

- 4.11 In order to balance occasionally conflicting views of youth on the estate and to lay the preliminary ground work for promoting younger residents as recognised stakeholders in the estate attempts were made to contact members of this group in an "outreach" capacity.
- 4.12 23 interviews were conducted over two evenings on the estate. The minimum age interviewed was 7 years, the eldest 27 years. Just over half those interviewed were 15 years or under . 61% of those interviewed were male. 52% described themselves as white, 21% as Black Caribbean, 9% Black African, 9% mixed race and a further 9% as European.
- 4.13 The sample interviewed considered there to be two distinct estates - Heygate and Kingshill. Those resident on the Kingshill side felt that the main estate had better facilities which under 13's were unable to access due to parental concerns about them straying across Heygate St, out of sight and immediate supervision.
- 4.14 The reputation of the council was poor. The interviewees felt that concerns of younger residents were ignored by council officers despite lobbying by parents on issues such as play facilities, and in response to complaints of vandalism and noise.
- 4.15 A clear majority of those interviewed (82%), disliked the lay-out of the estate and particularly the high rise blocks and walkways. The incidence of graffiti and vandalism to common parts of the estate was the second most pressing concern for the group (73%). This was followed closely by crime, the lack of facilities, dog fouling and, for 1 in 3 of the group, police harassment.
- 4.16 All those interviewed complained about the lack of youth facilities on the estate., particularly a youth club. Only one interviewee attended a local youth club, and that attendance was infrequent. Clubs which did exist, eg Geoffrey Chaucer, were seen as "rough" or too remote from the estate for younger residents to access.
- 4.17 In separate research, the youth worker at the Geoffrey Chaucer club confirmed that he had no knowledge of any young people from Heygate attending and conceded that the lack of any youth outreach work on the estate was regrettable. Members of the T &RA also expressed concern about the lack of facilities for youth on the estate.
- 4.18 In addition to the call for specific premises for youth activities, the group also expressed concern about the use of the football/sports area adjacent to Claydon. Kingshill residents saw their "estate" as a poor relation in terms of play/sports facilities. Those that did use the football pitch, (90% of those interviewed), were concerned that the flood lighting was turned off so that the area could not be used in winter evenings.