

THE CONNECTIONS BUS PROJECT

YOUNG PEOPLE'S USER SURVEY

May 2026

Survey of young people using the charity's youth facilities in
17 communities across Cambridgeshire



207 young people completed a survey in one of our youth work sessions from 11-22 May 2026.

Of those that completed the gender question, 40% identified as female, 57% as male and 3% identified as other. This is a switch from last year when more attendees identified as female.

The majority of our attendees are aged 12 to 13 years olds (65%) as we see the young people getting older and staying with us.

Attendance

100% of young people said they enjoy coming to our youth clubs and buses.

95% of young people said they attended every or fortnightly sessions

56% said that the youth clubs/buses are the only youth activities that they attend (a slight increase to previous years).

Safety

98% of young people said that they feel safe attending our sessions.

10% of young people said bullying was problem at our sessions. This represents 25 young people However, only 3 of these said that they feel safe, and all said that they enjoy coming. Our Youth workers continue to keep a close eye on behaviour at our sessions and challenge any form of bullying.

Outcomes

97% of young people said that our youth workers are approachable and easy to talk to.

87% of young people said that attending helped to improve their mental health and wellbeing (a slight increase on last year).

An additional question was included in villages where we replaced the youth buses with a building-based session while we waited for the new buses. This asked if the young people preferred the building or bus sessions. 7% said building and 93% said bus.

The 2026 survey shows that The Connections Bus Project is highly valued, trusted, and enjoyed by young people across Cambridgeshire. The service provides a safe, supportive environment with strong relationships between staff and young people.

Finally, the young people were asked about the biggest issues facing young people today, with the top 3 being: Bullying, Vaping, Drugs/Alcohol.

Full Survey Results

Number of Surveys Completed

Age	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	None	Total
Burwell	2	3	6	1	0	0	0	0	12
Cottenham	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	1	7
Eversden	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Fenstanton	1	6	2	4	1	0	0	0	14
Gamlingay	3	7	1	0	0	0	0	7	18
Girton	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Haddenham	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
Haslingfield	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Histon	2	2	8	1	0	0	0	1	13
Melbourn	0	3	11	11	5	0	0	1	30
Milton	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	9
Oakington	1	5	0	0	1	0	0	2	9
Sawtry	1	5	6	3	0	0	3	5	23
Soham	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Somersham	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	5
Warboys	2	4	6	4	0	0	0	0	16
Willingham	0	10	3	10	0	0	0	1	24
Total	20	70	50	35	8	0	3	23	207

Gender	Female	Male	Other	Not completed
Burwell	3	7	0	2
Cottenham	0	7	0	0
Eversden	1	0	1	1
Fenstanton	1	13	0	0
Gamlingay	5	6	0	7
Girton	7	0	0	0
Haddenham	3	2	0	0
Haslingfield	9	2	0	0
Histon	5	8	0	1
Melbourn	14	17	0	1
Milton	2	4	0	3
Oakington	6	3	0	0
Sawtry	5	13	0	5
Soham	1	0	0	0
Somersham	0	3	0	3
Warboys	4	11	1	0
Willingham	10	11	2	0
Total	76	107	4	23

How regularly do you come to the youth club/bus?

	2026	2025	2024	2023
Every session	85%	75%	83%	72%
Fortnightly	10%	21%	11%	24%
Once a month	1%	2%	4%	4%
Less	4%	2%	2%	1%

70 young people did not answer this question

The youth club/bus is the only youth activity or club I attend?

	2026	2025	2024	2023
Yes	56%	52%	54%	52%
No	44%	48%	46%	48%

76 young people did not answer this question

I enjoy coming to the youth club/bus.

	2026	2025	2024	2023
Yes	95%	96%	94%	93%
Sort of	5%	4%	6%	7%
Not really	0%	0%	0%	0%
No	0%	0%	0%	0%

I feel safe at the youth club/bus.

	2026	2025	2024	2023
Yes	86%	88%	82%	85%
Sort of	12%	10%	17%	12%
Not really	1%	1%	1%	3%
No	1%	1%	0%	0%

2 young people did not answer this question

Bullying is a problem at the youth club/bus.

	2026	2025	2024	2023
Yes	5%	2%	5%	8%
Sort of	5%	4%	10%	7%
Not really	16%	17%	16%	11%
No	74%	76%	69%	74%

The youth workers are approachable and easy to talk to.

	2026	2025	2024	2023
Yes	87%	87%	83%	84%
Sort of	10%	12%	12%	12%
Not really	2%	0.5%	1%	2%
No	1%	1%	4%	2%

4 young people did not answer this question

I use the youth club/bus as a source of information about things (vapes, mental wellbeing, careers, drugs, alcohol and other topics).

	2026	2025	2024	2023
Yes	15%	10%	7%	12%
Sort of	21%	18%	17%	11%
Not really	36%	33%	30%	33%
No	28%	39%	46%	44%

2 young people did not answer this question

I believe attending youth club/bus improves my mental health and wellbeing.

	2026	2025	2024	2023
Yes	43%	35%	36%	43%
Sort of	44%	49%	41%	34%
Not really	8%	12%	16%	15%
No	5%	4%	7%	8%

6 young people did not answer this question

I have talked to youth workers about something personal (family, friends, relationships, school, bullying, mental health, futures or any other topic).

	2026	2025	2024	2023
Yes	24%	17%	20%	19%
Sort of	18%	13%	10%	8%
Not really	19%	19%	20%	18%
No	33%	48%	47%	55%
Not applicable	6%	3%	3%	

Conversations about personal issues with youth workers have helped me.

	2026	2025	2024	2023
Yes	43%	49%	51%	50%
Sort of	31%	42%	29%	32%
Not really	16%	5%	14%	11%
No	10%	3%	6%	7%

This is only those that said they had had a conversation (yes or sort of)

What is the biggest issue facing young people today.

Most common issues raised were

1. Bullying
2. Vaping
3. Drugs / alcohol (older groups)
4. Peer pressure
5. Mental health
6. Social media pressure
7. Boys being annoying / behaviour issues
8. Judgement / exclusion / prejudice
9. School stress

Are there any activities you would like at the youth club/bus sessions?

The requests cluster into clear categories:

Sports & physical activities

- Football (by far the most common)
- Dodgeball / benchball
- Outdoor activities
- Badminton
- Ping pong
- Rackets / rockets
- Volleyball

Creative activities

- Art supplies
- Free drawing
- Crocheting
- Knitting
- Badge making
- Slime making
- Painting
- Sticker making

Competitions & games

- Gaming competitions
- Escape room challenge
- Talent shows
- Quiz nights
- Murder mystery
- Switch games
- Pool / snooker
- Sim drifting

Food-based

- Pizza
- Doughnuts
- Dr Pepper
- "More food"

Social events

- Disco
- Movie night
- Hanging out with friends

Extra Comments when asked about things to improve the service

"I think it's good already" - Fenstanton
"I think it's great" - Burwell
"It is perfect" - Burwell
"More of what we already do" - Sawtry
"Like it as it is" - Sawtry
"No, it's great already" - Cottenham