

# **Wokingham Borough Council Youth Offer Needs Assessment**

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUGUST 2025

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# 1. Introduction

In September 2023, the Department for Culture, Media & Sport published updated guidance for the statutory duty on youth services. Local Authorities now have a duty to secure services and activities for young people aged 13 to 19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24, to improve their well-being – whether directly providing, funding, commissioning, coordinating, or maintaining oversight of the local offer. This includes, but is not limited to:

- sports and informal physical activities
- cultural activities
- outdoor residential, weekend or holiday-time activities
- special interest clubs
- volunteering activities

This needs assessment has been produced to inform the development of the Wokingham Youth Offer.

The methods used to develop the needs assessment were:

- a desktop review of activity, data and current research in relation to youth provision
- online mapping survey of current local youth provision
- meetings with current youth service providers
- questionnaire/focus groups/ discussions with children and young people
- analysis of questionnaire responses /focus groups/ discussions with parents and carers of young people

## 2. National Context

- The Children’s Social Care National Framework December 2023 sets out a fundamental shift in the way children’s social care responds to families who need help and requires that Local Authorities work with other Agencies to effectively identify and meet the needs of children, young people and families.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 outlines the legislative requirements placed on individual services, making it clear what they must do to keep children safe. It seeks to emphasise that effective safeguarding can only be achieved when children are at the centre.
- The Department for Culture Media and Sport has published Statutory guidance for local authorities on services to improve young people’s well-being. It sets out that the Local Authorities have a duty to secure services and activities for young people aged 13 to 19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24, to improve their well-being – whether directly providing, funding, commissioning, coordinating, or maintaining oversight of the local offer.
- The Department for Culture Media and Sport will be publishing the National Youth Strategy in Summer 2025. The aim of the strategy is to allow young people to be put back in charge of their own destiny and to provide them with meaningful choices and chances. It will seek to better coordinate youth services, as well as move away from one-size fits all approaches from central government, bringing power back to young people and their communities and rebuilding a thriving and sustainable sector. The focus of the strategy is 10-19 year olds (up to 25 for young people with SEND).

### 3. Local context

#### KEY STATISTICS

There are 19,591 young people aged 11-19 within the borough and they make up 11% of the population.



Wokingham borough is a predominately white borough at 79.9% of the population. 12.9% are Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh, 2.4% are Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African. 3.1% are mixed or multiple ethnic groups.



47% of Wokingham residents identified themselves as Christian, while 37% reported having no religion. Islam and Hinduism are the next popular both being reported to be at 4.8%. 1.7% identified as Sikh and 0.5% as Buddhist followed by 0.2% Jewish and 0.4 identified as other.



The five wards with the highest percentages of their households deprived by two or more dimensions are South Lake, Bulmershe and Coronation, Norreys, Shinfield and Maiden Erlegh and Whitegates.



25% of secondary pupils don't have English as their main language.



There are 2589 children who are eligible for Free School Meals. (Oct 2024)



The highest level of Free School Meal pupils are in the wards Norreys, South Lake and Shinfield Followed by Barkham and Arborfield ,Loddon, Spencers Wood and Swallowfield, Bulmershe and Coronation and Winnersh.



82.3% of non-FSM students achieved a level 2 qualification in English and Maths compared to only 45% of those on FSM's. (2022-2023)



As of January 2023, approximately 3.6% of the total pupil population had an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan) which is equal to 1,685.



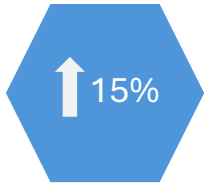
Levels of child obesity are better than England. As of 2023, 14.4% of children in Reception and 27.3% of children in Year 6 are overweight or obese. In England 21.3% of reception aged and 36.57% of year 6's were overweight or obese.



There are 152 children in care, 168 children on child protection plans and 369 children in need. (Oct 2024)



# 4. Demographic Profile of Wokingham Residents



As at the latest census in 2021, there were 177,502 people living in the Wokingham Borough. That is a 15% increase in the population since the previous census 10 years prior in 2011, when the population size was 145,380.

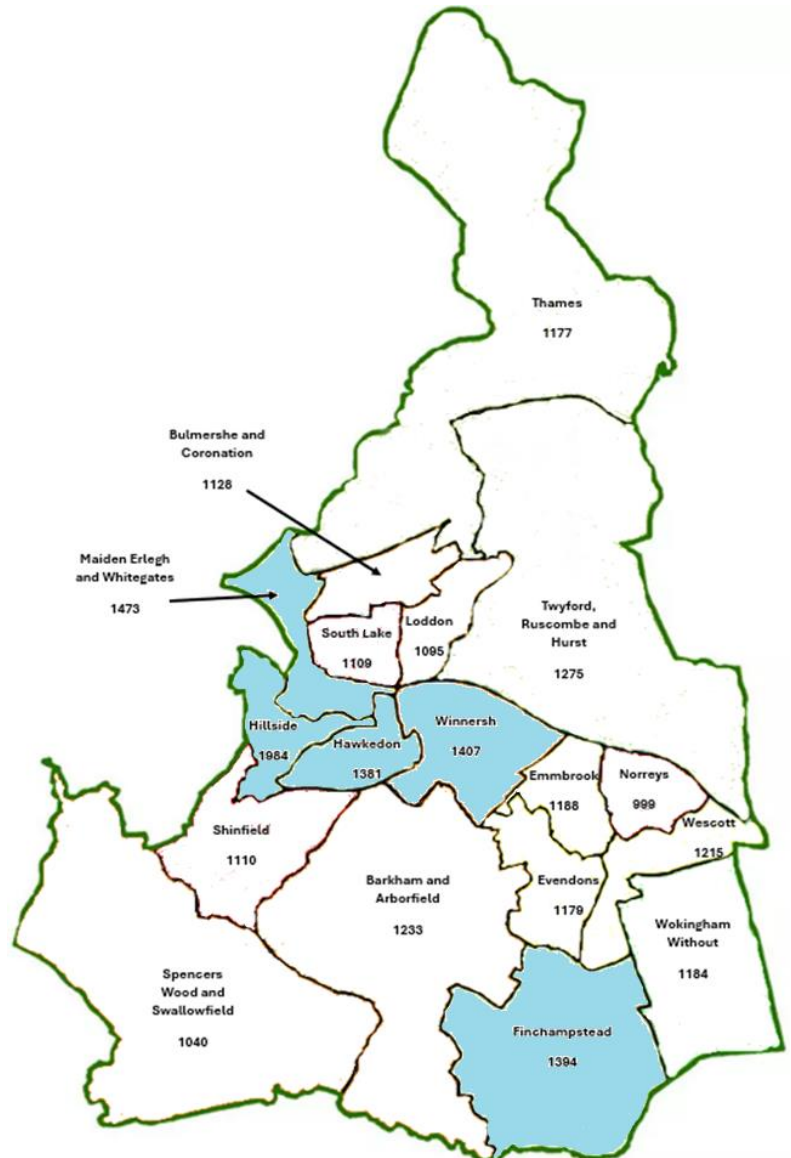
The population of Wokingham Borough has been increasing by approximately 12% every 10 years, based on population changes between 1981 and 2021. Therefore, if the population continues to rise in line with this average, then by 2031 the population in Wokingham could be at nearly 200,000 people, and potentially over 250,000 by 2051.

### Age of Population

As at the latest census in 2021, Wokingham has a higher proportion of children and young people than England as a whole. Those aged between 11 and 19 make up 11% of Wokingham’s population at 19,951. A further breakdown shows the exact numbers for 11–19-year-olds (2021).

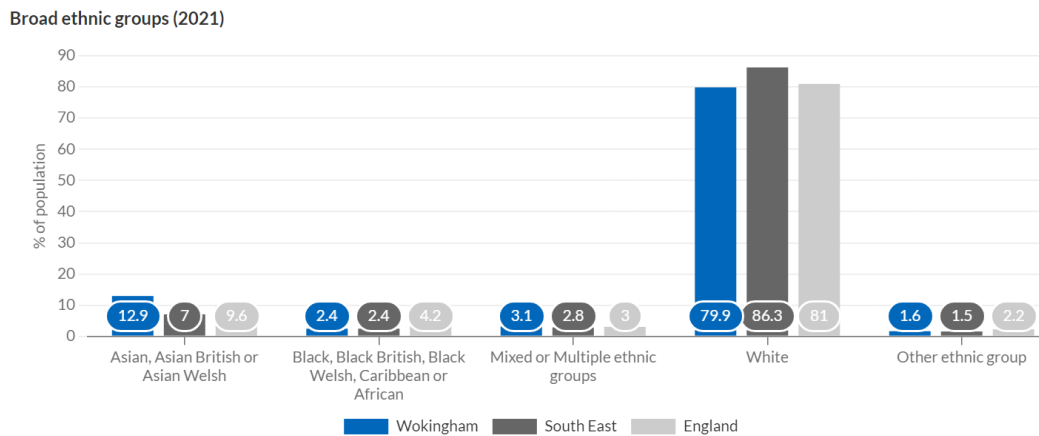
Age Group	Female	Male	Total
11 years old	1184	1359	2543
12 years old	1215	1315	2530
13 years old	1172	1296	2468
14 years old	1171	1143	2314
15 years old	1061	1116	2177
16 years old	1125	1149	2274
17 years old	1002	1136	2138
18 years old	1000	951	1951
19 years old	784	772	1556

To the right shows the breakdown of how many young people there are aged 10-19 living in each ward. We can see the wards with highest number of young people living there are Hillside, Maiden Erlegh and Whitegates, Winnersh, Finchampstead and Hawkedon.



# Ethnicity and Religion of Wokingham Residents

At a glance you can see below Wokingham Borough has similar breakdown to that of the Southeast and England in relation to the ethnicity breakdown of its residents. Its population has slightly less White residents than the national average and slightly more Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh residents.

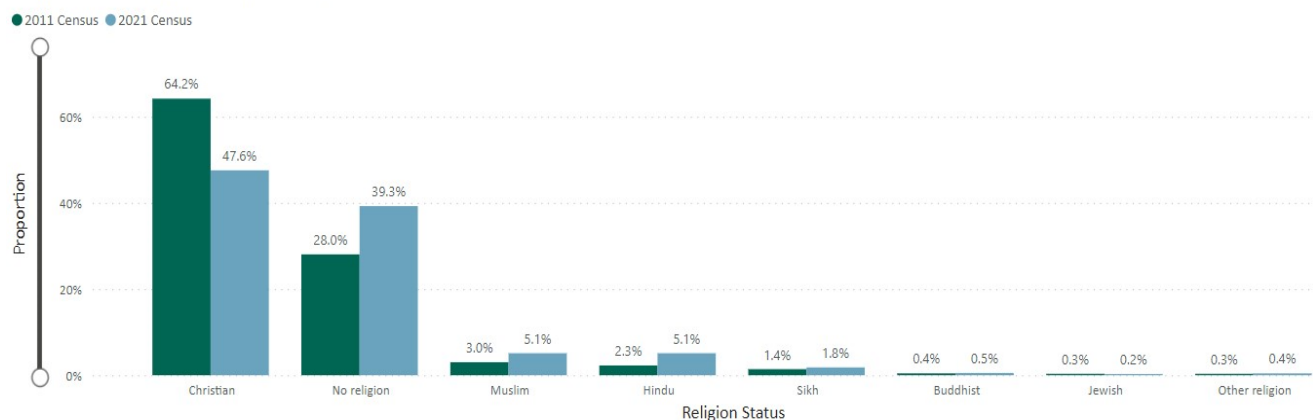


Source: Department of Work and Pensions

A further breakdown shows us a more specific ethnic breakdown. Looking at the 2021 census, the majority of the Wokingham Borough population are White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British (72.7%). Other white ethnicities, and Asian Indian ethnicities make up the majority of the non-White British population in Wokingham. There has been an increase in Asian Indian residents in the Borough since the previous census in 2011.

In the 2021 census, 47% of Wokingham residents identified themselves as Christian, while 37% reported having no religion. This is in line with the national picture where for the first time in a census of England and Wales, less than half of the population (46.2%) described themselves as Christian. Similarly to the national picture, the proportion of Wokingham residents reporting to have no religion increased between 2011 and 2021.

Looking at other religions than Christianity we can see a breakdown below. There was an increase in the proportion of Wokingham residents identifying themselves as other religions, particularly Muslim and Hindu, where the proportions for each group stood at around 5% of the Borough population. Wokingham has a higher proportion of Hindu residents than England or the South East.



# Socio Economic Status of Children in Wokingham Borough

## Poverty and deprivation of Children and Young People in Wokingham

Wokingham Borough is often referred to as an affluent borough. However, certain areas within the borough experience deprivation. We can see how many young people by age are living in either relative or absolute low-income families. Relative low-income is defined as a family in low income before housing costs (BHC) in the reference year. A family must have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics.

11 - 15-year-olds in absolute low-income families (2022/2023)	780
16 - 19-year-olds in absolute low income (2022/2023)	577
11 - 15-year-olds in relative low-income families (2022/2023)	956
16 - 19-year-olds in relative low income (2022/2023)	685
Percentage of children under 16 living in families with absolute low income (2022/2023)	5.50%
Percentage of children under 16 living in families with relative low income (2022/2023)	6.80%

## Free School Meals

Numbers of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) have been rising since around 2018, not only in Wokingham, but across the region and the country as a whole. However, numbers of children eligible for FSM remain lower in the Wokingham Borough than in the South East and the country as a whole. This is for both primary and secondary age children.

Percentage of primary school pupils eligible for and claiming FSM (2024)	6.7%
Percentage of secondary school pupils eligible for and claiming FSM (2024)	6.7%
Percentage of special school pupils eligible for and claiming FSM (2024)	18.1%

Source: Wokingham Borough Council Data and Insight Team

We can see a quarter of children in special school are eligible for free school meals. Research tells us that pupils eligible for free school meals are approximately twice as likely to receive special educational needs (SEN) support or have education, health and care (EHC) plans than other pupils.

Over the last eight years the share of pupils receiving special educational needs (SEN) support or on education, health and care (EHC) plans has increased faster for pupils who are not eligible for free school meals.

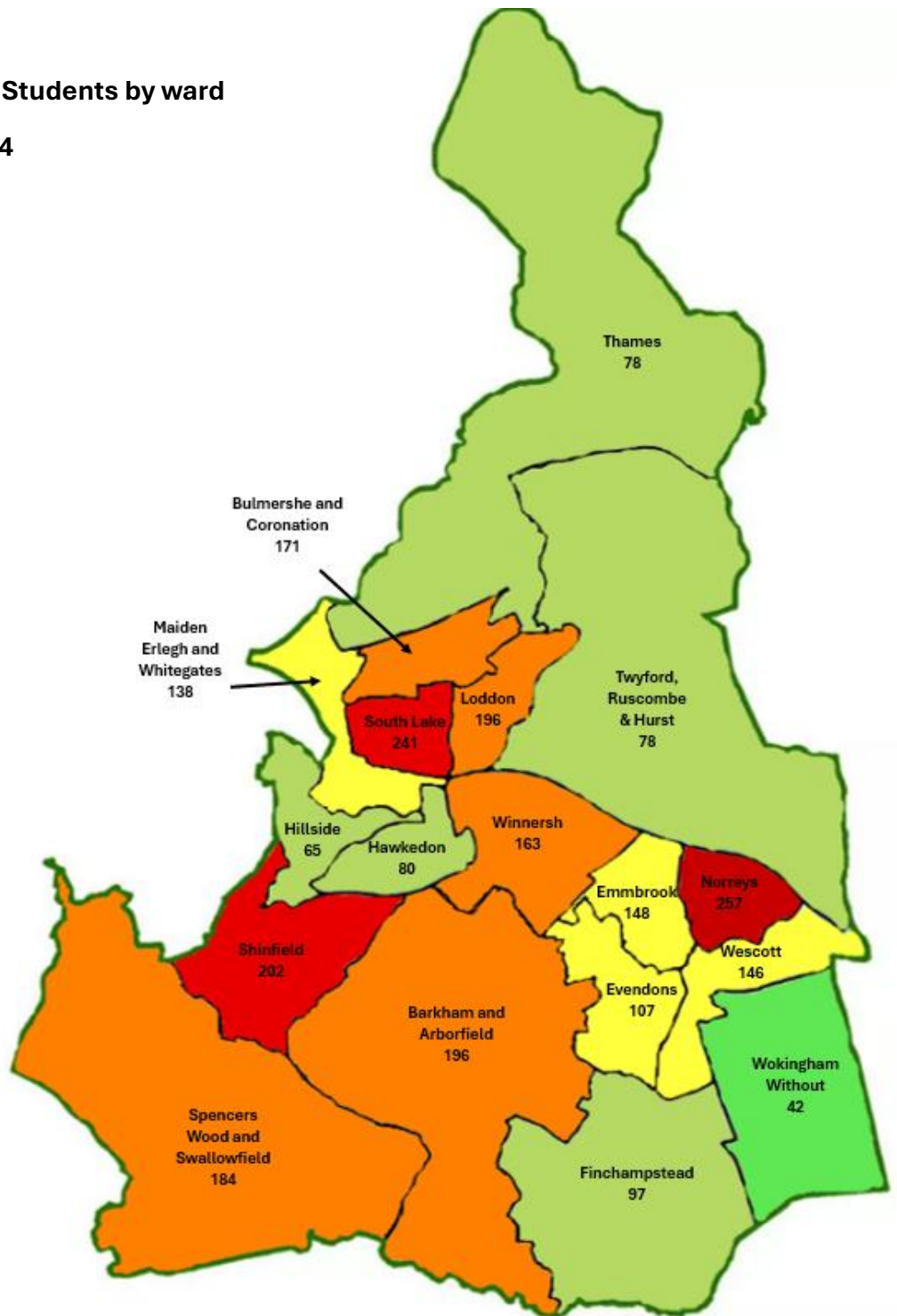
Source: [Inequalities in support for special educational needs by free school meal eligibility | The Health Foundation](#)

Overall, there are 2491 children and young people who are eligible for Free School Meals and the map below illustrates this by ward (October 2024). We can see that by far the areas with the highest level of FSM pupils are Norreys, South Lake and Shinfield. Followed by Barkham and Arborfield, Loddon, Spencers Wood and Swallowfield, Bulmershe and Coronation and Winnersh.

## Number of Free School Meal Students by ward

October 2024

	0-50 students
	51-100 students
	101-150 students
	151-200 students
	201-250 students
	251-300 students



**What does this tell us?** The five wards with the highest levels of deprivation are South Lake, Bulmershe and Coronation, Norreys, Shinfield and Maiden Erleigh and Whitegates. This is also reflected by the numbers of children on FSMs in each ward. This highlights the areas where the majority of our more disadvantaged children and young people live and or attend school and identifies where we need to ensure appropriate services and support are available especially at free or low cost.

# 5. The Needs of Young People in the Wokingham Borough

## Youth Future Focus Consultation

In November of 2024, Wokingham Borough Council and wider partners jointly created a survey that went out to all secondary aged students aged 11-19 within the borough as was called the Youth Future Focus Survey. The survey was primarily promoted through our secondary schools.

The survey asked young people various things about their life with the purpose to inform this needs assessment. There were three formats of the survey; an online version of 30 question; a short version made up of 8 questions and an Easy Read Version to ensure we heard the views of young people with SEND.

In total 2060 young people completed the survey, which equates to 11.2% of the total 11-18 population in the Borough.

In addition to the Youth Future Focus Survey, we also held a number of focus groups to capture additional feedback and thoughts from young people in relation to specific topics. These topics were: volunteering, leisure and things to do, mental health and wellbeing and safety and support to be independent. Some focus groups were targeted to hear those whose voices may not normally be heard in these pieces of work. We met with the Young Carers forum, SEND Youth Forum, Wokingham Children in Care Council, Winnersh Youth Club and Wokingham Youth Council.

We also ran a focus group called our Roadshow and invited every secondary school in the Borough. We had 6 schools respond and attend: Addington School, The Emmbrook School, The Forest School, Holme Grange School, The Piggott and St Crispins School with 54 young people attending the roadshow to share their thoughts.

2060 survey responses



54 young people attended the roadshow event



7 focus groups held



60 additional young people consulted with in targeted focus groups



# Education and Learning

25% of secondary pupils do not have English as their first language. However, it is worth noting that having English as a second language is not an indicator of how well young people do in their education. (Wokingham Borough Council School Census 2024)

## **Key Stage 4 - GCSE**

The majority of pupils in Wokingham achieve well, with a higher number of pupils in the Wokingham Borough achieving grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSE in 2023 than England and the South East overall.

## **Level 2 Qualification by age 19 (GCSE Level)**

Achievement of full level 2 qualification in English and Maths by age 19 (2022-2023)	84.6%
Achievement of full level 2 qualification in English and Maths by age 19 non-FSM (2022-2023)	86.2%
Achievement of full level 2 qualification in English and Maths by age 19 FSM (2022-2023)	62.7%
% KS4 CLA Achieved 9-4 grades in English & Maths (2022-2023)	43%
Achievement of level 2 qualification by age 19 Disadvantaged (2022-2023)	70%
Achievement of level 2 qualification by age 19 non-Disadvantaged (2022-2023)	91.9%
Achievement of level 2 qualification by age 19 (2022-2023)	88.6%
Attainment of level 2 qualification by 19 - % of FSM pupils	70.3%
Attainment of level 2 qualification by 19 – % of non-FSM pupils	90%
Inequality gap of attainment level 2 qualification by age 19 between FSM and non-FSM (2022-2023)	19.7%

## **Level 3 Qualification by age 19 (A Level)**

Attainment of level 3 qualification by 19 (2022–2023)	69%
Achievement of level 3 qualification by age 19 Disadvantaged (2022-2023)	42.3%
Achievement of level 3 qualification by age 19 non-disadvantaged (2022-2023)	73.5%
Attainment of level 3 qualification by 19 - FSM pupils (2022–2023)	41.5%
Attainment of level 3 qualification by 19 - non-FSM pupils (2022–2023)	71.1%
Inequality gap of attainment of level 3 qualification by 19 between FSM and non-FSM (2022–2023)	29.5%

Source: Department of Education

**What does this mean?** The definition of disadvantaged student includes any child aged 5-16 who is claiming free school meals, any child who has been recorded as claiming free school meals at any point in the past six years, any child in this age bracket looked after by a local authority and any child in the age bracket recorded by their school as having left care through adoption or another court order.

**What does this tell us?** An inequality gap stands between Wokingham students who are eligible for FSM and those who aren't.

By the age of 19 (as of 2023) 86.2% of non-FSM students achieved a level 2 qualification in English and Maths compared to only 62.7% of those students on FSM's.

When looking at other attainments by age 19, we can see that (as of 2023) 71.1% non-FSM students attain a level 3 qualification compared to only 41.5% of those on FSM's.

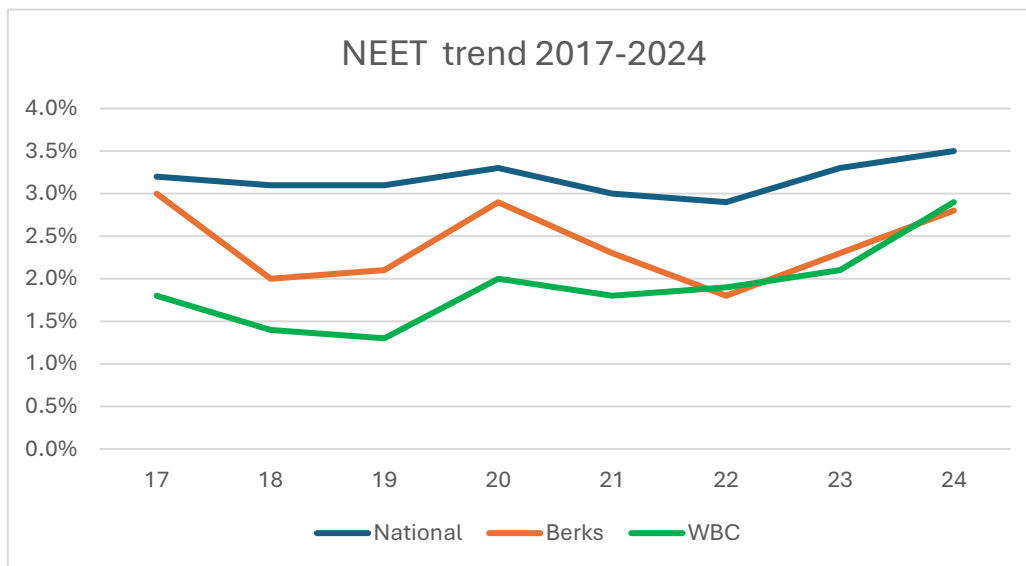
Multiple factors can affect how children perform in school such as family environment, socioeconomic status, mental health and wellbeing, physical health etc. The evidence supports the need to ensure opportunities are available to young people in receipt of FSM's or who are disadvantaged. Extra-curricular clubs and activities can provide skill development and give the opportunity for confidence and growth which can benefit children's learning.

### Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET)

Wokingham has a lower than national average number of 16–18-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) with 2.8%. This is equal to 107 young people. This has also been on a steady increase since 2020. The national average is 4.7% of 16–18-year-olds being in the NEET category.

11.7%

Within Wokingham those with SEN support who are NEET make up 11.7% of the total NEET population as of July 2024.



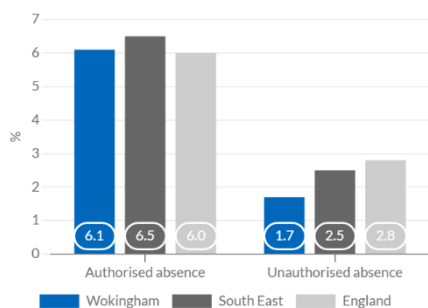
Source: Wokingham Borough Council NEET team

**What does this tell us?** Wokingham has consistently maintained a lower than national average number of 16–18-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). The national average for July 2024 was 3.6%. Wokingham is currently in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quintile nationally for our NEET and Not Known data.

We have highlighted those who are NEET as a group who could benefit from youth offer activities as they could provide opportunities to socialise, explore interests and learn new skills.

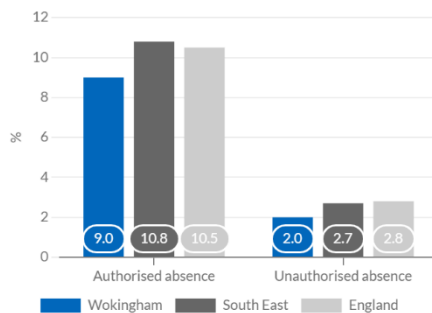
## Absences from Education

Secondary schools - percentage of sessions missed due to absence (2023)



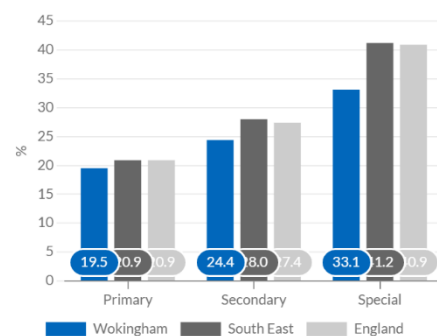
Source: DfE

Special schools - percentage of sessions missed due to absence (2023)



Source: DfE

Percentage of persistent absentees (2023)



Source: DfE

Source: Department of Education 2023

## Exclusions

		All pupils	SEN Provision EHC Plan	SEN Support
<b>Wokingham</b>	Permanent exclusions (rate)	0.01	0.00	0.03
	Suspension (rate)	1.39	8.58	4.31
<b>England</b>	Permanent exclusions (rate)	0.05	0.11	0.16
	Suspension (rate)	4.13	10.05	11.27
<b>South East</b>	Permanent exclusions (rate)	0.03	0.07	0.10
	Suspension (rate)	3.50	10.85	10.29

Source: Department of Education 2023/2024

**What does this tell us?** The data shows that those in special schools are more likely to be off school for authorised and unauthorised absences. Our permanent exclusions and suspension rates are lower than the national average and the South East average.

## Children who are Electively Home Educated (EHE)

The past few years have seen a large increase in the number of children being educated at home. Local authorities have a duty under section 436A of the Education Act 1996 to make arrangements to establish the identities of children in their area who are not registered pupils at a school and to ensure they are receiving a suitable education.

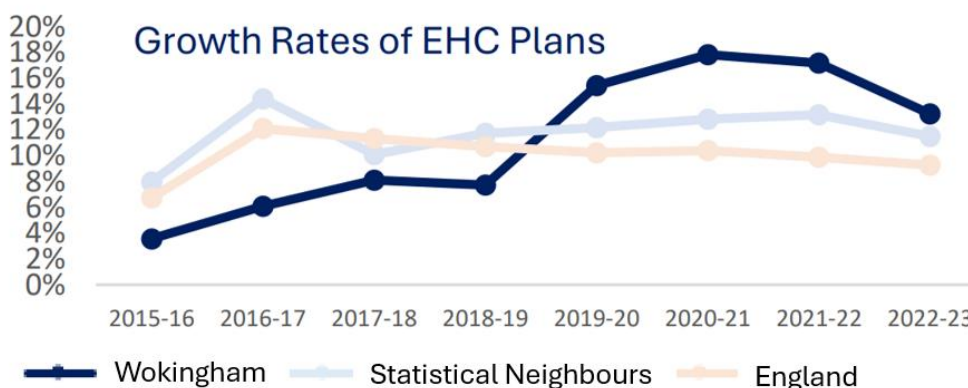
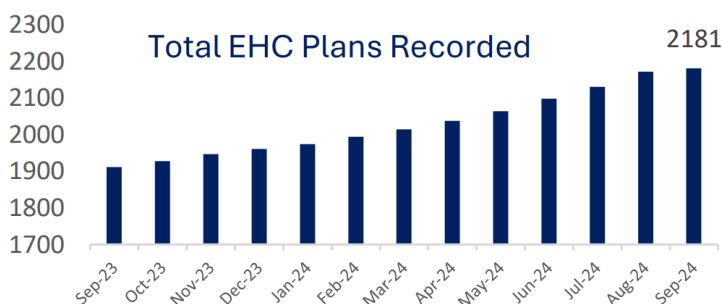
In the Wokingham Borough, at the end of May 2023, there were 256 known children being electively home educated. This is about 1% of the Wokingham Borough school population. Numbers of EHE is higher for Secondary aged children than for Primary aged.

**What does this tell us?** There is not a large number of electively home educated children in Wokingham, but the cohort is increasing. These children and young people may not have access to free school sports and arts clubs within schools meaning parents may have to pay for these options. If social environments aren't being accessed, it could mean that the young people could benefit more from opportunities to help them engage with other children their age.

# Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

3.6%

As of January 2023, approximately 3.6% of our total pupil population had an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan).



Source: Wokingham Borough SEND Local Area Partnership SEF 2025

In line with national trends, the identification of special educational needs in Wokingham has continued to increase and this is reflected in increasing numbers of EHC Plans locally (see bar chart). However, what has been notable for Wokingham, has been the rate of this growth since 2019, which has been well beyond National and Stat Neighbour averages (see line graph). Importantly though, this trend is now reducing. Alongside local population growth, we believe the spike from 2019-22 was due to improvements in our earlier identification of need, which saw us “catch-up” with the national picture. It is however important to note that despite this picture of continued growth, as of Jan 23, Wokingham remained at a lower % of pupils with EHCPs (3.6%) compared to the South-East region (4.6%) and England (4.3%).

## Children with Disabilities

A total of 2,700 children and young people aged 0-19 have been identified as having a disability in Wokingham out of a 0-19 population of 44, 599. (2021)

Out of the identified population 45% were female and 55% were male.

**What does this tell us?** Children and young people with SEND and physical disabilities have been highlighted as potentially benefiting significantly from extra-curricular activities. For some, mainstream provision may not be suitable and therefore require specialist youth provisions.

# Social, Family and Carer Relationships

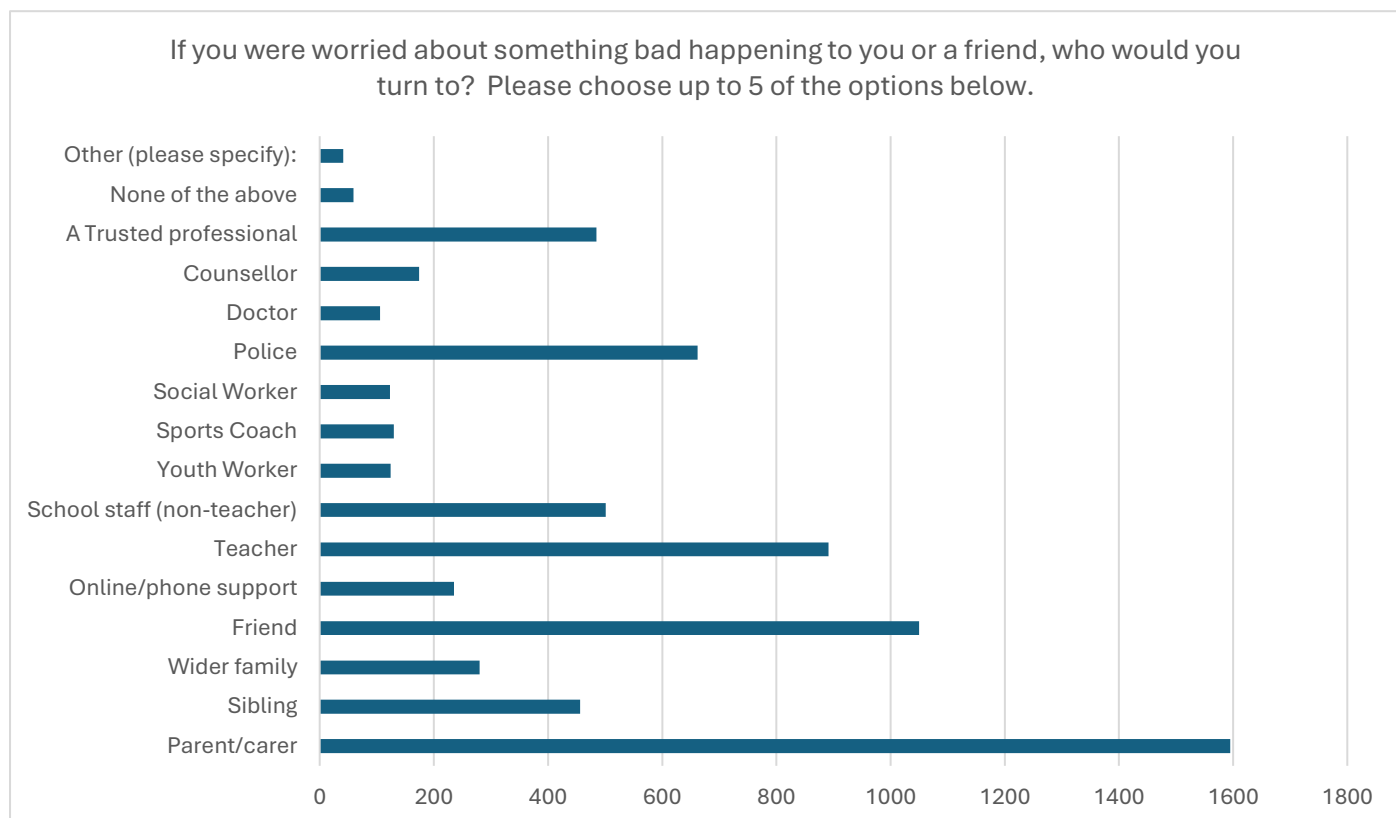
Wokingham has lower than national and the South East levels of children in care, on child protection plans and considered children in need. This has been the case over the last decade.

Number of children in need CIN (Dec 2024)	369
Number of children on child protection plans CP's (Dec 2024)	168
Number of Children in Care CIC (Dec 2024)	152

Number of Care Leavers cared for by Wokingham Council (Oct 2024)	150
Number of Care Leavers who live within the borough (Oct 2024)	56
Number of Children Seeking Safety Through Asylum being cared for by Wokingham (Oct 2024)	33
Number of Children Seeking Safety Through Asylum who live within the borough (Oct 2024)	3

Source: Wokingham Borough Council Data and Insight

**What does this tell us?** The wards where the highest number of children are on child protection plans or considered children in need, mirror the wards with the highest levels of deprivation and free school meals, therefore the data highlights the areas of the borough that could most benefit from youth activities.



Source: Youth Future Focus Survey 2024

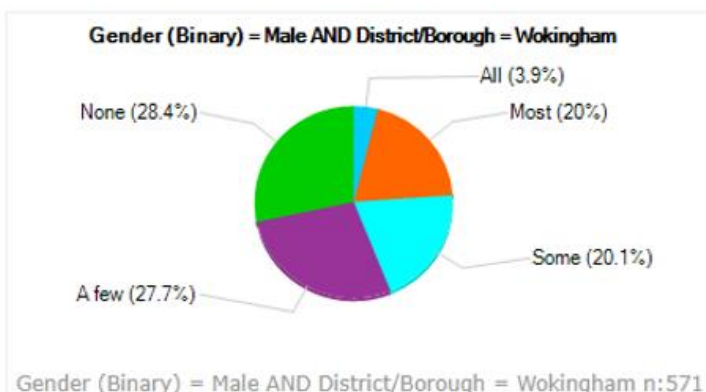
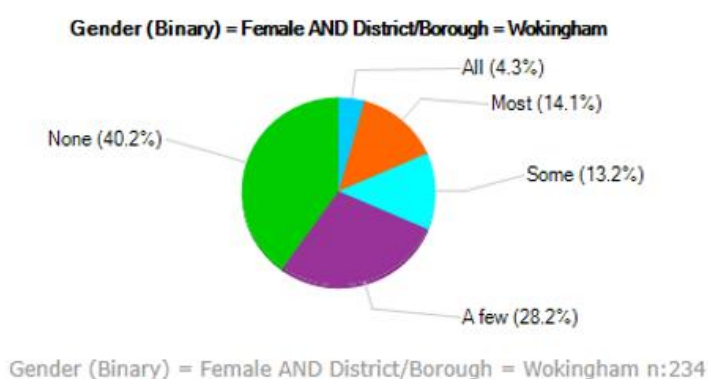
The responses from this section of the Youth future Focus survey, show that young people are most likely to go to their parent or carer if they have an issue, with the next most popular answer being to go to a friend. Going to a teacher also scored very highly.

59 respondents said they could not talk to anyone, which is the equivalent of 3.2%. While low, this is still evidence that more needs to be done to ensure all young people have someone they can talk to as it is important that young people express their feelings, especially if they are feelings requiring additional help and support.

### OxWell Survey Results

The OxWell Student Survey is a collaboration between young people, schools, local authorities, the NHS and the OxWell research team at the University of Oxford’s Department of Psychiatry. In the 2023 1078 young people aged 11–18-year-olds from Wokingham completed the survey. The respondents are from 3 of our secondary schools. Oakbank, Maiden Erlegh School and The Forest. This gives us a response rate of 6% of our 11-18 population. The questions range from mental health and wellbeing, lifestyle, school experience, vulnerable behaviour, relationships, feeling safe and access to support.

Out of all the individuals you would identify as close friends, how many do you primarily meet with online (i.e. not in person)?



**What does this tell us?** The data shows male students tend to have more friends who they meet primarily online compared to females.

There can be added benefits to socialising in person therefore we need to ensure there is a wide choice of youth activities that are attractive to all young people.

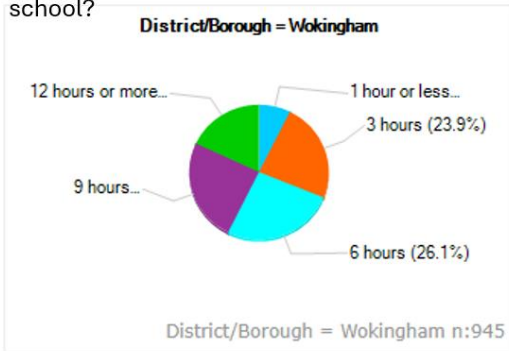
# Health and Wellbeing

In Wokingham Borough:

- The teenage pregnancy rate is lower in the Borough than that of England as a whole with 5.9 per 1000's girls becoming pregnant in a year in the Wokingham Borough, compared to 10.7 per 1000 in the South East and 13.1 per 1000 in England. (2021)
- Levels of child obesity are better in the Borough than those of England as a whole. As of 2023, 14.4% of children in Reception and 27.3% of children in Year 6 are overweight or obese. In England 21.3% of reception aged and 36.57% of year 6's were overweight or obese.
- The rate of child inpatient admissions for young people in the Wokingham Borough with mental health conditions is at 97.2 per 100,000, which is on a par with national rates. The rate of self-harm (10 to 24 years) for the Borough is at 487.6 per 100,00, which is similar to that of England as a whole.

Source: ONS Census 2021

How many hours physical activity or exercise do you do over a whole week (in and out of school, during term-time), including getting to and from school?

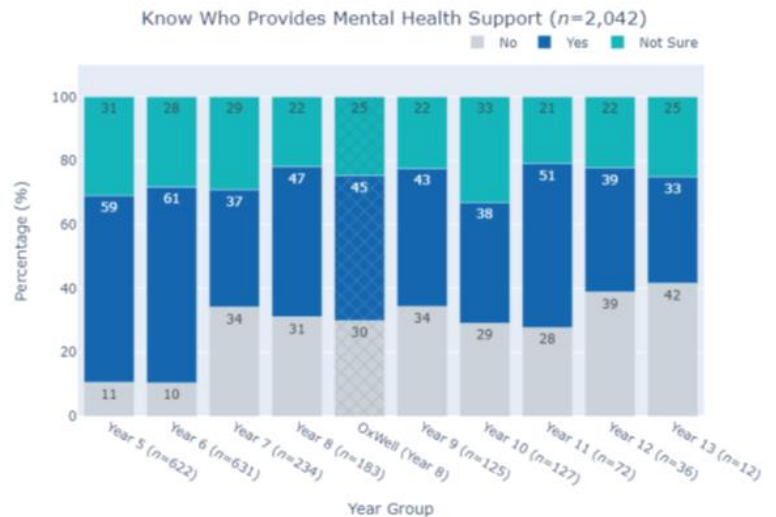
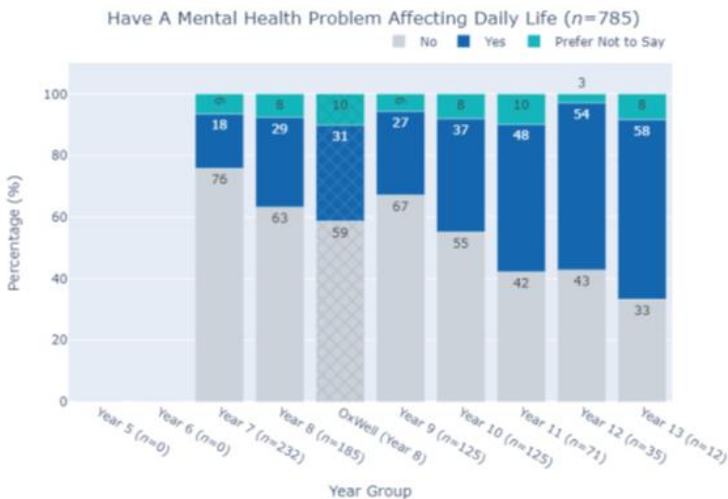


OxWell Survey 2023

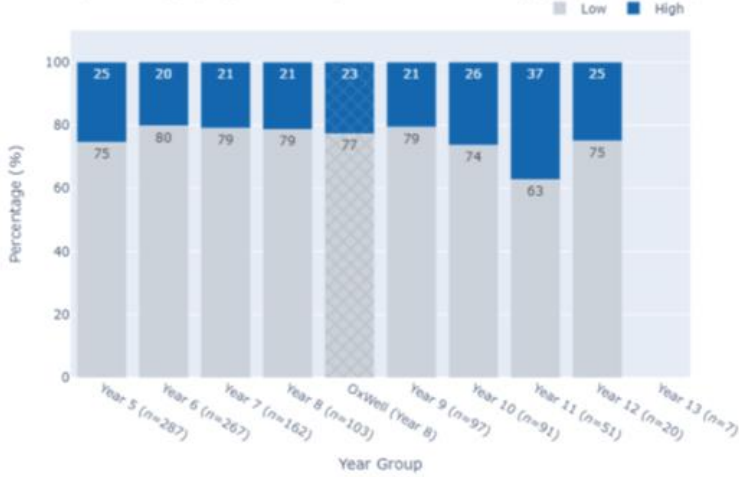
**What does this tell us?** The NHS recommends 150 minutes of physical activity per week, and we can see that the vast majority of this sample size are doing at least that.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

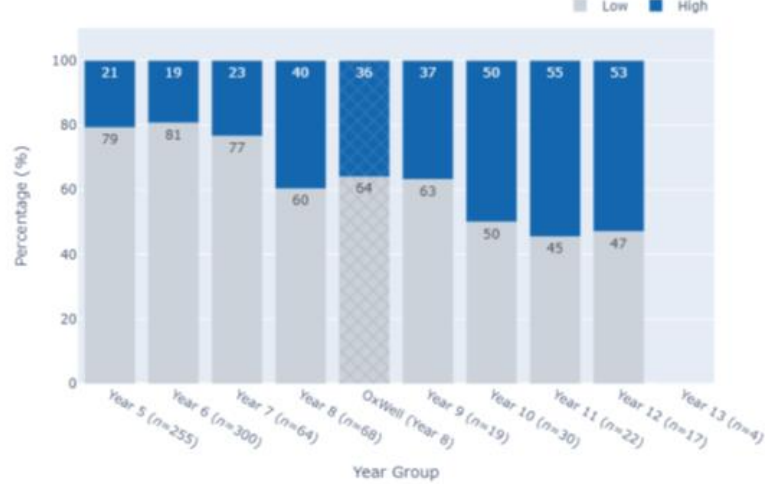
Below we can see the results from the OxWell where young people have reported feelings of depression and anxiety. We can see reports of having a mental health problem that affects our young people's daily life increases with age.



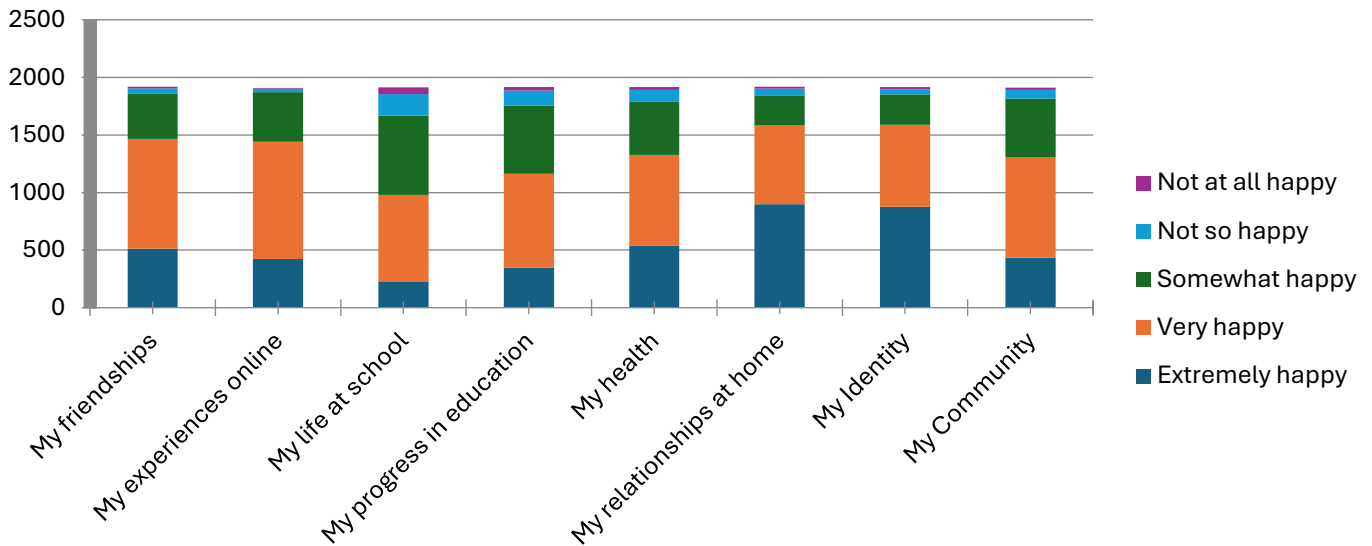
Experiencing Symptoms of Depression and Anxiety [Male] (n=1,085)



Experiencing Symptoms of Depression and Anxiety [Female] (n=779)



Q5. How happy are you with these things in your life now?



Source: Youth Future Focus Survey 2024

Overall, the results on this question from the Youth Future Focus survey were positive. The vast majority of respondents chose at least Somewhat Happy on all categories. On each category except one there were 8% or less that answered either *Not at all Happy* or *Not so Happy*.

My Life at School had 13% of respondents answer at least *Not so Happy*. This could be due to multiple reasons including academic success, stress and social dynamics.

8% of respondents said they were either *Not so or Not at all Happy* with their Progress in Education. This was also similar for Health at 6%. The majority of respondents who were not happy with their school life were aged 11 to 14.

Girls are more likely to answer they're Not so Happy or Not at all Happy with their life at school and their progress in education compared to boys.

Girls are almost twice as likely as boys to say they were unhappy in some way with their relationships at home.

Boys are more likely to say they are Not so Happy or Not at all Happy with their community.

**What does this tell us?** From age 12 onwards or Year 8 onwards, females are more likely to experience symptoms of anxiety and depression whereas the data shows males' need stays similar throughout secondary school except for year 11 where it spikes. This may be due to GCSE exam stress. This data is also supported by young people's feedback gathered by ARC youth counselling.

The top 3 main reasons young people cited as needing help from ARC youth counselling were Anxiety, Depression or Low Mood and Low Self Esteem.

We can also see that more work needs to be done to ensure young people know how to access support for their mental health.

Schools and extra-curricular clubs should be supported to discuss and provide healthy coping mechanisms to all young people to support their mental wellbeing.

What do you think are the most important concerns facing you and other young people at the moment? Please choose up to 5 things from the list below.	Number of Responses	% of Total Responses
<b>School / education and exams</b>	<b>1166</b>	<b>58.9%</b>
<b>Mental health and wellbeing</b>	<b>1032</b>	<b>52.1%</b>
<b>Friendships and relationships</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>38.1%</b>
<b>Body image</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>36.3%</b>
<b>Bullying</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>36.0%</b>
Future career/jobs	623	31.5%
Peer pressure	610	30.8%
Money	527	26.6%
Physical health	475	24.0%
Family Life	473	23.9%
Racism	473	23.9%
Alcohol and/or drugs	438	22.1%
Social media and online pressures i.e. sending nudes	395	19.9%
Crime and safety	342	17.3%
Sexuality/Gender/ Identity	288	14.5%
Climate Change	248	12.5%
Ablism (being treated unfairly because of a disability)	227	11.5%
Domestic Abuse	178	9.0%
Exploitation and grooming	163	8.2%
Caring for a relative	125	6.3%
None of the above	101	5.1%
Other (please specify):	101	5.1%

Age groups with the highest % of concern – age 15 and 17 (71.6% and 72.4% respectively)

28.4% of 11-year-olds were concerned about this, versus 68.1% of 17-year-olds

The majority of responses were female (60.8%) and (60.9%)

Bullying was more of a concern for those age 11 to 13

Source: Youth Future Focus Survey 2024

**What does this tell us?** We can see that those who are about to undertake exams at GCSE and A Level see School/ Education and Exams as the biggest concern.

We can also see that as young people get older, mental health and wellbeing becomes a more prominent issue for them. This may be due to approaching independence and being exposed to more complicated life experiences.

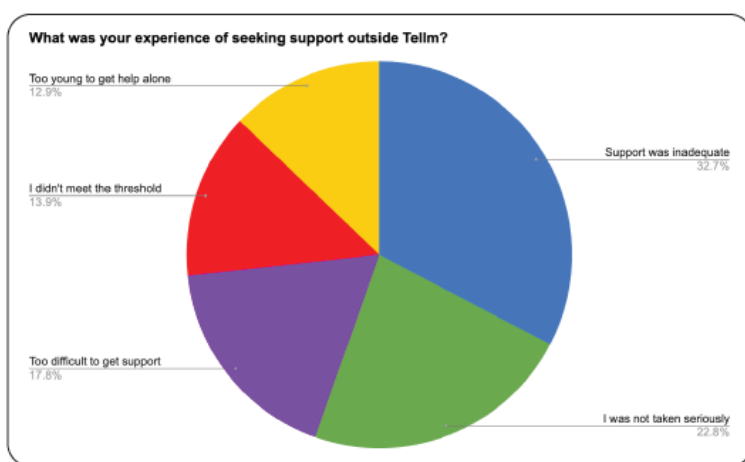
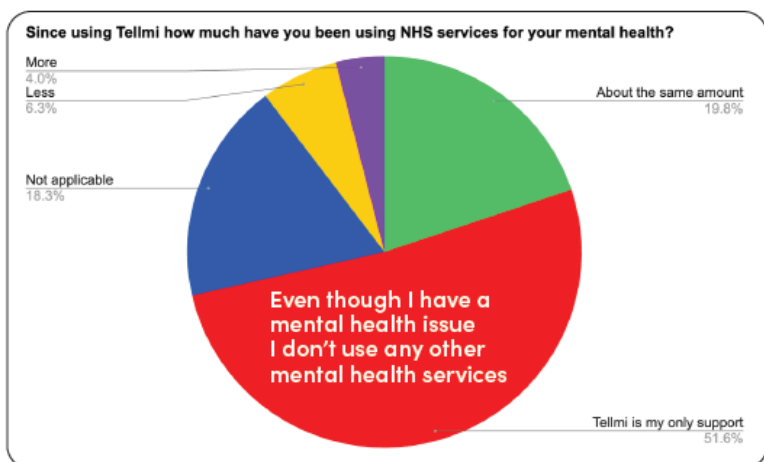
Girls are more likely than boys to worry about their body image as well as their friendships and relationships.

Bullying is a bigger concern for those in the lower year groups of secondary school, which may be due to the transition between primary and secondary schools and the social challenges that brings.

This shows us that emotional wellbeing support needs to be available to children from primary school age to ensure they have the tools and support required as they move into adolescence.

## Support for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Tellmi is a Mental Health support app for young people that is commissioned by Wokingham Borough Council. It is a safe, anonymous app where young people can talk about absolutely anything. Sharing their experiences with the online community as a way to help them to feel better. The moderators check everything to keep everyone safe and their in-house counsellors are always on hand if someone needs extra support.



**What does this tell us?** There is a need for a service like Tellmi as half of its users in Berkshire do not use any other mental health service. Some people who use this app say they do not meet the threshold for help elsewhere so it gives a space to those who still need someone to talk to but do not qualify for more advanced support. It also helps those who have a condition but do not want to seek other support. Tellmi is anonymous which in our focus groups was found to be very desirable when looking for support with their mental health. It was felt by the focus groups in our consultation that young people didn't know what help and support was available for mental health so we know this is an area for further action.

## Children in Care CAMHS Service

As of 2024, 43% of our children in care's mental wellbeing was a cause for concern.

The CAMHS Children in Care service – Berkshire West is a partnership service between BHFT and the Local Authorities in Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham. Working with Children in Care who are under the local authority of Reading, West Berkshire or Wokingham, who are placed in Berkshire or within 20 miles of Berkshire borders. This is a specialised service focusing on delivering the right support at the right time for some of our most vulnerable young people. The service is currently working with 28 of our children in care.

CAMHS CIC		Q3 23/24	Q4 23/24	Q1 24/25
<b>Number of YP Discussed in Wellbeing Panels</b>			2	2
<b>Referrals Received</b>		6	7	9
<b>Ongoing Team Caseload</b>			29	28
	<b>Age</b>			
	5-9 years			6
	10-12 years			5
	13-15 years			10
	16-17 years			8

Source: Wokingham Borough Council Data and Insight Team

# Safety and Security

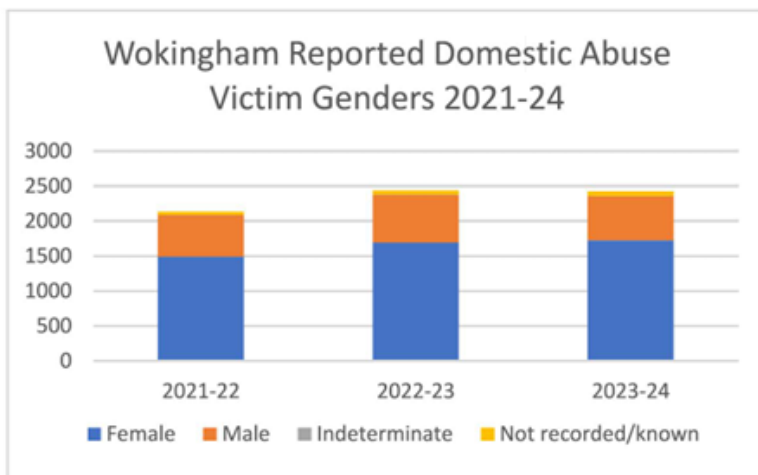
## Domestic Abuse

From 01/04/23-31/03/24 there were 2650 domestic abuse incidents reported to the police in the Wokingham borough. Below we can see the numbers of children at risk of harm and also receiving support from charities for domestic abuse.

	1/4/2023 – 31/3/2024
Number of children and young people supported by Cranstoun domestic abuse service	132
Number of children and teens accessing Kaleidoscopic group-based support	137
Number of children living in a household which has been identified as being at high risk of serious harm as a result of domestic abuse (Marac)	94

## Violence Against Women and Girls

Below shows the number of female and male victims of domestic abuse over the past years.



Source: Wokingham Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2028

### Youth Future Focus – Focus Groups

When consulting in person with various groups, a theme that was repeated as something that the young people would like to learn before leaving school was learning about healthy relationships.

**What does this tell us?** The national drive to address Violence Against Women and Girls should empower those affected to feel confident in reporting incidents and challenging inappropriate behaviours

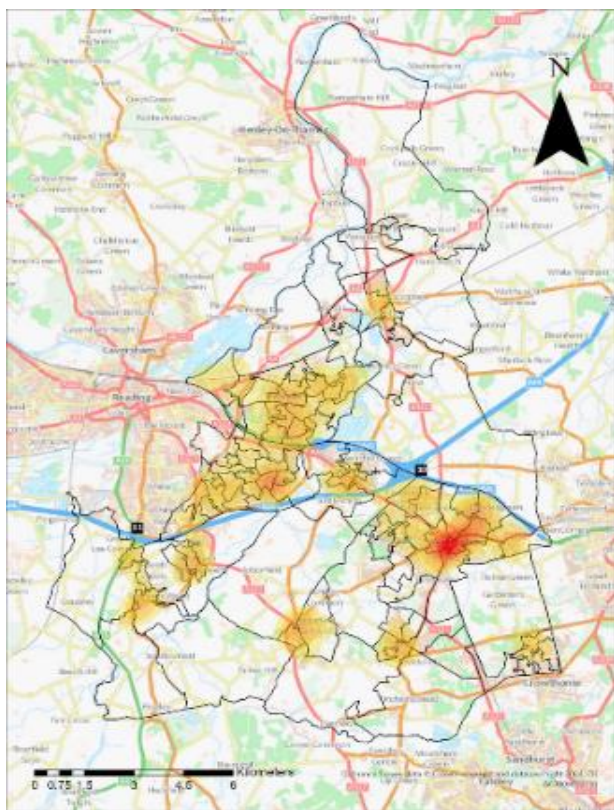
It is important that young people are supported to develop the understanding and awareness needed to recognise domestic abuse, access available support, and contribute to safeguarding victim-survivors. This also plays a vital role in preventing future abuse and ensuring that individuals displaying harmful behaviours are guided towards behavioural change interventions

Helping young people to recognise the signs of unhealthy or controlling relationships can play a vital role in safeguarding both those who may be at risk of harm and those who may be developing harmful behaviours. Building this awareness early supports prevention and encourages respectful, informed relationships

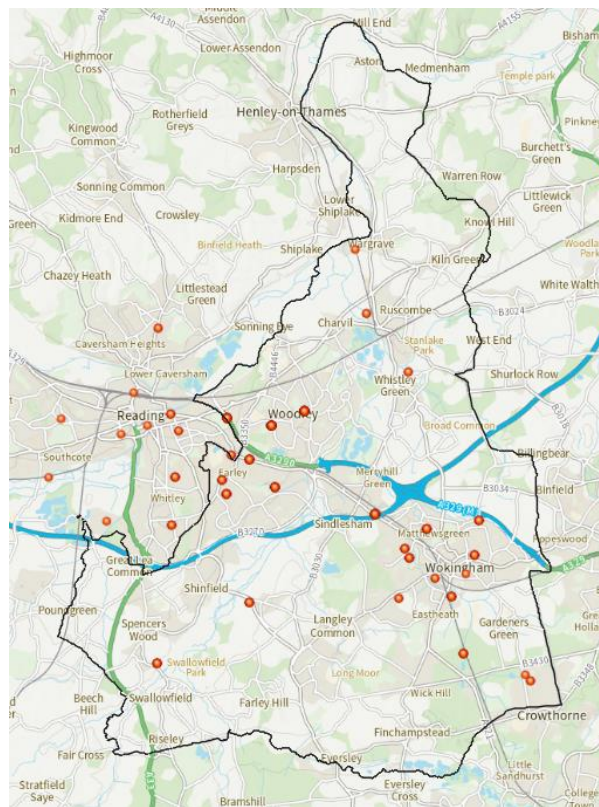
## Anti-Social Behaviour

The map on the left shows where antisocial behaviour has been taking place within the Wokingham Borough. There is a distinct hotspot of Wokingham Town. With the next hotspot areas being Maiden Place and Carnival Field both in Earley. However, these statistics are across all ages and not specific to young people.

When we compare this map with one from our Youth Future Focus Survey showing where respondents didn't attend any listed leisure activities, we see corresponding areas.



Map from Wokingham Borough Council Community Safety Team

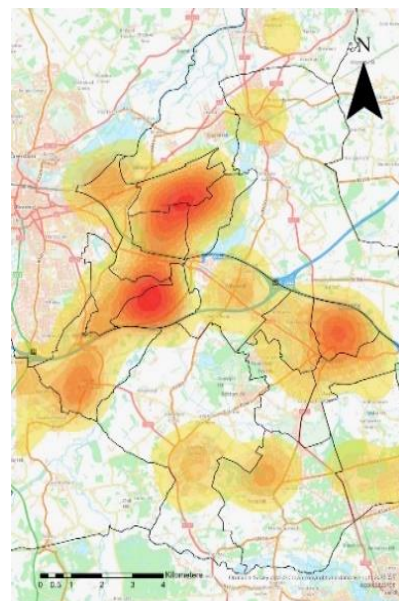


Youth Future Focus Survey 2024

Temporal analysis identified a hotspot of reported ASB incidents on a Sunday.

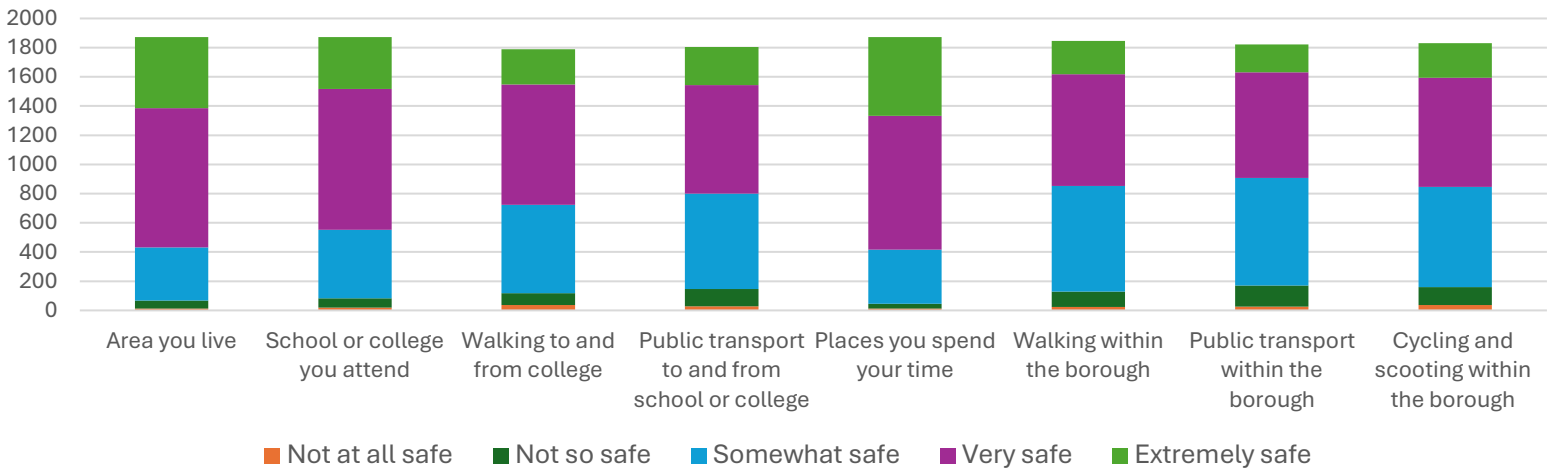
The hotspot map demonstrates a shift in the hotspots for Sunday ASB in 2023.

Hotspots shifted from Wokingham town to Woodley and Earley.



## Feelings of Safety

How safe do you feel in the area you live, the school you attend, and the places you spend your free time?



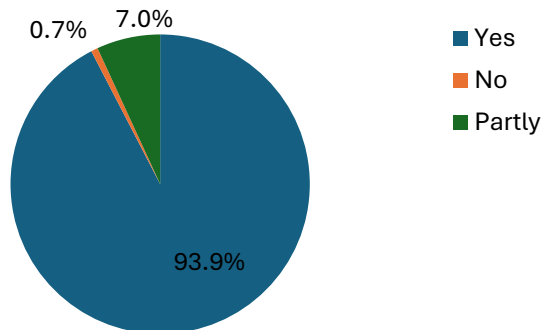
Source: Youth Future Focus Survey 2024

As we can see from the chart above, the numbers of young people who feel either Extremely Safe, Very Safe and Somewhat Safe in each of the categories is very high.

The areas where there are more people who selected Not So Safe or Not at All Safe are related to Public Transport within the Borough, Cycling and Scooting around the Borough, Walking with the Borough and Public Transport to and from School or College. The feeling of being unsafe could be due to road safety as well as the threat of other members of the public.

When we looked at the responses to this question on a map, those who live in Wokingham Borough felt that the area they live in is either extremely safe or very safe. Even those who live just outside of the borough boundary also feel that the area they live in is extremely safe or very safe which is very positive.

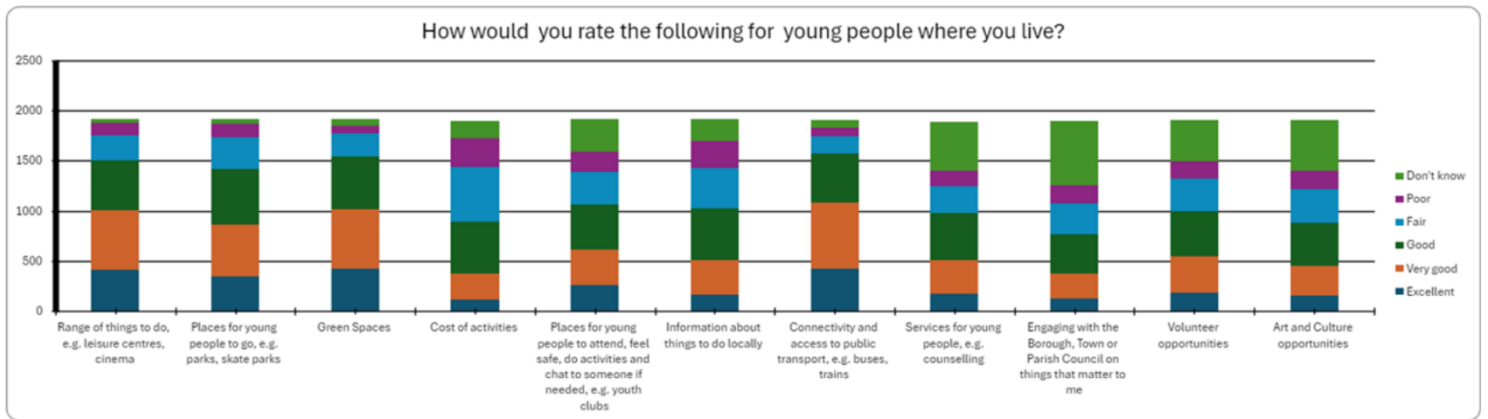
## Do you know how to keep yourself safe online?



Only a very small proportion of young people—just 0.7%—responded 'No' to this question. Notably, most of those who answered 'No' or 'Partly' were aged 13 or under, which may suggest that this topic is more commonly introduced to older age groups as their use of the internet becomes broader and more independent

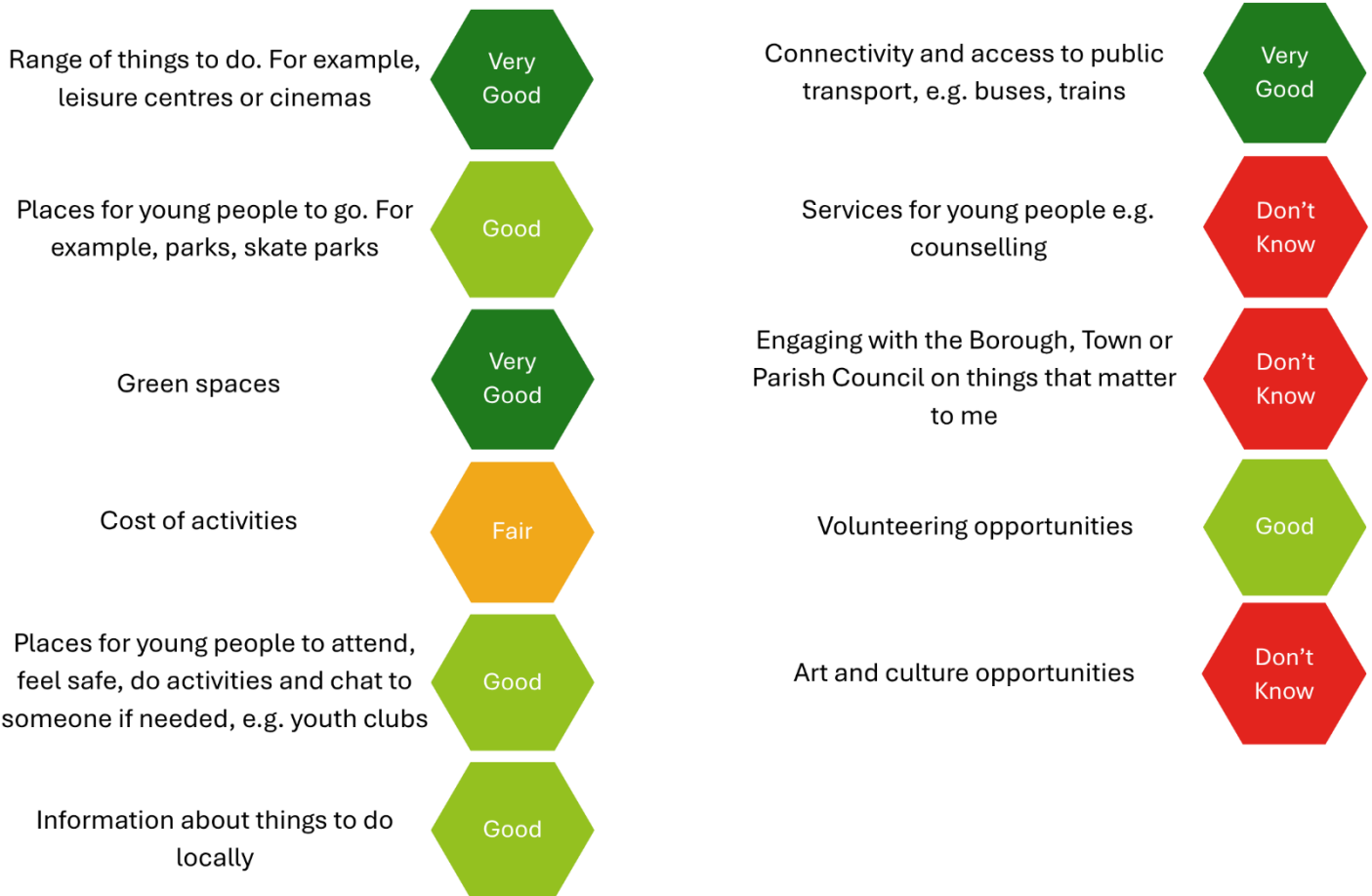
Source: Youth Future Focus Survey 2024

# Recreation and Leisure



Below are the most popular answers for each category

Source: Youth Future Focus Survey 2024



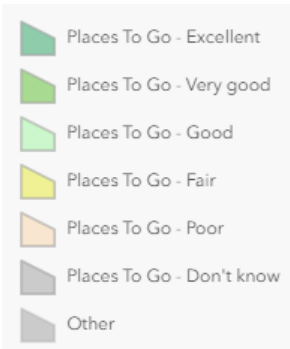
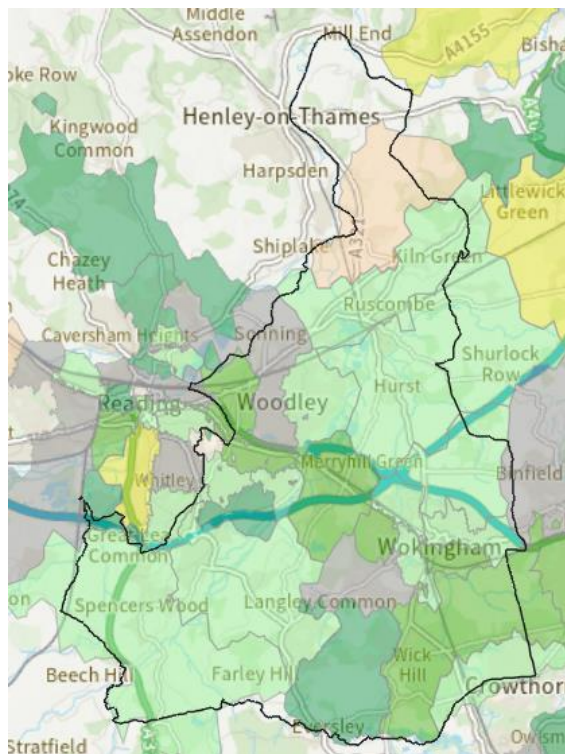
## Some areas of note

Several key areas received notably high levels of dissatisfaction in the survey, with 25% or more of respondents rating them as 'Fair' or 'Poor'. These include:

- Places for young people to attend, feel safe
- Information about things to do locally
- Engaging with the Borough...
- Volunteering opportunities
- Art and culture opportunities

In addition, there were a significant number of 'Don't Know' responses for Engaging with the Borough..., Volunteering opportunities and Art and culture opportunities. This suggests that many young people may be unaware of the existing services which might highlight a potential gap in communication or visibility, and possibly contributing to low attendance or participation.

## Postcode Analysis

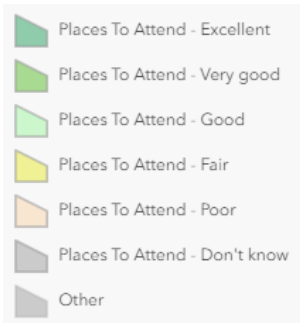


The responses were generally positive, with most young people who live in Wokingham feeling that the places they can go to are either excellent, very good, or good. However, those who live in the northern area of Wokingham in the Thames ward, under Remenham and Wargrave parishes, responded that places to go were poor. It is worth noting that the northern areas of the borough including these wards are more rural which could explain the fewer options for activities.

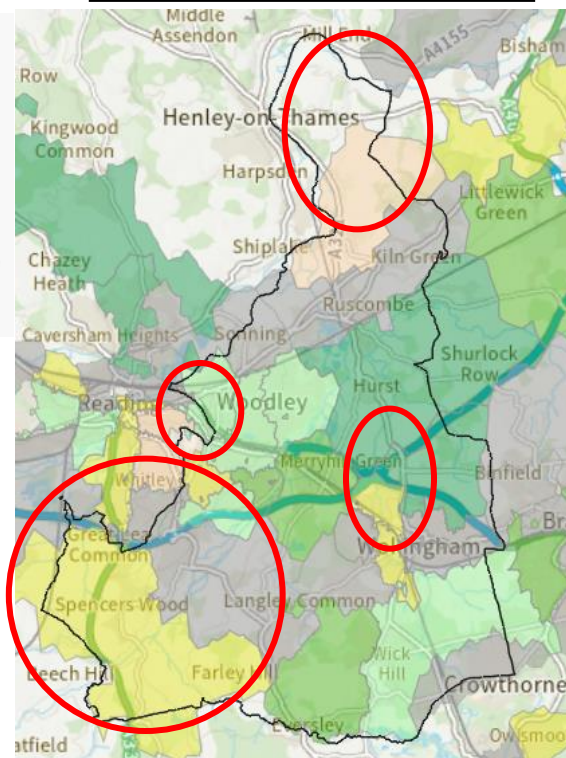
Youth Future Focus Survey 2024  
Q6. Places for young people to go

Youth Future Focus Survey 2024  
Q6. Places to attend...

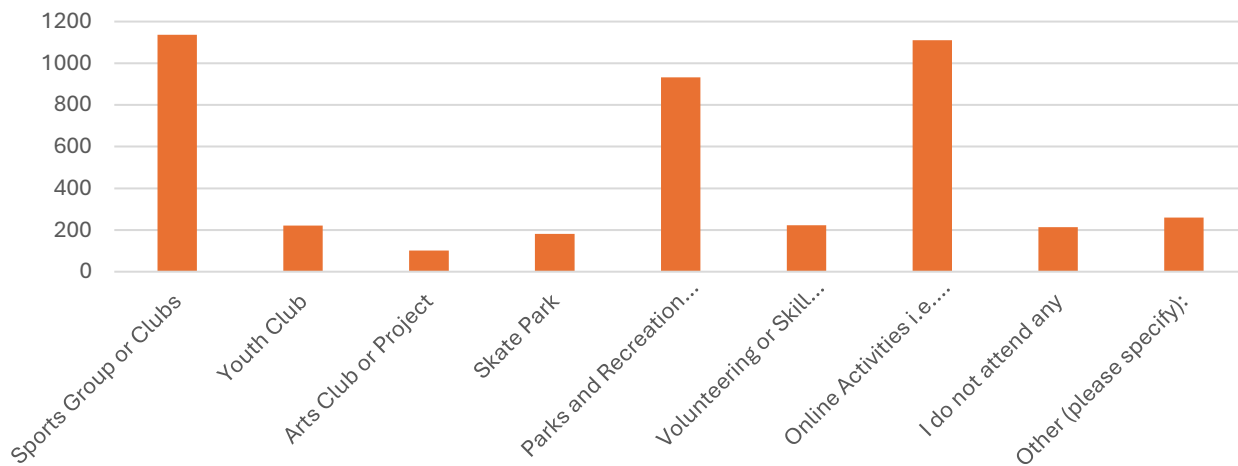
Responses to this question were more varied across those who live in Wokingham. Those living in Twyford, Ruscombe and Hurst felt places for young people to attend are Excellent. Others living in Winnersh and Barkham & Arborfield felt they are Good.



The responses highlighted a few areas of concern, where young people felt places to attend were either “fair” or “poor”, these are:  
Thames Ward – Remenham, Wargrave and Charvil parishes  
Hillside/Maiden Erleigh & Whitegate Ward – Early parish  
Spencer’s Wood & Swallowfield ward – Swallowfield and Shinfield parishes  
Wokingham Ward – Emmbrook, Evendons, and Wescott parishes



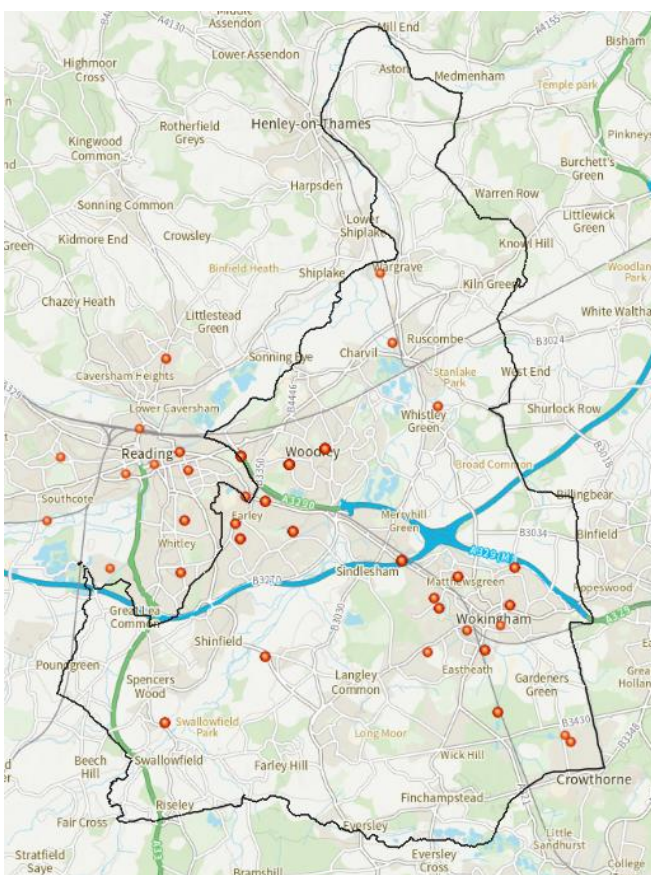
## Within your area, do you access any of the following to fill in your leisure-time, outside of school?



Source: Youth Future Focus Survey 2024

The most popular things to do outside of school from are Sports Groups or Clubs, Visiting Parks or Green Spaces and taking part in Online Activities like playing games or being on social media. For most of the answers the split between male and female was very comparable, however, girls are twice as likely to take part in Arts Clubs than boys.

Some of the most popular answers shared under Other were Going to the Gym, Scouts or Guides, playing a musical instrument and going to a drama club.

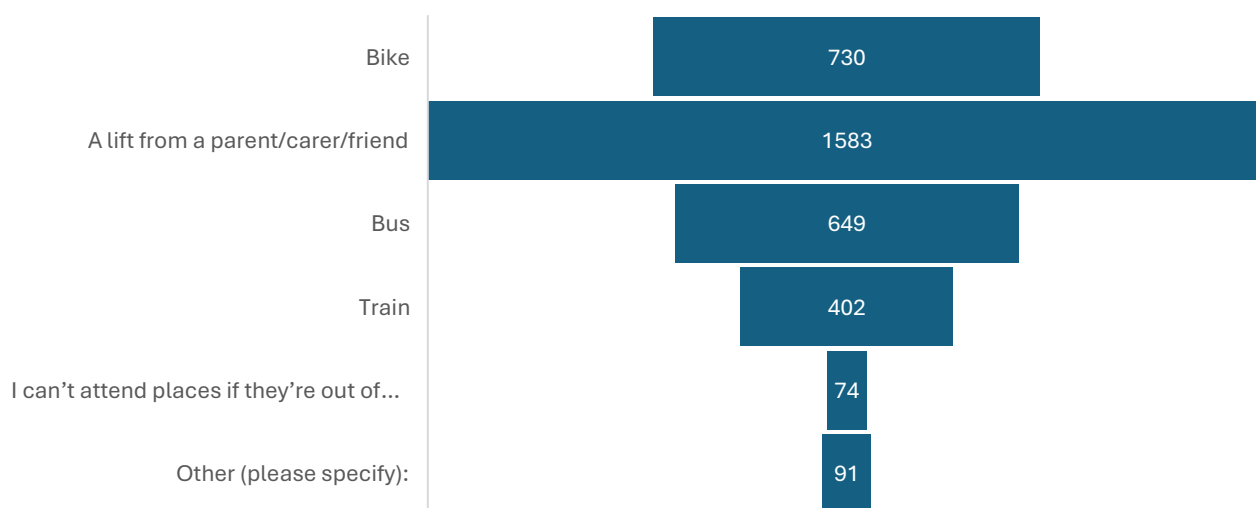


This map highlights the postcodes of young people living in Wokingham who do not currently participate in any of the seven listed leisure-time activities. There is a noticeable concentration in Wokingham Town, as well as around Woodley and Earley. This finding is particularly interesting given that Wokingham Town offers some of the most accessible transport links and a range of leisure options for young people, including arcades, a bowling alley, a leisure centre, and various shops.

There are others who live further out from these areas, such as those in Wargrave, Swallowfield, Crowthorne and Hurst. Two of these areas – Wargrave and Hurst – are areas that young people felt connectivity and access to public transport was either fair or poor, which may influence their lack of engagement in these leisure time activities. Furthermore, those who live in Wargrave also felt places for young people to go (leisure activities) and for young people to attend (youth clubs) is poor.

Source: Youth Future Focus Survey 2024

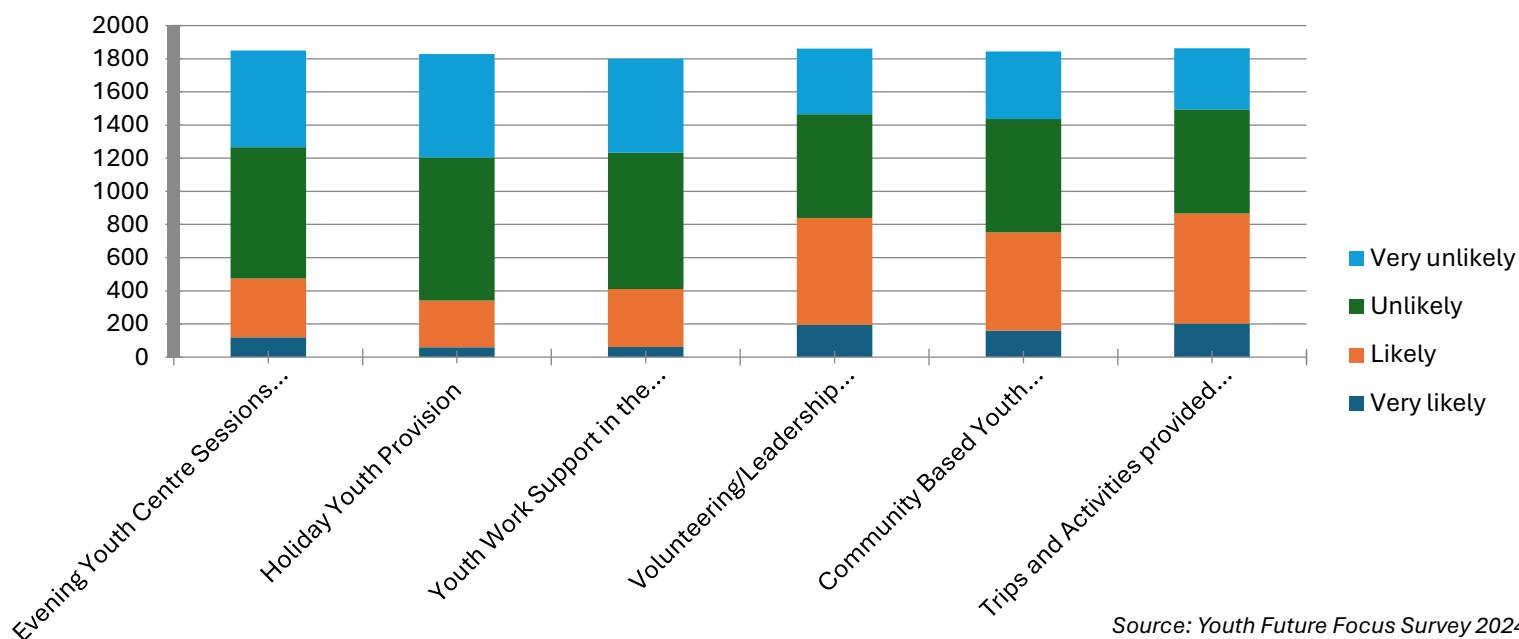
## If somewhere is out of walking distance, how do you get there?



Source: Youth Future Focus Survey 2024

This chart shows us that the majority of respondents rely on a lift from someone to get to places, which shows that support from an adult is needed. Riding a bike or getting the train or bus were also very popular options. Only 74 young people said they could not get somewhere if it was out of walking distance which makes up 3.9% of respondents.

## How likely would you be to attend or participate in



Source: Youth Future Focus Survey 2024

The responses to this question suggest that many young people may not currently feel inclined to take part in several of the options presented. However, it's worth noting that, while not the most popular choices, several of these options still attracted interest from a few hundred respondents who said they would be likely or very likely to attend.

This may indicate an opportunity to strengthen how youth work is communicated and understood. There could be some uncertainty around what youth work entails, and for some, perceptions or assumptions about who it is intended for may influence their willingness to engage. Additionally the timing of sessions—such as during school holidays or evenings—might be a factor. Young people may be hesitant to commit time to activities they don't yet see the value in, particularly if they feel it could interfere with their free time.

**What does this tell us?** The most popular responses were for free activities, highlighting once again that cost is a significant barrier for many young people. However, options like visiting the skate park were less frequently selected. This may reflect its appeal to a more specific interest group, or possibly perceptions associated with the space. Some young people may feel uncomfortable due to behaviours they've observed there—such as smoking or vaping—which can create an impression that the environment is intimidating or unsafe.

Additionally, 627 respondents (34%) said they could only attend activities if given a lift by a parent or carer. This suggests that a third of young people are dependent on others for transport when destinations are beyond walking distance. This could be due to limited access to public transport in certain areas, or a reluctance to use it—potentially linked to cost, confidence, or safety concerns.

### SEND Specific Youth Provisions

In November 2024 a survey was distributed to those aged 18-30 with SEND. The purpose of the survey was to find out from these young people what day services were available to them to attend and what gaps exist in these services.

30%

14 responders (30%) felt they weren't aware of what day services were available to them (or the person they look after) across Wokingham.

41%

19 (41%) of responders weren't aware of the supported employment service.

78%

36 (78%) responders felt there weren't enough day services or activities available for people of a similar age to them.

63%

29 (63%) felt the current services available didn't help them meet and make friends with people with similar interests.

70%

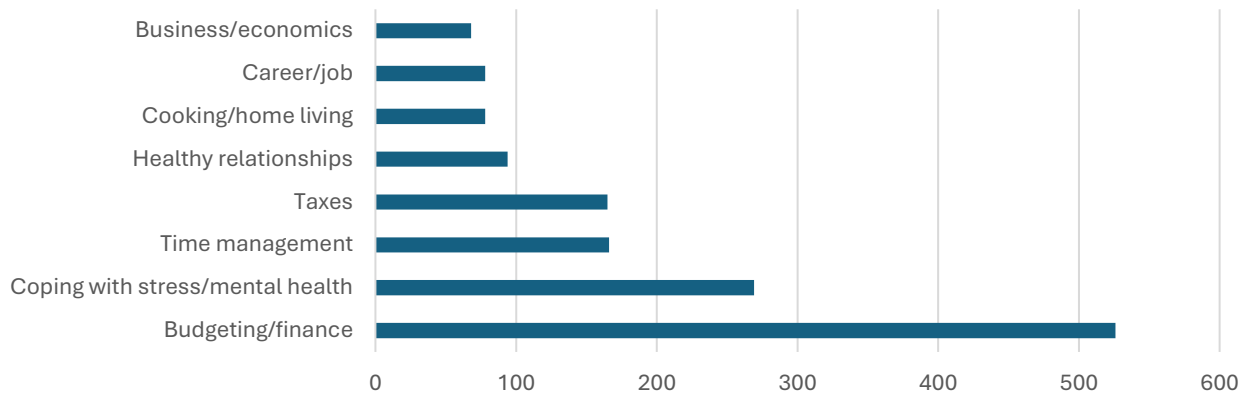
32 (70%) were interested in virtual activities.

**What does this tell us?** Improving access to clear, accessible information about available opportunities is just as important for young adults with SEND. Feedback suggests that more tailored provision is needed, with a particular emphasis on creating spaces where young people can build friendships. This is especially important given that having additional needs can sometimes lead to feelings of isolation. Virtual activities would also be appreciated by this cohort of people.

# Support to be Independent

Through our Youth Future Focus survey, we asked a range of questions to explore whether young people in Wokingham Borough feel there are gaps in the life learning they receive—particularly in areas that could support them as they move towards greater independence.

## Are there any life skills that you want to learn before leaving school?



Source: Youth Future Focus Survey 2024

Above are the 8 most common answers.

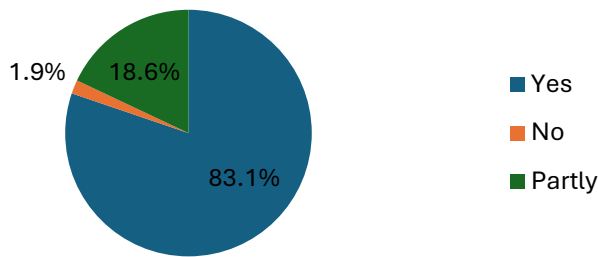
Budgeting and finance emerged as a key area of interest, with over one in four young people identifying it as something they would like to learn more about. This reflects a strong awareness among young people of the importance of financial literacy as they move towards independence.

The next most common response was around coping with stress and understanding mental health. This highlights how seriously young people view mental wellbeing and their desire to be better prepared for the challenges of modern life. It may also indicate that some are already experiencing these issues and are unsure of how to access appropriate support and resources.

### Youth Future Focus – Focus Groups

During our focus groups and event, young people shared that they were keen to learn more about practical aspects of adult life—such as mortgages, taxes, investments, and the everyday cost of living. There was a strong sense that these topics could be meaningfully introduced through subjects like Maths or PSHE, or even set as homework. This idea was well received, with the majority expressing a clear interest in learning about these financial topics as part of their school experience.

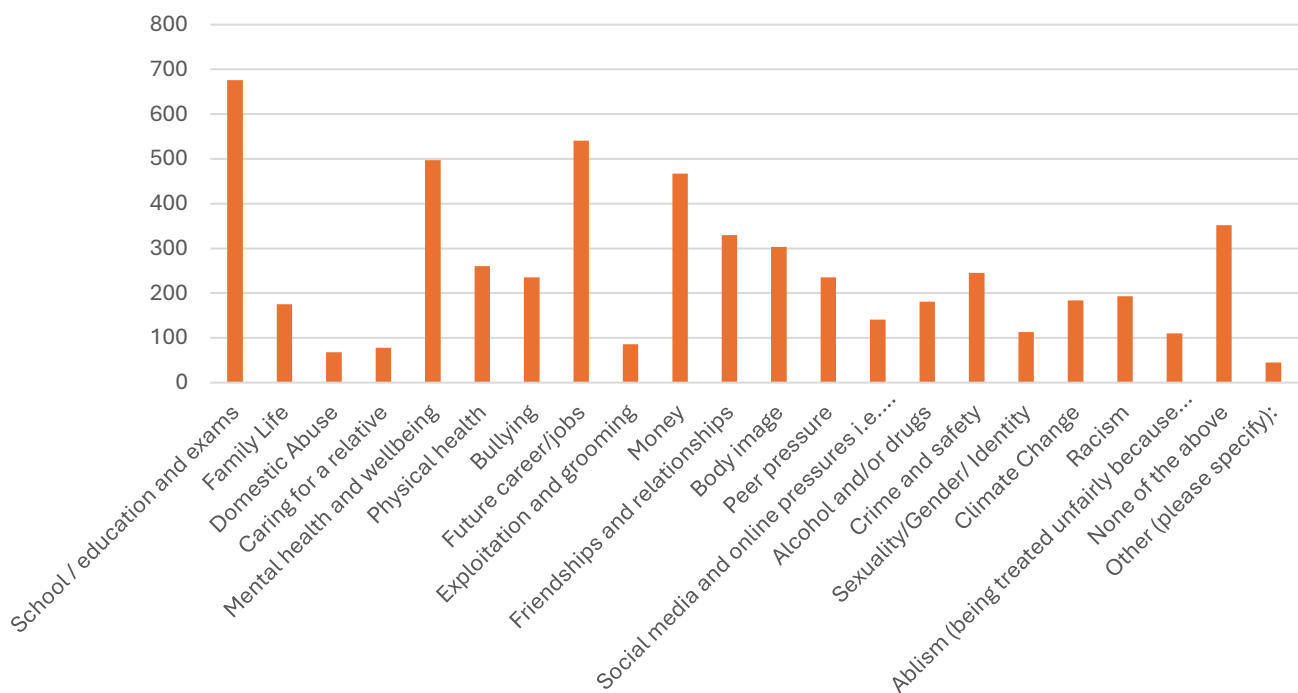
Do you know how to do necessary everyday things on a computer, tablet or phone. i.e. do homework, send emails, access online banking, research things?



Only 35 young people responded 'No' to this question. The majority of those who answered 'No' or 'Partly' were aged 13 or under, which suggests that this is a skill typically introduced later in their education. This provides some reassurance that young people are likely to develop this knowledge as they progress through school

Source: Youth Future Focus Survey 2024

**Which issues, if any, would you like more information or support with?**  
Please choose up to 5 things from the list below.



Source: Youth Future Focus Survey 2024

**What does this tell us?** Young people identified **School/Education** as the top area where they would like more information. This was followed by **Future Careers/Jobs**, **Mental Health and Wellbeing**, and **Money**. These responses suggest that young people in Wokingham Borough are highly engaged with their learning and are thinking ahead about their futures—including their career paths and financial independence.

While it's encouraging to see such ambition and forward-thinking, it's also important to ensure that this drive doesn't come at the expense of their mental wellbeing. The strong interest in mental health and wellbeing highlights a growing awareness of its importance, as well as a possible gap in accessible support or information currently available to them.

Financial literacy also emerged as a key theme, with many young people expressing a desire to better understand how to manage money and budget effectively—skills that are essential for independence and confidence in adult life.

# Civic Engagement and Participation

The current known civic engagement groups currently taking place on a regular basis are:

Wokingham Youth Council – This group is for secondary aged students within the borough and those up to 24 with SEND. The group runs once a month and they give their feedback on strategies, action plans and other council and local work.

Children in Care Council – Your Second Voice. This group runs once a month and is open to those who are currently in care and care experienced between the ages of 11-18. It provides feedback and insight on work within social services as well as wider children’s services projects.

SEND Forum – Say Yes. This group runs once a month and is open to those aged between 8-24 years old for young people with SEND. They discuss and provide insight on a range of things SEND and non-SEND related.

## Volunteering

When asked in our Youth Future Focus survey if the respondents had ever volunteered before 49% said they had. Our young people were also asked what would help to motivate them to volunteer. 1,223 young people responded to this question. The top 5 most common motivations for volunteering were:

- 1) Giving back to the community or to help others (25.6%)
- 2) For money or a reward (12.8%)
- 3) If there were opportunities of interest (11.4%)
- 4) If friends volunteered with them (10.1%)
- 5) For enjoyment or fun (8.3%)

We know that the current volunteer options available to our young people are not the type opportunities they would like. The word cloud below shows what volunteering opportunities our young people would like to see more of.



Source: Youth Future Focus Survey 2024

**What does this tell us?** Currently, there are limited opportunities for young people to engage with their community through volunteering or participation groups. Expanding the accessibility and variety of these opportunities—particularly for more vulnerable or disadvantaged young people in the borough—could offer meaningful ways to build a sense of belonging, develop new skills, and grow in confidence

The voluntary and community sector could showcase the benefits and advantages of volunteering to all young people in the borough.

## 6. Current Youth Offer in the Wokingham Borough

### Parks and Green Spaces

Wokingham Borough is home to many parks and green spaces, which are often recognised as one of the area's key strengths. However, feedback from young residents suggests that play equipment in these spaces tends to be geared more towards younger children. There is a clear appetite for more age-appropriate facilities that better reflect the interests and needs of teenagers

### Sports Clubs

There are a multitude of sports clubs running across the borough covering a range of sports. Football, Rugby, Cricket, Netball and Badminton being the majority of the clubs. These clubs are often run through schools in addition to outside of schools privately which gives students a chance to engage in them for free.

Other sports like archery, tennis, basketball, hockey and martial arts are also seen across the borough but in fewer numbers which can be due to specific pitch or field requirements or level of popularity.

### Leisure Centres

There are 4 large leisure centres across the borough which offer gyms, indoor sports hall to play a variety of sports as well as swimming pools. There are 2 smaller leisure centres with gyms and sports halls. There are many gyms situated across the borough ranging from monthly prices of £28-£55.

### Uniformed Groups

There is a strong presence of uniformed groups across the borough, including Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides. However, only a limited number of these groups currently offer adaptations—such as the Me2 buddy programme—to support young people with additional needs.

While a few Cadet groups also operate locally, none are currently listed in the Local Offer as being inclusive of those with additional needs.

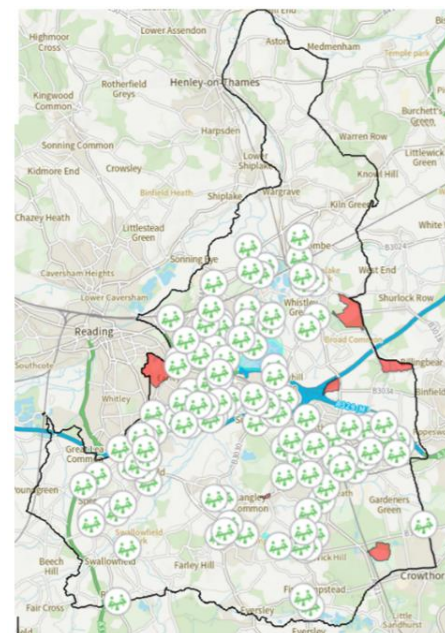
On average, participation in these groups costs around £370 per year, including membership and activity fees, which may present a barrier for some families.

### Youth Clubs

There are currently only four youth clubs operating within the borough, located in Twyford, Shinfield, Woodley, and Earley. Two of these are run by Berkshire Youth, while the other two are managed by local Parish or Town Councils. These clubs are designed to be accessible, with entry fees ranging from just 50p to £1.50

### Youth Clubs run by Churches

There are a number of youth clubs run by churches across the borough for varying age ranges. These are located in Finchampstead, Earley, Barkham, Sindlesham and Woodley. The cost for entry is either free or up to £1.



## Art

There is only one art club within the borough with the cost of £18-£19 per session. This club is situated in Earley.

## Singing, Dancing and Theatre

There are many singing, dancing and theatre clubs and lessons stretched across the borough. The dancing lessons cover a range of styles of dance. There is always a fee attached to these clubs and lessons with the prices ranging per lesson being £5.20 to £11.50.

## Volunteering

A range of charities within the borough offer volunteers to work within their charity shops. Outside of this there are very limited opportunities available, with almost every opportunity only being on offer to those aged 16 and above.

## Participation

There are currently three civic engagement opportunities available to young people across the borough. These include the **SEND Forum** for those aged 8–25 with additional needs, the **Wokingham Children in Care Council** for children aged 11–17 who are in care, and the **Wokingham Youth Council**, open to those aged 11–19 or up to 24 for young people with SEND.

Each of these groups provides a platform for young people to share their views and influence local policies and procedures that affect them. Participation in these forums is free of charge

## SEND Specific Clubs

A variety of SEND-specific clubs are available across the borough, many of which are free to attend thanks to the support of local charities. These clubs typically focus on social and sporting activities tailored to the needs of young people with additional needs.

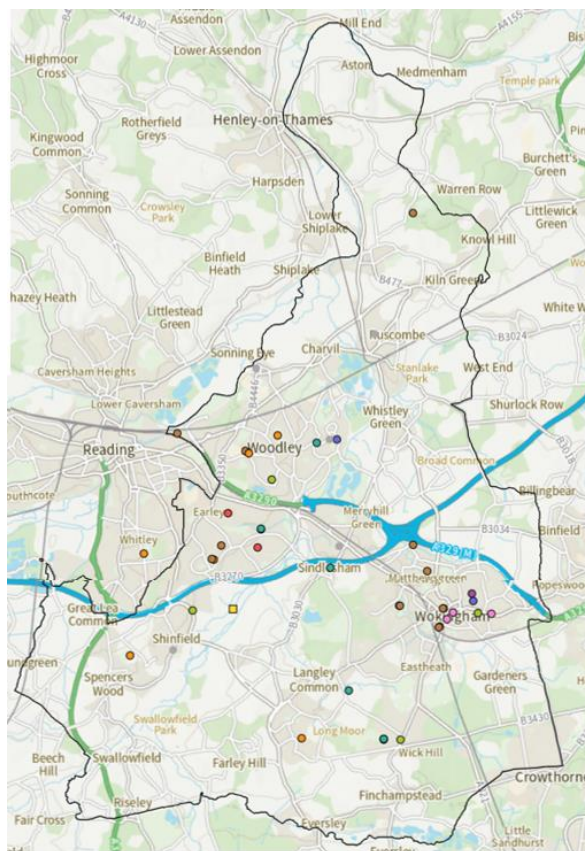
However, there remains a limited number of mainstream clubs that are equipped or adapted to be inclusive of those with additional needs, highlighting an opportunity to broaden access and promote greater inclusion across all youth provision.

## SEND 18+ Opportunities

There are a handful of social activities for those aged 18+ with SEND. The groups range from £2 to £16 to attend. We know from the responses to the 18-30 SEND survey that there is a desire for groups that are exclusively for younger adults in this age group. We know that online activities would be welcomed by this group.

## Digital Offer

We know from our survey and focus groups that information on how to access clubs and things to do in the area is not as good as it could be. Currently the Wokingham Directory is the place where providers advertise their services and activities, and this isn't very well used by young people. We know there is work to be done to make this information more young person friendly and accessible.



- SEND Club 18-24
- SEND Specific Club

# 7. Summary of Key Findings

## Target Groups

In addition to a broader universal offer, we believe the following groups of young people should be prioritised for additional support

- Young people eligible for free school meals (FSM)
- Children in need and children on child protection plans (CIN and CP)
- Young people who have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- Young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Young people who are educated other than at school (EOTAS)
- Young people who have physical disabilities
- Young people who are Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET)

## Equality of Access

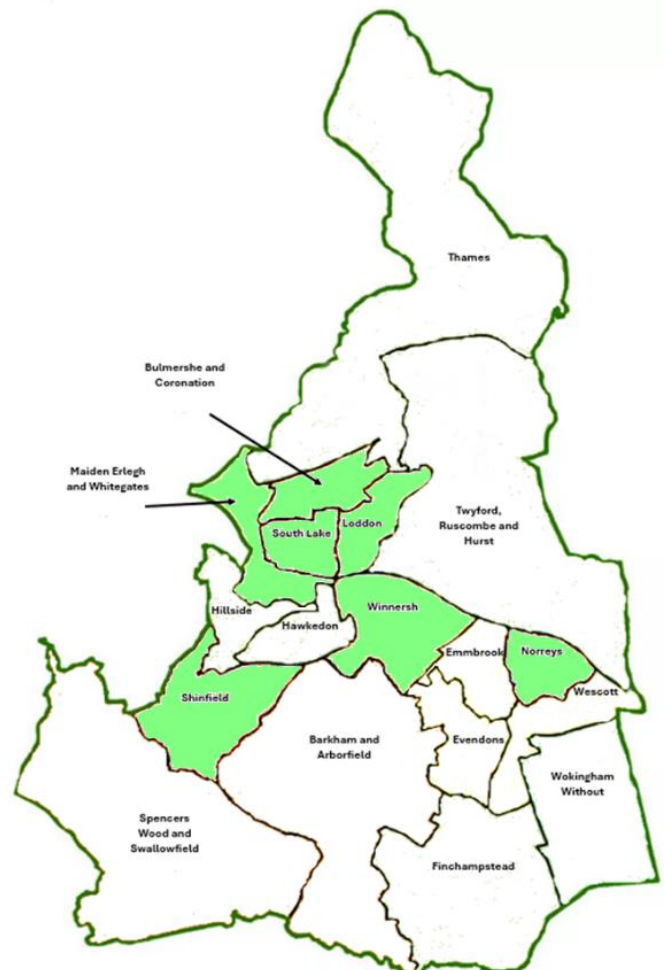
While there are some specialised provisions across the borough offering activities for young people with SEND, further support is needed to ensure mainstream services are accessible to all.

## Physical Area

While most areas of the borough are generally well served by public transport, including buses and trains, we recognise that many young people are less likely to use these options—often due to financial barriers or a lack of confidence.

To address this, we believe there is a need for targeted youth provision in specific geographical areas where disadvantage is more prevalent. These areas have higher numbers of young people eligible for Free School Meals and would benefit from additional support:

- South Lake
- Bulmershe and Coronation
- Norreys
- Shinfield
- Maiden Erlegh and Whitegates
- Winnersh
- Loddon



## 8. Recommendations



### Increase Youth Services in the Borough

Expand the range, availability, and visibility of youth services across the borough to better meet the diverse needs of young people.

Explore opportunities that enhance young people's access to inclusive and supportive environments ensuring their perspectives are considered in shaping local services and spaces.

### Young people have equitable access to inclusive and supportive environments



### Support to be Independent

Support young people's personal development by improving collaboration and open dialogue across education and community settings.

Review emotional wellbeing and mental health support to young people, and strengthen collaboration between education, public health, health and commissioned services to meet changing needs inclusively.

### Review Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Support available to Young People



### Increasing awareness and access to volunteering opportunities

Increase young people's awareness and access to volunteering by working with partners to identify and promote inclusive opportunities.

Support young people's safety and empowerment by increasing engagement and exploring enhancements to the physical environment that could contribute to more supportive and reassuring community spaces that are relevant for young people.

### Physical Safety



### Safer and Inclusive Travel Experiences

Consider approaches that promote safer and more inclusive travel experiences for young people

Improve access and engagement with local information through smarter digital platforms. Improve how young people access and engage with local information by reviewing digital platforms and strengthening collaboration to keep content relevant, accessible and appealing to young people.

### Enhancing the current Digital Offer to improve access to and awareness of Services in the borough



## 9. Appendices

Listed below are additional priorities identified by the needs assessment but are not specific priorities for the Wokingham Youth Offer. These priorities are being led by services across the local authority as identified below.

### **Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco and Vaping** – Public Health Team

When we reviewed the data from the OxWell survey we saw that very few secondary school students are smoking cigarettes or vaping. However, this is a small sample and is self-reported. The smoking and vaping statistics are very comparable to that of the national levels in the survey, with slightly more of Wokingham's students saying they don't use either. Alcohol and drug misuse for under 18's has not been identified as being an issue either, with only a small number of people saying they had ever taken an illegal drug or drunk alcohol more than a few times a year.

The charity Cranstoun offer specialist support to many young people in Wokingham who smoke or use alcohol or drugs. Public Health, in partnership with key stakeholders across the system, are also leading the development of the Wokingham Alcohol, Drug, Tobacco and Vaping (ADTV) Strategy (2025-2030). The Strategy covers the life course from children to adults, recognising that the needs and issues experienced by different ages, ethnicities, communities and other population groups are varied.

A priority of the ADTV Strategy is to address a lack of local data around patterns of ADTV use within the wider population, beyond those accessing treatment and support services. This includes understanding more around children and young people's use and how they would most like to receive information and advice around ADTV. This is particularly relevant to vaping considering growing concerns around vaping risks amongst those working in local schools and amongst young people.

### **Prevention and Youth Justice System** – Prevention and Youth Justice Service Team

In Wokingham as of 2022 data, the rate of first-time child entrants to Youth Justice Service aged 10-17, per 100,000 was 75. Which is a significant reduction than previous years. It's almost half of the English average and significantly less than the Southeast and Wokingham's Statistical neighbours. The Wokingham Borough rate of children cautioned or sentenced aged 10-17, per 1000 (2021/2022) is 1.5.

Offending rates in the borough (3.5) are significantly lower than the regional and national averages, which sit at 5.6 and 6.0 per 1,000 of the 10–17 population, respectively.

We know that those who admitted to the youth justice system are likely to go on and reoffend therefore the work done by our Youth Justice team is critical in working with these vulnerable individuals to prevent any further instances.

### **Homelessness** – Housing Needs and Options Team

Wokingham Borough Councils homelessness figures have plateaued which is positive as nationally homelessness is on the rise. If people are presenting homeless then accommodating them in temporary accommodation is better than BnB's as they are expensive for the council and often out of borough. In the most recent quarter Q4 2024/2025, we didn't have any households with a child in a BnB and we had 57 children in temporary accommodation.

The Housing Needs and Options Service have reduced the number of children who are in emergency or temporary accommodation by taking steps to prevent homelessness at the earliest opportunity. The Service has focused on improving access to the private sector for households with children through improved relationships with landlords and the use of rent deposit and rent in advance loans to enable households to

secure suitable and affordable privately rented accommodation. The implementation of our current Allocations policy for social housing in 2022 has also ensured that we are awarding the correct prioritisation for families who are homeless or threatened with homelessness which has resulted in many families with children being made offers of social housing.

Moving forward the Housing Needs and Options Service will now focus on procuring family accommodation on our Rent Guarantee Scheme so that we can make more offers of accommodation within the private sector to reduce the number of children who become homeless and continue to work with families at the earliest opportunity to prevent them from becoming homeless in the first place, this will include partnership working with other council services and signposting to benefit advice and debt support for families who are struggling to afford their current properties.

## Data Sources

Data in this report has been sourced from the following links, where further detailed information can be found:

**Census 2021 Data** - [Census - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

**Berkshire Observatory** - [Berkshire Observatory – Wokingham – Welcome to the Wokingham Borough Observatory](#)

**Wokingham Borough Council Community Profile** - [Community Profile - Power BI](#)

**Fingertips** - <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/data#page/13/gid/1938132696/ati/502/iid/90366/age/1/sex/1/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yr/3/cid/4/tbm/1>

**Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT)** - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait>

**Department of Education** - <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/key-stage-4-performance/2022-23>