

# Children's Holiday Club Survey

## Summary Results



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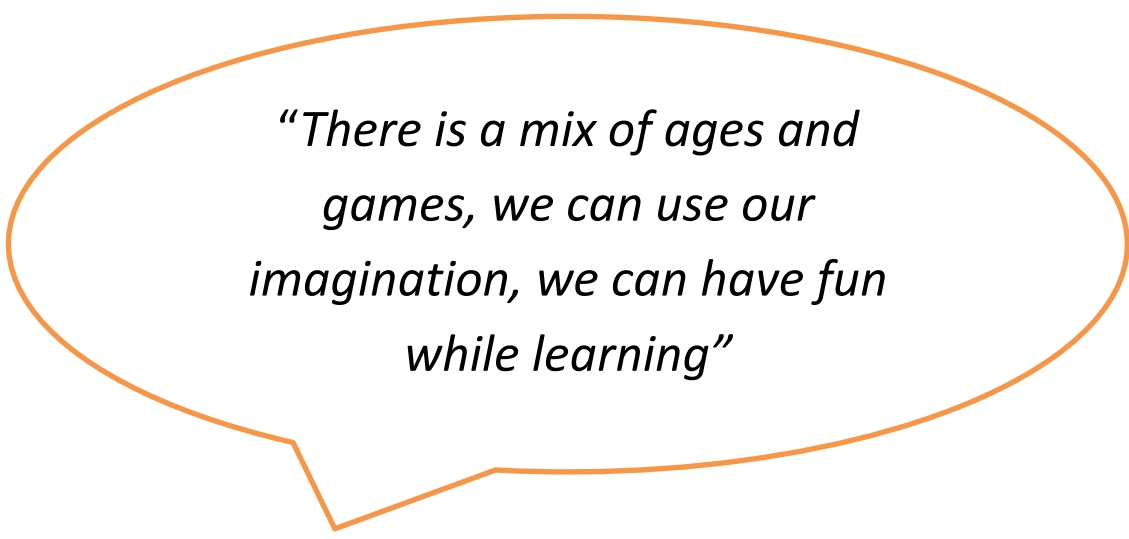
To quote from this report please use:

Audain, I (2015) *Children's Holiday Club Survey: Summary Results*, Scottish Out of School Care Network, Glasgow, (online).

## Introduction

This survey of children attending registered out of school care holiday clubs was carried out as a pilot in the summer of 2014 by Irene Audain, SOSCN. Other SOSCN staff helped, while 19 services and 423 children supported the process. Finlay Wright helped with subsequent data entry for analysis of results. Andrew Shoolbread and Nick Dodd helped analyse some of the more abstract drawings and Andrew helped with the survey question wording stage.

The analysis of the results took a little more time than anticipated as we received more returns than expected for a pilot survey. This summary was prepared from presentation slides and related commentary in December 2015.



*“There is a mix of ages and games, we can use our imagination, we can have fun while learning”*

*(11 year old out of school care holiday club participant)*

Thank you to all of the 423 children who completed this survey in the summer of 2014 and the 19 services which took part across Scotland.

*Scottish Out of School Care Network, December 2015.*

## Summary Report:

### What did we do?

- We designed a pilot children's out of school care holiday club survey which services could use themselves to find out children's views and to also send us the information to create a national picture. We carried out the survey in the summer of 2014
- In total there were 12 questions relating to children's wellbeing, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (UN, 1989) their choices, and relating to Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) (Scottish Government, 2013).
- We had 423 responses from children, from 19 services, over 9/10 Local authority areas (one did not fill in the address slip so we don't know what area they are from). Returns were from small rural to large urban services across Scotland, from the voluntary, public and private sectors.
- For the first nine questions we provided statements the children could agree with or not, or they could say maybe or just not answer. ( We used smiley face type symbols to grade 9 questions "yes", "no" or "maybe")
- On the back page there was space for children to draw or write (or both) answers to three more open ended questions:
  - What are your favourite things about the club?
  - What makes you happy at the club?
  - What makes you **not** happy at the club?
- Every child could choose to take part or not, or only answer some questions, and to stop at any time. We including drawing as that is an easier way to communicate for many children.
- We only asked for their age, not their name or gender. Responses came from 4 to 16 year olds, with the majority aged 7, see chart 1, appendix, for breakdown. Ethically it was always to be a choice for children to take part, and answers were to be kept confidential. Children and staff were told that any information which suggested a child was being harmed in any way would lead to child protection action by the service or SOSCN. Services were expected to already have parental consent to survey their children.
- What we mean by holiday club for this survey were services registered by the Care Inspectorate in Scotland. Services have to meet regulatory standards and staff are registered with the Scottish Social Services Council. In 2014 there were 582 holiday services registered, (Care Inspectorate, 2015), most were an additional service. For this survey all were additional to out of school care services.

## What did we learn from the survey?

### From questions 1 to 9 (see appendix for charts):

- 85% of children are quite happy at their out of school care holiday club and this question is important in terms of their wellbeing and Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC).
- 91% of children agree that the staff care about them and listen to them and this is very important in terms of GIRFEC, their rights to be heard under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and their development overall in having good, caring attachment relationships with adults.
- 84% of children agreed they could choose what play and games they do at the club and this is important in terms of their rights to make choices and their right to play under Article 31 of the UNCRC.
- 85% of children agreed they could choose to do different things at the club and this question was designed to cover wider activities than play or games but was about being able to do “nothing” or play sports or other activities they might not call play. However, we learned that some children and staff thought this question seemed too much the same as the one before. We will change this for future surveys.
- 77% agreed they mostly enjoyed being with other children in the club with 18% saying they “maybe” (mostly) enjoyed being with other children in the club. This question highlights the importance of relationships with others and the developmental learning that goes along with that. Just like adults, children don’t get on with everyone they meet, but out of school care helps in learning to share and co-operate with other children.
- 69% said they get a chance to rest and relax at the club while 20% said they maybe did and 9% said they did not. This is an important right for children under Article 31 of the UNCRC and relates generally to their overall health and wellbeing. Children can spend a long day at the holiday club and must be able to switch off, rest and relax at different times. The results here show that a small percentage of children were not getting the rest they need, so that is something to be addressed by services.

- 77% said they get to help choose new things for the club and 15% said maybe while 7% said they did not. This is important for children's choices under the UNCRC. Some children might only come to the holiday club so might not have had a say in advance of the holiday club as those children do, who go to the service all year. However some small number of services might not be asking the children what they want, so they need to do start doing this in order to include children's choices.
- 56% said they got to choose where to go on trips with the club, while 23% said maybe and 15% said they did not. Trips often have to be booked well in advance so again some children may not have been at the service when the trip was chosen. It is clear here that some services could try harder to involve children in decisions like this as this is important for their rights, as well as learning to make the right choices with others.
- 90% said that they could ask one of the staff if they needed help or had a worry, with only 6% saying maybe and 2% saying they could not. This is a reassuring result as this is very important for GIRFEC and children's overall wellbeing. Since it is so important any negative results here need to be addressed by the services involved.

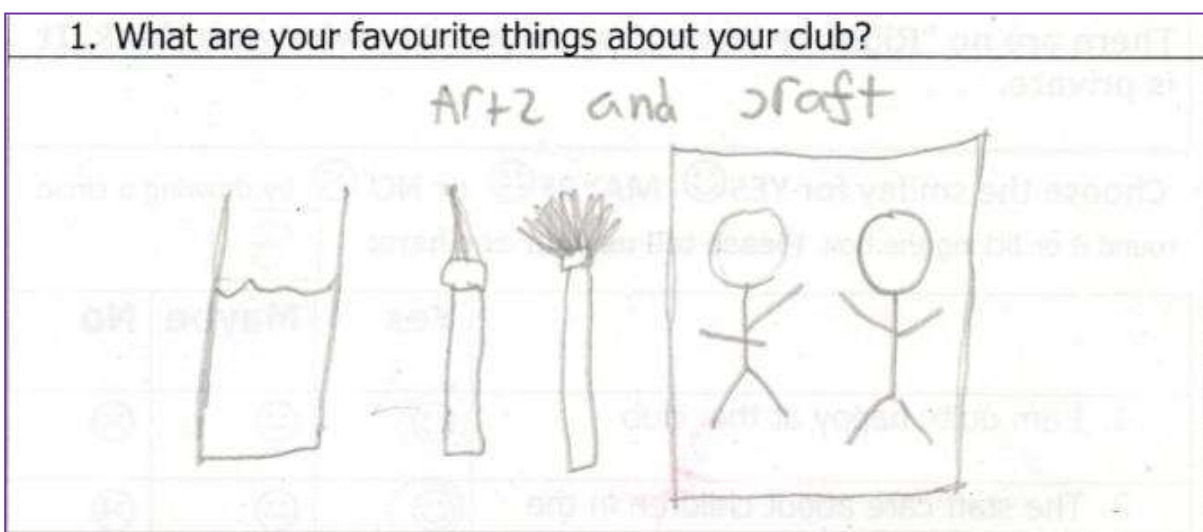
Overall the results for this section were very positive for out of school care holiday clubs and the staff working in services. Each service could see their individual results before they sent them to us, so they could act on areas where they saw a need for improvement. Even if this was only a handful of children saying they did not agree with some of the statements, it is important to try to improve so that all children feel that they can talk to staff or have a say in important decisions.

### **The 3 open questions: “favourites”, “happy” and “not happy”:**

The main message from this section is the importance of play, playing and friendship; having a social time with other children; engaged together in playing or chatting. Play and friendship are the largest self-perceived happiness benefit for children through attending out of school care holiday clubs. Attachment relationships with others are important to child development and wellbeing, as is regulating behaviour to participate in shared play and experiences. Older children tended to stress the social relational aspects while the youngest concentrated on telling us about play and their favourite specific toys and games, which reflects their stages of development. For this section it is important to note that, once again, the results are mainly positive. Most children could not find anything to report as making them “not happy” in their holiday club. Whilst only a small number reported any negative issues, this is still a concern, even if only one child experiences others hitting, or being mean or excluding. Staff should be trained and supported in ensuring children are not bullied or excluded and they should enforce quieter areas when possible to give children breaks from too much noise and activities.

We learned that in terms of survey design it was a good idea to allow for drawings as that helped more children express their views. Some children might have wanted to give what they thought were the “right” answers, as their own holiday service staff were involved in delivering the survey. It was found that the variety of responses in children’s own handwriting, drawings and “colouring in” reflected, we believe, their genuine opinions and very well illustrated depictions of their experiences of out of school holiday care.

**About a third or more of the three open questions returns included drawings, often from very young children.**



**Keywords used most often or inferred from drawings**

- Play (148) and Playing (97)
- Friends (51)
- Games (27), Trips (27), Art (26), Football(24) Wii (22)
- Outside (17), Drawing (15), Lego (15), Toys (14) & Fun (13)
- 9 specifically mentioned staff too as favourites or:

Children said:

*They ask us what to do instead of making us do things” (no age given) “There is a mix of ages and games, we can use our imagination, we can have fun while learning” (11 year old).*

*“Structure, routine... staff familiar with my difficulties and who know how to communicate with me. Having an area to access for peace when I am upset/anxious/angry” (older child with support needs).*





**Keywords from answers/ including drawings: NB children gave multiple answers**

- Play or Playing (273)
- Friends or similar e.g. other children, other people, or staff (150) (16 staff)
- Out or outside (32)
- Games (21)
- Everything (20)
- Toys (10)





### Keywords from answers/ including drawings: NB children gave multiple answers

- “Nothing” (160 from 228 replies) said nothing at the club makes them not happy:
- “Annoy “ or “annoying” (other children) (14)
- Hit or hitting (12) and hurt or hurting (7)
- Bored (8)
- Shout or shouting (7) (including 2 staff)
- People being mean (8) or people being nasty (3)
- Fighting (5) No friends (2) and too noisy (2)

### Conclusion:

The overwhelming message from the children responding is that they are quite happy in their club, they trust and like the staff, they enjoy playing, being with and making friends. One child with additional support needs appreciated how the staff knew and understood exactly what to do to help. Although the percentage of negative issues are small, it is important for services to address any indications of children being unhappy, bored, excluded or hurt, to make even more effort to ensure children's views are included and to ensure time for rest. Nevertheless, a high percentage of children surveyed could find nothing negative about their club and most were extremely positive about the relationships, activities and resources provided.

## References:

The Care Inspectorate (2015) *Early Learning and Childcare Statistics 2014*, SCWIS (online)

<http://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/2722/Childcare%20Statistics%202015.pdf>

Scottish Government (2013) *A guide to Getting it Right for Every Child*

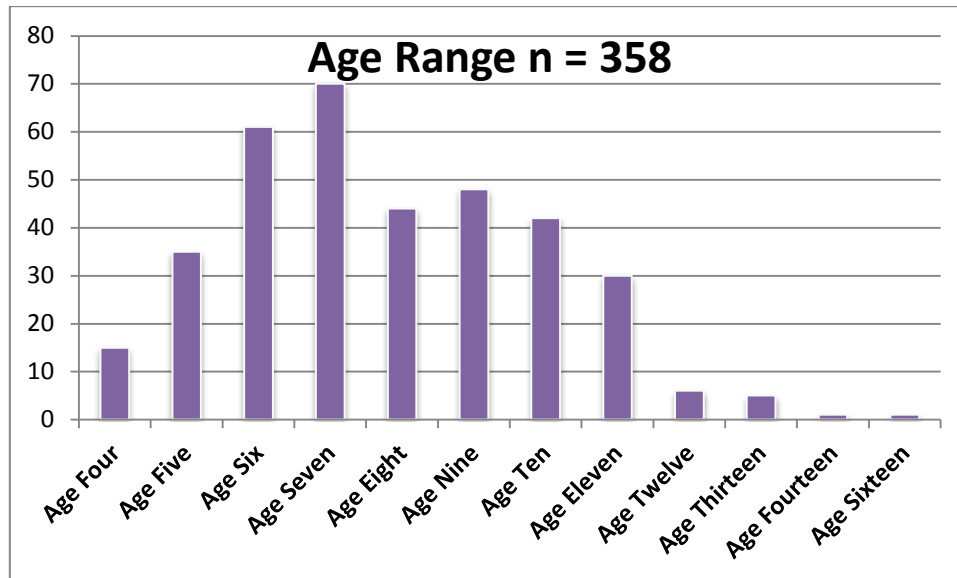
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright/publications/practice-guide>

United Nations (1989) Convention on the Rights of the Child, United Nations

<http://ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>

## Appendix:

### Chart 1: Age range



### Returns:

423 children completed the survey from 19 out of school care services providing holiday care (some over multi sites)

1 Unknown

2 Private sector

12 voluntary sector

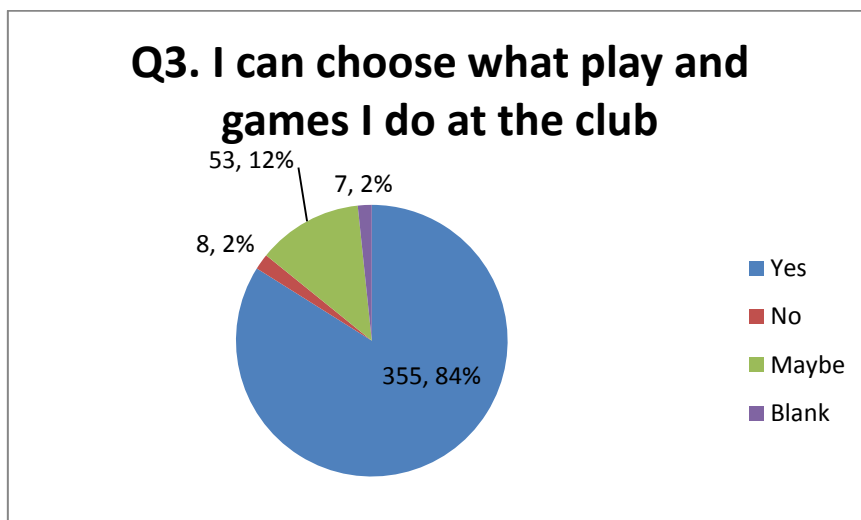
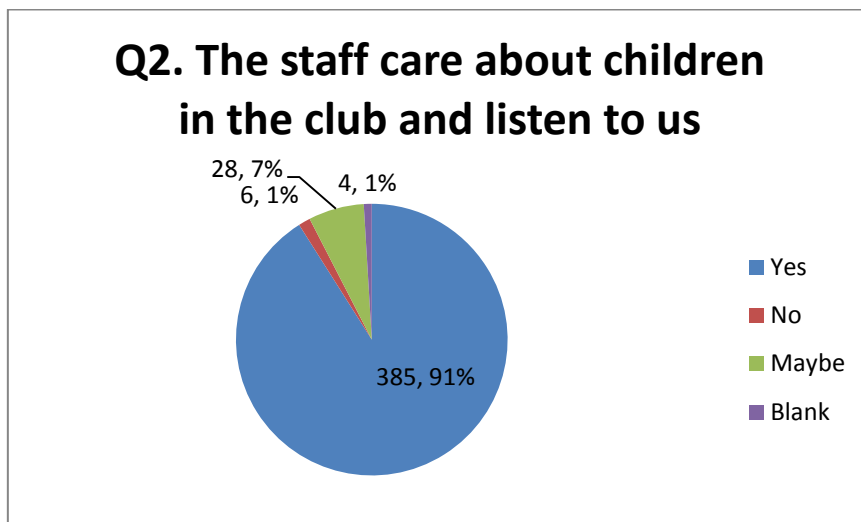
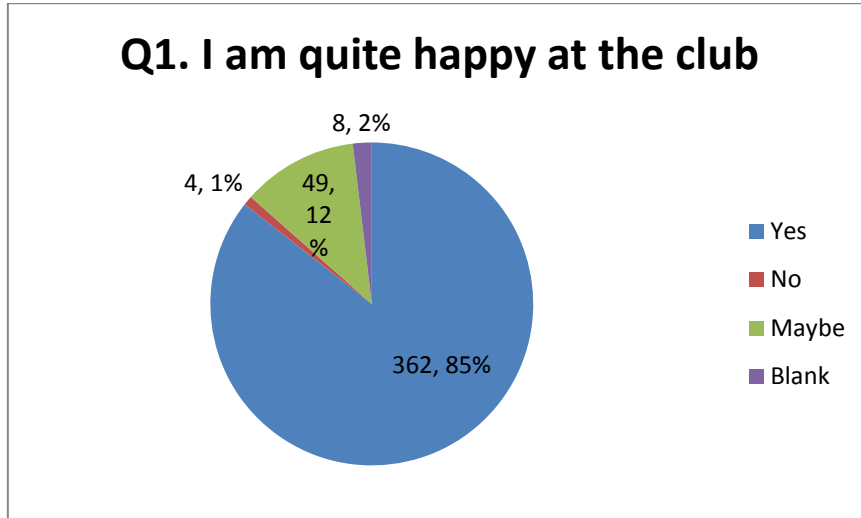
4 Public sector

Local Authority areas covered 9 & 1 unknown

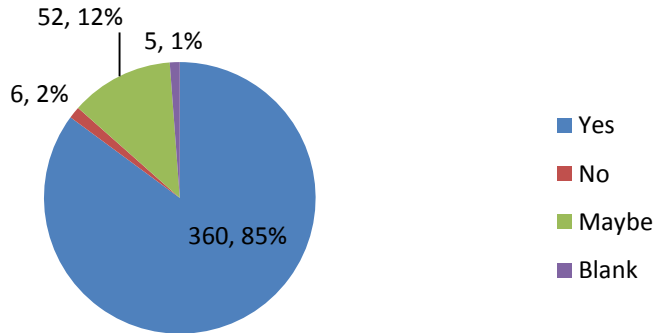
Aberdeen, Falkirk, Fife, Glasgow, Highland, Inverclyde, Perth and Kinross, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire.

Types of services ranged from very rural small village services, small towns to city urban areas, from areas of disadvantage to average & more affluent areas.

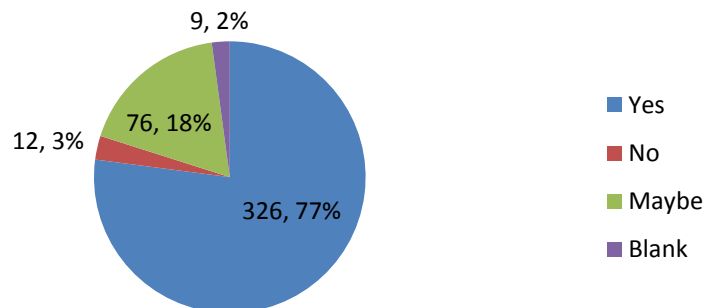
Questions 1-9 and Results:



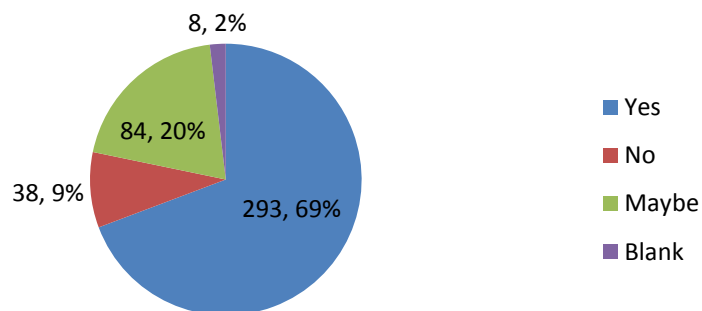
### Q4. I can choose different things to do at the club



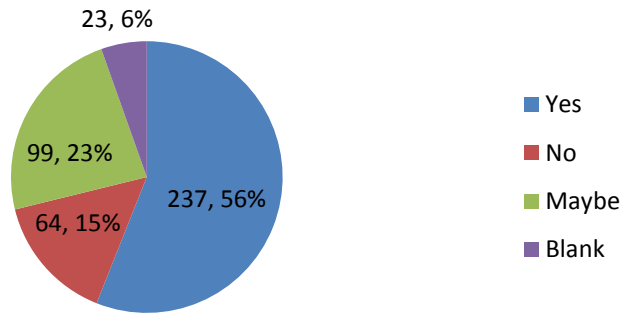
### Q5. I mostly enjoy being with other children at the club



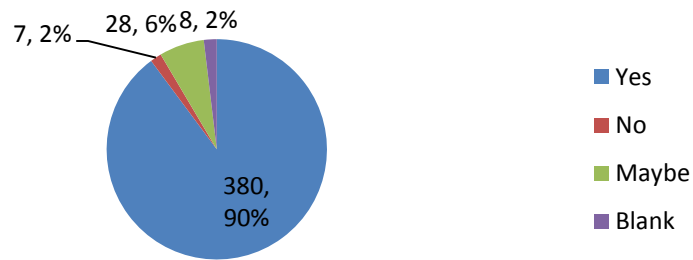
### Q6. I get a chance to rest and relax at the club



### Q8. Children help choose where we go on trips with the club



### Q9. I know I can ask one of the staff if I need help or have a worry





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*supporting children's rights to play, care and learning*

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