

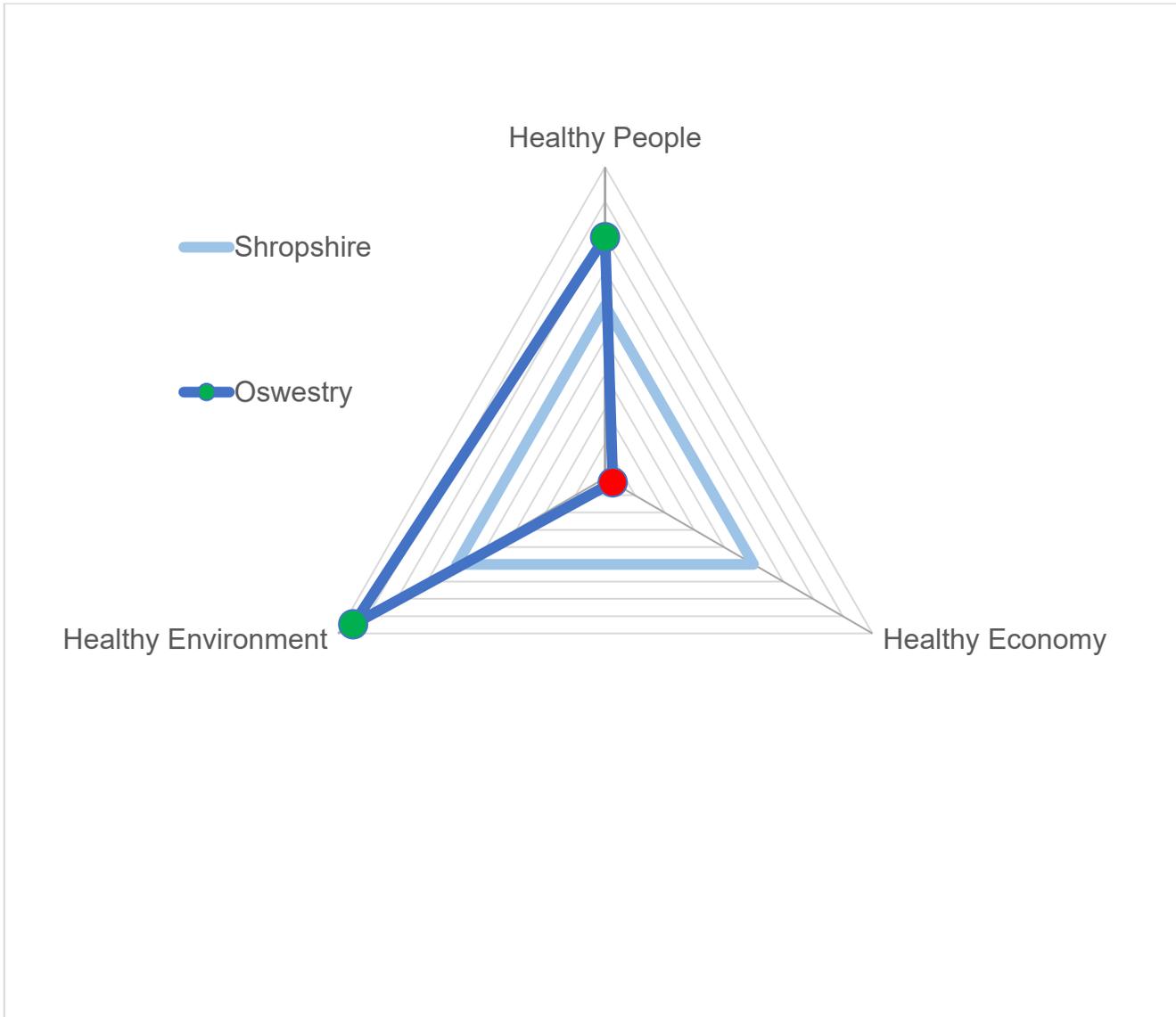
Oswestry Place Plan Area



Oswestry Key Facts

- Oswestry is in the Northwest of Shropshire and is one of the largest communities in terms of area at over 25,000 hectares and in terms of a population of around 43,000 citizens. Despite this, Oswestry actually has a population density of 1.7 persons per hectare – only the Shrewsbury and Highley place plan area have a higher ratio.
- Between 2002 and 2020, the population grew by 21.5%. The average age of residents is 44.
- In the 2020 population estimates, 16.9% of Oswestry PPA were aged 0-15, compared to 16.3% in Shropshire, whilst 24% of Oswestry PPA were aged 65+, which is higher than the 25% in Shropshire, compared to the 59.1% who are aged 16-64 (58.7% in Shropshire). This gives a ratio of 0.69 in Oswestry for those dependent (0-15 and 65+) on those considered independent (16-64) and this is just below Shropshire (0.7).
- Based on data between 2013 and 2017, Oswestry has a lower life expectancy for both males (80.0) and females (83.4), compared to Shropshire (80.5 and 84.1 respectively)
- Of the 18 place plan areas, Oswestry has the 6th highest overall deprivation score,
- According to Household income data for 2020, Oswestry has a significantly higher percentage of households in the lower income bands (up to £30,000) compared to both Shropshire and England. The data also shows that Oswestry has the 4th lowest median gross household income levels and the 2nd lowest median affordability ratios.
- Between 2001 and 2019, there were nearly 7,500 births in the Oswestry place plan area, 352 in 2019.
- As of July 2021, the majority of Oswestry residents are registered at Oswestry medical practices, but there are a small number registered at practices that are based in other place plan areas. For this reason, a calculation was devised to aggregate out practice-based information to place plan areas. This can't be done for the several thousand people who appear to be registered at practices in Wales.

Oswestry Health and Wellbeing Index Overview



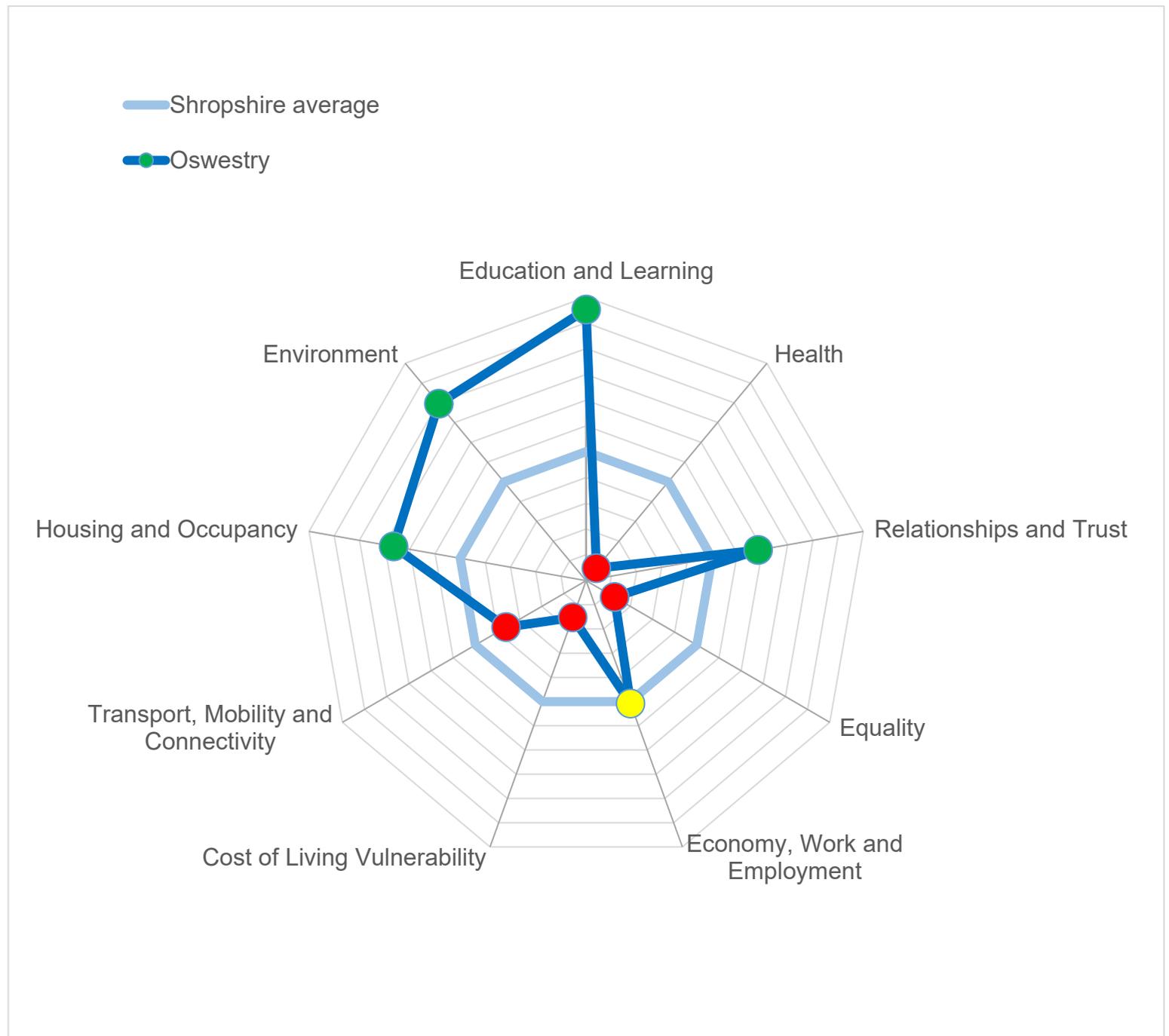
Better than the Shropshire average in terms of **Environment** measures and **People** measures

Worse than the Shropshire average for measures relating to **Economy**

This graph provides more detail to the previous slide.

This shows where Oswestry is **stronger** or **weaker** in terms of specific themes within the high-level categories.

For example, whilst overall Oswestry is around average for measures of economy, work and employment, it is **weaker** specifically in terms of Transport, Mobility and Connectivity, **health**, equality, and cost of living vulnerability and **stronger** in measures of **education and learning, relationships and trust, housing and occupancy and environment.**



Oswestry Health and Wellbeing Index Detail

Rank of Oswestry compared to Shropshire's 18
Place Plan Areas (1 = best, 18 = worst)



Top Strengths:

Education and Learning
e.g. Air Quality

Economy, Work and Employment
e.g. Median Income

Housing and Occupancy
e.g. Affordability

Top Challenges:

Health
e.g. Life Expectancy

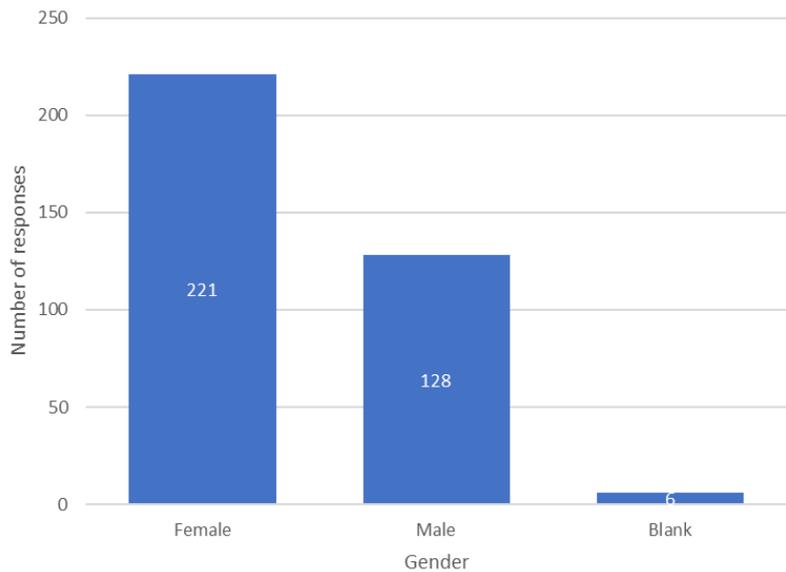
Relationships and Trust
e.g. Crime Rate

Cost of Living Vulnerability
e.g. Fuel Poverty

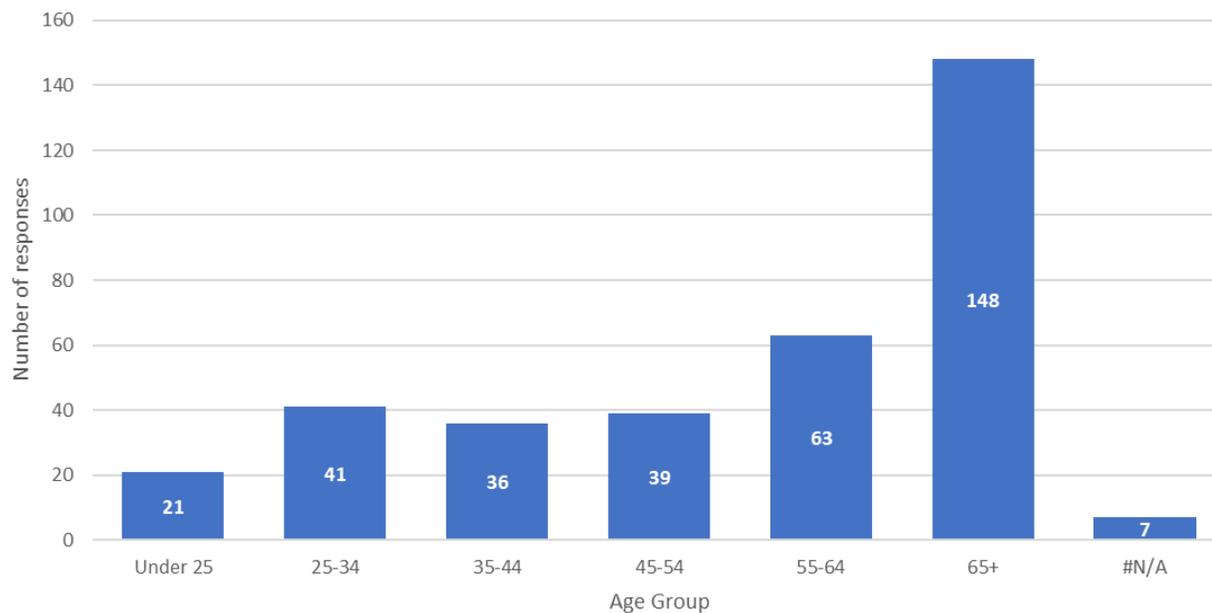
Overview of Survey Results

Ward based on the postcode supplied	
Chirk North (Wrexham)	2
Chirk South (Wrexham)	1
Ellesmere Urban	2
Gobowen, Selattyn and Weston Rhyn	38
Ketley & Overdale	1
Llandysilio (Powys)	4
Llangyniew and Meifod (Powys)	1
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant and Llansilin (Powys)	1
Llanymynech	22
Loton	1
Oswestry East	25
Oswestry South	15
Oswestry West	18
Ruyton and Baschurch	3
St Martin's	89
St Oswald	25
Tern	1
Whittington	22
Wrenbury (Cheshire)	1
#N/A	83
Grand Total	355

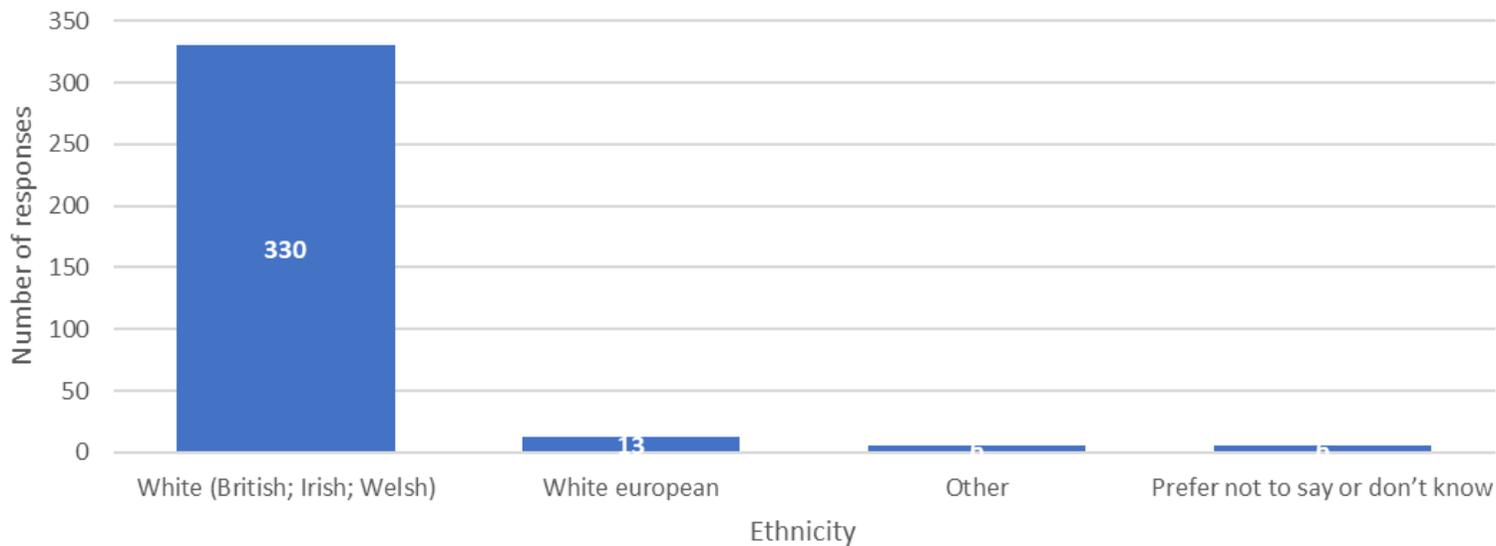
Gender



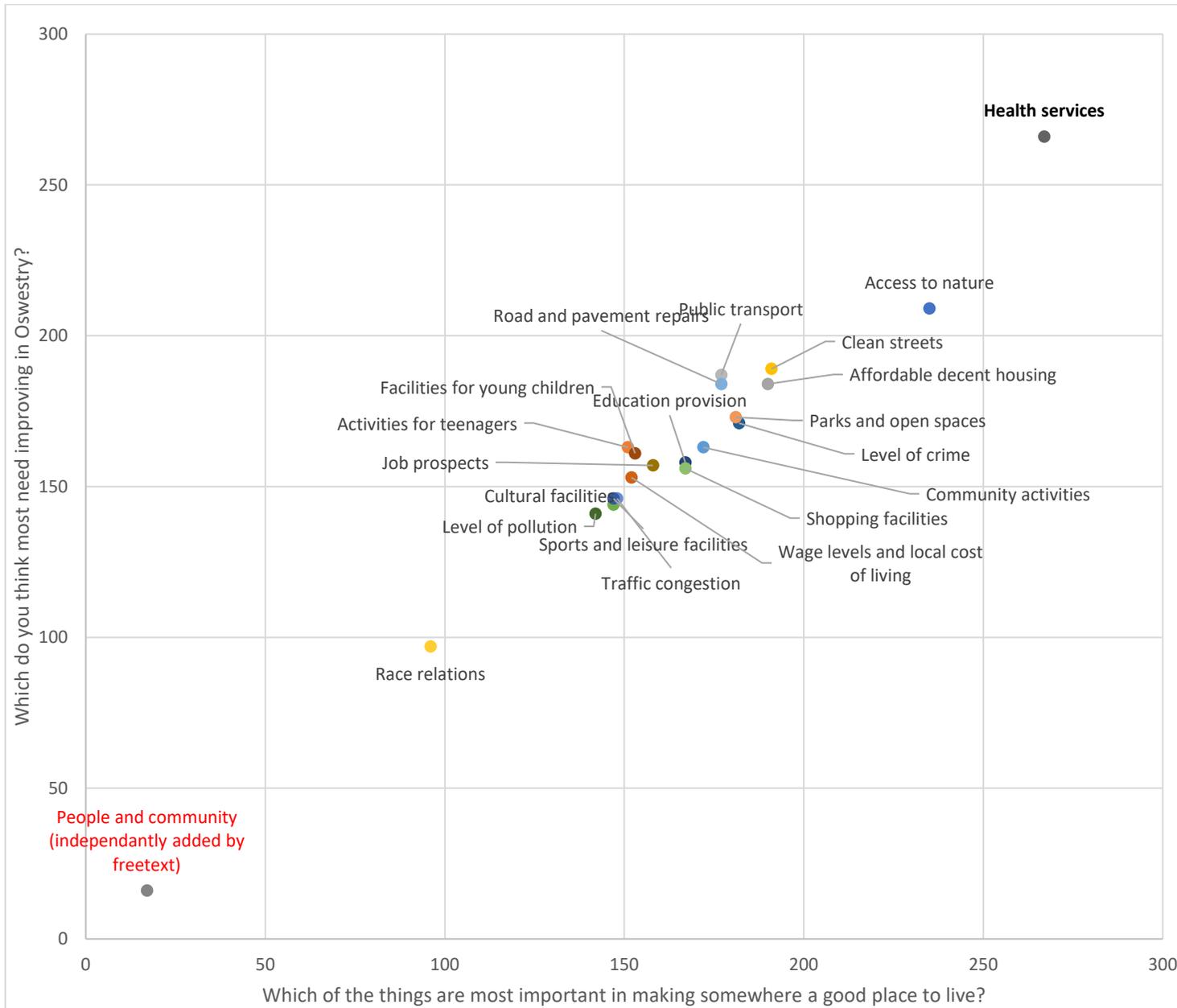
Age Group



Ethnicity

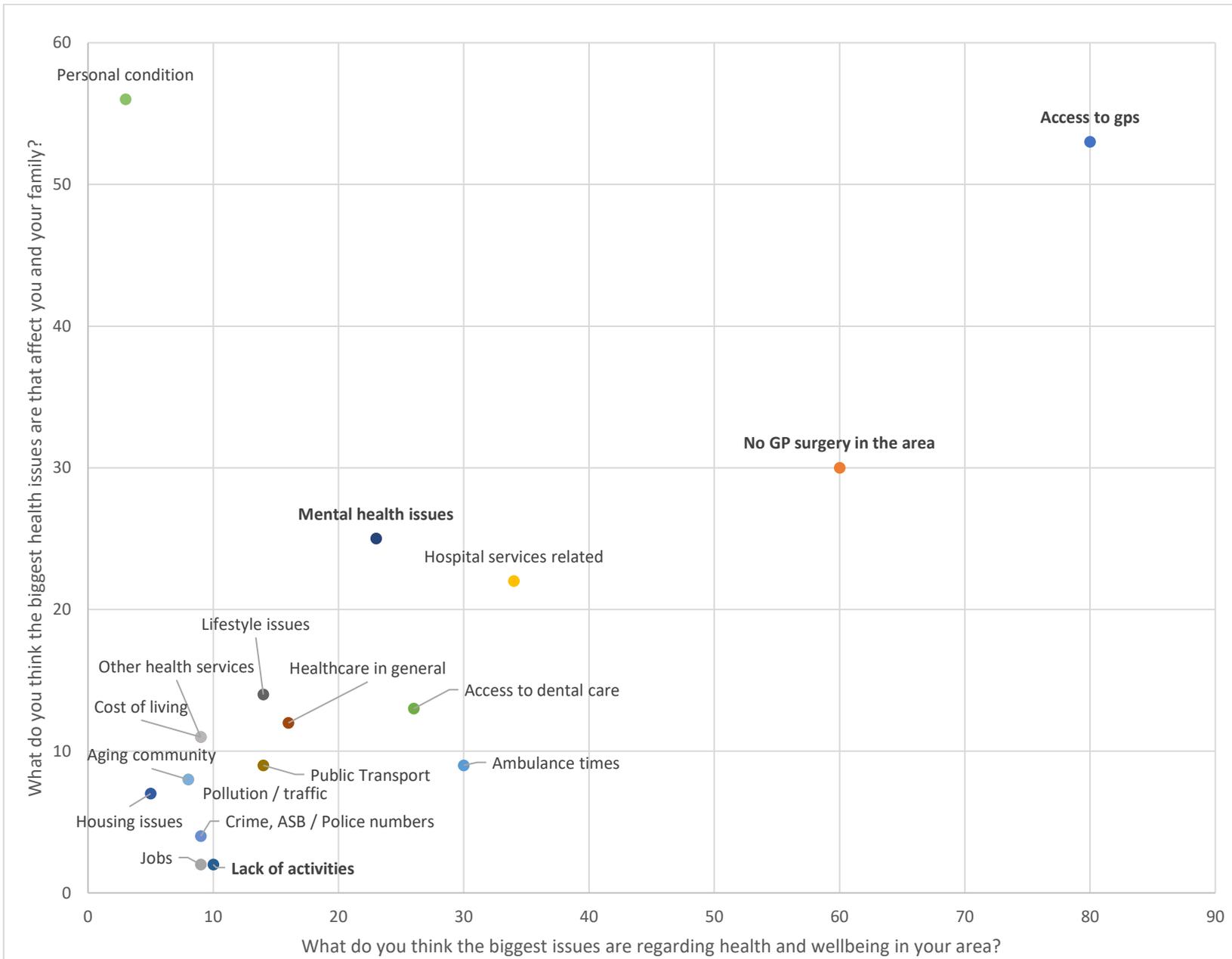


What makes a good place to live vs What needs improving in Oswestry



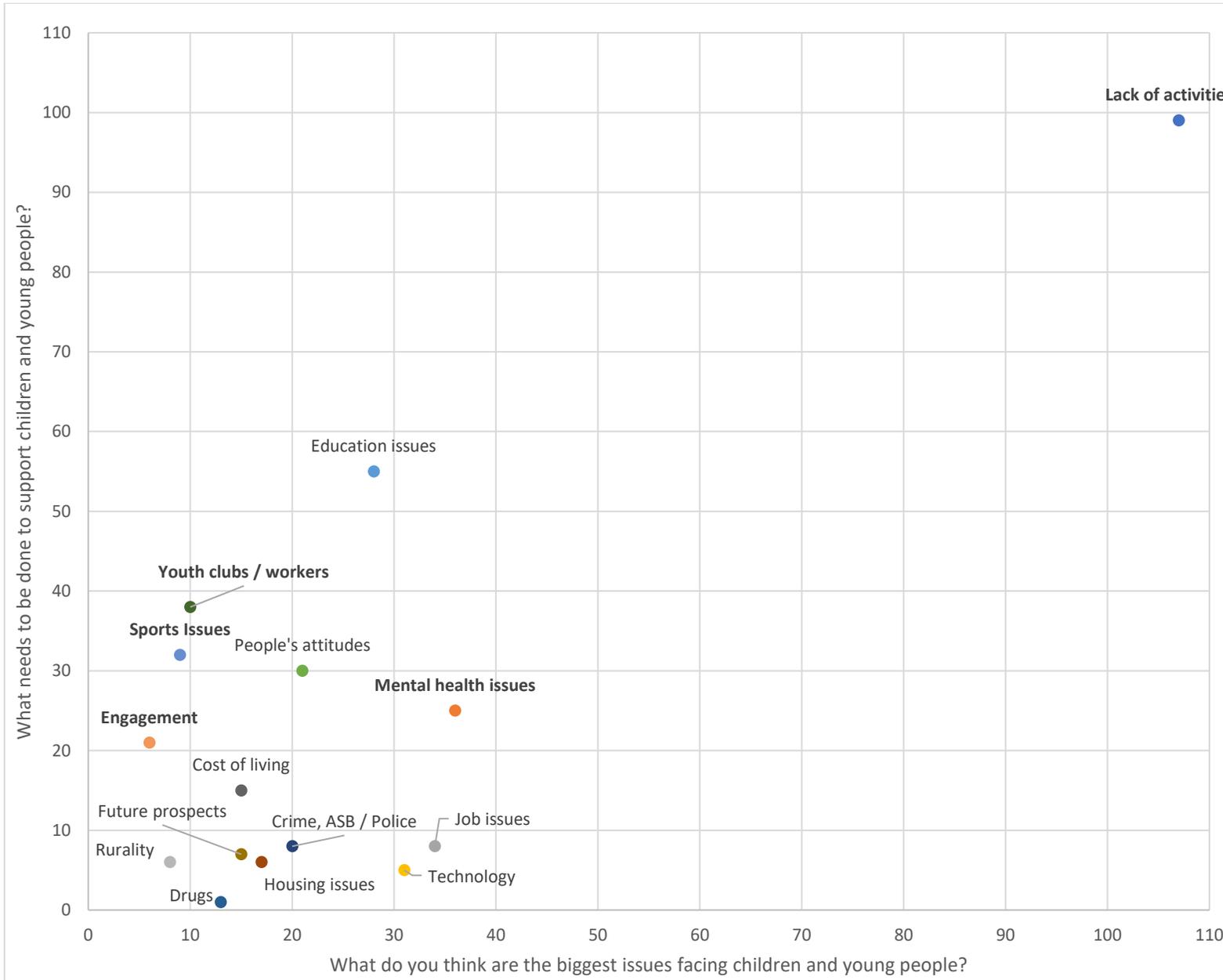
**OSWESTRY
FOCUS THEMES
IN BOLD**

Biggest health and wellbeing issues – Oswestry area vs personally and for family



**OSWESTRY
FOCUS THEMES IN
BOLD**

Biggest issues facing Children and Young People vs What needs to be done



**OSWESTRY
FOCUS THEMES IN
BOLD**

Focus Theme 1 - Access to services and capacity

- The top theme of what is important to Oswestry residents in terms of making an area a good place to live in, and in term of what can be improved in Oswestry was “Health Services”.
- Also, overwhelmingly the consistent issue raised around needs at both a community and personal/family level was access to GP services, with an issue raised being the closure of a practice. While the majority of Oswestry place plan area’s 43,000 residents are registered at the Oswestry Medical Practices, there are a large number who are registered in Wales, with approximately 4,000 who were registered with Chirk medical practice which had a branch surgery in St Martin’s, which has now closed.
- Access to other health services were frequently mentioned too – hospital services, mental health, dental and ambulances.
- Whilst Oswestry has similar geographical access to a GP as to Shropshire overall via public transport/walking and car, it has above average access to a major town centre, with associated benefit in terms of public transport, employment, and shopping (which featured fairly highly as characteristics of a “good place to live” by Oswestry survey respondents). However, Oswestry is one of the largest place plan areas at 25,000 hectares so not everyone has the same level of access.

“Haven’t got a surgery in the village and desperately needs one. If you don’t drive, public transport is difficult to get to Chirk”

““Lack of doctors surgery and public transport. Nearest surgery Chirk - nearest bus stop for Chirk around a mile. I am 78 years old, suffering from arthritis and cancer and cannot walk more than a few yards with the aid of a stick. I am not alone - many local residents have similar problems. It is not acceptable in a village of this size not to have access to medical facilities, particularly with the number of new houses currently being built. Why wasn’t the provision of surgery premises mandated in the plans of one of these new estates in order to attract or retain a GP practice?””

“No maternity services in Oswestry, had to deliver in Telford. No NHS dentistry in Oswestry.”

Bus Route from St Martin's to Chirk Surgery -

According to Google Maps, in order to get the required bus from St Martin's to the Chirk surgery requires a 0.5 mile walk to get to the bus stop and the total journey would be around 20 minutes

The screenshot displays a Google Maps interface with the following details:

- Start:** St Martin's
- Destination:** LL14 5DH, Chirk, Wrexham
- Mode:** Leave now
- Options:** Send directions to your phone
- Route 1:** 9:43 AM - 10:02 AM, 19 min. Includes a 13 min walking segment from Beech Trees.
- Route 2:** 10:25 AM - 10:58 AM, 33 min. Includes Transport for Wales service.
- Explore LL14 5DH:** Restaurants, Hotels, Bars, Coffee, More.

The map shows the route starting at St Martin's, heading west to Beech Trees, then north along the Chirk Bypass (A5) to Chirk, and finally south to Chirk Surgery (LL14 5DH). Key landmarks include St Martin's School, Chirk Bank, and the River Ceiriog.

Focus Theme 2 – Mental Health

- Besides access to healthcare, the next highest health and wellbeing issue identified in Oswestry was Mental Health, at both community and personal level and for children and young people.
- In our engagement survey mental health issues in the area mentioned by respondents included the lack of mental health services for both adults and young people, loneliness (particularly for the elderly), isolation, pressure on young people (including from social media), anxiety.
- Oswestry has a prevalence rate for depression amongst over 18's of 16% - the 3rd highest of communities in Shropshire and significantly higher than the county average.

Biggest issues regarding Health and Wellbeing:

"Mental health, rural stress, isolation and pressure on young people."

"Mental health, children's services, access to help with ADHD, autism etc"

"The stress of rising costs of living and impact on emotional health"

Biggest issues facing children and young people:

"Academic pressure to succeed, the long-term effect of social isolation through pandemic on emotional growth, worries about climate crisis."

"Lack of jobs in the area. Covid having an effect. Not being able to do what they want to do, depression and mental health issues"

"Lack of mental health education and understanding in a world that is changing to fast for even adults to grasp. Lack of social meetings since covid."

Focus Theme 3 – Children and Young People

- While “Activities for Teenagers” was only down as the 9th most selected areas that most needs improving in Oswestry according to the respondents, in the subsequent question regarding the biggest issues facing children and young people, the overwhelmingly most mentioned things were around there being a lack of activities or youth services or out of school, and these things were also subsequently brought up in the question about what needs to be done to support children and young people.

Areas of concern were split into some key themes:

Lack of activities & things to do

- Overwhelming response from the survey as the biggest issue facing children and young people was a lack of activities and things to do, with a lack of out of school activities, lack of youth clubs / youth workers, lack of support and safe places to go also heavily mentioned. Several people also mentioned that boredom led to unsociable / criminal behaviour. Several people also mentioned the lack of activities in their rural area. Issues with accessing sport / leisure facilities were also mentioned separately.
- Whilst 70% of all respondents said they did not face challenges to being active in their daily life, some of the other frequent mentions in the survey for issues for younger people included too much time on technology, drug prevalence, bullying and feeling anxiety and isolation.

“Lack of early intervention and youth services. This leads to bigger problems which cost more to tackle and wastes young people's lives. Also, poverty.”

“More activities for young people, maybe based around getting young people together to solve issues in their community, to help them feel invested in their town?”

“Refund youth activities - always seems to be the first thing that gets cut.”

Sports Facilities and Exercise levels

- Within the survey data, another theme identified as being needed were issues around the exercise, with a few people mentioning that young people weren't doing enough exercise, or there being lack of sports facilities available outside of school, or those that were requiring public transport to get to. In the 5 years combined national childhood measurement programme data for year 6 children, Oswestry place plan area had 63.2% of children of healthyweight while 35.8% of year 6 children were either overweight or very overweight – for these that puts Oswestry as significantly worse than Shropshire and the 2nd worst place plan area.
- In the survey, nearly 80% of respondents didn't indicate any challenges to eating healthily, but of some of the ones that did, the lower cost of junk food compared to health food, together with convenience were factors.
- In the survey, around 70% of respondents didn't indicate challenges to being active, with the majority of people saying that their underlying conditions, or mobility or age were restrictive. The work life balance was also suggested, as were the cost of sports facilities, while a few people mentioned that a lack of safe areas (particularly cycling) were factors.

Opportunities for engagement

- While some of the survey data mentioned lack of respect from children to adults, several responses indicated the reverse, with adults not listening or respecting young people and there were also numerous mentions of young people needing good role models.

"More activities for young people, maybe based around getting young people together to solve issues in their community, to help them feel invested in their town?"

"More volunteers to help with them and for the volunteers to get involved with activities with them."

"Need to be less condescending with them and listen to them with what they want and need"

"Older people need to take more of an interest in young people and understand them more"

Focus Theme 4 – Child and Maternal Health

- Within data collected Oswestry place plan area has come out significantly worse than Shropshire overall in a number of indicators related to child and maternal health
- In the 5 years combined national childhood measurement programme data (2014/15 to 2018/19), in the reception year, Oswestry place plan area was slightly worse than Shropshire overall, but not significantly, for healthyweight (76.9% compared to 77.3%) and overweight or very overweight (22.8% compared to 22.1%). However, in the year 6 age group, Oswestry place plan area was significantly worse than Shropshire overall and was the 2nd worst place plan area for children of healthyweight (63.2% compared to 68.2%) and those that were either overweight or very overweight (35.8% compared to 30.7%).
- In 5 years of SATH maternity data (2016/17 to 2020/21), the percentage of mothers smoking at time of delivery (16.5%) and at the booking appointment (17.6%) were significantly higher in Oswestry place plan area compared to Shropshire overall (12.8% and 14% respectively), which put Oswestry as the 3rd worst place plan area.
- Also from this maternity data, breastfeeding initiation in Oswestry (76.1%) was statistically similar to Shropshire but was slightly lower (79.3%), while at the booking appointment slightly more mothers aged 18 or over were very overweight in Oswestry (27%) than Shropshire (24.1%), although those that were healthyweight were very similar (43.7% and 43.8%).
- Oswestry was the 6th most deprived place plan area in the overall index of multiple deprivation, but in the sub-domain looking at income deprivation affecting children index, it was the 5th most deprived area.

Group Discussion

1. What is happening around each priority already?
2. How are we working with the local population?
3. Recommendations?