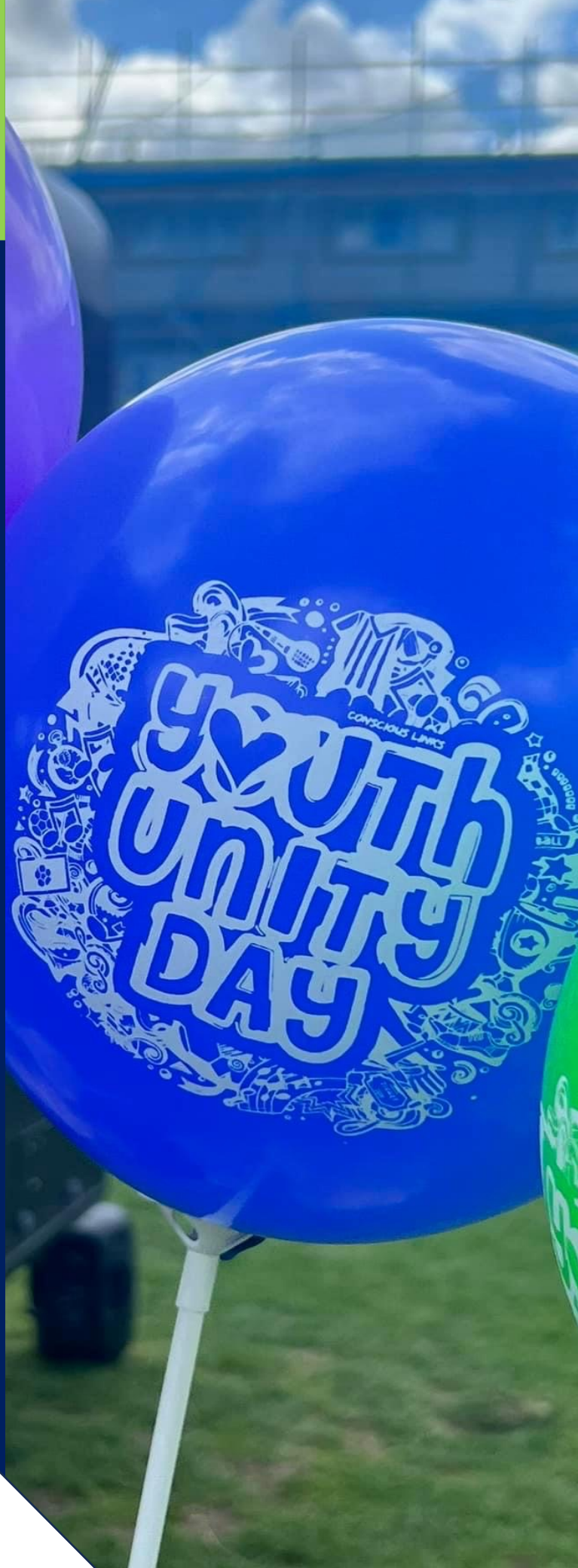


# Play in the Park Summer 2023



## About us

At Youth Unity CIC, our mission is clear: to provide effective assistance and support to vulnerable young people and adults facing the harsh realities of group violence, drug abuse, and various forms of exploitation, including human trafficking, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), and extremism. We do this in collaboration with statutory organizations, commissioned services, and fellow charities, promoting a united front for comprehensive solutions.

Our approach revolves around enhancing opportunities for all individuals, with a particular focus on the youth, irrespective of their backgrounds. We firmly believe that by nurturing an individual's overall health and well-being, we equip them with the tools to make informed life choices.

To break the cycle of violence and exploitation, Youth Unity CIC actively engages with stakeholders to offer a wide spectrum of support and interventions. Our services encompass counselling, mentoring, educational and employment opportunities, as well as practical assistance. These resources enable individuals to regain control over their lives.

In addition to our direct support, we are committed to raising awareness about the pressing issues of group violence, drugs, and exploitation within communities and schools. We achieve this through educational workshops and training sessions. We also provide training and support to professionals working with vulnerable young people and adults, enhancing their capacity to effectively address these intricate challenges.

Transparency and accountability are the cornerstones of our operations. We are dedicated to making a positive impact on the lives of young people and adults grappling with the harsh realities of group violence, drugs, and exploitation. Our ultimate goal is to enhance their opportunities and overall well-being.

Our approach closely aligns with the Government's 4P strategy: Pursue, targeting offenders; Prevent, focusing on early intervention; Protect, safeguarding vulnerable individuals; and Prepare, ensuring readiness to respond to incidents and support individuals on their path to leaving criminality. Youth Unity CIC's partnership-oriented approach is in sync with the Government's strategy, working diligently to reduce vulnerability and protect local communities through collaborative efforts with a wide array of stakeholders.



## The Project Overview

Youth Unity CIC were commissioned to provide a series of sporting and family events in the summer of 2023 across Epping Forest District Council. The activities provided to the community consisted a range of Sports such as Football, Basketball, Table tennis, arts and craft podcasting and music producing.

Youth Unity set clear objectives for the Summer Program in the following areas :

**Active Lifestyle:** Sporting events delivered to encourage physical activity and promote a healthy lifestyle.

**Community cohesion and integration opportunities:** The family events during the summer provided a great chance for families to come together and bond. From picnics in the park to sports and creative positive activities creating lasting memories and strengthen family connections.

**Community Engagement:** The provision of sporting events often bring communities together. With the aim to foster a sense of community spirit and unity, allowing people to connect

**Skill Development:** The summer sports events offer opportunities for individuals of all ages to improve their skills. From young people learning new sports to adults honing their abilities, these events provided a platform for personal growth and development.

**Social Interaction:** Providing a chance for the local Epping Forest community to meet new people, make friends, and expand our social networks, enhancing our overall well-being.

Events held: 6

Number of

Attendees:250





12.30pm  
to 3.30pm

# PLAY IN THE PARK 2023

## Limes Farm

Green next to  
community centre

25th July  
& 15th Aug

## The Station Green

177 Brook Parade  
Chigwell  
IG7 6NX

1st Aug  
& 22nd Aug

## Chigwell Row

Recreation Park  
Lambourne Rd  
Chigwell IG7 6JU

8th Aug  
& 29th Aug

### Limes Farm 25<sup>th</sup> July

This particular day proved to be unexpectedly chaotic for us. Upon our initial arrival, we were quite surprised to see more than 30 children waiting for our program.

We hadn't anticipated such a significant turnout, and this unexpected surge of attendees presented us with several challenges, particularly from a safeguarding perspective. It was evident that allowing young people onto the bus with only one person supervising wasn't a safe option. Additionally, some parents were leaving their children with us to supervise, but we had to explain that their presence was necessary for their child's participation.

Furthermore, the bus's location near the community center brought about its own set of challenges.

The barriers around the green and park area made it difficult to ensure safe access. With only two staff members available, it became clear that managing both areas securely and effectively was simply not feasible.

Despite these hurdles, we made the best of the situation. The young people joined us on the bus and engaged in computer games, while parents had the opportunity to sit and chat with us throughout the afternoon.

### Limes Farm 15<sup>th</sup> August

Anticipating a busy session, we took proactive steps to ensure we had a sufficient number of staff available.

The event turned out to be a resounding success, with a strong showing of community members eager to participate. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. With the assistance of local residents, we were able to park the bus on the green, facilitating a seamless setup.

The day was filled with activities like badminton, balloon decorations, and music, creating a palpable sense of community cohesion and togetherness.



12.30pm  
to 3.30pm

# PLAY IN THE PARK 2023

**Limes Farm**  
Green next to  
community centre  
**25th July  
& 15th Aug**

**The Station  
Green**  
177 Brook Parade  
Chigwell  
IG7 6NX  
**1st Aug  
& 22nd Aug**

**Chigwell Row**  
Recreation Park  
Lambourne Rd  
Chigwell IG7 6JU  
**8th Aug  
& 29th Aug**



## Limes Farm 25<sup>th</sup> July

This particular day proved to be unexpectedly chaotic for us. Upon our initial arrival, we were quite surprised to see more than 30 children waiting for our program.

We hadn't anticipated such a significant turnout, and this unexpected surge of attendees presented us with several challenges, particularly from a safeguarding perspective. It was evident that allowing young people onto the bus with only one person supervising wasn't a safe option. Additionally, some parents were leaving their children with us to supervise, but we had to explain that their presence was necessary for their child's participation.

Furthermore, the bus's location near the community center brought about its own set of challenges.

The barriers around the green and park area made it difficult to ensure safe access. With only two staff members available, it became clear that managing both areas securely and effectively was simply not feasible.

Despite these hurdles, we made the best of the situation. The young people joined us on the bus and engaged in computer games, while parents had the opportunity to sit and chat with us throughout the afternoon.

## Limes Farm 15<sup>th</sup> August

Anticipating a busy session, we took proactive steps to ensure we had a sufficient number of staff available.

The event turned out to be a resounding success, with a strong showing of community members eager to participate. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. With the assistance of local residents, we were able to park the bus on the green, facilitating a seamless setup.

The day was filled with activities like badminton, balloon decorations, and music, creating a palpable sense of community cohesion and togetherness.



12.30pm  
to 3.30pm

# PLAY IN THE PARK 2023

**Limes Farm**  
Green next to  
community centre  
**25th July  
& 15th Aug**

**The Station  
Green**  
177 Brook Parade  
Chigwell  
IG7 6NX  
**1st Aug  
& 22nd Aug**

**Chigwell Row**  
Recreation Park  
Lambourne Rd  
Chigwell IG7 6JU  
**8th Aug  
& 29th Aug**



## Chigwell Row – 8<sup>th</sup> August

Unfortunately, this event was poorly attended due to torrential rain. Despite our best efforts, we remained on-site until 3:30 PM, but regrettably, no one was able to join us due to the inclement weather.

## Chigwell Row – 29<sup>th</sup> August

This marked our final event of the summer, and we were fortunate to have some residents from Limes Farm who came out to show their support. However, this location posed some unique challenges. Unfortunately, there was no access for our bus to get onto the park, making the setup more challenging.

We also observed that most local residents primarily frequented the park for activities like tennis or basketball, and the children's play area, which would have been an ideal setup location, was not feasible due to parking restrictions. Despite these hurdles, we appreciated the support from those who did attend the event.



**Over the six sessions we engaged with over 80 young people from a range of ages and backgrounds.**

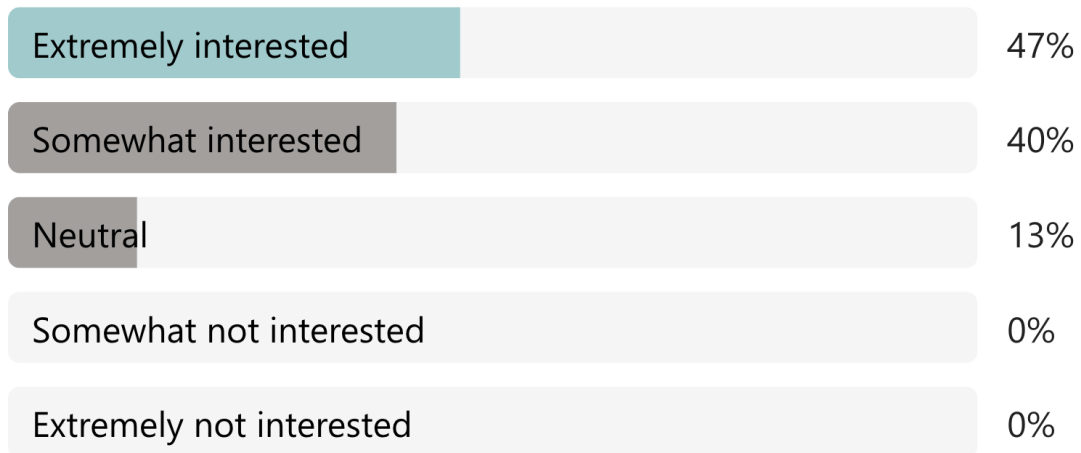
Which day did you attend, if you attended more than one session please select



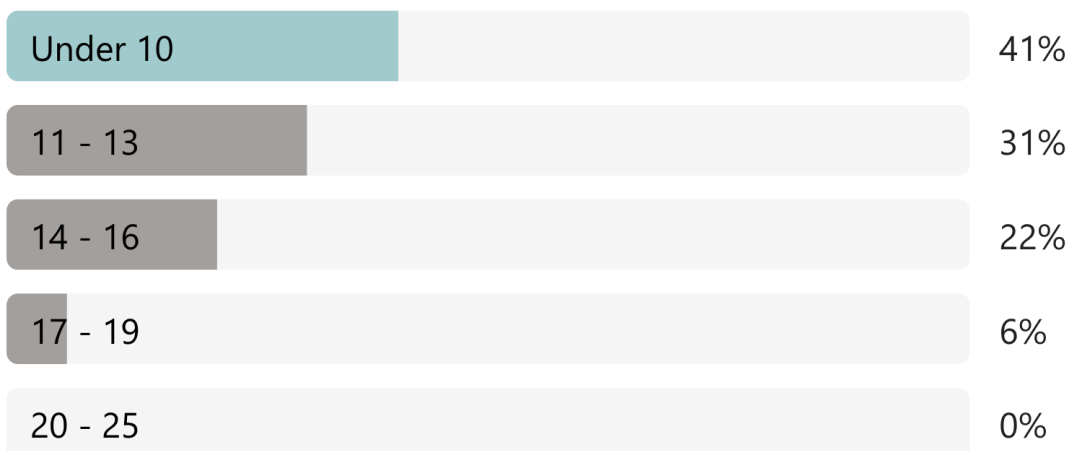
What is your age group of child or children attended with you ?



How interested would you be in more organised activities in the ward of Chigwell ?

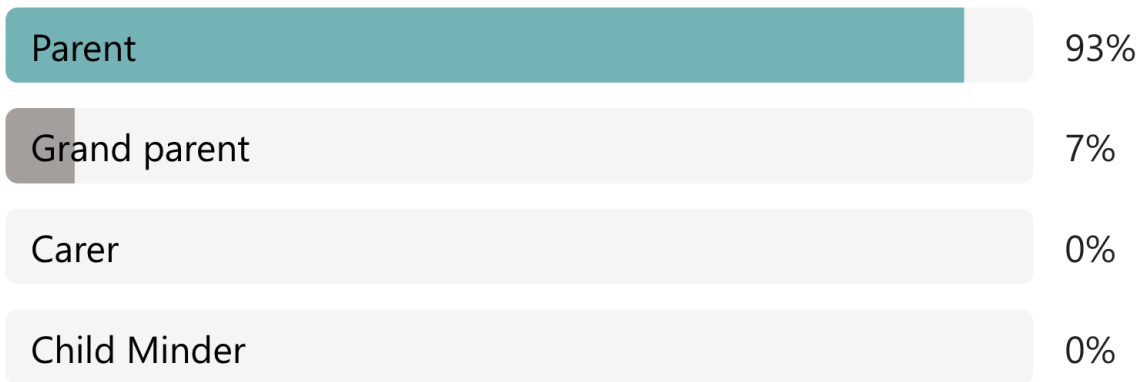


What Ages do you think sessions should be aimed at? (Tick as many as you feel relevant)

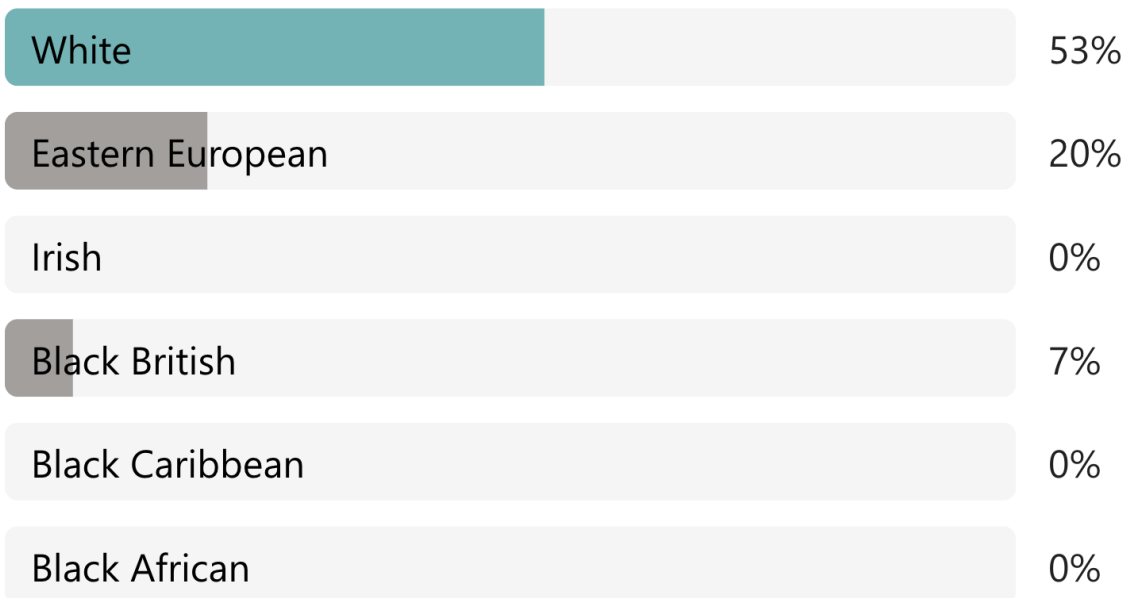




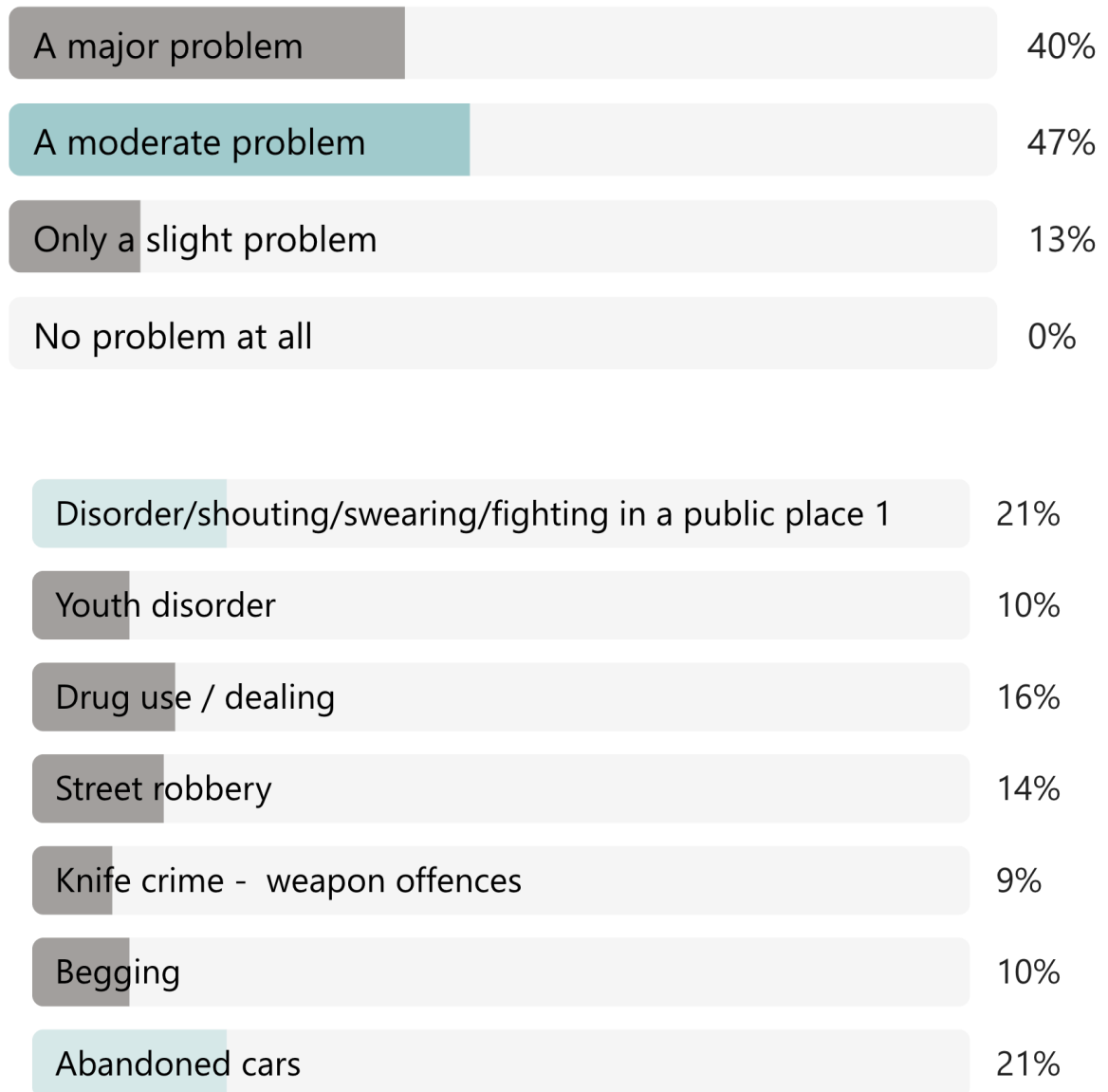
## Your relationship to the child



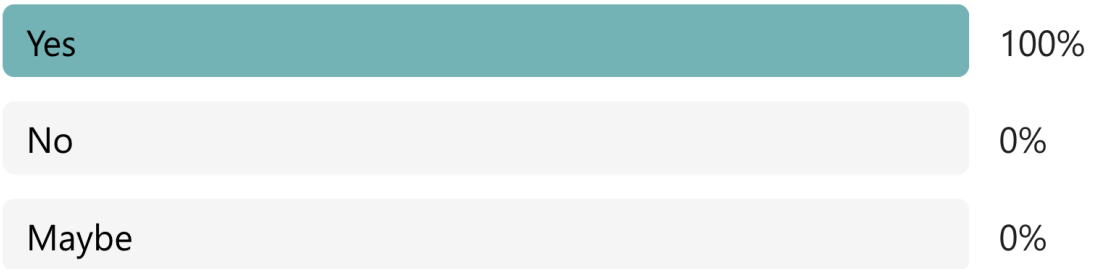
## How do you define your ethnicity ?



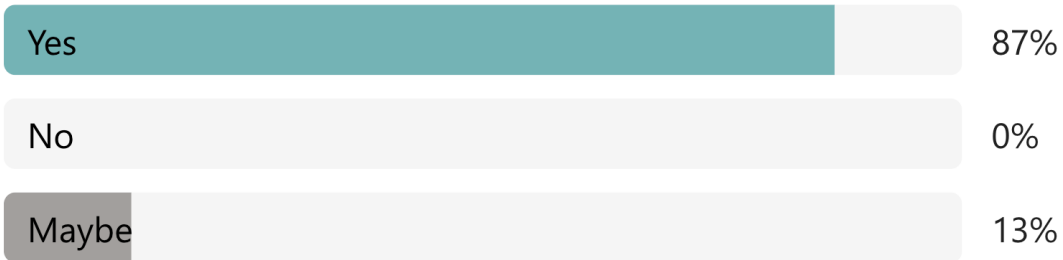
Is crime and anti-social behaviour a problem in your area? Please tick one only



Do you think that projects such as UnityHub is a good idea?



Would you visit the Unity Hub again?



Please rate your overall experience with us.

4.7



## **Our Summary**

The feedback from the community underscores the vital role that projects like "Play in the Park" play in supporting and serving the needs of residents, particularly those from deprived and socio-economic backgrounds.

Here's a summary of the key points from the community feedback:

1. Targeted Support: The community of Limes Farm, which includes a significant number of residents facing economic challenges, is seen as the primary beneficiaries of projects like "Play in the Park." These residents often include single parents and individuals who are unemployed or have limited financial resources.

2. Affordability Barrier: Many community members expressed that they face financial constraints, making it difficult for them to afford various activities and outings, especially those involving their children. The cost of days out and recreational activities can be a significant burden for these families.

3. Importance of Community Programs: "Play in the Park" and similar community initiatives are viewed as essential for this demographic. These programs provide accessible and affordable opportunities for families to engage in recreational and educational activities, creating valuable experiences for children and their parents.

In summary, the feedback highlights the critical need for initiatives like "Play in the Park" to address the challenges faced by economically disadvantaged families in the Limes Farm community. These programs not only provide entertainment but also foster a sense of belonging and community support, ensuring that all residents, regardless of their financial circumstances, have access to enriching experiences for themselves and their children.

## **Other Benefits**

Increased confidence

Increased client / community (young people) satisfaction

Increased engagement with the vulnerable client cohort

Increased joint working

Strengthened joint working relationships

Improved 'Trusting Relationships' with vulnerable young people, and deprived communities





# SPECIAL THANKS

Youth Unity CIC extends heartfelt gratitude to Epping Forest District Council and the CSP for their invaluable support and guidance.

The Play in the Park initiative has been instrumental in empowering families and young individuals within our community. It plays a significant role in our collective efforts to effectively address and combat violence and various forms of criminal exploitation in the County of Essex.

Together, we are making a positive impact and fostering a safer and more secure environment for all.



Our Safeguarding policies and procedures are available to download on our website.

The contents of this document are copyrighted to Youth Unity CIC any unauthorised use, disclosure, or copying is not permitted.

