

The Place Standard tool  
A Version for Young People

Adapted / developed by:



In consultations with children and young people

Place Standard Partners:



# The Place Standard tool

A Version for Young People



## What is the Place Standard Tool?

The Place Standard Tool is a simple and interesting way to help you answer the question: how good is my place?

## How good is my place?

The Place Standard tool can be used by anyone but this version has been made especially for young people.

This tool helps young people to talk about the things that matter to them in their places, in a way that can allow their views to make a difference. It asks about what young people do and need to live well and what changes might make things better for them.

Where I go  
and what I  
do?

How do I  
get from  
one place to  
another?

How I feel  
and how I  
care?

What I  
need to  
live well?



## Why is the place around me important?

The places where we live, play, hang out and relax are important because they help us live healthy, happy lives and help us take care of the environment.

When we **walk, wheel or cycle** around, we are taking exercise which is good for our health. It also means that we are not using cars, which helps to keep the air clean and the streets safe.

When we have good **outdoor spaces** and places to **hang out**, it makes us happy and healthy and helps us to spend time with friends and family.

When there are places like **shops, libraries, cafes, schools, gyms and youth clubs** close by, we are able to walk or cycle to these places and use them easily.

The places where we live and spend our time can also make us feel close to our friends and neighbours and help us to **feel proud** of a place and **take care** of it.

The places where we spend our time are important in lots of ways. Using this tool will help you to think about what is important to you in the place where you live and play.

## Using the Place Standard tool is easy!

The Place Standard tool asks 14 questions about the place where you live and spend your time.

All you need to do is think about what your place is like now and decide what **score** you want to give for each one of the questions – 1 to 7

**1** – Terrible  
(lots of improvement needed)



**2** – Bad but not terrible



**3** – Almost OK



**4** – OK (neither bad nor good)



**5** – Better than OK



**6** – Good but not excellent



**7** – Excellent (We love it!)



If you're working as a team and are having trouble deciding on a score then see if you can agree on an 'in between' score.

There are some extra questions that might help you to make up your mind about the score.

Your group can also agree to change a score as you chat more.

For each of the 14 questions, you should think about and record:

**What is good now?  
How could we make it better?**

If you're working as a team, you should discuss amongst yourselves and listen to views from different members of the team.

If something does not seem relevant to you or where you do not have enough information to answer, try to think about it from the points of view of others, like your friends, someone in your family or your neighbour.

You can either write the answers in the spaces provided or you can record the things you like or don't like in other ways, for example:

- **do a drawing;**
- **take photos;**
- **make a video;**
- **build a model**

## How to draw your Place Standard shape

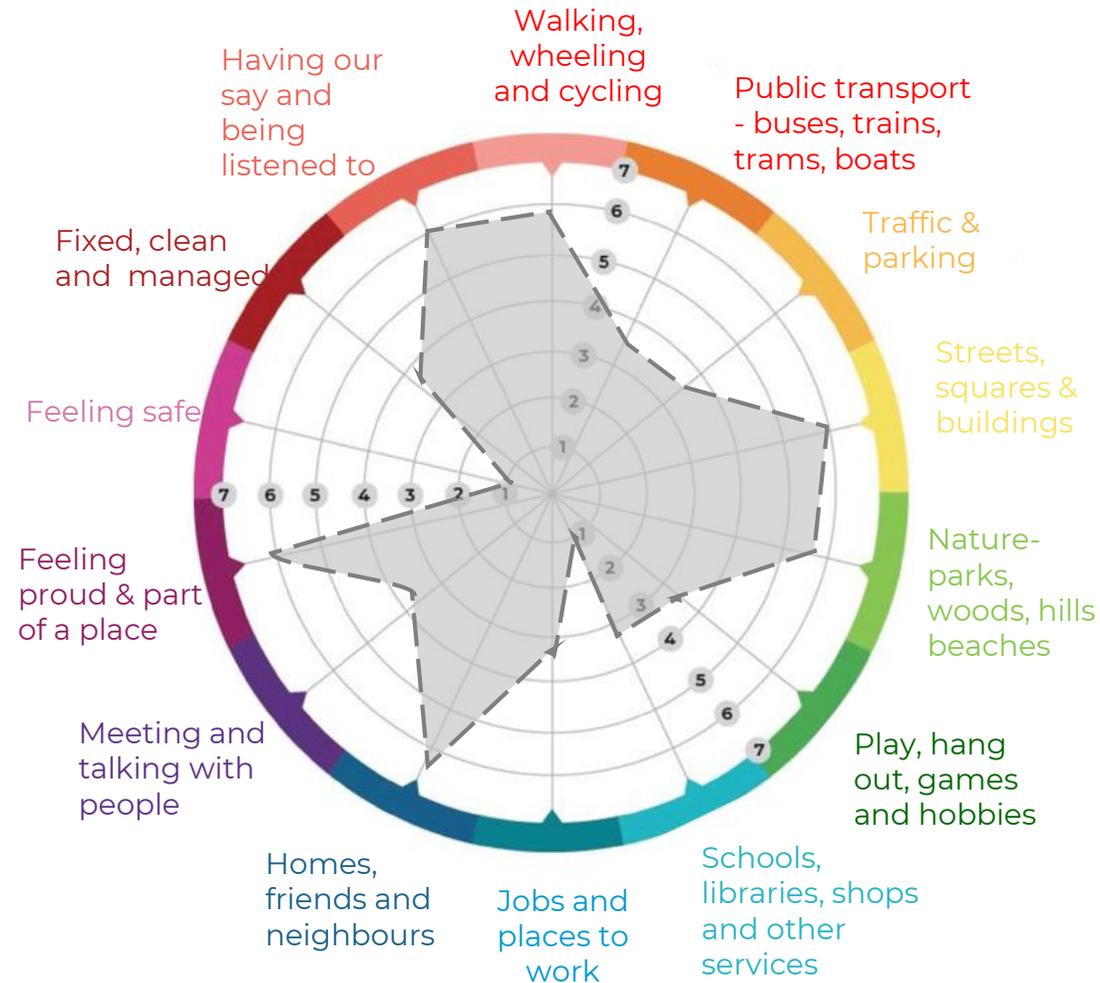
When you decide on a score for a question you can mark it on the Place Standard wheel.

Once you have marked all of your scores then you can connect the dots to draw your **Place Standard shape**.

You can then compare shapes with anyone else who has also completed the wheel.

Here's an example of how the scores make a shape on the wheel.

**That's all you need to do...  
So, let's get started**

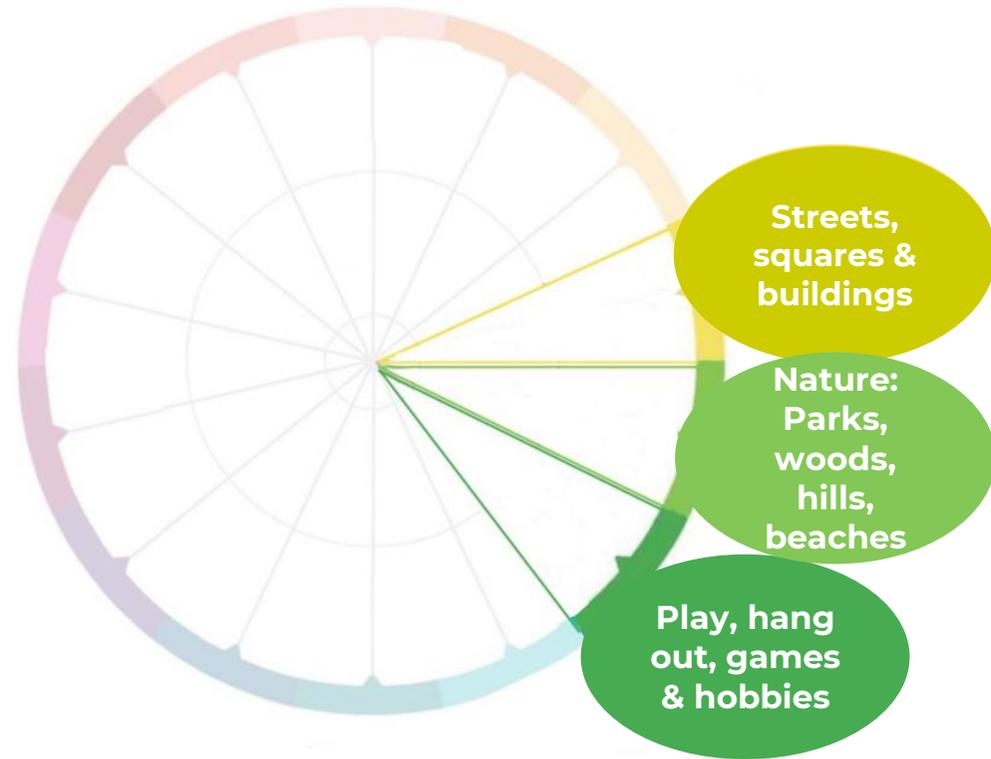


# Part 1

Where I go and what I do?



This part asks **3 questions** about the places you go and what you do there.



# Play, hang out, games and hobbies

Play, hanging out, games and hobbies keep us active, happy, connected and help improve our health and wellbeing. Places with a range of indoor and outdoor spaces and events encourage us to enjoy leisure, culture and sports.

## QUESTION

What are the spaces for play, recreation, sport and hanging out like in and around my place?

You might want to think about:

- What are they like, and are there enough?
- Are some places better to play and hang out in than others?
- Why do you like these places? What stops you from using the other spaces/places?
- Are there things missing to do in your place?
- Do people ever make the wrong assumptions about you when you're out and about?
- What else is important about play, hanging out, games and hobbies in your place?

clean & safe

wifi

changing facility

seating

Choice & types of space

quiet places

grass to sit on

signage

lighting

ballgames

skate park

sports field

shelter

hanging out

fun

relax

What is good now?

What could be better?

Please score on a scale from 1 to 7



Terrible

1



Bad

2



Almost OK

3



OK

4



Better than OK

5



Good

6



Excellent

7

## Nature: Parks, woods, hills, beaches

Natural spaces have many benefits –supporting wildlife, reducing flooding, and improving air quality. These spaces include parks and woodlands, fields, streams, canals and rivers, coasts and beaches, green spaces alongside paths and roads, and tree-lined streets. Connecting with nature improves our health and wellbeing.

### QUESTION

How well am I connected to nature where I live?

You might want to think about:

- Where are the best places for nature where you live?
- How easy is it for you to get out regularly to a natural space?
- Would you like there to be more nature in your place?
- Are the natural spaces well taken care of in your place?
- Are there important places near you for nature which should be protected? Where? Why are they important?
- What are the parks like? Are there things in the parks for young people and children to do or to participate in?
- What things could we change to make your place better for nature?
- Thinking about climate change, what things could we change in your place to help the planet?
- What else is important about the nature in your place?

trees & greenery

hills

adventure

Wild meadows

woodlands

wildlife

fields

Beaches / sea shores

canals

reed beds

ponds

swimming

riverside

What is good now?

What could be better?

Please score on a scale from 1 to 7



Terrible

1



Bad

2



Almost OK

3



OK

4



Better than OK

5



Good

6



Excellent

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## Streets, squares and buildings

Buildings, streets and natural landscape can help to create a beautiful place that people enjoy being in. Landmarks, views, squares and greenery can help people to find their way around a place, and make a place special. Greenery and permeable surfaces also help to drain surface water and are good for the environment.

### QUESTION

What are the streets, squares and buildings like in my place?

You might want to think about:

- Are there interesting and beautiful streets, squares and buildings?
- Does your place have landmarks? If so what are they like?
- Is it easy to know where you are in your place?
- Do people often get lost in your place?
- Are there vacant and derelict land in your place?
- What things could be changed to make the streets, squares and buildings better?
- What else is important about the streets, squares and buildings in your place?

special building

civic square

easy & direct routes

vacant land

trees & greenery

empty building

tower

statue

historic features

village green

street signs

colourful

monument

public garden

ugly building

drab & dreary

special viewpoint

What is good now?

What could be better?

Please score on a scale from 1 to 7



Terrible

1



Bad

2



Almost OK

3



OK

4



Better than OK

5



Good

6



Excellent

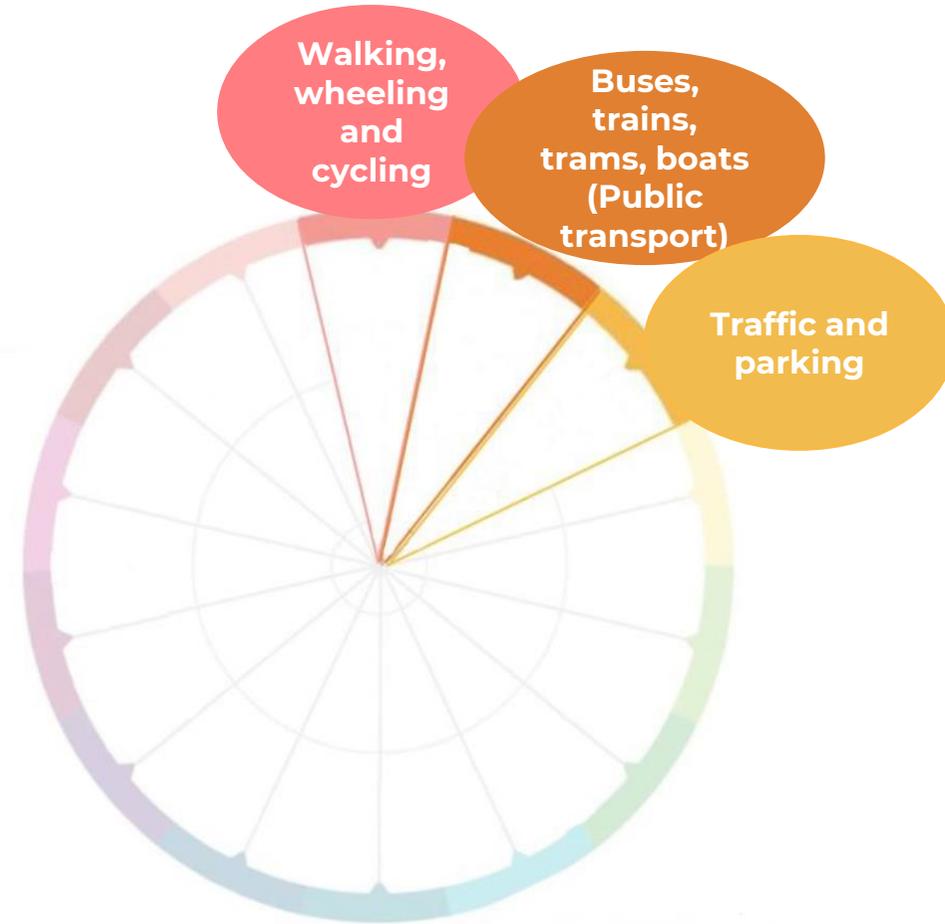
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## Part 2

How do I get from one place to another?



This part asks **3 questions** about how you get around.



# Walking, wheeling and cycling

Safe and enjoyable routes encourage people to walk, wheel and cycle, which is good for people's health and for the environment. These include quiet streets with low vehicle use or reduced speed limits, wide pavements, footpaths, cycle paths. They are also good for people in wheelchairs or with walking aids or with a pram.

## QUESTION

How easy is it to walk, wheel or cycle to places I need to and want to go?

You might want to think about:

- Is it easy for you and your friends, or family, to walk, wheel, cycle and move around in your place? If not, why not?
- Is there a difference in how easy it is to walk, to wheel and to cycle? How easy is it to move around in your place in a wheelchair or with a pram?
- What things could change to make it easier and safer to walk, wheel and cycle to school/college/university?
- What would make it a better place for everyone to get around?
- What else is important about walking, wheeling, cycling and moving around your place?

paths, pavements & connections

trees & greenery

safe

good lighting

clean and clear of obstructions

street signs

shelter

dropped kerbs

crossings

shade

street surfaces

railings

seating

What is good now?

What could be better?

Please score on a scale from 1 to 7



Terrible

1



Bad

2



Almost OK

3



OK

4



Better than OK

5



Good

6



Excellent

7

## Public Transport – Buses, trains, trams, boats

Good public transport is affordable, reliable and connects people to where they want to go. This helps young people to get to schools and other places they easily. Good public transport can reduce the use of cars and encourage people to travel in ways that are better for their health and for the environment.

### QUESTION

How easy is it to get to where I need to or want to go by bus, train or other forms of public transport?

You might want to think about:

- Where do you need to get to by bus or train (or other public transport)? How often?
- Is it easy to get to all the places you need to or want to go? If not, why?
- Apart from free buses, is other public transport a good price for you? If not, what should it be?
- Do you feel comfortable using the public transport in your place? Why?
- What else is important about public transport in your place?

choice & types

safe

waiting times

mobile apps

destinations

journey time

timetable

shelter

connections

ticket price

over-crowded

toilet

bike, scooter, skateboard storage

service times

What is good now?

What could be better?

Please score on a scale from 1 to 7



Terrible

1



Bad

2



Almost OK

3



OK

4



Better than OK

5



Good

6



Excellent

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# Traffic and parking

Traffic and parking affect how people use the streets. Good arrangements and management can help people enjoy their place more. Good place design should consider the needs of people first - making it safer, easier and nicer to walk, cycle or wheel and to enjoy.

## QUESTION

How does traffic in my place affect me when I am out and about?

You might want to think about:

- What do you think the traffic is like in your place?
- Can you cross the roads safely?
- Have there been many accidents in your area recently? If so, what happened?
- Where are the dangerous roads? Why are they dangerous? How can we make them safer?
- Is parking in a good place? Does it ever get in your way when you are out and about?
- What else is important about traffic and parking in your place?

speed of traffic

traffic noise

disabled parking

pollution

safe crossing points

delivery vehicles

accidents

bin lorries

vehicles parked on pavements

traffic calming measures

too scared to walk or cycle

too much / not enough parking

cycle parking

safety

What is good now?

What could be better?

Please score on a scale from 1 to 7



Terrible

1



Bad

2



Almost OK

3



OK

4



Better than OK

5



Good

6



Excellent

7

## Part 3

How I feel and  
how I care?



This part asks **4 questions** about how you feel in and around your place.



# Having our say and being listened to

Saying what we think and being listened to in decision making about our place can help to build stronger communities and sustainable places. Having a sense of control can make us feel more positive about our lives.

## QUESTION

When things happen in my place, how easy is it for me to say what I think and being listened to?

You might want to think about:

- Have you been asked about what you want in your place before?
- If you or someone else in your community wants something to improve, are there people or places you can go to talk about it and help organise activities?
- Do you ever feel ignored when trying to give your view?
- Do the young people in your community say what they think and are listened to?
- What are the best ways to ask for your views?
- Have you seen changes happen in your community based on what you or other people have said?
- What else is important about having your say and being listened to in your place?

community worker

teachers

instagram

internet

parents and carers

school/college/uni

youth club

social media

online survey

sports club

patronised

What is good now?

What could be better?

Please score on a scale from 1 to 7



Terrible

1



Bad

2



Almost OK

3



OK

4



Better than OK

5



Good

6



Excellent

7

## Fixed, clean and managed

Places that are cared for look nice and make us feel positive and secure. Places that are not looked after properly can affect our wellbeing.

### QUESTION

Are there spaces or buildings that need cleaning up or fixing in the area around me?

You might want to think about:

- Do you think your place is well looked after? If not, what needs doing?
- What are the things need fixing?
- Where / what are the spaces need cleaning / fixing?
- Could there be better use of the spaces or buildings that need fixing / cleaning up?
- What are the things that you think your place does not look after well?
- What do you and other people do to take care of your place?
- What else is important about looking after your place?

repairs      vandalism      litter picking      dog mess

broken street light      graffiti      potholes      more bins

artwork      overgrown greenery      community food growing

things not fixed      temporary use      bins in wrong places

What is good now?

What could be better?

Please score on a scale from 1 to 7



Terrible      Bad      Almost OK      OK      Better than OK      Good      Excellent

1      2      3      4      5      6      7

# Feeling safe

How safe a place feels can support community activity, affect your wellbeing and influence how and where you spend your time. Good design can make places feel safe by reducing the opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour.

## QUESTION

How safe and/or comfortable do I feel in my place?

You might want to think about:

- Do you ever feel scared in your place?
- Are there areas where you feel unsafe or uncomfortable? Is it a specific space or specific type of space?
- What about these spaces / areas that make you feel this way?
- Were the areas more / less safe than they used to be? What has changed?
- Are there any social issues that add to you feeling unsafe?
- What could change to make you feel safe and comfortable in your place?
- How do you share your concerns about feeling safe in your place? Is there someone you can talk to?
- What else is important about feeling safe and comfortable in your place?

different times of day

gang

anti-social behaviour

empty property

crime

no go areas

unlit areas

overlooking

underpass

vandalism

side streets

flooding

fences

police

neighbourhood watch

What is good now?

What could be better?

Please score on a scale from 1 to 7



Terrible

1



Bad

2



Almost OK

3



OK

4



Better than OK

5



Good

6



Excellent

7

# Feeling proud and a part of my place

How a place looks, its history and what other people think of it can affect how we feel. A positive identity can also attract people and businesses to move into a place / an area.

## QUESTION

How proud do I feel about my place?

You might want to think about:

- What makes you proud about your place?
- Do you feel welcomed in your place? How? Why?
- Do you have special buildings or monuments in your place? What are they about and what do you think of them?
- Are there traditions in your place? If so, how do you celebrate them?
- What is the culture like in your place? Do you have celebrations of yours and other people's traditions?
- What would make you or other people feel prouder and part of your place?
- Do you feel more or less proud and a part of your place than when you were younger? If so, what has changed to make you feel this way?
- What else is important about feeling proud and a part of your place?

monument

natural beauty

culture

museum

special building

statue

history

heritage

festivals

celebrations

music / arts festivals

local school

local produce

awards

community

What is good now?

What could be better?

Please score on a scale from 1 to 7



Terrible

1



Bad

2



Almost OK

3



OK

4



Better than OK

5



Good

6



Excellent

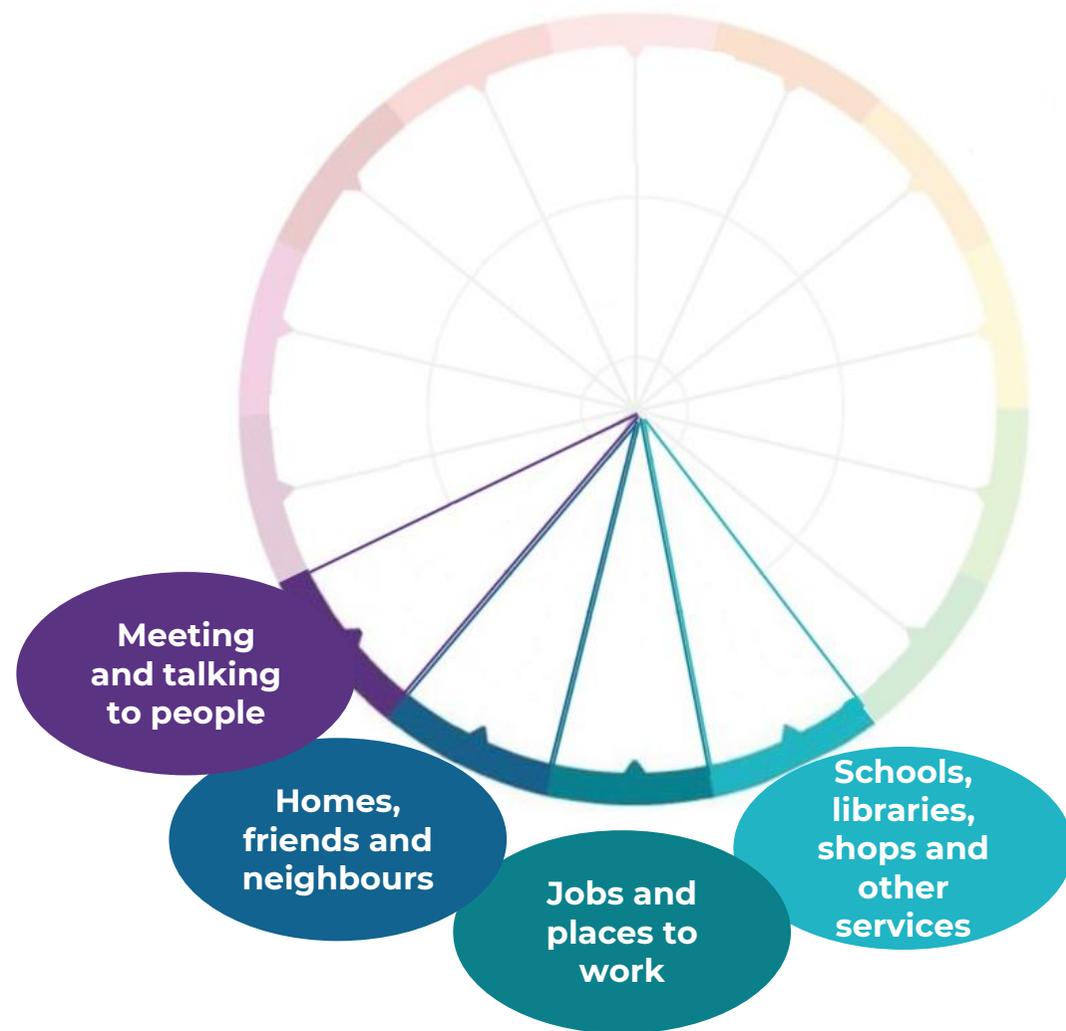
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## Part 4

### What I need to live well?



This part asks **4 questions** about what helps you to live well.



# Schools, libraries, shops and other services

Services such as schools, colleges, universities, doctors, shops, libraries, social care and community groups, help people to live happy lives. It can be difficult for people when services aren't available in the local area or when they don't meet people's needs.

## QUESTION

What is my place like for accessing services we need?

You might want to think about:

- What do you think of school/college/university? How easy for you to get there? What could we change about the them to make things better for young people?
- Do you have to go far to visit a doctor, dentist, vet or other services that you might need?
- Are there libraries or youth cafes you and your friends can go to? What are they like?
- Do you know where to go if you need help from the police? If you've needed them before, have you felt supported by them?
- How easy is it for you to get healthy food and take part in healthy activities that you can afford in your place?
- What could we change to make things better for you or other young people who need support or care?
- What else is important about services and facilities in your place?

community hall   local shops   gym   swimming pool

health centre   school/college/uni   libraries   wifi

youth cafe   sports hall   youth workers   advice

What is good now?

What could be better?

Please score on a scale from 1 to 7



# Jobs and places to work

A strong local economy with a mix of businesses can help to make places feel active and attractive – most people enjoy spending time in lively places. Access to good quality jobs, volunteering and training can help us stay active and healthy, provide social connections, a sense of identity and satisfaction

## QUESTION

Are there opportunities for people to work, trained or volunteer locally?

You might want to think about:

- Are there volunteering opportunities for young people in your place? What kind of volunteering would you like?
- Are there opportunities for apprenticeship training in your place? What kind of training are there?
- If you have a job, what do you think of it? Is it easy to get to?
- If you wanted a job, do you think you could find one in or near your place?
- Do your parents or family members work locally or have to travel to work elsewhere? Is it far to travel to work? Can they work from home?
- What else is important about jobs and places to work in your place?

local shops and businesses

volunteerig

skills centre

business hub

apprenticeship

self-employed

seasonal jobs

work from home

commuting

food growing

food market

No jobs

arts & crafts

What is good now?

What could be better?

Please score on a scale from 1 to 7



Terrible

1



Bad

2



Almost OK

3



OK

4



Better than OK

5



Good

6



Excellent

7

# Homes, friends and neighbours

Homes, friends and neighbours are important parts of a community. Living in places where the people in the community care for each other and are involved in decision-making locally makes us feel more positive about our lives. Strong communities help making places more sustainable in the long term.

## QUESTION

### Does my place feel like a community?

You might want to think about:

- Do you enjoy living in your place / neighbourhood? What is good / bad about it?
- Are there many other young people of your age in your community? Do you know some / many of them?
- Are people in your community nice to you and/or nice to other young people?
- Do the young people in your community say what they think and are listened to?
- Are there people of different ages and from different cultures living in your place?
- What things could we change in your place, to make the housing and community better?
- What else is important about homes, friends and neighbours in your place?

different house types

families

older people

street party

community events

community hall

different activities

help each other

ignored

other young people

friendly

hang out spaces

What is good now?

What could be better?

Please score on a scale from 1 to 7



Terrible

1



Bad

2



Almost OK

3



OK

4



Better than OK

5



Good

6



Excellent

7

# Meeting and talking with people

Feeling isolated can be damaging to our health and wellbeing. Good places have a mix of spaces and opportunities to meet and spend time with friends and other people you trust. Some places also have active websites or social media networks to help people meet and take part in activities in the local area.

## QUESTION

Are there spaces / places where I go to meet and talk with friends and other local people I trust?

You might want to think about:

- What are the spaces like, and are there enough?
- What would make them better spaces / places for meeting friends and neighbours?
- Do you see friends often in places other than school/college/university/work?
- What other spaces / places do you think your place needs?
- What things could you change in your place so that young people can meet each other more?
- What else is important about meeting people in your place?

safe local halls outdoor seating open spaces

play park hang out spaces eating places cafes

activity spaces trusted adult other teenagers

sunny spaces public square / garden youth club

What is good now?

What could be better?

Please score on a scale from 1 to 7



Terrible

Bad

Almost OK

OK

Better than OK

Good

Excellent

1

2

3

4

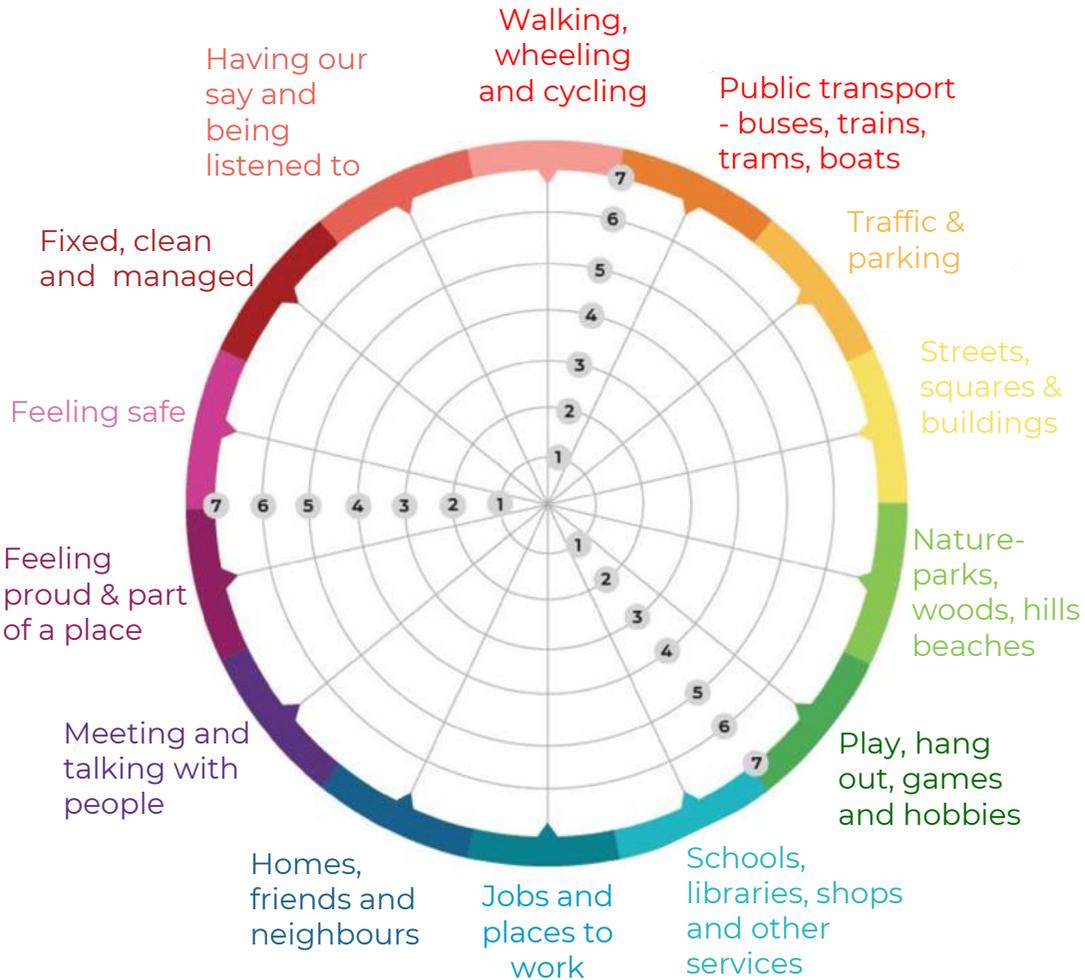
5

6

7

## Now you have all your scores you can complete your Place Standard shape.

Mark your scores on the diagram and then connect the dots to draw your Place Standard shape. You can then compare shapes with anyone else who has also completed the wheel.



**Lowest scoring theme(s)**

**Highest scoring theme(s)**

## My priorities for change

Thinking about all the questions, themes and everything you have talked about, what are the things you think need to change most in your place?

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