

Derry and Strabane

Local Assessment of Need

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.*¹

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.*²

Youth Services in Derry City and Strabane District are delivered by a range of diverse groups and organisations, including statutory, voluntary, uniformed and church based, many of which are supported with grants from the Education Authority (EA). These range from rural groups with small memberships to large urban organisations.

Youth provision is delivered directly to children and young people in a variety of settings including; full-time and part-time youth centres; outdoor learning centres; schools; outreach and detached. Specialist programmes, particularly focussed on improving outcomes for children and young people and enhancing their inclusion and participation.

Provision in the area is innovating and evolving to meet the present and emerging needs of children and young people. Youth work can be categorised broadly into two types, Generic and Targeted.

Generic Provision

Generic youth provision 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.

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.

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

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

Structured formal planning takes place throughout Youth Services (regionally and locally) in order to effectively allocate staff and resources in response to policy priorities, DE targets and an objective assessment of need. Regional Planning, therefore, is part of a coherent planning framework established within EA Youth Services.

Purpose

The purpose of the Assessment of Need for Derry City and Strabane District is to build upon and add a local input to the Regional Assessment of Need. It helps 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 and compliment this with feedback from local young people and stakeholders.

This 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

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. Derry City and Strabane District 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 Derry City and Strabane District.

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 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 EA Youth Service's 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 and Derry City and Strabane District. 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 2,720 young people in Derry City and Strabane 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. 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. There were 169 respondents to this survey.

The survey responses were analysed with additional consultations taking place with the Local Advisory Group for Derry and Strabane, the full time youth work team and a public consultation that have helped inform the Assessment of Need.

Stakeholder Engagement Events

EA Youth Service organised a series of stakeholder engagement events examining:

- Supporting Children and Young People's Learning.
- The Needs of Rural Young People.
- The Emerging Needs of Children and Young People.
- The Health and Wellbeing Needs of Children and Young People.
- Research and Innovation.
- Children and Young People and Inclusion.

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.

Youth services in Derry City and Strabane District organised additional consultation events with stakeholders including:

- Safety and Stability event with community representatives and PSNI with 125 young people in attendance
- 2 local advisory group consultations on the assessment of need document
- 2 consultation events with full-time youth workers
- 1 public event on the assessment of need
- 1 local advisory group meeting on the 3 youth action plan
- 1 young person's conference on identity, climate and health

The findings from these stakeholder events have informed the Assessment of Need, and draw out areas of enquiry not identified in the surveys. This included climate change, relationships and sexual health, celebration and recognition of young people's contributions to our communities, and the need to use a broader range of methodologies including creative arts, music and multimedia.

Derry & Strabane in Numbers

Derry & Strabane in Numbers

- 51,610 children and young people live in Derry and Strabane.
- 28,231 (54.7%) children and young people live in an area of deprivation.
- 20,334 (39.4%) children and young people live in a rural community.
- One in five young people have a mental health need. (10,322 young people).
- 942 young people identify as LGBTQ. (14-25).
- 12,405 are engaged in youth work.
- 11,813 (41.6%) of all pupils in Derry and Strabane are eligible for Free School Meals.
- 6,848 (23.7%) of all pupils have a Special Educational Need or a Disability.
- 396 Newcomers attend schools in Derry and Strabane.
- 97 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Derry and Strabane.

Demographics

The estimated population for Derry and Strabane Local District Council for 2019 is 150,380, of which 73,802 (49.1%) are male and 76,578 (50.9%) are female. More than one third of the total population of Derry and Strabane, 51,894 (34.5%) are aged 25 years or under. (NI average 33.1%).

Table 1 – Population Age Bands 2019

0-3 Years	4-8 Years	9-13 Years	14-18 Years	19-25 Years
8,052	10,762	10,368	9,558	13,154

Chart 1 – Projected Population 2020-2029

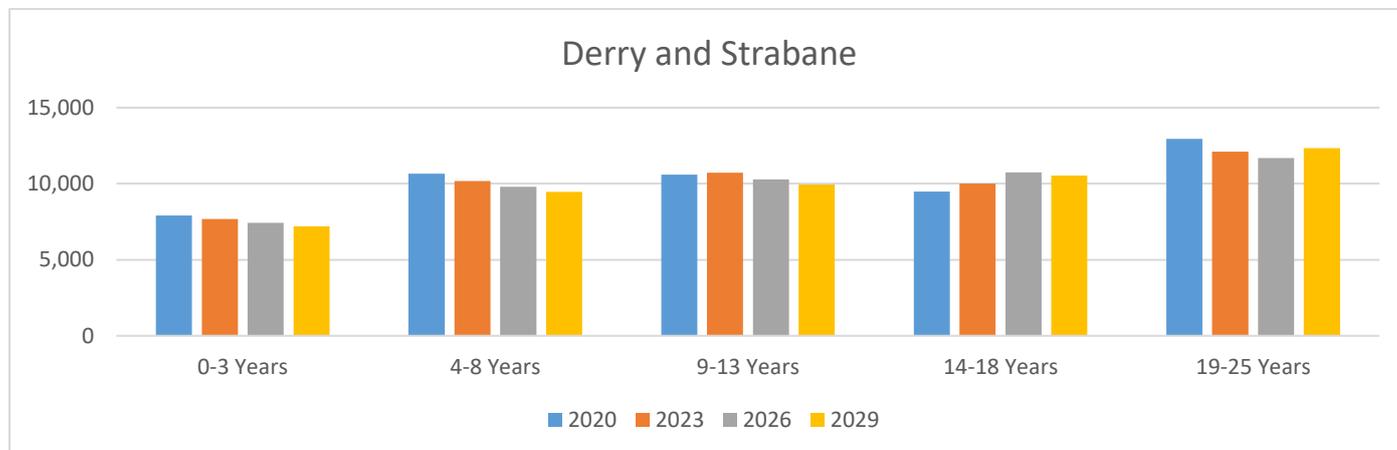


Table 2 – Projected Population 2020-2029

Age Groups	2020	2023	2026	2029
0-3 Years	7,913	7,683	7,435	7,193
4-8 Years	10,666	10,184	9,809	9,466
9-13 Years	10,301	10,716	10,277	9,947
14-18 Years	9,486	10,009	10,754	10,536
19-25 Years	12,944	12,105	11,687	12,334

According to figures released by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) in 2017, Derry and Strabane has the highest proportion of young people, 54.7%, living in the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas within Northern Ireland. Currently, this equates to approximately 23,500 young people living in areas of and experiencing high levels of multiple deprivation.

NISRA also reported in 2017 that 39.4% of young people from Derry and Strabane lived in what has been designated as a rural area. Currently, this equates to approximately 20,450 young people living in a rural community.

Youth Services in Derry and Strabane

The current Education Authority Youth Service team in Derry and Strabane comprises of full-time youth workers supported by a team of part-time staff and volunteers. There are also large Voluntary Youth sector organisations receiving funding from the EA to provide Youth Services.

The local Youth Service team are supported by the Regional Team including, FLARE, OLS, Participation, Inclusion, TBUC, START, CADi, International, EOTAS, Training and Planning and Monitoring teams.

The four tables that follow outline current provision:

- Table 3 is an overview of the professionally qualified youth work team
- Table 4 provides an outline of statutory and voluntary youth centres, projects and extended provision programmes.
- Table 5 is a list of providers currently funded through Department for Communities and managed by EA
- Table 6 includes information on the total number of registered providers by type of provision

Table 3: Statutory Team

Centre	Job Title	Full / Part Time
Derry and Strabane Youth Office	Senior Youth Worker 3 Team Leader	Full Time
Derry and Strabane Youth Office	Senior Youth Worker 3 Team Leader	Full Time
Derry and Strabane Youth Office	Senior Youth Officer	Full Time
Lenamore Youth Centre	Centre Based 1	Full Time
Lenamore Youth Centre	Youth Support Worker-in-Charge (Pathway)	Full Time
Our Space	Youth Support Worker in Charge	Full Time
Pilots Row	Centre Based 1	Full Time
Pilots Row Youth and Community	Centre Based 2	Full Time
Rosemount Youth Centre	Area Youth Worker 2	Full Time
Rosemount Youth Centre	Youth Support Worker-in-Charge (Pathway)	Full Time
Shantallow Youth Centre	Centre Based 1	Full Time
Shantallow Youth Centre	Area Youth Worker 2	Part Time
Shantallow Youth Centre	Youth Support Worker in Charge	Full Time
Strabane Youth Resource Centre	Area Youth Worker 2	Full Time
Strabane Youth Resource Centre	Area Youth Worker 1	Full Time
Strabane Youth Resource Centre	Area Youth Worker 1	Full Time
Strabane Youth Resource Centre	Area Youth Worker 1	Full Time
Strabane Youth Resource Centre	Area Youth Worker 1	Full Time
Strathfoyle Youth Centre	Centre Based 1	Full Time
Strathfoyle Youth Centre	Youth Support Worker in Charge	Full Time
Triax	Area Youth Worker 1	Full Time
Waterside Youth Centre	Centre Based 2	Full Time

Table 4: Full time and Part time Youth Providers

Name Of Centre	Statutory/Voluntary	Full / Part Time
Ballymagroarty Youth Club	Voluntary	Part Time
Cathedral Youth Club	Voluntary	Full Time
Caw Youth Centre	Statutory	Part Time
Claudy Youth Centre	Statutory	Part Time
Derg Valley Youth Club	Statutory	Part Time
Extended Provision-Lenamore	Statutory	Full Time
Extended Provision-Matchbox	Voluntary	Full Time
Extended Provision-St. Marys	Voluntary	Full Time
Extended Provision-Shantallow	Statutory	Full Time
Extended Provision-Strathfoyle	Statutory	Full Time
Lenamore Youth Centre	Statutory	Full Time
Long Tower Youth and Community Centre	Voluntary	Full Time
Newbuilding Youth Centre	Voluntary	Full Time
Our Space	Statutory/Voluntary Partnership	Full Time
Our Streets	Statutory/Voluntary Partnership	Full Time
Pennyburn Youth Centre	Voluntary	Full Time
Pilots Row Youth & Community Centre	Statutory	Full Time
Rosemount Youth Centre	Statutory	Part Time
Shantallow Youth Centre	Statutory	Full Time
Sion Mills Youth Club	Statutory	Part Time
St. Breacan's Youth Club	Statutory	Part Time
St. Eithne's Youth Centre	Statutory	Part Time
St. Mary's Youth Centre	Voluntary	Full Time
Strabane Youth Association	Statutory	Part Time
Strabane Youth Resource Centre	Statutory	Full Time
The Whistle	Voluntary	Full Time
Waterside Youth Centre	Statutory	Part Time
YMCA	Voluntary	Full Time

Table 5: Youth Work funded by Department for Communities

Name Of Centre	Statutory/Voluntary	Full / Part Time
Derry and Strabane Youth Office	Statutory	Full Time
Clooney Community Association	Voluntary	Full Time
Irish Street Community Association	Voluntary	Part Time
Hillcrest Trust	Voluntary	Full Time
Hillcrest Trust	Voluntary	Part Time
Creggan Neighbourhood Partnership	Voluntary	Full Time
Youth First	Voluntary	Full Time

Name Of Centre	Statutory/Voluntary	Full / Part Time
Cathedral Youth Club	Voluntary	Part Time
Glen Development Initiative	Voluntary	Full Time
On Streets Initiative	Voluntary	Part Time
Greater Shantallow Community Arts	Voluntary	Full Time
Shantallow Community Residents Association	Voluntary	Part Time
Leafair Community Association	Voluntary	Part Time

Table 6: Registered EA Youth provision (2017/18)

Derry & Strabane		
Type of Group	Total Count of groups	Registered Users
Controlled	13	1937
Church based	11	436
Community	44	8139
Uniformed	37	1863
Other	1	30
Total Provision	106	12405

Controlled Delivery Agreements/Service Level Agreements

Members of staff have responsibility for providing appropriate Youth Services for designated areas or groups identified as being most in need to enhance opportunities that will raise educational standards. Education Authority youth workers complete an annual Controlled Delivery Agreement (CDA) and those from Voluntary Units complete a Service Level Agreement (SLA). These agreements identify work that will be carried out throughout the year as identified in the Area Plan and aim to provide opportunities to address inequalities. This work will primarily focus on those areas that fall into the top 25% of most deprived wards in Northern Ireland but will also support generic work.

Full-time centres are well placed to deliver programmes in designated areas and to deliver generic Youth Work. The Service particularly targets areas of economic and social deprivation which are normally in the top 25% most deprived in Northern Ireland and at groups identified as Section 75 or those most in need. These areas and groups will have access to a range of targeted Youth Services that will help young people enhance their personal skills and improve their levels of motivation and general resilience. The full-time team is supported in its delivery by both volunteers and part-time youth workers.

Inclusion

Each professional Youth Worker and funded Voluntary full time organisation is required to conduct Inclusion projects in designated areas or with specified groups., to target communities of interest and those who may be at greater risk of social exclusion, marginalisation or isolation as they experience a combination of barriers to their learning.

A Regional Inclusion/Participation Unit has been established. This unit includes a Senior Youth Worker/Team Leader and a Senior Youth Worker to implement the Inclusion/Participation Strategy across the Derry and Strabane area, developing the capacity of staff in the delivery of Inclusion programmes as well as the delivery of training and innovative inclusion initiatives.

School Based Youth Work

Partnerships have been developed with a number of primary, post-primary and special schools in the Derry and Strabane area. The EA Youth Service deliver a schools programme in 5 schools in the Derry and Strabane area. The Learning Together Programme has been developed with other educational support services and is delivered in partnership with teachers in schools. The programme offers young people, who may be at risk of low achievement and disaffection, the opportunity to access supportive bespoke interventions within Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3, to help them make best use of their education and in Key Stage 4 to obtain a qualification equivalent to a GCSE grade B. These programmes are designed to break down the barriers that some young people may face to learning and achieving. The Learning Together Programme takes place in the following schools: Lisneal College, St. Joseph's Boys' School, St. Brigid's College and St. Mary's College. Programmes are also delivered in Special Schools to young people with Special Educational Needs or who are disabled. This currently takes places in Ardnashee College in Derry.

The Voice of Young People

As proposed in "Priorities for Youth" a Local Advisory Group (LAG) has been established during 2016/17 to: *provide advice to support the development and implementation of local Youth Service provision via Area Youth Development Plans and influence the development of the Regional Youth Development Plan.*

The LAG includes key stakeholders and young people from the local area and provides advice to support the development and implementation of local Youth Service provision via Area Youth Development Plans and influence the development of the Regional Youth Development Plan.

The Youth Advocacy Programme (YAP) supports young people to become involved in the LAG through a programme to enhance the personal capabilities of participants to advocate for their peers and represent young people at a Planning and Service delivery level and fully participate in the LAG process.

Other participative structures in the a partnership between EA and Co-operation Ireland to facilitate the Youth Voice for Derry City and Strabane District Council known as the North West Ministry for Youth, the project is made possible thanks to funding. The Ministry of Youth is a Youth led local structures that is recognised as providing a voice for young people and that their voice is valued by both young people and policy and decision makers.

Youth Work through the medium of Irish language

In planning youth services the EA encourages and supports informal opportunities for learning through the medium of Irish. There are currently 3 Irish language youth clubs in the area and the EA will continue to support these services.

Partnership working

EA Youth Service receives the major part of its funding from the Department of Education. However, the service has also developed key strategic partnerships to enable the securing of additional resources for the delivery of specific programmes and projects.

Partnerships with the voluntary sector have been the cornerstone of effective and impactful early interventions in the local area including the development of the Our Space young adult drop-in, our streets a detached street based project working in the city centre and throughout identified areas where young people socialise.

Such partnerships, for example with the Department for Communities (DfC) and local district councils have strengthened the ability of the service to deliver innovative and highly creative projects for the most marginalised young people in our community. Through a successful application to DfC the youth service has received funding for the Youth Engagement Plus programme which employs a Senior Youth Worker/Team Leader and 12 Youth Workers who deliver Youth Work programmes to young people who reside in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas and who do not participate in generalist services.

At a strategic level the EA Youth Service has representation on several multi-agency groups, including active involvement with Derry City and Strabane District Council as on the Peace 4 Partnership Board, the PCSP, Derry City and Strabane Civic Forum, Year of Youth 2019 and UNICEF Child Friendly Cities.

Participation

Youth Service participation rates in the Derry and Strabane area have been maintained at 31% with over 7,000 young people of the 4-18 age groups participating in youth programmes. These statistics coupled with a youthful population underline the continuing need and demand for youth services and highlights the need to provide effective responses in terms of both generalist and targeted youth provision in the area. Programmes need to be reviewed and evaluated to show that the needs of young people are being met and new ways to engage young people through new methodologies such as City Centre provision (Our Space) and outreach/detached work.

The demographics of the area indicate that the majority of young people live in an area that is essentially urban in character with the majority of its population living within the boundaries of Derry City and Strabane. However, the deployment of the Youth Work team ensures that attention is also given to the needs of young people in rural and semi-rural settings through area based workers, rural outreach workers and grant aided units.

The most commonly occurring age range at present for participation in the Youth Service in the Western Region is 14-18, accounting for 12,684 young people of the overall membership, closely followed by the 9-13 age groups which have 12,422 young people registered as members. Participation rates decline considerably in the 19-21 and 22-25 age bands. Table 2 shows participation in the Western Region Youth Service as a percentage of the youth population. Only a very small proportion of the population over the age of 18 participate and those that do tend to be involved in leadership and volunteering roles or participate in accredited programmes.

Table 7: Western Region-Youth Service Participation Rates (% of resident population)

Total membership counts and participation levels for all youth work in the Western Office area by age group

Age	Population	Unit Based	Non-Unit based	% Unit Based	% Non-unit Based
Age 4-8	20857	5992	164	28.7%	0.8%
Age 9-13	19151	8074	4348	42.2%	22.7%
Age 14-18	21558	5748	6936	26.7%	32.2%
Age 19-21	11069	805	164	7.3%	1.5%
Age 22-25	15418	329	6	2.1%	0.0%
Age 4-18	61566	19814	11618	32.2%	18.9%
Age 4-25	88053	20948	11618	23.8%	13.2%

Deprivation

Children and young people growing up in poverty have worse outcomes and life chances than those who do not. According to the Child Poverty Action Group, for young people poverty is not just about growing up in a low income household it is also about being denied good health, education and housing, basic self-esteem and the ability to participate in social activities.

Young people living in deprived areas tend to have lower aspirations, have low educational aspirations and tend to underachieve in school. Close knit local social networks, low population mobility and a history of economic decline also appear to characterise neighbourhoods where young people are less likely to develop high educational aspirations.

Young people and their parents are influenced by the people and places where they live. Neighbourhood characteristics such as housing, the local environment, crime rates and the quality of services are also likely to influence and impact upon the attitudes and outcomes of young people.

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 domains, or distinct types which in composite form is known as the Multiple Deprivation Measure. These are:

1. Income Domain
2. Employment Domain
3. Health Deprivation and Disability Domain
4. Education, Skills and Training Domain
5. Access to Services Domain
6. Living Environment Domain
7. Crime and Disorder Domain

The Derry and Strabane area consists of 75 Super Output Areas.

8. 5 Super Output Areas are ranked in the top 10 most deprived in terms of multiple deprivation.
9. 20 Super Output Areas are ranked in the top 100 most deprived in terms of multiple deprivation.

- 10. 15 Super Output Areas are ranked in the top 100 most deprived in terms Income Deprivation Affecting Children.
- 11. In 2012/13-2014/15, 22.5% of the population were in relative poverty (before housing costs) in Derry and Strabane, compared with 20.4% in Northern Ireland.
- 12. In 2012/13-2014/15, 26.9% of children were in relative poverty (before housing costs) in Derry and Strabane, compared with 23.0% in Northern Ireland.

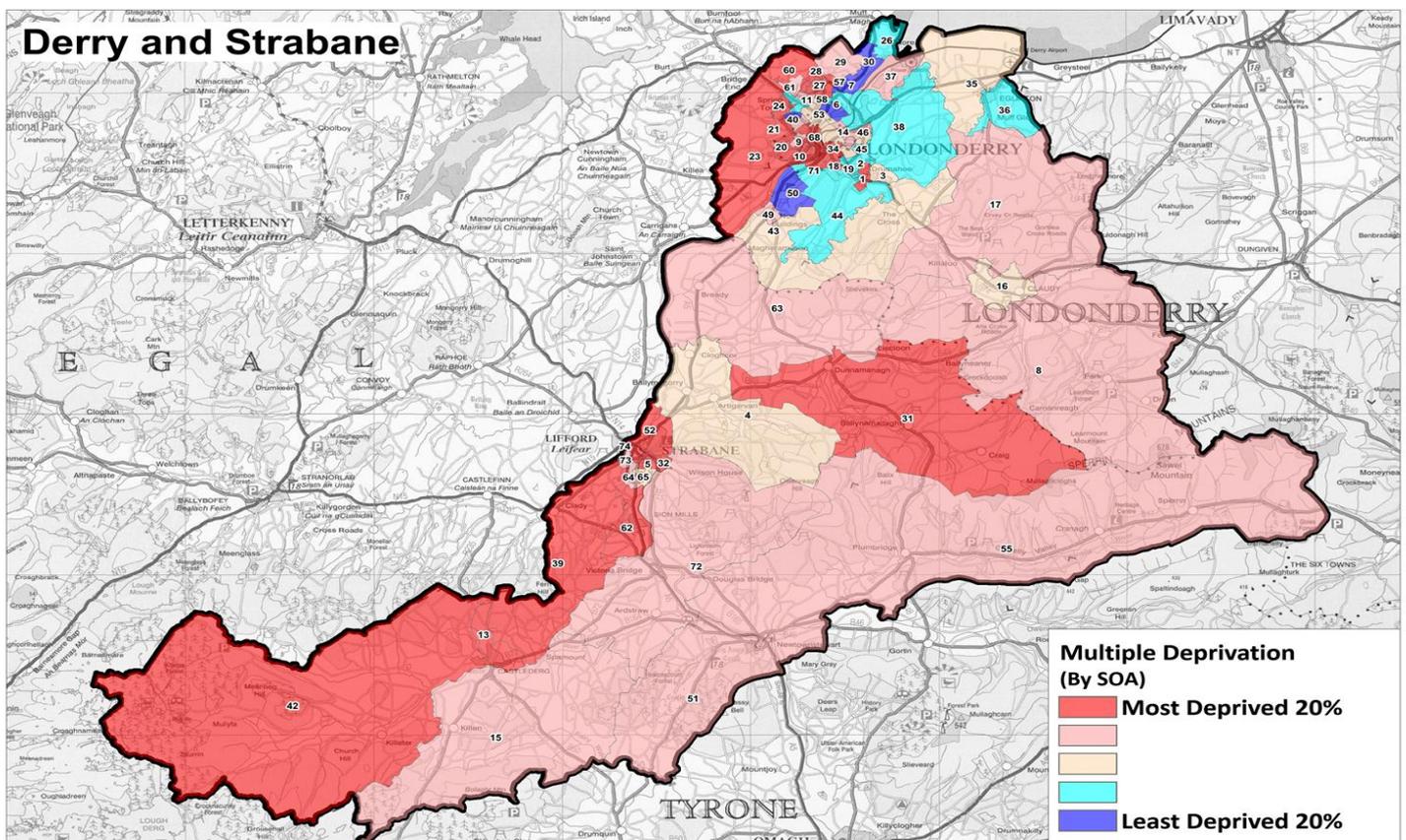
Neighbourhood Renewal

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas are those neighbourhoods that are within the 10% most deprived electoral wards and Enumeration Districts in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland has 36 Neighbourhood Renewal Areas and 5 Strategic Partnerships have been developed to plan delivery in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRA's) in the Derry and Strabane areas, these are: Outer West, Outer North, Triax, Waterside and Strabane.

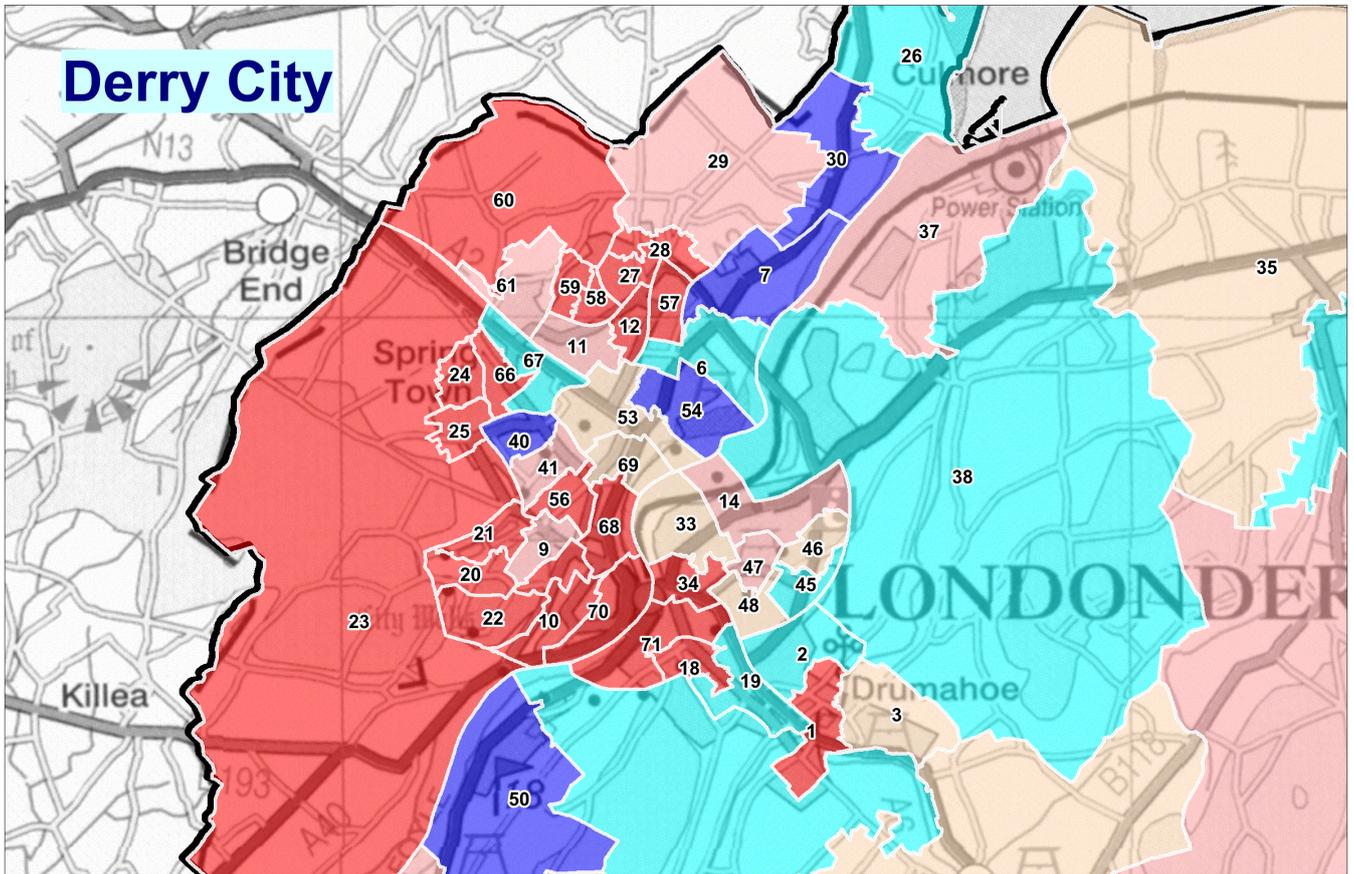
Those young people who live in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas tend to have lower educational outcomes than their peers who don't live in renewal areas. Therefore Youth Service's will aim to target resources at those areas that have been identified as being the most deprived in order to raise standards for young people and to close the educational gap.

- Map 1: Derry City and Strabane District Council area multiple deprivation by SOA
- Map 2: Derry City multiple deprivation by SOA
- Map 3: Strabane Area multiple deprivation by SOA
- Table 8: Look Up Table

Map 1



Derry City



Strabane Area

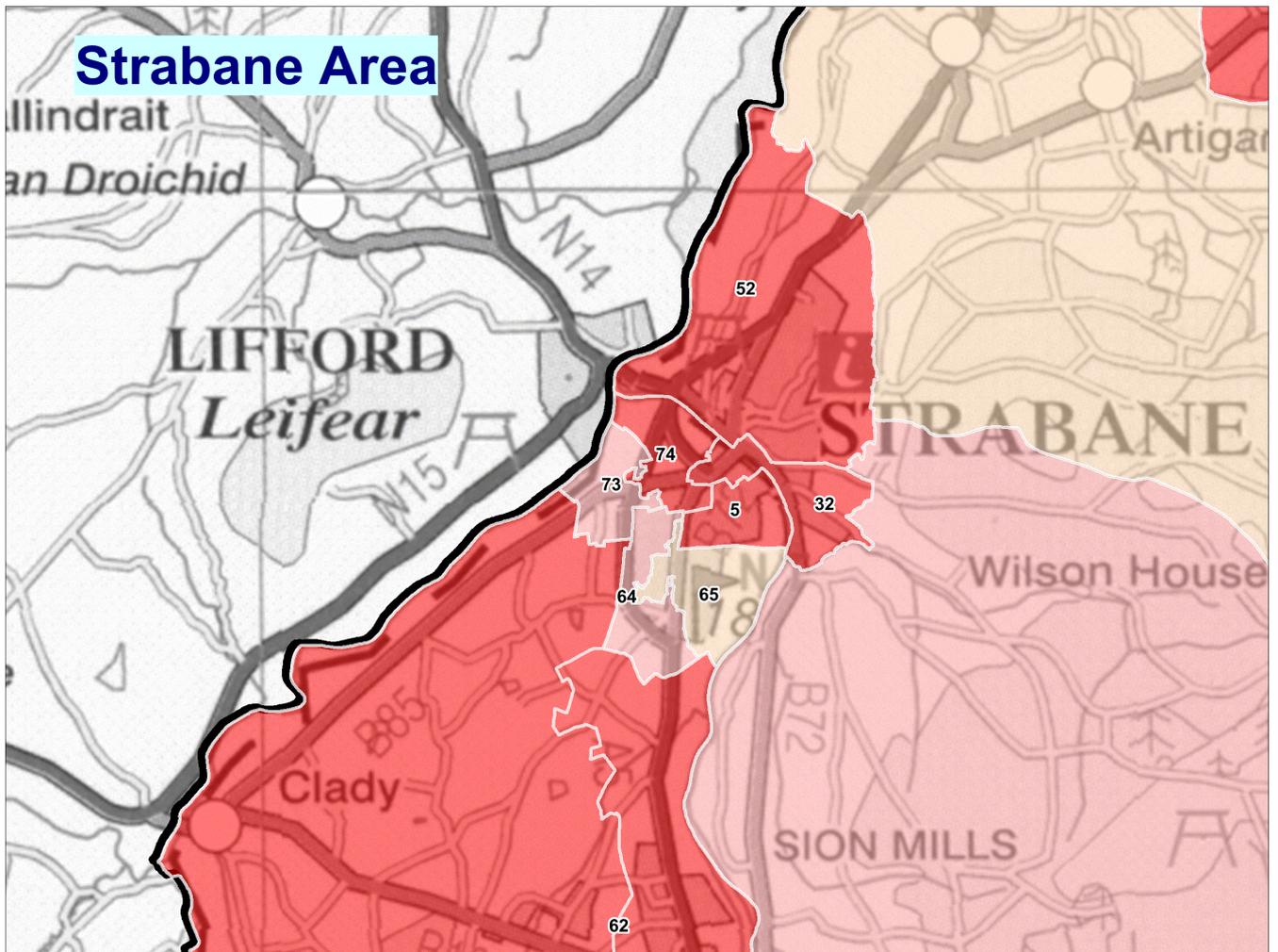


Table 8- SOA Look Up Table Derry & Strabane

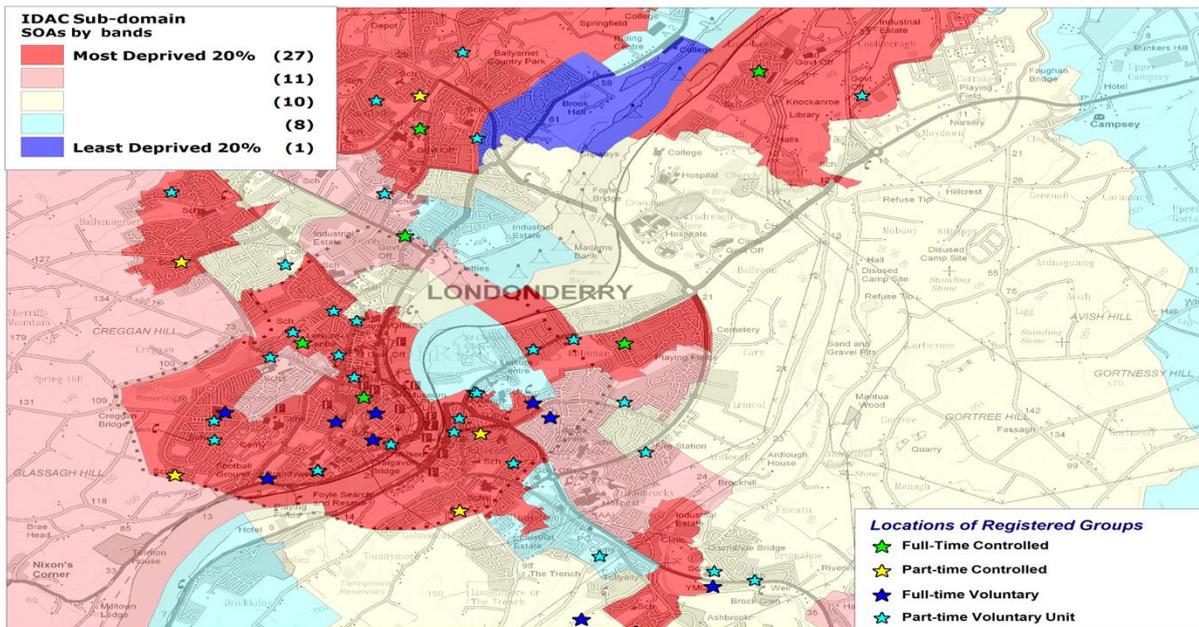
Reference	SOA	Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank (1-890)	Reference	SOA	Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank
1	Altnagelvin_1	101	39	Finn	166
2	Altnagelvin_2	545	40	Foyle Springs_1	713
3	Altnagelvin_3	525	41	Foyle Springs_2	229
4	Artigarvan	376	42	Glenderg	90
5	Ballycolman	37	43	Holly Mount_1	470
6	Ballynashallog_1	621	44	Holly Mount_2	603
7	Ballynashallog_2	808	45	Kilfennan_1	630
8	Banagher	245	46	Kilfennan_2	415
9	Beechwood	196	47	Lisnagelvin_1	274
10	Brandywell	13	48	Lisnagelvin_2	513
11	Carn Hill_1	226	49	New Buildings_1	278
12	Carn Hill_2	59	50	New Buildings_2	739
13	Castlederg	152	51	Newtownstewart	201
14	Caw	287	52	North	141
15	Clare	333	53	Pennyburn_1	419
16	Claudy_1	490	54	Pennyburn_2	755
17	Claudy_2	340	55	Plumbridge	304
18	Clondermot_1	43	56	Rosemount	68
19	Clondermot_2	633	57	Shantallow East	86
20	Creggan Central_1	10	58	Shantallow West_1	19
21	Creggan Central_2	69	59	Shantallow West_2	27
22	Creggan South	33	60	Shantallow West_3	51
23	Crevagh_1	142	61	Shantallow West_4	327
24	Crevagh_2	3	62	Sion Mills	175
25	Crevagh_3	149	63	Slievekirk	299
26	Culmore_1	650	64	South_1	236
27	Culmore_2	22	65	South_2	477
28	Culmore_3	130	66	Springtown_1	144
29	Culmore_4	300	67	Springtown_2	578
30	Culmore_5	738	68	Strand_1	5
31	Dunnamanagh	148	69	Strand_2	405
32	East	1	70	The Diamond	6
33	Ebrington_1	416	71	Victoria	153
34	Ebrington_2	38	72	Victoria Bridge	266
35	Eglinton_1	421	73	West_1	205
36	Eglinton_2	636	74	West_2	170
37	Enagh_1	180	75	Westland	45
38	Enagh_2	634			

Youth services have been and will continue to be in place in the areas that have been identified as being

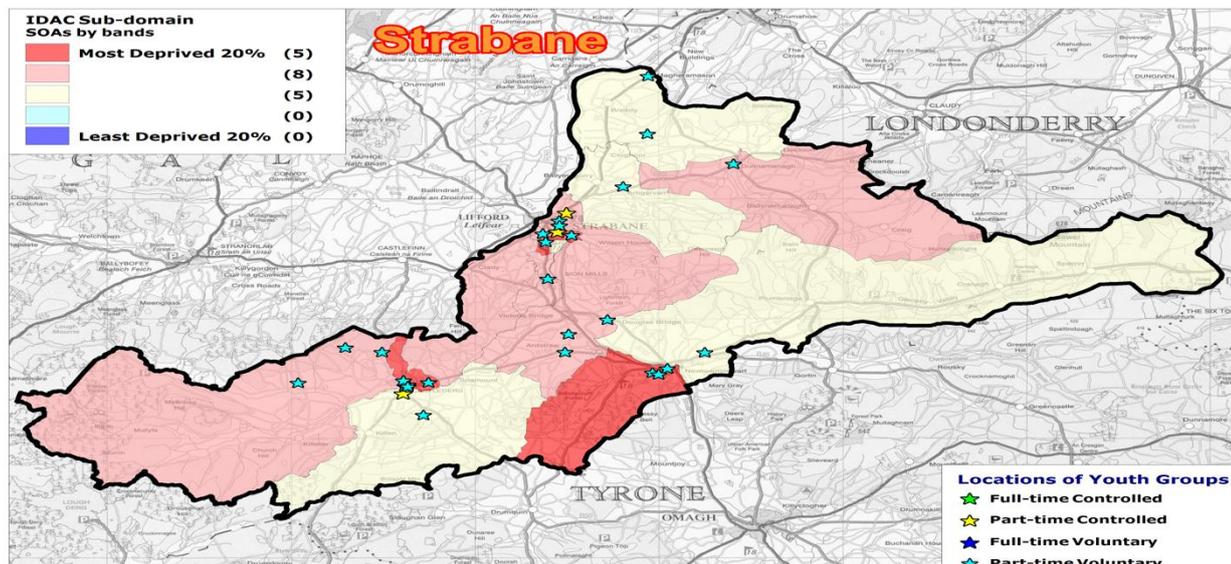
most in need and provide a varied and wide ranging youth work programme that is both generalist and targeted.

Map 4 and 5 illustrate the location of youth services in Derry and Strabane area demonstrating that units are well placed to address the needs of young people from areas where there is high levels of Income Deprivation (Dark red on the map).

Map 5: Income Deprivation Affecting Children and Location of Registered Units in the Derry City Area



Map 6: Income Deprivation Affecting Children and Location of Registered Units in the Strabane Area

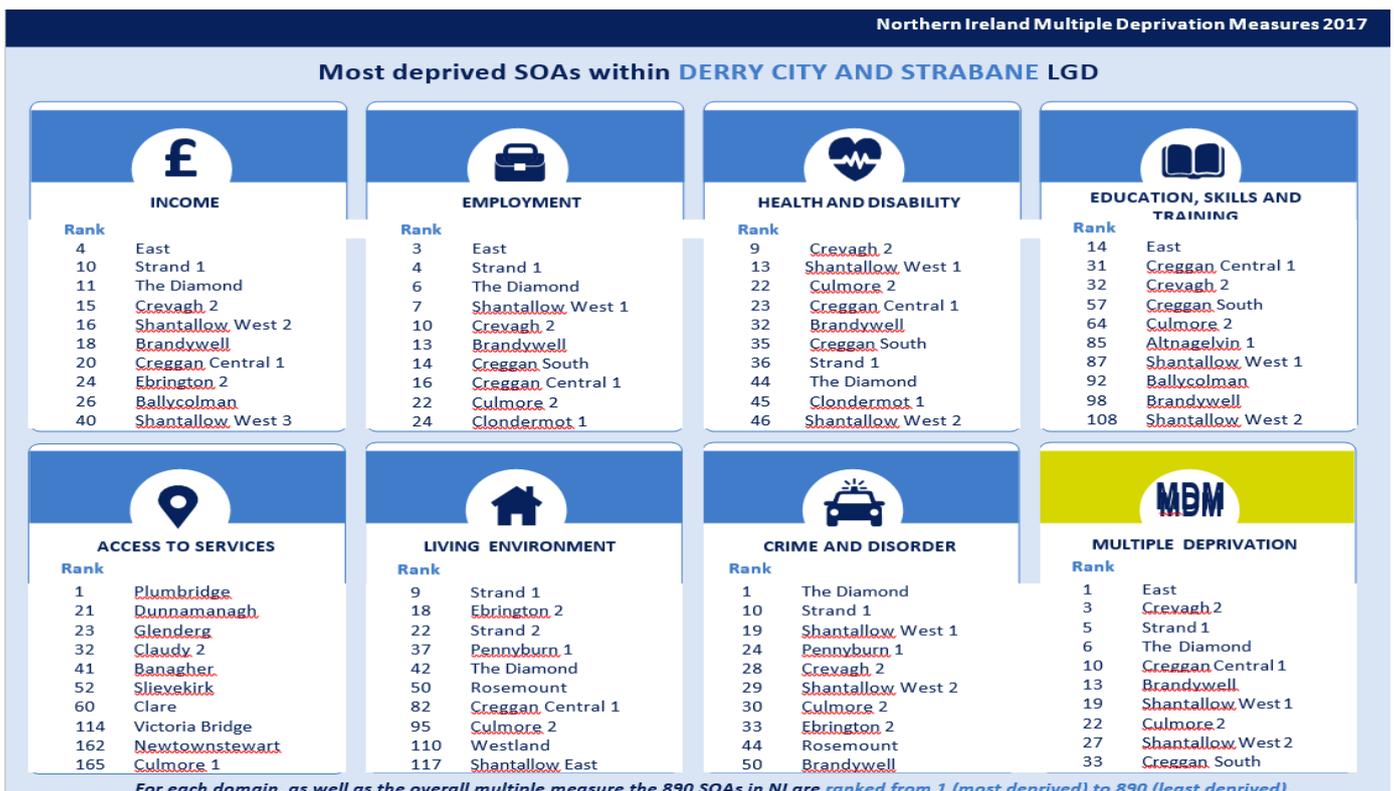


The Below table ranks all the Super Output Areas for Derry City and Strabane District based on their Multiple Deprivation Measure.

Super Output Area	Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank
East	1
Crevagh 2	3
Strand 1	5
The Diamond	6
Creggan Central 1	10
Brandywell	13
Shantallow West 1	19
Culmore 2	22
Shantallow West 2	27
Creggan South	33
Ballycolman	37
Ebrington 2	38
Clondermot 1	43
Westland	45
Shantallow West 3	51
Carn Hill 2	59
Rosemount	68
Creggan Central 2	69
Shantallow East	86
Glenderg	90
Altnagelvin 1	101
Culmore 3	130
North	141
Crevagh 1	142
Springtown 1	144
Dunnamanagh	148
Crevagh 3	149
Castledearg	152
Victoria (Derry LGD)	153
Finn	166
West 2	170
Sion Mills	175
Enagh 1	180
Beechwood	196
Newtownstewart	201
West 1	205
Carn Hill 1	226
Foyle Springs 2	229
South 1	236
Banagher	245
Victoria Bridge	266
Lisnagelvin 1	274
New Buildings 1	278
Caw	287
Slievekirk	299
Culmore 4	300
Plumbridge	304
Shantallow West 4	327

Super Output Area	Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank
Clare	333
Claudy 2	340
Artigarvan	376
Strand 2 (Derry LGD)	405
Kilfennan 2	415
Ebrington 1	416
Pennyburn 1	419
Eglinton 1	421
Holly Mount 1	470
South 2	477
Claudy 1	490
Lisnagelvin 2	513
Altnagelvin 3	525
Altnagelvin 2	545
Springtown 2	578
Holly Mount 2	603
Ballynashallog 1	621
Kilfennan 1	630
Clondermot 2	633
Enagh 2	634
Eglinton 2	636
Culmore 1	650
Foyle Springs 1	713
Culmore 5	738
New Buildings 2	739
Pennyburn 2	755
Ballynashallog 2	808

Below gives an overview of all domains for the Derry City and Strabane highlighting where deprivation is most prevalent.



Access to Services: Rural

Almost 40% of the young population in the Derry and Strabane LGD live in rural areas which is more than the Northern Ireland average of 34.5% of young people living in communities that have been defined as rural.

Table 8: Number and Percentage of Young People Living in Rural Areas

LGD	Aged 4-8	Aged 9-13	Aged 14-18	Aged 19-25	Total
Derry and Strabane YP	9575	10523	11812	14631	46451
Derry and Strabane YP living in Rural Areas	40007	4451	4723	5161	18342
% Derry and Strabane YP living in Rural Areas	41.8	42.3	40.0	35.3	39.4
Northern Ireland YP	113429	116079	126256	176168	531929
Northern Ireland YP living in Rural Areas	41926	42988	44996	53401	18311
% Northern Ireland YP living in Rural Areas	37.0	37.0	35.6	30.3	34.5

The most deprived SOA's within the access to services domain in Derry and Strabane are illustrated in map 7 below. A look up table follows (Table 9). Plumbridge is ranked as the most deprived SOA in Northern Ireland for access to services.

Map 7: Rural Deprivation in Derry City and Strabane District by SOA

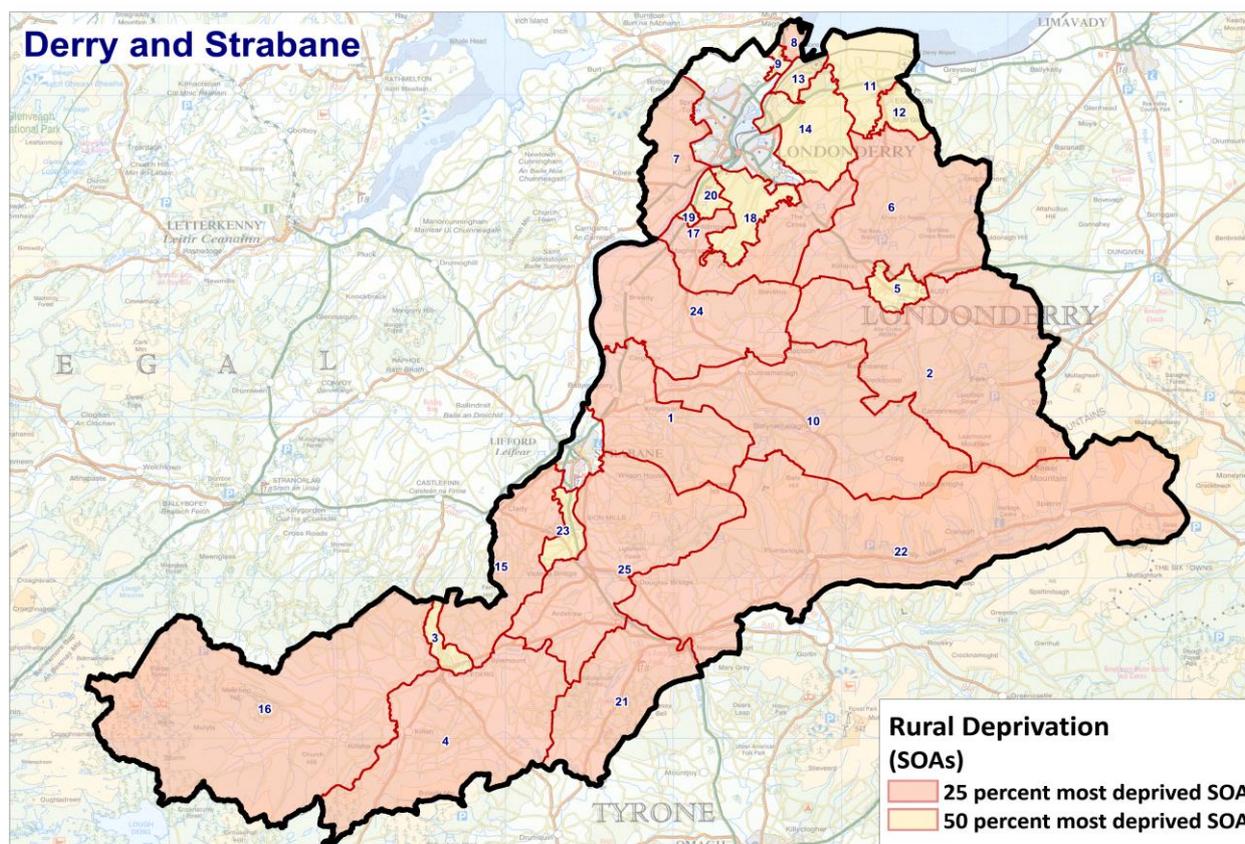


Table 9: Lookup Table- Rural MDM Rank Derry & Strabane

Reference	SOA	Rural Deprivation Measure Rank
1	Artigarvan	191
2	Banagher	41
3	Castledearg	400
4	Clare	60
5	Claudy_1	229
6	Claudy_2	32
7	Crevagh_1	202
8	Culmore_1	165
9	Culmore_5	231
10	Dunnamanagh	21
11	Eglinton_1	249
12	Eglinton_2	269
13	Enagh_1	273
14	Enagh_2	246
15	Finn	180
16	Glenderg	23
17	Holly Mount_1	185
18	Holly Mount_2	275
19	New Buildings_1	307
20	New Buildings_2	282
21	Newtownstewart	162
22	Plumbridge	1
23	Sion Mills	339
24	Slievekirk	52
25	Victoria Bridge	114

Access to Services: Urban

A key point in feedback from both young people and other stakeholders was their frustration that youth service's and primarily youth clubs are not always open when they needed them most. In order to increase accessibility to youth services work will be undertaken with controlled and voluntary providers to continue to provide extended opening of Youth Centre's over periods of time and on days when traditionally Youth Centre's have not been open (late nights and weekends), particularly in areas of significant deprivation.

Young People Living at Interface Areas

There are three direct interface areas in the Derry and Strabane area, Bishop Street and the Fountain Estate, Tullyalley and Currynierain and Top of the Hill and Irish Street, although many issues that exist in interface areas are prevalent in neighbouring areas.

A recent research project funded by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) highlighted that whilst interface neighbourhoods are often associated with sectarianism and inter-community conflict, wider risk factors can negatively impact on a young person's development, coping skills, emotional well-being, anxiety, sectarian behaviour and adjustment problems. The multi-dimensional research drew on a number of data sources, including a longitudinal survey data, collected between 2007 and 2012, interviews and focus groups with at risk young people and interviews with mothers. Research participants were drawn from 24 socially deprived neighbourhoods in Belfast.

The research found that the types of risks facing young people living in interface areas included alcohol and drug use, mental health problems, aggression, conduct problems including antisocial behaviour and problems with authority figures. These factors were in turn related to the erosion of the traditional family unit and problems in the school setting.

Qualitative data suggested high levels of alcohol and substance abuse across all age groups, and alcohol abuse was particularly pronounced among females in the younger age group (11-14 years). The quantitative survey also indicated that 36% of participants reported binge drinking, with over 5% reporting binge drinking 2-3 times per week. Young people's involvement and exposure to heavy and persistent drug use was also a major theme to emerge from the research, with the highest drug and substance abuse found among those aged 15-18 years. The study noted young people's lack of awareness of the health and social risks of both binge drinking and drug and substance misuse.

The qualitative evidence suggested that mental health problems, such as low-self-esteem, anxiety, depressive feelings and low mood posed a risk to the well-being of participants and also pointed to problem behaviours such as hostility, anger, aggression and conduct problems. Further analysis suggested that young people with aggression and hyperactivity were more likely to have problems interacting with friends and family members, creating additional barriers to their social development.

The challenges associated with living in Interface areas extended to engagement in sectarian antisocial behaviour, which commonly took the form of rioting with the *other* community. Those growing up in enclave communities were more likely to rationalise riotous behaviour as *defence of the area*. The study found that those young people who engaged in sectarian behaviour tended to identify much more strongly with being Catholic or Protestant than those who did not engage in such activity. However, the study also found that young people who had been victims of physical, verbal or emotional abuse stated that this mainly emanated from within their own communities. Intra-community or non-sectarian conflict was more frequent than inter-community or sectarian conflict. Knowledge of issues regarding paramilitary activity was experienced by a minority of research participants but experience was more pronounced within Loyalist or Unionist communities and experience of paramilitaries was most common among older males.

Young people from interface areas were not only at risk of being victims of within community antisocial behaviour but were also considered as potential perpetrators. The study found that young people referenced taking part in activities identifiable as high risk including criminal damage, breaking into derelict property, fire-lighting, graffiti and window breaking. These forms of antisocial behaviour were often related to recreational and hard drug use in public. More serious instances of crime were noted among some older research participants, those aged 15-18.³

Table 13 highlights the recorded offences in 2014 that have a homophobic, racist or sectarian motivation in NRA's. The number of offences recorded with a sectarian motive are highest in Triax (41) and Waterside (21) where the three interface areas in Derry are located.

³ Cummings, E., Shirlow, P., Browne, B., Dwyer, C., Merrilees, C. & Taylor, K., 2016, Growing up on an Interface: Findings and Implications for the Social Needs, Mental Health and Lifetime Opportunities of Belfast Youth. OFMDFM, Belfast.

Table 13: Hate Crime Offences NRA

NRA	2014		
	Offences Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation	Offences Recorded with a Racist Motivation	Offences Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation
Northern Ireland	209	921	1043
Triax - Cityside	14	22	41
Waterside	0	2	21
Outer West Derry	0	5	4
Limavady	0	1	2
Outer North Derry	1	2	1

In 2010, The Terry Enright Foundation undertook research into the views and opinions of young people living in interface communities in the Greater Belfast area. The study comprised a survey of 506 young people (aged 12-25) and five workshops involving young people and Youth Workers. Less than half (44%) of respondents had been involved in intervention programmes, just over half (53%) had been involved in cross-community programmes, and 70% had participated in some sort of summer scheme.

A high proportion (44%) admitted being involved in some form of rioting or stone throwing at interface areas and a third (33%) had engaged in vandalism. Less than 10% had been involved with either the Youth Justice or Probation Services. When asked to prioritise the most important issue or concern facing young people the most popular response was drugs and alcohol. Other frequent responses included peer pressure and unemployment although these were identified by significantly fewer respondents than those who had cited drugs and alcohol.

Asked about their knowledge of locally available services, most respondents were aware of youth centres, sports teams and leisure centres whilst there was less awareness of restorative justice programmes, Youth Service programmes and local interface workers. When asked to rate the most useful programmes for young people living in interface communities there was high interest in late night programmes at youth clubs and sports centres, youth centres open at weekends and at times of potential trouble on interfaces, cross community programmes and sports and residential opportunities.

During the workshops, young people identified alcohol and boredom as key contributors to risk taking behaviour and clearly articulated the links between alcohol misuse, violence and rioting at interfaces. Youth Workers and interface workers voiced concern about the lack of strategic and targeted investment in interface areas.⁴

The Youth Service has developed a Planned Intervention programme targeting interface areas and areas of potential unrest aimed at young people who are at risk of becoming involved in anti-community behaviour particularly around key dates and events. There were 16 Planned Intervention programmes registered in 2019, with a total participation of over 1,000 young people.

Tackling Paramilitaries'

The Fresh Start Agreement (November 2015) resulted in the Executive Action Plan in 2016, the aim of which is to tackle paramilitary activity, criminality and organised crime. One of the areas identified in Northern

⁴ McKeivitt, B. & Armstrong, H., 2010, Youth Work in Interface Communities, The Terry Enright Foundation, Belfast.

Ireland was Brandywell and Creggan. Paramilitarism and sectarianism ranked above the Northern Ireland average as an issue of concern among the 14-25 age group in Derry and Strabane.

EA work with other statutory and voluntary partners to promote lawfulness and has successfully secured funding from the Department of Justice to employ 2 youth workers to engage those young people most at risk and to train youth workers and teachers to promote lawfulness in schools and youth clubs.

Community Relations, Equity and Diversity (CRED)

The need for interventions and resources to be targeted at community relations, equity and diversity issues is illustrated by the number of racist, homophobic and sectarian motivated incidents and crimes in the Derry and Strabane area. Derry is above the Northern Ireland average for the rate of offences with a homophobic or sectarian motivation. The impact of sectarianism and in particular community tensions was an issue raised by young people through consultation. The youth service will continue to target youth intervention funding and resources to those areas designated as interface areas and where in the past there has been a spike in violence during times of heightened tensions. Youth intervention programmes will offer diversionary activities for young people coupled with developmental opportunities.

Youth Services in the Derry and Strabane area delivered CRED programmes with young people to raise awareness of community relations issues and create meaningful contact between young people from different communities. In Derry and Strabane in 2018/19 there were 10 successful applicants to the T:BUC Camps programme working with 500 young people.

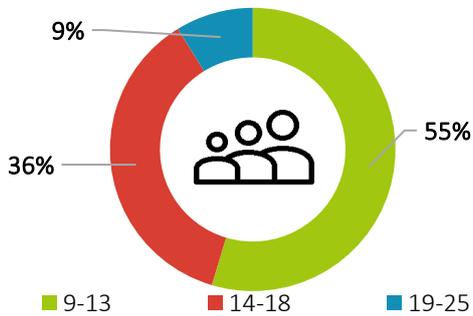
The Youth Service will deliver programmes to provide young people from different religious and cultural backgrounds the opportunity to be involved in meaningful contact, to test their values and beliefs and to work towards to acceptance and understanding of others.

Survey Headlines

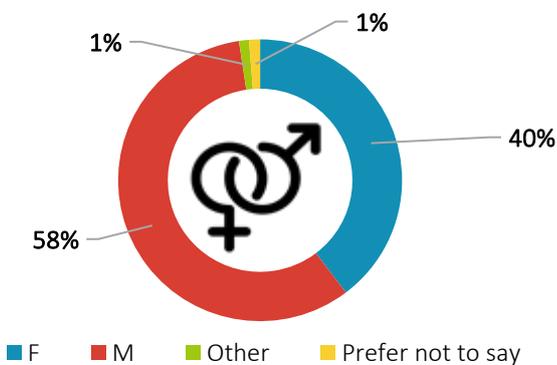
Survey of Need - Who Responded

Young People

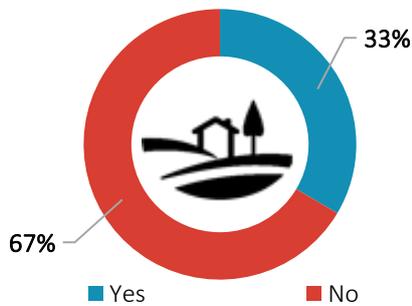
Age Category



What is your Gender?



Do you live in a Rural Area?

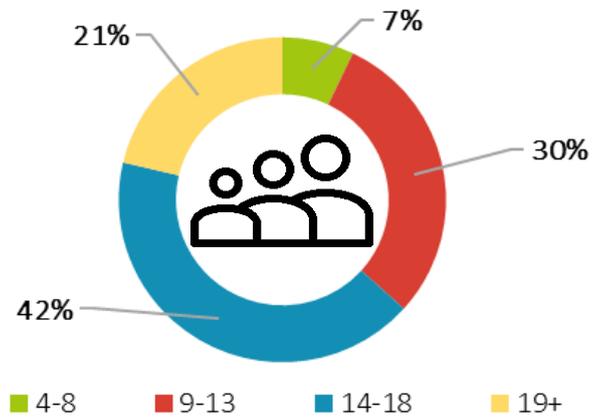


Do you currently participate in Youth Services?

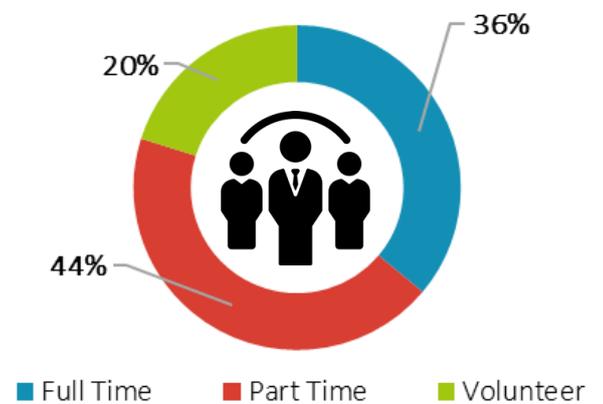


Youth Workers

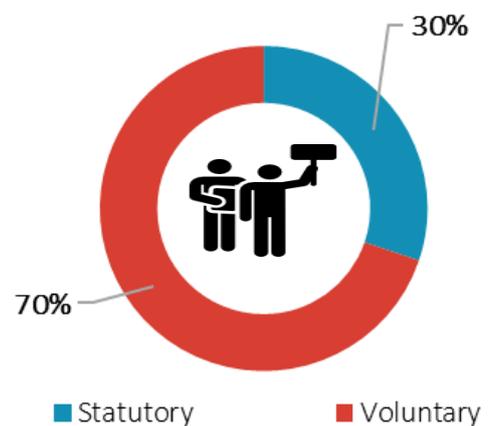
Age Category



Type of Worker

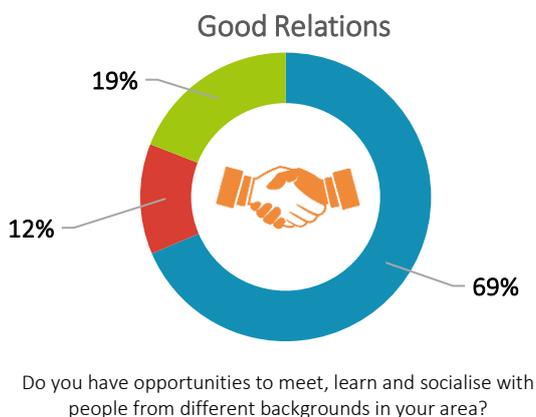
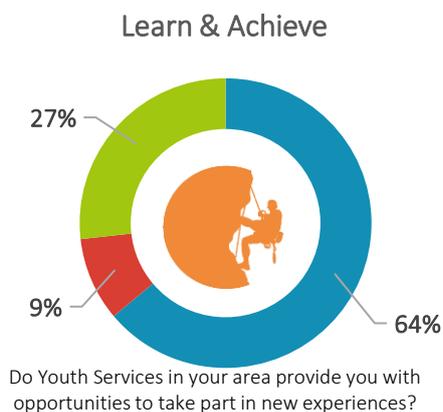
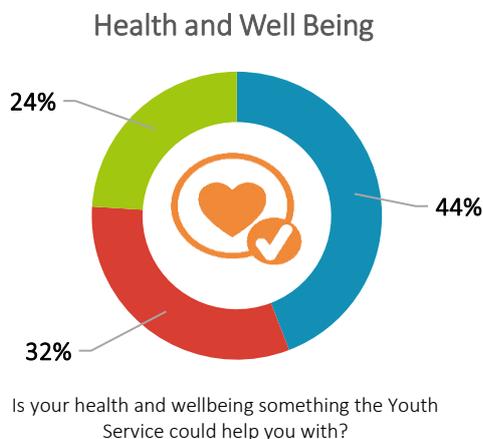


Sector

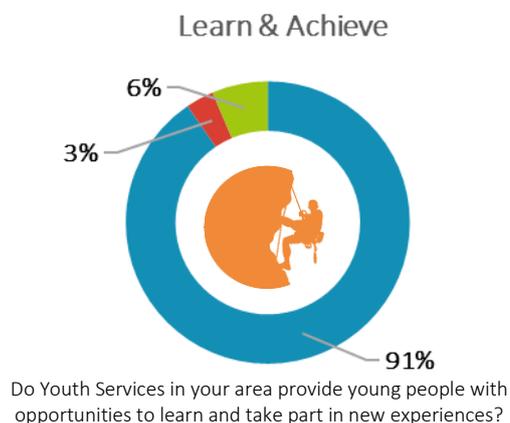
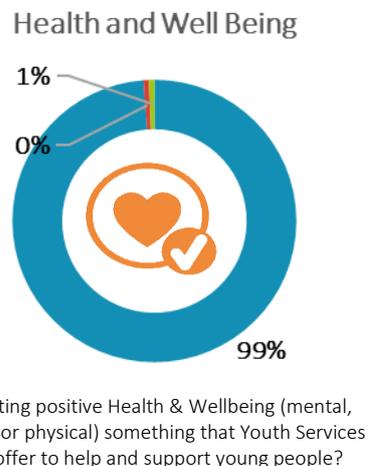


Survey of Need - Who Responded

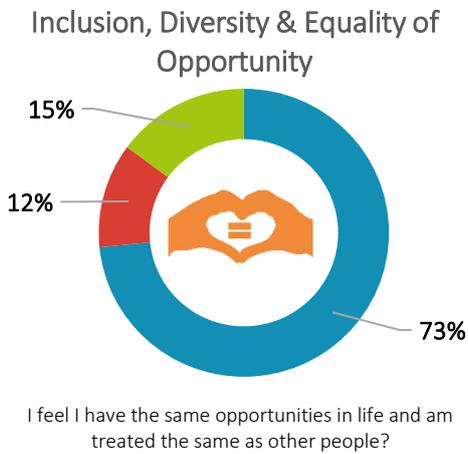
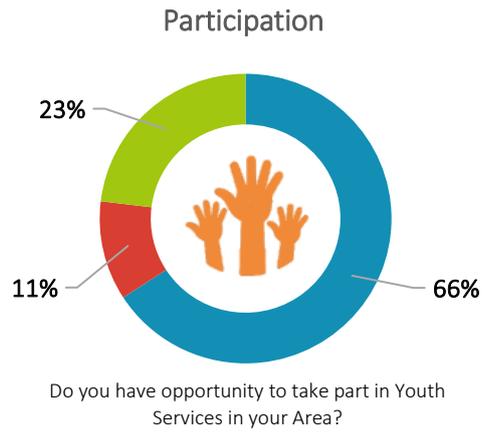
Young People



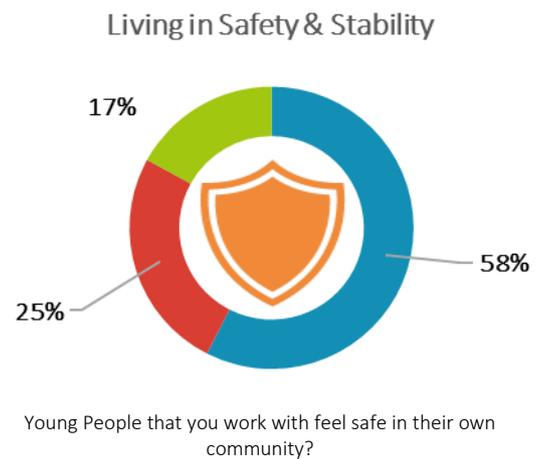
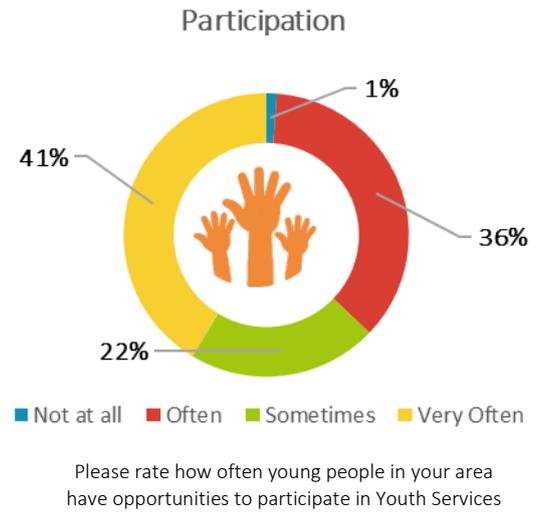
Youth Workers



Young People



Youth Workers



Health & Wellbeing

Area of Enquiry 1: Health and Wellbeing

Key Facts

- In 2011/12-2013/14, the standardised rate for alcohol-related admissions in Derry and Strabane was 1,091.0 per 100,000 population (Northern Ireland - 718.6 per 100,000 population).
- In 2012, the teenage birth rate for mothers aged under 17 years in Derry and Strabane was 2.8 live births per 1,000 females. The comparative figure for Northern Ireland was 2.3.
- For the period 2010-2014, the crude suicide rate in Derry and Strabane was 17.3 suicides per 100,000 population (Northern Ireland: 15.9 suicides per 100,000 population).
- In 2017, 23.3% of children aged 0-2 years in Derry and Strabane were registered with a dentist. The comparative figure for Northern Ireland was 30.6%.
- In 2017, 68.7% of children aged 3-5 years in Derry and Strabane were registered with a dentist. The comparative figure for Northern Ireland was 74.7%.
- Life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2011-2013 was 78.1 years, and for females is 82.4 years. Life expectancy for males in Derry and Strabane for 2011-2013 was 77.1 years, and for females is 81.5 years.
- There has been an increase in the standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety disorders for both DCSDC and NI between 2012 and 2016. By 2017, the standardised prescription rate stood at 240 per 100,000 people within Derry and Strabane. For the Northern Ireland the figure was 213 per 100,000 people.
- In 2016/17, 23% of Derry and Strabane children in Primary 1, had a BMI that fell within the obese or overweight range (21% for NI). In addition, 32% of Year 8 children fell into the same category (28% for NI).
- From 2010-2016 the standardised incidence rate for cancer within Derry and Strabane was 617 per 100,000, the Northern Ireland figure was 596.

Why is this measure important?

The promotion of health and wellbeing and maintaining a healthy population is the basic goal of any society. According to the World Health Organisation, enjoying better health is central to human happiness and wellbeing. 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.⁵

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is not just about being physically fit, it is also about being mentally and emotionally fit. Research has shown that enjoying a healthy lifestyle can improve one's physical appearance, increase one's lifespan, boost one's immunity against diseases as well as improving one's quality of life and mental and emotional health and wellbeing.⁶ 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.

⁵ <https://www.who.int/hdp/en/>

⁶ <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/healthy-living/the-mental-health-benefits-of-exercise.htm>

According to the Department for Children, Schools and Families a child and young person's health is an integral part of their emotional, mental, social and environmental development and wellbeing.⁷ It has also been suggested that good health and wellbeing is central to a child and young person's effective learning and preparation for adult life and successful transition to adult life and independent living.

Good health cannot be taken for granted. There are certain things which are essential to ensure that good health is achieved and maintained. 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.

What are the factors that can negatively impact on a young person's health and wellbeing?

In general, health outcomes in Derry City and Strabane District continue to improve thanks to advancements in medical science, improved social and economic conditions and investment in the healthcare system. However, there are a range of social determinants which are responsible for significant levels of unfair health inequalities. The World Health Organisation has described these as, the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of their daily lives.⁸

Therefore, health inequalities are directly linked to one's social status and this may explain some of the growing inequalities that many vulnerable people and communities in Northern Ireland face in terms of their general health outcomes, their mental and emotional wellbeing and their life expectancy. In his report Fair Society, Healthy Lives, Michael Marmot stated that inequalities in health arise because of inequalities in society. It was also noted that reducing these health inequalities can bring about considerable benefits to both individuals and communities.⁹

A recent study noted that inequalities in health outcomes are more likely to affect those without equal access to resources or support. It stated that children and young people living in low income households and in the most deprived communities are more likely to be obese, have lower life expectancies and are more likely to have worse physical, mental and sexual health outcomes.

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.¹⁰ Within Northern Ireland significant numbers of children and young people fall into these groups. Poor health outcomes are also linked to poor educational outcomes.

⁷http://www.earlyyearsmatters.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/eyfs_unique_child_health1.pdf

⁸ https://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/

⁹ www.ucl.ac.uk/marmotreview

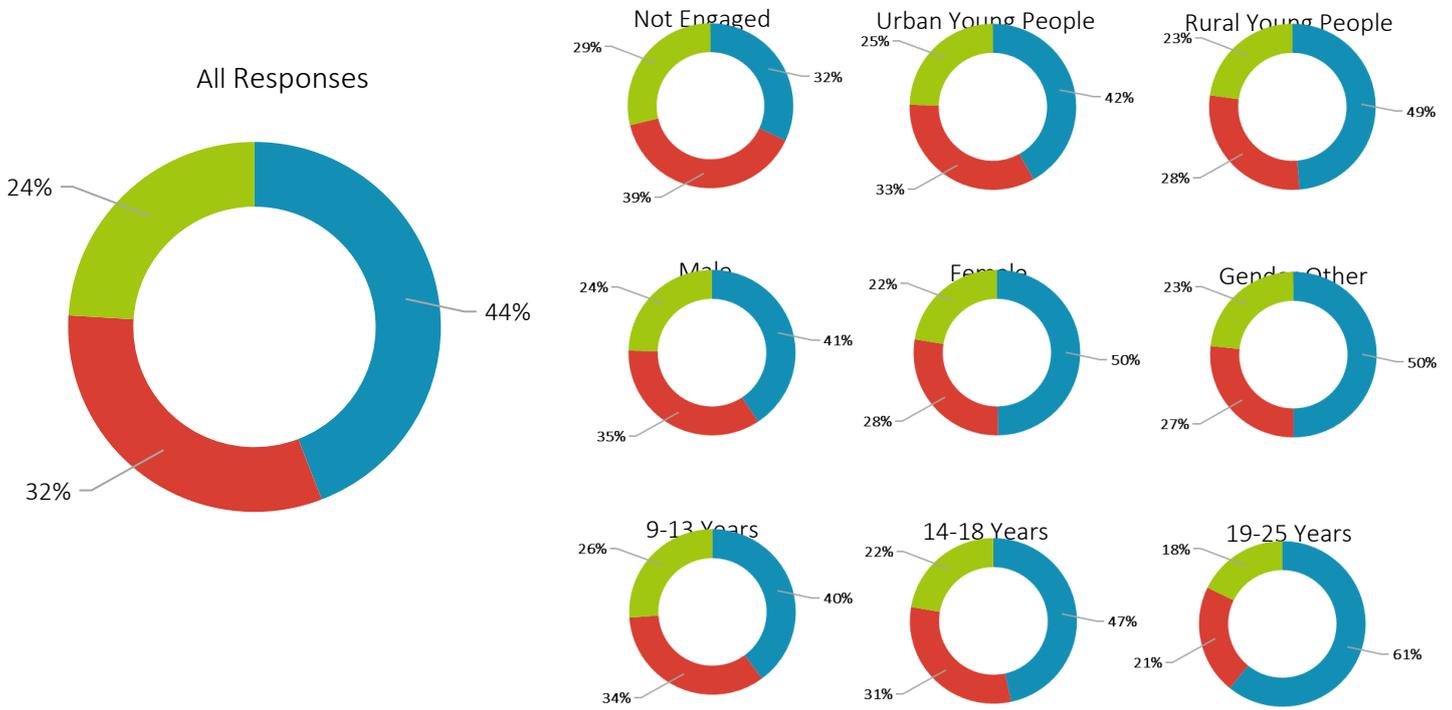
¹⁰ The Association of Young People's Health, 2019, Key Data on Young People 2019, AYPH, London.

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?

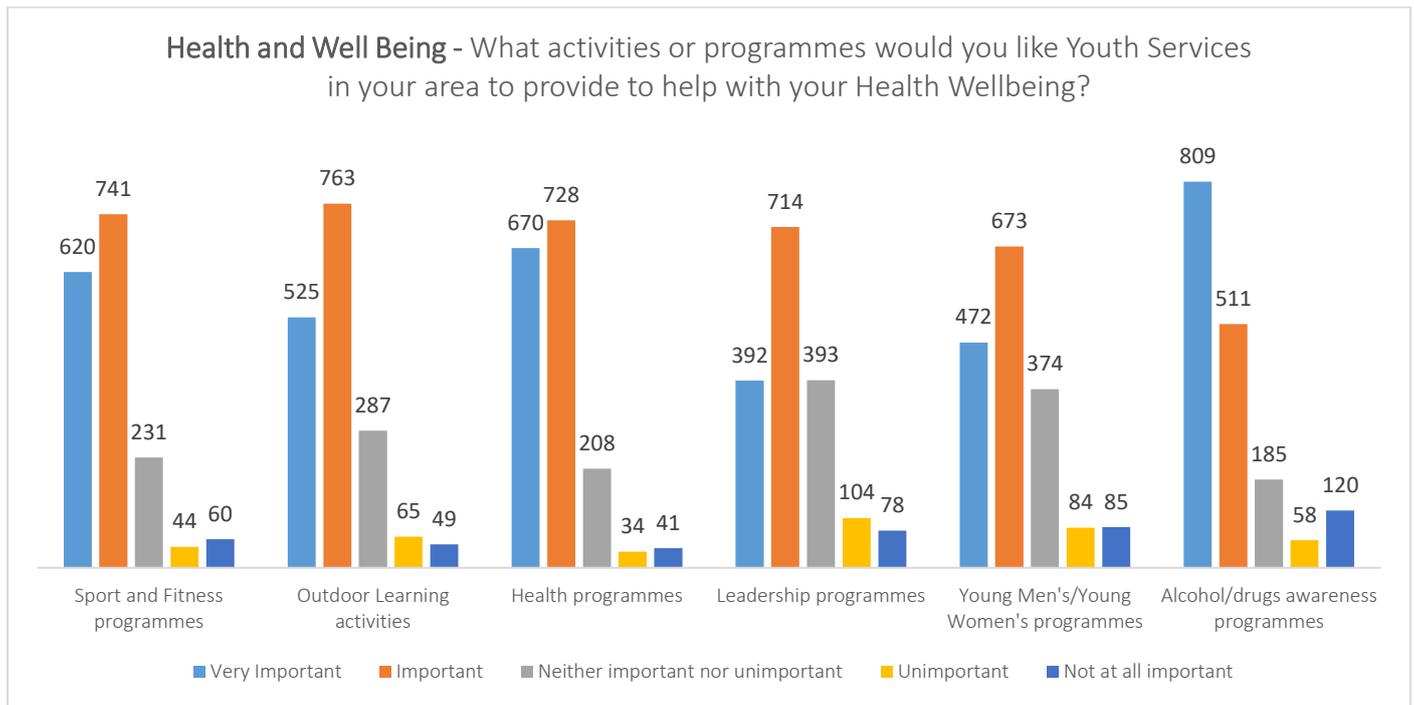


Youth Workers

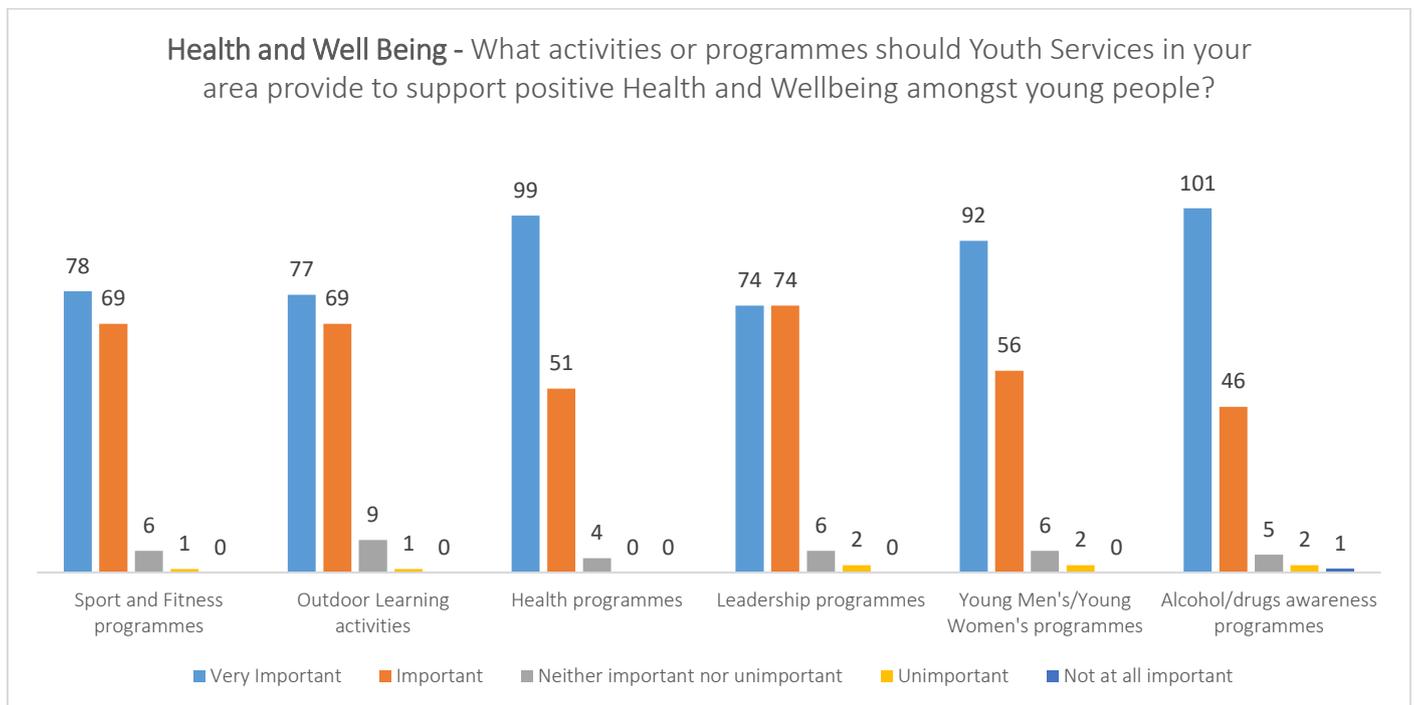
Is promoting positive Health & Wellbeing (mental, emotional or physical) something that Youth Services should offer to help and support young people?



Young People



Youth Workers



Children and Young People's Summary of Narrative Responses

- Children and young people wanted access to mental health, suicide awareness 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, the importance of youth clubs and the value of talking and listening.
- The 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.
- Art, drama and creative arts programmes were put forward as potential areas for support.
- Children and young people also identified the importance of their voices being heard in the development of programmes to support the health concerns they had.

Youth Workers' Summary of Narrative Responses

- Youth workers and volunteers were keen for the statutory youth sector to work in partnership with the voluntary and community sectors in designing and delivering appropriate health based programmes.
- 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.
- It was also suggested that 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.

Key Trends in Derry City and Strabane

- Drugs and Alcohol awareness programmes are a key request from young people in all age groups, with all genders and urban and rural settings.
- Sports and Fitness programmes were a significant request from both young men and young women.
- Young women identified young women's groups as an area for providing help with health and wellbeing.

Feedback from Local Consultation Events:

- Positive relationships and sexual health are areas that young people want to learn more about.
- Young people outlined that they wish to have access to information to make informed choices and to be more aware, resilient, confident and assertive when making choices regarding their health.

Discussion

Increasingly the health and wellbeing outcomes of children and young people in Derry City and Strabane District need to be considered in its broadest sense, emphasising mental and social health, as well as physical aspects of health. Children and young people participating at a series of stakeholder engagement events hosted by EA Youth Service recognised that the issues affecting their health and wellbeing were complex and multi-faceted. It is surprising therefore that less than half of all respondents to the survey (44%) stated that they would want Youth Services to help them with their health and wellbeing. For those not engaged in Youth Services the figure was 32%.

However, as children and young people grow older, they appear to become more aware that health and wellbeing is an important aspect of their lives. For the young people aged 9-13 only 40% stated this was something Youth Services could help them with, however, 47% of 14-18 year olds and 61% of 19-25 year olds noted that Youth Services could support their health and wellbeing needs. The overwhelming majority of youth workers and volunteers (99%) suggested that Youth Services should be promoting positive health and wellbeing to support young people.

Physical activity is a normal part of growing up for children and young people and plays a key part in their physical, social and emotional development. A physically active lifestyle also has direct and indirect health benefits, especially for children and young people, by preventing obesity, reducing the risk of disease, promoting good mental health and resilience and establishing healthy lifestyles that may be continued into adulthood. Government guidelines recommend that young people should engage in at least one hour of physical activity every day. Sport and fitness programmes and outdoor learning activities registered highly with all respondents to the survey, with 1,462 respondents indicating that these programmes were Very important or important, illustrating that children and young people understand the importance of an active lifestyle to their overall general health and wellbeing.

An affordable healthy diet is also essential for good health, however many families in Northern Ireland struggle to buy and eat enough fruit, vegetables or other healthy foods to meet official nutrition guidelines. A recent poverty report found that the poorest families are unable to meet the government's healthy food requirements.¹¹ A report by the Children's Society noted that children and young people living in poverty are 5.5 times more likely to go hungry than their peers.¹² This can lead to poor health and education outcomes as well as exposing vulnerable children and young people to bullying which can negatively impact on their emotional and mental health. At the same time, childhood obesity levels in Northern Ireland continue to rise, and this trend is most prevalent in deprived communities. This can also have a negative impact on a young person's general health and wellbeing, now and in the future.

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. However, their physical health is not the only concern, 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. At a consultation event young people recognised that body image was associated with physical and mental health issues and could impact on their confidence and self-worth. Many children and young people also highlighted the role that social media played in portraying the '*perfect body*'

¹¹ Scott, C., Sutherland, J. & Taylor, A. (2018), Affordability of the UK's Eatwell Guide, The Food Foundation, London.

¹² <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/news-and-blogs/press-release/report-echoes-hunger-brutal-reality-families-children>

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.

At a recent stakeholder engagement event young people recognised that there were a range of contributory factors that can lead to poor diet and nutrition, such as family circumstances, parental working arrangements, the level of family income and the lack of skills in the preparation and cooking of food.

Mental illness is the single largest cause of ill health and disability in Derry City and Strabane District. One in five children and young people will have a mental health need at any one time and the symptoms of a mental illness are distinct from those of adults.¹³ According to the World Health Organisation, poor mental health manifests itself in many ways among young people, including, anxiety, self-harm, bipolar disorders, body image and suicidal thoughts.

Children and young people with mental health problems are more likely to engage in risk taking activity and alcohol and drug misuse. Among the determinants of poor mental health include socio-economic pressures, gender discrimination, social isolation, an unhealthy lifestyle, bullying and the risk of violence.¹⁴ It is interesting to note that access to health programmes was the most important support that young people wanted Youth Services to provide.

It should also be recognised that all in all age groups that young people placed great emphasis on accessing Drug and Alcohol programmes which are clearly linked to mental health issues with only 78 respondents weighting drugs and alcohol programmes as an issue where they would not like access to support. Youth workers and volunteers indicated that the most beneficial programmes for young people in terms of their health and wellbeing were health programmes and drug and alcohol programmes.

The most common mental health problem affecting children and young people is severe and persistent behavioural problems.¹⁵ Children and young people from low-income families are four times more likely to experience mental health issues than those from higher income families.¹⁶ Young people from 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.¹⁷ 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.¹⁸ 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.

¹³ Betts, J. & Thompson, J. (2017), Mental Health in Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Assembly, Belfast.

¹⁴ <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-health-strengthening-our-response>

¹⁵ Green, H. et al. (2005) The mental health of children and young people in Great Britain 2004, Basingstoke, Palgrave.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ Statham, H., Jaclva, V. & Daly, I. (2012), The School Report: The experiences of gay young people in Britain's schools in 2012, London, Stonewall.

¹⁸ https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-09/CentreforMentalHealth_ChildrenYoungPeople_Factsheet.pdf

Learn & Achieve

Area of Enquiry 2: Learn & Achieve

Key Facts

- There are a total of 93 Nursery, Primary, Post-Primary and Special Schools in Derry and Strabane.
 - 8 Nursery schools
 - 69 Primary schools
 - 14 Post-Primary schools
 - 2 Special schools
 - Of these, 39 are located in a rural setting, 36 of which are Primary schools and the remaining 3 are Post-Primary schools.
 - Of the 28,430 children and young people attending Primary and Post-Primary schools in the Derry and Strabane area, 11,813 (41.6%) are eligible for Free School Meals. The Northern Average is 29.2%.
 - Of the 28,941 children and young people attending Nursery, Primary, Post-Primary and Special schools in Derry and Strabane:
 13. 5,357 (18.5%) are at Stage 1-4 on the Special Educational Needs register. (NI average 17.6%)
 14. 1,491 (5.2%) have a Statement. (NI average 5.4%)
 15. A total of 6,848 (23.7%) have a Special Educational Need. (NI average 23%)
 16. 627 Looked After Children were supported by the Western Health and Social Care Trust.
 17. 396 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in the Derry and Strabane area.
 18. 7,886 (27.7%) children and young people attend schools in the Derry and Strabane area that have been designated as rural.
 19. 85.3% of young people attending schools in Derry and Strabane achieved 5+ GCSE A*-C. NI average 86%.
 20. 70.3% of young people attending schools in Derry and Strabane achieved 5+ GCSE A*-C including English and Maths. NI average 71.8%.
 21. From April - June 2019 there were 20,000 NEET young people (aged 16-24) in Northern Ireland. This represents 10.2% of all young people aged 16-24.
 22. 97 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Derry and Strabane.

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.¹⁹

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

¹⁹ 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/>

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.

Recent research from Australia noted that education is important for children and young people as it helps achieve academic growth, increases access to opportunities, develops positive attitudes about themselves and their learning and heightens aspirations and interests to support their career pathways. The report suggested that a combination of these factors support children and young people to make positive decisions about their future and allow them to reach their potential.²⁰

What are the factors that can negatively impact on a young person's ability to learn and achieve?

Educational attainment in Derry and Strabane has increased among children and young people over the last number of years, however, there remains a tail of underachievement which is prevalent among vulnerable groups, including those 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 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.

The attainment gap has persisted despite a series of intervention programmes and additional investment. A recent report from England noted that these inequalities manifest themselves in later life outcomes. Vulnerable children and young people are less likely to continue into post-compulsory education, have lower average earnings, poorer health and a greater chance of becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour than their peers. The report argued that allowing a significant number of children and young people to fail to reach their educational and economic potential is a waste of human capital.²¹

Within Derry City and Strabane District, the majority of children and young people achieve and succeed at school. However, there are significant groups of vulnerable 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. There is no universal definition of what being vulnerable throughout childhood is, however it can be based on a combination of circumstances where one is at risk of not achieving positive life outcomes. In many cases, these vulnerable children and young people face a variety of difficulties and challenges adapting to the formal curriculum and require an education that can meet their particular needs. Educational disadvantage has become a reality faced by many children and young people living in Northern Ireland.

Educational achievement in Derry City and Strabane District LGD (Table 15) is on a par with that of the rest of Northern Ireland.

Table 15: Educational attainment, by LGD (2016/17)

²⁰ <https://www.teachforaustralia.org/2017/04/02/the-cycle-of-disadvantage/>

²¹ Andrews, J., Robinson, D. & Hutchinson, J., (2017), Closing the Gap – Trends in Educational Attainment and Disadvantage, Education Policy Institute, London.

However, living in a deprived area has been identified as a contributory factor to educational underachievement, it should be noted that there is a significant number of young people attending school in the Derry and Strabane area who live in a Neighbourhood Renewal Area. As such the statistics in the table above mask the lower educational outcomes and achievements of those young people living within

LGD	No. Of Year 12 pupils	% year 12 pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs grades A*-C	% year 12 pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs grades A*-C including English and Maths
Derry and Strabane	1691	85.0%	72.0%
All Northern Ireland	19938	84.6%	70.3%

neighborhood renewal areas. More school leavers in the 5 Neighborhood Renewal area did not achieve 5 or more GCSE's at A*-C including English and Math's than in other areas of Northern Ireland.

Table 16: Educational attainment, by NRA (2017)

NRA	Proportion of school leavers not achieving five or more GCSEs at A*-C (and equivalent) incl. English and maths (%)
Strabane	60
Triax	50
Waterside	50
Outer North	46
Outer West	43
Northern Ireland	35.7

Priorities for Youth, DE's policy document, noted that non-formal education in the form of Youth Work is an important aspect of the education system as it encourages young people's participation, allowing them to engage or re-engage in positive learning within a non-formal setting. *Priorities for Youth* also placed a greater emphasis on the needs of disadvantaged children and young people, as well as those for whom Youth Work can provide a valuable link with formal education to increase their life chances in areas such as future employment and training opportunities.

Youth Services 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.

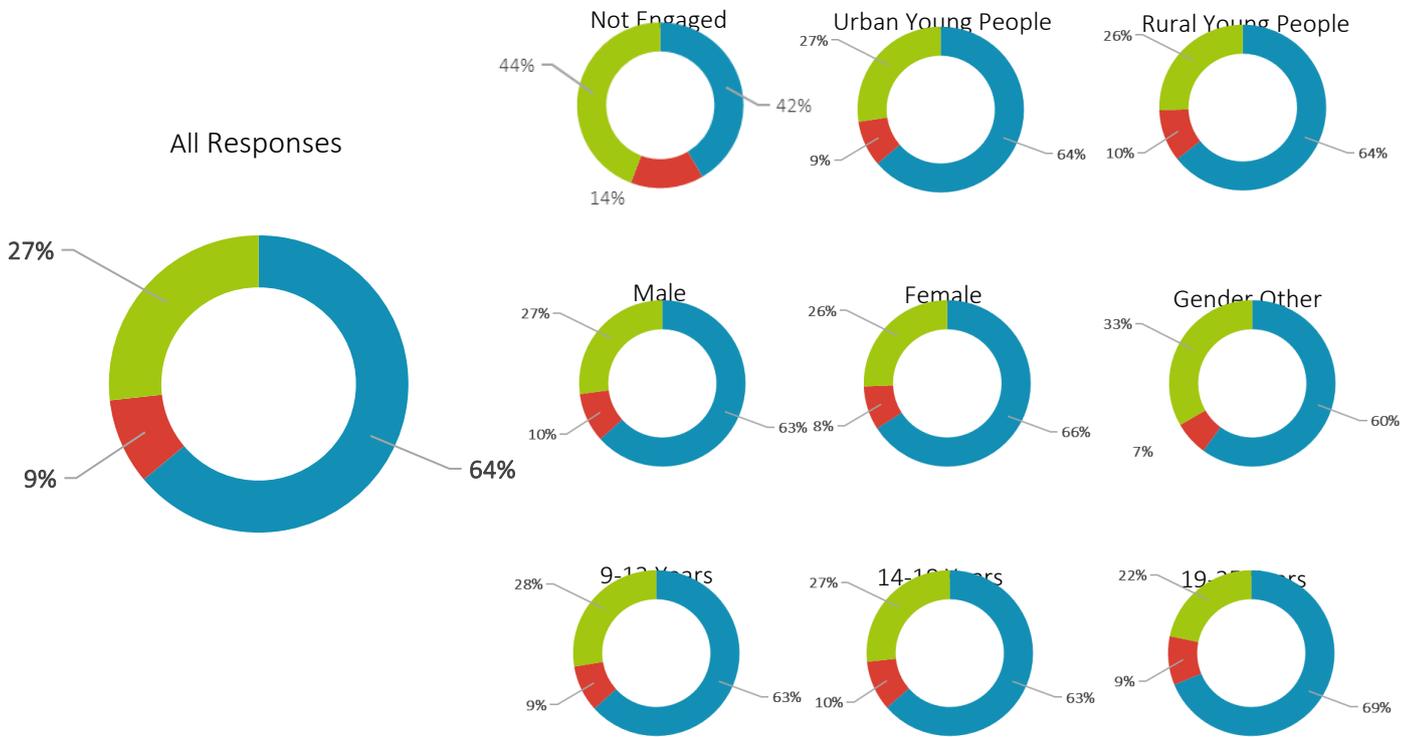
The Youth Service "Learning Together Programme" (LTP), delivers both accredited and non-accredited programmes in targeted schools where attendance levels are below average and young people are underachieving, therefore requiring support to achieve.

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?

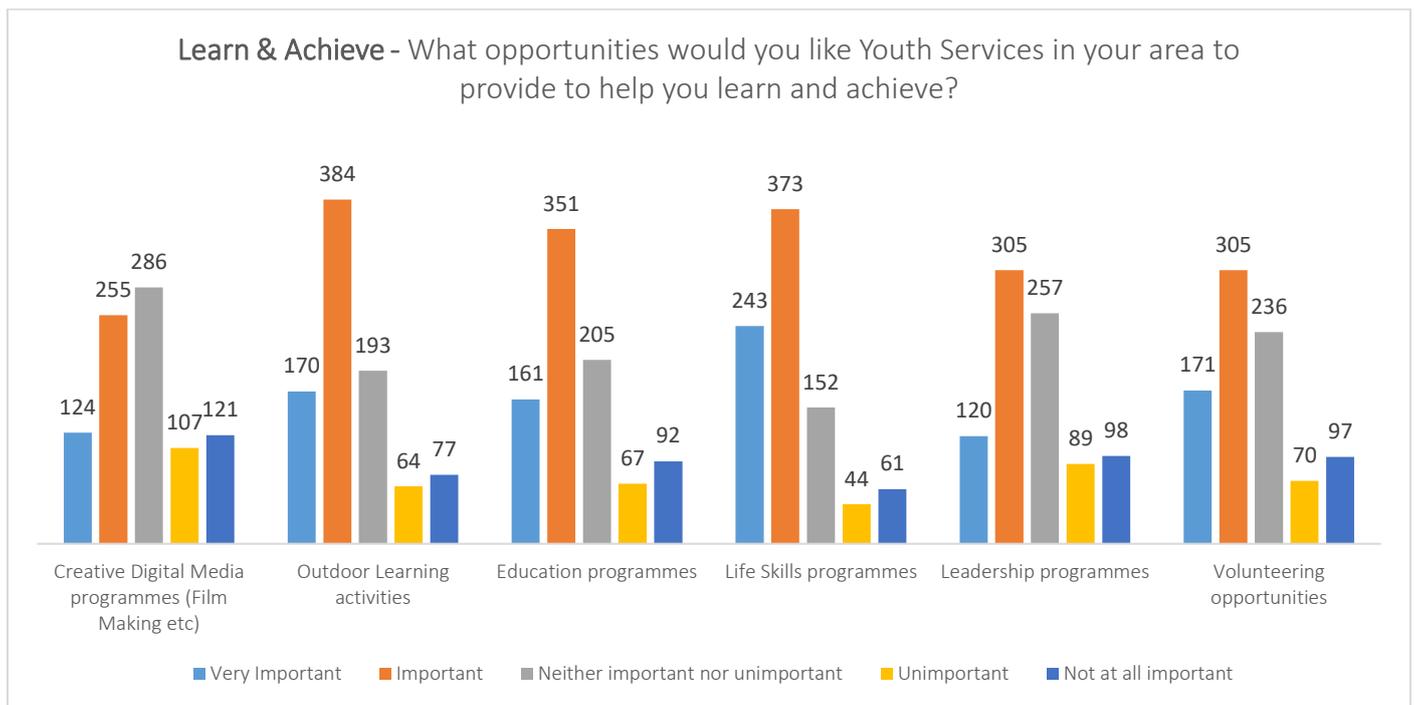


Youth Workers

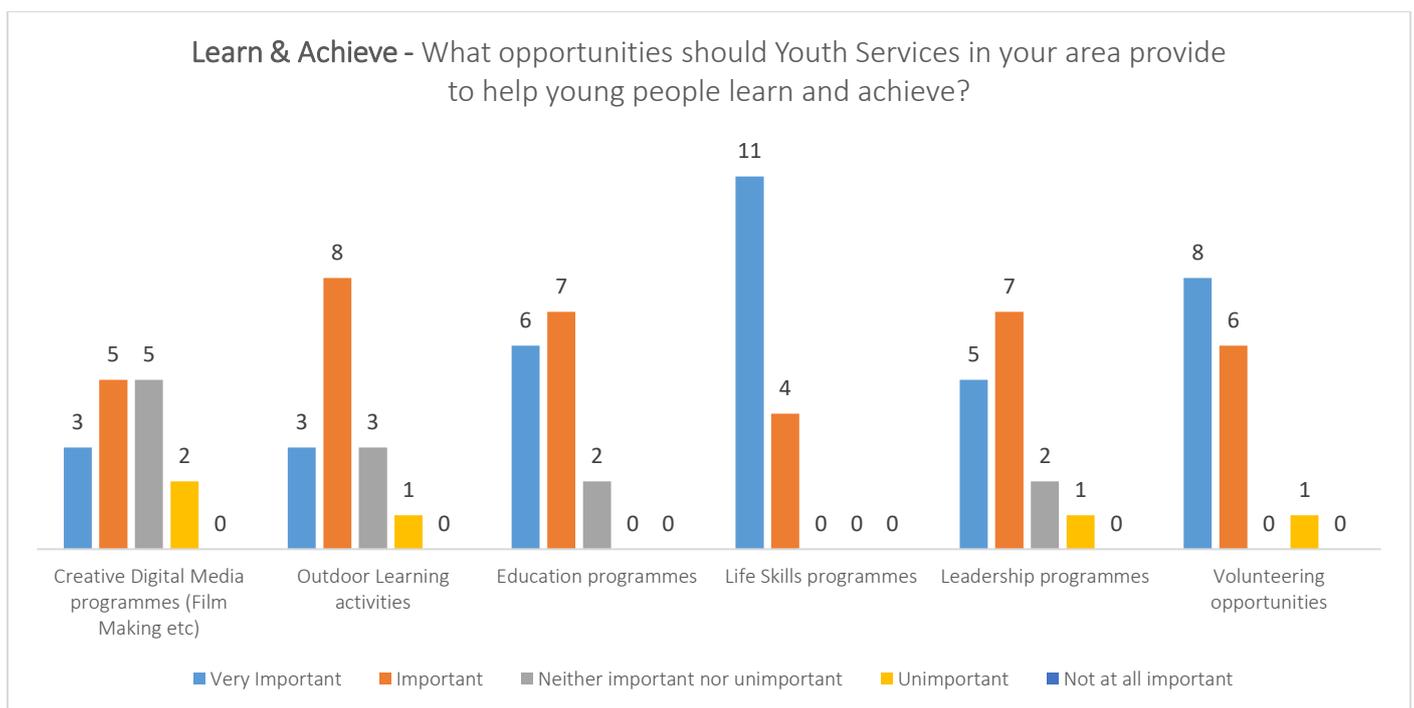
Do Youth Services in your area provide young people with opportunities to learn and take part in new experiences?



Young People

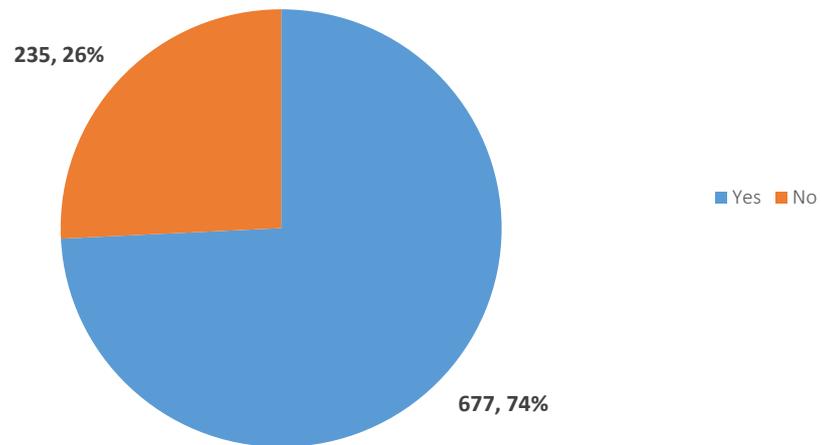


Youth Workers



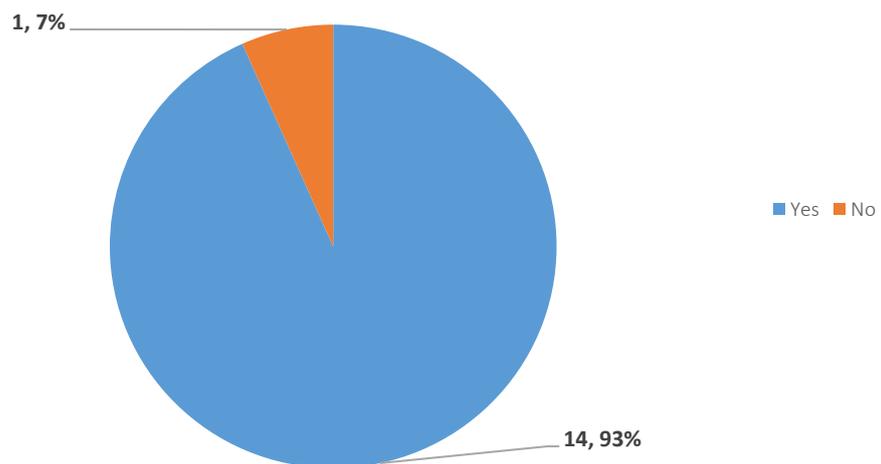
Young People

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



Youth Workers

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



Children and Young People's Summary of Narrative 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.
- Alternative education programmes, delivered by Youth Services were proposed to support those struggling with the formal curriculum.
- There was an increasing focus on programmes of art, music, drama, creative arts and home economics being delivered in a youth work setting.
- Children and young people also wanted education programmes delivered to support their mental health and resilience.
- They also requested more support for the LGBTQ community as well as other vulnerable groups.

Youth Workers' Summary of Narrative Responses

- Children and young people should be provided with opportunities that prepare them for the world of work. 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.
- They also saw the importance of developing programmes around climate issues, the environment and recycling.

Key Trends in Derry City and Strabane:

- 98% of young people engaged in Youth Services said that they would the programmes they participate in to be accredited.
- Outdoor learning was a key methodology through which young people wanted to learn and achieve.

Feedback from Local Consultation Events:

- The service should have a range of accrediting bodies to meet the needs of the children and young people.
- The certificate in Personal Success and Well Being should be delivered in schools and youth clubs.
- Recognition and celebration events should be embedded into local delivery.
- Creative Arts can be used as methodology to engage reluctant learners and to make learning more fun than traditional formal approaches.

Discussion

At a recent stakeholder event in Derry City and Strabane District reviewing how youth services can best support young people's learning children and young people stated that the formal education system does not always meet or is responsive to their needs and learning styles. They also identified a number of barriers to their learning and achieving, including the school environment, exam stress, and a lack of support from teachers. Children and young people also reflected that programmes delivered by Youth Services encouraged learning and these were interactive, engaging and interesting. It is clear from the survey and ongoing internal research that certain groups of young people learn and achieve better outcomes in a youth work setting, where they feel more supported and youth workers understand them and how they learn best.

Failure to provide appropriate opportunities for children and young people will limit their career opportunities and lead to future social and economic isolation. There is a clear social dimension to educational underachievement. 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 effect, a significant number of young people are being left behind. Consequently, it is interesting to note that the vast majority of respondents in Derry City and Strabane District (72%) were keen to participate in programmes delivered by Youth Services that provided them with a qualification or an accreditation of some kind, this increased to 98% of respondents who were aged 14-18 and currently engaged in youth services. This corresponds with findings from a recent engagement event where young people wanted Youth Services to provide qualifications that were accessible, meaningful, and interactive and would meet their career and life opportunities. Youth workers and volunteers also agreed (88%) that programmes with accreditation offered greater value and were more practical for young people in the long term.

Therefore, it is interesting to report that children and young people from all age groups stated that life skills programmes were the most important in terms of them successfully transitioning into adulthood and the world of work. Understandably, those aged 19-25 placed greater emphasis on the importance of life skills programmes with over 616 respondents rating this as very important or important. Volunteering opportunities and educational programmes also ranked highly among all young people. Life-skills programmes, leadership programmes and volunteering opportunities were the most common programmes put forward by youth workers and volunteers to help children and young people learn and achieve and make the transition into the world of work.

Youth Services are ideally placed to contribute to the reduction of barriers for children and young people learning and achieving and can potentially increase educational attainment among the most vulnerable children and young people and particularly those from minority groups. Not all children and young people learn the same way and non-formal learning methodologies appeal to those who are failing in the formal education environment.

Creative, digital and media programmes ranked higher with non-engaged young people than those currently engaged therefore, these new, innovative programmes have the potential to provide valuable pathways for young people in the future and reach out to those not involved in the service.

The Youth Service in Derry City and Strabane District will seek to address underachievement by targeting young people within specific schools, to provide resources and educational programmes, in partnership with the schools, such as *the Learning Together Programme*, transitions programmes, and accredited and non-accredited courses in schools and youth centres.

Good Relations

Area of Enquiry 3: Good Relations

Key Facts

- There were 208 hate crimes recorded in Derry and Strabane in 2018-2019. They are broken down as follows:
 - 23 sectarian incidences.
 - 60 racist incidences.
 - 27 homophobic incidences.
- There are 3 interface areas in Derry and Strabane.
- 396 newcomer children and young people attend schools in Northern Ireland.
- 6,848 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 either lesbian, gay or bisexual. In Northern Ireland this equates to approximately 11,500 young people.
- 97 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Northern Ireland.
- The 2011 census recorded that at least 81,000 people were born outside Northern Ireland.
- The 2011 census recorded that at least 50,000 people in Northern Ireland speak a language other than English as their first language.
- In 2018/19 4,175 children and young people participated in 123 T:BUC camps programmes in Northern Ireland.

Why is this measure important?

Good relations is said to exist where there is a high level of dignity, respect and mutual understanding and an absence of prejudice, hatred, hostility or harassment.²² In Northern Ireland, 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 seeks 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) sets out a range of actions and commitments for government departments, communities and individuals who will work together to build a united community and achieve change against four key strategic priorities: Our Children and Young People; Our Shared Community; Our Safe Community; and Our Cultural Expression. This strategy 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.

²² Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

What are the factors that can negatively impact on Good Relations in Northern Ireland?

Following years of conflict, Derry City and Strabane District 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 Northern Ireland experience some forms of residential, educational, environmental and social segregation.

There are still many single identity areas in Northern Ireland which encounter legacy issues and experience sectarianism. A recent report noted that sectarianism is more widespread in working class areas.²³ These areas are characterised by social housing and communities affected by division often suffer poverty and deprivation, lack political and community leadership, have limited aspirations and opportunities and have few opportunities to mix with children and young people from other backgrounds. These areas have also been negatively affected by austerity and welfare reform and this economic uncertainty can lead to intolerance, crime and social unrest.

Derry City and Strabane District has a number of interface areas where inter-community tensions exist. 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. Paramilitary style attacks are on the increase and growing numbers of young people are being victimised and recruited. Many rural areas also demonstrate separate living patterns, although these are not formally recognised as interface areas.

The Fresh Start Agreement (November 2015) resulted in the Executive Action Plan in 2016, the aim of which is to tackle paramilitary activity, criminality and organised crime. One of the areas identified in Northern Ireland was Brandywell and Creggan.

Derry City and Strabane has a changing and 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.

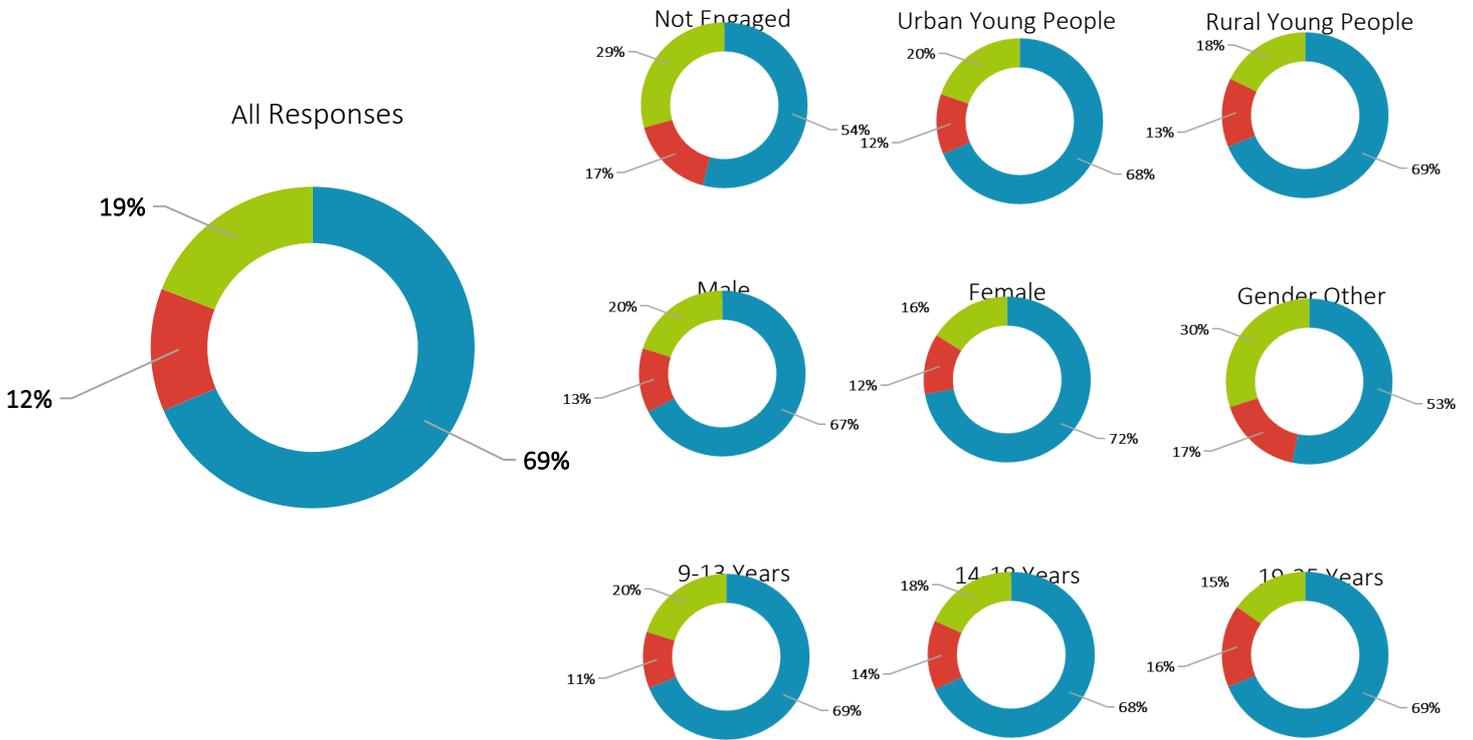
²³ Sectarianism in Northern Ireland – a Review. https://www.ulster.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/410227/A-Review-Addressing-Sectarianism-in-Northern-Ireland_FINAL.pdf

Survey Findings – Good Relations

■ Yes
 ■ No
 ■ Don't Know

Young People

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



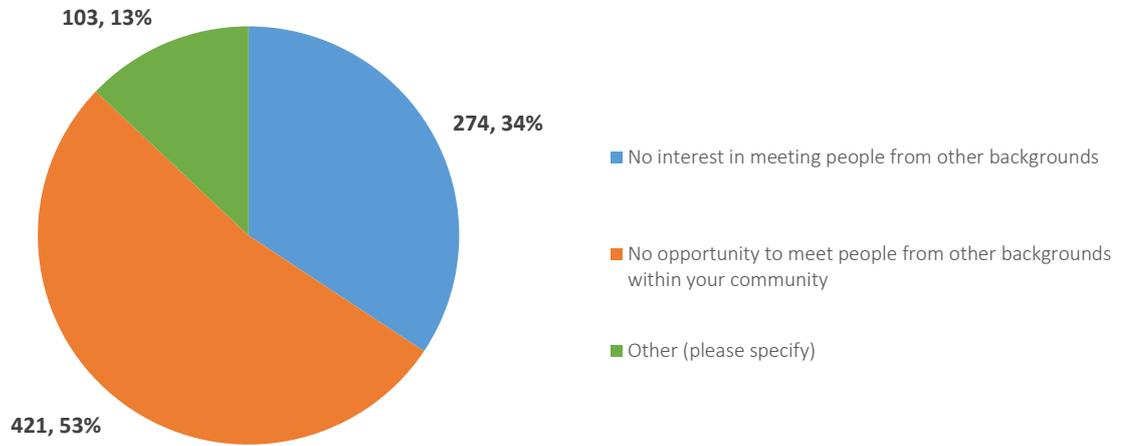
Youth Workers

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



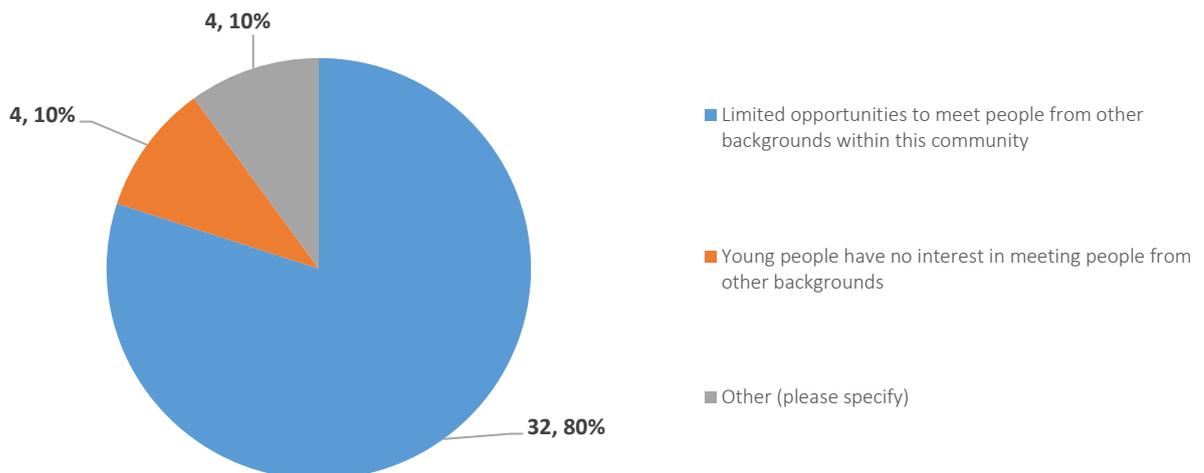
Young People

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

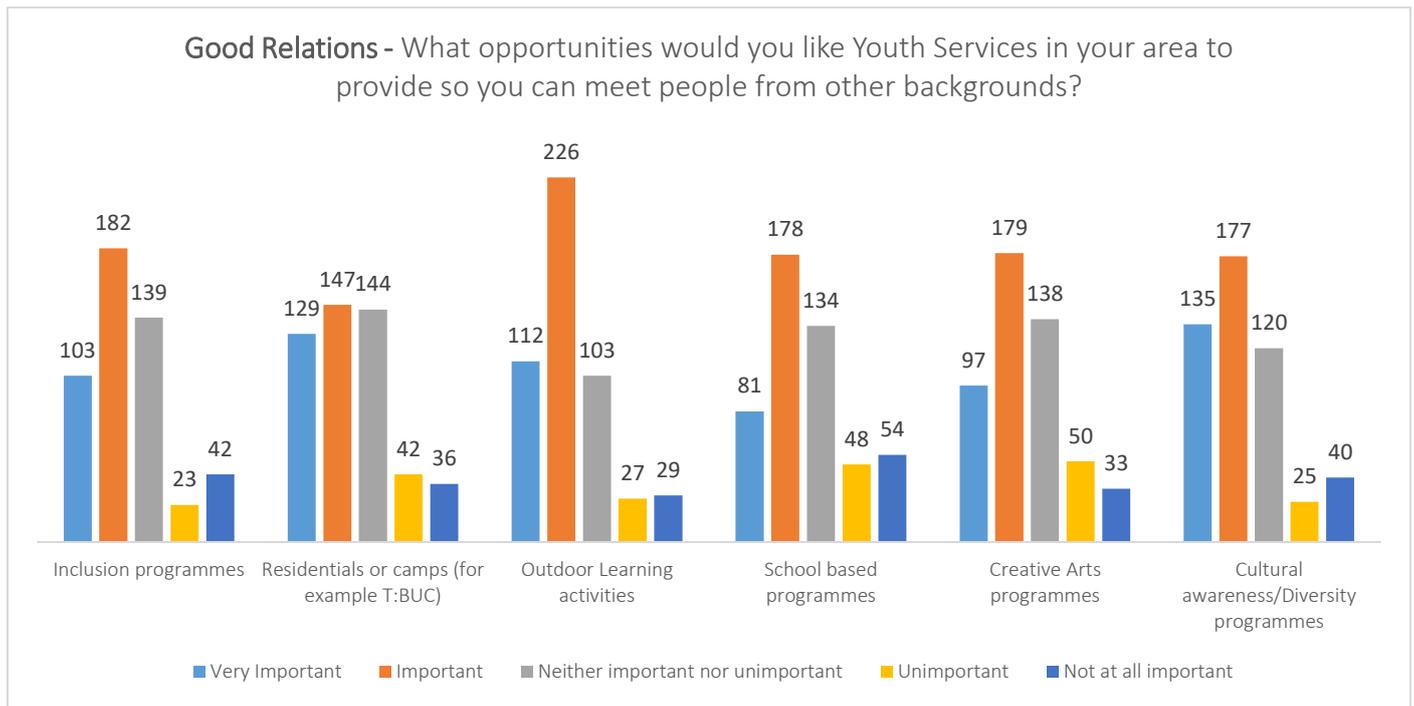


Youth Workers

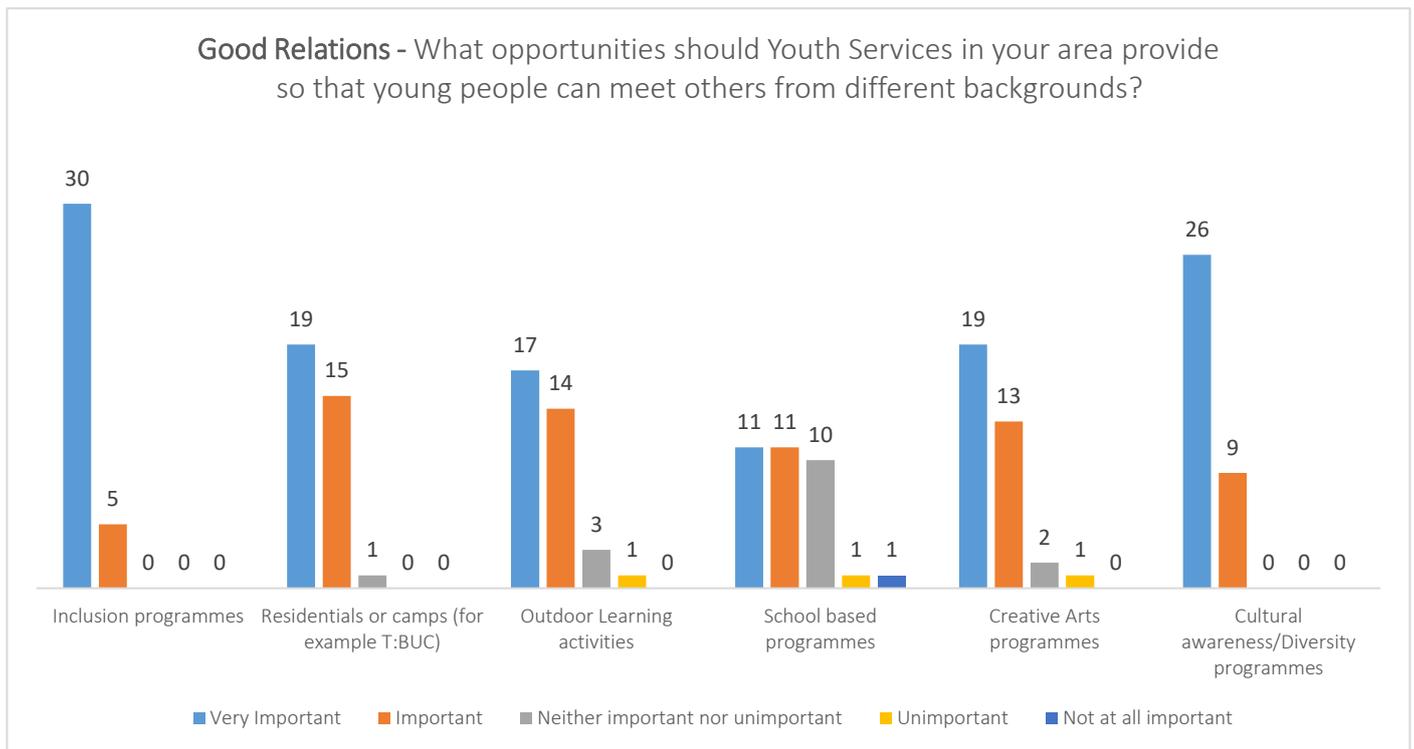
Good Relations - Reason you believe why Young People do not have these opportunities?



Young People



Youth Workers



Children and Young People's Summary of Narrative Responses

- Children and young people wanted access to diversity and inclusion programmes that helped them have a better understanding of other cultures and beliefs as well as allowing them to question their own cultural identity.
- They were keen to explore issues around Special Educational Needs, disability and hidden disability.
- Programmes to support LGBTQ groups were also proposed.
- Children and young people also believed that international programmes would provide a greater insight into aspects of good relations.

Youth Workers' Summary of Narrative 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.
- More work focussing on Special Educational Needs and disability and discrimination in these areas was proposed.

Key Trends in Derry City and Strabane:

- Young people engaged in youth services felt they had more opportunities to meet, learn and socialise with people from different backgrounds than those who do not engage.
- Over half of those young people not engaged in services felt that they had no opportunity to meet others from different backgrounds.
- T:BUC is perceived as making an impact and we should consider how we bring young people together within the T:BUC programme and outside of the programme.

Feedback from Local Consultation Events:

- Programmes in Derry and Strabane need to be reflective of the local demographics and look towards an increase in cross-border work. Only 24% of the population in Derry and 33% in Strabane identify as British with the rest identifying as Irish, Northern Irish or Other.
- Sports and creative arts need to increase contact between people from different backgrounds.
- Planned interventions contribute towards positive perceptions of other communities even though the majority of programmes in Derry City and Strabane focused on self-identity work (81% of participants felt more favourable towards people from a different religious background).

Discussion

Whilst good relations is not formally defined in legislation, the Equality Commission has developed the following working definition to support the development of Good Relations in Northern Ireland. *The growth of relationships and structures for Northern Ireland that acknowledge the religious, political and racial context of this society, and that seek to promote respect, equity and trust, and embrace diversity in all its forms.*²⁴

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 T:BUC Strategy, reflects the Executive's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society.

Statistics from the Executive Office report that 70% of children and young people in Northern Ireland had been involved in projects with other schools, 60% had shared classes and 48% had shared sports facilities or

²⁴ Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, 2008, Promoting Good Relations, ECNI, Belfast.

equipment. However, less than half of all children and young people (46%), believe that relations between Catholics and Protestants were better than they were five years ago.

The majority of respondents to the Youth Service survey in Derry City and Strabane District, 69%, 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 only 54% and for those identifying as gender other the figure was 53%. Three quarters of youth workers and volunteers (75%) supported the view that young people had opportunities to meet, learn and socialise with others from different backgrounds in their area. This is interesting given that the majority of children and young people live and are educated separately, however in the last number of years many young people have benefitted from participation in T:BUC camps.

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 had no opportunity to meet people from other backgrounds within their community, reflecting the segregated nature of Northern Irish society. The majority of youth workers and volunteers (82%) supported this view suggesting that children and young people had limited opportunities to meet people from other backgrounds within their community.

Derry City and Strabane District 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. A recent Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey highlighted increasing levels of intolerance among people in Northern Ireland and the 18-24 year old age group were the most intolerant.²⁵ At a recent engagement event young people supported the view that Youth Services could provide safe spaces for children and young people and promote inclusion and embrace and celebrate difference.

The most favoured programmes identified by children and young people in Derry City and Strabane District to improving Good Relations were outdoor learning activities, cultural awareness and diversity programmes and residential or camps, highlighting existing provision. At a local stakeholder event young people stated that they wanted more access to international programmes to meet need in this area. Youth workers and volunteers reported that cultural awareness and diversity programmes, inclusion programmes and residential and camps were the best ways to improve Good Relations among children and young people.

The need for interventions and resources to be targeted at community relations, equity and diversity issues is illustrated by the number of racist, homophobic and sectarian motivated incidents and crimes in the Derry and Strabane area. Derry is above the Northern Ireland average for the rate of offences with a homophobic or sectarian motivation. The impact of sectarianism and in particular community tensions was an issue raised by young people through consultation. The youth service will continue to target planned intervention funding and resources to those areas designated as interface areas and where in the past there has been a spike in violence during times of heightened tensions. Youth intervention programmes will offer diversionary activities for young people coupled with developmental opportunities.

There are three direct interface areas in the Derry and Strabane area, Bishop Street and the Fountain Estate, Tullyalley and Currynierain and Top of the Hill and Irish Street, although many issues that exist in interface areas are prevalent in neighbouring areas.

²⁵ <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/blogs/belfast-and-beyond/northern-irelands-increasing-problem-racism>

The challenges associated with living in Interface areas extended to engagement in sectarian antisocial behaviour, which commonly took the form of rioting with the *other* community. Those growing up in enclave communities were more likely to rationalise riotous behaviour as *defence of the area*. The study found that those young people who engaged in sectarian behaviour tended to identify much more strongly with being Catholic or Protestant than those who did not engage in such activity. However, the study also found that young people who had been victims of physical, verbal or emotional abuse stated that this mainly emanated from within their own communities. Intra-community or non-sectarian conflict was more frequent than inter-community or sectarian conflict. Knowledge of issues regarding paramilitary activity was experienced by a minority of research participants but experience was more pronounced within Loyalist or Unionist communities and experience of paramilitaries was most common among older males.

Young people from interface areas were not only at risk of being victims of within community antisocial behaviour but were also considered as potential perpetrators. The study found that young people referenced taking part in activities identifiable as high risk including criminal damage, breaking into derelict property, fire-lighting, graffiti and window breaking. These forms of antisocial behaviour were often related to recreational and hard drug use in public. More serious instances of crime were noted among some older research participants, those aged 15-18.²⁶

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.

²⁶ Cummings, E., Shirlow, P., Browne, B., Dwyer, C., Merrilees, C. & Taylor, K., 2016, Growing up on an Interface: Findings and Implications for the Social Needs, Mental Health and Lifetime Opportunities of Belfast Youth. OFMDFM, Belfast.

Participation

Area of Enquiry 4: Participation

Key Facts

- The overall attendance figures for schools in 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%).
- 20,334 (39.4%) young people in Derry and Strabane live in a rural community
- 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?

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.²⁷

Participation can stimulate an awareness of wider societal issues that can negatively affect their local communities. As well as giving children and young people a voice, active participation ensures that they are valued within their own communities and are part of the decision making process that can bring about solutions to the challenges they face.

Participation comes in many forms: attending school or a youth centre; involvement in social activities and clubs; playing sport, music or cultural activities; youth leadership, volunteering and peer mentoring. Meaningful participation can enhance a young person's sense of belonging, connectedness and feeling of being valued, which can contribute to positive mental health.²⁸

What are the factors that can negatively impact on a young person's participation?

Research indicates that there are substantial barriers to participation for certain groups of children and young people, particularly the most marginalised and vulnerable.²⁹ The reasons are many and varied. In some cases there may be a lack of Youth Services or other adequate local alternatives in a community.

²⁷ <https://www.niccy.org/media/1330/niccy-advice-benefits-of-engagement-with-children-and-young-people-dec-14.pdf>

²⁸ <http://mypeer.org.au/design-implementation/youth-participation-2/benefits-of-youth-participation/>

²⁹ Holdsworth, R. Stokes, H. Blanchard, M. & Mohamed, M. 2006, Civic Engagement and Young people in the city of Melbourne, Australian Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne.

Children and young people may be disaffected from schools and fail to engage in education and will therefore lack the necessary skills to engage in wider society.

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.

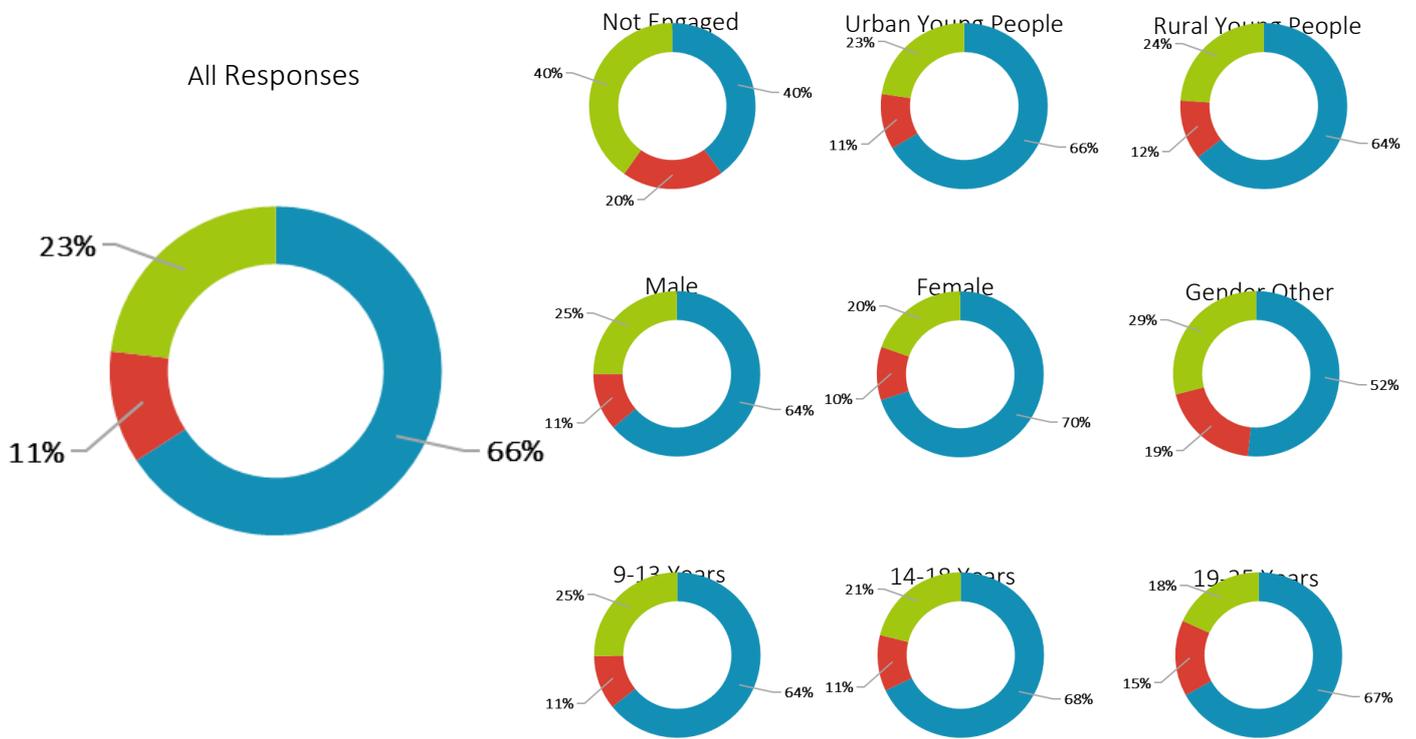
Participative activities may be inaccessible due to their location, lack of transport, cost implications or limited digital connectivity. Many children and young people living in rural areas face these challenges. Opportunities to participate may conflict with school or other commitments or be inaccessible due to a disability. It is also possible that children and young people may feel they are not well enough supported or lack motivation and confidence to participate.

Survey Findings – Participation

Yes No Don't Know

Young People

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



Youth Workers

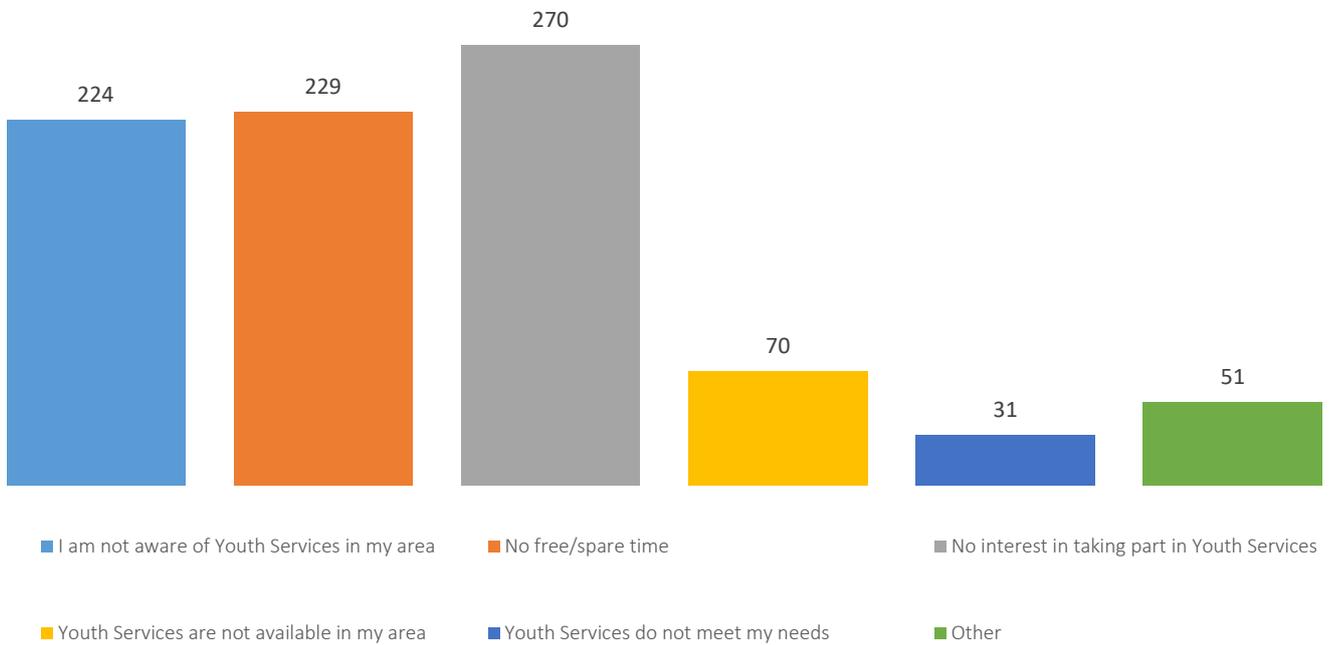
Please rate how often young people in your area have opportunities to participate in Youth Services

Not at all Often Sometimes Very Often



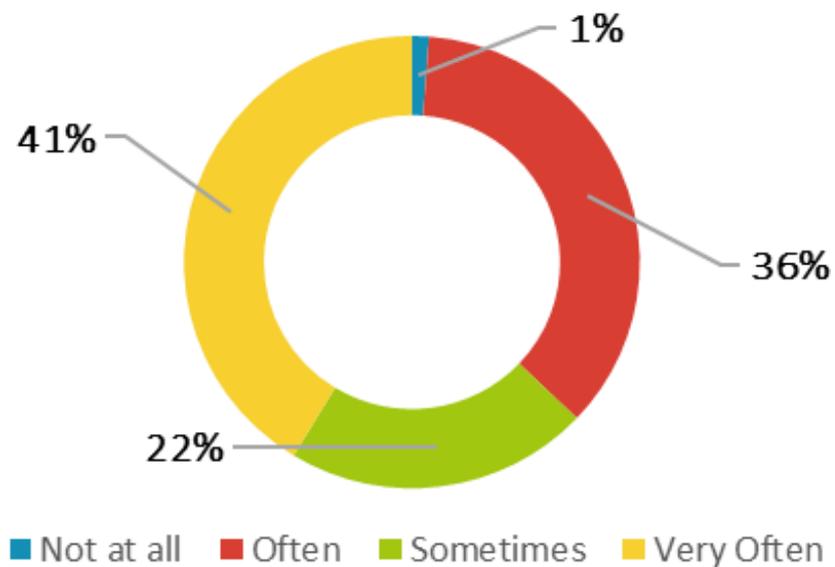
Young People

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



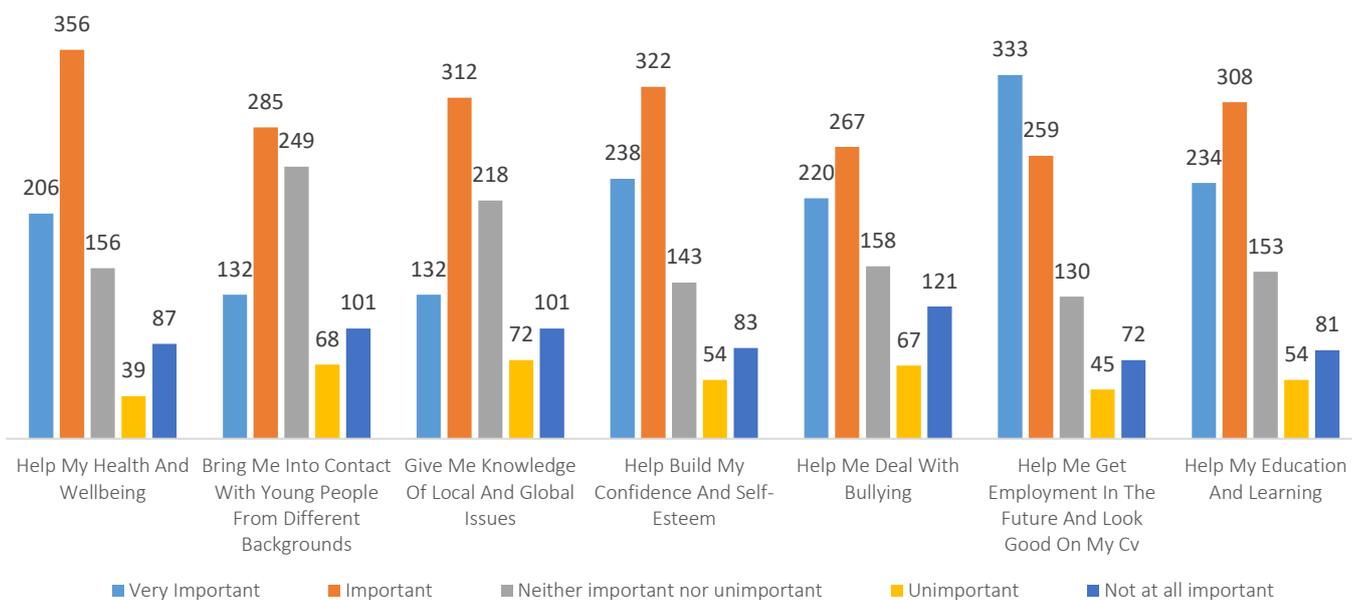
Youth Workers

Participation



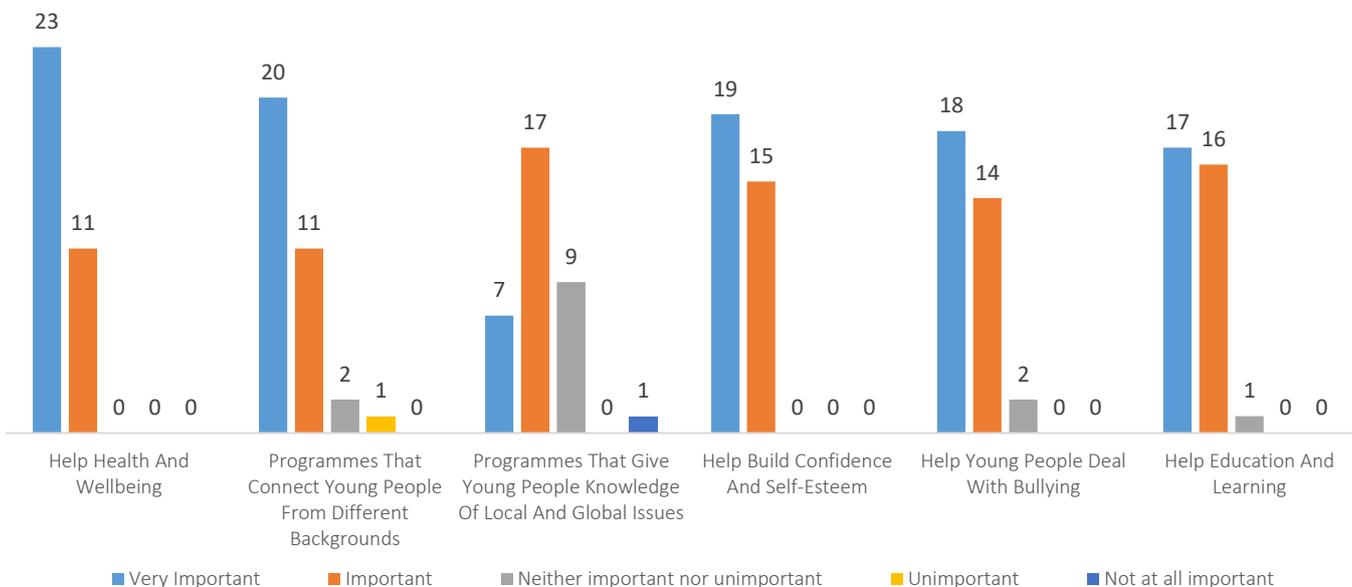
Young People

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 Narrative 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.
- Some failed to participate due to a lack of self-confidence and feelings of social anxiety.
- 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

- Youth workers and volunteers noted that Youth Services did not always meet the physical and learning needs of some young people, which was a barrier to participation.
- Family and social circumstances and being from a vulnerable or minority group were also put forward as barriers to participation in Youth Services and society as a whole.
- Children and young people in urban areas had difficulty accessing services because they did not live in an area of high social need, despite having particular needs themselves.
- Children and young people were not always consulted about provision in their area and this put some off participating.
- Rural isolation was also a major barrier to participation.

Key Trends in Derry City and Strabane:

- Young people want to build their CV and to gain skills that will help them gain employment
- Young people not engaged in youth services felt that approaches that helped with their health and well being, and their confidence and self esteem would attract them to the service.

Feedback from Local Consultation Events:

- Youth Service needs to be make more use of social media platforms to engage and inform young people of services.
- Innovative approaches to engaging young people in rural areas should be considered.

Discussion

Most children and young people in Derry City and Strabane District 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.

More than two-thirds of survey respondents in Derry City and Strabane District stated that they had an opportunity to take part in Youth Services in their area. There was no discernible difference in terms of age or gender, however, only 40% of those not engaged in Youth Services and 19% of those identifying as gender

“other” reported that they did not have opportunities to take part in Youth Services. More than two-thirds of youth workers and volunteers (69%) stated that young people in their area had opportunities to participate in Youth Services.

Of those young people not accessing Youth Services, only 23 of 1,329 responses reported that Youth Services did not meet their needs, 57 noted that Youth Services were not available in their area and 195 that they were not aware of Youth Services in their area.

The survey results highlighted that children and young people would like to see Youth Services provide support through programmes that helped them obtain employment in the future, programmes that will help with their confidence and self-esteem and also programmes that supported their education and 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.

However, there are significant numbers of children and young people in Northern Ireland for whom participating in wider society is not an option. Many of these children and young people will face barriers and challenges that their peers take for granted. Some such as newcomers may face language and cultural barriers, young carers may not be able to participate due to other commitments, disabled young people may have accessibility problems, homeless young people and young people from deprived areas may face financial barriers and rural young people may face challenges with transport and lack of digital infrastructure.

Interestingly, 68% 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.

For many children and young people, living in a rural community presents many challenges. There is a lack of facilities, such as cinemas or clubs, which their peers in urban areas take for granted. This isolation from services is often exacerbated by a lack of transport options and hidden poverty.

Rural deprivation is scattered and can be masked by living alongside relative affluence. 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 majority of young people at a local engagement event noted that Youth Service catered for all learning styles, however some children and young people were reluctant to participate in learning opportunities either at school or with Youth Services due to low self-esteem, lack of self-confidence, anxiety or a fear of failure. The survey revealed that a high proportion of children and young people would like to participate in programmes that would improve their confidence and self-esteem. This again highlights the value of youth work and the impact it can have on a young person’s life and future outcomes.

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.

Participation will continue to be a key priority for the Derry City and Strabane District with resources and support from dedicated youth workers to ensure that Youth Councils and Rural Youth Forums are integral to the area with a focus on broadening the membership to include young people from marginalised backgrounds and from Section 75 groups in order to ensure true representation.

Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity

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

Key Facts

- According to the Simon Community there are at least 6,000 homeless children and young people across Northern Ireland. (Homeless can mean living in unsuitable and unstable accommodation).³⁰
- 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 Derry and Strabane.
- 6,848 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 either Lesbian, gay or bisexual. In Northern Ireland this equates to approximately 11,500 young people.
- 396 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in the Derry and Strabane area.
- 97 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Northern Ireland.
- In 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.
- 627 Looked After Children were supported by the Western Health and Social Care Trust.

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.³¹

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.³² 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.

³⁰ <https://www.simoncommunity.org/homelessness/knowledge-hub/homelessness-in-ni>

³¹ Equalities Review (2007) Fairness and Freedom: The Final Report of the Equalities Review. Norwich: HMSO.

³² <http://www.cwvys.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/HB-Equalities.pdf>

What are the factors that can negatively impact on a young person experiencing prejudice and discrimination?

The majority of children and young people in Derry City and Strabane District 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.

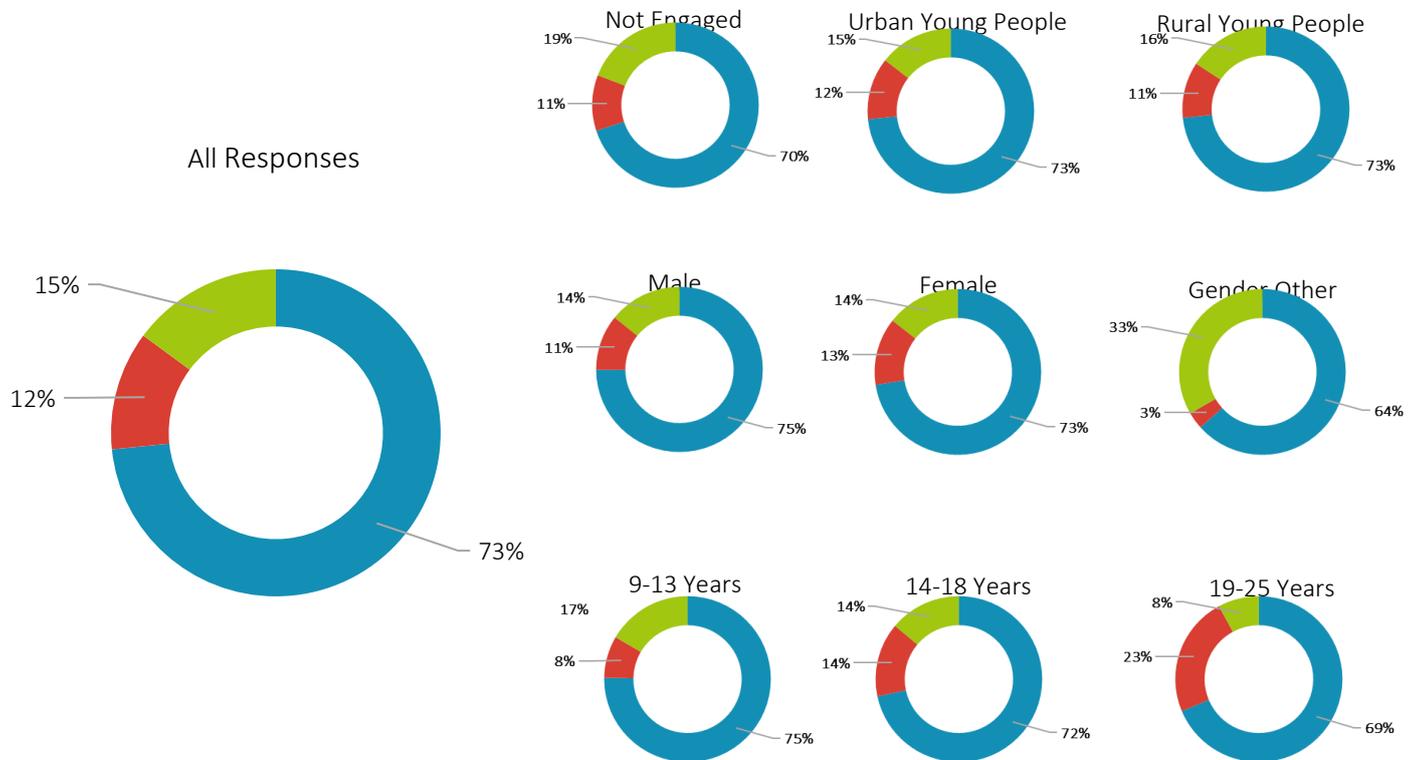
Children and young people experiencing prejudice and discrimination are less likely to feel part of a group and participate, withdraw from school and society, suffer poor mental health which can have a negative impact on their academic and social outcomes. Those most likely to encounter discrimination 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, homeless children and young people and school age mothers.

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?



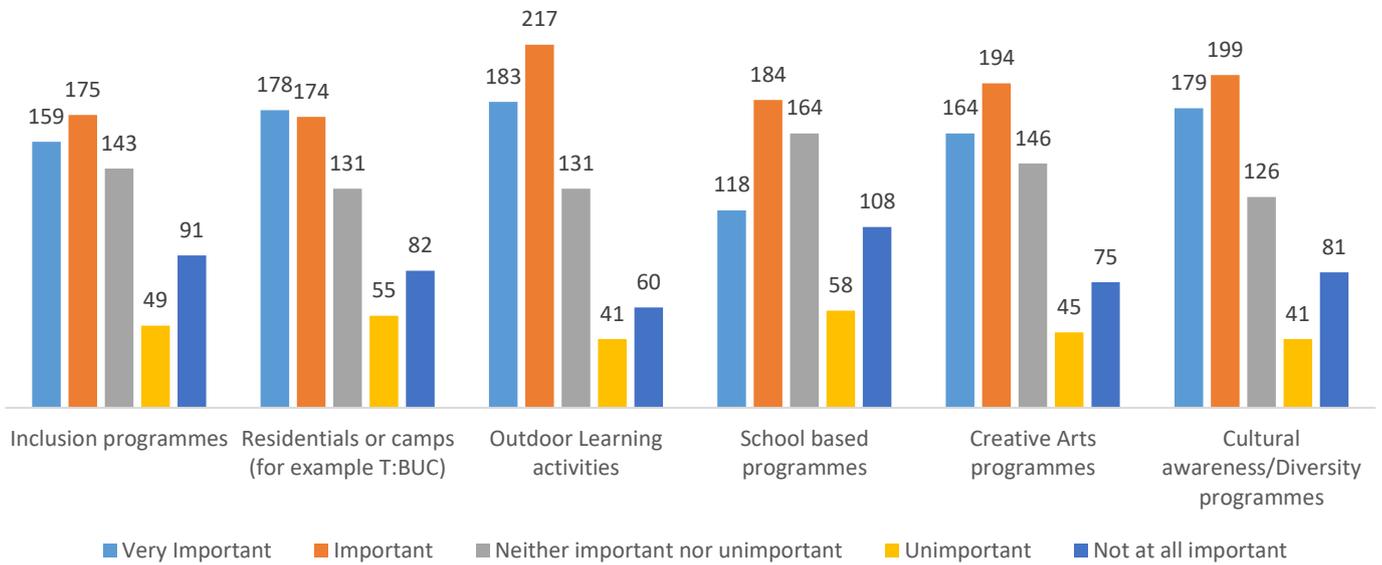
Youth Workers

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



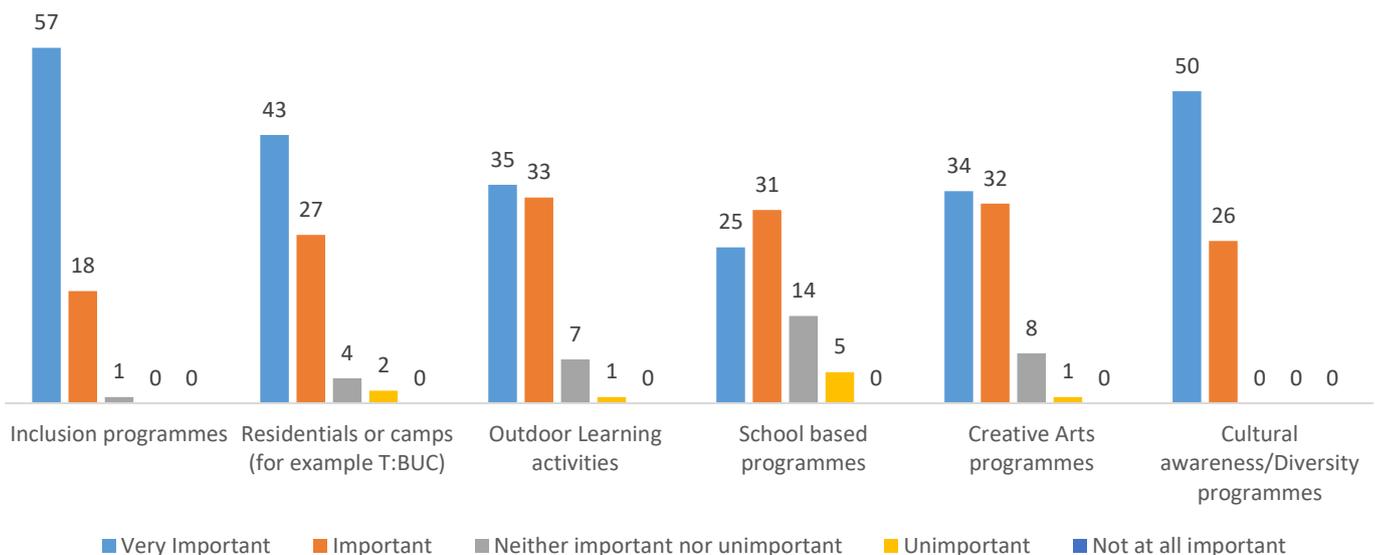
Young People

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

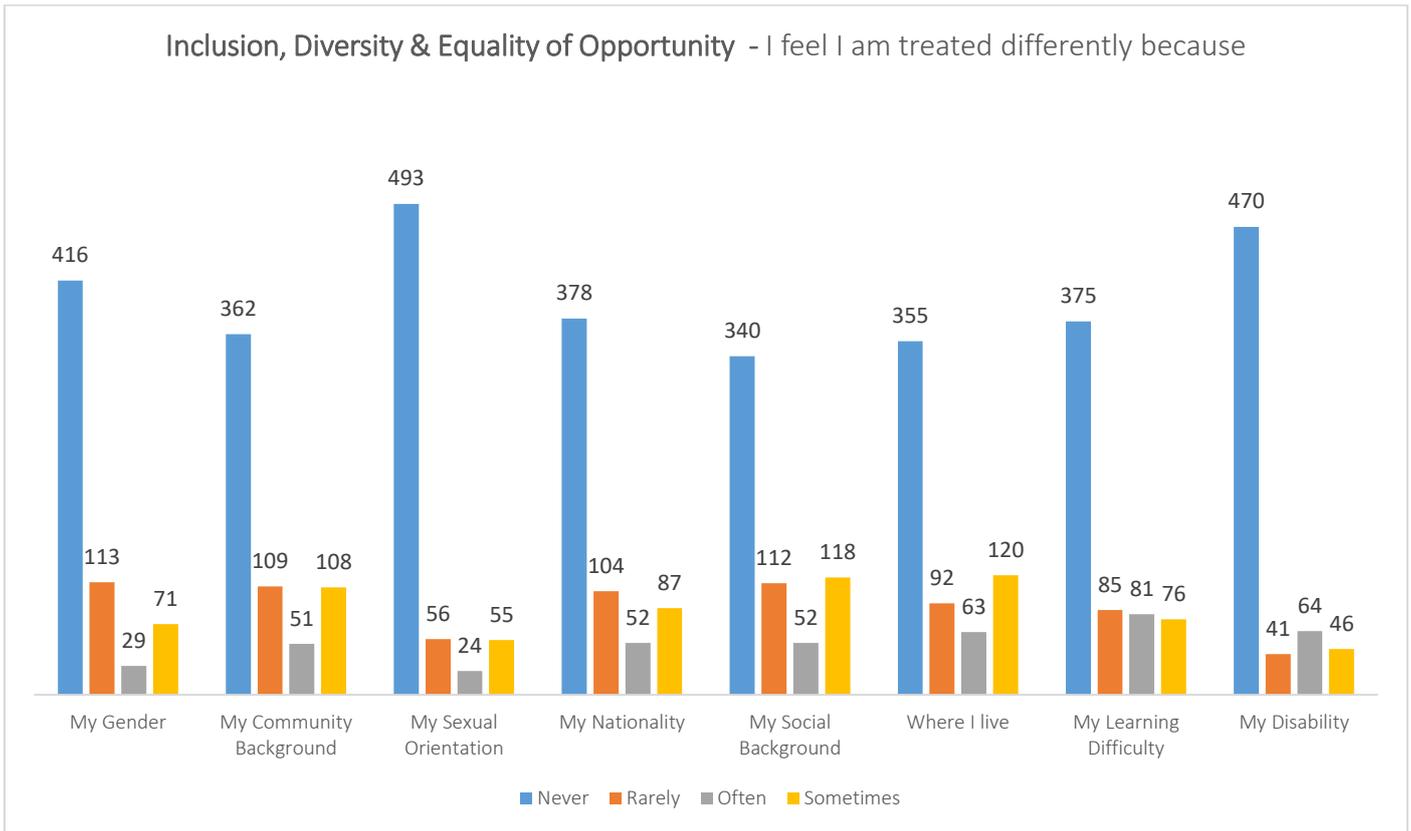


Youth Workers

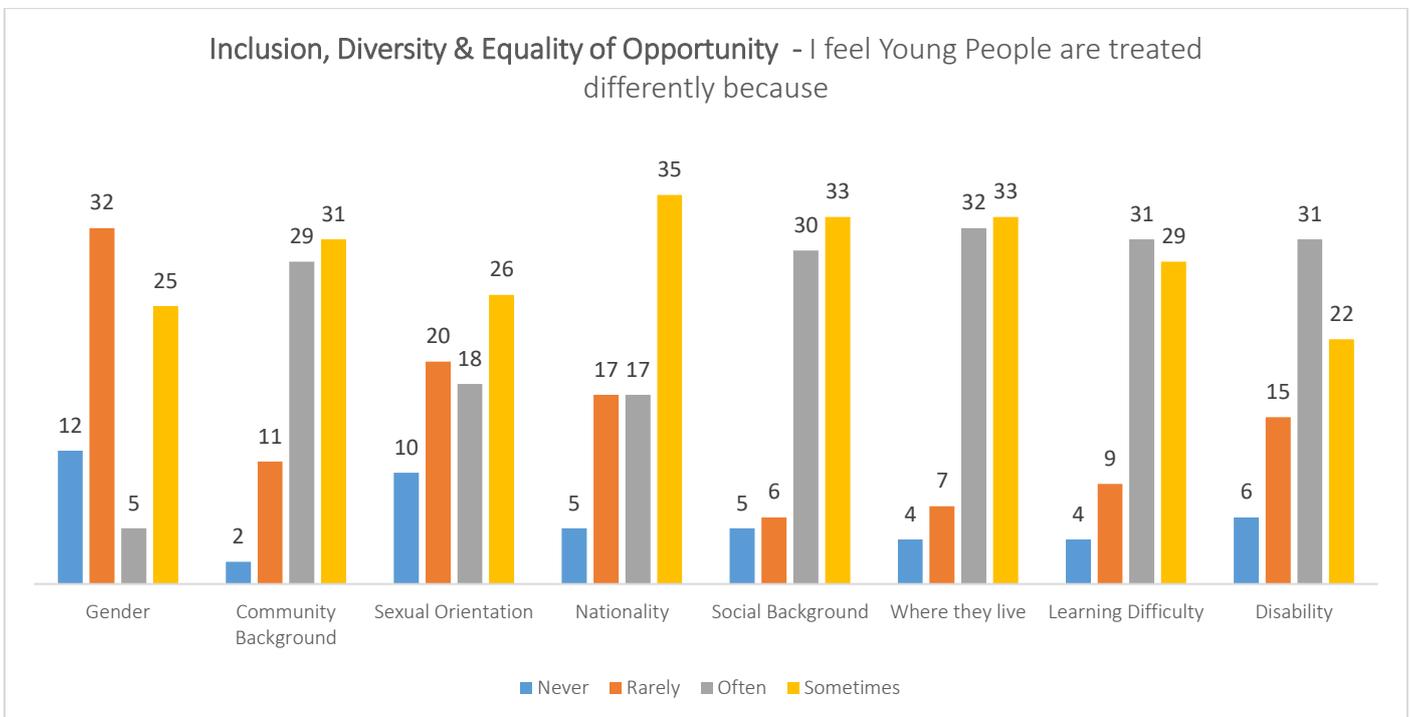
Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity - What opportunities should Youth Services in your area provide so young people can feel more included?



Young People



Youth Workers



Young People's Summary of Narrative Responses

1. Children and young people believed they were not included and felt different for a variety of reasons, including their social and community background, their ethnicity, religion, gender, the language they spoke or the fact that they were a member of a vulnerable group.
2. Some children and young people suggested they were bullied and intimidated because of their appearance and felt they were given limited support to positively express themselves.
3. Other young people believed their poor mental health or having a learning difficulty were barriers to them feeling included.
4. Some suggested that Youth Services should widen the scope and range of inclusion and diversity programmes they deliver.
5. Young carers and other vulnerable children and young people noted that their opportunities to be included were restricted due to their circumstances and the opinions of their peers.

Youth Workers' Summary of Narrative Responses

6. Youth workers and volunteers suggested developing more advanced inclusion and diversity programmes to challenge the increasing issues that young people were experiencing.
7. There was a perception among some youth workers and volunteers that the most vulnerable in society continue to be marginalised.
8. 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.

Key Trends in Derry City and Strabane:

9. Young people felt they have been treated differently because of where they are from and their social background more so than their nationality.
10. Young people felt that Arts, Cultural awareness programmes and outdoor learning would make them feel more included.
11. Those young people who selected other, or prefer not to say as their gender felt they were more likely to have been treated differently because of their gender or the sexual orientation.

Feedback from Local Consultation Events:

12. Training for staff and awareness raising programmes with young people on LGBTQ are needed.
13. Development of bespoke projects that are meaningful and long lasting to engage young people from different backgrounds.
14. Resources and session plans need to be developed to reflect changes in youth culture

Discussion

The EA 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.

However, there are marginalised groups of vulnerable children and young people in our society who experience discrimination and do not have the same levels of opportunity to access education or the

curriculum, 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 homeless young people, young carers, young parents, LGBTQ young people and members of the Travelling Community. 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 centres, language and communication, caring responsibilities and a lack of money.

Almost three quarters of all respondents to the survey (73%) noted that they had the same opportunities in life as others and were treated the same. However, for those not engaged with Youth Services the figure was 70% and for those identifying as gender other the figure was 64%. This highlights that some vulnerable groups believe they do not feel included or have the same opportunities as others. It is interesting to note that only 45% of youth workers and volunteers believed that children and young people in their area had the same opportunities in life and were treated the same as others.

For those children and young people who believed they were not treated the same as others the reasons given were because of where they lived or their social and community backgrounds. Interestingly, youth workers and volunteers identified the same reasons as the young people. 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.

Internal EA research noted that young people from deprived communities and rural areas did not believe they had the same opportunities to participate and achieve in education and participate in Youth Services and consequently this will cause them to have poorer health and education outcomes and worse career prospects than their peers. Participants at a stakeholder engagement event noted that in rural areas there was a lack of facilities and access to services for children and young people to come together and promote inclusion, especially with others from Section 75 groups.

All children and young people have the right to be heard. Negative attitudes, behaviours and stereotypes towards children and young people should be addressed. Specific individuals and groups may encounter systematic, attitudinal and physical barriers to equality because of their personal circumstances or characteristics. This exclusion may result in these vulnerable groups of children and young people feeling isolated and marginalised. Discrimination, prejudiced based bullying and social isolation can impact a young person's educational outcomes and also affect their overall health and wellbeing, loss of self-esteem, lack of motivation and depression and anxiety, leading them to withdraw from mainstream society.

Children and young people reported that in order to address some of their concerns around Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity that they would most like to engage in outdoor learning activities, cultural awareness and diversity programmes and residential or camps. Youth workers and volunteers stated that inclusion programmes, cultural awareness and diversity programmes and residential and camps were the best services to provide so that young people felt included.

Both children and young people and youth workers noted that it was important to work with young people in the design of programmes to meet their needs in this area. It was also noted that children and young people felt safe to explore these issues in a youth work setting.

Living in Safety & Stability

Area of Enquiry 6: Living in Safety and Stability

Key Facts

- There are 3 interface areas in Derry and Strabane.
- 627 Looked After Children were supported by the Western Health and Social Care Trust.
- 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).³³
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,000 young carers in Northern Ireland.
- The most recent figures reveal that there were 31,531 domestic abuse incidences in Northern Ireland.
- The total number of movements within the Juvenile Justice Centre in 2017/18 was 582. (443 in 2016/17).
- In 2017/18 a total of 7,715 days of custody was provided by the Juvenile Justice Centre.
- The total number of individual young people in custody in 2017/18 was 167. (139 in 2016/17)
- In April-June 2019 there were 20,000 NEET young people aged 16-24.
- According the “Derry Violent Crime: Scoping Document”
 - 15-24 year olds are most at risk of being a victim of crime;
 - Males in this age band are almost twice as likely to be a victim compared with females;
 - Offences against the person in the Bogside, Brandywell, Diamond, Strand and Town Centre areas account for close to half of the total
 - The greatest proportion of attendances to A& E in relation to assaults are linked with incidents in public places.
 - Offenders are most often in the 15-24 year old age band
 - Males in this age band are at least twice as likely to be offenders compared with females within this age band;

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. A recent study noted that children and young people thrive in stable and nurturing homes and environments where they know what to expect and feel that their relationships, health and safety are secure.³⁴ 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.³⁵

³³ <https://www.simoncommunity.org/homelessness/knowledge-hub/homelessness-in-ni>

³⁴ <https://ifstudies.org/blog/how-instability-affects-kids>

³⁵ Sanderson, H., & Huerta, S. (2013), The Negative Effects of Instability on Child Development: A Research Synthesis, The Urban Initiative, Washington.

What are the factors that can negatively impact on a young person living safely and securely?

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.³⁶

There are a number of risk factors such as socio-economic, demographic, environmental and cultural influences which can directly impact on a child or young person. 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.

These negative influences on children or young people can have serious consequences for their future life chances. Vulnerable 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. Other consequences include, isolation, being bullied, homelessness, stigmatisation and social exclusion.

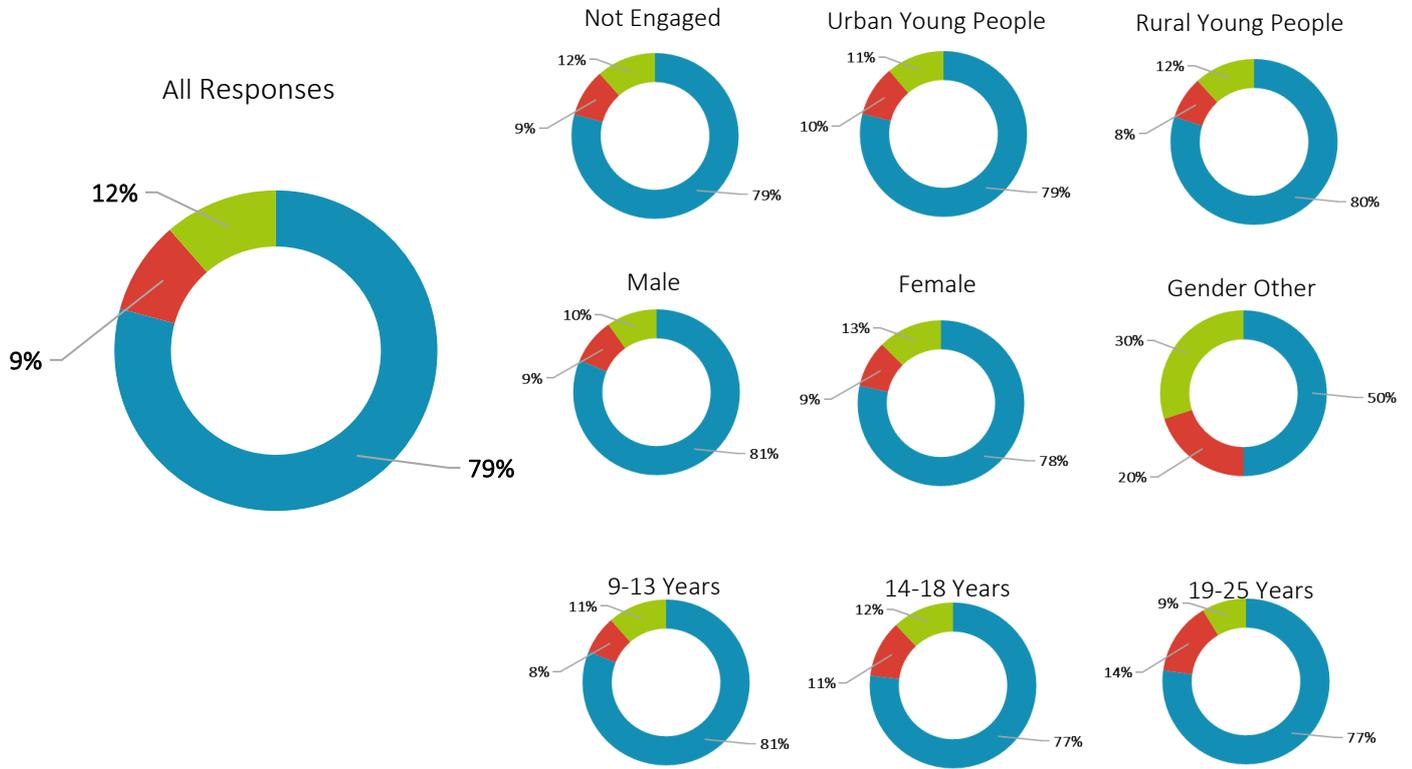
Children and young people from Section 75 groups are those most at risk of not living safely and securely.

³⁶ http://www.urbanchildinstitute.org/sites/all/files/databooks/TUCI_Data_Book_VII_2012.05_family.pdf

Survey Findings – Living in Safety and Stability

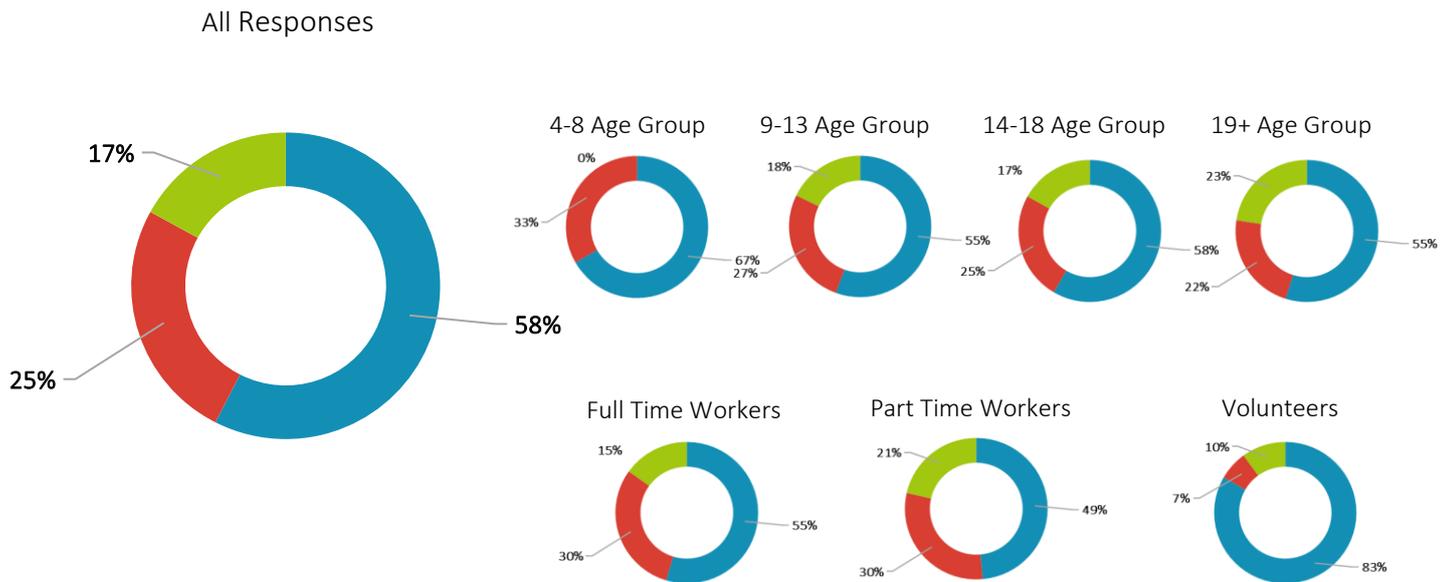
Yes No Don't Know

Young People



Youth Workers

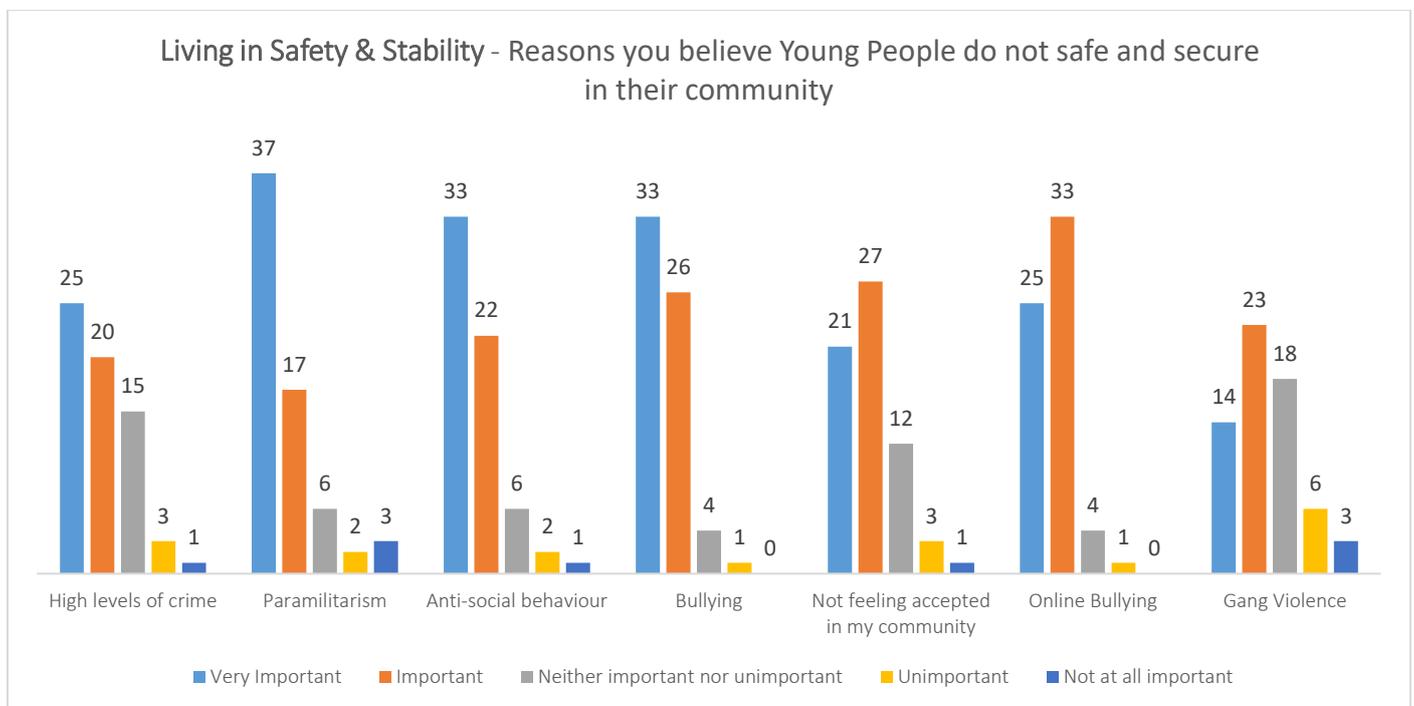
Young People that you work with feel safe in their own community?



Young People



Youth Workers



Young People's Summary of Narrative 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.
- Some 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 mentioned by some children and young people as a growing concern and many were fearful of paramilitary influence on local communities.
- Some children and young people also felt unsafe and afraid of being bullied because of their appearance or background.

Youth Workers' Summary of Narrative 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.
- Police behaviours in certain areas were also reported as issues which need to be addressed.
- 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 vulnerable young people.
- Community tensions and segregation continue to be issues both in rural and urban areas.

Key Trends in Derry City and Strabane:

Anti-community behaviour and bullying are a key concern for young people aged 9-13.

The effects of paramilitary and gang violence is ranked higher for young people in Derry and Strabane than most other parts of Northern Ireland.

Anti-community behaviour is more of a concern for young people in urban settings than rural settings.

Feedback from Local Consultation Events:

- A recent satisfaction survey carried out with young people currently engaged in youth services in Derry and Strabane found that:
 - 94% of respondents agree that if they had a problem that they know that they can speak to a youth worker
 - 100% felt safe in their youth centre
 - 98% felt that they were treated with respect in youth centres.
- Working in partnership has resulted in a service that has ability to respond better to the safety and stability needs of our children and young people.
- Young people want to engage with the emergency services to inform and guide them on how best to work with children and young people.
- Street based and detached youth work is an important methodology for keeping young people safe who don't attend youth services.

Discussion

Where one lives has a direct bearing on one's life chances and outcomes. 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 the most vulnerable children and young people in our society. However, 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.

Of those young people who responded to the survey the majority, (79%), reported that they felt safe in their own community. The only discernible difference being among those who identified as gender other with only 50% feeling safe in their own community and also not feeling accepted in their community. Only 55% of youth workers and volunteers noted that the young people that they worked with felt safe in their own community.

The principle reasons given by young people for not feeling safe were anti-social behaviour, bullying and online bullying and high 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. Children and young people who experience bullying are more likely to miss school or attend a youth centre, feel safe, happy or achieve, be healthy and are less likely to make a positive contribution to their community.

Young people at an 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. Young people discussed the possibility of a multi-agency approach, including the voice of young people, to tackle these issues and the importance of accountability from all stakeholders and partners was stressed. It is also important to note that children and young people reported that youth centres were places where they felt safe.

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.

Paramilitaries are reality for many in Derry City and Strabane District and also a growing threat to children and young people, particularly those from the most deprived communities where paramilitaries exert the greatest control. At a recent engagement event young people recognised the threat posed by paramilitary organisations in their areas. They were able to articulate how children and young people could become

involved. It was also noted that the police were not always welcomed or trusted in some communities. 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.

Another report noted that children and young people who have been exposed to paramilitaries, either as victims or witnesses, have mental health issues, endure feelings of anger and fear, have suicidal thoughts and use alcohol and drugs as coping mechanisms.³⁷ Young people recognised and supported the work of Youth Services in delivering lawfulness programmes to support these vulnerable young people at challenging times in their lives.

³⁷ <https://theconversation.com/paramilitaries-still-cast-shadows-over-lives-of-young-people-in-northern-ireland-106205>

Establishing Areas for Action

Establishing Areas for Action

Youth Work Priorities

Priorities for Youth outlines 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 this assessment of need, regional 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

Youth Services should establish outputs that ensure services delivered meet the assessed needs of children and young people and that allocated resources are based on that need.

Key resources will be allocated to those wards in the top 25% areas of Multiple Deprivation within the Derry and Strabane area to ensure that young people most in need will have increased access to youth provision. There is a need for further youth service development in areas consistently identified as some of the most deprived in Northern Ireland.

Programmes in these areas will focus on targeted interventions, including personal and social development opportunities that aim to address key themes of work, such as risk-taking health behaviours, disaffection and low levels of attainment in school.

Planning and Monitoring

The Planning and Monitoring team support Youth Work through strategic regional and local planning, programme evaluations, monitoring of Youth Work provision and quality assurance. The team is responsible for all aspects of the planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of Youth Service delivery.

The team provide robust information and data that assists planners, managers and those delivering Youth Services, helping improve efficiency and decision making throughout the service. This data and information ensures that decisions are evidence based and that Youth Work staff deliver effective services and resources where they are needed most.

Area of Action: Proportionate Reporting on Youth Service Outcomes

In line with Priorities for Youth, Youth Services should develop 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.

Area of Action: Stakeholder Engagement and Research

Youth Services should 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. This assessment of need has also identified the need for more in-depth 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 should 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 surveys showed that a promotional strategy using a variety of methods is needed to effectively reach 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 six areas of action informed by the areas of enquiry. The outputs that Youth Services will deliver to meet the needs of children and young people under the six areas of action are:

- **Health and Wellbeing.**
- **Learning and Achieving.**
- **Good Relations.**
- **Participation. (with the exception of participative structures for young people).**
- **Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity.**
- **Living in Safety & Stability.**

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:

- LGBTQ Young People.
- 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.

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.

Health and Wellbeing

Drugs and Alcohol Awareness Programmes

Youth Services in Derry and Strabane will develop programmes and activities to raise awareness on the effects drugs and alcohol, and promote positive alternatives.

Mental Health Programmes

Youth Services will deliver the Gimme 5 resource for young people on the five steps to Wellbeing. The Derry and Strabane Youth Work team will continue to deliver health workshops to primary and post primary pupils as part of Mental Health Week throughout the city and district.

Programmes are co-created with young people to ensure that young people are emotionally and physically healthy and resilient to cope with the demands of adolescence and making the transition into adulthood.

Physical Health Programmes

Youth service will make better use of its sports halls and other resources, while developing the capacity of the staff team to deliver quality, fun and interactive physical health programmes.

Gender Specific Programmes

Young men's and young women's are an important space for young people to have discussions and share social time. Many young people feel more confident talking about themselves and the issues they are facing in these safe spaces.

Relationship Programmes

Programmes will address sexual health, appropriate relationships, healthy relationships and encourage young people to develop a sense of belonging.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a particular concern that will be addressed, particularly in view of research findings and raised awareness of the issues associated with Child Sexual Exploitation.

The Area Plan will address this through educational programmes that target specific areas of risk-taking health behavior. Providing 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 achievements of young people living in areas of deprivation.

Flare Programme

The Education Authority Youth Service has developed in partnership with the Public Health Agency (PHA) an innovative support service for young people aged 11-25 experiencing poor mental health.

FLARE operate under a model of Youth Work practice and all staff are qualified Youth Workers with specific training and experience within the mental health and wellbeing landscape. FLARE's mission is to support young people to develop their personal strengths and capabilities towards positive mental wellbeing.

The partnership with the PHA continues to provide essential networking with relevant agencies and the provision of specialist training and staff support service for this team.

The FLARE team offer youth work through a social inclusion model of practice to engage young people with moderate mental health needs or risks. They aim to support young people to build their internal reserves of confidence, resilience and positive aspirations that can provide the best opportunity to promoting mental wellbeing and providing the best foundation for enabling young people to thrive.

Flare Workers will be based in the Derry and Strabane area, delivering youth work practice based support service for young people experiencing mental issues or affected by suicide. The project offers outreach support, out of hours cover and individual mentoring and motivational support.

Learning and Achieving

Youth Services 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.

Youth Work can help young people succeed in education and allow them to continue to participate in learning in a non-formal education setting. Success for many of these vulnerable young people will not be through the traditional formal school system but rather in a Youth Work setting which provides both academic and vocational opportunities which are engaging and challenging and meet the needs of the most vulnerable young people.

School Based Youth Work

Educational Attainment at Key Stages 3 and 4 is improving in Northern Ireland, however there is a tail of underachievement which is prevalent among vulnerable groups, including those with Special Educational Needs, young people from the Travelling Community and pupils entitled to Free School Meals.

The Youth Service “Learning Together Programme” (LTP), delivers both accredited and non-accredited programmes in targeted schools and schools and youth centres where young people can achieve through support from youth services. 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.

Youth Work methodologies will be utilised within LTP as appropriate to re-engage and support young people with education, particularly those who are facing particular barriers to learning, or who could potentially disengage from mainstream education.

Accredited and Non-accredited Programmes

Youth service will develop and deliver accredited and non-accredited training and leadership opportunities to young people in youth centre’s and youth programmes to help them to overcome barriers to learning. The service will provide 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.

International Programmes

The social and personal development of young people is enhanced by opportunities to explore and interact with other cultures, people and places. International work provides this by developing programmes which provide preparation, reflection and learning before the visits occur and allows for the extension of the learning after it has taken place.

Current programmes delivered in Derry and Strabane include the 3Cs (Consider, Communicate, Campaign), GSL (Global Service Learning).

Outdoor Learning

Youth Service will provide opportunities for our children and young people to engage in Outdoor Learning opportunities as part of either their school curriculum, or through youth work programmes, a number of approaches will continue to be developed. A Peripatetic Instructor service is in place to support schools or

youth groups based on assessed need, either at our Day Centres or at schools/clubs. Outdoor Learning Service also supports the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh for all of Education Authority. EA will deliver the John Muir award, an Environmental Award Scheme focused on wild places. The EA offers self-catered/residential accommodation at a number of centres throughout Northern Ireland.

CADi

The Youth Service Creative Arts and Digital Innovation (CADi) team provide quality accredited training for young people in a non-formal learning environment. This new initiative offers a programme for youth trainees to apply their skills within their local communities and support them through signposting to employment opportunities or further and higher education in the creative arts and digital technology industries.

The CADi team currently deliver three key programmes regionally across Northern Ireland, the Camp Rock programme, the CADi Internship programme and the Youth Service Oscars. Each of these programmes provide opportunities for different age groups, serving as pathways for young people into leadership and more intensive programmes.

Good Relations

Changes in the demography of the population of Northern Ireland have resulted in a more diverse school population. Given the numbers of newcomer pupils and Travellers there is clearly a need for work on cultural awareness and diversity, to support young people in relation to Community Relations, equality and diversity, taking account of different faiths, cultures, ethnicities, disabilities and sexual orientations.

Sectarianism remains an issue for young people and the need for interventions is evidenced through the number of recorded hate crimes in the North West. This indicates a need to provide opportunities for young people to build relationships with those of different backgrounds and traditions.

Developing initiatives with young people around Good Relations allows them to develop the skills, attitudes and behaviors that enable them to value and respect difference and engage positively with it. All Statutory Youth Workers will deliver Good Relations programmes.

T:BUC

The Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy reflects the Northern Ireland Executive's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. The strategy outlines how government, community and individuals will work together to build a united community and achieve change against the following key priorities:

- Our Children and Young People
- Our Shared Community,
- Our safe Community
- Our Cultural Expression.

The T: BUC Camps Programme is a headline action within the "Our Children and Young People" priority and the Education Authority Youth Service manages the T:BUC Camps Programme on behalf of The Executive Office.

This role includes the administration of the Planned Intervention Programme. The programme's main outcomes are to improve attitudes between young people from different community backgrounds and to reduce the number of crime and anti-social behaviour incidents carried out by young people in areas where they come from.

Participation

Outreach and Detached Youth Work

Outreach work has the specific aim of encouraging young people to make use of existing provision. Detached work involves contact with young people in the places they choose to congregate. Any resulting future contact may involve staying in such places but is negotiated between the workers and the young people.

The Youth Service aims to engage young people experiencing rural isolation through Outreach and Detached methodologies by Area Workers Youth Workers in Derry City and Strabane District. 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.

Volunteering and Leadership Opportunities

Youth Workers will aim to build capacity in communities to sustain youth provision through the development of youth leaders and young volunteers through training specifically for young people and the coherent training route.

In the satisfaction survey and public meetings to consult on the assessment of need with children and young people late night opening was identified as a top youth service area to address young people's needs.

Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity

All statutory youth work staff will deliver inclusive youth work programmes for young people with support from the regional services including the Senior Youth Workers for Participation and Inclusion.

Rural Youth Work

Rural Youth Forums will be developed to ensure rural representation and all statutory units will have participative structures in place for their members.

Programmes engaging section 75 young people

Participation will continue to be a key priority for the Youth Service Team with resources and support to ensure that Youth Voice models are sustained with a continued focus on broadening the membership to include young people from marginalised backgrounds and from Section 75 groups in order to ensure a broad representation.

School Based Youth Work

As Derry and Strabane is an area with above average numbers 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. Youth Service currently has programmes being delivered in Ardnashee (Derry) Special schools.

T:BUC

Through the T:BUC Camps programme EA will continue to provide a range of opportunities for young people aged 11 to 19 across Northern Ireland to come together to build positive relationships across what have become divided parts of our community.

Participation Team

The Participation Youth Team work collaboratively with Local Youth Teams to provide and facilitate opportunities for young people's voices to be heard at local, sub-regional and regional levels. Young people have opportunities to participate in decision making in Local Voice, influencing programmes and taking forward social action projects in their local areas; Thematic Voice where young people can speak on their community of interest; Youth Voice, which is aligned to district councils where young people can take forward youth agendas in their area and Networked Voice where young people represent youth in policy development.

Inclusion Team

CRED (Community Relations, Equality and Diversity) underpins all Youth Work and ensures that there is a key focus on including all young people in every aspect of Youth Work delivery. The inclusion team supports youth teams by providing bespoke support, resources and direct delivery to ensure that all young people are able to access, learn from and enjoy programmes, events and facilities. The inclusion team work in partnership with a range of providers and facilitators to enhance the specialist support they can offer.

Living in Safety & Stability

START

START is a youth work programme aimed at young people, aged 12 to 25, delivered in communities working with young people vulnerable to paramilitary influence and involvement in organised crime. START is a strength-based approach to building resilience with young people; creating the space to be Youth Leaders and a Youth Service which embodies the values and skills to positively impact local communities. To have confidence in the interventions and enabling relationships which are person centred and modelled; resulting in quality outcomes for our children and young people.

Lawfulness Education

Youth Workers in Derry and Strabane will deliver programmes 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. This will include the delivery of the YVA (Youth Volunteer Acadamey) aims to encourage appreciation of NIAS role and the need to respond to emergencies in partnership with the public and hospital and to increase awareness of Policing and the role it plays in communities.

School Based Youth Work

The SYTES programme (Supporting Youth through Engagement in Schools). Both programmes work collaboratively with key statutory partners to promote lawfulness whilst preventing the radicalisation of young people in our local communities. The programme specifically targets young people at risk of exclusion both from schools and own communities.

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.

Planned Intervention

Youth Workers will seek Planned Intervention funding in order to decrease tension and anti-community behaviour in targeted areas during the summer period. Work will be specifically carried out interface areas, where there is the likelihood of heightened tensions and unrest during the summer.

Anti-Bullying Programmes and Internet Safety

Youth work will continue to design and promote the youth service as a safe space for children and young people. Youth services will deliver anti-bullying and online safety programmes, and awareness training on the needs of children and young people who identify as LGBTQ in response to their not feeling safe in their own community.

Street Based Youth Work

The team would seek to build on the success of the "Our Space" partnership model in Derry city centre which offers an additional service to those that currently exist in the area and is a departure from the traditional youth club setting which is often associated with generalist services and recreation.

"Our Space" is an accessible town centre space for young people that is a safe, engaging, drug and alcohol free environment and is the first of its kind in the North West. It acts as both a place where young people can meet and a place that promotes the ethos of participation, acceptance and understanding of others and

the testing of values and beliefs. “Priorities for Youth” outlines the need to “prioritise access to and longer opening hours for centres or units working within areas of disadvantage and on or near interface areas.” The drop-in facility targets young people aged 14-17, engaging them in a range of developmental programmes. The late night and weekend drop-in is complimented by youth work programmes throughout the week that aim to engage young people in developmental work that contributes to their personal and social development and educational outcomes.

Developing the Non-Formal Education Workforce

Area of Action: Workforce Development

Youth Services should ensure 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.

Workforce Development Strategy

A key output within the Regional Youth Development Plan is a Workforce Development Strategy (WFDS) for full-time EA staff, part-time staff and volunteers. This Strategy forms the basis of Continued Professional Development (CPD) for the Statutory Youth Sector.

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.

Local Advisory Group

A Local Advisory Group (LAG) will be facilitated by Youth Services in the Derry and Strabane 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. To support and empower young people in this process a Youth Advocacy Group (YAP) has been established in is facilitated by a senior Youth Worker.

Local Voice

Other participative structures will be maintained and developed including the North West Ministry for Youth

(NWMFY), this Local Voice will be part of a network of led local structures that are recognised as providing a voice for young people and are valued by both young people and policy and decision makers. The NWMFY's mission is to access and represent the views of local young people on issues of relevance to them, with the intention of influencing and effecting change for the benefit of all young people.

Stakeholder Engagement Events

in response to the Regional Advisory Group and the Regional Youth Development plan the LAG for Derry City and Strabane District will deliver engagement events based on the needs of children and young people.

Small Grants Scheme

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.

The Small Grants Programme is open to groups of young people aged 4 through to 25 who are part of an Education Authority Youth Service (EA-YS) registered / funded group, and grants of £300 - £1500 are available.

Area of Action: Development & Maintenance of EA Youth Estate

The modernisation and maintenance of all EA youth centres will be progressed to provide a safe, suitable environment for the delivery of youth services. Health and Safety Audits will be carried out on all sites and identified issues addressed.

Area of Action: Digital Transformation of Youth Service

All youth centres will provide a WiFi connection that young people can use free of charge. A corporate network in all centres will allow staff to access EA systems and retrieve current information on all policies, procedures and communications. The network will also allow workers to report on their work and communicate effectively with others inside and outside of the organisation. 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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