

Questions and responses.

Question from Margaret Cheung (independent co-optee) to Tracy Brown /Richard Gibson

The report notes that 177 girls and young women aged 11-18 responded to the survey. Could we have some information on how many were reached overall, and what the response rate was? This would help us understand how representative the findings are.

The report states

“The survey was designed in collaboration with the Research Advisory Steering Group established during the 2024 research cycle, a group of people working directly with young people in Cheltenham and chosen for their subject-matter expertise, lived experience and community reach. It was distributed through Microsoft Forms via partner agencies in direct contact with girls and young women in the area. Participation was voluntary, anonymous and non-incentivised, and respondents could skip questions or withdraw at any point. A total of 177 completed responses were received”

“The sample of 177 is meaningful for a focused local study but represents a small proportion of Cheltenham’s female youth population. Findings are indicative, not statistically generalisable. The qualitative richness of the data compensates for the quantitative limitations”

We do not have figures for how many in total were circulated.

Question from Margaret Cheung (independent co-optee) to Tracy Brown /Richard Gibson

Will the report set out clear recommendations based on the survey findings, and is there a plan for the next steps or actions the Council intends to take in response?

The report sets out a number of recommendations for action. These are to be discussed by the Cheltenham Community Safety Partnership on 21 July and Cllr Jamie Jamieson will also meet with the Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse Champions to share the findings of the report.

The intention is then to pull together an action plan that addresses the recommendations.

Question from Harry Booty (independent co-optee) to Tracy Brown /Richard Gibson

Was the decision to do this research based on evidence of a concern or more a general check?

The report sets out the background as to why the survey was undertaken. The process started in 2024 with the appointment of St. Giles Trust to research the issue of exploitation of children and young people in the town and the recognition that there was a knowledge gap around the experiences of girls and young women. This led onto some more detailed work with a series of focus groups that culminated in a presentation by the participating girls and young women in December 2024. The scale of the issue was such that the CSP and NCLB agreed to then expand the consultation so a wider range of girls and young women could contribute their views via the online survey.

Question from Harry Booty (independent co-optee) to Tracy Brown /Richard Gibson

Mentions 30% receiving 'unwanted explicit images' – any distinction between known contacts vs anonymous online? I.e. are these people known to the recipient or strangers?

The report does not state the origin. We can assume that the majority will be sent via known contacts, as it is probably more difficult to send images anonymously – though of course may be possible via throwaway email addresses or other file sharing means.