

Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan

**Report on the findings of qualitative research to understand
priorities and challenges for children and young people in
Worcestershire**

July 2017

Worcestershire County Council Research Team



Thank You

To everyone who contributed to the survey – your responses have been used in the formation of the new Worcestershire Children and Young People's Plan. The plan can be found on the website:

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cypp>

If you have any comments you would like to add please email:

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1. Executive Summary

In February 2017, partner agencies across Worcestershire began developing a new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). A CYPP is designed to provide a single, strategic, overarching plan for all local services for children and young people in an area.

To inform the development of this new plan a range of consultation methods were set in motion to ensure maximum engagement with all interested parties and importantly with children and young people themselves. This report provides the results on a key piece of qualitative research that explored five key questions from five different perspectives - those of a child, young person, parent/carer, practitioner or other interested citizen. The key questions covered;

- the most important things to children and young people;
- the main issues and challenges for children and young people;
- how the lives of children and young people be improved; and
- If you were king or queen of Worcestershire for the day what would you change?

Over 2,590 responses were received providing a rich source of information about the challenges facing children and young people and how their lives could be improved.

Three common themes emerged across all questions. First, respondents emphasised their desire to support wider investment in **public services**, second to provide more **places for children and young people to go and things for them to do**, and finally to **improve the education system** distinct from other public services.

The other noticeable trend that emerged is a difference between the perspectives of children and adults. Two of the most commonly selected challenges chosen by adults were not raised as issues at all by children or young people. Adults highlighted the need for improvement of **education**; including an increase in funding. They also selected **social media** as a particular challenge that led to some extreme suggestions for it to be tightly regulated or even banned.

The differences between children's and adults' views highlighted through this question, point towards very different perspectives on the challenges faced by children when seen through the eyes of a child or through the eyes of an adult.

2. Introduction and methodology

A Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is an important element of the changes proposed in the Children Act 2004 and provides a single, strategic, overarching plan for all local services for children and young people in an area.

In February 2017, Worcestershire County Council's (WCC) Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) approved the development of a new CYPP for all children and young people in Worcestershire. As part of this work, WCC and partners has sought evidence of the

priorities, needs and wants of children and young people in our area. A key part of this evidence gathering has been direct engagement with children, young people and other interested stakeholders to seek their views. This report presents the findings of that engagement so that it may be used in the development of the new CYPP.

A variety of consultation methods were used to maximise the level of engagement with the new CYPP. This report focuses on two specific elements of that engagement.

The first was an online survey (see Annex 2) that we shared widely via a variety of networks. The survey posed the same five questions to five different groups to allow us to compare responses. The five groups were;

- Children (aged 12 and under);
- Young People (aged 13 to 24);
- Parents/Carers of children and young people;
- Practitioners who work with children, young people and families; and
- Other interested adults.

Respondents who fitted in more than one group were able to give their answer from more than one perspective. For example, a 23 year old parent was able to answer from the perspectives of a young person and a parent. An easy read version of the survey was also made available via the website (see Annex 3).

The second form of engagement used a 'face-to-face' methodology. The questions we used in the online survey were physically placed in public spaces where interested parties were likely to visit (mostly libraries).

Respondents were invited to answer one of our five questions every week for five weeks. Respondents wrote their answers on 'post-it' notes and attached them to an 'question tree' poster (see Annex 4) allowing for an exchange of ideas between respondents. The notes were colour coded to reflect the type of respondent. All responses were collected each week and the results captured in a consistent way to the online survey allowing the results to be combined.

The results presented in this report are not to be relied upon as a statistically accurate reflection of the views of residents of Worcestershire. Data was entered as if the respondents' post-it notes lived in that district of that particular library. The engagement reported upon here has been qualitative in nature and to a large degree respondents have been self-selecting.

The face-to-face element of the engagement did not collect demographic data and we have not attempted to weight the online survey responses to reflect the demographic profile of Worcestershire. (See Annex 1 for a breakdown of the demographic profile of respondents where it was collected.)

However, the engagement has captured the views of a wide range of residents and the results do supply a rich evidence source that can be used to develop Worcestershire's next CYPP.

3. Results by key question

Participants in our research were all asked to give their views on five key questions from their own perspective as a child, young person, parent/carer, practitioner or other interested citizen. These key questions covered;

- the most important things to children and young people;
- the main issues and challenges for children and young people;
- how the lives of children and young people be improved; and
- if you were king or queen of Worcestershire for the day what would you change?

If a respondent identified themselves in two or three categories, such as a young person and a parent and a practitioner then they were given the opportunity to answer questions from all valid perspectives.

In addition to the four key questions, some participants were asked questions relating only to their particular respondent type such as from their view as a child or a practitioner.

This remainder of this section sets out the findings for each key question as well as the specific questions for a particular respondent type. For the key questions, findings are presented for each respondent type with similarities and differences highlighted. Some brief district analysis of the questions is provided here. A further detailed district breakdown of results will be included in an annex to the main report.

3.1 What are the most important things to children and young people?

All respondents were asked this question although it was phrased slightly differently to the different respondent types. The different phrasing is set out in Table 1.

Table 1 - Different phrasing of question on what is important to children and young people

Respondent type	Question phrasing
Child	What are the most important things to you?
Young person	As a young person, what is most important to you?
Parent/carer	As a parent / carer, what do you think is most important for children and young people in Worcestershire?
Practitioner	As a practitioner, what do you think is most important for children and young people in Worcestershire?
Interested citizen	What do you think is most important for children and young people in Worcestershire?

Table 2 shows the most frequently selected items that each respondent type gave to the question on what are the most important things to children and young people.

Respondents were allowed to choose multiple items so percentages will not total 100% of the number of responses given. A base number of those opting to answer each question is shown for information.

Table 2 - What is important to children and young people in Worcestershire?

Answer	Children*	Young people**	Parents & carers***	Practitioners****	Citizens*****	Total*****
Family and friends	278	91	70	39	38	516
Education, learning and reading	68	26	238	91	79	502
Access to activities, clubs, things to do, chances to play	57	0	191	78	65	391
Staying safe	0	7	213	127	29	376
Access to support services when needed	0	3	137	168	14	322
Sports / physical activities / physical health	68	11	77	31	20	207
Other	18	23	32	30	33	136
Employment - opportunities and choices	1	9	52	53	10	125
Equality and respect (giving and receiving)	0	6	37	48	22	113
Having fun and being happy	5	11	34	28	21	99
Being outdoors / at the park / access to green spaces	9	0	64	10	7	90
Animals and nature	72	8	0	0	0	80
Mental health and well-being	0	0	31	29	16	76
Using devices / watching content (TV, phones, consoles)	23	15	0	0	0	38
Childcare (available and affordable)	0	0	20	3	2	25
Eating and drinking	1	14	0	0	0	15

* 261 Children chose to answer this question

** 92 Young people chose to answer this question

*** 731 Parents / carers people chose to answer this question

**** 424 Practitioners chose to answer this question

***** 224 Citizens chose to answer this question

***** 1,687 Respondents answered this question

Please note that the tables have been ranked on the highest overall responses.

The categories highlighted in bold, italics and a larger font size are the top three highest scores for each respondent type.

Any responses that received less than 10 answers were placed in the 'Other' category alongside the original 'Other' responses. A very wide range of other important things were suggested by respondents and ranged from **material wealth** and **possessions** to a **sense of community** and **addressing poverty**.

District variations

Education was one of the highest ranked answers for every single district, evidencing the importance of education to all types of respondents across Worcestershire. Other high scores included leisure activities, access to support & counselling and safer communities. Family was only in the top three for Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest – bearing in mind Worcestershire ranked it as most important.

Summary of the most important things to children and young people

In understanding the results shown in the table above, it is important to note a methodological difference in the way children were asked this question compared to all other groups. Children were presented with an initial list of options to choose from as well as given the chance to enter any other items they wished to tell us about. They were also asked why they were important to them. All other groups were presented with a free text box into which they could answer.

Even with this difference in mind, children and young people tended to respond to this question in a more simplistic fashion than adults. For instance, both children and young people most frequently choose **family** and **friends** as the things that are most important to them. Other items frequently selected can be categorised simply as the things they like to do or how they like to feel such as **sport** and being with **animals and nature**.

These can all be described as outcomes, i.e. the children and young people see importance in the doing or the feeling of each of these. When children explained why these things were important they most commonly said in straightforward terms that they loved doing them or that they made them feel happy.

"Because I love them." **Girl, 12 or under who chose their family as important to them**

"I play tennis and it makes me happy and [I] love competing." **Girl, 12 or under who chose sport as important to them**

Adults, whilst still selecting these outcomes in some numbers, have given much more detailed answers that focus on **how** these outcomes might be achieved. For example, parents most commonly call for well-funded and caring **education** systems. And practitioners call for easily accessible **support services** such as a family support service to help families that are in crisis.

"Education, education, education." **Gender not provided, parent who chose education as important**

"Access to high quality, inclusive education and safe places to play." **Male, parent who chose education as important**

"Preventative services and easy to access support for when things are tough. Children's centres with lots going on, and easy access to health visitors."
Female, practitioner who chose support services as important

Well-funded education and easily accessible family support are not outcomes in themselves but can be seen as mechanisms to achieve outcomes for children such as happiness and having a loving and supporting family.

Two other categories were commonly selected as a whole but not universally by all groups. The first focussed on keeping children **safe** and was selected in large numbers by adults but not by the children and young people.

"For them to be and feel safe." **Female, parent who chose safety as important**

The second was having access to **activities and things to do** (other than sport specifically) that was chosen in large number by all groups with the exception of young people.

"Interesting and well managed recreational facilities to encourage interest and exercise..." **Female, citizen who chose access to activities as important**

3.2 What do children and young people like to do?

Only children and young people were asked this question although it was phrased slightly differently for the two groups. The different phrasing is set out in Table 3.

Table 3 - Different phrasing of question on what do children and young people like to do

Respondent type	Question phrasing
Child	What do you like to do?
Young person	As a young person, what do you like to do?

Table 4 shows the most frequently selected items that each respondent type gave to the question on what do children and young people like to do.

Respondents were allowed to choose multiple items so percentages will not total 100% of the number of responses given. A base number of those opting to answer each question is shown for information.

Table 4 - What do children and young people like to do?

Answer	Children*	Young people**	Parents & carers	Practitioners	Citizens	Total ***
Sports / physical activities	265	41	Question not asked	Question not asked	Question not asked	306
Using devices / watching content (TV, phones, consoles)	187	25				212
Family and friends	182	27				209
Learning, reading and visiting the library	152	21				173
Being outdoors / at the park	161	5				166
Being creative	63	16				79
Playing with my toys	74	0				74
Other	17	25				42
Clubs (e.g. cubs)	39	0				39
Eating and drinking	15	6				21
Animals and nature	20	0				20

- * 394 children chose to answer this question
- ** 93 Young people chose to answer this question
- *** 587 Respondents answered this question

Please note that the tables have been ranked on the highest overall responses. The categories highlighted in bold, italics and a larger font size are the top three highest scores for each respondent type.

Any responses that received less than 10 answers were placed in the 'Other' category alongside the original 'Other' responses. They included answers as diverse as **volunteering, sleeping, shopping** and **travelling**.

District variations

Sport was ranked as one of the top three in every single district highlighting that as a whole, children and young people are active. Sport is in fact the highest rated aspect in every district with the exception of Wyre Forest – which was family and friends. 'Family and friends' was rated in the top three in all districts with the exception of Malvern Hills, whilst reading was rated in the top three in all districts except Bromsgrove. 'Going to the park and being outdoors' was rated in the top three in Bromsgrove, Worcester and Wyre Forest. Malvern Hills and Redditch had a low number of responses for this question. Differences between rankings across the districts were not always significant (in some cases just one or two responses between different activities).

Summary of what children and young people like to do

Participating in **sports and physical activities** was the most common answer for both children and young people were asked what they like to do. Respondents frequently referred to taking part in a wide variety of sports often through an organised club and also to keep them healthy.

"[I] play sport - Mainly play football, some cricket, it's enjoyable and a good way to get me off my Xbox and my phone." **Boy, 12 or under**

"I like going to my club because it keeps you fit and healthy but it is also nice to be part of a club." **Gender not provided, 12 or under**

Respondents also frequently selected **using devices / watching content**, spending time with their **family and friends, being outdoors / at the park** and **learning, reading and visiting the library** in large numbers. These four categories were selected at least twice as frequently compared to all other answers given.

"Go to the cinema, play computer games, meet up with friends in coffee shops." **Gender not provided, 13 to 24**

"I love to read!" **Gender not provided, 13 to 24**

There is strong agreement about the categories selected most frequently when comparing the responses given by children and young people. The only exception was that a low number of young people selected being outdoors/at the park, whereas it was very popular with children.

3.3 What are the main issues/challenges to children and young people?

All respondents were asked this question although it was phrased slightly differently to the different respondent types. The different phrasing is set out in Table 5.

Table 5 - Different phrasing of question on the main issues/challenges

Respondent type	Question phrasing
Child	What are your main issues or challenges?
Young person	As a young person, what are your main issues and challenges?
Parent/carer	As a parent / carer, what do you think are the main challenges or issues for children and young people in Worcestershire?
Practitioner	As a practitioner, what do you think are the main challenges or issues for children and young people in Worcestershire?
Interested citizen	What do you think are the main challenges or issues for children and young people in Worcestershire?

Table 6 shows the most frequently selected items that each respondent type gave to the question on what the main challenges are to children and young people.

Respondents were allowed to give multiple answers so percentages will not total 100% of the number of responses given. A base number of those opting to answer each question is shown for information.

Table 6 - What are the main challenges/issues for children and young people?

Answer	Children*	Young people**	Parents & carers***	Practitioners****	Citizens*****	Total*****
Mental and physical health - lack of support	17	18	317	263	70	685
Lack of safe and affordable places to go	18	5	196	75	44	338
Education – under-funded, improvements needed	0	0	137	70	33	240
Behaviour of others / bullying / learning to get along	49	12	83	59	27	230
Social media and technology	0	0	110	63	36	209
School work	73	9	49	37	2	170
Other	28	14	35	30	21	128
Financial challenges and poverty	0	11	23	45	15	94
Employment	0	9	42	17	16	84
Transport - available and affordable	0	2	49	17	14	82
Drugs / alcohol	0	0	21	11	13	45
Childcare - affordable and available	0	3	15	3	1	22
Sexual and domestic abuse	0	0	0	11	4	15
Taking on physical activities	12	0	0	0	0	12

* 115 children chose to answer this question

** 59 Young people chose to answer this question

*** 613 Parents / carers people chose to answer this question

**** 407 Practitioners chose to answer this question

***** 200 Citizens chose to answer this question

***** 1,394 Respondents answered this question

Please note that the tables have been ranked on the highest overall responses.

The categories highlighted in bold, italics and a larger font size are the top three highest scores for each respondent type.

Any responses that received less than 10 answers were placed in the 'Other' category alongside the original 'Other' responses. As with the other questions in the survey a range of other challenges were suggested by respondents and ranged from **rural isolation** and **decreasing your carbon footprint** to **ageism** and **working parents**.

District variations

Bromsgrove and Malvern Hills have the same first two ranks which are 'mental and physical health - lack of support' and 'lack of safe and affordable places to go'. Bromsgrove's third issue was joint with 'behaviour of others / bullying / learning to get along' and 'school work'. Malvern Hills third rank was education similar to Bromsgrove's concerns. Worcester received a high number of responses and had the same rankings as Malvern Hills. Redditch highest issues were 'lack of support', 'lack of safe and affordable places to go' and last were joint with 'behaviour of others / bullying / learning to get along' and 'social media and technology'.

Both Wychavon and Wyre Forest first two ranks were 'lack of safe and affordable places to go' and 'mental and physical health - lack of support' but their third ranks differed. Wychavon last rank was 'social media and technology' and Wyre Forest's was 'school work'. It is important to note that responses for Wyre Forest were very close with some having a difference of one response between ranks.

Summary of the main challenges/issues for children and young people

This question about challenges facing children and young people in Worcestershire led to strikingly different responses between the different groups of respondents. Children, in particular, put forward a very limited range of challenges when compared to the adult groups. Children and adults also chose very different challenges from each other.

For example, children most commonly chose their **school work** as their biggest challenge followed by issues around **learning to get along and bullying**.

"My main challenge is to do well on my SATS." **Girl, 12 or under**

The adults, on the other hand, chose the issue of **mental and physical health** as their most commonly selected challenge which included a lack of access to and funding of related services. Their second most commonly selected issue was the **lack of safe and affordable places to go**.

"The main challenge is there is no money to spend. The most major issue is a lack of mental health services." **Female, parent / carer**

"Lack of affordable facilities, costs to their families or themselves, ability to travel to facilities." **Female, practitioner**

Interestingly, the next two most commonly selected challenges chosen by adults were not raised as issues at all by children or young people. Adults highlighted the need for improvement of **education** as well as its under-funding. They also selected **social media** as a particular challenge that led to some extreme suggestions for it to be tightly regulated or even banned.

"Funding for Schools is one of the lowest in the UK so standards of education will suffer." **Male, citizen**

"Social media is taking over their lives! But this is global - not just within Worcestershire!" **Female, parent / carer**

The differences between children's and adults' views highlighted through this question, point towards very different perspectives on the challenges faced by children when seen through the eyes of a child or through the eyes of an adult.

3.4 How could the lives of children and young people be improved?

All respondents were asked this question although it was phrased slightly differently to the different respondent types. The different phrasing is set out in Table 7.

Table 7 - Different phrasing of question on how lives could be improved

Respondent type	Question phrasing
Child	How could your life be improved?
Young person	As a young person, how could your life be improved?
Parent/carer	As a parent / carer, what do you think would improve the lives of children and young people?
Practitioner	As a practitioner, what do you think would improve the lives of children and young people?
Interested citizen	What do you think would improve the lives of children and young people?

Table 8 shows the most frequently selected items that each respondent type gave to the question on how the lives of children and young people could be improved.

Respondents were allowed to give multiple answers so percentages will not total 100% of the number of responses given. A base number of those opting to answer each question is shown for information.

Table 8 - How could the lives of children and young people be improved?

Answer	Children*	Young people**	Parents & carers***	Practitioners****	Citizens*****	Total*****
Support services - affordability and availability	0	9	285	259	48	601
More things to do and places to go	42	24	263	104	68	501
Education - better funded, more rounded	8	4	174	91	44	321
Other	78	23	19	30	18	168
More time with friends and family	18	0	40	44	22	124
Learning to get along / less bullying	18	7	38	31	19	113
Better employment prospects	4	13	31	24	11	83
Education - less stress	8	8	22	22	3	63
Better transport	3	6	24	4	9	46
Financial challenges and poverty	0	20	11	7	6	44
Doing more sport / exercise / eating well	15	0	12	6	6	39
Becoming more eco-friendly	7	2	19	1	7	36
Better library services	12	7	0	0	0	19
Tackling world issues - terrorism, poverty, war	16	0	0	0	0	16
Learning and working hard	15	0	0	0	0	15

* 218 Children chose to answer this question

** 100 Young people chose to answer this question

*** 619 Parents / carers people chose to answer this question

**** 398 Practitioners chose to answer this question

***** 215 Citizens chose to answer this question

***** 1,550 Respondents answered this question

Please note that the tables have been ranked on the highest overall responses.

The categories highlighted in bold, italics and a larger font size are the top three highest scores for each respondent type.

Any responses that received less than 10 answers were placed in the 'Other' category alongside the original 'Other' responses. Even more so than with other questions in the survey, a very wide variety of other improvements were suggested by respondents and ranged from **having a pet** and **watching more television** to **more affordable childcare** and **better shops**.

District variations

Across all districts 'more things to do and places to go' was ranked as the highest improvement. Education was ranked as the second highest suggested improvement for all districts. Some other highly ranked improvements were 'system change' and 'support services'; which is a key issue to tackle with tight budgets.

Summary of how the lives of children and young people could be improved

This question sparked a particularly wide range of responses from the different groups. While the majority of the responses can be seen as direct solutions to the challenges identified in the previous question, others spoke of self-improvement independent of the challenges.

Having **more things to do and places to go** was the most common category overall for comments about how children's and young people's lives could be improved; it was the most frequently mentioned category for children, young people and interested citizens, and the second most frequent for parents/carers and practitioners. This can be seen as a direct answer to the lack of such facilities raised in the 'main challenges' question in section 3.3.

"More out of school social and educational opportunities. All parks being developed and equipped like Ghulevelt Park. Community events, challenges and initiatives aimed at kids e.g. Wearable arts competitions, junior triathlons, mud runs, treasure hunts, try a sport day" **Female, parent / carer**

Children, however, did put forward ideas that had not been raised as challenges. Addressing global issues such as **war and poverty** and making things better through their own efforts such as through **working harder** or **eating healthier** were among the most common answers given.

"Stop all wars and give money to the poor." **Gender not provided, 12 or under**

As well as the provision of more things to do and places to go, adults tended to stick to providing solutions to the challenges they raised previously. It is therefore not surprising to see more control of **the affordability and availability of support services** and **better education** as clearly the next two most common suggestions.

"No 'one size fits all' rules. Look at how children's needs change over the years of the childhood and cater for all age groups." **Female, parent/carer**

"Improve services to support all families, not just those that live in certain areas." **Gender not provided, parent/carer**

"Getting help for children who desperately need it but "don't meet the threshold" - they are falling through the cracks." **Gender not provided, practitioner**

"An emphasis on access to support and better knowledge of the services available with seamless referrals to partner organisations. Early intervention and referral to avoid crisis" **Female, practitioner**

"More support being offered by more agencies." **Male, parent/carer**

"Increase school budgets." **Female, citizen**

The differences in answers given between children and adults again point to quite different perspectives of the world around them.

3.5 How could parents/carers be better supported?

Only parents/carers and practitioners were asked this question although it was phrased slightly differently for the two groups. The different phrasing is set out in Table 9.

Table 9 - Different phrasing of question on how parents/carers could be better supported

Respondent type	Question phrasing
Parent/carer	As a parent / carer, how do you think parents / carers could be supported better?
Practitioner	As a practitioner, how do you think parents / carers could be supported better?

Table 10 shows the most frequently selected items that each respondent type gave to the question on how parents/carers and practitioners could be better supported.

Respondents were allowed to choose multiple items so percentages will not total 100% of the number of responses given. A base number of those opting to answer each question is shown for information.

Table 10 - How could parents/carers be better supported?

Answer	Children	Young people	Parents & carers *	Practitioners **	Citizens	Total ***
Better support networks & information / advice	Question not asked	Question not asked	199	123	Question not asked	322
More groups for parents and children (children's centres / educating / workshops / community / drop-ins)			135	94		229
More specialist services with shorter waiting times and better quality (such as early help and social workers)			95	79		174
Other			55	64		119
Increase activities for youth / better advertisement / affordable			64	28		92
Improving education			41	15		56
More funding / financial support			29	23		52
Childcare - more available and affordable			36	10		46
Consistency and better communication across services (schools, parents, social workers)			31	12		43
More support for working parents / services to have available hours for working parents			29	9		38
Mental health support for children and families			21	15		36
Concerns being listened to / involved in decisions			19	14		33
Parents to take responsibility			13	18		31
Improve public transport / cycle lanes and footpaths / safety			17	5		22
Awareness of social media			12	8		20

* 525 Parents/carers chose to answer this question

** 357 Practitioners chose to answer this question

*** 882 Respondents answered this question

Please note that the tables have been ranked on the highest overall responses. The categories highlighted in bold, italics and a larger font size are the top three highest scores for each respondent type.

Any responses that received less than 10 answers were placed in the 'Other' category alongside the original 'Other' responses. They included answers ranging from more provision of **respite care to listening more** to young people.

District breakdown

Overall this question received a high number of responses across the districts – especially Worcester. This may be because this question was only asked to 'parents/carers', 'practitioners' or 'other', thus meaning that they are more inclined to be involved in the survey compared to children and young people. For all districts, 'better support networks & information / advice' was ranked as the highest; this highlights a key area of improvement for all districts. Other top highly ranked solutions were 'more groups for parents and children', 'more specialist services with shorter waiting times and better quality' and 'increase activities for youth / better advertisement / affordable' – which is closely linked to the previous question's responses.

Summary of how parents/carers could be better supported

Both parents/carers and practitioners most commonly selected the provision of more support groups/services and more information on how to access them as the best way to better support parents/carers.

"Greater and more robust publicity on how to access support services in Worcestershire." **Male, parent**

"Support sign posted and making sure health visitors and children's centres are resourced and have enough time and staff to properly support those in need." **Female, parent**

"Informing families that we are there to support them before problems escalate and providing the early intervention required to address needs before they become too severe." **Female, practitioner**

"Provide better support to parents/carers to understand and navigate the system, e.g. to better understand how schools can support children (and parent) what schools are doing, and how they are doing them. Sometimes they need to be more clear what they do or don't do, as services can change rapidly, due to changing priorities or budgets." **Gender not provided, practitioner**

Other suggestions put forward tie in strongly with the ideas that were identified by respondents as important or as challenges in other sections of the survey. Themes such more **activities** for young people and better **education** were again frequently selected for example.

3.6 If you were king/queen of Worcestershire what would you change?

All participants were asked this question in an identical way. The exact phrasing is set out in Table 11.

Table 11 - Phrasing of question on what you would do if you were king or queen for the day

Respondent type	Question phrasing
All	If you were king or queen of Worcestershire for a day, what would you change and why?

Table 12 shows the most frequently selected items that each respondent type gave to the question on what you would do if you were king or queen for the day.

Respondents were allowed to give multiple answers so percentages will not total 100% of the number of responses given. A base number of those opting to answer each question is shown for information.

Table 12 - If you were king or queen of Worcestershire for a day, what would you change?

Answer	All respondents*
Improved public services	287
Improved activities and places to go	263
Improved education	168
Government or system change	147
Becoming more eco-friendly	95
Learning to get along / less bullying more respect	89
Other	89
Improved travel	85
More support for parents and children	81
Less stressful school environment	75
Reducing financial challenges and poverty	73
Economic changes to benefit Worcestershire - job security - promotion of services available - more shops	41
Housing issues - too many or not enough	33
Social media - less use and more controls	28
Improving children's childhood	27
More security	9

* 1162 respondents chose to answer this question

Summary of what would you change if you were king or queen for a day

The top three selected suggestions for what respondents would do if they were king or queen of Worcestershire for the day are consistent with the themes that emerged in the rest of the survey. Respondents emphasised their desire to improve and invest in a wide range of **public services**, to provide more **places for children and young people to go and things for them to do**, and to **improve the education system** distinct from other public services.

"Additional help to essential services to keep the county safe (police, NHS etc). I feel that the targets set for hospitals are impossible to achieve and they are set up to fail. I would put more postnatal support for families to help families that are struggling financially and physically. I would also help fund local youth centres and children's centres so children know they have a safe place to go." **Gender not provided, age not provided**

"Make leisure facilities and activities free for children and carers." **Male, parent**

"Budget for schools, to make sure that schools were getting the money they need to ensure the best education and environment for their pupils." **Female, parent and practitioner**

The one theme that did not come through strongly in the rest of the survey but was clearly the fourth most common suggestion for this question is the idea of radical change to the government or 'the system'.

"I would stop all the tax breaks for the super-rich and big businesses for good and divert the money into healthcare and education instead. I would throw a massive, free street party, with free transport so everyone could enjoy a good day out." **Gender other than male or female, parent**

"I would do a county job swap - I would take our School Leaders and get them to take over the county council for a day I would then get senior management at the county council to be teaching assistants for the day I would also give every school £1,000 to spend on a work based activity" **Female, parent and practitioner**

All the other themes such as learning to get along / less bullying and reducing financial challenges and poverty are consistent with the messages given by respondents throughout the survey.

Annex 1 Demographic profile of respondents

Table 13 - How old are you (All respondent types*)

Item description	Frequency
12 or under	749
13 to 24	209
25 or over	1618

***2576 respondents chose to answer this question**

Table 14 - Are you a parent/carer of a child or young person? (All respondent types*)

Item description	Frequency
Yes	971
No	475

***1446 respondents chose to answer this question**

Table 15 - Are you a practitioner who works with children and young people or their families? (All respondent types*)

Item description	Frequency
Yes	581
No	667

***1248 respondents chose to answer this question**

Table 16 - What is your role? (practitioners only*)

Item description	Frequency
Question not answered	129
Health practitioner (not mental health)	125
Education (e.g. teacher, governor, teaching assistant)	115
Family and parental support	53
Other	37
Activity, club or group for children (e.g. cubs)	28
Mental health, counselling and pastoral care	22
Charity and volunteering	18
Social work and safe guarding	15
Fostering and childcare	14
Religious	9
Housing	8
Police	4

***577 respondents chose to answer this question**

Table 17 - How would you describe yourself and your interest in how Worcestershire works for its children and young people? ('Other' respondents only, i.e. not parent/carers or practitioners*)

Item description	Frequency
Grandparent	60
Interested resident / Citizen (not identified as senior)	42
Former role with children and young people	27
Interested resident / Senior citizen	23
Current parent of adults	14
Other	7
Future parent	5

***178 respondents chose to answer this question**

Table 18 – Which district do you live in? (Split by respondent type)

Respondent Type	Bromsgrove	Malvern Hills	Redditch	Worcester City	Wychavon	Wyre Forest
Children	249	74	15	141	137	127
Young people	62	36	19	42	26	18
Parent/carers	177	111	65	278	180	127
Practitioner	109	57	60	96	67	87
Other	38	62	28	48	66	22
Total	607	311	162	560	448	345

*** Please note that the numbers in the respondent type will not add up to the totals as respondents could be a multiple respondent type. For example, a parent/carers could also be a practitioner.**

*** 2464 respondents chose to answer this question, including 31 respondents from outside of Worcestershire.**

Table 19 - Are you a boy or a girl? (CHILD*)

Item description	Frequency
Girl	94
Boy	78

***172 respondents chose to answer this question**

Table 20 - What is your gender? (Young people, parents/carers, practitioners and other respondents*) Query other figures in spreadsheet

Item description	Frequency
Female	916

Male	294
------	-----

***1210 respondents chose to answer this question**

Table 21 - Are you...? (sexual orientation) (online respondents only*)

Item description	Frequency
Heterosexual / straight	888
Bisexual	12
Gay / Lesbian	9
Other	2
Prefer not to say	74

***985 respondents chose to answer this question**

Table 22 - Do you have a disability? (All online respondents. Information provided for small number of face-to-face respondents*)

Item description	Frequency
No	961
Yes	129

***1090 respondents chose to answer this question**

**Table 23 - What background or ethnic group do you identify yourself as being?
(online respondents only*)**

Item description	Frequency
White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	1269
White: Irish	11
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1
White: Other White	40
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black Caribbean	10
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black African	1
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Asian	3
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Other Mixed	4
Asian/Asian British: Indian	18
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	0
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	4
Asian/Asian British: Chinese	1
Asian/Asian British: Other Asian	6
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African	0
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean	0
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black	0
Other ethnic group: Arab	0
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	0
Prefer not to say	48

***1416 respondents chose to answer this question**

Annex 2 Online Survey

Worcestershire Children & Young People's Plan



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ALL QUESTIONS ARE OPTIONAL. You can miss out any questions you do not want to answer. The closing date for this survey is **10pm on Monday 12th June 2017**

In order to take you through all the questions which apply to you, please answer the following questions

Firstly, how old are you? We will ask slightly different questions depending on your age group

- 12 or under
- 13 to 24
- 25 or over



The questions that follow are for you to answer on your own. It is very important that you give honest answers. You can miss out any questions you don't want to answer.

What are the most important things to you? Please tick up to three

- My family
- My friends
- School
- Sport
- My pet
- My toys
- The park
- My club - please tell us about this in the box below
- My books
- My phone
- My hobby - please tell us about this in the box below
- Other - please tell us what in the box below

Please tell us why these are important to you?

What do you like to do? Please tick all the things you enjoy doing

- Play on my computer/games console
- Watch TV
- Play with my toys
- Go to the park
- Play sport - please tell us about this in the box below
- Go to my club - please tell us about this in the box below
- Visit my grandparents
- Play with my friends
- Go to the library
- Read a book
- Play outside
- Other - please tell us what in the box below

What are your main issues or challenges?

How could your life be improved?



If you were king or queen of Worcestershire for a day, what would you change and why?

What is the best way for you to tell us what you think in the future?

Which district do you live in?

- Bromsgrove (including Hagley)
- Malvern Hills (including Tenbury & Upton)
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- Worcester City
- Wychavon (including Evesham, Droitwich & Pershore)
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So that we can check that services are open to and welcome everyone we are asking a few questions about you. Please note that all answers are **strictly confidential** and will **only** be used to improve the services we provide. Your personal details cannot be linked to you in any way. **All questions are optional** - you can skip any questions you do not want to answer.

Are you...

- A boy
- A girl

Do you have a disability?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Which background or ethnic group do you identify yourself as being?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British | <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi |
| <input type="radio"/> White: Irish | <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian British: Chinese |
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| <input type="radio"/> White: Other White | <input type="radio"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black Caribbean | <input type="radio"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean |
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| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Asian | <input type="radio"/> Other ethnic group: Arab |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Other Mixed | <input type="radio"/> Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian British: Indian | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian British: Pakistani | |

Thank you for your time. Your answers really matter to us. Please hit the submit button to send us your responses


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Firstly, how old are you? We will ask slightly different questions depending on your age group

- 12 or under
 13 to 24
 25 or over

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person?

- Yes No

Are you a practitioner who works with children and young people or their families?

- Yes No



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As a young person, what is most important to you and why?

As a young person, what do you like to do and why?

As a young person, what are your main issues and challenges?



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As a young person, how could your life be improved?



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If you were king or queen of Worcestershire for a day, what would you change and why?

What is the best way for you to tell us what you think in the future?

Which district do you live in?

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What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Are you...

- Heterosexual / Straight
- Gay / Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Do you have a disability?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Which background or ethnic group do you identify yourself as being?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British | <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi |
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12 or under

13 to 24

25 or over

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person?

Yes

No

Are you a practitioner who works with children and young people or their families?

Yes

No



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As a parent / carer, what do you think is most important for children and young people in Worcestershire?

As a parent / carer, what do you think are the main challenges or issues for children and young people in Worcestershire?


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As a parent / carer, what do you think would improve the lives of children and young people?

As a parent / carer, how do you think parents / carers could be supported better?


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If you were king or queen of Worcestershire for a day, what would you change and why?

What is the best way for you to tell us what you think in the future?

Which district do you live in?

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- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Are you...

- Heterosexual / Straight
- Gay / Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Do you have a disability?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Which background or ethnic group do you identify yourself as being?

- | | |
|--|--|
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What is your role?



As a practitioner, what do you think is most important for children and young people in Worcestershire?

As a practitioner, what do you think are the main challenges or issues for children and young people in Worcestershire?



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How would you describe yourself and your interest in how Worcestershire works for its children and young people?

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- Outside Worcestershire



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So that we can check that services are open to and welcome everyone we are asking a few questions about you. Please note that all answers are **strictly confidential** and will **only** be used to improve the services we provide. Your personal details cannot be linked to you in any way. **All questions are optional** - you can skip any questions you do not want to answer.

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Are you...

- Heterosexual / Straight
- Gay / Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Do you have a disability?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Which background or ethnic group do you identify yourself as being?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British | <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi |
| <input type="radio"/> White: Irish | <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian British: Chinese |
| <input type="radio"/> White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller | <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian British: Other Asian |
| <input type="radio"/> White: Other White | <input type="radio"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black Caribbean | <input type="radio"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black African | <input type="radio"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Asian | <input type="radio"/> Other ethnic group: Arab |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Other Mixed | <input type="radio"/> Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian British: Indian | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian/Asian British: Pakistani | |



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Annex 3 Easy read survey



At the heart of everything we do



We want Worcestershire to be a great place for children and young people to grow up.

Everything we do is for children and about children.



We are making a Children's and Young People's Plan.

We want you to help us by telling us what is important to you.



These are the people we want to hear from:

- children
- young people
- parents and carers
- people who work with children
- people who are interested in our plan



Please answer the questions below.

We will use your answers to help us plan for the future of children and young people in Worcestershire.



We will keep your answers private.

You do not have to tell us your name or contact details.

We will only use your answers to help us with the plan.

If you don't want to answer a question, you can miss it out.



If you are a child or a young person up to the age of 24, please answer these questions.



What things in your life are most important to you?



What do you like to do?

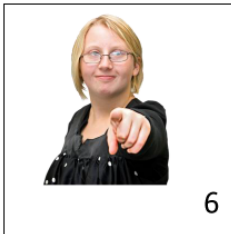


Do you have any problems?

How could your life be made better?



**If you were king or queen of Worcestershire for the day
what would you change and why?**



Now please answer the About You questions on pages 6-8.



If you are a parent or carer of a child or young person please answer these questions.

OR



If you work with children or young people please answer these questions.

What things do you think are most important for children and young people in Worcestershire?



What do you think are the worst problems for children and young people in Worcestershire?



What do you think would make children's and young people's lives better?



How do you think parents and carers could be helped to make things better?



If you were king or queen of Worcestershire for a day what would you change and why?





About You

Everyone, please answer these questions.

How old are you?



Younger than 12



13 - 24



25 or older



Are you a...

Man or boy?



Woman or girl?

Do you have a disability?



Yes

No

I don't want to say

Where do you live?

Bromsgrove. This includes Hagley

Malvern Hills. This includes Tenbury and Upton

Redditch

Worcester City

Wychavon. This includes Evesham, Droitwich and Pershore

Wyre Forest. This includes Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport upon Severn

Outside Worcestershire



What is your background or ethnic group?

White British

White other

Asian or Asian British

Black

Mixed or more than one group

Other

Please tell us more below if you can't find your ethnicity in this list.





Please send your questionnaire to:

Allie Webster
Operational Manager – Partnerships
Families, Communities and Partnerships
Worcestershire County Council



County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP



Or you can send it by email

Awebster2@worcestershire.gov.uk



Please send us your questionnaire by 10pm on **Monday 12th**
June 2017.

Annex 4 Question Tree

