Have your say on our consultation on changes to Croydon's care leavers' council tax reduction

scheme

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

08 October 2021 - 21 January 2024

PROJECT NAME:

Consultation on changes to Croydon's care leavers' council tax reduction scheme



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 Are you:

Question options

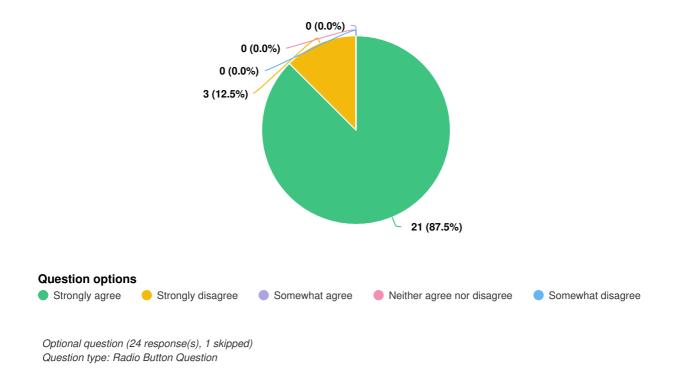
- A Croydon care experienced young person aged 18-24
- A carer of a care experienced young person aged 18-24

Other (please specify)

- A professional who works with care experienced young people
- A Croydon care experienced young person (25 and over)

Optional question (25 response(s), 0 skipped) Question type: Checkbox Question

Q2 How much do you agree or disagree that Croydon Council should continue to offer a council tax reduction to care leavers bet...

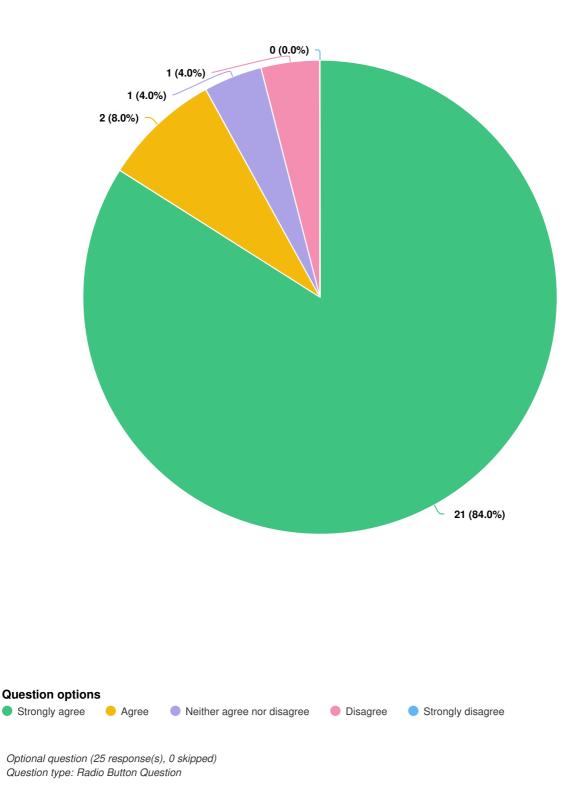


Q3 Please explain your answer to the previous question including any impacts you feel this may have:

Screen Name Redacted	I am currently a care leaver who has been experiencing this discount, it has benefitted me a lot seeming as I do not have parents to support or lean on in times of financial difficulty, I feel like the support from the council makes up for the lack of parental support that I should have had, bit of sunshine in a grey situation!
Screen Name Redacted 12/15/2023 04:25 PM	I believe all care leavers should have 100% discount council tax reduction, as it is hard to be a young person paying all bills yourself including food and gas as it is and also when your a care leaver your just starting to become independent. So this 100% discount helps so much young people from being financially stable and working hard to work for their career while learning how to be independent by themself. It has helped me loads and if I had to pay council tax with my age right now as a care leaver It would impact my mental health and probably de motivate me to work to pay for my own bills. As a care leaver we don't have family we can relay on finicially so this 100% discount really helps every care leaver out and taking it away from a. Care leaver can really expose them to vulnerability.
Screen Name Redacted	Us care leavers face more stress than we ever should when it comes to leaving care having council tax is such a huge responsibility I've received incorrect bills before and been so scared and stressed even with the exemptions please do not take this away form ANY care leavers
Screen Name Redacted	I would not do staying put as the fee is reduced and is only balanced out by ctax reduction.
Screen Name Redacted	Life is extremely hard for all care leavers and the people that support them. Any financial assistance available, is invaluable and should be retained.
Screen Name Redacted	agree a care leaver is a care leaver and needs support
Screen Name Redacted	This will have a huge impact on our young people who are already struggling to meet their rent and utility bills.

Screen Name Redacted	Care leavers within that age group would still be struggling with independent skills and would need this help to avoid uncontrollable debts at that stage of their life
Screen Name Redacted 1/05/2024 11:35 AM	I'm currently a care leaver and don't pay council tax if I was to pay council tax out of my universal credit I'll have nothing left to live off currently have a young child also so quiet hard to keep onto with less money
Screen Name Redacted 1/05/2024 04:49 PM	This tax is way too high for a care leaver on a lower income, so it will allow them to manage their finances better.
Screen Name Redacted 1/05/2024 08:26 PM	This is necessary as the young people do not generally have family support to assist with budgeting or financial support when they are unable to manage.
Screen Name Redacted 1/06/2024 03:20 PM	You lot have barley done anything to help us at least top taking away benefits
Screen Name Redacted 1/08/2024 11:48 AM	This will allow young people time to get used to paying bills etc now that they are either coming out of care or still in education
Screen Name Redacted	Agree if care leavers are living independently and are liable to pay council tax.
Screen Name Redacted 1/19/2024 08:16 PM	This will support them financially.

Optional question (15 response(s), 10 skipped) **Question type:** Essay Question Q4 How much do you agree or disagree that Croydon Council should continue to pay council tax for Croydon care leavers aged 18 to 24 (inclusive) who live out of the borough?



Q5 Please explain your answer to the previous question including any impacts you feel this may have:

Screen Name Redacted	As I said before the support is needed more than you may think, people who live and have a relationship with there parents wouldn't understand that abandonment of responsibilities has massive effects even as young children get into their adult years, we all need support at some point in our lives!
Screen Name Redacted 12/15/2023 04:25 PM	I believe all care leavers should have 100% discount council tax reduction, as it is hard to be a young person paying all bills yourself including food and gas as it is and also when your a care leaver your just starting to become independent. So this 100% discount helps so much young people from being financially stable and working hard to work for their career while learning how to be independent by themself. It has helped me loads and if I had to pay council tax with my age right now as a care leaver It would impact my mental health and probably de motivate me to work to pay for my own bills. As a care leaver we don't have family we can relay on finicially so this 100% discount really helps every care leaver out and taking it away from a. Care leaver can really expose them to vulnerability.
Screen Name Redacted	You CROYDON COUNCIL made it your responsibility to look after ALL young people you put on full care orders regardless of if CROYDON house people outside of the borough. 9/10 the young person doesn't even want to leave Croydon let alone be moved away and then stuck with bills and stress away from the area.
Screen Name Redacted	Young people in care don't understand bills and still need the support
Screen Name Redacted	You cannot discriminate because of where you placed a young person.
Screen Name Redacted	The Croydon area is quite troubled at times, so if a care leaver tries to "better themselves" and move to a more settled area, that should be encouraged and not made financially more difficult.
Screen Name Redacted	Gives us time to manage things

12/16/2023 04:32 PM

Screen Name Redacted 12/16/2023 07:33 PM	care leavers are sometimes unable to be housed in their own borough and they are still a vulnerable young person and a care leaver which statistically reduces their live chances without additional pressure as they leave care
Screen Name Redacted 12/18/2023 08:49 AM	Young people should remain exempt until 25, to give them the best chances whilst they complete their education and earn so they can factor in this extra outgoing.
Screen Name Redacted 12/19/2023 06:49 AM	For the same reason stated above
Screen Name Redacted 1/03/2024 08:25 AM	A care leaver aged 18 to 24 does not necessarily choose to be placed out of borough.
Screen Name Redacted 1/05/2024 11:35 AM	Everyone has there own struggles and no mater what area everyone should be treated the same
Screen Name Redacted 1/05/2024 04:49 PM	It's a strain on our services if they are not contributing income to the borough. It should be borne by the council they live in.
Screen Name Redacted 1/05/2024 08:26 PM	Same as above
Screen Name Redacted 1/06/2024 03:20 PM	I strongly agree because if there are no opportunities for them in the borough then they are fucked because if they leave the borough for a opportunity they have no support that's stupid! What is it a prison? Ps ELijah Pink
Screen Name Redacted 1/08/2024 11:48 AM	If the young person is from the Borough of Croydon I think they should still have that responsibility for that young person. If the young person is from out of Borough then the original Borough should continue with that support
Screen Name Redacted 1/10/2024 01:31 PM	If care leavers have been housed outside the borough by the council then they should continue to receive the benefit from the corporate parent.

Screen Name Redacted

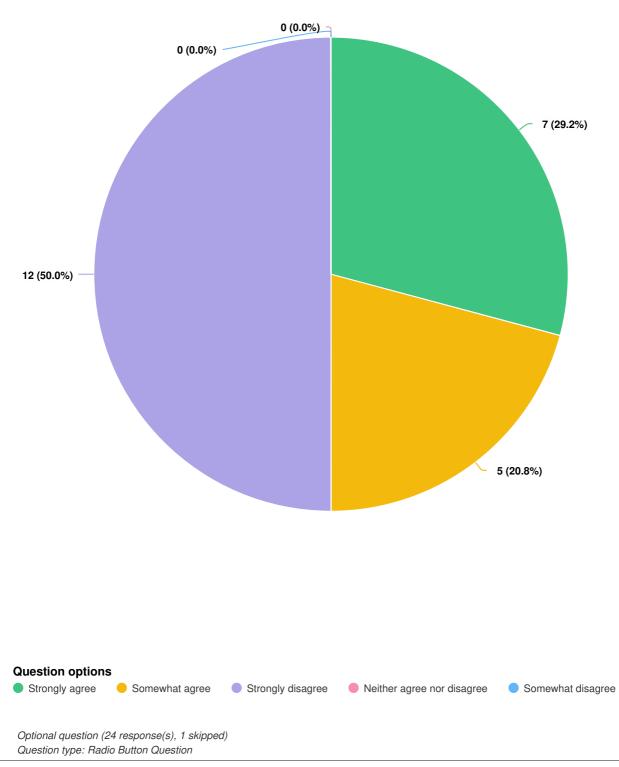
Screen Name Redacted

This will suppott them financially

N/A

1/19/2024 08:16 PM

Optional question (19 response(s), 6 skipped) **Question type:** Essay Question Q6 How much do you agree or disagree with our proposal to stop the 100% council tax reduction for care leavers placed in Croydon by other local authorities? If these care leavers do not receive support from the borough/corporate parent they have come f...



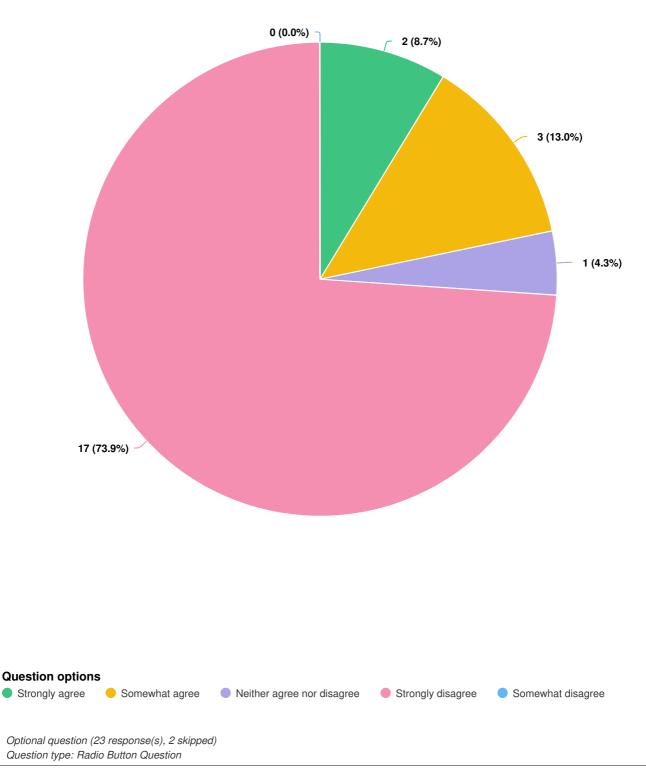
Q7 Please explain your answer to the previous question including any impacts you feel this may have:

Screen Name Redacted	I suppose you can argue that other authorities should look after their own, but definitely Croydon council should support people who live in their borough.
Screen Name Redacted 12/15/2023 04:25 PM	I believe all care leavers should have 100% discount council tax reduction, as it is hard to be a young person paying all bills yourself including food and gas as it is and also when your a care leaver your just starting to become independent. So this 100% discount helps so much young people from being financially stable and working hard to work for their career while learning how to be independent by themself. It has helped me loads and if I had to pay council tax with my age right now as a care leaver It would impact my mental health and probably de motivate me to work to pay for my own bills. As a care leaver we don't have family we can relay on finicially so this 100% discount really helps every care leaver out and taking it away from a. Care leaver can really expose them to vulnerability.
Screen Name Redacted	Every care leaver deserves the same treatment as best you can. Why should someone else miss out when they could've fleed DV or gangs or dangerous family members. No differences we are all young people trying to make our way in life
Screen Name Redacted	If they are in your borough they should be treated as a care leaver not distinguished by borough as well
Screen Name Redacted	There is to much discussions between boroughs. Every borough that welcomes a child will have their child living in another borough. Look at the big picture. All local authorities are one. All receive funding from central government
Screen Name Redacted	All support possible should be made available for these young people - don't make life even harder for them!
Screen Name Redacted	As long as they get assistance from their Borough

Screen Name Redacted	it is not the care leavers fault they cannot be used in their own borough this is a cost cutting exercise	
Screen Name Redacted	Further pressure and demands on their minimal income potentially leading to debt and financial crisis	
Screen Name Redacted	It is reasonable for their Boroughs to pay their council tax as Croydon pays for its care leavers in other boroughs	
Screen Name Redacted	This should be the responsibility of the borough/corporate parent that places them.	
Screen Name Redacted	If they not had the support before they can do with our	
Screen Name Redacted	If the care leaver comes from a another Borough council tax should be paid by the Borough they come from if the Borough they live in is giving them accommodation at a free/reduced rate.	
Screen Name Redacted	The other LA's should me responsible	
Screen Name Redacted	N/a it's stupid ideas	
Screen Name Redacted 1/08/2024 11:48 AM	These young people still remain the responsibility of the original Borough they come from and so Croydon should have in place an agreement with other boroughs what is expected if a young person is placed within the borough, and where young people can get help if needed.	
Screen Name Redacted	It is the opposite of the previous question. The corporate parent should be responsible for paying the council tax.	
Screen Name Redacted	Care Leavers have zero money to pay for council tax once on prepayment meters for utilities pay for travel to college/ apprenticeship and need to visit food banks.	
Screen Name Redacted	This will not help them financially	

1/19/2024 08:16 PM

Optional question (19 response(s), 6 skipped) **Question type:** Essay Question Q8 How much do you agree or disagree with our proposal to stop the 100% council tax reduction for households where a care leaver lives but is not the named person to pay council tax e.g the landlord pays the council tax?These households will be able t...



Q9 Please explain your answer to the previous question including any impacts you feel this may have:

Screen Name Redacted	If the care leaver isn't responsible for the council tax then no I don't believe it should be paid for
Screen Name Redacted 12/15/2023 04:25 PM	I believe all care leavers should have 100% discount council tax reduction, as it is hard to be a young person paying all bills yourself including food and gas as it is and also when your a care leaver your just starting to become independent. So this 100% discount helps so much young people from being financially stable and working hard to work for their career while learning how to be independent by themself. It has helped me loads and if I had to pay council tax with my age right now as a care leaver It would impact my mental health and probably de motivate me to work to pay for my own bills. As a care leaver we don't have family we can relay on finicially so this 100% discount really helps every care leaver out and taking it away from a. Care leaver can really expose them to vulnerability.
Screen Name Redacted	Situations can change and if the landlords paying the council tax anyway why remove the label from the young person? When the move again they'll benefit of having that
Screen Name Redacted	If they are not entitled to ctax support it's an additional bill so wouldn't do staying put
Screen Name Redacted	Let's keep things simple. Changes and different approaches are unfair, complicated and the process probably costs more.
Screen Name Redacted 12/16/2023 02:03 PM	As mentioned before, life is extremely hard for all care leavers and the people that support them. Any financial assistance available, is invaluable and should be retained. I'm a full time foster carer and currently have a young person living with me under the "staying Put" scheme who has severe mental health issues. (He will soon be 20 and I have cared for him since he was 8). Not having to think about paying the Council Tax, is one less thing to worry about with all the other increasing life expenses. I'm a single foster carer, but wouldn't be able to claim the "25% single person discount" if the younger person stayed. The allowance for supporting them hasn't increased for over 3 years which is another factor. From talking to his Social Services PA, there is a tremendous shortage of affordable housing

	and this could "tip the iceberg" and carers not feel economically able to continue helping these vulnerable young people.
Screen Name Redacted	No foster carer will want to keep us in their home now.
Screen Name Redacted	The impact will be on foster carers who offer to house 18-21yr olds using a 'staying-put' scheme as fostered children leave care. The money for staying put is low, and there need to be benefits to families offering this service or they will stop.
Screen Name Redacted	Even if the landlord who is not the carer is named as the council tax payer, once the discount is removed, the landlord will find a way of transferring the cost to the carer eg through rent increase.
Screen Name Redacted	The terminology is not clear. Do you mean by, 'landlord', carers who have chosen to offer staying put support to care leavers? In this case, where care leavers are 'staying put', then those carers should continue to be given 100% council tax reduction for each young person in that category.
Screen Name Redacted 1/05/2024 04:49 PM	Carer's income is very low and 100% discount enables us to provide the support care leavers still need. I don't believe there are huge numbers of foster carers who take on care leavers and its a good incentive to continue having them live with us, and the take up will probably reduce without it. It costs more to accommodate them outside of the carer's home even if there was other accommodation available. At the very least there should be a minimum 75% reduction of council tax.
Screen Name Redacted 1/05/2024 08:26 PM	The staying put allowance paid to a foster carer who was previously receiving the full fostering allowance, is less than half. Removing the council tax reduction in full would not provide an incentive for carer's to offer this service. Foster carers are already aware that they are financially better off by accepting another foster placement, as an alternative to undertaking a Staying Put Placement. Some of these young people are simply not ready for independence and will be disadvantaged by being forced to manage alone before they are ready.
Screen Name Redacted	Most carers will choose not to do staying Put, including myself

1/06/2024 12:29 AM

Screen Name Redacted	ldk
Screen Name Redacted	The 100% discount should continue as before. To reduce it would be unfair for the household where care leaver lives.
Screen Name Redacted 1/08/2024 11:48 AM	As a Foster Carer I find that this 100% discount is a very attractive incentive in keeping a young person at home as they now come into adulthood. This gives for some of our most vulnerable young people continuity and a safety net other than being put straight out into an alien environment when some are nowhere near being ready to experience this. Also if they are still in education this again gives continuity to continue to thrive without all the other issues of living on their own.
Screen Name Redacted	Those care leavers who are accommodated under the staying put agreement and are living with their previous foster carers. The 100% reduction should not be removed because the previous foster carers are providing much needed support and accommodation which otherwise the council will have to provide. The financial impact on the council will far exceed the council tax.
Screen Name Redacted	The households should be given this as a financial benefit becausr of the work they do for the borough. There is currently No financial reward for the work that Carers / households do for their boroughs. Cares get paid for the job that they do like anyone that is employed. This is an incentive for current and prospective carers.

Optional question (18 response(s), 7 skipped) **Question type:** Essay Question

Q10 If you have any other comments about our proposed changes or ideas for the scheme, please tell us here:

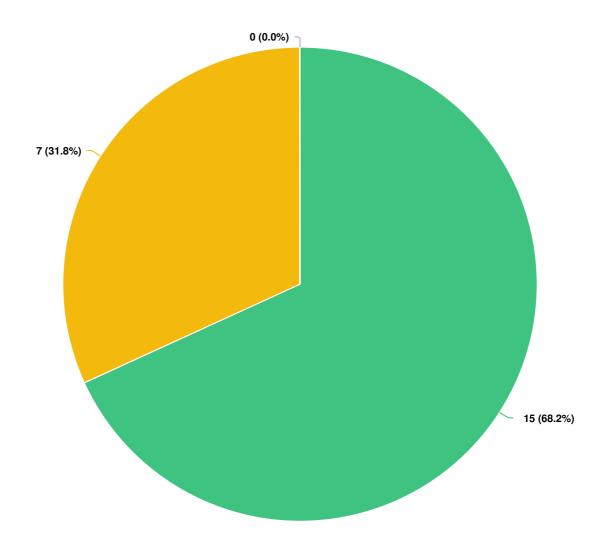
Screen Name Redacted	I really think this 100% scheme should carry on I am a care leaver
12/15/2023 04:25 PM	and a youth worker for kids in care. And stopping this 100% council
	tax scheme will put a lot of young people in a vunerable position
	myself included

Screen Name Redacted It's madness, you're trying to save money and take it off the people

Report for 08 October 2021 to 21 Jar	1uary 2024
12/15/2023 05:15 PM	who cannot afford to give you it. Find other ways to fund your bankruptcy
Screen Name Redacted	It would affect care leavers as foster carers will want the young people out at 18 instead of 24.
Screen Name Redacted 12/16/2023 06:09 AM	Treat the households decently and they will want to offer their homes to care leavers. Croydon are not retaining foster carers, staying put carers or supported lodging places. Where are care leavers going to live. I am disgusted at Croydon's short sightedness. We know that care experienced adults do not have the greatest outcomes. We are all struggling financially. Croydon sort out your financies. Attempts at making a quick saving result in long term consequences for young people in care and care experienced adults. These savings will have a detrimental effect on society.
Screen Name Redacted	I fully appreciate that Croydon Council is bankrupt and in "Special Measures". But surely our most vulnerable young people must not be made to suffer.
Screen Name Redacted	Are you thenonky Borough doing this. Why are you doing this now especially when the economy is so bad.
Screen Name Redacted 12/16/2023 07:33 PM	why are you changing the lo cal offer for care leavers to disadvantage them further, because the council overspent on indulgent schemes why should care leavers suffer
Screen Name Redacted 12/18/2023 08:49 AM	We must protect our vulnerable care leavers best we can to support them to reach independence and not creating a further financial burden.
Screen Name Redacted	Boroughs need to split costs. See 7.
Screen Name Redacted	This survey should have routinely been sent out all all foster carers who may have young people reaching the age of 18 in the foreseeable future and who may be considering a Staying Put agreement, as it will directly affect them if this proposal is introduced.
Screen Name Redacted	Start helping our care children before they become a care leaver and

1/06/2024 03:20 PM	this won't happen dug
Screen Name Redacted	The benefits should be kept as they are.
Screen Name Redacted 1/08/2024 11:48 AM	I don't know for a Landlord but as a Foster Carer this 100% discount not only is a 'perk' or incentive to keep a young person in placement not only for support, but to help them further especially if they are still in education. I have seen first hand the damage that can happen to some young people who at 18 are 'thrown' out of a safe home when they are not ready, how their education, mental health etc can suffer. and potentially at the risk particularly from bad outside influences etc. My fear is that many Foster Carers whilst being great carers will not especially in this current financial climate may not see a point in the continued support if this will put them into more financial difficulties. Also what is the saving for the Council in the long run when they have to find extra accommodation etc for young people who are safe and cared for? Is this Care of duty?
Screen Name Redacted 1/10/2024 01:31 PM	The 100% reduction given under the staying put agreement should not be removed where a care leaver is still part of the household where he was previously fostered. The previous foster carers are providing essential housing and good deal of support which is vital for a care leaver. If the council has to provide the same level of accommodation and support, the financial impact will be greater than the council tax. So in summary where the care leaver is still in the same house where he was fostered then the 100% reduction in the council tax should remain.
Screen Name Redacted	Care leavers have bearly enough money to keep afloat now as student/ apprenticeships or working. There is not the Parents to help sort this out
Screen Name Redacted 1/19/2024 08:16 PM	The way to keep the exemption in place for households that are liable for CT would be for Croydon to charge the LA of the YP for the council tax due. All Croydon YP should be exempt because its a financial insentive for carers and prospextive carers. It would cost Croydon a lot more money if there were less carers. Croydon needs to incentivise being a Foster Csrer as do all local authorities and Central Government. As a foster carer for 24 years i believe there is so much more that can be offered to the people that give up their own lives to share it with children that need their help, support and love.

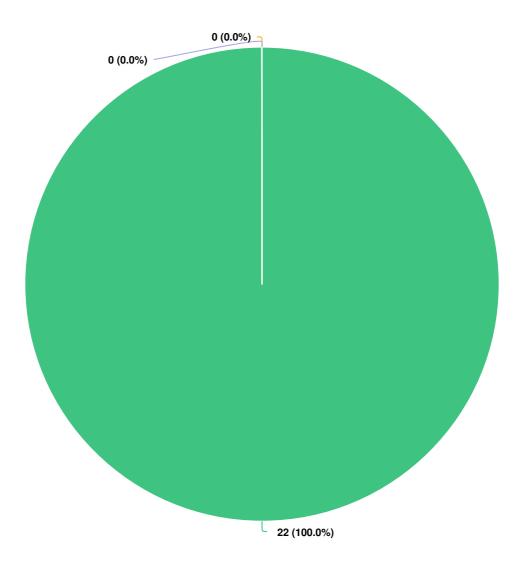
Optional question (16 response(s), 9 skipped) **Question type:** Essay Question Q11 What is your sex? (a question about gender identity will follow if you are aged 16 or over)





Optional question (22 response(s), 3 skipped) Question type: Radio Button Question



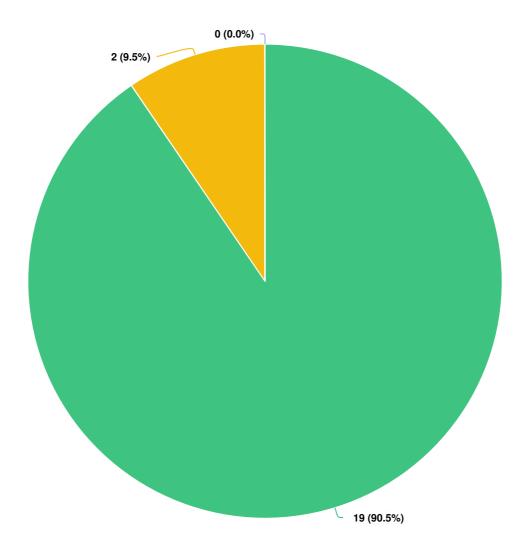


Question options

🔵 Yes 🛛 😑 No

Prefer not to say

Optional question (22 response(s), 3 skipped) Question type: Radio Button Question Q13 This question is for respondents aged 16 and over: Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? (this question is voluntary)



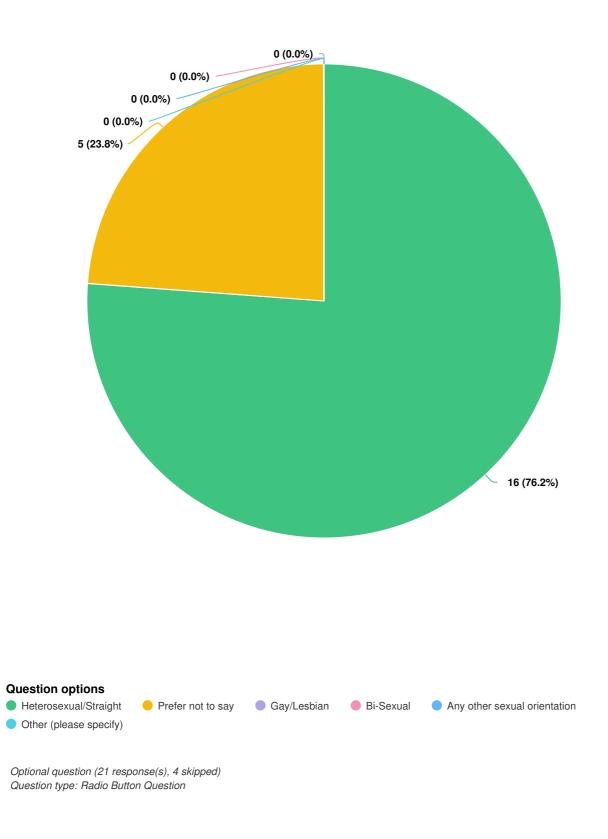
 Question options

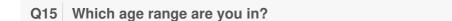
 Yes
 Prefer not to say

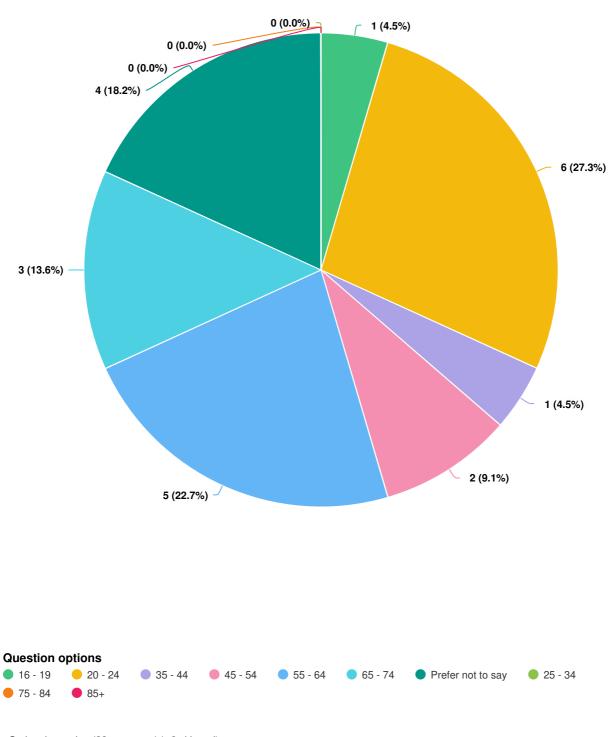
 No - write in identity

Optional question (21 response(s), 4 skipped) Question type: Radio Button Question

Q14 Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

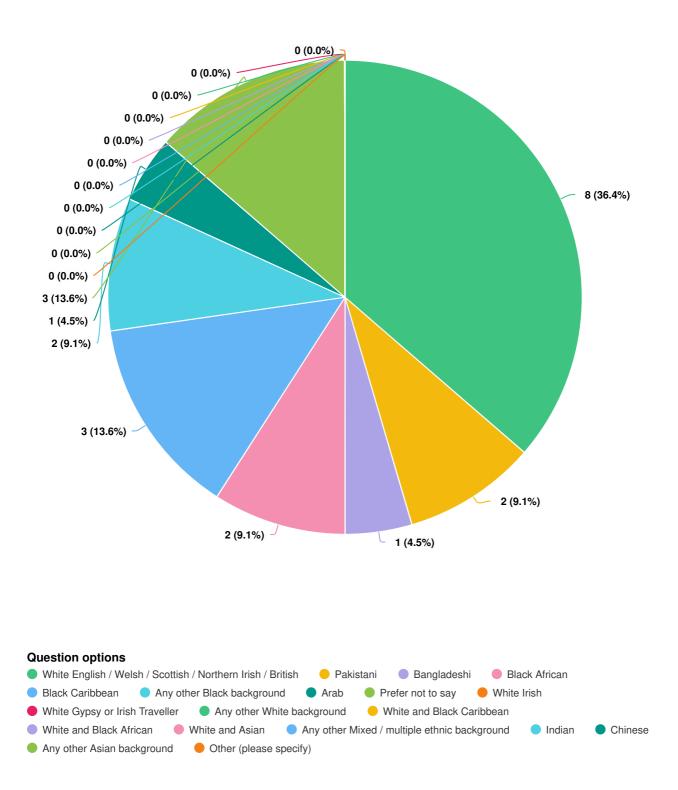






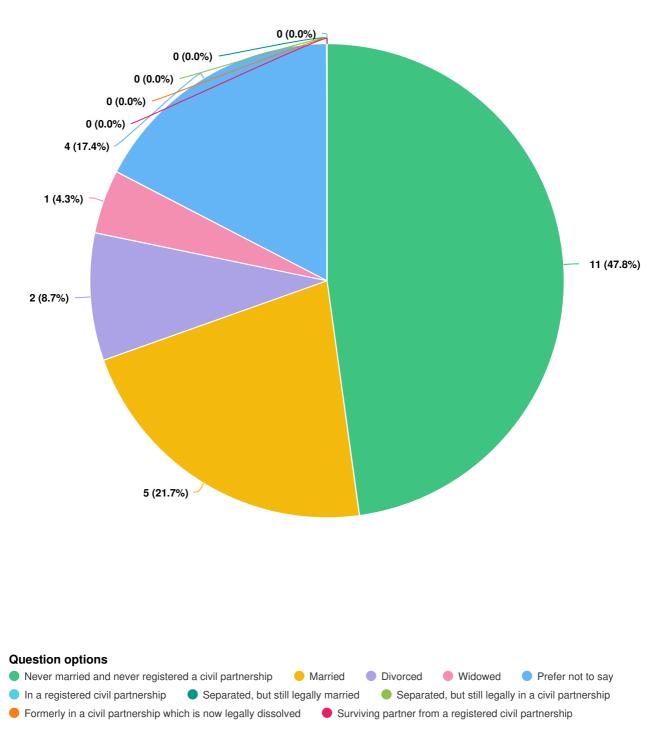
Optional question (22 response(s), 3 skipped) Question type: Radio Button Question





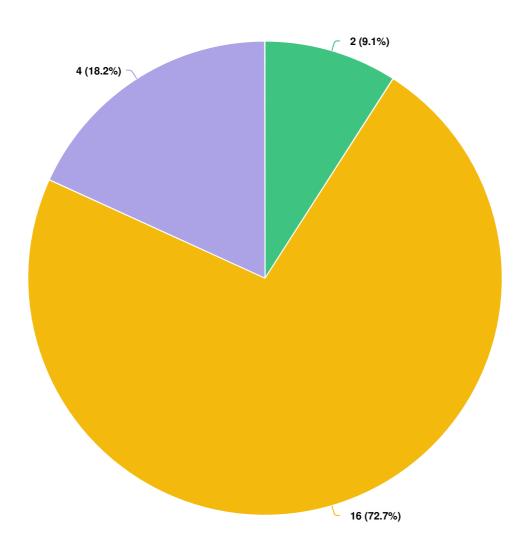
Optional question (22 response(s), 3 skipped) Question type: Radio Button Question





Optional question (23 response(s), 2 skipped) Question type: Radio Button Question

Q18 Have you or your partner had a baby in the last 12 months?



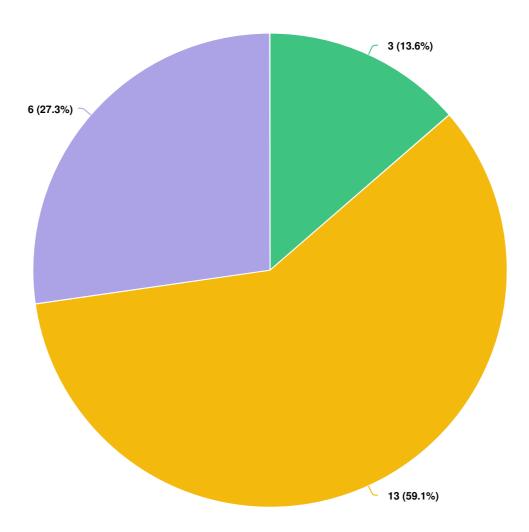
Question options

🔵 Yes 🛛 😑 No

Prefer not to say

Optional question (22 response(s), 3 skipped) Question type: Radio Button Question

Q19 Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

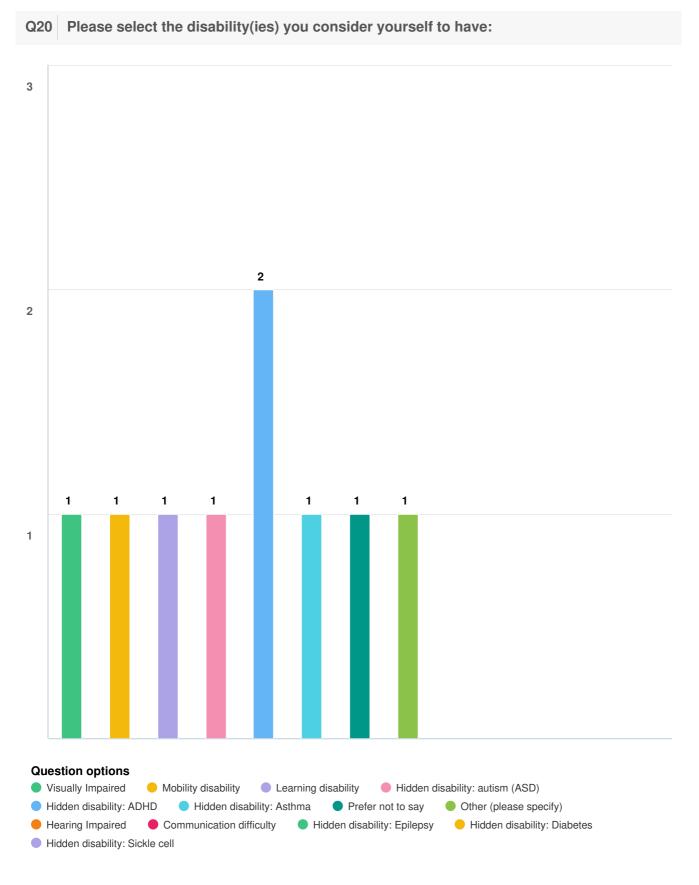


Question options

Yes ONO Prefer not to say

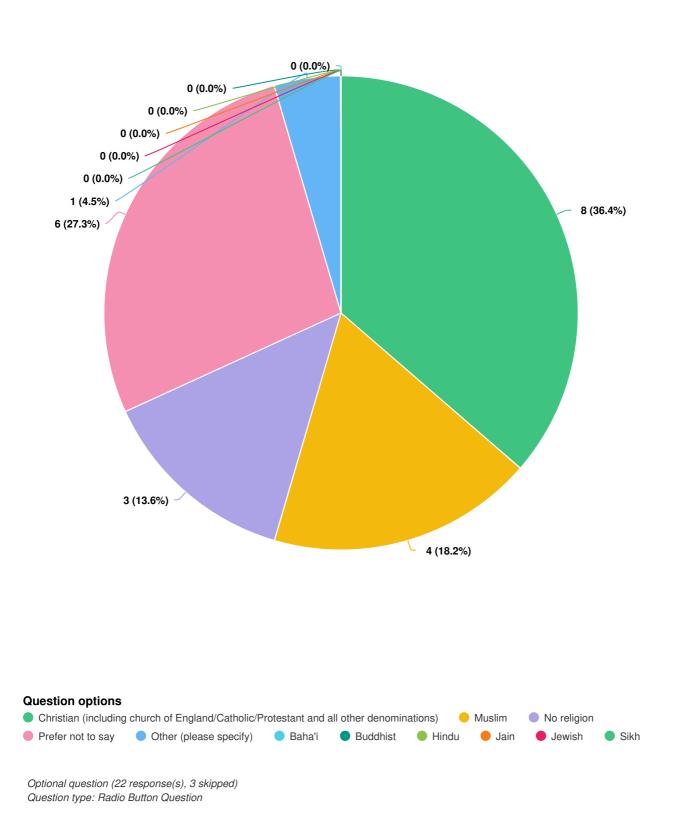
Optional question (22 response(s), 3 skipped)

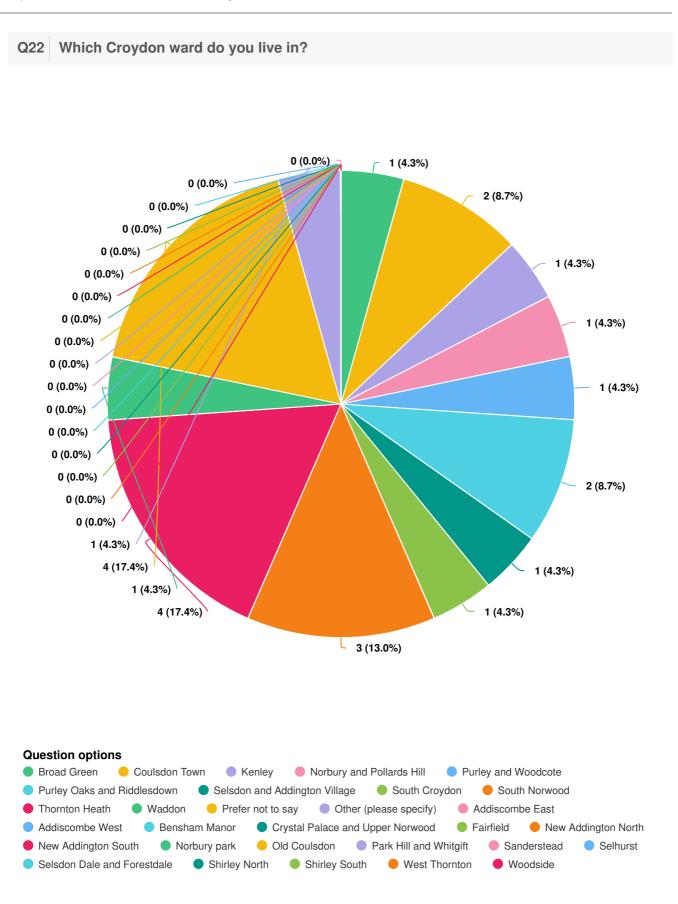
Question type: Radio Button Question



Optional question (3 response(s), 22 skipped) Question type: Checkbox Question

Q21 What is your religion?





Optional question (23 response(s), 2 skipped) Question type: Radio Button Question