



*'a great green
place to grow'*

Midlothian Citizens' Panel 2026 Survey

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engage
scotland

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Introduction

This report presents findings from the 2026 Midlothian Citizens' Panel survey and wider in-person community engagement conducted to support development of the Single Midlothian Plan. The survey and engagement sessions sought views on the overall vision for the Plan, and were structured around the following themes:

- Children, young people and families.
- Reducing poverty and financial challenges.
- Employability and skills.
- Safer communities.
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- Climate resilience.
- Community learning, volunteering and belonging.
- Healthier and living well.
- Building community wealth.

Across the Citizens' Panel survey and community engagement sessions, a total of 666 Midlothian residents shared their views. This has provided a rich evidence base for analysis of views and priorities across the above themes.

The Citizens' Panels

The Midlothian Citizens Panel was first established in 2003 as a vehicle to gather the views of local residents, and is one of a range of mechanisms used by the Community Planning Partnership to include local communities in its work. Panel membership is open to all adult Midlothian residents. Regular refreshment exercises are undertaken to maintain engagement and ensure that members are as representative as possible of the wider population.

Engage Scotland were commissioned in 2025 to manage the Citizens' Panel, including regular Panel refreshment and delivery of the ongoing Panel engagement programme. The most recent Panel refreshment commenced in spring 2026, and sought to recruit a full replacement Panel. This exercise also sought to establish a new Young Citizens Panel for residents aged 12-17.

The 2026 survey

The 2026 survey was designed to support ongoing development of the Single Midlothian Plan, and ensure the Plan reflects residents' priorities. The survey asked for Panel members' views on the overall vision for the Plan and on specific issues related to the main themes noted above.

Survey fieldwork and response

Survey fieldwork ran from May to August 2026. Questionnaires were issued via email and by post to all Panel members, based individuals' stated communication preferences. However, all members had the opportunity to respond online, by post or by telephone.

A total of 401 responses were received by survey close. This is a positive response, and crucially is sufficient to support statistically robust analysis. Overall survey results are accurate to $\pm 4.9\%$ based on a 50% estimate at the 95% confidence interval.

The profile of survey respondents is summarised at Appendix 1: Profile of survey response. This indicates that survey responses include a good cross-section of Midlothian residents, although there is some under-representation of those aged under 45, those living in rented accommodation and those with a disability. Survey data was weighted by age and housing tenure to minimise the impact of this imbalance.

Survey results

Survey analysis involved production of frequency results for 'closed' survey questions. Framework analysis has been used for open-ended responses to ensure a systematic approach. Responses can be assigned more than one theme where multiple points are raised. We also present illustrative direct quotes from written survey responses – these may have been lightly edited for clarity and brevity.

Community engagement sessions

Alongside Citizens' Panel fieldwork, Midlothian Council also ran a series of 17 local community engagement drop-in sessions across the area.

Sessions considered the same set of Single Midlothian Plan themes on which the Panel survey was based, and also provided an opportunity for residents to raise other issues.

This report

This report presents findings from both Citizens' Panel surveys, and the Council-run community engagement sessions.

The main body of the report presents survey findings on each topic in turn, with key messages highlighted at the start of each chapter. Key points of note for the presentation of survey results are:

- Recruitment of the Young Citizens' Panel is ongoing, and at the time of the 2026 survey membership was not sufficient to enable separate analysis of results. Results presented in this report are therefore based on combined responses from both Panels.
- Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number and for some questions this means that percentages may not sum to 100%.
- The total number of respondents to each question is shown as the 'base' or 'n: XXX'. This may vary due to question non-response, including where respondents are 'routed' past questions based on their previous answers.

A separate report of the engagement sessions has been produced by Midlothian Council. This sets out key findings across the main Single Midlothian Plan themes, as well as additional cross-cutting themes emerging through the sessions. This is provided at [Appendix 2: Report of community engagement sessions](#).

Our Vision for Midlothian

Key messages

The main themes for how respondents would like Midlothian to be by 2050 were: housing, development and infrastructure/amenities; community and inclusion; environment, climate and green space; and local economy, jobs and town centres.

The most common suggestions for themes that are missing from the vision were: housing, infrastructure and public services/amenities; community, belonging and participation; and vision clarity, ambition and delivery.

The most common suggestions for additional or expanded priorities were: environment, climate and green space; transport, roads and active travel; health and social care; and safety, policing and antisocial behaviour.

The first part of the survey sought Panel members' views on the vision for Midlothian and key priorities to be set out in the Single Midlothian Plan.

The first survey questions asked Panel members how they would like Midlothian to be by 2050, and whether anything is missing from the vision for Midlothian below:

By 2050, Midlothian will be a place where people feel they belong, have chances to succeed, and can enjoy a good quality of life. Fewer people will be living in poverty, the local economy will offer fair opportunities, and a resilient natural environment.

Around three quarters of respondents provided written comment about how they would like Midlothian to be by 2050. Around a quarter of those providing comment expressed general support for the vision set out above, including broad aspirations for Midlothian to be a thriving and vibrant area, and to ensure a high quality of life for residents. Other common themes are summarised at Figure 1 and illustrative quotes provided over the page.

The main themes in terms of how respondents would like Midlothian to be by 2050 were:

- Housing, managed development, infrastructure and amenities (mentioned by 37% of those providing comment).

- Community, belonging and inclusion (33%).
- Environment, climate and green space (32%).
- Local economy, jobs and town centres (31%).

Figure 1: How would you like Midlothian to be by 2050?

Themes	%
Housing, managed development, infrastructure and amenities Housing supply and affordability, the pace of housing development pace, population growth and planning, ensuring infrastructure and amenities/services keep pace with population growth.	37%
Community, belonging and inclusion Community identity and cohesion, sense of belonging, inclusion and welcoming communities, equality and respect.	33%
Environment, climate and green space Green space and countryside, climate resilience, biodiversity and wildlife, net zero and sustainability.	32%
Local economy, jobs and town centres Jobs and businesses, supporting high streets/town centres, investment, enterprise.	31%
Transport, roads and active travel Public transport, roads and traffic, public transport (rail and buses), active travel (walking and cycling) and car dependence.	29%
Safety, crime and antisocial behaviour Safety, crime and antisocial behaviour (including vandalism and drugs), policing.	28%
Health, healthcare and social care GPs, dentists, hospitals and NHS services, pharmacies, public health and wellbeing, social care.	27%
Education, schools and lifelong learning Schools and nurseries, teachers, lifelong learning, Additional Support Needs, apprenticeships and further education.	22%
Children, young people and family support Opportunities for children and young people, supporting families, older people and intergenerational needs.	20%

Base (number of respondents providing written comment): 276.

Illustrative quotes

Housing development & infrastructure

"Retain its green spaces and identity – a sensible approach to modernisation and housing development."

"No more houses. Access to GPs and dentists, schools available to all."

"Infrastructure such as roads, transport, healthcare better fit the needs of the growing population."

Community & inclusion

"People are not passive or disempowered, but have meaningful engagement – a place that is inclusive and welcoming."

"A safe community – no matter race, age or sexuality."

"A place that people feel more proud of, and are subsequently more willing to engage with their community."

Environment, climate and green space

"Towns having their own identity with green space. Not merged with ever increasing housing developments."

"The natural environment needs to expand - restore native local species."

"To be carbon negative – infrastructure incentivises using cars as little as possible, green spaces in a good ecological state."

Local economy and jobs

"A place where there is local employment opportunities, and where local school leavers do not have to move away."

"Businesses with job opportunities, connections to all towns and villages."

"Pride in Midlothian - care taken of towns and villages, empty buildings used, town centres looking their best."

The survey also asked Panel members if there was anything missing from the draft vision. Around two thirds of respondents provided written comment here, with around 1 in 10 of these indicating that they felt the vision was comprehensive. Key themes raised by other respondents are summarised at Figure 2 and illustrative quotes provided over the page.

The most common suggestions for themes that are missing from the vision were:

- Housing, infrastructure and public services/amenities (mentioned by 23% of those providing comment).
- Community, belonging and participation (20%).
- Vision clarity, ambition and delivery (20%).

Figure 2: Is there anything missing from our vision?

Themes	%
Housing, infrastructure and public services/amenities Housing supply/quality, new development, suitability of infrastructure/amenities, green-belt development, local/public services keeping pace with demand.	23%
Community, belonging and participation A sense of community belonging, sense of identity, pride, community development, local participation and influence.	20%
Vision clarity, ambition and delivery Calls for a clearer vision, more ambitious, with deliverable and measurable plans.	20%
Environment, climate and green space Green spaces and countryside, biodiversity, climate resilience, sustainability and pollution.	18%
Transport, roads and active travel Public transport (rail and buses), roads, traffic, active travel and connectivity.	16%
Health, wellbeing and social care Health services (GPs, dentists), wellbeing, social care and long-term conditions.	15%
Local economy, jobs and town centres Job opportunities, businesses, standard of high streets and shops, town-centre renewal and investment.	13%
Education, children and young people Education, schools, apprenticeships, activities for children/young people, childcare.	12%

Base (number of respondents providing written comment): 225.

Illustrative quotes

Housing development & services

"There is nothing about core services (education, housing, health) that are essential features of everyone's lives."

"More infrastructure for the much needed social housing now being built."

"I would like strict limits on housing expansion onto green belt and farming land, more effort to use brown land."

Community & participation

"Commitment to communities of place and of type of person - shared experiences shaping public bodies' decisions."

"Volunteering, active citizenship, community are supported and enabled."

"I think connection is important here - both in terms of travel, but also reducing loneliness and isolation."

Vision clarity & ambition

"It feels a bit underwhelming, the language in particular. I'm not sure if it is enough to inspire and motivate."

"It's full of words – make shorter and more concise. Talk is cheap."

"The vision is broad and aspirational – it's the detail of the priorities and how the vision is achieved that matters."

Environment & green space

"Nothing about reducing our impact on the environment. Change to 'a sustainable and good quality of life'."

"Mitigations to help cope with climate change, tree planting, rewilding."

"Green spaces should be protected and preserved, not continually sacrificed to make way for large housing"

Panel members were also asked to consider the priority themes identified for the 2027-2030 Single Midlothian Plan, and whether there is anything else that should be included. Around two thirds of respondents provided written comment here, with around 1 in 10 of these indicating that there was nothing else to be added. Key themes raised by other respondents are summarised at Figure 3 and illustrative quotes provided over the page.

The most common suggestions for additional or expanded priorities were:

- Environment, climate and green space (21% of those providing written comment).
- Transport, roads and active travel (21%).
- Health and social care (16%).
- Safety, policing and antisocial behaviour (16%).

Figure 3: Is there anything else you think we should include as a priority?

Themes	%
Environment, climate and green space Climate resilience, natural environment, biodiversity, green space, sustainability and renewables.	21%
Transport, roads and active travel Public transport, roads, traffic, active travel (walking/cycling) and connectivity.	21%
Health and social care Access to health services (GPs, dentists, mental health services), wellbeing and public health, carers and social care.	16%
Safety, policing and antisocial behaviour Safety, policing, crime and antisocial behaviour.	16%
Housing, homelessness and managed development Housing supply and quality, access to housing, homelessness, development and planning.	14%
Infrastructure, amenities and public services Infrastructure, facilities and amenities, ensuring sufficient public services.	14%
Local economy, jobs and town centres Jobs, benefits, local businesses, town centres, industry and economic growth.	13%
Education and additional support needs Schools and education, training, colleges, Additional Support Needs.	10%

Base (number of respondents providing written comment): 229.

Illustrative quotes

Environment, climate & green space

"Outdoor access so people can connect with nature - it is the only part of the 2050 plan not mentioned in here."

"Preserving the green spaces which define our county."

"'Climate' is quite a vague term - more specifics like housing design for climate change, renewables, protecting nature."

Transport, roads & active travel

"Infrastructure first approach - get the roads, transport, and community services coordinated before development."

"Improved active travel networks helping to support net zero."

"Increased bus routes within Midlothian, better connection to neighbouring local authority areas."

Health & social care

"Older people and loneliness. Dementia care. Ensuring that GP services are available and accessible to all."

"More GP practices, better access for mental health services."

"There should be an additional priority for disability and ASN, not being considered only within other themes."

Safety, policing & ASB

"Antisocial behaviour in our town centre is a big problem, I'd like to see more visible steps to reduce this."

"More community police officers in all locations in Midlothian."

"Better police and court powers, so the punishment fits the crime, so people think twice about crime."

Children, Young People and Families

Key messages

Respondents most commonly prefer to get information about services for children, young people and families via local services and venues.

Social media and online safety was the most common worry about children and young people growing up today.

Safe/well-lit spaces, spaces that welcome everyone, and activities for different ages were the main suggestions for making places feel safe, welcoming and inclusive.

Support in schools/youth clubs, and inclusive activities and spaces were the main suggestions to make children and young people feel safer, included and supported.

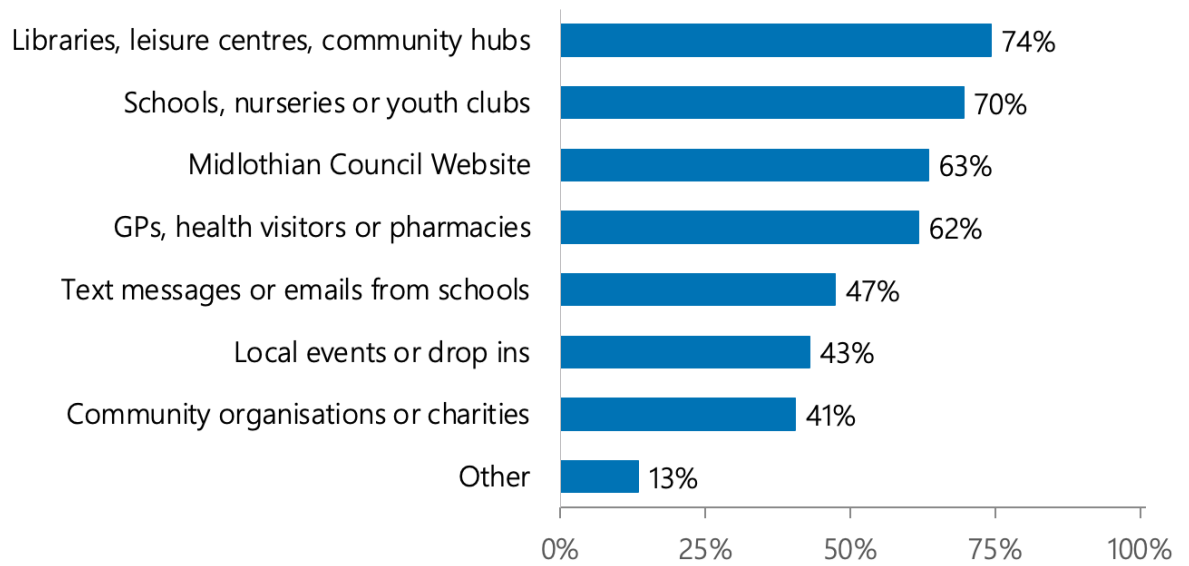
Regular updates and clear timescales would help make it easier for Panel members if they were on a waiting list for support for their family.

This section considers Panel members' views on the first theme for the Single Midlothian Plan: Children, Young People and Families.

Information on services

Panel members were most likely to prefer getting information about services for children, young people and families via local services and venues; 74% mentioned libraries, leisure centres or community hubs, 70% mentioned schools, nurseries or youth clubs, and 62% mentioned GPs, health visitors or pharmacies. Information via the Council website was also a commonly preferred option (63%).

Figure 4: How would you prefer to get information about services for children, young people and families?



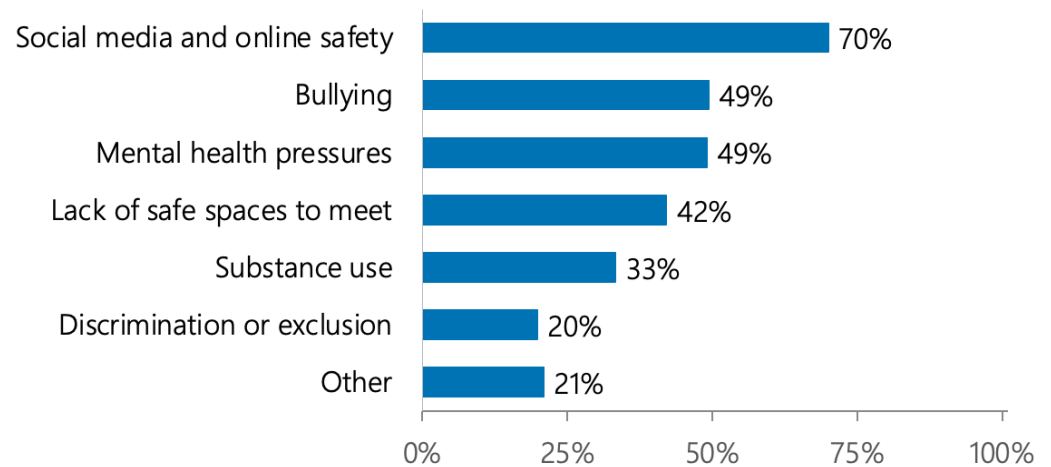
Base: 353. Note respondents could select multiple options.

Safe and supported

Social media and online safety was Panel members' main worry about children and young people growing up today (mentioned by 70% of respondents). Other common worries included bullying (49%), mental health pressures (49%) and a lack of safe spaces to meet (42%).

Those answering 'other' were invited to provide written comment. The main themes raised by these respondents were: antisocial behaviour, vandalism and gangs; a lack of hopes and aspirations amongst young people; and the quality and resourcing of education services.

Figure 5: What worries you most about children and young people growing up today?



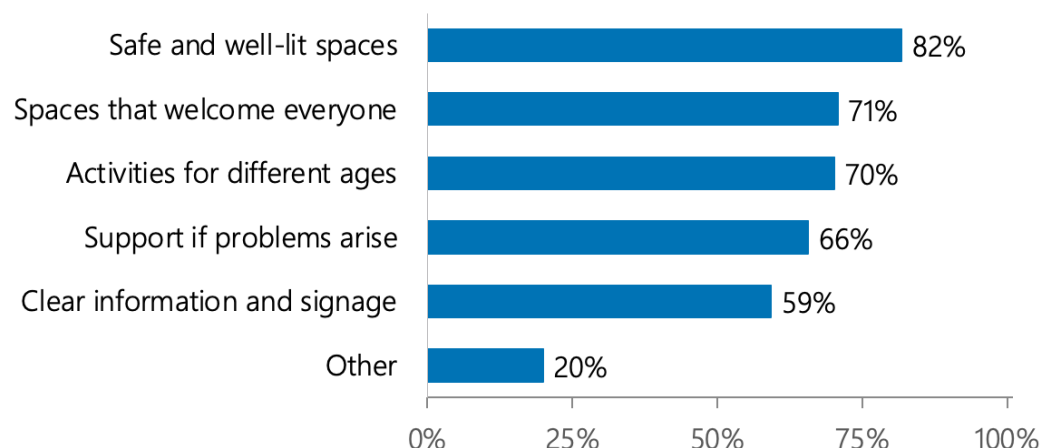
Base: 362. Note respondents could select up to three options.

In terms of making places feel safe, welcoming and inclusive, Panel members supported all of the options listed at Figure 6. Safe and well-lit spaces (mentioned by 82%), spaces that welcome everyone (71%) and activities for different ages (70%) were the most common suggestions.

In terms of helping children and young people feel safer, included and supported (Figure 7), the main suggestions were support in schools and youth clubs (mentioned by 73%), and inclusive activities and spaces (61%).

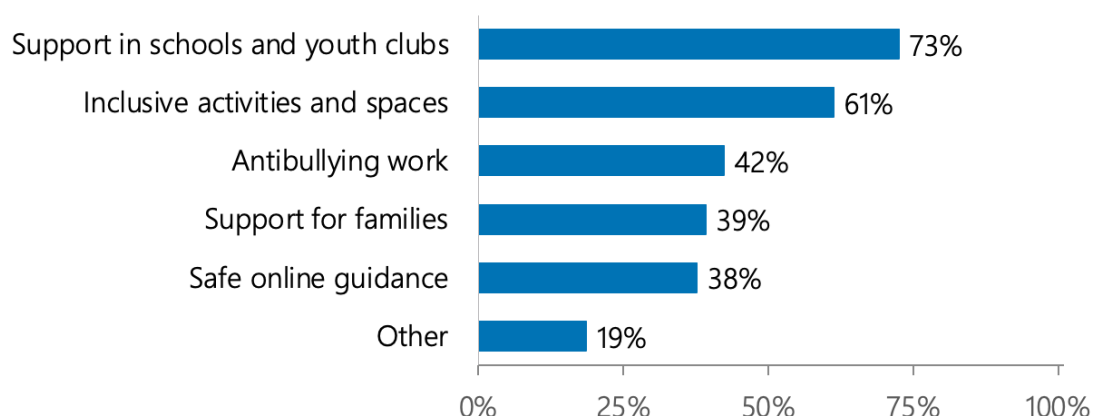
Around 1 in 5 respondents provided written comments with other suggestions for making children and families safe and supported. The most common theme was policing, safety and antisocial behaviour, including police presence and enforcement. Other points included: accessibility and public transport; the role of school support and guidance; strength of community connection; and youth activities, clubs & positive opportunities

Figure 6: What helps places feel safe, welcoming and inclusive for you and your family?



Base: 357. Note respondents could select multiple options.

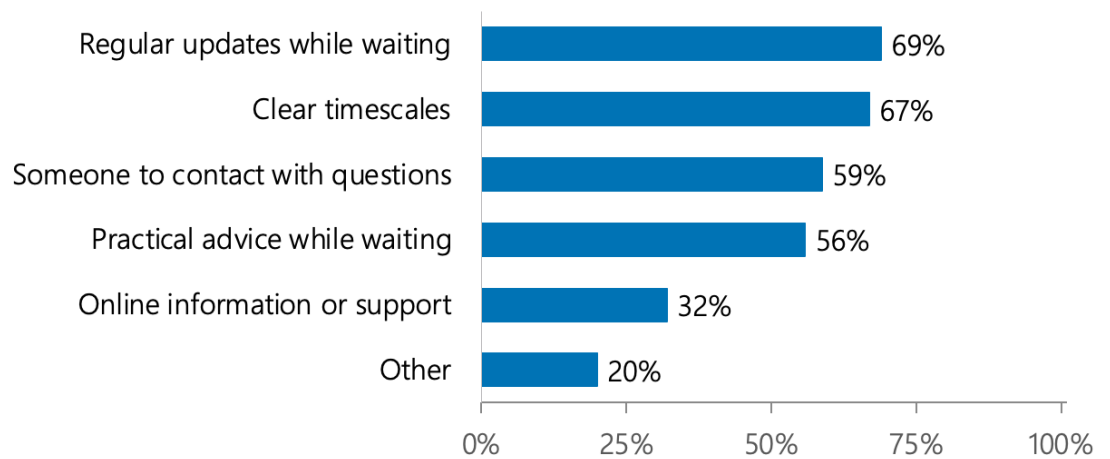
Figure 7: What would help children and young people feel safer, included and supported?



Base: 358. Note respondents could select up to three options.

Panel members were most likely to feel that regular updates and clear timescales would help make it easier if they were on a waiting list for support (these were mentioned by 69% and 67% respectively). Someone to contact with questions (59%) and practical advice (56%) were also commonly supported.

Figure 8: If you or your family have ever been on a waiting list for support, what would have helped make this easier?



Base: 270. Note respondents could select multiple options.

Reducing Poverty and Financial Challenges

Key messages

Community hubs/libraries, Midlothian Council Website (61%) and GP/pharmacy were the main suggestions to let people know about support for money worries.

Availability of confidential one-to-one support is the main thing that would make it easier for Panel members to ask for help with money worries.

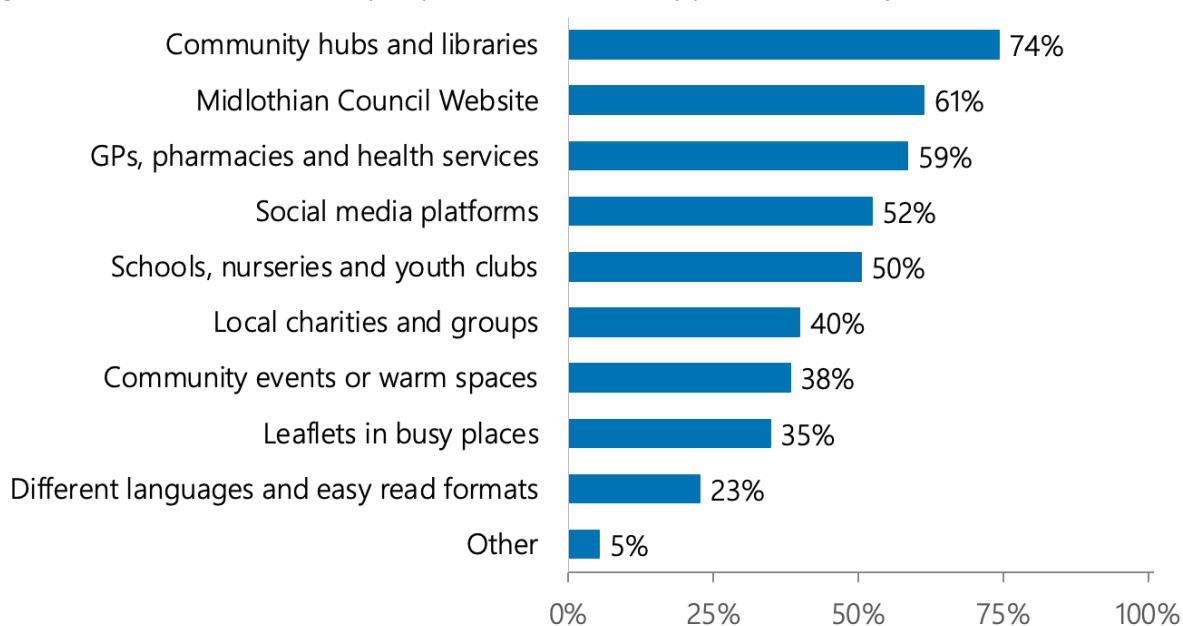
Help with energy bills was by some margin the most commonly mentioned type of support with money worries.

This section considers Panel members' views on the second theme for the Single Midlothian Plan: Reducing Poverty & Financial Challenges.

Helping people get support for money worries

Community hubs and libraries (mentioned by 74%), the Midlothian Council Website (61%) and GPs and pharmacies (59%) were the main suggestions for letting people know about support for money worries. Social media platforms (52%) and schools, nurseries and youth clubs (50%) were also popular options.

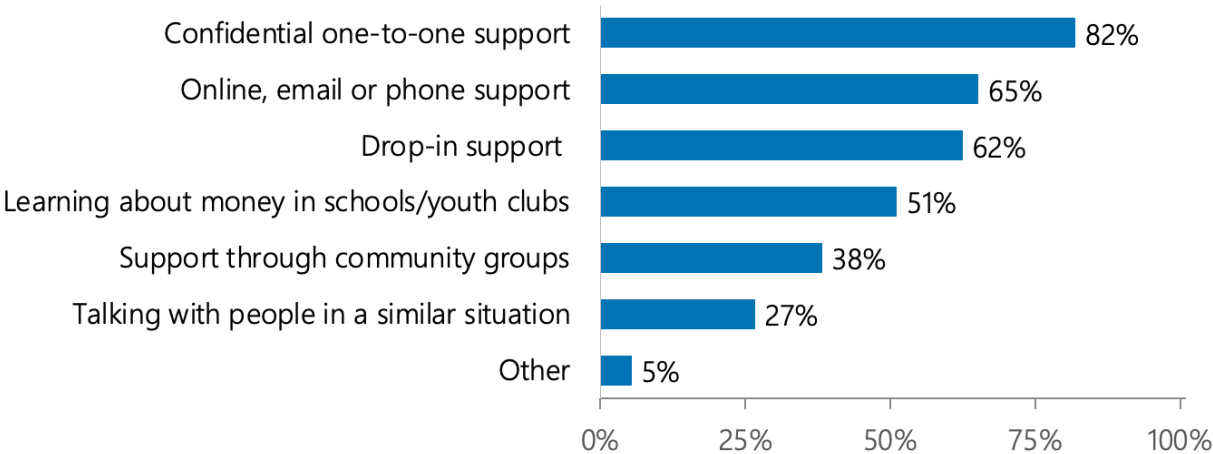
Figure 9: How should we let people know about support for money worries?



Base: 347. Note respondents could select up to five options.

Availability of confidential one-to-one support is the main thing that would make it easier for Panel members to ask for help with money worries; this was mentioned by 82%. Online, email or phone support (65%) and drop-in support (62%) were also common suggestions.

Figure 10: What would make it easier for you or others to ask for help with money worries?

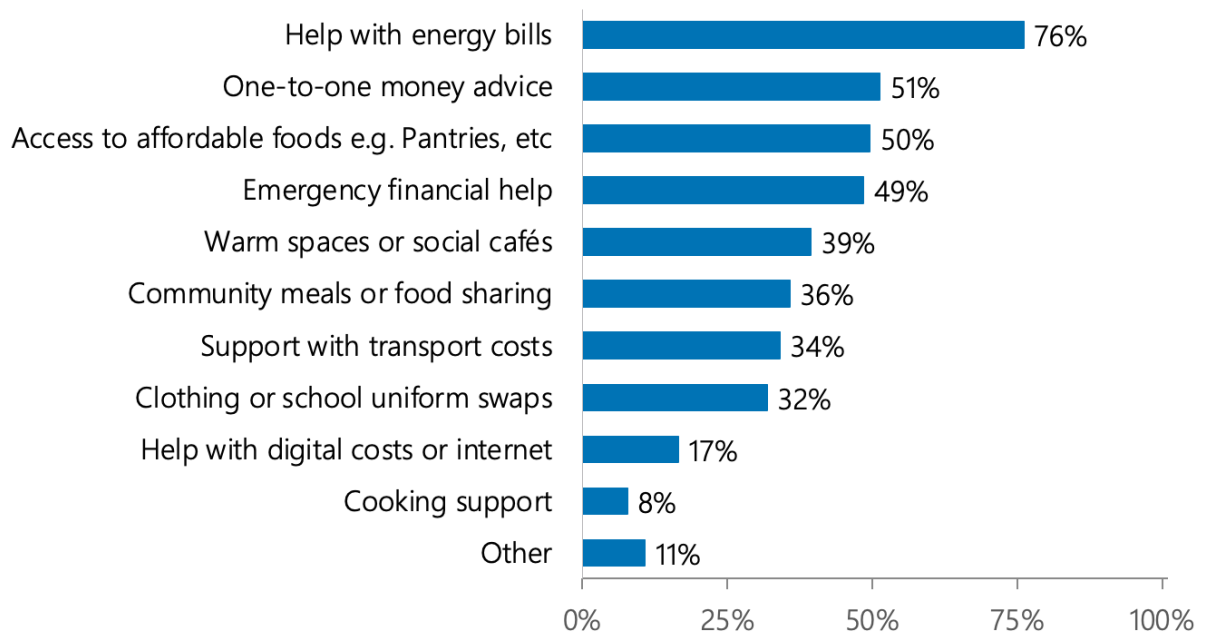


Base: 337. Note respondents could select multiple options.

Support for money worries

Help with energy bills was by some margin the most commonly mentioned type of support with money worries (76%). One-to-one money advice (51%), access to affordable foods such as via Pantries (50%) and emergency financial help were also mentioned by a substantial proportion of respondents.

Figure 11: If you were worried about money, what support would help you most?



Base: 336. Note respondents could select up to five options.

Employability and Skills

Key messages

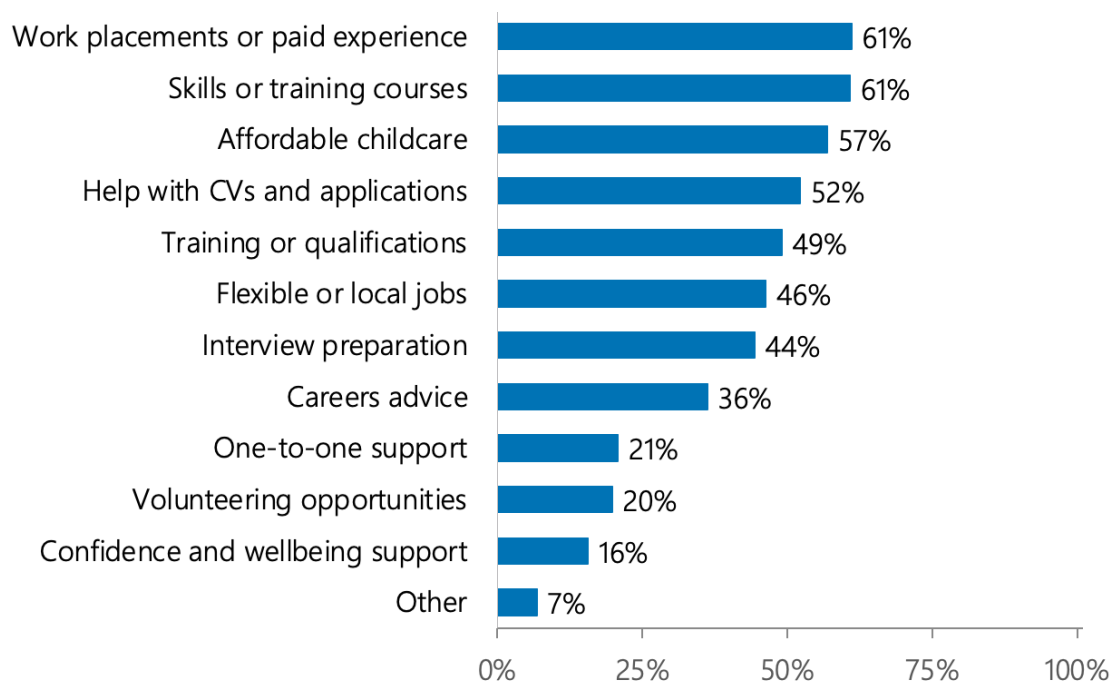
Work placements/experience, skills or training courses, and affordable childcare were the main suggestions for support to help people find/stay in work or move into higher paying jobs.

The most common suggestions to support people of all ages to secure employment were help finding flexible or family friendly jobs, and access to work experience or volunteering.

This section considers Panel members' views on the third theme for the Single Midlothian Plan: Employability and Skills.

Panel members saw a role for various types of support to help people to find or stay in work, or move into higher paying jobs. The most commonly mentioned were: work placements or paid work experience (61%), skills or training courses (61%), and affordable childcare (57%). There was also support for provision of help with CVs and applications (52%) and training or qualifications (49%).

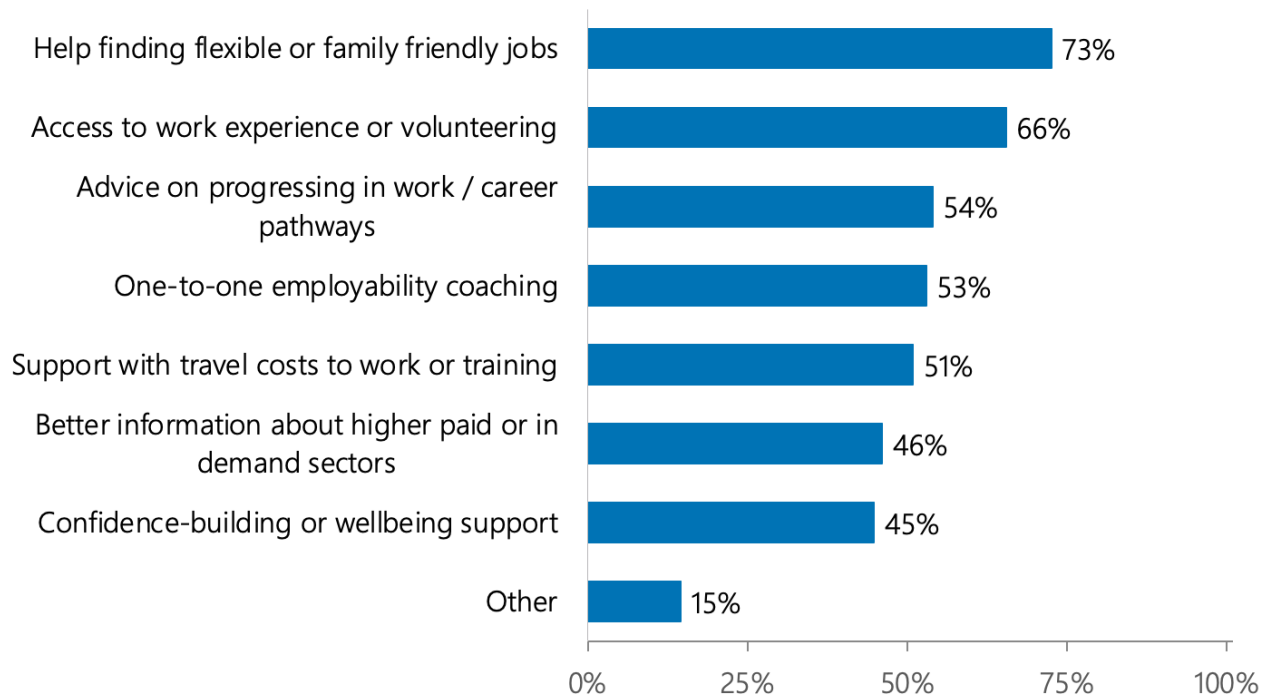
Figure 12: What types of support would help people find or stay in work, or move into higher-paying jobs?



Base: 340. Note respondents could select up to five options.

In terms of supporting people of all ages to secure employment, the most common suggestions were help finding flexible or family friendly jobs (73%) and access to work experience or volunteering (66%). There was also support for provision of advice on progressing in work/career pathways (54%), one-to-one employability coaching (53%) and support with travel costs (51%).

Figure 13: How can we better support people of all ages to secure employment, increase hours, or get a higher-paid job?



Base: 338. Note respondents could select multiple options.

Safer Communities

Key messages

Suggestions to improve safety for women and girls were education about healthy relationships and consent, positive male role models, consequences for violent or abusive behaviour, and challenging attitudes or behaviours.

The main suggestions to help women and girls feel safer when accessing help if experiencing violence included services working together so people do not have to repeat their experiences, and clear and accessible information about services.

Top priorities help people to avoid offending or re-offending were early intervention and prevention, supporting victims/survivors, and alcohol/drug recovery support.

Preventing offending at the earliest opportunity and supporting victims and survivors were ranked as the top priorities for the Community Justice Partnership.

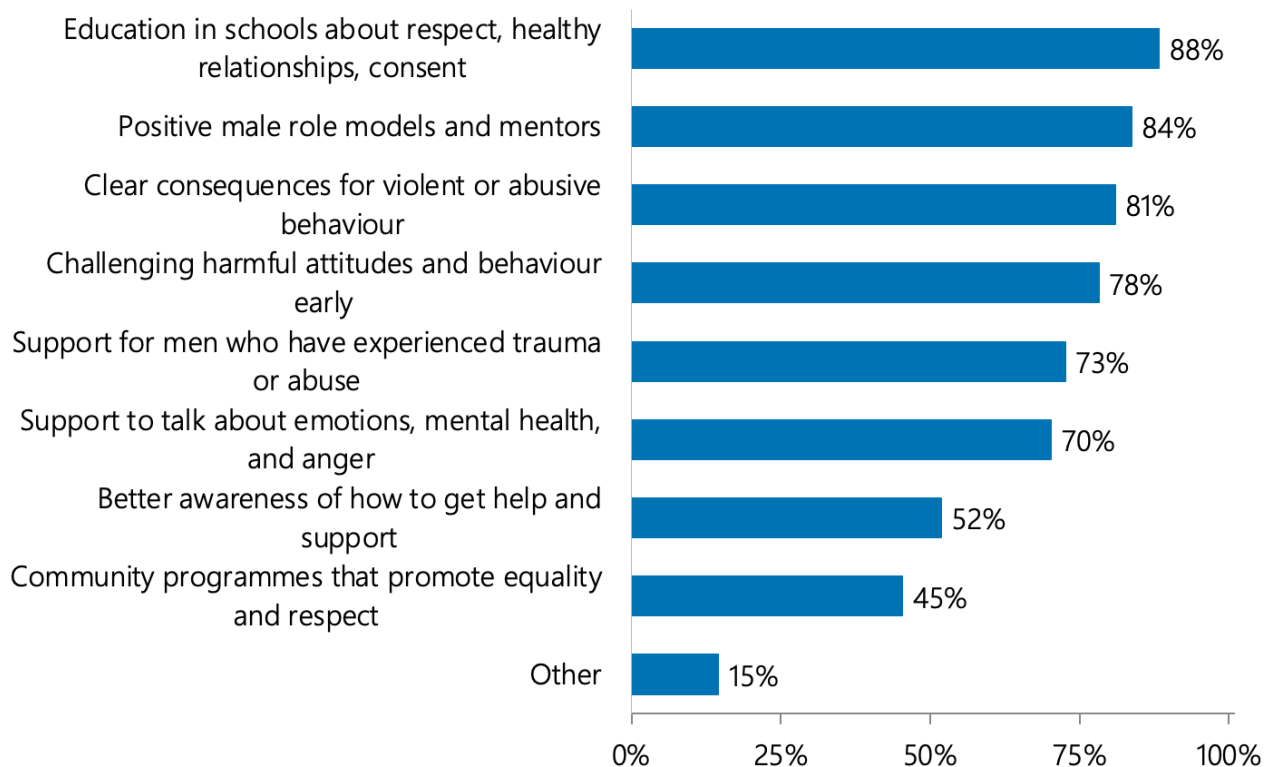
This section considers Panel members' views on the fourth theme for the Single Midlothian Plan: Safer Communities.

Safety of women and girls

Equally Safe is Scotland's national strategy to tackle male violence against women and girls, supporting work in Midlothian including on domestic abuse, controlling behaviour, harassment, and misogyny. Around 1 in 5 respondents (18%) had heard of Equally Safe prior to receiving the Citizens' Panel survey.

Panel members expressed support for a range of approaches to help men and boys build healthy attitudes about respect and relationships. The most commonly supported were education in schools about respect, healthy relationships, consent (mentioned by 88%), positive male role models and mentors (84%), and clear consequences for violent or abusive behaviour (81%). The majority of respondents also supported challenging harmful attitudes and behaviour early (78%), support for men who have experienced trauma or abuse (73%), and support to talk about emotions, mental health, and anger (70%).

Figure 14: What would help men and boys to build healthy attitudes about respect and relationships?

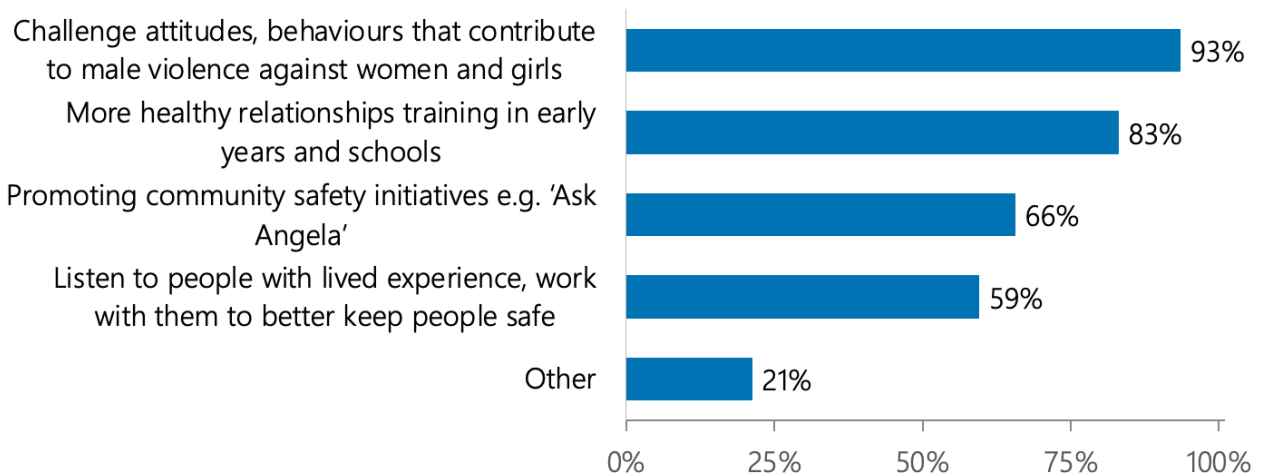


Base: 323. Note respondents could select multiple options.

The main suggestions to make women and girls feel safe in Midlothian were challenging attitudes and behaviours that contribute to male violence against women and girls (mentioned by 93%) and more healthy relationships training in early years and schools (83%). There was also support for promoting community safety initiatives (66%) and listening to people with lived experience (59%).

Those answering 'other' were invited to provide written comment. The main themes raised by these respondents were: policing, justice and consequences; safer public spaces including lighting and CCTV; and community initiatives/activities to support safe social connection.

Figure 15: How do we make women and girls feel safe in Midlothian?

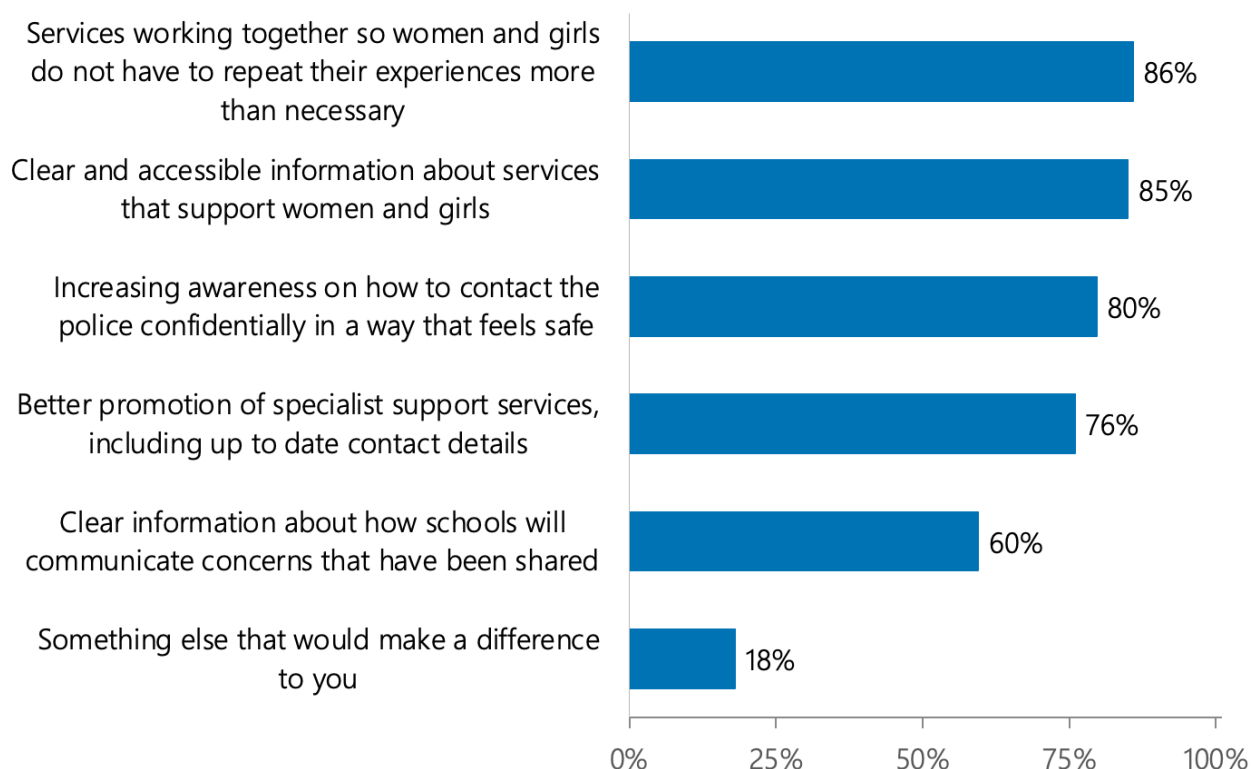


Base: 324. Note respondents could select multiple options.

In terms of helping women and girls feel safer when accessing help if experiencing violence, harassment or abuse, the main suggestions were services working together so people do not have to repeat their experiences (mentioned by 86%), and clear and accessible information about support services (85%). There was also support for increasing awareness on how to contact the police confidentially in a way that feels safe (80%), and better promotion of specialist support services (76%).

Those answering 'something else' were invited to provide written comment. The main themes raised by these respondents were: more support services, groups and safe spaces; policing, justice and consequences; and trauma-informed, non-judgemental service response including better training and awareness raising for services and staff.

Figure 16: What would help women and girls feel safer and more supported when accessing help if experiencing violence, harassment or abuse?



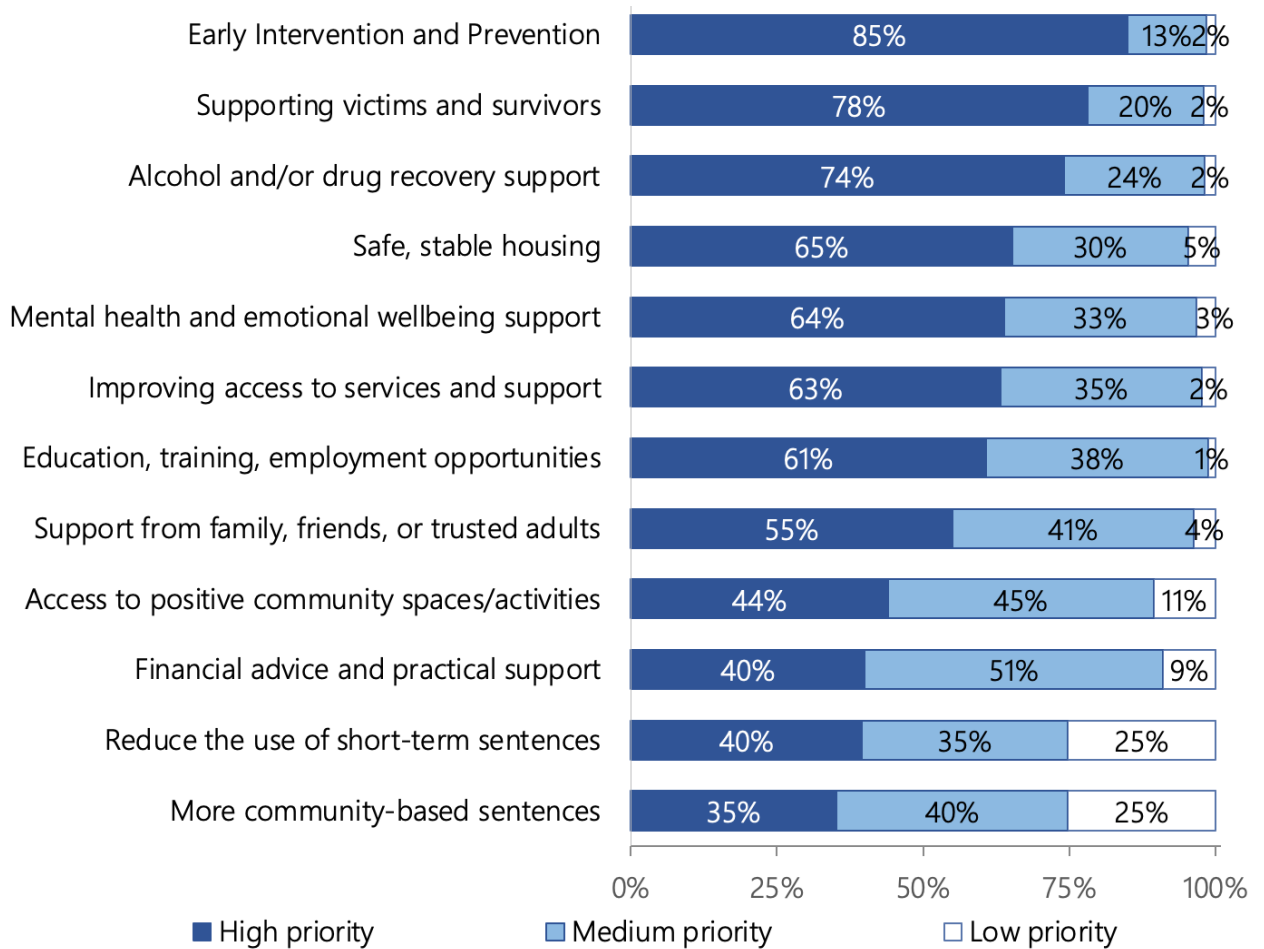
Base: 315. Note respondents could select multiple options.

Helping people avoid offending or re-offending

Panel members were asked about how they would prioritise various types of support to help people to avoid offending or re-offending.

The top priorities as identified by respondents were: early intervention and prevention (85% rated this as "high priority"), supporting victims and survivors (78%), and alcohol and/or drug recovery support (74%). Other types of support rated as high priority include safe, stable housing (65%), mental health and emotional wellbeing support (64%), improving access to services and support (63%) and education, training, or employment (61%).

Figure 17: What types of support helps people to avoid offending or re-offending?



Base: 321. Note respondents could select multiple options.

The survey also gave Panel members the opportunity to suggest other types of support that should be put in place.

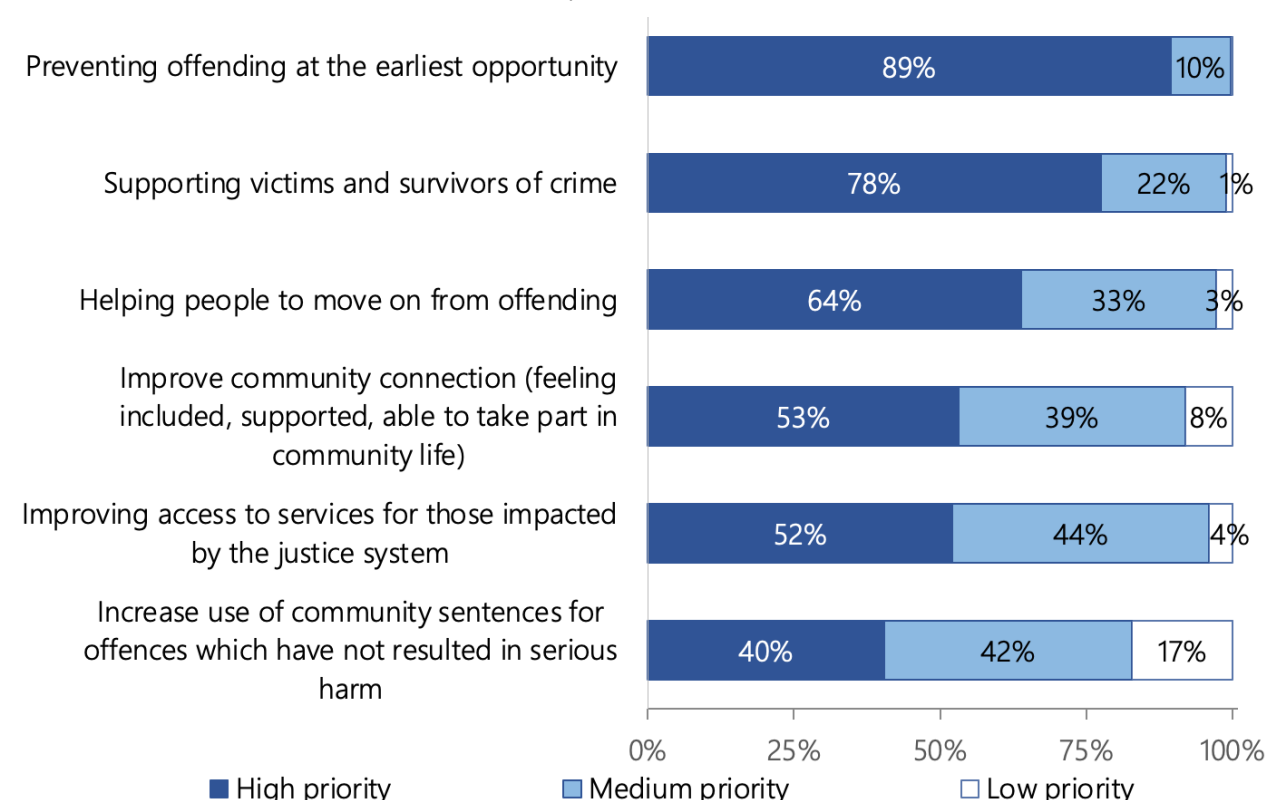
Around 1 in 5 respondents provided written comments here. These comments referred to a number of the types of support listed at Figure 17 above, such as early intervention and prevention, victim support and employment opportunities. Other suggestions included: sentencing, justice and public protection; rehabilitation, recovery and reducing reoffending; and housing, financial & resettlement support.

Community justice

The survey asked Panel members to rank a range of priorities for the Midlothian Community Justice Partnership.

Preventing offending at the earliest opportunity and supporting victims and survivors of crime were ranked as the top priorities; a large majority of respondents ranked each of these as high priorities (89% and 78% respectively). Other highly ranked priorities included helping people to move on from offending (64%), improving community connection (53%) and improving access to services for those impacted by the justice system (52%).

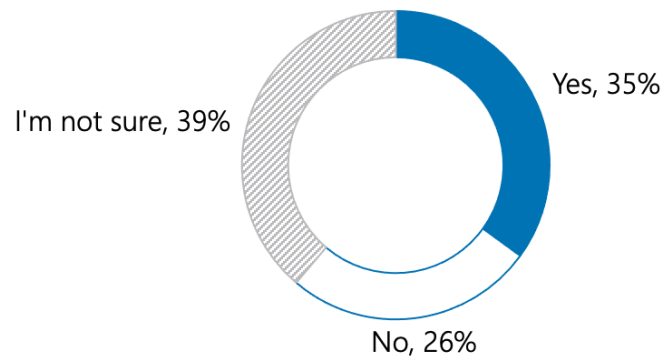
Figure 18: Which of these do you think the Community Justice Partnership should prioritise?



Base: 321. Note respondents could select multiple options.

Around a third of respondents (35%) agreed that people should be diverted away from the formal justice system when it is safe and appropriate to do so, and a further 39% were unsure about this. Around a quarter of respondents (26%) were opposed to diverting people away from the formal justice system.

Figure 19: Should people be diverted away from the formal justice system (police, courts and prisons) when it is safe and appropriate to do so?



Base: 323.

Panel members were asked about the reasons for their answer at Figure 19. Around half of respondents provided written in support of their answer. These responses are summarised below.

- Support diverting people away from the formal justice system. The most common reason cited by these respondents was the effectiveness of rehabilitation and reintegration, including to address the root causes of offending and to reduce reoffending. Other points included the cost and time involved in people moving through the formal justice system, and concern that this can limit access to support networks (for poverty, addiction, mental health, etc). Some also noted that diversion from the formal justice system should be dependent on the severity of the offence and individual circumstances.
- Oppose diverting people away from the formal justice system. The main reason provided by these respondents was a need for clear consequences and punishment for offending, as a deterrence. This was also seen as important for victims of crime to feel that justice has been achieved, and to maintain wider public confidence in the justice system.
- Unsure. Most respondents answering 'unsure' suggested that the most appropriate approach depends on the type and severity of the offence. This included with reference to each offender's history and circumstances, and an assessment of public risk.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Key messages

The main suggestions for targeting SFRS activity were additional support to those with vulnerabilities and targeted Home Fire Safety Visits for high-risk individuals.

Priorities to support preparedness for emergencies were maintaining effective operational capability, supporting multi-agency planning/exercising, and prioritising the response to those most at risk and/or with additional needs.

Priorities to reduce deliberate fire setting were raising awareness of consequences and risks, targeted education, and identifying/responding to fire setting trends.

Reduction in deliberate fire setting incidents was the top suggestion for measures of SFRS effectiveness.

This section considers Panel members' views on the fifth theme for the Single Midlothian Plan: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS).

Targeting fire and home safety activity

The most common suggestions for targeting SFRS safety activity were additional support to those with vulnerabilities (mentioned by 44%) and targeted Home Fire Safety Visits for high-risk individuals (39%).

Figure 20: How can we best target fire and home safety activity to those most at risk in Midlothian?

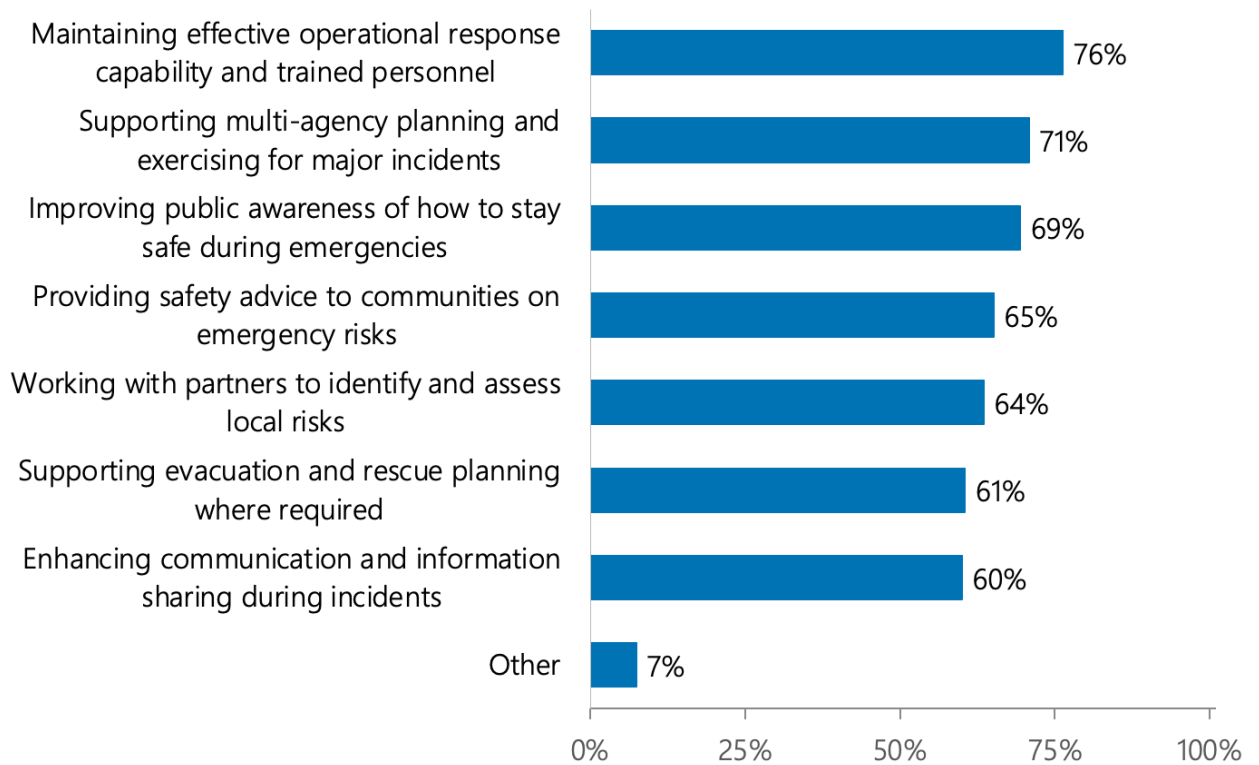


Base: 299. Note respondents could select up to two options.

Preparedness for emergencies

Panel members supported various priorities to support preparedness for emergencies such as flooding, severe weather or major incidents. The most common suggestions were: maintaining effective operational response capability (76%), supporting multi-agency planning and exercising (71%), improving public awareness of how to stay safe (69%) and providing safety advice to communities on emergency risks.

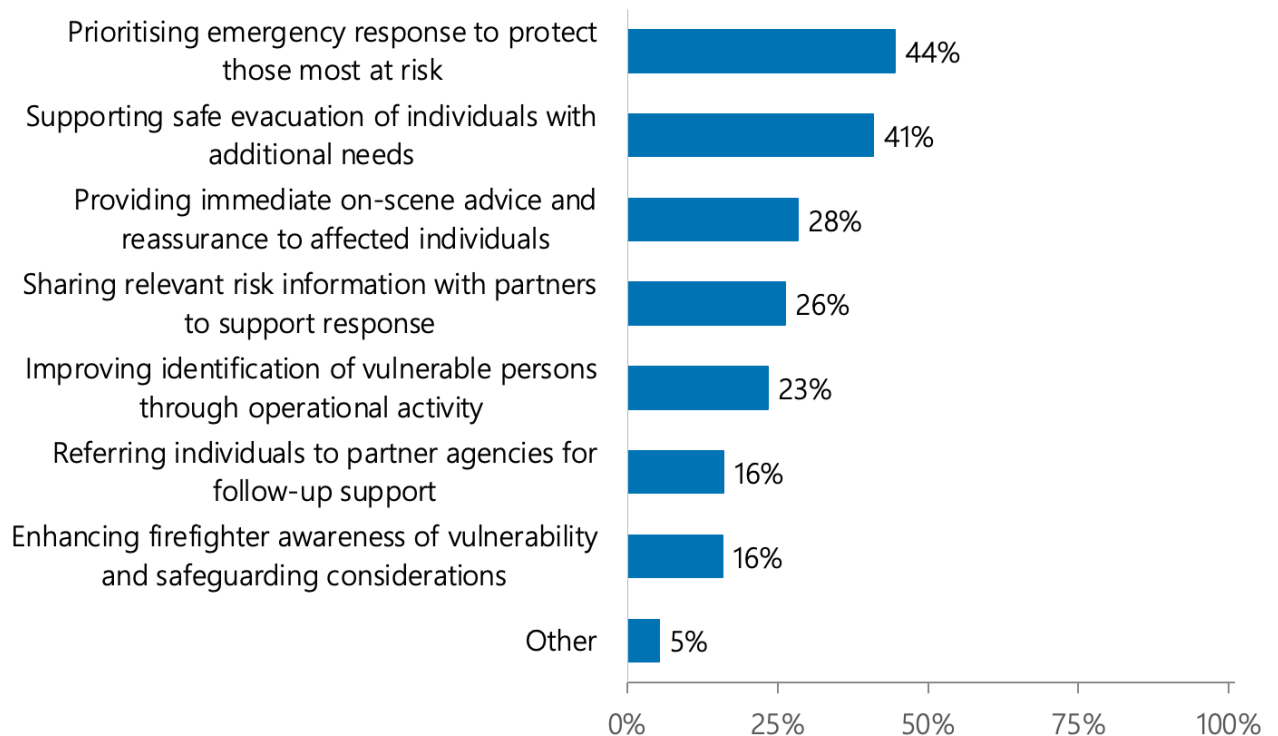
Figure 21: What should be our priority when supporting preparedness for emergencies such as flooding, severe weather, or major incidents?



Base: 301. Note respondents could select multiple options.

In terms of supporting vulnerable individuals during and after emergencies, the main suggestions were prioritising emergency response to protect those most at risk (mentioned by 44%), and supporting safe evacuation of individuals with additional needs (41%).

Figure 22: How can we best support vulnerable individuals during and immediately after emergencies?



Base: 299. Note respondents could select up to two options.

Deliberate fire setting

Panel members' top priorities for reducing deliberate fire setting were raising awareness of consequences and risks (71%), targeted fire safety education for young people (68%) and working with partners to identify and respond to deliberate fire setting trends (67%).

Figure 23: What should be our priority to reduce deliberate fire setting and related anti-social behaviour?

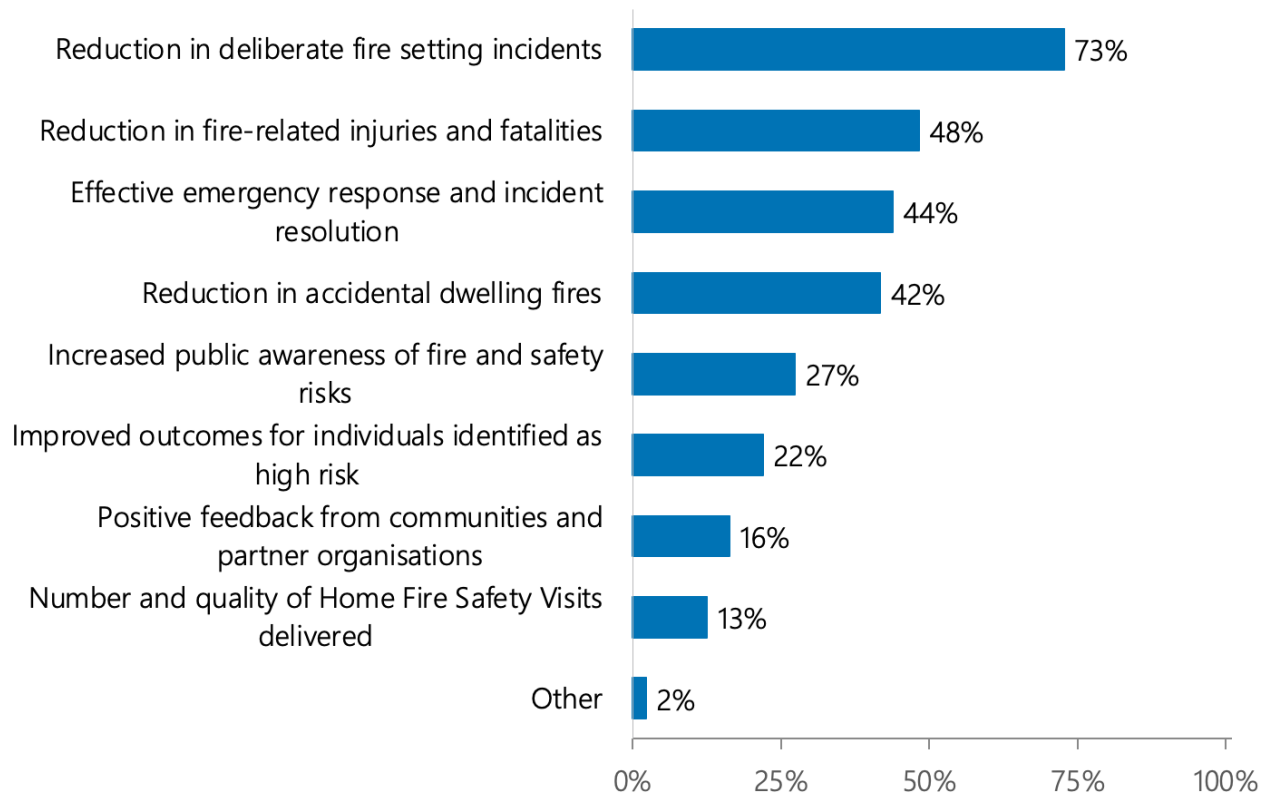


Base: 296. Note respondents could select multiple options.

Measuring SFRS effectiveness

Reduction in deliberate fire setting incidents was the top suggestion for measures of SFRS effectiveness (mentioned by 73%). Other measures supported by respondents include reduction in fire-related injuries and fatalities (48%), effective emergency response and incident resolution (44%) and reduction in accidental dwelling fires (42%).

Figure 24: How should SFRS measure how effective we are in Midlothian?



Base: 295. Note respondents could select up to three options.

Climate Resilience

Key messages

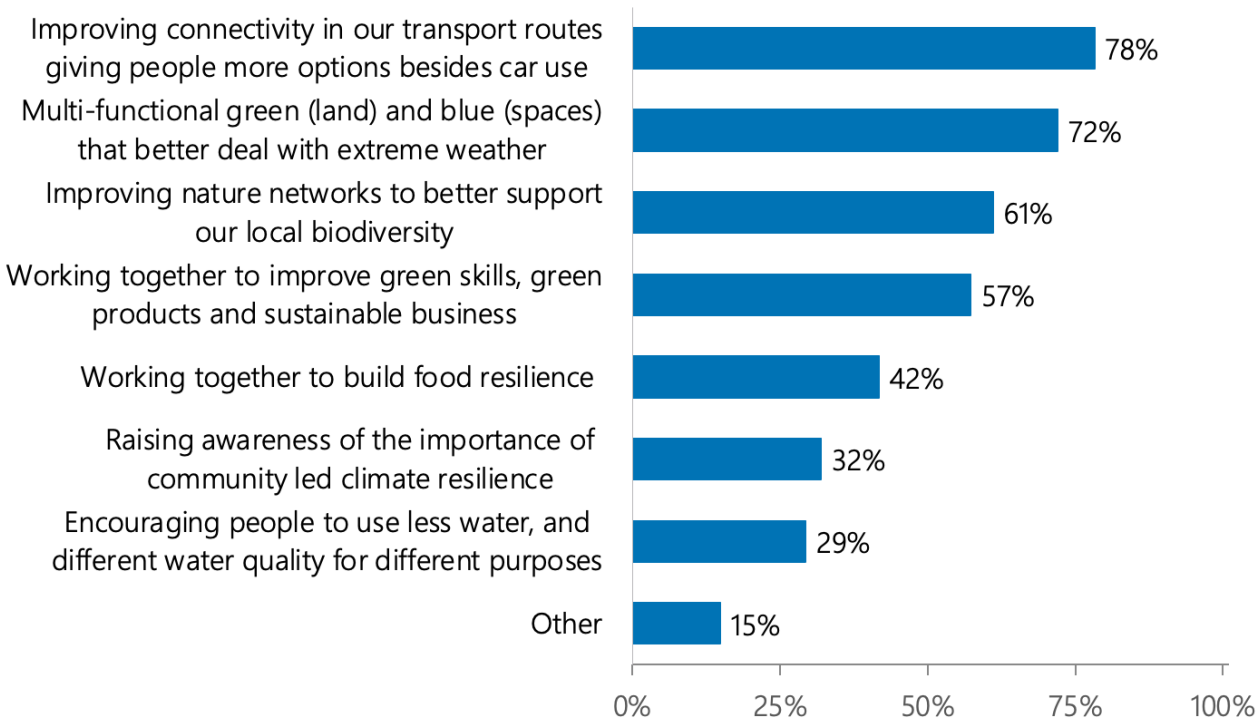
The top climate priorities for Panel members were improving transport connectivity, and multi-functional green and blue space to deal better with extreme weather.

“Climate Ready Midlothian” was the preferred name for local climate change work.

This section considers Panel members’ views on the sixth theme for the Single Midlothian Plan: Climate Resilience.

Panel members were first asked which climate actions should be priorities for Midlothian. The top suggestions were improving connectivity in transport routes to give more options beside car use (78%), and multi-functional green and blue space to deal better with extreme weather (72%). There was also support for improving nature networks to better support local biodiversity (61%) and improving green skills, green products and sustainable business (57%).

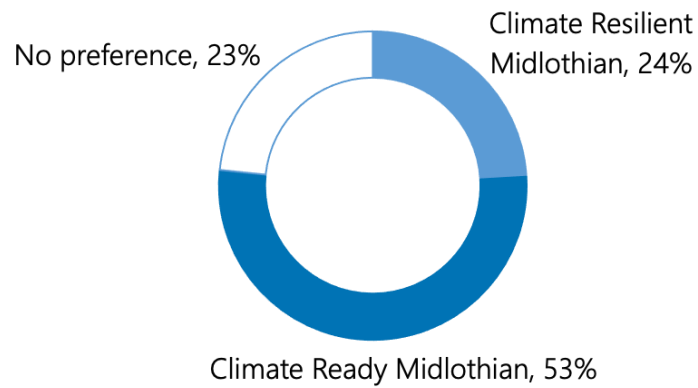
Figure 25: Which climate actions should be priorities in Midlothian?



Base: 279. Note respondents could select up to five options.

Panel members were also asked which name they would prefer for work on climate change in Midlothian. "Climate Ready Midlothian" was the most commonly preferred option; this was supported by 53% compared to 24% who preferred "Climate Resilient Midlothian".

Figure 26: Which name do you prefer for the climate theme?



Base: 285.

Community Learning, Volunteering and Belonging

Key messages

Digital skills for everyday life and outdoor activities in nature were the most commonly supported types of adult learning for people aged 60+.

Around 1 in 6 respondents had attended a youth group in the last 12 months, most commonly sports/physical activities and uniformed organisation.

The most common suggestions to help bring communities together were arts, heritage or culture events, and intergenerational activities.

The main suggestions to support voluntary/community organisations were better funding, access to affordable spaces/venues, and better promotion of local groups.

This section considers Panel members' views on the seventh theme for the Single Midlothian Plan: .Community Learning, Volunteering & Belonging.

Older people

Panel members supported various types of adult learning for people aged 60+, the most common being digital skills and outdoor activities in nature (mentioned by 81% and 74% respectively). There was also support for intergenerational learning, health/wellbeing courses, and local activities.

Figure 27: What adult learning do you think we should offer people aged 60 and over?

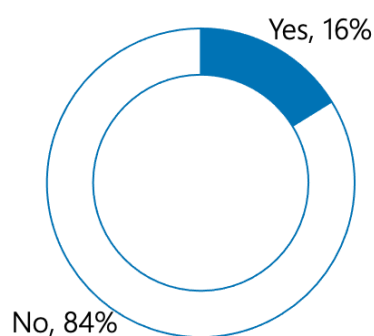


Base: 275. Note respondents could select up to five options.

Children and young people

Around 1 in 6 respondents (16%) indicated that they or a member of their family had attended a youth group in the last 12 months. The most common types of groups mentioned by respondents were sports and physical activities, and uniformed organisations (e.g. scouts, guides, cadets).

Figure 28: Have you, or a member of your family, attended a youth group in the last 12 months?



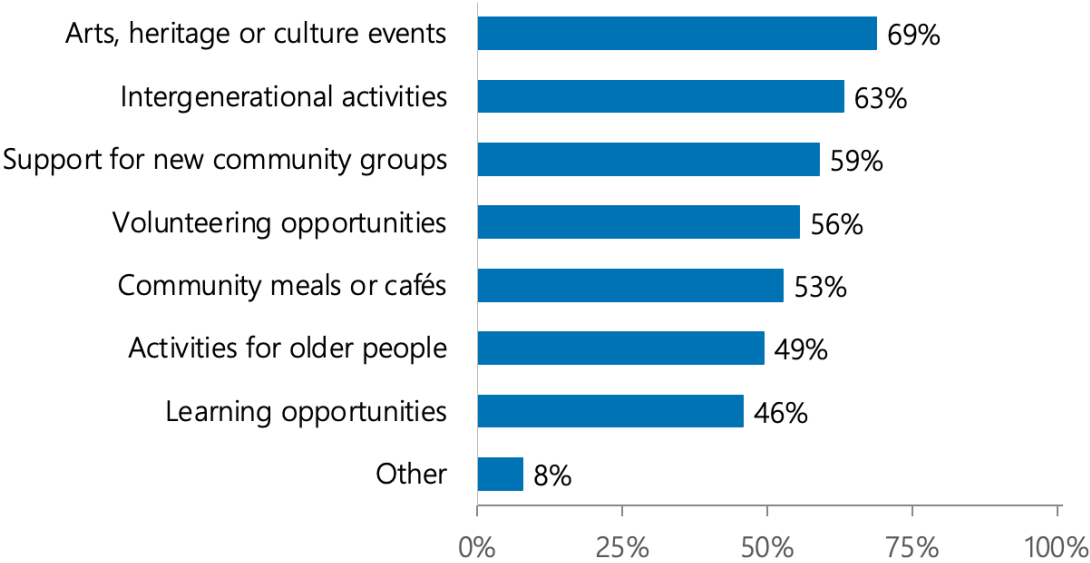
Base: 277.

The survey asked Panel members to suggest other activities or options that should be offered for children and young people. Around 1 in 20 respondents provided written comments here. Specific suggestions included: more youth clubs or groups; free activities during summer holidays; more safe outdoor spaces or community gardens; and activities and support for children and young people with disabilities or additional support needs.

Community activities

Panel members were also asked what activities could help to bring communities together. The most common suggestions were arts, heritage or culture events (mentioned by 69%) and intergenerational activities (63%). There was also support for new community groups, volunteering opportunities, and community meals or cafés.

Figure 29: What activities would help to bring communities together?



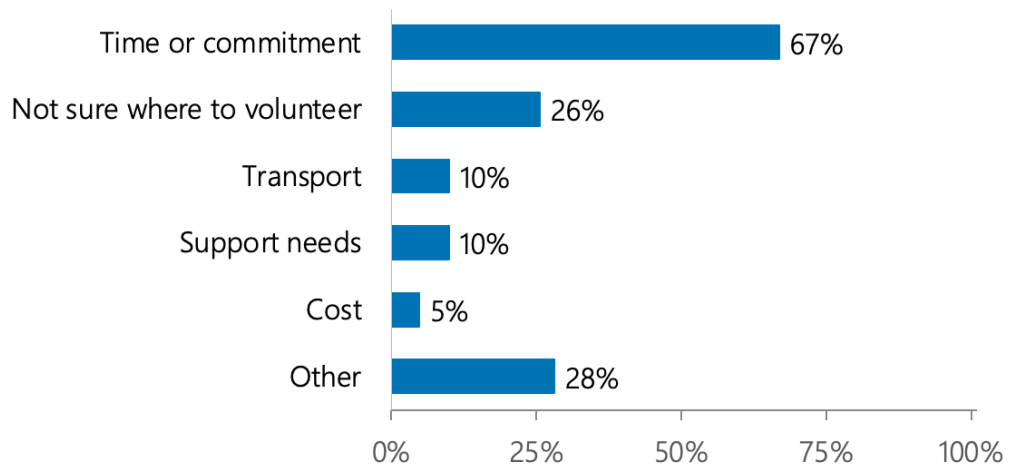
Base: 273. Note respondents could select up to five options.

Volunteering

Around half of respondents (49%) have volunteered in the past 12 months.

Those who had not volunteered indicated that the time or commitment required was the main thing that had prevented them volunteering (mentioned by 67%). There was also reference to not knowing where to volunteer, and disability or health conditions limiting capacity to volunteer.

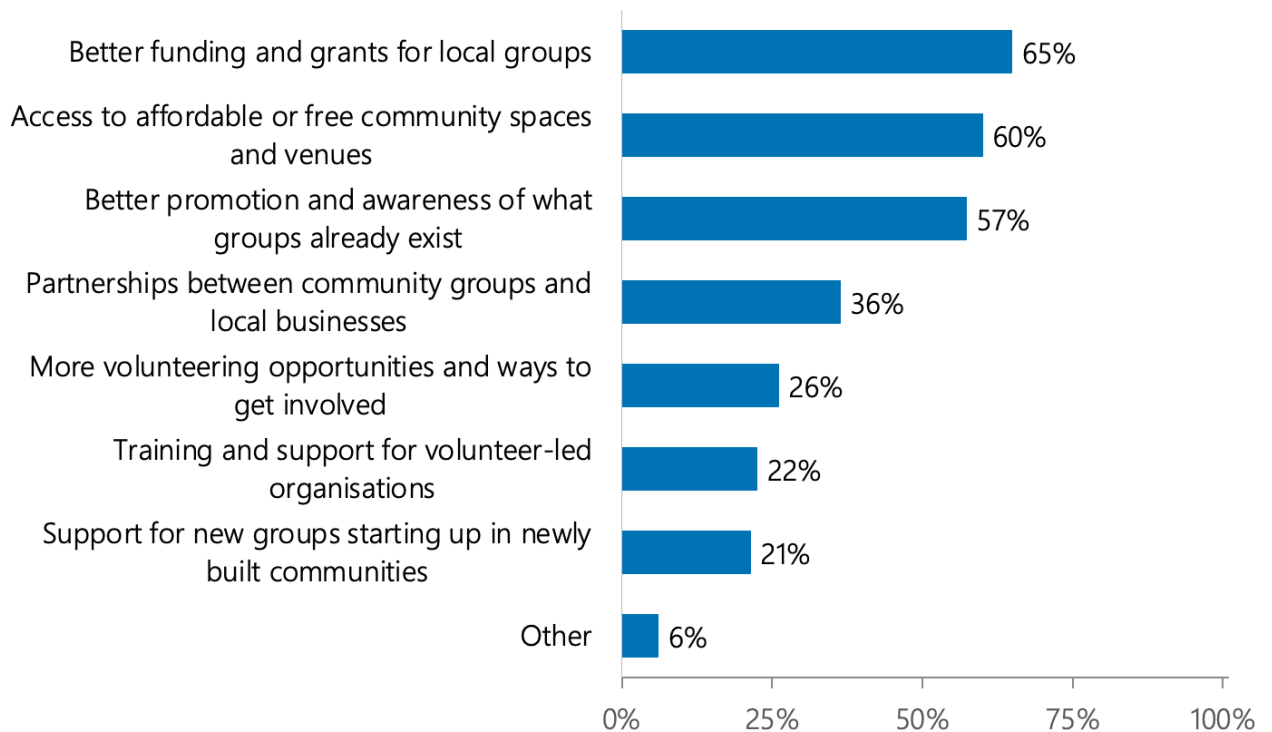
Figure 30: If no, what stopped you from volunteering?



Base: 135. Note respondents could select multiple options.

In terms of supporting voluntary and community organisations in Midlothian, the main suggestions were better funding for local groups (65%), access to affordable community spaces and venues (60%), and better promotion and awareness of what groups already exist (57%).

Figure 31: Which of the following would best support voluntary and community organisations in Midlothian?



Base: 266. Note respondents could select up to three options.

Healthier and Living well

Key messages

The main suggestions to help people live healthier lives locally were more affordable local activities, safer parks and green spaces, and better access to healthy food.

Affordable activities/groups, better walking/cycling routes, and better local environments were the main suggestions to help communities to be more active.

Around 2 in 5 respondents use local sport or leisure facilities regularly, including who do so at least once a week.

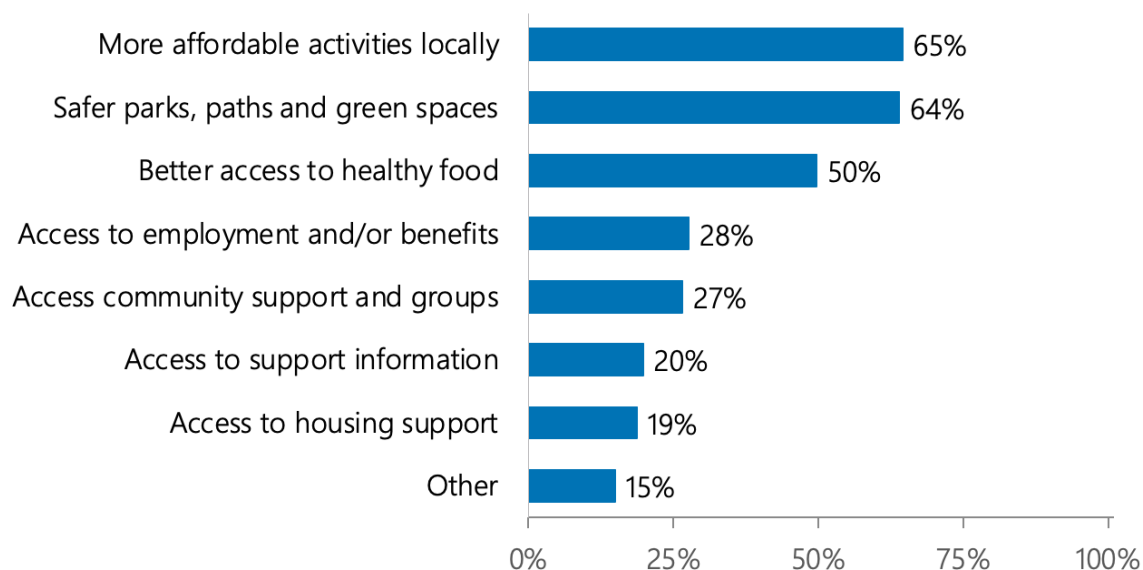
More local shops selling affordable fresh fruit and vegetables was by some margin the most common suggestion to help communities to access and eat healthy food.

A large majority of respondents can access health information online.

This section considers Panel members' views on eighth theme for the Single Midlothian Plan: Healthier and Living well.

In terms of helping people live healthier lives locally, the main suggestions were: more affordable activities locally (mentioned by 65%); safer parks, paths and green spaces (64%); and better access to healthy food (50%).

Figure 32: Outside of healthcare services, what would help people live healthier lives locally?

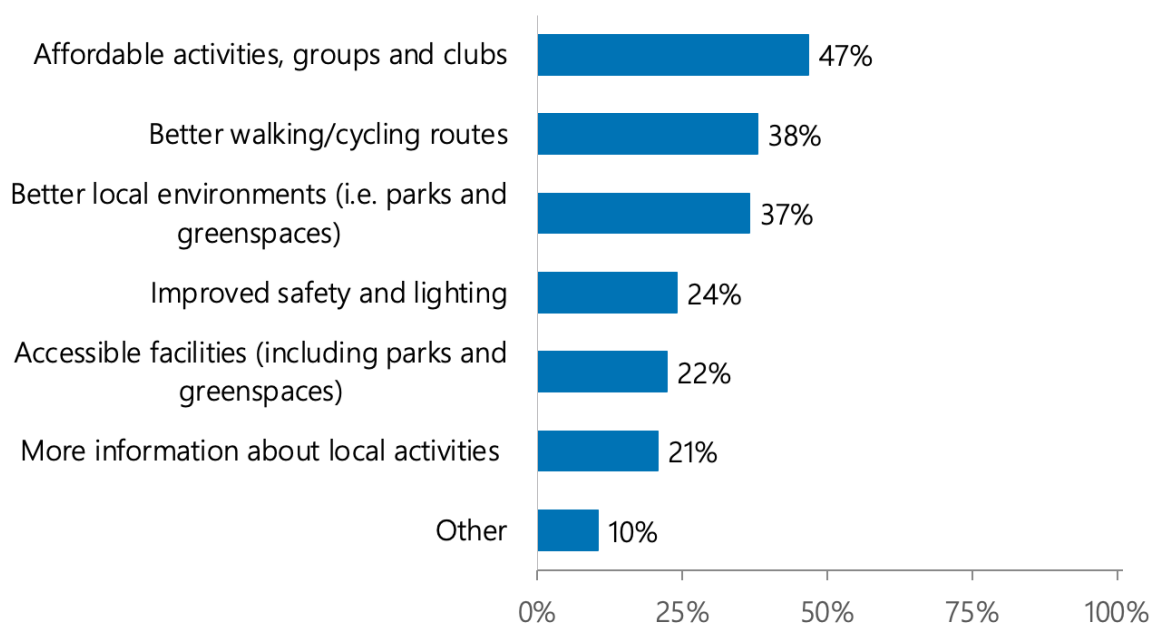


Base: 270. Note respondents could select up to three options.

Staying Active

Affordable activities and groups, better walking/cycling routes, and better local environments were the main suggestions to encourage communities to be more active (mentioned by 47%, 38% and 37% respectively).

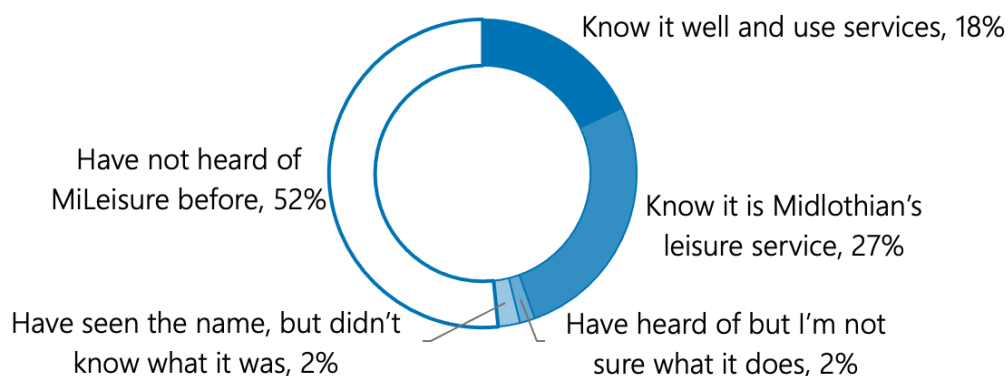
Figure 33: What would encourage you or your community to be more active?



Base: 268. Note respondents could select up to two options.

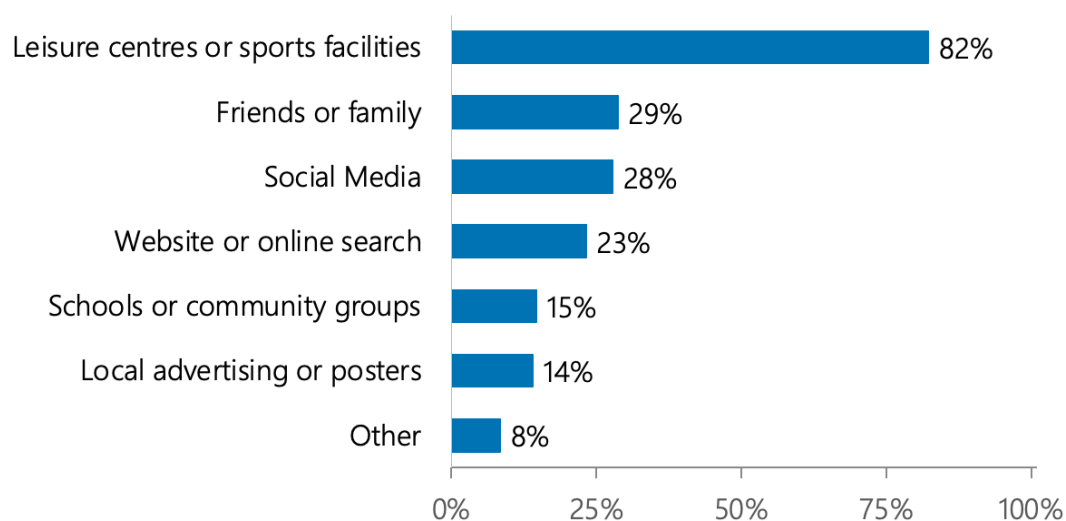
MiLeisure is the new brand for Midlothian Council's refurbished and upgraded leisure services such as gyms, swimming and classes. Around half of respondents (48%) had heard of the new name, including 18% who use the services and 27% who do not use services but know what MiLeisure is. Respondents were most likely to have heard about MiLeisure via local leisure centres or sports facilities (82% mentioned this).

Figure 34: Before today, had you heard of MiLeisure?



Base: 273.

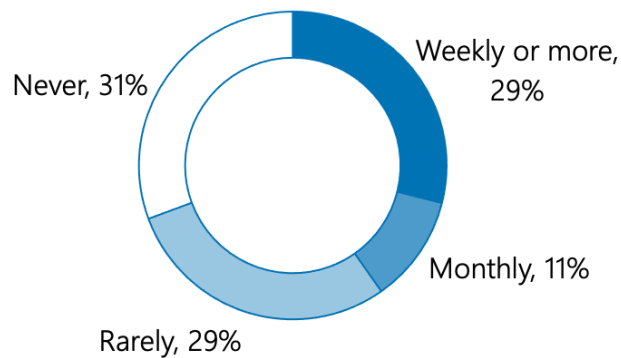
Figure 35: Where have you seen or heard about MiLeisure?



Base: 131. Note respondents could select multiple options.

Around 2 in 5 respondents (40%) use local sport or leisure facilities regularly, including 29% who use facilities at least once a week and 11% who do so at least once a month.

Figure 36: How often do you use local sport or leisure facilities?



Base: 269.

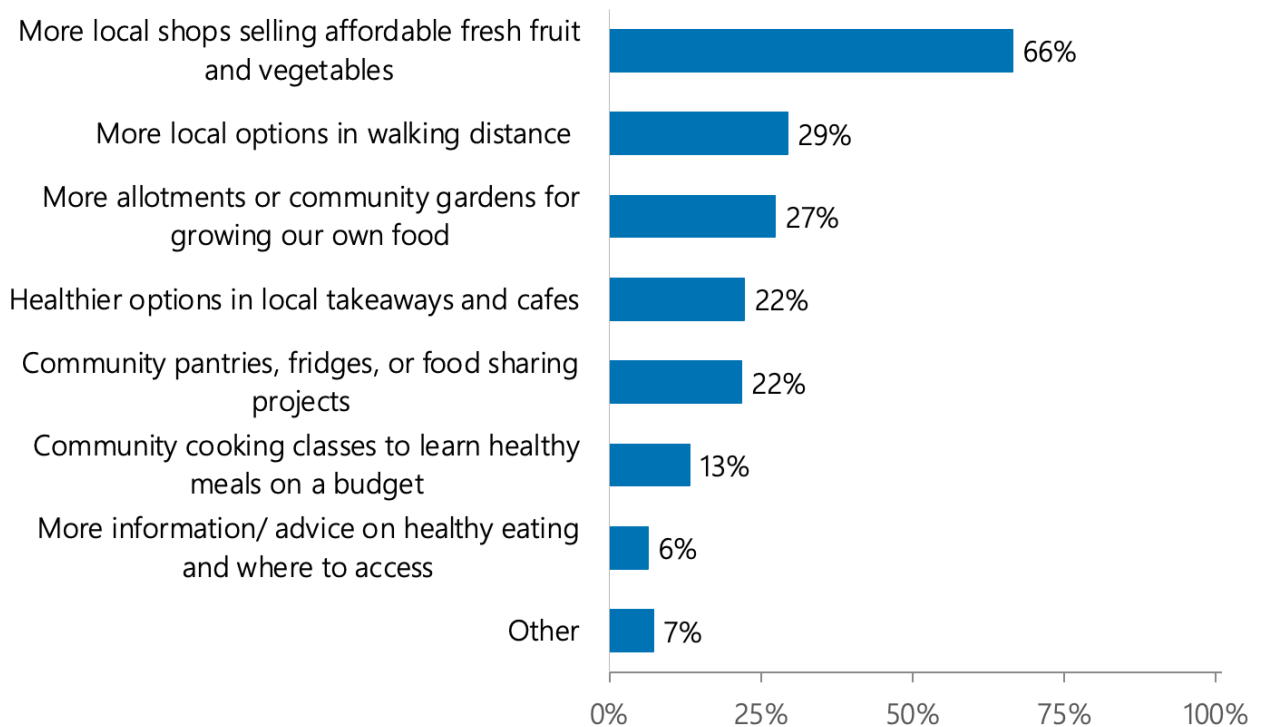
The survey also asked Panel members what new activities or programmes they would you like to see in Midlothian.

Around 1 in 3 respondents provided written comments here. Specific suggestions were most commonly related to: fitness, exercise and wellbeing classes; community groups to support social connection (including volunteering opportunities); and activities for children, young people and families (including more activities at times that suit people with childcare responsibilities).

Eating Well

More local shops selling affordable fresh fruit and vegetables was by some margin the most common suggestion to help communities to access and eat healthy food (this was mentioned by 66%). Other suggestions included more local options in walking distance (29%), and more allotments or community gardens (27%).

Figure 37: What would make it easier for you and your community to access and eat healthy food?



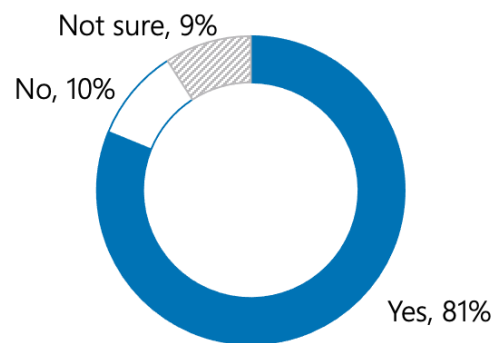
Base: 264. Note respondents could select up to two options.

Digital

A large majority of respondents (81%) indicated that they can access health information online.

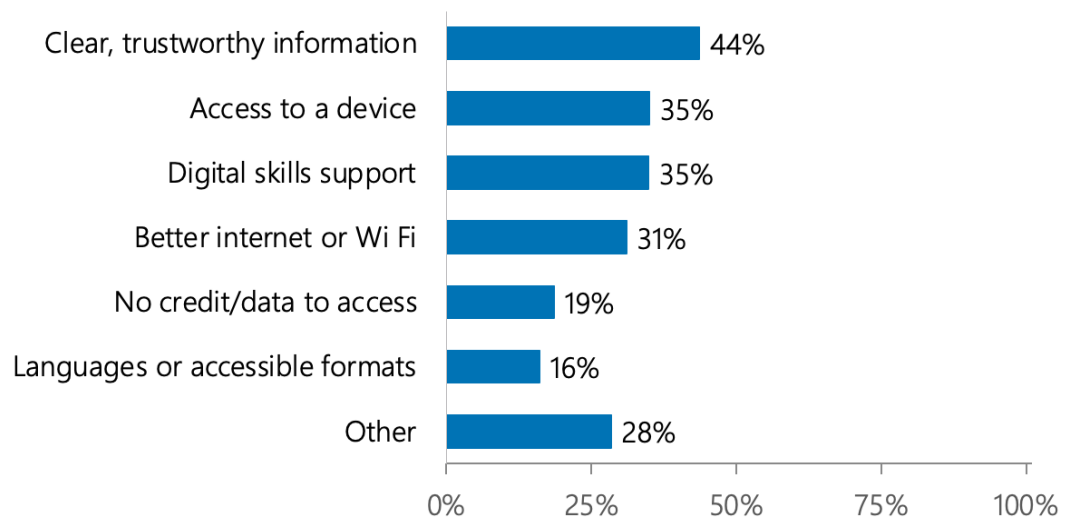
The 10% of respondents who cannot access this information online indicated that clear, trustworthy information, access to a device, and digital skills support could help them with this (these were mentioned by 44%, 35% and 35% respectively). Other suggestions included access via local libraries and centres, and ensuring access to printed information.

Figure 38: Most health information is provided online, do you feel you can access this?



Base: 266.

Figure 39: If you don't have online access, what would help?



Base: 133. Note respondents could select multiple options.

Building Community Wealth

Key messages

Fair employment and just labour markets was the top ranked priority for building community wealth in Midlothian.

This section considers Panel members’ views on the final theme for the Single Midlothian Plan: Building Community Wealth. Panel members were asked to rank five proposed priorities for building community wealth in Midlothian. Figure 40 shows the average ranking for each, with lower scores indicating higher priority.

As this shows, all five were ranked relatively equally. ‘Fair employment and just labour markets’ was the top ranked priority (2.7 out of 5) and ‘Socially just and productive use of land, property and assets’ was the lowest ranked (3.2).

Figure 40: Which of the following should be the highest priorities for building community wealth in Midlothian? (average ranking out of 5)



Base: 246. Note respondents were asked to rank the five options in order of priority (1 being highest).

Other comments

The final survey question invited Panel members to suggest any other points that they would like the Community Planning Partnership to consider when planning for Midlothian's future.

Around 1 in 5 respondents provided written comment. Key themes are summarised at Figure 41, with the most common being: transport, roads and active travel (43%), local economy, jobs and town centres (34%), Council governance and communication (34%), and housing, development and population growth (29%).

Figure 41: Is there anything else you would like the Community Planning Partnership to consider when planning for Midlothian's future?

Themes	%
Transport, roads and active travel Public transport, roads, traffic, car dependence, supporting walking and cycling.	43%
Local economy, jobs and town centres Jobs, business, investment, tourism, supporting high streets and town centres.	34%
Council governance and communication Council responsiveness, planning for future needs, communication and transparency, more openness and engagement.	34%
Housing, development and population growth The rate of new housing development and population growth, planning consent, social housing and ensuring a balanced expansion.	29%
Health and social care Access to health services (including GPs, dentists, mental health services, social care), general wellbeing and public health.	28%
Children and families Schools and education, childcare, opportunities and amenities for children and young people.	26%
Arts, leisure, culture and community spaces Arts, sports and leisure, local events, libraries, clubs and community meeting spaces.	22%

Base (number of respondents providing written comment): 77.

Appendix 1: Profile of survey response

The table below provide a breakdown of 2026 survey respondents, and compares this with the wider Midlothian population.

Figure 42: Profile of survey respondents.

Themes	Survey respondents	Midlothian population
Age		
16 to 44	31%	42%
45 to 64	38%	34%
65+	31%	24%
Sex		
Female	67%	52%
Male	33%	48%
Other	0.3%	-
Tenure		
Owner occupier	83%	67%
Rented or other	17%	33%
Disability, health condition or illness		
Disability or LLTI	16%	27%
No disability or LLTI	84%	73%

Base (total survey respondents): 401.

Appendix 2: Report of community engagement sessions

Midlothian Council conducted a series of in-person community engagement sessions across the area, alongside Citizens' Panel survey fieldwork.

The report over the page has been produced by Midlothian Council on the basis of feedback via engagement sessions.

Single Midlothian Plan Consultation 2026

Community Engagement Report

Consultation Participation: Approximately 265 residents participated through 17 face-to-face drop-in sessions across Midlothian, alongside online engagement activities.

Executive Summary

Residents shared a strong desire for a Midlothian that is:

- Protected from further population - cease housing and increase infrastructure
- Safe and welcoming
- Affordable and inclusive
- Well-connected
- Healthy and active
- Environmentally sustainable
- Green and has parks for playing in
- Prosperous and full of opportunity
- Supportive of children, young people and families
- Proud of its communities and local identity

Across all consultation activities, several issues consistently emerged, including **transport, community safety, opportunities for young people, more affordable housing, healthcare access, town centre regeneration, preservation of our green spaces, and stronger community connections and limiting health harming industries such as betting shops.**

Section 1: Core Single Midlothian Plan Themes

Children, young people and families

What we asked:

What challenges worry you most for young people today—and what would help address them?

What would make Midlothian the best place for children and young people to grow up?

Key Themes

This was one of the strongest themes across the consultation. Residents consistently highlighted a lack of opportunities and activities for children and young people.

What People Told Us

- More youth clubs.
- More safe spaces.
- Better mental health support.
- More activities and sports facilities.
- Better support into employment.
- Improved parks and play facilities.
- More support for families.

Illustrative Comments

"There is nothing for young people to do."

"More youth spaces."

"More activities."

"Better mental health support."

Reducing poverty and financial challenges

What we asked:

What kind of support would make the biggest difference for people struggling with the cost of living?

Key Themes

Cost of living pressures remain a significant concern.

What People Told Us

- Financial support and advice.
- Food support.

- Income maximisation services.
- More affordable housing.
- Better promotion of available help.
- Affordable childcare.
- Fuel cost support.

Illustrative Comments

"Financial support."

"Income maximisation advice."

"Affordable housing."

"More help with food costs."

Employability and skills

What we asked:

What helps people most to find, keep, or progress in work locally?

What are the gaps in skills, training, or opportunities in Midlothian?

Key Themes

People want clearer pathways into work and stronger skills development opportunities.

What People Told Us

- More apprenticeships.
- Better employment support.
- More links to local employers.
- Better life skills education.
- Childcare support to help people work.
- Opportunities for people with additional support needs.

Illustrative Comments

"More apprenticeships."

"Teach life skills."

"Support young people into employment."

Safer communities - equally safe

What we asked:

What would help women, girls and children feel safer in Midlothian?

Key Themes

Residents highlighted the importance of safety, respect and support services.

What People Told Us

- More visible policing.
- Better street lighting.
- Education about healthy relationships.
- Tackling misogyny.
- Domestic abuse support.
- Early intervention and prevention.

Illustrative Comments

"Teach respect."

"Improve street lighting."

"More police presence."

"Better support services."

Safer communities - community justice

Key Themes

Residents supported rehabilitation while also expressing concerns about antisocial behaviour and community safety. Feedback reflected varying views on how local support and housing are distributed. Many people expressed concern over a perceived imbalance, noting that individuals exiting the justice system often seem to receive more intensive services than law-abiding residents who are in equally significant need. It is clear from these diverse responses that a formal statement acknowledging these varying views on equity and fairness is necessary to reflect the community's true feedback.

What we asked:

How can we better support individuals involved in the justice system to successfully reconnect with their community whilst keeping Midlothian safe and reducing reoffending?

Considering this, what do you believe are the biggest challenges facing your community?

What People Told Us

- Volunteering opportunities.
- Housing support.
- Training and employment pathways.
- Community payback projects.
- Early intervention with young people.
- Better rehabilitation support.

Illustrative Comments

"Give people purpose."

"Community payback should benefit communities."

"Support people to break the cycle."

Climate resilience

What we asked:

What do you think community planning partners should do to make Midlothian more climate resilient? (protecting our environment)

What can local communities do to make Midlothian more climate resilient?

Key Themes

People value Midlothian's environment and want action on climate resilience, biodiversity and sustainability. Consultation responses reflected highly divergent views on climate change. While some participants expressed deep concern that current measures inadequately address severe long-term forecasts—such as predicted 44°C heatwaves in Scotland by 2050—others expressed fundamental doubt toward climate science. Furthermore, discussions frequently touched upon global dynamics, with many noting that international inaction or actions and broader world events make local progress feel exceedingly difficult.

What People Told Us

- Plant more trees.
- Protect green spaces.
- Improve recycling.
- Increase community growing opportunities.
- Improve energy efficiency of homes.
- Encourage local food production.
- Support active travel.
- Improve public transport to reduce car dependency.

Illustrative Comments

"Less concrete, more greenery."

"Protect green spaces."

"Community gardens."

"Plant more trees."

Community Learning, Volunteering & Belonging

What we asked:

What would encourage more people to get involved in community learning classes or volunteering?

What helps people feel they belong in their community—and what gets in the way?

Key Themes

Residents want stronger communities where people feel connected and involved.

What People Told Us

- More community events.
- Better promotion of activities.
- More volunteering opportunities.
- Flexible volunteering options.
- Welcome packs for newcomers.
- More learning opportunities.
- Community hubs and gathering spaces.

Illustrative Comments

"Need more community events."

"More volunteering opportunities."

"Need places to connect."

Healthier and living well

What we asked:

What could support communities to access healthy food/eat healthily?

What would help communities stay active or be more active?

Thinking outside of healthcare, what improvements in your community would make it easier for people to be healthy?

Key Themes

Healthcare access, mental health support and healthy lifestyles were major priorities.

What People Told Us

- Better access to GP appointments.
- Improved mental health support.
- Reduced waiting times.
- Cheaper healthy food.
- Cooking and nutrition education.
- Affordable leisure services.

- Community activities promoting wellbeing.

Illustrative Comments

"Access to doctors needs to improve."

"Mental health support is needed."

"Healthy food should be more affordable."

Building community wealth

What we asked:

How can we keep more money, jobs, and opportunities within Midlothian?

Key Themes

Residents want a stronger local economy that benefits local people, supports town centres and creates more opportunities for employment.

What People Told Us

Local Businesses

- Support local traders and independent businesses.
- Reduce rents and costs for businesses.
- Increase local procurement.
- Encourage new businesses to locate in Midlothian.
- Avoid over-concentration of vape shops and gambling premises.

Employment and Income

- More local jobs.
- Better-paid jobs.
- More apprenticeships.
- More opportunities for young people.
- Support employers to recruit and train local people.

Town Centres

- Improve Dalkeith town centre.
- Revitalise Penicuik and other local centres.
- Increase retail choice.
- Encourage markets and local events.

Illustrative Comments

"Bring more companies into Midlothian."

"Support local shops."

"Improve local jobs."

"Need more decent shops."

"Keep more money in Midlothian."

Section 2: Additional Cross-Cutting Themes

This report captures recurring issues and priorities raised by residents that sit outside, or cut across, the seven main consultation themes. These responses provide important local intelligence about place, infrastructure, governance, and quality of life.

While most responses aligned with the Single Midlothian Plan themes, a significant number of residents raised wider concerns relating to:

- Transport and connectivity
- Parks, green spaces and recreation
- Town centres and regeneration
- Policing and public services
- Roads and infrastructure
- Community facilities and hubs
- Communication and engagement
- Planning and development
- Arts, culture and heritage
- Access to public services

These issues were often mentioned repeatedly across different communities and were closely linked to feelings of belonging, wellbeing, safety and pride in place.

Transport and Connectivity

Key Messages

Transport was one of the most frequently raised issues across the consultation.

Residents consistently highlighted concerns about:

- Reduced bus services
- Lack of evening and weekend services
- Poor links between communities
- Difficulty accessing hospitals
- Limited rural transport
- Cost of transport
- Lack of rail connections
- Active travel infrastructure
- Specific routes were difficult such as the route from Penicuik via Hillend to Morningside – this was mentioned frequently

What People Said

Bus Services

- Bring back the 49 bus.

- Bring back the 15 bus.
- Increase frequency of 101 from Biggar
- Reinstate local routes removed from villages.
- Better services to hospitals.
- Better bus links between Midlothian towns.
- More frequent services.
- More affordable fares.
- Better integration with train services.

Hospital Access

- Direct service to the Royal Infirmary.
- Better transport from Bonnyrigg and Eskbank.
- Easier access to healthcare appointments.

Rail/Tram

- Reopen the Penicuik railway.
- Better rail connectivity.
- Work to create tram line from Penicuik to Edinburgh

Active Travel

- More cycle paths.
- Safer walking routes.
- Better-lit paths.
- Improved pedestrian infrastructure.

Illustrative Comments

"We need better transport links across Midlothian, not just into Edinburgh."

"The 49 bus should be reinstated."

"Transport is the main issue."

"Direct links to the Royal Infirmary are needed."

Parks, Green Spaces and Recreation

Key Messages

People consistently described green spaces as one of Midlothian's biggest strengths.

Residents want:

- Better-maintained parks
- More green space protection
- More community gardens
- Biodiversity improvements
- Outdoor recreation opportunities

Common Requests

Parks

- Improve playgrounds.
- Upgrade equipment.
- More age-appropriate facilities.
- More inclusive play areas.

Outdoor Recreation

- Pump tracks. Very specifically in the Dalkeith Area and Waterfall Park area
- Skate parks.
- BMX facilities.
- Trampoline facilities.
- Outdoor gyms.

Green Space Protection

- Protect the green belt.
- Stop development on valued green spaces.
- Increase tree planting.
- More wildflowers and biodiversity.

Community Growing

- More allotments.
- Community food-growing projects.
- Community orchards.

Illustrative Comments

"Less concrete, more greenery."

"Protect green spaces."

"Lots of time outdoors in natural settings."

"More allotments and community gardens."

Town Centres and Regeneration

Key Messages

The future of town centres emerged as a strong concern, particularly in Dalkeith and Penicuik.

People frequently highlighted:

- Empty shops
- Lack of retail choice
- Derelict buildings
- Lack of investment
- Town centre decline

Common Suggestions

Retail

- More independent shops.
- Better variety of shops.
- Clothes stores.
- Shoe shops.
- Household goods stores.

Regeneration

- Improve appearance of town centres.
- Tackle derelict buildings.
- Improve public spaces.
- Create more reasons for people to visit.

Events and Markets

- Monthly markets.
- Community festivals.
- Local traders and makers.
- Town centre events.

Illustrative Comments

"Dalkeith is looking run down."

"The town centre is dead."

"Need more decent shops."

"Bring people back into town centres."

Roads, Streets and Infrastructure

Key Messages

Infrastructure concerns featured strongly across all localities.

Common Issues Raised

Roads

- Potholes.
- Road repairs.
- Speeding.
- Traffic congestion.
- Poor road maintenance.

Streetscape

- Weeds.
- Fly-tipping.

- Litter.
- Broken street lighting.

Accessibility

- Better pavements.
- Improved access for disabled people.
- Safer crossings.

Illustrative Comments

"The roads need improved."

"Lots of weeds."

"Street lighting should be repaired quicker."

"Clean up areas."

Policing and Community Presence

Key Messages

Although community safety was covered in several consultation themes, many residents specifically raised concerns about police visibility and local presence.

Common Issues

- More police walking the beat.
- Faster response times.
- Greater visibility in town centres.
- More engagement with local communities.
- More visible community officers.

Illustrative Comments

"Police don't come out when called."

"More police presence."

"Police need to be integrated into the community."

"More visible policing."

Community Facilities and Hubs

Key Messages

Many respondents called for more places where people can meet, connect and access services.

Requested Facilities

- Community hubs.
- Youth centres.

- Drop-in centres.
- Multi-service centres.
- Sports facilities.
- Community cafes.

Illustrative Comments

"Open a community hub."

"Need somewhere for young people to go."

"A place where services can be located together."

"Community centres are important."

Planning and Sustainable Growth

Key Messages

A recurring concern related to housebuilding and growth.

Residents generally supported affordable housing whilst expressing concern that infrastructure is not keeping pace with development.

Common Concerns

- Too many houses without supporting infrastructure.
- Pressure on schools.
- Pressure on GP services.
- Pressure on transport networks.
- Loss of green space.
- Loss of biodiversity.

Illustrative Comments

"Stop building houses without improving infrastructure."

"Protect the green belt."

"New housing should come with facilities."

Communication, Engagement and Trust

Key Messages

Many respondents wanted better communication from public services and more opportunities to participate.

Common Requests

Better Information

- More publicity about events.
- Better use of notice boards.

- Printed information.
- Better promotion of services.

Consultation Feedback

- Show how community feedback is used.
- Close the feedback loop.
- Demonstrate visible outcomes.

Illustrative Comments

"People don't know what's available."

"More advertising."

"People want to feel listened to."

"Show how feedback is used."

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Key Messages

Although not a formal consultation theme, residents raised the importance of culture, creativity and local identity.

Suggestions

- Community theatre.
- Local performances.
- Arts centres.
- Community radio.
- Cultural events.
- Markets and festivals.
- Public art.
- Stronger celebration of Midlothian's identity.

Illustrative Comments

"Set up a theatre."

"Need a focal point for arts."

"Build community through local events."

Access to Public Services

Key Messages

Many comments focused on practical access to services.

Common Issues

Healthcare

- GP appointments.
- Mental health services.
- Long waiting lists.

Banking

- Closure of local banks.
- Access difficulties in rural communities.

Public Services

- Co-located services.
- Easier access to advice services.
- Improved customer service.

Illustrative Comments

"Need easier access to doctors."

"Keep local banking facilities."

"Access services closer to home."

Area-Specific Priorities

Dalkeith

- Town centre regeneration
- Community safety
- Drug-related concerns
- Transport improvements
- More policing
- Pump Track Waterfall Park

Penicuik

- Transport and rail connectivity
- Youth facilities
- Town centre improvements
- Apprenticeships and employment

Gorebridge

- Green spaces
- Community facilities
- Affordable housing
- Better transport

Danderhall

- Community facilities
- Play parks
- Bus services

- Safer public spaces

Woodburn

- Youth activities
- Public transport
- Drug issues
- Community development

Newbattle

- Local jobs
- Community facilities
- Better communication
- Business support

Overall Message

Beyond the formal consultation themes, residents repeatedly highlighted the importance of:

Connected Communities

Reliable transport, better communication and accessible services.

Pride in Place

Cleaner streets, vibrant town centres and well-maintained public spaces.

Community Infrastructure

Parks, hubs, leisure facilities and gathering places.

Responsive Services

Visible policing, accessible healthcare and joined-up public services.

Sustainable Growth

Development that is matched by investment in infrastructure and community assets.

The strongest message across these wider themes was that people want Midlothian to grow in a way that remains connected, accessible, welcoming and community-focused, with investment keeping pace with population growth and local needs.

Final Message

People want a Midlothian that grows sustainably, invests in its communities, supports local people, protects its environment, and ensures everyone has the opportunity to belong, contribute and thrive.