

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy

**Consultation report and findings
July 2021**

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AND CHELSEA**

Introduction

Background

The bi-borough Councils (Kensington and Chelsea Council and Westminster City Council) sought the views of those who live, work and study in the two boroughs, to inform the development of the next Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is the umbrella term used to describe a range of violent and abusive acts and behaviours, including: domestic abuse (including coercive control), rape and sexual violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, crimes in the name of 'honour', sexual harassment, stalking, trafficking, prostitution/sexual exploitation

Methodology and report

The survey was developed with colleagues from the bi-borough Violence Against Women and Girls share service. The survey was promoted via both Council's communication channels, such as e-newsletters and social media, as well as by direct contact with partner organisations. As this was a bi-borough consultation, the report contains a breakdown for all results across both Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster. These slides include the text ***Borough Comparisons***.

The survey closed on 20 June 2021 and 257 online submissions were received. Where graphs are shown, percentages are used.

Appendix

The appendix contains details of all themed comments made by respondents in relation to the consultation. All other responses and data are in the report. The appendices document is available upon request.

Equalities

Equalities data is presented on the 'About Respondents: Demographic Breakdown' section.

Acknowledgements

It is important to note that this consultation was carried out in the immediate aftermath of the murders of Sarah Everard and Julia James and the significant increases in domestic violence perpetrated towards women and girls during lockdown. These events have attracted significant public outcry and meant VAWG has risen up the political agenda. The bi-borough Councils would like to thank all respondents and organisations that took the time to take part in the exercise and gave their views.



Results at a glance – Public survey findings

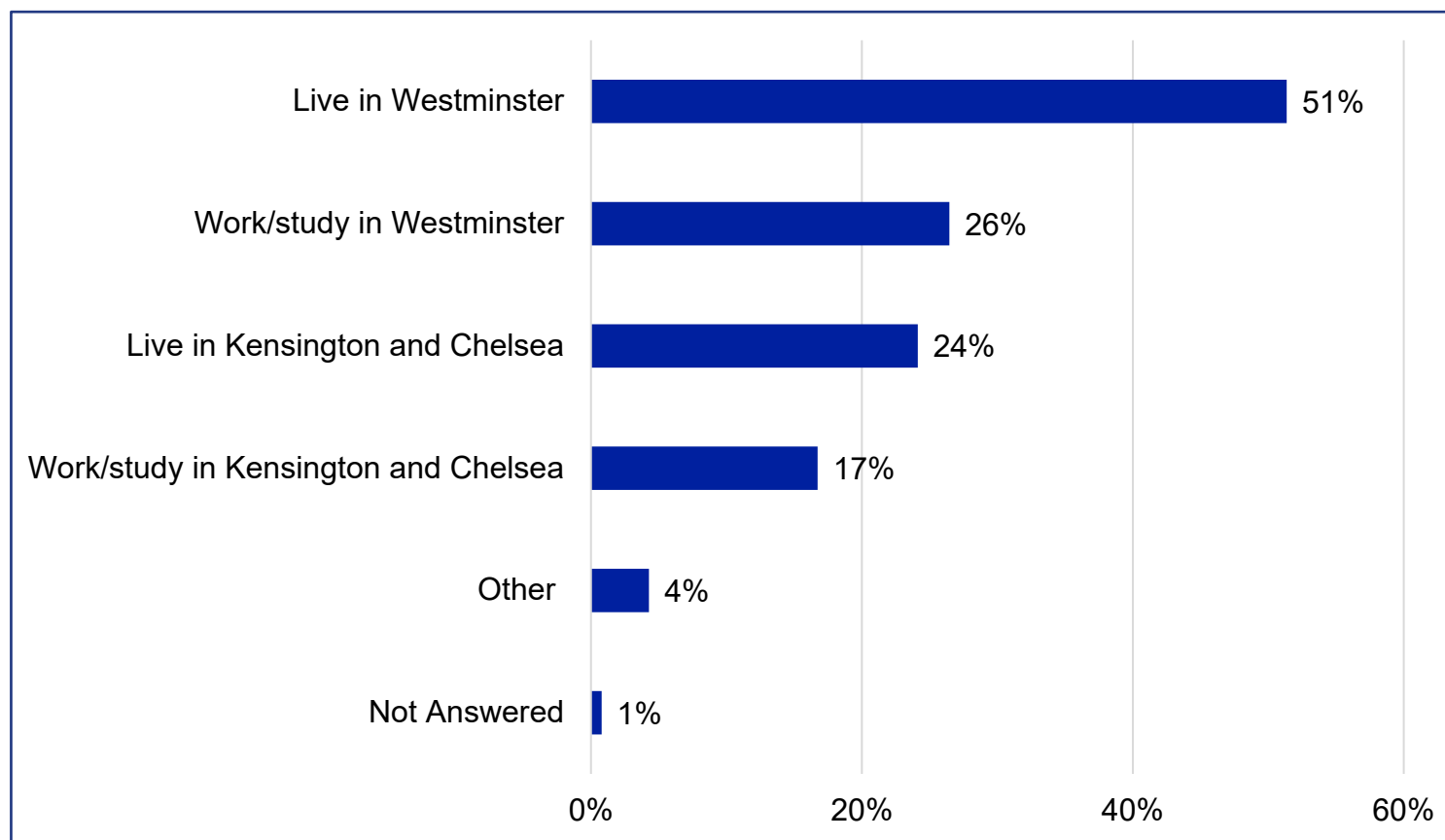
- **Safety during the day:** A total of 22 per cent of respondents who live/work/study in Kensington and Chelsea outlined that they felt **'Very safe'** and 51 per cent felt **'Fairly safe'** from the threat of VAWG in their area during the day. A total of 27 per cent of respondents who live/work/study in Westminster said that they felt **'Very safe'** and 43 per cent said that they felt **'Fairly safe'** from the threat of VAWG in their area during the day.
- **Safety at night:** A total of 26 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents and 30 per cent of Westminster respondents said that they felt **'Fairly unsafe'** at night, whilst 19 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents and 15 per cent of Westminster respondents outlined that they felt **'Very unsafe'** from the threat of VAWG in their area at night.
- **Personal experiences of VAWG:** Across both Kensington and Chelsea (59 per cent) and Westminster (66 per cent) **'Harassment in the street/Cat calling'** was the most selected response. A total of 47 per cent of respondents from both Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster outlined that they had experienced **'Sexual harassment'**.
- **Witnessing harassment:** A total of 23 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents outlined that they had witnessed a woman being harassed **'1-2 times'** in the last two years, whilst 32 per cent of respondents from Westminster selected this option. A total of 23 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents said they had witnessed a woman being harassed **'3-5 times'** compared to 19 per cent of Westminster respondents.
- **Accessing support for VAWG:** A total of 35 per cent of respondents selected **'No'** they did not know how to access support, whilst 33 per cent were **'Unsure'**. Meaning 68 per cent (net) of all respondents did not know how to access support for VAWG.
- **Priorities for local VAWG partnership:** A total of 72 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents and 70 per cent of Westminster respondents selected **'Support for those who need it, when they need it and for how ever long, they need it'**. Nearly two thirds (63 per cent) of Kensington and Chelsea respondents, and just over half (51 per cent) of Westminster respondents selected **'Support for victims of VAWG throughout family court proceedings'**.



Survey findings – Which borough do you live/work/study

As this was a bi-borough consultation, respondents were asked to outline which of Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster they lived, worked or studied. Respondents were asked to select all that applied.

- Over half (51 per cent) of respondents said that they lived in Westminster, and over a quarter (26 per cent) said that they worked/studied in Westminster.
- A total of 24 per cent of respondents said that they lived in Kensington and Chelsea, whilst 17 per cent said that they worked/studied in the borough.



Base: 257 (all responses)

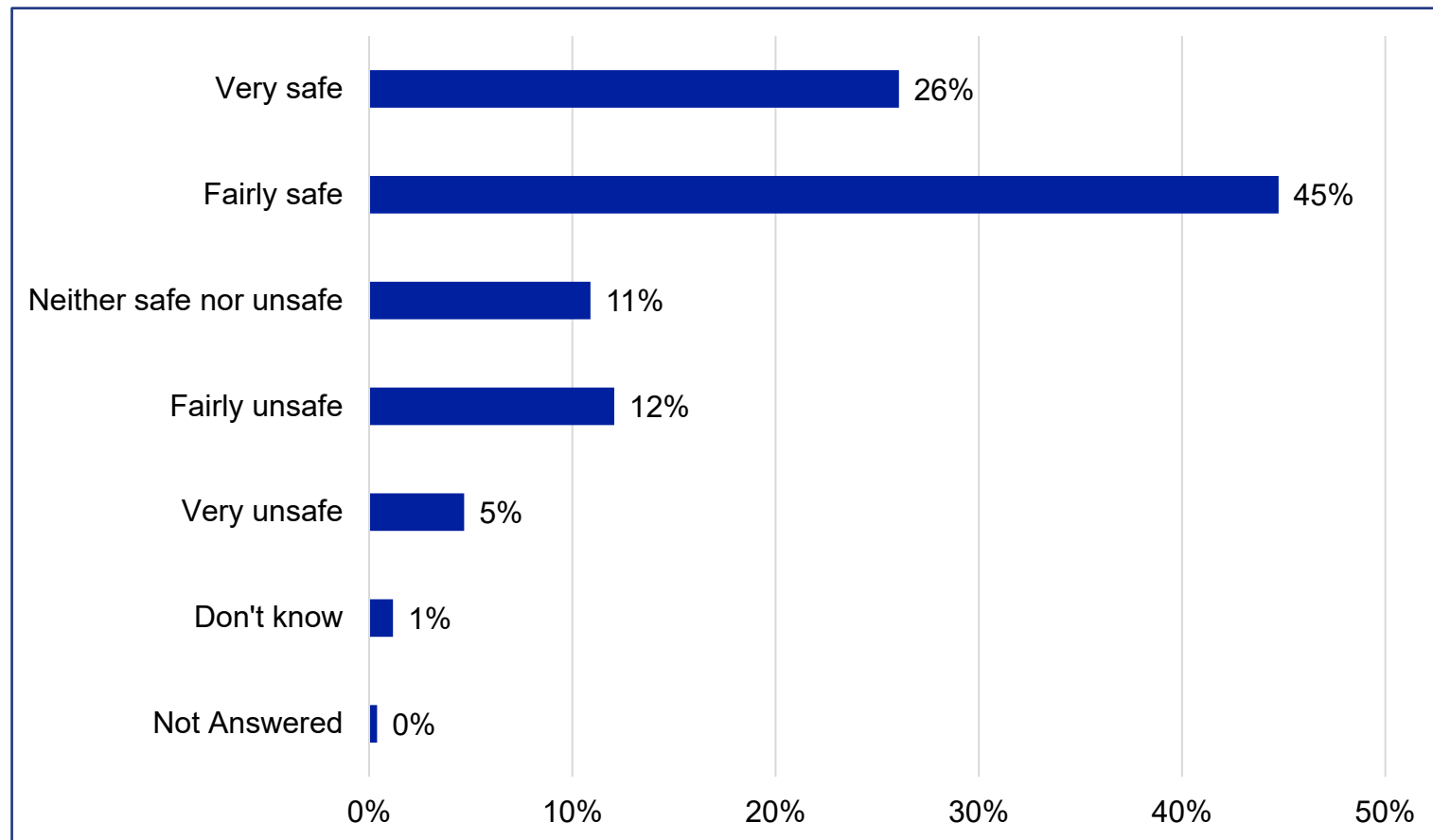


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Survey findings – Feelings of safety during the day

Respondents were asked how safe they felt from the threat of VAWG in their area during the day:

- A total of 26 per cent of respondents said that they felt **'Very safe'** and 45 per cent said that they felt **'Fairly safe'** from the threat of VAWG in their area during the day.
- A total of 12 per cent of respondents outlined that they felt **'Fairly unsafe'** and five per cent felt **'Very unsafe'** from the threat of VAWG in their area during the day.



Base: 257 (all responses)



Survey findings – Feelings of safety during the day – Borough comparisons

Respondents were asked how safe they felt from the threat of VAWG in their area during the day:

- A total of 22 per cent of respondents who live/work/study in Kensington and Chelsea outlined that they felt **'Very safe'** and 51 per cent felt **'Fairly safe'** from the threat of VAWG in their area during the day.
- A total of 27 per cent of respondents who live/work/study in Westminster said that they felt **'Very safe'** and 43 per cent said that they felt **'Fairly safe'** from the threat of VAWG in their area during the day.

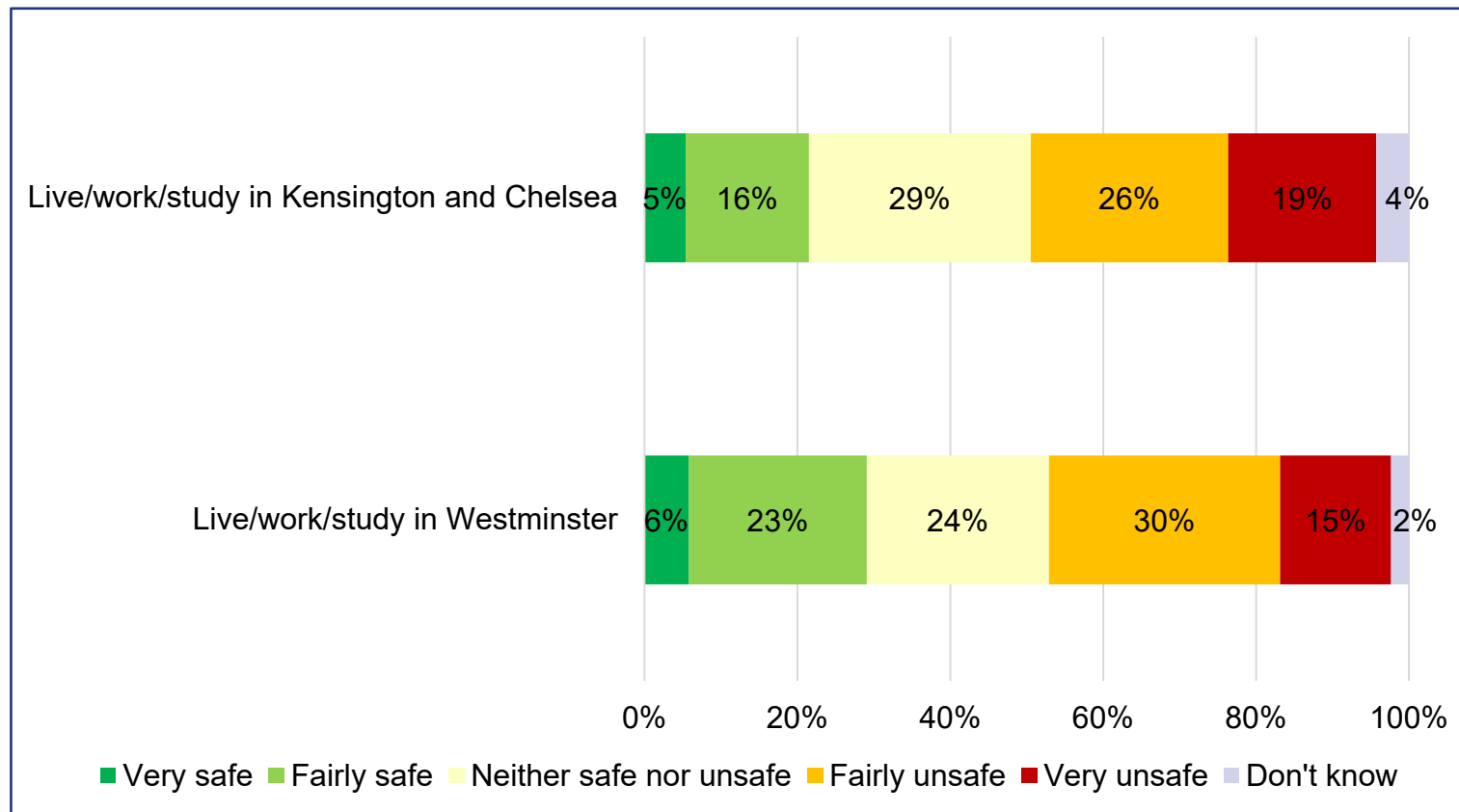


Base: RBKC (94) ; Westminster (172)

Survey findings – Feelings of safety at night – Borough comparisons

Respondents were asked how safe they felt from the threat of VAWG in their area at night:

- A total of five per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents and six per cent of Westminster respondents said that they felt **'Very safe'**, whilst 16 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents and 23 per cent of Westminster respondents outlined that they felt **'Fairly safe'** from the threat of VAWG in their area at night.
- A total of 26 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents and 30 per cent of Westminster respondents said that they felt **'Fairly unsafe'**, whilst 19 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents and 15 per cent of Westminster respondents outlined that they felt **'Very unsafe'** from the threat of VAWG in their area at night.



Base: RBKC (94) ; Westminster (172)



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Survey findings – Personally experienced forms of violence – *Other Comments*

“Familial coercive control.”

Coercive Control

“A father being verbally aggressive to me in the family home.”

Domestic abuse

“Was grabbed and kissed by a homeless man. The police told me it was not GBH so wouldn’t pursue.”

Sexually assaulted



“Indecent exposure.”

Indecent exposure

“Verbal abuse and hate speech in a public place.”

Threats/abuse

“I continue to be stalked with no help at all.”

Stalking

“Anti lesbian threats and abuse.”

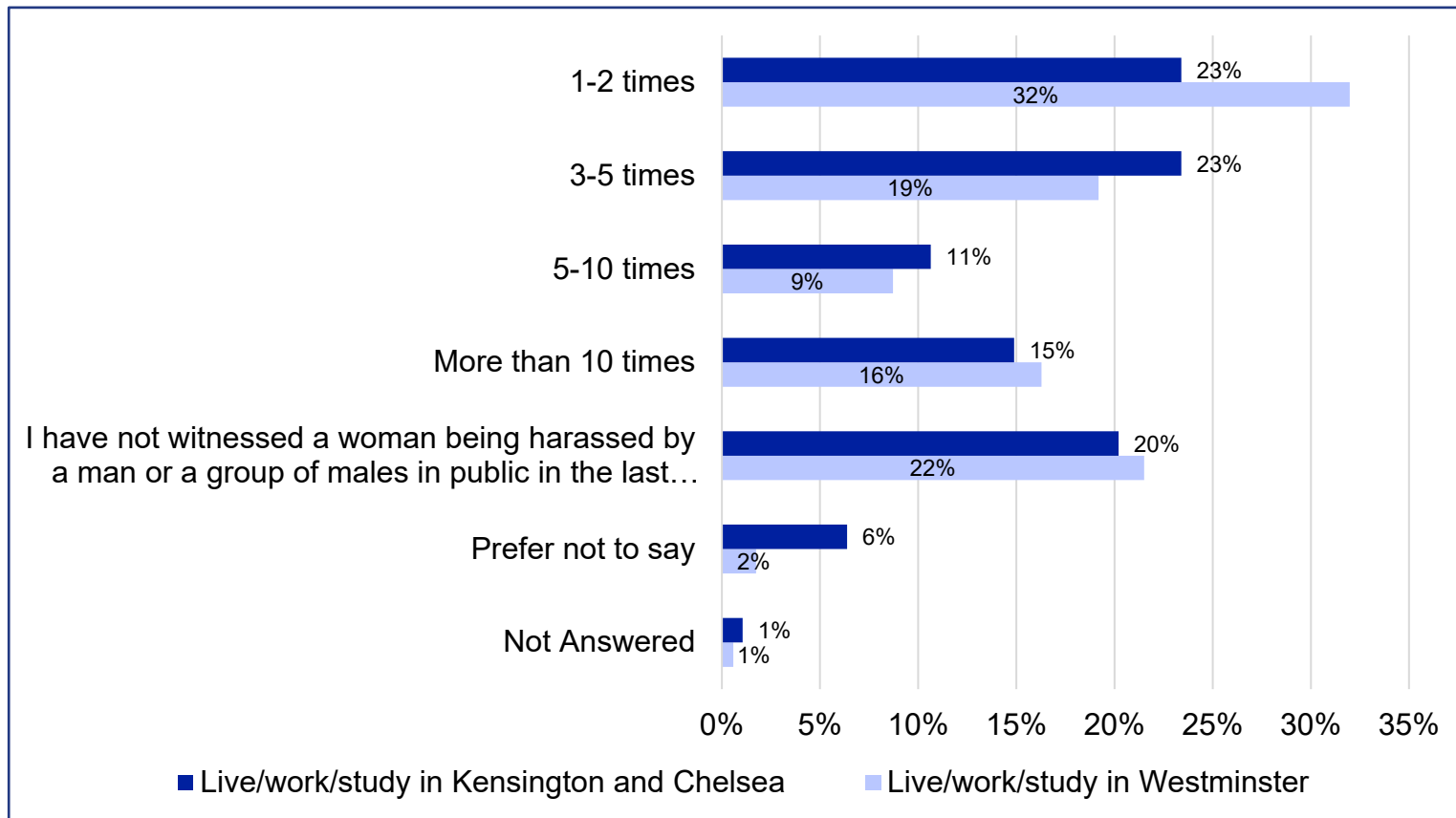
Homophobic comments



Survey findings – Witnessing harassment – Borough comparisons

Respondents were asked to identify how often they had witnessed a woman being harassed by a man, or a group of males, in public in the last two years:

- A total of 23 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents outlined that they had witnessed a woman being harassed '**1-2 times**' in the last two years, whilst 32 per cent of respondents from Westminster selected this option.
- A total of 23 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents said they had witnessed a woman being harassed '**3-5 times**' compared to 19 per cent of Westminster respondents.

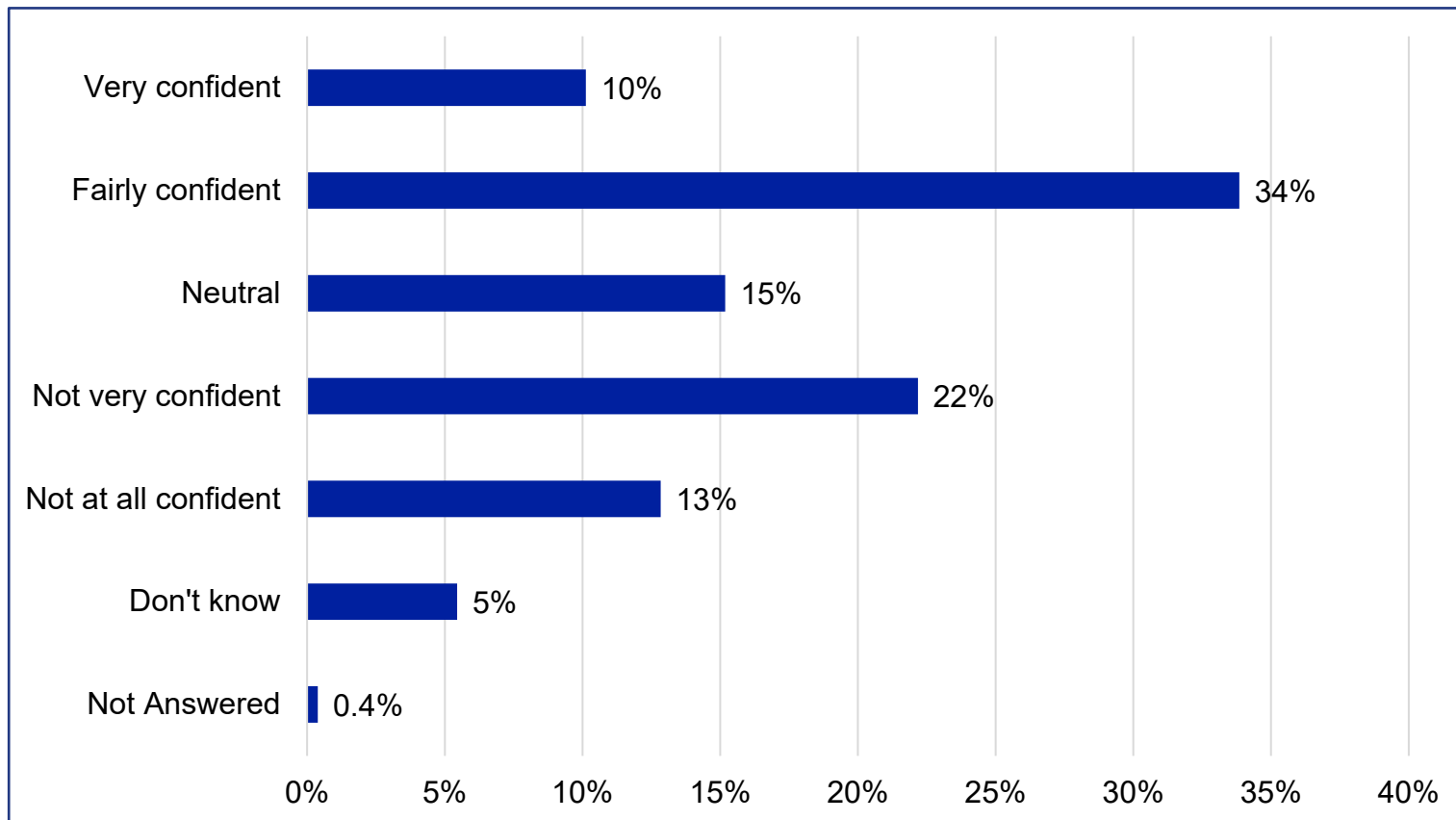


Base: RBKC (94) ; Westminster (172)

Survey findings – Confidence in accessing support

Respondents were asked how confident they felt in accessing support if they, a friend or a family member was a victim of any form of VAWG:

- One in ten (10 per cent) of all respondents felt **'Very confident'** in accessing support for VAWG, and over a third (34 per cent) felt **'Fairly confident'**.
- A total of 22 per cent of respondents felt **'Not very confident'** in accessing support for VAWG, whilst 13 per cent were **'Not at all confident'**.



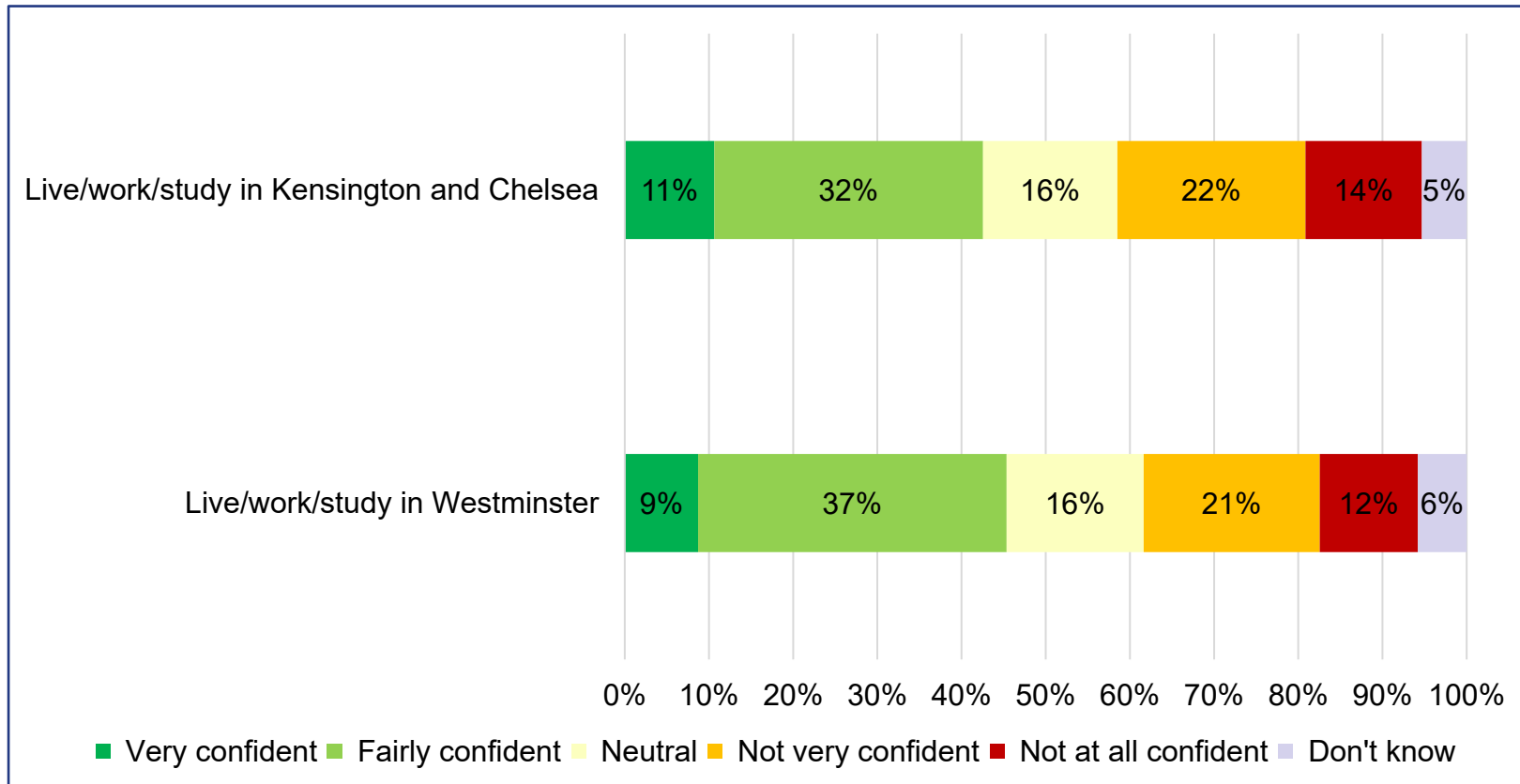
Base: 257 (all responses)



Survey findings – Confidence in accessing support – Borough comparisons

Respondents were asked how confident they felt in accessing support if they, a friend or a family member was a victim of any form of VAWG:

- A total of 11 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents and nine per cent of Westminster respondents felt **'Very confident'** in accessing support for VAWG, whilst 32 per cent (Kensington and Chelsea) and 37 per cent (Westminster) felt **'Fairly confident'**.
- A total of 14 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents, and 12 per cent of Westminster respondents felt **'Not at all confident'** in access support for VAWG.

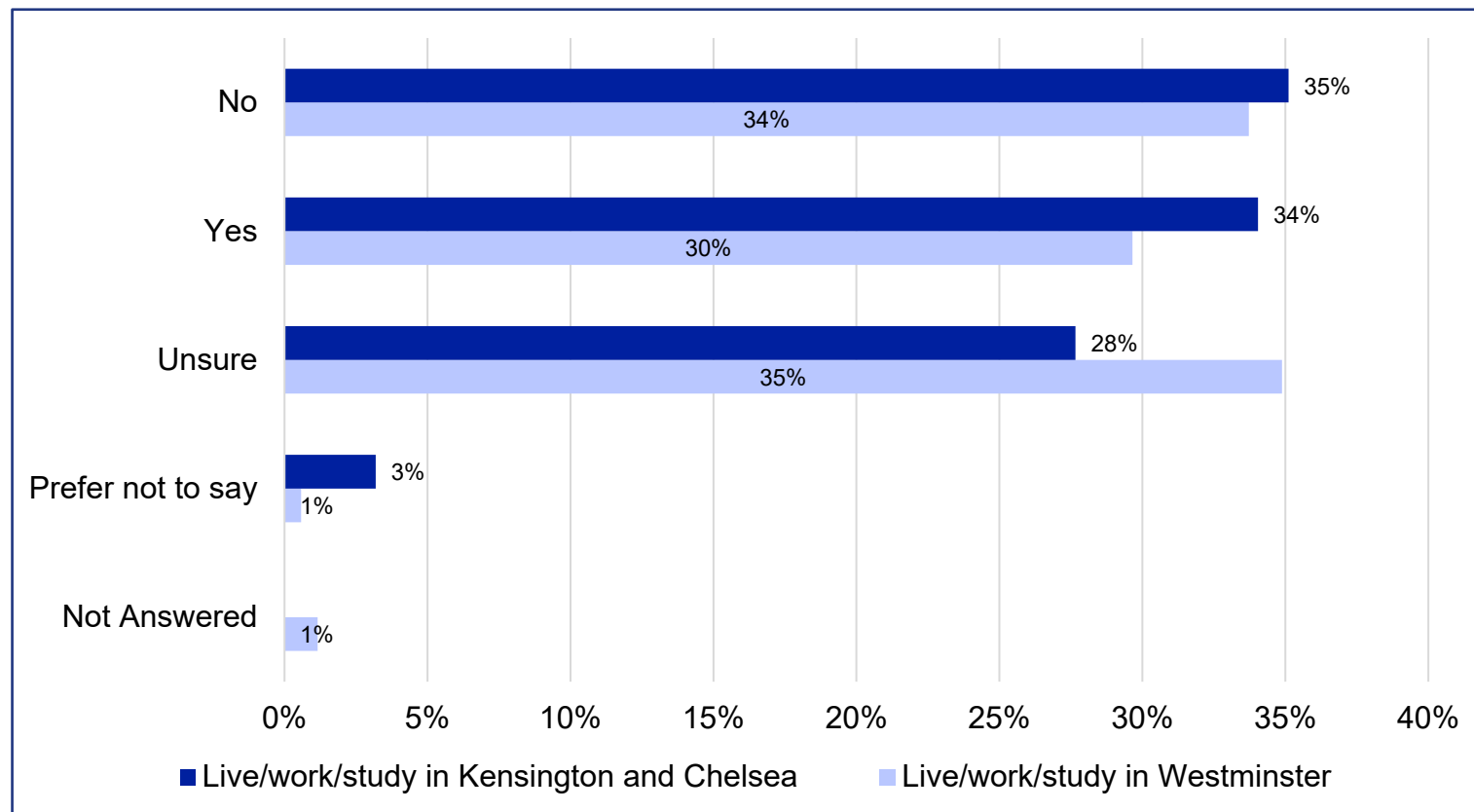


Base: RBKC (94) ; Westminster (172)

Survey findings – Knowing how to access support – Borough comparisons

Respondents were asked if they knew how to access support if they were subject to a form of VAWG:

- A total of 35 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents and 34 per cent of Westminster respondents selected '**No**' when asked if they knew how to access support if they were subject to a form of VAWG.
- Whilst a total of 34 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents and 30 per cent of Westminster respondents selected '**Yes**' when asked if they knew how to access support.



Base: RBKC (94) ; Westminster (172)



Survey findings – What support would you need - Comments

“It would be great if I knew what I could do specifically and actively to support end violence against women. I think it's everyone's duty to do something and I am sure there are many people who would want to take an active role - just don't know what this would be.”

More awareness of information to support victims of VAWG

“I am a woman who experiences gender based harassment and the threat of violence. Its absolutely not my responsibility to end the violence directed towards me and other women which is largely inflicted by men. It is men who need to learn and understand how they can contribute to ending the violence.”

Education men/boys about their role in VAWG

“In the past I looked for help by going to a police station. I was not treated seriously so now I would not know who to ask”

Listening to women/victims of VAWG



“More information on the help that is out there, more publicity on helpline numbers or support groups, I don't ever see any adverts or posters for victims so I believe they just don't know what support they can get.”

More awareness of information to support victims of VAWG

“I would like to be able to feel that I could report to police and be treated seriously. My faith in the police has hugely diminished with the Sarah Everard and numerous other cases.”

More police presence/greater police response

“A very public, long-running, publicly-funded, government-supported campaign that goes the whole nine yards: adverts on public transport; billboards; news segments; radio and TV and primetime coverage; presentations at schools and businesses.”

Raise awareness of VAWG (e.g. campaigns)



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Survey findings – What needs to happen to end VAWG – Other comments

“Education in school needs to drastically change, a lot more needs to be taught about consent, healthy relationships, how to communicate needs and emotions, what is classed as sexual assault etc., A lot more emphasis and responsibility needs to be put onto males to change this problem, and move away from females being responsible for the unacceptable behaviour of men.”

Education in schools around VAWG

“Coordination between agencies and with community.”

Joined up thinking across sectors to end VAWG

“More support from law enforcement would be helpful as they seem to have a blasé attitude about it and a belief that the victim is making things up.”

Law enforcement believing victims of VAWG



“Campaign informing men to stand up when they see this and make it 'unacceptable' starting from boys onwards.”

Public awareness campaign targeting men and their behaviour

“Emphasis on higher conviction rates and also teaching men to call out their friends who have abused women. I go to a CO Ed school and sexual predators are ignored for a week and then no one cares anymore.”

Stronger prosecution powers

“Safer streets, more patrols, better lighting/CCTV.”

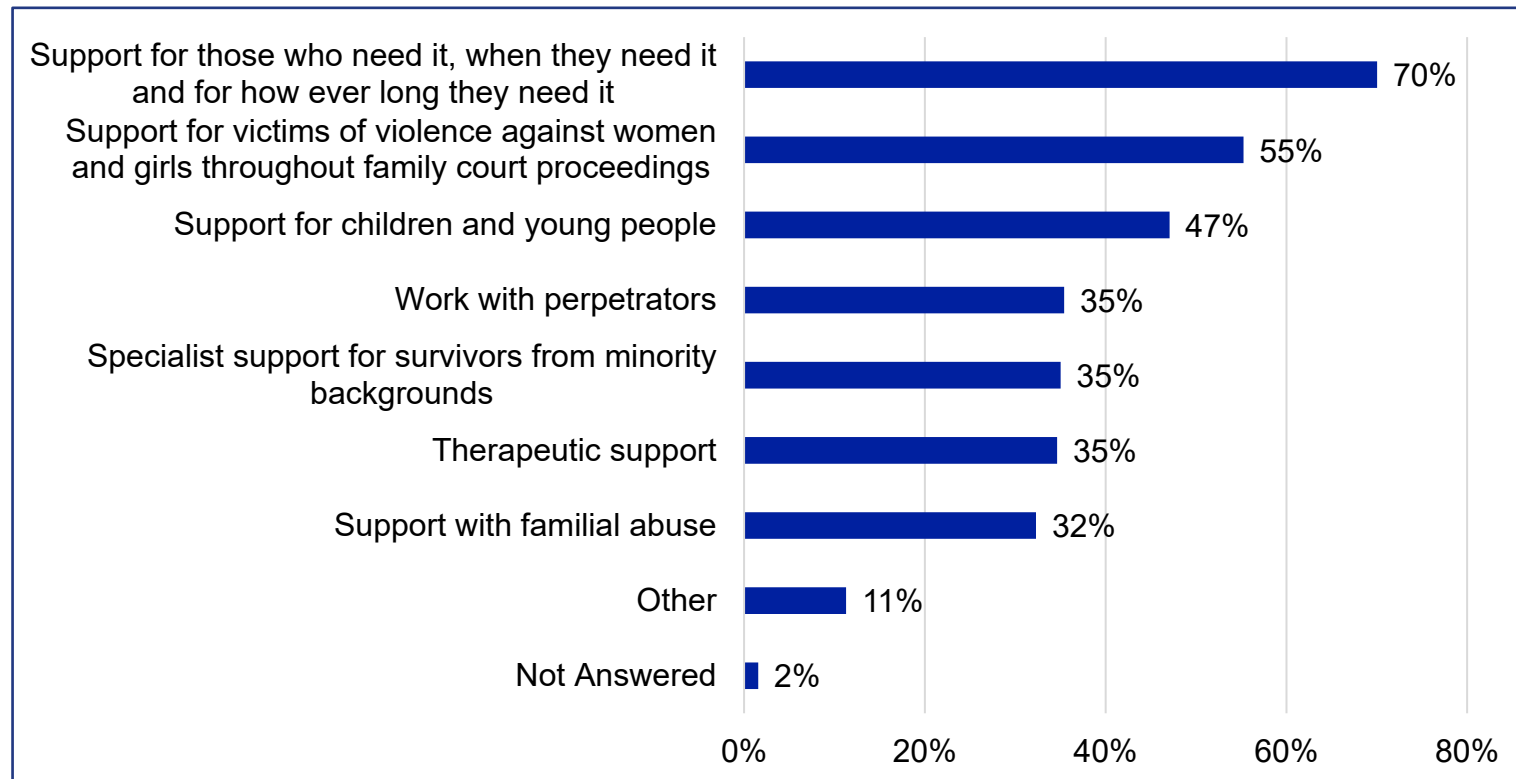
Safer streets (Police patrols/CCTV/lighting)



Survey findings – Priorities for local the VAWG partnership

Respondents were asked what they felt should be the most important priorities for the local VAWG partnership to tackle all forms of VAWG. Respondents were asked to select a maximum of three.

- A total of 70 per cent of respondents selected ***‘Support for those who need it, when they need it and for how ever long, they need it’*** whilst 55 per cent selected ***‘Support for victims of VAWG throughout family court proceedings.’***
- A total of 47 per cent of respondents selected ***‘Support for children and young people’*** whilst 35 per cent of respondents selected each of ***‘Work with perpetrators’***, ***Specialist support with perpetrators from minority backgrounds’*** and ***‘Therapeutic support’***.



Base: 257 (all responses)

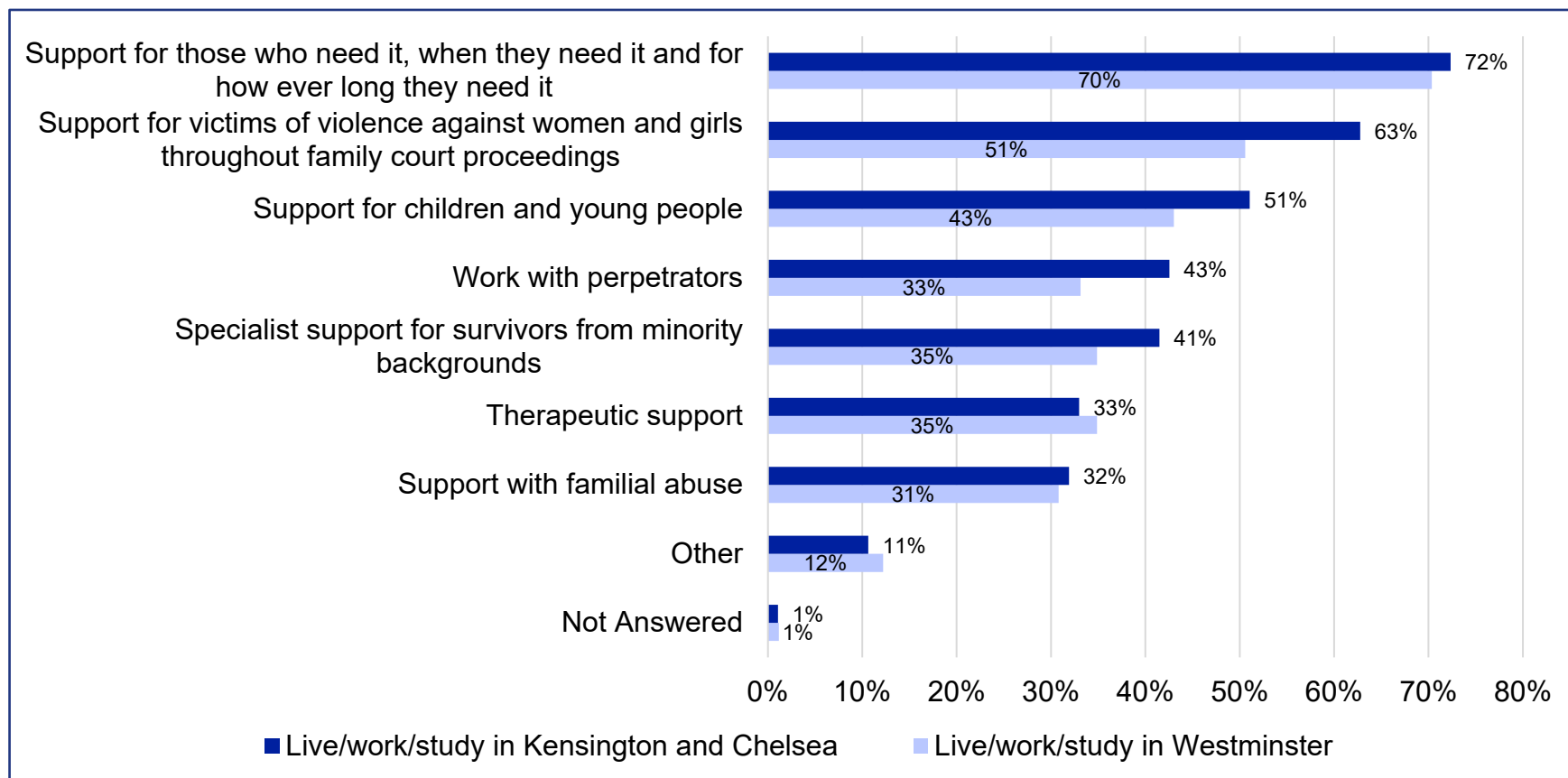


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Survey findings – Priorities for local the VAWG partnership – Borough comparisons

Respondents were asked what they felt should be the most important priorities for the local VAWG partnership to tackle all forms of VAWG. Respondents were asked to select a maximum of three.

- A total of 72 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents and 70 per cent of Westminster respondents selected ***‘Support for those who need it, when they need it and for how ever long, they need it’***
- Nearly two thirds (63 per cent) of Kensington and Chelsea respondents, and just over half (51 per cent) of Westminster respondents selected ***‘Support for victims of VAWG throughout family court proceedings.’***



Base: RBKC (94) | Westminster (172)

Survey findings – Priorities for the local VAWG partnership - *Other comments*

Respondents who selected 'Other' when asked what they felt the priorities for the local VAWG partnership should be, were able to provide comments about any other suggestions they had. The comments made have been themed and are summarised in the table below. Examples of comments made can be seen overleaf, with the full list of themes and comments made can be found in appendix two.

Theme	Count
Education about VAWG	12
Safer streets (police, lighting, CCTV)	6
Educate men and boys about their roles	5
All of the above	4
Working with women and victims of VAWG	4
Work with the community	3
Public awareness campaign about VAWG	2

Base: 40 (all comments)



Survey findings – Priorities for local VAWG partnership

- Other comments

“Parents and teachers working together on how to teach children that violence towards female/male partners must never be tolerated.”

Education about VAWG

“And making streets safer with more lighting, CCTV, awareness posters that resonate with people, and more trustworthy police forces.”

Safer streets (police, lighting, CCTV)

“Awareness programmes as listed under Q11 - especially around casual harassment and online harassment/abuse.”

Public awareness campaign about VAWG



“Education in schools about consensual sex and respectful relationships.”

Education about VAWG

“Look into the causes of male violence. Educate men and boys. Working with the perpetrators is great but it would be better to work with all men and boys before they become perpetrators.”

Educate men and boys about their roles

“Women's empowerment resource or organisation.”

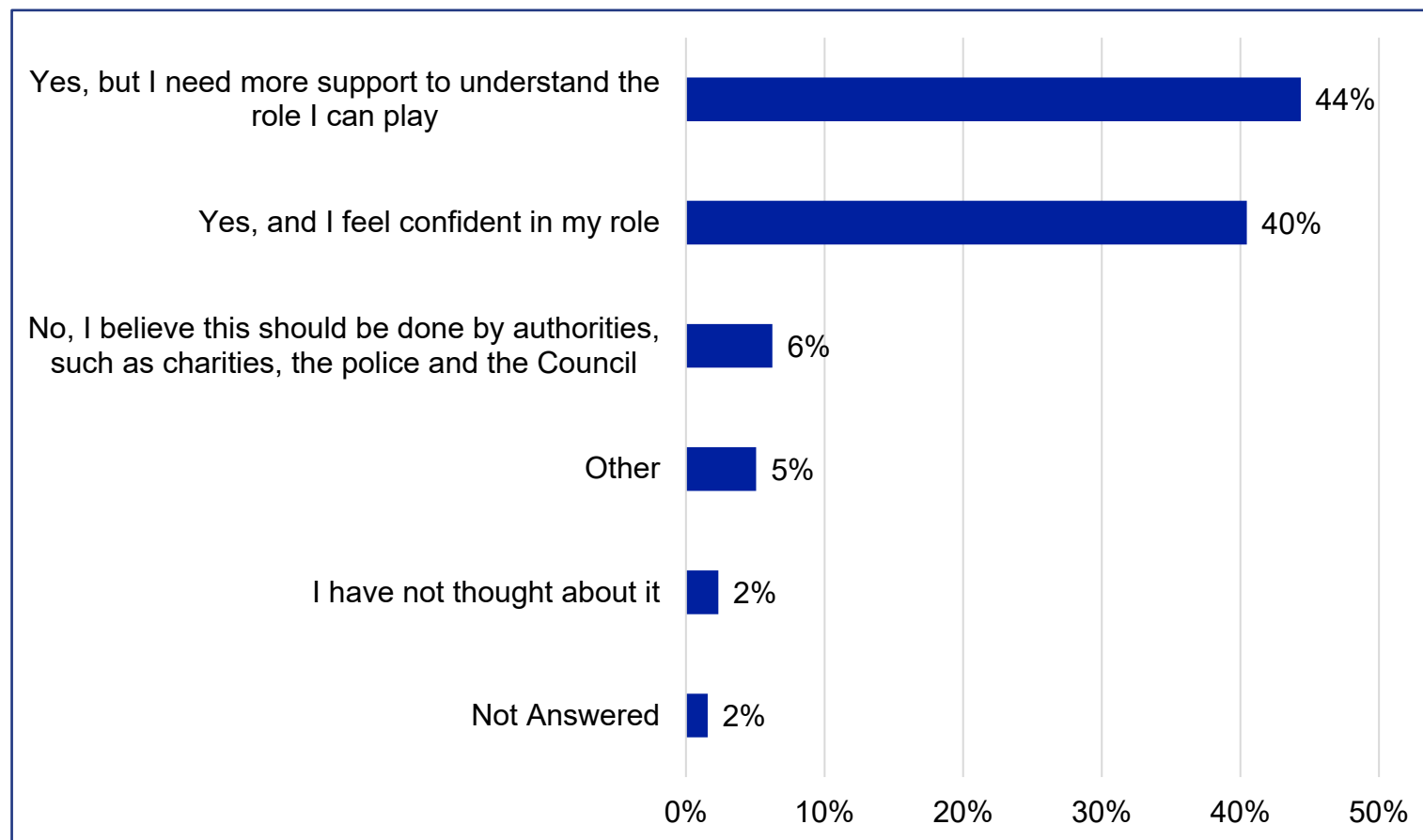
Working with women and victims of VAWG



Survey findings – Responsibility for ending VAWG

Respondents were asked if they felt that ending VAWG was everyone's responsibility:

- A total of 44 per cent of respondents selected ***'Yes, but I need more support to understand the role I can play'***
- Four in ten (40 per cent) selected ***'Yes, and I feel confident in my role'***
- Six per cent of respondents selected ***'No, I believe this should be done by authorities, such as charities, the police and the Council'***, whilst two per cent of respondents selected ***'I have not thought about it'***



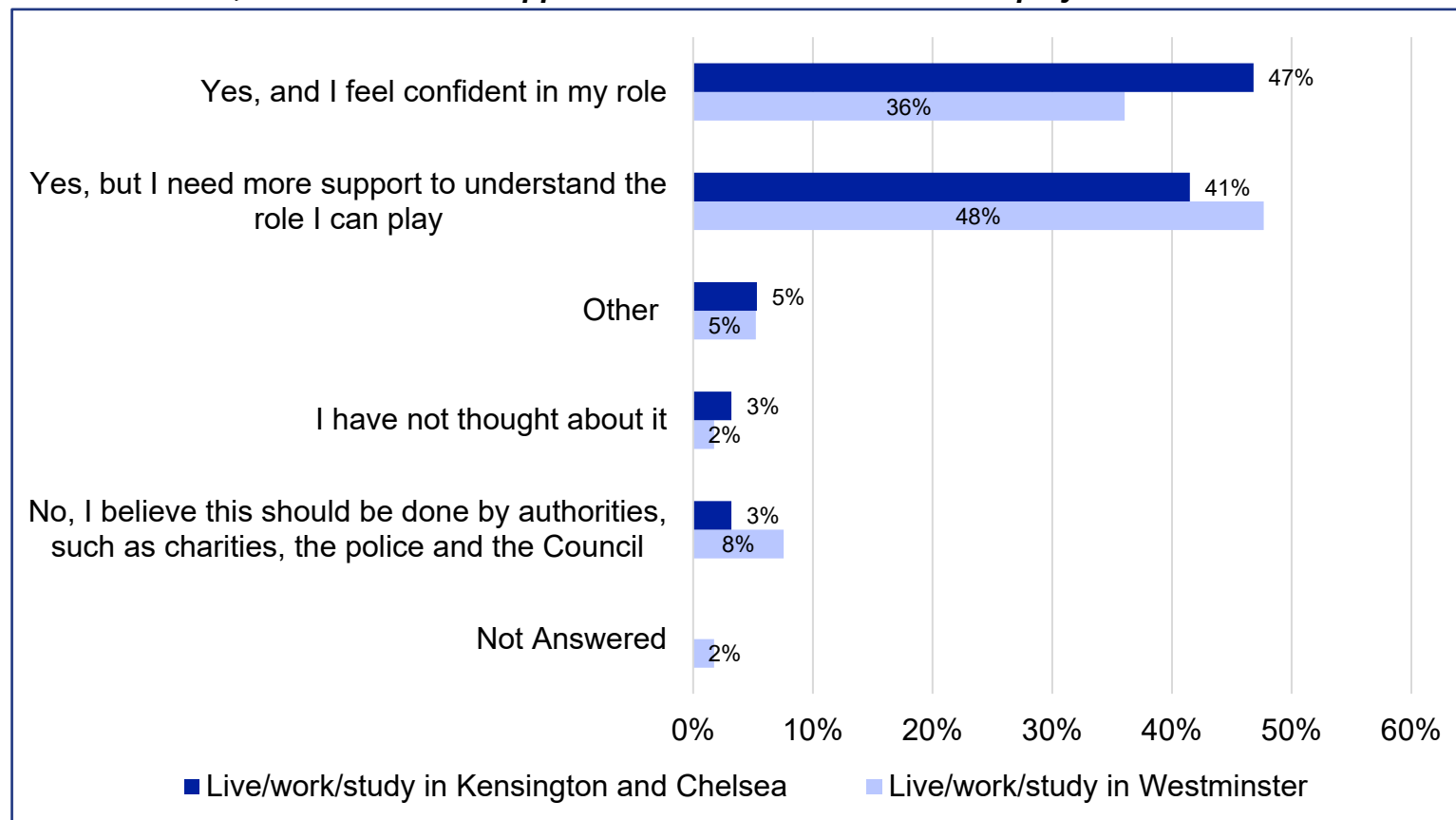
Base: 257 (all responses)



Survey findings – Responsibility for ending VAWG – Borough comparisons

Respondents were asked if they felt that ending VAWG was everyone's responsibility:

- A total of 47 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea respondents and 36 per cent of Westminster respondents selected **'Yes, and I feel confident in my role'**
- A total of 41 per cent of Kensington and Chelsea Respondents and 48 per cent of Westminster respondent selected **'Yes, but I need more support to understand the role I can play'**



Base: RBKC (94) | Westminster (172)



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Survey findings – Responsibility for ending VAWG - *Other comments*

Respondents who selected 'Other' when asked who's responsibility it was to end VAWG, were able to provide comments about any other suggestions they had. Comments made have been themed and are summarised in the table below. Examples of comments made can be seen overleaf, with the full list of themes and comments made found in the appendices report.

Theme	Count
Responsibility of males	7
Local authorities should be leading to make it everyone's responsibility	6
It is everyone's responsibility	5
Other	3
I feel confident in my role	2
Police/educational settings	2

Base: 25 (all comments)



Survey findings – Responsibility for ending VAWG - Other comments

“Women have fought for years to stop it. It needs MEN to stop it to take responsibility for their brothers friends family.”

Responsibility of males

“Everyone’s responsibility but especially men’s responsibility. How else would it stop?.”

Responsibility of males

“It is everyone responsibility to end violence against men and boys and women and girls.”

It is everyone’s responsibility



“I would be happy to liaise with police and in local schools to raise awareness of this issue.”

Police/educational settings

“It is everyone’s responsibility but the authorities, police, government and councils need to put something in place to make it everyone’s responsibility.”

Local authorities should be leading to make it everyone’s responsibility

“I feel fairly confident, but should be glad to have a point of reference to more information. I wouldn’t call this a need for ‘support’, though.”

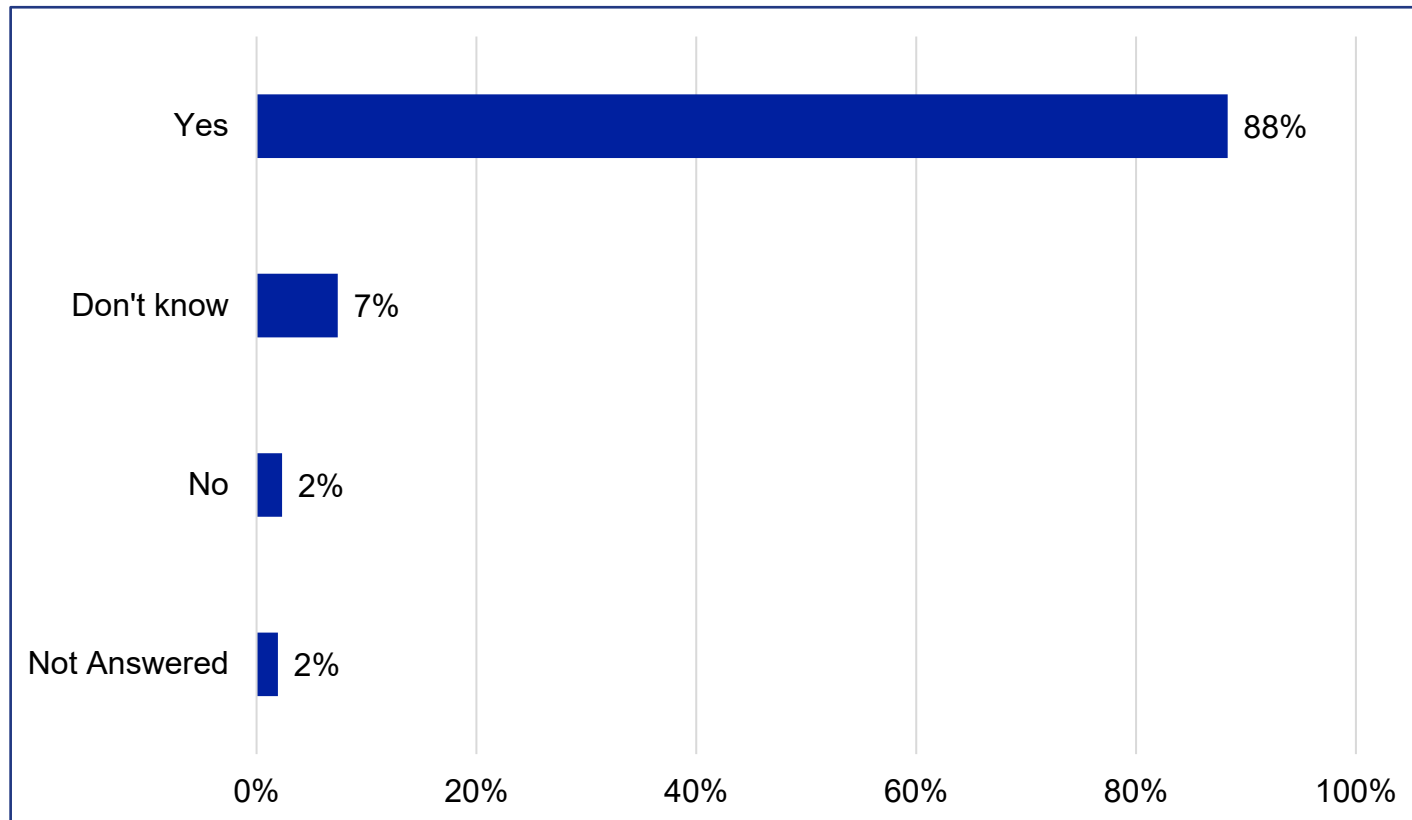
I feel confident in my role



Survey findings – Borough priority for ending VAWG

Respondents were asked if they felt that ending VAWG should be a borough priority:

- The majority (88 per cent) of respondents felt that ending VAWG should be a borough priority.
- A total of two per cent of respondents did not think that ending VAWG should be borough priority.
- Seven per cent of respondents selected '*Don't know*'



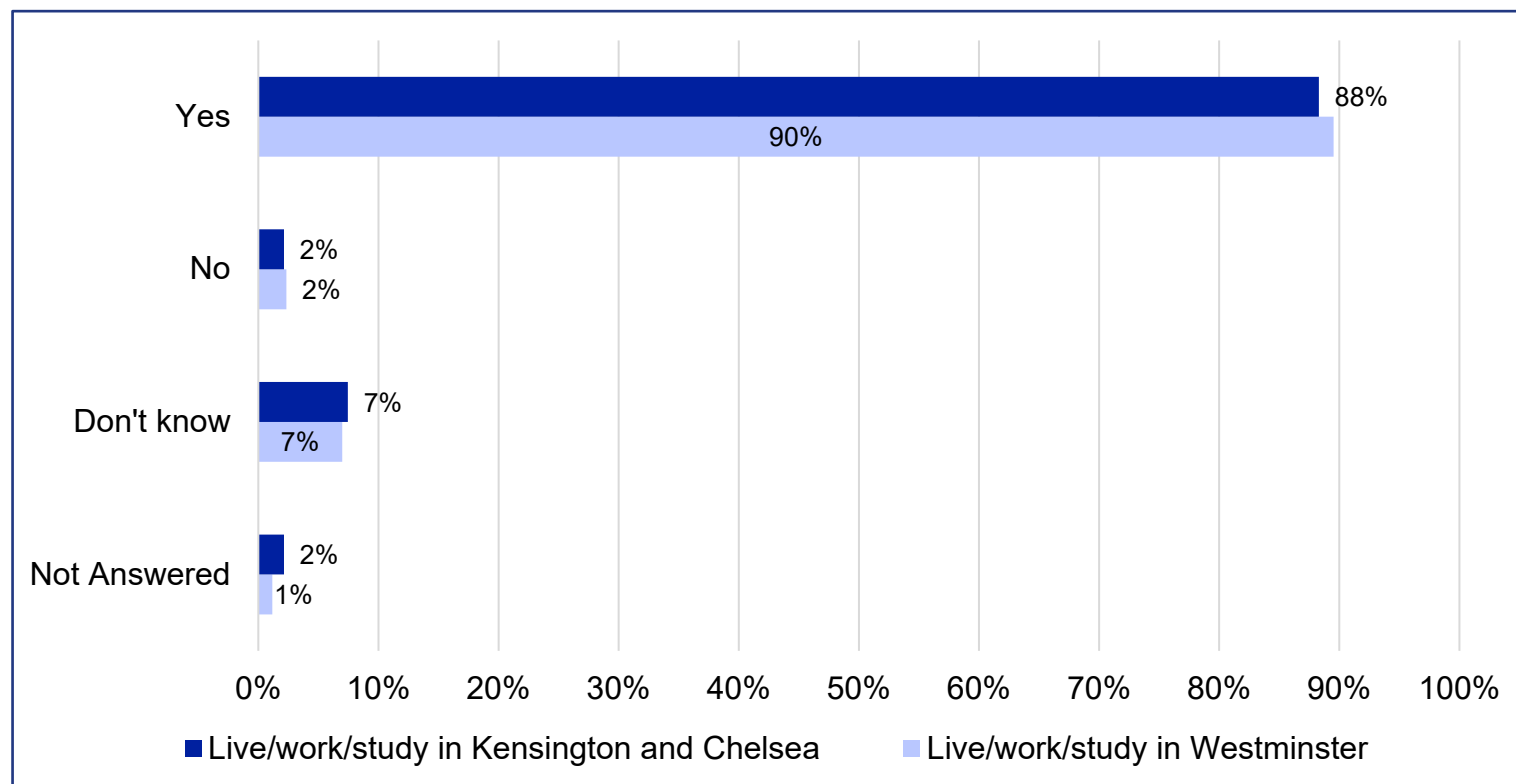
Base: 257 (all responses)



Survey findings – Borough priority for ending VAWG – Borough comparisons

Respondents were asked if they felt that ending VAWG should be a borough priority:

- The majority of respondents from both Kensington and Chelsea (88 per cent) and Westminster (90 per cent) felt that ending VAWG should be a borough priority.
- A total of two per cent of both Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster respondents did not think that ending VAWG should be borough priority.



Base: 257 (all responses)



Survey findings – Final comments

Respondents were asked to provide any final comments about what can be done to end VAWG, help understand what support is required, or any other comments about VAWG. Comments made have been themed and are summarised in the table below. Examples of comments made can be seen overleaf, with the full list of themes and comments made found in the appendices report.

Theme	Count
More education in schools around VAWG	37
Joined up thinking, policies and awareness to prevent VAWG	29
Greater support for VAWG victims	24
Educate men and boys about their roles	18
Give women confidence to report VAWG	6
Greater police presence	4
Other	4
Stronger prosecutions of VAWG perpetrators	4
Street lighting and CCTV	3
Borough-wide conversation with women and girls	3
Collecting data on VAWG reports	2
Put the emphasis on males	2
See previous comments	2

Base: 139 (all comments)



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Survey findings – Final comments

“More education in schools. We tell girls what they should do to minimise the chances of abuse against them but don't tell boys what the consequences are if they abuse because it's still not taken seriously enough at the highest level.”

More education in schools around VAWG

“There needs to be more support for victims, as well as personalised training for those who are involved in these initiatives - especially in regard to questioning approaches post incidents, reporting, support, and working to adapt internal biases towards women and girls.

Greater support for VAWG victims

“I think education is the key and we must educate boys and men to stop perpetrating violence, rather than telling girls to avoid certain areas or behaviours in order not to be harassed.”

Educate men and boys about their roles



“We need to educate the new generation that violence is never acceptable and the damage caused to these women and girls is sometimes irreparable.”

More education in schools around VAWG

“I'd love for our organisation to be better connected to other organisations working to end VAWG, but I don't hear much about it in Westminster and K&C. I'd like to see more prominent networks that help us, a non-specialist organisation, effectively integrate ending VAWG into our work.”

Joined up thinking, policies and awareness to prevent VAWG

“The borough or the police should make it known to women that they will be heard if they report these crimes. Women are usually scared to do it because they won't be believed or something like that and it should be known to them that they will be supported no matter what.”

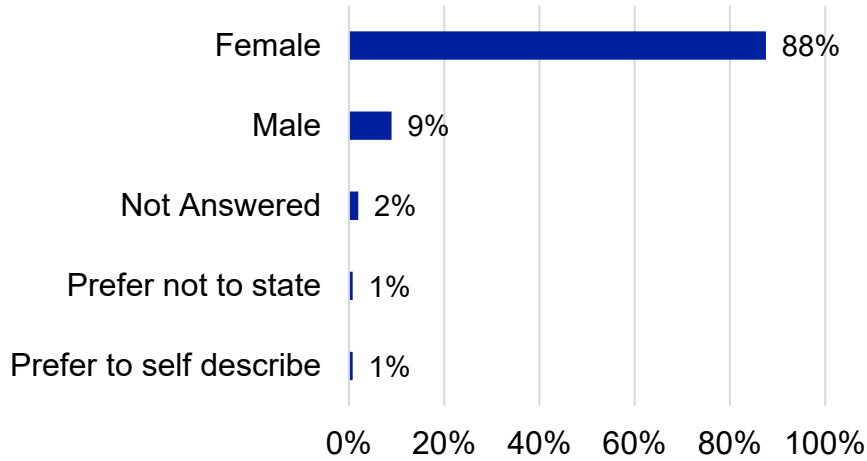
Give women confidence to report VAWG



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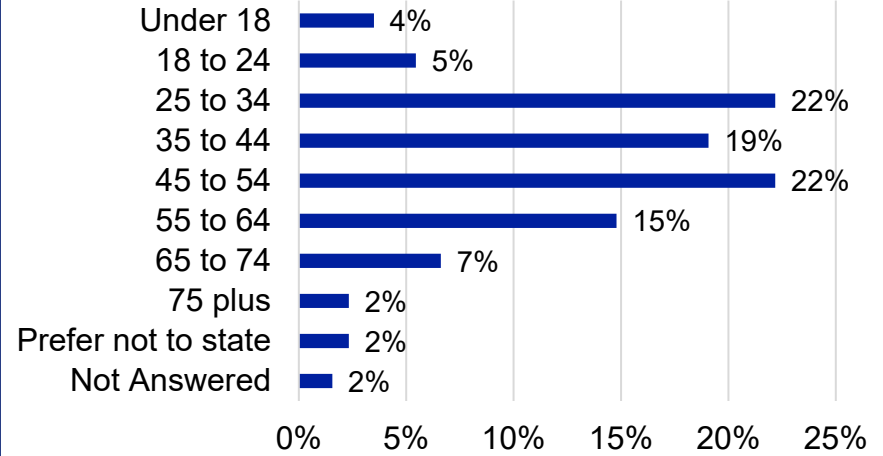
About respondents: Demographic Breakdown

What is your sex?



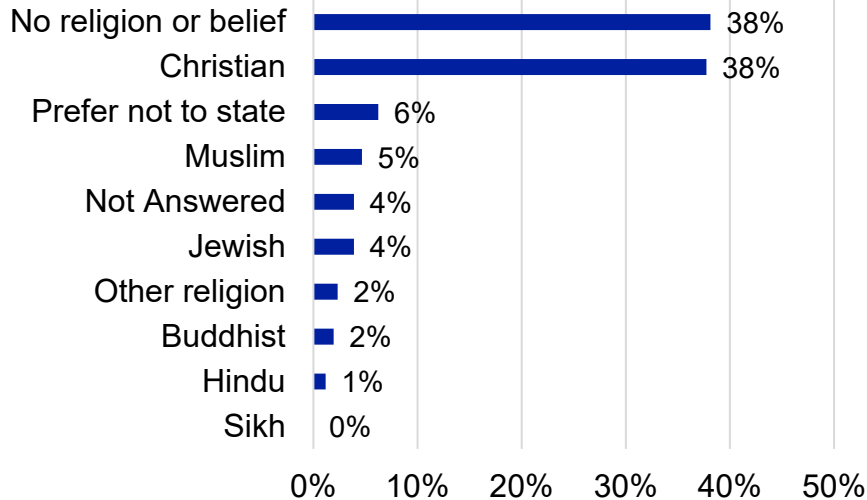
Base: 257 (all responses)

What is your age group?



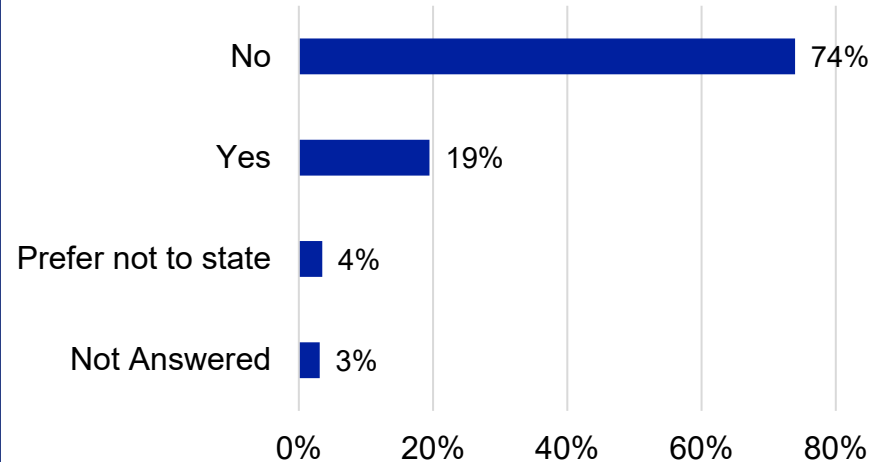
Base: 257 (all responses)

What is your religion/belief?



Base: 257 (all responses)

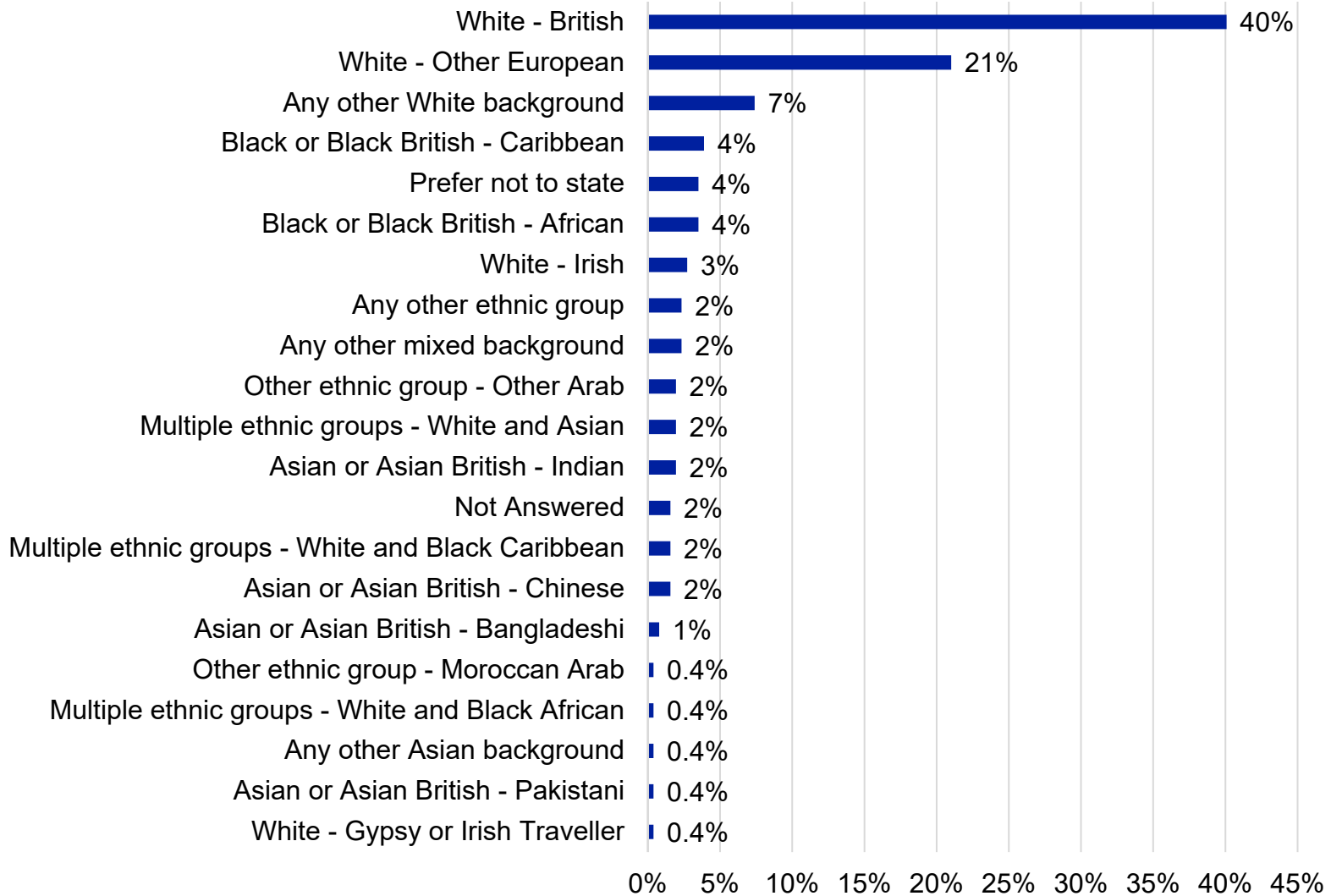
Do you have a long-term illness, health problem or disability?



Base: 257 (all responses)

About respondents: Demographic Breakdown

What is your ethnicity?



Base: 257 (all responses)

