

The background of the slide features a large, stylized graphic of the number "9" in a light blue color. Overlaid on this are several overlapping circles in dark blue, light green, and pink. The text "Healthwatch in action" is positioned within a dark blue circle on the left side of the graphic.

Healthwatch
in action

**Kim James Chief Operating Officer
Healthwatch Thurrock**



What we have been doing:

We have started to engage with Thurrock residents around the refreshed Health & Wellbeing Strategy for Thurrock. We feel it is important that people are able to have a voice in the design, delivery and commissioning of Health & Social Care Services.

To engage with Thurrock Residents on Goal 1 (Opportunity for All) we carried out:

- One survey for adults
- One survey for younger people (aged 15-21 years)
- Group work with Youth Clubs children (8-13 years)

We felt this is necessary as the opportunities for children and young people will be different and perceived differently than that of adults. We also wanted to create a more relevant survey for younger people and for adults.



How we have been doing this

The surveys were completed on a hard copy in face to face engagement and also by using the online form.

The group work we carried out involved visiting youth clubs and using mapping to ask questions around what opportunities there are for young people; we also asked what is good about living in Thurrock and what would you change?

Between end of April and June 2016, we have spoken to:

- 52 adults
- 35 young people (16-21 years)
- 70 children (8-13 years)



Findings

We asked about opportunities for adult learning/ education for adults in Thurrock?

There was a general consensus that there are learning and educational opportunities for adults in Thurrock.

- *“There is good access to adult education, and the courses advertised seem a fair selection. There is also access via the ACE programme”. A2*
- *“South Essex College do not allow adults with children in the building. I was unable to link in with student services or the library because I had a pram with me. You have to pay for adult learning. No support for working adults with kids. Adult learning college in Thurrock is a lot better.” A2*



Findings cont..

We asked about job opportunities for adults in Thurrock?

The people we spoke to had very different views on this one as expected. This would be highly influenced by each person's personal job opportunities they've had.

- *“There are unskilled low paid jobs available but little else, just lots of retail, catering and factory work”. A2*
- *“There are a lot of jobs in Thurrock but we have been promised over and over the jobs will go to Thurrock people but they aren't. There are not enough well paid jobs”!*
- *“There are plenty of job opportunities in Thurrock due to the ever increasing Port Industry and local Warehousing”*

Findings cont..

We asked about advice and information around relationships, sex education, family planning and advice?

We knew that many people wouldn't feel they could answer this question as these weren't services they had used before or recently; however we were able to get some feedback from people including the 16-21 age group

- *“All the clinics seem to have closed; I never see anything advertised now”.*
- *“ I am sure if you need them they are available, but are they publicised enough?” A3*
- *“The only place that I am aware does this is the GUM clinic based at Orsett Hospital. This can be difficult for people to get to and also embarrassing for some to attend. I am not sure what sexual health and family planning happens in schools.” A3*

Findings cont..

We asked about what people thought when they heard the word 'poverty'.

We wanted to find out what people thought poverty meant, and to get perceptions of what poverty is.

Themes that emerged:

- Having limited life opportunities and choices
- Having poorer health; lifestyle and lower level of education
- Not being able to afford basic essentials such as heating; food; clothing

- *“Poverty is lacking physical necessities and not having enough money to make good choices re lifestyle.”*
- *“Unable to put decent food on the table, unable to cope with high energy prices.”*
- *“Poor quality housing, areas of social problems”.*
- *“A poor standard of living”*



Findings for Young People

Our young person survey will also feed into Goal 3 (Better emotional health and wellbeing) also.

We asked about:

- Having enough support at school or college to achieve a good education
- Whether there is anything that would help to achieve more
- Whether they are happy with the quality of teaching at school or college
- Where they would go for help with school work
- Who students would go to if they were worried or upset
- How students feel about opportunities for training; apprenticeships; and higher education.
- Teenage pregnancies in Thurrock are higher than average, we asked why this might be and what may help may improve the situation.



comments captured from young people

- *“The classes are too big, I would prefer smaller classes.” A1*
- *“Instead of homework it would be great if the teachers had more time to help me.”*
- *“Study groups would be a good idea”. A1*
- *“More help with mental health”. A1/C2*
- *“There is no information around available apprenticeships”. A/A2*
- *“I don’t think there are many jobs around so I don’t feel like I will get enough support or be able to get a job in the area I want to work”. A1*
- *“More help with my work so I understand”. A1*

Group Work Analysis

Group work involved attending youth clubs (Aveley; Tilbury and Purfleet). The children had the chance to tell us what opportunities there are in Thurrock, or answer what they do/don't like about where they live. Children were aged 8-13years old.

The findings from this work centred around the following themes (in weight order):

- Anti-Social Behaviour (including bullying) - 21
- Social Activities - 20
- Enjoying/protecting the Environment - 12
- Getting an education - 8
- Taking part in Sports - 6
- Having good housing - 2
- Going shopping - 2

These findings have been fed back to the youth club leaders and we have requested to work with the youth clubs when **Goal 3 (Better emotional health and wellbeing)** comes around.



Comments from 8-13 year olds

- *“People throw rubbish into the River Thames, I don’t like it they also throw scooters and bikes and a TV.” B1*
- *“The park - I would like the park to change because it is a mess with loads of rubbish (I like youth club)” B1*
- *“I would like there to be more things in the park or to fix some of the equipment there”.*
- *“Stop bullies at the park”*
- *“I had to move schools because -1. Children were bullying me and 2. The work is poor quality.” A1*
- *“I don’t like it when some people smoke in front of kids”*
- *“Coming to youth clubs is good”*
- *“Going to the swimming lessons at Blackshots is good”*



Questions?

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