Glasgow Youth Survey 2003

Final Report

Research Study Conducted for
Glasgow City Council, Strathclyde Police
and Glasgow Alliance

January – February 2003

Contents

Introduction

Background

In response to issues raised by school pupils on the Glasgow Student Council and meetings with Glasgow City Council's youth spokesperson, Councillor Renton, in the City Chambers a survey including both quantitative and qualitative methodologies was commissioned by Glasgow City Council in partnership with Strathclyde Police and Glasgow Alliance.

Aims and Objectives

The survey aims to gauge the opinions, feelings and experiences of young people (aged 11-18) in mainstream education living within Glasgow City Council boundaries in terms of their current lifestyles and future plans. Specific topics covered include:

- Perceptions of the area young people live in

- Suggested improvements for their local area

- What they do in their spare time

- The relative level of freedom they have

- Aspirations and future plans

- Image of young people

- Aspects of safety in the area they live in

- Their perceptions of the police

- Experience and thoughts on crime and punishment

The survey also examined the views of some children excluded from mainstream education.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful for the help and co-operation of the young people who participated in the qualitative sessions, and to the staff and students at participating schools, without whom this research would not have been possible.

Methodology

Qualitative Survey

MORI conducted a total of 6 mini-focus groups (up to 6 respondents in each group) and 6 individual depth interviews with young people aged between 11-18 currently in mainstream education. The focus groups were recruited face to face in home and written parental permission was obtained for all young people attending the groups or depth interviews aged under 16. The depth interviews were conducted in home. In addition we conducted 6 paired depth interviews with young people excluded from mainstream education.

Mini groups, (5-6 respondents) All in main stream education

Group	Age	Gender	Class	Area
1	11-12	Female	C2DE	North
2	11-12	Female	ABC1	North
3	15-16	Mixed	C2DE	North/East
4	13-14	Male	C2DE	East
5	11-12	Male	ABC1	South
6	13-14	Female	ABC1	West

Depth Interviews, All in main stream education - In home

Depth	Age	Gender	Class	Area
1	17-18	Female	C2DE	North
2	17-18	Male	ABC1	West
3	17-18	Male	ABC1	South
4	13-14	Male	ABC1	South
5	15-16	Female	ABC1	West
6	15-16	Male	C2DE	East

Paired Depth Interviews – In school

PD	Age	Gender	Type
1	11-14	Male	Moderate Learning Difficulty
2	15-18	Female	Moderate Learning Difficulty
3	11-12	Female	Excluded in school
4	13-14	Male	Excluded in school
5	11-14	Either	Excluded in secure unit
6	15-18	Either	Excluded in secure unit

Quantitative Survey

MORI gathered information from a representative sample of 1,551 young people aged between 11-18 in class (Primary 7 to Secondary 6). Pupils were asked to complete a questionnaire in class and hand it back a MORI representative at the end of the period. Fieldwork took place during January and February 2003.

A joint letter from MORI and Glasgow City Council outlining the survey was sent to all schools in advance of being approached to arrange interview sessions. A fax back form was included with the letter for the schools to send back to MORI to gauge interest in participating.

Of a total of 29 secondary schools within Glasgow City Council's boundary, 23 schools successfully took part in the survey giving us a school response rate of 79%.

There are 198 primary schools within Glasgow City Council and we sampled 16 schools to be targeted for the survey. A total of 9 primary schools successfully took part achieving an adjusted response rate of 56%.

A list of the secondary and primary schools that took part are included in the appendices.

A sample profile of the pupils that took part in the survey is also included in the appendices.

The data have been weighted by school role to ensure that it represents the range of school sizes in Glasgow, and age within year group to reflect the age profile of Glasgow's school students age 11-18.

Report Layout

Following this introduction the report contains;

- An **executive summary** of the key findings of the survey;

- more detailed commentary on both the qualitative and quantitative surveys illustrating the **main findings**;

- **appendices**, including a marked-up questionnaire and profile of the sample.

It should be remembered that a sample, not the entire population, has been interviewed. In consequence, all **results are subject to sampling tolerances**, which means that not all differences are statistically significant.

Where percentages do not sum to 100, this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of "don't know" categories, or multiple answers. Throughout the volume an asterisk (*) denotes any value less than half a per cent.

Publication of Data

As with all our studies, there should be no publication of the data without the prior approval of MORI. This would only be refused on the basis of inaccuracy and misinterpretation of the results.

Executive Summary

Attitudes to the locality

The majority (57%) of young people are satisfied with their area as a place to live. They particularly like to live near their friends and be able to visit them on a regular basis. They also mention leisure centres or sports facilities as particular positive aspects of their areas if they are within walking distance from their home.

There is, however, a sense that there is little for young people 'to do' in their communities, resulting in time spent hanging around. If the Council is to do more to help young people, they would particularly like more local cinemas and bowling alleys (for example) and more leisure and sports facilities. It would appear, from the qualitative study, that the way that facilities and resources are 'presented' is critical, as some young people commented that they reject some community-based schemes because they are not considered to be cool. The role of youth outreach workers would seem to be critical here.

While they enjoy the sense of community gained by having friends nearby, it is clear that this can lead to a sense of territorialism. Thus, when they do have things that they dislike about their area, it is sometimes that there are 'gangs', 'fighting', and 'feeling unsafe'. As a result, a common improvement that is suggested is having more police to patrol the streets.

Young People's Lifestyle

Most young people like to have frequent contact with their friends, often visiting them at their homes, or contacting them using the phone, text or email. Seven in ten say they go to the cinema, and around half take part in sports or games. Other 'organised' activities are less common – three in ten say they go to a youth club, a quarter take some sort of lessons and one in ten go to some 'uniformed' youth activity (such as Scouts or Girl Guides). Many of the most common pastimes are relatively sedentary, however, such as listening to music and watching TV/videos and using computers either as a PC or to surf the net or play games.

Most young people say that they go out in the evening without their parents at least once a week, with boys more likely to say they go out every night than are girls. The majority usually tell their parents where they are going, who they will be with and will phone or text to tell them when they will be back.

Young people, then, generally like the areas in which they live, and like to be out with their friends. The qualitative interviews uncovered a degree of apprehension about personal safety, but this does not appear to prevent young people from venturing out.

Most say that they feel at least fairly safe travelling to, and in, school. However greater anxiety is reflected in the fact that a quarter say they do not feel very safe, and one in ten 'not at all safe' out of school. The most common anxiety expressed in both the qualitative and quantitative research is of 'gangs'. This term is commonly used by young people themselves, but it is likely that these are generally not organised gangs, but are generally groups of young people gathered together in public spaces. They are, however, perceived to represent a threat. Four in ten say that they have been threatened by others in the past year, and one in six say that they have actually been physically attacked. Both of these figures are higher than we found in a similar study in the London borough of Croydon, and are substantially higher than we found in a schools-based study across the whole of England.

Image of Young People

Girls have a more positive image of themselves than boys. Boys are more likely to identify with being troublesome and irresponsible. Whether this is because boys find it less acceptable to identify positive attributes as being appropriate to themselves, or whether because of a genuinely different self-perception is difficult to know. It may be that boys are seen to be the trouble makers in society for example, there is comment from boys that teachers, parents and police regard them as trouble makers and untrustworthy. Teachers will tell them to be quiet in class, parents will describe them as being noisy and annoying while the police seem to 'pester' and 'pick' on them.

Image of the Police

Boys, it seems, are more likely to be negative about the police, mainly because many have experienced either being told off, or to move on by the police, or they have been stopped and asked questions by the police. Their perception in many instances is that it was 'unfair', so they feel 'picked on', 'pestered' and even 'bullied' by the police.

A more positive image of the police emerges once the detail of the kind of work they do is discussed. A quarter would be 'very interested' in visiting the police for a period of work experience, and young people realise that they have a role to play and an important one at that.

Young People's Aspirations

Most young people say they would like to earn a lot of money, own their own home and car, go to university or college, get married and have children. At least seven in ten mention these things among their aspirations. Fewer, however, think they will achieve these things. Just over a third think they will earn a lot of money, for example, and four in ten see themselves going to university or college. To some extent these figures exaggerate the gap between aspiration and expectation, and if we look at the proportion of those who both want to, and think they will achieve things, the picture is a little different.

Around two thirds of those who want to own their own homes think they will, and six in ten of those wanting to go into further or higher education expect to do so. However, only a quarter of those who would like to run their own business think they will achieve this goal.

The barriers that people see in front of them are complex, comprising lack of knowledge of how to achieve their aims, to a sense that they will need better qualifications than they have or will get. A quarter confess that they do not have confidence in themselves, something that girls are substantially more likely to admit than boys. Girls' aspirations and expectations differ from boys' in that they are more likely to say that they want, and expect, to go to university or college, get married and have children. Boys, on the other hand, are more likely than girls to say they hope, and expect, to develop a talent, become famous and leave Glasgow.

Main Findings

Satisfaction with the Area

Most young people are broadly satisfied with the areas they live in (57%), with around one in five (21%) saying that they are 'very satisfied'. Around one in seven (15%) of young people are dissatisfied, split evenly between very and fairly dissatisfied.

The population as a whole is rather more likely to be satisfied with their neighbourhoods (Glasgow Citizens' Panel, July 2002). Among this broader group, three-quarters (73%) are satisfied with their neighbourhood, although with fewer expressing neutral opinions, one in six is dissatisfied.

Young people living in the west of the city seem to be happiest with their neighbourhoods (67% satisfied), with those in the north the least likely to be satisfied (45%).

Satisfaction with the Area You Live in

Q7   How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the area you live in as a place to live?

	% Satisfied	% Dissatisfied
Young People	57	15
Citizens Panel	73	18
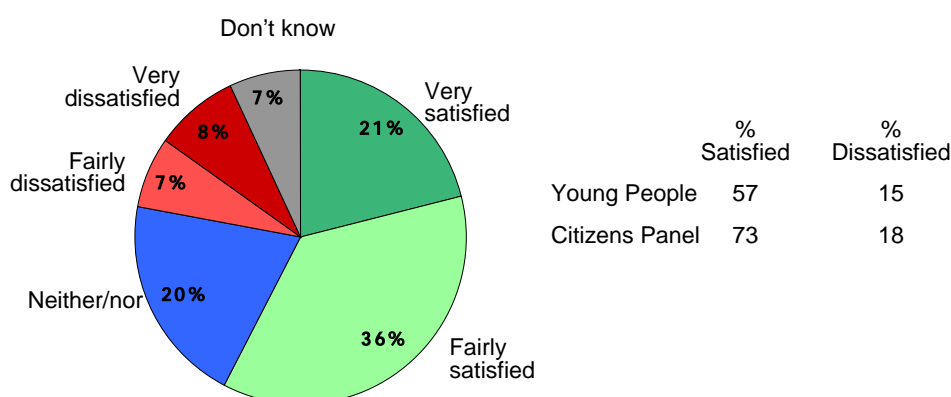
Base: All, 1,551 Glasgow young people, January - February 2003

All, 757 Glasgow Citizen's Panel Members (aged 16+), May- July 2002

Source: MORI

Likes

Young people like to have their friends nearby and spend most of their free time either visiting or talking with friends; girls seem to appreciate this in particular. Young people also look for amenities to be within walking distance, so if there is a leisure centre, football pitch, park or even the town centre close by, they tend to be positive about this aspect of their neighbourhood.

> *Lots of shops.   There's quite a good range of schools. There's good transport to the city centre and stuff.*
>
> 11-12, Female, ABC1

> *It's good.   It's easy to get to places like my school and everything.*
>
> 13-14, Female, ABC1

> *Yes, brilliant, handy for everything.   It's only twenty minutes…the furthest place is the airport, and you can walk into town and that, so it's great.*
>
> 17-18, Male, ABC1

> *It's quiet. It's got lots of trees. It's got lots of flowers. The houses are good and they're big. I like some of the people round there.   It's still kind of quiet and stuff like that though.*
>
> Male, Excluded

> *It's quiet. I live near a lot of my friends from primary school, a lot of my best friends and stuff.*
>
> Male, Excluded

> *It's a good area for skating and skate boarding and cycling because it's on a hill.*
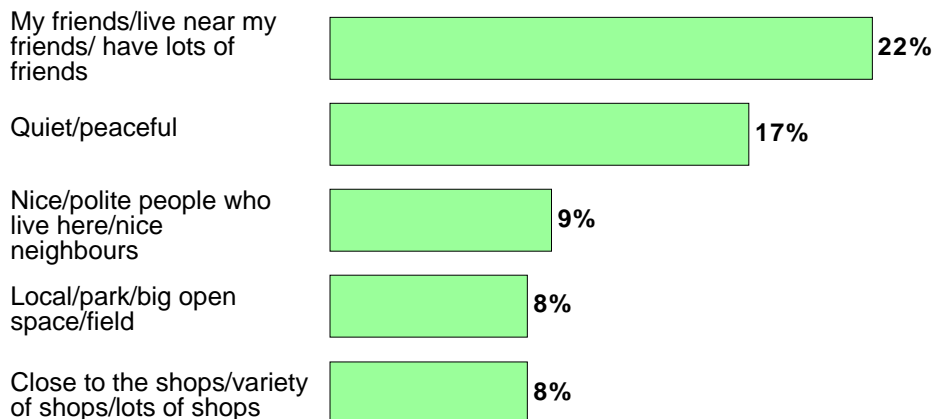>
> Mixed, Excluded

> *Up my area, I live near Braehead, near the quay, so that's good and there's a dance hall called the Scout Hall and that's good because all my pals go there, the Scout Hall. It's quite near to the school as well so it's all right.*
>
> 13-14, Female, ABC1

Area - Likes

Q8   Now I would like you to write in one thing you like about the area you live in

Category	Percentage
My friends/live near my friends/ have lots of friends	22%
Quiet/peaceful	17%
Nice/polite people who live here/nice neighbours	9%
Local/park/big open space/field	8%
Close to the shops/variety of shops/lots of shops	8%

Base: All, 1,551 Glasgow young people, January - February 2003
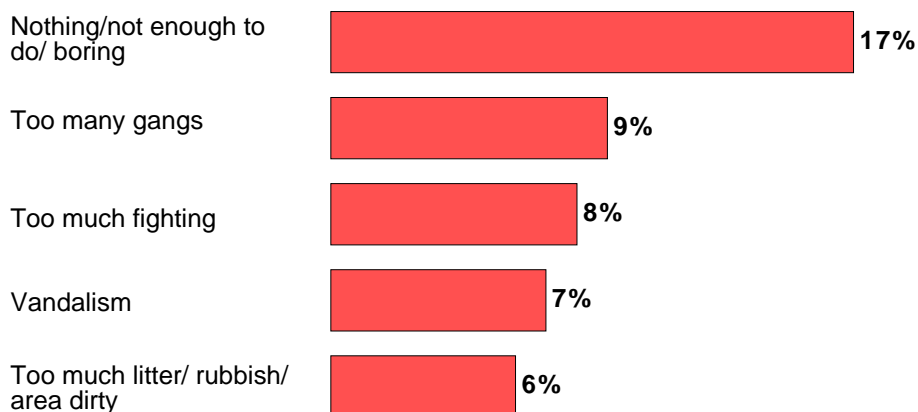
Source: MORI

Dislikes

As is common in qualitative work, this phase of the research was particularly successful in uncovering negative attitudes to the area. The most common reaction in both the quantitative and the qualitative research was that there is 'nothing to do' in the area. Discussion about the use of local open spaces often lead to the mention of the second most frequent aspect being raised, that of safety.

Several young people spontaneously mention 'gangs' and 'fighting' as their main dislike of their area. The extent to which these gangs are in anyway organised is unclear. It seems likely that in many cases a 'gang' is synonymous with 'group', but the fact that the former term is used by young people conveys a sense of threat. Both the qualitative and quantitative research make it clear that young people perceive there to be threat to their safety represented by other young people who congregate in 'gangs'.

It is a common feature of open-text, spontaneous questions in surveys, and particularly self-completion surveys, that a very wide range of responses, that cannot be easily grouped, lead to relatively low percentage results for any individual category. While it would not be accurate to simply add the individual percentages, it is significant that 9% say there are too many gangs in the area, 8% say there is too much fighting, 5% say there are too many 'Neds' hanging around, 3% say there are too many trouble-makers hanging around, and smaller numbers mention bullies in the area.

Area - Dislikes

*Q8   Now I would like you to write in one thing you don't like about the area you
live in*

Nothing/not enough to do/ boring	17%
Too many gangs	9%
Too much fighting	8%
Vandalism	7%
Too much litter/ rubbish/ area dirty	6%

Base: All, 1,551 Glasgow young people, January - February 2003   Source: MORI

It's boring

11-12, Female, C2DE

*There's nothing to do. Everybody just stands about, gang
fights. It's something to do.*

13-14, Male, C2DE

*Across the street there's horrible houses, not horrible but
it's all old folks that live in them, and take drugs and
drink and all that. And then round the back is where all
the gangs hang about and go up and down my street every
night.*

13-14, Female, ABC1

*There's not much stuff to do round there. There's not a lot
of buses to travel.*

Male, Excluded

*Because people fight with the coloured people. I don't know
why. They always just fight. And then every Friday and
Saturday there's another fight. It goes on for ages.*

15-18, Female, Excluded

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It's dirty.

13-14, Male, ABC1

I'm not scared of the dark or anything, I just don't like going out when it's dark because that's when all the gangs come out and they fight you and all that.

13-14, Female, ABC1

Clean it up. Just rubbish and graffiti

11-12, Female, C2DE

There's quite a lot of thugs and you can't go out to the shops

11-12, Female, ABC1

There are differences in opinion by age group. The table below illustrates, by gender and age, the top 3 likes regarding their area. All responses are unprompted. Young people aged up to 14 tend to like their area because friends live nearby, while those aged 15-18 are more likely to highlight the area as being quiet/peaceful. Boys in particular appreciate their area for the availability of open spaces and pitches.

Male	% Highlight Like
11-13 year olds	My friends/live near my friends/have lots of friends (22%), Local park/big open space/field (14%), Lots of pitches/space to play football (14%)
14-15 year olds	Quiet/peaceful (19%), My friends/live near my friends/have lots of friends (19%), Lots of pitches/space to play football (12%)
16-18 year olds	Quiet/peaceful (24%), My friends/live near my friends/have lots of friends (8%), Close to shops/variety of shops/lots of shops (7%)
Female	
11-13 year olds	My friends/live near my friends/have lots of friends (30%), Quiet/peaceful (17%), Local park/big open space/field (9%)
14-15 year olds	My friends/live near my friends/have lots of friends (28%), Quiet/peaceful (15%), Nice/polite people who live here/ nice neighbours
16-18 year olds	Quiet/peaceful (26%), Nice/polite people who live here/ nice neighbours (16%), My friends/live near my friends/have lots of friends (14%)

Suggested Improvements

Young people believe that there is scope to improve their local areas by providing more for them to do. They like to socialise with their friends and often comment on how they would like to have somewhere to go and 'hang out'. Their single most common complaint about their area is that there is too little to do, and they would welcome more access to leisure centres or cinemas and bowling malls. Improving access through public transport would appear to be of lower significance – around half say that lower fares for buses into town would help, and a third say that there need to be more buses. It would seem that, although young people certainly do travel into the centre of the city for shops and clubs, they would really like to see more facilities close to where they live.

> *More clubs and that. Disco clubs*
>
> 11-12, Female, C2DE

> *More sports facilities, a video arcade maybe, more young people round the area.*
>
> Male, Excluded

> *Having more stuff in the community, in the areas. Round about here there's nothing to do. All you've got is the swimming. That's it. If you want to go to the bowling or anything you've got to go away over that side and jump on a bus and then you're about half an hour on a bus on the way to Coatbridge. Everything is just far away. And there's nothing to do at night. That leaves you to walk about the streets.*
>
> 17-18, Female, C2DE

The quantitative survey data confirm that the majority of young people would like the Council to 'encourage more cinemas/bowling malls etc to open up in the area' (71%) along with the 'provision of more leisure centres/sports facilities' (68%).

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Suggested Improvements

*Q9   The Council is looking for ways to help out young people. Which of these
do you think the Council should do for young people in your area?*

Encourage more cinemas/bowling malls etc to open	71%
Provide more leisure centres/sports facilities	68%
Lower price for leisure centres/ sports facilities	53%
Lower the prices of bus fares	49%
Set up Youth Centre	43%
Involve YP in decisions	40%
Make school facilities available for use out of school	34%
Provide more buses into and out of town	34%
Other	6%
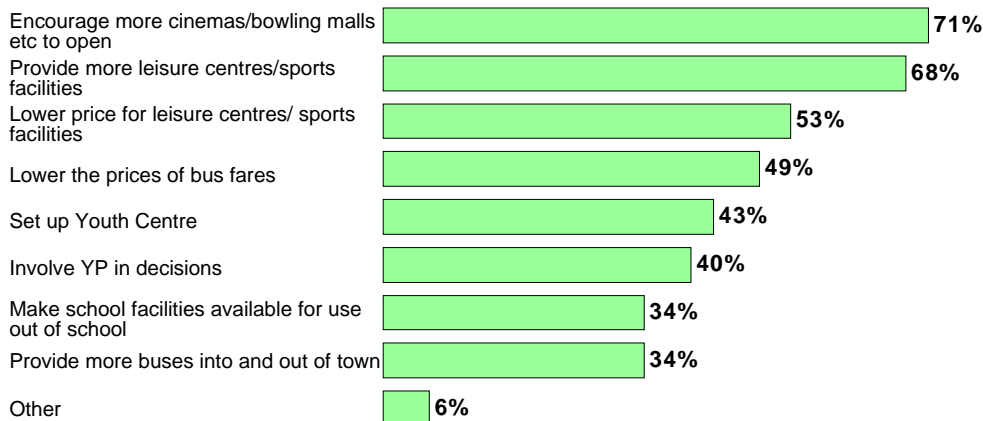
Base: All, 1,551 Glasgow young people, January - February 2003   Source: MORI

Since personal safety is an issue that young people are very aware of, it is not surprising to find that among the suggestions that were made in the qualitative phase was to increase the number of police in the area, specifically, concentrated in areas where fights are likely to happen. Some also mention CCTV as an effective crime prevention tool, although some imply that youths often cause problems even if they know they can be seen 'on camera'.

Make it safer. Police around

11-12, Female, ABC1

There's enough [Police] *but not in the right places. They've started to do it now on the trains coming back from school. This is my sixth year and they've never done it before and the last five years there's been fireworks and that on the train. Everyday somebody pulls the chain.*

17-18, Male, ABC1

There's not much [problems with gangs] *anymore because they've got cameras everywhere now, big cameras that spin round so nothing really happens any more.*

15-16, Male, C2DE

Perception and experience of crime

The quantitative survey put the comments about community safety in context. Many say they feel very safe (17%) in areas around where they live, and almost half feel fairly safe (45%). More worrying, a quarter (25%) say they do not feel very safe, and as many as one in ten (9%) do not feel safe at all.

> *Different areas are different. Our area is like junkies and neds and all that.*
>
> 15-16, Female, C2DE

> *Cranhill, I'm not allowed up there because it's a bad area. There's lots of fights and all that. It's worse than in Parkhead.*
>
> 15-16, Male, C2DE

The most commonly mentioned situation where young people feel unsafe is when they see 'gangs' (68%) and 'drug users' (60%). More than half feel unsafe in 'rough areas' (57%) and walking through 'dark areas' (53%).

The level of concern about 'gangs' rises with age among boys, and does not appear as a significant concern to younger girls, although it does emerge as a concern among older girls.

Male	**% Things that make them feel unsafe**
11-13 year olds	Gangs (69%), Drug users (66%), Drunks in street (53%)
14-15 year olds	Gangs (78%), 'Rough' areas or areas which are known for being unsafe (63%), Walking through areas you do not live in (54%)
16-18 year olds	Gangs (83%), 'Rough' areas or areas which are known for being unsafe (59%), Drug users (49%)
Female	
11-13 year olds	Drug users (69%), Walking through dark areas (62%), Drunks in street (60%)
14-15 year olds	Gangs (62%), 'Rough' areas or areas which are known for being unsafe (58%), Walking through dark areas (66%)
16-18 year olds	Gangs (80%), Walking through dark areas (73%), 'Rough' areas or areas which are known for being unsafe (67%)

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The views of black and ethnic minority young people (of whom there are 77 in the sample) differ somewhat from those of white young people. They are, for example, even more likely to cite 'gangs' as something that makes them feel unsafe (85% do so compared with 67% of white young people), and to mention drug users, drunks in the street and bullies. They are less likely to mention walking through dark areas, or through areas they do not know, which perhaps they do less frequently.

Feeling Unsafe

Q25 Which, if any, of the following make you feel unsafe?

Gangs	68%
Drug users	60%
'Rough' areas or areas which are known for being unsafe	57%
Walking through dark areas	53%
Drunks in street	47%
Walking through areas you do not live in	40%
Bullies	32%
Groups of young people	28%
People asking for money in the street	27%
Nothing makes me feel unsafe	3%
Other	3%
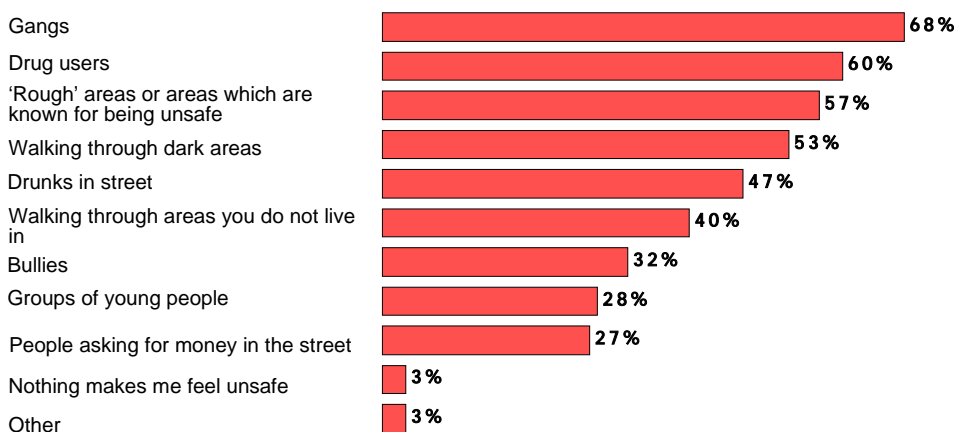
Base: All, 1,551 Glasgow young people, January - February 2003   Source: MORI

'Gangs' are perceived as a danger because of the actual number of young people present and the thought of the threat that they may represent. Young people in the qualitative work said that they do not like passing them because they fear they could get *'bullied'* or verbally abused or even physically attacked. What are described as 'gangs' are therefore intimidating to young people. This issue also emerged in Croydon, the London borough with the largest youth population, and where problems of territorialism and 'gangs' also seem to be common.

Although this issue was not explored in great detail in the quantitative survey, comments in the focus groups made it clear that gangs might consist of young people ranging from 10 to 20 years old. These young people will pick fights with any other young people they do not know, mainly those from other areas. There is a sense that each local area gang or 'scheme' gang will need to defend their local area from other 'gangs'.

Young people who live on housing schemes or in areas where there are gangs generally say they do not like the fighting, saying that it is not only intimidating, but that they often hear it from their houses and know people who get injured in the fights. Young people have a perception that gang members carry weapons (generally knives) and will use them in their fights.

It may be that these perceptions are exaggerated, fear of crime is generally higher than the reality, and certainly the evidence of the quantitative survey is that young people venture out in spite of any anxiety they may have.

> *Across the road you normally get all the gangs hanging about so you've got all the shouting and that at night. If you're sitting in here watching telly you can't hear it because of all the fighting.*
>
> 17-18, Female, C2DE

> *No. You don't feel safe to walk about on your own. You can't go out, especially at night-time, without feeling threatened.*
>
> 11-12, Female, ABC1

> *They all come over and try and smash all the stuff.*
>
> 15-16, Female, C2DE

> *You can't go and play football without getting chased or something.*
>
> 13-14, Male, C2DE

> *You're all right in your own scheme because somebody will make sure nothing happens to you.*
>
> 13-14, Male, C2DE

> *It's quite funny. See when you see people running down the hill, you just feel like laughing but then when you see guys chasing them you just have to run again.*
>
> 11-12, Male, ABC1

> *Aye, there's a bus stop just up the road from us and there's twenty or thirty people, all boys and girls, hang about up there. When they start walking down the road they shout up and down to each other. It's really annoying. It's like they're in charge of the street. They are 15-16. There's some at 12 and 11 though that hang about until 11,12 at night*
>
> 13-14, Female, ABC1

In the quantitative survey, three in five (61%) say they feel either very or fairly worried about being attacked in the street or other public place. Eleven year olds (70%) and girls (69%) are most likely to feel worried about being attacked in the street, along with young people who are from black and ethnic minority backgrounds (44% *very* worried). On the other hand, one in six (18%) say they have been attacked in the last year, with this most common among boys aged 14-15.

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Level of Worry

*Q32 Most people worry at some time or other about being the victim of a crime.
How worried are you about?*
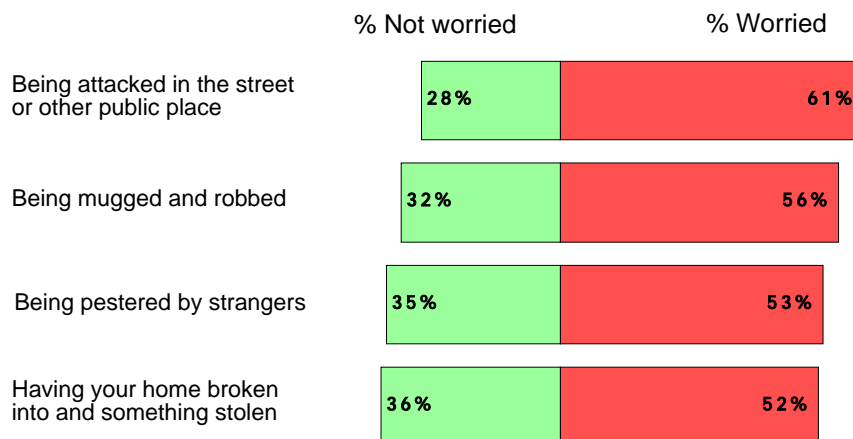
% Not worried   % Worried

	% Not worried	% Worried
Being attacked in the street or other public place	28%	61%
Being mugged and robbed	32%	56%
Being pestered by strangers	35%	53%
Having your home broken into and something stolen	36%	52%

Base: All, 1,551 Glasgow young people, January - February 2003   Source: MORI

	Male			**Female**		
Age	**11-13**	**14-15**	**16-18**	**11-13**	**14-15**	**16-18**
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Having your home broken into and something stolen						
Worried	52	43	29	67	53	52
Being mugged and robbed						
Worried	53	43	38	70	58	67
Being attacked in the street or other public place						
Worried	55	51	49	71	64	70
Being pestered by strangers						
Worried	49	38	32	69	57	61

The qualitative research threw some light on the reasons why young people's fear might be exaggerated. They cite 'Crimewatch' and 'The Bill' where people have been followed and attacked in the street. Parental concern also has an effect on young people's perception of safety, with parents not letting young people go to certain places at certain times because of their fear of crime.

> *Going about the street, and there might be big gangs, and
> you worry because of what you saw on The Bill and that.*

13-14, Female, ABC1

> *When strange people are walking behind you and you feel like they're going to suddenly reach forward and grab you so you're walking really quickly to get away but you don't want to attract attention to yourself by running. It's always really obvious when you start speeding up, you think 'he's so going to notice'.*

<div align="right">11-12, Female, ABC1</div>

> *My mum and dad are always worried in case I get taken away by strange people.*

<div align="right">11-12, Male, ABC1</div>

There has been much publicity about the problem of weapon carrying, and it would appear that a significant minority of young people do carry weapons. One in five (20%) say that they carry a weapon with them when they are out in town. Their main reason, they say, is for personal safety (54%) and to have on hand in case they need to use it (45%).

It is mainly boys that say they have carried a weapon when out in town: 31% of boys compared with 8% of girls say that they carry weapons at least sometimes. Some clearly consider weapon carrying to be a question of status:

> *You can get hold of a knife no bother. Just about everybody I know. They just carry them in case anything happens. There's some people I know wouldn't even think about using them. They just carry it.*

<div align="right">15-16, Male, C2DE</div>

Q30			***Do you carry a weapon with you when you are out in town?***				
	Total	Male			Female		
		11-13	14-15	16-18	11-13	14-15	16-18
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, always or sometimes carry weapons	20	29	36	20	9	13	2

Q30		***Do you carry a weapon with you when you are out in town?***							
	Total	Police less fair to Young People		Respect for the Police		Police helpful & friendly to young people		Police break the rules	
		Agree	Dis-agree	Agree	Dis-agree	Agree	Dis-agree	Agree	Dis-agree
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, always or sometimes carry weapons	20	27	12	8	35	8	29	30	16

MORI SCOTLAND

It is generally the same group of young people who are negative towards the police and carry weapons, i.e. younger boys aged 11-14. Those who are generally negative about the police are more likely to say that they either sometimes or always carry a weapon when they are out in town.

Safety Going To and From School

Some young people think it would be a good idea to have a police presence when school finishes because of pupils causing trouble at this time. They cite instances such as fire-works being set off or fighting among pupils who live in different areas.

> *There should be more police in bad areas and less in good areas. I think there should be the police when our school comes out personally. There are people at our school you wouldn't want to be with, ever. Basically, you feel really intimidated when you come out of school. If you're on your own you feel really intimidated*

<div align="center">11-12, Females, ABC1</div>

The majority however, feels very or fairly safe in school (89%) and travelling to and from school (79%). The figures are very similar to a MORI study among young people in Croydon when it comes to safety in school (94% said they feel safe in Croydon schools), although the comparison is less favourable when it comes to perceived safety travelling to or from school (91% very or fairly safe in Croydon). In Glasgow, it is when young people are out of school that they are least likely to say they feel safe (62%), and a third (34%) say they feel not very or not at all safe in these situations.

Those who have been a victim of some sort of crime in the past year are most likely to say they do not feel safe out of school (45%).

Experience of Crime

Young people recognise that in some cases their anxiety about crime is exaggerated, although in some cases it is formed both through their own experiences, having either committed or been a victim of incidents such as vandalism/graffiti, verbal or physical assault, shoplifting or weapon carrying.

The quantitative findings illustrate that most young people have had a negative incident happen to them in the past year (55% state something has happened). Being threatened by others (39%) is the most commonly mentioned incident to have happened to a young person in the past year. One in five (18%) say that they have been physically attacked in the past year.

Boys are more likely to have experienced an incident in the past year than girls. Half of boys (48%) say that they have been threatened by others, compared with around three in ten girls (29%).
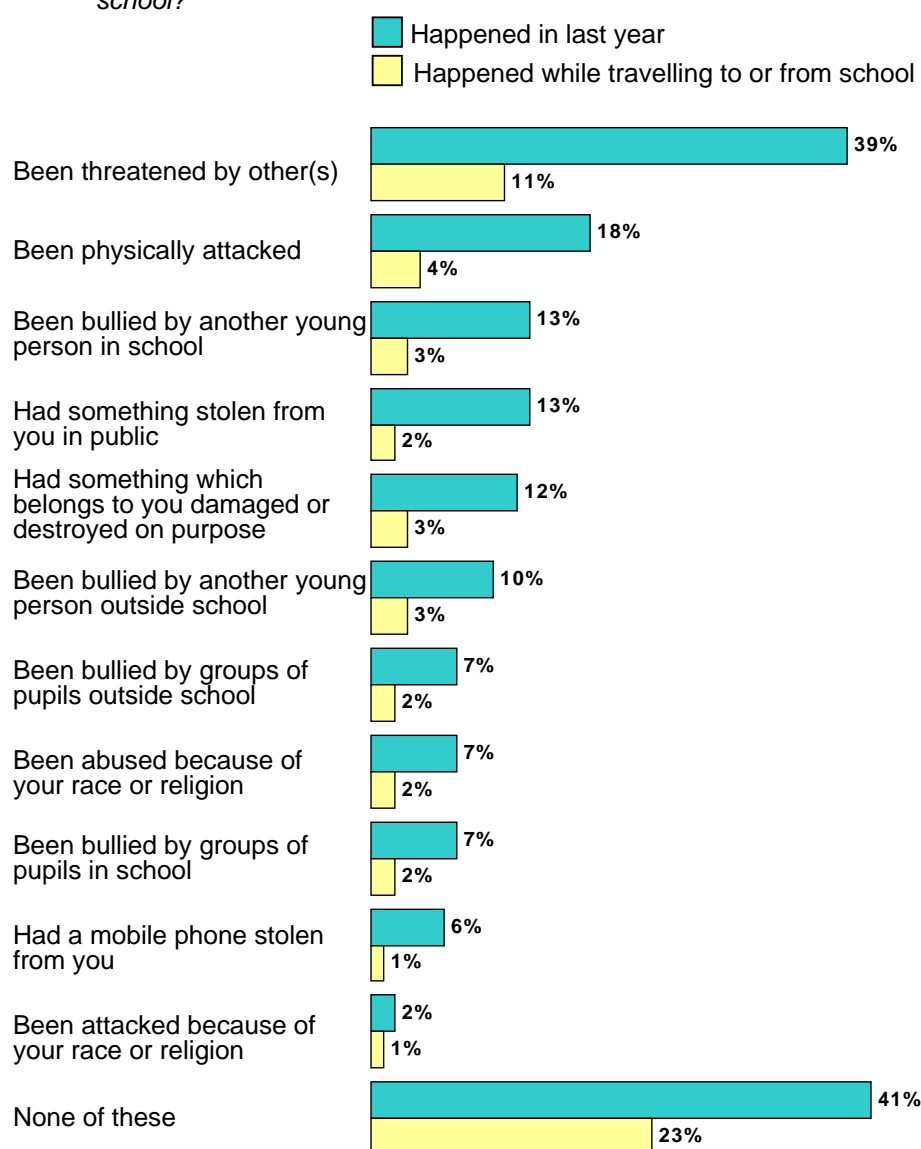
There are also differences by age group, with more than half of boys aged between 14 and 18 saying that they have been threatened by others and a third, that they have been physically attacked.

Half of black and ethnic minority young people (we had 77 in our sample) say that they have experienced abuse because of their race or religion in the past year, in stark contrast to the 5% of white youngsters who say the same.

Experience of Crime

Q26a Have any of these things in the list below happened to you in the last year?

Q26b And have any of these happened to you while travelling to or from school?

■ Happened in last year
□ Happened while travelling to or from school

Category	Happened in last year	Happened while travelling to or from school
Been threatened by other(s)	39%	11%
Been physically attacked	18%	4%
Been bullied by another young person in school	13%	3%
Had something stolen from you in public	13%	2%
Had something which belongs to you damaged or destroyed on purpose	12%	3%
Been bullied by another young person outside school	10%	3%
Been bullied by groups of pupils outside school	7%	2%
Been abused because of your race or religion	7%	2%
Been bullied by groups of pupils in school	7%	2%
Had a mobile phone stolen from you	6%	1%
Been attacked because of your race or religion	2%	1%
None of these	41%	23%

Base: All 1,551 Glasgow Young People, January - February 2003   Source: MORI

Committed Crime

While most young people say that they have not actually broken the law in the past year, many admit to a range of 'anti-social' behaviour. Thus, seven in ten (71%) admit to having dropped litter or spat chewing gum in the street or travelled on public transport without paying their fare (42%). In Croydon, we found that 51% of young people admitted to having dodged paying their fare. In contrast, 28% say that they have defaced public buildings or buses, a figure that is higher than the 22% we found in Croydon.

> [Graffiti] *Just to get your name noticed so everybody knows you. That's what everybody does it for. It's our way. It makes the place look a mess...Everybody mentions their own scheme. You get a pen or something. You're not going to just walk about with it in your pocket.*

> 15-16, Male, C2DE

Boys are more likely to admit that they have committed an offence in the past year than girls, although the latter are more likely to say that they have dropped rubbish or chewing gum in the street than are boys (75% Vs 66%).

Boys age 14-15 seem to be the most likely to admit to having behaved in an antisocial way. One in five boys in this age group say that they have threatened someone in public, and the same proportion say they have actually assaulted someone. One in seven say they have damaged a bus, one in six that they have stolen something from school, one in five that they have carried a knife for defence or attack. The differences with the reported behaviour of girls of the same age are stark, and on most measures, this age group stands out from other boys. Engaging this group in particular in more constructive pastimes might offer significant rewards for the individuals and their communities.

Seriousness of a Crime

Comments by young people in the qualitative research suggested that, at a very general level, there is a perception that if a crime affects the victim emotionally or physically then the crime is serious. The findings of the quantitative survey back this up to a certain extent, but are less clear-cut.

Offences such as stealing a car (80%), taking drugs (76%), assaulting someone (72%) and carrying a weapon (67%) are commonly seen as being serious. It is striking how few consider fare dodging to be a serious offence - just 11%.

Girls are more likely to consider each of the named offences as serious; for example, eight in ten (83%) girls think that stealing a car is a serious crime compared to three quarters (76%) of boys.

As one might expect, there is a correlation between young people's perception of the seriousness of a crime, and the likelihood of their admitting to having committed it. Few consider fare dodging to be serious, and many do it.

One that stands out, however, is graffiti and vandalism, which is considered serious by many (47%), but is also something that many admit to doing (28%). The qualitative research suggests that this is a status activity, one through which young people gain a degree of recognition among their peers. The fact that many consider it to be a serious offence may help to deter some, but clearly not enough. Perhaps some are even attracted by the sense that they are committing an offence.

Asked what puts people off committing offences, the top deterrents that young people select are the fear of being caught and worry about parental reaction. Very few of those who admit to having committed acts of vandalism say that they have been caught, and drawing on this experience, one suspects that few of them regard being caught as a realistic prospect. Altering this experience or perception must be central to breaking the habit of vandalism.

Punishment for a Crime

Prison is regarded as a serious punishment for a crime, especially for young people. Prison is seen as being *'scary'* and '*violent*'. The prospect of being taken away from their family and home is seen as being enough to put most off committing a crime. There is also a fear that there would be tougher and stronger people in prison and that the underlying culture is a violent one.

> *A lot of people will think prison's nothing but once they're actually in there's always somebody that's bigger than you, so I think they get a wee shock once they're in and find out they're not as tough as they actually think they are.*

<div align="right">17-18, Female, C2DE</div>

> *Because they'll probably be in there for a long time and there's a lot of hard people, tough people, in the jail. If they go in and it's like junkies and that, they won't be able to get all their drugs in with them. You would find it hard to live probably.*

<div align="right">15-16, Male, C2DE</div>

Although one or two people commented that they thought for some young people, life in prison might be better than home life, one young participant in a focus group had visited a prison with his school and was quite clear that it was enough to put anyone off.

> *Some places like Low Moss they've got Playstations and all that in it so people say I don't care if I get the jail because there's a playstation and I get food and all that. My big sister works in one. That's how I know. She's not an officer or that…They have tellies and videos and all that.*

<div align="right">11-12, Female, C2DE</div>

> *It takes time off your life and you don't have that long to live and lots of people come out and they don't know where to start again but obviously some of them do crime again, but quite a lot of people don't because, they don't want to do the time again.*

<div align="right">11-12, Female, ABC1</div>

> *Some people learn more in prison than they already knew so they might learn some tricks.*

<div align="right">11-12, Female, ABC1</div>

Fines are seen to have little effect in preventing a young person committing a crime. Parental reaction is more likely to be considered a deterrent.

> *I don't know. I think people usually if they're doing minor offences like stealing stuff they just get community service and they think 'that's not too bad'. If they're burgling they're really getting more money than the chance of a fine. If they do get caught it's not going to be that much money compared to the amount of money they could have stolen. Then the police would only know about the one time.*

> 11-12, Female, ABC1

> *Getting put in the jail. A fine they don't bother because they're just going to steal again because the stuff they're stealing is probably worth the fine.*

> 15-16, Mixed, C2DE

Some feel, particularly in the case of graffiti, that a suitable punishment for committing a crime is to be made to 'correct' it themselves.

> *I think they should clean the graffiti off if you've done it…I think it's three hours or something a day isn't it? And they deserve it if they did do it.*

> 11-12, Female, C2DE

Others recognise the fact that a criminal record will affect your job prospects:

> *You don't want to have a bad record from when you're younger because you're not going to get a good job.*

> 15-16, Female, C2DE

'The fear of being caught' and 'worry about how their parents will react' (65%) are the most commonly mentioned things that are thought to put young people off committing crimes. More than half fear being punished (58%) and are wary of the type of punishment they will get (56%).

Girls are more likely than boys to say that the fear of being caught committing a crime is a deterrent (60% boys, 70% girls). Those who respect the police are particularly likely to feel that 'the fear of being caught' is enough to put young people off committing a crime. However, only around half (55%) of those who do not respect the police think this is the case.

In terms of who should be involved in deciding the punishments for crime, opinion is pretty evenly divided. Two in five (39%) feel that the Police should be involved, while around a third think the Courts (32%), Youth Justice/Children's Panel (30%), victim of the offence (28%) and Social worker (25%) should be involved. These figures are remarkably similar to the views expressed by young people in Croydon, with the exception of Children's Panel, which do not exist in England.

Reporting a Crime

Only around one in seven of those who have been a victim of some kind of assault, robbery or vandalism say that they reported it to the police, and the qualitative research also suggested that many young people will be more inclined to report a crime if they do not know the person committing it. It seems that, if it is a crime in their local area and a young person is committing it, they will either ignore the crime or prefer to report it anonymously. The qualitative research suggested that a significant factor was a fear of being identified as reporting it or *'being a grass'*. The quantitative research, on the other hand, suggests that a more common reason is a sense that the incident was not sufficiently important, or (and perhaps associated) a feeling that the police would not act on the information.

> *If it was drugs related or anything. I would go to the police but I would make sure my name wasn't given cause I wouldn't like to get involved. Half the stuff you read in the papers is a witness was seen and they ended up getting a doing or something.*
>
> 17-18, Female, C2DE

> *Aye, If I was going to do something I think I would do it from a telephone box or something. I wouldn't do it from the house and I wouldn't give my name or anything.*
>
> 17-18, Female, C2DE

> *I didn't do anything because I don't know, I only saw them doing it once. I didn't know what to do but there's nothing that really stops them because you can't really stop them as one person…Because it's you against them.*
>
> 11-12, Female, ABC1

Most victims do tell someone, and it tends to be either their parents (52%) or their friends (50%). On the other hand, only one in seven (14%) say they report offences to the police. A quarter (24%) of those who have their mobile phone stolen report it to the police.

There seem to be things that could be done to encourage reporting, however. An internet site where information could be reported without having to leave personal details might be appealing for one in three young people, with a text message service also relatively popular. A helpline specially for young people, or stronger links between schools and the police so that teachers can report incidents for young people are other options popular with around a quarter. All of these options drew very similar levels of support among young people in Croydon.

Young People's Lifestyle

Young people value the company of their peers, and often rely on those living very close to them for their companionship. They spend time during the week and at weekends locally, but also travelling further afield, sometimes until quite late at night. Perceptions of personal safety have an impact on the things young people do, and clearly do not generally stop them from going out.

Those who do not live close to their friends spend more time at home watching TV or playing on the computer rather than going out seeing them. For some of these young people, concerns about safety when travelling to other areas may limit what they do – certainly the qualitative research suggested that this can be a factor.

> *None of my mates stay near here. They're all maybe ten minutes on the bus or whatever. None of them are actually in this sort of area.*
>
> 17-18, Male, ABC1

> *Either play on a Game Boy Advanced or Playstation 2 or Sega Mega Drive or else just lying on the couch watching TV, either up in the attic or in the living room.*
>
> Male, Excluded

The quantitative survey mirrors the qualitative findings. The vast majority of young people go to friends' houses (84%), or just listen to music (83%) and watch TV/videos (83%), in their spare time. Seven in ten like to email/text friends/talk on the telephone (72%), surf the net/play computer games/use a PC (73%) and go to the cinema (72%).

Boys are much more likely than girls to surf the net/play computer games/use a PC (80% Vs 65%) and take part in sport/games/fitness (64% Vs 31%) in their spare time. Girls, on the other hand, are much more likely than boys to go shopping (84% Vs 60%), email/text friends/talk on the telephone (84% Vs 60%) and read books or magazines (63% Vs 39%) in their spare time.

Around a half of young people say that they sometimes simply hang around in the streets, a comment that is particularly common among those aged between 13 and 14. Black and ethnic minority young people are noticeably less likely to say that they hang around in the streets (19%). On the other hand, young people who say that they have committed a crime are more likely to say that they hang around in the streets (75%) than are others.

At weekends, most go out with friends either to each other's houses or into town. If they are out, they will generally tell their parents/guardian where they are going and whom they are with. Parents tend to know their son's/daughter's friends and trust them. Regular contact is made via the young person's mobile phone and parents are able to contact them when they want to know where they are and when they are coming back. Mobile phones seem to have become an accepted way of communicating between parents and children while they are out.

> *I normally just go out with my friends. During the week I'll stay in but Friday, Saturday and Sunday I'll just go out with my friends, maybe into town and go to the dancing at night. It just depends. It depends what the weather's like. If it's awful we'll just have a quiet night in but if not we'll just go out and have a laugh.*

17-18, Female, C2DE

> *Yes, they know pretty much all my friends.*

17-18, Male, ABC1

The majority of young people (86%) go out at least once a week after 6pm and they always, or usually, say that they let their parents know where they are going (67%) and tell them who they will be with (74%). Fewer than one in ten say that they do not usually tell their parents where they are and who they are with. There is remarkably little difference in the frequency with which young people say they go out without their parents across different age groups.

Those who go out most frequently are the least likely to tell their parents where they are going.

Informing Parents

Q18/19 When you go out in the evening, do you parents/guardians know...

Where you are going?	Who you will be with?

Where you are going?

- Never go out in evenings without parent
- Not stated 1%
- Usually not 8%
- Sometimes 21%
- Always 34%
- Usually 33%
- 3%

Who you will be with?

- Never go out in evenings without parent
- Not stated 1%
- Usually not 6%
- Sometimes 17%
- Always 38%
- Usually 36%
- 2%
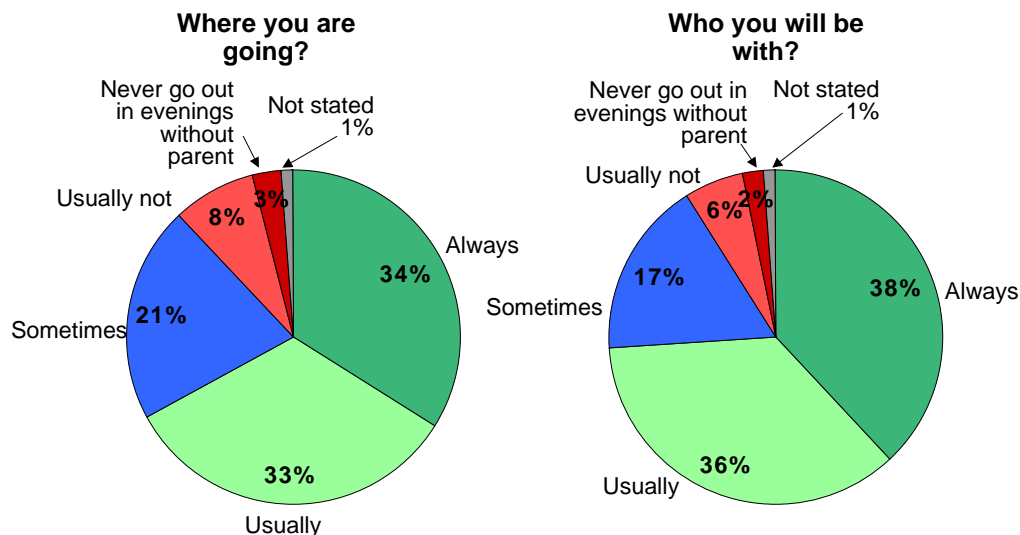
Base: All, 1,551 Glasgow young people, January - February 2003   Source: MORI

Young people are also prone to generalising where they are and who they are with to ease their parents' worrying.

> *My ma knows that I don't really go anywhere except up to Sammy's or Sammy comes down to mine, or up to Claire's at Barrhead. My mam knows where I'm going. She'll phone my mobile about 9:00 and she'll say 'where are you' and I'll say 'I'm up Sammy's or I'm up Claire's and staying over' or something so she knows where I am.*

15-16, Female, C2DE

> *If I'm going out with a group of people I'll say some of the people who'll be there. Because my mum would be like ' you're not going out with all those people'.*

11-12, Female, ABC1

I just run home.   Usually my dad comes and gets me from Stuart's house.   If he doesn't I just run home.   I take my mobile and I can phone him if something goes wrong.   If it gets slightly too dark he phones me and says that he will come and pick me up.   He just asks where I am.

11-12, Male, ABC1

I always let them know.   I'll take my mobile with me as well just so I can give them a phone when I'm coming home. My mum's a panicker.   She sits in here and waits up.

17-18, Female, C2DE

Yes, sometimes I phone when I'm in town and I'm going to be late, I just phone and say 'mum I'm going to be a wee bit late'.

13-14, Male, ABC1

Image of Young People

Young people have a considerably more positive image of themselves than they see projected in the media. Although they may admit that they are '*loud*' and '*cheeky*', they also regard themselves as being '*responsible*' and '*thoughtful*'. They realise that there are others their age that give young people a bad name by '*playing up in class*' or by '*hanging around the streets being noisy and fighting*'. There is concern among some that the bad behaviour of some young people affects the perceptions people have about all young people.

> *Because you just see other people out on the street doing stuff and then they judge it…they think everybody's just like that.*

11-12, Female, C2DE

The quantitative findings show a clear difference between the image young people feel they have in the media compared with young people's perceptions of themselves.

Young people are more likely to describe themselves in a positive light, although around one in ten feels that they can be *badly behaved* (11%), *dodgy* (10%), *irresponsible* (10%), *not to be trusted* (6%), *rebellious* (13%), *stroppy* (11%) and *trouble* (11%).

Girls are more likely to describe themselves in a positive light than boys. The two charts below illustrate the differences in opinion.

Young People's Positive Image

Q   Which words would you use to describe you as an individual?

	Boys	Girls	Total %
Friendly	66%	88%	77%
Fun	62%	75%	69%
Happy	59%	76%	68%
Hard working	56%	65%	61%
Helpful	54%	63%	59%
Responsible	49%	61%	55%
Well behaved	48%	62%	55%
Trustworthy	50%	59%	54%
Polite	40%	54%	47%
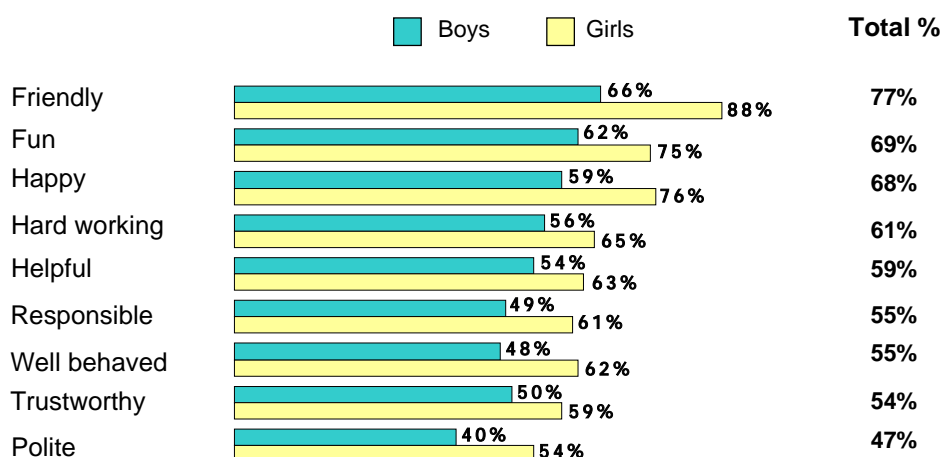
Base: All, 1,551 Glasgow young people, January - February 2003   Source: MORI

Young People's Negative Image

Q   Which words would you use to describe you as an individual?

	Boys	Girls		**Total %**

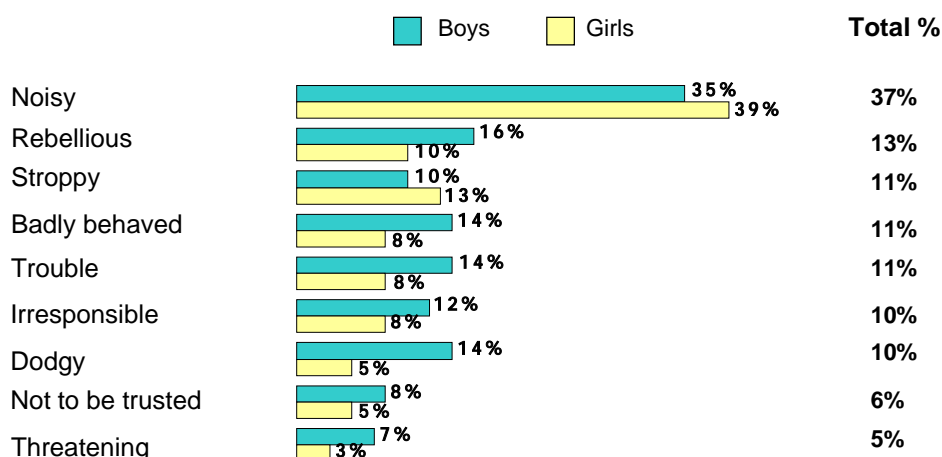|		Boys	Girls	Total %
Noisy		35% / 39%		**37%**
Rebellious		16% / 10%		**13%**
Stroppy		10% / 13%		**11%**
Badly behaved		14% / 8%		**11%**
Trouble		14% / 8%		**11%**
Irresponsible		12% / 8%		**10%**
Dodgy		14% / 5%		**10%**
Not to be trusted		8% / 5%		**6%**
Threatening		7% / 3%		**5%**

Base: All, 1,551 Glasgow young people, January - February 2003   Source: MORI

There are also differences in perception within age groups. Younger teenagers (aged 11-13) are more likely to select negative statements to describe themselves than older teenagers. For example, just over a third (36%) 11-13 year old boys and two in five (43%) 11-13 year old girls describe themselves as being *noisy* compared with one in five (23%) 17-18 year olds describing themselves as this. On the other hand, seven in ten (73%) 17-18 year olds say that they are trustworthy compared with around half (47%) 11 year olds.

Teachers

The quantitative research did not explore the attitudes of young people regarding their teachers. However, the focus groups revealed a number of very negative attitudes towards them. In the cases where there are poor relationships between pupils and teachers – and several children were extremely dismissive of the efforts made by some of their teachers to bridge the gap – a damaging dynamic seems to build up.

Some of the young people we spoke to commented that they think teachers regard young people as *'childish', 'loud', 'bored'* and *'trouble makers'*. Very few mention positive images such as *'hard working'* and these only come out when prompted.

Young people are aware of the difficulties that teachers face when trying to teach people who do not want to learn. There is a feeling of frustration when there is a pupil who constantly disrupts the class when they want to get on with the work in hand. Some even go as far to say that there should be different classes for those who want to do well and those who don't. There is a feeling that in their frustration, teachers can be unsympathetic to a young person's situation and needs.

> *Some of them* [other young people in class] *are just terrible. Some of them are too cheeky.*

<div align="right">11-12, Female, C2DE</div>

> *They think they're all neds. Hooligans.*

<div align="right">13-14, Male, C2DE</div>

> *Then you start being cheeky to them and they slag you and then that makes you worse. They wind you up and you can't do nothing back to them.*

<div align="right">13-14, Male, C2DE</div>

> *I hate it when teachers say that you don't try because they don't know you don't try. They're not with you at home time when you're studying for your test and just because you study and just because you didn't get very good marks, doesn't mean you don't try.*

<div align="right">13-14, Female, ABC1</div>

> *I don't think they've got a clue about anything. See when they were our age they say, 'aye I was your age once an all' but it's pure different now. They don't know about anything because they don't know why people take drugs, how people feel, and all that, and they can sit and say to you 'I know how you feel, it's all right, it will be all better and that', but it's not. They don't know how you feel in your head inside and all that, and what you feel about things and that. They just think they do. If you're upset or something and you go in a bad mood and you're sitting there in a bad mood and you're upset about something, they come over and start shouting at you and saying 'don't take your bad mood out on everybody else', but you're sitting there upset, worrying about something.*

<div align="right">15-18, Female, Excluded</div>

Parents

The quantitative survey suggested that young people are quite assiduous in keeping their parents informed of where they are going, and with whom. Furthermore, the qualitative research re-enforced the impression of quite strong relationships between young people and their parents. We found that around a quarter live with just one parent (27%), precisely the same proportion as in the Croydon young people study.

In the focus groups, young people tended to say they thought parents had quite a positive image of young people. Positive aspects include; belief in the young person doing well, working hard and being sensible. On the other hand, these positives are balanced by negative images of young people being '*lazy*', '*watching too much TV*', '*always doing things wrong*' and being '*annoying*' or '*a pain*'.

They think we are quite sensible…

…responsible…mature and funny, everyone always laughs at my jokes!

11-12, Females, ABC1

An angel! Kind! Caring! Forgiving! Kind hearted!

11-12, Female, C2DE

I think they try to stick up for you, but then we go out and we get into trouble and they're like 'what are you doing and all that?'

15-16, Female, C2DE

I don't know, just always annoying, because me and my wee brother always fight. We're always fighting.

15-16, Male, C2DE

They're a pain in the neck. They think they're really young and don't understand what's going on.

13-14, Female, ABC1

No, they just think that you're wrong because you're young.

13-14, Female, ABC1

Always in front of the telly and always be there and talk too much or something.

Male, Excluded

Media

Overall, opinion is generally mixed as to whether the media has a positive or negative image of young people. The quantitative survey suggests that marginally more feel that the media are not fair in their portrayal of young people (35%) than think they are fair (22%). From the qualitative research, however, it does not appear to be an issue that is highly pertinent to young people.

There is a perception among some that the news focuses on the negatives such as *'gang fighting'* and *'listening to bad music that makes young people kill people'*. On the other hand, some commented on positive stories in local newspaper reports on schools and local activities that young people get involved in.

Take it too far and make it sound as if it's a big thing and it's only a little thing…say someone vandalised something, they'll take it that it costs so much money…they take it too far.

11-12, Female, C2DE

Aye, they never say the good things, they're always saying they're fighting and all that, never say good things about them.

15-16, Male, C2DE

Just vandals, stuff like Chewin the Fat and that. Some old person might watch that and they just get straight in at the back of the line. I know what it's like.

17-18, Male, ABC1

There is a general trend of young people's impression of the media's treatment of young people becoming more negative as they get older (69% of 11-12 year olds say that the media presents a fair picture compared with 56% of 13-14 year olds, 40% of 15-16 year olds and 26% of 17-18 year olds).

When asked to select from a list of descriptive words that might be used to describe how young people are shown in the media, the majority choose *badly behaved* (71%), *noisy* (64%) and *irresponsible* (59%). Positive words are significantly less likely to be mentioned than negative words, with the most commonly mentioned positive words being chosen by only one in five: *friendly* (23%), *fun* (24%) and *happy* (23%).

On the other hand, young people describe themselves as friendly (77%), fun (69%) and happy (68%). Few say that they are badly behaved (11%) or irresponsible (10%), although quite a number admit that they are noisy (37%). Overall, the disparity in the view that young people have of themselves as individuals, and the image they perceive to be portrayed in the media is so wide that it is curious that so few think that the media image is unfair. Perhaps young people also have a critical view of 'young people' as a group, but not of themselves as individuals?

Image of Young People

Q16a Below is a list of words that might be used to describe people. Which would you use to describe how young people are shown in the media?

Q16b And which would you use to describe you as an individual?

Image in the Media
Image of themselves

Description	Image in the Media	Image of themselves
Badly behaved	71%	11%
Noisy	64%	37%
Trouble	63%	11%
Irresponsible	59%	10%
Dodgy	58%	10%
Not to be trusted	56%	6%
Threatening	51%	5%
Rebellious	44%	13%
Stroppy	34%	11%
Fun	24%	69%
Friendly	23%	77%
Happy	23%	68%
Hard working	19%	61%
Helpful	17%	59%
Polite	15%	47%
Well behaved	15%	55%
Responsible	13%	55%
Trustworthy	13%	54%
Not stated	3%	5%
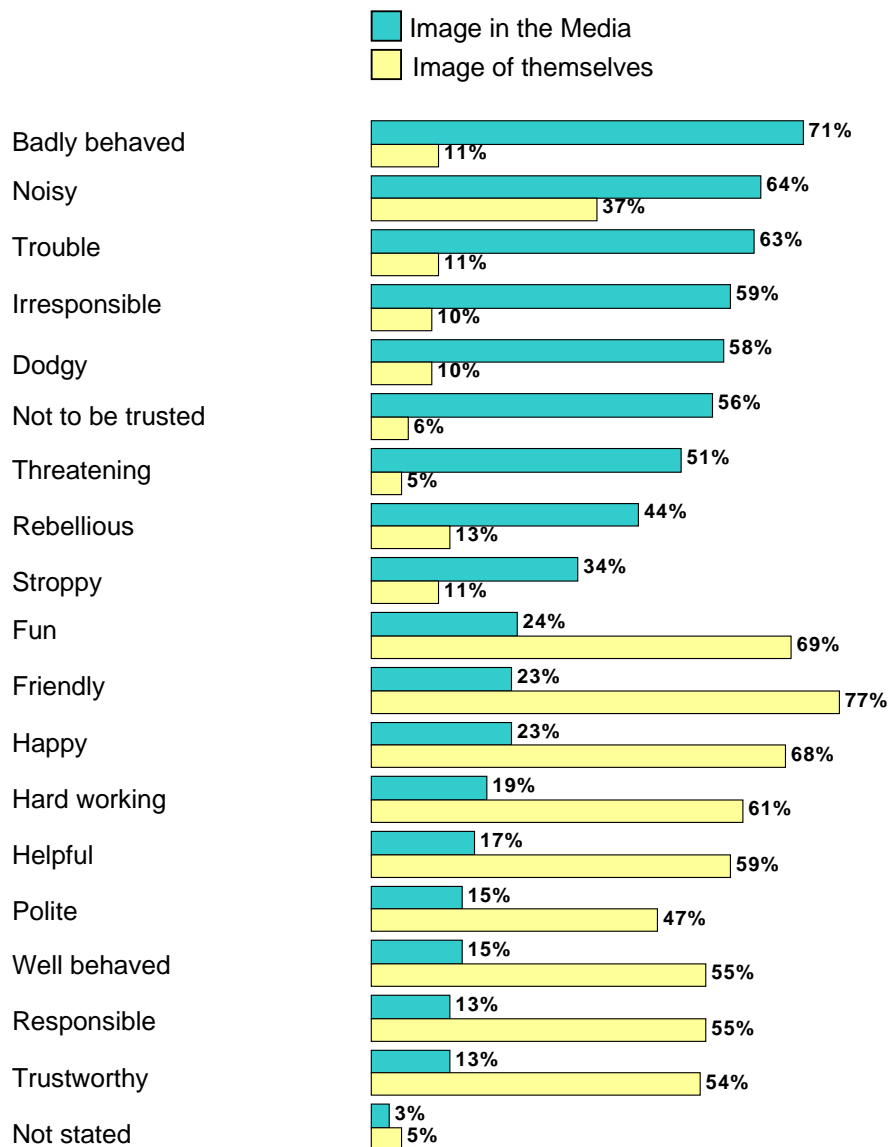
Base: All 1,551 Glasgow Young People, January - February 2003   Source: MORI

Image of the Police

The qualitative research suggested that many young people hold a poor opinion of the police, and indeed the quantitative data confirms that 35% disagree that 'they have a lot of respect for the police', and half disagree that the police are 'generally helpful and friendly to young people'. Many young people have had first hand experience of the police.

More than half have experienced being told off or told to move on by the police (56%) or have been stopped and asked questions by the police (52%). Most also feel that was unfair that this happened to them.

Young boys aged 14-15, the group that are particularly likely to say they spend leisure time hanging around in the streets, are most likely to have experienced being told off or told to move on by the police (77%) or have been stopped and asked questions by the police (71%). This experience is deemed by most to be 'unfair' and the qualitative research suggests that this kind of experience contributes towards a negative perception of the police.

More positive comments emerge when people are asked to consider the nature of the job that the police do. Young people see the role of the police in society as being an essential one, and while many say they do not respect them, it remains true that two in five (40%) say that they do.

> *Good because there's some bad people who murder people and that, and they try to keep them off the streets. When they catch them they just put them in jail and that, and then that's good.*
>
> 13-14, Male, ABC1

> *I think they're actually alright because if there's fights or anything on the street they would stop it. I think it's all right because if your house is getting robbed and you're going to get hurt or something the policemen are just going to come and help you.*
>
> 11-12, Female, C2DE

The main criticism of the police in the qualitative research was for *'pestering'* or *'picking on'* young people. The police are seen to often approach young people in the street and accuse them of causing trouble. If there is a group of young people standing in the street then the police will come up and ask them to move somewhere else or go home. Some take this more seriously than others and criticise the Police for *'bullying'* and *'unfair treatment'*.

> *I do like them because I hear they do good but sometimes they do your nut in. If we're standing about the street, we get lifted. If I stand down the bottom on the road I get lifted.*
>
> 15-16, Mixed, C2DE

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> *Even if you're out with your pal and there's Police they think you're up to something.*

> 13-14, Male, C2DE

> *They charge you for nothing. They lift you for nothing.*

> 11-14, Female, Excluded

> *Because they're always pulling up all the young people instead of going out and getting all the junkies and the people that are mugging old women and that...They should be doing that instead of pulling up us.*

> 13-14, Male, ABC1

> *Because you can't walk in our scheme without them booking you.*

> 13-14, Male, C2DE

Around half feel that the police are less fair to young people than other people (54%) and disagree (49%) that the police are generally helpful and friendly towards young people. Two in five (41%) feel that the police often break the rules when dealing with people they suspect of crimes.

There is a perception that the police shouldn't be dealing with young people who are not breaking the law by hanging around in the street but with people who are actually breaking the law for example, those who take or deal drugs or steal. There is some conflict between this view, however, and the view sometimes expressed that the police should be more active in 'breaking up' groups or gangs of young people hanging around in public spaces.

Image of the Police

Q20 Below are some things people have said about the Police. Overall, do you agree or disagree with these things?

% Disagree   % Agree

	% Disagree	% Agree
The police are less fair to young people than other people	21	54
The police often break the rules when dealing with people they suspect of crimes	23	41
I have a lot of respect for the Police	35	40
The police are generally helpful and friendly towards young people	49	28
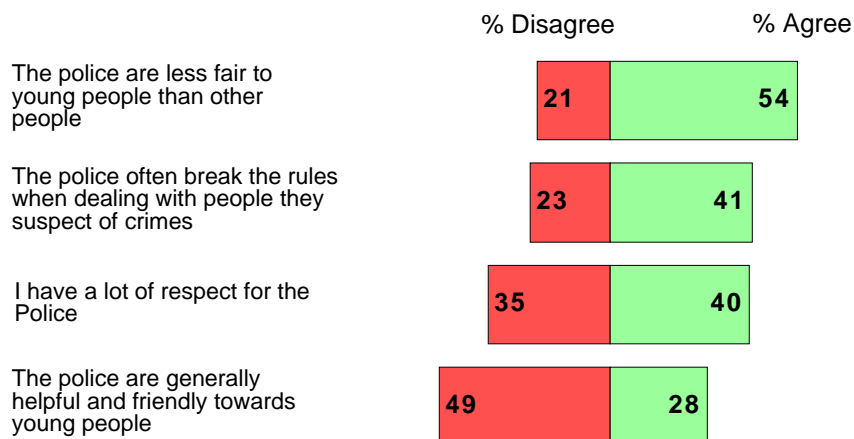
Base: All, 1,551 Glasgow young people, January - February 2003   Source: MORI

Some of the young people we spoke to have thought about working in the police and like the thought of either earning good money, working with dogs or being a detective.   They have not necessarily followed up the idea because they are unsure of how safe the job is, the likelihood of getting hurt and what their friends or relatives might think.

I just fancied the police. I was considering it. Good money.

17-18, Male, ABC1

I wouldn't mind working in the dogs department. I used to want to because I used to watch the police programmes all the time. I watch detective programmes right enough, but I don't really want to be anymore.

11-12, Female, ABC1

When you think about it, you get good money and a good pension.

11-12, Male, ABC1

I would like to do detective work so I would be quite interested in getting in.

13-14, Female, ABC1

> *The women are kind of defenceless. You might get punched and all that. I just can't believe that happens in real life, but police women do get punched off boys and that they're getting chased off.*

> 13-14, Female, ABC1

> *Everyone would hate you…they won't talk to you*

> 11-12, Female, C2DE

Around a quarter of young people would be very interested in the idea of some kind of work experience with the police. Girls are as likely to be interested as boys, and while interest seems to dip among the 13-15 year old group, both the younger and older groups seem quite enthusiastic.

Other forms of community engagement draw positive responses from around a quarter of young people. Getting involved with the community police, giving ideas on improvements would be attractive to 24%, and a similar proportion (22%) would be interested in being a member of a youth panel. Girls, and particularly those age 16-18 seem interested in this.

One form of engagement that attracts strikingly different responses from boys and girls is helping out elderly, homeless or ill people in the area. A table will illustrate the fact that boys react very differently to this prospect compared with girls.

Local voluntary work

		Boys			Girls		
Age		11-13	14-15	16-18	11-13	14-15	16-18
Base		*(316)* %	*(251)* %	*(141)* %	*(330)* %	*(243)* %	*(202)* %
Interested in joining with other local people helping out the elderly, homeless or ill people in your area		23	11	7	28	24	41

Source: MORI

Young People's Aspirations

The young people who took part in the qualitative research were quite aware that to get a good job they would have to get good exams results and to work hard. They feel that there are many barriers to achieving this, however. Some mention restrictions on the subjects that they can take due to timetable issues at their school or availability. Others feel that they can't get the grades they need because they do not have a good teacher, or that their class is disruptive and work does not necessarily get done. Around a third (35%) feel that they may not be able to achieve what they want because they do not know how to get involved or where to start. Around three in ten (28%) mention that they need better qualifications than they can get or have already.

> *You've just got to put your best in to it.*
>
> 11-12, Female, C2DE

> *A few of the teachers they say 'shut up when I'm talking and all that'. They say 'shut up' and then we can't say that to them? They know that will muck up our future.*
>
> 15-16, Mixed, C2DE

> *I want to get a good job because then when you're older and you didn't do well at school and stuff like that you end up stacking shelves at Safeway.*
>
> 11-12, Male, ABC1

> *If I want to build cars and sell cars, I'll have to do technology cause you build stuff sometimes in that period and you just take it home and show your mum and that.*
>
> 13-14, Male, ABC1

> *My mum's phoned up and asked the teacher if we could do Latin but they won't have enough money to find a teacher and there's not enough people who want to do it.*
>
> 11-12, Female, ABC1

It is perhaps heartening to find that the majority of young people (61%) hope to stay on at school until the end of S6 and would like to leave school with Standard Grades (61%) or Highers (61%).

Aspirations are generally high, but are tempered by a sense that they may not be achieved. For example, four out of five (86%) say that they want to earn a lot of money but in reality just over a third (36%) think that they will. To some extent, the gap between aspiration and expectation is not as great as it might first appear. For example, of those who say they want to earn a lot of money, six in ten say they think they will. The table below illustrates this point:

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Q	**Which of the things on this list do you want to do in the future, if any?**

Q	**And which can you see yourself actually doing?**

	Want to do and see self actually doing
Base: All respondents	*Row percentages*
Own my own car (1,311)	64%
Own my own home (1,310)	63%
Earn a lot of money (1,321)	42%
Go to university/college (1,116)	60%
Have children (1,072)	60%
Develop a talent (718)	47%
Run my own company (580)	27%
Live abroad (608)	30%
Leave Glasgow (576)	41%
Become skilled in a trade (341)	52%
	Source: MORI

Those who aspire to running their own business and to living abroad seem to be least confident that they will realise these ambitions. As one might expect, the things that young people most commonly see being achieved around them are the things that they feel they may achieve themselves.

There are few large differences between boys and girls in terms of aspirations. Girls are more likely to say that they want to go to university (65% of boys vs 78% of girls). Boys, on the other hand, are rather more likely to say that they hope to develop a talent, become famous, run their own company and, most markedly, become skilled in a particular trade (although the list of trades suggested comprised traditionally 'male' jobs).

While girls are more likely than boys to think they will go to university, own their own homes, get married, and have children, boys are more likely to see themselves developing a talent, leaving Glasgow, becoming skilled in a trade and becoming famous.

Those who foresee themselves leaving school at the end of S5 and S6 are more likely to see themselves owning their own car, home, getting married and going to university/college. On the other hand, those who think they will leave earlier see themselves gaining a skill in a particular area/trade or becoming famous.

Future Aspirations

Q11a Which of the things on this list below do you want to do in the future, if any?

Q11b And which of these in the same list can you see yourself actually doing?

- ■ Want to do in the future
- ☐ Actually do in the future

	Want to do in the future	Actually do in the future
Earn a lot of money	86%	36%
Own my own home	85%	54%
Own my own car	85%	55%
Go to University/College to get a degree or higher qualification	71%	42%
Get married	70%	42%
Have children	69%	41%
Develop a talent	47%	22%
Become famous	46%	10%
Live abroad	40%	12%
Leave Glasgow	37%	15%
Run my own company	36%	10%
Become skilled in a particular trade	22%	12%
None of these	*%	1%
Don't know	1%	2%
Not stated	1%	27%

Base: All 1,551 Glasgow Young People, January - February 2003

Source: MORI

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Conclusions

This research backs up a body of work suggesting that young people feel that there are too few activities available for them to do, and is consistent with other studies showing adults highlighting similar issues. While resolving this problem may face financial constraints, some facilities that do exist are not considered attractive by young people. Work to reach out to young people and engage them would appear to be an essential element.

For many young people, this will present substantial difficulties, since the barriers between youth and adult outlooks can be substantial. In spite of the very hard work put in by many teachers under difficult circumstances, there is a popular view among some young people that teachers can be dismissive and disinterested in young people. The impact of this on a young person's perception of school is likely to be profound.

Young people tend to see themselves as likeable rogues, with some rough edges but essentially friendly, fun and responsible. They feel that the popular stereotypes of young people are unfair. The problem is that they confess to a number of activities that can only be described as anti-social – some of which they recognise are quite serious offences.

Vandalism seems to be common, and there are signs that confirm an underlying culture of knife-carrying among a significant minority. Furthermore, a limiting factor on some young people's freedom to roam is a sense of lack of personal safety, caused not necessarily by older people, but by what they describe as gangs of their own peers. Four in ten say that they have been threatened in the past year. The attractions of membership of a group of friends are substantial, but sometimes seem to result in antipathy building up with other groups, or gangs.

Relationships with parents appear quite strong. Seven in ten live with both parents, while around a quarter live with just their mother or father. Young people tend to let their parents know what they are doing if out in the evening, often using their mobile phone, which appears to be a common possession. Concern about parental reaction is a key deterrent to young people misbehaving, although this anxiety is bound to be tempered by their experience that they tend not to be caught.

Contact between young people and the police is common, but not particularly positive. There is a perception – apparently often backed up by experience – that young people get 'picked on' unfairly by the police. At the same time as recognising that that the police do a worthwhile and difficult job, and that there is even potential for them to make neighbourhoods feel safer for young people, there is a degree of resentment that they are unfairly stopped and questioned, and told to move on by the police.

A culture of loyalty, or at times, of fear, between young people makes it unlikely that they would inform the police about crimes (at least, so they claim), and although a half would be at least fairly interested to visit the police to do work experience of some kind, half would not.

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Checked & Approved:

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Checked & Approved:

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Appendices

Sample Profile

List of Participating Schools

Marked Up Questionnaire

Statistical Reliability

Sample Profile

	Un-weighted Number	Un-weighted %	Weighted %
Total	1,551	100	100
Gender			
Male	739	48	48
Female	800	52	51
Ethnicity			
White	1449	92	92
Black and ethnic minority	77	5	5
Age			
11	209	13	18
12	224	14	15
13	219	14	15
14	215	14	16
15	281	18	15
16	211	14	11
17	130	8	5
18	4	*	1
Household Composition			
Mother/stepmother	1433	92	93
Father/stepfather	1102	71	72
Brothers	843	54	55
Sisters	755	49	49
Grandmother/Grandfather	121	8	8
Other relation	76	5	5
Other non-relation	34	2	2
Live with mother and father	1050	68	69
Live with mother or father only	435	28	27
Area live in			
North of City	275	18	15
South of City	584	38	37
East of City	322	21	23
West of City	196	13	13
Not stated/classified	174	10	12

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List of Participating Schools

1	Corpus Christi Primary School
2	Dunard Primary School
3	Holmlea Primary School
4	Househillmuir Primary School
5	Ibrox Primary School
6	Sandaig Primary School
7	St Bride's Primary School
8	St Benedict's Primary School
9	Thornwood Primary School
10	All Saints Secondary School
11	Bannerman High School
12	Cleveden Secondary School
13	Eastbank Academy
14	Govan High School
15	Hillhead High School
16	Hillpark Secondary School
17	Holyrood Secondary School
18	John Paul Academy
19	King's Park Secondary School
20	Knightswood Secondary School
21	Lochend Community High School
22	Lourdes Secondary School
23	Notre Dame High School
24	Rosshall Academy
25	Smithycroft Secondary School
26	Springburn Academy
27	St Andrew's Secondary School
28	St Margaret Mary's Secondary School
29	St Mungo's Academy
30	St Paul's High School
31	St Roch's Secondary School
32	St Thomas Aquinas Secondary School

Statistical Reliability

The respondents to the questionnaire are only samples of the total 'population', so we cannot be certain that the figures obtained are exactly those we would have if everybody had been interviewed (the 'true' values). We can, however, predict the variation between the sample results and the 'true' values from a knowledge of the size of the samples on which the results are based and the number of times that a particular answer is given. The confidence with which we can make this prediction is usually chosen to be 95% - that is, the chances are 95 in 100 that the 'true' value will fall within a specified range. The table below illustrates the predicted ranges for different sample sizes and percentage results at the "95% confidence interval":

Size of sample on which survey result is based	Approximate sampling tolerances applicable to percentages at or near these levels		
	10% or 90%	30% or 70%	50%
	$+$	$+$	$+$
100 interviews	6	9	10
200 interviews	4	6	7
300 interviews	3	5	6
400 interviews	3	4	5
500 interviews	3	4	4
600 interviews	2	4	4
800 interviews	2	3	3
1,000 interviews	2	3	3
1,500 interviews	2	3	3
1,551 interviews	2	3	3

For example, with a sample size of 1,551 where 30% give a particular answer, the chances are 19 in 20 that the 'true' value (which would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed) will fall within the range of ± 3 percentage points from the sample result.

When results are compared between separate groups within a sample, different results may be obtained. The difference may be 'real', or it may occur by chance (because not everyone in the population has been interviewed). To test if the difference is a real one - i.e. if it is 'statistically significant', we again have to know the size of the samples, the percentage giving a certain answer and the degree of confidence chosen. If we assume '95% confidence interval', the differences between the results of two separate groups must be greater than the values given in the table on the next page:

Size of samples compared	Differences required for significance at or near these percentage levels		
	10% or 90%	**30% or 70%**	**50%**
	±	±	±
100 and 100	7	13	14
100 and 200	7	11	12
100 and 250	7	11	12
200 and 200	7	10	11
250 and 400	5	7	8
100 and 400	6	9	10
200 and 400	5	8	9
500 and 500	4	6	6
750 and 750	3	5	5
1,000 and 1,000	3	4	4
1,000 and 1,500	3	5	5
1,500 and 1,500	3	4	5

Size of samples compared	Differences required for significance at or near these percentage levels		
	10% or 90%	**30% or 70%**	**50%**
	±	±	±
Boys Vs Girls (739 Vs 800)	4	6	7
11-13 yr old boys Vs 11-13 yr old girls (316 Vs 330)	6	9	10
14-15 yr old boys Vs 14-15 yr old girls (251 Vs 243)	7	11	12
16-18 yr old boys Vs 16-18 yr old girls (141 Vs 202)	8	13	14
11-13 yr old boys Vs 16-18 yr old boys (316 Vs 141)	8	12	13
11-13 yr old girls Vs 16-18 yr old girls (330 Vs 202)	7	11	12
White Vs non-white (1,449 Vs 77)	9	14	15