

DETACHED YOUTH WORK - A LIFELINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE PANDEMIC



Report on the findings of Detached project delivered between
April and September 2020

YOUNG BRENT FOUNDATION
MAY 2021



**"IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE
BEING FORGOTTEN"**



ABOUT US

WHO, WHAT AND WHY

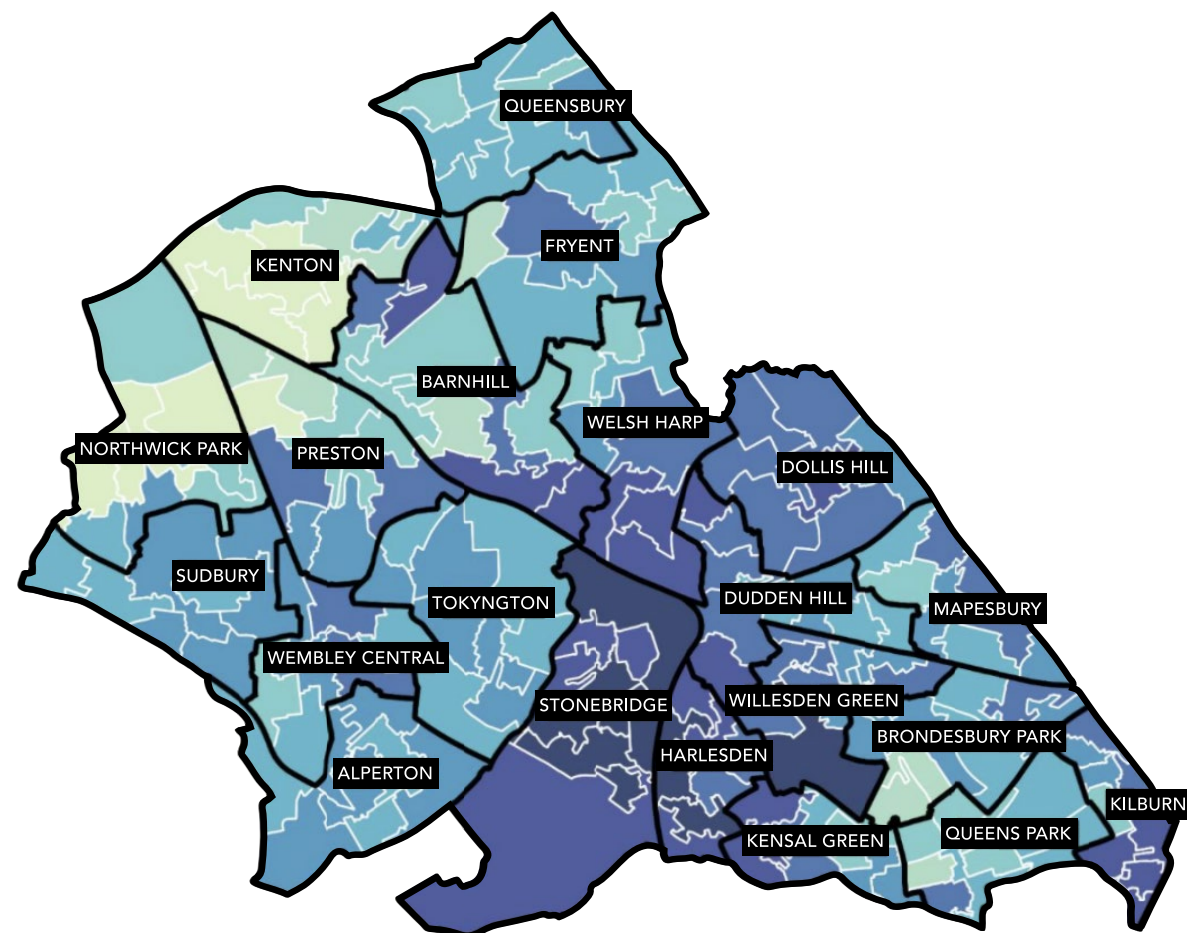
Young Brent Foundation (YBF) is a member led charity comprised of organisations that work with children and young people in a local area including the public, private and voluntary sectors to effect positive change for young people. We believe we can achieve more by working together.

Young Brent Foundation (YBF) aims to provide a positive new approach to supporting the Children and Young People sector across the borough.

YBF's purpose is to increase opportunities for young people at a time when investment in youth provision across the UK has been significantly reduced.

INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION (IMD)

LSOAs in Brent relative to all LSOAs in England

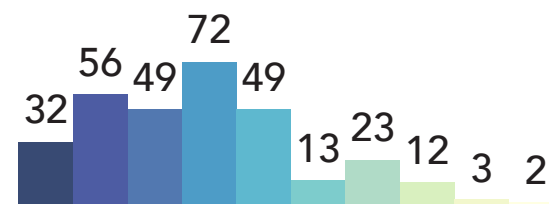


Ward Boundaries

Ward Rankings
Highest relative deprivation listed first

National Decile	Ward	National Percentile
Most Deprived	Stonebridge	3.7
	Harlesden	7.0
	Kilburn	14.7
	Willesden Green	16.6
	Dollis Hill	17.1
	Kensal Green	19.0
	Welsh Harp	20.4
	Dudden hill	20.6
	Barnhill	24.8
	Mapesbury	26.6
	Wembley Central	29.4
	Alpertton	30.5
	Sudbury	31.3
	Tokyngton	32.1
	Brondesbury Park	33.0
	Preston	34.8
	Fryent	37.2
	Queensbury	37.3
	Queens Park	40.2
	Northwick Park	55.8
Least Deprived	Kenton	64.1

This chart highlights that members of YBF are working in areas of deprivation in Brent. 82% of the locations are in the bottom 50% of areas in England for IMD



Average Rank Decile



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN THE WORK

A deep gratitude for the skills, knowledge and dedication to young people from youth practitioners at Ansar Youth Project, Connect Stars, My Romania Community and Stephen Graham Projects. Without their involvement in this work YBF and the wider network would be much less informed and less able to raise the needs of young people to those with financial and decision-making powers to make change happen.



Special appreciation for Ayodeji Adeosun and his tireless work coordinating delivery with partners and for elevating the voice of young people. Sarah Rose and Myriam Nelson, the design team at Rose+Nelson for their work in creating this report. Jean-Marc Okende for his passion towards securing a better future of his generation.

YBF are thankful for the support and active collaboration with:

The London Borough of Brent, Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing, Hyde Housing, Catalyst Housing, City Bridge Trust and John Lyon's Charity.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CHRIS MURRAY CEO

Youth work is an area of work unfortunately and frequently misunderstood by many who view the relational development through the lens of young people playing pool in a youth club.

The issues and images are perhaps partly the fault of youth services, youth workers, and organisations that represent them. Throughout the pandemic, groups working with young people and their communities, struggled to illustrate the significant need to ensure a clearer understanding of what young people receive from Detached and Outreach (D&O) work and their experiences of this practice through this difficult period.

Throughout the pandemic however, the utilisation of Detached work played its part in connecting young people to their communities, whilst keeping them safe at the same time.

Detached work was deemed a positive support for the key workers fighting on the front line in hospitals and in our medical arenas, in the same way we saw delivery teams supplying homes with essential parcels and goods. Keeping young people safe, during a pandemic was a difficult transition.

Through the individual stories that spoke of preventative and early intervention activities linked to the onset of mental ill-health, supporting young people to access PPE, parents facing job losses and in lots of

cases, loss of family members too. The impact in Brent was real.

The vision of Young Brent Foundation (YBF) was simple. Provide impactful support and guidance for the sector, that thinks and acts locally and across the borough of Brent.

With the above in mind, YBF aimed to provide a seamless approach - keeping children and young people safe.

Even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number who faced significant challenges in their lives was extraordinarily high, not least because over four million children were living in poverty, and one million were experiencing mental health problems (one in eight of all children and young people). Violence affecting young people has been rising in recent years and at the same time young people are

most likely to be victims of crime, affecting more than one in five of all young people.

Based on observations shared and discussed at Brent COVID-19 Emergency Response Steering Group. Young Brent Foundation in conjunction with Ansar Youth Club, Connect Stars and My Romania Community delivered a Staying Safe in the Community Detached and Outreach Project throughout the pandemic with two main functions:

1 To ascertain how young people were coping in the borough with the lockdown and government guidelines.

To provide reassurance, advice and guidance and to sign post to local services.

2

The Detached Team met and interacted with over 1000 children, young people and their families. The vast majority of young people were unaware of local services and welcomed the idea of the borough having a designated Detached Team. **There is a clear need for this work to be maintained during and after the lockdown.**



Detached and outreach team workers can achieve better outcomes for young people and families living in Brent by ensuring the following.

- Using the whole system approach to safeguarding children and young people.
- Being part of Early Help and providing high quality, effective and responsive service for young people and strengthening early identification and intervention for young people.
- Providing support for access activities or provision in their local area and to inform young people of pathways for growth and personal development.
- Providing young people with access to informal learning opportunities, information and resources.
- Stimulating, positively challenging and empowering young people to make right life choices.
- Getting young people back into education, employment or training.
- Offering careers advice and guidance.
- Offering tailored support to vulnerable groups.
- To reduce further risk of serious youth violence.
- To help support young people more resilient in their communities.
- To support community cohesion.



YBF became a go-to source of information on the streets and on the estates. **The Detached model enabled young people to speak with trusted adults known to them throughout the pandemic as lockdown after lockdown reduced the opportunities for young people to converse openly and with meaning.** For many young people, the rise of domestic violence, lack of spaces to study and the ability to converse (no digital connectivity) with friends brought on anxiety and stressful situations.

The ability of the Detached teams to make meaningful conversations, was a welcomed relief. With the support of the Council, Police, businesses locally and the third sector, the work was welcomed by group(s) on the streets of Brent.

INTRODUCTION

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC HAS PUT A HUGE STRAIN ON MANY YOUNG PEOPLE



For those who were already struggling with life due to economic disadvantage, disrupted educational experiences, family breakdown, trauma - the loss of routine and breakdown in formal and informal support systems was devastating.

By May 2020 Young Brent Foundation (YBF) noticed that there was a considerable amount of activity in the charitable sector to understand the impact of the pandemic through surveys, polls, focus groups, webinars. There was a focus on the impact on fundraising and income generation for the charitable, community and voluntary sector. Funding streams such as Events, Mass Participation programmes like the London Marathon, Individual Giving programmes and Employee Giving Programmes were significantly impacted leading to funding deficits for many organisations.

A focus on the impact of access to digital assets like laptops and Wi-Fi for children and young people who could not participate in learning at home without these tools.

Young Brent Foundation was concerned that very little analysis was presented on the impact of lockdown on young people who were not connected to youth organisations, not engaging in online lessons (not all schools were providing lessons in the early phase). We questioned how young people were managing who had parents/carers working as key workers, bus drivers, shop workers and therefore without parental support and unable to connect with grandparents due to the increase risk of transmission.

The Local Authority convened Strategic Groups to provide communication across the sector and between local community and voluntary sector organisations and the Council, in addition to provide a strategic focus for actions to tackle particular themes and issues. Young Brent Foundation became the Strategic Lead for Children and Young People. The Council recognised that many of the issues of key importance in Brent are complex and multi-faceted and need responses designed to take account of this fact which drew on the knowledge, resources and experiences of everyone working on these issues.

The Coalition of Race Equality Organisations (CORE) a collective of 22 BAME non-profit organisations, stated, in a letter to Prime Minister Boris Johnson:

“ We appreciate this is a time of crisis and that the government has a large number of urgent and pressing issues. We also understand that the coronavirus can affect anyone and everyone, but at the same time some people are at greater risk, both in terms of the direct health impact and in terms of the wider social and economic consequences. ”

Young Brent Foundation's COVID-19 survey concurred with the concerns raised by CORE, regarding particular groups that are now known to be at greater risk, namely African & Asian diaspora and minority ethnic communities (AAME) in Brent. With the above in mind, YBF are concerned not only the short-term health impacts of Covid-19, but the deeper causes of these outcomes, and the longer-term consequences on AAME communities.

The YBF membership working on the frontline with children and young people during the Covid-19 outbreak, faced disproportionate impacts that in our view were not being adequately considered in the decisions and leadership of central government. It was also noted that Stop and Search which has long been an issue for the AAME community in Brent, especially for young African - Caribbean young men, could trigger disturbances. The police's newly enhanced powers to enforce social distancing could exacerbate issues if used inappropriately or disproportionately.

DURING THE FIRST LOCKDOWN WE FOUND OUT THAT:

- Only approx. 5% of 'vulnerable' young people were going to school
- Domestic abuse reporting had risen
- Families in lockdown are rubbing up against each other increasing conflict and escalate poor relationships
- Police recording of ASB had raised which is often associated with young people being reported by other groups in the community

- MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) referrals were down because the largest number of referrals come from schools education providers

WE ALSO KNEW THAT:

- Young people are resilient
- They can make sensible and situationally appropriate choices

Chris Murray, CEO of YBF brought to the attention of the Council, the concerns highlighted and proposed a pilot three-week programme using a Detached Youth Work model working across key hotspots in Brent with members of Young Brent Foundation carrying out the work.

This report captures the experience of the Detached Youth Work teams and provides insights into the emergence of new areas of work, anticipating and responding to the recovery needs for children and young people in Brent.



WHAT IS DETACHED YOUTH WORK

- A model of working with young people in 'their territory' or space
- Is based in communities (streets, open spaces and parks, shopping centres, estates)
- Is based on building trusting relationships with young people
- Based on negotiation
- Power is not so dominant in these relationships due to the geographical flexibility
- Often with young people who have chaotic and complex lifestyles that are focused on street based activities (ASB, gangs, homelessness, substance abuse, poor mental health, poor sexual health choices)
- Witnessing young people's lives in spaces that may not normally be seen

DETACHED YOUTH WORK IN A PANDEMIC

1. Contextual Safeguarding

When the Government initiated the first Lockdown, the assumption that to “Stay at Home” was a practical possibility for all civilians quickly unravelled as complex.

“For some young people being out of the home is safer than being inside” Chris Murray.

Through conversations with youth workers, we heard of an increase in domestic violence, increased stress because of job loss, less food in the home and so for some young people - outside the home felt safer space to be in.

As practitioner's, youth workers faced and continue to face unprecedented challenges to support and safeguard vulnerable children and families, even given the falling infection rates and easing of restrictions. During the Lockdowns Safeguarding children who may be at an increased risk of abuse, harm and exploitation from a range of sources was the primary concern of the many in the Council, Youth Sector and Housing Providers. However, it was equally important to safeguard families, with parents facing significant pressures to continue to protect and promote the welfare of their children. These parents may already have been struggling and so with additional pressures the likelihood of harm or significant harm may increase.



Practitioners delivering in the pilot in addition to providing advice, supported government message **communicating a clear message to young people: that they should go home and stay as safe as possible.** The only caveat to this (i.e., in exceptional circumstances) the need for social care/social work-oriented intervention where workers judged a need for safeguarding issues and where home may constitute a danger. Practitioners were made aware of processes to communicate directly with colleagues in social care with the aim to support young people under their direction.



2. Keeping staff and volunteers safe

The specific role and professional boundaries of Detached Youth Workers are informed by good decision-making and both generic and dynamic risk assessments. As part of this process, YBF sought support from local multi-agency working groups before Detached Youth Work took place.

Working in public and other open spaces has fewer risks than indoors, risks exist, nonetheless. The teams carrying out Detached Youth Work were provided with PPE working at a safe distance and makes possible putting into practice safe-working protocols.

3. Teams who understand the opportunities available, provide reassurance, good networks to keep you safe, access work and access foodbanks

The specific role and professional boundaries of Detached Youth Workers are informed by good decision-making and both generic and dynamic risk assessments. As part of this process, YBF sought support from local multi-agency working groups before Detached Youth Work took place.

Organisations were commissioned based on track record of working with children and young people and those who have strong relationship with young people who are part of newly emerged communities in Brent.



REPORTS

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DETACHED ONE

APRIL 2020



Since the outbreak of COVID-19, all youth provision paused or moved remotely.

YBF held a network meeting on the 2nd April, where it was identified that a number of concerns for our children and young people were raised and discussed.

The need for a Detached Team was paramount in understanding the impact that COVID-19 has had on children and young people age 11 – 25 living in the borough.

Sessions commenced Wednesday **8th April until Friday 17th April 2020**. Two sessions per day between 2pm – 5pm and later at approximately 5pm - 8 pm.

Each day, the teams provided a dedicated safeguarding function, across three key wards covering the following catchment areas:

- **Ward 1** (Alperton, Wembley Park and Stonebridge)
- **Ward 2** (Queens Park, Harlesden & Kilburn)
- **Ward 3** (Kingsbury, Dollis Hill & Neasden)

The work had two functions:

1. To see how young people in the borough were coping with the lockdown and adhering to government guidelines.
2. To provide reassurance, advice and guidance as well as sign post to local services.

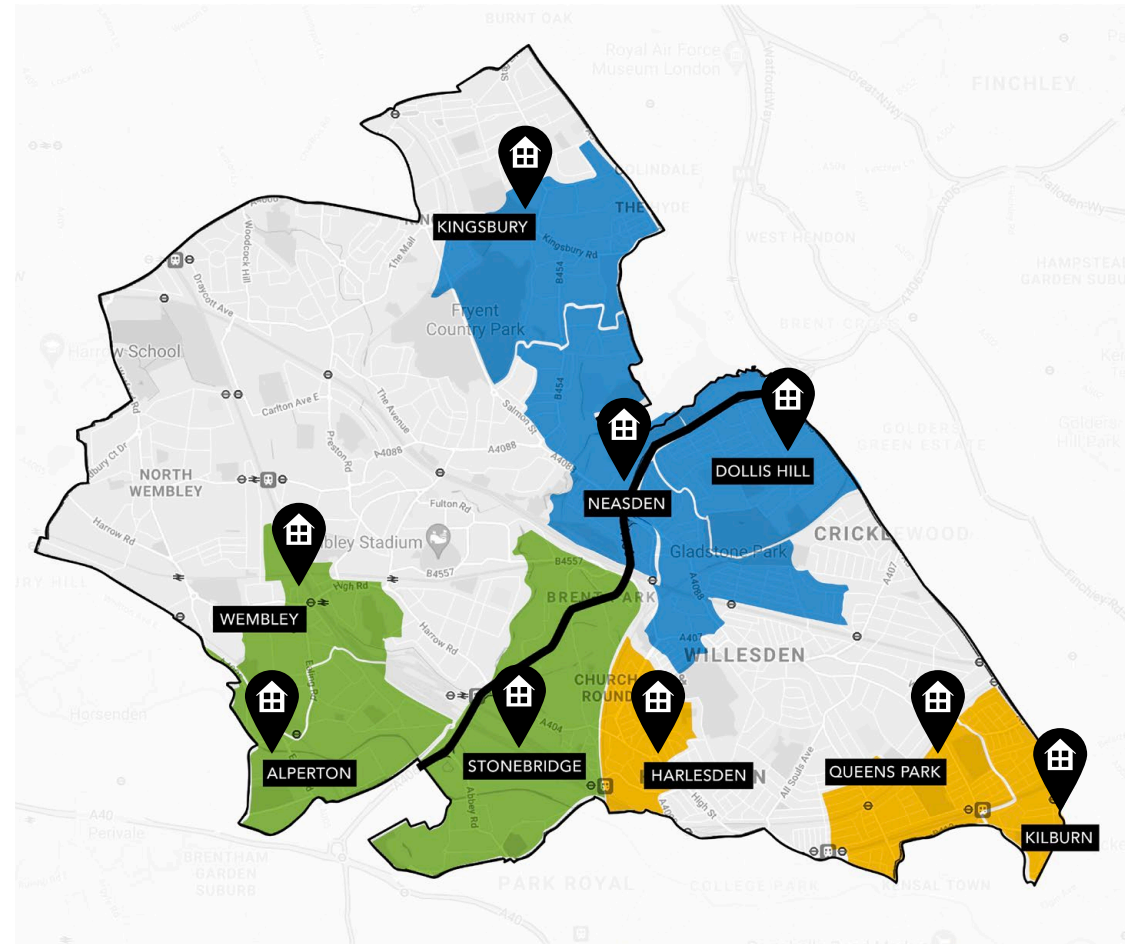


Figure 2: Detached Youth Work Locations

DELIVERY ORGANISATIONS



CONNECT STARS PROVIDES SERVICES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- a) Community Advice & Guidance
- b) Holiday programmes
- c) Football leagues and Tournaments
- d) After School provisions
- e) Mentoring Programme
- f) Youth Work Provision
- g) Outreach and Detach work

Connect Stars is a voluntary organisation established in 1995 based in Brent and provides support services to members of the Black, Asian & Ethnic Minority Communities & Refugees and a large demography of their clients reside from the Somali community.

They have been delivering and developing estates and area based diversionary programmes across Northwest London since 1995. Currently they are delivering programmes in Stonebridge Hub, Chalkhill and Ark Elvin Academy. Through this work they also look to create the next generation of coaches/youth workers by recruiting from the local areas, particularly those that are participants and integrate them into delivery programmes. They have also established

strong local networks and partnerships ranging from professional service providers such as schools, Sports Service, Voluntary Youth Service Providers, Housing Associations and the community. Their work is underpinned by their commitment to providing good quality sports development programmes and as well genuine progression routes. They are currently in the process of establishing a football league in Brent.





Ansar are a youth club based in Wembley and have strong connections with the local community.

They run after school sessions Monday to Friday from 4pm to 8pm. The youth club provides tutoring, sports, gaming and recreational activities. For children and young people aged 11 -19. Alongside this, they run a wide range of informal learning opportunities ranging from careers workshops to music workshops. They negate participation boundaries by running both mixed and segregated sessions as well as ensuring they do not charge for any services they run. Since the Covid-19 outbreak they have been running a range of digital engagement programmes via "Zoom" and "Instagram" As well as running a food distribution service for those who are in urgent need of food and have not yet received their food vouchers.



Based in Willesden, **My Romania Community** are focused on educating Romanian young people in their language and culture.

They also run a Saturday school and take a holistic approach to supporting families.



MONITORING

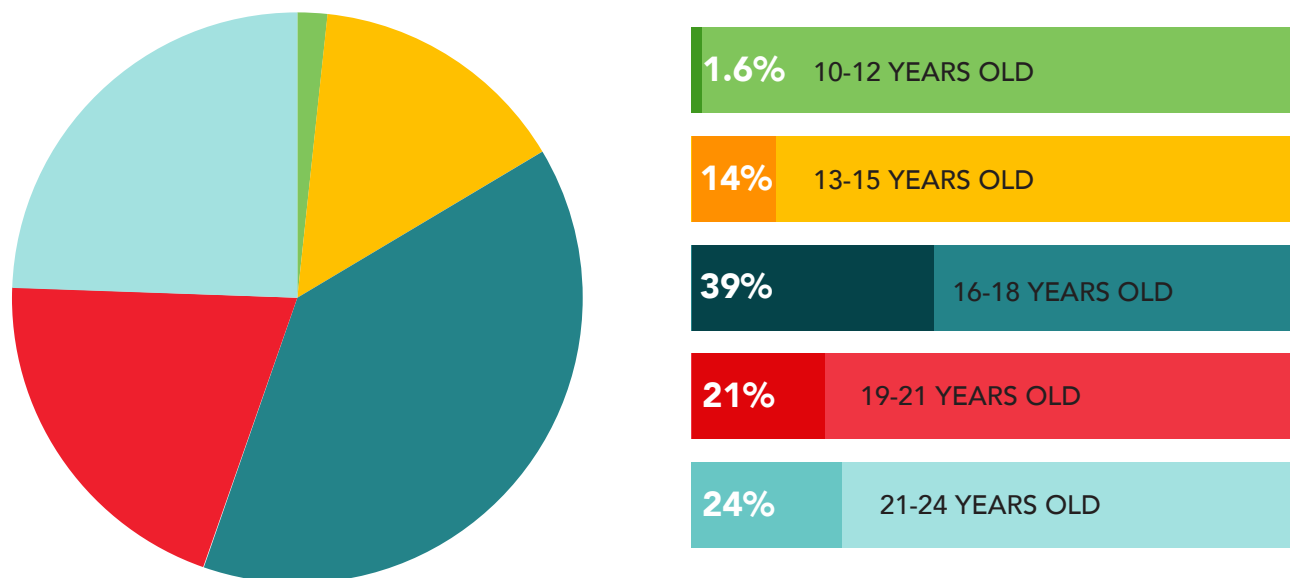
GENDER OF RESPONDENTS

The Detached Teams met a total of 572 young people. The vast majority of those interactions were with males making up roughly 83%.



AGE GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE

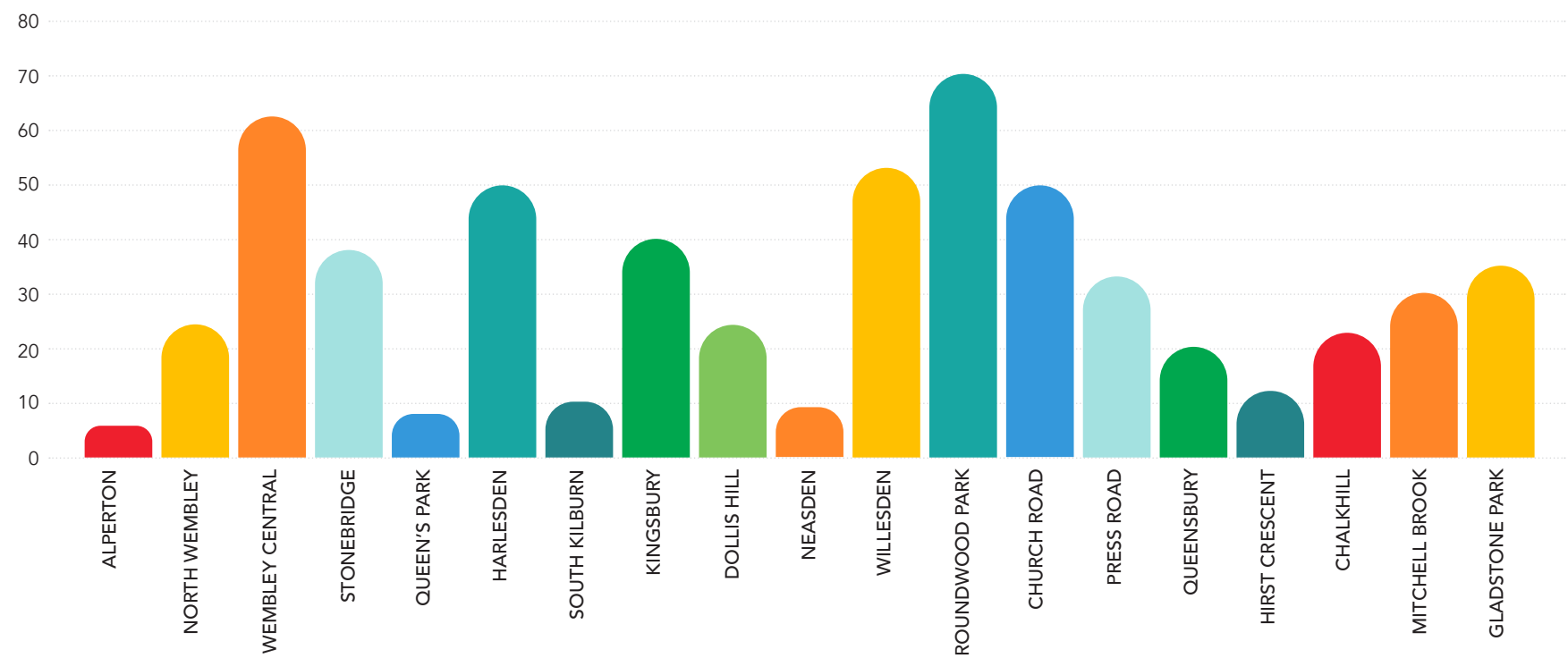
The Detached Teams met young people from the age of 11 – 25. 39% of the young people seen and interacted with were within the 16-18 age bracket.



NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE AT LOCATION

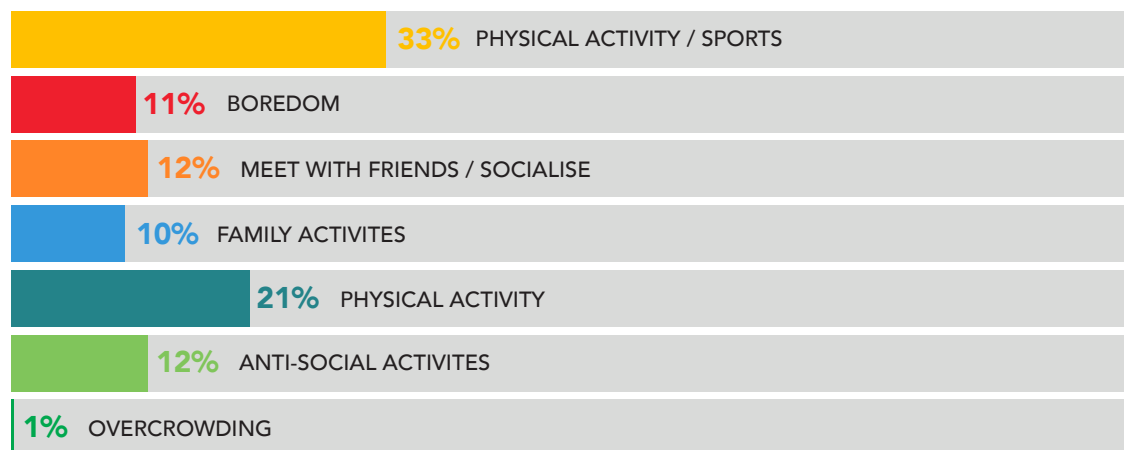
The graph below shows which area contained the highest number of young people outside. As you can see from the graph, Roundwood Park, Wembley Central, Harlesden and Church Road had the highest number in terms of young people outside.

The Detached team reported that majority of the young people they saw were usually in the parks.



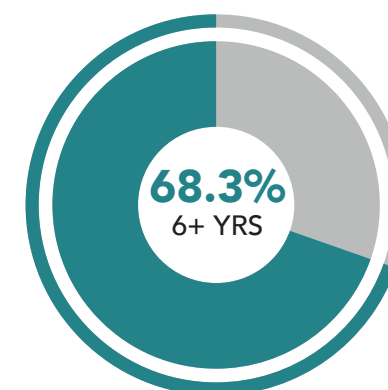
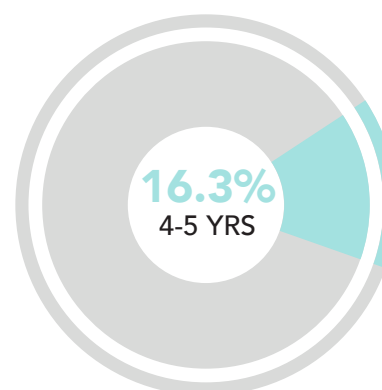
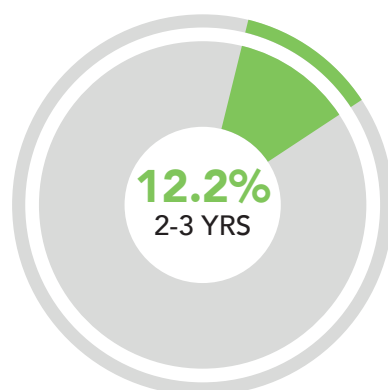
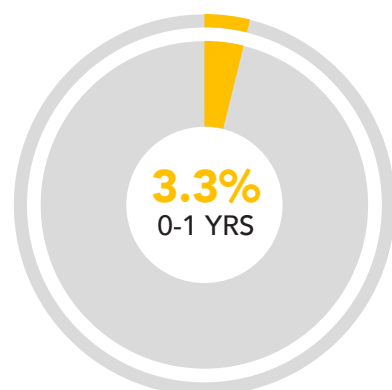
REASONS RESPONDENTS PROVIDED FOR BEING OUTSIDE

The reason why young people were outside varied with 1/3 of the feedback being for physical activity. Main response is that young people were extremely bored and they were just looking for something to do.



TERM OF RESIDENCY

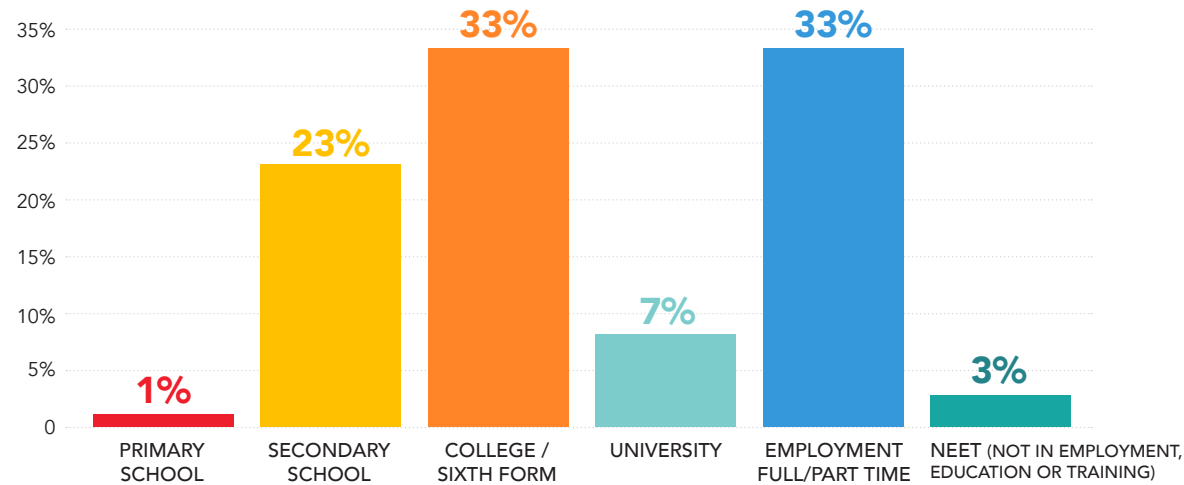
66% of young people that was stopped and interacted with have been living in the borough for six years plus.



CURRENT STATUS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

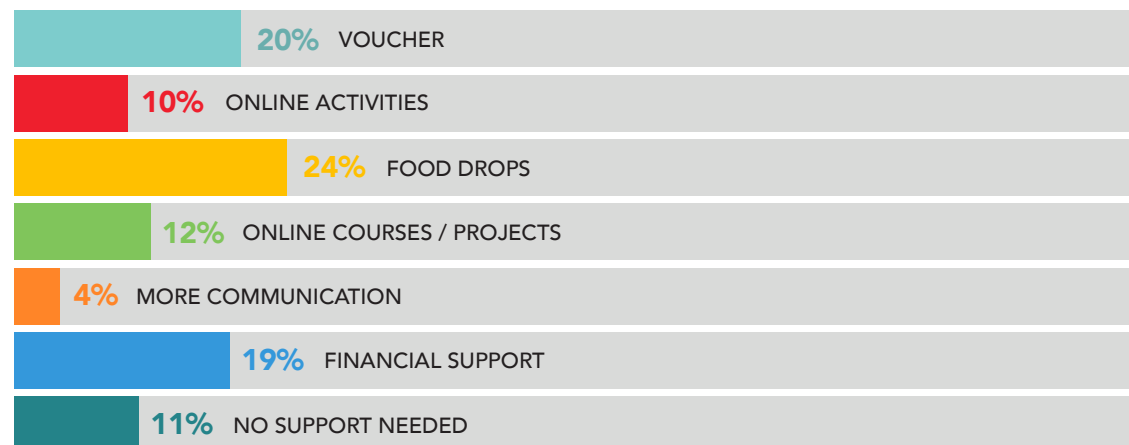
As stated above the young people interacted with ranged from 11 -25.

60% of the young people interviewed was either in sixth form/college or in employment.



POTENTIAL SUPPORT SYSTEM DURING LOCKDOWN

43% of young people reported that the support they need most during this lockdown was either a food voucher or food drop off service.



COMMUNITY WISHES AFTER LOCKDOWN

21% of young people reported that after lockdown they would like to see more sports provision in the borough. A further 16% welcomed the opportunity to attend a youth club.





PROJECT INSIGHTS

In total over the Easter Half term the Detached Project delivered 18 separate sessions, meeting and interacting with 572 young people.

The busiest day was Tuesday 14th April, where roughly 160 young people were seen/ interacted with, and the least busy day being Friday 17th April, seeing roughly 52 young people. A significant factor for the low numbers is that it was raining on the day. Local residents and young people alike welcomed and appreciated having the team on hand to provide information and respond to need.

The vast majority of young people appeared to adhere to the government guidelines by staying indoors. However, those that were out, were mainly exercising or playing football. It was reported a number of times that young people were not social distancing or wearing any face masks for protection. Some young people that were engaged stated their reason for not social distancing was simply down to not trusting the government and that ill health was more due to the impact of '5G' than Coronavirus. Others mentioned conspiracy theories that they had seen online.

One family had been **waiting 4 days** to receive their food voucher and they were very **concerned about the real possibility of running out of food**. The team was able to respond, quickly sign posting the family to Ansar youth club foodbank service.



The team felt that there was a clear need to inform and educate young people about the risks of COVID-19. This sentiment was echoed by the police who were equally finding it challenging to get the message across to local residents and young people. Police officers welcomed the initiative and particular engaged with the Detached team from Connect Stars. Towards the end of the project the team had noticed that the police had changed stance from information guidance, to directly requesting young people to leave the parks and go home.

Young people from Harlesden, Stonebridge and Church Road stated that their **local parks were "not fit for purpose"**. They stated that they were unable to stay fit and exercise because the parks do not have outdoor gym equipment that they can use. The Park is designed for younger children but nothing to keep the older young people engaged.

Similarly young people reported that they would like to see 3G pitches in the borough which they can access especially after COVID 19. The teams reported a number of times spotting young people climbing over cages to access basketball courts and to play football. The teams suggested the possibility of the cages being open, even for a set period of time. The teams were particularly concerned that young people could injure themselves when trying to climb over and having the facility open is one way combat this.

The teams reported that there was a visible police presence throughout, and the police were seen patrolling key hotspots such as Church Road, Hirst Crescent Estate, Kingsbury to name a few. Often our teams would get to a location as the police were leaving having dispersed all the young people that were there. So potentially the numbers of young people reached could have been higher if it wasn't for this intervention.



The teams reported that a vast majority of young people were unaware of local services. **A booklet with information about local services would have been useful to have during the sessions.** Another useful item would have been some form of official ID or badge.

It has to be said that the general atmosphere over the duration of the project was very pleasant. Young people were generally quite responsive. Some young people reported that their local area had been a **lot quieter** in a positive way due to COVID-19. Young people stated that it appeared that gang/ drug activity had decreased and was much less visible.

The young people engaged were happy and felt a sense of security knowing that teams of youth workers were out daily. Young people used the team as a sounding board to vent frustrations i.e. boredom, lack of adequate gym equipment in the parks.

Some young people reported that one of the reasons for being out was to get some space. Detached teams reported that **many of the young people talked about overcrowded accommodation,** or that it was noisy.

These young people felt that they could not stay at home for long periods of time and needed to **get out** and have some space. One suggestion could be that community organisations **"safely"** provide a range of activities that could be done outside in parks whilst adhering social distancing guidelines. For example, an outdoor cinema or community exercise classes are a few ideas that could strengthen community cohesion and improve one's well-being.

Following the first Detached report, YBF fed back to various partners, youth networks, Council departments and to the Housing Associations responsible for the homes of young people and families on Church Road, Stonebridge and Chalkhill. Given the issues raised by young people during the Detached work the view was that some of the issues could be resolved through engagement with accountable parties.

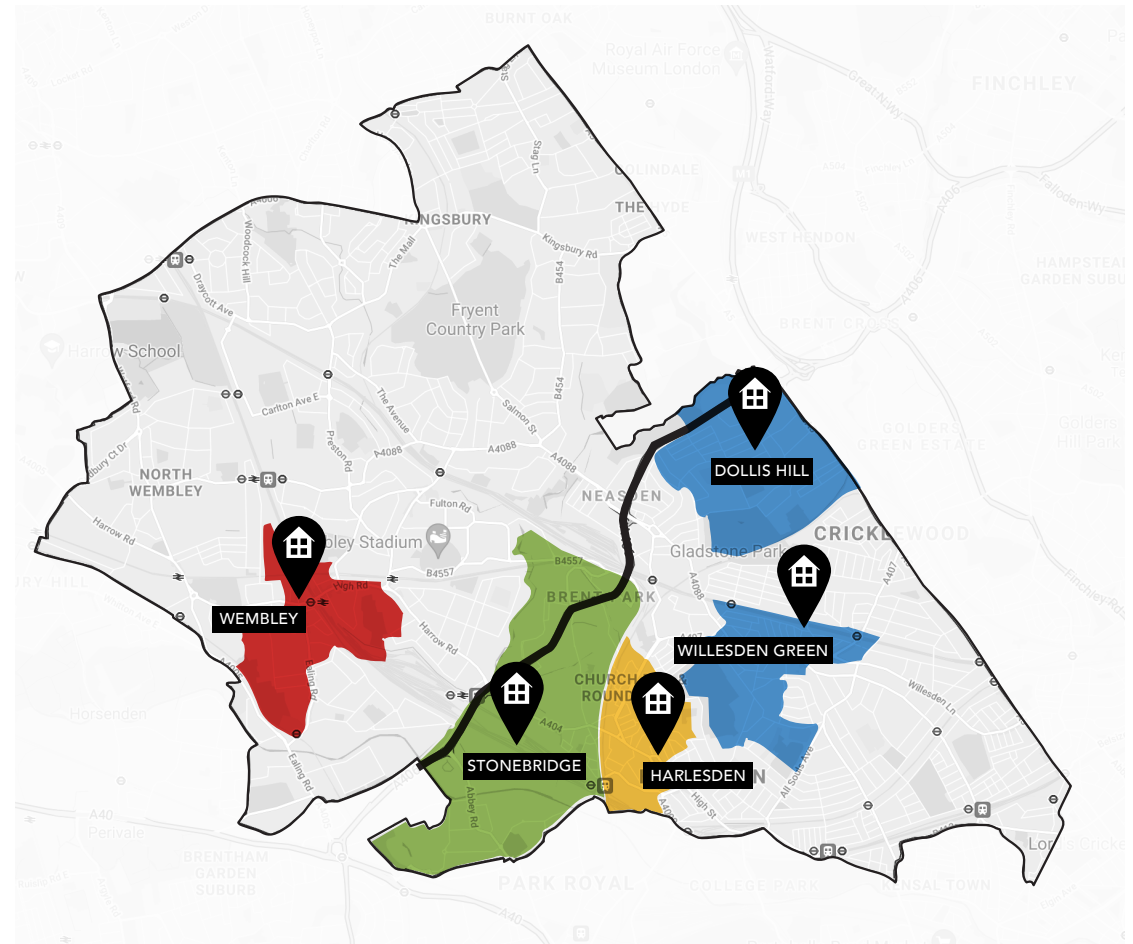
DETACHED TWO

JUNE - JULY 2020



Commencing **Monday 15th June 2020** and ending on **26th July 2020**. Each day, the teams provided a dedicated safeguarding function across key areas and focusing on particular estates namely:

- **Harlesden** (Church End and Roundwood estate)
- **Wembley Central** (Hirst Crescent and Chalkhill estate)
- **Stonebridge** (St Raphael estate)
- **Willesden & Dollis Hill**



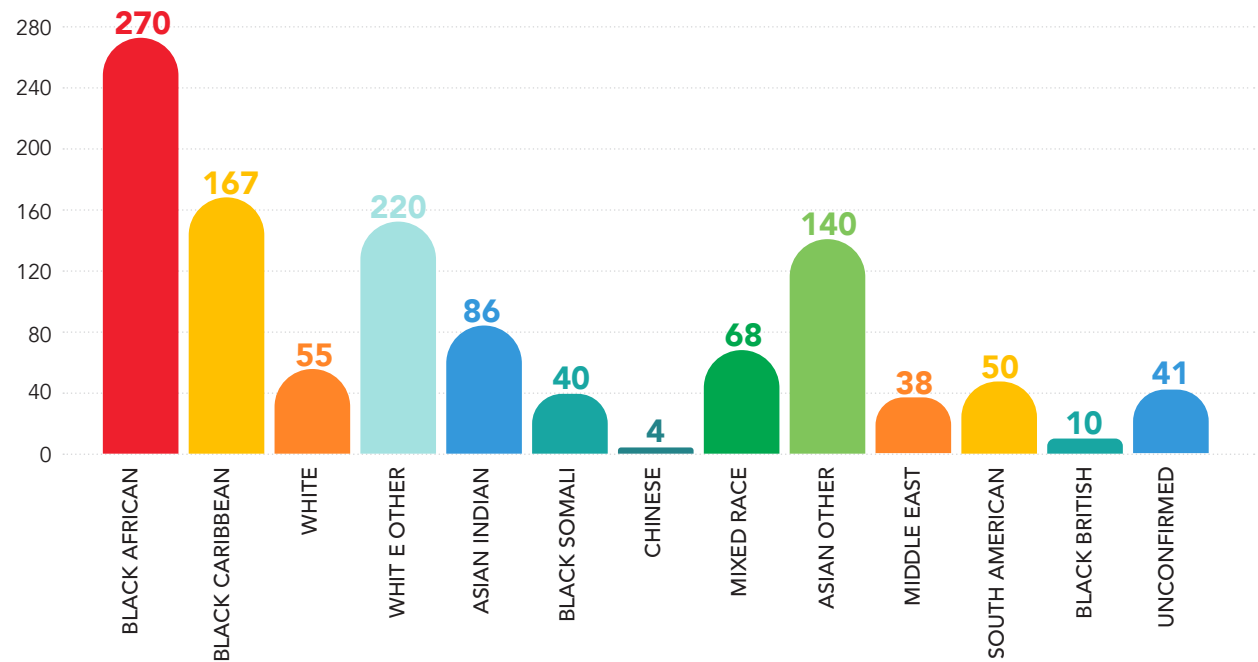
GENDER BREAKDOWN OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The Detached teams over the 6 weeks, met a total of 1,151 children and young people. The vast majority of those engaged with were male, making up 73% of the interactions.



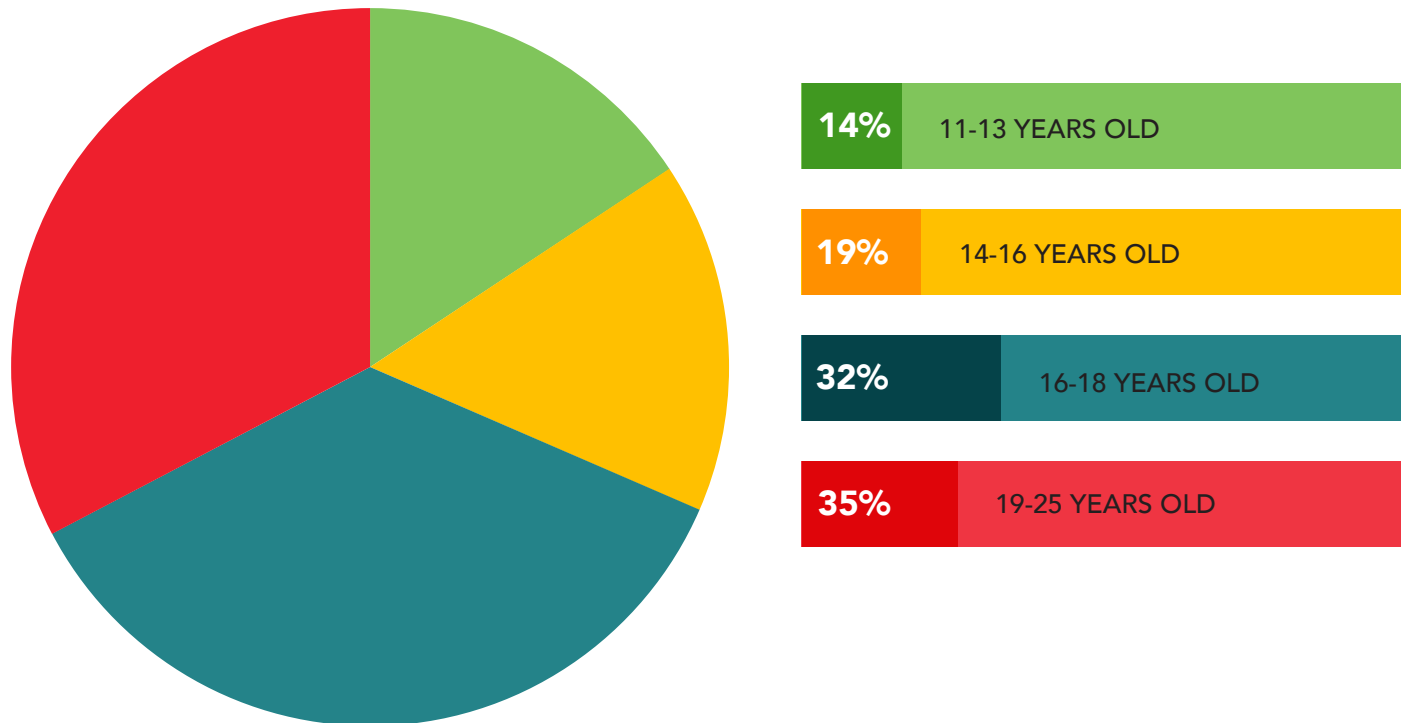
ETHNICITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The Detached teams met with young people from diverse backgrounds. Overall, the vast- majority of interactions were with young people from across the African diaspora or White other (namely Romanian and Polish) young people. Those interactions amounted to 45% of the total observations and interactions.



AGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The Detached teams met young people from aged 11 – 25. Over the 6 weeks, the team observed, interacted and engaged with young people primarily from the age group 19-25. This age group amounted to 35% of the overall engagement.





FEEDBACK FROM HARLESDEN

Stephen Graham Projects managed to interact with **232** young people between Church End and Roundwood estate respectively over the 6 weeks.

Music and multi sports were the consistent themes for the young people in the area. Stephen Graham reported that although the Detached was effective and the young people in the area was now hoping to see youth workers on a Monday or Tuesday each week. He stated that if the Detached work could be supported with a music project that would help to engage young people.

Overall, the estate had been fairly quiet during the 6 weeks but the last two weeks, it was noted that there was a higher police presence in the area than normal. Opportunities and activities which Catalyst Housing were providing for young people were shared with the teams to promote and inform of availability.



FEEDBACK FROM NORTH AND CENTRAL WEMBLEY

Connect Stars and My Romania Community. The organisations managed to interact with **429** young people between Chalkhill and Hirst Crescent estate.

Young people expressed the need for more activities especially over the summer. Employment support was another key theme from young people and the opening of the infamous cage. Currently work is being done to see if the cage can be accessed. The estate is crying out for a summer programme of activities and one is currently being developed to cover 4 weeks of the summer. Mental well-being support for young people especially those worried about their exams being cancelled and what this means for them going forward is urgently needed. There are a number of university students also who interacted with the team and having an estate based talking therapy service is something that young people feel would be a powerful addition. In the main the general feeling is that young people are bored, and they would very much welcome a variety of activities on the estate.



FEEDBACK FROM STONEBRIDGE

Connect Stars reported seeing a total of **314** young people. The main reason for the large numbers was partly due to the fact that there was a number of football tournaments that had taken place over the last few weeks.

Key themes for young people was sports programmes and Connect Stars have confirmed that they will be undertaking a summer programme in the area in support of the Detached delivery. The other key theme was the need for provision targeted at young women.



FEEDBACK FROM WILLESDEN & DOLLIS HILL

My Romania Community managed to interact with **182** young people. In the main it was nothing but positivity in the area this week. Litter and community safety tended to be the key themes for young people in this area.

A number of times young people reported that shootings were an issue. GCSE exam cancellation was a concern for a number of young people in this area and the need to be given information about local services.

SUMMARY

Sporting activities, employment support, mental health services, and litter in the borough have been key themes coming out of the weekly reports.

On Chalkhill Estate if a summer programme can be organised this would raise morale amongst the young people.

In the Church Road and Roundwood area a music programme tapping into the young talent will help to engage the young people in the area.

Dollis Hill there is an issue around young people feeling safe, anxiety over exam results and litter in the area and we need to look at service provisions that can support young people.

A potential project to drill down on why young people feel unsafe is must do in the next few months.

The Detached teams have put in tremendous work over the last 6 weeks, to provide reassurance as well as engaging and signposting young people to services. Young people are now familiar with the teams and having conversations with them weekly.

There is excitement on the ground in relation to re-engaging with youth services and having something to do. With a potential second wave Detached will be needed even more.



DETACHED THREE

JULY - SEPT 2020

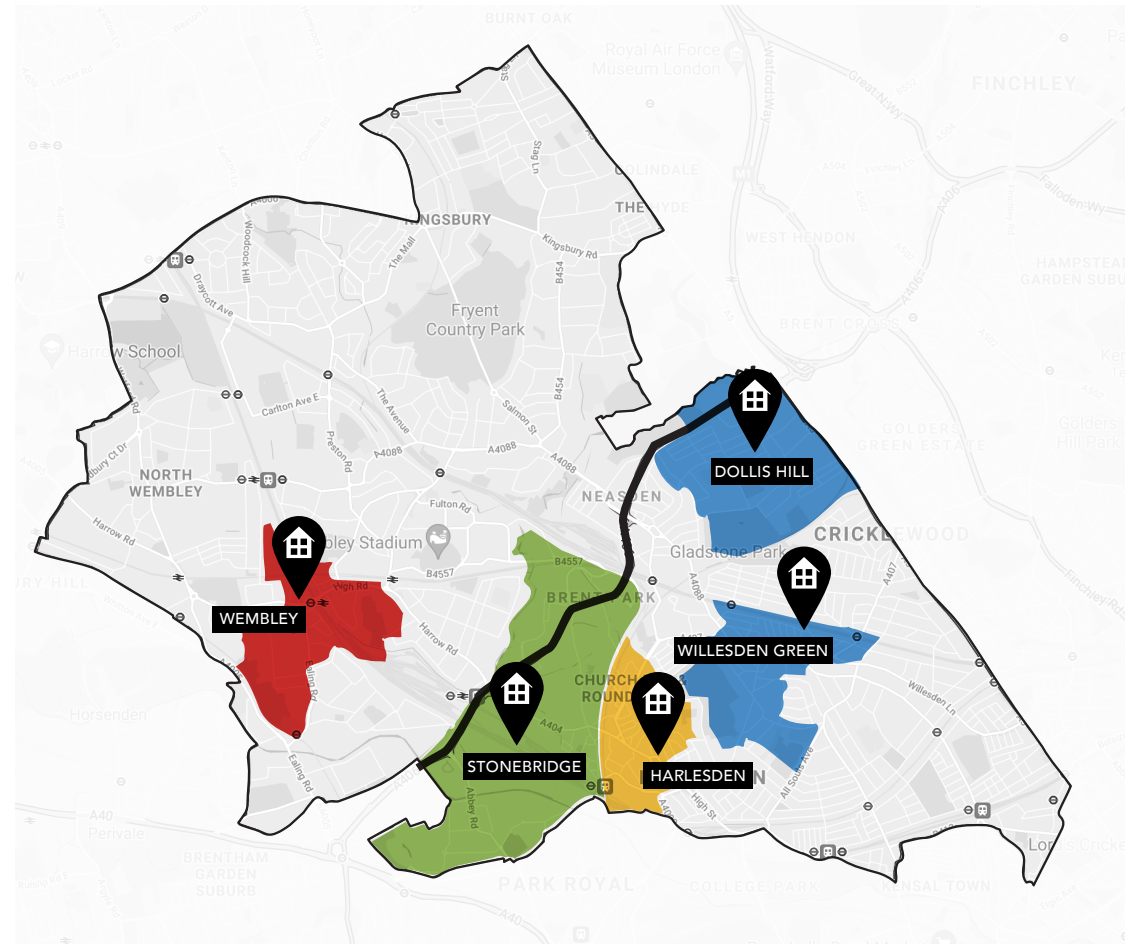


The project was extended for a further 6 weeks, beginning **on the 28th of July and ending on the 7th September 2020**. The teams provided a dedicated safeguarding function across the same areas as the previous 6 weeks namely:

- **Harlesden** (Church end and Roundwood estate)
- **Wembley** (Hirst Crescent and Chalkhill estate)
- **Stonebridge** (St Raphael estate)
- **Willesden**

A total of 36 Detached sessions were delivered across the 6 week period with delivery taking place in two blocks daily 2 – 5pm and 5 – 8pm respectively.

The introduction of the teams handing out facemasks, leaflets of activities and sharing youth organisations that are active has been excellent. The teams reported that having somewhere to refer the young people in terms of summer activities on Chalkhill and in Harlesden was truly helpful and well received by the young people.



MONITORING

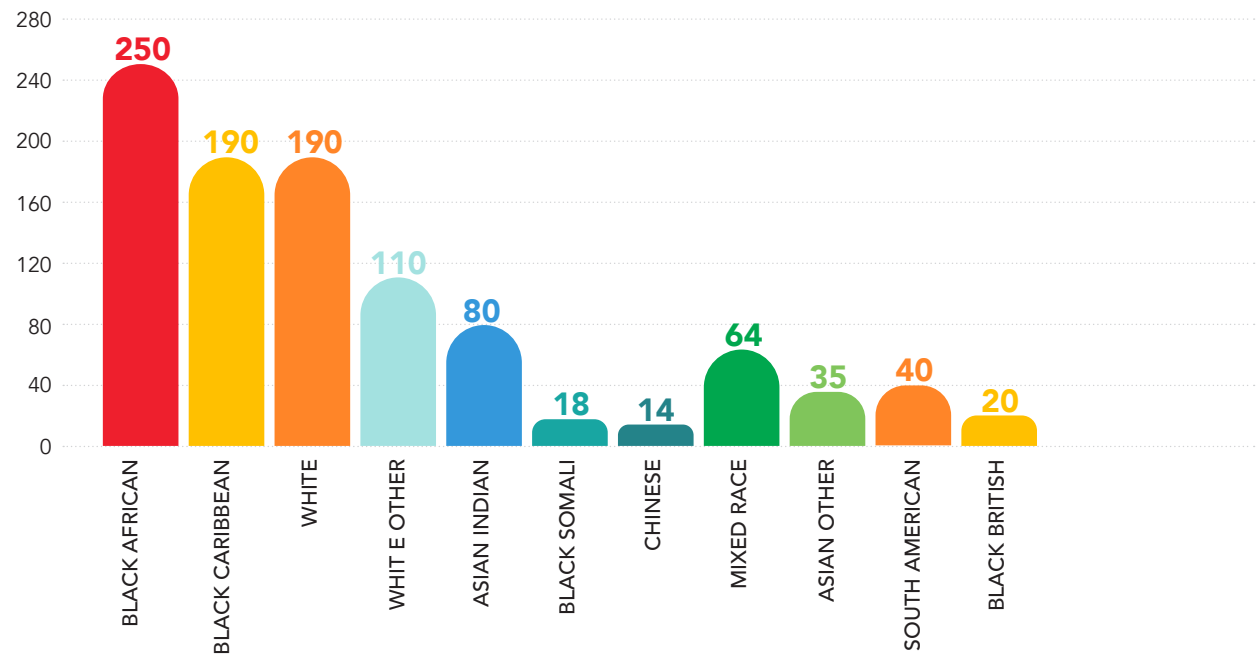
GENDER OF RESPONDENTS

The Detached teams over the 6 weeks met a total of 1,011 young people. The vast majority of those with males making up 69 % of the interactions.



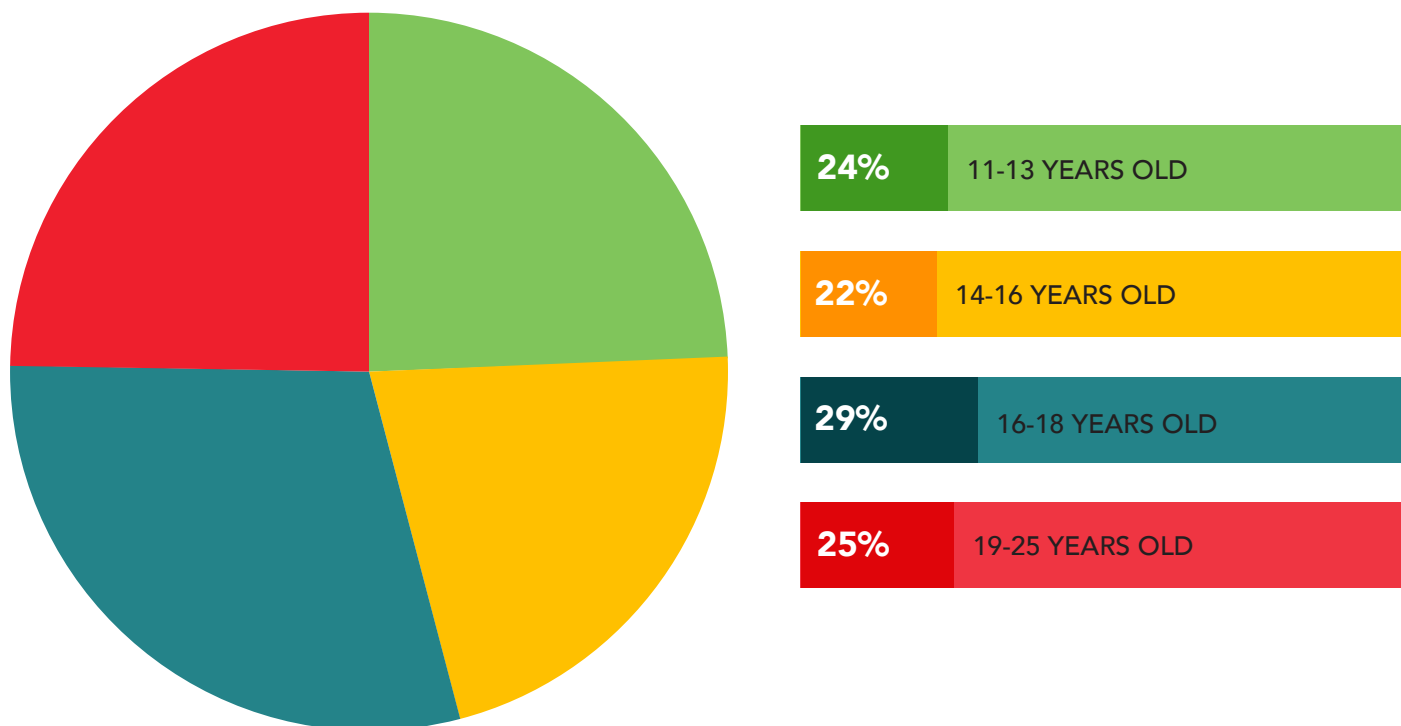
ETHNICITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The Detached teams met with young people from diverse backgrounds. Overall, the vast- majority of interactions were with Black African or Black Caribbean young people. Those interactions amounted to 43% of the total observations and interactions.



AGE BRACKET OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The Detached teams met young people from the age of 11-25. Over the 6 weeks the team observed and interacted with slightly more young people aged 16-18 age bracket, but on the whole it was fairly even unlike previous weeks. The 16-18 accounted for 29% of the overall interactions.



FEEDBACK FROM HARLESDEN

SUMMARY

Stephen Graham projects interacted with 180 young people between Church end and Roundwood estate respectively over the 6 weeks.

Very similar feedback to the previous 6 weeks with music and multi sports was the consistent theme for the young people in the area.

A music video was filmed in the church end by a local well-known artist (Nines). There was a lot of young people in the area for the video shoot on that day.

Overall, Stephen Graham's team reported that the past 6 weeks was very quiet and pleasant in the area. It was noted that despite the fact things were quiet in the area and on the estates, there was still a fairly large police presence most weeks. It was reported that young people in the area are starting to feel over policed.

AREA

HARLESDEN



DELIVERY PARTNER



YP REACHED

180

EMERGING THEME FROM PREVIOUS 6 WEEKS

Music and multi-sports was the key area of interest.

High police presence in the area with the young people feeling over policed.

ACHIEVED

A discussion with the police community response team has taken place and they are keen to build relations with young people in the area. Next step is to organise initial meeting for young people and police to meet.

FEEDBACK FROM STONEBRIDGE

SUMMARY

Connect Stars reported seeing a total of 301 young people. The large numbers due to football tournaments that took place on a Saturday. Key themes for young people continued to be sports programmes and youth services. Further Connect Stars reported that a number of the young people who they met on Detached took part in the summer programme in Stonebridge. The Detached team report how resilient young people are living in the area. Over the past 6 weeks there were a number of incidents in the area such as:

- Somebody not a resident of Stonebridge was shot in the area.
- Police operation where the Detached teams witnessed local police shooting a tyre of a vehicle.
- Memorial football tournament of 3 key members of the community who died due to COVID-19.
- A large congregation from the traveller community based outside the Pavilion.

The Detached report the importance of maintaining a presence, they have managed to build relationships with local young people and they have stated that after a successful summer that it is imperative that activities are maintained as young people have gotten used to seeing them weekly.

DELIVERY PARTNER



YP REACHED

301

EMERGING THEME FROM PREVIOUS 6 WEEKS

The need for multi sport provisions and activities focused predominantly on young women was a key theme.

ACHIEVED

A summer programme was delivered by Connect stars in the area which was well received by young people.

AREA

STONEBRIDGE



FEEDBACK FROM NORTH AND CENTRAL WEMBLEY

SUMMARY

Connect Stars and My Romania Community. The organisations managed to interact with 480 young people between Chalkhill and Hirst Crescent estate.

There was a lot of positive feedback from young people in relation to the summer programme and leaflet.

Young people were happy to hear about activities taking place over the estate during the summer. Young people also engaged in conversation with the Detached around government guidelines and express gratitude around the eat out to help out scheme.

Young people were happy that the restrictions had eased and they were able to go out and meet friends. Some young people expressed anxiety around their exam results, and job opportunities. Young people further reported that they felt that are being listened to and appreciated with the recent developments and the number of activities that have taken place over the last 6 weeks.

AREA

WEMBLEY
& CHALKHILL

DELIVERY PARTNER



YP REACHED

480

EMERGING THEME FROM PREVIOUS 6 WEEKS

Employment support and opportunities.

Summer activities for young people to engage.

An estate-based youth provision.

ACHIEVED

4 week summer programme was delivered on Chalkhill estate

A job fair was organised by the Chalkhill young peoples steering group but postponed due to bad weather and new Covid guidelines.

FEEDBACK FROM WILLEDEN & DOLLIS HILL

SUMMARY

My Romania Community managed to interact with 150 young people.

Young people reported that the leaflets with a list of organisations currently delivering activities was extremely helpful.

The key themes coming out of the interactions with young people were concerns around litter, the need for more youth clubs and youth activities and anxiety around exam results.

The Detached report that young people are keen to see structured activities in this area that they can engage with.

However the Detached have been well received and a source of reassurance that things are happening on ground. A fairly quiet and pleasant 6 weeks in Willesden.

DELIVERY PARTNER



YP REACHED

150

EMERGING THEME FROM PREVIOUS 6 WEEKS

Young people concerned about the amount of litter in the area.

Feeling safe was a key theme with young people reporting wanting to see a reduction in shootings and violence.

AREA

**DOLLIS HILL &
WILLEDEN GREEN**

ACHIEVED

The litter in the area improved slightly but the last two weeks has seen the litter increase.

Working on providing structured activities for young people in the area.

CHALLENGES

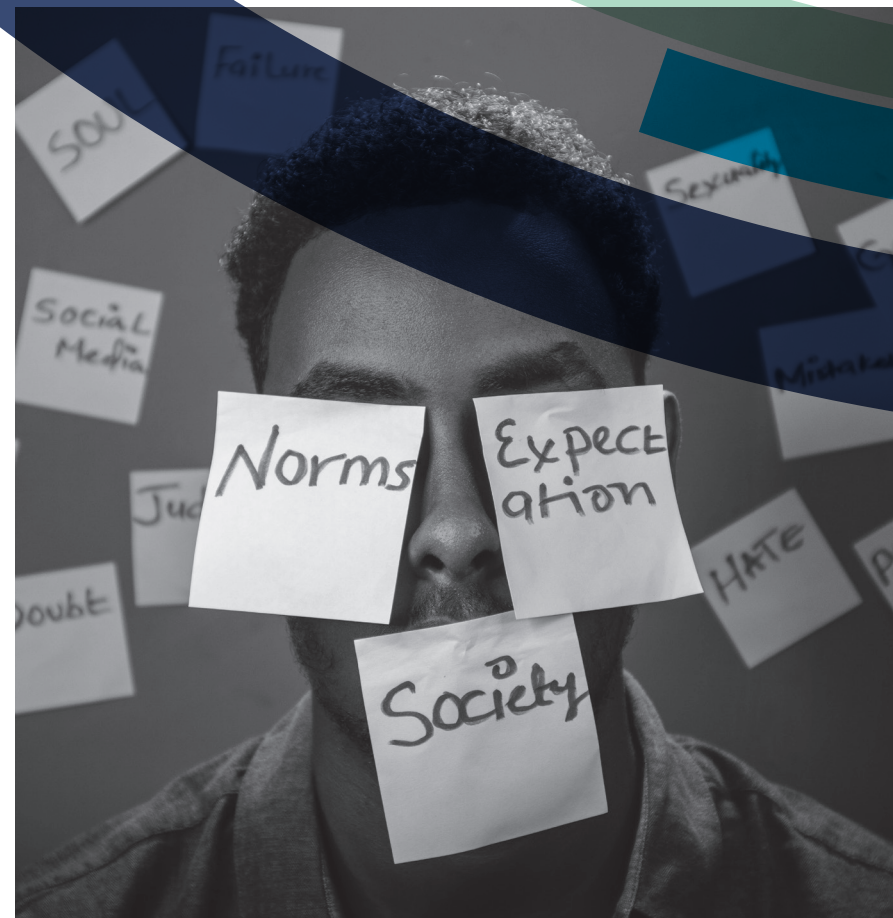
The pandemic has shone a light on many aspects of our society which have for one reason, or another been overlooked, out of sight, not prioritised.

The activity of the teams and organisations who delivered Detached work surfaced not only commonalities experienced by some young people such as **anxiety about exams, isolation, depression and access to technology for learning at home**, it also reinforced knowledge about **provision for children and young people in Brent**.

We heard loud and clear of **young people's frustration with the lack of youth activities** from Chalkhill, located in Barnhill Ward where according to the 2011 Census 2,963 young people aged 5-19 are resident. **Young people expressed concerns around issues such as job opportunities, safety, lack of information on local services, litter, lack of facilities to play sport, lack of youth activities focused on the arts** were highlighted on each of the Detached projects.

Young people from Church Road and Roundwood Estate in Harlesden spoke about **wanting more opportunities to engage in music and multi-sports**. They also noted that throughout the early phase of the pandemic there was a high police presence in the area with **young people feeling over policed**. Harlesden has the second highest number of young people aged 5-19 at 3,752.

Stonebridge, out of the three areas supported by the Detached teams has comparatively more projects and activities provided by organisations who have a long standing position within the community. It has the highest population of children and young people in Brent, with 4,413 aged 5-19 in the Ward. **Detached teams also witnessed a number of serious incidents** in Stonebridge.



The work of **Young Brent Foundation** is to work with Members and Partners to **analyse, understand** and **respond** to the needs of children and young people.

Through analysing data we know the following challenges exist.

- There are not enough organisations per head of population of young people in parts of the borough to deliver high quality, engaging and challenging projects/activities.
- Organisations are not able to scale up their work to reach more young people due to insufficient funding for their work. Many organisation supporting children and young people are classed as micro organisation, having a turnover under £100,000.
- Organisations outside of Brent may not be sufficiently exposed to working in culturally sensitive ways. Outside of Newham, Brent is the second most ethnically diverse borough in London.
- From the data, it is clear that young girls/women were not out and about to the same degree which young boys/men were seen. However, it was noticed that during each of the periods of Detached work, this number increased slightly to 31% during the summer. This highlights the need for further discussion and exploration with young women about their relationship to spaces in the public realm and the kinds of activities which they want to engage with. It also raises questions of the best way to codesign activities using a Detached Youth Work model with young women.
- Too few arts based organisations spread throughout the borough providing out of school projects.
- Too few spaces/facilities in which to deliver outdoor sports and/or indoor activities.



The map highlights that although there are organisations located in Brent delivering youth programmes, equally there are a high number of organisations from across London delivering in Brent. This can create a perception of feeling unsupported by funders who fund organisations outside of Brent when the option to fund existing structures could be more cost effective and build capacity.

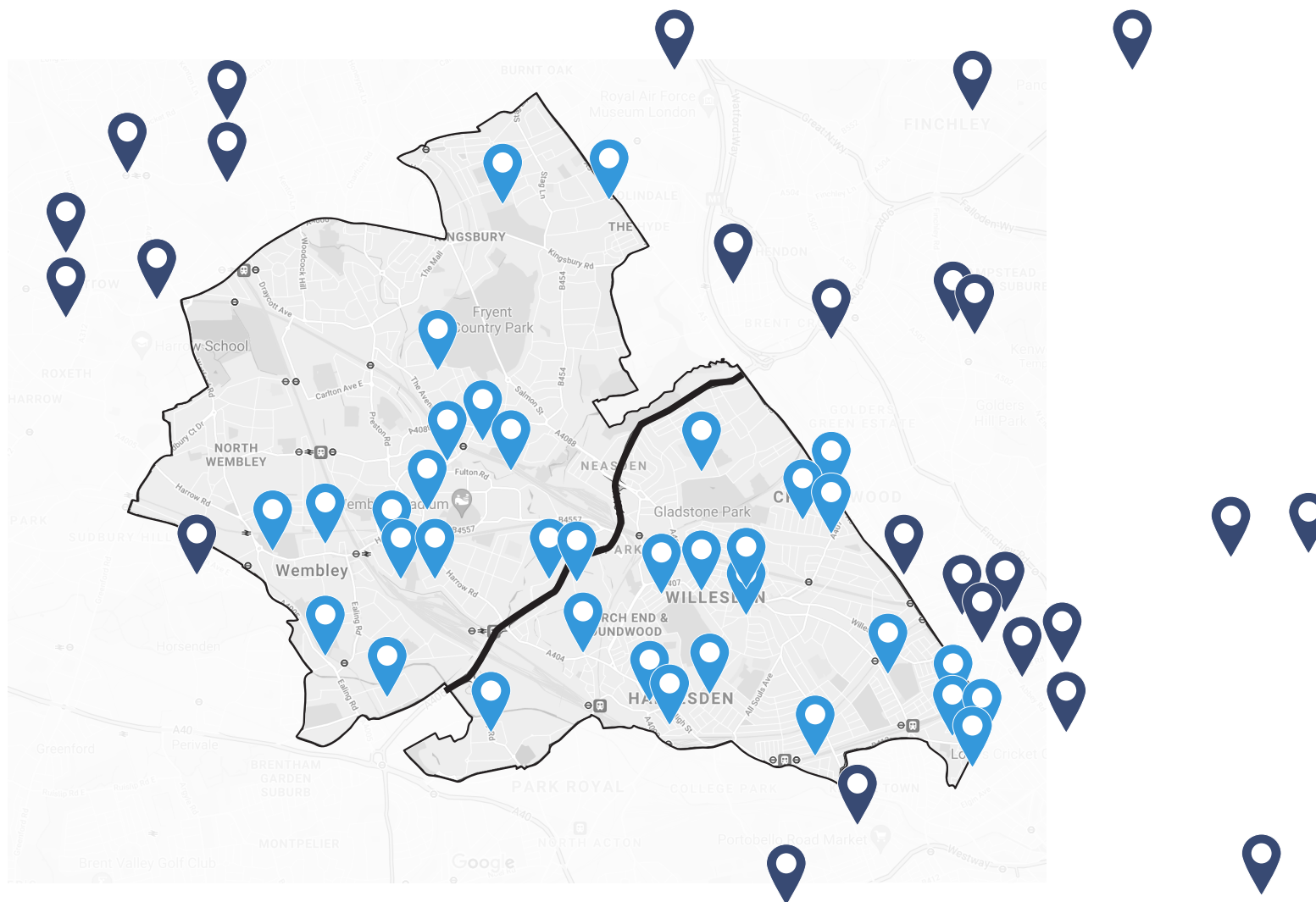


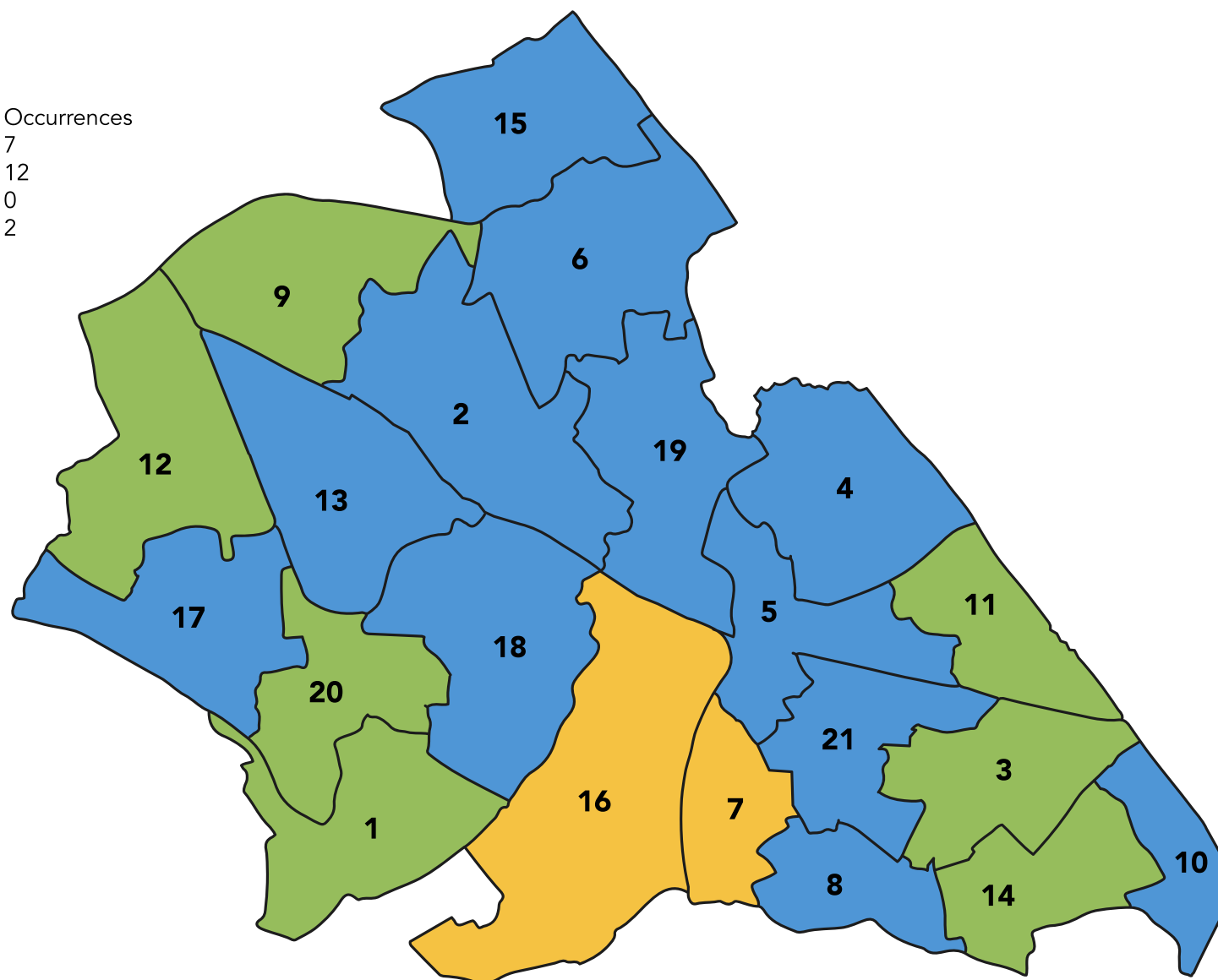
Figure 3: Spread of provision/activities

Population of children and young people under 19 in Brent is 77,617 – census data 2011.
 Stonebridge (5911) and Harlesden (5397) have the highest numbers of children and young people under 19 years old.

LEGEND

Quintiles	Low (>=)	High (<)	Occurrences
1	2,604	3,400	7
2	3,400	4,300	12
3	4,300	5,100	0
4	5,100	5,912	2

1. Alperton
2. Barnhill
3. Brondesbury Park
4. Dollis Hill
5. Dudden Hill
6. Fryent
7. Harlesden
8. Kensal Green
9. Kenton
10. Kilburn
11. Mapesbury
12. Northwick Park
13. Preston
14. Queens Park
15. Queensbury
16. Stonebridge
17. Sudbury
18. Tokyngton
19. Welsh Harp
20. Wembley Central
21. Willesden Green



DEVELOPMENT AS A RESULT OF THE DETACHED PROJECTS

The impact which delivering Detached work had during the first six months of the Coronavirus Pandemic has been profound. **In total Young Brent Foundation has secured over £1 million in funding for three of the most populated areas in Brent.**

Young people from Chalkhill formed into an organised collective, **Forever Chalkhill** who are currently sharing and shaping new projects with Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing who manage a large number of homes on Chalkhill Estate. Further investment into Detached work by the

Council specifically addressing pathways into employment opportunities has been set up, **Inspired Futures** is delivered by organisations who have been part of the Detached project and have partnered with employers to create those essential links between young people and employers.

Throughout the Detached work we heard young people raising safety and violence as issues.

A new Consortium involving Hyde Housing, Catalyst Housing, Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing and Young Brent Foundation applied and successfully secured funding of **£750,000** over two years from the Violence Reduction Unit's My Ends programme to deliver targeted interventions to tackle violence in neighbourhoods.

One Flow One Brent will provide interventions in Chalkhill, Stonebridge and Harlesden to build strong community networks, build more inclusive decision making between local stakeholders, statutory agencies, and communities, and provide training to build greater capacity within community-led networks.

There are conversations being had on recent research from Partnership For Young London and Museum of London highlighting that many young people do not attend a youth centre and prefer to connect with other young people in local open spaces such as parks, and shopping centres.

Further research to understand place and how to work with young people in different contexts is underway in partnership with the Centre for Youth Impact, Detached Youth Federation and Partnership for Young London.





CONCLUDING COMMENTARY

Last year gave us all signals that now is the time to actively question whether the old normal is healthy.

The way in which communities and organisations came together to embrace uncertainty as an opportunity for innovation was outstanding. YBF can conclude that a renewed, not just recovered, Brent needs to be amplified. It is clear that recovery is not sufficient and cannot address the calls for action from young people in Brent.

Young people are close to the problems affecting them and are therefore motivated most to solve it – they need to be empowered to follow through with solutions.

The emergence of the work above outlines the results from having critical conversations with a view to enabling and empowering young people to achieve the change they want to see in their communities.

Detached Youth Work has not only been a lifeline in the pandemic it has achieved what is known to be at the core of the approach - building trusting relationships with young people.

Feedback from youth workers at networking events did identify the need for training on Detached work – not all organisations have practitioners available to them with the skills to carry out Detached Youth Work.

Locally rooted youth organisations are a vital part of a holistic system that works, supports, guides, intervenes and values children and young people.

We took time to consider and reflect on the function youth work plays in young people's lives – it creates a training ground for aspiring politicians, performers, artists, public servants, teachers, health workers, scientists and youth workers. If we care about the role of youth workers and youth organisations and its contribution to society, we need to care more about investing in its growth too.

The pandemic highlighted the importance of locally rooted organisations in reaching young people who during the early period of the pandemic did not respond to the messaging and communication from government agencies regarding the "Stay Home" guidance. **Lessons around how to adapt communication and who should be leading the conversation are helping to construct better approaches going forward.**

Active collaboration is vital. In a borough which has a low density of civil society organisations working with children and young people, it is essential that we work collaboratively with a wide range of partners including the Council, Housing Associations, Police, Schools and Communities over the long term. To drive **forward positive change** YBF has spread our **networks of collaboration** beyond our own sector, finding ways to engage private enterprises, housing associations and the public sector in a shared endeavour of action to deliver change.



**We are shaped by
the people who
surround us**

THANK YOU



Young Brent Foundation
Barham Park Community Complex
660 Harrow Road
London HA0 2HB

youngbrentfoundation.org.uk



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Rose + Nelson



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