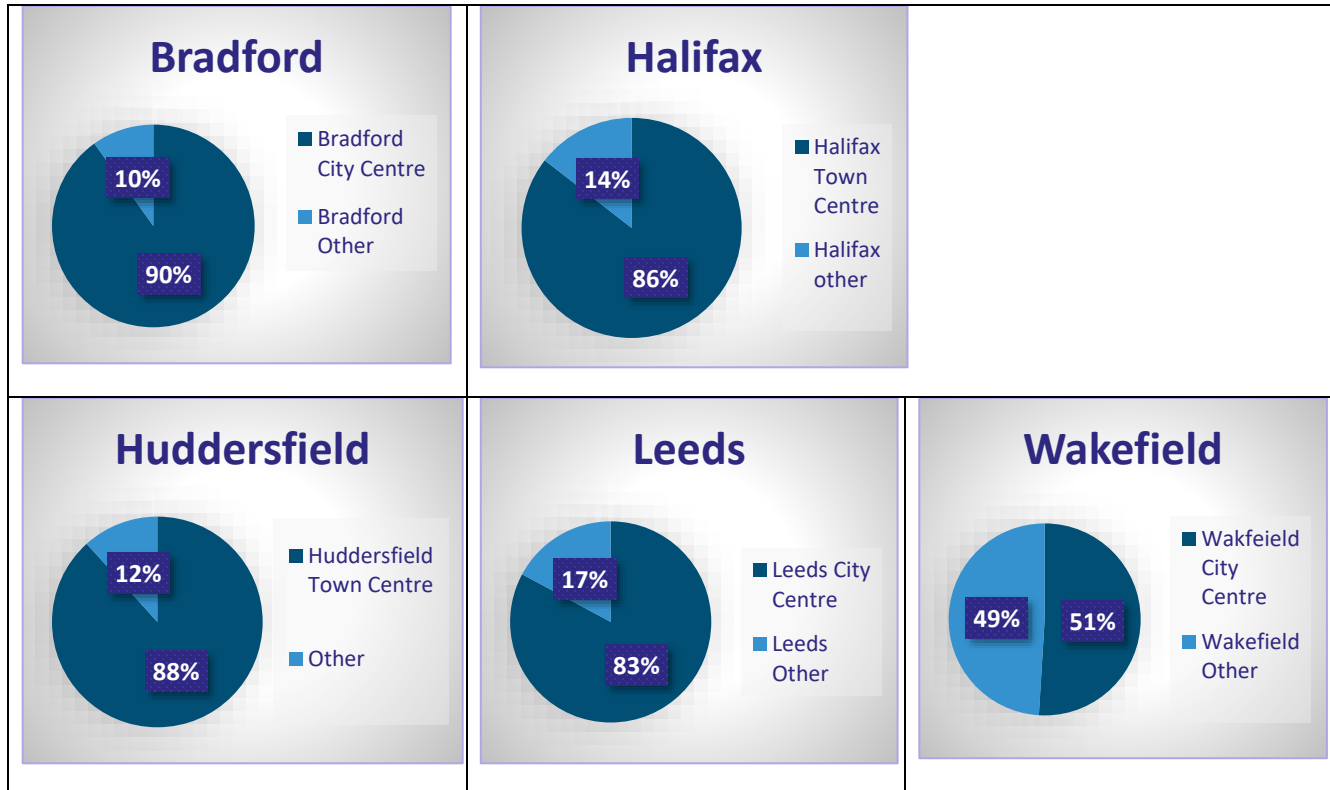
There were also frustrations with the easy access to knives in shops and online coupled with the perceived promotion and glorification of gang activity online.

“Need tougher knife crime sentences.”

How Serious Violence affects how we use our Town/City Centres

We asked people which town centre they visited the most with the results as follows, showing that most people across Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds were speaking about the City Centre. Only the Wakefield district was different with similar numbers referring to the City Centre and surrounding town/city centres.

Figures 5 to 9: District based graphs to show which town centres respondents visited most.



The survey results reveal a consistent and detailed picture of what makes town and city centres across West Yorkshire feel unsafe. The themes are wide ranging but highly repetitive across responses with common issues including knife crime and stabbings, gang activity and intimidation, drug dealing and drug use in open view, violence, personal robbery, assault, and threats, sexual harassment and exploitation, especially towards women and girls and hate crime especially, racism, homophobia, and transphobia. Respondents frequently linked these issues to nighttime economy areas, bus stations, pubs, alleyways, and poorly lit public spaces.

There was a community impact of this which included people avoiding town and city centres after dark, changing travel routes or routines, impact on anxiety, stress, and reduced wellbeing. Parents spoke about being fearful for teenagers, older residents felt excluded and people considering moving away. For some, town centres no longer felt like safe shared community spaces.

People told us that environmental factors amplify fear or discomfort such as poor lighting and dark alleyways (“shady/unlit areas”), dirty or neglected spaces, graffiti, broken windows, noise, crowds, unsafe traffic (speeding cars, motorcycles, e-bikes), long waits for public transport and unsafe bus stations after dark

These place-based factors made people feel vulnerable, especially women, older adults, and disabled people.

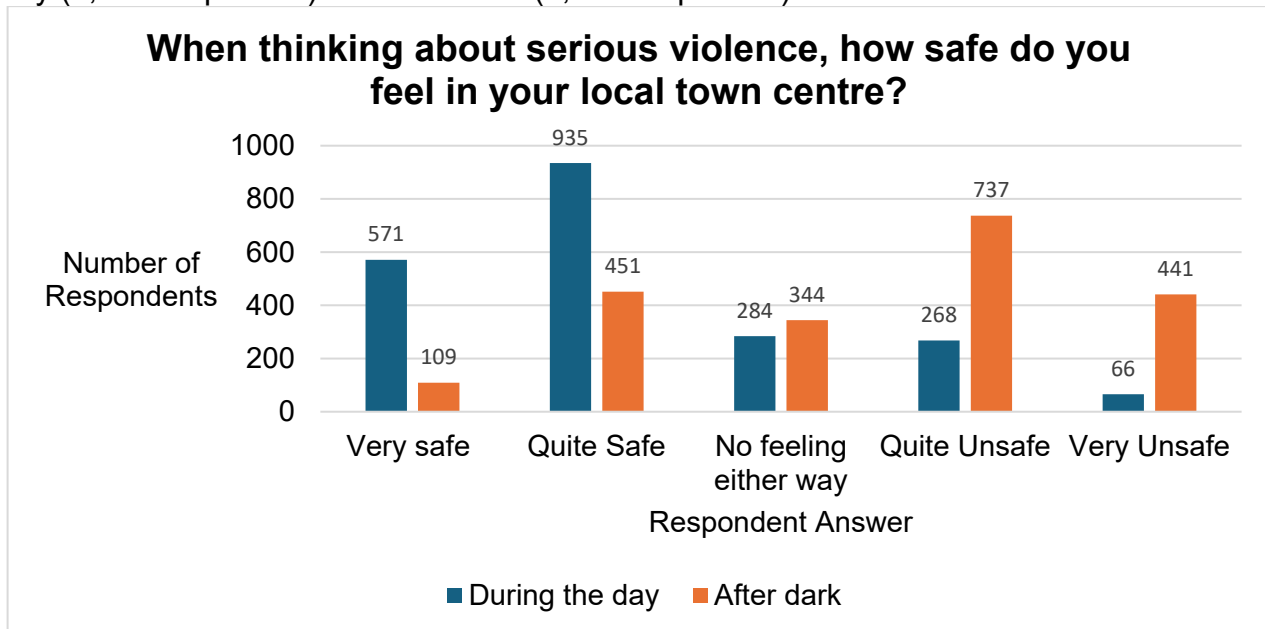
“Life is hard as you cannot walk the street at night.” *“I would like to feel safe shopping.”*

“People are getting away with everything and no consequences.”

“Lack of police presence does concern me.”

Town and city centre issues revolve around crime, disorder, environmental neglect, and lack of visible policing, combined with low public confidence and heightened fear especially at night. These problems affect people of all ages, with the strongest impact on women, young people, and vulnerable groups.

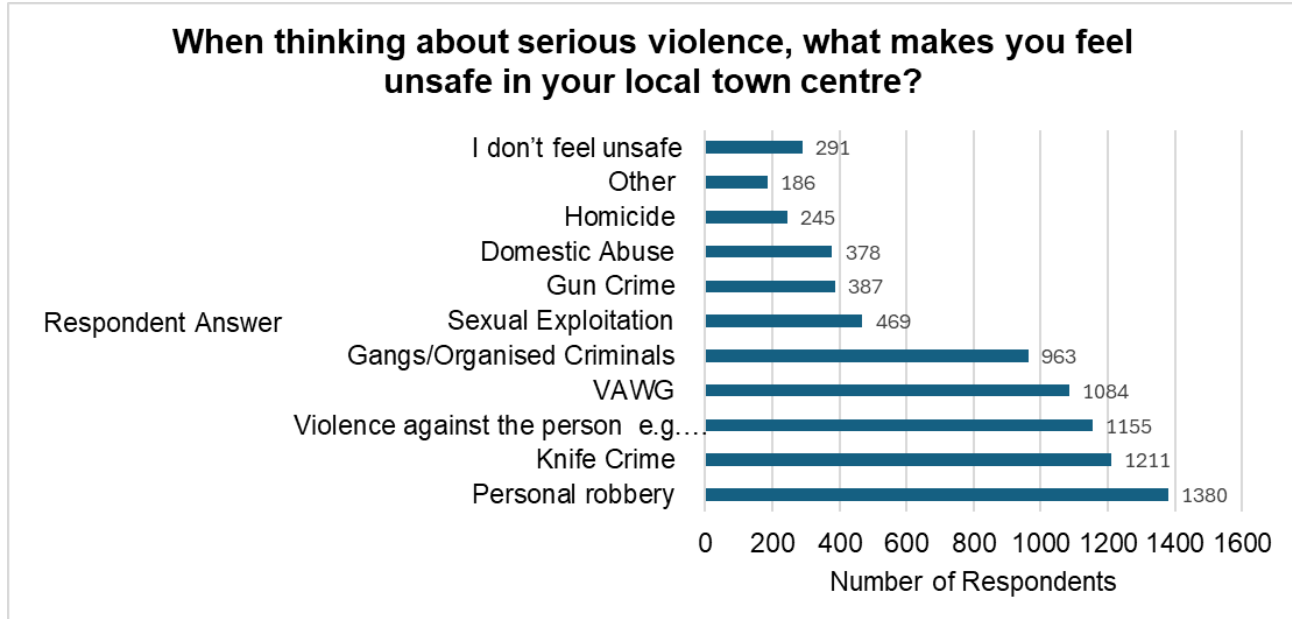
Figure 10: A bar chart to show how safe respondents felt in their local town centre during the day (2,124 responses) and after dark (2,082 responses).



71% said they felt quite or very safe during the day compared to 57% stating they felt quite or very unsafe at night, after dark. When focussing on feelings of safety at night when it was dark ranking those that felt quite/very unsafe the results were as follows Kirklees 62%, Wakefield 56%, Bradford 55%, Calderdale 51% and Leeds 51%.

Serious Violence – our biggest safety concerns

Figure 11: A bar chart showing issues that made respondents feel unsafe in their local town centre.



Based on 260 free text responses

Personal Robbery - In this multiple choice question the largest concern highlighted was personal robbery linked to the example shared on the survey regarding mobile phone theft, of note it was also the only response which included the phrase 'personal' which may have influenced the number of people who chose. Also, people were worried here about the threat of force or use of force with people speaking about having money or valuable items taken.

Knife Crime - All aspects of knife crime were covered, and people spoke about their frustrations with the ease of access to knives, the concern that young people carried knives, threats and the solutions required to address the problem. Some people knew someone who had been injured or fatally wounded and most people linked knife crime to drugs and gang involvement.

Violence Against the Person - Violence against the person, some people we spoke to referred to assault, but many people linked offences to harassment. Many women and girls highlighted this in more detail under VAWG but when it came to men and boys, they also shared concerns of harassment and the fear of serious violence. Lots of people who were parents spoke about their sons being a target especially when they were out on an evening, with a real feeling that they might be victims of a random attack.

VAWG – all aspects of VAWG were covered with domestic abuse, harassment and sexual assault flagged as major concerns not just by women but also by men. Some women spoke positively about the work and awareness to date but noted more needed to be done. When it came to feelings of safety at night and even in the day some women said they were scared to go out, others spoke about how they moderated what they chose to do. Some people spoke

about being a victim or survivor and its long-term impact on their mental health, including depression and anxiety.

“As a woman (22) I have been followed by men.”

“Guys hollering, recording me, not leaving me alone.”

Women, young people and LGBTQ+ respondents reported harassment, catcalling and being followed, feeling unsafe at night or in quiet areas, avoiding town centres altogether after dark, concerns for children walking home from school or using public transport and fear of hate-motivated harassment or assault. Overall town and city centres were described as much less safe for women and girls than for men.

“I am terrified for my girls growing up”

Gang Crime - when it came to gang crime many people spoke about county lines, the tactics used to recruit young people into gang activity including criminal and sexual exploitation. Some people expressed knowledge of rival gang activity and the lack of positive interventions which were often based on where people lived, their opportunities, and positive role models.

Many people who responded across the free text in this section reflect on ‘other’ things that made them feel unsafe in town which are often related to the fear of serious violence based on open drug dealing or homeless people and aggressive begging. Others spoke in more detail around the specific issues under the serious violence categories chosen, highlighting the use of E-bikes and scooters where the riders were masked, incidents involving machete’s, knives or weapons, as well as sharing any final thoughts on serious violence in their named town/city centre. Hate crime linked to serious violence relating to race, homophobia and being trans were a real concern along with fear about VAWG.

Concerns around drug gangs and intimidation from drug users were also shared, and some people spoke about local ‘no go’ areas.

Alcohol was a major concern, especially linked to domestic abuse. It was also a risk factor often linked to sexual assault. Lots of people who were homeless and begging in city centres often appeared to have problems linked to alcohol misuse, and some people spoke about concerns with large groups of drunk individuals, especially at weekends and in the evenings. Homeless people and aggressive begging were also a concern in some locations. Although people showed some empathy for vulnerable individuals, the issues significantly contributed to feelings of safety.

Many people spoke here about the fear and their perception of serious violence and again it was clear that for those who did not have personal experience, their perceptions were based on what was shared most frequently via online media although some people did speak about what they saw on TV or read about in mainstream media channels.

Some people wanted to see more resources, especially from the police and key support services, there was a recognition that cuts to Youth Justice services had again for many made things worse and that there was not enough support for those who were a victim or had

witnessed serious violence. Some people spoke about people they knew personally or were aware of who had been killed or injured especially linked to knife crime and VAWG.

Others also shared incidents that are too traumatic to detail and the impact this had on them long-term including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

When thinking about the types of serious violence impacting safety in town centres, 260 people provided additional free text comments, with similar numbers commenting on drugs, VAWG and hate crime including transphobia, homophobia and racist hate crime.

“lots of crime in Town Centre, lots of males spiking drinks, intimidating women”

“female teens might feel pressured into doing something sexual with a male and not talk”

People also spoke in detail about how they felt in their town/city centre especially at night and examples were shared around attracting people at night without enough planning and resources to meet the impact.

“increase in visitors to the town over the past 10 years has added to my concerns. I used to feel very safe, now people go there to drink”

Young people also highlighted they were especially fearful of gangs, knives, and violent groups, worried about intimidation by those who were older, were concerned about dangerous driving around town centres, worried about the exposure to alcohol, drugs, fighting, and aggression, fear of theft, robbery, or assault.

“It is very bad, especially when you see young people around drugs and how easily coerced young people can be by others.”

Across this question there were concerns that social media spreads news of violent town centre incidents, increasing fear, concerns that knives and gangs are glamorised online.

“I worry about the effect of social media and knife crime.”

“Online threats are made 24/7”

People Impact Summary based on the Free text responses

(Survey aimed at adults but includes responses from 88 children, in person and online)

Children and Young People - Many children and young people described strong fears around violence, especially in town and city centres after dark. Key themes included:

- Fear of gangs, knives, and weapons in public places.
- Concerns, fears and worries about being attacked, robbed, or shouted at.
- Avoidance of certain streets, parks, or bus stations due to intimidation.
- Feeling unsafe when alone, when groups of older teens are present, or when adults are drinking or using drugs.

Parents fear for their children's safety - Parents repeatedly expressed deep concern about their children being exposed to violence, exploitation, or harmful influences. Examples of parent concerns:

"I do worry for my children's safety."

- Fear of children being caught up in gang culture or carrying knives for protection.
- Anxiety about walking home from school, especially in darker months.
- Worries about teenagers being targeted by older peers.
- Some families considered moving due to safety fears.

Exposure to violence and traumatic incidents - Children reported witnessing or hearing about serious incidents:

- Stabbings near schools or in local parks.
- Friends or peers being assaulted or intimidated.
- Incidents of knife crime shared widely on social media.
- Some young people have personally experienced violence or threats.

Social media's influence on children - Respondents consistently mention the impact of online content:

- Social media normalises knives and gang behaviour.
- Young people mimic online "gangster" personas.
- Exposure to violent videos increases fear and anxiety.
- Parents feel unable to protect children from constant online content.

Children influenced or exploited by older peers - Free text comments highlighted:

- Older peers pressuring younger ones into risky behaviour.
- Concerns about county lines, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) e.g., criminal grooming.
- Young people carrying knives "just in case" or due to peer pressure.
- Young males on e-bikes being used for drug distribution, visible in public areas.

Mental health and emotional impact on children - Both adults and young people describe significant emotional effects:

- Anxiety, nightmares, hypervigilance.
- Young people afraid to visit town and city centres.
- Some children no longer feel safe going out with friends.
- Increased fear of strangers, groups, and dark areas.

Lack of children and young person provision and safe spaces - many people said that children and teenagers lack:

- Safe places to go after school.
- Child/young person's centres, supervised activities, or safe hangout spaces.
- Positive role models.

This gap increases:

- Boredom, leading to increased Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Increased vulnerability to grooming or exploitation

Women and Girls - Women and girls expressed some of the strongest and most consistent concerns about safety, particularly in relation to town centres, knives, harassment, and policing. Their experiences span fear, avoidance, trauma, and perceptions of being uniquely vulnerable in public spaces.

Harassment and Unwanted Attention - Women frequently described harassment as a routine experience, especially in town and city centres and after dark. Free text comments highlighted:

- Catcalling and men shouting at them.
- Being followed by men or groups.
- Being stared at, approached, or recorded.
- Inappropriate comments of a sexual nature from individual males and from groups of men and groups of boys.

This behaviour contributed to a sense of constant vigilance, especially when walking alone or near nightlife venues.

Fear of Violence and Knife Crime - Knife crime is a major concern for women and girls. Respondents described:

- Fear of being attacked or caught up in a violent incident.
- Anxiety prompted by recent stabbings in town centres.
- Worry that knives are easily accessible to young people.
- Being afraid for their teenage daughters navigating public spaces.

Knife crime was often discussed alongside gendered vulnerability, with women feeling disproportionately at risk in poorly lit or isolated areas.

Feeling Unsafe in Town and City Centres (Especially After Dark) - Women report that town centres become unsafe environments later in the day due to:

- Drunk men, shouting, fighting, street gatherings.
- Groups of men in balaclavas or on e-bikes.
- Drug use and dealing in the open.
- Poor lighting and isolated walking routes.

As a result, many actively avoid evenings out in towns and city centres, take detours, or only go out if accompanied.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) as a Constant Backdrop – Free text responses repeatedly reference concerns about:

- Sexual assault.
- Harassment when socialising.

-
- Women feeling targeted by groups.
 - Deep worry for the safety of daughters and female relatives.

Some described specific incidents involving severe violence, including assault and threats, reinforcing the sense that VAWG was an everyday risk to be managed.

Intersectional Vulnerability (LGBTQ+, Trans Women, Minority Women) - Several people said that:

- Homophobia and transphobia make town and city centres more dangerous.

“My daughter who is trans was beaten up.”

- Trans women face harassment and violence.
- Women from ethnic minority groups experience racism in addition to gendered harassment.

“Racism has become more evident.”

This amplified fear, particularly in public spaces without CCTV and reassurance policing.

Lack of Trust in Police to Protect Women - Some women expressed mixed but often negative perceptions about policing:

- Reports of sexual assault were met with blame or dismissal.
- Feeling that police “do nothing” or “don’t follow through”.

‘We should feel safe with authority around us’

- Fear of reporting due to possible retaliation.
- Perception that police presence was inadequate, especially at night.

This lack of confidence meant that many women feel they cannot rely on the police if something happened.

Impact on Daily Life and Mental Wellbeing - Women and girls describe:

- Anxiety, hyper vigilance, and avoidance behaviour.
- Not feeling able to relax when outside alone.
- Planning routes based on lighting, crowds, or CCTV.
- Fear for daughters travelling to school, college, or work.

For some, the fear was so severe it caused changes in lifestyle or travel including choosing not to visit town and city centres at all.

Calls for Action from Women and Girls - Respondents consistently suggested:

- More visible police patrols, especially in evenings and near transport hubs.
- Better lighting, especially in alleyways, ginnels and side streets.
- Stronger enforcement of knife crime and violence.

-
- More targeted safety initiatives for women and girls.
 - Improved response to sexual assault and harassment reports.

The suggestions reflect the need for the environment, not the behaviour of women to change.

Men and Boys - Men and boys feature prominently throughout the responses as both those at risk of violence (especially from gangs, knives, and exploitation) and as a group whose behaviours, when perceived as threatening, significantly shape public fear.

The free text comments highlight a wide spectrum of experiences, from young boys being targeted to adult men feeling unsafe due to weapons, gangs, and drug-related activity.

Men and boys are deeply affected by knife crime and violence - Many men and boys report direct or indirect experiences with violence:

- Incidents of stabbings impacting male family members and peers.
- Young males described as “jumped”, attacked, or threatened with weapons.
- Boys carrying knives “to protect themselves” due to peer pressure or fear.
- Fathers, sons, and grandsons frequently mentioned as being at risk.

Men and boys were often central in stories of victimisation, retaliation fear, and trauma.

Male vulnerability in public spaces - Men and especially teenage boys and young adults told us they experienced:

- High exposure to gangs, hostile peer groups, and organised crime.
- Intimidation from older males, particularly those involved in drug dealing.
- Increased risk of being drawn into violent encounters, especially in parks, streets, and bus stations.
- Pressure to “act tough” or align with peers to remain safe.

This challenged the stereotype that men feel safe in public spaces.

Fear of being targeted, labelled, or punished - Men expressed concerns about:

- Being targeted as a “snitch” after reporting crime.
- Repercussions for refusing to participate in gang or criminal activity.
- Experiencing violence from other males, often in groups/street gangs.
- Fearing escalation when intervening in public incidents.

Young men described social pressure and reputational risk linked to violence.

Men as witnesses or victims of traumatic incidents - Free text comments reference:

- Fathers witnessing stabbing incidents or finding their sons affected by knife crime.
- Male respondents expressing trauma after being threatened or assaulted.
- Stories of serious injury, including “my son had his throat cut” and “my father was murdered by a knife.”

Incidents left long term emotional impact on the men who spoke to us.

Boys exposed to harmful influences (social media, gangs and exploitation) - Risks to boys from:

- Social media glamorising violence, “roadman” culture, and gang identity.
- Criminal exploitation (CCE), including recruitment via online platforms.
- Older males using boys as drug runners (linked with e-bikes and scooters).
- Normalisation of knives among male peer groups.

Parents expressed a strong worry that boys were more susceptible to online grooming and gang pressure.

Men’s mental health and fear often hidden or under reported crime - Though less vocal than women in expressing fear, the free text responses showed:

- Men and boys do feel unsafe, especially around knives and gangs.
- Some men internalise their fear or feel they “shouldn’t show it.”
- Several express trauma, anxiety, or stress tied to violent experiences.

These hidden concerns contribute to mental ill health.

Men as perpetrators: how public perception centres on male groups - People regularly referred to men and boys as:

- The primary carriers of knives.
- Perpetrators of gang violence and drug dealing.
- Sources of intimidation (groups of males, balaclavas, e bikes).
- Responsible for harassment, shouting, and threatening behaviours.

This shaped how the public perceives safety in town and city centres.

Community concerns for future generations of boys - Parents, grandparents, and communities said they:

- Were worried that boys will become victims or perpetrators of violence.
- Feared that local violence would shape their social identity and development.
- Concerned about boys moving into secondary school or mixing with older young people.
- Hoped for more child/young person’s services, role models, and safe spaces.

There was a strong sense that boys are at a crossroads, needing support to avoid harmful pathways.

Black and Minority Ethnic Communities - Black and Minority Ethnic respondents highlighted a distinct set of safety concerns shaped by racism, hate crime, policing experiences, exploitation risks, and visibility in public spaces. Their narratives reflect both heightened vulnerability and mistrust in systems which should offer protection.

Racism and Hate Crime in Public Spaces - Black and Asian respondents frequently mentioned experiencing or witnessing:

- Racist verbal abuse in town and city centres.

“I feel after the public disorder last year that I am not safe in the city centre.”

- Targeting by groups when moving through public places.
- Islamophobia and anti-Muslim harassment (especially hijab wearing women and South Asian men).
- Homophobia and transphobia intersecting with racial identity in some cases.

These experiences increased fear of town and city centres, especially after dark and impact willingness to travel alone.

Feeling Over Policed and Under Protected – there was some mistrust in police, described as over policing, feeling disproportionately watched or judged and concerns that police target young Black and Asian boys more readily.

Feeling under protected - Perceptions the police do not take their reports seriously, particularly hate related incidents, a belief that authorities “don’t care” about violence in some neighbourhoods and a reluctance to report incidents due to fear of not being believed or fear of escalation.

This tension leads to lower confidence in reporting, especially among younger men and Muslim respondents

Increased Vulnerability to Child/Young Person Perpetrated Violence and Gangs - Black and Asian respondents frequently expressed:

- Concern that boys and teens from their communities were particularly at risk of being recruited into gangs or exploited by older males.
- Fear that their children, especially sons will be targeted or caught up in violence in school or out of school settings.
- Worry that carrying weapons becomes normalised among teen boys “for protection”.

Parents and carers describe immense stress about their sons’ safety, both as potential victims and potential suspects.

Islamophobia and Cultural Harassment - Asian Muslim respondents highlighted:

- Harassment in town and city centres due to religious appearance (e.g., hijab, beard).
- Fear of being singled out in predominantly white nightlife spaces.
- Increased anxiety following national or local tensions (e.g., disturbances)

Some report that Islamophobia combined with general anti-immigrant sentiments created a hostile atmosphere.

Fear for Children and Young People - Black and Asian parents express heightened concern for:

- Children being bullied due to skin colour or cultural background.
- Children witnessing violence or being near serious incidents.
- Teenagers being targeted by gangs, exploited for drug supply, or victimised at bus stations, parks, and town centres.

Many feared their children will face racially motivated aggression or be more vulnerable because perpetrators view them as “easy targets”.

Knife Crime as a Major concern - Across Black and Asian respondents, knife crime emerges as a leading fear:

- Multiple parents reported knowing victims of knife attacks.
- Some had direct experience of family members being stabbed or threatened.
- Respondents believed knife crime was rising faster in racially diverse neighbourhoods.

Knife crime was often discussed together with drug activity, groups of young people, and gang intimidation, particularly affecting Black and South Asian boys.

Social Media Harms for Young Black and Asian Boys - Respondents mentioned:

- Online content glamorising violence and crime influencing boys from minority backgrounds.
- Fear that racialised boys are disproportionately targeted for grooming into criminal networks.
- Anxiety about violent incidents involving or affecting teens being widely circulated online.

This created a culture of fear that affects both parents and young people.

Community-Specific Safety Concerns - Black and Asian respondents described:

- Feeling unsafe in certain town centre hotspots known for hostility or crime.
- Avoiding areas after dark due to racial targeting.
- Fearing groups of men who display racist or anti-immigrant behaviour.
- Belief that police do not respond adequately to crime in racially diverse areas.

Some people noted that the visibility of crime carried out by children and young people, especially involving bikes and drugs, is more pronounced in their communities.

Black and Asian residents faced intersecting risks, racial harassment, lack of trust in policing, exposure to violence, and concerns about exploitation. Their free text responses reflect:

- Higher levels of fear and hyper vigilance, especially for their children.
- A strong sense of being unprotected, even when experiencing hate motivated incidents.
- Concern that their boys are both more at risk and more likely to be viewed suspiciously by authorities.
- Awareness that knife crime and violence involving young people disproportionately affect their communities.

These experiences highlight the need for culturally informed, trust building approaches in serious violence prevention and community safety work.

Children and Young People/Easy Read Safety Survey Results

The results are based on 2793 surveys. 1778 people (64%) of respondents informed us they were aged 17 and under. A further 380 (14%) informed us they were aged 25 and under. Making the total respondents who informed us they were under 25, 78%. Another 2% of respondents informed us they were aged 30 and under, bringing the total percentage of respondents that were aged 30 and under to 80%.

Overall themes

- Children and young people mostly felt safe in their local area
- Children and young people visiting town by day and feeling safe was also reassuring
- However, visiting when it was dark signalled a drop in feelings of safety
- The largest number of respondents around town and city centre safety were from Bradford City Centre, followed by Leeds City Centre, Halifax Centre, Huddersfield Centre and Wakefield City Centre.
- Children and young people stated the biggest factors for feeling safe were their family and friends, this was followed by the police, a nice neighbourhood and wider community, with nice neighbours and community members.

Feeling unsafe the top results were:

1. Guns/knives or criminal gangs
2. Fear of being attacked/having something stolen
3. People drinking alcohol / who might be on drugs
4. People hanging around in cars / dangerous driving
5. Hate (shouting or hurting me because of who I am)

31% of young people felt 'people under the influence of alcohol and drugs' was an important point to restate in writing, even after selecting it from the multiple choices in the question beforehand.

Following this, 'knives and guns', 'people shouting and being loud' were the next highest concerns followed by 'groups of people' which also made them feel unsafe.

In addition, young people said, 'men and boys', 'gangs' and 'cars/dangerous driving', 'aggressive people/violence/robbery and fighting', and 'shady unlit areas' / 'ginnels' (based on 856 respondents).

Quick Look Demographics of Respondents – Children and Young People/Easy read Safety Survey

Gender

- Women 59%
- Men 39%
- Non-binary and people of other genders 2%

Ethnicity

- White 57%
- Asian/Asian British 24%
- Black/Black British 10%
- Mixed/Multiple 5%
- Other 3%
- Prefer not to say 1%

Disability

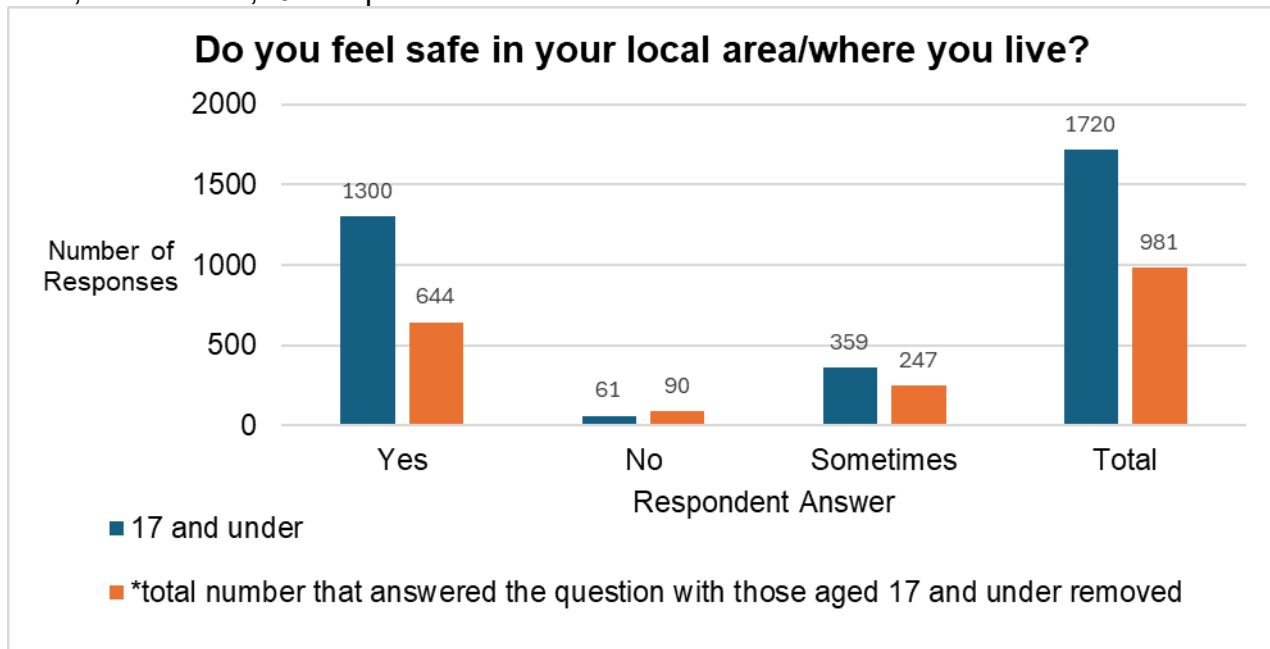
- Not disabled 80%
- Disabled 20%

Age

- 17 and under 64%
- 18 - 25 14%
- 25-30 2%
- 30+ 20%

Further detailed analysis

Figure 13: A bar chart showing whether respondents felt safe in their local area/ where they lived, based on 2,701 responses.



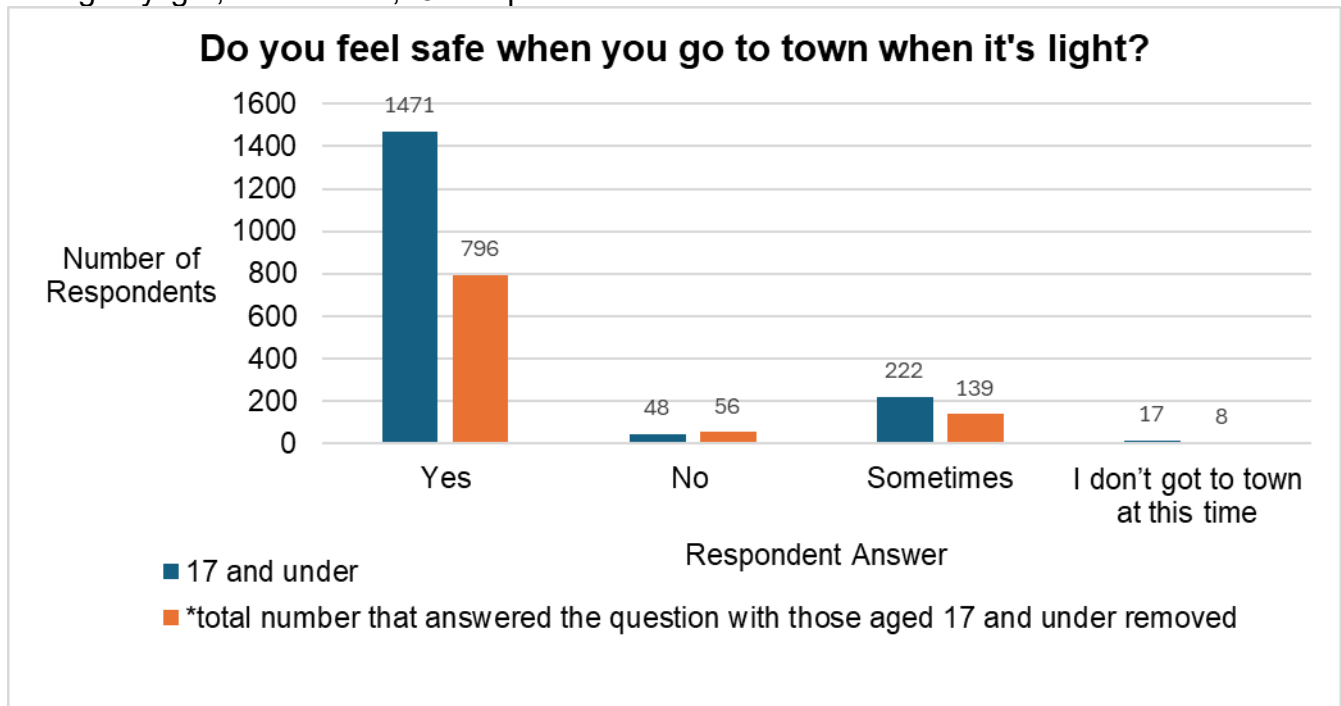
'Your local area' is defined as the streets and neighbourhood immediately around you - for example a 15-minute walk.'

When asked if respondents felt safe in their local area/where they lived, out of the 2701 that responded, the majority (72%) answered 'Yes'. 22% answered 'Sometimes'. And a few people (6%) answered 'No'. Thankfully most respondents said they felt safe in their local area where they lived, with Bradford having the highest proportion (77%).

Kirklees was the lowest (68%). "No" was a small minority everywhere (3%–7%). "Sometimes" responses were around a quarter in Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield; and were lower in Bradford (18%).

From the findings, younger children reported feeling safer than teenagers in their local area. Girls were slightly less likely than boys to say "Yes" for local area safety, and disabled respondents showed somewhat lower local safety confidence than non-disabled peers. From the data, respondents from all ethnicities report similar local safety levels.

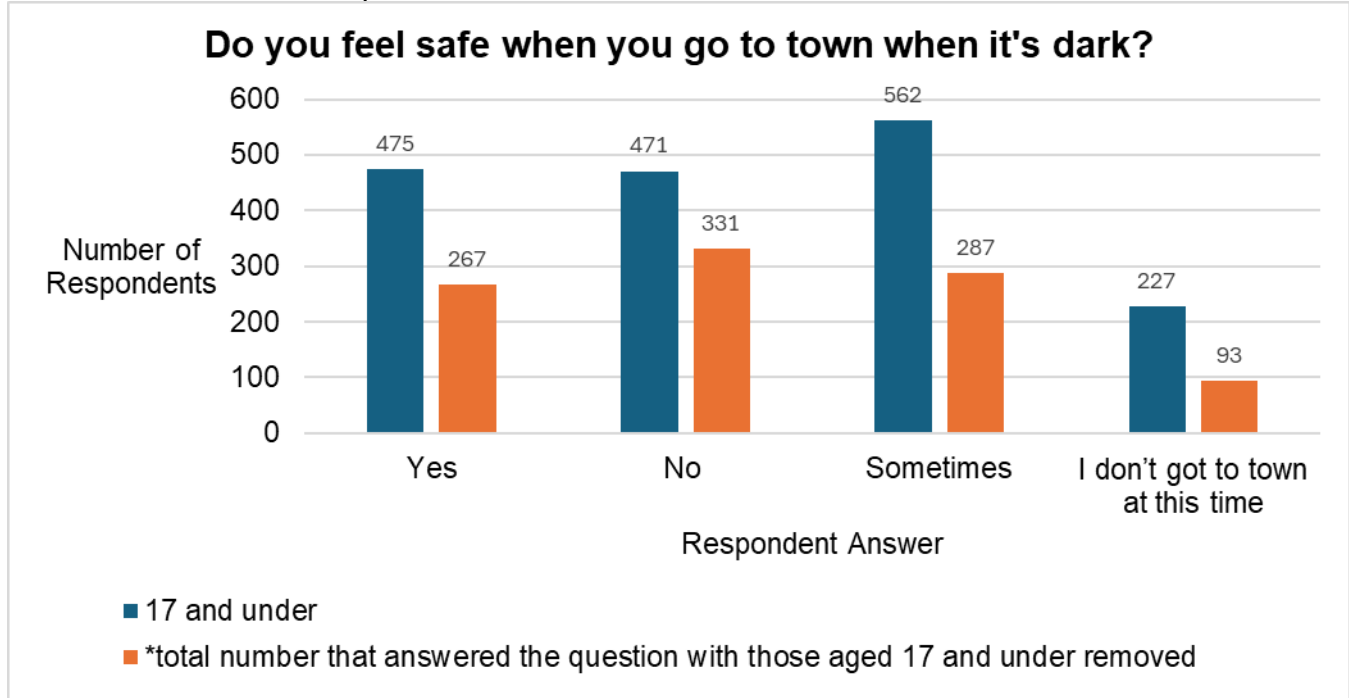
Figure 14: A bar chart showing whether respondents felt safe when they went into town during daylight, based on 2,757 responses.



When asked 'Do you feel safe when you go to town when it's light?' The majority (82%) answered 'Yes'. 13% answered 'Sometimes' and 4% answered 'No'. Less than 1% said they 'didn't go into town at this time.'

Confidence visiting their local town in the daytime appeared to be high across the board in terms of district, reflecting the previous question, 'in your local area where you live'. In terms of visiting town in the daytime, young people's gender, age and ethnicity all reported highly with no obvious markers of having had different experiences. The percentages of 'Sometimes' were of note, but overall numbers remained low.

Figure 15: A bar chart showing whether respondents felt safe when they went into town after dark, based on 2,731 responses.



When asked ‘Do you feel safe when you go into town when it’s dark?’ Most people (31%) said ‘Sometimes’, followed by 29% of people saying ‘No’. 27% of people said yes, they did feel safe and 12% said they didn’t go into town at night. Night-time confidence was low across all major centres, with Wakefield showing the highest “No” proportion.

Lower night-time confidence across towns

- Bradford: 30% No, 29% Yes, 27% Sometimes
- Leeds: 33% Sometimes, 28% No, 25% Yes
- Huddersfield: 33% Sometimes, 33% No, 23% Yes
- Halifax: 34% Sometimes, 25% No, 22% Yes
- Wakefield: 37% No, 30% Sometimes, 22% Yes

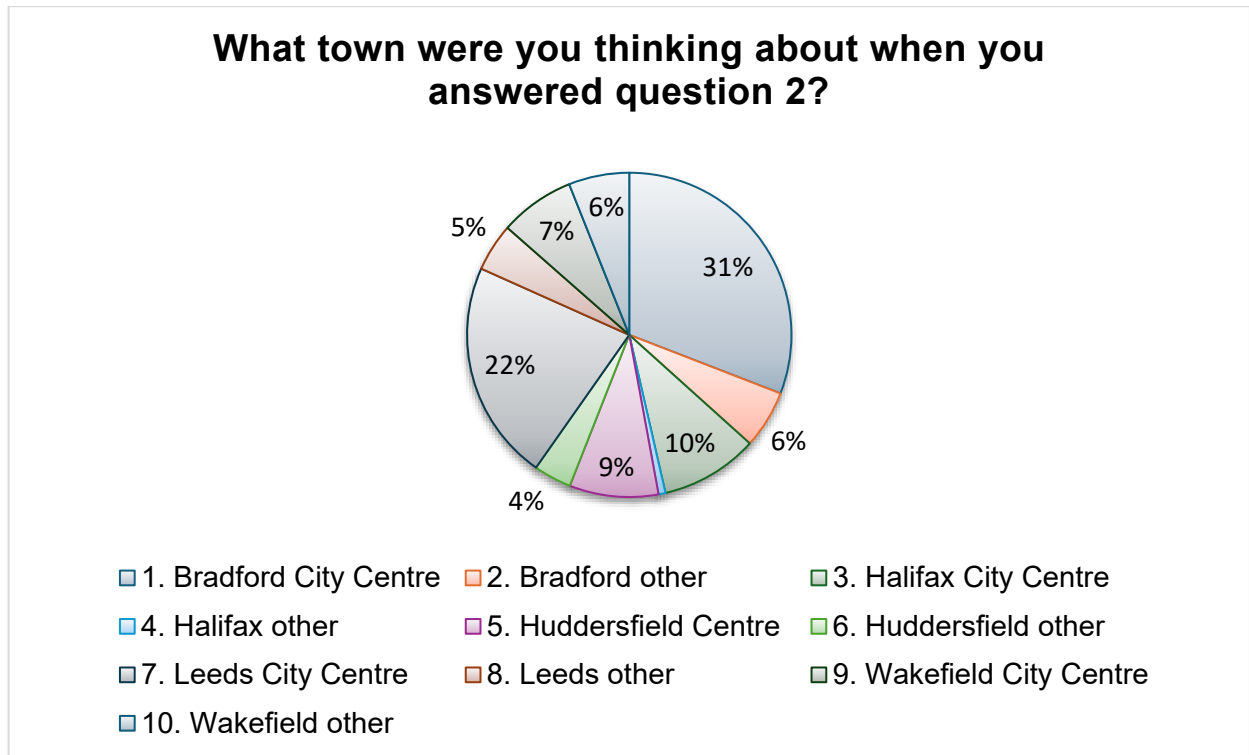
Age - Night-time confidence dropped across all ages. Early teens and young adults were more likely to say “Sometimes”, while older respondents more often gave a clear “No”.

Gender - At night, women and girls and non-binary young people were significantly less likely to feel safe and more likely to answer ‘No, I don’t feel safe’ (33%) or ‘Prefer not to say’, indicating both greater perceived risk and more reluctance to disclose. 19% of women and girls voted ‘Yes (I do feel safe in town when its dark)’ compared with 38% from men and boys. Non-binary respondents had the lowest night-time confidence: 15% Yes with 50% No; this group shows the largest drop compared with daylight.

Ethnicity - When looking across ethnicity, White respondents were more likely to say ‘No’, while Mixed/Multiple and other ethnicities showed higher uncertainty responding with ‘sometimes’.

Disabilities - Children and young people with a disability were less confident and more likely to report 'No' at night (29%).

Figure 16: A pie chart showing which town respondents were answering the above questions. Based on 1,581 responses.



From the findings, 31% were referring to Bradford City Centre, followed by 22% Leeds City Centre, 10% Halifax Centre, 9% Huddersfield Centre and 7.5% Wakefield City Centre.

Then, Wakefield other (6%), Bradford other (6%), Leeds other (5%) Kirklees other (4%) and Calderdale other (1%).

Different towns showed different daytime confidence — and all saw a large drop at night. Halifax had the largest drop in feelings of safety from day light to dark.

- Bradford: Yes (Light) 82% compared to Yes (Dark) 29%
- Leeds: Yes (Light) 80% compared to Yes (Dark) 25%
- Huddersfield: Yes (Light) 79% compared Yes (Dark) 23%
- Halifax: Yes (Light) 85% compared to Yes (Dark) 22% the largest drop among the districts
- Wakefield: Yes (Light) 79% compared to Yes (Dark) 22%

Feelings of Safety

2,547 people chose to share further information on what made them feel safe. In this section 21% of young people chose to tell us that their family and friends made them feel safe. This was followed by the police (19%) and a nice neighbourhood and community with nice neighbours and community members (17%).

This theme was also aligned with open/clean outdoor spaces, followed by a strong sense of safety from street lighting (11%) and CCTV (3%).

Young people also stated school, and adults made them feel safe.

Of note, there was a significant amount of people stating, 'security guards' to 'what makes you feel safe in your local area'. It may be that over time there's been an increased need for private security presence in our public spaces (schools, colleges, universities, places of worship, hospitals, and even fast-food restaurants), which has strengthened feelings of safety and provided additional reassurance for children and young people when going about their daily lives.

"I know everyone in my locality. I know who to call when I am in trouble. I don't get up to no good so I know I don't have anything to worry about if something does go wrong; it's Bradford, everyone knows everyone."

"Friendly neighbours, good communities, watch out for other."

"People are kind. Safe area. Nice community."

"Traffic lights, lots of libraries, safe places, family and safe places to go."

"Security in the city, police presence especially at night."

"Community and community hubs, neighbours, family."

"My mates."

"College is a very safe space, CCTV, security guards, police."

"Nice people, not much vandalism, not many balaclavas."

"Green well-lit spaces with security."

What makes you feel safe: demographic comparisons

- If considering police and security staff together, as a form of 'trusted presence', and being with friends/family, they are the most consistently noted across the groups.
- Lighting is the next most common answer (15%), especially among women and girls.
- People of all ethnicities show a similar pattern in selecting friends/family and police and security.

Themed responses by gender showing what made respondents feel safe

Women and Girls

- Police / CCTV / security / staff: 28.9%
- With friends/family/known people: 27.7%
- Lighting / well-lit areas: 15.3%
- Transport / being indoors / home: 6.2%
- Busy places / more people around: 4.0%

Men and Boys

- Police / CCTV / security / staff: 27.8%
- With friends/family/known people: 26.3%
- Lighting / well-lit areas: 11.2%
- Transport / being indoors / home: 6.1%
- Familiar places / near home: 3.5%

Non-Binary and 'Other'

- With friends/family/known people: 97.2%
- Misc (e.g., "a safety app", "quiet streets", "high diversity in the population" "phones"): 62%
- Nice neighbourhood: 43.5%
- Police / CCTV / security / staff: 23.5%
- Lighting / well-lit areas: 13.1%

Themed responses by disability showing what made respondents feel safe

Disabled People

- With friends/family/known people: 28.8%
- Police / CCTV / security / staff: 22.6%
- Lighting / well-lit areas: 13.5%
- Transport / being indoors / home: 7.1%
- Familiar places / near home: 3.2%

Non-Disabled People

- Police / CCTV / security / staff: 29.3%
- With friends/family/known people: 26.4%
- Lighting / well-lit areas: 14.2%
- Transport / being indoors / home: 5.7%
- Busy places / more people around: 3.9%

Themed responses by Ethnicity showing what made respondents feel safe

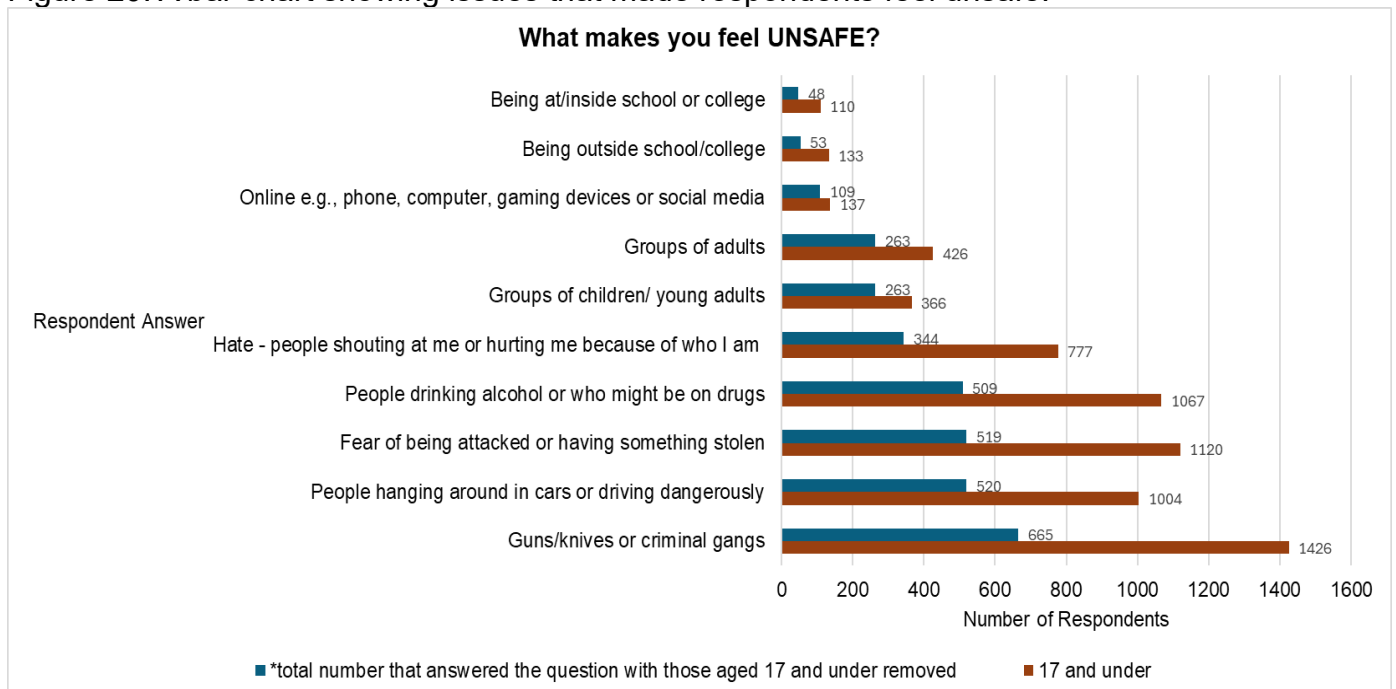
Non-White People

- With friends/family/known people: 27.1%
- Police / CCTV / security / staff: 24.1%
- Lighting / well-lit areas: 12.6%
- Transport / being indoors / home: 6.4%
- Busy places / more people around: 3.1%

White People

- Police / CCTV / security / staff: 31.2%
- With friends/family/known people: 27.3%
- Lighting / well-lit areas: 15.0%
- Transport / being indoors / home: 6.0%
- Busy places / more people around: 4.0%

Figure 20: A bar chart showing issues that made respondents feel unsafe.



Respondents were asked ‘What makes you feel unsafe?’ and were given a multiple choice of the above. 2,791 responded. From the options stated, the majority said:

- Guns/Knives or Criminal Gangs 2,091 responses
- Fear of Being Attacked Or having Something Stolen 1,639 responses
- People Drinking Alcohol or Who Might Be on Drugs 1,576 responses
- People hanging around in cars or driving dangerously 1,524 responses
- Hate (people shouting at me or hurting me because of who I am) 1,121 responses
- Groups of adults – 689 responses
- Groups of children/young adults – 629 responses
- Online (phone, computer, gaming devices or social media) – 246 responses
- Being outside school/college - 186 responses
- Being at/inside school or college – 158 responses

District Safety Concerns:

- Weapons and gangs were concerns across all districts; however, Leeds was the highest (79%).
- Fear of being attacked and having something stolen was the highest concern in Wakefield (66%), followed closely by Leeds/Huddersfield (61–62%).
- Alcohol and drug concerns peaked in Halifax and Wakefield (59–63%).
- Cars and dangerous driving were particularly high in Halifax (64%), and high in Huddersfield/Wakefield (58%).
- Hate/abuse was similar across all districts, but highest in Halifax (41%)

Top crime concerns for those aged (5-10) and those aged (11-18)

Primary School - age 5-10	Secondary School- age 11-18
1.Guns/knives or criminal gangs (82.0%)	1. Guns/knives or criminal gangs (81%)
2. People hanging around in cars or driving dangerously (73%)	2. Fear of being attacked or having something stolen (62%)
3. Fear of being attacked or having something stolen (68%)	3. People drinking alcohol or who might be on drugs (59%)
4.People drinking alcohol or who might be on drugs (65%)	4. People hanging around in cars or driving dangerously (51%)
5.Hate (people shouting at me or hurting me because of who I am) (54%)	5. Hate (people shouting at me or hurting me because of who I am) (41%)
6.Groups of adults (25%)	6. Groups of adults (24%)
7.Groups of children/young people (21%)	7. Groups of children/young adults (20%)
8.Online risks (phone/computer/gaming/social media) (16.%)	8. Being at/inside school or college – (6%)
	9. Being outside school/college – (6%)
	10. Online (phone, computer, gaming devices or social media) (5%)

9. Being outside school/college (14%)	
10. Being at/inside school/college (7%)	

Top crime concerns: demographic comparisons

- Across all respondents, guns/knives or criminal gangs is the top concern (76–81%).
- Fear of attack/robbery, people drinking/on drugs, and dangerous driving/people in cars consistently rank next (49–67%).
- Women and girls and disabled respondents showed a higher concern for hate, fear of attack/robbery, and groups of people (adults/children) compared to their counterparts.
- Disabled young people were more likely to say intimidating groups, fear of attack/theft, dangerous driving, and hate/abuse.
- Women and girls and non-binary respondents reported a higher fear of attack/theft and higher concern about alcohol and drugs and intimidating groups; women and girls also show greater concern about dangerous driving.
- All ethnicities reported similar levels for guns/knives/gangs and drinking/drugs, but had different levels concern for fear of attack/robbery, dangerous driving, and hate.

Feeling Unsafe

In a free text question where it was optional to add additional comments, 2,547 people chose to share further information on what made them feel unsafe after the multiple-choice boxes.

In this section 9% of young people felt ‘people under the influence of alcohol and drugs’ (88) was important to restate in writing, even after having the option to select it from the multiple choices above.

Following this, ‘knives and guns’, (7% - 69) ‘people shouting and being loud’ (7% 62), followed by ‘groups of people’ (6% 56) also made them feel unsafe.

In addition, young people said, ‘men and boys’, ‘gangs’ and ‘cars/dangerous driving’, ‘aggressive people/violence/robbery and fighting’, and ‘shady unlit areas’/‘ginnels’.

Finally, some noted ‘strangers hanging around’, ‘being alone’, ‘drug dealing’ and ‘bullying’ also made them feel unsafe.

The free text answers suggested young people’s immediate physical environment played a large role in their feelings of safety, namely the behaviour of those around them. There was a contrasting relationship between young people saying they felt safe when their communities and community members were ‘nice’, comparatively to when there were people around behaviour that was under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Further to this, street lighting and walkways were of significant importance. This was a clear theme in both free text questions that young people felt safer when they were in well-lit open areas.

Of note, some young people cited racism/hate crime and the recent asylum seeker protests as something which made them feel unsafe. In response to what made them feel unsafe, some young male respondents wrote ‘women’. There was minimal anti-police feeling, but some still featured.

Finally, people also took the time to tell us face coverings (balaclavas) made them feel unsafe, which had been raised throughout the consultation.

“Parks at night as hear if attacks in the news so avoid going out during the dark.”

“Being harassed by people outside of school shouting at me.”

“Going in dark alleys.”

“Cars on the road going fast.”

“E-bikes and scooters.”

“Hearing about recent stabbings, murders etc.”

“No street lights.”

“Time it takes police to arrive, being disabled and not able to care for myself.”

Section 4: Specialist meetings and events

Overview

We contacted community, charity and specialist interest groups both through our direct contacts and key VCSE networks. Over the consultation period the Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, and members of the Policing and Crime team met with groups and individuals including male and female survivors representing and supporting victims of crime across aspects of serious violence and Faith-based groups. This activity is in addition to the public consultation events being open to members of community groups, charities and other partners, where they were able to share their views.

A summary of the key issues raised during those meetings is as follows:

Hate Crime was a key concern especially faith hate including Islamophobia, Antisemitic hate, and Hindu and Sikh hate crime. Concerns were often linked to protests, assaults, harassment, criminal damage and their safety in their homes or places of worship. Concerns were also raised about the experiences travelling to and from work often into town and city centres and the hate crime faced by children and young people in schools, colleges and universities. People wanted the police to do more to talk about positive outcomes and spoke about the need for more awareness and support for victims. There was also a concern in reporting hate crime with many people stating that even though faith-based hate crime was rising in the reported data, this was the tip of the iceberg as their perception was that many people did not report it. Language would always be a barrier to sharing information for some, but many people did not understand what hate crime was or were apathetic about a criminal outcome so therefore chose not to report. The level of online hate continued to be a concern for many with a real fear of how this incited further violence in communities, people spoke about videos or text glorifying violence against certain groups, alongside hate speech on placards and at protests and cyberbullying, especially targeted at children and young people.

We also spoke to many people during the 2025 PRIDE events who spoke about their experiences of being a victim or worries they had about being a victim in the future. Again, reporting was a concern and many people said they did not feel safe and that this had a huge impact on how they lived their lives, how they socialised and how they used town and city centres, especially at night. Homophobic and Trans Hate were discussed frequently with some people telling us about how they had been violently attacked. Concerns regarding online hate were also raised and again young people who identified as LGBTQ+ talked about their experiences and fear of being a victim. Some people also spoke about being a repeat victim of Hate Crime.

Sexual Violence – we spoke to lots of women who told us about their experiences as a child or a female victim of sexual violence including rape and other sexual offences. Survivors spoke in detail about the failures of key services including the police, the lack of long-term therapy and support, and the resulting life-long trauma for themselves and their children.

Some people told us about the lack of protection offered to victims and survivors and spoke about fears associated with the wider criminal justice system which included sentencing, the courts process, delays in prosecutions, early release schemes, the lack of protection from statutory services, online harms and the exposure of their names and details online which

was against the law. Many people spoke about their expectations and what they wanted to see for future victims detailing what would have helped them including better training for the police, more funding and support especially for the VCSE sector, trauma informed practice and better partnership working/information sharing across support services.

Domestic Abuse - Raised mostly by women but we have spoken to some male victims. Experiences were shared about reporting to the police, with some positive and negative encounters and outcomes discussed. Issues raised were not just related to physical and/or sexual violence but also coercion and control. Again, there were frustrations with the wider criminal justice system including sentencing and lack of support for victims and survivors.

Funding and Support services – As with all services, long term funding and support was a key issue, cuts to Ministry of Justice funding and cuts to public services were impacting all victims and survivors especially regarding specialist/ bespoke support services which were often needed. There was real recognition of the need for more cultural and gender-based support and the impact on victims and survivors when this was not accessed, waiting lists for specialist support were getting longer and many support workers leaving the sector due to pressures in the role, vicarious trauma and the lack of long term job security.

Criminal Justice and Sentencing - As highlighted, underfunding, court delays, training for judges, juries and specialist lawyers were all flagged as concerns alongside the early prison release scheme linked to the impact on victims, poor feedback to victims from statutory services also linked to poor mental health and wellbeing.

Section 5: Call for Evidence

Overview

We have received and considered a number of reports to inform our thinking on the strategy. These include:

Public Documents: (ALL TO BE LINKED)

- [2024/25 Report to the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership, West Yorkshire Youth Commission, 2025](#)
- [add WYYC 25/26 Report, will be published post election period]
- Add VRP Needs Assessment – will be published post election period
- Add VRP Response Strategy – will be published post election period
- [Youth Matters: Your National Youth Strategy, Department for Culture, Media and Sport \(DCMS\), 2025](#)
- [Children’s commissioner report](#)
- New findings: Hidden Mental Health Crisis Behind Youth Violence
- [Community Security Trust \(CST\) - Hate Crime report updates](#)
- National Tension Monitoring updates
- [The Big Conversation, InCommunities Ltd, 2025](#)

Other reports which have been provided:

- Combating Alcohol and Drug Partnership update, Safer Bradford, 2025
- Community Safety Partnership Highlight Report 2024/25, Safer Kirklees, 2025
- Leeds ASB Strategy 2025-28, Safer Leeds, 2025
- Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Plan, Calderdale CSP
- Strategic Assessment, Bradford District Safer Communities Partnership, 2026
- Strategy Overview, Kirklees Reducing Reoffending Board, 2025
- Wakefield District Plan Progress Update, Wakefield Together, 2025
- Wakefield District Safer Together Partnership Strategic Assessment 2025, Wakefield CSP, 2025

By considering the information and reports from external organisations including key partners such as drug and alcohol partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and social housing providers, we are able to better understand the existing evidence and delivery activity linked.

Communities have also provided evidence to tackle serious violence via the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund (MSCF)

The Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund sees monies taken from criminals by West Yorkshire Police given back to communities by the Mayor of West Yorkshire under the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund.

In the 2024/25 significant monies have been awarded to tackle all aspects of serious violence especially in relation to Knife Crime, Gang related Crime and activities including links to drug and alcohol abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls, all emerging themes in the 2025

serious violence consultation. The following is a summary of some of the key evidence shared across key themes:

Knife Crime – Some applicants to the MSCF flagged that West Yorkshire Police felt certain districts across West Yorkshire were an area of concern regarding knife crime, with significant intelligence gaps about those involved, and points of sale. They said some areas had over 3 times the national average crime rate per 1000 people for violence and sexual offences (which included knife crime) and encouraged the reporting of information about offenders and knife crime.

In 2024/25 it was flagged that knife-enabled crime continued to rise across West Yorkshire, with robberies involving knives increasing from 845 in 2023/24 to 881 in 2024/25 (this has now changed with decreases seen in 2025/26 (701 offences which is down 20.4%) knife-related murders and attempted murders with fatal knife attacks were also a major concern. In addition, weapon possession remained high, with incidents indicating a persistent and potential growing risk of serious violence.

Many people highlighted the complex challenges faced by young people, including poverty, violence, neglect, and exploitation. Those adverse childhood experiences are potentially traumatic events occurring before age 18, such as abuse, neglect, or household dysfunction. These could often lead to trauma, which, if unaddressed, could result in harmful behaviours, poor mental health, and increased contact with the criminal justice system.

Gangs/Organised Crime - Groups highlighted that gang violence was clearly evident with young people murdered or killed as a result of violent crimes and knife attacks. They felt there was an increase in young people from their area visiting the A&E for knife attacks and violent crimes.

Community groups applying to MSCF said serious violence, particularly among young males in vulnerable communities was a major concern, boys were increasingly exposed to gang culture, knife crime, and criminal exploitation, often driven by poverty, low literacy, digital exclusion, and trauma. Many people said that without targeted intervention, they risked becoming both victims and perpetrators of violence.

Children in care could be disproportionately affected by adverse childhood experiences, including abuse, neglect, and instability—factors that increased their vulnerability to exploitation, substance misuse, and involvement in criminal activity. Research by the Children’s Commissioner and National Youth Agency showed that young people in care are at higher risk of being targeted by county lines gangs and experiencing drug-related harm. According to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the most likely victim of criminal exploitation (including by gangs) in the UK were British boys aged 17 or under. (Lost Boys – Centre for Social Issues Justice.

(Children’s Commissioner for England)
(National Youth Agency)
(justiceandcare.org)

Groups highlighted the need for a trauma-informed approach to hardest-to-reach/easiest-to-engage young people on the periphery of criminality and Anti-Social Behaviour, recognising

the impact of adverse experiences and understanding/addressing the root causes of their behaviours rather than labelling them as problematic.

VAWG - Groups highlighted that VAWG remained a critical issue across West Yorkshire. With over 92,000 crimes involving female victims aged 10+ reported in a year and a 15% year-on-year increase, the demand for timely, compassionate support was urgent. Trauma-informed care, strengthened community engagement, and ensured more women and children received the help they needed, when they needed it most.

At the Youth Commission conference, many young people shared they feel too embarrassed or afraid to involve the police or outside agencies when facing VAWG. This fear also affects parents and carers, often leading to silence, isolation, and worsening mental health.

Many young people involved in online grooming or unhealthy relationships don't recognise themselves as victims. Stories need to be shared, and awareness needs to be raised which includes online grooming so we can equip communities with correct advocacy tools to counter misogyny and violence.

Evidence from the National Audit on Group Based Child Sexual Exploitation (June 2025) identified that police recorded data shows just over 100,000 offences of child sexual abuse and exploitation recorded in 2024, these are only offences that have been recorded. Groups highlighted that the pervasive nature of CSE meant that victims will be too terrified or ashamed to report their experiences or may still be coerced or controlled. Many groups highlighted that the current level of demand appeared to outweigh specialist resources required.

It was felt that violence and sexual offences were some of the most common crimes in key districts.

The Agenda Alliance says "The vast majority of young women in contact with the CJS have experienced significant trauma and disadvantage. This can be a key driver for their offending, whether that is being coerced into crime by a partner, sexually exploited or using drugs or alcohol to cope with what they have experienced.
(www.agendaalliance.org)

Community groups highlighted we need to do better at recognising and responding to the needs of vulnerable girls and young women in the community, recognising that long waiting lists for support could often lead to situations becoming worse with a deterioration to mental health.

Notably it was also highlighted that children in households with domestic abuse faced higher risks of emotional, behavioural, and social problems compared to their peers.

West Yorkshire data shows that missing children are at extremely high risk of exploitation and that children missing from care are at a particular risk.
(www.westyorkshire-pcp.gov.uk)

We also received detailed district and ward information to support the call for evidence and to inform the new strategy as outlined below.

High level summary Mayor's Safer Communities Fund – Call for evidence by district

Bradford

- The number of women, specifically in Bradford who are unemployed has risen dramatically over the last 10 years. This is prevalent in the South Asian communities which make up the bulk of the inner-city areas in Bradford and 32% of Bradford in total. Most of these women do not have access to any resources to actively pursue employment or do not know where to start looking.
- Bradford ranks as the 13th most deprived borough in England (IMD 2019), with serious challenges facing its young people. Over half of children under 16 are affected by obesity (56.6%) and physical inactivity (53%), while 29% report suicidal thoughts. In Manningham ward, young people struggle with mental health and increasing nitrous oxide misuse, the second most misused drug among 16–24-year-olds in the UK. Despite a retail ban, it remains easily accessible in shops and online, complicating enforcement. Our beneficiaries live in areas marked by poverty, social exclusion, and limited opportunities. In 2023, we piloted a child/young person-focused project for 15–25-year-olds, which had a strong, positive impact. Families became more aware of nitrous oxide misuse, and an August 2024 consultation showed that 65% of parents wanted support extended to younger children (10–25). Alarming, 53% identified misuse as growing among South Asian girls. This project aims to meet those needs, preventing drug misuse and crime, especially among children/ young people. We use a trauma-informed approach, focusing on what's happened to young people, not what's "wrong" with them. Our staff build consistent, respectful relationships and are trained to respond to trauma with empathy and emotional safety.
- Nitrous oxide misuse remains a growing concern in Bradford, with young people continuing to underestimate its risks
- Bradford faces entrenched deprivation linked to children and young person crime: 2/5 children live below the poverty line; our central Bradford workshop is in the top 1% most deprived postcodes, and 60% of our trainees receive free school meals. Early action is critical: 80 % of prolific adult offenders began in childhood; Yorkshire's children and young person re-offending rate is 70 %. Investing £2,000 per trainee now could prevent much higher downstream spending; data put the average reoffending cost per young person at £14,000 in the first year alone (MoJ, 2019).
- Bradford District, including Keighley, has some of the highest levels of alcohol-related harm in England (OHID, 2024). Despite a Public Space Protection Order being in place since 2019, concerns persist around anti-social street drinking and visible vulnerability in Keighley (Bradford Council, 2025).
- Domestic abuse in Bradford disproportionately affects women (2022: 14,565 female victims vs 5,557 male). Abuse survivors often face profound psychological and physical challenges that disrupt their sense of self and body, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and chronic pain, alongside disconnection from their bodies due to the traumatic nature of abuse. Many survivors face social isolation, low self-esteem, lack of support networks, and other complex challenges, including substance misuse.

- Knife-enabled crime continues to rise across West Yorkshire, with robberies involving knives increasing from 163 in 2021 to 192 in 2024. This trend is especially concerning Bradford, which recorded 45 knife-enabled robberies in just the first two months of 2025, a disproportionately high number considering its population and transient footfall.

Calderdale

- There are high levels of anti-social behaviour perpetrated by young people in Halifax, with 2,358 ASB complaints across Calderdale last year, 832 of which involved young people. In April 2025 alone, ASB made up nearly 12% of all reported crimes in Halifax.
- High rates of abuse: Calderdale has seen rising cases of domestic abuse and honour-based violence, particularly in ethnically diverse communities. Black Asian and minority ethnic women often face additional barriers to seeking help due to stigma, language, cultural pressure, and fear of rejection or not being
- Calderdale has a high proportion of CYP experiencing emotionally based school avoidance, so as well as having this priority to deal with, Parent Carers are telling us that if their CYP are in their bedrooms on devices, they (the Parent Carer) are in the dark.
- Data from Park ward concludes that there is a need to address safety issues, specifically relating to domestic abuse, prevention, education and early intervention key. Park has the second highest crime rate in Calderdale, with 2,541 incidents in 2024. The ratio of high violence and sexual offence rate is 77.3 per 1,000 residents. Domestic abuse is prevalent, with 15+ reported daily incidents, of which 85% of victims are women.
- Calderdale is one of the 13% most deprived areas in England, and our community faces significant challenges including financial hardship, food insecurity, unemployment, and high crime rates. Many families live in poverty, with at least one adult experiencing long-term unemployment, leading to isolation, low self-esteem, and increased risks of criminal activity.

Kirklees

- According to Police.uk data, crime levels in Kirklees are broadly in line with those seen in comparable local authority areas nationally and lower than the average across West Yorkshire. While crime statistics provide important context, they do not capture the whole story of how people experience safety and recovery.
- There is a critical gap in engagement between Police and young people across Kirklees, undermining efforts to prevent crime and protect vulnerable individuals. Young people often hold vital intelligence, particularly in cases of criminal and sexual exploitation (CSE), yet mistrust and past institutional failings have created barriers to communication. Currently, 137 young people are flagged as at risk of criminal exploitation, with 54 specifically at risk of CSE. Since 2013, over 20 historic grooming gang investigations have taken place, with many more victims likely unidentified and in fear of coming forward to report.
- Dewsbury East is one of the 10% most deprived wards in England and Wales, with a population of around 20,000. The area has a high crime rate (192 incidents per 1,000 residents), with notable levels of violence, sexual offences, public disorder, and weapon possession. In Dewsbury East, 20–25% of working-age adults claim incapacity or unemployment-related benefits. These socioeconomic stressors

correlate with poor mental health: Kirklees reports high levels of anxiety, depression, and hospital admissions for drug-related mental illness.

- The majority of Rough Sleepers in Kirklees are male up to 70 years old and homeless for at least 2 years. At this time, at least 60% of rough sleepers in Kirklees are from Eastern Europe, exploited due to their immigration status and lack of recourse to public funds. Some have migrated to the UK to escape risks caused by their ethnicity, e.g. Romany. Most have poor mental health, suffered past trauma, experienced addiction and disabilities as a result of their living conditions.
- Young people aged 16–19 in Kirklees, particularly from culturally diverse and low-income communities, face rising mental health challenges, isolation, and exposure to violence or exploitation. Local data and insight from schools, children and young people services, and our own referrals highlight a lack of safe, supportive spaces tailored to this age group—especially for those struggling with trauma, low confidence, or emotional distress. Many feel unseen, unheard, or judged.

Leeds

“I’ve been spat at, my bag taken and emptied all over the ground, the contents rifled and mocked before my money and anything valuable was stolen. “I’ve been surrounded by men threatening to rape me if I didn’t go with them willingly.”

Leeds Women’s Safety Survey Report showed that Leeds women frequently experience frightening or intimidating behaviour in public spaces: 85% leered at, cat-called or wolf-whistled, 58% unwelcome touching or groping, 45% followed or stalked. 27% had been flashed. 21% - had suffered sexual assault or rape.

- Leeds has a child poverty rate above the national average, with the neighbourhoods we most often support being within the top 10% deprived neighbourhoods nationally. Every year since we began 8 years ago the demand for our services has increased.
- Ethnically diverse women in Leeds face high levels of hidden harm, including domestic abuse, coercive control, honour-based violence, and sexual exploitation. Many are excluded from mainstream services due to language barriers, cultural stigma, immigration status, or mistrust of authorities. Critically, abusers exploit these barriers to isolate women, threaten deportation, and maintain control, preventing them from seeking help or safety. Our frontline experience reveals growing demand for crisis support, safe spaces, and culturally appropriate interventions. Women often come to us in extreme distress, isolated and unaware of their rights or safety options.

Safe Voices, Strong Futures is rooted in trauma-informed principles: safety, trust, empowerment, peer support, and cultural awareness

- In Leeds, many families with young children face complex challenges that impact wellbeing, connection, and long-term outcomes. Over 10,000 children are born annually, and 31.3% live in relative poverty after housing costs—above the national average. These early stressors, particularly when combined with trauma such as domestic violence, increase the risk of poor attachment, mental health issues, and future criminal behaviour. Leeds Safeguarding data consistently shows domestic abuse as a leading factor in referrals involving young children.
- Leeds Observatory Data (2025) reveals that violence and sexual offences are the most predominant type of crime within Leeds (naming Hunslet, in particular, as the worst-affected area). This has led to the creation of the Leeds Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy 2023-2028 in clear recognition of the difficulties our region

faces. Family abuse is also frequently not a standalone occurrence; instead, it is often embedded within a generational cycle that necessitates focused interventions. The UK Trauma Council has accumulated the most up-to-date research in this area. It particularly highlights the importance of 'mother-child dialogue' in reducing post-traumatic stress symptoms and lessening the perpetual cycle of aggression often displayed by children who have been subject to violence in the home

- The Migration Yorkshire ESOL Needs Analysis Toolkit identifies significant gaps in access and consistency in ESOL provision across Yorkshire and the Humber, including Leeds.
- Chapeltown is one of the most deprived areas in Leeds, with high levels of social isolation, low-level mental health challenges, and limited access to culturally appropriate wellbeing support. Many women and elders, particularly from African and Caribbean backgrounds, face the compounded effects of racism, long-term unemployment, bereavement and caring responsibilities. These factors contribute to chronic stress, anxiety, and feelings of invisibility, all forms of community-based trauma
- In Leeds, 19.8% of children live in households affected by domestic violence, parental mental ill-health, or substance misuse — key adverse childhood experiences. 32% of children live in the most deprived areas, with 8% NEET and 1 in 3 under-18s inactive
- Harehills is considered another of the most deprived areas in Leeds, with a highly diverse population incorporating multiple cultures and ethnicities. Statistics indicate that nearly three quarters of children in Harehills are living in poverty. This is significantly higher than the Leeds average of 22%, specifically in Harehills South 74.4% of children are living in poverty
- There is growing evidence across West Yorkshire, including Leeds, of rising concerns around serious violence committed between children and young people. Police data and hospital records indicate an increase in knife-related incidents and injury admissions involving children and young people. Schools are also reporting higher rates of absenteeism, suspensions, and unaddressed behavioural issues— often linked to underlying trauma, poor emotional regulation, and lack of stable role models
- Seacroft is one of the most deprived areas in Leeds, with crime and anti-social behaviour levels well above city and national averages (Leeds Observatory). A trauma-informed approach recognises that these issues are often symptoms of deeper challenges, such as trauma or unstable living conditions. Local data shows high rates of low-income and fuel-poor households, highlighting a need for supportive, local provision (Leeds Observatory).
Physical activity is proven to support community

Wakefield

- Wakefield has seen a concerning rise in anti-social behaviour perpetrated by young people, with growing concern from police and community leaders over county lines activity and exploitation. Local children and young person services report increasing referrals for young people showing early signs of disengagement, risky behaviour, and poor emotional wellbeing.
- Castleford continues to face high levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB), particularly in areas near the town centre and riverside. Between March 2023 and February 2024, there were 2,818 ASB incidents reported across Wakefield, Pontefract, and

Castleford, with Castleford contributing a significant proportion. In February 2025 alone, 40 ASB incidents were recorded in Castleford relating to violent crime. The use of dispersal orders and Public Space Protection Orders in Castleford town centre highlights the need for targeted interventions.

- Wakefield, West Yorkshire, has been identified by West Yorkshire Police as an area of concern regarding knife crime, with significant intelligence gaps about those involved, and points of sale. Crime stats show that Wakefield has over 3 times the national average crime rate per 1000 people for violence and sexual offences
- Wakefield District has a higher rate of deaths from drug use than the Yorkshire and Humber region and the England national rate – 102 deaths from drug use in the three years from 2021 to 2023.
 - In 2024, 15% of Year 9 pupils said they had ever been offered cannabis and 5% said they had ever taken cannabis. 7% of Year 9 pupils had ever been offered other drugs, but only 2% had ever taken other drugs.
 - The Wakefield District School Health Survey 2022 found that 9% of pupils with special educational needs had used cannabis compared to 3% of pupils without special educational needs. And 8% of young carers said they had used cannabis, compared to 3% of their counterparts.
- According to Police.uk, in the year ending September 2025, the crime rate in Wakefield was higher than average for the West Yorkshire area. Faith-based groups hold powerful stories of resilience—people overcoming trauma, crime, and fears about safety.

Appendices

Appendix 1: List of high footfall community events – In person surveys

1. Pudsey Carnival	17 May
2. Kirklees Pride	7 June
3. West Yorkshire NHW Event	7 June
4. Halifax Gala	14 Jun
5. Beeston Festival	28 Jun
6. Great Horton Festival	5 July
7. Armed Forces Day Pontefract	6 July
8. Odsal Community Event	31 July
9. Leeds Pride	19 July
10. Women Of West Yorkshire	1 August
11. Vision Zero	14 August
12. Calderdale Pride	16 August
13. Wakefield Merrie festival	24 August
14. Bradford Pride	30 August
15. Calderdale College	11 September
16. Normanton Gala	13 September
17. Carr Gate community day	13 September
18. Great Middleton Park	14 September
19. Wakefield College Freshers	16 September
20. Kirklees College Freshers	18 September
21. Leeds Beckett Freshers	19 September
22. Huddersfield Bus Station	23 September
23. Bradford College Freshers	24 September
24. Printworks Leeds City College	2 October
25. Park Lane Leeds City College	8 October
26. Reclaim the Night	26 October

Appendix 2: High Level Summary – Specialist Groups

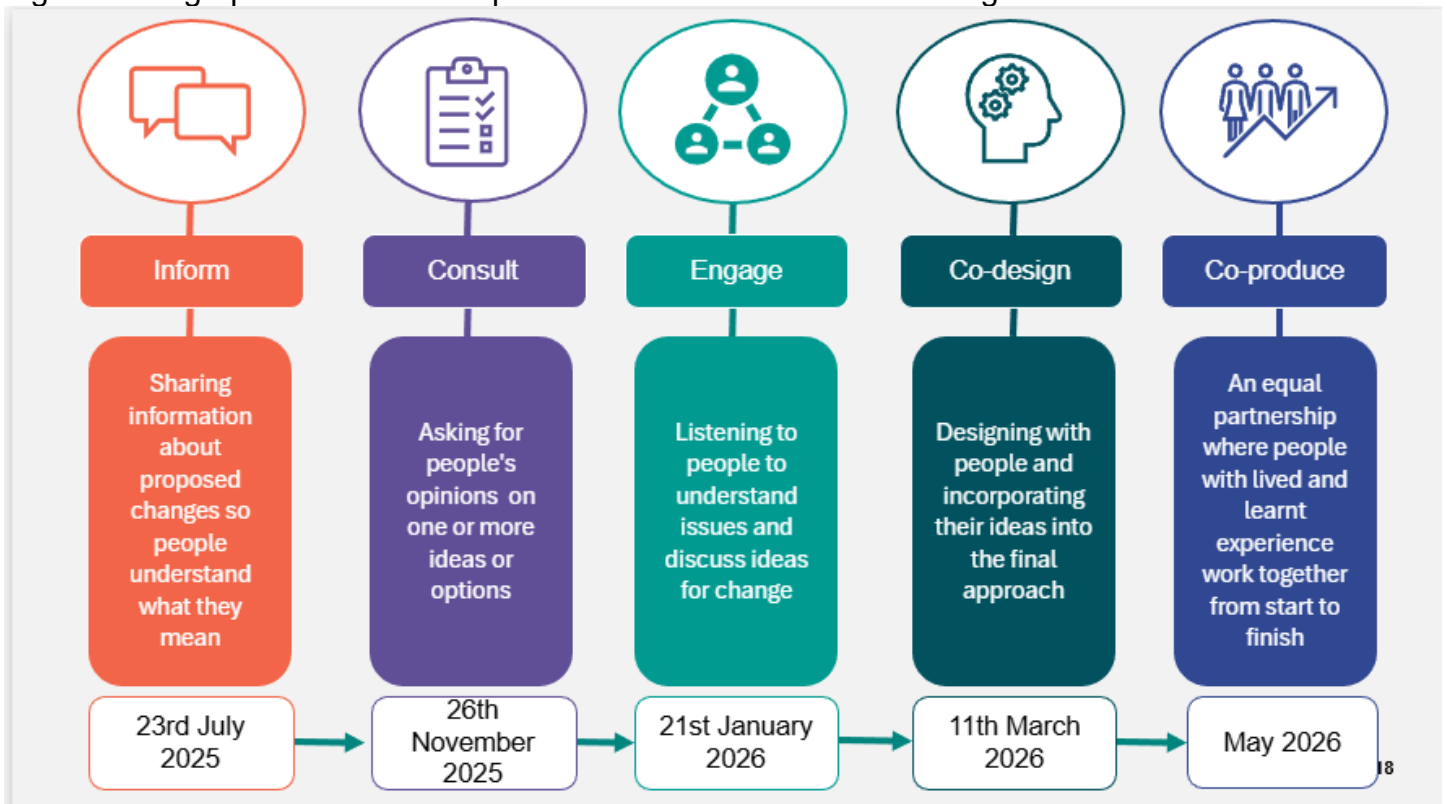
<p>Hate Crime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a lot of gender-based hate crime – we need to educate young people • Religiously motivated hate crime – Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Hindu groups raised the problem of hate crime, its impact on communities and individuals, links to serious violence and the work required to make communities feel safe and improve community cohesion. • The psychological and social harm caused by hate crime is significant we need to do more to prevent it • The importance of strategic partnerships with local authorities, health services, education, and voluntary organisations to work together and with the police to tackle hate crime • The role of Community Outcome Meetings in ensuring accountability and transparency. • Regional collaboration to share best practices and improve service delivery. • National engagement through the Hate Crime Gold Group and Strategic Migration Groups. • Local initiatives such as Bradford’s Hate Crime Strategy and Wakefield’s Community Safety Partnership approaches • The need for proactive community engagement, education, and culturally sensitive policing is important. • The importance of police myth-busting in response to rumours, noting that current online efforts are significantly improved compared to previous approaches. • Potential impact of recent decisions on the LGBT+ community, suggesting they may be at greater risk with Hate Crime being investigated by NPT. • Concerns anti-Semitic placards and chants were left unchallenged by the police, leading to feelings of fear and harassment. • Concerns about victim satisfaction in respect of Hate Crime, particularly delays and adjournments in the court process. • Concerns at the placement of St Georges flags
<p>Domestic Abuse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perpetrators of DA continue to re-offend • Police don’t always attend DA incidents • It’s good to build up trust in particular officers • counselling services were not specific to male victims in these circumstances • Improved partnership and coordination across support services are essential.

<p>Probation and Social Housing support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint working protocols would provide clarity and consistency, while clearly defined service roles could streamline support for individuals entering accommodation. • Wraparound support is critical for those with complex needs, and struggling providers should be supported to grow. • Forums for Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and private landlords could facilitate the sharing of best practices and foster collaboration. • Funding and incentives play a pivotal role. Increased investment in housing and support services is needed, alongside enhanced Housing Benefit options—such as night-time security—to accommodate more complex cases. • Incentives for private landlords, including accommodation bonds, and the development of private sector leasing schemes could expand availability. Managing agent models may also help bridge gaps in expertise and capacity.
<p>Vulnerability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns regarding the number of homeless girls in Leeds • Mental Health and its impact on vulnerability • Addiction and impact on vulnerability • Education, information on how to stay safe • Children in DA households may be returned to the abuser during the investigation
<p>CJS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therapeutic support should not be seen as coaching in supporting victims • Processes could be weaponized against male DA victims • the effectiveness of restraining orders, particularly when people can be harassed online by perpetrators' families and also named • Prison overcrowding and release – impact on communities, families and victims • Significant court delays, the impact on victims and their families, support services and the police • Requirement for trauma informed training for the police to support victims through the court process
<p>Support for victims/survivors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough support overall • Lack of long term therapeutic support • VCSE services save lives, investment in bespoke services was vital • Not enough long-term mental health support • We need more long-term funding for both state and community-based organisations that support victims • Survivors need to access support from trusted services for many reasons, including familiarity with them, previous positive experiences, feeling safe and listened to, and proximity.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support for trauma, both for survivors and their children. • Meaningful change for survivors: the recommendations of past inquiries have to be implemented. • Preventative measures, such as education on misogyny and consent to inspire a cultural change in the safety of women and girls. • Better criminal justice outcomes for survivors – both in emotional support through the process, and harsher sentencing for perpetrators. • Education in schools for girls and boys on the topic of misogyny • clarifying definitions of rape and sexual assault, to help young people understand boundaries. • The new national inquiry must deliver meaningful change for survivors, who will once again be asked to revisit past trauma. • The recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse have to be implemented. • A request for long term, ongoing support for trauma, especially for survivors and their children. • Survivors highlighted the importance of preventative measures, such as education on consent and cultural change in the safety of women and girls. • Survivors had strong views on better criminal justice outcomes for survivors – both in emotional support through the process, and harsher sentencing for perpetrators. • Finally, the National Inquiry needs to address organisations and individuals who failed in their safeguarding responsibilities and make recommendations about sanctions for past failings.
Reporting to the Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The police don't get back to you, issues with leave, etc. • As a victim I would report to the police, especially if experienced serious violence - it's important to make sure that it doesn't happen again or to someone else • People suffer in silence sometimes, and violence (e.g. DA) continues and it's so important to speak up when something happens • More training for officers on how to respond to reports of DA from male victims to improve attitude, reduce stereotyping, assumptions based on gender/physical stature

Appendix 3 – Co-production Model

Figure 21: a graph to show the co-production model adhered to throughout the consultation



Appendix 4: High Level Summary – Serious Violence Co-Production Events

Event 1

On Wednesday 23 July the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Alison Lowe OBE hosted the first in a series of Co-Production events about the importance of serious violence in all its forms and how individuals, partners and communities can work better together to prevent, tackle and address all forms of serious violence on our streets.

The aims for the event included:

- Discuss what communities have already told us about the impact of serious violence, including hearing from those with lived experience
- Influence and ensure the strategy works for communities
- Ensure the Strategy addresses the issues that matter

The is being co-produced with communities including those with lived and learned experience and we would especially like to thank the family of Alfie Lewis for supporting the first event.

Alfie was fatally stabbed in Nov 2023 his Aunt Mechelle Lewis shared his story and more about how she is working with Red Bobble Arts in a trauma informed way to engage students in schools and colleges in a bid to stop them carrying knives. Alfie's story is a heartbreaking reminder of what is at stake, and their voice is such a powerful force in helping to drive real, lasting change.

The event brought together over 100 individuals and representatives from the health, education, probation, Police and VCSE sector with all those attending sharing their lived and learned experience.

We began by exploring our work on tackling serious violence which included consultation as part of the [Police and Crime Plan 24-28](#), reviewing our knowledge gaps and current consultation on serious violence July-October 2026, followed by an explanation of what we meant by co-production and finally understanding the life changing impact of serious violence by learning about Alfie Forever 15 which looked at how the loss of Alfie has impacted the family and how they are working to ensure their tragedy is used to inform and educate and ensure other young people don't carry knives for their protection.

Strategy Co-production workshop - Key priorities discussed:

- **Serious Organised Crime (SOC)** gang activity and child criminal exploitation including grooming and the exploitation of those who may be targeted due to vulnerability including age, neurodiversity and looked after children including asylum seeker children who are without parental support.
- **Knife Crime** – all aspects of knife crime including education, fear, information availability, and communication of where to report, ask for help. There were real concerns about children not understanding the impact of knife crime.

-
- **All Violence Against Women and Girls** (including domestic abuse, rape and sexual violence and the damage caused to those who witness the abuse.)
 - **Child Sexual Abuse and all Sexual Violence** in all its forms – the prevalence of sexual violence in all its forms was discussed especially in relation to the lifelong impact and trauma.
 - Attendees felt there was a real need for Safe Spaces for young people, free, quality, equitable interventions available to all, processes to signpost and support children and young people and good reliable advice for parents on serious violence which included how they could access the right to get help and support. It was also noted that some parents, for many reasons including mistrust, were afraid to ask for help due to confidence and mistrust in services, including the police. There was a lot of discussion about the need for long-term funding and the need for quality/consistent support services, especially for children and young people.

Issues which impact Serious Violence:

- Social media – lots of people spoke about its negative impact, links to gang crime and promotion of the fear of crime which could encourage Young People to carry weapons including knives. People also spoke about the links to sexualisation and online harm and risk which could result in sexual violence and the online promotion and sale of bladed instruments
- Socio-economic factors – groups spoke about the lack of opportunities for young people and the impact of where people lived, poverty, and negative life experiences could have a major negative impact. Positive role models/mentors and support through education could all address these factors.
- Community – geographic location, families, community leaders/positive role models
- Equity and Inclusion – unequal opportunities negatively impacting on life opportunities
- Safety on public transport
- Sexualization – and its threat and links, serious violence online and links to online harm and vulnerability
- Impact of school exclusions, the role of education in early intervention and the role in supporting parents

Key themes:

- **Partnership Working:** everyone needs to be on the same page and working together, attendees said we needed to build collective understanding/solutions and that the strategy needed local delivery

- **Early intervention and prevention:** Education starting in primary, with mixed gender, and education for parents, education should be a cross-cutting theme Need to tackle root causes start where the problem starts need to need tackling in education police enforcement starts when trouble begins police engagement should start earlier EG primary school's adults are naive to influence from young age and don't think it's an issue
- **Community centred solutions:** can use leaders and positive role models to support families
- **Equal access and support to services:** for all

There were some major positives discussed at the first event and some key actions which the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing and crime to work on:

- Media campaigns on Knife Crime awareness - Information and support for parents including single points of contact, help and advice.
- Share what interventions and support already exists – (links to VRP, MSCF, Commissioning)
- Voice and influence - if everyone from today's event walks away and tells someone
- Involving young people in co-production

Event 2

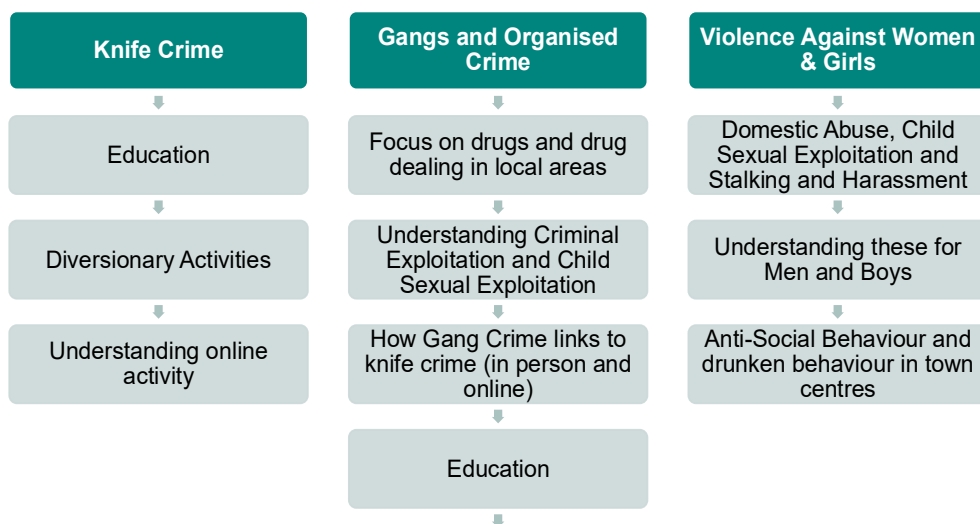
High Level Summary – VCSE Sector Conference - 26/11/2025

Co-production update on Serious Violence

The priorities were confirmed as knife crime, gangs and organised crime and violence against women and girls – with additional feedback on what should be covered based on the slide presented:

Figure 22: A diagram to show the serious violence strategy priorities and actions

Confirming The Serious Violence Strategy Priorities and actions



Event Feedback:

- The priority actions are as discussed in the meeting but also include online harms including sextortion and hate crime.
- Need to understand this is part of a suite of strategies under the Police and Crime Plan and some of the points raised will be covered in other strategies
- Education should be under all three headers – so please add to VAWG
- In respect of education across all three - can the new strategy be used to influence and inform teacher awareness /training in WY
- The Knife Crime priority should address individuals carrying knives - education and awareness
- Interventions supporting priorities may need to be “hyper local” – a suggestion young people won’t go if they are not local - concerns travel may be risky especially for certain young people
- Partners working together to deliver the strategy need to collaborate more, refer between projects, and need collaborative funding opportunities, funding needs to be longer, for existing work, impactful without too much monitoring, need to continue good work
- Need to include Organised gangs but also street gangs who use weapons, people, dogs to intimidate and harass
- Online impact across all three
- Where does far right extremism fit? - ranges from low level assault to terrorism
- Organised crime linked to low opportunity/deprived communities, no other options – how are we tackling this?
- Where does alcohol fit?
- Drugs impact across all three
- Town Centre reflections – impact of drugs, alcohol, homeless people, groups of young people

Gaps in the current strategy

- a) Online harms – exposure to real life serious violence, violent content depicted online/social media – view that whilst platforms and companies can do more, they won’t – our best response is to train and educate, concerns that some young people become desensitized to online violence and this impacts on real life decision making
 - Sextortion – online/image based sexual abuse
 - Cyber bullying, risk taking, in person online abuse escalating to offline abuse
 - Hacking/Cybercrime and links to Org crime – also linked to stalking and DA.
 - Digital violence – tech facilitated violence
- b) Hate Crime – personal harm, harassment, attacks e.g. murder, arson, community impact and fear
 - Need to include a reference to serious ASB when overlapping with SV issues e.g. Hate Crime and comments around street gangs/groups using weapons

Other key points to inform the strategy:

- Cultural differences - example given around asking Angela – is this an additional piece of work for the EQIA Group around the draft of the strategy.
- Better promotion of current activity, interventions, etc.
- Information on how we are connecting with children and young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and not in education – what formal work can we do better with the VCSE Organisations who are working on a regular basis with these vulnerable young people
- All work should involve parents, grandparents and carers, looking at the family unit as a whole
- More preventative measures/ Need for more funding for services
- Access to community projects- visibility, funding, transportation
- How are we tackling glamorization's of serious violence criminality – this needs to be tracked
- Schools are a resource for after schoolwork
- Are strategies stopping activity or just pushing it elsewhere – how will we review/measure
- Need more engagement with marginalised groups to ensure wider priorities don't cause harm
- Note that politically aggressive protests e.g. outside hotels, leading to feeling unsafe
- Overlapping categories of violence, something can be both VAWG and violence against the person
- VAWG is such a broad category- harassment/ catcalling all the way to sexual assault /rape
- Threats of violence vs actualized violence
- Mayor and her work should be trauma informed, age appropriate, measurable and expert led

Event 3

High Level Summary – Community Leaders Network Event - 21/01/2026 Co-production update on serious violence

The priorities and cross cutting themes were discussed:

Figure 23: A diagram showing the serious violence strategy priorities and actions

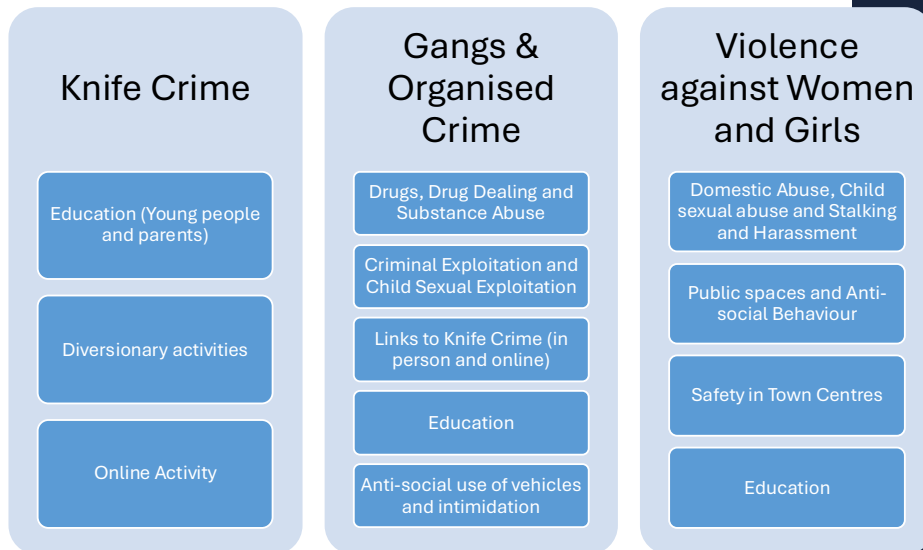


Figure 24: A diagram showing the Serious Violence Strategy cross-cutting themes

The network was also asked some key questions, responses below:

Question 1. Would you like to add anything to the cross-cutting themes?

The below highlights the importance of addressing a broad range of social, digital, and safety-related harms, which included tackling hate crime, online harms, digital exploitation, gambling harms, and the growing risks linked to extremism and radicalisation. They also highlighted the value of consent education, active bystander training, and specialist support focused on men and boys, including the impact of adverse childhood experiences. Recognising the role of trusted community voices, the themes call for the need to equip and train faith leaders, trusted mentors and other community advocates. Ensuring more resources and support to tackle VAWG which included young women and girls affected by gangs, and ensuring health equity and trauma-informed approaches, including cyber trauma. Together, these areas reflect a holistic approach to preventing serious violence, supporting vulnerable groups, and building safer, more resilient communities.

Question 2 What ideas for actions do you have based on the proposed priority and cross-cutting themes?

Knife Crime

Education, Awareness and Prevention

- Promote that carrying weapons is not a protective factor
- Sharing stories in colleges and high schools
- Advert showing the graphic consequences of what knife crime can do

-
- Projects tackling the crisis of masculinity in young men with positive male role models
 - Early years intervention rather than later on
 - How to deal with conflict constructively
 - Young person led prevention through safety panels and co-design
 - Helping young people identify trusted adults, mentors and role models

Support for Young People, Mentoring and Safe Spaces

- Third party support in schools for young people at risk
- Trained adult mentors to counter grooming
- Peer led engagement
- Safe spaces with trusted adults
- More child and young person targeted provisions
- Child and young person workers being accessible to all young people
- Community focused workshops bringing young people from different areas together

Community Empowerment and Restorative practice

- Community champions supporting restorative justice in their neighbourhoods
- Restorative justice training
- Supporting communities to address and reduce harm locally
- Tackling Online and Commercial Drivers of Knife Crime
- Stamping down on big sellers such as Amazon selling knives online

Gangs and Organised Crime

Prevention, Early Identification and Education

- Build systems that recognise early signs of gang involvement
- Awareness for young people who may be targeted at a young age
- Work with education to identify young people displaying gang mentality or at risk of OCG involvement
- Increased alternative education opportunities
- Create more life skill opportunities

Family Support, Housing and community stability

- More support around housing for parents trying to move away from gang exploitation
- Whole family support and long-term mental health support
- More therapeutic interventions and family support offers within communities
- Helping young people feel a sense of belonging within their family units

Support for Young People, Diversion and Safe Opportunities

- Increased community diversion activities
- More child and young person targeted work and safe spaces
- Job opportunities, safe people, and strong pathways for young people
- Giving gang involved young people alternative purposes where teamwork can be used positively
- Create more ETE (Education, Training, Employment) opportunities

Employment, Rehabilitation and Positive Futures

- Give work opportunities to people with a criminal record to empower them
- Support for gang members who want to leave
- Not giving up on people — persistent, long-term support

Financial Disruption of Organised Crime

- Use money seized from crime to fund community resilience programmes
- Direct seized money, assets, and cryptocurrency (e.g., Bitcoin) into support services
- Invest in residential detox and rehabilitation pathways for people using substances

Community Safety, Reporting and Intelligence

- Multilingual hotlines for anonymous reporting
- Faster reporting measures
- Awareness that gang impacts are far reaching and affect whole communities, not just individuals
- Consistency in responses and support
- Tackling Online and Commercial Drivers of Violence
- Holding online sellers accountable as contributors to violence (e.g., online knife sales)

Violence Against Women and Girls

Education, Healthy Relationships and Cultural Change

- Educate everyone on healthy relationships, not just women
- Children and young person created TikTok/Reels content challenging misogyny, incel culture, and harmful online behaviours
- Challenge social media that promotes sexism and misogyny
- Investing in responses to the growing issue of incel culture
- Consent focused education and active bystander training
- Campaigns using simple, clear taglines tailored for different institutions
- Culturally competent training

Trauma informed Person-Centred support

- Addressing and supporting trauma
- More money for therapeutic services
- Changing the justice system so that it is person centred and trauma informed
- Ensuring male survivors are recognised and supported
- Recognise that trans women are disproportionately subjected to hate crime and exclusion, protect ALL women

Partnership Working

- Police, CJS partners, and specialist SV/DA agencies working more closely together
- Increase public awareness of available support services, many people don't know where to turn
- Reduce assumptions that "men are the problem", as this can isolate survivors and hinder allyship

Tackling Online Harms

- Tackling online harm, including misogynistic and abusive content
- Reduce apps or functions that allow perpetrators to monitor or control victims (e.g., tracking apps)

Together, the actions reflect a strong and united commitment from communities, partners, young people, and specialist groups across West Yorkshire to shape a serious violence strategy that is practical, preventative, and deeply rooted in lived experience. The collective insight consistently highlights the need for early intervention, trusted support, stronger partnerships, and a focus on safety both online and in our neighbourhoods. By combining education, community empowerment, trauma informed practice, and targeted action on knife crime, gangs, organised crime and VAWG, this work lays the foundation for a strategy that is not only responsive to current challenges but capable of delivering long term, meaningful change. This shared vision will guide the development of a strategy that reflects the voices of those most affected and supports safer, stronger communities for everyone across West Yorkshire

Event 4

High Level Summary – Serious Violence Co-production Event - 11/04/2026 Theme – Gangs and Organised Crime

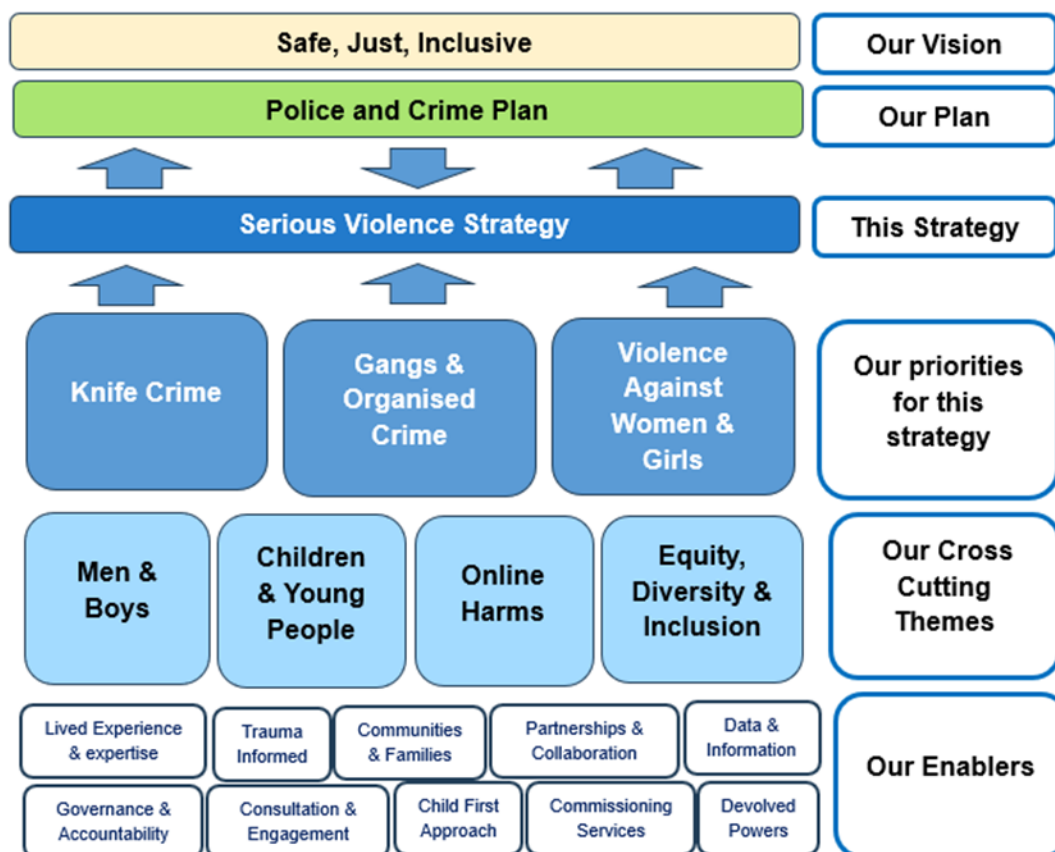
80 people and partners attended an event which sought to look at Gangs and Organised Crime with inputs from the WYP and Community Partnership district teams which support Clear, Hold, Build. Key insights included:

Serious Organised Crime incidents are tied directly to violence or coercion within communities:

- Leeds: entrenched violence linked to Organised Crime Groups territory and criminal markets, requiring parallel enforcement and community-building.
- Calderdale: Operation Highhill centred around a violent feud involving weapons, two serious injuries and multiple charges (26 offenders remanded).
- Bradford: SOC exploitation includes intimidation, cuckooing and organised drug supply which were all recognised drivers of local violence.

SOC cannot be separated from wider violent crime, tackling one without the other weakens long-term impact.

Figure 25: Draft Serious Violence Strategy Plan on a Page



Groups offered final thoughts on the draft plan on a page and actions based on the key priorities. Overall, the discussion at the event supported the identified themes around early intervention, multi-agency working and intelligence sharing, the need to reduce vulnerability, and ensure young people have credible alternatives to exploitation.

The strategy's enablers of governance, commissioning were welcomed and there was a need for consistency across partners working together to tackle serious violence, and a need for resourcing models that supported long-term prevention and the disruption of serious violence and serious organised crime.

Attendees welcomed the commitment to evidence, lived experience, innovation, and enabling communities to lead local solutions. These points reflected the strategy's themes around community engagement, communications, child and young person intervention, shared intelligence, aligned delivery models and trauma-informed, sustained support for vulnerable individuals.

There was also support for a need for continued involvement in the work and updates on the strategy whilst noting the requirement for the resources to deliver which included visible policing, there was also interest in who would be accountable for the co-produced and co-delivered strategy.

Final comments included:

- Partners wanted a clearer set of jargon-free objectives that keep children and young people at the centre.
- One year after the strategy launch, there is a need to review progress and evaluate the impact of funded interventions.
- Concerns remained about the glamourisation of harmful lifestyles, the effect on community cohesion, and links to public disorder and serious violence.
- There is a strong call to improve public awareness of ongoing work by WYP, the VRP and partners, using platforms that reach young people and local communities.
- We need to do more to support active, empowered communities, including positive role models and mediators which were seen by some as essential, alongside an asset-based approach that helps build pride in place in local communities.

Appendix 5 - Details of the knife crime campaign

We are launching a flagship anti-knife crime campaign aligned to the Mayor's serious violence strategy.

The campaign supports the region's mission to reduce knife-enabled violence, particularly among under-25s.

The centrepiece will be a social first video, supported by a wider multi-media rollout. The creative is intended to:

- Influence behaviour among young people
- Challenge the belief that "knives are normal"
- Show that carrying a knife increases—not reduces—risk
- Build perceptions that West Yorkshire is a safe place with support available
- Reflect a trauma informed, child first, and representative approach

Concept "One knife. So many doors shut"

Insight from research and evidence has shown that young people don't necessarily understand the magnitude of consequences that come with carrying a knife - but they do care about their futures.

The impact can affect every aspect of a young person's life and future; education, careers, relationships and health.

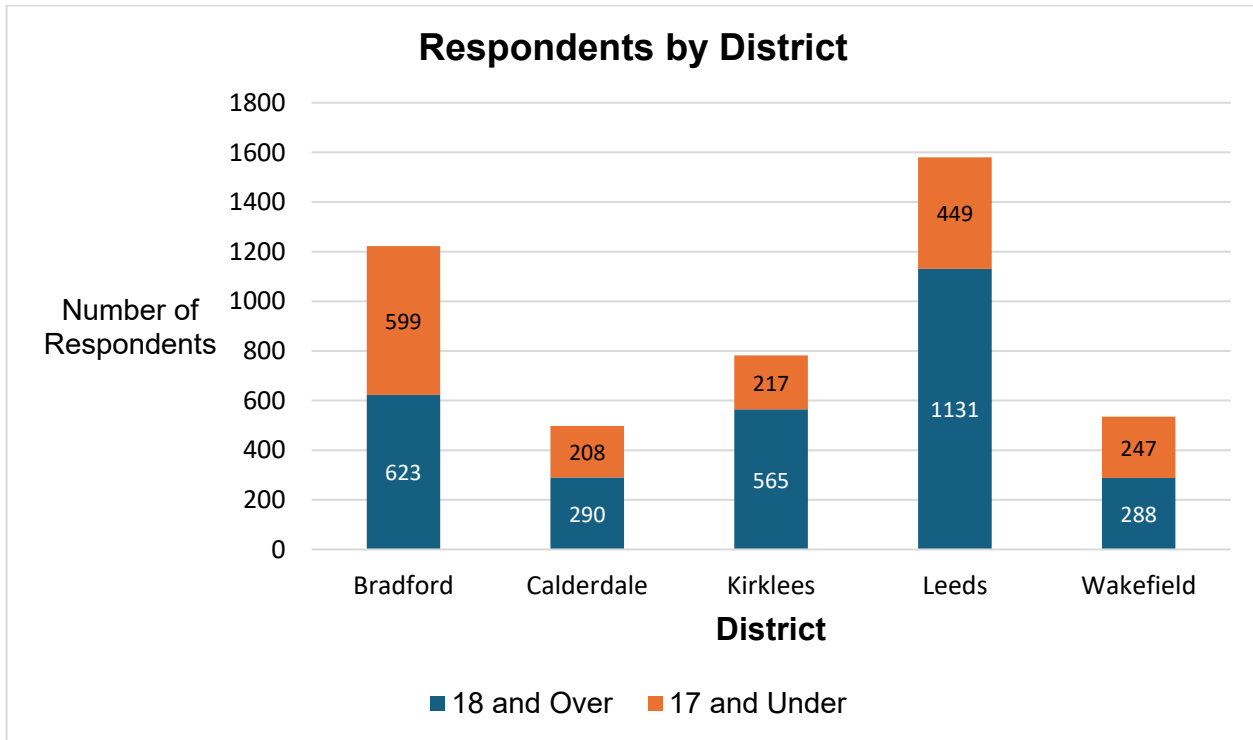
The concept of closing doors to highlight the possible consequences of carrying a knife will feature as a central theme of the campaign.

Music and rhyming statements also resonate with the young people we've spoken to and this will again be a focal point of our approach.

Appendix 6 – Demographics

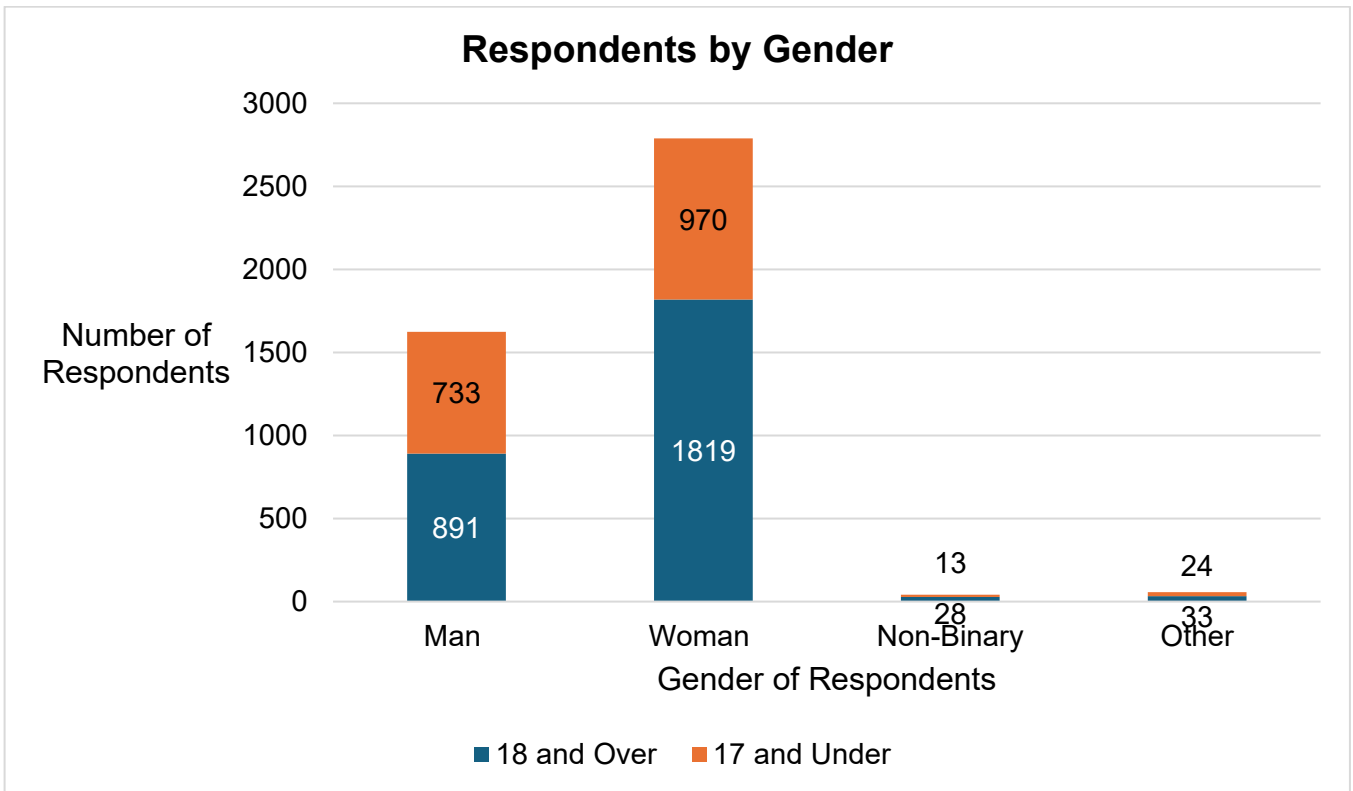
Combined Data (Adults and Children, Online and In Person)

Figure 26: A bar chart to show the number of respondents from each District, based on 4167 responses.



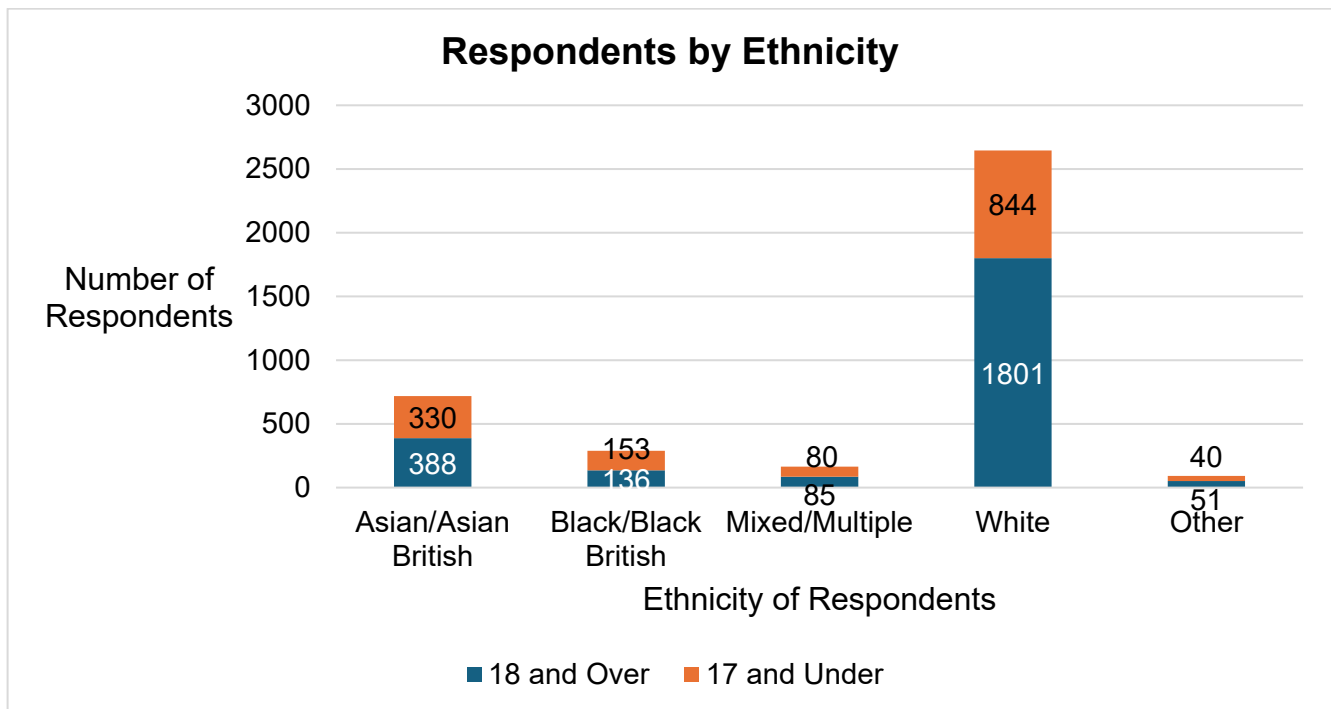
A total of 4,167 respondents told us which district they lived in. The largest proportion were from Leeds with 38% (1,580 respondents), followed by Bradford, 29% (1,222). Kirklees contributed 19% (782 responses), Wakefield 13% (535), and Calderdale 12% (498). This shows that while all districts were represented, Leeds and Bradford accounted for the highest levels of engagement across the consultation.

Figure 27: A bar chart to show the gender of respondents, based on 4511 responses.



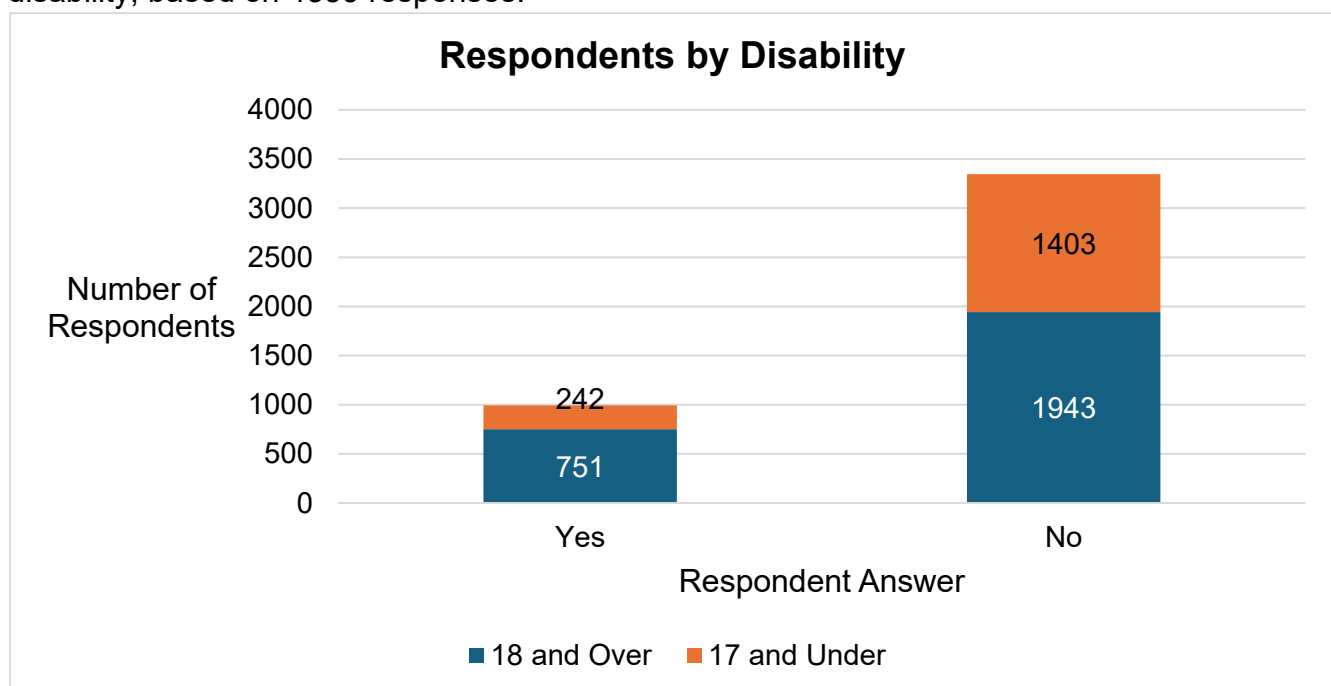
The consultation received 4,511 responses to the question on gender. The largest proportion (62%) of respondents identified as women (2,789), followed by men 36% (1,624). A smaller number (1%) identified as non-binary (41) or selected another term 1% (57). This distribution shows that women were the most highly represented group in the consultation, with comparatively smaller but important contributions from non-binary and “other” respondents.

Figure 28: A bar chart to show the ethnicity of respondents, based on 3908 responses.



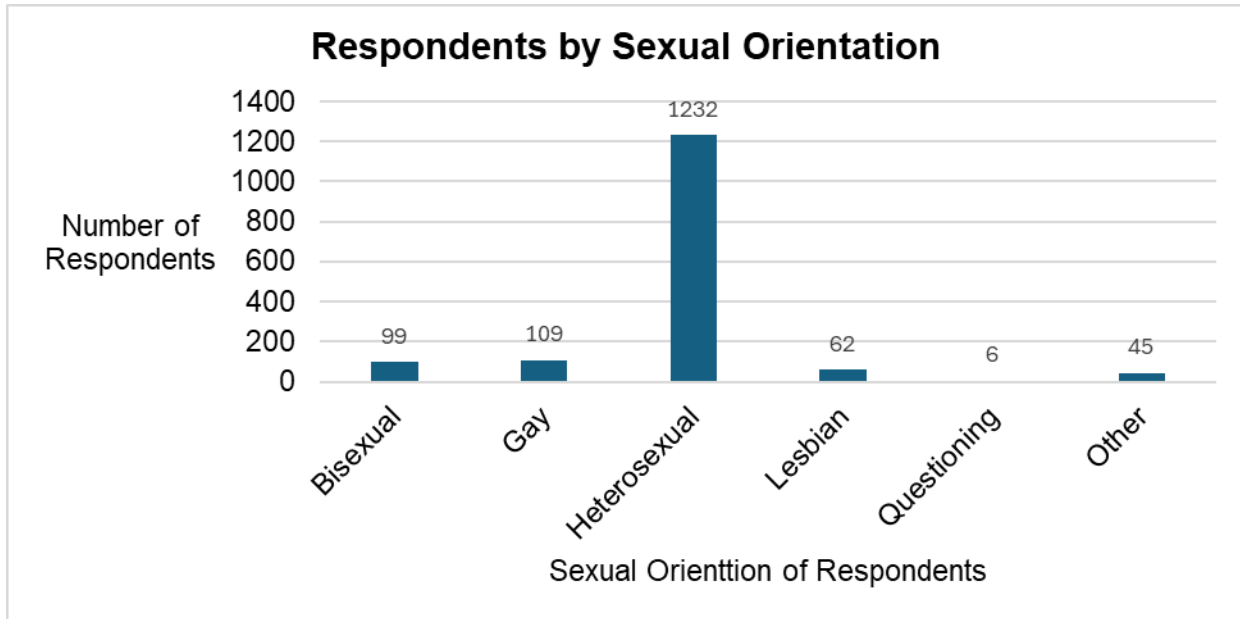
A total of 3,908 respondents told us their ethnicity. The largest proportion identified as White (2,645 respondents), followed by Asian/Asian British (718). Smaller but still significant groups included Black/Black British (289) and Mixed/Multiple ethnic backgrounds (165), with 91 respondents selecting 'Other'. This distribution shows that while White respondents formed the majority, the consultation also captured a broad range of views from racially and culturally diverse communities across West Yorkshire.

Figure 29: A bar chart to show whether respondents considered themselves to have a disability, based on 4339 responses.



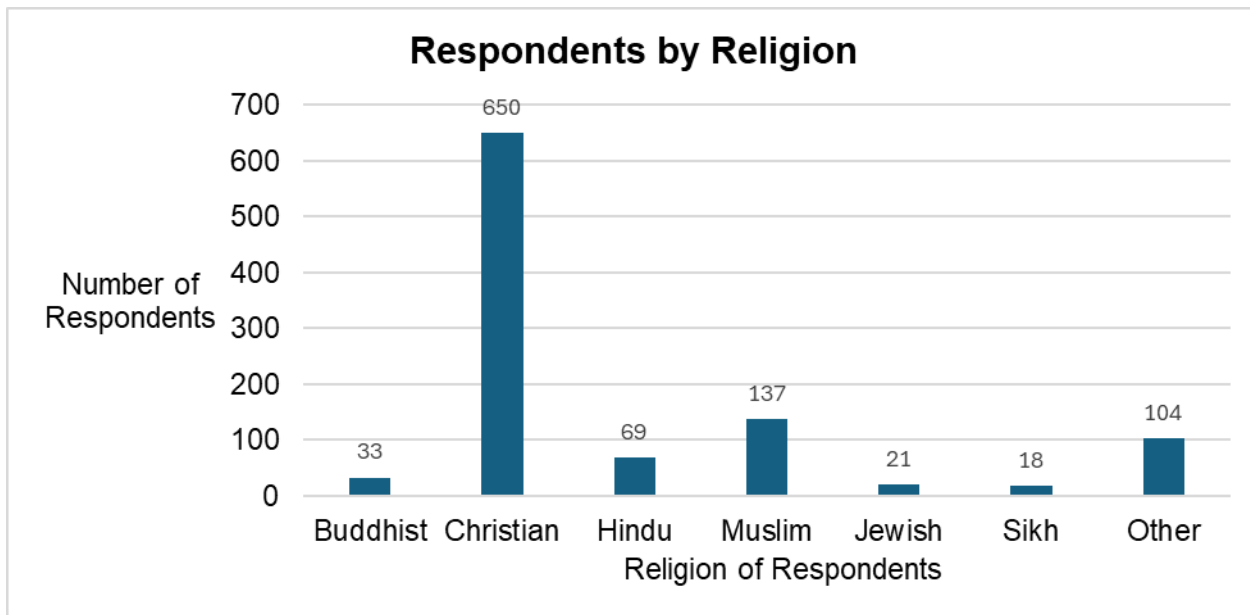
A total of 4,339 respondents told us whether they considered themselves to have a disability. Of these, 993 respondents said 'Yes', while 3,346 said 'No'. This means that around one in five respondents identified as having a disability, 'highlighting an important proportion of voices with lived experience of additional vulnerabilities.

Figure 30: A bar chart to show the sexual orientation of respondents, based on 1553 responses.



A total of 1,553 respondents shared information about their sexual orientation. The majority identified as Heterosexual (1,232 respondents), with smaller proportions identifying as Gay (109), Bisexual (99), Lesbian (62), Other (45), or Questioning (6). While heterosexual respondents formed the largest group, the consultation also captured meaningful representation from LGBTQ+ communities, providing valuable insight into a diverse range of lived experiences.

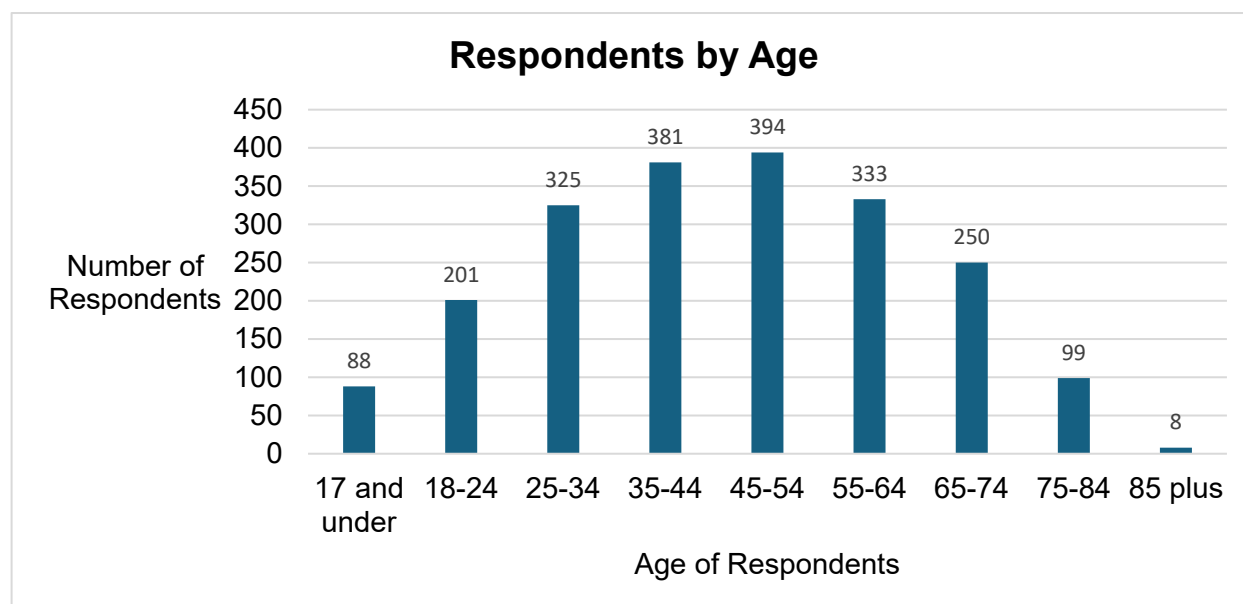
Figure 31: A bar chart to show the Religion of respondents, based on 1032 responses.



A total of 1,032 respondents shared information about their religion. The largest group identified as Christian (650 respondents), followed by those selecting Other (104) and Muslim (137). Smaller numbers identified as Hindu (69), Buddhist (33), Jewish (21) and Sikh (18). This distribution shows that while Christian respondents formed the majority, the consultation also included representation from a diverse range of faith communities across West Yorkshire.

Note that the sexual orientation and religion questions were not asked on the Safety Survey and therefore the above graphs relate only to those that answered the Adult serious violence survey.

Figure 32: A bar chart to show the Age of respondents who answered the adult survey, based on 2079 responses.

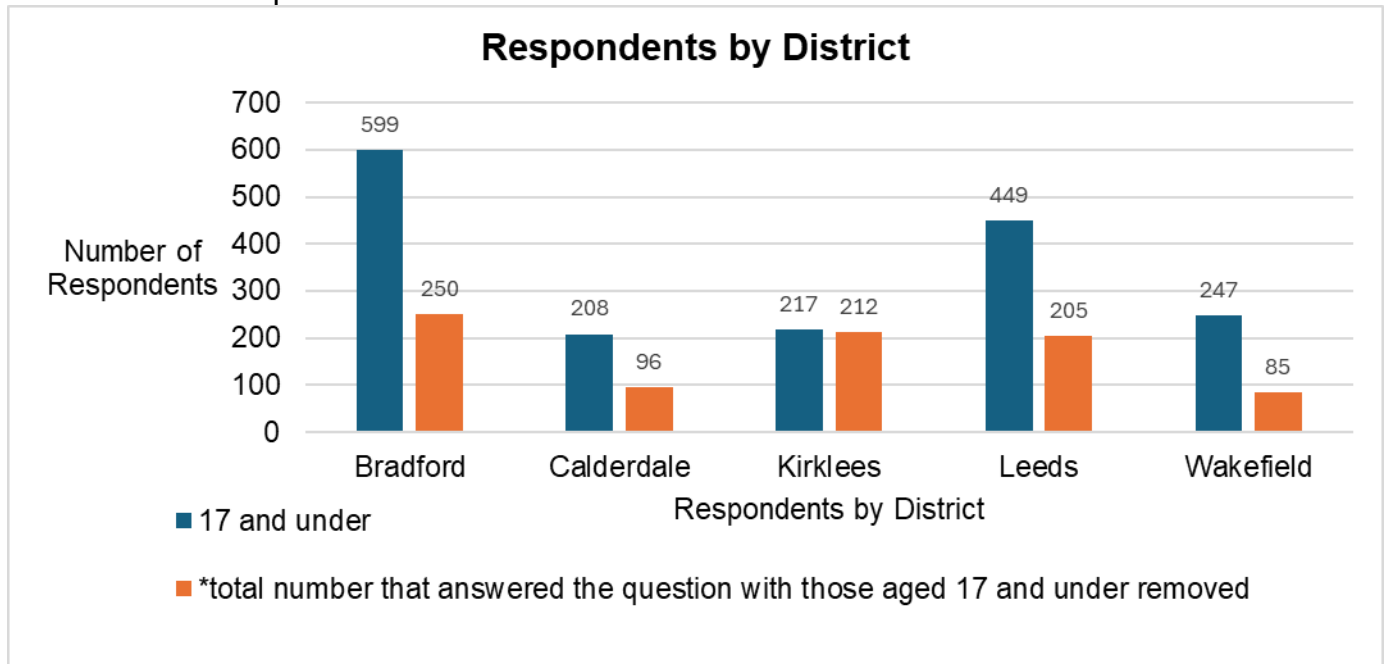


A total of 2,079 respondents provided their age through the adult survey. The largest proportions were aged 45–54 (394 respondents) and 35–44 (381), followed by 25–34 (325) and 55–64 (333). Smaller numbers were represented in the younger (18–24: 201; 17 and under: 88) and older age groups (65–74: 250; 75–84: 99; 85+: 8). This distribution shows that the consultation engaged a broad adult age range, with the highest participation from those aged 35 to 64, who together accounted for the majority of adult responses.

Note that those that answered the Safety Survey are not included in the above age data.

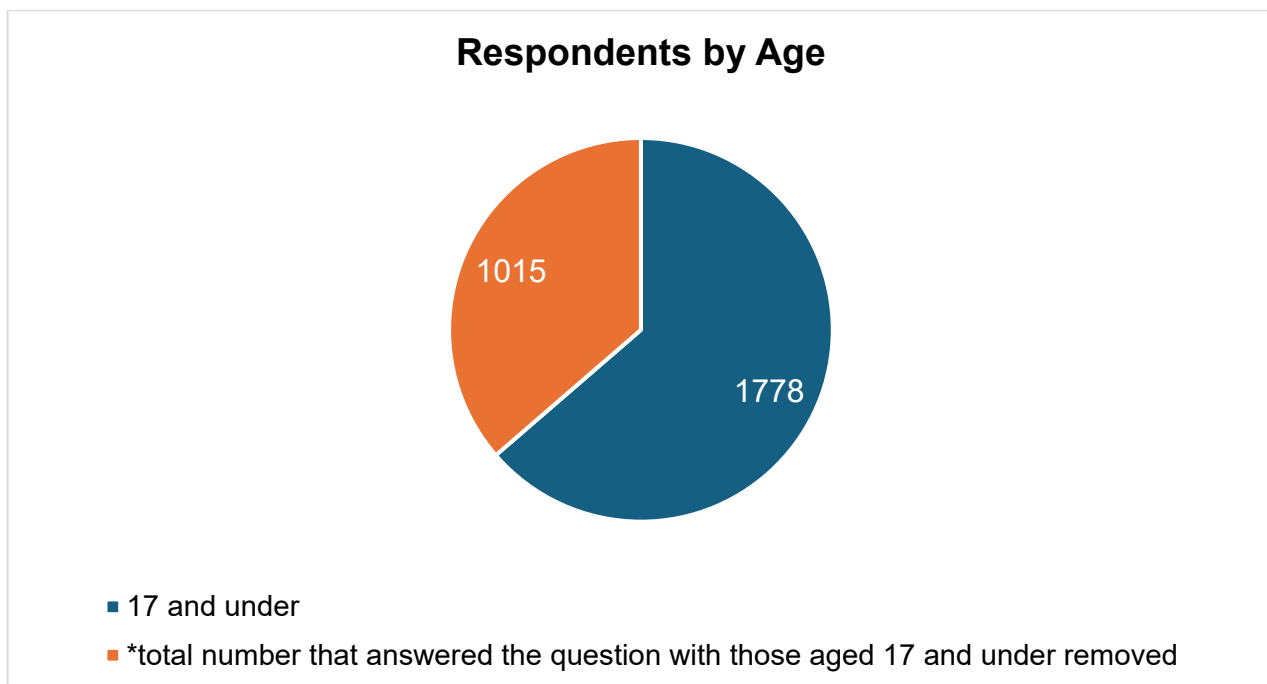
Safety Survey Demographic Results

Figure 33: A bar chart showing the district that those who answered the safety survey lived in, based on 2568 responses.



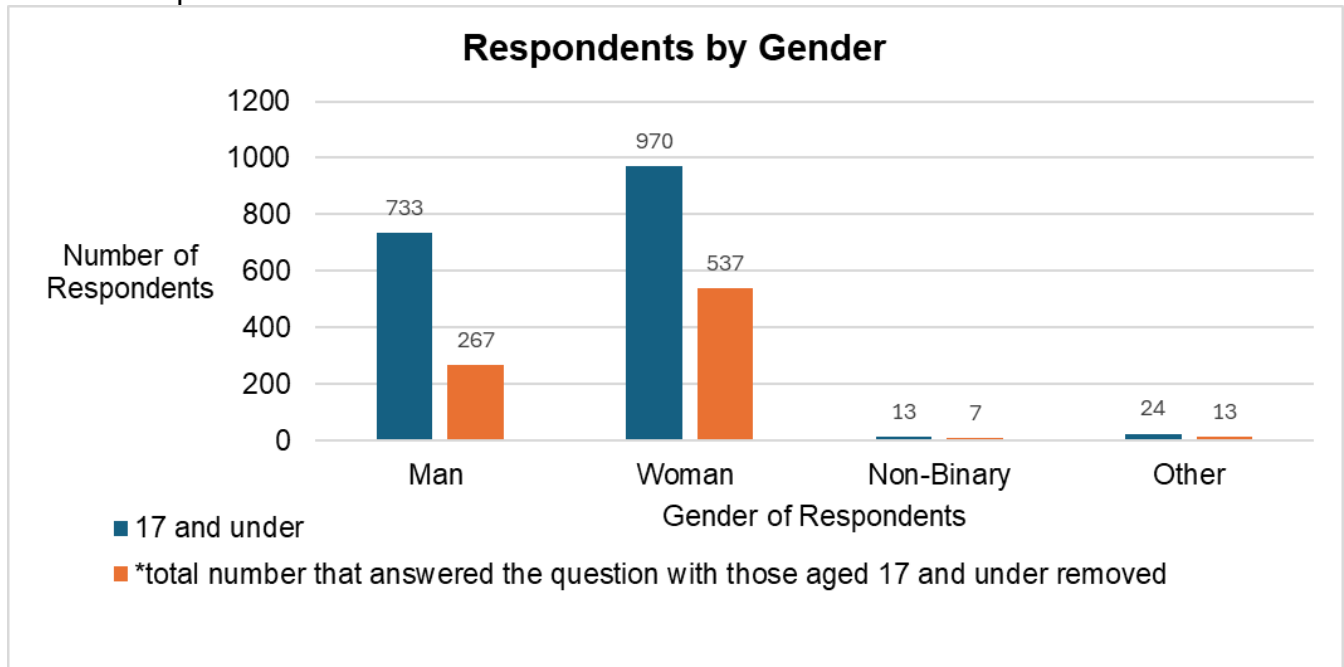
Out of the 2568 people who told us which district they lived in, 33% were from Bradford, 25% Leeds, 17% Kirklees, 13% Wakefield, 12% Calderdale.

Figure 34: A bar chart showing the age of the people who filled in the survey, based on 2793 responses.



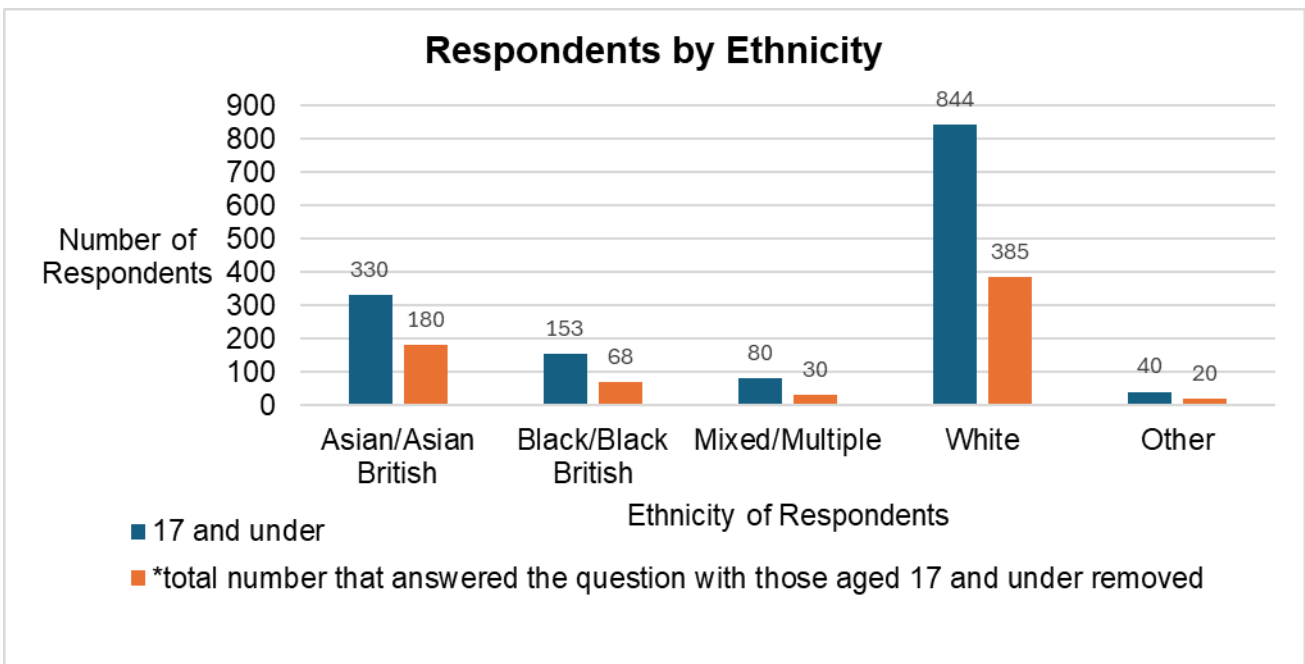
These results are based on 2793 surveys. 1778 people (64%) of respondents informed us they were aged 17 and under. A further 380 (14%) informed us they were aged 25 and under. Making the total respondents who informed us they were under 25, 78%. Another 2% of respondents informed us they were aged 30 and under, bringing the total percentage of respondents that were aged 30 and under, 80%.

Figure 35: a bar chart showing the gender of those who answered the safety survey, based on 2564 responses.



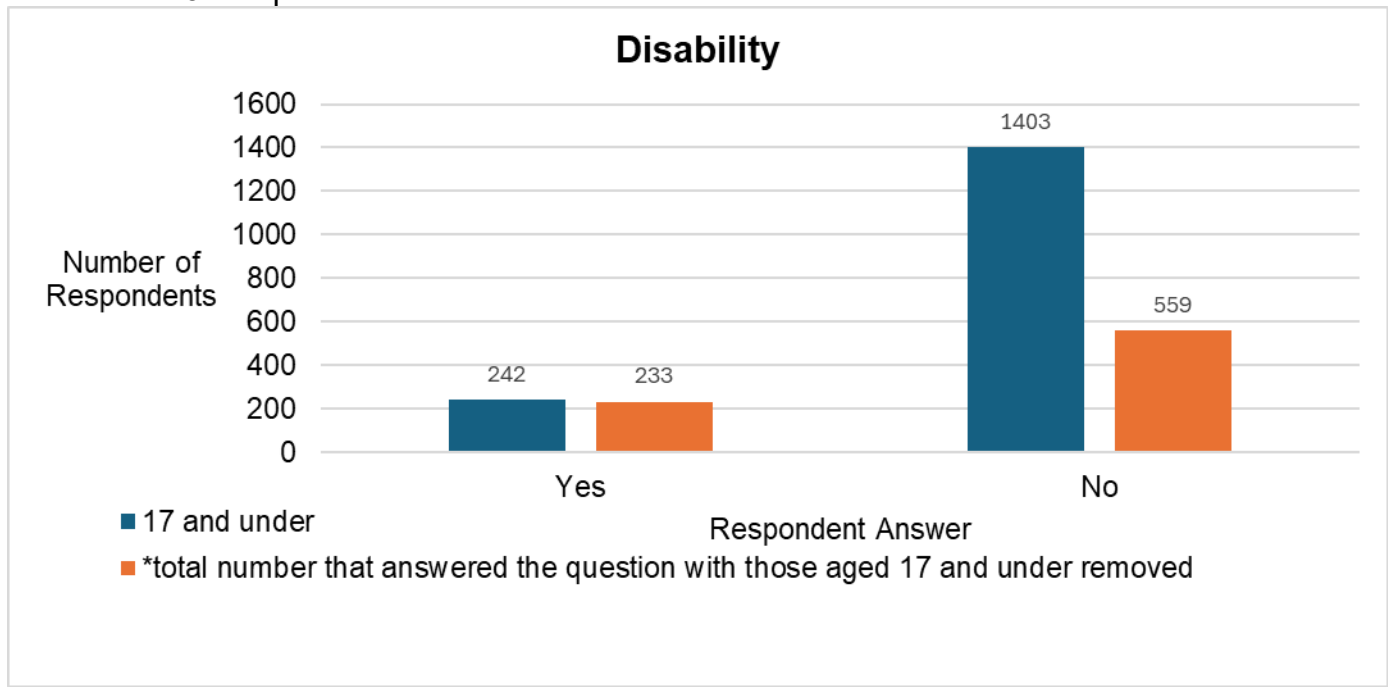
2564 people told us about their gender. 56% said they identify as Female. 39% said they identified as Male and 2.22% identified as non-binary and other.

Figure 36: A bar chart showing the ethnicity of those who answered the safety survey, based on 2130 responses.



2130 respondents told us their ethnicity. 58% white, 24% Asian/Asian British, 10.38% Black/Black British, 5.16% Mixed/Mixed Other, 3% other. 42% of respondents were non-white.

Figure 37: A bar chart showing the disability status of those who answered the safety survey, based on 2437 responses.



2431 people disclosed if they had a disability. 19% said they had a disability. 81% said they did not have a disability.

Appendix 7: Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

Partners and members of the public who have been part of the co-production journey, with special thanks to Mechelle Lewis and Red Bobble Arts – Alfie Forever 15, and to Tracy for sharing her lived experience of domestic abuse, coercion and control.

- **Applicants and successful bidders to the Peoples Fund**
- **Projects across WY which already work to tackle serious violence**
- **WYP Clear Hold Build Team**
- **CLWY network**
- **Mayors Young Communities Network**
- **Youth Commission**
- **Mayors Safer Communities Fund Independent Advisory Group**
- **People's fund district panels**

Every member of the public who completed a survey met with us in person, online or those who spoke directly to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Thank you for engaging so openly about the issues that matter to you.

Specialist interest groups who have shared so openly about what they want the strategy to cover and to the people who supported their engagement with us, again we thank you.

We would like to thank all our commissioned services that support victims and survivors to cope and as far as possible recover from the serious violence they have experienced and achieve criminal justice outcomes across West Yorkshire.

Especially to our Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector and their ability and expertise to work with all our communities.

Finally, to those who told us they were either victims and survivors or those who had been harmed by serious violence who have shared their lived experiences and helped us understand the true impact of crime.

Appendix 8 – Glossary attached