

Athlone Gardens

Analysis of stakeholder consultation

January 2026

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Introduction

Background

Athlone Gardens is a popular local park used by families, dog walkers, and nearby workers. Planned changes to surrounding buildings creates an opportunity to expand and improve the park. A co-designed masterplan process was undertaken to help shape the future of Athlone Gardens. Early consultation identified key community priorities, including more planting and greenery, improved seating and shelter, better facilities for older children and teenagers, enhancements to the dog exercise area, and the addition of a small park building with toilets, a café, and shelter. Two designers were shortlisted to produce initial design ideas. Residents from Dalgarno, Golborne, and St Helen's Wards were invited to review the submissions and select their preferred option. This consultation sought residents' views on the proposed designs, and the chosen designer will progress the final design in collaboration with the community, with construction planned to begin in 2027.

Consultation methodology

The consultation was promoted through a range of channels to ensure it reached local residents and families. This included posters, banners, and copies of the concept designs displayed on noticeboards and fencing within Athlone Gardens, as well as leaflets delivered to nearby residents and businesses. Emails were also sent to local community and housing groups and ward councillors to help promote the consultation. In addition, two drop-in sessions were held at the Venture Centre to allow residents to ask questions and discuss the proposals in person. The consultation was also promoted via social media, including Nextdoor. The engagement exercise opened on 10 November 2025 and closed on 8 January 2026, receiving a total of 87 responses.

Report

A total of 97 survey responses were received by the deadline. Of these, 10 responses were excluded as they were submitted by residents outside Dalgarno, Golborne, and St Helen's Wards. This report contains an analysis of the remaining 87 survey responses. A separate appendix report is available on request, which details all comments made by respondents to the questions within the survey.

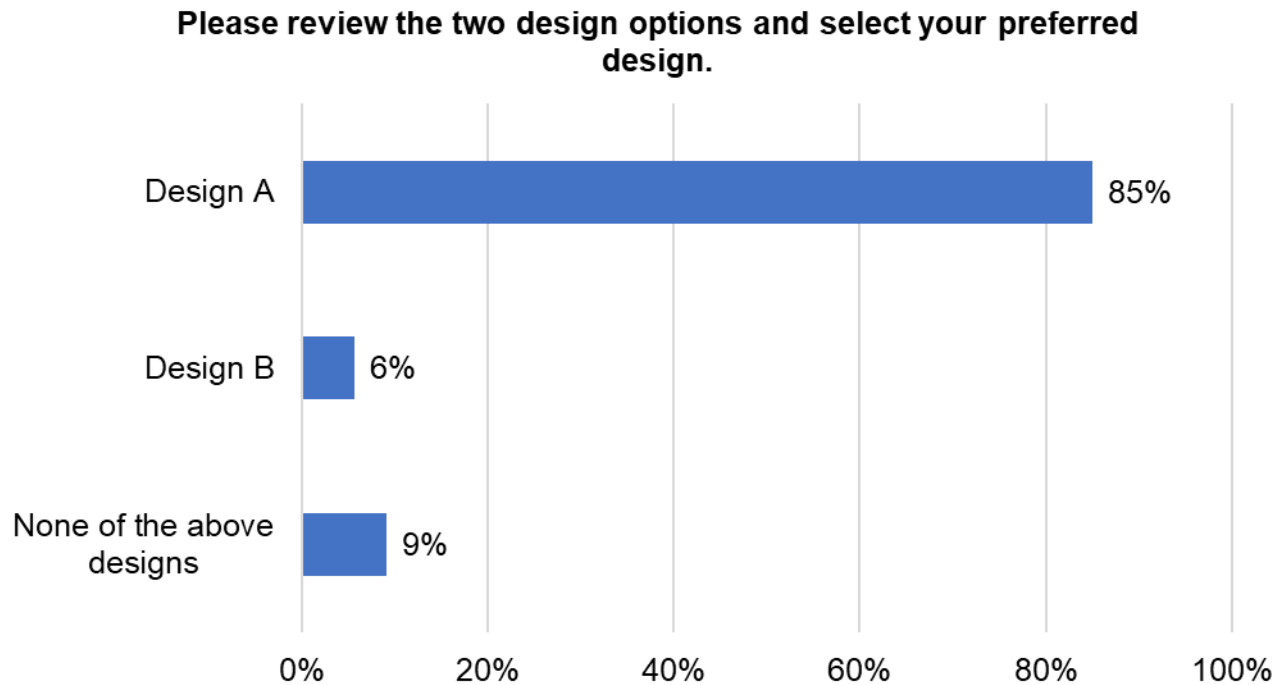
Acknowledgements

The Council would like to thank all residents and stakeholders that took the time to feedback their views.

Preferred design

Residents were asked to review the two design options and select their preferred option.

- The majority of respondents (85%) selected Design A as their preferred choice.
- Design B was selected by 6% of respondents, while 9% selected “none of the above.”



Base: All respondents (87)

Explain your answer

Respondents who selected “none of the above” were asked to explain the reasons for their choice.

The feedback has been categorised into key themes and summarised in the table below. Examples of general comments can be found on the next page, and a full breakdown is available in the appendices.

Theme	Count
Issues with the designs’ layout/process	7
Dog facilities and dog use	3
More green areas	3
Play, sport and physical activity	3
Cleanliness, Maintenance and Management	1
Other	1



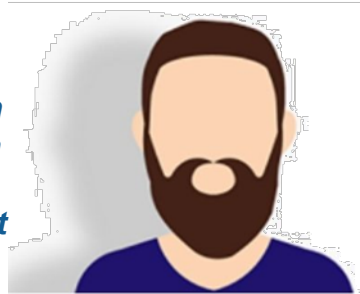
Comments – Explain your answer

*“These designs far too complex.
We need more trees.*

Issues with the designs’ layout/process

“Both designs seem to be doing too much with not a lot of space. I’m not sure why a cafe or shelter is needed in an area that abounds in small independent cafes. Most people who use the park are very local so again I’m not sure there is much need for toilet facilities rather than maintaining outdoor space. I use the park at least twice a day to walk my dog and i like being able to let the dog off the lead in all of the park (except the play area) securely enclosed and this is the closest place to my home to do this. I think more trees and planting and seating areas would be lovely. Mainly more trees. Not sure about covering over more ground with hard core for play areas/basket ball hubs.

Dog facilities and dog use



“Can you please include a running lane around the circumference of the park so people can use that for a run or a walk? This will be very useful for the community. In winter months, we don’t feel very safe to go for a run on pavements or other parks with no lighting.”

Play, sport and physical activity

“None of the designs are imaginative enough and do not enhance the beauty of the surrounding community. It will be good to revamp / reshape current play area to make the park look more open. Also it would be great to have a running path along the perimeter of the park.”

Issues with the designs’ layout/process



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Any Other Comments

Respondents were asked if they have any other comments to add.

The feedback has been categorised into key themes and summarised in the table below. Additional examples of comments can be found on the next page, and a full breakdown is available in the appendices.

Theme	Count
More green spaces	18
Maintenance and upkeeping	7
More play equipment	5
Concerns about the future of the exiting trees	3
Preference for Design A	3
Inclusivity and accessibility of the garden	3
Suggestions regrading dogs facilities	3
Request for shelter from rain/weather	2
Noise concerns	1
Opposition to a designated dog area	1



Any Other Comments

“More green and always insect and wildlife friendly should be at the foundation of this space .”

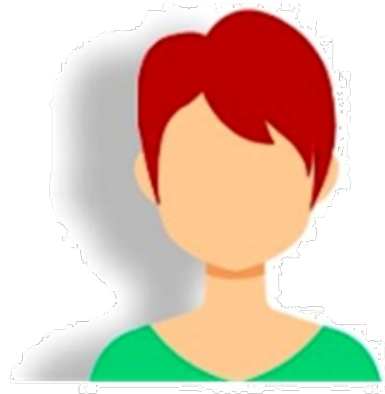
More green spaces

“To also have maintenance on the gardens after it’s been built!”

Maintenance and upkeeping

“Keep it green!”

More green spaces



“Please consider tenants noise and dirt these builds have only been here 8 years my block and already it’s starting to look run down and dirty”

Maintenance and upkeeping

“Can we please confirm all existing trees will be preserved with any future design option?”

Concerns about the future of the exiting trees

“Football pitch, big slide, tunnel slide, relaxing area for adults.”

More play equipment

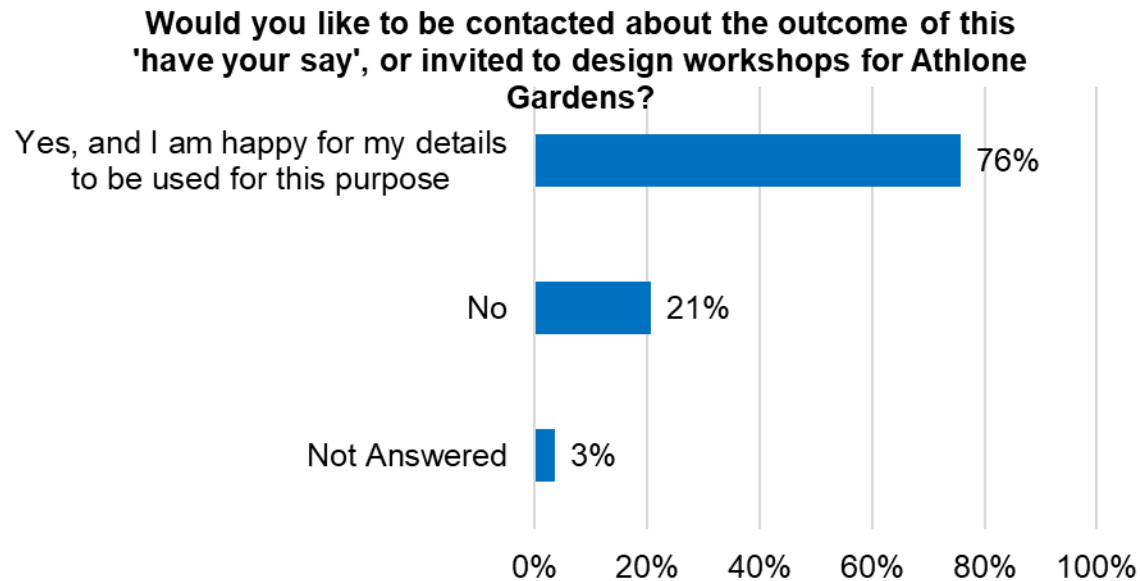
“Definitely wild flower meadow for pollinators.”

More green spaces



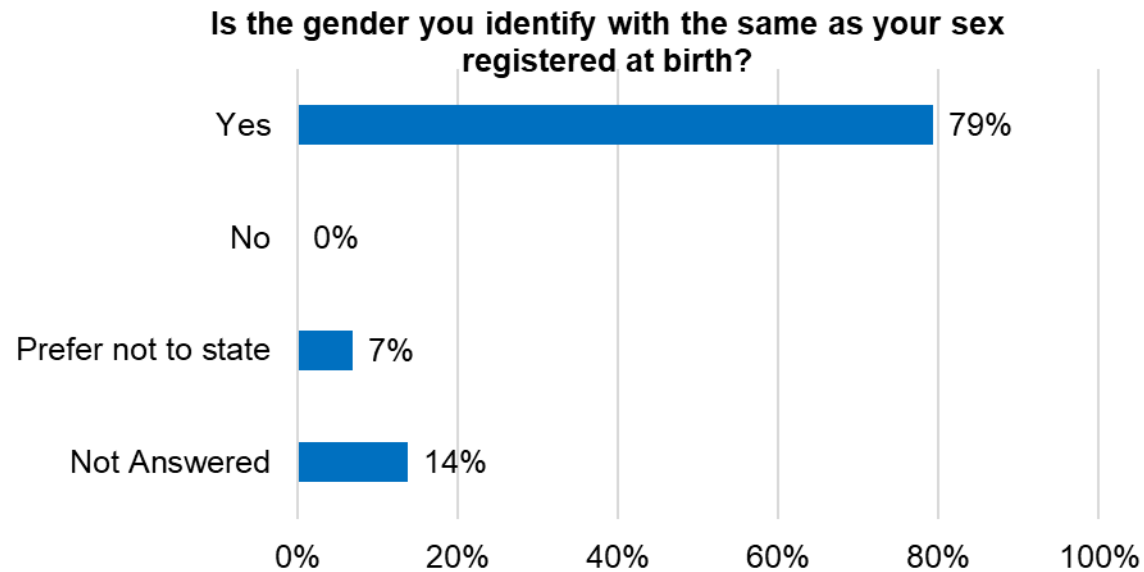
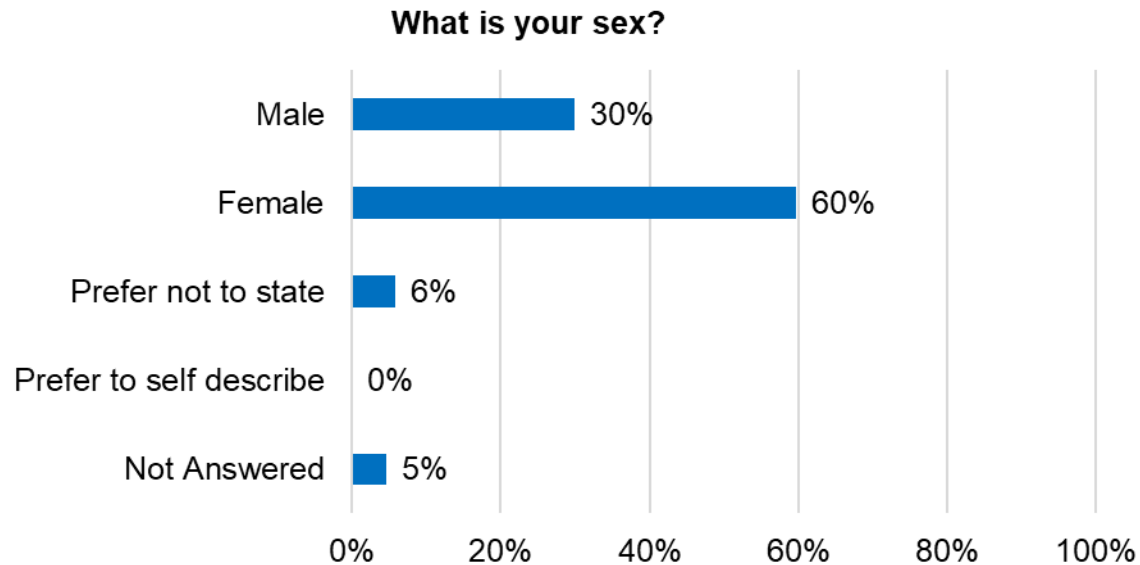
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Profile of respondents



Base: All respondents (87)

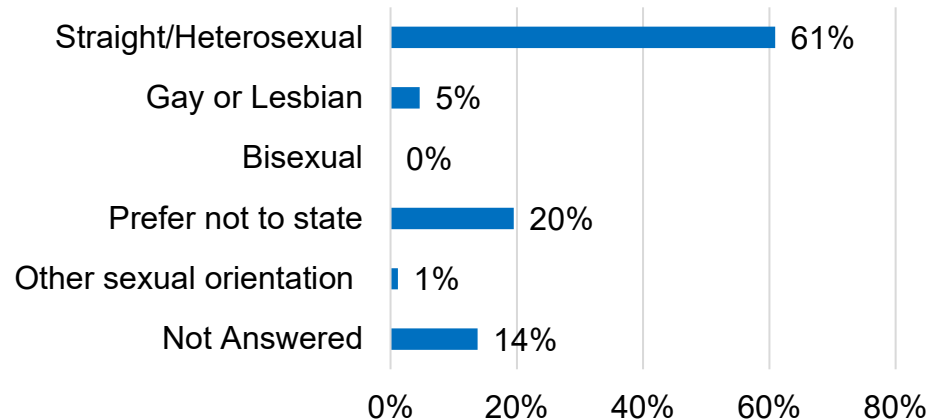
Profile of respondents



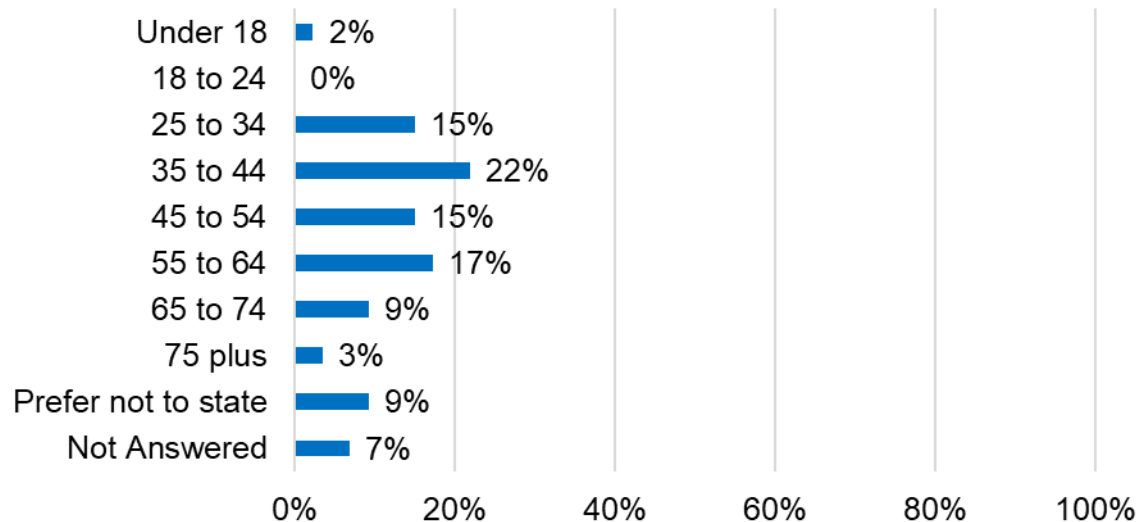
Base: All respondents (87)

Profile of respondents

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?



Which age group do you belong to?



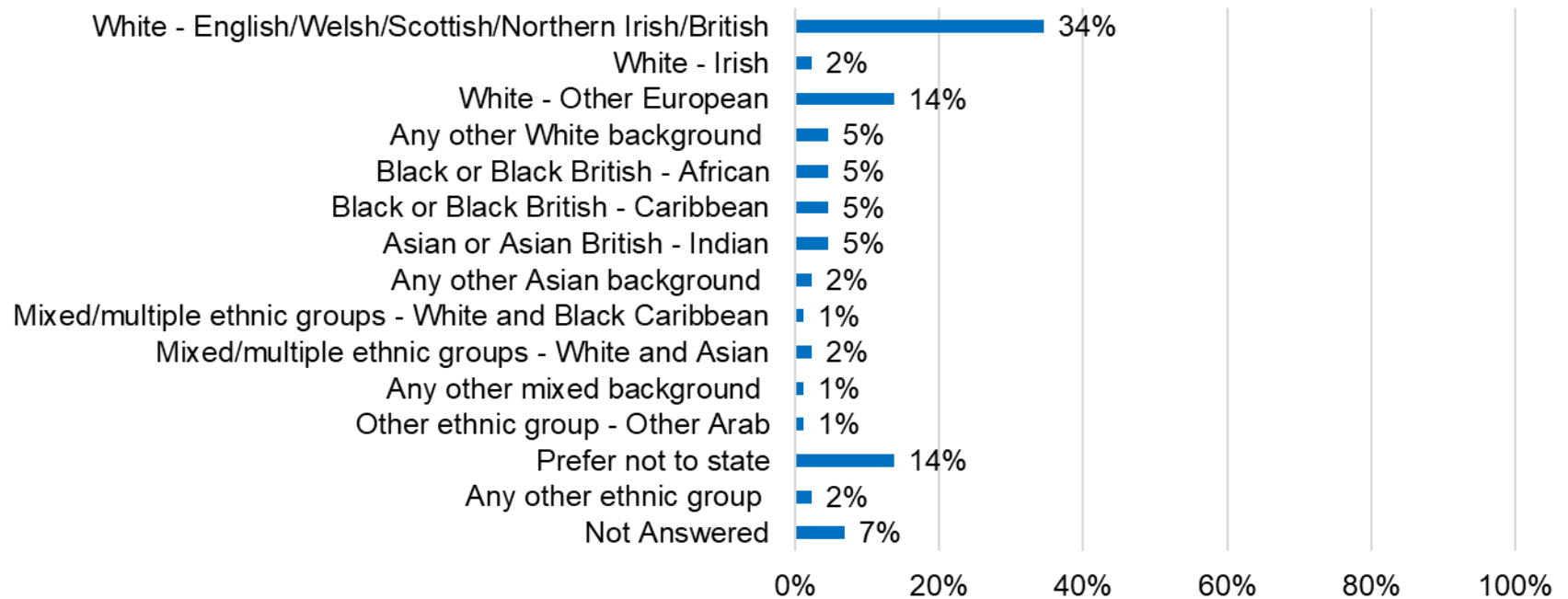
Base: All respondents (87)



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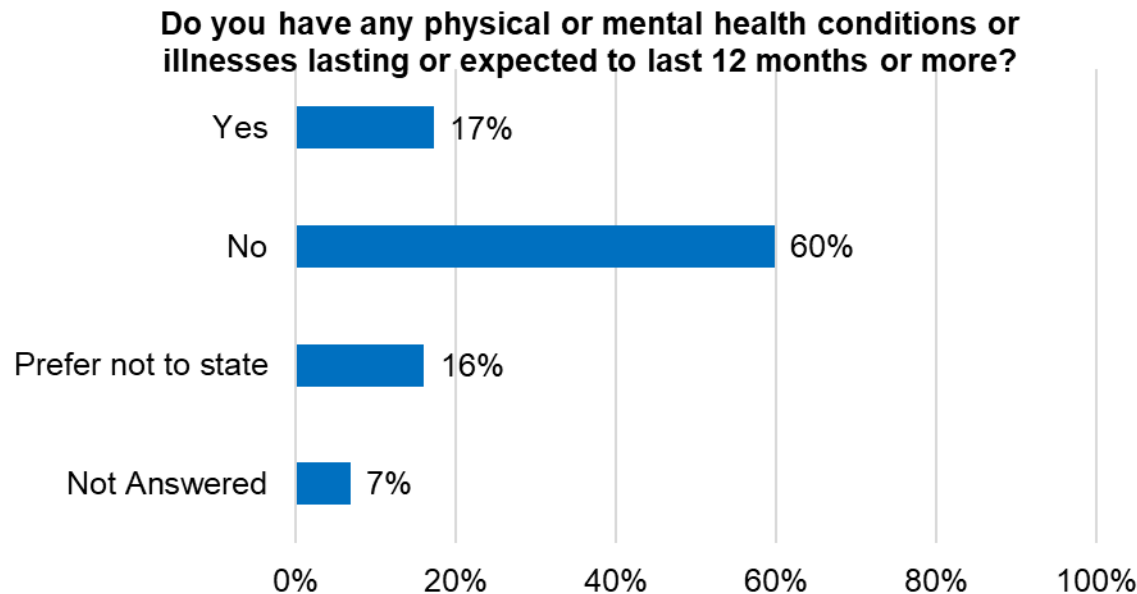
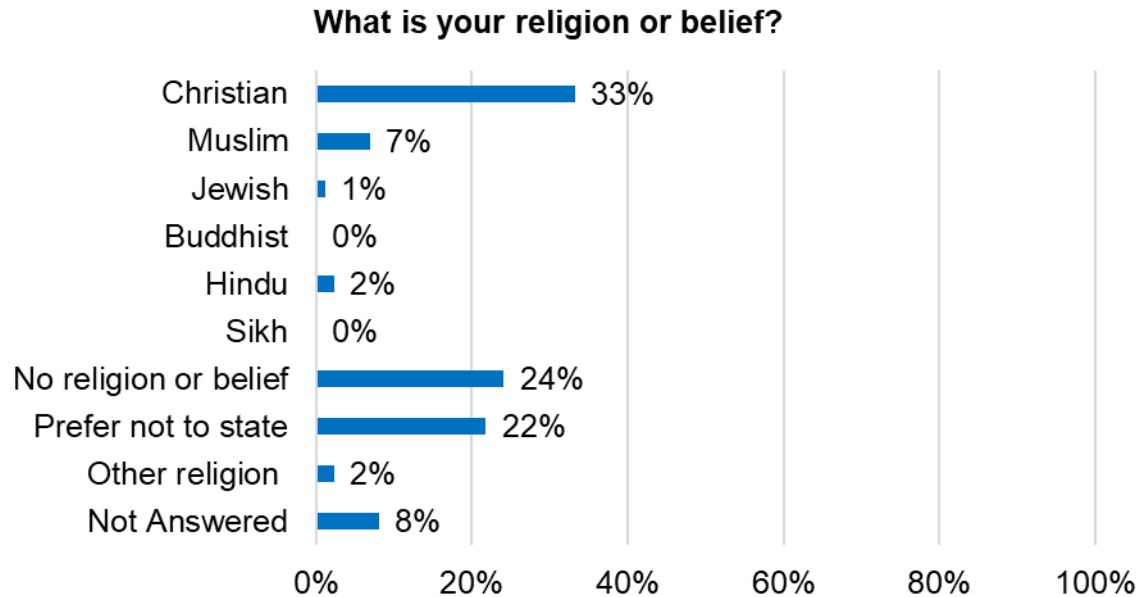
Profile of respondents

How do you describe your ethnic origin?



The graph shows the ethnic origins that were selected by respondents

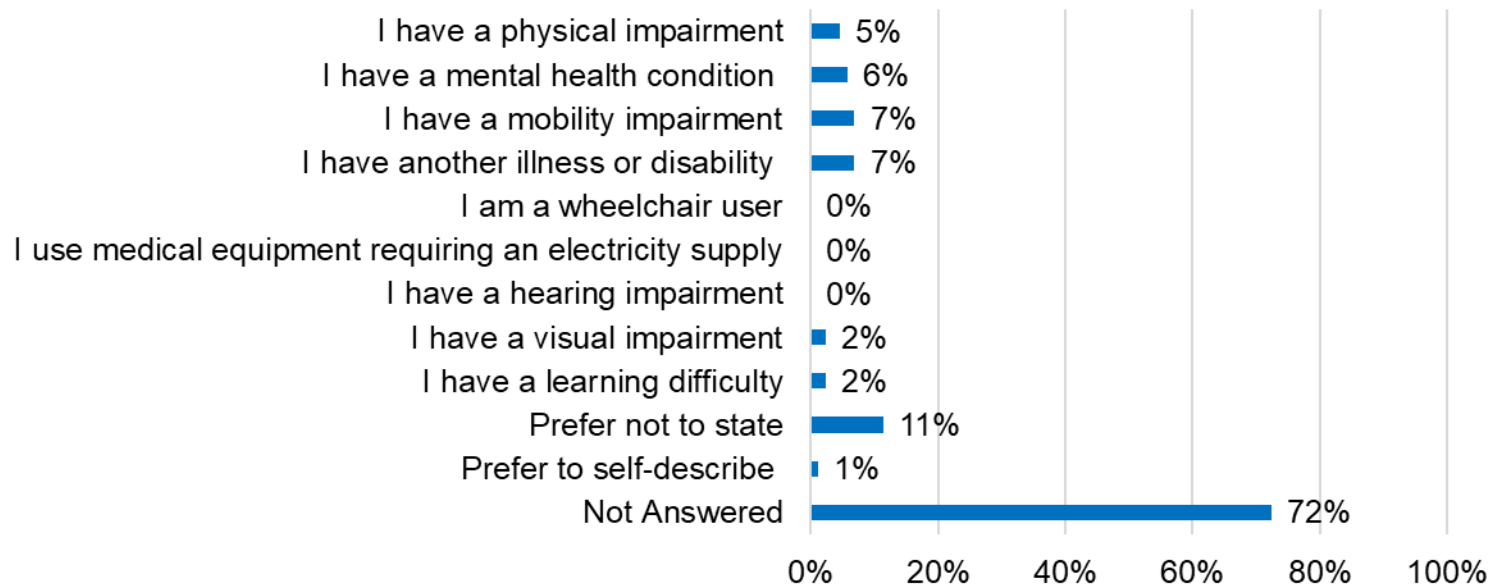
Profile of respondents



Base: All respondents (87)

Profile of respondents

If yes, what is the nature of your physical or mental health condition or illness?



Base: All respondents (87)



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