









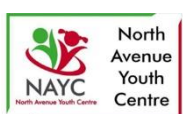




ECVYS Youth voices project: **'Covid -19, vaccinations & testing'**

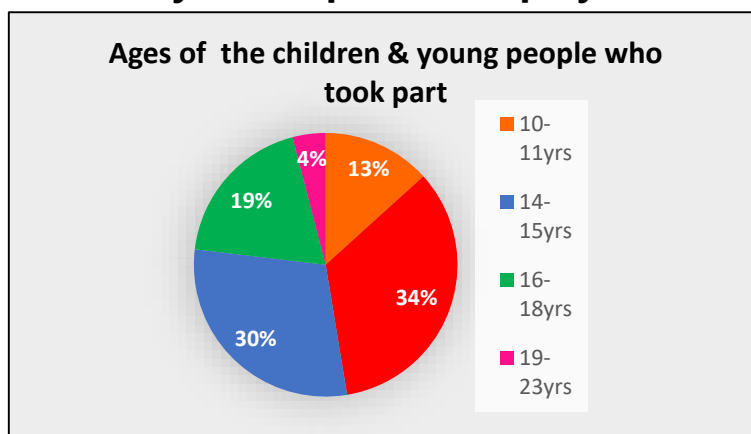
This session is funded by Essex County Council (ECC) and questions are based around the covid vaccination and testing in Essex among young people. ECC would like to gain young people's insight around the issues discussed as its really important to the team to understand where young people are coming from in terms of how they feel about the covid vaccine, and how ECC can then help get information out about the vaccine and testing in a way that suits young people best.



The children's & youth groups who took part were from:-

Mistley Kids club (Tendring District) 	Homestart (Colchester District) 	AFIUK (African families in the UK) (Colchester District) 
Lads need Dads (Tendring District) 	Endeavour SEN youth club (Brentwood District) 	Chelmsford Diocesan (Faith based youth group) (Essex wide) 
Braintree Youth Project (Braintree District) 	Chat 1st (Brentwood District) 	Yellow Door youth club (Rochford) 
Gateway radio club (Basildon District) 	North Avenue youth centre (Chelmsford District) 	The Air Cadets (Epping District) 
2nd Great Parndon Scouts (Harlow District) 		

176 Children & young people from Essex between the ages of 10-23yrs took part in the project



1.a) How did young people first find out about the Covid vaccine?

Top answers in order of how many times they were said

- 1.) My parents
- 2.) The news
- 3.) School
- 4.) Boris on TV
- 5.) Social media

'From my parents' was said by young people almost twice as much as the next top answer.

The top 2 answers were overwhelmingly the most popular responses.

Feedback from young people

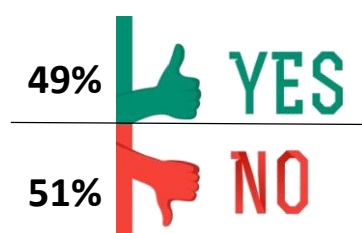


'We trust our parents the most to tell us the facts about Covid'

'The internet doesn't always tell the truth; you need to look at lots of different sources before you know what's true'

'I'm not sure if I trust Boris'



2.) Have the young people in the listening project had the Covid vaccine?



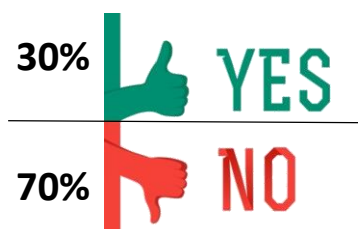
3.) What is your main reason for having/ not having the vaccine?

(In order of how many times each answer was said)

From those who were vaccinated;	From those who were not vaccinated;
1.) To keep others safe, including the vulnerable & family	1.) Concerns about side effects as vaccine is new
2.) Protection against Covid	2.) Parents concerns
3.) My parents told me to	3.) Not old enough yet
4.) To go on holiday	4.) Don't know/ don't care about getting it
5.) So I don't die	5.) Don't like needles

Feedback from young people who are vaccinated	Feedback from young people who are not vaccinated
 <p>'I am more exposed as a college student so want to protect myself and others'</p> <p>'I only had it so that we can do more stuff as a family'</p> <p>'I didn't want it but I had to get it as I am vulnerable'</p> <p>'I wanted to be brave and adventurous and see what it was going to be like'</p> <p>'I am a young carer so needed to get it to protect my family'</p>	 <p>'My parents are against it so I rejected the vaccine too'</p> <p>'I missed it when they offered it at school'</p> <p>'Just haven't booked yet, but I will'</p> <p>'legal reasons, (but I want to have it)'</p> <p>'I just don't want to get it'</p> <p>'I feel like I do not need it, or even trust it'</p> <p>'My Dad told me It's poisonous and might poison me'</p> <p>'I'm waiting just a bit longer to see if it's dangerous'</p> <p>One group of young people (all who had not had the vaccine) indicated during the session that if their parents would get the vaccine, then they would be comfortable being included in the vaccination process too.</p>

3.) Do you have any specific concerns or worries around the vaccine?



Most of the young people said they were not worried about the vaccine, but, of those young people that had concerns, the majority of the concerns were around not knowing the long term side effects of the vaccine.

Feedback from young people



- 'How do I get one not in school?'
- 'I had one jab but I am scared of getting a second as more research needs to be carried out'
- 'I don't like needles and am hoping they will develop another way to have it soon'
- 'It could make me ill/allergic or even unable to have children'
- 'My Mum would be unhappy if I got it'
- 'I would like more conversations in my family about getting the vaccine'

Youth worker 'All of the group said they had no concerns about the vaccine, but that if they did, they would talk to trusted adults, school and doctors and receive support from family and friends'

4.) If young people had concerns about having the vaccine, what would make them feel more confident to get it, or what might take away any barriers there are that are stopping them from getting it?

- 1.) Want to know what is in the vaccine
- 2.) Long term study of the side effects (including producing data)
- 3.) Nothing could help
- 4.) Reassurance from friends/ family
- 5.) No needles but in tablet form
- 6.) More availability to book close to where you live

Feedback from young people



'You have to decide for yourself and your views, and the government can't force us to take it. But unvaccinated people may be restricted in things they can do or places they can go to'

'Do more research and trialling to discover side effects (fertility)'

'Lots of people have it and are ok, but if I could have it done with my friends then I would feel better'

'If under 18s could receive the vaccine before they were 18 then more might get it as schools require parental consent'

'It's too early to tell if there will be any long term side effects or not and the general public need to see unfiltered evidence from professional scientists that its safe long term'

5. a) What is the top influence in young people's lives about the vaccine?

(Listed in order of most influential)

- 1.) Family
- 2.) School/University/Work
- 3.) Friends
- 4.) The Government
- 5.) T.V, News items, adverts
- 6.) Social media in general
- 7.) Social media influencers

Social media list in order of the most used by the young people

- 1.) Tik Tok
- 2.) Snapchat
- 3.) Instagram

(Other forms used but not mentioned much (in order of mentions) - Youtube, Twitter, Facebook)

Feedback from youth workers

'Social media isn't a source of information that young people in general trust to give them accurate information, but it is something that young people spend a lot of time on'

'There were a lot of feelings that Government had lied to them i.e. Boris Johnson and the parties, hence low score for Government'


'All the young people in our group said that family and friends were their most trusted source of information'

'Nobody mentioned social media as an influence, but this is probably because they are children with SEND and don't have the platforms'

5.b) Do young think any of these influences are particularly negative or particularly positive ones? Are young people likely to trust one of these more than the others for accurate information and advice?

Positive Influences;	Negative Influences;
1.) My Family is positive because I trust them 2.) Friends are a positive influence because they are ok after having had the vaccine 3.) School is a positive as they let us have the vaccine there.	1.) My family are negative as they are concerned about the long term affects 2.) Some social media is negative 3.) The news is always random and panicky

Although 'Family' appeared as both a positive and a negative influence, it was mentioned as a positive influence over 3x more than it was mentioned as a negative influence.

<u>Feedback from young people</u>	
 Positive influences around the vaccine	Negative influences around the vaccine;
<p>'Family are a positive influence as they all have it and need to keep safe'</p> <p>'School is positive, when they bother to give information'</p> <p>'The news is a positive influence but we don't watch it; our parents do though and they tell us what it said'</p> <p>Youth worker 'All the young people said that their parents highly influenced their views'</p>	<p>'None of my friends really talk about it as it's a touchy subject and we are sick of hearing about Covid'</p> <p>'Social media is definitely a negative influence around getting vaccinated'</p> <p>'Guilt-tripping has been used quite a lot in convincing people to take the vaccine or not and that's wrong'</p> <p>'Most young people don't currently trust government'</p> <p>'Facebook - "I've had the vaccine" on profile pictures - reminds you that more have had it than you think, but it can be negative on Instagram posts and more jokes about it'</p> <p>'On Instagram they can be outspoken about the vaccine i.e encouraging images that pop-up/filters but it's not enough. Influencers need to give their views and be listened to'</p> <p>Youth worker 'All the young people in the group said that the TV doesn't influence them at all'</p>

6.) Is there anything else young people would like to say to the team at ECC who are trying to listen to young people views around the Covid vaccine? Or a new name for the vaccine if it was rebranded?

Feedback from young people



'Can you please tell us what is in the vaccine?'

'Tell the government to stop keeping things concealed and to be open with us; Don't talk about things like Peppa Pig World!!'

'Covid is still here so ECC need to continue to keep saying to people to social distance, keep washing their hands and to have a better campaign about vaccinations'

'We trust scientists more than the government, so please give us more information based on facts and go around schools giving more information and talking to us'

'It's hard when I am stuck in a legal battle about having a vaccine I want'

'Algorithms work so that more controversial topics get the most content, if you 'like' it then the algorithm works more - 'get vaccine now' comments won't get as much attention. However, people will spread fake information to impress the algorithm, so we need help on what to trust and in finding reliable sources'

Covid vaccine new name ideas:

Thee JAB, Bye bye Covid, Vaccine Mc Vaccine Face. it never ends, death, vaccine suspicious, Alpha Delta, Disease killer, Steve, Hero, No Go Rona, Covid Care, Anti Corona.

'I would rename the vaccine bat-3 because it came from bats and bats has 3 letters in it'

'I would rename it Lemon as lemons can be sweet but sour as well'

Summary

Youth worker **'It was really good to hear the voices of our young people especially as they all have a huge range of SEND, but feel strongly and have opinions. Thank you for the opportunity to include our young people.'**

Youth worker **'The most important finding of the youth session for us is that parents are the only influencers for our group, and the parental attitudes about vaccination and their motivation could substantially increase vaccine uptake in this population'**

176 children and young people between the ages of 10-23 took part in the listening project around young people's views on the Covid vaccine.

The majority of young people who took part in the listening project **found out about the vaccine from their parents**, and this was also young peoples **most trusted source of information**.

As well as young people expressing that parents are their most trusted source of information, they also said that they are their **most positive influence around getting the Covid vaccine**. Although the majority of young people said that parents were a positive influence, some young people also expressed that parents are a negative influence around getting the Covid vaccination because of the parent's views and concerns. One young person even said **'My Dad told me the vaccine is poisonous'**.

Just over half of the young people had not yet had the Covid vaccine.

The majority of young people who have had the vaccine, had it to **keep others safe**, and the majority of those who have not had it yet were because of **concerns around the long term impacts** of the vaccine and it being so new that we have no way of knowing if its safe in the long term.

Young people of this age group generally turn to their peers for information and decisions reflecting life choices but this listening project has evidenced that **when it comes to the Covid vaccine; young people trust what their parents are telling them the most**, and they want to hear information from them. They trust that their family has their best interests at heart and their views matter the most.

I think that before this project took place we may assume that social media would be a place to encourage young people to get vaccinated as they spend a lot of time online. However, young people have told us through this project that they **do not trust social media for important information around the Covid vaccine**.

As a result of this research I would encourage ECC to explore more around positive impacts that the family can play in young people's lives when it comes to information sharing and how we can encourage positive conversations with families around the vaccine. **Young people trust their parents to keep them safe and want to hear information from their most trusted source.**

Thank you so much on behalf of ECVYS and the 176 young people who took part and shared their views around the Covid vaccine. I hope this report is useful and that young people's voices will be heard going forward.

- Rachel Brett (ECVYS CEO)