

Local Housing Strategy Young People Survey Consultation Report



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1. Introduction

East Lothian Council's current Local Housing Strategy (LHS) spans the period 2018-23 and as such work is now required on developing a new LHS which will be in place from 2023-28.

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 places a statutory requirement on local authorities to produce an LHS that sets out its strategy, priorities and plans. This includes how East Lothian Council and its partners plan to address challenges and opportunities in housing and housing related services across all tenures, over the five year period. The 2001 Housing Act along with the statutory Equality Duty placed on public bodies requires involvement, consultation and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the 'young people survey' was to target those aged 16-30 years old living in East Lothian and give them the opportunity to have their say on their housing needs by offering a more tailored questionnaire. This survey forms part of a range of surveys which were conducted between February and September 2022 to inform the next Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028. Previous surveys such as the Early Engagement Survey and the Rural Survey did not gauge much interest from young people. The design and advertisement of this survey allowed the Council to capture the key issues, opinions and opportunities relating to housing within East Lothian from young people aged 16-30.

3. Methodology

The Young Persons Survey was launched via the Council's consultation hub and ran from the 8th of August 2022 to 7th of September 2022. The survey was advertised through different stakeholders who work closely with young people and in total there was 80 responses. Notably, whilst this is not a representative sample of this age group, people aged under 30 are known to be particularly hard to reach. The questions were designed to capture views and opinions of young people and their current living situation; their housing and interrelated care needs; as well as their future housing aspirations.

The results of the survey questions are detailed in the remainder of this report. None of the questions were made mandatory to answer. Some questions were made conditional and were only accessible to young people who selected a specific answer on a previous question. Most questions were closed with either single or multiple options to answer. Young people were regularly given the chance to expand on their answer if they wished to do so. Open ended questions were coded by theme and summarised. Some sentences were extracted and anonymised to give more insights.

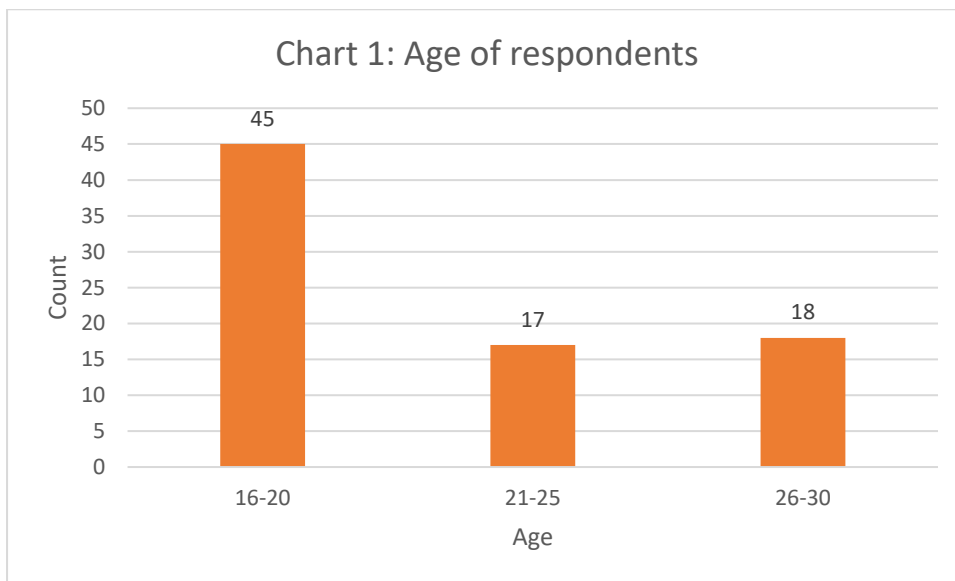
The results are shown with tables and a variety of graphs have been used to further illustrate the survey question responses.

4. Results

Respondent's characteristic

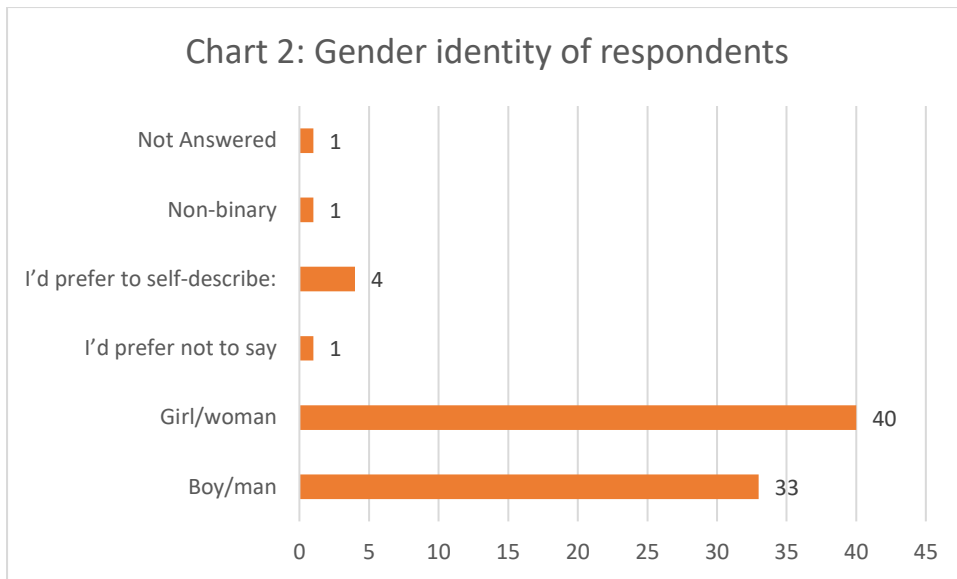
This first section gives an overview of the demographics and characteristic of survey respondents.

56% of respondents were aged 16-20 and approximately 22% of respondents were aged 21-25 and 26-30 respectively.

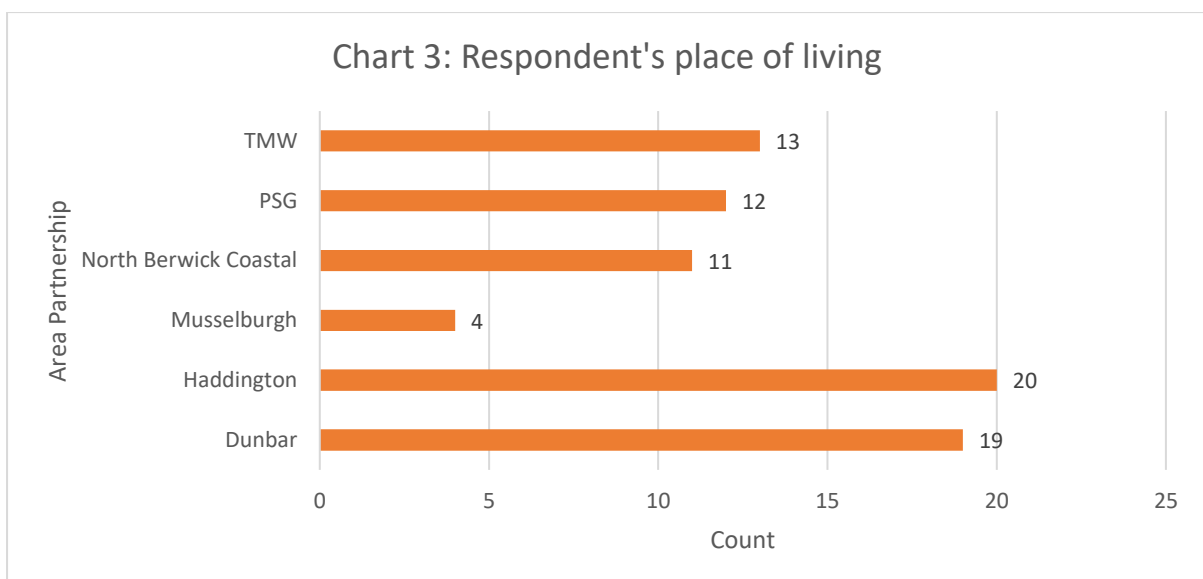


50% of respondents identified as girl/woman. 1 person identified as non-binary and 33 people identified as boy-man. 5 people self-described as follows:

- Agender
- Demiboy
- Transgender Male
- I don't know
- My sex is female and my gender is woman



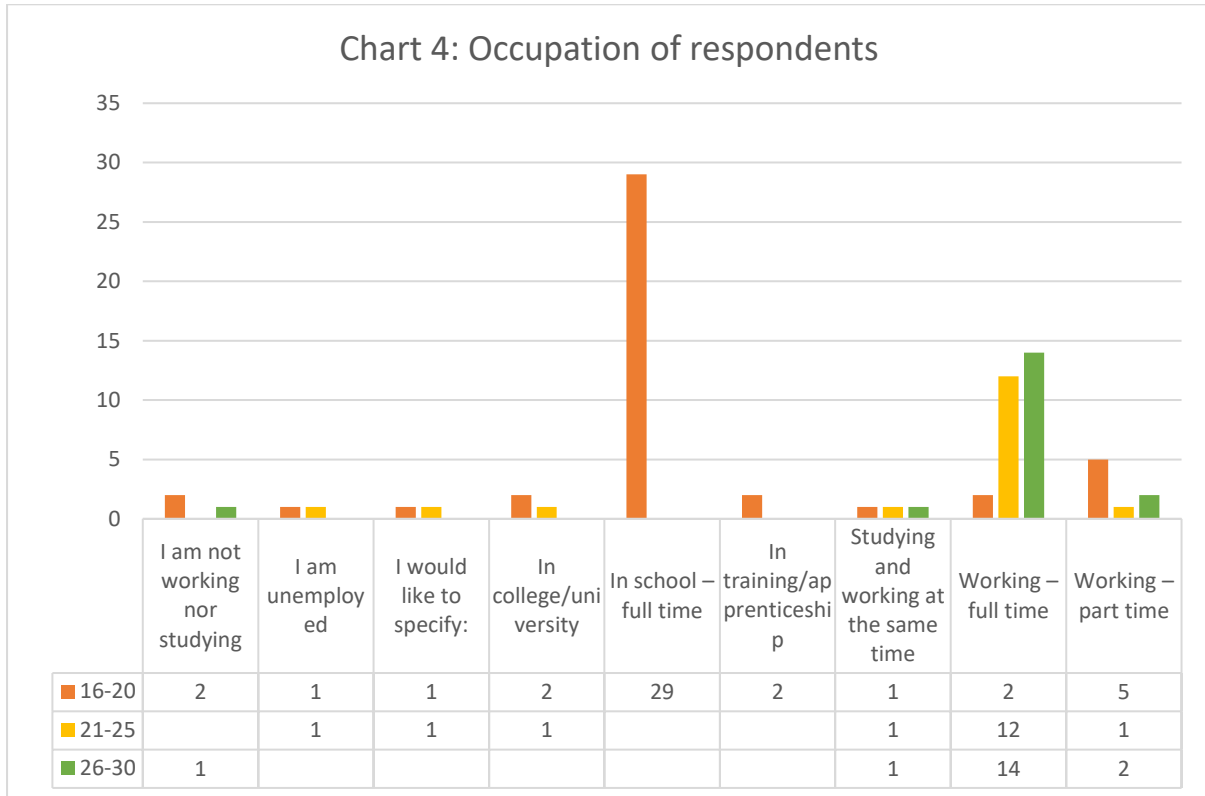
Most respondents live in the Haddington Area Partnership (25%) followed by Dunbar. Musselburgh has the highest population in East Lothian, yet only 4 young people from this area completed the survey.



In terms of **ethnicity** only 1 person identified as 'mixed or multiple ethnic groups' and 79 people identified as white.

Unsurprisingly, most people aged 16-20 were still in school full time. 36% of respondents were under 20 and at school. In comparison, most people aged 21-30 were working full time (72% of all 21-30 year olds). In total, 35% of respondents were working full time. Of the 37 people working, 27 have a permanent contract and 7 have a temporary one. One person selected 'I don't know'. 3 people specified their contract:

- 24 month temporary contract
- 1 year fixed contract
- Self employed



Four people specified their occupation. One person explained that they have several disabilities. One person said they also have a part time job alongside being in school; one person was in both school and college and one person specified that they’re an intern.

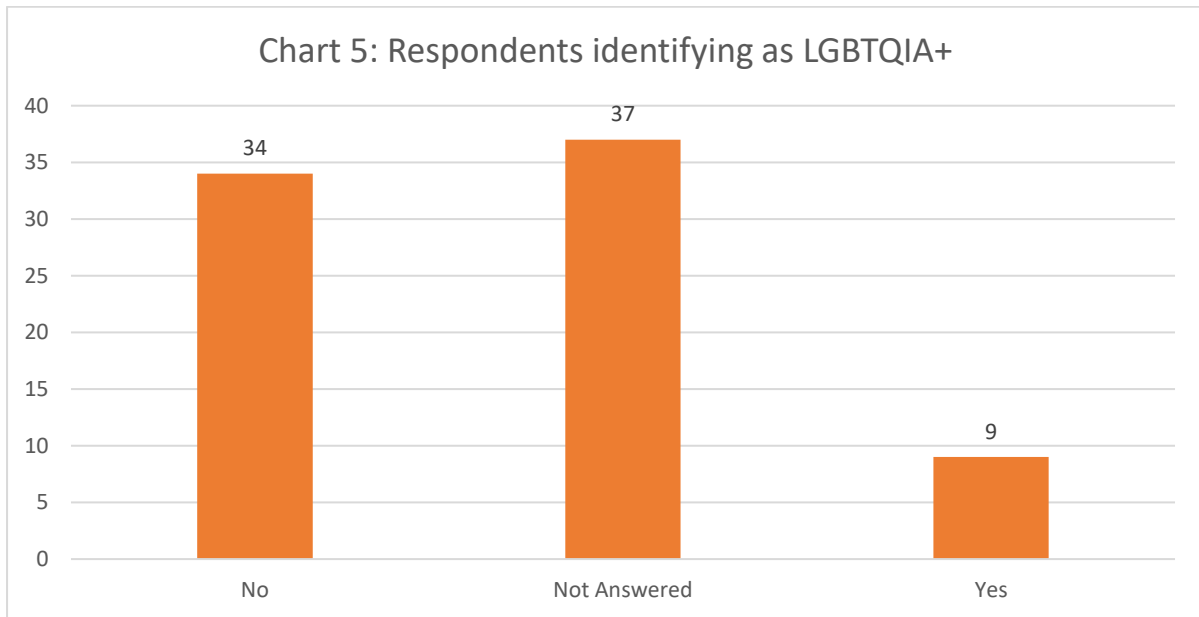
Six out of eight people who were studying at university or at college or doing an apprenticeship were living at home. Three respondents strongly agree/agree that this was to reduce their cost of living and 2 respondents strongly disagree/disagree.

Table 1: Number of respondents at university/college/traineeship living at home because of cost of living

In agreement	Number of respondents
Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Neither agree or disagree	2
Disagree	1

Strongly disagree	1
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When asked whether respondents identify as LGBTQIA+, 37 respondents (46%) did not give an answer, 34 answered no and 9 people said yes (10%). None of the respondents selected 'I'd prefer not to say'. Respondents who answered yes received further questions to understand how their identity may impact their access to services and housing.



Summary

Respondents to this survey were primarily aged 16-26. Unsurprisingly, the older respondents are the more likely they were to work instead of being in school or higher education full time. Half of the respondents identified as girl/woman and a quarter of respondents live in the Haddington Area Partnership. Respondents were reluctant to answer the question on LGBTQIA+.

Current Housing Situation

This section discusses the current housing situation of respondents who were asked about their tenure and household composition.

Tenure

Over 50% of respondents live in a home which is owned. 45% of respondents who said they live in an owned house also live with their parents/care taker. It is assumed that those houses are owned by the parent and not by the young person. 17% of respondents live in a council house and 11% live in a private rented home.

Table 2: What tenure do you live in?

Tenure	Number of respondents	% of respondents
Bought/owned housing	42	52.5%
Private rented housing	9	11.3%
Mid-market rented housing	1	1.3%
Social housing from East Lothian Council	14	17.5%
Social rent from a Housing Association	1	1.3%
Temporary accommodation	3	3.8%
Not Answered	1	1.3%
I don't know	2	2.5%
Other: 6 people specified that they live with their parents 1 person specified they live in foster care	7	8.8%

Household

Over 50% of respondents live with both of their care takers/parents. And 15 live with one care taker/parent. None of the respondents are single parents. 12 respondents live with their partner and 4 people live by themselves. Young people aged 16-20 were more likely to live with their parents and people living with their partners were all aged 21 and over. Of the respondents living with their partner, 5 own their home and 5 are renting privately. 6 respondents specified their household make up:

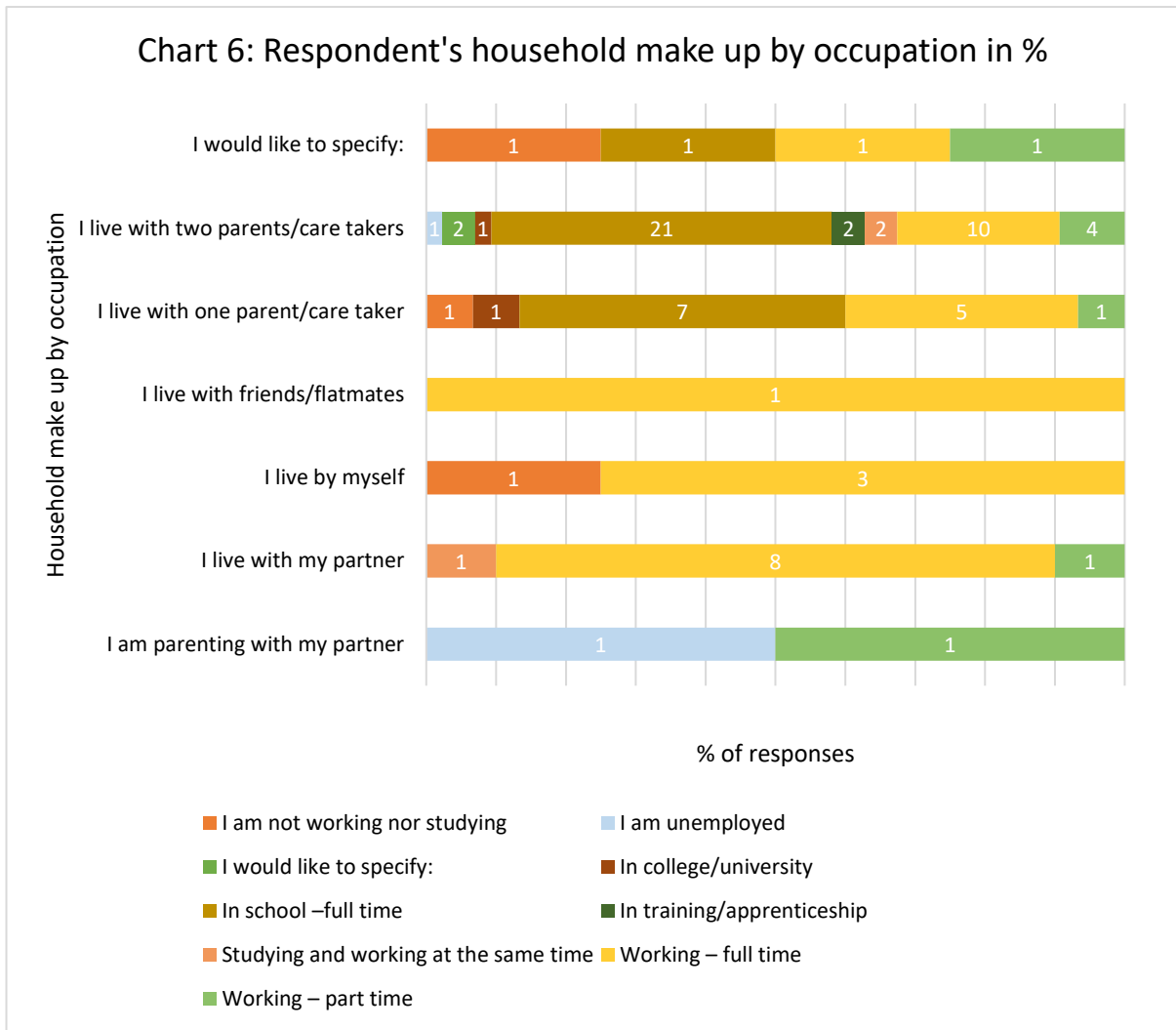
- And two siblings
- foster cares

- Grand parents
- I live with my family
- Living with parents and partner
- Two parents and a sibling

Table 3: Household make up of respondents

Household make up	Number of respondents	% of respondents
I am parenting with my partner	2	2.5%
I live by myself	4	5.0%
I live with friends/flatmates	1	1.3%
I live with my partner	10	12.5%
I live with one parent/care taker	15	18.8%
I live with two parents/care takers	43	53.8%
Not Answered	1	1.3%
I would like to specify:	4	5.0%

Chart 6 gives an overview on the respondent's household make up in relation to their occupation. The stacked bar chart shows the relative percentage of multiple data series. The cumulative of each stacked bar always equals 100%. It shows that 21% of respondents live with 2 care takers and are in school full time. Likewise 8% work full time and live with their partner. The chart shows that respondents who are at school, college or university (hence more likely without income) are more likely to live at home. 12% of people who are working full time have left their parental home whilst 15% are still living with their parent(s)/caretaker(s) (Chart 6)



72% of respondents do not share their bedroom and 15 respondents share a bedroom with their partner.

Table 4: Do you share a bedroom with someone?

Household make up	Number of respondents	% of respondents
No I don't share	58	72.5%
Yes with my partner	15	18.8%
Yes with my sibling	4	5.0%
I don't have a bedroom	1	1.3%
I would like to specify:	1	1.3%
Not Answered	1	1.3%

Three respondents specified their living situation:

- Sharing a bedroom with foster carer's son
- Bedroom is also a storage room
- Sleeping in the sitting room

Of the 58 respondents who live with their parents, 34% contribute money towards living with their parents and 64% do not. When considering the occupation of respondents, young people working, in apprenticeships and also young people who do not work nor study are more likely to contribute towards living with their parents than respondents who are still in school. There seems to be no correlation between age and contribution.

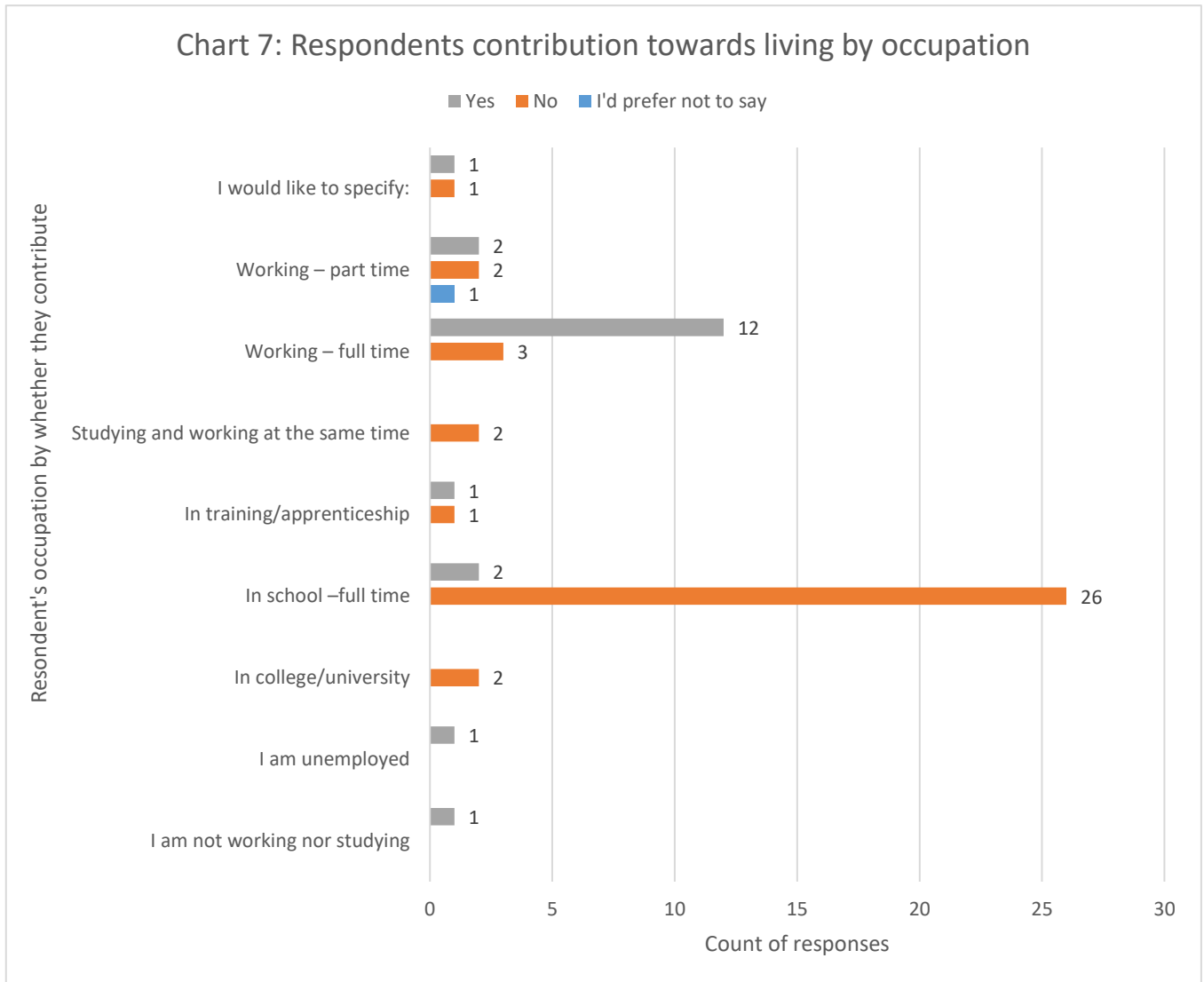
Table 5: Do you contribute money towards living with your parents?

	Number of responses	% of responses
Yes	20	34%
No	37	64%
I'd prefer not to say	1	2%
Total respondents living with parents	58	100%

Table 6: Age of young people contributing towards living with parents

Age	Number of respondents
16-20	5
21-25	8
26-30	7
Total number contributing	20

Chart 7: Respondents contribution towards living by occupation



67% of respondents strongly agree or agree that their contribution to living with their parents is affordable. 18% neither agree nor disagree.

Table 7: I think my contribution is affordable.

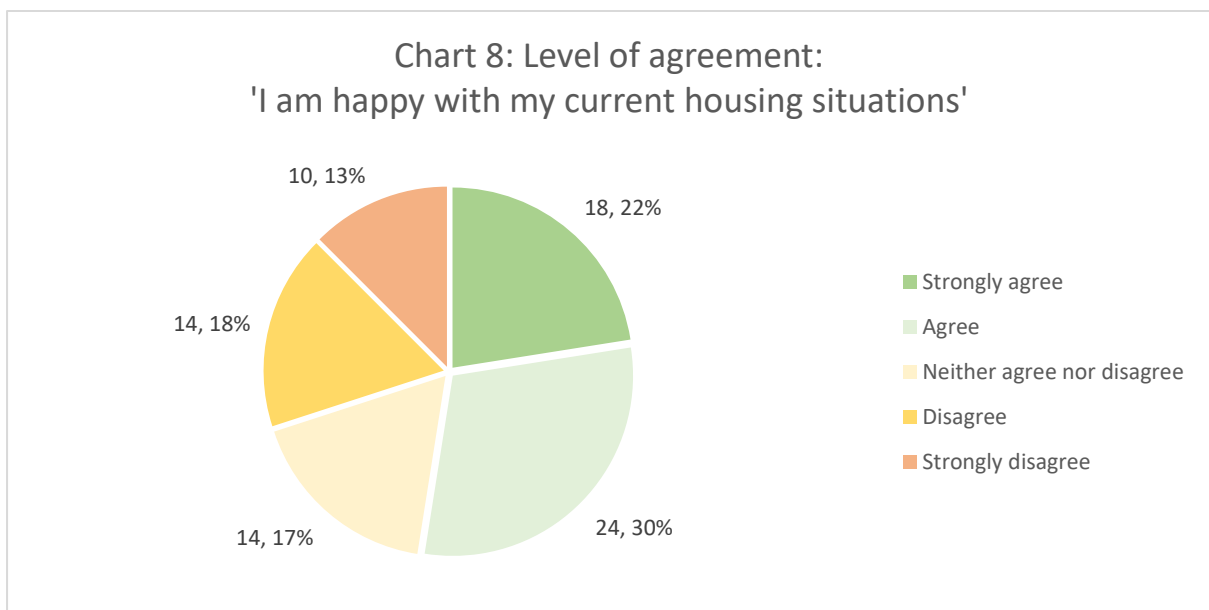
Level of agreement	Number of responses	% of responses where applicable
Strongly Agree	9	26%
Agree	14	41%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	6	18%
Disagree	2	6%
Strongly Disagree	1	3%

I'd prefer not to say	2	6%
Not applicable	24	

Housing Satisfaction

Respondents were asked how satisfied they are with their current living situation and what they would like to change about it.

52% of young people strongly agree or agree that they are happy with their current housing situation. 13% strongly disagree.

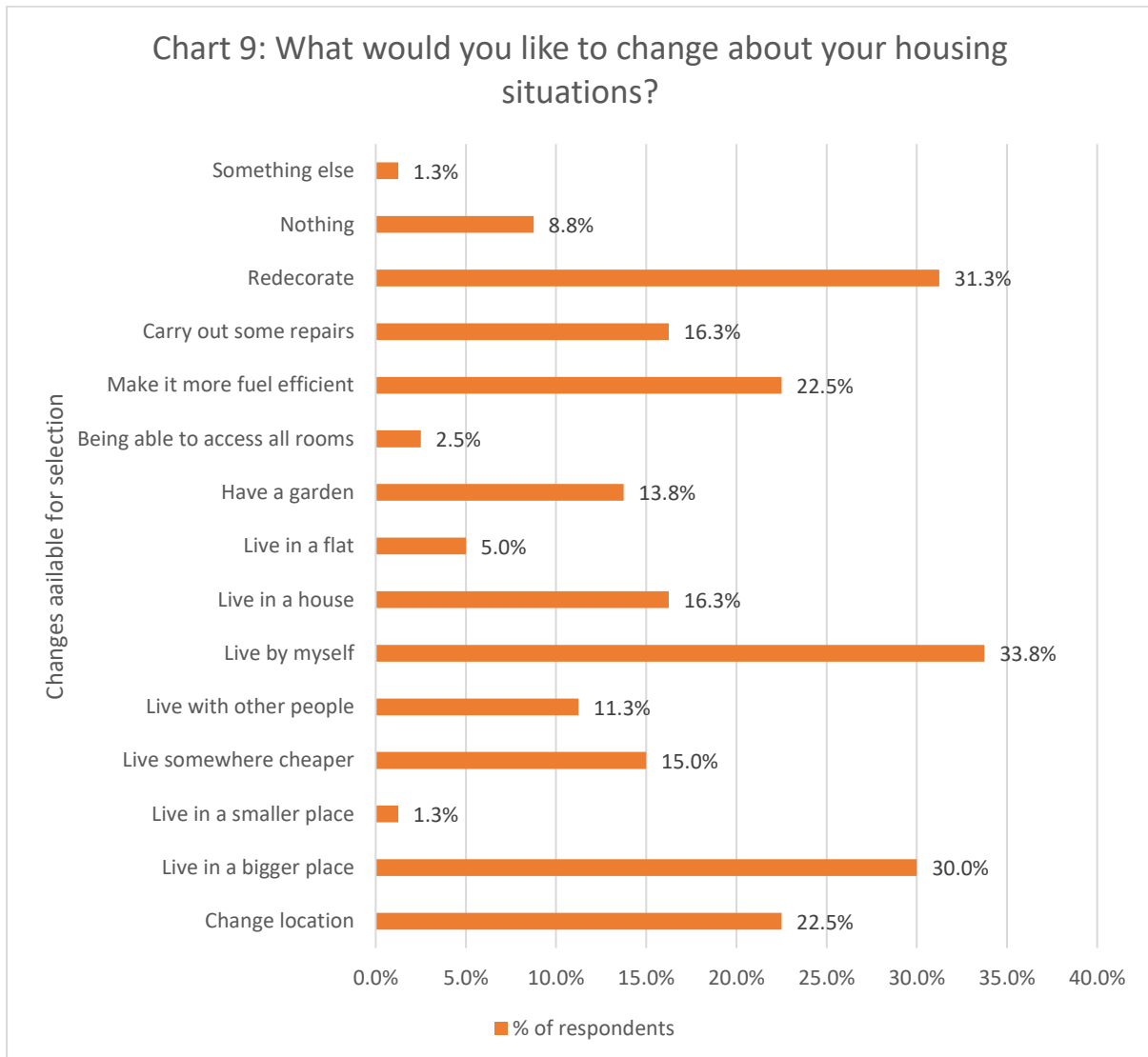


Respondents were asked what they would like to change about their current housing situation with multiple selections possible. 33% of respondents said that they would like to live by themselves. Of the 27 people who would like to live by themselves, 18 are either working full or part time and 2 are at college/university. 30% said they would like to live in a bigger home. 22% mentioned the need to make their homes more fuel efficient and 22% wished for a change in location.

7 respondents took the opportunity to specify what they would like to change. One person mentioned they would like a more disabled friendly house and one person would like support/care. The other 5 comments can be summarised as the wish to move out of their current accommodation. However the situations they want to move away from are varied:

- Move away from parents was mentioned 3 times
- Move to home ownership

- Move away from supported accommodation



Summary

Nearly half of the respondents live with their parents in home ownership. Some young people are already working and living independently by themselves or with their partner. However there is a considerable amount of young people who have an income but remain living with their parents. There are also a few respondents who do not have their own bedroom or live in temporary accommodation or are in school full time but have to contribute towards the household income.

Financial Situation

Respondents were asked whether they agree with several statements that related to their financial situation and ability to pay for bills and other goods and services.

39 respondents (nearly 50%) strongly agree or agree that they worry about their household's financial situation. 19 people neither agree nor disagree and 16 people (20%) disagree/strongly disagree.

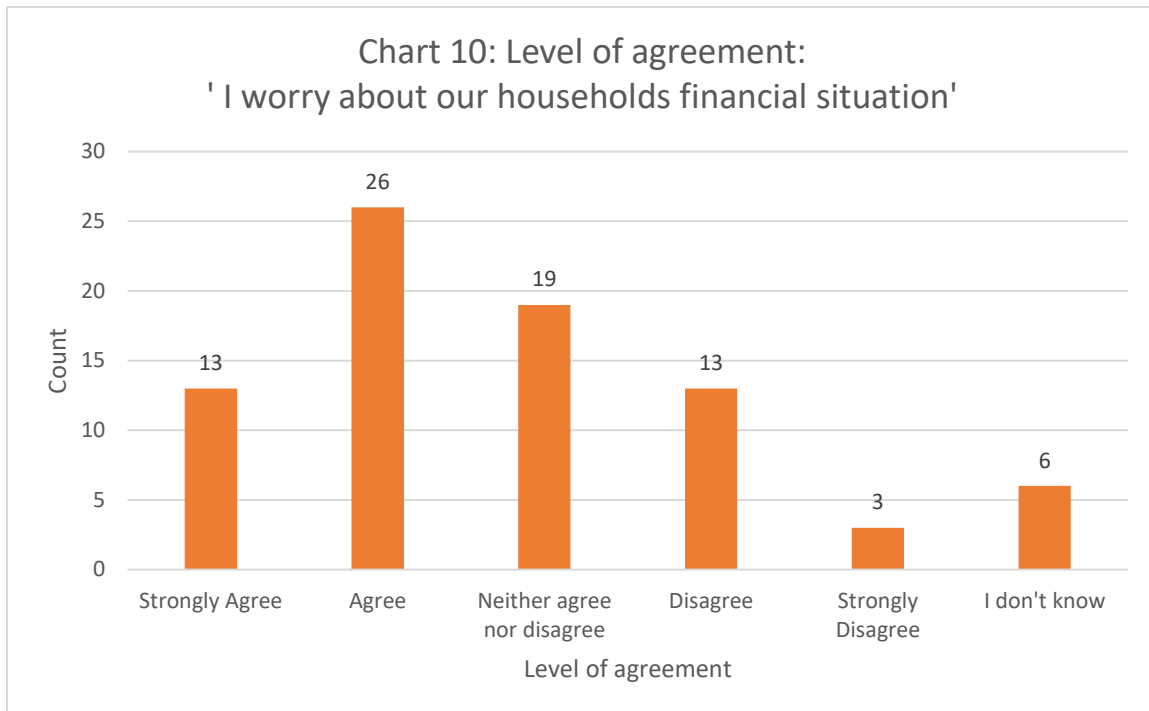


Chart 11 gives an overview by showing what statements respondents most strongly agreed and agreed with. Chart 11 shows that while there is large agreement that respondents worry about their financial situation this is mostly related to energy bills and necessary upgrades to the house. Whilst struggling pay for rent/mortgage has been selected the least.

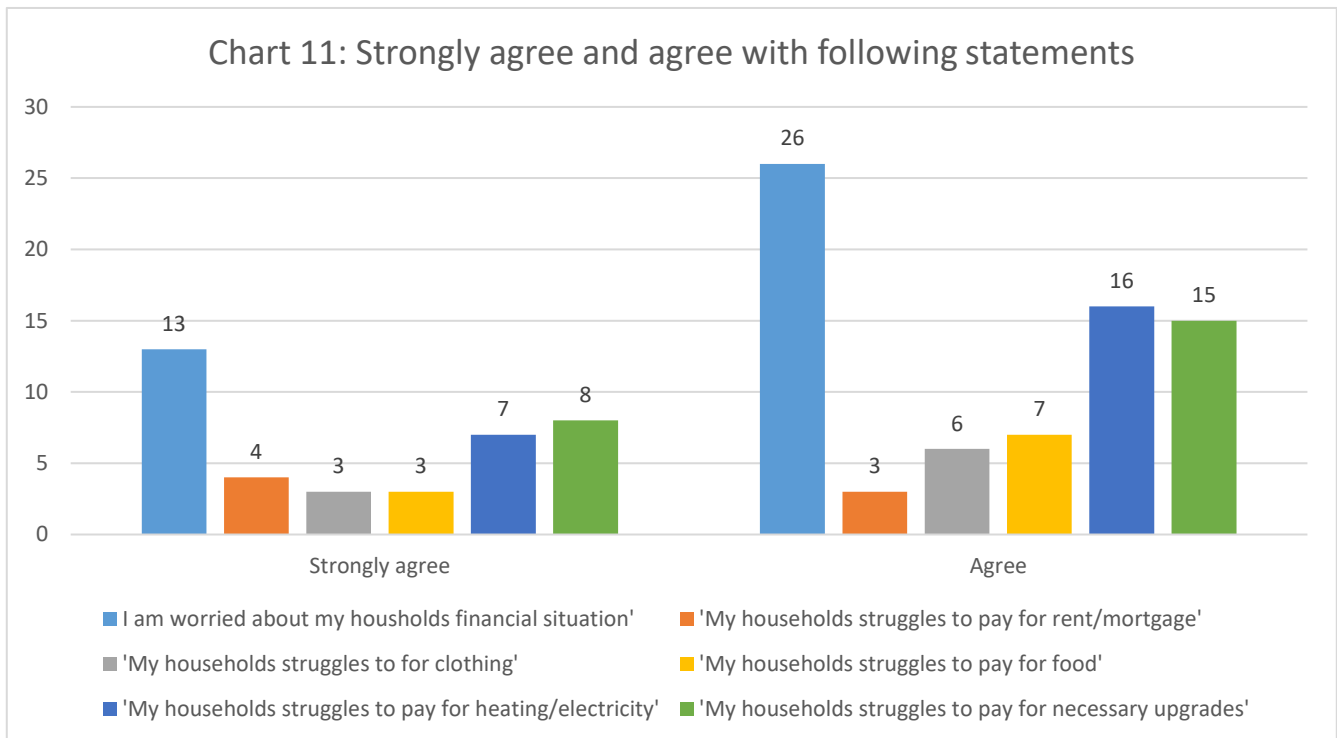


Chart 12 shows that respondents are not really worried about paying rent and mortgages with 47 respondents strongly disagreeing/disagreeing with the statement 'My household struggles to pay for rent/mortgage' and only 7 people strongly agree/agree with this statement. Although 10 respondents are also not sure how to answer this statement. People who agree were living in the private rented sector (3 people) or were living in ELC housing (3 people). One person was living in an owner occupied property.

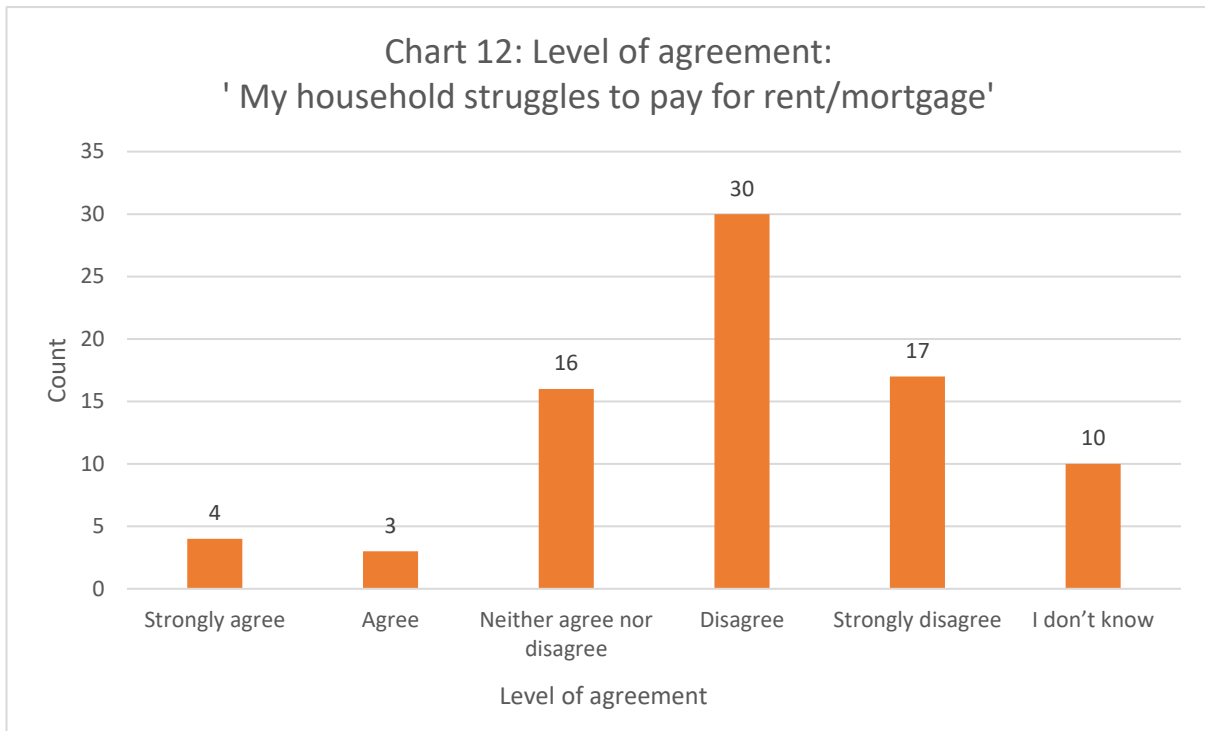
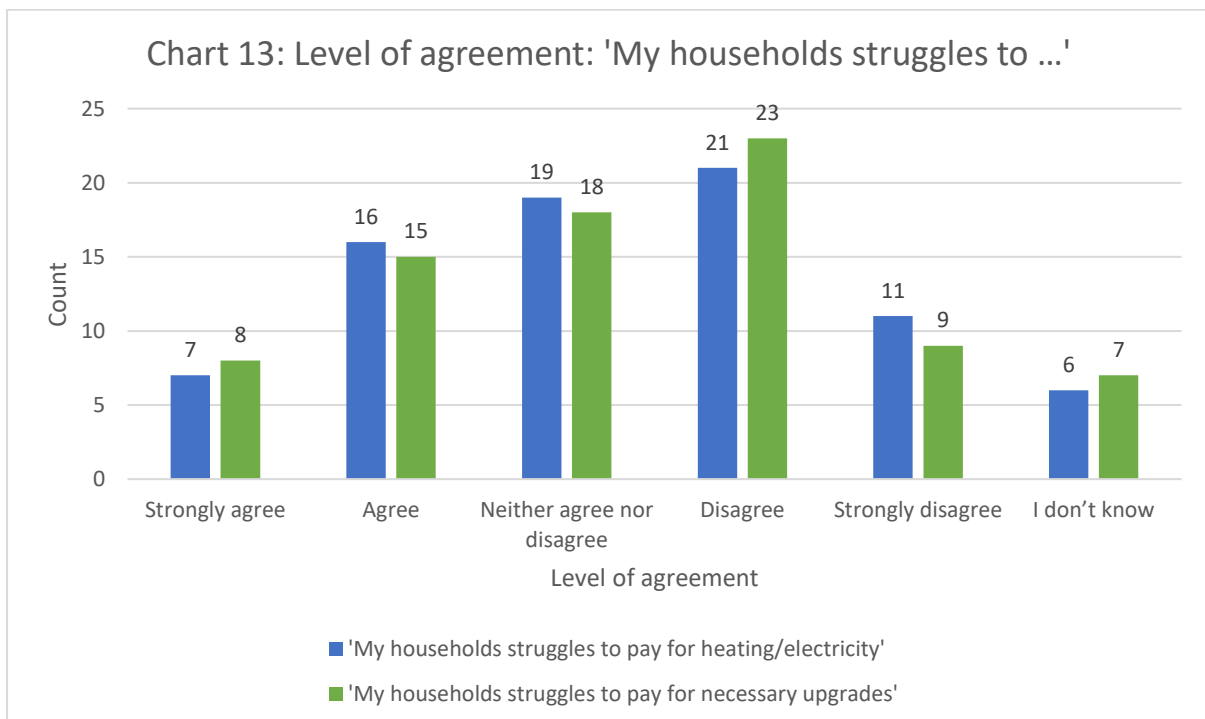
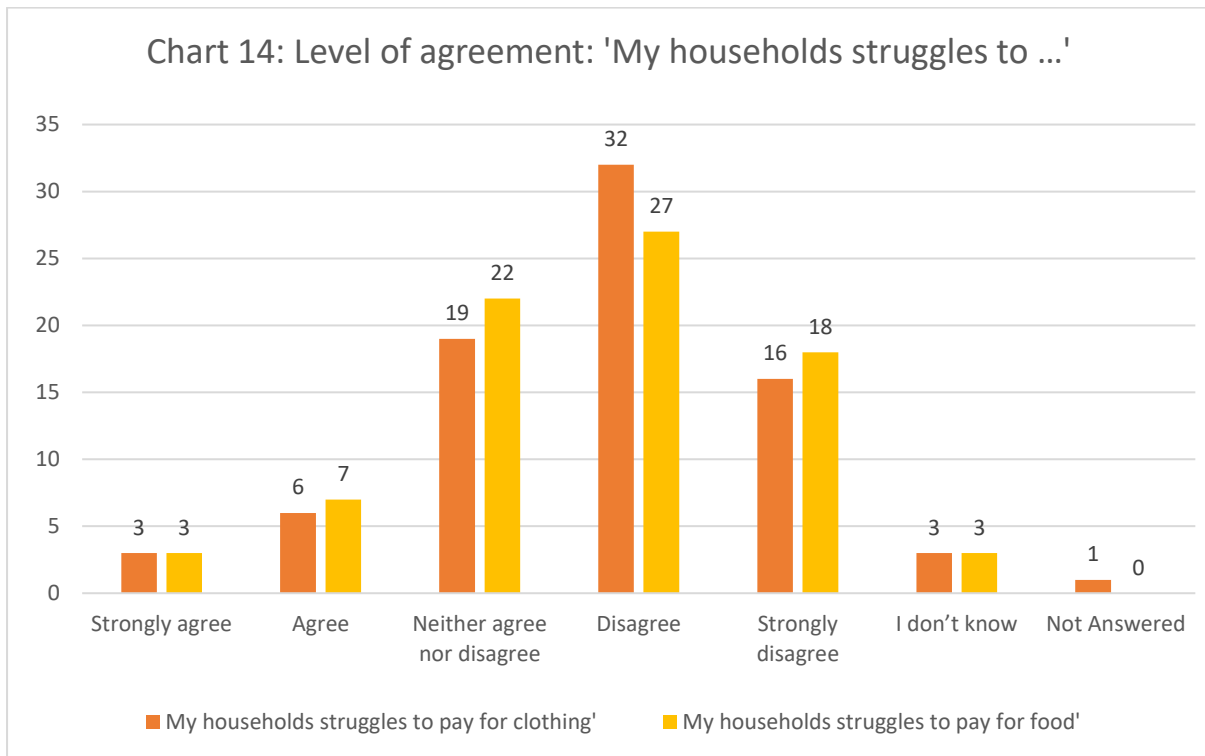


Chart 13 shows that in terms of financial struggles, respondents are most wary about paying for electricity and heating bills with 23 respondents in agreement that their household struggles to pay for electricity and heating. In a similar vein 23 people strongly agree and agree that their household struggles to make necessary upgrades to the house with 32 people disagreeing.



In terms of paying for clothing, 48 respondents strongly disagree/disagree that that’s a struggle for their household and 9 people strongly agree/agree. 10 respondents strongly agree/agree that their household struggles to pay for food and 45 strongly disagree/disagree with this statement.



14 respondents decided to expand on their financial struggles, all of the comments are quite varied. Energy efficiency, living independently and having enough left at the end of the month are struggles respondents have to grapple with.

Table 8: Further comments on financial struggles

Theme	Number of mentions
Just about cover the bills	3
Wishing for a garden	2
Own property	1
Live independently from parents	1
Difficulties to adjust home for heat efficiency	3
Live in a disabled friendly property	1
Struggle to pay council tax	1
Upsizing to work from home	1

“There are several repair issues that have been reported several times over the years and still nothing has been done. I firmly believe if these were attended to our fuel bills wouldn’t be quite so high!”

“Old House with energy efficiency issues worsened by overly restrictive conservation area policies.”

“Can afford all the bare minimums however don't have much left-over money to make upgrades such as raising energy efficiency which is very low.”

“I am 27 years old and should be able to be independent and live my own life.”

“[Name] needs full time carers for him to be able to live independently in a house within his own community, flats are not good for [him] as with his disabilities would find this very tricky”

“Even though me and my husband work, with the rising cost of living, having kids, going to and from work is a lot”

“We would love our own or council house with a little garden but unless your homeless.. or don't work, sadly it's impossible.”

“[...]Our house is too small and we can't move because there's no where to move too. She would like to work from home but we don't have the space.”

“With private renting, it really feels like the money is going into thin air and I am just giving profit to my landlord.”

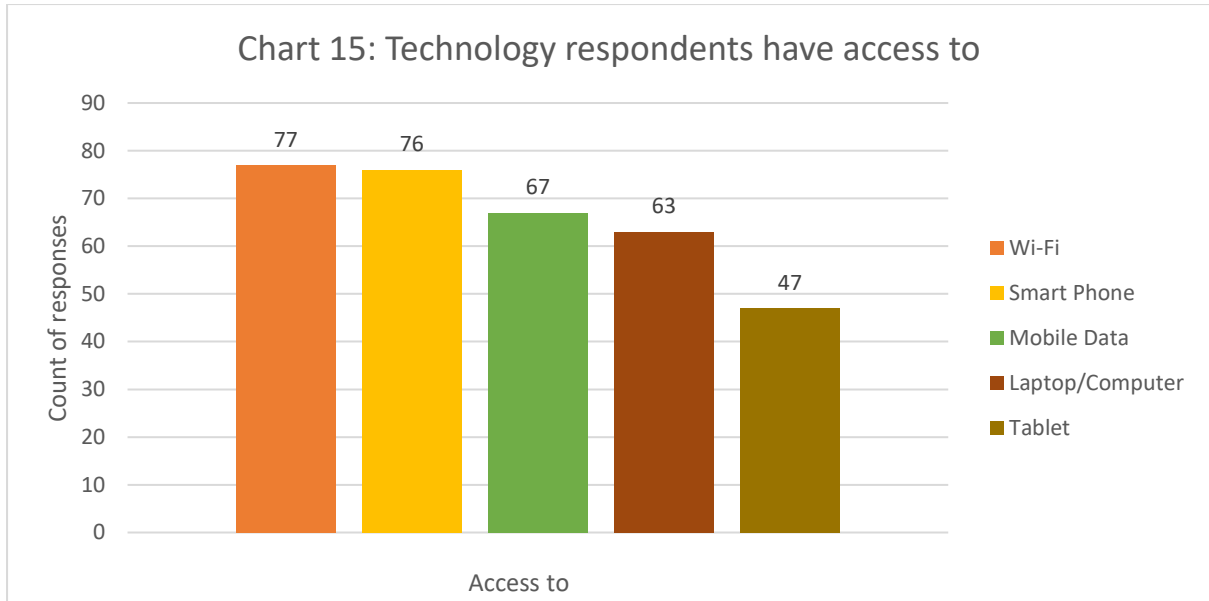
Summary

Nearly half of the respondents worry about their household's financial situation, however the reasons for worry vary. The payment of energy bills and making upgrades to the home were the two factors which stand out the most. Respondents renting are more likely to be worried about paying for accommodation and some respondents struggle to make ends meet in all aspects.

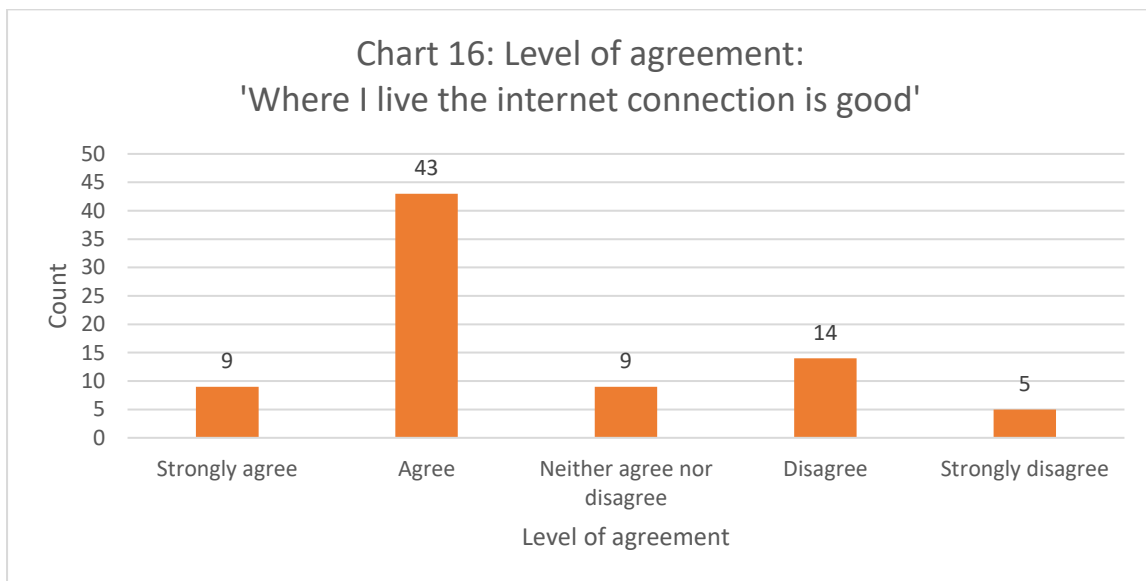
Access to services

The access to services section looks at how well connected respondents feel to services within their area. Services is used in its broadest term considering internet connection, transport as well as public/community facilities and activities.

Most young people have access to Wi-Fi and smart phones (96%). There is also a large number of respondents who also have access to Mobile Data and Laptops/Computers (83%). Tablets are the least accessible with only 46/80 respondents having access to such technology.



52 respondents either strongly agree or agree that their internet connection is good. 19 people (23%) disagree.

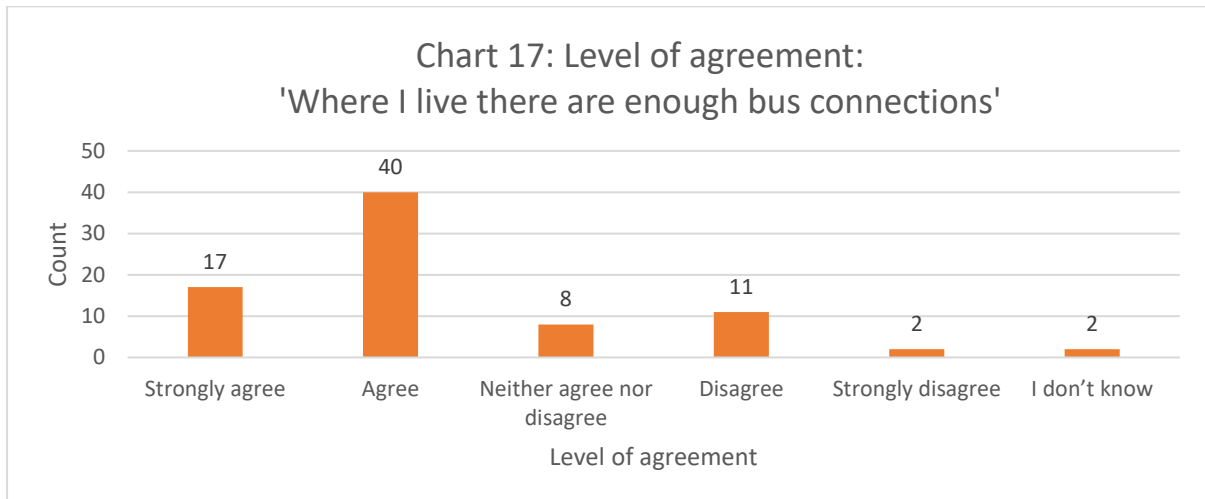


53 respondents, 66%, have access to a car whilst 3 respondents do not and another 30% do not drive.

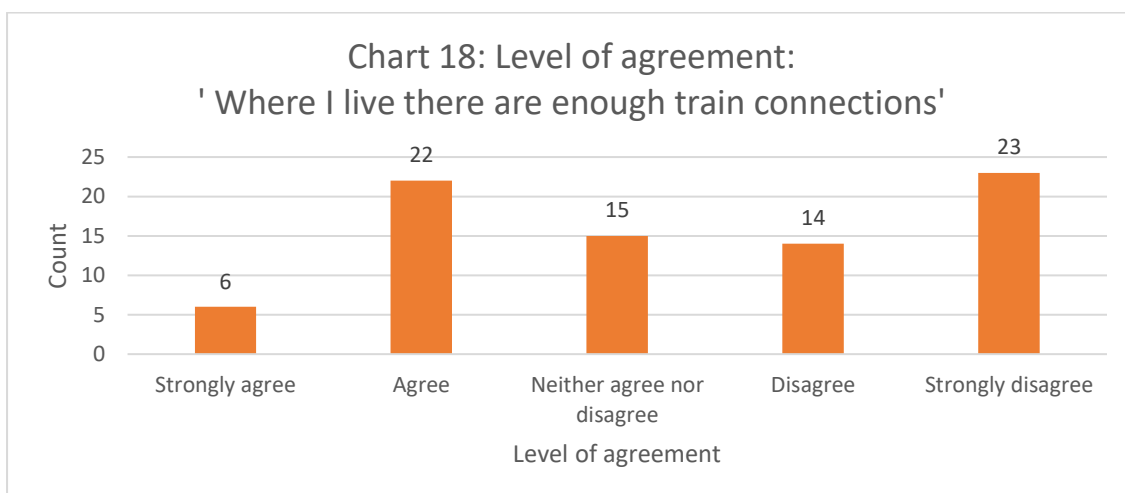
Table 9: Do respondents have car access

Access to car	Count of responses
I don't drive	24
No	3
Yes	53

57 respondents strongly agree or agree that there are enough bus connections where they live. 13 respondents disagree. Unsurprisingly, respondents who disagree live in more rural areas such as Drem, Glenkinchie, Pencaitland, Morham, Innerwick, and Ormiston. Although 4 respondents from Haddington also disagree.



35% of respondents agree or strongly agree that there are enough train connections where they live. However 46% also disagree and strongly disagree with that statement. People living near train stations such as Dunbar, North Berwick, Musselburgh and Prestonpans were more likely to agree. In contrast people living in the Haddington and Lammermuir Area Partnership and Tranent Area Partnership were more likely to disagree. Nevertheless some young people living in areas with train connections still disagree with this statement potentially wishing for increased services and routes.



Although many respondents disagree in terms of how good the level of bus and train connections are, 74% of respondents strongly agree and agree that they can easily get to school and work. This may be because they are living close to their school or place of work. No correlation between location of living

or occupation and this statement was found. However it was found that respondents aged 16-20 were proportionately more likely to disagree (13.3%) than respondents aged 21-25 (5.8%) and 26-30 (5.5%) (table 10)

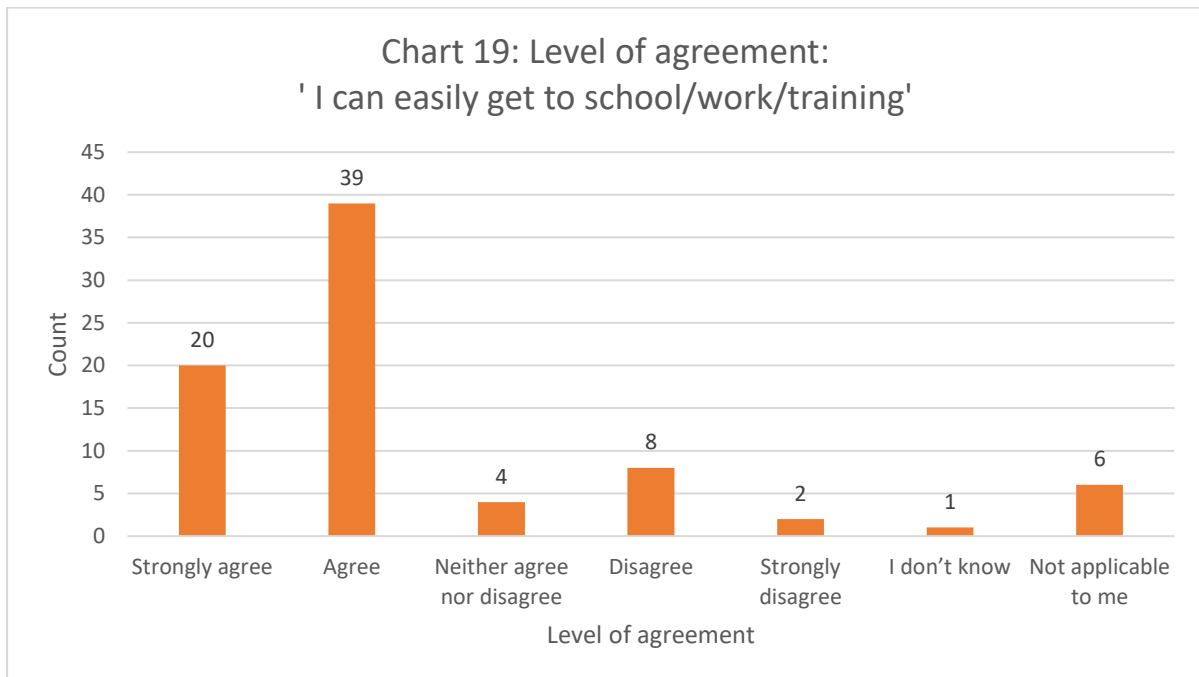
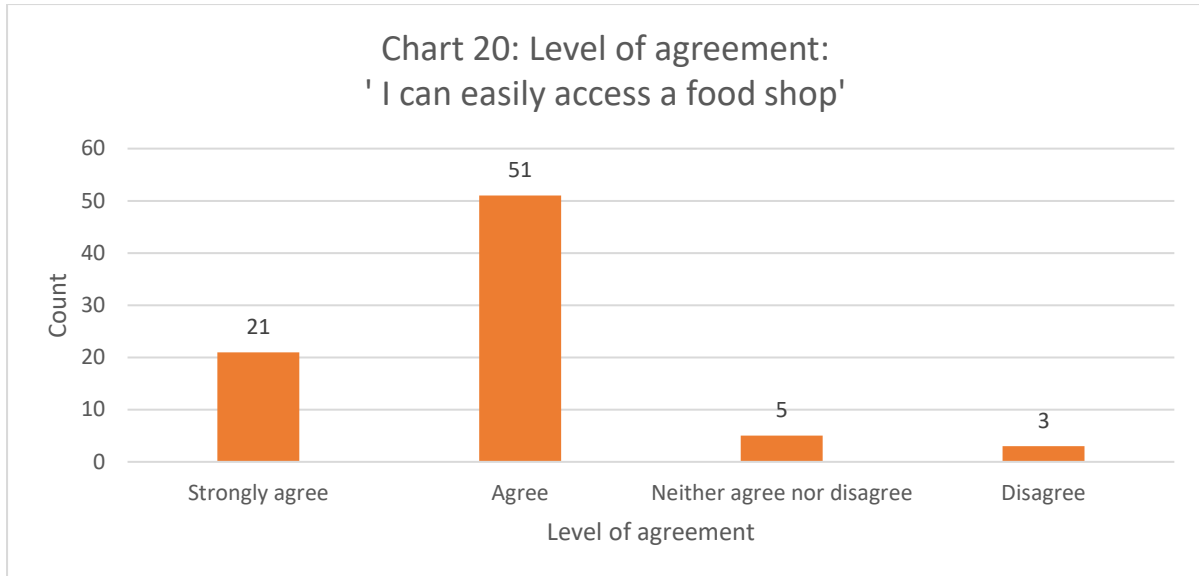


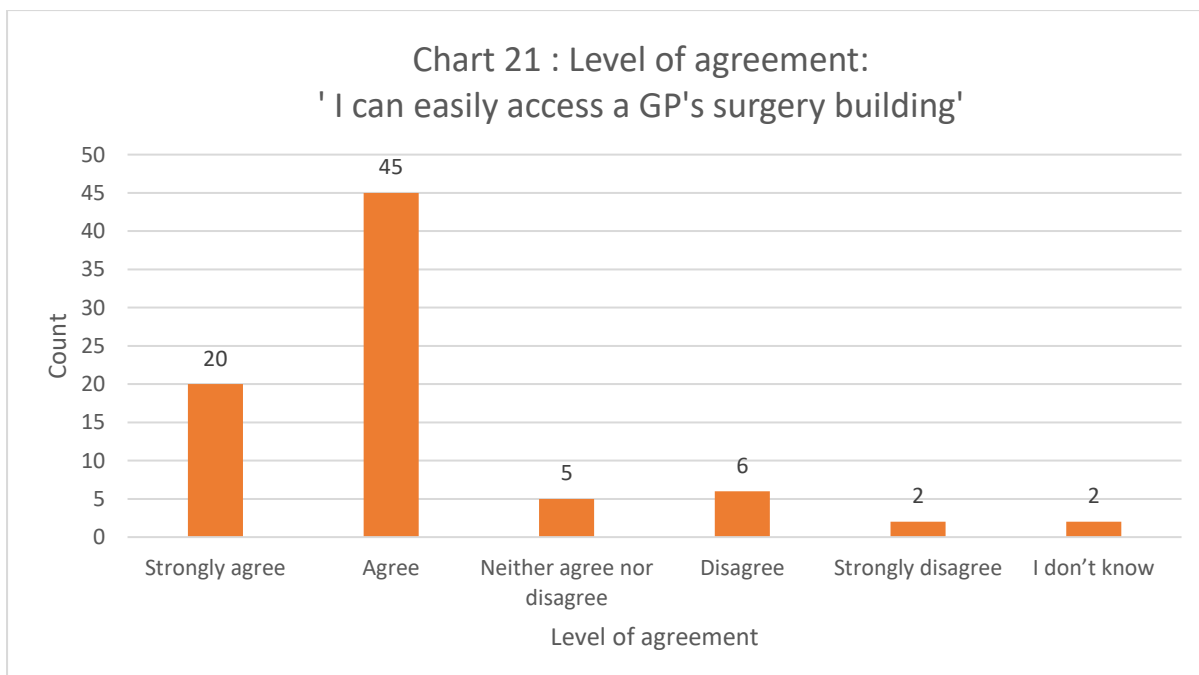
Table 10: Level of agreement on I can easily get to work/school/training by age

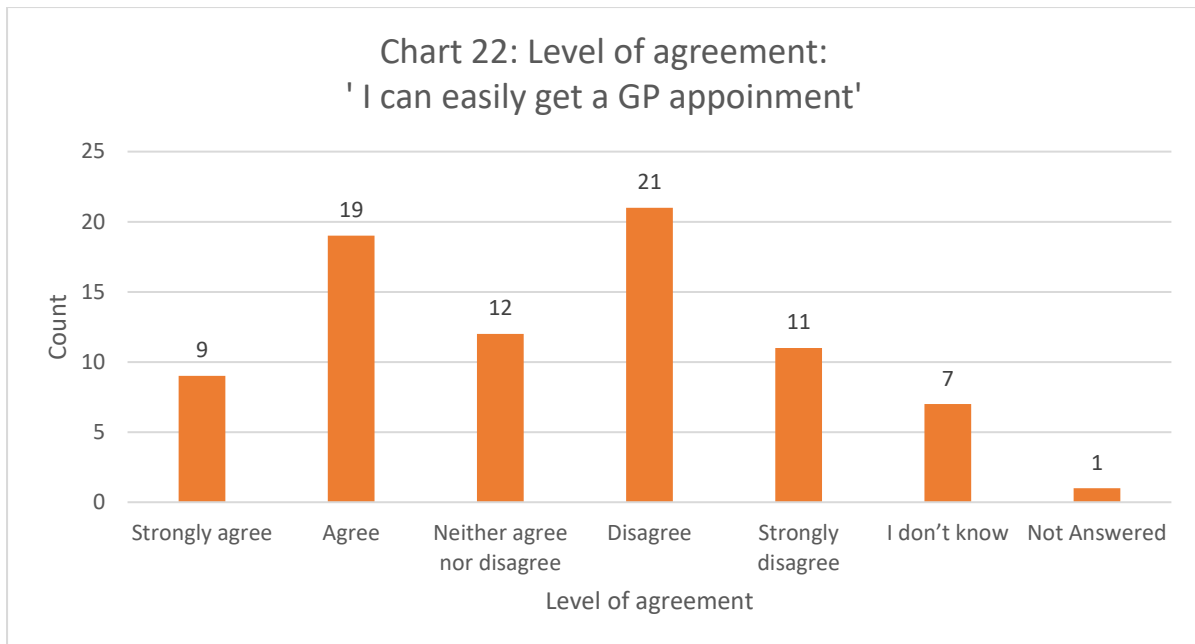
Age	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know	Not applicable to me
16-20	26.67%	44.44%	4.44%	13.33%	2.22%	2.22%	6.67%
21-25	23.53%	52.94%	5.88%	5.88%	0.00%	0.00%	11.76%
26-30	22.22%	55.56%	5.56%	5.56%	5.56%	0.00%	5.56%

72/80 strongly agree or agree that they can easily access a food shop. Only 3 respondents disagree and no respondents strongly disagree.

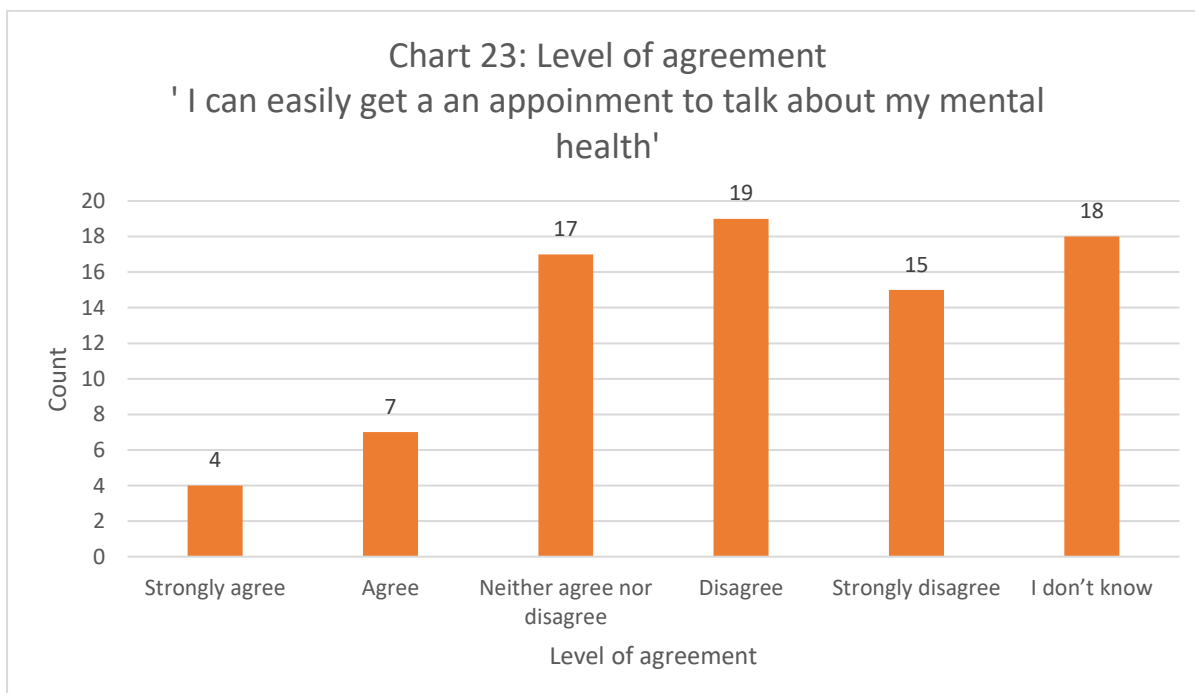


In terms of access to health services, 75/80 respondents agree that they can easily access GP buildings (chart 21). This stands in contrast to being able to get a GP appointment where 40% of respondents disagree or strongly disagree that they cannot get a GP appointment easily (chart 21).

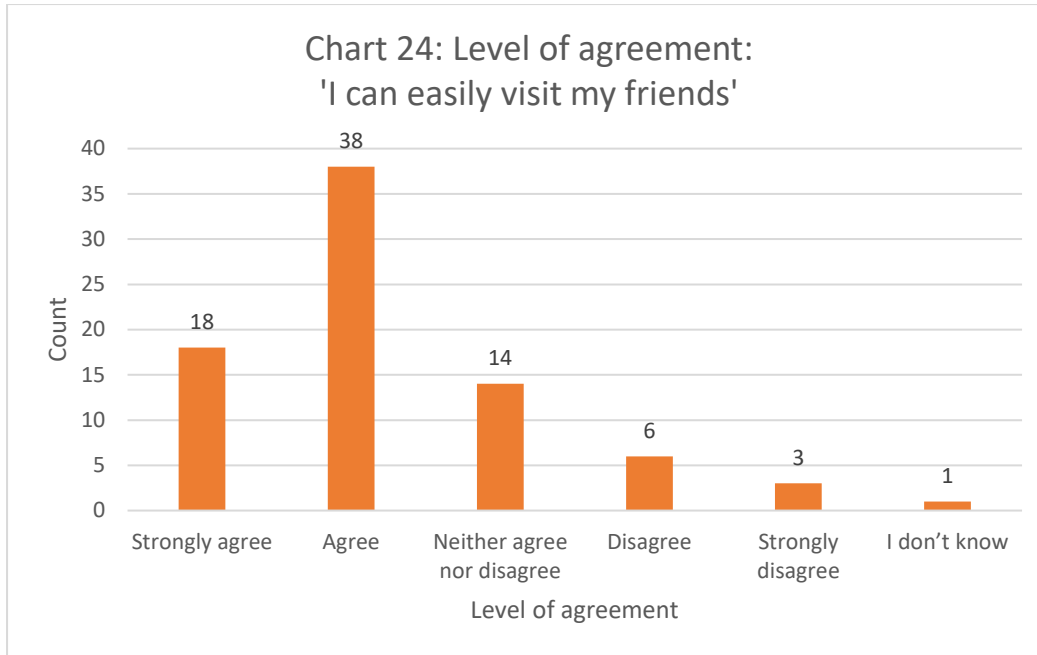




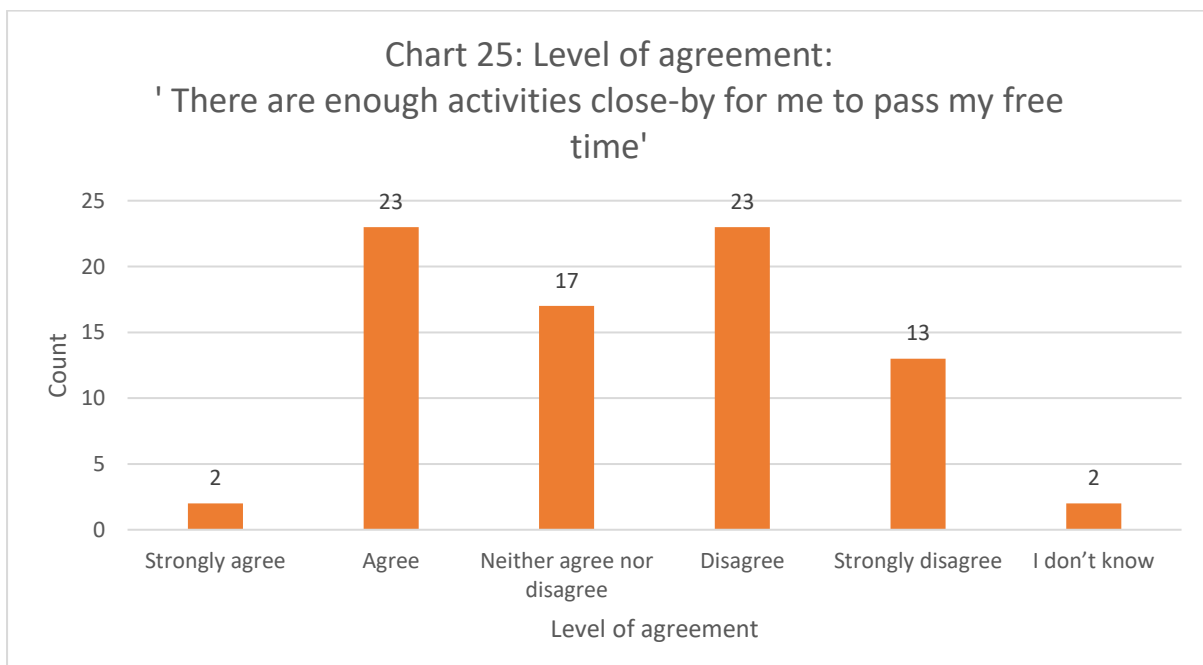
Respondents feel like there is an even bigger difficulty in accessing mental health support with only 11 respondents (13.7%) agreeing they can get appointments to talk about their mental health whilst 42% disagree or strongly disagree. 23% of respondents selected 'I don't know' when asked about mental health access. It can be assumed that they never tried to access mental health services before.



70% strongly agree or agree that they can easily visit their friends. 9 respondents (11%) disagree or strongly disagree with this statement. No correlation was found between this statement and certain demographic characteristics of respondents.



Respondents were asked whether they agree that there are enough activities close-by for them to pass their free time. Whilst 23 respondents agree, 23 also disagree (28%). 44% of respondents who were in school full time disagree or strongly disagree with this statement in comparison to 24% of respondents working full time.



‘Activities close by’ was analysed by gender. People identifying as boy/man are slightly more in agreement than people identifying as girls/women. Furthermore, none of the people identifying as non-heteronormative (self-describe and non-binary in table 11) agree at all with this statement.

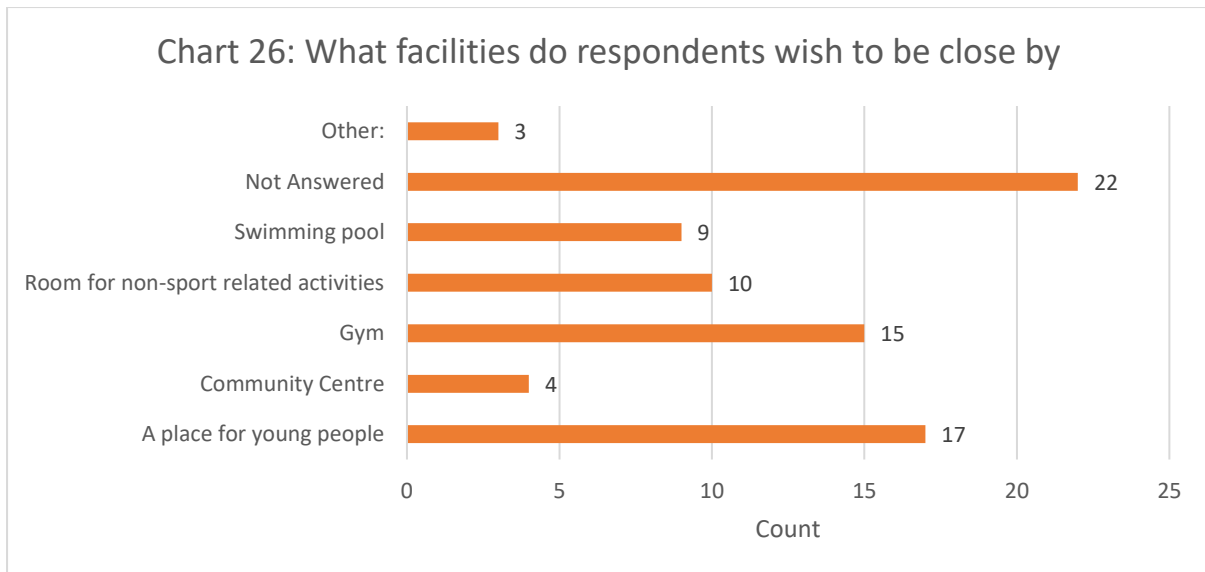
Table 11: Level of agreement of activities close-by by gender identity

	Boy/ man	Girl/ woman	I’d prefer not to say	I’d prefer to self-describe:	Non- binary	Not Answered	Grand Total
Strongly agree	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
Agree	36%	28%	0%	0%	0%	0%	29%
Neither agree nor disagree	15%	23%	0%	25%	100%	100%	21%
Disagree	30%	30%	0%	25%	0%	0%	29%
Strongly disagree	15%	13%	100%	50%	0%	0%	16%
I don’t know	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%

Respondents were asked what facilities they would like to have close by. Unfortunately, this question was not set up as multiple choice as intended and one option was available to respondents. 22 (27%) respondents decided not to answer and selected none of the facilities that were given as an option. 17 respondents chose the options ‘a place for young people’ and 15 selected the option for a gym. Another 10 also mentioned a room for non-sports related activities and 9 selected the swimming pool option. Three people selected ‘other’ and expanded:

- Cinema
- Non-food shops, more cafes. Overall a better high street and more parks/green space
- None of the above

One person who selected a place for young people and said more clubs/groups for more varied hobbies. And one person who did not answer said ‘gym, swimming pool’ and a place for young people’



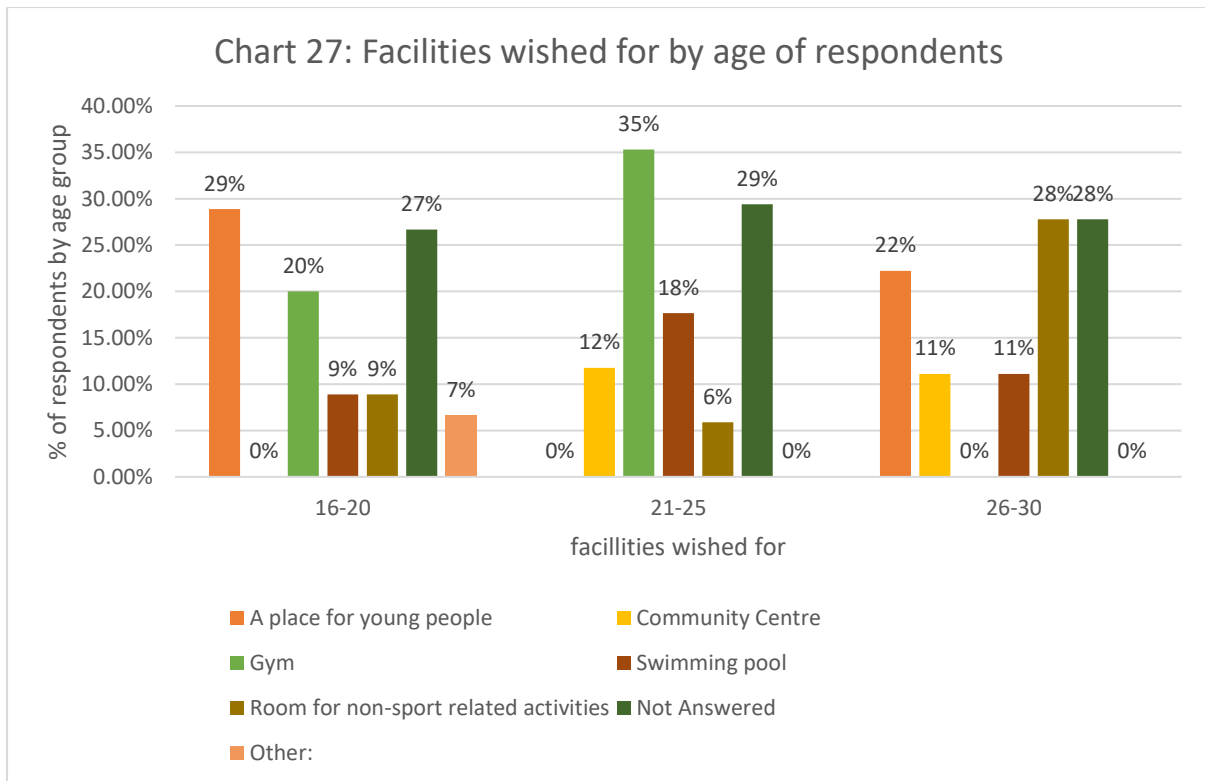
29% of young people aged 16-20 wished for a place for young people and 22% of 26-30 year olds also did so. People aged 21-30 also selected community centres whilst 16-20 year olds did not. 28% of 26-30 year olds also selected the option 'room for non-sport related activities' in contrast to only 9% of 16-20 and 6% of 21-25 year olds. However 35% of 21-25 year olds wished for a gym. In terms of occupation and location of respondents it was difficult to find correlations. Notably however, people requesting community centres were all working full time.

8 respondents also took the opportunity to further expand their views in relation to the 'access to services' section. 5 of the respondents mentioned the lack of transport or efficient transport although in very different contexts:

- Faster connections between Wallyford/Musselburgh and Edinburgh City Centre
- 'The trains don't always run now. The free bus pass is great.'
- Swimming pool is not in walking distance but manageable with public transport
- *'My course is at Granton campus at Edinburgh College. I have no choice but to make a 3 hour round trip on 4-6 buses to attend. This isn't right and there's no other options closer.'*
- More consistent route between Haddington and Aberlady

The need for safe places was mentioned twice *'Good lighting and loos, safe places where one group can't take over the space'*. This was followed up by both respondents to say that a place away from adults is necessary as well as the diversity in options *'Not just sports pitches for lads.'*

The need for a carer to also be present when being out was also mentioned. One person mentioned the lack of therapy sessions available to them.



Summary

Access to technology and good internet connection is high for respondents. Most respondents also have access to a car and are able to access their school/work place as well as meet up with their friends. Although young people living in more rural villages have pointed to a lack of train and bus connections whilst young people living in more accessible areas are also not fully satisfied.

The lack of access to health care, particularly mental health should be underlined as well as the fact that some young people do not feel like there is enough variety on offer for them to pass their time. People identifying other than boy/man in particular are less satisfied and more ‘places for young people’ were wanted as well as gyms, swimming pools but also spaces for non-sport related activities.

LGBTQIA+

This section discusses questions posed to respondents who identified as LGBTQIA+ only, as discussed in sub chapter ‘a’. These tailored questions tried to gauge whether their identity has had any particular impact on their housing situation and access to services so far.

Of the 9 respondents who identified as LGBTQIA+ in section ‘a’ none had to leave their accommodation as a result of their identity and none of them have been homeless as a result.

One person strongly agrees that they are worried that in the future they may become homeless due to coming out. 4 respondents disagree or strongly disagree with the statement.

According to Chart 28, 2 respondents strongly agree/agree that they are comfortable identifying as

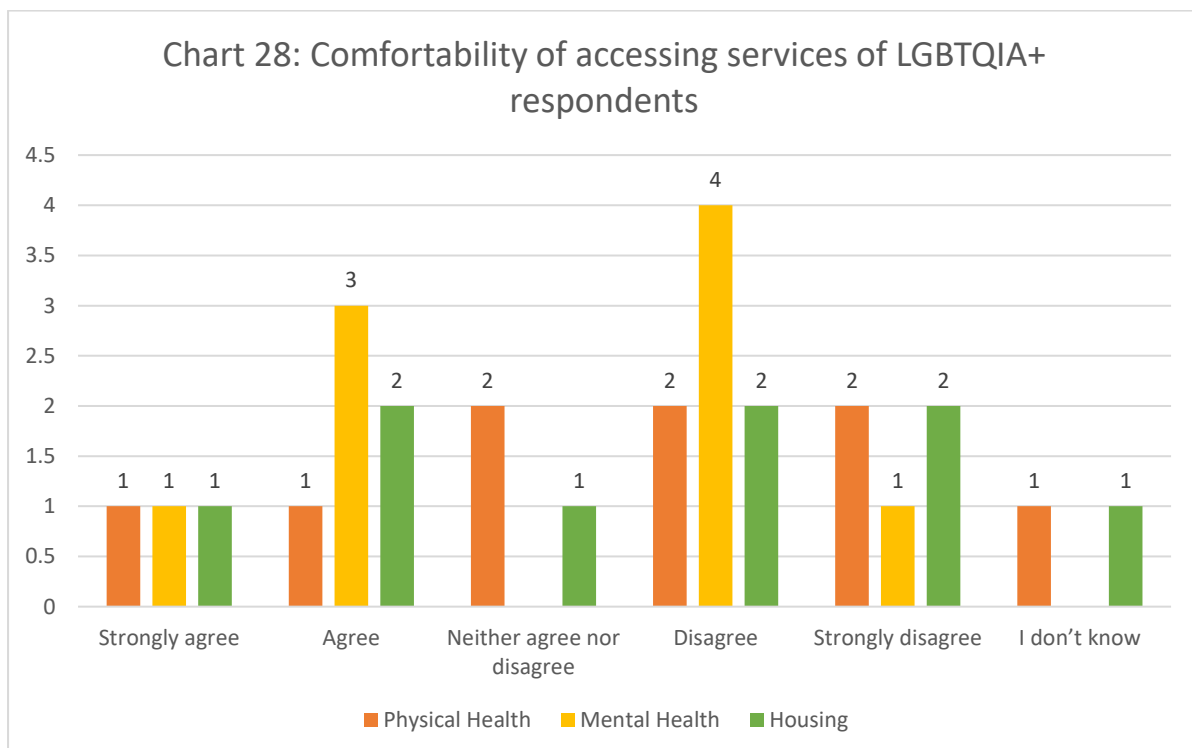
Table 12: My identify has had a negative impact on the quality of service I received from Housing Services

Level of agreement	Count
I have never accessed the housing service before	4
I have never identified as LGBTQIA+ for housing services	1
Disagree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	2

LGBTQIA+ when accessing physical health services whilst 4 people strongly disagree/disagree. One person was not sure and 2 people neither agree nor disagree.

In terms of accessing mental health services, respondents seemed to feel a little more comfortable with 4 people agreeing and 5 people disagreeing.

Considering accessing housing services, 3 people agree that they feel comfortable but 5 people also disagree.



Looking at people’s queer identity and the quality of housing services, 1 person did not identify as LGBTQIA+ when accessing this service and 2 people neither agree nor disagree that their identity has had a negative impact on the quality of service and 2 people disagree. 4 people had never accessed housing services before. No respondents agree with the statement.

When given the opportunity to add more comments one respondent took the opportunity to do so and explained:

‘It is an anxiety of mine that should I come to move out, I will be rejected based on my identity.’

Summary

Considering, that 10% of young people identified as LGBTQIA+ and that 46% also decided not to answer the question at all, it is unclear how many young people in East Lothian are actually LGBTQIA+. It underlines the general caution around identifying one’s gender and sexual identity. This is also reflected when it comes to identifying as LGBTQIA+ when it comes to accessing physical health, mental health and housing services where people identifying as LGBTQIA+ are split between being comfortable about their identity.

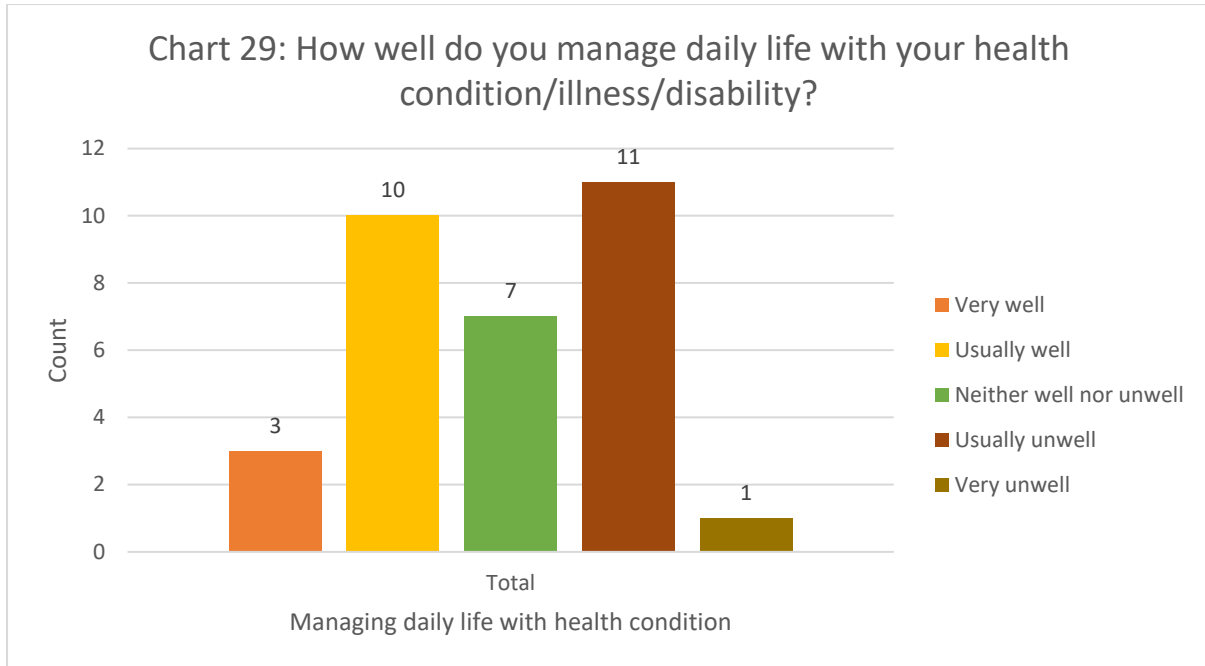
Mental and physical health

56% of respondents did not have a mental or physical health condition, disability or illness. 21 respondents selected having a mental health condition and 5 selected a physical health condition. 7 respondents said they have both mental and physical health conditions, disabilities or illnesses.

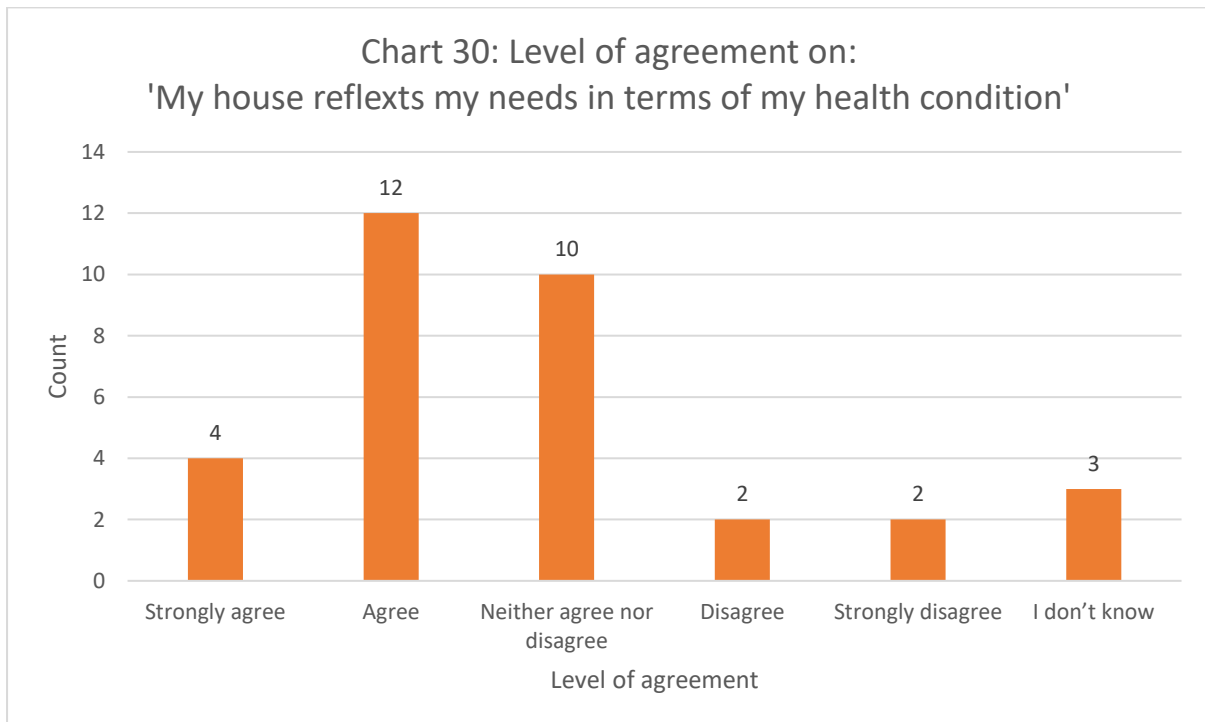
Table 12: Do you have a health condition, disability or illness?

Health condition	Number of responses
Yes - mental	21
Yes - physical	5
Yes - both	7
No	45
I'd prefer not to say	2

There is a split on how well respondents manage their health condition. With 13 respondents managing very well or usually well and 12 managing usually unwell and very unwell.



16/33 respondents with health conditions strongly agree and agree that their house reflects their needs and 4 people disagree and strongly disagree with that statement.

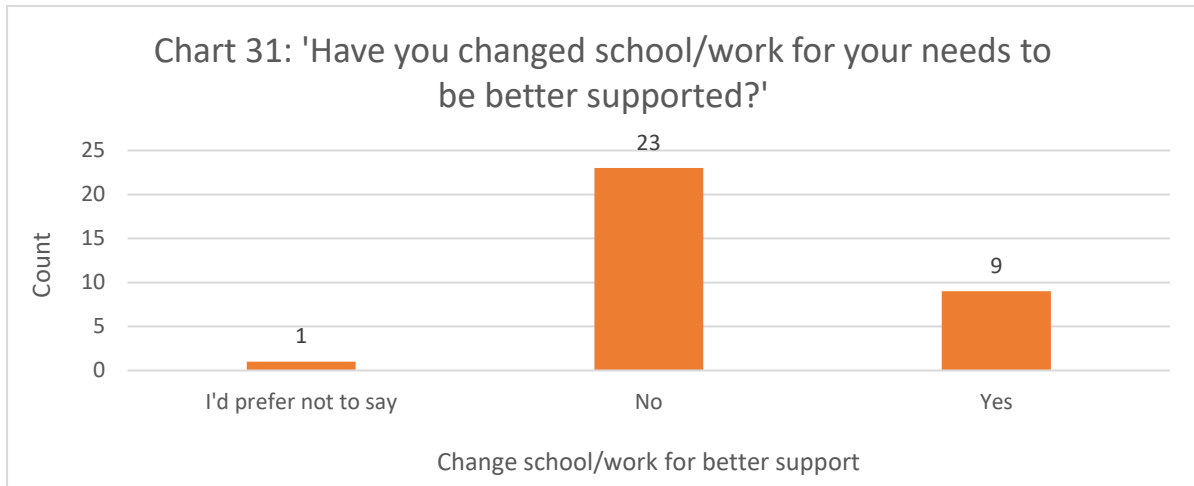


4/33 respondents have previously moved in relation to their need to be better supported.

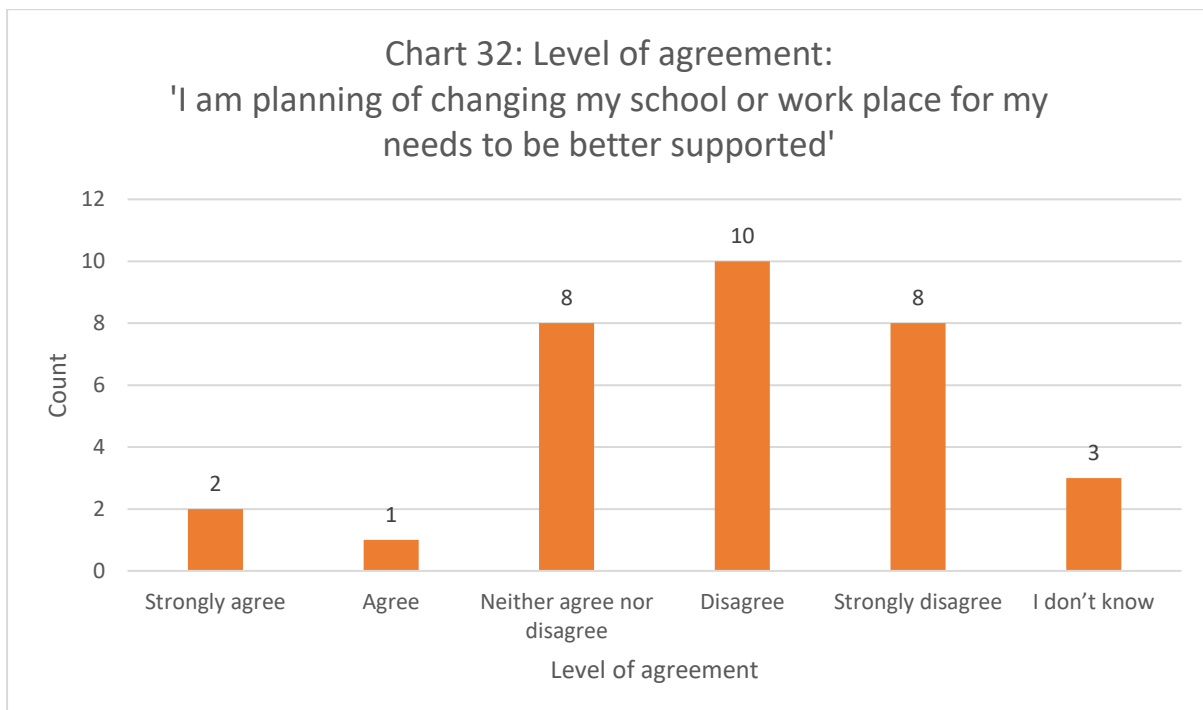
Table 13: Have you moved house for your needs to be better supported?

No	29
Yes	4

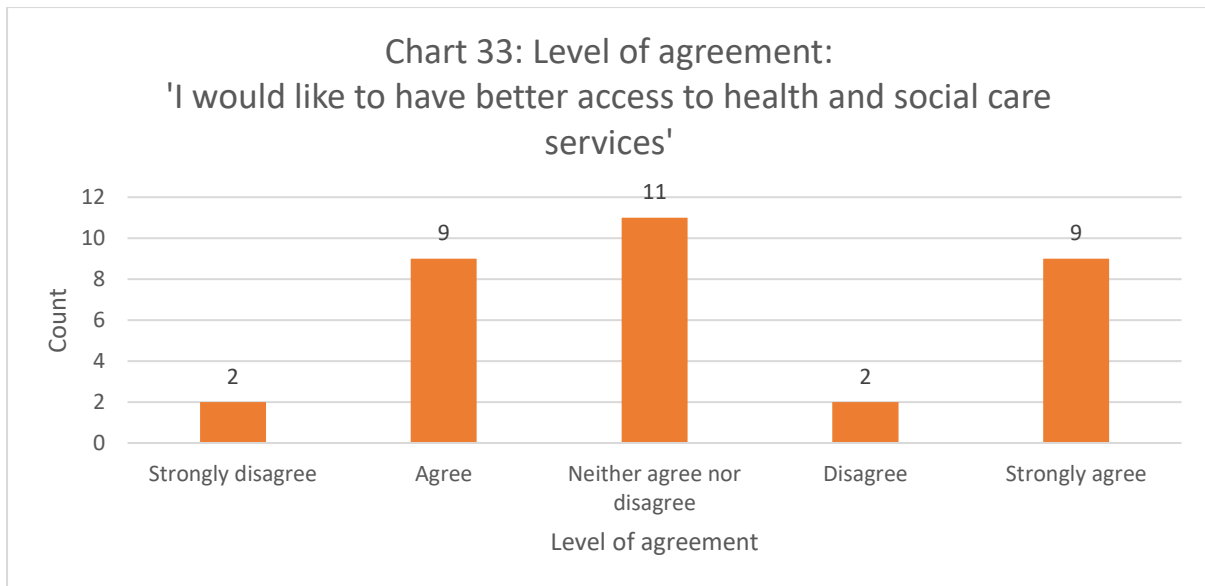
9 respondents previously changed school or work to be better supported of which all of them selected mental health as their health condition.



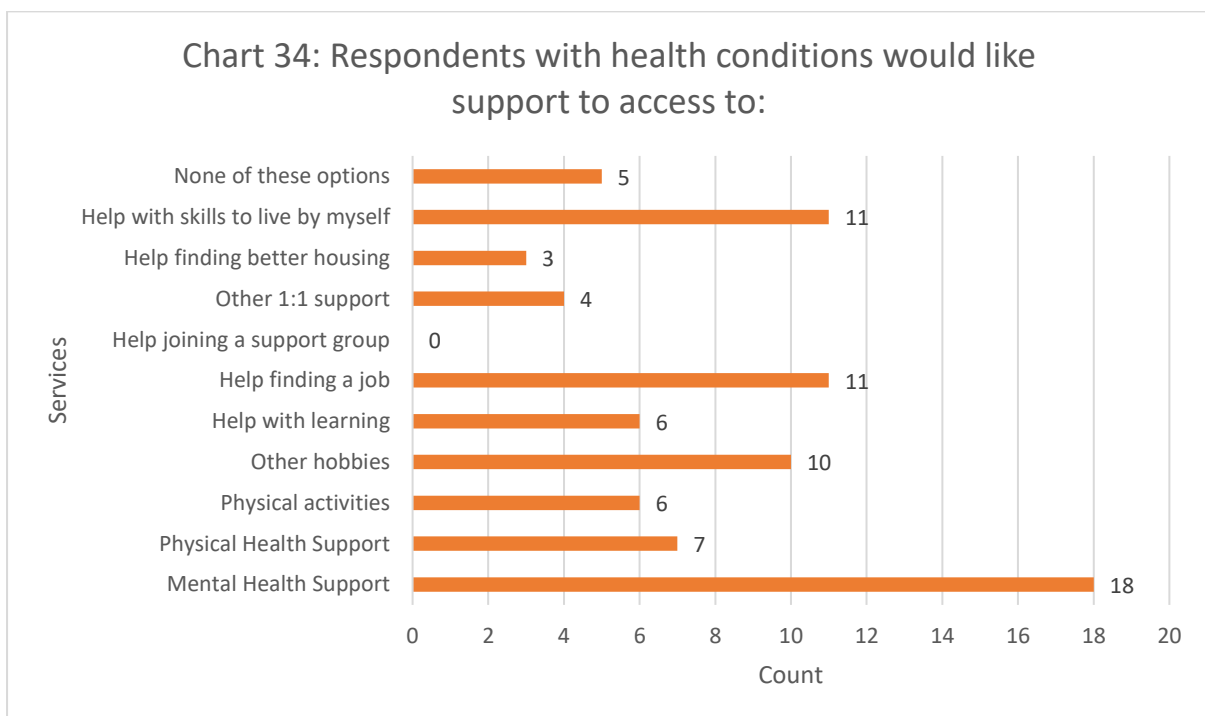
Another 3 respondents are planning on changing their school or work place based on their needs to be better supported.



Interestingly, 9 respondents with health conditions strongly disagree that they would like to have better access to health and social care services. One third of the respondents neither agreed nor disagreed.



18/33 respondents would like to have support to access mental health services. 11 respondents also selected 'skills to live by myself' and 'help finding a job'. 3 people selected 'help to find better housing'.



In terms of gender, more respondents identifying as boys/man highlighted having a health condition in comparison to respondents identifying as girl/woman. Importantly, people who identified as non-binary and those who self-described all said they have a mental health condition or both mental and physical.

Table 14: Gender identity by disability.

	I'd prefer not to say	No	Yes - both	Yes - mental	Yes - physical	Grand Total
Boy/man	3%	55%	9%	24%	9%	100%
Girl/woman	3%	65%	8%	20%	5%	100%
I'd prefer to self-describe:	0%	0%	25%	75%	0%	100%
Non-binary	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%
I'd prefer not to say	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%

Summary

Whilst about half of people who have a health condition manage relatively well in their daily life, about half of respondents do feel like they do and their home does not reflect their needs. Furthermore a third of young people have or are planning on changing their school or work place to have their needs better met.

Young carers

According to the Carers (Scotland) Act (2016), the term 'young carer' refers to a person aged under 18 who provides unpaid care for a family member or friend. Within the context of this survey however, a 'young carer' is referred to as any person aged 16-30 providing unpaid care.

9/80 respondents (11%) identified as young carers (YC) of which 6 are living with the person they care for. 2 respondents do not live with the person they care for and one respondents preferred not to say. 4 carers identified as boy/man and 5 as girl/woman.

Table 15: Are you an unpaid carer?

Unpaid carer	Number of responses
I'd prefer not to say	2
No	68
Not Answered	1
Yes	9

Looking proportionately at the number of responses by age group, 20% of 26-30 years old were unpaid carers in comparison to 9% of 16-20 year olds.

Table 16: Age of unpaid carers.

Age group	Number of respondents	% by age group
16-20	4	8.89%
21-25	1	5.88%
26-30	4	22.22%

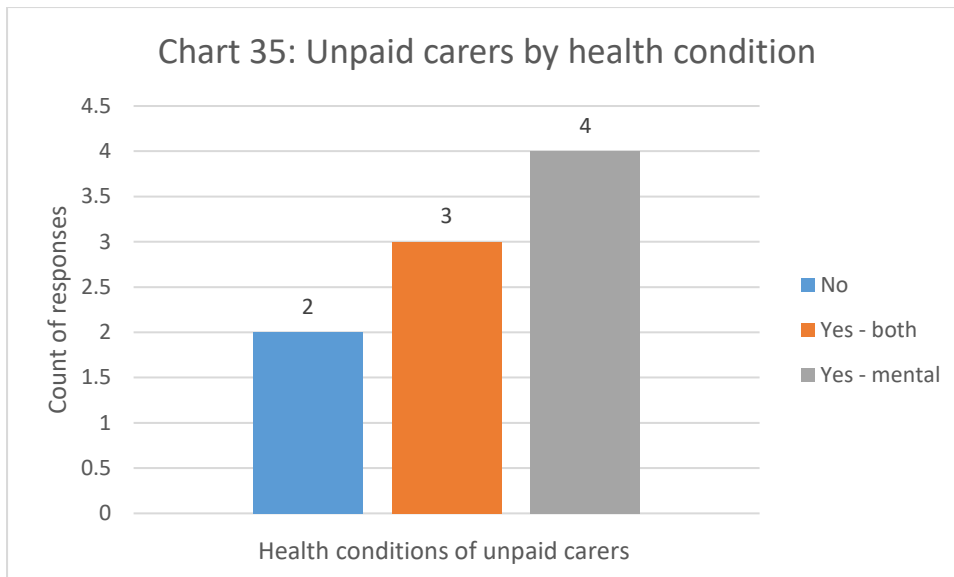
5 young carers agree that if they had to live away from the person they care for they would like to live close by. 3 YC did not know whether they agree or disagree.

Of the 9 young carers only 2 YC said that their caring influences their performance at school or work negatively. 7 said it is neither positive nor negative. In terms of their physical health, only 1 respondent said that caring had a negative influence. In terms of mental health however, 6 respondents selected negative effects. The way people feel at home with their caring responsibilities is overall also neither positive nor negative for 7 respondents; although 1 person did select negative and one other selected positive.

Table 17: The influence caring has on different aspects

Aspects	Negative	Neither positive nor negative	Positive
Work/school	2	7	0
Physical Health	1	8	0
Mental Health	6	3	0
The way you feel at home	1	7	1

7 Respondents who identified as young carers also said that they have a mental or mental and physical health condition as well.



5 respondents are using their income either on a regular basis or sometimes to provide better care. 2 respondents did not have any income to provide and 2 said this measure was not necessary. Looking at respondent's occupations, 5 of the carers are working full time, 1 part time and 2 are in school.

Table 18: Use of own income to provide better care

No - There is no need	2
Yes - On a regular basis	2
Yes - Sometimes	3
Not applicable - I don't have any income	2

Only one respondent thought that the design of their house does not allow for adequate care. All other respondents agree that the size and design of their home does allow for adequate care. One person did not know.

Table 19: The size of my home allows me to adequately care for the person

Agree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	6
I don't know	1

Table 20: The design of my home allows me to adequately care for the person.

Agree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	5
Disagree	1
I don't know	1

YC wished mostly for mental health support (selected 4 times) as well as help finding a job (selected 3 times). However 3 respondents also felt that none of the options mentioned were needed. Better life skills for living by themselves, better housing and making own housing choices were selected twice each.

Table 21: What support do young carers wish for?

Type of support	Number of times selected
Mental Health support	4
Physical Health support	2
Alcohol or substance misuse support	0
Help with learning	0
Help finding a job	3
Support in my current job	0
Help joining a support group	1
Help accessing a hobby or physical activity	1
Other 1:1 support	0
Help finding better housing	2
Help with skills to live by myself	2
Help to make my own housing choices	2
None of these options	3
Other	0

None of the young carers expanded on their views and needs using the additional comments box.

Summary

Proportionately speaking most YC in this survey are aged 26-30. Living close to the person they care for seems to be a factor for some young carers and overall most YC think that their current house accommodates the care needs of the cared for person. Most YC noted that caring puts a mental health strain on them and mental health support was selected the most in terms of support wished for alongside help in finding a job.

Care-Experienced Young People

6 respondents (7.5%) identified as care-experienced young people (CEYP) of which 3 are still being looked after, 2 are not and one person preferred not to say. 3 respondents were/are in foster care, one person was adopted, one person is or was in kin care and one person is/was living at home with support from a social worker. All CEYP were aged 25 and under and 4 of them identified as girl/woman.

4 CEYP strongly agree or agree that their current housing situation fulfils their needs and 2 neither agree nor disagree. In contrast 2 CEYP felt like their opinion was not valued while they were care-experienced in terms of where and with who they want to live whilst 2 CEYP strongly agree with that statement.

Table 22: Views on care experience

Aspects	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I don't know
My current housing situation fulfils my needs.	1	3	2	0	0	0
While care-experienced my opinion was valued in terms of where and with who I want to live.	2	0	1	1	1	1

The table below shows some of the support CEYP wish for. Mental health support was selected twice as well as 'none of these options'. Help with own housing decisions alongside help finding better housing was selected by one respondent.

Table 23: Support Care-Experienced Children wish for

Type of support	Number of votes
Help to make my own housing choices	1
Help finding better housing	1
Mental Health support	2
Physical Health support	1
Alcohol or substance misuse support	0
Help with learning	1
Help finding a job	0
Help accessing a hobby or physical activity	0
Help joining a support group	0
Help accessing a hobby or physical activity	0
Other 1:1 support	1

Help with skills to live by myself	1
None of these options	2
Specified	24/7 care support

None of the CEYP decided to expand on their experience or the support they wish for.

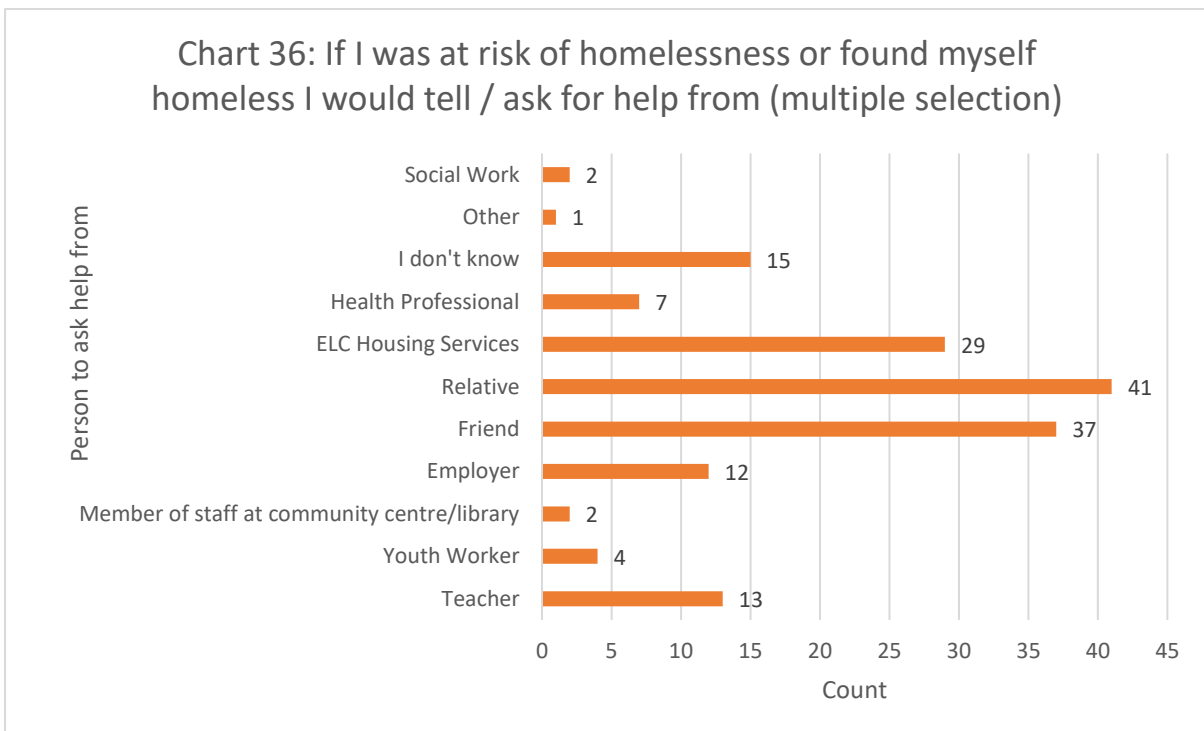
Risk of Homelessness and homelessness experience

91% of respondents do not think that they will be at risk of homelessness in the next 6 months. 4 respondents however answered yes and 3 preferred not to say. Of the respondents who said yes 2 were working full time and 2 were working part time.

Table 24: Do you think you may be at risk of becoming homeless in the next 6 months?

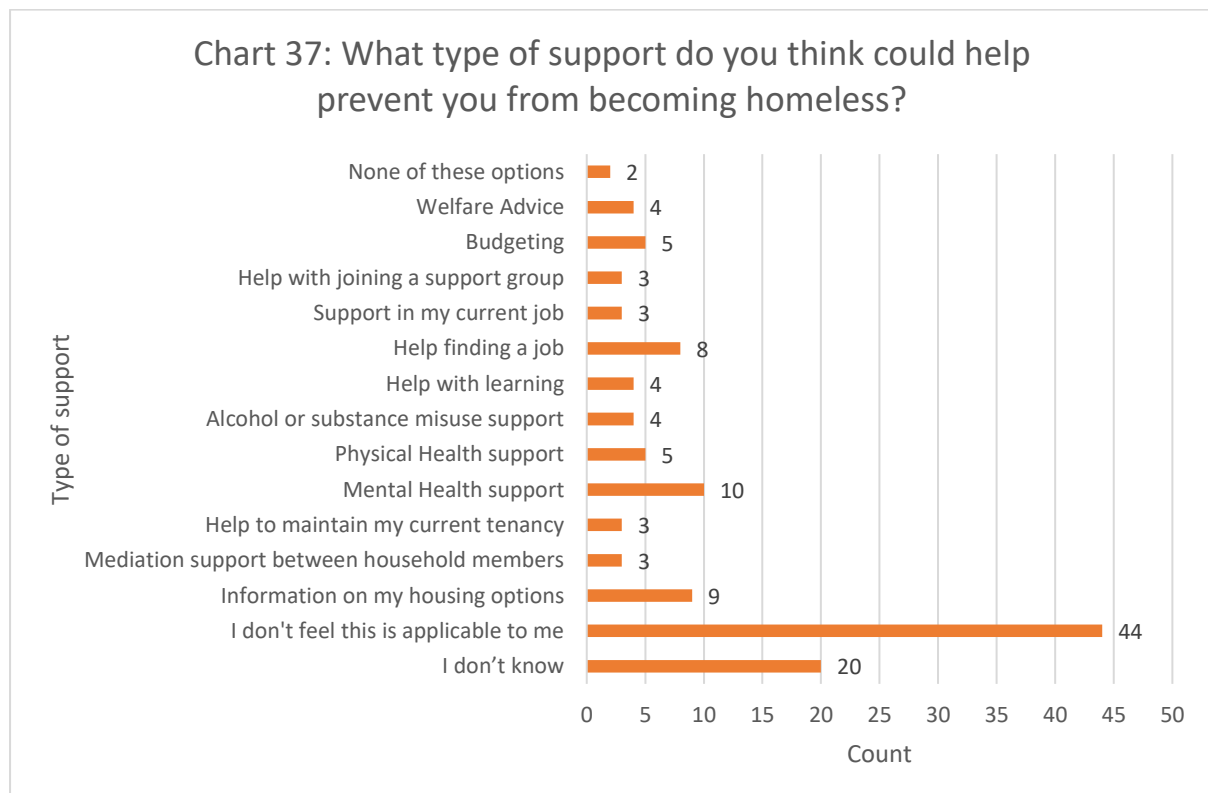
I'd prefer not to say	3
No	73
Yes	4

50% of respondents selected that they would tell a relative if they were at risk of homelessness or find themselves homeless and nearly 50% of respondents also selected a friend. 36% said they would also tell ELC Housing Services but 18% also said they do not know who they would contact/tell.



Respondents were then asked what they felt could prevent them from becoming homeless. Over 50% said that they don't think this question is applicable to them, nevertheless, some also selected other options as part of this multiple choice question. 25% of respondents said that that they do not know what could help them prevent homelessness. Thereafter approximately 12% of respondents also selected:

- help finding a job
- mental health support; and
- information on my housing options



Respondents were also asked whether they have ever experienced homelessness and 10 respondents (12.5%) answered yes and one person did not answer this question.

Table 25: Have you ever experienced homelessness?	
Experienced homelessness	Number of respondents
No	69
Not Answered	1
Yes	10

Of the 10 people who have previously experienced homelessness, 3 think they may become homeless in the next 6 months, these 3 respondents were all aged 16-20. Furthermore, 7/10 people were aged 16-20 years old and 3 respondents were 26-30 years old.

Table 26: Respondents who have previously experienced homelessness by their likeliness of becoming homeless again in the next 6 months

		Have you ever experienced homelessness?			
		No	Not Answered	Yes	Total
Do you think you may be at risk of becoming homeless in the next 6 months?	Yes	1		3	4
	I'd prefer not to say	3			3
	No	65	1	7	73
Total		69	1	10	80

Respondents who answered yes to being previously homeless, were asked further follow up questions in relation to their lived experience. Of the respondents who have previously experienced homelessness, 7 are currently staying with friends and family. One person added that alongside family and friends they are also staying in other temporary accommodation. One respondent preferred not to say. One person preferred to be specific and one selected 'other temporary accommodation' and then specified saying supported accommodation. The person who specified explained that when his father was homeless, they stayed in a hostel when visiting.

Of the 10 respondents 4 were not aware of ELC's Homelessness Services; and 6 were aware of which only 3 had contacted those services before. Of those 3 who had been in contact before, two people agree that they are satisfied with the service they received and 1 person strongly disagreed:

'ELC were useless when my marriage broke down because of psychological abuse and essentially left me on the streets because they said I'd made myself voluntarily homeless despite going through years of mental torture with my ex. Very disappointing and I feel if I had been a woman I would've been treated very differently'

Table 27: Are you aware of the East Lothian Council Homelessness Service?

Homelessness Service Awareness	Number of respondents
No	4
Yes - I have contacted them before	3
Yes - I have not contacted them before	3

Respondents were asked what type of support they wished for when experiencing homelessness. 7 selected 'mental health support and 4 selected better information on housing options. 3 respondents selected help with skills to live by myself. None of these options and physical health support received 2 votes each.

Summary

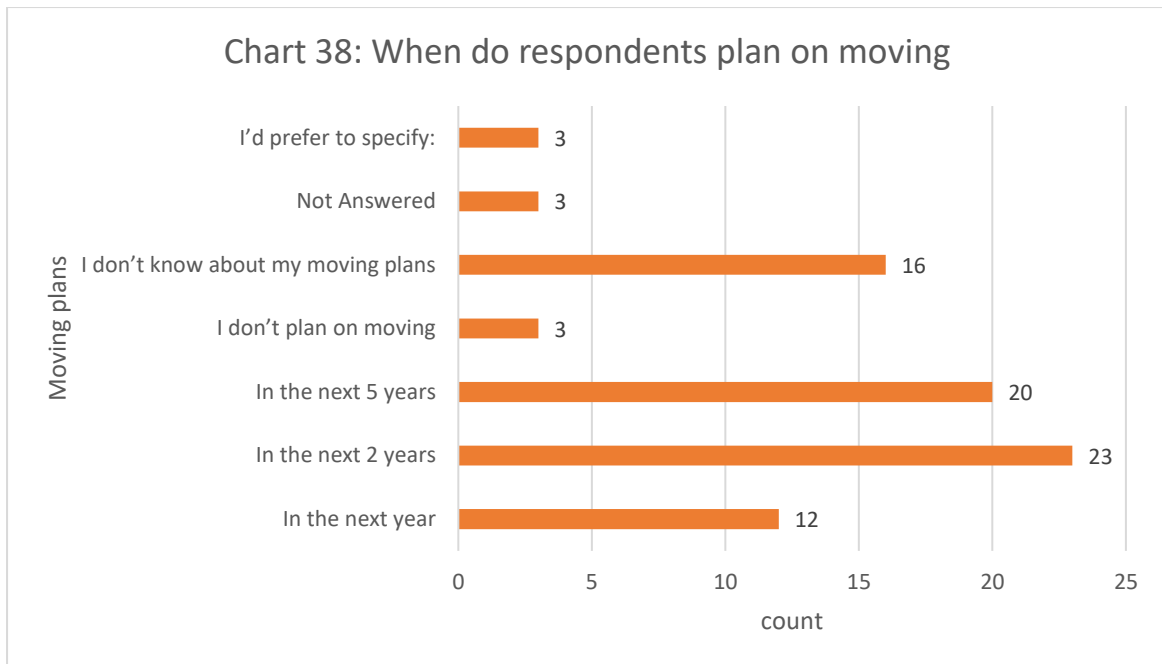
Most young people do not think that they will be at risk of homelessness in the next 6 months, but 4 people who are working think that they are at risk. Most respondents would ask for help from a relative or friend, but 36% would also get in touch with ELC Housing Services. Respondents selected mental health support, information on housing options and support finding a job as the best ways to prevent homelessness.

Of the 10 people who experienced homelessness before, only 3 had contacted housing services which points towards the need for better marketing. Likewise, mental health support when experiencing homelessness was selected the most by respondents who had previously experienced homelessness.

Future Housing Aspirations

In the final section respondents were asked where, and how they see themselves living in the future.

23/80 respondents plan on moving in the next 2 years and 20 in the next 5 years (25%). 20% of respondents do not know about their moving plans and 3 people asked to specify and other respondents also used the specify box to expand their answer.

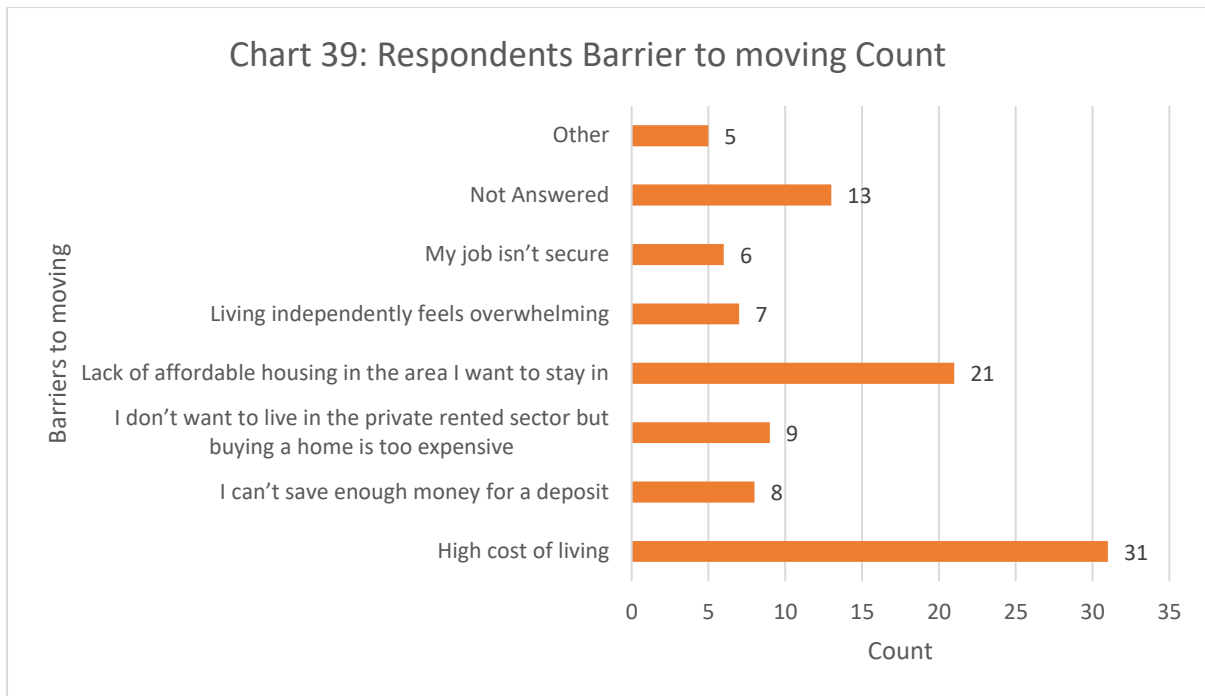


People who specified mostly did so to allude to the fact that they would like to move but that unaffordability and/or lack of housing that meets their needs is impeding that move. Others plan on moving for changes in circumstances they are already aware of but have not yet come to fruition such as moving to university or waiting until their current housing situation gets overcrowded.

Table 28: Respondents specifying their moving plans

Specified moving plans	Number of times mentioned
Can't afford to move	3
When housing is available that fits my requirements	1
Need housing for myself	1
As soon as possible	1
Moving to for university	1
When space gets tight due to children growing older	1

The following question asked respondents to select the barriers they face when considering moving, unfortunately multiple choice was not properly set up but some respondents added more choices in the comments sections which were added to chart x. 31 respondents selected the barrier of high cost of living and 21 cited the lack of affordability. Nevertheless other issues such as job security and worries about independent living were also selected (7.5%). 13 respondents did not answer the question and 5 people selected other.

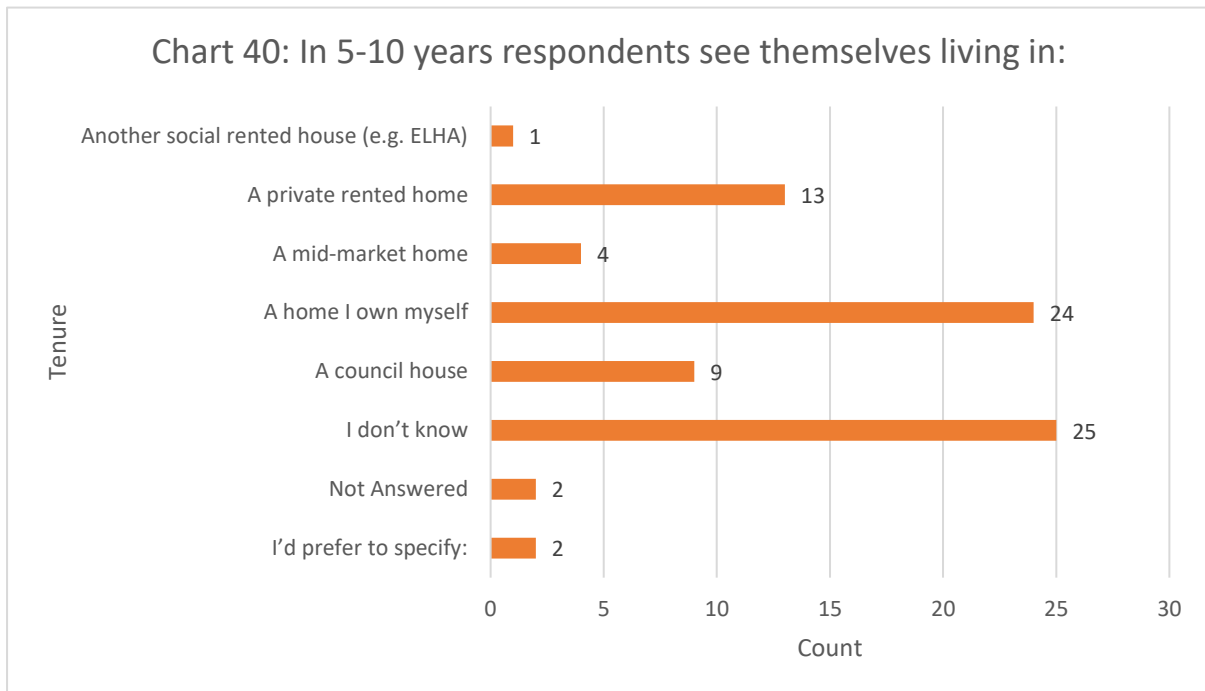


People who specified barriers which did not fit the criteria above were:

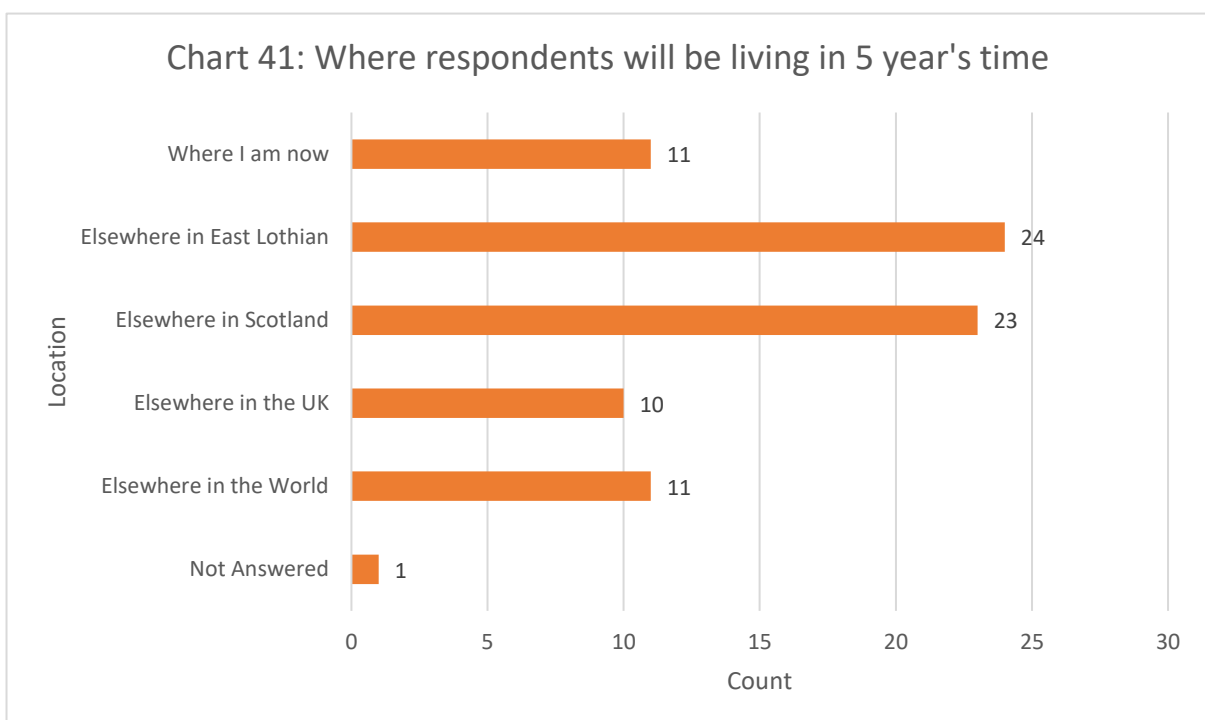
- Not applicable
- Focusing on studying first but aware that moving out will depend on full time employment after studies
- Needing to stay in this area for school and jobs.

Most respondents (31%) do not know in what tenure they will live in 5-10 years' time. Another 30% think they will be living in a home they own themselves. 16% think they will be privately renting and 10% think they will be living in a council house. Other options added were:

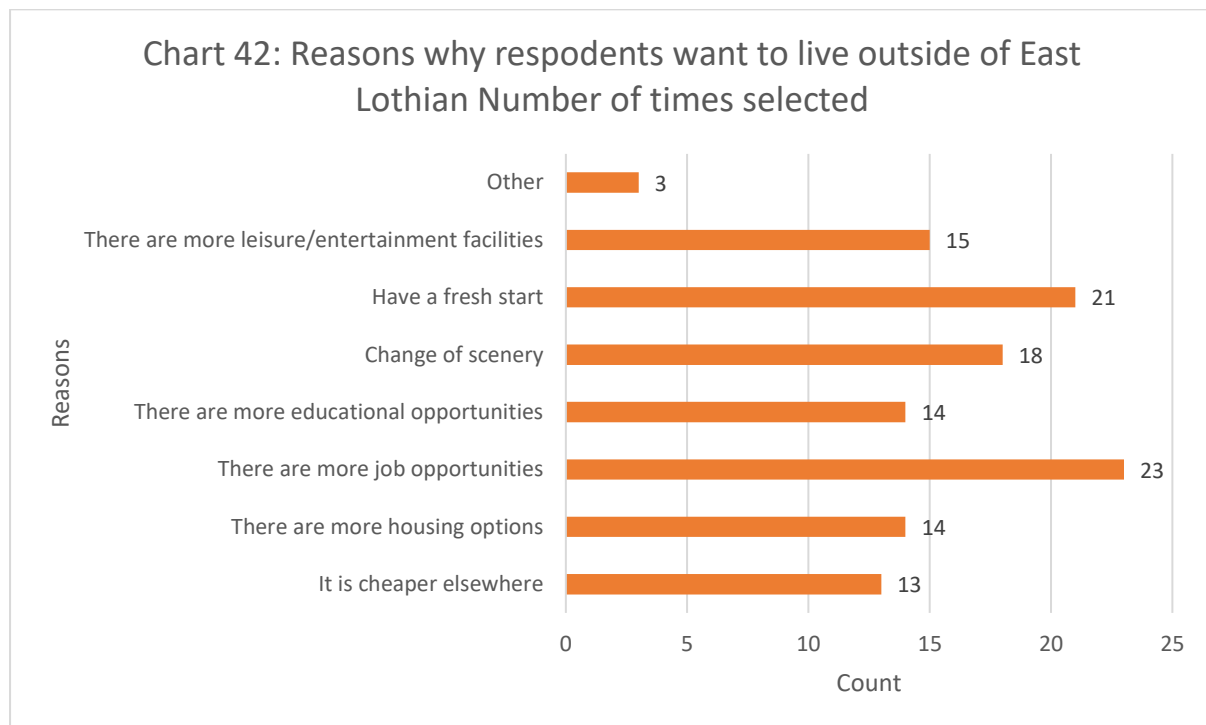
- A van
- Private rent but would love a council house
- Still living with my mum



Over 50% of respondents think they will be living in Scotland in 5 years. Of which 30% think they will be living elsewhere in East Lothian. 13% think they will still be where they are living just now and another 13% think they will be living elsewhere in the world.



People who said that they would like to live outside of East Lothian were asked for the reason as to why through a multiple choice question. 23 respondents think that there are more job opportunities outside of East Lothian and 21 are looking for a fresh start. 14 respondents also selected more educational opportunities and more housing options as reasons to leave East Lothian.



Some people expanded on their answer as to why they want to live outside of East Lothian with answers such as:

- They are seeking a more rural setting
- My job is in Edinburgh
- My partner lives abroad
- Move back to family in Australia

13 respondents expanded on their current situation and housing aspirations. 6 respondents expanded on the lack of affordable housing which prohibits them from buying their own home and often mention the reliance on parents.

“I work full time and still live with my parents, which is the case for many of my colleagues and friends my age.”

“New build housing is expanding which is great, but again it still is unaffordable as many of the houses are priced well over £200,000 which is a maximum price many first time buyers can only afford on a basic salary.”

“Feel the only options at the moment for young workers are to receive money from parents to pay for accommodation/live at home to save for a house deposit or to live in rented accommodation but barely have any savings.”

One person believes that young adults living at their parents experience mental health issues as a consequence. Two people expanded that there are homes built in East Lothian but that they do not cater for smaller households and are unaffordable. Three respondents added that renting is also not affordable or that it is very difficult or even impossible to save for a deposit whilst renting.

“People either rent and cannot afford to save enough on the side for a house and get trapped in the rent cycle. “

Two people have alluded to the fact that they are at risk of homelessness. One person is living at their grandparents because they do not get on with their mother. A couple explained that they are living with friends but that they need to find their own place as they can't stay anymore.

“Rent is so hard to pay that I can't keep living like this but the council housing won't do anything to help.”

5 respondents also discussed the lack of council housing and them not being able to live in social rented properties. Two respondents stated:

“I think council housing should be aloud [allowed] for EVERYONE. Not just the jobless.”

“Would like to have a 1 bed flat via social housing but don't expect any chance of getting this for someone like me.”

Summary

Respondents wish to move out from the parental home and purchase a property. Some are aware that they will most likely be privately renting a property due to homeownership being too costly. Unsurprisingly the biggest factor for moving out and purchasing but also privately renting a property is affordability. Alongside career opportunities and wishing for a fresh start, affordability is the biggest reason for some ELC residents to plan a move away from the county.

5. Summary

80 respondents aged 16-30 completed the survey on their current housing needs and future housing aspirations. This is a relatively small sample size, however this demographic is generally hard to reach and the survey results still give an indication of some of the challenges young people in East Lothian are facing.

Most respondents to the survey are in school and live in an owner occupied home with their parents. This should not distract from the fact that there are a significant proportion of respondents who have particular housing and care/support needs which are not met with some currently experiencing homelessness or already at the risk of homelessness.

Respondents are aware of the cost of living crisis, the difficulties of paying for energy bills and their households seem to find it difficult to make necessary upgrades to their current properties. Respondents are also aware of the lack of affordable housing and have discussed the struggles of living independently away from the parental home when they can't afford it. A high proportion of respondents wish to move away from East Lothian because they feel like there is a lack of housing options but also career opportunities.

Questions around East Lothian's Housing Service have shown that there is a lack of awareness of the service and some respondents do wish to receive more support in terms of what their housing options are when facing homelessness. Although limited qualitative questions were asked the desperate situations of some of the young people has clearly come across in some of the answers.

Overall young people are asking for mental health support and have highlighted the current lack of such services alongside a lack of activities for young people in East Lothian. Mental health support and activities can support young people in building coping mechanisms and support systems around themselves which is crucial especially for more young people who have or may experience homelessness; are care-experienced; are unpaid carers; are non-heteronormative; and/or already have a physical and/or mental health condition/illness.

6. Appendix –Young Persons Survey Questionnaire