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Planning Places Survey Report



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Introduction

The Scottish Government approached Young Scot to engage with young people from across Scotland in order to support and expand upon the public consultation, 'Places, People and Planning: A consultation on the future of the Scottish planning system' that was delivered by the Scottish Government. The Scottish Government wanted to ensure their views, insights and experiences are listened to, gathered and used to influence the development of proposals towards legislation later in 2017.

This consultation on planning includes work around how best to support the empowerment of people to participate in the planning system. This activity specifically supported and focused on how best to engage young people, identified as a hard to reach group, to increase opportunities and points of access to participate.

This activity delivered:

- A national survey of young people from across Scotland *to gather qualitative data on young people's views and experiences around* planning within their local areas, and their attitudes towards involving young people in 'Local Place Plans.' The survey received 104 responses.

Methodology

Young Scot plays a key role in supporting partners to engage and consult young people across Scotland, helping them to influence the design and delivery of policy and services. Our co-design service involves young people systematically co-creating, co-producing, co-designing and co-delivering solutions. Young people are involved much earlier in decision making process through a highly participative approach, developing informed insights, ideas, recommendations and solutions for policy and practice.

Through the co-design process, young people have ownership of what they have to say; relating their views and opinions on a particular subject or policy area to deliver ideas and solutions in a spirit of co-design and collaboration.

This project focused on the **Explore** phase of the co-design process, as due to timescales, we opted to conduct a national young people's survey

National Survey

In order to gain a broad insight into the views and experiences of young people from across Scotland on planning places, we worked in partnership with the team in the Scottish Government to devise a national survey, which was made available on Young Scot's digital platform – www.young.scot, using Survey Gizmo to collect responses. We also produced paper versions of the survey which Young Scot used when engaging face-to-face with young people. These were then entered into the online platform for analysis. We offered 100 Young Scot Rewards points as an incentive for submitting their views and experiences. The opportunity was promoted via our extensive social media presence on Facebook and Twitter, and through our partnership networks. The survey encouraged participation from young people aged between 11 and 25.

Key Findings

NATIONAL SURVEY

The survey ran for a period of seven weeks (10th March – 16th April) and the number of useable responses **totalled 104**. The responses have provided a 'snapshot' into young people's views and experiences on involving young people in the planning of places.

50% of respondents identified as female, 44% as male, 4% as other and 4% as prefer not to say. The majority of respondents were aged between 15-21 and currently attending school (50%.) Participation was particularly high in Edinburgh, Glasgow and North Lanarkshire.

Survey Questions

The survey contained nine questions of which some were multiple choice and others open for comment. The questions were as follows:

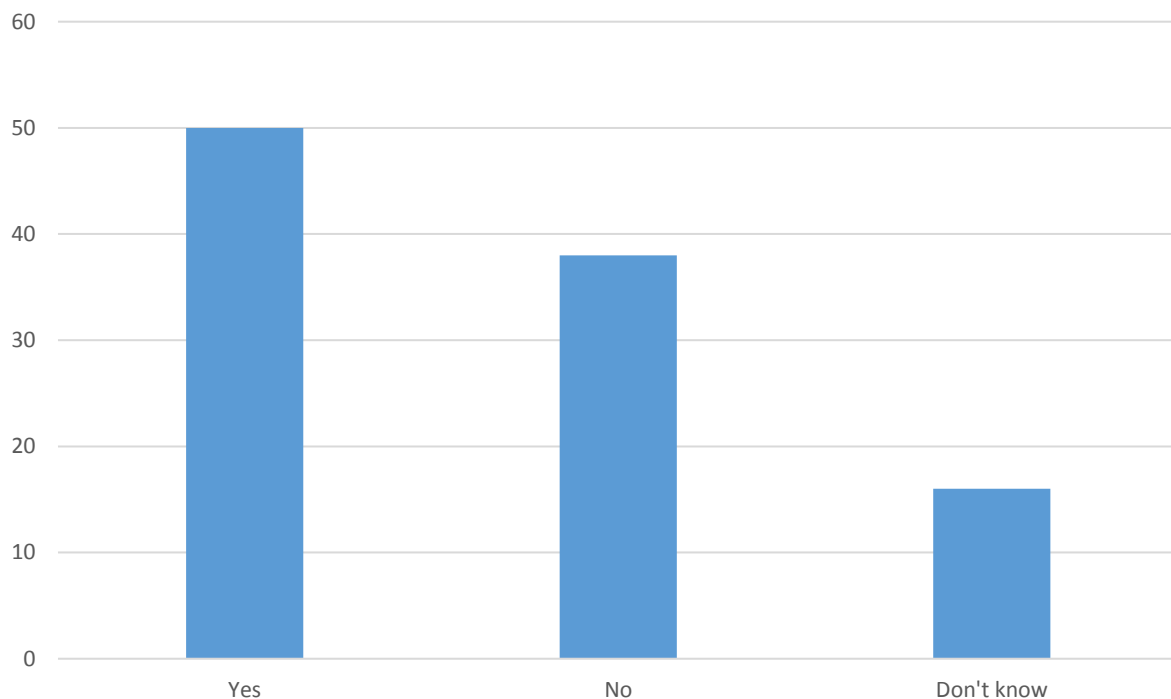
1. Have you been involved in influencing how the place where you live, work or go to school should change in the future? (This could be through commenting on a planning application, projects at school or attending a community event)
2. If you have said yes, tell us a bit more about what you've been involved with here.
3. Do you think your council should use better ways to support children and young people to get involved in the planning of their area?
4. Have you got any examples of how you could get involved?
5. What ways of involving you in planning would work best? For example, online surveys like this, social media, meetings/workshops/events?
6. The Government is proposing introducing 'Local Place Plans'. These plans are aimed at giving local people more of a say in how their area is developed. Do you think this would be a good thing?

7. What are the three most important things the local place plans should cover?
8. What would help you get involved in preparing one of these plans?
9. Should your council be asked to prove that it has properly involved children and young people?
10. Tell us more here.

Survey Results

1. Have you been involved in influencing how the place where you live, work or go to school should change in the future? (This could be through commenting on a planning application, projects at school or attending a community event)

48% of respondents have been involved with influencing the place that they live, work or go to school and 37% feel that they have not been involved. 15% do not know if they have been involved.



2. If you have said yes, tell us a bit more about what you've been involved with here.

Of the 48% of young people who answered yes to the previous question, 45 young people left a comment to tell us more about how they have been involved.

Many of the respondents commented that they have been involved through participating in school councils and community councils, projects and events. Some of the young people who responded provided more specific examples of when they have been involved, for example, one young person is campaigning in their local area and another has taken part in the funding application process for a local project.

Below is a selection of some of the key responses:

“Previously completed and succeeded in funding application to create a community garden with young people's input. Monthly lunch clubs for parents and children, funding for which is through Tesco applications. Work with primary schools delivering out door classroom experiences, with children actively involved in maintenance of local woodland area.”

“A co-opted member of my local community council, and Vice chair of the Dolphin Centre (my local community hall) Management committee.”

“I am part of the sports council in school which has allowed me to change the face of sport in my school. I am also a young ambassador for my school session 2016/17.”

“I attend and help at many community events, specifically those during Tillicoultry Community Week and at the Christmas Light Switch On, I also take part in a Twinning association. Further to this I set up an LGBT+ youth group at Alva Academy when I attended.”

3. Do you think your council should use better ways to support children and young people to get involved in the planning of their area?

100 young people answered this question. Of those 100, 88% felt that their council should use better ways to support children and young people to get involved in the planning of their area. 4% answered no to this question and 8% did not know.

4. Have you got any examples of how you could get involved?

81 young people left examples of how they feel they could be involved in the planning of their area. Many young people feel they could be involved through local community meetings detailing any plans for the area and feel any information regarding plans for their area should be more accessible. They also highlighted that the local council should reach out to young people to ask for their views and opinions, doing so through running workshops and engaging with school councils, local youth councils and groups. Many respondents also feel that surveys and social media should be used more to involve young people.

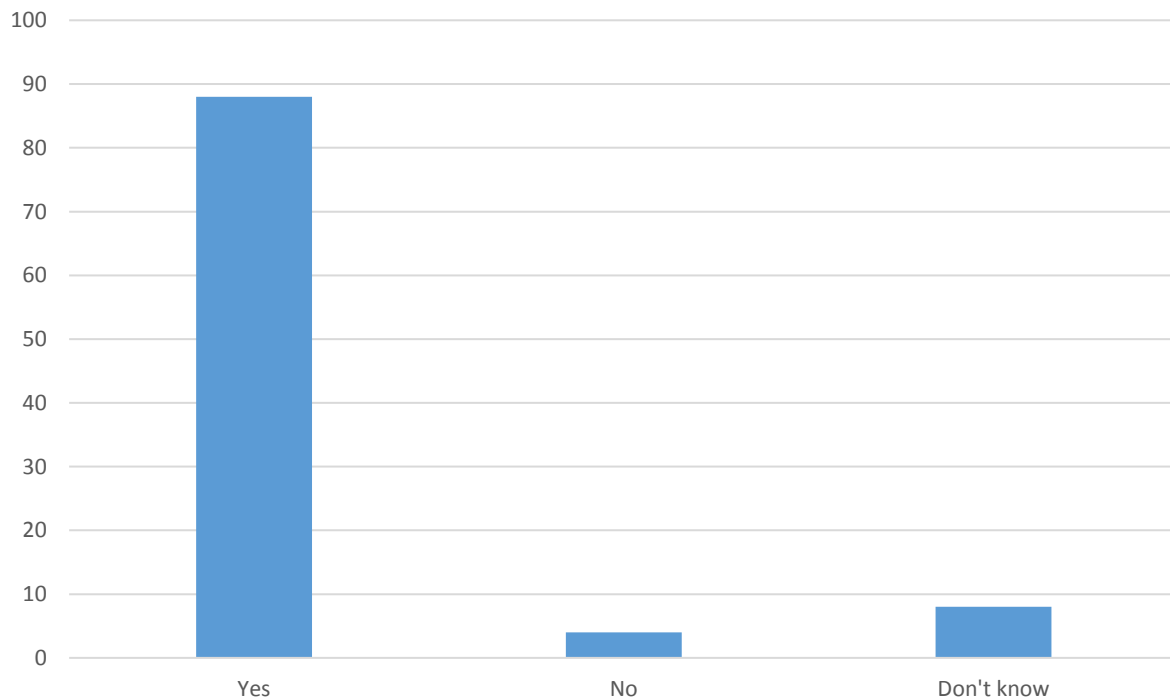
Below is a selection of some of the key responses:

“Community and democratic participation (local community meetings, online surveys, public consultations, etc.)”

“Make local meetings/discussions about planning proposals more accessible to those out with of council groups etc. Actively seek opinions of youths.”

“Social media, schools or college engagement events. Local youth planning which could be advertised in schools for your people to join panels.”

“Communication between the council and young people is key. Presenting and informing on social media, such as progress and ideas can target young people and influence myself and



others to take part.”

5. What ways of involving young people in planning would work best? For example, online surveys like this, social media, meetings/workshops/events?

104 young people answered this question. Of the responses, the most common answers were that workshops and events, social media and online surveys would work best to engage young people. They felt that meeting face to face with young people is more engaging and would benefit young people more.

Below is a selection of some of the key responses:

“Meetings/workshops/events are by far the most engaging and appealing - the hands on approach is very popular. Advertisement through social media is also beneficial.”

“Online Surveys, and social media are probably the most effective means to getting youth involved in planning.”

“Social media/online surveys as they are easy to do and quick so more accessible.”

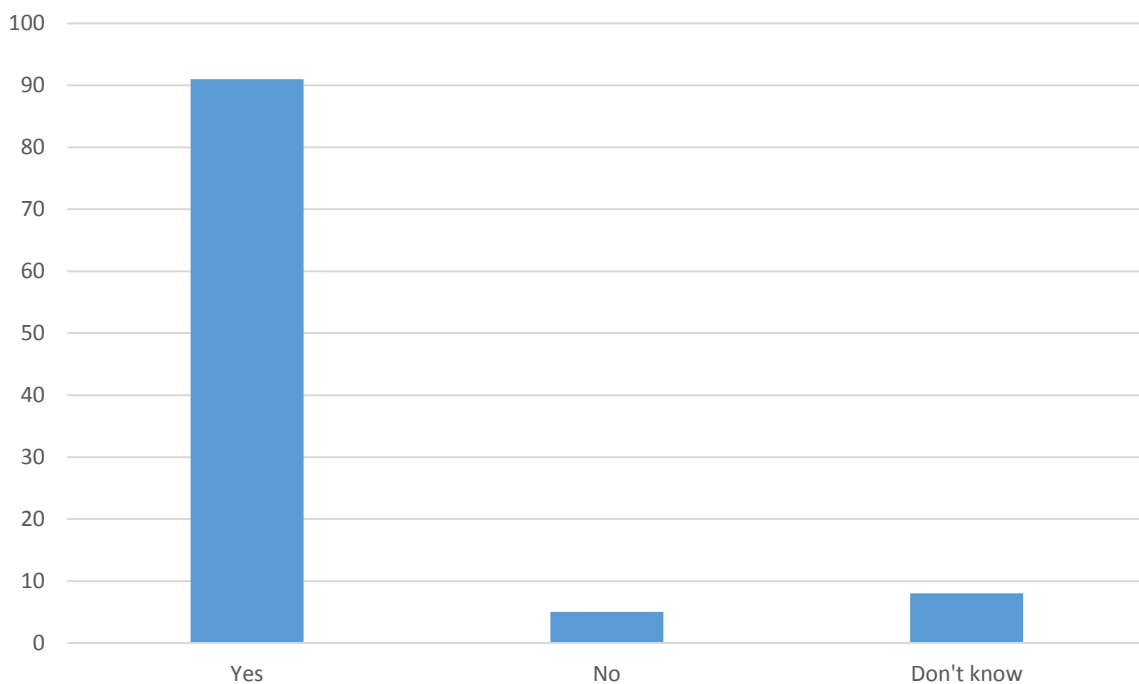
“Surveys, being invited to meetings, the council coming to representative bodies like schools/college/uni to present and ask for feedback on decisions.”

6. The Government is proposing introducing ‘Local Place Plans’. These plans are aimed at giving local people more of a say in how their area is developed. Do you think this would be a good thing?

104 young people answered this question. 88% of young people said yes, that 'Local Place Plans' would be a good thing, 5% said it would not be a good thing and 8% said they don't know.

7. What are the three most important things the local place plans should cover?

82 young people left a comment for this question. Of the comments, the most popular



responses to what the three most important things the local place plans should cover are education, housing, transport and improving local services/accessibility. Other comments included health, sport, culture and infrastructure.

8. What would help you get involved in preparing one of these plans?

There were 76 answers to this question. Many of the responses mentioned that if there were local community meetings where they were provided with lots of information this would help them to get involved. Also, if they knew that their opinions would be taken seriously and listened to and not just used to 'tick a box.' Many also felt if the opportunity to get involved was linked into their time at school this would help.

Below is a selection of some of the key responses:

"Lots of information, so that I can make a well informed decision. Assurance that young people have a say."

"If I knew that people's opinions would actually be taken on board. In the past despite large opposition to plans within the community they have gone ahead because it's what the council wants."

“... Some open social media event, a place to discuss, evolve and take forward good ideas.”

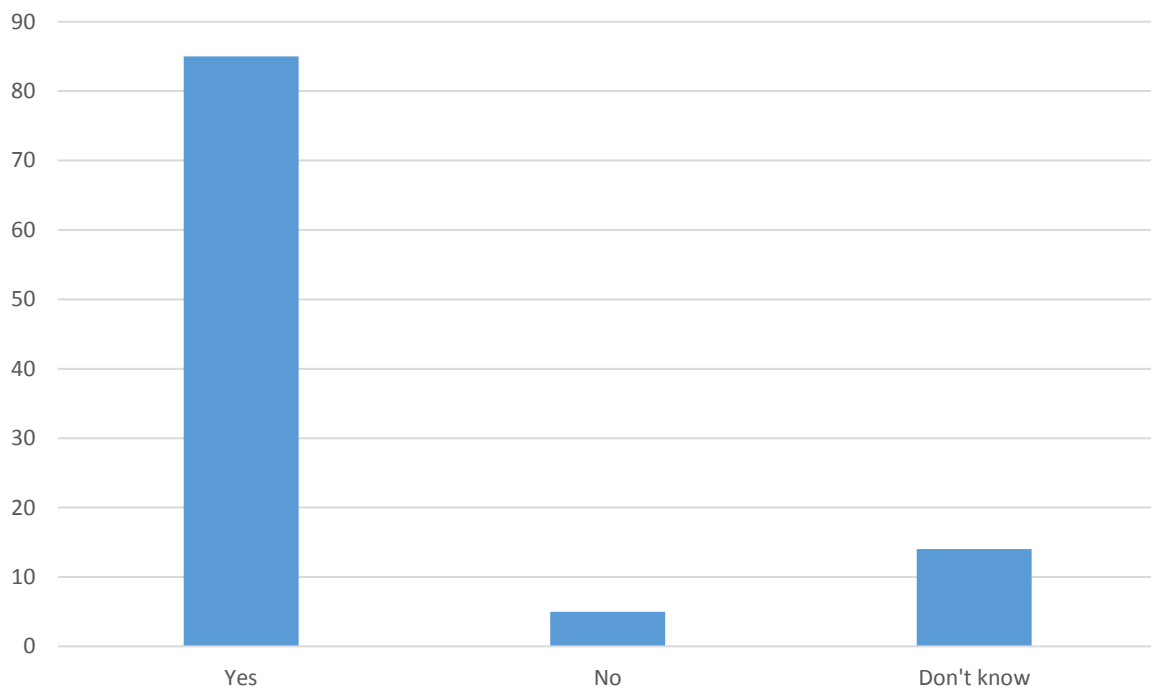
“Talking to teachers and classmates and maybe doing a topic about it.”

9. Should your council be asked to prove that it has properly involved children and young people?

There were 104 responses to this question. Of the responses, 82% felt that the council should have to prove that they have properly involved children and young people, 5% felt that they should not have to prove this and 13% didn't know.

10. Tell us more here:

41 young people left a comment here. Many of the comments focused on how their council



should prove that children and young people have properly been involved, with many feeling that this could be done through sharing on social media, newsletters, events and a report which could detail how young people are being involved. Other comments emphasised the importance of involving young people in planning of their area and how many currently feel they are not being involved.

Below is a selection of some of the key responses:

“A report that has a section on young people and their participation, perhaps written by a young person. A video showing young people getting involved which may encourage other young people.”

“Yes the council should promote more on how to include young people and children by promoting more on social media to best engage/involve/change how they work.”

“Once the council is asked, they have to involve children and young people as they are important for the future of the area they live in.”

“I think a lot of the time young people go unheard, by proper consultation and proof, children will feel more involved in their community - promoting more positive results and innovation in the future.”

Conclusion

The exploration has revealed a broad range of insights from the participating young people about their experiences, opinions and ideas around planning within their local areas, and their views around how to improve children and young people’s involvement. As previously stated, we cannot necessarily assume that those engaged are wholly representative of the broader demographic; but this piece of work has provided a ‘snapshot’ of insight into young people’s attitudes and opinions from across Scotland.

Looking at the results from the National Survey, it is clear to see that the majority of young people feel that they should be involved in planning in their local area and that their local councils should look at ways to support children and young people to do this. Many young people feel they could be involved through local community meetings detailing any plans for the area and feel any information regarding plans for their area should be more accessible. They also highlighted that the local council should reach out to young people to ask for their views and opinions, doing so through running workshops and engaging with school councils, local youth councils and using social media.

Young people feel that the ‘Local Place Plans’ proposed by the Government should look at education, housing, transport and improving local services and accessibility to them. In order for young people to be able to get involved in one of these plans, they feel that they need community meetings where they are provided with lots of information, they need to know that their opinions will be taken on board, and many also felt if the opportunity to get involved was linked into their time at school this would help.

The majority of young people feel that their local council should have to prove that they have involved children and young people in their plans, whether this is through a report detailing how they were involved, through a newsletter or by social media.

Next Steps

Following on from the **Explore** phase of the co-design process, Young Scot would be keen to work with the Scottish Government to follow through to the next phases of the co-design process. This would involve working with a panel of young people over an extended period of time to generate ideas and co-create solutions.

Contact

We would be happy to discuss any elements of this report in more detail.

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