



Hyndburn Citizen Panel Survey Report

Survey Date: November 2006

Report Date: March 2007

Background

Rationale

Hyndburn Borough Council carries out two surveys of the Hyndburn “Feedback” panel every year, in between two East Lancashire-wide surveys. This was the November - December 2006 survey, and included a variety of topics in order to respond to Service Managers’ demands. The questionnaire had four main sections:

- Dog Control
- The Introduction of Local By-laws
- Sport, Culture and Physical Activity
- The Children’s Play Strategy

Research Objectives

The objectives of the survey were as follows:

- **Dog Control:** to explore the idea of using new powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (CNEA). The results of this consultation are to be used in conjunction with other consultation to decide whether or not the Council will introduce further restrictions on dogs under the CNEA.
- **The Introduction of Local By-laws:** this single item survey question was included to assess public opinion following suggestions laid out in the Local Government White-paper; Strong and prosperous communities, which said that “Communities and their representatives should be able to set and enforce the standards of behaviour and rules affecting their localities for themselves... therefore ending the Secretary of State’s role in confirming byelaws.”

- **Sport, Culture and Physical Activity:** the council and its partners are setting up a Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) – a group of local organisations who play or promote sport and physical activity. Sport England is to provide funding to the SPAA to help it develop activities which may not be available in Hyndburn or which need extra investment. This survey will inform the SPAA of the current situation in Hyndburn in terms of what people already do and what could be developed in the future.
- **The Children’s Play Strategy:** the Council has the opportunity to apply for some money from the Big Lottery Fund to improve opportunities for Children’s Play in Hyndburn. The results of this survey will inform the Children’s Play Strategy so that the Council can be eligible for Big Lottery Funding.

This report will be accessible to all relevant service managers, and will be made available to other interested Council staff and the general public via the Feedback website at <http://www.feedbackonline.org.uk>. Key findings will also be reported to the panel members themselves along with the actions taken as a result of the data being received.

The Feedback Panel

The current total number of panel members is 797 and is lower than in previous years, the recent decline can be attributed to member resignations. A number of reasons for resignation have been cited and these include relocations outside of the borough, ill health, and changes in circumstances. We should also take into account those members who have recently passed away.

In an attempt to address this number we will be conducting a panel refresh in the coming months. Hyndburn have a total of 291 requests to be included on the Citizen’s Feedback Panel from a recent East Lancashire survey. The Feedback team will be using these applications as a opportunity to boost numbers and if possible, to make the panel more representative.

There is some natural bias from people who are interested in being on the citizen's panel in any case, as they are more likely to fit certain social criteria than people not interested in being on the panel. The concept of citizen's panels has been the subject of considerable critiques amongst the research community given this fact, but they remain a popular way amongst Local Authorities of getting the views of the community in a cost effective way. As long as the basic limitations are recognised, the data gleaned from panels can offer a high level picture. Then, more detailed research carried out with specific groups can be used to drill down into the key issues arising. Recommendations will be made for further work coming from the results of this survey.

Methodology

Contact methods

The survey employed a mixed postal and electronic methodology. Approximately 150 panel members have requested to receive surveys electronically, in the form of an emailed link to an online survey. The electronic survey was sent out one week in advance of the postal version, to give members time to respond and to reduce potential postage costs. If they did not respond before the postal version was due to be distributed, they were included on the mailing list for this survey and were sent a questionnaire and prepaid envelope.

Following an initial mail-out, two subsequent reminders were sent to panel members who failed to respond by the set dates. The first reminders were in letter format explaining that they had already been sent their questionnaire but it had not been received at the council. We asked panel members to send the original questionnaire to us by an extended deadline. The final reminder was sent to those who had not responded to the initial mail-out or to the first reminder. This time, in order to boost the chances of response we sent a second copy of the questionnaire with a covering letter and a pre-paid envelope.

Response rate

531 replies were received, giving a response rate of 67%. This is a very respectable response rate for surveys carried out in Hyndburn. We will be conducting a panel refresh over the summer in order to make the panel more representative; the refresh exercise will also help to improve this response rate. Generally, citizen's panels in other Councils enjoy a response rate of between 60% - 70%, with higher response rates for surveys dealing with high profile or contentious issues.

Profile of respondents

The following section examines the characteristics of respondents to this survey, in terms of their demographic profile. Please note that where respondents chose to remain anonymous, their response could not be matched to the demographic information retained on file. Attempt to log all respondents by the use of unique reference numbers was, on the whole, successful. However there were individuals who removed their case number to remain anonymous.

Gender

As with most panels the majority of members on the Hyndburn Feedback panel are female. The gender breakdown of responses for this survey is shown in the table below.

	Number	Percent
Male	243	46.7
Female	277	53.3

Age

Current panel membership is under representative of younger people and over-representative of older adults. The forthcoming panel refresh exercise will, in part, remedy this problem; however we already know that the relative panel proportions will not be significantly affected. In order to address this potential problem, the policy team will be undertaking some research into younger representation through new media techniques in 2007. The following chart illustrates the current age range for respondents in this Feedback panel survey.

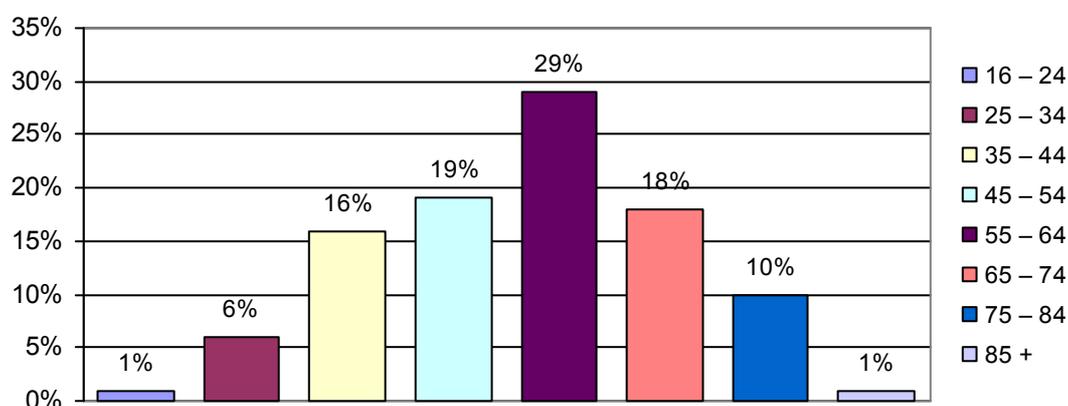


Figure 1: Graph showing Age of respondents for this survey

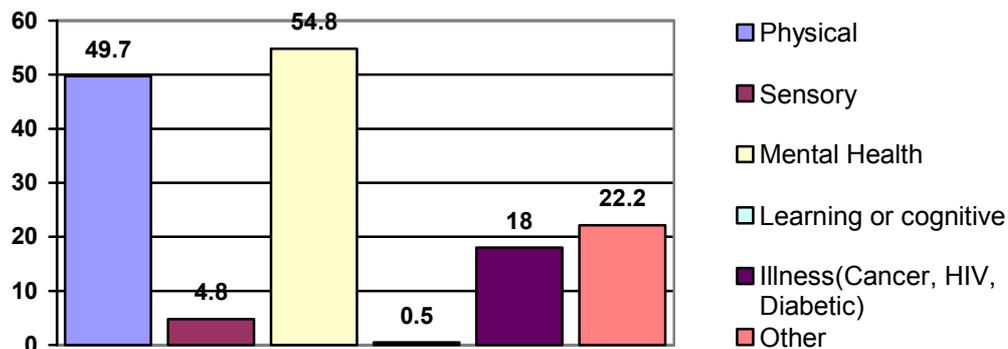
Current situation

When considering the responses to the following sections it may be useful to take into account the current circumstances of panel members who have responded to this survey.

- 47% of panel members are employed in either a full or part-time job, and an additional 7% are self-employed.
- Only 1% of respondents are currently unemployed and available for work.
- A very small number (1%) are in full-time education.
- A further 4% currently look after the home or a family member.
- The panel has a large number (38%) of 'wholly retired members'.
- 85% of respondents have access to a car.

Disability

Of those who responded, 38% of panel members consider themselves to have a long standing physical or mental health condition or disability. Results show that 64% of panel members who have a long term illness or disability maintain that the condition has a substantial adverse affect on their ability to carry out day to day duties. Please note that some panel members have multiple conditions or disabilities and this is reflected in the chart below.



Religion

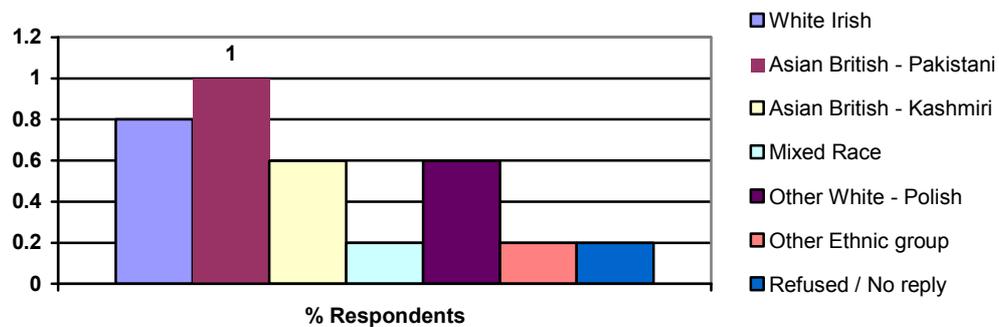
Christian	Muslim	Buddhist	Sikh	Other	None
432	9	1	1	7	62
84%	2%	0.5%	0.5%	1%	12%

Ethnic Breakdown

The panel is currently over representative of White British members we will aim to address this with the approaching panel refresh.

Ethnicity	% Respondents
White British	96.5
White Irish	0.8
Asian British - Indian	0.0
Asian British - Pakistani	1.0
Asian British - Bangladeshi	0.0
Asian British - Kashmiri	0.6
Chinese	0.0
Black British – Caribbean	0.0
Black British - African	0.0
Mixed Race	0.2
Other White - Polish	0.6
Other Ethnic group	0.2
Refused / No reply	0.2

The chart below shows the breakdown of all other recorded ethnic groups. Please note that the maximum percentage for this graph is one percent.



Limitations of data

How well the sample represents the population is gauged by two important statistics – the survey's margin of error and confidence level. For example, this survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent at a 95 percent level of confidence. These means that if the survey were conducted 100 times, the data would be within 4 percentage points above or below the percentage reported in 95 of the 100 surveys. In essence, this means that slight differences in percentage results need to be treated with caution and for this reason; the narrative in this report only discusses significant variations between percentages.

Margins of error at 95% confidence

Survey sample size	2,000	1,500	1,000	500	400	300	200	100	50
Margin of error in %	+/- 2	+/-3	+/-3	+/-4	+/-5	+/-6	+/-7	+/-10	+/-14

Structure of the report

Each subsequent section of this report deals with one of the four sections of the questionnaire. The topics were deliberately chosen for individual service requirements and therefore there is to be little cross-referencing between sections. The key findings are significant to Council policy; this report will make a series of basic recommendations for the relevant service managers to consider.

Dog Control

Only a quarter of panel members own a dog. However a slightly higher proportion (29%) stated that they regularly walk a dog away from their own private property. The following section will examine the correspondence between dog owners and non owners as well as considering overall panel attitudes.

Local dog control and the awareness of local bye-laws

A total of 41% of all respondents replied that they felt either 'well informed' or 'informed' about local by-laws concerning the control of dogs. As expected, more dog owners (61%) said that they felt informed in either category.

A total of 48% of all respondents said that they felt 'uninformed' or 'not at all informed' about the same item, with 14% saying that they were 'not at all informed'. Further to this, 37% of dog owners said that they were 'uninformed' in either category with 12% stated that they were 'not at all informed'.

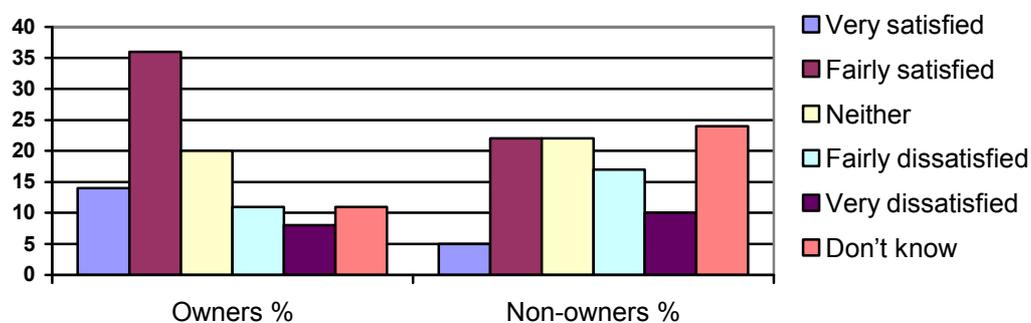
A small number (9%) of respondents felt that the question was not important however only 2% of dog owners agreed.

Satisfaction with the amount and type of restrictions on dogs in Hyndburn

The survey reveals that 33% of all respondents are satisfied with the amount and type of restrictions on dogs in Hyndburn, while 25% felt they were not satisfied. This leaves a large percentage of people (46%) who responded 'don't know' or have no opinion either way.

Interestingly, 50% of dog owners were satisfied compared to only 20% who felt the type and amount were unsatisfactory. Further 20% had no opinion whatsoever leaving 10% who chose not to answer.

The table below shows the comparison of dog owners and non-dog owners in regards to the question: Are you satisfied with the amount of restrictions on dogs in Hyndburn?



The split for people who do not own dogs was more even. 26% said that they were satisfied, 27% were not satisfied and 22% had no opinion.

Respondents were then asked to cite the three greatest reasons for dissatisfaction. The most responses were in relation to the enforcement of restrictions rather than the restrictions themselves. More than three quarters (76%) of panel members stated that local enforcement was not adequate. 36% felt that restrictions were not clear, and 29% felt that there were too few restrictions.

Reason	Overall %	Owners %	Non-owners %
Too many restrictions	3	5	2
Wrong type of restrictions	6	9	5
Restrictions are not enforced	76	74	76
Restrictions in wrong places	18	23	17
Too few restrictions	29	19	32
Restrictions are not clear	36	39	35
Restrictions not practical	12	13	11
Other	11	16	9

In terms of dog owners, the top reason was again enforcement with 74% in agreement. 39% felt that restrictions were not clear this is slightly higher than the overall percentage of 36%. While 23% felt that restrictions were in the wrong places.

We asked the panel to consider restrictions in the Council's parks and playing fields.

Close to three quarter (73%) of panel members felt that dogs should be kept on a lead in the Council's parks and Playing fields and just 17% disagreed.

When we break this down to dog owners and non-owners the results are somewhat varied. Dog owners are less keen to keep their dogs on a lead at all times. Just less than half (49%) favour leads on dogs in parks and playing fields. Yet 81% of non-dog owners felt this was a good option. A significant percentage (42%) of dog owners disagreed with the introduction of this restriction.

The understanding that dogs should be put on a lead when asked to do so by an officer was a more unanimously popular measure. 86% of the panel, 83% of dog owners and 87% of respondents without dogs were in agreement. This illustrates a very positive response by panel members to the potential enforcement powers held by officers at the council.

Agreement that dogs should be excluded from children's play areas was overwhelming. 92% (93% of dog owners and 92% of non-dog owners) felt that this option should be introduced.

83% of panel members felt that dogs should be excluded from sports pitches and activity areas, however 10% disagreed. A lower percentage (71%) of dog owners' agreed while 25% thought that dogs should be allowed on pitches. 87% of people who do not own dogs supported an exclusion of dogs from sports and activity pitches.

In relation to “no further restrictions” on dogs in the Council’s parks and playing fields our panel responded as follows:

- Only 17% of respondents felt that ‘no further restrictions’ should be introduced in contrast to 31% who disagreed.
- 36% of Panel members who own dogs agreed that there should be ‘no further restrictions’ and 28% disagreed.
- Only 11% of non-dog owners agreed while a much larger percentage (47%) disagreed.

The survey asked the panel to think about dog enforcement and restrictions on dogs in the Council’s cemeteries.

In regard to keeping dogs on leads at all times in cemeteries, and in respect to issuing fines for those who do not comply with the restrictions, all response groups were in clear agreement with a 95% - 93% of dog owners and 96% of people who do not own a dog - positive response rate.

When asked whether dogs should be excluded from cemeteries, 44% agreed with 34% agreement from dog owners and 46% agreement from panel members without dogs. A fairly even split of 35% (compared to the 34% general agreement) disagreed with this option. A significant number (49%) of dog owners disagreed that this was a positive measure and 30% of people without dogs also opposed this idea.

Only 18% of respondents (and 14% of non dog owners) felt that there should be ‘no further restrictions’ on dogs in cemeteries. Unsurprisingly, panel members with dogs had a higher level of agreement at 31%.

Following on from the previous sections the survey then asked the panel to think about the town centres and dog enforcement.

There was a swell of response in regard to dogs being kept on a lead when asked to do so by an officer in local town centres. *The results demonstrate 96% agreement overall.* This number breaks down as follows: 96% of panel members who do not own dogs and 94% of dog owners were in agreement.

When asked whether or not the Council should consider having 'no further restrictions' on dogs in town centres, only a very small number (15%) were in agreement, while 42% disagreed, suggesting that more people feel that there are not enough restrictions on dogs in the town centre.

When we examine the separate responses of dog owners' results are less conclusive. Dog owners were more evenly split with 27% agreement on 'no further restrictions' and 30% who felt there should be further restrictions.

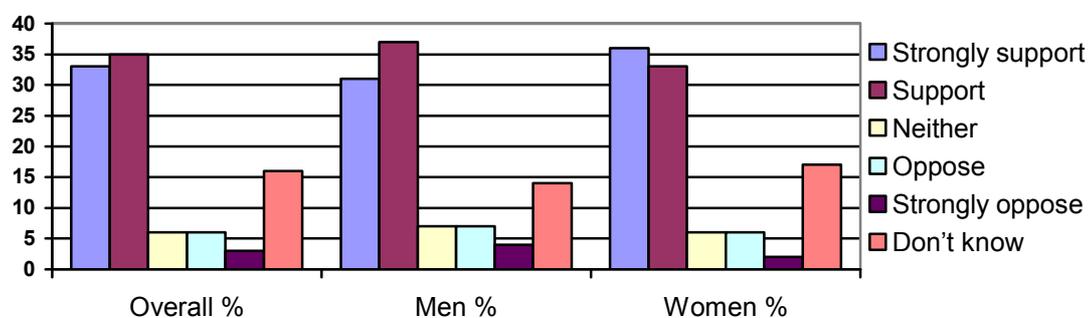
For those members without a dog only 10% selected 'no further restrictions' while 46% disagreed.

Introduction of Local By-Laws

This section deals with a singular question about the introduction of local by-laws in panel members local areas.

69% of panel respondents said that they would either strongly support or support the general principle of Hyndburn Council using new powers to introduce by-laws in their local area. 33% of these respondents said that they would strongly support the introduction. Only 9% of people said they would oppose or strongly oppose the idea with a small number, from this figure 3% said they would strongly oppose a move by Hyndburn Council to introduce new by-laws in their area. 6% of respondents stated that they neither support nor oppose the idea and a considerable number (16%) preferred not to answer.

Response	Overall %	Men %	Women %
Strongly support	33	31	36
Support	35	37	33
Neither	6	7	6
Oppose	6	7	6
Strongly oppose	3	4	2
Don't know	16	14	17



Sport Culture and Physical Activity

In order to build up a picture of panel members and their participation in physical activity the survey asked respondents how often do they undertook a number of different physical activities.

Walking was revealed as the most popular physical activity. 82% of panel members walk for exercise at least once per week. 17% walk about once a week, 23% walk several times per week and 43% walk every day. Male and female respondents walk as regularly as each other.

The second most popular activity was gardening with 48% of people undertaking this activity *at least* once per week. 25% of people tended to their garden about once a week, 18% cited gardening as an activity that they did several times per week and 5% spent time gardening on a daily basis.

A quarter of men spent time gardening either daily or several times per week, compared to 22% - a slightly lower figure - for women.

Other activities undertaken at a frequency of at least once per week include:

- Exercise and Keep fit or aerobics (24%). Keep fit is largely more popular among female panel members at 28% compared to 19%.
- Swimming - 14% of all panel members swim at least once per week. Again this activity is more popular among women. 19% of women swim compared to 8% of men.
- Attending a gym (12%) was only slightly more popular with women rather than men.

The least popular activity was skateboarding and rollerblading with less than 1% of respondents taking part in the activity on a regular basis. This is not a surprising figure when you consider the demographic panel information provided earlier in this report.

Household members and physical activity

The survey reveals that walking was the most popular activity among household members with 71% walking at least once per week and 38% walking on a daily basis.

Gardening was yet again the second most popular activity with a third (31%) of people stating household members' garden at least once a week.

The third most popular activity for other members of respondents' households was keep fit and aerobics with 24% taking part in the activity at least once a week.

Other activities were more closely positioned than in question 12. Team sports were more popular (17%) along with swimming and the gym both of which revealed 16% taking part at least once a week.

Horse riding, skateboarding and rollerblading were the least popular activities. Only 3% participation in these activities was recorded for household members.

Hyndburn as a place to undertake sport or physical activity

Of the panel members who responded to this survey, 4% consider Hyndburn an excellent place to take part in sport and physical activity and 43% of people rate the area as good. Comparatively only 10% and 1% regard the area as either poor or very poor respectively. The proportion of people (31%) who responded in a neutral way was significant, with a third of people answering "neither good nor poor" to the idea of Hyndburn as a place to take part in sport or physical activity.

Interestingly, the younger members of the panel (16-24) feel Hyndburn is a poor place for sport and physical activity. Half of the respondents in this group

rated Hyndburn as either poor or very poor and the other half had no opinion either way. Following on from this, the second most negative group were the 25-34 year olds with 36% of respondents who rated Hyndburn as a 'good' place for sports and activities, 42% had a neutral opinion, and 18% felt Hyndburn is poor or very poor.

All age groups between 35 and 84 had a positive response rate between 41% and 51%, while the over 85 year olds felt that Hyndburn was 'good' in 67% of responses.

Rating	Overall %	Men %	Women %
Excellent	4	4	3
Good	43	41	46
Neither	31	28	33
Poor	10	12	8
Very poor	1	1	1
Don't know	12	15	10

Men were more negative about Hyndburn as a place for physical activity, while almost half of our female respondents rated the borough as either good or excellent.

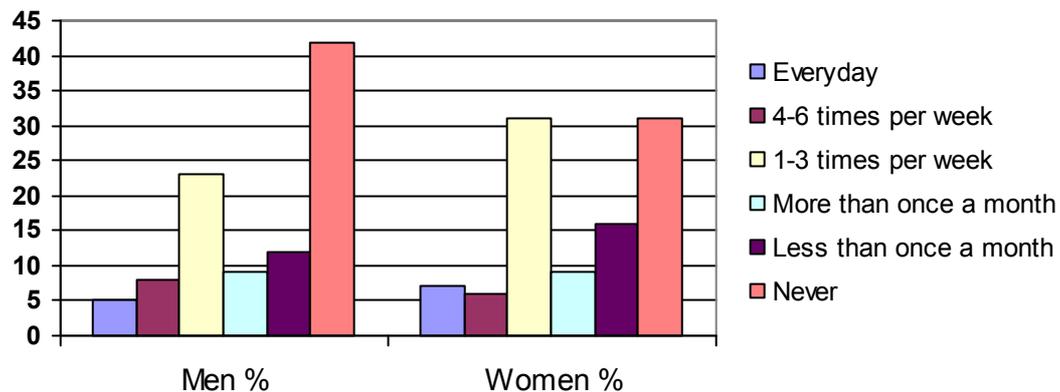
Vigorous exercise

In the following section, vigorous exercise refers to any activity lasting 30 minutes or longer which leaves you out of breath.

- 6% of panel members exercise every day
- Similarly 7% exercise 4-6 times per week.
- 27% of respondents said that they exercise between 1 and 3 times per week.
- 9% exercise vigorously more than once a month
- 14% take part less than once per month.

- Worryingly the highest percentage response for this question was 'never' at 36%.

This is a total of 40% participation in regular or frequent vigorous activity. However the total is remains only slightly higher than the percentage of panel members who selected 'never'. The chart below illustrates the difference between male and female participation in vigorous exercise:



Women exercise more than men (43% and 36% respective total %) while shockingly 31% of women stated that they never exercise and a 42% of men also stated that they never exercise.

- Half of the 16-24 year olds surveyed exercised regularly others exercised but much less frequently.
- 55% of 25-34 year olds regularly exercise. Yet 12% of respondents in this age group never exercise.

Not surprisingly the total percentage of respondents who take part in vigorous exercise decreases as we look at each of the age groups in order from 45 plus. What is worrying about this information is that between the ages of 45-54, 22% of respondents never exercise. This worsens dramatically in the 55-64 age range where a massive 40% of cases state that they never take part in vigorous exercise.

Restrictive factors on taking part in physical activity

Respondents were asked to select as many things which prevented them from taking part in physical activity as they felt were appropriate. Interestingly the most popular reason for not taking part in activities was that people felt they didn't have time. In fact over a third of respondents (35%) believe that they are too busy to be able to take part in a sport or activity in their day to day lives. In addition to this, over ten percent more women than men felt that they didn't have the time.

The second most popular reason identified by respondents for not taking part in activities was health problems. 32% of people cited this as a factor that prevents them from participating. Men were more likely to have health problems which prevent them from taking part in physical activity.

A significant number of respondents (27%) felt that their involvement in activities was restricted by cost. 33% of women cited this as a reason compared to 21% of men.

15% of panel members felt that they were not fit enough to take part in activities, while 10% had no interest in participating. A very significant difference can be noted in relation the male and female split on the response 'I am not fit enough'. Almost double the percentage of women compared to men (19% and 10% respectively) name this as a factor which prevents them from participating in physical activity.

Hyndburn as a place to take part in specific physical activities

Three quarters of panel members rated Hyndburn as a 'good' or 'excellent' place to go walking. The most positive response was 88% in the 25-34 year olds category.

Overall respondents felt Hyndburn was a particularly good place for swimming (56%), running (45%), gardening (45%) and keep fit (45%). Respondents included in these counts answered either 'good' or 'excellent' in relation to the specified activity.

With this in mind it is interesting to see that swimming was also highlighted as poorly catered for, by 10% of respondents. Other areas with a similar percentage of people responding negatively were tennis/other sports, and dance, both of which had a 9% negative response.

Notably, the largest percentage for over half of the activities specified, received a "don't know/no reply". This can be attributed to the low number of people who take part in the activities as shown in question 12.

Club membership within Hyndburn

- 29% of people responding to this survey belong to a health and fitness club and this is more popular for women (39%) compared to men (17%).
- 21% of respondents are members at social clubs. This number is equal between men and women.
- Sports, golf and dance clubs were all equally popular all having an 11% membership rate among panel members.
- The least prevalent club was the drama club with fewer than 5% of respondents being members, female responses for this option were slightly higher at 7%.
- 31% of respondents said that they were members of other clubs.

The survey shows that respondents are highly likely to provide voluntary support to the clubs at which they are members. Over half (51%) of the people consulted stated that they provide administrative support. While a very

significant number of people (38%) helped to manage clubs or were board members.

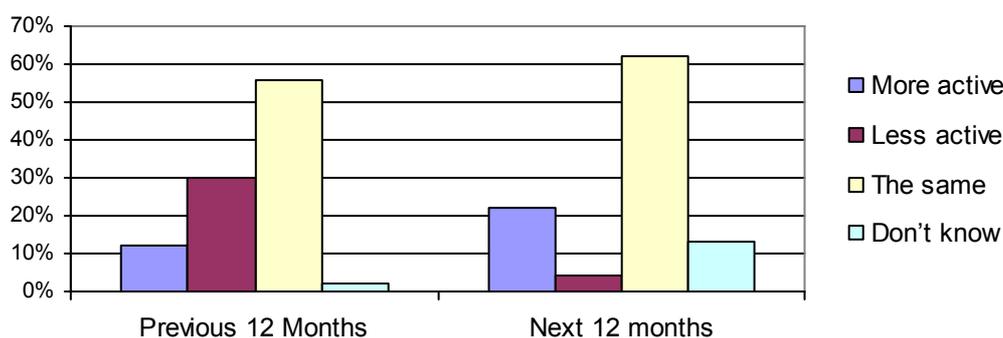
Interestingly, men were much more likely to provide management or board support and women were more likely to provide administrative support.

In terms of activity based voluntary work, 16% of respondents were coaches or instructors at their sports club and a further 14% said that they provided general support. 10% of people surveyed volunteer as a referee, umpire or judge.

Coaching was considerably more popular (67%) in the 25-34 year old age bracket.

Participation in physical activity

Over half of respondents felt that they were 'about the same' in terms of their level of activity compared to 12 months ago. Almost 30% felt that they were less active and 12% noted that they were more active than the previous year. The table below displays the overall response for the past twelve months compared to the approaching twelve months:



The largest majority (62%) of respondents surveyed felt that their participation in activities would not change in the next twelve months. Interestingly 21% stated that they were going to become more active while comparatively only 4% thought that they would become less active.

The final section in relation to sport and physical activity asked how well panel members think the leisure and free time needs and interests of a number of individual groups are served in Hyndburn

According to 32% of people consulted for this survey, children between the ages of 0–12 years have their interests well served in Hyndburn, however this is in contrast to a fifth of respondent who disagree.

22% of respondents consider 13-19 year olds to be well catered for in terms of activities and facilities, however a large number of people disagree. 36% feel that Hyndburn does not provide enough for young people of this age group. This is the highest number of negative comments for any group under this question

39% of respondents think that 20-29 year olds are served either 'quite well' or 'very well', this is compared to a much lower number (15%) who contradict this idea.

Satisfaction for the provision of facilities and activities was highest in relation to the 30-59 year old age group. 44% responded positively far out-weighting the negative responses, which equated to only 20%. The same applies for the sixty-plus age range, 37% felt that there is adequate provision to meet the leisure needs of people over the age of 60 years. Only a fifth recorded negative responses for activities and facilities for the 60+ groups.

Respondents seemed to have mixed feelings when it comes to the same question for parents with young children. The results show that 21% of panel members feel provision of leisure facilities and interests for parents with young children is acceptable where as 22% do not agree.

A much clearer message can be seen in the final question, which asks about provision of the same facilities for disabled people. Only 13% of people feel

that Hyndburn has enough facilities for disabled people compared to 24% who feel that that the area does not serve the interests of this group well.

The number of people who answered 'don't know' for question 22 was high for every indicator. This may be due to the number of people who do not take part in activities and therefore are not accessing public services in this area.

The Children's Play Strategy

Panel members were asked how much they agreed or disagreed with a number of statements about play facilities in Hyndburn and in their local area. In relation to the first statement "there are no parks with good quality facilities in this area", 39% of respondents agreed with the statement, 18% expressed no opinion either way, and 29% disagreed. Women were more likely to agree (43%) with this statement. Men on the other hand showed no preference either way with equal 35% agreement and disagreement. All 16-24 year olds surveyed agreed with this statement.

Almost 50% of the respondents agreed that "children make their own entertainment", whereas only 12% disagreed. 19% of respondents had no opinion.

A significant number of people felt that older and younger children need their own separate play facilities. 85% agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. Only 5% responded in neutrally and 8% didn't know. A very small number (2%) of people felt that children did not need separate play facilities.

When thinking about the statement "there are enough play facilities for both older and younger kids to play with round here" Over half, 54% disagreed while only 10% agreed, 18% gave a neutral response to this statement. More men than women agreed with this statement, however the figures were still low at 13%. Approximately half of the men surveyed disagreed with this statement compared to 57% of female respondents.

Of those who responded, 58% of panel members expressed that there is not enough for children to do in their local area, compared to 8% who stated that they felt there was plenty to do.

When asked to rate whether they agreed with the statement "I don't really think children need playgrounds or supervised facilities", over three quarters disagreed and only 7% agreed.

27% strongly agree and 46% agree that, “Children can be a nuisance in their area”. Only 9% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement. Unexpectedly, all of the 16-19 year olds in this survey either agree or strongly agree with this statement. Three quarters of 25-34 year olds agree with the statement, and an average of 78% of people between the ages of 45 and 64 also agree.

Half the panel members surveyed feel that there are not enough clubs or activity centres to occupy young people in their local area. Only 9% of respondents considered there to be enough indoor facilities for children in their area.

Well in excess of half (57%) of the panel responses agreed that people worry too much about children hurting themselves while playing. This is compared to 17% who felt this was untrue. However, 53% of respondents think that people are also “scared about letting young children play unsupervised in their local area.” A much smaller number (11%) felt that this was not true.

Children’s play in the Hyndburn

The table below shows how many people are aware of each of the facilities in their local area. Respondents were allowed to tick as many responses as they felt were appropriate. Playgrounds with fixed equipment were noted by 84%, the largest proportion of respondents. The least recognised facility was after school clubs.

Activity	%
Playgrounds with fixed equipment	84%
Supervised activity (e.g. sports, youth clubs, community centres)	31%
Activities at school outside the normal school day	29%
Fields, trees, or open spaces children play in/on	75%
Other	5%

Respondents were asked how important a number of items were in relation to adding them in to the play strategy for consideration.

Of the people who responded, 85% consider the refurbishment of existing play facilities to be either important or very important. Three quarters felt that the council should address the issue of developing new fixed play facilities. 86% thought that youth clubs and community centres were important to include in the strategy. 78% of panel members regard after school clubs as either very 'important' or 'important' to include in the play strategy.

The development of skateboard parks and five-a-side football areas was considered slightly less important, however feedback remains significant at 66% importance.

In terms of negative responses, all areas scored rather low, between 1% and 5%, with the exception of skate parks and five-a-side football parks, which were slightly higher at 8%. This item was also slightly higher in regards to neutral and don't know responses at 26%.

Supervised activities for children in Hyndburn

When asked what kind of free activities panel members would like to see in their area the response was positive for most activities. This suggests that investment in opportunities for young people would be well received.

- The most prominent response was youth clubs with 79% agreement.
- Sports clubs were also perceived to be of high importance (63%)
- Parent and child groups were slightly lower with 59%
- Drama clubs, drop in centres, and dance groups, all had around 50-55% respectively.
- The lowest interest (37%) was associated with art clubs.

Unsupervised activities for children in Hyndburn

- Play grounds for young children (67%),
- Multi-use games areas (65%),
- Playgrounds for older children (62%)
- School based activities (61%)

Items for consideration, which were not as well supported, include; skateboards parks/cycle tracks (44%), youth shelters (40%), and informal play areas (37%).

This survey did not cover negative responses to the ideas for supervised and unsupervised play activities and will require further research.

Panel members were asked to rate how good or poor they felt facilities were for each age group in their Hyndburn.

Pre-school facilities in Hyndburn were considered to be the best catered for with 24% of respondents saying that facilities for this group were 'good' or 'very good'. This is compared to 22% for 5-8 year olds, 15% for 9-12 year olds and 7% for teenagers.

This picture is also true when we look at facilities rated either 'poor' or 'very poor'. Half of the respondents for this survey felt that facilities for teenagers were poor with a quarter rating facilities as very poor. 28% felt that facilities for 9-12 year olds were inadequate, 23% believe that 5-8 year olds have to cope with poor facilities, while 22% felt that pre school facilities were just as bad.