

# **SURVEY RESULTS: PARTICIPATION AND CO-CREATION IN THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM**



# INTRODUCTION

This report forms part of Peer Power Youth's 'Co-creation and Participation in the Youth Justice System' project, commissioned by the YJB. The objectives of the project were to:

- Explore participation in the youth justice context.
- Identify examples of good participatory practice, methods, techniques and meaningful engagement with children.
- Develop resources for Youth Justice Services (YJS) to help them develop participatory approaches that are bespoke to different elements of the youth justice system.
- Identify what lessons can be learned and disseminated.

Phase 1 of the project was a survey to determine the nature and extent of participatory practice in YJS across England and Wales. The survey was conducted by Clearview Research and was co-created with children who have lived experience of justice, social care and health services and are currently engaged with Peer Power.

This report shares the results from the survey and is best read alongside the 'Co-creation and Participation in the YJS report which contains the full methodology and findings from the project and outlines recommendations for the sector along with a resource pack.

The survey received a total of 75 responses. 65 are from individual YJS. The highlights below are inclusive of the 75 responses due to the different roles and opinions within a YJS.

Please note: The survey questions use the term 'young people' to mean children under age 18 (United Nations Convention On The Rights Of The Child, 1989). This reflects the language of the Peer Power Experts who co-created the survey questions.

# ABOUT US



Peer Power are an empathy-led charity that heals trauma and adversity through caring relationships and transforms youth services and systems by supporting their young partners to influence and have their voices heard.



ClearView Research Ltd (CVR) is an audience insight and strategy agency. It is a specialist in working on research, evaluation and engagement projects with young people, minority ethnic groups, culturally diverse communities, people with protected characteristics and those who often go unheard.



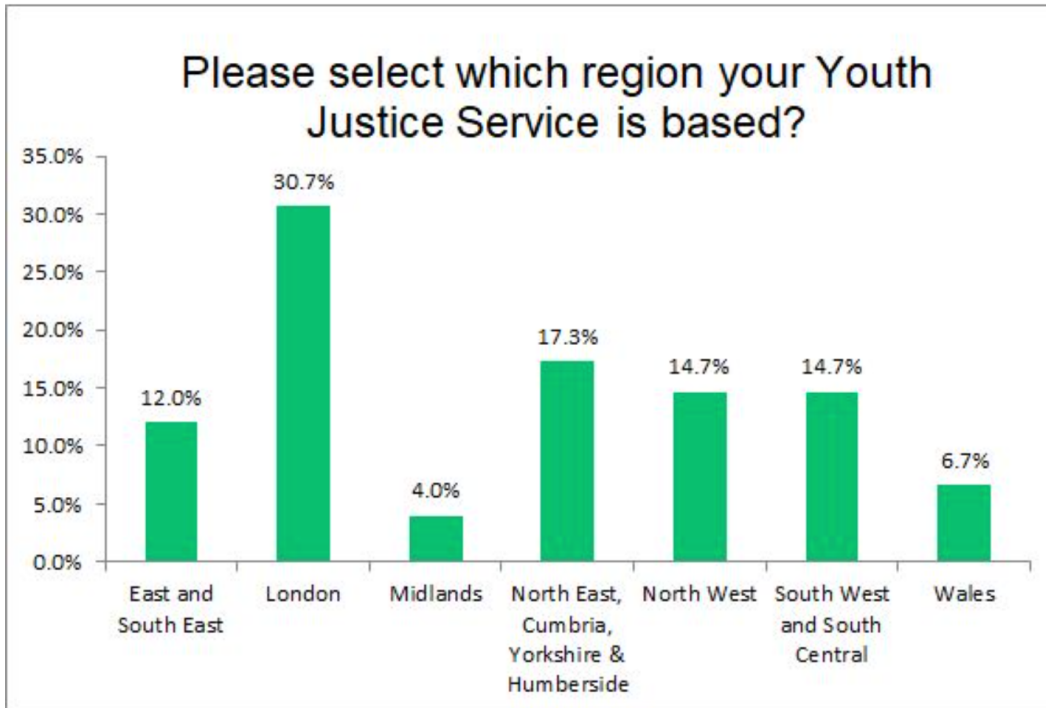
The Youth Justice Board are a non-departmental public body responsible for overseeing the youth justice system in England and Wales. Their vision is for a youth justice system that sees children as children, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths.

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# ARE YOU THE LEAD PERSON FOR PARTICIPATION?



Over half of the people who responded to the survey were not the lead person for participation.

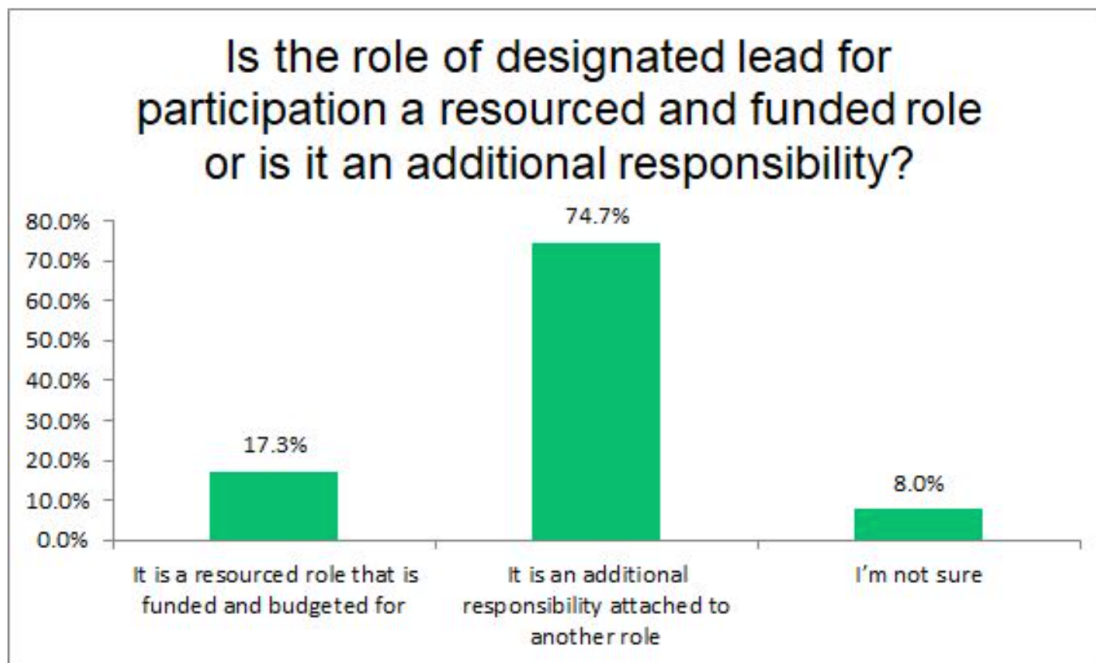
- Yes 42.3%
- No 57.3%

Of those who are not the lead person; the majority of respondents said that they do have a designated lead for participation at their YJS.

- Yes 58.1%
- No 39.5%
- Not sure 2.4%

The majority (74.7%) said that the role of designated lead for participation is an additional responsibility attached to another role.

***“I think empathy and co-creation is the core of what we do and how we work with young people.”***



## **ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 5, HOW WOULD YOU RANK YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES IN INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS?**

On average, respondents ranked their understanding of participatory approaches in involving young people in their decision making process as 3.7 out of 5.

- 1.3% ranked Very Poor (1 star)
- 2.7% ranked Poor (2 stars)
- 34.7% ranked Adequate (3 stars)
- 50.7% ranked Good (4 stars)
- 10.7% ranked Excellent (5 stars)

## **ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 5, HOW WOULD YOU RANK YOUR YJS IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES IN INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DECISION MAKING?**

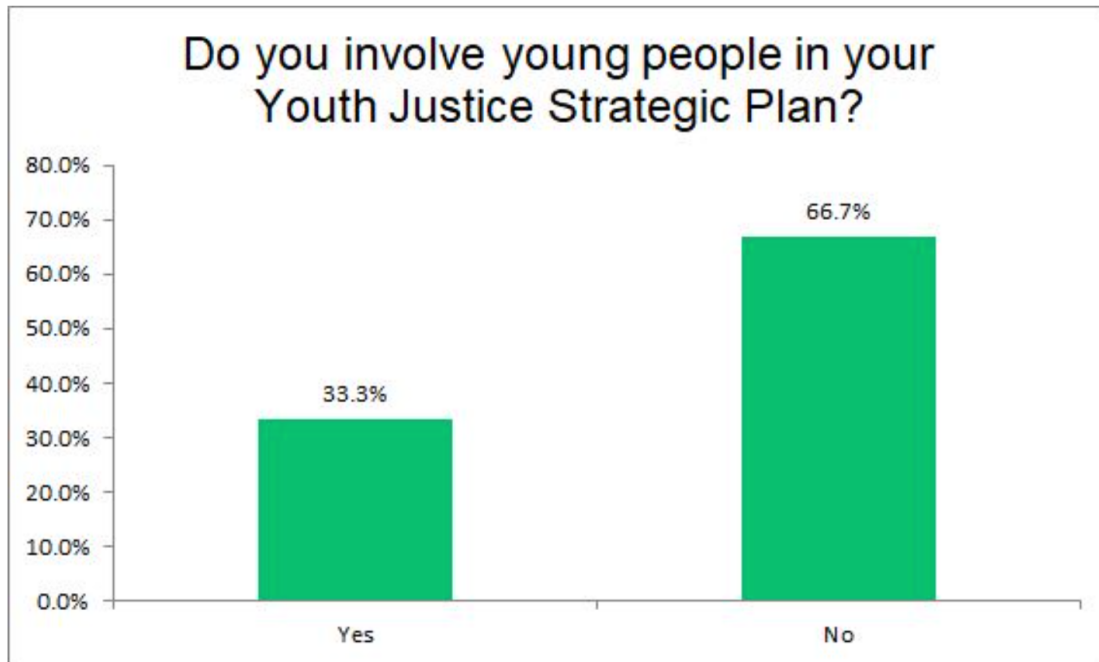
On average, respondents ranked their YJS implementation of participatory approaches in involving young people in the decision making as 3 out of 5.

- 6.7% ranked Very Poor (1 star)
- 16% ranked Poor (2 stars)
- 48% ranked Adequate (3 stars)
- 26.7% ranked Good (4 stars)
- 2.7% ranked Excellent (5 stars)

# WHERE ARE THEY ON THEIR JOURNEY?

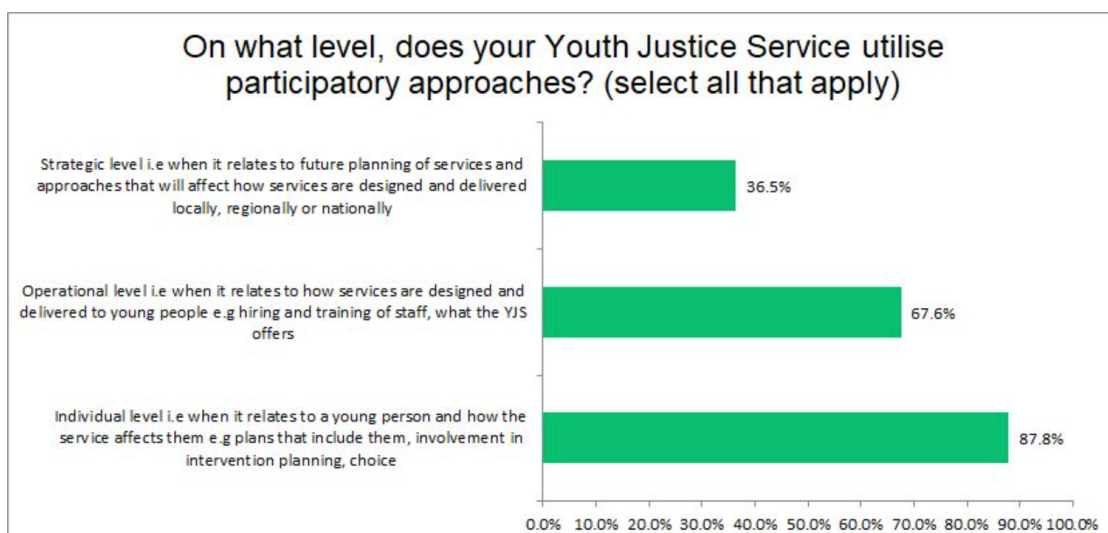
Do you involve young people in your Youth Justice Strategic Plan?

● Over two thirds (66.7%) of youth justice services do not involve young people in their youth justice strategic plan.



# DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CO-PRODUCTION, CO-CREATION, ENGAGEMENT, CONSULTATION AND INFORMING WHEN IT COMES TO PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES?

- Yes, I am confident that I know the difference 25.3%
- Yes, I think that I know the difference 68%
- I don't know 4%
- No, I do not know the difference 2.7%



## **FROM AN INDIVIDUAL LEVEL, SELECT THE RELEVANT LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS AT THE YJS? N=65 (87.8%)**

- Co-production – young people and staff work together from the beginning to plan and deliver the services that affect them (26.2%)
- Co-creation – young people are only involved at certain stages of the planning and delivery of the services that affect them (47.7%)
- Engagement – young people are given opportunities to express their views and might be able to influence some decisions about the services that affect them (61.3%)
- Consultation – young people are asked to give their opinion e.g through surveys but do not have the opportunity to influence decisions about the services that affect them (61.5%)
- Informing – young people are simply told about the decision and its effect on the services that affect them (6.2%)
- Mixture of the above (49.2%)

## **FROM AN OPERATIONAL LEVEL, SELECT THE RELEVANT LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS AT THE YJS? N=50 (67.6%)**

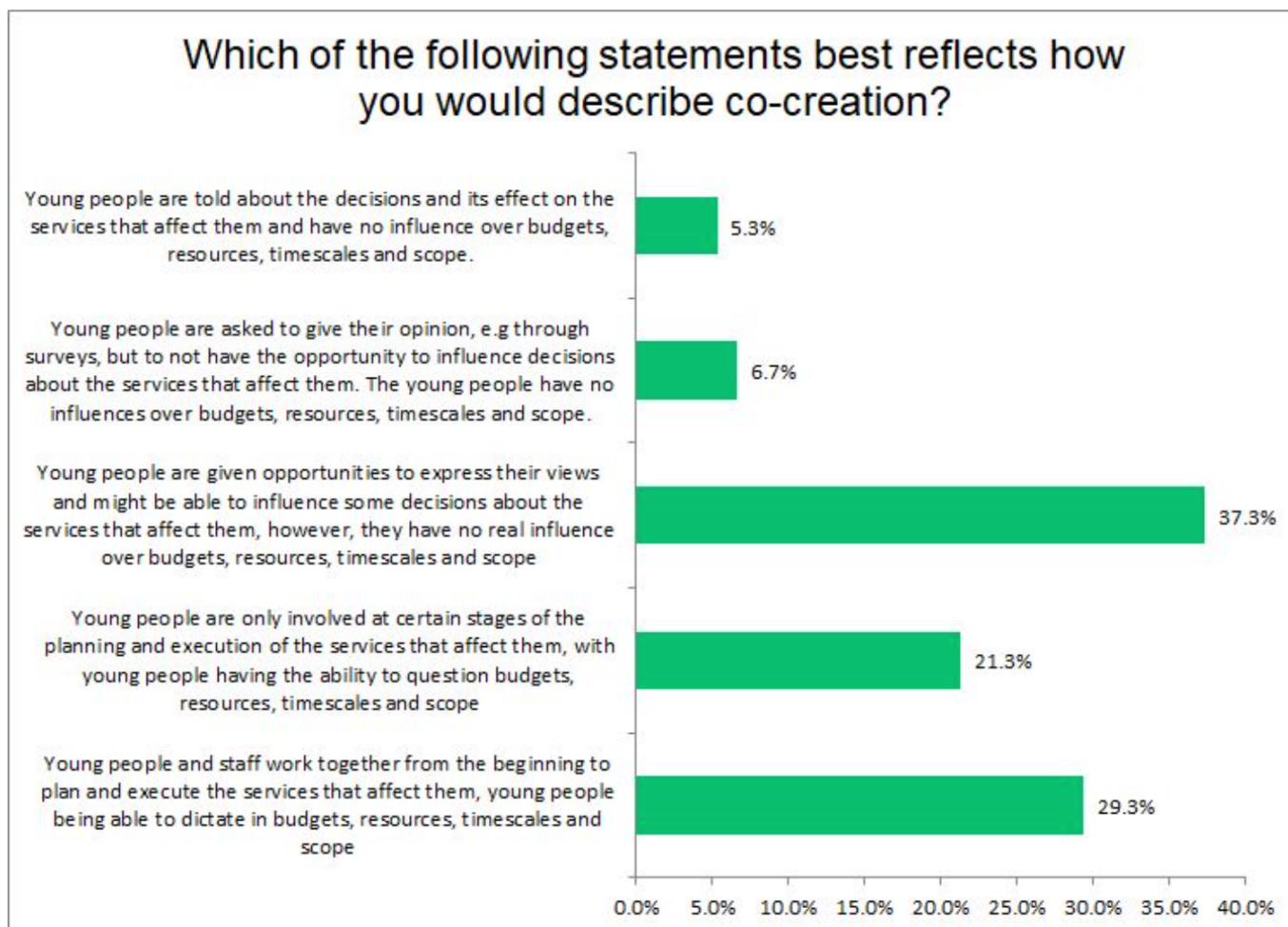
- Co-production – young people and practitioners work together from the beginning to plan and deliver the services that affect them (8%)
- Co-creation – young people are only involved at certain stages of the planning and delivery of the services that affect them (14%)
- Engagement – young people are given opportunities to express their views and might be able to influence some decisions about the services that affect them (28%)
- Consultation – young people are asked to give their opinion e.g through surveys but do not have the opportunity to influence decisions about the services that affect them (10%)
- Informing – young people are simply told about the decision and its effect on the services that affect them (4%)
- Mixture of the above (36%)

## FROM AN STRATEGIC LEVEL, SELECT THE RELEVANT LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS AT THE YJS? N=27 (36.5%)

- Co-production – young people and staff work together from the beginning to plan and deliver the services that affect them (14.8%)
- Co-creation – young people are only involved at certain stages of the planning and delivery of the services that affect them (37%)
- Engagement – young people are given opportunities to express their views and might be able to influence some decisions about the services that affect them (51.9%)
- Consultation – young people are asked to give their opinion e.g through surveys but do not have the opportunity to influence decisions about the services that affect them (22.2%)
- Informing – young people are simply told about the decision and its effect on the services that affect them (3.7%)
- Mixture of the above (44.4%)

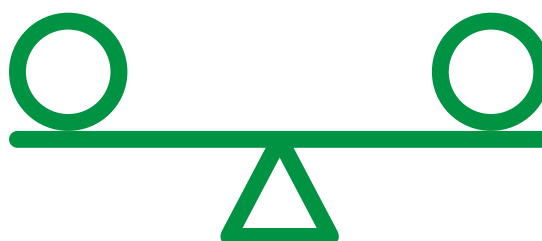


## WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS BEST REFLECTS HOW YOU WOULD DESCRIBE CO-CREATION?



Over three quarters (76.4%) of respondents tended to agree overall with the statement: "I think the power dynamic / relationship between a YJS practitioners and young person affects what degree of engagement and participation e.g co-creation versus consultation can take place"

- 33.3% Strongly Agree
- 44% Agree
- 14.7% Neither Agree nor Disagree
- 6.7% Disagree
- 1.3% Strongly Disagree

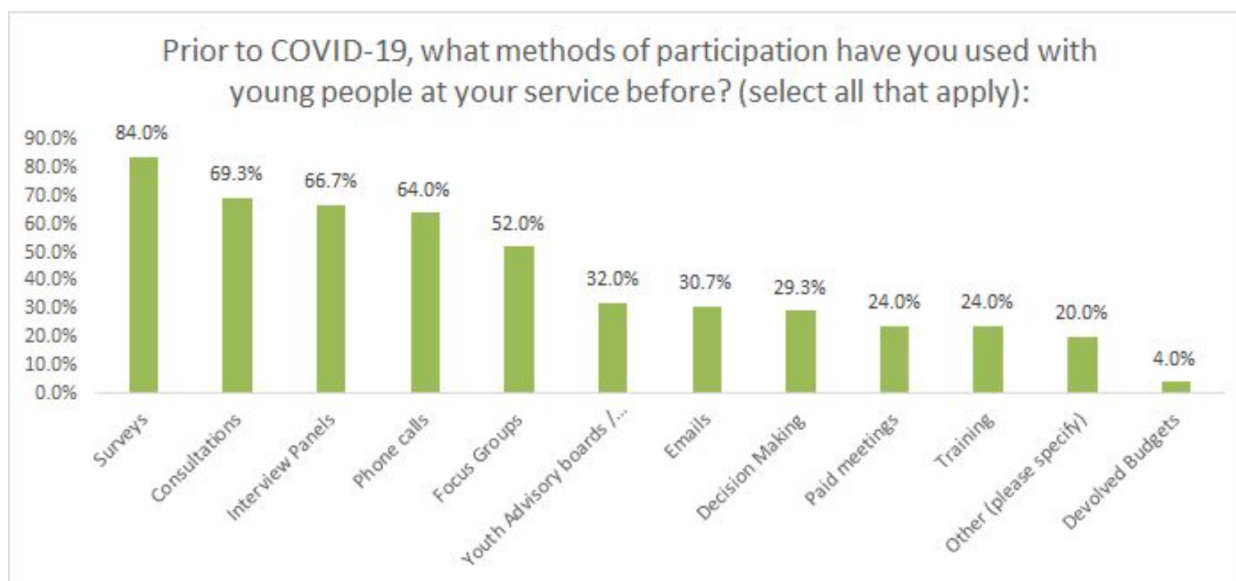




# METHODS AND EVALUATION

The three most popular methods of participation YJS have used with young people before Covid-19 were:

- Surveys (84%)
- Consultations (69.3%)
- Interview Panels (66.7%)



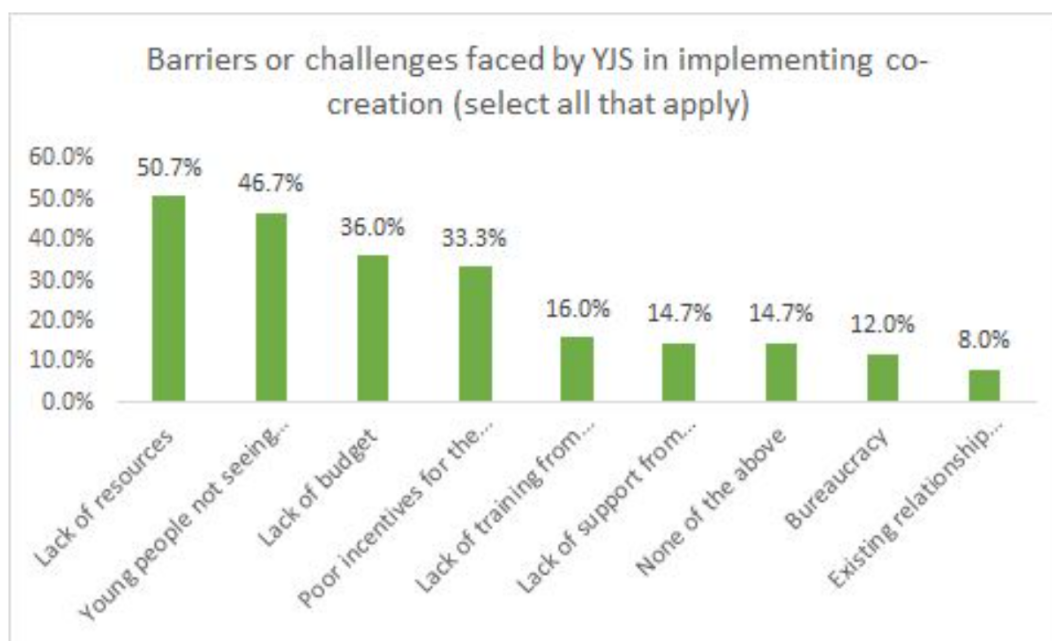
- Over half of YJS do not evaluate (57.3%) how effective their participatory approaches are (i.e how the engagement with young people has gone and the impact of involving them).
- Of the YJS who do evaluate (42.7%) how effective their participatory approaches are, 87.5% of evaluations are conducted internally and 12.5% are conducted externally.
- Of the YJS who do evaluate (42.7%) how effective their participatory approaches are, 81.2% gather feedback about how young people experienced their involvement in participation whilst 18.7% do not.
- Of the 81.2% (N=26) who gather feedback about how young people experienced their involvement in participation, 100% reported that they have ever implemented their suggestions.

Nearly 8 in 9 (85.3%) YJS feel as though they need more support for developing participation and co-creation.

## WHAT BARRIERS OR CHALLENGES DO YJS FACE IN IMPLEMENTING CO-CREATION?

The three most selected barriers or challenges respondents felt that YJS face in implementing co-creation are:

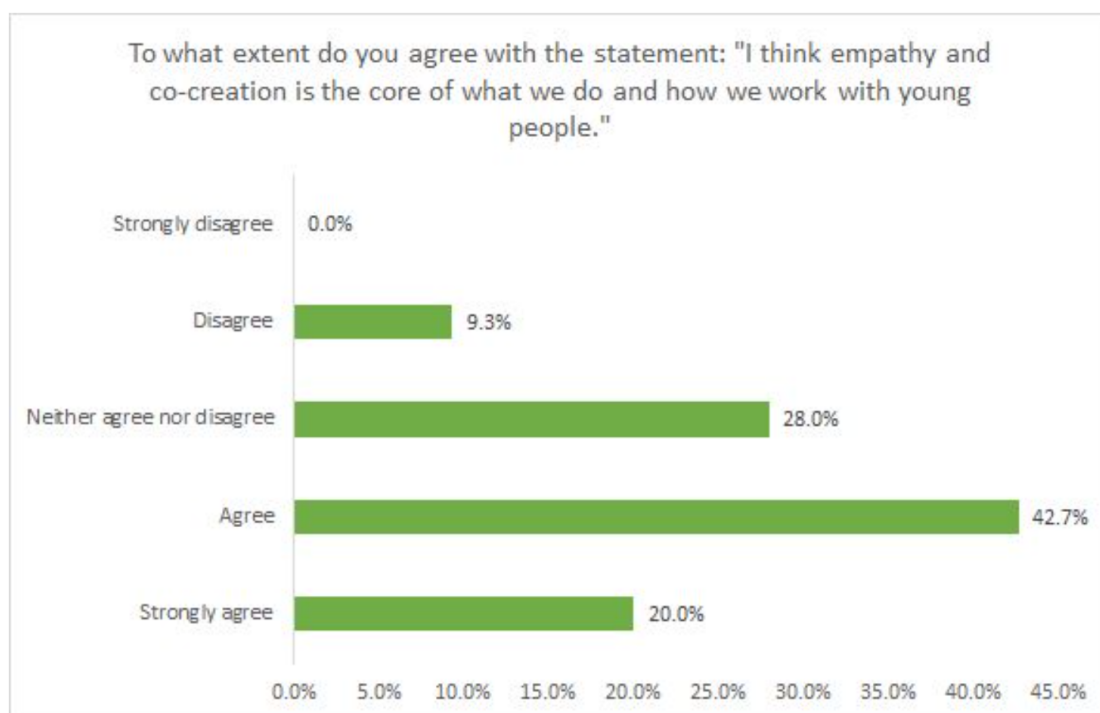
- Lack of resources (50.7%)
- Young people not seeing the value in engaging (46.7%)
- Lack of budget (36%)



## ATTITUDES TO CO-CREATION

- 5.3% said they feel 'extremely supported' from strategic partners when implementing co-creation.
- 37.3% said they feel 'very supported' from strategic partners when implementing co-creation.
- 42.7% said they feel 'somewhat supported' from strategic partners when implementing co-creation.
- 12% said they feel 'slightly supported' from strategic partners when implementing co-creation.
- 2.7% said they feel 'not at all supported' from strategic partners when implementing co-creation.

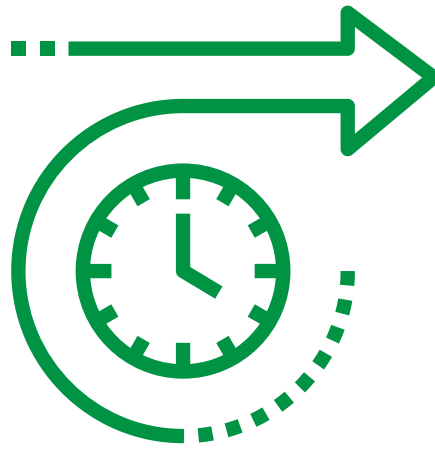
The majority of respondents (62.7%) tended to agree overall with the statement: "I think empathy and co-creation is the core of what we do and how we work with young people."



## TRAINING

- In the last two years, over 5 in 6 respondents said that they have not (81.3%) received any training on co-production in the last 2 years.
- In the last two years, over half of respondents said that they have not (53.3%) received any training on utilising empathy when working with young people.
- In the last two years, the majority of respondents have received (77.3%) diversity training.
- Most respondents (93.8%) said that they had not had any training cancelled due to Covid-19.

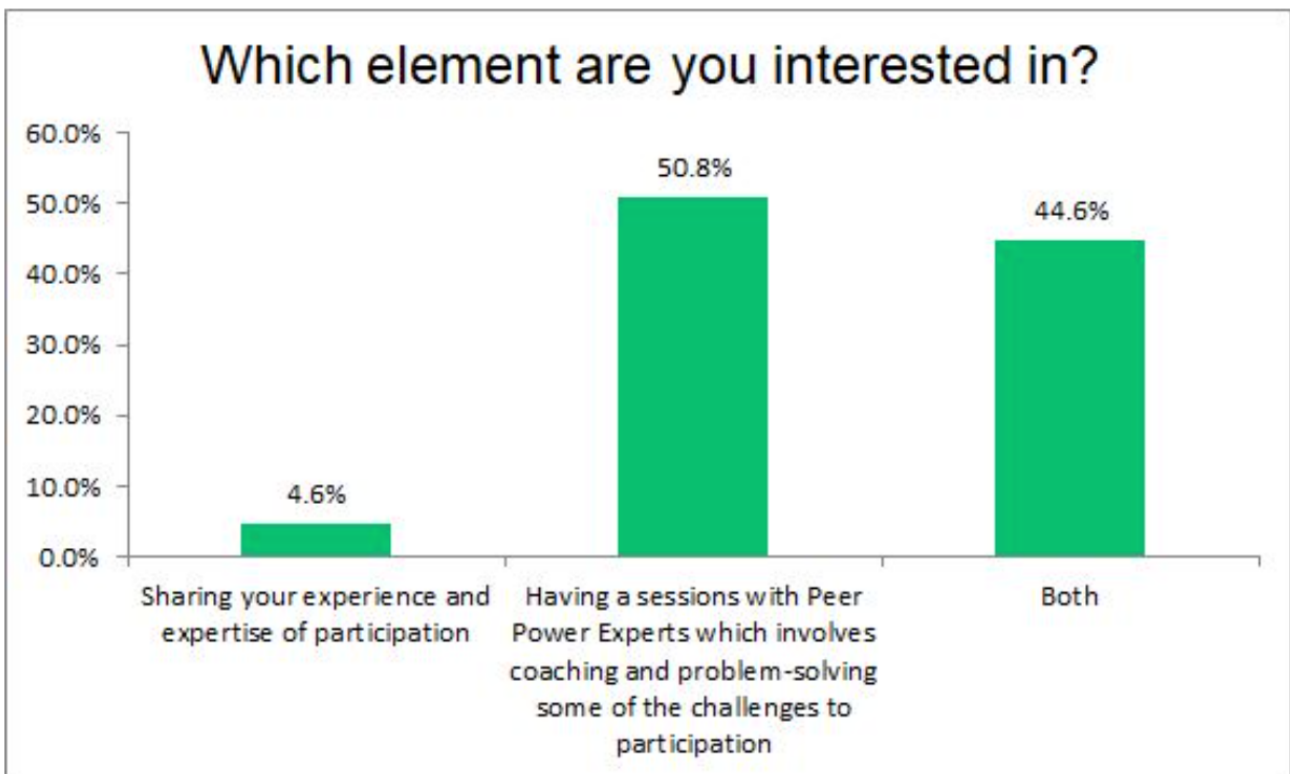




## FUTURE THINKING

●85.1% of respondents said that they would be interested in taking part Peer Power sessions.

This helped to identify the YJS that took part in the follow up sessions with Peer Power Experts, as part of the second phase of the project.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**ClearView Research:** Survey report authors: Burphy Zumu, Sandra Hicks

**Peer Power Youth:** Aaliyah, Alexys, Bashiie, Jack, Parishma, Ria, Yolanda, Joshua, Anne-Marie Douglas, Colin Falconer, Samantha Burns, Sean Creaney, Nicola Kidston (co-ordination), Laura Kennedy & Jake Edwards (both for communications and design)

**Grateful thanks to:** all the practitioners and managers from the Youth Justice Services across England and Wales who responded to the survey, and the children, managers and practitioners who gave their time in Deep Dive sessions and telephone interviews. Without your views, experiences and opinions we would not have the extremely helpful insights to develop and produce resources for the project.

We'd like to thank the Youth Justice Board for commissioning Peer Power Youth to deliver this project in partnership, and in particular special thanks to Mamps Gill, Nicola Kefford and Sue Thomas at the YJB for their continued support, passion and encouragement, and to Stephanie Roberts-Bibby, thank you for listening.

## THANK YOU



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