

90 Young People took part in Castle Point DISTRICT

The brilliant youth
organisations
that took part;



Next Level: TrustLinks &
Yellow Door
(Performing arts group)



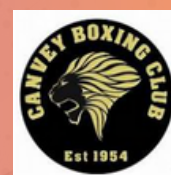
2nd Hadleigh Guides
(Girl Guides)



Canvey Island Youth
Project/Yellow Door
(Open access youth club)

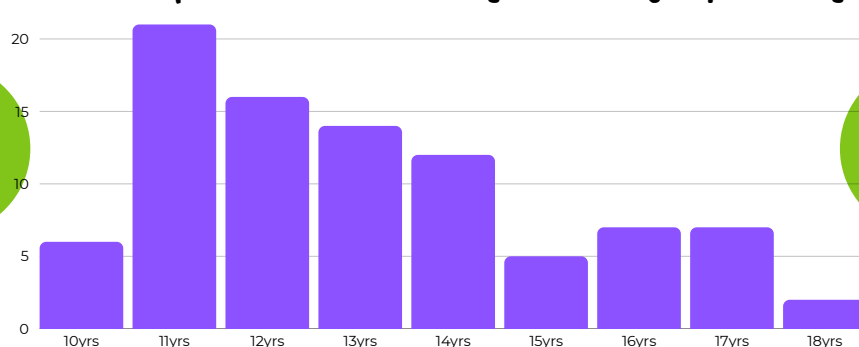


ATF
(Sports outreach)



Canvey Island Boxing Club
(Essex Boys and Girls Clubs)

Distribution, by age, of young people who took part in Castle Point in all the questions at their local youth club/group/activity



Female 54%, Male 36%. Non-binary/Not disclosed 10%

What is the biggest concern for young people around youth violence in Castle Point?

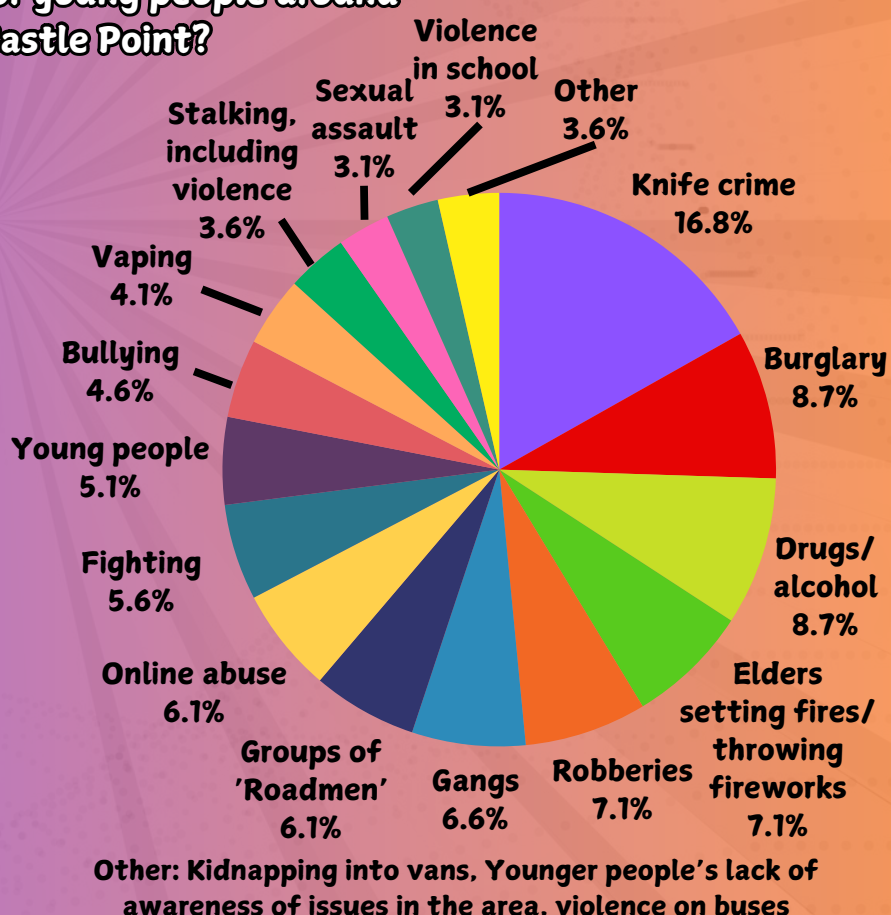
KNIFE CRIME IS STILL THE MOST
FREQUENT RESONSE given by young
people in Castle Point when asked
“What is their biggest concern around
youth violence”

“Our biggest concern is knife crime ‘cos
you never know what people are
carrying”

“We worry about people breaking into
houses and trashing them”

“People get drunk and it leads to
violence”

“Loads of people take drugs at the
park”



Although “Knife crime” is still at the top of the list of young people’s concerns, this HAS DROPPED from 40.7% in the previous report.

Last year “Drugs/drug dealing” was second on the list at 16.5% and this report shows that there has DROPPED by almost HALF, to 8.7%

Young people’s concerns around “Robberies” included over 64% specifically mentioning mobile phones being stolen by people on bikes.

“Gangs” were NOT given as an answer to this question last year in Castle Point, and this year 6.6 % stated it, with nearly 77% of these young people specifically saying “Gangs in the local area”

Are young people in Castle Point worried about being exploited by a gang in their local area?



75%
of young people
said they **ARE**
worried

This is the second consecutive year that the percentage of young people in Castle Point, said that they **ARE** worried about being exploited by a gang, has **INCREASED**.

From 28% in 2022-23
To 71% in 2023-24

"Gangs threaten you if you don't follow their instructions"

"Gangs from Leigh are recruiting"

"Gangs are in school and everywhere"

Do young people in Castle Point feel safe when they are out with their friends in their local area?

62%

of young people
said they **DO**
feel safe



It is positive to see that there are **MORE** young people that feel **SAFE** in Castle Point when out with their friends, compared to last year.

However, this is dependent on knowing the area, who they are with and it being daylight.

"We go where we know is safe to play"

"We know our friends will have our back"

"We don't go out at night"

"We feel safe when we're doing activities and events with our friends"

In the last year, have young people from Castle Point, had experience of violent crime either as a victim, a witness or have they taken part in it?

As a Victim 83% said NO

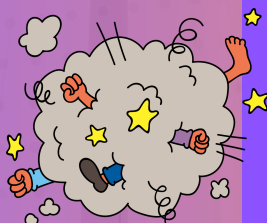
As a Witness 62% said NO

Someone who Took Part 98% said NO

There has been an **INCREASE** in the percentage of young people that have experienced violent crime as a **VICTIM** and **TAKEN PART** in it, this year.

LESS young people have **WITNESSED** violent crime.

In the 2023-24 project:
95% had NOT been a victim
35% had NOT been a witness
100% had NOT taken part



Where do young people from Castle Point think the crime hotspots are near them?

- 1) Town/Town Centre/The Street
- 2) Parks and recreational areas – Canvey Lake, John Burrow Park, woods
- 3) Dark fields/Any dark, unlit areas that aren't busy
- 4) Shopping Centres/Supermarkets
- 5) Alleyways

After the town/town centre, Canvey Lake was mentioned more times than any other hotspot area.

"Anywhere can be dangerous – it's more about the people than the place"

What helps young people from Castle Point feel SAFE when they are out with their friends in the local area?

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

DOING ACTIVITIES
CCTV
KNOWING THE AREA
BEING WITH TRUSTED ADULTS
BEING IN A BUSY PLACE
SHOP OWNERS WHO CAN SEE OUTSIDE
DAYLIGHT
TRACKER ON MY PHONE
PROPER ROAD CROSSINGS

It is clear from this feedback that young people in Castle Point get a sense of safety when they are in large groups of friends, with almost 85% giving this response.

Knowing the area, staying local and being aware of where in their community is safe for them to hang out with their friends, is also an important factor to help them feel safe.

More than 27% of these young people said that taking part in activities and events helps them feel safe.

Other responses were similar to other areas; *“Being with trusted adults”, “Tracker on my phone”*

What makes young people from Castle Point feel UNSAFE when they are out with their friends in the local area?

POORLY LIT AREAS

OLDER PEOPLE
BULLIES
BEING FOLLOWED
BEING ALONE
PEOPLE IN BALACLAVAS & ON MOTOR BIKES
GROUPS OF OTHER PEOPLE
MEN
PEOPLE WATCHING YOU
FIGHTING
DRUNK PEOPLE

Comments around being in darkness, dark alleys and poor lighting made up the majority of the responses for what makes young people in Castle Point feel UNSAFE.

All the other responses relate to other people, whether these other people are in a group, are older, are men, are seen to be following or watching young people, bullies or people who are drunk or on drugs.

“Older people that are drunk or high on drugs make me feel unsafe”

“Men wearing dark clothes make us feel unsafe”

“We feel unsafe when people record you on their phones”

What do young people from Castle Point think should be done to help them feel safer in their local area?

1. More police
2. More CCTV cameras
3. Better street lights
4. More FREE organised activities ~ over 46% of these young people specifically mentioned football tournaments
5. More security
6. Less people carrying knives
7. Volunteering opportunities
8. More restrictions on when and where alcohol can be consumed



The top three responses have been suggested across the majority of the areas; more police, more cameras and better street lighting, for what could be done to help young people feel safer in their community.

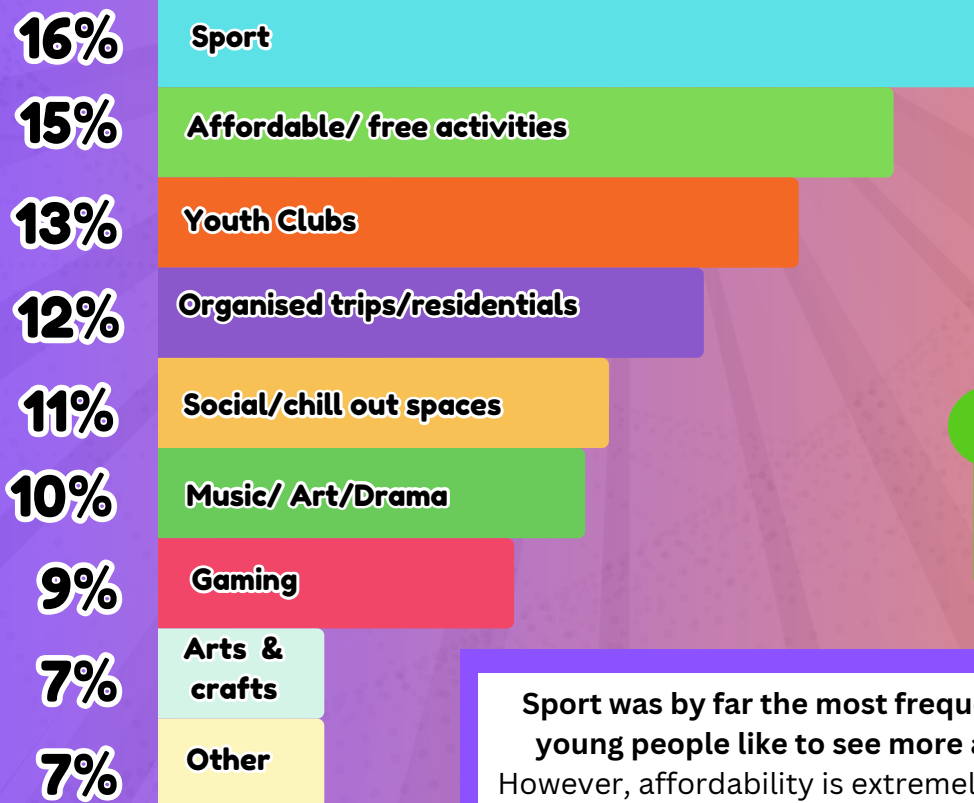
What was different in this district was young people asking for tighter restrictions on the consumption of alcohol.

“Pubs only open in the evening, not when we come home from school”

“Reduce adults drinking alcohol in public places”

Other young people asked for *“More safe places to go and places to get help”* and for *“Shops to stop selling vapes”*

What activities would young people like to see more available for them to take part in?



Young people in Castle Point would like MORE SPORT available to take in



Sport was by far the most frequent answer for what activities would young people like to see more available, the same as the last year. However, affordability is extremely important to ensure accessibility for all young people.

“There are not many organised activities that are free in this area”

Other activities that were suggested were:

- Cooking classes
- Swimming galas
- Beauty classes

Have young people seen content on social media of serious violence*?

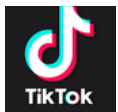


79%

of young people in Castle Point said they have seen content on social media

23% of young people who had seen serious violent content mentioned it involving racism

Which platform have young people seen the serious violence on?



1) **TikTok** 42%



2) **Snapchat** 24%



3) **YouTube** 19%



4) **Facebook** 8%



6) **Instagram** 3%



7) **X/Twitter** 3%

Of those young people who have seen violence on social media:

25%

have seen content of people they know - friends, friends of friends or people they know from their local area?

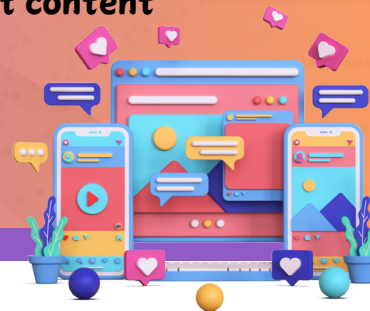
95%

have seen content of people they don't know

Young people who had seen content of people they **DON'T KNOW** said they'd seen content showing:

Children using drugs,
Threats to beat up children,
Fights,

Children carrying weapons,
Glorifying of previous attacks,
Sexually violent content



Comments and Observations

Nearly **HALF** the young people that **HAVE** seen serious violence on social media said that it involved **FIGHTING** and **OVER 32%** said the content involved children using/promoting drugs.

In relation to the other areas, the percentage of young people in Castle Point that **HAVE** seen content online of people **THEY KNOW** is low, however **OVER 56%** of these young people said that it involved **FIGHTING**.

Out of the young people that **HAVE** seen serious violence on social media of people **THEY DO NOT KNOW**, **OVER 45%** of them said it involved promoting/using drugs.

"Kids accounts on social media still have inappropriate content" ~ said by many

The platforms where the majority of the young people said they are viewing this content are TikTok and Snapchat which is consistent across many of the areas.



KEY OBSERVATIONS, COMPARISONS AND COMMENTS FOR CASTLE POINT

16.8% of young people in Castle Point said that their biggest concern around youth violence is “Knife crime” and this is STILL the MOST FREQUENT response for this question.

On a positive note, this percentage HAS DROPPED from 40.7% since the last report.

Concerns around “Drugs/drug dealing” has also DROPPED from 16.5% to 8.7% this year, although this was in joint second place on the list with “Burglary”.

6.6% of young people said that **“Gangs”** are their biggest concern and although this appears a low percentage, this was NOT mentioned last year, **the majority of these young people specifically said “Gangs in the local area”** and there were many different concerns given by the young people.

75% of young people said that they ARE worried about being exploited by a gang. THIS IS THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR THAT THIS HAS INCREASED.

“Young people feel threatened and at risk of doing things they don’t want to do such as dealing/trying drugs” ~ said by youth leader

The bulk of young people in Castle Point, OVER 84%, said that they gain a sense of SAFETY when they are with friends in large groups. This response was given nearly double the number of times the next most frequent answer was stated, that response was “Knowing the areas”

To help young people feel safer in their community they asked for:

- More police
- Better street lights
- More cameras
- More FREE organised activities
- More restrictions on when and where adults can consume alcohol



Sport was at the top of the list for “What activities would young people like to see more available in their area?”

However, affordability of any activity or service that is provided was a close second.

Compared to the previous year, feedback from this report shows that the percentage of young people that have experienced violent crime, as a victim and taken part in it, HAS INCREASED.

In comparison to last year, the percentage of young people that have WITNESSED VIOLENT CRIME HAS DROPPED from 65% to 38%.

Almost 80% of the young people in Castle Point HAVE seen serious violence on social media. With 49% of these young people saying that it involved fighting and 32% said it involved children promoting/using drugs.

There was a relatively low percentage of 25% of young people that said they HAVE seen content online that involved people THEY KNOW.

95% of young people said that they HAVE viewed serious violence on social media involving people THEY DO NOT KNOW and over 45% of these young people said that it involved promoting drugs/drug use.

