

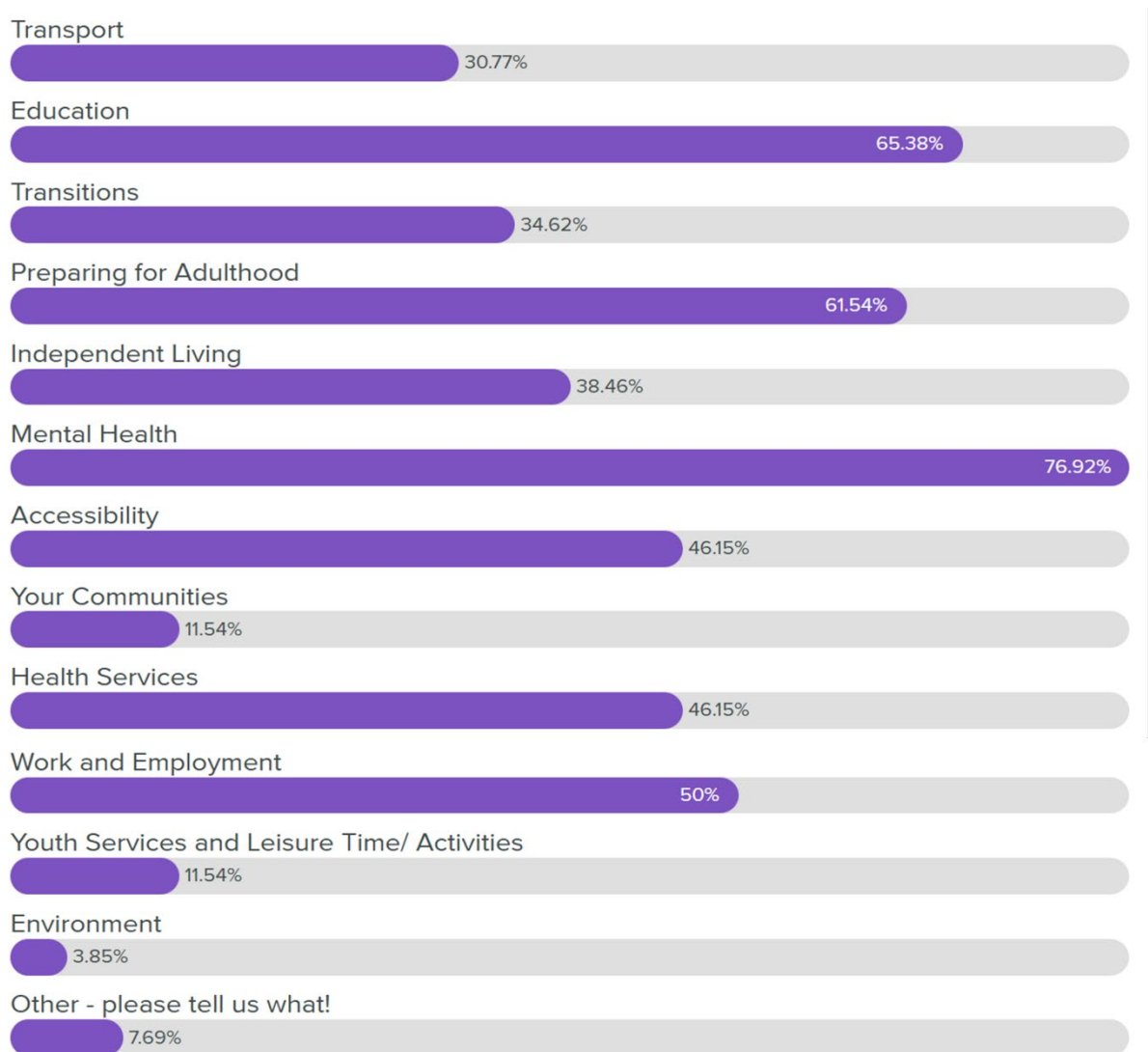


Collective Get T★gether

Young People's Priorities

A steering group made up of young people provided some broad level topics that young people may be interested in.

Young people chose their top 5 most important topics – the things they really want a say on, to make changes and make things better.



Opportunities for development

- Kids to review opportunity for policy work in areas that young people have said is important to them.
- Kids support young people to take a lead on the 'speak up' agenda using the information gathered as a starting point to develop future campaigns.



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Young People's Priorities

As outlined in the image above, results for an overall top 5 were:

- 1) Mental Health
- 2) Education
- 3) Preparing for Adulthood
- 4) Work and Employment
- 5) Joint – Health Services and Accessibility

What things are important to you under these topics?

1) Mental Health

- People with SEND are at a much higher risk of mental health issues and there is limited support in this area. And where support is in place it is nearly impossible to get access. Especially SEND specific and neurodivergent support.
- Mental Health need to understand hidden disabilities and how it affects their future
- Be able to support me with the right support
- Have neuro-diversity training
- Not set up to support autistic people
- CAMHS being more understanding of neurodivergence and mindful what is shared with parents
- Validation
- Education
- Reduce stigma
- Adjusting environments
- Access to treatment
- Support for change
- More trained school staff around mental health
- Reducing waiting times
- Flexible with money spent in the health services

2) Education

- Child and parental choice
 - Don't limit education – age range and accessibility
 - Ensure transport is available
 - Put in place the support people need - more flexible in approach to meeting needs
 - Reasonable adjustments shouldn't be one size fits all
 - Accessibility
 - Suitability
 - Peers and staff educated on SEND
 - Transitions
 - Adjustments
 - Not just ending EHCP – a plan for the future
- Kindly supported by



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- Schools are very subject based with little to no life skills such as budgeting, cooking and cleaning
- The school system isn't always suited for young people and they fall through the cracks – like those with autism or some who might be more able but need help

3) Preparing for Adulthood

- Support for budgeting
- Life skills
- Appropriate support for different needs
- Independent living (real life)
- Additional lessons
- Adult services vs children's services
- Don't get real life skills in schools
- Need support in leaving school and what to do next
- Work experience needs to be real experience and independent living experience should be real. We don't learn when it's not real and we are set up to fail

4) Work and Employment

- Accommodations and adjustments. Tailored support
- Flexibility
- No discrimination
- Safe working environment
- Work experience
- Volunteering experiences
- Job centre support is not appropriate / doesn't work. Should be individualised and tailored support
- More awareness of good programmes like supported internships and apprenticeships
- Support to find a job and apply for a job

5) Joint – Health Services and Accessibility

- Shorter waiting lists
- Follow ups and check ins
- Reasonable adjustments and safer environments
- Don't charge for hospital parking or in disabled bays
- Don't segregate disability services
- Better training for medics – talking to young people themselves

Additional activity found that other 'hot topics' of importance to young people included:



Department
Education



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Young People's Priorities

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Planning
- Funding and how to challenge
- NHS waiting lists
- 'The Budget'
- MP for SEND
- More help for charities (in general and to deliver services that are needed)
- More free higher education – people can't afford university but want the opportunity to go
- Cost of living crisis (cost of food, changing plans due to lack of money)
- Police officers



Young people also shared experiences that they'd had around topics. These can be used to ensure young people's views and experiences are at the heart of any speak up campaigns.