



Sefton CVS
Supporting Local Communities

Sefton Council 



JULY 2021

SYMBOL

SEFTON YOUTH MAKING BETTER
OPPORTUNITIES WITH LEADERS

MONDAY 5TH JULY 2021

Activities for Young People Across Sefton

01

SYMBOL

Sefton Youth Making Better Opportunities with Leaders (SYMBOL) meetings are an opportunity for young people to meet and work collaboratively with key decision makers in Sefton.

Young people are involved in the planning and delivery of SYMBOL activity and attendees vote on the topics that are important to them.

Being a member of SYMBOL means a young person can play an active role in their community, with a direct line of communication with key decision makers, such as Councillors, senior managers from Sefton Council and representatives from Public Health, Merseyside Police and more. There are SYMBOL meetings three times a year at different locations around the borough and more recently they have been held online due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

SYMBOL meetings have covered topics including:

- Education and Covid-19
- Communication with Young People
- Skills Development and Employment
- Economic Wellbeing

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THE MEETING

The meeting took place on Monday 5th July 2021 and due to Covid-19 restrictions was held virtually on Zoom.

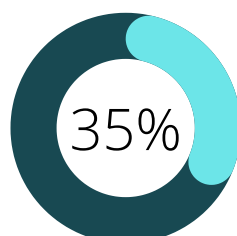
The topic for the SYMBOL meeting was Activities for Young People Across Sefton. Sefton Young Advisors chaired and facilitated the meeting. We discussed what activities are currently in place for young people across Sefton, barriers to attending activities and what young people would like to see.

Secondary schools, youth groups and clubs across Sefton were invited to bring along young people aged 13-25 to give their views on things to do in Sefton.

31 people in total attended the meeting including Elected Members and Senior Leaders from Sefton Council, Young Advisors and Young People from across Sefton. For the purpose of this document when referring to a young person, we are referring to someone who is 25 or younger.

Out of the 31 attendees, 11 were 25 or under.

Unfortunately engagement with young people has been difficult during Covid-19. The SYMBOL meeting was advertised and promoted by the Young Advisors through partners and social media. The Covid-19 pandemic has generally had a negative impact on engagement due to very little opportunities to engage face to face. We are hopeful that our next meeting can be face-to-face depending on the Covid-19 restrictions.



Of attendees were 'young people'

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During the meeting there were informative talks from Vicky Abban (Development Officer Leisure Department - Sefton MBC) who spoke about the leisure offer which has many programs for the community to take advantage of, ranging from activities for young people, fitness and healthy living. Sue Logie (Youth Worker - Sefton MBC) delivered a PowerPoint presentation about the youth offer and gave an overview of all the different opportunities to take part in around Sefton.



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BREAK OUT ROOM 1

WHAT ACTIVITIES WOULD YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE TO SEE IN SEFTON?

Young people discussed in break out rooms, facilitated by Young Advisors, via Zoom what activities they would like to see in Sefton.

Young people told us:

- More sports and fitness including climbing facilities either outdoor or indoor
- Arts and crafts events to meet other young people with similar interests
- More equipment in parks, some young people had noticed that apparatus has been taken away
- Activities open for longer and on Sundays so that young people have more opportunity to get involved
- Blended approach to activities so that they are not completely cancelled due to Covid-19
- Skate parks
- Updated outdoor fitness equipment



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BREAK OUT ROOM 2

WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS SURROUNDING ACTIVITIES IN SEFTON?

Young people discussed in break out rooms, facilitated by Young Advisors, via Zoom what barriers surround activities in Sefton.

Young people told us:

- Location - a young person told us that there are not many bus routes near to them to get to activities
- Not having the confidence to start a new club
- Not enough information shared with young people
- Price of getting to activities can get expensive if young people are going a few times a week
- The time that it would take to get back home after the club finished would be late
- Price of activities, such as going to the cinema can be expensive
- Covid-19 has stopped a lot of young people from joining new clubs



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POLL QUESTIONS

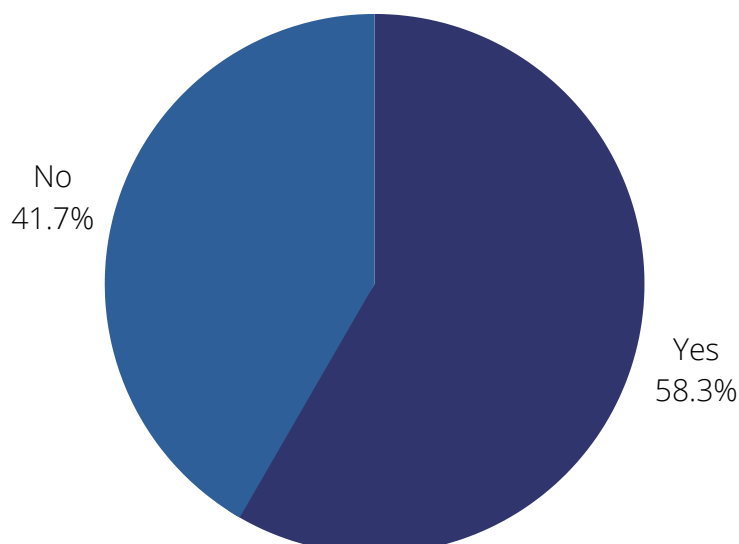
Q1. DO YOU FOLLOW SEFTON COUNCIL ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITES?

For the poll section of the meeting, only participants that were 25 and younger answered the following questions...

When asked if young people followed Sefton Council on any social media sites:

5 participants answered no
7 participants answered yes

It was positive to see that over 50% of young people that attended followed Sefton Council on social media. Sefton Council often share activities for young people to participate in on social media and is a great way of information sharing to young people.



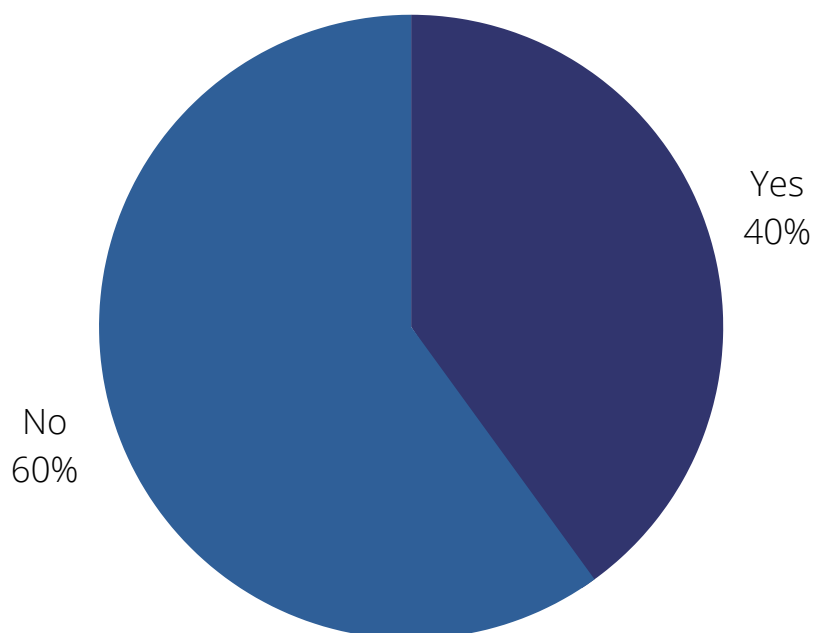
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Q2. DO YOU CURRENTLY ATTEND A YOUTH CLUB?

When asked if young people currently attended a youth club...

6 participants answered no
4 participants answered yes

It was good to see that four young people already attended a youth club in Sefton. For the other six participants, SYMBOL hopefully will have given them ideas and opportunities to get involved with clubs and activities in the future.



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Q3. PRIOR TO THIS MEETING, HAD YOU HEARD OF THE SEFTON DIRECTORY?

When asked if young people had heard of the Sefton directory prior to this meeting...

4 participants answered no
7 participants answered yes

The majority of young people on the meeting had heard of the Sefton directory which was good.

The Sefton directory is a website to access information on what services are on offer in Sefton.

Are you eligible for free Childcare for your two-year old?
In Sefton, some 2-year-olds are eligible for 15 hours of Free Early Education and Childcare a week for 38 weeks of the year. [→](#)

 Concerned about a child or young person?	 Childcare	 Family Wellbeing Centres	 Clubs & Activities	 Family Services
 Fostering & Adoption	 Keeping healthy & well	 Schools, Education & Training	 Sport & Recreation	 Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Sefton Disabled Children's Database
Sefton Disabled Children's Database is part of our commitment to improve services for disabled children and young people. [→](#)

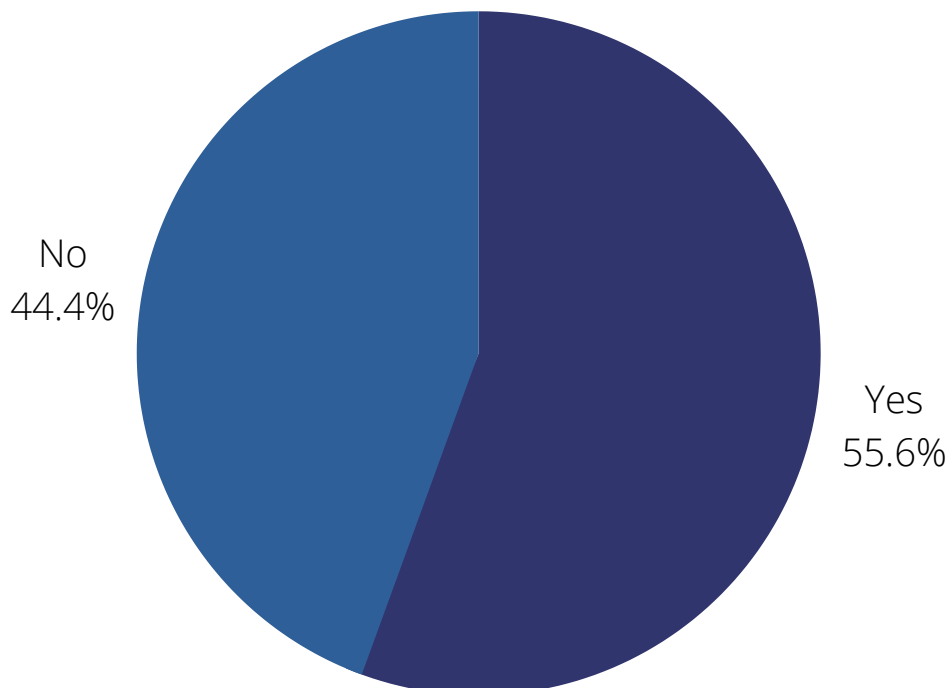
09**Q4. HAVE YOU STARTED/JOINED A NEW CLUB IN THE PAST 2 YEARS?**

When asked if young people had started or joined a new club in the past 2 years...

4 participants answered no

5 participants answered yes

Young people answered in breakout room sessions that a reason that they may not join a new club is due to feeling anxious about meeting new people.

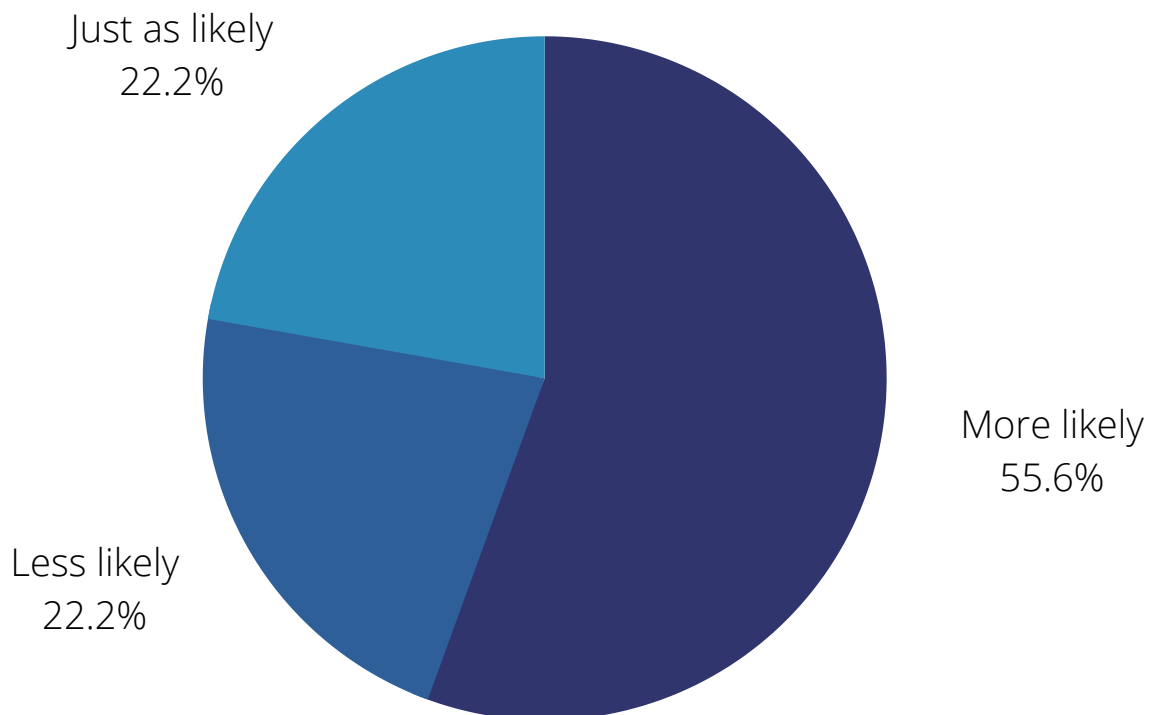


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Q5. WHEN RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED, ARE YOU MORE LIKELY, LESS LIKELY OR JUST AS LIKELY TO ATTEND OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES?

When asked if young people would be more, less or just as likely to attend out of school activities when restrictions are lifted...

- 5 participants answered more likely
- 2 participants answered less likely
- 2 participants answered just as likely



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RECOMMENDATIONS

Sefton Young Advisors would like to give some recommendations from the SYMBOL meeting:

- 1 - Sefton should raise awareness of their social media presence to encourage more young people to access the information shared on social media.
- 2 - Young People should be consulted with to discover the best ways to share information with Young People.
- 3 - Improve engagement with Young People to make meetings such as SYMBOL more attractive and appealing.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sefton Young Advisors would like to thank Sefton Council and Sefton CVS for their involvement in SYMBOL as well as various schools and youth organisations that attended. It is important to us as Young Advisors to hear the views and opinions of a range of young people across Merseyside at SYMBOL.

Our next SYMBOL meeting will take place in November 2021 and young people on the meeting decided that the topic would be Mental Health Support.

