



Edinburgh & Lothians Racial Equality Council (ELREC)

Big Lottery Funded Local Development Project

NEEDS ASSESSMENT FULL REPORT

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## Table of Contents

	Page
Figures	3-4
Introduction and purpose	5
Sample profile data	5
Gender	6
Religion	6
Age range	7
Ethnicity	7-8
Place of birth	8
Disability	9
Sexual orientation	9
Number of years lived, worked or studied in West Lothian, East Lothian or Midlothian	10
The themes explored:	11
Education	11-15
Employment	15-18
Housing	18-22
Health services	23-26
Health & wellbeing	27-31
Community Activity	31-32
Media	32-33
Cultural & leisure	33-35
Police	35-38
Personal safety	39
Awareness of local community	40
Perception of Lothians as a place to live	41-45
Racism	45-50
Personal goals	51-52
Priorities for change	53-54
Recommendations	55
Acknowledgements	56

## Figures

	Page
Figure 1 – Table 1 Actual number of BME people included in these survey results	5
Figure 2 – Table 2 Gender	6
Figure 3 – Table 3 Religion	6
Figure 4 – Table 4 Age range	7
Figure 5 – Table 5 Ethnicity	7-8
Figure 6 – Table 6 Place of birth	8
Figure 7 – Table 7 Disability	9
Figure 8 – Table 8 Sexual orientation	9
Figure 9 – Table 9 Years lived, worked or studied in Lothian area	10
Figure 10 – Educational attainment	11
Figure 11 – UK qualifications	12
Figure 12 – Non-UK qualifications	12
Figure 13 – Level of difficulty finding work	16
Figure 14 – Service providers used to find work	18
Figure 15 – Levels of privacy at home	19
Figure 16 – Help finding a home	20
Figure 17 – Accessing temporary accommodation	21
Figure 18 – Health service experience	23
Figure 19 – Sources of health related information	24
Figure 20 – Sensitivity to patients’ cultural needs	25
Figure 21 – Adequacy of health related information	26
Figure 22 – Help with serious problems	28
Figure 23 – Use of other help services	28
Figure 24 – Addictions (drug and alcohol) within the family	31
Figure 25 – Frequency of community activity	32
Figure 26 – Use of leisure facilities	34
Figure 27 – Table 10 Activities there is a desire to do more of	35
Figure 28 – Table 11 Victims of crime by crime category	35
Figure 29 – Perception of safety levels	39
Figure 30 – Awareness of local politicians	40
Figure 31 – Involvement in neighbourhood initiatives	41
Figure 32 – Table 12 Welcoming local authority area to live in	42
Figure 33 – Table 13 Local celebration of non-Scottish cultures	42
Figure 34 – Table 14 initiatives, celebrations and activities to see more of locally	43-44
Figure 35 – Table 15 Non-local celebration of non-Scottish cultures	45

Figure 36 – Table 16 Victims of racist crimes	45
Figure 37 – Table 17 Racist incidents and the victims’ feelings	46-47
Figure 38 – Reporting of racist incidents	47
Figure 39 – Ease with discussing racism	48
Figure 40 – Perceptions of level of racism	49
Figure 41 – Life for young BMEs in the three Lothian areas	50
Figure 42 – Racism outside the three Lothian areas	50

## Introduction and purpose

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Edinburgh and Lothians Racial Equality Council (ELREC) has been established since 1971 and is a voluntary body and charitable company comprising individual members and representatives from a wide range of organisations.

ELREC has a remit to work across the areas of City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils.

We aim to:

- Work towards the elimination of racial discrimination.
- Promote equality of opportunity and good race relations between persons of different racial groups.
- Promote and organise co-operation of statutory authorities and voluntary organisations.

In 2008 ELREC was awarded funding from the Big Lottery to facilitate a Local Development Project (LDP). The LDP is made up of a research project and related activities within the three Lothian areas out with Edinburgh. Namely, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian. The aim of the project is to assess the needs and priorities of the local Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) people who reside, work or study in these areas and to address these needs, where possible, in a variety of ways.

ELREC set out to collect grass roots data from the various BME communities by carrying out structured outreach work in the form of needs assessment questionnaires. These questionnaires sought to tackle a number of themes and these are explained and discussed in the main body of this report to follow.

### Figure 1

**Table 1 - Actual number of BME people included in these survey results:**

Local Authority Area	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian	Total
<b>Number of BME people surveyed</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100</b>

## Sample profile data – often split by Lothian Local Authority area

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The themes explored in the needs assessment were: education, employment, health services, health and wellbeing, community services, media, cultural and leisure, police, personal safety, awareness of local community, perception of Lothians as a place to live, racism, personal goals and priorities for change.

Firstly we look at the makeup of the needs assessment participants in terms of their gender, religion, age, ethnicity, place of birth, disability, sexual orientation, and the number of years living, studying or working within the specified Local Authority area.

### Figure 2

Table 2 – Gender

Local Authority Area Gender	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
Male	19	18	28
Female	10	7	18

### Figure 3

Table 3 - Religion

Local Authority Area Religion	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
Christian	4	11	15
Muslim	6	6	26
Hindu	3	1	1
Sikh	1	3	2
None	15	4	2

**Figure 4**

**Table 4 – Age range**

<b>Local Authority Area</b> <b>Age</b>	<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>West Lothian</b>
0-16	1	1	0
17-21	0	5	0
22-30	6	3	10
30-40	10	8	24
41-50	8	6	6
51 plus	3	2	5
Not given	1	0	1

**Figure 5**

**Table 5 - Ethnicity**

<b>Local Authority Area</b> <b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>West Lothian</b>
African	1	3	9
African-American	1	0	0
Bangladeshi	2	4	0
Caribbean	1	1	0
Chinese	2	0	0
Indian	4	4	4
Mixed Race	1	0	0
Pakistani	5	5	25
Philipino	0	1	1
White Bosnian	2	0	0
White English	1	0	0
White Iranian	0	0	1
White Polish	0	7	5
White Russian	1	0	0
White Slovakian	2	0	0

White South African	3	0	0
White Spanish	0	0	1
Not answered	3	0	0

**Figure 6**

**Table 6 – Place of birth**

<b>Local Authority Area</b>	<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>West Lothian</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>			
Bangladesh	2	4	0
Bosnia	2	0	0
Burma	0	1	0
China	2	0	0
Czech Republic	0	1	0
England	3	2	10
India	4	4	4
Iran	0	0	1
Malawi	0	1	0
Montserrat	0	1	0
Morocco	1	0	1
Nigeria	1	0	6
Pakistan	5	1	5
Phillipines	0	1	1
Poland	2	6	5
Russia	1	0	0
Scotland	1	1	9
Sierra Leone	0	1	1
Slovakia	2	0	0
South Africa	2	0	1
Spain	0	0	1
Tanzania	0	0	1
USA	1	0	0
Zimbabwe	0	2	0

## Figure 7

**Table 7 - Disability**

Local Authority Area Disability	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
	None	28	23
Visual Impairment	0	0	1
Hearing Impairment	1	0	0
Physical Disability	0	2	0
Learning Difficulty	0	0	0
Wheelchair User	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0

## Figure 8

**Table 8 – Sexual orientation**

Local Authority Area Sexual Orientation	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
	Lesbian	0	0
Gay	0	0	0
Bisexual	1	0	1
Heterosexual	24	21	38
Transgendered	0	0	0
Prefer not to say	4	4	7

**Figure 9**

**Table 9 - Number of years lived, worked or studied in West Lothian, East Lothian or Midlothian**

<b>Local Authority Area</b>	<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>West Lothian</b>
<b>Duration in years</b>			
0 - 1 years	3	3	7
1 - 5 years	12	12	11
6 - 10 years	6	5	8
10+ years	7	5	18
Not stated	1	0	2

## The themes explored

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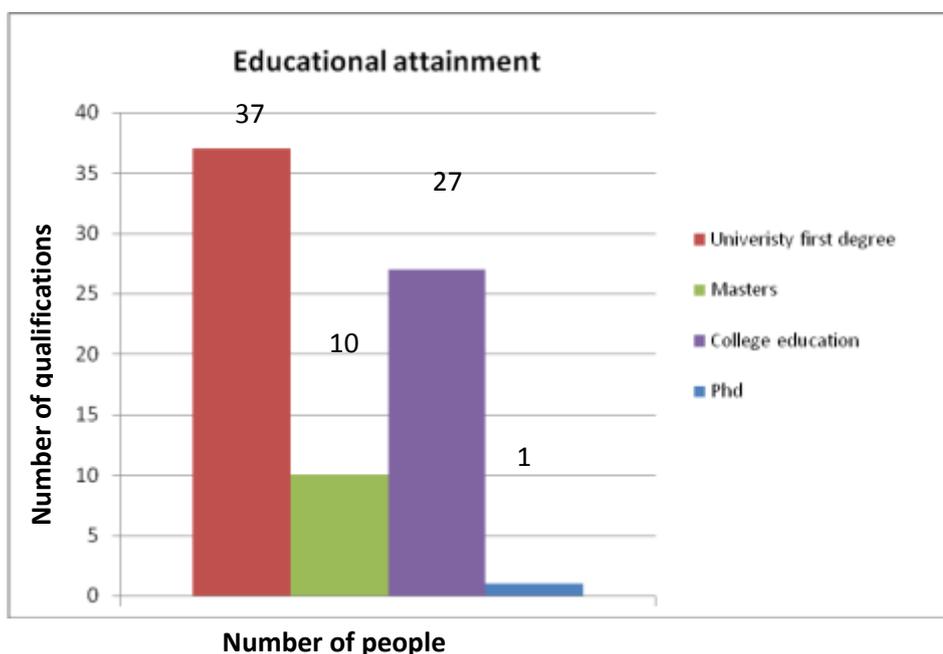
### EDUCATION

We wanted to know what people's highest level of education was to allow us look at the academic achievements of the sample we were talking with. When questioned on this subject the following responses were given:

No formal education	01
School level education	24
College level education	27
University first degree	37
University second degree and above	11

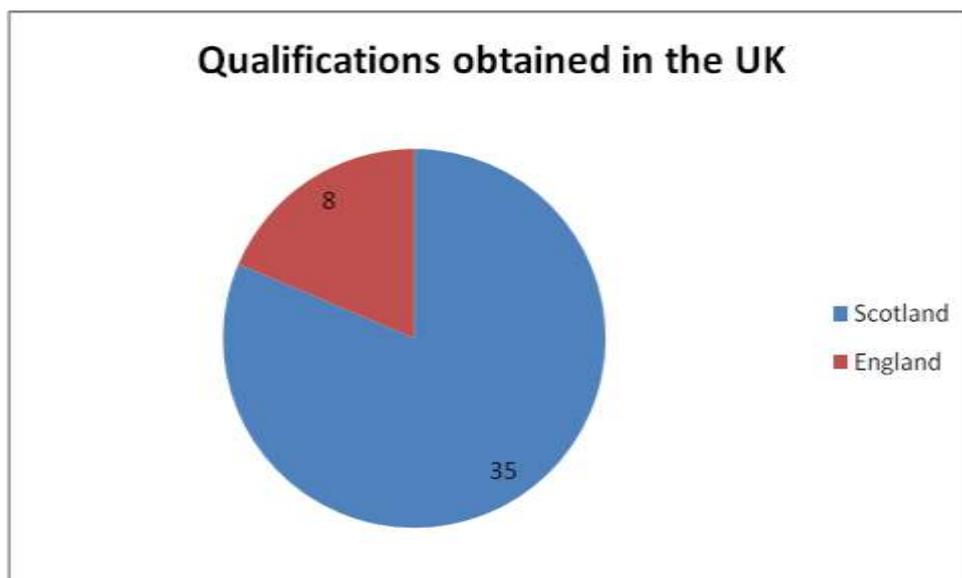
75 people had some qualification of college level or above, those and higher levels were proportioned as shown in Figure 10. 48 people had some qualification of university first degree level or above, those and higher levels were proportioned as follows:

**Figure 10 – Educational attainment**



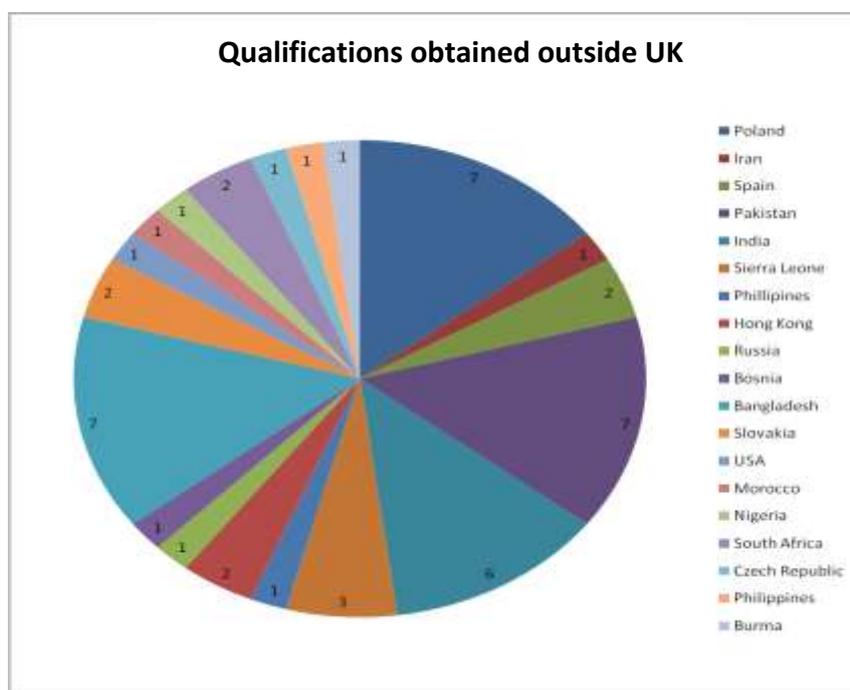
We then apportioned the academic achievements in relation to those obtained within the UK:

**Figure 11 – UK qualifications**



And those obtained overseas:

**Figure 12 – non UK qualifications**



48 people obtained their highest qualifications outside the UK compared to 43 people in the UK.

## Support in Education

In relation to the question, 'Did your experiences of school/college/further education meet your expectations and/or aspirations?' the vast majority of respondents, 57% responded with a 'yes' to this question. A further 18 % felt 'some of them' were met.

When asked was there enough support for BME people at their place of learning 24% of people said yes and a further 35% advised they were not affected by a lack of support and a further 14% again advise they 'didn't notice' if there was enough support. Please see some of the quotations below.

"More English courses for people coming to Scotland."

**17 year old Polish male, living in Midlothian**

"Education abroad not as good as UK."

**24 year old Indian male, living in East Lothian**

"Language barrier, mainly writing."

**32 year old Pakistani female, living in East Lothian**

"Not enough support from Uni, wanted to change courses, but denied, felt there was an element of racism."

**34 year old Pakistani male, living in West Lothian**

"Too academic at university, not people-based enough (practical)."

**43 year old Pakistani female, living in West Lothian**

"No chance to work in this profession here due to language barrier, however, don't think I would get the job even if my language was better."

**30-40 year old Polish female, living in Midlothian**

16% of people felt there was not enough support for BME people within school, college or further education. Some examples of their quotes are below and split into local authority areas:

## West Lothian

“More of a support network.”  
“More help & assistance/ no probing or investigations if child removed from school early.”  
“Greater understanding of bullying.”  
“Isolated, on own, find own way.”  
“Specific support for BMEs needed.”

## East Lothian

“Language barrier – written.”  
“Foreign student groups or adviser needed.”  
“Support network needed with easy access for all BMEs.”

## Midlothian

“More kids like me, more support from teachers and police.”  
“More English courses for people coming to Scotland. ”  
“Other international Scots who have lived here a long time giving good advice. Mentors. ”  
“Free English language class, more opportunity for women's education (adult BME women).”  
“Many of the overseas students in my class did not understand culture and education system in UK.”

## Educational forum participation

We looked to discover if respondents had ever participated in or would consider participating in any educational forums, for example class representatives, pupil councils, education focus groups, parent school boards, parent teacher associations etc. When probed on this the responses were:

Yes – from 19 people  
No – from 67 people  
Not interested – from 7 people  
Never been asked – from 10 people  
Didn't know how to be involved – from 2 people

Didn't understand what it was about – from 1 person

Those who answered yes were asked to explain what it was that they had been involved in. Please see below for their direct quotes by local authority area.

#### West Lothian

“At son's nursery, meetings for parents.”  
“Policy/decision making - fund raising.”  
“Parent and Teacher Association and community representative for Africa Centre in Edinburgh.”  
“Parent and teachers making decisions about nursery.”  
“Parents' nights.”

#### East Lothian

“Playgroup and nursery.”  
“Used to be on PTA.”  
“Top of class.”  
“Rep in France as part of exchange.”  
“Pupil council.”

#### Midlothian

“Student president.”  
“International Bright Young Sparks.”  
“I was in Midlothian Youth Platform (MYP).”  
“ELREC Community Planning Dalkeith.”  
“Local clubs, football and rugby and local charity.”

### **EMPLOYMENT**

82 people were in employment, proportioned as follows:

- 16 of those BME individuals spoken to were self-employed,
- 43 were full time employed and,
- a further 23 were involved in part time employment.

## Job satisfaction and suitability

We asked people to tell us if they were happy in their current role. Here are the responses we obtained:

Yes: 60

No: 8

It's ok: 19

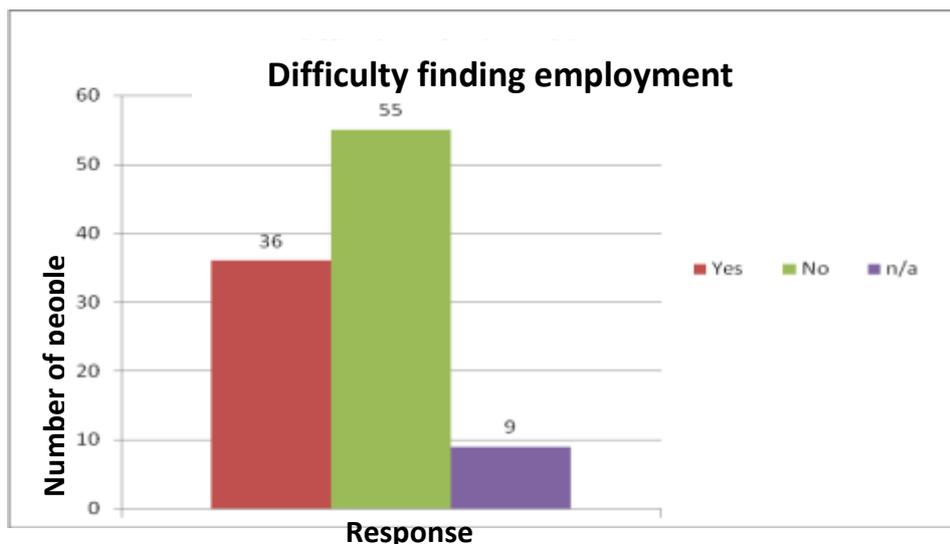
In each of the three areas when asked 'do your skills, qualifications and experience match the role you are in right now?' 21, 15 and 12 people for West, East and Midlothian respectively answered yes. That's 48 people in total. As with the ELREC Leith BME Fact Finder (Hanif, 2006) over half of the people believed they were not in jobs suited to their skills, qualifications or experience.

## Work aspirations

When asked if there was any other job you would like to do 46, 62 and 36 percent of people responding in West Lothian, East Lothian and Midlothian respectively had something definite in mind. Over the three areas that's 47% of people wanting to be in a different role/discipline of work.

## Finding employment

**Figure 13 – Level of difficulty finding work.**



The table shows that 36 people found it difficult to find work. A few circumstances reported to us read as follows:

“Went self-employed as a result of not being able to find a job.”

**34 year old Scottish-Pakistani male, living in West Lothian**

“Looking for work to use Masters degree.”

**24 year old Indian male, living in East Lothian**

“100 CVs sent out, no interview.”

**56 year old Czech Republic male, living in Midlothian**

“Qualified as a professional engineer but cannot find related work.”

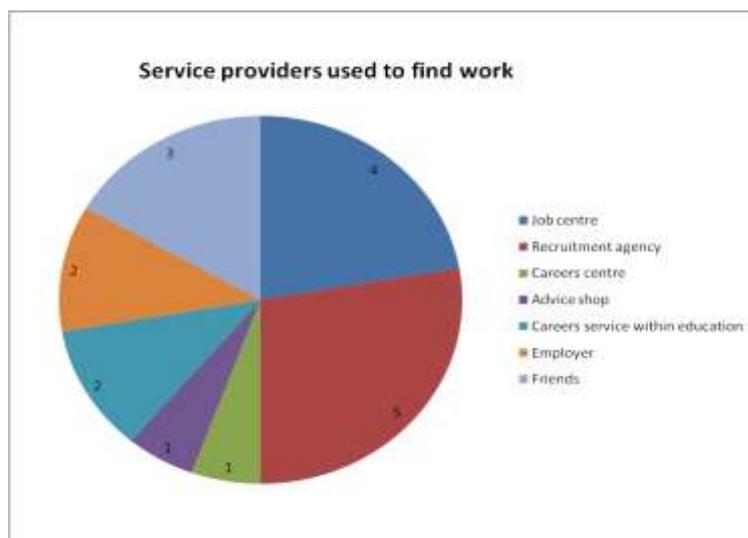
**56 year old Nigerian male, living in West Lothian**

#### Use of external employment services

Figure 14 demonstrates which services were used by participants to find employment. The most commonly used service provider being a recruitment agency, closely followed by the job centre. As shown by the chart only 5 and 4 people respectively used these services.

Friends, employers, careers service within education, the advice shop and a careers centre being the other sources of help people had used.

**Figure 14 – Service providers used to find work**



### Other job preferences

People provided us with a large range of alternative fields of work and roles that they would like to be working within. Examples of jobs ranged from being an astronaut to running the Iranian National Lottery. Of those interviewed in East Lothian, without hesitation 18 people had a definite role in mind. Equivalent figures for West Lothian and Midlothian are 21 and 9, respectively.

### State benefit claims

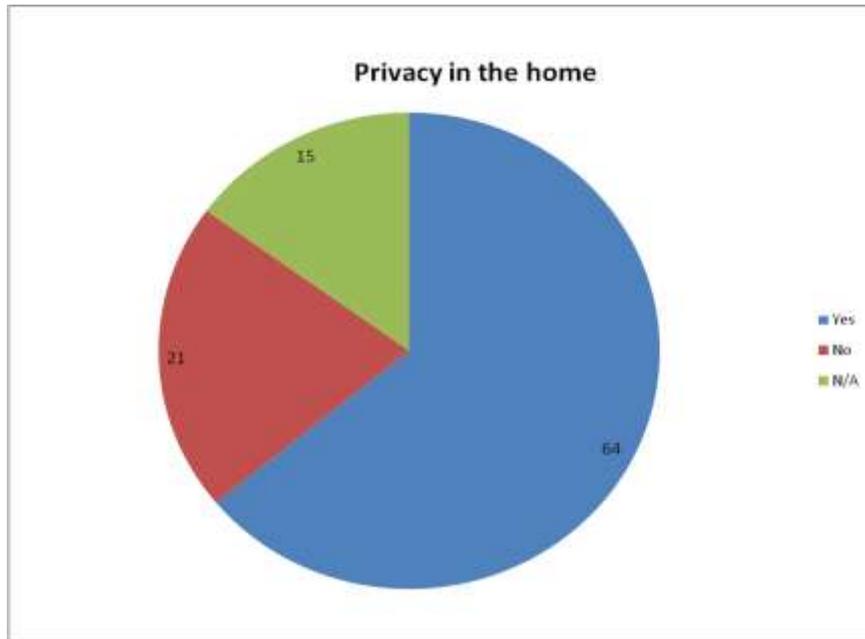
20 people were in receipt of benefits, child benefit was the main type of benefit being received, followed by tax credits.

## **HOUSING**

The vast majority (88%) of people were happy with their current housing arrangement.

### Privacy at home

**Figure 15 – Levels of privacy at home**

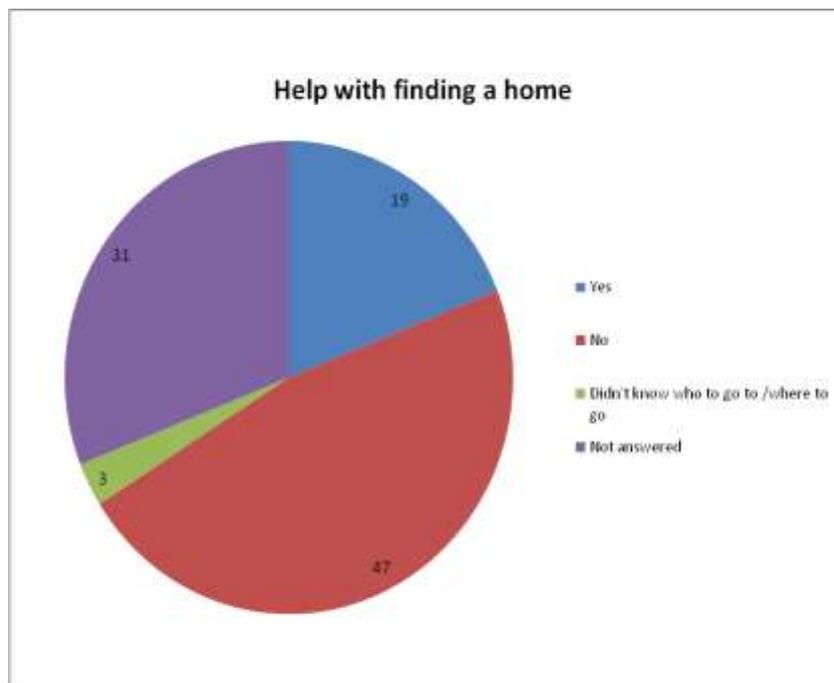


Our figures and discussions showed there were no overcrowding concerns for needs assessment participants. The majority of people lived in homes with between 2 and 4 bedrooms and those homes were occupied by between 2 and 5 people.

### Finding a home

We asked respondents if they received help with finding their current home. Nearly half, that’s 47 people, got no help at all and a further 31 people did not answer because they were either not living away from home or the question was not relevant to them. 19 people did receive help finding their home and we shall discuss the help that was received in more detail below.

**Figure 16 – Help finding a home**



Although people surveyed did live in council property the local authority was not given as a source of help when finding those homes. Assistance finding a home came from a variety of sources as listed here.

- Estate Agents
- Housing Association
- Private letting agent
- Employer
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Family
- Solicitor

### Housing tenure

Very few people resided in local authority or housing association rented accommodation. 4% to be exact. Most people owned or privately rented their properties.

### Housing consultation

One of the important areas of the housing section of the needs assessment was to do with involvement in any consultations/surveys regarding your

housing needs. What we found was only 9 people out of 100 across all three Lothians had ever been asked to take part in such an exercise.

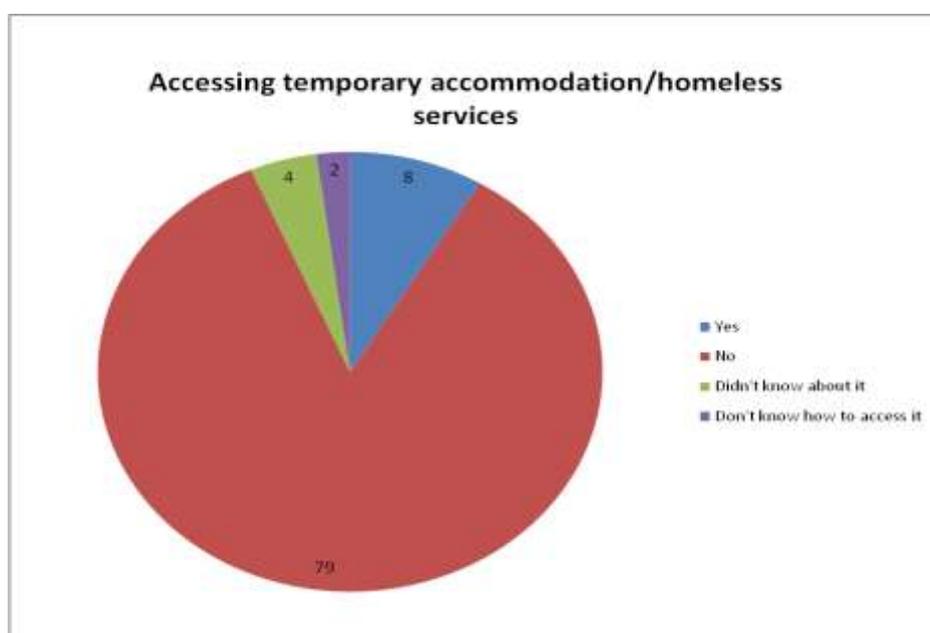
Examples of surveys and consultations related to housing that people had been involved in are:

- Energy consumption at home survey
- Local committee about children's park
- Council survey
- Housing census
- Census
- Local community council survey

### Homeless/temporary accommodation

14 people had no knowledge of a homeless/temporary accommodation type of service and/or had never used it. Those people who were aware of this service commented that they would always turn to family and friends before using these services. 79 people had never been in a situation where they needed this sort of service.

**Figure 17 – Accessing temporary accommodation**



8 people shared their experiences of using a temporary accommodation service with us. Only one person had something negative to say about their experience and they said it was not a nice nor healthy experience. We have left out the actual quote as the experience was gained in London.

“Good experience, got what I needed.”

**36 year old English-Pakistani female, living in West Lothian**

“Everybody involved was very helpful and friendly, as well as supportive”

**45 year old White-South African female, living in East Lothian**

### Housing provision

40 people were content with the level of housing provision within their area in terms of size of properties and locality of property. 38 people had very little knowledge of their housing needs – two reasons being because they were happy with where they lived and had no need to explore options or they worked in one of the three local authority areas but lived elsewhere.

“More needs to be done e.g more housing options for people with disabilities”

**62 year old Pakistani male, living in West Lothian**

“Not enough ground floor properties that are a reasonable price”

**32 year old Pakistani female, living in East Lothian**

“Very difficult to find appropriate, suitable and good environment and housing estate”

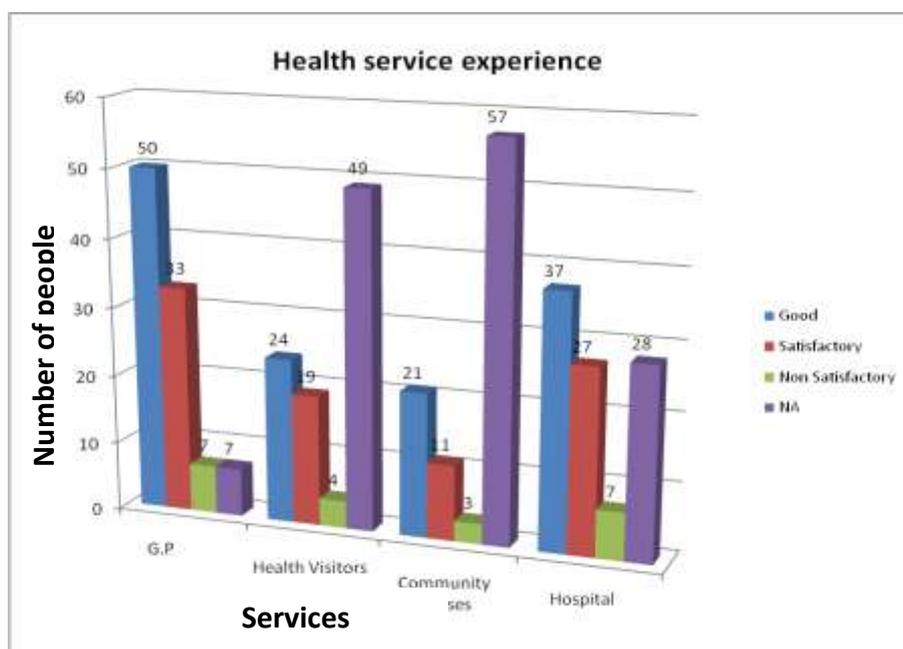
**50 year old Indian female, living in Midlothian**

## HEALTH SERVICES

Very nearly all of those people surveyed in East Lothian and Midlothian were happy with the health service (21 people (72%) and 22 people (88%) respectively). The figure from West Lothian was 31 people (67%).

Respondents were asked to rate the following services of G.Ps, Health Visitors, Community Nurses, Hospital based on their own experience of them. This is highlighted in Figure 18.

**Figure 18 Health service experience**



Below are some suggestions for further information or improvement on services requested by the participants:

- More on health policies and treatments
- Thalassemia
- Health in general
- Diabetes/blood pressure
- Cardiac arrest, community related disease awareness
- Heart disease
- Quicker hospital appointments needed
- Acupuncture

- Would like better explanations generally
- Increased regularity of smear test
- Payment advice for prescriptions

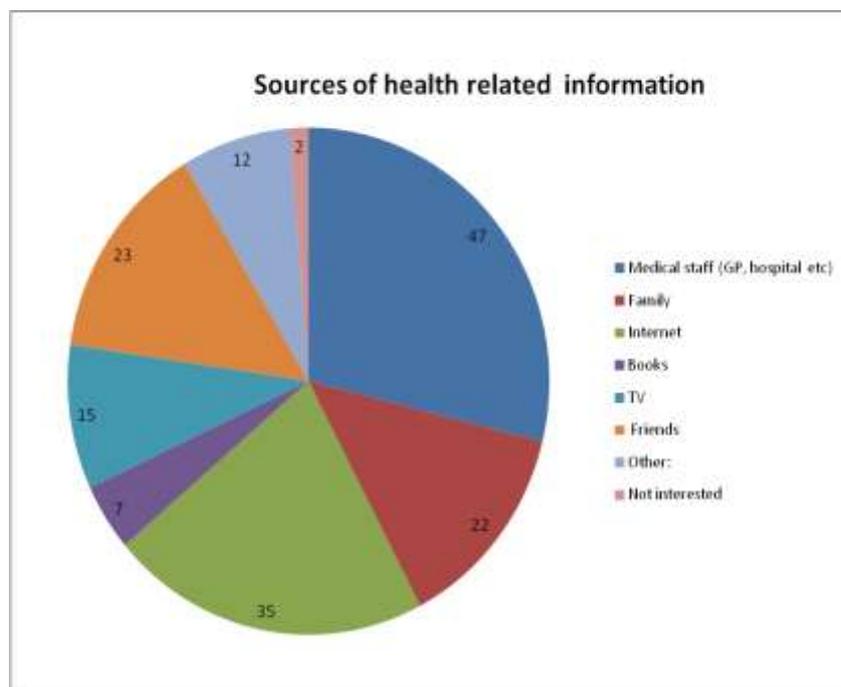
### Sources of health related information

Participants in West Lothian indicated that the Internet is their main source of health related information. Whereas participants in East and Midlothian tend to use medical staff, GPs and hospitals to access health related information.

### Sources of health related information

Despite health information being so readily available from the Internet, TV, books, etc it is important to know that the people within this survey sample rely mainly on medical staff for first hand knowledge on health related information followed by the Internet (35 people). 23 people turned to friends for information. This is closely followed by 22 people relying on family.

**Figure 19 – Sources of health related information**



Again, very few people had been part of health related consultation exercises. 76% of people had never taken part in any form of consultation exercise relating to health.

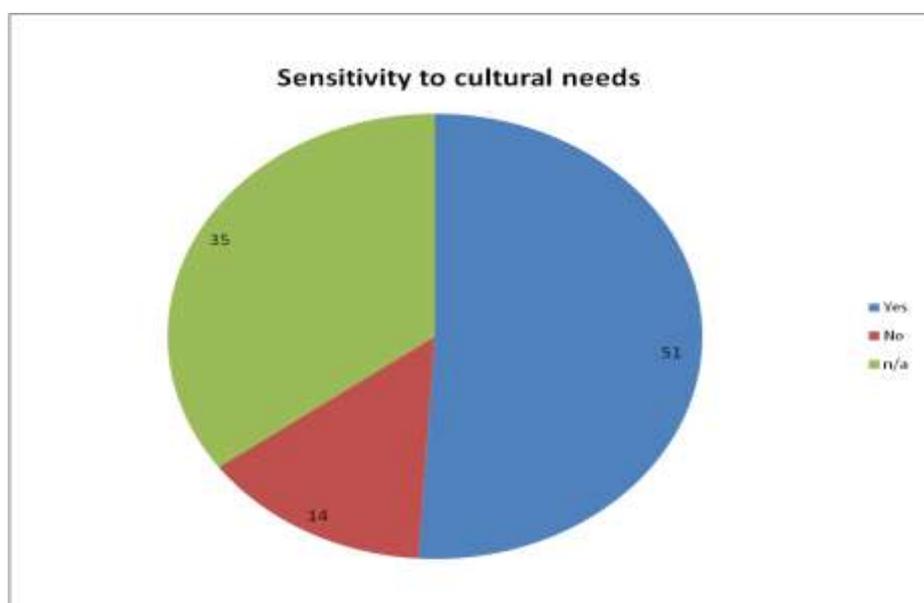
Those who had taken part in some form of survey gave details on the following types:

- Diabetes survey
- Local health centre survey
- Some health surveys at hospital
- Blood donation survey
- Medical history of the family

### Cultural awareness of the health service providers

We asked participants to tell us if they felt the health services they had used were sensitive to their cultural differences. It was reassuring to hear that 51 people were satisfied with their treatment in relation to their cultural needs. A further 35 people chose not to answer the question or felt that the question was not applicable to their experiences.

**Figure 20 – Sensitivity to patients’ cultural needs**



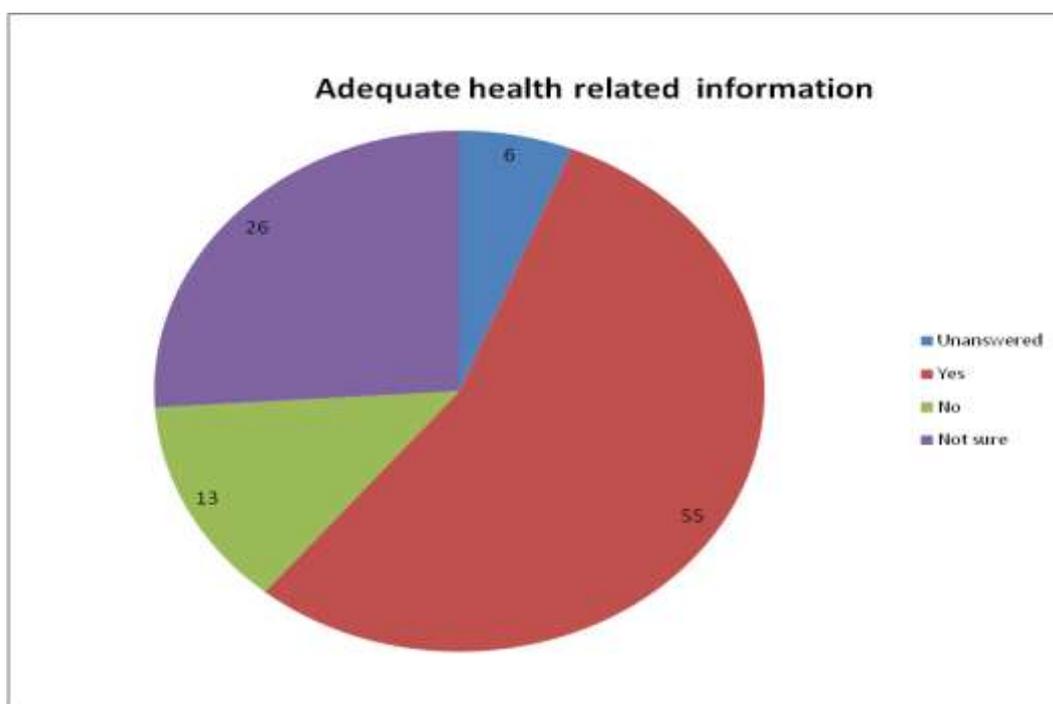
## Language barriers

Language was a barrier for 25 people who we spoke with during the needs assessments. Their choices of interpreting help were limited to a member of family was the first choice, professional interpreter, second, then a friend. This could be seen as concerning as a family member or friend is less likely to translate with the same accuracy as a professional interpreter.

## Access to health related information

Within Figure 21, 55 people had adequate, or better than adequate access to health related information. 26 people were unhappy with the level of health related information they were in receipt of or had access to.

**Figure 21 – Adequacy of health related information**



13 people were unsure if they had adequate access to health related information while the remainder, 6 people chose not to answer.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

This area of the questionnaire focused particularly on mental health and wellbeing and was undoubtedly the least understood area. Hence we had least comment from people on this section of the needs assessment. It was the area in which we had to prompt respondents most and we were asked to clarify this question each and every time we asked it. We got a definite sense that this topic was not one people were comfortable discussing or had sufficient information on.

We asked 'If you had a serious personal problem, who would you go to for help?'

The top answer given by participants in West Lothian and Midlothian was "Friends" and in East Lothian "Support services". Other options were (see Figure 22 also):

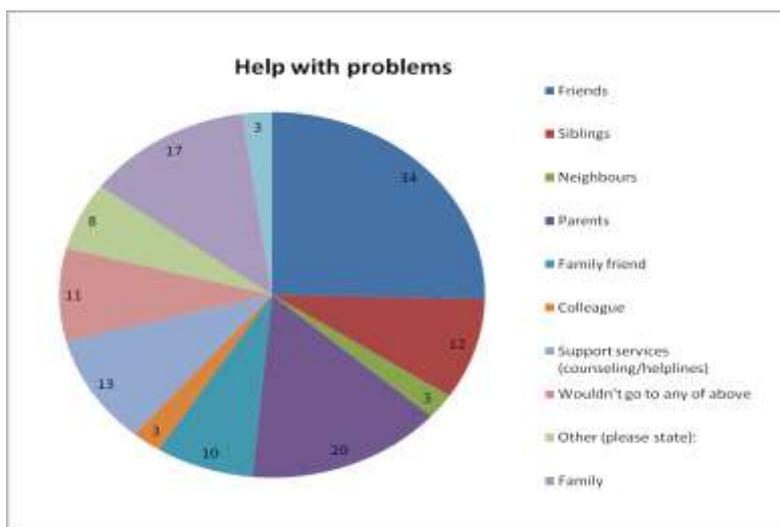
- Siblings
- Neighbours
- Parents
- Family friend
- Colleague
- Family
- Partner/wife/husband
- Other

### Sources of help and support with problems

Further to questions related to mental health we probed respondents regarding their support networks. Be those networks physical or virtual. We asked who/where would they go to for help if they had a serious problem. Their responses are detailed in the pie chart that follows.

As one might have suspected the top three sources of support were Friends, Parents and Family in order of preference. Friends being the most popular answer. 34% gave this answer across all three Lothian areas.

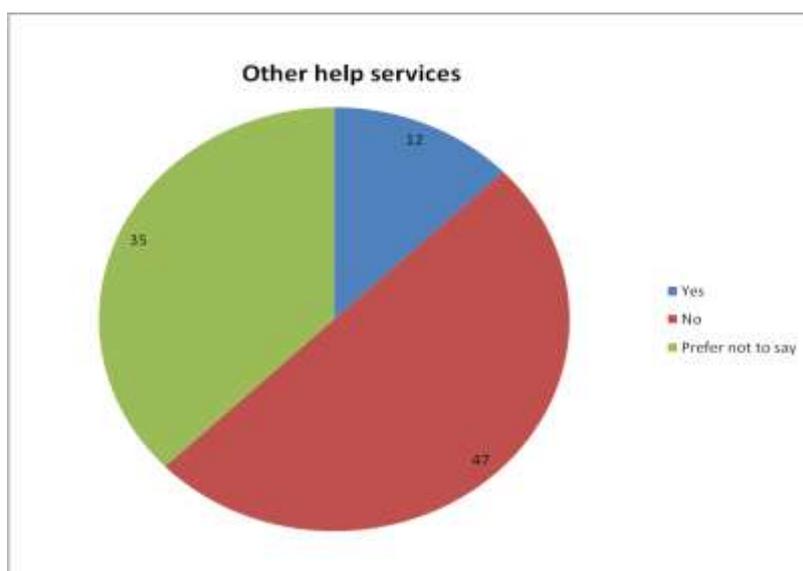
**Figure 22 – Help with serious problems**



'Other' sources of support as detailed in Figure 22 were GP, Prayer, NHS 24 and Police.

We asked people to expand on whether or not they had accessed other services to help them through difficult times. Figure 23 shows the answers. Only 12 people have said they have used other sources of help including Psychiatric help and therapists of a variety of natures. It is concerning that 47% of people said no and 35% said prefer not to say.

**Figure 23 – Use of other help services**



## Mental health

The responses we were given when mental health was being described suggested people felt it related to much more severe disorders of the mind than is necessarily true. Some of the quotes below illustrate this.

“Psychiatric disorder.”

**49 year old Polish female, living in West Lothian**

“Problems with state of mind.”

**35 year old English female, living in Midlothian**

“Feeling happy within yourself, no stress etc.”

**29 year old English-African female, living in East Lothian**

“When somebody's thinking, behaviour, actions, sleep pattern, eating affected. This means you are mentally unwell. This can be due to circumstance changes, health, environmental factors and so on.”

**50 year old Indian female, living in Midlothian**

“Depressed, anxious.”

**31 year old Scottish-Pakistani female, living in West Lothian**

“Psychological disturbance or imbalance.”

**21 year old Indian male, living in Midlothian**

“Mentally unstable.”

**40 year old Moroccan male, living in West Lothian**

“How adequate your brain works in comparison to rest of citizens, it should be better or equal, should not be lower.”

**42 year old Polish male, living in Midlothian**

“Angry, aggressive, mad.”

**65 year old Indian male, living in East Lothian**

## Factors that impact on mental health & wellbeing

Leading on directly from the explanation of what mental health means to the respondents interviewed it is interesting to see the various comments and interpretations of the factors that impact on mental health and wellbeing.

“Physical abuse, accidents, pressures etc.”

**23 year old Indian male, living in Midlothian**

“Joblessness, substance abuse, chemical imbalance.”

**42 year old African-American female, living in East Lothian**

“External factors, work, where you live, finances, family and friends.”

**23 year old Scottish female, living in West Lothian**

“I think if you have a good network of friends and family they could help you through anything.”

**32 year old Pakistani female, living in West Lothian**

“The way you live, surrounding environment.”

**51 year old African male, living in Midlothian**

“Family and job issues, stress at home.”

**29 year old male, living in Midlothian**

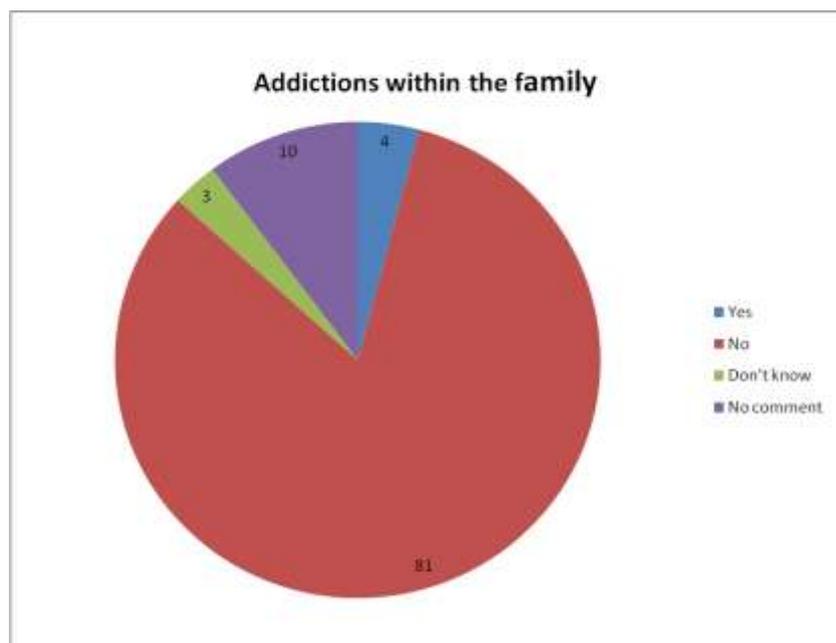
“Loneliness, no life pressure, lack of money, job etc.”

**59 year old White-Polish female, living in West Lothian**

## Substance abuse

We asked about any drug and alcohol addiction issues in peoples’ families. This was an area people were unwilling to elaborate on. Having previously worked with BME communities we are aware that this is a culturally sensitive subject and not one which people are comfortable discussing. Figure 24 shows peoples’ responses.

**Figure 24 – Addictions (drug and alcohol) within the family**



### **COMMUNITY ACTIVITY**

Figures for those that do or would be happy to take part in some form of community activity were reflected as follows in terms of 'would vs would not'

2.4 times as many would in West Lothian vs would not

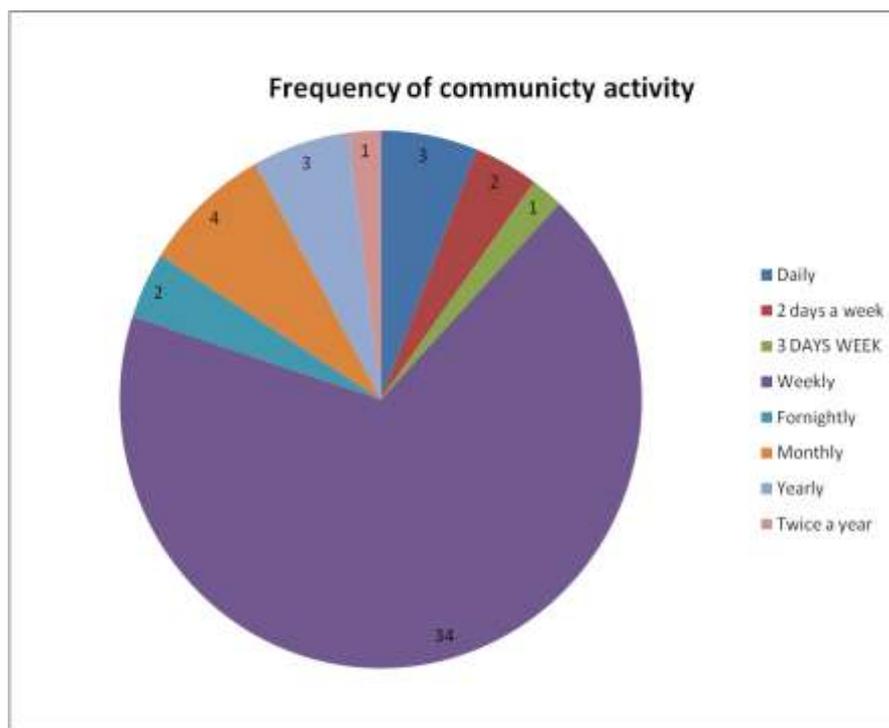
1.6 times as many would for East Lothian vs would not

3.4 times as many would for Midlothian vs would not

The overwhelming majority of people who attend a community activity attend weekly. The two main activities were mosque and church attendance. Other activities included language school and sports club attendance.

Figure 25 shows peoples' frequency of attendance at a range of community activities.

**Figure 25 – Frequency of community activity**



34 people attend some form of weekly community based activity.

## **MEDIA**

49% of people across the areas felt the media portrayed a negative image of minority ethnic people.

Below are peoples' comments on the portrayal of black and minority ethnic people by the news, TV programmes, soaps or adverts:

“Misconception of British Pakistani Muslims.”

“Propaganda always negative not accurate.”

“Black people always criminals. Look at me and the person I'm supporting. You would not see this on TV. ”

“No Chinese people featured.”

“They underestimate BMEs.”

Suggestions in relation to creating a better image were:

“Involve BME's in the media, education is the first step.”

“Involve people in positive manner, educate all cultures about each other.”

“Create own press free of censorship and corruption ‘Scotland Uncovered.’”

“Respect humanity.”

“Lack of recognition, curry demo at Scottish Parliament more covered in local media. Never see our pupils’ achievements.”

## **CULTURAL AND LEISURE**

When surveying, we questioned people about their leisure pastimes.

The top 5 activities were:

Socialising with family and friends

Using computer

Sports

Reading

TV

Other pastimes quoted were:

“Reading, collect items for South African refugees and displaced people back home in Africa.”

**51 year old Zimbabwean male, living in Midlothian**

“Hiking, bird watching, reading, work on computer.”

**45 year old White South African female, living in East Lothian**

“Spend time with children.”

**33 year old Polish male, living in West Lothian**

“Language school, play with soft toys, library, singing.”

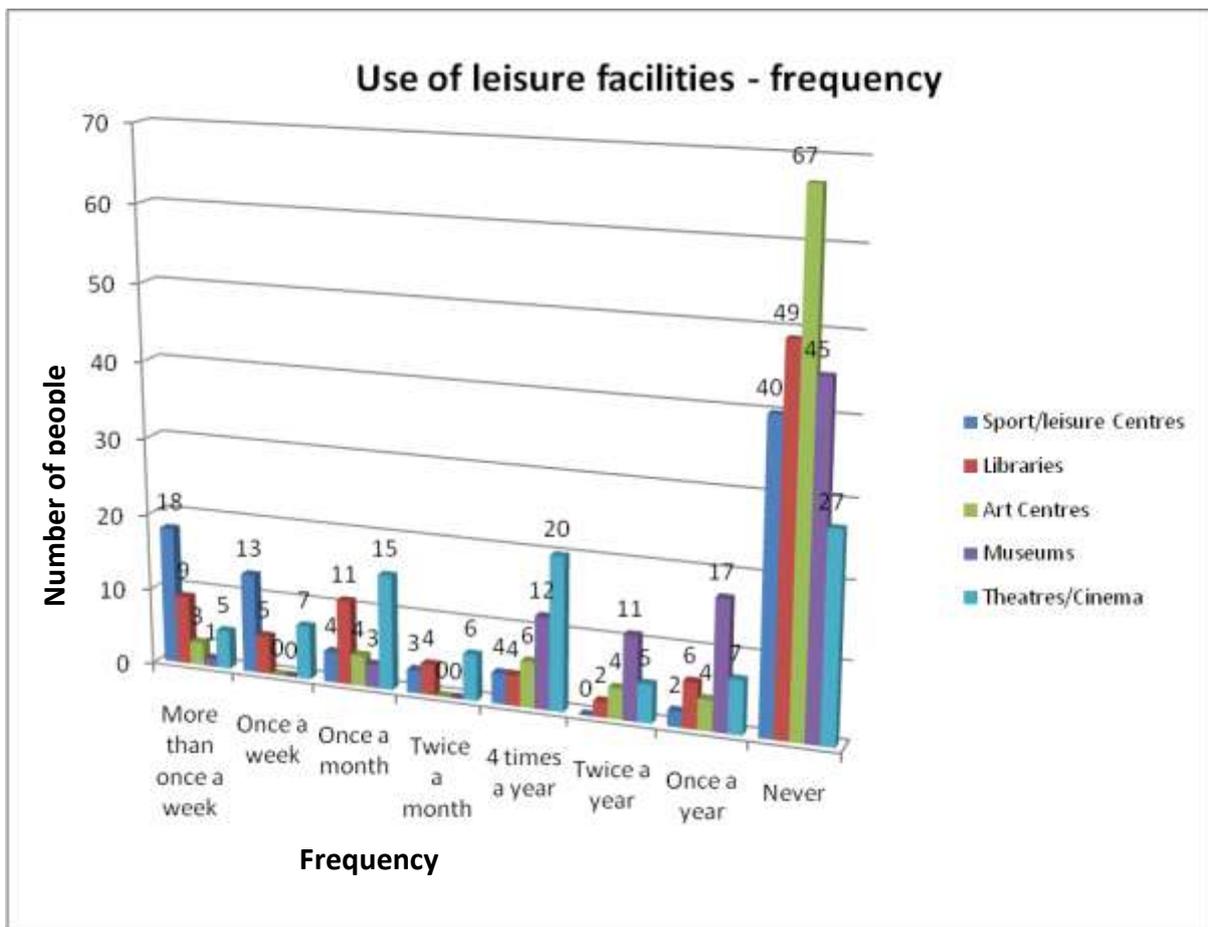
**32 year old Pakistani female, living in East Lothian**

We asked people how often they enjoyed the following leisure activities:

Sport/leisure Centres  
 Libraries  
 Art Centres  
 Museums  
 Theatres/Cinema

Using sport and leisure as an example, for all three areas combined 55% used these services less than once a week, with 40% of those people never visiting such a facility. In relation to Libraries, Art Centres, Museums, Theatres/Cinema, in each of the three areas, when asked, ‘how often do you use these services?’ the leading answer was always ‘never’ even in relation to cinemas and theatres. Art centres being the least visited cultural facility - 37 people in West Lothian of a possible 46 had never visited an art centre.

**Figure 26 – Use of leisure facilities**



Following on from leisure pastimes we asked respondents what kinds of activities they would like to do more of. See Figure 27 for the top 5 activities mentioned.

**Figure 27**

**Table 10 - Activities there is a desire to do more of**

Local Authority Area	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
More of these top 5 activities			
Spare time/relaxation	4	3	5
Travel	3	2	5
Walking	0	1	4
TV	0	2	1
Sports	4	3	2

The reasons people cited for not doing more of these and other activities were a lack of spare time, local services and money.

## POLICE

34 people had dealt with the police as a victim of crime. That's of the 56 people who had had some involvement with the police.

**Figure 28**

**Table 11 – Victims of crime by crime category**

Local Authority Area Victim of	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
Business vandalism	3	2	4
Racial abuse	4	2	5
Car vandalism	2	2	1
House burglary	0	1	0
Neighbour dispute	1	4	2

The perceptions of the police and peoples' interactions with them were explored here. 43 people felt the police were helpful and 53 people felt the police were approachable. Most of the people we spoke with, if they had had police engagement it had been as the victims of a crime.

Many of the participants who had experienced race crime (see racism section to follow) said that it was often committed by youngsters. Hence the last bullet point about 'discipline the children' was mentioned regularly throughout the questionnaire.

Here are some quotes from people who were asked about the helpfulness of the police.

"To a certain point they were helpful but often can't do anything as abusers underage."

**Individual living in West Lothian**

"No way, ignoring our calls, preferring other white youths over our business."

**21 year old Scottish-Pakistani male, living in Midlothian**

“Child too young to be dealt with.”

**Individual living in West Lothian**

“Yes, abuse not stopped but better. Would like more severe punishment than just talking to the parents.”

**17 year old South African female, living in Midlothian**

“Yes, but didn’t come back with updates.”

**40 year old North African male, living in West Lothian**

“Not really, one officer suggested we move house, not dealing with the issue properly.”

**23 year old Scottish Pakistani female, living in West Lothian**

“No. Was assaulted in street, gave name of abusers to police but he was underage so no action taken.”

**42 year old Pakistani male, living in West Lothian**

“No, that depends on the officer.”

**22 year old White-Bosnian male, living in East Lothian**

To compliment respondents’ comments on the helpfulness of the police here are some quotes from people who were asked about the approachability of the police.

“In West Lothian they are. They are helpful and follow up calls. However the police phone staff are rubbish”

**62 year old Pakistani male, living in West Lothian**

“Not really approachable, not very helpful of late, sometimes threatening.”

**27 year old Pakistani male, living in Midlothian**

“Yes, here. Not at home [Slovakia] though.”

**23 year old Slovakian female, living in East Lothian**

“No, their perception of youth is wrong.”

**22 year old White-Bosnian male, living in East Lothian**

In an attempt to find out what could be done to build better community relations with the police we asked individuals what they would suggest the police do and people were keen to give us their views on how the police service might achieve more community cohesion.

- “Carry out grass roots community work and presence.”
- “Have greater visibility.”
- “Race relations training of police.”
- “Talk to BME community more.”
- “Work more on racism/bullying.”
- “Gain our trust and show respect to members of BME community.”
- “Discipline the children, get them off the street and home late at night. Where are the parents?”

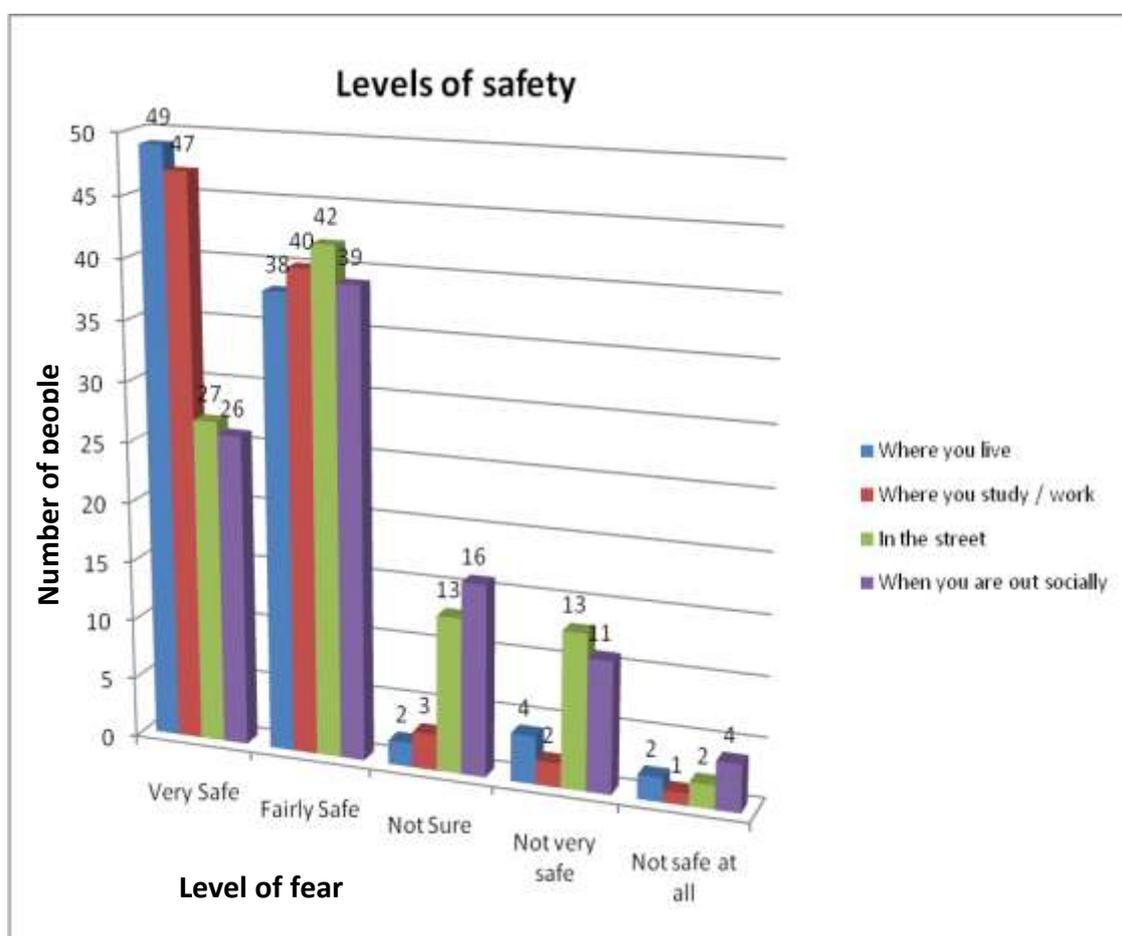
## PERSONAL SAFETY

This section of the needs assessment addressed the reasons for not feeling safe within each of the three local authority areas ranged in the following order, most feared to begin with:

Racial harassment fears  
Alcohol related fears  
Fear of crime, and  
Drug related fears

### Personal Safety

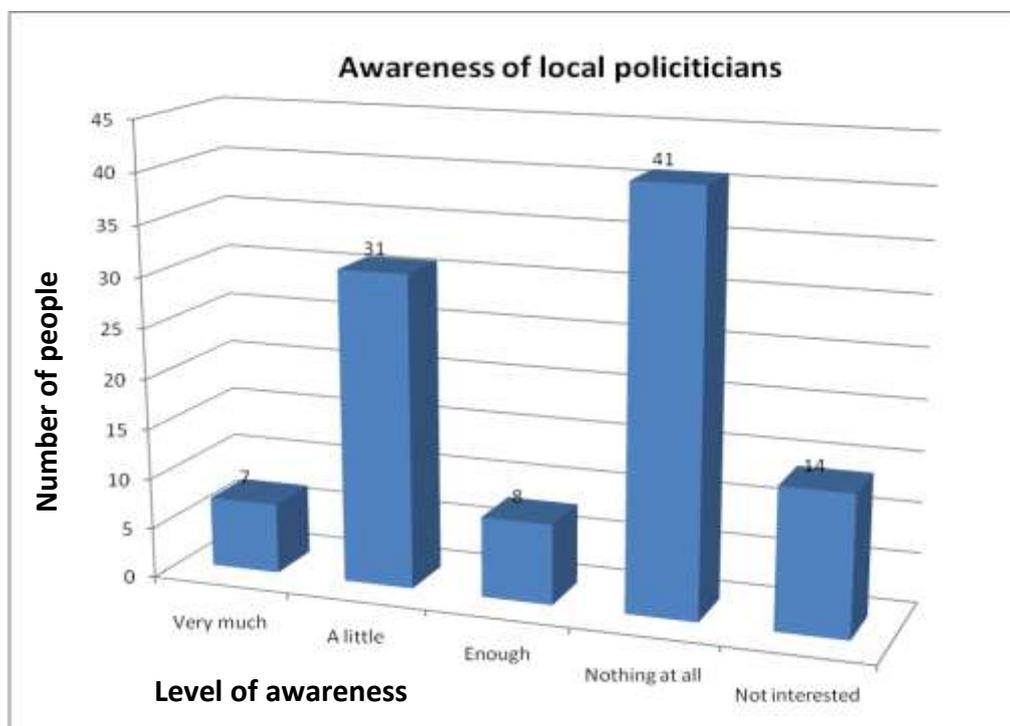
**Figure 29 – Perception of safety levels**



## AWARENESS OF LOCAL COMMUNITY

### Political awareness

**Figure 30 – Awareness of local politicians**



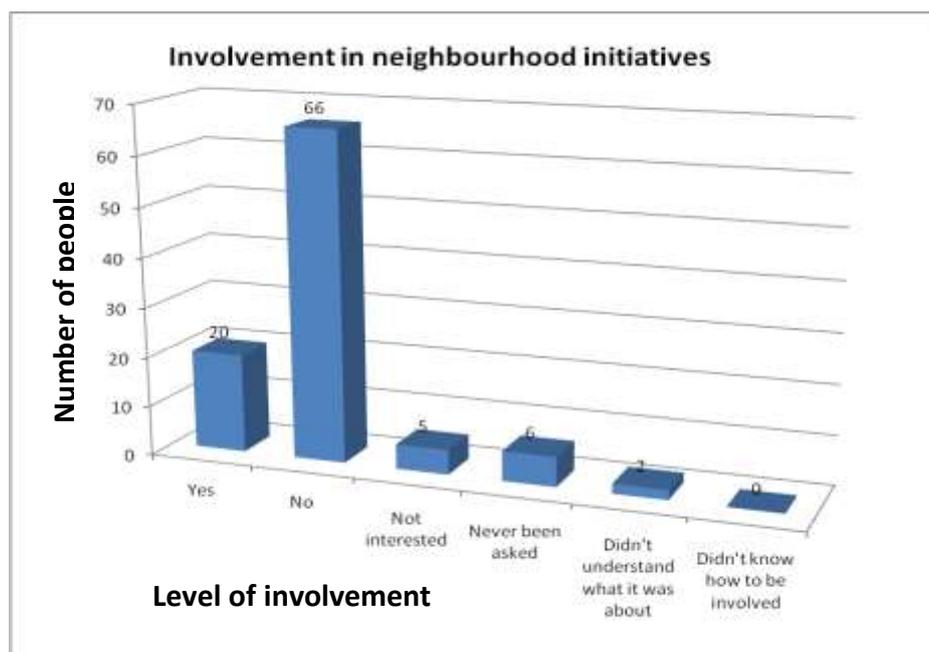
Most people in each area had voted. 57 people had and 32 people had not voted. The remainder were not eligible to vote, refused to say or preferred not to comment. 63% of people would vote in the next election, 17% will definitely not vote and a further 8% were unsure if they will vote at the next election.

Very few people had a good knowledge of the political arena in their area. They said they knew little, enough or nothing at all of their local politicians. This was not an area people spoke freely about or had a huge understanding, interest in or knowledge of.

## PERCEPTION OF LOTHIAN AS A PLACE TO LIVE

In order to discover if people had ever been involved, or taken part in neighbourhood involvement initiatives e.g. local development committees, community councils, local area forums and neighbourhood watch schemes etc. A breakdown of those who were involved in neighbourhood initiatives, what they were involved in follows.

**Figure 31 - Involvement in neighbourhood initiatives**



Type of initiatives:

- Community race forum
- All cultural events
- Local community planning, neighbourhood watch
- Neighbours clubbed together and painted communal areas
- Lifeboat/Royal National Lifeboat Institute
- Local history groups.

We asked if West Lothian, East Lothian or Midlothian is open and welcoming to all other cultures and a good place to live for a BME person. 60 people across all three Lothians felt their authority area to be a welcoming place - West Lothian and East Lothian in particular. 21 people felt the Lothians out with Edinburgh were not a welcoming place. This and further information is held Table 12.

**Figure 32**

**Table 12 –Welcoming local authority area to live in**

Local Authority Area	East Lothian	West Lothian	Midlothian
Yes	19	27	14
No	7	8	6
n/a	3	6	5

Table 13 shows the prevalence of cultural celebrations and initiatives specific to BME individuals in the three Lothian areas we needs assessed in. 13 people said yes. 62 people answered no and a further 13 people did not know of any such initiatives.

**Figure 33**

**Table 13 –Local celebration of non-Scottish cultures**

Local Authority Area	East Lothian	West Lothian	Midlothian
Yes	2	8	3
No	23	21	18
Don't know	3	8	11

Suggestions were made as to what types of initiatives, festivals and events participants would like to see more of locally. See Table 14.

**Figure 34**

**Table 14 – examples of initiatives, celebrations and activities respondents wanted to see more of locally**

East Lothian	West Lothian	Midlothian
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music events, social groups/nights</li> <li>• National festivals</li> <li>• International women's day, international worker's day</li> <li>• More food related to peoples' culture/ethnicity e.g halal food</li> <li>• Mosque</li> <li>• Bring far more people to the area for these celebrations</li> <li>• New Year celebrations, street lights</li> <li>• Temple</li> <li>• There is no problem, people might not want you to be overt about it</li> <li>• Work in East Lothian through support/outreach. Live Edinburgh</li> <li>• Asian festivals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like to get involved in more ethnic events, good for children to have an understanding of other cultures</li> <li>• Promote cultural heritage, different bodies, cultural day exhibitions</li> <li>• Would be nice to have an EID event</li> <li>• More ethnic integration</li> <li>• Educate communities/allow more BMEs in power. Higher profile roles</li> <li>• More social get togethers</li> <li>• Eid parties/ art &amp; craft, sewing, dress making</li> <li>• Drop in centre owned by BMEs</li> <li>• YES could do with festival of all cultures</li> <li>• Festival / event of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools could do more</li> <li>• Open days, celebrate festivals, school open days, suitable venues for everyone</li> <li>• Hair product shops</li> <li>• More Polish cultural festivals and other non-Scottish cultural festivals</li> <li>• Sometimes we attend in Edinburgh, but no events in the Lothians</li> <li>• Changes to the way Scottish culture is presented, very in your face and anti other nationalities especially English. Socially mentor placement, volunteers, frontiers for change</li> <li>• Asian cultural fun day cultural shows etc</li> <li>• Community place, language school for</li> </ul>

	<p>all cultures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More awareness of BME history and cultures</li> <li>• BME carnival</li> <li>• More integration with other Christian and Muslim faiths</li> <li>• Eid holiday to show Muslim good</li> <li>• Eid events for Asian community</li> <li>• More mosque involvement to promote good of religion</li> <li>• More polish celebrations</li> <li>• More ethnic events</li> <li>• More religious events, more fun multi-cultural events for kids &amp; women</li> <li>• More play parks for kids</li> </ul>	<p>kids (Bangladeshi), religious class for kids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual event to promote different cultures</li> <li>• Asian music, festival, functions</li> <li>• Asian shops and mosque</li> <li>• Community centre for BME and support / advice service for older people</li> <li>• Celebrate diversity events more</li> <li>• Cross cultural events</li> </ul>
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To contrast the number of local non-Scottish cultural events we asked people if they participated in any wider West Lothian, East Lothian or Midlothian activities and celebrations.

28 people said yes with 36 saying they were not involved with activities or celebrations outside the three local authorities. These figures are shown in Table 15.

**Figure 35**

**Table 15 – Non-local celebration of non-Scottish cultures**

<b>Local Authority Area</b>	<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>Midlothian</b>
Yes	12	7	9
No	15	12	9

Examples of non-Scottish cultural activities celebrated out with the three Local Authority areas were ‘The Edinburgh Mela’ and ‘Chinese Community Centre in Gilmerton’ attendance.

## **RACISM**

Nearly 1 in 2 people had experienced some form of racism in the Lothians. This was supported by racial harassment being the top fear in relation to personal safety.

### **Racism by victims**

Participants were asked if they had ever been a victim of racial harassment or discrimination whilst staying in West Lothian, East Lothian or Midlothian.

**Figure 36**

**Table 16 – Victims of racist crimes**

<b>Local Authority Area</b>	<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>West Lothian</b>
<b>Suffered</b>			
Yes	19	14	22
No	16	9	21
Don't want to talk about it	2	2	7

More people admitted to having suffered racism inside their area than out with the three Lothian areas as shown here in Table 16 and for outside their area see Table 40.

Here are some incidents that took place and how they made the victim/s feel.

**Figure 37**

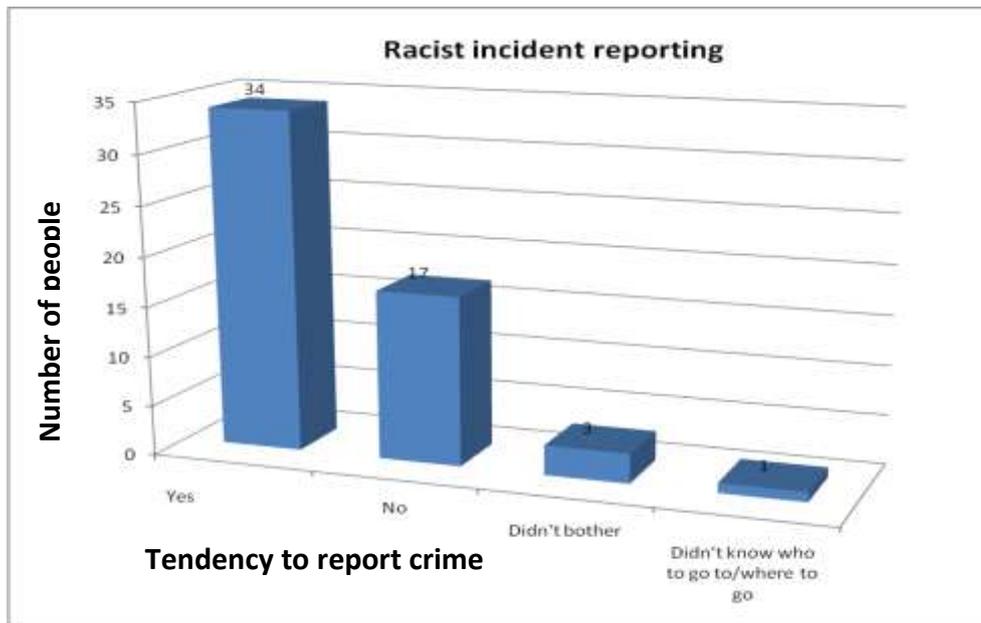
**Table 17 – Racist incidents and the victims’ feelings**

Local Authority Area Incident & feelings	East Lothian	Midlothian	West Lothian
What happened?			
What happened?	Broken windows at home. Youngsters and children that did it caught by police.	My friend got battered because he was from another country.	Local kids troubling family. Lots of trouble when I had my own business in West Lothian. Lots of racism, also violence.
How did it make you feel?	Sad and unsafe	Very unhappy	Sad, scared and worried.
What happened?	Called names, spitting from teenagers.	Words ‘black c__t’ written on counter, windows smashed, names shouted.	Had a few racial names said to me when I was younger at school.
How did it make you feel?	Have suffered mental health issues as	Marginalised as police did nothing to stop	Difference from other.

	result. Only children though.	incidents.	
What happened?	Verbal abuse and intimidation.	Disturbance to business by youngsters; neighbour made complaint without any reason; threatened by passer by.	Attacked by a junkie in the street.
How did it make you feel?	Low. Felt like a lower class of citizen.	It has been usual with us. Resigned to it.	Like crap.

In light of ELREC’s remote reporting status we probed people on their racist incident reporting activities. We asked if they reported the crimes and to whom. See figures 38 and the list below it.

**Figure 38 – Reporting of racist incidents**



It is interesting to note that at least 1 person did not know where to report a racist crime. Those who did report incidents of racist crimes did so to the following agencies/organisations:

- Police – 23
- ELREC or other agency – 3
- Lawyer – 3
- Citizens Advice Bureau – 3
- School – 5
- Parents and friends – 1
- Human Resources – 2

Figure 39 tells us about peoples’ ability to discuss racism with ease with 60 people advising they felt comfortable discussing racism and 16 people telling us they did not.

**Figure 39 – Ease with discussing racism**

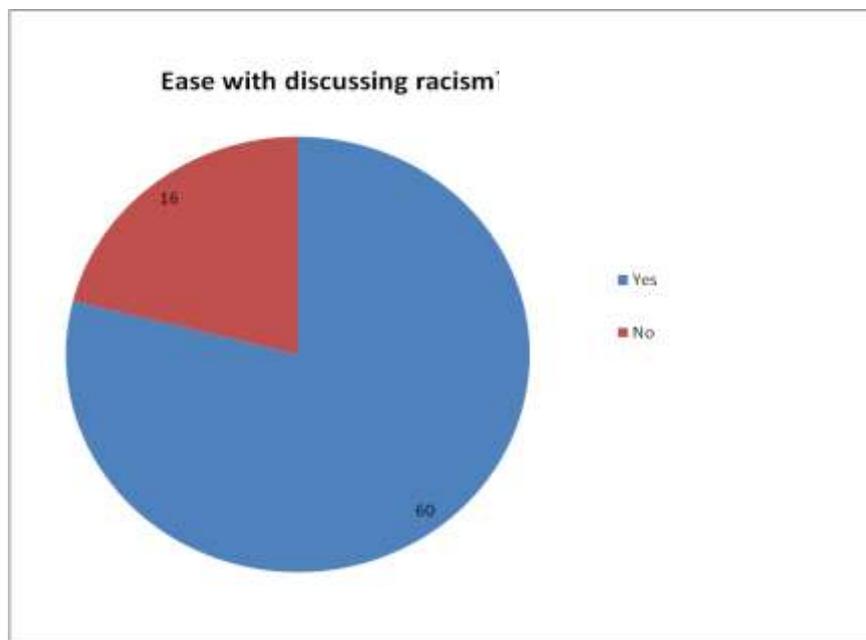
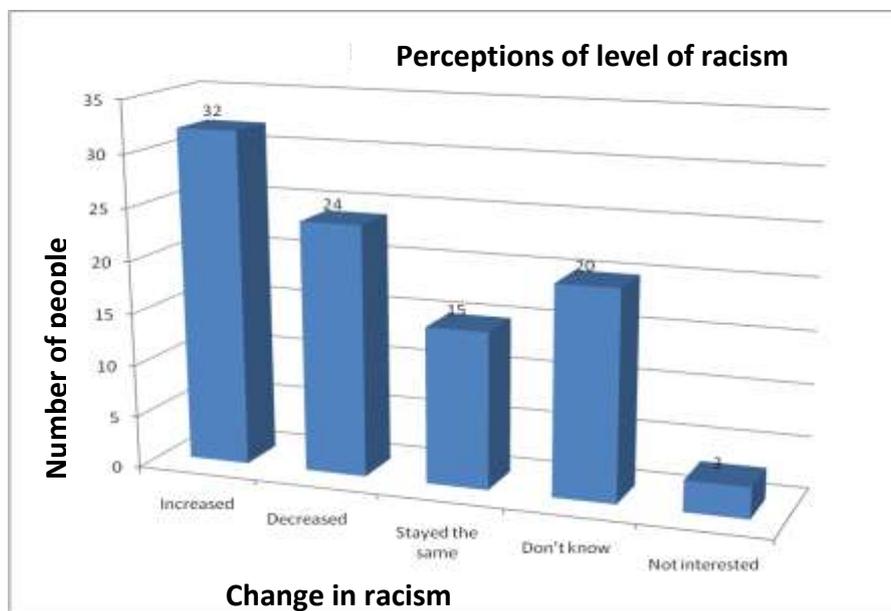


Figure 40 tells us about peoples’ views and opinions on whether racism has increased or decreased over the years. 32 people felt the level of racism has

risen, 24 people felt it has decreased, whereas 15 people think it has stayed the same over the years and 20 people did not know. There were a further 3 people who were not interested.

**Figure 40 – Perceptions of level of racism**



40 people were positive that life in the Lothians was different for a BME young person compared to a non-BME young person growing up in West Lothian, East Lothian or Midlothian. 18 people felt life was not different for young BME people being raised in the Lothians and 3 others felt it would be much the same. Please see Figure 41.

Yes, a lot of misconceptions .e.g dress sense, culture, kids needs more education. A lot of ignorance due to lack of education i.e. language. Kids pick on each other at school if different.

**43 year old Pakistani female, living in West Lothian**

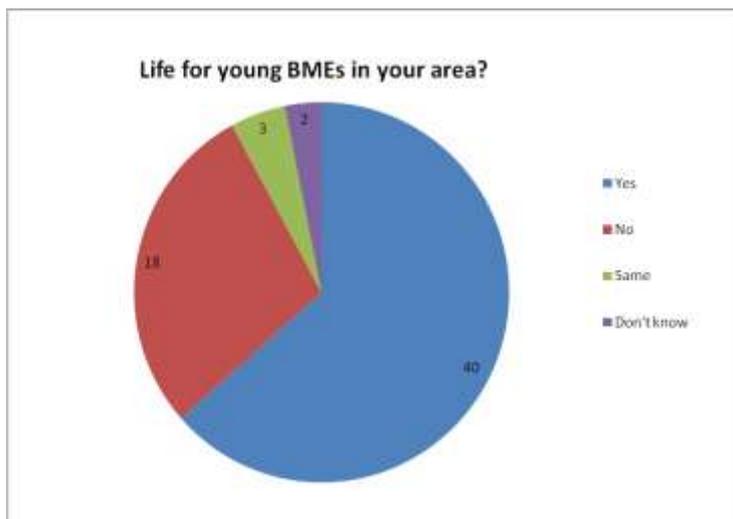
Depends on the age of the young people.

**47 year old Bosnian female, living in East Lothian**

Yes, cultural differences can mean you take offence.

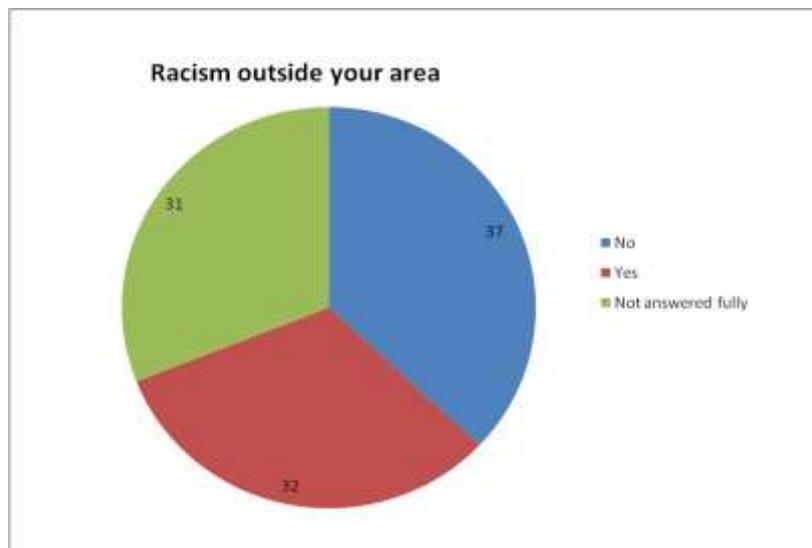
**26 year old African male, living in Midlothian**

**Figure 41 – Life for young BMEs in the three Lothian areas**



We discussed racism outside the three local authority areas and peoples' experiences of it. See Figure 42 below. More people admitted to having suffered racism inside their area (see Racism by victims Table 16). Respondents reported experiencing racism at their business premises, in the street, at work and at school.

**Figure 42 – Racism outside the three Lothian areas**



## PERSONAL GOALS

Encouragingly people were full of aspiration surrounding this theme. Most people had an idea of their own personal goal immediately. They were extremely varied - from astronomical desires to becoming an MP.

Some of the leading and resounding goals were:

- Success in business, happiness and harmony with all
- Better life for family
- Do something more rewarding - husband would like a job in art history
- To work professionally
- To have a good proper job, some accommodation and just live a normal life.
- Have own business
- Like to learn more English and change job as temping to survive
- Go back to college and study cookery and become a chef
- Get good career for children, pilgrim to Mecca, set up community centre locally
- Finish the college and go to university, get a job.
- Enjoy a peaceful life
- To do a better job in Human Resources
- Bringing my family here to live with me

We followed up the discussion on goals with reference to barriers to reaching those goals. Ideally with a view to working with partners and individuals to break down or lessen these in some way. See what people had to say below:

- My health
- Yes, finding a job with experience from a non-UK country
- Perhaps discrimination. Unfortunately I think I may be seen as an ethnic minority individual with an axe to grind and from previous experience, individuals seen to be more 'objective' ie, white people tend to get the job.
- Finances
- I would like to challenge racism and discrimination. All these policies are in place. Do you believe all these policies, such as bullying and

harassment are working in practice? I do not believe these policies are bringing any changes. These glossary policies are for shelves not for making any changes.

- Unable to live here permanently

## **PRIORITIES FOR CHANGE**

We were inundated with suggestions for change. Lots of resounding statements were logged and listed as below.

### **Police**

More police on the street  
Reporting of racism locally, mentors locally  
Remote reporting sites  
More action against Racism

### **Community services**

Improved local transport services  
Regular BME and non-BME interaction to break down barriers  
Information and Advice Centre  
Multicultural Community Centre  
Out of hours activities – centre facilities  
One Stop Advice/Support service for local BME community  
Sports/Leisure centre for BME women (Culturally Sensitive)  
A Watchdog for Complaints  
Older people's activities, outings  
Mentoring Facilities  
BME shops  
Visibility of BMEs – Visibility would lead to recognition

### **Cultural and leisure**

BME events  
Further initiatives for BME individuals to integrate into Scottish life  
Young people's facilities  
More community activities and a social venue for BME people

### **Housing**

More affordable housing  
Better and cheaper accommodation

### Education

Education on health issues – healthy eating, diabetes.  
Education Facilities for BME Women  
More English language classes  
Cultural and religious awareness raising within schools

### Employment

Discrimination prior to and following employment must be checked and monitored to provide job equality  
Workplace cultural awareness raising

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Actions plans aimed at key service providers and partners to be distributed separately.
- Higher visibility policing.
- More anti-racism education for children and young people.
- Increase involvement of BME communities in public service providers' consultation.
- More local, accessible advice/support services designed for BME communities.
- Raise awareness and involvement of BME communities in political structure.
- Better strategies in tackling fear of racial harassment.
- Improved and accurate media portrayal of certain BME communities.
- Housing services provided by social landlords and local authorities.
- Increased scrutiny of employers racial equality policies and procedures.
- Increased access and availability within healthcare to interpreting and translating services.
- Raise awareness of private and public services within the employment and recruitment industry.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ELREC would like to thank partners who have worked with us to facilitate this section of the Local development project.

ELREC importantly must thank those who took part in the needs assessment survey and shared their very personal experiences with us.

All ELREC staff have played some part in this section of the Local Development Project and thanks to them is also extended.