

Summary  
report

**WHAT DOES  
IT FEEL LIKE  
TO BE A  
YOUNG  
PERSON  
LIVING IN  
TORBAY ?**

**PREPARED BY**

*Healthwatch Torbay*

**DECEMBER 2018**

**healthwatch**  
Torbay

# BACKGROUND

Healthwatch Torbay are the independent consumer champion for local health and social care services. sharing the experiences of local people with healthcare bosses so they can make improvements.

The Torbay Children's Safeguarding Board, who work to make Torbay safer for children, commissioned Healthwatch Torbay to find out how young people aged 0-25 years feel about living in Torbay.

To do this, Healthwatch Torbay asked four questions:

1. How do you feel about living in Torbay?

2. What is the best thing about living in Torbay?

3. What is the worst thing about Living in Torbay?

4. What would improve the way you feel about living in Torbay?

**1,913** young people shared their views in the detailed consultation report, available at [www.healthwatchtorbay.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchtorbay.co.uk)

This report is a summary of responses to the Healthwatch Torbay Survey

Question 1

# HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT LIVING IN TORBAY?



33.3%

*"It's okay"*

24.3%

*"It's pretty good"*



- A third of young people felt "okay" about living in Torbay (383 responses, 33.3%)
- A quarter of young people felt "pretty good" (280 responses, 24.3%) about living in Torbay
- Few young people "hate" living in Torbay (51 responses, 4.4%)

Younger people often felt better about living in Torbay than older children or young adults.

Question 2

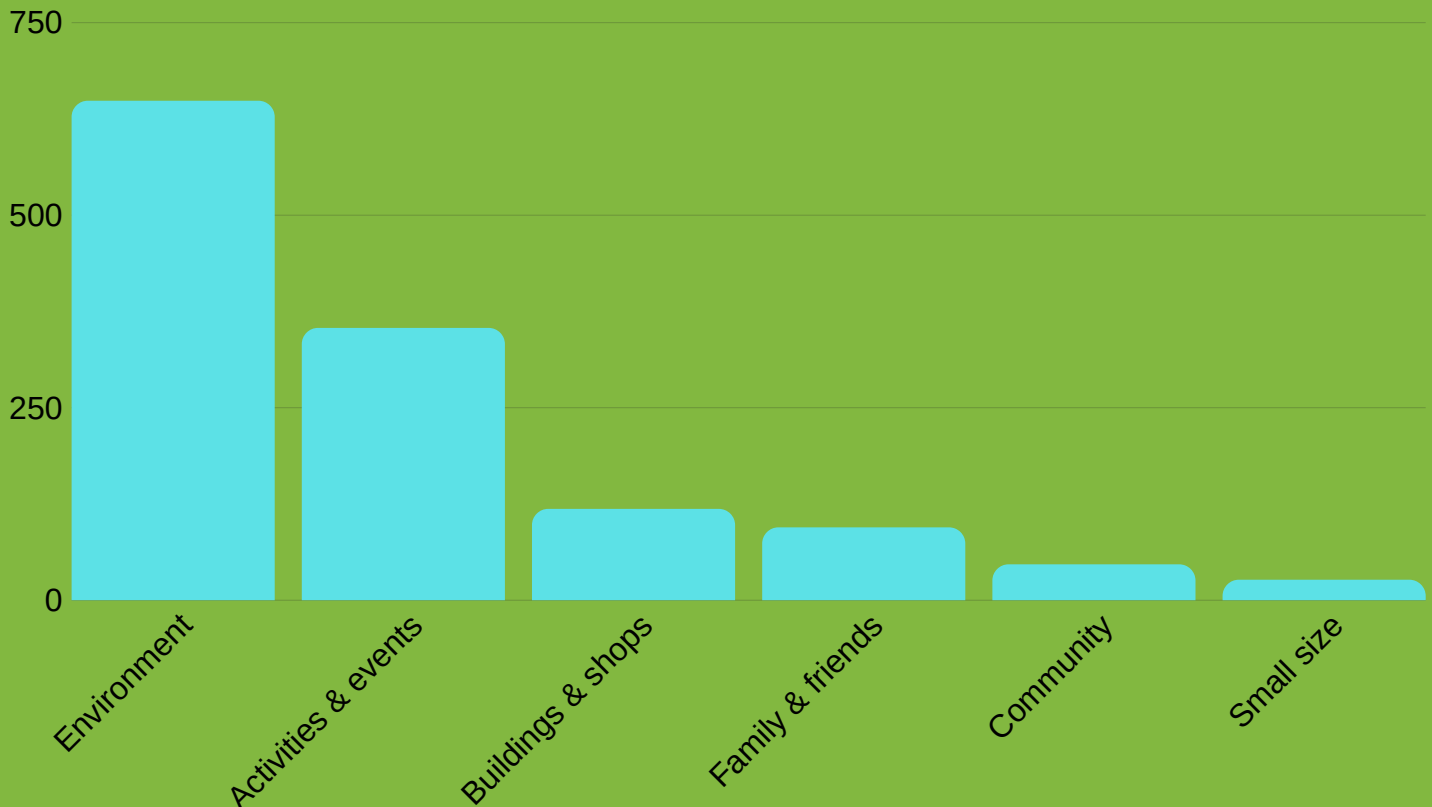
# WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT LIVING IN TORBAY?

**48.3%**

*The environment and  
local setting*

**26.3%**

*Activities and events*



## Young people said they liked

- The setting and environment (648 responses, 48.3%)  
*"The beach", "Living by the seaside", "The amazing views"*
- Local events and activities (353 responses, 26.3%)  
*"Vicky Park", "Splashdown", "Cool woods"*
- Shops and places to eat, especially fast food! (118 responses, 8.8%)  
*"Having plenty of fast food places to eat", "Fish and chips"*
- Friends and family (94 responses, 7.1%)
- Its "close community" (46 responses, 3.4%) and small size (26 responses, 1.9%)

Question 3

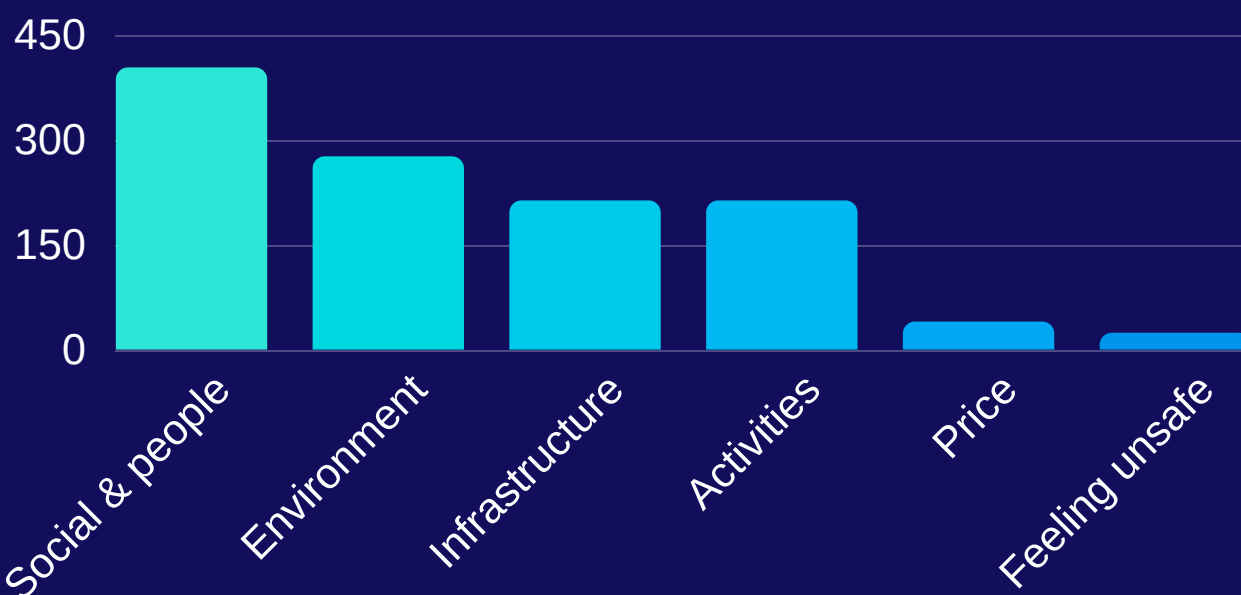
# WHAT IS THE WORST THING ABOUT LIVING IN TORBAY?

**30.9%**

*Social and people  
related issues*

**21.2%**

*The environment*



Young people said the worst things about living in Torbay were:

- The 'people' (403 references, 30.1%) - "drug use", "underage drinking and drugs", "people living on the streets", gangs, "roadies", crime & violence
- The plastic and the litter (276 references, 21.1%)
- Having 'nothing to do' (213 references, 16.2%) and
- Empty shops, bad roads and transport (213 references, 16.2%)

Some young people said things that other people do in Torbay such as drinking or drug-taking make them feel unsafe.

*Question 4*

# WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED?



"Have a council  
that listens"

"Less drugs"  
"Less crime"  
"Help the homeless"  
"More police"

"Have more things to  
do for young people in  
Torbay that are  
affordable and  
designed for young  
people, not tourists."

"Get rid  
of the litter  
and plastic  
in Torbay."

"Have more  
open spaces  
to play in."

"Have more shops,  
better buses and  
trains that we can  
afford."

Most young people wanted "more activities and events" suitable for all weathers, as well as more clubs, youth groups and youth centres



# YOUNG PEOPLE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- Work together with young people to find out what matters most.
- Treat young people equally.
- Keep asking how young people feel about living in Torbay.
- Have more police around 'hot spots' where young people feel unsafe.
- Talk about what happens to young people involved in crime and gangs through talks in schools by the police.
- Help fix the root causes of drugs and alcohol.
- Make more safe places for young people to hang out.
- Create activities with local young people that they can afford and use in all weathers.
- Reduce the amount of litter and plastic in Torbay.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Healthwatch Torbay would like to thank:

- All the children and young people who took part in the survey,
- The Torbay Children's Safeguarding Board for the opportunity to undertake this consultation
- The additional support received from:  
Healthwatch Torbay Young People's Project team
- Young persons' task group members involved in the planning of the project and the design of the toolkit and events
- Task group members
- Paignton Academy Student Council and all other local schools and colleges who supported this piece of work
- South West families and young adult carers who completed surveys and contributing at events
- Play Torbay who shared their 'Imagine This' report findings
- Plymouth University for their support with data analysis and putting this report together with Healthwatch Torbay.

The main consultation report is available to read in full via [www.healthwatchtorbay.org.uk](http://www.healthwatchtorbay.org.uk)

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