

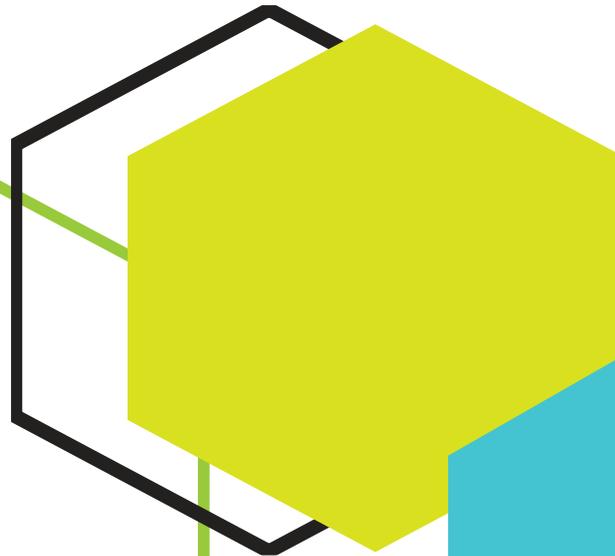


Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon

# Local Assessment of Need

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# 2020 - 2023





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# Introduction & Methodology

# Introduction

The Department of Education (DE) invests approximately £34m in Youth Work in Northern Ireland to support and encourage children and young people to mature and reach their potential as valued individuals and responsible citizens. The DE notes that effective youth work enables children and young people to identify their personal and social development needs and involves them in shaping the services designed to meet those needs and improve both their own skills and life chances in order to create a better future for themselves and their communities. Effective youth work therefore contributes to the DE vision of *every young person achieving to his or her full potential at each stage of his or her development*.<sup>1</sup>

According to the National Youth Agency *Youth Work offers young people safe spaces to explore their identity, experience decision-making, increase their confidence, develop inter-personal skills and think through the consequences of their actions. This leads to better informed choices, changes in activity and improved outcomes for young people*.<sup>2</sup>

The Education Authority (EA) delivers Youth Services directly to young people in a variety of settings including full-time and part-time youth centres, outdoor learning centres, youth work in schools as well as outreach and detached work and specialist programmes, particularly focussed on improving outcomes for young people and enhancing their inclusion and participation. A significant proportion of youth work programmes also take place in voluntary, uniformed and church based organisations many of which are supported by grants from Education Authority EA. These range from rural groups with small memberships to large urban organisations.

Structured formal planning takes place throughout the service in order to effectively allocate staff and resources in response to policy priorities, DE targets and an objective assessment of needs. Area planning is part of a coherent planning framework established within Youth Services.

## Youth Services in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon

A Senior Youth Officer (SYO) manages the strategic development and direction of the Youth Service in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area. The SYO will oversee the implementation of the Area Plan, allocate resources based on need, monitor and moderate provision and represents the Education Authority on The Youth Service in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is constantly innovating to meet the present and emerging needs of young people.

The current Education Authority Youth Service team in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon comprises 18 full-time and 40 part-time staff supported by a team of approximately 35 volunteers.

## Full time Controlled Youth Provision

1. Epicentre Armagh
2. Brownlow Youth Resource Centre
3. Tullygally Youth Centre
4. Drumgor Youth Centre
5. Lurgan Youth Annex
6. Taghnevan & Community Youth Centre

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Education, 2013, Priorities for Youth – Improving Young People’s Lives Through Youth Work, Department of Education, Bangor.

<sup>2</sup> <https://nya.org.uk/careers-youth-work/what-is-youth-work/>

7. Banbridge Youth Resource Centre

## Part-time Controlled

1. Dromore Youth Centre
2. ENP Banbridge
3. Tandragee Youth Centre

## Full Time Voluntary

1. YMCA, Portadown
2. Seagoe Youth Centre, Portadown
3. St Mary's Youth Centre, Portadown
4. Clann Eireann Youth Centre, Lurgan

## Part time Voluntary:

1. Lurgan YMCA
2. St Patrick's Youth Club Keady
3. Goal Line Youth Club, Portadown

## Generic and Targeted Youth Work

Youth work can be categorised broadly into two types – **Generic** and **Targeted**.

- Generic youth provision in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon ensures that supportive environments are made available to a significant proportion of children and young people throughout our communities. This allows them to enhance their personal skills, levels of motivation and general resilience and to develop their ability to interact with other young people and adults.

In the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area a total of 187 voluntary groups currently receive grants from Education Authority (EA) to deliver generic provision.

## Registered EA Youth provision (2017/18) Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon		
Type of Group	Total Count of groups	Registered Users
Church based	45	4720
Community	39	5488
Uniformed	101	6650
Other	2	97
<b>Total Provision</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>16955</b>

## Targeted Provision

Targeted provision seeks to address the direct impact of exclusion and marginalisation, addressing key themes of work, such as risk-taking behaviour, sectarianism and racism, disaffection and low levels of attainment in school, whilst also focusing resources on specific groups of children and young people who are most marginalised, such as those from Section 75 groupings. The targeting of provision is aimed at meeting policy imperatives and ensuring that Youth Services are positioned to tackle the impact of economic and social deprivation, particularly as deprivation and exclusion affects the ability of young people to make the most of their life chances and general education.

The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service team are supported by the Regional Team including, Facilitating Life and Resilience Education (FLARE), the Outdoor Learning Service (OLS), Participation,

Inclusion, TBUC, START, Creative Arts and Digital Innovation (CADI), International, Education Other Than at Schools (EOTAS), Training and Planning and Monitoring teams.

## Purpose

An Assessment of Need is the first phase of the process of informing the direction of a policy or strategy to support a particular group or issue. A systematic assessment of need ensures that decisions made are subjective and evidence based. The purpose of the Regional Assessment of Need is to identify the big picture in terms of the needs and inequalities facing children and young people and vulnerable groups whose needs are not currently being met and who experience poor educational, health or social outcomes. This needs assessment will identify unmet need and inform service planning and resource allocation ensuring improved outcomes for children and young people and a reduction in inequalities.

This assessment of need will therefore assist the EA Youth Service to identify needs, determine priorities, allocate resources and make organisational decisions and improvements. As the first phase of the planning process, it will involve collecting information about its target population, children and young people, decide what needs are being, determine what needs are not being met and identify emerging need.

Understanding the needs of children and young people, demographic changes and the geographical differences in which they reside allow planners, managers and providers to ensure that the right services are available in the right place at the right time.

# Methodology

*Priorities for Youth* maintains that the strategic planning and resourcing of youth work must address the assessed need for youth work interventions. Therefore, an effective assessment of need is particularly critical given that DE funded youth work must be set within the context of prioritised age ranges, priority groups and a clear definition of the need for targeted interventions, alongside an element of non-targeted provision that is assessed as needed.

Quantifying the needs of young people in Northern Ireland is a complex and difficult task. There is a clear variation and level of needs across the region, with some areas facing greater challenges than others. Northern Ireland is a large geographical area with broad ranging and diverse needs and issues.

A range of quantitative and qualitative research methods have been used to inform this Assessment of Need. The most up to date data and statistics from a range of government and statutory sources along with recent, relevant reports have been analysed and examined. An extensive consultation with young people and key stakeholders was also undertaken.

The information gleaned from the research has been collated and analysed and the evidence gathered has been used to compile this report, highlighting the key issues and levels of need affecting young people in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

Where possible quantitative and qualitative data have been used to inform this needs assessment. The information and data used in the assessment of need process came from a variety of sources, including the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Department of Education, Health Trusts and other government and statutory statistics.

All the information used was publicly available and is objective and unambiguous. The datasets were also related to outcomes and had a clear focus on educational underachievement and disadvantage.

Within this document, assessed needs are set within a framework for planning that takes into account current government policy, in particular those identified by DE in its policy document, *Priorities for Youth*. The following are some of the key themes that have been identified, although this list is not exhaustive: demographics, deprivation, education, health and wellbeing, proximity to services and crime and disorder.

## Desktop Research

The initial stages of the Local Assessment of Need involved desktop research. This process included analysing existing assessment of needs models, both national and international, to gain an insight into good practice and assist in the design and development of the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service's Local Assessment of Need.

Desktop research was also used to gather and analyse qualitative information from a range of sources. These sources were generally from government departments or other statutory agencies. The information collected from these sources helped identify key priority areas of need within Northern Ireland. A review of recent, relevant literature was also undertaken. Evidence gathered from these documents and reports was used to support the original findings and helped inform the overall report.

## Surveys

Stakeholders' voices, especially those of young people, are vitally important to both DE and EA in the design and delivery of Youth Service provision.

A survey focussing on the following six key areas of enquiry was designed for young people and administered using Survey Monkey;

- Health and Wellbeing
- Learn and Achieve
- Good Relations
- Participation
- Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity
- Living in Safety and Stability

The areas of enquiry were identified based on key policy directives such as the Programme for Government, Children and Young People's Strategy and Priorities for Youth. The areas of enquiry are also in line with existing practice areas in EA's internal Target Monitor.

A total of 4,052 of children and young people from Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon responded to the survey. Children and young people from a range of statutory, local and voluntary youth groups involved in DE funded youth work participated. Children and young people not currently involved in Youth Services were also canvassed.

A similar survey based on the same areas of enquiry was designed and distributed to youth workers and volunteers. There were 704 respondents to this survey, 68 from the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area. Youth workers and volunteers from a range of statutory, local and voluntary youth groups involved in DE funded youth work took part in the survey.

The survey responses were analysed and helped inform the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Assessment of Need.

## Stakeholder Engagement Events

EA Youth Service in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon organised a series of stakeholder engagement events examining identified themes:

- New and Emerging Needs RAG / LAG Event hosted in Seagoe Youth Group, Killicomaine (3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019) 93 Participants
- Local Assessment of Need Consultation Event – (16<sup>th</sup> December 2019) 68 Participants
- 1 Local Advisory Group consultation meeting (6<sup>th</sup> January 2020)
- PRISM (LGBTQ) Thematic Voice Residential – Shaping an Inclusive Youth Service (14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019)

These events were co-designed and delivered by young people. Along with young people, key stakeholders from a range of statutory, voluntary and community organisations attended and participated in these events. The findings from these stakeholder events have also been used to inform the Assessment of Need.

# Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon in Numbers

# Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon in Numbers

- **73,264 children and young people live in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.**
  - 11,952 aged 0-3 years
  - 15,774 aged 4-8 years
  - 15,410 aged 9-13 years
  - 13,171 aged 14-18 years
  - 16,977 aged 19-25 years
- 6,600 children and young people (9%) live in an area of deprivation.
- 34,614 children and young people (47.2%) live in a rural community.
- One in five children and young people have a mental health need (14,667 young people).
- 1,272 young people identify as LGBTQ. (14-25).
- 18,250 children and young people are engaged in Youth Work.
- 9,294 (23.5%) of all pupils are eligible for Free School Meals
- 7,443 (18.5%) of all pupils have a Special Educational Need or a Disability.
- 148 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon.
- 169 Roma children and young people attend schools in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon.
- 3,207 newcomers attend schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

## Demographics

The Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council was established on 1st April 2015. It is the second largest council, in terms of population, after Belfast City Council. The Council Area recognises a settlement hierarchy which places the hubs of Armagh City, Craigavon Urban Area (Portadown, Central Craigavon and Lurgan) and Banbridge as the main settlements.

Within this hierarchy, the Borough also has six smaller local towns (Keady, Markethill, Tandragee, Dromore, Rathfriland and Gilford), 29 villages and 66 small settlements.

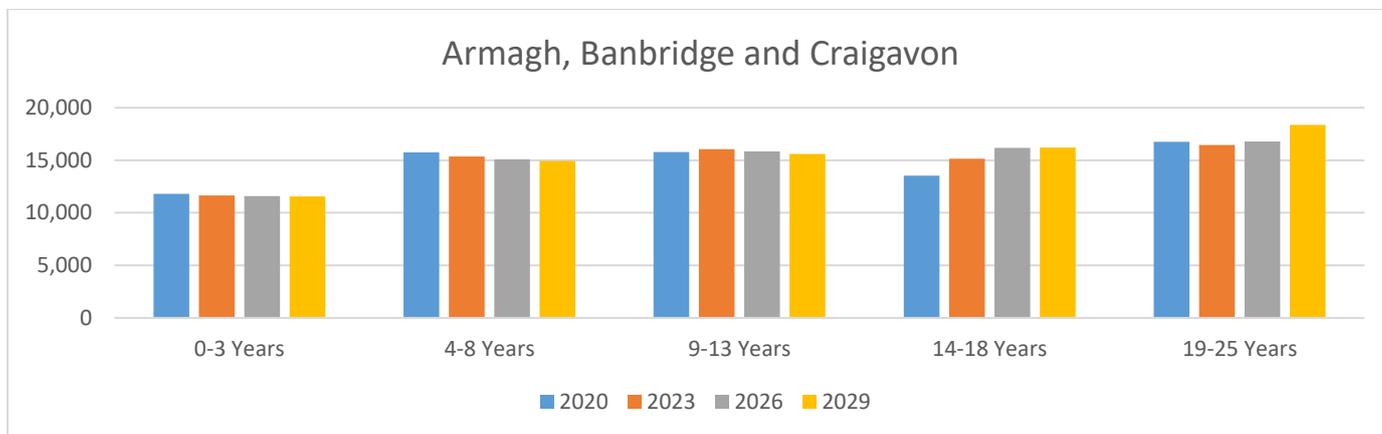
The estimated population of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council for 2019 was 216,309, of which 107,595 (49.7%) are male and 108,714 (50.3%) are female. More than one third of the total population of Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon, 73,264 (33.9%) are aged 25 years or under. (NI average 33.1%)

The demographics of the area indicate that 47.2% of young people live in areas that are essentially rural in character with 52.8% live within the densely populated Craigavon area and the two large urban centres of Armagh and Banbridge. The deployment of the Youth Work team ensures that attention is given to the needs of young people in rural and urban settings through centre-based, area youth workers, outreach workers and voluntary sector organisations, supported by grants from Education Authority.

**Table 1 – Population Age Bands 2019**

0-3 Years	4-8 Years	9-13 Years	14-18 Years	19-25 Years
11,952	15,774	15,410	13,171	16,977

**Chart 1 – Projected Population 2020-2029**



As shown in the Table below over the next 3 years, youth population projections indicate that the number of young people between the ages of 9-18 years are expected to rise significantly and therefore requires consideration.

**Table 2 – Projected Population 2020-2029**

Age Groups	2020	2023	2026	2029
0-3 Years	11,792	11,646	11,586	11,560
4-8 Years	15,745	15,353	15,078	14,934
9-13 Years	15,782	16,070	15,833	15,591
14-18 Years	13,529	15,156	16,183	16,227
19-25 Years	16,756	16,456	16,796	18,356

## Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM)

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure was published in November 2017, identifying small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Northern Ireland. The results are presented by small areas known as Super Output Areas (SOAs). Northern Ireland is divided into 890 of these SOAs which are ranked according to deprivation using seven severe domains, or distinct types which in composite form is known as the Multiple Deprivation Measure. These are:

- Income Domain
- Employment Domain
- Health Deprivation and Disability Domain
- Education, Skills and Training Domain
- Access to Services Domain
- Living Environment Domain
- Crime and Disorder Domain

## Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM)

According to figures released by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) in 2017, 9% of children and young people from Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon live in the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas within Northern Ireland. Currently, this equates to approximately 6,600 young people living in areas of and experiencing high levels of multiple deprivation.

The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area consists of 87 Super Output Areas. 8 Super Output Areas are ranked in the top 100 most deprived in terms of multiple deprivation. These are:

- Woodville 1
- Drumgask 2
- Court 1
- Callanbridge
- Church
- Annagh 2
- Drumgor 2
- Drumnamoe 1

8 Super Output Areas are ranked in the top 100 most deprived in terms Income Deprivation Affecting Children. These are:

- Woodville 1
- Church
- Annagh 2
- Keady
- Callanbridge
- Derrynoose
- Corcrair 2

In 2012/13-2014/15, 21.1% of the population were in relative poverty (before housing costs) in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, compared with 20.4% in Northern Ireland.

In 2012/13-2014/15, 23% of children were in relative poverty (before housing costs) in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, compared with 23.0% in Northern Ireland.

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs) are neighbourhoods identified as experiencing the most severe multiple deprivation and have been chosen to receive support under the Department for Communities People and Place strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. In total 36 neighbourhoods have been identified to receive support. There are 4 in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Area:

- Armagh
- Brownlow
- Lurgan
- Portadown North West

Young people living in Neighbourhoods Renewal Areas tend to have lower educational outcomes than their peers who don't live in renewal area. Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service requires the delivery

of youth provision in these areas in order to raise educational standards and contribute to closing the performance gap.

## Children in Low Income

The Children in Low Income Families Local Measure produced by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is the proportion of children living in families either in receipt of out-of-work benefits or in receipt of tax credits with a reported income which is less than 60 per cent of national median income. This measure provides a broad proxy for the relative low income measure as used in the Child Poverty Act 2010 and enables analysis at a local level. The analysis for 2013 was published in September 2015.

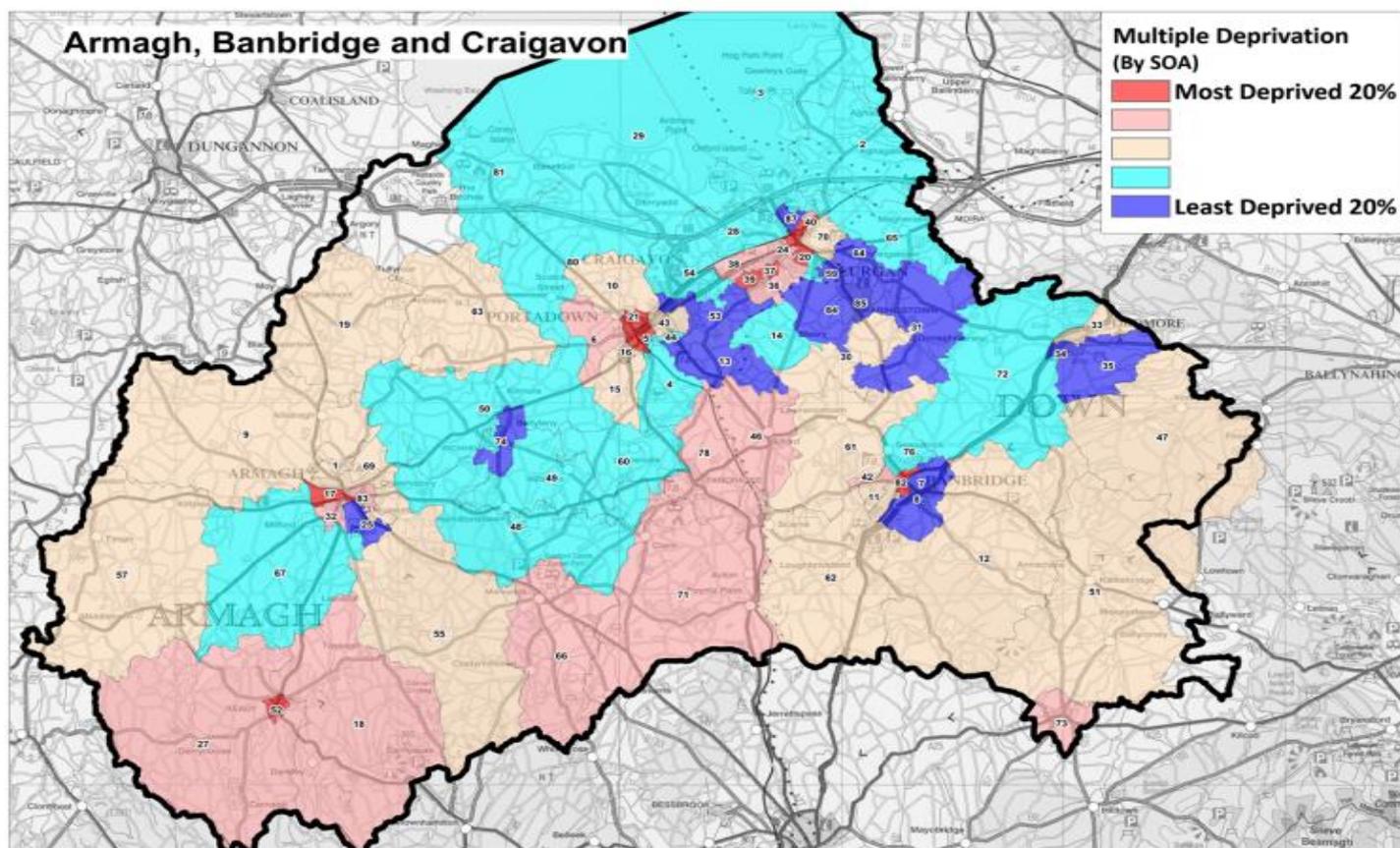
In the HMRC measure the incomes are restricted to taxable incomes plus tax credits and child benefit rather than all sources of income. The low income threshold (which is 60 per cent of the UK median income) was £218 per week in 2013. This is based on a couple with no children; the threshold is adjusted for different family types.

In 2013, 21.4% of children in Northern Ireland lived in low income families, compared to 18.1% in Great Britain.

Within Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, the proportion of children living in low income families ranged from 4.5% in Waringstown 2 to 51.8% in Drumgask 2 super output areas.

Of the 87 super output areas in the Borough, 27 had higher proportions of children living in low income families than the NI average. Urban areas tended to have higher rates of children in low income families, than rural areas.

MAP 1 MDM BY SOA



The table below shows each SOA in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon for MDM. Red shading indicates the 20% most deprived in Northern Ireland.

Lookup Table - Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon

Ref	SOA	MDM Rank (1-890)	Ref	SOA	MDM Rank (1-890)
1	Abbey Park	424	44	Edenderry 2	682
2	Aghagallon 2	649	45	Fort	503
3	Aghagallon2	684	46	Gilford	347
4	Annagh 1	583	47	Gransha	520
5	Annagh 2	73	48	Hamiltonsbawn 1	657
6	Ballybay	299	49	Hamiltonsbawn 2	651
7	Ballydown 1	806	50	Hockley	680
8	Ballydown 2	805	51	Katesbridge	449
9	Ballymartin	498	52	Keady	125
10	Ballyoran	412	53	Kernan 1	780
11	Banbridge West	430	54	Kernan 2	616
12	Bannside	411	55	Killeen	443
13	Bleary 1	825	56	Killycomain	468
14	Bleary 2	631	57	Killylea	432
15	Brownstown 1	423	58	Knocknashana 1	678
16	Brownstown 2	447	59	Knocknashana 2	775
17	Callanbridge	61	60	Laurelvale	588
18	Carrigatuke	273	61	Laurencetown	496
19	Charlemont	403	62	Loughbrickland	485
20	Church	62	63	Loughgall	505
21	Corcrair 1	129	64	Magheralin 1	746
22	Corcrair 2	108	65	Magheralin 2	689
23	Court 1	54	66	Markethill	310
24	Court 2	179	67	Milford	600
25	Demesne 1	718	68	Mourneview	301
26	Demesne 2	521	69	Observatory	426
27	Derrynoose	212	70	Parklake	417
28	Derrytrasna 1	697	71	Poyntzpass	294
29	Derrytrasna 2	608	72	Quilly	639
30	Donaghcloney 1	519	73	Rathfriland	328
31	Donaghcloney 2	727	74	Richhill 1	786
32	Downs	288	75	Richhill 2	637
33	Dromore North	502	76	Seapatrick	672
34	Dromore South 1	785	77	Taghnevan	332
35	Dromore South 2	797	78	Tandragee	353
36	Drumgask 1	208	79	Tavanagh	164
37	Drumgask 2	52	80	The Birches 1	534
38	Drumgor 1	262	81	The Birches 2	577
39	Drumgor 2	81	82	The Cut	120
40	Drumnamoe 1	83	83	The Mall	269
41	Drumnamoe 2	351	84	Waringstown 1	715
42	Edenderry	224	85	Waringstown 2	767
43	Edenderry 1	427	86	Woodville 1	14
			87	Woodville 2	772

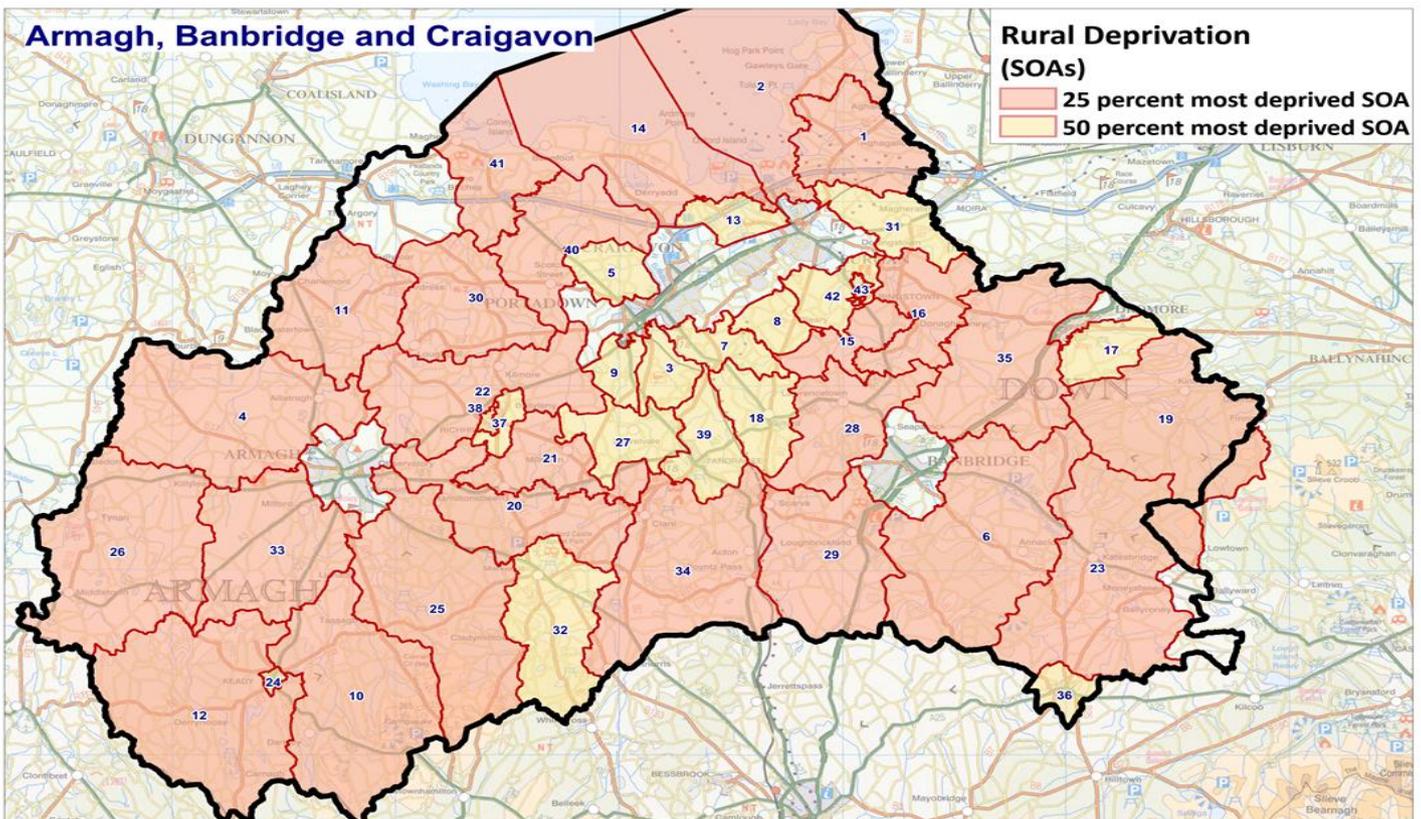
# Rural

NISRA also reported in 2017 that 42.2% of young people from Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon live in what has been designated as a rural area. Currently, this equates to approximately 31,000 young people living in a rural community, where access to services restricts their life chances and opportunities. Young people in rural communities face differing levels of social exclusion and marginalisation. Rural isolation also presents challenges for the provision of adequate public transport and the viability and accessibility of Youth Services

The following areas in the top 20% (experiencing rural isolation and lack access to services) that require youth provision in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area include:

- Katesbridge
- Derrynoose
- Gransha
- Derrytrasna 2
- Killylea
- The Birches 2
- Quilly
- Carrigatuke

MAP 2 Rural Deprivation (SOA)



## Lookup Table - Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon

Reference	SOA	Rural Deprivation Measure Rank
1	Aghagallon 1	199
2	Aghagallon 2	192
3	Annagh 1	288
4	Ballymartrim	102
5	Ballyoran	329
6	Bannside	18
7	Bleary 1	255
8	Bleary 2	253
9	Brownstown 1	322
10	Carrigatuke	100
11	Charlemont	135
12	Derrynoose	54
13	Derrytrasna 1	285
14	Derrytrasna 2	73
15	Donaghcloney 1	210
16	Donaghcloney 2	127
17	Dromore South 2	250
18	Gilford	284
19	Gransha	64
20	Hamiltonsbawn 1	125
21	Hamiltonsbawn 2	156
22	Hockley	110
23	Katesbridge	33
24	Keady	410
25	Killeen	113
26	Killylea	89
27	Laurelvale	260
28	Lawrencetown	193
29	Loughbrickland	200
30	Loughgall	137
31	Magheralin 2	261
32	Markethill	237
33	Milford	166
34	Poyntzpass	101
35	Quilly	98
36	Rathfriland	440
37	Richhill 1	283
38	Richhill 2	372
39	Tandragee	316
40	The Birches 1	130
41	The Birches 2	96
42	Waringstown 1	254
43	Waringstown 2	348

## Education

There are a total of 129 Nursery, Primary, Post-Primary and Special Schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

- 12 Nursery schools
- 91 Primary schools
- 23 Post-Primary schools
- 3 Special schools
  - Of these, 63 are located in a rural setting, 1 is a Nursery school, 57 are Primary schools and 5 are post-Primary schools.
  - Of the 39,504 children and young people attending Primary and Post-Primary schools in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area, 9,394 (23.5%) are eligible for Free School Meals. The Northern Average is 29.2%.
  - Of the 40,237 children and young people attending Nursery, Primary, Post-Primary and Special schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon:
    - 5,593 (13.9%) are at Stage 1-4 on the Special Educational Needs register. (NI average 17.6%)
    - 1,850 (4.6%) have a Statement. (NI average 5.4%)
    - A total of 7,443 (18.5%) have a Special Educational Need. (NI average 23%)
    - 3,207 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area.
    - 12,147 (30.2%) children and young people attend schools in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area that have been designated as rural.
    - 78.8% of young people attending schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon achieved 5+ GCSE A\*-C. NI average 86%.
    - 66.8% of young people attending schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon achieved 5+ GCSE A\*-C including English and Maths. NI average 71.8%.

At a Northern Ireland level in 2014/15, the most common reason for absence in all schools was illness, which is an authorised absence. Illness accounted for 63.9% of all absent half days in primary schools, 52.9% in post-primary schools and 46.2% in special schools.

For post-primary schools in NI the figures indicate that for the most part, absence rates increase in line with the percentage of pupils enrolled who are eligible for free school meals. In schools where less than 10% of pupils enrolled were eligible for free school meals; the overall absence rate was 3.9% of the total half days. This compares with 9.0% of the total half days for schools with more than 50% of pupil's enrolled eligible for free school meals. Unauthorised absence is notably higher for schools with high levels of FSME. Since the level of free school meal eligibility is indicative of levels of deprivation, the data indicate that absence tends to be higher in more disadvantaged areas. For post primary schools, at 39.0% of the total half days, the rate of overall absence was higher for Irish Traveller children than for any other ethnic group. This compares with 6.5% for white children and 5.7% for children from a minority ethnic background.

In the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area, the post-primary schools where there are current partnerships, include:

- Lismore Comprehensive School
- Banbridge High School
- St Patricks College, Banbridge
- St Ronan's College Lurgan

There is a need for the development of partnerships and the delivery of provision in the following schools:

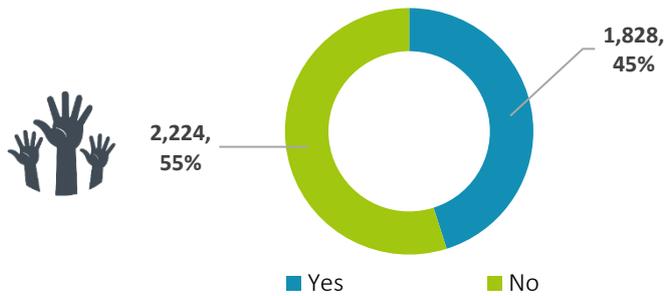
- Brownlow Integrated College
- St John the Baptist College, Portadown
- City of Armagh High School
- Craigavon Senior High School – Portadown
- Craigavon Senior High - Lurgan
- St Patricks High School, Keady
- Clounagh Junior High Portadown

# Survey Headlines

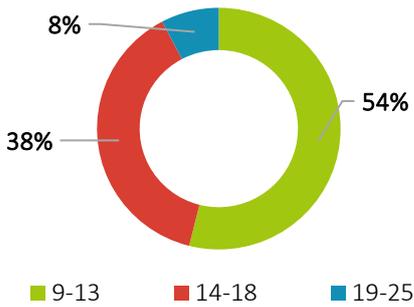
# Survey of Need

## Who Responded Young People

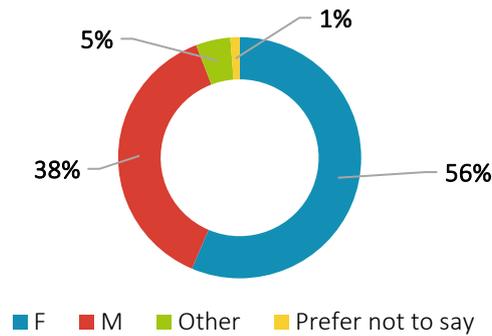
Do you currently participate in Youth Services?



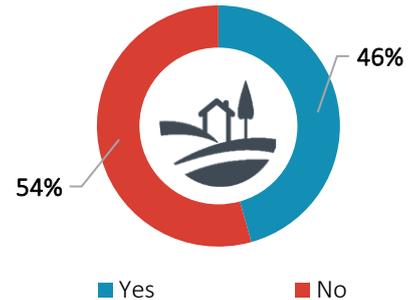
Age Category



What is your Gender?

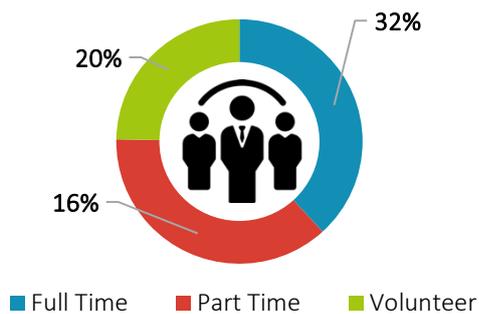


Do you live in a Rural Area?

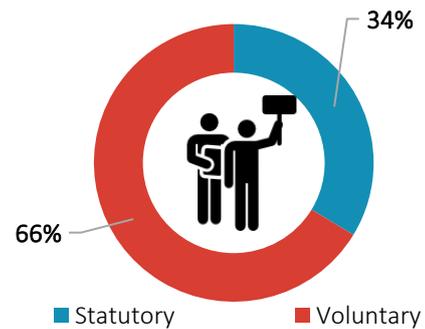


## Youth Workers

Type of Worker

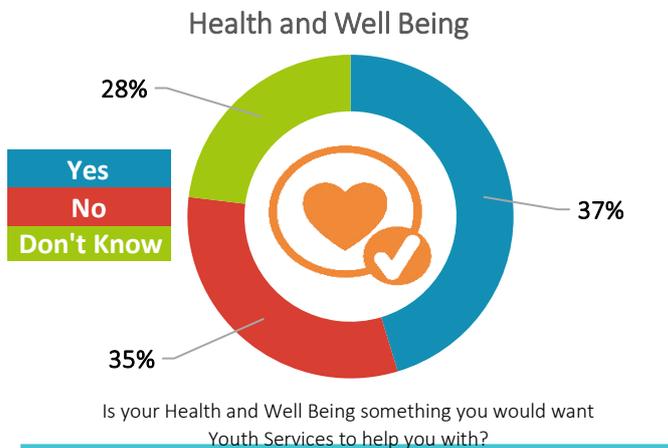


Sector



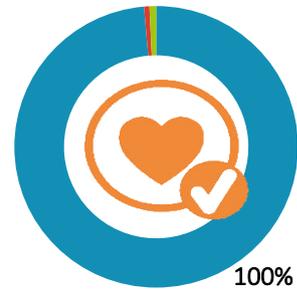
# Survey of Need – Headline Findings

## Young People



## Youth Workers

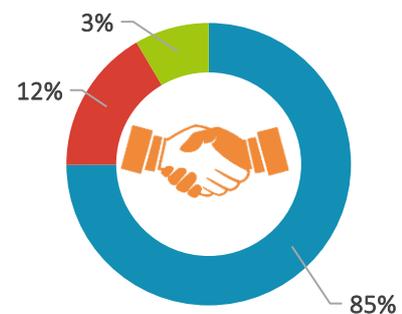
### Health and Well Being



Is promoting positive Health & Wellbeing (mental, emotional or physical) something that Youth Services should offer to help and support young people?



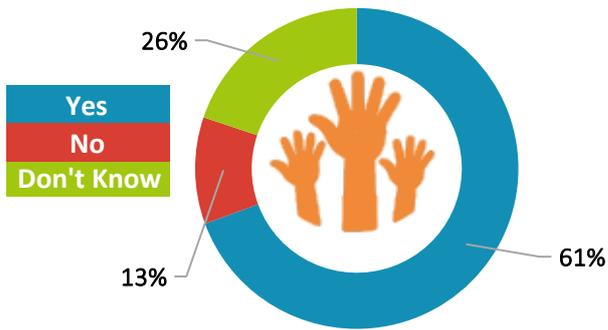
### Good Relations



Do young people have opportunities to meet, learn and socialise with people from different backgrounds in your area?

## Young People

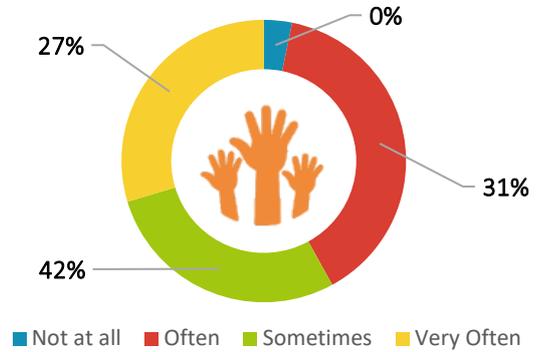
### Participation



Do you have opportunity to take part in Youth Services in your Area?

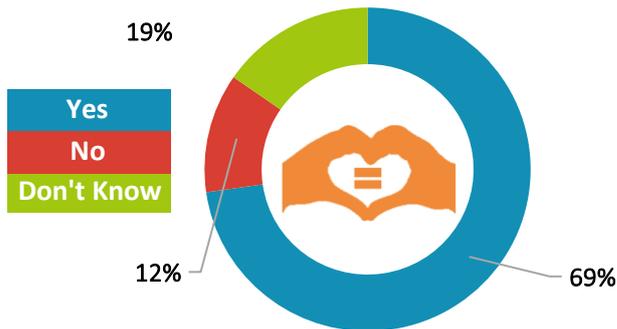
## Youth Workers

### Participation



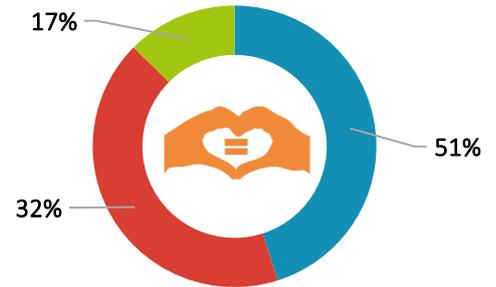
Please rate how often young people in your area have opportunities to participate in Youth Services

### Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity



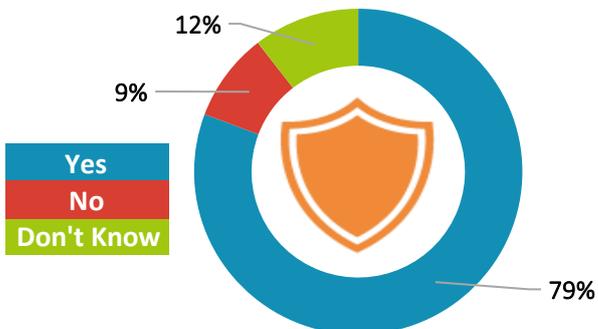
I feel I have the same opportunities in life and am treated the same as other people?

### Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity



I feel I have the same opportunities in life and am treated the same as other people?

### Living in Safety & Stability



I feel safe in my own community?

### Living in Safety & Stability



Young People that you work with feel safe in their own community?

# Health & Wellbeing

# Area of Enquiry 1: Health and Wellbeing

## Key Facts

1 in 5 young people have a mental health need. This equates to 14, 667 young people in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon

- Male life expectancy in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 79 years. Northern Ireland is 78.5 years. In the most deprived areas, it is 75.5 years (*Northern Ireland 74.2*).
- Female life expectancy in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 82.7 years (Northern Ireland 82.3). In the most deprived areas, it is 81 years (*Northern Ireland 79.6*).
- The standardised incidence rate for cancer in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 591 per 100,000 population (*Northern Ireland 596*). In the most deprived areas, it is 652 per 100,000 population (*Northern Ireland 689*).
- The standardised admission rate for self-harm in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 157 per 100,000 population (*Northern Ireland 154*). In the most deprived areas, it is 317 per 100,000 population (*Northern Ireland 290*).
- The crude suicide rate in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 13.2 per 100,000 population (*Northern Ireland is 16.5*). In the most deprived areas, it is 21.9 per 100,000 population (*Northern Ireland 32.3*).
- The standardised admission rate for drug related issues in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 190 per 100,000 population (*Northern Ireland is 202*). In the most deprived areas, it is 298 per 100,000 population. (*Northern Ireland 408.4*).
- The standardised admission rate for alcohol related issues in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 587 per 100,000 population (*Northern Ireland is 691*). In the most deprived areas, it is 1,146 per 100,000 population (*Northern Ireland 1,491*).
- The teenage birth rate for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 9.1 per 1,000 population (*Northern Ireland is 9.5*). In the most deprived areas, it is 18.9 per 1,000 population (*Northern Ireland 17.2*).
- In 2012, the teenage birth rate for mothers aged under 17 years in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon was 3 live births per 1,000 females. The comparative figure for Northern Ireland was 2.3.
- The proportion of Primary 1 pupils identified as obese or overweight is 21% (*Northern Ireland 21%*). In the most deprived areas, it is 23% (*Northern Ireland 36%*).
- The proportion of Year 8 pupils identified as obese or overweight is 28% (Northern Ireland 28%). In the most deprived areas, it is 34% (*Northern Ireland 30%*).
- The standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 209 per 1,000 population (*Northern Ireland 213*). In the most deprived areas, it is 256 per 1,000 population (*Northern Ireland 287*).
- In 2017, 29.6% of children aged 0-2 years in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon were registered with a dentist (*Northern Ireland 30.6%*).
- In 2017, 75.4% of children aged 3-5 years in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon were registered with a dentist (*Northern Ireland 74.7%*).

## Why is this measure important?

The promotion of health and wellbeing and maintaining a healthy population is the basic goal of any society. It can also make a significant contribution to economic progress, as healthy populations live longer, are more productive, and enjoy a better standard of living.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is not just about being physically fit, it is also about being mentally and emotionally fit. Poor mental health is proven to affect children and young people's educational attainment and their ability to form positive relationships which in turn can lead to increasing isolation, sense of happiness and threaten their future opportunities and role in the community.

Health experts have highlighted that a balanced and nutritious diet, along with regular exercise and adequate rest and sleep are the key factors that can contribute to one's good health and mental and emotional wellbeing.

Health inequalities are directly linked to one's social status and this may explain some of the growing inequalities that many children and young people in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon face in terms of their general health outcomes and their mental and emotional wellbeing

Children and young people living in low income households and in the most deprived communities in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon are more likely to be obese, have lower life expectancies and are more likely to have worse physical, mental and sexual health outcomes.

In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon the proportion of Year 8 pupils identified as obese or overweight is above the Northern Ireland average in the most deprived areas.

Vulnerable and marginalised groups of children and young people, including Children and Young People Looked After, those with Special Educational Needs or a disability, those from ethnic minorities, young carers, young people identifying as LGBTQ or those who have experienced adverse childhood experiences are also more likely to have poorer health outcomes than their peers.<sup>3</sup>

Within Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon significant numbers of children and young people fall into these groups. Poor health outcomes are also linked to poor educational outcomes.

Vulnerable and marginalised groups of young people, including Children and Young People Looked After, those with Special Educational Needs or a disability, those from ethnic minorities, young carers, young people identifying as LGBTQ or those who have experienced adverse childhood experiences are also more likely to have poorer health outcomes than their peers.<sup>4</sup> Within Northern Ireland significant numbers of young people fall into these groups. Poor health outcomes are also linked to poor educational outcomes.

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<sup>3</sup> The Association of Young People's Health, 2019, Key Data on Young People 2019, AYPH, London.

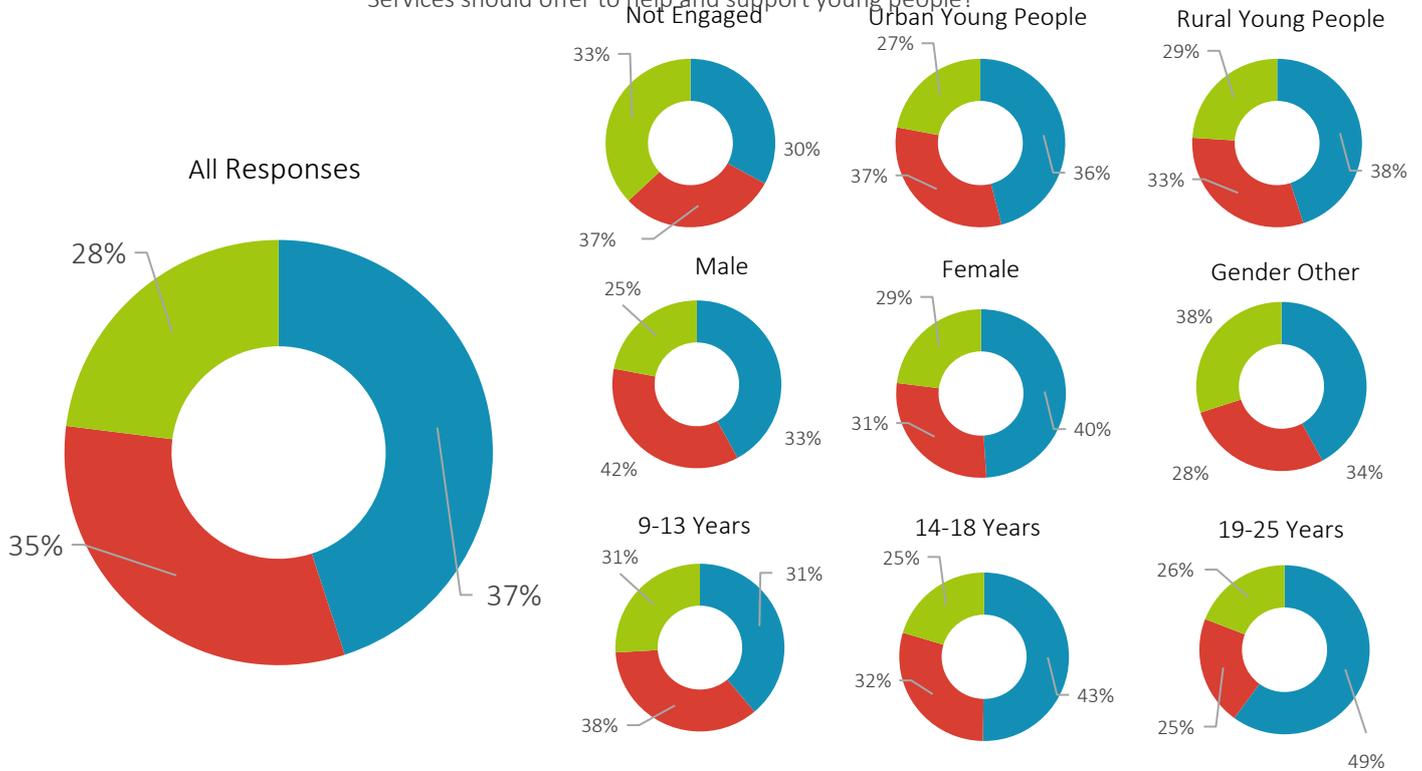
<sup>4</sup> The Association of Young People's Health, 2019, Key Data on Young People 2019, AYPH, London.

# Survey Findings – Health and Well Being

■ Yes 
 ■ No 
 ■ Don't Know

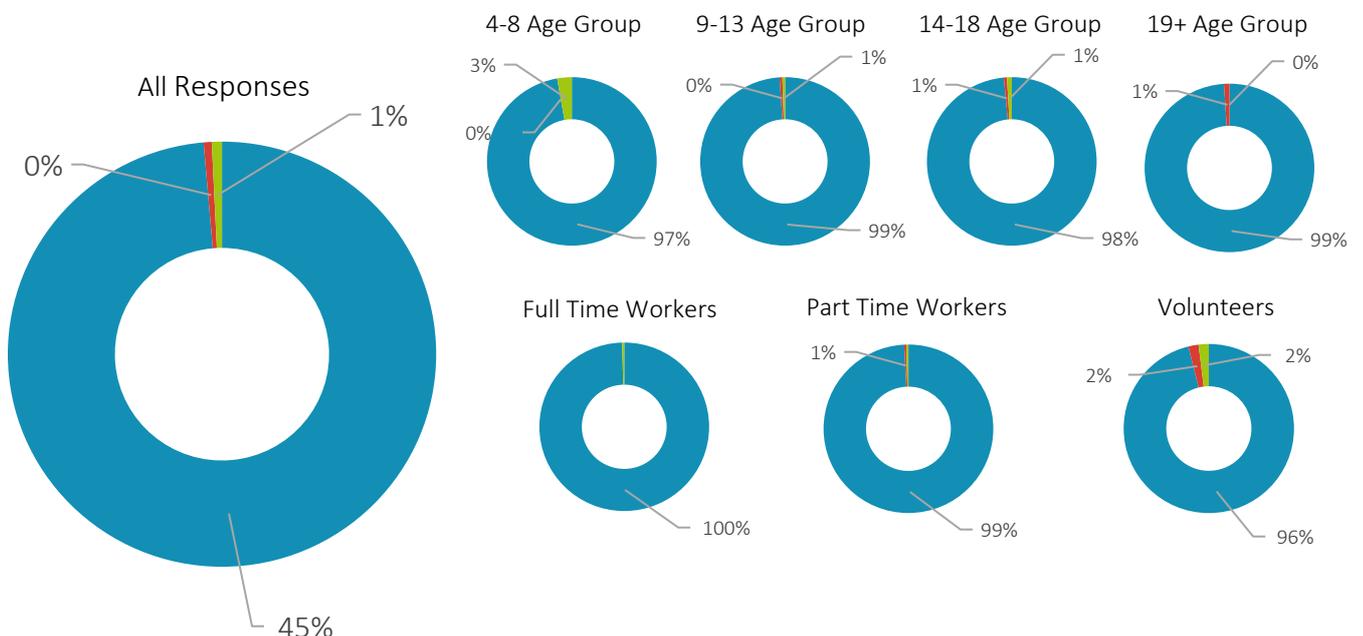
## Young People

Is promoting positive Health & Wellbeing (mental, emotional or physical) something that Youth Services should offer to help and support young people?



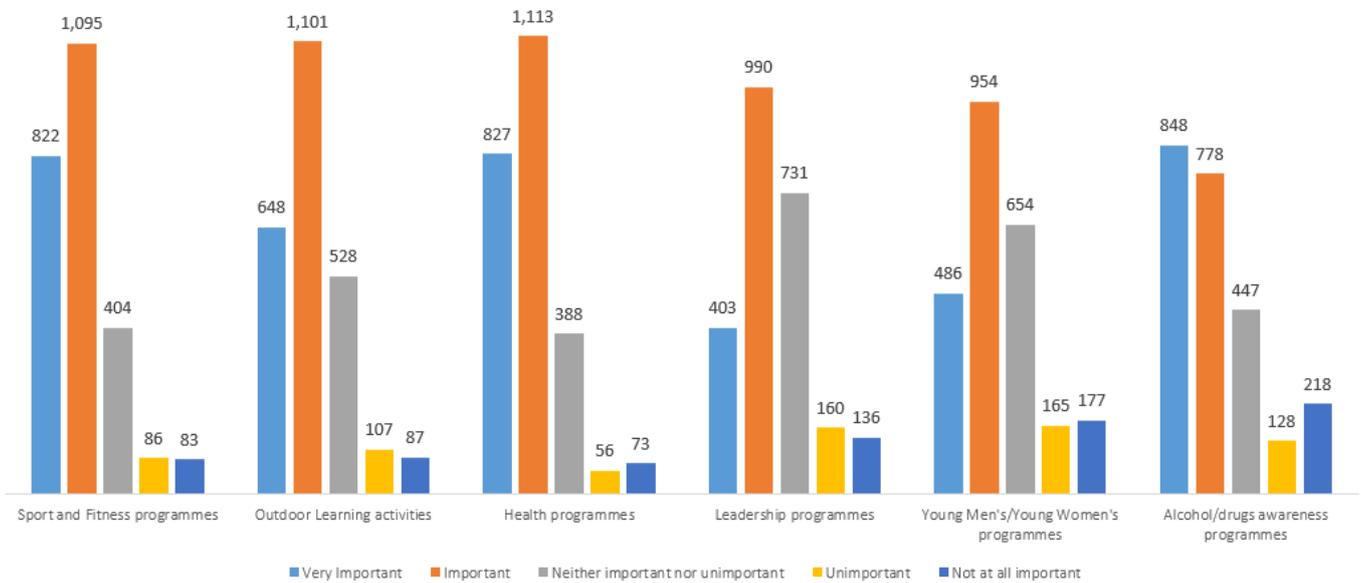
## Youth Workers

Is promoting positive Health & Wellbeing (mental, emotional or physical) something that Youth Services should offer to help and support young people?



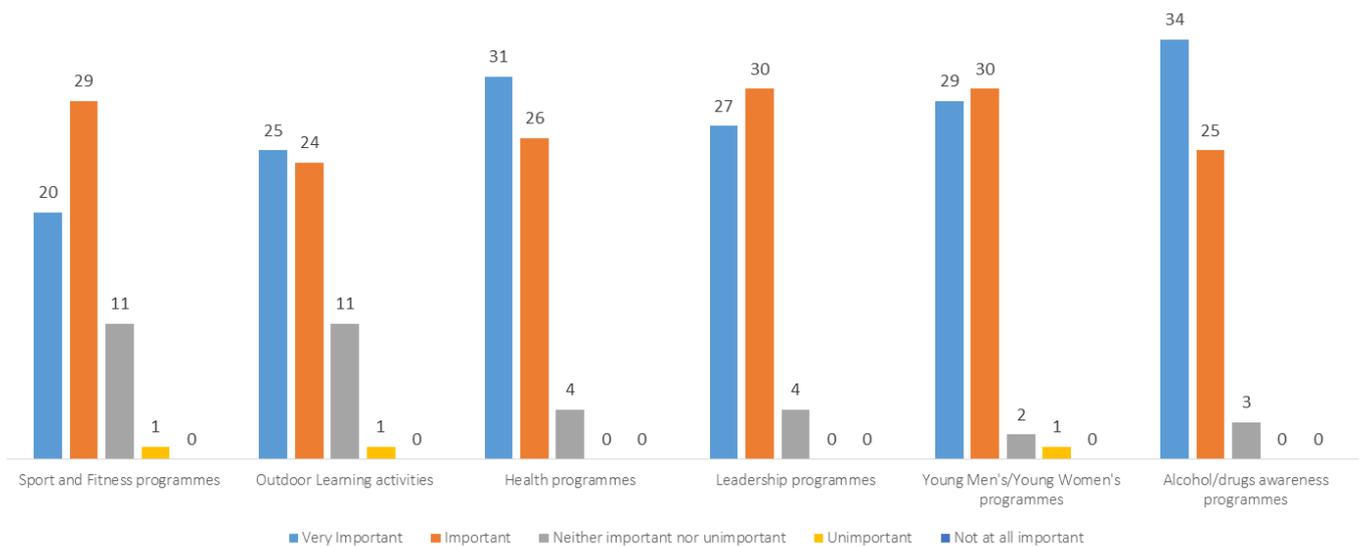
## Young People

Health and Well Being - What activities or programmes would you like Youth Services in your area to provide to help with your Health Wellbeing?



## Youth Workers

Health and Well Being - What activities or programmes should Youth Services in your area provide to support positive Health and Wellbeing amongst young people?



## Children and Young People's Summary of Responses

- In Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon children and young people wanted access to positive mental health, anti-bullying and mindfulness programmes.
- Relationships, sexual health and awareness programmes were also important to children and young people.
- Children and young people talked about early intervention and the importance of youth clubs for 9-13 years olds.
- Consequences of taking drugs and alcohol was a clear message from children and young people. They were keen to participate in health based programmes exploring these issues.
- Sports & Fitness, Outdoor learning, gender specific and leadership programmes were also put forward as areas for support.

## Youth Workers' Summary of Responses

- Children and young people's mental and emotional health were key concerns identified by youth workers and volunteers and they wanted to develop programmes of support that were accessible and relevant.
- Social media, resilience, sexual health and relationships were also highlighted as ongoing issues for young people.
- Generic youth work and early intervention was an important part of addressing these issues.
- Sexual health and health and fitness projects should be encouraged ensuring children and young people were less dependent on their mobile phones and internet.

## Discussion – Key Trends

In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon young people living in disadvantaged areas are more likely to endure health deprivation and suffer mental health issues. 23% of the children and young people live in relative poverty. This means they are 5.5 times more likely to go hungry than their peers.<sup>5</sup> This can lead to poor health and education outcomes as well as exposing children and young people to bullying which can negatively impact on their emotional and mental health. These young people are more likely to be absent from school which will negatively impact on their educational attainment.

The survey results for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon demonstrate that sports and fitness, confidence, positive mental health, anti-bullying featured highly in the issues facing young people.

Addressing risk taking issues such as alcohol and drug misuse and sexual health continues to be a priority delivery area within Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon.

In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon the proportion of Year 8 pupils identified as obese or over weight is above the Northern Ireland average in the most deprived areas. Children and young people who are overweight or obese are more likely to develop diabetes or heart disease in later life and be obese in adulthood. Overweight children and young people are more likely to encounter bullying, embarrassment

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/news-and-blogs/press-release/report-echoes-hunger-brutal-reality-families-children>

when participating in games or sport and experience difficulty in being active. This in turn can be a contributory factor to low self-esteem and poor mental health.

Body image was associated with physical and mental health issues and could impact on the confidence and self-worth of children and young people. Young people also highlighted the role that social media played in portraying the '*perfect body*' which impacted negatively on children and young people, especially girls.

Young people reported that they were keen to participate in programmes dealing with internet safety and cyber bullying.

The most common mental health problem affecting children and young people is severe and persistent behavioural problems.<sup>6</sup> Children and young people from low-income families are four times more likely to experience mental health issues than those from higher income families.<sup>7</sup>

In the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon 1,272 young people identify as LGBTQ. The LGBTQ community are more likely to have suicidal thoughts and are three times more likely to have made a suicide attempt at some point.<sup>8</sup> Other vulnerable groups such as young carers, children and young people looked after, young parents and NEET young people also display disproportionately higher levels of poor mental health.<sup>9</sup>

Research undertaken by EA reported that children and young people from rural areas noted that social isolation and limited opportunities to participate in Youth Services or other recreational activities had a detrimental impact on the mental health. Older young people wanted access to young men's and young women's programmes to meet their particular needs. With 47.2% (34,614 young people) living in a rural community within Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon access to youth service provision is required.

In response to the Assessment of Need, children and young people in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon require programmes and activities that focus on obesity, healthy eating, cooking, body image, positive mental health and resilience to counter the challenges facing young people today.

Risk taking behaviour is a particular concern noted by our local statutory partners in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon particularly in view of Assessment of Need research findings and raised awareness of the issues associated with Child Sexual Exploitation.

The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service require educational programmes that target specific areas of risk-taking behaviour, to provide opportunities for young people to participate in engaging activities that develop their personal, social and emotional skills to promote and enhance personal resilience, healthy decision-making and wellbeing and lead to a positive impact on the educational outcomes for children and young people.

## FLARE Programme

In Northern Ireland 1 in 5 young people have a mental health need. This equates to 14, 667 young people living in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon. The Education Authority Youth Service has developed, in

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<sup>6</sup> Green, H. et al. (2005) The mental health of children and young people in Great Britain 2004, Basingstoke, Palgrave.

<sup>7</sup> Morrison Gutman, L., Joshi, H., Parsonage, M. & Schoon, I. (2015) Children of the new century: mental health findings from the Millenium Cohort Study, London, Centre for Mental Health.

<sup>8</sup> Statham, H., Jaclva, V. & Daly, I. (2012), The School Report: The experiences of gay young people in Britain's schools in 2012, London, Stonewall.

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-09/CentreforMentalHealth\\_ChildrenYoungPeople\\_Factsheet.pdf](https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-09/CentreforMentalHealth_ChildrenYoungPeople_Factsheet.pdf)

partnership with the Public Health Agency (PHA), an innovative support service for young people (Year 11-25 years old) experiencing poor mental health. Poor mental health is proven to affect young people's educational attainment, ability to form positive relationships thus increasing isolation, sense of happiness, and threat to their future opportunities and meaningful role in the community and economy. The FLARE programme continues to be a significant delivery need for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

**Learn & Achieve**

# Area of Enquiry 2: Learn & Achieve

## Key Facts

- In 2017/2018, 78.8% of year 12 pupils from Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C or equivalent (*NI average 86%*)
- In 2017/2018, 66.8% of year 12 pupils from Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C or equivalent including English and Maths (*NI average 71.8%*)
- 7443 pupils (18.5%) in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon have a Special Educational Need (*NI average 23%*).
- 9394 pupils (23.5%) in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon are eligible for Free School Meals (*NI average 29.2%*).
- 12,147 (30.2%) pupils attend schools in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area that have been designated as rural (*NI average 25.5%*)
- 3207 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area.
- Whilst there are no specific numbers for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, the most recent figures reveal that 547 Looked After Children were supported by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. Many of these children and young people live and attend schools in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area.
- There are 3 Education Other Than at School centres in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

## Why is this measure important?

Education is not just about being able to read, write and count. Education is key to one's personal and professional success and provides various types of knowledge and skills. Education is also a basic human right and is a significant factor in the development of children and young people, communities and nations. According to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) education is the clearest indicator of life outcomes such as employment, income and social status and is a strong predictor of attitudes and wellbeing.<sup>10</sup>

Education can have a transformational impact on the lives of children and young people. Education is a positive factor in ensuring that young people thrive, learn and achieve allowing them to enjoy a prosperous and rewarding life. It is also a means of breaking the cycle of poverty and deprivation and a powerful way of stopping young people engaging in risk taking activities, crime or anti-social behaviour. As a society, we aspire for every child and young person to learn and achieve and reach his or her potential to become an active citizen. Acquiring a worthwhile education can make this a reality.

In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon underachievement remains prevalent among children and young people living in deprived areas, having a Special Educational Need or disability, being a child or young person Looked After, being a newcomer, being a young carer, coming from the Travelling Community or another minority group and being from a Section 75 group. This list is not exhaustive; however, failure to address the

<sup>10</sup> Economic and Social Research Council, 2014, The Wellbeing Effect of Education, <https://esrc.ukri.org/files/news-events-and-publications/evidence-briefings/the-wellbeing-effect-of-education/>

gap in educational attainment from these groups will ensure that vulnerable young people will continue to face a future with limited opportunities and greater social and economic challenges.

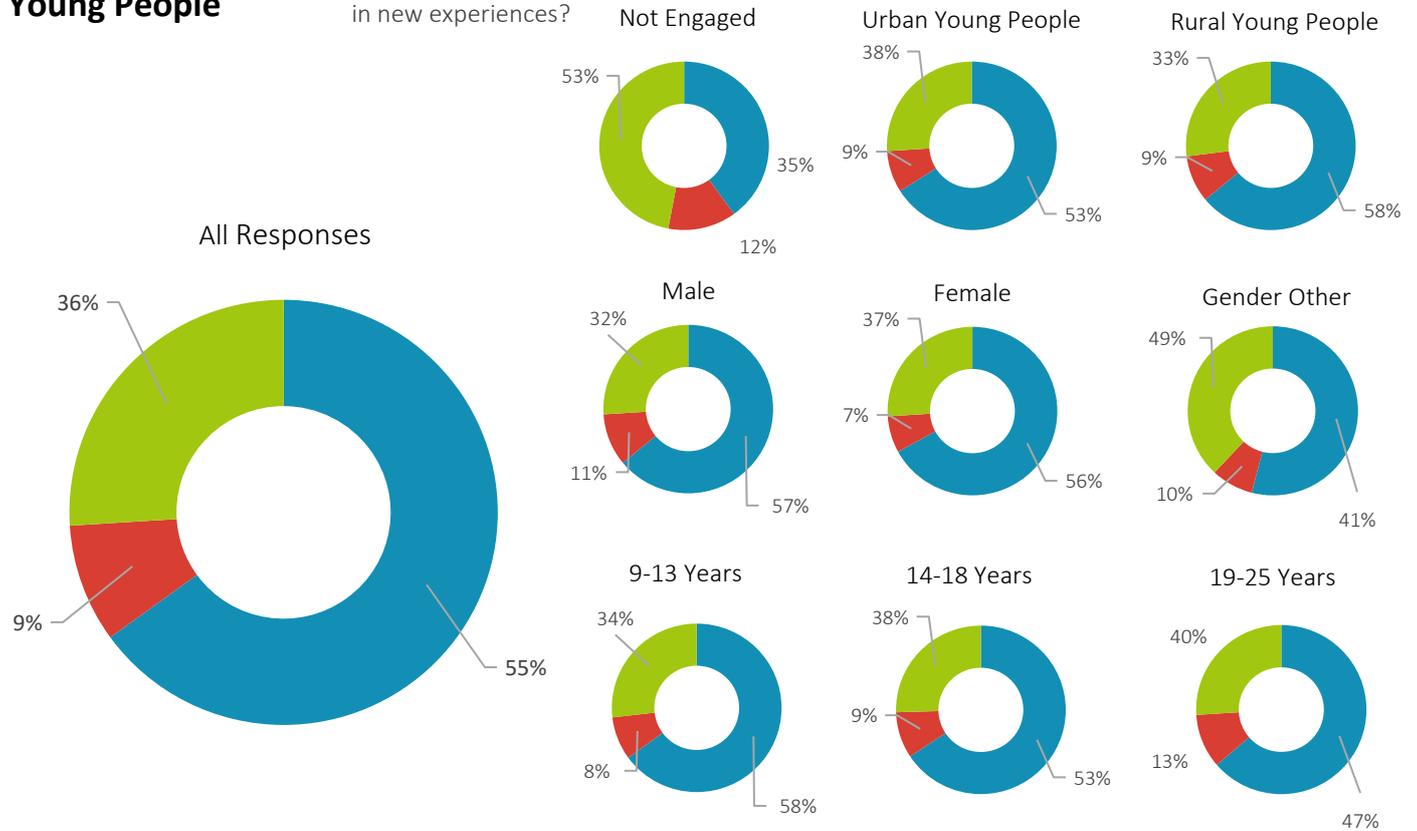
Within Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, the majority of children and young people achieve and succeed at school. However, there are significant groups of children and young people who are at risk of failing to fulfil their potential either as a result of their social context, an educational need or their experiences and attitudes towards the formal education system.

## Survey Findings – Learn & Achieve

■ Yes
 ■ No
 ■ Don't Know

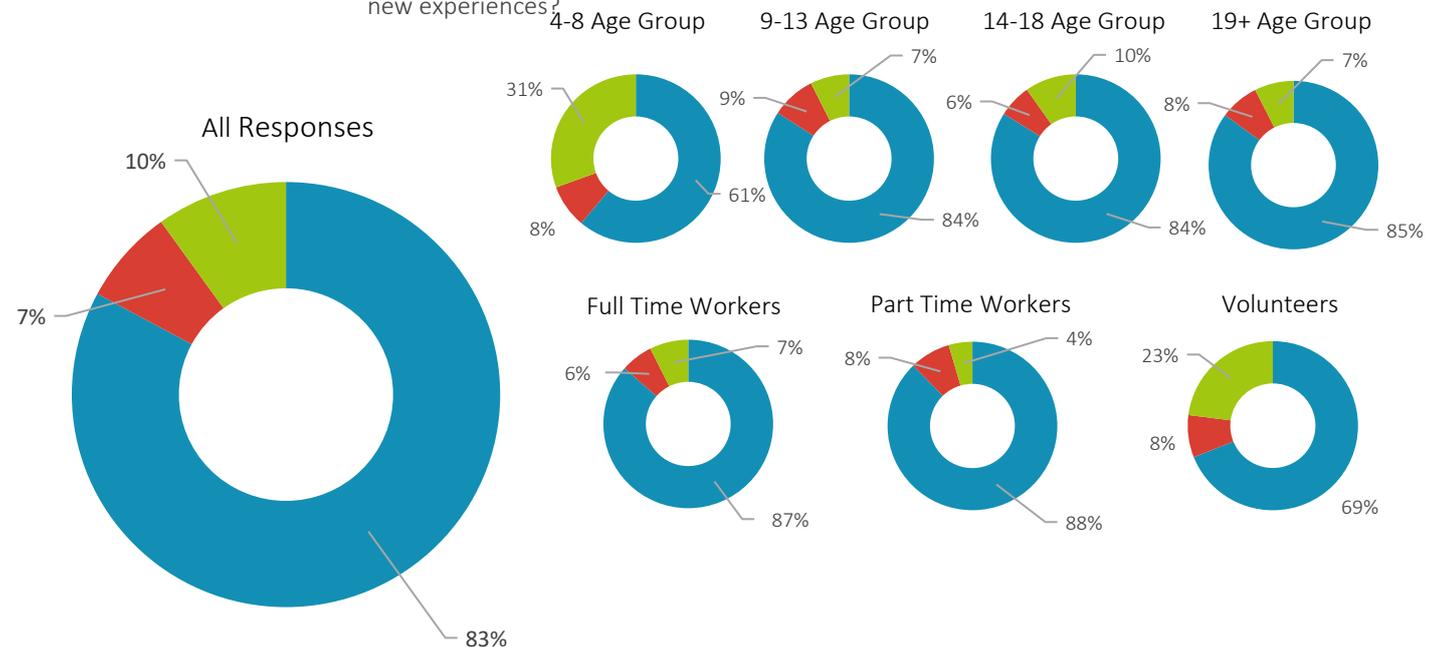
### Young People

Do Youth Services in your area provide young people with opportunities to learn and take part in new experiences?



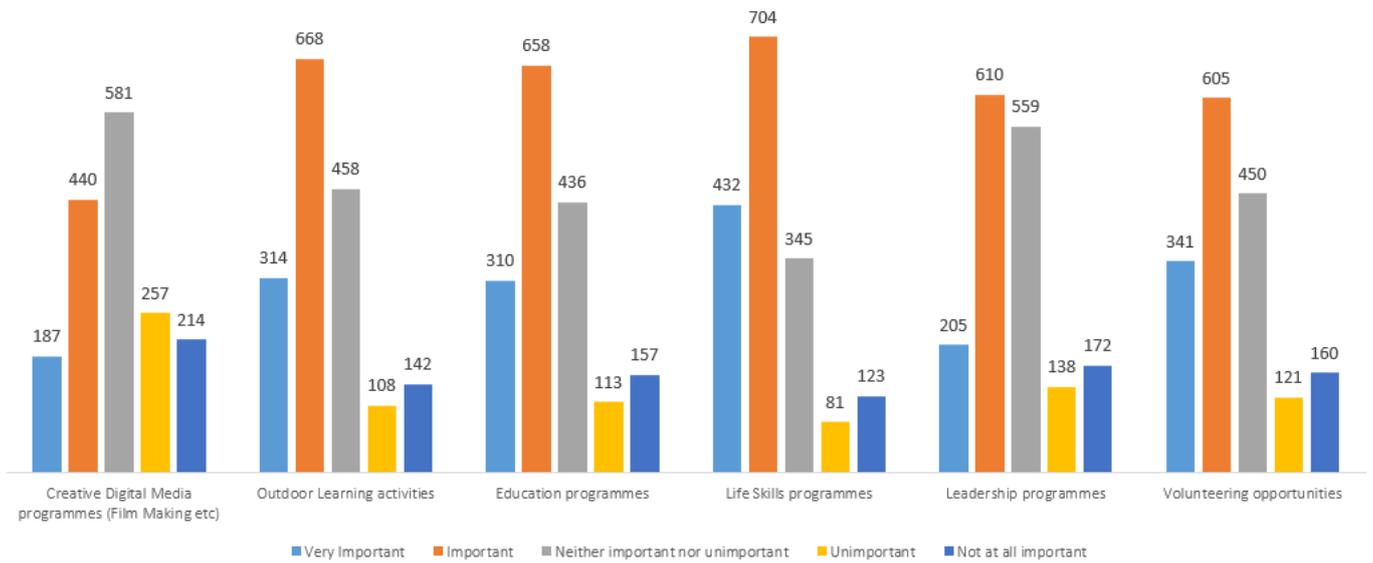
### Youth Workers

Do Youth Services in your area provide young people with opportunities to learn and take part in new experiences?



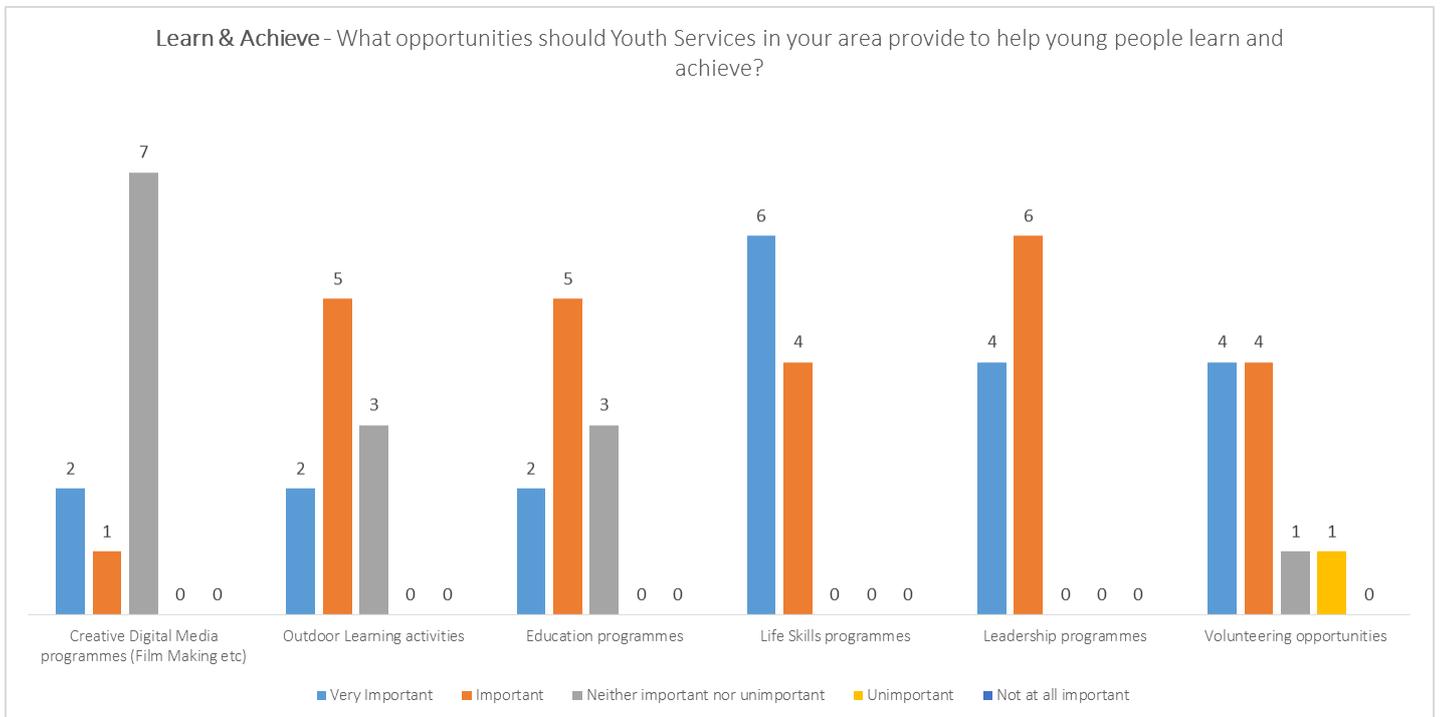
## Young People

Learn & Achieve - What opportunities would you like Youth Services in your area to provide to help you learn and achieve?



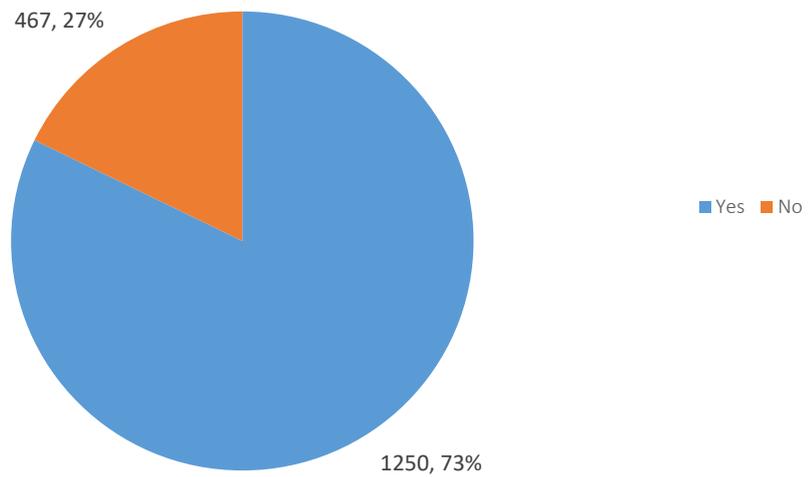
## Youth Workers

Learn & Achieve - What opportunities should Youth Services in your area provide to help young people learn and achieve?



## Young People

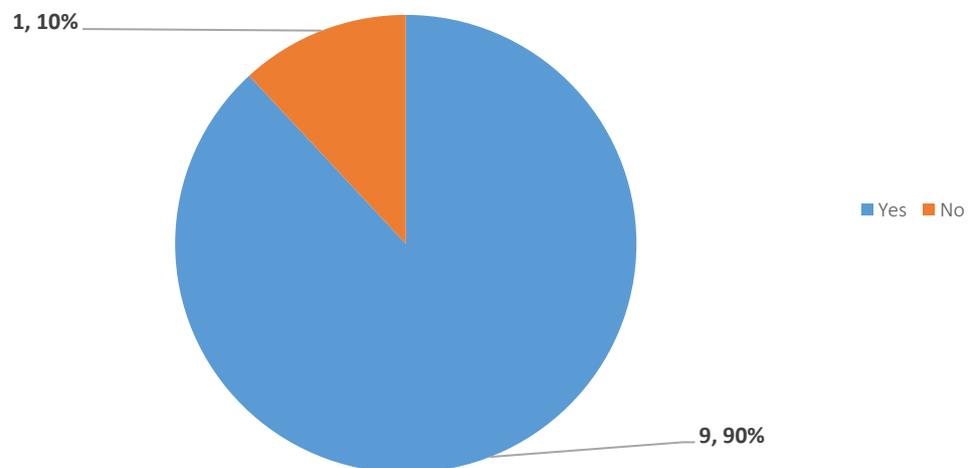
Learn & Achieve - I would like these programmes to be accredited?



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## Youth Workers

Learn & Achieve - Do you think these programmes should be accredited?



## Children and Young People's Summary of Responses

- Children and young people recognised that they needed additional support to help them develop their employability skills, communication skills and prepare them for adulthood and the world of work.
- There was an increasing focus on accredited programmes, life skills, volunteering, outdoor learning, youth work in schools and creative arts.
- Children and young people also requested educational programmes delivered to support their mental health and resilience.

## Youth Workers' Summary of Responses

- Youth workers suggested greater access to employability and vocational programmes and more opportunities to volunteer and take on leadership roles.
- Early intervention, building relationships with young people and youth club availability were key to supporting children and young people in the long term.
- Availability to social action, active learning, outdoor learning and citizenship opportunities were important issues highlighted by youth workers and volunteers.

## Discussion & Key Trends

Statistics from DE reveal that young people in receipt of Free School Meals are more than twice as likely to leave school without any substantive qualifications. There is also a significant attainment gap between children and young people with a Special Educational Need or a disability and their peers. Other children and young people from Section 75 groups such as young carers, children and young people Looked After, newcomers, young people from Traveller and Roma communities or other minority ethnic groups experience similar educational disadvantage.

In order to address the gap between the highest and lowest achieving young people there is a clear need to tackle the root causes of educational disadvantage and barriers to learning through interventions in both the formal education sector and in the non-formal Youth Service settings.

Youth Services in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon therefore are ideally placed to contribute to the reduction in barriers to learning through personal and social development programmes, focusing on outcomes such as enhanced personal capabilities, improved health and well-being, the development of thinking skills, life skills and work skills, improved relationships with others, increased participative action and active citizenship. This, alongside the availability of accredited and non-accredited programmes in the youth setting can potentially increase educational attainment among the most vulnerable young people and minority groups.

Children and Young people from Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon have requested Youth Services to provide qualifications that were accessible, meaningful and would meet their career and life opportunities. Youth workers and volunteers also agreed that programmes with accreditation offered greater value and were more practical for young people in the long term.

It is interesting to report that children and young people from all age groups from within Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon stated that life skills programmes were the most important in terms of them successfully transitioning into adulthood and the world of work. Those aged 19-25 placed greater emphasis on the importance of life skills programmes, volunteering opportunities and educational programmes also ranked highly among young people.

The Youth Service “Learning Together Programme” (LTP), delivers both accredited and non-accredited programmes in targeted schools. These programmes will be continued in order to maintain and support this valuable link with formal education to increase the life chances of young people in areas such as future employment and training opportunities.

In the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area, the post-primary schools where there are current partnerships, include:

- Lismore Comprehensive School
- Banbridge High School
- St Patricks College, Banbridge
- St Ronan’s College Lurgan

There is a need for the development of partnerships and the delivery of provision in the following schools:

- Brownlow Integrated College
- St John the Baptist College, Portadown
- City of Armagh High School
- Craigavon Senior High School – Portadown
- Craigavon Senior High - Lurgan
- St Patricks High School, Keady
- Clounagh Junior High Portadown

In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon there is also a need to develop and deliver training and leadership opportunities to young people in youth centres and youth programmes to help them to

overcome barriers to learning by providing further opportunities to gain qualifications, to volunteer and to develop a range of skills and attributes that will improve their life outcomes as individuals and as contributors to their local community and the wider economy.

As Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon is an area with 18.5% of pupils identified as having Special Educational Needs, there is a clear need to develop programmes to assist the formal Education sector with supporting these young people and to also provide educational opportunities outside of the formal environment.

# Good Relations

# Area of Enquiry 3: Good Relations

## Key Facts

- There were a total of 2,456 incidences of hate crime recorded in Northern Ireland between April 2018 and March 2019.
  - Racist incidences 1,095. **Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon 15 incidences**
  - Homophobic incidences 287; **Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon 11 incidences**
  - Sectarian incidences 891; **Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon 83 incidences**
- There are 18 interface areas in Northern Ireland.
  - 10 in Belfast
  - **5 in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon**
  - 3 in Derry and Strabane
- 3,207 newcomer children and young people attend schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.
- 7,443 children and young people have a Special Educational Need or a disability.
- According to the Office of National Statistics, 4.2% of young people in the UK aged 16-24 identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon this equates to approximately 1,000 young people.
- 148 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.
- 169 Roma children and young people attend schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon
- In 2018, 4175 young people participated in 123 TBUC camp programmes In Northern Ireland.
- There is one START programme in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon supporting 75 young people in 2019/2020.

## Why is this measure important?

In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, Good Relations is about promoting better relationships between people from different political, religious and racial backgrounds, tackling sectarianism and racism and promoting cultural diversity and inclusion. Good relations seek to promote mutual understanding, positive cross-community relations and respect for cultural traditions.

The Northern Ireland Executive Good Relations strategy Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) is designed to ensure that the development of positive relationships and structures that acknowledge the religious, political and racial context of our society will promote respect, equity and allow citizens to embrace all forms of diversity.

The Good Relations strategy in Northern Ireland is about instilling the values of fairness, equality and respect and improving the quality of life for everyone who lives here.

Following years of conflict, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon has made great strides towards maintaining a peaceful society. Despite this, there are still a number of factors which ensure that community tensions, polarisation and segregation remain. Politics in Northern Ireland are polarised and many people in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon experience some forms of residential, educational, environmental and social segregation.

There are still many single identity areas in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon which encounter legacy issues and experience sectarianism.

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon also have 5 interface areas where inter-community tensions exist. These areas often have weak community infrastructure and children and young people growing up in these areas are more likely to have lower educational attainment, poor career opportunities and engage in anti-social behaviour.

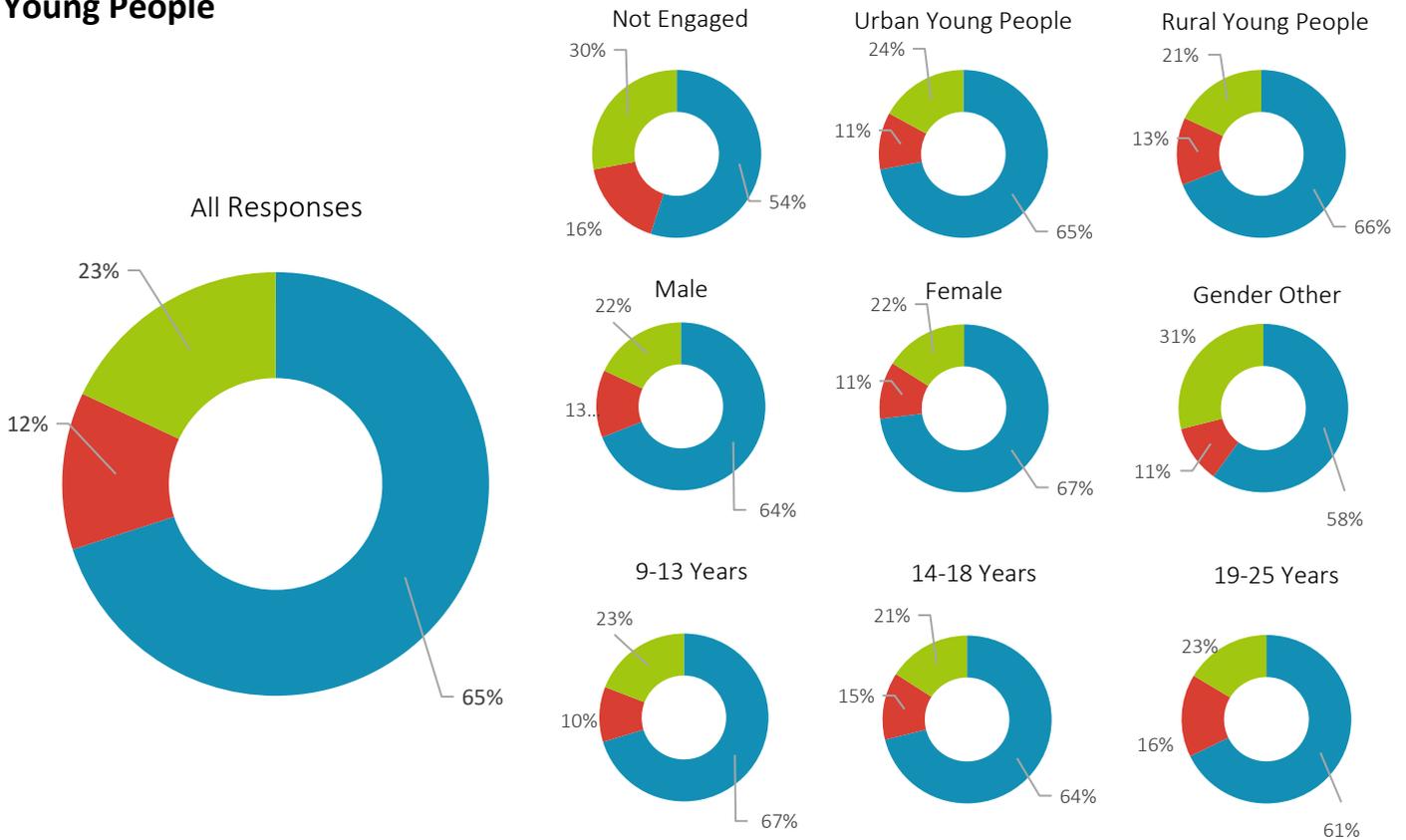
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon now has a much more diverse population. There are growing numbers living here who were born outside Northern Ireland, growing numbers of young people identifying as LGBTQ, and children and young people from other marginalised or Section 75 groups who are subject to bullying, racism and intolerance.

## Survey Findings – Good Relations

■ Yes
 ■ No
 ■ Don't Know

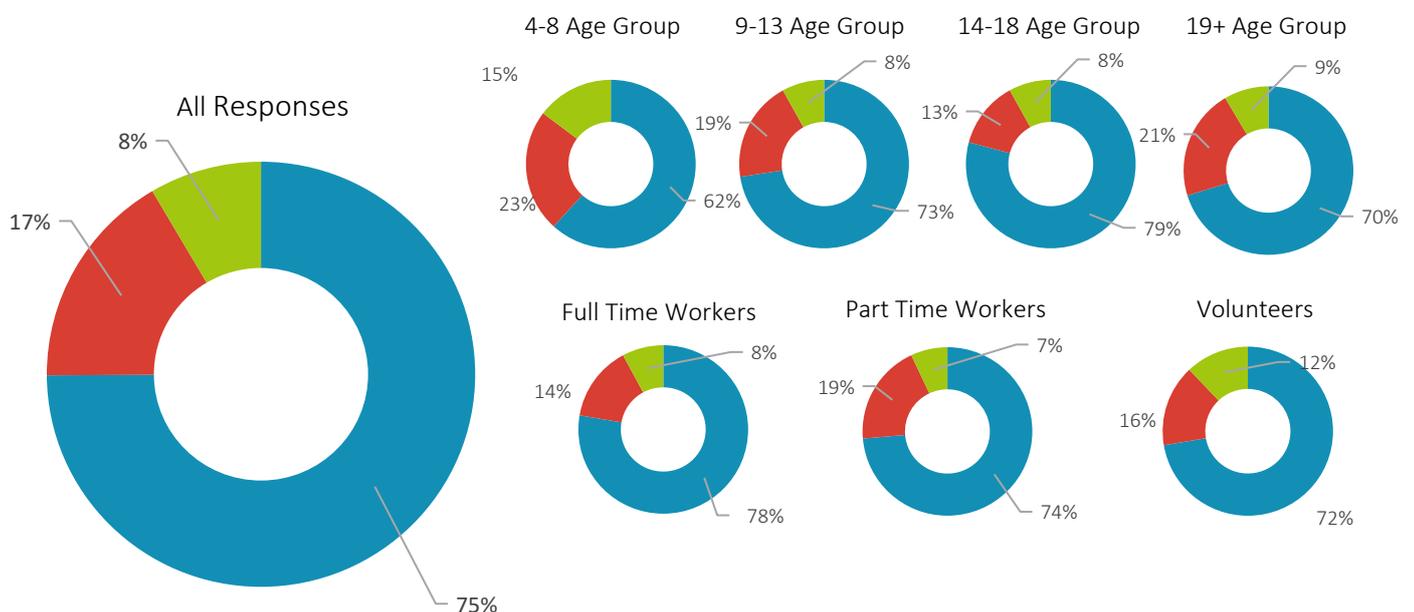
Do young people have opportunities to meet, learn and socialise with people from different backgrounds in your area?

### Young People



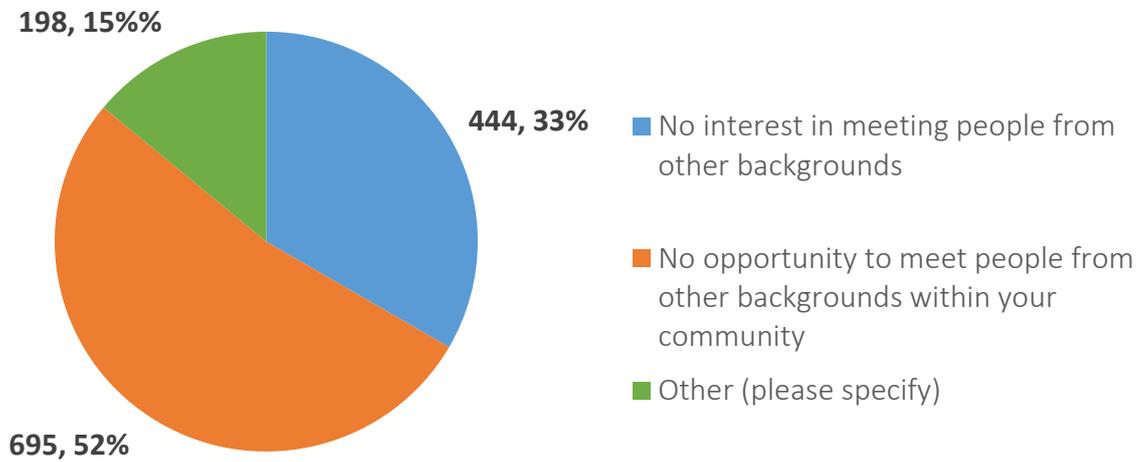
### Youth Workers

Do young people have opportunities to meet, learn and socialise with people from different backgrounds in your area?



## Young People

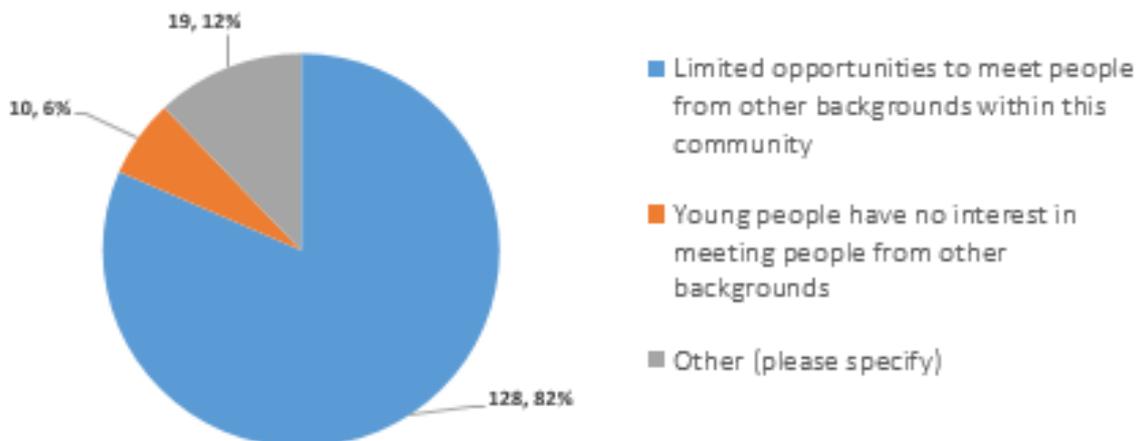
Good Relations - Reason you believe why you do not have these opportunities?



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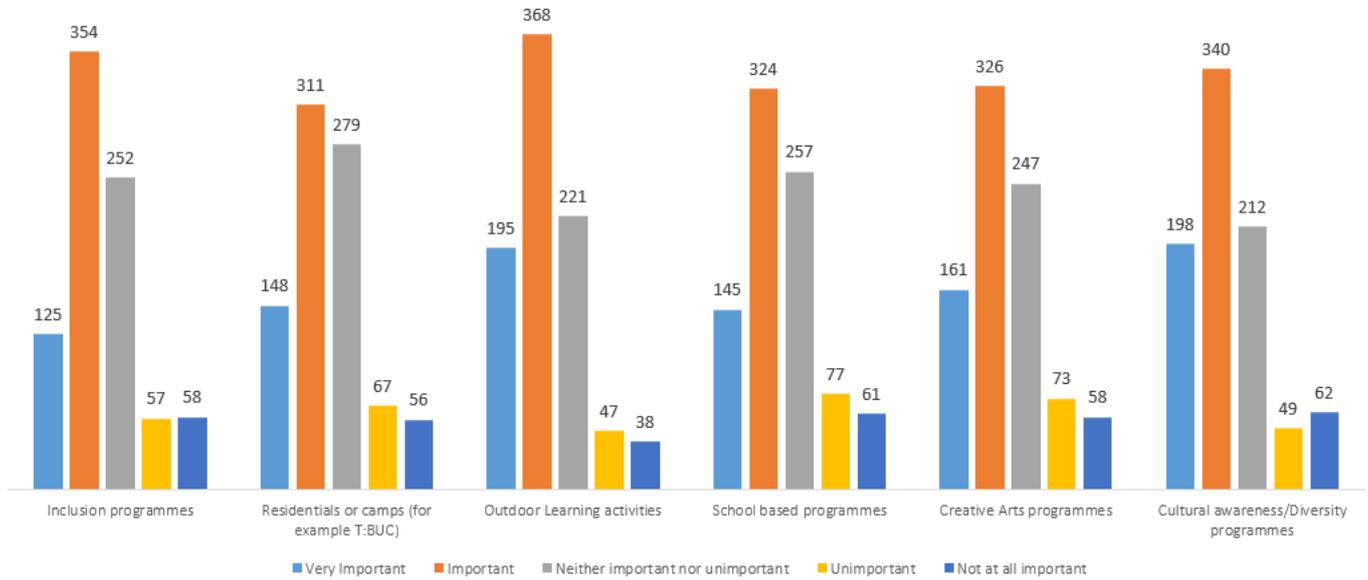
## Youth Workers

Good Relations - Reason you believe why Young People do not have these opportunities?



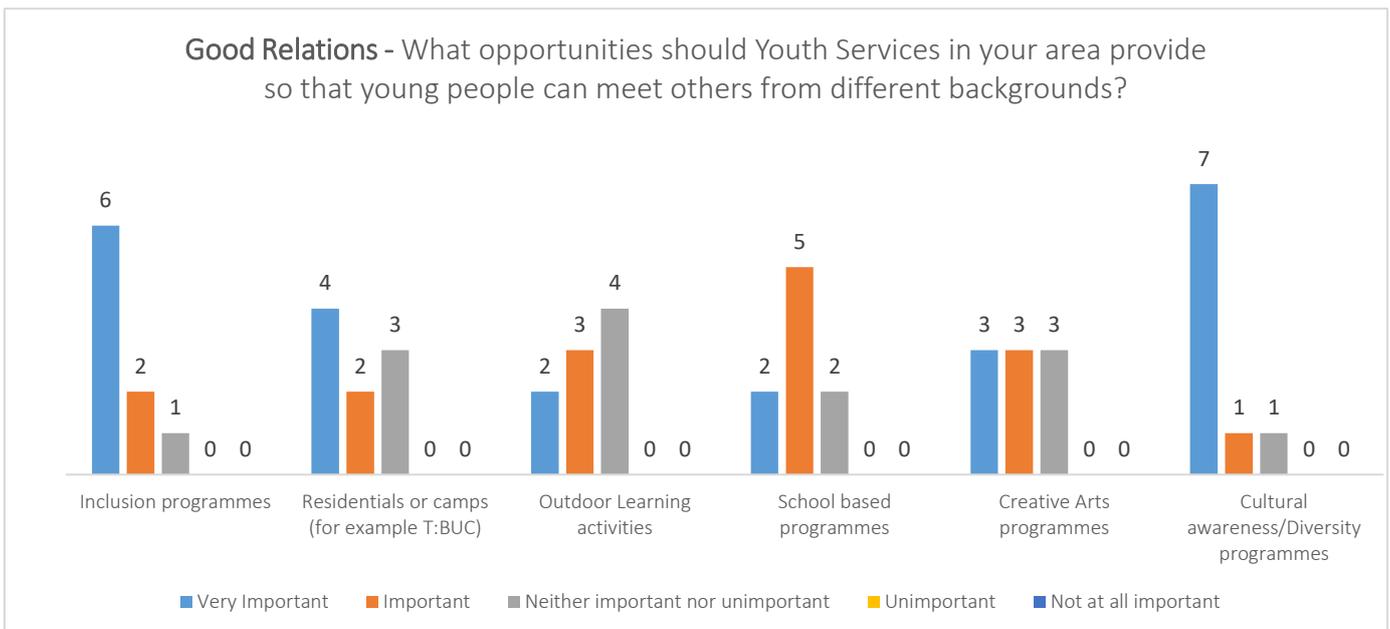
## Young People

Good Relations - What opportunities would you like Youth Services in your area to provide so you can meet people from other backgrounds?



## Youth Workers

Good Relations - What opportunities should Youth Services in your area provide so that young people can meet others from different backgrounds?



## Children and Young People's Summary of Responses

- Children and young people wanted access to diversity and inclusion programmes to support them to have a better understanding of other cultures and beliefs as well as allowing them to question their own cultural identity.
- Programmes to support LGBTQ groups were also proposed.
- Children and young people also believed that T: BUC, residential camps and International programmes would provide a greater insight into aspects of good relations.

## Youth Workers' Summary of Responses

- Youth workers and volunteers suggested partnership working with schools or shared education initiatives to deliver inclusion and diversity programmes.
- International, residential and thematic based programmes were other suggestions they proposed to support good relations among young people.

## Discussion and Key Trends

The Northern Ireland Executive's strategy, Together Building United Communities (T: BUC) promotes good relations in Northern Ireland that challenges sectarianism, racism and other forms of intolerance. It celebrates cultural diversity finding ways for everyone to live, study, work and socialise together without feeling threatened.

The majority of respondents to the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service survey, 65%, noted that they had opportunities to meet, learn and socialise with children and young people from different backgrounds in their own area. However, for those not engaged with Youth Services the figure was 54%.

Despite the Good Relations policy, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon remains a divided community. The education system is segregated with the majority of children and young people attending schools based on their religion.

Public and social housing in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is overwhelmingly segregated between the two communities and this can lead to inter-community tensions, involving children and young people especially at contentious times of the year and particularly at interface areas. This can also lead to children and young people coming under the influence of paramilitaries.

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Area will address this through Detached / Street based work during periods of heightened tension including Bonfire season (June – August). Key geographical areas include: Armagh City, Portadown, Brownlow and Lurgan Town.

Of those children and young people responding to why they did not interact with others from different backgrounds, one-third had no interest in meeting people from other backgrounds whilst more than half (52%) had no opportunity to meet people from other backgrounds within their community, reflecting the segregated nature of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon. The most favoured programmes identified by children and young people to improving Good Relations were outdoor learning activities, cultural awareness and diversity programmes, school based programmes, and residential or camps.

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon has become a much more culturally diverse place in recent years. However, in the last number of years racist hate crimes have exceeded sectarian hate crimes. At a recent engagement event young people supported the view that Youth Services should provide safe spaces for

children and young people and promote inclusion and embrace and celebrate difference. This will be addressed through Good Relations were outdoor learning activities, cultural awareness and diversity programmes, school based programmes, and T: BUC residential or camps.

Other marginal groups also experience intolerance and prejudice. For example, the LGBTQ community reported that they have been subjected to political and social intolerance, where their rights have been denied and not respected. For many within this community, discrimination and prejudice begins in school and many young people noted ongoing bullying and harassment. The vast majority of young people identifying as gender other reported that they would like to see cultural awareness or diversity programmes delivered by Youth Services to meet their needs or raise awareness of their particular issues.

# Participation

# Area of Enquiry 4: Participation

## Key Facts

- The overall attendance figures for schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon in 2017/18 was 94.6% Northern Ireland in 2017/18 was 94.2%.
- 15 pupils were expelled from schools in Northern Ireland in 2017/18.
- 4,069 pupils were suspended from schools in Northern Ireland in 2017/18. (3,199 male pupils (78.6%), 870 female pupils (21.4%).)
- 214,930 children and young people live in a rural area.
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,000 young carers in Northern Ireland.
- 15,290 newcomer children and young people attend schools in Northern Ireland.
- 3,109 Children and young people Looked After attend schools in Northern Ireland.
- From April - June 2019 there were 20,000 young people (aged 16-24) in Northern Ireland who were NEET. This represents 10.2% of all young people aged 16-24.
- 122,392 children and young people were registered with a youth group in 2017/18.
- Figures from EA Youth Services reveal that there are currently 2,034 young people volunteering.
- 1,027 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Northern Ireland.
- 660 Roma children and young people attend schools in Northern Ireland.

## Why is this measure important?

Article 12 of the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that: *Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.*<sup>11</sup> Children and young people's participation in decision making on issues that affect them has increasingly been recognised and valued as a right. It has also been reported that successfully engaging children and young people in the institutions, communities and contexts in which they live and building their capacity as active citizens can be a critical factor in their positive development as individuals, enhance their career prospects and life chances and support their positive contribution to these same contexts and institutions.<sup>12</sup>

Participation is the process whereby children and young people can influence decisions about their lives and directly contribute to decisions that affect them. Participation enhances children and young people's personal, social and political development, provides practical experiences and teaches them how to behave responsibly.<sup>13</sup>

The benefits of participation for children and young people are many and include some of the following: empowering young people to be active citizens and engage with wider society; developing leadership skills; increasing their sense of ownership and belonging; improving their communication, negotiation and collaboration skills; enhancing their self-confidence and self-esteem; allowing them to gain a better

<sup>11</sup> [https://downloads.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/UNCRC\\_summary-1.pdf?\\_ga=2.10450293.1730959173.1571222212-2071504256.1570712098](https://downloads.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/UNCRC_summary-1.pdf?_ga=2.10450293.1730959173.1571222212-2071504256.1570712098)

<sup>12</sup> Chaskin, R.J., McGregor, C. & Brady, B. (2018), *Engaging Urban Youth: Community, Citizenship and Democracy*, NUI, Galway.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.niccy.org/media/1330/niccy-advice-benefits-of-engagement-with-children-and-young-people-dec-14.pdf>

understanding of democratic processes; and improving their career prospects. Participation also allows young people to express their needs and ideas.

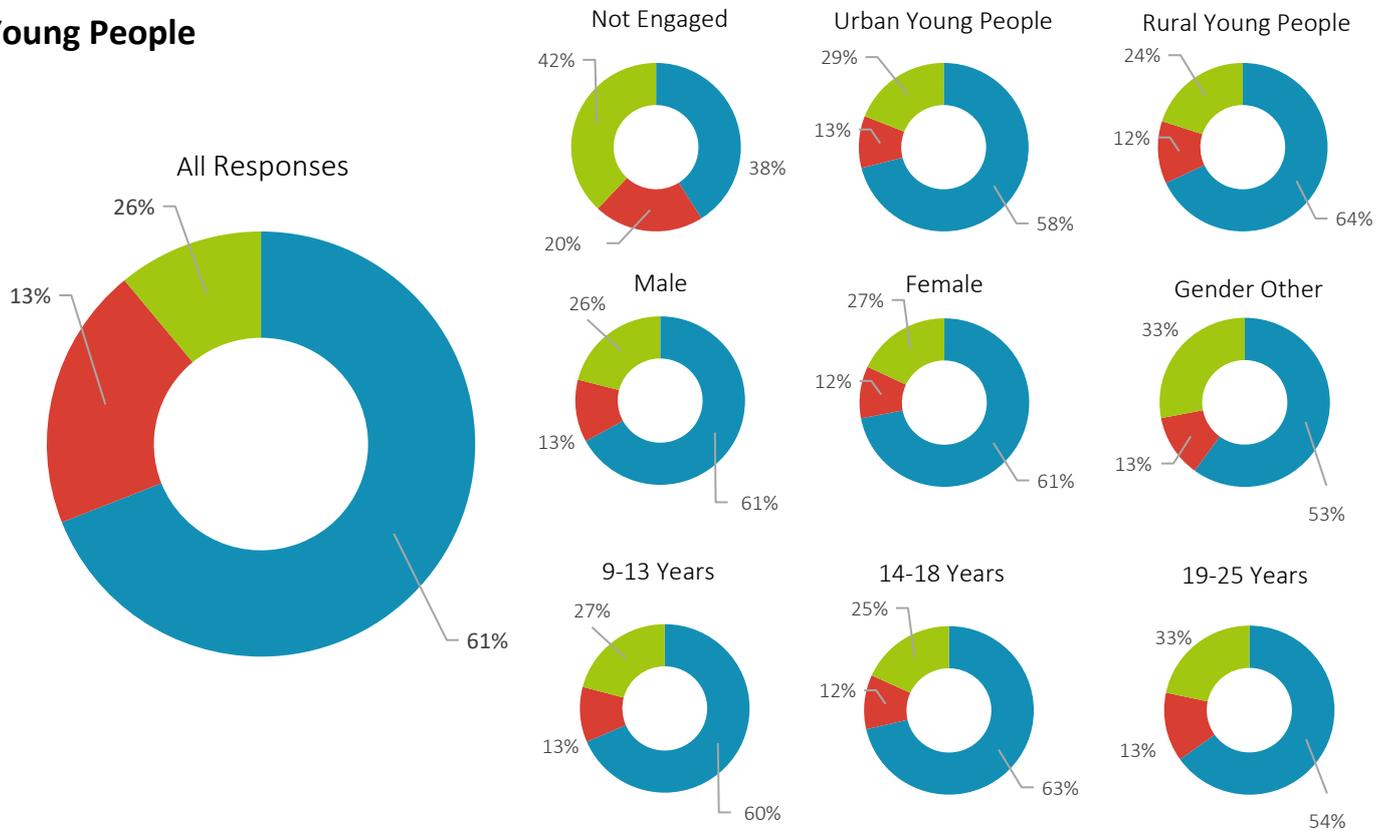
In some instances children and young people may disengage due to social, economic, cultural or language barriers and challenges, for example, living in a low income household or in a deprived community, growing up in a rural area, being a newcomer, a child or young person Looked After or having a disability or Special Educational Need. These are significant factors which need to be considered when planning the delivery of Youth Service provision within Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

## Survey Findings – Participation

■ Yes   
 ■ No   
 ■ Don't Know

Do you have opportunities to take part in Youth Services in your area?

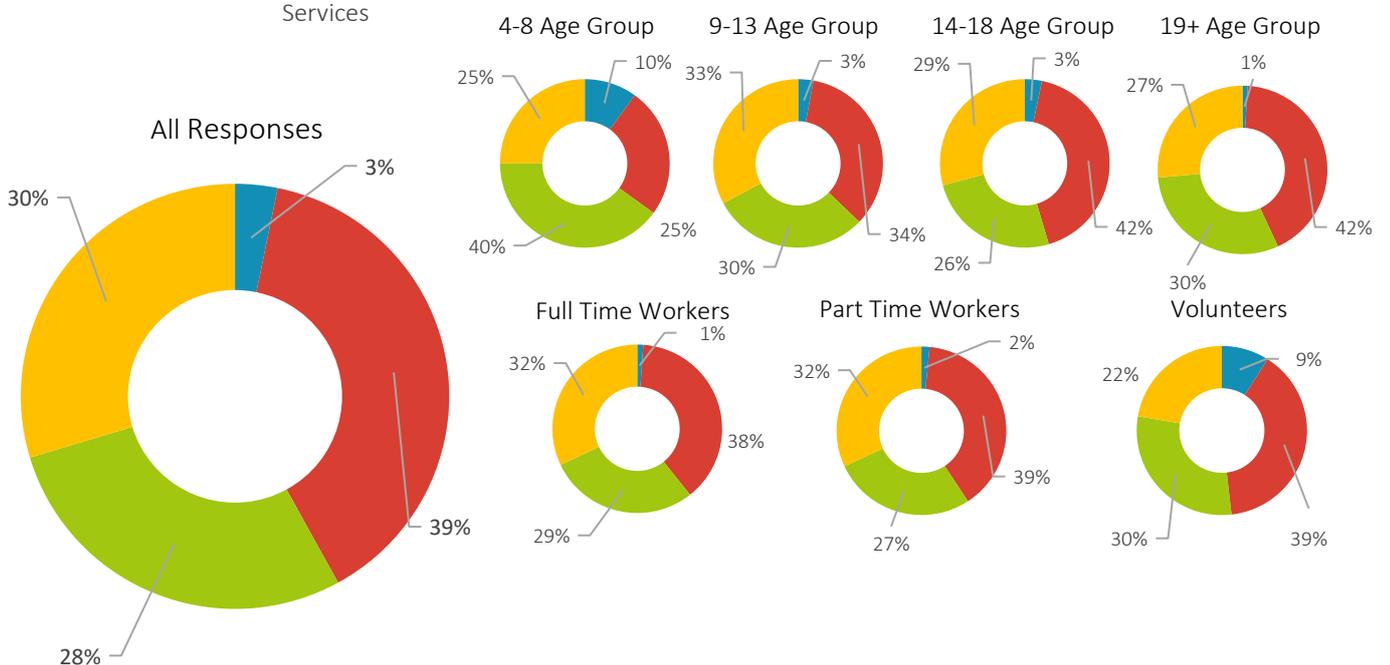
### Young People



■ Not at all   
 ■ Often   
 ■ Sometimes   
 ■ Very Often

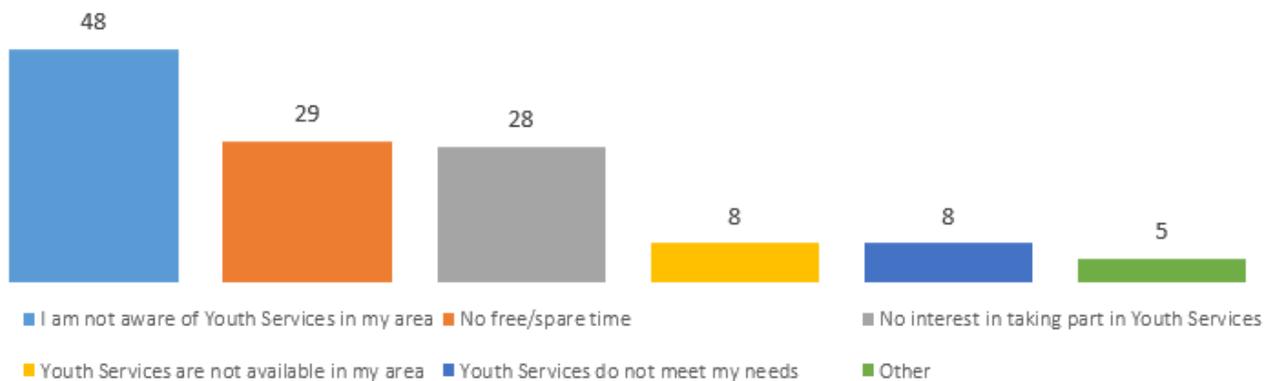
### Youth Workers

Please rate how often young people in your area have opportunities to participate in Youth Services

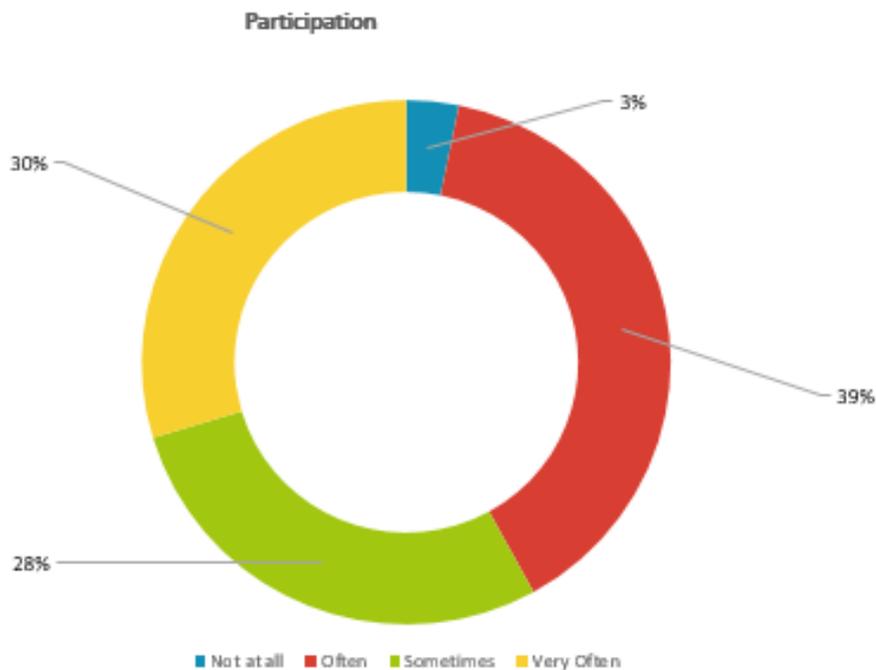


## Young People

**Participation** – Reason you believe you do not have opportunity to take part in Youth Services in your area?

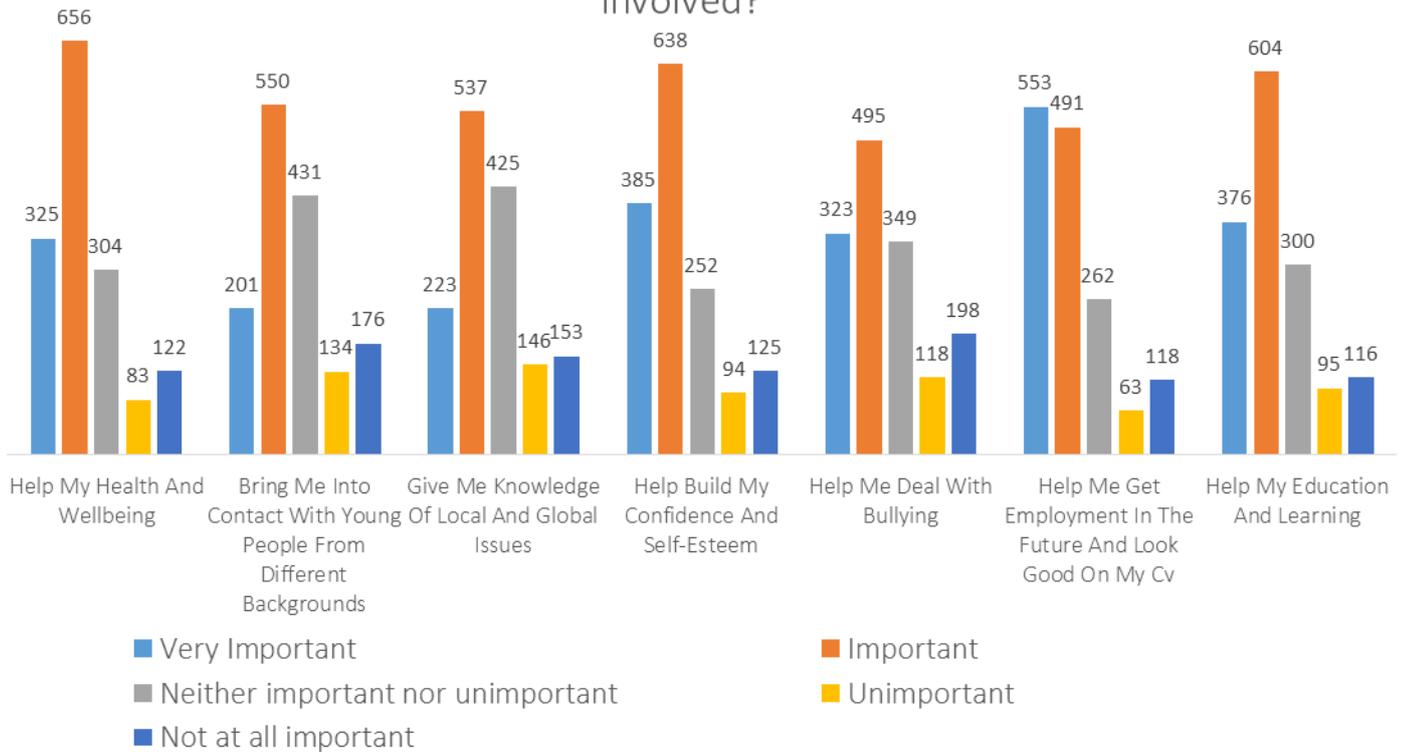


## Youth Workers



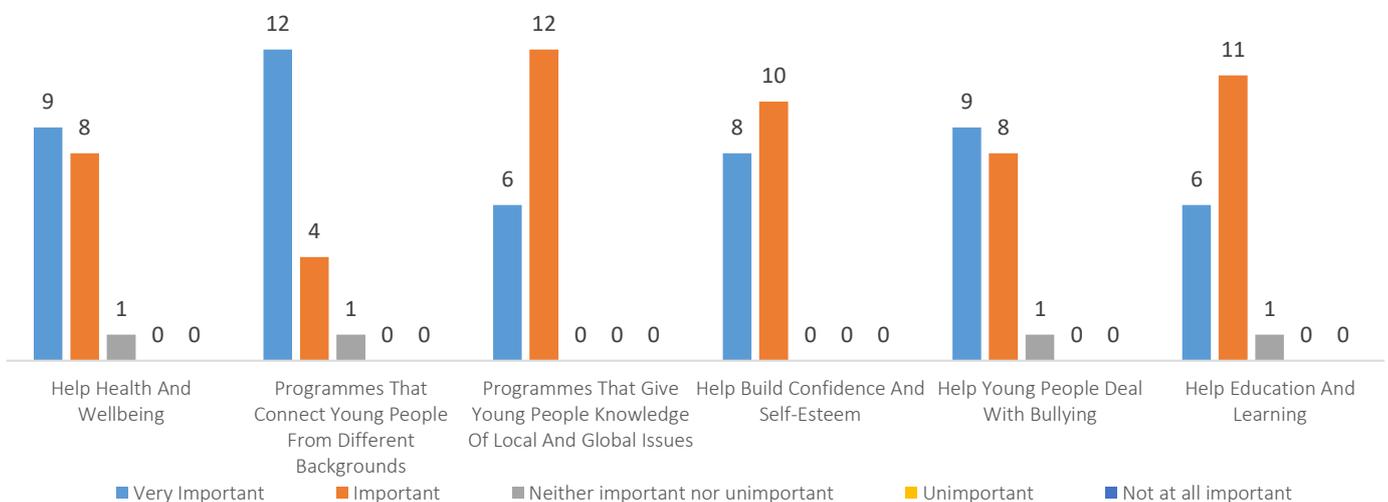
## Young People

Participation - What opportunities would you like Youth Services in your area to provide that would encourage you to become involved?



## Youth Workers

Participation - What opportunities do you think Youth Services in your area should provide that would encourage young people to become involved?



## Children and Young People's Summary of Responses

- Children and young people valued participating in youth clubs; however, in some instances they were critical of opening times and lack of a weekend service or a service available when they felt they needed it most.
- Some children and young people did not participate due to a lack of one to one support.
- Children and young people also recognised that those with additional needs or who were vulnerable or from a minority group required more information and support in how they could access Youth Services.
- Afternoon or after school activities would allow some children and young people to participate, particularly those from rural areas.
- Children and young people from rural areas reported that Youth Services were not always available in their area.

## Youth Workers Summary of Narrative Responses

- Family and social circumstances and being from a minority group were also put forward as barriers to participation in Youth Services in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.
- Rural isolation was also a barrier to participation.

## Discussion & Key Trends

Most children and young people in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon have access to some form of social, cultural or sporting outlet. Participation in school, Youth Services and wider society helps children and young people become more confident and independent. It can also provide opportunities to socialise and make friends with people from different backgrounds.

Many young people engaging in youth services express their interest in actively participating in decision making. The current participation structures operating in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon are extremely active groups, participating in many consultations with Youth Service and other Statutory Partners.

Participation will continue to be a key priority for the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service with resources and support to ensure that Youth Voice is developed and sustained with a continued focus on broadening the membership to include young people from Section 75 groups in order to ensure a broad representation.

The Small Grants Programme is a key action in the Department of Education's policy document, "Priorities for Youth - improving young people's lives through youth work" (2013). The programme has been set-up to allow young people to administer grants to other young people, and aims to strengthen the participation of young people as decision-makers within the local and wider community. Participation within the Small Grants Programme context is about young people taking part in projects which have been planned by young people for young people. It's what they decide to do, when, where and how. Young people in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon will be supported throughout this process.

A Local Advisory Group (LAG) will be facilitated by Youth Services in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon area to offer advice on the development and implementation of the local area plan. The LAG will consist of representation from the statutory and voluntary sector as well other key stakeholder's. One key aspect of the terms of reference for the LAG is that 50% of the membership should be young people.

The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon survey results highlighted that children and young people would like to see Youth Services provide support through programmes that help them to obtain employment in the future, programmes that will help with their confidence and self-esteem and also programmes that support their education health and wellbeing. Youth workers and volunteers suggested that programmes to develop their confidence and self-esteem, health and wellbeing programmes and education and learning programmes were most likely to encourage children and young people to become involved in Youth Services. The need for Generalist Youth Provision also came across strongly from the survey findings.

Interestingly, 64% of rural children and young people stated that Youth Services were available to them. This is despite internal EA research which reported rural young people feeling isolated and lacking access to services. It is also important to recognise that social isolation and marginalisation can be interpreted differently depending on geography or cultural environment.

The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service aims to engage young people experiencing rural isolation through Outreach and Area Youth Work. These workers are vital to engage young people experiencing social isolation through the development of educational/personal development programmes, responsive to the needs of young people in areas where there is little or no provision.

Through consultations with children and young people it has become evident that young people want to participate in wider society. It was recognised that Youth Services are ideally placed to provide children and young people with a platform to have their voices heard and responded to through Local Advisory Groups, Youth Councils and other civic events and fora. Many suggested that this form of participation should be continued and expanded upon. It was also reported that participation in wider society would improve their overall life chances, career opportunities and general health and wellbeing.

# Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity

# Area of Enquiry 5: Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity

## Key Facts

- Whilst there are no specific numbers for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, the most recent figures reveal that 547 Looked After Children were supported by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. Many of these children and young people live and attend schools in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.
- 3,207 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.
- 7,443 children and young people have a Special Educational Need or a disability.
- 1272 young people identify as LGBTQ (14-25 in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon).
- 148 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.
- 169 Roma children and young people attend schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.
- There 3 Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) centres in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.
- In April-June 2019 there were 20,000 young people (aged 16-24) in Northern Ireland who were not in education, employment or training (NEET). This represents 10.2% of all young people aged 16-24.
- According to the Simon Community there are at least 6,000 homeless young people across Northern Ireland. (Homeless can mean living in unsuitable and unstable accommodation).
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,000 young carers in Northern Ireland.

## Why is this measure important?

An equal society recognises people's different needs, situations and goals and removes the barriers that limit what people can do and can be.<sup>14</sup>

Inclusion ensures that all children and young people regardless of their background are able to fully participate and access opportunities in all aspects of their lives. This is about ensuring that children and young people have access to services and resources that are accessible, safe and welcoming to all and that do not exclude anyone.

Diversity is the term used to describe an incredible range of human differences. It includes, but is not limited to, age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, social class, disability, religion or belief, national origin, and political beliefs. Diversity is about taking account of differences between people and groups of people and placing a positive value on and celebrating these differences.

Equality is not about treating everybody the same. It is about treating everybody fairly.<sup>15</sup> Equality of opportunity ensures that all children and young people have an equal chance to participate fully in society and to take up opportunities. Equality of opportunity also ensures that children and young people have an equal chance to reach their potential and be the best that they can be.

<sup>14</sup> Equalities Review (2007) Fairness and Freedom: The Final Report of the Equalities Review. Norwich: HMSO.

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.cwvys.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/HB-Equalities.pdf>

There is a strong legislative framework which protects individuals and groups of people from discrimination, however inequalities persist. Whilst the majority of children and young people in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon enjoy safe, happy and active lives, there are significant numbers of children and young people who experience discrimination and prejudice or face barriers because of their age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability or even where they live. In some cases, young people may face multiple discrimination.

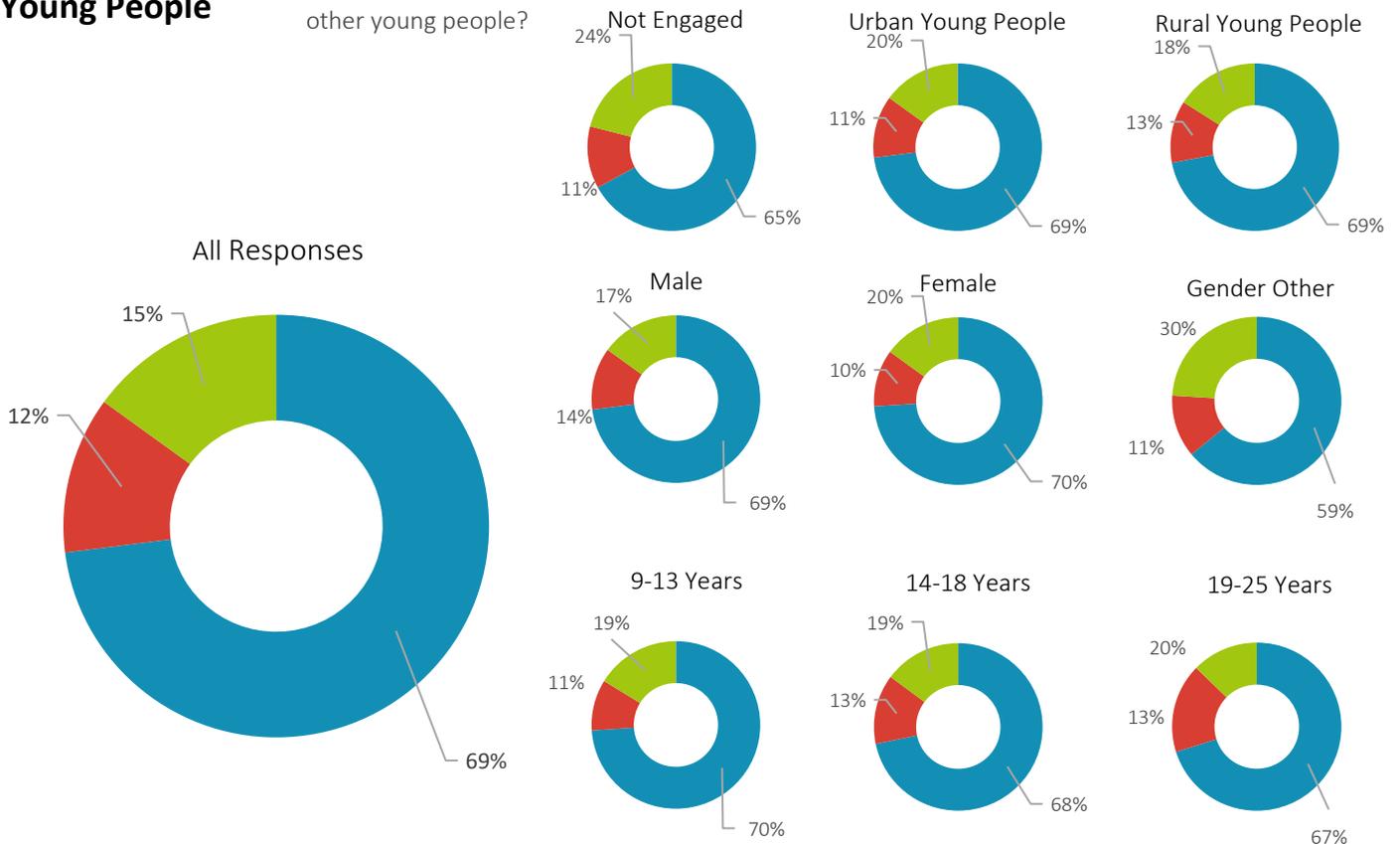
Children and young people experiencing prejudice and discrimination are less likely to feel part of a group and participate, withdraw from school and society, suffer poor mental health which can have a negative impact on their academic and social outcomes. Those most likely to encounter discrimination will include some of the following groups: Children and Young People Looked After, those with a Special Educational Need or a Disability, newcomers or those from a minority ethnic group, young carers, young people identifying as LGBTQ, young people excluded from school or at risk of exclusion, young people registered as NEET, victims or witnesses of domestic abuse, those at risk of offending, living in a deprived or rural area.

# Survey Findings – Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity

■ Yes   
 ■ No   
 ■ Don't Know

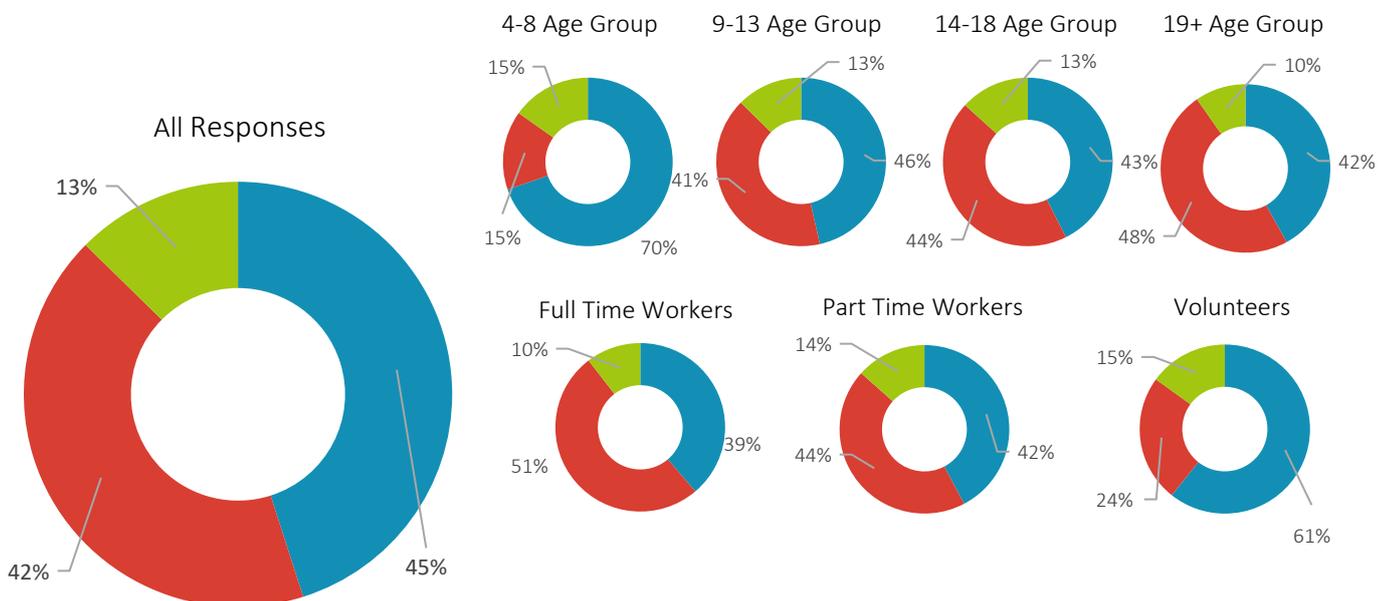
## Young People

Young people in your area have the same opportunities in life and are treated the same as other young people?



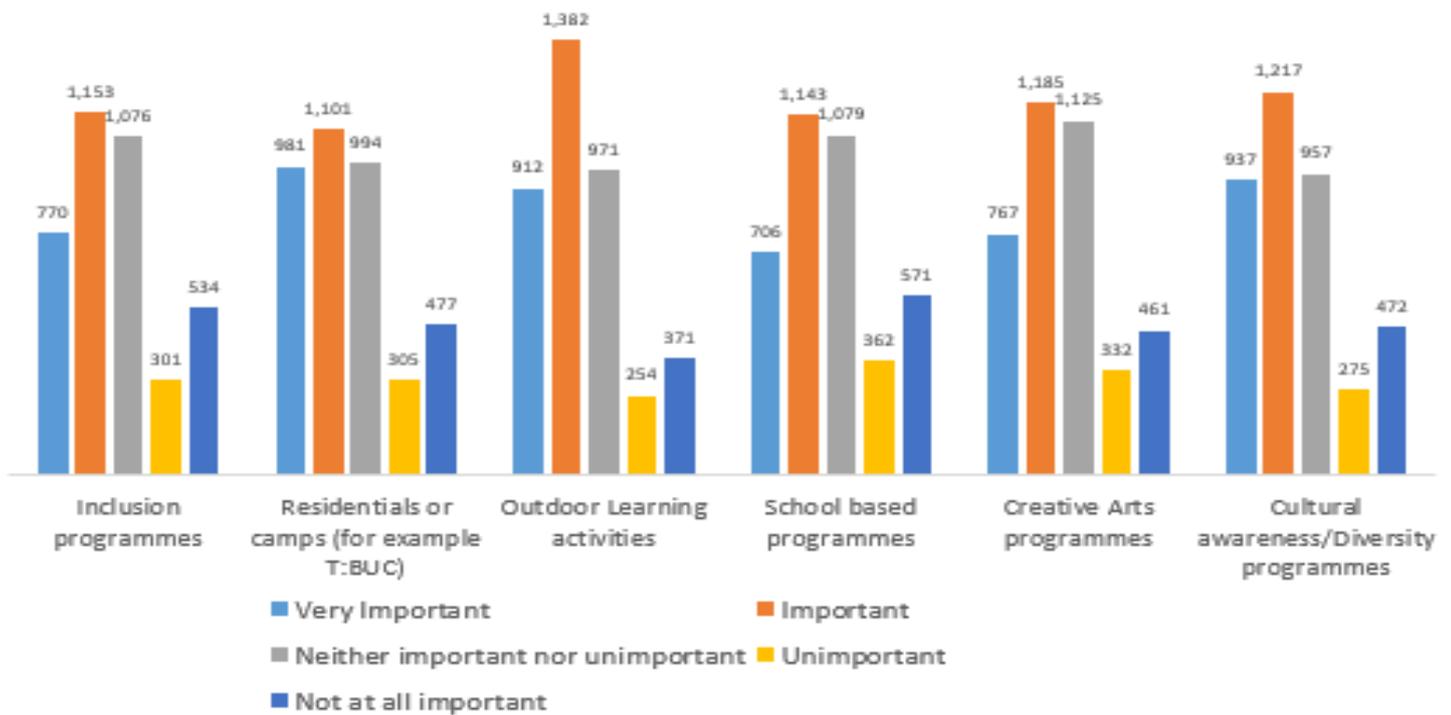
## Youth Workers

Young people in your area have the same opportunities in life and are treated the same as other young people?



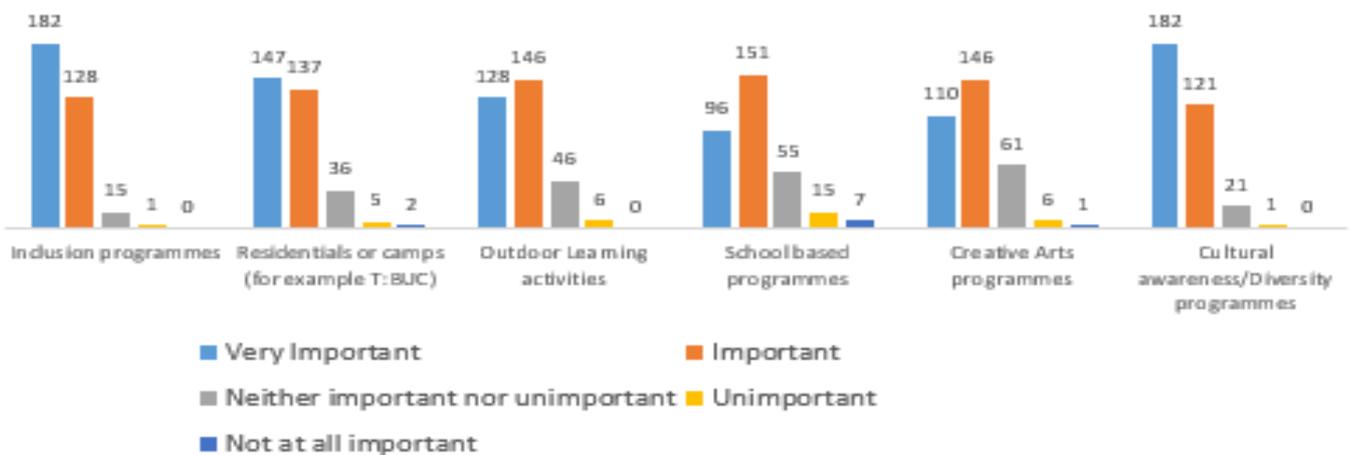
## Young People

**Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity** – What opportunities would you like Youth Services in your area to provide so you can feel more included?



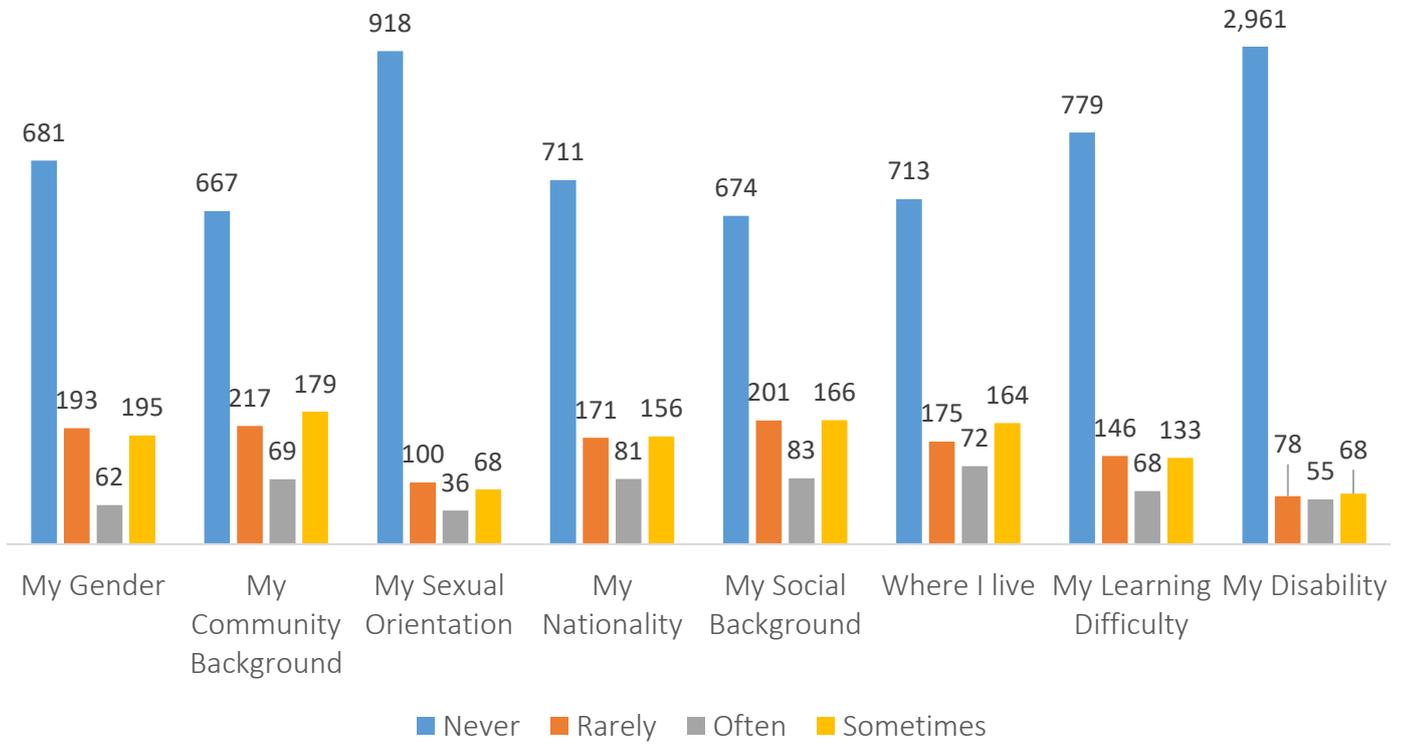
## Youth Workers

**Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity** – What opportunities should Youth Services in your area provide so young people can feel more included?



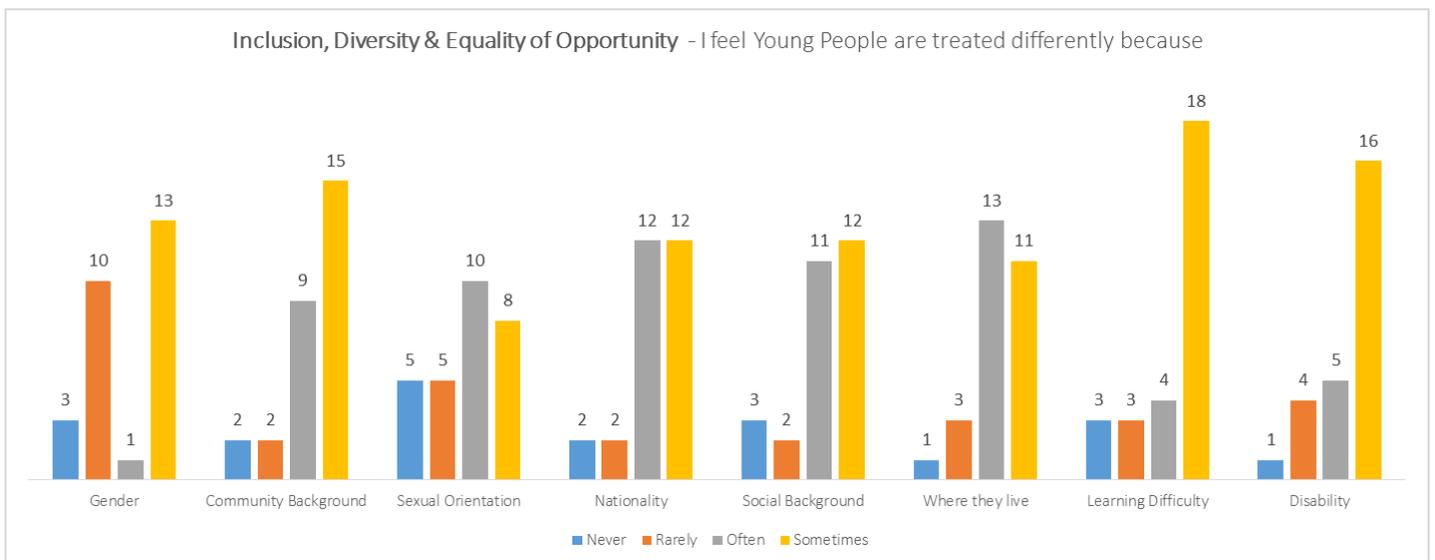
## Young People

Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity - I feel I am treated differently because



## Youth Workers

Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity - I feel Young People are treated differently because



## Young People's Summary of Responses

- Children and young people who stated that they were not included and felt they were treated differently for a variety of reasons. These include: social and community background, their nationality and where they live.
- Some other young people believed their poor mental health or having a learning difficulty were barriers to them feeling included.
- Young people suggested that Youth Services should widen the scope and range of inclusion and diversity programmes they deliver.
- Newcomer children, young people who identify as LGBTQ, children and young people from the Traveller community noted that their opportunities to be included were restricted due to their circumstances and the opinions of their peers.

## Youth Workers' Summary of Responses

- Youth workers and volunteers suggested developing more advanced inclusion and diversity programmes to challenge the increasing issues that young people were experiencing.
- There was a perception among some youth workers and volunteers that the most vulnerable in society continue to be marginalised.
- It was proposed that social action and civic engagement programmes and also programmes targeting the most vulnerable be introduced to support all children and young people in this area.

## Discussion and Key Trends

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service is committed to preventing discrimination, eliminating prejudice, promoting inclusion and celebrating diversity. As an organisation, EA encourage staff and the children and young people they work with to have respect for themselves and others. The EA delivers services that recognise and build upon the strengths of the children and young people in our care from all cultures, religions, gender, age, sexual orientation, ability and backgrounds, in ways that meet their needs and help them to achieve their full potential.

In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon there are marginalised groups of children and young people in who experience discrimination and do not have the same levels of opportunity to access education, Youth Services or other activities because of their particular situation, such as race, gender, religion, disability or where they live.

At a recent stakeholder engagement event, participants noted that among the specific groups that are currently excluded were Looked After

Children, Newcomer children and young people, children and young people who have a Special Educational Need or a disability, Young Carers, Roma children and young people, LGBTQ young people and members of the Travelling Community and Rural young people. It was also suggested that a lack of Irish Medium provision was a barrier for some children and young people feeling included.

Stakeholders also noted that some of the barriers children and young people faced in terms of being able to participate, included, transport, lack of facilities, access to later opening times in youth centres, language and communication, caring responsibilities and a lack of money.

In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon for those children and young people who stated that they are not treated the same as others was because of where they lived or their social and community backgrounds. This appears to indicate that many feel discriminated against because of where they live and the disadvantages they face in their daily lives and within their communities.

In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon children and young people reported that in order to address their concerns around Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity that they would most like to engage in Inclusion programmes, cultural awareness and diversity programmes and residential or camps, school based programmes. It was noted that it was important to work with young people in the design of programmes to meet their needs in this area. Children and young people felt safe to explore these issues in a youth work setting.

Taking into consideration the key facts and findings within this area of enquiry there is a significant need for Inclusive Youth Service provision to be delivered across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area. This will be addressed through delivery of inclusive youth work practice and the embedding of Welcoming Youth. Thematic Youth Work will support children and young people with Special Educational Need or a disability, Young Carers and Young Parents, Roma children and young people, LGBTQ young people and members of the Travelling Community and rural young people who live within Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon

# Living in Safety & Stability

# Area of Enquiry 6: Living in Safety and Stability

## Key Facts

- There are 18 interface areas in Northern Ireland.
  - **5 of which are in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon**
- Approximately 6,600 (9%) young people live in the most deprived areas of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon (*NI average 25.2%*)
- Approximately 31,000 (42.2%) young people in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon live in a rural community (*NI average 34.5%*)
- 547 Looked after Children were supported by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. Many of these children and young people live and attend schools in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Area.
- Figures reveal that there were 3131 domestic abuse incidences reported in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon (*April 18 - March 19*)
- There are 4 Residential Units for Looked after children and young people in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon
- The most recent available figures indicate that there are 3,109 Children and Young People Looked After in Northern Ireland. (154 of these are on the Child Protection Register).
- According to the Simon Community there are at least 6,000 homeless young people across Northern Ireland. (Homeless can mean living in unsuitable or unstable accommodation.<sup>37</sup>)
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,000 young carers in Northern Ireland. There were 6,060 anti-social behaviour incidences recorded in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon in 2018-2019.
- There were 109 hate crimes incidences recorded in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon in 2018-2019. They are broken down as follows:
  - 83 sectarian incidences.
  - 15 racist incidences.
  - 11 homophobic incidences.
- The total number of movements within the Juvenile Justice Centre for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon in 2017/18 was 40
- The most recent figures reveal that there were 3,131 domestic abuse incidences reported in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon
- In April – June 2019 there were 20,000 young people aged (16-24) in Northern Ireland who were not in education, employment or training.
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,000 young carers in Northern Ireland.

## Why is this measure important?

Children and young people experience their formative years through the relationships they form with their parents or guardians and other adult role models who support them. If these relationships provide safe, stable and nurturing environments then children and young people are more likely to develop both physically and emotionally. However, if these relationships are unstable or abusive then this can have a negative impact on a young person's physical and emotional health and development.

A child or young person's early life experiences shape who they are and can potentially inform their life-long learning and health. To develop to their full potential, children and young people require safe and secure

housing, a balanced diet, access to medical care, secure relationships with parents and guardians, including nurturing and responsive parenting and high-quality learning opportunities at home and in school.

Adverse childhood experiences can have a detrimental effect on a child or young person's personal and social development. As well as having negative consequences for the individual it can also impact on other children and young people in local communities. A recent study noted that a negative home environment can lead to a series of problems, including among others, poor language development, deficit in school readiness, later behavioural problems and mental health issues.<sup>16</sup>

In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon there are a number of risk factors such as socio-economic, demographic, environmental and cultural influences which directly impact on children and young people. These range from instability in terms of parenting, their home environment, lack of a male role model, education and employment and can include negative transitions which they may experience, such as family relationships, including divorce or remarriage, moving home and school, neglect and witnessing or being the victims of domestic abuse.

In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon these negative influences on children and young people can have serious consequences for their future life chances. Children and young people are more inclined to have behavioural problems, poor educational attainment and limited career prospects and poorer general and mental health. They are also likely to have limited personal resilience and engage in risk taking activity including alcohol and drug misuse, anti-social behaviour, inappropriate use of social media leading to child sexual exploitation, crime, gang involvement and are more susceptible to be influenced or threatened by paramilitaries. Children and young people from Section 75 groups are those most at risk of not living safely and securely.

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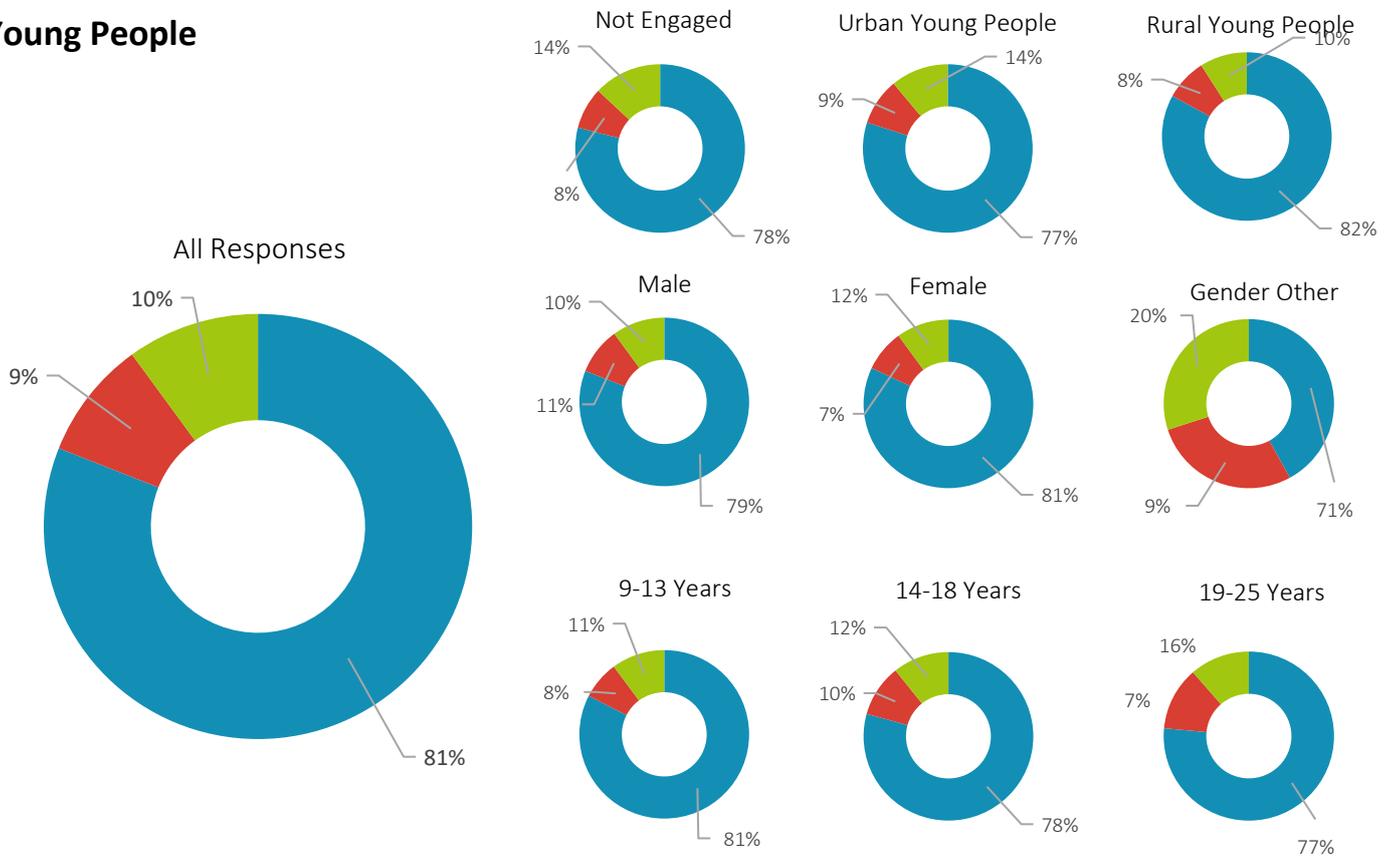
<sup>16</sup> [http://www.urbanchildinstitute.org/sites/all/files/databooks/TUCI\\_Data\\_Book\\_VII\\_2012.05\\_family.pdf](http://www.urbanchildinstitute.org/sites/all/files/databooks/TUCI_Data_Book_VII_2012.05_family.pdf)

## Survey Findings – Living in Safety and Stability

Yes No Don't Know

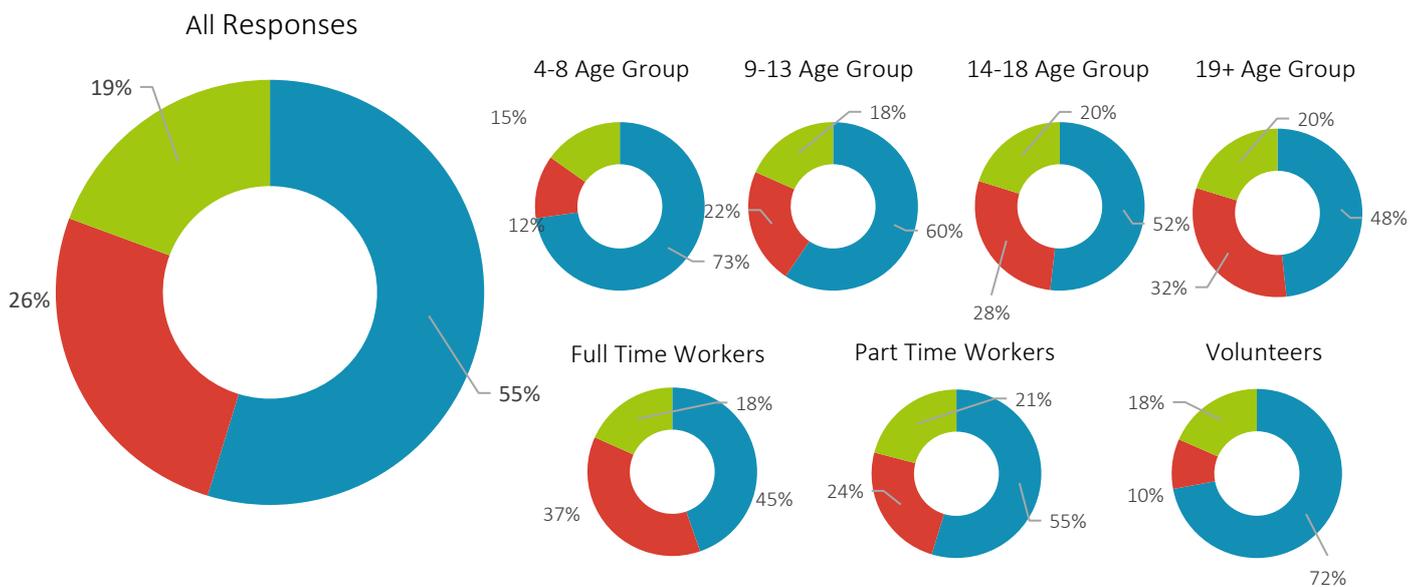
### Young People

Young People that you work with feel safe in their own community?



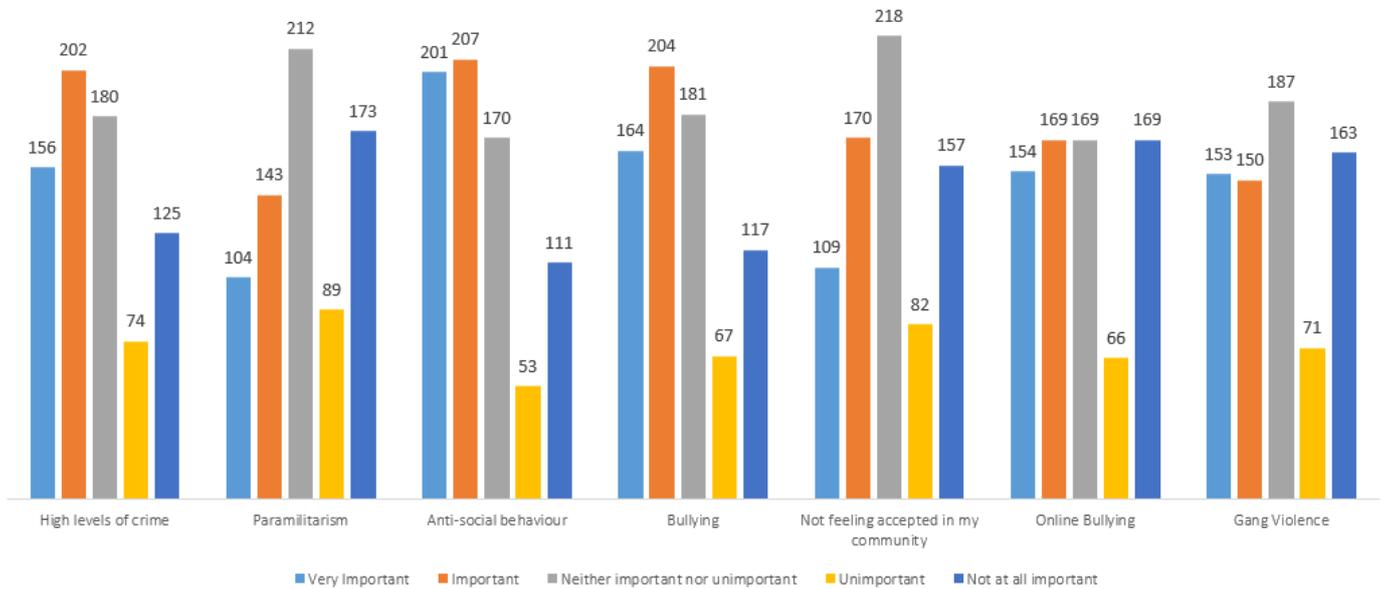
### Youth Workers

Young People that you work with feel safe in their own community?



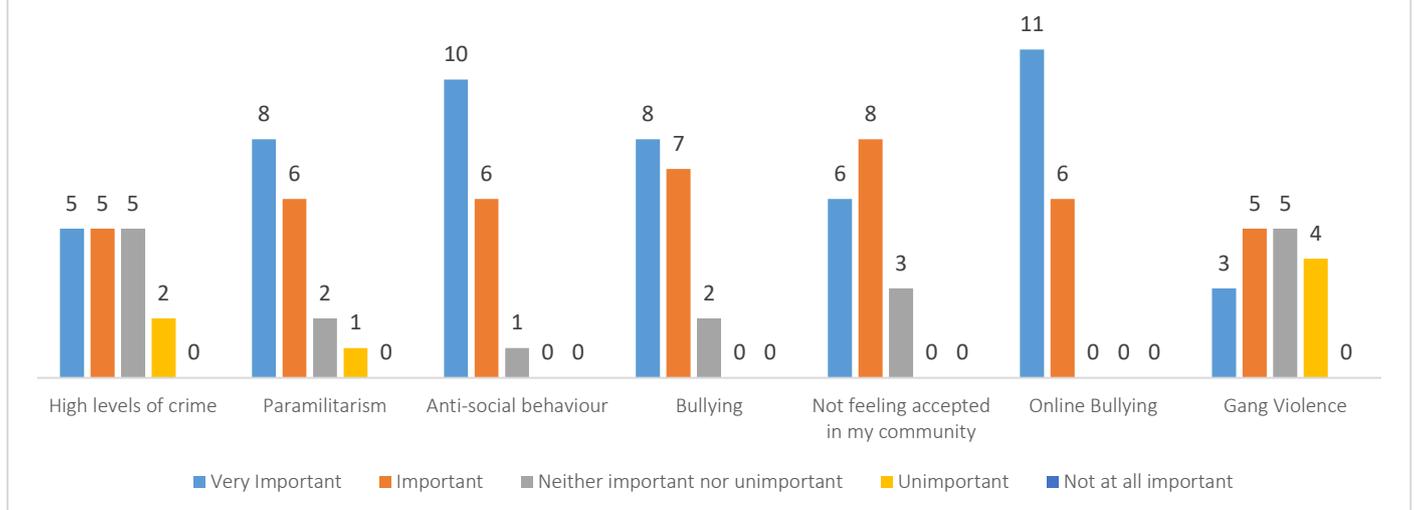
## Young People

Living in Safety & Stability - Reasons for not feeling safe and secure in your community



## Youth Workers

Living in Safety & Stability - Reasons you believe Young People do not safe and secure in their community



## **Young People's Summary of Responses**

- The main reason children and young people gave for not feeling safe in their own community was drug use and the increasing availability of drugs in their areas.
- This in turn led to anti-social behaviour and increased levels of crime in local communities.
- Children and young people reported that the lack of a police presence made them feel less secure whilst others noted that a police presence led some to become involved in risk taking behaviours.
- Some children and young people noted that living in a segregated community meant they did not feel safe in their communities all the time.
- Paramilitarism was noted by children and young people as a growing concern and many were fearful of paramilitary influence on local communities.
- Children and young people also felt unsafe and afraid of being bullied because of their appearance or background.

## **Youth Workers' Summary of Responses**

- Youth workers and volunteers also identified drug usage and its availability as an issue in some communities, especially among vulnerable children and young people.
- Rioting, organised fights and interface tensions were all growing areas for concern.
- Children and young people also feel threatened because they are different and there was a feeling that Youth Services could be providing more programmes to support these young people.
- Community tensions and segregation continue to be issues both in rural and urban areas.

## **Discussion and Key Trends**

Children and young people growing up in a stable, secure home and environment are more likely to achieve academically, have better health outcomes, more opportunities to participate in wider society and have better career opportunities.

A safe, secure and loving home environment as well as a school, Youth Service and community which is consistent and nurturing, makes a big difference for children and young people in our society.

However, In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, there are many children and young people experiencing significant adversity in their home lives and within their communities which can have a negative impact on their education, health and social outcomes.

A recent local consultation event with young people reported that Youth Services have a key role in providing safe and supportive environments in helping children and young people achieve their potential and to promote the positive role that young people can contribute to their local communities.

The principle reasons given by young people for not feeling safe were anti-social behaviour, bullying and online bullying and levels of crime. Youth workers and volunteers also noted that these were the most common reasons given for young people not feeling safe in their own community.

Young people at an Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon engagement event suggested that some of the reasons why anti-social behaviour and crime occurred was due to easy access to alcohol and drugs, lack of a police presence, poor lighting and limited CCTV and youth centres not being open at weekends or when they were needed most. It is also important to note that children and young people reported that youth centres were places where they felt safe.

Research has shown that as children and young people are spending more time on social media they are more vulnerable to being victims of child sexual exploitation.<sup>17</sup> Engaging in sexting or the sharing of inappropriate sexual images between adults or their peers can lead to bullying or blackmail and can have a detrimental effect on a child or young person's mental health and resilience. Young people at an engagement event in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon recognised the growing concerns young people had around digital resilience and youth gambling and supported the development of new digital resources and programmes to help children and young people develop virtual resilience, including good digital and social media habits and a better understanding of online pressures.

Internal EA research revealed that children and young people were increasingly concerned about gang violence and arranged fights. These are being organised through social media and reportedly by gangs along sectarian or territorial lines. The Police Service of Northern Ireland have confirmed that this is growing concern.

Young people reported that they would welcome the opportunity to discourage others from engaging in anti-social behaviour and becoming involved in organised fights by employing outreach or detached teams of youth workers to provide support and guidance. Another worrying development was the anecdotal reported increase in the number of young people carrying and using knives.

Paramilitarism is a reality for many in Northern Ireland and also a growing threat to children and young people, particularly those from the most deprived communities where paramilitaries exert the greatest control. A recent report noted that without a functioning Executive and the uncertainty regarding Brexit ending Paramilitarism is now more difficult.<sup>18</sup> Young people supported the idea of community partnerships, based on trust and respect, involving all key stakeholders to provide children and young people with alternative, positive opportunities.

A Tackling Paramilitarism Youth Outreach Worker funded by Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board works with young people most at risk of influence or coercive control by paramilitaries and organised criminal gangs in the area of Urban Craigavon.

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Youth Service will deliver programmes including YVA (Youth Volunteer Academy), SYTES (Supporting Youth Through Engagement in Schools), Partnership programmes with Statutory agencies including the PSNI, which will contribute to a respect for the law, and address risk factors which could put young people at risk of influence by paramilitary groups or organised criminal gangs.

The Education Authority's Learning Together Programme aimed at Key Stage 4 (Year 11 & 12), as well as workshops for Key Stage 3 on lawfulness, policing and life skills such as resilience, positive mental health and employability will be delivered in the main by local youth workers and teachers in schools across the region.

Detached/ Street work teams will provide youth work provision in key geographical areas including:

- Armagh City
- Banbridge Town Centre to include Solitude Park
- Craigavon Urban to include:
  - Portadown
  - Brownlow
  - Lurgan.

Youth work staff will raise awareness of the desirability for young people to become responsible citizens and work to ensure their communities continue to transform into safe places to live and grow up in.

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.knowsleypsc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/7-Minute-Briefing-CSE-and-Social-Media.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> Independent Reporting Commission, 2019, Second Report, HMSO, London.

## Establishing Areas for Action

# Establishing Areas for Action

## Youth Work Priorities

Priorities for Youth outline five key areas for the planning and delivery of Youth Services:

- Raising Standards for All.
- Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access & Equality.
- Developing the Non-Formal Education Workforce.
- Improving the Non-Formal Learning Environment.
- Transforming Governance and Management of Non-formal Education.

Based on the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon local assessment of need, local planning for Youth Services should consider the following areas for actions within this policy context to develop and deliver effective Youth Services for children and young people.

## Raising Standards for All

### Area of Action: Delivering on Assessed Need

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service will establish outputs that ensure all services are delivered to meet the assessed needs of children and young people and ensure that resources are allocated based on need.

### Area of Action: Proportionate Reporting on Youth Service Outcomes

186 Voluntary registered units who are supported by EA grants to deliver generalist and targeted provision. In line with Priorities for Youth, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Services have clear outputs that will provide evidence of the impact of Youth Work on the lives of children and young people, measure success, and provide a proportionate reporting framework reflective of funding and service delivery. Both the Engagement Framework and the outreach and detached Engagement Framework will collect data on numbers of children and young people engaging and will enable units to report on the level and range of engagement.

Targeted outputs will use outcome based assessment to report on the impact and progression of children and young people.

### Area of Action: Stakeholder Engagement and Research

Youth Services will ensure the voice of children and young people remains present in shaping and planning services to meet the needs of all children and young people. Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Local Advisory group will facilitate stakeholder engagement, review delivery, the ongoing impact and reflect and identify new emerging needs. Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon assessment of need has also identified the need for continued research within each area of enquiry with a particular focus of identifying how Youth Services can effectively address the need in delivery.

This area of action should also safeguard and ensure that decisions are evidence based and critically reflect on the planning and delivery of services.

### Area of Action: Quality Assurance

The EA will ensure that both statutory and voluntary funded youth work are delivering quality services that meet the needs of children and young people.

### Area of Action: Promotion of Service and Opportunities

The survey with children and young people has demonstrated a lack of awareness of Youth Services available to children and young people. More specifically, children and young people not engaged in Youth Services do not fully understand the opportunities available to them. This area of action is key to ensure children and

young people are aware of the service opportunities open to them, to increase the participation of children and young people and to promote the outcomes and benefits of Youth Services.

## Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality

To ensure a greater focus on service delivery this assessment of need recommends that under this priority there are only six areas of action informed by the areas of enquiry. Therefore, Youth Services should develop outputs to meet the needs of children and young people under the following areas of action:

### Health and Wellbeing

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service will address Health and Wellbeing issues of Mental Health, Sexual health, body image and gender specific issues through sports and fitness, outdoor learning, leadership programmes and anti-bullying programmes.

Addressing risk taking issues such as alcohol and drug misuse and sexual health continues to be a priority delivery area within Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon.

In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon the proportion of Year 8 pupils identified as obese or over weight is above the Northern Ireland average in the most deprived areas. Overweight children and young people are more likely to encounter bullying, embarrassment when participating in games or sport and experience difficulty in being active. This in turn can be a contributory factor to low self-esteem and poor mental health. Healthy eating, nutritional cooking programmes and sports and fitness programmes should be delivered

Body image was associated with physical and mental health issues and could impact on the confidence and self-worth of children and young people. Young people also highlighted the role that social media played in portraying the 'perfect body' which impacted negatively on children and young people, especially girls. Programmes including internet safety and online bullying should and will be delivered.

The FLARE programme continues to be a significant delivery need for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

### Learning and Achieving

In order to address the gap between the highest and lowest achieving young people there is a clear need to tackle the root causes of educational disadvantage and barriers to learning through in Youth Services to provide qualifications that were accessible, meaningful and would meet their career and life opportunities.

The Youth Service "Learning Together Programme" (LTP), delivers both accredited and non-accredited programmes in targeted schools. These programmes will be continued in order to maintain and support this valuable link with formal education to increase the life chances of young people in areas such as future employment and training opportunities.

In the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area, the post-primary schools where there are current partnerships, include:

- Lismore Comprehensive School
- Banbridge High School
- St Patricks College, Banbridge
- St Ronan's College Lurgan

There is a need for the development of partnerships and the delivery of provision in the following schools:

- Brownlow Integrated College
- St John the Baptist College, Portadown
- City of Armagh High School
- Craigavon Senior High School – Portadown

- Craigavon Senior High - Lurgan
- St Patricks High School, Keady
- Clounagh Junior High Portadown

In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service will deliver accredited training and leadership opportunities to young people in youth centres and youth programmes to help them to overcome barriers to learning by providing further opportunities to gain qualifications, to volunteer and to develop a range of skills and attributes that will improve their life outcomes as individuals and as contributors to their local community and the wider economy.

As Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon is an area with 18.5% of pupils identified as having Special Educational Needs, there is a clear need to develop programmes to assist the formal Education sector with supporting these young people and to also provide educational opportunities outside of the formal environment.

### Good Relations

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is overwhelmingly segregated between the two communities and this can lead to inter-community tensions, involving children and young people especially at contentious times of the year and particularly at interface areas. This can also lead to children and young people coming under the influence of paramilitaries.

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Area will address this through Detached / Street based work during periods of heightened tension including Bonfire season (June – August). Key geographical areas include: Armagh City, Portadown, Brownlow and Lurgan Town.

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon has become a much more culturally diverse place in recent years. However, in the last number of years racist hate crimes have exceeded sectarian hate crimes. At a recent engagement event young people supported the view that Youth Services should provide safe spaces for children and young people and promote inclusion and embrace and celebrate difference. This will be addressed through Good Relations were outdoor learning activities, cultural awareness and diversity programmes, school based programmes, and T: BUC residential or camps.

### Participation

Participation will continue to a be key priority for the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service with resources and support to ensure that Youth Voice is developed and sustained with a continued focus on broadening the membership to include young people from Section 75 groups in order to ensure a broad representation.

Local Advisory Group (LAG) will be facilitated by Youth Services in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon area to offer advice on the development and implementation of the local area plan.

Youth Services will provide Local and Global awareness programmes people to raise aspirations and enhance employment in the future.

The need for Generalist Youth Provision will also be a key area of delivery with a focus on 9-13 year olds.

The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service will engage young people experiencing rural isolation through Outreach and Area Youth Work.

Youth Services are ideally placed to provide children and young people with a platform to have their voices heard and responded to through Local Advisory Groups, Youth Voice and other civic events and fora.

### Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity

Taking into consideration the key facts and findings within this area of enquiry there is a significant need for Inclusive Youth Service provision to be delivered across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area. This will be addressed through delivery of inclusive youth work practice, school based programmes and the embedding of Welcoming Youth. Thematic Youth Work will support children and young people with Special Educational

Need or a disability, Young Carers and Young Parents, New comer and Roma children and young people, LGBTQ young people, members of the Travelling Community and rural young people who live within Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service will engage young people experiencing rural isolation through Outreach and Area Youth Work.

Irish Medium provision should also be delivered to ensure children and young people feel included.

### Living in Safety & Stability

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Youth Service will deliver programmes including YVA (Youth Volunteer Academy), SYTES (Supporting Youth Through Engagement in Schools), Partnership programmes with Statutory agencies including the PSNI, which will contribute to a respect for the law, and address risk factors which could put young people at risk of influence by paramilitary groups or organised criminal gangs.

Detached/ Street work teams and Intervention programmes should be delivered in key geographical areas particularly during times of heightened tensions. These areas include

- Armagh City
- Banbridge Town Centre to include Solitude Park
- Craigavon Urban to include:
  - i. Portadown
  - ii. Brownlow
  - iii. Lurgan

Tackling Paramilitarism Youth Outreach Worker funded by Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board works with young people most at risk of influence or coercive control by paramilitaries and organised criminal gangs in the area of Urban Craigavon.

The Education Authority's Learning Together Programme aimed at Key Stage 4 (Year 11 & 12), as well as workshops for Key Stage 3 on lawfulness, policing and life skills and will be delivered in the main by local youth workers and teachers in schools across the region.

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service will support the development and delivery of new digital resources and programmes to help children and young people develop virtual resilience, including good digital and social media habits and a better understanding of online pressures including Child Sexual Exploitation, youth gambling and on-line bullying

This will not only provide a greater focus for the planning and delivery of services but will also enable the service to report on the impact of youth work on the Children and Young People's strategy. When developing outputs under this priority and areas for action, consideration should be given to developing outputs which will meet the needs of:

- Children and young people who identify as LBGTQ
- Children and young people with mental health needs.
- Children and young people Looked After.
- Children and young people with learning and physical disabilities.
- Newcomer children and young people.
- Young people from the Travelling Community.
- Young Carers

Furthermore, evidence from desktop research and the online survey places a particular emphasis on the need to provide quality generic provision for children and young people. Providing a high quality universal

service will assist in limiting the need for early intervention or targeted services for young people as they progress into adulthood.

Respondents to the survey also highlighted the need to recognise children and young people's contribution to participating in Youth Work programmes, projects or generic provision. Youth Services should consider a range of locally and nationally recognised certifications or accreditations to meet the needs of children and young people.

## Developing the Non-Formal Education Workforce

### Area of Action: Workforce Development

Youth Services should ensure all staff are trained to best respond to the current needs of children and young people. Succession planning will also be key to ensuring Youth Services are always resourced to continually meet this need. – Training should include: Detached / Street Work Protocols, Child Sexual Exploitation, Drugs and Alcohol and Adverse Childhood Experiences.

### Area of Action: Practice Development and Support

Youth Services should establish outputs that ensure support is in place for staff to deliver quality youth work practice and provide support systems and processes for staff. This area should also develop outputs that will ensure staff are supported to evaluate youth work effectively, measure and evidence learning outcomes and demonstrate the positive impacts of their practice.

### Area of Action: Volunteer Development

Volunteers remain key to the successful delivery of youth work provision for young people. It is important that the Youth Service develops outputs to ensure volunteers are effectively supported, encouraged to volunteer in Youth Services and are recognised for their contribution both locally and regionally across the sector.

## Improving the Non-Formal Learning Environment

### Area of Action: Participative Structures

The voice of young people in the design and delivery of services is a key feature of youth work. This is embedded within the Priorities for Youth policy. This area of action should develop outputs that ensure the meaningful role and voice of children and young people in the design and delivery of services and the decision making process with the goal of providing a modern, high quality provision that effectively meets the needs of children and young people.

### Area of Action: Development & Maintenance of EA Youth Estate

The EA should continue to modernise its estate within the statutory capital allocation to provide a safe and welcoming environment that will effectively enable the service to meet and address the needs of children and young people.

Consideration should also be given to outputs under this action that ensure the environment reflects the principles outlined in the Community Relations, Equality and Diversity policy (CRED) to ensure youth work environments promote a culture and ethos of inclusion.

### Area of Action: Digital Transformation of Youth Service

As outlined in Priorities for Youth, Youth Services should continue to develop its ICT infrastructure to enable the digitalisation of services to reduce administration and bureaucracy and improve reporting and decision making. Youth Services

should consider all systems and processes that can be provided online using a digital first focus not digital only.

# Transforming Governance and the Management of Non-Formal Education

## Area of Action: Funding Scheme for Voluntary Youth Organisations

As outlined in Priorities for Youth, Youth Services should fully implement the new Funding Scheme arrangements for Regional and Local Voluntary Youth Organisations and ensure it effectively meets the needs of children and young people.

## Summary of Recommend Areas of Action 2020-2023

Youth Work Priority: Raising Standards for All	
1.1	Delivering on Assessed Need
1.2	Proportionate Reporting on Youth Service Outcomes
1.3	Stakeholder Engagement & Research
1.4	Quality Assurance
1.5	Promotion of Service Opportunities
Youth Work Priority: Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality	
2.1	Health and Wellbeing
2.2	Learn and Achieve
2.3	Good Relations
2.4	Participation
2.5	Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity
2.6	Living in Safety and Stability
Youth Work Priority: Developing the Non-Formal Education Workforce	
3.1	Workforce Development
3.2	Practice Development & Support
3.3	Volunteer Development
Youth Work Priority: Transforming the Non-Formal Learning Environment	
4.1	Participative Structures
4.2	Development & Maintenance of EA Youth Estate
4.3	Digital Transformation of Youth Service
Youth Work Priority: Transforming Governance and the Management of Education	
5.1	Funding Scheme for Voluntary Youth Organisation

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