

MARCH 2024

FINAL REPORT



PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY

JYP MEMBERS AND STAFF SEPT 2022-MARCH 2024

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INTRODUCTION



This report is based on our presentation that we delivered in the States Chamber on 18th March 2024. We will share our findings and recommendations on our three campaigns that we have been working on for the past 18 months: **housing, the right to play and diversity and inclusion**. We will also share our latest project ‘the teenage social barometer’ about people’s opinions towards teenagers.

We have spent some time reflecting on the past 18 months considering the highlights and some frustrations. We all have really enjoyed having the opportunity to present in the States Chamber and it has helped us develop our communication, public speaking, teamwork, organisation and confidence. Another highlight has been the numerous residentials including Crabbe, Chateau Vermont and St Aubin’s Fort. These have been great fun and have allowed us to develop friendships that has helped with our work.

We have all had our own **challenges to overcome** that have included a fear of public speaking, working with new and unfamiliar people, juggling JYP commitments with school and the difficult challenge of writing speeches.



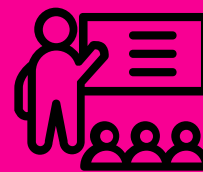
Meetings

100



Residentials

10



States Chamber Presentations

3

REFLECTIONS



A big moment for JYP was being invited to be the first young people to speak at the British Irish Council (BIC) Summit in June. Being invited made us feel important and there were some people there that really did take the time to speak with us including an official from the Scottish Parliament and the First Minister for Wales, Mark Drakeford. It was a great experience for us, **but we did at times feel like puppets and that we were just there for people to look at us.** We are not really sure that we were listened to and that our words were acted upon.

This is something that has frustrated us throughout our time. We have made a lot of recommendations over our 18-month term and things haven't been acted upon. As a group **we do not feel like we have been listened to** and hope that following on from today you will try and do some of our recommendations.

Through carrying out our research and speaking with other young people there are some things that have really surprised us.

We were **sad to discover in the beginning that every parish does not have a public park.** We think that every child should live in walking distance to a park and it really frustrates us that St Clements still does not have a public park for children even though it is the 4th biggest parish by population. We have been so happy to hear of the new park being built in St Martin's as when we started, they didn't have a public park for children. Another thing that **really surprised us was how many vacant houses there are in Jersey,** in the recent census it was said that 4,000 out of 48,600 homes are vacant. We hope that there will be steps to reduce this so that everyone in Jersey has a place to live.

When we did our survey for the BIC summit, we found out that 90% of respondents either didn't see a future or were unsure if they saw a future in Jersey. As a group we have mixed feelings about whether we will stay in Jersey but it does make us sad that Jersey could end up with an older population.

JOINED UP WORK

We have had the opportunity to meet young people from different places twice as we hosted the Guernsey Youth Forum for a fun activity day in November and also some of us went to London to attend Youth Con hosted by the British Youth Council. **We think it is really important to link with other young people** to give us a different perspective and we still speak with some of the young people we met.

GUERNSEY: “It made us feel more grateful for our island after their visit”



When we spent time with people from Guernsey we learnt that they have similar issues to us, but Jersey is more expensive. The young people from Guernsey said they thought that Jersey felt more diverse. We took them to different places around the island and they told us that they have nothing like what we have in Jersey. We think we don't have anything to do but they really don't! It did make us feel more grateful for our island after their visit.

JOINED UP WORK

When we went to Youth Con in London run by the British Youth Council, people didn't know about Jersey and were shocked we had to get a plane. By attending events like this **we can educate people about Jersey**. The key topic we discussed was free school lunches which is an issue that is important in Jersey as well. Food is really expensive within our schools and the cost and variety really differs from one school to the other which we have learnt from sharing our own experiences. We don't think that it is fair that a meal deal is cheaper in some shops in town than in some of the schools, even when you get less food out of it. Attending Youth Con has made us more aware of these challenges.



YOUTH CON:

“Food is really expensive within our schools.. Attending Youth Con has made us more aware of these challenges.”

We hope that the Government will support future joined up work and can help us develop stronger links with other places as it is really important to get ideas from others. we would of loved to meet other youth parliaments from Wales and Scotland in order to better our skills in communication and learn experiences of other people in the UK. These experiences with other young people could benefit Jersey as we could learn from different regimes that have included young people and prove to be better than our current ones. We should have had the opportunity to speak at the UK Youth Parliament, and we feel let down that this opportunity wasn't offered to JYP. **We really hope that JYP can join UK Youth Parliament** and will be included in future and would like your help with this.

Right to Play

Our campaign over the past eighteen months, has been advocating for the child's right to play to be more significant in Jersey, which is **article 31 of the UNCRC**. Our right to play is a vital endeavour aimed at recognising the significance of play in a child's development. **Play is not only a source of joy but also essential for cognitive, social, and emotional growth.** By advocating for policies that prioritise and incorporate opportunities for play into society, we can **ensure that every child has the chance to explore, learn, and develop to their fullest potential.** This campaign seeks to create inclusive spaces, promote access to safe playgrounds, and emphasize the importance of unstructured playtime in schools and communities. **By integrating the right to play into our societal framework, we can foster healthier, happier, and more resilient generations.**



*UNCRC

Over the past eighteen months, we have worked very hard progressing the campaign, going from being in a campaign with complete strangers, to contributing to the development of a park, making new friends, and meeting and learning from new people to gain new, different perspectives. Our contributions helped build St. Martin's Park, which is also an inclusive and accessible park. Furthermore, we have gathered data from multiple different surveys to help us better our understanding of the lack of both facilities and activities for the youth of Jersey.

One thing that we would really like is to have **free or very heavily discounted entry to the sports centres.** We would also like to see more action, in the future, in improving school facilities instead of buying new things and making **better use of school buildings** such as leaving the gates open for school football pitches for teenagers to use free of charge (instead of leaving them untouched). This scheme would help to introduce the concept of community schools to the island, community schools would be so beneficial and we hope Richard Vibert takes up this ongoing project and carries on Inna Gardiner's previous works. We would also like more affordable places to eat and hangout and action on the attitudes of older people towards younger people, which has been so influential we have focused on this as a whole group for the final few months. We hope that you have spent some time looking over our reports from previous presentations. We are particularly proud of our **'Rate my Park'** section and really hope that it will be useful for you when planning new parks.

We have also had some personal growth and achievements that we are very proud of, such as gaining confidence, learning new things, making new friends, being able to ask for help when needed, overcoming fears, and many more. On reflection of our campaign, we are feeling awesome but **there is still a long way to go.**

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

01



Socially Accepted Spaces for Teenagers

- We want teenagers to feel accepted and welcome in public spaces
- We would like adults to change their attitudes towards young people

02



Improvements to Parks

- Ensure that every parish has a park
- Improving the current parks
- Making sure that there are inclusive and accessible equipment within parks

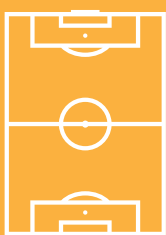
03

FREE

Free Activities for Teenagers

- More free things for young teenagers
- Free access or heavily subsidised entrance into the Government run Sports Centres.
- Affordable places to eat and hang out

04



Community Schools

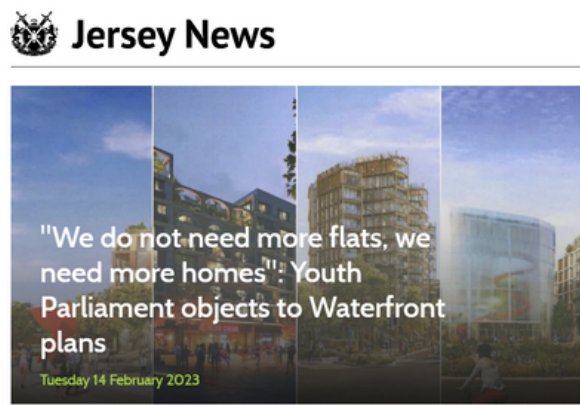
- Allowing the community to share schools facilities
- Opening up the schools after school hours to allow people to play on the football pitches



Housing

Over the course of 18 months while working on our campaign, we have learnt about the problems rising related to housing such as price inflation and tenancy laws. The root cause of all these problems were house prices increasing at an alarming rate. To present our ideas we have spoken at the States Chamber twice, attended and spoken at the British Irish council (BIC) summit and spoken to Andium homes and ministers. We also prepared surveys. Through this, **we gathered important data** and found out some captivating statistics. For example, in our survey we discovered that over **90% of young people in Jersey are unsure of living here due to high inflation rates and housing prices.** We also learnt that the minimum wage in Jersey is currently £11.64 per hour. However, the cost to simply rent a one-bedroom flat in Jersey ranges between £1000 to £1700 per month.

We are proud to have gathered the voices of young people that we have shared with you on the important issue of housing as it is vital that young people are considered in all discussions. Our surveys have also made headlines in the local press which we are grateful for (see Appendix). We were pleased to hear that the waterfront development got turned down after we put in an objection into planning and spoke at the public consultation.



As we have said before **we don't want more one-bedroom flats, we want houses for people to live in.** We would like to see **young people included earlier in planning applications and have young people be involved in the design of big projects that will impact them.** There are some good examples from in the UK of where this has happened, and you can see these on the links at the back of this report.



Housing

During the June of 2023, a few members from the Jersey youth parliament including some from the Housing group, attended and presented a speech at the British Irish Council (BIC) summit to various ministers. We felt that our ideas were mostly considered. The BIC summit was a great experience where the members learnt more about what is being done to help the current housing problem and how we as young people can aid to put a stop to this ongoing crisis. Although we have achieved so much during the past 18 months as a group, we believe that there is so much left to be done so it would be important to us that the **future of JYP can recognise the importance of the housing crisis in Jersey** and how much it affects everyone on the island.

Analogously, it would be good to hear about the progress from the next group of young people who partake in this amazing experience. In conclusion, when we first started JYP, we believed that housing should be more accessible for those who can't afford a house which lines up with the **United Nations convention on the rights of a child in article 27**. We still think that this is important, and it should continue further in other Jersey Youth Parliaments.



*UNCRC

A FUTURE WITHOUT AFFORDABLE HOUSING, IS NOT A FUTURE FOR JERSEY

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

01



Housing Standards

- Housing should be more accessible for those that cannot afford a house
- Stop building one bedroom flats we want houses to live in
- Remove the standard of building a one bedroom house for person

02



Young People's Voices

- Involve young people in planning applications and invite young people to be involved from the beginning in big projects
- Ensure that housing keeps being a topic for JYP and young people in Jersey



Diversity & Inclusion

Our aim was to promote an inclusive and safe island for young people. We have been promoting this for the past 18 months and are very pleased with the progress that has been made. In the beginning we spoke about the **Sunflower Lanyard** scheme and how it had been abused in lockdown, with the lanyards being remade into a mask exemption signal. We are so pleased to see more shops now showing the poster and welcoming people that use the lanyards. We hope that this awareness will grow.

We support **quiet hours in shops** and hope this will also spread to more shops. People on the Little Parliament suggested having **quiet hours on buses** to support people with sensory needs and we really like this idea. Maybe on the double deckers, the top floor could be for chatting and the downstairs for quiet. We also like the idea that these hours could be renamed to **'accessible hours'** because its not only turning down music volume, but also dimming lights.

We spent some time making an **information booklet for parents about the LGBTQ+ community.** This is on our [website](#), and we hope that people have found it useful. We have asked lots of questions about accessibility and you can view our questions from this presentation at the back on the report.





Diversity & Inclusion

We also discussed the building of unisex, **singled stalled bathrooms** which have their own sinks, toilets, etc, made with the idea that it would make trans people feel more comfortable in bathrooms. Trans youths may feel uncomfortable in gendered bathrooms; this is because some people do not identify with binary gender identities, such as male or female. **Trans people might also feel uncomfortable in gendered bathrooms** if they have to go to the bathroom with the gender that they were assigned at birth, which can be bad for the mental health and self-image of the individual.

After our last presentation in the states chamber it was spoken about that the **new government HQ is going to be built to be more accessible and inclusive**. This was answered by Deputy Jeune as they talked about the plan for the new government building. We thought the ideas that were brought up were amazing and would really improve the accessibility on the island. We are very **happy that these changes are being made** and are hoping to get an update soon about how those ideas have been put in place.

AS A GROUP WE WILL CONTINUE TO CAMPAIGN FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

01



Accessibility

- Keep promoting the proper use of Sunflower Lanyards
- More shops and public spaces to have 'accessible hours'
- Have 'accessible hours' on buses
- Ensure that all Government building are accessible

02



LGBTQ+ Rights

- Help promote our parents guide to ensure that young people are getting the best support
- More single stalled toilets in the island, in particular in schools

Teenage Social Barometer

After our last presentation we came together as a group to discuss how we could spend the final few months. **We discussed how our campaigns all link up.** One discussion that we had was about places to play, in particular around places where people live. **We identified that lots of parks had signs saying 'no ball games' which made us feel angry.** We felt it defeats the point of a park as they should be a place for children to play, to just be children and to be able to learn from mistakes. We understand that in some small parks and ones very close to houses that there may be a need for restrictions, but **new developments should take this into consideration and have spaces to play away from windows.**



WE FEEL SIGNS LIKE THIS DEFEAT THE POINT OF A PARK AS THEY SHOULD BE PLACES TO PLAY AND FOR CHILDREN TO JUST BE AND LEARN FROM MISTAKES.

We then got onto the topic of what places we felt welcome and realised that this linked all 3 campaigns and something we felt that all teenagers are affected by; what people think of them. **People's negative opinions on teenagers impacts where they can play and the opportunities available.** We want teenagers to be included in plans. From several accounts, from Youth Parliament members and outside sources, teenagers don't feel welcome in places over run by adults, such as town, or places full of small children, like parks. This creates very **little space for teenagers as no place is really fully aimed at teens.** One example of this is in shops in St Helier, as lots feel that they are getting judged and nearly pushed out of the store because they are teenagers and they have no place being there.

We thought of gathering data from the wider community about teenagers. This idea became known as the **'teenage social barometer'** and we have been working on it as our newest campaign.

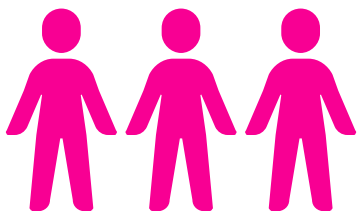
Teenage Social Barometer

We feel that Jersey Discrimination Law (2013), where **age is a protected characteristic**, is not helping, no matter what happens. We get treated unfairly for being a teenager. This is because of our age and how there are unfair views on teenagers due to only a small percentage acting truant. Then this reflects on all of the teenagers which if you look at the facts is incredibly biased; **people are focusing on the around 10% of teenagers, instead of the other 90%**. What if we did the same for adults and assumed everyone is bad because of the small minority that commit crimes and go to prison? If you put yourself in a teenager’s point of view, how would you react?

We get treated unfairly for being a teenager

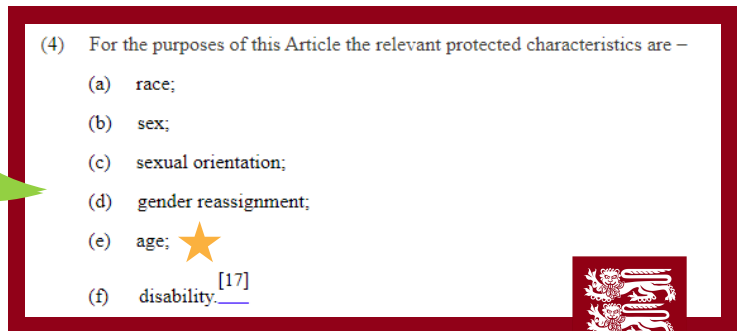
We are viewed as disrespectful and rude

Not all of us get up to bad things



100%

of respondents in survey said they are viewed negatively by adults in public spaces, with a negative bias towards groups



Source: *Discrimination (Jersey) Law 2013*



Jersey

In February this year, members **created a survey outlining the problems with the perception of teenagers in public spaces**.

Two surveys were made, one for adults, and one for teenagers. The surveys were anonymous to ensure accurate and fair results. They both include similar questions that were slightly altered to fit the audience, therefore getting a better idea of the opinion of the respondents.

We feel that over the years many stereotypes around teenagers have been made. We feel that this data from our survey is particularly concerning as it negatively affects daily life for teens.

*See Appendix for more details

Teenage Social Barometer

In our survey, teens expressed their feelings of disinterest, negativity and being unwanted in public spaces by adults. Respondents that felt adults needed to be informed that teenagers are, mostly, not performing illegal or otherwise negative activities in their free time. Respondents stated that they felt adults judged them in public spaces, with many stating they felt that they didn't belong or that they felt the spaces they enjoyed frequenting didn't accommodate teenagers.



The general census from teenagers was that adults viewed them negatively although one commented: *“Depends on the person - if they are being quite loud with their friends they might get some negative looks but if they are not bringing themselves any attention then nobody really notices them”*

Only 3% of respondents on our recent survey felt that parks were, in fact, designed for teenagers (Appendix 1). **This reinforces aggressive or unhappy emotion within teens, and furthers the negative stereotyping of teenagers.**

Teenage Social Barometer

We followed this survey up with a similar **survey aimed at adults** to see how a wide range of people react to teenagers in public. To a question about general opinions of teenagers in public spaces, most of the respondents expressed that **“they are usually well behaved”** but a few mentioned that **“teenagers need more places and spaces to go”**. In a follow up question asking if adults have any negative feelings towards teenagers most mentioned that the **size of the group made a difference to their overall opinions**, with an extreme negative bias for large groups. For example, one adult said, *“fear of intimidating groups, of potential aggressive interaction / fear of verbal conflict”* and another, *“I just feel a bit anxious around large groups making a lot of noise”*. Interestingly, from the response it is clear **adults find large groups of teenagers in town are more intimidating than large groups in other places**, for example, the beach.

Adults said they most commonly saw teens in town and interestingly, **adults reported that they least commonly saw teenagers in nature settings, where teens stated that nature settings were one of their most common sites to frequent, alongside town.**

Adult Survey

Where do you most commonly see teenagers?



Young Person Survey

Which of these spaces do you and your friends spend time in?



There are negative opinions of a small minority of teenagers that cause stereotypes to be made about teenagers in general. These stereotypes can have a negative impact on ALL teenagers and limit the opportunities available to them.

Teenage Social Barometer

According to the most recent Census, there are **10,532 young people in Jersey** aged between 10 and 19 years old. Last week the Bailiwick Express published an article explaining how **10 young people in Jersey were responsible for almost a third of youth crime in the Island** in 2022. This is obviously a very difficult situation for the emergency services, the community and these young people themselves, and we hope that with the right support and joined up working from appropriate agencies that these young people can receive what it is that they need to help them to refrain from offending. This article does go some way to **demonstrating how low the numbers of teenagers responsible for crime or antisocial behaviour are in the Island.**

We would like to see States Members promote information like this and engage in providing the public with information about how valuable teenagers are to the community around them.

For example, there are twice the number of Youth Parliament members as there are young people highlighted as being responsible for half of recent youth crime. We are also teenagers, who have committed to attempting to impact our community positively as representatives of the young people of the Island. We like to ensure that we have offered the opportunity to give an opinion as a young person in Jersey, by way of survey's and consultations with young people, so that we can confidently know that we are **speaking on behalf of all those who wish to be heard, and teenagers would like you to know that they are misrepresented and misunderstood, and the responsibility to challenge these assumptions of their character or behaviour also lies with you.**



We are also teenagers, who have committed to attempting to impact our community positively as representatives of the young people of the Island.








VAWG

We spent some time looking at the Violence Against Women and Girls Report (VAWG). More than 40% of girls surveyed aged 16-17 had experienced VAWG and gender inequality is a key driver. A woman was even told by her doctor after experiencing an assault that “going for a good walk” would clear her head. We believe that this behaviour is unacceptable and needs to be stopped.

We learnt that the main problems that influence VAWG are:

- Culture that promotes gender inequality and misogynistic attitudes
- Poor understanding of VAWG
- Low levels of trust and accountability
- Range of barriers that limit our capacity to respond to VAWG

There are lots of links for VAWG and all our campaigns. Key recommendations we support from the report are:

7	 <p>A campaign to tackle street harassment should be rolled out across St Helier.</p>	 <p>This is also backed up by members at the Little parliament saying they wanted more police in town as didn't feel safe.</p>
	<p>A stronger police presence should be introduced in Cheapside, Parade Gardens, Belmont Road area, and the Snow Hill area.</p>	
	<p>Dedicated support for rough sleepers should be introduced in Parade Gardens.</p>	
	<p>Better street lighting should be introduced in the Snow Hill area.</p>	
25	 <p>Non-fatal strangulation should be named as a standalone offence.</p>	 <p>77 CYPES should consider rolling out a 'whole-of-school' approach across schools.</p>
	<p>Guidance on the evidentiary basis for proving non-fatal strangulation should be issued alongside the offence.</p>	
28	 <p>Stalking should be named as an offence in Jersey legislation.</p>	 <p>JYP 2020-2022 recommended a new PSHE Curriculum that is hopefully being launched in September 2024. Hopefully this can be incorporated into it.</p>
65	 <p>The Children and Young People Education and Skills (CYPES) department should work closely with Dewberry House Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Jersey Action Against Rape and Jersey Domestic Abuse Support to promote better awareness of these services within schools and other sites for young people.</p>	

There is a charity called Make Space for Girls in the UK which focuses on having teenage girls voices heard when public spaces are being designed. Teenage girls are often overlooked or simply aren't there when it comes to big decisions and plans, which leads to the needs of teenage girls not being met even in newer public spaces. We think that this charity is amazing as it highlights problems that aren't talked about enough, or not talked about at all.



Further Research

We have looked through the [Public Voice Common Ground Analysis](#) and found the feedback really interesting, and noticed that it **compliments what we have been saying through all our campaigns.**

When inquired about the ideal public space and given the freedom to enhance it if money was no object, the responses included:



79% of respondents wanted more trees.



71% of respondents wanted more spaces to hang out, sit or walk with no agenda; this ties in with our Right to Play findings.



60% of respondents wanted more entertainment such as music, outdoor film and performance.

We came across a report from Scotland called [‘Teenagers in Public Spaces Final Report’](#) by Dr Jenny Wood and Dr Jamie Hamilton from 2022. In the Scottish study it was noted that children in rural environments, where the stereotype is one of more carefree and peaceful living, had restrictions on their activity, from poor public transport and limited leisure options. Children in the city, where the stereotype is one of danger and corruption of children, had increased, ‘protection’. This limited personal mobility had a potential range of negative effects on both adults and children, such as increased mental and physical health difficulties.

In the report, **they identify that teenagers are often-overlooked when designing public spaces** in towns, cities and the countryside. They highlight the reasons that young people might not feel welcome or safe in public spaces and/or might not feel like they're part of the wider community.



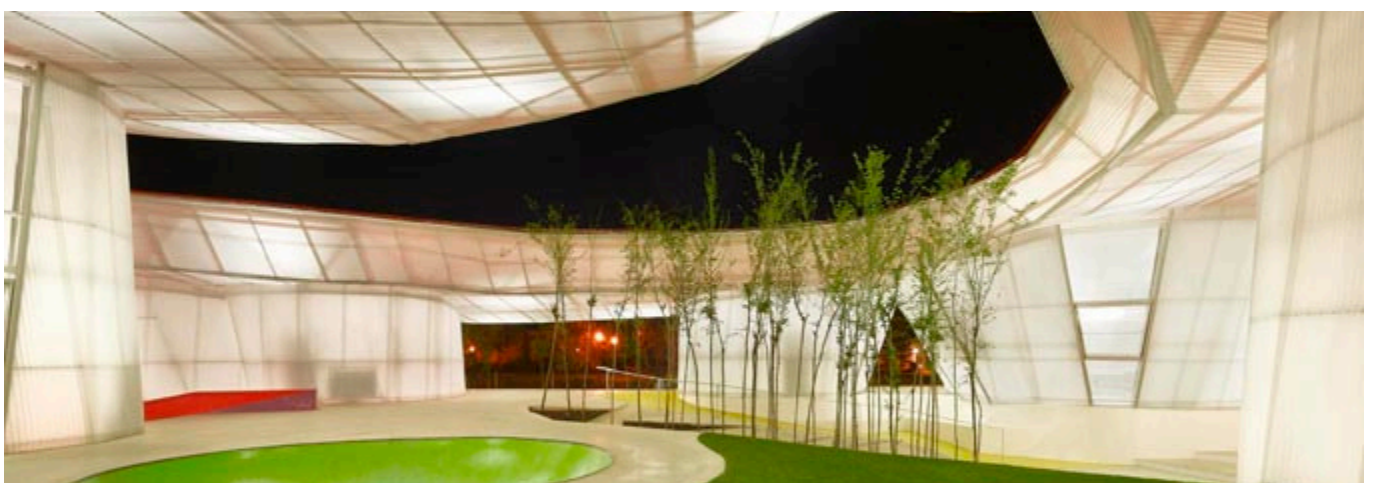
We would encourage states members to read this report and possibly conduct a similar report with young people in Jersey to this level of honest participation and inclusion. **We think that this report is a fantastic example of how states members should be interacting with young people.**

Further Research

Whilst conducting research for our work on the *‘teenage social barometer’*, we were keen to identify places and spaces around the world where the **universal needs of young people are not only considered, but prioritised.**

The **Youth Factory** in Merida, Spain and the **Freemantle Esplanade Youth Plaza** in Australia are amazing examples of the local Government working with the community and designers who understand the area to create a **space specifically for young people.**

We love that these are spaces that young people have use of and priority of. Our teenage social barometer work showed that a number of adults in Jersey feel that young people need a reason to be in public spaces, so **a space that meets the needs of young people that is also somewhere that young people cannot be criticised or questioned for spending time in is fantastic.**



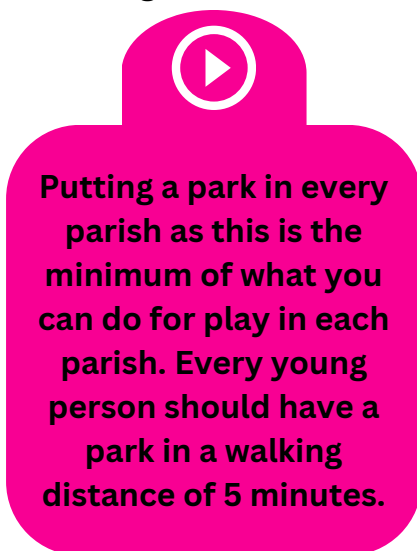
Conclusion

With so many people saying the same thing **we really do hope that you will listen** and take steps to improve the life of islanders in Jersey. Having taken all these ideas into consideration, we have three key priorities that we want to leave you with today.

Prices of activities MUST stop rising or most young people in the island WILL leave if given the chance. Housing prices also come into play here, **if we can't afford housing only those who already have houses will stay, resulting in an ageing population.**

Finally as a group we feel that opportunities for activities HAS to and SHOULD increase or population will decrease with more young people finding cheaper and suitable accommodation elsewhere.

Though these are our main points we would appreciate you taking action on the following:



Putting a park in every parish as this is the minimum of what you can do for play in each parish. Every young person should have a park in a walking distance of 5 minutes.

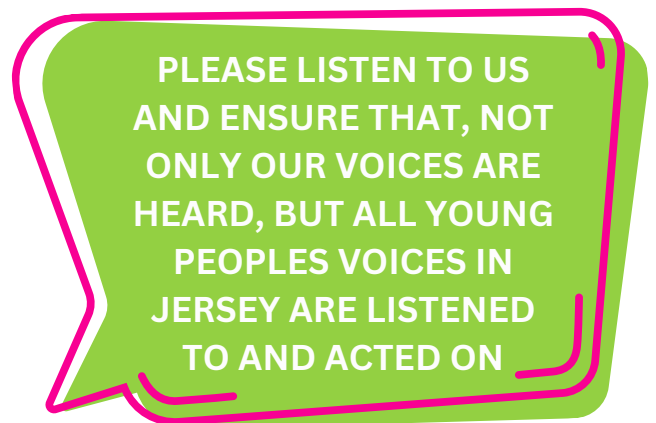


Everyone in the island should have a suitable home in accordance to the rights of a child



Accessibility should be considered in every part of a design process, and new buildings have no excuse to discriminate against those with disabilities, hidden or not.

We think the Youth Parliament is a really good idea and a great way to get young people's voices heard, but **not enough has been done to actually act on what we say.** This is not fair as we have spent 18 months trying to get the voices of young people heard. We have experienced previous ministers giving indirect answers to questions, with vague answers and lack of actual content, especially on the campaigns of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion.



PLEASE LISTEN TO US AND ENSURE THAT, NOT ONLY OUR VOICES ARE HEARD, BUT ALL YOUNG PEOPLES VOICES IN JERSEY ARE LISTENED TO AND ACTED ON

We hope that our presentation and this report will have a positive effect on Jersey, and that it will aid in young islanders voices being heard.



Overview of Recommendations

- 1. PARKS**

 - Every parish should have a park
 - Every child and young person should be able to walk to a park
 - Improve current parks
 - Ensure that all parks are inclusive and accessible


- 2. ACTIVITIES**

 - Heavily subsidised or free entry into Government run sports facilities for under 18's
 - More free things for children and young people to do


- 3. COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

 - Allow the community to share school spaces
 - Open schools up after hours for people to use the facilities


- 4. HOUSING STANDARDS**

 - Everyone in the island should have a suitable home
 - Housing should be more affordable for those that cannot afford a house
 - Stop building one bedroom flats, we want houses to live in
 - Remove the standard of building a one bedroom flat for one person


- 5. ACCESSABILITY**

 - Keep promoting the proper use of the Sunflower Lanyards
 - More shops and public spaces to have 'accessible hours'
 - Have 'accessible hours' on buses
 - Ensure all Government buildings are accessible


- 6. LGBTQ+ RIGHTS**

 - Help promote the parents guide to ensure young people are getting the best support
 - More single stalled toilets in the island, in particular in schools


- 7. OPINIONS OF TEENAGERS**

 - Promote positive work of teenagers
 - Open up spaces for teenagers


- 8. LISTEN**

 - Young people included in planning decisions
 - Implement all the VAWG recommendations
 - Implement our recommendations along with what other people in different reports have been saying
 - Give us feedback on this report



JYP Final Thoughts

Following on from the final presentation, members were asked to rate a number of statements out of 5 in accordance with the Lara Lundy Participation Model, under the themes of space, voice, audience and influence.

Space

I was listened to from the start - **3.78**



I felt safe giving my opinions - **4.33**



Voice

I got support to have my voice heard - **4.67**



I had enough time to talk - **4.44**



Audience

I know who wants to hear my opinions - **3.89**



They were honest about what they would try to do with my opinions - **3.56**

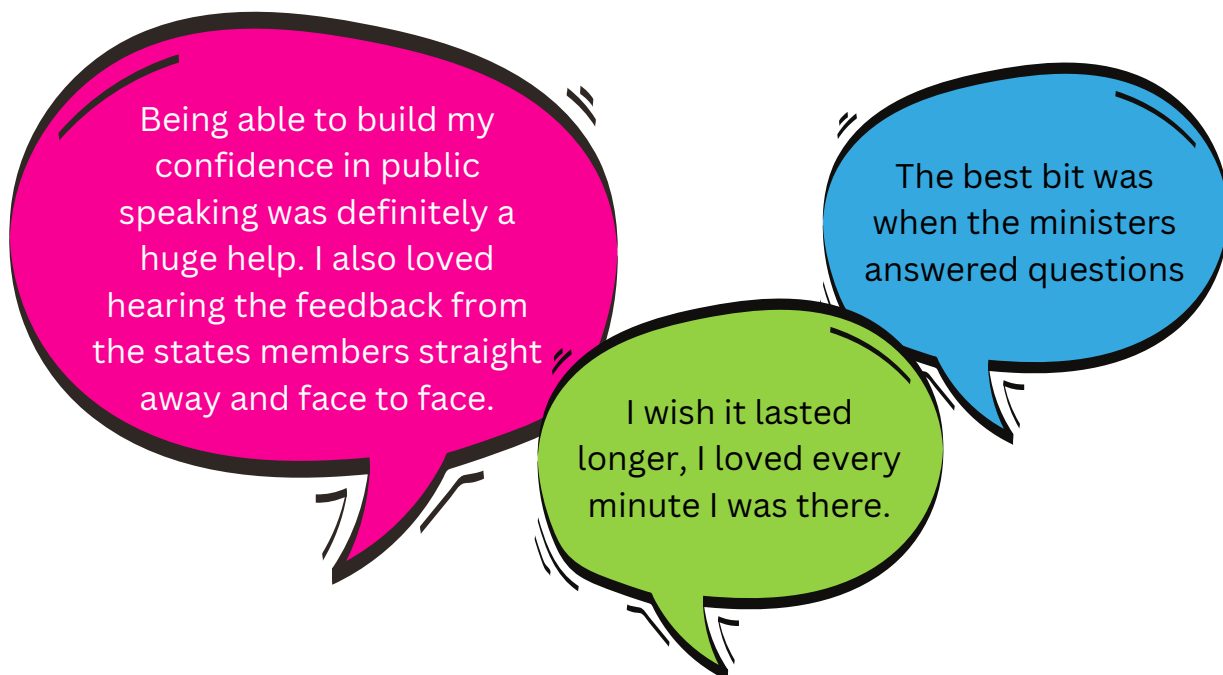


Influence

I know where my opinions are going next - **2.89**



I think what was said in our presentations will be taken seriously - **3.11**



Question Time

Questions from the States Assembly

Deputy Inna Gradiner: What do you think parish Connétables and Deputies need to do to increase the participation of young people in parish life including parish assemblies and committees?

We had a big discussion about how things could be done better and were going to include in our presentation so we are glad that you have asked.

Our ideas are:

- Ask us, we don't have knowledge about the parish assemblies and committees, it is not something we learn about at school
- Spread more info, we are not properly informed
- Take into account your audiences - use words we understand - no acronyms
- Please don't waffle
- We think that all States Members should have lessons in how to engage with young people. And know about the Jersey Participation Standards
- We often give our thoughts about things but then never hear back about how it will make an impact so it is really important that you have a plan about how our input will make a difference and how you will tell us it has
- Young person versions of things would help - we need visuals, graphics and colour - short videos are good
- These should be advertised in spaces we look and not just stored on a website as we won't see them - schools: lunch line, TV's - put in places we are. Bus stops, outside of buses
- Promote in particular opportunities that are aimed at or will impact young people
- Visit us in schools so we feel like you care about us
- If you want us to engage with you, you need to come and engage with us
- Ella attended the St Clements Parish Meeting and she felt scared - only old people there complaining about traffic and roads - that is not engaging or interesting for us

Question Time

Questions from the States Assembly

Deputy Doublet: Have the Youth Parliament had assistance in distributing their excellent LGBTQ+ guide? Are there any ways in which they think this could reach more parents/other adults in our community? What else do they think could be done to help families have these conversations in a well-informed and supportive manner?

So far, we've had no assistance outside of the Youth Service in the distribution of our guide. We thought we could make QR codes for our social media and perhaps posters for Youth Clubs. We also had suggestions to send a digital copy to schools for them to distribute if they wish. We could support families by referring them to the Youth Service, or could suggest they do some research online. We could also ask if the JEP would write an article, both for support and to spread the guide. We may also ask if the official Government website may put up the guide and some advice. We would love it if you could share with anyone you know.

Deputy Rob Ward: What are your opinions on the current play and youth facilities in St. Helier, and what do you believe is needed to improve these for children and young people?

We don't think that there is enough for people our age to do.

We have a lot of information in our Right to Play reports and have included suggestions from other young people we spoke to within that

Examples include:

- Schools to open so that we can use the football pitches and facilities after school
- Free access to the sports centres - maybe a £20 pass like the buses
- Parks aimed at older children. We have done a 'Rate my park' activity which is also in our reports and we liked things like ziplines, climbing walls and outdoor fitness equipment
- Somewhere to hang out with a roof to shelter when it's raining
- It would really help if the public's attitudes towards teenagers would change so that we feel welcome in public spaces. In our first survey we did someone commented "We are always told to move on and never feel welcome". So really we all just want to feel welcome and accepted in society.

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

JYP: “Childrens Minister, you voted against extending the existing bus pass scheme to all aged 21 and under, and also voted against free G.P. visits for all full time students. Have your opinions changed now that you are Children’s Minister?”

Constable Richard Vibert: Thank you for that question and I commend you for looking at my voting record. So, on both of those instances if you look at the positions that I held at that time, I was both the Assistant Minister for Children and Education and the Assistant Minister for Treasury and Resources, and as such, as can often be the case there was a conflict between the two. However, on the question of the bus pass, this was one of the amendments in the Government Plan 2024 to 2027, and we were asked to extend the existing twenty pounds per annum bus scheme to everyone 21 years of age and under. Under the existing scheme people 18 and under are entitled to a twenty-pound Avanci Card. And it is correct that along with 28 other members I voted against the amendment, and it was defeated. I voted against it as the Assistant Minister for Treasury and Resources because I strongly believed that such a scheme should be targeted. There are of course people between 18 and 21 who are in full time education, there are other people who are on lower incomes, there are people who are part time students, should all those people be rated equally? If someone is already earning a significant salary, should they be entitled to a twenty-pound bus pass? So, my object to that was not in effect the scheme itself, but that it was not targeted to the those that really needed help. I think that an untargeted scheme if brought to the assembly I would have the same opinion and would look to people who bring such propositions to look at who really deserves help. The amount involved was not unsubstantial, approximately £1.5 million. You could consider that if funds, as this was an amendment and funds for this amendment needed to be taken from somewhere else in the budget, that cutting £1.5 million from another part of the budget which might affect, say, a children’s park, it could be better spent on that than on a scheme that wasn’t targeted to those who really deserve the income, sorry, the help. So that’s my views on the bus pass scheme. Free G.P. visits for full time students, once again this wasn’t targeted, and again I didn’t support it, although it was successful in getting through the Assembly. The Government doesn’t have, as I said before, it doesn’t have unlimited finances, and therefore we prioritise where we do spend the money. When we consider the full-time students involved it included full time students at other universities outside of Jersey, outside of the U.K. and in some cases, you will get some people who are wealthy enough to decide that they can take a year out, or more than a year out on full education, to study in a subject that they are interested in. Does that person deserve a free G.P. visit? Again, I strongly believe in such schemes being targeted to those who actually need help and that is my view. I think it’s a fair view and I think that the current scheme where those under 18 benefit from free G.P. visits is something that I did vote for but I could not vote for the extension to full time students. And I rest there. Thank you.

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

JYP Supplemental question: Where you said it was untargeted, that includes people that have that have the finances to pay for it themselves, but as somebody who has experience before getting an Avanci card, of going on the bus every day to go to places after school it is very unsustainable, and I could not afford it after a while. How do you propose, as your argument is that untargeted it supports people who can afford it, how would you propose to help people who cannot afford it, and bus is their only means of travel?

Constable Richard Vibert: Right, good question. So, I would look at a scheme such as this, I would look at people who already need support, perhaps those on income support, those who are not in employment and perhaps aren't students and part-time students and on very low incomes, and I would seek to help those people and not people, who as I said before can afford to pay for a G.P. visit. I think that is unfair, but I am very much in favour of supporting people who need access to the healthcare system and who need help to do so.

JYP: We supported the Community Schools approach that the past Minister Ina Gardiner supported. How do you feel about this and is there an update on it?

Deputy Rob Ward: I thank the Member for the question. Yes I do support that, I think that it's a good idea and schools are integral to our community and all of us, even when I went to school in East London I was very proud of my school and I'm sure there's a great deal of pride from all of you in your school, but they are much more important than that, because they serve as a central place in our community. It is where people meet, and it is a facility that is there that can be used much wider. You've already mentioned about opening schools so that playgrounds are accessible, I think that's a very good idea, they have to make sure that they are maintained and safe of course, but that it a good idea. We also see pre-school clubs, breakfast clubs, afterschool clubs certainly in the school near me during the summer and the holidays there are a lot of clubs that go on and exactly that type of community is one where the wider community that live around schools, it's really, really important that we use those facilities the best that we can. (Continued overleaf)

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

There are two really big reasons for that. One is that you feel at home in your school, so if there is something going on there, you're more likely to access it. If we can use that in the health area, so for example you might have families more likely to access simple health facilities early on, if they're based in schools at the right time. And the other thing is, we already have these facilities built for us so we can use them. It means that some families won't have to go to different parts of the Island, perhaps to access the things that they need. So, I'm very much a supporter of community schools because they are integral to our communities in general.

JYP Supplemental Question: In new developments for Community schools will young people be included in the decisions and how will you do that?

Deputy Rob Ward: I really do thank you for this question because as we develop a new school in the centre of St Helier, which is much needed, one of the parts of that project is to include young people in its design. And I think that's really important because you get ownership of that new building, and that new building can be so integral to that area. It will provide facilities that we need, it will provide enough space for our young people in the centre of St Helier, play space, break out rooms, space so that you can learn in a way that you know you want to and it provides an opportunity for young people in the Island to have the best possible facilities and that says one thing I think from Government, is that we value the young people coming through, and if we can do that in conjunction with you, that's a much better way to do it. Then that value and that respect that we spoke about earlier will be integral, right from the beginning in that building.

JYP: Is the new PSHE curriculum as suggested by the previous Jersey Youth Parliament still set to launch in September?

Deputy Rob Ward: The answer is yes, it is. The PSHE curriculum was not signed off by the previous Minister as there was a meeting that couldn't be attended, and it needed sign off. I attended a meeting last week of the PSHE curriculum group and we are hoping to be signing that off in the coming weeks and months and it should be in place very, very soon.

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

JYP: Is there an update on the bullying policies for schools?

Deputy Rob Ward: So, there is a counter bullying policy in place that has been developed with Jersey Schools. In addition each school has their own anti bullying policy in place, and there's training available for all staff in schools and support sessions for parents and students and they are available for assemblies as well. That's the stock answer, but the reality is that bullying still happens. I was interested to look at the Jersey Children and Young People Survey, which suggested that 21% of young people reported bullying, 29% of females and 21% of males express fear of going to school at least sometimes because of bullying. I would state publicly to you that I don't want you, or any of your friends and colleagues to be fearful of going to school because of bullying and so it's an issue that we have to address. The best way to do that, is I believe through that respect agenda that we have spoken about already and to ensure that when bullying happens you feel safe to go and speak to somebody so that it can be addressed. That is often the brave first step that you have to take as a young person and say, "I'm not happy with the situation and I want some help". It's actually something that can continue into adulthood, I think. There are too many adults who don't talk about their issues enough and go and ask for help, so I would encourage you to make sure that you go and speak to somebody, and if that help is not there, we'll do everything we can to ensure that it's in place.

JYP Supplemental question: Will this new policy affect private schools as well as public schools around the Island.

Deputy Rob Ward: Yes. It absolutely would and should. Private schools do receive States funding, so they and so therefore they have a link to the policies that are there. I also don't think that any school would want to do anything other than have an effective policy, I don't like that word 'policy' actually, that's just something that's on a piece of paper, but an effective approach and action that's taken with bullying in schools. We all know that throughout your school life you don't always get everything right, although I was the perfect student and never did anything wrong in my entire life... apart from not telling the truth perhaps, but we don't all get it right so when you do make a mistake or you experience that you need to have a way out and you need to have a way of dealing with that, that is effective for everyone involved.

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

JYP Supplemental question: Is there any plan for additional training for adults, or stricter punishments for bullies? As a person who has been bullied myself in my school time, over the years I've seen very little change in what punishment bullies have received and I've felt bullying has only gotten stricter. Is there a plan to reduce the effects of bullying generally?

Deputy Rob Ward: I'm sorry to hear that you have experienced or encountered that experience because that's not something that I want to be happening in schools. I think the word punishment itself is a word we need to look at when we're talking about this, I think it's about responsibility for people. People need to understand the responsibility of their actions on another human being. I think that is sometimes the most powerful way of punishing somebody. A detention, a suspension etc, etc, doesn't often deal with behaviour, what often changes behaviour is an understanding of the impact of your behaviour on someone else. I think that's what we have to do with young people so that when their behaviour affects you or others, they understand the effect of that and they understand that what they are doing to another human being is making their life unhappy, and that is not something that we should be doing as human beings.

JYP: There was a play strategy being put together, but our feedback was that we want action not words. Is there and update on this?

Constable Richard Vibert: When we had a recent vote of no confidence, the roles of the Minister for Children and Education split, so we now have two Ministers. I'm the Minister for Children and Families and Deputy Rob Ward is the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, so that's why there's a bit of confusion. Neither of us is actually the Minister responsible for the play strategy, but I'm more than happy to answer this question because the play strategy came about in what is called 'The Bridging Island Plan', and proposal 29 of the Bridging Island Plan said that the Minister for the Environment will work with the Minister for Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture and a Minister for Children and Education to develop a play strategy. So, in fact I think that it probably would now also incorporate the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, so it's probably split between four people. I haven't previously been involved in this however I am more than happy to confirm my commitment to work with the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development, to develop a play strategy and planning guidance. (Continued Overleaf)

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

It's interesting as I heard you talking earlier about Parish Assemblies and the Government, and Parish Assemblies are completely separate from the Island Government. What isn't always recognised is that the majority of play areas in the rural Parishes, so outside of St Helier are actually provided by the Parish not the Government. So the Parishes have, I saw your review actually of my play area in St Peter so thank you very much for visiting that and I was very pleased that you spotted the neurodiversity board, which I actually put up there in multiple languages, and I think it was a very good addition, it was actually the first one in the Island. You were right that it is a small facility, but that is because Parishes don't have access to the large sort of value funds that the Government has. Parishes have to raise their money through the Parish rates and I see Mark Capern who is one of my Parishioners smiling, we're only allowed to raise the amount of money that we need each year, so therefore if we want to build a play area we have to sort of save up for it over a few years and can only get so much out of the rates each year to go towards that, but I know Mark won't mind if we build a Parish park and his rates go up, is that right Mark? So I have absolute commitment to that and in fact in the last 2 or 3 weeks I have been, there are due to be 175 new houses built in St Peters and its only in the last 2 or 3 weeks that the developers who have now acquired that land have come to see me as constable and I have been discussing with them their contribution towards a play area and I am absolutely determined that those developments should fund a play area. We already have one for the younger children which you've seen, but I think that it is very important that there are facilities for the older children as well. I come back to the Parish Assembly because often to create something like that we need to have a Parish vote on it, and you're quite right, it's usually only old people at the Parish Assembly, and I think that we have ourselves to blame for that, because we haven't promoted the assemblies in the past and therefore we only have the older people who are familiar with what they do. But they are important, so anyone here live in St Peter's? Not a single one unfortunately, so it's down to Mark again, oh there are, well I would encourage you to get your parents when there are things like this, it's publicised, it's on Facebook when we have assemblies, I encourage your parents if something that's relevant to you is on the assembly to encourage them to go because that's your way to get play areas outside of St Helier because they very much are provided by the Parishes. So, what has happened so far. A strategy group was set up with members including those I've already mentioned. In May 2023 they met with the Youth Parliament as you had also undertaken some research of your own. The outcome so far is that a draft policy has been created and it was decided that a new additional officer was required to develop and implement the play strategy. I think it's still unfortunately to be decided where that, and who pays for that additional officer, but I can say that the Government, and this is the Government rather than the Parish, have plans to refurbish parks at Les Quennevais, Millenium Park, Springfield and the Long Beach area, which, is that in Grouville? Yes, I see the Constable of Grouville waving, and in addition several of us Constables, myself included, are looking at Parish projects to either extend or create new play areas in their Parishes. And that's work that's going on outside the Government, so a number of us are very committed to doing that. So, is it part of the play strategy? Well, I think it is, the play strategy has influenced the Constables and I welcome any further questions that you have.

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

JYP Supplemental Question: Is the play strategy accessible? We found that it just had a lot of words. Have you considered different learners needs?

Constable Richard Vibert: Absolutely, it's a subject that I'm interested in, and I was, I don't know if I'm the only Constable, but I worked with society in Jersey to put up the first board aimed at neurodiverse young people in that small play area in St Peter. I absolutely would want to include all those people. You know I think it's very important that that is done and I thank you for your question.

JYP: We have previously recommended that every school should have an ARC. What do you think about this?

Deputy Rob Ward: Thank you for this question. An ARC, an additional resource centre is something that is provided to produce the highest level of support for students who need that in school. At the moment ARC's are focused in our 11 to 16 schools, Les Quennevais, Grainville, Haute Valle and Le Rocquier and a number of our primary schools. The question of are they necessary for all schools is a really good question actually. One of the things that I have written in an answer for me, and let's be controversial for a minute, is that actually we don't need ARC's in all schools, but I don't necessarily agree with that. I would suggest that what is needed is that all schools share their provision for children with lots of different needs, and that may mean that all schools have additional resource centres for children when their having a difficult time in that school. And we have to think about all of the children in school, you are obviously very good students and want to learn and you don't want a distraction from your learning, but for some people that distraction is mainstream school and they're struggling. But with the right input and the right support and the right time in the right position, we can get young people to be successful and perhaps get them back into those schools and working well.

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

JYP Supplemental Question: All of the schools you just read out are not private or semi-private schools. Is there any way to supplement these activities and help in private schools?

Deputy Rob Ward: Thank you Sir. Yes, I think what we need to recognise is that all schools need to provide a curriculum for all students. There has been, I think, a focus of need within the 11 to 16 schools because of the selective nature of our schools, and we have to look carefully at that and look at the impact of that. That's why additional resource centres tend to be in the 11 to 16 schools and in certain Primary schools, and as I've said, as we learn more about the needs of young people, the neurodiverse needs of a range of our population and we identify more, I think there will be more need for additional resource centres throughout our schools. They might not be in the same form. They might be in a slightly different form, they might be smaller, they might be one particular area of a school, but I would suggest that, yes that is exactly the type of thing that we need to do, because anything that we can do in school to support young people, to help them succeed is beneficial to us in the long term. We need to remember that every penny that we spend in schools shouldn't be considered as a cost, in my opinion, it should be considered an investment. So if we invest in the right way, then you guys will do really well later on, you earn lots and lots of money and you pay my pension, which is the most important thing perhaps.

JYP Supplemental Question: If an ARC were to be implemented in all schools, how long do you think it would take to be completed?

Deputy Rob Ward: That's a really good question and I don't know the answer to that. I think that's about understanding the need, understanding the growth of that need as we go, through schools and through the population themselves, but what I will say is that schools are very good at identifying that and are very good at being very honest about what they need to do, so I think it's schools who will lead the way on that. They'll come to my department and myself and they'll say "look we have this additional need, lets deal with it", and I'm very open to that, and then I will take that to the Council of Ministers and I will say "There's a need that we have, this is an investment that we need to make" and that's what I'll be pushing for.

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

JYP: Can you update us on any progress that has been made about accessibility and inclusivity at the new Government H.Q? Do you have any pictures or artist impression that we could see?

Constable Andy Jehan: Thank you Sir and I thank the questioner for the question. The Governments disability and inclusion team have contributed to ensuring that the new office is fit for the diversity of its future inhabitants and considers the needs of employees and members of the public with a disability. The accessible sanitary facilities, changing place, lift access, horizontal circulation that includes wheelchair users, adjustable height desks and quiet spaces all show a level of planning that endorses the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Sir, their reflective strategy that improves access, employment opportunities and information provided to disabled Islanders, whilst encouraging a more welcoming and considerate Island culture around disability. The team along with the local charity 'Liberate', and other stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide consideration for the design of the new office. The physical access is relatively simple to achieve in the new build, however there are wider considerations that need a balanced approach, including some of the softer aspects, and what has been delivered is much more neurodiverse friendly than the original proposals. The 'Liberate' audit was valuable and commended the design, but the D and I team also worked with an organisation called 'hidden disabilities' who count over nine hundred conditions. Whilst a solution for one person might be a problem for another and whilst the final product is never going to be perfect for everybody, there is enough flexibility within the design that it should be adequate, and yes we do have drawings that we can circulate.

JYP Supplemental question:

Where would these artists impressions be delivered, and will they be available on social media for the wider public?

Constable Andy Jehan: I've only received them today, Sir, but I can arrange through the Greffe to have them circulated to members of the Youth Parliament ahead of them going to States Members and members of the public.

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

JYP: How many houses that were identified as vacant are still vacant, and how many of those are Government owned?

Deputy Sam Mezec: Thank you for that question. Last year the previous Housing Minister set up an empty homes service where members of the public could report homes to the Government if they believed that they spotted homes that were empty with no good reason. In the first 6 months there were two hundred and sixty cases that were reported, of which one hundred were investigated and it was discovered that there were one hundred and thirty-two properties amongst those investigations that were being unused for not particularly good reasons. When those cases were re-reviewed in October last year it was found that thirty-eight of them had been brought back into use or were in the process of being brought back into use, they were being marketed or being refurbished. Of Government owned homes, at the beginning of the month the number was twenty-one homes, some of those are empty for good reasons, because they are on a site that we are planning to redevelop at some point, so for example the planned Hospital site is one of those places, the old St Saviours Hospital site is another one as well. I have been in office as Housing Minister for 6 weeks so I wasn't involved in the establishing of the empty homes service, but I have to say that I have found it very frustrating seeing so much emphasis on data collection and not enough emphasis on action to get empty homes back into use, which is why I'm looking forward, in the next few weeks, to having a discussion with the Parish Constables to work out what we can do to identify those homes more quickly and put measures in place to incentivise them being out back into use, because we know Jersey has a severe housing crisis, and it is unacceptable to have so many empty homes lying unused when there are so many families that would desperately benefit from living in those homes.

JYP Supplemental question: With this approach looking at just empty homes, could we use empty buildings as placeholders, just for now, to home these people and improve the situation a little bit whilst more homes are being prepared?

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

Deputy Sam Mezec: So, in cases where those homes are fit and safe to be lived in then yes I think we ought to do that, and I am considering writing to the heads of Government Departments that have homes that are not being used at the moment to find out why they are not being used and see if there are solutions that can be found in the meantime. But it is fair to say that many of these homes won't be safe to live in because they have been allowed to become derelict for so long and I think we have very good home building programme through 'Andium Homes' a Government owned housing provider, and we have some sites that have been designated to build family homes on those as well and I think we ought to be providing the best quality homes possible for the people of Jersey at the most affordable prices possible and so we ought to, I think, look at our own building programme to make sure that we can build as quickly as possible for those who need them. But if there are homes that are currently unsafe to live in that probably won't be able to be brought back into use very quickly, but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't consider that a long-term option as well to get as many of them back into use.

JYP Supplemental question: There are people that don't live here and want to come on holiday here, so have you considered Holiday Homes as an option that they could live in?

Deputy Sam Mezec: So that wouldn't necessarily fall to me as my job is to make sure that people who live in Jersey are housed properly, but for tourists coming to Jersey, that would be something that I think the Economic Development Minister would probably be more interested in. But we do have to be very careful that the homes we have in Jersey, we get the best use out of as possible because we know that there are other places where their local communities have experienced great difficulty because some people with homes going spare have realised that they can make more money renting them out for short term lets, or on things like 'Airbnb' and haven't let them to families living in the local area when those homes might be better suited to that, and I know that there are issues in some parts of Wales and Cornwall where there are lots of homes empty for a prolonged period of time because they are allocated for tourists, rather than people in the area who may be desperately struggling to afford a home. So, I think that there is a balance to strike on this, but it's absolutely vital that we ensure that Jersey families have good places to live.

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

JYP Supplemental question: If many houses are used for tourism, such as 'Airbnb' how would you plan to combat that if people are homeless?

Deputy Sam Mezec: So as it stands we don't have any regulations at all on how things like 'Airbnb' can work in Jersey, and that's actually quite worrying, because we don't know that homes that are being let out on 'Airbnb' and others, are actually safe and professionally managed so that's something that has to be looked at, but again that wouldn't fall to me as Minister to look at that because my job is to make sure that people in Jersey are housed rather than to regulate the tourism side of things, but that would certainly be something that I would be willing to raise with the Minister who is responsible for that.

JYP Supplemental Question: In the recent 'VAWG' report there was something that said additional support will be given to rough sleepers in Parade Gardens. Is there any progress on that?

Deputy Sam Mezec: So, I actually had a meeting last week about the 'VAWG' report and what I need to be doing to proceed with implementing those recommendations as that is something that this Government has committed to do. We have some fantastic homelessness charities, including some that are placed very closely to Parade Gardens, and it's fair to say that there isn't much, if any, rough sleeping in Parade Gardens itself, it's more likely to take place in car parks where it's covered. We know that the homelessness charities have been struggling, like many charities in Jersey with fundraising. I have dedicated myself to ensure that I'm regularly meeting with those charities to provide them as much support as possible, but one of the things that we desperately need to do, and we are doing, is building more affordable housing and working with agencies to find the people who are most vulnerable in our community and help them into those homes making sure that they get all of the wraparound support that they need, because people can become homeless for all sorts of reasons, domestic violence can be one of those reasons, mental health problems, losing a job and so losing your income, so it's about more than just giving someone a set of keys and a home, it's also got to be about the wraparound support that we give them as well, and that is one of my top 3 priorities that I set when I took over as Minister for Housing, which is to address the plight of homelessness in our society, because we are a very wealthy society and we shouldn't have the levels of homelessness that we do here. We can do better than that.

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

JYP: What do you think could make young people stay in Jersey?

Deputy Binet: I'd like to thank the member for the question. I think there are a number of ways that we can encourage young people to stay over in Jersey. Firstly, by increasing the housing supply, because that will help to reduce both the purchase price of property and the cost of renting. In addition, we need to focus on bringing down the cost of living, this would include initiatives like the introduction of the living wage and developing a more diverse economy, which should hopefully make new jobs more interesting than they are at the moment. It stands to reason that we need a very good health service and of course a decent hospital will help. In addition to that, more sports facilities and recreation facilities and I'm aware that our infrastructure minister here is currently doing a lot of good work in that regard and hopefully there will be some good news to come out in the next few months. There's currently a lot of reasons why people would want to stay in any event, in so far as Jersey is much safer than a lot of other places, we've got a decent countryside and we've got lovely beaches, but I fully accept that we've got to do more than that to encourage our young people to stay here.

JYP Supplemental question: Do you worry about young people living in Jersey and the statistics that we presented earlier about young people leaving?

Deputy Tom Binet: Yes, I certainly do, I think everyone in the States Assembly is worried about it. We've got an ageing population and we need more young people rather than less so I think we all recognise the problem and we're very keen to tackle it.

JYP: Will you support the idea of everyone being only a 5-minute walk from a park?

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

Constable Andy Jehan: Thank you Sir and I thank the member for the question. The provision of open space needs to be proportionate to the community served by it and provided in locations that are accessible. It's recognised that open spaces serve a variety of functions and that local provision, and specific needs are likely to vary in different part of the Island. Through the planning process, and particularly the Island plan, we have already undertaken work to identify and protect existing open space in the Island and we are working on a target in town of having access to open space within 6 minutes of everybody walking at 5km an hour. The Island plan sets out a policy framework that seeks to do a number of things related to the provision of access to open space. It protects existing open space and its loss will only be permitted in exceptional circumstance, it requires large scale developments of ten or more homes to provide adequate open space on site as an integral part of the development proposal and requires residential developments of five or more homes to provide space for children to play on site. Sir, we heard earlier about the fact that there was no public park in St Clements. I can advise members that I am meeting with the Constable of St Clements on Thursday to discuss a possible facility in that Parish. I'm also working with the planning minister to make it easier for play areas to be identified, developed or re-developed. I have heard, and I'm sure other colleagues have heard, loud and clear about the need to consult with youngsters when it comes to play spaces. Consultations are due to take place later this year on the Millenium and Long Beach parks and will now include young people.

JYP: Is there any effort to advertise new Government positions that affect young people, directly to young people? Have any members of the Government made considerations about getting messages to young people or have any ministers attempted to communicate ideas to young people in the wider community?

Deputy Tom Binet: Sir, I thank the member for the question. It's clear that involving young people in decision making is vitally important for the future of the Island and I think young people should always feel that their voices are being heard. There are a number of ways that Government can communicate with children and young people, the Youth Parliament plays an important role, as does the Youth Assembly, that give access to ministers of the Government. Another vehicle for engagement is through the school council network and in addition the States Assembly has set up a political awareness and education subcommittee who's specific role is to encourage an interest in politics and working with young people. I think the question initially asked if there was any effort to advertise new Government propositions that affect young people and I think possibly the most effective way to engage young people is simply by making better use of social media channels that younger people tend to use.

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

JYP: What is actually happening about the hospital? Do you think it will be built before our youngest member, who is thirteen, turns eighteen?

Deputy Tom Binet: This is an interesting one. Its possibly the case that some of the younger members here were born after the debate about a new hospital all started. I'm pleased to say that I think we've got a unity or purpose now amongst Assembly members. The site at Overdale is currently under demolition, I think we're halfway through the demolition process that should be completed throughout this year by June or July time, we should be ready to have a full business case and a set of plans ready to go to planning. If all goes well the plans should be passed by Christmas and lets just hope they are, after which during the course of 2025, we will have a contract in place with a developer and construction should be under way by the end of next year, so the simple answer to the question is, yes you should have that hospital ready by the time you're eighteen.

JYP Supplemental question: Do you think prolonged decisions like this make young people lose trust in the Government?

Deputy Tom Binet: Yes.

Bailiff: You could ask a supplemental. You could, for example ask, "in what way".

JYP Supplemental question:
In what way?

Deputy Tom Binet: I think the fact that it has been going on for eleven years probably speaks for itself.

Question Time

Questions to the States Assembly

JYP Supplemental question: Do you think that the surrounding area would also need to be affected for the hospital as the roads around Overdale are known to be quite narrow for cars?

Deputy Tom Binet: It's undoubted that there will be an effect on the surrounding area, but it's likely to be a lot less than it would have been otherwise under the old hospital programme. If my understanding is correct ninety percent of the footfall that would have gone to Overdale under the 'our hospital' proposal is now going to stay in town in Gloucester Street and Kensington Place.

JYP Supplementary question: Why has it taken so long?

Deputy Tom Binet: I don't know if I'm allowed to say this, but can someone else tell me?

Bailiff: I think what the minister is trying to say is that, that is a very complicated answer and it would require something of a history lesson I suspect, which is outside of the realms of what we can do.

JYP Supplementary question: If there are no funds already going to the development of a new hospital, would funds be taken from other places?

Deputy Tom Binet: No, the intention is not to take funds from elsewhere. The treasury are working on funding, that they will be developing over the next 6 months, but there isn't an intention to take money from elsewhere.

JYP Members

JYP 2022-2024 began with a residential in September 2022. There have been many many young people that have contributed to the work of the JYP and we congratulate all of our members who have been on in for varying lengths of time, all have contributed in one way or another.

Gold Members (18 months)

- Elena Baker
- Iza Bochenska
- Shaurya Cahun
- Scarlett Camacho
- Molly Davies
- Kate Dennison-Herbert
- Maria Encarnacao
- Yasmin Forbes
- Cassandra Graham
- Poppy Kirk
- Leala Mealville
- Edward Pirouet
- Caleb Simon
- Declan Skeels
- Ella Todd
- Storm Wickenden
- Lottie Willmott

Silver Members (12 months)

- Thomas Dobrowski
- Emilie Eastwood
- Lexi Farrell
- Katie Gilson
- Oliver Matete
- Emily McCluskey
- Christa McCourt
- Shruti Shah
- Harry Skowron-Bachelet
- Calista Walsh

Bronze Memebers (6 months)

- Rebeca Apostu
- Tino Bandu
- Zuzanna Czerwinska
- Perry Elias-Rees
- Chloe Martindale
- Daisy Morel
- Petra Veira
- Marta Zamoyska

Staff Support

- Lisa Mansell
- Jamie Dyer
- Anna Shipley

+ numerous other staff from Jersey Youth Service throughout the 18 months



In the News

Over the past 18 months Jersey Youth Parliament has featured in the local press multiple times which has helped to amplify the voices of young people and spread the message.

- [Campaigns Selected](#) (Jersey Evening Post, October 6th 2022)
- [First States Chamber Presentation](#) (Bailliwick Express, November 30th 2022)
- [Objections to the Waterfront Development](#) (Bailliwick Express, February 14th 2023)
- [90% of Teenagers say they may leave Jersey](#) (Jersey Evening Post, September 28th 2023)
- [Young People have their say in St Martin](#) (States Assembly Website, November 21st 2023)
- [Guernsey Youth Forum Visit](#) (Bailliwick Express, December 5th 2023)

Useful Links and References

We have done a lot of research to help us with our campaigns and here are some links that you may find useful.

- Bailiwick Express (12/03/2024) [Police put under pressure by small group of young offenders](#)
- [Gibb, S \(2024\) Public Voice: Common Ground: https://publicvoicecommonground.co.uk/](#)
- [Government of Jersey Sunflower Lanyards](#)
- [Government of Jersey \(2024\) Violence Against Women and Girls](#)
- [Jersey Law Jersey Discrimination Law](#)
- Jersey Youth Parliament (2023) [Right to Play Report](#)
- Jersey Youth Parliament (2023) [Housing Report](#)
- Jersey Youth Parliament (2023) [British Irish Council Report](#)
- Jersey Youth Parliament (2023) [Diversity & Inclusion Report](#)
- Youth friendly spaces examples: [Project for Public Spaces, Freemantle, Australia, Youth Factory - Merida, Spain, Minecraft](#)
- Youth participation in town planning and the build environment examples: [Ebbsfleet, Greater Cambridge. Matt + Fiona, We Made That, Accessibility planning](#)
- Jersey Youth Parliament (2024) [LGBTQ+ Parents Guide](#)
- [Lundy, L \(2014\) Lundy Model of Participation: https://www.qub.ac.uk/Research/case-studies/childrens-participation-lundy-model.html](#)
- [Make Space for Girls](#)
- United Nations of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) [https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/](#)

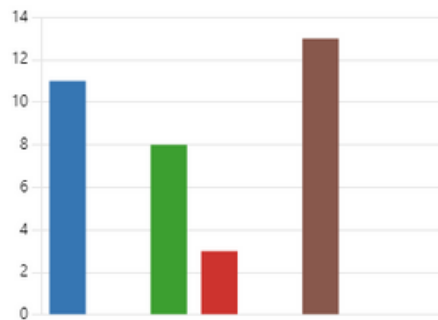
Appendix

Perceptions of Teenagers in Public Spaces - Teenager Survey

5. Do you think that people react negatively towards seeing teenagers in public spaces?

[More Details](#)

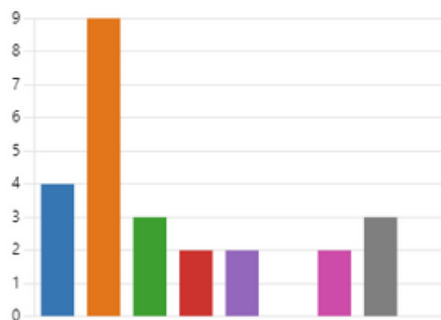
Yes	11
No	0
Maybe / Sometimes	8
Depends on the gender of the t...	3
Depends on the gender of the t...	0
Depends on the number of teen...	13
Depends on the number of teen...	0
Other	0



6. How often do you and your friends meet and spend time in public spaces?

[More Details](#)

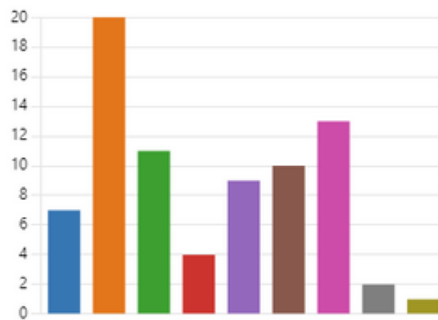
1 out of 7 days	4
2 out of 7 days	9
3 out of 7 days	3
4 out of 7 days	2
5 out of 7 days	2
6 out of 7 days	0
7 out of 7 days	2
Less often than this	3
Other	0



7. Which of these public spaces do you and your friends spend time in?

[More Details](#)

Parks	7
Town	20
Entertainment facilities such as t...	11
Parish Spaces/Amenities	4
Beaches	9
Woods or nature settings	10
Youth Clubs	13
Active spaces such as Jump Jersey	2
Other	1



Appendix

Perceptions of Teenagers in Public Spaces - Teenager Survey

8. In your opinion, are parks meant for teenagers?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	5
● No	5
● Not all, but some	9
● Most but not all	6



9. Do you think that any spaces are designed with teenagers in mind?

[More Details](#)

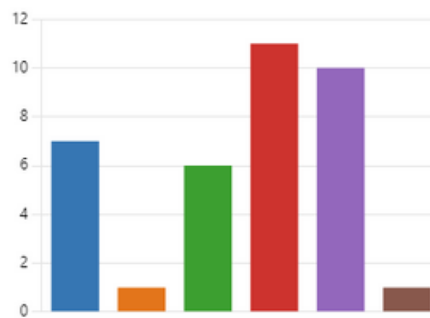
● Town	12
● Parks	1
● Entertainment facilities such as t...	10
● Active spaces such as Jump Jersey	4
● Other	8



10. Do you think that social media has a negative impact on teenagers?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	7
● No	1
● Maybe - Depends on the age of...	6
● Maybe - Depends on the social ...	11
● Maybe - Depends on the type o...	10
● Other	1



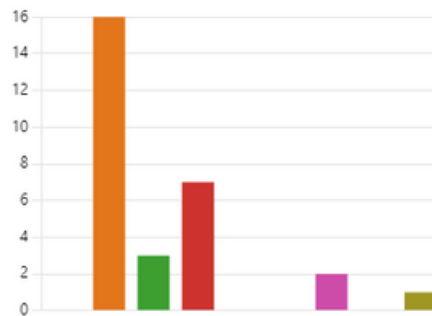
Appendix

Perceptions of Teenagers in Public Spaces - Adult Survey

5. Would you react negatively towards seeing teenagers in public spaces?

[More Details](#)

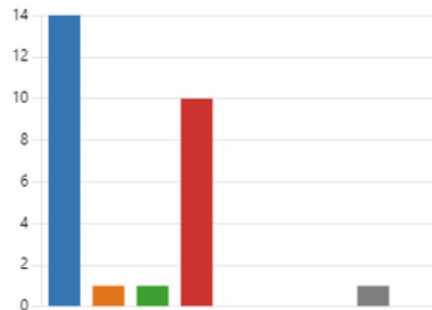
Yes	0
No	16
Maybe / Sometimes	3
If given reason or provocation t...	7
Depends on the gender of the t...	0
Depends on the gender of the t...	0
Depends on the number of teen...	2
Depends on the number of teen...	0
Other	1



6. Would you react positively towards seeing teenagers in public spaces?

[More Details](#)

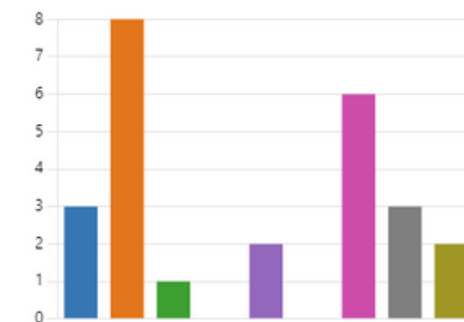
Yes	14
No	1
Maybe / Sometimes	1
If given reason to react positively	10
Depends on the gender of the t...	0
Depends on the gender of the t...	0
Depends on the number of teen...	0
Depends on the number of teen...	1
Other	0



7. How often do you interact with teenagers socially?

[More Details](#)

1 out of 7 days	3
2 out of 7 days	8
3 out of 7 days	1
4 out of 7 days	0
5 out of 7 days	2
6 out of 7 days	0
7 out of 7 days	6
Less often than this	3
Other	2



Appendix

Perceptions of Teenagers in Public Spaces - Adult Survey

8. In your opinion, are parks meant for teenagers?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	5
● No	5
● Not all, but some	9
● Most but not all	6



9. Do you think that any spaces are designed with teenagers in mind?

[More Details](#)

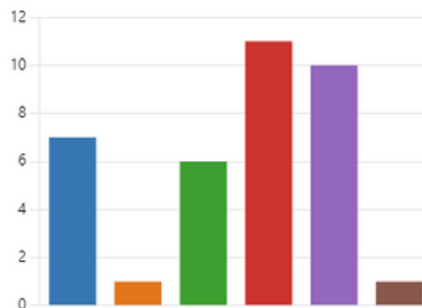
● Town	12
● Parks	1
● Entertainment facilities such as t...	10
● Active spaces such as Jump Jersey	4
● Other	8



10. Do you think that social media has a negative impact on teenagers?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	7
● No	1
● Maybe - Depends on the age of...	6
● Maybe - Depends on the social ...	11
● Maybe - Depends on the type o...	10
● Other	1



11. In your opinion, are parks meant for teenagers?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

● Yes	12
● No	1
● Not all, but some	6
● Most but not all	5
● Other	1



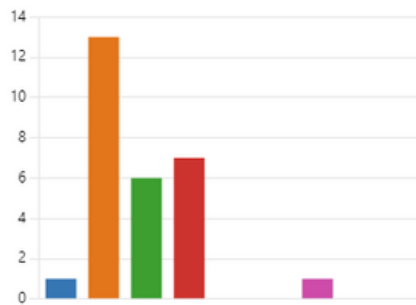
Appendix

Perceptions of Teenagers in Public Spaces - Adult Survey

12. Would you feel intimidated or react negatively if a group of teenagers were present in the same space as you?

[More Details](#)

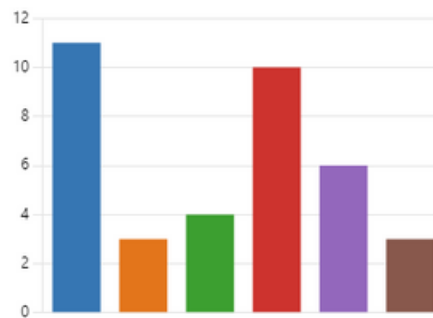
● Yes	1
● No	13
● Maybe / sometimes	6
● If given reason or provocation t...	7
● Depends on the gender of the t...	0
● Depends on the gender of the t...	0
● Depends on the number of teen...	1
● Depends on the number of teen...	0
● Other	0



13. Do you think that any of the following spaces are specifically tailored towards teenagers?

[More Details](#)

● None	11
● Town	3
● Parks	4
● Entertainment facilities such as t...	10
● Active spaces such as Jump Jersey	6
● Other	3



14. What is your reaction to seeing groups of teenagers in parks?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

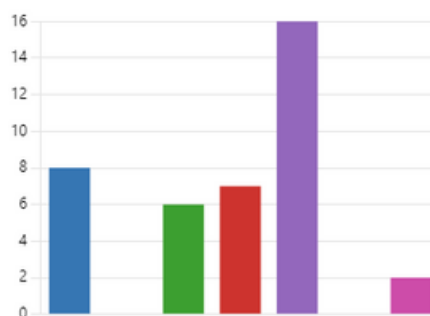
● Positive - I assume that their act...	10
● Negative - I assume that their a...	2
● Neutral	10
● Other	3



15. Do you think that social media is a negative influence on teenagers?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	8
● No	0
● Maybe - Depends on the age of...	6
● Maybe - Depends on the social ...	7
● Maybe - Depends on the type o...	16
● Neutral	0
● Other	2



JERSEY YOUTH PARLIAMENT

THANK YOU

FOR READING, WE WELCOME
YOUR FEEDBACK



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PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY

JYP MEMBERS AND STAFF SEPT 2022-MARCH 2024