

# Initial Summary of Findings from the National Youth Sector Census

First Report: November 2021

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# Initial Summary of Findings from the National Youth Sector Census

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## Introduction:

In recent years there has been much new data relevant to the youth sector and young people, including surveys (many undertaken throughout Covid-19), academic studies, and evaluations. Increasingly they invite us to view youth provision through a multi-faceted lens and to understand that measures of economic value are not necessarily compatible with or reflective of social value. This has been highlighted throughout Covid-19 where the importance and value of youth work has grown for young people and their communities as the range of support offered has increased.

However, these data are varied in form and content, focus on thematic and topical areas of interest, and are often limited in scale. We have therefore been unable to extrapolate findings to a national level due to a lack of systematisation, standardisation or understanding about the population of providers - although some national uniformed organisations do hold their own data sets.

The data at a national level is almost exclusively limited to local authority and statutory provision and has little granularity. Most notable are annual spending returns across children's services which each upper-tier or unitary local authority produces for the Department for Education, and which include 'services for young people'. There are also infrequently delivered surveys by the Local Government Association which indicate how many people are employed in local authority services as youth and community workers. These are important data to identify trends, but lack detail on what services are provided, where they are provided, who is delivering them, or who is benefitting.

On the one hand, then, we have increasing amounts of granular detail on mostly voluntary and community sector youth provision, but no way of extrapolating it to the whole population; and on the other we have nation-wide data on statutory provision, but without granular detail. These two gaps (between the granular and general, and between statutory and non-statutory provision) have restricted the sector's ability to make more informed decisions for funding, operational, and strategic purposes, and for guiding further research.

With funding support from Youth Futures Foundation the National Youth Agency (NYA) has gone some way towards better bridging these gaps through delivery of the first stage of the National Youth Sector Census; collecting the largest dataset on youth provision to date and mapping tens of thousands of locations from which youth provision is delivered in England. Data has been collected from over 25,000 organisations or sub-units of organisations from all parts of the sector and the country.

However, our ambitions are large, and we are looking ahead. We want to fill in more gaps, not just in the level of data collected, but also from those we haven't yet heard from – amongst further VCS provision, within faith communities, unincorporated associations, and some local authorities. Crucially also, from the workforce and young people.

*This summary report is therefore not intended to be definitive or final. We are still checking and cleaning data and have more analysis to run. Once we have done so, we will seek to make this data open and available to all in 2022.*

Beyond this, we propose to keep building the systems required to fill the gaps and provide more complete and nuanced data in easy to explore formats, initially over a two-year programme. We will look to sustain and develop this into the future and to identify and analyse trends, although there are already some thematic areas emerging from the data.

For example, whilst 96% of organisations surveyed provided for young people aged 13 to 19, only 39% of organisations provided services or activities for young people aged 20 to 24. We need to better understand provision for this age group outside of traditional youth and children's services; in Job Centre Plus youth hubs, violence reduction units, and colleges, as sites where targeted youth work provision and wrap around support is growing.

Building on the work in this way will provide an increasingly complete national picture to inform policy and investment priorities for central and local government, and to direct strategic and operational decisions for funders and national, regional, and local bodies. There are also ambitions to use the data to influence the undertaking of longitudinal research on the needs of young people and the impact of youth work.

Finally, whilst this project has been overseen by the NYA and undertaken in partnership with CFE Research there are a host of others who have supported and contributed to this process along the way; whether through providing data and information, supporting communications, or providing advice, support, and consultation – it has been a sector-wide effort and a large achievement.

## Executive Summary

### Overall Provision

The census research suggests that we can differentiate between four main parts of the sector which are responsible for youth provision:

- National uniformed organisations, especially those affiliated to Scouts and Girlguiding
- Local authority youth services
- Voluntary and community sector organisations which are not affiliated to a national uniformed organisation (VCS)
- Provision which is delivered through faith groups

Taking all providers into account, we see that youth provision is largely place-based and local with operations focussed on, and delivered within, a community or neighbourhood.

**However, there is a large disparity in the amount and type of provision available to young people dependent on where they live.**

**We found twice as much provision in the most affluent areas as opposed to the most deprived areas.**

**There are twice as many buildings purpose-built for, or dedicated towards, young people in affluent areas.**

These headline statistics are dominated in number by the units of national uniformed organisations, especially those affiliated to Scouts and Girlguiding, who made up around 90% of all provision we were able to identify, although faith group provision follows a similar pattern.

VCS organisations which are not affiliated to national or uniformed organisations are, conversely, more concentrated in the most deprived postcodes. We do not yet have enough complete data to understand if the trend is replicated amongst youth provision delivered directly by a local authority.

### VCS Provision

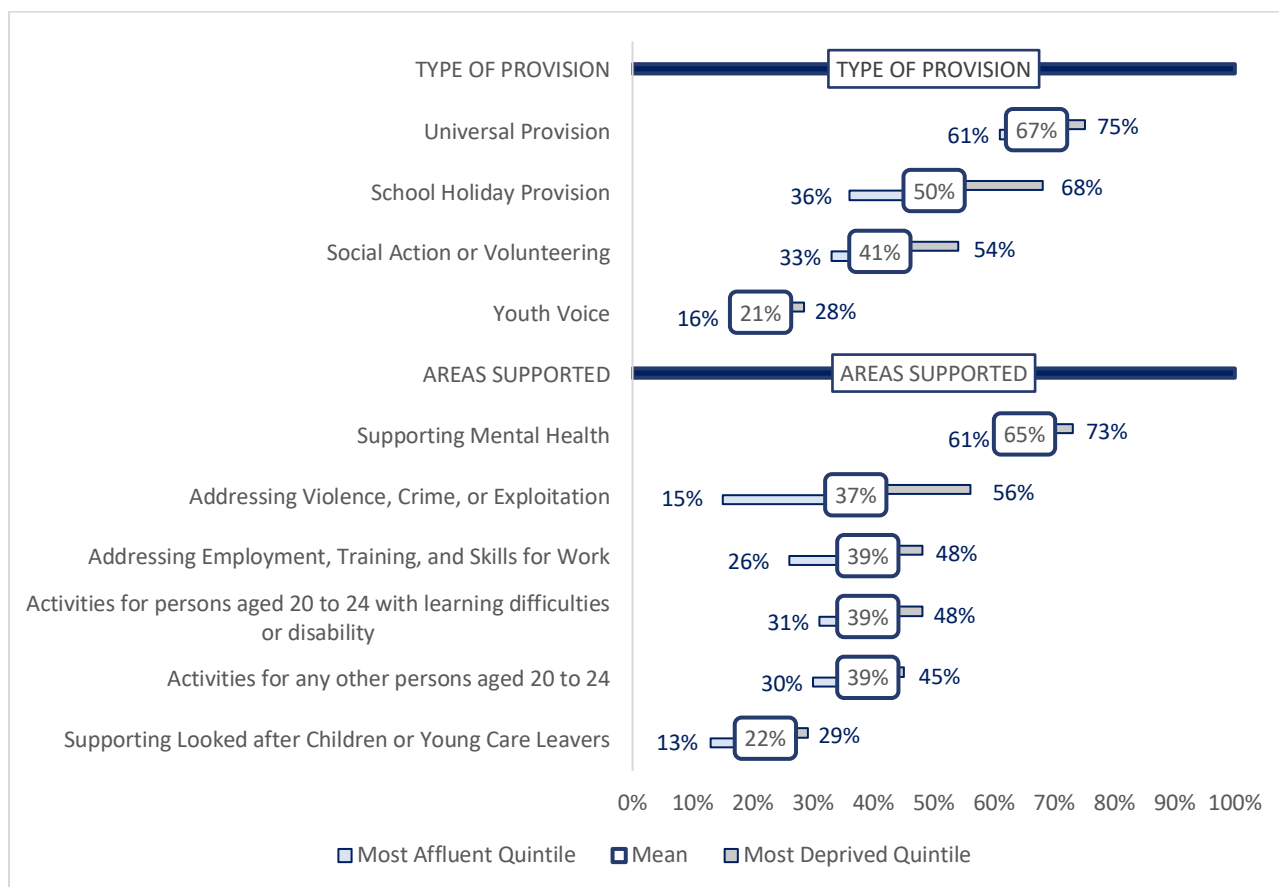
Due to the nature of data collected, the remainder of this summary relates to VCS organisations which are not affiliated to a national uniformed organisation.<sup>1</sup>

**Our research shows that VCS organisations are nearly twice as likely to operate in the most deprived postcodes and that when they do, they are more likely to be providing a wider range of services and support.**

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<sup>1</sup> Data on national uniformed organisations have been collected for over 25,000 units, but with various assumptions and the coverage is varied. Including this in the more detailed analysis would skew all data. Data on local authorities is not yet available at enough coverage at the required level of geographic detail to be comparable.

**Figure 1: Percentage of VCS organisations offering selected services or activities by least and most deprived Quintile**



This greater range of provision is reflected in the fact that organisations operating in areas of high deprivation are drawing income from a wider range of sources than those operating in the most affluent areas and tend to have higher budgets. These organisations also have a greater number of paid employees and volunteers on their books. Yet despite their higher budgets and staffing levels, organisations in the most deprived areas disproportionately struggle to meet demand in the short to medium term and 1 in 4 have a waiting list of at least 1 month for at least one of their services.

### Relationships between VCS and Local Authorities

There are wide differences in the relationships between local authorities and the VCS. 15% of upper-tier and unitary local authorities told us that they offered no direct delivery and either commissioned or otherwise supported the VCS and others to provide youth sector activities in their area. Caution is required when looking at the nature of this relationship and in identifying trends due to low census returns from local authorities to this level of detail, and wide variance in those submissions. However early indications are that on average, 40% of local authority youth services budgets are spent on commissioning services, with a majority of this for universal provision. A further 6% of local authority budgets is spent on providing grants or other support to the youth sector.

More research will be undertaken to understand whether or how this spend is coordinated with local providers to account for the levels, locations, and types of delivery by others in any authority area.

However, it is clear from the returns that, broadly, the VCS are disproportionately providing (and being commissioned by local authorities to provide) universal services, whilst local authority provision is more focussed upon targeted delivery.

Whilst the nature of targeted delivery cannot be properly compared until we have a better understanding of where the targeted provision of local authorities is delivered, we do see that:

**The most commonly delivered targeted provision is towards supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people. Two-thirds (66%) of all VCS organisations are offering a programme of support towards this and 4 in 5 (81%) of local authorities are doing likewise.**

There is a wealth of data still to be analysed and numerous ways to split it, cross-analyse it, and more. What follows is a brief outline of the process of how we collected it, and a provisional summary of analysis to date.

Alongside this we are also developing a digital map to allow better visualisation and searching of the data. As our data improves, so will the map - the BETA version of which can be accessed at: <https://youthsectormap.nya.org.uk/>



## Part A: Summary of the Methodology

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A brief overview of the methodology is provided here, with an expanded methodology of the process of creating a database from the Register of Charities given in Appendix A. Fuller technical reports and methodologies will be available in due course.

### The Problem

No single database of organisations operating in the youth sector existed when this study was commissioned. Lists of organisations registered to different national bodies in the youth sector, did not provide enough publicly available detail to be useful in strategic and operational decision making and suffered from a lack of shareable or open data. Further, there were many organisations providing youth sector provision outside of these lists.

The National Youth Agency (NYA) therefore commissioned CFE Research (CFE) to assess the feasibility of creating such a database (NYA Database) from the disparate sources of data known to exist to identify probably youth sector organisations, and to subsequently survey them for desired information.

### Defining youth work

Given there was no single database to use as a starting point, NYA conducted some initial work to provide a working definition of organisations in scope.

We took as a foundation, the definition for ‘services for young people’ as outlined in Section 507B of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by section 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006) which defines youth services as consisting of:

*Educational ... and recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of [young people's] well-being ...*

*‘Qualifying young persons’ are those aged 13–19, and up to 24 for young people with a learning difficulty or particular disabilities.*

Whilst this captures most youth sector provision, many young people engage with youth services from an earlier age, and many without ‘a learning difficulty or particular disability’ face complex and multiple needs beyond the point of transition from school.

Given this, and a desire to provide an inclusive and simple working definition for youth sector provision, the following criteria were adopted:

*Youth provision and out of school activities are those which:*

- 1. Contribute to the personal and social development of young people aged between 8 to 25*
- 2. Have personal and social development as the primary aim of any activities offered*

The geographic scope was limited to those delivering their services, or providing support to those who delivered their services, in England.

### Sources of Data

#### Self-Registration

NYA created a registration function on their website to allow organisations to register to be included in the Census. This was open from 20<sup>th</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020. In total, 830 organisations registered through this process.



## National Organisations

There were several national 'parent' organisations for whom we were able to obtain data on their units centrally. These were: The Boys' Brigade, The Children's Society, Girlguiding, Marine Society & Sea Cadets, National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, Scouts, Woodcraft Folk, YMCA.

Standardised pro-forma were sent to each organisation and information was received on around 23,500 units which were in scope.<sup>2</sup>

## Local Authority Provision

The statutory duty for services for young people is the responsibility of a unitary or upper-tier local authority. In total there are 152 unitary or upper-tier local authorities across England, and each was invited to complete a Census return.

We have received 90 returns (59%) of varying degrees of completion and quality. There were several challenges during the data collection period as some councillors or administrations had changed following the May local elections; and formal reporting by local authorities on services for young people was suspended through the pandemic, to 2022. We will therefore seek to further complete data collection from this cohort before the end of the financial year.

## The Register of Charities

From the c. 350,000 records on the Charity Commission Register of Charities (The Register), a long-list of 94,441 organisations listed children/young people as a beneficiary and were registered as active. Further filters and variables within the register were not able to reduce the number further and consequently each of these records were thus considered as being provisionally in scope.

An initial coding process reduced this to 55,000 records, and a subsequent intensive thematic coding process was undertaken against the descriptive fields of these organisations and augmented by significant manual review of nearly 6,000 records. The result was a short-list of 15,876 organisations being considered for a survey.

Having coded these by type, the short-list was further refined by assessing the activity type of each against the criteria and excluding those which did not match. We further excluded members of those national groups who were providing information centrally, and those who had self-registered.

This process resulted in a final population of 8,471 organisations.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Given differences in the level, type, and structure of information that each parent organisation held, we did not receive these all back in identical formats

<sup>3</sup> For a fuller methodology of this process please see Appendix A.

## Survey Creation

In creating a survey to be delivered we were conscious of 2 major factors.

- At the time of survey delivery Covid-19 Guidelines for Youth Services were changing and organisations were able to re-open their services to a large extent. This meant that collecting information on service provision was difficult as provision had been disrupted and partial. This also meant that organisations were already stretched in adapting to new guidelines and putting the required systems and workforces back in place to operate safely.
- We were surveying a large number of organisations which we had identified through public data and for whom we had no internal or external connection. Receiving enough responses from this part of the overall population was essential to the success of the project and thus any survey had to be detailed enough to provide good quality information, but easily completable to ensure good completion rates.

Working with a wider advisory group to refine a long-list of possible survey questions, we subsequently tested different versions of proposed surveys with a variety of providers to assess the structure, format, and content of questions.

Two versions of the survey were consequently created to be delivered to local authority provision and non-local authority provision, reflecting the differences in operation and financing between these types of provider.

## Part B: Summary of Findings

This summary is limited to exploratory data analysis of returns from the surveys delivered to non-local authority providers, and is presented in descriptive, non-narrative format as each data point has been analysed in isolation. This includes some cross analyses of data points against the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019,<sup>4</sup> using post codes matched to Lower Super Output Areas.<sup>5</sup>

A fuller report incorporating more data analysis, including from local authority providers and national organisations will be produced in due course, once further analysis of those returns is complete. We do, however, draw in some information from those for comparison where relevant.

Findings are to be considered provisional as we clean and integrate more data.

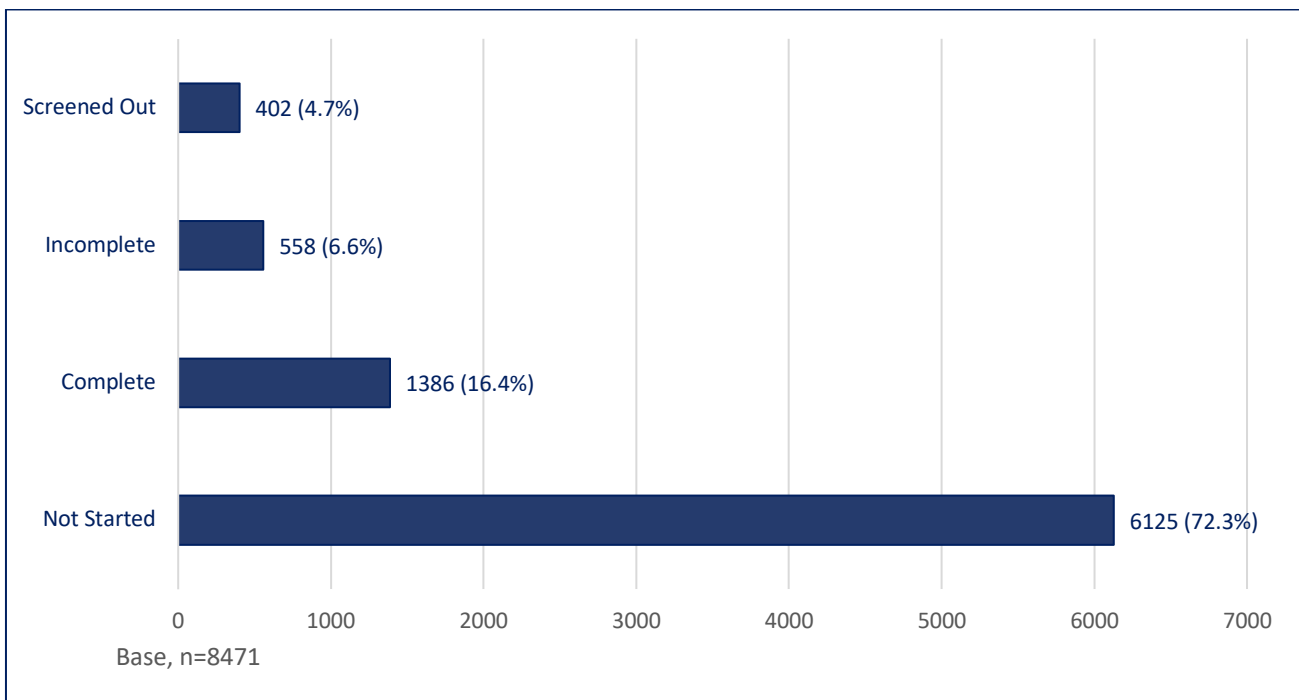
### Survey Delivery

Between 20<sup>th</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021 we delivered online surveys to:

- 8,471 surveys non-local authority organisations
- Each of the 152 upper-tier or unitary local authorities

We received responses from 2,346 of the 8,471 surveys which were delivered, or 28%. Within this, 1,944 surveys provided some or all information requested (23%), whilst 402 were screened out as the organisation did not meet the criteria or did not wish to take part (5%).

**FIGURE 2: RESPONSES TO NON-LOCAL AUTHORITY SURVEY**



<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

<sup>5</sup> There are 32,844 LSOAs in England, each with an average population of 1500 people or 650 households.

We also received responses from 90 (59%) of all upper-tier or unitary local authorities.

Response and completion rates were boosted with regular e-mail reminders and the use of telephone contact to nudge organisations towards starting and subsequently completing the survey.

Given that this was a survey delivered to a largely unknown audience whose contact details were uncertain, and during heavy Covid-19 disruption, including at a time when guidelines for youth sector provision was changing, this is a healthy response and completion rate.

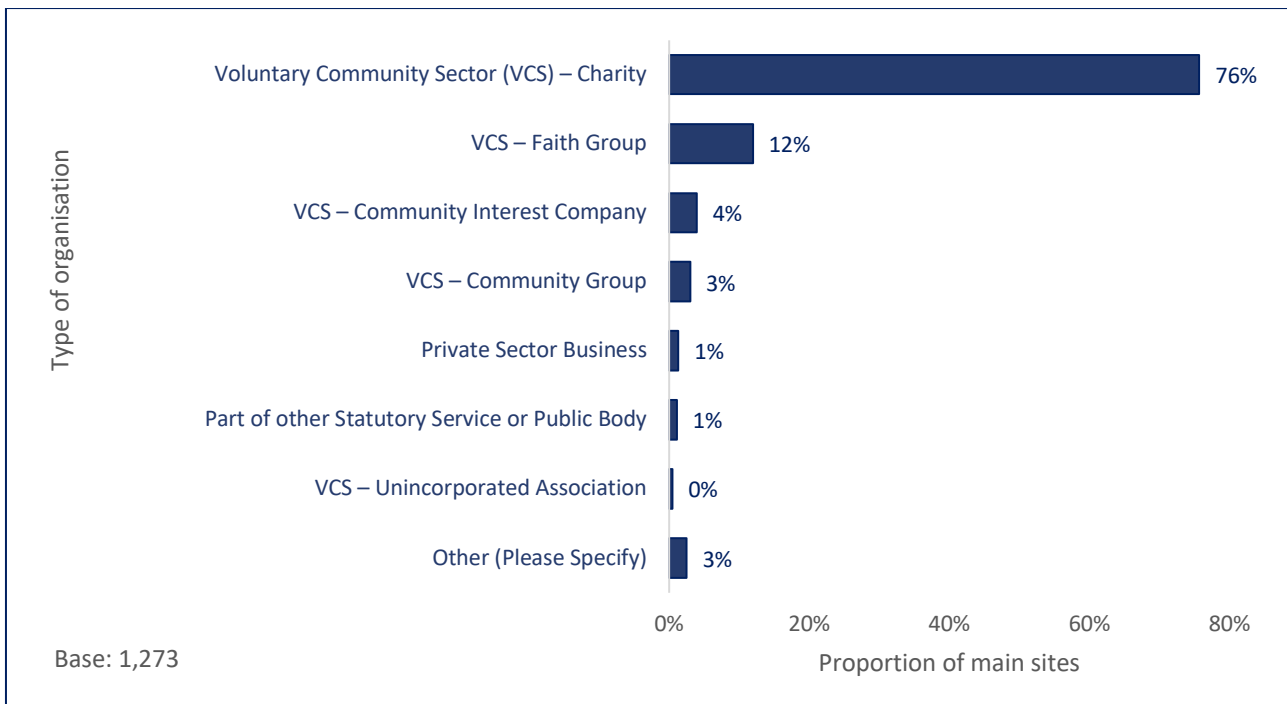
## Summary of Respondents

### Organisation type

The dominant providers within our survey were voluntary and community sector groups, especially charities.

Three quarters (76%) of organisations responding to the question asking about their organisation type class themselves as charities. A further one in eight (12%) identify as a faith group.

**FIGURE 3: TYPE OF ORGANISATION (SELF-REPORTED)**



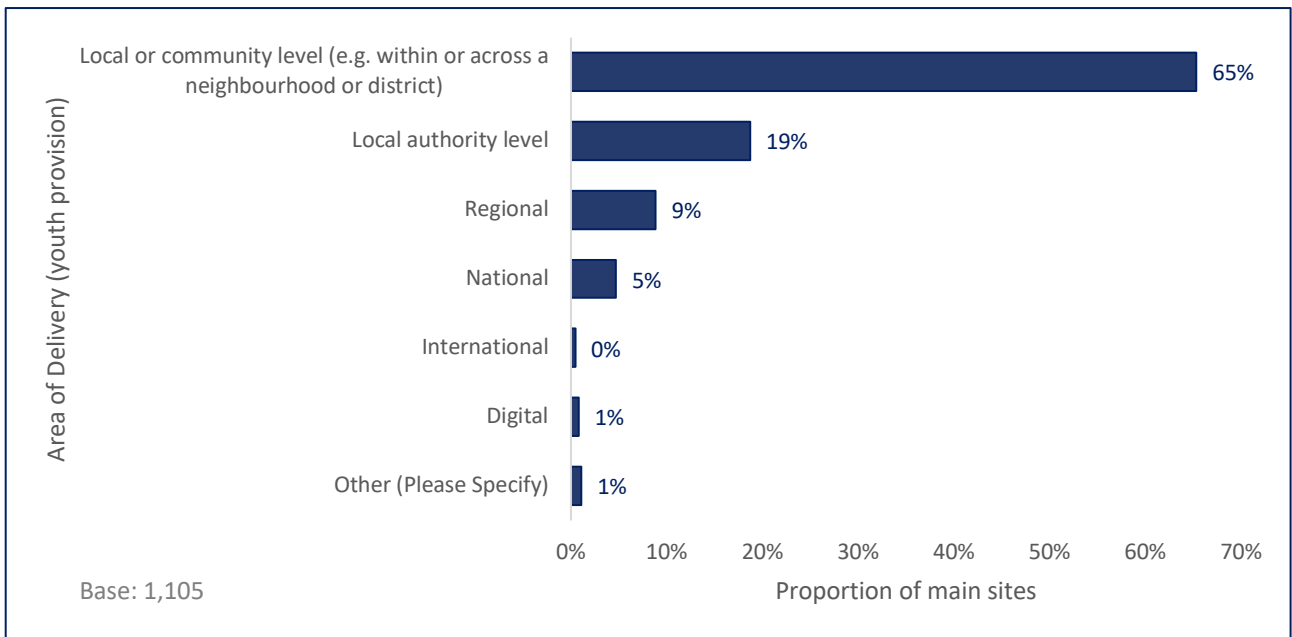
## Area of Operation by Geography

### Delivery

#### **Delivery of youth sector activities is largely place-based and local.**

87% of all organisations told us that they directly provided youth provision. Two-thirds of these (65%) deliver youth provision and out of school activities at the local or community level. A further one in five (19%) operate at more than one location within a local authority.

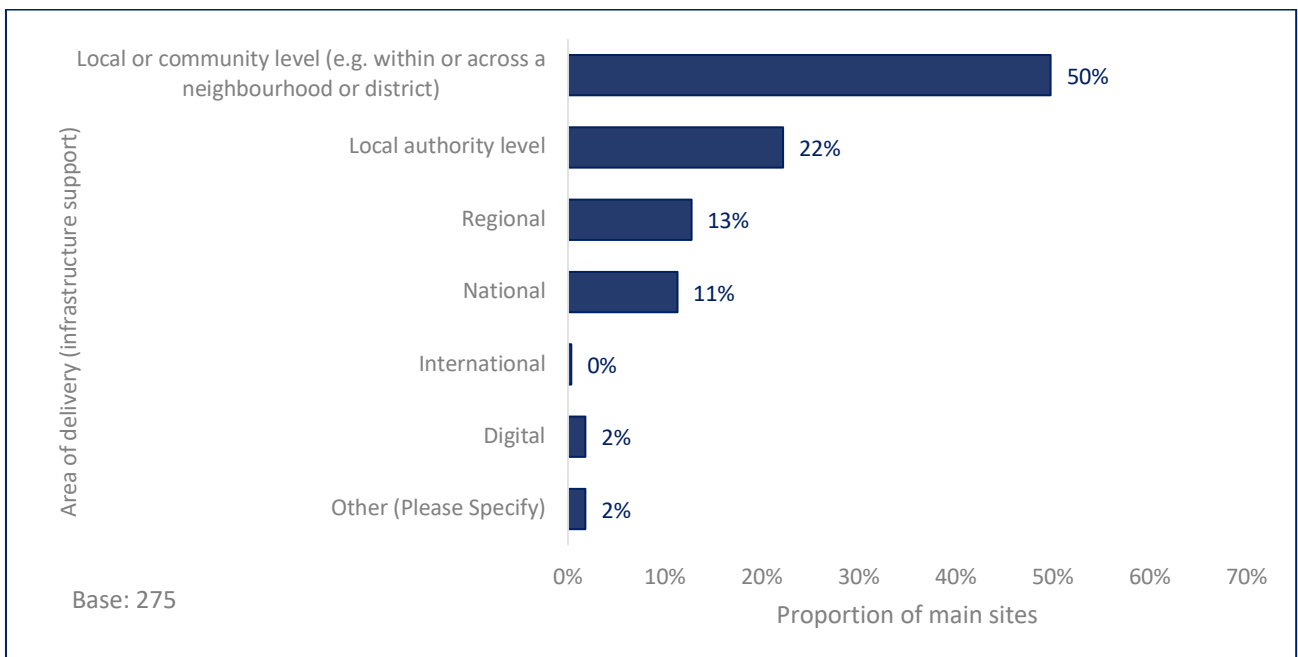
**FIGURE 4: AREA OF DELIVERY OF YOUTH PROVISION AND OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (SELF-REPORTED)**



**Infrastructural Support**

Infrastructural support delivered by the VCS does occur more across a regional (13%) or national (11%) level than delivery, however it is still mostly provided at a local or community level (50%).

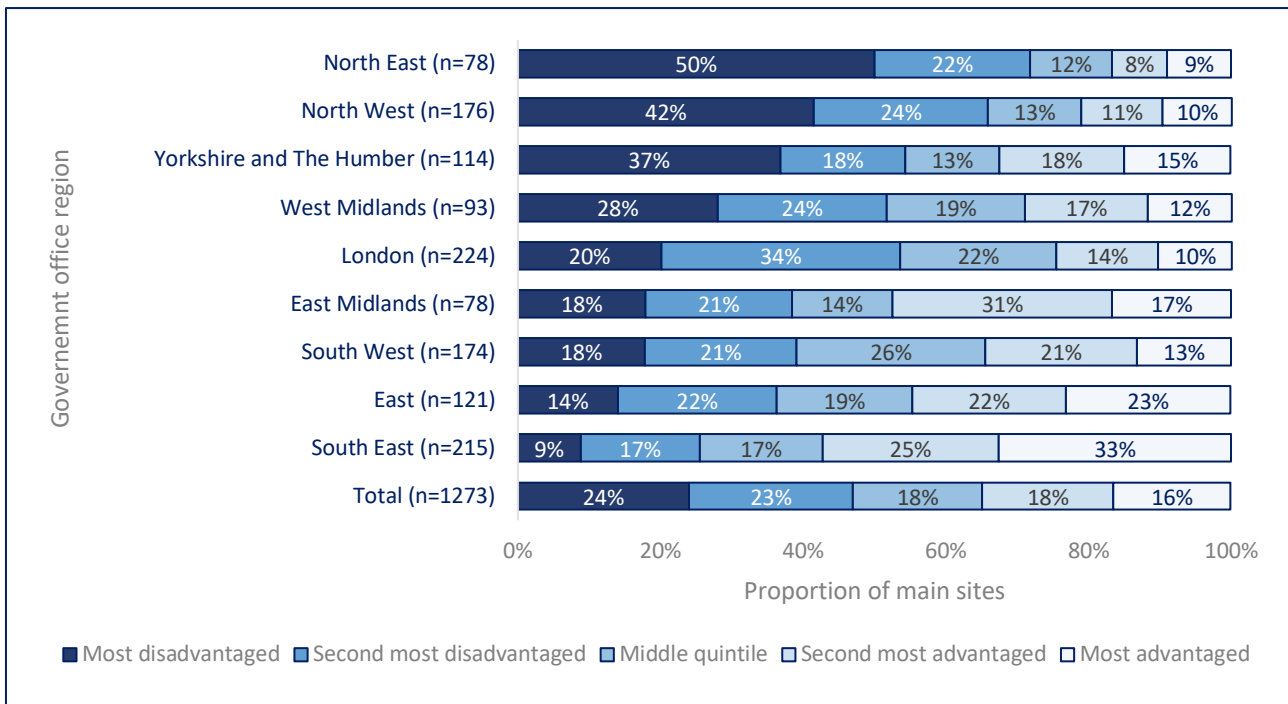
**FIGURE 5: AREA OF INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT (SELF-REPORTED)**



**Areas of Operation by Deprivation**

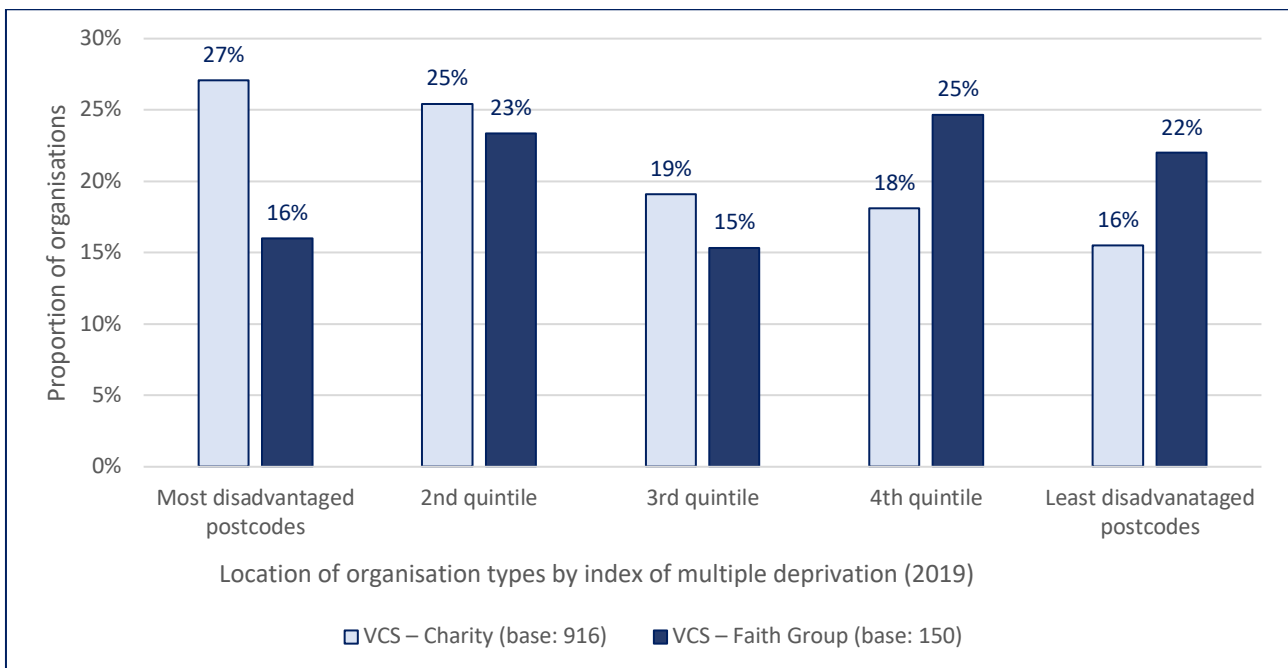
Breaking this down regionally showed that broadly, excepting London and the East of England, the further North in the country, the more likely an organisation will be based in areas of higher disadvantage.

**FIGURE 6: REGIONAL DIFFERENCES IN PROVISION TO AREAS OF DISADVANTAGE**



We found that charities are more likely to operate in areas of higher deprivation compared to faith groups. More than a quarter (27%) of charities operate in England’s most disadvantaged areas, as opposed to 1 in 6 (16%) of faith groups.

**FIGURE 7: DIFFERING AREAS OF OPERATION BETWEEN CHARITIES AND FAITH GROUPS**



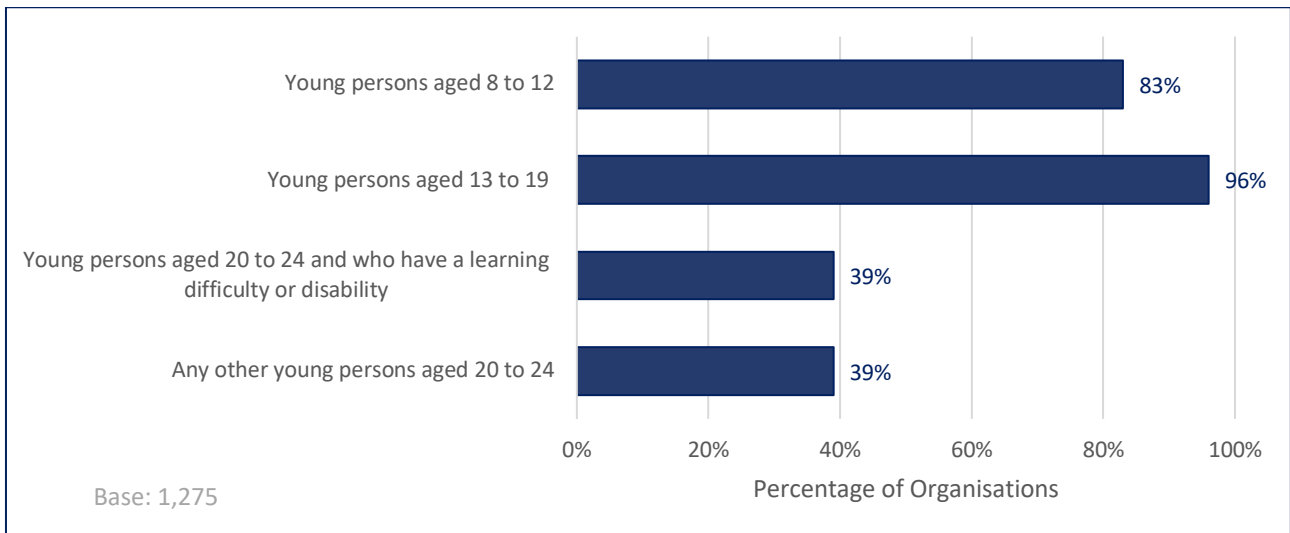
## Audience

### Audience by Age

Nearly all (96%) organisations deliver activities to young persons aged between 13 to 19, with 83% delivering to young persons aged between 8 to 12.

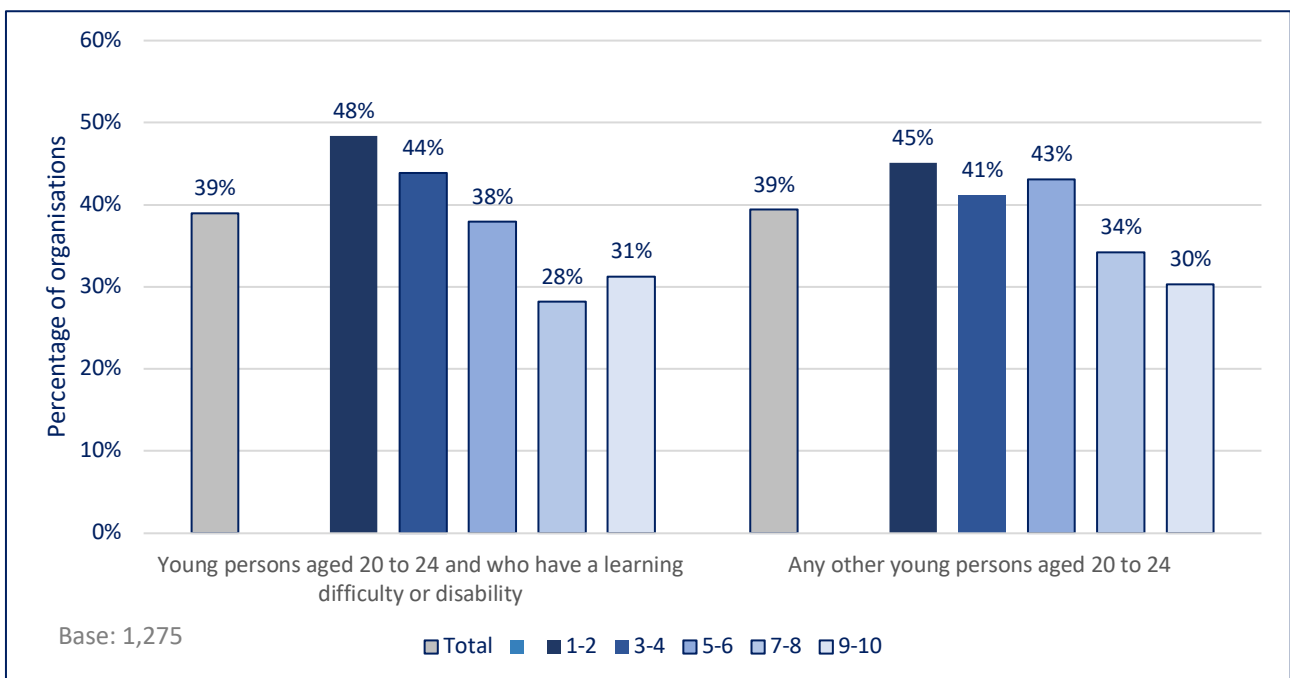
Fewer organisations deliver activities to young people aged 20 to 24, either those with a learning difficulty or disability (39%) or any other young person (39%).

**FIGURE 8: AGE GROUPS OF PARTICIPANTS TO WHICH ORGANISATIONS DELIVER ACTIVITIES**



Organisations operating in areas of higher disadvantage (categorised with IMD scores of 1-2 and 3-4) are more likely to work with young persons aged between 20 to 24 that have learning difficulties or disabilities compared with those based in more affluent areas. A similar albeit less marked relationship exists for organisations that work with other young people aged between 20 to 24.

**FIGURE 9: ORGANISATIONS THAT DELIVER ACTIVITIES TO YOUNG PERSONS AGED 20-24 BY QUINTILE OF DEPRIVATION (POLARITY: LOW = MORE DEPRIVED)**



### Age groups served by organisation type

There are also differences between the type of organisation and the age of the participants.

Nearly all faith groups deliver activities to young people aged between 8 to 12 and 13 to 19 (94% and 98% respectively). In contrast, only 13% of faith organisations deliver activities to young people aged between 20 to 24 with learning difficulties or disabilities.

The data on national uniformed groups is less clear. Whilst both Scouts and Guides offer provision for older members (18 to 25 and 18 to 30 respectively), it is uncertain how many of their individual units might provide this.

### Audience by Other Characteristics

Over three quarters (77%) of VCS organisations say they deliver provision and activities to benefit all young people.

- Over one third (36%) target educationally or economically disadvantaged young people
- One quarter (25%) offer services that target young women and girls.
- One fifth (21%) provide services for young disabled people.

Nearly half (49%) of organisations operating in the bottom quintile of deprived areas offer services to the educationally or economically disadvantaged. In comparison, this group is supported by one in five (20%) youth work organisations in the least disadvantaged quintile.

### Communities experiencing racial or ethnic inequity

One in seven (15%) organisations work with young people experiencing racial or ethnic inequality.

These organisations were asked to identify the races and ethnicities they supported.

- Two-thirds (66%) supported young people with African and other Black, or Caribbean backgrounds.
- Around three in five (62%) supported those from Mixed/ Multiple ethnic background options
- Around a third of organisations supported young people from Pakistani (38%), Bangladeshi (38%), Indian (31%) and any other Asian (33%) backgrounds.

Organisations supporting young people experiencing racial or ethnic inequity were more likely to be disadvantaged areas. One in five (20%) of organisations operating in the two most disadvantaged quintiles offer support to young people experiencing racial or ethnic inequity compared to one in 20 (5%) operating in the least disadvantaged quintile.



## Services Offered

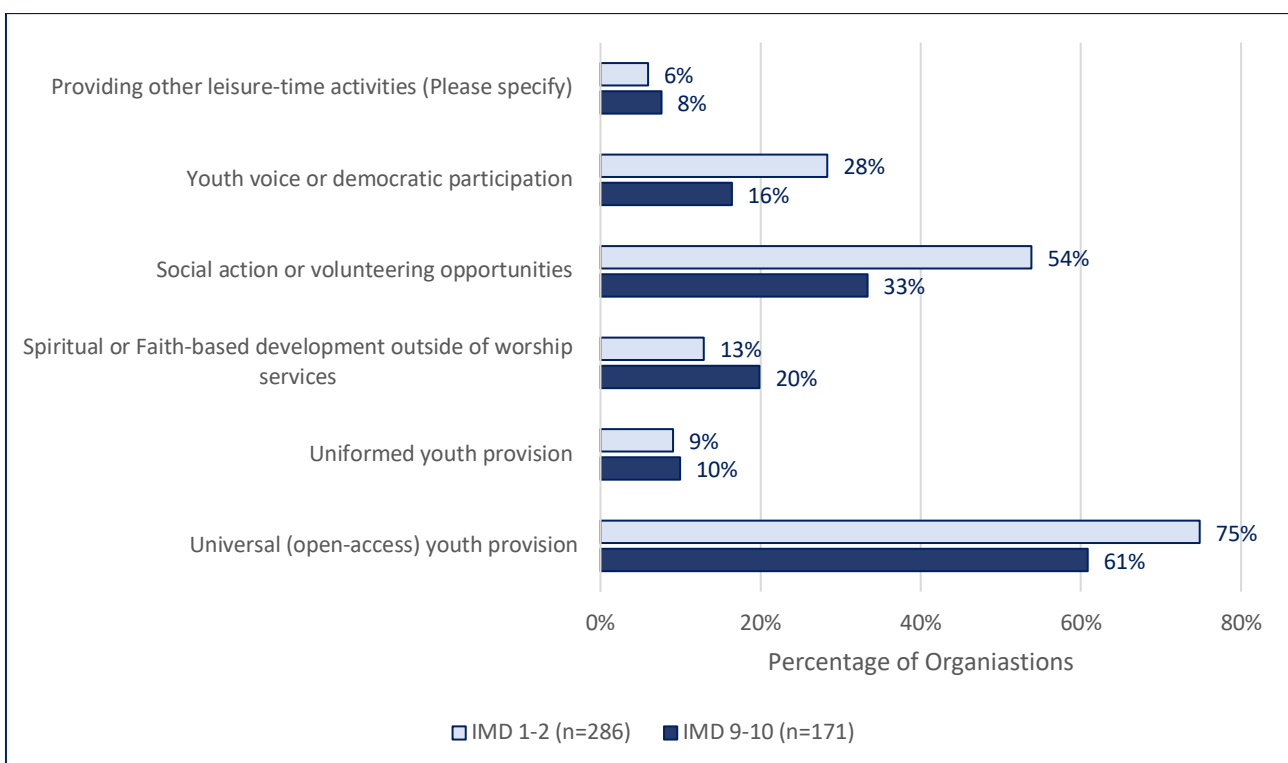
### Delivery - Core Provision

Overall, two thirds (67%) organisations provide universal (open access) youth provision at least once per week. Two in five (41%) organisations offer social action or volunteering opportunities at least once a week, and one in five (21%) offer youth voice or democratic participation.

These types of provision are not evenly distributed across all organisations, organisations in areas of high deprivation (IMD 1-2) are not only more likely to offer each type of provision, but are also more likely to offer a wider range of provision at least once a week compared to those in the most affluent areas.

In contrast, affluent areas offer more spiritual/faith-based activities outside of worship hours.<sup>6</sup>

**FIGURE 10: DIFFERENCE IN TYPE OF PROVISION OFFERED BETWEEN LEAST AND MOST DISADVANTAGED AREAS**



### Days of Core Operation

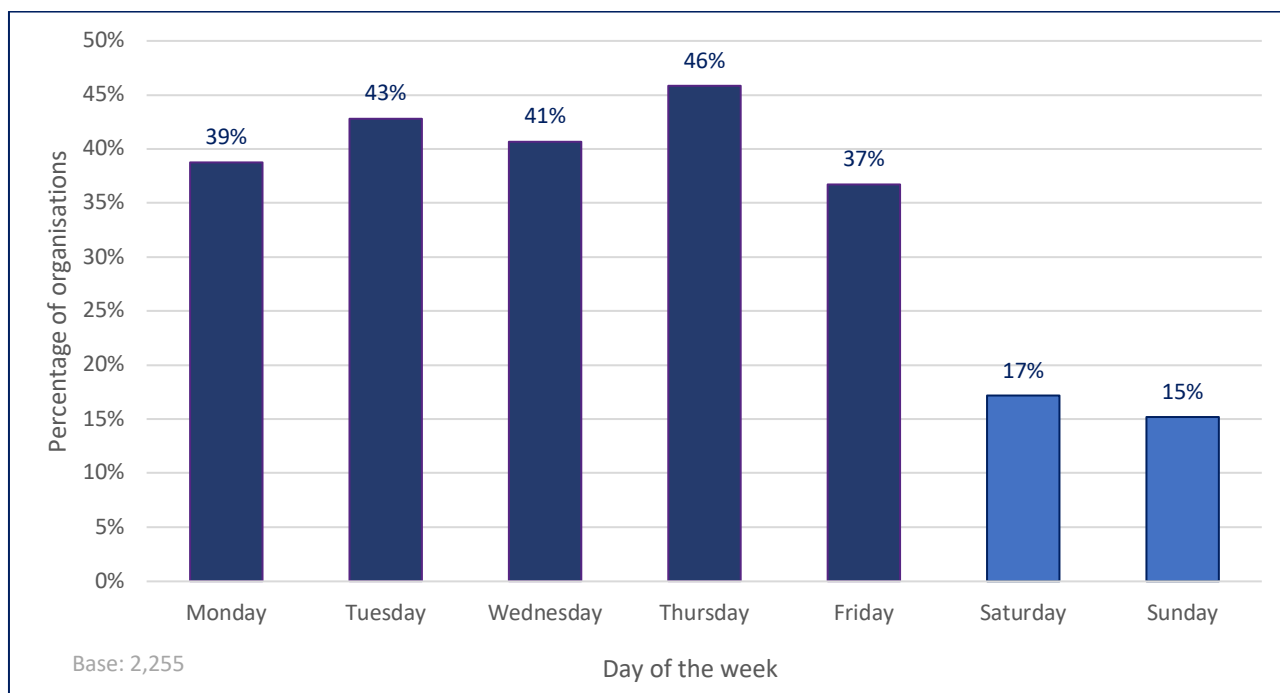
42% of organisations offer provision on one day a week, and 5% offer provision on every day. 13% of organisations stated that they do not offer regular days of operation.

The most common day for offering open-access provision is on a Thursday (46%).

Weekends were the least common days of regular operation (17% on Saturday and 15% on Sunday).

<sup>6</sup> This reflects the greater proportion of faith groups who responded being based in more affluent areas as 85% of all spiritual or faith-based development was conducted by faith groups.

**FIGURE 11: DAYS OF OPEN-ACCESS PROVISION OFFERED BY ORGANISATIONS WITH REGULAR WEEKLY PROVISION**



Cross-tabulation shows that:

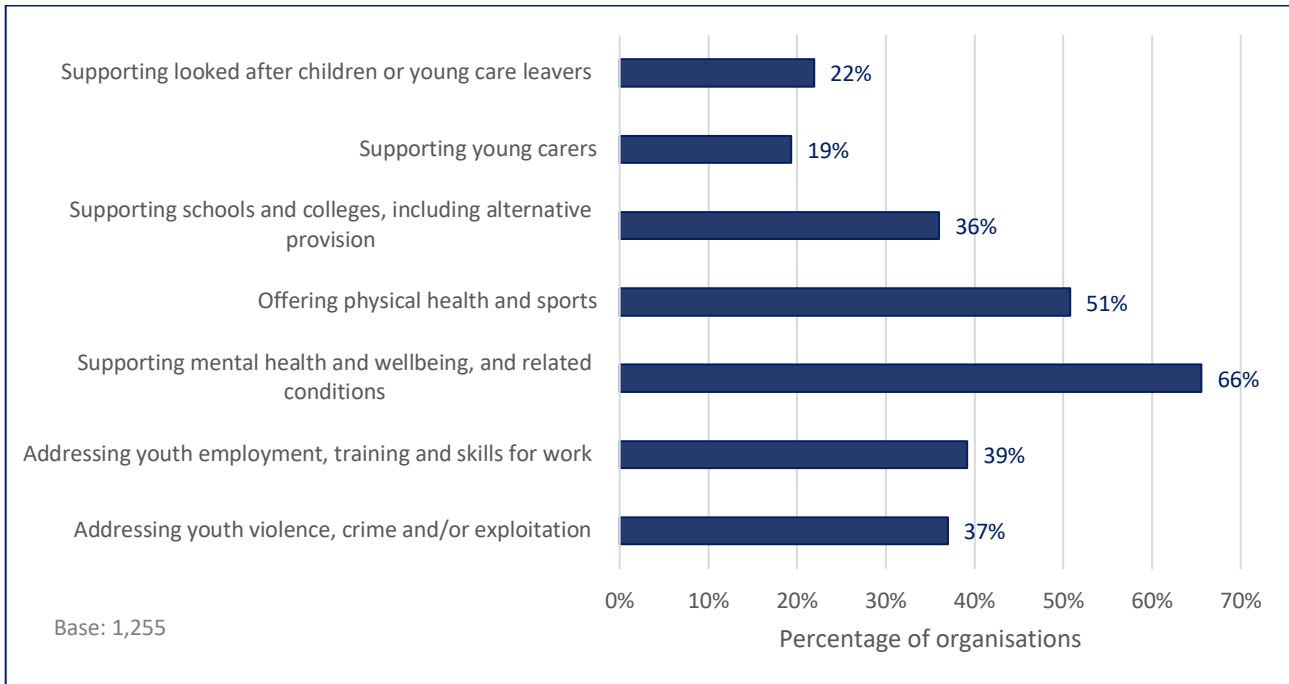
- 6% of organisations only opened at the weekend
- 59% only open in the week (of which half only open one day)
- 19% open at least one day in the week, and one day at the weekend.

### Delivery - Targeted provision

Two-thirds (66%) of organisations report that they offer provision which supports mental health and wellbeing. The next most reported targeted provision is the offer of activities to develop physical health and sports. Such activities are relevant to most young people.

In contrast, only one in five organisations (19%) provides provision to support young carers and/or children and young care leavers (22%).

**FIGURE 12: TYPES OF TARGETED PROVISION OFFERED BY ORGANISATIONS**



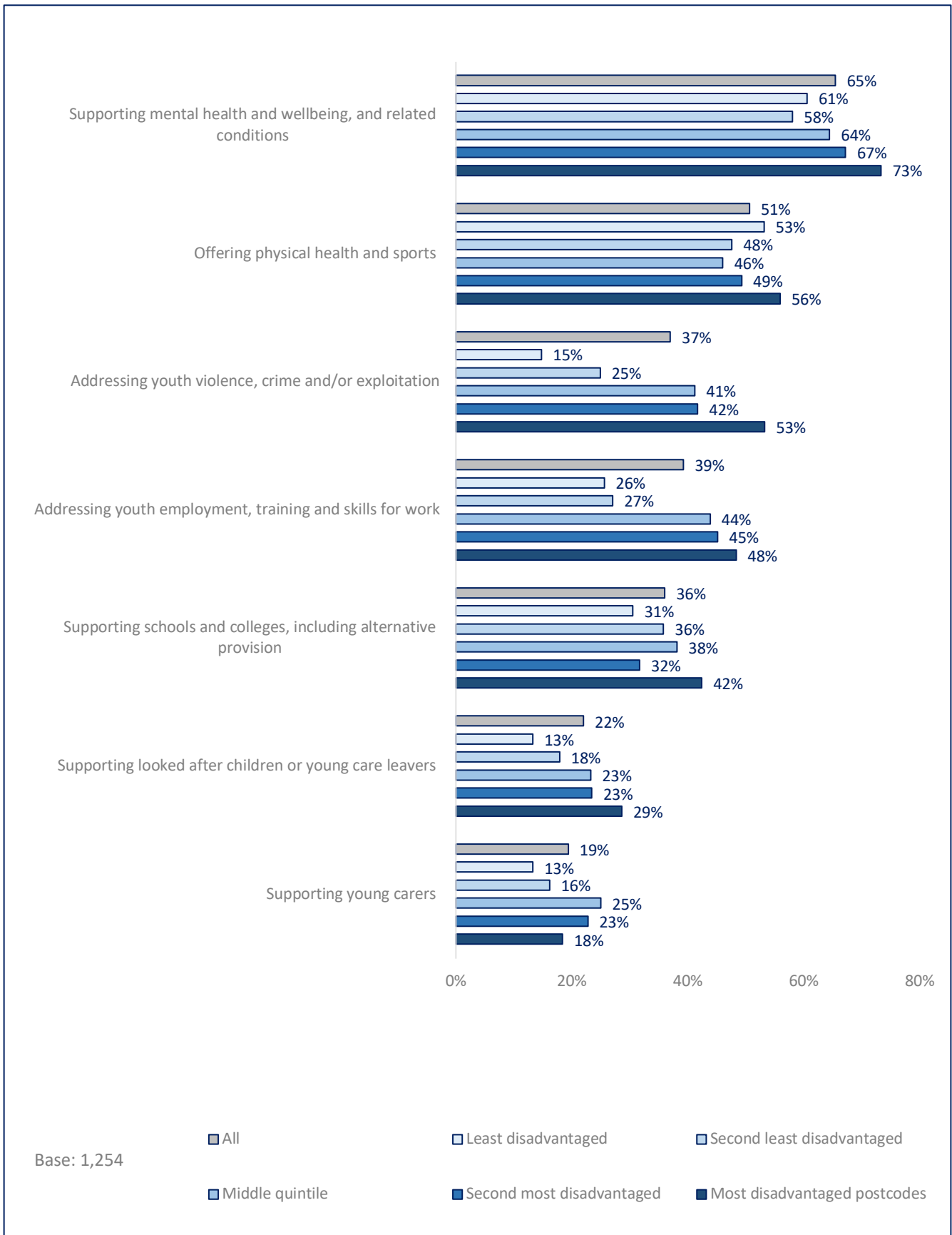
#### Provision based on organisation type

For all types of organisations that replied to the survey, supporting mental health and wellbeing is the most common type of provision offered. However, faith groups typically have a different profile of provision to other groups: 13% of their provision targets youth violence/crime/exploitation (compared to whole sample average of 37%); 12% addresses youth employment/training (compared to average 39%); and only 5% of provision supports young carers (compared to 19%).

#### Provision based on level of local disadvantage

Targeted provision differs between the most and least disadvantaged locations. Organisations located in areas of higher disadvantage were more likely to offer support in more than one of the available options, and more likely to offer support in all the options available apart from providing support for young carers.

**FIGURE 13: PERCENTAGES OF ORGANISATIONS OFFERING TARGETED SUPPORT BY QUINTILE OF DEPRIVATION**



### Other service offers

Outside of the regular core and targeted offers, 50% of organisations offered school holiday provision, 28% offered access to a residential programme and 25% offered access to outdoor adventure play. Only 5% of organisations offered international youth exchange activities.

There are some differences to these overall averages, depending on the type of organisations – 65% of Community Interest Companies offer school holiday provision, and 42% of faith groups offer residential programmes.

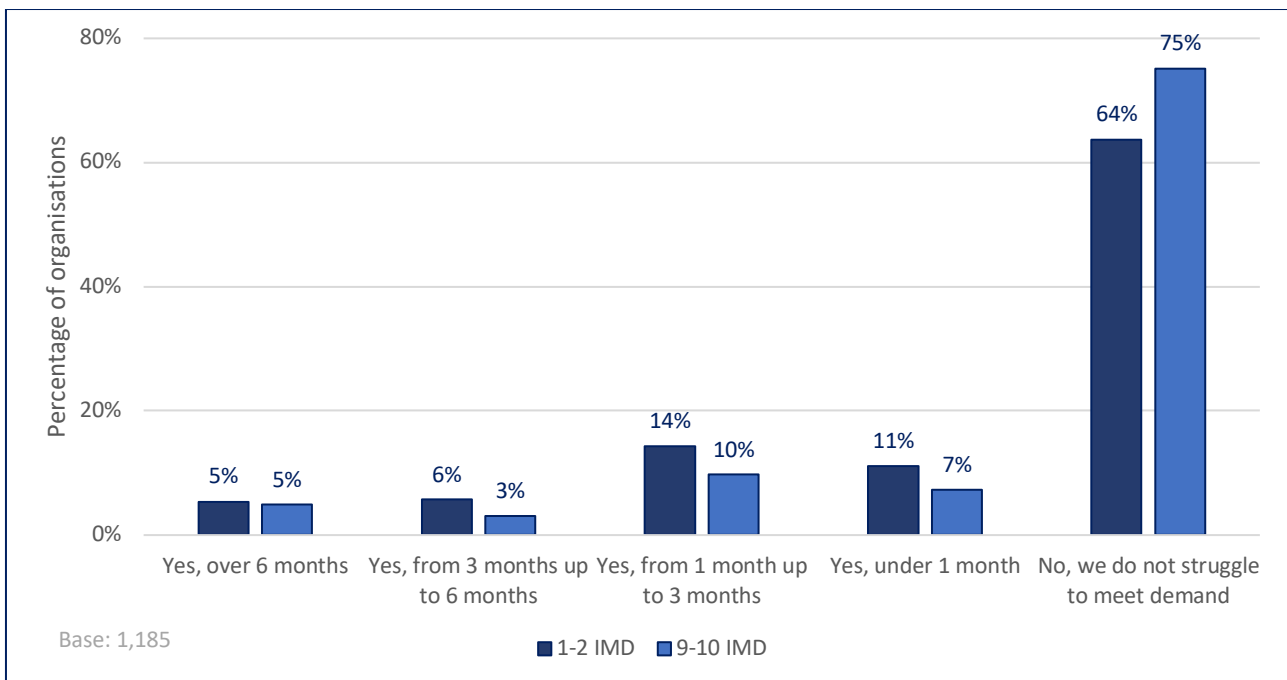
Differences are also evident when exploring organisations by level of deprivation of the communities in which they operate. In particular, nearly twice as many organisations operating in the most disadvantaged areas (IMD 1-2) offer school holiday provision (68%) as compared to the least disadvantaged (IMD 9-10; 36%).

### Waiting List for Delivery

When asked, two thirds (67%) of all organisations did not have a waiting list, and only 5% had a waiting list of over six months. Breaking these figures down further, 94% of faith groups do not have waiting lists compared to 63% of charities. Of those organisations that have waiting lists (of any length), 82% of these are charities.

Organisations in the most disadvantaged areas had more provision with short to medium-term waiting lists, although the percentage of projects with waiting lists longer than 6 months are the same (5%).

**FIGURE 14: PERCENTAGES OF ORGANISATIONS WITH WAITING LISTS BY DISADVANTAGE**



## Delivery Settings and Locations

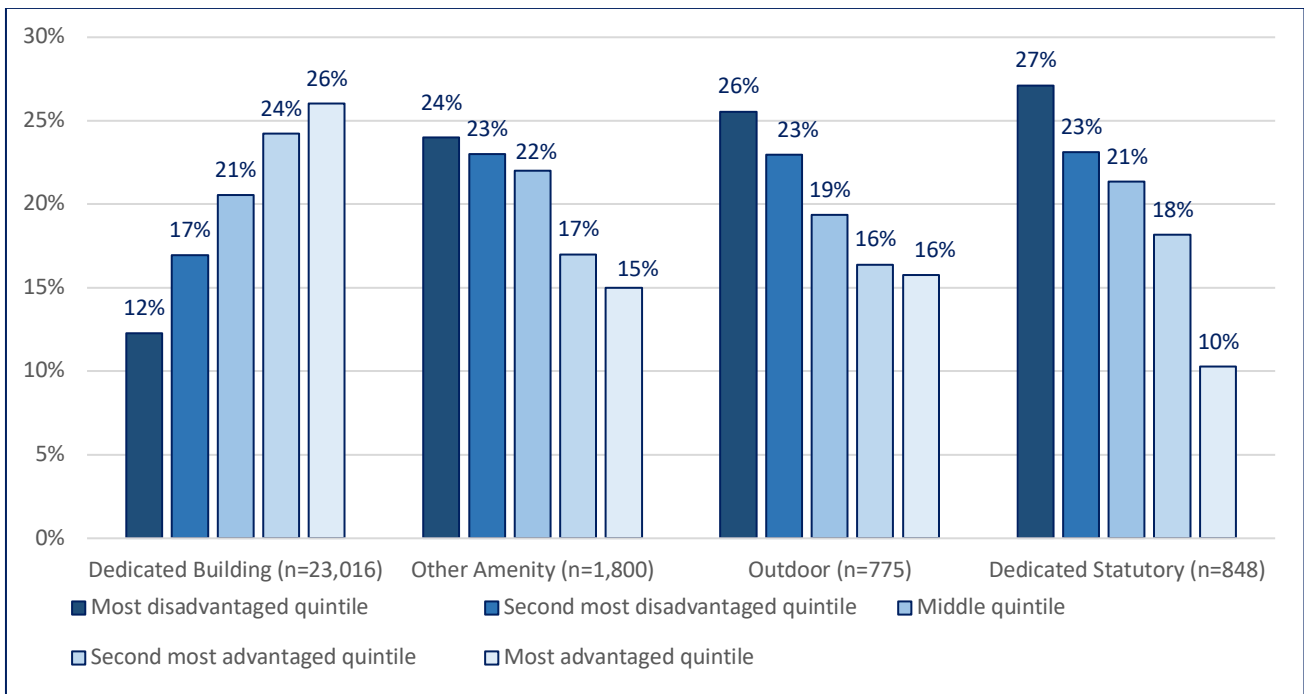
Several national organisations contributed the most postcodes to our analysis. Girlguiding groups (Brownies, Guides and Rangers) comprise nearly half (45%) and Scout troops (Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Networks) account for another two in five (41%). Of the rest, nearly all (11%) are associated with non-national organisations.

### Types of Venue from which units operate

Overall, 98% of all units providing data delivered youth provision or out of school activities from buildings dedicated to, or purpose built for, youth provision. Of the organisations that use dedicated buildings, 97% are categorised as uniformed groups.

More advantaged areas have a higher percentage of units that deliver activities in dedicated buildings. In contrast, the trend for other venues is the opposite – when the level of disadvantage is highest, a higher percentage of units deliver services from such venues.

**FIGURE 15: TYPES OF BUILDING USED FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES DEPENDENT ON LEVEL OF DISADVANTAGED**



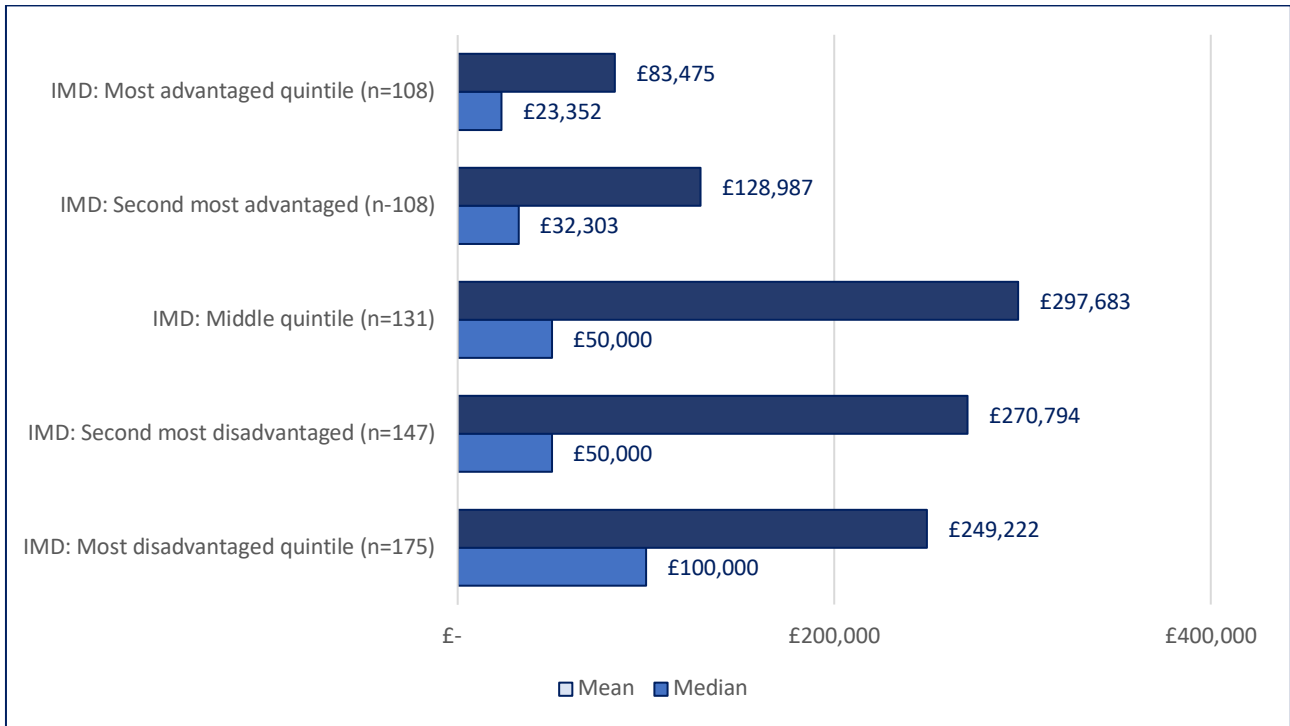
## Financial Data

### Annual Budgets

Across all organisations, the average annual budget or planned expenditure for delivering youth provision and out of school activities was £217,724. The median figure was £50,000. The disparity between the median and mean shows the average figure is influenced by a smaller number of organisations that provided larger annual budgets. Half of those providing data had annual incomes of £50,000 or lower.

Organisations that work in the areas of greater disadvantage typically have larger annual average budgets. Moreover, median budgets increase with disadvantage.

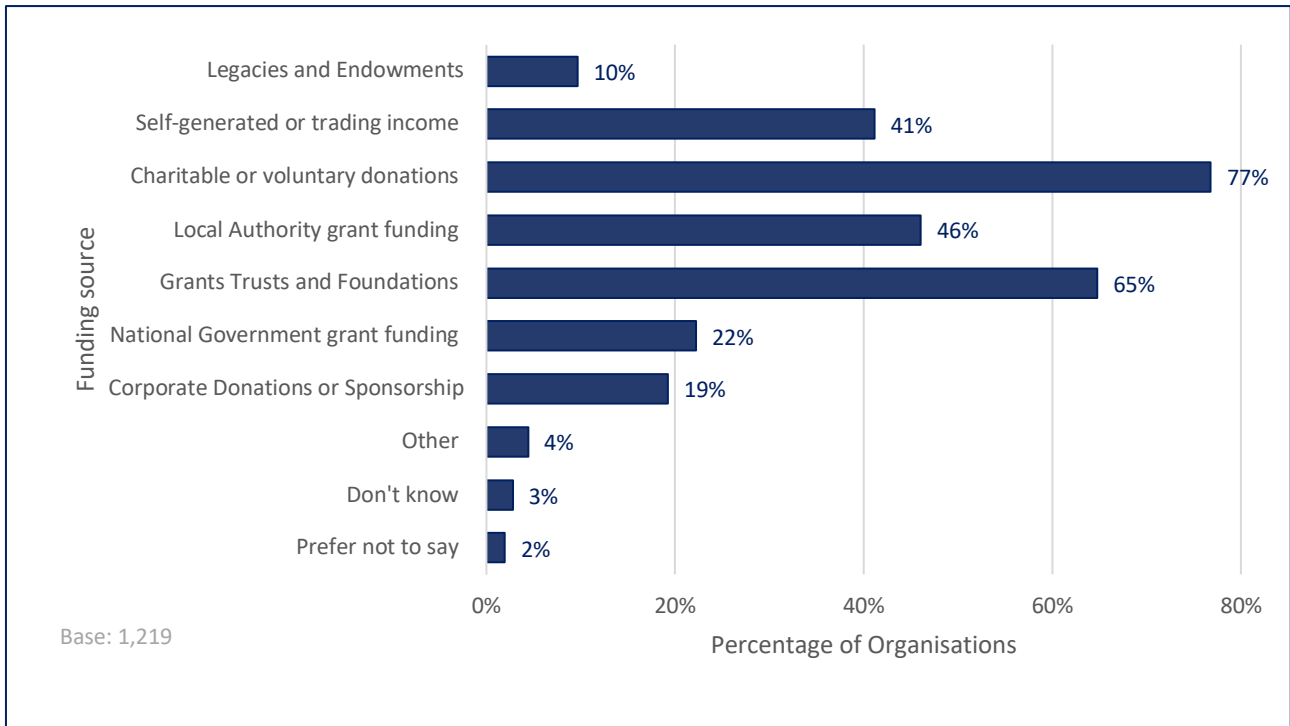
**FIGURE 16: ANNUAL BUDGET MEANS AND MEDIANS BY LEVEL OF DISADVANTAGE<sup>7</sup>**



**Sources of funding**

Over three quarters of organisations (77%) receive funds from charitable or voluntary donations, and 65% receive funds from grant trusts and foundations. The other two main sources of funding are local authority grant funding (46%) and self-generated or trading income (41%).

**FIGURE 17: SOURCES OF INCOME FOR ALL ORGANISATIONS**



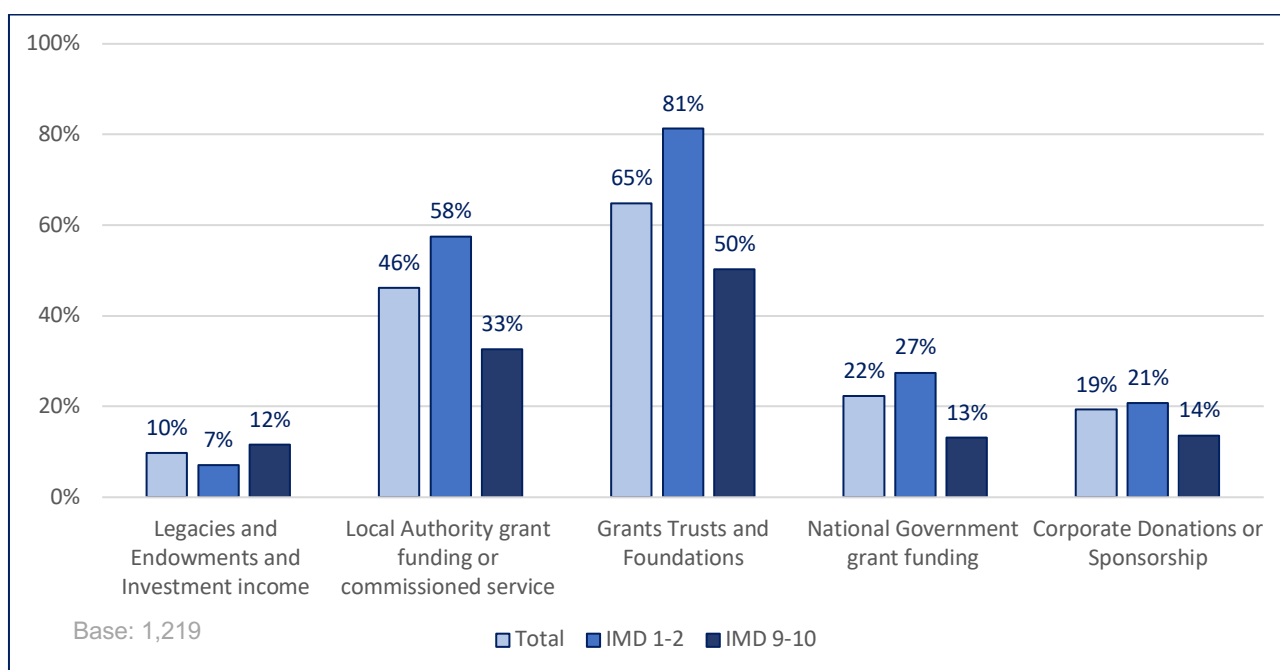
<sup>7</sup> N.B. As the median values are taken from the middle-value in a rang self-reported budgets given by respondents the answers differ between exact amounts and ‘rounded’ amounts dependent upon information for that individual value.

More than four in five (83%) faith groups receive funding from charitable or voluntary donations, however, only 9% receive funding from local authorities and 5% from national government grant funding. In contrast, 52% of charities receive funding from local authorities, and 26% receive governmental grant funding.

### Funding differences according to deprivation

Organisations in the most disadvantaged areas have more diverse income streams across the main categories of funding than those in the least disadvantaged areas. We do not know the amounts or proportions of income from these streams.

**FIGURE 18: DIFFERENCES IN PERCENTAGE OF ORGANISATIONS RECEIVING FUNDING TYPES BETWEEN MOST AND LEAST DISADVANTAGED AREAS**



### Operational resilience

Organisations were asked about the level of reserves they held which would allow them to operate as normal.

- One quarter (23%) report fewer than 6 months of reserves.
- A further third (35%) would be able to operate normally for between 6 months and a year.
- One in five (20%) could do so for more than 12 months.
- One in ten (9%) of organisations do not know how long their organisation would be able to operate for as normal with their current levels of reserves.



## Workforce

### Average staffing levels

On average, organisations have eight persons in paid employment who primarily deliver or manage youth provision and out of school activities. However, responses range from no employees to 450.

Half of organisation employ 4 people or fewer. For charities, the median number of paid employees is 5, whilst for faith Groups, the median is 1.

Staffing levels also differ depending on the level of deprivation in which the organisation operates. As the level of deprivation increases so do the mean and median number of paid employees.

**TABLE 1: STAFFING LEVELS OF ORGANISATIONS DIFFERING BY IMD LEVEL OF DEPRIVATION**

	Total	IMD 1-2	IMD 3-4	IMD 5-6	IMD 7-8	IMD 9-10
<b>Mean</b>	8	10	11	9	5	6
<b>Median</b>	4	5	4	4	2	2
<b>Base</b>	980	255	224	175	175	151

### Contract types for paid staff

Organisations with at least one paid member of staff were asked how many worked full time, part time or on a casual basis. Two thirds (66%) of organisations had part-time staff, three in five (58%) full time staff and a third (32%) casual staff.

**TABLE 2: STAFFING LEVELS OF ORGANISATIONS DIFFERING BY IMD LEVEL OF DISADVANTAGE**

	Total	Full time staff	Part time staff	Casual staff
<b>Mean</b>	8	4	5	4
<b>Median</b>	4	2	3	2
<b>Base</b>	980	568	649	310

Organisations based in more disadvantaged areas had higher average numbers of full-time, paid and casual staff.

### Volunteers engaged by youth work organisations

Two thirds (66%) of organisations engage volunteers who deliver youth services at least once a week. The mean average of number of volunteers providing regular weekly support was 21 per organisation; the median number is 6.

### Presence of youth qualifications amongst staff

Where data was given, one third (34%) of organisations with employees said they have staff with JNC Youth Work degrees and two in five (40%) have staff with other youth work qualification to at least level 2.

On average, organisations with employees holding a JNC Youth Work Degree employ 3 such people. The median number of such employees is 1.

The average and median figures of people employed with Youth Work Qualifications at Level 2 or above is 4 and 3 respectively.

Where an organisation has a volunteer with youth work qualification, on average (mean) one volunteer holds a JNC Youth Work Degree, and two possess other Youth Work qualifications at level 2 or above.

### Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)

All organisations that categorise themselves as uniformed groups have a dedicated DSL in their organisation, either directly in each unit or available through affiliation to the national body.

In contrast of the rest, 3% of respondents stated they do not have access a DSL.

There are also differences to this depending on the level of disadvantage where an organisation is based. Ninety-eight percent of organisations that primarily operate in the most disadvantaged areas (IMD quintiles 1-2) have DSLs or access to a DSL, compared to 90% of those in the most affluent areas (IMD quintiles 9-10).

## Appendices:

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### Appendix A: Outline Methodology for Searching the Register of Charities

Following some feasibility studies of different publicly available datasets of organisations, the Charity Commission's publicly available Register of Charities (the Register) was used for two major tasks:

1. As a data source from which to identify organisations which were *likely* to fall within scope for the study
2. As a template for creating the NYA Database

The Register was deemed the most useful dataset for the first of these tasks as it has a statutory basis whereby all charities with an income of at least £5,000 per annum must apply to register. It thus has good coverage of organisations in the sector, and within there are some high-level filters to determine if an organisation's beneficiaries are children and young people. Whilst there were no further filters or 'tags' that identified the age-ranges of young people who benefitted from services or types of provision, there were descriptive text which explains what a charity's objectives are and how the charity achieves them. It also has good coverage of basic contact details.

For the second task, the Register contains many variables on listed charities including financial data, definitional descriptors, number of employees, location of operations, etc., whilst existing identification variables such as charity and company registration numbers can also be used to link to other datasets alongside other variables such as postcode. This structuring of useful administrative data and the possibility for inter-operability with other datasets made it a preferred template.

#### Identifying Youth Sector Providers in the Register

The first step in the data coding process was to assess existing data which describes charities in the Register.<sup>8</sup>

Of the nearly 350,000 charity records, 142,529 have "Children/young people" listed as a beneficiary ("*classno*" code 201).

A second variable called "remdate" lists "The removal date of a charity from the register, and is blank for Registered Charities". Including only charities with a blank remdate AND *classno* 201 reduced the total number to 94,441 organisations.

Other available filters and variables could not reduce this long-list further against the working definition, meaning that this long-list became the starting point for subsequent work identifying possible youth sector providers within Register records.

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<sup>8</sup> Given the potential disruption caused in completing returns due to Covid-19 a copy of the register from April 2020 was downloaded and used.

The long list of Register records was reduced via a multi-stage keyword process in which directed thematic analysis was undertaken against three descriptive Register variables: *main*, *name* and *objective*.<sup>9</sup>

- *Main* is the name of the registered charity.
- *Name* listed the name of any sub-unit of a 'main' charity. Where no sub-unit exists the value is the same as main.
- *Objective* is an open text prose description written by the charity that describes what it does.

The following steps were taken:

1. Set initial exclusions using identified keywords on the main and name variables
2. Set definite inclusions using keywords on the main and name variables
3. Manually review the inclusion list using random selection to check whether selected organisations were in scope
4. Develop a coding frame for classifying the types of activity
5. Apply that frame using keywords on all three variables, including the majority of records that had yet to be excluded or included in earlier phases.

The coding process took significant time and resource for all 94,441 shortlisted records. After stages 1 and 2, more than 55,000 records were neither included nor excluded. The combination of text searching and coding was used to create an eventual list of 15,876 organisations drawn from the Register which were possibly within scope.

N.B. A full technical report and detailed methodology of this process will be released in due course.

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<sup>9</sup> A further field of 'activities' was not publicly available at the time of the project









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