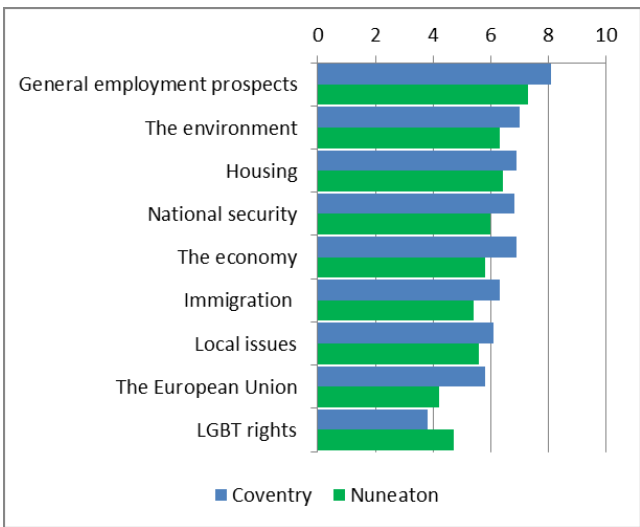


### Modest interest in Politics but hostility to Politicians and Political Institutions...

A substantial number of young people in the study were interested in politics contradicting assumptions that are sometimes made of a lack of interest

Fig. 1: The average interest (on 0-10 no to high interest scale) in particular contemporary issues



52% of young people in Coventry and 39% in Nuneaton stated that they were very or quite interested in politics, and in both locations, the higher the level of political knowledge and education the greater the interest.

42% of respondents in Coventry and 37% in Nuneaton felt closer to a particular party and in both sites around 70% identified it as the Labour Party.

*Yet although there was a substantial number of young people in our study interested in politics, there was considerable disenchantment with politicians, political parties and institutions. The young people in our study were at best ambivalent about the current democratic system, with significant discontent with the three main parties.*

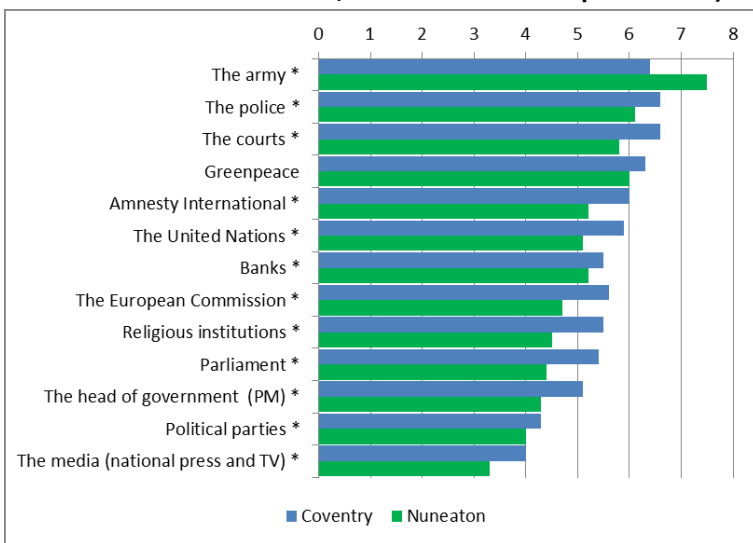
57% in Coventry and 49% in Nuneaton thought that politicians were corrupt

In Coventry 77% and Nuneaton 72% felt the rich have too much influence over politics

In Coventry only 33% and in Nuneaton 25% thought that politicians are interested in young people like me.

*These underlying reasons for this were elaborated in the WP5 in-depth interviews. Many respondents stated that politicians were deceitful ('liars', 'hypocrites'), and that they tell people what they want to hear to get elected, and then 'go back on their promises', which may have been influenced by compromises made by parties to form a coalition government on issues such as student fees that particularly affect young people. The in-depth interviews often suggested that politicians are 'out of touch' with ordinary people, privileged ('rich', 'posh'), and out for themselves (corrupt, interested in their own wealth and career). It was clear that the MP expenses scandal prior to the research in 2012, had helped to reinforce such views.*

Fig. 2: Mean Level of trust in Organisation on a 0-10 scale (where 0 means "do not trust at all", and 10 means "complete trust")

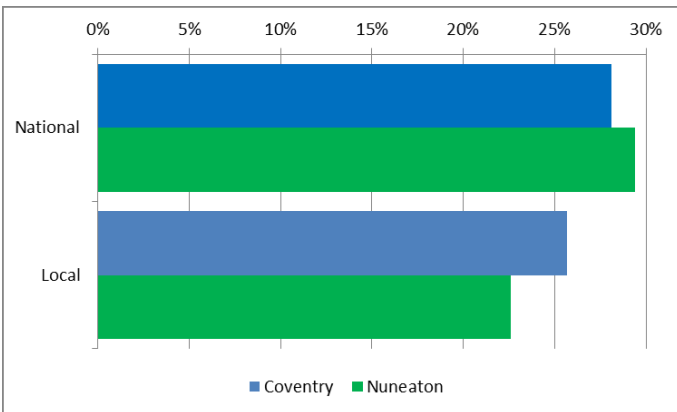


\* Comparison of Coventry and Nuneaton, t-test or Mann-Whitney U test (where appropriate) significant at p<.05

### Young people 'turned off' by the language and terminology of politics, but do participate in a range of political activities...

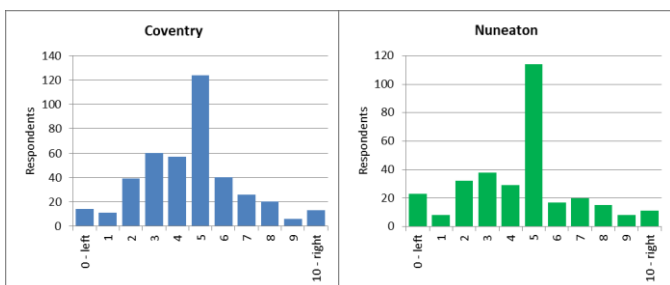
"The language of politics...can be damaging, I think it stops some people from getting involved, if they don't understand the terminology, I think it can make it quite difficult, for some people, to interact with it." WP5 interview

**Fig. 1: Proportion of young people (aged 18-25) who voted in the last national and local elections**



Of those choosing not to vote, between **30%** in **Coventry** and **50%** in **Nuneaton** of eligible respondents said they "would have voted but were unable on the day." This may indicate a lack of awareness or confidence, in the voting process itself.

**Fig. 2: Position on left-right political spectrum (On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is left and 10 is right, would you say that you personally are left or right-wing?)**

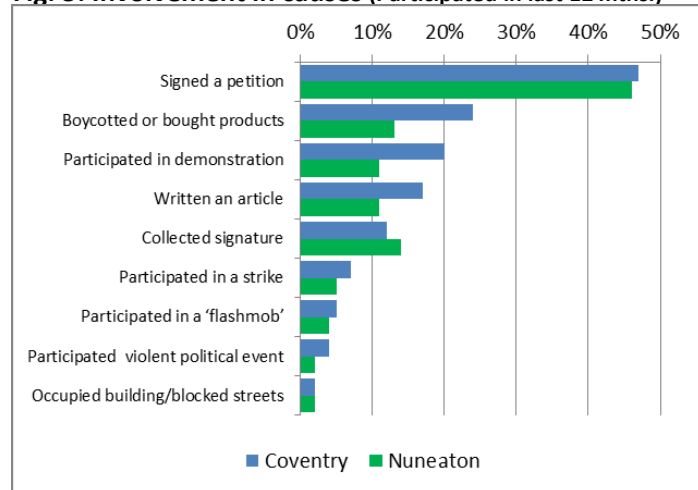


In **Coventry** there were **23.8%** and in **Nuneaton** there were **42.4%** of young people who responded 'Don't Know' to the left-right question.

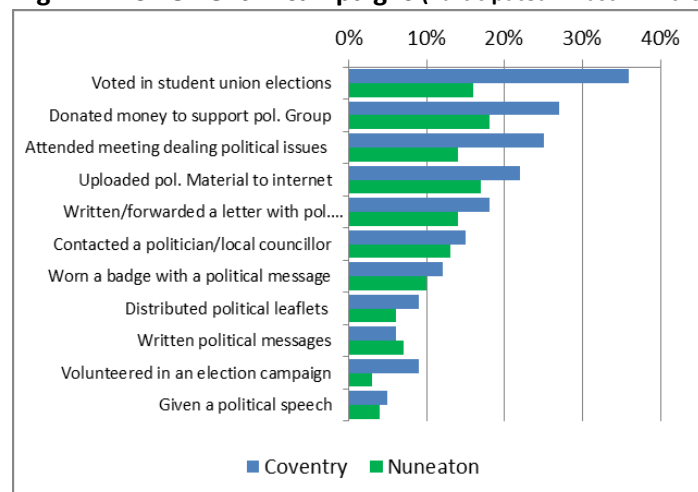
**Young people indicated that they were 'turned off' by the language and terminology of politics, and many were either not interested or did not feel they knew enough about politics to have a view.**

*In addition to voting and participating in elections young people's broader engagement was measured by surveying their participation in 'causes' such as product boycotts, involvement in 'campaigns' such as volunteering in election campaigns, and 'civic engagement'*

**Fig. 3: Involvement in causes (Participated in last 12 mths.)**



**Fig. 4: Involvement in campaigns (Participated in last 12 mths.)**



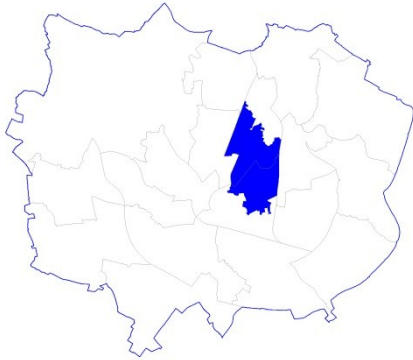
The highest civic engagement rates in both research sites were 'sports clubs'. Others included trade unions, national or youth parliament, animal welfare, neighbourhood association and 'militarised' youth organisation.



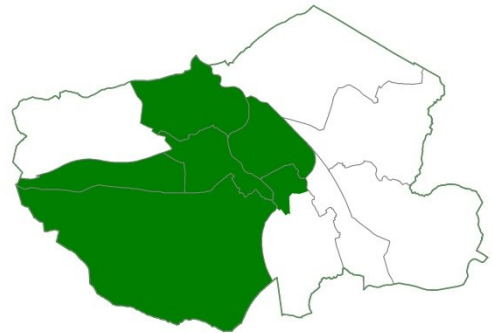
### UK Study took place in Coventry and Nuneaton between 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013

There were **542** young people in **Coventry** and **550** young people in **Nuneaton** surveyed as part of this study.

**Fig. 1: Coventry study Area**



**Fig. 2: Nuneaton Study Area**



Maps not to comparable scale

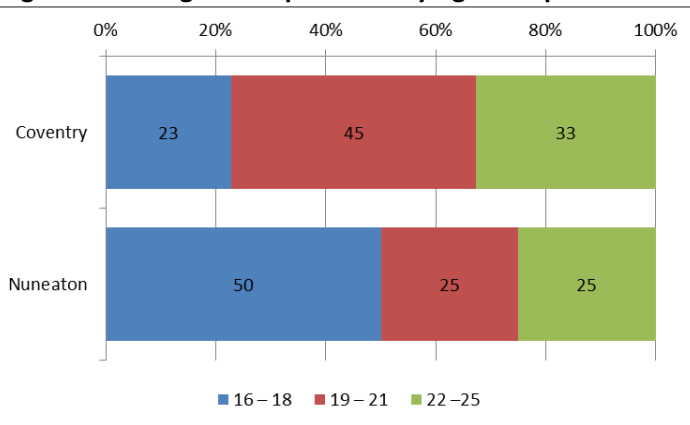
#### Coventry Wards; Parts of St. Michaels and Foleshill

In **Coventry 48%** and in **Nuneaton 55%** of respondents were **Female**.

#### Nuneaton Wards; Arbury, Camp Hill, Kingswood, Abbey and part of Wem Brook

In **Coventry 68%** and in **Nuneaton 46%** of respondents were in **Education**. In **Coventry 15%** and in **Nuneaton 28%** of respondents were **Employed**.

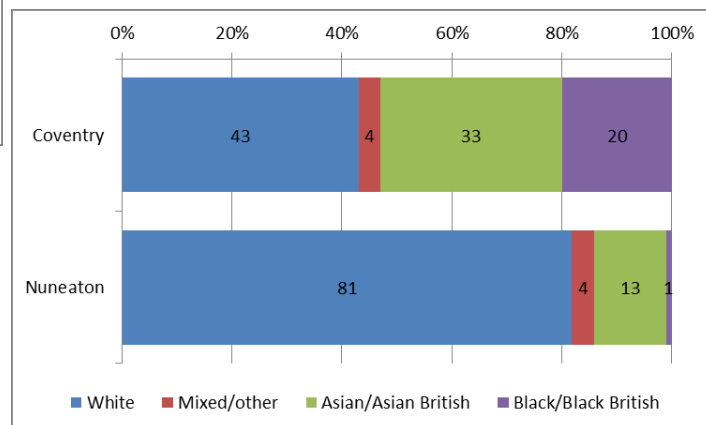
**Fig. 3: Percentage of Respondents by Age Group**



**40%** of young people in both locations were **Christian**. **31%** in **Coventry** were **Muslim (13% in Nuneaton)**. **43%** in **Nuneaton** had **no religion (19% in Coventry)**.

**47%** of young people In **Coventry** Lived with a **non-relative (55% in Nuneaton)**. **59%** of young people In **Nuneaton** Lived with their **Family (Parents/Guardians) (47% in Coventry)**.

**Fig. 4: Percentage of Respondents by Ethnic Background**



In **Coventry 23%** and in **Nuneaton 29%** of young people had **low political knowledge\***.

In **Coventry 68%** and **Nuneaton 97%** were a **UK Citizen**.

\*Did not answer any of the three political questions correctly

