

Appendix 2: Answers to Free Text questions from Brent Youth Survey February 2023

There were many comments thanking Brent Council for asking the opinion of children and young people, and stating they would like the Council to continue asking them questions of this nature to help improve youth services.

A summary of the free text comments from the Brent Youth Survey are included below:

The purpose of this survey is to check in with young people across Brent on the year of 2022.

Your views should lead the direction of the current Brents Youth Strategy; therefore, we need your insights and opinions to improve services. Any recommendations on how to improve services for young people is greatly appreciated, and your time dedicated to completing the survey is valued. Please note that all survey submissions are anonymous, and the data gathered will not be publicly shared.

THANK YOU

Q3- Do adults (teachers, youth workers, the police) in Brent involve young people (under the age of 18) in decisions that impact young people?

Free text- Any comments on why and what you like to see different?

We had a range of comments from children and young people (CYP) saying that they do think their voices are heard in some cases, but others have said they don't feel like they have the opportunity to do so and an environment where their voices are valued.

There was a feeling through this question that this quote expresses: *"Most of the decisions are made by yourself, and a few are made with the advice of teachers rather than decision."* There was a common theme that CYP would like more support in making important decisions and that they would like more programmes and opportunities like one young person put that they want *"More ways of young people getting involved in leadership and more young representatives"*.

"I would like more support done towards those who are less academic and need more support".

Q4- As a young person how aware are you of after outside school/holiday activities available to you in Brent?

Free text- What outside of school/holiday activities would you like to see? where would you look for them?

"As a young man, I have a certain understanding of Brent's extracurricular activities/holiday activities. Brent has many colourful extracurricular activities/holiday activities, including sports, art, learning, music activities, etc. At school, young people have the opportunity to participate in various extracurricular activities and meet friends from different backgrounds."

"Honestly, I would like more women only clubs considering that I'm a Muslim hijabi and am not comfortable with doing certain things with men around like playing"

sports. I'm really into basketball so I'd love for a women's basketball club, and I like reading so a book club in the library would be pleasant".

"Brent website as it's not publicised as much".

"More work experience services for everyone"

Overall, these questions had many entries relating to more outdoor cultural activities. Many wrote that they would like to do outside of London trips and go swimming. There were many calls from young people to have SEND friendly activities. Many had said that the publicising of what is on offer isn't good and that they are unsure about where to go to.

Q5- As a young person (under the age of 25) how aware are you of the emotional wellbeing and mental health services there are on offer for young people in Brent?

Free Text- Any comments or services you would like to see in Brent?

"I have a certain understanding of Brent's emotional and mental health services for young people. Brent provides many services, including psychological support, chat support, emotional support, family counselling and career counselling. At the same time, Brent also has many informal support activities, including art, sports, innovation, and social participation projects."

"I hope Brent can provide more mental health service support to help teenagers solve their emotional and mental health problems. In addition, I also hope Brent's emotional health and mental health services can cover more young people to ensure that more young people get the necessary support and help."

"More therapy around trauma"

"They aren't really well known and people who do know about it have a negative mindset about it."

"More mentors, counselling for young people, more activities for disabled young people which is affordable".

"My sister has autism and even though we have asked to install some things to make life easier for her we haven't received anything for two years so I would like to have more reliable service".

"Not much communication between council and the citizens."

"More eco-friendly events"

Overall, this question had a mixed response regarding the awareness of services and mainly the service that they were aware about was offered in school and not a borough

wide provision. We got a couple of entries asking for services around sexual health and that they would like a place that they can go to in order to ask question without fear of judgement. Communication is another running theme within this question. Young People have expressed that if there are services that they are not advertised.

**Q7 How prepared are you on life skills after school?
e.g., Housing options, paying tax, career options and managing money for example?**

Free Text- Any comments or suggestions on what life skills you need?

*“How to make a CV, how to apply for a job, how to pay tax, how to get a mortgage
The only actual support I know is because of my school but otherwise it's just
useless in my opinion. It is harder for us to feel like we can gain money what with
increasing tax prices, cost of living crisis and jobs like NHS not paying well teach us
about things like tax and how to deal with money once we start earning money”.*

*Learn to cook learning cooking skills can help you get better nutrition and save the
cost of buying takeout food. 2. Driving: learning to drive can make you travel flexibly
and save travel time. 3. Financial management: learning to make reasonable
financial plans.*

*“I feel like there needs to be life sessions in school where we learn life skills such as
managing money and career advice and paying your taxes.”*

“Life skills I'd need is calming myself more and not being stressed out all the time.”

“Self-love and mental health”

The themes across these comments selected are the most common ones. This free text section has highlighted what many children and young people in Brent believe they need, and what they want, to excel in adult life.

Q8- How safe do you feel in Brent as a young person?

Free Text - Please tell us what doesn't make you feel safe, what does make you feel safe and what would make you feel safer?

*“As a young man in Brent, I feel safe. However, there are different risks in different
places, especially at night, so I am always cautious. What can't make me feel safe is
that strangers gather and uncontrolled criminal activities occur; What will make me
feel safe is the sound community safety system, the regular inspection of police
personnel and the rapid response of firefighters. If it is safer, I will add more security
facilities, such as closed-circuit television and smart home equipment, to reduce the
occurrence of criminal acts.”*

“The crime rate makes me feel unsafe”.

“Learning pressure makes me feel uneasy”.

“The camera and the light make me feel safe, and the police make me feel safer”.

“Knife Crime”

“A lot of drunk people on the streets, especially going outside at night-time I feel like someone may attack me or harass me so I'm always aware and precautious of my surrounding and try to not go outside at night”.

“Walking in the park”

“School makes me feel safe.”

“I feel safe when I close to my family and friends. Also, the brent library is a safe space for when I go study there.”

“Sexual harassment and Assault situations”

“Wembley Park I feel safe as it is bright.”

There were many entries indicating that CYP felt unsafe in certain areas. The most common themes were gangs, Anti-Social Behaviour, and Youth Violence. Lighting was amongst one of the most common topics in the entries. Furthermore, the areas that were highlighted multiple times as places where CYP felt unsafe were Neasden, Kingsbury, Harlesden and Kilburn High Road.

Q9

As a young person are there environmental / green activities on offer for you in Brent?

Free text- Any comments or suggestions?

“At Preston we have an environmental club”.

“There should be emails and letters sent to families.”

“I don't hear about any of these if there even are any.”

“I do garden with my parents on our allotment.”

“At my school we have sustainability club, a club about saving the environment. We could have something like this outside of school for everyone to join.”

“What parks are you talking about and do you have any suggestions for improvements?”

“Yes, I know Brent's barrier-free park and sports facilities nearby. The net on the basket is indeed enough, but I suggest that the basket be sealed with harder materials around it to protect it, to reduce the possibility of damage. In addition, it is also necessary to add some chairs in the park for everyone to rest and add some plants to make the park more ornamental.”

“More football pitches.

“More basketball Courts with nets

“Free cricket nets near Wembley high in the fields such as the one in Alperton Overall, majority of the responses were around maintenance of outdoor facilities and that they were not aware of activities outside of school that green.

Q11- Have you attended any activities offered in Brent in 2022? e.g., Sports, youth clubs or mentoring?

Free Text- If yes what did you attend and where?

“Football”

“Connect stars”

“Church road youth club and roundwood youth club”

“BYP”

“Youth club in Chalk Hill”

“Steering group meetings,”

“SATH”

“FWBC”

“Brent Goes \Global”

“Volunteering”

“Willesden sports centre”

“Mentoring”.

“Start Easy”

“Brent Music Service”

Q12- Do you have any other comments or suggestions about youth services in Brent or on the survey?

Free Text Comments -

“They are not representatives of the young people in Brent it is often assumes all young people have same needs and interests”.

“Youth service is definitely increasing more than in the past, but I feel as if it doesn't get enough publicity”.

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"I would love to have much more services the promote health, fitness and well-being for children in Brent. I would definitely attend many if so and would even recommend it to my friends".

"Services should be a little bit kinder".

"Need more publicity via local schools and media."

"Update your website".

"We could add some more ways to promote diversity".