East Midlands Life & Work Survey 2003 Themed Summary Report – Social, Capital and Active Citizenship

Prepared for the East Midlands Observatory

Market Research UK Limited

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EAST MIDLANDS
LIFE & WORK SURVEY 2003

THEMED SUMMARY REPORT

SOCIAL CAPITAL AND
ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Backgrou nd

The East Midlands Observatory (EMO) represents a network of partner organisations within the East Midlands with an interest and involvement in research and statistics about regional economic, social, environmental and spatial issues. EMO aims to be the primary point of access to research and statistics on the East Midlands.

The purpose of East Midlands Observatory is to enable partners to share research, collaborate on research projects and make findings easily available in order to facilitate the development of evidence based policy.

A key part of the Observatory's activities during 2002 and 2003 has been the commissioning and implementation of a large scale comprehensive Life and Work Survey conducted across the East Midlands Region.

In autumn 2002 Market Research UK Limited (**mruk social research**) was commissioned to design and conduct the survey.

The project builds on the successful collaborative model of research developed through successive household surveys in the region since 1994.

1.2 Changing Context

Since the last Household survey was completed in 2000 by a partnership involving TECs, Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) and East Midlands Development Agency (emda), the institutional context within which the survey was conducted has changed significantly. TECs have been replaced by a local Learning Skills Council and, Sub-regional Strategic Partnerships have been established covering the vast majority of the region. In addition, the Regional Assembly has taken on a more developed role in monitoring the state of the region.

These changes required a fundamental review of both survey context and sample construction/reporting levels with particular consideration to ensuring data collected would inform LLSC strategic plans and emda Regional Employment Strategy (including the framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action - FRESA). The scope of the research was also broadened to reflect the need to inform the East Midlands Integrated Regional Strategy. In this context it is important to note that the survey did not set out to directly replicate previous household surveys or surveys that may cover similar subject areas.

1.3 Key   Objectives

The key objectives of the household survey were (in summary):

- To provide comprehensive and robust data about the working age (and subsequently extended to third age) population of the East Midlands, to inform policy development and monitor regional performance on a number of related themes.

- Support work in relation to strategic planning for the region.

- Provide opportunities for gathering new data, boosting samples in particular localities and benchmarking.

- Ensure core data is statistically robust at county, SSP and Local Authority District (LAD) levels.

1.4 Survey   Method

Overall, the survey was designed to collect information from a robust and representative sample of residents including those economically active and economically inactive. Residents from the ages of 16-74 years were interviewed in-home and the inclusion of those aged from 64-74 added a new strata to previous surveys.

The sample itself was selected using a systematic random probability technique to ensure relatively consistent levels of statistical reliability for each County, LSC, SSP and down to LAD level.

A core sample of 14,000 interviews was achieved across the region with samples in Leicestershire and Derbyshire boosted by 2520 and 450 respectively.

More detail on the sampling, survey method including questionnaire design, respondent selection, re-weighting, gathering and processing data is included in the separate comprehensive technical report. However, it is important to highlight that this and other output reports provide summary evaluation of a significant and detailed data set which in turn permits very detailed sub-analysis. Caution must though be exercised in relation to low level sub-analysis where sample sizes may fall outside the parameters of statistical significance.

The Life and Work Survey did not set out to replicate previous household surveys and, whilst some individual questions were framed to replicate previous surveys or other national surveys questionnaire structure was unique to this research project. When aligned with the widened scope of the 2003 survey and change of methodology (compared to previous household surveys) this means direct comparisons with previous (or other) surveys are not always meaningful or in some cases possible.

1.5   Theme of this Report – Social Capital and Active Citizenship

The evaluative reporting of the survey features a range of report types. Summary reports have been produced that provide key findings for Learning Skills Council and Sub-regional Strategic Partnerships.

In addition a series of 'themed' reports and short précis style reports will examine specific topics and evaluate the associated key findings to emerge from the survey.

The focus of this particular report is on Social Capital and Active Citizenship issues. It looks at findings to emerge from the survey when the focus is on how respondents contribute to their communities and what matters within their communities. However, it should be noted this area of the survey was relatively limited and, as such, relevant findings are not as extensive as some other 'themed' topics.

Readers should also note that percentages quoted in the report will most often relate to a sub-set of the overall survey sample. Percentage figures quoted and illustrated are rounded up or down to the nearest full percentage point for ease of presentation and interpretation.

2.   SECURING A SAFE COMMUNITY

The survey incorporated a key question asking respondents to prioritise issues (other than crime) they felt are most important for securing a safe community in the area in which they live.

Respondents were asked to consider this in the context of a wider interpretation of the term 'Community Safety' thinking beyond crime issues. On the basis that creating and maintaining safe communities must also involve tackling a wide range of other key issues the following analysis presents views on a series of those key issues concerned.

Analysis of overall findings illustrates that two issues are more frequently identified than any others namely:

- Dealing with anti-social behaviour and…
- Good employment opportunities

Figure 1 below shows respondents views in relation to the most important issues overall.

Figure 1: Three most important issues for securing safe community in area
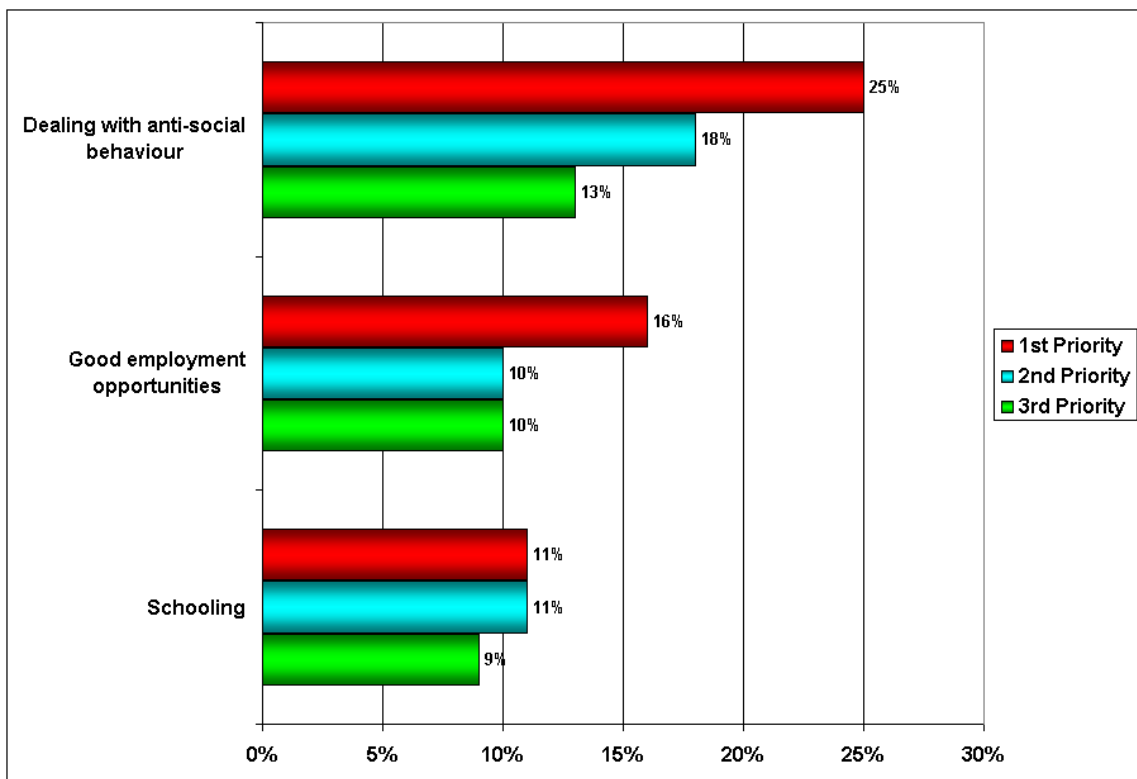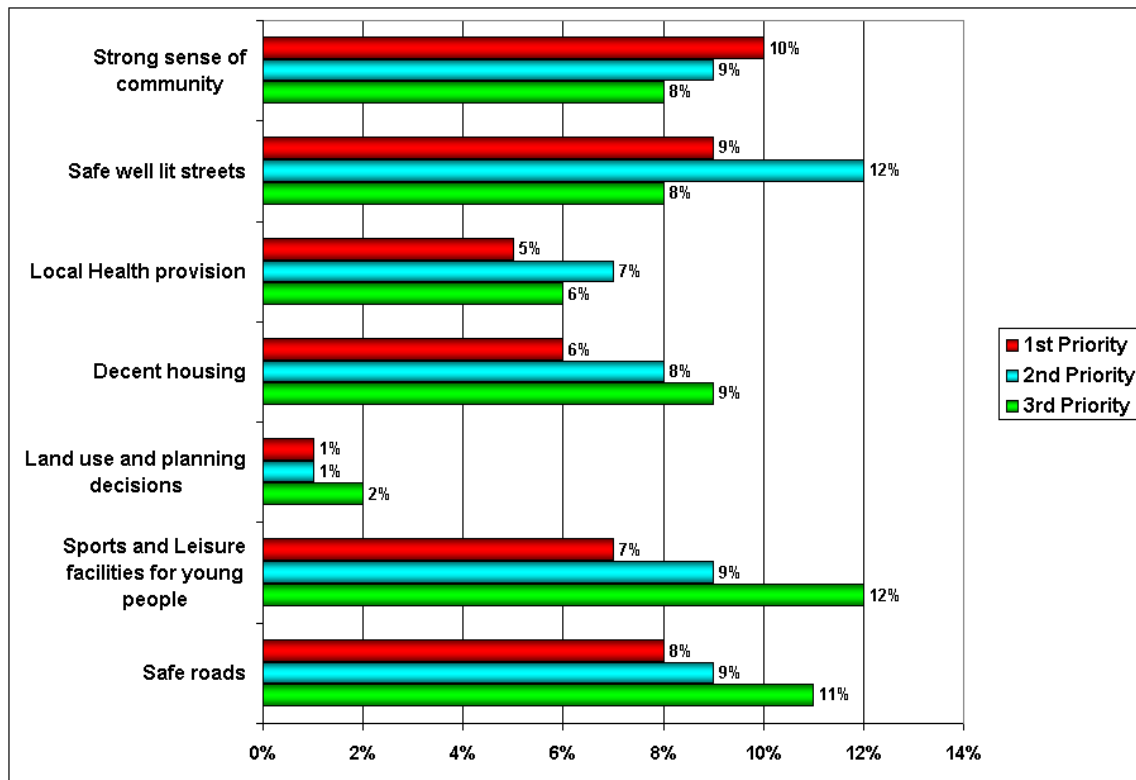

Base: All (16970)
Q ref: Q94
Source: **mruk** research

Whilst Figure 1 illustrates the top three priorities overall, a number of other issues were also identified as important by a further 7 – 11% of respondents including, 'strong sense of community'; 'safe, well lit streets' and 'sports/leisure facilities for young people'. Notably only 1% of all respondents felt none of the specified issues were important.

Figure 2 below illustrates the proportion of respondents who identified other issues as being important.

Figure 2: Other issues important for securing safe community in area

Base: All (16970)
Q ref: Q94
Source: **mruk** research

Further sub-analysis of specific respondent groups illustrates how some specific issues are given slightly more or less weight than aggregate findings.

Third age respondents (for example) place higher emphasis on local health provision (particularly those who are economically inactive) with importance rising up to 8% for this respondent group.

Asian and other non-white respondents place higher that average emphasis on decent housing (14% and 11% respectively). More particularly, these respondent groups place equal or greater levels of emphasis on good employment opportunities (16% and 33% respectively) as their 1st priority.

Notably, when examining responses by age band 'good employment opportunities' and 'dealing with anti-social behaviour' are identified as first priority preferences by a range of 16% – 17% and 23% - 27% in all age bands. However, issues such as 'strong sense of community' and 'local health provision' rise progressively from 6% and 3% (as expressed respectively by 16 – 24 year olds) to around 11% for 60 – 64 year olds. Conversely, 'schooling' is almost exactly the reverse. The highest single proportion (9%) identifying sport and leisure facilities for young people are inevitably young people themselves (aged 16 – 24). Safe well lit streets are identified by 8% of males compared to 11% of females and, 10% of those in non rural areas compared to 7% in rural locations.

3.   EASE OF ACCESS TO AMENITIES

As shown in Figure 3 below, 86% of respondents find it easy to get access to a Library, with 60% of respondents replying it is 'very easy', and only 7% having any difficulty. 85% of respondents find it easy to obtain access to Public Transport, compared to 6% who do not. 94% of respondents replied it was easy to get access to a shop selling fruit and vegetables, (72% replying that it was 'very easy') compared to 4% who replied they had some level of difficulty in doing so. 97% of respondents find it easy to get access to a Post Office, compared to 3% who have difficulty (76% replied that it was 'very easy)'. 92% of respondents replied that it was easy to get access to a Doctors Surgery, of these respondents 68% replied that it was 'very easy'; with 6% replying that they have difficulty.

In the broadest terms findings indicate that the majority of respondents do find it relatively easy to access key amenities. However sub-analysis does illustrate particular relationships between key respondent characteristics and those experiencing some difficulties. Such analysis will assist consideration of social inclusion issues in the context of this survey.

Figure 3: Ease of Getting To… - Total Regional Analysis
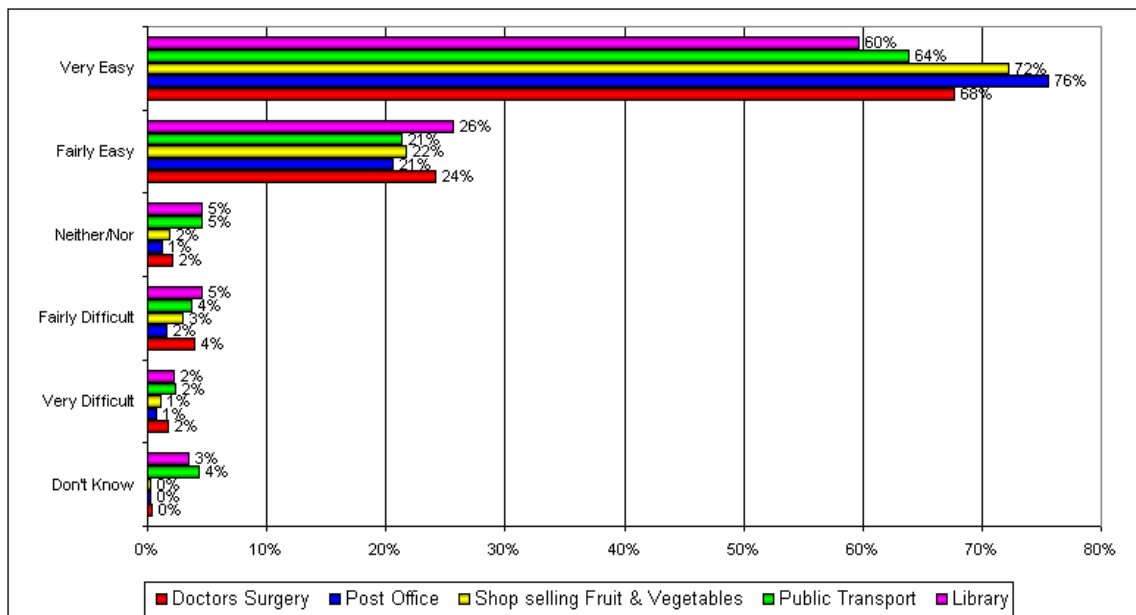
Base: All Respondents

Q ref: Q95

Figure 4 reproduces the sub-regional analysis at each LSC (county) level which indicates a relative degree of consistency in findings at this level.

Figure 4: Ease of Getting To…

Ease of Getting To Doctors Surgery	Regional Total	Derbyshire	Leicestershire	Lincolnshire	Northamptonshire	Nottinghamshire	Rutland	Lincolnshire and Rutland(LSC)
Very Difficult	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%
Fairly Difficult	4%	4%	4%	5%	3%	3%	2%	5%
Neither/Nor	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	7%	3%
Fairly Easy	24%	30%	35%	17%	26%	13%	11%	17%
Very Easy	68%	63%	58%	72%	67%	78%	78%	72%
Don't Know	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%

Ease of Getting To Post Office	Regional Total	Derbyshire	Leicestershire	Lincolnshire	Northamptonshire	Nottinghamshire	Rutland	Lincolnshire and Rutland(LSC)
Very Difficult	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	3%	1%
Fairly Difficult	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	3%	2%
Neither/Nor	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	5%	2%
Fairly Easy	21%	24%	35%	14%	20%	11%	7%	12%
Very Easy	76%	71%	62%	82%	78%	85%	82%	82%
Don't Know	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%

Ease of Getting To Shop Selling Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	Regional Total	Derbyshire	Leicestershire	Lincolnshire	Northamptonshire	Nottinghamshire	Rutland	Lincolnshire and Rutland(LSC)
Very Difficult	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%	2%	1%
Fairly Difficult	3%	4%	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	4%
Neither/Nor	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%	6%	3%
Fairly Easy	22%	27%	33%	15%	21%	13%	10%	14%
Very Easy	72%	67%	62%	77%	75%	81%	78%	77%
Don't Know	30%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%

Ease of Getting To Public Transport	Regional Total	Derbyshire	Leicestershire	Lincolnshire	Northamptonshire	Nottinghamshire	Rutland	Lincolnshire and Rutland(LSC)
Very Difficult	2%	1%	1%	4%	3%	3%	6%	4%
Fairly Difficult	4%	3%	3%	8%	2%	3%	6%	7%
Neither/Nor	5%	3%	3%	9%	3%	5%	12%	9%
Fairly Easy	21%	22%	33%	17%	28%	10%	10%	16%
Very Easy	64%	68%	57%	56%	56%	76%	61%	57%
Don't Know	4%	3%	3%	7%	8%	3%	5%	7%

| Ease of Getting To Library	Regional Total	Derbyshire	Leicestershire	Lincolnshire	Northamptonshire	Nottinghamshire	Rutland	Lincolnshire and Rutland(LSC)
Very Difficult	2%	3%	0%	3%	1%	3%	5%	3%
Fairly Difficult	5%	7%	3%	6%	3%	4%	5%	6%
Neither/Nor	5%	6%	4%	6%	2%	5%	6%	6%
Fairly Easy	26%	32%	36%	18%	27%	15%	10%	18%
Very Easy	60%	49%	53%	63%	63%	71%	73%	63%
Don't Know	3%	3%	4%	5%	4%	3%	2%	4%

Base: All Respondents

Q ref: Q95

Invariably the group of respondents who encounter most difficulty in accessing key amenities are those in the 60 – 64 and 65 – 74 years age bands. However, encouragement should be taken that levels rarely rise much above 10% compared to a typical range of between 5% - 8% for all other age bands.

As illustrated in Figure 5 variances are more evident when sub-analysing access to amenities for those respondents with some form of long-term illness or disability.

Figure 5: Find it very/fairly difficult to access amenities/services
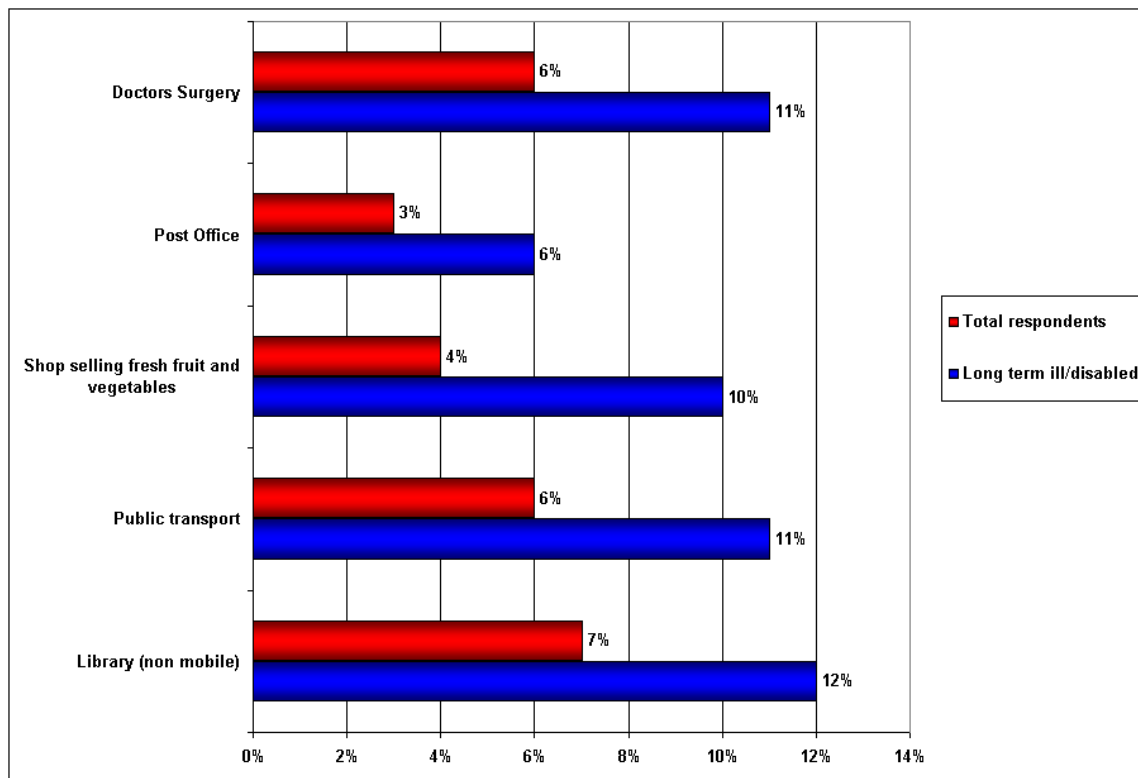
Base: Total Respondents (16970), Long term ill/disabled (3256)

Q ref: Q95

4. INVOLVEMENT IN COMMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The opportunity was taken within the design of the survey to test the extent to which respondents had been involved in any unpaid (excluding expenses) voluntary or community activities within the last 12 months.

Whilst acknowledging that this represents a very broad measure, findings give some indication of the level of contribution being made to the local communities.

Examples of the type of 'community activities' concerned include work for charity, church activities, play groups, resident associations, scout/guide groups, school related activities or work with voluntary organisations.

Some 17% of respondents had been involved in activities of this nature over that past 12 months. In turn this can be compared to between 8 – 10% who identified a 'strong sense of community' as one of their top three priorities for securing a safe community in their area.

Figure 6 below illustrates the aggregate findings and the County/LSC breakdown.

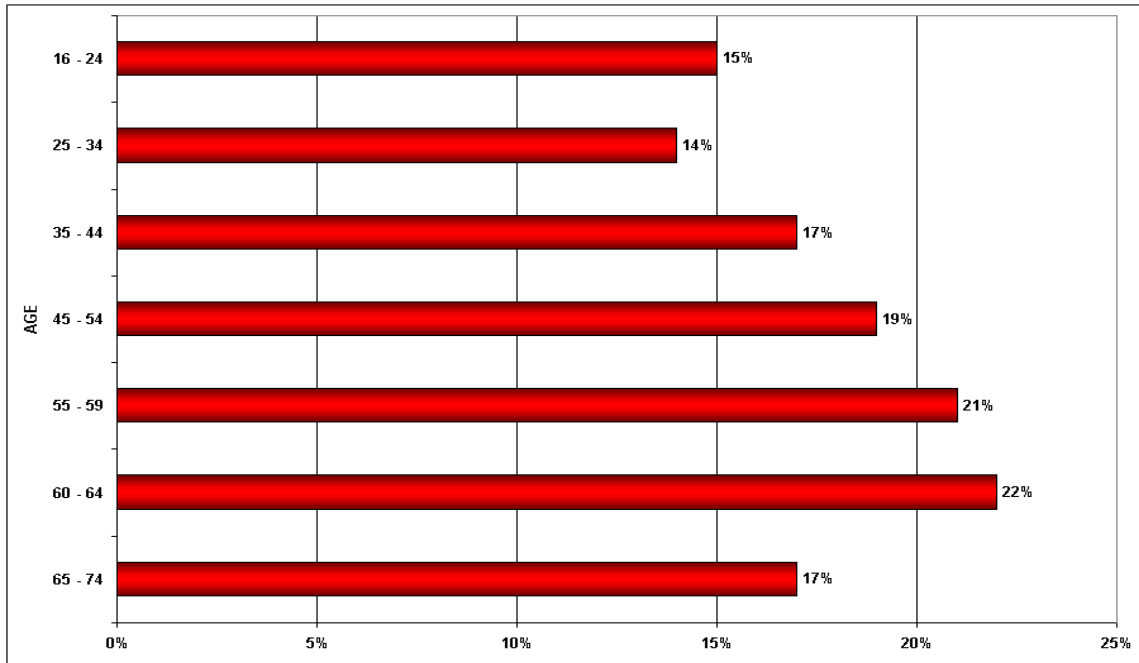**Figure 6: Involved in Unpaid, Voluntary Work Last Year**
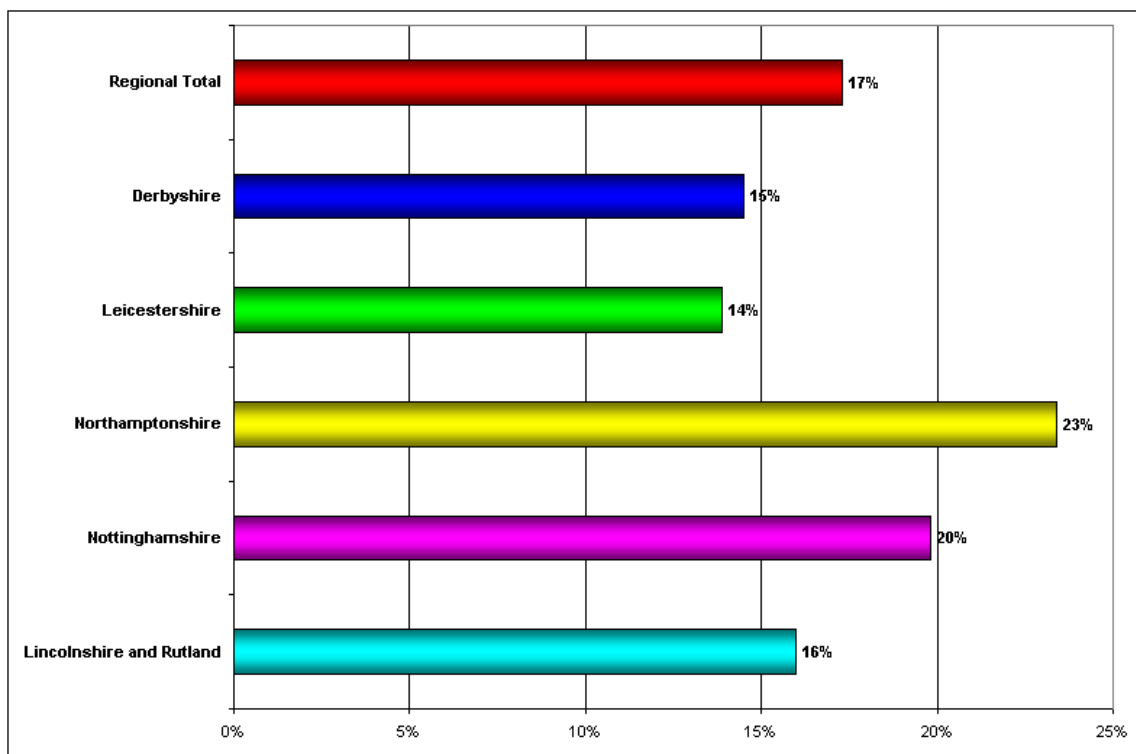
Base: All Respondents

Q ref: Q96

Sub-analysis of involvement by age group illustrates that levels appear to increase gradually with age up to retirement. Levels of involvement are lowest amongst younger age groups but for any age never exceed 23%.

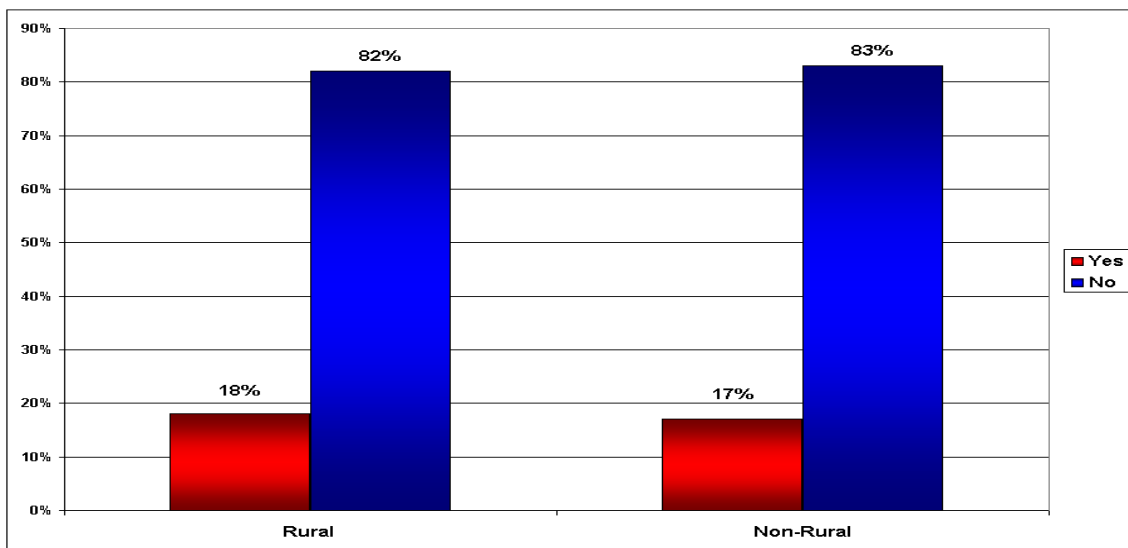**Figure 7: Involved in unpaid voluntary work – Sub analysis by Age Band**

Base: All respondents

Q ref Q96

In aggregate (overall) terms Figure 8 goes on to illustrate that findings are relatively consistent irrespective of whether respondents live in rural or non-rural locations.

Figure 8: Involved in unpaid, voluntary work last year - Sub-analysis by Rural/Non-rural location
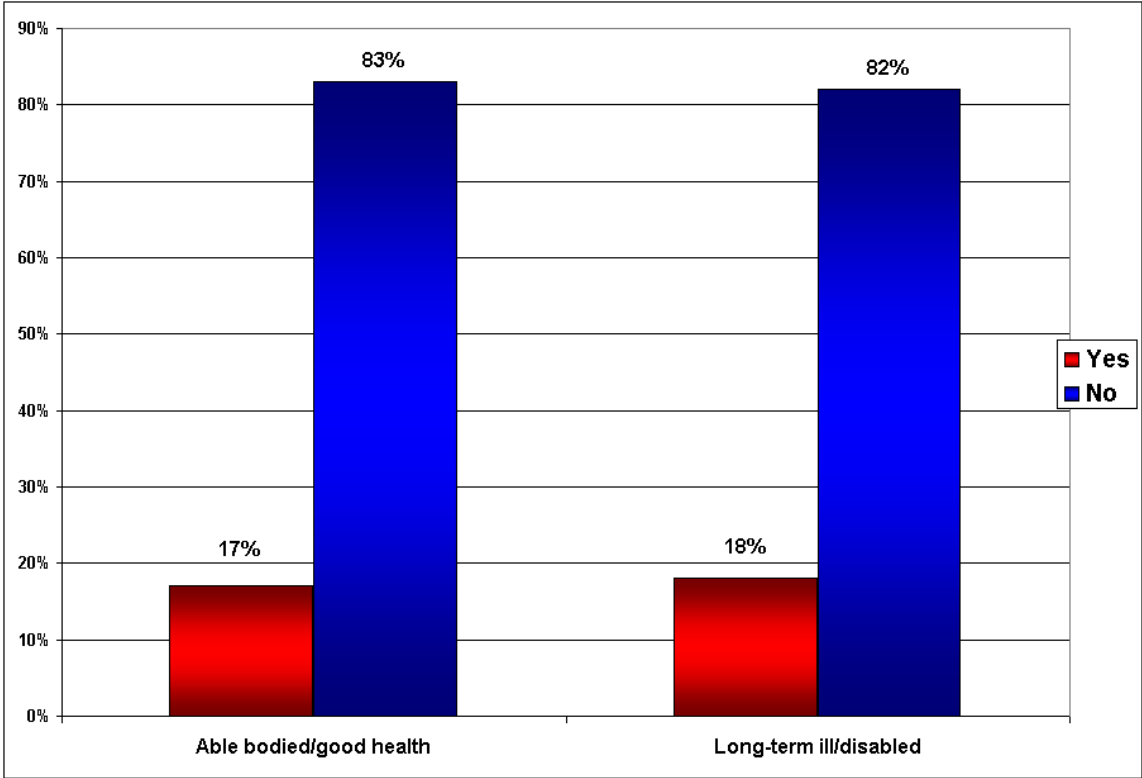

Base: All respondents

Q ref Q96

Figure 9 also illustrates consistency between the level of involvement of those who have some form of long-term illness or disability and those who do not.

Figure 9: Involved in unpaid, voluntary work last year – Sub-analysis by long term illness/disability


Base: Long term ill/disabled (3256)/ Remainder (13714)

Q ref Q96

Again, when sub-analysing by economic activity findings remain consistent. Just over 17% of those economically active and economically inactive have been involved in such activities over the last 12 months. However, variations are more evident when looking at specific employment status. Those unemployed are least likely to get involved (10%) in comparison to those self-employed, employed part time and retired (between 19% - 27%).

Figure 10: Involved in unpaid, voluntary work in the last year – Sub-analysis by Employment Status
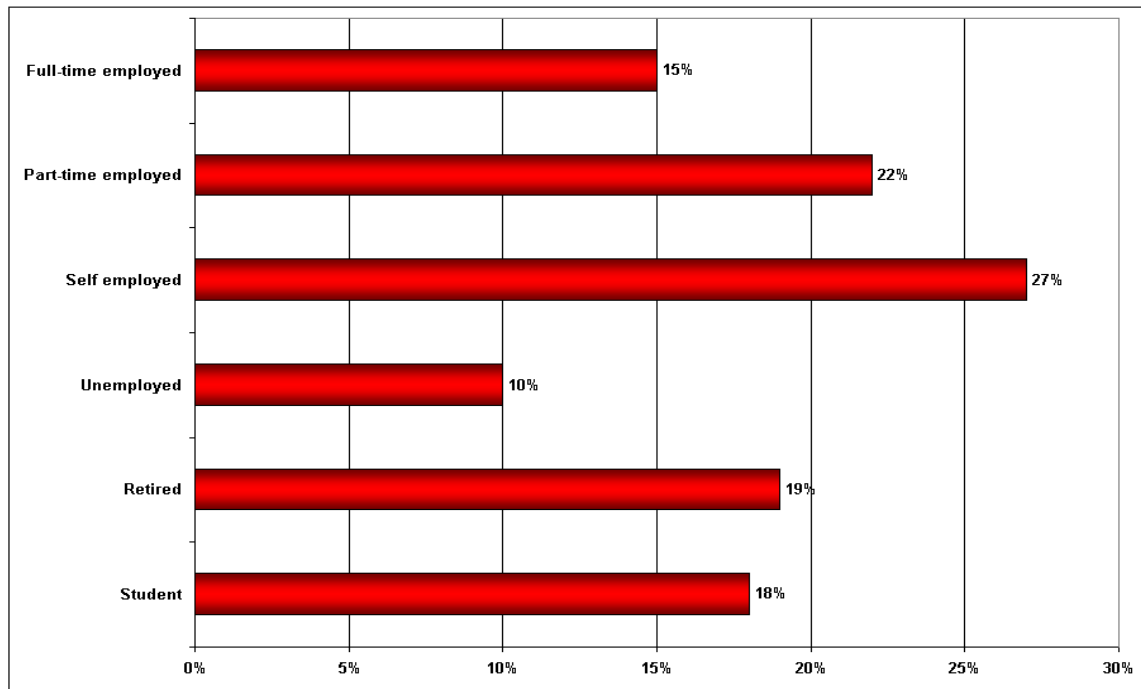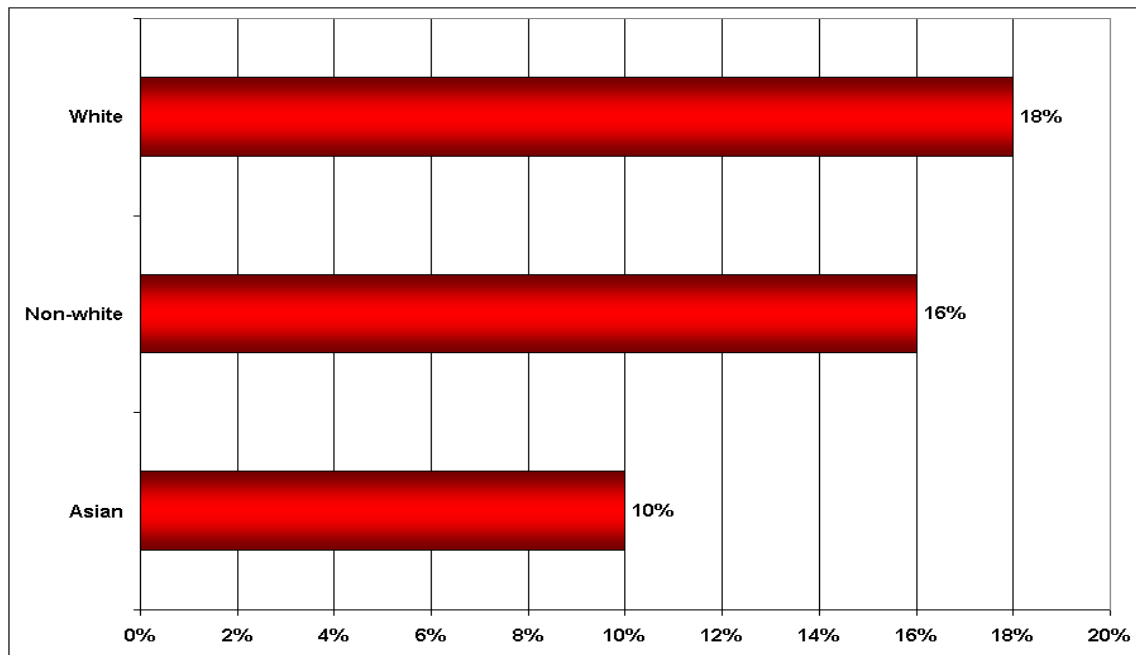

Base: All respondents

Q ref Q96

Figure 11 illustrates findings sub-analysed by ethnicity.

Figure 11: Involved in unpaid, voluntary work last year – Sub-analysis by Ethnicity

Base: All respondents: White (15,943), Non-white (409), Asian (617)

Q ref Q96

5.   LOCAL PROBLEM SOLVING

The survey also sought to establish the extent to which respondents actively participate in problem solving within their local communities.

Respondents were asked to say if within the previous 3 years they had taken or considered taking any of a series of specified actions in an attempt to solve a local problem.

Overall, within the region only some 16% of respondents have done so. Of those who have, the most common action is to contact an appropriate organisation. However, the profile illustrated in Figure 12 shows a tendency towards relatively small numbers taking the actions concerned.

Figure 12: Attempt to Solve Problem - Regional Analysis
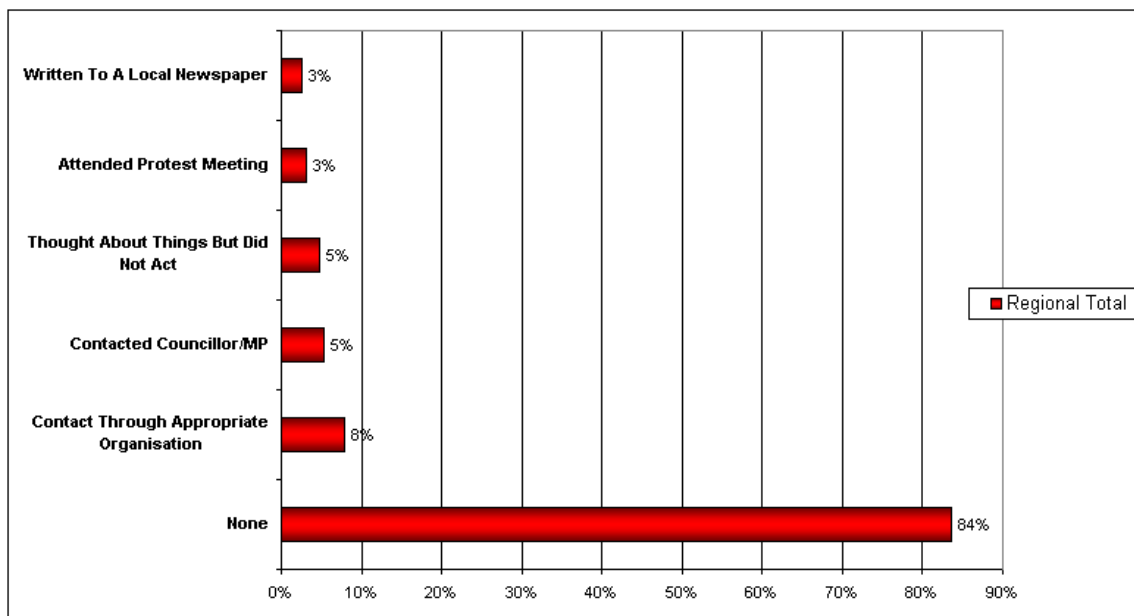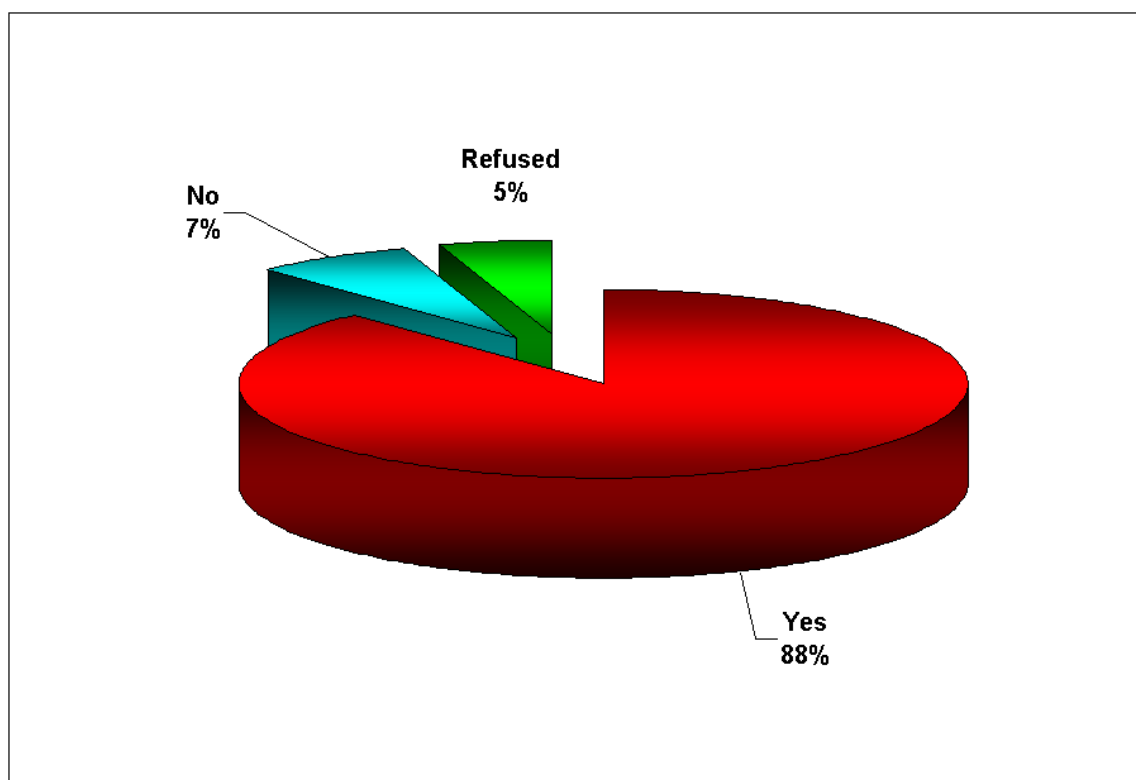

Base: All Respondents

Q ref: Q97

Sub analysis shows relative consistency with overall findings although younger age groups are less likely to take any of the actions specified than their older counterparts.

Within the context of social capital and active citizenship it is also worth examining the extent to which respondents have access to a basic financial service such as a bank or building society account.

Overall the vast majority (88%) do have some kind of bank or building society account compared to 7% who specifically said they do not and 5% who refused to answer.

Figure 13: Bank or Building Society account of any kind?

Base: All Respondents

Q ref: Q102

In sub-analysing findings the level of those without an account tends to be consistently around 5% for those over 35 years old. However, levels rise up to 8% for 25 – 34 year olds and up to 14% for 16 – 24 year olds.

It is also notable that a slightly higher (than the region wide average) proportion of respondents with some form of long term illness/disability do not have such an account (10% compared to 7% region wide).

The survey estimates that 91% of respondents living in rural locations have an account compared to 87% in non-rural areas (those who specifically say they do not amount to 5%

and 8% respectively). Similar findings emerge when making the comparison between economically active and economically inactive respondents (3% and 7% respectively say they do not have a bank or building society account).

However, amongst the most notable variations are those sub analysed by ethnicity. When asked if they have a bank or building society account of any kind, figure 14 below shows that more White respondents (89%) have a bank or building society account than those respondents in the Asian and other non-white ethnic groups (77% and 71% respectively). These are amongst the lowest levels recorded within the sub-analysis of differing respondent groups.

Figure 14: Bank or Building Society Account – Sub-analysis by Ethnicity
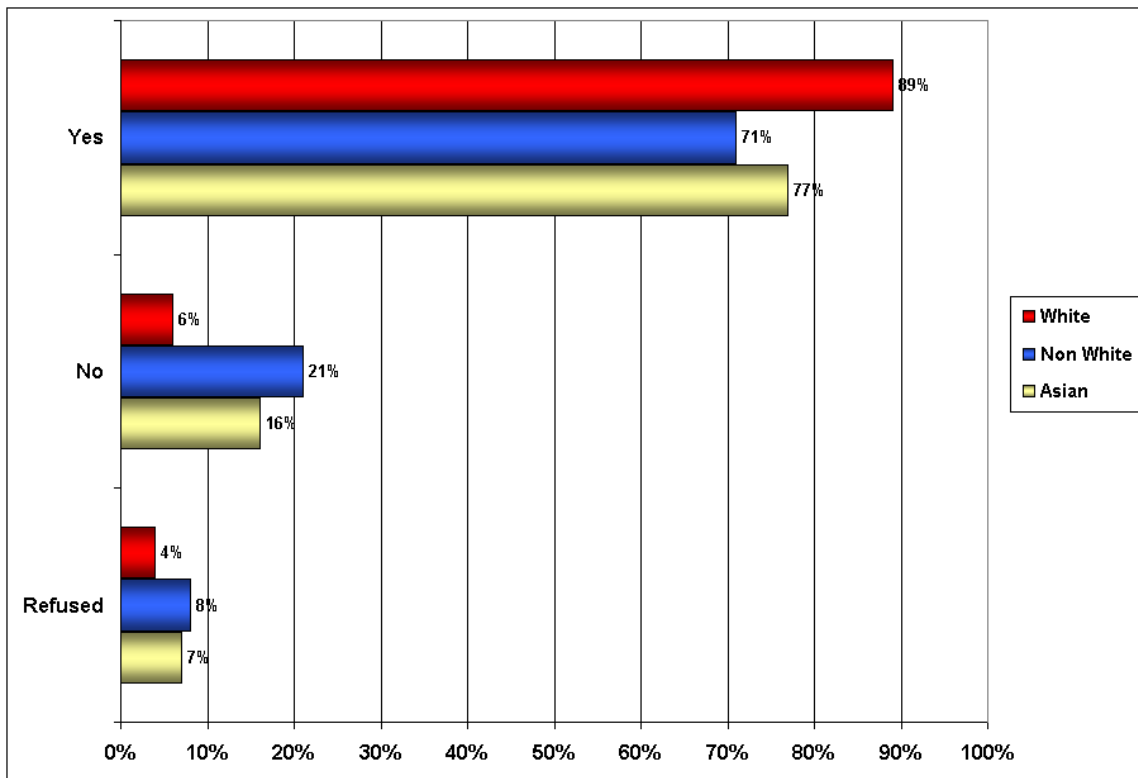

Base: All respondents: White (15,943), Non-white (409), Asian (617)

Q ref Q96

7.   INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE HOME

A final question in the survey was asked of respondents to determine the extent of access to Information and Communications Technology in the home. Overall, as illustrated below, 47% of respondents said they have 'a computer that they personally use at home', 43% have 'Internet access', and 38% have 'a computer which other members of the household use'. 11% of respondents have a 'Broadband connection for Internet'. However this latter figure will be explained by the fact that Broadband is not available in large areas of the East Midlands particularly in rural locations. Some 41% of respondents do not have any computer based information and communication technology in their homes.

Figure 15: ICT Items in the Home
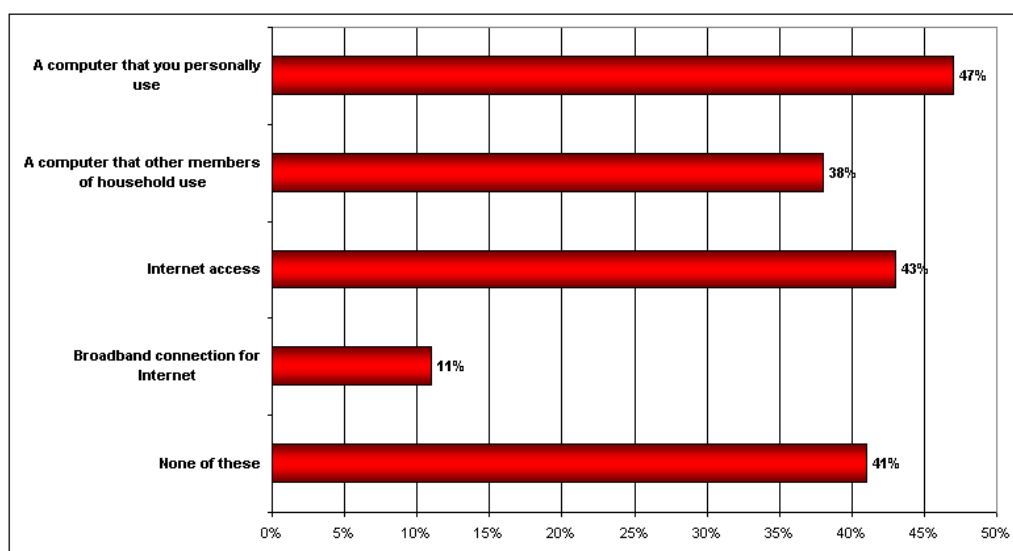
Base: All Respondents

Q ref: Q106

Notably, the profile for access to and use of a personal computer in the home seems to be highest amongst the younger age bands (58% for 16 – 24 year olds) and decreases steadily to 17% for 65 – 74 year olds.

Internet access in the home averages around 48% for all age groups up to 55 years and then decreases sharply for those aged 55 years or more.

Half (50%) of the respondent male population have a personal computer (PC) they use in their home compared to 44% of the females. In sub-analysis by ethnicity the survey estimates that 48% of both White and Non-white respondents have a PC they use at home compared to 36% of Asian respondents (the profile for internet access in the home is similar although it drops to 29% for Asian respondents).

Also of note is the lower PC use and internet access enjoyed by respondents with some form of long term illness/disability (38% and 35% respectively) when compared to the remainder of respondents (49% and 45%).

Perhaps the most notable variations within the context of social inclusion are those to emerge when sub-analysis is undertaken by employment status. 50% or more of those in employment have a PC they use at home and have access to the internet compared to 34% of those unemployed and 20% of those retired. Indicative trends also suggest that the longer the period of unemployment the less likely the respondents are to have ICT in the home.

By contrast, students are amongst the highest proportion of respondent groups with access to ICT in the home.

Figure 16: ICT in the home – Sub-analysis by Employment Status
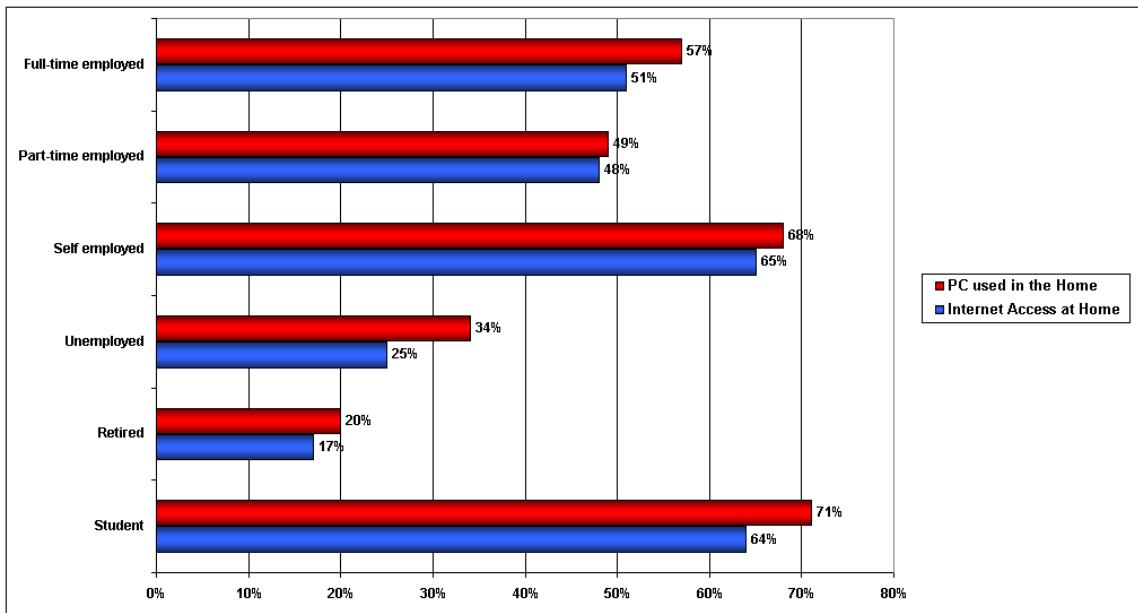
Base: All Respondents (**mruk** multi variate analysis)

Q ref: Q106

8. CONCLUDING   COMMENTS

The purpose of this themed report has been to draw from the survey key findings that relate specifically to Social Capital and active citizenship.

The design of the survey itself provided only for a relatively limited number of questions (given the principal focus of the research). However, sub-analysis of a range of respondent groups identifies some links between the extent to which respondents get involved in their local communities, and key characteristics such as age, health and socio economic status.

More pro-active levels of involvement within communities appear to increase steadily with age. Perceived priorities for local communities will inevitably reflect the life cycle stage of individual respondents.

At present, the impact and dynamic of information communications technology is more likely to emerge through younger age groups. Indications are that there may be some way to go yet before internet access and ICT is as inclusive as national policies wish it to be.