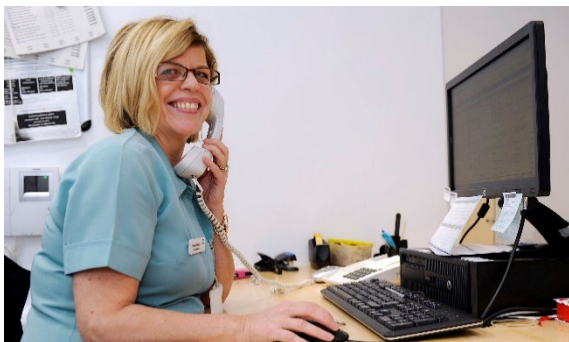




**Midlothian**

**A Great Place to Grow**



# Citizen's Panel Results 2021

## Introduction

The Midlothian Citizens' Panel helps the Midlothian Community Planning Partnership consult with, and research the views of, the local community on an on-going basis.

Members of the Panel represent the local population. This report details the findings from the questionnaire carried out by Lowland Market Research.

## Response Rates

The questionnaire was posted out to the total of 1,000 Panel members in October 2021. A reminder was sent after 10 days. **542 panel members** returned completed questionnaires prior to the production of this report, giving a **response rate of 54%**.

The achieved sample was not representative of Midlothian in terms of age, there being an under-representation of younger people. Interlocked 'age x gender' 'weightings' were applied, to make the sample representative in this respect. Details of the 'weightings' applied are shown below:

	Population (2011 Census) Male	Population (2011 Census) Female	Achieved Sample Male	Achieved Sample Female	Weights Male	Weights Female	Weighted Sample Male	Weighted Sample Female
<b>18-24</b>	6%	7%	6%	6%	1.30	1.46	6%	7%
<b>25-44</b>	15%	16%	12%	16%	1.48	1.20	15%	16%
<b>45-59</b>	13%	14%	10%	21%	1.53	0.82	13%	14%
<b>60-74</b>	9%	11%	14%	8%	0.77	1.61	9%	11%
<b>75+</b>	4%	5%	4%	3%	1.36	1.81	4%	5%

## Sampling Accuracy

All sample surveys are subject to a degree of random error. It has become customary to provide an indication of the error margin by calculating the 95% confidence intervals for a simple random sample of the same size. These are provided in the table below. The magnitude of the error depends on the number of completed questionnaires and the results percentage.

### Confidence Intervals (at the 95% Confidence Level) for Total Sample & Sample Sub-Groups

	Count	50% Response +/-
Male	255	+/-6.1%
Female	287	+/-5.8%
18 to 24 years	70	+/-11.7%
25 to 44 years	168	+/-7.6%
45 to 64 years	187	+/-7.1%
65 to 74 years	68	+/-11.9%
75+ years	79	+/-11.0%
Owner occupied	355	+/-5.2%
Rented	124	+/-8.8%
TOTAL SAMPLE	542	+/-4.2%

# Contents

Our Vision .....	4
Adult Health & Social Care .....	5
Community Safety .....	12
Getting It Right For Every Child in Midlothian (GIRFEC)	23
Improving Opportunities .....	26
Sustainable Growth .....	31

# Our Vision

By 2030 Midlothian will be a carbon neutral area with a sustainable green economy, built and natural environment.

Working in partnership with residents, community organisations, public service agencies and businesses we will have reduced inequalities in learning, health and economic circumstances over life; both between Midlothian residents locally, and between Midlothian residents and Scottish averages.

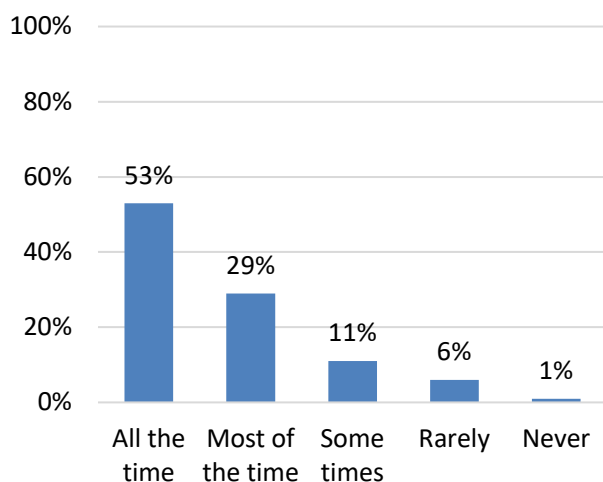


# Adult Health & Social Care

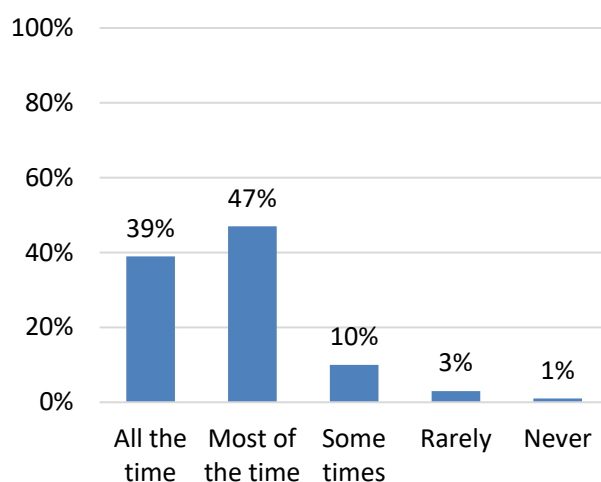


## In the last 12 months how often were these true?

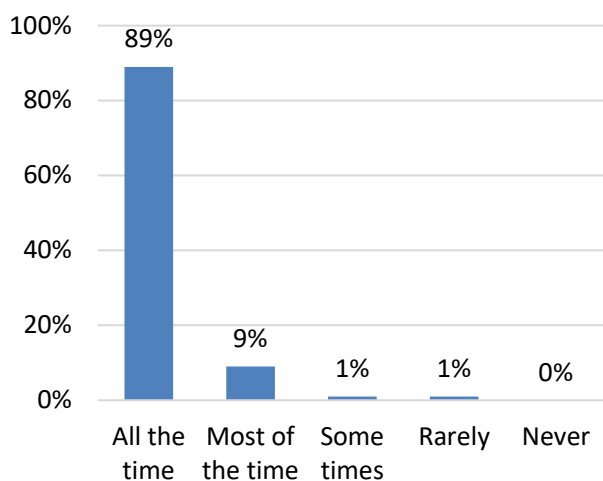
I am active for at least 30 mins a day



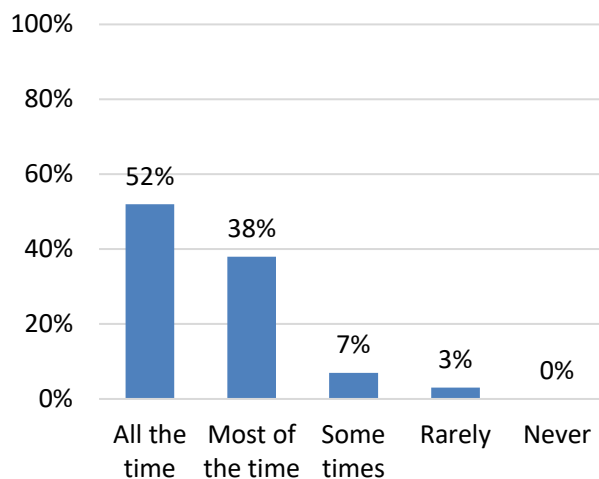
I eat healthily



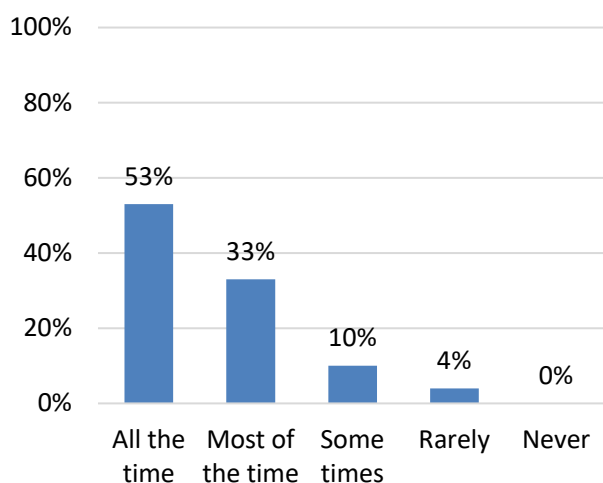
I take up screening/vaccinations



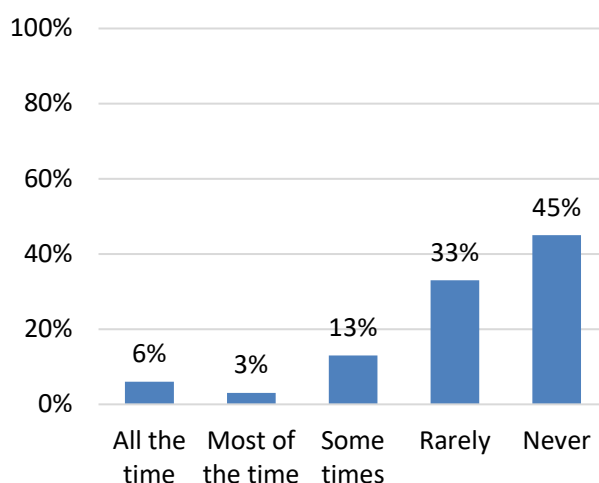
I have good mental wellbeing



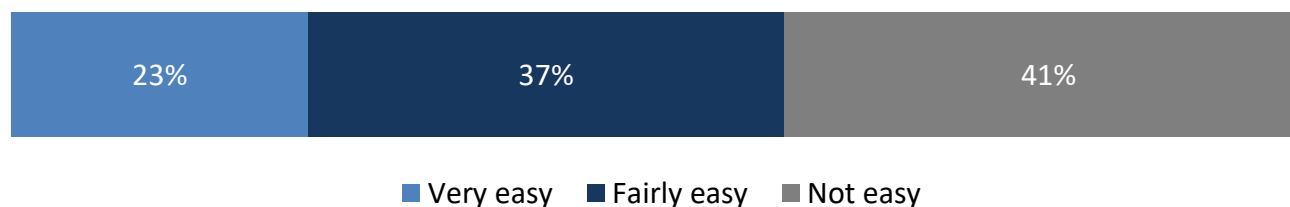
I feel connected to others



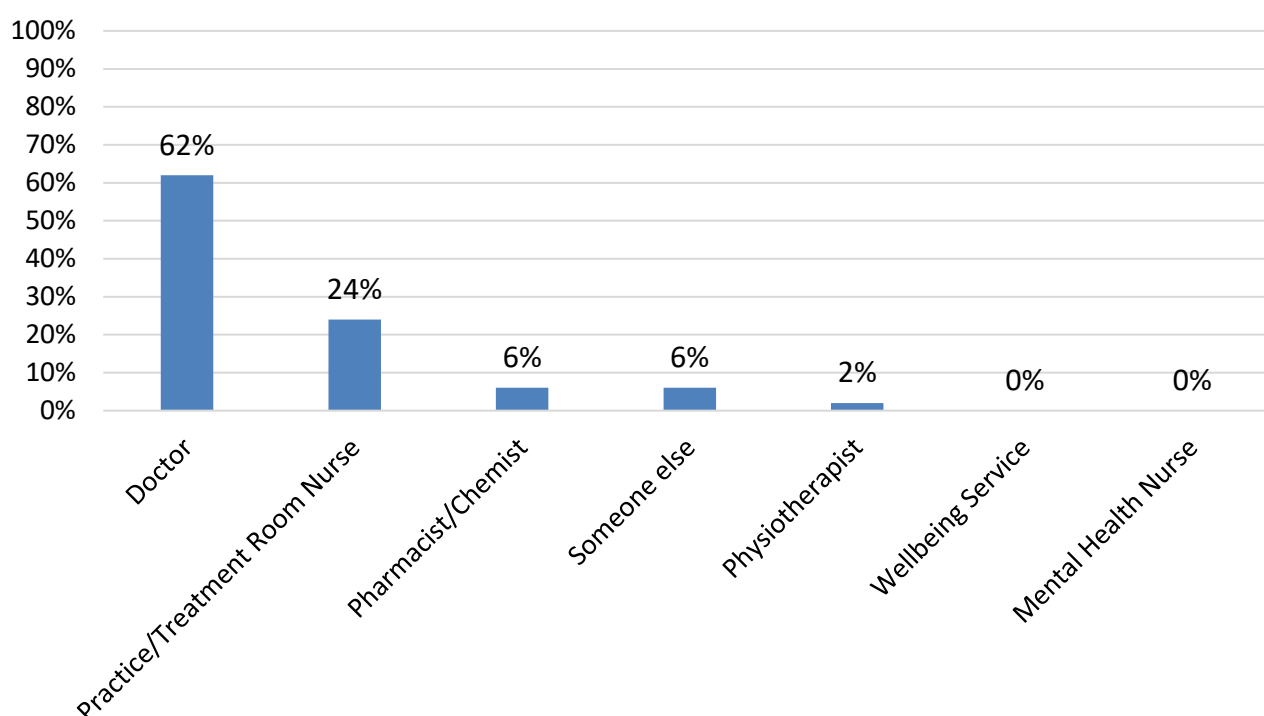
Money worries affect my health



## How easy is it to contact your GP practice in the way you want?



## The last time you received treatment/advice at your GP who provided most of that advice?



**82% of people felt the person was appropriate for their treatment or care** (42% Strongly agreed, 40% agreed).

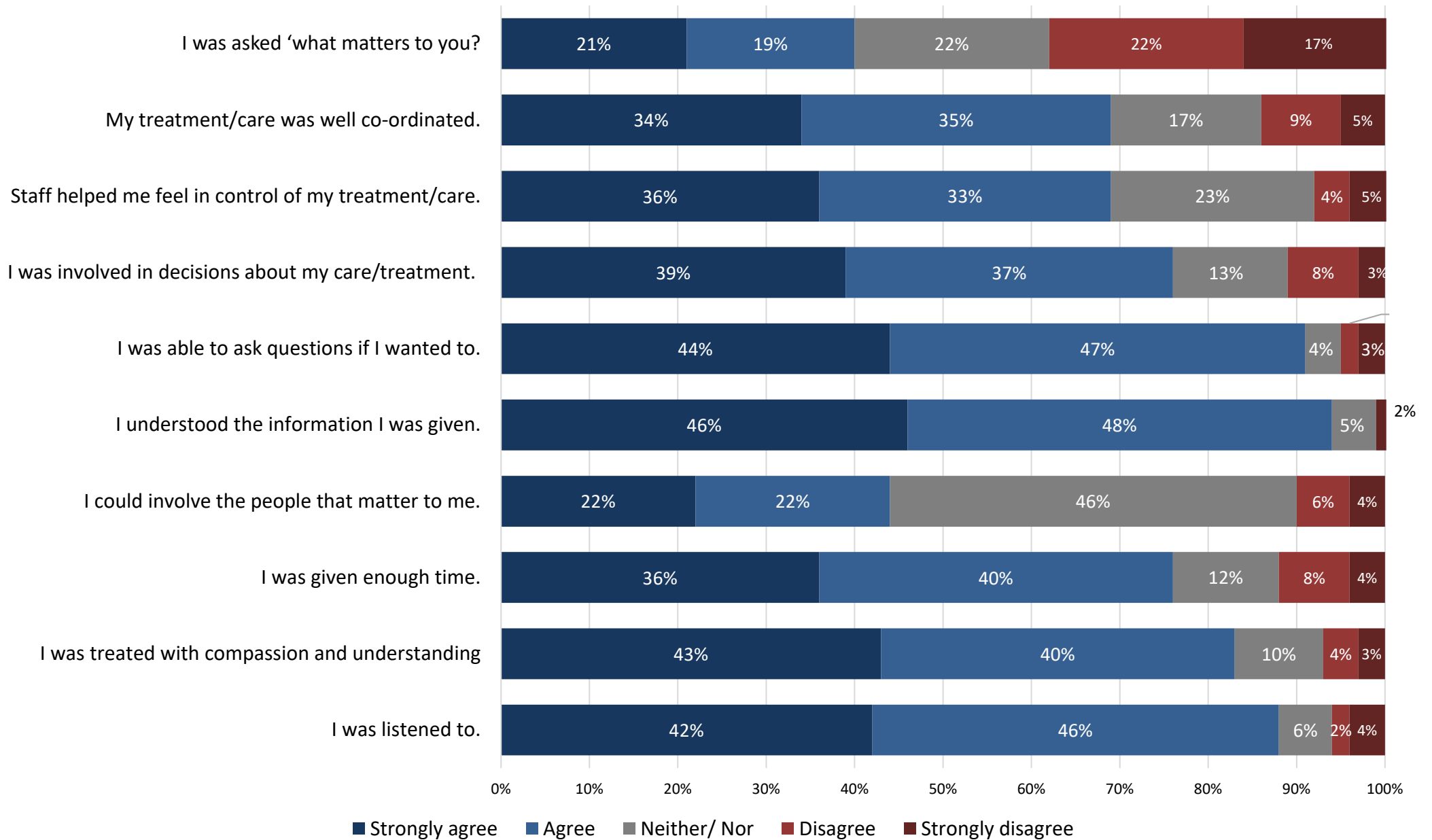
**8% of people thought the person was not appropriate for their treatment or care** (3% strongly disagreed, 5% disagreed).

10% didn't know.

### Other comments

- GP surgeries – this is a scary situation when you can't see a doctor, weeks and months even. More GPs needed or surgeries required.
- I feel it essential that GP's are seen face to face, if and when the patient wants the service

## Thinking about that healthcare professional, how much do you agree or disagree

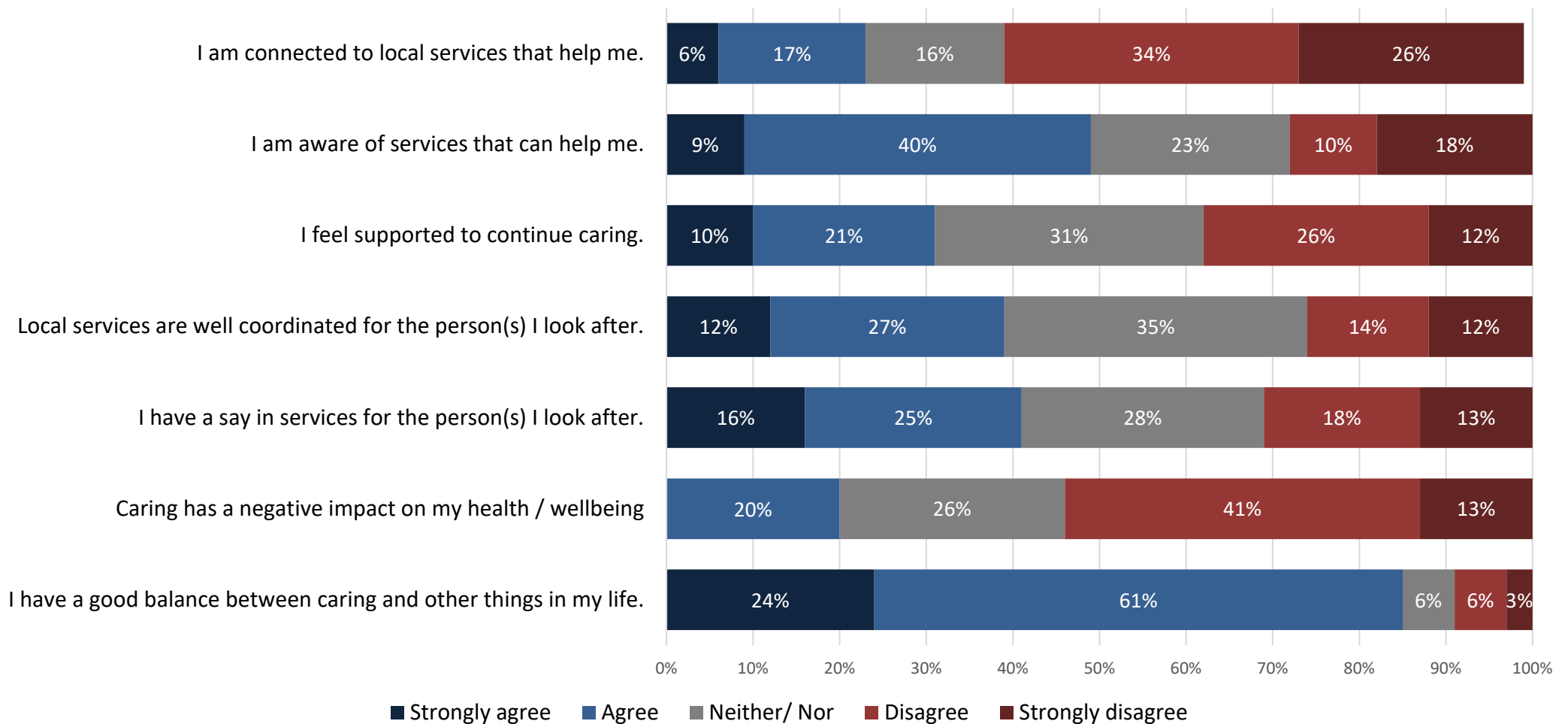




## Carers

**Just under a third (31%)** of all respondents stated that they “look after, or give any regular help or support, to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either long-term physical / mental health / disability or problems related to old age”. The people that respondents indicated that they are for included elderly relatives, sons or daughters, other relatives or neighbours.

### How much do you agree or disagree with the following about how you feel as a carer most of the time?



## Planning for the future

Just **under half (41%)** of all respondents stated that they have granted someone Power of Attorney to make decisions for them should they be unable to make decisions for themselves.

### What would encourage you to arrange Power of Attorney?

- **Financial:**  
Cheaper, easier/If it was free/ Financial help, this is expensive/Cost/ Reduce the cost
- **Illness:**  
Early onset dementia/ Being diagnosed with an illness to necessitate needing this/ If I became ill with something serious/ If I became ill or when I get older I would then/old age/ When I am older/ Not sure, maybe it should be discussed more openly, so I and others would do this at a certain age, as a matter of course/ N/A when the time comes. I have Power of Attorney for older relatives.
- **Better understanding**  
More explanation
- **Motivation/Ease/Time:**  
I have thought about it, but just haven't got around to it/Easy access/It's something I just haven't got round to doing, it's not that I don't agree with it/I just haven't had time to do it yet./ Not yet but will do so/ I intend to set it up in the near future.
- **Nothing – Not planning on doing this:**  
I am married so unnecessary at present/ What a strange question/ N/A/Nothing/ Not considering this at point./ If my partner was dead and I was alone.
- **Other:**  
To ensure that my views & wishes are listened too

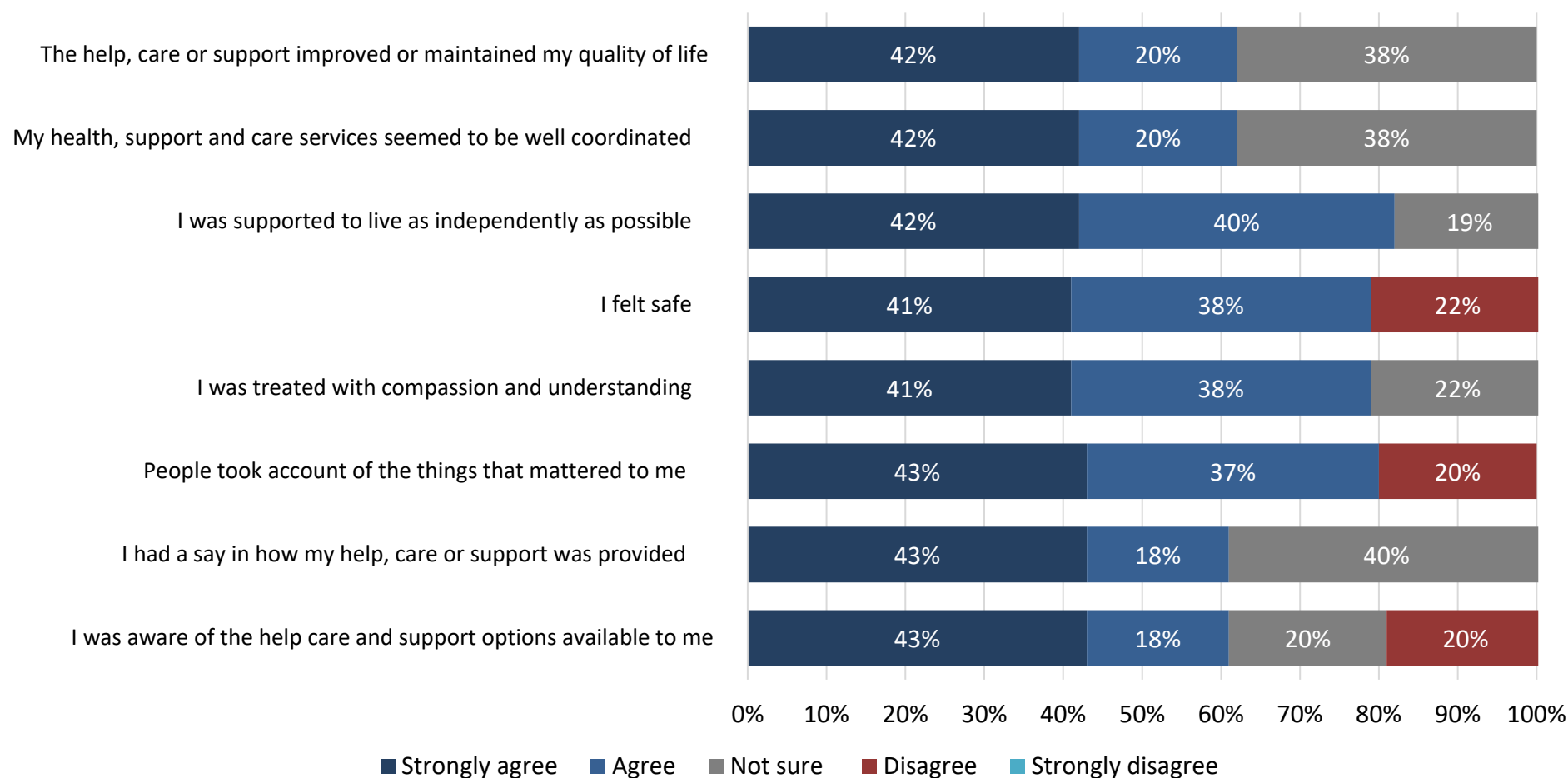
## Do you worry that your home may not be suitable for your needs in the future?

- **Mobility:**  
Possibly, mobility issues, getting up and down stairs/Yes I worry I might not be able to use the stairs and the shower bath/already it is getting difficult as there are so many stairs inside and out/ Sometimes-stairs and garden perhaps/Climbing stairs as age increases/ Very much. A necessary operation has been cancelled and was not rearranged which has an impact on my mobility could leave me permanently disabled/ I would like to move to a house without stairs before I get too old to manage them
- **Finance/heating bills:**  
Council tax so high, may have to sell up/I've suffered an aortic aneurysm and stroke having previously been fit and recently had to give up my full time job without qualifying yet for my Old age pension. This has been very difficult and causes me anxiety/too hard to heat with the rising costs of energy and fuel/ I own my house, so if/when I have mobility issues in future I won't be eligible for help from the council.
- **Other:**  
Too big, but acceptable smaller alternatives are not available. Unreasonably denied planning permission to build bungalow in garden. May end up with two of us staying in a big house until we are too old to move./I will likely move into accommodation when that time comes /Yes, the house is now too big and old./Where else would I live and retain independence/

## Care, support and help with everyday living

5% of respondents state that “In the last 12 months, they have had support with everyday living from anyone other than friends /family”

**How much do you agree or disagree with the following about your care, support and help services over the past 12 months? Exclude care/help from friends/family.**

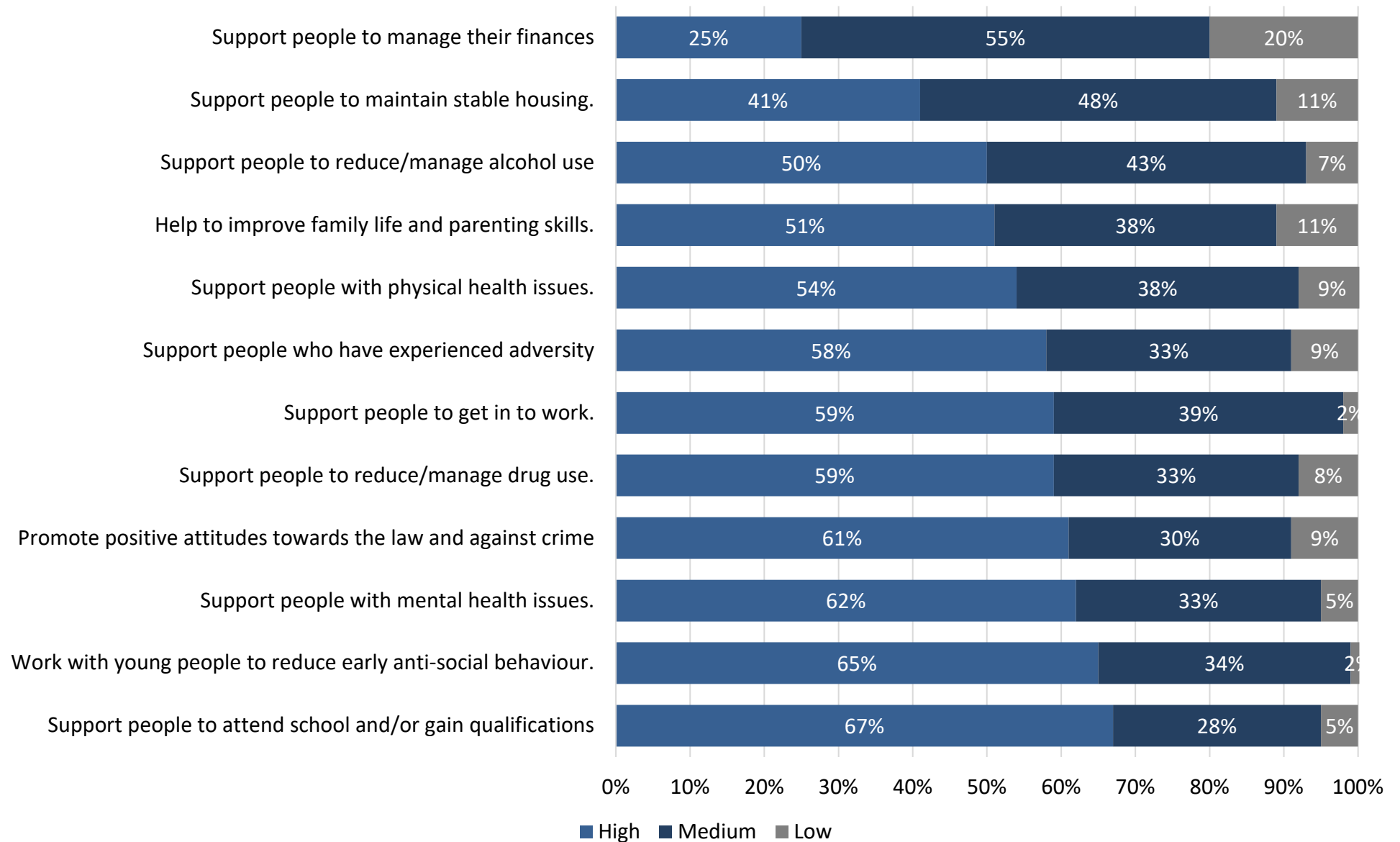




# Community Safety

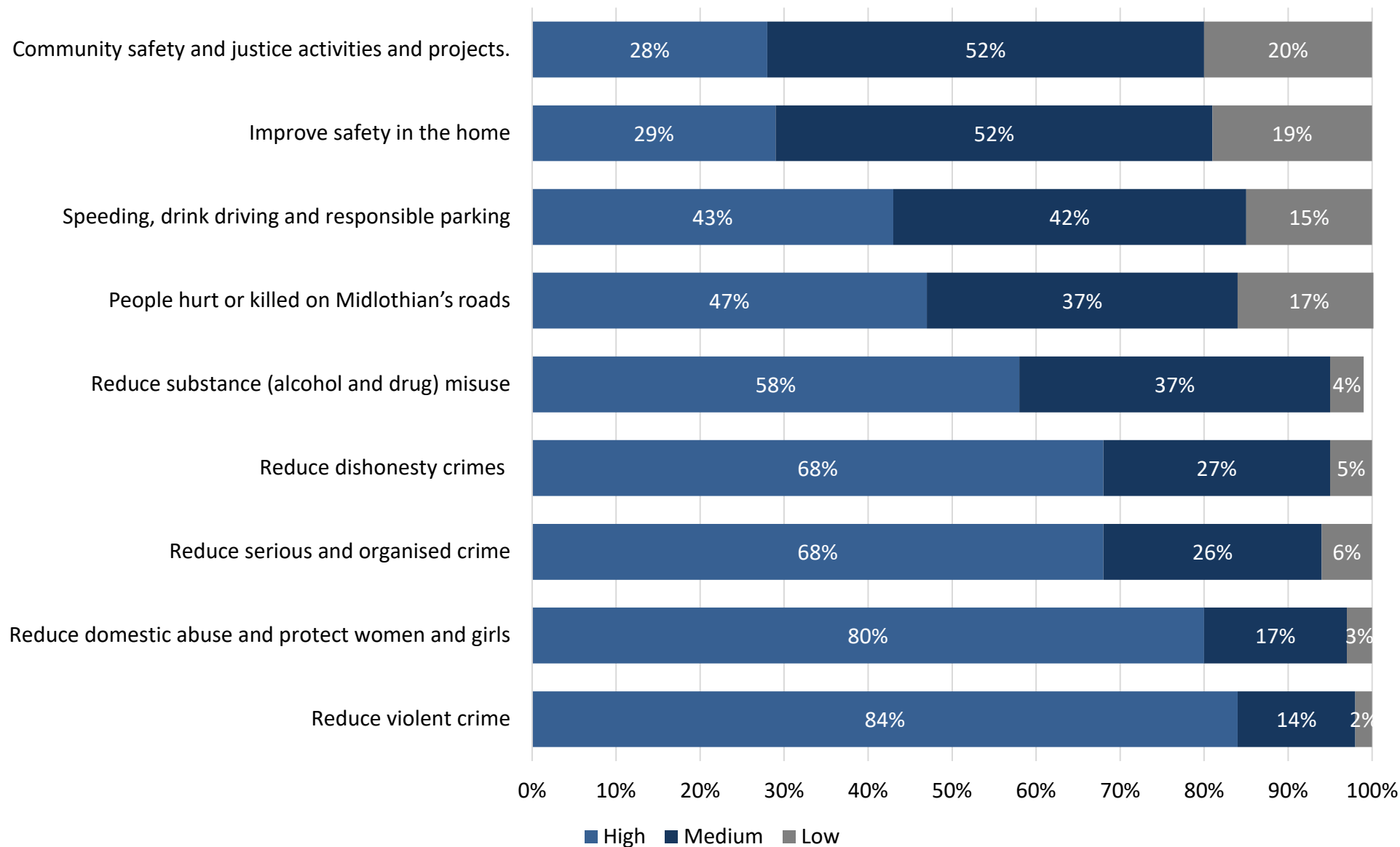


## Ways we should support people to stop re-offending





## Areas we could focus on to make communities safer



## What support services do you feel are in your community for people involved in the justice system

- **Police/Courts/Prison:**

Police/ Police, not aware of any other local service/Police, courts/Aware of the Police but not experience of other services/Courts/ Police, prison/ Police. Courts/ Police, community police/Police/Police/Police/ I haven't need for any support services so far but on one occasion I had to contact Dalkeith Police. I had pleasant experience while communicating the issue./Police/Police/Police. Courts/Police/Police

- **Social Work**

Social Work/Social Work/ Justice social work, although police are in the community I don't know how they are involved to support people/SW/Social Workers/ Justice social work, community service schemes/Social Work/Social Work, Legal Firms/Social Work

- **Third Sector/Community Council**

Mainly the police. But also third sector bodies which work directly with people I. Difficult circumstances to address poverty and inequality/ Community Council have limited powers but attempt to provide support.

- **Nothing/Unknown**

Very little, no Police station, courts or prisons /Practical none/Unknown/ I am not aware of any support systems in place for those working in Police, Prison service etc.../Very little/ Very few police seen around/Unsure what services there are.

- **Other**

The government is way to big and getting involved with the lives of individuals where they should not be. /For all government agents to break free from cognitive dissonance and learn – the law – and act honourably to uphold the law

## What services would you like to see more of in your community?

- **Police:**

More visibility of the Police and social support/Local Police services "local"/ Police/Visibility of police/Increase police presence. Nominated community officer available to give help and advice/ More visible police presence on our streets. More information about all services in a newsletter as opposed to online (not everybody has internet)/ The law in action/ Police/More Police/ More police presence so that people feel safer./Police patrols/ Community police officers- where did they go? They used to know the local kids and interact with them/ Visible police presence/ Visual presence of police/police/ more police on the beat/Increased foot patrols by police/I would like to see more traditional policing and stop wasting time in areas that do not make a difference to the community/ Community police officers/ Reopen local police station local bank and having these clever planning people to recognise to stop building housing schemes everywhere/Police/ Police Local councillors/ Police/ Police information widely available

- **Mental Health**

Mental health, physical health/Free counselling/ Mental Health/More drop in clinics for people to access help with all aspects of life. Mental health, finances/ Mental Health counselling, an organisation where those in the aforementioned services could talk about work related problems such as bullying without fear of recriminations./ Police, ambulances, as we are lacking these facilities in Midlothian with the increase of the population/ Support groups for mental health and addiction

- **Community**

Just more services for the community to come together/ More community and youth outreach work - prevention rather than cure/ More upkeep to the planting and cleanliness of the local area/ Support for town centres

- **Young People**

Support for young people/ Parents of young children, living in socially deprived communities, need guidance and education about how to inspire their youth. There are lack of role models in those families hence their children miss any chance to make their life better than their parents. It's unfortunate but true./youth workers/ Active hobbies, activities and enjoyable, constructive ways for people to spend their free time to avoid boredom and slipping into crime e.g. better parks, youth clubs and activities, more on-site after school activities. There are always kids hanging about George park in Bonnyrigg including some quite young kids who are vulnerable and being badly influenced. It would be a perfect place for a youth worker to make a difference and would probably reduce litter too as a consequence./More community based activities and for everyone to have the opportunities to participate not just specific group e.g. Single parents, there are many 2 parent families who also need help and support and may benefit from participating in activities put on by the council, or working parents, who may not receive the specific benefits to participate/ Engagement with the youth before crime is seen as a career would help in my opinion/ Activities for young people./ sport facilities for the young

- **Social Care & Support for the elderly**

Care for elderly/ Social care services to support the elderly/ Social care cost/ More proactive social work services/ social care and support/ Social workers/ Justice , social work/ help for Social Work availability

- **Other:**

- Road maintenance/Living skills workshops, money, interview skills./Greater support for house owners against impartial and aggressive decisions by Planning Dept. in promoting unsuitable housing to detriment of areas. /Commercial waste management services otherwise it is just going to get fly tipped. Green belt and re wilding initiatives.
- Mentoring by former convicted people. Examples of choices for at risk individuals. Community payback orders instead of custodial sentences. E.g. gardening, litter picking, gritting.
- meaningful community services that serve a purpose, restorative justice, peer support and education initiatives, community led rehabilitation services
- Citizens Advice, Free Legal Aid, Benefits advice, better transport links especially for the elderly. (People expected to travel too far for health appointments).Better, more accessible dental care for all. Physiotherapy required for many people which would allow them to in turn become more productive, community gardens to produce vegetables for people to eat better and more cheaply
- Community Police patrolling areas on regular basis Counsellors aware of condition of social housing and surrounding areas and being able to enforce residents to keep areas clean and tidy Fine for fly tipping litter dog fouling More cctv cameras in areas other than in town centres

## What barriers do you think there are for people accessing support/services in your community?

- **Fear/Stigma**  
Fear of asking for help, or embarrassment of their position./Fear/Stigma, labelling, cost, being criminalised,
- **Finance:**  
Finance. Lack of parental support / Lack of funding unable to access resources/ finance
- **Knowledge of what is available:**  
Lack of clarity about what is available/Lack of knowledge/availability of what is available/Lack of communication to let people know what's available. Lack of self belief, no-one will believe the person./Lack of knowledge of groups or too few places/Not knowing what services are available/Lack of knowledge of what is available/People are not aware of which services are available./Lack of knowledge of what's available/ Lack of publicity of resources/ People not sure where to access information/ Information about services and support not readily available, probably because so much help is not there in the first place./ Knowledge and access to information about services/ Lack of information having to use the internet all the time, cant speak to anyone on the phone or face to face nowadays/People who cant aces the internet. Access to phone numbers and addresses for all services. A list could be sent to residents in Midlothian/ Not sure how to contact/ Not enough knowledge/ Not enjoyed information probably/People bot being aware of support available to them, lack of time due to family commitments/ Learning difficulties meaning difficulty navigating the available information online./ Lack of knowledge
- **Waiting lists & lack of services**  
People wait too long for appointments/ Waiting times/ Waiting lists Lack of funding Lack of support Too many people needing help but not enough resources/Services are overwhelmed/ Don't know where/how. Lack of services available. Waiting lists./No drop in services in area/Insufficient personnel / funding/Need local contact centre such as community hub/ Availability/ Cost and availability/ Not enough support workers in placement/lack of resources/staff/ Not enough police, social workers, mental health support. Not enough advertising on how to access help/Lack of resources/ There are no police stations open to the public at all these days/ Money. Suitable trained staff, adequate and competent supervisors of services to create a vision and achievable targets./ Lack of available resources/There's none that I know of/ Councils have been less accessible following Covid times./ lack of flexible services
- **Transport:**  
Access to transport/Transport, health,
- **Other:**  
Lack of support from Midlothian for elderly and their family care members/All government agents fail to uphold the Nolan principles! All government agents therefore fail to uphold their oaths of office. That is fraud./Woke culture is the biggest problem standing in the way of getting things done. Woke is a mental illness in itself and has caused so many support



services to become dysfunctional./To many people/ building of new developments have saturated the local communities and are destroying the few remaining natural and agricultural spaces in Midlothian. Equally there is no new provisioning of dentists, schools, doctors in the areas excessive development has/ is occurring. Houses are just getting squeezed into the existing infrastructure and at the expense of local environment because it is an easy cash cow for the milking./ Apart from Physical, Mental and behavioural health issues, I am afraid to say, that the biggest barrier is negative attitude towards authorities. I can't be bothered! Does that ring a bell./red tape for everything/ Bureaucracy

## Views on Restorative Justice

- **Not in favour:**

Don't think it would make a difference to most criminals. Heavier sentences would work better/ Waste of time/ Propaganda and a waste of resource/ Resources could be better used./ In theory this sounds a good idea. In reality it could cause more harm than good./ A waste of time and probably costs money that would be better spent elsewhere./ Pointless exercise for most people./ Not a good idea under any circumstances./ This Scottish government sucks and needs to focus on the day job/ Surely money would be better spent educating people away from crime and seeing sentences are properly adhered to./ In other words re-living their trauma/ ordeals. If I would be a victim, I would never want to see that person. This seems like Scottish Govt is trying to humanise the perpetrator./ Might make victims feel better but are unlikely to really change things. On the other hand, may involve significant resource to implement./ Not sure. Might be a soft option/ I am not sure that is a good idea, maybe in some cases. I really do think the Scottish Government should focus on reducing our drug and knife violence as we top these areas in Europe./ Not sure if this would be welcome with some victim's/survivors / I feel this could bring up more trauma for the victims. For a crime that has included physical/mental damage to a person then I feel this should not be allowed./ I'm not sure if that's a good idea. I can't see how this can help apart from open up new wounds

- **In favour**

Very strong support for this/ Has real value for all crimes involving individuals/ Very good idea/ good idea lets the criminal none see the effect they have had on their victims./ A good idea so that they can see the impact they've had on their victim/s. They need to be made to face up to whatever harm they've caused.

- **Dependent on Crime/victim**

Only if the victims / survivors would want to meet the criminal. This should not be a compulsory meeting and should not be the criminal's choice/for most crimes it seems a good idea (but has to be led by the victims). Crimes of a sexual nature is another story. Personally I would be apprehensive about face to face./If the victim wants to be involved in this, why not./ It could be helpful, but must be voluntary for the victims. Also, it shouldn't happen unless the perpetrator is thought likely to respond positively/ Whilst this would be helpful in certain situations e.g. assaults, burglary etc. Should never be allowed in crimes involving paedophilia/ It might be helpful but should not be compulsory. Consent of both parties essential to get co-operation and any benefit/ I think it should be up to the victim if they want this /Choice should be up to the individual victim after the person who committed crime is assessed as not causing any more distress to victim/ It depends if the crime also on the victim's experience /Yes I do think it would be a good idea but only if the victims are comfortable with the idea./ A reasonable proposition but victims should be assessed on their ability to handle consequences. Decision on the types of crime should involve the victims desire to pursue. /This isn't suitable for everyone and depends on the attitude of the convicted person and the victims/survivors. Careful assessment would have to be followed by adequate resourcing to support all parties. It is an admirable concept that can be disastrous if it is not resourced adequately./Good idea . I think the victim should be the one to decide whether a particular crime should be included./Depending on the crime, I am assuming a victim of rape or other serious harm/murder may not want to participate in a face to face meeting, they may alternatively listen to or record video message /Entirely up to the victim / Agree with this, but exclude offenses against children /I support restorative

justice provided the victim for all types of crime is well supported through the process /I think it could be a good thing for some crimes, but not for rape or serious assault on women/If it works, do it./Include all, if parties are willing. Provide an option. /A good idea as long as this would be supervised by psychologist / counsellor to avoid further trauma. If unsupervised I would be against this idea/ If it makes the victim feel empowered or has some closure for them, then I fully support this. Also gives the perpetrator some insight into the damage they have caused./I think it's a good idea but should be victim led and should only happen if they agree./I think this could be a good idea if handled correctly /Good idea but with exception of rape/sexual abuse cases unless the victim expresses that they wish to./ If the victim is keen to pursue these measures then I think it could be effective as long as their feelings can be controlled and expressed safely. /This is a proven method and should be applied but only for certain crimes

- **Other**

I think the Scottish Government are currently creating legislation that is actively harmful to the wellbeing of citizens - such as a right to choose gender from the age of 4! and which also allows men to access women's 'safe' spaces. i think much more needs to be done to protect women in law from coercion and abuse and abuse of these specific new laws./ No strong views. /Compensation and severe penalty if not made

## What services are you aware of for victims/survivors of crime in your community? What other services do you think are needed?

- **Support for victims**

Aware that victim support officers are available but nothing beyond this/Victims need to be assured they are taken seriously by Police and court system/ To punish the perpetrator/criminal as per law and to support the victim to re-build their life. To me it's very basic, doesn't matter how many fancy terminologies we use./ I on know of victim support, but don't know what that involves/ I'm aware of a victim support group for people going to court. Perhaps a support group for people who have been a victim of serious crime on an ongoing basis, not just leading up to the court case /I know about Victim Support and the witness Service. More support for mental health issues./ There are some support groups but they are few and far between / More support workers are needed, sometimes people just need a sympathetic ear to offload to./ Not sure really but Womens' Aid, Rape Crisis are two that come to mind./ I would like to think that our legal system has a support system for any victims and survivors/ Counsellor but needs development/More mental health councillors

- **Don't Know**

Not aware of any/I am not sure what is available or where you find it./Not aware of any. All services are needed as it doesn't feel like anything gets done/ Not sure/Not sure I know enough to cover./Not aware of any./I don't know / I'm not aware of anything. There used to be a victim support facility that I think and the police would refer people./Unaware/Not aware of any. These questions are not the absolute priority - they need to focus on stopping "real" crime and they would not need to put their effort into the victims as there would be way less./ Unknown - I've been lucky enough not to need them./Top of my head I'm not sure. I'm sure I could find some on a google search or Midlothian Council website/I can't answer this question/ I don't know but self-help groups where people can relate and share their experiences could be beneficial. /Having never been a victim of crime I am unaware of any services available in my community, which leads to maybe these services should be made more public for people to know about / Never heard of any, most people just seem to have to get on with things. I assume counselling is available but waiting lists appear to be long for that service too.

- **Other:**

Community service orders. Men hanging around most of the day doing very little with leaf blowers and hoes./ More local services in area/ more police on the street....the police are now a reactive force not proactive force.

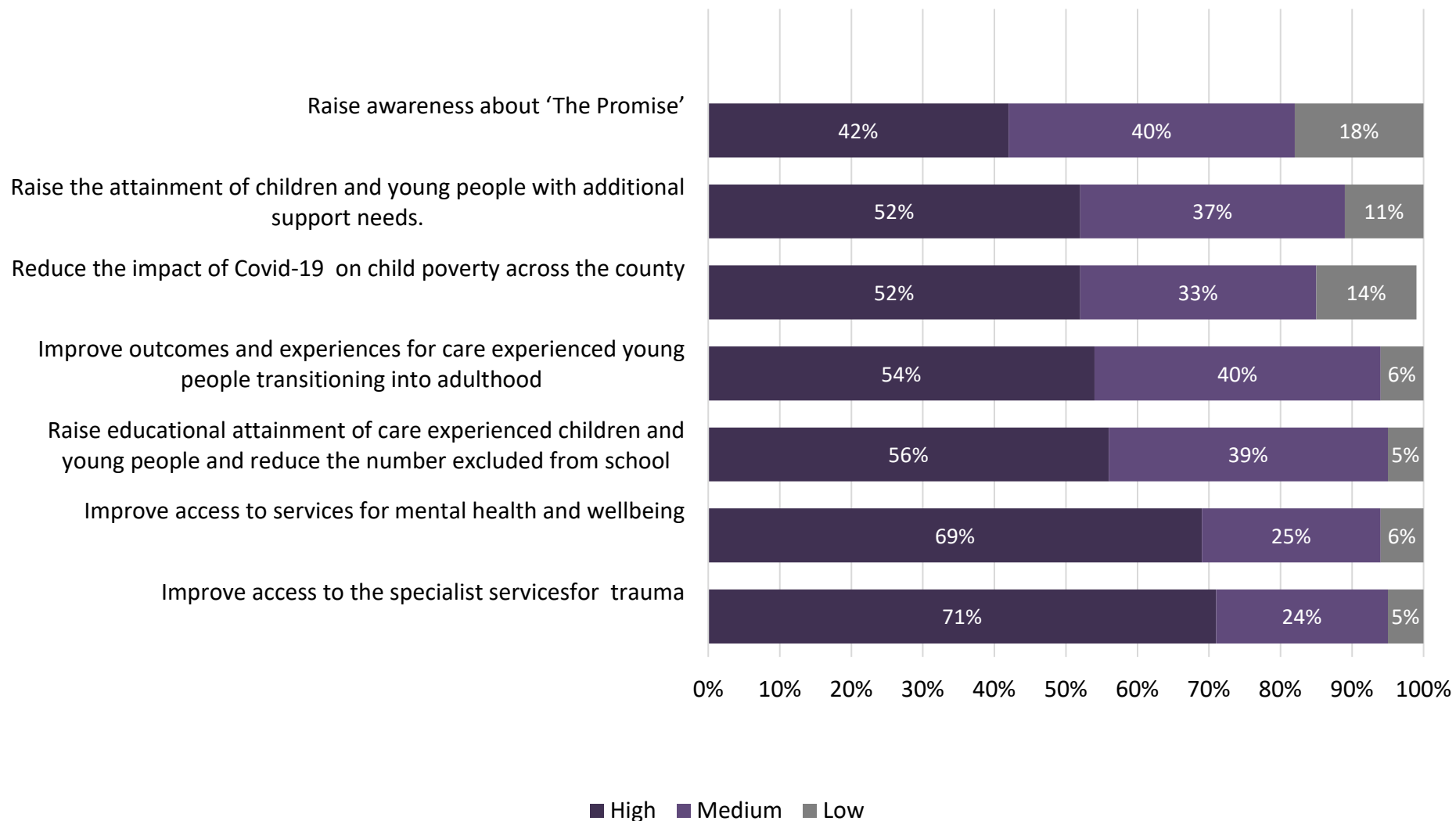


# Getting It Right For Every Child in Midlothian (GIRFEC)





## Our priorities for next year:



## Other priorities:

- Speak to people instead of using the internet
- Try and recruit child welfare officers with support from the government
- This subject must include support / education for parents under these circumstances
- Create real employment opportunities by providing vocational training and support
- You need to help parents to understand their input improves children's chances both of good health and future prospects. Children are damaged before they get into care. Then the care experience makes it work.
- Improve quality of their education
- Education is of prime importance for all children but unless there are more experienced practitioners this is an impossibility.
- Making sure that as a council you are able to sustain your promise but also need to give the same promise to the older population of Midlothian
- Not necessary to raise the attainment of people with support needs - raise the opportunities and options. Going to college is not the be all and end all. Too many young people feel they have failed if they can't progress educationally, but the support for them to do so isn't there. Other options are barely available and often expensive. We need more creative ideas and opportunities.
- Education for all! Will need a change in social attitude
- These are niche areas which bring benefit to a very small number of people. Spending money on bigger projects to improve the wider environment in Midlothian benefits everyone and contributes to avoiding people slipping into MH problems in the future.
- Make parents aware of GIRFEC and who they can speak to, as well as nurseries/school/caregivers and other agencies. When I had occasion to ask for help, I spoke to 3 different agencies without mentioning GIRFEC, and got nowhere as soon as I mention this, I had an reaction within an hour. I know about this from working in the childcare sector and from no other source.
- Ranking priorities is difficult in relation to children and I feel improving services for those in care is important but a smaller section of the whole
- No budget cuts. Young people are at the highest priority.
- Children who haven't been in care sometimes also need additional help for a variety of reasons.
- Educate more counsellors to ensure children/young adults emotional difficulties after pandemic can be effectively dealt with.
- More needs to be done for children with special needs. Having to fight for their child's right to education and their placement in an appropriate facility is a disgrace.
- We need to have families and family values back in Scotland. The Government should not be involved with private individuals. We need to develop a society without government intervention. We must help the people to help themselves give them the tools but stay out of the lives of the individuals as it causes deskilling and a lack of development for society. We do not want to be reliant on the state.
- Reduce discrimination / sectarianism with all-inclusive schools i.e. not having separate Catholic schools...
- Children provide care on a widespread area and get little or no recognition
- Children should also be encouraged to take responsibility and be rewarded for doing so. It seems to be that badly behaved children and shout loudest are the only ones rewarded and consequently distribution of resources seems very unfair. Having taught for many years I have seen this first hand and it's time to make good behaviour pay. I think the Scottish Government need to be very careful about how much parental authority they encroach on..

# Improving Opportunities



## Our Priorities for next year





## Reduce number of household in poverty

- **Employment:**  
Assist with employment opportunities/Target them for employment/Emphasise need for all to be in employment/ Employment opportunities – re training skills programmes/ Get people not work , there are lots of vacancies/ Increase access to work/training programmes/ Assist people to gain employment/Get them back to work/Encourage people to work/ Encourage back to work opportunities / flexible/ Improve employment opportunities/ more jobs/ Provide well paid jobs i.e. environmental/ Improve work opportunities locally, offer training and retraining/More employment opportunities for all/Support people to find job as well as welfare/ Increase minimum wage and create better , more flexible working conditions/Long term interventions , better wages / employment
- **Financial Support:**  
Put pressure on government to increase funding/ Push Scottish government to retain universal credit/ Educate them on how to manage their finances/ By providing more down to earth advice and guidance plus money/Benefits must include heat / Increase benefits/ Look into the benefits system/ Reduce rent and rates/ Start by giving secondary school pupils financial training and home economics possibly stop them buying expensive ready meals or carry outs
- **Support with childcare**  
School needs provision during holidays as well as term time/encourage good childcare/ Early intervention , more health visitors/ More flexible childcare options , offer parents better job opportunities/ More options for cheaper childcare
- **Other**  
Role of third sector in this/Ascertain the reason in each case and go from there/More time and funds/Better education

## Increase number of young people in training

- All young people should be given training/Bring back the YTS scheme – council run
- Target them for employment
- Work with industry to generate employment
- Is there a large number of young people not engaged in these ways
- Role of third sector in this
- Start in S1 teaching students that kind of life they want and set achievable goals
- Proper apprenticeships in proper trades, not in so called training/ More apprenticeships/ More apprenticeships/ Link training to actual employment opportunities/ Using local companies, employ apprentices/ Increase opportunities for flexible learning /training programmes and apprenticeships/ Blue collar workers are in very short supply – plumbers, joiners etc./ Try to encourage the young to start a trade rather than going to university/ Real work experience opportunities with proper wage for proper work. We have a qualified workforce who will retire and we need competent and qualified ready to step in
- Ensure opportunities are attractive to young people
- Offer a voluntary maximum payed social year to work in community services e.g. hospital as in e.g. Germany
- I do recommend a young person doing volunteering , it can lead to a job
- Communicate with schools, colleges, charities and employers



## **Increase qualifications gained by adults aged 16-64**

- Offer qualifications in subjects that will promote employability
- Education
- Skill based training more useful/ More short term course offering vocational quals/ Full and proper trade apprenticeships
- Qualifications don't always improve/life/quality of life
- Carrot and stick
- Shift importance to work opportunities rather than qualifications
- open university and wider range of college courses locally
- encourage them that working in retail/ care sector is acceptable
- Communicate with schools, colleges, charities and employers

## **Increase digital inclusion**

- Access to digital units out of school hours
- More free wifi in local area/ Install high speed broadband to every house/ Accessible / effective wifi for low income families
- Support employers in studying opportunities
- Include in plans for building new houses
- V important in rural areas where library access is difficult
- Higher skills needed to improve employability
- Help those in need with it
- Encourage people to use their brain rather than press buttons
- Laptop sharing scheme
- Most teenagers already have all devices, encourage them to use libraries for info
- Liaise with schools, more funding

## **Reduce health inequalities**

- Surely this stems from housing/poverty
- Maybe starts with lifestyle education in schools
- Bring doctors back to surgeries
- Improve health care management
- Accessible/affordable gym/leisure facilities/More active lifestyles

## **Increase volunteering opportunities**

- Work with employers/ Contact charities
- Advertise where they are needed
- There is already a volunteer centre

## **Increase the capacity & funding for third sector**

- Gainful work must be a priority
- Not accountable enough
- Also care services
- Encourage fund raising
- Communicate with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector for their thoughts/needs
- Put more funds into the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector – v.cost effective as they use volunteers
- Show benefits of volunteers as a big + towards work

## Other priorities that should be pursued:

- **Education & Employment**

Education is a priority./Folk need education and work!/Again, all of these items could be engendered in the education process rather than present nonsense on wokism and gender issues/ More local opportunities for employment/ Work more closely with local employers and industry to ascertain what their future needs are and how training etc. of people can help meet these needs./ Greater flexibility and options for young people at school, especially those who do not aspire to academic qualifications. More practical skill-based options. / Make it easier for young people who are not interested in "school" to gain apprenticeships. Young people need to be inspired by what they do once they school if they are going to develop a "work ethic"./ Build Midlothian into a high skill hub based on the Roslin Institute and similar bodies /a training academy for training people back into regular jobs - wood work, plumbing, roofing, even bridging training into nursing etc./ Hopefully St. Margaret's school (I think) which is now vacant will be used as a children's educational base

- **Information**

More information on what is happening in local areas. More community centres required for this. / Engage more with communities, more information being sent to households/ Advertise opportunities more, a lot of people don't know what is available to them.

- Utilise talented volunteers
- Lots of families require intensive ongoing advice of how to cook, plan running of their house and how to cope better
- Support for mental health
- Fill in the pot holes on the roads
- Open and available to all
- There must be some way of restoring pride in themselves to allow people to actively seek improvement of their opportunities, rather than having it done for them.
- There could be more community hubs with facilities and information to cover the above, including libraries and small local clinics for health problems.
- I don't know what you are referring to when you mention third sector organisations? There are people who have 'slipped through the net' when it came to support during covid who have been in extreme need and I think far more should be done to help these people back on their feet.
- Scotland needs to help homeless people by building a complex with three main areas: Rehabilitation centre, accommodation block for around 1500 homes
- Better broadband and improve the state of the roads
- Again as I have previously said, more access for everyone, to sports facilities not just those receiving specific benefits, I work part time and struggle to make ends meet for daily living, there's no extra for sports or leisure activities. Specific sporting facilities for people interested in e.g. motor sports/tracks, football pitches that are not astroturf and cost to play on.
- Need to develop the local shopping community why would in small area of Dalkeith would within .5mile would you have four Indian restaurants where they will all be vying to sustain their business especially after the pandemic

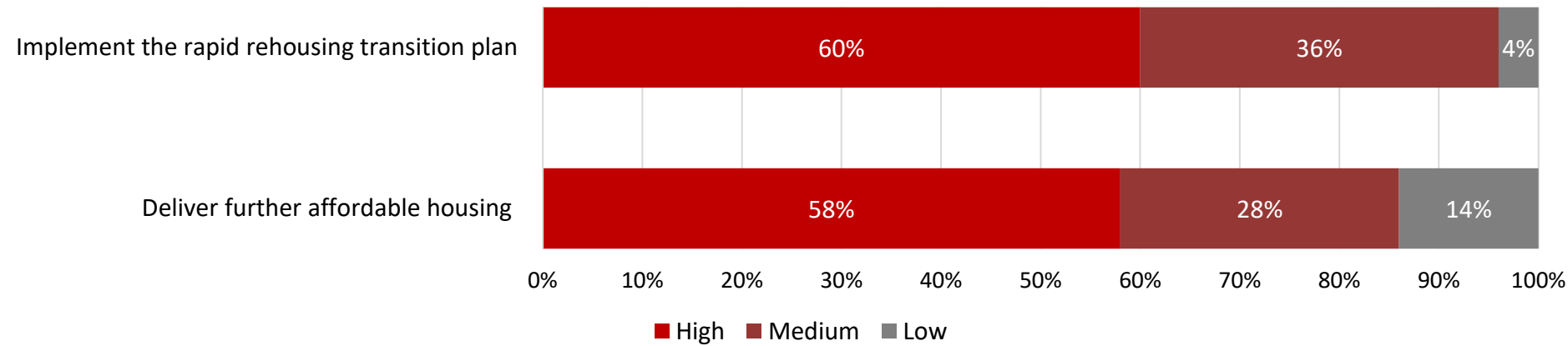
# Sustainable Growth

Housing, Economic Development, Climate Emergency

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# Housing & Homelessness – Our priorities



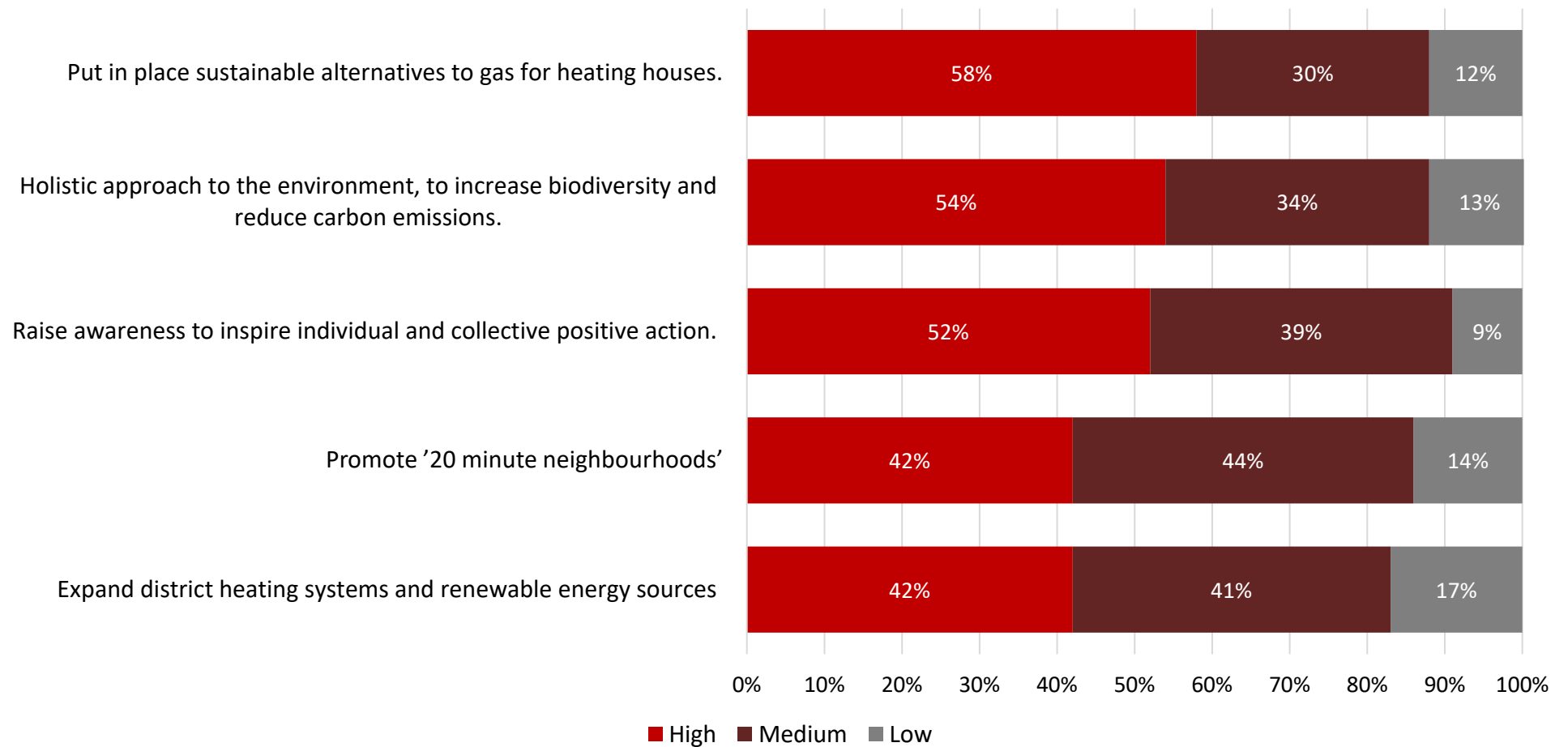
- There still appears to be little social housing to rent and the huge new housing developments appear to be for the benefit of the Builders with little thought for community projects or essential services
- More housing should be only encouraged with services required to be increased.
- There still needs to many more council or association houses build as in Midlothian, not many people can afford to buy own their own home, yes outsiders will come to Midlothian and buy the private houses.
- To many people
- Building of new developments have saturated the local communities and are destroying the few remaining natural and agricultural spaces in Midlothian. Equally there is no new provisioning of dentists, schools, doctors in the areas that excessive development has/ is occurring. Houses are just getting squeezed into the existing infrastructure and at the expensive of local environment because it is an easy cash cow for the milking. You seriously have to stop building houses. Yes, there is climate emergency and some measly carbon offsets is not just the answer. Massive re-wilding efforts need to take place and the few remaining natural, wild and agricultural spaces in Midlothian desperately need to be preserved.
- Utilise brown sites for housing developments rather than the ruining of green/agricultural spaces.
- Stop building houses on good farm land
- If you're going to put houses up everywhere can we have more playing field's for the kids
- Greater consideration required from Planning in approving unsuitable housing and spoiling areas of like design and heritage. Panic to produce more housing producing scandalous decisions with no appeal from residents.
- There are so many new houses being built and changing our communities. We need to ensure that there is infrastructure to support all these new houses, such as shops, doctors and transport to meet the needs of all in the community. Action on climate change should happen now if we are to make a difference
- The new house building is out of control around Midlothian and at odds with green credentials. There is also a lack of related infrastructure to support this growing population. More consideration needs to be given to new schools, GP practices and transport links (among other things) to allow the area to cope with the growing population. Midlothian is losing a huge amount of green space to development, particularly in areas which were previously designated Green Belt. This is really disappointing and prime land for re-wilding/parks/outdoor recreation.
- Regarding housing – I find it difficult to see how having achieved an age of 78 new houses per annum over the last 14 years Midlothian will manage to produce 500+ per annum over 2 years . How many of the new housing stock will be eco friendly
- There is soooooo many houses going up in Midlothian and I think that there should be less houses and slightly more green areas so people feel it is a home and not just a house. The builders are cramming in houses like I cannot believe. Poor planning I would say.
- STOP BUILDING houses and improve the town sizes we already have
- The infrastructure of the Midlothian region and surrounding boundaries has to be taken into account before any more large scale housing projects are started. I still find it difficult to comprehend where the people are coming from to fill all the houses that have been and are being built.
- Over development of housing is a major concern. It comes hand in hand with the challenges relating to our climate catastrophe, the strain on the existing infrastructure and the quality and accessibility of the existing support services to the Midlothian community. As great a

community as it is, it is crazy to continue to scale it up without expecting decreased quality of these outputs. The focus should be on improving sites within the existing urban space, without expanding ever outwards and pulling in more people to choke services already over capacity.

- Most people understand the house building in Midlothian. We are a commuter area at the moment unless you regenerate town centers in Midlothian. However, I urge you to come up with a mechanism to attract doctors, dentists and other health care specialists into Midlothian, to work as well as live. The Community Hospital is an excellent example of providing a location that appeals to users and hopefully, the professionals. You are good at building integrated centers like Lasswade Centre. Use the same imagination to do the same for social care and health services. And then start to advertise Midlothian as a health care hub.
- The amount of planning being agreed for house building in Midlothian seems to be never ending....doctors surgeries cannot cope, schools are full to capacity and there is a lot of traffic congestion. The increased traffic caused by the fast food outlets at Tesco Hardengreen is causing congestion at the roundabout. This will discourage people from using Tesco as there isn't enough parking there now. The buses cannot possibly keep to time when they can't get out onto the roundabout at Tesco petrol station. I think it's great to open new retail units where there is enough open space for access roads and parking but not in places that are already congested. I'm surprised there hasn't been a serious accident at Tesco Hardengreen and the fast food outlets.
- Improve and upgrade infrastructure when agreeing to building new houses. Road and transport links appear unchanged in over 20 years in most of Midlothian. How many houses have been built in that time?
- Stop building houses roads and sewage systems cannot cope Midlothian's roads and rivers are a disgrace
- The need for affordable housing needs to be a priority
- Housing and infrastructure in Midlothian esp roads and repair what we have
- Stop building houses and upgrade empty houses to reduce wait times
- it seems to me if only 73.333 social houses we built per year 2006 - 2021 = 1100 (15 years) how are you going to manage 1000 homes in one year? in these straightened times, which they will be.
- Stop building houses roads and sewage systems cannot cope Midlothian's roads and rivers are a disgrace
- Barely any repairs currently being done to council housing. My mum's porch is literally falling to pieces and nothing being done to repair it. Insulation also meant to be happening but hasn't.
- There are areas of Midlothian that appear to get more funding than others, Gorebridge not being one of them! They built a skateboard park, sorry postage stamp course when there was more than enough room for a bigger one. They have tried on many occasions to close recreation parks again where there is room to improve such as pavilions. There are no decent facilities for Gorebridge unlike Bonnyrigg and Lasswade. Its easy to build new houses but not to create a better environment for people living there.

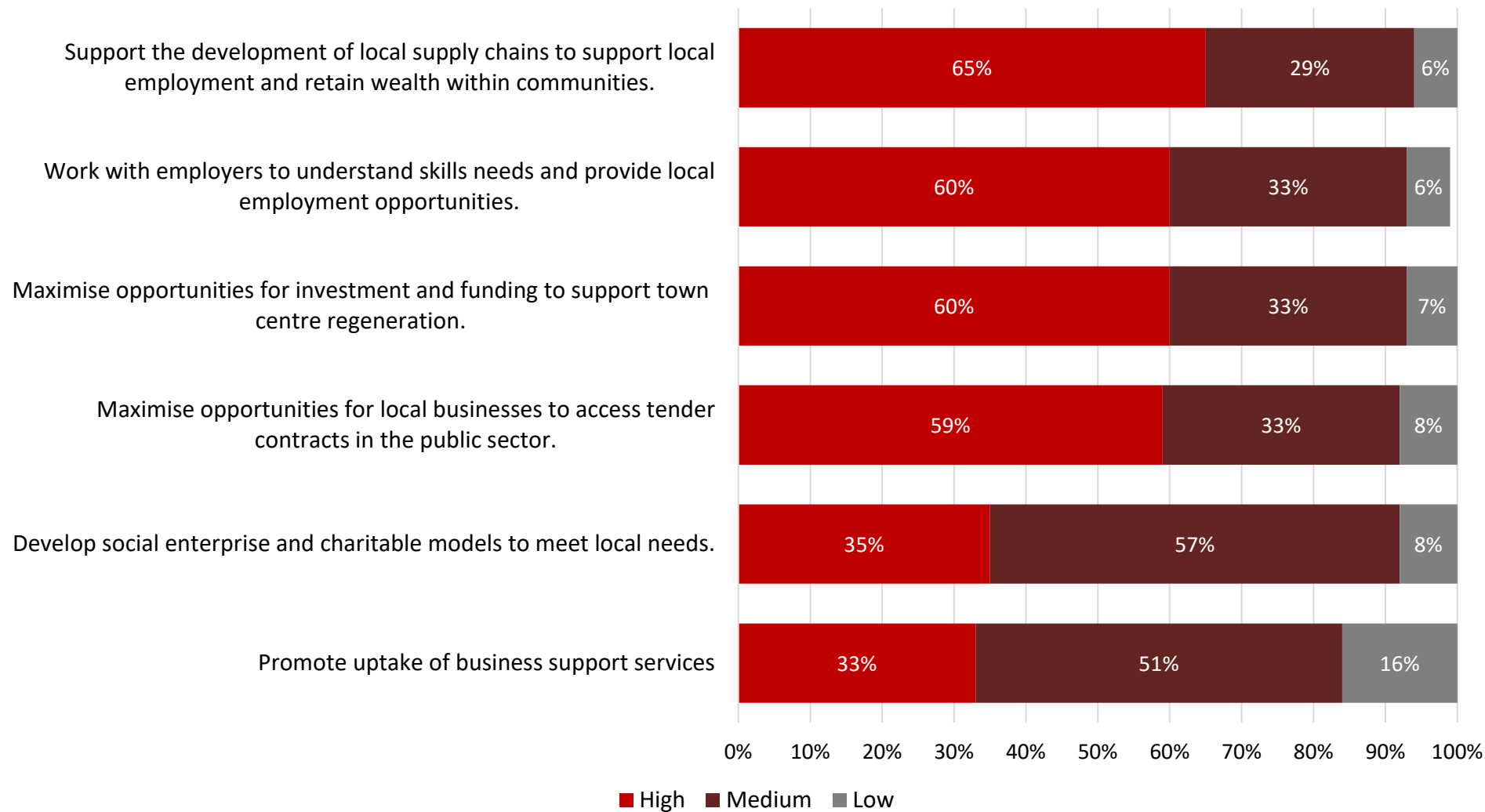


## Climate emergency – Our priorities



- There must be money to be made from recycling household waste
- Stop building on the few fields that we have left. Provide wild areas where animals and all sorts of nature can live. Give every primary school child a broad leaf tree sapling to plant - something that they can watch the progress of throughout their life.
- If the world is interested in the climate they should go for Nuclear Energy for all countries (India, China, USA) for the next 100 years so that technology can provide us with a viable alternative. Without China and India going gen 4 nuclear then what we do will not make any difference in the timescale.
- Get real! Go for realisable improvements rather than unrealisable perfection. Take full account of laws of physics and engineering, and view the big-picture. Obsession with small detail and wish-lists will be ineffective and will probably make things worse. For example, ban gas boilers and then burn gas to make electricity - REALLY bad! We need nuclear!
- Help provide funding so that people can insulate their own homes more effectively and cheaply. If the government are going to insist in upgrades they should pay for them as not everyone can afford the initiatives being foisted on them. The cladding happening in places like the Rankin Housing Estate in Edinburgh have been excellent and might be useful in other areas too, not just ex-council estates.
- Why isn't every new house built with solar roofs? Why can't private households with older properties get more access to grants that actually help them bring their property into line?
- Reduce emphasis on climate emergency - anything done within Midlothian will have negligible overall affect - use the money on housing and infrastructure.
- Make sure all new housing stock is as energy efficient as possible. Promote the use of electric vehicles. Get the council to report on key indicators yearly.
- Stop investing pensions in fossil fuels. More social eco-housing. Improve existing housing stock Rent controls for private rents. Help communities become producers/owners of renewables. Plant more trees. Use Vogrie as a sculpture and art centre to increase tourism and link shuttle bus to station
- Invest in a better recycling system.
- The climate emergency, how do we reduce our carbon footprint? Increase awareness and funding not just for the socially housed but those home owners too who want to make a difference
- More needs to be done by local government about the climate emergency
- The focus must be on the environment overall - improving all elements of greener living but also making Midlothian a more pleasant place to live by reducing litter, expanding green spaces, enlarging safe leisure spaces etc. This pays dividends in terms of preventing future problems in other areas.
- We need work, education, and a realistic and achievable, big-picture, response to the climate problems.
- make more roads, climate change , yes we should all do our bit but the amount of emissions UK puts out in a year is minimal compared to what China and America puts out in a day
- I would love to see an initiative set up between Dalkeith and St. David's High Schools for litter picking in the immediate area. I feel if students were made pick up litter, they would litter less.
- Who would want to come and live in Bonnyrigg when there are weeds everywhere and rubbish left lying. Spend a bit time tidying up and not removing green spaces.
- Regarding housing – I find it difficult to see how having achieved an age of 78 new houses per annum over the last 14 years Midlothian will manage to produce 500+ per annum over 2 years . How many of the new housing stock will be eco friendly

## Economic Growth – Our Priorities



- Gorebridge = Lack of competition for community shopping only 1 Scotmid. I have raised this question on a number of occasions only to be told there needs to be 10,000 in the village, the way Gorebridge has expanded in the last 10 years I question that policy
- Private landlords for business – too expensive, shops empty
- Make a study to find out if its viable to bring services back into the public sector. Bit old fashioned but that's me
- Listen to small employers to what is on offer to them
- Worthwhile job creation support
- Support local development trusts. Engage with experienced and skilled volunteers
- Provide infrastructure to make Midlothian a good place to site a business
- When constructing large things like wind farms, ships etc . This should be built and run by Scottish companies in Scotland.
- If you are going to offer something for one household, make sure it is available for all who need it.
- More support for community CAPITAL projects rather than just supporting consultants.
- Education of above items
- Heat exchange pump subsidies if possible; a serious attempt to provide cycling facilities to nearest town or retail centres (Dalkeith / B'rigg / Straiton)
- Improve engagement with local volunteers
- Build more council houses (not just affordable ones). More support for food banks to help people in poverty. Something to replace universal credit to help poorer families. An increase in council tax to pay for various services that have been run down (e.g. road resurfacing. All welfare services. I believe most people wont object to an increase in tax if the money is seen to be well spent
- Roads and transport issues at Straiton and to and from Penicuik need urgently addressed and investment made to improve this very busy area.

## Other comments not covered in the questions:

- I think the way this form is designed is to lead people to answer in the direction the MCPP wants.
- On the whole they are doing a great job, with the resources they have, but how many people within Midlothian know exactly what happens with the council planning partnership.
- I am happy with most of the services I receive. I understand the budget restraints put on local councils and the impact Covid has had on the whole country. We have to keep lobbying government for more money to finance all projects in Midlothian. All in all it seems planning partnership is good. Considering all the restraints put on councils these days.
- These surveys are meaningless the council does what it wants
- As someone who has lived my entire life within one Midlothian town I have witnessed massive changes - mainly due to the constant expansion of our towns and the vast population that the county now needs to provide for. Every single person is impacted in some way or another, whether it is frustrations on the crowded roads or difficulties in accessing local services such as doctor's appointments. Along with this I feel there has grown a vast amount of selfishness and a great loss of the community spirit that existed when the various Midlothian towns were much smaller (e.g. if a family was in difficulty neighbours would help out). We ALL need to be encouraged to find ways to re-engage with our communities and stop leaving everything to the local authorities.
- With the influx of new people into new housing schemes, we need to use their skills and expertise to build our communities rather than being an offshoot of Edinburgh. So some sort of pride in Midlothian campaign and what makes us special.
- Get individual communities to work together and provide support where possible, within Midlothian rather than having to go outside the area for it, bring facilities into Midlothian rather than contribute to those outside, where people cannot always access them. These could be micromanaged by local people in each area.
- More local policing, less housing development, more job opportunities. Speak to people rather than doing everything on the internet
- Definitely don't get it right for every child. Choices for parents not available
- Introduce more practical work for criminal justice teams, clean up areas etc
- Good education and sound employment prospects would help many of these problems for families involved in these traumas
- There is a huge talent pool in the over 60's age group. This resource is available and willing to help. Midlothian Council needs to engage
- In general the aims set out tend to be laudable, but it would be interesting to know how some of the changes aimed for can be brought about. We are looking at words not deeds
- Following Covid 19 we should be prioritising activity in outdoor events and hobbies with the provision of suitable facilities.
- Lend more support to initiatives led by the third sector and social enterprises that know their communities better than the council does. Promote and encourage efforts for communities to support themselves. Don't strip village communities of their local assets for centralised community hubs that serve the mobile able-bodied.
- Scottish Govt needs to look after the Middle/working class men and women so country's GDP can go up by providing childcare opportunities like Nordic countries.
- Community police officers who walk their beat; and these huge housing estates are not user friendly to forge a proper community; many more facilities made available in schools after hours to promote development of other artistic skills or give help to those who have fallen behind in basic education.



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如有需要我們樂意提供翻譯本，和其他版本的資訊與刊物，包括盲人點字、錄音帶或大字體。

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