

The Calderdale Survey 2023

Our vision for Calderdale in 2024 is for a place where people can realise their potential whoever they are, and whether their voice has been heard or not in the past. We aspire to be a place:

- where **talent and enterprise** can thrive,
- defined by our innate **kindness and resilience** where people care for each other, can recover from setbacks and be full of hope, and
- which stands out, be known and be **distinctive**.

We want Calderdale to be a great place to visit. More importantly, it should be a place to live a larger life. But we also recognise it has been another difficult year – Covid-19 is still present, and the cost of living has risen sharply.

About the survey

We publish our performance on [Calderdale DataWorks – Performance](#). This helps us understand and measure our progress against our vision. It includes data on issues ranging from education to business. However, we can't measure everything using facts and figures. The view of Calderdale residents of our place and our progress towards this shared vision is equally important.

Since 2019, we have asked Calderdale residents to complete a short survey every January. This gathers their views and helps us to understand if we are achieving our **Vision 2024**. This is done through [Talkback](#) (the online Calderdale citizen's panel) and on the Council website. In 2020 we reached more residents through face to face contact. Since then, we have only promoted the survey online, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2023 survey was open for the whole of January 2023.

In analysing the survey responses there are occasions when the results are small. In this report, where the responses are lower than 5, they are rounded to ≤5.

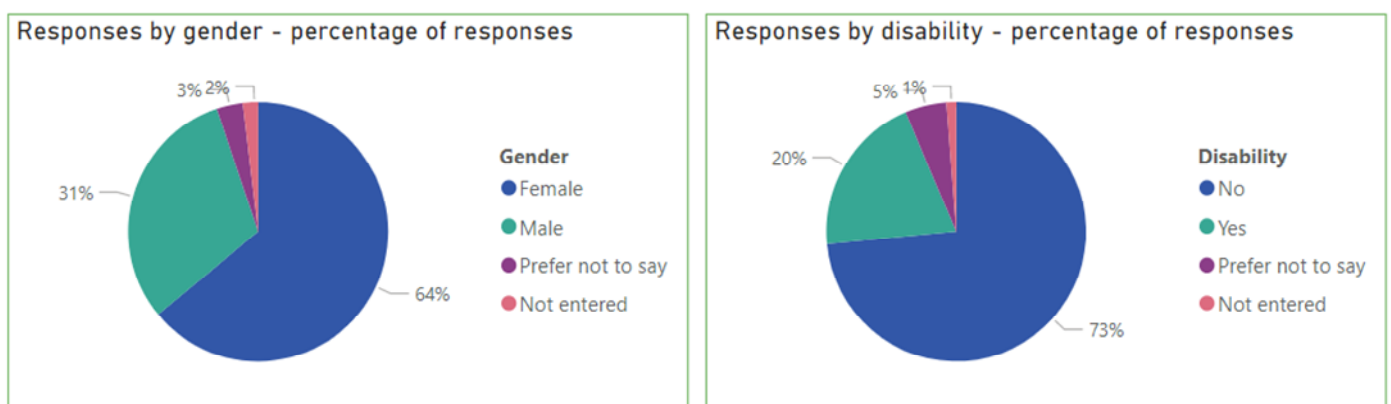
Who took part in the survey?

We received 738 responses for the 2023 survey. Although this is less than 2020 (held just before the first Covid 19 lockdown), it is the second highest response rate so far and a 19% improvement on the previous year.

Gender and disability

The proportion of females increased this year to 64% from 60% in 2022. It is close to 66% in 2021, but greater than 60% in 2020. The proportion of females in the Calderdale population is 51% (ONS Population estimates 2021: [Population estimates | Calderdale DataWorks](#)). As such, the views of women are overrepresented in the survey responses.

The number of people who consider themselves to have a **disability or long term health condition** is 20%, close to the Calderdale population average of 18% ([Census 2021: Topic 9 General health, disability and unpaid care briefing note | Calderdale DataWorks](#)). This is the same as 2022, but an increase from 15% in 2021.



Ethnicity

The percentage of people who stated their **ethnicity** to be White British was 90%. This is similar to the 2022 survey (89%). 5% preferred not to state their ethnicity, again the same as the 2022 survey (5%). The proportion of people of White British ethnicity in the Calderdale population is 83% ([Census 2021: Topic 3 Ethnic group, national identity, language, religion | Calderdale DataWorks | Calderdale DataWorks](#)). As such, the views of people of White British ethnicity are overrepresented in the survey responses.

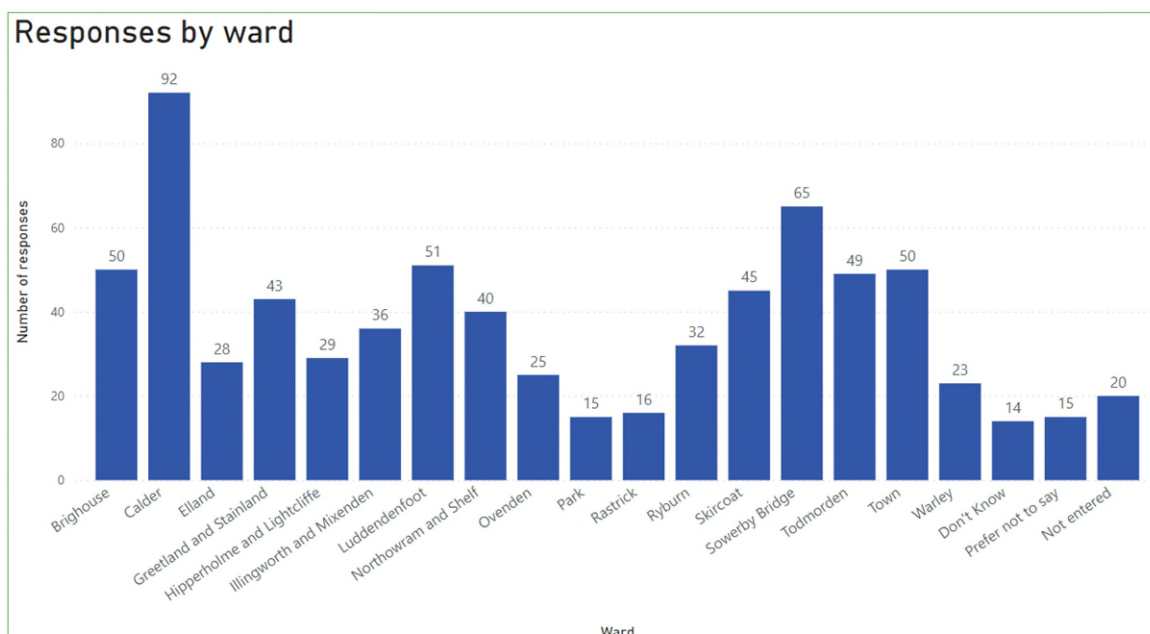
Responses by ethnicity	Number
Asian / Asian British / Indian	<=5
Asian / Asian British / Pakistani	7
Black / Black British / African	<=5
White and Asian	<=5
White and Black Caribbean	<=5
White British	663
White Gypsy or Irish traveller	<=5
White Irish	12
Other ethnicity	<=5
Other mixed background	<=5
Other white	7
Prefer not to say	34
Total	738

Wards

Responses have been received from all wards within Calderdale. Although all wards have similar population figures, some wards have submitted a higher number of surveys. The highest proportion were submitted from Calder, Sowerby Bridge and Luddendenfoot.

Calder has been in the top three wards every year the survey has been taken, returning 12% of the responses. Sowerby Bridge was second with 9%. It is the first time Luddendenfoot has been in the top three (it was in thirteenth place last year). Skircoat has consistently returned a high level of surveys, but this year is in seventh place.

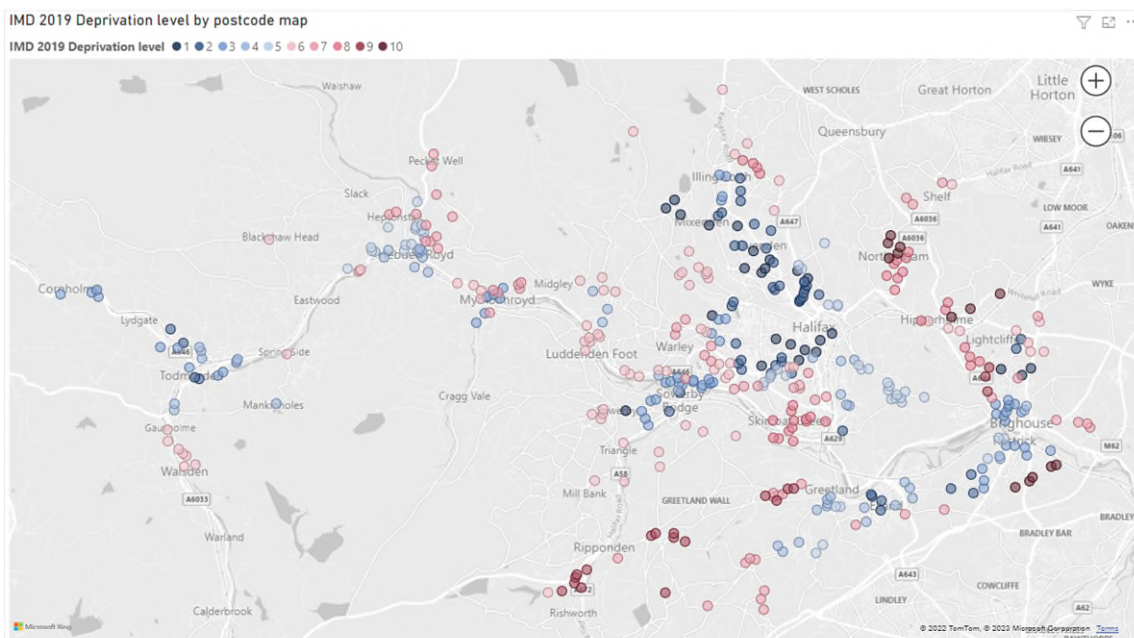
It is also the first year the top three wards are all within the upper Calder Valley, though Town, Brighouse and Todmorden have returned a similar amount to Luddendenfoot.



Index of multiple deprivation 2019 (IMD)

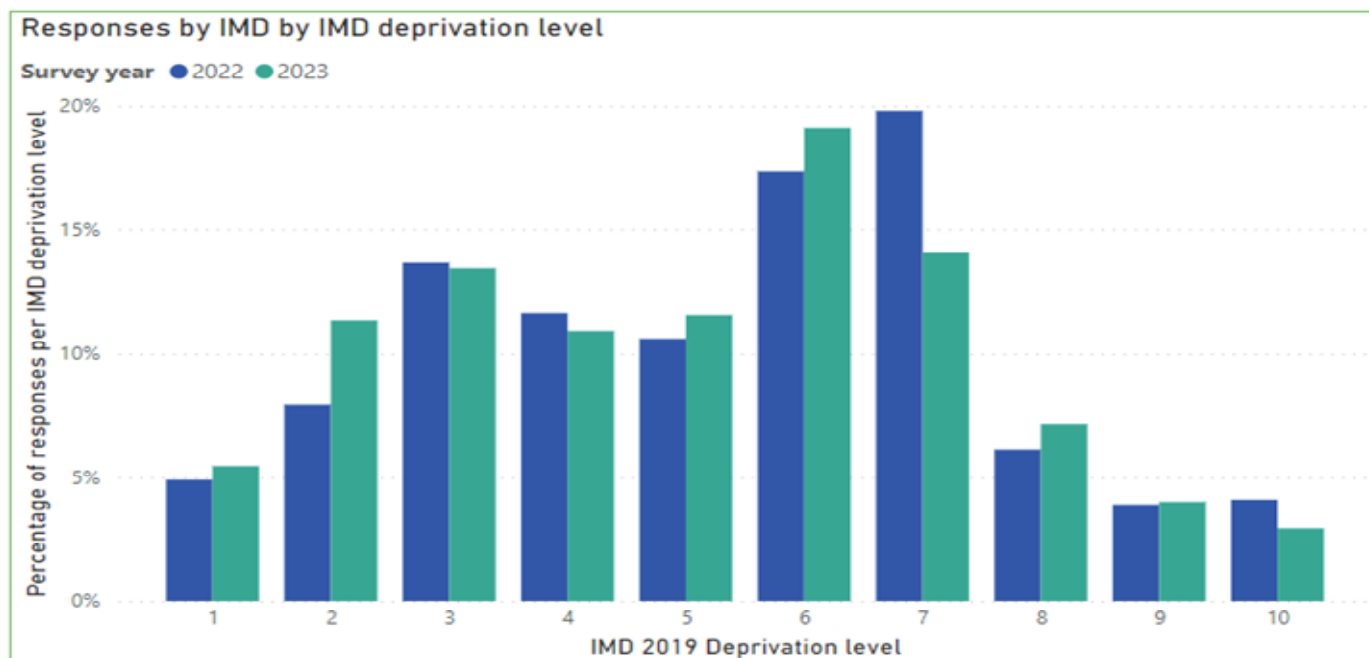
The IMD is the Government's official measure of relative deprivation at neighbourhood level ([GOV.UK: Indices of deprivation 2019](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/indices-of-deprivation-2019)). A neighbourhood level is known as a Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) – this is an area with a population of approximately 1,700 people. The IMD combines information from seven different domains of deprivation: Income, Employment, Education, skills and training, Health and disability, Crime, Barriers to housing and services, and Living environment. The level of deprivation is split into deciles. Areas with the highest deprivation are in decile 1, and areas with the lowest deprivation are in decile 10.

This map shows all responses a postcode was provided in the survey, by IMD decile.



More information on IMD and the other Indices of Deprivation in Calderdale can be found at [Calderdale IMD 2019 results | Calderdale DataWorks](#).

An IMD decile can be allocated to every survey response with a valid postcode. Although there were more survey responses in 2023 (738) than in 2022 (619), 36% did not provide a valid postcode as opposed to 21% in 2022. As in previous years, the lowest proportion of surveys submitted came from deciles 9 and 10 – the least deprived areas.

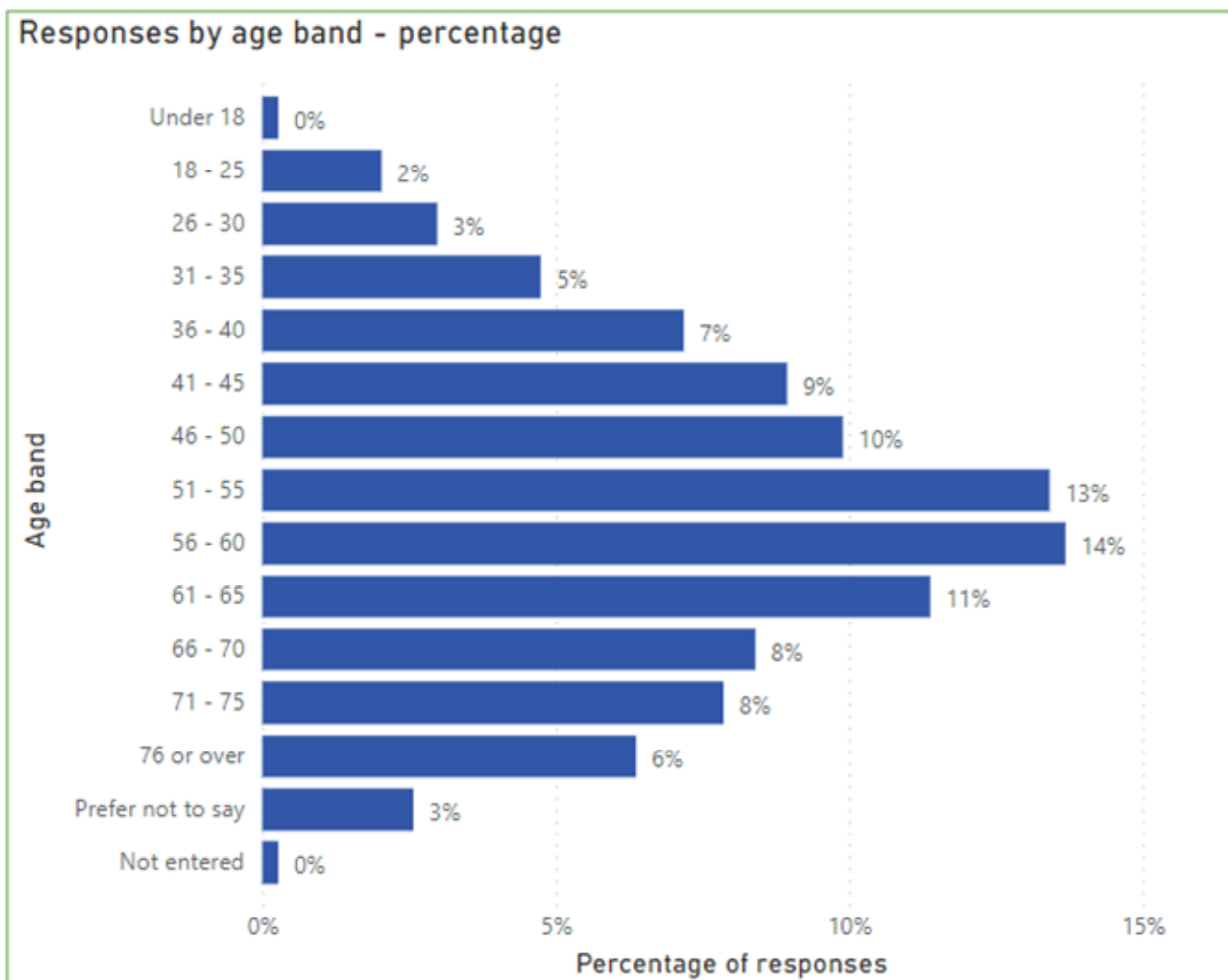


IMD decile	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2022	4.9%	8.0%	13.7%	11.6%	10.6%	17.3%	19.8%	6.1%	3.9%	4.1%
2023	5.5%	11.3%	13.4%	10.9%	11.6%	19.1%	14.1%	7.1%	4.0%	2.9%
% population*	14.5%	15.8%	9.9%	11.1%	7.8%	14.5%	14.6%	5.3%	3.5%	3.0%

*Office for National Statistics (ONS): Population estimates 2021.

Age

The proportion of people across the different age bands follow a similar path for each year of the survey. The lower age bands (30 years and under) are underrepresented compared to the other age bands. The age bands covering 51 to 60 years are the highest most years apart from 2021 when the 41-45 age band returned the highest proportion of surveys.



What did people tell us?

This year's survey asked people 16 questions about life in Calderdale. The responses to some of the questions are used to provide an ongoing resident perception index for each of the three Vision 2024 themes. This gives an overall indicator for Kindness and Resilience, Distinctive, and Enterprising and Talented in Calderdale.

In the last two surveys (2021 and 2022), we asked people questions about Covid 19. This year, the Covid 19 statements have been replaced by statements about the cost of living and the climate emergency. Other questions not included in the perception indices cover volunteering, attending events in Calderdale, and whether Calderdale is an attractive place to live in.

Kind and resilient index

There are three questions or statements in this index. Overall, the index shows an average of 52% agreeing with the three statements. This is an increase of 2% from last year and similar to 2020, but still less than 54% in 2021.

The proportion of people agreeing **my community is well prepared to respond to flooding** has increased from 48% in 2022 to 51% - this is still less than the proportion of people agreeing in 2020 (55%) and 2021 (57%).

The proportion of people agreeing **people in my neighbourhood pull together to improve our local area** is the same as 2022 at 51%. The result of 54% in 2021 seems to be an outlier compared to the results for all other years.

However the proportion of people agreeing **people from different backgrounds get on well together** has increased to the highest proportion so far at 54%.

Year / survey questions	2020: all responses	2020: % agree	2021: all responses	2021: % agree	2022: all responses	2022: % agree	2023: all responses	2023: % agree
I think people in my neighbourhood pull together to improve our local area.	1,105	50%	344	54%	608	51%	731	51%
I believe my community* is well prepared to respond to flooding.	1,092	55%	342	57%	609	48%	729	51%
I feel people from different backgrounds get on well together in my local area.	1,102	50%	340	50%	613	51%	735	54%
Vision 2024: Kindness and resilience index	3,299	52%	1,026	54%	1,830	50%	2,195	52%

* My community includes the Council, Fire service, Police, Environment Agency, community groups and flood wardens.

Distinctive index

There are three statements within this index. The overall index for 2023 this year is an average of 69% agreeing with the statements, an increase of 3% from 2022. Only 2020 returned a higher percentage of 73%. This has been the highest scoring index each year.

Two of the statements, **Calderdale offers a variety of opportunities** (8% increase) and **Calderdale is a creative place** (4% increase) have shown significant increases since last year. This is a reversal of the decreases seen last year. In contrast, **Calderdale is an attractive place to visit** has reduced to 84% - a reversal of the increase seen in 2022 from 84% to 88%

Year / survey questions	2020: all responses	2020: % agree	2021: all responses	2021: % agree	2022: all responses	2022: % agree	2023: all responses	2023: % agree
I think Calderdale offers a variety of opportunities for all people to engage in arts, culture and heritage.	1,090	72%	339	62%	612	59%	735	67%
I think Calderdale is an attractive place for people to visit.	1,099	86%	337	84%	605	88%	737	84%
I think Calderdale is a creative place where people are easily able to pursue opportunities to try new things	1,084	61%	339	56%	611	52%	736	56%
Vision 2024: Distinctive index	3,273	73%	1,015	67%	1,828	66%	2,208	69%

Enterprising and talented index

There has been a decrease in the proportion of people agreeing with both statements in this index from 33% in 2022 to 30% this year. This drop is due to a significant drop in the proportion of people believing Calderdale is a **place where businesses can thrive and succeed**, from 35% in 2022 to 28%. The proportion of people who believe Calderdale is a place for **young people to flourish and achieve** has gradually dropped each year until this year, staying the same as last year at 31%.

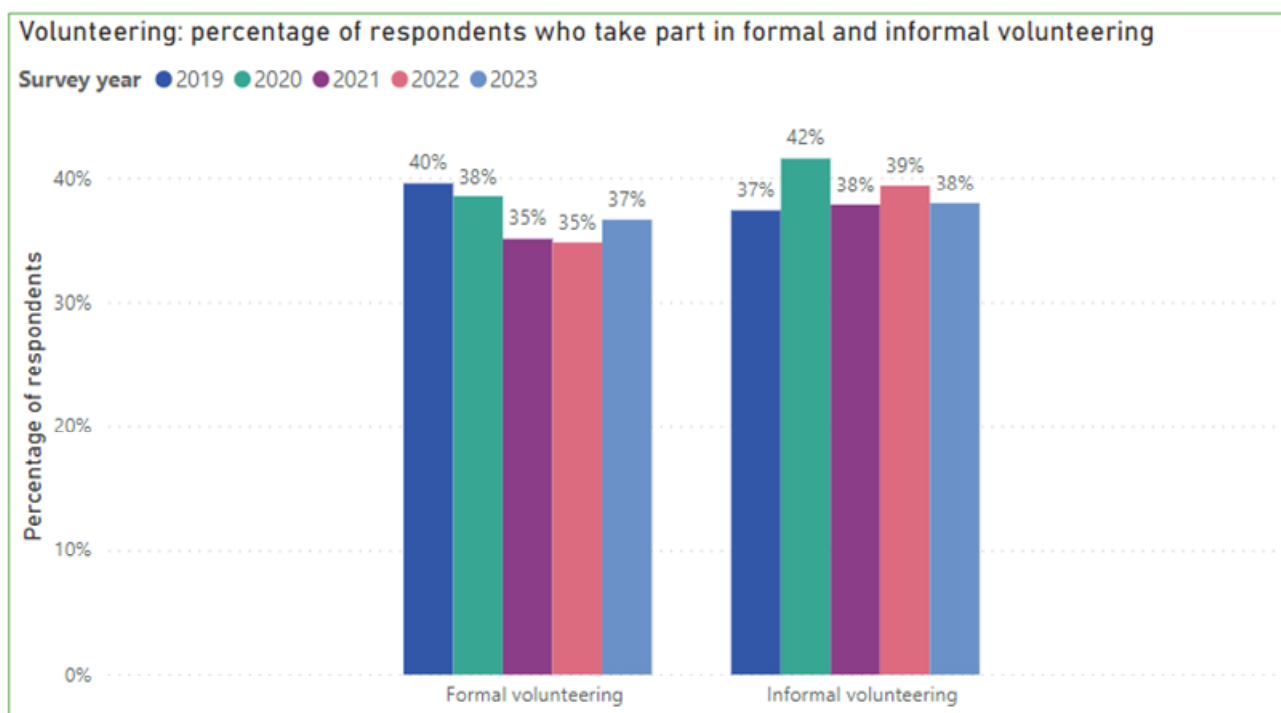
Year / survey questions	2020: all responses	2020: % agree	2021: all responses	2021: % agree	2022: all responses	2022: % agree	2023: all responses	2023: % agree
I think Calderdale is a great place for young people to flourish and achieve their ambitions	1,092	35%	341	34%	609	31%	727	31%
I think Calderdale is a place that enables businesses to thrive and succeed	1,099	36%	344	38%	616	35%	735	28%
Vision 2024: Enterprising and talented index	2,191	35%	685	36%	1,225	33%	1,462	30%

Volunteering

The two statements related to volunteering asked if during the last year people have taken part in:

- **formal volunteering** which was unpaid help through a group, club or organisation, or
- **informal volunteering**, unpaid, helping in the community.

This chart compares the positive responses to these two statements for all five survey years. It shows the level of formal volunteering has improved to 37%, after a drop in the last two years. However, the level of informal volunteering has decreased to 38%, the same percentage as 2021, after a slight increase to 39% last year (2022).



Attending events or attractions in Calderdale

The statement **I have attended more than one event or attraction in Calderdale in the past year** reflects the changes in Covid 19 restrictions over 2020 and 2021, and the cancellation of many events in 2021. There was a big decrease in attendance from 85% in 2020 to 43% in 2021. Since then, attendance has increased to 66% in 2022 and 80% in 2023.

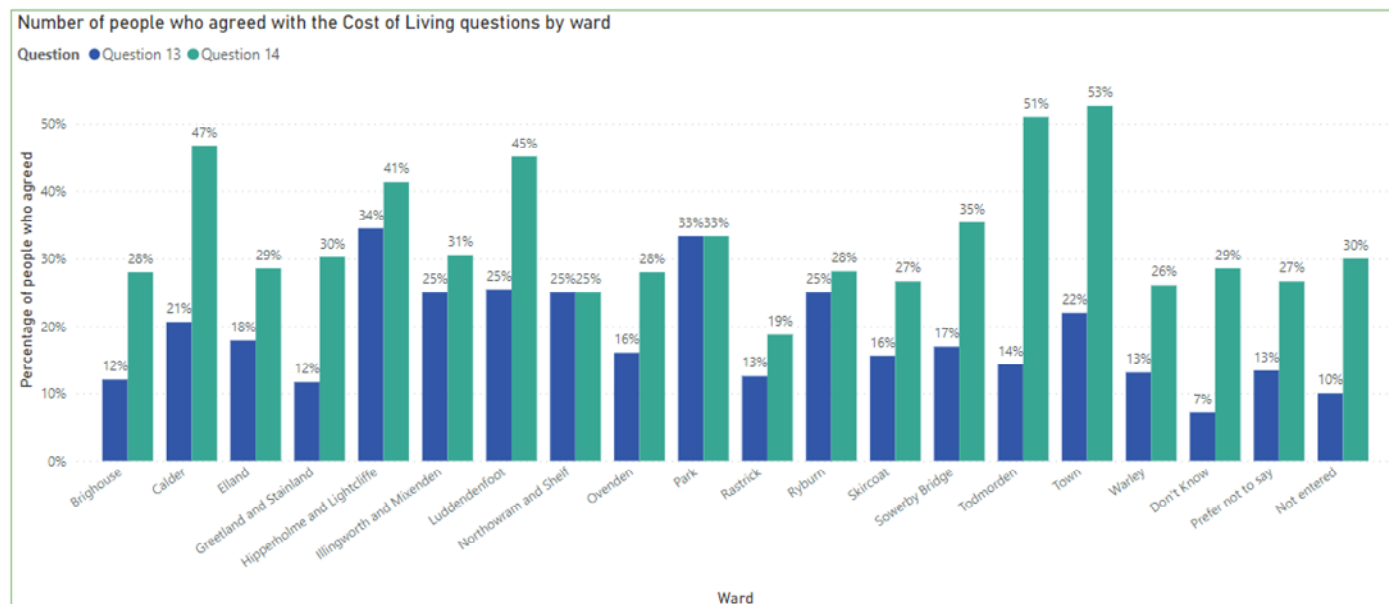
Calderdale is a great place to live

The first statement in the survey is **I think Calderdale is a great place to live**. In 2023 the proportion of people who agree with this has dropped again slightly to 70%, though the proportion of agreements has been fairly consistent in all five surveys: 73% in 2019, 74% in 2020, 72% in 2021 and 71% in 2022.

Cost of living

This year we asked people to consider two statements related to the current cost of living crisis. These cover how people believe **Calderdale will deliver an effective response (question 13)** and if **people in Calderdale are more likely to support each other than in other places (question 14)**.

A higher proportion of people disagree (39%) than agree (19%) Calderdale will deliver an effective response. However, the proportion agreeing people in Calderdale are more likely to support each other than other places is higher (at 35%) than the proportion who disagree (27%). This is the same in nearly every ward in Calderdale.

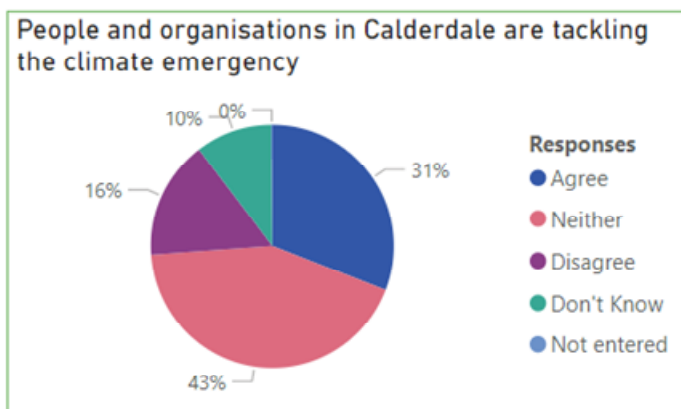
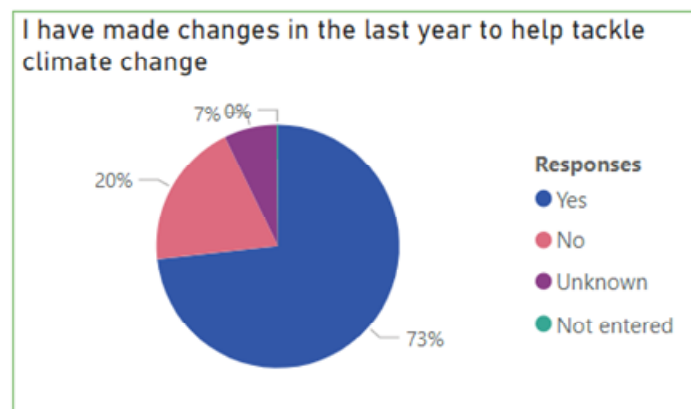


Climate Emergency

At the start of 2019, Calderdale Council declared a climate emergency. This year we asked if people agreed with the statements:

- **I have made changes in the last year to help tackle climate change;** and
- **People and organisations in Calderdale are tackling the climate emergency.**

The first statement received a very positive response with 73% of people agreeing they had made changes in the last year. However, only 31% believe people and organisations are tackling the issue of the climate emergency.



How did perception differ by people from different backgrounds or areas?

When looking at the following figures it is worth noting the number of responses received from some wards and age groups are small.

Although most people feel **Calderdale is a great place to live** (70%, 518 people), some wards have a smaller proportion agreeing with this statement. Ovenden has the lowest proportion of people agreeing (48%, 12 people), closely followed with 36% neither agreeing nor disagreeing (9 people). Northowram and Shelf have the second lowest proportion of people agreeing (50%, 20 people) and have 40% neither agreeing nor disagreeing (16 people).

The wards who have the highest proportion of people agreeing are Hipperholme and Lightcliffe (86%, 25 people), Ryburn (84%, 27 people) and Rastrick (81%, 13 people). Last year Rastrick was equal second lowest, and in 2021 Ryburn was equal lowest.

There is a difference in positive perception between people aged 35 years and below (53%), compared to people aged 36 years and above (74%).

The next table shows the views for all wards on the statement Calderdale is a great place to live.

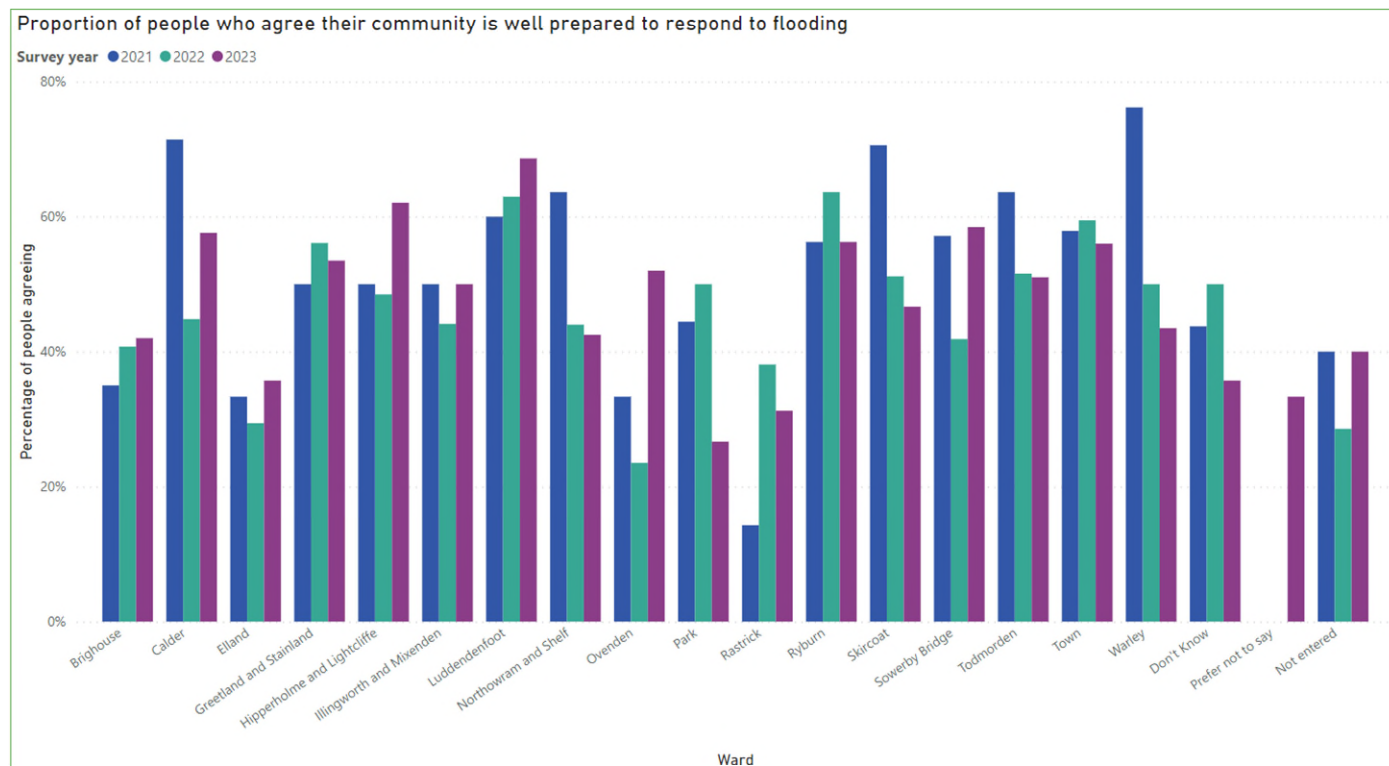
Ward	Agree	% agree	Disagree	% disagree	Neither	% neither	Not entered	% not entered
Brighouse	34	68%	<=5	6%	13	26%	0	0%
Calder	65	71%	6	7%	20	22%	<=5	1%
Elland	19	68%	<=5	7%	7	25%	0	0%
Greetland and Stainland	30	70%	<=5	9%	9	21%	0	0%
Hipperholme and Lightcliffe	25	86%	0	0%	<=5	14%	0	0%
Illingworth and Mixenden	23	64%	8	22%	<=5	14%	0	0%
Luddendenfoot	37	73%	<=5	8%	10	20%	0	0%
Northowram and Shelf	20	50%	<=5	8%	16	40%	<=5	3%
Ovenden	12	48%	<=5	16%	9	36%	0	0%
Park	12	80%	0	0%	<=5	20%	0	0%
Rastrick	13	81%	<=5	6%	<=5	13%	0	0%
Ryburn	27	84%	<=5	3%	<=5	13%	0	0%
Skircoat	32	71%	0	0%	13	29%	0	0%
Sowerby Bridge	51	78%	<=5	5%	11	17%	0	0%
Todmorden	39	80%	<=5	4%	8	16%	0	0%
Town	35	70%	<=5	8%	11	22%	0	0%
Warley	16	70%	<=5	4%	6	26%	0	0%
Don't know	8	57%	<=5	7%	<=5	36%	0	0%
Prefer not to say	9	60%	<=5	20%	<=5	20%	0	0%
Not entered	11	55%	54	20%	164	25%	0	0%

Perception of how well **people in my neighbourhood pull together to improve our local area** varies across the borough. The highest proportion of people agreeing with this statement is in Ryburn (69%, 22 people), closely followed by Todmorden (67%, 33 people), Calder (66%, 61 people) and Luddendenfoot (65%, 33 people). Ovenden agreed least with the statement (28%, 7 people), closely followed by Brighouse (32%, 16 people), Park (33%, 5 people) and Warley (35%, 8 people). Last year Park (17%), Warley (17%) and Ovenden (18%) were the lowest.

The total proportion agreeing **Calderdale is a great place or young people to flourish and achieve their ambitions** is 30% (224 people). Only one ward, Hipperholme and Lightcliffe have over half the people agreeing (52%, 15 people). Northowram and Shelf have the lowest proportion agreeing at 18% (7 people). The proportion of people aged under 26 agreeing is 29% (<=5 people). This is a significant rise from 10% (<=5 people) last year, but below 25% (<=5 people) in 2021.

The proportion of people agreeing **people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area** was 54% (398 people), this is an increase from last year (51%, 311 people) and 2021 (50%, 171 people). Across the wards, the proportion agreeing varies from 72% (21 people) in Hipperholme and Lightcliffe to 36% (9 people) in Ovenden. Twelve of the seventeen wards returned a proportion of 50% or higher agreeing with this statement.

The statement **my community is well prepared to respond to flooding** has risen to 51% (375 people) from 48% (294 people) last year but is not as high as 2021 at 57% (195 people). Luddendenfoot agrees with the statement the most at 69% (35 people). Park and Rastrick are lower than the other wards at 27% (<=5 people) and 31% (<=5 people).



Most people (84%, 620 people) believe **Calderdale is an attractive place to visit**. Hipperholme and Lightcliffe has the highest proportion at 93% (27 people). Ovenden has the lowest proportion at 60% (15 people) and is the only ward with a proportion lower than 80%. Last year, the lowest ward was Northowram and Shelf (68%, 17 people), but this has improved to 83% (33 people).

Questions and results

The survey questions (statements) can be found in the Appendix to this report. The results from this and previous surveys can be found on the Council’s open data platform: [Calderdale perception survey | Calderdale DataWorks](#).

Taking part and contact us

The data from these surveys help influence how Council services are run and the direction they go in. Next year we would like to hear from more males, younger people and people who live in underrepresented wards to ensure the data is more balanced across the borough.

If you can help us increase participation in the survey or have any questions, please contact us at performance.businessintelligence@calderdale.gov.uk.

Appendix: Survey questions (statements)

These are the questions used in the 2023 survey and the options respondents could choose from:

The following prefix refers to questions 1 to 4:

'How far do you agree or disagree with the following statements?'

1. **I think Calderdale is a great place to live:**
Scale of 1 to 8 (Disagree strongly to Agree strongly).
2. **I think that people in my neighbourhood pull together to improve our local area:**
Scale of 1 to 8 (Disagree strongly to Agree strongly).
3. **I think Calderdale is a great place for young people to flourish and achieve their ambitions:**
Scale of 1 to 8 (Disagree strongly to Agree strongly).
4. **I believe that my community* is well prepared to respond to flooding ('Community' includes the Council, Fire service, Police, Environment Agency, community groups and flood wardens):**
Scale of 1 to 8 (Disagree strongly to Agree strongly).
5. **I feel that people from different backgrounds get on well together in my local area – do you agree with this statement:**
Yes, no, don't know.

The following definition applies to questions 6 and 7:

'The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) describes volunteering as: spending unpaid time doing something to benefit the environment or other people, who are not close friends or relatives. Volunteering can be **formal** (within organisations or businesses) or **informal** (within communities). It is always a free choice, made by the person giving up their time. For more information you can visit the NCVO website www.ncvo.org.uk/.'

6. **Have you taken part in any formal volunteering, which was unpaid help, through a group, club or organisation in the past year:**
Yes, no, don't know.
7. **Have you taken part in any informal volunteering, which was unpaid help in the community in the past year:**
Yes, no, don't know.

Questions 8 to 16 were prefixed with:

'The following questions ask you about your views on Calderdale.'

8. **I think Calderdale offers a variety of opportunities for all people to engage in arts, culture and heritage – do you agree with this statement:**
Yes, no, don't know.
9. **I think that Calderdale is an attractive place for people to visit – do you agree with this statement:**
Yes, no, don't know.
10. **I have attended more than one attraction or event in Calderdale in the last 12 months – do you agree with this statement:**
Yes, no, don't know.
11. **I think Calderdale is a creative place where people are easily able to pursue opportunities to try new things – do you agree with this statement:**
Yes, no, don't know.
12. **I think that Calderdale is a place that enables businesses to thrive and succeed – do you agree with this statement:**
Yes, no, don't know.

13. I believe that Calderdale is a place that will deliver an effective response to the cost of living crisis – do you agree with this statement:

Yes, no, don't know.

14. I believe that people in Calderdale are more likely than other places to pull together and support each other to deal with the cost of living crisis – do you agree with this statement:

Yes, no, don't know.

15. I have made changes in the last year to help tackle climate change – do you agree with this statement:

Yes, no, don't know

16. People and organisations in Calderdale are tackling the climate emergency – how far do you agree or disagree with this statement:

Agree strongly, agree, neutral (neither agree or disagree), disagree, disagree strongly, don't know.

About you

This section was prefixed with:

We want to make sure that as many people as possible have a chance to give us feedback. We are collecting some monitoring information so we can find out if there are any people or groups that are missing out. We can then work to find more ways to reach out to them. As per our **Privacy notice** the information you provide will be kept confidential and will only be used by our departments and services within the Council. If you don't want to answer a question, you can skip it or choose 'Prefer not to say'.

17. Gender

18. Age

19. Ethnicity

20. Disability

21. Postcode

22. Ward