



Community Life survey 2021/22

City Intelligence, GLA
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1. Introduction

- The [Community Life survey](#) is a household self-completion survey of adults aged 16+ in England. The survey provides evidence on social cohesion, community engagement and social action.
- This report summarises the results from the 2021/22 survey and provides comparisons between London and the rest of England with demographic breakdowns at an England level.
- Across England, 10,126 interviews were achieved over the year.
- There are other surveys that provide more granular evidence on these topics within London, but this survey has been selected to provide a regional comparison.
- Further details of the breakdowns presented in this report can be accessed through the data tables on the [Community Life survey webpage](#).

2. Social networks

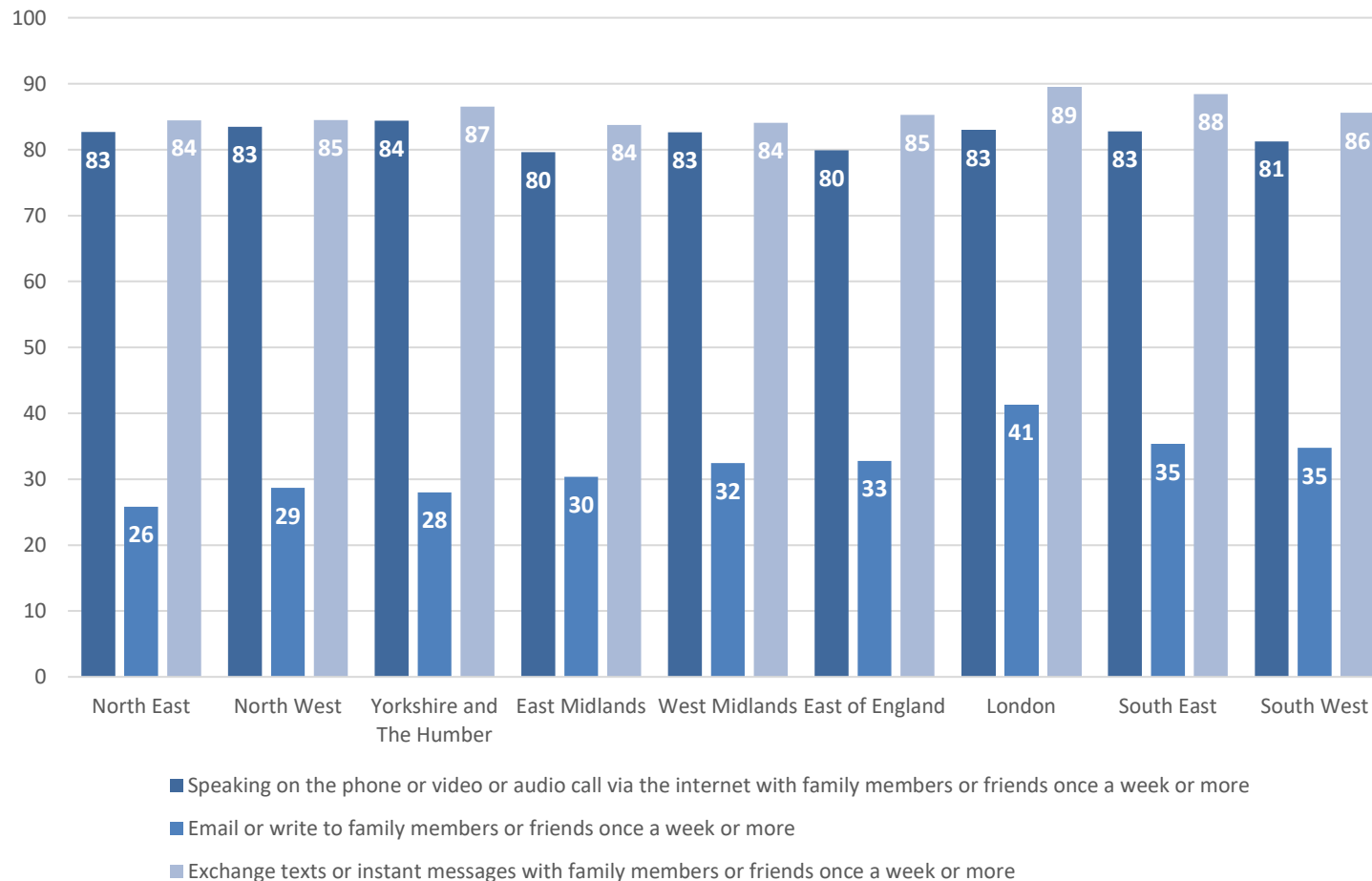
This section presents data about the way adults aged 16+ in England communicate with family members and friends.

Headline measures (London) – 2021/22

- 67% of respondents meet up in person with friends/family at least once a week.
- 95% of respondents either definitely or tended to agree that if they needed help, there are people who would be there for them.

Virtual communication with family and friends

Percentage of adults who virtually engage with family members at least once a week, by region and by mode, 2021/22

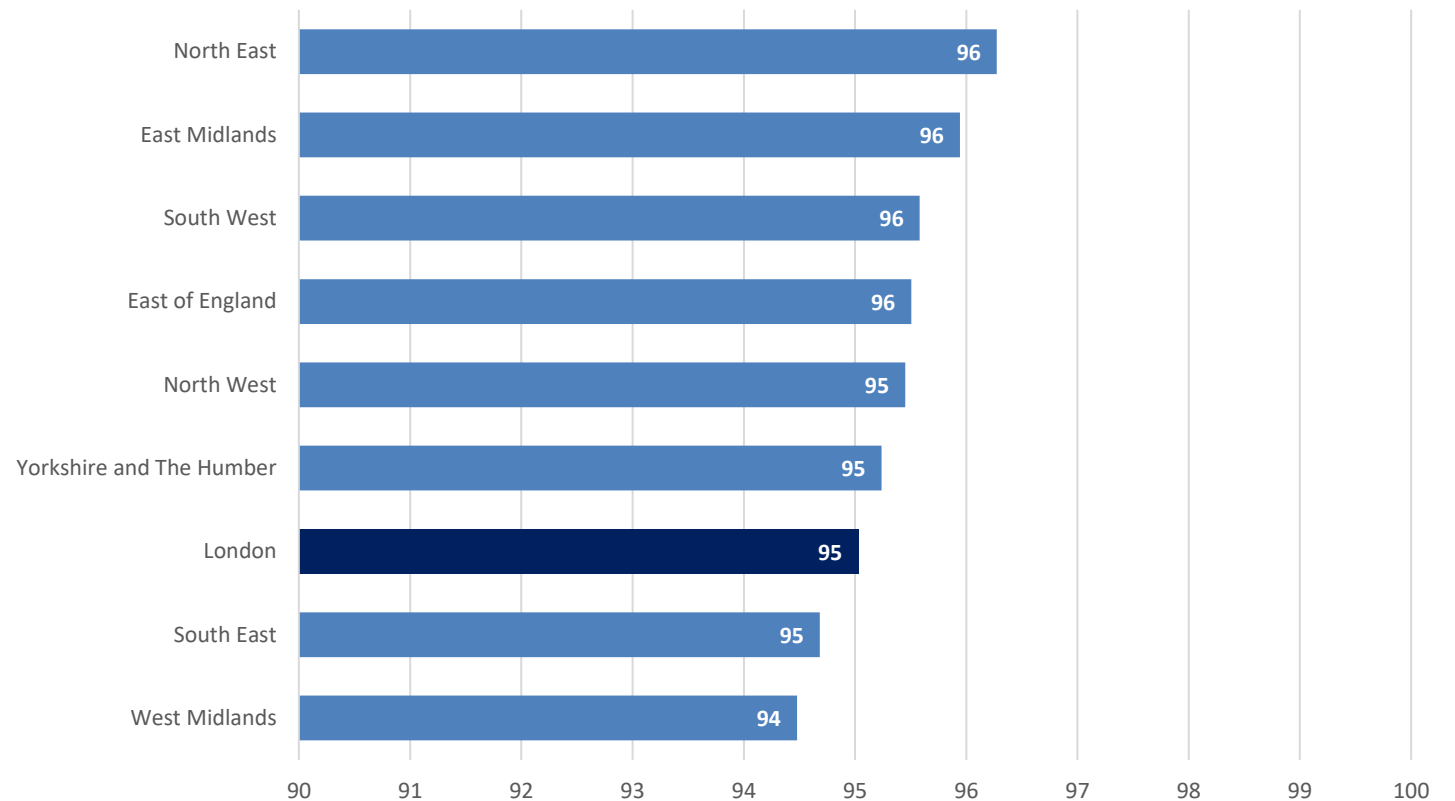


- 89% of Londoners **exchange texts of instant messages** with family or friends at least once per week, which is amongst the highest across England.
- 41% of Londoners **email or write** to family or friends at least once a week which is the highest across all regions.
- 83% of Londoners **speak on the phone or call via the internet** with family and friends at least once per week, which is a similar rate to all other regions.

Support networks

- Almost all respondents agree with the statement 'if I need help people would be there for me' across all the regions with London at 95%.
- Across England, Black people were less likely to agree with the statement (90%) than the England average (95%)
- Nationally disabled people (97%) were more likely to agree than non-disabled people (92%)

Percentage of adults who definitely or tend to agree with the statement 'if I needed help, there are people who would be there for me', by region, 2021/22





3. Loneliness

This section presents data on measures of loneliness of adults aged 16+ in England.

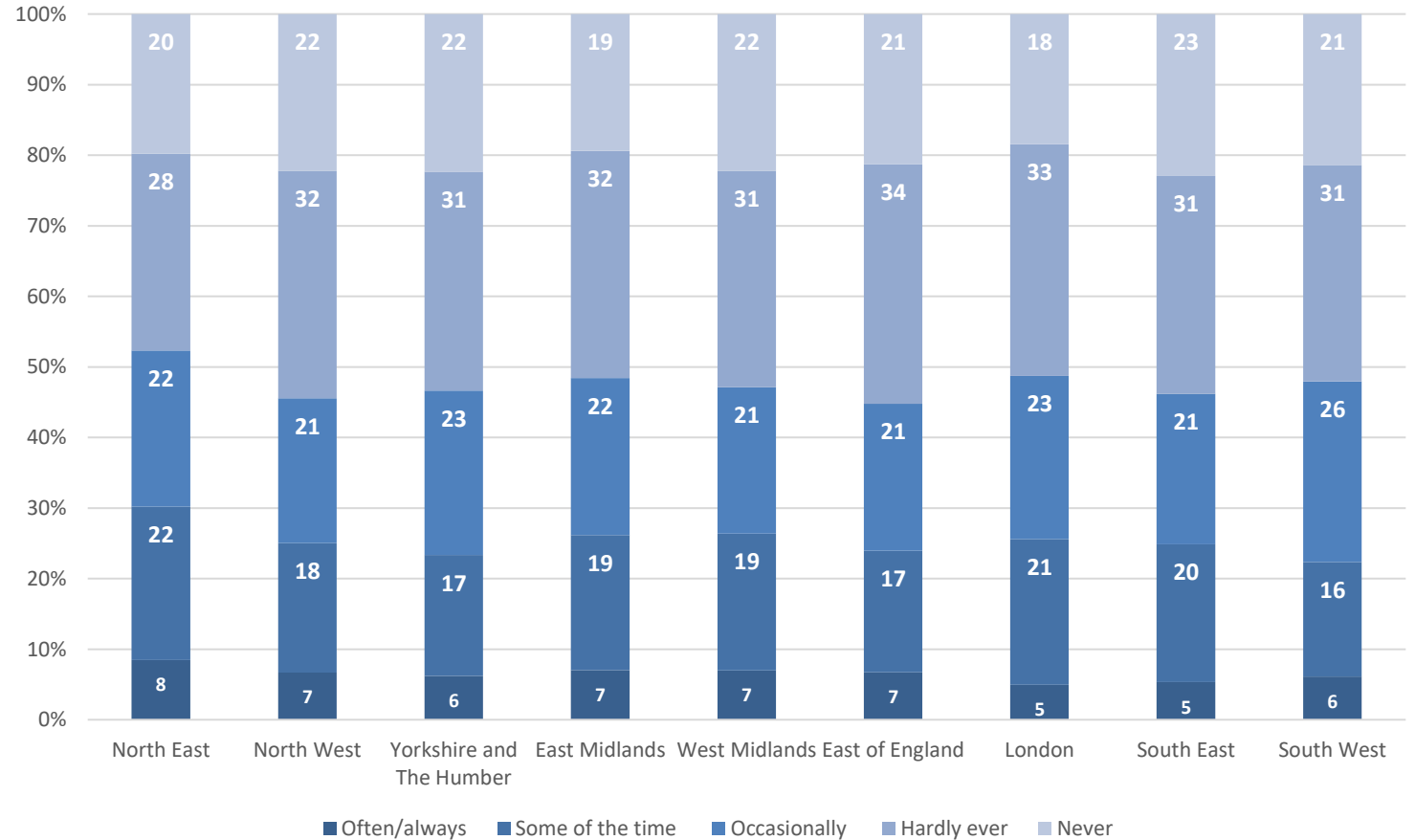
Headline measures (London) – 2021/22

- 5% of respondents said they felt lonely often/always
- 21% said they felt lonely some of the time

How often people feel lonely

- Londoners were amongst the least likely to report feeling lonely often/always (5%).
- Across England, loneliness was highest for age groups 16-24 years, disabled people, and those living in the 20% most deprived areas according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).

Percentage of adults reporting feeling lonely, by region and extent, 2021/22



4. Neighbourhood and community

The next slides show the way in which adults aged 16+ in England perceive their neighbourhood and community.

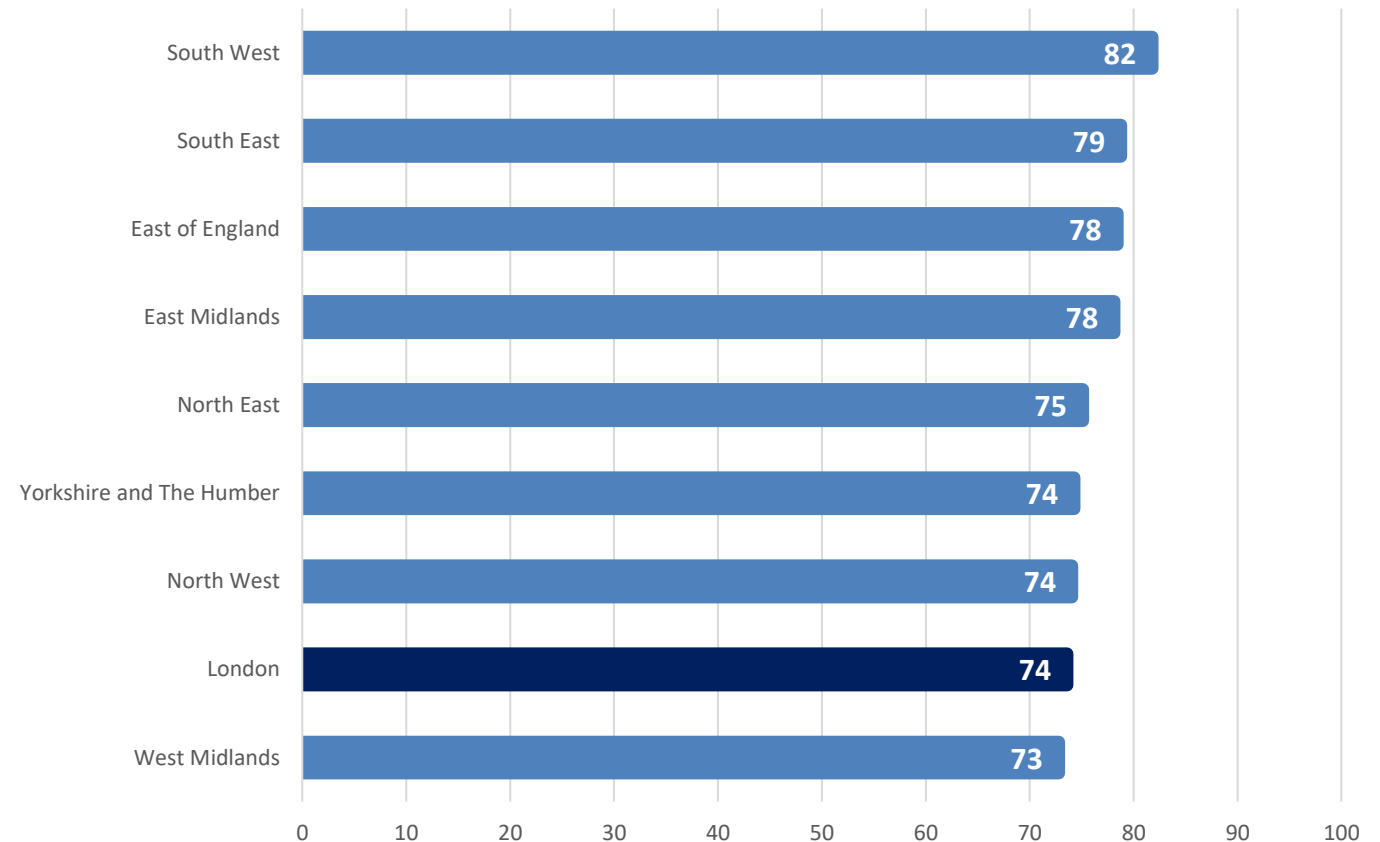
Headline measures (London) – 2021/22

- 74% of respondents were satisfied with their local area as a place to live.
- 56% of respondents felt they belonged to their immediate neighbourhood.

Satisfaction with local area

- Londoners are amongst the least satisfied with their local area as a place to live with 74% reporting 'very' or 'fairly' satisfied. This contrasts to 82% in the South West.
- Across England, the younger age groups are the least satisfied with their local area with 70% of 16-24 year olds very or fairly satisfied, compared to the most satisfied group aged 75 or over at 85% and the second most satisfied group aged 65 to 74 (81%).
- Those living in rural areas (85%) are happier with where they live than those living in urban areas (74%).

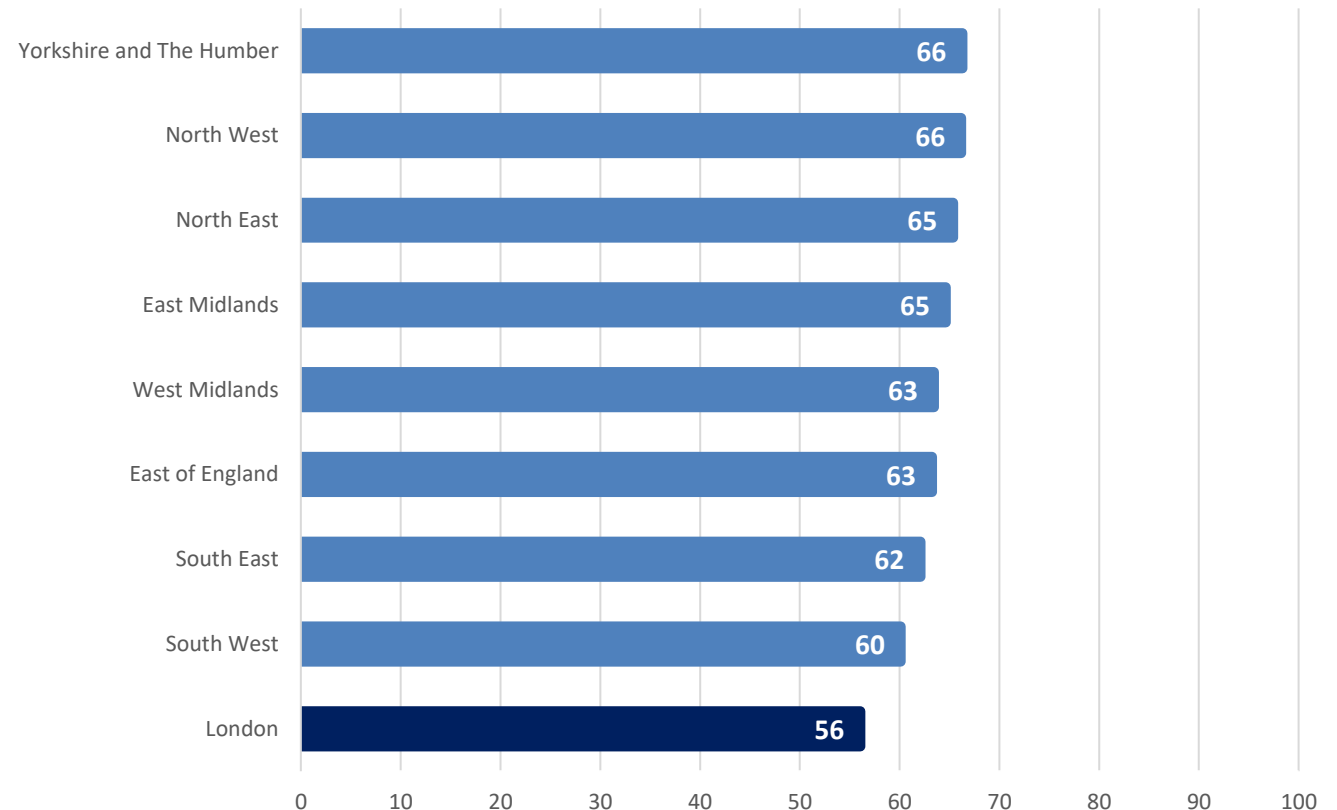
Percentage of adults very or fairly satisfied with their local area as a place to live, by region, 2021/22



Belonging to immediate neighbourhood

- More than half of respondents across all regions agree with this with London at 56%. However, those in Yorkshire and The Humber feel the strongest about this (66%).
- Across England, 16-24 year olds and 25-34 year olds (54%) feel the least strongly about this whereas those aged 75+ feel the most belonging to their immediate neighbourhood (71%).
- Across England, those living in rural areas (72%) feel more a part of their immediate neighbourhood than those in urban areas (60%).
- Disabled people in England (59%) feel less strongly about this than those who are not disabled (65%).

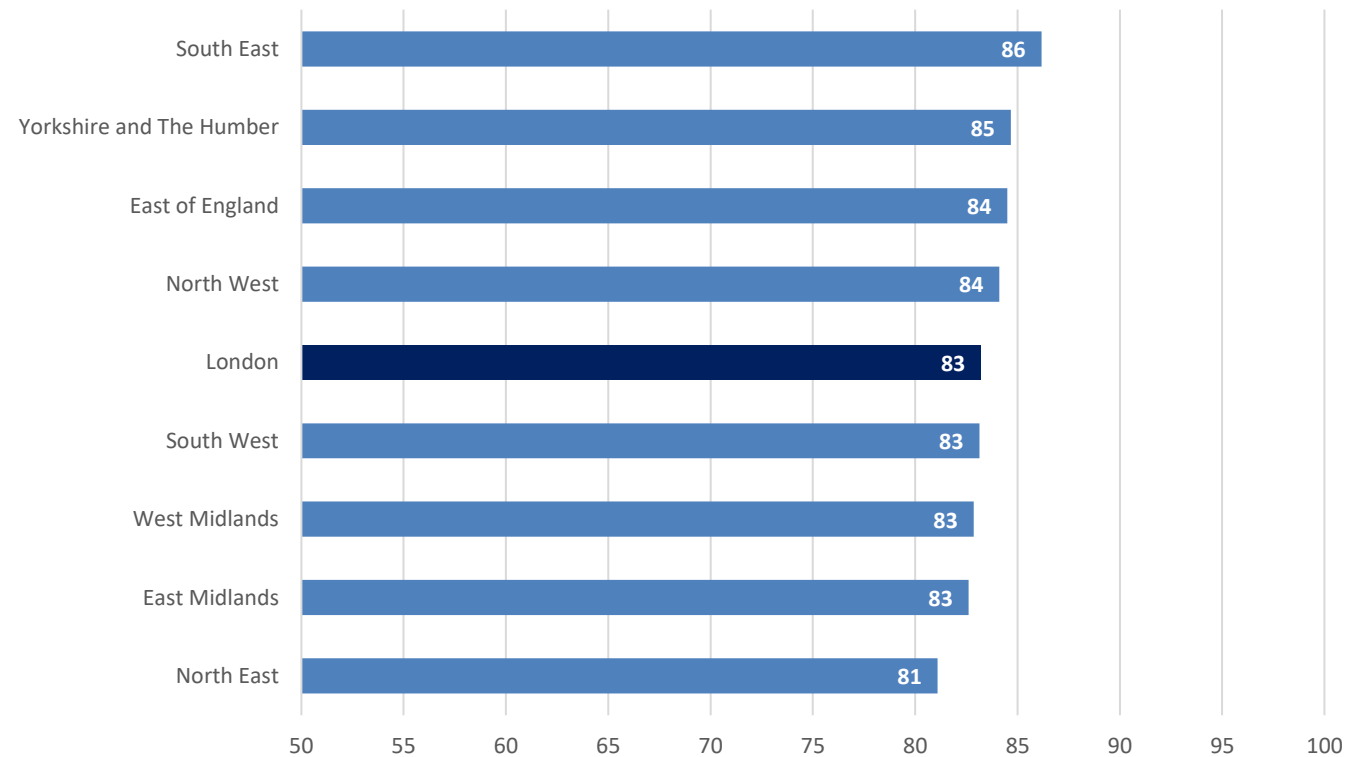
Percentage who feel they belong strongly or fairly strongly to their immediate neighbourhood, by region, 2021/22



Local area and people from different backgrounds getting on well together

- 83% of Londoners definitely or tended to agree that their local area is a place where different backgrounds get on.
- Across England, 86% of non-disabled people definitely or tended to agree compared to 81% of disabled people
- Across England, 89% of those living in the 20% least deprived areas (according to the IMD) definitely or tended to agree, compared to 77% of those living in the 20% most deprived areas.

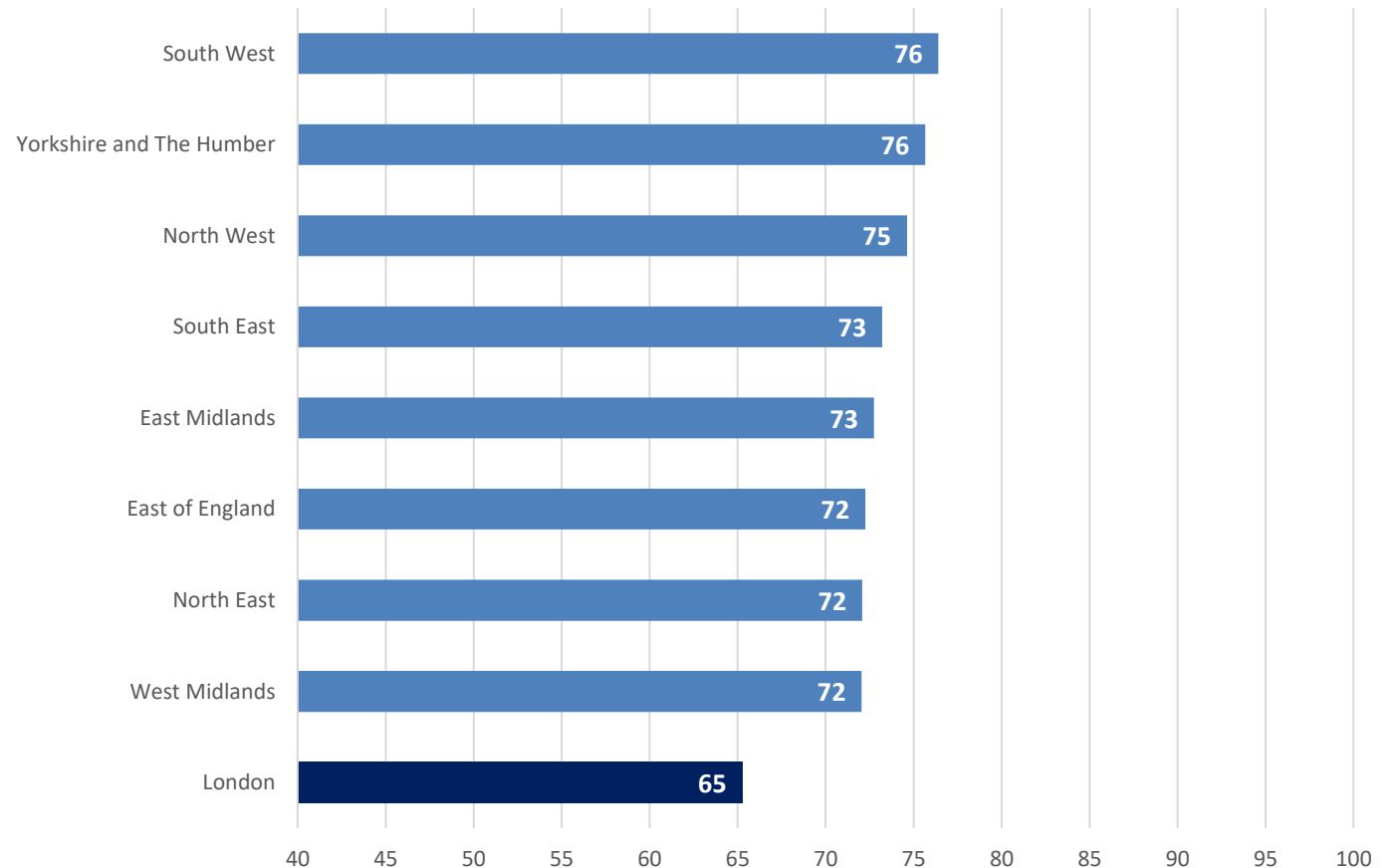
Percentage of adults who agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together, by region, 2021/22



Chatting to neighbours

- Londoners (65%) report chatting to their neighbours at least once a month substantially less than those in the other regions of England (72-76%)
- Across England, 16-24 year olds (48%) do this the least whereas those aged 65-74 do this the most (85%), closely followed by 75+ (84%).
- Across England, White people (75%) do this most, followed by Asian people (67%), and more so than Black people (54%), Mixed people (62%) and people from Other ethnic groups (59%).
- Across England, people living in rural areas (81%) do this more than those in urban areas (70%).

Percentage of adults who chat to their neighbours at least once a month, by region, 2021/22



5. Civic engagement and social action

This next section focuses on whether adults aged 16+ in England have participated in civic engagement and social action.

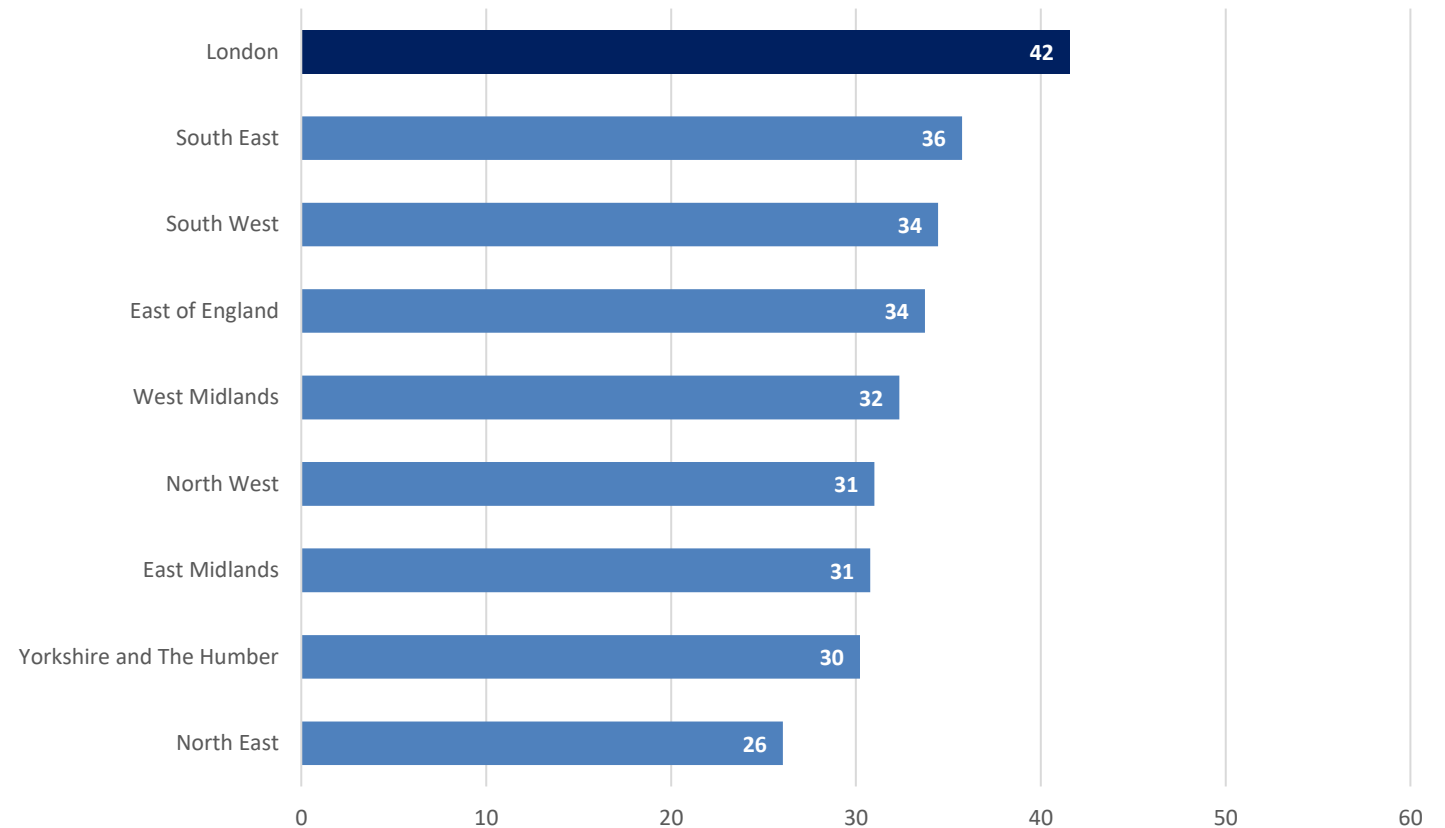
Headline measures (London) – 2021/22

- 31% of respondents agreed that they could personally influence decisions in their local area.
- 15% of respondents had been involved in social action.

Civic participation at least once in the last year

- Around a third of respondents across all regions have participated in civic activities in the last 12 months.
- London had the highest proportion participating amongst all regions, at 42%, compared to a range between 26% for the North East and 36% for the South East.
- Across England, 37% of those living in the 20% least deprived areas (according to the IMD) completed civic participation in the past year compared to 27% of those living in the 20% most deprived areas.
- Females in England (36%) are more likely to engage in civic participation than males (32%).

Percentage who have completed civic participation in the last 12 months, by region, 2021/22

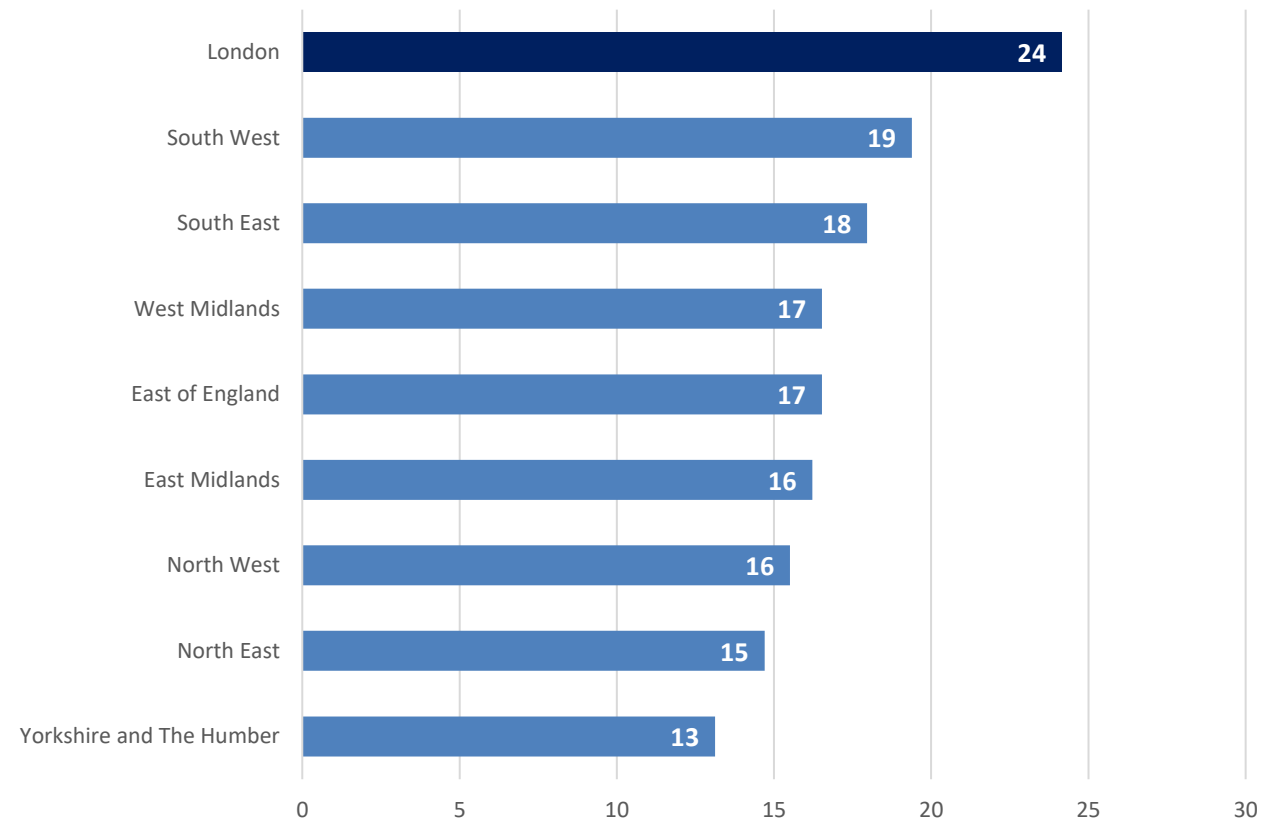


Note: Civic participation refers to engagement in democratic processes, both in person and online, including signing a petition or attending a public rally (does not include voting).

Civic consultation at least once in the last year

- Around a quarter of Londoners (24%) have engaged with civic consultation in the last year.
- Civic consultation is least likely in Yorkshire and the Humber (13%).
- Black people are most likely to engage in civic participation (25%), whilst White people are least likely to engage (17%).

Percentage of adults who have done civic consultation at least once in the last year, by region, 2021/22

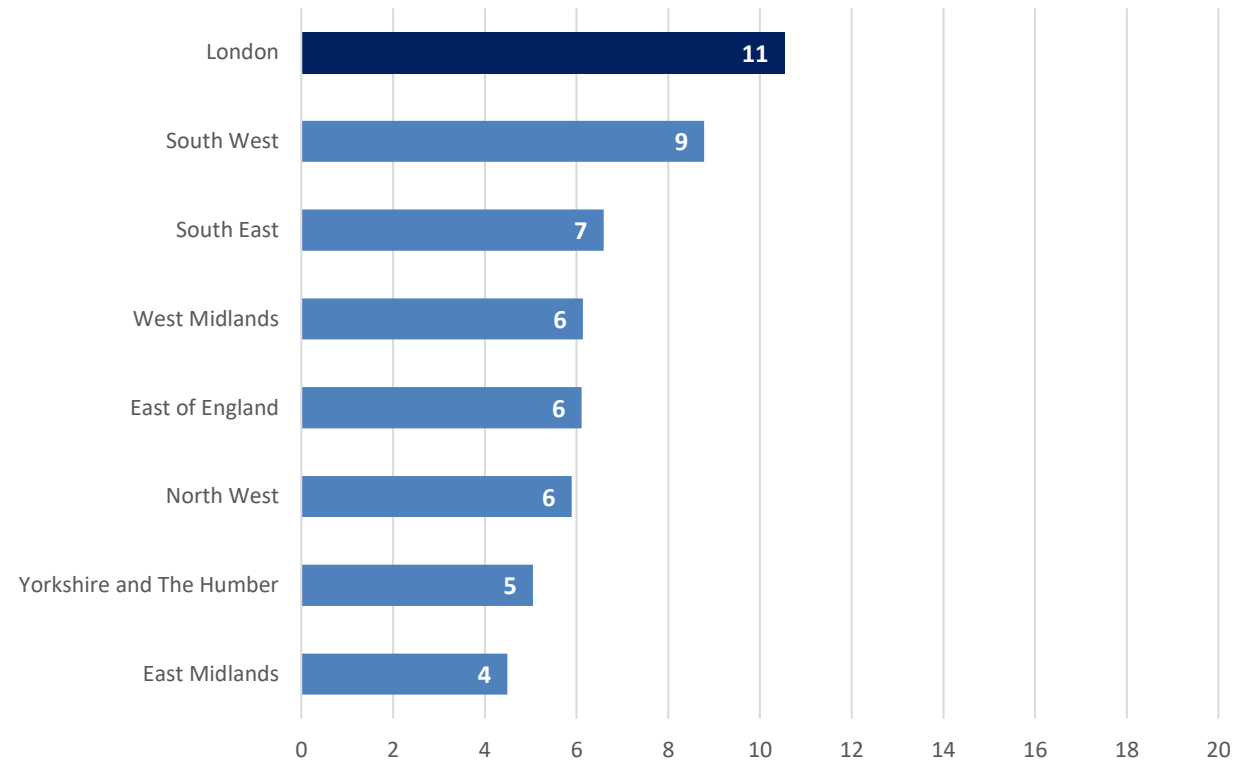


Note: Civic consultation refers to taking part in consultations about local service, both in person and online.

Civic activism at least once in the last year

- Londoners (11%) are more likely to engage in civic activism in the last year compared to all other regions in England (4-7%) except for the South West (9%).
- Across England, Black people (14%) were more likely to engage in civic activism than White people (6%).

Percentage who have done civic activism at least once in the last year, by region, 2021/22



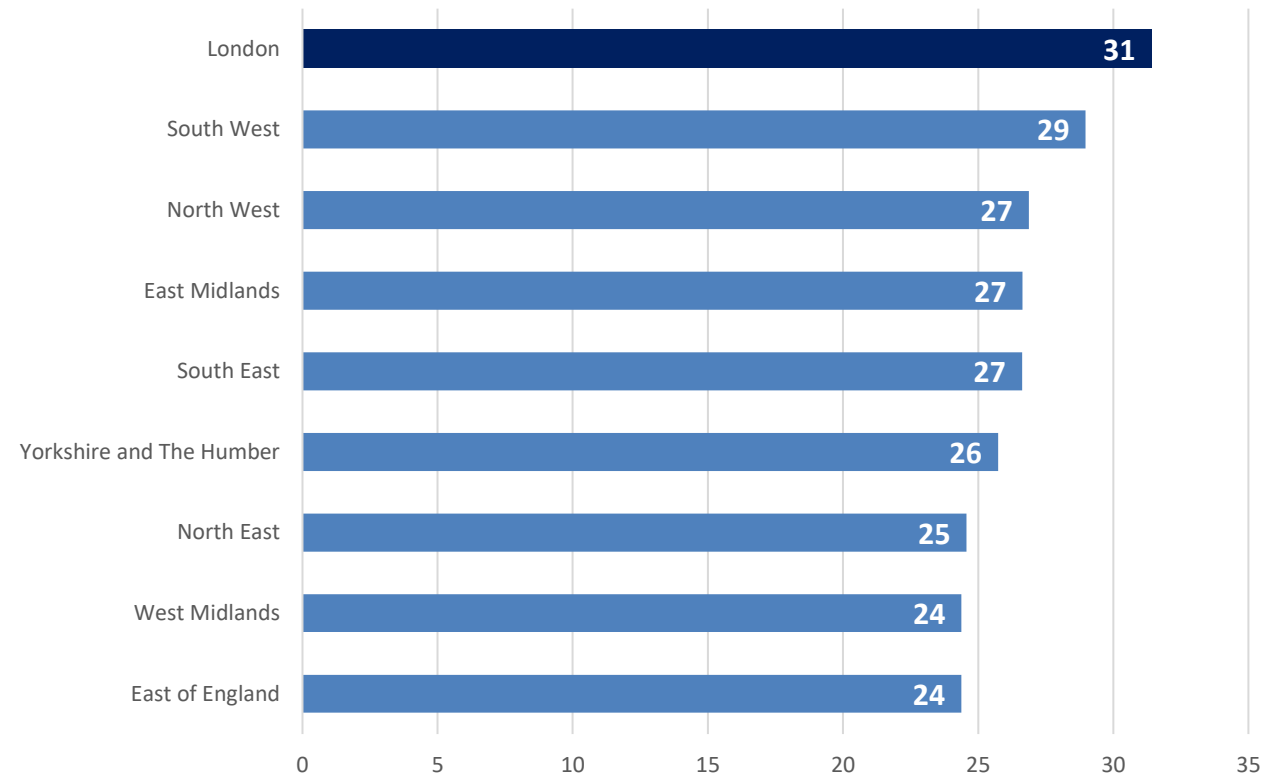
Note: Civic activism refers to Involvement in decision-making about local services, both in person and online. Some responses options, such as being a local councillor or school governor, were not presented as options to those aged under 18.

Note: data for North East has been suppressed due to low sample size (<30).

Agreement on personal influence on decisions affecting local area(s)

- A greater proportion of Londoners (31%) feel they can personally influence decisions in their local area, which compares with the regions where the smallest proportions of people feel this, namely the East of England and West Midlands (both 24%).
- Across England, Black people are far more likely to agree they have a personal influence (51%) compared to White people (25%), Asian people (34%) and people from Other ethnic backgrounds (30%).

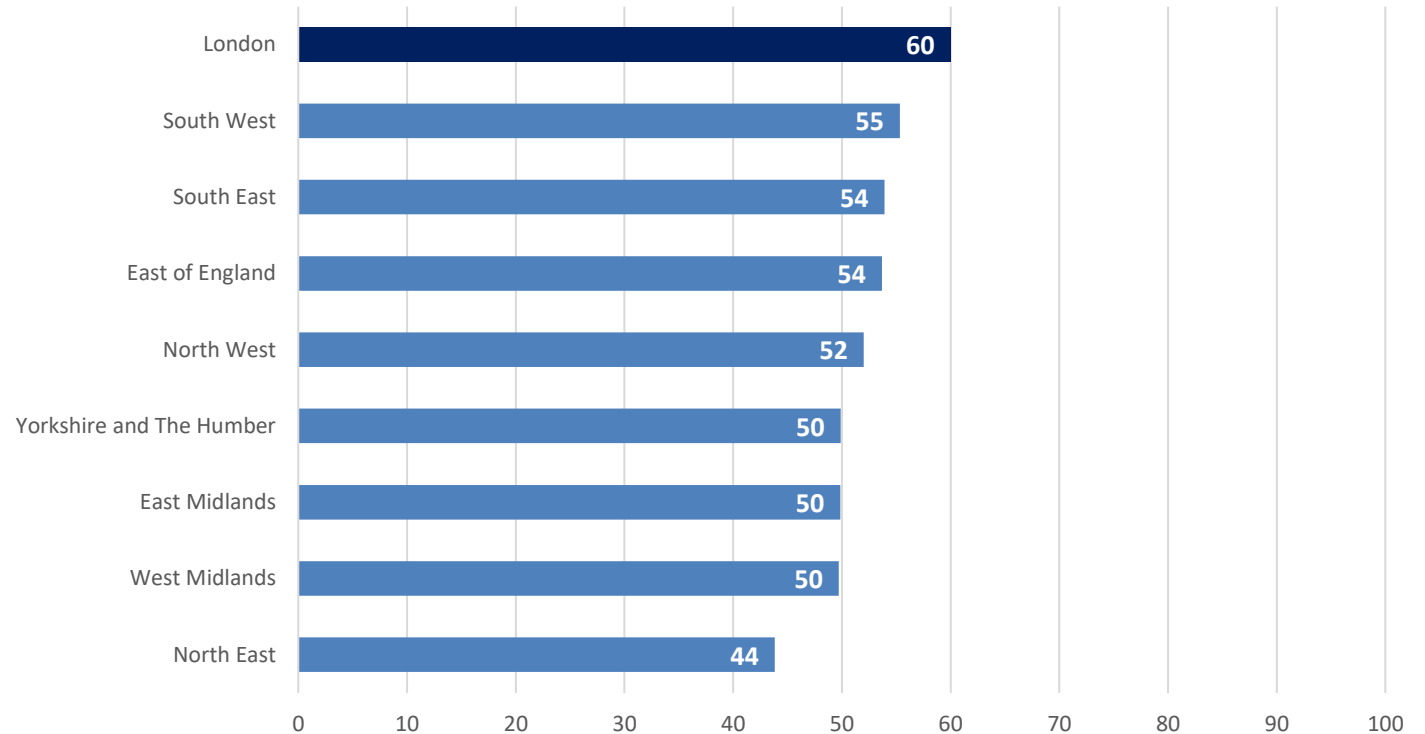
Percentage of adults who think they can personally influence decisions in their local area, by region, 2021/22



Importance of the ability to influence decisions in local area(s)

- A greater proportion of Londoners (60%) agree it is very/quite important to be able to influence decisions in their local area than those in the North East (44%).
- Across England, Black people (67%) were most likely to agree it is very/quite important, compared to White people (52%).
- 16-24 year olds (40%) are least likely to think influencing local decisions is very/quite important, compared to those aged 65-74 (60%).

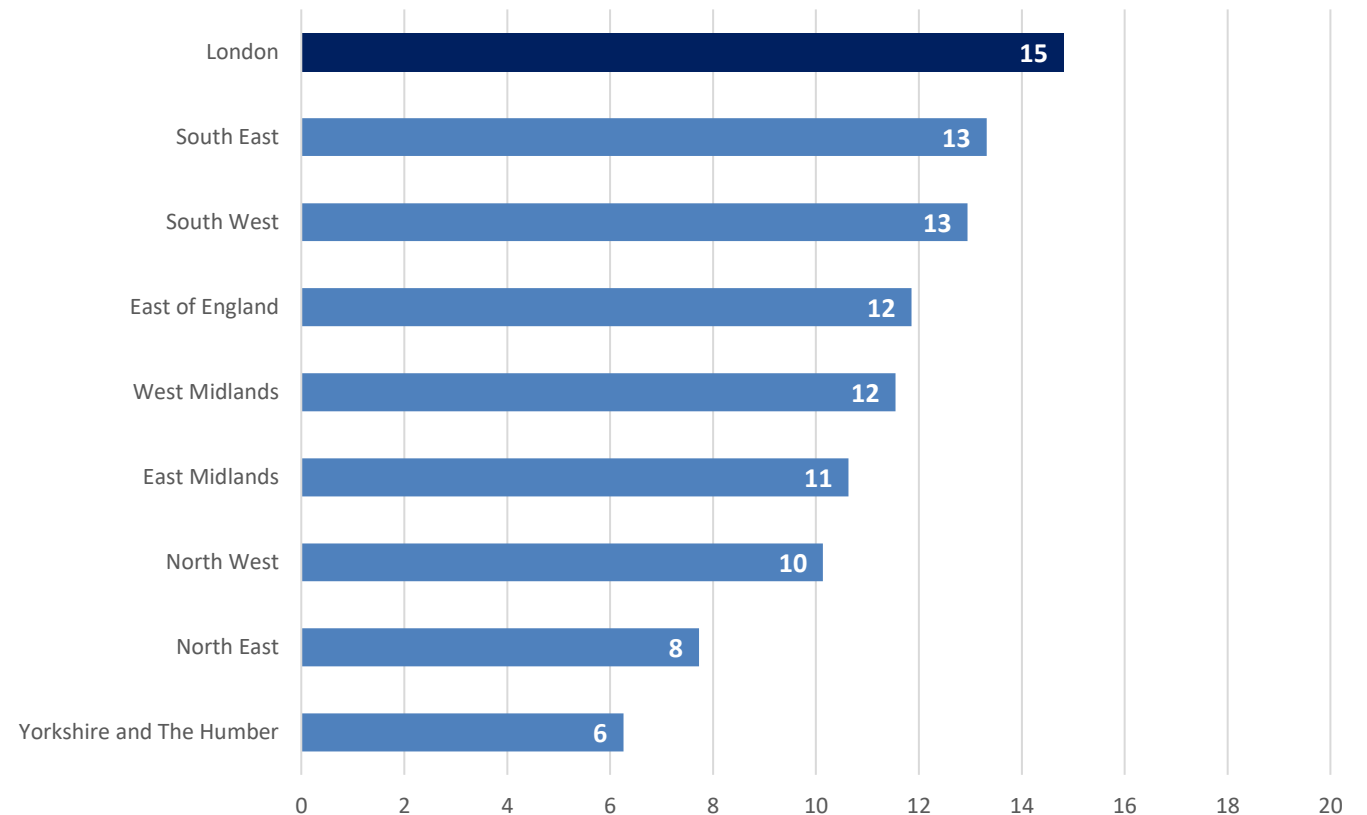
Percentage of adults who agree it is very/quite important to be able to influence decisions in their local area, by region, 2021/22



Involvement in social action in the last year

- Londoners are most likely to have engaged in social action (15%), as well as the South West (13%) and South East (13%). This contrasts to Yorkshire and The Humber (only 6%).
- Those living in rural areas (16%) are more likely to have been personally involved than urban areas (11%).
- People across England aged 65-74 are most likely to have been involved (15%), compared to only 8% of 16-24 year olds.

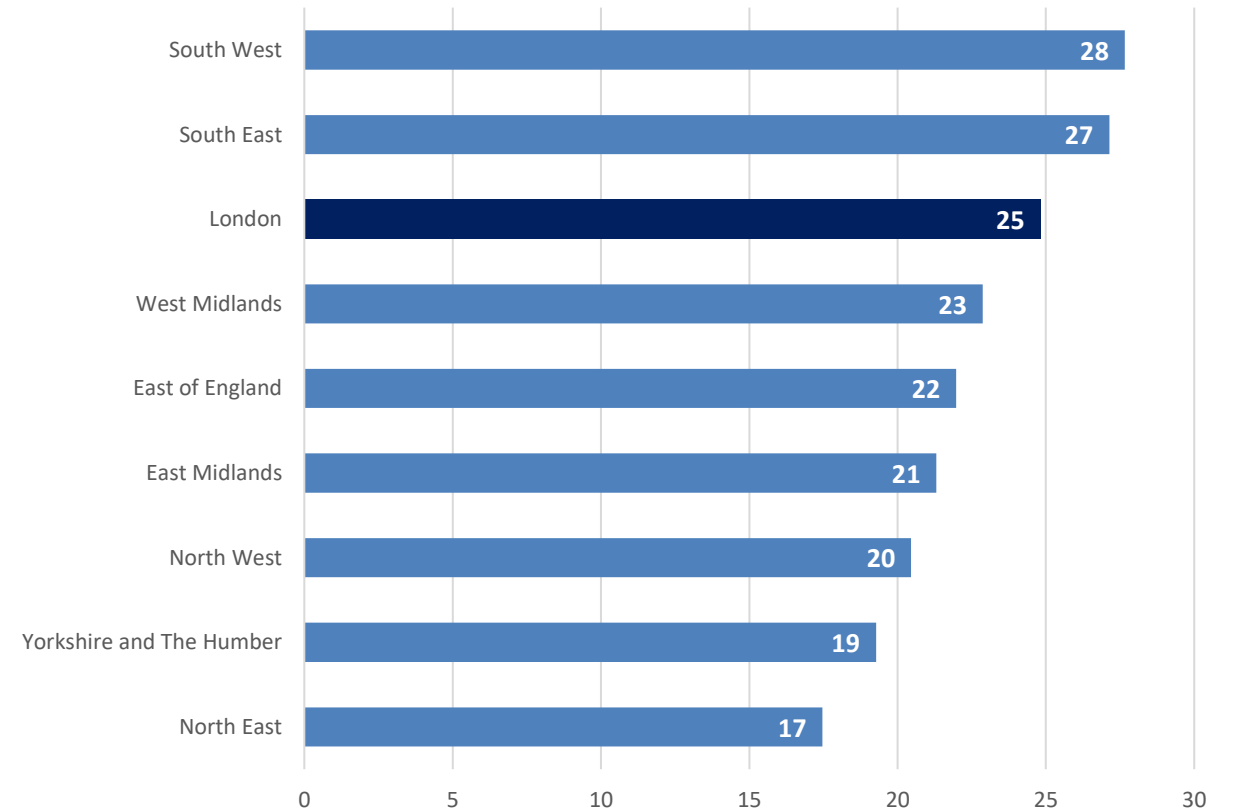
Percentage of adults personally involved in social action in the last 12 months, by region, 2021/22



Awareness of others in local area(s) getting involved in social action

- 23% of people in England are aware of others in their local area getting involved in social action.
- 25% of Londoners are aware, whilst 27% of those in the South East and 28% in the South West are aware. This contrasts to only 17% of the North East.
- Across England, those aged 16-24 were least aware (16%) compared to those aged 65-74 (29%).
- Asian (16%) and Black people (16%) were the least likely ethnic groups to be aware, compared to 25% of White people.

Percentage of adults who were aware of people in their local area getting involved in social action, by region, 2021/22



6. Volunteering and charitable giving

This final section presents information about whether adults aged 16+ in England have volunteered and given to charitable causes.

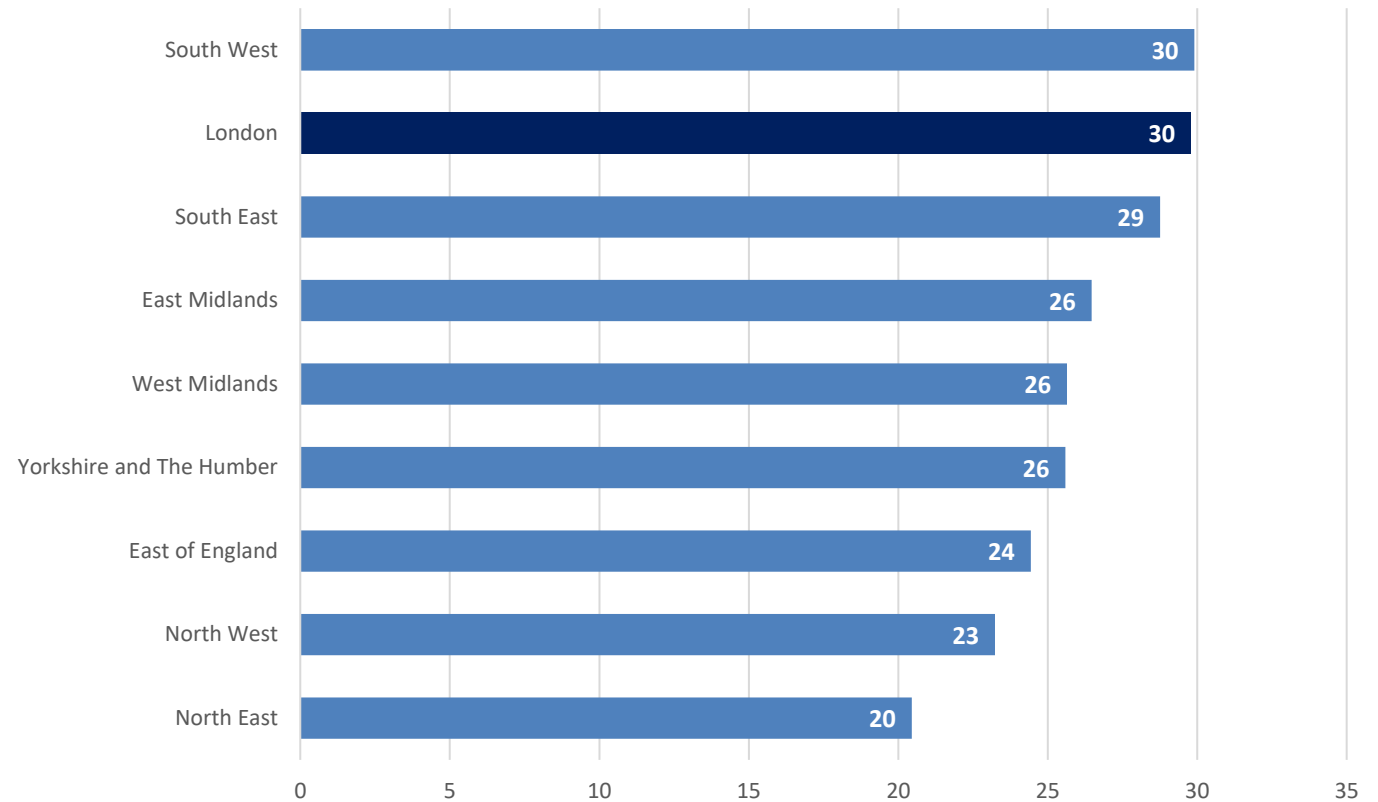
Headline measures (London) – 2021/22

- 30% of respondents have done formal volunteering in the last year and 16% in the last four weeks
- 48% of respondents have done informal volunteering in the last year and 27% in the last four weeks

Formal volunteering in the last year

- 30% of Londoners formally volunteered in the last year
- Those in the South West (30%) and South East (29%) are more likely to have formally volunteered in the last year than those in the North West (23%) and the North East (20%).
- Across England those from rural areas are more likely to engage (33%) compared to those in urban areas (25%).
- Formal volunteering was highest amongst the 20% least deprived (according to the IMD) at 35% compared to the 20% most deprived at 19%.

Percentage of adults who have engaged in formal volunteering in the past year, by region, 2021/22

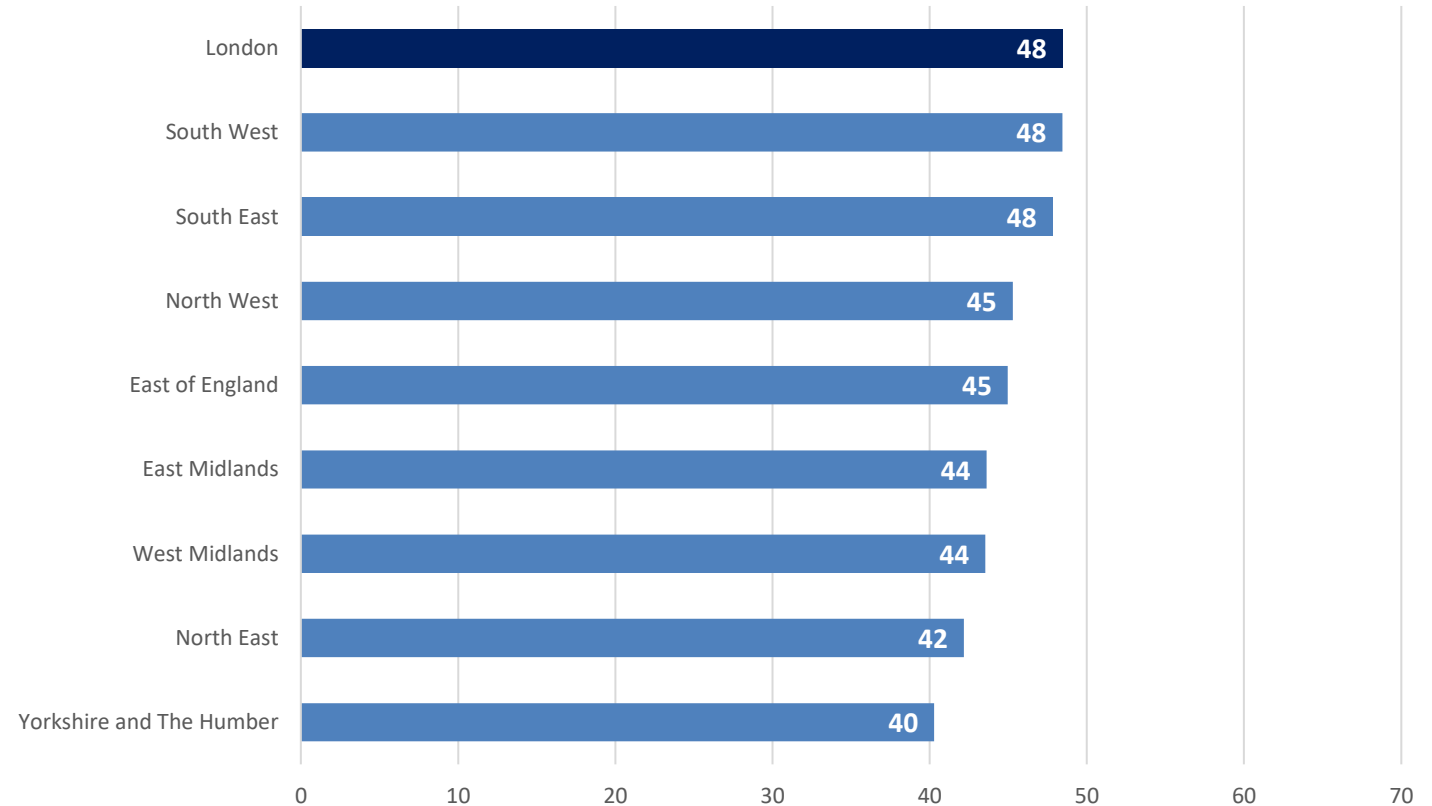


Note: Formal volunteering refers to giving unpaid help through clubs or organisations

Informal volunteering in the last year

- Just under half (48%) of Londoners have engaged in informal volunteering in the past year, which is equal to the South West and South East as the regions with the highest rates in England.
- Across England, females are more likely to have engaged (49%) than males (42%).
- Those aged 65-74 are most likely to have volunteered (52%) in contrast to the least likely age group, 16-24 year olds (38%).

Percentage of adults who have done informal volunteering in the past year, by region, 2021/22

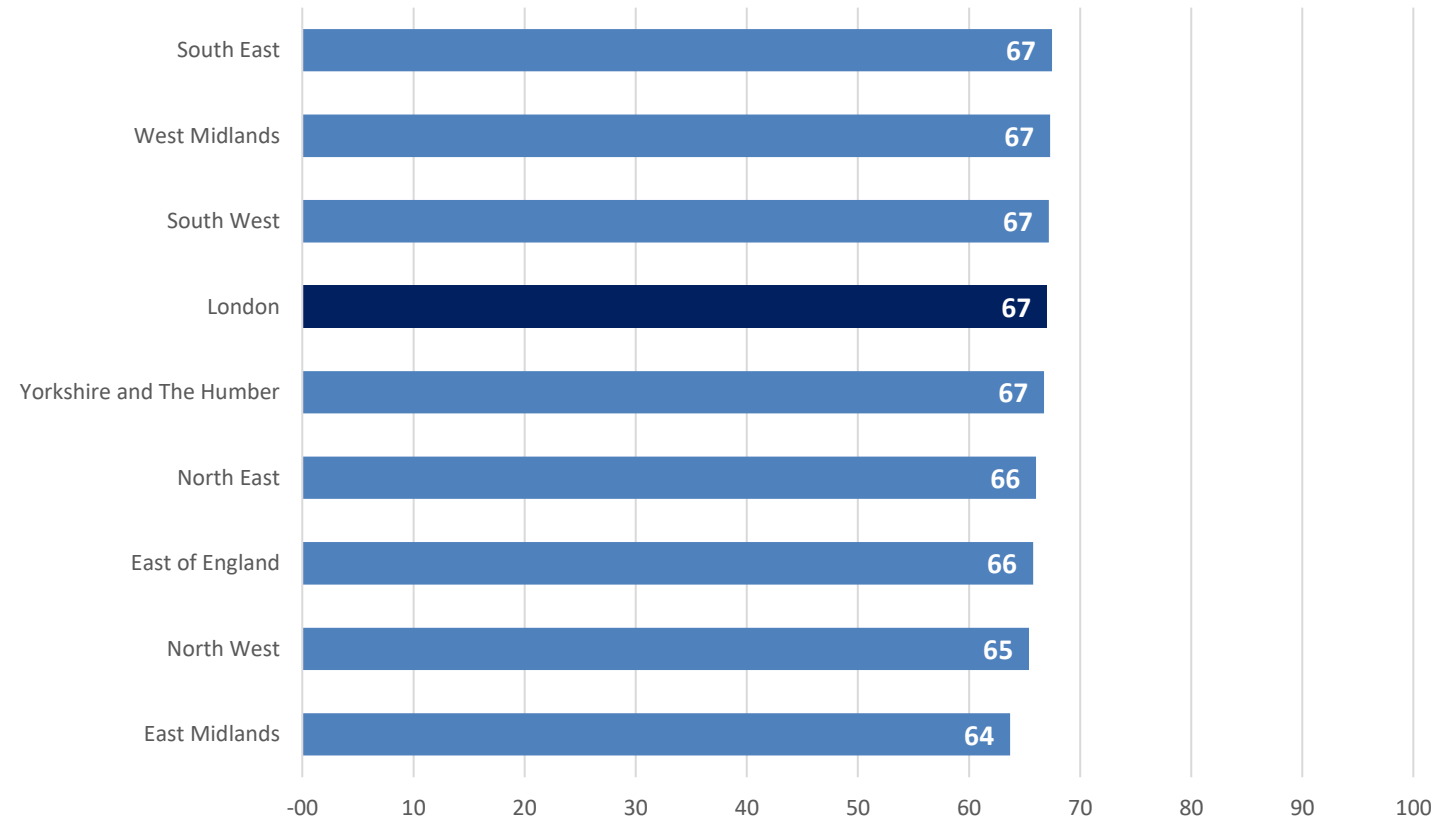


Note: Informal volunteering refers to giving unpaid help to individuals who are not a relative.

Donations to charitable causes in the last four weeks

- 67% of Londoners have given to charitable causes in the last four weeks, similar to all the other regions.
- Females are more likely to have donated (72%) than males (61%).
- Those in rural areas (71%) are more likely to have donated than those in urban areas (65%).
- Those aged 65-74 were most likely to have donated (78%), whilst those aged 16-24 were least likely to have donated (48%).

Percentage of adults who have given to charitable causes in the last four weeks, by region, 2021/22



7. Conclusions

- These findings, taken from the 2021/22 Community Life survey which ran from October 2021 to September 2022, generally show Londoners have good social networks and support groups.
- Londoners are among the most likely to communicate with friends and family over text and instant message in England and are the most likely to communicate over email or write than any other region in England.
- Londoners are amongst the most involved in civic activism, civic consultation, social action, and influencing their local area.
- However, Londoners are the least likely region to feel a sense of belonging to their immediate neighbourhood, to talk to their neighbours, and to feel satisfied with their local area.



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