

Towards an Integrated Community...

A Survey of Minority Ethnic Communities in Fingal

Prepared by Ipsos MORI for the
Fingal Development Board
and Fingal County Council



Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Research Objectives & Methodology	5
3. Minority Ethnic Respondent Profile	8
4. Living in Fingal	13
5. Community Engagement	17
6. Community Integration	24
7. Service Provision	28
8. Conclusions & Recommendations	33

Acknowledgements

Ipsos MORI would like to recognise the practical support it received throughout this research from the Project Team, comprising Martina O'Connor and Ciarán Staunton, of the Fingal Development Board and Eugene Moore and Sinéad Wiley, Senior Community Officers, Community, Culture and Sports Division, Fingal County Council. The assistance of Suzie McCarthy, Co-operation Fingal Traveller Programme, Matt Lane, who facilitated interviews with members of the Traveller community in Fingal, was invaluable in ensuring that the opinions of all minority ethnic groups were represented in the research. Ipsos MORI would also like to thank all of the minority ethnic respondents, including Traveller respondents from St. Macullins Park (Matt Lane) and Lissenhall Green, who participated in the research, particularly those who contributed to the questionnaire development.

Report prepared by

Emmet Ó Briain

Associate Director (Public Sector), Ipsos MORI

Trevor Bacon

Research Executive, Ipsos MORI



Fingal Development Board
Forbairt Fhine Gall

1. Introduction

Ipsos MORI was commissioned in December 2007 by Fingal Development Board through its Social Inclusion Measures Committee (SIMC) and Fingal County Council to conduct a quantitative survey of minority ethnic communities in County Fingal. The SIMC worked closely with the Project Team in establishing a framework for the research. This research is one element within a comprehensive programme of work being implemented by Fingal Development Board and Fingal County Council to inform the development and delivery of services to minority ethnic communities, including Travellers, living in Fingal.

In addition to increasing overall understanding of minority ethnic experiences in Fingal, this research will be used to directly inform the future activities of the Fingal Development Board and its member agencies¹ in this area and to identify particular strategic problems and challenges in providing services for these communities in Fingal. As the largest benchmark study to be conducted specifically among minority ethnic communities at county level in Ireland, it is likely that this study will also be of interest to other local authorities with significant minority ethnic populations.

1.1 Research Context

The specific impetus for this research, and the need for reliable and robust information, comes from a number of social and cultural changes affecting Ireland generally and the Fingal area in particular. Historically, Ireland has been a country of continuous emigration. In fact, 1996 was the first year in which net immigration was higher than net emigration. As such, in-migration is a relatively new phenomenon for Irish society. Fingal county, in particular, has experienced not only a rapidly growing population but an increase in minority ethnic communities far greater than the rest of Ireland.

According to the 2006 Census, the population of Fingal is now 239,813 a 22% increase from the 2002 census, compared to a national increase of 8%. Home to nearly 6% of the country's population, Fingal is now the third largest county by population in Ireland. Of particular relevance to this research is the fact that there are now in excess of 40,128 persons who are not White, Irish and Settled living in Fingal. These demographic shifts and the changing cultural landscape of Ireland present specific challenges to public service providers, especially to

1 The Fingal Development Board member agencies include representatives from local government and local development bodies, state agencies (such as FÁS, An Garda Síochána, HSE, Department of Social and Family Affairs) as well as representatives from the social partners.

Local Authorities in urban areas which have a significantly higher than average concentration of minority ethnic communities, such as Fingal county, which also has a significant Traveller population.

The need for greater understanding of these communities was identified in the Fingal Development Board's *Strategy into Action 2006-2008*. Thus, this particular piece of research provided the Council with an opportunity to gather the necessary information regarding: the motivations, attitudes and experiences of Fingal's minority ethnic communities across a range of topics; the existing and latent demand for services in Fingal among this population; and the impact of this population on existing services in Fingal. At the outset of the research, the Council identified the following as key question areas and themes for the research: ·

- Basic demographic information (age, ethnicity, length of residency in Ireland & Fingal, legal status, etc.); ·
- Motivations to live in Ireland and Fingal (economic, welfare, family); ·
- Membership of and participation in community networks and organisations or community development projects; ·
- Participation in sport and physical activity or exercise; ·
- Perceived levels of integration in Fingal; ·
- Uptake and experience of local and national public services, and reasons for dissatisfaction;
- Recommendations to improve the level and quality of service provision to minority ethnic populations.

It is likely that the results of this research will be of use and interest to a wider audience of stakeholders outside the Fingal Development Board and Fingal County Council and it is hoped that the findings will facilitate informed, evidence-based debate and policy about the needs of these communities and how they might best be served.

Structure of Report

The report begins with a discussion of the methodology employed for the survey of ethnic minorities before turning to a description of the results. The report concludes with a review of the main findings of the research and recommendations arising from the research.

Throughout the report, results are presented firstly at an overall aggregate level before highlighting significant differences between particular subgroups (e.g. ethnic or national groups). Generally, results of individual subgroups are not reported where no significant differences exist between the attitudes, opinions or other results of groups. Results of individual subgroups are also not reported where subgroup sample sizes are insufficiently large to permit reliable inferences to be drawn.

For example, the total number of interviews conducted with both Roma and Traveller respondents is relatively small in comparison to the number of interviews conducted with White non-Irish, Black and Asian respondents. As such, a wide margin of error applies to these results. Where the results are sufficiently clear to permit reliable inferences to be drawn for these groups, they are reported.

2. Research Methodology

2.1 Overview of Research Methodology

This section sets out details of the methodology employed and interviewing approach used by Ipsos MORI during this survey of minority ethnic communities in Fingal. As the target audience included groups of respondents that are traditionally defined as 'hard-to-reach', the research involved a number of atypical theoretical and practical considerations, specifically concerning research design, survey administration and questionnaire development.

The survey was administered to a random sample of 1,200 minority ethnic respondents via face-to-face interviewing, using a combination of on-street and household interviewing, as per the Council's request. The development of the survey questionnaire was facilitated by two meetings with minority ethnic groups to discuss draft versions of the questionnaire to be used in the survey. This is described in detail below.

2.2 Questionnaire Development

At the outset of the project, the main issues of the research were reviewed at a meeting between Ipsos MORI and the project steering team to agree the principal objectives of the research and to prioritise question areas for inclusion in the research. Following the agreement of an initial draft questionnaire, Ipsos MORI conducted a deliberative focus group with a sample of minority ethnic respondents, excluding Travellers, to ensure that the questionnaire content was appropriate, intelligible and relevant to respondents. This focus group was recruited and hosted by Fingal County Council Project Steering Group and moderated by Ipsos MORI. The majority of focus group participants were of African origin.

The focus group discussion resulted in a number of amendments being made to the draft questionnaire, mostly relating to the administration of the survey but also incorporating minor textual amendments to individual response items, to ensure that response items were understood by as many potential respondents as possible. The primary concern of the focus group participants was that those invited to participate in the survey would have to be assured of the independence of the research (i.e. that it was not being conducted by immigration officials). The use of a card explaining the survey and containing the interviewer's credentials was suggested as one means of reassuring respondents and this suggestion was incorporated.

In addition, Ipsos MORI also conducted a separate consultation with members of the Traveller community to discuss the draft questionnaire and its suitability for members of the Traveller community. Ipsos MORI met with staff from the Co-operation Fingal Traveller Programme, Matt Lane and a group of women from the Traveller community to gather their opinion of the draft research instrument. Following this discussion, a number of Traveller-specific response items were added to individual questions on the questionnaire.

Finally, Ipsos MORI also conducted pilot interviews with members of Eastern European minority communities to ensure that the research instrument was 'fit for purpose'.

2.3 Survey Administration

The survey was conducted by Ipsos MORI using a face-to-face interviewing approach, which was particularly appropriate for this survey given the audiences involved. All interviews were conducted by trained Ipsos MORI field interviewers, who are all accredited by the Interviewer Quality Control Scheme (IQCS), an independent organisation which works with researchers and research clients to ensure the highest standards of data collection in professional research.

The method of administration employed, face-to-face personal interviewing, had obvious advantages over alternative approaches, such as telephone and self-completion, as it allowed for greater probing of the respondents' responses to get more detailed and accurate answers, particularly for respondents with English language difficulties.

Given the particular audience identified for this research and the use of onstreet interviewing, the questionnaire was required to be no more than 12 minutes in length. However, in practice, most interviews lasted significantly longer.

2.3.1 Sampling method/size to be used

To ensure that a cross section of minority ethnic respondents were included in the research, Fingal County Council requested that a combination of on-street and household interviewing be used, as it was considered that over-reliance on any one method could result in a biased response, if particular groups were more likely to be selected for participation using a single method. For example, migrant workers who travelled to work using private transport would be unlikely to be selected for interview if only on-street interviewing was employed.

Before commencing fieldwork, Fingal County Council provided Ipsos MORI with guidance on the most productive sampling points, in terms of footfall and throughput, for on-street interviewing. In addition, household interviewing was weighted in favour of areas of Fingal with large minority ethnic populations, such as Blanchardstown, Balbriggan and other areas of North West Dublin and Dublin 15. However, all areas of Fingal were included in the research.

No sample quotas (e.g. age, gender ethnicity or area) were applied in advance of commencing the fieldwork.

Provisions were also made to ensure that members of the Traveller community, who were significantly less likely than other minority ethnic groups to be selected by either household or on-street interviewing, participated in the research. Interviews were conducted with members of the Traveller community at a number of sites in County Fingal, including St. Macullins Park in Balbriggan and Lissenhall Green in Swords.

In total, just over 1,200 minority ethnic respondents were interviewed across Fingal. A sample of this size provides robust statistical data at an aggregate level and for certain sub-group analyses (e.g. ethnicity, age, nationality, etc).

The table below illustrates the representative nature of a sample of different sizes. For example, if the results of a survey of 1,200 people which show that 70% of minority ethnic communities in Fingal are dissatisfied with housing services, the range within which the true figure would lie, if all the population had been interviewed would be +/- 3 points (i.e. somewhere between 67% and 73%), 95 times out of 100. In fact, the “true” figure is more likely to lie at the mid-point of the range, rather than at either extreme.

Sampling tolerances applicable to results at or near these percentages (based on 95% confidence level)			
Sample Size	10/90%	30/70%	50%
	+%	+%	+%
1,000	2	3	3
1,200	2	3	3
1,500	2	2	3
3,000	1	2	2

Table 2.3.1 Margin of Error

3. Minority Ethnic Respondent Profile

This first chapter of results examines the demographic profile of the minority ethnic respondents living in Fingal that participated in this survey. Demographic information provides the Development Board and its member agencies with a greater understanding of its customers: their ethnicity, nationality, citizenship, language preferences, religion and age. This type of information can also help anticipate future demand for particular services among specific groups. For example, information regarding the age profile of certain groups is useful because respondents who are older on average will have different needs than those that are younger on average. We begin by looking at the ethnic background of respondents.

3.1 Ethnic Background

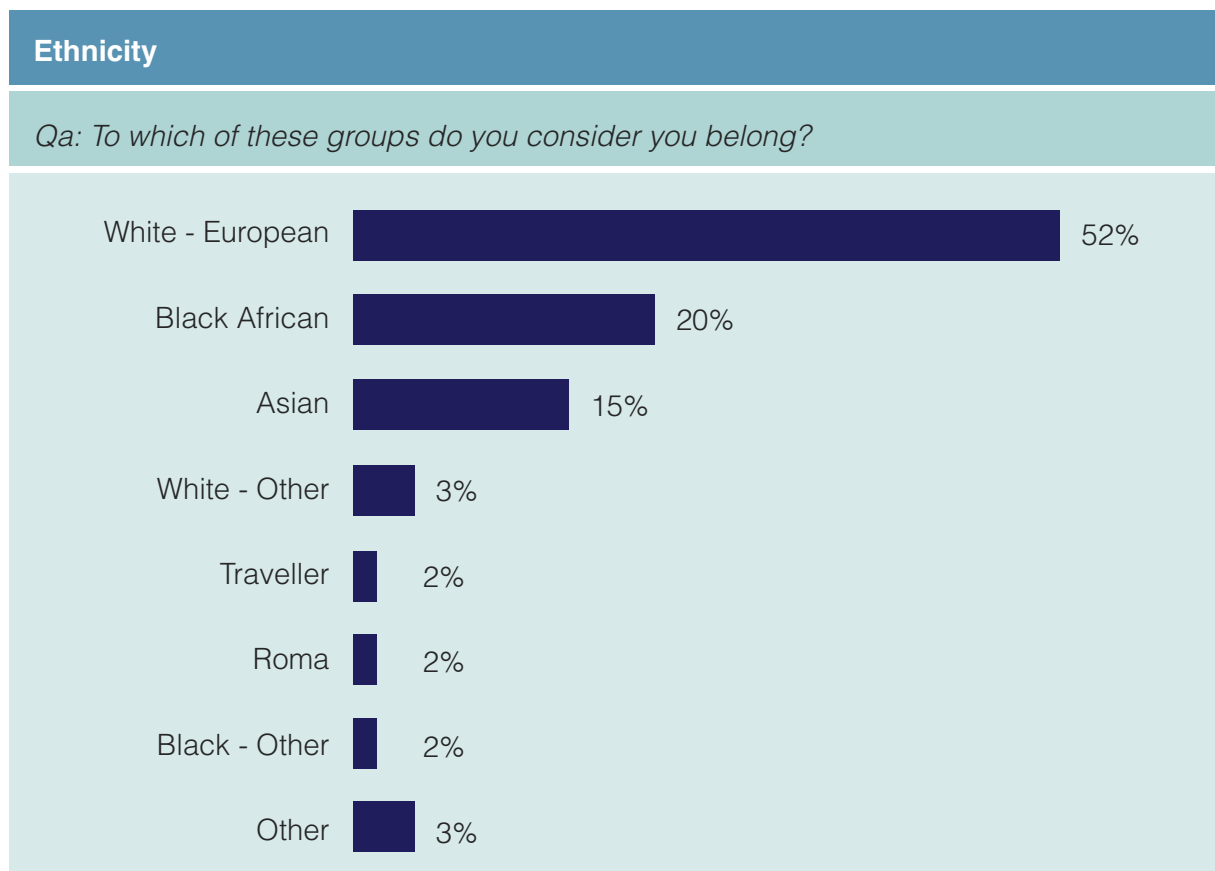


Figure 3.1 Ethnicity

At an overall level, the majority of those surveyed identified themselves as White Europeans (52%) while 1 in every 5 respondents identified themselves as Black Africans (20%). More than 1 in 7 respondents (15%) identified themselves as Asian, which included Chinese, Filipino and other Asian ethnic backgrounds.

3.2 Nationality

While the majority of respondents identified themselves as White European, the overall nationality profile shows that most White European respondents were nationals of Eastern European countries. 18% of respondents were born in Poland, 6% in Lithuania and 5% in Latvia. Just under 1 in 10 respondents were born in Romania. However, just over a quarter of those born in Romania consider themselves to be Romani rather than White European. Respondents from Eastern European countries significantly outnumbered respondents from Western European countries, such as Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, etc.

24% of all respondents were born in African countries; most notably Nigeria (13%) and 14% were born in Asian countries, including India (4%), China (3%), and the Philippines (2%). In total, respondents from almost 100 countries were interviewed for this study, reflecting the broad national and cultural diversity of Fingal's minority ethnic communities.

3.3 Legal Status

In terms of current legal status, just over half of all respondents (51%) were non-Irish EU or EEA Citizens. 24% of all respondents were non-EEA Citizens with a work permit and a further 3% were non-EEA Citizens without a work permit. 7% of respondents identified themselves as refugees with leave to remain granted while a further 2% had asylum applications pending². 4% of respondents were living in Fingal with a student visa. Just 6% of the total sample were Irish Citizens and only 2% were UK Citizens.

It is also interesting to consider the relative concentration of particular ethnic minorities within specific 'Legal Status' categories. For example, 46% of non-EEA citizens with work permits were African and 28% were Asian. 73% of refugees with leave to remain granted were African, as were 86% of asylum seekers with leave to remain granted. 51% of those with student visas were Asian.

This information is useful to provide some indication of the level of demand for certain services, such as immigration services, in Fingal as a whole, and within particular ethnic groups.

2 To collect information on 'Legal Status', respondents were presented with a closed list of categories, from which the most appropriate identification was selected by the respondent.

3.4 Language

Over 100 languages were spoken by those that were interviewed. However, only a handful of languages were spoken, either as a first or second language, by significant numbers of respondents. The languages that respondents were most likely to feel comfortable using included: Polish (20%), Russian (16%), Romanian (10%), French (10%), Lithuanian (6%), German (6%) and Latvian (5%).

French was mainly spoken by those from African backgrounds. 44% of those who felt comfortable using French were African. A multitude of indigenous African languages are spoken, with Yoruba being the most common, spoken by 7% of respondents.

89% of all respondents reported that they felt comfortable, to some degree, using English. This did not differ significantly by ethnicity or by legal status. However, the group with the lowest proportion of respondents who would feel comfortable using English were respondents from the EU Accession States³ (excluding Poland), who are largely Eastern European.

3.5 Religion

Over three-quarters of respondents were affiliated with Christian religions. Just under 2 in 5 respondents (37%) identified themselves as Catholic, while 8% identified themselves as belonging to Orthodox Catholic Churches. 4% were Evangelical or Pentecostal and 3% were Protestant, while a further 22% identified themselves as belonging to other Christian religions. 10% of the sample identified themselves as Muslim and a further 10% reported that they had no religion or belief at all.

Roman Catholics were predominantly White, while those who identified themselves as Evangelical or Pentecostal were predominantly Black. Muslims were predominantly Black or Asian. A larger proportion of Roma respondents, compared to other ethnic groups, belonged to Orthodox Catholic Churches.

3 The term 'EU Accession States' refers to individuals from those countries, mostly Eastern European, which became full members of the European Union during its Fifth Enlargement in 2004 and 2007 (Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Slovakia, Cyprus, Malta, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania). However, due to their large number, it is possible to analyse the responses of Polish respondents separately. As such, the term 'accession states' used throughout this report refers to the 11 countries, other than Poland, which joined the EU at this time.

Religion	Total	Asian	Black	White
Roman Catholic	37%	21%	21%	50%
Christian (non-specific)	22%	11%	50%	13%
Muslim	10%	25%	15%	3%
No religion or belief	10%	15%	1%	11%
Catholic (Orthodox)	8%	2%	0%	14%
Pentecostal/Evangelical	4%	0%	8%	2%
Protestant	3%	0%	3%	4%

Table 3.5 Most Common Religions by Ethnicity

3.6 Age

As noted in the introduction to this section, the age profile of minority ethnic communities in Fingal is worth examining, particularly given the significant differences between groups illustrated in Table 3.6.

At an overall level, minority ethnic communities are much younger than the overall population profile of Fingal, with almost 1 in 5 respondents (18%) aged between 16 to 24. Over half of those interviewed were aged 25 to 34 and a further 24% were aged between 35 and 44. Only 5% of those interviewed were aged 45 or older.

Age	Total	Polish	EU Accession States (excluding Poland)	African	Asian
16-24	18%	22%	23%	15%	10%
25-34	52%	60%	58%	37%	54%
35-44	24%	13%	14%	41%	27%
45+	5%	5%	4%	7%	8%

Table 3.6 Age Profile by Grouped Nationalities

As can be seen in Table 3.6 on the previous page, there is also variation by nationality, with those from Poland and EU Accession States (excluding Poland) significantly more likely than Asians or Africans to be aged 16 to 24. The majority of Asians are aged between 25 and 34 while Africans are significantly more likely to be aged between 35 and 44.

The age composition of Ethnic Minorities living in Fingal has an impact on the lifestyles, attitudes and experiences of these communities as well as their interests, needs and requirements.

Finally, despite the significant age differences, the respondents are evenly split by gender, in line with the national average. However, there are significantly fewer White females than Black females and, by extension, significantly more White males than Black males.

Having detailed the demographic profile and background of those interviewed for this survey, we now turn to a review of life in Fingal for its Ethnic Minority Communities.

4. Living in Fingal

One of the main purposes of this research was to provide greater understanding of minority ethnic communities' experiences of living in Fingal, in terms of why they came to Fingal, how long they have been here, the accommodation they lived in and their intentions for the future.

4.1 Residing in Fingal

Just over a fifth of all respondents had been living in Fingal for the last year, while almost half of all respondents had been living in Fingal for less than 3 years.

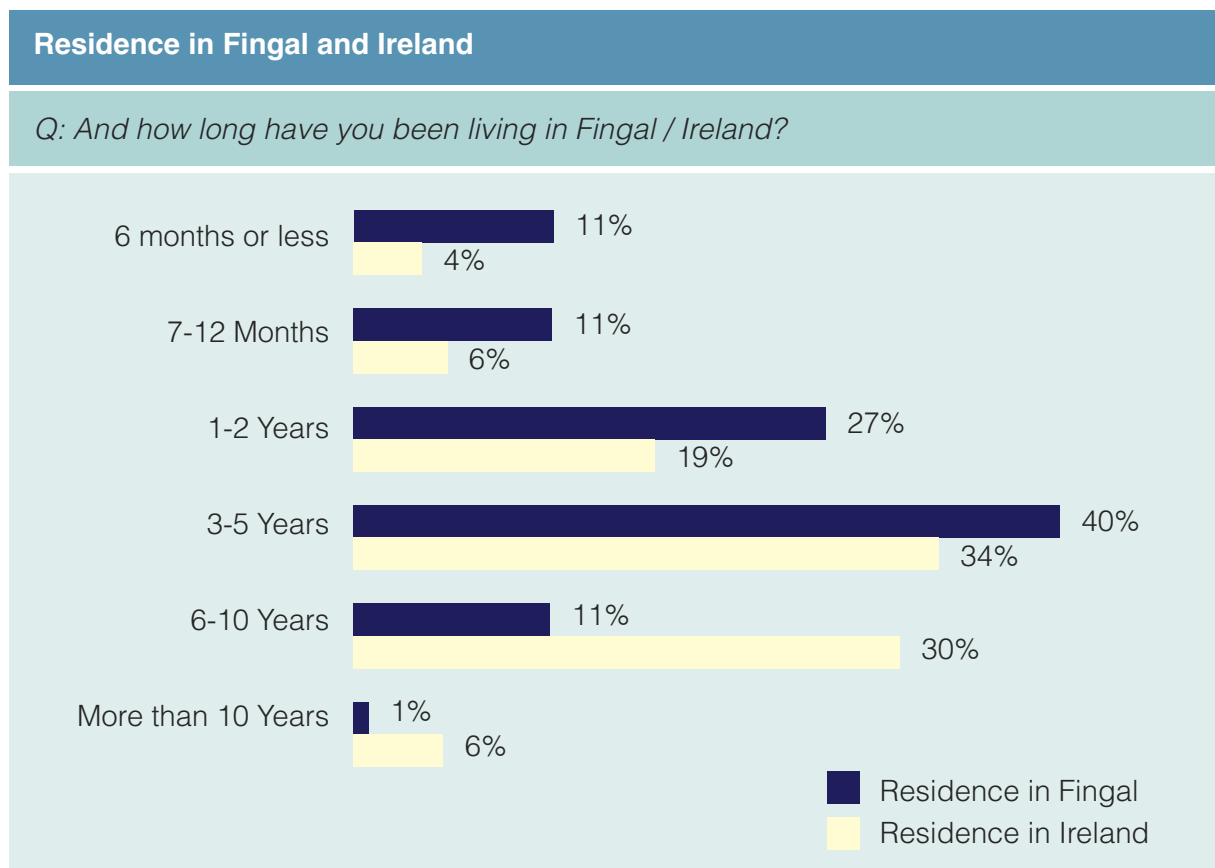


Figure 4.1 Residence in Fingal and Ireland

African respondents were more likely to have been living in Fingal for more than 3 years compared to those born in other parts of the world. 29% of Polish respondents and 23% of respondents from EU Accession States had been living in Fingal for one year or less. As can be seen in Figure 4.1 above, less than a third of respondents had been living in Ireland for less than 3 years.

Moreover, 36% had been living in Ireland for 6 years or longer. This compares to only 12% of respondents who had been living in Fingal for that amount of time. African respondents were again more likely to have been living in Ireland for more than 3 years compared to other groups.

Intention to Stay

Q: And how long do you plan to continue living in Fingal?



Figure 4.1.2 Intention to Stay

Almost a fifth (19%) of respondents planned to continue living in Fingal for 2 years or less, while 11% planned to stay for between 2 and 5 years and 5% planned to stay living in Fingal for 5 years or longer. Just over half of all respondents (51%) did not plan on leaving Fingal, while a further 14% reported that they did not know how long they intended to stay in Fingal. However, while 28% of Polish respondents did not plan to leave Fingal, 65% of African and 60% of Asian respondents gave a similar answer.

4.2 Where in Fingal

Information regarding where different communities and groups live in Fingal is also invaluable for the Fingal Development Board and its member agencies in determining the level, and nature, of demand for certain services in specific areas. Most areas in Fingal had a broad ethnic mix, with roughly equal proportions of different ethnic groups living in most areas. For example, Blanchardstown, Mulhuddart and Clonsilla had ethnic mixes broadly in line with the overall profile of all respondents. However, there were some areas where the ethnic mix was considerably less balanced.

In particular, Balbriggan had a significantly higher proportion of Black and African respondents compared to other areas. Asylum seekers were also significantly more likely to be found in Balbriggan than any other area. As such, Balbriggan is likely to have particular service demands which are significantly different to many of the other areas, such as dedicated immigration services.

Swords appears to be more homogenous than other electoral areas in Fingal. 73% of those interviewed in Swords were White. Swords also had the highest proportion of respondents who were non-Irish EU or EEA citizens and a significantly lower proportion of refugees than other areas. Howth was also relatively more homogenous than most other areas, with 63% of those interviewed White.

4.3 Reasons for moving to Fingal

The offer of a job or accommodation appears to be the main motivating factors for moving to Fingal. 26% of all respondents moved to Fingal because they got a job in the area. Non-Irish EU/EEA citizens and non-EEA citizens with a work permit were more likely to move to Fingal because they got work. 67% of all those who moved to Fingal because they got a job in the area were non-Irish EU/EEA citizens and 26% of those who moved to Fingal because they got a job were non-EEA citizens with a work permit. This reason was also given by 52% of minority ethnic respondents from Swords, a significantly higher proportion than any other area.

Being close to friends and family were also important factors in deciding to come to Fingal. 12% moved because they had family living or working in the area, while 13% moved because they had friends living or working in the area. This was particularly true of Travellers. Over 70% of the Travellers surveyed had moved to Fingal because they had family living or working in the area.

19% moved to Fingal because they were offered accommodation in the Council area. 41% of refugees gave this answer, as did 31% of African respondents. 8% of Asian respondents moved to Fingal to buy property in the area.

4.4 Accommodation Status

The majority of respondents lived in rented accommodation, with 56% renting from a private landlord without rent allowance and 16% renting from a private landlord with rent allowance. 3% of respondents rented accommodation under the Rental Accommodation Scheme and a further 5% of respondents reported that they live in Local Authority housing.

6% of African respondents rented accommodation under the Rental Accommodation Scheme and 15% of African respondents lived in Local Authority housing, the highest proportion of any ethnic group living in these types of accommodation. Balbriggan had a significantly higher proportion, compared to other areas, of respondents living in Local Authority housing.

13% of all respondents classified themselves as owner occupiers with a mortgage and 4% of all reported that they were owner occupiers without a mortgage. Asian respondents had the highest level of owner occupation compared to other ethnic groups. 33% of Asians were owner occupiers with a mortgage and 7% were owner occupiers without a mortgage.

5. Community Engagement

This chapter examines the level of engagement of minority ethnic respondents, as measured through group and club membership and participation in sport and other physical activity.

5.1 Club and Group Membership

Group & Club Membership

Q: Are you, or one of your children, a member of any social, community, church or neighbourhood group or club?

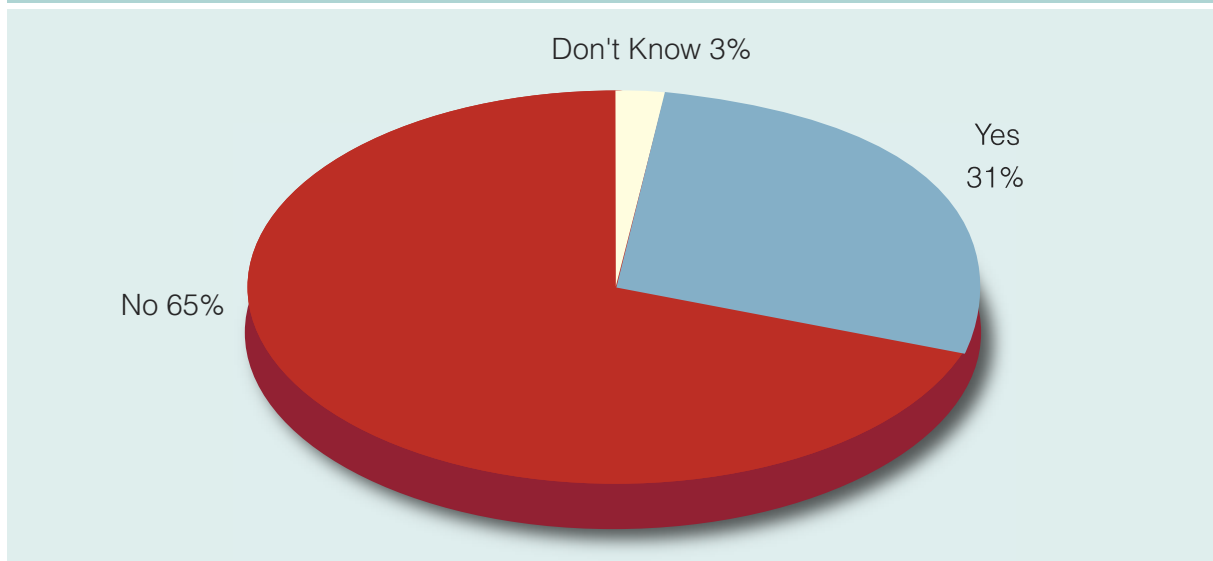


Figure 5.1 Residence in Fingal and Ireland

As can be seen in figure 5.1 above, less than a third (31%) of all ethnic minority community respondents reported that they or one of their children are involved in any form of social or community group or club. Females, those aged 35 to 54 and those from the Black community were more likely than comparable demographic groups to be involved in a social or community group or club. For example, 47% of all Black respondents were members of a social, community, church or neighbourhood group or club, compared to only 25% of White

respondents and 32% of Asian respondents.

Participation in group or social activity may also be related to religious affiliation. 23% of Catholic respondents were members of a social, community, church or neighbourhood group or club, compared to 39% of other Christian and 39% of Muslim respondents. There were also significant differences by nationality.

Only 16% of Polish respondents reported membership of groups or clubs, compared to 44% of African respondents. Finally, 49% of refugees reported membership of groups or clubs, compared to only 19% of asylum seekers.

Traveller respondents interviewed for the survey reported much higher levels of group membership. However, this high level of group membership must be treated with caution given the small sample of Travellers noted earlier in this report and the fact that a number of Traveller interviews were facilitated through a Traveller support organisation, involvement with which could be considered group membership.

5.2 Club and Group Types

Religion	Total	Asian	Black	White
Social (hobby / social activity)	59%	53%	39%	75%
Church-based (religion / faith-based)	37%	38%	60%	21%
Community (ethnic / national)	20%	25%	24%	16%
Neighbourhood (local area)	10%	15%	11%	8%

Base: All those who are a member of any group (379)

Table 5.2 Club & Group Membership by Ethnicity

Those involved in clubs and groups were asked what types of groups they were involved in. Of those involved in clubs and groups, 59% were involved in a social group, which may include hobbies or social activities. White respondents (75%) were significantly more likely than Black respondents (39%) to be involved in social groups or activities, compared to other group types, as were those aged 16 to 34 (62%).

37% of respondents were involved in a Church-based group and Black respondents (60%) were significantly more likely than White respondents (21%) to be involved in such groups, compared to other group types. Respondents affiliated to non-Catholic Christian religions were

most likely to be involved in church-based groups. As noted earlier, non-Catholic Christians were also generally more likely to be Black.

20% of those involved in groups and clubs were involved in community (ethnic/national) groups and 10% were involved in more local neighbourhood groups. Muslim respondents were significantly more likely than other faiths to be involved in community (ethnic/national) groups. The vast majority of the groups that people were involved in (85%) were based in Fingal.

5.3 Club and Group Organisation

Those involved in various groups and clubs were also asked which communities (Irish, non-Irish or their own communities) organised the groups they were involved in.

Social groups (83%) and neighbourhood groups (66%) were mostly organised by Irish people. Given the unequal distribution of participation in such clubs by different ethnic groups, particularly the relatively low levels of participation by Black respondents, this suggests an opportunity for greater engagement by neighbourhood and social groups with non-White ethnic groups.

Community groups were also most likely to be organised by Irish people, albeit not to the same extent as social and neighbourhood groups. Church based groups were more likely to be organised solely by people from one's own cultural background (29%) than by Irish people (27%).

In terms of preferences for who should organise these groups, the majority (69%) of those involved in social groups had no preference for who organises the groups.

For community groups, 17% had a preference that these groups be organised mostly by people from their own cultural background, while 47% had no preference for who organises the groups.

For neighbourhood groups, 50% preferred that these groups be mostly organised by Irish people, while 34% had no preference who organises them.

For those involved in church-based groups, 26% would prefer that that they be organised mostly by people from their own ethnic background, compared to only 11% who would prefer that the group is mostly organised by Irish people.

These findings give a strong indication that those that are involved in groups and clubs are integrating into clubs with other Irish people. The exception is religious based groups, however the common basis of these groups is quite different and less flexible than it is for other groups

such as social or community groups. Equally, the vast majority of Traveller respondents who reported group or club membership participated in activities provided by Traveller support organisations.

5.4 Reasons for Non-Membership in Clubs and Groups

The main reason for not being involved in any social, community, church or neighbourhood group or club is having no time to get involved, cited by 56% of all respondents. A further 2% give a similar yet more specific answer of being too busy with work or family commitments. 1 in 10 respondents had no interest in getting involved in these kinds of activities. While lack of time and lack of interest are personal reasons, some are not involved due to other factors, such as a lack of opportunities or contact with clubs in their area.

6% stated that there were few opportunities to get involved in local groups or clubs and 6% stated that there were no organised groups or clubs in their area. A further 6% also said that they have no contact with any clubs. However, this does not necessarily mean that there are no opportunities to join such groups and the respondents may not have tried to make contact. This may also be a function of the level of visibility of the groups or clubs in their area, who may not have made themselves known to people in the community.

5.5 Public Engagement

Approximately two-thirds of respondents (66%) had not participated in a single activity of community or public engagement, while living in Fingal. Younger people aged 16 to 34 (72%) were also significantly more likely than those aged 35-54 (53%) to have engaged in none of these activities. Similarly, Polish respondents (75%) and those from the EU Accession States, excluding Poland, (77%) were significantly more likely than African respondents (55%) to have engaged in none of these activities.

The most common activities that people had taken part in were to have talked about a problem with other people in the area (14%) or reported a problem to the police or County Council (11%). Respondents were less likely to have discussed problems or issues with a local community worker, community representative (6%) or spokesperson or an elected representative (5%). In terms of more formal social activities, 9% had actively participated in an association, 8% had participated in a neighbourhood clean-up, 7% had voted in a local election and 5% had volunteered for a charitable organisation.

5.6 Sports Participation

Sports Participation

Q: Have you participated in any sport or any physical activities in the last three months?

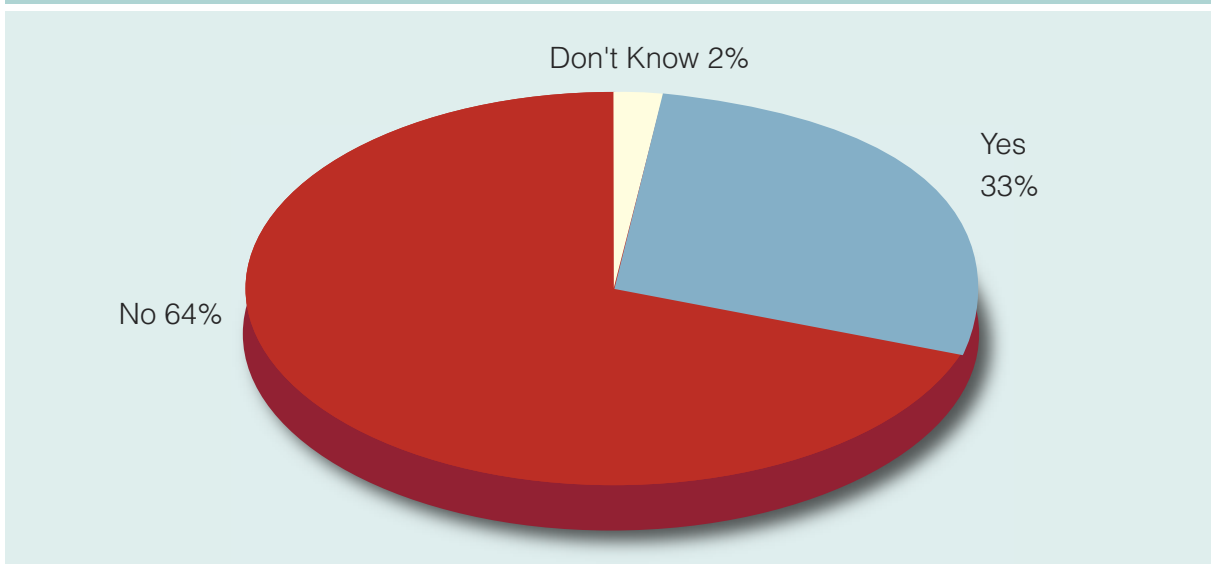


Figure 5.6 Sports Participation

Almost two-thirds (64%) of respondents had not participated in any sport or physical activity in the last 3 months, with females significantly less likely than males to have participated and Asian and Black respondents significantly less likely to have participated compared to White respondents. Many of the groups (Polish nationals, younger respondents) with low levels of group / club membership or community engagement had higher levels of sports participation than some of the groups that reported higher membership of groups and clubs and higher levels of community engagement. For example, while 38% of Polish respondents and 35% of respondents from EU Accession States had participated in sporting activity in the last 3 months, only 28% of African respondents and 27% of Asian respondents had. Refugees (20%) and Asylum Seekers (10%) also had very low levels of sports participation.

The main reason given, for not participating in sport or physical activities was being too busy, cited by 62% of respondents, while 11% said that they have no interest. A very small proportion of respondents (2%) felt that there are no facilities or information to allow them to participate in sporting activities.

Respondents from Mulhuddart and Balbriggan were most likely to cite a lack of local facilities as a reason for non-participation.

For those that had participated in sport or physical activity, going to the gym (28%) and football (26%) were the most common physical activities. Swimming was the next most popular sport for 14% of respondents, followed by running or jogging (11%), basketball (6%) and aerobics (5%).

A wide variety of other sports were mentioned, including tennis (5%), cycling (4%), badminton or squash (2%) and cricket (2%) to name a few. Interestingly, 2% had participated in Gaelic games, mostly Black and female respondents.

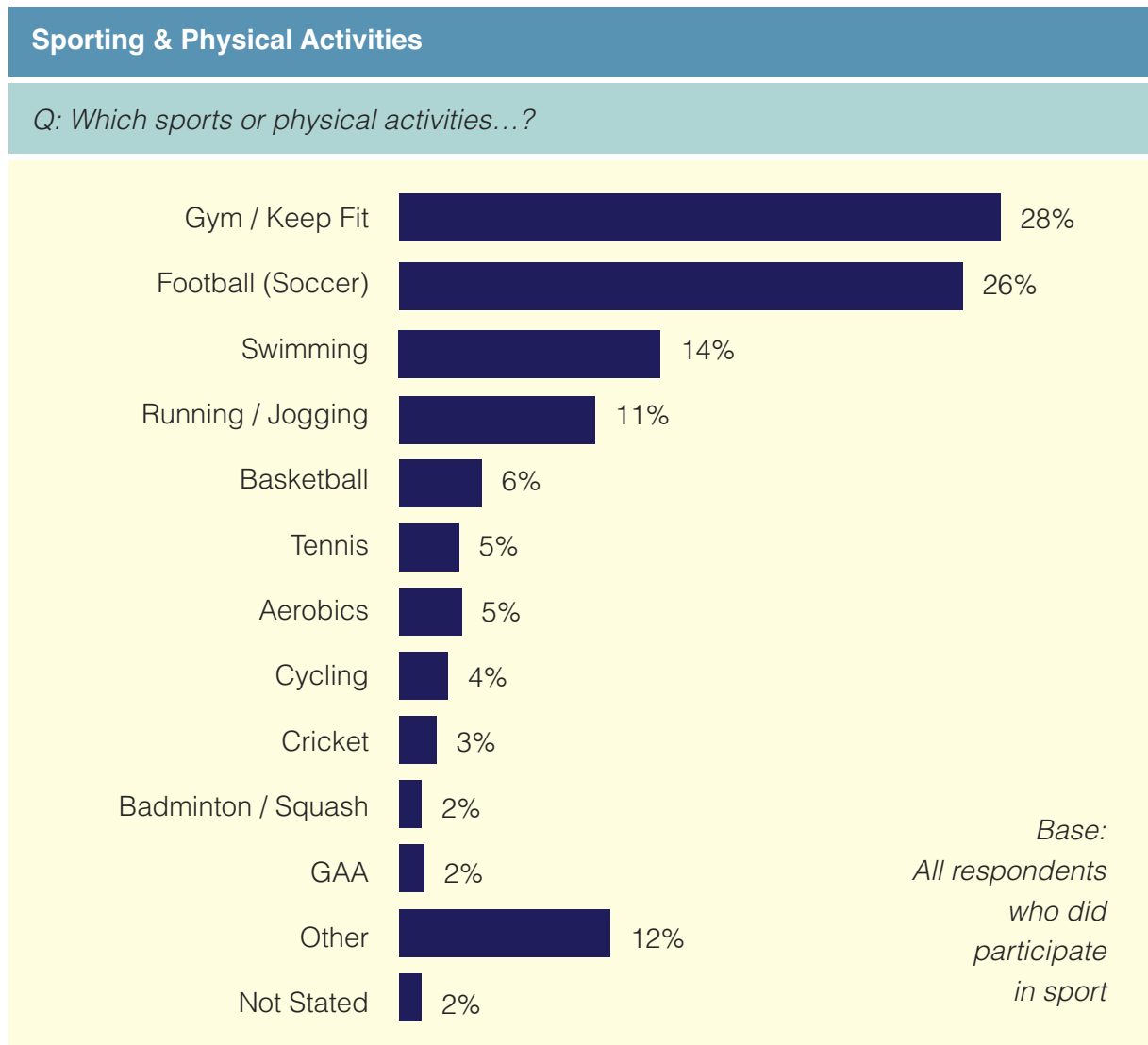


Figure 5.6.1 Sporting & Physical Activities

When respondents were asked if there were any sports or areas of physical activity or exercise in which they would like to participate in or have a greater level of participation than they currently do, 55% said 'no' and 41% said 'yes'.

A higher proportion of people who had not participated in sport or physical activity in the last three months said no (61%), but as noted earlier, the reason they did not partake in these activities before was due to a lack of time. While 43% of those that had participated in sport or physical activity in the last three months said that they did not want to have a greater level of participation in other sports, this may be because they are happy with their current level of participation. The group with the highest proportion who would like to engage in more physical activities or sports were refugees, 56% of whom said that they would.

Of those that would like to participate in or have a greater level of participation in sports or physical activities, the main activities identified by respondents were: football (27%), swimming (25%), the gym (20%) basketball (15%), and tennis (15%). Males were significantly more likely than females to be interested in playing football, while females were significantly more likely than males likely to be interested in swimming and tennis. These preferences were relatively consistent across different ethnic and national groups.

6. Community Integration

This chapter looks beyond basic engagement in the community and examines how integrated ethnic respondents feel in the local community. To begin with, we examine the perceived make-up of the local community and whether people feel they live close to others from their own background.

6.1 Local neighbourhood

13% of respondents reported that none of the people living in their area were from the same background as them, while 28% said that very few people were from the same background or community as them. Just under half (48%) felt that some of the people living in their area are from the same background or community as them. A small minority of respondents (6%) lived in an area where most people were from the same background or community as them.

Just under half of all Traveller respondents said that very few people living in their area were from the same background as them. However, more than a third of Travellers reported that all of the people living in their area were from the same background as them. There were some noteworthy differences by area and nationality in the responses to this question.

40% of respondents in the Howth area said that none of the people living in their area were from the same background or community as them, compared to only 8% in Swords and 13% overall. 16% of African respondents said that none of the people living in their area were from the same background or community as them, compared to only 4% of Polish respondents.

A significantly higher proportion (19%) of respondents from the Balbriggan area said that most of the people living in their area were from the same background or community as them, compared to only 1% in Blanchardstown and 6% overall.

6.2 Local integration

24% of all respondents either did not really or did not at all consider themselves part of the local community in Fingal. Those in the Castleknock area and those aged 16 to 34 were more likely than comparable demographic groups to be of this view. It is however encouraging that over a third (36%) felt very much part of the local community and a further 39% felt that they were

Extent to Which Respondent Feels Part of the Local Community	%
Yes, very much part of the local community	36%
Yes, a little bit	39%
No, not really	20%
Not at all	4%
Don't know	1%

Table 6.2 Feeling part of the local community

part of the local community to some degree. Black respondents were significantly more likely than White respondents to feel very much part of the local community. There were some significant differences by area in response to this, although just over a third (38%) of respondents from Mulhuddart and just over half (52%) of respondents from Castleknock said that they did not really or did not at all feel part of the local community, compared to 7% in Swords, 18% in Balbriggan and 24% overall.

While a significant proportion did not feel part of the community, this does not necessarily indicate whether they felt that they could be part of the community. When asked if they felt their neighbourhood was a place where people from different cultural backgrounds can meet and integrate, three quarters felt that this was true to some extent, while only 11% felt that it was not. Those from Asian ethnic backgrounds were more likely to feel that their neighbourhood is not a place where people from different cultural backgrounds can meet and integrate, while Black respondents were significantly more likely to feel that it is.

6.3 Satisfaction with neighbourhood

While there appeared to be some concerns about integrating in the community, there was a very high level of satisfaction overall amongst ethnic minority respondents with their neighbourhoods as places to live. Overall, 91% were satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live, with only 2% of respondents reporting dissatisfaction with their neighbourhood.

94% of all Swords respondents were satisfied overall, with 73% very satisfied, with their neighbourhood as a place to live. Only 45% of all Balbriggan respondents were very satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live. More respondents from Balbriggan were fairly dissatisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live, compared to other areas. However,

Satisfaction with Neighbourhood

Q: How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your neighbourhood as a place to live?

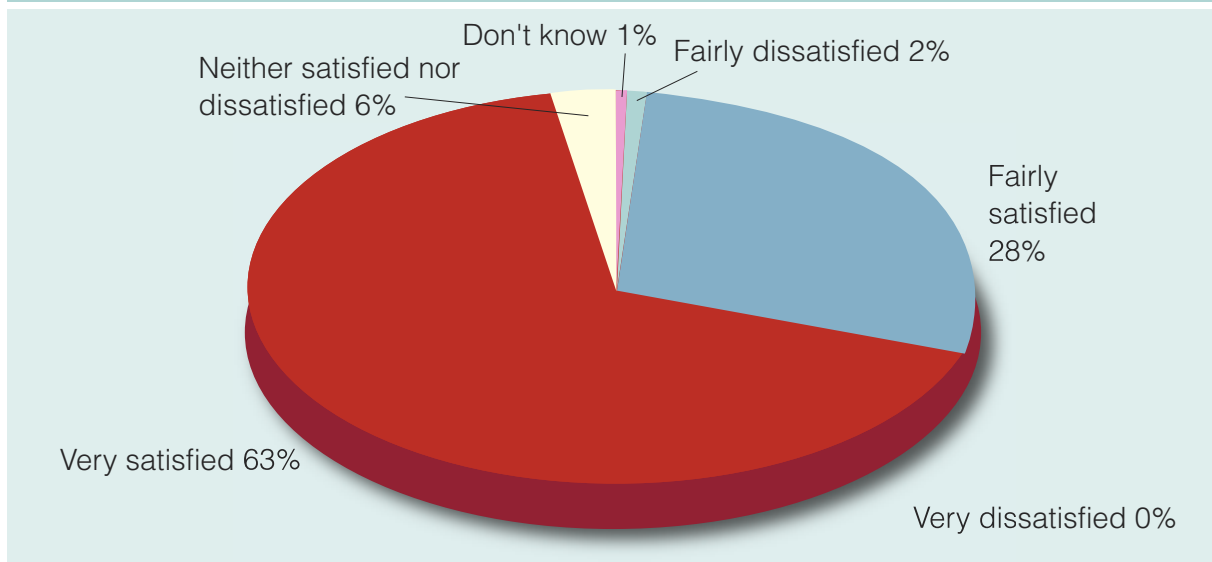


Figure 6.3 Satisfaction with neighbourhood

there were no significant differences by nationality or ethnicity. Traveller respondents living in areas where most of the neighbourhood was from the same background as them (e.g. Group Housing) were more likely than Travellers living in other types of accommodation, such as Local Authority housing, to be satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live.

6.4 Sharing Culture

In terms of sharing and exchanging cultures, respondents were asked which aspects of Irish cultures they would like to learn more about and which aspects of their own cultures they would like to share with others.

As can be seen in figure 6.4 on the next page, minority ethnic communities would like to share the gastronomy (28%), music (15%) and history (12%) of their own culture most with others. 42% of Asian respondents would most like to share the gastronomy of their culture, compared to 28% overall. 21% of African respondents would most like to share traditional or popular music of their culture with other nationalities, compared to 15% overall.

In terms of Irish culture, ethnic minorities would most like to learn more about the history (19%), traditional and popular dance (14%) and its music (13%). 10% of African respondents would most like to learn about the language or names of Irish culture, compared to 5% overall.

Sharing Culture

Q: What aspect of your culture or traditions do you think would be most interesting to share with other nationalities or groups and what aspect of Irish culture or traditions would you personally be most interested in learning more about?

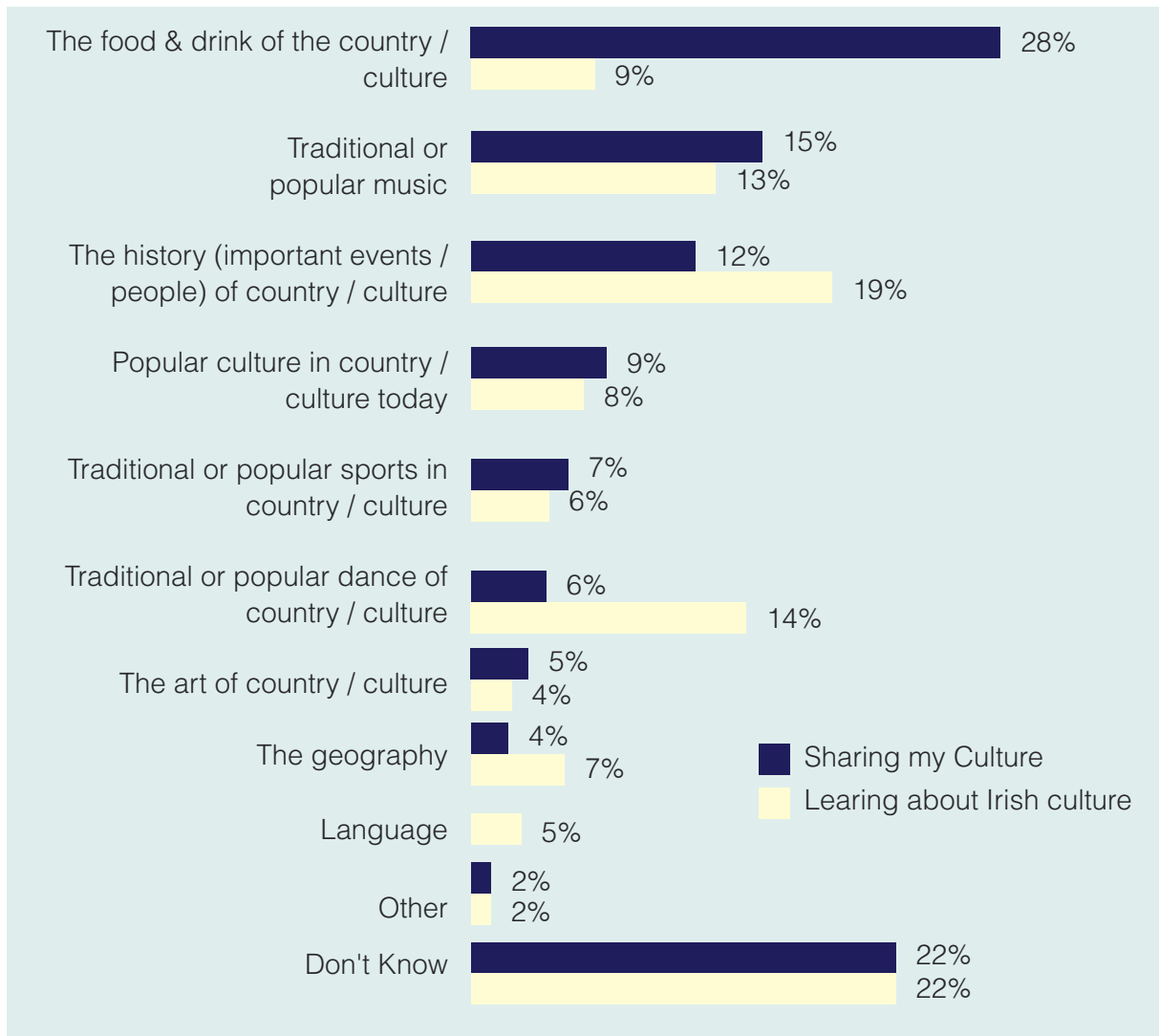


Figure 6.4 Sharing one's own culture and learning about Irish culture

7. Service Provision

This final chapter of results reviews ethnic minorities' use of local services, their satisfaction with these services and reasons for dissatisfaction where appropriate.

7.1 Use of Services

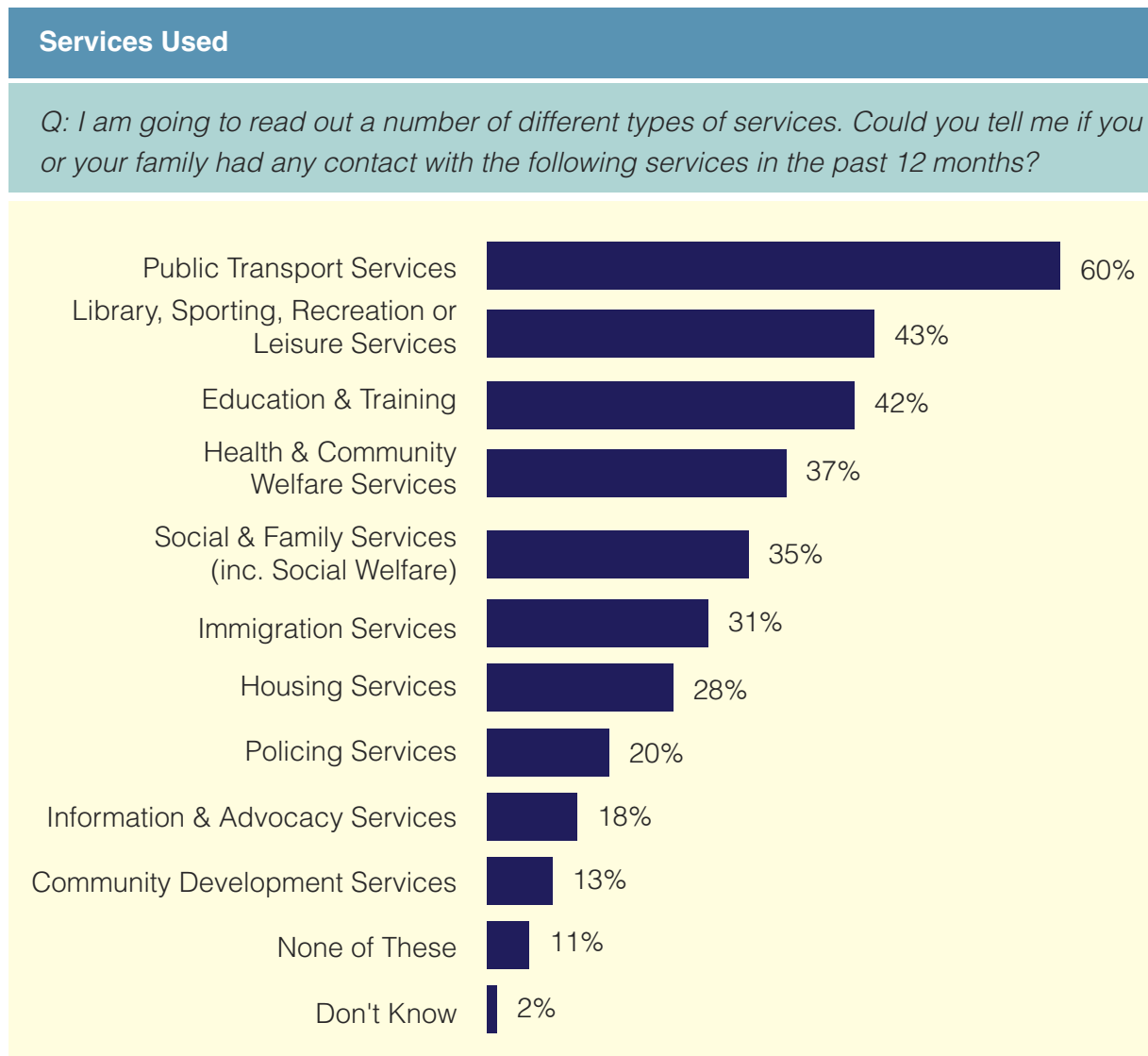


Figure 7.1 Services used

The most commonly used services were Public Transport Services, used by 60% of respondents in the past 12 months. Over 4 in 10 (43%) had used Library, Sporting, Recreation or Leisure Services and a similar proportion (42%) had contact with Education & Training Services.

Younger respondents aged 16 to 34 were most likely to have used Public Transport Services. Females, those aged 35 to 54 and Black respondents were more likely to have used Library, Sporting, Recreation or Leisure Services than other demographic groups. Females and those aged 35 to 54 were also more likely to have had contact with Education & Training Services, usually in relation to their children's education. Members of the Black and Asian ethnic communities were also more likely to have had contact with Education & Training Services, but Asians had experience of third-level education.

Roughly equal proportions had contact with Social and Family Services (35%) and Immigration Services (31%). EU or EEA citizens from outside Ireland were least likely to have had contact with either of these services. Over a quarter (28%) had contact with Housing Services, with those aged 35 to 54 and Black respondents more likely to have had contact. Over a third (37%) had contact with Health & Community Welfare Services, with female respondents, those aged 35 to 54 and Black respondents more likely than comparable demographic groups to have had contact.

Other services that respondents had contact with include: Policing Services (20%), Information and Advocacy Services (18%), and Community Development Services (13%). For each of these services, Black respondents were more likely than other ethnic groups to have had contact.

There was a relatively high level of contact among Muslim respondents (22%) with Community Development Services, compared to the overall level of contact. Contact with Community Development Services was particularly low among Polish respondents and non-Irish EU/EEA citizens generally and higher among refugees, asylum seekers and non-EEA citizens with work permits.

Approximately, one in every nine of all respondents (11%) claimed to have had no contact with any of these services.

7.2 Satisfaction with Services

Overall, it is encouraging to note that there were generally high levels of satisfaction with the various services that minority ethnic respondents have used. As can be seen in Figure 7.2 on the next page, Library, Sporting and Leisure Services received the highest rating of overall satisfaction at 87%.

Satisfaction with Services

Q: Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the quality of service you received on the most recent occasion you dealt with each service?

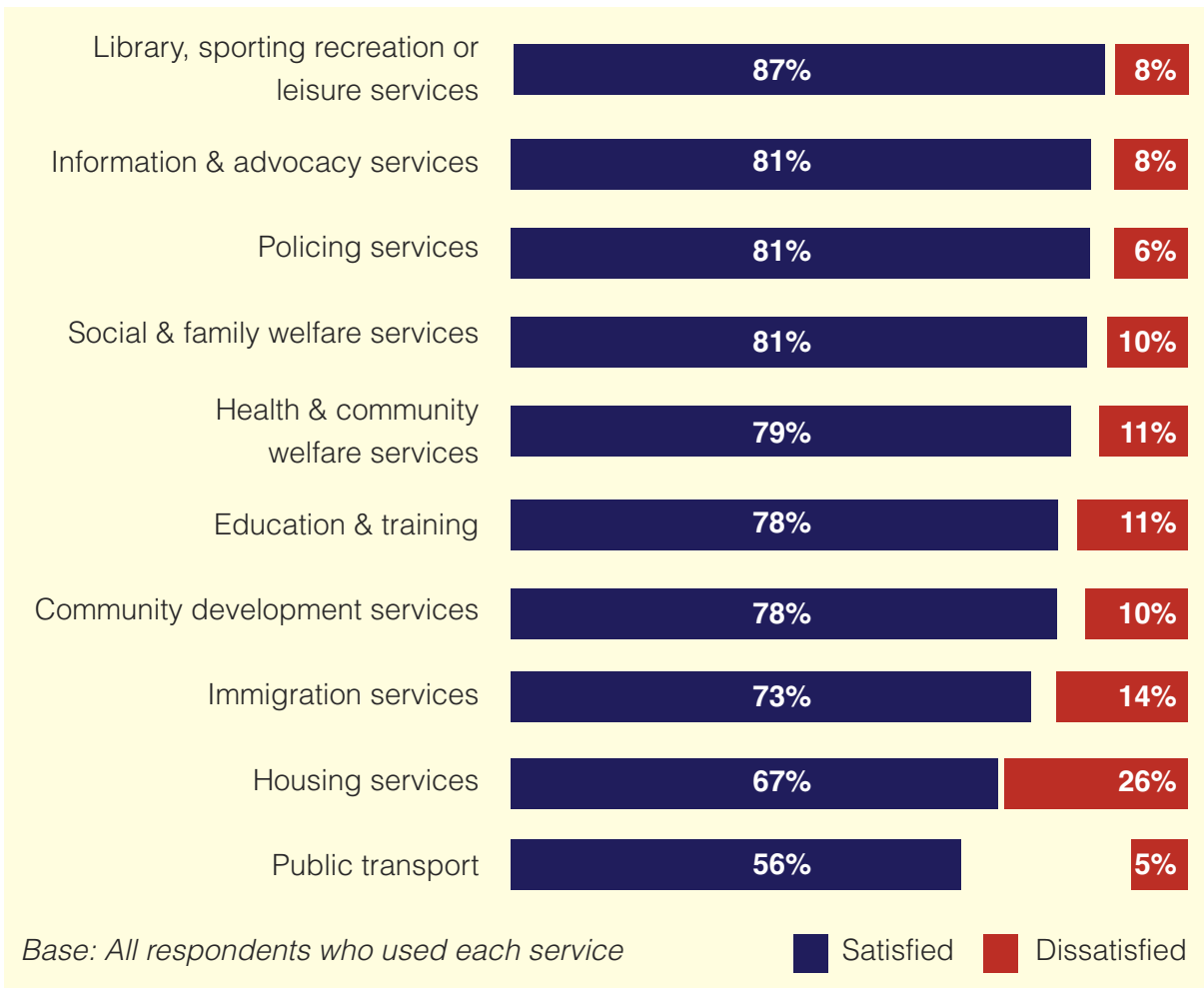


Figure 7.2 Satisfaction with Services

The lowest level of satisfaction was for Public Transport Services (56%) and as noted previously these were the most used services. Satisfaction with Housing Services was also relatively low at 67%.

7.3 Reasons for Dissatisfaction with Services

While levels of dissatisfaction are low, those that were dissatisfied were asked to explain why they were dissatisfied with a particular service⁴. Those that were dissatisfied with Public

⁴ Given the small proportions of respondents dissatisfied with services at an overall level, the absolute number of responses to the supplementary question probing dissatisfaction with each individual service is generally low.

Transport Services cited an untimely service and a lack of Public Transport Services generally as the reasons for their dissatisfaction. Those dissatisfied with Immigration Services generally found the service slow and inefficient. Those dissatisfied with Social and Family Welfare Services were mostly unhappy with the benefits received and the level of service they received. Specific reasons relating to the level of service received included both the manner of staff and the quality of information provided. The principal cause of dissatisfaction with Information and Advocacy Services was accessing the service. Those that were dissatisfied with the Policing Services found the service inefficient. Similar reasons were also given by those dissatisfied with Housing Services as well as Health and Community Welfare Services.

In light of media coverage in the last 12 months, it is interesting to note that 100% of Balbriggan respondents dissatisfied with Education & Training Services cited a lack of schools as the specific reason for their dissatisfaction.

7.4 Service Priorities

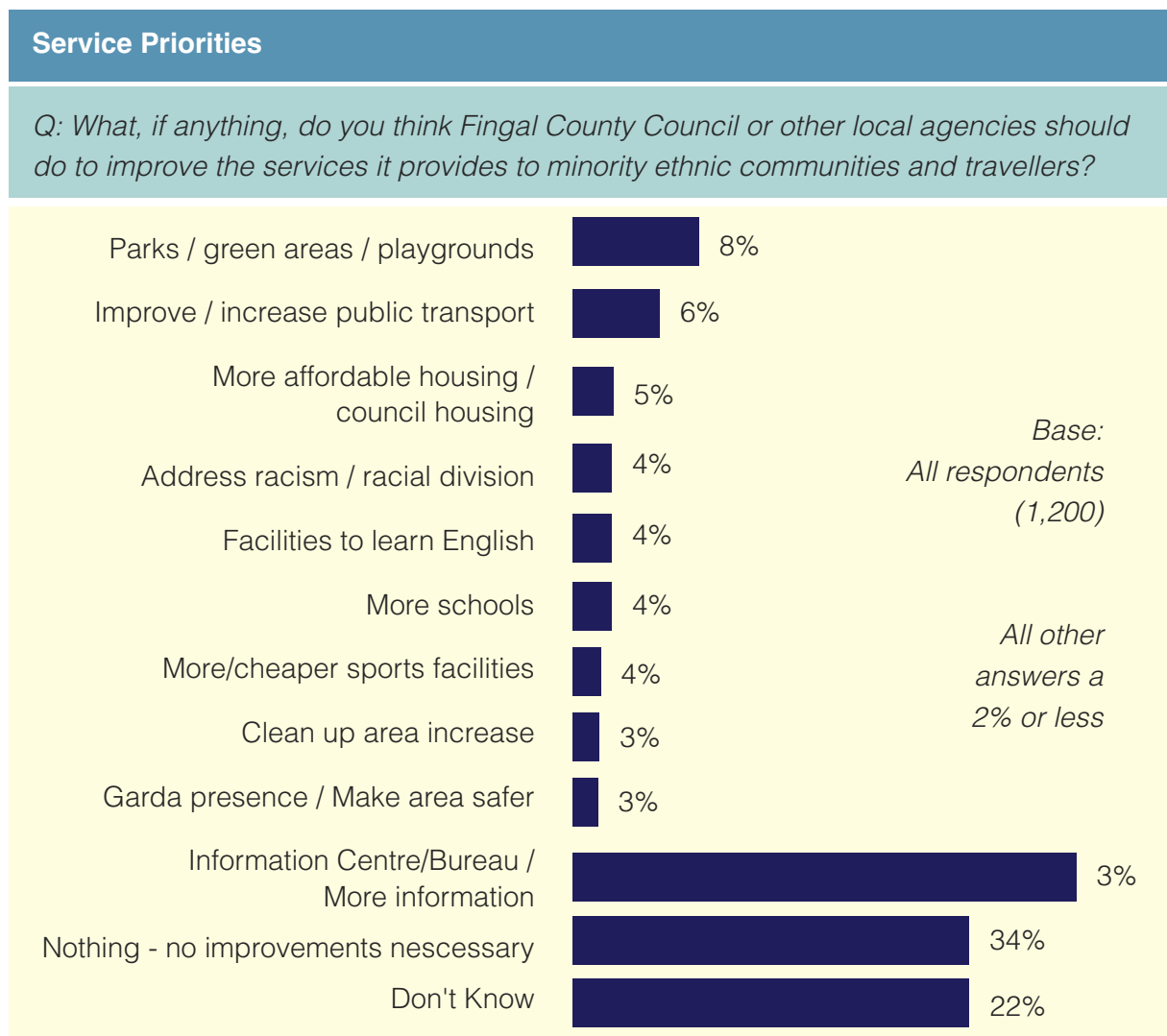


Figure 7.4 Service Priorities

Approximately one-third of respondents did not feel that any improvements are necessary to the services Fingal County Council provides to minority ethnic communities, while just over a fifth could not think of any suggestions to make. The main suggestions that were made were having more parks and green areas, and playgrounds (8%), improving public transport (6%) and having more affordable housing available (5%).

As above, there were relatively few differences by ethnic or national group. However, Swords respondents were significantly more likely than those in other areas to say that no improvements were necessary and significantly less likely to cite a need to address racism, whereas Balbriggan were significantly more likely than respondents from other areas to cite the need for more schools in their area.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 Conclusions

It is hoped that the results of this study will provide useful evidence for Fingal County Council and other local and national agencies working with minority ethnic communities in Fingal. The purpose of this section is to review the main findings of the research and to identify initial recommendations arising from the research.

At an overall level, the research results highlight the significant cultural diversity that exists in County Fingal. Respondents from almost 100 countries around the world, speaking more than 100 different languages, were interviewed for this study.

Most minority ethnic respondents living in Fingal are White, and the vast majority are comfortable, to some degree, using English. Nonetheless, the results also point to a number of differences between the general population of Fingal and the demographic profile of the minority population.

Fingal's minority ethnic population, and particularly those from Poland and other Eastern European countries, has a significantly younger age profile, compared to the overall population of Fingal. Approximately one-fifth of those from Poland and Eastern Europe are under 25 years of age. However, there are differences between the ethnic groups. While more than 70% of minority ethnic respondents are younger than 35 years of age, almost half of all African respondents are 35 years and older.

Of particular relevance to national and local agencies providing services to, and planning services for, minority ethnic communities in Fingal is the fact that only 19% plan to leave the area within the next 2 years. In fact, more than half have no plans to leave Fingal and a further 14% do not know how long they will be staying in Fingal. African respondents, refugees and asylum seekers are significantly more likely than White non-Irish EU/EEA citizens to have no plans to leave.

The results also indicate that Fingal has experienced significant levels of immigration from other parts of Ireland. Only 12% of respondents have been living in Fingal for 6 years or more

but over a third (36%) have been living in Ireland for this length of time. It is worth noting that a significant proportion of minority ethnic respondents have moved to Fingal because they were offered accommodation in the area, including a large proportion of refugees. Asian communities were more likely than other ethnic groups to have moved to Fingal to buy property in the area.

The results of the research indicate that the nature of this immigration has not been uniform in all areas of Fingal, specifically in relation to the profile of minority ethnic communities in different areas. As the needs and experiences of minority ethnic communities differ according to their nationality, ethnicity or legal status, the service priorities for specific areas of Fingal will differ according to the profile of minority ethnic communities living there.

Whereas the demographic profile (nationality, ethnicity and legal status) of minority ethnic communities living in Blanchardstown is consistent with that of the minority ethnic population in Fingal as a whole, the profile of minority ethnic communities in some areas, such as Swords and Balbriggan, is significantly different. For example, a significantly higher proportion of Swords' minority ethnic respondents were White, for example, compared to other areas.

Balbriggan had a significantly higher proportion of Black and African respondents compared to other areas, and a higher proportion of asylum seekers. As such, Balbriggan is likely to have particular service support demands and needs that are significantly different to those of Swords. A significantly higher proportion of respondents from the Balbriggan area also said that most of the people living in their area were from the same background or community as them, compared to a very small proportion of all those interviewed.

At an overall level, indicators of community engagement and sports participation are low. However, group membership and sports participation differs between ethnic groups. While 47% of all Black respondents were members of a social, community, church or neighbourhood group or club, only a quarter of all White and Asian respondents were members of similar groups.

Black and African respondents were significantly more likely than other ethnic groups to participate in Church- or faith-based groups organised solely by people from their own background, whereas White and European respondents were significantly more likely to engage in social group activities organised by Irish people.

Sports participation also differs significantly by ethnic group and, particularly, by legal status. Polish respondents and respondents from EU Accession States reported significantly higher levels of participation than African and Asian respondents. Refugees and asylum seekers also had very low levels of sports participation.

Black respondents, who had relatively low levels of sports participation but relatively high levels of club/group membership, were significantly more likely than other ethnic groups to

feel very much part of their local community. Nonetheless, almost a quarter of all those interviewed said that they did not consider themselves part of the local community in Fingal. This was particularly true of those from Asian backgrounds and those aged 16 to 34. However, there were no significant differences on this question between respondents from different areas. In terms of promoting the exchange of cultures between minority ethnic communities and Irish communities in Fingal, the survey suggests that most minority ethnic communities would like to share the gastronomy, music and history of their own culture with other people.

In terms of embracing Irish culture, ethnic communities would most like to learn more about the history, music and traditional dance.

Overall, the vast majority of respondents were satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live, while only 2% of respondents were dissatisfied. There were differences by area, however. 73% of minority ethnic respondents living in Swords were very satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live, compared to only 45% of all minority ethnic respondents living in Balbriggan.

The survey also showed that minority ethnic respondents are generally very satisfied with the national and local services they access. With regard to most services, approximately three-quarters of those using the services were satisfied. Library, Sporting, Recreation and Leisure Services received the highest rating of overall satisfaction at 87%. The lowest services satisfaction levels were recorded for Public Transport Services (56%) and Housing Services (67%).

Reasons for dissatisfaction with these services mostly related to the speed rather than the quality of these services. Those that were dissatisfied with Public Transport Services cited an untimely service and a lack of public transport generally, as the reasons for their dissatisfaction. Those dissatisfied with Housing Services also found the service inefficient and untimely, citing long waiting lists and processes.

Finally, in terms of suggested improvements to services provided to minority ethnic communities by national and local service providers, including the Council, over a third of all respondents did not feel that any improvements were necessary. A further one-fifth could not think of any suggestion to make. The main improvements considered necessary were having more parks, green areas and playgrounds as well as suggestions to improve the two services with the lowest levels of overall satisfaction i.e. Public Transport Services and Housing Services (specifically with reference to affordable housing).

As these suggested improvements indicate, the experiences, attitudes and needs of minority ethnic respondents do not necessarily differ from those of the Council's White Irish customers. Like any other customers, they want efficient, high-quality services that meet their needs. Indeed, many experiences and attitudes of minority ethnic communities mirror those of the

settled Irish population in Fingal. Nationality and ethnicity is only one variable among many others (such as accommodation status, age and life stage) which will influence attitudes to and experiences of living in Fingal.

As such, while ethnicity can be critical to the experiences of Fingal's minority ethnic communities, it must not be assumed to be the single explanatory factor for all.

8.2 Recommendations

The following section presents initial recommendations arising from the results of this survey of minority ethnic communities in Fingal. It is worth noting at the outset that the successful accomplishment of these recommendations will depend on the allocation of adequate resources to ensuring their implementation.

8.2.1 Recommendations – Access to Services

Language (Section 3.4)

The results of the survey reveal significant linguistic diversity among minority ethnic communities in Fingal, with over 100 languages spoken by those interviewed. However, 89% of all respondents reported that they felt comfortable, to some degree, using English.

Polish and Russian were used by 20% and 16%, respectively, of minority ethnic communities, predominantly Eastern European respondents. Respondents from EU Accession States other than Poland reported lower levels of English usage than other national groups. Among this group, just over a third (35%) were comfortable using Russian and roughly the same proportion (34%) were comfortable using Romanian.

Yoruba was used by 29% of African respondents and French was used by 18% of African respondents. For Asian respondents, however, there was no language commonly used, other than English, which 91% of respondents could use.

Ultimately, it is imperative that the policies and services provided by agencies serving these communities reflect the linguistic diversity reported here to ensure equal access to services provided by Fingal Development Board member agencies.

- It is recommended that **key documents** are translated into languages that will allow a minimum 90% penetration into minority ethnic communities (i.e. English, Polish, French and Romanian).
- It is recommended that further translation requirements for **key document** be evaluated by the Fingal Development Board and its member agencies on a case-by-case basis.

Intention to Stay (Section 4.1) and Religion (Section 3.5)

The results of the survey demonstrate that more than half of all minority ethnic residents of Fingal have no plans to leave Fingal, with less than a fifth (19%) planning to leave within the next two years. It is also relevant to note that intention to stay is higher among non-Catholic and non-Christian respondents than among Catholic minority ethnic communities.

- It is recommended that Fingal Development Board and its member agencies acknowledge these trends in future planning to ensure that all services likely to be accessed by ethnic minorities reflect the diversity of these populations, particularly in areas where religious belief, for example, requires adherence to specific culturally appropriate practices (e.g. health services, burial customs for the Muslim Community).

Where in Fingal (Section 4.2)

This research demonstrates that, while most areas in Fingal have a broad ethnic mix, there are some areas where the ethnic mix is considerably less balanced. For example, there was a significantly higher proportion of asylum seekers and refugees in the Balbriggan area, as a percentage of the total minority ethnic population, compared to other areas.

- As such, it is recommended that the provision of services by agencies working with these communities in Fingal reflects the specific requirements and needs of individual communities on an area by area basis, to include:
 - Immigration and integration support services in the Balbriggan area for refugees and asylum seekers;
 - Greater focus on measuring the distribution of different ethnic groups throughout Fingal to ensure that service provision in specific areas of Fingal is adequate to meet the requirements of its minority ethnic customer base (e.g. language and translation services).

Use of Services (Section 7.1)

The results of the survey show that use of services among minority ethnic communities is highly varied among groups. While 60% of minority ethnic communities use Public Transport Services, just over one in ten (13%) access Community Development Services (13%). Fewer than one in five access Information & Advocacy Services (18%). The lower level of use of these services may simply reflect a lower level of demand. Nonetheless, the Fingal Development Board and its member agencies should ensure that those who need to avail of their services are aware of these services and, once aware, that their needs are met.

- As such, it is recommended that agencies working with these communities in Fingal seek to develop targeted communication strategies to:
 - Ensure high levels of awareness of service entitlements and availability;
 - Encourage greater usage of relevant services among minority ethnic communities.
- It is recommended that models of service provision to minority ethnic communities by agencies working in Fingal promote inclusiveness through:
 - Integrated, rather than segregated (e.g. separate door / hatch, etc), service provision for those accessing local and national public services;
 - Appropriate diversity and cultural awareness training for all service staff, particularly those delivering frontline local and national public services.

Satisfaction with Services (Section 7.2)

The results of the survey also show that satisfaction with services among minority ethnic communities differs from service to service. The two services with the highest levels of dissatisfaction were *Housing Services* and *Public Transport Services*. Of particular concern to the Fingal Development Board and its member agencies will be the dissatisfaction with *Housing Services*.

- It is recommended that housing services in Fingal reflect the specific requirements and needs of individual minority ethnic groups, to include:
 - More effective communication regarding the availability of housing services, and the processes involved;
 - Greater support for ethnic minority communities looking to buy property in Fingal; and
 - Ongoing engagement with those communities with atypical housing requirements, including Travellers.

8.2.2 Participation and Engagement

Club / Group Membership (Section 5.1) and Public Engagement (Section 5.5)

Less than a third (31%) of all minority ethnic community respondents reported membership of any form of social or community group or club. Given the large number of positive health and social benefits associated with greater community participation and engagement, this should be a source of some concern to agencies working with these groups.

- It is recommended that the Fingal Development Board and its member agencies working with these communities in Fingal continue to develop specific strategies to increase the level of participation in social and group membership among minority ethnic communities in Fingal.
- It is recommended that the Fingal Development Board and its member agencies working with these communities in Fingal provide dedicated support to local social, community groups and clubs on the basis of minority ethnic membership, as a means of promoting integration between Irish and non-Irish communities in Fingal.
- It is recommended that the Fingal Development Board and its member agencies working with these communities in Fingal explore opportunities for participation in specific neighbourhood activities for all (Irish and non-Irish) communities, (e.g. neighbourhood and community area clean-ups), as a means of promoting community engagement and integration between Irish and non- Irish communities in Fingal.

Sports Participation (Section 5.6)

Almost two-thirds of respondents had not participated in any sport or physical activity in the last 3 months, with females significantly less likely than males to have participated. Like group membership and social activity, participation in sport is associated with significant health and social benefits.

- It is recommended that agencies working with these communities in Fingal explore the potential for increased participation in sport and physical activity specifically among refugees and asylum seekers through the provision of opportunities for participation in those physical activities and sports identified in this report as being of particular interest.
- It is recommended that Fingal County Council and other sporting agencies explore the potential for increased participation in sport and physical activity among minority ethnic communities by providing opportunities for participation to those groups whose needs are currently unmet, particularly refugees and asylum seekers and females in minority ethnic communities.

8.2.3 Recommendations – Communications

Intention to Stay (Section 4.1) and Legal Status (3.3)

The results of the survey also provide the Fingal Development Board and its member agencies with a powerful opportunity to contribute to public dialogue around immigration and the minority ethnic experience in Fingal. Contrary to many stereotypical beliefs that minority ethnic

communities are predominantly non-European, non-White and transient, this survey shows that the vast majority of minority ethnic communities in Fingal are, in fact, White Europeans. Furthermore, more than half of those surveyed (51%) reported their intention to stay in Fingal, with fewer than one-fifth (19%) planning to leave in the next two years.

Despite common perceptions, a very small proportion of the minority ethnic population are either refugees or asylum seekers. It is important that anecdotal myths and inaccurate stereotypes about minority ethnic communities are challenged by the evidence provided by this survey.

- It is recommended that **selected findings** of the survey of minority ethnic communities be used to develop an information campaign to provide greater information and awareness about the minority ethnic population in Fingal and to dispel myths regarding the transient nature of their presence in Fingal.
- It is recommended that the evidence-base this survey provides be used by the Fingal Development Board and its member agencies to reorient current planning of minority ethnic Public Services to incorporate a *long-term* strategy for the provision of services to minority ethnic communities in Fingal.

8.2.4 Further Research

This research provides a baseline measure of the experiences and attitudes of a representative sample of minority ethnic communities in Fingal. However, for particular communities, such as Traveller and Romani groups, the number of interviews is insufficient to allow for reliable statistical analysis at an individual community level. Furthermore, quantitative research, by its very nature, can only provide a specific, measurable type of insight. Therefore, there are clear opportunities for further research in this area.

- It is recommended that Fingal County Council and other agencies working with these communities in Fingal conduct further research with individual minority ethnic groups, such as Traveller and Romani groups, to gather a more detailed and robust picture of the specific service needs and experiences of individual communities than is possible through a representative survey of minority ethnic communities such as this.
- It is recommended that the Council and other agencies working with these communities in Fingal identify specific priorities for further research with minority ethnic communities, e.g. additional qualitative research with individual minority ethnic communities, such as Traveller and Romani groups, to explore specific issues affecting these communities in greater depth.



Fingal County Council
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall



Fingal Development Board
Forbairt Fhine Gall

P.O. Box 174 • County Hall • Swords • Fingal • County Dublin
Bosca 174 • Áras an Chontae • Sord • Fhine Gall • Contae Átha Cliath

Tel (01) 890 5095 • **Fax** (01) 890 5109

Email fingaldev@fingalcoco.ie • **Web** www.fdb.ie / www.fingalcoco.ie



Printed on 100%
Recycled Paper