THE CENTRE FOR YOUTH IMPACT

Who is heard where? Mapping youth voice activity across the UK

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1. Executive Summary

This narrative review builds understanding of the extent to which young people have a space and platform to be heard in the UK. This report summarises current youth voice initiatives in the UK focussed on:

- Which methods are being used to capture young people's voices?
- What is the diversity of young people being heard through these initiatives?
- What are young people saying through these initiatives?

For the purposes of this review, by youth voice initiatives we mean those that provide *'opportunities for young people to have their ideas, opinions, and knowledge heard around a particular issue or topic'.*

Which methods are being used to capture young people's views?

QUANTITAIVE APPROACHES ARE DOMINANT

Quantitative approaches make up 60% of all youth voice initatives reviewed, with less than 20% of studies included using qualitative approaches exclusively. **A mixed method approach that makes use of both may be valuable** to allow a broad spectrum of voices to be captured and undertake targeted work to capture the voices of underrepresented groups.

23.3% of studies in the review adopted elements of participatory research to varying degrees. **Adopting a participatory approach** to the design and/or delivery of youth voice initiatives may be a key ingredient in ensuring that they are of high quality, but organisations may need support with implementation.

INITIATIVES ARE ADOPTING A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

What is the diversity of young people being heard through these initiatives?

Younger age groups **(U11) are less likely to have their voices** heard through published youth voice initiatives.

The views of young people in **England are dominant**.

There are **few** youth voice initiatives targeted specifically at **marginalised or minority groups.**

What are young people expressing their views on, and what are they saying?

COVID-19, family and community, and health and welfare were the dominant topics young people's views were captured on

Young people's voices focused on:

- Wanting more opportunities to engage in decision-making;
- Wanting more support and advice (often regarding housing, mental health, and employment); and
- The impact the pandemic has had on their mental health.

2. Introduction

Understanding the views of young people, providing them with a space to have their voices heard, and taking their views on board in decisions that affect them is an increasing focus for organisations working with and for young people. This is important, for a variety of reasons. First, it provides excellent opportunities for young people to practice and develop a range of socio-emotional and transferable life skills. Second, it confronts and challenges 'adultism' – bias towards adult ways of thinking and doing that often discriminate against the views and preferences of young people and limits their engagement in society. Third, it makes sense! When we are designing and delivering services for young people, it is very difficult to do this well without understanding young people's needs.

In addition to the above, listening and responding to young people is critical to meet the requirements of Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC has 54 articles covering all aspects of a child's life and sets out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children are entitled to (Unicef 2022). There are four principles in the Convention that are seen as special. They're known as the 'General Principles' and help to interpret all other articles and play a fundamental role in realising all rights in the Convention for all children. 'Right to be Heard' (Article 12) is one of these 'General Principles', and mandates that children have the right to express their views and the right to have their views given due weight in all matters affecting them.

Whilst we know the value of supporting young people to have a voice, the extent of youth voice activity[1] is not well known. This is why Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The National Lottery Community Fund and BBC Children in Need have collaboratively commissioned this piece of work to better understand which tools and approaches are being used to listen to young people's views, and where the gaps in this activity might be. This piece of research is part of a broader project on *Young People's Voice, Influence and Power,* which seeks to increase understanding about current youth voice opportunities young people have access to across the UK. The project aims to improve access to information about youth voice activities, and enhance equity through better understanding the barriers to engagement and evidencing priority areas where investment is, and where access to youth voice activities need to be improved.

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[1] 'youth voice activity' is the term we're using to cover a wide range of efforts to listen, collate and respond to the voices of young people. This is discussed further at the bottom of page 7 of this report.

3. About this review

This narrative literature review takes steps towards understanding the extent to which activities exist that focus on providing young people with a space and platform to be heard in the UK. This review explores what young people are saying across these activities, which young people are engaging, and how they are able to engage.

We address the following research questions:

1. *Which methods are being used to capture young people's voices?*
   a. What types of data are being collected?
   b. Who is collecting this information?

2. *What is the diversity of young people being heard through these activities?*
   a. What are the ages of young people engaging?
   b. What are the demographics of young people engaging?
   c. Where are these initiatives being undertaken?

3. *What are young people saying through these activities?*
   a. What are the key areas/issues young people are expressing an opinion about?
   b. What are young people's opinions on these key areas/issues?

This review examines studies published between January 2020 to January 2022 that detail activities capturing the voices of young people aged up to 25 years old in the UK. This period includes the outbreak and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and many activities specifically explore the impact of the pandemic on young people. The review puts a spotlight on a significant moment in young people's lives, during an extraordinary period of upheaval, change and uncertainty. We acknowledge therefore that there is an anomalous skew in the topics and issues compared to what a review of this kind may normally capture.

60 studies were included in this review. The key areas/issues covered by the studies were:

● Covid-19 (n=30)
● Family and Community (n=12)
● Health and Welfare (n=9)
● Democracy and Justice (n=3)
● Education, Leisure and Culture (n=2)
● Employment (n=2)
● Environment (n=1)
● Diversity & Equality (n=2)

3.1. Limitations

This review presents a snapshot of literature on youth voice activities published during the time period January 2020 - January 2022. Whilst every effort has been made to capture relevant studies in the review, it has not been possible to present a comprehensive and exhaustive account of the

literature relating to youth voice activity published since January 2020. We recognised that:

- There will be studies that have just fallen short of the inclusion criteria (for example those published in 2019);
- There will be activities that were undertaking data collection at the time that this review was written and therefore will not be included in our search for published studies;
- Studies have been included in which young people's voices could not be separated from those over the age of 25;
- The inclusion criteria cover a period of time when COVID-19 was a primary concern, and therefore this topic dominates;
- While efforts have been made to find a range of studies, it is probable that there were further local consultations and outputs that were not identified and included; and
- It is difficult to know whether the limited number of studies targeted specifically at minority groups is due to the low numbers conducted; our inability to identify and find them (due to bias or skill); or their lack of promotion and ease of access online.

The majority of young people participating in the included studies are self-selecting, i.e., those that have an interest and are able to engage in these activities. Therefore, we are limited in our ability to capture the voices and opinions of young people who were unreached by the methodologies of included studies or who do not have the skills or capacity to take part.

Despite this, this review offers a good starting point from which to drive forward work on youth voice. Being broad in scope, it provides an overview of common approaches and an indication of gaps in opportunities for young people to have their voices heard. Furthermore, this work is novel, and we are not aware of any other initiatives undertaken in the youth sector to date that provide this kind of insight.

3.2. A note on definitions

The upper age that someone is defined as a young person varies depending on context. For example, the World Health Organisation (WHO) defines adolescence as 10-19 and young people as 10-24 (WHO 2014), and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child defines children as under-18 (UN 1989).

For the purposes of this review, the upper age limit of 25 was used to reflect that, in many organisations, a young person is considered to be someone up to the age of 24 or 25 (as outlined by WHO). 15 studies (out of 60) with a maximum upper age limit of 25 were included in the study[2].

By youth voice activity, we mean activity (either one-off or ongoing) that provides *opportunities for young people to have their distinct ideas, opinions, attitudes, and knowledge heard about a particular issue or topic.* Whilst definitions of 'youth voice' and 'participation' vary, we have found that they are often united by three key principles:

- Young people have safe and accessible spaces to have their voices heard

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[2] No studies focused solely on university students.

- Young people are listened to
- Young people have a stake in decision-making

The definition used in this report therefore considers activity guided by these principles in those that make space for young people to be listened to.

3.3.   This report

The rest of this report is divided into four sections. Section 4 explains the methodological approach. Section 5 gives an overview of youth voice activity, detailing the main methods used, their approach to quality, who has engaged, and the key areas/issues young people are expressing their opinion about. Section 6 goes into more detail, exploring young people's opinions on key areas/issues, and Section 7 provides some conclusions, considering how we might improve access and representation across youth voice initiatives.

4. Methodology

This narrative review broadly follows the methodology of a rapid evidence assessment (REA) to allow for an overview of the type, density, and quality of youth voice studies ever published since 2020. It was conducted in five steps:

1. Defining inclusion criteria
2. Identifying studies from web and database searches
3. Screening at title and introduction level to identify relevant studies
4. Screening at full-text level to identify relevant studies
5. Extracting and synthesising data for inclusion in the review

4.1.   Inclusion criteria

To be eligible for inclusion, studies had to fulfil the following criteria:

- Relating to activity that captured the voices of young people up to the age of 25
- Relating to activity that captured the voices of young people in the UK, including studies focusing on young people in only one nation, or UK-wide
- Including the voices of five or more young people
- Directly reporting on young people's voice (i.e. use information directly gathered from young people)
- Published in English
- Published January 2020 or later with a data collection period within the prior 12-months, or where data collection began in 2018 but continued into 2019

Where articles included both the voices of adults (over the age of 25) and young people, these were included only when it was possible to clearly distinguish views expressed by young people.

Studies using quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods were eligible for the review. Peer-reviewed academic literature and non-academic ('grey') literature were both considered for inclusion in the review.

4.2.   Topic area

Studies covered the eight major areas listed below. These areas acted as key search terms, and were modelled on the BYC/UK Youth Parliament Manifesto 2019/20 and Children's Rights Alliance for England List of Issues Prior to Reporting (2020), which represent the views of young people and organisations working directly with young people on priority areas for action.

1. COVID-19
2. Family & Community
3. Health & Welfare
4. Democracy & Justice
5. Education, Leisure and Culture
6. Employment
7. Environment

8. Diversity & Equality

In open web searches, the key search areas were prefixed with the following terms: "youth voice"; "young people"; "young people's voice"; "youth census UK"; "Youth consultation UK"; "young people survey"; "young people's views".

Table 1 lists the indicative sub-topics captured by these eight areas, alongside organisations who lead in these areas and were used as a starting point for web searching.

Table 1: *Key search areas and youth organisations working in these areas*

Area	Sub-areas (indicative)	Examples of organisations operating in this area
COVID-19	Overall experiences; experiences of employment; experiences of school	Children's Commissioner
Family & Community	Crime; housing; homelessness; family; friends; relationships; the future	Foyer Federation; Centrepoint; Young Foundation; Clinks
Health & Welfare	Mental health; Alcohol & drug abuse; poverty; hygiene poverty; access to services; CSE & abuse; sleep; food; welfare state; services	Young Minds; Emerging Minds
Democracy & Justice	Political engagement & decision-making; voting; political protest; UNCRC; young peoples participation and rights; young people in the criminal justice system	Beatfreeks
Education, Leisure & Culture	School/college; Further/Higher education; exercise & sport; social media and digital engagement; travel	Association of Colleges; Learning and Work Institute; Beatfreeks; Jack Petchey Foundation
Employment	Youth unemployment; work experience and apprenticeships; equal pay	Volunteer It Yourself, UpRising (Stand Out, FastLaners)
Environment	Climate change; recycling; renewable energy; food waste; air pollution; cycle lanes	UpRising (Environmental Leadership Programme)
Diversity & Equality	Racism; LGBTQ+; sexism; SEND	Proud Trust; Kite Trust; Advocacy Academy; Just Like Us

4.3.   Study identification

Studies were identified using the inclusion criteria outlined above, using a two-stage approach between November – December 2021:

1. Searches of web search engines, databases, and professional association websites using the identified search areas and websites of relevant organisations listed in Table 1, followed by;
2. A manual review of bibliographies of key publications identified, and /or a snowball approach that followed references identified in studies sourced through (1)

The search strings were developed through an iterative process of trialling different terms and combinations to achieve a balance between retrieving enough results to be confident key studies had been identified, and being specific enough to limit irrelevant studies. In open web searches, the key search areas and sub-areas (Table 1) were prefixed with the following terms: "youth voice"; "young people"; "young people's voice"; "youth census UK"; "Youth consultation UK"; "young people survey"; "young people's views".

4.4.   Screening and data extraction

All studies identified through the search process were screened at title and introduction/abstract level and logged, noting topic coverage. 63 articles were identified in initial screening. After full-text screening, 60 articles were included in data extraction, synthesis and inclusion in the review.

For each included study, information was extracted regarding:
- Type of publisher/organisation
- Topic area
- Method
- Methodological approach
- Nature of data collection (online or face-to-face)
- Geographical area
- Target group
- Age range of participants
- Sample size
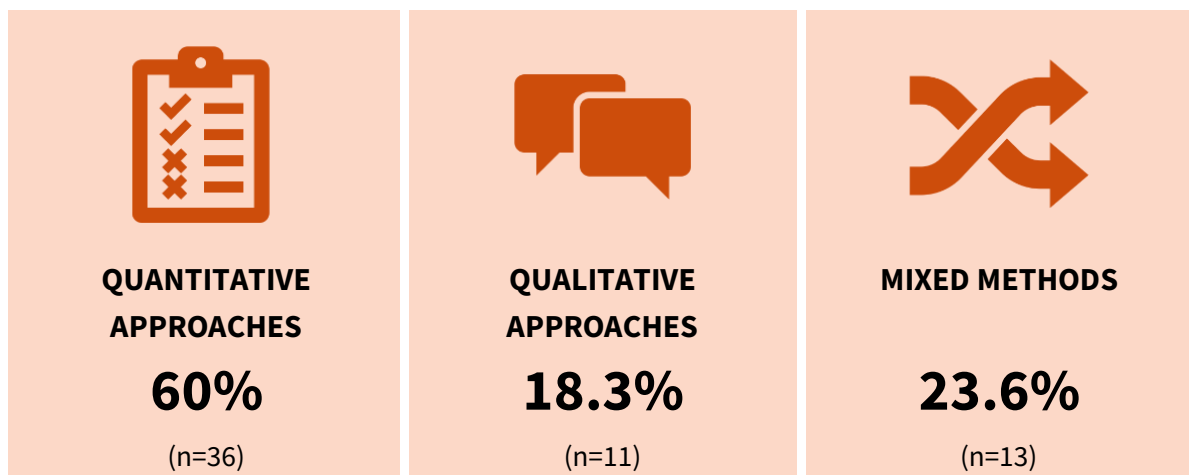- Key findings relating to young people's views

An assessment was also made on the quality of the study, based on whether it involved:
- Research designed by or co-designed with young people
- Methods/data collection tools co-designed with young people
- Peer research
- Use of a recognised measure or metric
- Survey results weighted to be representative of a target population

5. Overview of Youth Voice Activities

This section gives an overview of *how* young people's voices and opinion are being captured, including *whose* voices are heard, the *methods* through which young people views were sought and collected, and who is asking questions. This information is critical to give us a starting point from which to better understand youth voice activities: where, who, how and what young people are saying. It seeks to contribute to building a picture of gaps in access to engagement and the priority areas for youth sector providers, advocates and young people themselves to build new youth voice activities.

5.1.   Which methods are being used to capture young people's views?

QUANTITATIVE APPROACHES	QUALITATIVE APPROACHES	MIXED METHODS
60%	**18.3%**	**23.6%**
(n=36)	(n=11)	(n=13)

Quantitative approaches – predominantly surveys - were the dominant approach through which young people's views and opinions were captured. Three out of five youth voice activities (60%, n=36) focused on gathering young people's view via a self-selecting survey or nationally representative survey. Of these, a small number of surveys and national polls (12.5%,) were weighted to ensure numbers were representative of target populations. The surveys used consisted mainly of multiple choice questions with a smaller number of open-ended or free text questions.

Nearly one in five studies (18.3%, n=11) made use solely of more in-depth, qualitative means of capturing young people voices, such as interviews, focus groups and consultations, or workshops. 21.6% (n=13) adopted a mixed methods approach, combining surveys with qualitative approaches such as interviews or consultations. A breakdown of the particular methods used can be seen in Figure 1.
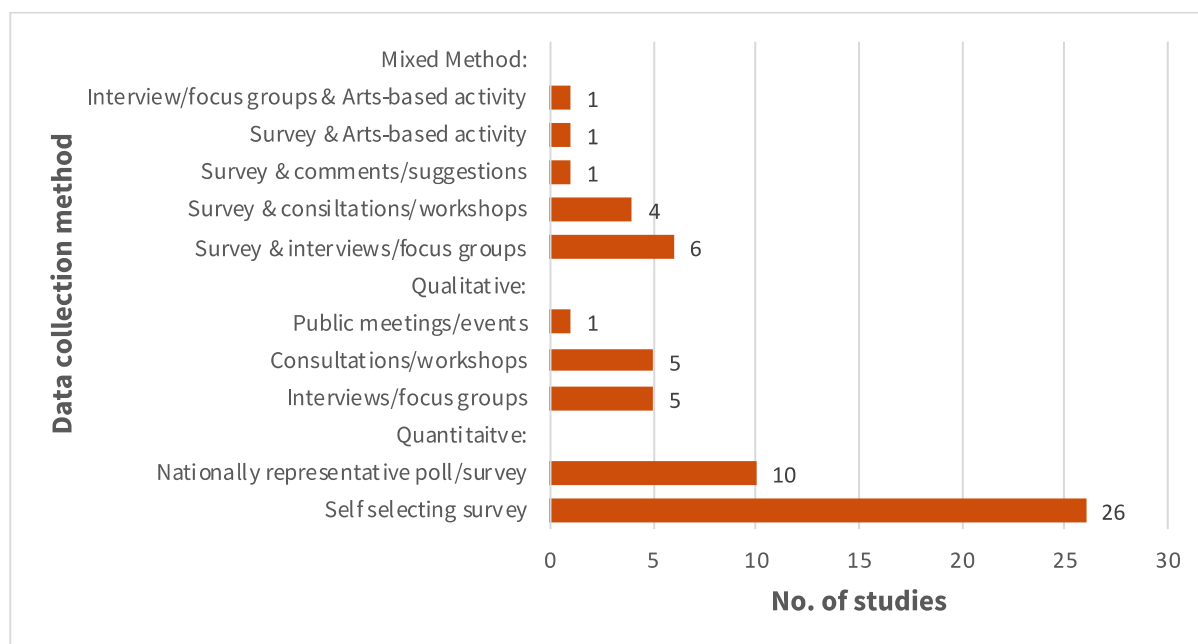
Figure 1: Method used for collecting young people's voices

Across the spectrum of approaches to capturing young people's voices, 23.3% (n=14) of studies in the review adopted elements of participatory research to varying degrees (Figure 3). By participatory research, we mean involving young people in the development or delivery of research in some way, as well as being the respondents. Studies achieved this in three main ways:[3]

- **Research designed by or co-designed with young people:** young people lead or are involved in the development of research questions and/or overall research design;
- **Design of research tools:** methods or data collection tools co-designed with young people; and
- **Peer research:** a participatory research method in which people with lived experience of the issues being studied take part in directing and conducting the research.

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[3] These participatory approaches are not mutually exclusive and some studies made use of more than one of the above. In one study young people were involved in the design of the research and design of the research tools. Two studies engaged young people in designed of the research and as peer researchers, and three studies involved young people in the design of the research tools and as peer researchers.

RESEARCH (CO)DESIGNED BY YOUNG PEOPLE	**DESIGN OF RESEARCH TOOLS**	**PEER RESEARCH**
8 Studies	**7 Studies**	**8 Studies**
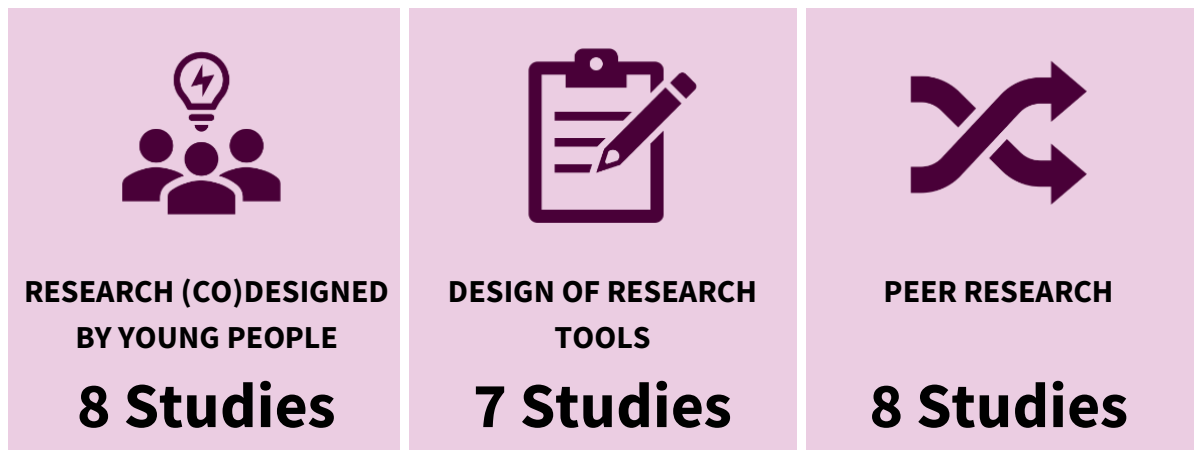
5.2. Who is asking the questions?

Across the studies reviewed, there is a spread of organisation types 'delivering' or facilitating youth voice initiatives. Whilst the Government (16.6%) (n=10), national charities (21.6%) (n=13) and local charities (21.6%) (n=13) are the most dominant, academic institutions, specialist evaluation bodies, government institutions and local government are all captured in this review (Figure 2).
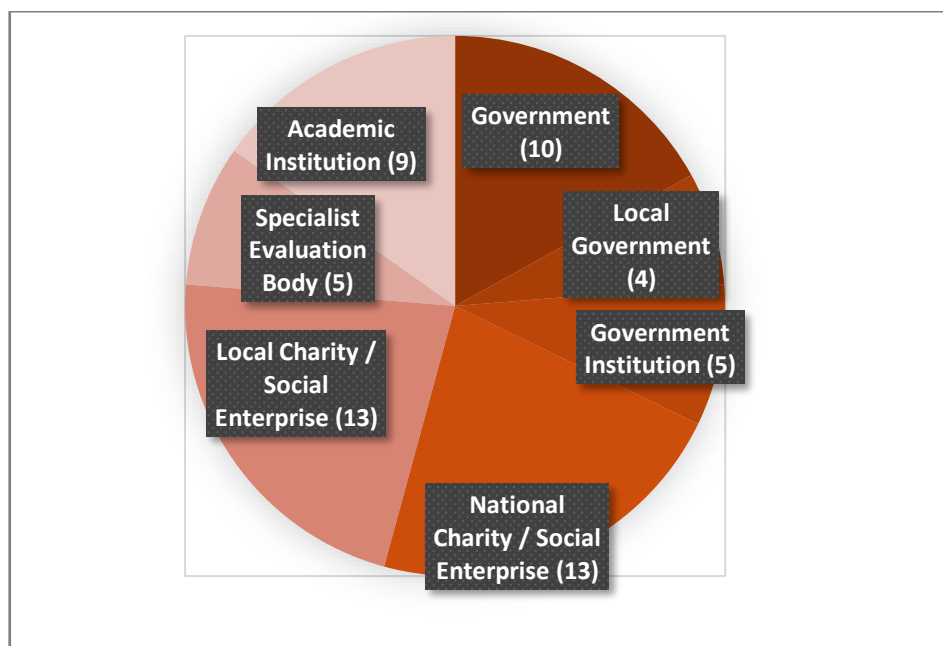

Figure 2: Type of organisations delivering youth voice initiatives

The Government and national charities have a tendency to favour quantitative approaches to collecting young people's voices, whilst local charities appear to vary their methodological approach and making more use of qualitative data collection methods (Figure 3).
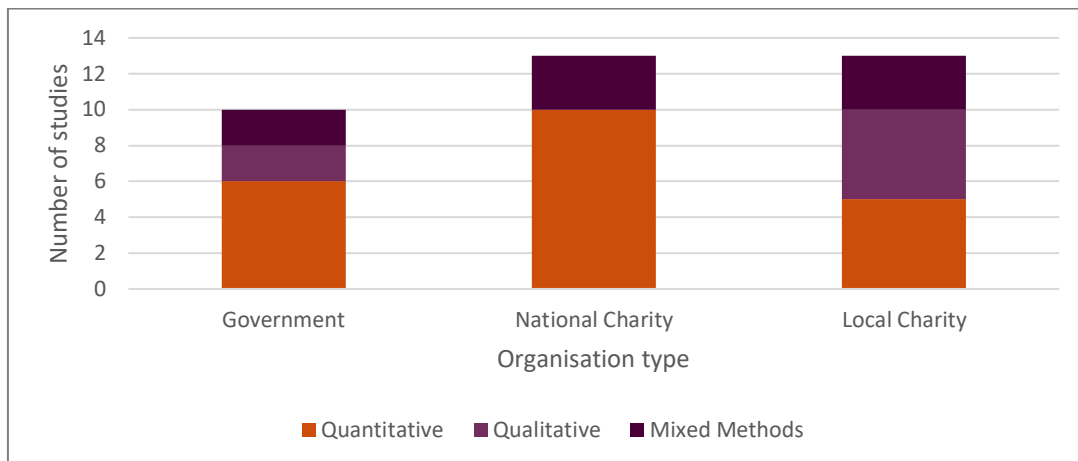
Figure 3: *Methodological approach used by dominant types of organisations*

5.3. Which groups of young people are reached in youth voice initiatives?

Age

In terms of age range, a broad spectrum of young people's voices are being captured, from ages 3-25 (Figure 4).

Generally, young people below the age of 11 are less likely to have their voices captured, with 23.3% (n=14) of identified studies having a minimum age of between 3 and10 years. In contrast, 41.6% (25) had a minimum age between 11 and15 years and 1 in 3 studies (33.3%, n=20) had minimum age of 16-18.

MINIMUM AGE FOR INCLUSION

3-10 years	11-15 years	16-18 years
14 Studies	**25 Studies**	**20 Studies**

In relation to the maximum age of young people participating in studies, few studies had a low upper age range, with 21.6% (n=13) of studies having an upper age range under-18.

MAXIMUM AGE FOR INCLUSION

U18 years	18 years	24 years	25 years
13 Studies	**15 Studies**	**8 Studies**	**15 Studies**

Studies varied in terms of size of age range, and whilst the most common ranges were young people aged 11-18 years (n=5), 11-25 (n=4) and 16-25 (n=6), no one range was significantly represented in the studies. The smallest age range was zero (n=2) where studies captured voices of a single age group, and the largest age range was 15 (n=2). 51.6% (n=31) had an age range of 8 years or more. Around 2 in 3 (n=20) studies with an age range of 8 or more had a minimum age of 11 or older.
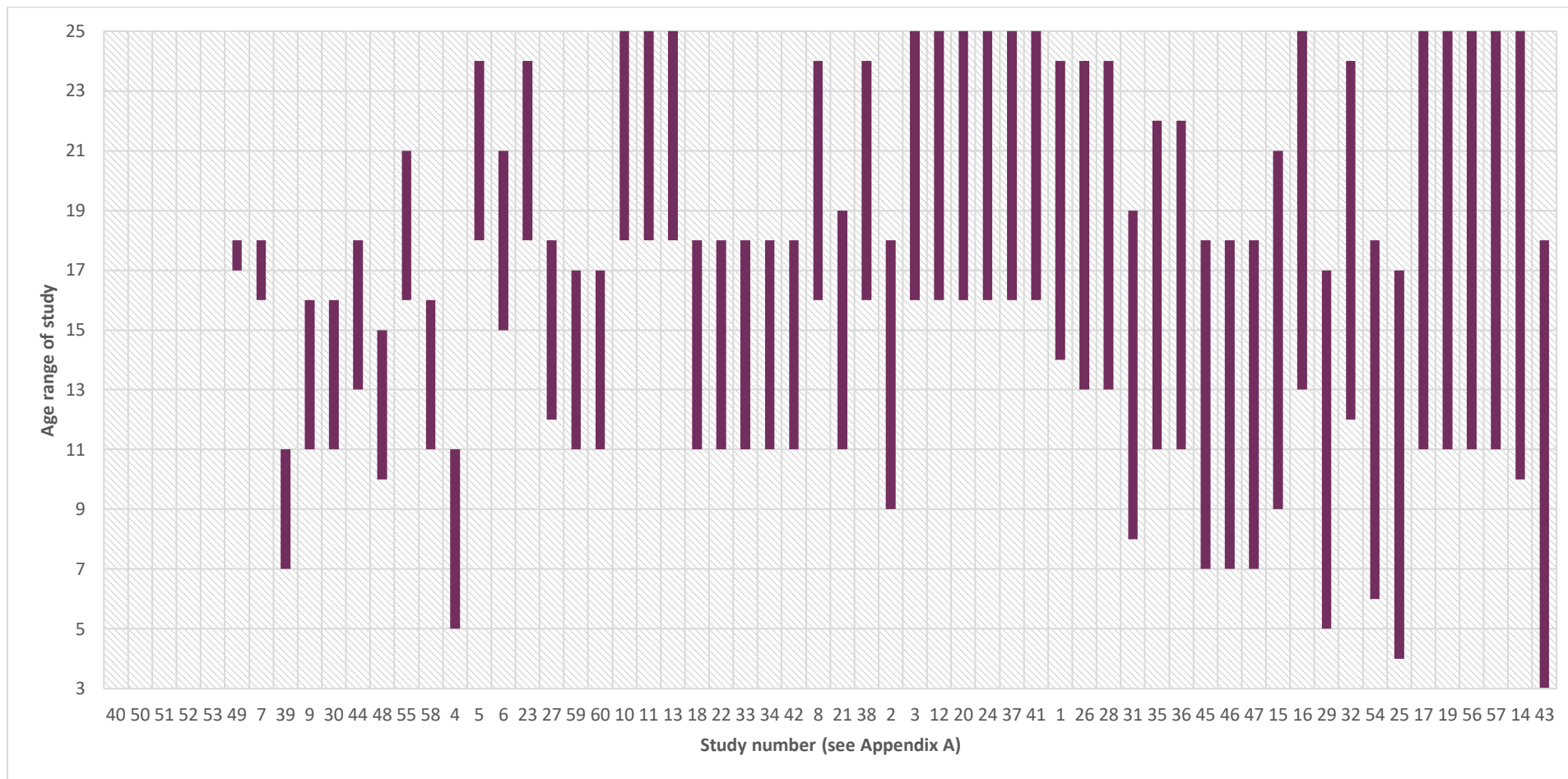
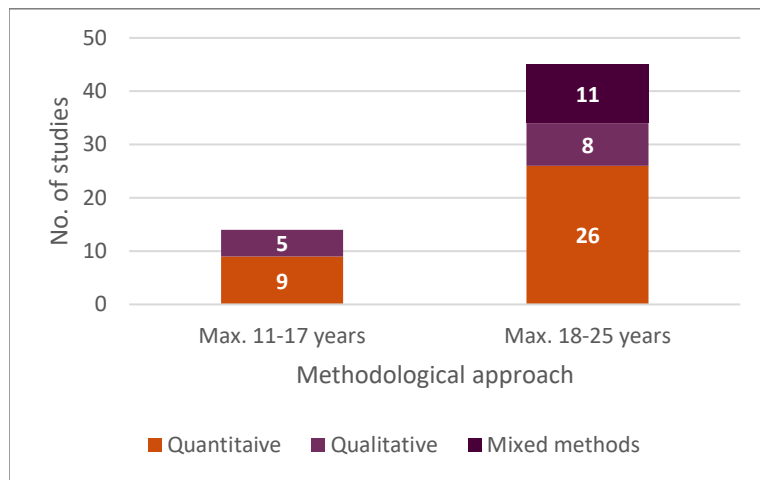*Figure 4:* *Age range of reviewed studies*

Figure 5 shows the methodological approach used by studies, based on their maximum age for inclusion. For both studies reaching younger age groups (U18) and those reaching young people 18 and over, quantitative approaches are dominant. Although this is less so for the older age group (64% vs 58%).

Figure 5: Methodological approach by according to the maximum age of studies

Location and target group

Just under half (48.3%, n=29) of all studies sought to represent the voices of young people UK-wide. Within the UK, the studies reviewed were weighted towards opportunities in England (31.6%, n=19), with initiatives specifically developed for children and young people in London making up nearly half of these (n=9). There were fewer studies that sought to capture the voices of children and young people in Scotland (n=3), Wales (n=6) and Northern Ireland (n=3).
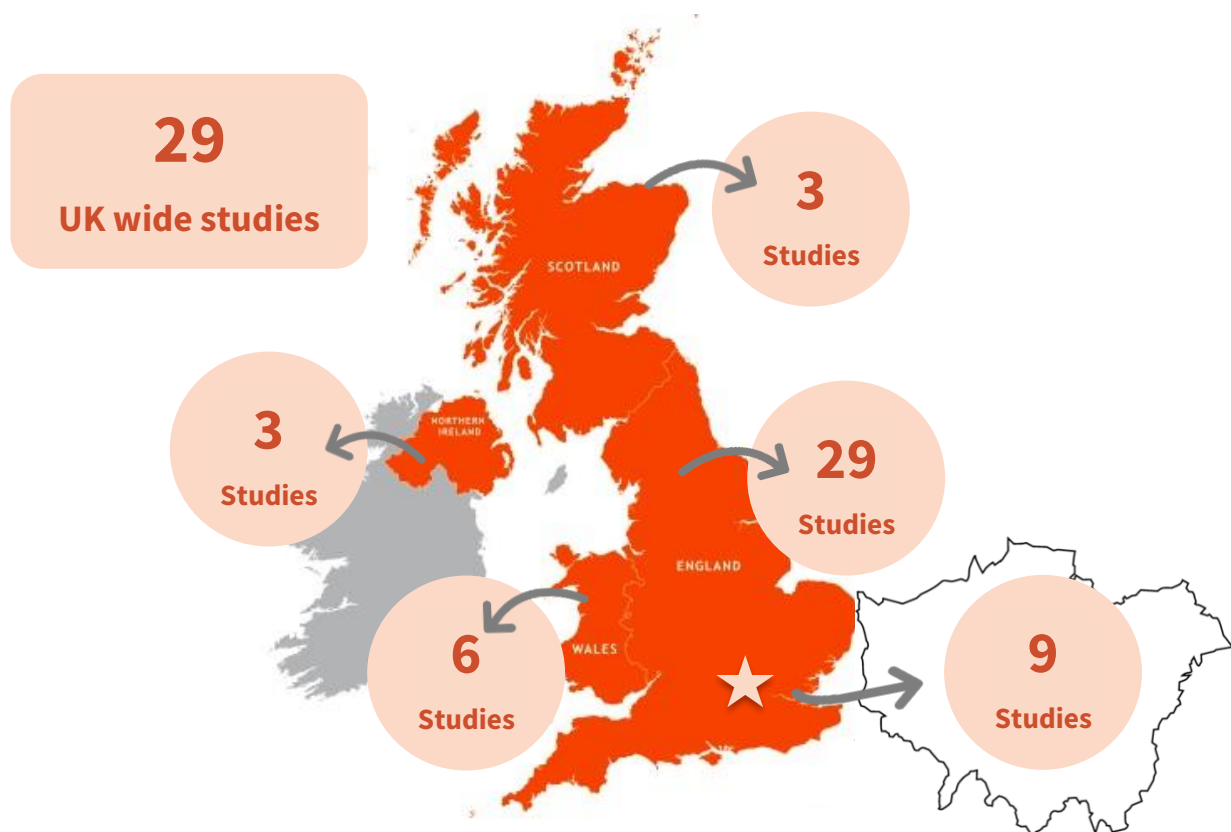
Three quarters (75%, n=45) of reviewed studies adopted a 'place-based approach' to their target group of young people, for example with initiatives open to children and young people across the UK, in one nation or locality. The remaining studies (25%, n=15) had interest-based target groups, capturing the opinions of:

- Young people in school (n=4)
- Young people transitioning into employment (n=3)
- Young people in particular groups (e.g., working groups) (n=2)
- Young people sleeping rough (n=1)
- Young care leavers (n=1)
- Young people invested in caring for the environment (n=1)
- Young people from Black and minoritised communities in Wales (n=1)
- Disabled young people in Wales (n=1)
- Young people with a history of needing support for their mental health (n=1)

Some studies also captured a range of young people's voices of a particular target group, for example Beatfreeks' report on how young People of Colour are represented in the UK[20]. Initiatives also sought to ensure diversity in voices captured and/or highlighted where views differed based on age, gender, ethnicity or socio-economic position.

5.4. What issues affecting young people were captured?

Reviewed studies covered a range of topics, with 60% (n=36) covering more than one topic, for example capturing young people's views mental health, school and COVID-19. Studies were assigned one main topic, and these main topic areas are described in more detail in Section 4, Table 1, with an overview given below (Figure 6). The most prevalent topics young people expressed their views on their experiences of the pandemic (50%, n=30) and 'family and community' (20%, n=12), which include areas such as crime, housing, relationships, and the future. Whilst the over-arching topic areas are broad, they are broken down in more detail in the following section to demonstrate the breadth and depth of views expressed by young people.
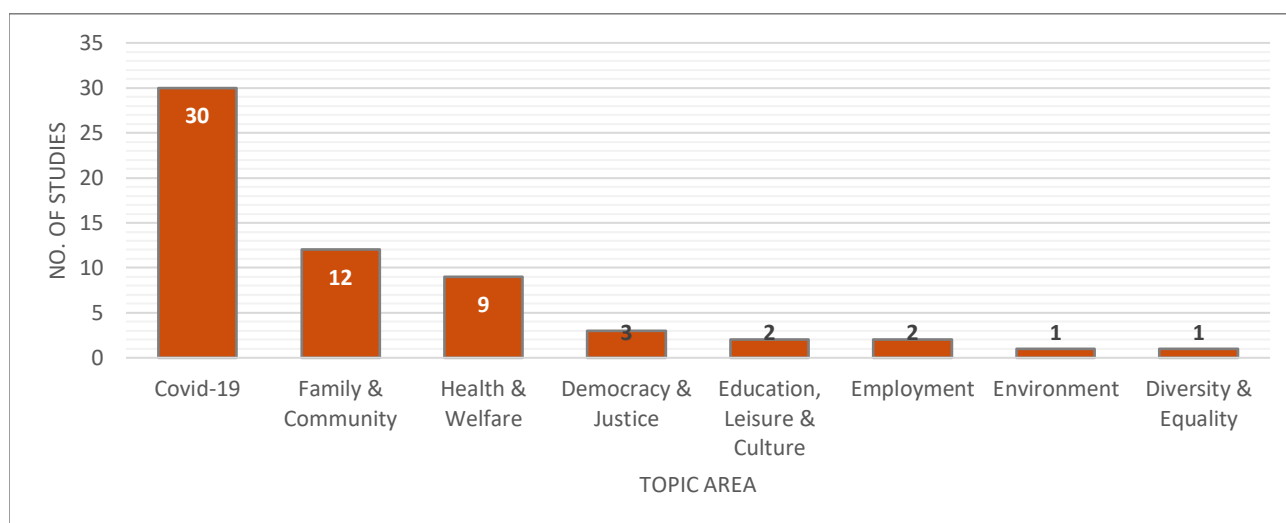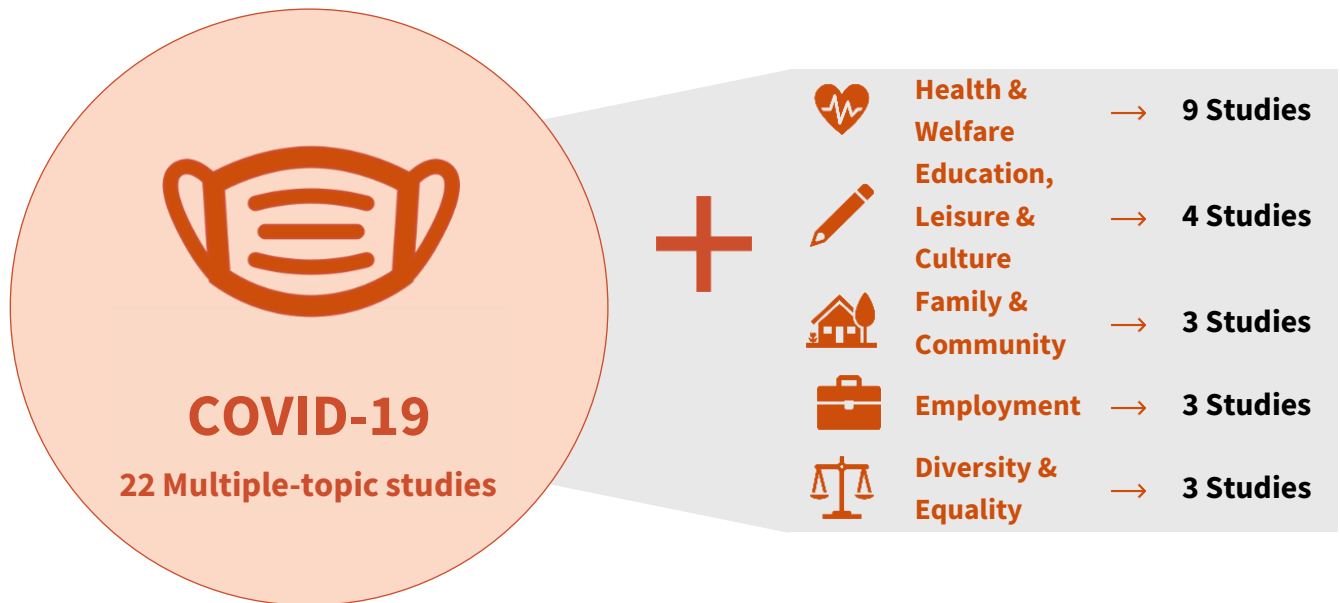

Figure 6: Number of studies by topic area

Covering multiple topics was most commonly the case where studies captured young people's views on COVID-19 (n=22). The most common crossover here was capturing young people's view on COVID-19 and their health and welfare (n=9). In the second largest topic reported on, 'family & community', studies also captured young people's views on 'health & welfare' (n=3) or 'education', 'leisure and culture' (n=3).

COVID-19

22 Multiple-topic studies

Health & Welfare	→	**9 Studies**
Education, Leisure & Culture	→	**4 Studies**
Family & Community	→	**3 Studies**
Employment	→	**3 Studies**
Diversity & Equality	→	**3 Studies**

6. Understanding youth voice: what are young people saying?

This section gives an overview of young people's opinions and experiences in each of the key topic areas, broken down by notable sub-areas identified in the data extraction process. Where specific studies have been drawn upon, they are numbered (see Appendix A).

Unsurprisingly, the pandemic has been a prominent theme in last two years when it comes to what has been heard and captured from young people. This section therefore opens with an overview of what has been heard in relation to the pandemic and includes additional detail on what young people are saying about the pandemic relevant to individual topic areas, where appropriate.

6.1. The COVID-19 pandemic

The overall experience of Covid-19 for young people has been underlined by a general worry for their current wellbeing and future prospects, and concern of the impact of the pandemic on people who are socially disadvantaged and the future of our society[3,23,42]. Young people also spoke about the challenges of remote schooling, with concerns often centring on a lack of support to deal with their workload, the need for additional online provision, the impact on their future studies, and feeling isolated from friends[39,45]. There have been some positive impacts of lockdown reported by young people, including spending more time with family, learning new skills, and enjoying spending time outdoors[3,45].

6.2. Family and community

Local area

A significant number of youth voice studies captured young people's views on their local area, both generally, and in relation to specific locations. Overall, studies suggest that young people do not often feel a sense of community or connection to their neighbourhoods. This includes not feeling that their neighbourhood meets their needs[1], perceiving a lack of cohesion amongst residents[15], reporting a lack of access to facilities or social and leisure opportunities[15], and feeling unsafe, often in relation to knife crime and gang violence[1,15] or due to their race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity[26].

Housing and homelessness

The dominant theme captured from young people around housing and homelessness was the lack of guidance and support available for them regarding renting and buying[10,15]. This was coupled with a perception that housing opportunities were not very reliable or affordable and therefore home-ownership did not feel like a realistic ambition. The importance of home was highlighted as being the basis for many other things such as education, health, and sense of community, with a lack of home leading to feelings of precariousness. In relation to the pandemic, research from New Horizon Youth Centre conducted with young people sleeping rough in London[11] suggests that Covid-19 has been driving young people towards street homelessness, with particularly vulnerable cohorts of young people increasingly sleeping rough. Young people also reported that their

pathways into emergency and long-term accommodation are more fragmented, exposing them to greater risk.

6.3. Health and welfare

Mental health and wellbeing

Studies exploring young people's mental health and wellbeing focused on capturing views on various dimensions of wellbeing and how young people felt in relation to their future. In terms of wellbeing, young people report being happy with life and their future in general, for example 52% in England Children's Commissioner research[25] thinking they are likely to have a better life than their parents when they grow up, and over half in Scottish Government-commissioned research[58] feeling optimistic. Studies also captured some young people reporting deteriorations in their mental health, and young people with physical and/or mental disorders reporting lower levels of mental wellbeing and having fewer supportive adults to turn to. In Office for National Statistics focus groups exploring their views on wellbeing[48], young people said that feeling loved, and experiencing positive and supportive relationships with someone to talk to, were top priorities for a happy life. They also reported that feeling safe was an essential element of happiness – this included safety at home, in their neighbourhoods, at school, and online.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, whilst young people have expressed generally positive feelings of appreciation for family and their community, they also report that their wellbeing has been adversely impacted. For example, The COVID-19 Psychological Research Consortium's preliminary findings on the impact of COVID-19 on young people's mental health found a high number of young people reporting high levels of anxiety (25-30%) and depression (23-35%), as measured by HADS wellbeing measure[28]. The Young Minds survey[19] on the impact of COVID-19 on young people with existing mental health needs shows 67% of young people believed the pandemic will have long-term negative effects on their mental health.

Experience of systems and services

Capturing young people's voices about systems and services included their experiences of the health and benefits systems, and services available to young people. In relation to the healthcare system, young people said that they feel professionals are not listening to them when making decisions, and that there needs to be more focus on prevention from professional and community organisations, and in education, to support young people earlier and prevent critical conditions[6,15,26,56]. In relation to the benefits system, young people report not getting enough money through the welfare system, and too many young people are stuck in situation where their ambitions are being curbed as a result of low-skilled, low-paid work. This ties into young people's views regarding housing, that it is difficult to achieve homeownership as there is not enough support in place.

In addition, Partnership for Young London's exploration of the suspension of free travel for under 18s[7] shows that over half of young Londoners value free travel because it allows them to be able to afford to go to the places they want to go, and which they would otherwise be unable to. Young Londoners also reported feeling worried that getting to school or around London will be less safe without free travel, which supports the views of young people regarding feelings of unsafety in local areas.

6.4. Democracy

Political engagement

Across studies, there were references to young people's views on being part of decision-making at a local and national level. For example, young people reported not feeling part of decision-making being made within their schools or communities, which led to overall feelings of disempowerment; young people wanting greater involvement in service design for local and national services; young people wanting to be consulted and informed on the reopening of schools and public life during the pandemic; and young people not feeling that their views or opinions are valued by politicians.

The most prominent specific study on political engagement is the British Youth Council 'Make Your Mark' 2020 results[33]. This showed that the top five issues that young people voted were most important to them (at a UK and devolved level) were free university, mental health support, stopping plastic pollution, tackling child poverty, and taking action on the climate emergency. The top five local issues young people voted for as most important were domestic violence, homelessness, access to training and jobs, childhood obesity and food poverty, and young people's voices being heard in creating local services. Monmouthshire's Youth Council developed a Monmouthshire specific ballot[34], where young people reported that the top three issues most important to them were mental health, the environment, and LGBTQ+/Homophobia.

6.5. Education, leisure and culture

The dominant themes in this topic area relate to young people's experiences of and needs regarding their education during the pandemic. Overall, the impact reported by young people on their education varied according to age and socio-economic (dis)advantage. Young people in transitory years, particularly school-leavers and those transitioning to the workplace often reported lower wellbeing than young people in other age groups[19,30,49]. Young people experiencing a level of disadvantage, such as those on pupil premium or with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) often reported higher anxiety and lower wellbeing than their peers. Young people have also voiced their concerns about academic pressure and disparity of access to support.

6.6. Employment

Studies exploring employment typically captured young people's views on their experiences of accessing employment markets. Overall, and aligning with young people's view on housing, young people reported that career guidance was relatively limited, and there is low confidence in finding suitable jobs in their local area. Young people have asked for support, for example in the shape of financial education, life skills training, and apprenticeship and training opportunities. Class, gender, disability status, and ethnicity were all reported to impact on confidence in finding employment and securing work experience or jobs.

Overall, studies show that young people have reported that the pandemic has increased young people's anxiety and feelings of uncertainty. Concerns centred in particular on: the challenge of securing a job due to rising competition; the impact of a related economic crisis on the employment market; feelings of constraint and a lack of choice about career prospects; and

perceived barriers to changing sectors. Young people reporting feeling most impacted were those already facing challenges in their lives such as discrimination, managing a disability, and deprivation.

6.7.   Environment

Groundwork's survey and focus groups exploring young people's views on climate change[40] was the only study included in the review to capture young people's view on the environment. Almost all young people said that tackling climate change was important to them but felt that they did not learn enough in school and wanted more opportunities to learn about climate change and greener careers. Young people said that they think they are not taken seriously enough in decision-making by local authorities and government, and they often feel excluded from climate/environment movements. This echoes young people's reported opinions in other studies calling for a greater stake in decision-making.

6.8.   Views and experiences of minority groups

Throughout the studies included in this review, the particular experiences of young people from Black and minoritised communities, young people with disabilities, and to a lesser extent LGBTQ+ young people, is highlighted. There were also five studies specifically exploring the views of specific groups:

- National Youth Trends Report on How Young People of Colour are Represented in the UK. National Youth Trends and Beatfreeks. Birmingham.[20]
- Coram Voice, 2020. What makes life good? Care leavers' views on their wellbeing. Online.[37]
- Just Like Us and JP Morgan, 2021. Growing up LGBT+ The impact of school, home and coronavirus on LGBT+ young people. Online: Just Like Us.[22]
- Children's Commissioner Wales, 2020. Coronavirus and Me: understanding how disabled children and young people have experienced the pandemic in Wales. Port Talbot.[46]
- Children's Commissioner Wales, 2020. Coronavirus and Me: Experiences of children from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups in Wales. Port Talbot.[4]

The findings of these studies are summarised below.

Young People of Colour

In mixed methods research into how young People of Colour are represented in the UK[20], over half of participating young people said that British culture actively 'excludes and appropriates other cultures'. Young People of Colour in the research said they feel undervalued or misrepresented in British culture due to a lack of representation, and they want to see greater representation in positions of power. Young People of Colour were more likely to say that it is important for them to see better representation in the workplace, in our leaders and in the media than their white peers, and significantly less likely to say that it is important to see representation in the Government. Young People of Colour were over three times more likely to say they felt heard by brands and businesses than by the Government, and they placed emphasis on the private sector when asked how they wanted to make a change in the world. Over 50% of all participating young people said

they wanted to see brands getting involved with social issues by participating in social action, and nearly 70% wanted brands to make changes internally to work towards resolving social issues.

Care-experienced young people

The 'Your Life Beyond Care' survey from Coram Voice[37] shows that the majority of care leavers have moderate to high wellbeing, but 30% reported low wellbeing, and wellbeing can drop off steeply after young people have left care. Care leavers appear more likely than other young people to have disabilities or health problems, and those that define themselves this way also report lower wellbeing in a range of areas. There is disparity in the quality of support care leavers receive between local authorities, for example, the percentage of care leavers with low wellbeing in a local authority ranged from 14% to 44%. Many care leavers report having access to small support networks, with 6% having no one to provide emotional support, and only 1 in 10 having support from leaving care workers / Personal Advisors (PAs). However, PAs were amongst the most common source of emotional support.

Diversity, equality and COVID-19

The 'Growing up LGBTQ+' report[22] showed that LGBTQ+ young people feel their mental health has declined during the pandemic (68% compared to 49% of their non-LGBTQ+ peers). LGBTQ+ young people were also three times more likely to self-harm and two times more likely to have depression, anxiety, or panic attacks than their non-LGBTQ+ peers. The Children's Commissioner Wales survey[46] on the experiences of disabled children and young people revealed that they are more likely to feel worried about COVID-19. Children and young people with a disability were also more likely to comment on the negative impact on their mental health, and say that they enjoyed *not* going to school, or *preferred* learning at home. Young people in Wales aged 7-11 from Black and minoritised communities were less likely to ask for extra help in comparison to their white or British peers. 12–18-year-old Black young people were less likely to say they were worried about food security or exercising outdoors. Black young people in both age groups were also less likely to say they felt safe 'most of the time'[47].

7. Concluding comments

This report gives an overview of activities used to capture young people's voices across the UK, published in the last 24 months. Whilst it has its limitations, it does provide a starting point for understanding how young people's voices are captured across the UK, who engages with these initiatives, and therefore whose views may not be being heard. This review also highlights the main topics on which young people's views are being captured , and an overview of what young people have said. Below, we consider what this means for youth voice initiatives moving forward.

Which methods are being used to capture young people's views?

Quantitative methods are excellent for providing an overview of views and opinions, and for reaching a large number of young people easily and efficiently. Over half of initiatives made use solely of quantitative methods (surveys) to capture young people's views. The reach of some of the studies, including 13 that reached more than 5000 young people, is testimony to the efficiency of surveys. Fewer studies made use of solely qualitative methods such as interviews, focus groups or consultations, or adopted a mixed methods approach that combines the two. Qualitative approaches generally require more time and resources to deliver and will engage a smaller number of young people. However, they also usually allow young people to go into more detail and can give greater insight into their views. Qualitative approaches are also a way of ensuring that activities used to capture young people's views are accessible, as they can be tailored to suit specific needs or interests and allow young people to give their thoughts and opinions using mediums other than the written word. There are also arguably more opportunities to proactively engage individual or specific groups of young people in qualitative approaches, including those who might otherwise be unheard, as compared to opt-in surveys.

Whilst a consideration of the purpose of youth voice activity and the cost and time involved should determine the most suitable approach, the use of mixed methods presents an opportunity to improve the quality of initiatives. It allows us to capture a broad spectrum of voices via quantitative methods, and do some targeted qualitative work, for example to capture the voices of groups of young people commonly less represented in youth voices initiatives. It is also possible to use mixed-methods to share quantitative findings with groups of young people, to explore meaning, nuance and contextualisation.

We suggest that adopting a participatory approach to the design and/or delivery of youth voice initiatives is also a key ingredient in ensuring that they are of high quality, both in terms of how accessible and engaging they are for young people, and in terms of allowing young people to express views on topics and questions important to them in ways that they want to. For some organisations, this approach can present practical and ethical challenges, particularly when they do not usually work directly with young people. For example, recruiting young people to be involved, providing emotional and practical support, and ensuring they have the skills to participate is not always straightforward. However, engaging young people in research design and delivery is an important step in ensuring the research is accessible and appropriate, particularly when seeking to undertake work that captures the voices of marginalised groups.

What is the diversity of young people being heard through these initiatives?

The studies reviewed suggest that children and young people under the age of 11 are less likely to have their views captured by youth voice initiatives. To an extent, the age range that initiatives cover is dictated by the topic area, for example where studies are seeking to hear from young people in secondary school (11-18) or in transition to employment (16-25). However, the challenges of working with younger age groups was also explicitly highlighted in one study (#60), where it was deemed that *"due to methodological constraints, it was unfortunately practically and ethically difficult to engage with children below the age of 10"*. This review suggests that overall, there needs to be a greater number of opportunities for young people aged 10 or under to express their views, and greater support for organisations to overcome practical and ethical issues in this process. Adopting a participatory approach to help organisations to understand how younger age groups want to and are able to share their views may be useful in overcoming some of the challenges associated with working with them.

As well as there being fewer initiatives capturing the voices of younger age groups, the review suggests that there are limited opportunities to capture the views and experiences of marginalised or minority groups. Whilst the views of particular groups - for example racially minoritised communities or disabled young people - are often highlighted in reporting, youth voice initiatives developed specifically for these groups would improve the representation of youth voice initiatives, and our understanding of the views and opinions of different groups of young people. In particular, no initiatives captured in this review specifically seek to capture the voices of:

- Young people not in education, training or employment
- Young refugees or asylum seekers
- Young people in the criminal justice system
- Young people affected by violence, abuse or neglect
- Young people living in rural communities
- Young people facing socio-economic disadvantage

Given that national and local charities are active in delivering youth voice initiatives, there is an opportunity to support charities working directly with these groups of young people to develop targeted initiatives for capturing the views of marginalised or minority groups. There is also a need to work with organisations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, to increase opportunities available to capture young people's voices in these nations, as this review suggests voices of young people in England are overrepresented in youth voice initiatives.

What are young people saying through these initiatives?

The initiatives captured in this review cover a broad spectrum of topics and sub-topics. Capturing young people's views on COVID-19, family and community, and health and welfare was dominant. Whilst key findings varied significantly across the 60 studies included, some overall takeaways can be observed:

- There is a lack of feeling of connection or community;
- Young people want more opportunities to engage in local and national level decision-making, for example in the design of mental health services and decisions related to education and COVID-19 recovery;
- Young people would like more advice and support, particularly in relation to housing, mental health and employment;

- Young people in transitory years are feeling more pressure, and there is a lack of confidence in future employment prospects/the employment market;
- Overall young people's mental health and wellbeing has deteriorated as a consequence of the pandemic, and young people from minority groups and disadvantaged backgrounds have found living with COVID-19 more challenging; and
- COVID-19 has highlighted the need for more robust mental health services and a greater awareness of young people's mental health.

Young people's views across the spectrum of topics point to the need for greater support for young people around: mental health and wellbeing; transitions to adulthood; and building connections and autonomy, both at a local and national level.

References

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United Nations, 1989. *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Available at: https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child. [Accessed 10 April 2022].

World Health Organisation, 2014. *Health for the World's Adolescents: A second chance in the second decade* . Available at: https://apps.who.int/adolescent/second-decade/files/1612_MNCAH_HWA_Executive_Summary.pdf [Accessed 10 April 2022].

Appendix A: List of included studies

#	Citation	Methodology	Age, sample size & population
1	Youth Employment, 2021. Youth Voice Census Report 2021. Oline: Author. Available at: <https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/dev/wp-content/themes/yeuk/files/youth-voice-census-report-2021.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021].	Quantitative: ● Nationally representative survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● Survey results weighted to be representative of target population(s)	● Age 14-24 ● 3,400 young people ● CYP across the UK
2	Young Harrow Foundation, 2021. How are You Harrow Health and Wellbeing Survey. Harrow: Author. Available at: <https://youngharrowfoundation.org/images/downloads/ypfWebsite/HAY-Harrow-survey-report-2021-v12-FINAL.pdf> [Accessed 22 December 2021].	Quantitative: ● Self-selecting survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator ● n/a	● Age 9-18 ● 6,052 young people ● CYP in Harrow
3	Beatfreeks, 2020. Take the Temperature Birmingham: Author. Available at: <https://beatfreeksyouthtrends.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BF-NYT-Take-the-Temperature-Report.pdf> [Accessed 22 Dec 2021]	Mixed methods: ● Self-selecting survey ● Creative-methods (participant diaries) ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● Research designed by/co-designed with young people	● Age 16-25 ● 1,1135 young people (survey) ● 11 young people (participant diaries) ● CYP across the UK

		● Methods/data collection tools co-designed with young people	
4	Voluntary Action Sheffield: Children and Young People's Partnership Network, 2021. Youth Voice Matters: Report on impact of Covid19 on Sheffield's children and young people and what Sheffield needs to do next. Sheffield: Voluntary Action Sheffield. Available at: <https://www.vas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Sheffield-Youth-Voice-Matters-Report-2020.pdf> [Accessed 22 December 2021].	Qualitative: ● Public meeting/event ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● n/a	● Age 5-11 ● Unclear no. young people reached ● CYP in Sheffield
5	Chilypep Create Sheffield, 2020. Youth Voice across Sheffield's Creative World. Sheffield: Author.. [Accessed 22 December 2021]	Qualitative: ● Consultations/workshops with young people ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● n/a	● Age 18-24 ● 8 young people ● CYP in Sheffield
6	Chilypep, OASIS and NHS Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group, 2020. Our Voice Matters, Innit Manifesto.Sheffield: Chilypep. [Accessed 22 December 2021]	Qualitative: ● Consultations/workshops with young people ● delivery modality unclear Quality indicator: ● Peer research	● Age 15-21 ● Unclear no. reached ● CYP in Sheffield
7	Partnership for Young London, 2020. Understanding the impact of the suspension of free travel on under-18s. Online: Author. Available at: <https://3532bf5a-d879-4481-8c8f-127da8c44deb.usrfiles.com/ugd/3532bf_4c2992d2056c4a7296e4682728	Quantitative: ● Self-selecting survey ● Online delivery	● Age 16-18 ● 2,020 young people reached ● CYP in London

	613c5b.pdf> [Accessed 22 December 2021].	Quality indicator: ● n/a	
8	Museum of London & Partnership for Young London, 2020. We are the Youth of Today: Life in London for Generation Z. Online: Authors. Available at: <https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/application/files/1316/0165/0047/we-are-the-youth-of-today-report.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021].	Quantitative: ● Self-selecting survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● Research designed by/co-designed with young people	● Age 16-24 ● 3,038 young people reached ● CYP in London
9	YMCA, 2020. BACK ON TRACK SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE OUT OF LOCKDOWN. Online: Author. Available at: <https://www.ymca.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ymca-back-on-track.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021].	Quantitative: ● Nationally representative survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● Survey results weighted to be representative of target population(s)	● Age 11-16 ● 1,009 (survey 1) & 998 (survey 2) young people ● CYP across the UK
10	The Together Alliance, 2020. Housing Solutions for Young People Experiencing Homelessness in London. London: Author. Available at: <https://nhyouthcentre.org.uk/news/2020/11/25/together-alliance-report> [Accessed 21 December 2021].	Qualitative: ● Interviews/focus groups ● Face-to-face delivery Quality indicator: ● Research designed by/co-designed with young people ● Peer research	● Age 18-25 ● 21 young people ● CYP sleeping rough in London
11	New Horizon Youth Centre, 2020. At risk and uncertain: winter snapshot of young people sleeping rough during the pandemic. London: Author.	Mixed methods: ● Self-selecting survey	● Age 18-25 ● Unclear no. young people

	Available at: <https://nhyouthcentre.org.uk/news/2021/02/02/winter-snapshot> [Accessed 22 December 2021].	• Interviews/focus groups • Face-to-face delivery Quality indicator: • n/a	reached (survey); 6 young people reached (interviews) • CYP sleeping rough in London
12	Hicks, S., Raidos, D., & McGarry, N., 2021. Youth Employment 2030: Employment and prospects for young people in England post-COVID19. Online: Clear View Research. Available at: <https://www.base-uk.org/sites/default/files/knowledgebase/YE2030-Report-Full-Version.pdf> [Accessed 22 December 2021]	Mixed methods: • Self-selecting survey • Interviews/Focus groups • Online delivery Quality Indicator: • Methods/data collection tools co-designed with young people • Peer research	• Age 16-25 • 1,073 young people (survey); 121 young people (interviews/focus groups) • CYP looking to employment and the future (16+)
13	Youth Music, 2020. A Blueprint for the Future: A new generation ready to transform the music industries. London: Author. Available at <https://youthmusic.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/Youth%20Music%20Blueprint%20For%20The%20Future%2002.pdf> [Accessed 22 December 2021]	Mixed methods: • Self-selecting survey • Interviews/Focus groups (case studies) • Online delivery Quality indicator: • Peer research	• Age 18-25 • 1,300 young people (survey); 10 young people (case studies) • CYP looking to start careers in the music industry
14	Partnership for Young London and Young Hammersmith & Fulham Foundation, 2020. Growing up in Hammersmith and Fulham. London: Authors. Available at: <https://mcusercontent.com/426e42545db5d2f9955d6360c/files/bc6da877-7b34-4c8b-9a6b-90004c69d866/Growing_up_in_H_F_2_.pdf> [Accessed 22 December 2021].	Mixed methods: • Self-selecting survey • Interviews/Focus groups (case studies) • delivery modality unclear	• Age 10-25 • 594 young people (survey); 8 young people (interviews) • CYP in Hammersmith and Fulham

		Quality indicator: • Research designed by/co-designed with young people • Peer research	
15	Children England, 2020. The ChildFair State Inquiry: The Young Leaders of the ChildFair State Final Summit. Online: Author. Available at: <https://www.childrenengland.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=bdfd6fc8-a3a0-41c6-b38d-5ea724791c51> [Accessed 22 December 2021].	Mixed methods: • Self-selecting survey • Interviews • Workshops with young people • Online delivery Quality indicator: • Peer research	• Age 9-21 • 165 young people (survey); 41 young people (interviews); 65 young people (workshops) • CYP across England
16	Young Westminster Foundation, 2021. Our Future. Understanding the needs of young people in Westminster in 2020/21. London: Author. Available at: <https://www.youngwestminster.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/YWF_Our-City-Our-Future_2020_21.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021].	Qualitative: • Interviews/Focus groups • Online delivery Quality indicator: • Methods/data collection tools co-designed with young people • Peer research	• Age 13-25 • 98 young people • CYP in Westminster
17	Jack Petchey Foundation, 2020. Shaping our future the Jack Petchey Covid 19 youth survey. London: Author. Available at: <https://www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk/core-assets/uploads/dlm_uploads/2020/11/Shaping-Our-Future-The-Jack-Petchey-COVID-19-Youth-Survey.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021].	Quantitative: • Self-selecting survey Quality indicator: • Methods/data collection tools co-designed with young people	• Age 11-25 • 6,051 young people • CYP in London and Essex

18	Enfield Council, 2020. Engagement Findings Report. Enfield: Author. Available at: <https://ehq-production-europe.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/d1f17a4a0368b1a37c248894837097a823b805b3/original/1591002973/Engagement_Findings_Report_London_Borough_of_Enfield_FINAL-compressed.pdf_4f5dd65ef76594205fc0362a79a75034?X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Credential=AKIAIBJCUKKD4ZO4WUUA%2F20211222%2Feu-west-1%2Fs3%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Date=20211222T140850Z&X-Amz-Expires=300&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Signature=68dd648bddfbe5bc37543c271213f179c341b130552cf791f154b9c0252d50ac> [Accessed 22 December 2021].	Mixed methods: • Self-selecting survey • Workshops • Blended delivery Quality indicator: • n/a	• Age 11-18 • 410 young people (survey); 22 young people (workshops) • CYP at two schools in Enfield; CYP from some disability groups in Enfield
19	**Young Minds - Coronavirus: impact on young people with mental health needs, surveys 1-4.** (a) Young Minds, 2020. Coronavirus: Impact on young people with mental health needs Survey 1. Online: Author. Available at: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/media/xq2dnc0d/youngminds-coronavirus-report-march2020.pdf> [Accessed 23 December 2021]. (b) Young Minds, 2020. Coronavirus: Impact on young people with mental health needs Survey 2 Summer 2020. Online: Author. Available at: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/media/04apxfrt/youngminds-coronavirus-report-summer-2020.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021]. (c) Young Minds, 2020. Coronavirus: Impact on young people with mental health needs Survey 3: Autumn 2020 - return to school. Online: Author. Available at: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/media/kuyhjm4w/coronavirus-report-autumn.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021]. (d) Young Minds, 2021. Coronavirus: Impact on young people with mental health needs Survey 4: February 2021. Online: Author. Available at:	All surveys Quantitative: • Self-selecting survey • Online delivery Quality indicator: • n/a	All surveys • UK wide, CYP with a history of mental health issues (a) • Age 13-25 • 2,111 young people (b) • Age 13-25 • 2,036 young people (c) • Age 11-18 • 2,011 young people (d) • Age 13-25 • 2,438 young people

	<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/media/esifqn3z/youngminds-coronavirus-report-jan-2021.pdf> [Accessed 23 December 2021].		
20	National Youth Trends and Beatfreeks, 2020. Time and Time Again: A National Youth Trends Report on How Young People of Colour are Represented in the UK. National Youth Trends and Beatfreeks. Birmingham: Beatfreeks. Available at: <https://beatfreeksyouthtrends.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/TimeAndTimeAgain.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021].	Mixed methods: • Self-selecting survey • Focus groups • Online delivery Quality indicator: • Methods/data collection tools co-designed with young people • Peer research	• Age 16-25 • 1,803 young people (survey); 6 focus groups (no. young people unclear) • CYP across the UK
21	Jack Petchey Foundation, 2020. Youth Voice: The School Catch-up Premium. Online: Author. Available at: <https://www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk/core-assets/uploads/2021/02/Youth-Voice-School-Catch-Up-Report-FINAL.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021].	Quantitative: • Self-selecting survey • Online delivery Quality indicator: • n/a	• Age 11-19 • 5,297 young people • CYP in London
22	Just Like Us and JP Morgan, 2021. Growing up LGBT+ The impact of school, home and coronavirus on LGBT+ young people. Online: Just Like Us. Available at: <https://1ef4ff9d-11bc-45cf-a0f9-d322bf989285.usrfiles.com/ugd/1ef4ff_d13c189a6588438ca1c131395992edc8.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021].	Quantitative: • Self-selecting survey • Online delivery Quality indicator: • n/a	• Age 11-18 • 2,934 young people (1,140 identified as LGBTQ+) • CYP across the UK, disseminated via schools and colleges
23	My Life My Say and Opinium, 2020. My Life My Say 'The Forgotten Generation: British youth perspective of COVID-19'. Online: My Life My Say. Available at:	Quantitative: • Self-selecting survey • Online delivery	• Age 18-26 • 2,000 young people • CYP across the UK

	<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rZUCZaWroP_X58bybCvxtx6Bp2rTcMIn/view> [Accessed 21 December 2021].	Quality indicator: ● n/a	
24	Prince's Trust, 2021. Prince's Trust Tesco Youth Index 2021. Online: Prince's Trust. Available at: <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/about-the-trust/research-policies-reports/youth-index-2021> [Accessed 21 December 2021].	Quantitative: ● Nationally representative survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● n/a	● Age 16-25 ● 2,180 young people ● CYP across the UK
25	Children's Commissioner, 2021. Children's Commissioner: The Big Ask 2021. Online: Author. Available at: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/occ_the_big_ask_the_big_answer_2021.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021].	Quantitative: ● Nationally representative survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● Survey results weighted to be representative of target population(s)	● Age 4-17 ● 557,077 young people ● CYP in England
26	Department for Digital Culture Media and Sport, 2021. Youth Evidence: Deep dive focus group findings. Online: NatCen Social Research. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1038305/Youth_Evidence_Review_-_Phase_2_-_Deep_Dive_Report_-_accessible__1_.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021]	Qualitative: ● Focus groups ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● n/a	● Age 13-24 ● 46 young people ● Sought to engage a diverse mix of young people (age, location, gender, socio-economic background)
27	Ditch The Label, 2020. Ditch The Label The Annual Bullying Survey: with an additional focus on mental wellbeing 2020. Online: Author. Available	Quantitative: ● Nationally representative	● Age 13-18 ● 13,387 young people

	at: <https://www.ditchthelabel.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/The-Annual-Bullying-Survey-2020-2.pdf> Accessed 21 December 2021].	survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● n/a	● CYP across the UK, disseminated via schools and colleges
28	COVID-19 Psychological Research Consortium study, papers 1&2 Levita, L., 2020. Report 1: Impact of Covid-19 on young people aged 13-24 in the UK - preliminary findings. [online] PsyArXiv. doi: 10.31234/osf.io/uq4rn. [Accessed 21 December 2021] Levita, L., 2020. Report 2: Impact of Covid-19 on young people aged 13-24 in the UK - preliminary findings. PsyArXiv. doi: 10.31234/osf.io/s32j8. [Accessed 21 December 2021]	Both Reports Quantitative: ● Self-selecting survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● n/a	● Both reports ● Age 13-24 ● 2,002 young people ● CYP across the UK
29	**Department for Education Covid-19 Parent and pupil panel: omnibus surveys, August 2020 - July 2021** (a) Department for Education, February 2021. Covid-19 Parent and Pupil Panel: August-October findings. Online: Author. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1028033/COVID-19_Parent_and_Pupil_Panel._August_to_October_findings.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021] (b) Department for Education, April 2021. Covid-19 Parent and pupil panel: November to February findings. Online: Author. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1028041/COVID-19_Parent_and_Pupil_Panel._November_to_February_findings.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021] (c) Department for Education, May 2021. Covid-19 Parent and pupil panel: March Findings report. Online: Author. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1028038/COVID-	All surveys Quantitative: ● Self-selecting survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● Use of recognised measure	All surveys ● Age 5-17 ● 5,327 young people ● CYP on the Dept for Education Parent and Pupil Panel; overrepresented FSM or SEND to accommodate expected low response rate

	19_Parent_and_Pupil_Panel._March_findings.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021] (d) Department for Education, May 2021. Covid-19 Parent and pupil panel: May Findings report. Online: Author. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1028040/COVID-19_Parent_and_Pupil_Panel._May_findings.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021] (e) Department for Education, October 2021. Covid-19 Parent and pupil panel:July Findings report.Online: Author. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1028036/COVID-19_Parent_and_Pupil_Panel._July_findings.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021]		
30	Shum, A., Pearcey, S., Waite, P., & Creswell, C., 2020. Young people's concerns about the return to school (Parent and Self-report) (Supplementary Report 06). Online: Co-SPACE study. Available at: <https://cospaceoxford.org/findings/young-peoples-concerns-about-the-return-to-school-sept-2020/> [Accessed 21 December 2021]	Quantitative: • Self-selecting survey • Online delivery Quality indicator: • n/a	• Age 11-16 • 284 young people • CYP involved in the CoSpace study
31	The Children's Society, 2021. Life On Hold: Children's Wellbeing and COVID-19. Online: Author. Available at: <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-10/life-on-hold-childrens-wellbeing-and-Covid-19.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021].	Mix methods: • Nationally representative survey • Consultations Quality indicator: • Use of a recognised measure	• Age 8-19 • 2,000 young people (survey); 150 young people (consultations) • CYP across the UK
32	Institute for Employment Studies, 2021. Not just any job, good jobs!	Quantitative:	• Age 12-24

	Youth voices from across the UK: Survey findings. Online: Author Available at: <https://www.employment-studies.co.uk/system/files/resources/files/Not%20just%20any%20job%2C%20good%20jobs%21%20Survey%20findings.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021].	- Self-selecting survey - Online delivery Quality indicator: - n/a	1,275 young people - CYP across the UK
33	British Youth Parliament, 2020. Make Your Mark 2020 Results Report. UK Youth Parliament. Online: Author Available at: <https://2u6szgq3e9x2hmfuy16guf8q-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2020-v2-Make-Your-Mark-Results-with-Infographics.pdf> [Accessed 22 December 2021].	Quantitative: - Nationally representative survey - Blended delivery Quality indicator: - n/a	- Age 11-18 180,000+ young people - CYP across the UK
34	Monmouthshire Council, 2020. Make your Mark Youth Participation Report: 2020/21 Engage 2 Change. Monmouthshire: Author. Available at: <https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/documents/s28496/CYP%20Select%20Committee%20Report%20-%20Youth%20Service%2025032021%20final.pdf> [Accessed 22 December 2021].	Quantitative: - Self-selecting survey - Online delivery Quality indicator: - n/a	- Age 11-18 - Unclear no. young people reached - CYP in Monmouthshire
35	NHS Digital, 2020. Mental Health of Children and Young People in England, 2020 Wave 1. Online: Author. Available at: <https://files.digital.nhs.uk/AF/AECD6B/mhcyp_2020_rep_v2.pdf> [Accessed 22 December 2021].	Quantitative: - Self-selecting survey - Online delivery Quality indicator: - Use of a recognised measure	- Age 11-22 3,570 young people - CYP in England & Wales
36	NHS Digital, 2020. Mental Health of Children and Young People in England, 2020 Wave 2. Online: Author. Available at: <https://files.digital.nhs.uk/97/B09EF8/mhcyp_2021_rep.pdf> [Accessed 22 December 2021].	Quantitative: - Self-selecting survey - Online delivery	- Age 11-22 3,667 young people - CYP in England & Wales

		Quality indicator: • Use of a recognised measure	
37	Coram Voice, 2020. What makes life good? Care leavers' views on their wellbeing. Online: Author. Available at: <https://coramvoice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/1883-CV-What-Makes-Life-Good-Report-final.pdf> [Accessed 22 December 2021].	Quantitative: • Self-selecting survey • Face-to-face delivery Quality indicator: • Methods/data collection tools co-designed with young people	• Age 16-25 • 1,804 young people • Care Leavers
38	Prince's Trust and the Learning and Work Institute, 2021. Facing the future: employment prospects for young people after Coronavirus. London: Learning and Work Institute. Available at: <https://learningandwork.org.uk/resources/research-and-reports/facing-the-future-employment-prospects-for-young-people-after-coronavirus/> [Accessed 22 December 2021].	Quantitative: • Self-selecting survey • Online delivery Quality indicator: • n/a	• Age 16-24 • 2,092 young people • CYP across the UK
39	Thompson, J., Spencer, G. and Curtis, P., 2021. Children's perspectives and experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic and UK public health measures. Health Expectations, 24(6), pp.2057-2064. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8628584/pdf/HEX-24-2057.pdf> [Accessed 22 December 2021].	Qualitative: • Interviews/Focus groups • Creative methods • Online delivery Quality indicator: • n/a	• Age 7-11 • 18 young people • CYP in England
40	Groundwork, 2021. Youth In A Changing Climate Report. Online: Author. Available at: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/news-youth-in-a-changing-climate/> [Accessed 22 December 2021].	Mixed methods: • Self-selecting survey • Focus Groups Quality indicator:	• Age range not stated • 500 young people (survey); Unclear no. young people reached (focus groups) • CYP across the UK

			● n/a
41	Prince's Trust and YouGov, 2020. Young People in Lockdown. London: Prince's Trust. [Accessed 22 December 2021]	Quantitative: ● Self-selecting survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● Survey results weighted to be representative of target population(s)	● Age 16-25 ● 1,022 young people ● CYP across the UK
42	Larcher, V., Dittborn, M., Linthicum, J., Sutton, A., Brierly, J., Payne, C., On behalf of GOSH Young People's Forum, 2020. Young people's views on their role in the COVID-19 pandemic and society's recovery from it. Archives of Disease in Childhood, 105: 1192-1196.	Qualitative: ● Interviews/Focus groups ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● n/a	● Age 11-18 ● 15 young people ● GOSH Young People Forum members
43	Children's Commissioner Wales, 2021. Amplify! How to maximise young people's voices through your secondary school council. Port Talbot: Author. Available at: <https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/AMPLIFY_FINAL_ENG.pdf> [Accessed 22 December 2021]	Mixed methods: ● Self-selecting survey ● Consultations ● Blended delivery Quality indicator: ● n/a	● Age 3-18 ● 7,404 young people (survey); 149 young people (consultations) ● CYP in Wales
44	Children's Commissioner Wales, 2020. A Listening Day, November 2020. Port Talbot: Author. Available at: <https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/ListeningDay_FINAL_ENG.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021]	Qualitative: ● Consultations/Workshops ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● n/a	● Age 3-18 ● 55 young people ● CYP in Wales

45	Children's Commissioner Wales, 2020. Coronavirus and Me. Port Talbot: Author. Available at: <https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/FINAL_formattedCVRep_EN.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021]	Mixed methods: • Self-selecting survey • Creative methods • Online delivery Quality Indicator: • n/a	• Age 7-18 • 23,488 young people (survey); 231 young people (creative methods) • CYP in Wales
46	Children's Commissioner Wales, 2020. Coronavirus and Me: understanding how disabled children and young people have experienced the pandemic in Wales. Port Talbot: Author. Available at: <https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/BriefingReport_disability_FINAL_ENG.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021]	Quantitative: • Self-selecting survey • Online delivery Quality indicator: • n/a	• Age 7-18 • 1,198 young people • CYP in Wales with disabilities
47	Children's Commissioner Wales, 2020. Coronavirus and Me: Experiences of children from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups in Wales. Port Talbot: Author. Available at: <https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Briefing_Report_E_2020_FINAL.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021]	Quantitative: • Self-selecting survey • Online delivery Quality indicator: • n/a	• Age 7-18 • 1,496 young people • CYP in Wales in Black and Minority Ethic groups
48	ONS, 2020. Children's views on wellbeing and what makes a happy life, UK: 2020. London: Author.	Qualitative: • Interviews/Focus groups • Face-to-face delivery Quality indicator: • n/a	• Age 10-15 • 48 young people • Sample of young people actively involved in children's groups (self-selecting)
49	Department for Education, 2021. COVIS-19 Parent Pupil Panel: School Leavers Report. London: IFF Research. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/	Quantitative: • Self-selecting survey • Online delivery	• Age 17-18 • 731 young people • School leavers on the

	uploads/attachment_data/file/1028034/COVID-19_Parent_and_Pupil_Panel_School_Leavers_report.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021]	Quality indicator: ● Survey results weighted to be representative of target population(s)	Department for Education Parent Pupil Panel
50	Fitzsimons, E. and Villadsen, A., 2021. Substance use and antisocial behaviour in adolescence: Evidence from the UK Millennium Cohort Study at age 17. London: Centre for Longitudinal Studies. Available at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10zNqWOKMQsgvaN-2L2Hz3hcVfmWaaey9/edit#gid=1230361376> [Accessed 21 December 2021]	Quantitative: ● Nationally representative survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● n/a	● Age 17 ● 19,000 young people ● Young people in the Millenium Cohort Study
51	Villadsen, A. and Fitzsimons, E., 2021. Carrying or using a weapon at age 17: Evidence from the UK Millennium Cohort Study. London: Centre for Longitudinal Studies. Available at: <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/CLS-briefing-paper-Carrying-or-using-a-weapon-at-age-17-MCS-Web.pdf> [Accessed 21 December 2021]	Quantitative: ● Nationally representative survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● n/a	● Age 17 ● 19,000 young people ● Young people in the Millenium Cohort Study
52	Fitzsimons, E. and Bann, D., 2020. Obesity prevalence and its inequality from childhood to adolescence: Initial findings from the Millennium Cohort Study Age 17 Survey. London: Centre for Longitudinal Studies. Available at: <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CLS-briefing-paper-Obesity-prevalence-MCS-age-17-initial-findings.pdf> [Accessed 21 Dec 2021]	Quantitative: ● Nationally representative survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● n/a	● Age 17 ● 19,000 young people ● Young people in the Millennium Cohort Study
53	Patalay, P. and Fitzsimons, E., 2020. Mental ill-health at age 17 in the UK: Prevalence of and inequalities in psychological distress, self-harm and	Quantitative: ● Nationally representative	● Age 17 ● 19,000 young people

	attempted suicide. London: Centre for Longitudinal Studies. Available at: <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Mental-ill-health-at-age-17-%E2%80%93-CLS-briefing-paper-%E2%80%93-website.pdf> [Accessed 21 Dec 2021]	survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● n/a	● Young people in the Millennium Cohort Study
54	ImpactEd, (2020). Impact in Practice: Lessons from schools in supporting pupil learning and wellbeing. Report 1 - August 2021: Understanding the interaction between disadvantage, learning and wellbeing. Online: Author.	Quantitative: ● Self-selecting survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● n/a	● Age 6-18 ● 15,949 young people ● Young people in ImpactEd partner schools
55	Northern Ireland Youth Forum. 2021. Our voices aren't in Lockdown. Online: Author. Available at: <http://www.niyf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Voices-in-Lockdown-Draft-140820-003.pdf> [Accessed 06 January 2022]	Quantitative: ● Self-selecting survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator: ● Research designed by/co-designed with young people ● Methods/data collection tools co-designed with young people	● Age 16-21 ● 388 young people ● CYP in Northern Ireland, reached through a social media campaign
56	Northern Ireland Youth Forum. 2021. Young people of the peace process: exploring the social, political and cultural issues that matter. Online: Author. Available at: <http://www.niyf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Young-People-of-the-Peace-Process-Report-Final.doc> [Accessed 06 January 2022]	Quantitative: ● Self-selecting survey ● Online delivery Quality indicator:	● Age 11-25 ● 1,065 young people ● CYP in Northern Ireland, reached through a social media campaign

		• Research designed by/co-designed with young people	
57	Northern Ireland Youth Forum. 2021. Our voices speaking truth to power. Online: Author. Available at: <http://www.niyf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NIYF-OUR-VOICES-SPEAKING-TRUTH-TO-POWER-1.pdf> [Accessed 06 January 2022]	Quantitative: • Self-selecting survey • Online delivery Quality indicator: • Research designed by/co-designed with young people	• Age 11-25 • 2,545 young people • CYP in Northern Ireland, reached through a social media campaign
58	Scottish Government and Social Research. 2021. Secondary school-aged pupils in Scotland: Mental wellbeing, relationships and social media. Online: Scottish Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/secondary-school-aged-pupils-scotland-mental-wellbeing-relationships-social-media/documents/> [Accessed 22 January 2022]	Quantitative: • Self-selecting survey • Online delivery Quality indicator: • Survey results weighted to be representative of target population(s)	• Age 11-16 • 1,361 young people • CYP in secondary schools in Scotland
59	Hamilton, J., & Wood, J., (2020). #ScotYouthandCOVID: Children and Young People's Participation in Crisis. Edinburgh: A Place in Childhood. Available at: <http://aplaceinchildhood.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ScotYouthandCOVID-report-Jul-2020.pdf> [Accessed 21 January 2022]	Qualitative: • Consultations/Workshops with young people • Online delivery Quality indicator: • Research designed by/co-designed with young people	• Age 11-17 • 25 young people • CYP involved in APiC in Scotland

| 60 | Hamilton, J., & Wood, J., (2020). #ScotYouthandCOVID2: Children and Young People's Participation Through Crisis. Edinburgh: A Place in Childhood. Available at: <https://www.cypcs.org.uk/wpcypcs/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ScotYouthandCOVID2.pdf> [Accessed 21 January 2022] | Qualitative:
• Consultations/Workshops with young people
• Online delivery

Quality indicator:
• Research designed by/co-designed with young people | • Age 11-17
• 25 young people
• CYP involved in APiC in Scotland |

The Centre for Youth Impact is a community of organisations that work together to progress thinking and practice around impact measurement in youth work and services for young people. Our vision is for all young people to have access to high quality programmes and services that improve their life chances, by enabling embedded approaches to impact measurement that directly inform practice. Our work, therefore, is dedicated to three objectives, together with our expanded networks and other organisations from across the youth sector: curating the debate, building the movement and shaping the future.

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