

Kent year bullying olds half form reports now worry cost good contribute older carrying neighbour lack feel given done helping happy advice information common completed local survey perception 11-19 ensure contributions job spare eit someone get need opportu knives involved bullied important practical plan improvement celebrate communities service safety verbal NFER nearly stay raising bullying broken glass friends physical things gangs aspirations agencies funds County partner community going point Just future 11-16 age time promote participate people's taking seeing 7-11 told give last improve continue money suggested lives hanging around ground difference include recycling KCC opportunities Healthy live Many positive asked like Earlier particular However Council place happens relationships experience learn help sexual know health charity already also results links development Staying lead second

What's important to young people in 2008?

Thank you to over 12,000 young people who filled in a survey earlier this year which told us what you think about living in Kent.

This is what you told us...

We're pleased to hear that most of you enjoy your lives, like where you live and enjoy being at school or college.

Healthy lifestyles

Most of you think that drinking too much alcohol and smoking is unhealthy.

Just under half of you eat 5 or more portions of fruit and vegetables on most days, although this means that more of you don't!

Nearly half of you feel that you need more information about how to get advice about relationships, and a quarter of you would like more information about sexual health.

Feeling safe

It is good news that most of you feel safe where you live and at school or college.

Most of you feel you make choices that help you to stay safe but some of you would like more information on internet safety.

people

Although most of you haven't been bullied in the last year, some of you have. Those who were bullied were usually victims of verbal bullying.

Some of you don't always feel like you have someone to talk to if there are things on your mind.

Remember, if you have a worry you can't cope with, it can really help if you talk to someone in your family, a carer, one of your friends or maybe a teacher. You can also contact the ChildLine helpline on 0800 1111 or www.childline.org.uk.

School, college and spare time

Over half of you enjoy going to school or college and feel that you are doing well. When we asked you what you liked most about going to school or college, you told us that you like seeing your friends.

Most of you told us that practical activities like going on school or college trips and making things, help you to learn. Around half of you said that other pupils being disruptive makes it difficult for you to learn.

Some of you would like to participate in more activities outside of school or college but the cost, lack of good transport links and lack of time prevent you from taking part.

Making a difference

The good news is that most of you feel that you can contribute and have your say on school issues. Most of you also feel that you can help make a difference to your own life. However, over half of you feel that you can't have your say on things in your local area and that you can't make a difference to world issues.

Most of you would like to do things to help others including help someone who is being bullied, raise money for charity and help a neighbour and some of you are already doing these things. Lots of you are also already helping the environment through recycling.

Your future

Most of you feel that your school is giving you useful skills and knowledge, but less than half of you agree that you're receiving good careers advice.

Most of you feel positive about your future, but a few of you said you were unsure. Most of you know what you want to do in the future and the most popular choices are to get a job or to continue with your education at sixth form, university or college. It's great to hear that most of you are confident that you can achieve your goals.

What happens now?

We have shared your views with Kent County Council. They will continue to listen to what you have said, and will use the information to help improve things for children and young people in Kent. They will also continue to provide more opportunities for you to tell adults what you think, so that things can be improved in the ways that you want.



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The views of children and young people are being used in writing the Kent Children and Young People's Plan. The plan will be available later this year on the Kent County Council website (www.kent.gov.uk).