The Trinity Centre (Dalston)

Children's Voices in Our Neighbourhoods

Community Insights @ Trinity Centre (Dalston)

A Community Insights Research Project:

perceptions of growth, change
and being in Hackney
neighbourhoods

May 2014

The Trinity Centre (Dalston)

hackneyCVS

Hackney

PEOPLESCIENCE
INTELLIGENCE UNIT

Contents

Introduction

Dedicated to improving the quality of life for everyone, the "Children's Voices in Our Neighbourhoods" research project came into being through a partnership between:

1. Trinity Centre (Dalston)
2. Community Insights Research Project (Team Hackney)

This project represents a new regional approach to harnessing and galvanising community insight and communal consciousness that are important in establishing and maintaining Hackney citizen's overall wellbeing.

For the Trinity Centre the project is part of long-standing efforts to continuously advance its child and family advocacy capacities. It also represents the Centre's commitment to engage in Hackney's strategic development going forward.

Research Project Team:

Trinity Centre (Dalston):	Peoplescience Intelligence Unit:
thetrinitycentredalston.org.uk	peoplescience.org.uk
• Lloyd French Project Coordinator	• Astehmari Batekun Principal Researcher
• Beverley Boateng Holiday Club Lead	• Donna Alexander Report Editor
• Jamie Seaden After School Club Lead	• Rujina Akthar Administrator

Special Thanks:

We'd like to give a special thanks to the children and families who participated in this project and to the Centre's management team for their careful oversight.

Thanks are also due to Hackney CVS and Hackney Council for seeing the value of Trinity Centre's community relations and funding the Centre's participation in the Community Insights programme.

More background on the partners

1) Trinity Centre (Dalston)

The Trinity Centre (Dalston) was established as a charity in 1996 to provide family development and child care services. It was opened to the public in 1997 after a fundraising campaign, that drew support from her Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales, and secured the funds for the refurbishment of the building.

The aim and objectives for the Centre are to provide an economic, training and community resource for the local neighbourhood through the provision of:

- practical assistance to families and children
- support to parents enabling them to learn, experience and develop new and existing skills
- a wide programme of activities for each child or young person to enjoy and participate in according to their ability and needs, allowing for growth in confidence and self-esteem.

Trinity Centre (Dalston) operates in one of the most deprived wards of Hackney: one of the most deprived boroughs in London.

Since its opening the Centre has made its space available to the local community and successfully run a range of family and children's programmes serving over 1000 children, 400 young people, at least 300 members of the public and supports over 10 local groups.

Amongst the most prominent of these latter are the Trinity After School Club, providing daily educational and recreational activities for local children, from 3.30pm-6.00pm Monday-Friday; its popular children's holiday club and the 'Boyz To Men' project that offers practical support to young men failing in the education system and, more generally, in realising their full potential.

We recognise that the greatest impact the centre currently has, on the provision of local community amenities, is in the area of childcare and parenting skills. One purpose of this study is to assess this impact to date from the perspective of the users themselves, the children and young people, by finding out how attending this provision has affected their everyday lives.

2) Community Insights Research Project

Since April 2013 Team Hackney has adopted a new approach to community insight which aims to bring together views and perspectives from:

- residents
- service users
- voluntary sector
- businesses

This work is overseen by the community insight group, which brings together Team Hackney partners from the statutory sector, community networks and the voluntary and community sector. The group routinely reviews insights that have been gathered through community networks, meetings, engagement activities and surveys. It brings all of these insights together in order to inform the Team Hackney partnership and the annual 'State of the Borough' report.

The community insight group also identifies where there are gaps in insight and considers how partners can work together to address this gap. The group meets at least four times a year and is in the process of finalising their first work plan.

Local Partners involved in the Team Hackney Community Insight Group are currently running a community dialogue project on the topic of growth, change and cohesion in Hackney.

12 community organisations were awarded a small grant to involve residents in conversations and activities with this theme, **Trinity Centre (Dalston)** was one of these. Hackney CVS managed the community dialogue grants awards.

Team Hackney is remitted to use the materials and the intelligence gathered at the annual partnership meeting Summer 2014.

Consulting with our children, hearing their voices

There were two main reasons why the Trinity Centre decided to engage in this initiative:

1. Working with children and families is a core part of the Centre's long-standing overall service, seeing it develop unique and respected community relations and advocacy capacities.
2. Being clear that children have the right to be consulted and have their voices heard and views respected under Article 12.1 of the UN Convention, as well as in accordance with the best practice of Hackney Council, the Centre's determination has been to empower children and families knowledge of their rights, response-abilities and self-creative capacities in regard to community development.

From the Community Insights broad themes and priorities briefing, it was decided to focus on the following question:

"What kinds of opportunities residents would like to see for themselves and their families in their local neighbourhoods and town centres."

In exploring this question the consultation also took on a further agenda of 1) bringing attention to valuing neighbourhood and human experiences within it and 2) introducing the children to the language pertaining to this issue to help develop them as active citizens. Interactive group presentations and conversations (via one to one questionnaires) were held with the Centre's after school club children and holiday club children, both sets of primary school aged groups' voices were captured by sound recordings.

Consultation process

The Trinity Centre management having agreed that the consultation needed to be done then went on to define the values (as stated above) of doing it.

Internal organisational capacities were combined with the identified professional services of Peoplescience Intelligence Unit to design and deliver the consultation.

The objectives of both Community Insights and Trinity Centre were discussed and agreed. This led to deciding on an overall approach for consultation and to considering ways of working with the children. Specific consultation methods were agreed: interactive presentations and simple questionnaires. These questionnaires were designed to mostly feature "yes/no" questions and "how do you feel" questions which the children were to rate with a five point smiley face scale.

| Very happy | Happy | In between | Unhappy | Very unhappy |
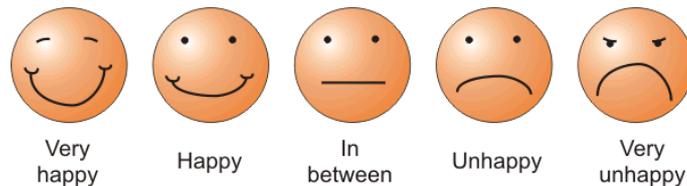
A general time line had been already proposed through the Community Insights funding process and this was agreed as achievable. How the children would be accessed was identified as follows:

- at Trinity Centre
- through two, introductory presentation sessions
    - by valuing experiences, opportunities, concerns and ideas
    - by defining neighbourhoods
    - through enhancing a sense of change and the ability to define change
- two survey questioning sessions
- holiday club – 21st February 2014
- as part of an after school club – 24th March 2014

Discussion took place to clarify ethical or confidentiality issues, ways of participation and for recording/media usage consent procedures were reviewed and assured.

The consultation was implemented on the dates stated above. On each date at the Trinity Centre the principal researcher, Astehmari Batekun (from Peoplescience), led a fun and interactive presentation introducing

- the value of having the children's voices heard by the broader community
- the ideas and language involved in reviewing neighbourhood life
- the process and tools to be used in the survey conversations

Approximately 50 children were involved in the presentations, of these 26 children with parental consent were surveyed with their conversations being audio recorded.

Given the relativity modest sample size, the method chosen to analyse the information is orientated more towards the direct presentation of responses and to allowing the children to speak for themselves rather than attempting to overly extract meaning. This said, several points of interest, insight and concern are relatively clear.

Feedback from the study is to be given to the families and children of Trinity Centre through the publishing and distribution of this report and a supporting concise audio mix of selected responses from the children. Children will be given direct and continuous feedback throughout their regular holiday and after school club attendance, whilst sharing and exploring with them the results of their contributions to the broader Community Insights project.

The Trinity Centre has, over the years, developed a strong project review process. Learning from this "Children's Voices in Our Neighbourhoods" project will be reflected upon so that aspects of the consultation that worked well and that which could be done differently in the future will be acknowledged and built upon.

Children's demographic backgrounds

All of the 26 children consulted were British born citizens of primary school age, ranging from 5 to 8 years old. There were 13 boys and 13 girls. Using the Trinity Centre's ethnic monitoring categories, the surveyed children's profiles are as follows:

| Cultural Kinship	Children	Percentage %
African	10	38.46%
Caribbean	7	26.92%
English	4	15.38%
Mixed	4	15.38%
Other	1	3.85%
	26	100.00%
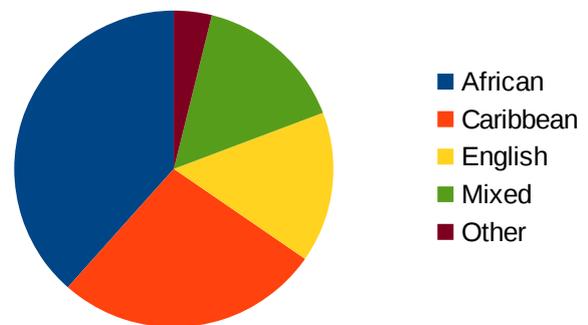
Questions and responses

Below are the questions that were asked during the surveying of the children. Following these are the results of the survey.

Factors/Topic:	questions	
	yes / no:	smiley-face scale:
local family & friends	• Do you have family and friends living in your local area?	How do you feel about that?
common spaces like parks and play grounds	• Do you use local parks and playgrounds?	How do you feel about them?
bus and train stops and stations	• Do you use buses and trains?	How do you feel about them?
local schools and libraries	• Do you live in walking distance from your school? • Do you use your local library?	How do you feel about school life?
perceptions of safety and danger		Thinking about safety in your neighbourhood, how do you feel?
shops and shopping centres	• Do you go shopping with your family?	How do you feel about the shops and shopping centres in your area?
faith, culture and community centres (church, mosque, temple, synagogue, tabernacle etc.)	• Do you go to a faith or cultural centre : a church, mosque, temple, tabernacle or synagogue, for example?	How do you feel about this?
to other factors	• Do you have any other ideas about your area?	[open question] Tell me about them?
Area where I live / Area where I go to school or attend child-care	• Do you live in the area of this centre or in another area?	
Desired future change	[open question] • What could improve life in your area?	

| Very happy | Happy | In between | Unhappy | Very unhappy |
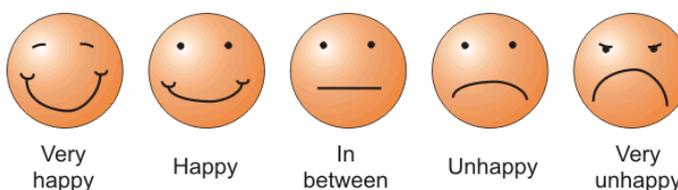
Do you have family and friends living in your local area?

Answer	Count	Percentage %
Yes (Y)	23	88.46%
No (N)	3	11.54%
	26	100.00%
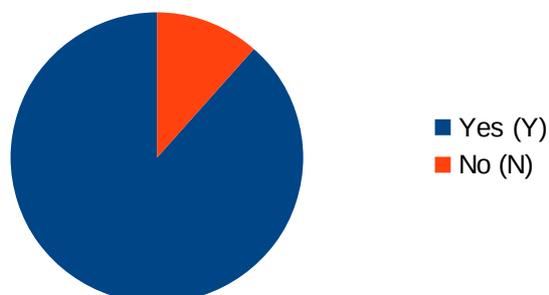
[view commentary]

How do you feel about that?

Answer	Count	Percentage
VH = Very Happy (VH)	11	42.31%
H = Happy (H)	13	50.00%
IB = In Between (IB)	1	3.85%
UH = Unhappy (UH)	0	0.00%
VU = Very Unhappy (VU)	0	0.00%
NA = No Answer (NA)	1	3.85%
	26	100.00%

- VH = Very Happy (VH)
- H = Happy (H)
- IB = In Between (IB)
- UH = Unhappy (UH)
- VU = Very Unhappy (VU)
- NA = No Answer (NA)
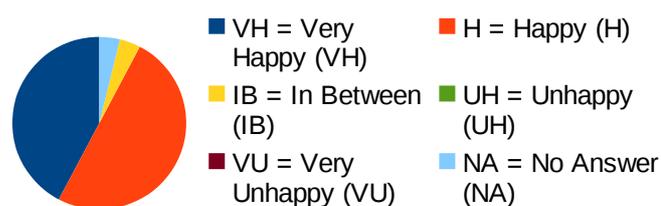
[view commentary]

Do you use local parks and playgrounds?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (Y)	23	88.46%
No (N)	3	11.54%
	26	100.00%

Yes (Y)
No (N)
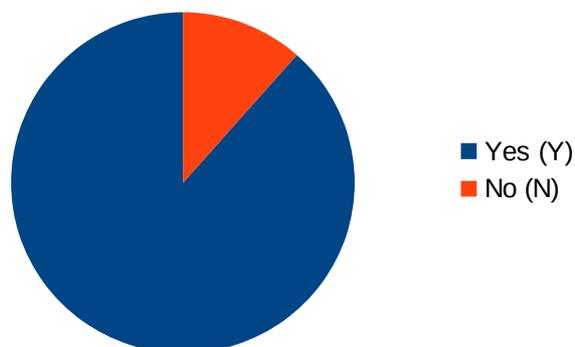
[view commentary]

How do you feel about them?

Answer	Count	Percentage
VH = Very Happy (VH)	10	38.46%
H = Happy (H)	8	30.77%
IB = In Between (IB)	6	23.08%
UH = Unhappy (UH)	0	0.00%
VU = Very Unhappy (VU)	0	0.00%
NA = No Answer (NA)	2	7.69%
	26	100.00%

VH = Very Happy (VH) H = Happy (H)
IB = In Between (IB) UH = Unhappy (UH)
VU = Very Unhappy (VU) NA = No Answer (NA)
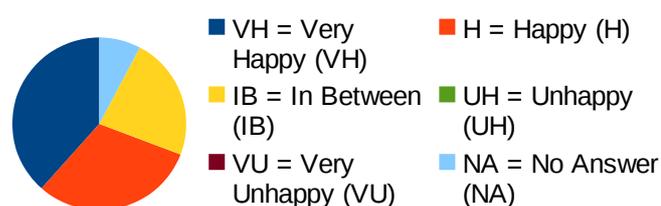
[view commentary]

Do you use buses and trains?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (Y)	21	80.77%
No (N)	5	19.23%
	26	100.00%

- Yes (Y)
- No (N)
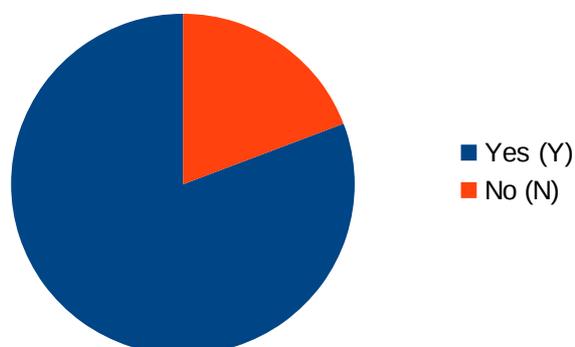
[view commentary]

How do you feel about them?

Answer	Count	Percentage
VH = Very Happy (VH)	4	15.38%
H = Happy (H)	6	23.08%
IB = In Between (IB)	9	34.62%
UH = Unhappy (UH)	3	11.54%
VU = Very Unhappy (VU)	2	7.69%
NA = No Answer (NA)	2	7.69%
	26	100.00%

- VH = Very Happy (VH)
- H = Happy (H)
- IB = In Between (IB)
- UH = Unhappy (UH)
- VU = Very Unhappy (VU)
- NA = No Answer (NA)
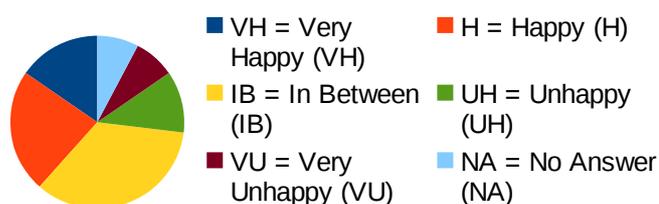
[view commentary]

Do you live in walking distance from your school?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (Y)	19	73.08%
No (N)	7	26.92%
	26	100.00%
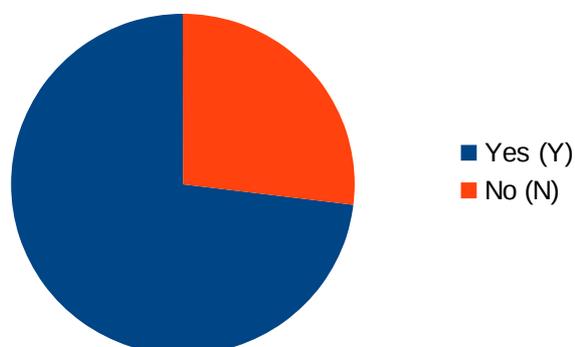
[view commentary]

How do you feel about school life?

Answer	Count	Percentage
VH = Very Happy (VH)	15	57.69%
H = Happy (H)	7	26.92%
IB = In Between (IB)	3	11.54%
UH = Unhappy (UH)	1	3.85%
VU = Very Unhappy (VU)	0	0.00%
NA = No Answer (NA)	0	0.00%
	26	100.00%
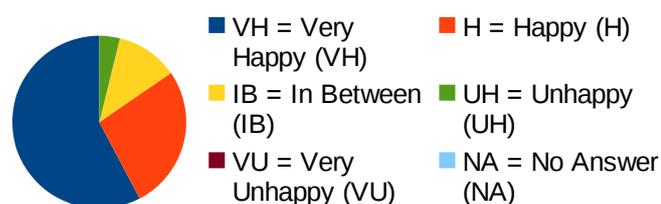
[view commentary]

Do you use your local library?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (Y)	11	42.31%
No (N)	14	53.85%
No answer	1	3.85%
	26	100.00%

■ Yes (Y)
■ No (N)
■ No answer
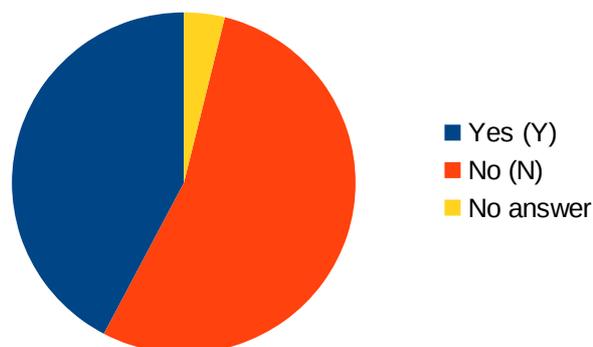
[view commentary]

Thinking about safety in your neighbourhood, how do you feel?

Answer	Count	Percentage
VH = Very Happy (VH)	6	23.08%
H = Happy (H)	9	34.62%
IB = In Between (IB)	6	23.08%
UH = Unhappy (UH)	2	7.69%
VU = Very Unhappy (VU)	3	11.54%
NA = No Answer (NA)	0	0.00%
	26	100.00%

■ VH = Very Happy (VH)   ■ H = Happy (H)
■ IB = In Between (IB)   ■ UH = Unhappy (UH)
■ VU = Very Unhappy (VU)   ■ NA = No Answer (NA)
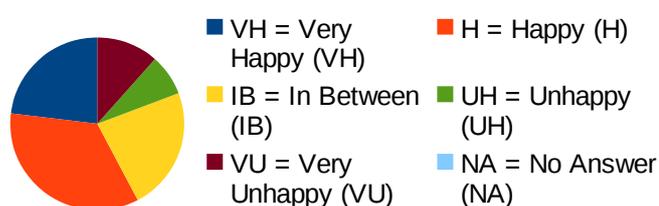
[view commentary]

Do you go shopping with your family?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (Y)	26	100.00%
No (N)	0	.0.00%
	26	100.00%

■ Yes (Y)
■ No (N)
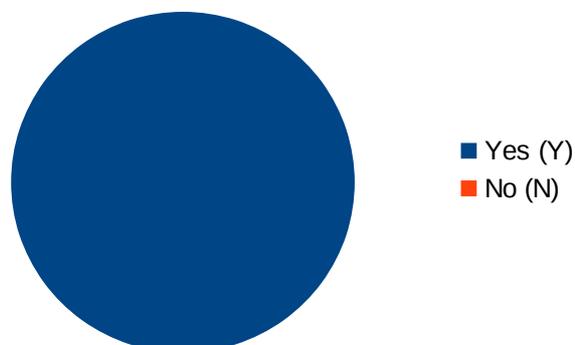
[view commentary]

How do you feel about the shops and shopping centres in your area?

Answer	Count	Percentage
VH = Very Happy (VH)	8	30.77%
H = Happy (H)	11	42.31%
IB = In Between (IB)	5	19.23%
UH = Unhappy (UH)	2	7.69%
VU = Very Unhappy (VU)	0	0.00%
NA = No Answer (NA)	0	0.00%
	26	100.00%

■ VH = Very Happy (VH)   ■ H = Happy (H)
■ IB = In Between (IB)   ■ UH = Unhappy (UH)
■ VU = Very Unhappy (VU)   ■ NA = No Answer (NA)
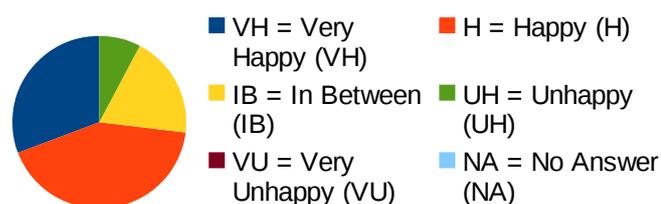
[view commentary]

Do you go to a faith or cultural centre, like a church, mosque, temple, tabernacle or synagogue for example?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (Y)	16	61.54%
No (N)	10	38.46%
	26	100.00%
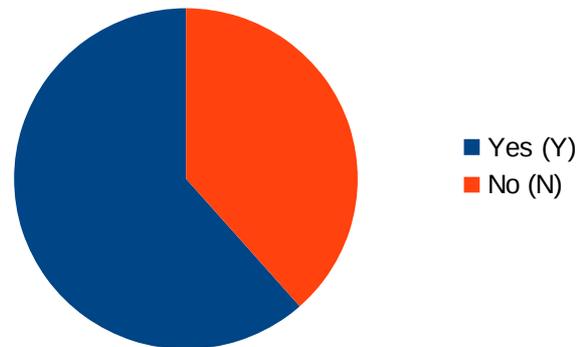
[view commentary]

Yes: "I go to a faith or cultural centre"
How do you feel about this?

Answer	Count	Percentage
VH = Very Happy (VH)	13	81.25%
H = Happy (H)	3	18.75%
IB = In Between (IB)	0	0.00%
UH = Unhappy (UH)	0	0.00%
VU = Very Unhappy (VU)	0	0.00%
NA = No Answer (NA)	0	0.00%
	16	100.00%
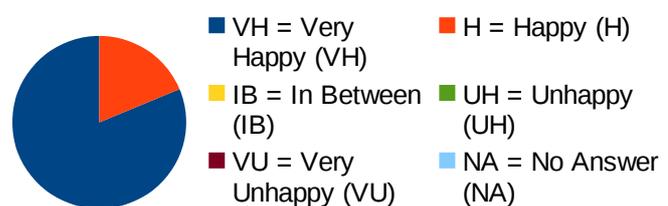
[view commentary]

No: "I do not go to a faith or cultural centre"
How do you feel about this?

Answer	Count	Percentage
VH = Very Happy (VH)	2	20.00%
H = Happy (H)	1	10.00%
IB = In Between (IB)	2	20.00%
UH = Unhappy (UH)	5	50.00%
VU = Very Unhappy (VU)	0	0.00%
NA = No Answer (NA)	0	0.00%
	10	100.00%

■ VH = Very Happy (VH)   ■ H = Happy (H)
■ IB = In Between (IB)   ■ UH = Unhappy (UH)
■ VU = Very Unhappy (VU)   ■ NA = No Answer (NA)
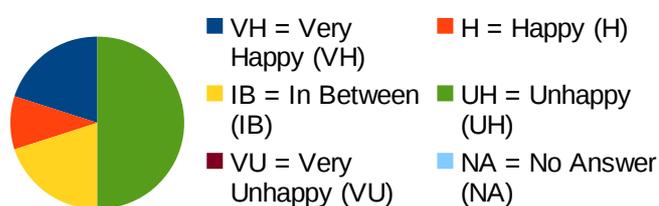
[view commentary]

Do you live in the area of this centre or in another area?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (Y)	5	19.23%
No (N)	21	80.77%
	26	100.00%

Interpretation note:
"Yes", I live in the area of this centre.
"No", I do not live in the area of this centre.

■ Yes (Y)
■ No (N)
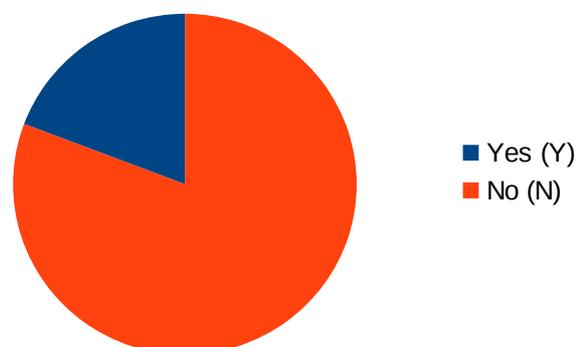
[view commentary]

Audio of respondent's comments

A concise audio mix of selected comments from the children has been produced.

Hearing their expressed ideas and experience of neighbourhood life gives a very important complement to the above statistics.

A copy (mp3 audio file) may be obtained from the Trinity Centres website or the Peoplescience archive:

- http://www.thetrinitycentredalston.org.uk/
- http://archive.peoplescience.org.uk/info-for-community/reasonings/Community_Insights_@_Trinity_Centre_(Dalston)_-_Our_Neighbourhood_-_Children's_Voices.mp3

Summary of the findings

Do you have family and friends living in your local area?
How do you feel about that?

The majority of children (88%) responded that they do have family and friends living in their local area. Most were happy or very happy with this. The children who said that they did not have family and friends living near them did not indicate that they were less than happy with that. [view table & chart]

Do you use local parks and playgrounds?
How do you feel about them?

The majority of children surveyed (88%) said that they do use local parks and playgrounds. Whilst the majority (69%) were happy or very happy with them, 23%, a large minority, felt in between happy and unhappy with them. The points of concern raised were such things as the cleanliness of these areas, the range and quality of play equipment and feelings that these spaces were under-utilised and needing more promotion. There were also concerns about security in these spaces. [view table & chart]

Do you use buses and trains?
How do you feel about them?

80% of the children said that they used buses and/or trains. Over half (54%) of the children were not happy with the bus and train journeys that they experience. This was their strongest areas of concern across the range of areas covered by the survey. The concerns included cleanliness, security and personal safety, encountering disturbing passengers and poor service regarding delays.

From a gender point of view it was found that more boys (62%) felt less than happy with buses and trains than the girls (46%) who also felt less than happy.. [view table & chart]

Do you live in walking distance from your school?
How do you feel about school life?

Just under 73% said that they lived in walking distance from their schools. Most children (85%) were happy with school life. 15% being unhappy or feeling in between happy and unhappy with school.

From a gender point of view the same percentage (15%) of boys and girls felt less than happy with school life. [view table & chart]

Do you use your local library?

Most (54%) of the children surveyed did not use local libraries. It was clear that some of the children who did not use local libraries nevertheless used libraries at their schools. [view table & chart]

Thinking about safety in your neighbourhood, how do you feel?

Just over half of the children surveyed were happy or very happy with regard to their feelings about safety in their neighbourhood. Given the importance of this factor of neighbourhood life, it is still of concern that as many as 42% of the children responded that they were not happy in their feelings regarding safety in their neighbourhoods.

From a gender point of view it was found that more boys (46%) felt less than happy when thinking about safety in their area than the girls (38%) who felt less than happy. [view table & chart]

Do you go shopping with your family?
How do you feel about the shops and shopping centres in your area?

All of the children go shopping with their families. Most (73%) were happy or very happy. Whilst most children enjoyed the general idea of shopping, concerns for some were to do with safety and coldness in shopping centres, lack of diversity of shops and their reduced range of goods. There was an awareness and sense of assurance shown by some children that in bigger stores there would be staff trained to look after lost or troubled children. [view table & chart]

Do you go to a faith or cultural centre, like a church, mosque, temple, tabernacle or synagogue, for example?
How do you feel about this?

Just under 62% said that they do attend a faith or cultural centre. This question highlighted an interesting finding, as we found a clear difference in the expressed attitudes stated by the children towards the fact of them going to a faith / cultural centre or their not attending one.

Of the 62% who said they did attended a faith / cultural centre 100% said they were happy or very happy with this. Of the 38% who said they did not attend such a centre 70% said they were not happy with this. [view table & chart]

Do you have any other ideas about your area?
What could improve life in your area?

The children shared a broad range of ideas, concerns and life improvement suggestions regarding their areas. The list below summarises their comments:

- More playgrounds and more space.
- People should stop throwing gum on the floor.
- Build new shops.
- Build big shops like a Tesco in my area.
- Less gangs and no more fighting.
- Stop people throwing stuff on the ground without putting it in the bin.
- My area could be more clean and tidy.
- More houses and more parks.
- Local people should use our local park more.
- Redesign local pathways so that they are child friendly
- "If there was a hot tub right outside my house"
- People could help to recycle and clean some places in the park.
- More room to play where the football place is.

- More room where cars park to make it safer.
- Take the trees away from our old football play area.
- Not so much building works taking place.
- People could stop riding their bikes on the pavement.
- Generally make new buildings in my area.
- Move house, travels far to get to this Centre.
- Don't like spiders in the house, get rid of them.
- Could make more buildings for children, for people to do what they want to do, for fun and sports like gymnastics.
- Less building; stop destroying our playgrounds just to build peoples houses.
- Help the poor with money so that they can feel better; peace and quiet with friends.
- We need more parks and more places to sit down
- Clean the area that the dogs use (messy and smelly)and fix the local park fence.
- The place we use to play football now has trees there and we are not about to play there.
- In some of the green areas there could be more parks instead of a lot of trees.
- I want them to crush our building and make a new one as it is really old. Our flat is kind of small and we need more space.
- Gangs spray on closed down shops and walls.
- Reopen shops and keep an eye out for gangsters who spray on walls.
- Its easy to walk to my friend, family and local bus stops.

Do you live in the area of this centre or in another area?

This question was intended to gauge their own sense of locality and was not cross referenced with any official metric for being "in the area" such as the child's home address. Where required the reasoning was that if you could comfortably walk to the Centre then this could be considered "in". Just under 20% of the children said that they lived in the area of the Centre. [view table & chart]

Building on this research:

Ensuring that young people's perceptions and awareness are respected

The research team were impressed by the enthusiasm and the often acute awareness of issues in their neighbourhood expressed by the children. It was clear that the act of participating in the project was highly valued by most, if not all, of the children.

Valuable insights have come from this relatively straight forward consultation project. It is felt that repeating this project bi-annually and also expanding the sample size by working with other groups / centres is a good idea and properly honours the commitment to hear and engage the voices, experiences and insights of children and young people. With larger sample sizes a better exploration of cultural (kinship) and gender factors can be achieved.

As well as the general scope of this research the following are further areas of interest that have become apparent and may have broader borough wide value:

- Exploring children's experiences and concerns about public transport services
- Are they missing something? - Exploring the feelings and experiences of children who do not attend faith or cultural centres.

There are further opportunities to empower the children as upcoming active citizens, by ensuring that child related intelligence gathered by the Community Insights initiative are appropriately disseminated to them, their peers and families, throughout Hackney and beyond.

More info on the Peoplescience consultancy

Peoplescience Intelligence Unit (PIU) has for many years been involved in a broad range of research and marketing projects mainly associated to the organisation of **Schools Of Unified Learning** (unifiedknowledge.org, mathsdance.co.uk) and for the development of Unifiedknowledge Practice globally. However its service history has been far more extensive. To its credit it has been involved in working on several commissions from local government authorities, commercial businesses and non-governmental organisations.

Broadly the PIU services are as follows:

- Strategic Planning
- Research & Consultancy
- Marketing & Artwork Design
- Internet Presence & Information Management
- Corporate Design & Venture Planning
- Cultural Integrity Management

The Unit's foundational basis of operation is its series of eight pioneering, strategic, statistical reference reports produced from 1996 to 2001. They are as follows:

1. Black Community Report (National, 1996, isbn: 0952822903)
2. Black Child Report (National, 1997, isbn: 0952822911)
3. Black Community Report (National, 1999-2000, isbn: 0952822934)
4. Asian Community Report (National, 1999-2000, isbn: 0952822946)
5. Black Child Report (National, 1999-2000, isbn: 0952822962)
6. Lewisham Black Child Report (1999–2000, isbn: 09528229??)
7. Camden Black Child Report (1999–2000, isbn: 0952822938)
8. Hammersmith Black Child Report (1999–2000, isbn: 095282292X)

From 1996 to the present time Astehmari Batekun has served as the Principal Consultant for the PIU and has worked mainly on a project by project basis with multiple formats of specialist teams, each perfectly suited to the achievement of each project's objectives.

PEOPLESCIENCE
INTELLIGENCE UNIT

advantage by design

@advantagePIU   tel: +44 (0)20 8144 1720

www.peoplescience.org.uk

More info on Trinity Centre (Dalston)

Centre Activities

There are lots of activities happening at the Centre on each day oft the week.

- If you are looking for a space to hire visit our Venue Hire page
- Visit our Activity page for a range of children and family activities
- Need child care or training in childcare? Visit our Services page

Visit our website or call us today: thetrinitycentredalston.org.uk

Trustees

- Incumbent – Vicar
- PAROCHIAL Church Council (PCC)
- Church Wardens

Directors / Management Committee

- Glenis O'Connor – Chair
- Lloyd French – Treasurer
- Mary Beckles – Secretary
- Dave Saunders (till Feb 2011)
- Carlos Remotti-Breton
- Collin Davis
- Eulitt Gutzmore
- Revd. Rose Hudson-Wilkin

Contact details

The Trinity Centre
Beechwood Road
London
E8 3DY

The Trinity Centre (Dalston)

Web: www.thetrinitycentredalston.org.uk
Email: tcdalston@thetrinitycentredalston.org.uk
Tel: 020 7249 6061   **Railway:** London Overground to Dalston Junction
Fax: 020 7249 6061   **Bus:** 488, 243, 242, 149, 76, 67, 56, 38