



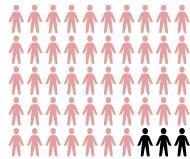
# Play streets: Community Impact

Play streets are regular, short, resident-led road closures, creating safe space for children to play and communities to come together. Here we present the evidence demonstrating their impact on community building

- For councils, a play street policy is a low cost, high impact route to building community cohesion
- Over 1,600 street communities have 'played out' with 100 councils to date actively supporting the playing out model\*
- Around 48,900 children and 24,450 adults have been directly involved on their street
- Residents do the bulk of the work (with support where needed) - councils just need to make it easy for them

\* (Numbers accurate for January 2024)

## Building relationships



94%

Know more people on their street as a result of play streets

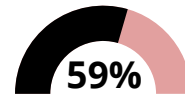
- Playing Out Survey (2023)

"I feel like an important and trusted person in my community."

- play street steward, North Tyneside (2021)

Play streets definitely help forge a greater sense of community spirit

- play street organiser 2023



59% of residents said that play street sessions have led to neighbours getting involved in other community activities, groups or campaigns

- Playing Out Survey (2023)

## Sense of belonging

A sense of belonging has been found to help protect children against mental health problems and improve their learning.

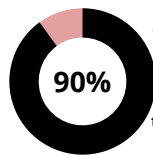
- ChildWatch, (2019)

"It brings together all of our neighbours, including those without children"

- play street resident 2023

Massively positively impacted my children's sense of community

- play street organiser, 2023



90% of residents felt that they belonged more to their neighbourhood through play streets.

- Playing Out survey (2023)

## Reducing age barriers



88% of residents said that play street sessions result in children interacting with children of different ages



Roughly what ages are the adults who are normally around during sessions?

"I sometimes shop for my elderly neighbour"

Resident, 2023

"A little one (about 5 years old) - neighbour - wanting to show me (59 year old) their new bike and how they could ride it :)"

Resident, Newcastle, 2023

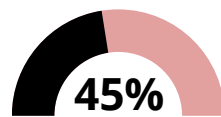
## Reducing isolation and loneliness

"I feel less isolation as a single parent"

- play street resident, 2021

"My elderly neighbor being invited to have Sunday lunch with a couple down the road who he marshalled with."

resident, St Albans, 2023



45% People felt that play streets actively alleviated their loneliness

- Stenning (2020)

## Trust and safety



64% of residents said that play streets had changed perceptions on how their street was used



68% of residents said their children had learnt more about road safety through play streets

"My street feels like a safer, friendlier place to live."

- Stenning (2020)  
- Playing Out Surveys (2017 & 2021)

"I decided to get involved in a play street to give my son a safe place to play with his friends."

- play street resident 2023

"my children know who lives in almost every house on our street and I know that in a crisis they would have so many people they could go to"

- play street resident 2021

## Find out more and get started in your area

[Play Streets Info for Councils](#)

[Get your council on board](#)

[Set up your council play street scheme](#)

[How to support residents](#)

We're here to help with any questions, just email us at: [hello@playingout.net](mailto:hello@playingout.net)

## Sources

[Creating a Sense of Belonging For Children, ChildWatch \(2019\)](#)

[Tackling Loneliness with Resident-Led Play Streets, Stenning \(2020\)](#)

[Playing Out Survey \(2017\)](#)

[Playing Out Survey \(2021\)](#)

[Playing Out Survey \(2023\)](#)

[Playing Out Community Impact](#)

