

# Play Sufficiency Assessment

## Lochend Community High School



#HearingYoungPeople'sVoices

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# Play Sufficiency Assessment: Lochend Community High School

## Background

Play is central to young people's enjoyment of life and essential to their physical and emotional well-being and their healthy development.

In May 2023 new regulations came into force which mean that planning authorities must assess the sufficiency of play opportunities in its area for young people. The Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) is intended to provide an overall picture in terms of the current provision and distribution of outdoor play opportunities across the whole of a local authority area.

As part of these new regulations Glasgow City Council has a statutory requirement to engage with young people across the city to understand more around the current opportunities to play, their experiences whilst playing in the city as well as understanding what their current barriers to play are. Key insights will be used to form part of the evidence report for the City Development Plan and will be the start of an ongoing conversation with young people about what it is like to live, learn and play in Glasgow.

## Hearing Young People's Voices

The students of Lochend Community High School have made a significant contribution to the ongoing citywide discussion. Their valuable insights have aided authorities in gaining a comprehensive understanding of the present realities and challenges associated with utilising local spaces. Additionally, they have provided us with a deeper comprehension of the barriers to recreational activities within their community and the necessary resources for the physical and healthy development of young individuals.

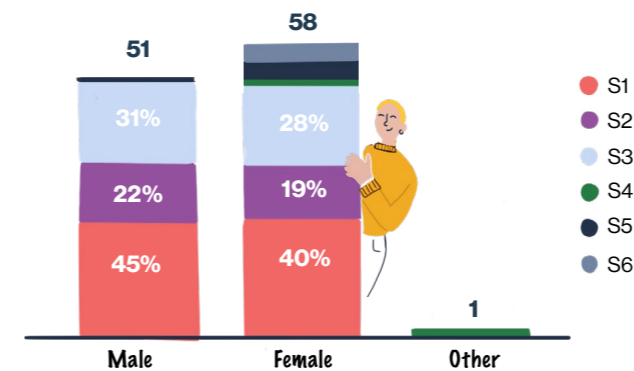
Reports from all schools who participated in the engagement are currently being compared on a citywide scale to assess equalities and formulate future plans for urban development that will help to inform the City Development Plan. We highly appreciate the sincerity and input of the pupil's from Lochend Community High School, as their contributions are instrumental in shaping this dialogue.

## Demographics

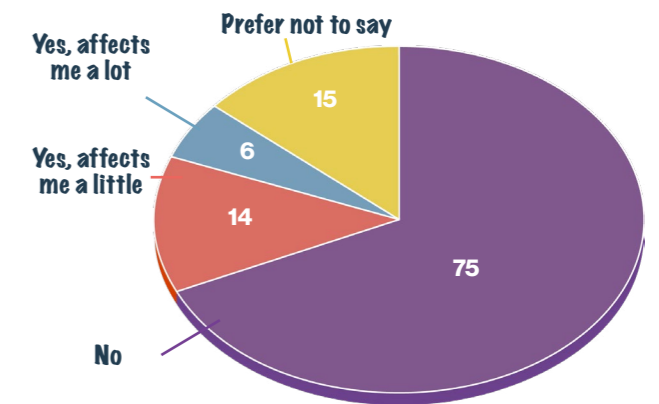
In total 110 pupils across all six year groups took part: a third of the young people attending Lochend Community High School.

For each school, the link was shared with a key contact who then arranged for this to be rolled out across the school in a way that worked for them

### Young people who answered the survey



Young people who consider themselves to have a health condition or disability affecting their day-to-day life



20 pupils (18%) said that their day-to-day lives are affected by a health condition. Those with health conditions will have different needs

## What is play

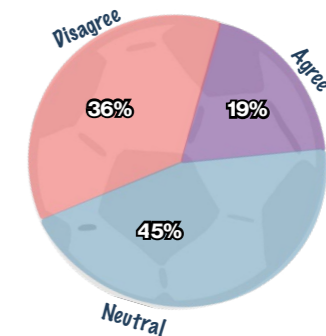
45% of young people at Lochend Community High School want to spend their free-time with others while only 19% want to spend free time alone.

For both questions, 40% and 45% of respondents are neutral about spending time alone or with others.

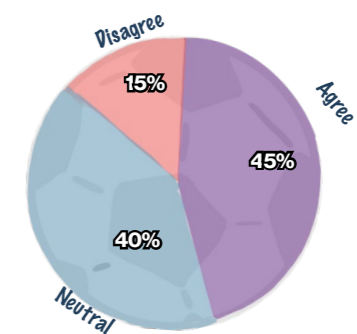
S1 and S4 are less likely to enjoy spending time alone but there's still a wide variety of preferences.

This highlights the need to ensure all ages have a range of options when choosing how to spend their free time.

### How many young people would like to spend their free-time alone



### How many young people would like to spend their free-time with others:



## Why is play important to young people?

When asked what play means to young people, the most frequent response is **fun** followed by **hanging out and going out**.

The words young people associate with play are very positive at Lochend Community High School. With words and phrases like **socialising, going outside and spending time with friends**, it's clear that play is an important opportunity to boost relationships and create an environment that contributes to young people's wellbeing. Many talked about play as an opportunity to play **games and sport**.

Understanding what's important in play for young people highlights what we can do to **improve access, space and quality** for places designed for play. At Lochend Community High School, the most common affect of play was a feeling of being **calm, relaxed, happy and joyful**. In contrast, some described being **bored** indicating there might be a lack of opportunities for play and stimulation in the area.

There were many who said that play helped when needing a **break** from school or other things in their life.

48 said      32 said      12 said

**Happy**    **Relaxed/**    **Positive**  
**Calm**

What 'play' means to young people



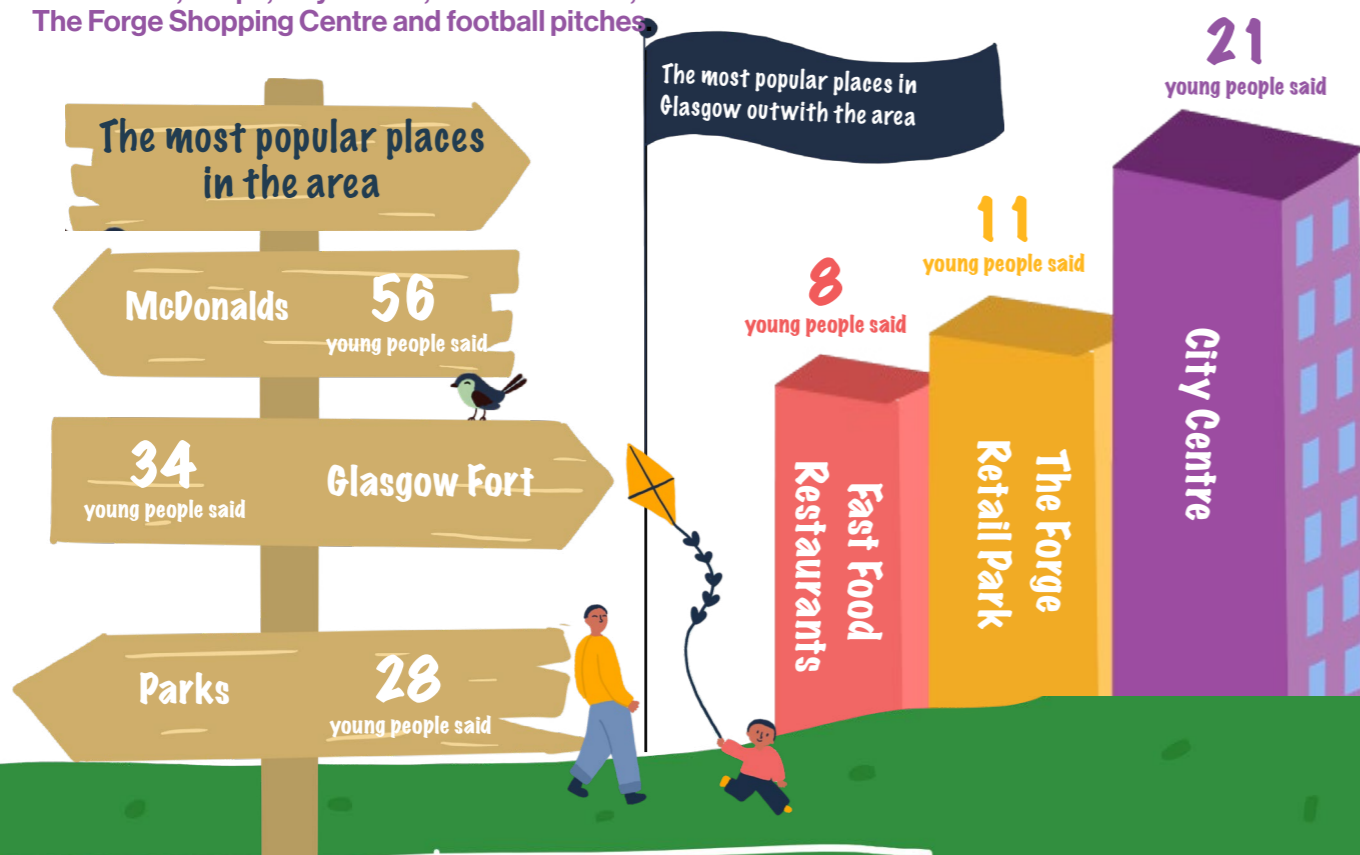
“Play lets me be myself, meet new people and go meet friends”

“Play means to have fun, be with friends and have a good time”

## Where do young people go?

Below are the most popular places in their area. Other places mentioned in the area include: **their house, shops, City Centre, friend's houses, The Forge Shopping Centre and football pitches**.

Other local places mentioned outwith their area included: **Silverburn Shopping Centre, Glasgow Fort, Towns outside of Glasgow, St Enoch Centre and sports facilities.**



## Statements on quantity

A quarter of young people say there are **lots of places** to spend their free-time while 63% feel like there are **only some places** and 13% feel like there is **nowhere at all** to spend time outside. With 76% having access to only some or no places to go, the area may need more good quality places and opportunities to play.

When asked about structured play such as **clubs and activities**, 35% of respondents said that **they go to them**, 39% of respondents said that **they know about them, but do not go**. 21% of respondents said that you **have to pay** for activities, so this may be one reason why so many know about activities but don't go. 26% said they **don't know of any clubs** outside of school.

S4-S6 are less likely to know about any clubs at all than other year groups. In contrast, S1 are much more likely to go to clubs.

This indicates there's an opportunity to increase awareness about clubs for older year groups.

As 26% of pupils don't know about any clubs at all, this presents a chance to improve the awareness of stimulating, enriching activities outside of school that will contribute to young people's wellbeing



Are there are lots of places for young people to go in area?

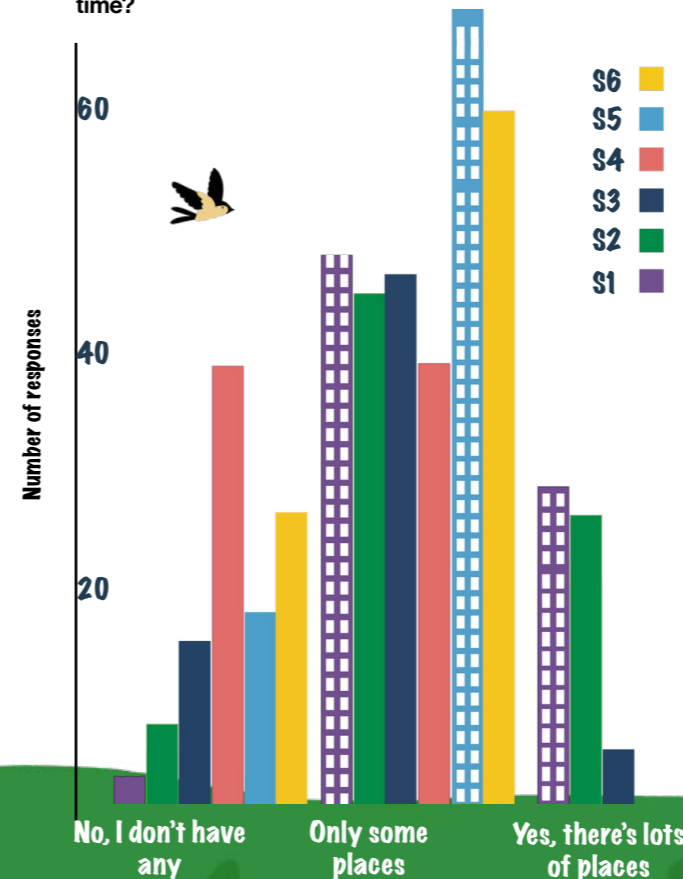


“Some parks need fixed and more equipment added”

“If I could see change, I would like not being stuck in my home and as I have a very limited outside areas”

## How it differs between ages

In your local area, are there enough places to spend your time?



We had fewer respondents in S4-S6. While younger years (S1-S2) are **more optimistic** about spaces they have in their area.

Generally, younger age groups are **more positive** about the places in their area.

“Parks need cleaned and equipment replaced”

“My least favourite places are pitches and parks cause they are always wrecked”

## What makes a good place for young people?

At Lochend Community High School, pupils generally have a **negative perception** of the quality of the places where they play. Over half of respondents disagree that their places are in a good condition or clean.

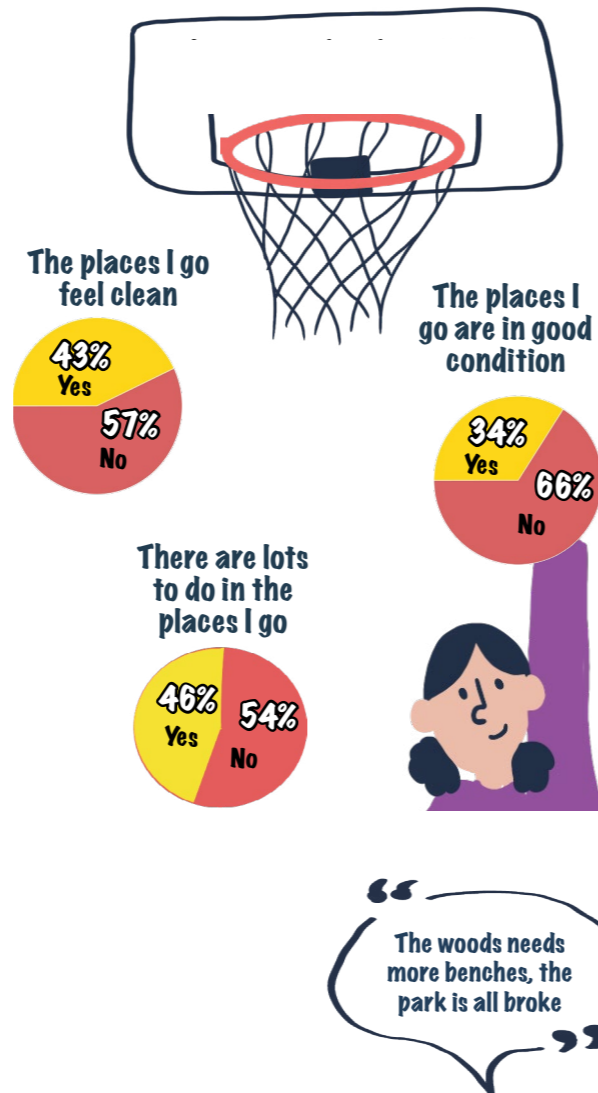
S1 are a notable exception when it comes to **cleanliness and things to do** as they think their places are clean and there's lots to do which seems to be unusual amongst other year groups.

Generally, young people feel safe and comfortable in their spaces around Lochend Community High School.

16% said their places are **uncomfortable**, 36% said they're **comfortable** and the rest didn't feel strongly either way. Younger age-groups tend to say they're more comfortable.

Opinions around the quality of equipment is mixed, 29% say it's **fine to them**, 39% say it **needs repaired**, 29% say it **needs replaced** 30% say there's not enough equipment. More than half (56%) of young people said the **equipment needs cleaned**. Many also highlighted the risk posed by **broken glass and broken equipment**.

Given the quality of this equipment, additional efforts are needed to make the equipment in the area fit for use for young people at Lochend Community High School..



### Scoring how comfortable they felt out of 10

1= feel very unsafe 10= feel very safe



Scored on average just over 5

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Scored on average just over 5

### What is the equipment like in the spaces that you go to?

56% said **Needs cleaned**

39% said **Needs repaired**

30% said **There isn't enough**



## What makes a place feel unsafe?

At Lochend Community High School, pupils have a mixed few of **comfort and safety**.

17% of young people reported feeling **unsafe**, with 34% feeling **safe** and the remainder didn't feel strongly either way. As pupils get older, they're more likely to say they feel less safe with S6 feeling least safe of all year-groups. This indicates a need for creating safer environments for older age-groups.

When asked what makes a place feel unsafe or uncomfortable, the responses consisted of 2 main themes: **time of day and people in our spaces**.

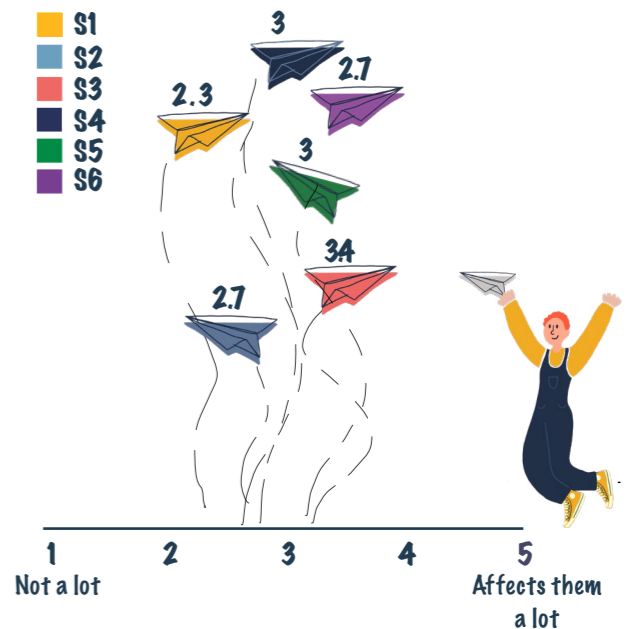
Many felt threatened by other people in their spaces highlighting alcohol consumption as a particular problem. Places mentioned as feeling **unsafe or uncomfortable** include **Sunnyside Park and four corners** in the City Centre. Another concern around safety in the area is **night time** as it makes the parks less safe especially in seasons with less daylight.

This indicates young people in the area need places that feel safe and are dedicated for people their age.



### Scoring how other people in the spaces affect them out of 5

Average scoring per year



## Travelling to places for young people

94% of respondents said that the places in their area are easy to get to. When asked about getting around, **walking** was the most frequent response suggesting that for many young people they have places to go within walking distance. **Public transport** came second as a way of getting around while **getting a lift** came third.

Only 20% of pupils said they get a lift. This could be due to a number of reasons but as the area is quite far from the City Centre, it could suggest that young people tend to travel shorter distances in the area.

Only 6 young people **cycle** to the places they play, 5 **scoot or skate** and 6 **don't go anywhere** to play.



## Barriers towards play

When asked what barriers young people from Lochend Community High School feel they have that stops them from playing, **homework** was voted highest. This was evenly distributed among all year groups.

A **lack of places to go and a lack of time** were voted joint second highest as barriers to play. This emphasises the need for more dedicated places for young people to play.

**People in their places and societal expectations** were also highlighted as barriers.

Older age-groups tend to see other people as more of a barrier.



“My least favourite place is the park as it gets too cold”

“My least favourite place is Sunnyside park, there is too many people drinking meaning smashed bottles lying around and the stuff isn't fun to play on”



## Nature & Seasons

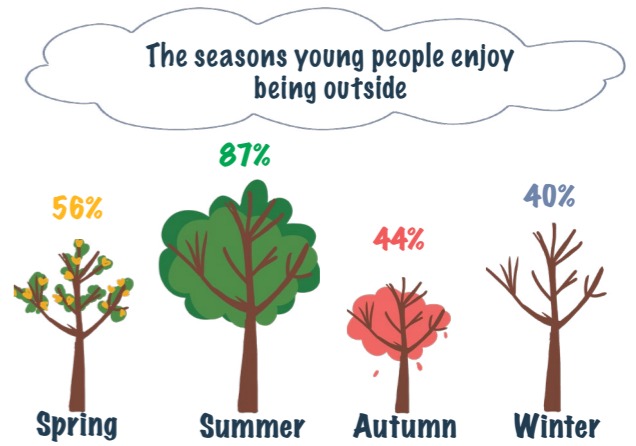
35% of respondents said that **nature is very important** to them while 50% say they do not mind and 15% say they do not care at all.

25% said more green spaces would make the **area more fun and interesting**. This highlights the importance of ensuring there are plenty of opportunities for young people to connect to nature.

When it comes to spending time outdoors, **weather** has the largest impact. The **time** is also a big factor, whether it's midweek, the weekend, summer or winter plays a big part in young people's decision to go outside.

**Summer** is the favourite season to spend time outside. Next is **Spring**, then **Autumn** and then **Winter**. This highlights the need to ensure there is **space and light** for young people across all seasons of the year.

Winter was called out as a significant barrier indicating that the area needs access to places to play even in the colder months.



### The elements that impact this



## What do they need from their spaces

When asked what young people want more of, most asked for **cleaning, repairing and improving nearby parks**.

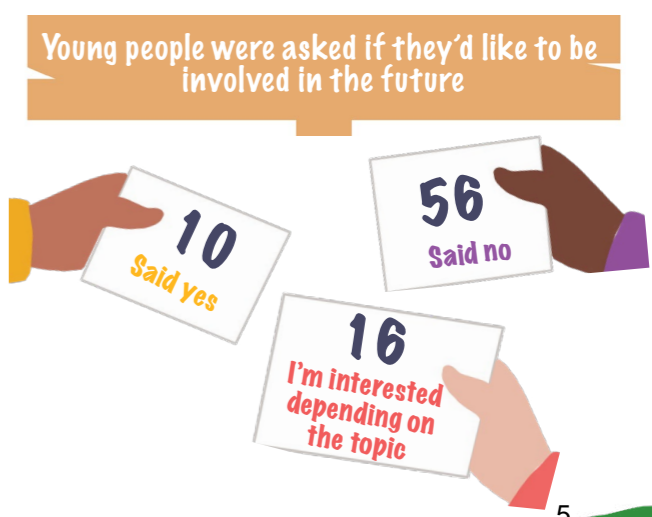
When asking what would make places in the area more fun and interesting, they asked for: **more places for people my age, cleaner places and more places to eat**. Nearly a third of pupils also asked for **more security** measures in places they like to spend time.

Echoing earlier findings 51% of young people asked for **equipment repair** and 26% asked for **more information about clubs and activities**. 33% also asked for **more sport facilities**.

And finally, some said they'd like to be more included in decisions in their area.

Around a third of the young people who took part said that they want to be involved in discussions in the future. Some said it would depend on the topic.

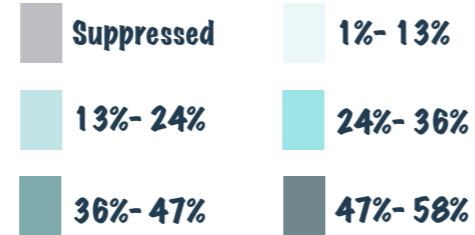
This reinforces that public bodies should embed a flexible approach when considering engaging with young people. They may not always wish to participate but when they do they should have a right to shape decisions about their spaces and their future.



## Child Poverty Data

This map is taken from Glasgow City Council's child poverty dashboard, and contains levels of relative child poverty across the city. It shows that a lot of the more popular places young people go are in areas where there is a lower rate of child poverty in North East

Percentage of child poverty



## Conclusion

Overall, we got responses from a third of the young people at Lochend Community High School. It is clear that young people have a **wide range of valuable contributions that could help us improve spaces for young people and the communities which they help build.**

Access to **safe, clean** places with a **mix of activities** has been clearly identified as a major contributor to young people's wellbeing and physical health.

Many of the places identified as good places to spend time in their area are informal spaces like **The Forge Retail Park and Auchinlea Park.** This shows the importance of maintaining and improving both green spaces and public places for young people around Lochend Community High School.

26% of young people at Lochend Community High School **don't know of any clubs in the area.**



Many young people are missing out on chances to grow and express themselves outside of school.

21% of pupils are put off by **having to pay to attend clubs** showing that money could also be a barrier for young people at Lochend Community High School.

63% of children at Lochend Community High School say there are **only some spaces** that they can go to suggesting more places could be provided for young people in the area.



Generally young people felt safe and comfortable in the spaces that they go to. However when discussing what made them feel unsafe, **time of day** was the main concern. This would suggest that around Lochend Community High School, there could be more safe places for young people especially when it's dark or days are short.

The biggest barriers to play were **homework and having a lack of time** but many also said that **societal expectations**



and **other people in their spaces** can heavily impact how they spend their free time.

As for the places that are available, **poorly maintained places** were highlighted as a common issue for young people and it was suggested that the council **repair equipment and clean up spaces** as a way to improve them.



For most, **travelling to places** is not an issue and there are plenty of places to spend time despite some places not always being of the highest quality.

With this rich, wide-ranging input, we now have a much clearer picture of what young people look for in a place that is **safe, accessible and of a good quality.** We've also learned how much we can learn from talking to young people, **learning from their ideas** and building a nuanced picture of our neighbourhoods and how they're used.

From this, we now have a range of clear recommendations and Lochend Community High School has developed a mature dialogue and set of ideas that can help inform better places for play.

**Centre for Civic Innovation**

Glasgow City Council  
The Wedge, Office 7  
1066 Barrhead Road  
Glasgow G53 5AB

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