



# Youth Housing Survey Results



# Introduction



As the Chair of ACYC<sup>(1)</sup>, I strongly believe that it is important to represent the voices of young people across Aberdeen to highlight their views and opinions on matters that affect them.

I am delighted to share the Youth Housing Survey results in this report, which I strongly believe has caught the authentic views and opinions of young people across the city on this important matter.

I hope the information is used to make an impact on services and the resources that young people are reliant on. It's important that issues this big are reported on, since it has a direct impact on young people, and I believe that they should have a say in what happens. I also believe it's vital for young people to feel their voice is being listened to, which this survey has done and has been able to amplify those voices and views loud and clear.

**Rebecca Cuthbert**  
Chair of ACYC



## A word from Derek McGowan

Chief Officer Early Intervention & Community Empowerment Aberdeen City Council

This is a fantastic report from Aberdeen City Youth Council. It demonstrates young people are interested in getting involved in housing matters. It also shows what young people want from housing in the future and where housing advice should be provided for young people.

The results of this survey are impressive, with nearly six hundred young people from all over the city responding. It is great to see that this whole approach was Youth Led with support from the Council, Aberdeen Foyer, and Housing Associations in the city. This report will be extremely useful for all social landlords as we all want the young person's voice to be heard. This data will be used for our Local Housing Strategy as well as a link to becoming a child friendly city.



It is great to see Aberdeen is the first city to take this approach to youth participation in housing and I hope this is just the start of getting young people more involved in housing,

Once again thank you to Aberdeen City Youth Council for taking the lead – it just shows what youth can do – such a positive and useful report – well done.

(1) **Aberdeen City Youth Council (ACYC)** represents the voice of young people aged 12-25 years old who live, work and study in Aberdeen City. ACYC meets monthly to discuss issues that are relevant to young people across Aberdeen City and is a platform to engage with the Aberdeen City Council on key issues. ACYC is always looking for new members to join the group and if you are interested and want to find out more, please email: [aberdeen.cityyouth.council@gmail.com](mailto:aberdeen.cityyouth.council@gmail.com)

# Background



All over Scotland social landlords are seeking to engage with young people to increase their involvement in their housing service. Tenant and resident participation in the North East has excelled over the last 10 years with NETRALT (North East Tenants Residents and Landlords Together) bringing many social landlords and their tenants and residents together, however there is still a considerable opportunity to work with young people to get them involved.

NETRALT has engaged with the Aberdeen Youth Council and the Scottish Youth Parliament over the last few years, forming a positive relationship with these groups to understand the importance of housing not only for them as young adults, but for their families.

Young members have been welcomed to tenant participation group meetings, which have become intergenerational in recent times! NETRALT established the Youth Housing Network to allow landlords to work together in engaging with young people.

From there, these young people, supported by a Council Youth Development Officer, attended a meeting of tenant participation staff from NETRALT as well as Aberdeen Foyer staff and other Council Officers, to launch a plan for a citywide approach to engage and collaborate with youth about housing, including the Youth Housing survey...

## The Youth Housing survey

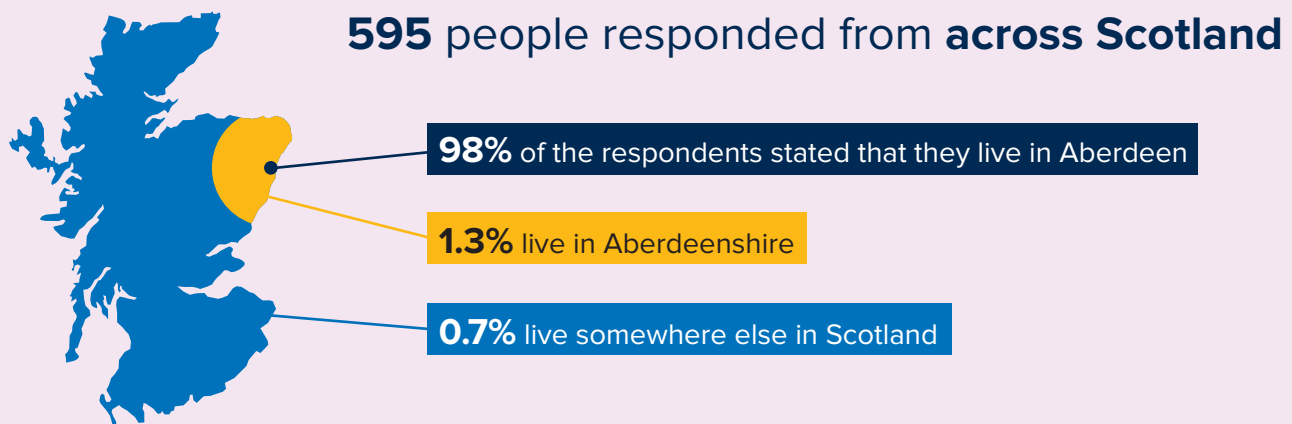
The Youth Housing survey was launched to help us find out how much young people know about housing, and what they wanted from it. Over 1000 responses were received, however after removing duplicate emails and also responses that were not based in Scotland, the actual number was 595 responses. These were used to form the basis for this report .

A key aim of the process was that this survey would be designed, distributed, complied, and launched by young people for young people so that the captured views would be authentically represented.

This youth led survey was conducted with Aberdeen City Youth Council, Scottish Youth Parliament members, supported by staff from Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen Foyer, Castlehill, Grampian and Langstane Housing Associations.



# Demographics of the survey



In total 84% of the responses came from 18-25 year olds. Those who were aged 18 and younger, and over 26 accounted for 8% each. These figures may indicate that the majority of people in Aberdeen start actively looking for their own accommodation in their early twenties.

## Backgrounds of the young people



59% of the respondents stated that they were in education, with 22% at school and 37% at university.

The second largest group of respondents stated they were currently employed, which accounted for 38%, and within this figure 5% of the 38% were self-employed.

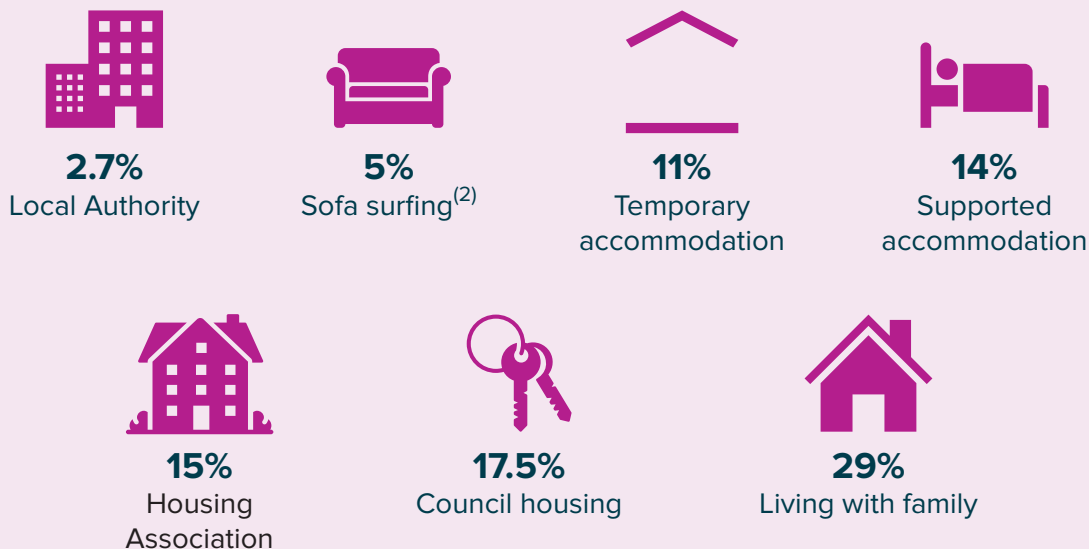
2.7% were not working at the time of the survey.



## Where do young people stay?

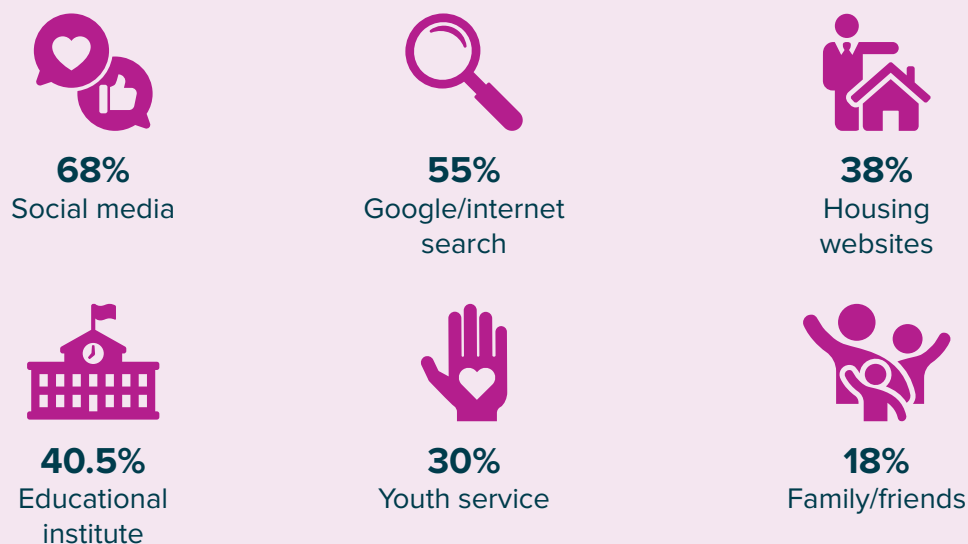
We asked respondents to tell us what type of accommodation they currently live in. The results highlight that 65% were in private sector accommodation, 35% were renting and 30% owned their home.

### Accommodation type:



## Availability of the information

### Where young people source their housing information:



The survey has identified that the majority of the people found it is easier to find information about available housing in their area (78%), and how to budget to afford housing (71%). About two thirds of respondents (65%) find it is easy to find information regarding types of housing, key housing terms and tenancy/housing rights.

<sup>(2)</sup> **Sofa Surfing:** (of a homeless person) the practice of staying temporarily with various friends and relatives while attempting to find permanent accommodation: (*Collins English Dictionary*)

## Key Issues Highlighted - what are young people unsure about?



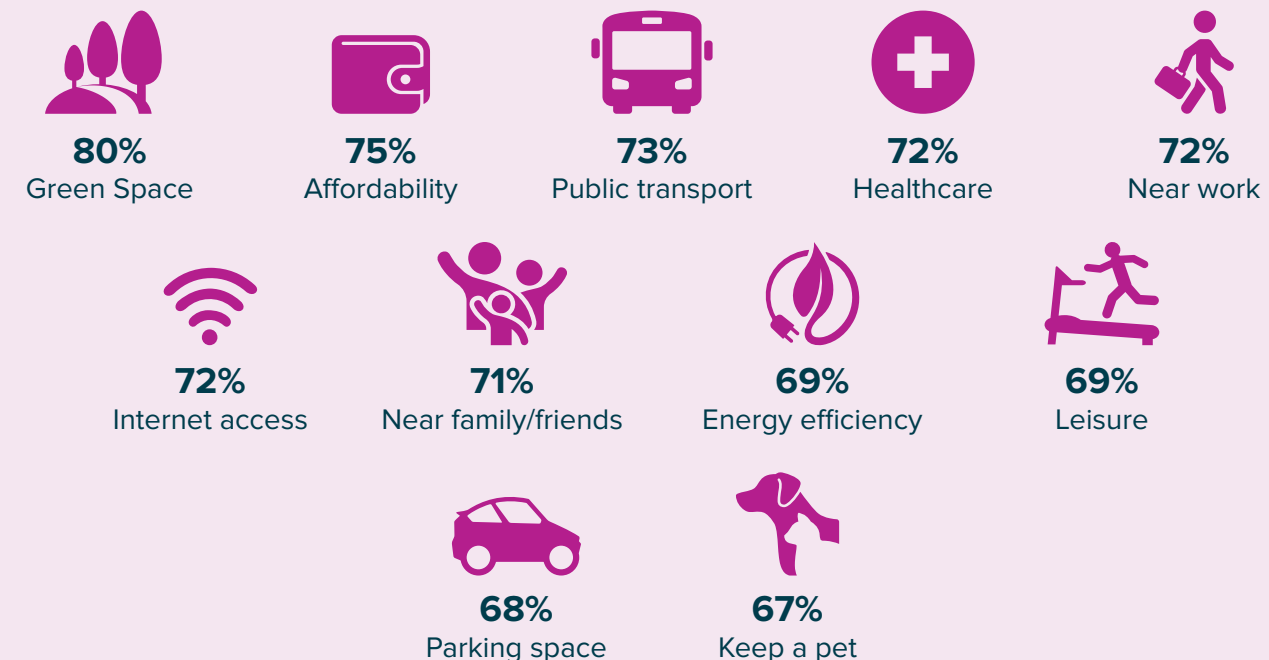
The survey has identified, that 47% of the respondents would be unsure how to find any information on what to do if they had nowhere to stay. However, 53% said they could find this easily.

This suggests that most of the information is available and easy to find, however there is a need for some improvements regarding complicated situations where someone has nowhere to stay. Other areas to consider are housing terms, housing rights, and budgeting. Given that a lot of people are likely to use social media and the internet this could be an area to improve, when it comes to providing information. However, it as the survey itself was in online format, this could have affected the result.

## Peoples' expectation and desires for their first home

This section outlines what respondent's priorities were in terms of housing and what was are less important to them. All listed factors have been identified as desired features.

The most important factors were:



At least a third of respondents categorised the following features as “not important” when considering a house: Being provided with furniture; full accessibility at the property; being near to educational facilities and being near to the city centre.

The least important factors highlighted were: having an electric charging point for a car; being a new build; having a garden; bicycle storage and the ability to change the decor.

<sup>(3)</sup> **Energy Efficiency:** (a measure of how efficiently an appliance, building, organization or country uses energy (*Collins English Dictionary*))

# Conclusions



Survey was **youth led**  
from start to finish



**595**  
young people responded



**84%** of responses came  
from **18-25 year olds**

- Those who are aged 18 and younger, and 26+ accounted for 8% each
- 59%, of the respondents stated that they are in education, with School making up 22%, and College and University making up 37% of the responses
- The second largest group of respondents stated they were currently employed, which accounted for 38%, within this figure 5% of the 38% were self employed
- 2.7% were not working at the time of the survey.
- 68% use social media as the primary source
- 55% of respondents would be looking at housing related websites
- 38% looked at local authority websites for Housing Advice
- 40.5% would be seeking information about housing from their educational institution
- 30% would use Youth Services to explore housing issues
- The survey has identified, that to the vast majority of the people it is easier to find information about “Available housing in my area”, 78%, “How to budget to afford housing” ,71%
- For about two thirds of respondents, 66-65%, it is easy to find information regarding “types of housing”, “Key housing terms” and “Tenancy/housing rights”
- 30% of respondents stated that they would be unsure how to get information on “types of housing”
- 28% would be unsure of “Key housing terms”
- Moreover, 25% and 24% percent of the respondents are unsure of where to find information on “Housing rights” and “How to budget to afford housing
- The survey has identified, that 47% of the respondents would struggle/be unsure how to find any information on “What to do if I have nowhere to stay
- 53% of the responses stated that they could find the information on “What to do if I have nowhere to stay” easily enough
- The most important factors were “Access to green spaces” 80%, “Affordability” 75%, “Easy public transport access” 73%, “Being near healthcare facilities” and “Internet Access” “Being near to work got” all got 72%
- It is worth noting that the following areas also scored fairly high “Being near to family and friends” 71%, “Energy efficiency” and “Being near to leisure facilities (gym, sports centre)” 69%
- The data has identified that the following subjects are still important for a great majority of the people “Having a parking space”, “The number of bedrooms” with 68% and “Being able to keep a pet” 67%
- The following features as “not important” when considering housing. “Being provided with furniture,” “Fully accessible property,” “Being near to educational facilities” “Being near to the city centre.”
- The least important factors were “Has an electric charging point for a car”, “A new build”, “Having a garden”, “Bicycle storage”, “The ability to change the decor (eg. painting walls, move furniture)”

This is just the start of the Citywide Housing Youth Network. *Thank you*



A special thank you to **Martin Carle** and **Erik Rosljajev** who were members of Aberdeen City Youth Council and the Scottish Youth Parliament in 2021 for ensuring the Youth Survey was sent out and all the replies collated for accuracy. They both did an amazing job.

**Catherine Coutts:** Tenant Participation Officer Castlehill Housing Association – NETRALT

**Katie Taylor:** Participation Lead Grampian Housing Association – NETRALT

**Samantha Hough:** Customer Participation Officer Langstane Housing Association – NETRALT

**Carol Hannaford:** Development Officer Tenant & Resident Participation ACC – NETRALT

**Larissa Karpa:** Youth & Community Engagement Leader Aberdeen Foyer

**Kirsty Wyllie/Brian Webb:** Youth Development Officers ACC

**Moya Grassick:** Support Officer ACC



**North East Tenants Residents  
and Landlords Together**