



# Youth Participation Service Annual Report 2019-20



A service commissioned by Wandsworth Council,  
delivered by Participation People

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# Background

## A summary of the #YouthVoice highlights and successes of Wandsworth Youth Council and the Youth Participation Service from April 2019 - March 2020.

Participation People have been delivering #YouthVoice work with Wandsworth Borough Council since 2012. Since 2015, we have delivered the borough's commissioned universal Youth Participation service.

In January 2020, we entered into a new contract to continue delivering this service, with a slightly different specification. This report covers the period **April 2019 to March 2020**, and therefore covers aspects of both our previous and current contracts.

The main projects delivered during this year were:

1. **Wandsworth Youth Council (WYC)**
2. **Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF)**
3. **Consultation, advice and training**
4. **LOTS of added value!**



The Youth Participation Service works with young people aged 10-19, or up to 25 years old with a disability. We empower young people to have a LOUD #youthvoice on decisions that affect and impact on their lives. We ensure that young people are consulted with and are directly involved in the design and delivery of services.

This report outlines the key highlights for all of the above services. It includes links to other reports, that give more detailed overviews of various projects.

This report is broken into two parts:

1. **Wandsworth Youth Council**
2. **Even MORE Youth Voice – including training, grant funding and consultation work**

# Our year: changes and events

There have been some **BIG** changes and events during the last 12 months that we wanted to highlight, for added context and acknowledgement:

Jul  
2019

We said **goodbye to Tiffany**, who expertly led our work in Wandsworth for 4 years (since 2015). We'll miss you Tiff!

*During the gap, **Hetty covered** Wandsworth Youth Council, YOF and Summer Pick N Mix – thank you Hetty!*

Dec  
2019

We **welcomed Hannah**, who joined the team to lead on Wandsworth Youth Council and YOF.



Jan  
2019

We **entered into a new contract** with Wandsworth, to deliver the Youth Participation for a further 2 years.

Mar  
2019

The **Covid-19 pandemic hit**, which has resulted in us moving our service delivery virtual!



*Goodbye Tiffany!*

# Our year: in numbers

A brief overview of the number of people worked with and empowered through #youthvoice over the last year.



● Attendance ● Contacts ● Participants

Performance – Q1-3 (2019)	Achieved	Target*
Sessions	107	69
Attendance (footfall)	906	750
Contacts (individual young people participating)	146	150
Participants (contacts attending 50% or more of sessions)	11	38
AQA Unit Awards (accredited outcome)	20	38

Performance – Q4 (2020, new contract)	Achieved	Target*
Sessions	12	–
Attendance (footfall)	139	250
Contacts (individual young people participating)	80	75
Participants (contacts attending 50% or more of sessions)	9	–
AQA Unit Awards (accredited outcome)	0	–

\* The targets presented here represent an *estimated proportionate figure based on a full year's target*. For example, the Q1-3 performance target is based on yearly targets, divided equally by 4 quarters. In addition, **targets do not take account of both the 2019 general election (and purdah) and the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic**, both which had significant impacts on our planned programme of activities and events.

# Our year: top 3 highlights

This year has been **FULL ON!** But we love nothing less!

Here are our top 3 impacts for the year – *which were hard to choose!*

1

## Winning the contract for the next 2 years!

We are SUPER pleased and proud to have been successful in tendering for this service again, to deliver the work for 2 more years.



We feel (hope!) this is a reflection of our previous 8 years in the borough, and are really excited to build even further on this work. *2022, we're coming for ya!*

2

## Youth Climate Commission

Wandsworth Youth Council brought together **68 young people** to discuss barriers and come up with solutions to tackling the climate emergency.



The groups designed some amazing and innovative ideas to tackling the climate emergency and presented these to decision makers! We also welcomed new members to the Youth Council after being inspired at this event.

3

## Grant funding success!

We delivered another successful year of the Youth Opportunity Fund. This year we spent £24,751.80 on projects designed and run by young people, for young people in Wandsworth!



This funding was spread across 8 successful projects, including fun days, arts and music projects, creating training materials, and sports sessions.

# Wandsworth Youth Council

*Young people putting the "worth" into Wandsworth.*

Wandsworth Youth Council (WYC) is open to all young people aged 11-19 or up to 25 years old with a disability, who live, work, study or attend a youth provision in Wandsworth.

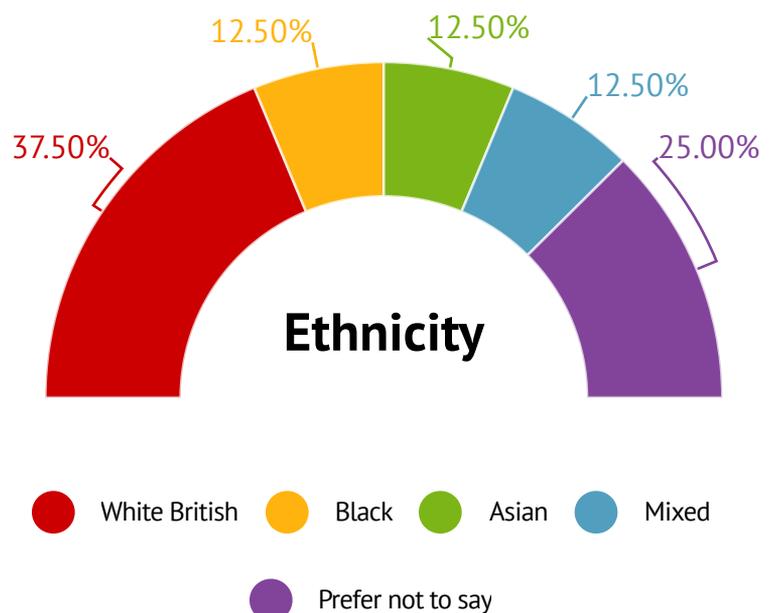


WYC members are not elected onto the Youth Council. Instead any young person can apply to be a member at any point in the year. This helps WYC be as inclusive as possible.

## Our Membership

Compared to last year, we have seen a decrease in WYC membership. This was expected, as many of the most engaged members had moved into further or higher education, or had reached the age of 18 and so 'aged out'. We have plans in place to recruit new members when schools return in September 2020.

**In 2019-20, we had the following representation on Wandsworth Youth Council:**



# Leadership Team

The work of WYC is overseen and steered by the WYC Leadership Team. The Leadership Team is elected into post by their peers on WYC during election night. A new team was elected in March 2019. The next election will be in August 2020.



The roles they have are:

- Chair
- Deputy Chair
- 4 x Campaign Leads - Climate Change, Knife Crime & Homelessness
- Social Media and Communications

# Training Sessions

WYC have a dedicated training programme, to help them in their role and for their own personal development. In 2019-20, we ran *formal and informal* training sessions in:



- Event and project planning   ● Leadership skills   ● Team building (ongoing!)

As we move into 2020-21, we will evaluate WYC's training and development needs to make sure what we offer next year is relevant and impactful!

# Campaigns



To guide their work, WYC creates a manifesto every 2 years, usually made up of 3 different campaign priorities to work on.

The WYC campaigns are based on issues/topics that they think are important for young people in Wandsworth. The campaigns are informed by the results of Make Your Mark results and through the views of young people in the Youth Council too.

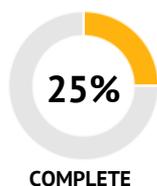
The current manifesto priorities, agreed in **July 2019**, are summarised below, along with a 'progress report' graphic. We're less than 1 year in!



## Climate Change

To raise young people's awareness on why and how climate change affects them and help them be more environmentally friendly

This has been WYC's main focus so far in 2020. Their work has included the creation of some educational videos, youth-proofing Council climate change policies AND hosting a borough-wide Youth Climate event for young people.



## Knife Crime

To understand why young people think knife crime is happening, to raise awareness and find solutions to address the problem.

WYC have planned a young researchers project, to find out from young people what they think about knife crime, its sources and its solutions – to them feedback to decision-makers. This project was *planned* to go 'live' in April 2020.



## Homelessness

To help tackle homelessness, support those who are at risk of homelessness or are homeless and raise awareness of this issue within the borough.

WYC planned a whole host of activities for this campaign priority, but due to wanting to focus more on Climate Change **and** the Covid-19 pandemic, no work has yet been completed for this campaign. WYC will be reviewing this campaign in September 2020.

# Climate Change

**Campaign Aim: To raise young people's awareness on why and how climate change affects them and help them be more environmentally friendly.**

## 1. Climate Change Educational Videos

WYC made huge progress in their Climate Change educational videos. They have now have recorded the footage to be edited.



### The project:

- Create educational videos on the impact that climate change has on us all as well as what impact our everyday actions have.
- Produce a series of easy tips on how young people can be more environmentally conscious and friendly AND how they can get involved to help their local community.



### The progress to date:

- WYC have used information gathered from Wandsworth Council's Action plan, and feedback from other young people in the borough.
- They have created a series of 3 videos; 'Information', 'Top Tips for Young People', and 'How to get involved'
- We are currently working on the editing and hope to publish them soon via our social media channels.



## 2. Youthifying the Council's Climate Change Strategy

The youth council have been working on 'youth proofing' Wandsworth Council's Environmental Policies and Statements.

### The problems:

1. The Policies and Statements were lengthy, wordy, and a lot to digest.
2. It is not an accessible resource for young people to engage with.
3. Climate change is an important topic, for everyone to understand and take action.

### The solutions:

1. Process and understand the Climate Change Policy.
2. Work through the document in sections.
3. Pull out key information, especially bits relevant to young people.
4. Create a Youth Proof document to help young people across the borough engage with the Climate Crisis.
5. Create and publish key recommendations on what young people can do to be art of tackling the problem.



### Progress so far:

The Youth Council have finished going through the Climate Change Policy.

Due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions imposed in March 2020, production of the Youth Proof document has been put on hold until later in the year. ***Watch this space!***



*WYC (trying to) process the Council's Climate Change policy!*

### 3. Youth Climate Commission

On Friday 14 February 2020, Wandsworth Youth Council hosted a Youth Climate Commission to discuss barriers and solutions to tackling the climate emergency.

The Youth Climate Commission aimed to:

- Address one of the top priorities in their manifesto: Climate Change.
- Bring young people and decision makers together to find out what is being done.
- Discuss barriers that young people face in being environmentally friendly, and the solutions to those barriers!
- Take part in creative workshops about different areas of sustainability.
- Work with decision makers to create recommendations of what can be done next.

#### In summary:



68

No. of young people who attended



7

No. of decision-makers



13

No. of schools/colleges who attended on the day

After the day, WYC summarised their **calls to action** for Wandsworth Council:

- reduce food waste in schools with food committees
- promote walking / cycling where possible, and campaign transport companies for cheaper transport for young people
- schools to work with eco-warriors and school councils
- hold recycling competitions between schools
- more investment in eco friendly initiatives

We will check back on these calls to action later in 2020 - to see *what's changed* as a result!

Read our full report from the event **HERE**.

To watch the event VIDEO, go to:

<https://youtu.be/ERSru-QTj3k>



# Knife Crime



**Campaign Aim: To understand why young people think knife crime is happening, to raise awareness of issues surrounding knife crime in the borough and find solutions to address them.**

WYC wanted to recruit and train up a group of young people to run a research project with young people, looking at why young people carry knives, what makes them feel unsafe and young people's ideas on how to address knife crime.

Then, this group would analyse the data they collect and create a young-person friendly report with key recommendations to present to decision makers.

*In December 2019, we started planning this project with WYC and a budget of £0, when...*

We (Participation People) were approached by Wandsworth's Community Safety Team, who indicated that had some funding available from the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to deliver a youth voice project around knife crime.

We submitted a proposal to get some additional funding for WYC's Knife Crime Young Researcher Project. We wrote in the proposal:

**”** *This project will directly support and deliver on the Youth Council's manifesto commitment to develop a peer research project to find out what young people think about Knife Crime and what else could be done.*

We were successful and won **£12,500!** We received the first part of the funding in March 2020; with the aim of the project going 'live' in April 2020.

**The substantive part of this project will take place April-December 2020**, and so will feature in next year's Annual Report. For more details on this project in the interim, please get in touch: [wandsworth@participationpeople.com](mailto:wandsworth@participationpeople.com)

# Homelessness

**Campaign Aim: To help tackle homelessness, support those who are at risk of homelessness or are homeless and raise awareness of this issue within the borough.**



WYC plan to:

- run a large scale fundraiser to help those sleeping rough
- use funds raised to provide grooming products, and tea and coffee
- volunteer at homeless shelters once per term
- partner with CLICK (the Children in Care Council) and Future Voice (the Care Leavers' Forum) to design a housing options resource for young people (under 16) at risk of homelessness or looking to find accommodation, to help them feel informed about their options and where to go for help.

## Progress so far...

Plans have been put on hold this year due to the Covid-19 Lockdown. WYC will review this project in the new year (2021) once things return a bit more to normal.

We will work with the group to review their initial plans and consider what is and is not now possible post-Covid-19 lockdown.



# Additional activities and achievements

In addition to all their campaign work, WYC have also participated in a number of other activities and opportunities – which we've summarised below:

Apr  
2019

WYC Chair, Conor, won a **Wandsworth Young Person of the Year Award** for his work as a Youth Councillor!



Jun  
2019

WYC met with the **Director, Assistant Director and Cabinet Member for Children's Services**, to discuss their manifesto plans and top issues for young people.

Sep  
2019

WYC presented a progress report at the **Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee**, to share their experiences of being a Youth Councillor, and their achievements.



”

*We were so impressed by you all, thank you for talking to us.*

– Wandsworth Councillor, OSC Member  
via Twitter

Nov  
2019

**5 Youth Councillors participated in interviews** to find our new member of staff to lead on our Wandsworth projects – both on the formal panel and in a workshop activity.

# Regional and national engagement

Every year, WYC take part in a range of regional (London) and national projects and opportunities that fall outside of their core campaign work. This ensures that young people have an even LOUDER #youthvoice. Here's a summary of their activity:

## UK Youth Parliament's Make Your Mark

Make Your Mark is a national youth ballot, led by the British Youth Council. It gives young people the chance to decide what topics UK Youth Parliament will campaign on each year. Every year, our projects support young people to take part.

**444** young people voted in Wandsworth

These were the top 5 issues in Wandsworth last year:



**Votes @ 16**



**Protect the Environment**



**End Knife Crime**

*WYC used the Make Your Mark results to inform their manifesto for 2019-21.*

## London Youth Assembly

The London Youth Assembly (LYA) is an initiative supported by the GLA and brings together representatives from Youth Councils across London to work together to address London-wide issues for young people. Each Local Authority is given the chance to have a Member and Deputy Member of LYA.

Wandsworth currently has an active LYA member and deputy, who have attended **4** meetings this year.



The LYA decided on Well-Being and Youth Violence as their focus for 2 years. The meetings are used to update each subregion on what is going on locally for members.

# Even more #YouthVoice!

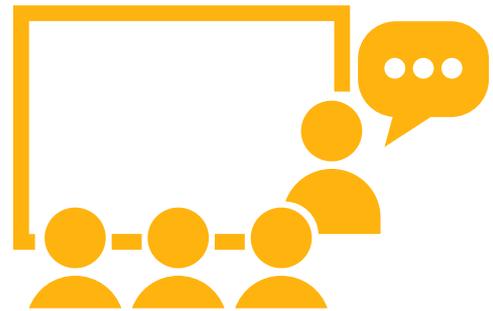
*Training, involving young people in grant funding, Summer Pick N Mix and additional consultation work*

In addition to Wandsworth Youth Council, we work with young people and adults to equip them with the opportunity and skills to be able to involve young people in decision making to have a loud #youthvoice.

## #YouthVoice Training

*..... young people trained in key skills to help them in their roles.*

We ran the following training sessions...



### YOF Panel Training:

After recruiting a new panel for the Youth Opportunity Fund, we trained them in evaluating and shortlisting applications.

We helped them to:

- Identify what makes a great panel member
- Set out key aims for being part of the panel, including listening to applications, providing feedback, and responsible distribution of important funds.
- Develop the assessment criteria, ensuring consistency across each project.

### School Council Training:

We have worked with **64** young people from **4** School Councils, to help them:

- Learn develop key skills in their role
- Learn how to campaign plan effectively.
- Identify and design their campaigns
- Present these ideas to the Headteacher!

We worked with **Ark Putney, St John Bosco, Nightingale Community Academy** and **Graveney**.

*100% of young people who participated said they felt more confident in their role after the training.*



# Grant funding

## *Supporting 16 young people to make Grant Funding decisions through 2 different funding streams*

Participation People delivered the Youth Opportunity Fund and Summer Pick 'n' Mix Grant Scheme.

They also trained up and supported both groups of young people who were responsible for making the funding decisions for each grant.



## 1. Youth Opportunity Fund

Funding for young people, by young people. A total of £25,000 of funding is available. This year, YOF funded £24,751.80 worth of youth led projects.

Young people can apply for up to £4,000 to run a project or event to benefit other young people in Wandsworth. The aim is for all projects to be youth led, so young people get the chance to learn budgeting, project planning and evaluation skills.

Funding decisions are made by the YOF panel, made up of young people.

**[You can read the FULL Youth Opportunity Fund Annual Report HERE.](#)**

## 2. Summer Pick 'n' Mix Grant Scheme

A funding stream set up by Participation People, on behalf of Wandsworth Council, to support the development of the second Summer Pick 'n' Mix programme.

Organisations could apply for up to £3,000 to run activities or sessions as part of the programme. There was £25,000 of funding available. All funding decisions were made by the Young Ambassadors (see next page).

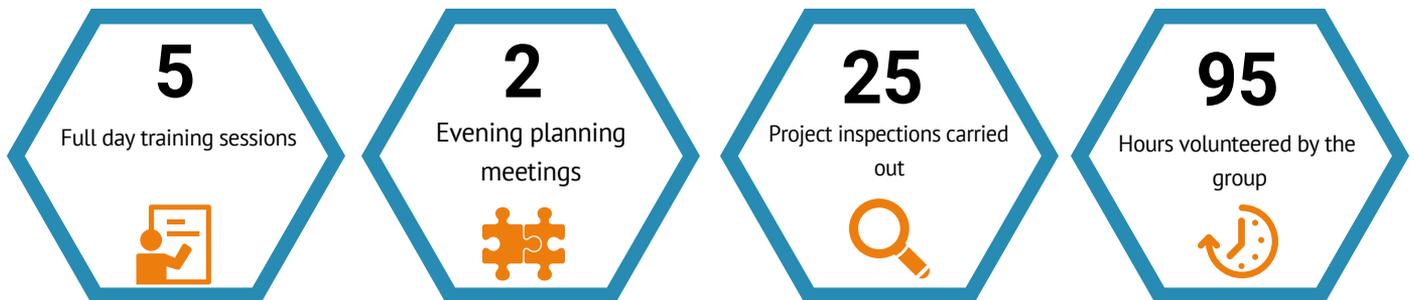
# Summer Pick 'N' Mix – Young Ambassadors

*Helping Wandsworth Youth Service plan their second ever Summer Pick 'n' Mix and ensuring young people were at the heart of this process.*



For a second year, Participation People helped deliver and plan the Summer Pick N Mix Young Ambassadors programme.

**9 young people** (from 9 schools) were recruited from youth clubs across the borough of Wandsworth. They became our Young Ambassadors. Their role was to plan, run and evaluate the second Summer Pick 'n' Mix! Here's a **summary of their work in numbers:**



**[Read the full Summer Pick 'N' Mix Young Ambassadors Report HERE.](#)**



# Consultancy days & direct work

## *Giving support to services who would like a little #youthvoice help!*

Per contract year (January-December), we have **20 days of 'direct consultation work'** available to other Council services and partner organisations, to help them engage young people in their work. This year, we spent these days on the following:

	<b>3 days</b>	<b>Additional Needs Review</b>
January – March 2019		We worked with 10 focus groups, 2 fun days and 214 parents through 1-2-1 interviews, focussing on on what works, what doesn't and parent's ideas for service improvements for Wandsworth's Additional Needs services.
View the report from this project <a href="#">HERE</a> .		

	<b>9 days</b>	<b>Early Years (EY) &amp; Children's Centre Consultation</b>
January – April 2019		<b>1:</b> 5 focus groups, 11 days, 138 parents spoken with, on how they want the EY Programme to look and feel. <b>2:</b> 21 focus groups, 18 days, 284 parents spoken with, on what works, what doesn't work and where the gaps are for Early Years Service provision.
View the reports from this work <a href="#">HERE</a> + <a href="#">HERE</a>		
<i>In addition to these 9 days, WBC provided an additional £15,000 for this work, due to its reach and scale.</i>		

	<b>3 days</b>	<b>Youth Offending Team (YOT) Youth Voice</b>
April – July 2019		We worked with the Youth Offending team in Wandsworth to find out what's working, what's not, and where are the gaps in their youth voice work. We ran 12 face-to-face interviews with YOT professionals, and 9 phone interviews with young people who access YOT.
View the report from this project <a href="#">HERE</a> .		



**3  
days**

### **Takeover Challenge How To Guide**

April – May 2019

View the guide from this project [HERE](#).

Working with the Youth Council, we created a “How to Run a Takeover Challenge Guide” that will be used by all countries as part of the International Takeover Challenge project – a project being led by the Lifelong Learning Team.



**3  
days**

### **SEND Inspection Support**

May – July 2019

View the report from this project [HERE](#).

We were asked to do a 'mini' review of what young people thought about the services they received to support them with their transition into adulthood. We worked with 27 young people, all with a disability or special educational need.



**3  
days**

### **Summer Pick N Mix Young Ambassadors**

June – August 2019

We were asked to support a number of additional sessions for the Young Ambassadors; as well as attend Summer Pick 'n Mix meetings if and when needed.

As above, during this year, we actually provided **24 days** of direct consultation work for Wandsworth – but Participation People offered the additional 4 days at no cost.

# What young people told us...

Here, we capture some of the feedback we have received from young people over 2019-20... the good stuff and the stuff that could be better:



*"Winning the 'Outstanding Achievement' award at the Wandsworth Young Person of the Year was a highlight for me. Getting recognised for the amazing work that we do and the individual celebration of personal growth and development, validated all the work that the PP do"*

- Youth Council member, age 18



*"To even be nominated is such an achievement in itself and it felt amazing to be noticed. We didn't win but that has only given us more determination to keep up the amazing work that is being done"*

- Youth Council member, age 18, on being nominated for a CYP Now award



*"I loved working with the youth council on the climate commission as I got to see so many young people aware and ready to learn about climate change. It was also nice to meet lots of people and good to know that I am making a change in my local community"*

- Youth Council member, age 11, on delivering the Youth Climate Commission event



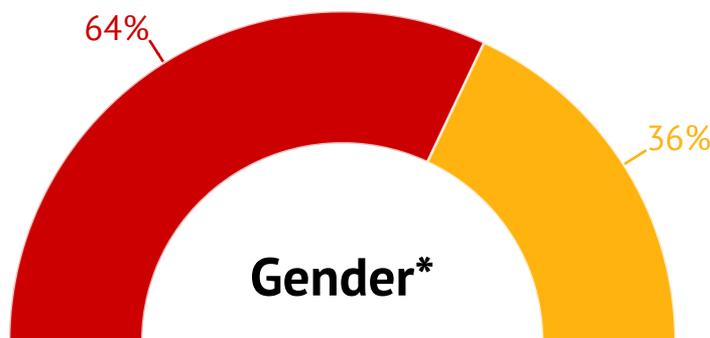
*"I enjoyed lots of the events including the go carting it is really fun doing these sessions even if it's on zoom you still feel like it's a nice environment and it's just generally interesting to participate in"*

- Youth Council member, age 14, on being part of the Youth Council

# Who we worked with

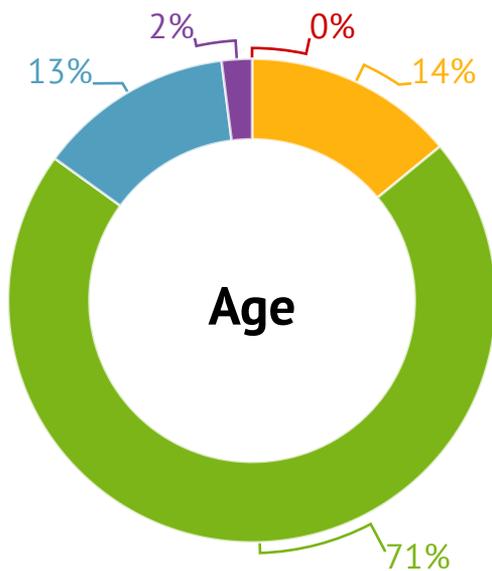
We have worked with a range of young people from various background areas across Wandsworth.

The graphs below outline the equality data for young people who have engaged with the Youth Participation service. Providing this information is voluntary for all young people and therefore does not account for every individual young person we have worked with.

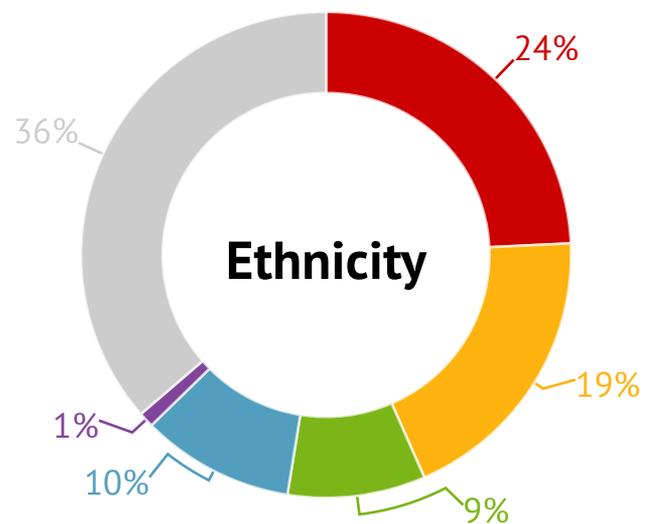


*\* with which the young person identifies, which may not align to their biological sex.*

● Male ● Female

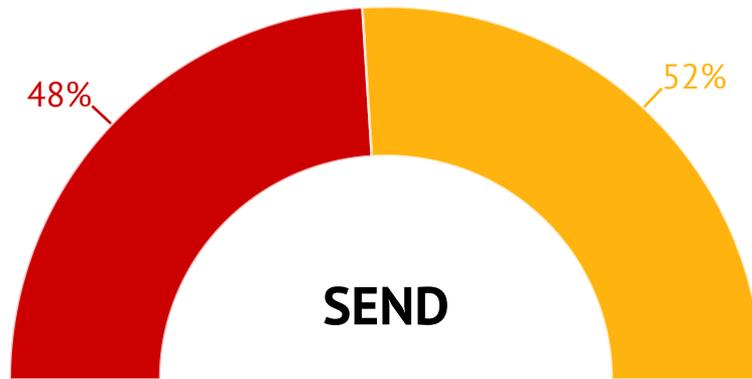


● Under 11 ● 11-12 ● 13-16  
● 17-19 ● 20+

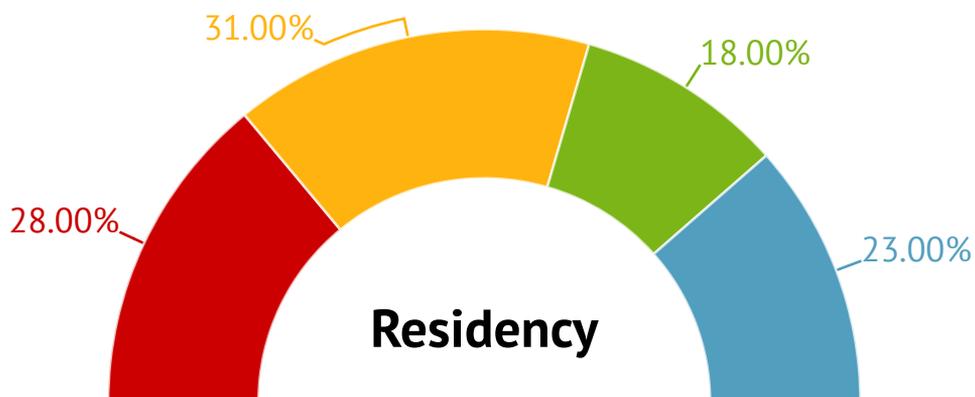


● White ● Black ● Asian  
● Mixed ● Other ● Prefer not to say

## Who we worked with *cont'd*



● SEND ● No SEND



● Battersea ● Roehampton & Putney ● Tooting ● Out of borough



**Health warning:** The data presented here is taken from our IYSS annual performance data, which may not be entirely accurate. BUT the data presented above does, we believe, provide a fair representation of those we have engaged with throughout 2019-20.



For more information about this work contact:

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