



CENSUS 2025

streetsoccer.org.uk



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STREET SOCCER GOES FAR BEYOND JUST FOOTBALL

The impact of its programmes cannot be understated. With registered players and sessions continuing to grow, participants report that involvement with Street Soccer has improved not only their social and economic situations but given them a sense of community and helped them to manage issues in their personal life which has given them hope for the future.

PARTICIPATION ACROSS SCOTLAND CONTINUES TO GROW

Participation in the programmes has allowed players to grow their confidence and communication skills, which they have utilised to improve

STREET SOCCER COULD HAVE A LASTING IMPACT

Participants acknowledge that there are still aspects of their lives that they would like support in going forward. If given access to sufficient funding, Street Soccer can take the next step in the level of support that they provide to its participants.

OUR FOOTPRINT

5,800+

registered players **+23% ↑**

3,300+

sessions in 2025 **+27% ↑**

51,000+

session attendees throughout 2025 **+46% ↑**

20

locations

32%

from an ethnic minority background **+14% ↑**

20%

have a disability





IN A SNAPSHOT

59% of players chose to join Street Soccer to improve their mental health

98% of players think that Street Soccer is a unique organisation

93% of players feel like they belong to a community since joining Street Soccer

76% of players feel that participating in Street Soccer has improve their confidence

76% of players' have more hope for the future because of their participation at Street Soccer

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THE DATA AND INSIGHTS IN THIS STUDY DERIVE FROM 380 UNIQUE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES MADE BY STREET SOCCER PLAYERS.

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Participant Overview

Programme Engagement

Programme Impact

Personal Experiences

Future Outlook

Appendix



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

STUDY OBJECTIVES

This study had three main objectives:

- 01

THE STATE OF PLAY
Understand the profile of participants along with their motivations and frequency of attending Street Soccer programmes.
- 02

THE PROGRAMME IMPACT
Learn about the life experiences that participants have faced and the impact the programme has had on them.
- 03

HOW TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE
Better understand participant goals along with the areas of support that would benefit them.

THE FLOW

- 01

PARTICIPANT OVERVIEW
An overall perspective on the demographics of the audience and where they attend sessions.
- 02

PROGRAMME ENGAGEMENT
Insights will pertain to how and why players engage with Street Soccer.
- 03

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES
A look into the different life experiences that relate to players at Street Soccer.
- 04

PROGRAMME IMPACT
Visibility as to how Street Soccer and their programmes have impacted the lives of players
- 05

FUTURE OUTLOOK
A perspective on the goals of players and how Street Soccer could evolve their services.



ABOUT THE CENSUS

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

This report is the product of a partnership between Street Soccer and THE TEAM. THE TEAM has supported the development of the research methodology, independent analysis of participant responses and interpretation of the findings presented throughout. This work was provided on a pro-bono basis in recognition of the vital work Street Soccer carries out across Scotland and London.

THE TEAM are a leading global sports, music and entertainment agency with a dedicated insights team that helps organisations understand and evidence their community impact through research and analysis. The views, commentary and conclusions contained within this report reflect THE TEAM's independent interpretation of data collected directly from Street Soccer participants.



PARTICIPANT OVERVIEW



14%

total female participation reached
(4pp uplift from 2024)



EDINBURGH

remains the most popular
location with 34% of
participants



30-39

remained the most popular age
demographic with 23%



53%

of respondents rely solely on
Street Soccer as their only
support agency, consistent with
last years figure of 56%

View our other player stories here



MARK'S STORY

“My work coach suggested going to Street Soccer because I love football, he thought it would help me to meet new people and help my mental health, this is when I met Michael & Ross.”

Mark, AKA Sparky, started attending the weekly drop-in sessions and after a few months joined the Monday mental health group which combines a group mental wellbeing session run by Michael one of Street Soccer's Mental Health Workers, followed by a wellbeing focused football session.

“I really enjoy the social side of Street Soccer, I get on with all the guys and girls, we have some good banter. The part I really like is the mental health group, I get to talk about how I am feeling then we play football, I love playing football it keeps me fit.”

In the last 2 ½ years Sparky has attended over 250 Street Soccer sessions. He's been part of the Glasgow team who took part in the Scottish Mental Health and Wellbeing League and he was selected by staff to play at a Street Soccer Hampden Pitch Day.

“I feel welcome, I like that no one judges me, and it makes me proud of myself and to be part of Street Soccer.”

Mark suffered with a form of meningitis when he was a child that has left him with a lifelong learning disability which has affected different parts of his life and meant he hasn't engaged in formal education since childhood.

After encouragement from Morag, Street Soccer Progressions Worker, Sparky has restarted his education with a Level 4 SCQF in Communication and has been working 1-1 with Morag, progressing to work in a small group. He successfully completed the module in September, achieving an accredited qualification.

The Street Soccer Family and Sparky's parents were so proud of him: “It brought a tear to my eye that day seeing everyone - staff and players at Street Soccer - cheering and making a fuss of Mark achieving this. Mark loves coming to Street Soccer where he is just one of the boys.”



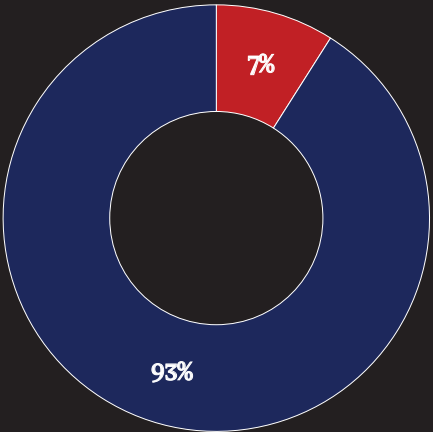
SINCE COMING TO STREET SOCCER 2 ½ YEARS AGO I THINK I HAVE BECOME MORE CONFIDENT AND ITS PART OF MY ROUTINE. I FEEL STREET SOCCER IS A SPECIAL PLACE BECAUSE THERE I AM JUST 'SPARKY' THEY DON'T SEE MY DISABILITY, THEY JUST SEE ME.”



DEMOGRAPHICS

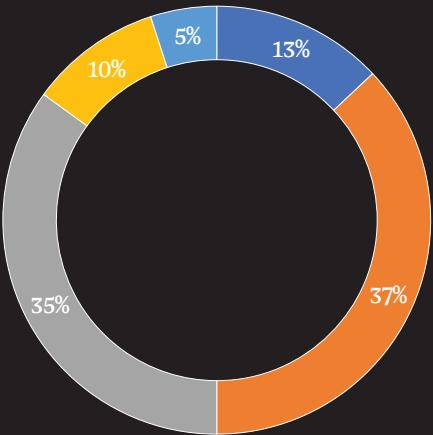
WHILE THIS DOES SKEW MALE, THIS IS AN ACCURATE REPRESENTATION OF THE PLAYERS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING ON STREET SOCCER PROGRAMMES.

“What Street Soccer location do you attend most ?”



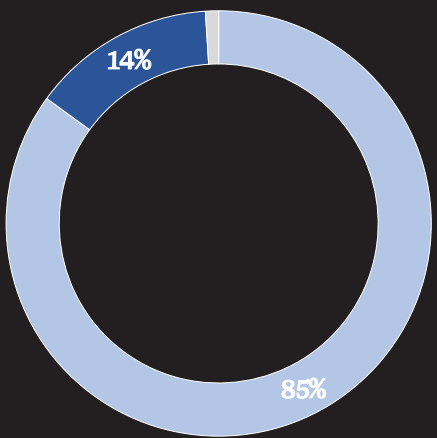
■ London ■ Scotland

“What is your age group ?”



■ 10-16 ■ 16-24 ■ 24-40 ■ 40-60 ■ 60+

“What is your gender ?”

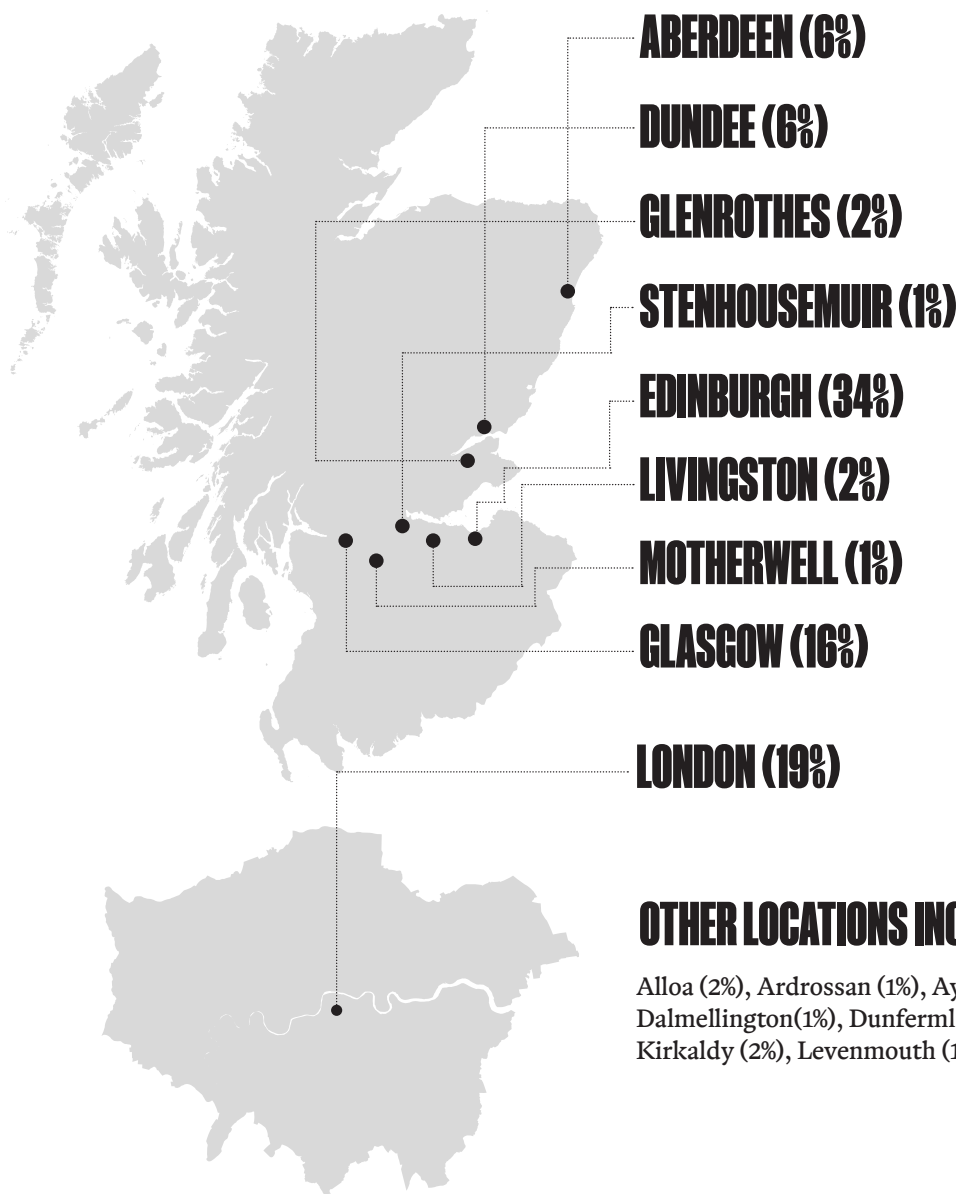


■ Male ■ Female ■ Other

LOCATIONS

WHILST STREET SOCCER HAS COVERAGE ACROSS SEVERAL REGIONS IN SCOTLAND AND BOROUGHES IN LONDON, IN SCOTLAND PARTICIPATION IS MORE CONCENTRATED IN EDINBURGH, WHILE IN LONDON CENTRALLY LOCATED SOUTHWARD AND SHOREDITCH ARE MOST ATTENDED.

“Which Street Soccer location do you attend most?”



OTHER LOCATIONS INCLUDE:

Alloa (2%), Ardrossan (1%), Ayr (2%), Clydebank (2%), Dalmellington(1%), Dunfermline(1%), Greenock (1%), Kirkaldy (2%), Levenmouth (1%),

OTHER AGENCIES

OVER HALF OF RESPONDENTS INDICATED THEY ARE NOT CURRENTLY INVOLVED WITH ANY OTHER SUPPORT AGENCIES IN 2025.

“Other than Street Soccer, how many other support agencies are you involved with?”





IMPLICATIONS

FEMALE PARTICIPATION IS RISING

Whilst female participation is only 14%, this does represent a 4pp uplift from last year, showing that more females are starting to take part.

PARTICIPATION ACROSS SCOTLAND CONTINUES TO GROW

Sessions in Edinburgh continue to rise with 36% of participants playing there, which is a 7pp uplift compared to last year. Other regions like Aberdeen also saw strong growth with a 5pp uplift from last year.

AGE DEMOGRAPHIC AND LOCATION CONTINUES TO BE SCOTLAND AND MIDDLE AGED FOCUSED

The overall age demographic is still majority in the 30-39 age range with Scotland still far outweighing London.

PROGRAMME ENGAGEMENT

Key Insights

5PP uplift in opportunities to travel to tournaments elsewhere in the UK

7PP uplift in people motivations being making new friends with Street Soccer

2X as many people who have been attending for less than 3 months

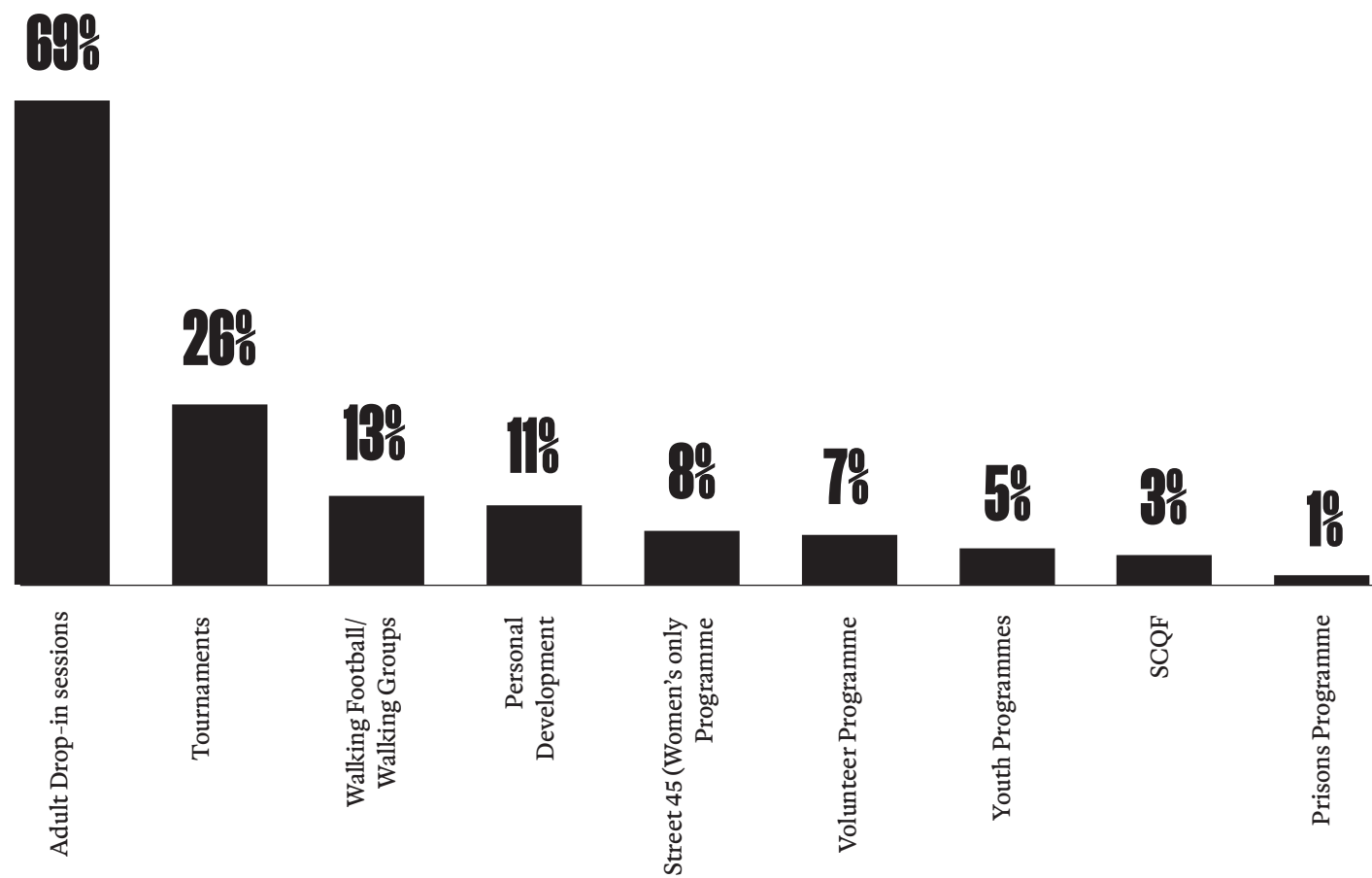
86% of respondents attended weekly sessions



PROGRAMME PARTICIPATION

GIVEN THE NATURE OF STREET SOCCER’S CORE SERVICE, ADULT DROP-IN SESSIONS ARE THE MOST PARTICIPATED IN PROGRAM FOR BOTH PLAYER GROUPS.

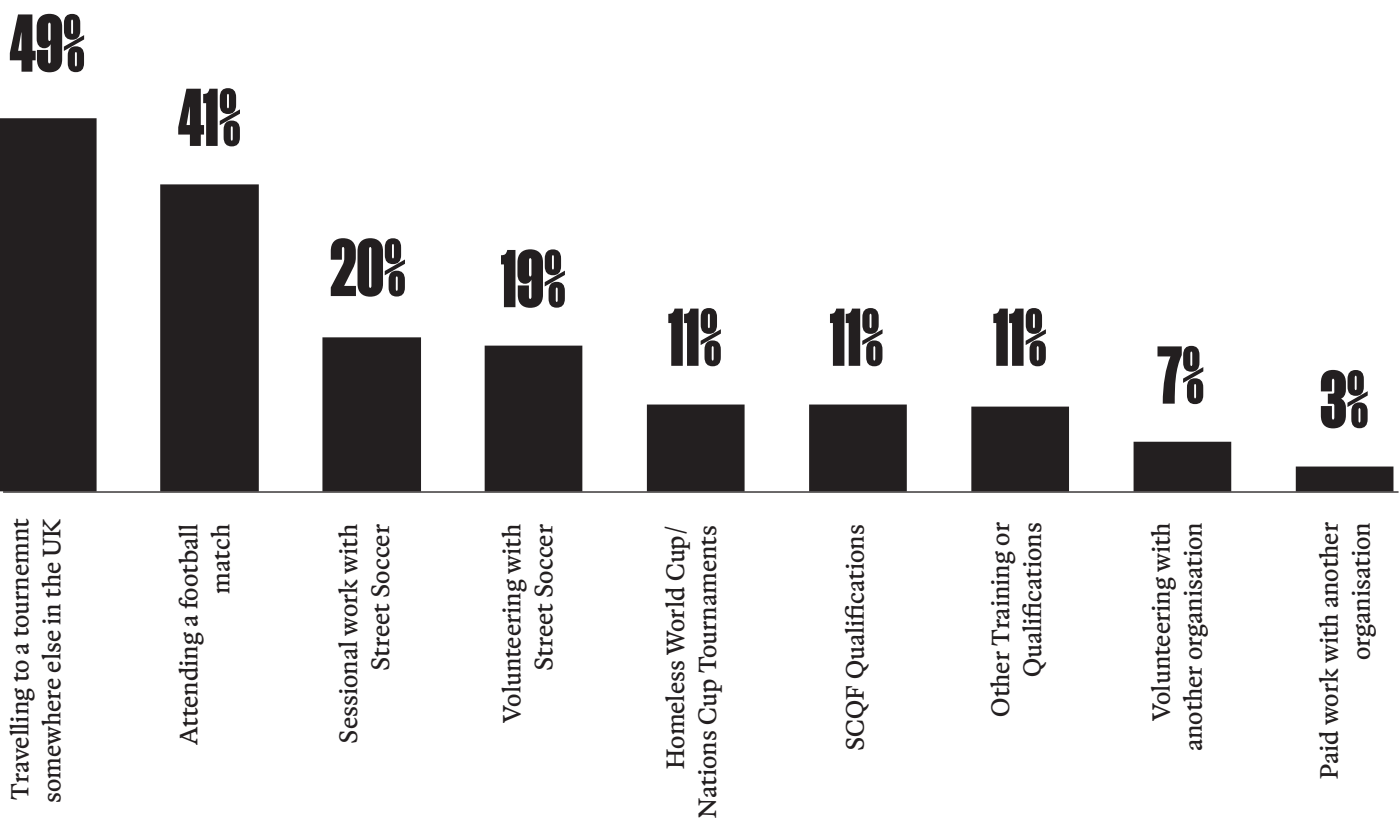
“Which programmes are you most involved with at Street Soccer?”



ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES

STREET SOCCER PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO ITS PLAYERS TO VOLUNTEER WITH 19% DOING SO, AND A FURTHER 20% HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SESSIONAL WORK WITH STREET SOCCER, OFFERING FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT. ADDITIONALLY STREET SOCCER AWARDED 427 SCQF QUALIFICATIONS IN 2025.

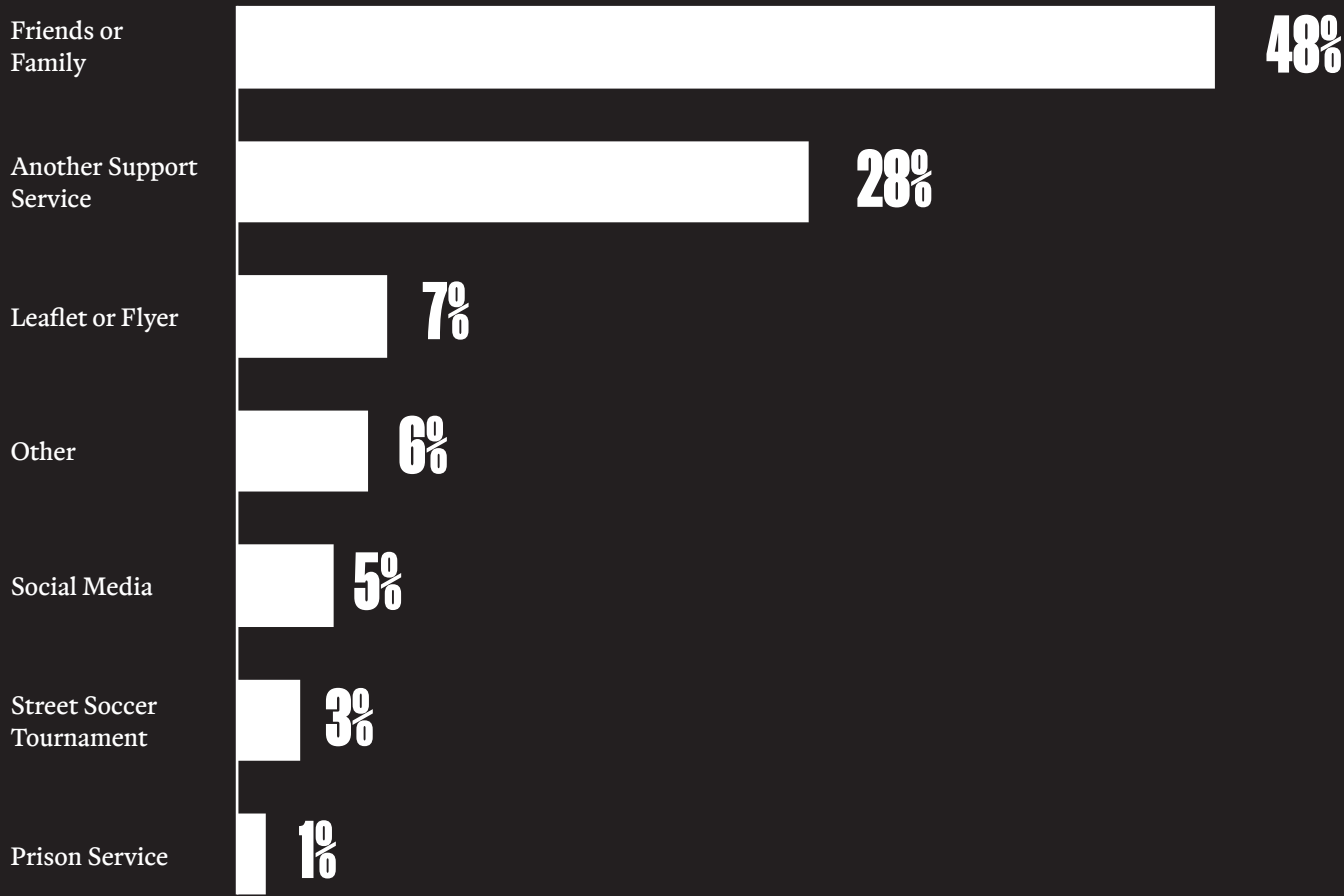
“Since joining Street Soccer, what additional opportunities have you had access to?”



DISCOVERY

MORE PEOPLE ARE DISCOVERING STREET SOCCER THROUGH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. WHILST FRIENDS OR FAMILY WERE THE PRIMARY DRIVERS OF DISCOVERY, 28% DISCOVERED STREET SOCCER THROUGH OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES. THIS GIVES AN INDICATION AS TO HOW WELL RESPECTED THE ORGANISATION IS ACROSS THE INDUSTRY AND SPEAKS TO THE STRENGTH OF THEIR PARTNERSHIP WORKING MODEL.

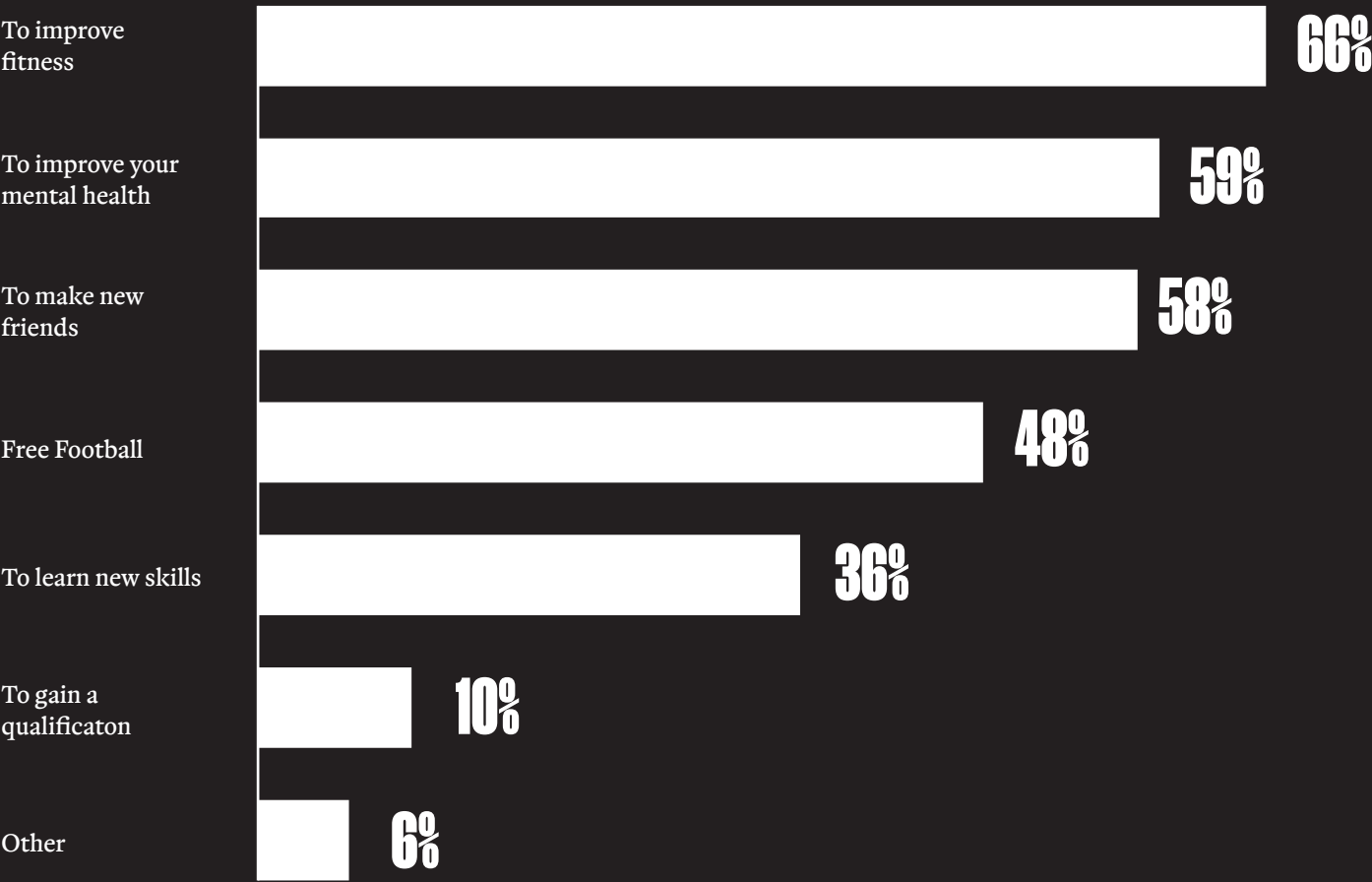
“How did you hear about Street Soccer?”



MOTIVATIONS

WHILST FREE FOOTBALL WAS A POPULAR DRIVER GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE SESSIONS BEING HELD, PERSONAL AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT FACTORS WERE MORE OF A MOTIVATOR FOR PEOPLE. PARTICIPANTS WANT TO IMPROVE THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND BUILD THEIR COMMUNITY BY MAKING FRIENDS.

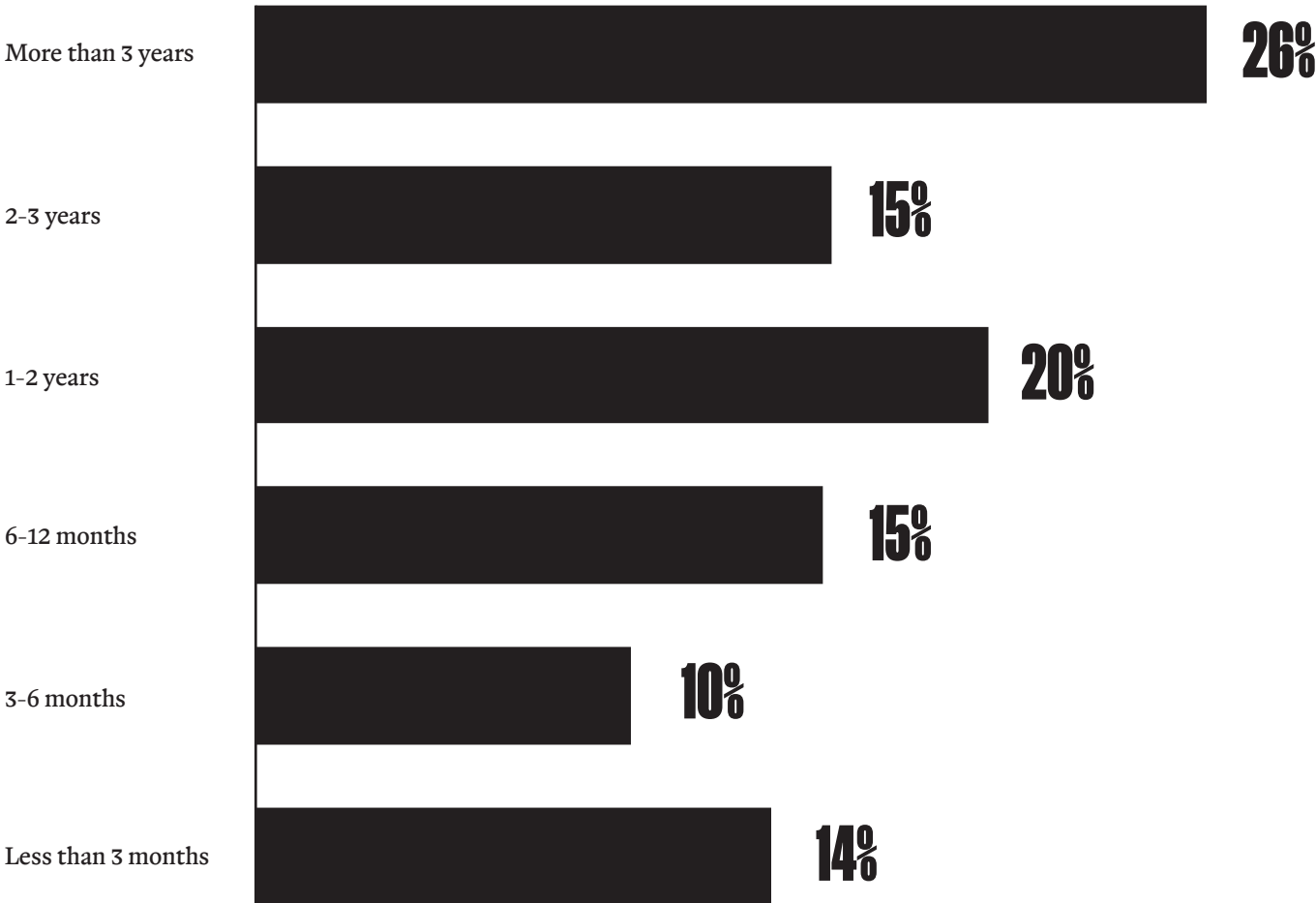
“Why did you choose to join Street Soccer?”



ATTENDANCE LENGTH

STREET SOCCER PROGRAMMES ARE NOT TIME LIMITED. AS THEY ARE PERSON-CENTRED, STREET SOCCER PROVIDE AS MUCH SUPPORT AS EACH INDIVIDUAL NEEDS FOR AS LONG AS THEY NEED. THE PLAYERS THEY SUPPORT ARE INDIVIDUALS FURTHEST FROM REACHING POSITIVE DESTINATIONS AND OFTEN FACE MULTIPLE AND COMPLEX CHALLENGES. AS SUCH, A LONGER PERIOD OF SUPPORT IS OFTEN REQUIRED TO ENABLE PLAYERS TO REACH AND SUSTAIN OUTCOMES.

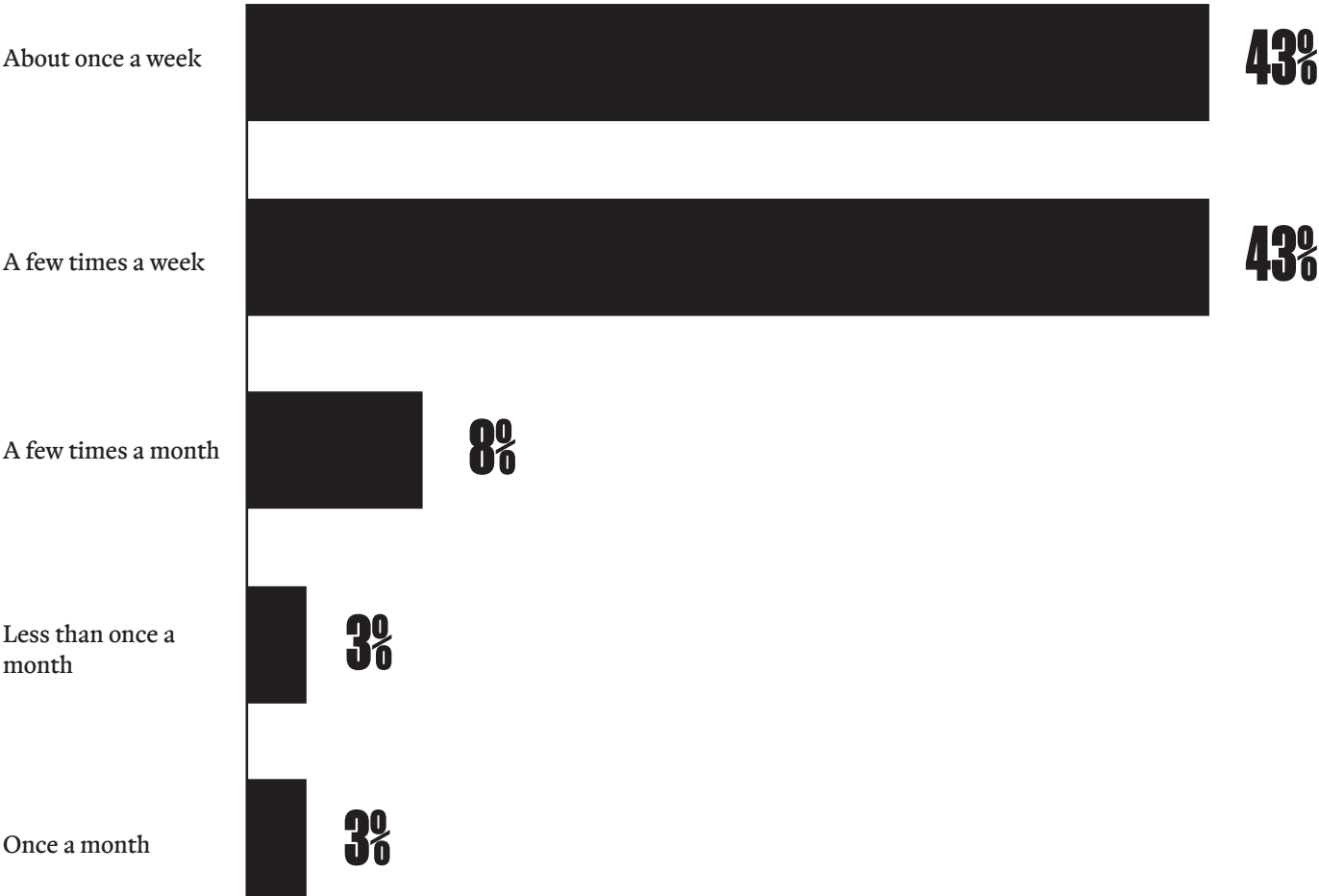
“How long have you been attending Street Soccer?”



ATTENDANCE FREQUENCY

PARTICIPANTS CLEARLY ENJOY THE SESSIONS AND EVENTS THAT ARE HOSTED BY STREET SOCCER AND SEE THE IMPACT IT HAS ON THEIR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS SUPPORTED BY THE FACT THAT NEARLY HALF OF ATTENDEES ARE ATTENDING SESSIONS A FEW TIMES A WEEK.

“How often do you attend Street Soccer sessions/events?”



*27% of players would be restricted to a maximum of 1 session per week because of engagement in the Network Programme



IMPLICATIONS

INCREASED SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPANTS IS GROWING

There are a growing opportunities because of the communities being built within Street Soccer, such as travel to tournaments elsewhere in the UK and attending football matches, which saw a 3pp uplift. The connections made within this community continues to open doors for those that take part.

MAKING NEW FRIENDS IS BECOMING A GROWING PRIORITY

Making new friends has become an increasing priority as well with a 7pp increase on the number of people listing it as their motivation for joining, when compared to last year.

NEW FACES CONTINUING TO JOIN

The number of people who have been attending Street Soccer in the last 3 months has nearly doubled when compared to last year, showing a growing demand to take part which is reflected in the growing overall attendance numbers.

PROGRAMME IMPACT

Key Insights

93% Said they feel like they belong to a community

79% Feel like Street Soccer has helped them to make new friends

1ST From 2023 the ability to make friends has gone from being the 3rd most improved soft skill to now 1st

TOP 2 Street Soccer and community and friends have remained the top 2 areas people feel most supported by since 2023





A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

98%

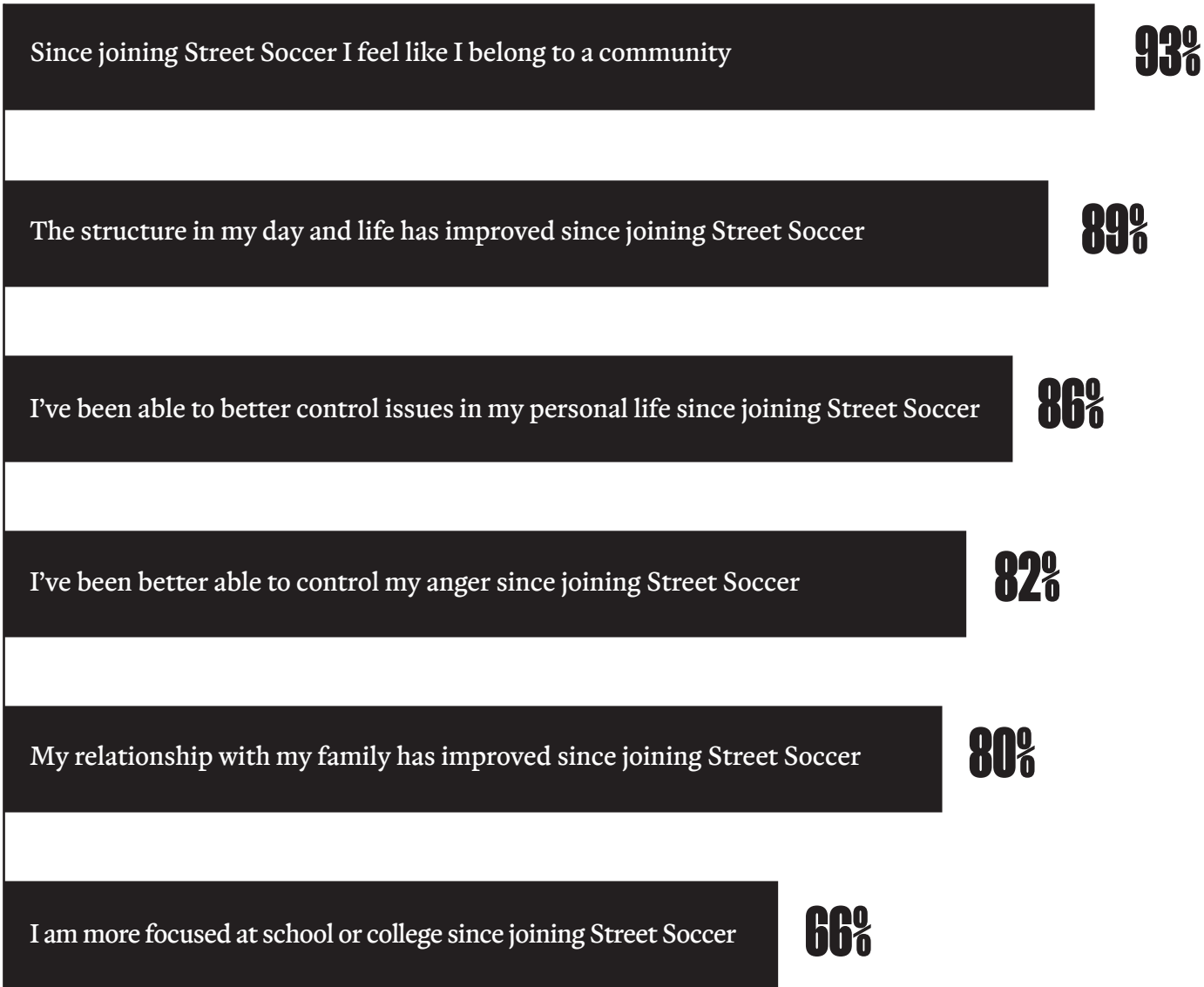
Of participants think that Street Soccer is unique

- “It has been a platform for meeting new people from all facets of life and culture”
- “It gives many opportunities that I’ve never gotten before as well as them being patient and understanding”
- “It brings people from different backgrounds and walks of life together and everyone is welcome”
- “I think Street Soccer is really unique because it’s open to everyone. It helps build confidence, learn about competition and develop their skills. It’s not just about Football; it’s about helping people grow.”
- “I would not have been able to join an amateur team but now I get to meet all my friends at Street Soccer for a laugh and something to eat”

IMPACT

RESPONDENTS AGREE THAT STREET SOCCER HAS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ACROSS MULTIPLE FACETS OF THEIR LIFE. PARTICULARLY, INVOLVEMENT PROVIDES A SENSE OF COMMUNITY FOR 93% OF RESPONDENTS, HELPING TO BUILD A SUPPORT NETWORK THAT IS CRITICAL TO PLAYERS.

“To what extent do you agree with the following statements ?”

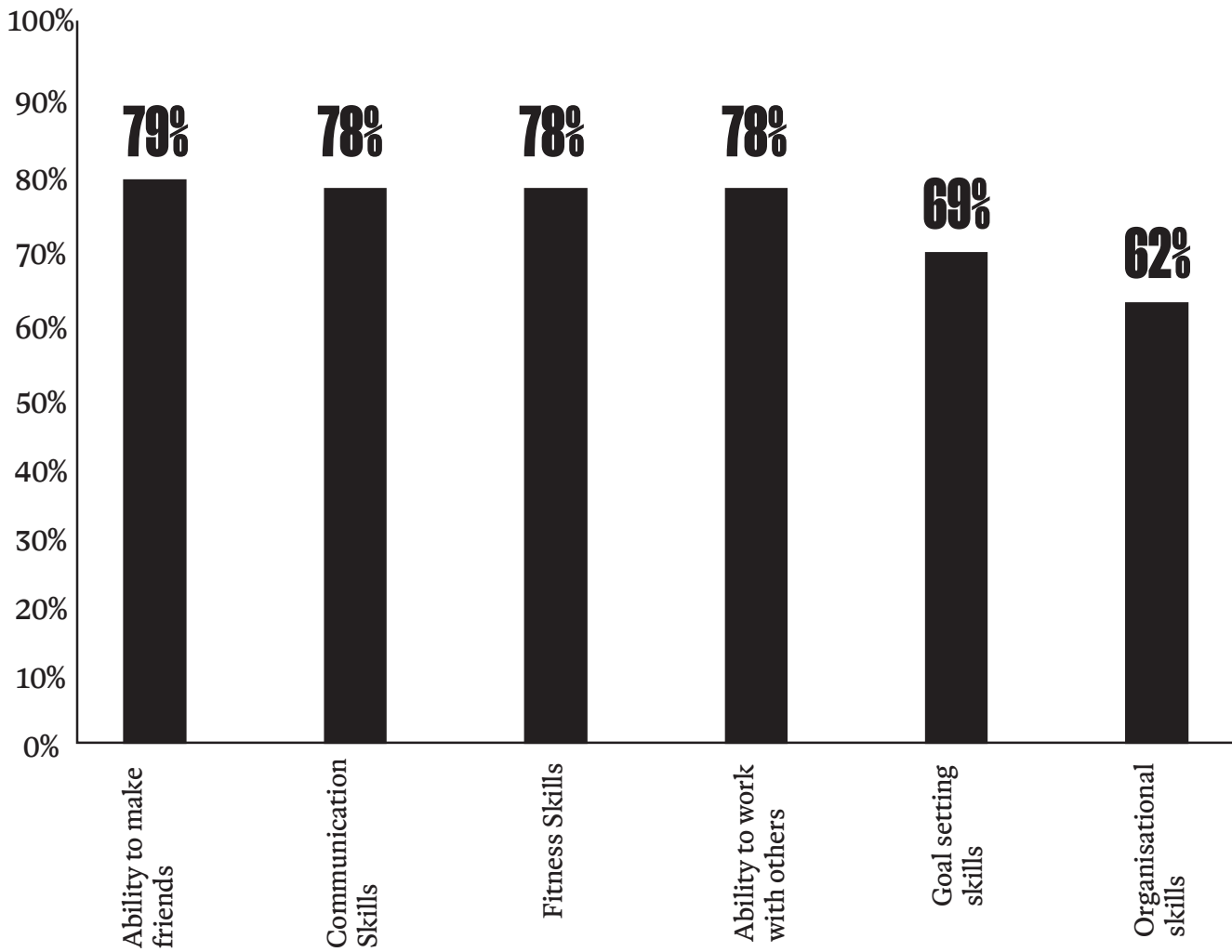


*Based on Somewhat Agree and Strongly Agree

SOFT SKILL DEVELOPMENT

SKILLS PERTAINING TO ABILITY TO MAKE FRIENDS AND BUILDING COMMUNICATION SKILLS HAVE SEEN THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS. PARTICULARLY, PLAYERS HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY ARE A LOT MORE CAPABLE OF WORKING WITH OTHERS SINCE JOINING STREET SOCCER.

“On a scale of 1-10, how has your participation at Street Soccer helped improve the following?”

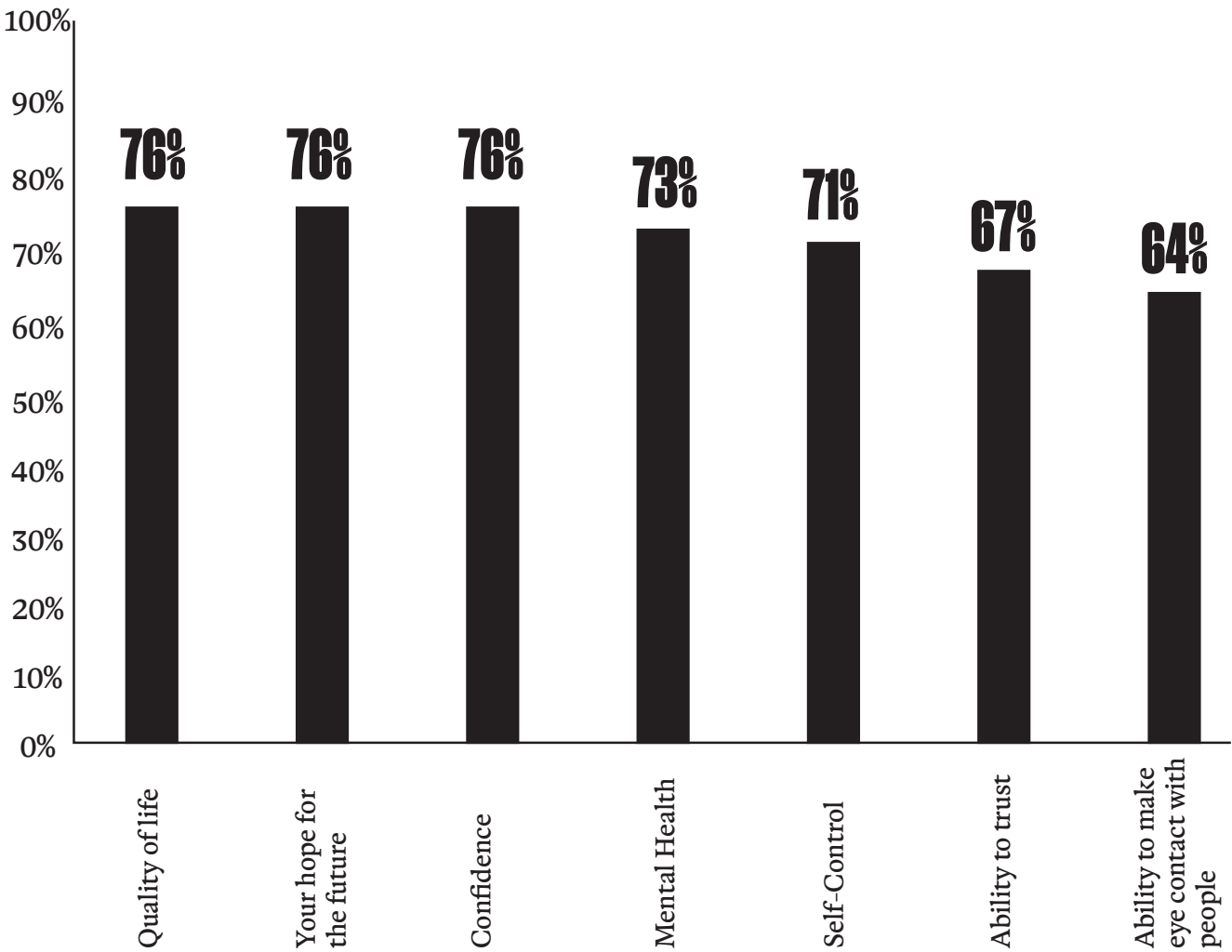


*Based on 7,8,9 or 10 out of 10

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

IN TERMS OF PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, PARTICIPATION IN STREET SOCCER HAS HELPED TO BUILD CONFIDENCE FOR 76% OF RESPONDENTS WHICH HAS POSITIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER KEY BEHAVIOURS SUCH SELF CONTROL AND ABILITY TO TRUST, HIGHLIGHTING THE POSITIVE IMPACT THAT STREET SOCCER HAS ON PARTICIPANT’S FUTURES.

“On a scale of 1-10, how has your participation at Street Soccer helped improve the following?”



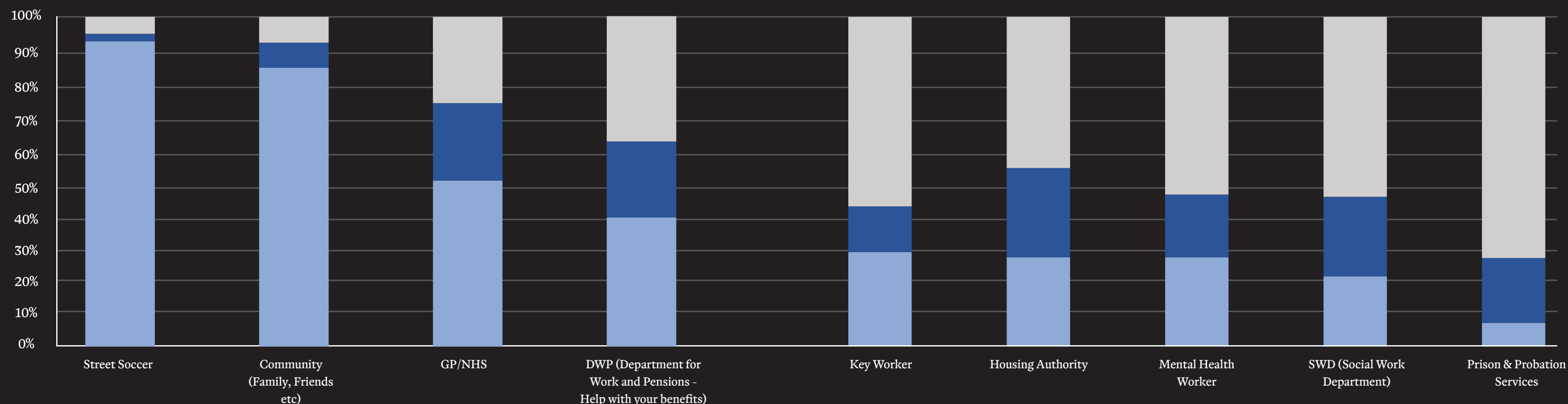
*Based on 7,8,9 or 10 out of 10

76%

Of participants believe that their confidence has improved since joining Street Soccer.

SUPPORT

“Do you feel you get good support from the following services ?”



76%

Of participants believe that their hope for the future has improved since joining Street Soccer.

PARTICIPANTS PERCEIVE STREET SOCCER AS A VALUABLE SUPPORT SERVICE. COMPARED AGAINST KEY GOVERNMENT SERVICES, STREET SOCCER ARE MORE THAN TWICE AS LIKELY TO PROVIDE GOOD SUPPORT THAN THE DWP AND ~4X MORE LIKELY VS THE SWD.



IMPLICATIONS

STREET SOCCER PROGRAMMES ARE UNIQUELY SPECIAL

Participants overwhelmingly feel that Street Soccer is a unique organisation. The organisation goes beyond football, with its programmes offering players the opportunity to develop life skills that they can use to evolve other aspects of their life.

PARTICIPANTS PASSIONATELY AGREE THAT STREET SOCCER HAS GIVEN THEM MORE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Participants strongly feel that Street Soccer has helped them improve their lives. By building their confidence, ability to trust, and quality of life, players are more positive about what's to come beyond their association with Street Soccer.

STREET SOCCER IS PROVIDING BETTER SUPPORT THAN KEY GOVERNMENT LED SUPPORT SERVICES

Participants consistently find the support they receive through Street Soccer to be more impactful than that offered by traditional government agencies. Street Soccer is setting the standard.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

Key Insights

3PP drop in mental health issues since joining Street Soccer

5PP drop in long-term unemployment

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

continue to improve across all categories

61 people moved into a positive employment destination with 26 moving into direct employment



CONTEXT

THE FOLLOWING RESULTS PROVIDE AN INDICATION AS TO THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY FOR OUR PLAYERS

Metrics in this section will provide insight as to the type of experiences that our players are currently facing. Whilst a perspective on their experiences prior to Street Soccer are useful context, some fluctuations can be more relevantly attributed to broader socio-economic factors.

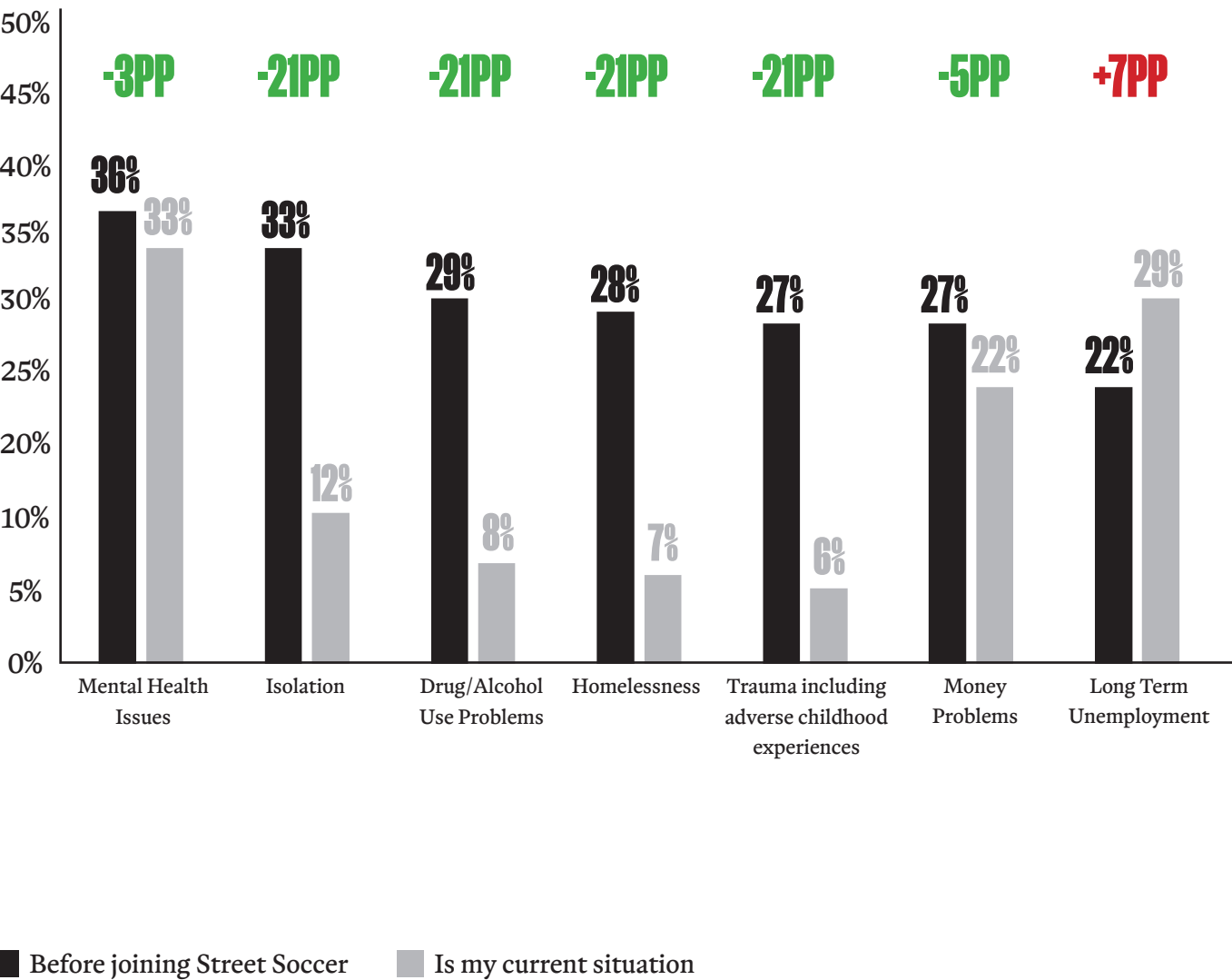
The following analysis reaffirms why charitable organisations such as Street Soccer are so important.



LIFE EXPERIENCES (1/2)

THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT STREET SOCCER HAS HAD THE BIGGEST IMPACT ON THOSE EXPERIENCING DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROBLEMS. LEVELS OF MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND UNEMPLOYMENT ARE THE MOST LIKELY FACTORS TO BE INFLUENCED BY THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLIMATE, ACCOUNTING FOR THEIR SLIGHT LIFT IN PREVALENCE.

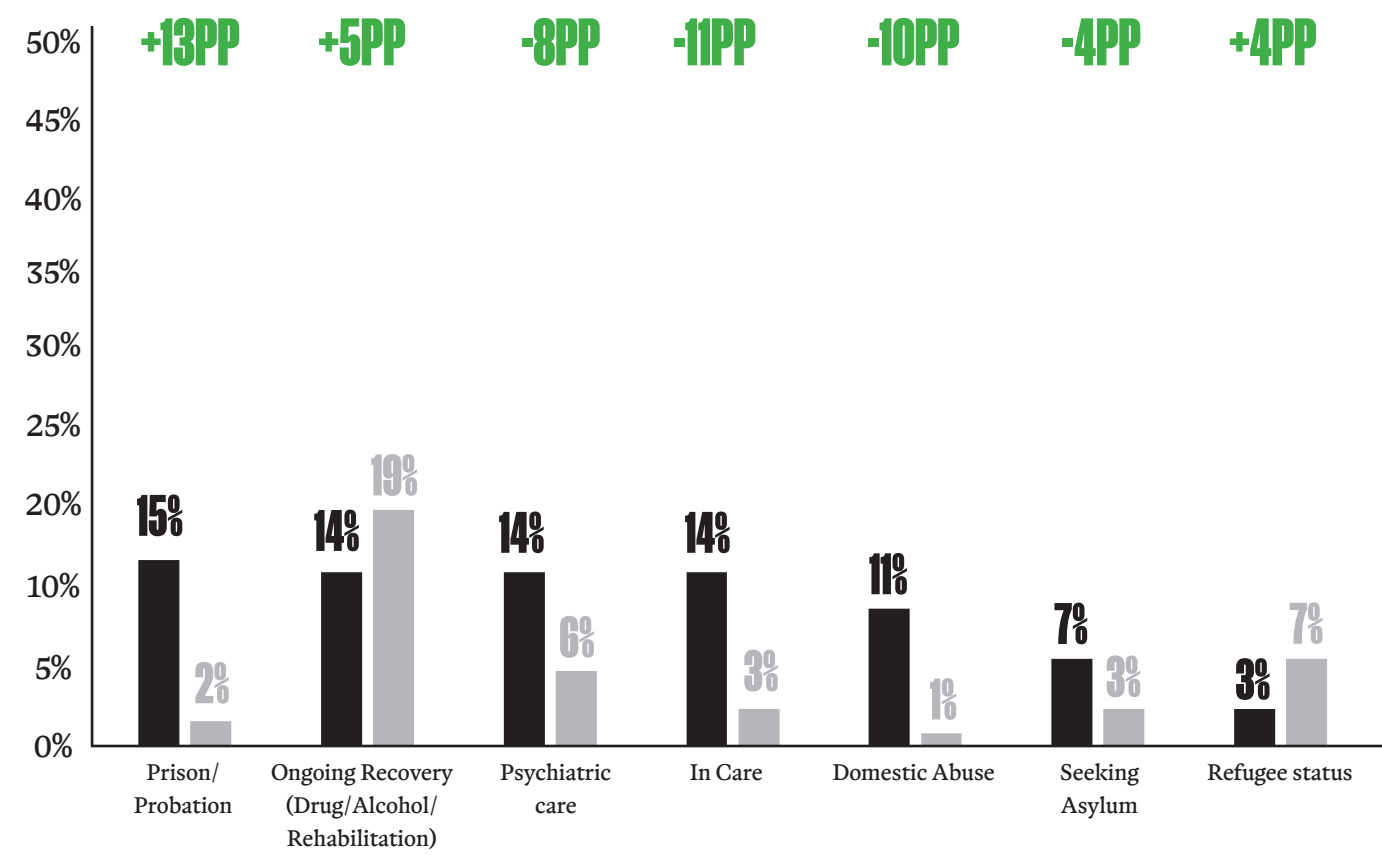
“Have you had any experiences with any of the following situation ?”



LIFE EXPERIENCES (2/2)

THE DATA INDICATES THAT STREET SOCCER PLAYERS HAVE EXPERIENCED, OR STILL DO EXPERIENCE, A DIVERSE RANGE OF LIFE CHALLENGES. FOR REFERENCE, REFUGEE STATUS IS ACHIEVED ONCE A PERSONS APPLICATION TO SEEK ASYLUM HAS BEEN ACCEPTED UNDER THE 1951 REFUGEE CONVENTION.

“Have you had any experiences of the following situations ?”

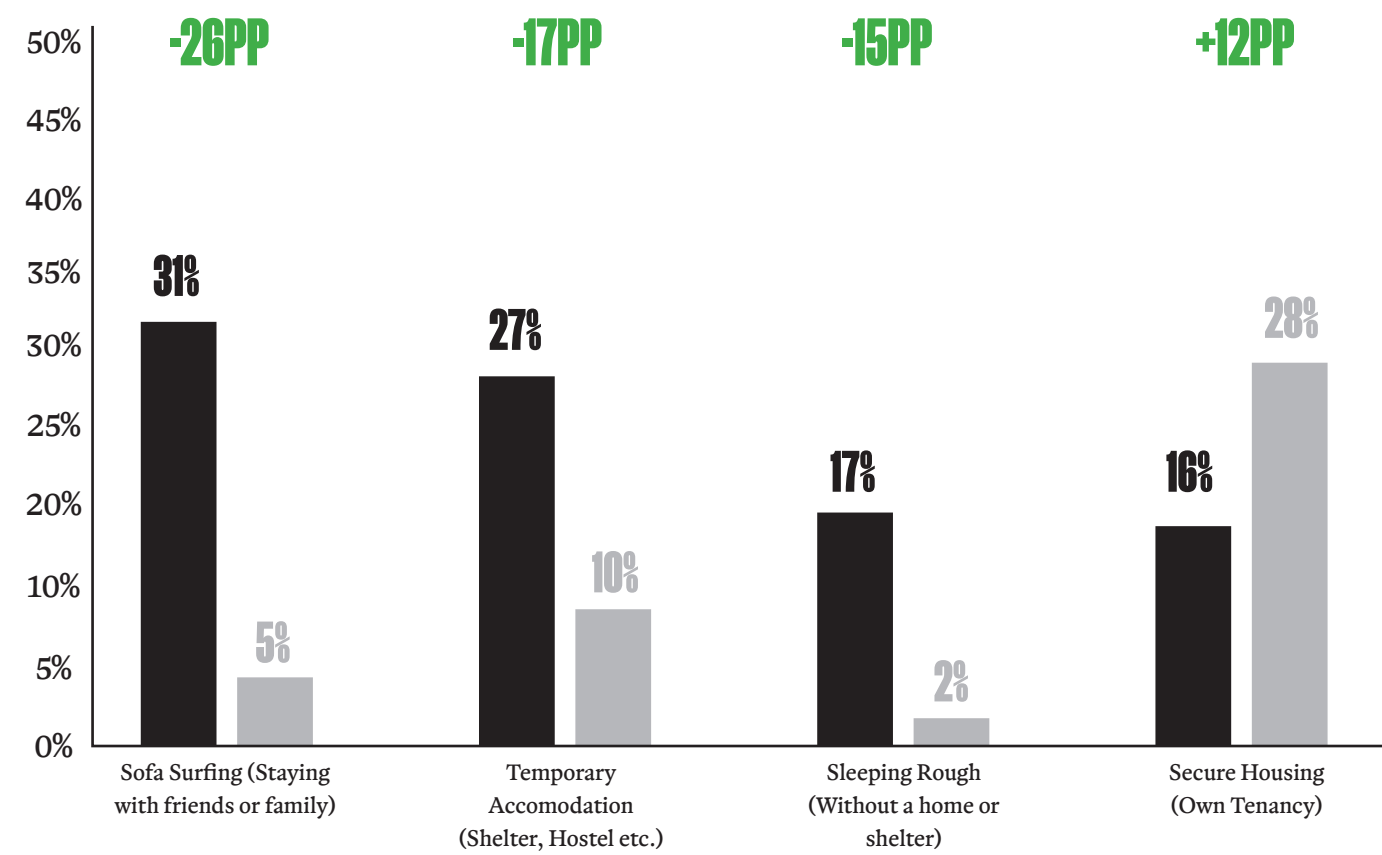


■ Before joining Street Soccer ■ Is my current situation

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

PRIOR TO JOINING STREET SOCCER, PARTICIPANTS WERE MOST COMMONLY HAVING TO RELY ON DIFFERENT FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS FOR A PLACE TO SLEEP. THE FACT THAT SECURE HOUSING IS NOW THEIR MOST COMMON LIVING ARRANGEMENT INDICATES THE BROADER IMPACT STREET SOCCER IS HAVING ON ITS PLAYERS.

“Have you had any experiences of the following arrangements ?”



■ Before joining Street Soccer ■ Is my current situation



64%

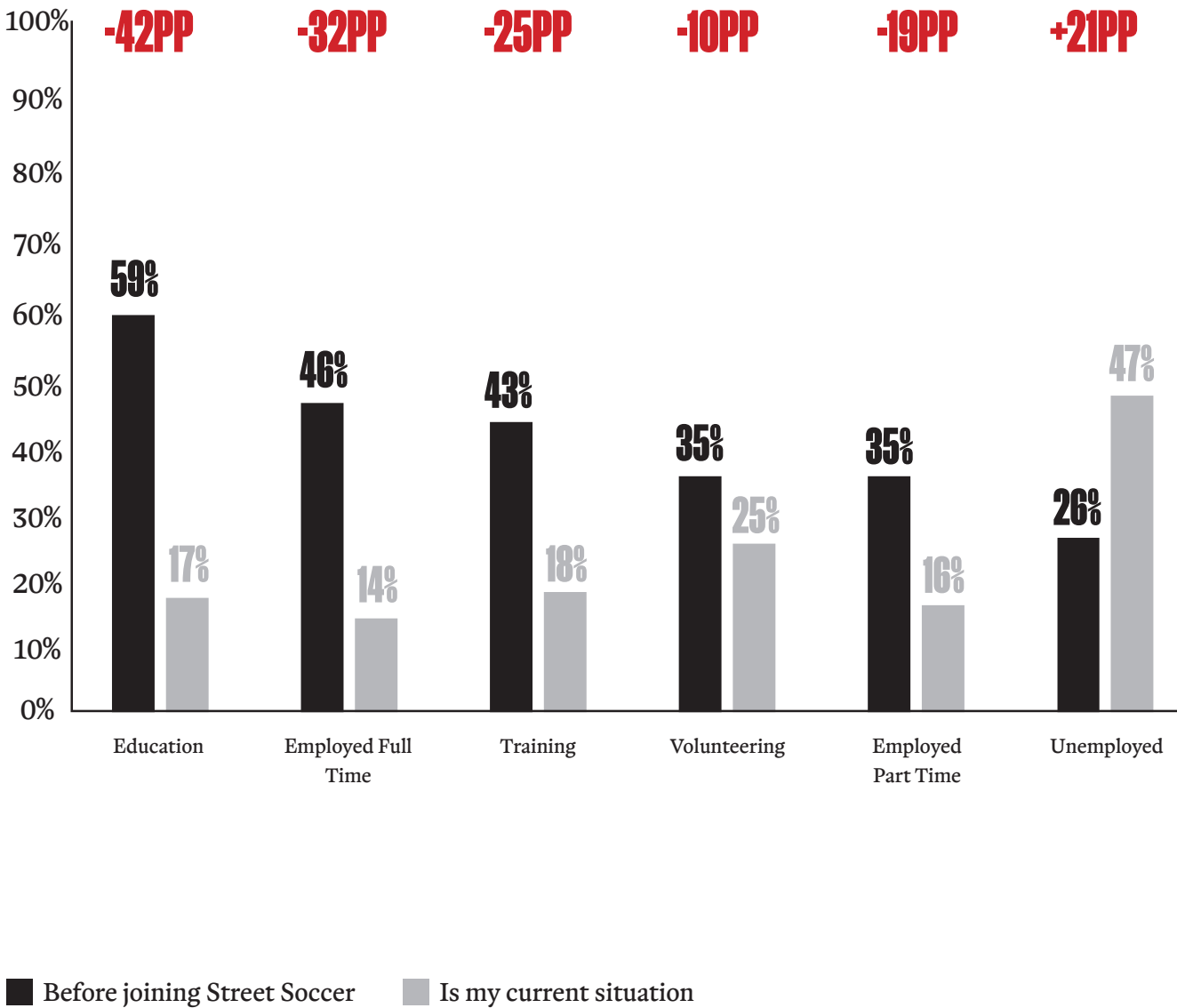
(Before Joining vs Current Situation)

Decrease in the numbers of players experiencing isolation since joining Street Soccer vs prior.

EMPLOYMENT

UNEMPLOYMENT IS A PROMINENT CHALLENGE FOR STREET SOCCER PARTICIPANTS. THERE WERE 1.87 MILLION UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE IN THE UK IN Q4 2025, AN INCREASE OF 20PP FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR. GIVEN THEIR BACKGROUNDS, IT IS THE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE AFFILIATED TO STREET SOCCER THAT WILL HAVE SEEN A MORE ACCENTUATED IMPACT OF THIS. THE LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT OR LEAVING EDUCATION CAN BE THE CATALYST FOR PLAYERS JOINING STREET SOCCER.

“Have you had any experiences of the following types of employment ?”





IMPLICATIONS

GROWING NEED FOR STREET SOCCER TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE SUPPORT

Players have made progress in certain areas such as with drug and alcohol issues. However, there are still major challenges that need to be tackled, particularly those related to mental health and employment.

THE STREET SOCCER COMMUNITY IS POSITIVELY IMPACTING ISOLATION AND METAL HEALTH ISSUES

The drop in mental health experiences since joining Street Soccer demonstrates the positive effects on participants even outside of the programme. Other key social issues such as isolation, Drug/alcohol use and homelessness also all dropped by 21pp when compared with prior to joining Street Soccer.

UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE DUE TO BROADER SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

Whilst long term unemployment remains a big challenge for Street Soccer, given the background of most participants, they will be more impacted by broader trends in the economy so Street Soccer is limited in its ability to influence direct employment. They will need to look for other ways to potentially assist here.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

Key Insights

10PP

Of those that experienced unemployment there was a 10pp uplift in their future goal being to find employment when compared to those who had experienced employment

21PP

Similarly, for the same people who had experienced unemployment there was a 21pp uplift in their goals being to do volunteer work when compared with those who had experienced employment

15PP

Of those who are experiencing isolation in their current situation. Their goals to improve their mental health were 15pp higher than the consensus

15PP

Similarly of those who are experiencing ongoing recovery in their current situation, their goals to improve relationships with family and friends was 15pp higher than the consensus

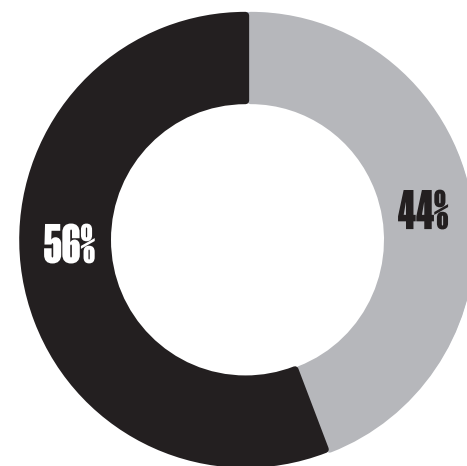


FURTHER SUPPORT

AS PART OF OUR RESEARCH, WE HAVE ASKED OUR PLAYERS SEVERAL FUTURE-FOCUSED QUESTIONS. THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT WE CAN ADAPT AND IMPROVE OUR SERVICE OFFERINGS DYNAMICALLY, KEEPING PLAYERS' VOICES AT THE HEART OF OUR DEVELOPMENTS. TO HELP THEM CONTINUE THEIR POSITIVE JOURNEY OVER THE LONG-TERM, PLAYERS WILL NEED FURTHER SUPPORT FROM STREET SOCCER.

“Would it benefit you to have support and guidance on any of the options listed ?”

■ Yes ■ No



“If you feel comfortable saying, which ones in particular?”

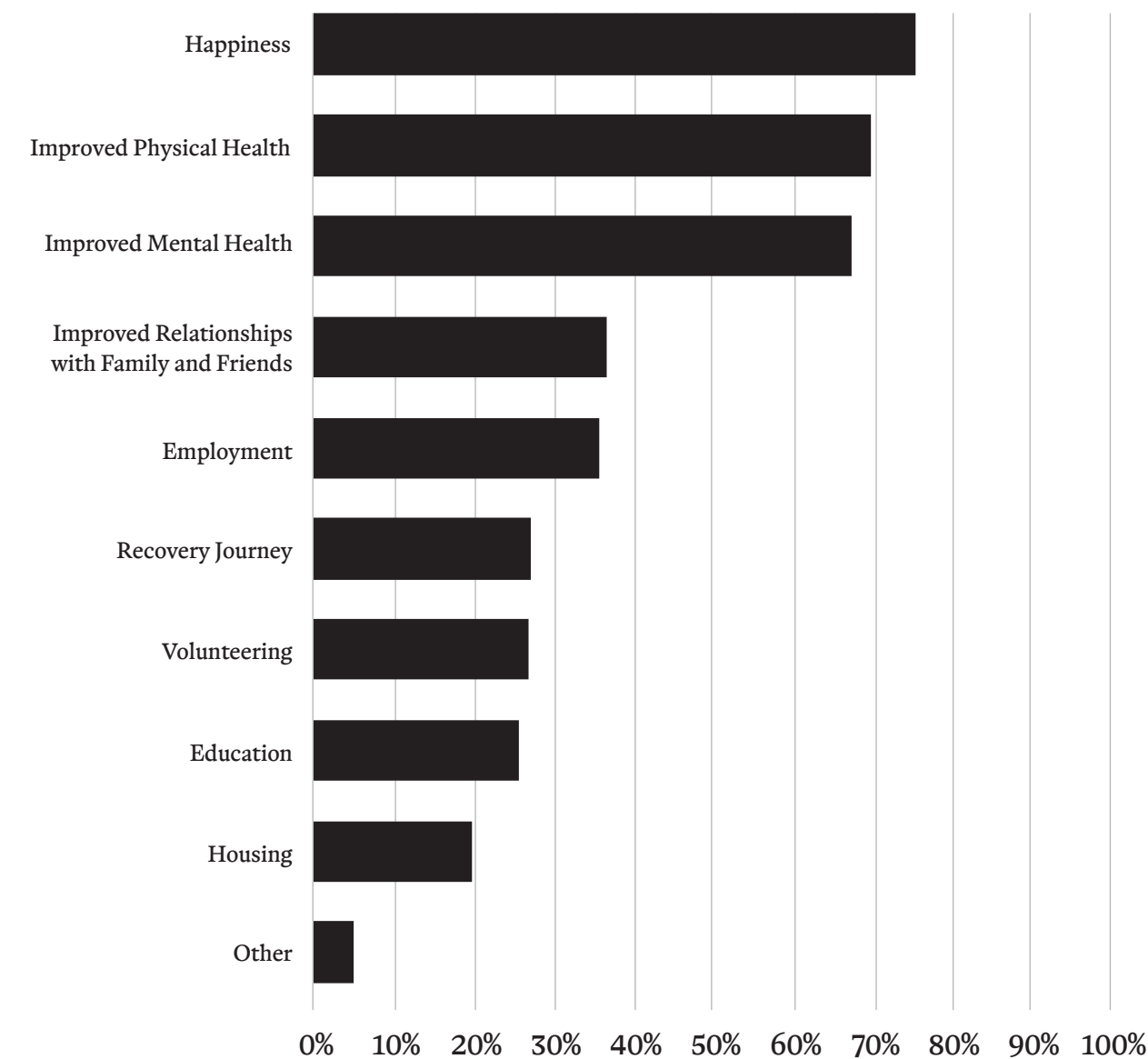
(The below metrics pertain only to those who selected ‘Yes’ in the question above.)



GOALS

MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING IS A PRIORITY FOR RESPONDENTS. WHILST CORE PILLARS LIKE EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND HOUSING WILL ALWAYS BE IMPORTANT TO PLAYERS AT STREET SOCCER, THEY FUNDAMENTALLY JUST WANT TO BE HAPPY.

“What are your goals for the next 12 months?”





IMPLICATIONS

STREET SOCCER IS TRANSFORMATIVE FOR PARTICIPANTS' LIVES, HOWEVER THERE IS MORE TO BE DONE

We know that Street Soccer has already made a tremendous impact on players' lives. However, there will always be scope to provide more opportunities and to further support participants.

CONTINUED SUPPORT IS STILL BEING ASKED FOR BY PARTICIPANTS

Nearly half of participants said they would benefit still from supported guidance in key areas. Predominately with mental health which ranked top with nearly 60% of people listing it as an area they would want continued support in.

BEING HAPPY IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

There are key components of life that will always be a priority to people, whether that be aspects such as housing, employment or education. However, for Street Soccer players, the initial priority is still to be happy.

WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE POSITIVE CHANGE



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