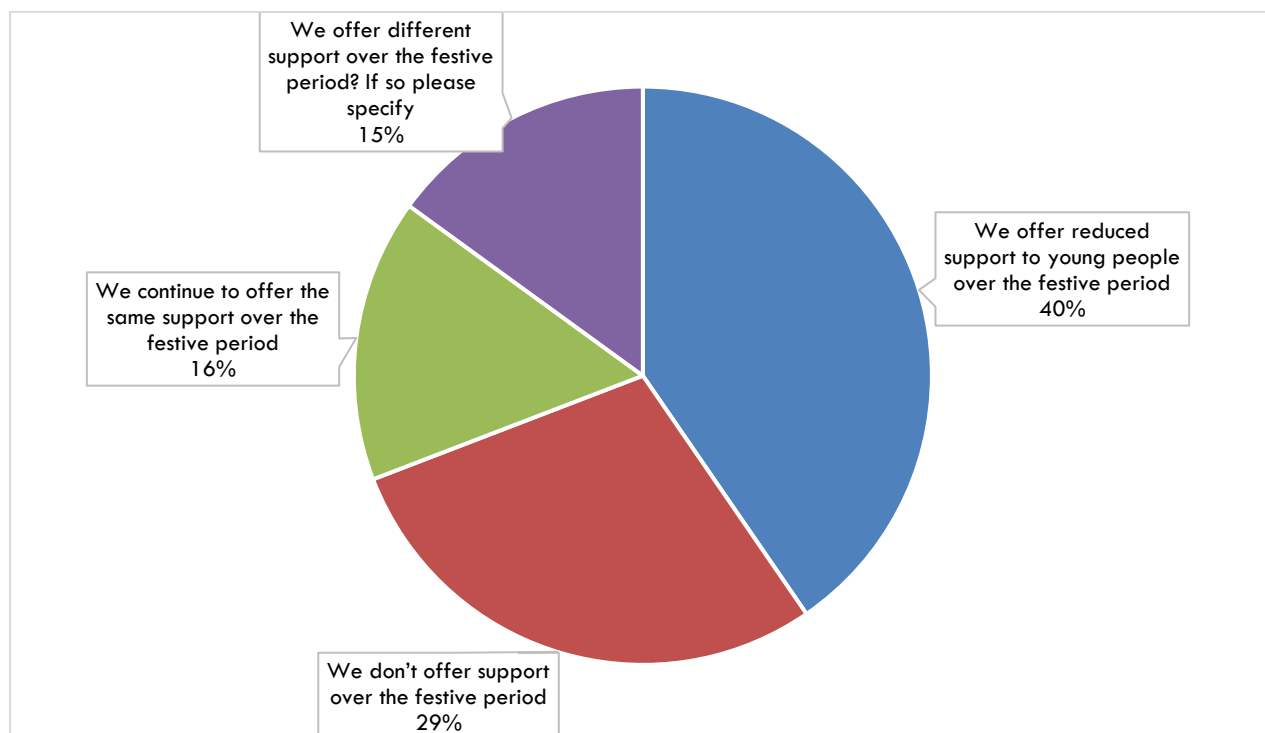


Just One Question – December 2023 Insights

Question Analysis - How does your organisation support young people over the festive period?

Overall breakdown:



- There is a wide range of responses here. Firstly, this reflects diversity of approach, needs and capacity in the youth sector. And secondly, it challenges the assumptions that most youth organisations would be completely closed over the holiday period, with 71% of respondents offering some kind of provision over the festive period (combining 'reduced', 'different', and 'same').
- However, only 16% of respondents offer the same support. This is a small proportion at a time when young people are without the usual support/structure offered by school. This is particularly concerning given record high rates of young people who are homeless living in temporary accommodation (Shelter, [2023](#)) and the wider pressures being placed on families on the context of the cost of living crisis (see Children's Society, [2023](#)).
- Combining 'different' and 'reduced' allows us to say that 55% (over half) of respondents adapt their service over the festive period. The core messaging here can be around celebrating and appreciating this commitment to supporting young people. Typically, the 'different' support was akin to a reduction when compared to usual levels of support. This is expanded on below but was not always the case. As put by one respondent:

"We try to offer slightly more as we find many youth services close their doors in holidays and this is a time when we find, young people need and value additional support. This Christmas holidays we are offering additional sessions - and the regular one just before Christmas is longer by 2 hours for the older young people who like to chill, chat and don't always have a stable home they are desperate to go to."

Examining those who included detail on the different services

they provide over the holidays

(n=36):

Difference in service	%
Provide festive activities / trips	39%
Reduction in usual services/sessional work	31%
Available virtually	19%
Provide Holiday & Food Programmes / food parcels / vouchers	14%
Other	8%

Selected Quotes:

- “We offer additional support with care packages, food hampers and Christmas events to ensure every family has a Christmas.”
- “We offer a range of festive activities and events to keep YP engaged as we are aware that our opening times are limited.”
- “We generally don’t run our programs over the festive period, however if a young person contacted us through work we would support them by referring to appropriate agencies.”
- “We offer additional support during the festive period. We get donations from ‘cash for kids’ and distribute to them. We also have an evening wellbeing session where they can chat about anything...and a bonding session/meal out with them.”
- “We host an early Festive program that runs in the lead-up to the Xmas break (25th-31st) when we are closed for the week (we found in previous years that young adults tended not to attend much during the week...We have supported people to link up and do their own meets, activities and socials during the week we’re closed though and this has proven really successful in the past”