

Evidence Gathering

**Youth Services Provision
Review Working Party**

09 January 2025

By

Charles Hungwe, Deputy Committee Services Manager

Cabinet Portfolio Member

Cllr Keen, Cabinet Member for Community

Key Decision

No

Decision classification

Unrestricted

Call in status

N/A

Ward:

Thanet Wide

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to consider information gathered through the survey questionnaires sent out to schools around Thanet and TDC officers by the Chair on behalf of the Youth Services Provision Review Working Party.

Recommendation(s):

Members' views are sought on the information collected so far by the working party.

1. Summary of Reasons

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider information gathered through the survey questionnaires sent out to schools around Thanet and TDC officers by the Chair on behalf of the Youth Services Provision Review Working Party. Members may also wish to set out timelines for concluding different activities of this review project, leading to the production of the review report.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel set up the Youth Services Provision Review Working Party at its meeting on 15 October 2024 to investigate and report on the youth services provision in Thanet District.
- 1.2 It is hoped that from this review, the working party could come up with recommendations for consideration by the Panel and subsequently Cabinet.

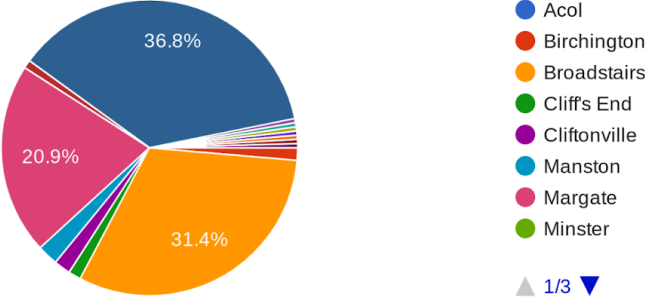
3. Relevant Issues - Collecting evidence for the review

3.1 A survey questionnaire was sent out to TDC officers and young people across the district. Responses to the questions are detailed in Annexes 1 and 2 to the report.

3.2 Some of the responses from Thanet's young people are as detailed below:

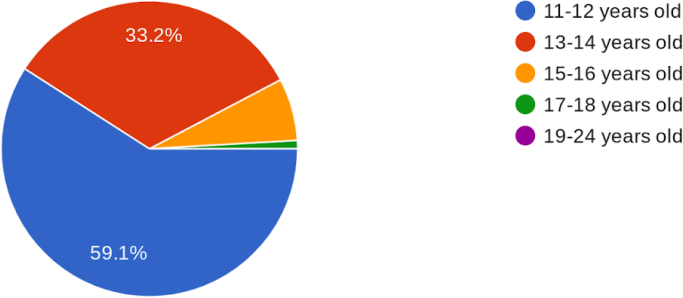
Which area of Thanet do you live?

220 responses



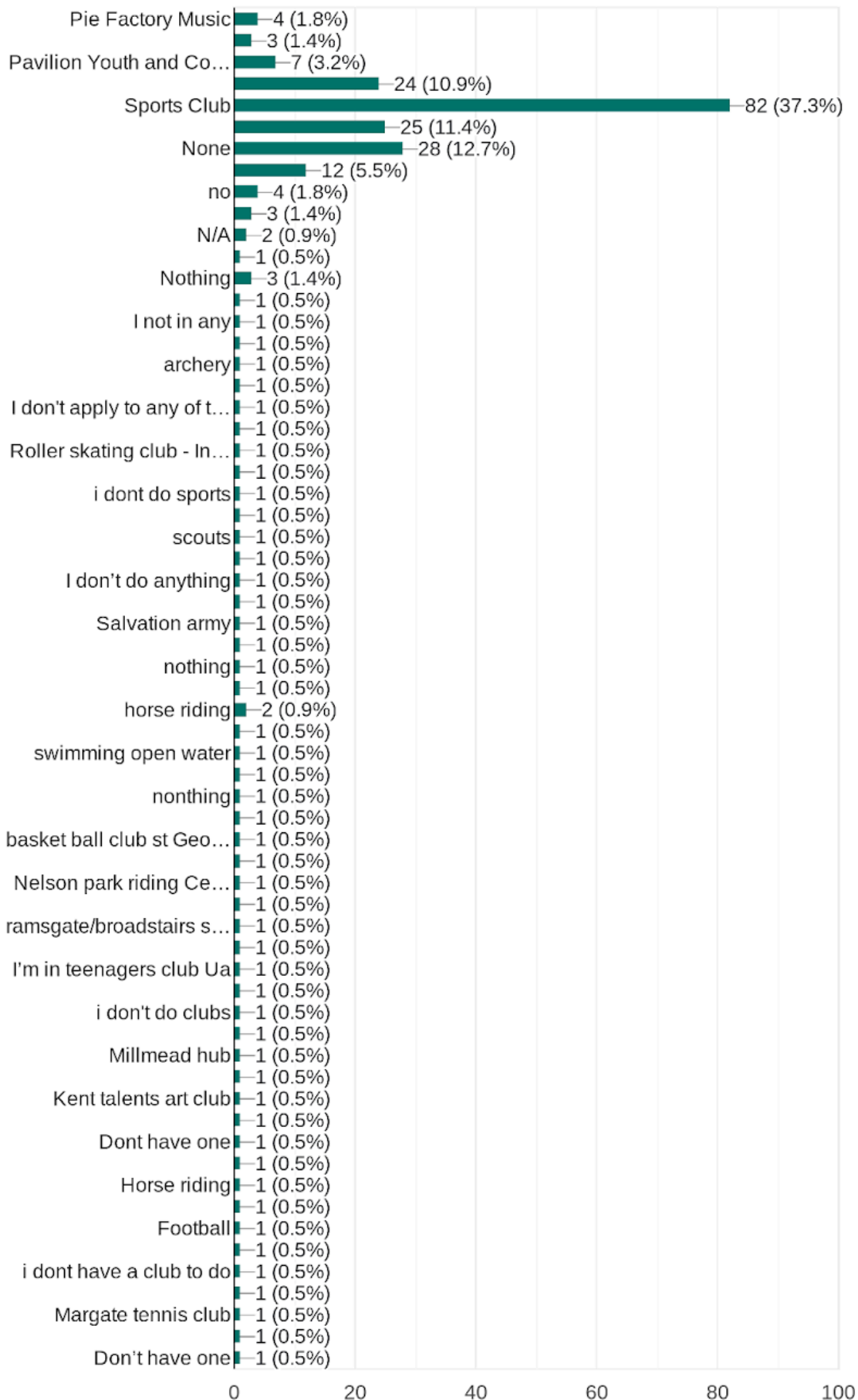
How old are you?

220 responses



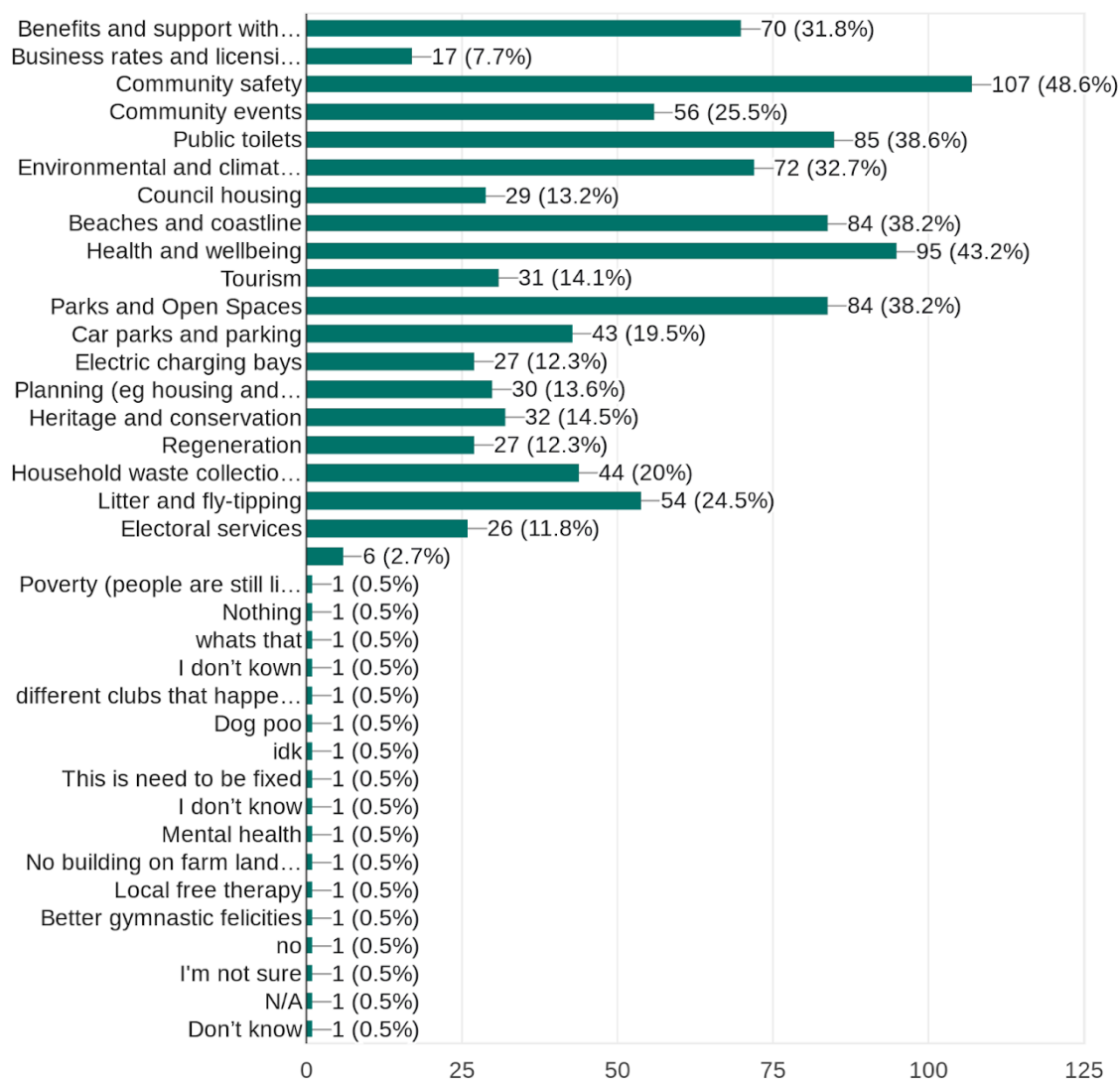
Are you a member of the following clubs/organisations/groups? please tick all that apply

220 responses



Which of the following TDC services are of most importance to you personally? (tick all that apply)

220 responses



3.3 Members need to identify any more activities to undertake as part of evidence gathering. These would lead to the production of a report with recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel at the end of the scrutiny review project.

3.4 The working party could consider requesting additional officers attendance from different service areas across the various council departments to gather any information based on officer experiences. These would be officers whose job roles include engaging youth through a number of council activities in the district. The working party would need to determine how many sessions they need in order for Members to gather adequate information for producing the report.

- 3.5 The review would also need to assess what remains following KCC budget cuts and what is provided by other organisations across Thanet. It was hoped that this would identify where gaps and opportunities for improvement are.
- 3.6 Members may also want to share what they have individually found out through desktop research to identify youth service provision in similarly sized districts in Kent and share such information with the rest of the working party. The working party may also opt to engage Cabinet Members to get their views on this subject before summing up their findings and recommendations.
- 3.7 Annex 3 details the agreed terms of reference of the working party, for members reference.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Members may choose to make changes to their approach for the review and a timeline of activities for conducting the review. This could include amending the list of key activities for the review and when these should be done by. This information would be used to send out further appointments to the members and officers as is appropriate.
- 4.2 Members could simply agree to carry on with their current approach for conducting the scrutiny review and assign officers in Democratic Services to liaise with officers in the appropriate service areas to arrange meetings and activities for the review.

Next Steps

- 4.3 The following is a proposed generic and indicative timetable which Members can review and amend at the first meeting.

Jan 2025: review of information and drafting the working party report;
Jan 2025: review of draft report by the working party;
Jan 2025: draft report reviewed by CMT;
Feb 2025: presentation of Final report to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 There is no requirement to conduct a consultation on this matter. However as part of the investigations by the working party, if Members feel the need to engage the public they could conduct witnesses sessions as part of evidence gathering exercise before writing up their report.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Finance and Resources

- 6.1.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However any funding by Thanet District Council for youth services in the district would mean

additional expenditure by the Council. Funding sources would have to be identified in the budget, subsequent to the recommendations being adopted by the Council.

6.2 Legal and Constitutional

6.2.1 The role of scrutiny is set out in section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000. The council must also have regard to the statutory guidance on Overview and Scrutiny from the ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government when exercising its functions.

6.3 Council Policies and Priorities

6.3.1 This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- To create a thriving place
- To work efficiently for you

6.4 Risk

6.4.1 There are risks arising directly from this report.

6.5 Climate Change and Biodiversity

6.5.1 There are no climate change and biodiversity implications arising directly from this report.

7. Equality, Equity and Diversity Implications

7.1 There are no equity, equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report. However the Council needs to retain a strong focus and understanding on issues of diversity amongst the local community and ensure service delivery matches these.

7.2 It was important to be aware of the Council's responsibility under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and show evidence that due consideration has been given to the equalities impact that may be brought upon communities by the decisions made by Council.

8. Crime and Disorder Implications and Community impact

8.1 There are no crime and disorder implications and community impact arising directly from this report.

9. Subject History

9.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel identified a number of scrutiny topics in the 2024/25 municipal year. They prioritised these topics in order to tackle one review at a time. Any topics from the priority list that were not investigated in 2023/24 were brought forward to 2024/25 and agreed for inclusion in the work programme by the Panel.

Appendices

Annex 1 - Survey Responses from TDC Officers
Annex 2 - Survey Responses from Young People
Annex 3 - Terms of Reference for the working party

Background Papers

None

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Report Sign Off

Legal []

Finance []