



Cairngorms Local development plan place standard tool engagement with the Kingussie High School Youth Forum

Prepared by Lacquarn Rose (September 2025)



Content

Introduction	3
Respondent details	4
Results	4
Walking, wheeling and cycling.....	4
Public Transport: Buses, Trains, Trams, Boats	5
Traffic and parking.....	6
Streets, squares and buildings	7
Nature: Parks, woods, hills, beaches.....	8
Play, Hangout, Games and Hobbies	9
Schools, libraries, shops and other services	10
Jobs and places to work.....	10
Homes, Friends and Neighbours.....	11
Meeting and talking with people	12
Feeling Proud and a Part of My Place.....	12
Feeling safe.....	13
Fixed, Clean and Managed	14
Having our say and being listened to.....	15
Group discussion	16
Conclusion	17
Key overarching themes.....	17



Introduction

The Place Standard tool for young persons is a way of assessing places and was utilised as part of the Local Development Plan early engagement process to inform the evidence papers, which will contribute to the process of informing the next Local Development Plan.

The current Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan can be accessed here:

- <https://cairngorms.co.uk/our-work/local-development-plan>

The Place Standard tool for young person's provides a simple framework to structure conversations about place, based around 14 questions. It allows participants to think about the physical elements of a place (such as the buildings, spaces, and transport) as well as the social aspects (like whether people feel they have a say in decision making).

The tool provides prompts for discussions, allowing participants to consider all the elements of a place in a methodical way. The tool pinpoints the assets of a place as well as areas where a place could improve.

This report details the public engagement with the Kingussie High Youth Forum was conducted on the tenth of September 2025 with 11 participants from 10.30am until 1pm. Split into two groups in order to allow for each participant to be able to contribute equitably. Also present was an organiser supporting the wider activities of the Kingussie High Youth Forum. The group discussed each theme in turn as a group, facilitated and recorded by the Cairngorms National Park Authority graduate / planning officers. The results are summarised in the following report.

The age range of the group spans from 12 – 17 years and therefore it was deemed appropriate to utilise the youth focused Place Standard tool. Further information on the Place Standard tool can be found at the links in the 'Links to Evidence' section at the beginning of this report.

Kingussie High Youth forum is an empowering and inspiring platform for young people to share and develop ideas that allowed for them to conduct proactive participation in public engagement as well as exchange expand upon ideas between themselves. The Kingussie High Youth forum enables young people to tackle issues and create positive change. By including the voice of young people and their constantly evolving ideas, the group aims to create a sustainable future for the National Park.



Respondent details

The group was assessing the Cairngorms National Park as a whole, however included comments about specific areas where relevant. The demographic of the group involved in this session was 12 – 17 years of mixed gender.

Results

Walking, wheeling and cycling

'How good are the opportunities for walking, wheeling, and cycling in my place?'

Young people highlighted several aspects of active travel that work well.

The core path network was praised for providing reliable and accessible routes through the National Park and settlements, while the Rothiemurchus bike trail as well as the Kingussie to Aviemore bike trail was noted as a valued recreational and commuting resource.

Adequate lighting throughout larger settlements and safe street crossings were also appreciated, contributing to a sense of safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and wheeled users. In addition, the availability and quantity of buses were seen as a positive complement to active travel, offering flexible options for longer journeys.

Despite these strengths, several challenges were raised. Participants noted that buses are often late or infrequent, limiting their usefulness as a travel option. Lighting along certain routes, such as near the high school (Kingussie), was described as inconsistent, leaving some areas poorly illuminated and potentially unsafe after dark.

While the core paths are well used, they were sometimes considered too narrow to accommodate multiple groups, making it difficult for young people to travel together safely. Cycling on roads was also highlighted as a concern, with young people expressing a desire to reduce the number of times they are forced to share busy roads with vehicles.

Suggestions included building more dedicated cycle paths through villages, repairing existing infrastructure, and creating separate cycle lanes through Aviemore to provide safer and more continuous routes for cyclists of all ages. Addressing these challenges was seen as key to encouraging more young people to walk, wheel, and cycle independently and safely throughout their communities.



Score 2 / 7

Public Transport: Buses, Trains, Trams, Boats

‘How good is public transport in my place?’

Young people valued the provision of free bus travel, which was highlighted as a significant benefit in terms of affordability and accessibility. This policy has opened up opportunities for independent travel and greater mobility within and beyond their communities.

However, several challenges were raised around how transport services actually operate in practice. Participants pointed to the need for more bus stops in rural areas, alongside improved timetables and wider coverage to better connect smaller settlements. Train travel was described as expensive, and the groups felt that free or at least discounted fares would make a substantial difference in encouraging use.

Beyond cost and availability, concerns were raised about experiences on public transport. With serious issues being raised. Some young people reported negative interactions with bus drivers, in particular with certain drivers confiscating young Scots cards off of individuals thus rendering them stranded until a parent or guardian can come and collect them. Additionally, members of some groups also mentioned experiencing verbal abuse from bus drivers as well as being made to feel uncomfortable when approaching bus drivers to notify them of other antisocial behaviour occurring during transit. Groups in turn were expressing a desire for staff to be more welcoming and supportive to young passengers.

Safety was another key theme, with specific anxieties about travelling alongside drunk or antisocial individuals with members of varying ages within the groups mentioning experiencing verbal harassment, the offer of age restricted products as well as sexually suggestive language whilst traveling on public transport. Participants suggested that stronger protections should be in place for children and young people to ensure they feel safe and comfortable using public transport, as well as more extensive training given to drivers in resolving such matters and on interacting with young persons.

Score 1 / 7



Traffic and parking

'How good is traffic management and parking in my place?'

The Youth Forum felt positively about several aspects of traffic and parking specifically within Aviemore. The availability of parking and the reduced number of traffic incidents within settlements were highlighted as strengths, alongside the 20 mph speed limit, which contributed to a sense of safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Participants also appreciated the number of safe crossing points located throughout the town, which supported independent movement for young people.

However, several challenges were raised that impact both safety and accessibility. Groups highlighted the need for more pedestrian crossings in other settlements, particularly in areas where young people regularly walk to school or community spaces. Visibility around blind corners near existing crossings were considered insufficient, creating safety risks, especially during busy periods or poor weather. Participants suggested additional traffic calming measures such as speed bumps in high-risk areas to further slow traffic and protect pedestrians and cyclists.

On and around the A9 in particular on the B9152 young people expressed concerns about the speed of lorries on backroads, which makes cycling feel unsafe, and highlighted the desire for measures to reduce these risks until the dualling of the A9 between Kingussie and Aviemore is completed. The lack of safe crossing points over major roads such as the A9 near Craigellachie was also raised as a barrier for independent movement and general safety.

Other practical issues were noted, including campervans occupying multiple parking spaces, reducing availability for other vehicles, and occasional congestion in popular areas. Collectively, these challenges suggest that while some aspects of traffic management and parking work well, there is a strong desire within the group for targeted improvements to enhance safety, accessibility, and confidence for young people navigating both urban and rural routes.

Score 4 / 7



Streets, squares and buildings

'How good are the streets, squares and buildings in my place?'

Both groups highlighted a number of positive features that contribute to the character and accessibility of their communities. The steam railway station was described as a valuable heritage asset that is not only attractive but also still functional, offering a tangible link between the past and present. The Newtonmore Museum, local parks, and village squares were seen as important community spaces, while the core path network was considered to be in a reasonable state of repair and well signposted. Good access to retail facilities was also valued, providing young people with convenience and opportunities for social interaction.

Despite these strengths, several challenges were identified. Potholes were raised as a common frustration, with poor road surfaces affecting both drivers and cyclists. Young people also noted a sense of constant redevelopment in some settlements, which they felt disrupted community life and created uncertainty about how spaces would look or function in the long term. In Kincaig, a lack of facilities and things to do was highlighted as a particular concern, alongside the absence of fit-for-purpose cycle infrastructure linking Kincaig and Kingussie alongside the B9152.

Abandoned buildings and houses were described as a significant issue, contributing to feelings of neglect and making some areas feel unwelcoming or unsafe, particularly after dark. Young people felt these sites represented wasted potential, standing in contrast to the otherwise well-kept character of many communities. They expressed the view that such spaces could be brought back into use for example as youth centres, community hubs, or affordable housing which would not only improve the appearance of settlements but also provide much-needed opportunities and facilities.

Participants also observed that some tourists do not engage properly with local infrastructure for example, ignoring signage or parking restrictions which can create tension and reduce the quality of shared spaces for residents.

Score 3 / 7



Nature: Parks, woods, hills, beaches

'How good are the natural spaces in my place?'

Young people reflected very positively on the natural environment, with woods and forests described as offering easy and consistent access to nature. Many individuals within the groups appreciated the fact that they are never more than ten minutes away from a natural space, which was seen as a unique strength of the area. Activities such as dog walking around Carrbridge and wild swimming were highlighted as particularly enjoyable, which in turn reinforces the value of these spaces for recreation, relaxation, and overall wellbeing. These opportunities were seen as central to what makes the Cairngorms National Park a good place to live and grow up.

At the same time, several challenges were identified that limited full enjoyment of these environments. Groups reported feeling unsafe when walking in small groups in the woods near Kingussie, noting that antisocial behaviour or the fear of encountering others in isolated spots could act as a barrier to access. Litter was also described as a growing issue across the park, with a lack of adequate refuse points contributing to a sense that natural spaces are not always respected or cared for. This in turn reduces their appeal and detracts from the quality of the environment.

Participants also raised concerns around the health and accessibility of lochs. Algae blooms were highlighted as a recurring problem, preventing safe swimming and reducing opportunities for outdoor recreation though the group did recognise that there were limited interventions that would be possible to mitigate this. Even where wild swimming was possible, the absence of suitable changing facilities left some young people feeling uncomfortable and discouraged from taking part. The provision of designated changing spots was seen as a practical and affordable step that could make the activity more inclusive.

Broader environmental and infrastructure issues were also discussed. Loud diesel buses were described as disruptive in otherwise quiet rural areas, with a preference expressed for a transition towards quieter and cleaner electric vehicles in the future. The lack of public toilets in remote but popular locations, particularly at destinations such as Loch Morlich, was raised as another barrier, making longer visits more difficult and limiting access for young people and families.

Together, these challenges suggest that while access to nature is one of the National Park's greatest assets, improvements in safety, facilities, and environmental management would help ensure that these spaces are fully welcoming, accessible, and



sustainable for the group of individuals that the Youth Forum is representing now and in the future.

Score 6 / 7

Play, Hangout, Games and Hobbies

'How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place?'

Overall, both of the groups reflected on wealth of natural resources that support play and recreation with the core paths network in particular the bicycle infrastructure being highlighted as systems that work very well in their current format. Other facilities such as the ice rink located in Aviemore as it offers a 'safe' place to recreate as well as an affordable option with various discounts that young people can utilise.

Comments on additional bicycle infrastructure such as pump tracks were also positive, with the suggestion for additional lighting to be implemented and an upgrade to skating infrastructure throughout the National Park. Although sporting facilities as a whole were viewed quite favourably.

When asked for what could be improved upon the groups mentioned that the lack of accommodation for bikes on public transport on Sundays in particular was a barrier when it came to assessing various cycle infrastructure through the National Park.

One group mentioned the lack of clean / adequate public toilets in certain areas can serve as another barrier to access as without adequate provisions the range at which you can explore the park is limited.

The need for third spaces throughout the National Park but primarily within settlements was also highlighted, at present the group mentioned that there is no were for young persons to be able to go just to relax and hang out. This coupled with what could be limited Café and coffee shop seating leads to what the groups describe as being 'moved on' and not being made to feel welcome.

Safety was a recurring theme across discussions, with young people highlighting both the need for protection from antisocial behaviour and a desire for spaces where they could feel secure. Concerns were raised about bullying, vandalism, and the behaviour of older teenagers in some outdoor areas, which limited younger people's confidence in using these spaces.



In relation to youth shelters and informal gathering places, participants suggested the inclusion of free and accessible Wi-Fi as well as closed circuit television cameras. These measures were viewed as important in helping young people feel safer, deterring antisocial behaviour, and providing reassurance to both young people and their families that these areas are welcoming and well-managed.

Score 4 / 7

Schools, libraries, shops and other services

‘What is my place like for accessing services we need?’

Young people identified some important strengths in the services currently available. The healthcare clinic in Aviemore and the presence of two dentists were valued as key provisions, ensuring that some essential health services are available locally. A good variety of shops was also appreciated, helping to meet every day needs without always requiring travel elsewhere.

Beyond these positives, several challenges were raised. The nearest accident and emergency department is located at Raigmore Hospital located on the outskirts of the city of Inverness which involves long travel times in the event of urgent medical care. While schemes such as Highlife expand access to leisure opportunities, participants felt that education and training options remain limited, particularly in terms of university or college provision, which requires significant travel or relocation. Young people also noted that more non outdoor related clothing options would make retail provision more balanced and reflective of wider needs.

Transport was highlighted as a critical barrier to accessing many of these services. Without a lift from parents, young people often face long journeys or difficulties reaching healthcare, education, or retail facilities, limiting their independence.

Score 4 / 7

Jobs and places to work.

‘What is my place like for jobs and places to work?’

Young people described a number of positive aspects in relation to employment opportunities. Jobs within hospitality businesses were seen as accessible routes into



work, while school-led initiatives provided a range of volunteering opportunities that help to build skills and experience. The presence of the National Park itself was noted as an important factor, creating a wider variety of jobs for parents and sustaining employment in the area. For young people, word of mouth was highlighted as a keyway of finding work, reflecting the close-knit nature of local communities.

Despite these positives, participants felt that employment opportunities could be improved significantly. A recurring theme was the lack of clarity around volunteering opportunities within schools, with better communication needed to make these chances more visible and accessible.

Low wages for young people were raised as a concern, particularly when combined with the expectation to work late shifts, which can be difficult to manage given limited public transport options.

The narrow focus of opportunities was also discussed, with many feeling that jobs were largely confined to the hospitality sector and that more diverse options would help retain and support young people in the area. Where shifts are available, they are often spread across different areas of the National Park, which can create challenges for travel and work-life balance. Participants also emphasised the need for better training and development opportunities tailored to young people, alongside more flexible shift patterns that can accommodate school and study commitments.

Score 5 / 7

Homes, Friends and Neighbours

‘What are my home, friends and neighbours like?’

Both groups spoke warmly about the positive aspects of living within the National Park, where a strong sense of community remains an important feature. They noted that most villages are places where “everybody knows each other,” which helps to create connections across age groups and makes people feel less isolated. This familiarity was described as reassuring and supportive, with adults generally being kind and approachable toward children and young people. Participants also reflected positively on the cultural and religious diversity present within communities, suggesting that it brings richness and different perspectives to local life. Most reported that they enjoyed living within the National Park, appreciating both the social and environmental aspects of their neighbourhoods. Opportunities to have a say in community matters were



acknowledged, though some felt this often depended on individual attitudes and whether young people were actively invited to participate.

Score 5 / 6

Meeting and talking with people

'What is my place like for meeting and talking with people?'

Young people described outdoor seating and playparks as useful spaces to meet up and spend time with friends, and access to woodland areas was valued as somewhere to relax together in a natural setting. Larger settlements were seen as offering more safe and accessible places to gather, which supported friendships and a sense of belonging.

At the same time, participants felt that opportunities to socialise remain limited, particularly outside of school. They suggested that more benches in woodland areas would make these spaces more comfortable for groups and noted that making new friends beyond school settings can be challenging given the lack of informal opportunities.

The strongest theme was the absence of dedicated, youth-focused third spaces. Young people called for non-commercial, teen-friendly facilities where they could meet without pressure to spend money. They felt such spaces should be sheltered, inclusive, and designed with safety in mind, including appropriate measures to deter antisocial behaviour and ensure help is easily available when needed.

Score 4 / 7

Feeling Proud and a Part of My Place

'How proud do I feel of my place?'

Groups highlighted many features that foster pride and a sense of belonging in their communities. The natural beauty of the landscape was described as a defining strength, with easy access to mountains, waterfalls, beaches, and other outdoor spaces. Close-knit communities were valued for the support and familiarity they provide, while events such as the Christmas march through Aviemore and other local gatherings were seen as opportunities to come together and celebrate. Night-time views and the general quality of life in the National Park added further to the sense that it is a special and attractive place to live.



At the same time, several issues were identified that can reduce feelings of pride. Bullying was mentioned as a challenge that affects community spirit and the extent to which young people feel fully accepted in their place. Some participants noted that a lack of care is sometimes displayed in certain communities, with limited effort or desire shown to look after shared spaces, which undermines the otherwise positive image of the area.

The need for better signage for tourists was also raised, with suggestions that clear instructions such as reminders to drive on the left, not to light fires, and to follow the Countryside Code would help manage visitor behaviour more effectively. Additional routes for tourists were also suggested, both to spread footfall more evenly and to reduce pressure on popular areas.

Score 3 / 7

Feeling safe

'How safe do I feel in my place?'

The groups identified a number of factors that help them to feel safe in their communities. Good levels of lighting on main streets were appreciated, along with the presence of traffic lights that make crossing roads safer. With friendly local people in Newtonmore also being noted as contributing to a sense of security and belonging, while visible police presence was viewed positively in helping to deter antisocial behaviour.

However, participants highlighted several areas where safety could be improved. A lack of lighting on back roads and woodland trails was described as making these routes feel unsafe, particularly in the evenings, and acted as a barrier to their use. Safety concerns were also linked to alcohol and drug use in the area. Young people reported that substance abuse, especially during large gatherings and annual events, created intimidating situations. Specific examples included older people fighting around big events and incidents of drunk and antisocial behaviour associated with gatherings such as Thunder in the Glens. These experiences left many young people feeling vulnerable and less inclined to participate in community events.

The presence of drinking and drugs more generally was also seen as a recurring problem that undermines young people's confidence in public spaces. Participants felt



that police response times were often poor, limiting their sense of protection when incidents do occur.

To reinforce a previously mentioned point, with young person's experiencing harassment of various natures whilst making use of public transport and the lack of action surrounding this event, further eroded a feeling a safety when navigating the National Park. With multiple students coming forward and sharing their experiences regarding this matter. Due to the severity of these reports this issue is being raised with the relevant stakeholders i.e. Highlands Local Authority, Kingussie High School faculty.

Score 3 / 7

Fixed, Clean and Managed

'How well cared for is my place?'

The groups highlighted the quality of the natural environment and the role of the core path network as positives. Paths were valued for their accessibility and the opportunity they provide to enjoy and explore nature, contributing to the overall character of the area.

At the same time, several improvements were seen as necessary to ensure that places feel properly maintained and cared for. A recurring concern was the lack of refuse points and dog waste bins, which contributes to littering and detracts from the enjoyment of natural spaces. Participants also raised the need for more public bathrooms, as well as cleaner facilities, particularly in areas that attract visitors. As facilities in a state of disrepair could be viewed as off putting to those experiencing the area for the first time.

Road and path maintenance was another key theme. Potholes were described as a barrier for cyclists, while weeds growing through sections of the core path network were seen as evidence of neglect and a source of frustration. The Groups felt that better upkeep of these routes would make them safer and more inviting.

Other issues included the lack of people actively growing things such as flowers or community gardens which was felt to limit the sense of care and pride in local places. Lighting in play parks was also highlighted as an area requiring attention, with participants suggesting that improved lighting would make these spaces feel safer and more usable during the evenings.

Score 3 / 7



Having our say and being listened to

'How well are young people listened to in my place?'

Young people highlighted a number of positive opportunities for being heard and involved in their communities. Teachers and support staff at Kingussie High School were described as approachable and responsive, making students feel that their opinions are valued. The Youth Forum was seen as an important platform that provides a collective voice and allows young people to be listened to by decision makers. Participants also noted the range of clubs available, as well as opportunities such as the Highland Youth Conference, which further support engagement and confidence in sharing views. However, several challenges were raised about how far young people's voices carry in practice. Some participants felt that the voices of adults can overshadow those of young people, with their perspectives not always given equal weight. Others noted that while opportunities to share opinions exist, those views are not always acted upon, leading to a sense of frustration, filling an obligation or tokenism.

Young people expressed a strong desire for more meaningful involvement. Suggestions included having more surveys like this one, establishing youth action groups, and creating more opportunities for young people to take on leadership roles. Importantly, participants emphasised the need to be informed about what happens after they share their views for example, being updated on how their input has influenced decisions or led to action. With calls for something as simple as being forwarded a copy of the reports once written, to show that their voices were indeed heard and that a tangible result came from the process. This feedback loop was considered essential in demonstrating that young people are genuinely being listened to, and in encouraging continued participation.

Score 3 / 7



Group discussion

The groups agreed on the following proposals put forward by individual groups during the discussion at the end of the session as means to mitigate the challenges outline through the course of the session:

- Increased safety measures when utilising public and school transport.
- The need for third spaces within the National Park particularly with a focus on youth friendly third spaces.
- An increase in the number of opportunities for young people to be involved in the conversation and to be included in the feedback loop so that they know their voices are heard.
- An increase in refuse points throughout the area of the National Park.
- Calls for an increase in signage throughout the National Park concerning safety matters such as do not light campfires as well as do not litter alongside enforcement of these rules.
- Additionally, an increase into the amount of traffic management signs geared towards tourists try and mitigate any increase in traffic collisions
- An increase in job offerings throughout the park with a focus on diversifying from hospitality.
- Increased awareness of volunteering opportunities available to young people
- An increase in the amount of public transportation throughout the park with a focus on the provision of bicycle racks for busses so that the middle stage of the commute can be achieved in an easier manner.
- Provide clean and well managed public toilet facilities.
- Improved cycling infrastructure throughout the national park in particular along the B roads adjacent to the A9 (B9152) so that movement between multiple settlements can be facilitated.
- Discounted or a tie in with the young Scots card system for train travel throughout the park as current prices are not sustainable for youths.



Conclusion

Overall, the students engaged fully with the exercise and required minimal prompting from facilitators in or to work through the Place Standard Tool. Feedback was relatively balanced between what is working well know and what can be improved, with positive aspects always being mentioned alongside areas for improvement even when particularly serious developments are mentioned. The students worked in mixed groups of varying ages residing throughout the National Park but specifically the area of Badenoch and strathspey, therefore the views displayed within the compass diagram will be representative of this area.

Key overarching themes

The participants experience across the National Park reveal a mix of strengths and challenges that shape their daily lives, opportunities, and sense of belonging. Safety and security emerged as a consistent concern, influencing confidence to travel, socialise, and participate in community life. Antisocial behaviour on public transport, including harassment and inconsistent treatment by drivers, combined with poor lighting around schools, smaller settlements, and back lanes, and unsafe traffic conditions, left many feeling vulnerable. Addressing these issues through improved infrastructure, better training for service providers in child safeguarding and conflict resolution, and proactive approaches to community safety was deemed essential for enabling young people to move around independently and confidently.

Transport and connectivity were closely linked to independence and access to opportunities. While public transport provides essential links, buses were described as unreliable, infrequent, and sometimes unaffordable particularly for evening journeys (though this is mitigated via the young Scots card, however there were mentions of young Scots cards being confiscated leading to youths being stranded). Limited connectivity between smaller settlements and larger centres created dependence on parents or friends, restricting access to extra-Curricular education, employment, and social activities. Enhancing bus services, creating safer walking and cycling routes, and improving active travel infrastructure were all highlighted as ways to support mobility, sustainability, and independence.

Infrastructure and facilities play a central role in supporting recreation, learning, and social participation. While some settlements offer strong provision, young people noted gaps in sports, leisure, and cultural facilities suitable for teenagers and young adults. Poor maintenance, limited accessibility, and costs were barriers to regular use. Recommendations included expanding youth-focused facilities, ensuring affordability,



and upgrading existing infrastructure to create safe, inclusive spaces that meet diverse needs.

Closely related, third spaces and youth-friendly environments were highlighted as crucial for informal socialising and building connections outside home and school. Young people identified too few safe, welcoming spaces where they could meet freely. Suggested improvements included creating dedicated youth hubs, shelters, or multipurpose spaces with consistent opening hours and inclusive design whilst retaining access to responsible adults to assure safety, which would help reduce isolation and strengthen community ties.

Opportunities and inclusion were central to engagement and personal development. Many participants reported that volunteering, employment, and training opportunities were limited, often concentrated in hospitality, and constrained by low pay and inflexible hours. Expanding and diversifying opportunities, improving communication about availability, and providing flexible arrangements were seen as key to supporting skills development, independence, and participation in community life.

Community and pride were highly valued, with strong local networks, cultural events, and the natural landscape fostering a sense of belonging. At the same time, issues such as abandoned buildings, litter, and poor visitor behaviour were identified as reducing community pride. Maintaining and enhancing shared spaces, encouraging responsible behaviour, and supporting local cultural traditions were suggested as ways to strengthen identity, stewardship, and pride among young people.

Finally, the natural environment consistently stood out as one of the National Park's greatest assets. Easy access to woods, hills, lochs, and other outdoor spaces supports physical activity, mental wellbeing, and social interaction. Challenges such as safety concerns in isolated areas, litter, limited facilities like changing rooms or toilets, and environmental pressures such as algae blooms were identified. Enhancing safety, accessibility, and sustainable management would allow young people to fully enjoy and benefit from these natural spaces while fostering responsibility for the environment.

Whilst the National Park demonstrates numerous strengths through the course of the Place Standard Tool, the feedback highlights key areas for improvement to ensure that young people feel safe, supported, and able to fully engage in their communities.

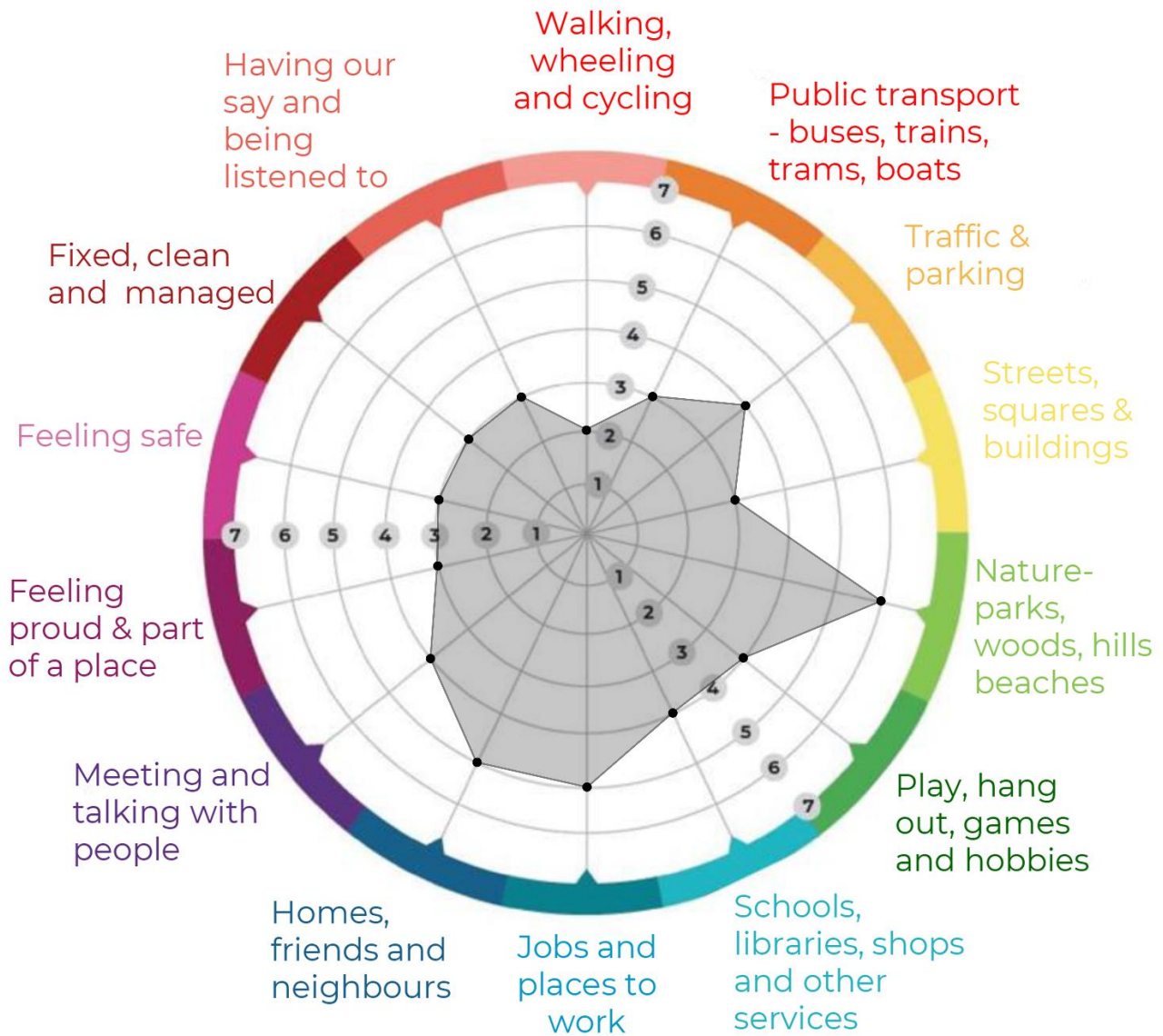


Figure 1 A diagram displaying the results of the 14 questions posed via the Place Standard Tool for Young People.