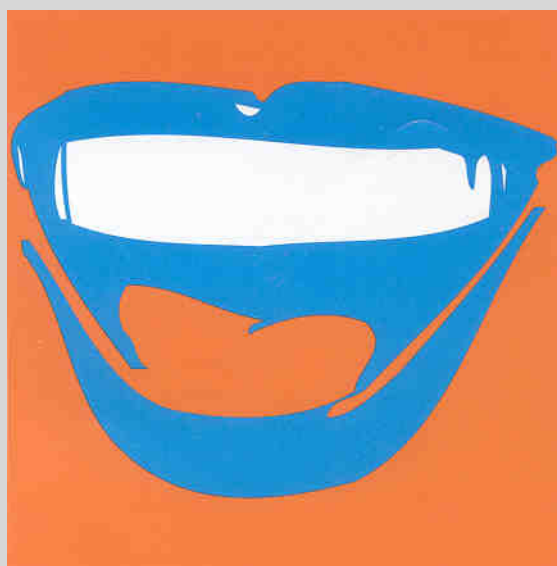


# TOMORROW'S VOICE

## AUTUMN 2008 SURVEY RESULTS



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## **CONTENTS**

<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SUMMARY OF MAIN RESULTS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>RESULTS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>About You (Demographics).....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sport.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Emotional Support &amp; Understanding Mental Health..</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Carrying Knives.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Contacting the Police.....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Learning about Fire Safety.....</b>	<b>43</b>

## INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Tomorrow's Voice is a survey of young people in Wiltshire between the ages of 11 and 18. The survey is supported by Wiltshire County Council, The District Councils, Wiltshire Constabulary and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 1.2 This report contains the findings from the Tomorrow's Voice Autumn 2008 survey. In September 2008, a four page questionnaire was distributed through schools and colleges across Wiltshire. These were completed in September and October 2008.
- 1.3 Many thanks to the following schools and colleges who took part in distributing the survey:
  - Devizes School, Devizes
  - Abbeyfield School, Chippenham
  - Avon Valley College, Durrington
  - Malmesbury School, Malmesbury
  - Pewsey Vale School, Pewsey
  - St Joseph's Catholic School, Salisbury
  - St Augustine's Catholic College, Trowbridge
  - St Edmunds C.E. Girls School, Laverstock
  - St John's School & Community College, Marlborough
  - The George Ward School, Melksham
  - The John of Gaunt School, Trowbridge
  - Wootton Bassett School, Wootton Bassett
- 1.4 Thanks also for all the support given to this project by the Youth Development Service.
- 1.5 Tomorrow's Voice is a valuable method of collecting information about the views of young people living in Wiltshire. The results of this survey should be seen as a way of supporting decision makers by helping them to understand the needs, opinions and priorities of Wiltshire's young people.
- 1.6 This survey covered a wide range of subjects. Some will feed directly into the planning of specific services, while others will be of interest to a wide variety of organisations in Wiltshire and beyond.
- 1.7 This report will be widely disseminated among the partner organisations and service providers. Copies will be made available in all of Wiltshire's libraries and an electronic version of this report will be available to download online from the Wiltshire and Swindon Intelligence Network (<http://www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk>).

## **SUMMARY OF MAIN RESULTS**

### **About You (Demographics)**

- 2.1 The Tomorrow's Voice survey for Autumn 2008 was completed by 1,614 respondents of secondary school age throughout Wiltshire. 28% of respondents were from North Wiltshire; 27% from West Wiltshire, 26% from Kennet and 19% from Salisbury. 55% of respondents were female and 46% male.

### **Sport**

- 2.2 Respondents were asked what would help develop young people's skills at different sports and activities. The majority (70%) said 'more and better facilities' (70%).
- 2.3 61% of respondents suggested that 'free activities' would keep them participating in sport as they got older.
- 2.4 Respondents were asked if they would like to try out alternative sports at school before taking part in them outside of school. 66% of respondents said that they would definitely or probably try alternative sports at school.

### **Emotional Support and Understanding Mental Health**

- 2.5 A high percentage of respondents believed that the following were mental health issues: 'depression' (71%); 'self harming' (66%); 'excessive anger' (62%); 'obsessive behaviour' (e.g. cleaning or checking things over and over) (62%); 'eating problems' (e.g. dieting or bingeing excessively) (61%); and 'drug or alcohol issues' (50%).
- 2.6 The percentage of people who believed that 'depression' was a mental health condition tended to increase the older the age group, ranging from 57% of 11 year olds to 86% of 17 year olds. Those who thought the following conditions were related to mental health also tended to increase the older age group: 'eating problems' ( 50% of 11 year olds increasing to 73% of 17 year olds); and 'obsessive behaviour' (46% of 11 year olds increasing to 86% of 17 year olds). The largest variation in male/female responses was in those who thought that 'eating problems' was a mental health condition – 67% of females compared to 52% of males.
- 2.7 Respondents were asked to select which conditions they believed were of concern to young people. Nearly half of respondents thought that 'drug or alcohol issues' were of concern. About two fifths thought that

- 'feeling sad' and 'self harming' were of concern - 43% and 40% respectively.
- 2.8 56 % of respondents said that if a member of their own family suffered with a severe mental health condition they would talk to someone in their family. Half of respondents said that they would talk to their 'best friend'.
- 2.9 Regarding the main sources of stress in respondents' lives, the most frequently selected issues were: 'coping with school grades or achieving good grades (41%); 'feeling good (weight, image, fitness)' (38%); and 'life at home' (31%). 19% of respondents stated that they did not have any stress in their lives. 'Not feeling good about myself (weight, image, fitness)' was selected by higher percentages of the 11, 12 and 13 year old age groups than the older respondents. 'Coping with school work or achieving good grades' was selected by a higher percentage of the 14, 15, 16 and 17 year old age groups than the younger ones.
- 2.10 The most significant variation in the selections made by males and females was 'not feeling good about myself' (weight, image, fitness) with 49% of females citing this as a source of stress compared to 25% of males. There was a higher percentage of males who felt that they did not have any stress than females; 14% compared to 26%.
- 2.11 Over 59% of respondents stated that if they were feeling very stressed or depressed they would deal with it by 'talking to their best friend'. 57% stated that they would 'talk to their mum and dad about how they were feeling'.
- 2.12 A significantly high proportion of the 11 year old age group stated that they would 'talk to their mum or dad about how they were feeling' – 80%. This was also the most frequent choice made by 12 year olds – 65%. The 13 year old age group's most frequent choice was equally divided between talking to their mum and dad and talking to their best friend (60% each). Talking to their best friend was the most popular choice amongst 14, 15, 16 and 17 year olds (60%, 64%, 67% and 69% respectively).

## **Carrying Knives**

- 2.13 The vast majority of respondents said that the most likely reason that a young person would carry a knife was to look 'hard' (81%).
- 2.14 A relatively high percentage of respondents believed a young person would be more likely ('much more likely' or 'a bit more likely') to carry a knife in various situations: 'if they are a member of a gang' (90%); if they 'are involved with drugs' (89%); if they have been 'assaulted or

- threatened in the past' (89%); if they 'drink too much alcohol (80%); and if they 'are being bullied' (65%).
- 2.15 Those who believed that taking a marital arts class would make young people less likely to carry a knife was 63%.
- 2.16 A relatively high percentage of respondents (64%) thought that there was a problem with young people in *11 to 18 year old age group* carrying knives on the streets in their *local area*; 44% thought that it was big problem and 20% that it was a small problem. 45% believed that there was a problem with young people *in their own age group* carrying knives on the streets in their *local area*; 28% thought that it was a big problem and 17% that it was a small problem.
- 2.17 55% said that there was a problem with young people in the *11 to 18 year old age group* bringing knives into *school or college*; 37% said that it was a big problem and 18% that it was a small problem. Two fifths of respondents believed that there was a problem with young people in their *own age group* bringing knives into school or college; 27% thought that it was a big problem and 12% that it was a small problem. Nearly half thought that there was no problem.
- 2.18 The percentage of respondents within most of the age groups who thought that there was a problem with knives (in school and in the local area), tended to decrease with age i.e. the younger the age group, the more likely they were to think that knife carrying was a problem in school and the local area.
- 2.19 A high percentage of respondents thought that young people who carry knives were more likely (much more likely or a bit more likely) to: be 'arrested' (88%); be 'cautioned by the Police' (84%); be excluded from 'school' (82%); 'cause an injury to themselves' (78%); be 'banned from youth club or other places' (77%); get 'injured by others' (69%); and 'assaulted' (60%).
- 2.20 A very high percentage of respondents (82%) thought that a young person *would* be officially cautioned if they were caught carrying a knife by the Police.
- 2.21 In terms of what respondents thought should happen to a young person if they were caught carrying a knife by the Police, the most popular responses were fairly evenly distributed: 'sentenced to do Community Service' (53%); 'sentenced to spend up to one month in prison or longer or a young offenders institute' (51%); 'fined' (50%); 'sentenced to spend up to one month in prison or a young offenders institute' (49%); 'excluded from school' (46%). Just over a third thought that they should receive a 'suspend sentence' or be 'officially cautioned' (39% and 35% respectively).

- 2.22 The most significant difference in the responses to the question '*what would happen and what should happen* to a young person who was caught by the police are carrying a knife' is that whilst a very high percentage of respondents (82%) thought that the young person *would be* officially cautioned, only 35% thought that they *should be* cautioned.
- 2.23 The majority of respondents (70%) said that if a good friend was bringing a knife to school they would speak to them about it. Two fifths would tell their (own) parents. The percentage number of respondents who would tell someone in authority (official) was much lower; 28% would tell a teacher and 19% would tell the Police.
- 2.24 The majority of respondents (61%) said that if someone they knew was bringing a knife to school they would just avoid them if possible. The percentage number of respondents who would tell a teacher was 59% and those who said that they would tell the Police was 46%.
- 2.25 Respondents were asked how they would contact the Police if they wanted to report someone they knew who was carrying a knife. The most frequent choices were fairly evenly spread with 39% preferring to do so in person at a Police station, 38% by dialling 999, 38% by dialling the non-emergency number and 35% by phoning a local Police office.
- 2.26 The ways most commonly chosen by respondents to help make a young person not carry knives was: 'knife checks in schools' (62%); 'Police going to school to talk about dangers' (56%); 'being shown or hearing about victims of knife crime in school' (56%); 'checks on knife carrying in youth clubs' (49%); 'anger management classes' (48%); and 'self defence classes that do not involve weapons' (47%).

## **Contacting the Police**

- 2.27 The vast majority of respondents (90%) of respondents had not telephoned the Police in the last six months.
- 2.28 44% of respondents said that they would like to use the local Police contact in the local library to report a non-emergency crime by phone.

## **Learning about Fire Safety**

- 2.29 90% of respondents stated that they preferred to learn about 'Fire Safety', 'Road Safety' and 'Water Safety' from Fire Service Personnel.



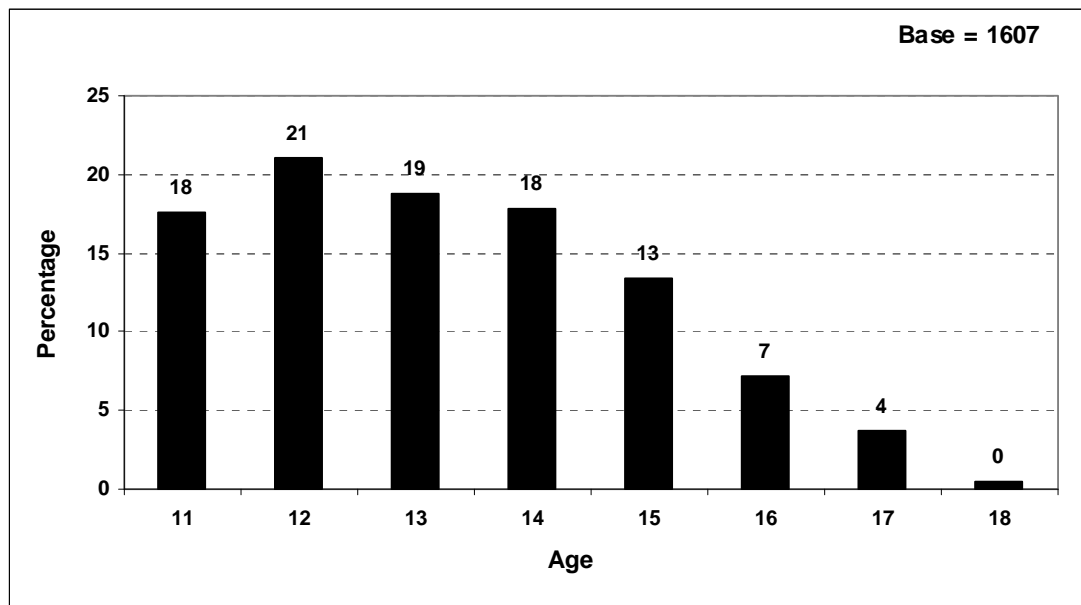
## **METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 Schools were instructed to use mixed ability classes (e.g. PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) classes or tutor groups) wherever possible for completion of the questionnaires, to ensure as representative a sample as possible.
- 3.2 A total of 1,614 completed questionnaires were returned. The results were inputted into SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) software for analysis. Any questionnaires returned blank or with only demographics filled in have been excluded from this figure and from all analysis.
- 3.3 All percentages are rounded to the nearest 1%. Therefore it may be that not all totals sum to exactly 100%.
- 3.4 On graphs wherever possible the base figure is shown. This is the number of respondents answering this particular question (or at least one part of it).
- 3.5 Please note that this survey report contains analysis by age and gender. However, due to the low base size of the 18 year old age group (7 respondents), analysis of cross tabulated responses for this age group, has been excluded.
- 3.6 The selection of schools and colleges agreeing to participate in the survey (as listed in section one) may affect responses (as different educational establishments will not produce uniform responses).

## RESULTS

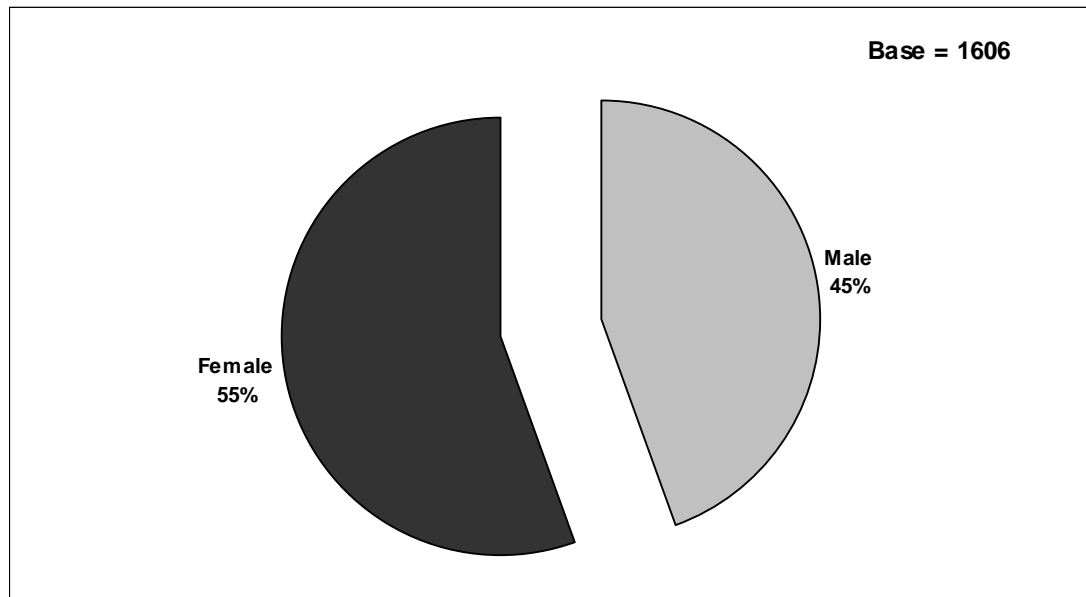
### About You (Demographics)

#### Q1: Age



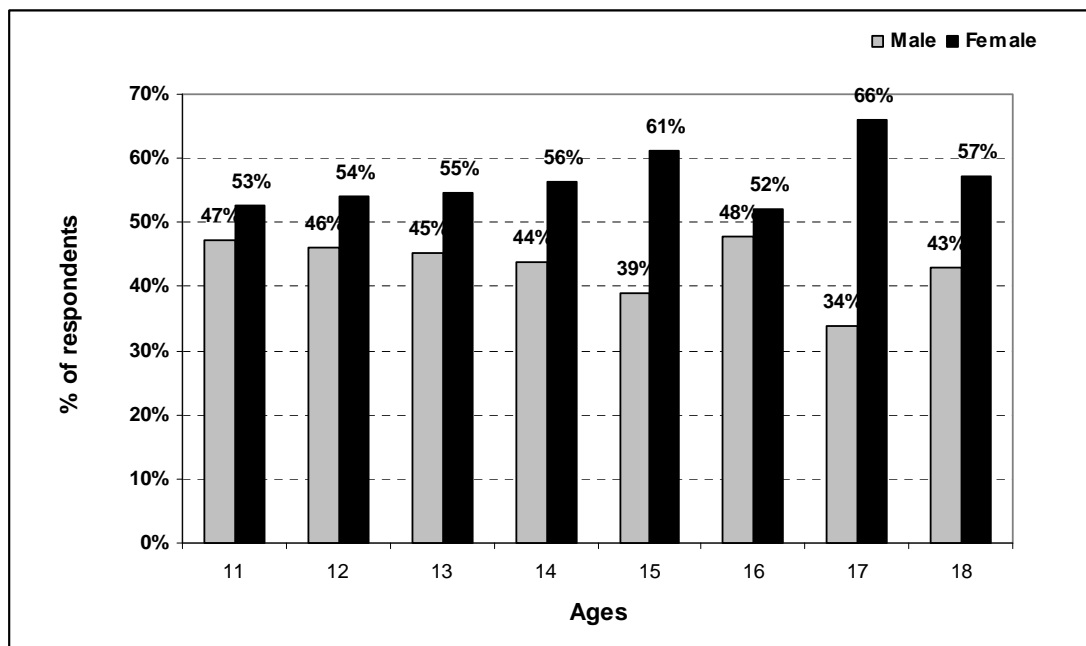
- 4.1 The respondents were aged between 11 and 18. The 11, 12, 13 and 14 year old age groups were fairly equally distributed within this range. The other age groups vary in distribution.
- 4.2 The relatively lower numbers of 16, 17 and 18 year olds can be attributed to several factors: one school was not able to distribute the questionnaire equally amongst the different year groups; and Wiltshire College was not able to participate. Also note that although sixth forms took part in this survey, many young people of the age 17 and 18 year age groups have already left education and are therefore not included in this survey.
- 4.3 8 respondents either did not give their age, or gave ages that were younger/older than the target age group.

**Q2: Male or Female**



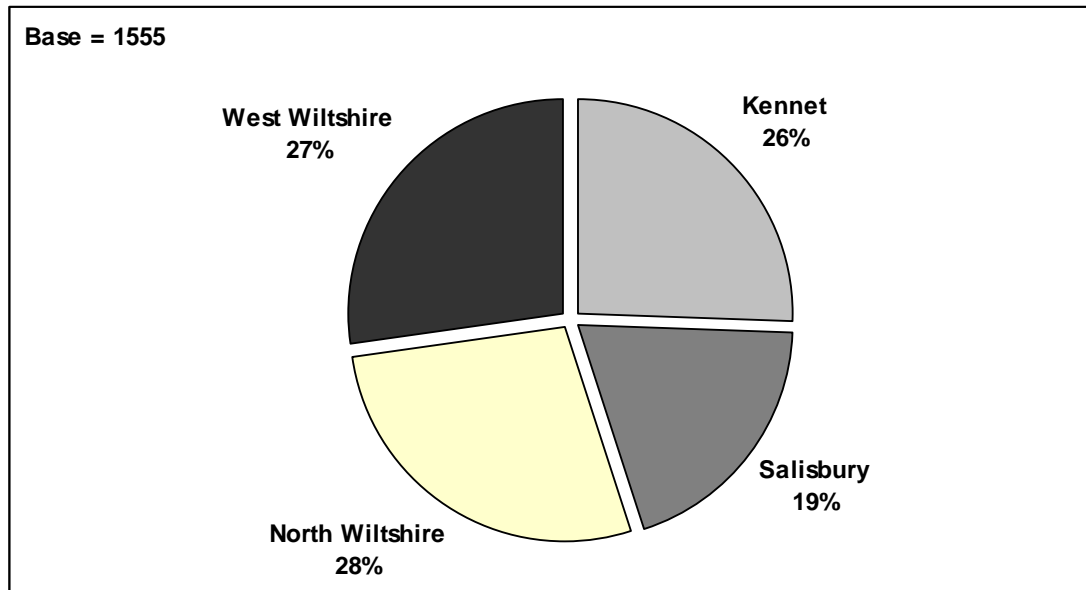
4.4 There were 45% male respondents and 55% female respondents.

4.5 A total of 8 respondents did not give this information.



4.6 There were higher numbers of females than males across all the age groups. This can be attributed to the participation of one 'all girls' school.

**Q3: Which district do you live in?**

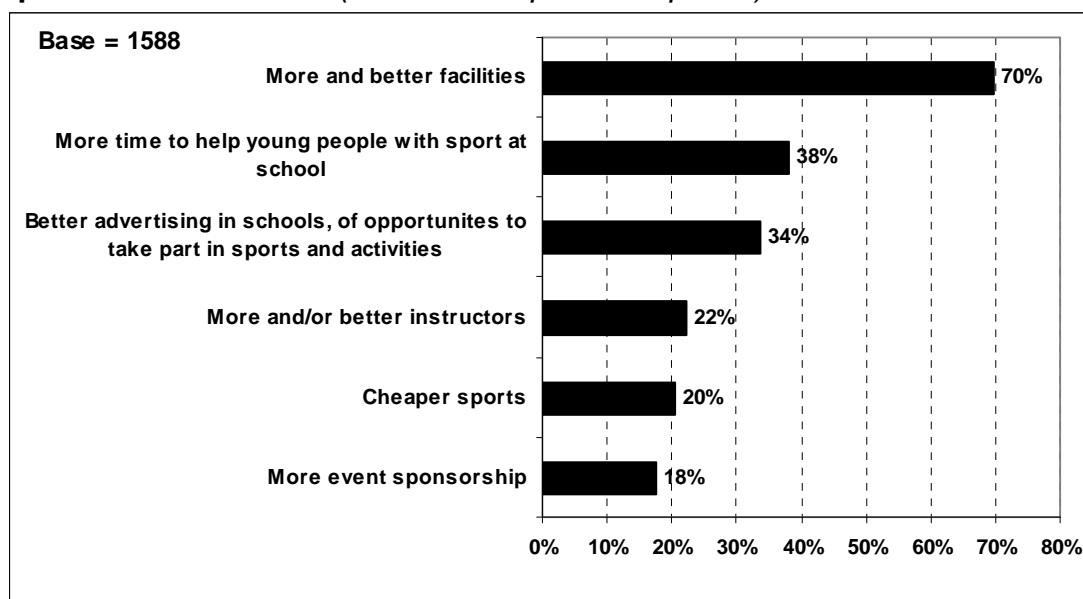


4.7 West Wiltshire, Kennet and North Wiltshire were quite evenly represented with 27%, 26% and 28% respectively. Salisbury district had a lower representation with 19%.

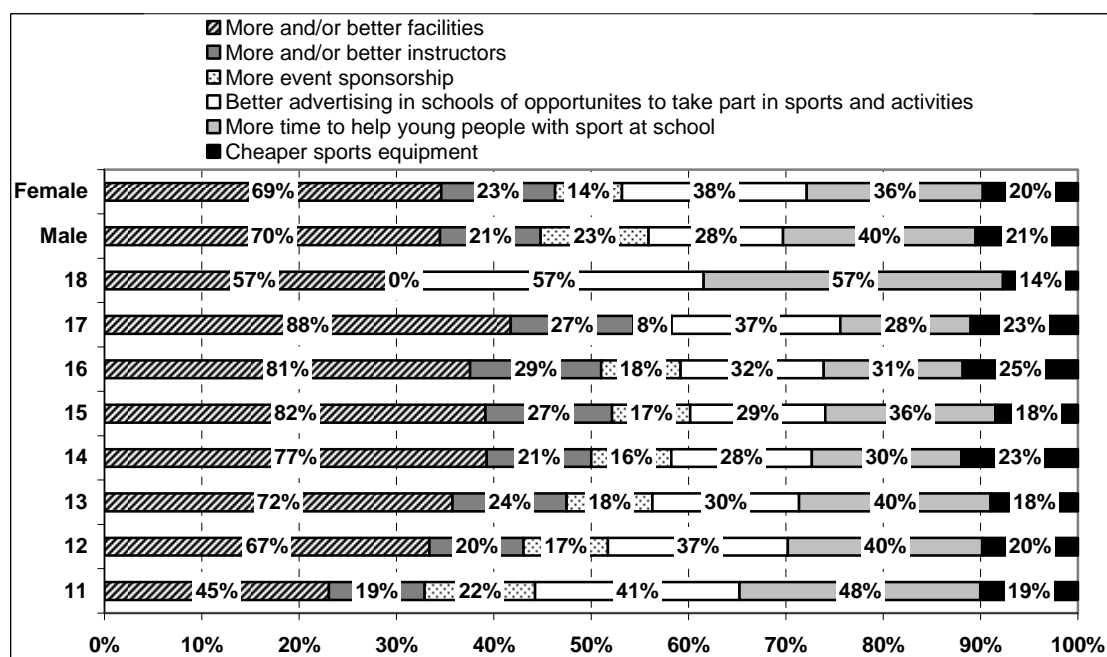
4.8 A total of 59 respondents did not give their district.

## Sport

**Q 5: How do you think we can develop young people's skills at different sports and activities? (Please tick up to two options)**



4.9 Respondents were asked what would help develop young people's skills at different sports and activities. The majority (70%) said 'more and better facilities'. Other selections were as follows: 'more time to help young people with sport at school' (38%); 'better advertising in schools of opportunities to take part in sports and activities' (34%); 'more and/or better instructors' (22%); 'cheaper sports' (20%); and 'more event sponsorship' (18%).



Note – 18 year old age group is made up of only 7 respondents

- 4.10 The most popular choice for most age groups (ages 11 to 17) was 'more and better facilities'. The proportion within each age group that chose this option increased with the age of the respondents with 80% plus of each older age group (i.e. 15 years of age plus) making this choice.
- 4.11 The most popular choices amongst the 11 year old age group were more evenly spread than the average, with about half of respondents in this age group choosing - 'more time to help young people in school' (48%); 'more and/or better facilities' (45%); and 'better advertising in schools of opportunities to take part in sports and activities' (41%); as their most popular selections.
- 4.12 The male/female choices were broadly similar to each other except for the option of 'more event sponsorship' where 22% of males, compared to 14% of females chose this.
- 4.13 This question also invited respondents to make suggestions (open ended question) as to what could help develop young people's skills at different sports and activities. 97 young people responded (although some respondents provided more than one suggestion) and the responses have been grouped according to the general theme that was raised. These were the themes most commonly mentioned:

More sports lessons/longer sports lessons in school (16)

Clubs (6)

Skate/bike parks (6)

Advertising (3)

Ice skating (4)

Swimming (1)

More equipment (6)

Funding (3)

More choice (29)

Cheaper sports activities (4)

More competitions (3)

Sporting trips (2)

More time to participate in sport (4)

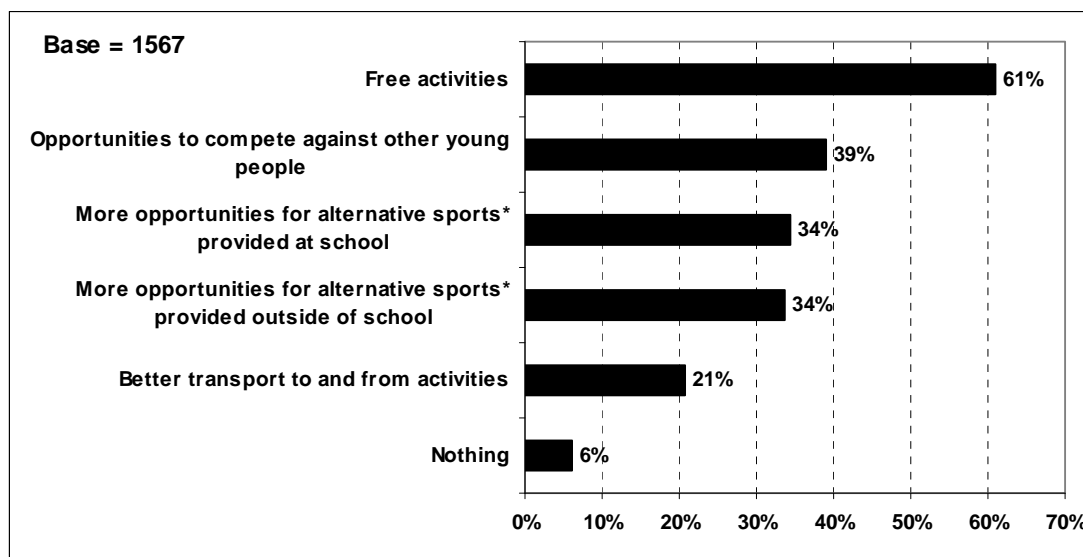
Instructors/coaching (8)

Cheaper and better food in the cafeteria (2)

Other (4)

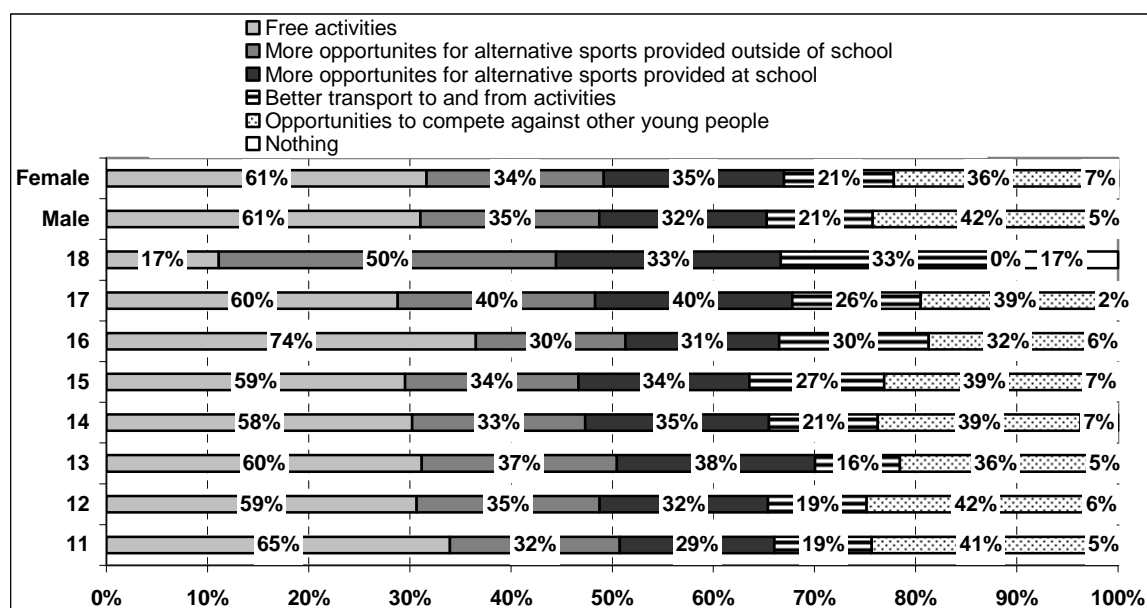
- 4.14 Those respondents who wanted more choices said that there should be a greater variety of sports and sports clubs, more choices in physical education classes in school, more fun sports and more football, rugby and rowing for girls.

**Q6: What would keep you participating in sport as you get older (please tick up to two options)**



\*Cheerleading, Ultimate Frisbee, Parkour, BMX etc

4.15 61% of respondents suggested that 'free activities' would keep them participating in sport as they got older. This was the most popular choice amongst respondents. The other choices that were made were: 'opportunities to compete against other young people' (39%); 'more opportunities for alternative sports provided at school' (34%); 'more opportunities for alternative sport provided outside of school' (34%); and 'better transport to and from activities' (21%). Only 6% thought that 'nothing' would keep them from participating in sport.

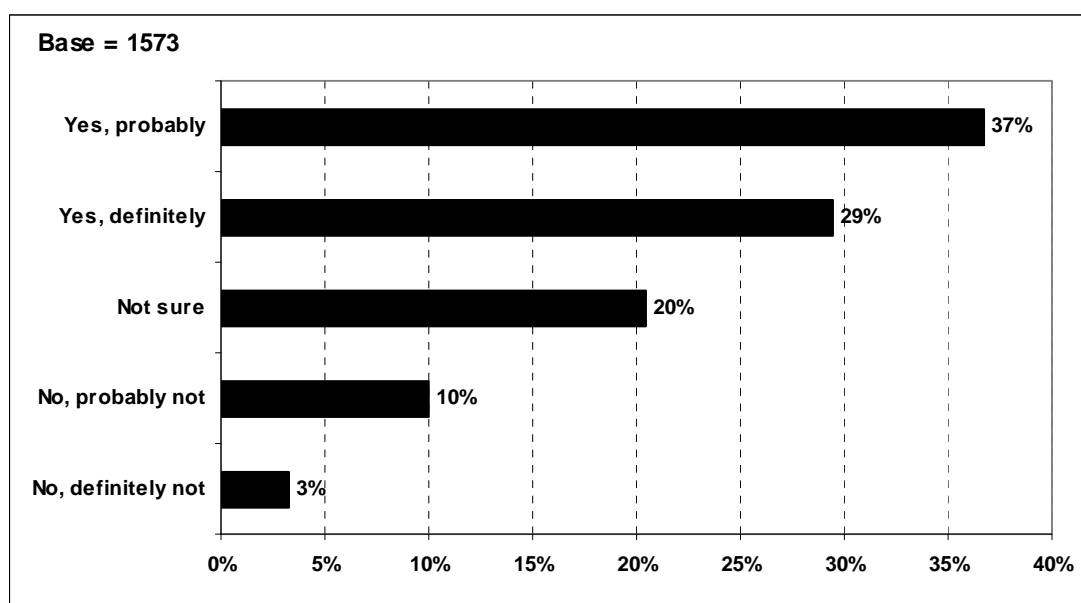


Note – 18 year old age group is made up of only 7 respondents

- 4.16 The most popular choice amongst the age groups (ages 11 to 17) was 'free activities' with over half from each age group selecting this option. Having 'more opportunities for alternative sports provided at school' was considered of importance by about a third (or just over) of each age group and the same applied to the option of having 'more opportunities for alternative sports provided outside of school' and having 'opportunities to compete against other young people'.
- 4.17 Very low percentages from each of the age groups thought that 'nothing' would keep them participating in sport as they got older.
- 4.18 There is very little difference in the preferences chosen by males and females except for the option of having 'opportunities to compete against other young people' where 42% of males compared to 36% of females made this selection.
- 4.19 This question also invited respondents to make suggestions (open ended question) as to what would keep them participating in sport as they got older. 98 young people responded (although some respondents provided more than one suggestion) and the responses have been grouped according to the general theme that was raised. These were the themes most commonly mentioned:
- BMX/skate park (17)
  - Cheerleading (20)
  - Dance (4)
  - Swimming (3)
  - Gym (4)
  - Parkour (4)
  - Already committed to sports/Linked to future career ambitions (6)
  - Horse riding (2)
  - Football (4)
  - Financial incentives/prizes (2)
  - Sailing/kayaking (2)
  - More P.E classes at school/more sports clubs outside school (11)
  - More variety in sports (15)
  - Martial arts (2)
  - Big tournaments/County Sport (2)
  - Cheaper/better facilities (3)
  - Others (5)
- 4.20 Those respondents who would like to see more variety in sport activities suggested skate boarding, BMX, Zipwire, abseiling, hockey, ice-skating, paintball, rugby and volleyball.



**Q7: Would you like to try out alternative sports (e.g. Cheerleading, Ultimate Frisbee, Parkour, BMX etc) at school before taking part in them outside of school?**



4.21 Respondents were asked if they would like to try out alternative sports at school before taking part in them outside of school. 37% of respondents stated 'yes, probably', 29% stated 'yes, definitely', 20% felt that they were 'not sure', 10% said 'no, probably not' and 3% 'no, definitely not'. Therefore, 66% would definitely or probably try out alternative sports at school.

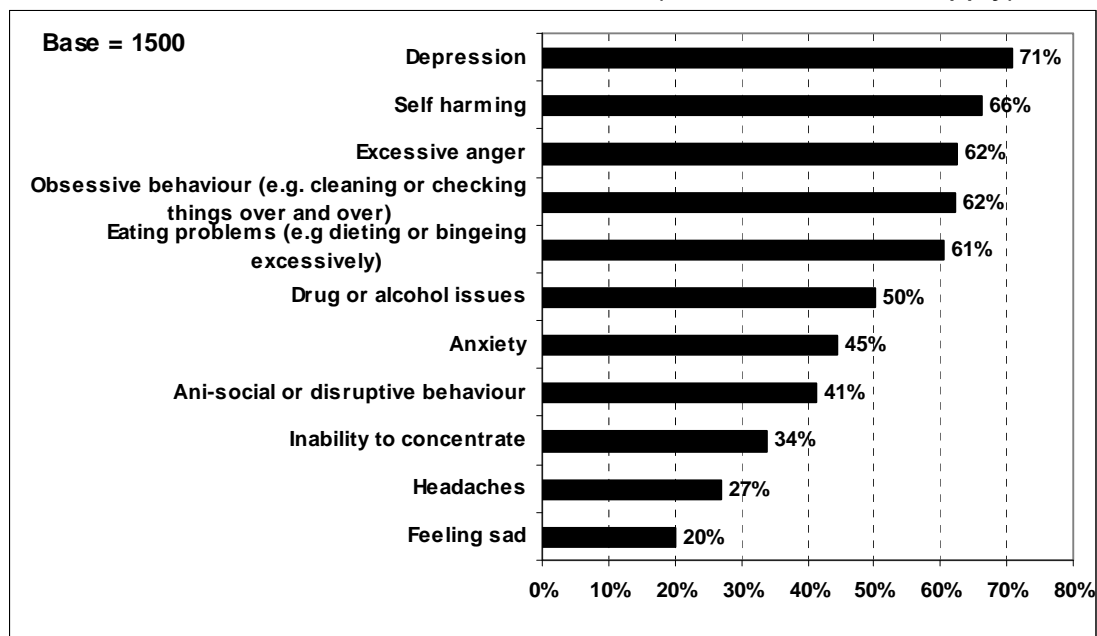
4.22 There was little variation between the age groups (ages 11 to 17) since over 60% of respondents from each group said that they would probably or definitely try alternative sports at school.

4.23 Although approximately the same proportion of both males and females stated that they would try out alternative sports at school, there were some differences between the genders in terms of how certain they were about doing so – 34% of males said 'yes, definitely' and 32% said 'yes, probably'. In contrast, 26% of females said 'yes, definitely' and 40% 'yes, probably'.

## Emotional Support and Understanding Mental Health

**Q8: Which of the following do you think are Mental Health issues and thinking about you and your friends, which do you think are of most concern to young people?**

**I think this is a mental health condition.....(Please tick all that apply)**



4.24 A high percentage of respondents believed that the following were mental health issues: 'depression' (71%); 'self harming' (66%); 'excessive anger' (62%); 'obsessive behaviour' (e.g. cleaning or checking things over and over) (62%); 'eating problems' (e.g. dieting or bingeing excessively) (61%); and 'drug or alcohol issues' (50%).

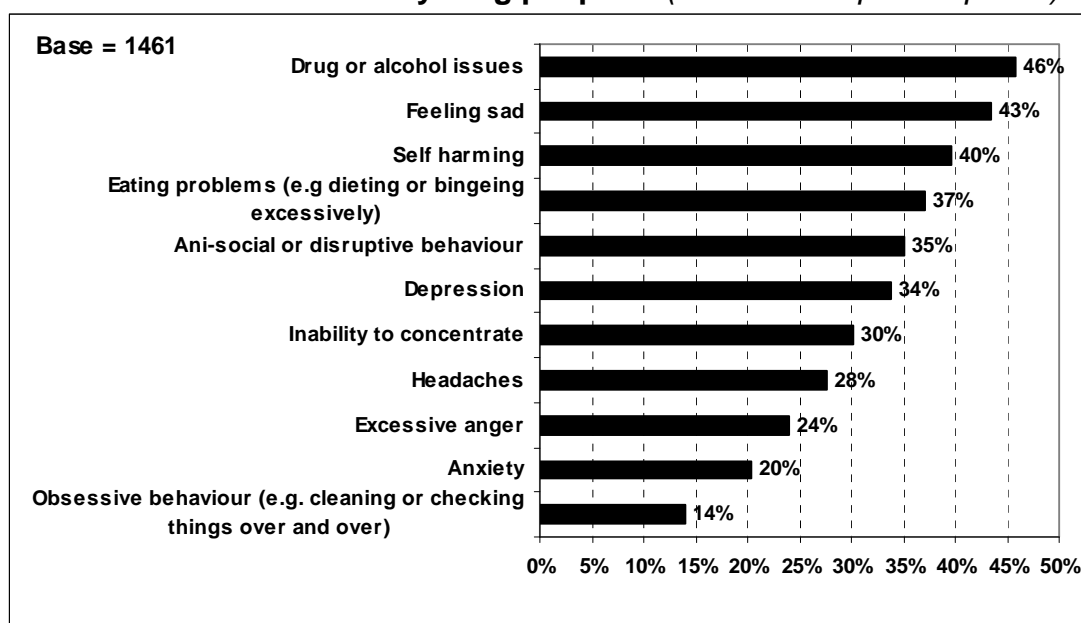
4.25 'Anxiety', 'anti-social or disruptive behaviour' and 'inability to concentrate' were believed to be mental health issues by 45%, 41% and 34% of respondents, respectively. 'Headaches' and 'feeling sad' were considered to be mental health issues by 27% and 20% of respondents (respectively).

4.26 The percentage of people who believed that 'depression' was a mental health condition tended to increase the older the age group, ranging from 57% of 11 year olds to 86% of 17 year olds. Those who thought the following conditions were related to mental health also tended to increase the older age group: 'eating problems' (50% of 11 year olds increasing to 73% of 17 year olds); and 'obsessive behaviour' (46% of 11 year olds increasing to 86% of 17 year olds). The percentage of those who believed that 'inability to concentrate' was a mental health condition tended to decrease the older the age group (39% of 11 year olds decreasing to 24% of 17 year olds).

4.27 There is a little variation in male/female responses. A higher percentage of males (than females) believed that the following were mental health conditions: 'feeling sad'; 'headaches'; and 'inability to concentrate'. A higher percentage of females (than males) thought that the following were 'mental health conditions': 'depression'; 'self-harming'; 'eating problems'; 'excessive anger'; 'anti-social or disruptive behaviour'; 'drug or alcohol issues'; 'anxiety; and obsessive' behaviour. This comparison of male and female responses shows that for 7 out of the 11 options which respondents had to choose from, a higher percentage of females than males thought that they were mental health conditions.

4.28 The largest variation in male/female responses was in those who thought that 'eating problems' was a mental health condition – 67% of females compared to 52% of males.

**I think this is of concern to young people....(Please tick up to 3 options)**

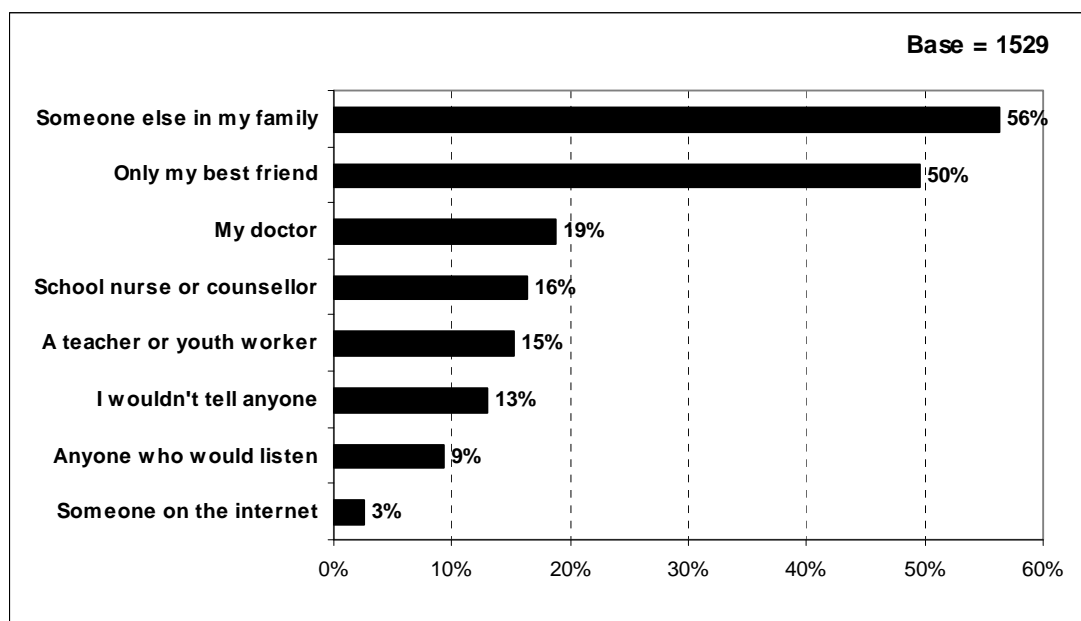


4.29 Respondents were asked to select which conditions they believed were of concern to young people. 46% of respondents thought that 'drug or alcohol issues' were of concern. About two fifths thought that 'feeling sad' and 'self harming' were of concern - 43% and 40% respectively.

4.30 The responses within the different age groups were varied but there were a couple of discernible patterns in the responses that relate to age. The percentage of respondents who selected 'anxiety' as an issue that is of concern to young people tended to increase the older the age group (19% of 11 year olds, increasing to 36% of 17 year olds). The same applies to the issue of 'inability to concentrate'; the older the age group the more likely they were to think it was of concern (25% of 11 year olds rising to 41% of 17 year olds).

- 4.31 There was a little variation in male and female responses. A higher percentage of males than females thought that 'depression', 'anti-social & disruptive behaviour' and 'excessive anger' were of concern to young people whilst a higher percentage of females than males felt that 'feeling sad', 'headaches', 'self-harming', 'ability to concentrate', 'eating problems', 'drug or alcohol issues' and 'anxiety' were of concern.

**Q9: If a member of your family suffered with a severe mental health problem, who would you talk to about how it was affecting you? (Please tick all that apply)**

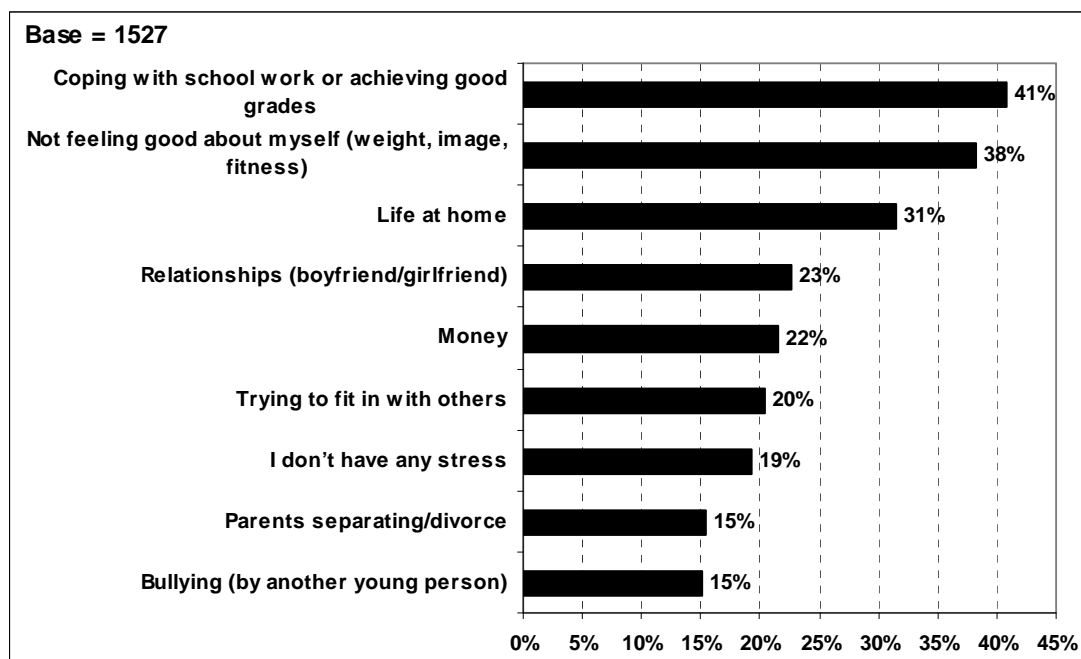


4.32 56 % of respondents said that if a member of their own family suffered with a severe mental health condition they would talk to someone in their family. Half of respondents said that they would talk to their 'best friend'. These were, by far, the most popular choices.

4.33 The younger age groups (ages 11 to 13 as a total) had a higher proportion of respondents who felt that they would want to talk to someone else in their family than the older age groups (ages 15 to 17 as a total) – 61% compared to 50%. The 14 to 16 age group (as a total) had a higher proportion of respondents who would only talk to their best friend than the 11 to 13 year olds – 59% compared to 44%.

4.34 The variations between male and female respondents are not that marked except on a couple of issues: 59% of females said that they would talk to their best friend compared to 37% of males; and 24% of males said that they would talk to their doctor compared to 14% of females.

**Q10: What are the main sources of stress in your life? (Please tick all that apply)**



4.35 Regarding the main sources of stress in respondents' lives, the most frequently selected issues were: 'coping with school grades or achieving good grades' (41%); 'feeling good (weight, image, fitness)' (38%); and 'life at home' (31%).

4.36 19% of respondents stated that they did not have any stress in their lives.

4.37 'Not feeling good about myself (weight, image, fitness)' was selected by a higher percentage of the 15 to 17 year old age group (as a total) than the 11 to 14 year old age group (as a total); 41% compared to 37%.

4.38 'Coping with school work or achieving good grades' was selected by a higher percentage of the 14 to 17 year old age group than the 11 to 13 year old age group (as a total); 56% compared to 29%.

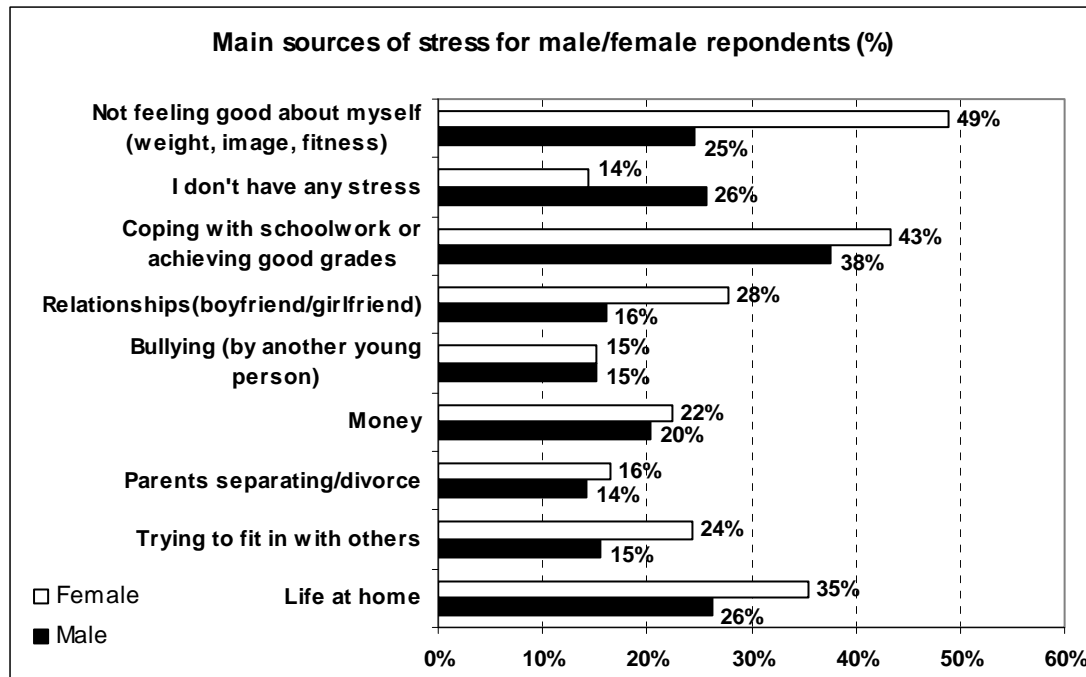
4.39 'Money' was selected by a higher percentage of the 15 to 17 year old age group (as a total) than the 11 to 14 year old age group (as a total); 32% compared to 17%.

4.40 'Relationships (boyfriend/girlfriend)' was selected by a higher percentage of the 15 to 17 year old age group (as a total) than the 11 to 14 year old age group (as a total); 30% compared to 20%.

4.41 'Parents separating/divorce' was selected by a higher percentage of the 11 to 13 year old age group (as a total) than the 14 to 17 year old age group (as a total); 18% compared to 11%.

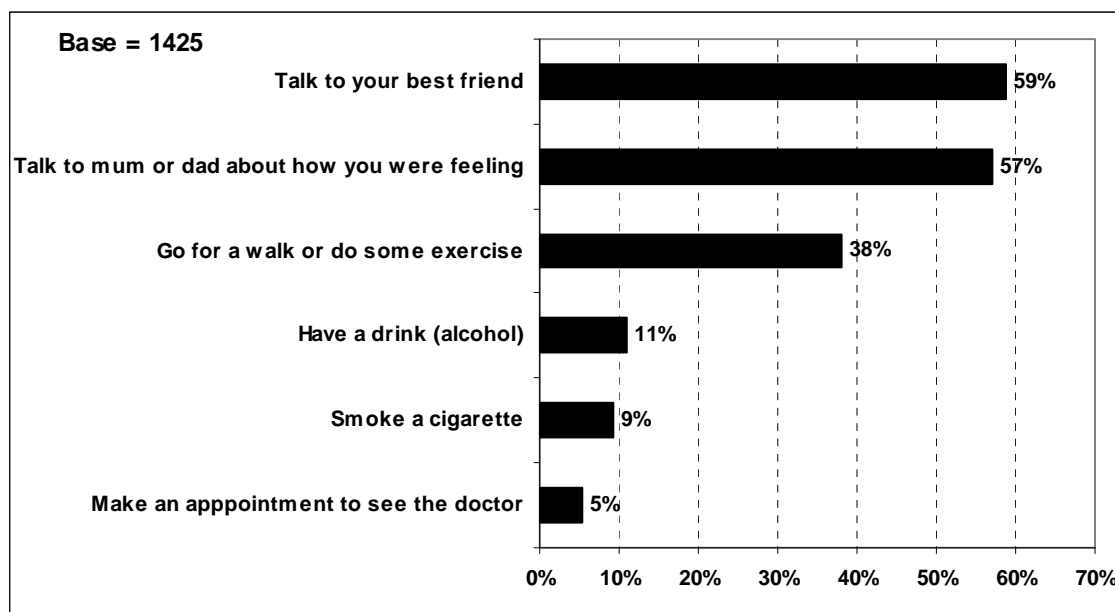
4.42 'Bullying' was selected by a higher percentage of 11 to 13 year old age group (as a total) than the 14 to 17 year old age group (as a total); 19% compared to 11%.

4.43 21% of the 11 to 14 year old age group (as a total) said that they did not have any stress in their lives. This is a relatively higher figure than the 15 to 17 year old age group – 13%.



4.44 The most significant variation in the selections made by males and females was 'not feeling good about myself (weight, image, fitness)' with 49% of females citing this as a source of stress compared to 25% of males. There was a higher percentage of males who felt that they did not have any stress than females; 26% compared to 14%. See chart above.

**Q11: If you were feeling very stressed or depressed, how would you deal with it? (Please tick all that apply)**



- 4.45 Over 59% of respondents stated that if they were feeling very stressed or depressed they would deal with it by 'talking to their best friend'. 57% stated that they would 'talk to their mum and dad about how they were feeling'. These were, by far, the most popular choices.
- 4.46 A significantly high proportion of the 11 year old age group stated that they would 'talk to their mum or dad about how they were feeling' (80%). This was also the most frequent choice made by 12 year olds – 65%. The 13 year old age group's most frequent choice was equally divided between talking to their mum and dad and talking to their best friend (60% each).
- 4.47 Talking to their best friend was the most popular choice amongst 14, 15, 16 and 17 year olds (60%, 64%, 67% and 69% respectively). In fact, the percentage of respondents who said that they would 'talk to their best friend' tended to increase the older the age group (48% of 11 year olds increasing to 69% of 17 year olds). 'Having a drink' and 'smoking' were also more frequently selected by the older age groups.
- 4.48 There was very little variation in male and female responses except for the option of 'talking to your best friend' – 72% of females compared to 41% of males.
- 4.49 This question also invited respondents to make suggestions (open ended question) as to how they would deal with feeling stressed or depressed. 306 young people responded (although some respondents provided more than one suggestion) and the responses have been grouped according to the general theme that was raised. These were the themes most commonly mentioned:

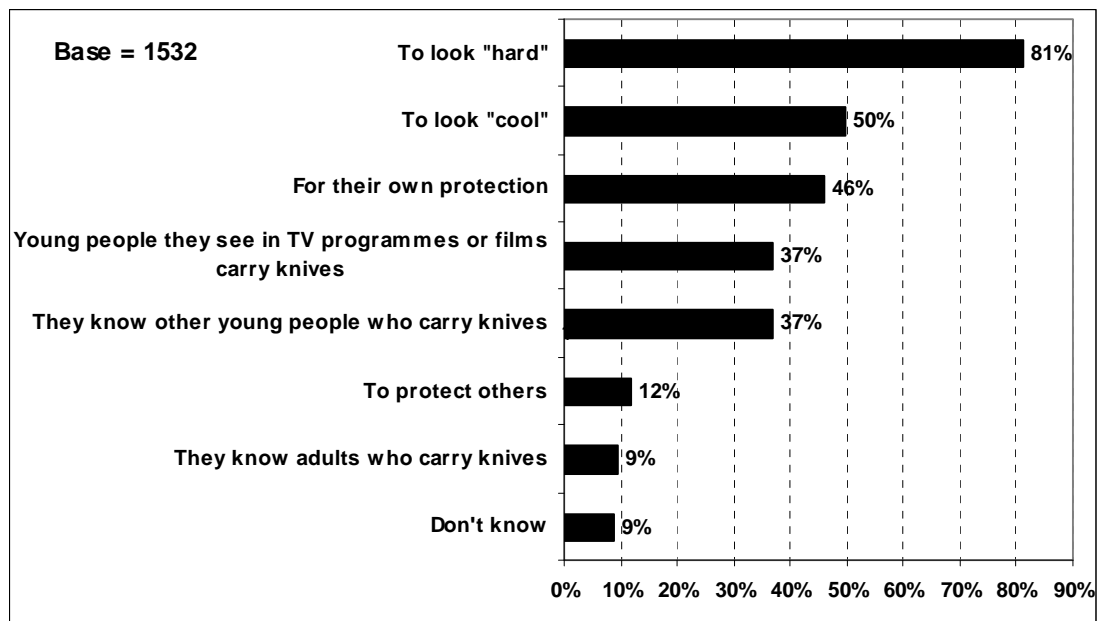


Talk with family members (12)  
Spend time outdoors (3)  
Talk or go out with friends (14)  
Keep it to myself/do nothing (86)  
Drugs (7)  
Talk to someone else (i.e. youth worker; counsellor) (22)  
Talk to a pet or inanimate object (16)  
Self-harm (5)  
Sleep (10)  
Release aggression (19)  
Cry (14)  
Eat (7)  
Write (10)  
Listen to music/play music (29)  
Watch T.V. films (6)  
Play games (15)  
Play sports/activities (15)  
Calm (9)  
Read (7)  
Other (8)

- 4.50 Those respondents who suggested that they would display aggressive behaviour if they felt stressed or depressed said that they would: punch/hit someone; punch an inanimate object; throw things; curse loudly.

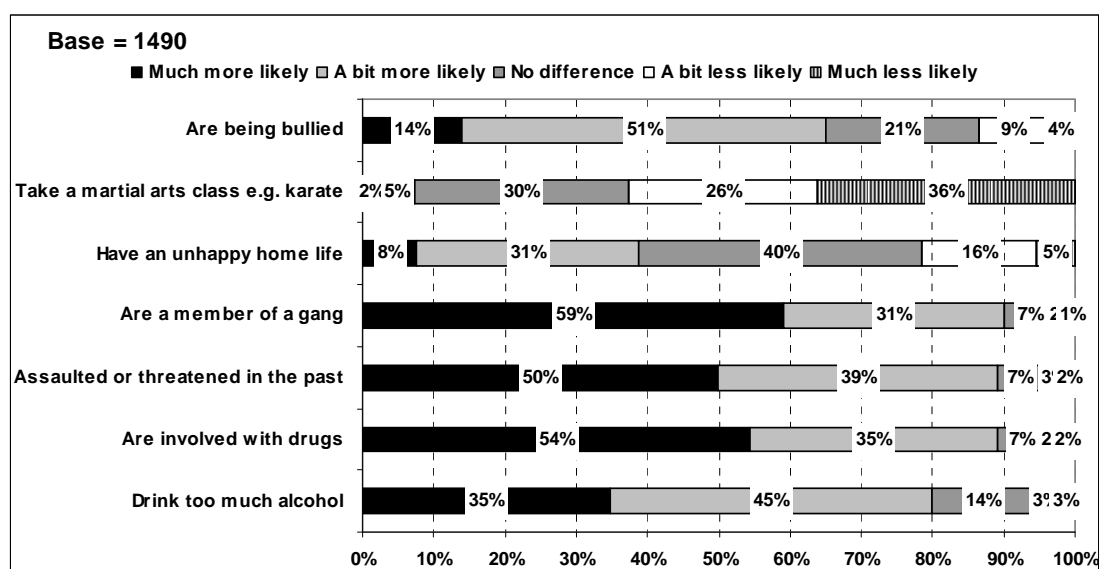
## Carrying Knives

**Q12: What do you think are the most likely reasons that a young person would carry a knife? (Tick up to 3 reasons)**



- 4.51 The vast majority of respondents said that the most likely reason that a young person would carry a knife was to look 'hard' (81%). Looking cool' and 'for their own protection' was cited by about half of respondents (50% and 46% respectively). Just over a third felt that a young person would be more likely to carry a knife if they had seen 'young people in TV programmes or films carrying knives' and if 'they know other young people who carry knives'.
- 4.52 76% and over of respondents from each of the age groups thought that the most likely reason a young person would carry a knife was to look 'hard'.
- 4.53 There was hardly any variation between male and female respondents except for the fact that 41% of females compared to 32% of males thought that the most likely reason that a young person would carry a knife was if they knew other young people who carried knives.

**Q13: Do you think that a young person is more or less likely to carry a knife if they .....**



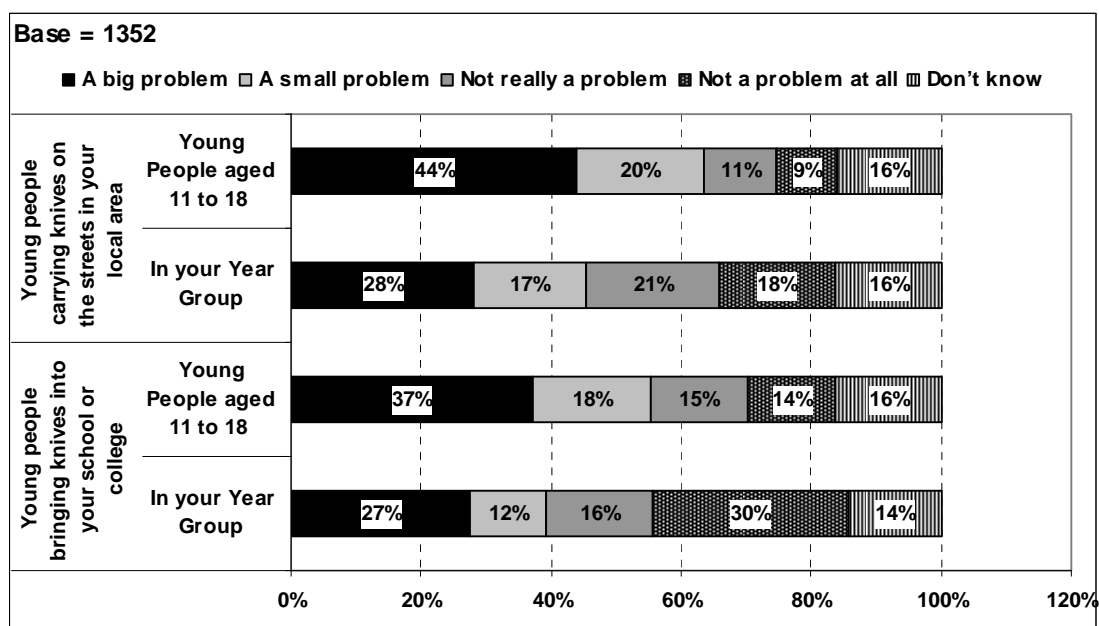
4.54 The percentage of respondents who believed a young person would be more likely ('much more likely' or 'a bit more likely') to carry a knife in various situations were as follows: 'if they are a member of a gang' (90%); if they 'are involved with drugs' (89%); if they have been 'assaulted or threatened in the past' (89%); if they 'drink too much alcohol' (80%); and if they 'are being bullied' (65%). 39% believed that having an unhappy home life would make young people more likely to carry a knife whilst 40% said that it would make no difference.

4.55 63% believed that taking a martial arts class would make young people less likely ('a bit less likely' and 'much less likely') to carry a knife.

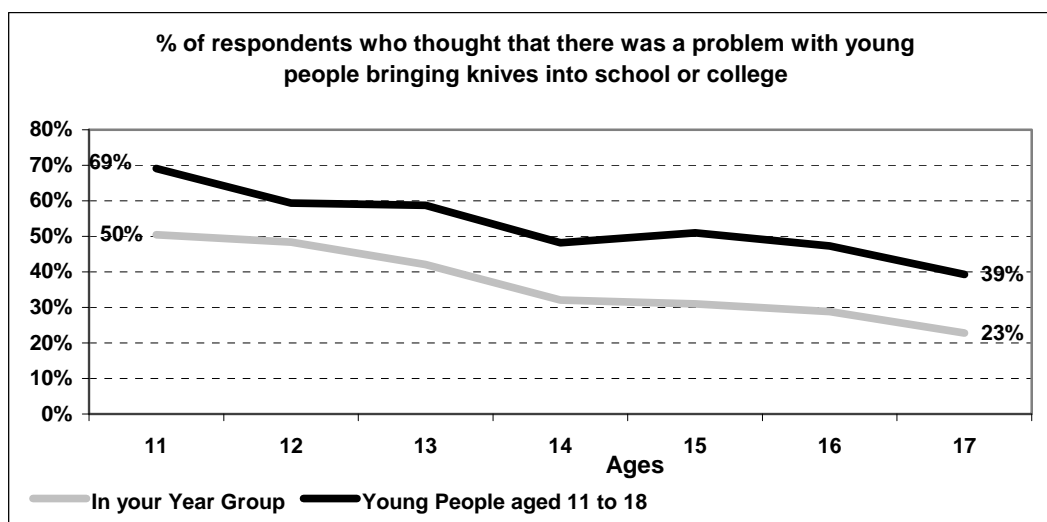
4.56 There was a little variation in the responses selected by the different age groups in respect of some of the scenarios outlined. The exception is that half of both 11 and 12 year old age groups thought that an unhappy home life would make a young person more likely to carry a knife. This is slightly higher than the 13 to 17 year old age groups where the percentages were under 40% each. Half of each of the 14, 15, 16 and 17 year old age groups thought that an unhappy home life would make no difference compared to a third of the younger age groups.

4.57 There was not any significant variation in male and female responses.

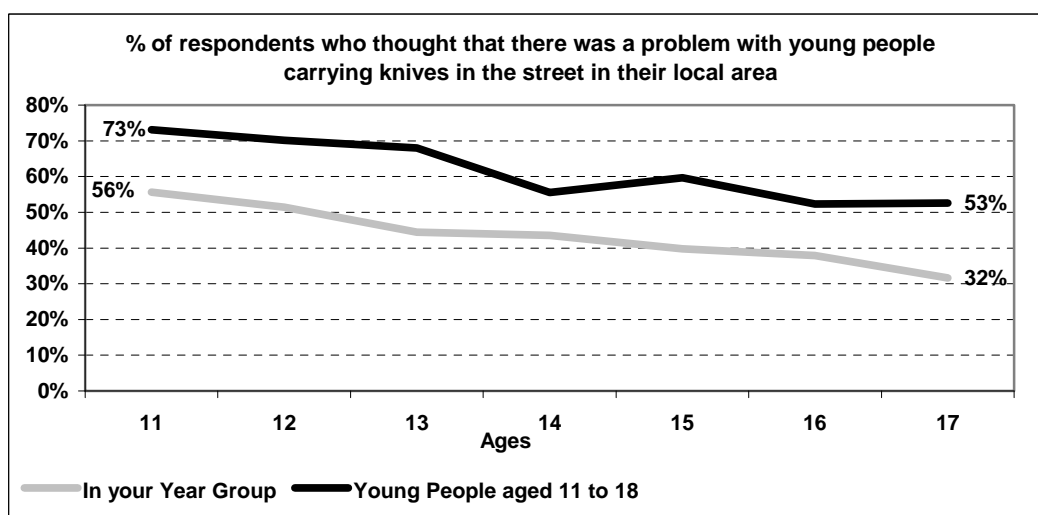
**Q14: How much of a problem do you think the following are.....**



- 4.58 A significantly high percentage of respondents (64%) thought that there was a problem with young people in *11 to 18* year old age group carrying knives on the streets *in their local area* (44% thought that it was a big problem and 20% that it was a small problem).
- 4.59 45% believed that there was a problem with young people in their *own age group* carrying knives on the streets *in their local area* (28% thought that it was a big problem and 17% that it was a small problem).
- 4.60 55% said that there was a problem with young people in the *11 to 18 year old age group* bringing knives into *school or college* (37% said that it was a big problem and 18% that it was a small problem).
- 4.61 Two fifths of respondents believed that there was a problem with young people in their *own age group* bringing knives into *school or college* (27% thought that it was a big problem and 12% that it was a small problem). Nearly half thought that there was no problem (not really a problem or not a problem at all).



Note – 18 year old age group is made up of only 7 respondents

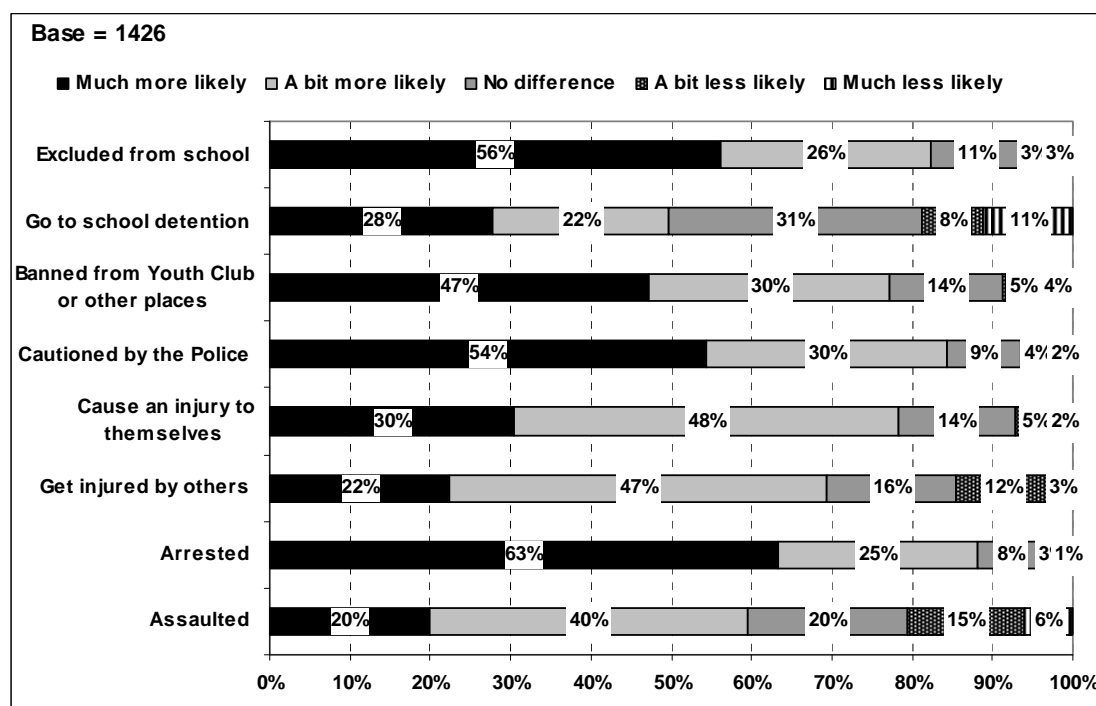


Note – 18 year old age group is made up of only 7 respondents

4.62 The percentage of respondents within most of the age groups who thought that there was a problem with knives (in school and in the local area), tended to decrease with age i.e. the younger the age group, the more likely they were to think that knife carrying was a problem in school and the local area. See charts above.

4.63 There was little variation between male and female responses.

**15: Do you think that young people who carry knives are more or less likely to have the following things happen to them?**



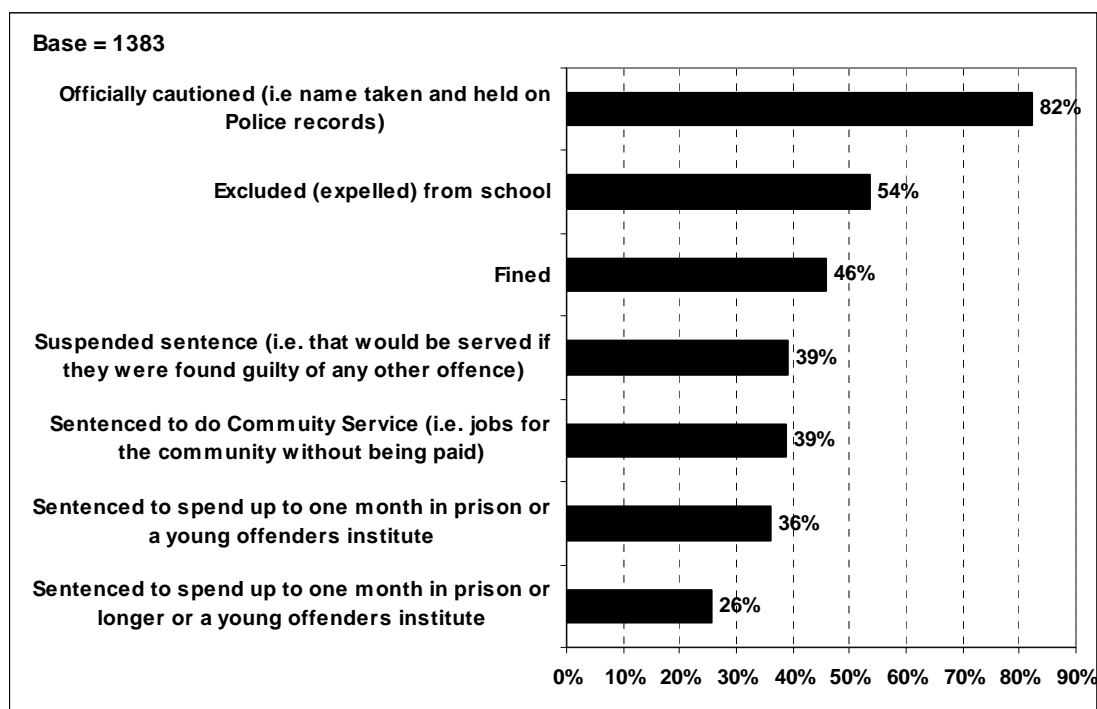
4.64 A high percentage of respondents thought that young people who carry knives were more likely ('much more likely' or 'a bit more likely') to: be 'arrested' (88%); be 'cautioned by the Police' (84%); be 'excluded from school' (82%); 'cause an injury to themselves' (78%); be 'banned from youth club or other places' (77%); 'get injured by others' (69%); and 'assaulted' (60%). Half of respondents thought that young people who carry knives would be more likely to go to 'school detention' whilst 31% thought that it would make 'no difference'.

4.65 An analysis of responses by age shows that there was only a little variation and it mainly focused on the 16 year old age group. For those who thought that young people who carry knives would be more likely to get injured by others, the 16 year old age group had a lower than average response rate; 57% compared to 69%. The 16 year old age group also had higher than average percentages of respondents who believed that carrying knives would make no difference to the likelihood of young people: getting injured by others (29% compared to 16% average); causing an injury to themselves (21% compared to 14% average); and getting cautioned by the Police (14% compared to 9% average).

4.66 There was no significant variation in male and female responses.

**16 (i): What do you think would happen to a young person who was caught carrying a knife by the Police? And what do you think should happen to them? (Tick all the things you think would or should happen).**

**Think this would happen....**



4.67 A high percentage of respondents (82%) thought that a young person would be 'officially cautioned' if they were caught carrying a knife by the Police. Just over half said that they would be 'excluded from school' (54%) and just under half said that they would be 'fined' (46%).

4.68 The 11, 12 and 13 year old age groups were more likely to think that a young person caught carrying a knife by the Police would be 'fined': 46%; 56% and 49% respectively compared to about 40% of respondents from the older age groups.

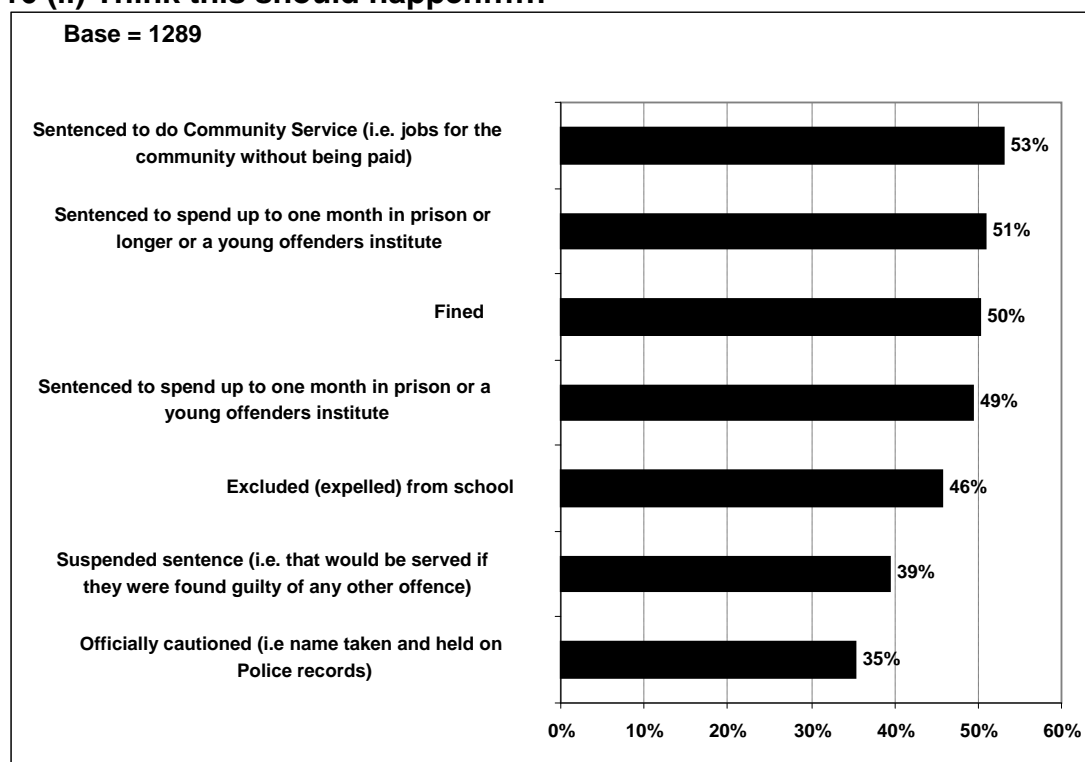
4.69 The 11, 12 and 13 year old age groups were more likely to believe that a young person caught carrying a knife by the Police would be 'sentenced to spend up to one month in prison or a young offender's institute' (46%, 40% and 37% respectively) than the older age groups (which had about a third of respondents).

4.70 The 11 and 12 year old age groups were more likely to think that a young person would be 'sentenced to spend up to one month or longer in prison or a young offender's institute'; 29% and 31% respectively, compared to just under 25% of the older groups.

4.71 The most significant variations in male and female responses was on those who thought that a young person caught carrying a knife by the Police would be 'fined' (51% of males compared to 42% of females),

and those who thought that they would be sentenced to do Community Service (43% of males compared to 36% of females).

**16 (ii) Think this should happen.....**



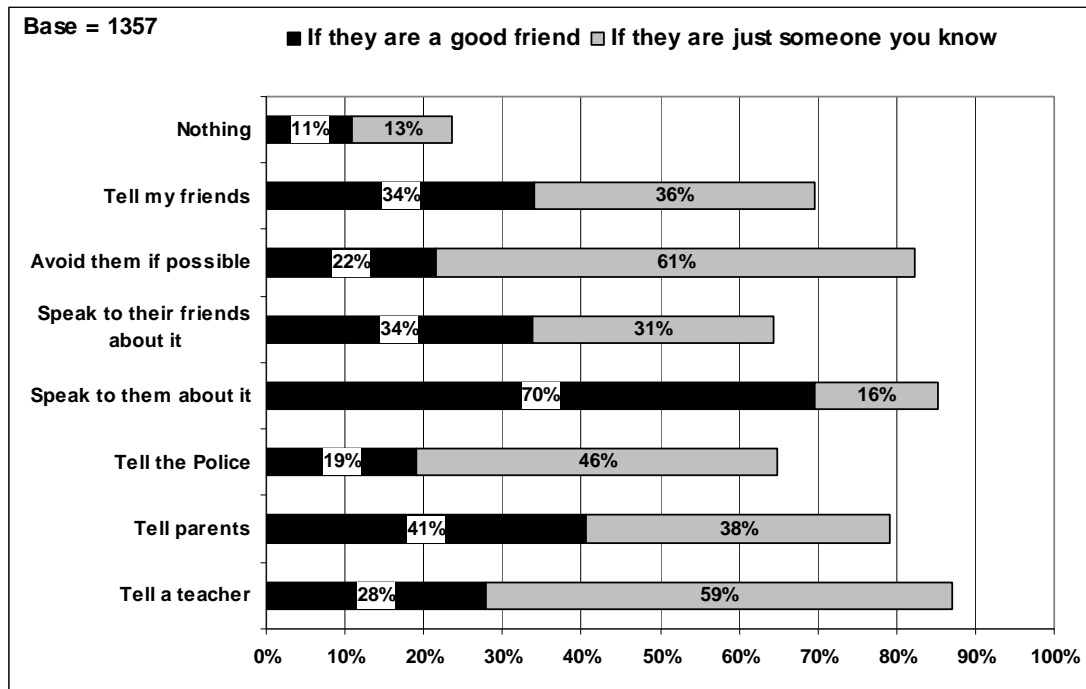
4.72 In terms of what respondents thought should happen to a young person if they were caught carrying a knife by the Police, the most popular responses were fairly evenly distributed: 'sentenced to do Community Service' (53%); 'sentenced to spend up to one month in prison or longer or a young offenders institute' (51%); 'fined' (50%); 'sentenced to spend up to one month in prison or a young offenders institute' (49%); 'excluded from school' (46%). Just over a third thought that they should receive a 'suspended sentence' or be 'officially cautioned' (39% and 35% respectively).

4.73 The most significant difference in the responses provided to this question compared to the previous one (i.e. *what should happen and what would happen* to a young person who was caught by the police carrying a knife) is that whilst a very high percentage of respondents (82%) thought that the young person *would be* 'officially cautioned', only 35% thought that they *should be* 'officially cautioned'.

4.74 There was some age variation in the response rates for those who thought that a young person caught carrying a knife by the Police should be 'officially cautioned'. The older age groups (15, 16 and 17 years of age) were more likely to think that a young person should be 'officially cautioned'; 40%, 38% and 46% respectively. The under 15s had an average response rate of 33%. There was no significant variation in male and female responses.

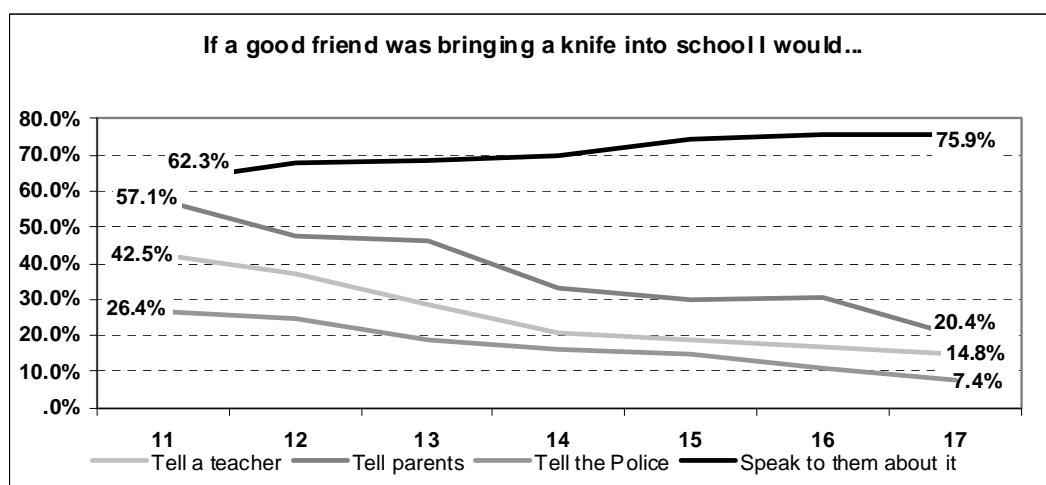


**Q17 (a): What would you do if someone you knew was bringing a knife to school? (Tick all the things you would do)**



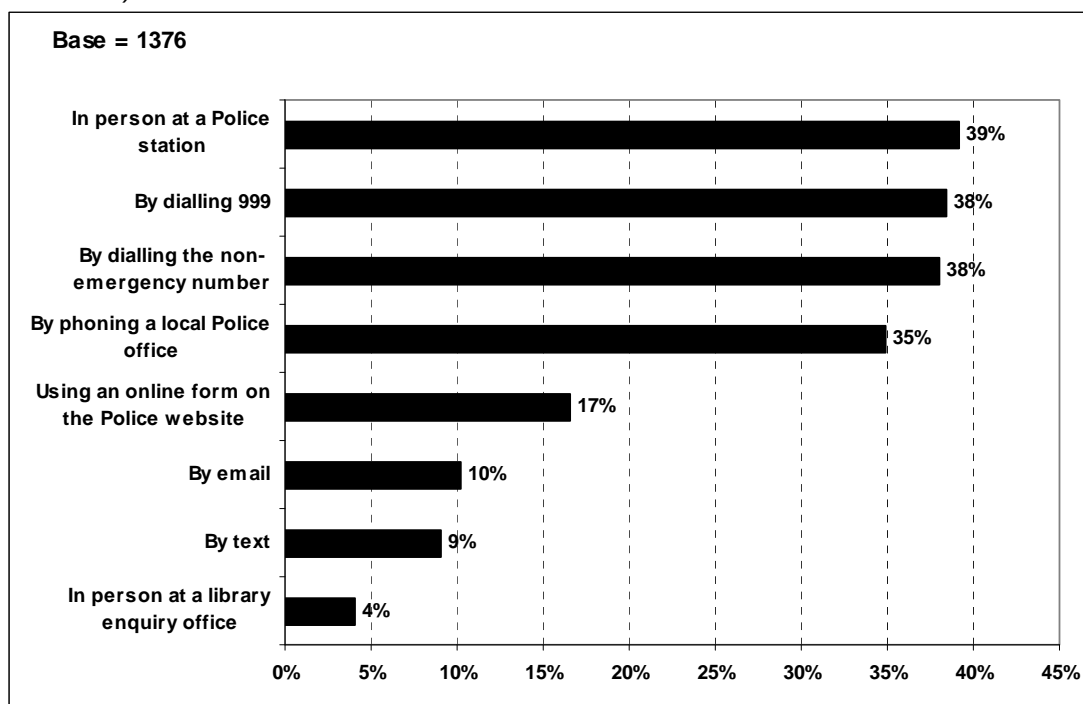
4.75 The majority of respondents (70%) said that if a 'good friend' was bringing a knife to school they would speak to them about it. Two fifths would tell their (own) parents. The percentage number of respondents who would tell someone in authority (official) was much lower; 28% would tell a teacher and 19% would tell the Police.

4.76 The majority of respondents (61%) said that if 'someone they knew' was bringing a knife to school they would just avoid them if possible. The percentage number of respondents who would tell a teacher was 59% and those who said that they would tell the Police was 46%.



- 4.77 The percentage number of respondents who said that if a 'good friend' was bringing a knife into school they would speak to them about it, tended to increase with age. The reverse pattern applies to those who would tell their (own) parents or someone in official authority, i.e. the Police or a teacher. See above chart.
- 4.78 65% of younger respondents (11, 12 and 13 year olds as a total) said that if 'someone they knew' was bringing a knife into school they would tell a teacher (compared to 52% of older respondents). The same pattern applies to those who would tell their (own) parents; 45% of 11, 12 and 13 year olds (as a total) compared to 30% of 14, 15, 16 and 17 year olds.
- 4.79 A higher percentage of the 11, 12 and 13 year old age group (as a total) would tell the Police; 54% compared to 36% of older respondents.
- 4.80 The largest difference in male/female responses was for those who would tell the Police if 'someone they knew' was bringing a knife into school; 51% of males compared to 42% of females.
- 4.81 This question invited respondents to make suggestions (open ended question) as to what they would do if a 'good friend' was bringing a knife to school. 31 young people responded (although some respondents provided more than one suggestion) and the responses have been grouped according to the general theme that was raised. These were the themes most commonly mentioned: confront them/talk to them (7); tell another adult e.g. teacher (10); tell the Police (1); stop talking/ spending time with them (2); take the knife away from them (1); do nothing (6); Do not know (4); other (1).
- 4.82 Respondents were also asked for suggestions (open ended question) as to what they would do if 'someone they knew' was bringing a knife to school. 20 young people responded (although some respondents provided more than one suggestion) and the responses have been grouped according to the general theme that was raised. These were the themes most commonly mentioned by respondents: do nothing (7); talk to someone (4); talk to them about it (3); take the knife away from them (1); do not know (1); other (3).

**Q17 (b): If you wanted to tell the Police about someone you knew who was carrying a knife, either to school or outside of school, how would you like to contact the Police ? (Please tick your two most preferred methods)**

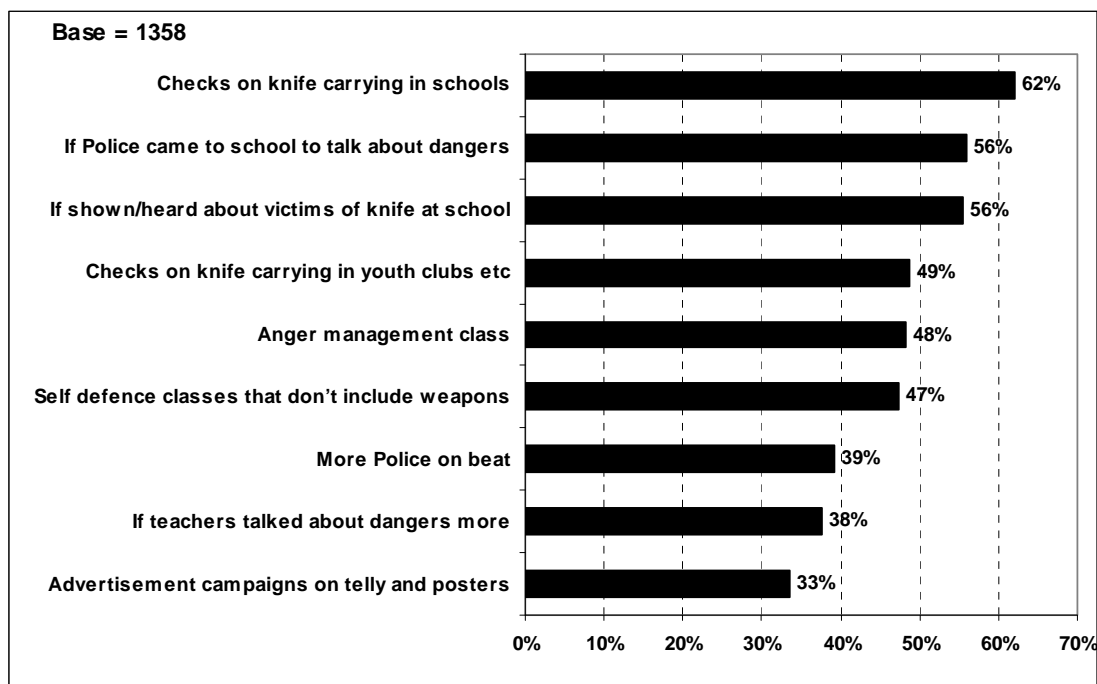


4.83 Respondents were asked how they would like to contact the Police if they wanted to tell them about someone they knew who was carrying a knife. The most frequent choices were fairly evenly spread with 39% preferring to do so in person at a Police station, 38% by dialling 999, 38% by dialling the non-emergency number and 35% by phoning a local Police office.

4.84 45% of the younger age group (11, 12 and 13 year old age group as a total) said they would contact the Police by phoning 999. This was higher than the older age group where 31% of respondents chose this option.

4.85 The most notable variation in male/female responses was amongst those who said that they would dial 999; 48% of males compared to 21% of females.

**Q18: What do you think may help make a young person less likely to carry a knife** *(Please tick all the things that you think may help)*



4.86 The ways most commonly chosen by respondents to help make a young person not carry a knife was: knife checks in schools (62%); Police going to school to talk about dangers (56%); being shown or hearing about victims of knife crime in school (56%); checks on knife carrying in youth clubs (49%); anger management classes (48%); and self defence classes that do not involve weapons (47%).

4.87 The older the age of the respondent, the more likely they were to say that having more Police on the beat would help make a young person less likely to carry a knife; ranging from 37% of 11 year olds to 46% of 17 year olds).

4.88 52% of the 11 to 14 year old age group (as a total) felt that anger management classes would help make a young person less likely to carry a knife; compared to 40% of the 15-17 year age group (as a total).

4.89 41% of the 11 to 14 year old age group (as a total) said that teachers talking about dangers more would make a young person less likely to carry a knife; compared to 29% of the 15 to 17 year old age group (as a total).

4.90 60% of the 11 to 14 year old age group (as a total) felt that the Police coming to school to talk about dangers would make a young person less likely to carry a knife; compared to 45% of the 15 to 17 year old age group (as a total).

- 4.91 35% of the 11 to 14 year old age group (as a total) felt that advertisement campaigns on telly and posters would make a young person less likely to carry a knife; compared to 29% of the 15 to 17 year old age group (as a total).
- 4.92 The only significant variation between male and female responses was in those who thought that having more Police on the beat would help make a young person less likely to carry a knife; 45% of males compared to 35% of females.

**Q19: What do you think about the media (television, newspapers and website) coverage of knife crime?**

- 4.93 There was a fairly good response to this question with 663 young people (41%) giving their views on what they thought about the media (television, newspapers and website) coverage of knife crime.
- 4.94 The responses have been grouped according to the general issue that was raised. Sometimes a response relates to more than one issue, therefore, it will have been allocated to more than one category.
- 4.95 These were the issues that were most frequently mentioned:

**The media coverage of knife crime is generally very bad (109) -**

“Media coverage is bad, because people think they're hard carrying knives and they think they can get away from it.”

“I don't think it's very good ..... they should show people who carry them what it would be like to lose a close friend/relative”.

“I think that it is bad”

**The media coverage of knife crime is generally very good/positive (183) -**

“I think it's a good idea, because they show actual people and the people who watch it know that they shouldn't do it.”

“I think it's good because they say bad stuff, so people don't do it.”

“I think it's very good because it shows real life examples”

**The media coverage of knife crime glamourises it; gives the wrong message to kids (106) -**

“As it is always in the media, it may make individuals think it is okay to carry a knife.”

“Confusing. You see one channel say the news reporting another knife crime, then you flick over to a gangster film with them being cool and flashing the weapons or Eastenders where every week there's a murder”

“I think it encourages people to carry knives for protection”

“I think it teaches people of all ages to do something bad.”

**The media coverage of knife crime makes people frightened (35) -**

“I don't see very many adverts and most of the ones I do see are scary ones with some people being stabbed and things like that and I don't like that”.

“I don't think it is good because it is making more people afraid.”

“It does scare me when it's on the news but primary and secondary schools should tell pupils about what it could do to a person and their family / friends.”

**The media coverage of knife crime shows the consequences (29) -**

“I think all those things about knife crimes are good because it tells people that if you are caught there will be a serious consequence”

“I think it is good because it shows the consequences of carrying a knife”

“I think it shows what happens to people who get knifed and the danger and the trouble you get in for it”

**The media coverage of knife crime does not show enough about the consequences (33) -**

“A lot about it but not really enough consequences”

**The media coverage of knife crime has exaggerated it/blown it out of proportion (52) -**

“I think it's over dramatised - by not showing the reality of knife crime, just the harsh side of it”

“It sometimes appeared more dramatised & hard to tell fact from fiction”

“I think there is too much media coverage about knife crime, that's why there seems to be more of it.”

“I think they make too much a deal of it. It's not like someone's killed in every village, every town and every city. Normally, it's only in London”

**The media coverage of knife crime shows a bias against teenagers (33) -**

“It alienates young people”

“It puts the blame on teenagers and it is not always them”

"It portrays it like every teenager carries one. And as if it is a bad thing. I think most people only carry one for if and when they may need to protect themselves"

"It's annoying that out of all knife crime they put blame on young people"

**The media coverage of knife crime is not comprehensive enough or effective (277) -**

"I think that there should be a lot more TV coverage. Interviews with victims"

"It is only covered on the news for the occurrence of negative events. Campaigns and adverts should be more common"

"I have not seen a warning about knives as an advertisement on TV for ages - I can't remember the last time"

"I don't think there is enough; there should be more on the TV as younger people watch it."

"I don't think they are taking enough action on the case to help stop it. They should do advertising/warnings telling people to stop"

"I don't think it helps much"

"I think it doesn't really make a difference"

**The media coverage of knife crime makes me angry against those who carry knives (12) -**

"I don't really think that is the problem, in my opinion you carry a knife you are scum & need to sort your life out"

"I think that is stupid that some people carry knives to protect themselves when they probably got themselves into that mess"

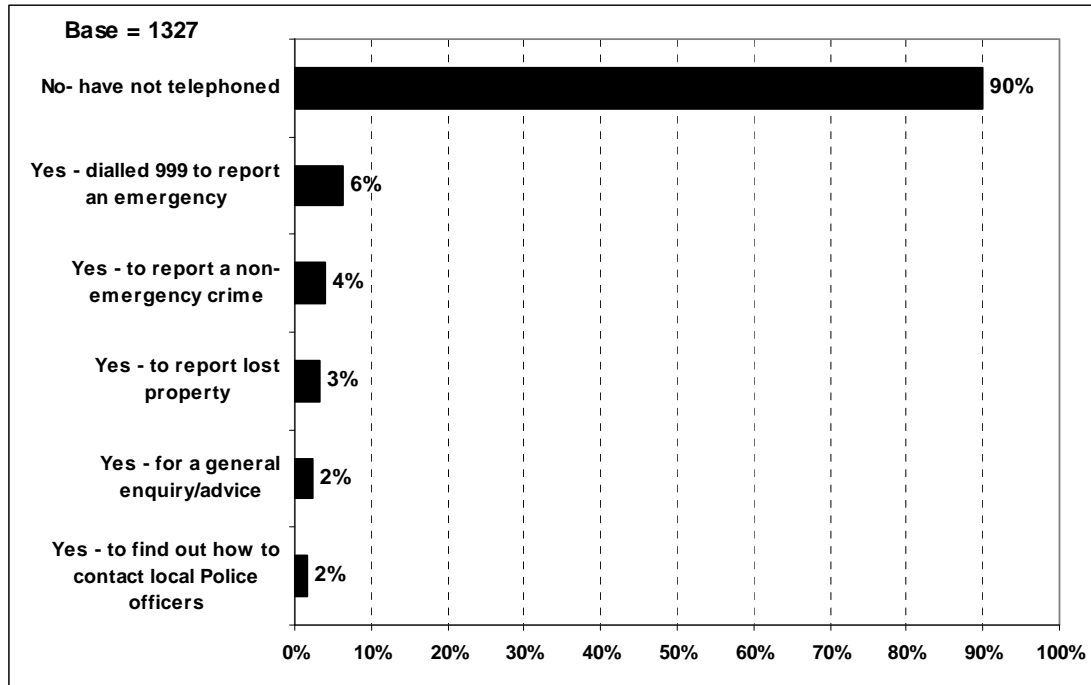
**Other uncategorised issue (13)**

**Don't know/care (69)**



## Contacting the Police

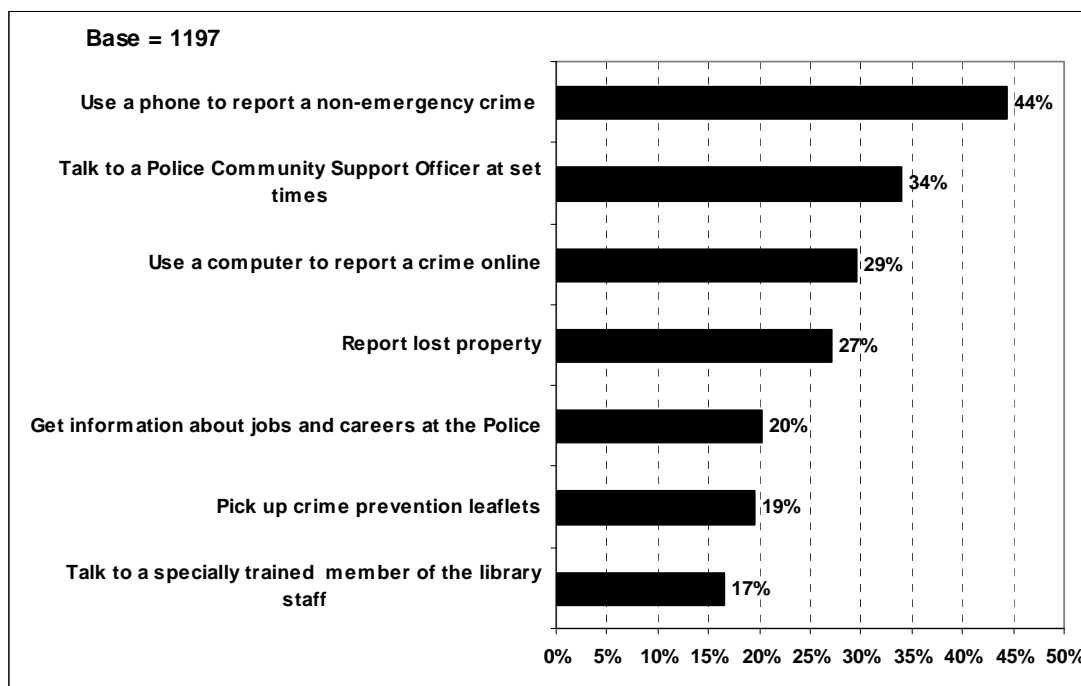
**Q20: Have you telephoned Wiltshire Police in the last SIX months**  
*(Please tick all that apply)?*



4.96 An overwhelming majority of respondents (90%) of respondents had not telephoned the Police in the last six months.

4.97 There was very little variation in responses by either age or gender.

**Q21: What would you most like to be able to do at the local Police contact in your local library? (Please tick up to two things)**



4.98 44% of respondents said that at the local Police contact in the local library, they would like to be able to use a phone to report a non-emergency crime. 34% of respondents felt that they would like to be able to talk to a Community Support Officer at set times, 29% felt that they would like to use a computer to report a crime online and 27% to report lost property. The remaining options were chosen by 20% (and under) of respondents.

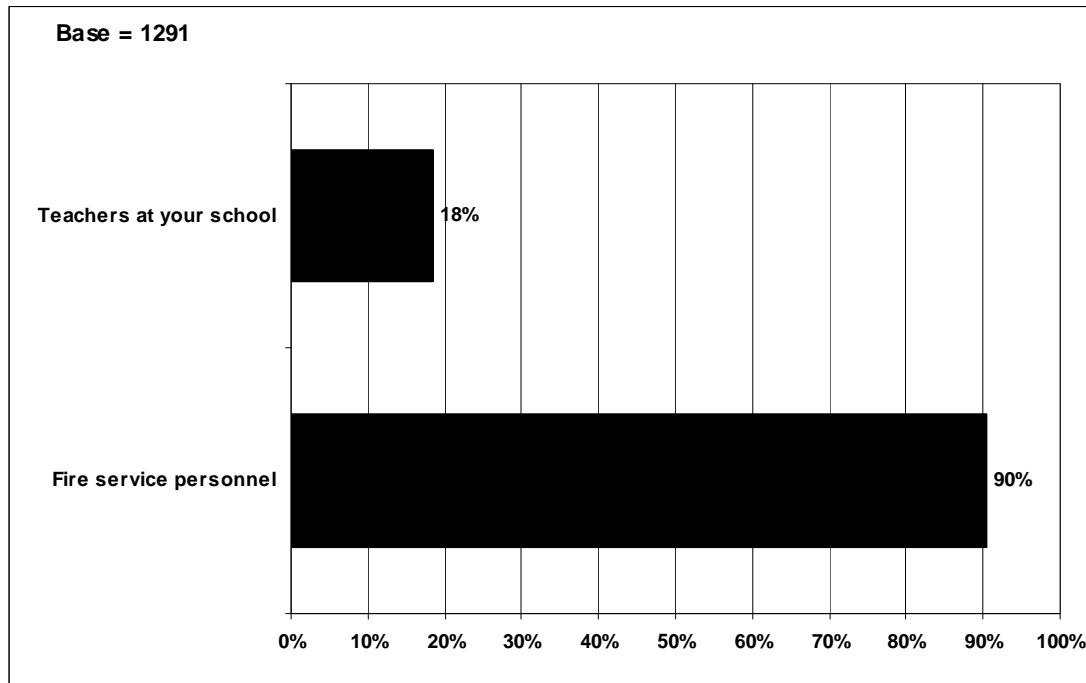
4.99 There was no significant variation in responses by either age or gender.

4.100 This question also invited respondents to make suggestions (open ended question) as to what they would most like to be able to do at the local Police contact point in their local library. 53 young people responded (although some respondents provided more than one suggestion) and the responses have been grouped according to the general theme that was raised. These were the themes most commonly mentioned by respondents:

- Do not know (17)
- Do nothing (17)
- Learn about Police work (5)
- Speak to Police officer (7)
- Speak to other people (1)
- Do not care (1)
- Other (5)

## Learning About Fire Safety

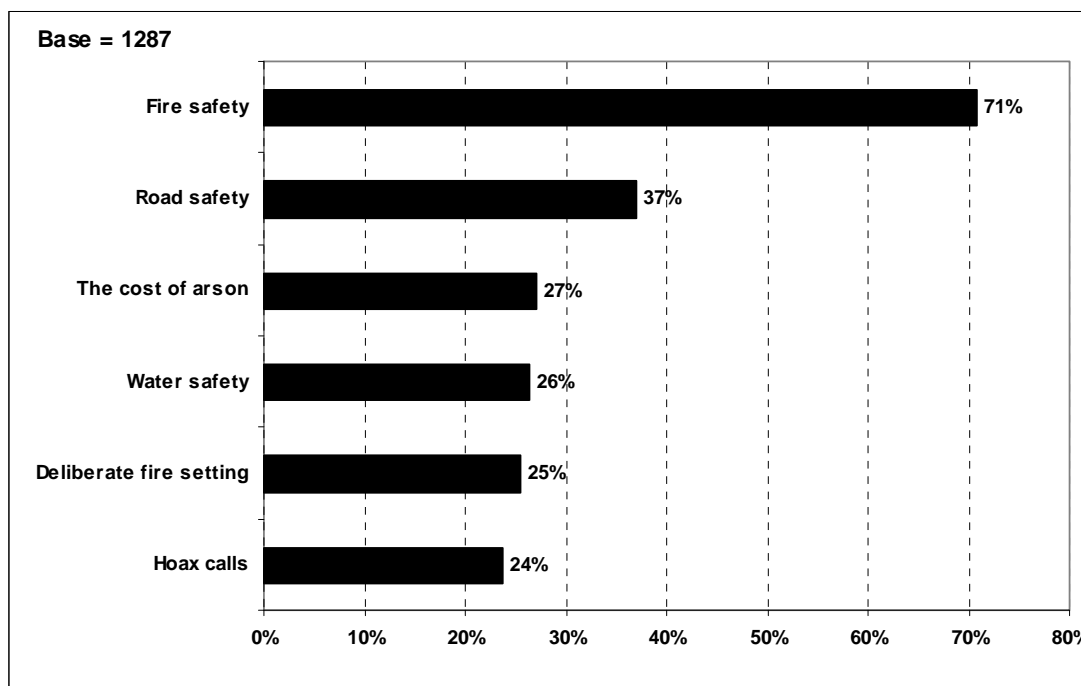
**Q22: Who would you prefer to learn about Fire Safety, Road Safety and Water Safety from? (Please tick one or both options)**



4.101 90% of respondents stated that they preferred to learn about 'Fire Safety', 'Road Safety' and 'Water Safety' from Fire Service Personnel.

4.102 There was no significant variation in responses by either age or gender.

**Q23: What subjects would you most like to learn about at Key Stages 3 and 4? (Please choose your top two subjects)**



4.103 Out of 6 options, 71% of respondents chose 'fire safety' as the subject they would most like to learn about at Key Stages 3 and 4. 37% said that they would like to learn about 'road safety'. The remaining options had an evenly spread distribution of respondents; about a quarter each.

4.104 There was little variation in responses by age. The exception was in the 11 to 14 year old age group (as a total) where 31% chose 'road safety' as the subject they would most like to learn about at Key Stages 3 and 4, compared to 51% of the 15, 16 and 17 year old age group (as a total).

4.105 There was no notable variation in responses by gender.