

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE GLASGOW

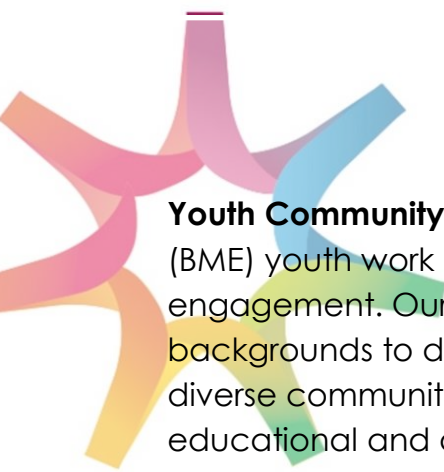
A sample of Young people in School, Further Education and Informal Education, identify key local issues and opportunities for youth work services.



*FINDINGS BY
YOUTH
COMMUNITY
SUPPORT
AGENCY [2018]*

Contents

Information about YCSA	3
Context of the community consultations study 2018	4
Notes on participant demographic and survey method	5
Section 1 - Overall Key findings; Responses to question 1 from all participants.	6
Graph 1 - Total responses to question 1: <i>What are the main issues affecting you as a young person?</i> (By age and gender, including ethnic minority groups).	8
Graph 2 - Total responses to question 1: (BME participants only).	9
Section 2 - Key findings – Responses to Question 1 from ethnic minority participants.	10
Section 3 - Total participant response to question 2: <i>Which of the following topics/services interest you?</i>	12
Graph 3 - responses to question 2: Which of the following topics/services interest you? (all participants)	12
Graph 4 - Responses to question 2: Number of responses by age and gender.	15
Graph 5 -Responses to question 2: Number of responses by ethnic minority participant and gender.	16
Section 4 - Key findings – collected suggestions from participants to question 3: - What support should YCSA provide for young people?	17
Appendices – Consultation questionnaire form	19



Youth Community Support Agency (YCSA) is a leading Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) youth work charity with over 20 years of experience of community engagement. Our purpose is to empower young people from ethnic minority backgrounds to discover their potential and become active members of a diverse community. We do this by supporting them in a culturally sensitive social, educational and developmental process through structured group projects and individualised support sessions.

Context

YCSA from time to time carries out surveys of the needs of the communities we work with to inform our practice and to identify gaps in community service provision for BME young people in the city. In late 2015/16, YCSA staff conducted an outreach exercise including street work in the Govanhill and Pollokshields areas of Glasgow. They collected information on what issues people from the community felt were the most prevalent, built relationships with young people, businesses and community organisations. From this, the youth work programme for the financial years 2016-18 was developed.

Current funding for the organisation means that there is a wider range of services available to the 16+ age range rather than younger years from 12 to 16 which YCSA has in the past supported through specific projects. We are looking to address this where possible in the future scope of our work. While we work to continue strengthening our ties with communities in the local area, the organisation has extended its links with referral agencies and educational institutions across the city. This has led to increased numbers of referrals of vulnerable asylum seekers, refugees and new migrants with ever more complex and intense needs, being referred to us from partner agencies. This has however led to a reduction in the percentage of more settled BME communities being in the work of YCSA than previously. Staff have moreover noted changes in the way young people perceive the pressures on them and access the support services available, as a result of continuing “austerity” measures and a reduction in the range of BME youth support services in the city.

YCSA has always worked to meet the specific needs of our service users. Examples include running single sex groups where this encourages participation, such as our current Get IN:Formation young women's group

In 2017 we felt it was time to refresh our knowledge of the issues facing BME young people, and their peers, in advance of preparing our new development strategy and Business Plan.

A consultation exploring the changing needs of BME young people in the context of the wider population of young people in Glasgow was therefore organised for late 2017. To ensure the voices of young people from 12 upwards were included the methodology involved meeting young people in schools, colleges and our current service users.

A separate stakeholder consultation was carried out in tandem with this consultation to also contribute to development strategy and Business Plan

YCSA Community Consultations - 2018

In November and December 2017, YCSA conducted a survey consultation in schools, colleges and amongst its existing clients. This set of consultations aimed to give the current generation of young people in particular, a platform to express the main issues affecting them in their lives.

The participants in the study were to ask two key questions:

- 1) *What are the main issues affecting you as a young person? Or young people generally?***
- 2) *What services offered by YCSA and what projects or social topics covered on our programmes interest you the most?***

Acknowledging that the pressures faced by young people change quickly overall and that the experiences of BME people can vary depending on circumstances, these surveys took a wide sample of responses from a large set of participants. Conducting the survey amongst younger respondents in particular, provides an indication of issues arising for young people, below the current main YCSA engagement age of 16.

The aim of the consultation in general was to provide an understanding of the needs of young people in Glasgow, and those of BME young people in particular so that YCSA can make its projects more effective and useful for this group. The results of these consultations have been collated in this report.

Participant Demographic and Survey Method

In total, 224 participants, 139 of whom were from a BME background, were engaged in the consultations. Schools and colleges were selected on the basis of having ongoing connections to YCSA and a high proportion of students from ethnic minorities. Though all pupils from different year groups were encouraged to fill out surveys, the overall majority of participants in the study came from black or ethnic minority backgrounds. Many of the respondents are not YCSA clients. Their answers were therefore more impartial towards YCSA services.

Questionnaires were offered to any young people who wished to participate. A high number of respondents overall were girls and young women, this is because the largest set of pupils who took part were from Notre Dame Academy which is an all-girls school and the college classes were largely female. It was also noted by YCSA staff that male pupils in school were much less likely to engage with the questionnaire, or alternatively they chose to fill one questionnaire out as a group.

Schools engaged (163 participants): Kings Park Secondary, Bellahouston Academy, Shawlands Academy, Notre Dame High School and Govan High School.

Colleges engaged: Glasgow Clyde College (38 Participants): Cardonald Campus & Langside Campus (It is important to note that the college group were predominantly ESOL students)

YCSA clients engaged (23 Participants): regularly attend a variety of clubs and projects at YCSA.

Questionnaire

The full questionnaires can be seen in the appendices end of this report

They were structured in 2 parts:

Part 1: to collect open ended information from respondents who could write anything in response to the question: ***What are the main issues affecting you as a young person?***

Part 2: A list of ***current and proposed projects at YCSA*** for participants to indicate their interest in. Lastly a space for participants to ***suggest any other forms of support they think should be available to YCSA.***

Section 1

Overall Key findings - Responses from all participants

Pressure from school and exams

This study indicates that for young people in general, issues around a **pressure to succeed** and **academic success** are by far the highest issues of concern. For many this was expressed as pressure from **expectation of others** to do well. Interestingly for female pupils this was felt to be an issue equally for those older as well as younger. And among Ethnic-minority young people especially women it was disproportionately high. In other cases (amongst young male participants particularly) it was often a frustration at teachers forcing them to think about exams. It should be mentioned that this data was collected during winter period around the time of prelim exams which may explain the very high rate that it was mentioned. Despite this, exam pressure remains significant also amongst college students.

Mental health and wellbeing

Across all schools and proportionally between male and female participant's **mental health and wellbeing** was seen as the second key issue. This was mentioned in regards to personal experiences, seeing changes in others, and amongst society more widely. Again this was more prevalent in younger females in this study.

Bullying and low self esteem

Again across all schools equally; **bullying** was also mentioned frequently. This was the case more so amongst female students than male (where male students were more likely to talk about **violence** or **other's disruptive behaviour** in class) However bullying was referred to in many different forms including: **bullying by groups of people** or bullying **because of appearance** or in several cases **bullying because of a disability**.

Personal Body image was a factor for at least 2-5 female students in each school questioned. Other respondents mentioned **social media** separately as a force which can bring down self-esteem. Where bullying was a direct attack on the person, the overuse of social media forces young people to compare one another and feel **insecure**

Parental and family relationships

Privately, many young people wrote about strained family relationships. There were a variety of issues touched on including **concerns about parent's employment, arguments with parents, worrying about older siblings getting into trouble** and amongst BME female participants in particular **expectations from parents** were seen more highly as an issue than amongst white counterparts.

Language and cultural barriers

This factored highly, primarily because most respondents questioned at Cardonald college and YCSA are also ESOL learners. However there were a proportion of students at school who also commented on this, for example some new arrivals to Glasgow felt **cultural barriers** were more an issue than language. It can be said to be fairly representative of the client base at YCSA; many of whom are or were engaged in studying English. Additionally many respondents listed *only* **Language barriers** as a key issue on the forms, again highlighting the very fundamental fact that this is an overwhelming significant barrier for many people.

Secondary findings

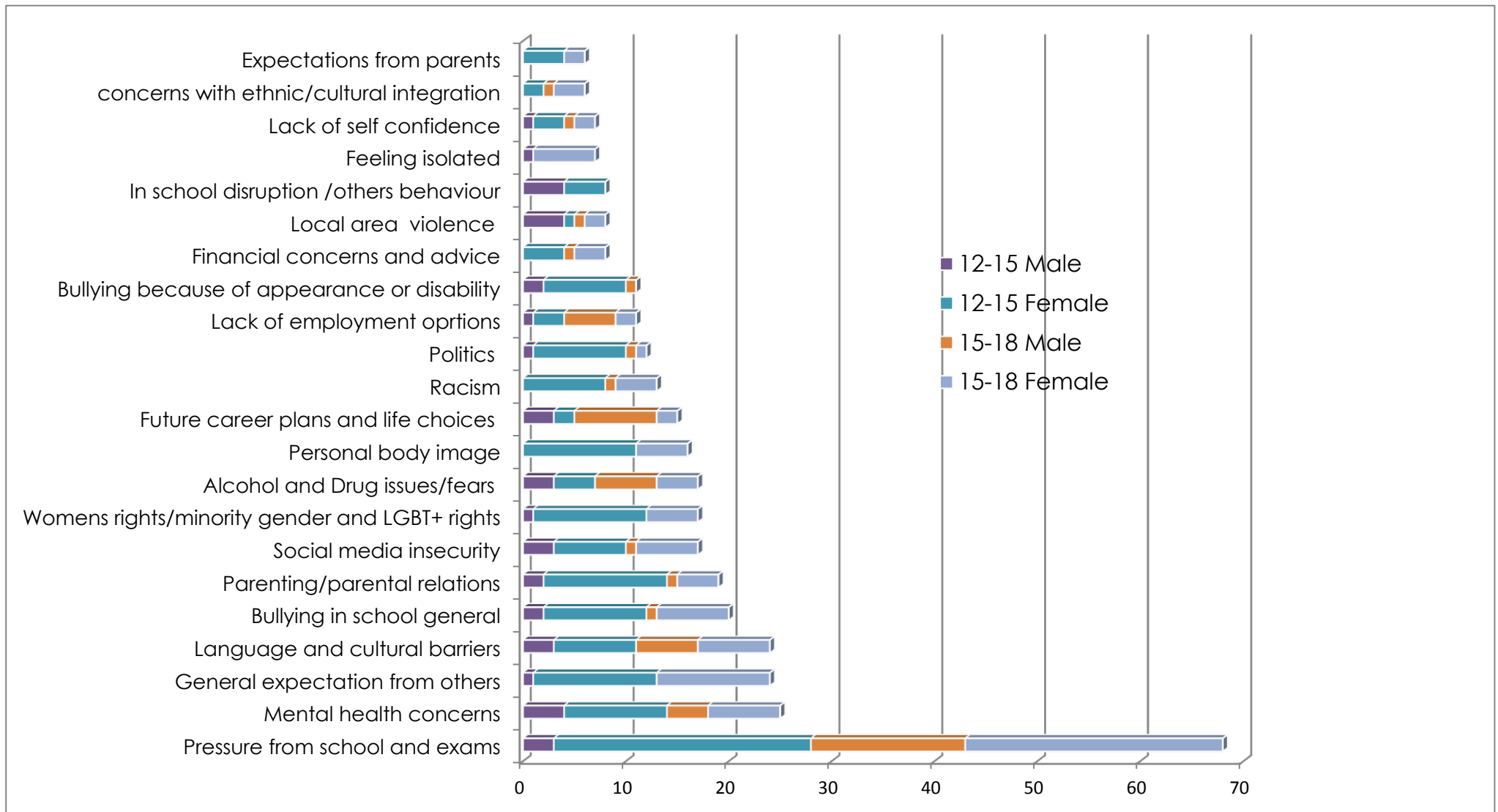
Responses related to Alcohol and drugs featured throughout the responses; however this area of concern was seen very differently by different groups. Across several schools, younger students were afraid of becoming involved in drinking or drugs, however they did not state whether they were already consuming these. In Govan High School, young male students commented on the prevalence of drinking in the street as a problem amongst the local community in general, often because students feared the violence associated with these groups. For students at college many were also concerned about people in their housing blocks smoking and smoking drugs. Most of the ESOL learners stated that they did not drink or take drugs.

Womens rights, LGBT+ rights and rights for minority gender groups.

Respondents often commented on these aspects in conjunction with each other, for that reason these have been categorised as one here. At Notre Dame High School the all-female school, Womens rights were discussed comprehensively, there were also several students who commented on belonging to minority gender identifications at this school. In Kings Park a high proportion of respondents identified as LGBT+ or commented on questionnaires in solidarity with their friends who were LGBT+. Respondents to these aspects were also very likely to mention other equality issues such as discrimination or racism in their responses.

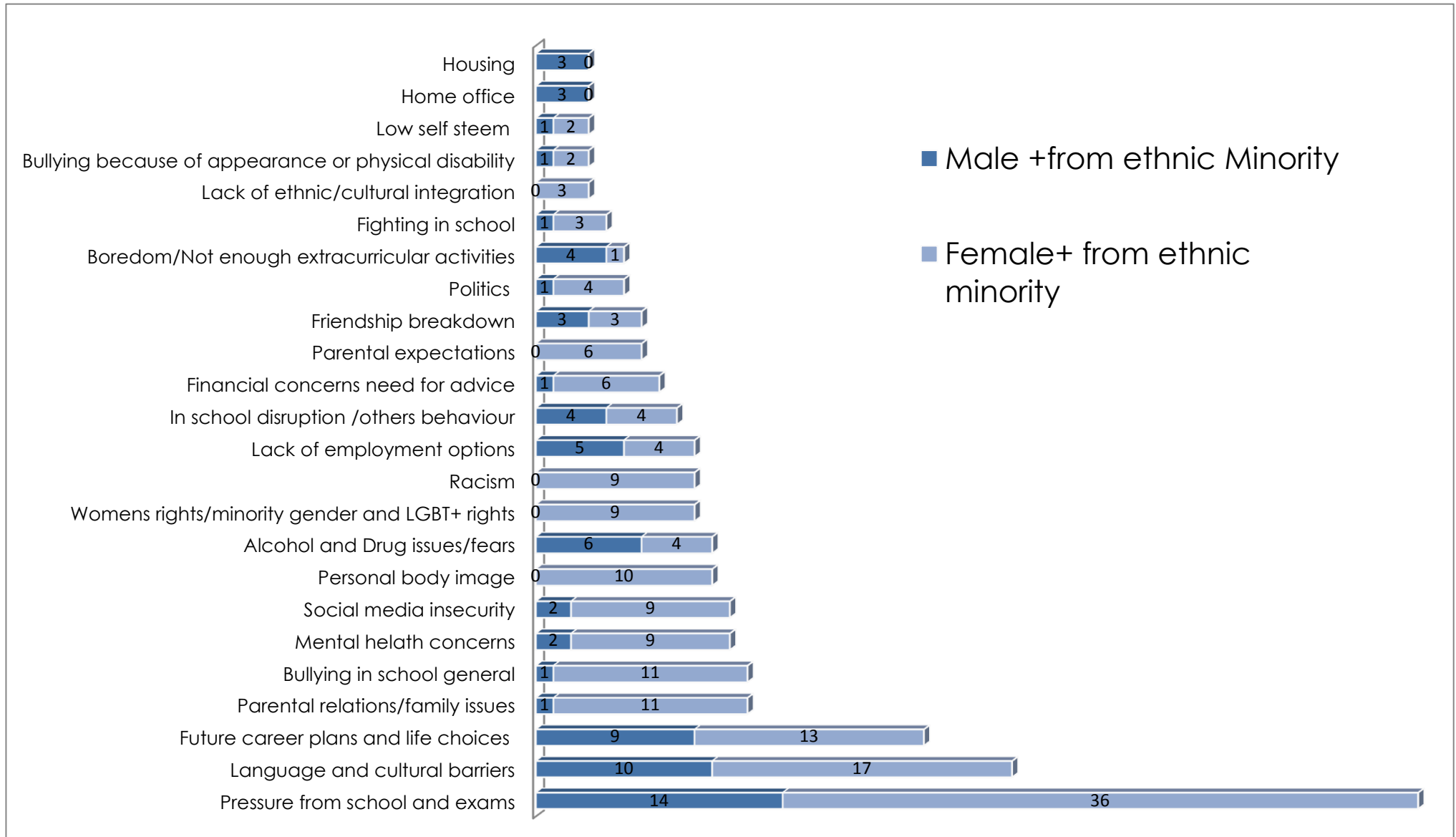
Graph 1 Total responses to question 1: What are the main issues affecting you as a young person?

(By age and gender, including ethnic minority groups)



**Graph 2 Total responses to question 1:
(Ethnic minority groups only)**

What are the main issues affecting you as a young person?



Section 2

Key findings – Responses to Question 1 from ethnic minority Participants

Highlighting differences

In general it is possible to say that there are many shared commonalities between issues expressed by young people in general and those from ethnic minority backgrounds.

By looking at the graphs on proceeding pages it is possible to draw out some useful information on the experiences of young BME people, as they have expressed for themselves

Graph 1 shows responses from all participants including those from BME backgrounds, whereas **Graph 2** highlights those responses specifically from BME participants.

The results of the survey indicate that BME young people identified issues around **employment** and **career planning** as more important than the general set of participants.

For example a large number of young people commenting on **lack of employment options** were from BME backgrounds. In colleges many students expressed frustration in **not having qualifications or experience** to find relevant part time work. This may be because college age students are more likely to be supporting themselves or at working age.

Future career plans and life choices

It can be said that young BME men who took part in the survey made proportionally higher comments about **employment and careers** than they did for other issues raised (apart from alcohol and drugs where there concerns were often about others and not themselves) Interestingly young male BME participants highlighted a **lack of extracurricular activities** as key issues, which could potentially bring them useful experience and relieve boredom.

Responses to the second question ‘ **what projects and services interest you?**’ also shows a high number of BME young people interested in **seeking Financial and career advice at YCSA**

Racism

Young BME people especially women aged 12-15 in schools made up the majority of those who raised **racism** as an issue affecting them and others. Comments revealed that this was often a standalone issue. Participants did not seem to equate it especially with being young but many spoke about their own experiences of being treated 'differently'. This study suggests young people are aware of its impact but do not necessarily name the ways in which racism is expressed or experienced. Considering the popularity of potential projects around '**tackling racism**' as shown in graph 3, this suggests several avenues to explore the subject more deeply with young people.

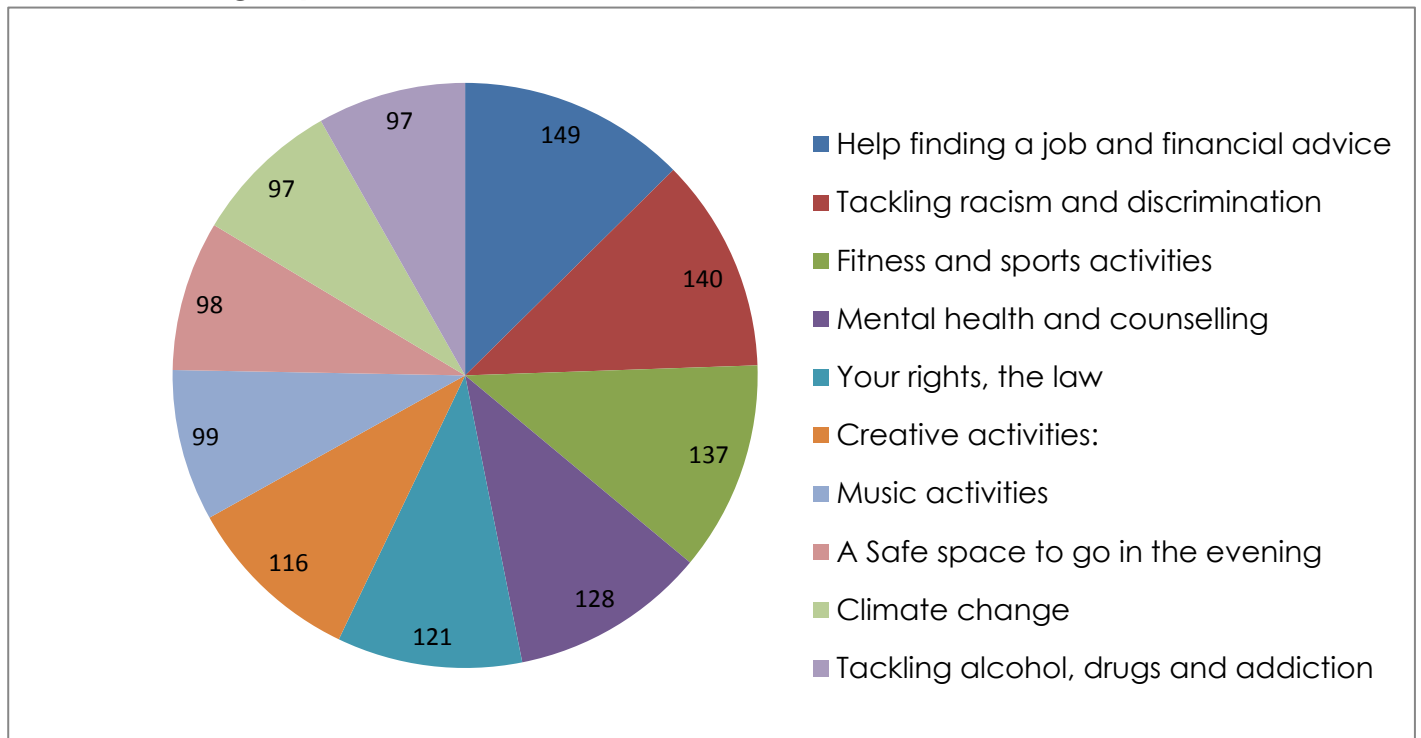
There were also non-BME participants who spoke about racism, expressing on several occasions that as young people they were troubled that discrimination still persists. '**I hate that people are still racist**'

Parenting and parental relations

BME females, respond with proportionally more issues relating to concerns with their parents and families, the comments made were not clear overall, and were probably made for a range of reasons. However young Women aged 12-15 commented especially on **expectations from parents** as a concern which was causing them stress.

Section 3

Graph 3 – Total participant response to question: Which of the following topics/services interest you?



Key findings

Most topics within YCSA youth work programmes as well as existing and proposed programmes at YCSA, hold a relatively equal interest for young people. Respondent responded to this question variably selecting anywhere between one and all of the categories.

Interesting useful and attractive activities at YCSA

The balance shown in **Graph 3** indicates that high numbers of young people express an interest in opportunities which may be positive for themselves, as well as additionally for wider society. Young people are proactive in raising awareness of issues such as **racism**, **climate change** and **mental health concerns**.

Conversations with respondents suggested that they were more likely to take an initial interest in a topic they felt able to contribute or make a positive change to. Though **climate change** and **tackling drug related issues** remained fairly significant, young people were not as sure how to express their interest in these areas, without extensive knowledge of the topic.

Planning for the future

Interestingly employability and financial advice opportunities rated highest in interest overall. This implies participants are looking toward future prospects in the services they expect. Despite largely being students, this typical client group for YCSA are still concerned about **financial planning** or perhaps more worryingly; in need of an income or **financial stability for the short term**.

Several participants at college and amongst older age school students anecdotally mentioned this to staff during questionnaires suggesting for a few it was seen less as an interest and more as an urgent need.

Relative to the numbers of males completing the survey, **employment and financial concerns** were slightly higher concern for males than females. This was especially true amongst older and ethnic minority males.

Interest in tackling racism

In **question 1, Racism** was seen as a less significant issue effecting young people, with the justifiable exception of young people who had experienced or witnessed it themselves. However overall respondents were keen to express their interest in combatting these forms of discrimination, when the option was posed to them in **question 2**.

140 separate expressions were noted in this question relating to **tackling racism**. This was relatively similar across ages and for ethnic minority participants with the exception of older participants aged 19+ almost all of whom themselves belong to ethnic minority groups. It can be suggested that students in school are more readily willing to engage with this topic in the questionnaire than those at college or attending YCSA activities.

In the written suggestions from young people (relating to question 3) **Workshops tackling Racism** were suggested 6 separate times, the highest suggestion overall.

Amongst written responses were several references to learning about the racism and **'its effects it has on people'** or **'Learning about the racism that you don't see'**. This compares with participants written responses **to question 2** where several referred not to verbal abuse or threats but more often to experiences of being **'treated differently'**

Fitness and sports activities

This option was very popular amongst young people, more so amongst males and both male and female BME participants. The questionnaire responses indicated people were either very keen to select only sports, or where inclined to deselect this category. Suggesting it has a polarised interest. Female participants (outside the BME category) tended to favour creative or music related subjects more

Looking across suggestions from respondents to **question 3** 'What support should YCSA provide for young people?' A range of suggestions from **outdoor trips and residential** to **Socialising opportunities** and **stress relief activities** seem to link sports to an essential respite opportunity for young people facing pressure in school and elsewhere

Rights & Law. Safe spaces and Support for Mental health

The results of questionnaire promote a **collective response to mental health concerns**. YCSA included this category as our work often touches those most affected by mental health decline due to social isolation. However Mental health concerns appear throughout each school group questioned. It is highest for 15-18 year old females and disproportionately for ethnic minority males. However it is still recognised as 'interesting' or 'useful' amongst younger students aswell, even more so than **creative activities** or **tackling drugs and alcohol**.

There were different expressions on this subject ranging from the specific e.g. **Anxiety** or **depression**, '**computer games addiction**', '**Support for victims of sexual assault**', stress relating to achievement and **exams etc.**

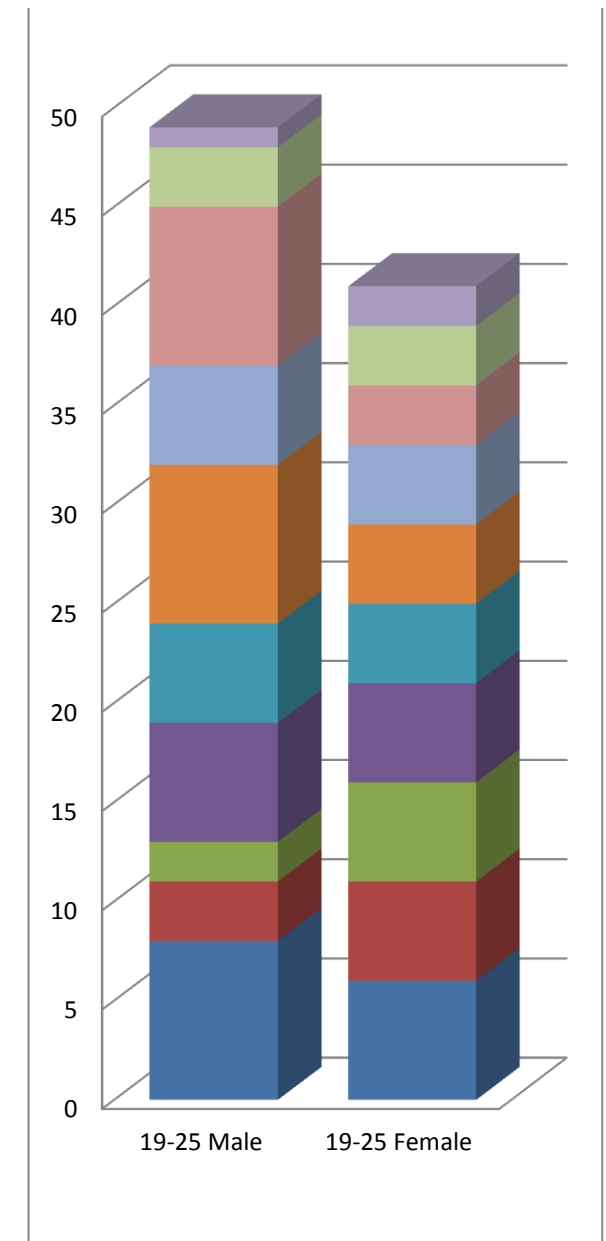
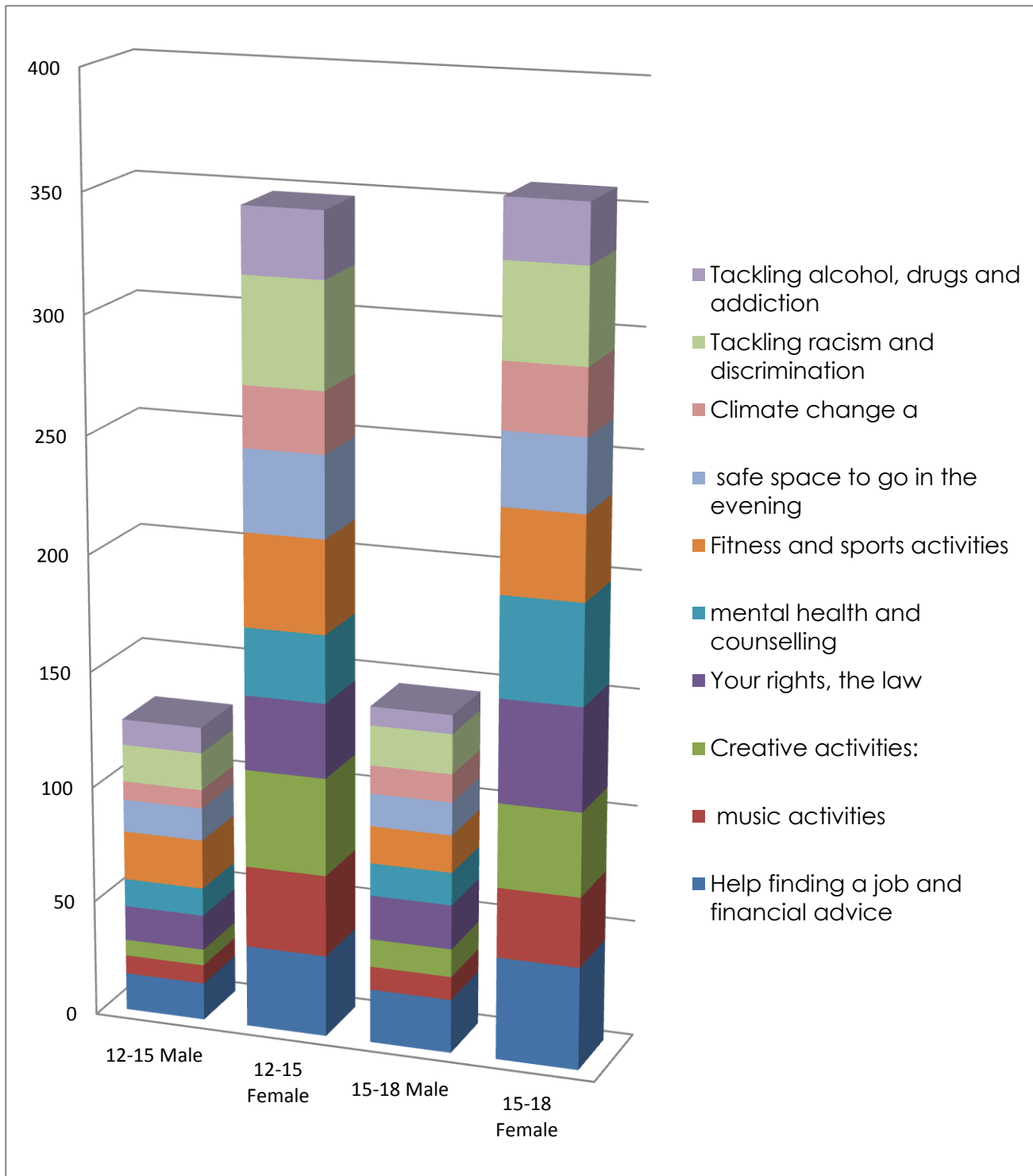
However posed in **question 2** as an '**interest in mental health**', it would appear young people take an open and positive view of mental health as a shared concern for all.

Comments collected in **question 3**, about support services needed for young people, often linked together issues relating to mental health with **safe spaces for minority groups** e.g. **women, LGBTQ groups**, or more general: '**safe spaces for teens**' '**to discuss important issues**'. It was perceived that school environments in particular do not offer these.

The chance **to discuss issues** both personal and social correlated with interests in **the law and young people's rights**. Here respondents requested workshops on a range of '**political topics**', '**talks from the police about rights**' 'a voice for young people or opportunities to learn about political problems'

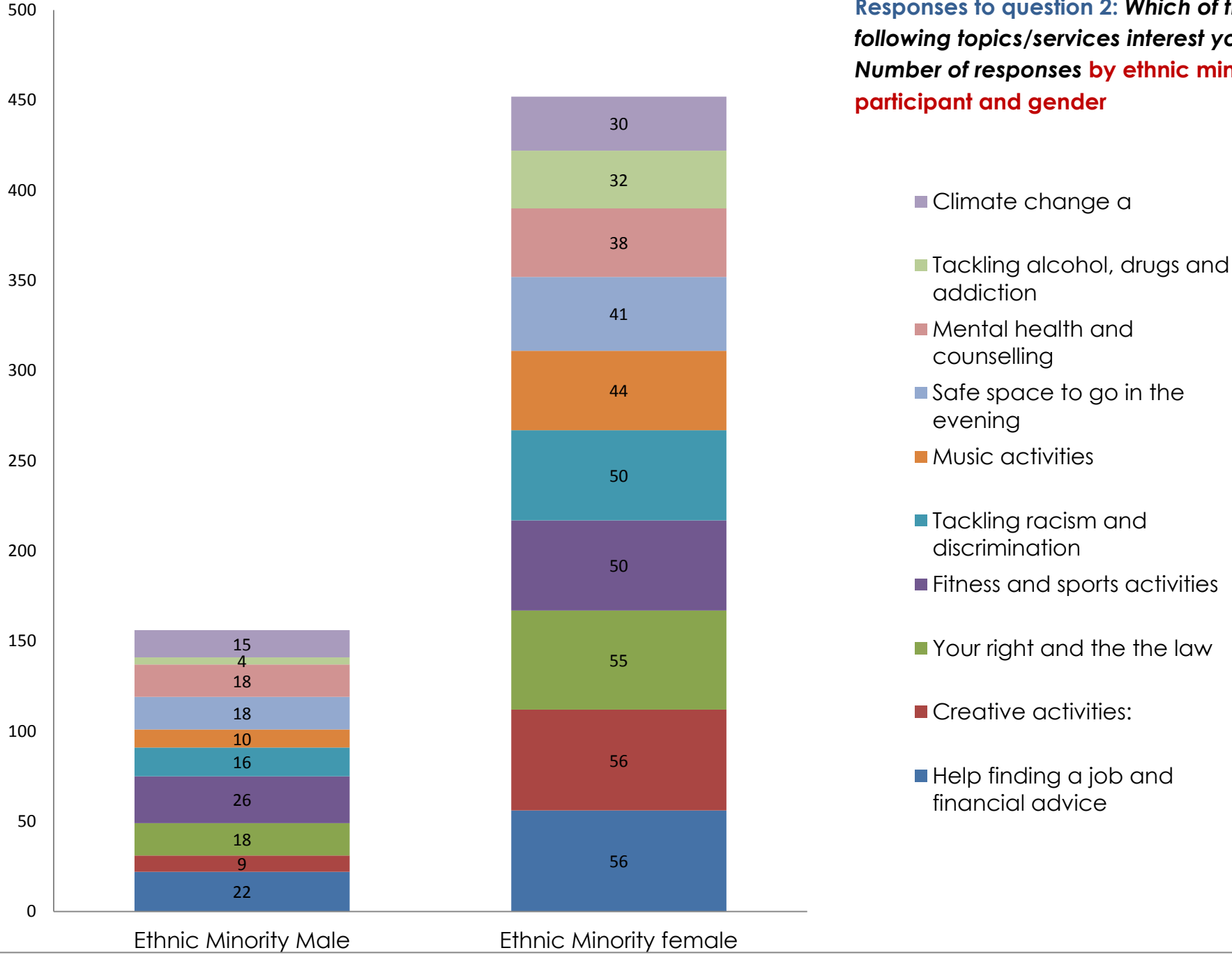
Graph 4

Responses to question 2: Which of the following topics/services interest you?
Number of responses by age and gender



Graph 5

Responses to question 2: Which of the following topics/services interest you? Number of responses by ethnic minority participant and gender



Section 4

Key findings – collected suggestions from participants to the question: - What support should YCSA provide for young people?

In the final part of the questionnaire participants were asked to give their ideas about what services and opportunities YCSA could offer, especially any that were not listed in the previous question. This section was more optional and therefore had fewer completions overall.

For this report we have separated these responses into 3 general categories: **Future Planning and Mentoring**, **Specific Workshops Requests** and **Positive Environment and Personal Support**. These have been arranged in order of popularity A, B, C etc. The original wording for these has been included in several cases here.

Future Planning and Mentoring

- A. **Career advice, employment and CV writing** 'help with finding a job' **X4**
- B. **Financial advice** 'Give us extra help with jobs and financial education' **X 4**
- C. **Setting goals for the future X3**
- D. **Support applying for college and university X3**
- E. **Exam practice and supported study X 2**
- F. **Help with 'confidence' and 'independence' X2**
- G. **Mentors** 'mentors who are not teachers or school counsellors'. 'Strong women role models'. 'stop teachers telling us what careers to have' **X 2**
- H. **Provide internships and experience**

Specific Workshops Requests

- A) **Workshops tackling Racism** 'and its effects it has on people' 'Learning about the racism that you don't see' **X6**
- B) Workshops which **'Spread awareness of LGBT and Trans Rights'** **X 4**
- C) **Information on specific political topics** 'a political voice for young people or opportunities to learn about political problems' **X 3**
- D) **Workshops on appearance and body image** 'help us understand magazines and appearance' **X 2**
- E) **Workshops to support 'growing up and puberty'** 'Ways to deal with the transition from being a teenager and being responsible for a lot more' **X2**
- F) **'Talks from the police about our rights'** **X 2**
- G) 'How to deal with bullying' **X 2**
- H) 'Help to stop smoking'
- I) workshops on religious education
- J) workshops on social media
- K) workshops on photography

[Type text]

Positive Environment and Personal Support.

- A) **Practical stress relief activities and advice (X5)**
- L) **Sports activities X 4**
- M) **'Create safe spaces for LGBT and trans young people' X3**
- N) **'going outdoors' and 'residential trips' X 3**
- O) **'Safe environment for teens' 'safe space to discuss important issues' X 3**
- P) **Better links with schools 'Ways to get more support from my school' X2**
- Q) **counselling support for mental health X2**
- R) **Socialising opportunities 'The chance to make proper friendships' X2**
- S) **Housing support 'Help me find a safe place to live' X2**
- T) **'Support for victims of sexual assault' X2**
- U) **'Longer time at YCSA class' 'More projects at YCSA' X2**
- V) **Youth-work Accessibility 'Become more visible to youths'**
- W) **24 hours support helpline**

Section 5

Version of the consultation questionnaire form used in survey

School Pupil Consultation 2017

YCSA was set up to work with young people from a black or ethnic minority background. We offer a range of fun and creative group projects, individual support and counselling services. Our aim is to empower young people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds to discover their potential



YOUTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT AGENCY

Please answer some of the questions below about key issues you experience as a young person in Glasgow.

This questionnaire is for **all students** at your school; however we need to know a little bit of information about you first:

Age

12 -15

15 -18

18 - 25

Do you belong to any minority ethnic or religious group?

Yes No

Do you consider yourself to be?

Male

Female

Other gender identification

Please tell us some of the **main issues** which affect **you** as a young person

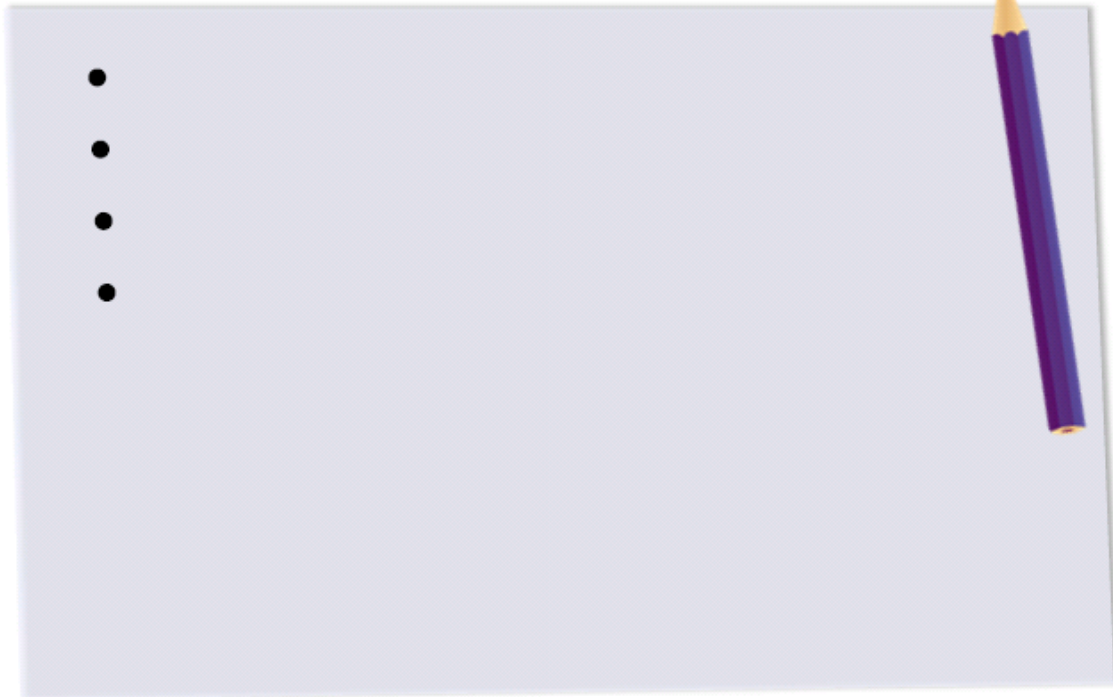


At YCSA we already run lots of projects and services and we are looking to develop more. Have a look at some of these the topics and types of support on the next page....

Climate change and environmental issues	Yes I'm interested!	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm interested because....		
Looking after your mental health and counselling	Yes I'm interested!	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm interested because....		
Fitness and sports activities	Yes I'm interested!	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm interested because....		
Tackling racism and discrimination	Yes I'm interested!	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm interested because....		
Help finding a job and financial advice	Yes I'm interested!	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm interested because....		
Tackling alcohol, drugs and addiction	Yes I'm interested!	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm interested because....		
Having a safe space to go in the evening	Yes I'm interested!	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm interested because....		
Taking part in music activities and learning to play instruments	Yes I'm interested!	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm interested because....		
Creative activities: Drama, arts, photography and filmmaking	Yes I'm interested!	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm interested because....		
Your rights, the law and staying out of trouble	Yes I'm interested!	<input type="checkbox"/>
I'm interested because....		

Finally....

Is there anything else you think that YCSA should provide to support you and your friends?



-
-
-
-

To find out more information about YCSA and our projects just speak our staff or take a leaflet with our contact details on. You can call or email and we will get back to you.

Thanks for taking the time to help us with the questionnaire!