



Youth: Serious Violent Crime Consultation

Report by Consultation & Engagement Team

August 2023

1. Background and Methodology

Bolton Council is working closely with Greater Manchester Police, Probation, Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service, Public Health and other partner organisations, to develop a Serious Violence Strategy for Bolton.

Violent crime is a priority for the Community Safety Partnership and lots of activity has already been undertaken to tackle this issue. To support our combined objectives, the council are preparing to develop a Serious Violence Strategy, supporting the prevention and tackling the drivers of violent crime in Bolton.

To support the development of the strategy's objectives, consideration is needed to understand the issues, perceptions and experiences that impact our communities. In Spring 2023, young people across the borough were surveyed, asking what their priorities were for Bolton in 2023/2024; crime was highlighted as the top 3rd most popular answer. To ascertain why crime is important to young people and ensure their reflections fed back into the strategy, it was felt that further engagement was needed to take place with this stakeholder group.

Between 5th June and 21st July, the Council ran a public consultation, seeking to engage young people aged between 10 – 18 years (up to 24 years for those with a Special Educational Needs Disorder), in sharing their reflections on Serious Violent Crime. During that period a comprehensive communication plan was implemented to raise awareness of the proposal across the borough, with a strong emphasis on engaging children in educational settings. Engagement was also undertaken with youth organisations, including the Youth Participation & Engagement Network. Supporting documentation was made accessible on the school's Extranet site and council's consultation webpages, and social media was heavily utilised throughout the period to share key messages about the consultation.

Participants were surveyed using a questionnaire tool made up of open and closed questions, over a period of 6 weeks, providing young people with the opportunity to reflect and share their thoughts on crime within the borough of Bolton. The questionnaire was made available both digitally and offline, with the questionnaire being accessible on the council's consultation web page, as well as in hard copy format, on request.

*A copy of the questionnaire is included at the end of this document, located in Appendix A.

Analysis notes

- Results are presented in the questionnaire format with 'Don't know' type responses removed unless stated.
- Comments have been categorised where feasible. Unless otherwise stated, categories with 5 or more responses are shown. Categories may overlap and a comment from one respondent included in

multiple categories. A sample of comments [verbatim] are included in the report. Comments may be abbreviated so that only the relevant extract is included. One comment may be coded into multiple categories, and each category may only cover a certain aspect of the comment, for example a respondent may have made both positive and negative comments about the same aspect.

- Base: unless otherwise stated the base is the number of respondents to a particular question.
- Data has been cleansed where appropriate, e.g., comments moved into existing responses.

2. Digital and paper-based survey responses

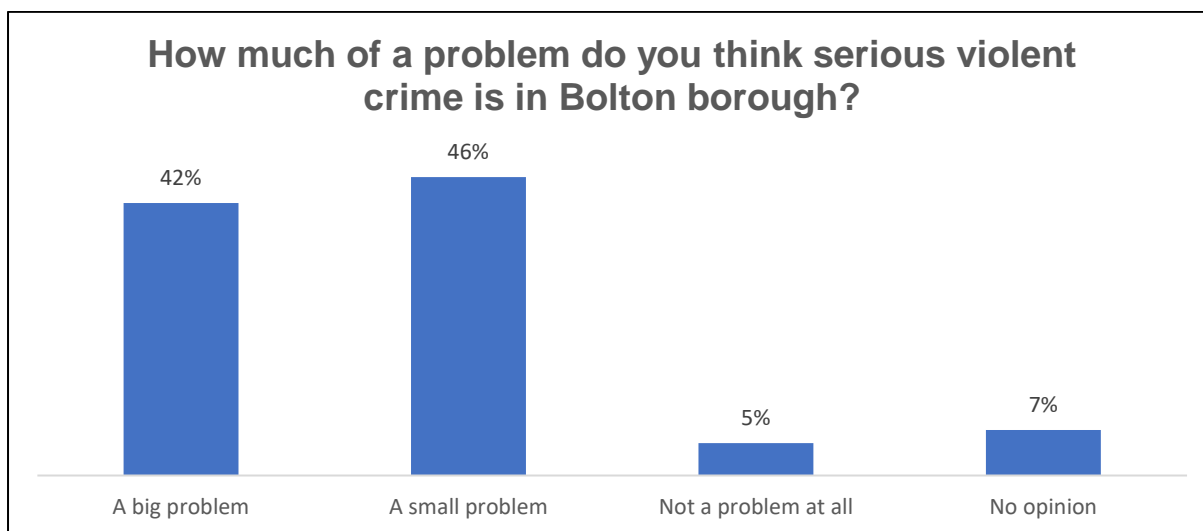
A total of 761 young people took part in the survey, outlining their reflections of serious violent crime. In addition, Blackrod Parish Council discussed the survey questions with 6 children, who collectively fed back their reflections.

3. Connection to Bolton

Out of the 756 responses received to this question, 94% of young people live in the Bolton borough. 5% visit the borough to access education. 1% are visitors to the borough.

4. Opinion on the level of serious violent crime

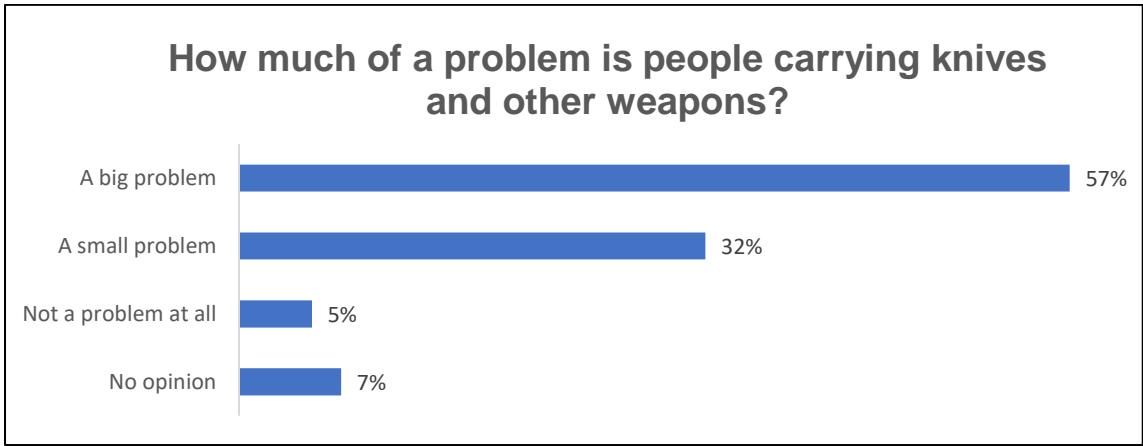
Of the 754 young people answering this question, over two-fifths (42%) of young people surveyed felt the level of crime in Bolton was a big problem. Just over half (51%) of young people stated it was a small problem or not a problem at all.



Base: 754

5a. Level of concern on people carrying weapons

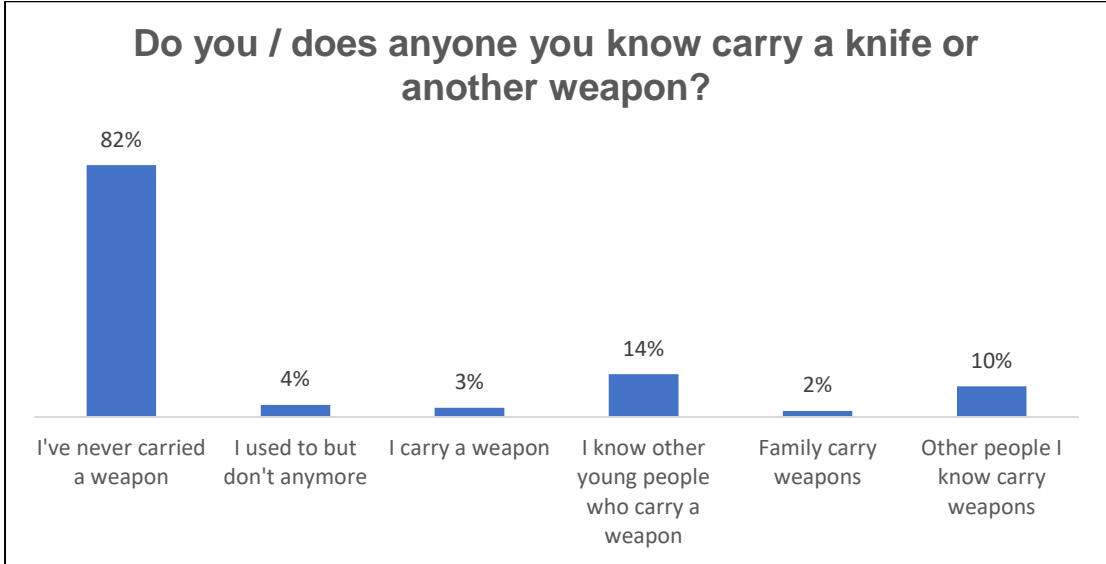
When asked if there was a problem with people carrying knives or other weapons 57% thought this was a big problem, with 37% stating it was a small problem or not a problem at all.



Base: 745

5b. Engagement with people carrying weapons

When asked if they have ever carried a knife or weapon 29% of the cohort (743) admitted that they carry a weapon or are aware of other people who do. Of the total cohort, 82% have never carried a knife or weapon themselves.

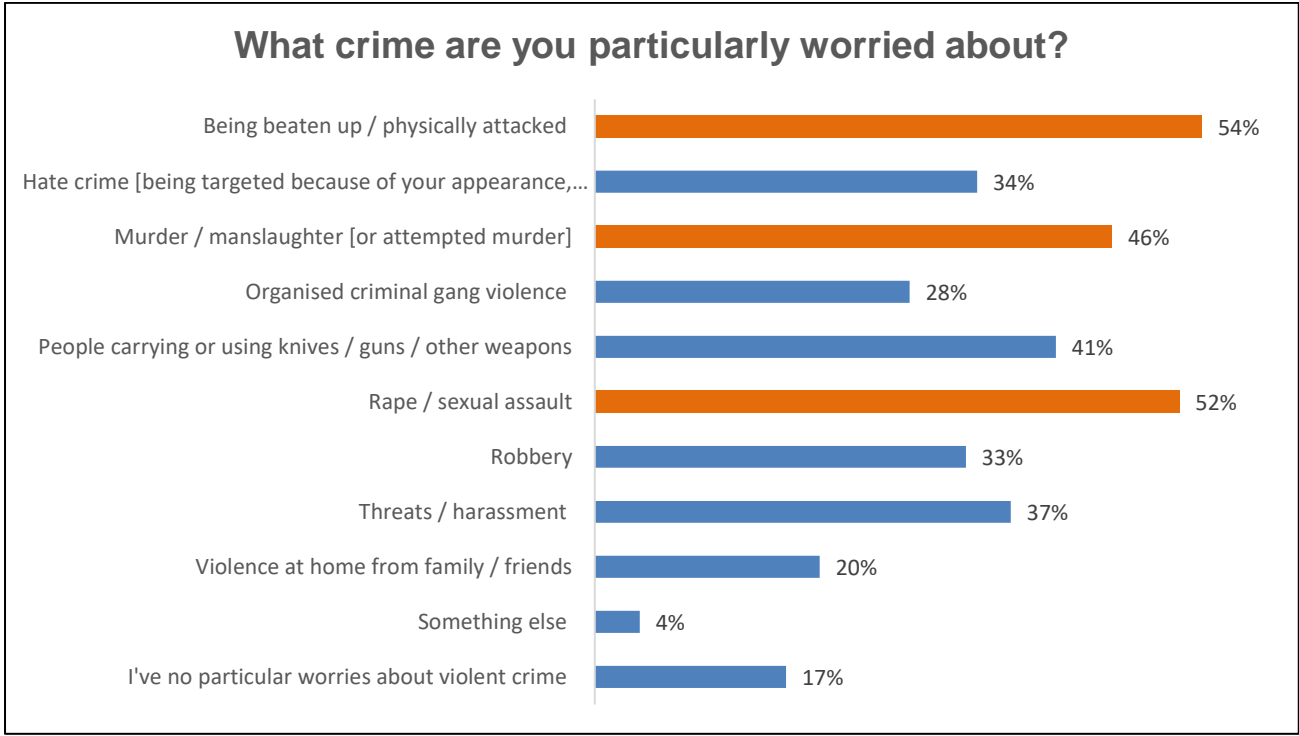


Base: 743

6. Types of crime that young people are concerned about

When asked what crimes are a concern for young people in Bolton, 745 young people provided their responses. Asked to choose from a selection of answers, the top three crimes young people were most concerned by are, '*being physically attacked*' (54%), '*being sexually assaulted*' (52%), and '*being a victim of murder*' (46%). Areas of least concern are, '*violence at home*' (20%), '*organised criminal gang violence*' (28%), and '*robbery*' (33%).

Given the cohort of the survey and the recent homicide in Bolton in May 2021 and the subsequent court case in January 2022, this may explain why this perception is high, particularly given that it has been widely reported in mainstream media.



Base: 745

9 comments were also received which highlighted further concerns, these were categorised into 2 key themes; being abducted and being attacked.

“Being Kidnapped/Abducted”

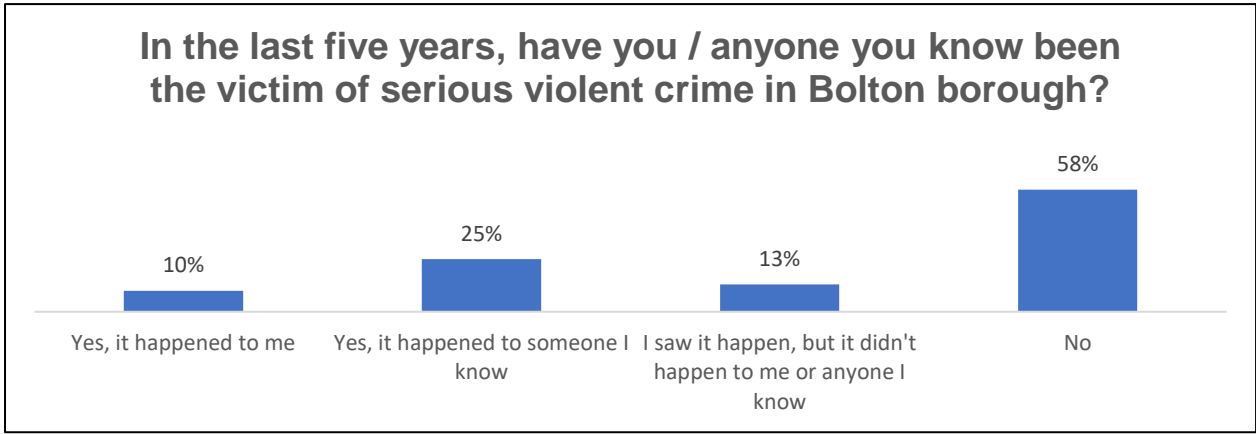
“Child molestation”

“getting jumped”

“racism and islamophobia speically done by authorities”

7a. Victims

Young people were asked if they or someone they know had been a victim of serious violent crime in Bolton within the last 5 years. 752 responses were received, with respondents able to choose multiple answers. Over half (58%) stated they had not had any personal experiences with serious violent crime. However, 10% stated that they had been personally impacted. One-quarter stated that they knew someone else that had experienced serious violent crime, and 13% stated they had witnessed a violent crime.

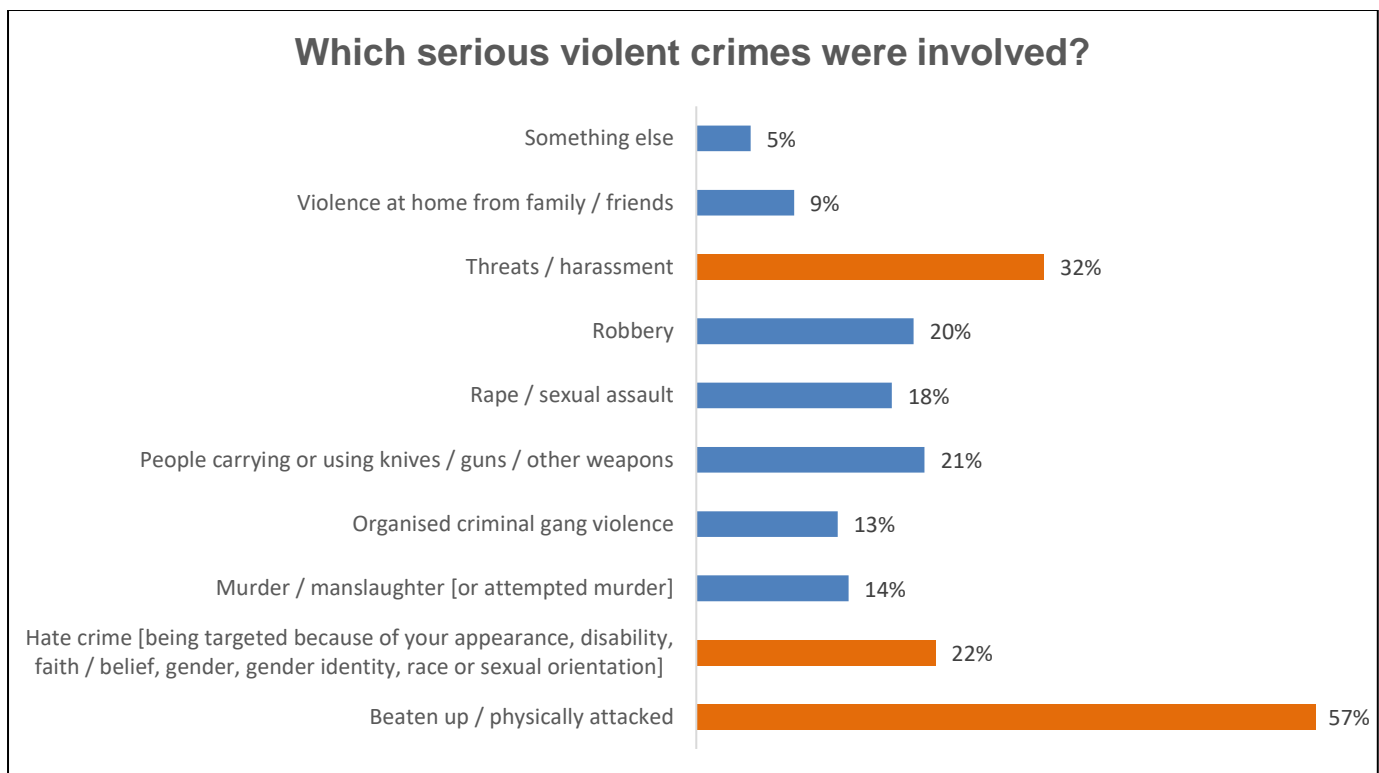


Base: 752

7b. Types of crime involved

Of the 361 respondents experiencing crime, 305 individuals went on to comment on the types of serious violent crime they were involved in. The 3 most commented experiences included 'being physically attacked' (57%), experiencing or witnessing 'threats/harassment', and being a victim of or witnessing a hate crime (22%).

Of the 5% that stated something else, answers ranged from attacks to property "attacking vehicle threatening someone" to online and digital abuse "Someone threatened to kill me over text though it is being sorted now".

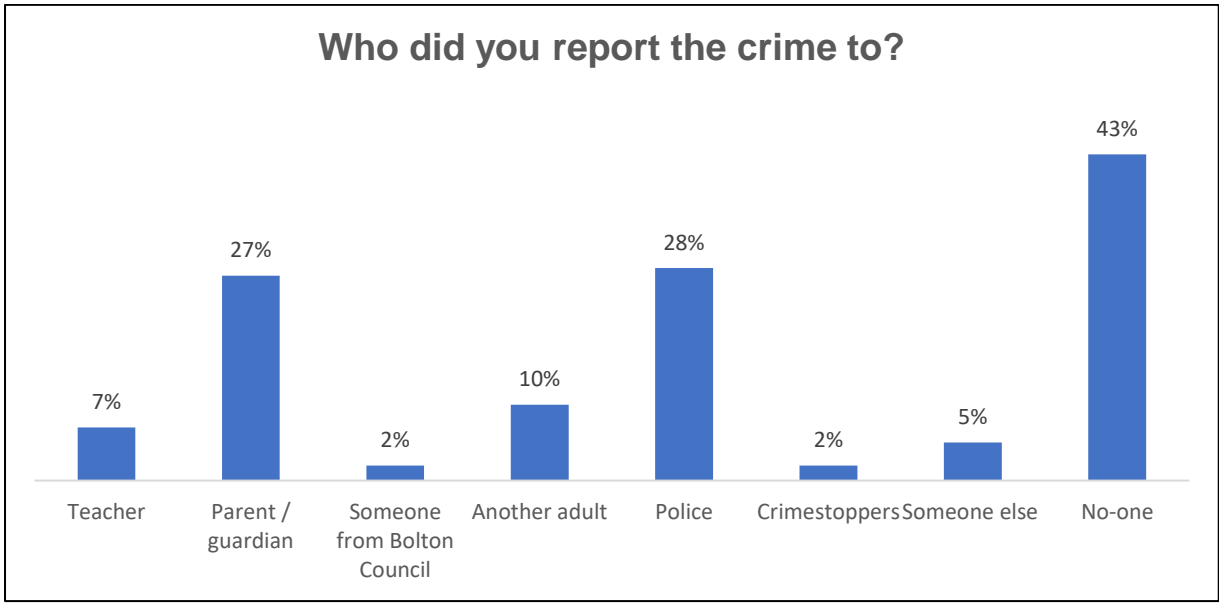


Base: 305

7c. Reporting

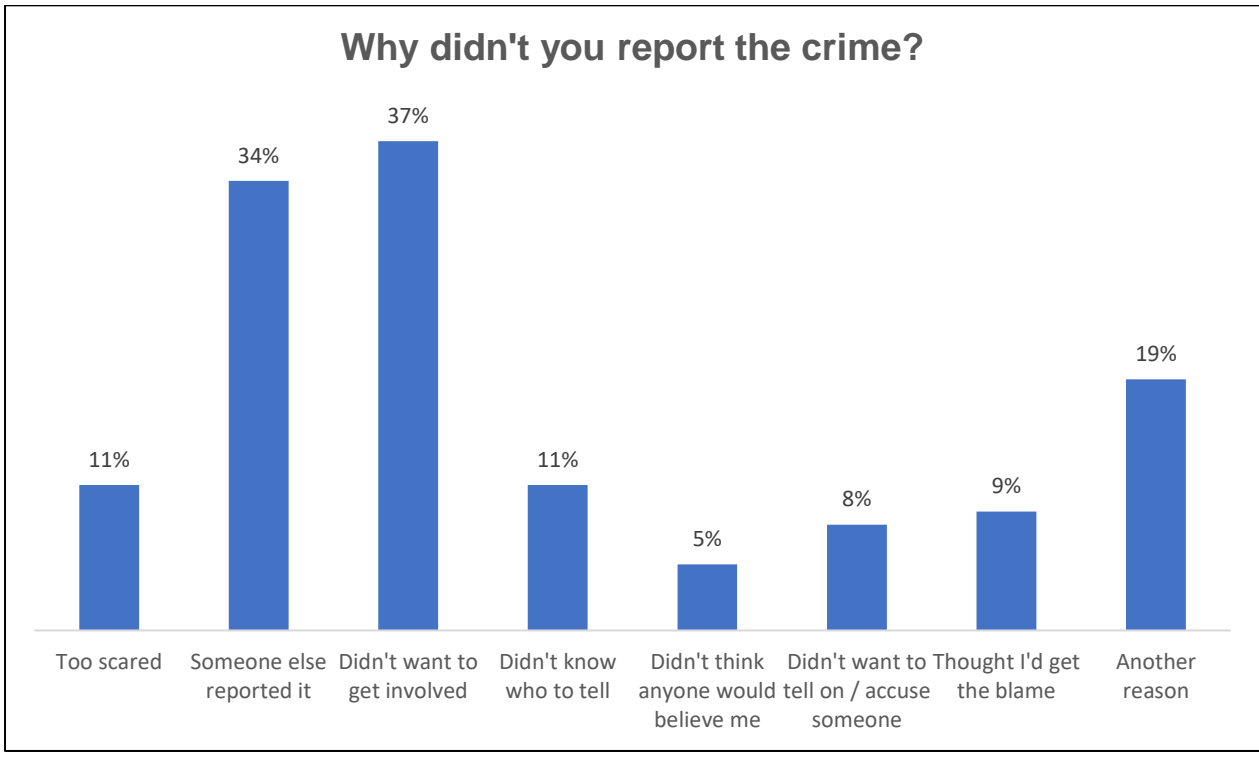
Young people were asked who they reported the crime to. Of the 310 responses received, just over two-fifths (43%) stated they didn't report it to anyone. 28% of those who were a victim, knew a victim or were a witness of a crime reported the incident to the police, with a further 27% reporting it to a parent or guardian. 7% sought the guidance of those in education and reported it to a teacher.

12 comments were received that stated other witnesses / adults were present at the time, "one of my neighbours reported it", "another adult witnessed it and spoke to me about it"; others reported it to a bus operator, a therapist, and other close friends.



7d. Reasons for not reporting a crime

When young people were asked why they didn't report the crime, 37%, of the 131 responses, stated that they didn't want to get involved. Just over one-third (34%) stated that someone else reported the incident. 11% of young people also stated they didn't know who to tell, as well as feeling too scared to report it.



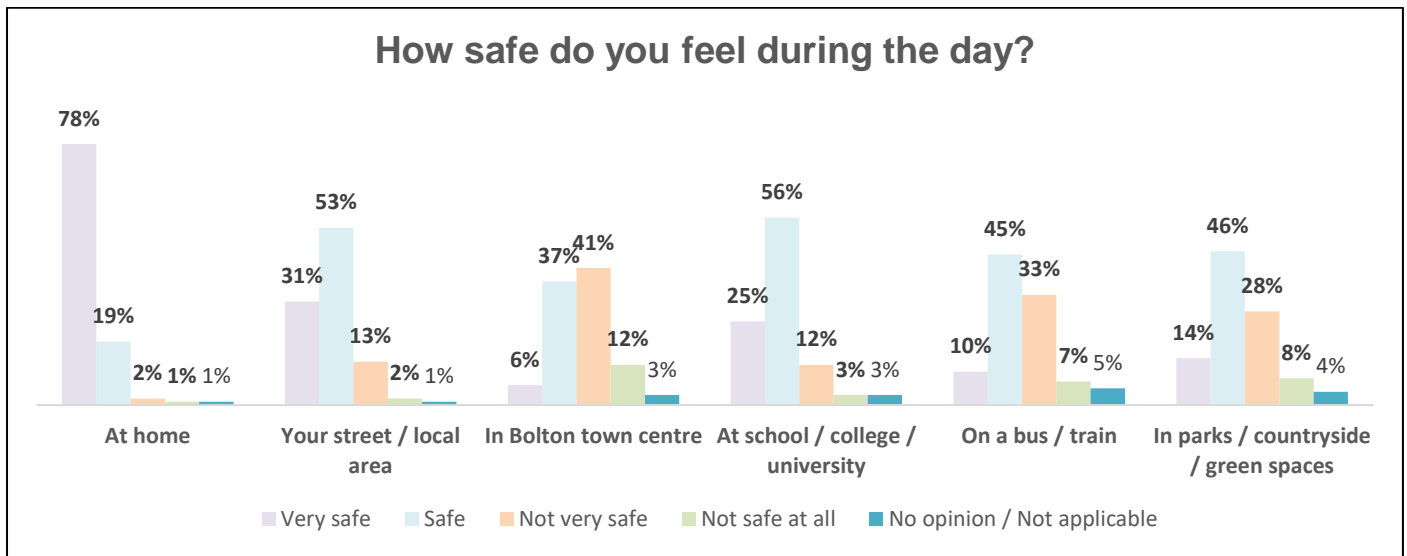
16 comments were received that highlighted another reason. These were themed into 6 key areas:

- Not thinking the crime was serious enough to report: *“it was a small robbery on things in my dads car”* and *“not too serious to be honest”*.

- Wanting to deal with the crime independently: *“I would get them back”* and *“planned to sort it myself”*.
- Not wanting to disclose: *“because im not a snitch”*.
- Not having the time to report: *“couldnt be bothered”*
- Scared of retaliation: *“SCARED OF BEING ATTACKS”*
- Lack of information: *“i only heard about it, didn’t know anyone personally involved”*.

8a. Daytime safety

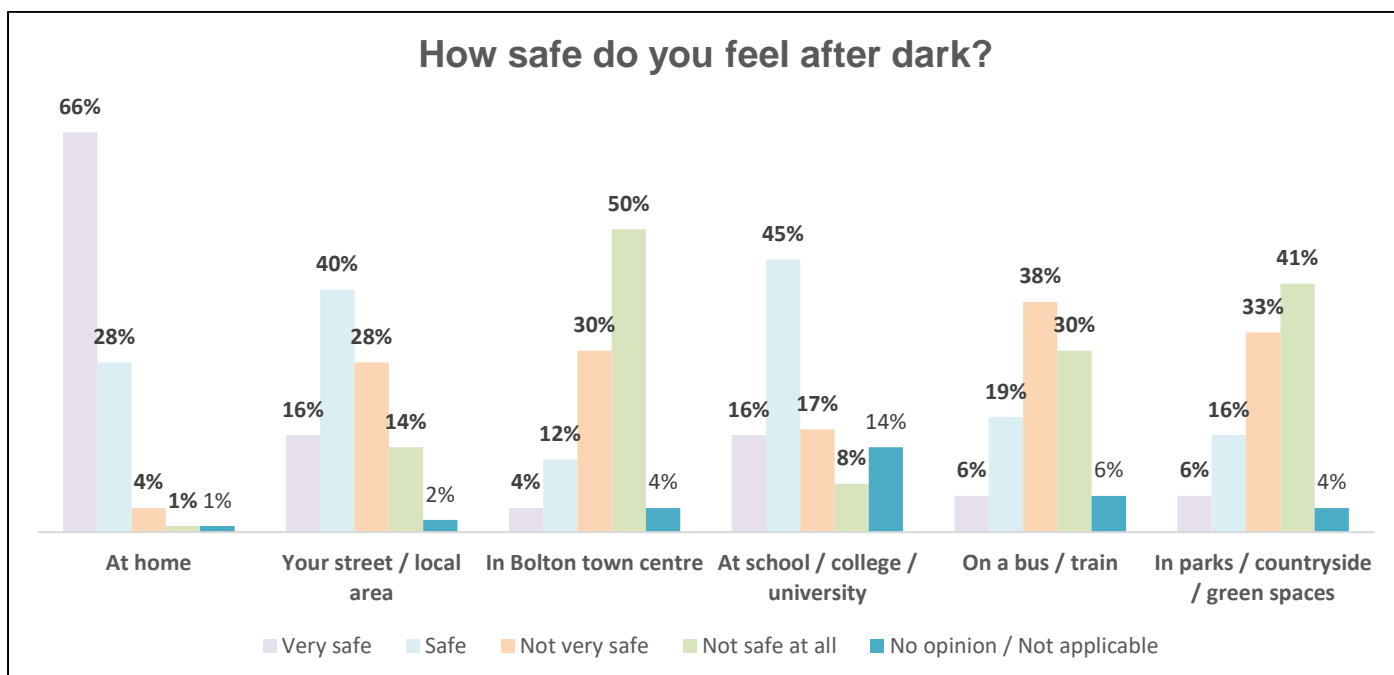
Young people were asked about their feelings of safety during the day in various locations in and around the borough. An average of 732 responses were received, with 97% of young people feeling safe at their home address. 84% felt safe in their street or local area, and 81% feel safe in their educational setting. Areas where young people feel less safe are in Bolton Town Centre (53%) and on public transport (40%).



Base average: 732

8b. Night-time Safety

Young people were asked about their feelings of safety at night in various locations in and around the borough. An average of 728 responses were received, with 94% of young people feeling safe at their home address. 61% felt safe in their educational setting and 56% felt safe on their street/local area. Areas where young people feel less safe are in Bolton Town Centre (80%), parks/green spaces (74%) and on public transport (68%). Young people clearly expressed feelings of being less safe in outdoor settings during darker evening hours.



Base average: 728

8c. Why young people don't feel safe (486 comments)

Young people were asked to outline why they don't feel safe in the Bolton borough and 486 responses were received. These comments were categorised into 13 key themes:

Theme	Total comments received
Have experienced / risk of experiencing being attacked (inc ASB)	180
Types of people you might experience	140
Feeling unsafe at night	104
Locations	72
Drugs & alcohol	41
Feelings	18
Gender based violence / Hate crime	17
Media	14
Too much crime	13
Lack of resources	13
Educational settings	9
Transport	7
Feel safe	5

Have experienced / risk of experiencing being attacked (inc ASB)

A significant number of the comments received (180) focused primarily on risk of being attacked in open spaces. Although some of the comments received referenced the experience from victims of being attacked, the majority were fearful of the possibility of being a victim of serious violent crime.

- *"I'm scared I'll get jumped."*
- *"Because off people who could have potential weapons."*
- *"Because of strangers who might carry weapons."*
- *"I know that some people think differently and want to rape or kill people just because they want to".*
- *"People carry knives or roam around in groups."*
- *"I would be worried of being followed or kidnapped."*
- *"Incuse someone tries to kidnap me."*
- *"Massive threat of violence in young teens".*
- *"Because I may get beat up or something bad may happen."*
- *"Im scared of being brutally attacked."*
- *"Lots of people who do antisocial behaviour instead of a single crime".*
- *"Because you will never know what somebody/a group of people will do to you,surrondings or anyone else.. Someone could just come up to you and hit/kidnap you."*
- *"Because there have been times where I have been sexually harassed by strangers."*
- *"I feel that im not safe because I can get murdered."*
- *"There are strange people who kidnap children and teens."*

Types of people you might experience

140 comments were received by young people particularly concerned by the types of people that may want to cause harm. These comments were generally of perceived safety concerns, some comments made reference to people with mental health concerns.

- *"It's just that you never know who's about and what they are like."*
- *"Because you never know who could be lurking around waiting to hurt someone."*
- *"Creepy people everywhere."*
- *"There are many people in Bolton who are dangerous or mentally unstable and will attack you."*
- *"Dodgy people"*
- *"Number of other teenagers going around abusing other children and adults with weapons or glass bottles."*
- *"Weird people".*
- *"Because there's always that one person who might have a bad life experience which has resulted in crime".*
- *"Other people within society and mental health crisis".*
- *"Big groups of hooliganistic people".*
- *"Pedophiles".*
- *"Many sketchy people who can't be trusted".*
- *"Bad people."*
- *"Just loads of dodgy blokes and some women but mainly men."*
- *"I dont feel safe because there is alot of dangerous people outside".*

Feeling unsafe at night

From the responses received in question 8b, it is evident that young people feel less safe during darker hours, than they do during the daytime. This was also captured in the comments received. 104 responses referenced feelings of being less safe during night-time hours.

- *“At night because people stare at you in a strange way.”*
- *“Because it will be dark and it’s not safe in the dark.”*
- *“It’s dark and I don’t feel as safe during the nighttime as I can’t see as well.”*
- *“There is typically more crime at night, people congregate in large groups at night for lots of reasons, drug dealers, partying ect it makes me feel unsafe.”*
- *“Crimes are more likely to occur at night.”*
- *“People try to rob people at night because its dark and barley no witnesses.”*
- *“I don’t know what might happen and it is harder to see your surroundings and other people in the dark.”*
- *“Its dark and people cant really be seen.”*
- *“People tend to get attacked at night so its a bit worrying.”*
- *“At night,people tend to do more not legal things as they have a less chance of being caught/seen.”*
- *“There are lots of people who come out at dark eg:kidnappers.”*
- *“Because during the dark people wear black and you can’t see them and when people wear black they seem suspicious.”*

Locations

Locations was a key theme commented upon by young people (72 comments). Comments were primarily focused on the Town Centre, however, some comments focused on other open spaces, including parks.

- *“It’s an unsafe town”.*
- *“Bolton town centre is ruff and there are lost of crack heads”.*
- *“The area of Bolton town centre has alot of people that are very intimidating and dodgy.”*
- *“In bolton town center because it is quite dangerous an rough.”*
- *“Because there are dodgy people around the town centre and Longsight, who may or may not carry a weapon of any sort. It is also dark on the pathways in Longsight and the Town Centre.”*
- *“I find the Town Centre in Bolton quite scary at night particularly at the weekends and would only go out with a large group.”*
- *“Fear at home”.*
- *“Secluded dodgy areas with no police around”.*
- *“My neighbourhood is dodgy”.*
- *“There was a stabbing at Queens park and a little girl died. There should be more polices.”*
- *“Boltons quite a rough place with people who are dangerous who could injure or hurt.”*
- *“Breighmet is rough”.*
- *“Many masked people with either bikes or quadbikes constantly drive through the area.”*
- *“When you are in bolton town center it doesn’t feel very safe because it fells lonely and there is no one to help you if your in a situation when you need it at night.”*
- *“Some places like in a park or in towns are really dodgy at night.”*
- *“Some people might be a bit dodgy in different places but in other places (like home) I feel a lot safer because I know that my part of where I live is Very safe.”*
- *“I live in a not very safe area and there are usally police cars or ambulances on my street especially in front of my neighbours house and i am scared somone could break in to my house.”*
- *“Because there are very dodgy places and people in Bolton town centre.”*
- *“As Bolton is a big place, many crimes go on which concern me but not only because it is a big place, because i dont feel that the council is strict/firm enough.”*

Feelings

18 comments were received that particularly referenced how young people feel about servious violent crime in Bolton. These feeling were prodominantly negative responses.

- *"I feel anxious".*
- *"Mainly anxiety and strangers in the dark".*
- *"Just a little more frightened".*
- *"Beacuse i get paranoid".*
- *"It can make people feel worried."*
- *"Perhaps I'm being paranoid, but I just feel scared going around the dark".*

Gender based violence / Hate crime

17 comments were received that particularly referenced gender based violence. Several comments were reflective of hate crime.

- *"I am female and get looks and comments very often. i am only 16 years old".*
- *"Being a girl at night around bolton is not safe at all!!"*
- *"People (usually men) in big who catcall women, engage in hate crime and other antisocial behaviour usually with masks on and hoods up".*
- *"When i am walking home from work i feel very unsafe as i am a girl walking alone i know there are precautions i can take to keep myself safe but these should not be needed".*
- *"There are usually quite large 'gangs' of teens or young adults hanging around a lot of public areas. They look threatening and sometimes pass comment on the way I look or dress which is why I tend to avoid going out by myself in fear of what they could do".*
- *"I'm a Pakistani origin 15 year old living in a white dominated area,my family has been targeted by racism since we moved in even though we thought the area was safe,recently my dads car got stolen which I suspect was also a hate crime".*

Drugs & alochol

41 comments were received which referenced drug and alcohol infuled servious violent crime. Comments were primarilly focused on town centre locations.

- *"People could be around high on drugs."*
- *"In my area because there is teenagers with stuff not legal like vapes."*
- *"A lot of people get drunk at night during the weekend and then I don't feel safe as they may not be in a right headspace."*
- *"I can smell weed everywhere I go at night."*
- *"Alcohol is always a big factor in people kicking off".*
- *"My street is full of drug addicts."*
- *"Walking to school you can also smell weed".*
- *"Drunk people and people on drugs."*
- *"Very dark in brightmet. the local area is very unsafe because of drug users(addicts) and knife crime."*
- *"Because there are a lot of druggies in bolton town centre".*
- *"In town center i ma get destroyed by as drug adict as tha is a common occurrence".*
- *"Beacause there is many druggies my family got threatend by a hammer."*
- *"People misuse appliances, argue , use violence and live near a pub and drunk people sound violent and dangerous and disturbs the peace."*
- *"Could be kidnapped or murdered and their is needles near my backstreet."*

Media

14 young people made reference to the role the media have in disseminating messages about crime.

- *“You dont know whats going to happen with all the stories being published lately.”*
- *“I think that i'm not scared to be there but its more fear from the fact that you hear stories of what happens to people so that's always in your mind as a worry.”*
- *“You hear things and see things on the internet about things that happen.”*
- *“I dont feel safe because of the things i have heard that have happened around Bolton”.*
- *“I don't feel safe because of the story's you hear n the news and think that, that could be you one day and it just makes you feel unsafe even if you are just walking your dog”.*
- *“I have heard bad things happen to people on tv, social media or overheard parental conversations.”*

Too much crime

13 respondents made reference to there being too much crime in the area, which perpetuates the feeling of being unsafe.

- *“Because of all the crimes committed in the last few years”.*
- *“I dont feel safe because of the amount of assaults/crimes that go on locally.”*
- *“I don't feel safe due to the fact that almost everyday people either get stabbed shot or raped and not enough procedures are put into place to prevent these horrible crimes”.*

Lack of resources

13 responses were received that highlighted the lack of investment into the infrastructure to keep young people and residents safe.

- *“You also see a lot of fight when in town or see police dealing with several incidents at a time”.*
- *“Not many people around, lack of lighting and concerned by dodgy people around town centre, particularly at night.”*
- *“No visible police presence.”*
- *“You spend money on other things while it is needed to be spent on safety.”*
- *“No bright street lamps so we cant see anything.”*

Educational settings

9 comments made reference to safety within educational settings.

- *“Because there are some naughty pupils at school”.*
- *“Random people come up to me and beat me up for no reason after school.”*
- *“At school there can be some very violent children”.*
- *“I dont feel safe at school because people bully me and my friend.”*

Transport

7 young people commented on safety on the public transport network, predominantly the bus and rail network.

- “Getting on the bus by myself makes me anxious sometimes”.
- “People who are on drugs who are bigger than me want to fight its happened on the bus, some1 had taken drugs and was kicking off on the bus it makes people feel uncomfortable”.
- “There are lots of different things that can happen to you on trains/busses when it is dark and there are not many people there.”
- “Because on public transport and bus stations, there are some dodgy people on the buses at night and day”.

Feel Safe

5 young people made reference to actually feeling safe within the borough of Bolton.

- “I feel safe most of the time”.
- “I do feel safe because my family is always with me. so i am always safe.”
- “i do feel safe”.

9. What Bolton Council could do to help cut down on serious violent crime and keep people safe

Young people were asked to reflect on measures that would help them feel safer in Bolton. 324 comments were received, which are categorised into 9 key themes

Theme	Total comments received
Increase security	128
Resources & Investment	62
Enforcement / reporting	37
Awareness raising & personal safety	21
Alcohol & Drugs	17
Weapon amnesty & regulation	17
Environments, including Bolton Town Centre	14
Education settings	13
Mental Health	6

Increase security

Overwhelming, a significant number of respondents (128) referenced the need to increase security across the borough to reduce crime. These comments focused primarily on increasing the presence of police on the streets and implementing security measures in key areas of the borough.

- *“Maybe more security in local areas at night such as fields and parks bus stations train stations”.*
- *“To keep few more members of police in the streets and close to schools”.*
- *“Put like police guards near the area at night Make hate crime decrease”.*
- *“Have police on duty often around areas with reported crimes and where young people will be”.*
- *“Please get more security around town centre and more dodgy areas for example council estates and places with a lot of back alleys”.*
- *“Keep police card and police men in places of high crimes at day and night, the more police you have that we can see protecting us the more we feel safe and the less dangerous people will do these violent crimes”.*
- *“I know gmp have stepped up the police presence in the past few years but this seems to have declined. if i saw more police presence at night this would make me feel safer, even if it was just one car out and about in the bolton area i think this would make a difference as it would put people off committing crimes”.*
- *“Employ more enforcement officers”.*
- *“Have more police or security in crowded/popular areas. Like town or corner shops”.*

Resources & Investment

62 respondents referenced the need for greater investment into resources that would act as a preventative measure to reduce crime. This included better lighting, installation of security cameras and investment into community activities.

- *“More cameras, better lighting”.*
- *“Maybe start getting more security cameras everywhere just incase anything happens”.*
- *“Sort out people in poverty that is creating such violent people . better money = better life and future for others instead of turning to violence due to being scared.”*
- *“More cameras in dark and dingy places, down ally ways, on lamp posts, in parks”.*
- *“Install detectors at Bolton interchange”.*
- *“Pay Rise. More Prisons”.*
- *“Create spaces that are enjoyable for people to go to - increase places to play sports, especially basketball and tennis over all of Bolton - improve the town centre, more places to do things but also more security and opportunities and advertise it - potential for community projects to make the town centre look nicer and cleaner”.*
- *“Invest into the local area to keep kids from crime by creating more clubs and leisure places like football pitches places for swimming and over sports/clubs. they should work more closely with people in these area to and not against”.*
- *“Instead of trying to advance with social medias they could start making devices that could help you stay safe like detectors of dangerous weapons.”*
- *“24hour helpline for Bolton.”*

Enforcement / reporting

37 comments reflected the need for better reporting and enforcement processes.

- *“Ensure the crimes are punished properly”.*
- *“The police could use to stop and search and be able to use force if needed to”.*
- *“Stop and search more”.*
- *“More serious penalties to people who keep on committing crime and always get let off because of there age!!”*
- *“Be more strict. Don't let them get away with it like usual. It's a big issue and they always get away with it.”*
- *“Stronger penalties for those involved in violence and publicising when someone is charged for violence”.*
- *“To target or identify people with ani social behaviour and ban them from public places”.*
- *“Make the punishment of carrying and murder more serious so it would stop people increase police amount”.*
- *“Increase the penalty of any crime and also encourage people who have been a victim to report the crime instead of them not doing anything about it”.*
- *“Make a big deal about it, as then it will have a more deserved scary punishment which could make people stop.”*
- *“Try and put some laws down saying if you are found carrying a weapon, you can be faced with a fine of x amount of money or get faced with prison time.”*

Awareness raising & personal safety

Some young people thought that further information should be provided, educating the borough on what serious violent crime is, how to identify it and how to keep yourself safe.

- *“Make sure people know just how dangerous things like this are”.*
- *“Make kids more fear full of the consequences of their actions”.*
- *“Teach people how to look after themselves”.*
- *“Maybe education to young people around risks of becoming involved in violence.”*
- *“Educate young people on these crimes and the sentences you may get.”*
- *“Pay more attention to youth voices and ask how they feel”>*
- *“Tell people to travel with a friend so they are less likely to be attacked.”*
- *“Free defence lessons or taught in schools”.*

Alcohol & Drugs

Some responses (17) focused specifically on tackling challenges associated with alcohol and substance misuse.

- *“Sort out the drug problem”.*
- *“Get rid of drugs on the streets”.*
- *“Help druggies become safe”.*
- *“Decrease amount of alcohol allowed to be put in a shop, put a penalty fee on alchaholics”.*
- *“Reduce the time that pubs stay open”.*
- *“This is not a crime but i see lots of young people vaping. I think there should be bins that people are encouraged to throw away their vapes in”.*

Weapon amnesty & regulation

17 comments were received calling for a better regulation of weapons, with provision available to encourage people to surrender their weapons.

- *“Just in case there are gangs with weapons, do a knife amnesty.”*
- *“Stop the sale of knives and weapons online (regulate it)”.*
- *“Make knives illegal to sell without a licence.”*
- *“You could put age prices on knives/any item that can be used as weapons. There should also be a paper you have to sign to own a weapon.”*
- *“Knife bins Search people”.*

Environments, including Bolton Town Centre

14 comments were received calling for the creation of better physical environments, particularly within Bolton Town Centre. Having better environmental provision would increase a greater pride in place.

- *“More activity in town so it's not as empty at night”.*
- *“More place visible in town at night”.*
- *“Make the city centre a bit more modern and nice, less run down”.*
- *“Make it a cleaner nicer place.”*
- *“There should be more polices in places like parks.”*

Education settings

Some young people (13) made specific reference to their place of education, calling for better engagement and regulation in schools.

- *“Schools do random bag checks in form to see if students are carrying illegal items”.*
- *“I would keep patrols around my school when people are coming out or when it is the most busiest.”*
- *“Better police presence around school to detour people away from school.”*
- *“I think we should learn about crime more in school”.*
- *“Staff at school need to be more concerned for students mental health (perhaps a school therapist)”.*
- *“Free defence lessons or taught in schools.”*

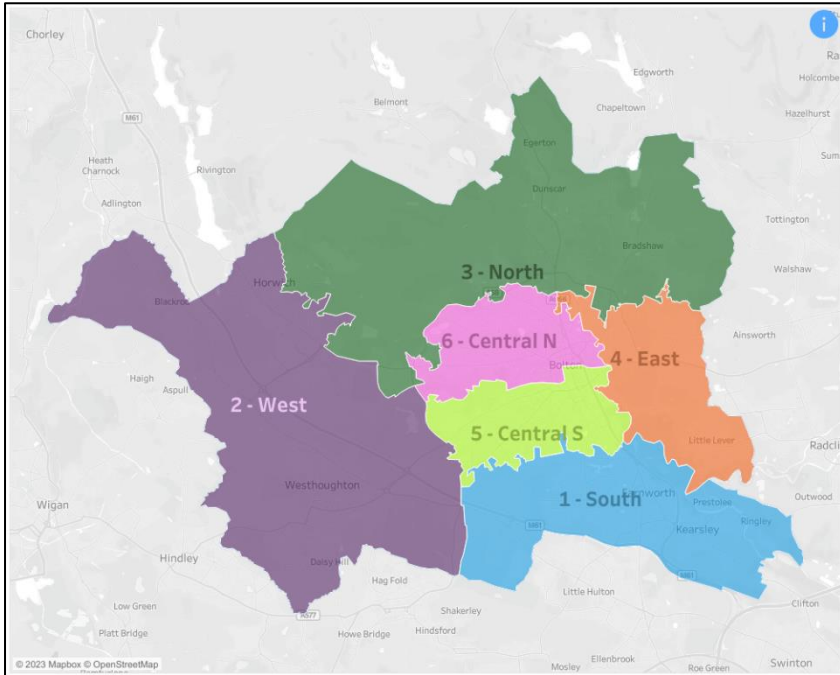
Mental Health

Some young people (6) felt that greater support was needed to assist communities with mental health challenges.

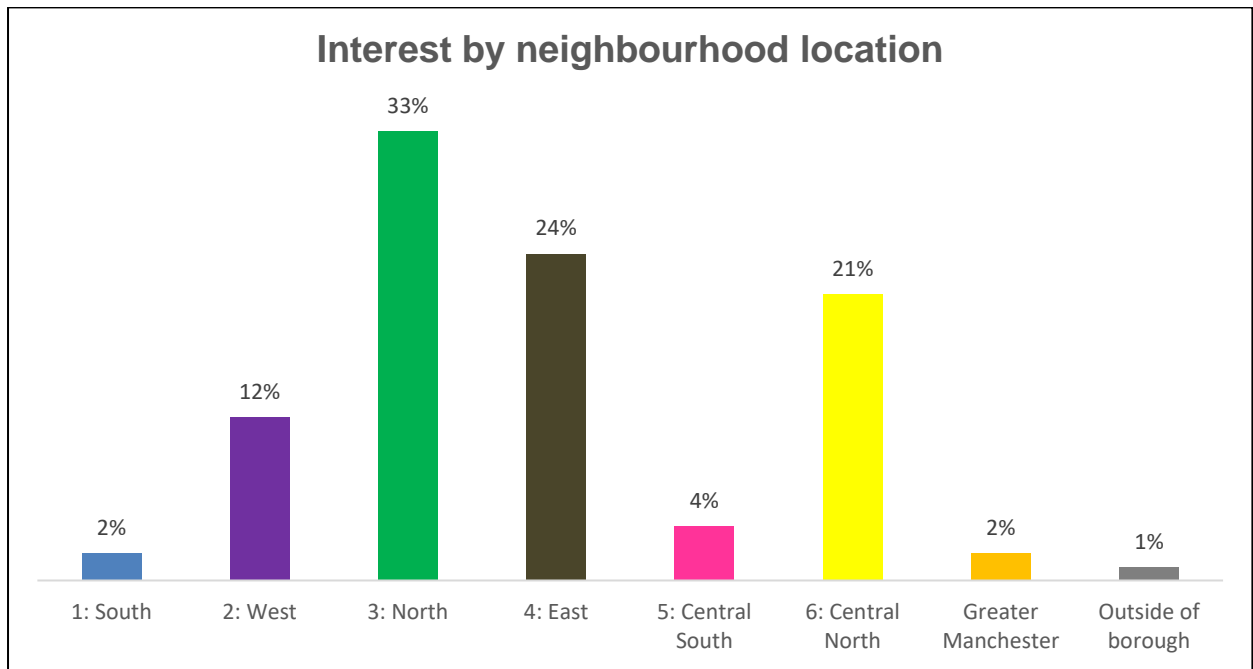
- *“Actually help young people when they reach out about mental health”.*
- *“Give people more access to mental health services that they can easily access”.*
- *“Release more available people in side of school to have sensions with to help with young children's mental health.”*
- *“Kinder to people who have been through violence so they can talk about it”.*

Other comments that were received focused on scepticism about implementing any strategy or policy developments to tackle serious violent crime, *“cant do anything really because people will always carry weapons and do things”* and *“wonder why we don't feel safe it's because you can't figure out how to do *your job*”*. Some other comments focused on already feeling safe around the borough, *“I think i feel safe”*. Some young people stated they didn't know what solutions could be implemented to reduce serious violent crime, *“I dont really know because no crime happens near me!”*.

10a. Demographics: Geographical The table below outlines the demographics of respondents by geographical neighbourhood. A total of 520 respondents provided their full postcode. One-third of responses were received from young people in the North of the borough, particularly Astley Bridge and Bradshaw. Just under one-quarter (24%) of responses were received from young residents in the East of the borough, particularly Brightmet. Just over one-fifth of responses (21%) were received from young people in Central North, particularly from Halliwell.



*Neighbourhoods are a local geography for integrated health and social care; all have a population of around 50,000 residents.

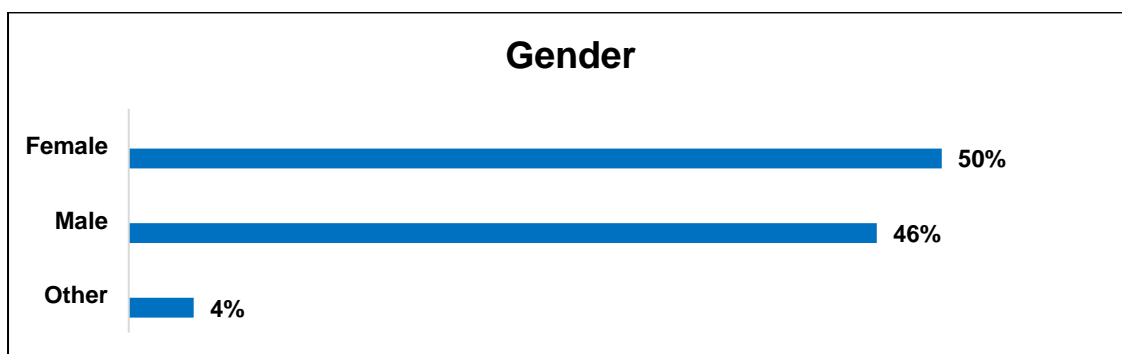


Ward level engagement

<p><u>Neighbourhood 1:</u> <u>South – 9 responses</u> Farnworth - 5 Kearsley - 4</p>	<p><u>Neighbourhood 2:</u> <u>West – 64 responses</u> Heaton, Lostock & Chew Moor - 3 Horwich North East - 30 Horwich & Blackrod - 16 Hulton – 1 Westhoughton North & Hunger Hill - 6 Westhoughton South - 8</p>	<p><u>Neighbourhood 3:</u> <u>North – 174 responses</u> Astley Bridge - 80 Bromley Cross - 20 Bradshaw – 33 Heaton, Lostock & Chew Moor - 3 Horwich North 3 Smithills - 19 Tonge with the Haulgh - 15</p>
<p><u>Neighbourhood 4:</u> <u>East – 125 responses</u> Bradshaw - 5 Breightmet – 74 Halliwell - 2 Little Lever & Darcy Lever – 22 Tonge with the Haulgh - 22</p>	<p><u>Neighbourhood</u> <u>5: Central South – 20 responses</u> Great Lever - 1 Heaton, Lostock & Chew Moor - 3 Hulton - 5 Queens Park & Central - 2 Rumworth - 5 Tonge with the Haulgh - 4</p>	<p><u>Neighbourhood 6:</u> <u>Central North – 109 responses</u> Crompton Halliwell - 27 Heaton, Lostock & Chew Moor - 18 Queens Park & Central - 19 Smithills - 45</p>
<p><u>Greater Manchester: 9</u> Bury: 4 Salford: 1 Manchester: 1 Wigan 3</p>		<p><u>Lancashire: 10</u> Blackburn with Darwen: 10</p>

10b. Gender

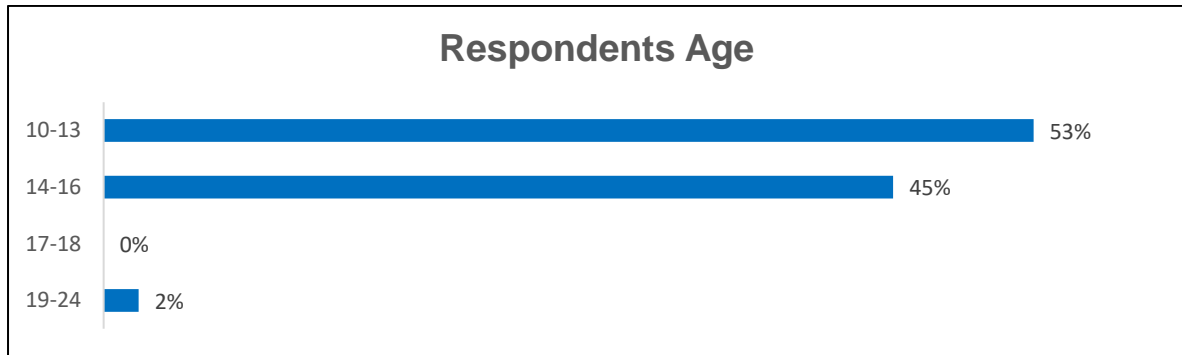
711 responses were received providing the respondent's gender. 50% respondents' identity as being female, 46% as male and 4% of respondents identified as 'other'.



Base: 711

9c Age

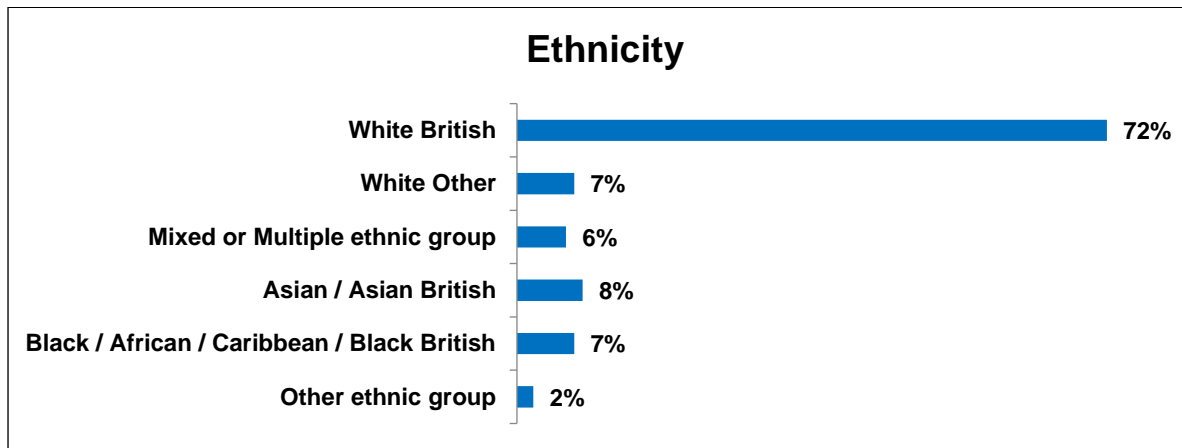
722 responses were received indicating the young person's age. Over half (53%) of those taking part in the digital survey were aged between 10 – 13 years. 45% respondents were aged between 14-16 years. 2% were aged between 19 – 24years.



Base: 722

9d. Ethnicity

719 respondents provided their ethnicity when undertaking the consultation. Just under three-quarters (72%) report as being white – British. 28% report as being from other ethnically diverse communities. This is representative of the population ethnicity for Bolton as a whole.



Base: 719

11a. Responses from Blackrod Parish Council

Blackrod Town Council undertook engagement with 6 children aged 11 years old. The survey questions were asked collectively, with responses gathered and grouped.

- 3 children thought that serious violent crime was a big problem, whilst 3 thought it to be a small problem.
- All 6 children thought that carry weapons is a big problem in the borough, with 4 children knowing someone who carried a weapon.
- Crimes that all 6 young people were particularly concerned about are murder, organised crimes, carrying/using weapons, robberies, harassment and physical assault. 2 young people stated they

were concerned by hate crime, but were unsure what the term fully meant. Sexual assault was not discussed. A couple of children expressed a concern about violence within the home.

- 5 children knew of someone that had been a victim of a crime, but there was some confusion over what a serious violent crime was.
- All children said they would report a crime to the police. 4 children said that they would also report to a parent and 3 said they would also report to another adult.
- When answering where they felt self during the day, 3 children felt safe at home, but 3 did not, this was replicated in school. 2 children felt safe on the street and 3 children felt safe on the bus. Other places where children felt safe during the day included the park (3). None of the children travelled to Bolton Town Centre.

12. Summary

Bolton Council ran a 6-week consultation seeking to engage the views of young people on their perceptions and experiences of serious violent crime. 767 young people took part in the consultation, with the majority of responses coming from Bolton North (33%), Bolton East (24%) and Central North (21%). The majority of children responding were aged between 10-16 years. The ethnicity of the respondents reflected that of the Bolton population.


Just over half of the responses received felt that the level of serious violent crime across the borough was either a small problem or not a problem at all. However, when asked if the borough had a problem with people carrying a weapon, 57% reported it as being a big problem.

The crimes that young people are particularly concerned by are *'being physically attacked'* (54%), *'being sexually assaulted'* (52%) and being *'at risk of being murdered'* (46%).

Over half of young people (58%) stated they or someone they knew hadn't been a victim of serious crime. Where people had experiences of violent crime, it was particularly in relation to a physical attack (57%), threats (32%) and hate crime (22%).

Where incidents had occurred, 43% of young people did not report the crime. The main reasons for this were not wanting to get involved, or that someone else had reported it.

Environments where young people felt safe during the day include their home, their school and their local area. Children felt less safe in Bolton Town Centre and on public transport. These responses were



replicated in relation to night-time safety, however, it was also noted that young people felt unsafe in parks and green spaces.

The top reasons for not feeling safe in the borough were highlighted as being ‘the risk of being physically attacked (37% of comments), the types of people that could pose a threat (29%), and generally feeling unsafe at night (21%).

When young people were asked to consider solutions to preventing or reducing serious violent crime, the top suggestions included increasing security across the borough (40%), increasing investment into resources (19%), and having greater enforcement and reporting processes (11%).

End.

Youth survey - Serious violent crime

If you're aged 10 to 18 [or 19 to 24 with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities] please take part in this survey - there's a different one for adults.

A lot of work is being done across our borough to prevent and reduce serious violent crime. However, as it's such an important issue we know that more can always be done, so we want to come up with a plan to reduce serious violence. You can help by telling us what worries you about crime and how we can help keep you safe. We want to hear from you if you live in Bolton borough, come here as a visitor or go to school / college / university here.

Serious violent crime is when someone physically hurts or threatens to hurt someone else. It includes things like physical attacks, knife crime, sexual attacks and domestic violence. Most people never experience serious violent crime but it can be worrying.

We really want to hear from you but please don't report crimes in this survey. Please report any crimes to Greater Manchester Police, either on their website www.gmp.police.uk/ or by ringing 101 [always ring 999 in an emergency].

If you don't want to give your name, ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or use their website for young people crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless

Your response - keeping your information safe

Just answer the questions you want to, you don't have to answer them all. This survey is anonymous so no-one will know who has said what.

Any personal data you provide will be held securely, in line with our retention schedule and privacy policy www.bolton.gov.uk/data-protection-freedom-information/privacy-notice

We use Snap Surveys professional software to collect and process your data. Their privacy policy can be found here www.snapsurveys.com/survey-software/privacy-policy-uk/. Snap Surveys Ltd. follow the UK General Data Protection Regulation.

Your connection to Bolton borough

Do you live in Bolton borough?

- Live here
- Don't live here but go to school / college / university here
- Just come to visit
- I don't live here and never visit

Serious violent crime and weapons

How much of a problem do you think serious violent crime is in Bolton borough?

- A big problem
- A small problem
- Not a problem at all
- No opinion

And how much of a problem is people carrying knives and other weapons?

- A big problem A small problem Not a problem at all No opinion

Do you / does anyone you know carry a knife or another weapon? Please be honest - we won't know who you are.

- I've never carried a weapon
 I used to but don't anymore
 I carry a weapon
 I know other young people who carry a weapon
 Family carry weapons
 Other people I know carry weapons

Worries

We know that all serious violent crimes are horrible, but are there any that you particularly worry about?

- Being beaten up / physically attacked
 Hate crime [being targeted because of your appearance, disability, faith / belief, gender, gender identity, race or sexual orientation]
 Murder / manslaughter [or attempted murder]
 Organised criminal gang violence
 People carrying or using knives / guns / other weapons
 Rape / sexual assault
 Robbery
 Threats / harassment
 Violence at home from family / friends
 Something else - please tell us below
 I've no particular worries about violent crime

If "something else" please say which crimes you worry about

Your experience

In the last five years, have you / anyone you know been the victim of serious violent crime in Bolton borough?

- Yes, it happened to me
 Yes, it happened to someone I know
 I saw it happen, but it didn't happen to me or anyone I know
 No

Which serious violent crimes were involved?

- Beaten up / physically attacked
- Hate crime [being targeted because of your appearance, disability, faith / belief, gender, gender identity, race or sexual orientation]
- Murder / manslaughter [or attempted murder]
- Organised criminal gang violence
- People carrying or using knives / guns / other weapons
- Rape / sexual assault
- Robbery
- Threats / harassment
- Violence at home from family / friends
- Something else - please tell us below

If "something else" please tell us what

Who did you report the crime to?

- Teacher
- Parent / guardian
- Someone from Bolton Council
- Another adult
- Police
- Crimestoppers
- Someone else - please tell us below
- No-one

If "someone else" who did you report it to?

Why didn't you report it?

- Too scared
- Someone else reported it
- Didn't want to get involved
- Didn't know who to tell
- Didn't think anyone would believe me
- Didn't want to tell on / accuse someone
- Thought I'd get the blame
- Another reason

If "another reason" please tell us more

Feeling safe

How safe do you feel in daytime [when it's light outside]?

How do any worries about crime and anti-social behaviour make you feel in these places in Bolton borough?

	Very safe	Safe	Not very safe	Not safe at all	No opinion / Not applicable
At home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your street / local area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In Bolton town centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At school / college / university	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On a bus / train	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In parks / countryside / green spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How safe do you feel after dark?

How do any worries about crime and anti-social behaviour make you feel in these places in Bolton borough?

	Very safe	Safe	Not very safe	Not safe at all	No opinion / Not applicable
At home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your street / local area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In Bolton town centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
At school / college / university	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On a bus / train	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In parks / countryside / green spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us why you don't feel safe

Over to you

If you want to tell us what we could do to help cut down on serious violent crime and keep people safe - now's your chance!

About you

We only ask these questions to make sure we hear from lots of different people. We won't use them to contact or identify you.

Please give your full postcode

Are you...?

- Female Male Identify in another way

How old are you?

- 10-13
 14-16
 17-18
 19-24

What is your ethnic group?

- White British Asian or Asian British
 White other Black, Black British, Caribbean or African
 Mixed or Multiple ethnic group Other ethnic group

Thanks! Please click 'submit' to send your response through to us