

Voices of Youth

Throughout 2025, the Bishop of Gloucester has been speaking to young people in Gloucestershire and hearing their views of the criminal justice system.

'As Anglican Bishop for Prisons, I go into lots of prisons and speak to Ministers in Parliament. We hear a lot about what would make society better and thinking about how our criminal justice system fits in is crucial.'

'I've taken time this year to listen to young people about what they think. They are the future and it's important we include their voices in policy-making. As well as an online survey I've held online and in person events speaking to young people – it was important to hear all their original thoughts and opinions.'



Survey findings



277 13-18 year olds completed the survey.



The majority of students thought the most important use for prisons is to **keep the public safe**; the next most popular answer was to **rehabilitate the offender**.



15% of students had been victims of crime.

Instead of building prisons or making sentences longer, young people thought that **reducing crime and making our communities safer could be achieved by:**



More employment opportunities for people



Tackling drug and alcohol addiction



Less than 13% of students thought that building more prisons would make our communities safer.

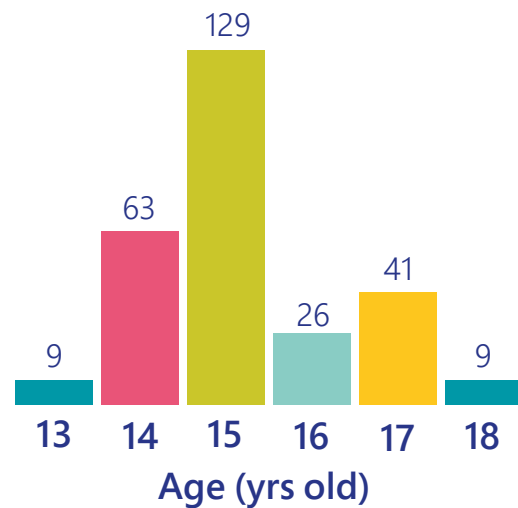


When asked what one thing they would change to make where they live better, most students prioritised **providing more facilities** for young people. The next priority for change was reducing crime.



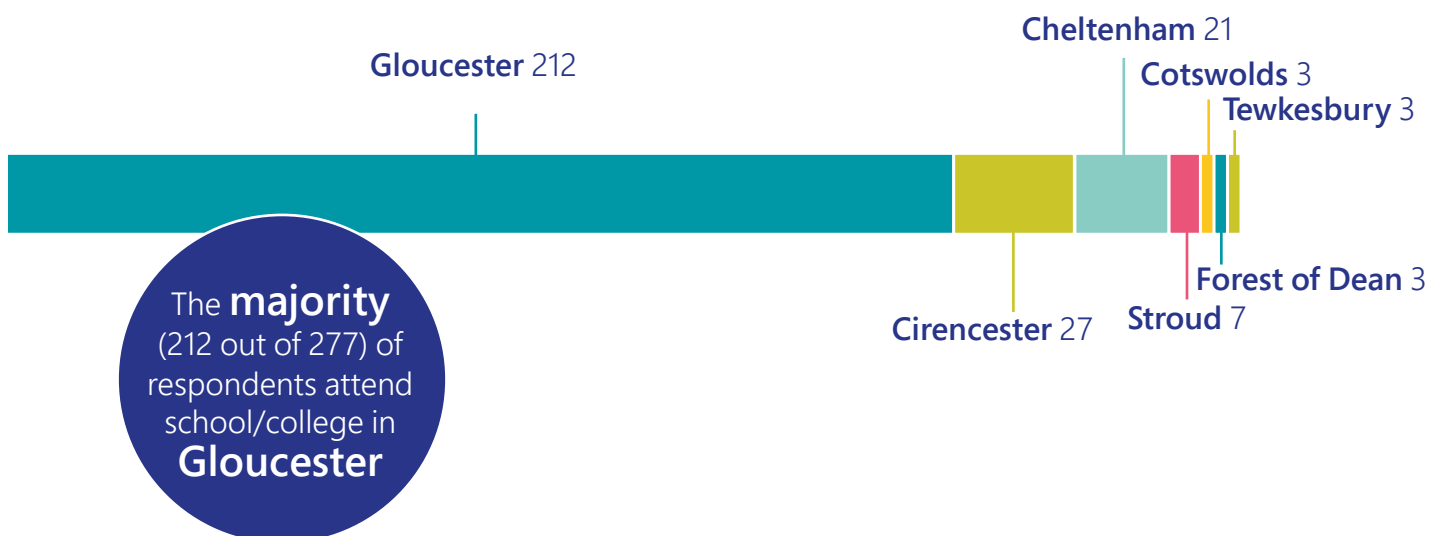
Almost all who answered a question on whether or not people who've been in prison deserve second chances said that they did.

How old are you?

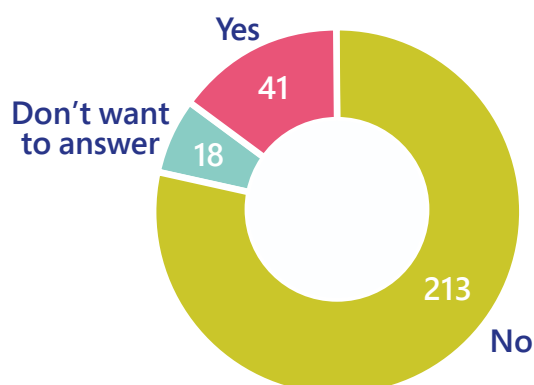


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Where do you go to school/college?

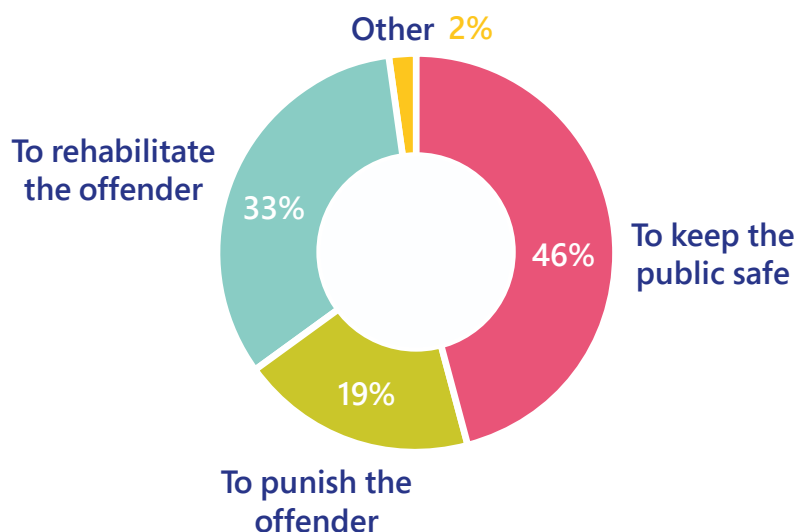


Have you ever been a victim of crime?



15%
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Prison can be used for all of these things.
Which one do you think is the most important?



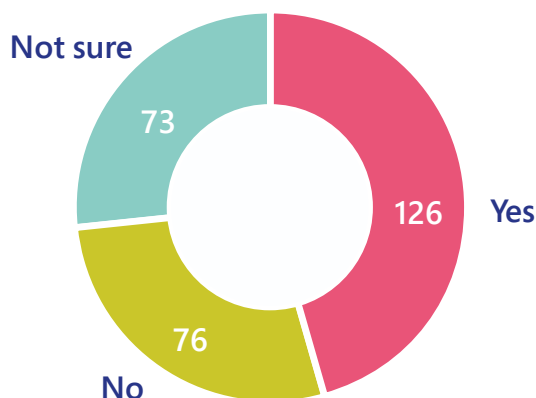
Most students thought the most important use for prisons was to keep the public safe; the next most popular answer was to rehabilitate the offender. Fewer students thought that prison's most important use was to punish the offender.

What do you think would help reduce crime and make our communities safer?

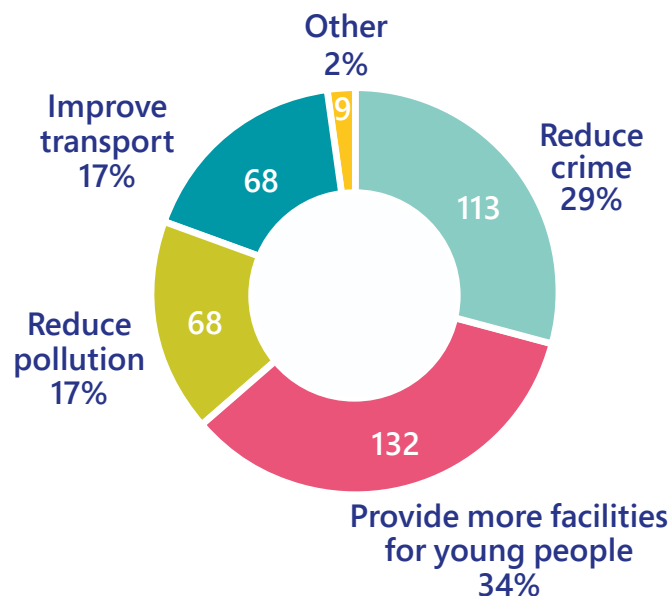


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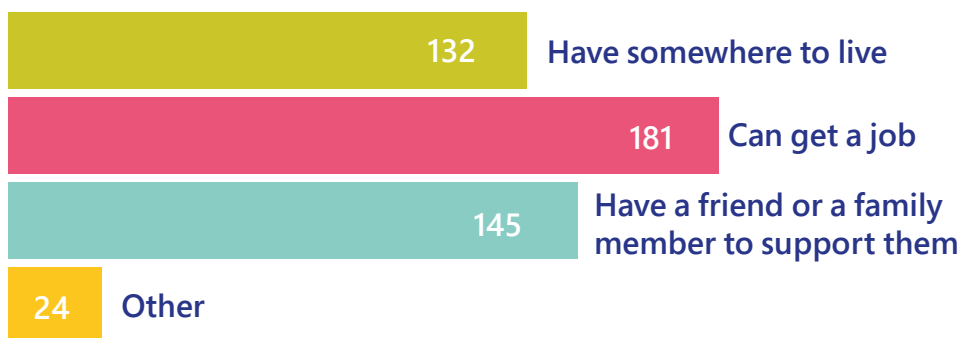
Do you think we need a different prison system for women and men?



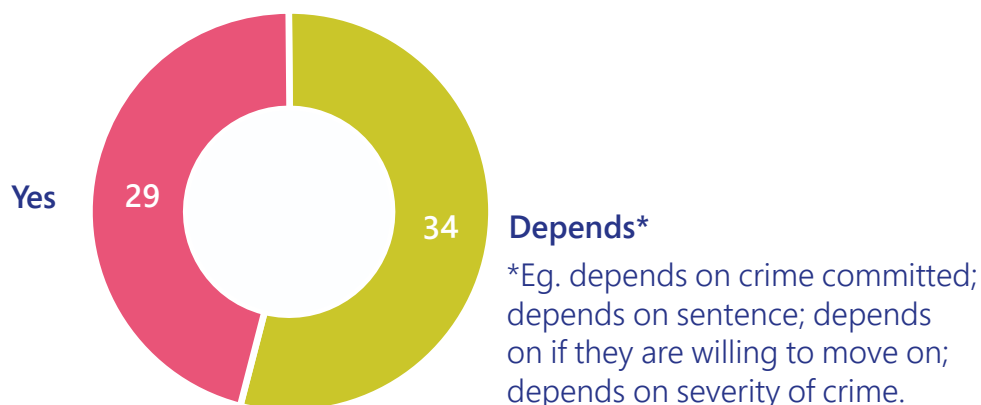
If there's one thing you could change to make where you live better, what would it be?



When someone is released from prison it is important that they:



Do you think that people who've been in prison deserve second chances?



Thank you to all the young people who took part in this survey.