

**Your Time -  
Your Club**

**Services for Older Children**  
Research Report



**Scottish Out of School Care Network**



## **Your Time- Your Club**

Out of School Care Services for Older Children

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report presents the results of a survey of over 7,700 young people, aged between 10 and 14 years old, which was carried out in Dumfries and Galloway in the summer and early autumn of 2005. Over 3,500 responded to the survey, representing an excellent 45% return rate. The aims of the survey were to find out if young people would be interested in attending out of school care activities specifically set up for their own age group and, if interested, where, when and what type of service and activities they would like to be made available. This is set against a context of there being very few daily out of school services for this age group across the country.

Chapter 1 provides background information on the Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN); in particular the Children's Services Development Officer post in Dumfries and Galloway, held by Christine Leadbeater, who conducted the survey. The existing pattern of out of school care in Dumfries and Galloway is outlined in this section.

In Chapter 2, the policy background, recent research and information from pilot services for this age range are outlined; in particular, "Schools Out", a government guidance document, and "What's 4 US?" (a SOSCN research report), are discussed in detail in order to place the survey findings into the broader national perspective. In "Schools Out", the lack of services for the older age group and the need for development in this direction is mentioned. "What's 4 Us?" provides an analysis of pilot services for young people and also includes a wide selection of their views on the type of services and activities they want.

The aims and objectives of the survey, and the methodology used are outlined in Chapter 3, which also places the aims within the overall strategy for the development of services for children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway. Following a local audit of childcare, in 2004, by the Scottish Out of School Care Network, Dumfries and Galloway Childcare Partnership commissioned this local research with a view to informing the development of a strategy to meet the needs of this age group. Such a strategy would fit with the overall aims of the Integrated Children's Services plan. A well-designed leaflet was printed and distributed to all young people, of appropriate age, through primary and secondary schools in Dumfries and Galloway. Young people from Lockerbie Academy helped with the distribution. Over 7,700 copies of the survey were distributed, with nearly 3,500 returns, a response rate of 45%.

Chapter 4 presents the findings of the survey, with short commentaries and a series of graphs and charts. The charts were compiled by SOSCN and the data was analysed by staff from SOSCN and the Children's Information Service in Dumfries and Galloway. The responses from primary age children and young people in secondary school (to the same questions) are set out separately, (as well as combined for overall responses) to see if there are any differences in priorities between the age groups.

Chapter 5 sets out the conclusions to the research, noting and commenting on the different responses between secondary school and primary school children. Overall, primary pupils rated "chilling out", sports and games highly and were willing to attend a club set up within school premises, while secondary children opted for "chilling out" and preferred services in premises other than the school. Common to both was the unpopularity of homework activities, and the popularity of food and drink being provided alongside the chance to be with friends.

In both groups most young people said they would "maybe" attend a club for their age group, on average for two evenings. Most preferred that the service would be within walking distance from school and also believed their parents would want them to attend such a service and be willing to pay (it is important to note that parents have not yet been asked these questions). More than one in five responses, in both age ranges, definitely wanted a club after school.

Chapter 6, puts forward a number of recommendations for the way forward in Dumfries and Galloway, emphasising the need now for more in depth, focused, research with young people, as well as their parents, and the need to map existing youth service provision.

Cross agency collaboration is recommended to ensure that the different needs of this age group are met, resources pooled, and concerns about the cost of developing and delivering such services are set out, drawing on the evidence from other pilot services for this age group.

The views of 3,500 older children/young people, representing almost half their peer population in Dumfries and Galloway, provide an interesting insight into the activities, location, frequency, accommodation and type of club they would like to see provided for them after school. This report is also a starting point in consulting with and acting on their opinions, needs and preferences, within the aims and objectives of all of the agencies and departments which were involved in this research.

This report (while compiled and written collaboratively by SOSCN staff involved) is based on the work undertaken and led by the SOSCN CSDO Christine Leadbeater who developed and carried out the survey, and in the process, collaborated with schools, teachers, Children's Information Service, Dumfries and Galloway Childcare Partnership and the young people themselves. The survey would have not been possible without that leadership and collaboration, as well as investment from the partnership into the costs of printing and distribution.

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## CHAPTER ONE - INTRODUCTION

### Contextual Background – Out of School Care in Dumfries and Galloway

#### 1.1 Scottish Out of School Care Network

The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) is the national, charitable, organisation leading and supporting the development of high quality out of school care in Scotland. The work of the organisation is underpinned by a strong commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which includes a child's right to be consulted and their right to play and leisure activities. SOSCN is core funded through the Scottish Executive and manages a range of projects, research, training and consultancies to support the aims of the organisation.

SOSCN employs a Children's Services Development Officer, (CSDO) Christine Leadbeater, in Dumfries and Galloway (D&G) in order to take forward specific local childcare strategy objectives by working across the sector to develop links, support services and especially to develop innovative work to address gaps in service support for children, young people and families in D&G.

#### 1.2 Dumfries & Galloway

Dumfries and Galloway is a large rural area with very low population density. It is expected that over the next ten years the region may experience up to a 28% reduction of child population, while at the same time experiencing a 20% increase in the population of people aged 60 and over.

The population of Dumfries and Galloway is 148,340. The child population is 27,938; of these children 9,400 are aged between 12-16 years.

There are 23 out of school care (OSC) groups in Dumfries and Galloway. These services are provided by the voluntary and private sector. Most of the services are based in centres that also provide childcare for under 5's and pre-school education. It makes sound economic sense, and suits many parents, to provide a range of children's services for all ages under one roof, especially in areas where a stand-alone service for any particular age range would not attract sufficient numbers for both sustainability and social and educational purposes. Most services are delivered from community centres or the services' own premises.

Several services for Out of School Care are registered with the Care Commission to take children to the age of 16 years. At present there are none operating specifically for 12-16 year olds. The average age of children attending OSC is 8 years old. A very small number of services have children over 12 attending, with the exception of children with extra support needs. Children of this age often out grow activities offered and feel they are capable of looking after themselves.



Parents in Dumfries and Galloway do however express concerns to OSC groups relating to the period of transition from primary to secondary school: they worry about their child not attending the OSC group beyond this point and so being home alone. As a result of these concerns many of the groups, originally registered to accommodate children up to the age of 12 years, varied their registration to cover young people up to the age of 16 years.

### **1.3 Out of school care for 11+**

Traditional out of school care services, especially those operating from primary school or indeed early education premises, may have to cater for an age range from 3 – 12, but the most common age range is between 5-9 with a strong tapering off for the older age range. The older children may find the activities, premises and company “too young” for their own needs, and early adolescence can be a challenging time for children and young people, wanting a more independent role and control over choices.



## CHAPTER TWO - NATIONAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

### 2.1 National Policy: "Schools Out"

"School's Out"<sup>1</sup> was launched in February 2003, by the Minister for Education and Young People at a parliamentary reception, in Edinburgh, organised by the Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN).

The overall aims of Schools Out are:

"... Making known, and reinforcing, the benefits and effect of good-quality OSC; in helping and encouraging the development of good-quality, accessible and sustainable OSC; and in ensuring progress in the delivery of priorities for action. We stress the value in having all sectors - local authority, voluntary and private - deliver OSC"<sup>2</sup>

The document provides the following definition of out of school care (OSC):

"OSC is essentially care for school-age children: before school starts in the morning (mostly breakfast clubs); after the end of the school day (after-school clubs); and during school holidays (play schemes or all-day care). We recognise that it is mostly the children of working parents who use OSC. We also recognise that increasing numbers of children in need, including children from vulnerable families, and children with additional support needs also go to OSC."<sup>3</sup>

The above extracts emphasise the need to recognise that good quality OSC can be delivered by a wide range of sectors and to meet the needs of a broad range of families, not only as support to parents in work or training.

The report also details the considerable revenue resources being made available to support the development of childcare and pre-school education in Scotland, which also includes a range of resources that can be used to support OSC:

	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
<b>Childcare strategy</b>	£19.25 million	£29.75 million	£40.65 million
<b>workforce development</b>	£3.6 million	£6 million	£6 million
<b>Sure Start Scotland</b>	£23.1 million	£35 million	£50 million

Quoting guidance issued to local authorities on this funding "The development of good-quality, sustainable and accessible OSC is a main priority. The extra resources, available to local authorities for the childcare

<sup>1</sup> *School's Out – a framework for the development of out of school care, Scottish Executive, 2003*

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/sofd-00.asp>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

strategy, should allow them to make considerable progress in achieving this aim.”<sup>4</sup> It is stressed that the development of services for older children and young people, and access by children in need or with additional support needs- both areas for attention in the priorities for action- could be supported with these resources.

Detailed sections on sustainability; children’s rights; premises; quality; workforce development; models of provision; inclusion and links with other national and local strategies, using examples of good practice and links with other relevant research and evaluations throughout, ensure that all aspects of the development of OSC are thoroughly investigated. Lists of funding sources and local childcare partnership information, as well as contacts, ensure that further information can also be easily accessed.

The massive expansion in out of school care through the resources of the childcare strategy and the New Opportunities Fund is also outlined, with over 1,000 OSC services across Scotland now operating.

The document sets out priorities for action and specific recommendations, which include the production of a baseline audit of current OSC provision as a *first step* towards developing a local OSC strategy. Further guidance has been issued to local authorities outlining the basic information to be submitted to the Executive (and extending the overall deadline from Spring to Summer 2004) for the submission of the overall reviews.<sup>5</sup>

The Executive asked for baseline information on the following to be submitted:

- Location
- Proximity to local primary schools
- Management Model
- Capacity in terms of numbers of places and maximum numbers of children, including children in need and with additional support needs
- Funding support details
- Business support details

It was suggested that this baseline data may already be available within local childcare audits and the deadline for the submission of this basic data was set for the end of March 2004.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Guidance to local Authorities on the Implementation of the Recommendations in “School’s Out.”  
Scottish Executive, Early Education and Childcare, June 2003

Summarised Extracts from Section 14, School's Out:

### Vision for the future<sup>6</sup>

#### "For children

- An OSC place for all children whose parents want them to go to clubs.
- Clubs that provide a full range of activities (including healthy living initiatives and help with homework) meeting the needs of all the children in the club, whatever their age and interests.
- All clubs making effective provision for children in need and children with additional support needs.
- All clubs to have sufficient qualified and well-trained staff, also using the skills and experience of volunteers.
- *Suitable OSC provision to meet the needs of children in early secondary school. (Our emphasis) "*

The document set out the following priorities and objectives:

#### "Priorities for Action<sup>7</sup>

- "Sustainability;
- Services for older children and young people; and
- Places for children in need and for children with additional support needs. "

The main objectives are to make a significant increase in the provision of high quality and sustainable out of school care and to ensure that children with disabilities and other needs have access to provision locally. Specific recommendations include:

Each local authority is requested to review OSC provision within their area, to set targets for growth, and to identify issues, which need to be addressed in terms of quality, accessibility and sustainability. The use of school buildings for out of school care is to be addressed and an action plan for the development of out of school care is to be prepared and implemented by the local authority and local childcare partnership.

Schools' Out also contained research into the needs and preferences for services for older children, which is further analysed in "What's 4 US?"<sup>8</sup>. A total of 47 young people responded; 50% were aged between 12 and 13, with a significant number of 10 and 11 year olds also taking part.

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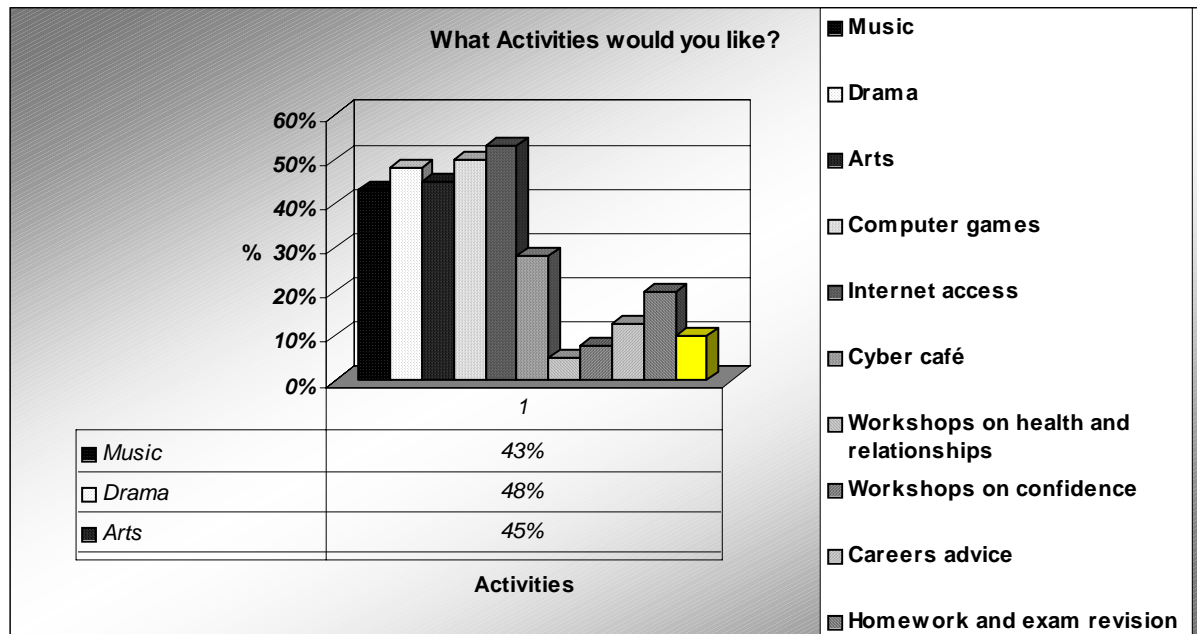
<sup>6</sup> Ibid, School's Out, Section 14, extracts reproduced

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> "What's 4 US" research into the needs of the older age group, Audain et al, SOSCN, 2005

## Activities

This research also asked about activities children and young people would like if a service were set up for them:<sup>9</sup>



The most popular activities are shown above, with Internet, computer games, drama, music and the arts all in the top percentages; homework, exam revision, career advice and confidence workshops were least popular. This does show that primary seven children and S1 and S2 stress the need for leisure activities suitable for their age range, and are perhaps less concerned with exams and careers as they may be at a later age.

**Premises:** "52% of the older children say out-of-school activities should be in the school, 22% say they should be elsewhere (in a community centre or sports centre) and the rest are undecided. "<sup>10</sup>

**Integrated Children's Services Plans** now form the framework of the policy and strategic developments of services for children in each local authority area, so targets and outcomes sought in relation to the "School's Out" agenda, are now most likely to be subsumed into this wider strategic plan.

### 2.2 National Research: "What's 4 Us?"

This recent research project carried out by SOSCN looks at what young people in the 12 - 16 age range want to do after school. The extract below on

<sup>9</sup> What's 4 US? Audain et al, SOSCN, 2005

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, the data in is derived from "School's Out", section 14.

the priorities of young people in the three services intensively supported and studied gives some indication of what may also be the priorities of the young people in this study.

### **1. Premises -**

Having their own "space" is important; some were OK about using school premises but the space had to be clearly set out for the club and activities. The children and young people wanted adult furniture, furnishings and "funky" styles, as well as access to ICT equipment. The space should be decorated in such a way to be distinct from school or childcare, in a way that reflects older taste. Reference is made to the fact that over half who responded in a survey relating to "Schools Out" said out of school activities should be in the school, with around one fifth preferring elsewhere, and about a third unsure about where a service should be.

### **2. People -**

The knowledge, experience and attitudes of staff (many of whom are trained youth workers) are also important to the success of services for this age group:

"Quality services need staff involved who are trained, experienced and who share with the young people, enthusiasm for the project...and who themselves are "fun" and like to have a laugh."<sup>11</sup>

### **3. Getting out & taking risks! -**

Even more than for the younger age range the need to stretch the horizons and abilities of the young people is important:

Throughout the report it is clear that activities that are interesting, new and where new skills are taught are most popular. The fact that participants are older and can exercise more mature judgement is emphasised as a positive by the young people.

### **4. New activities -**

Some examples of the activities:

"Coldstream used the Laidlaw Youth Project funding to develop a whole range of new activities, from their Stone Age project, archery to getting out and about. Bambury got young people interested in video skills. Y:gen introduced circus skills, and all, including Yipworld, provided Internet access. Between them all the services encouraged creative work: music, dance, DJ skills; sports: swimming, canoeing, paintball, white water rafting and outdoor and indoor active games."<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

## **5. Café & healthy foods menu -**

The health and well being agenda includes healthy food as well as control and choice:

These are characteristics of a quality service for young people. The Coldstream young people are clear about the fact that they are "hungry" after school, and the menu there encourages a healthy diet. The Yipworld café was developed and created with all of the young people involved in the process, including fundraising, decorating, stocking and serving.

## **6. Attitudes -**

For the older age group the report found that attitudes of staff, young people and how everyone relates to each other are crucial to the success of services developed for them.

"Respect. Clear communication. Young people show respect, understanding and co-operation in the DVDs. In the TK2 presentation it was obvious that the young people presenting knew a lot about other young people at the club, and thought about what they all would want or need...

Young people should be involved in managing their service, and attend meetings, canvass others in the club for their views, and, represent their service at local and national conferences and events."<sup>13</sup>

## **7. Marketing -**

Like all out of school care people tended to hear about the services through local sources:

"Word of mouth", as well as leaflets and advertisements are mentioned in the report, with peer group recommendation the strongest incentive to attend.

## **8. Access to information -**

"Information on rights, sources of help and support, web or paper newsletters, information sheets, notice boards, and links with other agencies with an interest in supporting young people were also aspects of good quality services for this age range."<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> Ibid



## 9. Fees and costs -

A point to bear in mind is the fact that while parents and young people may be willing to pay something, it is costly to run good quality services for this age range, especially if following stimulating programmes of activities:

“Ability to pay for the service is a big deal for young people. Most responses indicated that they would be willing to pay very low levels of daily or weekly fees and most thought parents would pay. £2 a night ... Trained and qualified youth workers expect higher rates of pay than the average play care worker. Youth workers expect to earn £7-£8 an hour.”<sup>15</sup>

The cost implications of developing and running services are immense: the difficulty of developing any local or national strategy without investment in a specific funding programme is set out in the conclusions of the report, as well as in the content of responses such as:

“Trips and outings, providing equipment for new activities, employing specialist tutors and maintaining good levels of media and audio – visual equipment, running a healthy snack bar or café are all costly activities.”<sup>16</sup>

## 10. Programme, structure and control -

Despite perceptions that young people just want to “chill out” the more successful services do provide structured programmes:

“All services, and young people, found that structured programmes, with defined outcomes, like learning a new skill; archery, video production, etc. or timetabling sharing of limited resources, is more enjoyable than “just hanging out”. The young people attending the service wanted to do something other than “hang out”; as the DVDs show, when not in the service the young people hang about the streets, go to the park, stay at home and watch TV or just do nothing....

“Young people do want to be with their friends, in a fairly independent way. All of the young people considered sanctions for poor behaviour and recognised the need for rules, again developed with them rather than for them.”<sup>17</sup>

It is worth noting from the report that young people who may say at the outset they just want to chill, in fact may end up wanting some type of structured programme of activities. However, the main issue for them is in feeling they have a say and control over what type of activities or programme are on offer.

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<sup>15</sup> Ibid

<sup>16</sup> Ibid

<sup>17</sup> Ibid

## 2.3 Make Space Clubs

In England the Make Space Campaign<sup>18</sup>, led by 4Children, aims to transform opportunities for 11-16 year olds with the development of a network of contemporary and dynamic out of school clubs, "providing places to go and things to do".

The Make Space campaign is underpinned by two research studies that were undertaken during 2002. Firstly a nationally representative self-completion study was undertaken by MORI with 605 young people aged 11-18 years and 298 of their parents, BMRB also conducted a qualitative study with young people and parents, plus a number of in depth interviews with young professionals.

The studies were commissioned to establish what young people do with their time when they are not in school and to investigate the potential appeal of the Make Space Club. Key findings of the report regarding the level of interest of young people in the clubs and the type of activity they preferred mirrored the findings of this research 'Your Time -Your Club'. Eight out of ten young people were interested in the concept of the club and the provision they considered most important were a chill area and the provision of food and drink. Other major findings were as follows:

- " Six out of ten teenagers and eight out of ten parents think there is not enough for young people to do in the area in which they live.
- One in four young people hang around with nothing to do when they are not in school – a time when they are found to be most likely to get into trouble.
- Eight out of ten teenagers are bored at some time or other providing more of an opportunity for getting into trouble.
- At some point in time, one out of two parents does not know exactly where their teenagers are, whom they are with or what they are doing when they are not in school.
- Around seven in ten parents and young people think that young people commit crimes because there is not enough for them to do.
- One in three teenagers goes home to an empty house and may be more likely to get into trouble as a consequence."<sup>19</sup>

The focus groups and in-depth interviews revealed that boredom is a condition very familiar to young people; around a third of young people say they have nothing to do between 3.30-5.30pm.

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<sup>18</sup> Make Space For Young People. Nestle Family Monitor Number 15. 2002 Nestle UK Ltd.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

The research highlighted the importance for young people of positive choices, places they can call their own and chances to voice their opinion on what they do.

In 2005 the document entitled 'Make Space three years on'<sup>20</sup> reported on the progress and development of the Make Space campaign. Highlights of the first three years included the registration of over 1,000 member clubs and distribution of £1.5million to clubs via grants and membership services. The campaign has lobbied central and local government for greater out of school resources for young people and won the support of all three of the main political parties.

"There is a wide range of type of club that fulfils the Make Space criteria. They are housed in various settings including schools, community centres and purpose built accommodation and they range in size from small clubs to large scale organisations.

They are all dynamic, contemporary and appropriate for 11-16 year olds.

All clubs are based round a chill-out area where young people can relax, meet their friends and enjoy their leisure time in comfortable surroundings. Each club offers a quiet space, an activity space and has mechanisms in place to involve young people in all aspects of the club. Many operate until 9pm and also provide advice for young people on relationships, social and health issues. "<sup>21</sup>

## **2.4 Dumfries and Galloway Childcare Audit**

SOSCN conducted a wide-ranging audit of all childcare providers in Dumfries and Galloway in 2004.<sup>22</sup> This audit included material for "School's Out" reporting and planning. One of the main recommendations of the report, tying in with the "School's Out" recommendations, is to find out what young people may want to do after school, in order to develop a strategy to meet the complete lack of any specific out of school care services for the 12+ age range. It obviously would link in with any youth development strategies, community schools and learning activities.

The audit also identified current services which would be willing to expand to cover older children if resources were available, and it also collated information on what service providers imagined young people would want compared to the current out of school care which seemed to be focusing more on younger children.

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<sup>20</sup> Make Space Three Years On – A review of progress since the launch of the Make Space Campaign. 4 Children 2005

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

<sup>22</sup> Dumfries and Galloway: Childcare Audit 2004, Audain and Shoolbread.

In 2005, in order to take this recommendation forward and follow on from SOSCN's "What's 4 Us" project, the CSDO for D&G, Christine Leadbeater, was commissioned by the Childcare Partnership to survey young people. All primary school children in their last three years at school and pupils in S1 and S2 were canvassed to obtain their views on what type of activities they would like to take part in after school, preferred location, and whether they believed their parents would pay and allow them to attend. Of course, they were asked if they themselves were interested in taking part in a club after school.



## **CHAPTER THREE - AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Aims and Objectives**

The aim of the research was to find out from older children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway whether they would want an out of school service after school; where it should be; what type of activities they would like; how they would like to get there and their opinion on whether their parents would want them to attend and if they would pay for the club or service.

The objectives of the research were to inform the development of a strategy to provide services for older children through consultation with the target group; to meet the action points set out in the national strategy outlined in "Schools Out" and to meet the objectives set out in the Integrated Children's Services plan for Dumfries and Galloway.

A further objective met by the research project, which was a major aim of the CSDO post, was to encourage collaborative work across agencies as well as different departments of the local authority in order to identify gaps in services for children and young people, and to work together to develop strategies to create new initiatives to address them.

### **3.2 Methodology**

In consultation with SOSCN and D&G staff, an easy to use and distribute one page double-sided survey form was drawn up. After young people approved the draft, the local authority provided funding to print attractive, professionally produced glossy colour forms targeting children and young people aged between 10 and 14. It was decided to keep the numbers of questions down and to allow space for children and young people to suggest their own ideas; by keeping it short this made it easier for people to agree to take part.

This survey (see Appendix 1) was distributed through either school bag mail or class time to all children from Primary 6 to Secondary 3, a total of 7750 young people. Many people including school children contributed to the distribution to schools; the young people from Lockerbie Academy also helped to record the responses. In the primary seven cohort, class teachers assisted by telling children about the research and allocating class time for the pupils to complete the form.

### **3.3 Summary of returns**

The returns have been exceptionally high. SOSCN and D&G Children's Information Service have collated the results from what will possibly be the largest survey of its kind in Scotland:

- Total no. distributed; 7750
- Total no. of returns; 3477 (45%)
- Total no. of returns from P5,6,7; 2053
- Total no. of returns from S1/S2; 1424

The research was carried out at the end of the summer term 2005 for primary 7 children and the beginning of the autumn term 2005 for the remaining primary and the secondary school children. SOSCN analysed the first set of data for use in the "What's 4 Us?" report as this data represented the opinion of over a thousand children and young people on services for the 11-14 age range.

The Children's Information Service in D&G helped with the data collation for the second survey and SOSCN completed the overall analysis and recommendations.

The results tell us if, and how often, young people of this age would use a service after school, where they would like it accommodated, how they would like to get there as well as what they would like to do while there. The survey also asks if parents would be happy for the young people to attend and if they would be willing to pay for such a service.

### **3.4 Future research**

Once the action points on the research findings are discussed and developed it is the intention of the development officer to facilitate local young people's forums, which will influence the possible provision of such services. Such forums may be operating at present so would be consulted.

The other part of the research the CSDO is leading aims to map services that are already provided in D&G for this age group by such bodies as Youth services, Community Learning and Development, Schools, Leisure and Sport and Voluntary sector groups, so that if new services are to be provided for the older age group of children they would complement more traditional existing services.



## CHAPTER FOUR - ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

### Analysis of Results

What follows are results from analysed returns. Results are presented by age category, as well as being merged to give overall results. A total of 3477 completed questionnaires were returned: 2053 from primary students and 1424 from S1/S2 students. Both age groups were asked the same set of questions, as below.

#### 4.1 Questions

1. Would you go to a club/youth café for 12-14 year olds when school finishes at 3.30pm?  
Yes / No / Maybe
2. Would you prefer the club to be:  
At your school / Somewhere else
3. How often would you go to the club?  
Every day / 1 or 2 days a week / 3 or 4 days a week
4. How would you want to get there?  
Walk / Get a bus / Be picked up
5. Would your parents wish you to go to such a club?  
Yes / No
6. Would they pay for you to do so?  
Yes / No
7. What activities would you like to take part in?  
Active games  
Art and craft  
Chill with friends  
Computer / Internet  
Cookery  
Dance  
Drama  
Eat / Drink  
Homework  
Listening to music  
Making films / videos  
Photography  
Play station / Xbox  
Pool / Darts / Air Hockey etc.  
Publishing (newsletter etc.)  
Read books / Magazines  
Sport  
TV / DVDs  
Walks / Outdoors , (with also a last category of "other". to fill in)



## 4.2 Primary Responses

28% of Primary students said they would be interested in attending such a club; 15% were not interested and 57% said they might attend. (Chart One)

Two thirds said they would like the club to be at school, and the remainder said they would prefer it to be somewhere else. (Chart Two)

A very small number (10%) were interested in attending every day, however, most (65%) were interested in attending once or twice a week. A quarter was interested in attending 3 or 4 times a week. (Chart Three)

Just over half (56%) would prefer to walk to the club; nearly a quarter (26%) would like to be picked up, and the remainder (18%) would prefer to get a bus. (Chart Four)

The vast majority of children think their parents would like them to attend and be willing to pay (86% and 84% respectively). Only 14% think their parents would not be keen for them to attend and 16% think their parents would not be willing to pay. (Charts Five & Six)

The activities that children wanted to take part in varied greatly in popularity: perhaps unsurprisingly, 'publishing' and 'homework' were the least popular (13% & 15% respectively).

The top 5 most popular activities in descending order were:

- 1= Chill with friends (65%)
- 1= Sport (65%)
3. Eat / drink (60%)
4. Pool / Darts / Air hockey etc. (58%)
5. Active Games (58%)

(Chart Seven)

Charts 1 – 7 are on the following pages.

Chart One

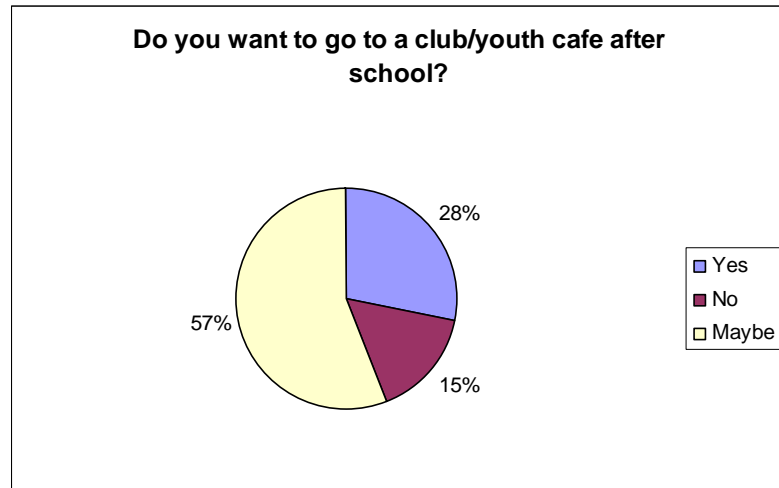


Chart Two

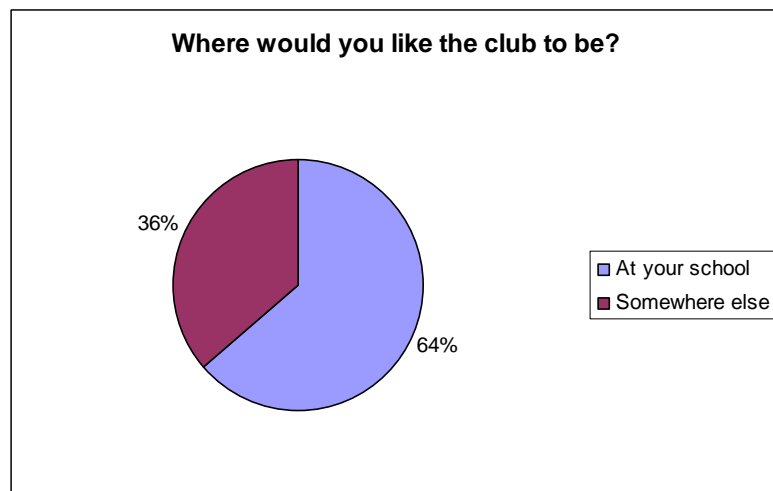


Chart Three

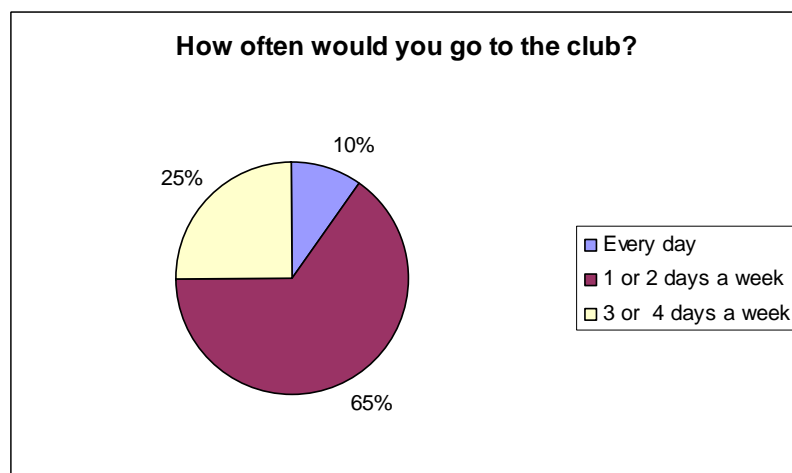


Chart Four

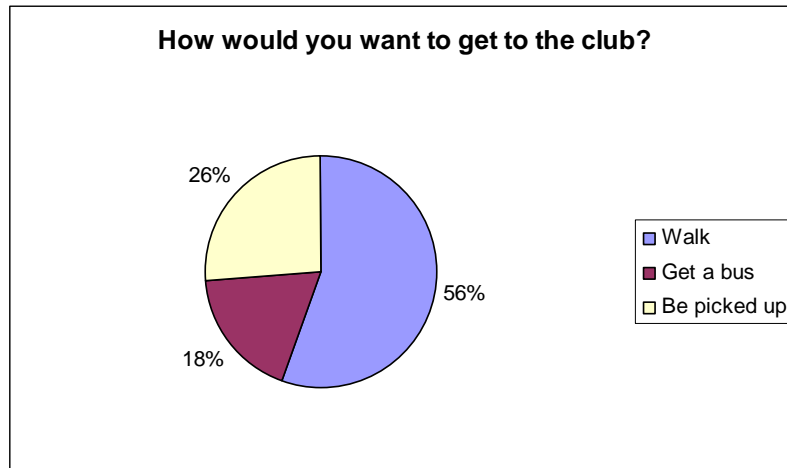


Chart Five

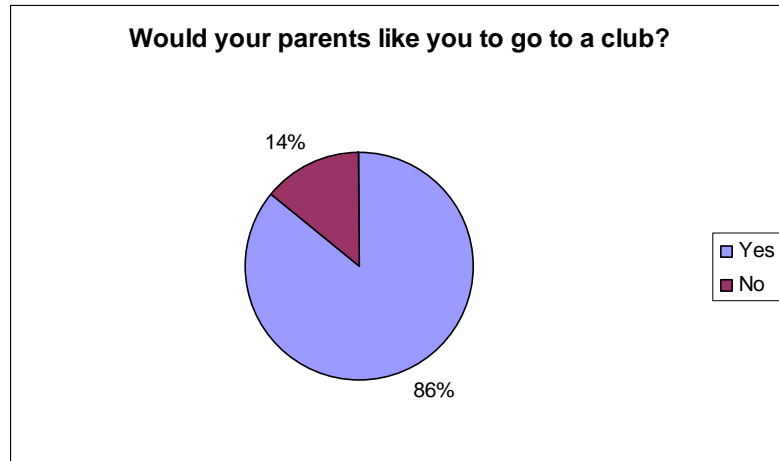


Chart Six

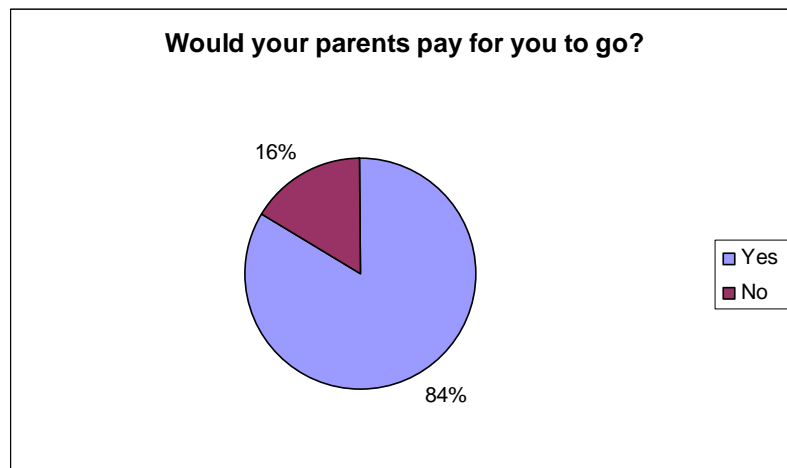
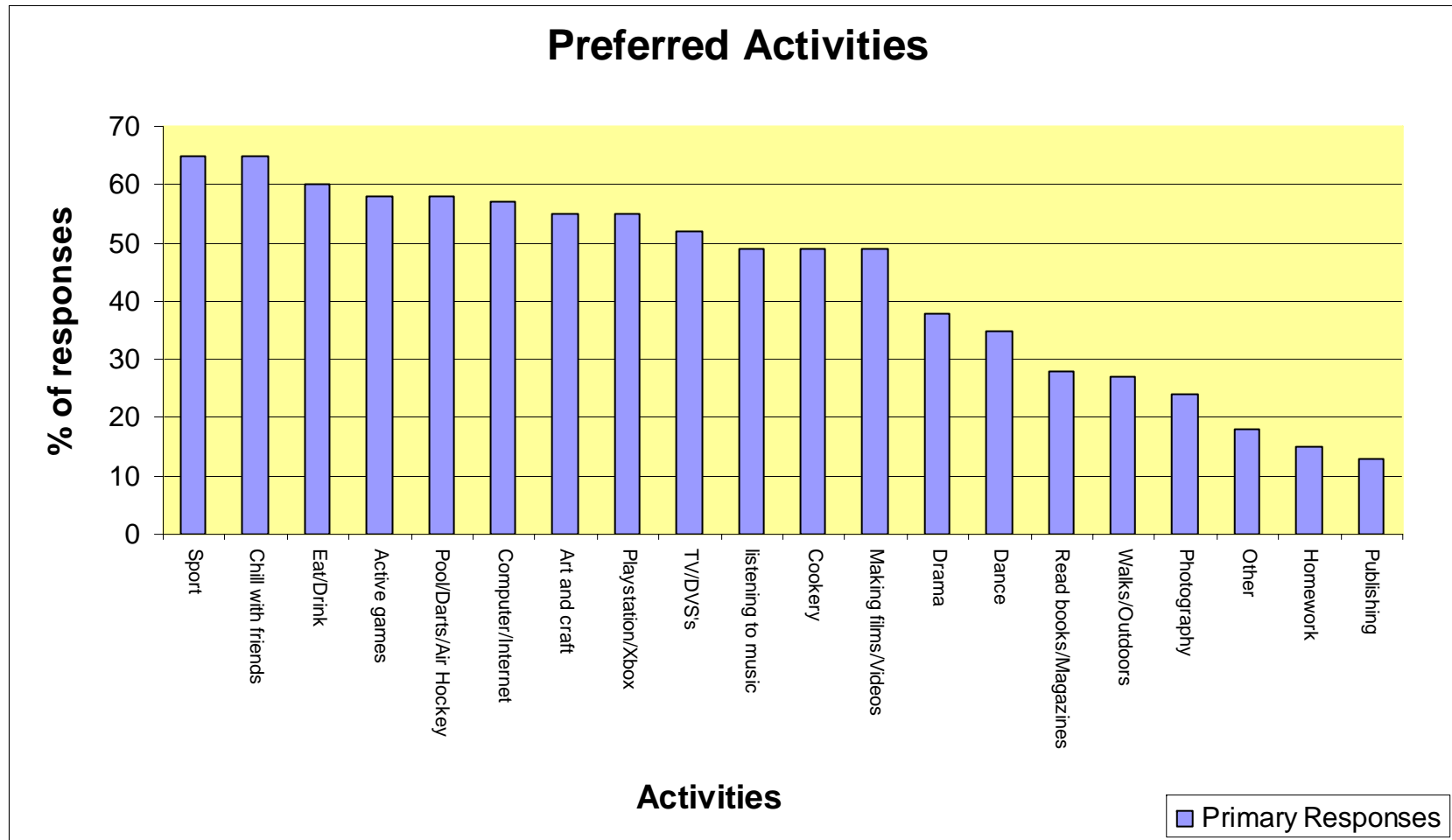


Chart Seven



### **4.3 S1 / S2 Student Responses**

26% of S1 / S2 students said they would be interested in attending such a club; 20% were not interested and 54% said they might attend. (Chart Eight)

72% said they would like the club to be somewhere other than school, and only 28% said they would like it based at school. (Chart Nine)

A tiny number (5%) were interested in attending every day, however, three quarters were interested in attending once or twice a week. 19% were interested in attending 3 or 4 times a week. (Chart Ten)

Just over half (52%) would prefer to walk to the club; nearly a quarter (26%) would like to be picked up, and the remainder (22%) would prefer to get a bus. (Chart Eleven)

The majority of children think their parents would like them to attend and that their parents would be willing to pay (78% and 69% respectively). Only 22% think their parents would not be keen for them to attend and 31% think their parents would not be willing to pay. (Charts Twelve & Thirteen)

The activities that children wanted to take part in varied greatly in popularity: perhaps unsurprisingly, 'publishing' and 'homework' were the least popular (8% & 11% respectively).

The top 5 most popular activities in descending order were:

1. Chill with friends (75%)
2. Eat / drink (73%)
3. Listening to music (70%)
4. TV / DVDs (68%)
5. Computer (67%)

(Chart Fourteen)

Charts 8 - 14 on the following pages.

Chart Eight

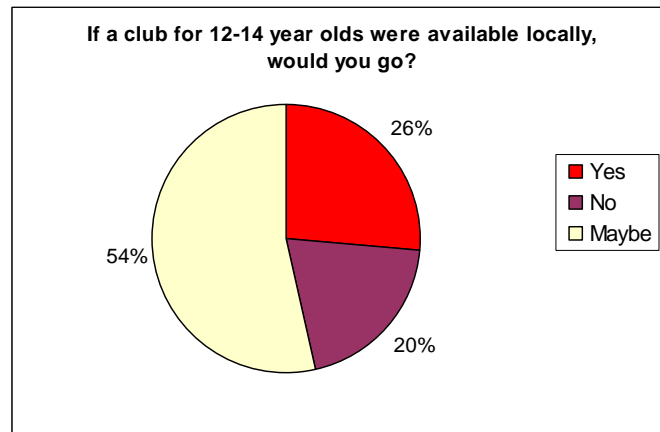


Chart Nine

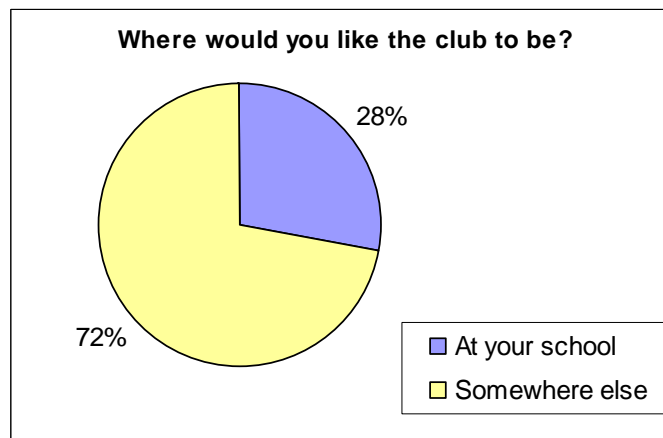


Chart Ten

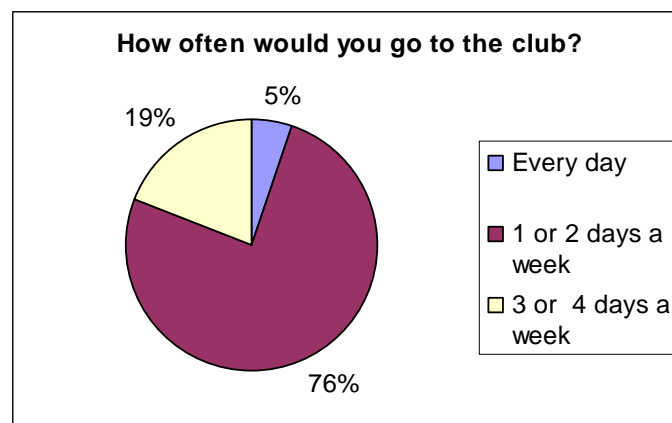


Chart Eleven

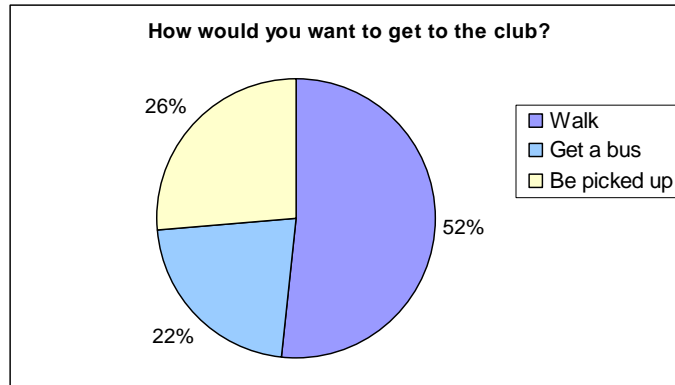


Chart Twelve

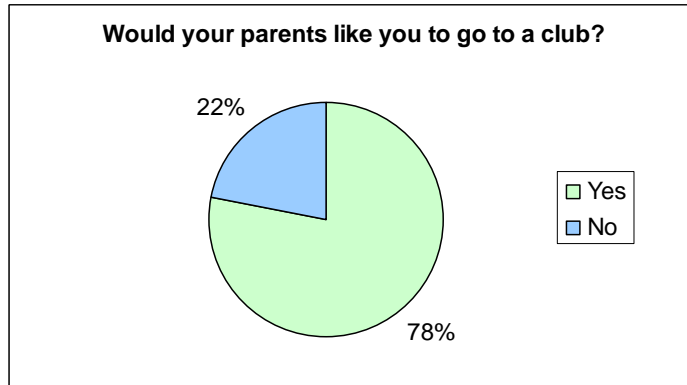


Chart Thirteen

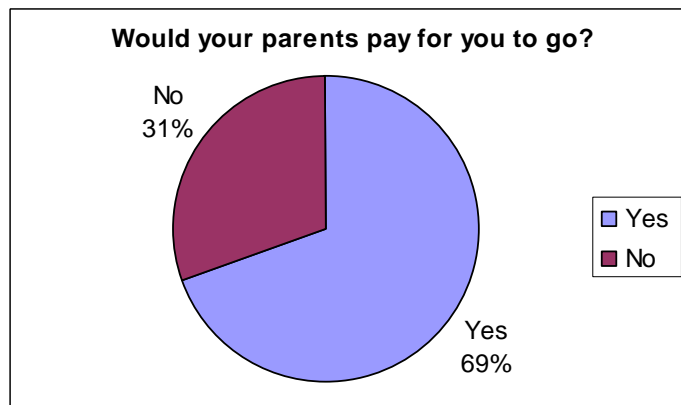
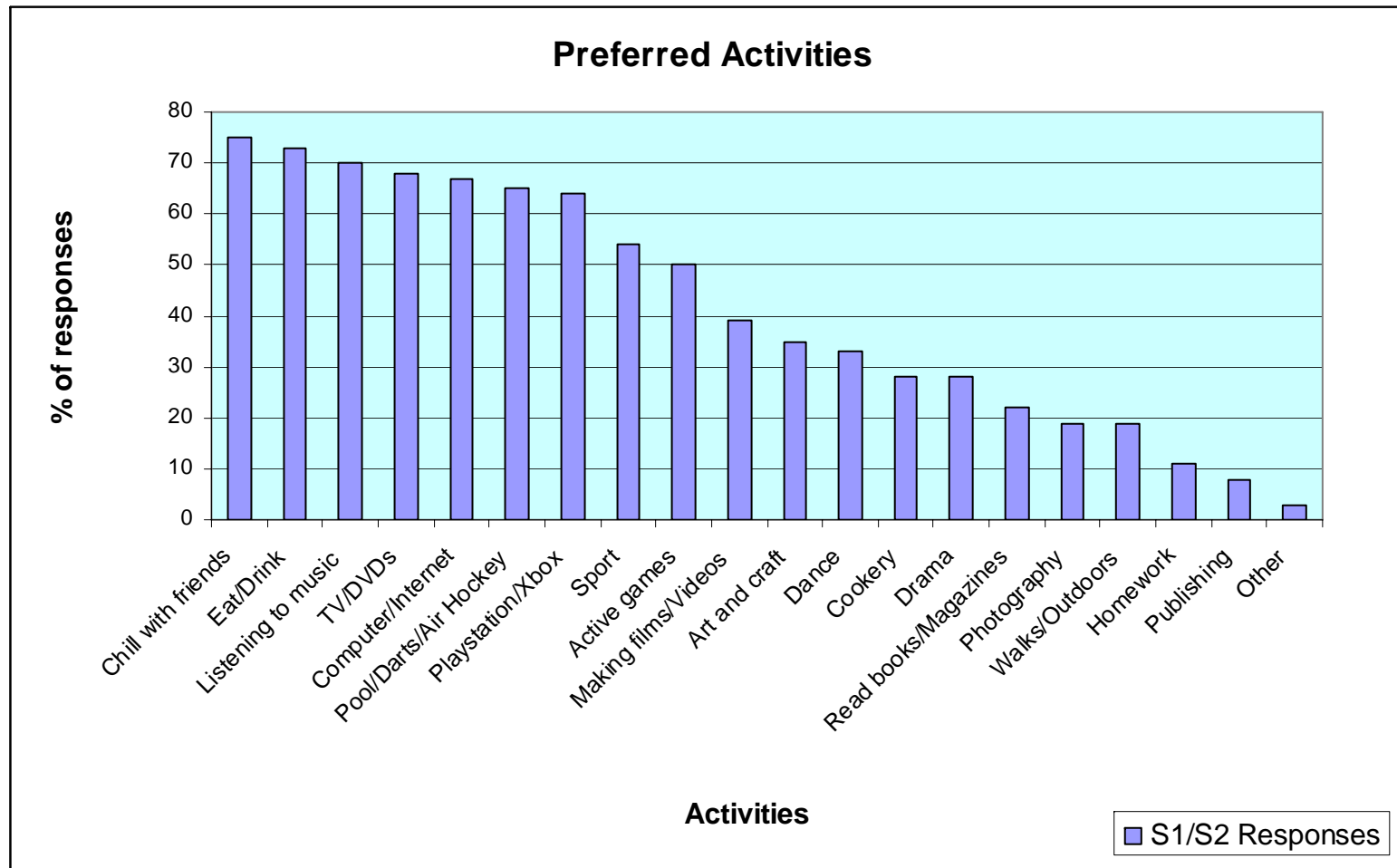




Chart Fourteen



#### 4.4 Overall Merged Results from Primary & S1/ S2 Responses

For both Primary and S1/S2 most students answered “maybe” as to whether they would be interested in attending a club for older children; S1 / S2 students were less likely to attend than Primary. (Chart Fifteen)

Regards the preferred location of the club there were almost diametrically opposite opinions for each age group: the vast majority of Primary students (66%) wanted the club to be located at school whereas as the majority of S1 / S2 students (72%) wanted the club to be located somewhere other than school. (Chart Sixteen)

Both age groups were interested in attending once or twice a week followed by 3 or 4 times a week. The % of students wanting to attend everyday was less than 10 for each age group. (Chart Seventeen)

For both age groups, walking was the most popular method of getting to the club (more than 50% for each, followed by being picked up (26% each) and then the bus. (Chart Eighteen)

The majority in each age group think their parents would want the students to attend and would be willing to pay for the service. (Charts Nineteen & Twenty)

For both age groups ‘publications’ and ‘homework’ were the least popular activities. The top five preferred activities in each age group are contained in the table below. (Chart Twenty-one)

Primary Preferred Activities	S1 / S2 Preferred Activities
1= Chill with friends (65%)	1. Chill with friends (75%)
1= Sport (65%)	2. Eat / drink (73%)
3. Eat / drink (60%)	3. Listening to music (70%)
4. Pool / Darts / Air hockey etc. (58%)	4. TV / DVDs (68%)
5. Active Games (58%)	5. Computer (67%)

Chart Fifteen

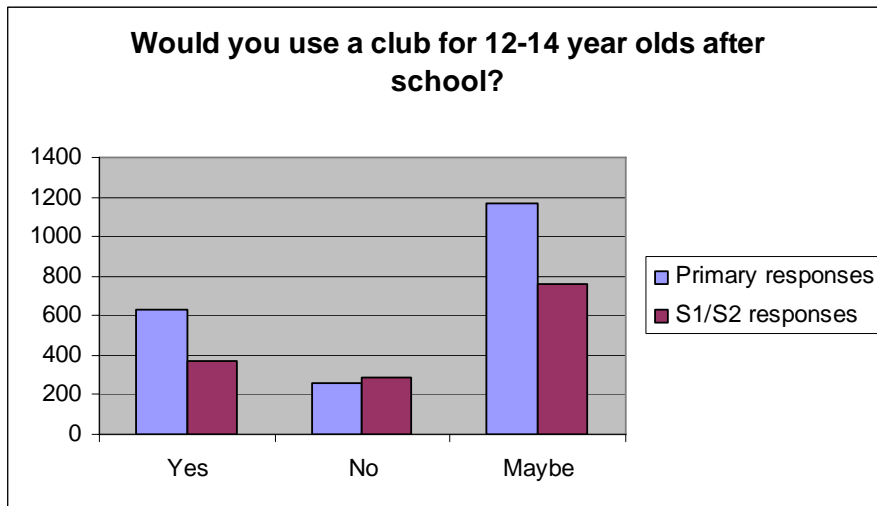


Chart Sixteen

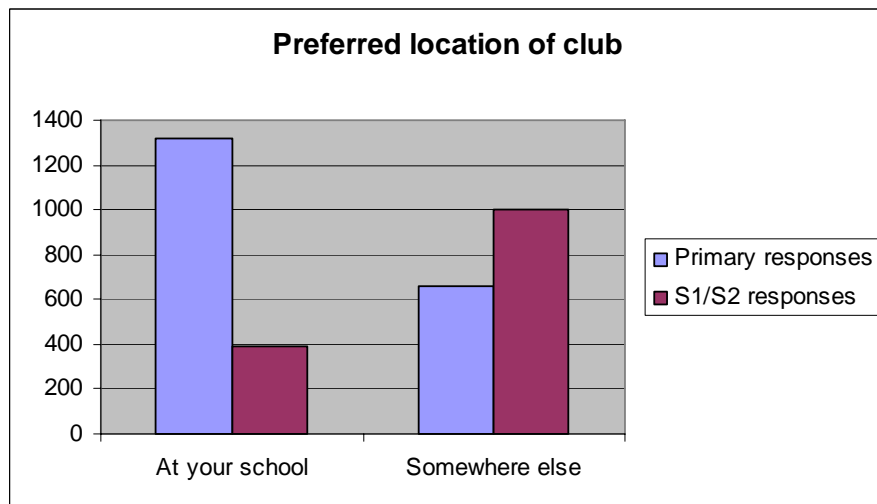


Chart Seventeen

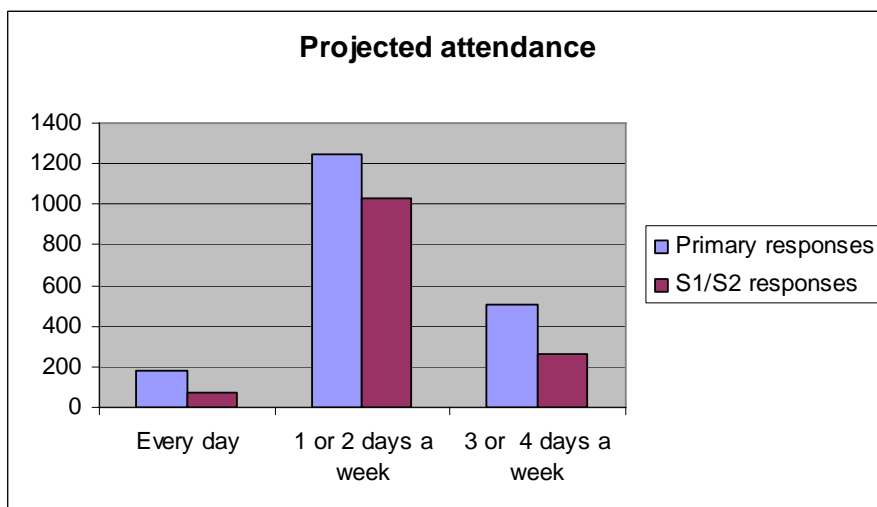


Chart Eighteen

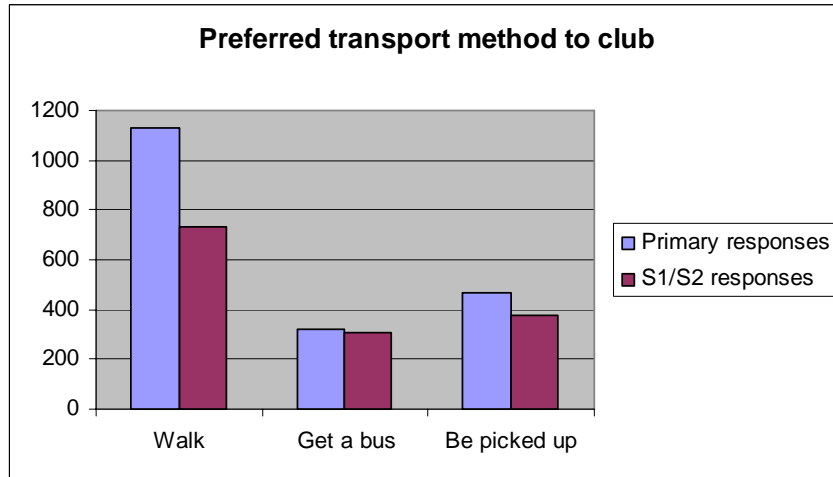


Chart Nineteen

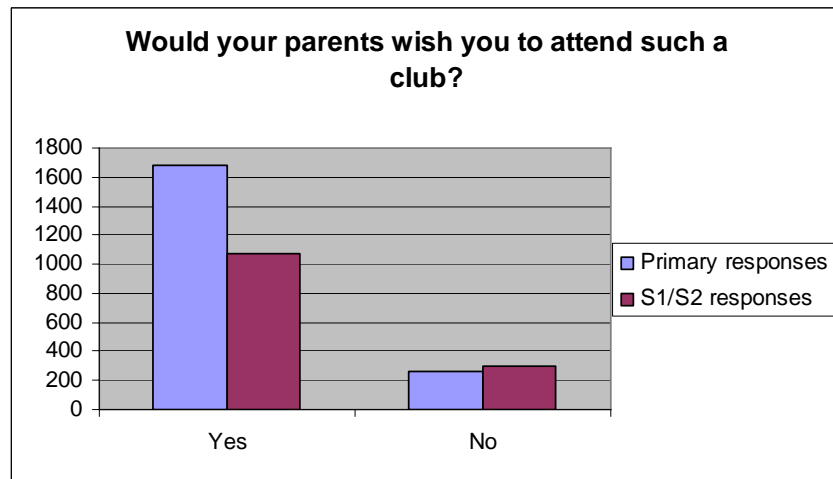


Chart Twenty

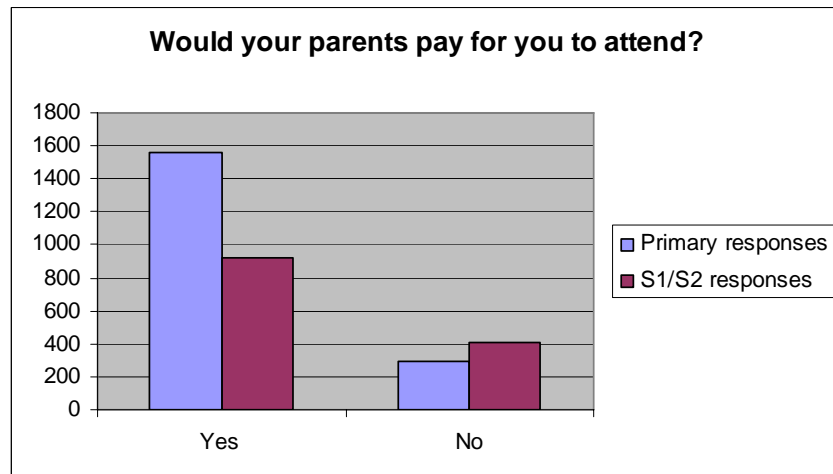
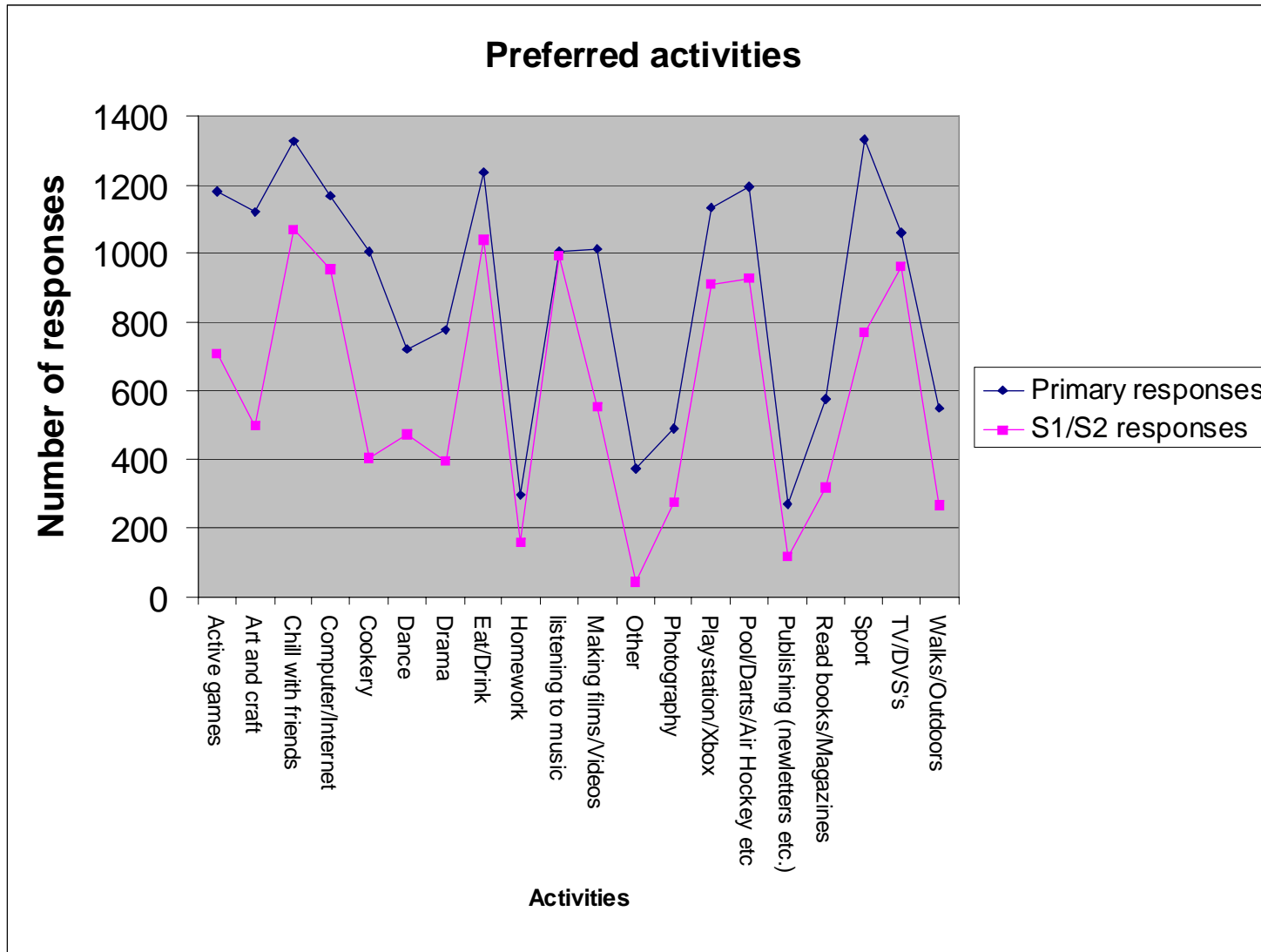


Chart Twenty-one



## CHAPTER FIVE - CONCLUSIONS

There are notable differences between the responses from the young people in Primary and Secondary schools. These differences indicate that the wishes and developmental needs of older pupils change with age and transition to secondary school.

One of these differences is where the young people say they want the club accommodated. The perception of the children still at primary school is that it would be good to have the club at their school once in secondary. However the young people attending secondary school would want to attend the club away from the school building they are in all day, and the restrictions the institution represents. If the new built schools (planned for Dumfries and Galloway) are more popular settings in the future it may be worth revisiting that question with secondary school aged children.

The other notable difference of opinion was in the activities the young people thought they would most like to do while at the club. From the results it can be very clearly seen that whilst primary school aged children would like to do sport and active games, by the time they get to secondary school they would choose to be less physically active even in so much as they are more likely to want to get a bus to the centre than to walk.

Although the percentages of young people in secondary school that say they would be interested in attending a club is slightly lower than those in primary, the greatest response from both sets of pupils is 'Maybe'. Over half the pupils surveyed over all said they 'May be' interested in attending a club for their age group. Of those who ticked 'Yes' or 'No' there were more positive answers than negative overall. Present levels of Secondary aged pupils attending Out of School Care could have generated a much lower positive response from the older age group. The response seems to indicate that if there were a club specifically for over 11's then it would be more attractive than the present OSC provision.

The high percent of 'Maybe' answers indicate that the young people would want to know a lot more about the club before committing themselves to say they would be interested in attending. If pilot clubs could be set up as a trial for young people to experience and influence we may have more indication of real need for a service or otherwise.

By far the majority of responses indicated that they would consider going to such a club once or twice a week, although a quarter of all primary responses said they would consider attending three or four times a week. Interestingly the 10% of replies from the older primary children who indicate they would attend every day corresponds to the average percentage of primary children attending OSC.

The two questions relating to parents views were intended to provoke parental consultation from the young people. However the surveys of P7 pupils were done in class with no parental involvement, therefore we cannot

assume the answers were anything more than what the young people thought their parents would answer.

In answer to the questions 'would your parents want you to go to a club?' and 'would your parents pay for you to go?' over 84% of primary pupils replied yes to both questions and nearly 80% of secondary pupils answered yes their parents would like them to attend the club while nearly 70% said their parents would pay for them to do so. We should note that no mention of actual cost was included in the questionnaire.

The funding of these services is likely to present challenges, as it is unlikely that income from fees will ever cover costs. The staff costs of services for youth tend to be greater than those incurred in childcare because of higher staff pay rates. Parents of these young people may be willing to pay for them to attend but as they may not consider the service 'care' the fee cannot be set at a realistic rate. The young people themselves may contribute but do not have regular income. It is therefore likely that income will need supplementing by grant funding such as lottery funding or various local authority budgets for example. Such services will not be self- sustaining.

In Charts seven and twenty-one it would seem that the primary school age children want to take part in a wide variety of activities from 'chilling with friends' to sport, active games and games such as pool, darts and air hockey. High numbers of primary aged children also want games consoles, computers, TV/DVD's and art and craft, in fact of the whole list of suggestions only homework, publishing and photography attracted less than 25% of children. Many children desired a variety of many activities.

When we look at the responses of the secondary pupils, in chart fourteen, it seems that the club will need a far less varied programme or it will need to provide other activities that were not on the list, although the secondary pupils came up with very few 'other' suggestions. The secondary pupils tell us they want to 'chill with friends', 'listen to music', and 'eat and drink' in large numbers. Only four other suggested activities were of interest to more than 600 young people from secondary school, these were computers with Internet access, games consoles, TV/DVD's and games such as pool, darts and air hockey. It seems that young teenagers want a place of their own where they can relax and chat with friends. It is important to them that they are free to spend their leisure time in an environment they can influence and they can have free choice of the activities they do or do not take part in.

SOSCN do however know from the pilot schemes they supported last year through "What'4 Us?" research that once the teenagers are attending the club regularly they do enjoy organised activities such as paintball, archery, rock-climbing and DJ skills. They see the benefits to trying new things and learning new skills. They also discover that many activities they would not have dreamt of doing are great fun.

It is imperative that the services for these young people are delivered from designated appropriate accommodation. The 'club' must be a space the young people can treat as their own. They need to be able to decorate and



furnish the space appropriately and know that it will be maintained as they leave it. Consultation with the young people regarding the style of the club will be necessary and helpful.

The style and feel of the club will impact on accessibility. All young people of the relevant age group regardless of ability, gender or background should be able to access the club, feel welcome and included. The situation of the club may also impact accessibility. A church building, for example, may be inappropriate if the service users may be of different faiths.

One very obvious similarity in the requirements of primary and secondary young people is in the provision of food and drink. Young people are generally hungry when they come out of school and an after school club is an ideal opportunity to experiment with snacks such as smoothies, different fruit, wraps and other healthy options.

One of the issues that is important to the young people is that they do not want to be picked up from school to go to the club as traditionally happens in out of school care. At this age they have far more responsibility and independence in their lives.

SOSCN has found from pilot projects and previous research that an 'Open door' policy where the young people check themselves in and out of the club is most acceptable to them. The club needs a contract with the parents and young person for this to work and the parent is responsible for the young person before arriving at club and upon leaving.

Some of the suggestions as to 'other ideas' for activities that the young people would like to do at the club were:

Trips and outings,  
Recording/Mixing music,  
Playing music/Bands,  
Fund raising/charity work,  
Cycling/Go-carts/Quads,  
Spray paint/paintball,  
Pillow corner/Leather sofas,  
Wide Screen TV,  
Climbing/Abseiling, and  
Martial Arts/Cheer leading.

The most ambitious activity suggested, albeit perhaps "tongue in cheek", was "trips to the moon": evidence of imagination and certainly aiming high is surely indicated here!

## **CHAPTER SIX - RECOMMENDATIONS**

SOSCN'S Children' Services Development Officer intends to disseminate this report to all stakeholders in order to facilitate forward planning, working in partnership with all agencies who are involved in service delivery to young people in Dumfries and Galloway.

These stakeholders include: Youth Issues Unit, Community Learning and Development, Leisure and Sport, Annandale and Eskdale Leisure Trust, Childcare Partnership, Schools and Children's Services. These agencies should all be aware of the research and report through "What's 4 Us" previously circulated. The Voluntary and Independent sector childcare service providers will also be consulted on any capacity they may have for extending services and the possible development of such provision.

Agencies should come together to share resources already available to young people of this age group, including accommodation, funding, expertise and existing services. It would seem the best way forward to integrate present services in order to provide an accessible designated 'Space' where young people can meet up with friends and spend their free time after school as they would wish to. Young people very clearly say "We want somewhere to go and something to do".

Further in depth consultation with young people is necessary in order to determine what services should look like and how they should be developed. Forums that presently exist could be used as a vehicle to gather this information for example through the Youth Issues Unit or through School Pupil Councils. It is felt that these forums should be area based rather than Regional to reflect local needs. Young people should be fully involved in the development and operation of such services, in order that their very specific, age related needs and wishes can be accommodated.

Dumfries and Galloway should consider securing external funding to set up pilot projects in each area to measure need and use of services after school for 12-16year olds. Such pilots would require start up funding and some support for running costs as it is unlikely such services would be financially self sustaining in the first year if in fact ever.

Given the large number of responses to this survey, SOSCN also intends to distribute the findings to interested stakeholders nationally and internationally as the neglected needs of older children and young people in out of school care need to be addressed on all of these levels.

## APPENDIX ONE- Survey form

The natural place to live

# Clubs and fun

1. When you go to Secondary School would you go to a Club/  
Youth Café for 12-14year olds when school finished at 3.30pm?  
Yes  No  Maybe

2. Would you prefer the club to be:  
At your School  Somewhere else?


3. How often would you go to the club?  
Every Day  1or2 days a week  3or4 days a week

4. How would you want to get there?  
Walk  Get a bus  Be picked up

5. Would your Parents wish you to go to such a club?  
Yes  No

6. Would they pay for you to do so?  
Yes  No  (please ask them)

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## What would you like to do at the club?

(please tick the activities you like best)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Active games
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Art and Craft
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listening to music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Computer/Internet
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sport
<input type="checkbox"/>	TV/DVD's
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drama
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Walks/Outdoors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chill with friends
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cookery
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pool/Darts/Air Hockey etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Photography
<input type="checkbox"/>	Making films/Videos
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Playstation/Xbox
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Read Books/Magazines
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eat/Drink
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Homework
<input type="checkbox"/>	Publishing(newsletters etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other idea's

Why don't  
you  
switch off  
your tv  
set and  
go and do  
something  
less  
boring  
instead



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