

The 2019 Scout Experience Survey – what you had to say



Welcome

In March 2019 we ran our second Scout Experience Survey. The survey welcomes all our adult members, parents/carers and young people over 10 to share their thoughts.

It helps us understand a little more about your experience of being in Scouts, whether you're a young person or a volunteer.

The survey results inform our programmes of work and improve the support we provide to members.

Methodology

- Data was collected through an online survey using SurveyGizmo.
- Postcodes helped show us if respondents lived in rural or urban areas, and where they ranked on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).
- Duplicate responses and disqualified respondents – those under 10 or with no connection to Scouts – were removed.
- By asking similar questions to young people, parents/carers and Section Leaders, we could view different perspectives.
- Questions asked of young people (age 13-17 years) were sourced from published academic work that had been tested with this age group to make sure they were reliable and valid.
- We compared answers from young people in Scouts with a control group of young people not in Scouts, to gauge the impact of Scouts.

Who took part?

After we took out the duplicates, disqualified responses, those with no demographic data or those where there were no outcomes questions answered by young people, we were left with:



- 11,869 adult volunteers



- 1,649 parents / carers



- 2,078 young people

Our adult volunteers who responded...



53% male and **46%** female



96% white, **2%** black, Asian, mixed, or other ethnic groups

86% white, **14%** black, Asian, mixed, or other ethnic groups (England & Wales population)



63% Christian, **31%** no religion, **3%** Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, or other religions

59% Christian, **25%** no religion, **8%** Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, or other religions (England & Wales population)



22% had disabilities or health problems, **75%** had no disabilities or health problems

UK disability prevalence is **22%**



91% heterosexual or straight, **4%** were LGBT+, **5%** preferred not to say

93% heterosexual or straight, **2%** LGBT+, **5%** prefer not to say (UK population)



86% had never been entitled to free school meals, **9%** had

Young people who responded...



56% male and **42%** female (2% preferred to self-describe or not say)



92% white, **7%** black, Asian, mixed, or other ethnic groups (1% preferred not to say)



59% Christian, **34%** no religion, **5%** Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, or other religions (2% preferred not to say)



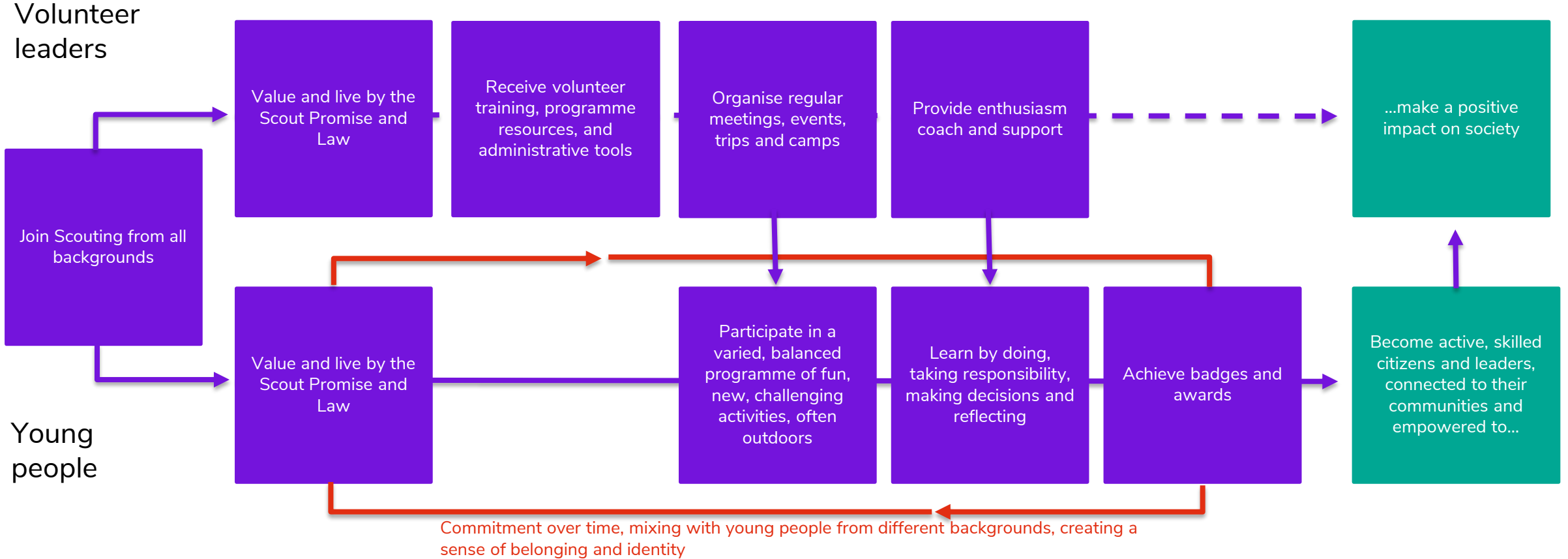
15% had disabilities or health problems, **79%** had no disabilities or health problems (6% didn't know or preferred not to say)



85% had never been entitled to free school meals, **10%** had (5% preferred not to say)

Outcomes for young people

Volunteer leaders



The scales we used to measure the outcomes



Domain	Outcome	Scale used
Adventure	Value the outdoors more	Youth Outcome Battery: Affinity for Nature subscale (2nd Edition 2013, Detailed Format – Short Version)
	Amount physically active	Not a validated question but used in NCS evaluation and similar wording in other single item measures.
	More likely to try new things	Youth Outcome Battery: Interest in Exploration subscale (2nd Edition, 2013, Detailed Format)
	Have increased courage to take risks and tackle challenging activities	Reduced Courage Measure, Howard, M. C., & Alipour, K. K. (2014).
Skills for life	Problem solving confidence	Youth Outcome Battery: Problem Solving Confidence subscale (2nd Edition, 2013, Detailed Format)
	Independence	Youth Outcome Battery: Independence subscale (2nd Edition, 2013, Detailed Format)
	Can communicate effectively	Skills for Everyday Living (Communication questions from the SEL tool, NOT the full Communication tool) – Perkins and Haas, Human Research Services, The Pennsylvania State University
Wellbeing	Are happier	EPOCH: Happiness subscale
	Have enhanced personal wellbeing	Personal Well-Being (PWB) ONS4, Office for National Statistics
	Have increased perseverance and grit	Short Grit Scale, Duckworth, A. L., & Quinn, P. D. (2009). Development and validation of the Short Grit Scale (GRIT–S). Journal of personality assessment, 91(2), 166-174

Domain	Outcome	Scale used
Leadership	Show leadership by taking initiative and acting as a role model to help others make a positive difference	Civic Measurement Models: Leadership Efficacy subscale
	Are better at working in a team	Youth Civic and Character Measures Toolkit (YCCMT): Teamwork subscale
	Are more responsible and trustworthy	Positive Youth Development Index (PYDI): Character subscale
Citizenship	Are more likely to play an active role in their community	Positive Youth Development Index (PYDI): Contribution subscale
	Hours volunteering	Not a validated question but aligned to Step Up To Serve Youth Social Action wording
	Propensity to vote	Not a validated question but aligned to NCS Trust evaluations
	Are more likely to consider themselves local, national and international citizens	Not a validated question
Connectedness	Have more meaningful friendships and relationships	Positive Youth Development Index (PYDI): Connection subscale
	Care more about other people	Positive Youth Development Index (PYDI): Caring subscale
	Social competence	Social Competence Scale for Teenagers (SCST)
	Have more respect and trust for others, including those from backgrounds different to their own	World Values Survey - Social Trust
	Respect and trust for others	Uses an adapted "Feeling Thermometer" (Lolliot et al, Measures of Intergroup Contact, 2014, Measures of Personality and Social Psychological Constructs, Chapter 23, Page 675-676) and has been used by NCS Trust

Do more. Share more. Be more.

Adventure

Young people in Scouts...

...spend on average **1.1** more days a week
being physically active
(0.8 days in 2018)

...are **17%** more likely to value the outdoors
(18% in 2018)

... are **10%** more likely to try new things
(9% in 2018)

... are **18%** more likely to have the courage
to take risks and try challenging activities
(16% in 2018)





Skills for Life

Young people in Scouts...

...score **8%** higher on problem solving skills
(8% in 2018)

... are **19%** more independent
(16% in 2018)

... are **8%** more likely to be able to
communicate more effectively
(9% in 2018)

Do more. Share more. Be more.

Wellbeing

Young people in Scouts...

...score **6%** higher on happiness
(6% in 2018)

...did not report any differences in personal
wellbeing and some negative differences
(similar in 2018)

... are **6%** more likely to have increased
perseverance and grit
(5% in 2018)

... did not report any differences in confidence
and self-esteem
(3% in 2018)



Leadership

Young people in Scouts...

...score **6%** higher on teamwork skills
(6% in 2018)

... are **7%** more responsible and trustworthy
(8% in 2018)

... are **12%** more likely to show leadership by
taking initiative and acting as a role model to
help others make a positive difference
(13% in 2018)

Do more. Share more. Be more.

Citizenship

Young people in Scouts...

...are **6%** more likely to play an active role in their community
(6% in 2018)

...state that they are **6%** more likely to vote
(5% in 2018)

... volunteer more! By **5** hours a month on average
(6 hours in 2018)

... are **10%** more likely to report having friends in other countries
(9% in 2018)

... are **4%** more likely to feel a sense of responsibility to people in their local & international community (there was a mixed picture in 2018)



Connectedness

Young people in Scouts...

...score **3%** higher on having more meaningful friendships
(5% in 2018)

... are **7%** more caring
(6% in 2018)

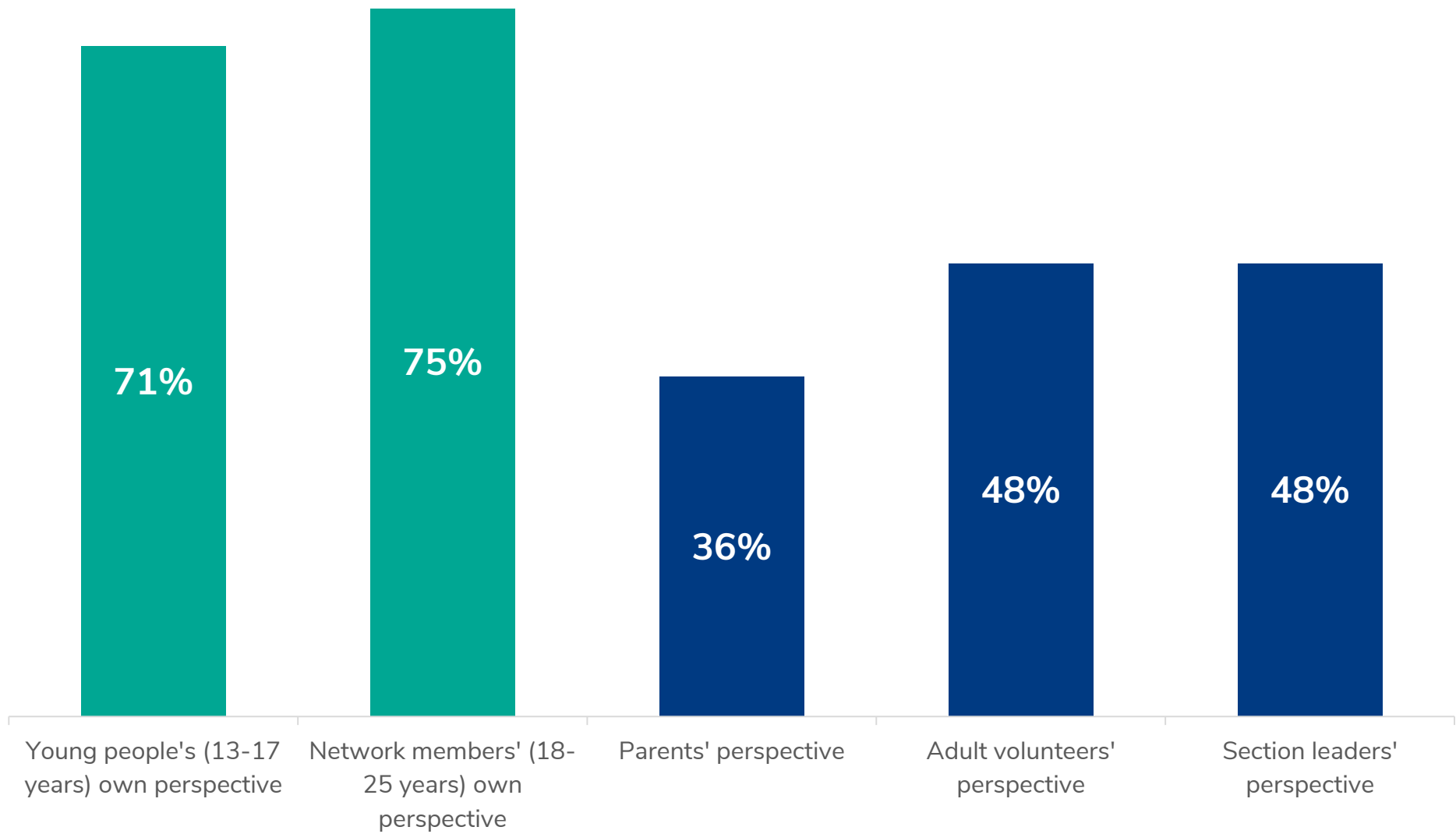
... score **10%** higher in getting along well with people of different races, cultures, and religions
(8% in 2018)

... didn't report feeling warmer towards or felt less warm towards people who are gay or lesbian, of different religious backgrounds, elderly or disabled people (mainly positive differences in 2018)



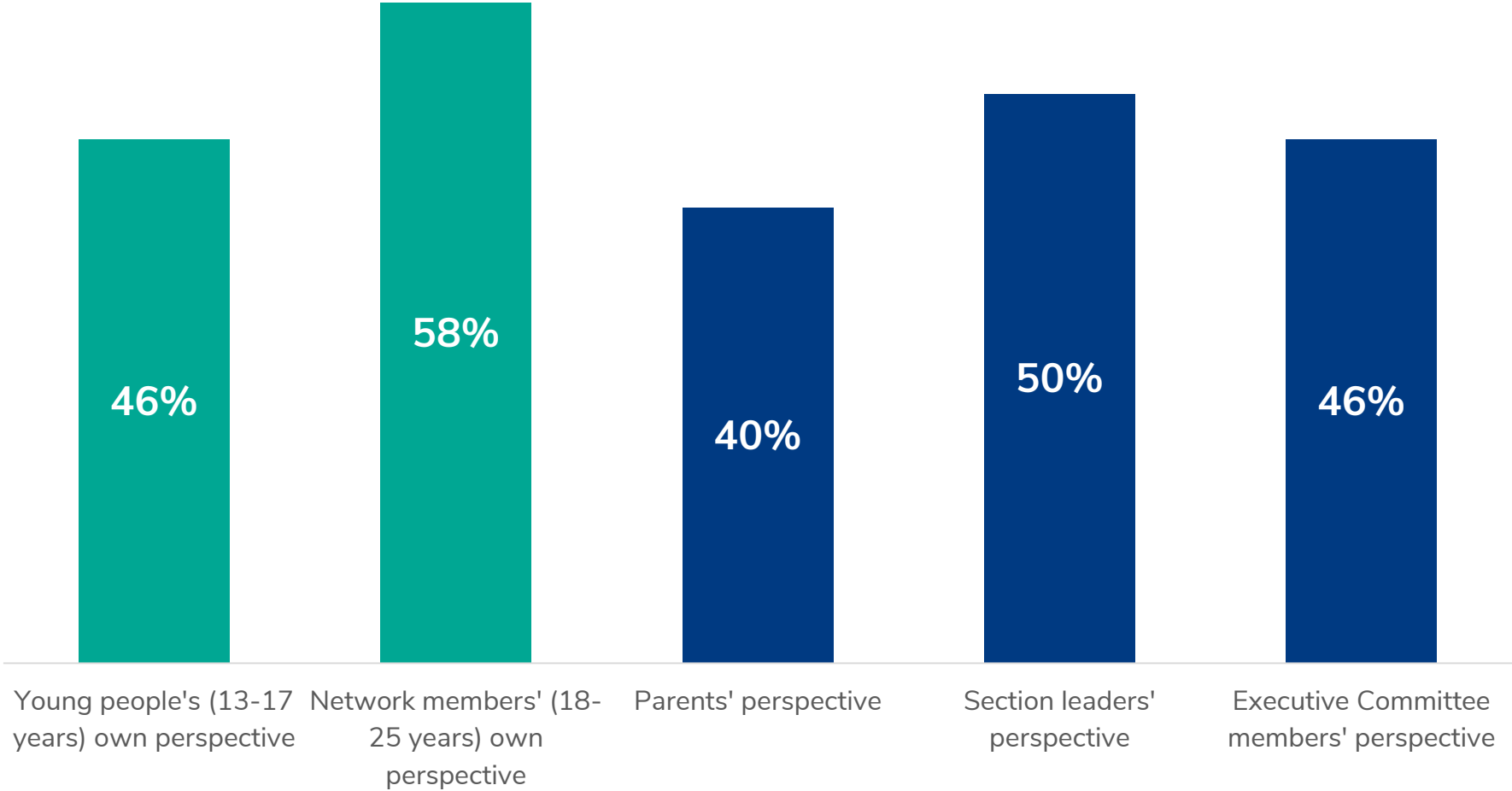
Youth shaped

Youth shaped: % of people who agree that young people use their skills to help run Scouts activities for other young people



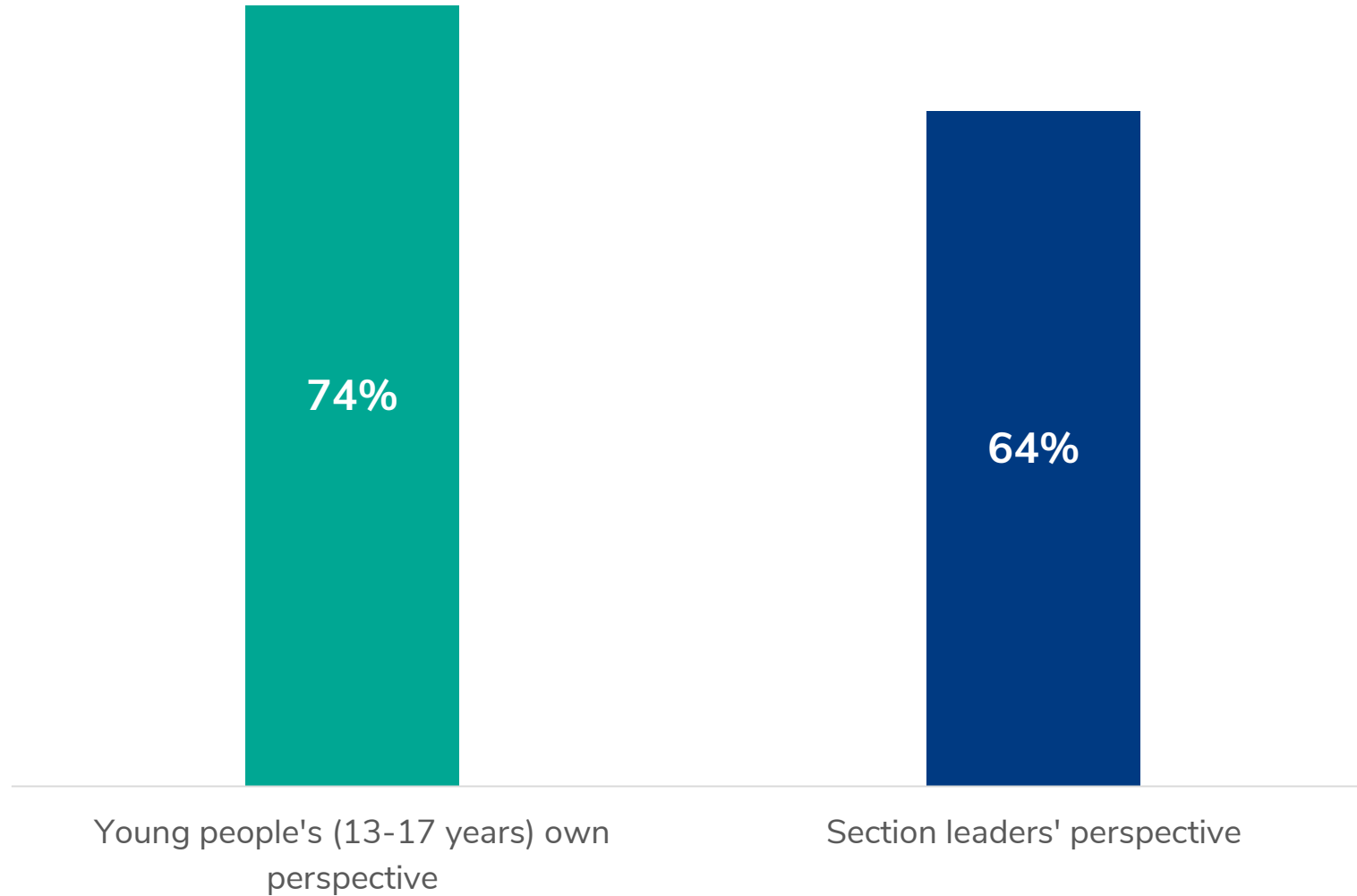
Source: Scout Experience Survey 2019. Sample sizes 1,653 young people, 52 Network members, 1,332 parents, 5,544 adult volunteers, 5,544 section leaders

Youth shaped: % of people who agree that young people's opinions influence decisions in Scouts locally



Source: Scout Experience Survey 2019. Sample sizes 1,652 young people, 52 Network members, 1,332 parents, 5,541 section leaders 922 executive committee members

Youth shaped: Extent to which young people come together with other young people once a term or more often to decide what activities they want to take part in



Young people’s enjoyment of Scouts overall (Net Promoter Score)

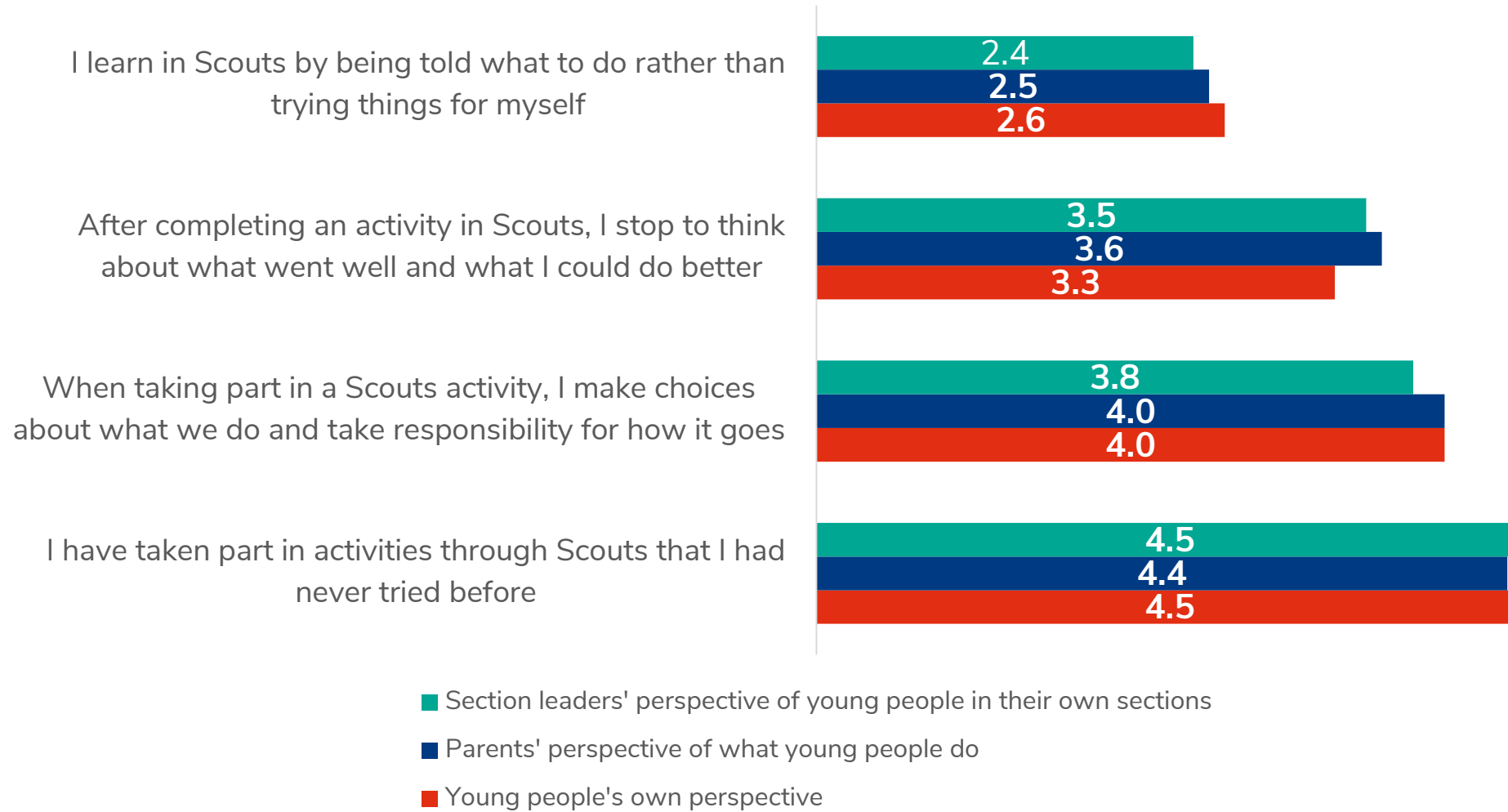


NB: Wales and N Ireland not included as numbers too small to be reliable

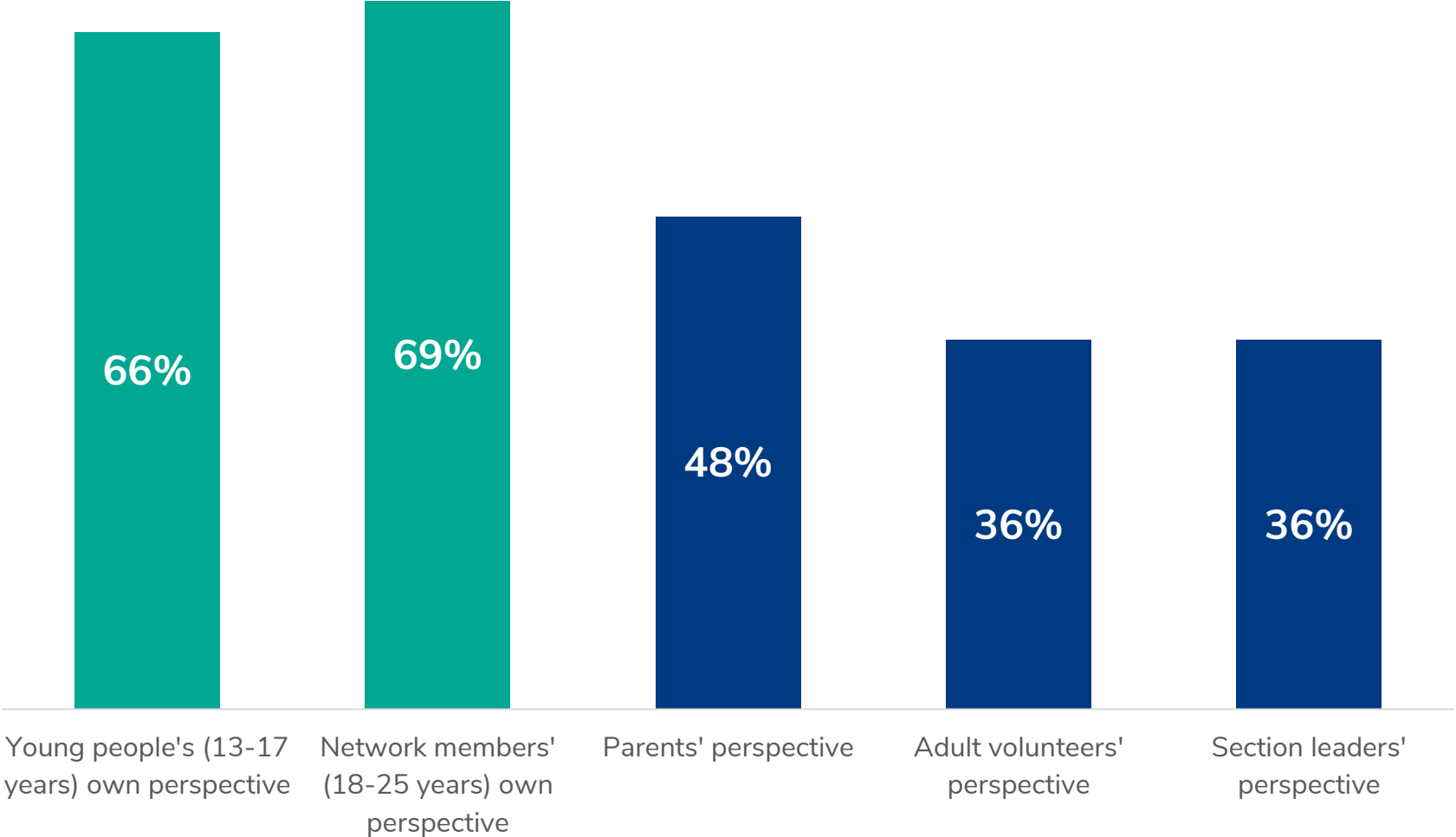
Young people's experience in Scouts

- **93%** of young people (aged 13-17 years) have taken part in Scouts on a weekly basis in the past 12 months
- They report having taken part in activities away from their regular meeting place an average of **10** times per year
- ... and having spent nights away from home on **5** separate occasions per year (on average)
- **15%** say they spend more than half their time in Scouts outside and **41%** spend about half their time outside
- **93%** of young people believe that they got the chance to develop skills that will be useful to them in the future

The extent to which young people learn by doing, reflect on activities, make choices and take responsibility and take part in new activities

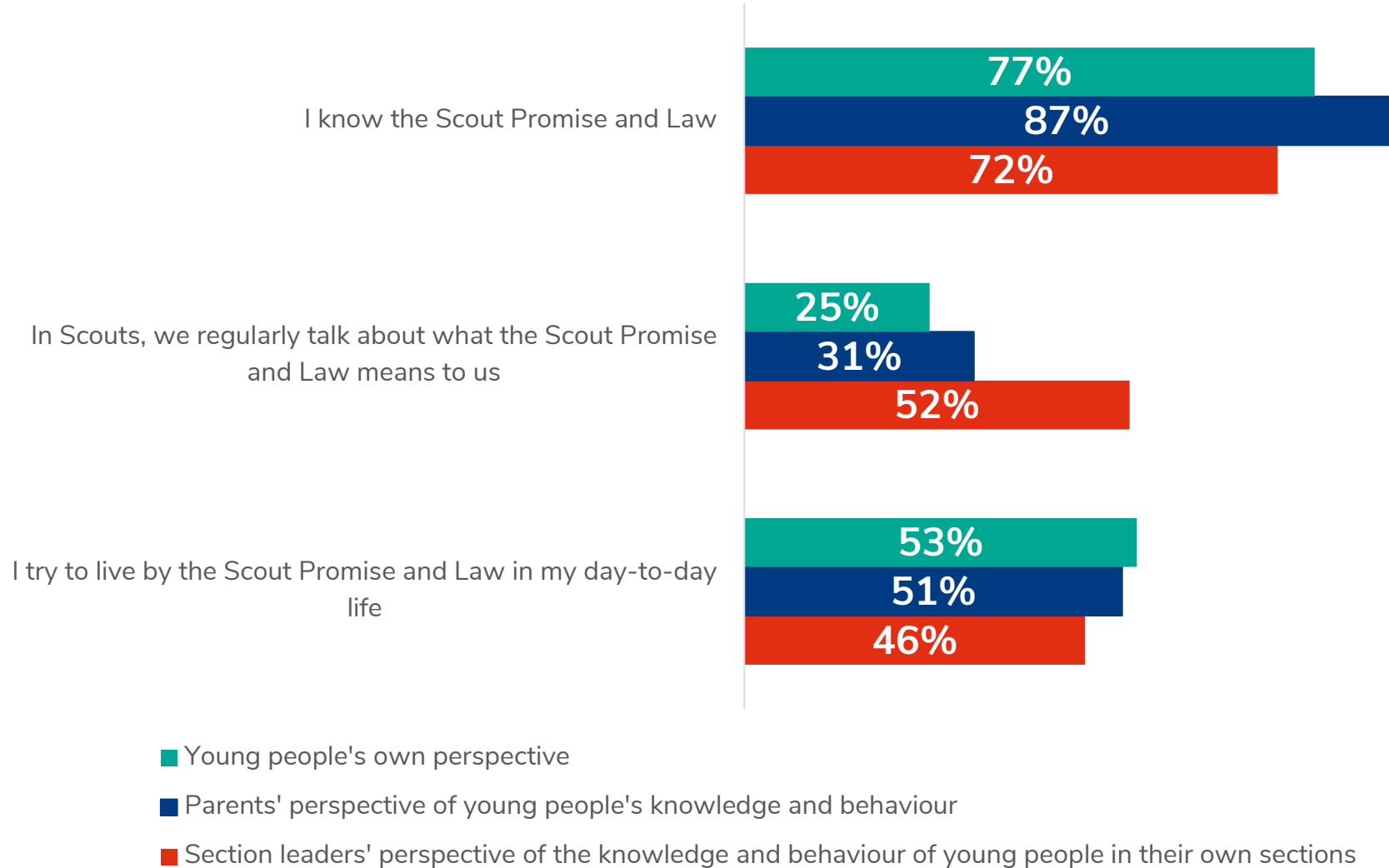


Community impact: % of young people in Scouts who take part in volunteering at least once a term to help other people or the environment



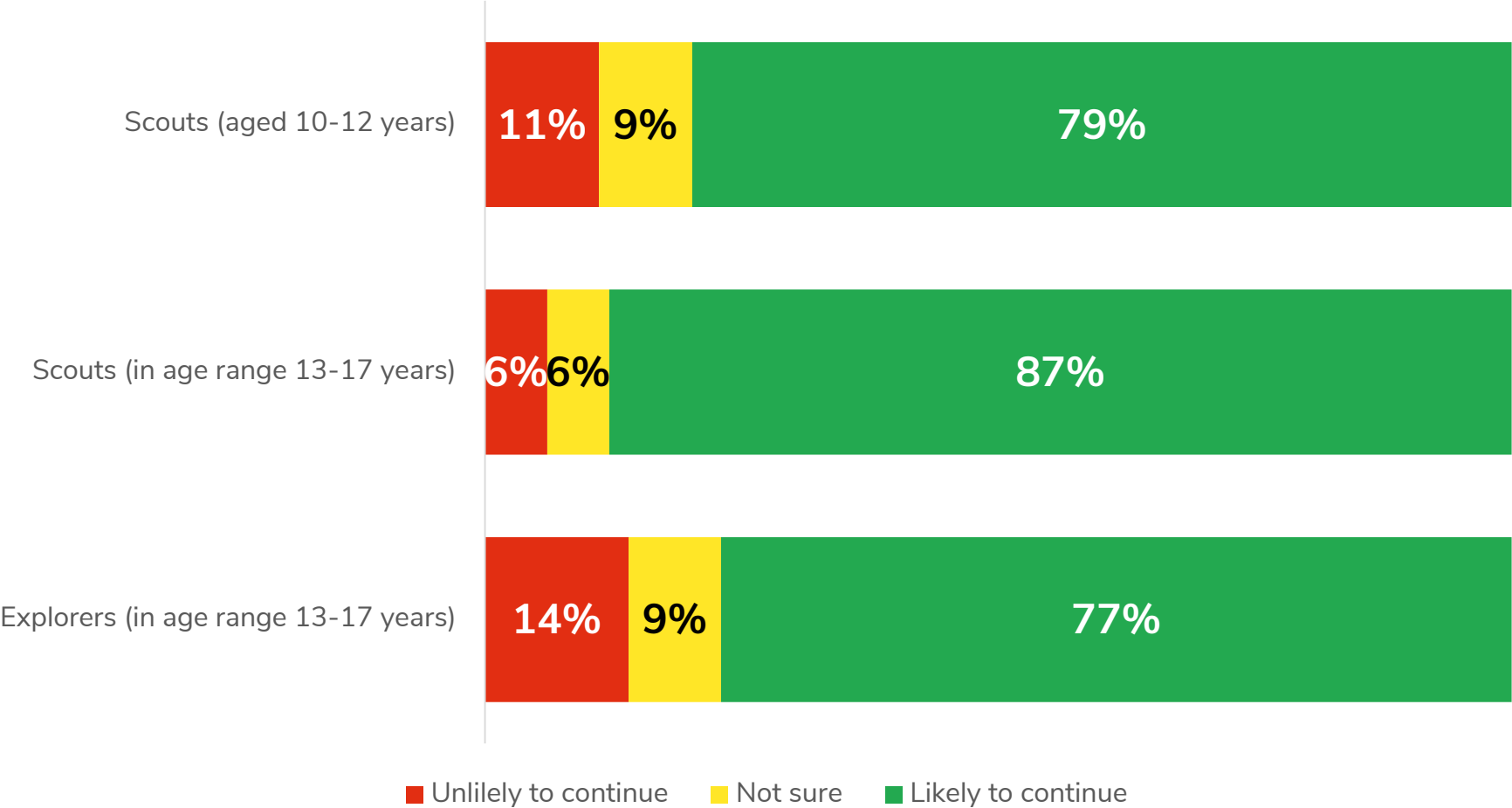
Source: Scout Experience Survey 2019. Sample sizes 1,652 young people, 52 Network members, 1,148 parents, 5,555 adult volunteers, 5,554 section leaders

Knowing and living by the Scout Promise and Law



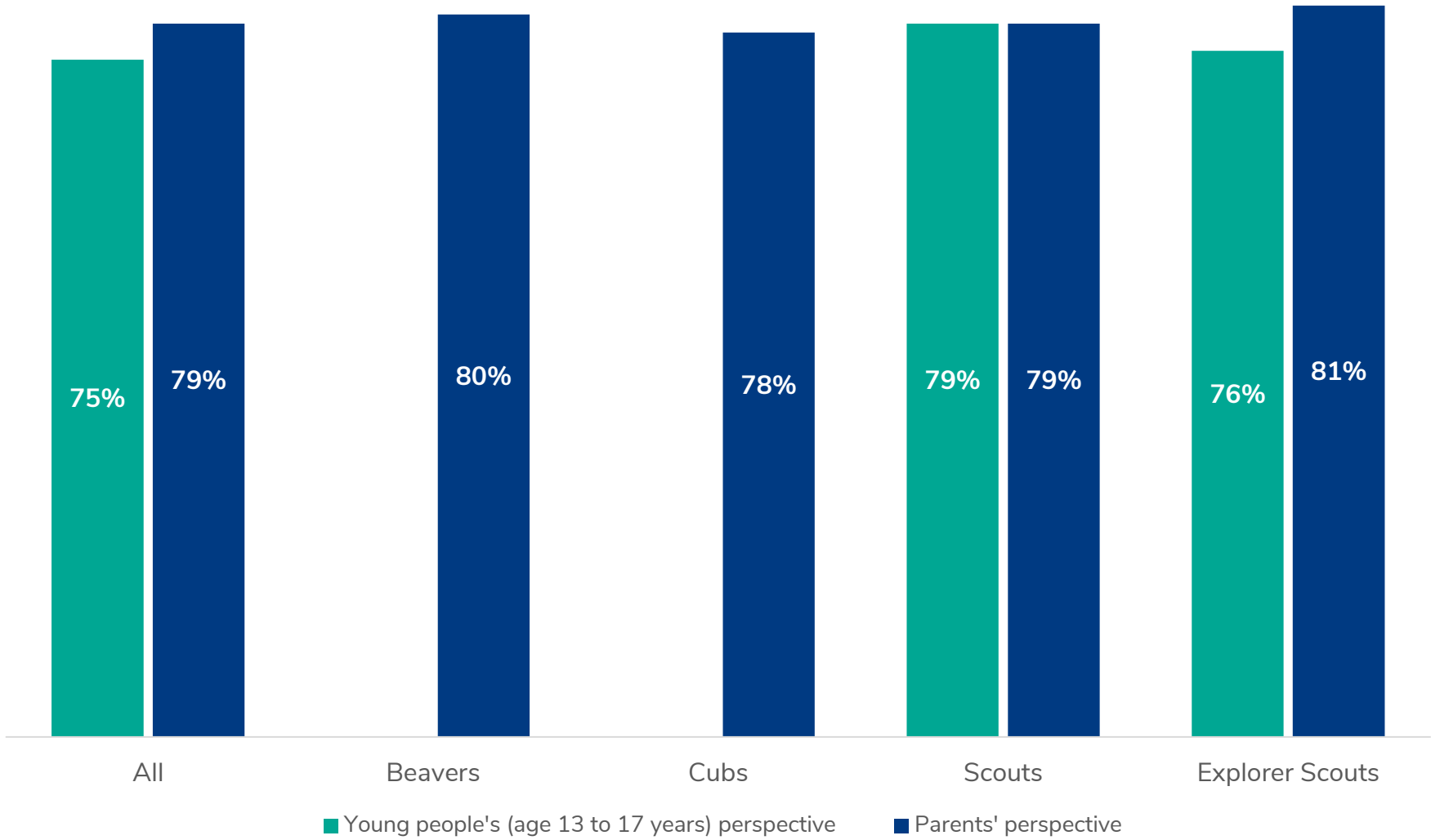
Satisfaction

How likely young people say they are to continue to the next section in Scouts (or become an adult volunteer)



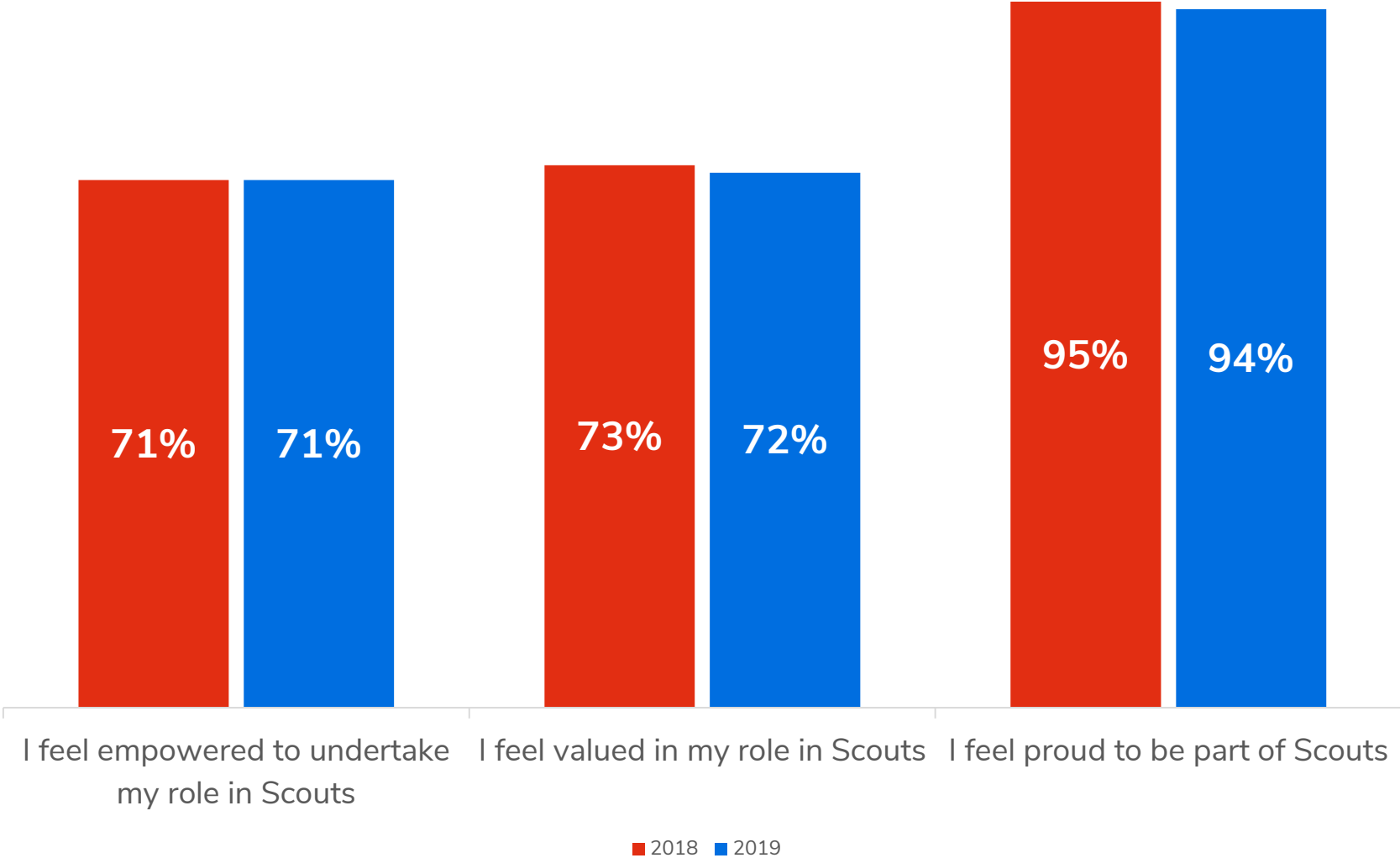
Source: Scout Experience Survey 2019. Sample sizes 341 Scouts (aged 10-12 years) 157 Scouts (in age range 13-17 years), 1,282 Explorers (in age range 13-17 years)

% of people who feel that section leaders are delivering amazing experiences



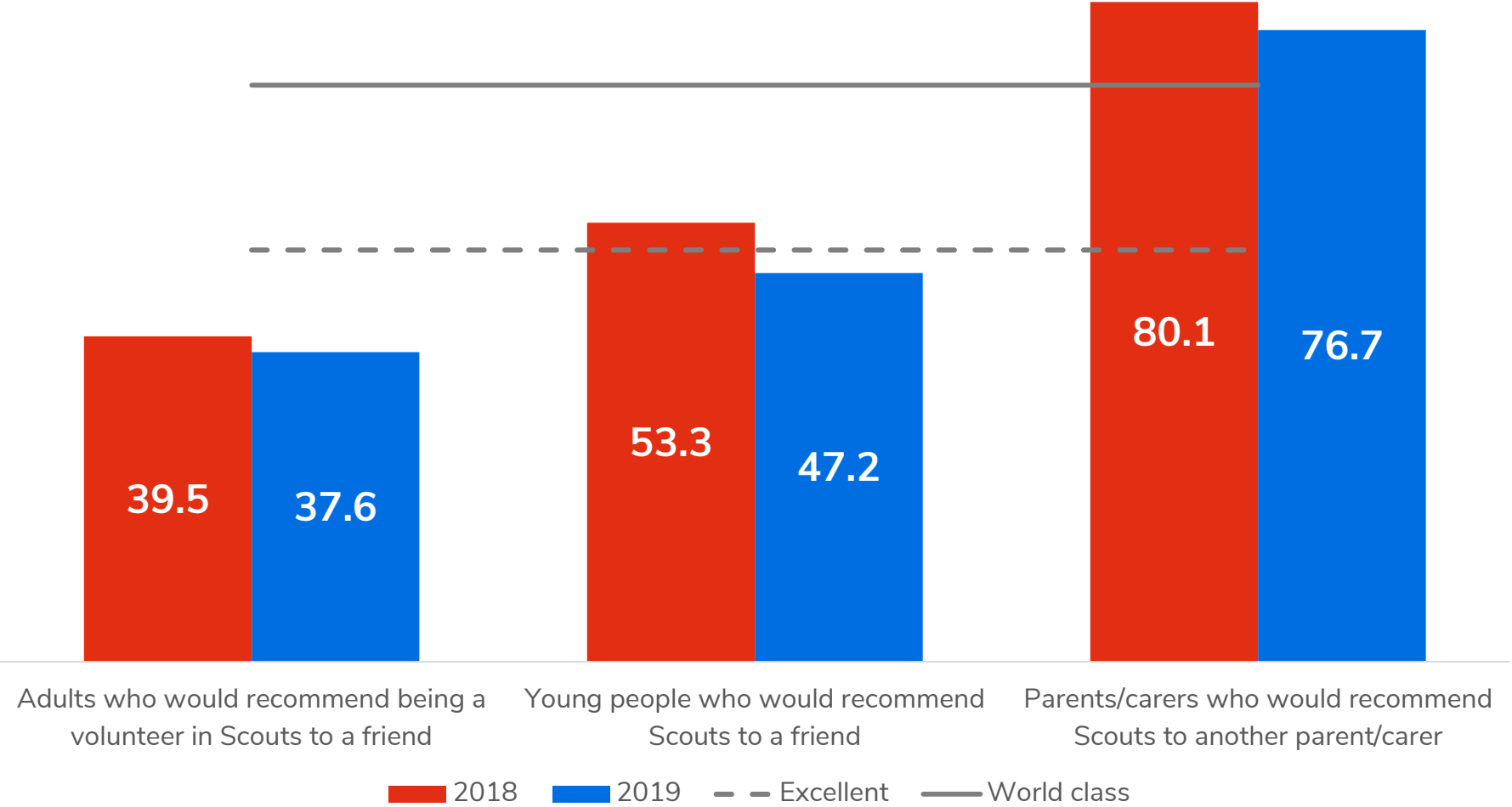
Source: Scout Experience Survey 2019. Sample sizes 1,486 all young people, 131 Scouts, 1,283 Explorer Scouts, 1,327 all parents, 217 parents of Beavers, 276 parents of Cubs, 545 parents of Scouts, 289 parents of Explorers

What our adult volunteers feel



Source: Scout Experience Surveys 2018 and 2019. Sample size in 2018 = 9,461 and in 2019 = 9,192

Is Scouts recommended? (Net Promoter Scores)



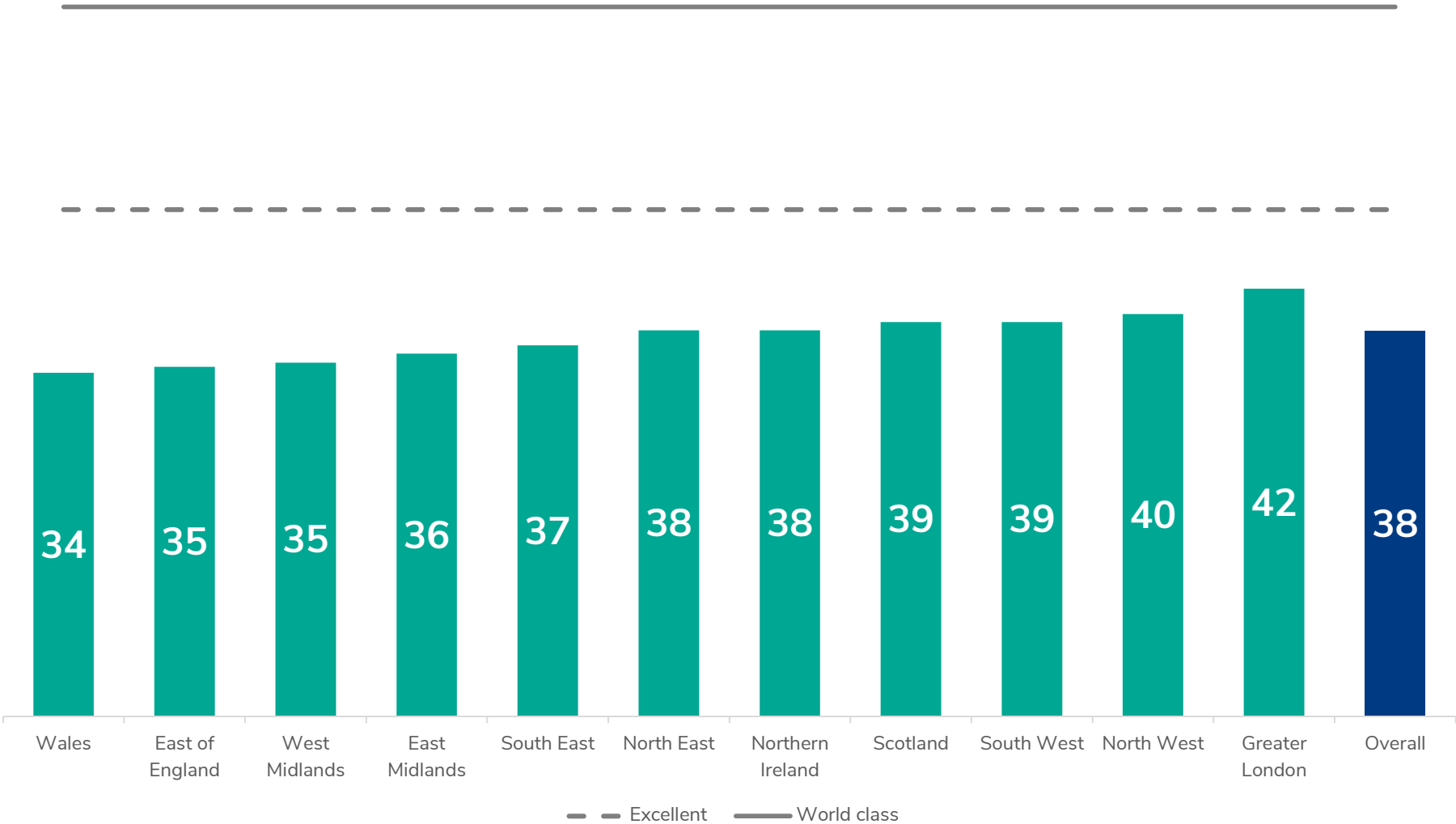
RQ#20

RQ#18

RQ#19

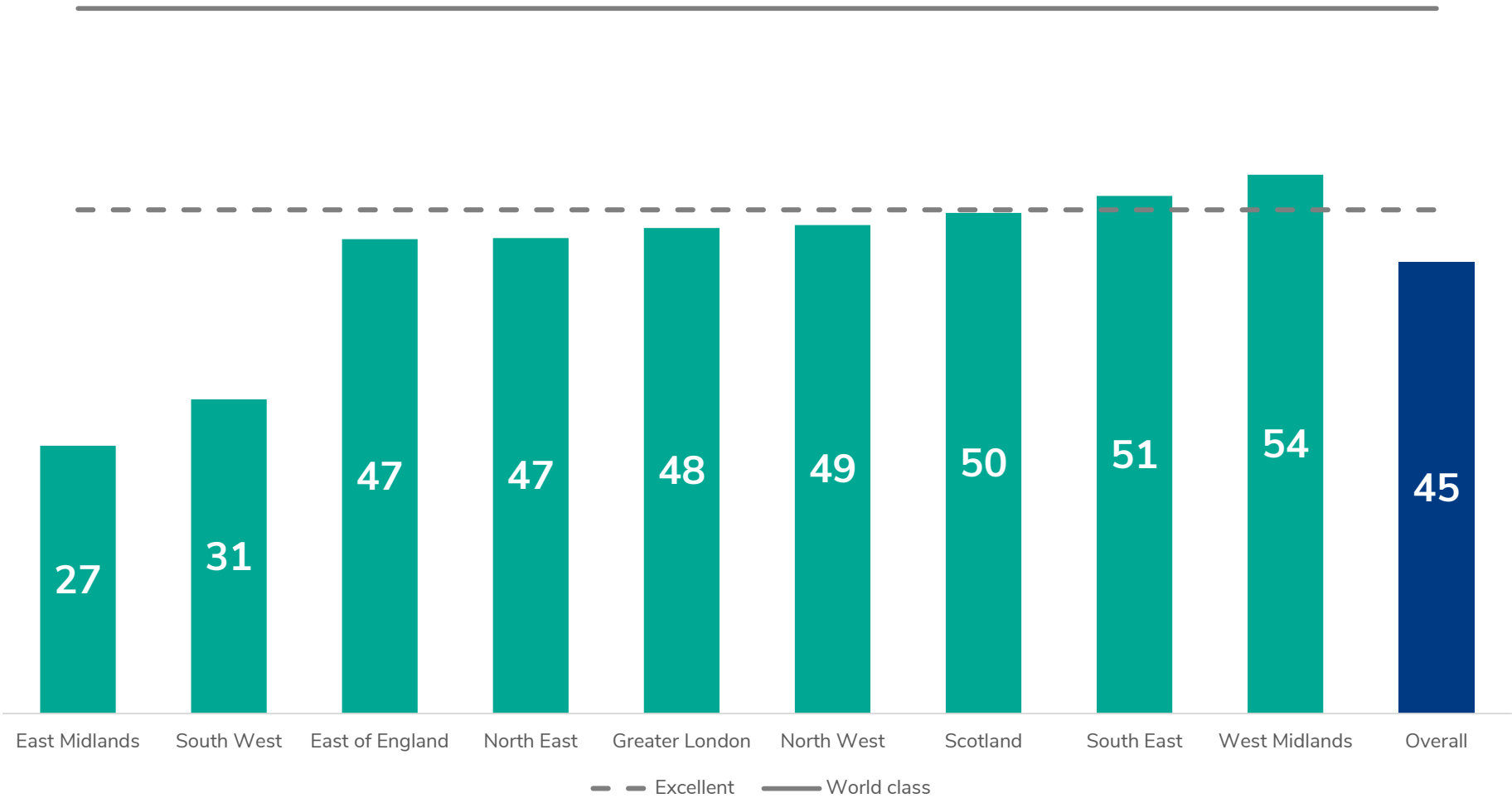
Source: Scout Experience Surveys 2018 and 2019. Sample sizes in 2018 = 9,601 adult volunteers, 2,268 young people, 2,048 parents and in 2019 = 9,375 adult volunteers, 1,485 young people, 1,327 parents

How likely are adult volunteers to recommend being a volunteer in Scouts to a friend? (Net Promoter Score by region / country)



Source: Scout Experience Survey 2019. Sample size = 9,375

How likely are young people to recommend Scouts to a friend? (Net Promoter Score by region / country)



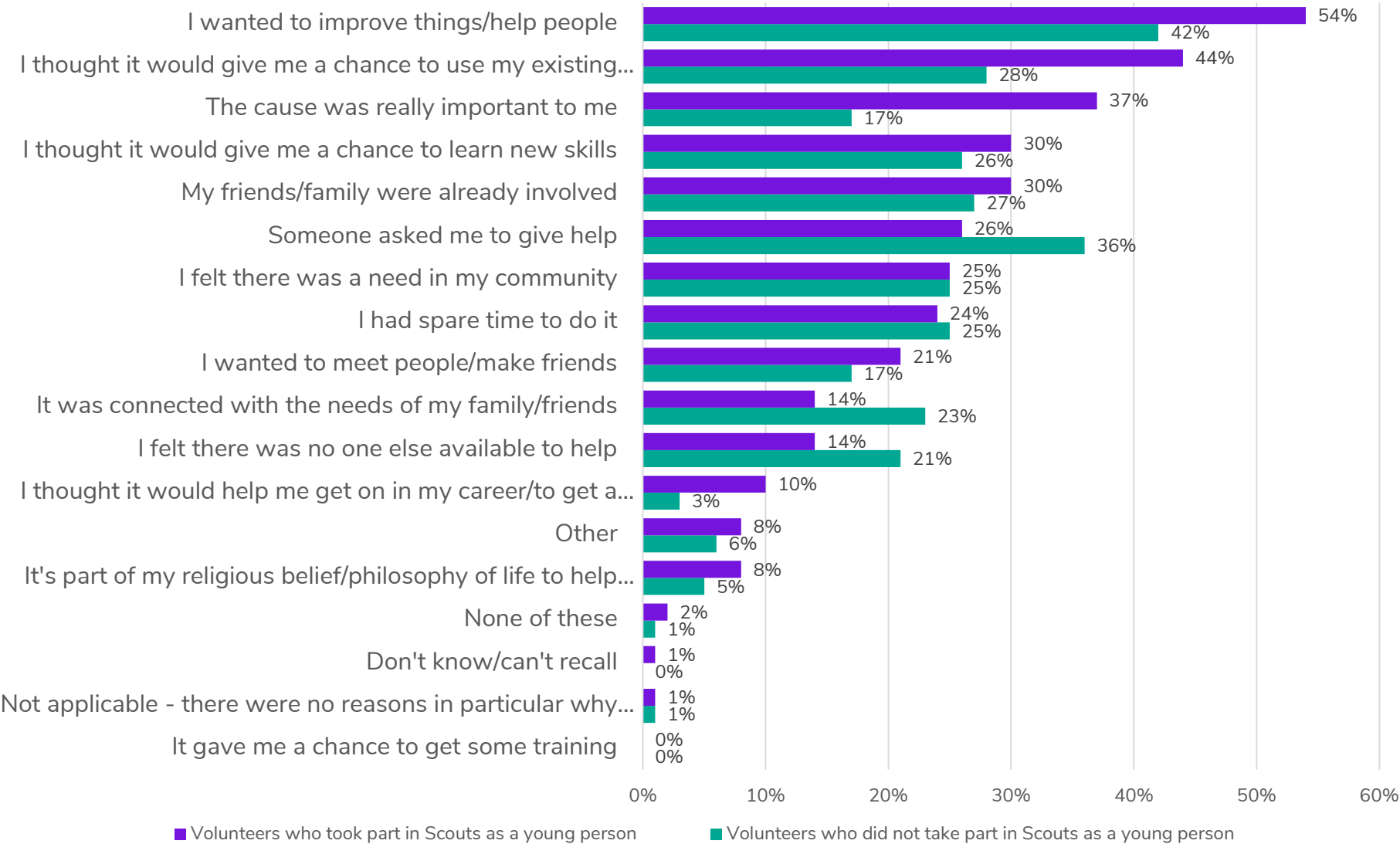
NB: Wales and N Ireland not included as numbers too small to be reliable

Experience of adult volunteers

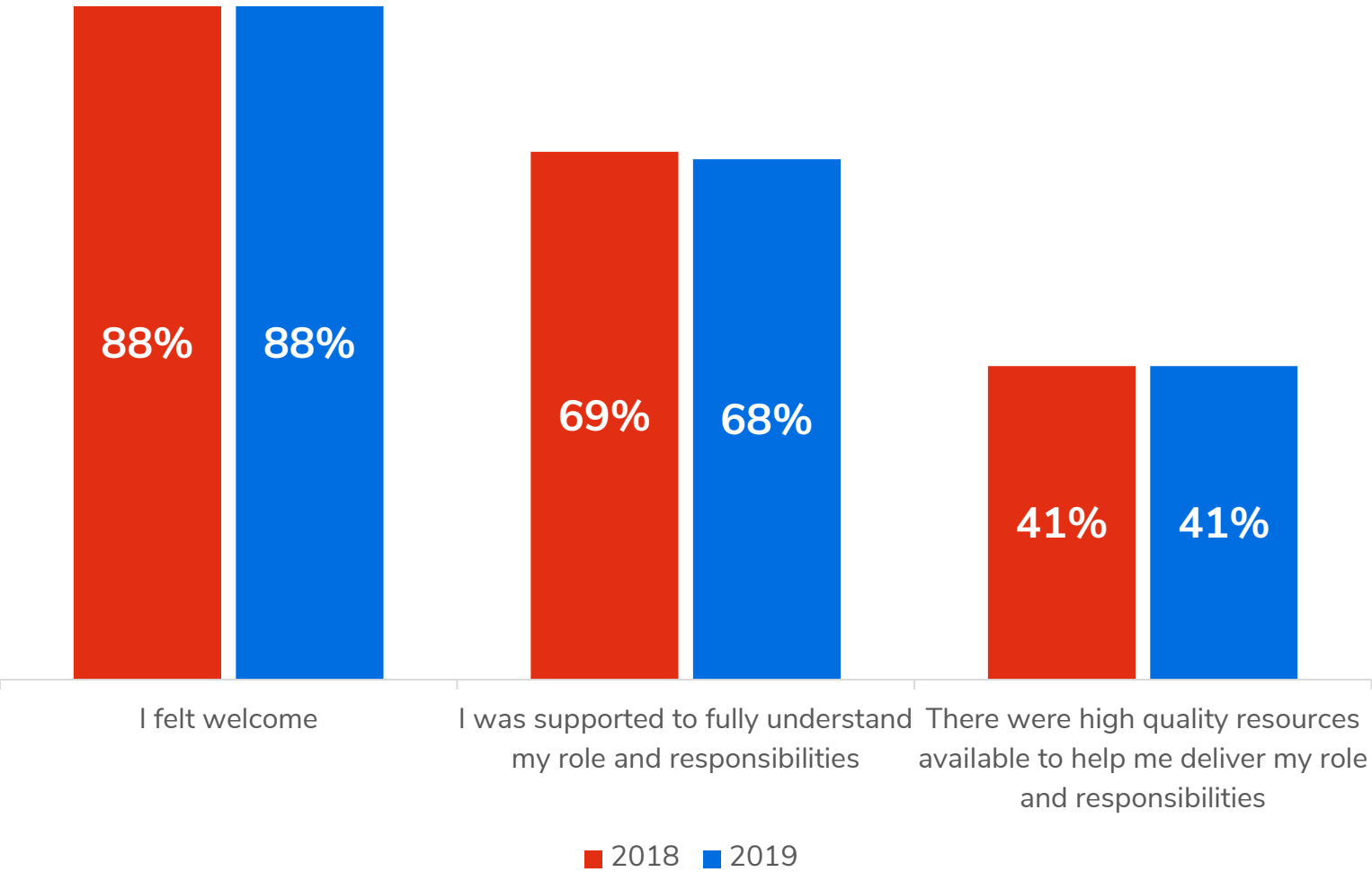
- Our adult volunteers have been volunteering on average for **9** years
- They volunteer for **16** hours a month (twice as much as the wider volunteering population*)
- **84%** of them volunteer at least once a week (double the amount of the wider volunteering population)
- **59%** took part in Scouts as a young person
- ... and of those who could have done, **56%** completed the Young Leaders' scheme while taking part in Scouts as a young person

* [NCVO 'Time Well Spent' 2019](#)

Motivations for starting to volunteer with Scouts

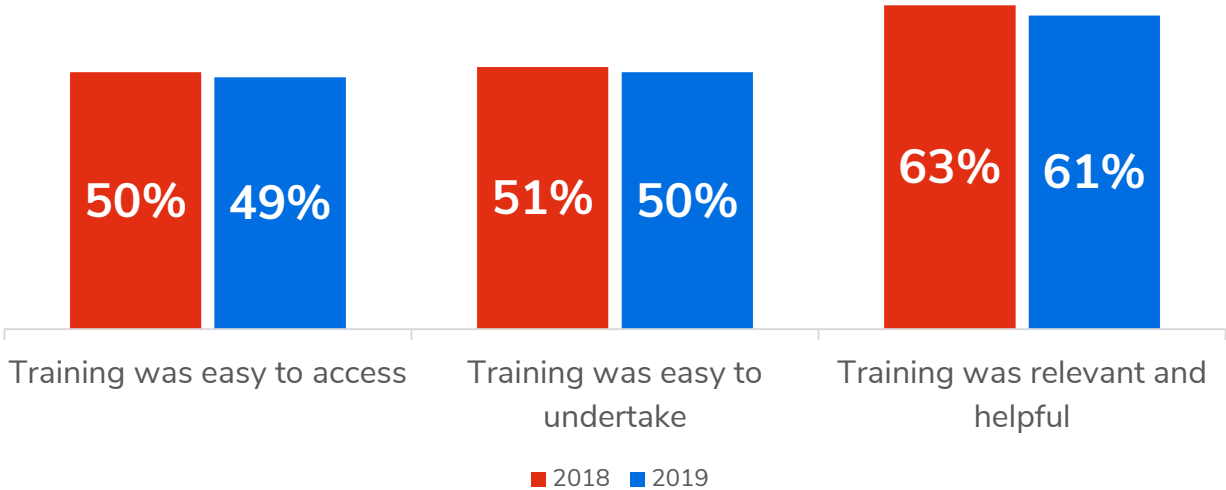


Experience of adult volunteers when they first started volunteering



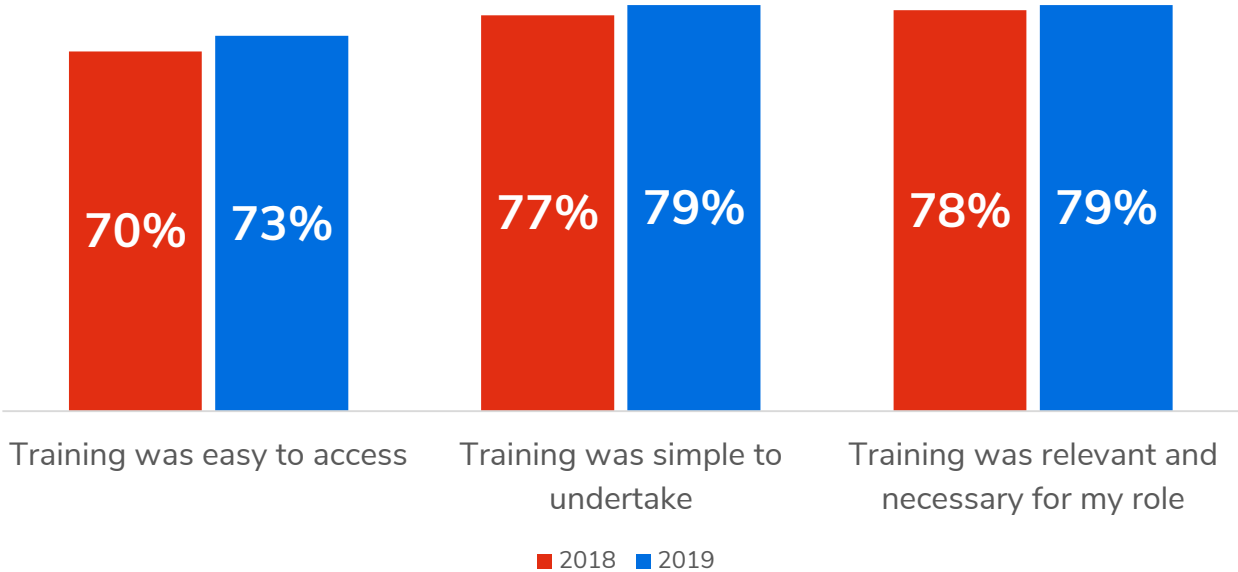
Source: Scout Experience Surveys 2018 and 2019. Sample size in 2018 = 9,682 and in 2019 = 9,398

Adult volunteers' perception of training undertaken **when they first became a volunteer**



RQ#12.1

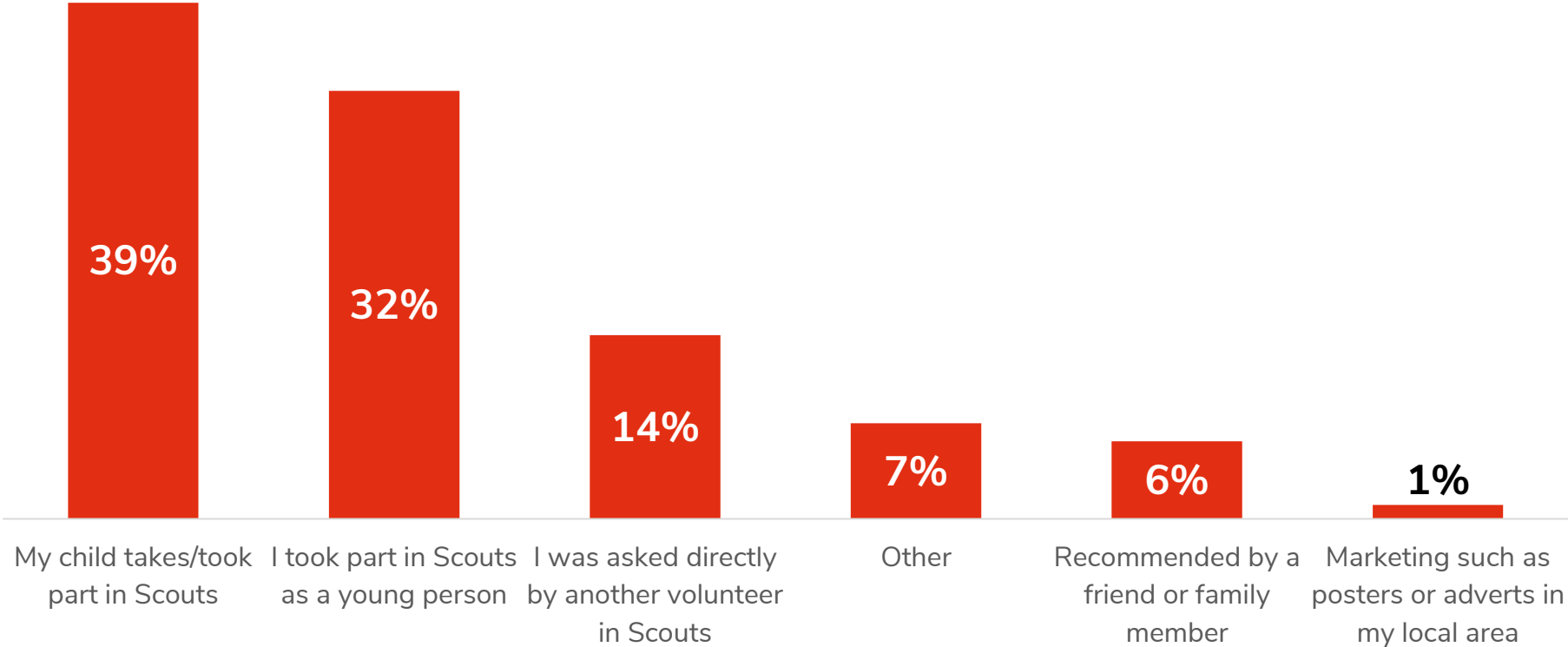
Adult volunteers' perception of training undertaken **in the last 12 months**



RQ#12.2

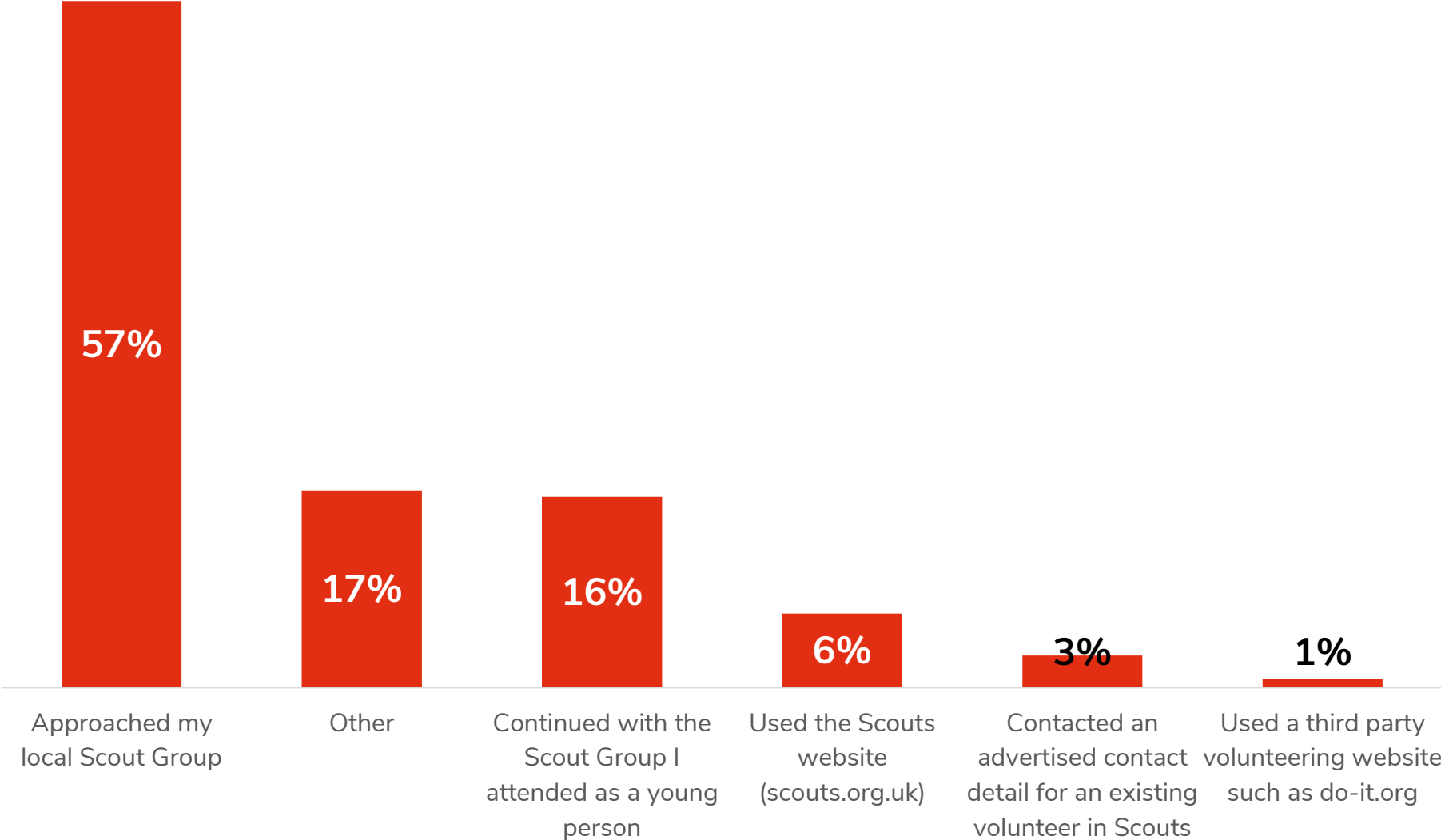
Source: Scout Experience Surveys 2018 and 2019. Sample size in 2018 = xxxx (6,496 who had undertaken training in the previous 12 months) and in 2019 = 9,385 (6,997 who had undertaken training in the previous 12 months)

How adult volunteers found the opportunity to join Scouts



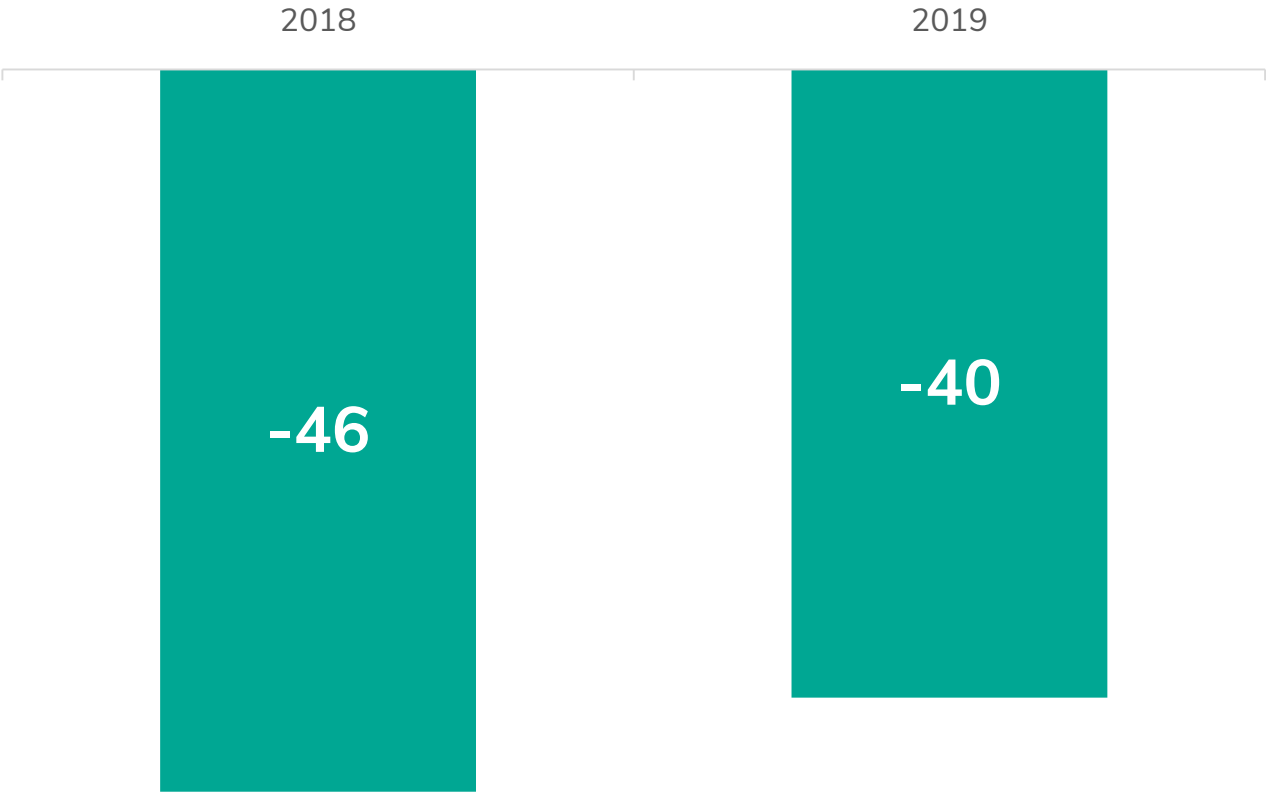
Source: Scout Experience Survey 2019. Sample size = 10,675

How adult volunteers got in touch to volunteer



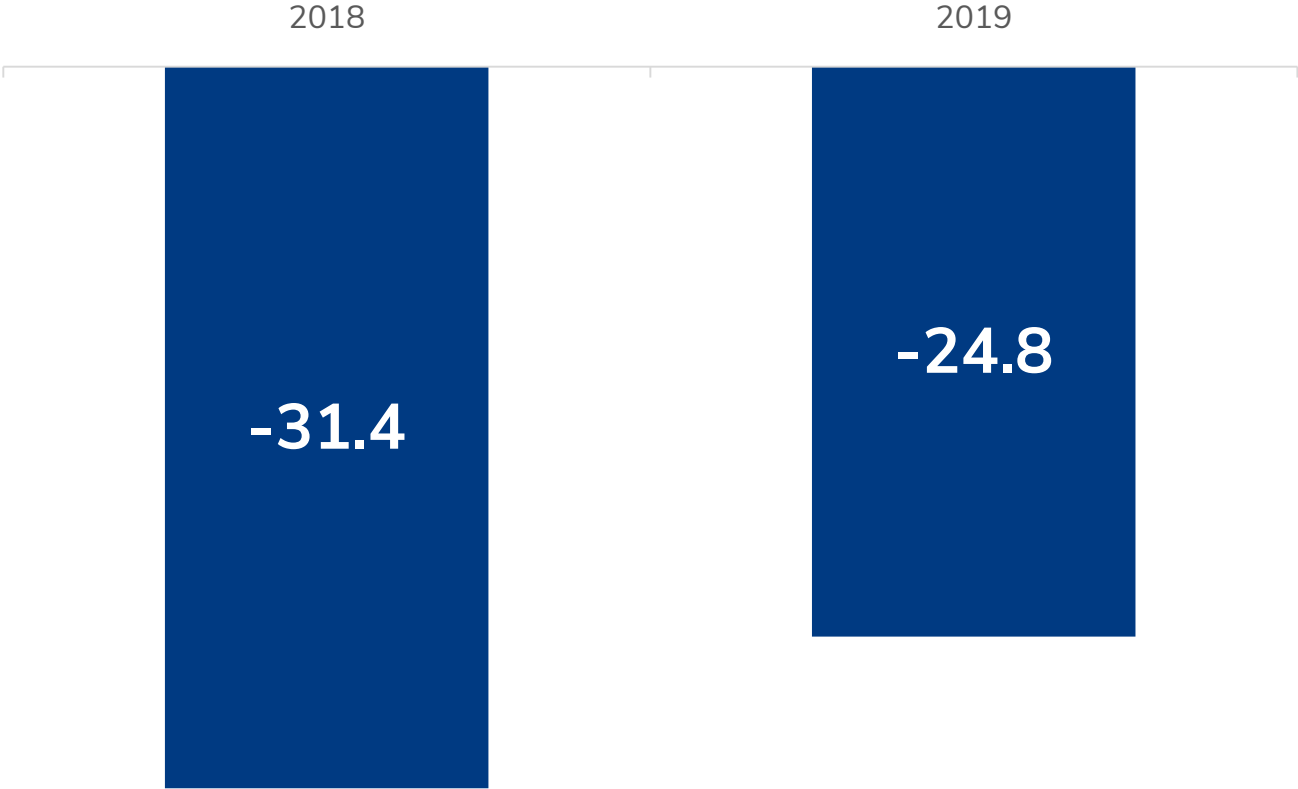
Source: Scout Experience Survey 2019. Sample size = 2,011

Net Promoter Score: Section leaders who would recommend resources provided by HQ to another volunteer



Source: Scout Experience Surveys 2018 and 2019. Sample size in 2018 = 5,182 and in 2019 = 4,957

Net Promoter Score: Adult volunteers who would recommend Scouts' digital services to another volunteer



Source: Scout Experience Surveys 2018 and 2019. Sample size in 2018 = 9,394 and in 2019 = 9,194

Practical skills leaders would have liked to have training or support with when they first started



Scouting activities: programme planning – pioneering, navigation and bushcraft skills – camping – knots – adventurous activities – basic scouting skills – outdoor activities – events/trips

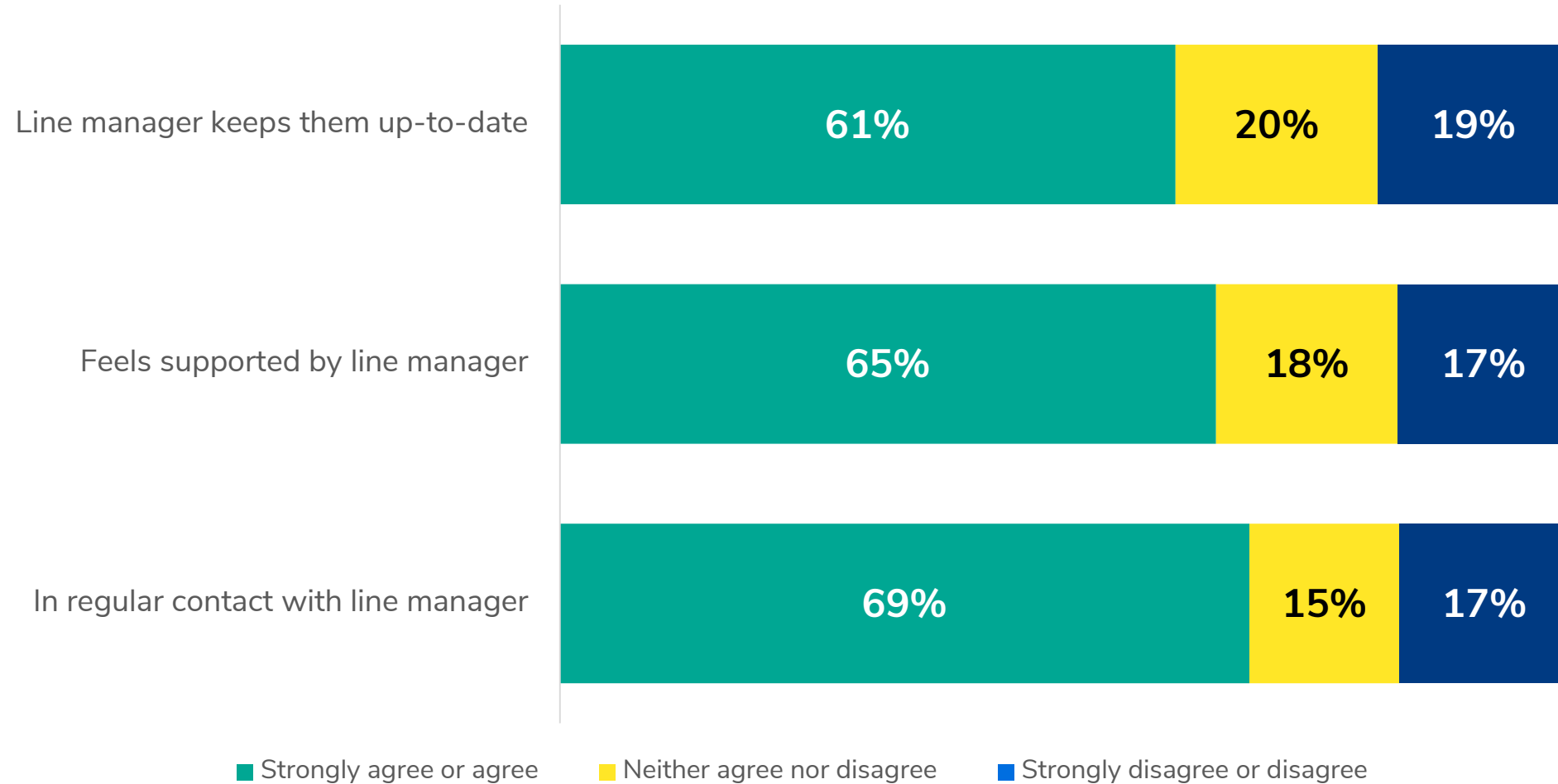
Other skills and knowledge: behaviour/discipline – dealing with children – special needs – safety – dealing with adults – leadership – management – scouting traditions – other skills – character traits – communication skills – IT skills – faith

Bureaucracy: admin – finances – OSM – Compass

People: training – support – recruitment – role expectations

Organisational matters: organisational structure – permits – communication – rules – resources

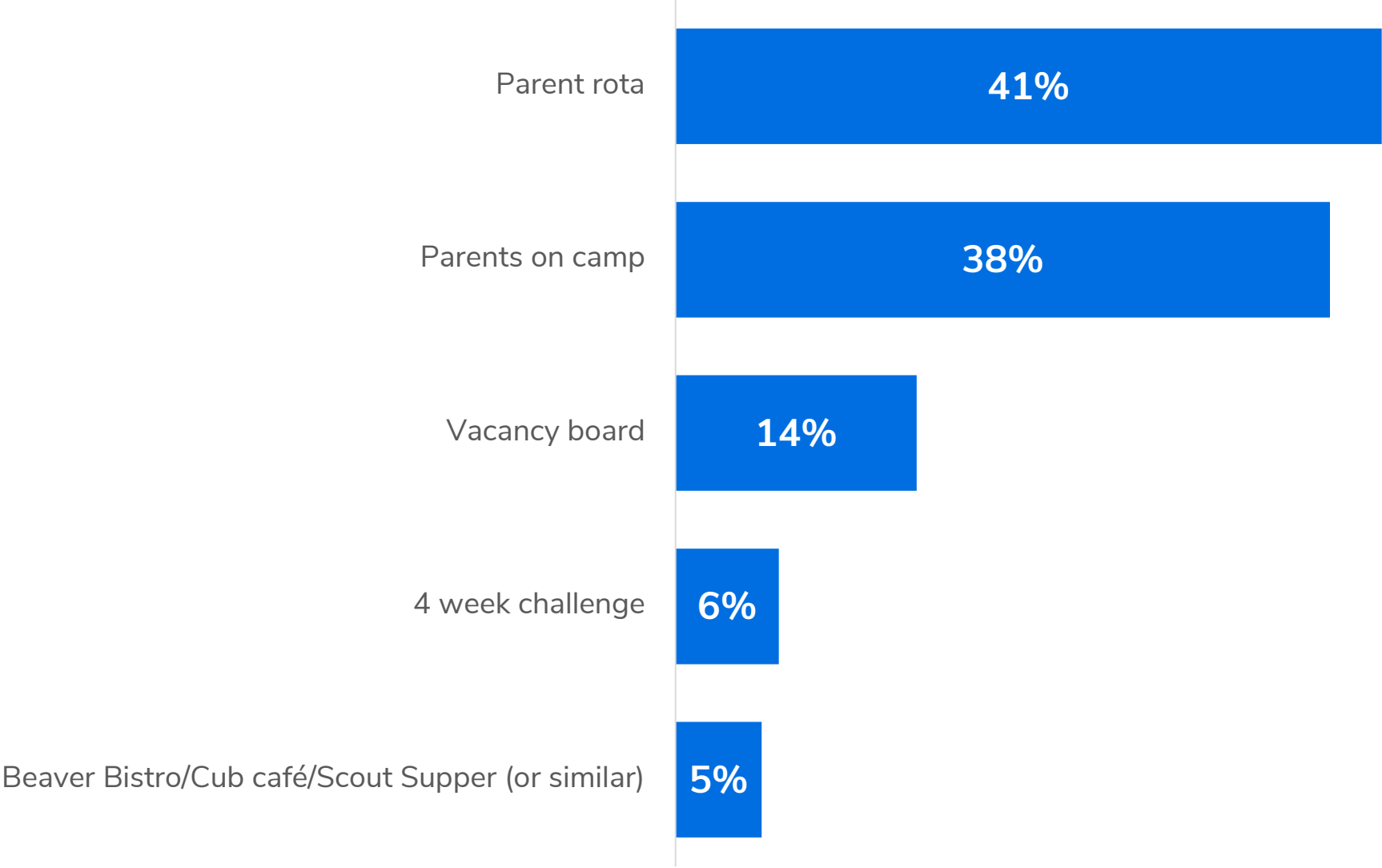
How adult volunteers rate their line manager



Recruiting more volunteers

27% of the parents and carers who took part in the survey told us that they would be likely to volunteer but **just under half** of all the parents and carers said they had never been asked.

Which recruitment resources have groups and sections used?

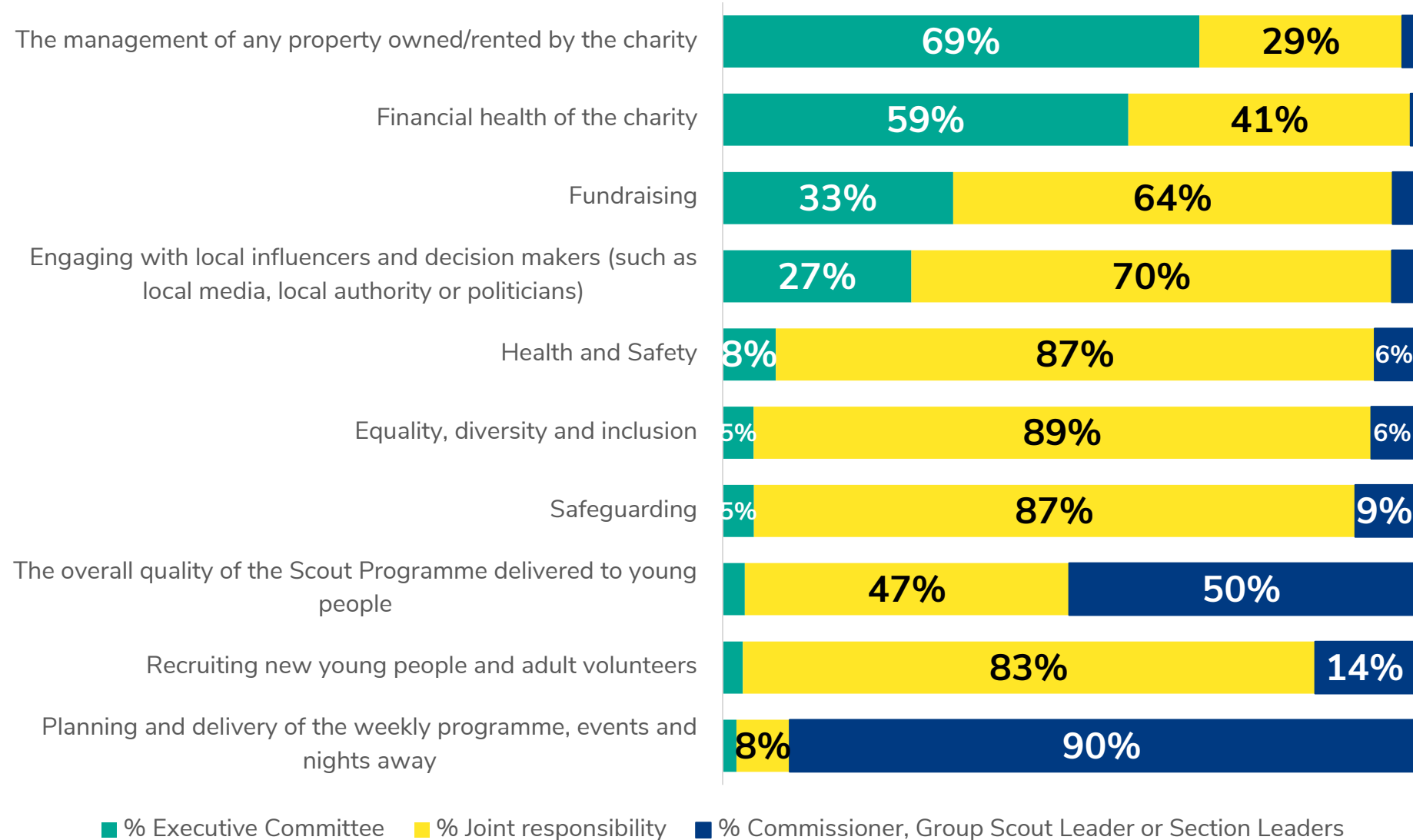


Governance

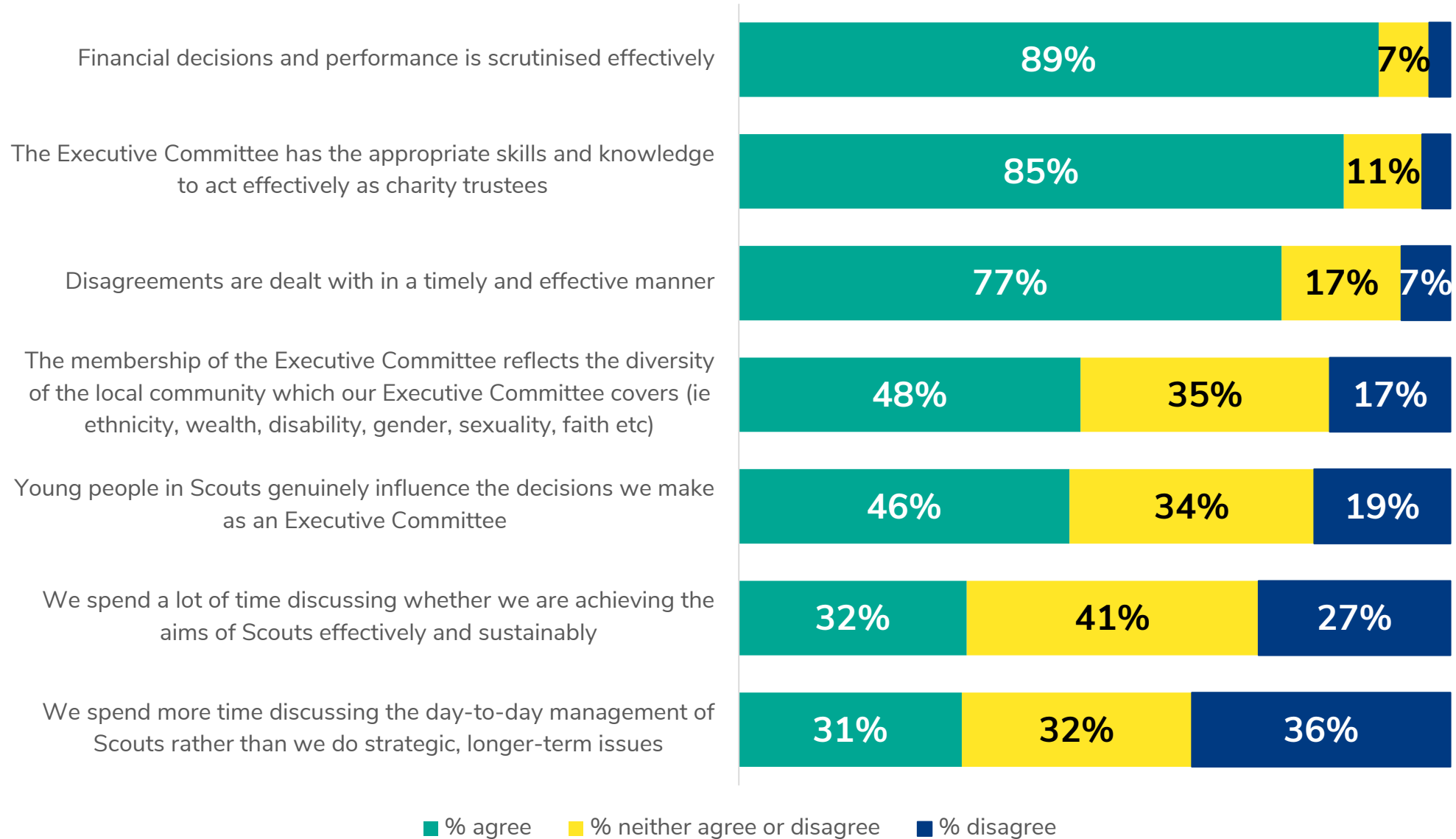
77% of Executive Committees meet at least once a quarter and another **15%** meet at least once a month.

91% of Executive Committee members said they understand their role and legal responsibilities as a trustee of a charity and **87%** are able to constructively challenge opinions that they do not agree with.

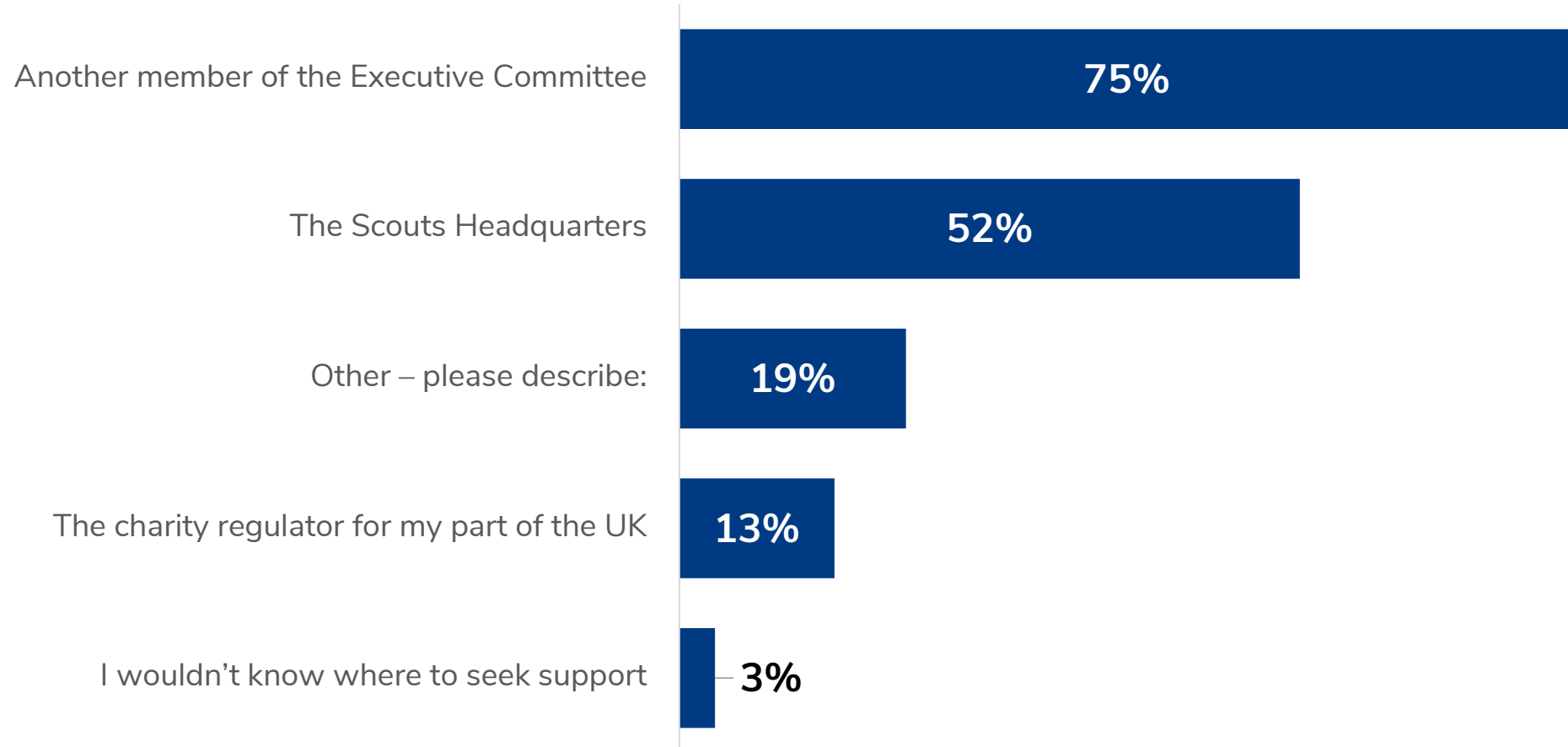
Executive Committee members' perception of where responsibility lies



How Executive Committees are run



Sources of support used by Executive Committee members

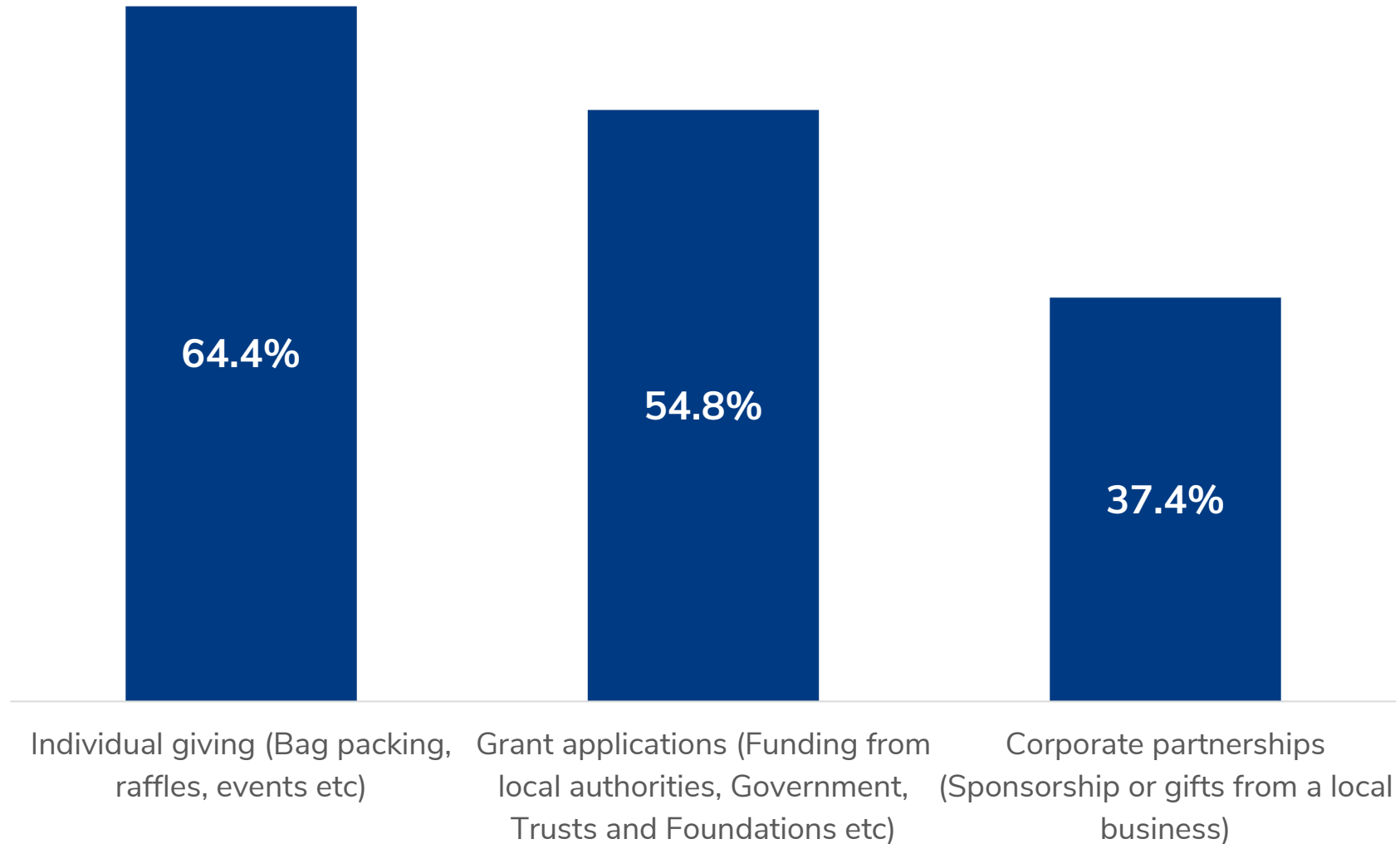


Places Scouts is delivered in were recorded as

- **43%** owned property
- **34%** rented properties
- **23%** using a property owned by someone else free of charge or for minimal payment

33% of places were reported as high quality, **47%** satisfactory and **20%** low quality
(as reported by 201 committee chairs)

Fundraising activities in the past 12 months



Training: specific training requests – training accessibility – training procedure – training validation/support – training/info for specific roles – training quality – online training – focus on training

People: recruitment – support for volunteers – behavior/performance issues – recognition – networking/sharing ideas

Organisational Matters: strategic orientation – structures – communication – admin – complaints and questions – District/County leadership – outside links

Resources: online resources – OSM – information – financial/material support – other resources – fundraising

Scout Groups: programme ideas – suggestions for changes – support for groups – uniform – badge work

And finally...



Look out for the next **Scout Experience Survey**
in March 2020 and get involved!

More responses = better analysis = better support.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Any questions?

Please contact claire.morris@scouts.org.uk