



Consultation on a Draft Southampton Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2022-2027

Full results summary

southampton
dataobservatory  Data, Intelligence & Insight Team, *November 2022*

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Survey background



- Southampton City Council undertook public consultation on a draft Southampton Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2022- 2027. The draft strategy had been developed by public services and agencies across Southampton. This included asking for feedback on four key priorities:
 1. Priority One: Prioritising Prevention
 2. Priority Two: Support for survivors
 3. Priority Three: Building an accountable community and changing perpetrator behaviour
 4. Priority Four: A stronger co-ordinated response
- The consultation took place for 12 weeks between **20 July 2022** and **12 October 2022**.
- The aim of this consultation was to:
 - Communicate clearly to residents and stakeholders the proposed strategy.
 - Ensure any resident, business or stakeholder who wished to comment on the proposals had the opportunity to do so, enabling them to raise any impacts the proposals may have.
 - Allow participants to propose alternative suggestions for consideration which they feel could achieve the objectives in a different way.
- This report summarises the aims, principles, methodology and results of the public consultation. It provides a summary of the consultation responses both for the consideration of decision makers and any interested individuals and stakeholders.
- It is important to be mindful that a consultation is not a vote, it is an opportunity for stakeholders to express their views, concerns and alternatives to a proposal. Equally, responses from the consultation should be considered in full before any final decisions are made. This report outlines in detail the representations made during the consultation period so that decision makers can consider what has been said alongside other information.



Southampton City Council is committed to consultations of the highest standard, which are meaningful and comply with *The Gunning Principles (considered to be the legal standard for consultations)*:

1. Proposals are still at a formative stage (a final decision has not yet been made)
2. There is sufficient information put forward in the proposals to allow 'intelligent consideration'
3. There is adequate time for consideration and response
4. Conscientious consideration must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made



Rules: The Gunning Principles

They were coined by Stephen Sedley QC in a court case in 1985 relating to a school closure consultation (R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning). Prior to this, very little consideration had been given to the laws of consultation. Sedley defined that a consultation is only legitimate when these four principles are met:

1. **proposals are still at a formative stage**
A final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision makers
2. **there is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'**
The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response
3. **there is adequate time for consideration and response**
There must be sufficient opportunity for consultees to participate in the consultation. There is no set timeframe for consultation,¹ despite the widely accepted twelve-week consultation period, as the length of time given for consultee to respond can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation
4. **'conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made**
Decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into account

These principles were reinforced in 2001 in the 'Coughlan Case (R v North and East Devon Health Authority ex parte Coughlan²), which involved a health authority closure and confirmed that they applied to all consultations, and then in a Supreme Court case in 2014 (R ex parte Moseley v LB Haringey³), which endorsed the legal standing of the four principles. Since then, the Gunning Principles have formed a strong legal foundation from which the legitimacy of public consultations is assessed, and are frequently referred to as a legal basis for judicial review decisions.⁴

¹ In some local authorities, their local voluntary Compact agreement with the third sector may specify the length of time they are required to consult for. However, in many cases, the Compact is either inactive or has been cancelled so the consultation timeframe is open to debate

² BAILII, [England and Wales Court of Appeal \(Civil Decision\) Decisions](#), Accessed: 13 December 2016.

³ BAILII, [United Kingdom Supreme Court](#), Accessed: 13 December 2016

⁴ The information used to produce this document has been taken from the Law of Consultation training course provided by The Consultation Institute



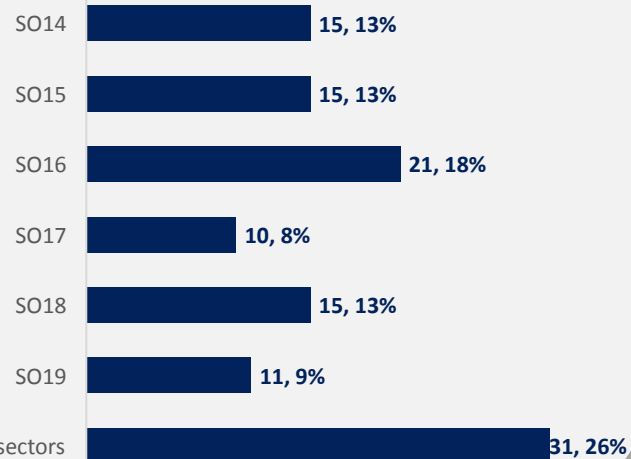
- The agreed approach for this consultation was to use an questionnaires as the main route for feedback. Questionnaires enable an appropriate amount of explanatory and supporting information to be included in a structured questionnaire, helping to ensure respondents are aware of the background and detail of the proposals.
- Two versions of the survey were available. Respondents were given the opportunity to complete a more detailed version of the survey that went into more detail on each of the priorities.
- Respondents could also write letters or emails to provide feedback on the proposals. Emails or letters from stakeholders that contained consultation feedback were collated and analysed as a part of the overall consultation.
- There were also specific focus groups to gather feedback as part of the consultation process.
- All questionnaire results have been analysed and presented in graphs within this report. Respondents were given opportunities throughout the questionnaire to provide written feedback on the proposals. In addition anyone could provide feedback in letters and emails. All written responses and questionnaire comments have been read and then assigned to categories based upon similar sentiment or theme. We have also endeavoured to outline all the unique points and suggestions gathered as a part of the consultation and so there are separate tables of quotes or summaries of these for each theme of comment to assist with consideration.



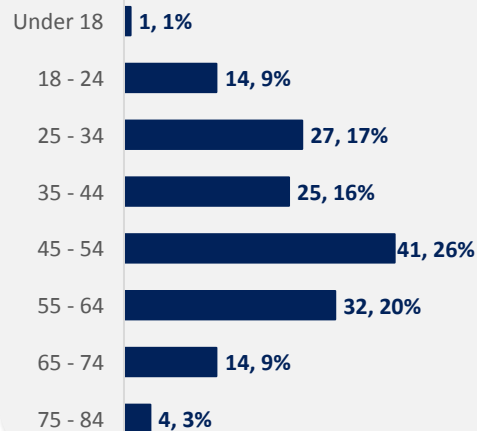
Who were the respondents?

Overall, there were **193** separate responses to the consultation. Of this, **186** were from the questionnaire and **7** from email, letter, focus groups responses. The following page includes demographic breakdowns of the questionnaire respondents.

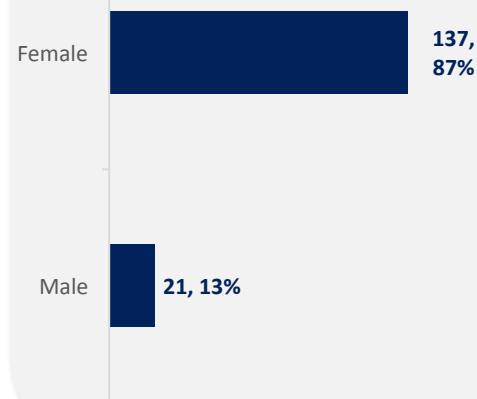
Q. What is your postcode?



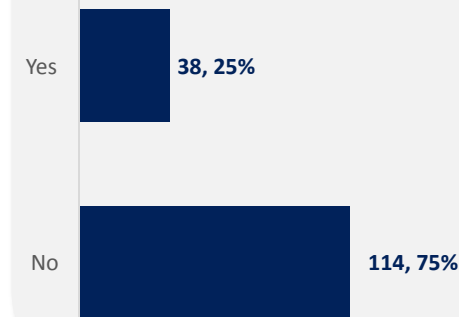
Q. What is your age?



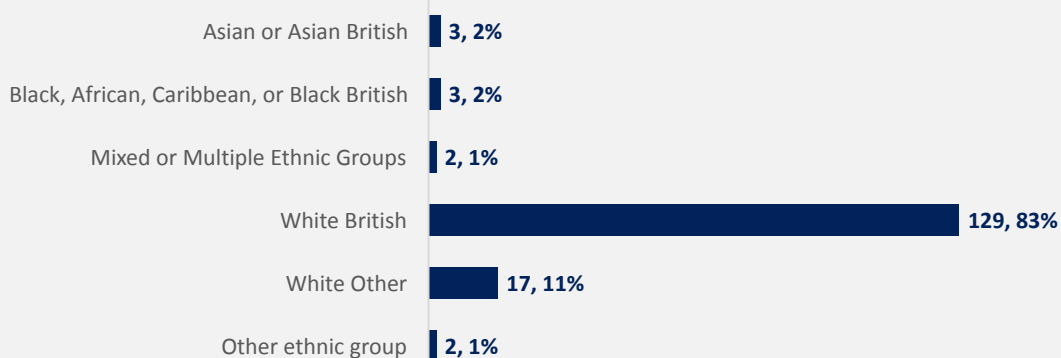
Q. What is your sex?



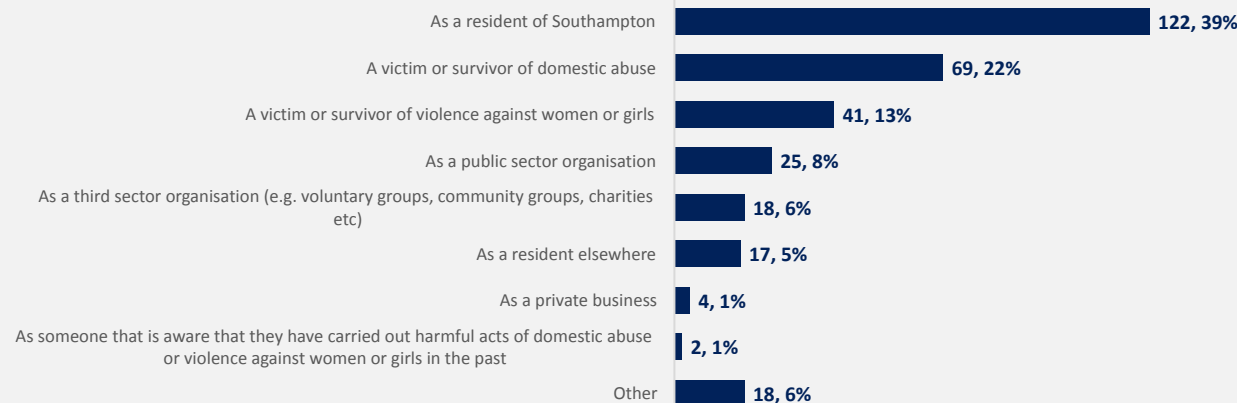
Q. Do you have any conditions or illnesses expected to last 12 months or more, that reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?



Q. How would you describe your ethnic group?



Reason for interest in consultation





Agreement of priorities overall



The partnership suggests four main priorities for keeping Southampton safe over a five-year period. These are:

Priority One: Prioritising prevention

To end domestic abuse and violence against women and girls, we must prevent it from happening. This means providing better education for everyone about what domestic abuse and violence against women and girls looks like in everyday life.

Priority Two: Support for survivors

We want to make sure specialist support in the city is available to all adults and children and that everyone knows where to go find help and advice.

Priority Three: Building an accountable community and changing perpetrator behaviour

The focus of professionals (and of society as a whole) can still often be on what the victim should do to 'keep safe' and not on the behaviour of the person who is using harmful behaviours. We want to change this.

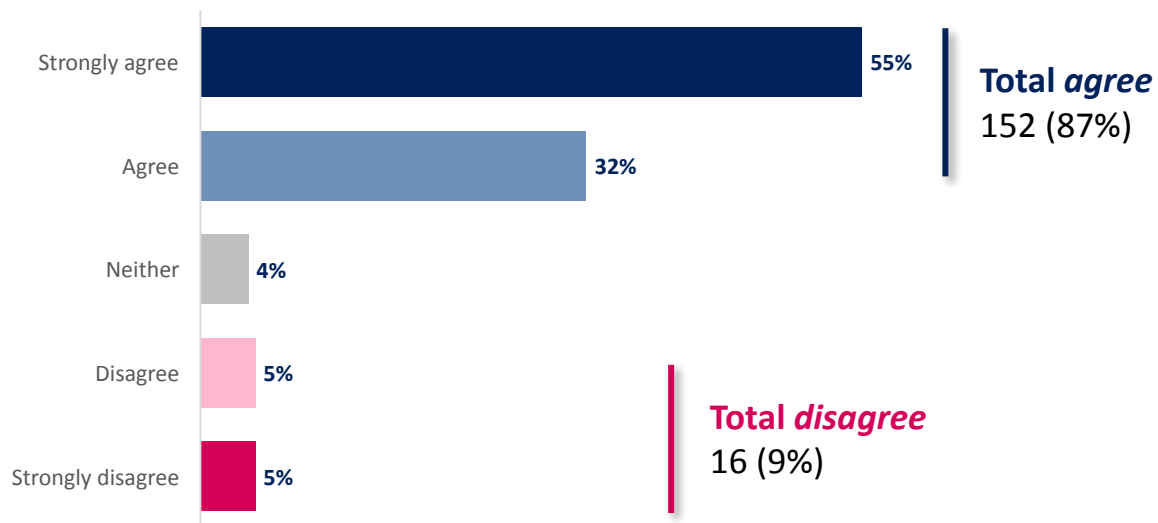
Priority Four: A stronger co-ordinated response

We will improve the connections between the services in the city to ensure that the support that is needed is available in the right place and at the right time.



Firstly, to what extent do you agree or disagree with our focus on the four suggested priorities?

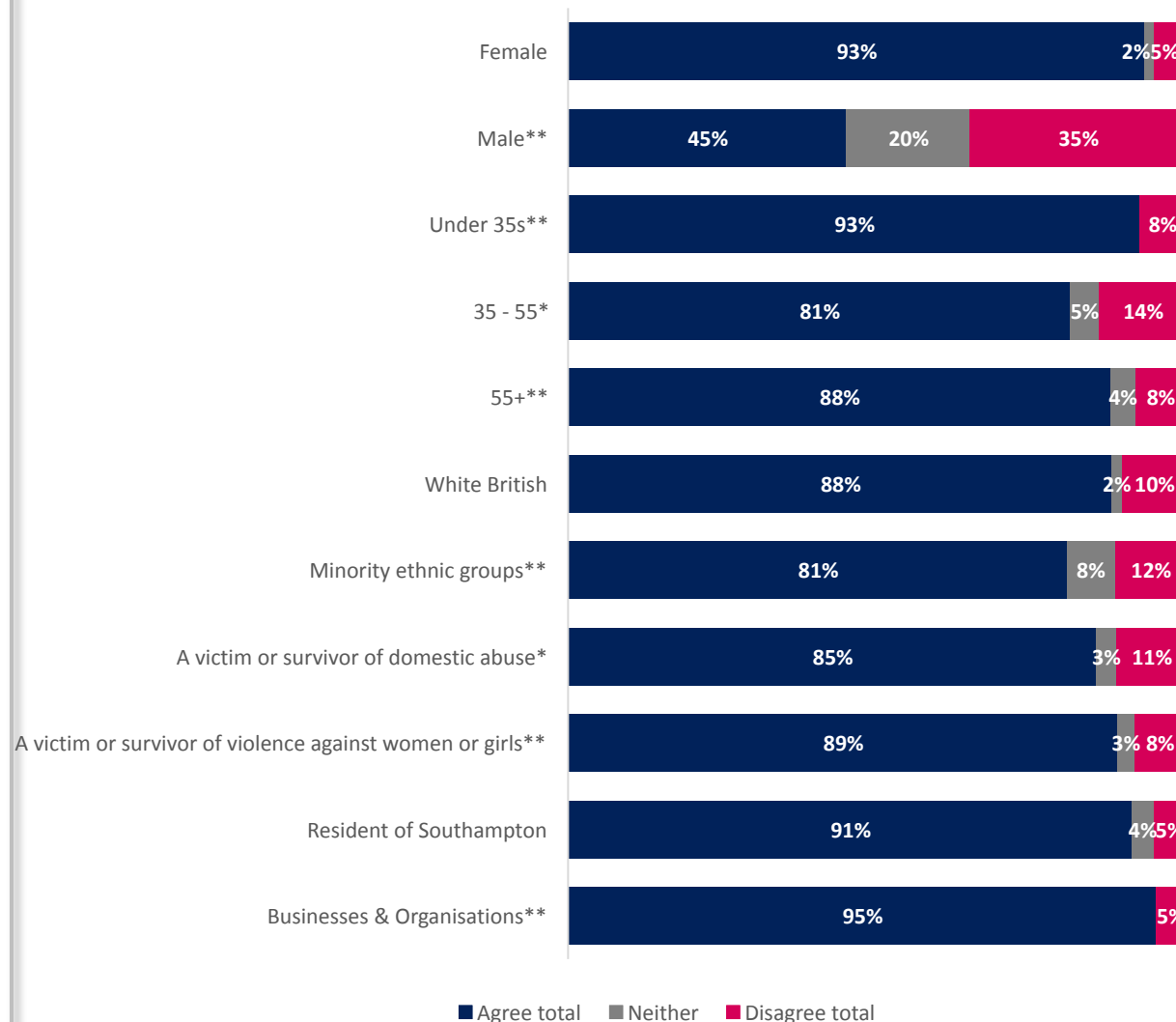
Total respondents | 175



Key findings

- A majority (87%) of respondents agree with the focus on the four suggested priorities, including a majority (55%) who *strongly agree*.
- Females (93%), Under 35s (93%) and Businesses and organisations (95%) agreed with the four suggested priorities the most.

Breakdowns



* Less than 100 respondents. ** Less than 50 respondents



Priority One | Prioritising prevention



Priority One: Prioritising prevention

To end domestic abuse and violence against women and girls, we must prevent it from happening. This means providing better education for everyone about what domestic abuse and violence against women and girls looks like in everyday life.

What outcomes do we want to achieve?

- There will be fewer incidents of domestic abuse and VAWG in Southampton.
- Southampton's residents will be better able to identify and respond appropriately to domestic abuse and VAWG.
- Southampton's local environment will be changed to make it safer.

Proposed actions:

- Staff and volunteers working for partner agencies will be trained to identify domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG, and respond sensitively and intervene appropriately with all family members
- Professionals will be supported to educate children and young people about equality, respect, gender roles, and the harmful effect of gendered expectations. We will explore the development of a city-wide 'whole school approach' to VAWG, with genuine engagement across the entire community - staff, pupils, governors, parents, and external services
- The relationships and sex education (RSE) and personal, social, health and economic education (PHSE) curriculums in Southampton's schools will be changed to raise awareness and understanding of the continuum of VAWG – including domestic abuse – and the support available to victims/survivors in Southampton
- City-wide awareness raising campaigns – under the 'Safe City' brand - will challenge harmful attitudes towards domestic abuse and VAWG and support and encourage active bystander intervention whether in public places (including on-line spaces), at home, in the workplace, education or social settings
- We will work with primary healthcare providers to intervene to prevent VAWG by identifying and supporting high risk groups (adults and children) before violence and abuse occurs
- More organisations and businesses in the city will be encouraged to join the 'Safe Place Network', where they will receive training about how to respond appropriately to VAWG
- Data gathered by partners will be used to improve safety, and feelings of safety, for women and girls in Southampton by informing changes to the local environment (for example street lighting and CCTV) and improving safety on public transport

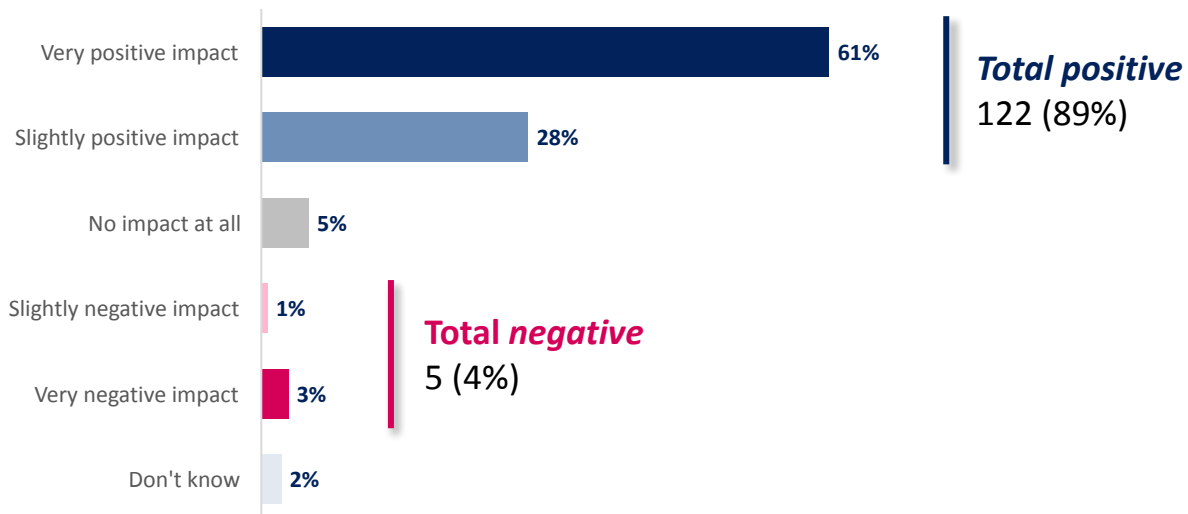


Impact of Priority One Actions - 1

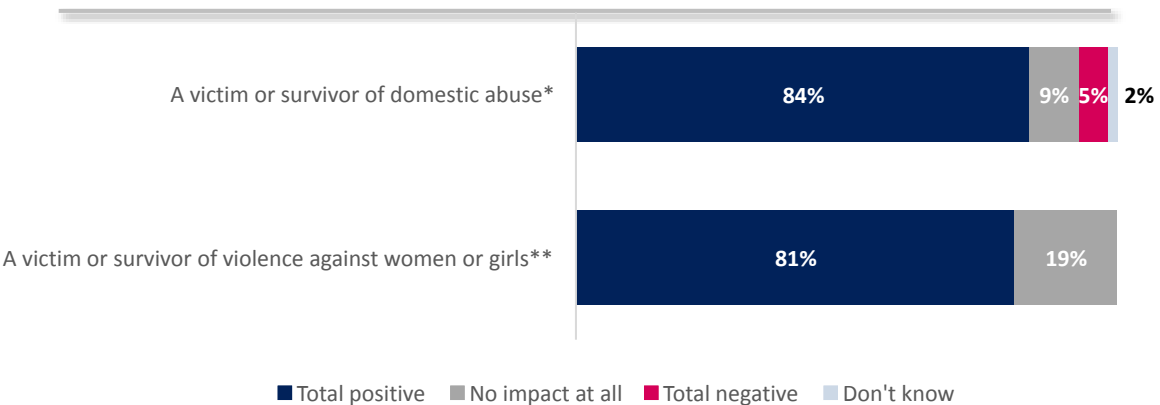
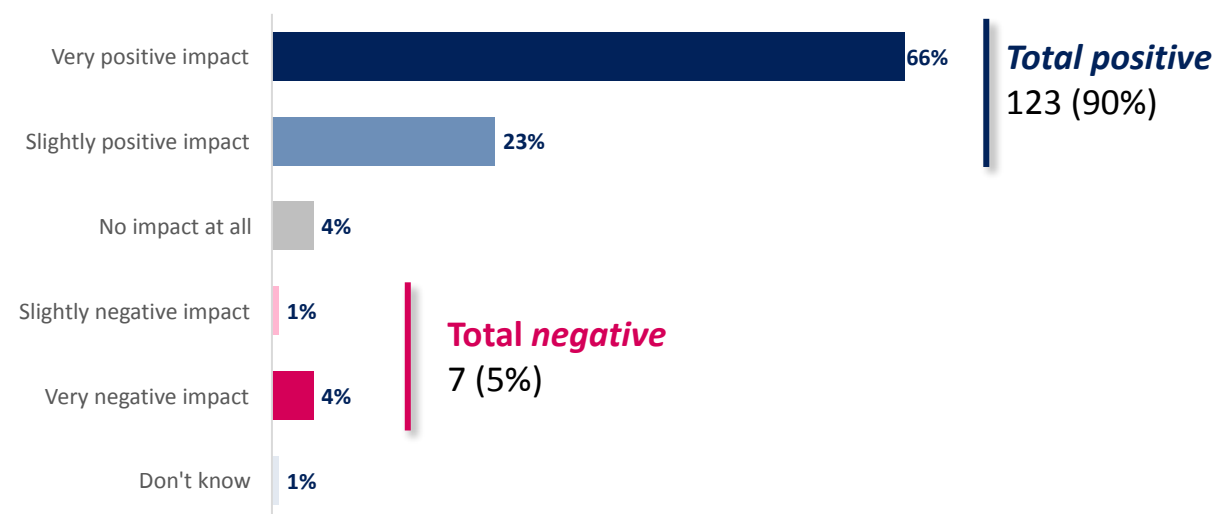
“Staff and volunteers working for partner agencies will be trained to identify domestic abuse and other forms of VAWG, and respond sensitively and intervene appropriately with all family members”

“Professionals will be supported to educate children and young people about equality, respect, gender roles, and the harmful effect of gendered expectations. We will explore the development of a city-wide 'whole school approach' to VAWG, with genuine engagement across the entire community - staff, pupils, governors, parents, and external services”

Total respondents | 137



Total respondents | 137



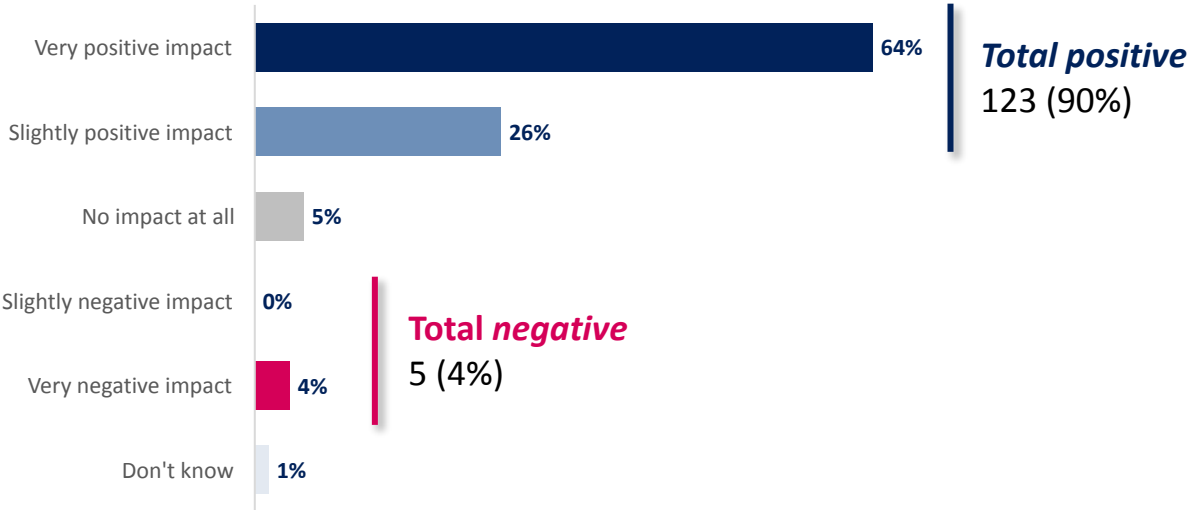
* Less than 100 respondents. ** Less than 50 respondents



Impact of Priority One Actions - 2

“The relationships and sex education (RSE) and personal, social, health and economic education (PHSE) curriculums in Southampton’s schools will be changed to raise awareness and understanding of the continuum of VAWG – including domestic abuse – and the support available to victims/survivors in Southampton”

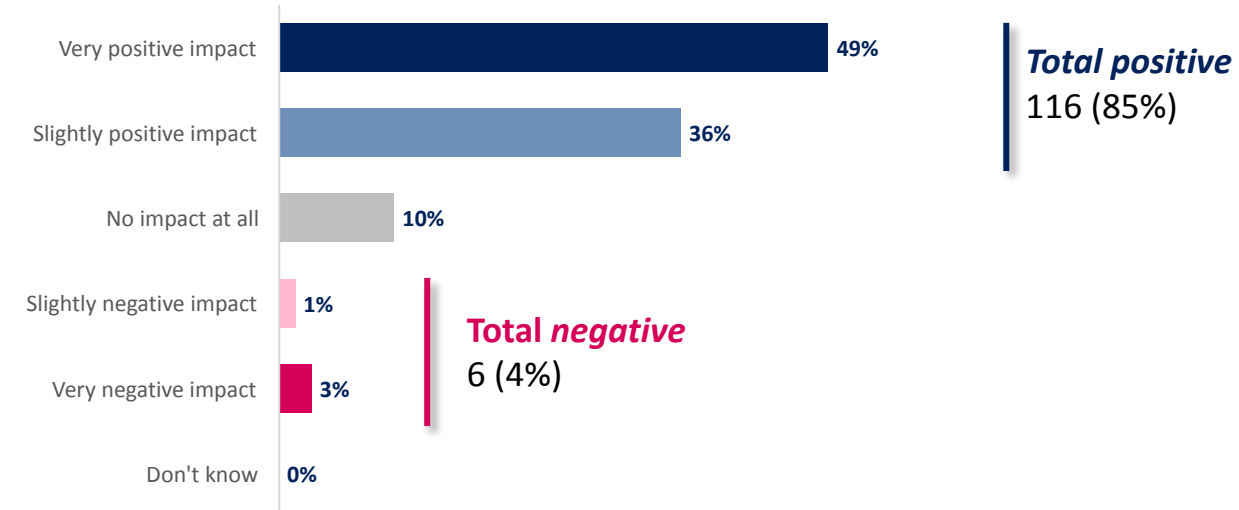
Total respondents | 137



■ Total positive ■ No impact at all ■ Total negative ■ Don't know

“City-wide awareness raising campaigns – under the ‘Safe City’ brand - will challenge harmful attitudes towards domestic abuse and VAWG and support and encourage active bystander intervention whether in public places (including on-line spaces), at home, in the workplace, education or social settings”

Total respondents | 136



■ Total positive ■ No impact at all ■ Total negative

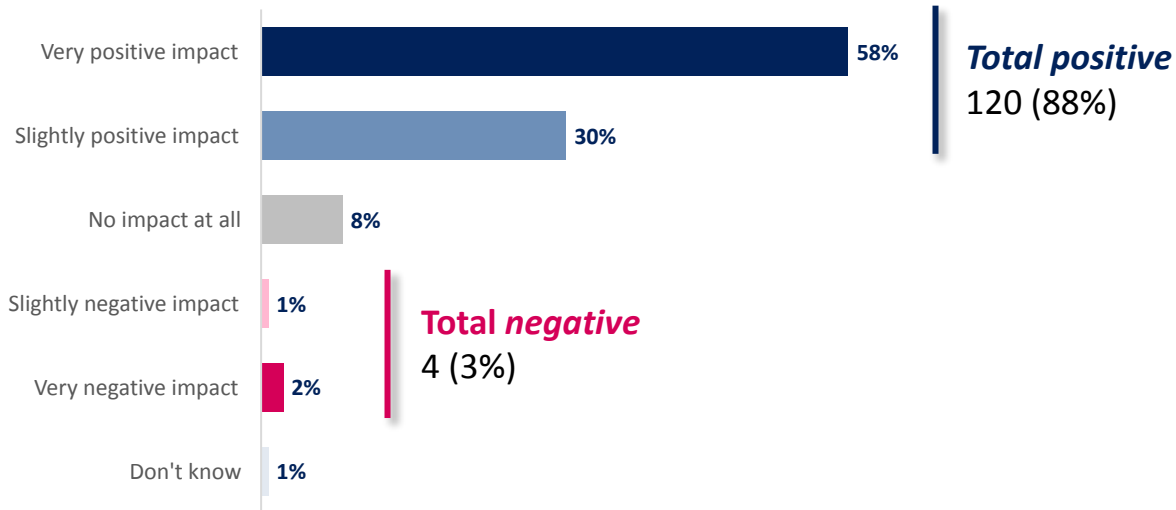
* Less than 100 respondents. ** Less than 50 respondents



Impact of Priority One Actions - 3

“We will work with primary healthcare providers to intervene to prevent VAWG by identifying and supporting high risk groups (adults and children) before violence and abuse occurs”

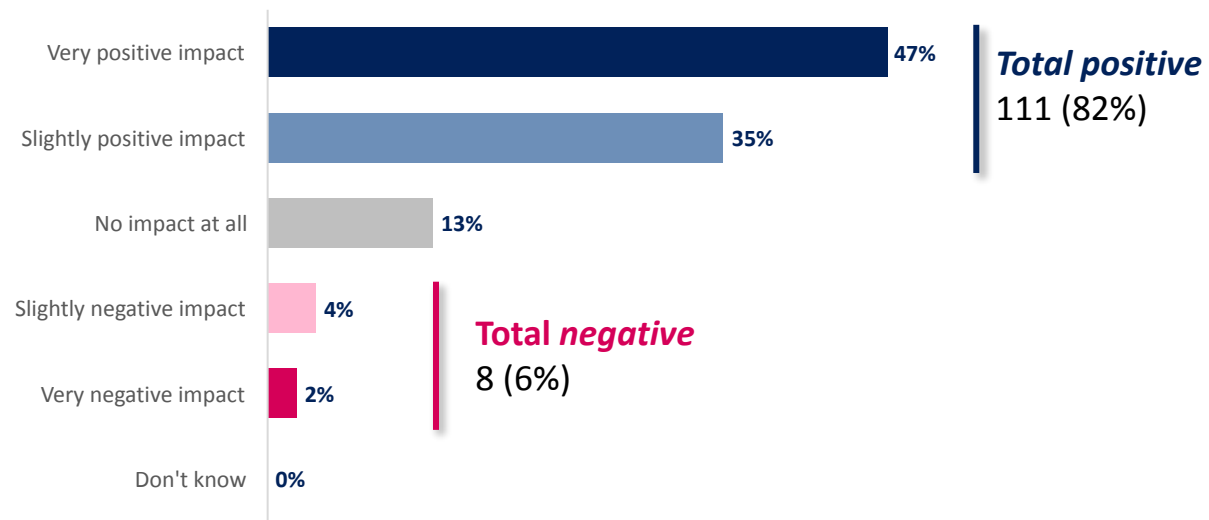
Total respondents | 136



■ Total positive ■ No impact at all ■ Total negative ■ Don't know

“More organisations and businesses in the city will be encouraged to join the ‘Safe Place Network’, where they will receive training about how to respond appropriately to VAWG”

Total respondents | 136



■ Total positive ■ No impact at all ■ Total negative

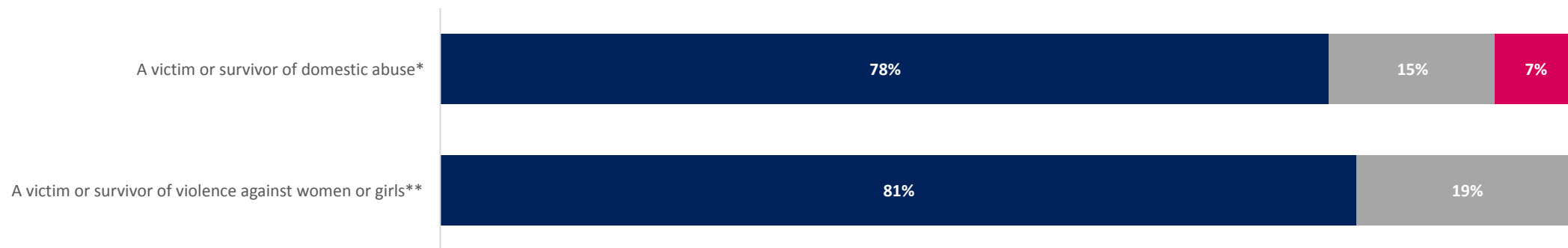
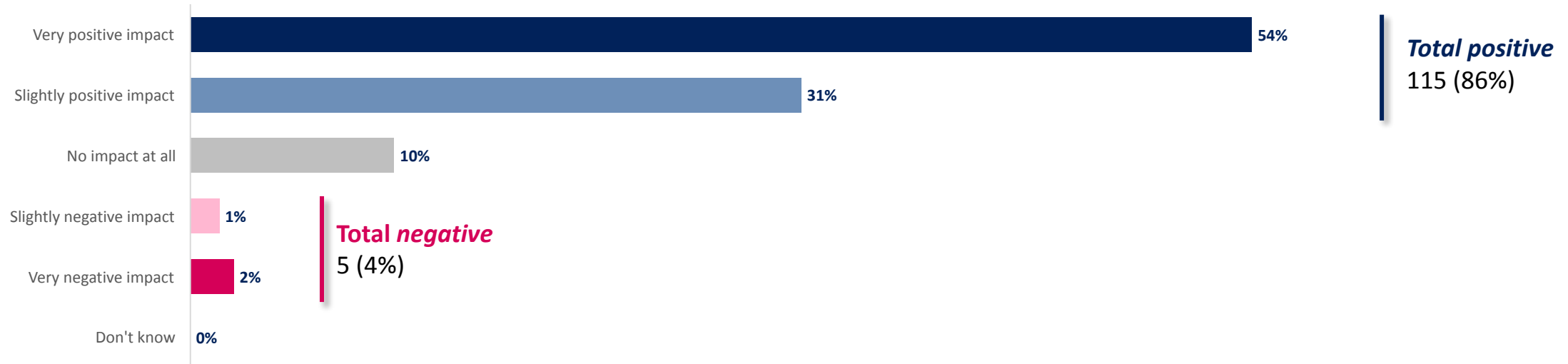
* Less than 100 respondents. ** Less than 50 respondents



Impact of Priority One Actions - 4

“Data gathered by partners will be used to improve safety, and feelings of safety, for women and girls in Southampton by informing changes to the local environment (for example street lighting and CCTV) and improving safety on public transport”

Total respondents | 134



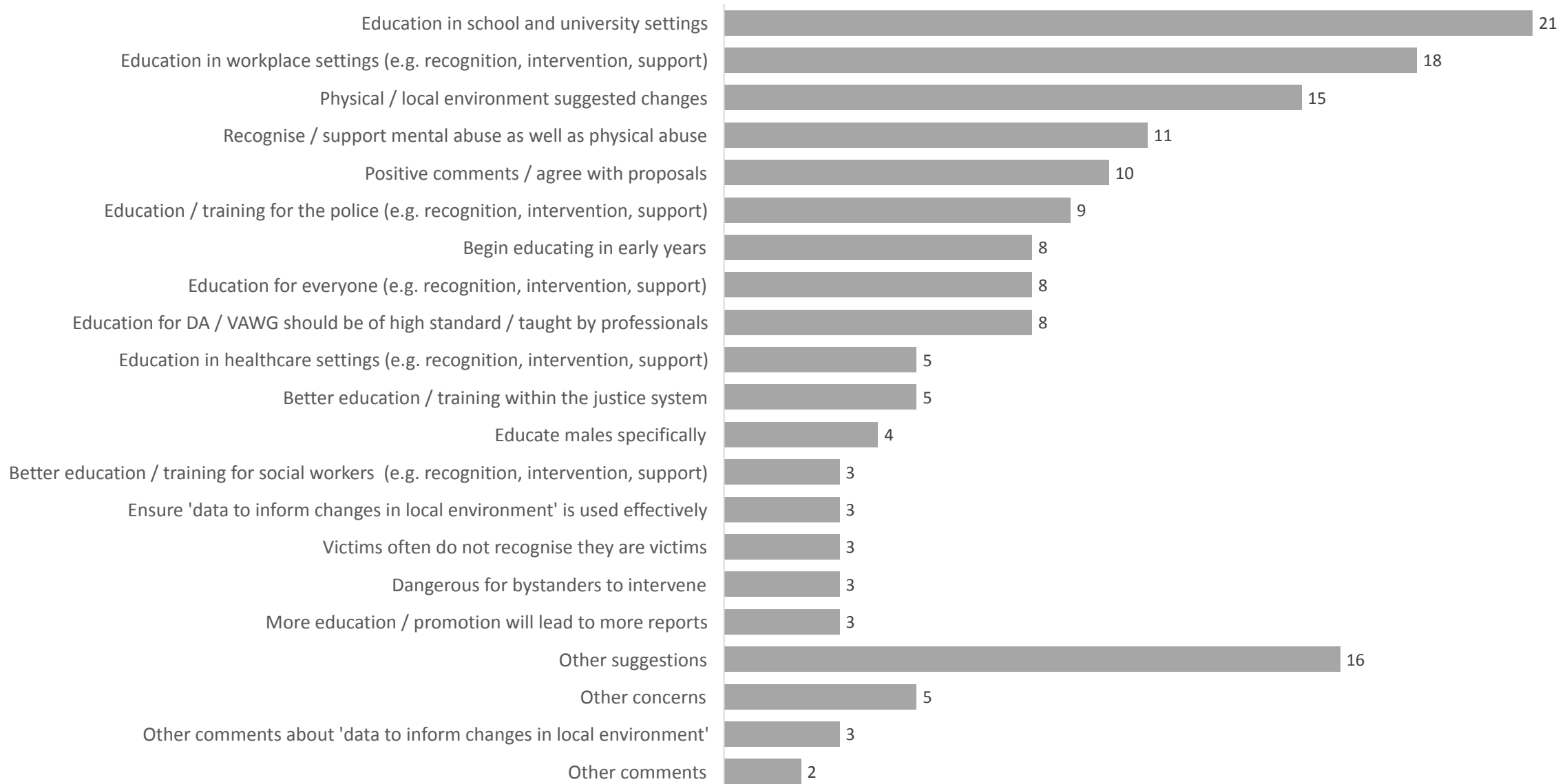
■ Total positive ■ No impact at all ■ Total negative

* Less than 100 respondents. ** Less than 50 respondents



Priority 1 – comments, concerns, suggestions and alternatives.

The following graph shows the total number of responses by each theme of comment.





Priority Two | Support for survivors (early intervention and support)



Priority Two: Support for survivors

We want to make sure specialist support in the city is available to all adults and children and that everyone knows where to go find help and advice.

What outcomes do we want to achieve?

- Access to domestic abuse and VAWG services in Southampton will be straightforward and on an equal footing for everyone, regardless of their characteristics and residential circumstances.
- Survivors with no recourse to public funds ('NRPF') will be able to access the support they need.
- Children will be supported as victims/survivors of domestic abuse.
- There will be sufficient provision of safe accommodation in Southampton to meet need.

Proposed actions:

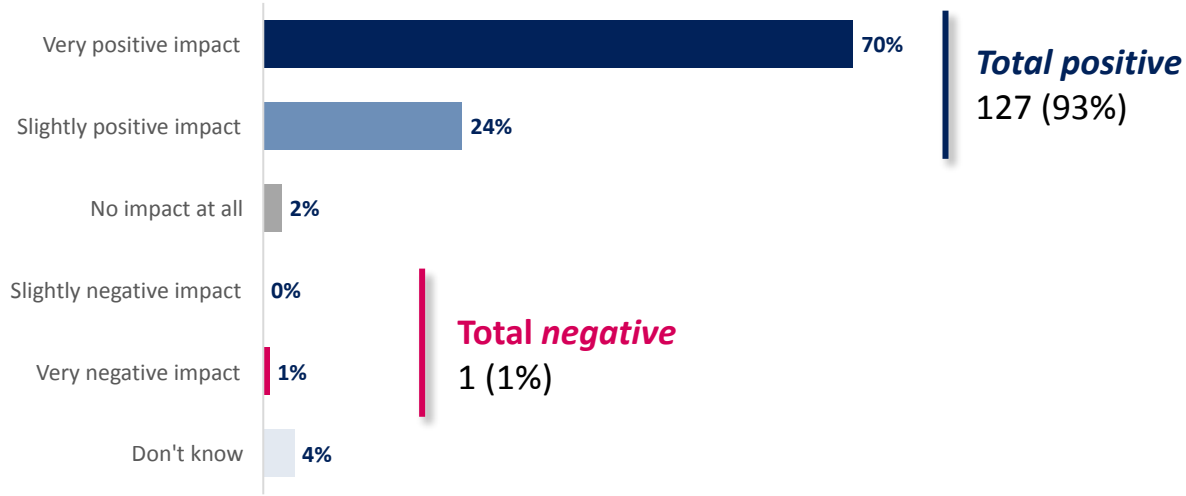
- A 'Whole Housing Approach' (WHA) to domestic abuse will be implemented across Southampton. The WHA is a framework for addressing the housing and safety needs of victim/survivors across all housing tenure types (social, private rented and private ownership)
- Access to our services by people with protected characteristics will be reviewed and services changed to improve equality of access
- Children who see, hear, or experience the effects of domestic abuse will be treated by agencies and service providers in Southampton as victims of domestic abuse in their own right, and data will be recorded to inform the development of appropriate support and intervention
- New collaborative approaches to assessing and supporting families where children are victims of domestic abuse will be developed
- The identification of and response to standard and medium risk cases of domestic abuse will be improved by consistent high-quality training for service providers in identification of DA and VAWG and the pathways to support. This will mean that support can be offered to families as early as possible



Impact of Priority Two Actions - 1

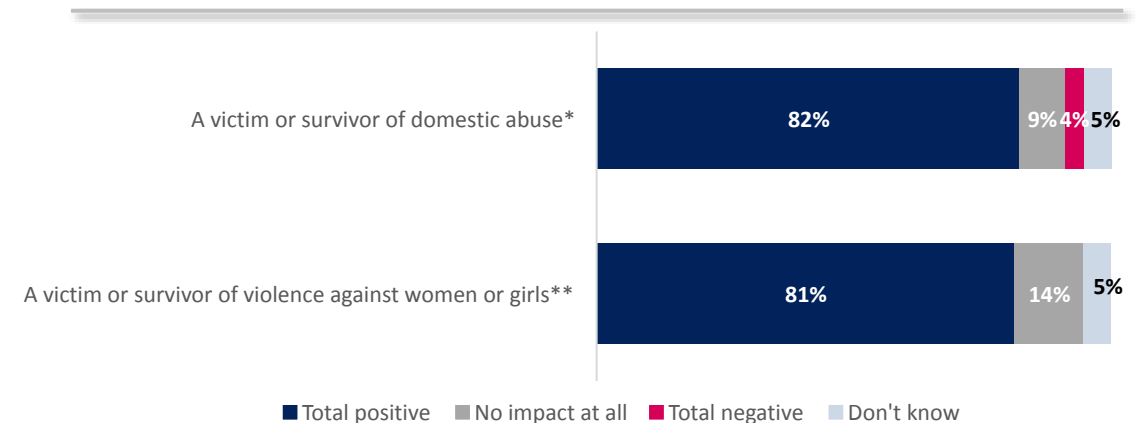
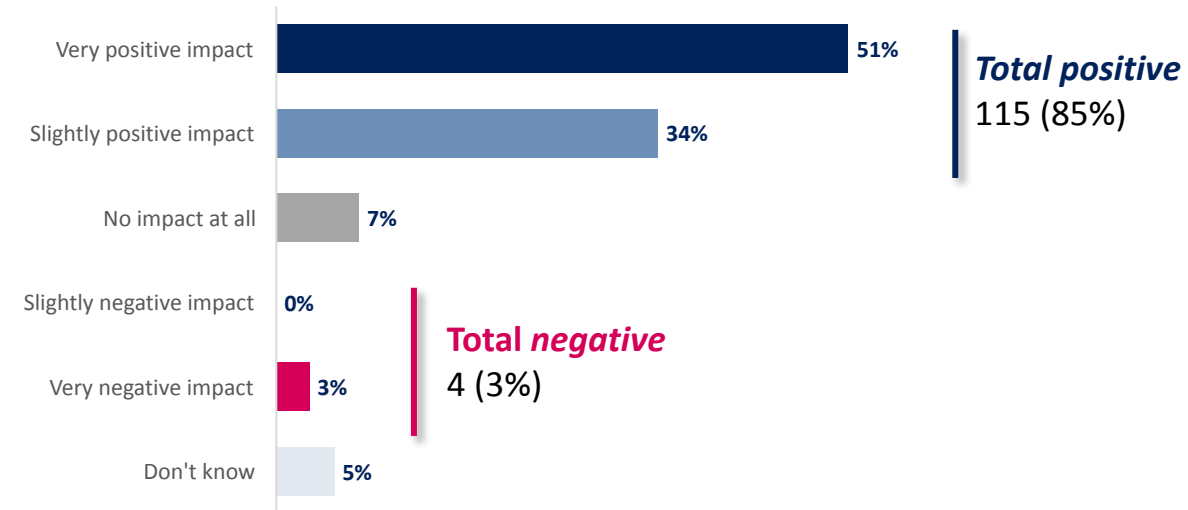
“A ‘Whole Housing Approach’ (WHA) to domestic abuse will be implemented across Southampton. The WHA is a framework for addressing the housing and safety needs of victim/survivors across all housing tenure types (social, private rented and private ownership)”

Total respondents | 136



“Access to our services by people with protected characteristics will be reviewed and services changed to improve equality of access”

Total respondents | 136



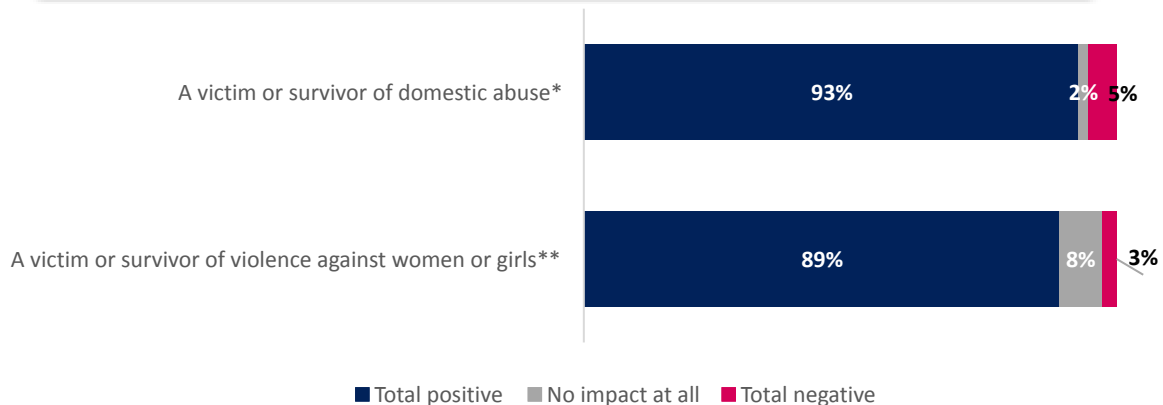
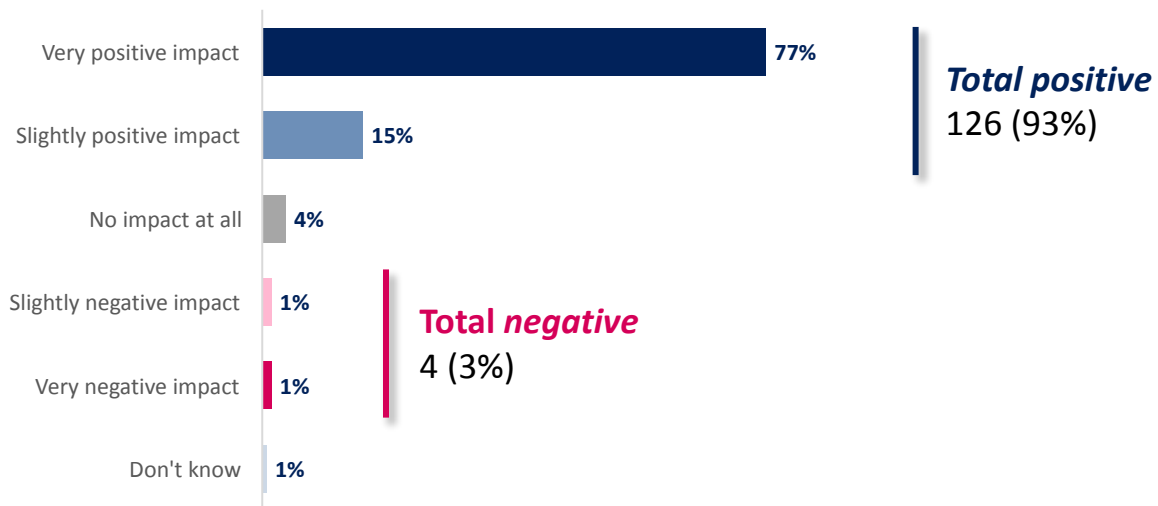
* Less than 100 respondents. ** Less than 50 respondents



Impact of Priority Two Actions - 2

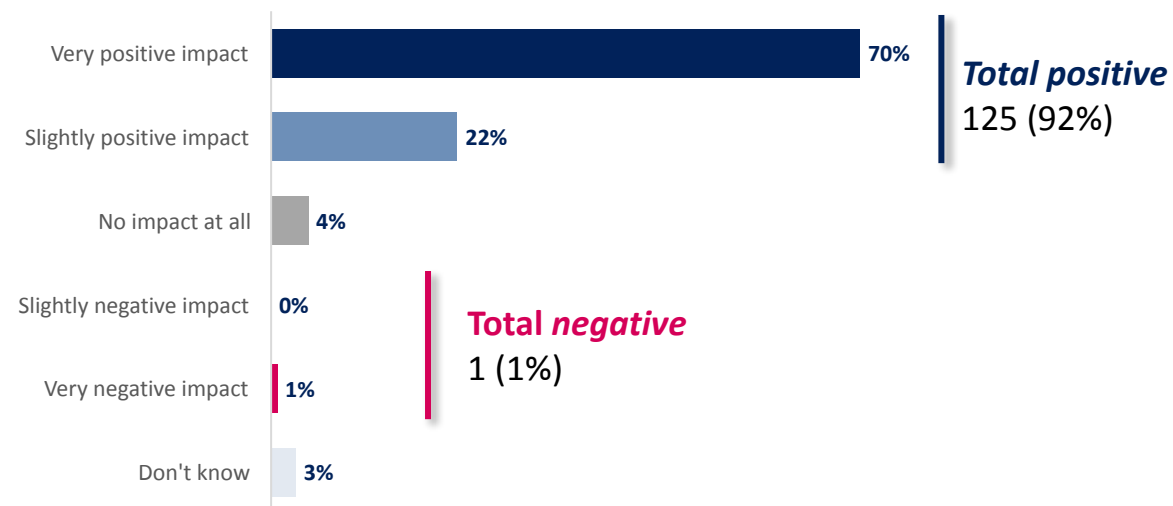
“Children who see, hear, or experience the effects of domestic abuse will be treated by agencies and service providers in Southampton as victims of domestic abuse in their own right, and data will be recorded to inform the development of appropriate support and intervention

Total respondents | 136



“New collaborative approaches to assessing and supporting families where children are victims of domestic abuse will be developed”

Total respondents | 136



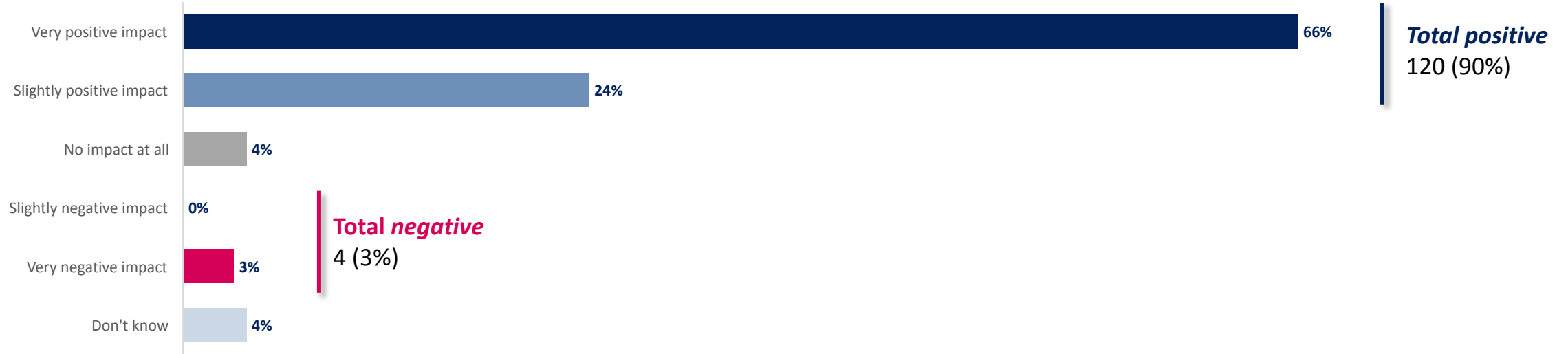
* Less than 100 respondents. ** Less than 50 respondents



Impact of Priority Two Actions - 3

“The identification of and response to standard and medium risk cases of domestic abuse will be improved by consistent high-quality training for service providers in identification of DA and VAWG and the pathways to support. This will mean that support can be offered to families as early as possible”

Total respondents | 134



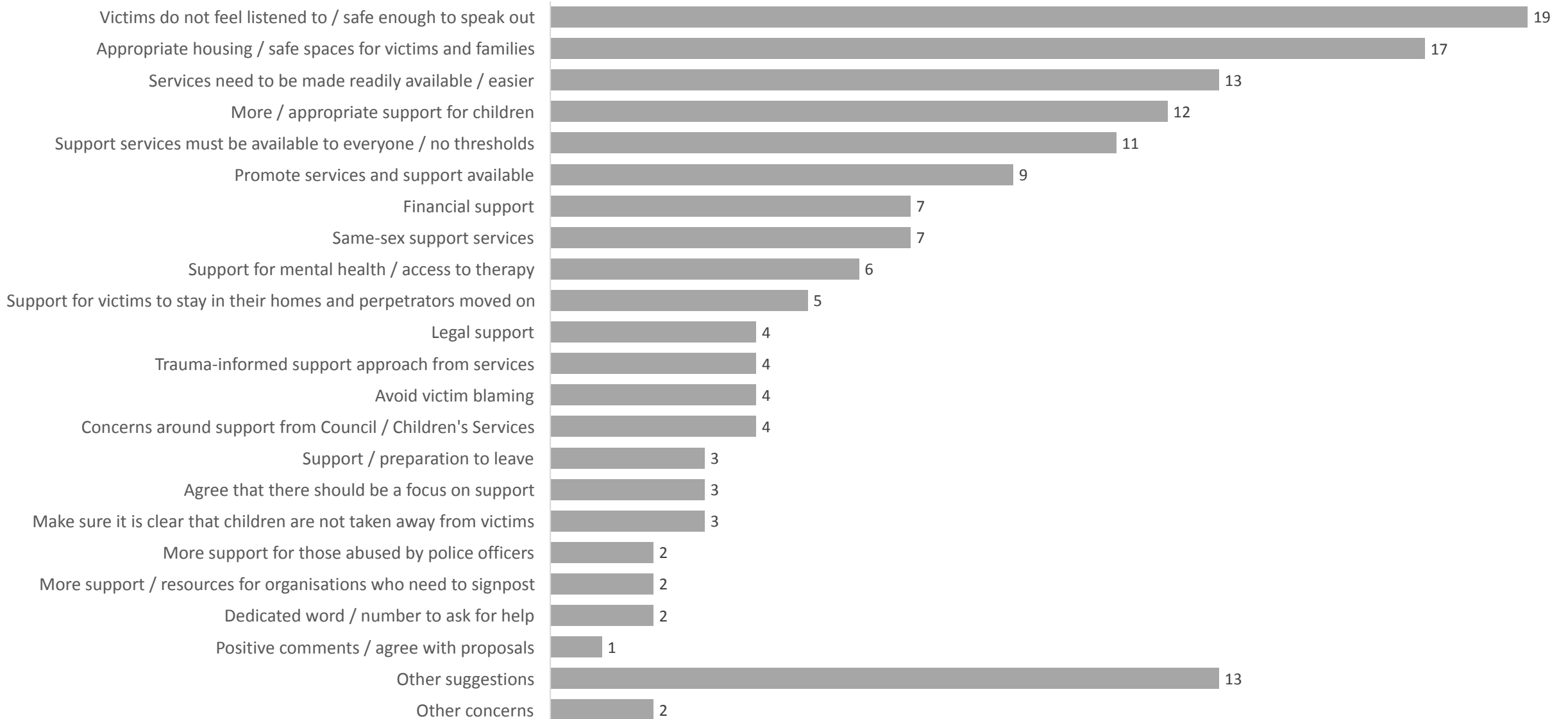
■ Total positive ■ No impact at all ■ Total negative ■ Don't know

* Less than 100 respondents. ** Less than 50 respondents



Priority 2 – comments, concerns, suggestions and alternatives.

The following graph shows the total number of responses by each theme of comment.





Priority Three | Building an accountable community and changing perpetrator behaviour



Priority Three: Building an accountable community and changing perpetrator behaviour

The focus of professionals (and of society as a whole) can still often be on what the victim should do to 'keep safe' and not on the behaviour of the person who is using harmful behaviours. We want to change this.

What outcomes do we want to achieve?

- There will be more non-mandated self-referrals to community-based behaviour change programmes for perpetrators outside of the criminal justice system.
- There will be an increase in the numbers of those completing behaviour change programmes and a reduction in reoffending.
- Systems and processes will be resilient to manipulation by perpetrators.
- There will be more referrals from social care and health-related services (e.g. community mental health teams and drug/alcohol support services) to specialist support and behaviour change programmes.

Proposed actions:

- Services provided by partner agencies in response to domestic abuse will enable children and young people to remain 'Safe and Together' with their non-abusive parent/guardian wherever this will help to achieve the best outcomes for them
- Male perpetrators of violence towards women and girls and domestic abuse will be supported to understand the impact of their actions and to take responsibility for and change their behaviours
- Wider services in Southampton, for example Adult Social Care, Children's Services, mental health and drug and alcohol services will reliably identify risk arising from domestic abuse and VAWG and take appropriate steps to enable access to the right support
- Agencies and service providers in Southampton will identify and respond to perpetrators consistently and effectively, including making early interventions which prevent the escalation of abusive behaviours
- Practice in the family courts will be improved by sharing best practice and information about local domestic abuse and VAWG services and pathways with judges, advocates, solicitors, CAF/CASS and other stakeholders in the justice system
- Systems and services in Southampton will be safeguarded against manipulation by perpetrators

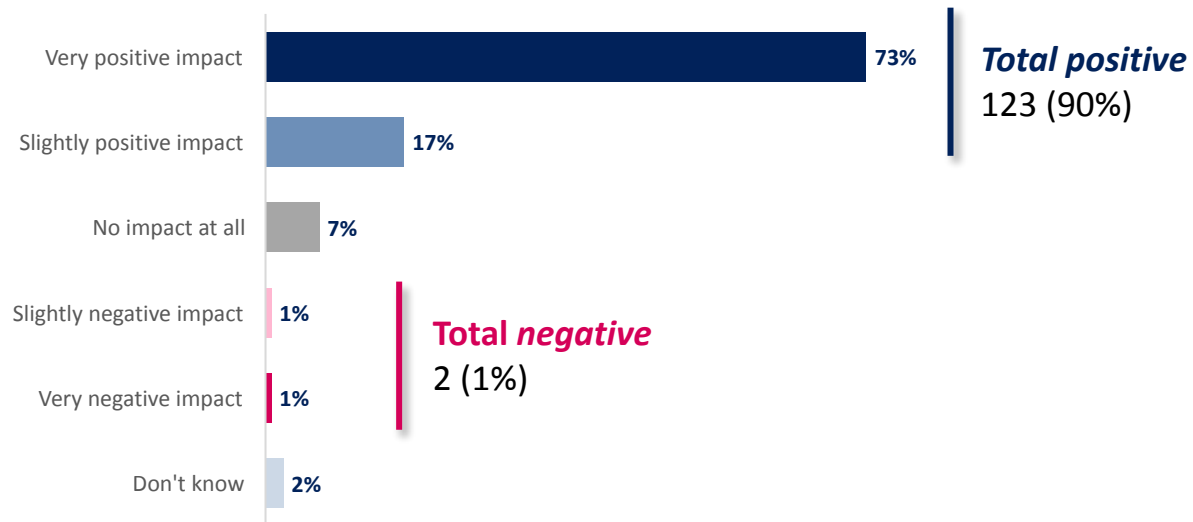


Impact of Priority Three Actions - 1

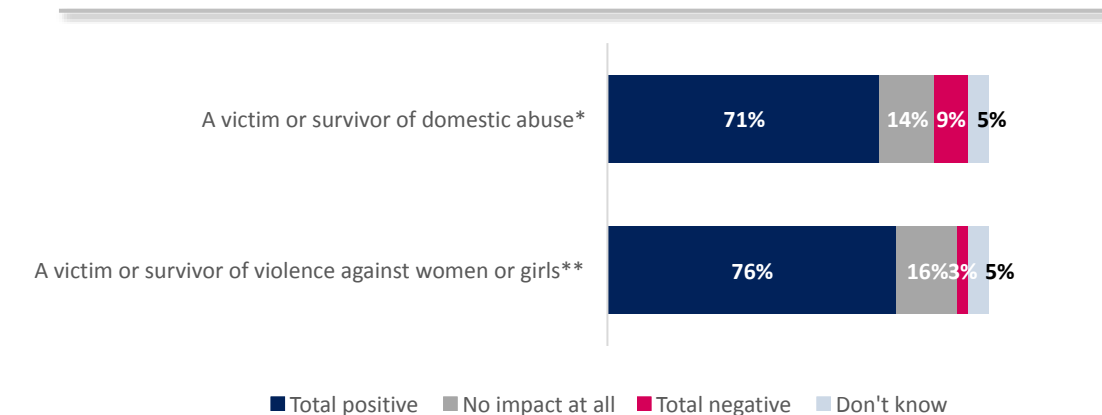
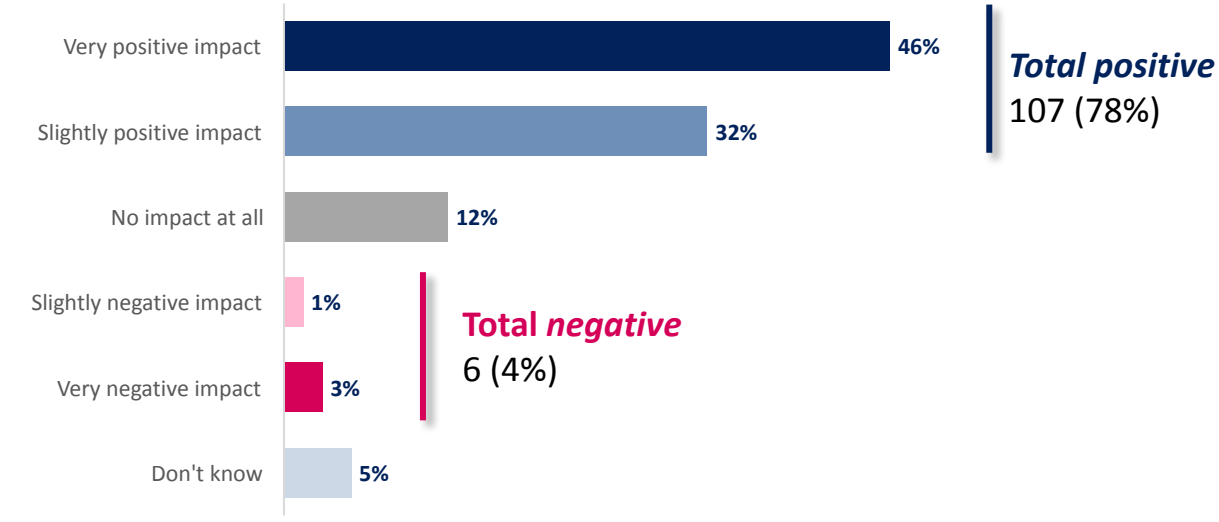
“Services provided by partner agencies in response to domestic abuse will enable children and young people to remain ‘Safe and Together’ with their non-abusive parent/guardian wherever this will help to achieve the best outcomes for them”

“Male perpetrators of violence towards women and girls and domestic abuse will be supported to understand the impact of their actions and to take responsibility for and change their behaviours”

Total respondents | 137



Total respondents | 137



* Less than 100 respondents. ** Less than 50 respondents

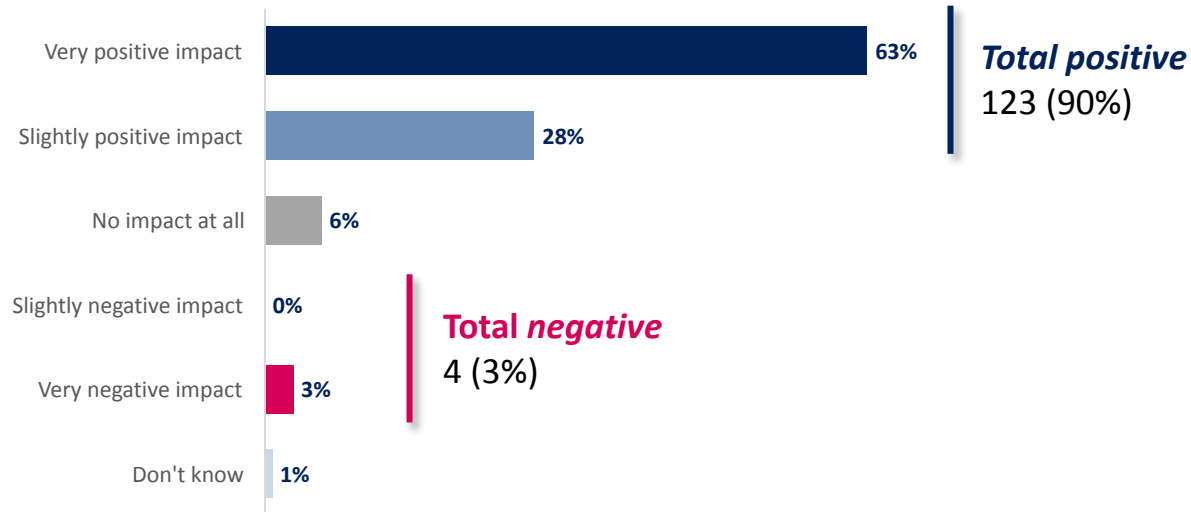


Impact of Priority Three Actions - 2

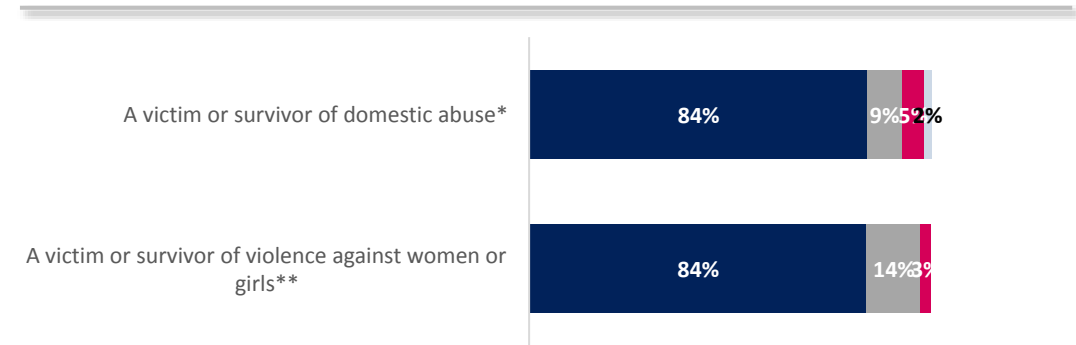
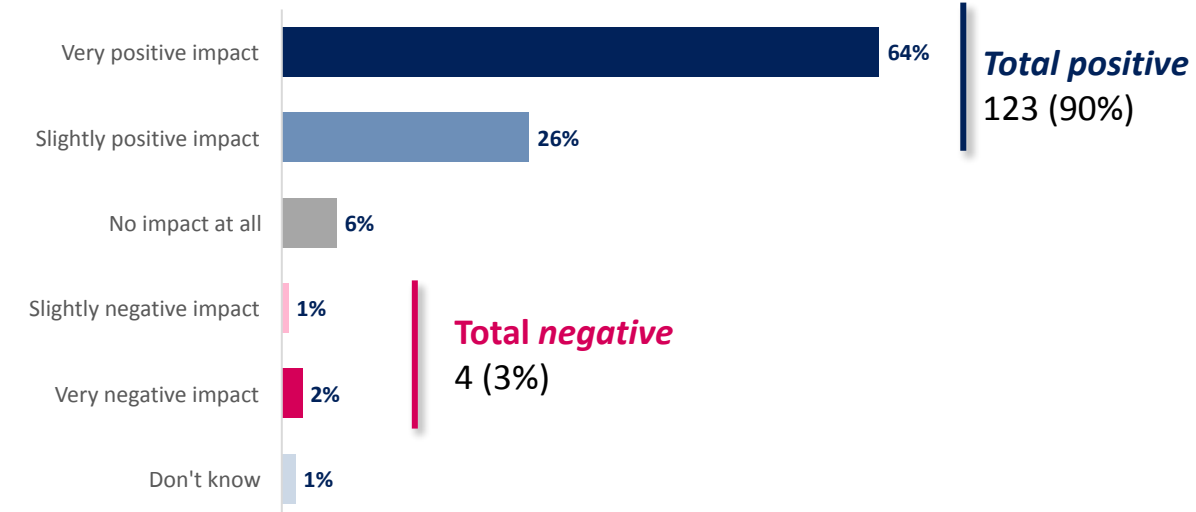
“Wider services in Southampton, for example Adult Social Care, Children’s Services, mental health and drug and alcohol services will reliably identify risk arising from domestic abuse and VAWG and take appropriate steps to enable access to the right support”

“Agencies and service providers in Southampton will identify and respond to perpetrators consistently and effectively, including making early interventions which prevent the escalation of abusive behaviours”

Total respondents | 136



Total respondents | 137



■ Total positive ■ No impact at all ■ Total negative ■ Don't know

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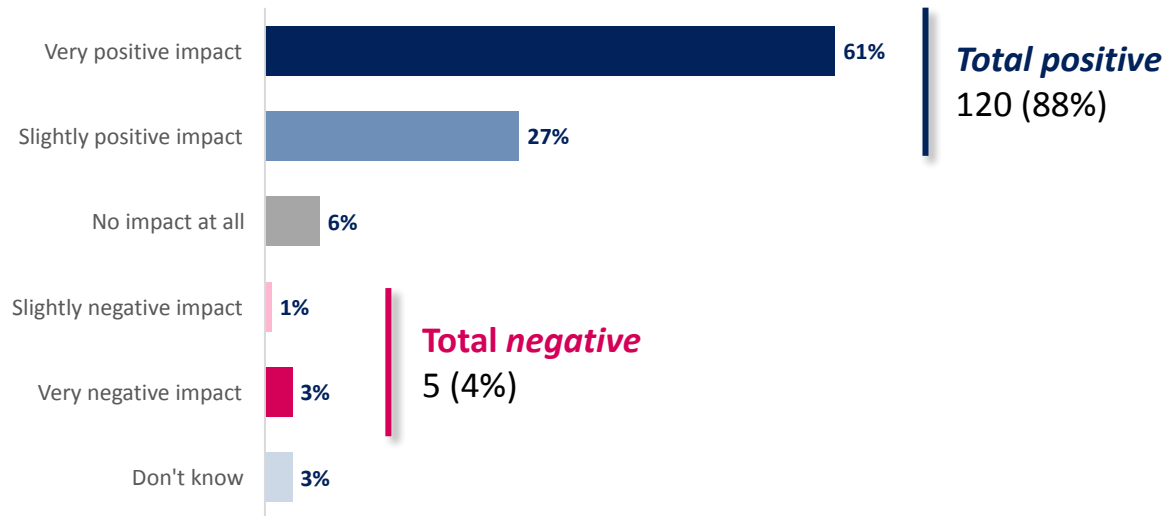
* Less than 100 respondents. ** Less than 50 respondents



Impact of Priority Three Actions - 3

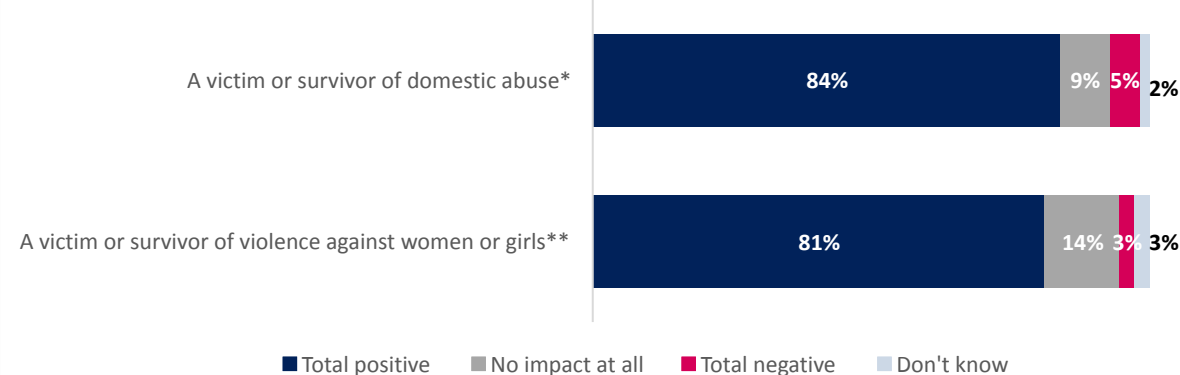
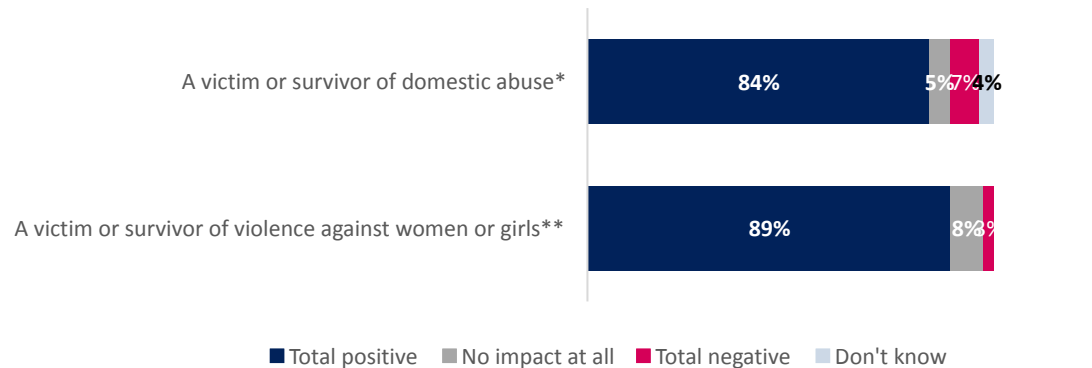
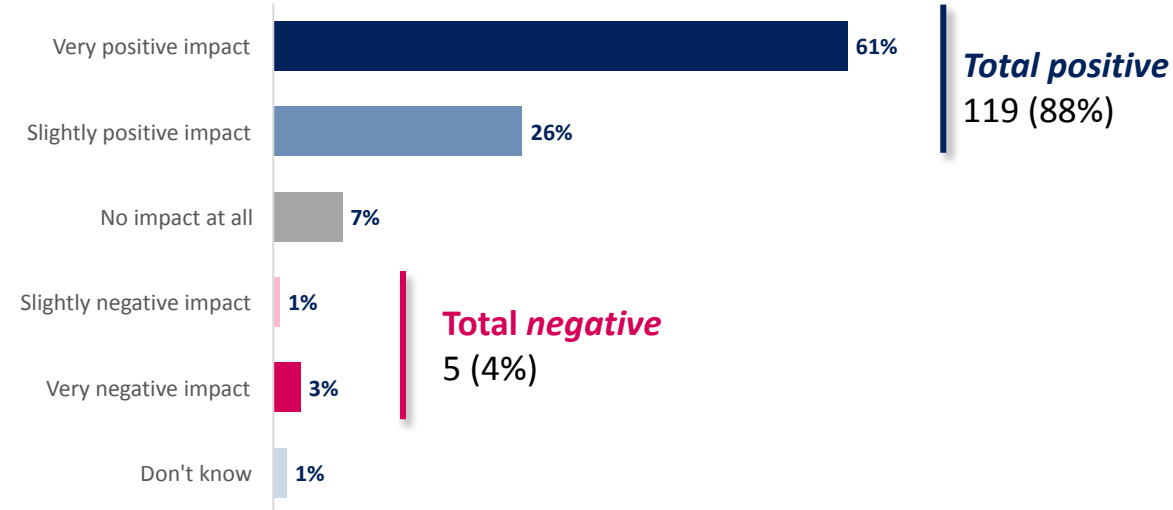
“Practice in the family courts will be improved by sharing best practice and information about local domestic abuse and VAWG services and pathways with judges, advocates, solicitors, CAFCASS and other stakeholders in the justice system”

Total respondents | 137



“Systems and services in Southampton will be safeguarded against manipulation by perpetrators”

Total respondents | 136

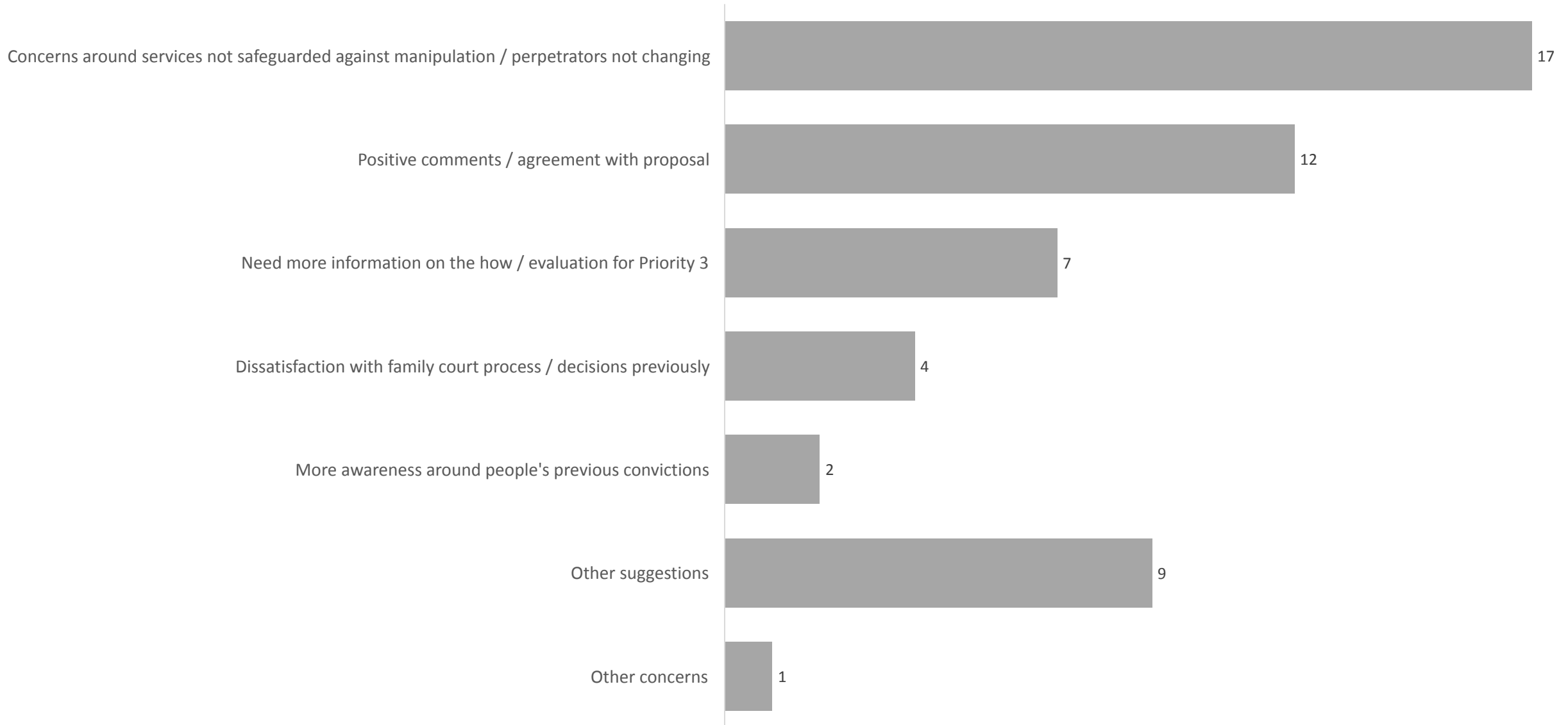


* Less than 100 respondents. ** Less than 50 respondents



Priority 3 – comments, concerns, suggestions and alternatives.

The following graph shows the total number of responses by each theme of comment.





Priority Four | A stronger coordinated response



Priority Four: A stronger co-ordinated response

We will improve the connections between the services in the city to ensure that the support that is needed is available in the right place and at the right time.

What outcomes do we want to achieve?

- The voices of survivors will be reflected in decisions about system design and improvement
- Agreed standards of data collection and information sharing will be developed by partner organisations in order to drive system improvement

Proposed actions:

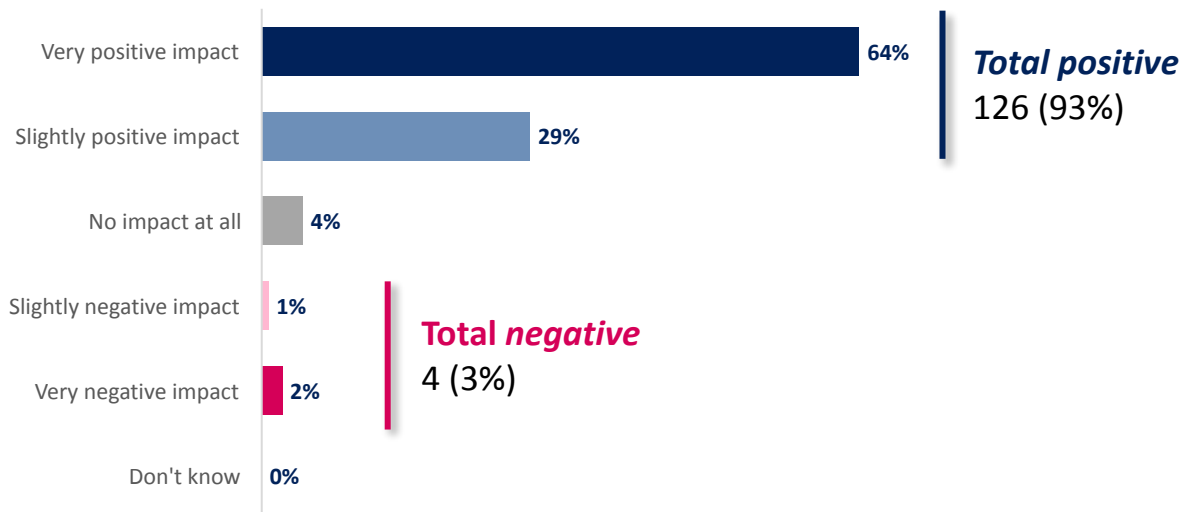
- Data will be shared appropriately between agencies/services in our system to protect victims/survivors
- Multi-agency arrangements for assessing and responding effectively to high-risk cases of domestic abuse will be evaluated and improved (MASH - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub; HRDA - High-Risk Domestic Abuse arrangements; MARAC - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference)
- Decisions about service provision will be evidence-informed by knowledge from research, practice and people accessing services
- The voices of victims/survivors will be heard and will inform the design, development and implementation of local services
- Key data about the performance of individual services and the system as a whole will be gathered reliably and used to inform improvements to practice



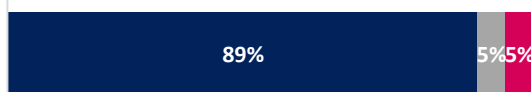
Impact of Priority Four Actions - 1

“Data will be shared appropriately between agencies/services in our system to protect victims/survivors”

Total respondents | 136



A victim or survivor of domestic abuse*



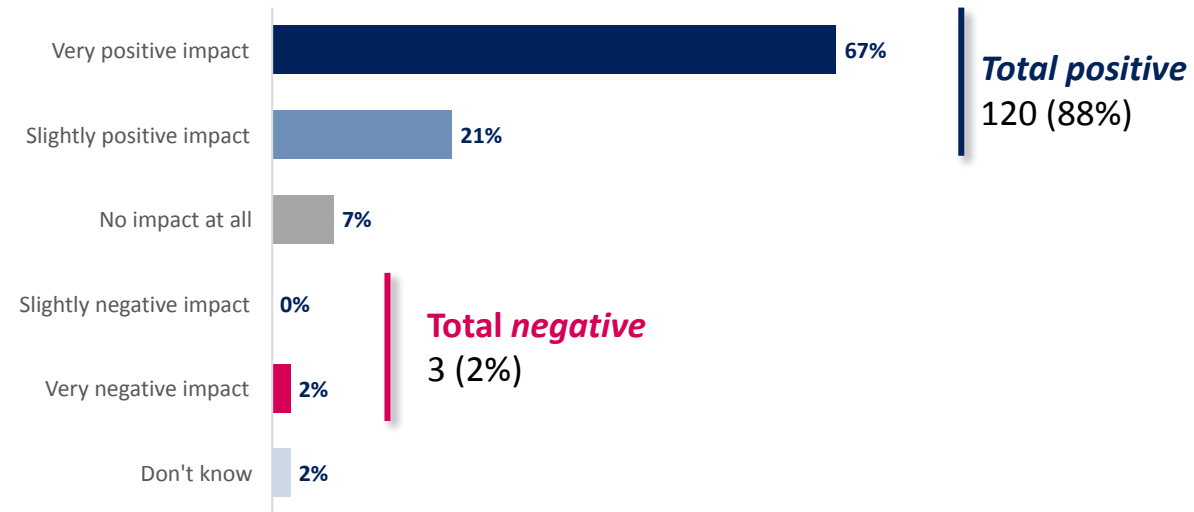
A victim or survivor of violence against women or girls**



■ Total positive ■ No impact at all ■ Total negative

“Multi-agency arrangements for assessing and responding effectively to high-risk cases of domestic abuse will be evaluated and improved (MASH - Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub; HRDA - High-Risk Domestic Abuse arrangements; MARAC - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference)”

Total respondents | 136



A victim or survivor of domestic abuse*



A victim or survivor of violence against women or girls*



■ Total positive ■ No impact at all ■ Total negative ■ Don't know

* Less than 100 respondents. ** Less than 50 respondents

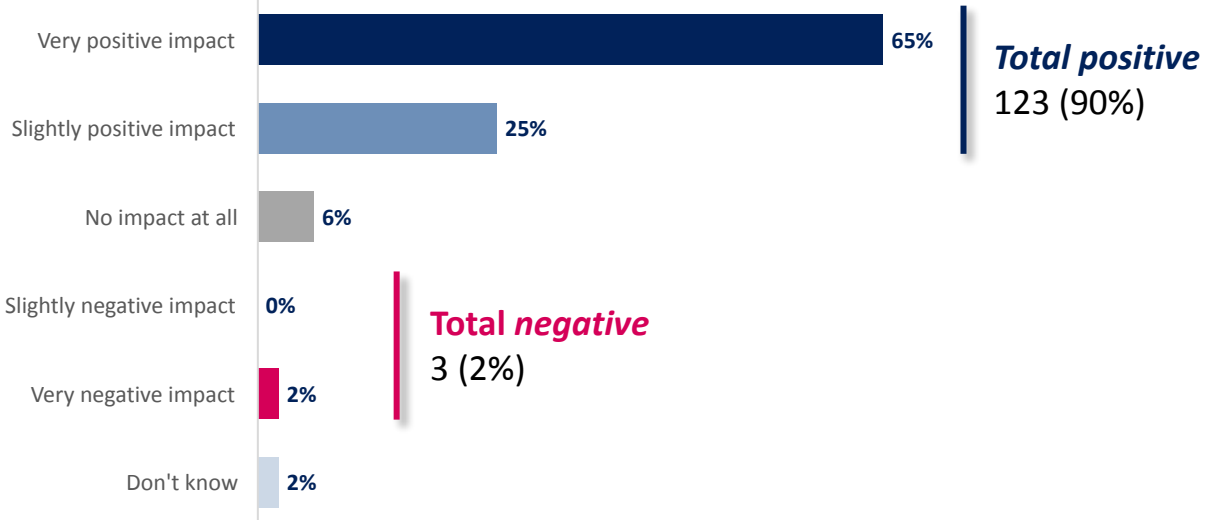


Impact of Priority Four Actions - 2

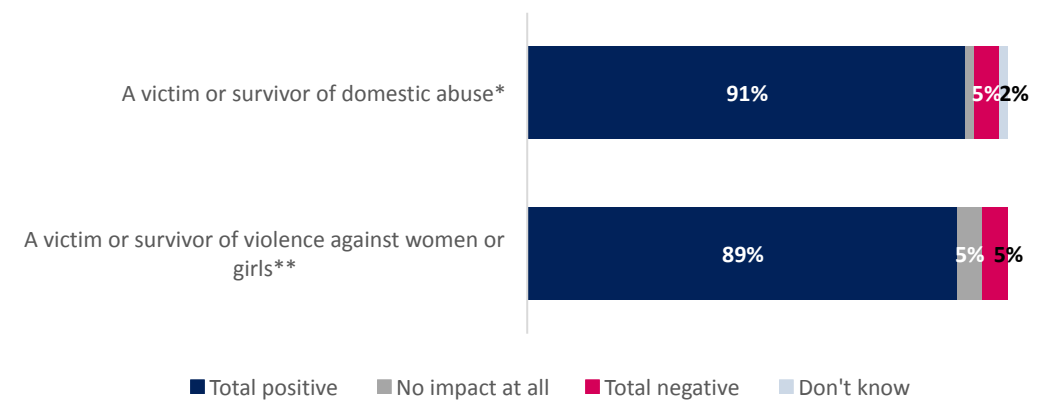
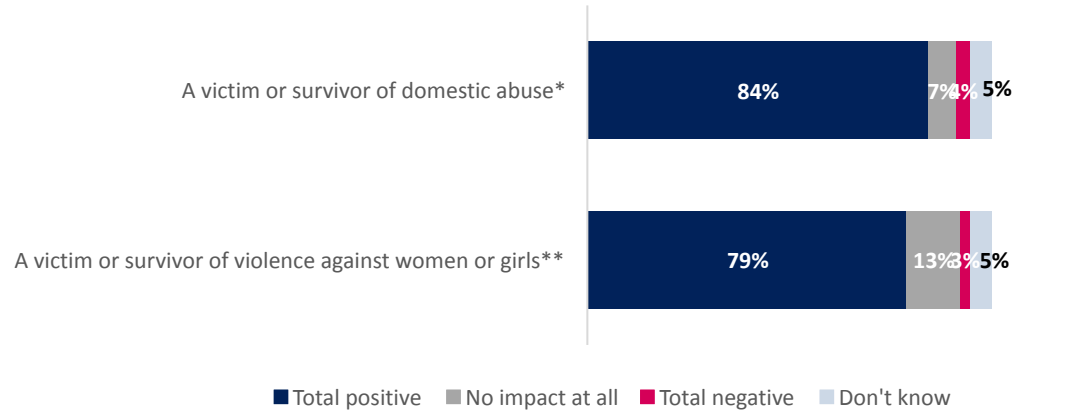
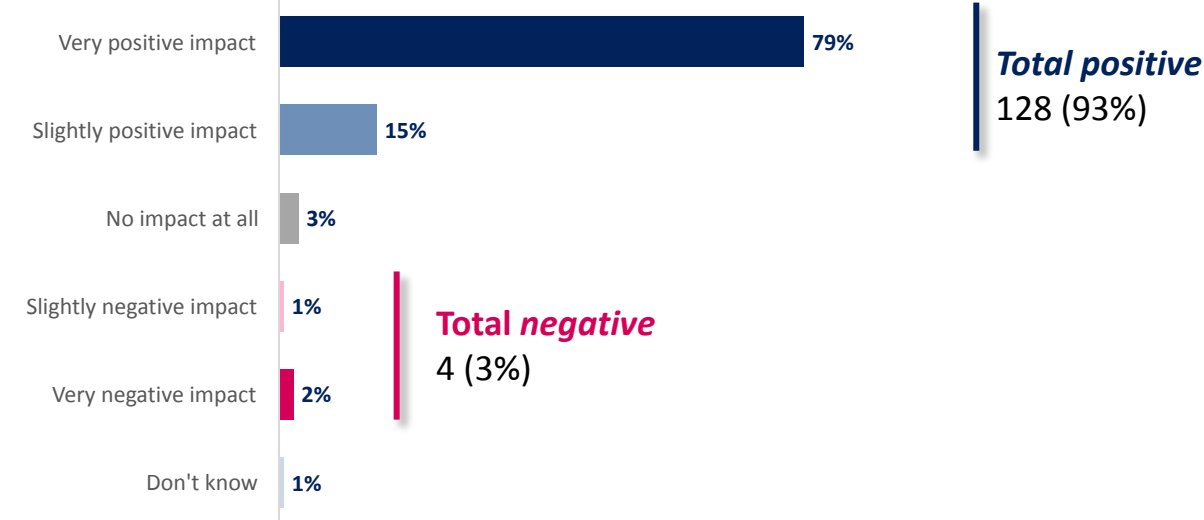
“Decisions about service provision will be evidence-informed by knowledge from research, practice and people accessing services”

“The voices of victims/survivors will be heard and will inform the design, development and implementation of local services”

Total respondents | 137



Total respondents | 137



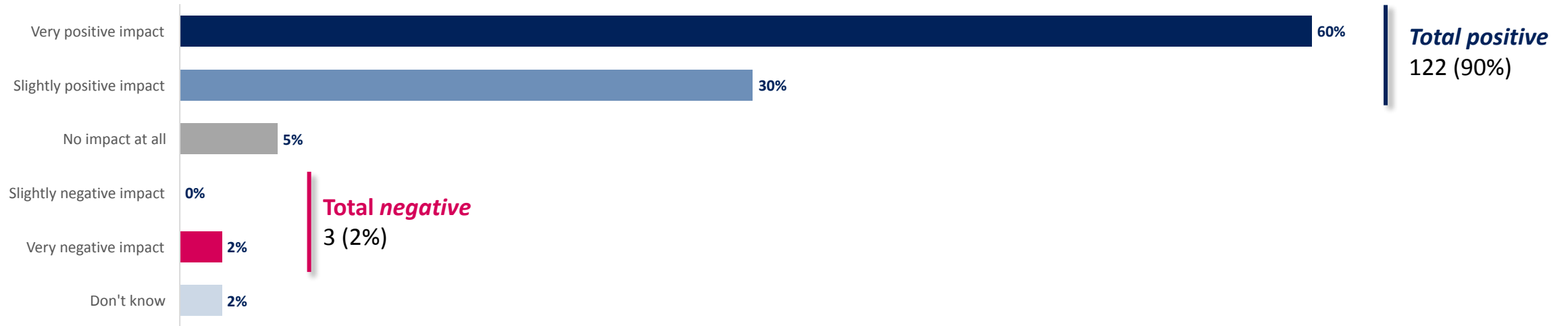
* Less than 100 respondents. ** Less than 50 respondents



Impact of Priority Four Actions - 3

“Key data about the performance of individual services and the system as a whole will be gathered reliably and used to inform improvements to practice”

Total respondents | 135



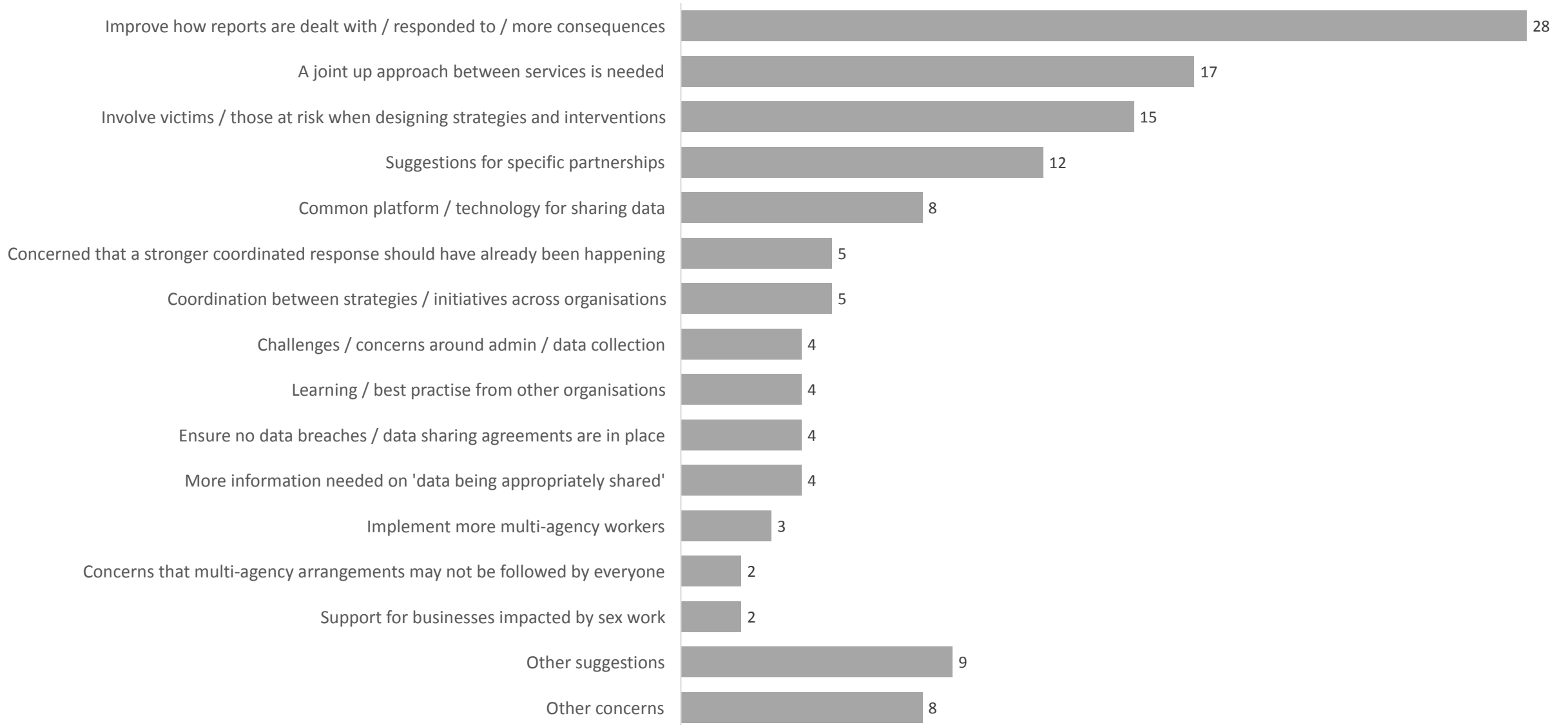
■ Total positive ■ No impact at all ■ Total negative ■ Don't know

* Less than 100 respondents. ** Less than 50 respondents



Priority 4 – comments, concerns, suggestions and alternatives.

The following graph shows the total number of responses by each theme of comment.





The proposed draft strategy



Proposed Draft Strategy

Have you read the proposed draft policy?

45%

Yes, all of it

32%

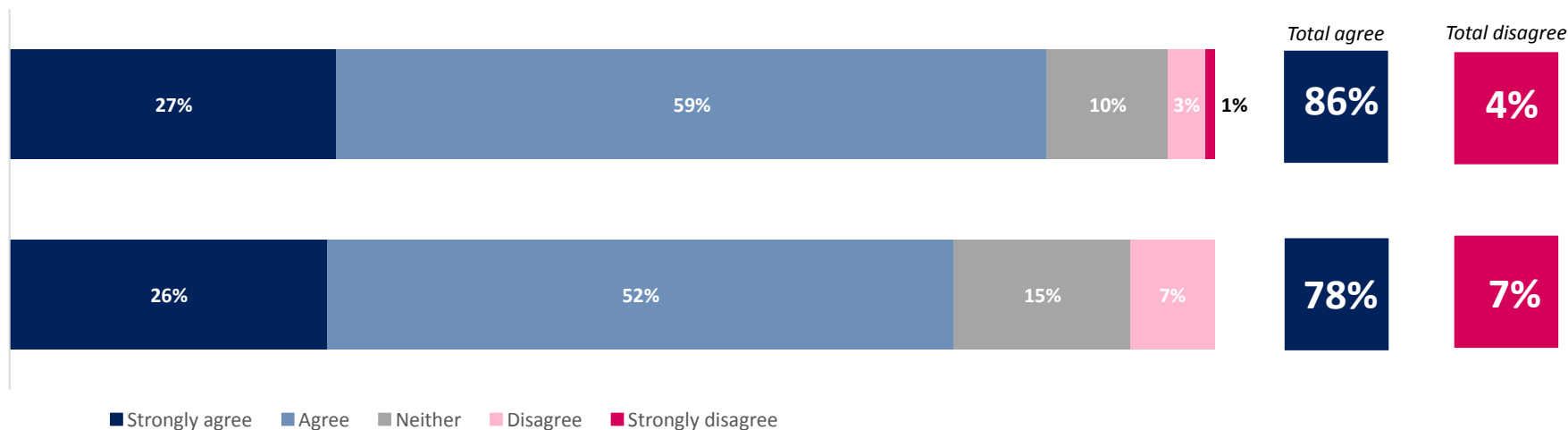
Yes, some of it

22%

No

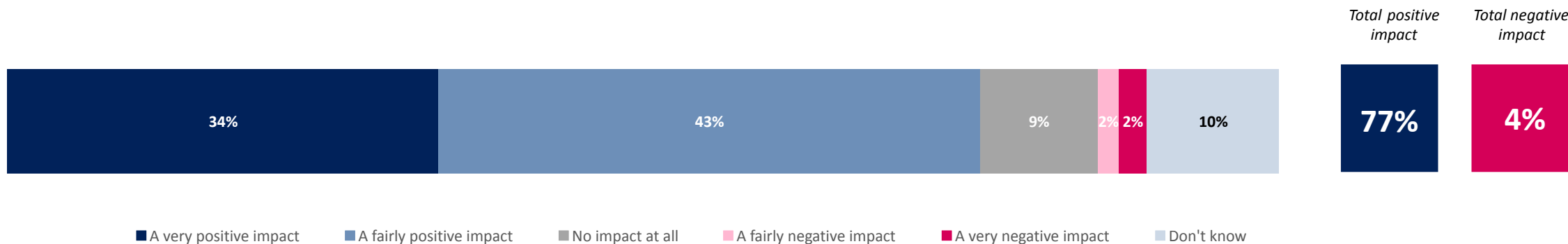
If you have read the proposed draft strategy, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

The draft strategy is easy to understand



The draft strategy provides sufficient information

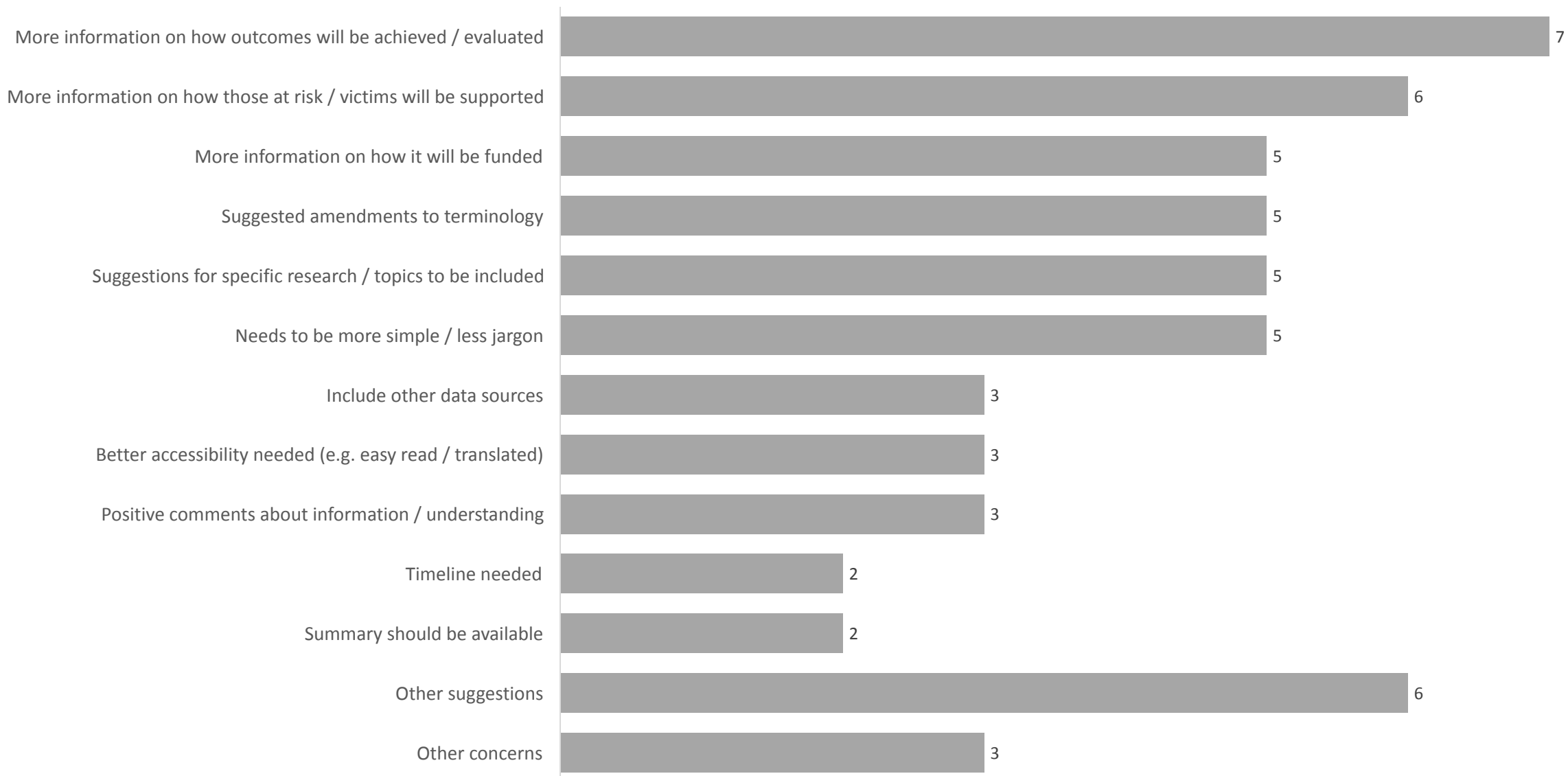
If the draft strategy were implemented, what impact do you feel this may have on you, your business or the wider community overall?





More understanding or information needed in the strategy

The following graph shows the total number of responses by each theme of comment.





Any other comments, concerns, suggestions or alternatives.

The following graph shows the total number of responses by each theme of comment.

