

## CHAPTER 4



***Leisure Time - Spending time  
with friends***

# Spending time with friends



The previous questions asked about activities organised by others. What about when you spend time with your friends – what do you enjoy doing most?

Things I enjoy doing with my friends	
1.	Meet and talk to friends
2.	Play music
3.	Send texts
4.	Kick a ball around
5.	Getting to know people
6.	Drink
7.	Other
8.	Smoke
9.	Take drugs
10.	Skateboard
11.	Swap stickers

And where do you usually meet your friends?

Where we meet	
1.	Local streets
2.	Whickham School field
3.	Other
4.	Chase Park
5.	Bus shelter
6.	Sunniside Park
7.	Square outside Whickham Library
8.	Black Path
9.	Swalwell Park
10.	Dunston Youth Centre
11.	MMF Factory

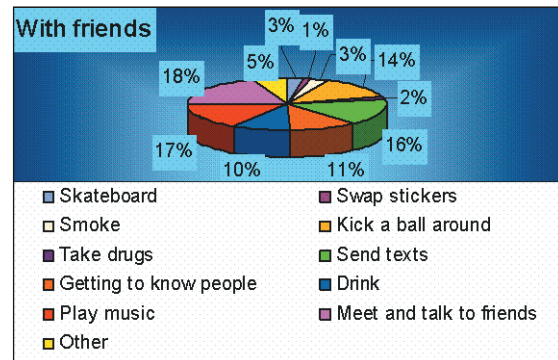


Figure 12

If there could be somewhere new to meet your friends, what would be most important to you?

Factors which matter to me the most when meeting my friends	
1.	Somewhere to sit
2.	Shelter from the rain
3.	Being away from grown-ups
4.	Snacks available to buy
5.	Pop available to buy
6.	Feeling safe
7.	Something to do
8.	Music to listen to
9.	It's a cool place to be
10.	Advice available
11.	Other

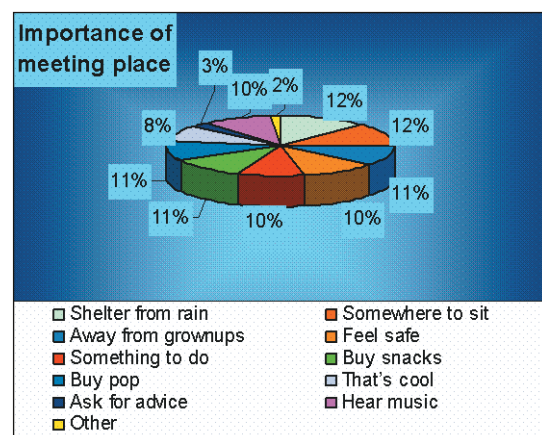


Figure 13

## Things that scare me

### Is there anything that makes you feel not safe at the moment? Ninety four people answered this section.

The biggest single source of fear is paedophiles – often linked in the answers with drug takers. Some are scared of being offered lifts and abduction. This was a third of the comments.

*“People who offer u lifts u don’t know”*

*“Pedophiles n people who try to take u away”*

Next came a general area of concern – drug dealers, people who are drunk, people who smoke. Swalwell Park is mentioned several times. This made up 19% of comments.

*“Swalwell Park with the smack heads”*

*“Some people when smoking tack and drinking”*

All other issues receive a small number of mentions.

- there are conflicting views about authority figures – some are scared that there are not sufficient police around, others are scared by the police
- the dark
- groups of older children
- groups of charvas
- bullying - “lasses who pose n threaten”

- back alleys
- woods at Burnopfield when on their dirt bikes

And these had just single mentions:

- being attacked by hobos
- dirty needles lying round
- when out on bike
- Dunston skate park
- cars driving fast
- youth club

*“Sounds of shotguns and we find dead rabbits, foxes and badgers hanging from trees”*

The full list is in Appendix 1.2.

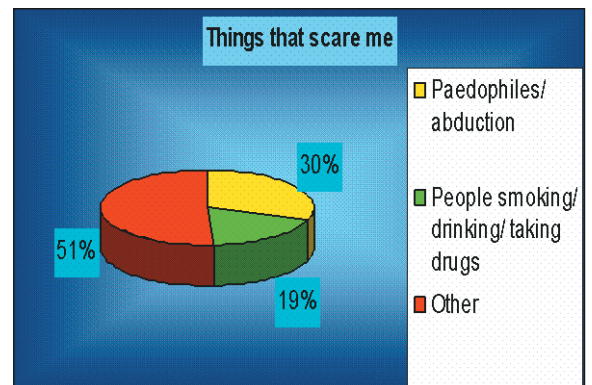


Figure 14