



2018

PATHFINDER PARTICIPANT SURVEY



**SAFER DRIVERS
SAVE LIVES**





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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Under 17 Car Club Pathfinder initiative opens our established methodology to 'rising 17s' just before they are eligible for a driving licence. The Pathfinder initiative offers these students the safe driving approach offered by The Under 17 Car Club condensed to an intensive, 5-day event. The aim is to bring the Charity's safe driving approach to a wider audience.

The Pathfinder initiative was established by The Under 17 Car Club in 2008. A first review of results was undertaken in 2014 (<https://u17ccctrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Pathfinder-Survey-2014.pdf>). This, the second review, invited attendees from all years (the majority of respondents were from the years since 2015).

Consistent with the 2014 Pathfinder survey, and the 2006 and 2012 Under 17 Car Club surveys, the results demonstrate that the graduates of our young driver development programmes are significantly less likely to be involved in accidents and/or to be injured or injure than the general population of young drivers.

We are proud that The Under 17 Car Club methodology successfully combines a focus on understanding and managing risk, safe attitudes and high technical skill.

This 2018 Survey confirms that Pathfinder delivers substantial benefits to its students when compared with their peer group. Graduates of the Programme are more than 3.5 times safer than their peers with an accident rate of only 6% across multiple years of driving taken from the current survey (the same as in 2014), a similar 6.25% for Car Club Members compared against more than 20% nationally for first year accidents alone.*

Furthermore, only 2% of the students report being convicted of a traffic offence compared to an annual average of 13.6%.**

While the national overall pass rate for the DVSA test is 46% in 2017/18, Pathfinder Students achieved a first time pass rate of 63% with a further 26% passing on their second attempt while Car Club graduates have a 79% first time pass rate with the Club's top young drivers achieving a rate of 84%.

These findings, which again are consistent with the findings of our previous surveys, are encouraging and support the view of the Trust that appropriately structured and delivered pre-licence driver development, which focuses on developing appropriate attitudes as well as technical skill, delivers significant safety benefits to this vulnerable group:

	General Public	Car Club Combined	Pathfinder Survey 2014	Pathfinder Survey 2018
1st Year Accident Rate	1 in 5	1 in 16	1 in 17	1 in 17
DSA Test Pass Rate (X/1)	46%	89%	N/A	N/A
DSA Test Pass Rate (All)	46%	79%	53%	63%
Points on Licence	14.3%	4%	0%	6%
Pass Plus Participation	15%	37%	12%	8%
IAM/RoSPA Rate	0.5%	9%	N/A	0%

Our combined survey results extend over a 19 year period (1999-2018) and cover a greater time period and larger direct survey of novice drivers engaging in such extensive pre-licence age development than any published work we have discovered.

We believe that the consistency in findings is rooted in the consistency of the learning methodology. The participants are discrete and distinct groups and, as with any organisation, there have been a number of changes of volunteer Instructors over the period between the surveys. This survey and its results have been validated by Loughborough University (see Appendix 3), prior surveys were validated by Liverpool John Moores University (2006) and Manchester Business School (2012 Car Club and 2014 Pathfinder).

With the increasing investment in technology to support the delivery of the Trust's operations, including the increasing use of online resources for Theory Tests and Surveys, we anticipate that these Surveys will be more readily conducted, and the results produced, on a more frequent basis, with the ambition being annually.

In the meanwhile, these survey findings are being used to engage with Government, public bodies with responsibility for road safety, insurers and those involved in driver training and development.



2 THE UNDER 17 CAR CLUB PATHFINDER INITIATIVE

Developed from over 40 years' experience through the work of The Under 17 Car Club, Pathfinder is a practical and theoretical introduction to driving and road safety for pre-licence drivers (typically aged 15-16) delivered by volunteers through an intensive 5-day programme.*

This project is designed to reduce the number of road traffic accidents and collisions (particularly KSIs) and convictions amongst the most vulnerable driver group, i.e. novice drivers aged between 17-24.

Research by Inspector Nick Elton of Wiltshire Police Service has shown that the highest risk group of young drivers are aged 17, 18 and 21, male and from relatively well-off backgrounds. This profile is common in many parts of the UK.

Our experience shows that the most effective means of addressing the challenges faced by novice drivers is through appropriate pre-licence driver development. That means engaging young people before they are 17 and working with them **and** their parent, guardian or other appropriate adult in a partnership environment where they can develop appropriate understanding of road risk, a positive attitude to road safety and the essential technical driving skills to be "Safe at 17".

Since 1976 over 4,000 pre-licence drivers and their parents/associates have developed positive attitudes to road safety and high levels of driving skill with The Under 17 Car Club and the Pathfinder project which commenced in Warwickshire in 2008. The curriculum and methodology has been developed from Roadcraft (the Police Driving Manual) and focuses on developing competence equivalent to IAM Roadsmart F1rst or RoSPA Gold standard. Progress is determined by attitudinal development and demonstrable understanding of risk supported by equivalent technical competence. Driving standards are regularly externally assessed and both Pathfinder and The Under 17 Car Club are accredited by IAM Roadsmart – the only young driver programmes to be so acknowledged.



3 THE PATHFINDER SURVEY 2018

Pathfinder does NOT aim to prepare students for the DVSA test or offer a substitute for the driving test. Real road driving scenarios cannot be fully replicated in the secure, private environment in which we necessarily work. Rather, Pathfinder introduces the essential driving knowledge and skills needed to enjoy a safe and long driving career and delivers a valuable understanding of how to drive safely, thoughtfully and within the law.

Students typically drive their family car and are taught by a parent or guardian who is in turn supported and guided by a dedicated team of Pathfinder instructors. Driving takes place in a private, safe, controlled but realistic environment, well away from the public highway.

The programme includes an introduction to advanced driver theory and basic vehicle maintenance, and an understanding of the risks, dangers and responsibilities that come with driving.

Following on from its initial success in Warwickshire in 2008, Pathfinder continues year on year to deliver a successful and enjoyable experience for young drivers. All who have attended, including the adults, take away with them valuable information allowing them to improve their safety and awareness through thoughtful driver training along with an enhanced ability to enjoy their driving on today's congested roads.

In 2019 Pathfinder will be running seven events, which are being run at venues in Malvern, Worcestershire; Seighford, Staffordshire and Driffield, Yorkshire coinciding with local school holidays, with information available at www.under17driver.co.uk.

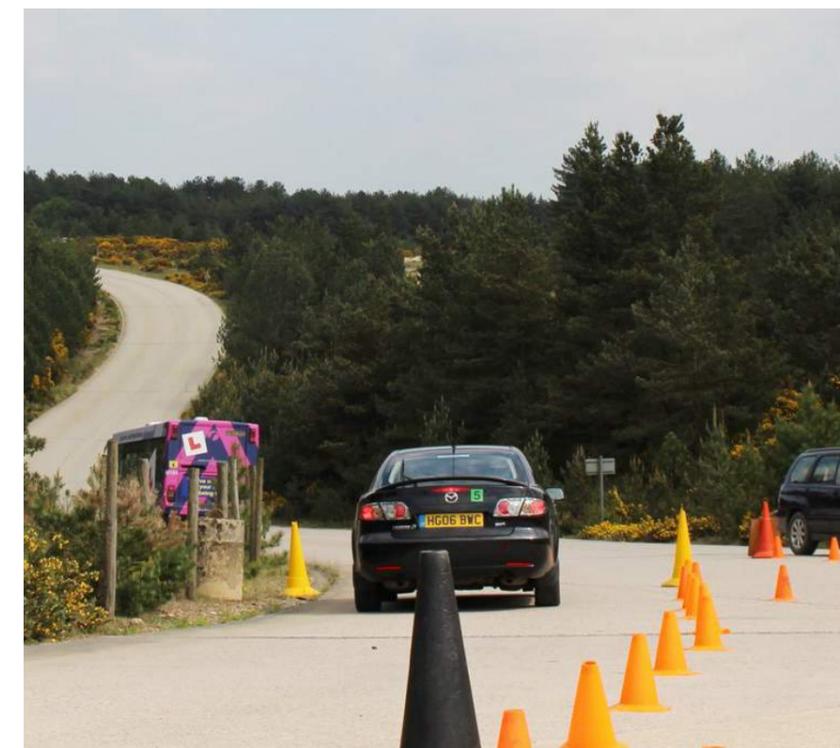
This survey was undertaken to determine whether, through their experience on the Pathfinder project, ex-students are safer than their peer group. That is:

- Are they at lower risk of a road traffic collision, especially that of being killed or seriously injured?
- How do they compare with ex-Members of The Under 17 Car Club who typically have a much longer pre-licence driving experience?
- How do they compare with their peer group in terms of accidents, convictions and DVSA Test experience?

The results will be used to:

- Build an evidence base for the work of the Trust;
- Inform how the Trust should develop its activities;
- Inform the Offices of the Police and Crime Commissioners for the sponsoring authorities of the outcomes in terms of their priorities;
- Inform the NPCC Lead for Roads Policing of the outcomes and influence thinking in the policing community;
- Influence approaches to novice driver development within the UK and beyond.

Ultimately, we aim to ensure that our students are Safe at 17.



4 METHODOLOGY

The Under 17 Car Club has always informally monitored the on-the-road driving experience of members through continuing contact, feedback and comments received. In 2006 and 2012 it undertook formal surveys of ex-members to determine the validity of these informal insights. These surveys showed that Club members had significantly better safety records than their peers. The reports are available to download at: www.u17ccctrust.org/research.

The 2006 survey was very extensive, including questions about the participants' experiences with the Club as well as their experience on the road. It was decided, for the 2012 survey, to separate these aspects into two surveys: one focused on internal matters, the other primarily concerned with experience on the road and those aspects of the Club's development programme which directly affect that experience.

In the 2012 survey we collected information about the first year accident rate having previously focused on the '17-24' period. This change was adopted to bring our results in line with other investigations such as that reported by the House of Commons Select Transport Committee. That approach has been carried through to the Surveys of Pathfinder Students – that is that the Surveys are only sent to participants who are aged over 18 and therefore have been eligible to be driving on the road for more than one year.

The 2018 and 2014 Pathfinder Student Survey Questions (Appendix Two) were derived from the 2006 and 2012 Car Club Surveys and were reviewed and refined with academic partners at Loughborough University and Manchester Business School. The surveys were placed online and tested by Club Officials and Marshals for functionality and clarity leading to a number of minor changes. IP address tracking was used to ensure unique responses.

PATHFINDER SURVEY RESPONSES

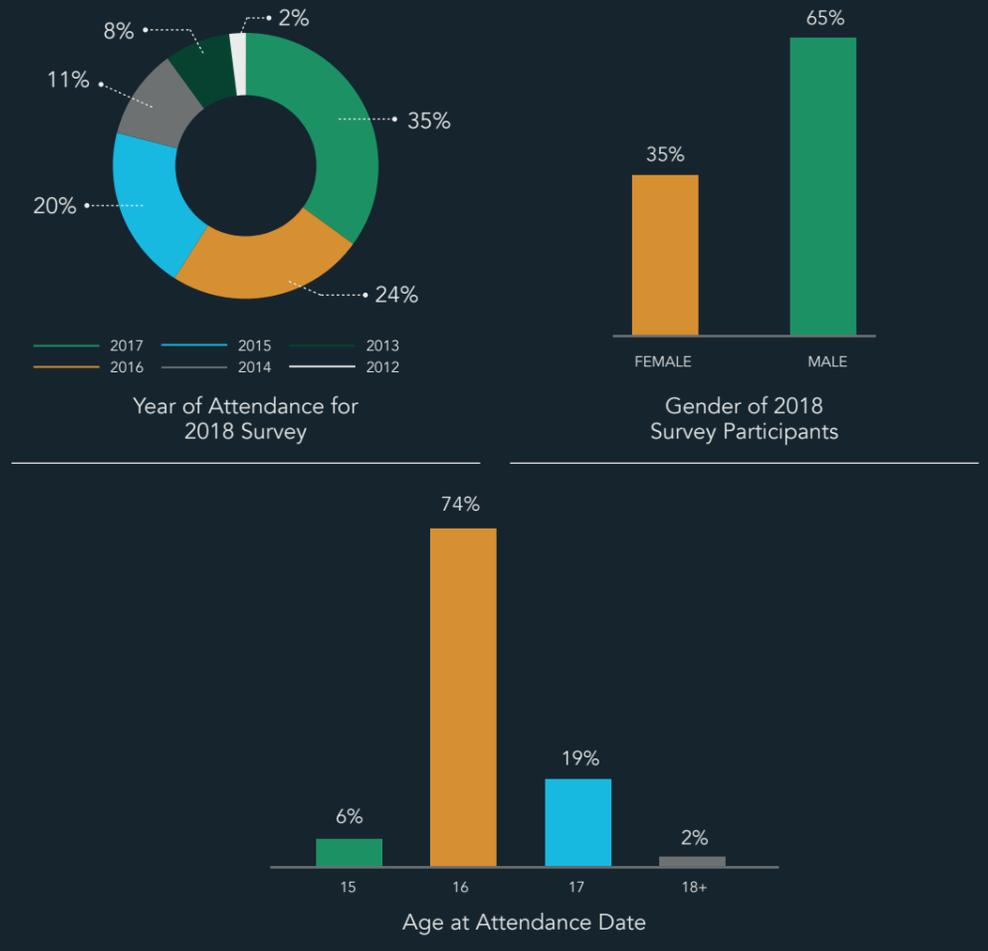
Survey demographic highlights

59% of survey respondents attended Pathfinder in between 2016 and 2017.

Of those responding to the survey 65% were male and 35% were female.

74% of students were 16 at the time they attended Pathfinder.

Whilst the 2014 Pathfinder Survey was, of necessity, very small (17 responses from 24 students), the 2018 Survey has 54 responders, giving much greater confidence in the results:



We recognise relative to the total number of drivers in the 17-24 age group in the UK that our numbers are small. However, 100% of those eligible to participate have had the opportunity and a substantial response rate across four surveys, together with a high degree of consistency in the findings themselves give us confidence that the results are a useful indicator of potential outcomes. We would suggest that, if the scheme were extended to the

whole eligible population, the benefits in risk reduction would be likely to greatly exceed the costs. The combined results across all surveys covering a 19-year time period (1999-2018), with a consistent pattern over that time, adds further confidence to the findings.

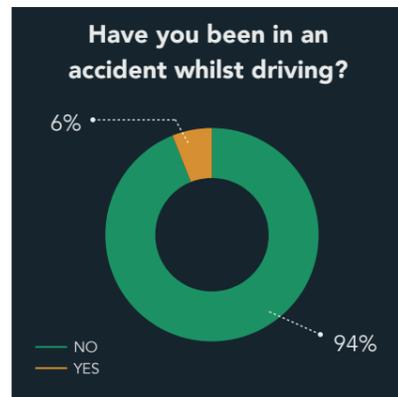
This survey was undertaken to determine whether, through their learning experience on Pathfinder, ex-students are safer than their peer group,

i.e. are they at lower risk of a road traffic collision, especially that of being killed or seriously injured; and how they compare with their peer group in terms of accidents, convictions and DVSA test experience.

The results are being used to inform how the Trust should develop its activities and influence approaches to novice driver development, throughout the UK and beyond, to make more young drivers **"Safe at 17"**.

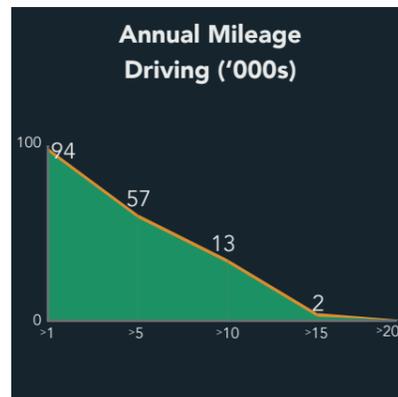
5 SURVEY KEY FINDINGS 2018

This section of the report will consider the critical questions concerned with safety and road risk, the survey results and a comparison with The Under 17 Car Club surveys and, where appropriate, National Statistics.



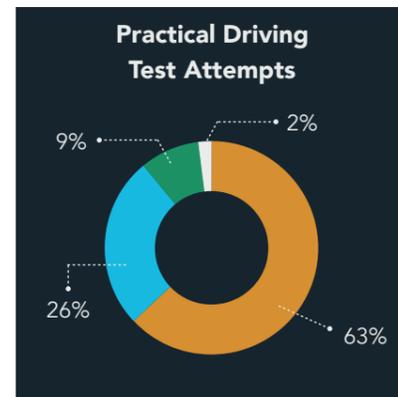
5.1 ACCIDENT RATES

Given that the objective of the Pathfinder Project is to reduce the rate of KSI accidents amongst novice drivers, it is very encouraging to see a low collision rate for our Students of only 6% compared with 20% **in the first driving year** for the general population.



5.2 AVERAGE RESPONDENT ANNUAL MILEAGE

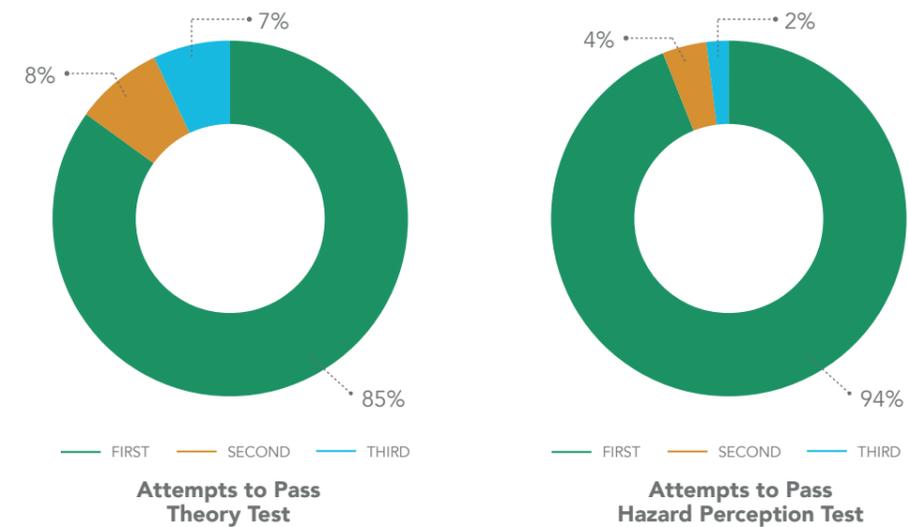
The Trust has also been pleased to note that the average mileage being driven by our young drivers after their driving test is broadly consistent with the national averages, with 57% driving over 5,000 miles per annum and 13% over 10,000 miles per annum. This compares to the national average in 2017 of 7,800 miles per annum*. We can thus reasonably infer that the accident rate amongst Pathfinder graduates is far better per mile than the general young population, as well as in absolute terms.



5.3 DRIVING TEST PERFORMANCE

Of the respondents, 63% passed the DVSA Practical Test at first attempt while a further 26% passed at second attempt. All respondents reported passing their practical test at the time of the survey. This is lower than the pass rate recorded for Car Club Members, the difference reflecting the greater experience of Car Club Members, but significantly higher than the 47% reported on any one occasion* for the general population. Although we are deliberately not teaching students to 'pass the test' but a life skill, this suggests the Pathfinder methodology ensures the requirements of the DVSA curriculum are observed, whilst Members are perhaps better prepared through longer exposure and greater (private road) driving experience than their peer group.**

5.4 THEORY / HAZARD TEST PERFORMANCE



Progression through Pathfinder also depends on successful completion of driving theory tests drawn from the DVSA handbook. Each student will have completed at least four Theory Tests during the programme.

PRACTICAL THEORY TEST

PATHFINDER 2017/18 **85%** **NATIONAL AVG. 2017/18** **48.7%**

It is clear that the superior test performance extends beyond the Practical Test, with our respondents' first time pass rate at 85% versus the national average pass rate of 48.7%* (2017/18).

HAZARD PERCEPTION TEST

PATHFINDER 2017/18 **94%** **NATIONAL AVG. 2017/18** **50%**

Similarly, the Hazard Perception First Time pass rate for our respondents is 94% against the estimated national average pass rate of 50% (no Government statistics on this test appear to have been published*).

5.5 CONVICTIONS



Of the participants in the survey only a single driver (under 2%) had been convicted of a traffic offence compared with nearly 24%** of all drivers nationally, and even then only of a single offence.**

Around 10% of the Respondents had taken an advanced driving qualification at the time they completed the survey (largely "Pass Plus") which is somewhat disappointing given the emphasis placed on "learning for life" on the course – we continue to monitor this and look for ways to encourage greater uptake, particularly with our partners at IAM Roadsmart (with whom we've had notable success at The Under 17 Car Club).

5.6 ABOUT THE MEMBERS

The Trust and its operations are open to all, with eligibility being determined only by age and physical size. It is essential that a driver is able to operate the controls and make necessary observations. Similarly participants must be sufficiently mature to not be overwhelmed by the challenges inevitably present.

Pathfinder is open to all who apply regardless of financial, educational or physical challenges. We have welcomed on the programme students who have been unable to contribute financially, with physical disabilities and with Asperger's Syndrome and Autistic Spectrum challenges. Every one of these students has both enjoyed the programme and benefitted from it.

Students on the Pathfinder Programme follow a grading and assessment structure which mirrors that of The Under 17 Car Club. There is a very broad equivalence in terms of knowledge, attitudes,

standards and competencies between the 'Car Club' Grades 5, 4 and 3 and the Pathfinder Levels 3, 2, 1. The major difference, and it is we believe of great significance, is the level of experience. Pathfinder is limited to about 35 hours in total, of which the student can expect to spend about 25 hours at the wheel. A Car Club Member attaining Grade 3 would have invested a minimum of 60 hours driving under a much wider variety of conditions.

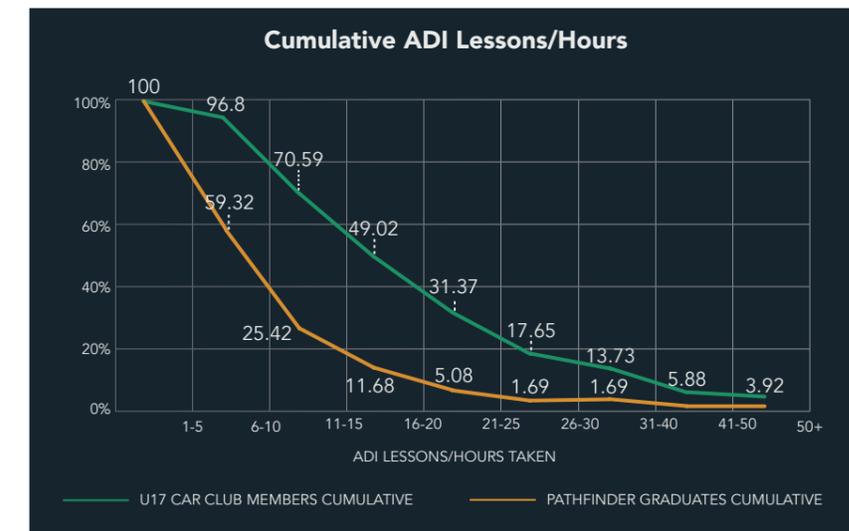
Driving standards at the Club are evaluated annually by an external assessor, typically an observer or examiner with IAM Roadsmart or RoSPA. Pathfinder adopts the Car Club instruction model and its current Chief Instructor is a National Observer with IAM Roadsmart. We have also been fortunate since the commencement of Pathfinder in Gloucestershire in receiving support from a serving Police Class One Driver. Taken together, these help assure the quality of the process.

5.7 FROM PATHFINDER TO DVSA TEST

The Trust recognises that the public roads are a very different driving environment to those which it creates for its young drivers. It therefore encourages them, however highly graded, to develop their skills and knowledge with an ADI before attempting their DVSA test. The survey shows that the vast majority of Respondents (95%) did take such lessons as recommended.

As the table below shows, and as we would expect, Pathfinder Students, on average, require a greater number of lessons with an ADI than Car Club Members. This reflects the limited time on the programme compared with the Car Club experience.

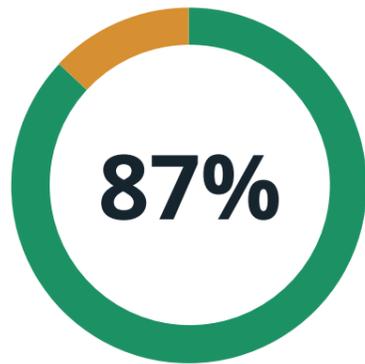
Overall though, 69% of Pathfinder Students required fewer than 20 hours with an ADI before passing the DVSA Test. We believe that this is a better than average performance particularly when combined with the better than national average pass rate. This suggests that Pathfinder contributes to both safety and value for money.



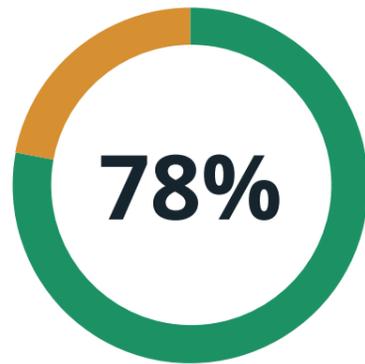
5.8 PARTICIPANT REFLECTIONS

The final section of the survey asked participants to reflect on their experience of the course itself.

KEY MESSAGES



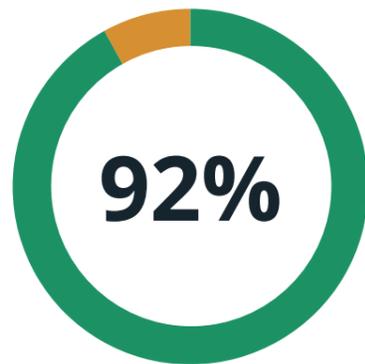
87% of the Respondents stated that the course had been very useful in making them a better driver.



78% considered it very useful in making them a safer driver.



83% thought it very useful in making their driving more enjoyable.



92% rated the course excellent or very good value for money with 8% rating it good.

It is notable that, as in the 2014 survey, cost was listed as a major consideration for between 25% and 30% of those surveyed, thus it remains vital that Pathfinder maintains the ability to provide bursaries and keep the overall costs down.

That 96% of participants would recommend Pathfinder to their friends is perhaps testament to the hard work and contribution of all the Pathfinder volunteers and the guardians of the Students.

5.9 PARTICIPANTS COMMENTS

The participants in the survey were provided with the opportunity to make comments on their experience with the Pathfinder course and its impact on them. A selection of these comments has been included below:

“

I found the Pathfinder programme a great way of being able to drive and learn about driving before I was legally allowed on the roads. We learnt about car control and basic driving skills in a safe environment. It not only helped my driving ability but also my confidence behind the wheel. I would thoroughly recommend this course to others.



“

The course meant my parents felt ok taking me on the road. I had my 1st lesson the week after my birthday and my Driving instructor asked me what date my test was, I passed 4 months after my birthday. I've told mates about this and recommended it if they get the chance.

“

I am not a very quick learner, so the Pathfinder project was brilliant because they were very patient gave me lots of additional ADI one-to-one instruction and worked with me at my pace of learning. I won driver of the week and IAM subscription, and have been working towards that with slow but steady progress. I was test ready from February but get very nervous in exam conditions. With the good foundations from the Pathfinder course, I passed my test within 3 months of turning 17. This course is so good at dealing with all the safety aspects as well as peer pressure which has been my biggest challenge since passing my test and when giving lifts. Having a black box has really helped to reinforce the lessons I learnt on the course.



“

Really enjoyed the Pathfinder course; the opportunity to learn to drive in a safe environment with less pressure was fantastic. I am also glad to have been able to drive other vehicles on the course - a landrover, van, etc. as this gave me an insight into how drivers of those vehicles experience the road.



6 CONCLUSIONS

“

I was very nervous about driving and this course gave me confidence to take lessons when I turned 17.

Amazing thing to do - look forward to helping every time I can now!

Really helped with confidence as people were really kind and friendly.



“

The course was brilliant. It allowed me to start my driving experience in a safe environment, whilst learning about the safety and legal elements of driving. A great start to my driving that meant when starting to drive on the road I had some knowledge which allowed me to then grow my driving knowledge further.”



I would not have been in a position to take or pass my test if I hadn't attended Pathfinder. It gave me the skills and confidence to learn. It also gave me an appreciation and enjoyment of driving. The course instructors were knowledgeable, patient, fun and it helped having different tutors each time to learn from. The daily course changes made it more challenging but more useful. Thank you. An experience I will never forget.”



“

It's a fantastic course that prepared me for driving safely on the road. It highlights and deals with things that I may not have considered, like peer pressure. I got to drive different cars, a van, a police car and a truck...which wouldn't be available to me on the road. I passed my test first time and have had no accidents! I'd recommend Pathfinder to everyone - even adults!



“

I had a great time on the course and feel it was what has made me the driver I am today. I wouldn't have had the courage to get in the driver seat before Pathfinder, let alone drive on the road! The supervisors were all great and really supportive, and it taught my parents a few things too! Will always recommend Pathfinder to any younger learners I know.

We believe the statistics we have gathered from real-world participants in both Pathfinder and the Under 17 Car Club provide compelling evidence that the education and experience we offer have a significant, measurable impact on road safety amongst newly-qualified young drivers.

It appears to make them more skilled drivers, demonstrated by the lower accident rate, greater success rate in the DVSA test, and lower likelihood of committing Motoring Offences once qualified.

From the feedback we have received, graduates of our schemes are very likely to recommend the courses to others which both generates further (welcome) demands on the Trust and a cascading virtuous effect of encouraging more young people to take our driving courses.

It is important in understanding the findings of this survey to recognise substantial differences between Pathfinder, The Under 17 Car Club methodology and the traditional approach of the statutory authorities:

1. The Club and Pathfinder process requires the active involvement of the Members' parents (or Associates) over an extended period.
2. Club Membership extends over many hundreds of hours and miles.
3. The Pathfinder experience is very intensive in comparison with the longer term Under 17 Car Club experience.
4. Progression through the grading system is as much a function of driving attitude as it is of technical skill.
5. Driving is a privilege for Club Members and Pathfinder Students, not a right.
6. The Under 17 Car Club curriculum is much broader than the norm including:
 - a. First Aid Training
 - b. Skill Development (close manoeuvres)
 - c. Skid Pan Training
 - d. Speed Awareness Training
 - e. Advanced Car Control (Cornering and Vehicle Dynamics)
 - f. Motorway Training
 - g. Vehicle Safety and Routine Maintenance Training
 - h. Driving Theory Training
 - i. Hazard Perception Training
 - j. Night Driving
 - k. HGV Driving.
 - l. Pathfinder includes elements a, b, d, g, h, i of the Car Club process but adds to that the following:
 - Brake & Avoid
 - Discussion on Consequences of RTC
 - Assertiveness Training
 - Police Drive.

Future surveys will include assessment of attitudinal change in relation to risk and safety awareness. Perhaps the argument should be that the example shown by the parents of Car Club Members and Pathfinder Students, if followed at a national level, would have a significant impact on novice driver KSIs. Rather than challenging these results for being based on small numbers, encouragement should be given to larger numbers to engage and determine if the impact can be sustained across a larger population.

With the average cost per fatal collision on UK roads having increased to more than £2m (in 2016*), then the potential saving from reducing young driver accident rates from 20% to 6%, as evidenced above, would save the UK economy £472m** per year in addition to the human cost of losing loved ones.

* www.statista.com/statistics/322862/average-cost-of-road-accidents-and-casualties-in-great-britain-uk/

** Based on 337 young driver car fatalities in 2013, being the most recent data we have found.

Source: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/448039/young-car-drivers-2013-data.pdf

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In relation to the survey, thanks are due to:

- Pathfinder Students for completing the survey
- Their parents for investing the time in their children
- Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner, Martin Surl
- West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner, John Paul Campion
- Gloucestershire Police, notably Sergeant Darren Rosewell
- West Mercia Police, notably Sergeant Thomas Clayton
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service
- Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
- IAM Roadsmart
- Trustees and Officials of the Trust for their continuing support.

This report has been compiled on behalf of the Trust by Phil Hagen, Joint Chief Instructor, The Under 17 Car Club with the support of Chair of Trustees Paul Silverwood and Trustee Dr. John Beckford.

The survey and its findings have been reviewed and validated by Professor Peter Kawalek, Director of the Centre for Information Management, School of Business and Economics, Loughborough University. His report is included as Appendix 3.



APPENDICES



8 APPENDIX 1: ABOUT THE UNDER 17 CAR CLUB

The Under 17 Car Club was founded by the children's author Sandy Barrie and racing driver Barrie 'Whizzo' Williams (now both deceased) in 1976 when they realised there was no organisation which offered a safe, organised environment in which children with an interest in driving, cars and motorsport could learn to drive and practice their skills.

Some 42 years later and continuing to thrive, The Under 17 Car Club Limited offers the only nationally available, not-for-profit young drivers programme. Since 1976 in excess of 4,000 pre-licence drivers, typically starting at age 12, and their associates have developed positive attitudes to road safety and high levels of driving skill with the Club and there are past members who are now associates for their own children. Our curriculum and methodology is based on Roadcraft and developing competence equivalent to IAM Roadsmart F1rst or RoSPA Advanced Driving Gold standard. Progress is determined by attitudinal development and demonstrable understanding of risk; standards are regularly externally assessed.

The Club operates at a variety of venues in Central and Southern England offering around 35 core events each year and welcomes young people and their parents from all walks of life. All the activities of the Club are developed and delivered by volunteers. Many are the parents of current driving members or those whose children, now grown up, have benefitted from the Club. Many former members return to the Club as volunteer Marshals and Instructors.

There can be no doubt that novice drivers constitute the highest risk group on UK roads. Drivers in the 17-24 age group comprise around 1 in 8 of licensed drivers but are involved in 1 in 3 road traffic collisions. A novice driver is understood to have a 1 in 5 probability of a collision in their first 12 months on the road. The House of Commons Select Transport Committee recently recorded that collision probability at nearly 1 in 4 for male novice drivers.*

The Under 17 Car Club Charitable Trust (the Trust) operates two schemes designed to address this problem:

- The Under 17 Car Club
- The Under 17 Car Club Pathfinder initiative.

The Club accepts members (and their parents) from age 11 and provides an extended development and tuition methodology until age 17+. Progression through the grading structure depends on development of appropriate technical skills, risk understanding and management, and risk-averse attitudes. Pathfinder offers a 5-day intensive experience to rising 17s using the opportunity to drive pre-17 to deliver powerful and engaging road safety messages to the students and their parents.



9 APPENDIX 2: 2018 PATHFINDER SURVEY QUESTIONS

QUESTION	ANSWER CHOICES
Gender	Male Female
Year of Attendance	2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017
Age at Attendance	15 16 17 18+
Level Achieved on Course	Ungraded Level 3 Level 2 Level 1
Location Attended	Cheltenham Long Marston Throckmorton Cosford
Did you receive lessons from an ADI after receiving Provisional Licence?	Yes No
Number of ADI Hours before passing Test	1 – 5 6 – 10 11 – 15 16 – 20 21 – 25 26 – 30 31 – 40 41 – 50 51+
Did you practice on the road with an adult?	Yes No

How many hours did you practice before passing your Test	1 – 5 6 – 10 11 – 15 16 – 20 21 – 25 26 – 30 31 – 40 41 – 50 51+
How many attempts to pass Theory Test?	{numeric box}
How many attempts to pass Hazard Perception Test?	{numeric box}
How many attempts to pass Practical Test	{numeric box}
Have you taken and Advanced Driving Qualifications since passing Test	None PassPlus IAM RoSPA Trailer Test PSV Light Commercial Heavy Commercial HGV Other
When driving, do you drive for?	Domestic To/from work Multiple locations with work
What is your average annual mileage?	< 1000 miles 1000 – 5000 miles 5000 – 10000 miles 10000 – 15000 miles 15000 – 20000 miles >20000 miles
Have you been involved in any accidents whilst driving?	Yes No
How many times	{numeric box}
How many vehicles involved?	0 1 2 3+
Was anyone injured	Yes No
Was anyone killed?	Yes No
Was there an insurance claim made?	Yes No

If claim, were you at fault	Yes No
Have you been convicted of a motoring offence?	Yes No
If conviction, of what type	Speeding Drink/Drugs Careless/Dangerous Other
How many points do you have on your licence?	{numeric box}
How effective has Pathfinder been in:	
• Making you a better driver	Very useful Useful Not Useful
• Making you a safer driver	Very useful Useful Not Useful
• Making your driving more enjoyable	Very useful Useful Not Useful
How would you rate your enjoyment of Pathfinder?	Excellent Very Good Good Poor
Did the course represent value for money	Excellent Very Good Good Poor
Was Cost a major consideration in applying for Pathfinder?	Yes No
Would cost deter others you know from applying?	Yes No
Would you recommend Pathfinder to others?	Yes No
Comments?	{free text}

10 APPENDIX 3: LETTER OF VALIDATION

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Dear Professor Beckford,

The Under 17 Car Club Charitable Trust, Pathfinder Participant Survey 2018

I am glad to have been asked to review the Pathfinder Participant Survey 2018. The evidence that you have gathered is compelling as it supports the design principles of the Under 17 Pathfinder programme. I take from the report that the course is designed to give young people pre-licence experience in an adult and peer environment, where there is engaging safety-related content and a driving experience that is influenced by the highest applicable standards; Roadcraft, IAM Roadsmart and RoSPA Gold. The Survey Report then reports the outcomes of this learning against key events such as accidents in the first year post-licence, offences and mileage. There is now also significant historical data reaching back to 1999 (Car Club).

The survey method is appropriate for this kind of assessment, and additionally allows a longitudinal comparison across earlier results. I am wholly comfortable with that methodologically. I can also verify that the findings reported by Pathfinder are appropriately borne out by the evidence. Although there are always limitations on research methods, I am comfortable that this evidence can be used with confidence in policy fora.

Taking full view of the design of the course, the latest survey results and the prior data, I repeat that evidence for the value of the course is compelling. Two data points are perhaps most illustrative. The first is that the 1st Year Accident Rate remains at 1 in 17, compared to 1 in 5 for the general public. The second is that the rate for licence points remains low (6%) compared with the general public (14%). Additionally, only one driver had a conviction.

In summary, the quantitative data indicates that the scheme is having a positive impact. In making a judgement across all aspects of the report, from the aims of the Pathfinder scheme through the design principles and the seniority of tutors and demonstrators, the quantitative data confirms all sensible expectation. I think that the evidence is certainly strong enough to support the continuation of the scheme and indeed its expansion. Few topics are as important as lives and safety on the road.

Please keep me informed of progress,

Yours sincerely,

Professor Peter Kawalek.



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