

Summary of responses regarding Year 11 Interviews

- 20 young people were interviewed by members of the REALAC team, one member of staff interviewed the young person and the other acted as a scribe. The results are summarised below.

- The average number of schools that the young people attended were 3.7 (mean), 3 (mode and median), 2-9 (range).

50% (10) of young people did not feel that this was a lot of schools.

20% (4) of young people felt that this was a lot of schools.

5% (1) felt that this was normal.

25% (5) of young people were unsure, commented don't know or gave another response.

- The young people were asked how they felt about the number of schools which they had attended.

4 young people reported that they felt ok about this.

1 commented don't know and 1 commented better.

1 young person reported that it was *horrible as you get settled, education interrupted when changing and you miss exams.*

1 young person reported that they *didn't like it at the time.*

- The young people were asked to indicate why they thought they had attended that number of schools.

40% (8) of young people gave no response or it was deemed not applicable to ask this question.

35% (7) reported that it was related to house moves.

10% (2) gave other responses.

10% (2) felt that it was related to their behaviour.

5% (1) indicated that it was due to them coming into care.

- The young people were asked to comment upon their favourite school and the reasons for it being their favourite. The young people sometimes gave more than one reason.

11 young people talked about friends

4 young people commented upon teachers

1 young person talked about activities

1 young person talked about gaining GCSEs

1 young person stated that they enjoyed the school.

1 young person commented upon the building.

- The young people were asked to comment upon their least favourite school and the reasons for it being their least favourite. They sometimes gave more than one reason, a wide range of responses were reported.

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| Forced to go – 1 | New boy again- 1 |
| No friends – 4 | Teachers – 3 |
| Too much work – 1 | Picked on / bullied – 2 |
| Not there long – 3 | Didn't like it – 2 |
| Strict – 2 | Too big - 1 |
| Boring – 1 | Toilets smell -1 |
| Some one died -1 | |

- The young people were asked if they had ever been bullied in school.

45% (9) commented yes
 35% (7) commented no
 15% (3) gave other comments

- The young people were asked to comment upon whether they had received support / help for the bullying. Those who had been bullied reported the following:

2 had received help from a learning mentor, 3 had received help from a teacher, 3 had received help from a career / family member and 1 had received no support.

- The young people were asked to comment upon their favourite teachers and the reasons for their choice. They reported that the teachers were: *canny, fair, kind, inspiring, friendly, bubbly, helpful, listening, lovely, funny and nice.*
- The young people were asked to comment upon their least favourite teachers and the reasons for their choice. They reported that the teachers were: *strict and unfair, shouted, ignored the young people, did not help, caused problems with school work and blamed the young people for things.*
- The young people were asked if teachers in their schools had known that they were in care. 60% (14) reported that their teachers had known they were in care, 10% (2) reported that the teachers had not known and 20% (4) reported that some had known. 7 Young people stated that they were not bothered whether the teachers knew they were in care, 4 wanted the teachers to know they were in care and 4 did not.
- The young people were asked if they felt that they had been treated differently because they were in care. 65% (13) did not feel that they had been treated differently, 25% (5) reported that they had been treated differently and 10% (2)

gave another response. One young person indicated that they had got more clothes since coming into care; another commented, “ *A good thing about care is money, you get more respect.*”. One young person stated, “ *One teacher was really nice, I spoke to him and told him I wanted to be treated normally*”.

- The young people were asked how confident they were about passing their exams and were asked to comment upon what could make them feel more confident. This question was not relevant to all young people, as some were not sitting exams or exams which required revision. 7 Young people reported that they would more confident if they had done more revision; some referred to needing better motivation to revise. 1 young person talked about knowing what they were going to do in the future, 2 commented upon having more confidence in themselves and 1 could not identify anything which would help.
- All of the young people except for 1 reported that they had somewhere to revise. This included their bedrooms, dining room, kitchen and conservatory. One young person reported that they preferred going out to revising.
- The young people were asked if anyone encouraged them to revise. 75% (15) of the young people reported that their carers / family encouraged them to revise. 2 stated that their teachers encouraged them, 1 reported that their social worker encouraged, 1 commented that they encouraged themselves and 1 could not identify anyone who encouraged them. The young people were asked if anyone helped with their revision. They gave the following responses: 7- family/ carers, 1 – revision guides, 4 – No, 1- tutor and 3 – Yes someone helps.
- 55% (11) of young people questioned did not know who their designated teacher was. 35% (7) did know who their designated teacher was and 10% (2) were unsure or did not know what a designated teacher is.
- 70% (14) of the young people reported that they had a computer at home, 15% (3) did not have access and 15% (3) were unsure if it worked, did not know, or did not think they were allowed on it.
- The young people reported that a range of people supported their attendance. Their responses were as follows:
Family / Carers – 7
Myself – 4
Educational Welfare Officer – 2
Someone from School – 2
Everyone – 1
No one – 2
- The following question was posed to the young people ‘If you were in charge of secondary schools, what three things would you change to make school better?’

The most common responses were: hours (7), teachers (5), meals (2) uniform (3) and sports facilities. The young people also commented upon: buildings, classroom discussions, smaller classes, cleaner schools, longer days, stopping bullying and being allowed to wear makeup and jewellery.

- 50% (10) of young people questioned did not feel that being in care had affected their education. 15% (3) reported that being in care had improved their school attendance. Single respondents also reported that being in care had resulted in: missed exams, dropping a GCSE, running out of school and allowing them to prove themselves.
- The young people were asked about the input which they have had with the REALAC Team:
 - 14 had taken part in Teenagers to Work
 - 4 had taken part in NUFC
 - 12 had been involved in the Celebrating Achievement Night
 - 2 had a homework tutor
 - 13 had received revision guides

The young people reported a range of contact with workers from the REALAC team.