


NIDDRIE & CRAIGMILLAR

Community Survey Key Findings
August 2024

Do you have an active interest in Craigmillar or Niddrie?

If you live, work, or attend school here then your views on your community are important.

Please take this chance to shape the future of your community by filling in this short survey.



Please scan the QR code, or for a paper version or any assistance completing the survey, please attend Places For People Scotland, 1 Hay Avenue, Edinburgh, EH16 4RW.

Scottish Violence Reduction Unit &
Places for People Scotland

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1. Overview and Methodology

This report summarises the key findings from the community needs assessment survey conducted in Niddrie and Craigmillar between June-July 2024, by local service providers. Niddrie and Craigmillar are two of the five most vulnerable communities in the city of Edinburgh¹, with a population of around 4834 in Niddrie and 6838 in Craigmillar². Members of these communities were given the opportunity to identify their top priorities in order to influence positive change and steer local service providers towards areas where improvement is required.

1.1 Methodology

The survey was available to complete online through Microsoft Forms with paper copies available on request, as well as further support to complete the survey. The survey responses were collected by Places for People Scotland, a housing association operating in Niddrie and Craigmillar. The link to complete the survey was published and shared online and on social media by a variety of service providers operating in Niddrie and Craigmillar. Members of service providers in the local area took part in a ‘Day of Action’, where service providers went door-to-door allowing them to speak directly with local residents or providing them a QR code linked to the survey for them to complete at a future time. Likewise, residents were also able to complete the survey at Places for People’s community hub/pantry.

1.2 Purpose

The survey aimed to identify residents’ priorities as well as determining whether the community would support an organised community bonfire. Overall, it’s purpose was to examine what residents liked about their community

¹ Data obtained from Improvement Service, Community Planning Outcomes Profiles, City of Edinburgh, *How have outcomes changed for the 5 most vulnerable communities?* Available: [CPOP \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io/CPOP).

² Data obtained from Public Health Scotland, ScotPHO Profiles, (Intermediate zones – Niddrie & Craigmillar) Mid-Year population estimate – all ages (2021). Available: [ScotPHO profiles \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles).

and where opportunities to influence positive change existed. As such, this report will detail the responses of each question posed in the survey. Several questions also allowed residents to provide an open-ended response. Where appropriate, details of these responses will be included. However, it is important to note that some open-ended responses may not be published, where the information submitted is considered identifiable.

Overall, we received **405** responses to the survey over the four weeks it was available to complete.

2. Limitations

Although the survey was available on a variety of different platforms for the community to complete, it is likely that those who already have a vested interest in improving the community have responded. Therefore, those who are typically seldom heard, may still not have had an opportunity to share their views. Furthermore, we received limited responses from those aged 18-24 so further consultation is required to understand their needs in order to evoke a community wide approach.

The subject matter, of issues which are impacting respondents within their communities, particularly in relation to violence witnessed on bonfire night is sensitive. Subsequently, we aimed to frame these questions in a way that was cognisant of this, as well as providing links where community members can seek support at the end of the report.

It is worthwhile noting that, like any other survey, responses were self-reported. Additionally, the survey was available online for anyone to complete. Consequently, we cannot be fully confident that only members of these communities responded, and that all answers were reflective of their true feelings and beliefs.

3. Respondent Profiles

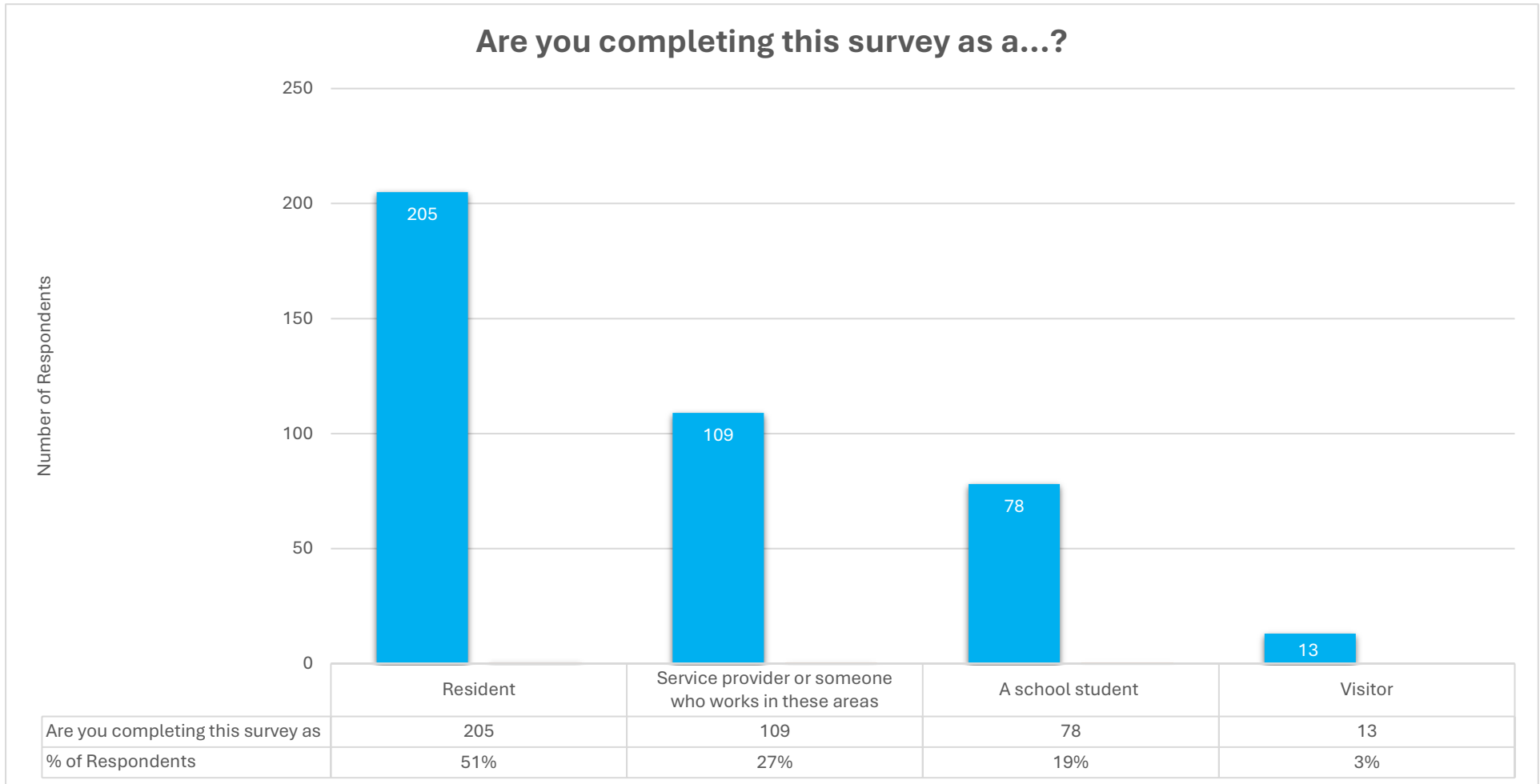
Between June and July 2024, **405** respondents completed the survey. The majority of respondents were **residents (51%)** and **female (65.4%)**. In terms of age, we received the most responses from those aged **35-44 and under 18's**.

3.1 Gender

Gender	% of Respondents
Woman	65.4%
Man	33.6%
Prefer not to say	0.5%
Non-Binary	0.5%

3.2 Role in the Community

Most of the respondents were **residents (51%)**, followed by **service providers and those that work in the area (27%)** and **school students (19%)**.



3.3 Age

Our learning from a previous place-based approach in South Ayrshire, where only a limited number of young people responded to the community needs assessment, suggested that we needed to gather views from the youngest members of society. Therefore, through linking with school-based officers, we have gathered around **(20%)** of results from **under 18's** in Niddrie and Craigmillar, to assess their needs within the community. Although we received a limited response from **18–24-year-olds**, we will continue to engage with young people throughout the community, listening to their views.

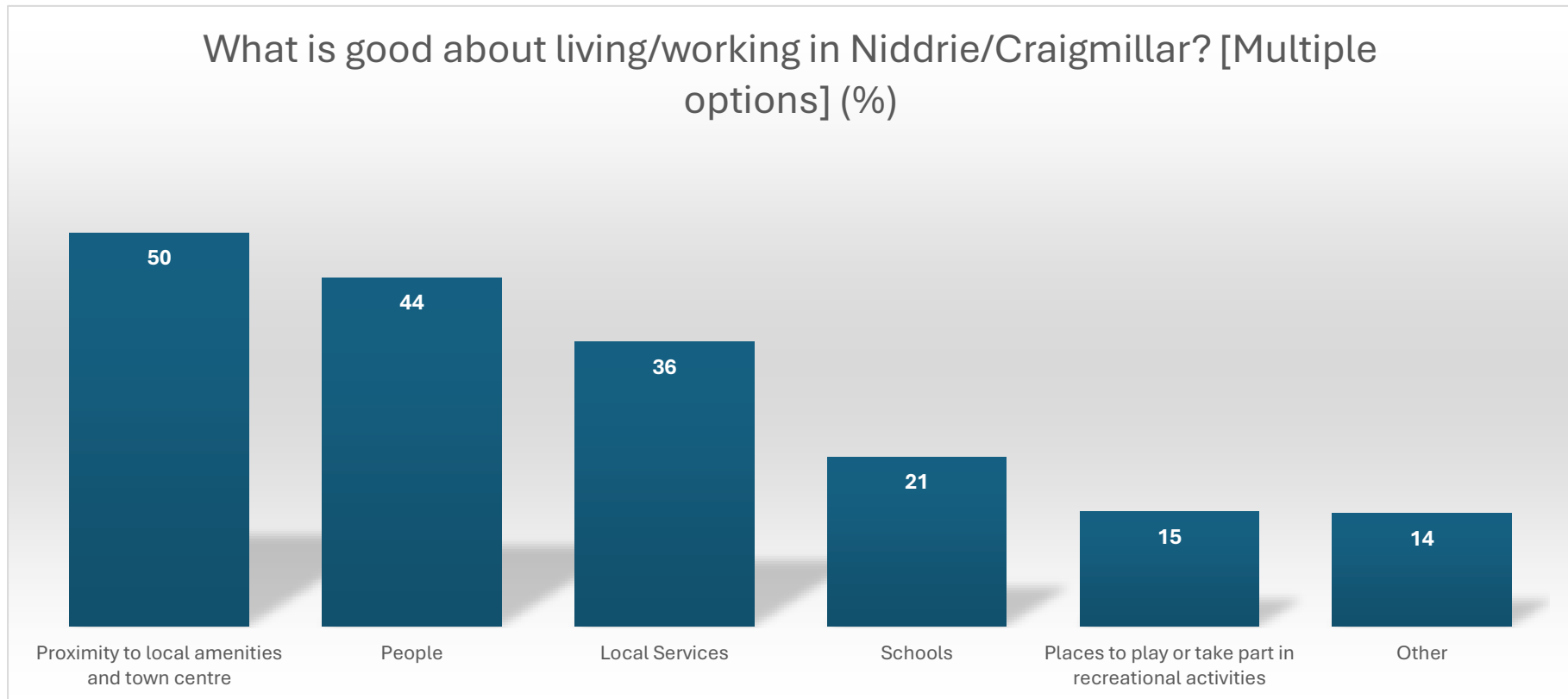
Row Labels	Number of Respondents	Select your age bracket from the below
35 - 44	86	21%
Under 18	80	20%
45 - 54	64	16%
25 - 34	62	15%
55 - 64	61	15%
65+	37	9%
18 - 24	15	4%
Grand Total	405	100.00%

**Note 1: Ages are listed by number of respondents in each age group.*

4. Results

4.1 *What is good about living/working in Niddrie/Craigmillar?*

We asked the people of Niddrie and Craigmillar what was good about living/working there. The most common response was **proximity to local amenities and town centre (50%)**. Many highlighted in the responses that the bus links into town were a particular benefit of living in Niddrie and Craigmillar. **(44%)** of respondents selected **people** in relation to what was good about living/working in the area. Within the open-ended responses respondents referenced that they had good relationships with their neighbours and a real sense of community existed. **(36%)** of respondents thought that **local services** were good in the area.



Community Responses - What is good?

- "As an outreach worker in alcohol and drug services I find the Craigmillar and Niddrie area has a lot of really good services available such as the Bothy where they run all sorts of groups and recovery meetings. The Places for people Hub Pantry is also excellent for all the groups and activities it offers. The Thistle foundation also has good services for food bank and a place for people to go. SPACE down at Harewood drive also offers a range of services so I have been really impressed with what I can offer my clients for those who engage in the services available."
- "The local school Castlebrae high offers lots for children with additional needs which is vital for kids in the local area."
- "The good thing is the opportunity to connect with others to try to be active in the community and make this a more cohesive caring place to live."
- "Great shops and bus links."

4.2 Do you feel part of your local community?

Only around a third of people **(32%)** responded that they **felt part of their local community**, with around **(27%)** stating that **they did not feel part of their community**. **(41%)** felt **partly connected to their local community**.

Responses	Do you feel part of your local community?	% of Respondents
Partly	167	41%
Yes	130	32%
No	108	27%
Grand Total	405	100%

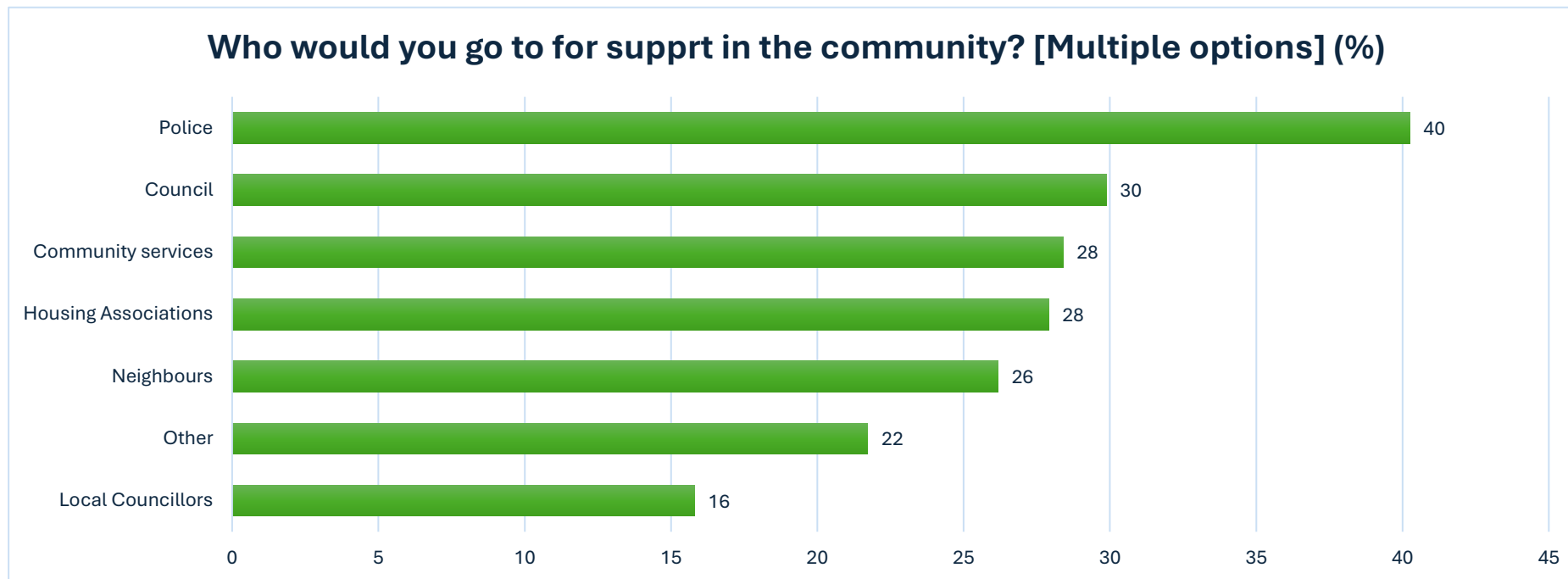
Responses from **Under 18's** in relation to how connected to their community they feel, results were similar to the feelings amongst all of the community members who responded to the survey, with **(30%)** answering that they **did feel connected** to the community. **(14%)** **did not feel part of their community**, and the majority **felt partially connected (56%)**.

Please select your age bracket from the below		Under 18
Responses	Do you feel part of your local community?	% of Respondents
Partly	45	56%
Yes	24	30%
No	11	14%
Grand Total	80	100%

"This area has a real sense of community but the same issues exist that were an issue years ago, nothing for kids to do and drugs issues."

4.3 Who would you go to for support in the community?

Within the survey, services were ranked in alphabetical order, to prevent unconscious bias from impacting respondents' selections. When asked where community members would go for support in the community, the **police (40%) and the council (30%)** were the most common responses. The other most frequent responses were the **community services (28%) and housing associations (28%)**. **(22%)** of respondents selected **other**, however the open-ended responses suggest respondents were not referring to another service but instead stated that they would not ask for support and tend to deal with challenges themselves. This issue is discussed further throughout the report as this links with the question we asked around the barriers to accessing services. Many respondents were not aware of what services were available in the community; therefore, this is likely hindering their ability to know where to ask for support.

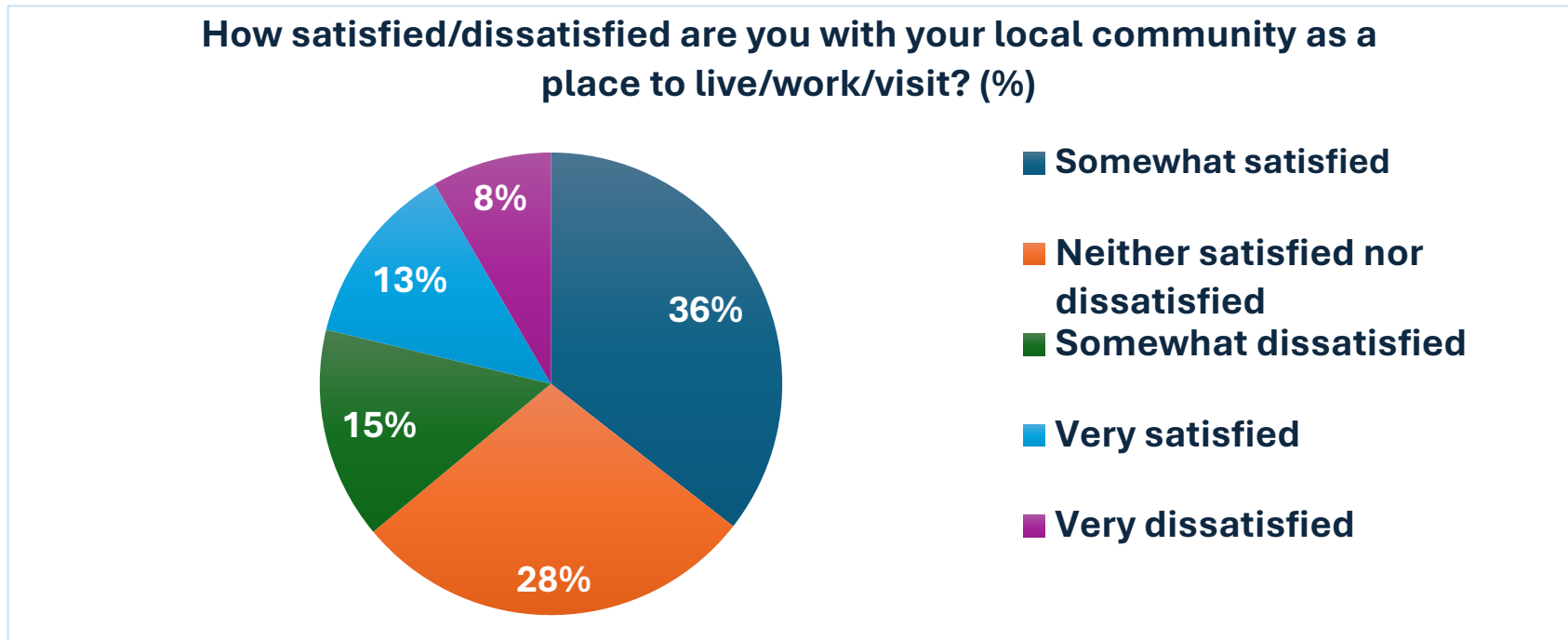


Community Responses - Receiving Support

- "I would struggle to access the police etc on my own but if they had a way of being able to be available on a certain day time or place that would make it much easier."
- "Some great community services but not enough joint working. They could be the first port of call for the police, council, etc and this would help identify if there are communal issues that need to be addressed."
- "Providing a local support hub/professional advice bodies in the local area...either monthly or quarterly. Send the leaflet to local House, place some in the library, local community group centre to make the local residents aware they can get information, advice or queries. Set the local community group (members will include local councillors, residents, and police, fire department and also young people) to have a discussion and input their ideas."

4.4 How satisfied/dissatisfied are you with your local community as a place to live/work/visit?

The most common responses to this question indicated that respondents were overall **'somewhat satisfied' (36%) and 'Neither satisfied or dissatisfied' (28%)** with Niddrie and Craigmillar as a place to live/work/visit, with **(15%)** answering that they were **'somewhat dissatisfied'**. Furthermore **(8%)** of respondents responded that they were **'very dissatisfied'** with their community.



4.5 What support/services are missing in the community?

Around **(51%)** of respondents said they would like to see **more support and activities for young people** and a **greater police presence** in and around the community. This likely links with the several responses which related to a perceived rise in anti-social behaviour amongst young people in the community. Many responded that having more community-based officers to engage with and form trusting relationships with the young people could aid in reducing levels of anti-social behaviour. It was believed that a higher police presence accompanied by more activities for young people would decrease the levels of anti-social behaviour in the community. Not only this, but respondents also commented that there were not enough safe spaces for young people to come together in the community, such as parks, designated areas to ride bikes and youth clubs.

Others responded that **mental health support** was missing in the community (**27%**) and only (**4%**) of respondents felt that **there were currently enough services in the local community**.



5. Priorities

The respondents were asked to identify their **top 3 priorities** for Niddrie and Craigmillar. Over half of those who responded to the survey selected **anti-social behaviour (55%)** as one of their top priorities. This was followed by **crime (31%)** and **making the area feel safer (26%)**.

The open-ended responses to this question were filtered by age to provide an understanding of the main things young people in the area think are missing, and how it can be improved. Young people who responded to this question felt as though there was not much for them to participate in within the community. Therefore, they would like to see more accessible clubs and activities that they can attend. Young people also referenced that more mental health support is needed within the community. Further comments relating to each priority provided at the bottom of report.

Community Responses - Priorities

Under 18's

- "Housing and mental health support."
- "Something for us to do."
- "Bowling, boxing, stuff for girls to do, discos and a youth centre."
- "Make more playing grounds and more public football pitches"
- "More stuff for kids to do, there is not enough for us to do in the area."
- "We have been going to the football on a Friday which is great we would like to see more of this as gives us a space to come together."
- "I would love to have a play area."

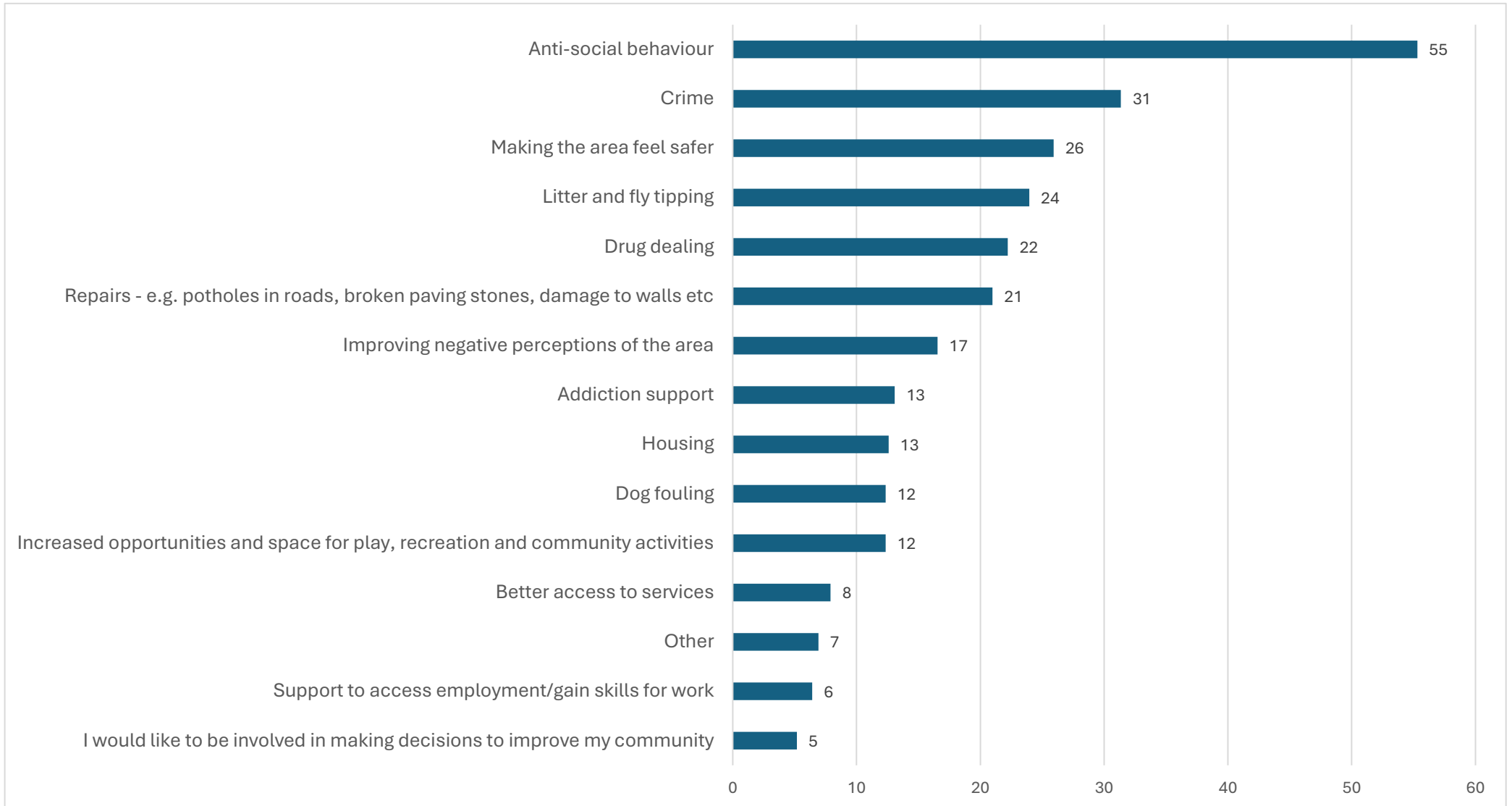
Community Responses - Priorities

18+

- "There is not enough in the area for young people. It's no wonder they cause issues at nights and weekends due to boredom. We need to be mindful that a lot of young people come from poverty so may not have money to go to clubs ect and further some of them may come from families who had addiction issues. We need more support to help them."
- "A community wide approach working with parents and schools about the above mentioned issues might help?"
- "We have a lot of different venues who have clubs for the children but they are all on the same day which means they can only go to one a week. It would be good for all the different organisations to get together and arrange things differently to enable children to access a club more than once a week."

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Percentage (%) of Participants who selected each response when asked to select their top 3 priorities for Niddrie & Craigmillar



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Within the open-ended responses about the priorities above, many residents referred to an increase in youth disorder, highlighting fire-raising as a particular challenge in the community:

Never a week without a fire going on. They clean it and then it takes less than a day and it happens again. It's so scary.

Fires in local area set by kids.

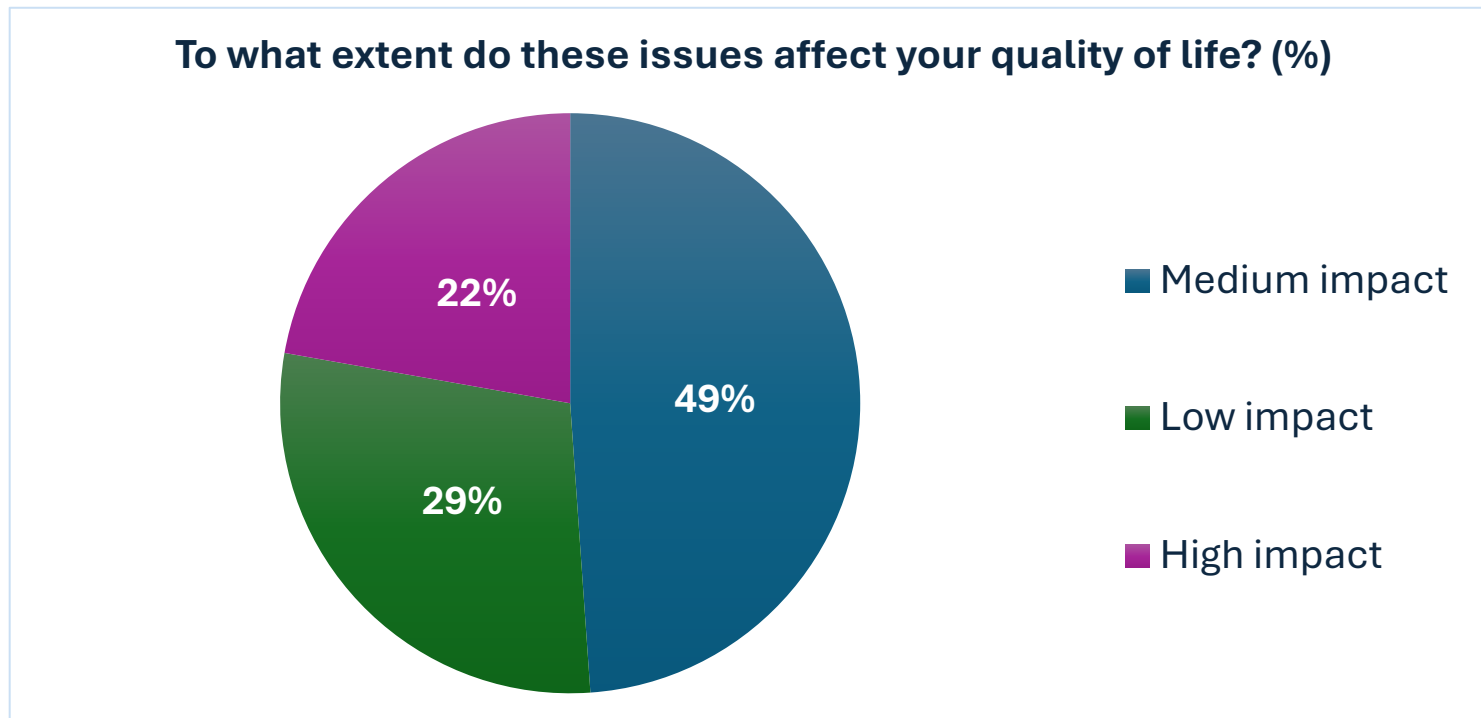
Youth disorder is a significant issue and more needs to be done to provide young people with operates and engage them, to divert them from antisocial behaviour which inevitably leads to involvement in more serious crime.

Youth disorder is a growing problem and is becoming noticeably worse with a complete disregard for the wellbeing of other members of the community.

Kids in teenage ages in the area need extra support to become involved with activities to get them involved with things other than crime.

5.1 To what extent do these issues affect your quality of life?

Just under half of those who responded (**49%**) said that the issues listed in the priority list have a **medium impact** on their quality of life, with (**22%**) responding that these issues were having a **high impact**. However, (**29%**) respondents that these issues have a **low impact**. Those aged 55-64 were more likely to respond that these issues had a high impact on their quality of life.

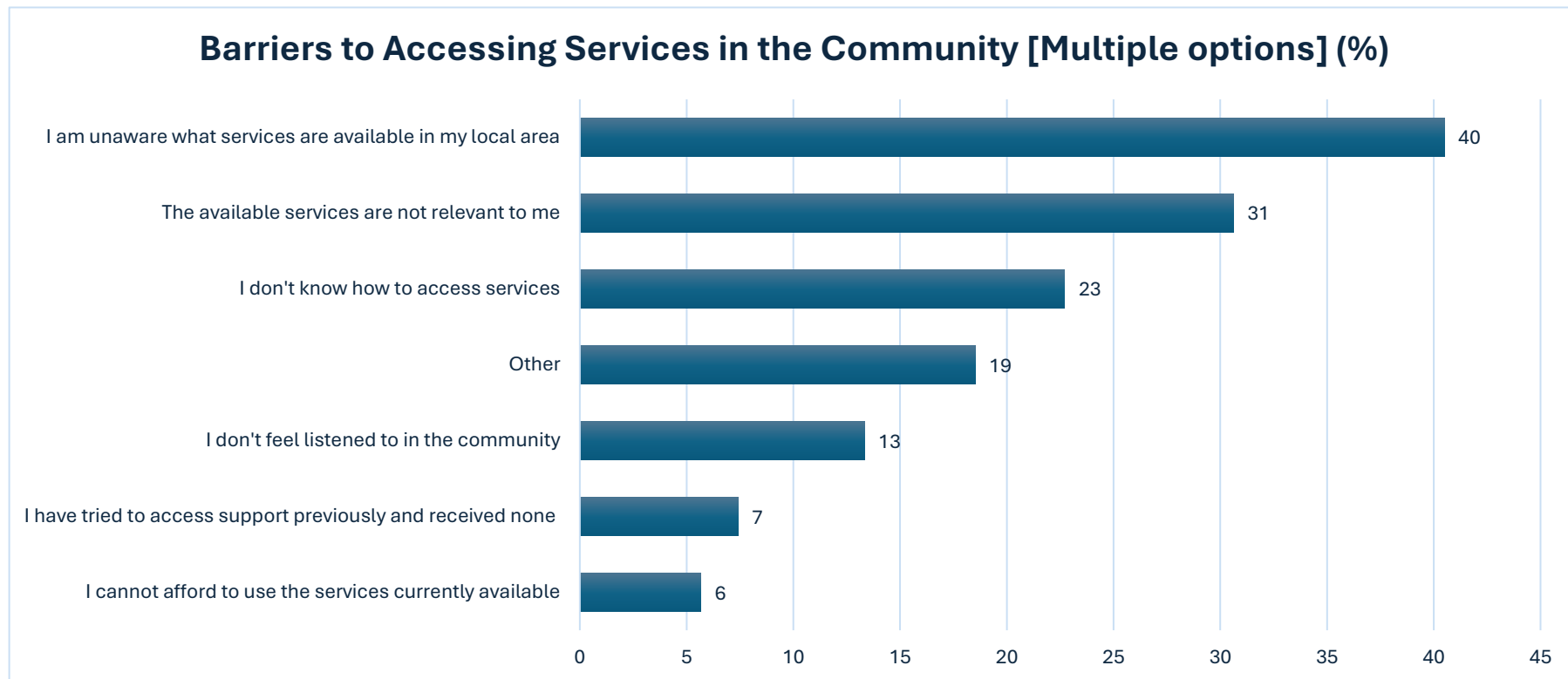


6. Barriers

Around **(40%)** of the respondents **were unaware of what services are currently available in the community.** **(31%)** responded that the **available services were not relevant to them.**

Several respondents voiced that one of the main challenges towards accessing services is that many services and groups are offered on the same day and time, limiting how many events they could attend. Therefore, future focus should centre on removing as many barriers as possible by ensuring residents know what is already available and aiming to limit groups/activities occurring on the same days.

Additionally, **(23%)** of respondents **did not know how to access services.** A deeper dive into what services would be more relevant should be conducted, as well as how to make overall access to services easier. As such, this will ensure that tailored, community-led support is provided to residents.



Community Responses - Barriers

- "Hopefully this survey will start the ball rolling for more services to become readily available in our community. It's like we're forgotten about because of our postcode."
- "I think the council, Link and other housing associations should work together and also give tenants a voice, a chance to meet up to work together in tackling issues."
- "Sometimes its hard to know whats available and whats not."

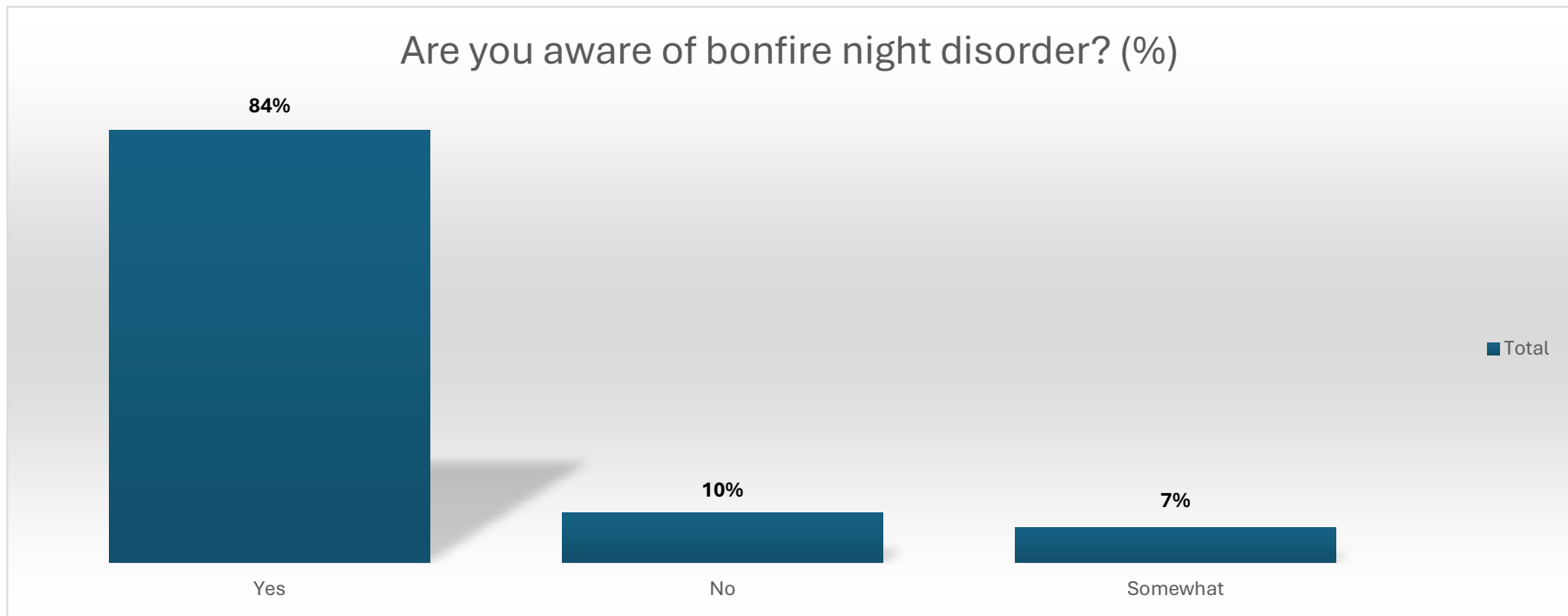
7. Bonfire Night

Only around **(10%)** of respondents were unaware of the Bonfire Night disorder which has occurred within the community, with **(84%)** stating they were aware of it. Those living in the community were likely to have witnessed the disorder over the past few years as well as this featuring heavily in the media around this time which may have contributed to a wider awareness.

Respondents over 65 were more aware of bonfire disorder **(89%)** compared with **(55%)** of under 18's who responded to the question. Furthermore, **(10%)** more women selected 'yes' than men. As expected, awareness was highest amongst **residents (90%)** and **service providers or someone who works in the area (95%)**.

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The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have published a flyer for parents and carers relating to deliberate firesetting. This includes the dangers of deliberate firesetting as well as details of how to these and what you can do if you believe your child or a young person you care for is involved in this behaviour: [pp-deliberate-firesetting-parent-and-carers-flyer-001b-ah-digital.pdf](https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/pp-deliberate-firesetting-parent-and-carers-flyer-001b-ah-digital.pdf) ([firescotland.gov.uk](https://www.firescotland.gov.uk)).



7.1 Safety of the Community

We asked respondents to provide further information about how the Bonfire Night disorder in the community has impacted them. Many people commented on the safety of the area, reporting that they felt too unsafe to leave their homes, as well as support staff such as carers not being able to provide support to vulnerable individuals as they could not enter the area. It was noted that the disorder was having a negative impact on resident's overall wellbeing and mental health, increasing feelings of fear and anxiety throughout the community. Likewise, people who have recently moved into the area hearing about the previous disorder feel worried about the upcoming bonfire night concerned that there is no reduction in the levels of disorder.

I stay indoors and worry all night until it's over I also don't like letting my child out as feel the area gets very unsafe and hostile.

So scared and I could not get my carers in to provide help and support to me during the night.

I live with my partner and 2 children the oldest being 4 bonfire night really impacted her as she was very frightened.

I wasn't a resident at that time but aware. I am a little worried about the event coming up.

I couldn't go out to the shops. I was scared and trapped at home.

I live in the Hays and bonfire night has turned into a terrifying evening, it's so sad to see riot police in our streets . The emergency services should not have to deal with this so very sad.

Some of my clients live in this area and some of them were terrified and this caused alot of fear and anxiety so this definitely impacted peoples wellbeing and mental health.

7.2 The Ability to Carry Out Jobs

Respondents also commented on the effect that bonfire night had on their ability to carry out their jobs. Members of emergency services responding to incidents of disorder remarked upon being abused by those involved, and not feeling safe and able to effectively protect themselves and the community.

Many responded that they could not enter the area to support vulnerable individuals, or that they were forced to take the night off work as it wasn't safe to travel home. Businesses in the area also had to shut down amidst the disorder to protect their clients, limiting the support that can be provided throughout this time. Some services said that are planning to close in advance ahead of Bonfire Night 2024, to protect their staff from potential violence and disorder.

Our vulnerable disabled clients are scared by the disturbances, staff are unable to travel. We have moved our in service day to be on that date so that we can work in a different area and customers aren't put at risk.

I work for the fire service and I worry about the safety of me and the crew in bonfire night, also the ability to actually carry out our job.

Support Staff travelling to and from work have no transport as buses often rerouted on bonfire night and Support Staff feel unsafe to to public behaviour.

It has become a deliberate attack on the police and these actions affect people in the area. In November 2022, I was at the hairdresser and we went in to lock down for our safety.

I had took a holiday from work that night due to the previous year as it wasn't safe to get home.

The danger it causes to my job as we have to attend fire calls and get abused.

This year our service will be closed on the 5th Nov to protect our customers and our staff from any antisocial/violent behaviour.

7.3 *Withdrawal from the Community*

Due to the increased feeling of fear in the community, this has forced some people to withdraw and leave the community entirely the week of bonfire night. Some people were hugely affected by the disorder and felt so unsafe that they have requested or are considering moving out of the area permanently.

I have to leave the area for a week as it is that bad!

I'm planning to book into a hotel for the night as I and my cat were so upset.

It's becoming a horrible place to live and I can't wait to move.

If things don't improve I will have to move out of the area.

7.4 What is the solution?

Many respondents provided thoughts on how disorder could be reduced. It was clear that most of the community felt as though there was very little groups/activities for young people to engage with and subsequently boredom and a lack of diversion are likely influencing factors as to why high levels of anti-social behaviour exist in the community.

Several respondents noted that many young people involved in the disorder had travelled from other parts of Edinburgh to congregate in Niddrie and Craigmillar. Therefore, this is likely having an adverse impact on the stigma and reputation placed on the young people who live in these areas.

The themes throughout were similar to other questions, where residents did not feel safe and therefore wanted to see more police in and around the community. Many also referenced the amount of young people on bikes/motorbikes in the area, concerned about the safety implications of this. Further comments related to securing a designated safe space for young people to explore their love of motorbikes and learn how to do this safely. Likewise, respondents highlighted the lack of support for young people in the community where residents voiced that young people should have opportunities to become involved in positive activities and support with employment, as well as ways for them to take ownership to feel proud of where they live.

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I feel very strongly that something needs to be done to make people feel safer in Craigmillar and possibly more provision for teenagers in the area and interventions with people who are making poor choices to support them in following more productive routes giving them support when appropriate.

More enterprise please. More training courses for plumbers and builders, carpenters, car fixers, chefs and so on, linking with schools to get young ppl thinking about their future.

Need youth clubs back, other children from other areas within Edinburgh coming into the area and starting this not just teenagers from the area.

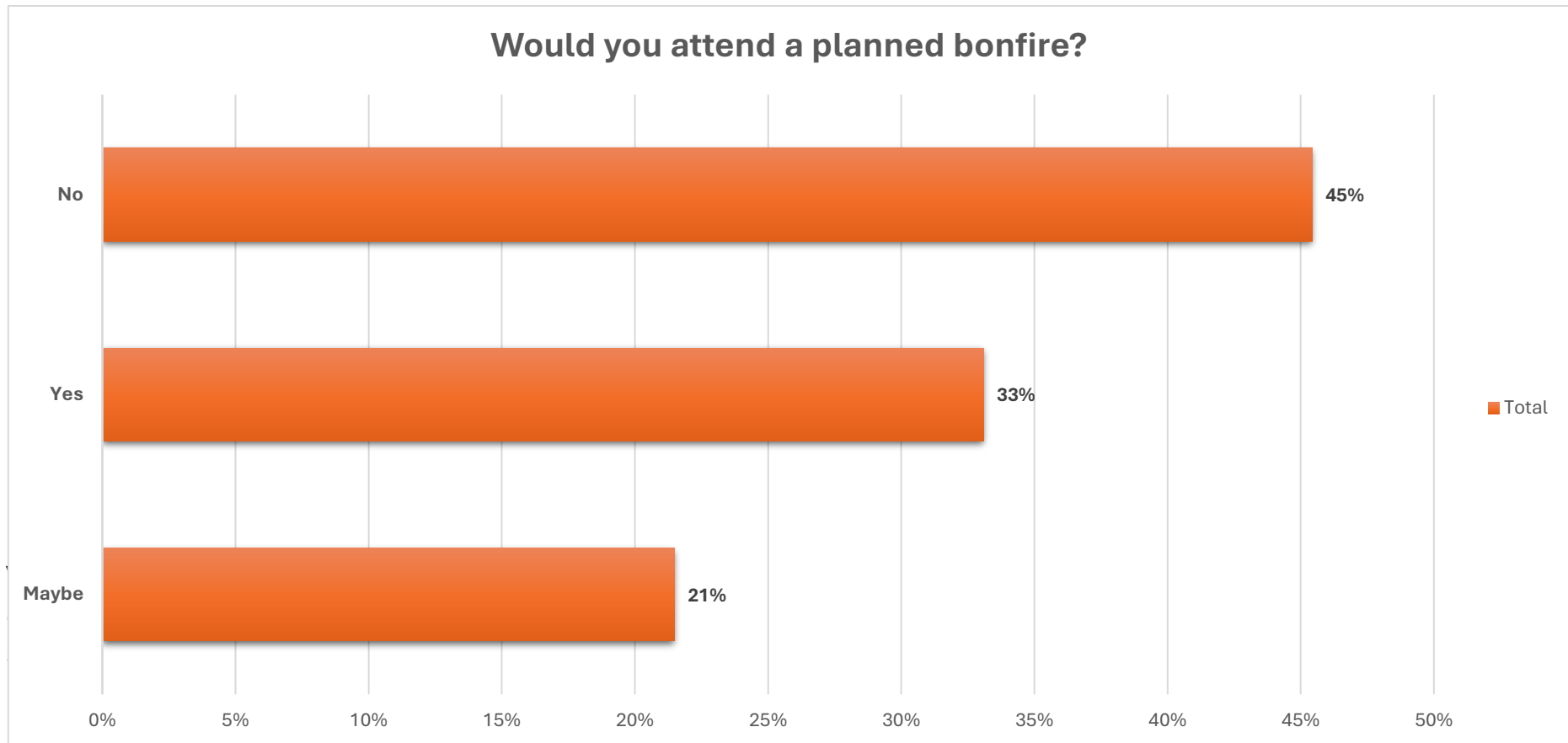
The youth's weren't just from our area, in no way am I defending what went on, but every area in Edinburgh has its issues. They just seem to congregate in Niddrie when it comes to that time of year. We need to focus on involving the youth's in taking pride in their areas, from organising safe events, to eradicating vandalism and anti social behaviour.

More need to be done to have an organised event. Excess police with closed streets simply adds excitement to young teens who see it as an opportunity to "get involved" put the police presence to good use at an organised event and do more to bring the community together rather than tear it apart.

Kids love motorbikes in the niddrie area couldnt there be a club or activities like RUTS provide but in our local area? I tried to access the East lothian Bridge centre Motorcycle Project but you have to live in East Lothian i tried to access RUTS but they operate in penicuk which is too far for me with no car.

8. A Planned Community Bonfire

The community were asked whether they would support a planned community bonfire with the aim of reducing disorder. The highest percentage of those that answered this question responded that they **would not attend (45%)**, **with only (33%) in support of this and (21%) stating they would maybe attend**. Therefore, indicating a vast amount of the community would not support a planned bonfire.



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I believe that last years violence will happen again and encouraging families to be out on the streets of Niddrie will be placing them in danger. If my family lived in this area I would not be taking them to an event.

I'd be too scared of trouble starting and getting hurt. Look what they did to police officers! Shocking.

Wouldn't feel confident attending with our children. Worried it would turn into a riot.

I would not attend, but I think that could work as a way to concentrate people in a certain area so that it's easier to manage the situation. Similarly, I think giving people (and especially teenagers) more things to do so that they don't turn to anti-social behaviour is a good thing, even if I wouldn't directly benefit from those things.

A planned event used to happen, and was successful. The sale of fireworks should now be restricted to planned public events due to how unsafe the whole Bonfire Night has turned into.

9. Additional Comments provided about respondents' priorities

Below are additional comments from respondents about the priorities they selected, some of the main challenges and potential ways to improve them.

9.1 Anti-Social Behaviour

- Youth disorder is a significant issue and more needs to be done to provide young people with operates and engage them, to divert them from antisocial behaviour which inevitably leads to involvement in more serious crime.
- Youth disorder is a growing problem and is becoming noticeably worse with a complete disregard for the wellbeing of other members of the community.
- Despite recent attempts, area remains deprived (drug use, anti social behaviour, low employment rates, poor police presence, poverty).
- Too many groups of children out and about late at night - after 11pm- shouting and abusing people.

9.2 Addiction Support/Drug Problems in the Area

- Tackle the drug dealers who are targeting the most vulnerable in society. Most street corners you will see people loitering and passing drugs and cash between hands. If more CPO's on the street this could be deterred from happening. Police not to blame, funding is the issue. As usual the most in need are the ones forgotten about and people wonder why there are so many drug/alcohol users in this area? Bottom of the food chain springs to mind.
- Teenager's every day hang around the Hays shop, shouting, throwing things, fighting and selling drugs. Police are unable or unwilling to do anything about them! They attack people in the street and jump other children for the fun of it! How is anyone meant to feel safe in the area?
- Bonfire night was a big thing the things that you seen on that night were so scary. Also the amount of drug dealing you see and attacks in the street.
- Drug dealing...on motorbikes are rife in this area.
- Kids being groomed to be drug runners.

9.3 Litter and Fly Tipping

- Compared with other areas of the city that I work in, this area is completely neglected by the council and by the community. It is not well cared for at all, there are huge weeds on paths and roads, fences are falling down, litter and flytipping everywhere.
- Lack of respect for the environment is endemic - the amount of litter and graffiti for example, or ripped out and disused telephone boxes, the large gap site opposite the main shops which is overgrown, covered in fly-tipped waste and surrounded by tired and damaged fencing all the area look tired and unwanted and does not encourage people to take better care themselves.
- Stop littering.
- The littering attracts rodents in and around peoples homes. The fly tipping is also constant...Signage regarding littering/fines for dog fouling are needed.
- There are many things needed to be done. A few are listed below.
 1. Waste Collection - There have been large delays in waste collection. This time, for example, my waste bin has been lying full for 3 weeks but not collected so far.
 2. Cleaning of communal areas - There has been waste (Cigarette waste; snacks wrappers etc) lying around in the streets and communal area but not being cleaned/collected.
- Area looks dirty and folks don't care all feeds into the apathy and general rundown ness therefore the trouble. Council obvs dont care, and as for November time, that's just so out of control now. Kids hanging around at Bingham tunnel again and motorbikes tearing around. Nothing new, just getting worse.
- Broken glass everywhere.
- Place is a mess and it's good area no grass getting cut on main roads rubbish about the street.

9.4 *Becoming Involved in Making Community Decisions*

- We don't have a say in the community improvement panel even though decisions are being made about our safety. We also don't have sufficient representation on a parliament level about local issues and funding.

9.5 *Safety in the Area*

- Area is not safe, noise pollution from motorbikes.
- As a woman I usually avoid walking around in the area at the quieter times (eg. after 6pm on Sunday) as it doesn't feel safe.
I've been spit on two times on a simple afternoon walk by teenagers passing on bicycles or rollers. When they're in a larger group they're also very comfortable to shout swear words on people like me walking alone. So I usually drive to a safer place now for a walk.
- I don't feel safe. I have been physically attacked by a group of children throwing stones and bricks at me. I'm an elderly woman. Windows are constantly being smashed in our new mid market flats. Eggs have been thrown at the doors and windows. Dog fouling all over the place. Fly tipping. Also rubbish is always laying all around Harewood drive that has come from greggs. It should be cleaned up every night. Why should residents have to live with greggs rubbish so greggs can make profits? We need more police on the beat in Craigmillar and niddrie otherwise it will all go downhill and people who have moved into the area with good jobs will move out.
- I live on a road that is often used as a short cut by cars/vehicles during rush hour. Although there are speed bumps, these are ineffective and the speed that some vehicles drive on the road is terrifying. The drivers ignore the speed limit and prompts for safe driving putting residents and school children (a primary and high school within 300m).
- Making the area feel safe.

9.6 Improving Negative Perceptions of the Area

- Anti-social behaviour along at the Hays on Nov 5th giving area a bad name which is dangerous/disruptive to traffic and pedestrians who are not involved in it but need to pass through. Keeping the area tidy, some gardens not kept in order, fly tipping. Maybe provide more activities for long people to go to.
- I would have really wanted to choose "Improving negative perceptions of the area" too. The main two ones are Anti-social behaviour and litter / fly tipping, though.

9.7 Housing

- More housing properties in the area.
- More social housing is needed urgently not unaffordable midmarket rents.
- Our rent is already through the roof and we do all our repairs ourselves.
- There are a lot of empty units on Niddrie Mains Road. Surely they could be used. There is also a derelict site down from the library. It could be cleaned up and used for something positive, like social housing.

9.8 Increased Opportunities and Space for Play, Recreation and Community Activities

- Niddrie and craigmillar have a bad reputation for drugs, crime, violence etc... it would be nice for more safe spaces like parks and things for younger children.
- Community events like how it used to be.
- More for the youth to do More for the older persons to.

9.9 *Better Access to Services*

- I think there should be more help in the area for people with mental health needs as I feel there is not much help.
- Craigmillar has lots of services to access support on addiction, housing, employment, benefits/money advice - perhaps this needs to be advertised better for signposting.
- Where else are they to go and what are they meant to do as there is NOTHING in the area for them to do or go to, no clubs or services - all been taken away due to funding, on top of that more and more places are closing due to funding.

9.10 *Crime*

- I recently moved into the area and have already witnessed police cars chasing stolen cars and my neighbour was broken into also so it can feel quite scary with having a young child in my home.
- Kids in teenage ages in the area need extra support to become involved with activities to get them involved with things other than crime.
- The Youths that are causing issues in the area unfortunately tend to be children from chaotic backgrounds and the cuts to so many youth services over the years has impacted this and some of these kids are pulled into a life of crime by the age of 10. There needs to be more focus on making area safer for the children who do not get involved in this lifestyle as they are scared of the young team. Also the amount of drug dealing with the young team with the older males who often run county line gangs its so in your face and its done in the street. I often do worry for my more vulnerable clients as they are often powerless to gatekeep their properties due to the chaotic lives and can become targets for the drug dealers and young team terrorising the area. People don't feel safe in Edinburgh anymore in general. The Police are powerless it seems to this and some of the local people I have got speaking to are getting fed up and especially the older men from back in the 70s when gangs were rife are close to taking

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matters into their own hands as feel nothing is ever done and they get away with murder and its a free pass to do what they want without any fear of consequences.

- There are gangs of teens, blatant crime and children causing continuous antisocial issues.

10. Conclusions

The purpose of this survey was to identify the current priorities and challenges within the Niddrie and Craigmillar communities. We hope that this will steer local services to deliver upon the outputs and improve the overall community wellbeing. From the responses, it can be concluded that:

- The top priorities for respondents were anti-social behaviour, crime and making the area feel safer.
- Positive aspects of Niddrie and Craigmillar were identified as the proximity to local amenities to town centre, the people and local services.
- Not enough currently exists within the community to engage and divert young people from anti-social behaviour. Likewise, what currently exists mostly occurs on the same day/time which is a barrier for young people to access these groups and activities. Several young people reported enjoying the football which is available on a Friday night, and they would like to see more of this type of activity.
- Community members wanted to see joined up working from local service providers, to increase access to services and deal with issues that cut across several domains. Residents voiced that if they could access multiple service at one place/time, this would hugely benefit them.

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- A vast majority of respondents were aware of Bonfire Night disorder. Furthermore, a higher number of respondents voted 'No' when asked if they would support/attend a planned bonfire, for fears that there would still be significant levels of anti-social behaviour and violence. The open-ended responses signify that residents want to have safely planned events in the community, however they would not attend anything bonfire or fire related.
- Respondents said that they would go to the police, the council and community services for support. Many respondents also clicked 'other' in response to this question, reporting in the open-ended responses that they feel as though they often have to deal with problems themselves, with challenges around identifying and accessing the relevant services.

The results from this survey will be used to guide local services as part of a community-led partnership approach to improve overall community wellbeing, focusing on the areas identified within this needs assessment. It is our hope that by being led by the priorities identified in this survey, we can ensure that Niddrie and Craigmillar feel safer and reductions in violence and anti-social behaviour are achieved.

11. Recommendations

1. Prioritise bringing together members of local service providers to form a community hub, finding opportunities for partnership working and allowing residents easier access to local services such as the police; particularly those who are often seldom heard and struggle to access multiple different services independently.

2. Focus on working with youth organisations and local groups in Niddrie and Craigmillar to identify what is already available, when it takes place, limiting what is offered on the same day and share a 'timetable' with the community. Where possible, introduce new groups/activities led by what the young people want to see in their community.

3. Ensure that residents are aware of where they can access drug/alcohol and mental health support. Review whether support services can offer a drop in service directly within the community to remove travel barriers which prevent community members accessing these services.

4. Liaise with The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to deliver educational sessions and interventions with young people on the dangers and potential consequences of deliberate firesetting.

5. Based on the response to the proposal of the planned bonfire, continue to engage and work alongside residents to reintroduce safely planned events back into the community, being led by their concerns and steering away from bonfire/firework related activities.

Further Information

Thank you to those who completed the community survey, we are grateful for your time and for sharing your views.

How can I access support if I need it?

Crimestoppers

Report crime information, 100% anonymously to Crimestoppers – an independent UK charity.

The Crimestoppers Contact Centre answers every call to **0800 555 111** free phone number, and deals with every [online form](#) received. Visit online: [Our Contact Centre | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](#).

Emergency Services (Police, Ambulance & Fire)

In an emergency, please always call **999**.

Non-emergency Police Reports

For non-emergency police reports, please call **101**.

Local GP

Visit your local GP to discuss any issues you may be concerned about and for information of available local support services. Visit online: www.nhs.uk/service-search.

NHS 24

If you need urgent health advice when your GP Practice is closed. Contact: 111 www.nhs24.scot.

North East Recovery Drop at Craigmillar

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Addiction support services, offering 1:1 and group/peer support. Phone: 0131 554 7516. Email: edinburghservices@turningpointscotland.com. Visit online: <http://www.turningpointscotland.com/edinburgh/>

Address:

*East Neighbourhood Centre (Craigmillar)
101, Niddrie Mains Road,
Edinburgh EH16 4DS*

Places for People Scotland – Hays Community Hub

Offers a variety groups/activities and support for the community. Turning point addiction services to be based in the hub - dates/times tbc. Location: 3 Hay Avenue, Craigmillar, EDINBURGH, EH16 4QR.

Visit online for more detail about the groups/activities on at the hub at: [Hay Avenue Community Hub - Places for People](#).

Shout

Shout 85258 is a free, confidential, 24/7 text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope. Their trained volunteers are there for you 24/7 to listen and support you to get to a calmer and safe place. Shout is a free, confidential, anonymous service for anyone in the UK. It won't appear on your phone bill.

If you're feeling low, anxious, worried, lonely, overwhelmed, suicidal or not quite yourself, their service is there to support you. To start a conversation, text the word 'SHOUT' to **85258**. If your life is at imminent risk, please call the emergency services on **999**.