



SURVEY OF PARENTS ON LOW INCOME

JULY 2003

Survey of Parents on Low Income

1.0 Introduction

In April 2002, Stratford District Council, CVS and the South Warwickshire Together Partnership commissioned the West Midlands Low Pay Unit to research barriers to employment and/or re-training for households of working age in receipt of means-tested benefit across the District.

The results of the research raised questions regarding out of school child and youth provision in the District, as well as prompting further questions on transport.

SDC's Consultation Strategy required the Council to consult with low income households, and this was seen as an opportunity to ask the follow up of questions prompted by the Low Pay Unit research.

2.0 Methodology

Questionnaires were sent to all households with children in the Stratford District Council area of working age and where the head of household was in receipt of means-tested benefits.

1,206 questionnaires were posted out in July 2003, with 244 being returned in the timespan allowed. This represents a response rate of 20.3%.

3.0 Summary

- ◆ Having children's play and recreational facilities would make the biggest difference to the quality of life of parents on low incomes.
- ◆ Other significant quality of life issues are: Safety/low crime rates and availability of affordable housing. Male respondents indicated they want pleasant neighbours and better public transport, whereas female respondents are more likely to want more leisure opportunities and affordable childcare.
- ◆ To make a difference to their quality of life, those aged 34 or under want children's play and recreational facilities, availability of affordable housing and affordable childcare. For those aged 35 or more, safety and a low crime rate are the most important.
- ◆ The top three facilities or services available to respondents now are; holiday-time play schemes for children/young people; affordable toddler groups (0-4) and a youth club in their town or village.
- ◆ The most important services to those surveyed and would want to see in their area are holiday-time play schemes, a youth club (significantly wanted more by male respondents) and a drop-in centre for parents. Free places at a playgroup and affordable day nurseries are services wanted by those aged 34 or less.
- ◆ Almost four out of ten households (39%) always need access to transport during the day.
- ◆ One in five respondent's who have partners always have access to transport during the day.

- ◆ Over half surveyed (53%) always have the use of a car during the day. However, a quarter (27%) never has access, and these are predominantly female. Older respondents are more likely to have the use of a vehicle.
- ◆ One in ten of respondents with partners do not have the use of a car in the day – predominantly male on this occasion.
- ◆ Just over half of those returning questionnaires (52%) use alternative forms of transport, other than the car, during the day – 71% are male and 47% female.
- ◆ The prominent alternative form of transport is the bus/coach (82%). Four out of ten male respondents use a bicycle.
- ◆ Eight out of ten respondents are female and six out of ten are aged over 35.

4.0 Results Tables

Do you have children under 18 in your household?

	TOTAL	WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18	MALE	FEMALE	AGED 34 OR UNDER	AGED 35 OR MORE
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	97.9	97.9	95.7	98.4	99.0	97.2
No	2.1	2.1	4.3	1.6	1.0	2.8
Base:	(243)	(238)	(47)	(193)	(97)	(143)

If yes, how many children do you have in the following age categories?

	TOTAL	WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18	MALE	FEMALE	AGED 34 OR UNDER	AGED 35 OR MORE
	%	%	%	%	%	%
0-4	35.7	35.7	20.0	39.5	57.3	20.9
5-10	47.1	47.1	31.1	51.1	57.3	40.3
11-16	42.0	42.0	66.7	35.8	15.6	59.7
17-18	9.2	9.2	17.8	7.4	2.1	14.4
Base:	(238)	(238)	(45)	(190)	(96)	(139)

Do you need access to transport during the day?

	TOTAL	WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18	MALE	FEMALE	AGED 34 OR UNDER	AGED 35 OR MORE
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Always	38.8	38.6	38.3	39.1	36.7	40.4
Sometimes	51.2	51.5	57.4	49.5	52.0	50.4
Never	9.9	10.0	4.3	11.5	11.2	9.2
Base:	(242)	(236)	(47)	(192)	(98)	(141)

If you have partner, do they have access to transport during the day?

	TOTAL	WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18	MALE	FEMALE	AGED 34 OR UNDER	AGED 35 OR MORE
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Always	20.0	20.1	26.8	18.1	22.4	18.0
Sometimes	11.4	11.8	39.0	4.8	9.4	13.1
Never	5.2	5.4	7.3	4.8	4.7	5.7
Not applicable	63.3	62.7	26.8	72.3	63.5	63.1
Base:	(210)	(204)	(41)	(166)	(85)	(122)

Do you have the use of a car during the day?

	TOTAL	WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18	MALE	FEMALE	AGED 34 OR UNDER	AGED 35 OR MORE
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Always	52.9	53.0	58.7	51.8	45.4	58.6
Sometimes	20.4	20.9	32.6	17.3	21.6	19.3
Never	26.7	26.1	8.7	30.9	33.0	22.1
Base:	(240)	(234)	(46)	(191)	(97)	(140)

Does your partner have the use of a car during the day?

	TOTAL	WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18	MALE	FEMALE	AGED 34 OR UNDER	AGED 35 OR MORE
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Always	18.6	19.1	22.0	17.5	23.8	14.6
Sometimes	8.1	8.3	24.4	4.2	4.8	10.6
Never	10.0	9.8	22.0	7.2	9.5	10.6
Not applicable	63.3	62.7	31.7	71.1	61.9	64.2
Base:	(210)	(204)	(41)	(166)	(84)	(123)

Do you or your partner use alternative forms of transport, other than the car, during the day?

	TOTAL	WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18	MALE	FEMALE	AGED 34 OR UNDER	AGED 35 OR MORE
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	52.1	51.5	71.1	47.4	51.0	52.5
No	47.9	48.5	28.9	52.6	49.0	47.5
Base:	(242)	(237)	(45)	(194)	(98)	(141)

What other forms of transport do you or you partner use?

	TOTAL	WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18	MALE	FEMALE	AGED 34 OR UNDER	AGED 35 OR MORE
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Train	29.5	28.9	21.9	30.4	35.1	24.1
Bus/Coach	82.2	81.7	75.0	84.8	80.7	83.9
Bicycle	26.7	27.5	40.6	21.4	17.5	31.0
Motorcycle	6.8	7.0	6.3	7.1	8.8	5.7
Base:	(212)	(142)	(32)	(112)	(57)	(87)

Which of the following would make the biggest difference to your quality of life?

	TOTAL	WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18	MALE	FEMALE	AGED 34 OR UNDER	AGED 35 OR MORE
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Children's play and recreational facilities	41.7	42.8	25.5	45.8	51.5	35.2
Safety/low crime rate	40.5	40.3	44.7	39.6	37.1	43.0
Availability of affordable housing	36.4	36.9	23.4	39.6	45.4	30.3
More leisure opportunities	30.6	30.9	12.8	34.9	38.1	25.4
Affordable childcare	28.1	28.4	12.8	31.8	45.4	16.2
Better public transport	27.7	26.7	36.2	26.0	21.6	32.4
Pleasant neighbours & community	24.8	24.6	34.0	22.4	17.5	29.6
Availability of jobs	16.9	16.9	29.8	14.1	12.4	20.4
Availability of local health services	16.1	15.7	27.7	13.5	5.2	23.9
Access to learning for all ages	12.0	12.3	10.6	12.0	15.5	9.2
Other	4.5	4.7	0.0	5.7	3.1	5.6
Base:	(242)	(236)	(47)	(192)	(97)	(142)

Are any of the following facilities or service listed below available to you now? (Those answering Yes)

	TOTAL	WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18	MALE	FEMALE	AGED 34 OR UNDER	AGED 35 OR MORE
	%	%	%	%	%	%
A holiday-time play scheme for children/young people	57.5	57.2	44.4	59.9	54.9	60.0
Affordable toddler group (0-4)	54.1	54.1	68.2	51.6	59.7	48.6
A youth club in your town/village	48.8	48.5	58.8	47.0	42.7	54.8
Free place at a playgroup (3/4 year olds)	45.5	45.5	47.4	45.1	51.6	39.7
A reliable childminder in your town/village	44.5	44.5	48.1	43.7	42.7	46.2
Affordable day nursery (0-5)	42.0	42.0	50.0	40.3	46.6	36.8
Parenting support groups and courses	23.7	23.7	36.0	21.6	29.6	19.0
Workplace crèche or similar facility at a local college	20.1	20.1	18.5	20.7	19.2	21.4
Mobile toy library	14.7	14.7	8.0	16.3	15.3	14.5
A drop in centre for parents	11.8	11.8	4.3	13.4	18.7	5.3
Base:	(242)	(242)				

Of the services listed below (whether they are currently available to you or not), which are the most important to you and would want to see in your area?

	TOTAL	WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18	MALE	FEMALE	AGED 34 OR UNDER	AGED 35 OR MORE
	%	%	%	%	%	%
A holiday-time play scheme for children/young people	52.3	52.6	48.6	53.4	52.1	52.9
A youth club in your town/village	38.5	38.6	59.5	33.7	29.8	44.6
A drop in centre for parents	38.5	38.1	37.8	38.2	34.0	41.3
Parenting support groups and courses	28.4	28.4	21.6	29.2	23.4	31.4
A reliable childminder in your town/village	23.4	23.3	29.7	21.9	22.3	24.0
Free place at a playgroup (3/4 year olds)	19.7	20.0	21.6	19.7	26.6	14.9
Affordable day nursery (0-5)	19.7	20.0	13.5	20.8	30.9	10.7
Workplace crèche or similar facility at a local college	13.8	14.0	8.1	15.2	14.9	13.2
Affordable toddler group (0-4)	12.4	12.6	2.7	14.6	20.2	6.6
Mobile toy library	9.2	8.8	2.7	10.7	10.6	8.3
Base:	(218)	(215)	(37)	(178)	(94)	(121)

Are you?

	TOTAL
	%
Male	19.5
Female	80.5
Base:	(241)

What age group do you belong to?

	TOTAL
	%
18 or under	0.4
19-24	6.6
25-34	33.6
35-54	50.6
55 or more	8.7
Base:	(241)