

## SECTION 8: WHAT PEOPLE TELL US

There are a number of sources of information provided by the public about services and expressing their views. For the JSNA information has been drawn from the Community Survey 2013, The Healthy Lifestyles Survey 2014 and a national survey What About YOUTH? (WAY).

### Community Survey 2013

The Community Survey was last carried out in 2013 across the Borough and provides a comprehensive suite of data about people's views across a wide range of subjects from overall satisfaction with Darlington as a place to live to an individuals' view of their community, crime and leisure activities. A postal survey was completed by 5,508 people of which:

- 51% aged under 50
- 52% female
- 60% have lived in Darlington for more than 20 years
- 67% were employed full-time (at least 30 hours per week) or wholly retired from work

The full findings from the Community Survey may be downloaded using the following link.  
[Community Survey 2013](#) [external link]

### Healthy Lifestyles Survey

The Healthy Lifestyles Survey formerly the Social Norms/Healthy Behaviours survey is carried out across Darlington's Secondary schools. Since 2008 the survey has gathered information regarding drug and alcohol use by young people in seven Darlington Secondary Academies and the further education colleges - Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form and Darlington College. The responses to the survey are at a point in time and have been used to counter 'urban myths' surrounding the perceived behaviours of young people especially in relation to alcohol and drugs.

The 2014 survey included a sample of Primary schools to assess the possibilities for extending the survey across all Primary schools in the future.

Some headlines from the 2014 Survey are:

- the numbers of young people smoking has seen since a reduction since 2010 from 9% to 5.9% in 2014.
- 73% of the school population responded to the alcohol questions with 56% stating they had not had a drink of alcohol in their lifetime an increase of 19% since 2009
- 70% of respondents felt they had a balanced diet
- 9 out of 10 respondents said "it was not ok to take drugs"
- 8 out of 10 agreed that "it's not safe to take legal highs"

The next survey will be conducted in February/March 2016 to enable the results to be collated and analysed for use to plan for the new academic year in September 2016.

### What about YOUTH Survey 2014

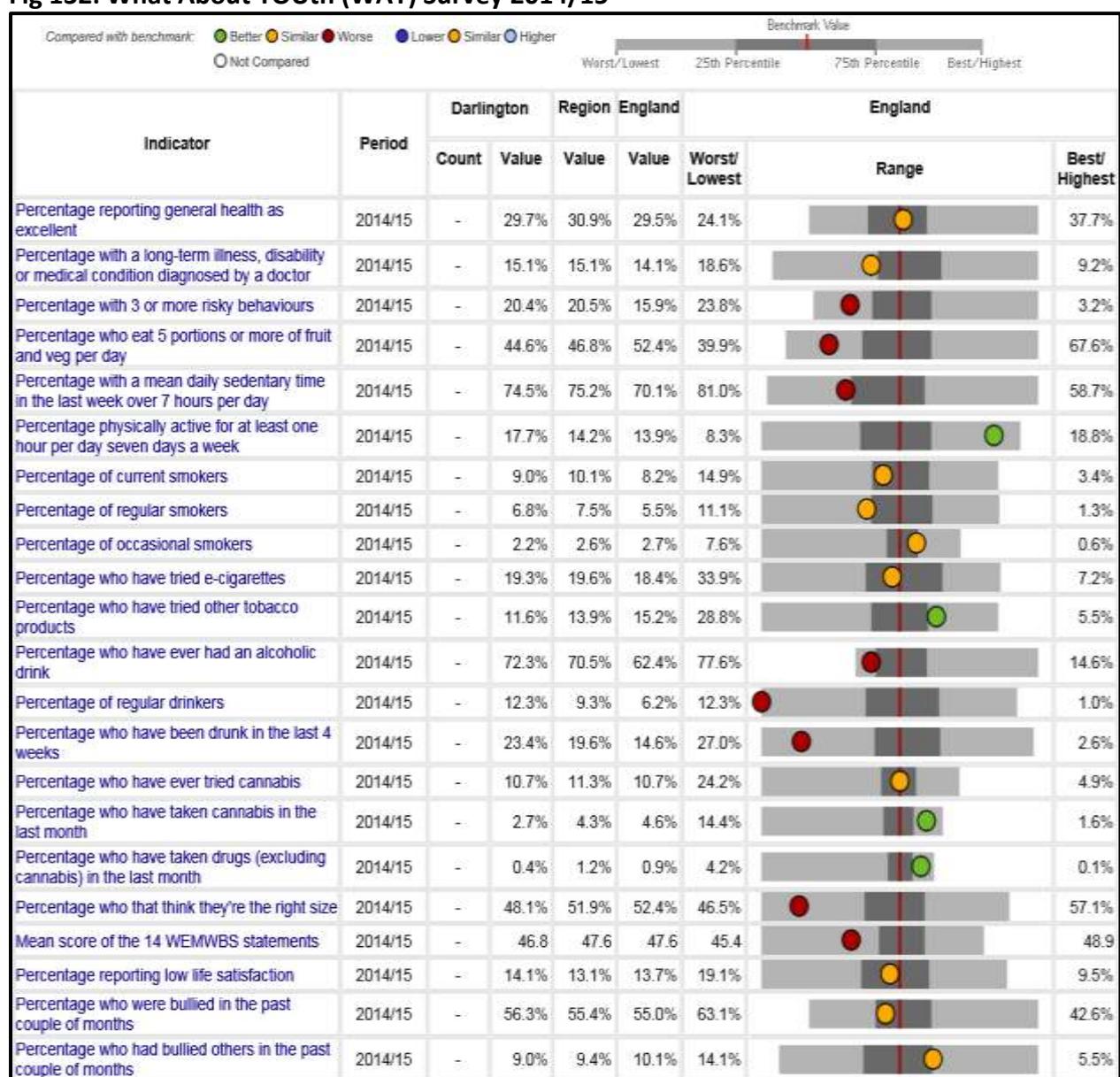
This newly established survey to collect robust local authority level data on a range of health behaviours amongst 15 year olds was conducted in response to the data gaps identified by the national Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum. The Department of Health commissioned the HSCIC to develop the survey and IPSOS Mori delivered the survey in 2014.

The sample size was substantial with 295,245 young people receiving questionnaires of which 120,115 responded with usable data; an unadjusted response rate of 41%. The majority of local authorities achieved a +/- percentage point margin of error of 95% confidence interval.

The survey was completed by individual young people without the support of a trained interviewer which causes potential impacts within the methodology. Specifically, there is some evidence from previous surveys which shows that young people appear less willing to admit to smoking or taking drugs when answering questions at home, particularly in comparison with school-based surveys. Similarly some of the questions in the survey are more difficult for young people to answer accurately when completing the questionnaire alone such as the number or portions of fruit and vegetables consumed. If the survey was being conducted via a face-to-face interview with a trained interviewer then it would be possible to give the young person some guidance on what constitutes a portion for the different types of fruit and vegetables.

The following spine chart shows the responses for Darlington compared to the England average.

**Fig 132: What About YOUth (WAY) Survey 2014/15**



The full range of data reports may be downloaded from the Public Health England 'Fingertips' website: <http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/what-about-youth>

### **Darlington Looked after Children and Young People**

Darlington Care Crew is the group for all looked after children in Darlington. It is a campaigning group as well as being involved in the development of services and providing challenge to the Local Authority.

The Care Crew has developed the Darlington Pledge to Children in Care which outlines 14 promises to all children in care by Darlington Borough Council.

The Care Crew is active locally, regionally, nationally and internationally having been involved in the following developments:

- An increase in the leaving care allowance from £1,500 to £2,000;
- Leisure Offer for all children looked after by Darlington Borough Council;
- Provide training to Councillors, Foster Carers and social workers;
- Meet twice a year with the Virtual Head teacher having input into how the Pupil Premium is used;
- Sharing experiences with other local authorities;
- Developing good quality information for looked after children and promotion of advocacy for all children in care;
- Trained and involved in the recruitment and selection of key staff.

This list is not exhaustive.