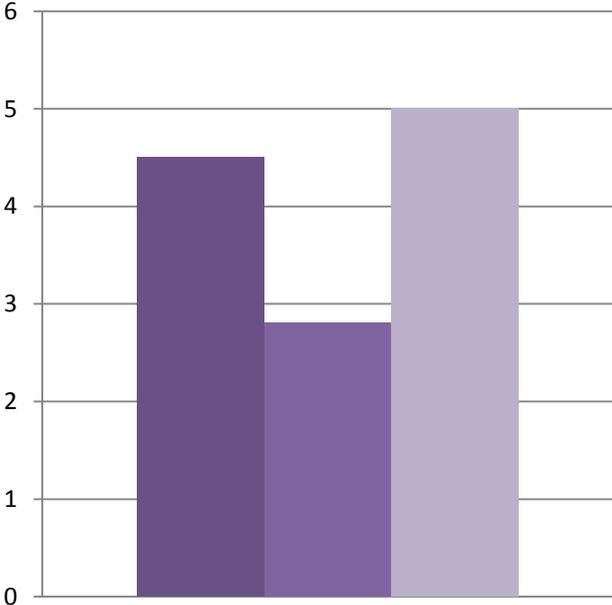
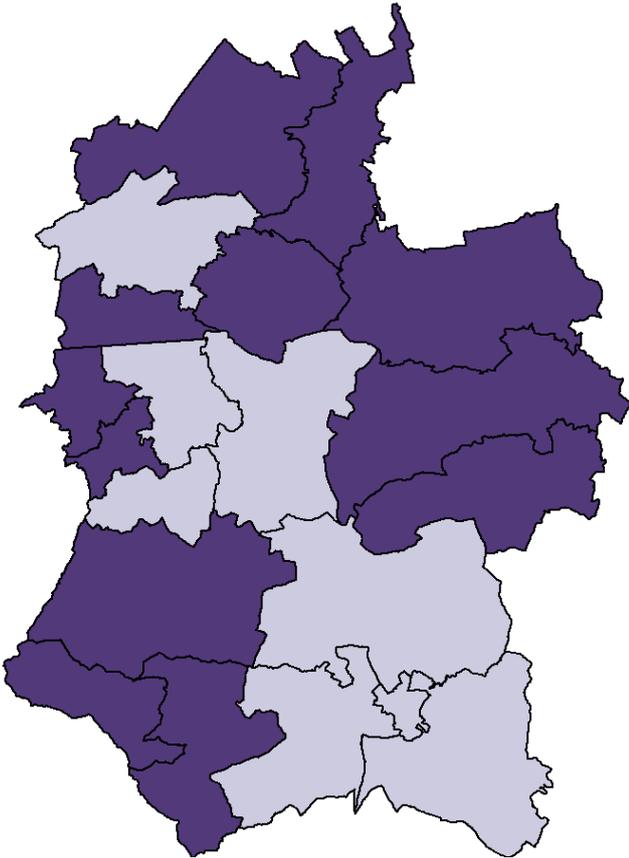


# Adult Education Consultation

## A review of adult education provision in Wiltshire

Maggie Rae, Corporate Director of Public Health and Public Protection Services



Part of the JSA family



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**Report prepared by:**

Sarah Pearce

Knowledge Management Team

Telephone: 01225 718315

Email: [sarah.pearce@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.pearce@wiltshire.gov.uk)

[www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk](http://www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk)

## A review of adult education provision in Wiltshire

### Introduction

Throughout May and June 2012 a review of adult education provision in Wiltshire was carried out through online and paper questionnaires. The questionnaires were distributed to previous attendees of adult education courses in Wiltshire and those who had expressed an interest in them, as well as being available to the general public.

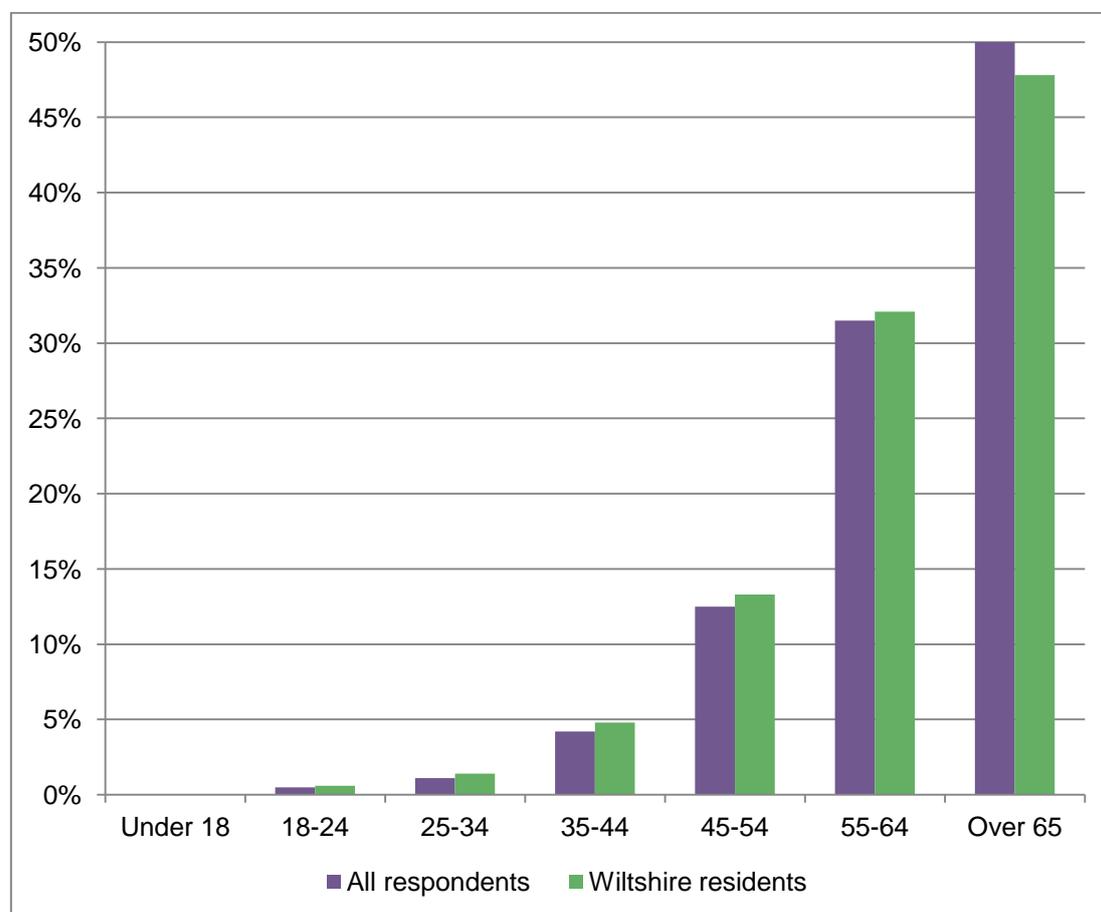
This review was of adult education courses which are offered as leisure activities and those which are focused on developing basic skills or qualifications relating to employment.

The following report summarises the total results and separates those which can be identified as being from Wiltshire residents and those from respondents outside Wiltshire or whose location cannot be identified.

### About you

A total of 1741 completed questionnaires were returned; 286 electronic and 1455 paper. Of these 719 were from respondents who could be identified as being Wiltshire residents, the remainder either live outside Wiltshire or did not provide a postcode which could be used to identify their location.

**Figure 1 – Age bracket**

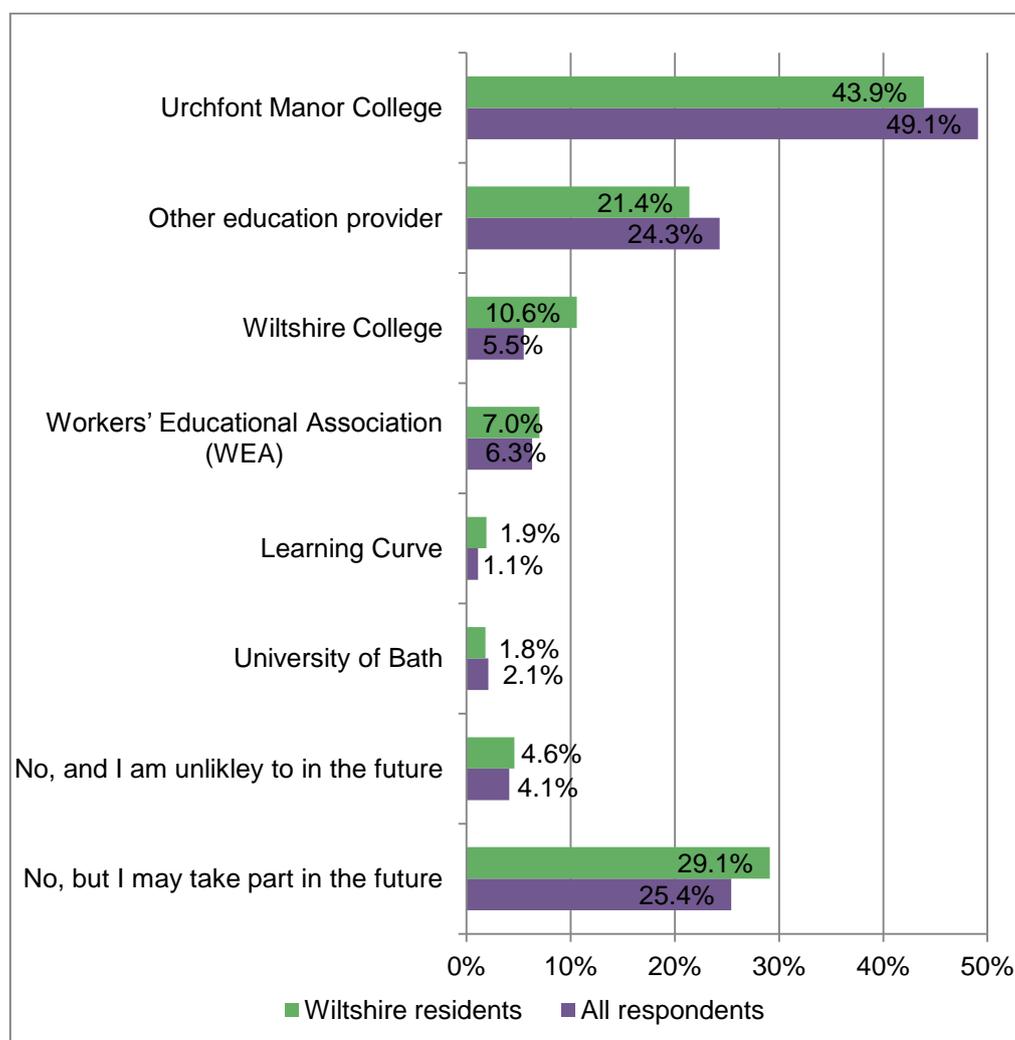


**Base 1701**

Figure 1 shows that 50% respondents were aged over 65 and that the number in each group decreased with decreasing age.

The same pattern was found amongst the respondents identified as Wiltshire residents; with 48% being over 64 and 32% aged 55-64.

**Figure 2 – Have you taken part in any adult education activity in Wiltshire within the past year organised by the following? (Please tick all that apply)**



**Base: 1741**

Figure 2 shows that 30% respondent had not taken part in any adult education activity in Wiltshire in the past year, with 86% of these saying that they may in the future and 14% that they were unlikely to. Very similar results were found amongst the selection of respondents who live in Wiltshire.

Urchfont Manor College was the most popular adult education provider with nearly 50% respondents having attended a course organised by them. Only 6% respondents had attended a course organised by the Workers' Educational Association, just under 6% organised by Wiltshire College, 2% by the University of Bath and 1% by Learning Curve.

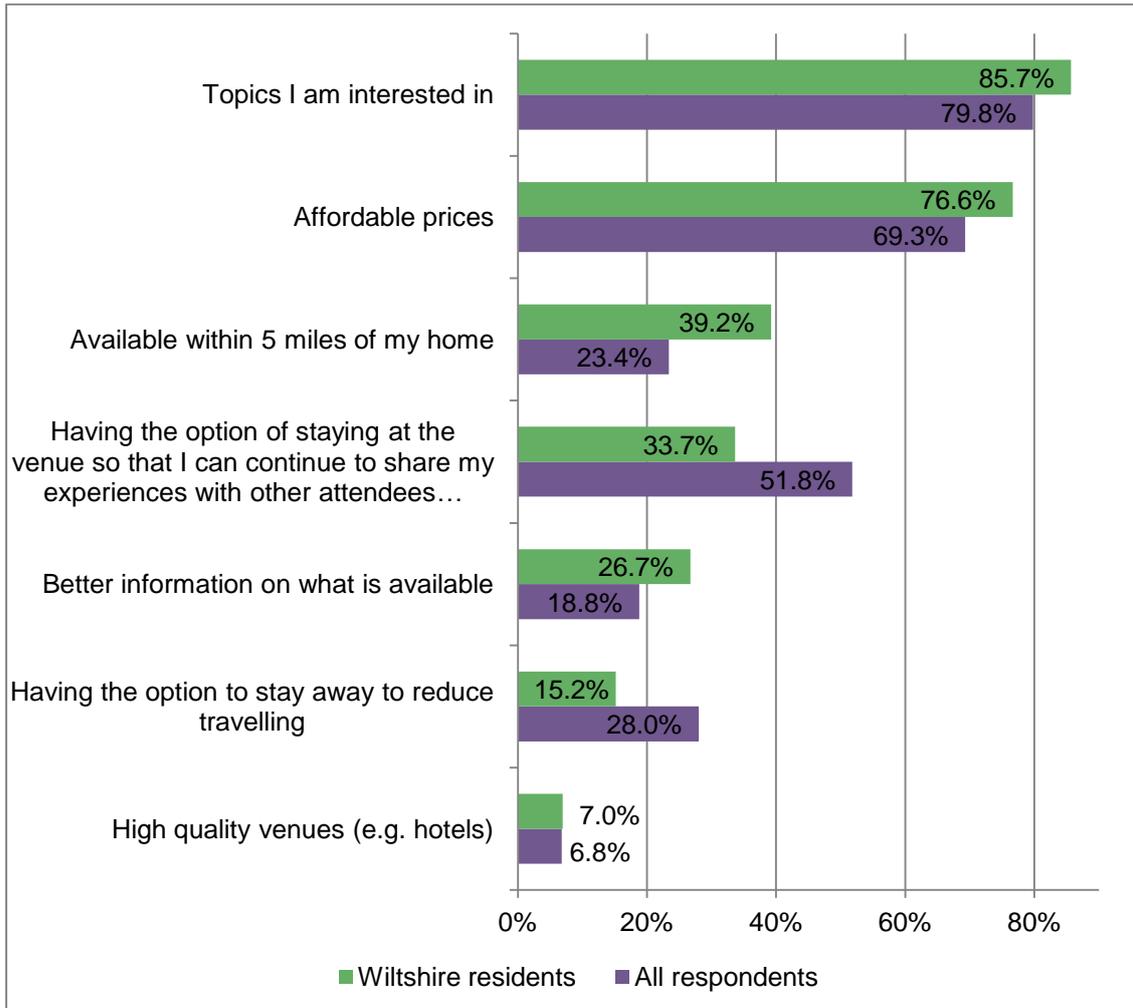
Results from Wiltshire residents followed a similar pattern with 44% having attended a course run by Urchfont Manor during the past year, 11% a course run by Wiltshire College, 7% a course run by the Workers' Educational

Association and 2% a course run by the University of Bath and Learning Curve.

See appendix 1 for a list of other education providers who were named in response to this question.

### What Matters most?

**Figure 3 – What would encourage you to take part in more organised adult education activities? (Please tick the three issues which are most important to you)**



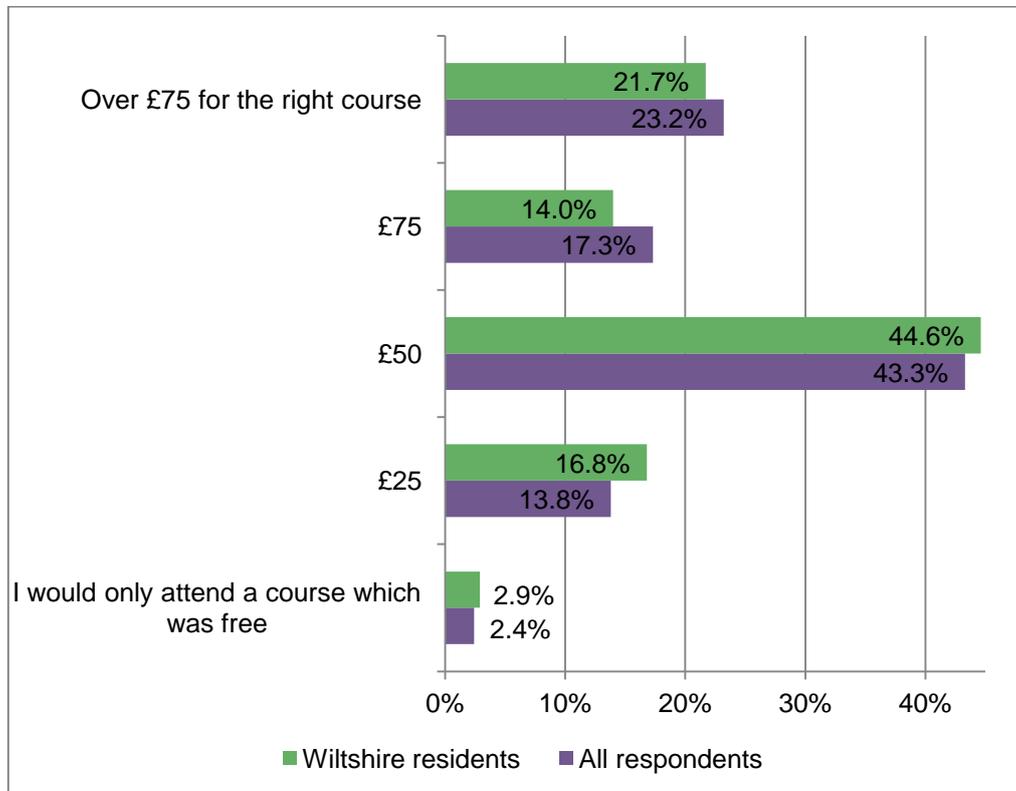
**Base: 1741**

Figure 3 shows that the factors which would most encourage respondents to take part in more organised adult education activities are courses on topics that respondents are interested in, run at affordable prices. These were the most important issues for both Wiltshire and non-Wiltshire residents.

For Wiltshire residents the next most important issues were having courses within 5 miles of their home and having the option of staying at the venue so that they can continue to share their experiences with other attendees. Non-Wiltshire respondents were more concerned about the latter issue and were also more concerned with being able to stay at the venue to reduce travelling time.

## Prices

**Figure 4 – What is the maximum amount you would consider paying to attend a full-day (6 hours tuition) course in a subject which interests you?**

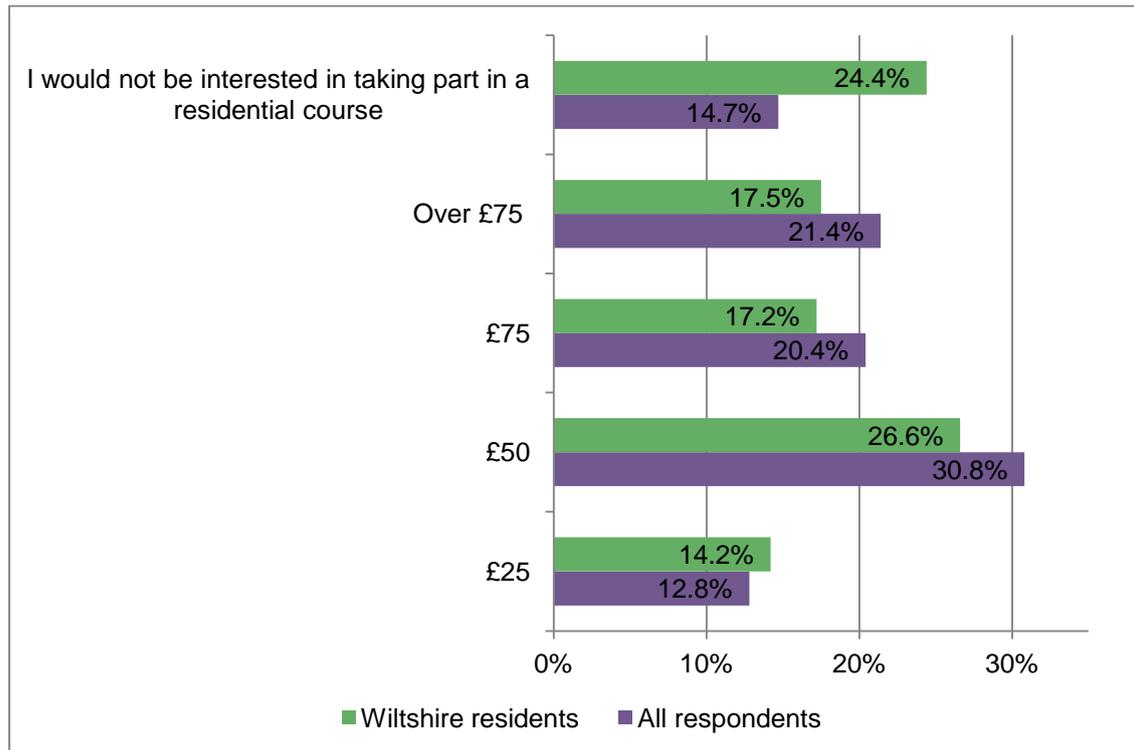


**Base: 1408**

Figure 4 shows that the vast majority of respondents would be prepared to pay to attend a full-day course in a subject which interests them. Only 2.4% respondents and 2.9% Wiltshire respondents would only attend a course which was free, even on the understanding that their choice of course would then be limited.

The most popular maximum amount for a full day course was £50, which was selected by over 40% respondents; approximately 20% would pay over £75 for the right course. Fewer respondents said that they would pay a maximum of either £75 or £25.

**Figure 5 – How much extra would you be prepared to pay for a residential day (i.e. evening meal, bed and breakfast)?**



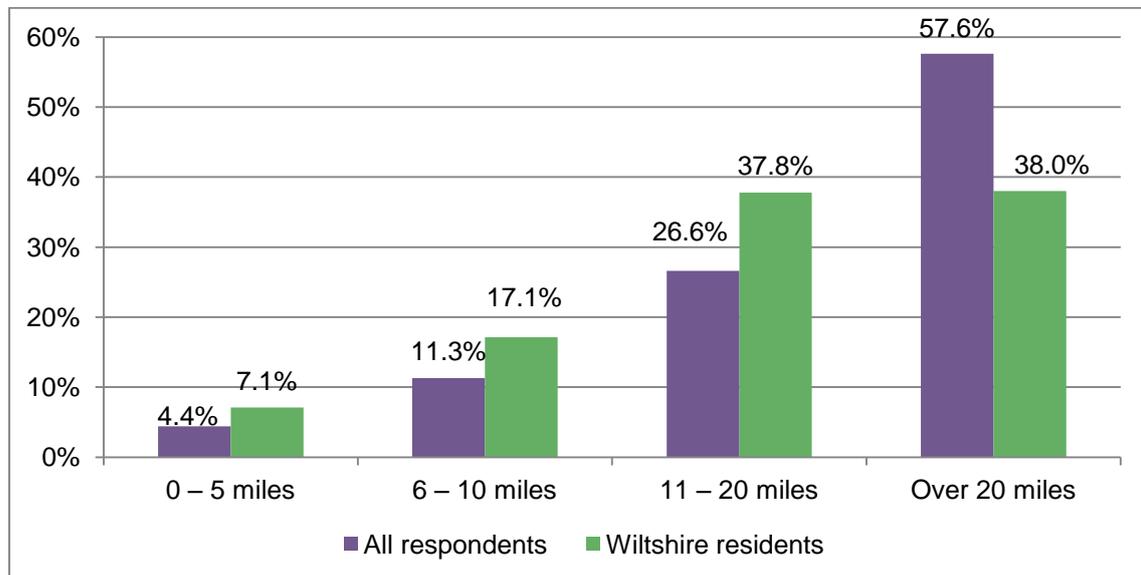
**Base: 1251**

15% of respondents would not be interested in taking part in a residential course, although this figure increased to nearly 25% when looking at only the results from the Wiltshire residents.

The amount which most respondents were willing to pay for a residential day was £50 extra amongst both Wiltshire and non-Wiltshire residents. This was followed by over £75 and up to £75. Fewer respondents were only prepared to pay up to £25.

## Travel

**Figure 6 – How far would you be prepared to travel to attend a full-day course which interests you?**

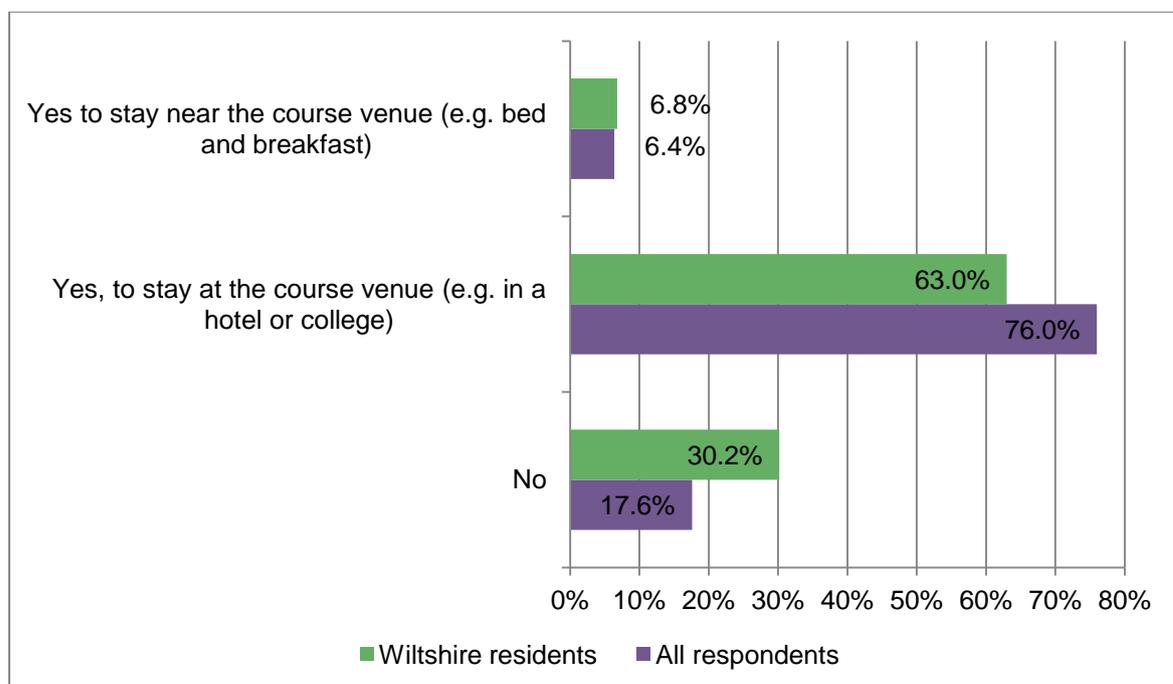


**Base: 1622**

Figure 6 shows that the majority of respondents would be prepared to travel at least 10 miles to attend a full-day course which interests them, with 38% of Wiltshire residents prepared to travel over 20 miles.

## Duration

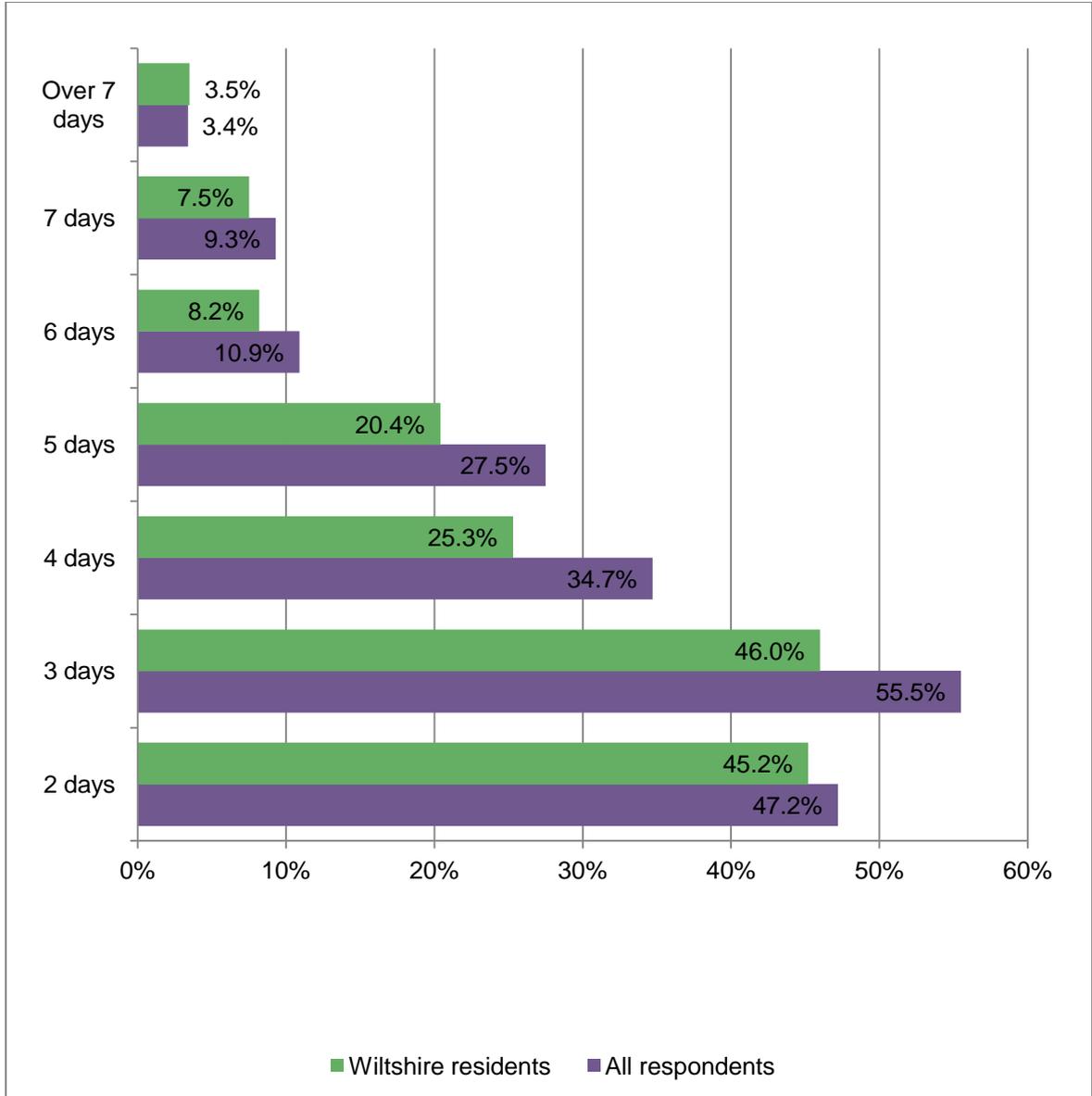
**Figure 7 – Would you like to attend a residential course where you stay at or near where the course is being held?**



**Base: 1636**

Figure 7 shows that the majority of respondents would prefer to attend a residential course and stay at the course venue. Very few respondents would want to stay away from the course venue.

**Figure 8 – If you answered ‘yes’ to question 9 above, how long would you like a course to be? (Please tick all that apply)**



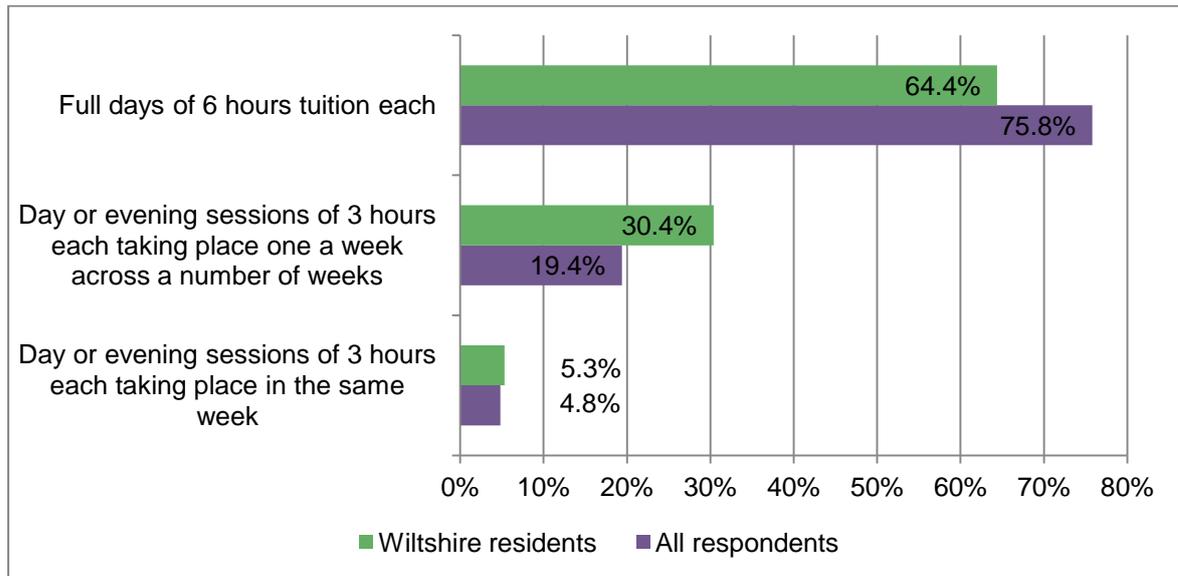
**Base: 1348**

*N.B. A smaller percentage of Wiltshire residents than overall respondents expressed an interest in participating in a residential course, which is how fewer Wiltshire residents can have chosen each of the options.*

Figure 8 shows that the majority of respondents would prefer a course to be of 2 or 3 days in length. For lengths of time under 3 days, the longer the course, the less popular it was.

The same trend can be seen amongst the total group of respondents and the Wiltshire residents.

**Figure 9 – Would you prefer a non-residential course to be in the form of:**

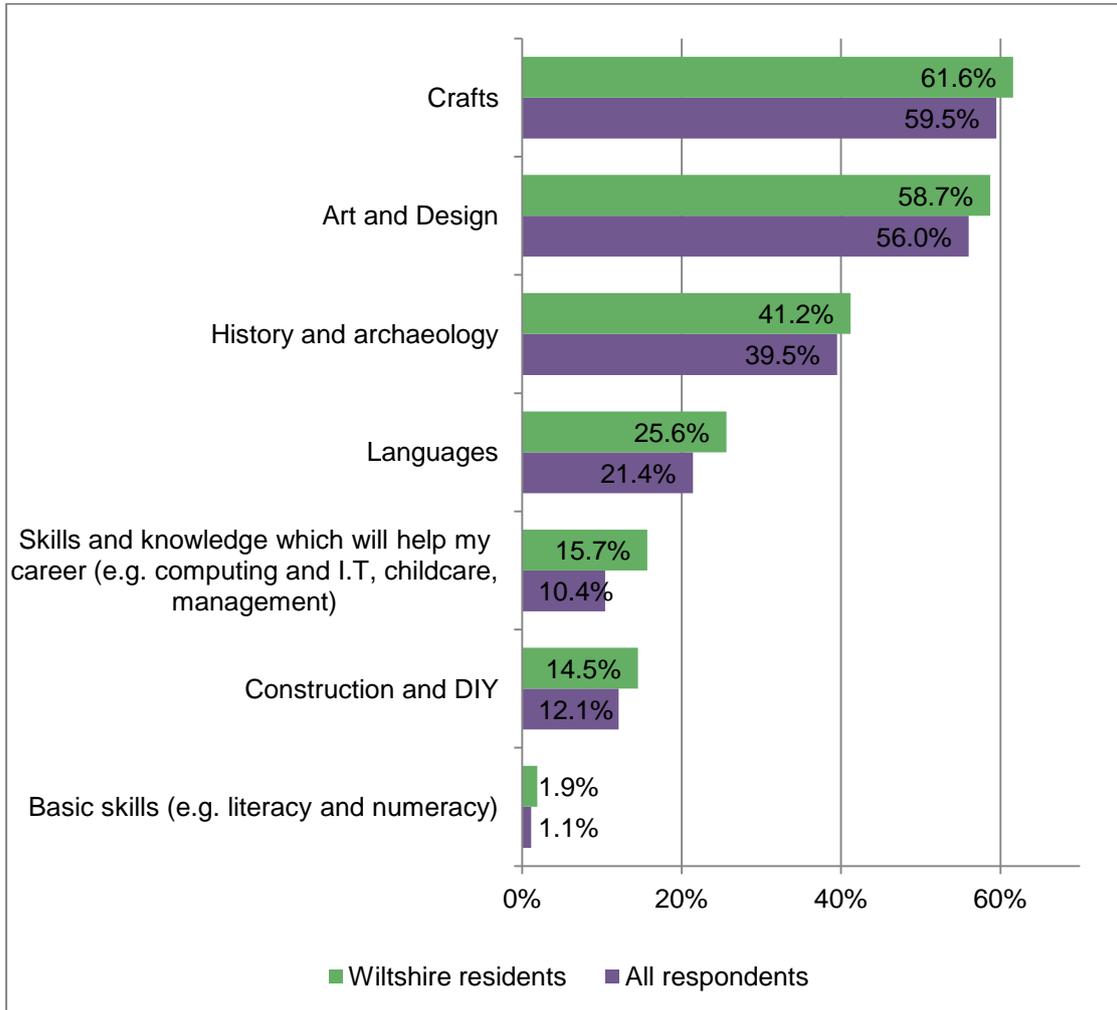


**Base: 1551**

Figure 9 shows that the majority of respondents would prefer a non-residential course to be in the form of full days of 6 hours tuition each. Day or evening sessions of 3 hours each, taking place across a number of weeks was the second preference. Day or evening sessions of 3 hours each taking place in the same week as only selected by a minority of respondents.

## Content

**Figure 10 – What subjects and topics might you take part in a course about? (Please tick all that apply)**



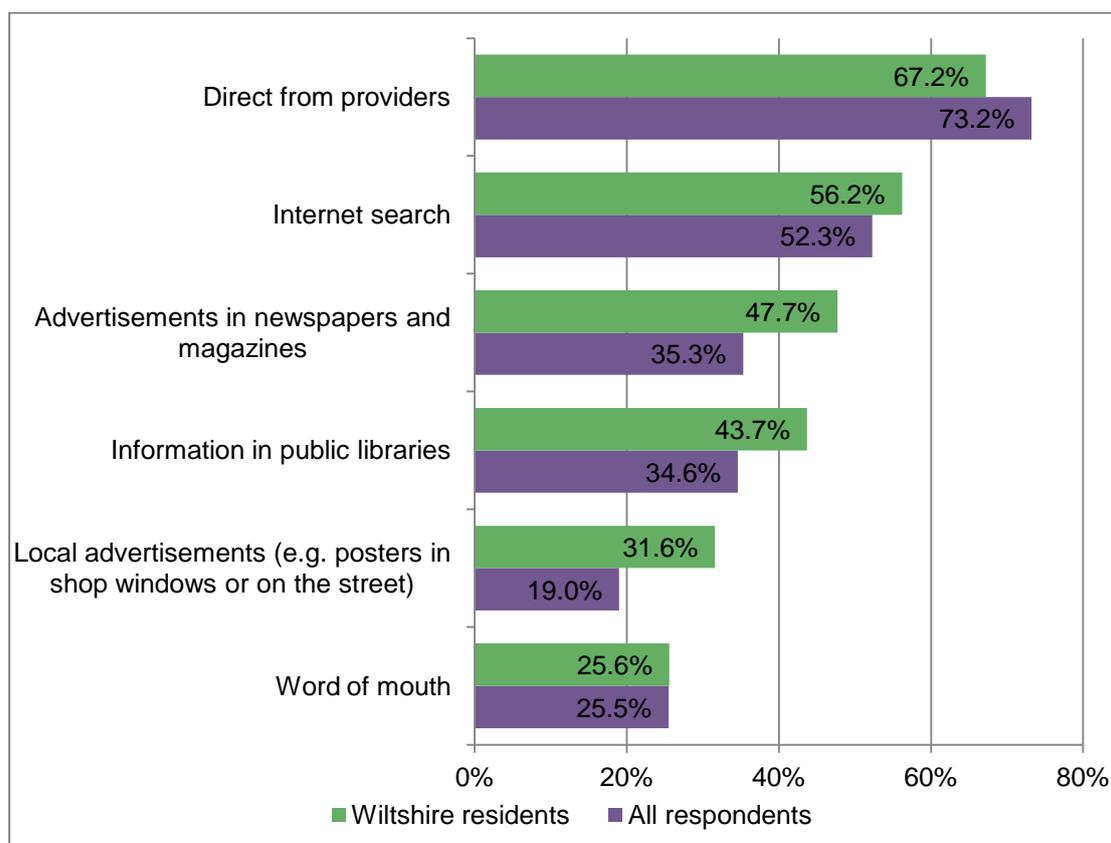
**Base: 1741**

Figure 10 shows that respondents would consider taking part in all the courses listed. The most popular courses for both respondents overall and those from Wiltshire were crafts, art and design and history and archaeology. Fewer respondents expressed an interest in languages, skills and knowledge to help their career and construction and IT; a minority of respondents were interested in learning basic skills.

See appendix 2 for a list of the other courses which respondents would be interested in taking part in.

## Information

**Figure 11 – How would you prefer to find out about adult education opportunities? (please tick all that apply)**



**Base: 1741**

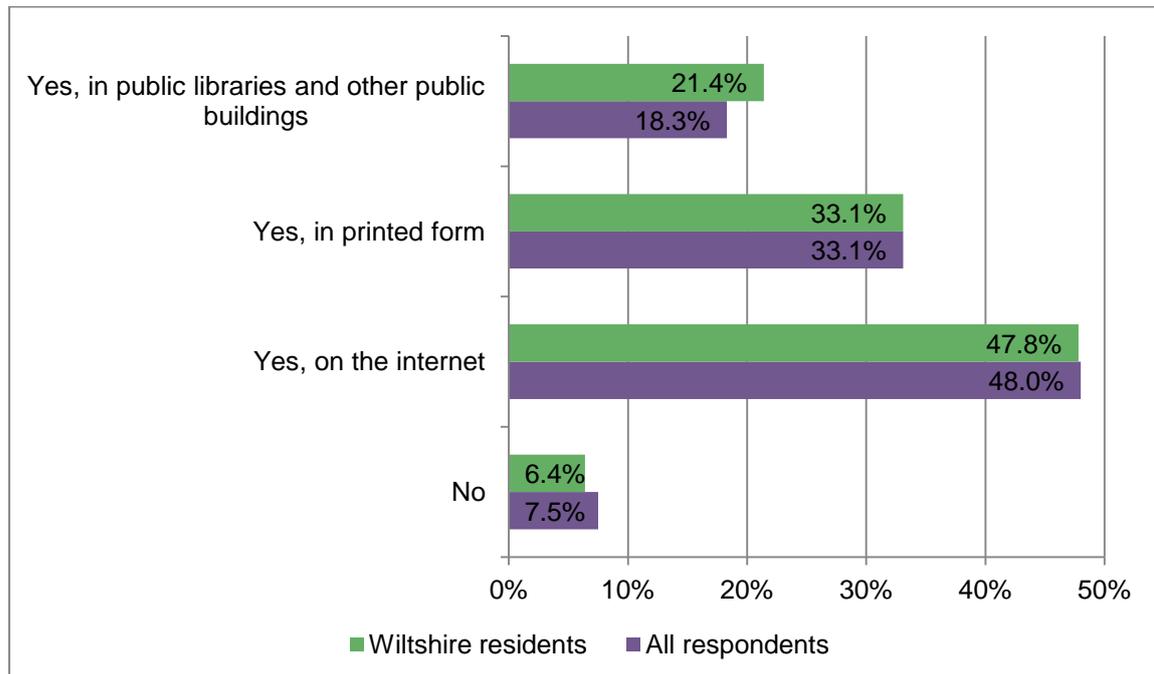
Figure 11 shows that the preferred method for respondents to find out about adult education opportunities was direct from providers – although it is not specified whether this is by post or electronically.

Other preferred methods were through internet searches, through advertisements in newspapers and magazines and from information in public libraries.

By word of mouth and through local advertisements were the least popular methods.

See appendix 3 for a list of other preferred methods for finding out about adult education opportunities.

**Figure 12 – Would you like to be able to find information on all adult education opportunities from different providers in your area in one place?**



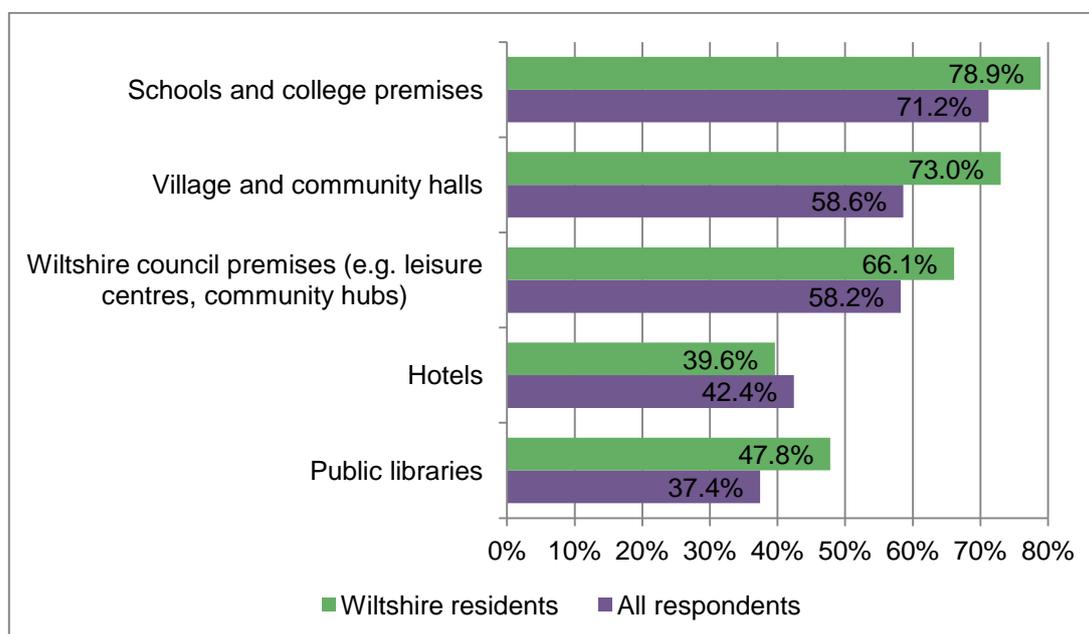
**Base: 1741**

Figure 12 shows that the majority of respondents would prefer to be able to find information on all adult education opportunities from different providers in their area in one place with only 6% Wiltshire respondents saying that they wouldn't.

Nearly half of respondents would like to be able to find out about all adult education opportunities in their area on the internet, fewer would like to find out about them in printed form and fewer still in libraries and other public buildings.

## Suitable accommodation

**Figure 13 – Where would you like adult education courses to be held (please tick all that apply)**



**Base: 1741**

Figure 13 shows that school and college premises and village and community halls were the most popular choices for locations for adult education courses. Wiltshire Council premises e.g. leisure centres and community hubs were also chosen by over half the respondents.

Hotels and public libraries were the least popular locations but were still chosen by over a third of respondents.

**Figure 14 – Would you like adult education courses to offer:**



**Base: 1609**

Figure 14 shows that basic refreshments are the preferred choice, followed by light refreshments and then cooked meals. A minority of respondents would prefer to be offered no refreshments at all.

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0300 456 0100

**By post**

Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JN

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