



# **Bishops' Children & Youth Council Listening Report**

## *Poverty*

# INTRODUCTION

## How do we hear and respond to the voice of children and young people in the Diocese of Leicester?

To find some answers, we are running a termly process of youth-led agenda setting, listening, sense making and reporting.

### The Process

A group of young people set the agenda and design a listening resource to distribute to listening groups.

Listening groups are facilitated in schools and church groups, across a range of contexts. Children and young people are asked to share their thoughts, ideas, and stories, in response to a series of conversation prompts and interactive activities.

### The Theme

The listening theme chosen by young people for Autumn 2024/25 was **Poverty**.

We are running this listening campaign in partnership with the Growing Faith Foundation. Growing Faith is the movement that exists to put children, young people and families instinctively at the heart of all the mission and ministry in the Church of England.

### The Report

This report summarises and showcases the responses we received from children and young people. All quotes in this report are attributed to **children and young people**, unless stated.

# LISTENING

We've heard from more than 1000 young voices from across the city and county, via six termly listening exercises.



Read all our listening reports and watch Bishop Martyn's response videos on the Diocese of Leicester website >>

[www.leicester.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/children-families-and-young-people/bishops-children-and-youth-council-bcyc](http://www.leicester.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/children-families-and-young-people/bishops-children-and-youth-council-bcyc)

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## 458 YOUNG VOICES

made up of **377** children and **81** young people in **19** primary school groups, **3** secondary school groups and **7** church groups. **68%** UKME/GMH.



**35%**  
in church



**57%**  
in school

**Do you talk about poverty at church or school?**

If the group were stuck on a desert island, what would they **need** to survive? And what would they **want** to take with them?



Do you think God cares about poverty?

**89%** of participants said **YES**

Do you think getting rid of poverty is connected to faith?

**24%** of participants said **YES**

**TOP 3 NEEDS:**  
clean water  
healthy food  
housing

**TOP 3 WANTS:**  
TV  
toys/games  
laptop

## TOP THREE CAUSES OF POVERTY IN THE UK?

**73%** of participants said **cost of living**

**60%** of participants said **lack of money**

**35%** of participants said **not enough government support**

# THE NUMBERS

Primary Schools

Church Groups

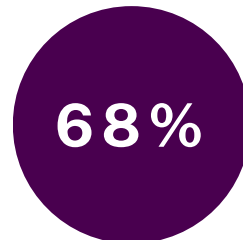


Young Voices

Boys

Secondary  
Schools

Ages



Girls

GMH / UKME

# ROLL CALL

All Saints CE School, Coalville  
City of Leicester College  
Crossfire Youth, Groby & Ratby  
Emmanuel Loughborough Youth Groups  
Gathering & Traveling fxC, Melton Mowbary  
Gilmorton Chandler CofE Primary School  
Hope Hamilton CE Primary School  
Rawlins Academy, Loughborough  
St Andrews Jarrom Street  
St. Bart's CE Primary School, Quorn  
St Edwards CofE Primary School, Castle Donington  
St John's Church, Clarendon Park, Adventurers  
St John's Church, Clarendon Park, Church Pioneers  
St John the Baptist CofE Primary School  
St Paul's Church, Oadby, Tribe Youth Group  
Swinford CofE Primary School

**A MASSIVE** thank you to all children,  
young people and facilitators for their  
participation, enthusiasm and honesty!

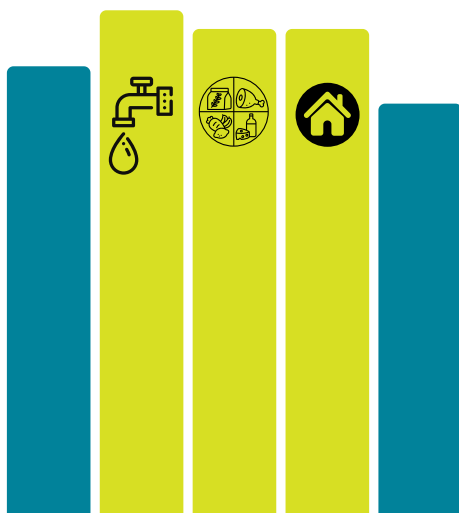
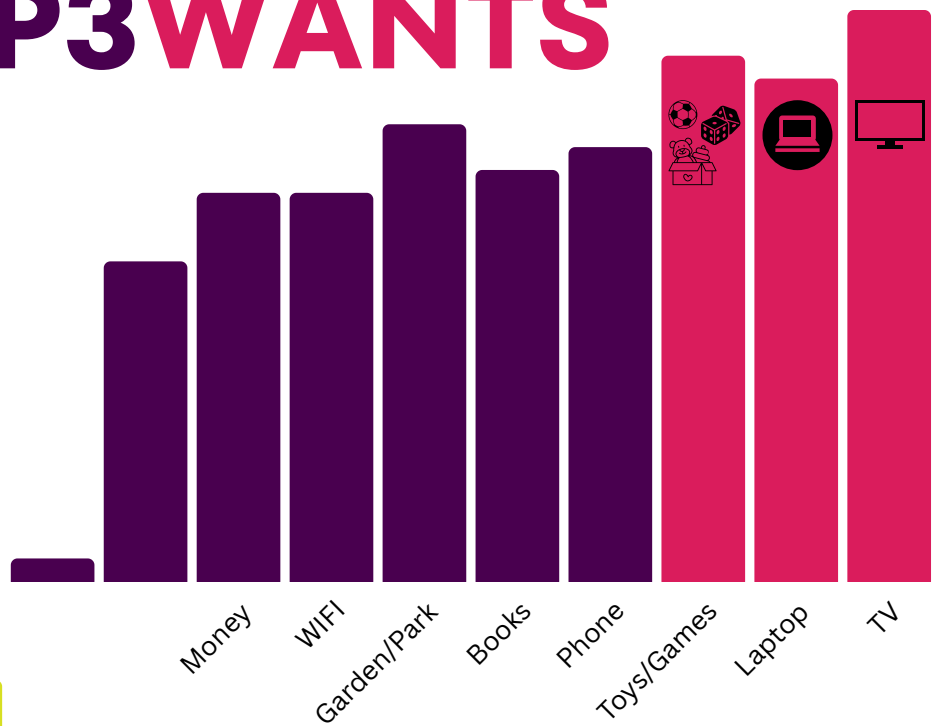
# ROUND 01

## Want or Need?

**What we did:** Groups were invited to look through a set of cards and sort them into two sets: 'wants' and 'needs'.



# TOP3 WANTS



# TOP3 NEEDS

Clothes/Shoes  
Clean water  
Healthy Food  
House  
Toiletries  
Transport  
Pocket Money  
WIFI  
Garden/Park  
Books  
Phone  
Toys/Games  
Laptop  
TV

Most children and young people understand basic needs, like water & food!

Funny that WIFI was higher in needs than the devices you would use it on.

Laptop over phone because you need it for homework, but you can also use it for fun.

Interesting that garden/park was seen more as a want than a need. Getting outside with your friends and family is good for your mental health!!

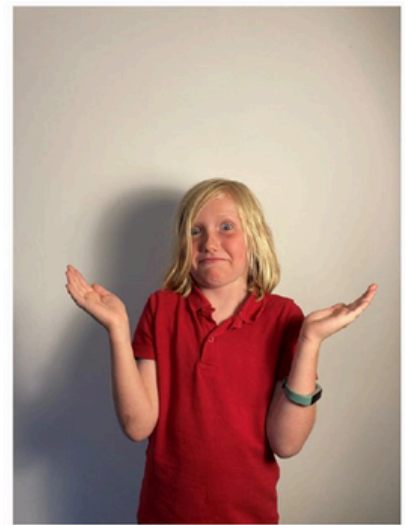
~ Young Voices



# ROUND 02

Yes. No. Dunno!?

**What we did:** Participants were invited to use a posture to answer - *yes, no or don't know* - to a series of poverty themed questions...



Do you ever talk about poverty at school?

Do you ever talk about poverty at church?

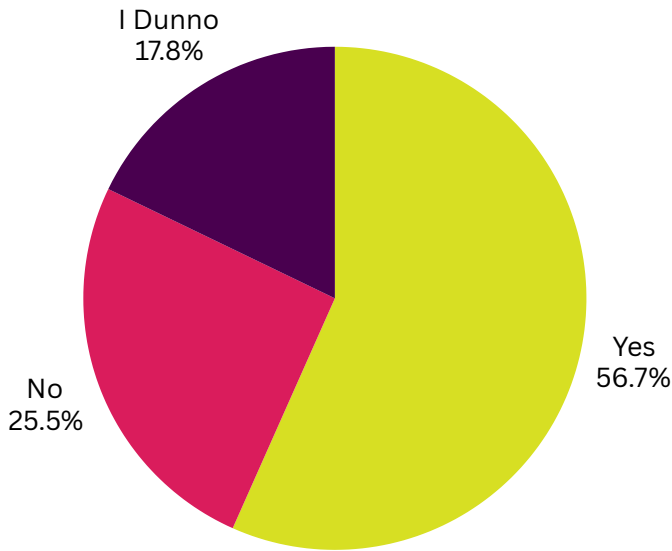
Do you think God cares about poverty?

Do you think getting rid of poverty is connected to faith?

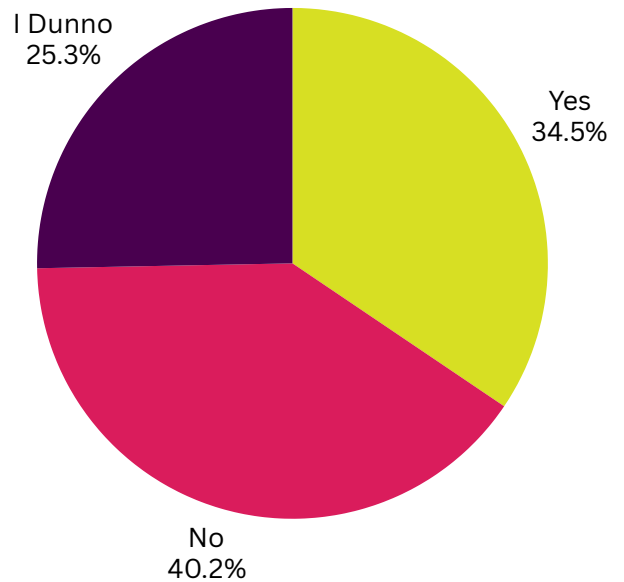
Have you ever donated food to a food bank?

Have you ever given away clothes, shoes or toys?

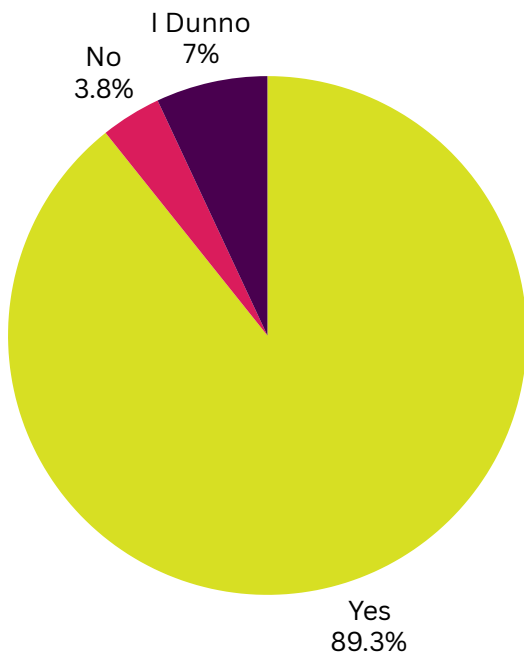
Have you ever helped to raise money for charity?



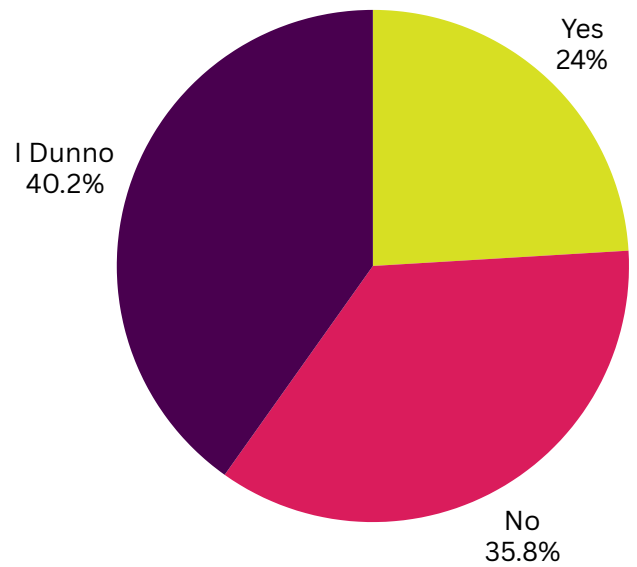
Do you talk about poverty in **school**?



Do you talk about poverty in **church**?



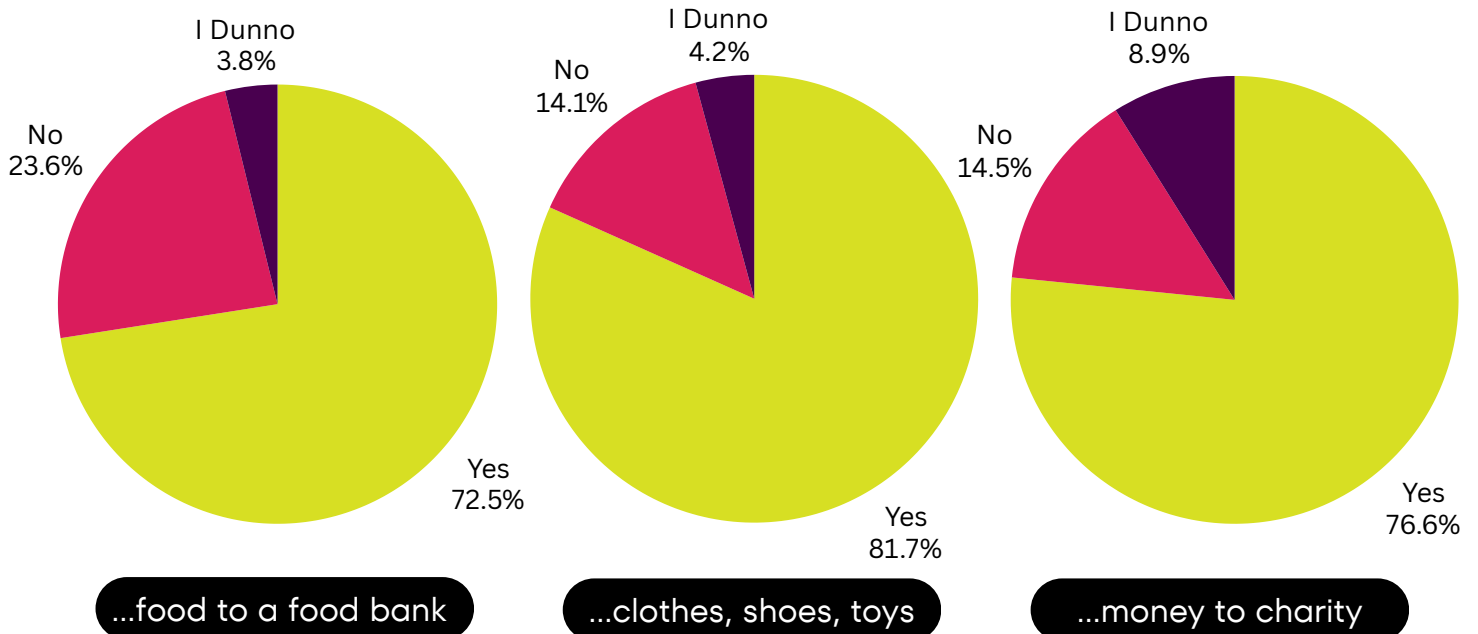
Do you think God **cares** about poverty?



Do you think getting rid of poverty is connected to **faith**?

*Very high yeses that God cares about poverty!  
 ...Christians or people of faith should do something about poverty!*

# Have you ever donated...



*Giving to charity and donating isn't just a Christian thing, it's very common in other faiths too*

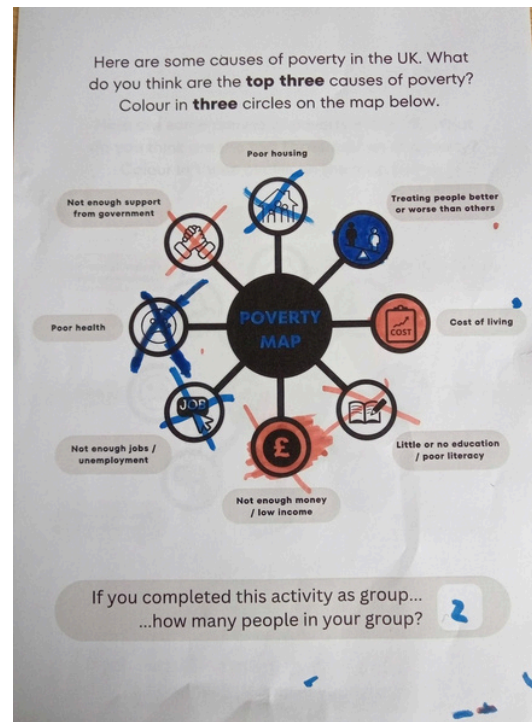
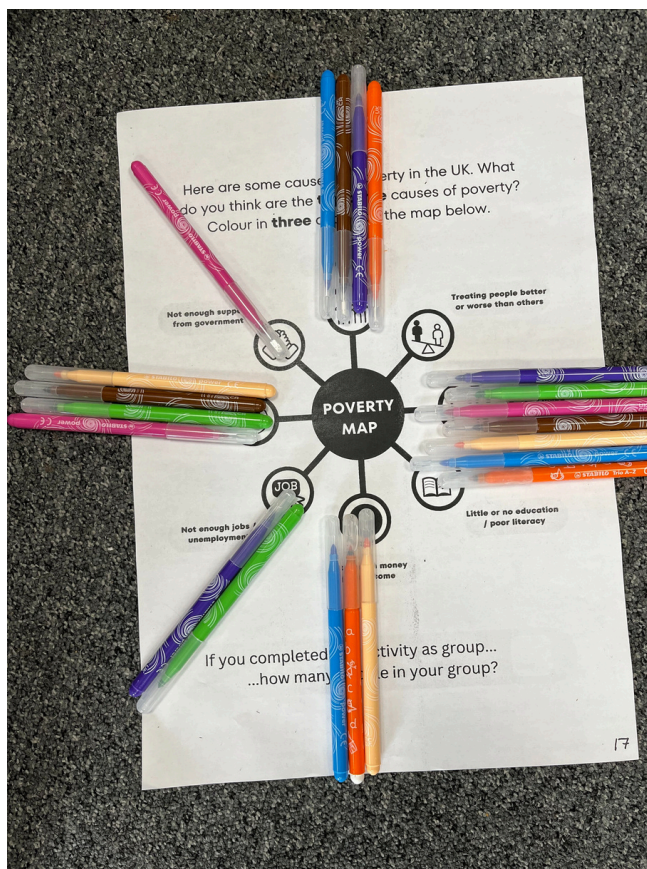
*Raising money for charities and donating to food banks has become a common rhythm in schools and churches*

*A lot of children and young people don't go to church. Some might be in church, but the message is from a very adult perspective.*

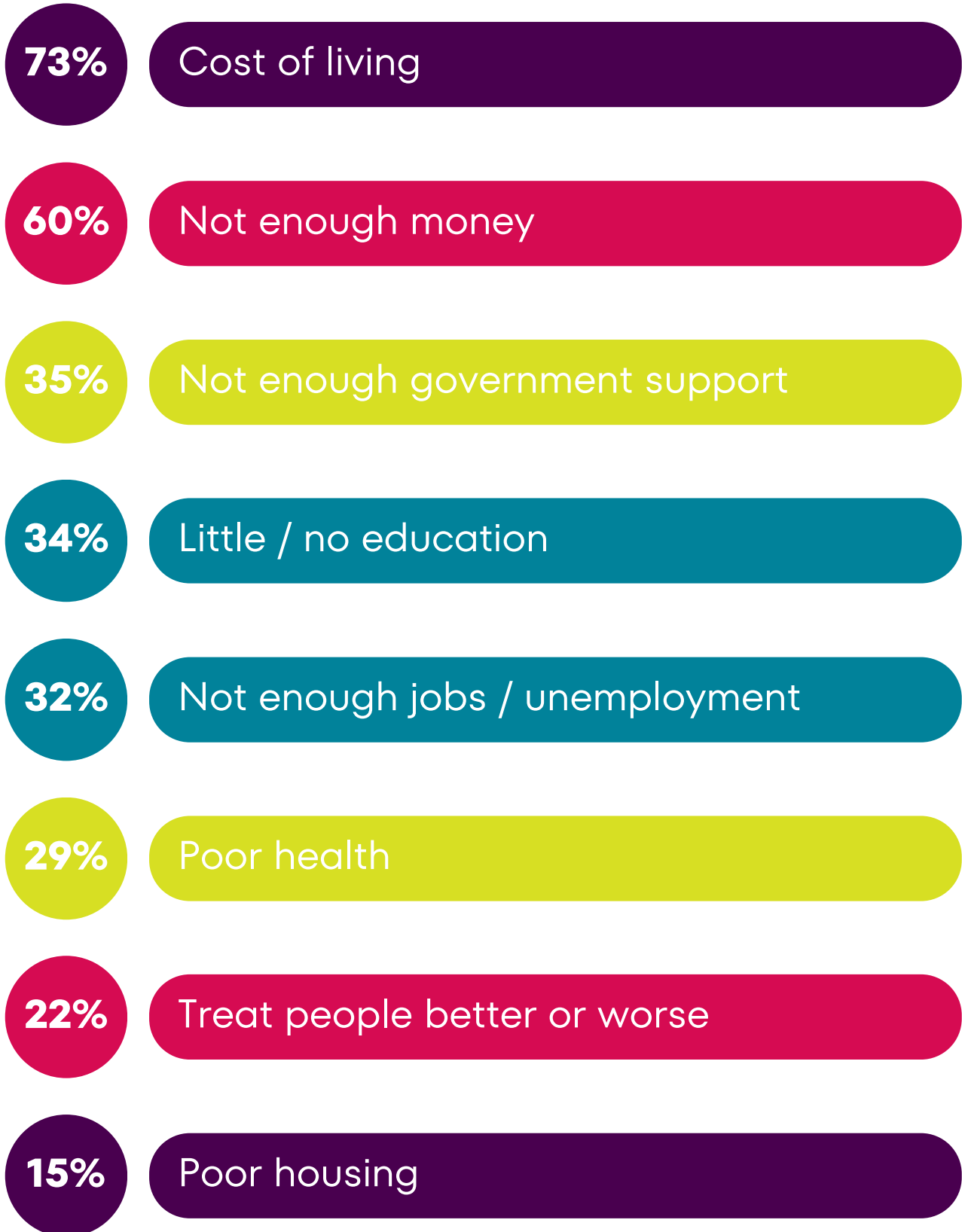
# ROUND 03

## Poverty Map

**What we did:** Participants were invited to work individually or in groups to discuss and complete a worksheet to identify the top three causes of poverty in the UK.



# What do you think are the top three causes of poverty in the UK?



*Lack of government support is complex,  
it's also affected by policy and values*

*Surprised that treating people  
differently was so low*

*The super rich get around paying tax*

*surprised poor housing was so low - when a  
house was so high on the needs list as an  
essential thing*

*Causes and consequences of poverty seem to impact each other... you  
could lose your job and have less money. Then you can't afford to pay  
for your house or food or something... or your health gets worse and  
you are treated differently - it can be a vicious cycle or one thing  
creates another problem.*

~ Young Voices

# QUESTIONS? ACTIONS? WHAT NEXT?



Reflecting on the responses from listening groups, Bishop's Children & Youth Council identified the following key questions to ask Bishop Martyn:

## AWARENESS...

How can we raise awareness in schools and churches about the issue of poverty and wider inequality?

## FAITH ISSUE...

89% of participants think God cares about poverty! Only 24% think getting rid of poverty is connected to faith.

Why do you think this is? And what can we do in response?

## LISTENING TO...


How can we hear more directly from those voices who are experiencing poverty, to inform and shape our response?

# RESPONDING

## So what actually happens next?

This report will be shared with Bishop’s Leadership Team, listening groups, and published on Leicester Diocese website.

Bishop Martyn will be invited to respond to the key questions raised in the report via video. Bishop Martyn's video response will be shared with participants and published on Leicester Diocese website.



[leicester.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/children-families-and-young-people/bishops-children-and-youth-council-bcyc](https://leicester.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/children-families-and-young-people/bishops-children-and-youth-council-bcyc)

Email [Matt.Long@leicestercofe.org](mailto:Matt.Long@leicestercofe.org) - for more info and resources.

## CONTRIBUTORS

### Round Design

Young people from our Intercultural Worshipping Communities.

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### Resource

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# SPRING TERM

We will be releasing a new listening exercise after February half term 2025 on the theme of **Safeguarding**.

We have worked in partnership with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and a group of young people to create a new resource and facilitator guide.

