



Lisburn and Castlereagh

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 Lisburn and Castlereagh 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; area based projects, outdoor learning centres; schools; outreach and detached and specialist programmes, particularly focussed on improving outcomes for children and young people and enhancing their inclusion and participation.

Youth Services in Lisburn and Castlereagh are constantly 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. Local planning, therefore, is part of a coherent planning framework established within EA Youth Services.

Purpose

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

This assessment of need will therefore assist the EA Youth Service to identify needs, determine priorities, allocate resources and make organisational decisions and improvements. As the first phase of the planning process, it will involve collecting information about the Lisburn and Castlereagh area, children and young people, decide what needs are being met, 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 Lisburn and Castlereagh 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. Lisburn and Castlereagh 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 Local 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 Lisburn and Castlereagh.

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

Desktop research was also used to gather and sources were generally from government departments or other statutory agencies. The information collected from these sources helped identify key priority areas of need within Lisburn and Castlereagh. 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 662 young people in Lisburn and Castlereagh responded to the survey. Children and young people from a range of statutory and voluntary youth groups involved in DE funded youth work participated (63%). Children and young people not currently involved in Youth Services were also canvassed (37%).

44% of respondents were male, 54% female, 1% identified as ‘other’ and 1% ‘preferred not to say’.

36% of respondents described their home as being in a rural location.

A similar survey based on the same areas of enquiry was designed and distributed to youth workers and volunteers. There were 42 respondents to this survey. Youth workers and volunteers from a range of statutory and voluntary youth groups involved in DE funded youth work in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area took part in the survey. The survey responses were analysed and helped inform the Assessment of Need.

Stakeholder Engagement Events

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

- The Needs of Rural Young People.
- Supporting Children and Young People’s Learning.
- 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 in these events.

The findings from these stakeholder events have also been used to inform the Assessment of Need.

Public Stakeholder Consultations

A public stakeholder consultation event was held on Tuesday 7 January 2020 at Laurelhill Youth Centre. The initial findings of the local assessment of need were shared and discussed and participants were invited to contribute to the findings along with identifying any gaps in needs identified.

Local Advisory Group

The Lisburn and Castlereagh Local Advisory Group were also consulted on the Local Assessment of Need for the Lisburn and Castlereagh area. Key stakeholders from across the statutory and voluntary sector had the opportunity to contribute to the findings of the six key areas of enquiry along with identifying any potential gaps in the Local Assessment of Need.

Lisburn & Castlereagh in Numbers

Lisburn & Castlereagh in Numbers

- 44,836 children and young people live in Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- 1,928 (4.3%) live in an area of deprivation.
- 13,316 (29.7%) live in a rural community.
- One in five young people have a mental health need. (8,967 young people).
- 799 young people identify as LGBTQ. (14-25).
- 7,296 are engaged in youth work.
- 4,876 (22.6%) of all pupils in Lisburn and Castlereagh are eligible for Free School Meals.
- 5,284 (24.3%) of all pupils have a Special Educational Need or a Disability.
- 812 Newcomers attend schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- 17 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- 9 Roma children and young people attend schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh.

Demographics

The estimated population for Lisburn and Castlereagh District Council for 2019 is 145,116 of which 71,373 (49.2%) are male and 73,743 (50.8%) are female. Less than one third of the total population of Lisburn and Castlereagh, 44,787 (30.9%) 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
7,000	9,347	9,366	8,178	10,896

Chart 1 – Projected Population 2020-2029

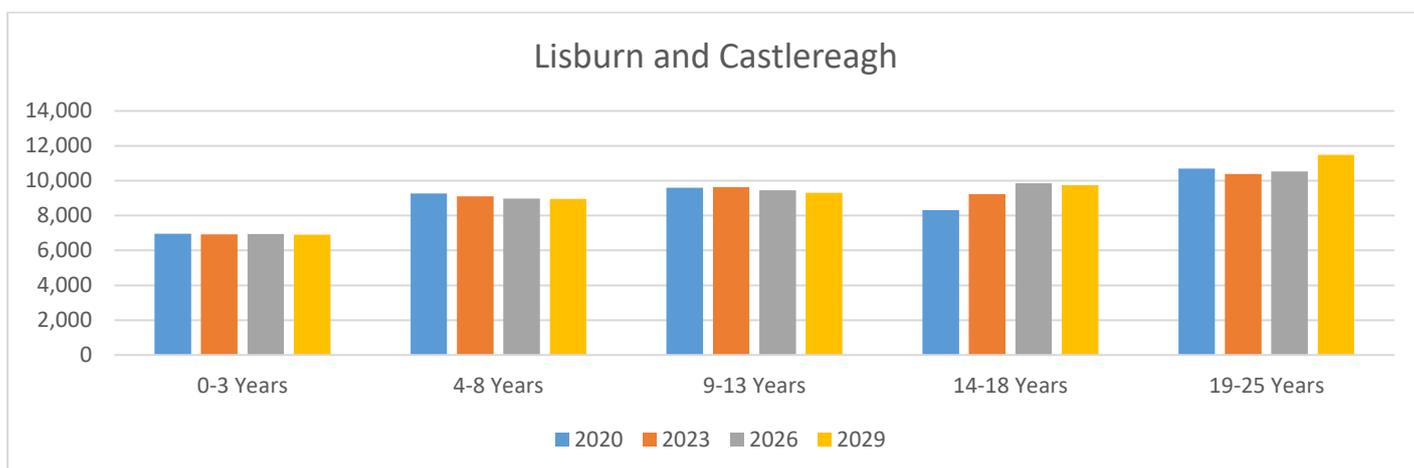


Table 2 – Projected Population 2020-2029

Age Groups	2020	2023	2026	2029
0-3 Years	6,957	6,929	6,936	6,912
4-8 Years	9,262	9,099	8,974	8,956
9-13 Years	9,600	9,633	9,445	9,294
14-18 Years	8,322	9,224	9,845	9,740
19-25 Years	10,695	10,383	10,535	11,482

According to figures released by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) in 2017, 4.3% of children and young people from Lisburn and Castlereagh live in the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas within Northern Ireland. Currently, this equates to approximately 1,900 young people living in areas of and experiencing high levels of multiple deprivation.

NISRA also reported in 2017 that 29.7% of young people from Lisburn and Castlereagh live in what has been designated as a rural area. Currently, this equates to approximately 13,300 young people living in a rural community.

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:

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

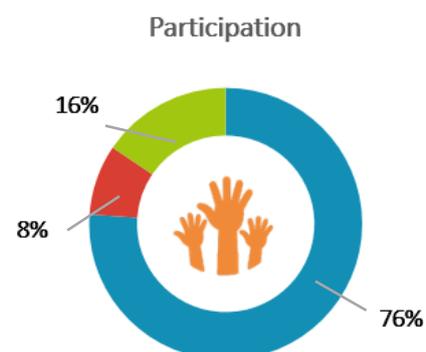
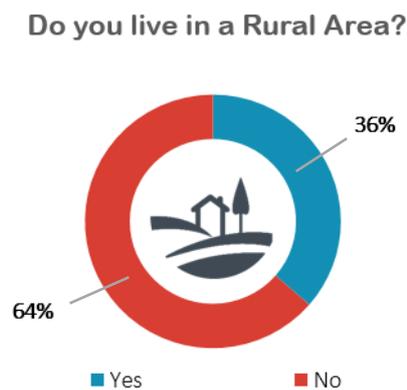
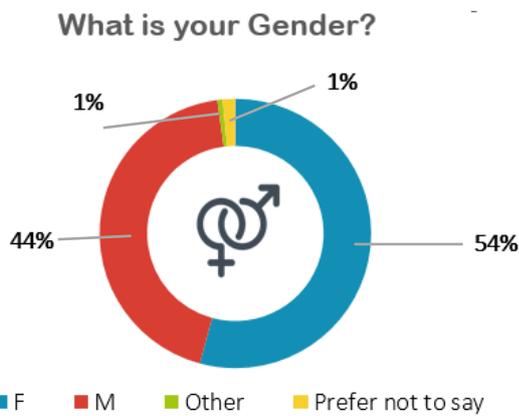
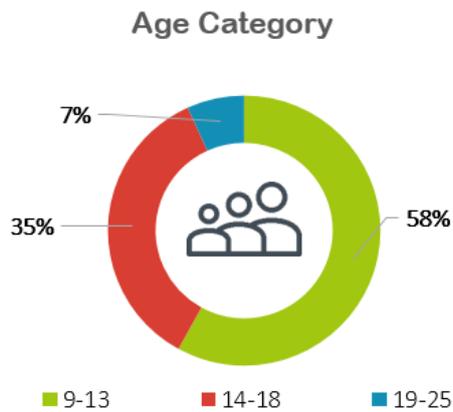
The Lisburn and Castlereagh area consists of 67 Super Output Areas.

- 0 Super Output Area are ranked in the top 100 most deprived in terms of multiple deprivation.
- 1 Super Output Area is ranked in the top 100 most deprived in terms Income Deprivation Affecting Children.
- In 2012/13-2014/15, 11.6% of the population were in relative poverty (before housing costs) in Lisburn and Castlereagh, compared with 20.4% in Northern Ireland.
- In 2012/13-2014/15, 9.8% of children were in relative poverty (before housing costs) in Lisburn and Castlereagh, compared with 23.0% in Northern Ireland.

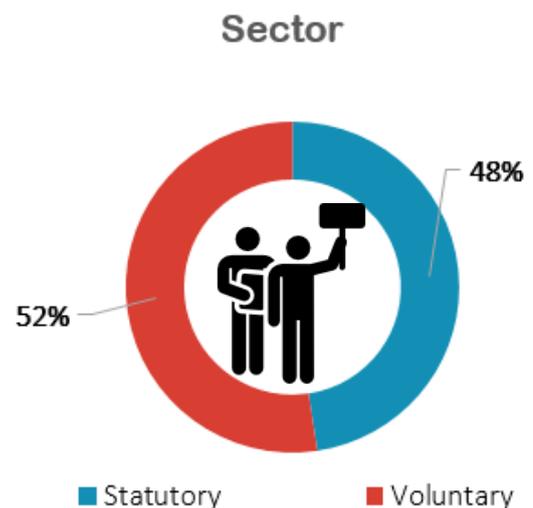
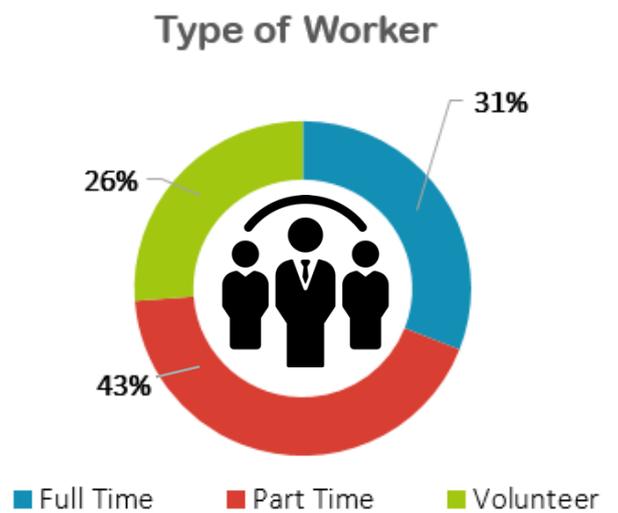
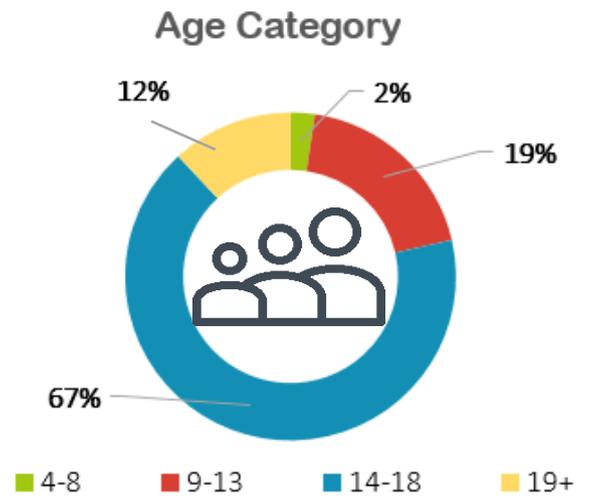
Survey Headlines

Survey of Need - Who Responded

Young People

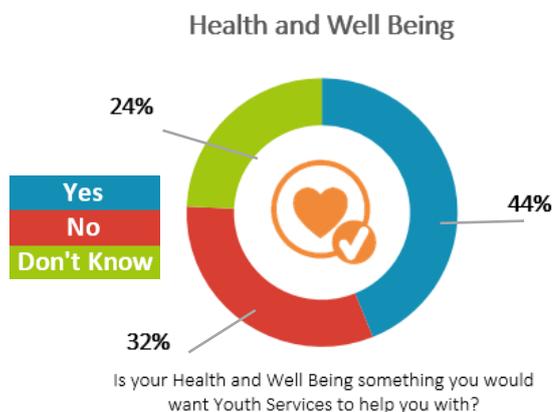


Youth Workers

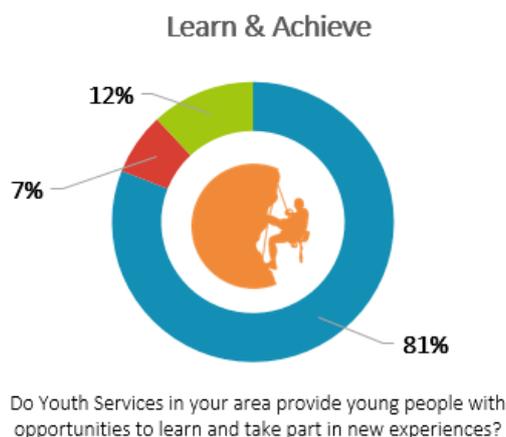
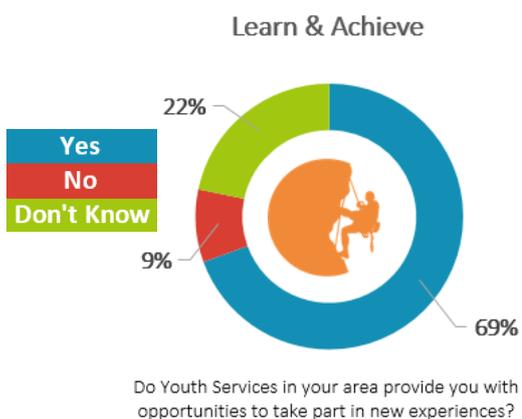
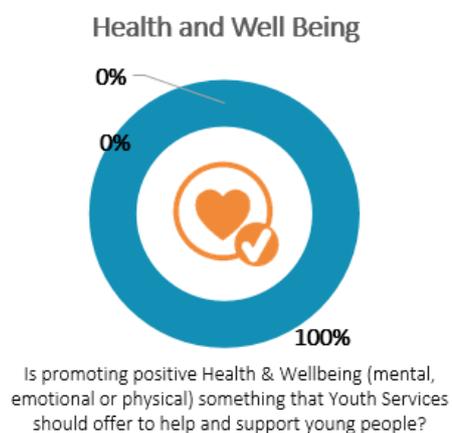


Survey of Need – Headline Findings

Young People

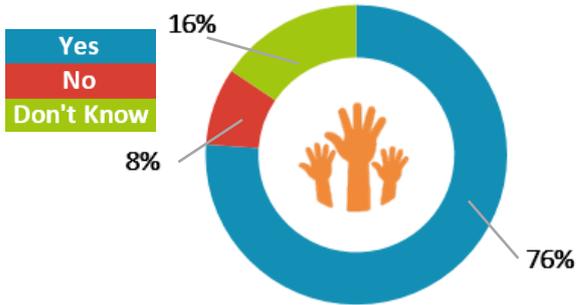


Youth Workers



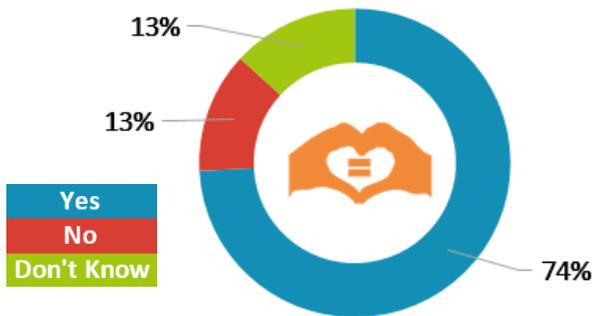
Young People

Participation



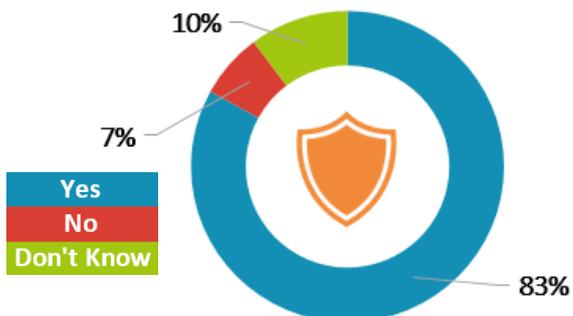
Do you have opportunity to take part in Youth Services in your Area?

Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity



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

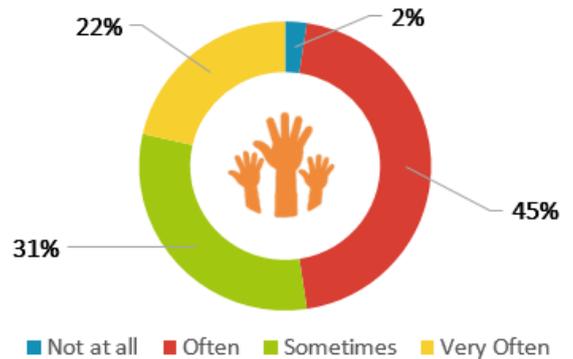
Living in Safety & Stability



I feel safe in my own community?

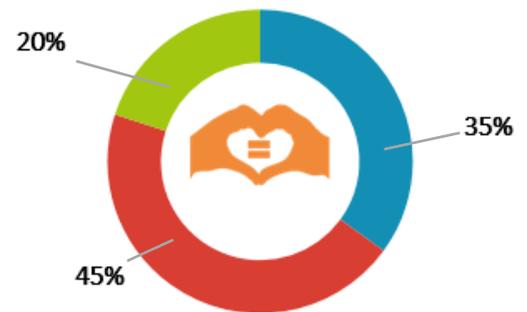
Youth Workers

Participation



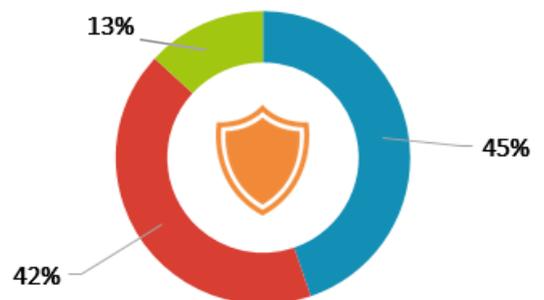
Please rate how often young people in your area have opportunities to participate in Youth Services

Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity



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

Living in Safety & Stability



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

Health & Wellbeing

Area of Enquiry 1: Health and Wellbeing

Key Facts

- Male life expectancy in Lisburn and Castlereagh is 79.8 years. In the most deprived areas it is 75.4 years.
- Female life expectancy in Lisburn and Castlereagh is 83.4 years. In the most deprived areas it is 80.6 years.
- The standardised incidence rate for cancer in Lisburn and Castlereagh is 557 per 100,000 population. In the most deprived areas it is 598 per 100,000 population.
- The standardised admission rate for self-harm in Lisburn and Castlereagh is 117 per 100,000 population. In the most deprived areas it is 205 per 100,000 population.
- The crude suicide rate in Northern Ireland is 12.2 per 100,000 population. In the most deprived areas it is 23.5 per 100,000 population.
- The standardised admission rate for drug related issues in Lisburn and Castlereagh is 148 per 100,000 population. In the most deprived areas it is 271 per 100,000 population.
- The standardised admission rate for alcohol related issues in Lisburn and Castlereagh is 505 per 100,000 population. In the most deprived areas it is 1,058 per 100,000 population.
- The teenage birth rate for Lisburn and Castlereagh is 6.7 per 1,000 population. In the most deprived areas it is 14 per population.
- The proportion of Primary 1 pupils identified as obese or overweight is 20%. In the most deprived areas it is 25%.
- The proportion of Year 8 pupils identified as obese or overweight is 22%. In the most deprived areas it is 27%.
- The standardised prescription rate for Mood and Anxiety in Lisburn and Castlereagh is 192 per 1,000 population. In the most deprived areas it is 267 per 1,000 population.
- In 2017, 34.7% of children aged 0-2 years in Lisburn and Castlereagh were registered with a dentist.
- In 2017, 78.4% of children aged 3-5 years in Lisburn and Castlereagh were registered with a dentist.

Why is this measure important?

The promotion of health and wellbeing and maintaining a healthy population is the basic goal of any society. 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.³ 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.

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

In general, health outcomes in Northern Ireland continue to improve thanks to advancements in medical science, improved social and economic conditions and investment in the healthcare system. However, there

³ <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/healthy-living/the-mental-health-benefits-of-exercise.htm>

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.⁴

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.⁵

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.⁶ Within Lisburn Castlereagh significant numbers of children and young people fall into these groups. Poor health outcomes are also linked to poor educational outcomes.

⁴ https://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/

⁵ www.ucl.ac.uk/marmotreview

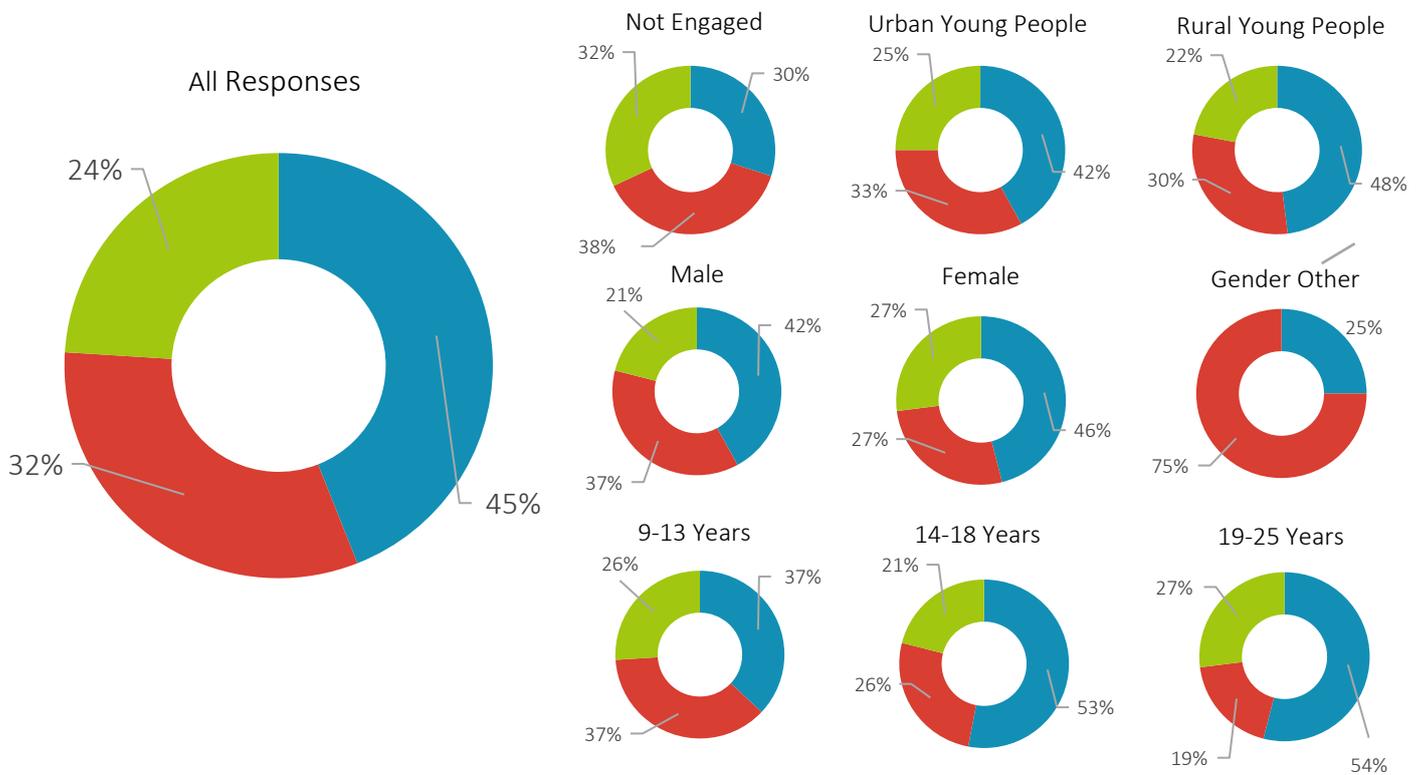
⁶ The Association of Young People's Health, 2019, Key Data on Young People 2019, AYPH, London.

Survey Findings – Health and Well Being

■ Yes
 ■ No
 ■ Don't Know

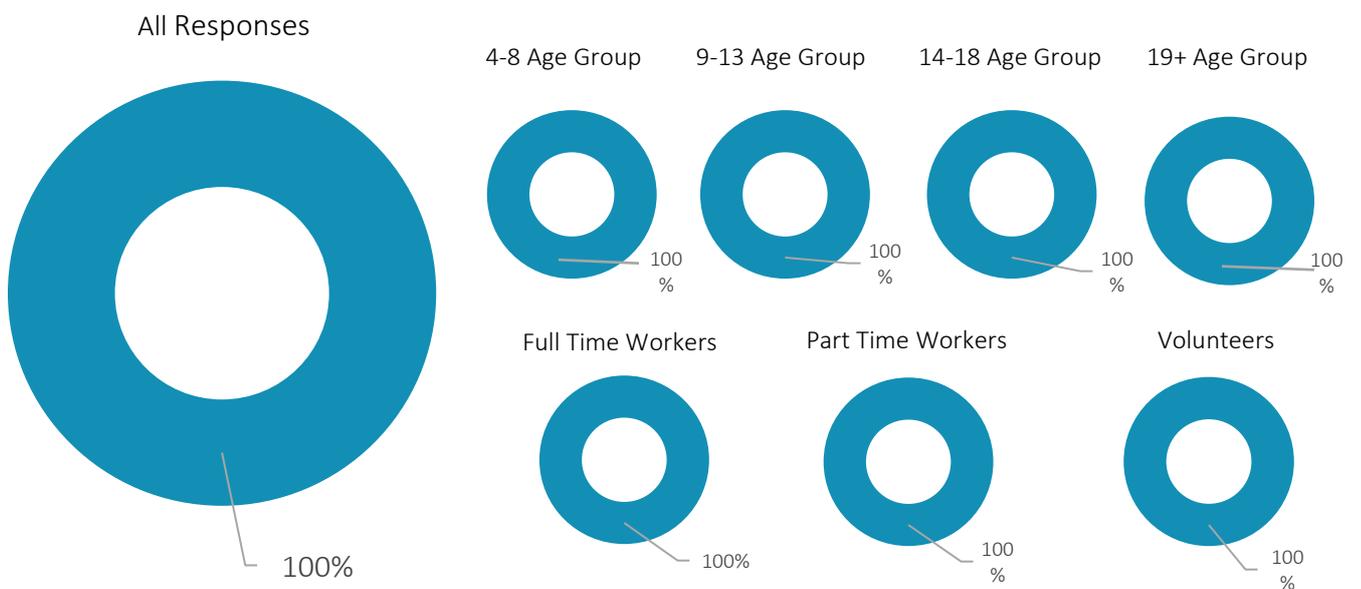
Young People

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



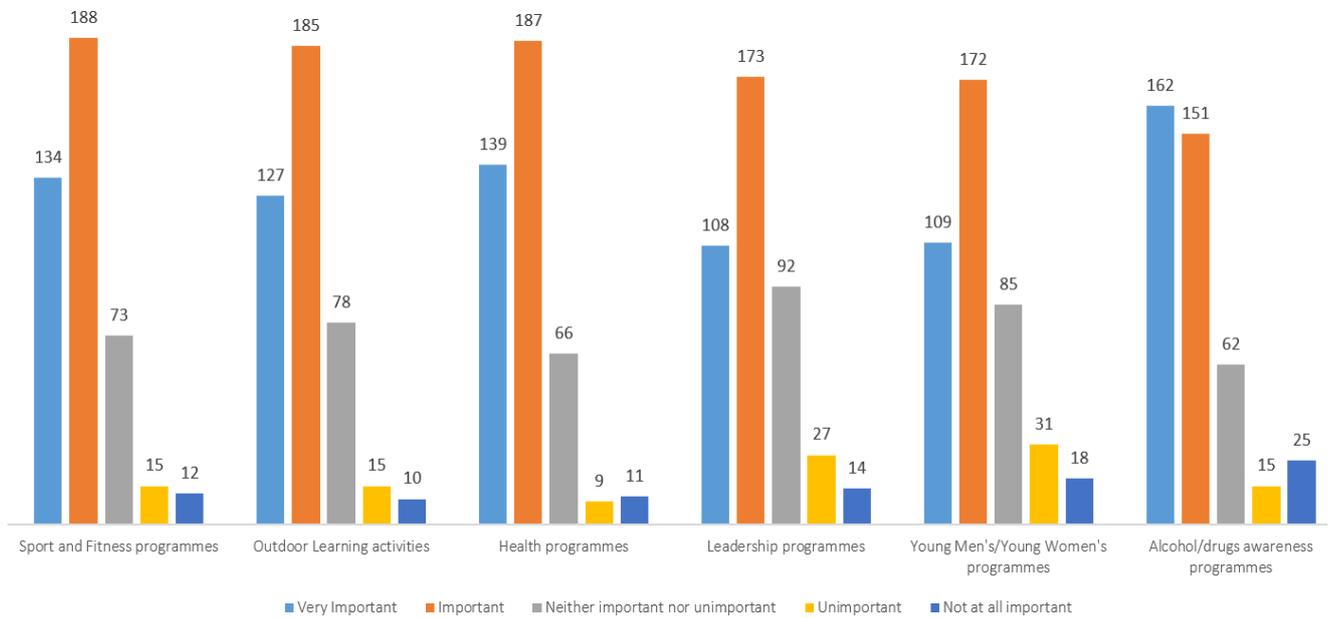
Youth Workers

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



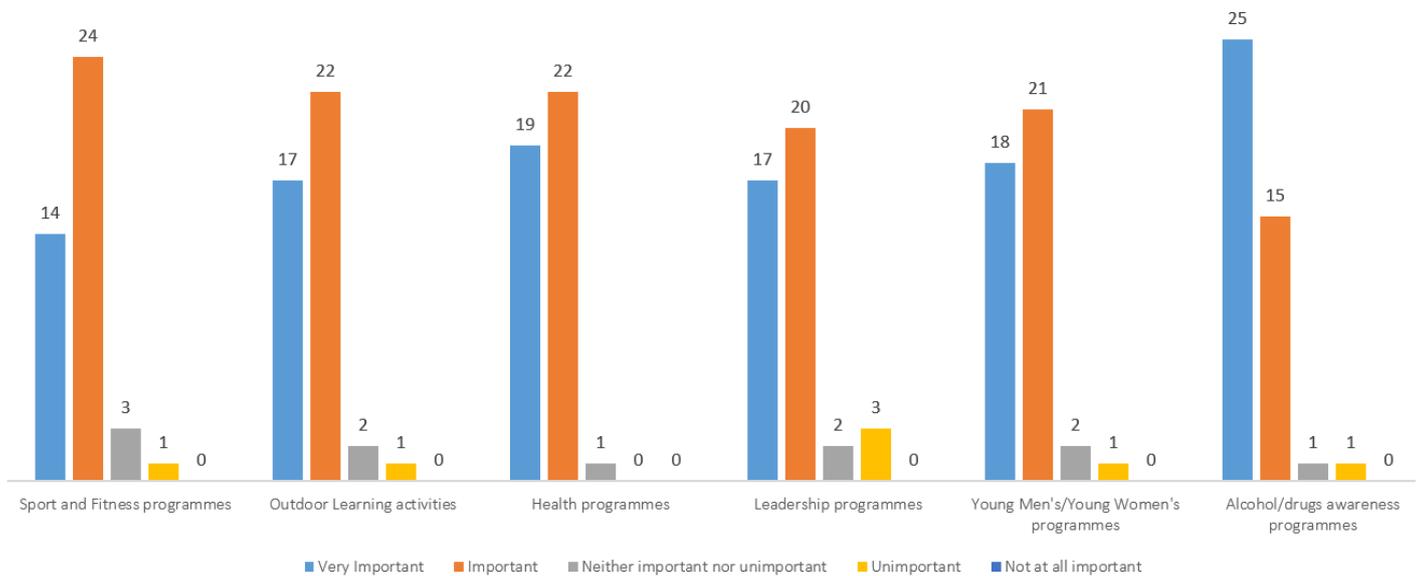
Young People

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



Youth Workers

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



Public Consultation Summary of Responses

- Youth Services should support young people on mental health issues through education to help break the stigma of mental ill health and provide 'mental health days' to provide young people with activities to de-stress
- Provide an area for young people to exercise within Lisburn that is easily accessible
- Advertise leadership/peer mentoring programmes in schools
- Provide more facilities/safe spaces for young people to go
- Deliver joint gender based programme to raise awareness of issues for all young people

Local Advisory Group Consultation Summary of Responses

- Projects that focus on young men and mental health in rural areas is needed rather than just sports programmes
- Specific programmes that address poor mental health are needed
- More resources for outdoor learning to make it more accessible
- Better links between youth services and community health teams including early intervention programmes in schools
- Issues with young people and drug use in Lisburn needs to be looked at

Discussion

Increasingly the health and wellbeing outcomes of children and young people in Northern Ireland need to be considered in its broadest sense, emphasising mental and social health, as well as physical aspects of health. It has been well documented that young people living in areas of deprivation are more likely to endure health deprivation, disability or have a mental health issue. Vulnerable young people are also more likely to be absent from school which will negatively impact on their education and attainment.

Of the 44,836 children and young people that live in Lisburn and Castlereagh, 1,928 (4.3%) live in an area of deprivation. Whilst this statistic appears relatively low, 4,876 (22.6%) of all pupils in Lisburn and Castlereagh are eligible for Free School Meals. This would therefore indicate a level of poverty that is not recorded in terms of areas of deprivation as families may be privately renting in more affluent areas or in communities outside of the top 50% Super Output Areas.

Local knowledge and information from other sources is therefore key to be able to identify these young people who are living in relative poverty but not in identified communities.

There are 67 Super Output areas in Lisburn and Castlereagh. One Super Output Area is within the top 20% (Old Warren) and 10 Super Output Areas are within the top 50%; Hilden 1, Hilden 2, Hilhall 1, Ballymacoss 1, Enler, Grahams Bridge, Lagan Valley, Lambeg 2, Seymour Hill and Tonagh.

Of the 44,836 children and young people that live in Lisburn and Castlereagh, 13,316 (29.7%) live in a rural community. Across SOA's, nine have been identified within the top 20% in terms of deprivation due to access to services. These are; Glenavy 2, Maze 2, Ballymacbrennan 2, Ballinderry 1, Dromara 2, Ballymacbrennan 1, Drumbo 2, Maghaberry 2, and Moneyrea 1.

Feedback directly from children and young people participating at a series of stakeholder engagement events hosted by EA Youth Service recognised that the issues affecting the health and wellbeing of young people were complex and multi-faceted. It is therefore surprising that less than half of all respondents to the Youth Service survey (44%) stated that they would want Youth Services to help them with their health and

wellbeing. Just under a third of respondents (32%) did not want the youth service to help with this aspect of their lives and just under a quarter (24%) didn't know if the youth service could support them in this area.

The survey revealed that more young people in the older age bands (14-18/19-25) identified that Youth Services could support their health and wellbeing compared to the 9-13 age range. For example 37% of 9-13's stated this was something Youth Services could help them with compared to 53% of 14-18 year olds and 54% of 19-25 year olds. All youth workers and volunteers (100%) suggested that Youth Services should be promoting positive health and wellbeing to support young people.

When asked what type of programmes or activities the Youth Service should be offering to help young people with their health and wellbeing the top 3 answers were; health programmes, sports and fitness programmes and alcohol and drugs programmes.

These responses were similar across the three age bands however the 9-13's and 19-25's also identified outdoor learning as a priority and the 19-25's also identified gender based programmes as either important or very important.

Across both urban and rural responses the top three answers were similar with outdoor learning and sports and fitness appearing in both. Urban young people however also identified alcohol and drugs programmes within their top three answers whilst rural young people also identifying health and wellbeing programmes.

Youth workers top three recommendations were similar to those of young people with alcohol and drugs programmes and health programmes featuring within the top three answers however youth workers also identified gender based programmes being offered to provide support to young people.

According to the Health Foundations recent report "A Healthy Foundation for the Future" the stresses young people experience in their social environment are complex⁷. Persistent stress places a greater burden of wear and tear on the body termed "allostatic load." Socioeconomic disadvantage in adolescence and early adulthood has been associated with higher allostatic load which has been associated with multiple chronic disease outcomes.

In the Health Foundation Report young people felt insecure in matters relating to housing, employment and education which produced a life marked by uncertainty resulting in them finding it hard to think ahead and envision a time when they could flourish. The report identifies 4 key assets that act like building blocks to enable young people to effectively transition to adulthood. They are appropriate skills and qualifications, personal connections, financial and practical support and emotional support. They categorise young people into 4 distinct groups as they navigate this transition - those that start ahead and stay ahead, those that believe it's not what you know it's who you know, those that get better with a bit of help and those who are struggling without a safety net.

Providing emotional support and a listening ear gives young people a chance to be open and express their goals in life a task many youth workers often perform for the young people in their care.

A consultation report commissioned by Early Intervention Lisburn (Aug 2018)¹⁰ on 'What Matters to Young People Growing up in Lisburn' identified that 'bullying and drugs' were the top issues for young people in

⁷ Health Foundation Report

Lisburn⁸. Over half of the respondents (57%) identified 'bullying' as a major concern linked with social media which is having a clear impact on young people's mental health. 31% of respondents questioned rated suicide as a concern for young people in Lisburn. Young people also identified concern regarding alcohol and drugs and in particular the accessibility of drugs for young people.

At a recent stakeholder engagement event key stakeholders and young people recognised that the causes of health and wellbeing issues for children and young people are complex and health and wellbeing remains a priority issue for young people. The Youth Service has an important role to play in supporting young people. The causes identified affecting young people's health and wellbeing included; peer pressure, social media and external factors e.g. school, family, community.

Recommendations as to the role Youth Services could have in supporting young people in the area of health and wellbeing included; through peer support programmes, school based interventions, outreach and detached work; by providing safe spaces for young people particularly in the evenings and at weekends, through stronger links with leisure centres to provide opportunities for young people to access fitness facilities and by providing residential and/or international experiences.

Health and wellbeing remaining a priority area for Youth Services was also reaffirmed at another Stakeholder Event in June 2019. Stakeholders identified that particular support is needed for young people in relation to drugs, alcohol, smoking and vaping and with other addictions.

The provision of 'quiet spaces' and 'safe spaces' for young people within Youth Services was also recommended to support young people with mental health issues or a number of other issues.

The links between health and deprivation are well documented. The most common mental health problem affecting children and young people is severe and persistent behavioural problems.⁹ Children and young people from low-income families are four times more likely to experience mental health issues than those from higher income families.¹⁰ Young people from the LGBTQ community are also more likely to have suicidal thoughts and are three times more likely to have made a suicide attempt at some point.¹¹ 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.¹² 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.

⁸ Early Intervention Lisburn Report

⁹ Green, H. et al. (2005) The mental health of children and young people in Great Britain 2004, Basingstoke, Palgrave.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Statham, H., Jaclva, V. & Daly, I. (2012), The School Report: The experiences of gay young people in Britain's schools in 2012, London, Stonewall.

¹² https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-09/CentreforMentalHealth_ChildrenYoungPeople_Factsheet.pdf

Learn & Achieve

Area of Enquiry 2: Learn & Achieve

Key Facts

- In 2017/2018, 88.5% of year 12 pupils from Lisburn and Castlereagh achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent.
- In 2017/2018, 63.9% of year 12 pupils from Lisburn and Castlereagh achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent including English and Maths.
- 5,284 pupils (24.3%) in Lisburn and Castlereagh have a Special Educational Need.
- 4,876 pupils (22.6%) in Lisburn and Castlereagh are eligible for Free School Meals.
- 5,979 (27.5%) pupils attend schools in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area that have been designated as rural.
- 812 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area.
- Whilst there are no specific numbers for Lisburn and Castlereagh, the most recent figures reveal that 498 Looked After Children were supported by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust. Some of these children and young people live and attend schools in the Lisburn and Castlereagh.

Why is this measure important?

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

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

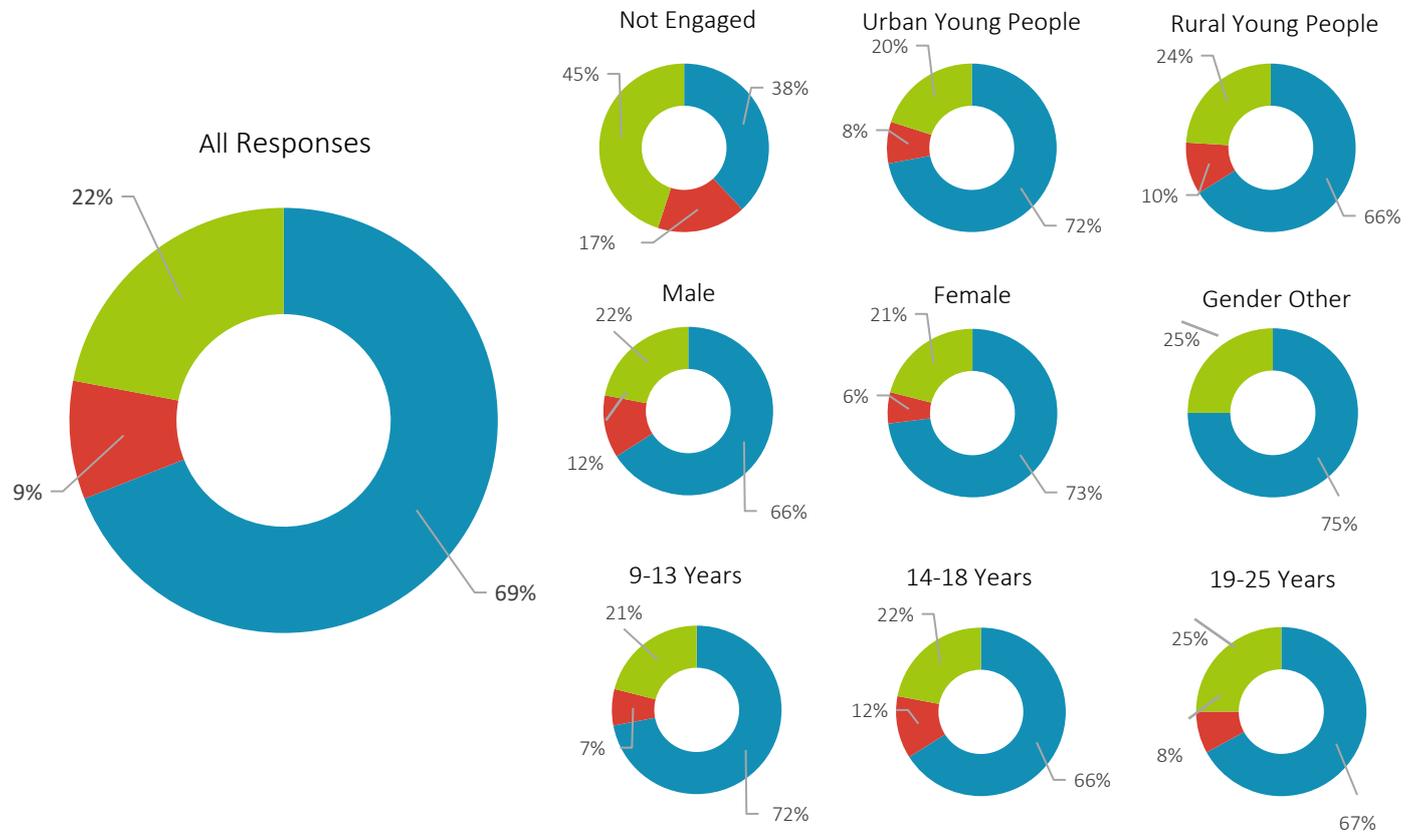
Educational attainment in Northern Ireland has increased among all children and young people over the last number of years, however, there remains a tail of underachievement which is prevalent among vulnerable groups, including those living in deprived areas, having a Special Educational Need or disability, 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.

Survey Findings – Learn & Achieve

Yes No Don't Know

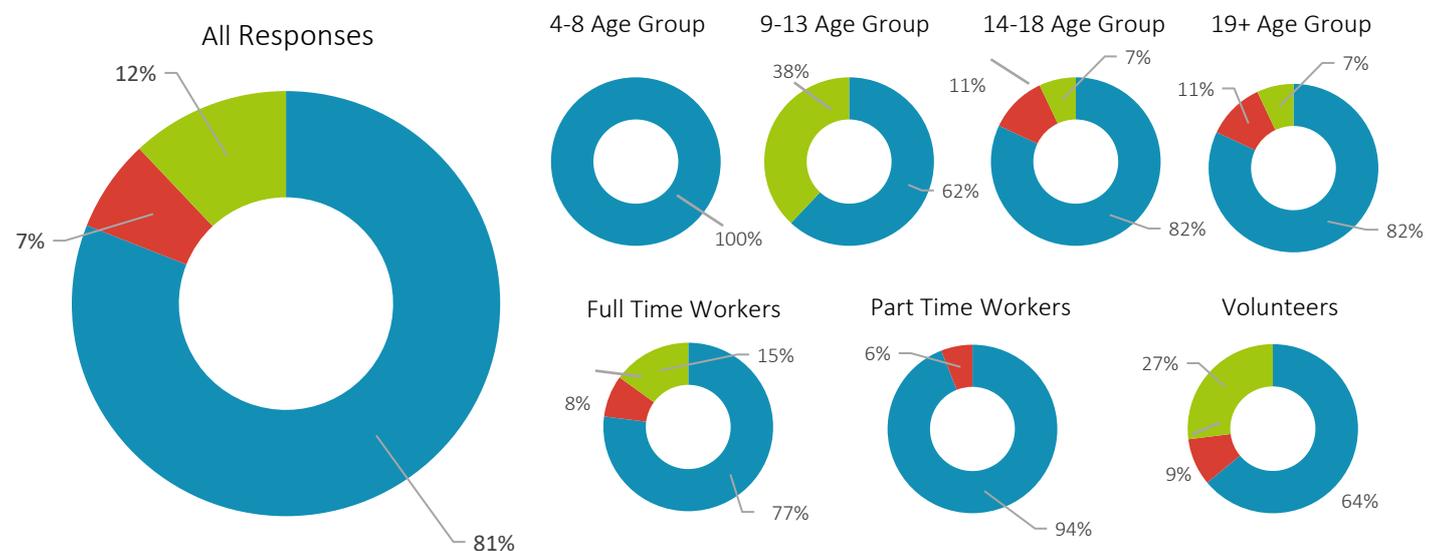
Young People

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



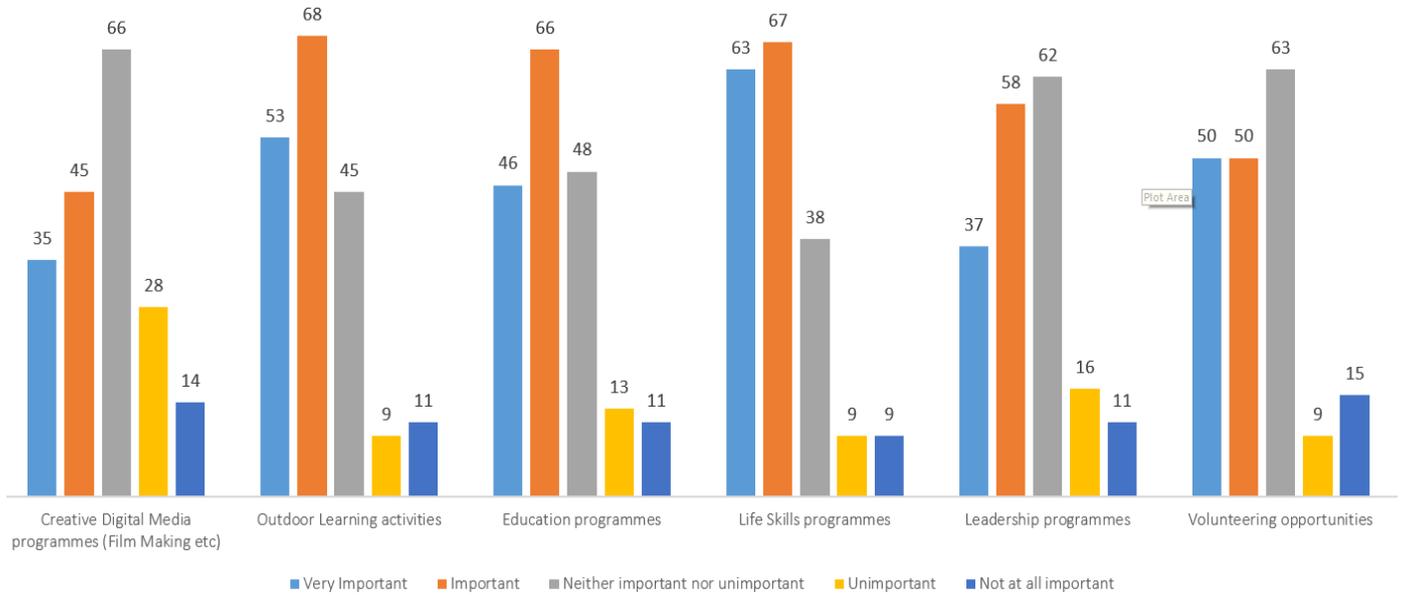
Youth Workers

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



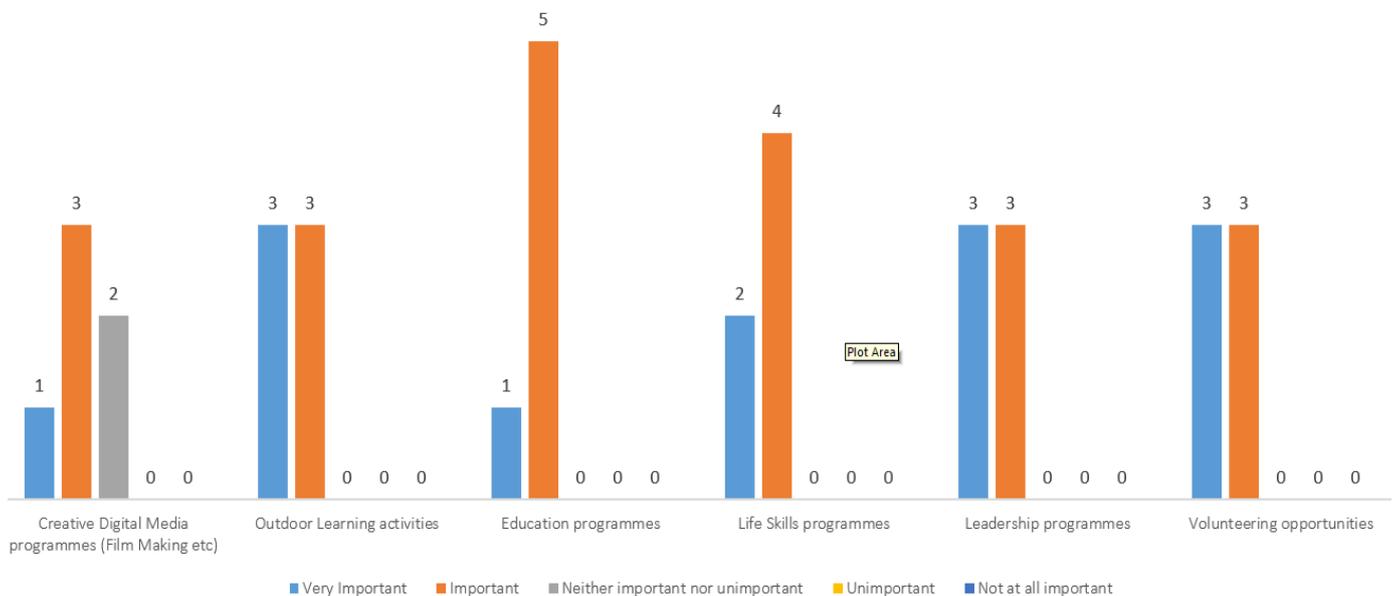
Young People

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



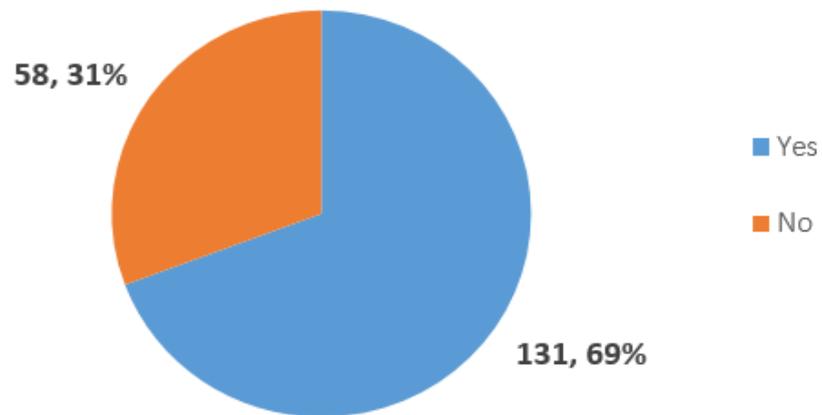
Youth Workers

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



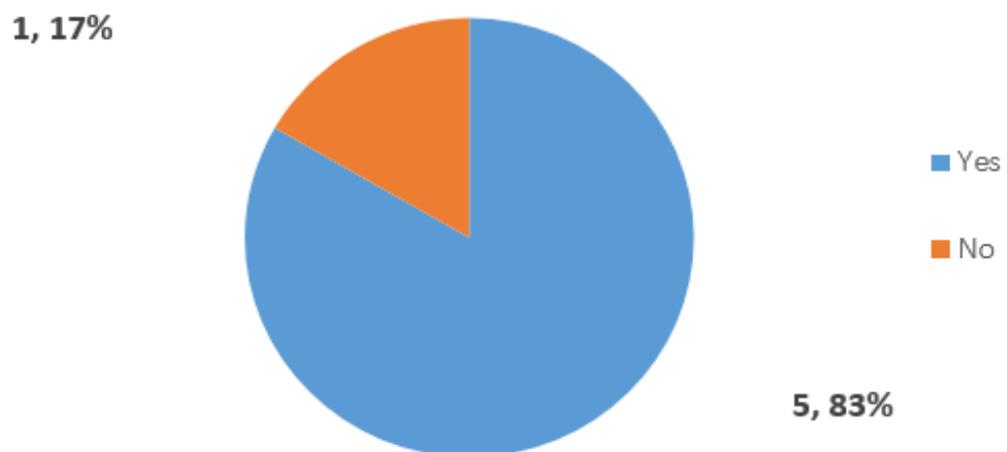
Young People

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



Youth Workers

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



Public Consultation Summary of Narrative Responses

- Youth Services should provide opportunities for young people to develop the skills for life including financial skills, independent living etc.
- Delivery of accredited training to help with work/career prospects e.g first aid training.
- More sexual health education is needed.
- More programmes are needed that help young people gain accreditations.

Local Advisory Group Consultation Summary of Narrative Responses

- Youth Services should provide opportunities for young people to develop the skills for life including financial skills, independent living etc.
- There is a need to provide a social enterprise ethos and opportunities to gain skills.
- The Youth Service should provide more opportunities for accreditations or courses that build up to an accreditation.

Discussion

There are 21,533 children and young people attending Primary and Post Primary Schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh. Lisburn and Castlereagh compares favourably against the NI average for the percentage of pupils (88.5%) leaving school with 5+ GCSE's grades A*- C (including equivalents). This however changes when the GCSE statistics include English and Maths. 63.9% of pupils in Lisburn and Castlereagh achieve 5+ GCSE A* - C including English and Maths, well below the NI average of 71.8%.

There are also lower numbers of pupils with Special Educational Needs (5,284 pupils – 24.3%) although this is just under a quarter of overall pupils have a Special Educational Need in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area.

4,876 (22.6%) of pupils attending school are entitled to Free School Meals which is just below the NI average of 29.2%.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETi) Chief Inspector's Report 2016-18 raised a number of key points in relation to learning and achieving. The report highlighted that FSM eligible pupils continue to underperform in relation to those not entitled. Boys are still significantly underperforming girls. It was also identified that too many children miss school as a result to suspension or expulsion. In 2016-17, 4,048 pupils in NI of compulsory school age were suspended with 286 of these being primary school aged children. The proportion of boys being issued with suspension is approximately three times that of girls. Another key point raised by the Inspector was that too many young people are leaving school and entering training with low levels of attainment.¹³

There are a total of 57 Nursery, Primary, Post-Primary and Special Schools in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area. This includes; 3 Nursery schools, 40 Primary schools, 9 Post-Primary schools and 5 Specialschools. 19 are located in a rural setting - 16 are Primary schools, 1 Post-Primary schools and 2 Special schools.

Data from the Education, Skills and Training Domain shows that the SOA's in the top 20% most deprived areas where schools leavers were not achieving at least 5 GCSE's (including English and Maths) are; Lambeg 2, Hillhall 1, Old Warren and Carrowreagh 2.

The proportion of those leaving school age 16/17 and 18 and not entering education, training or employment within the top 20% areas are from the following SOA's; Lambeg 2, Hilden 1, Tonagh and Blaris 1.

¹³ ETI Chief Inspectors Report 2016-2018

In terms of comparable rates of deprivation on the Employment Domain rank, Old Warren is the only SOA within the top 20% however fifteen SOA's are within the top 50%.

The numbers of Newcomer pupils attending schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh is 812.

It is also worth noting statistics in relation to absenteeism at post primary schools. High levels of absenteeism has a major impact on young people's learning and achievement of academic qualifications. Across Lisburn and Castlereagh there are 7 SOA's that are within the top 20% of absenteeism ranking. These are; Lambeg 2, Old Warren, Lagan Valley 1, Enler, Hilden 1, Knockmore 2 and Hilden 2.

Only 69% of young people surveyed by Youth Services identified that Youth Services in their area offered opportunities to learn and take part in new experiences. 9% of young people felt that they do not have the opportunity to learn and achieve and 22% don't know if youth services can provide these opportunities. Across all the age bands surveyed there was a strong recommendation that youth service programmes should be accredited (69%) demonstrating that young people want programmes offered by the Youth Service to have currency and can provide added value to their chosen careers or future employment.

Across the three age bands young people recommended that Youth Services should offer life skills programmes, outdoor learning and education programmes which were the top three answers provided across all respondents. There was a slight variation with 19-25's also identifying leadership opportunities within their top three answers.

Across both urban and rural respondents the top two answers were life skills programmes and outdoor learning programmes however young people from rural areas also identified volunteering opportunities within their top three answers and urban young people education programmes.

Youth workers identified that volunteering opportunities, leadership programmes and outdoor learning activities were the joint top three opportunities the Youth Service should be providing for young people to help them learn and achieve. Second and third place recommendations were Life skills programmes and education programmes.

Whilst young people in Lisburn and Castlereagh appear to be performing relatively well in comparison to the NI average for GCSE qualifications, it has been recognised that in particular young men from Protestant communities are not achieving academically compared to young men from other communities. A study carried out by the Community Relations Council (2014) identified that Protestant boys in NI are seriously underachieving with only Roma and Traveller children getting poorer results¹⁴. Dr Paul Nolan warned that there would be long term consequences if action was not taken 'They are being locked out of employment. Even if we get investment into places like east Belfast, these kids will not be able to get jobs because they won't have the qualifications'.

Attention therefore needs to be paid to support young Protestant males to achieve and address key barriers to learning. Providing opportunities to gain accredited qualifications through the non-formal education sector may support these young men, increasing opportunities for further training, education and employment.

At a recent Stakeholder Event which focused on supporting young people's learning, young people identified that they were keen to obtain qualifications through non formal education programmes in the Youth Service. Young people wanted to be co-creators of programmes – co-designing, reviewing and reporting on their own learning needs. The use of creative arts and outdoor learning were identified as preferred methods to engage those who are excluded or disengaged from formal educations.

¹⁴ Community Relations Council Research 2014

In a Health Foundation summary report on 'Young People's Future Health Inquiry Site Visit to Lisburn' (Oct 2018) young people raised a number of key points in relation to skills and qualifications.¹⁵ They felt that there is a 'lack of life skills' being taught in school for example in areas such as paying bills and voting and opportunities are not being 'distributed equally' amongst schools. Young people felt that grammar schools have many more opportunities than high schools in terms of the opportunities being offered to young people. Recommendations were made in this area which included 'compulsory classes for personal development, citizenship and careers in schools up to the end of fifth year and that schools should 'care less about statistics and grades' and more on 'helping young people to achieve what they want in life'. During this survey key stakeholders were also consulted on the area of skills and qualifications during which they recognised the need for a collaborative approach to looking at the barriers to education'.

¹⁵ Health Foundation Report; Young People's Future Health Inquiry Site Visit to Lisburn 2018

Good Relations

Area of Enquiry 3: Good Relations

Key Facts

- There were a total of 2,456 incidences of hate crime recorded in Northern Ireland between April 2018 and March 2019.
 - Racist incidences 1,095 (Lisburn and Castlereagh 42 incidences).
 - Homophobic incidences 287 (Lisburn and Castlereagh 14 incidences).
 - Sectarian incidences 891 (Lisburn and Castlereagh 46 incidences).
 - Disability incidences 97 (Lisburn and Castlereagh N/A).
 - Faith/Religion incidences 46 (Lisburn and Castlereagh N/A).
 - Transphobic incidences 40 (Lisburn and Castlereagh N/A).
- 812 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- 5,284 children and young people have a Special Educational Need or a disability.
- 17 Traveller pupils attend schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- 9 Roma pupils attend schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- 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 Lisburn and Castlereagh this equates to approximately 625 young people.
- In 2018/19 4,175 young people participated in 123 T:BUC camps programmes.

Why is this measure important?

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.

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

Following years of conflict, Northern Ireland 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.

Where children and young people grow up impacts on their education, who they socialise with and their friendship groups. 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.¹⁶ 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.

Northern Ireland also has significant numbers of interface areas where inter-community tensions exist. These areas often have weak community infrastructure and children and young people growing up in these areas are more likely to have lower educational attainment, poor career opportunities and engage in anti-social behaviour. Paramilitary attacks are on the increase and growing numbers of young people are being punished and recruited. Many rural areas also demonstrate separate living patterns, although these are not formally recognised as interface areas.

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

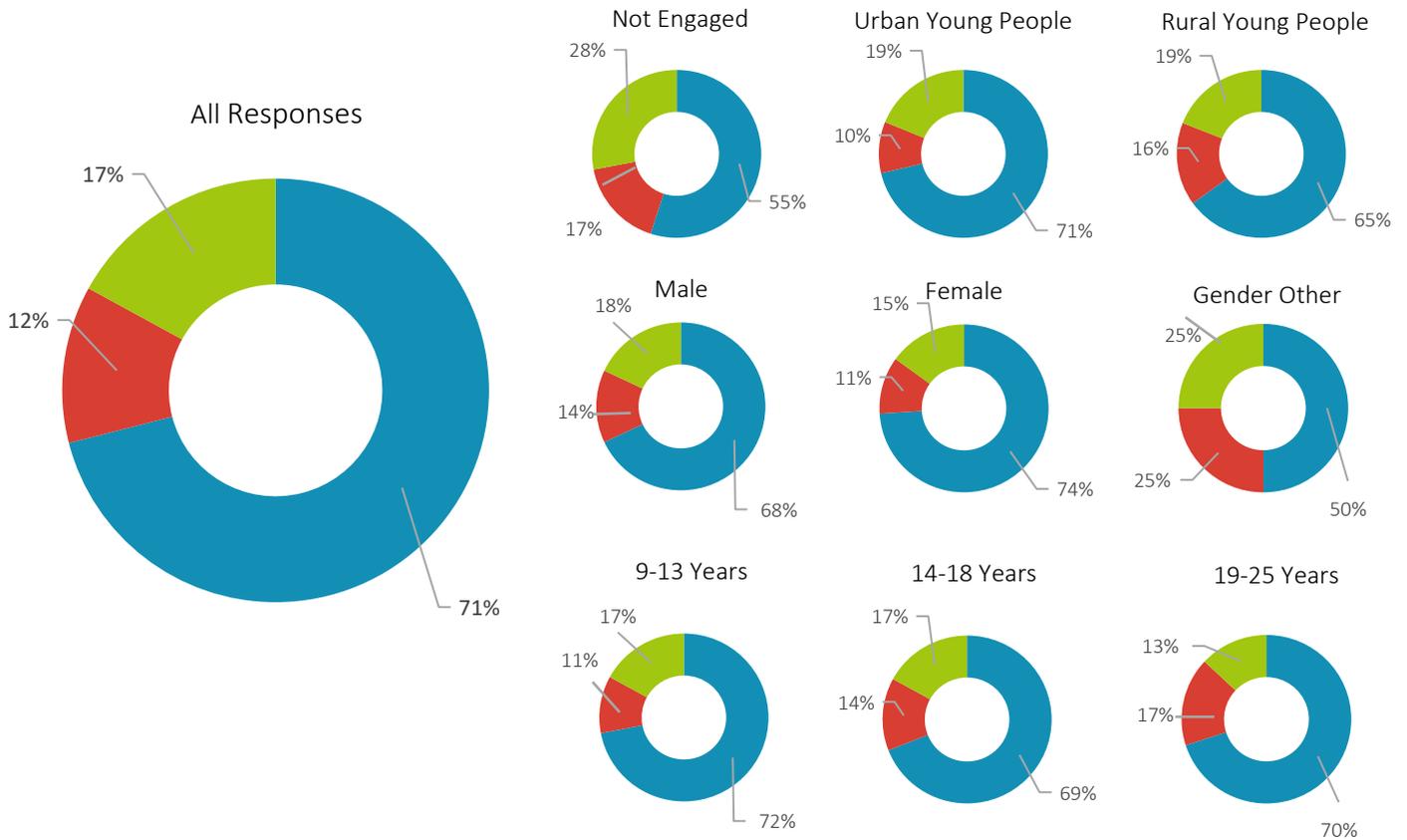
¹⁶ Sectarianism in Northern Ireland – a Review. https://www.ulster.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/410227/A-Review-Addressing-Sectarianism-in-Northern-Ireland_FINAL.pdf

Survey Findings – Good Relations

■ Yes
 ■ No
 ■ Don't Know

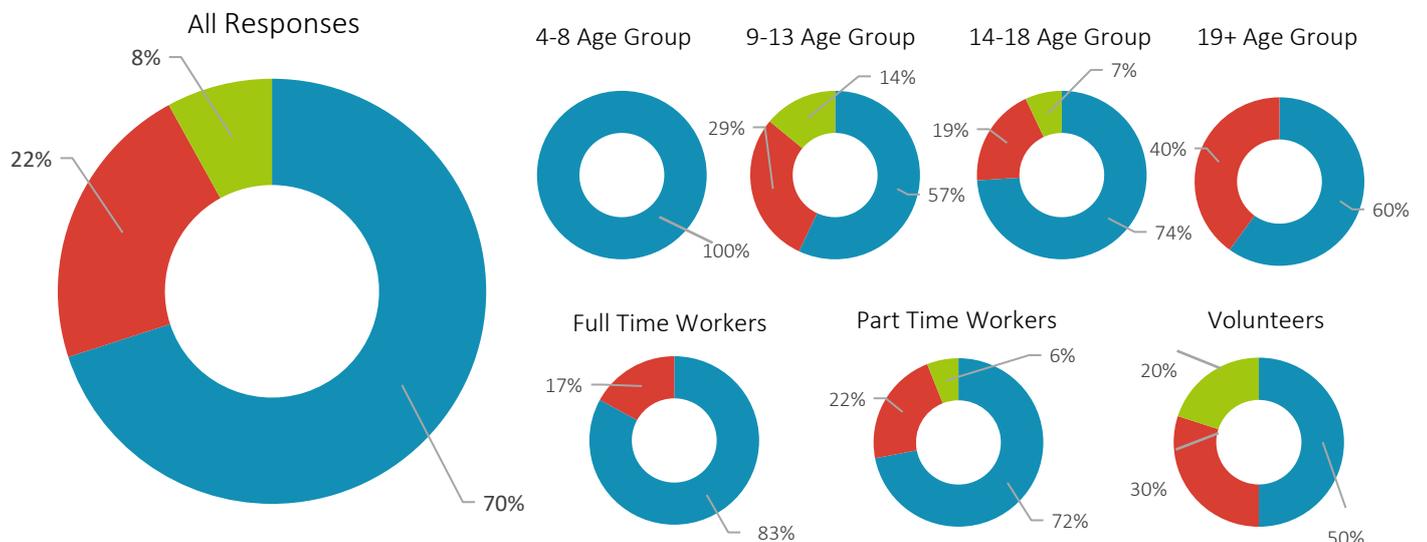
Young People

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



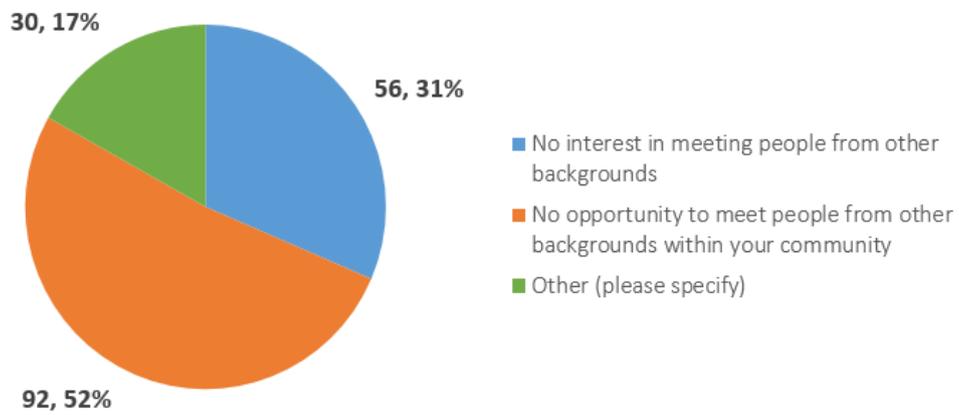
Youth Workers

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



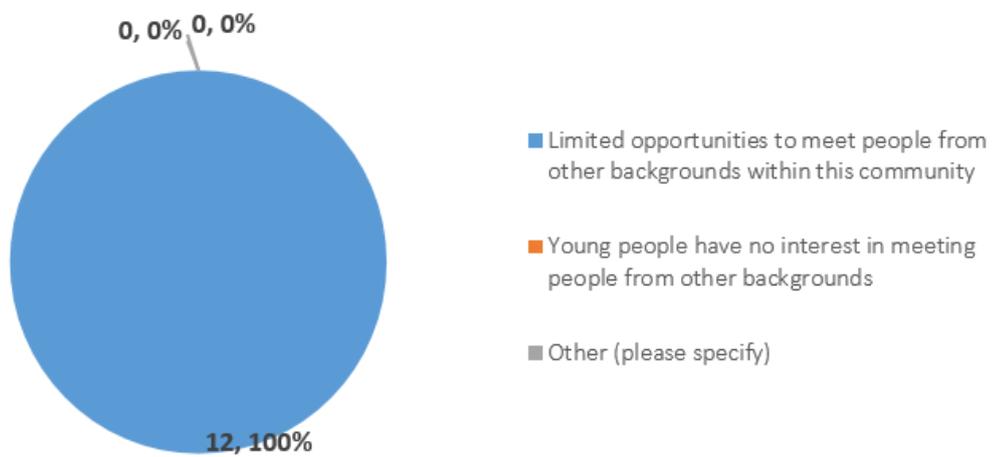
Young People

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



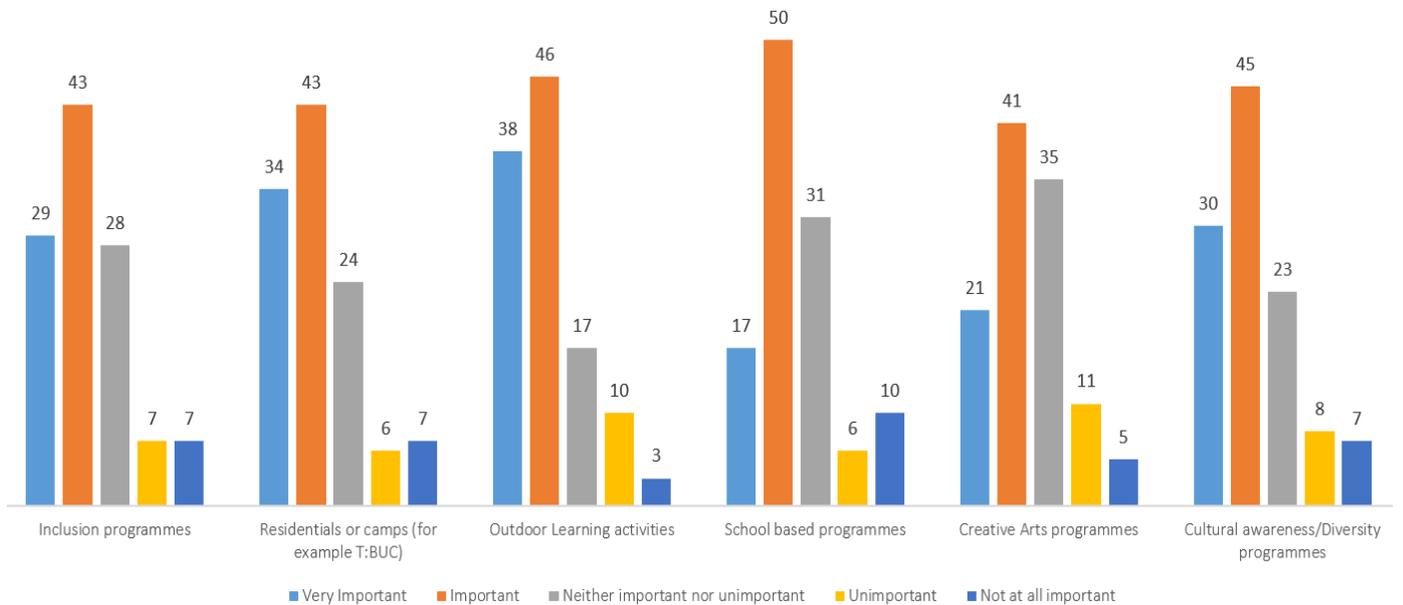
Youth Workers

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



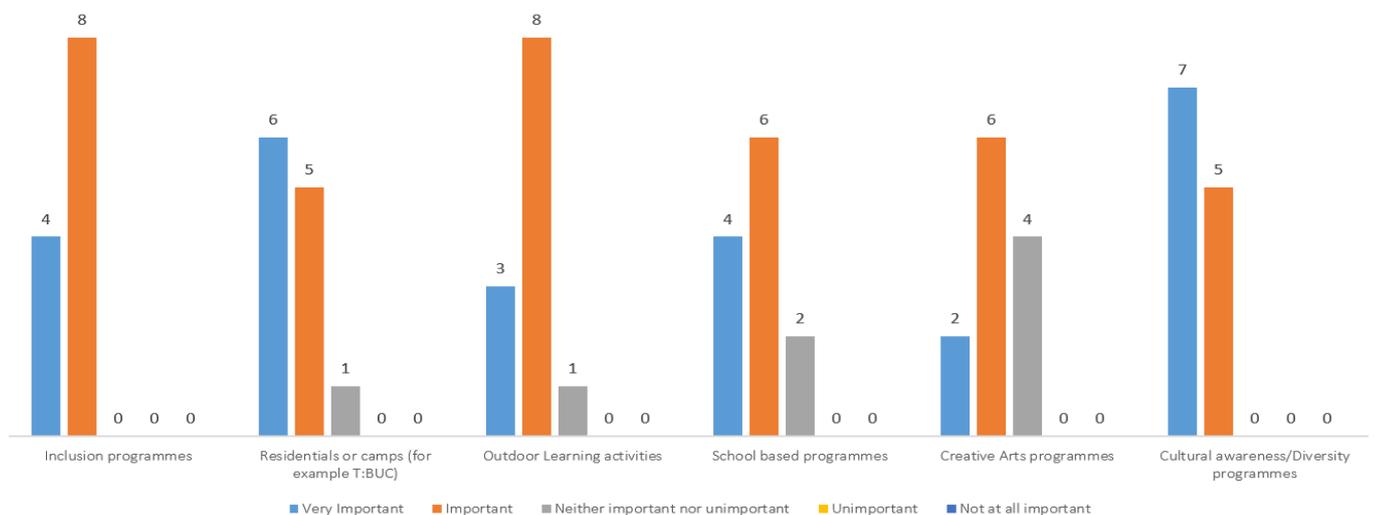
Young People

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



Youth Workers

Good Relations - What opportunities should Youth Services in your area provide so that young



Public Consultation Summary of Narrative Responses

- Greater promotion of good relations work on offer by Youth Services, particularly within schools.
- There needs to be an identification of what young people want in terms of good relations work – is it more programmes to look at Protestant and Catholic communities and issues or to examine ethnic issues?
- Programmes need to be what young people are asking for
- Greater collaboration with statutory agencies who can help deliver good relations work across all youth work themes.

Local Advisory Group Consultation Summary of Narrative Responses

- More good relations work is needed for newcomer young people and to help a better understanding of newcomers across all communities.
- It was recognised that this work takes time includes building relationships between newcomers and indigenous young people.
- Youth Services need to find out what young people want regarding good relations work e.g. protestant/catholic or ethnic minority

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.*¹⁷

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 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.

Overall 71% of respondents from Lisburn and Castlereagh identified that they had opportunities to meet, learn and socialise with people from different backgrounds. Across the age bands the 9-13 year olds had the most opportunities to meet with young people from different backgrounds (72%). The 19-25 year olds were next with 70% of respondents noting this and only 69% of the 14-18's indicated that they had opportunities to meet, learn and socialise with people from different backgrounds. Of the overall responses 12% of respondents felt that they did not have the opportunity to meet and socialise with people who were different and 17% were not sure.

When asked why they did not mix and socialise with people from other backgrounds 31% of respondents indicated that they had 'no interest' and 52% indicated that they had 'no opportunity to do so'. This means

¹⁷ Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, 2008, Promoting Good Relations, ECNI, Belfast.

that over half of young people who do not mix with young people from other backgrounds do not have the opportunity to do so.

When asked what opportunities the Youth Service could provide that would enable them to meet people from different backgrounds the overall top three answers were; outdoor learning activities, residential/camps and cultural awareness programmes. There was a slight variation across the responses based on age bands. Both the 9-13's and 19-25's chose outdoor learning activities, residential and camps and cultural awareness programmes as their top three answers. The 14-18 year olds wanted outdoor learning and cultural awareness programmes but also cited inclusion programmes with their top three answers.

Young people from urban areas (74%) have more opportunities to meet others from different backgrounds compared to their rural peers (65%). There was also a slight difference across urban and rural responses regarding what the Youth Service should be focusing on to enable young people from different communities to meet. Whilst both groups wanted outdoor learning activities and residential and camps, urban young people favoured cultural awareness programmes and rural young people inclusion programmes within their top 3 responses.

70% of youth workers believe that young people have opportunities to meet, learn and socialise with people from different backgrounds in Lisburn and Castlereagh, almost a quarter (22%) of youth workers identified that they do not and 8% did not know. When asked as to why they felt young people did not have the opportunity to mix all respondents (100%) felt that this was because there are limited opportunities to do so. Youth workers believe that cultural awareness/diversity programmes, residential or camps and inclusion programmes are the best means by which to provide opportunities for young people to meet.

As a mainly Protestant majority Council area there are limited opportunities for Protestant young people to meet with Catholic young people. The continued segregation of the majority of communities including housing and schools contributes to limited opportunities for young people to mix with 'other' young people on a daily basis. This is particularly evident from the responses from young people in rural areas.

There continues to be a number of communities in Lisburn and Castlereagh with strong paramilitary influences. Whilst some communities are emerging from a post conflict situation and addressing the legacy of the conflict there remains a number of areas where paramilitary activity still exists. This can have a negative impact on young people on a number of levels and therefore work is still needed to support young people away becoming involved with paramilitary groups.

Within Protestant communities in Lisburn there continues to be a strong tradition of cultural expression through the marching season culminating in the 12th of July celebrations. Intra community tension poses a risk to young people at this time in terms of their personal safety and wellbeing. Focused work is necessary to support young people during this period.

It may also be prudent to be cautious regarding the term 'different backgrounds' in relation to this survey. Almost 80% of young people identified that they have opportunities to meet, learn and socialise with young people different backgrounds however it is quite possible for this to be interpreted by young people within communities as to referring to estates or geographical areas.

PSNI statistics in relation to hate crime shows that there has been a decrease in the number of racist incidents in Lisburn and Castlereagh. In the period October 2017 – October 2018 there were 55 racist incidents recorded and between October 2018 and October 2019 there were 43, a decrease of 12. Information on racist crimes also show a decrease during this same period with 33 racist crimes being

recorded in 17/18 decreasing to 23 in 18/19. Whilst the reduction in incidents and crimes related to race has reduced the number of newcomer children is increasing across NI, therefore work is still needed to be done to enable greater integration and appreciation of diversity.

Between 2017 and 2019 there was also a decrease in Homophobic incidents in Lisburn and Castlereagh (from 23 to 12). The total number of homophobic crimes during this period also reduced from 15 to 10.

A different picture emerges in relation to sectarian incidents and crimes. Sectarian incidents saw a slight increase from 2017-2019 from 46 being recorded in 17/18 to 48 being recorded in 18/19. The number of sectarian crimes recorded in 2017-2018 were 37 however this increased to 47 in 2018-2019.

Participation

Area of Enquiry 4: Participation

Key Facts

- The overall attendance figures for schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh in 2017/18 was 94.1%.
- 4,069 pupils were suspended from schools in Northern Ireland in 2017/18. (3,199 male pupils (78.6%), 870 female pupils (21.4%).)
- Approximately 1,900 children and young people from Lisburn and Castlereagh live in a deprived area.
- Approximately 13,300 children and young people from Lisburn and Castlereagh live in a rural area.
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,000 young carers in Northern Ireland.
- 812 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in the Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- 17 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- 9 Roma children and young people attend schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- Whilst there are no specific numbers for Lisburn and Castlereagh, the most recent figures reveal that 498 Looked After Children were supported by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust. Some of these children and young people live and attend schools in the Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- 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 Lisburn and Castlereagh this equates to approximately 625 young people.
- From January-March 2019 there were 20,000 young people (aged 16-24) in Northern Ireland who were not in education, employment or training (NEET). This represents 10.2% of all young people aged 16-24.
- 7,296 children and young people from Lisburn and Castlereagh were registered with a youth group in 2017/18.

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 and provides practical experiences and teaches them how to behave responsibly.¹⁸

Participation can stimulate an awareness of wider societal issues that can negatively affect their local communities. As well as giving 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.

Participation comes in many forms from involvement in social activities and clubs, playing sport, music or cultural activities as well as youth leadership, volunteering and peer mentoring.

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.¹⁹

¹⁸ <https://www.niccy.org/media/1330/niccy-advice-benefits-of-engagement-with-children-and-young-people-dec-14.pdf>

¹⁹ 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.

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.

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 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.

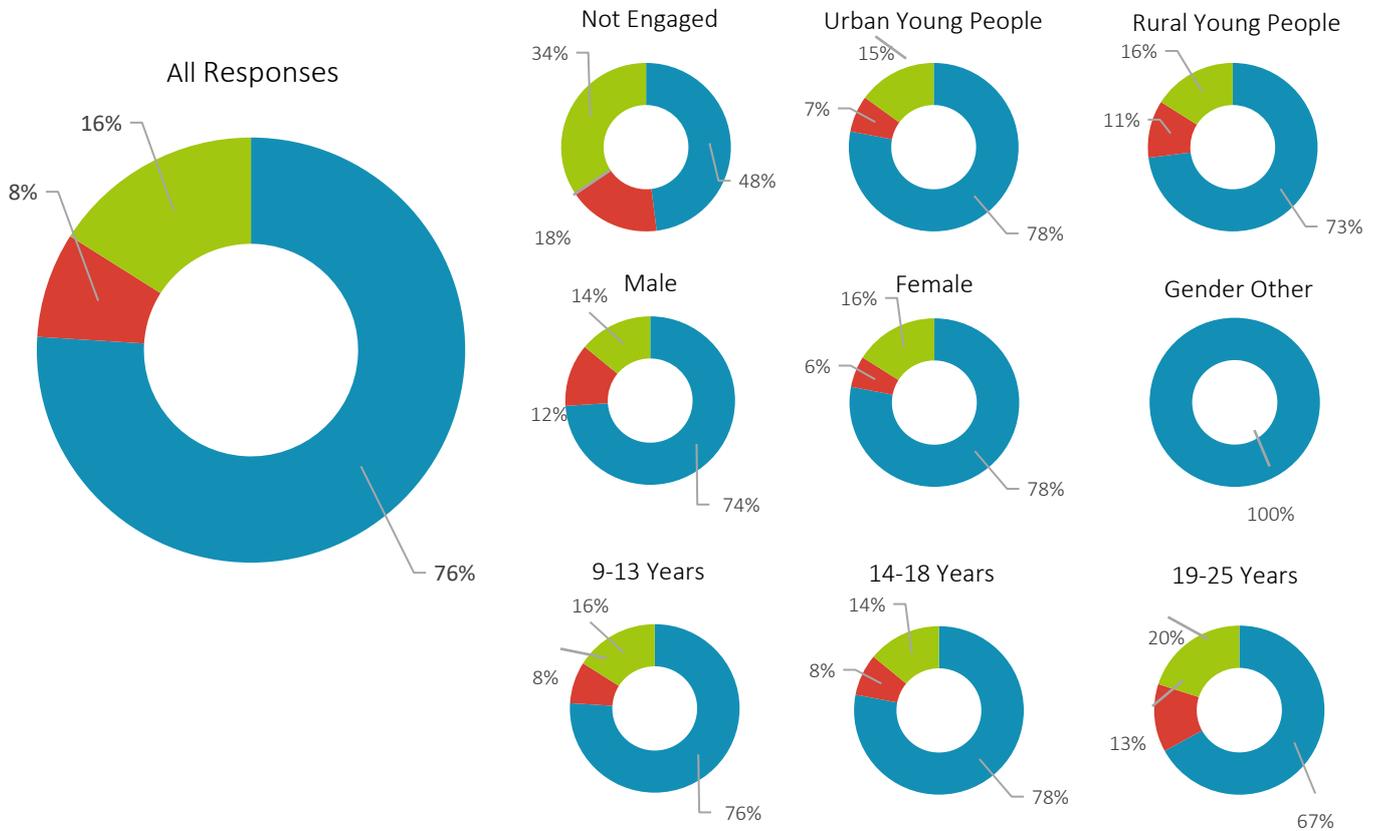
Participative activities may be inaccessible due to their location, lack of transport, cost implications or limited digital connectivity. Many children and young people living in rural areas face these challenges. Opportunities to participate may conflict with school or other commitments or be inaccessible 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

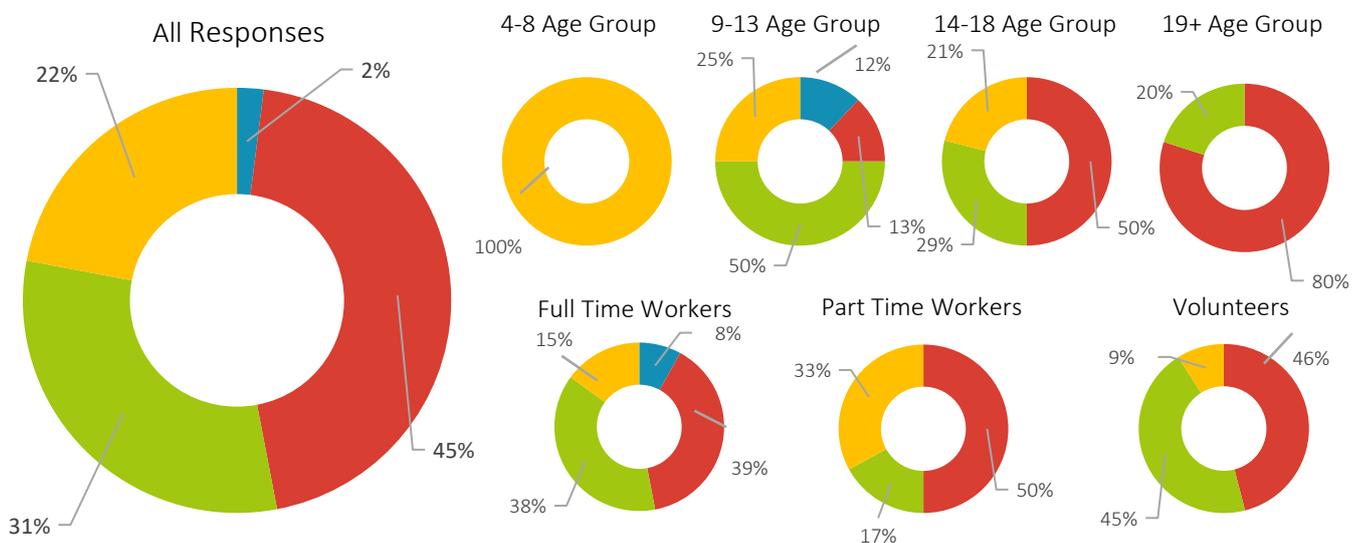
Do you have opportunities to take part in Youth Services in your area?



■ Not at all
 ■ Often
 ■ Sometimes
 ■ Very Often

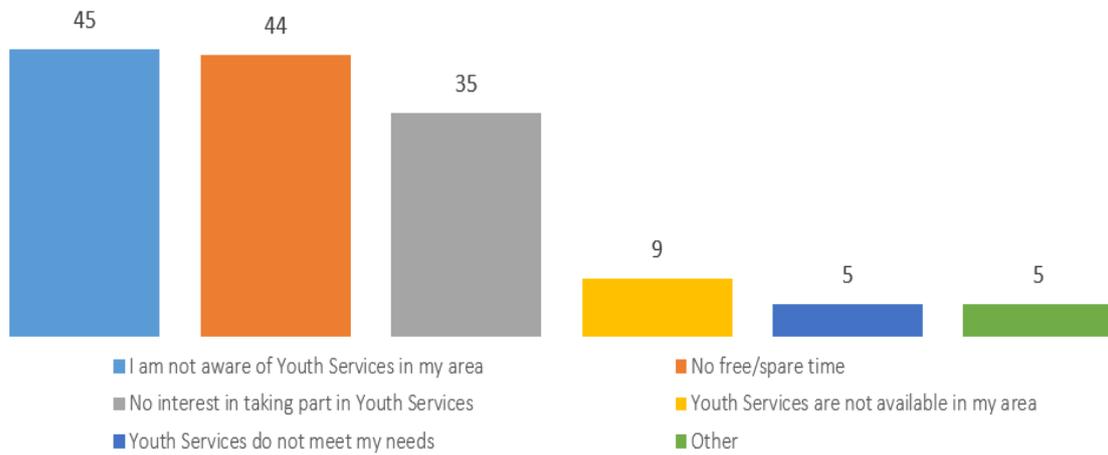
Youth Workers

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



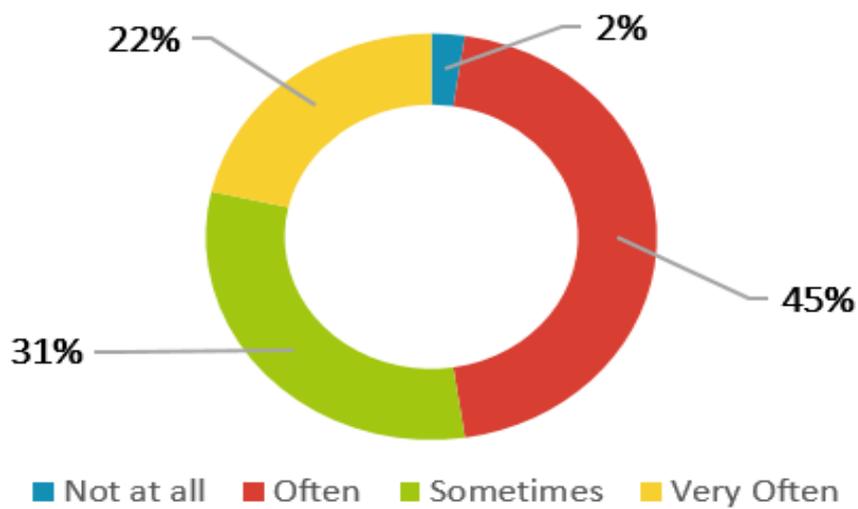
Young People

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



Youth Workers

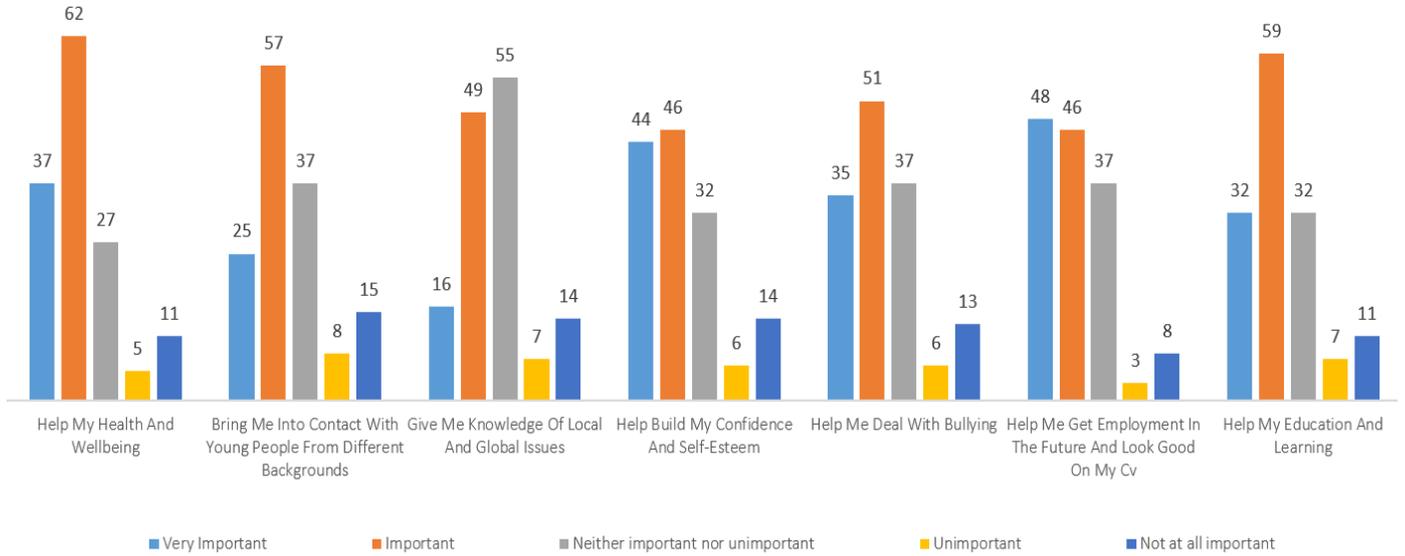
Participation



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

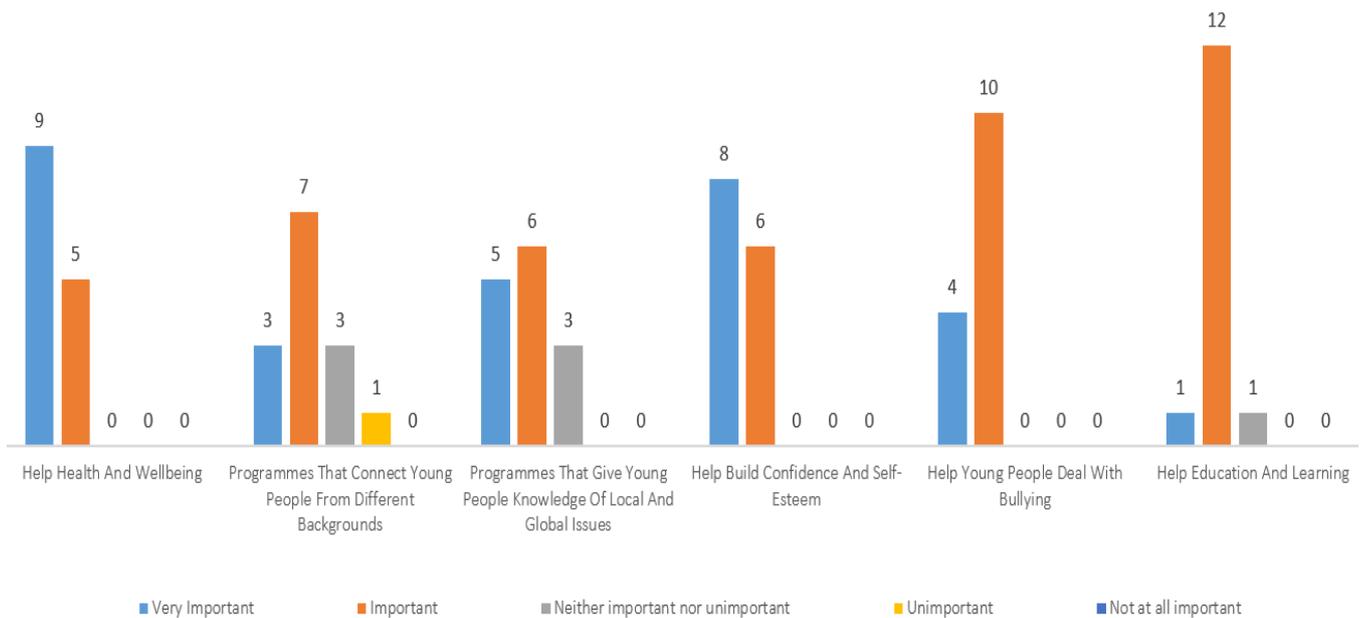
Young People

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?



Public Consultation Summary of Narrative Responses

- Youth Services need to help young people develop confidence and prepare for the world of work
- Youth Services needs to be attractive and cater for teenagers not just children

Local Advisory Group Consultation Summary of Narrative Responses

- The cost for Youth Service programmes for international visits needs to be kept to a minimum to prevent costs becoming a barrier to participation.
- Youth Services need to be free or at low cost so everyone can be involved.
- There needs to be a greater understanding of transferrable skills and language for young people from Youth Service settings to other settings.
- Greater levels of funding are needed for Youth Services to be able to compete with heavily funded 'one off' programmes.
- More links between Youth Services and other organisations e.g. SERC and/or employers, leisure centres etc.
- Youth Services need to consider how more programmes can be accredited.
- Youth Service programmes need to reflect the diversity of needs of participants.

Discussion

One of the main barriers to participation can be a lack of financial resources. Not having enough money to participate in activities or programmes that have a cost can prevent young people from getting access to a range of services at a local level.

Of the 44,836 children and young people in Lisburn and Castlereagh, 7,296 are registered and engaged in youth work. 1,928 (4.3%) young people live in a deprived area and 4,876 (22.6%) of all pupils are entitled to Free School Meals. Figures relating to Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDAC) shows that 11 SOA's within Lisburn and Castlereagh exceed the NI average for IDAC; Hilden 2, Hilden 1, Lagan Valley 2, Grahams Bridge, Knockmore 2, Old Warren, Seymour Hill, Ballymacoss 1, Lagan Valley 1, Ballyhanwood 1, Hillhall 2. In relation to the Income Domain Rank a number of SOA's within Lisburn and Castlereagh fall within the top 20% across NI. These include; Old Warren, Hilden 1 and Hilden 2.

Having a lack of financial resources can particularly impact young people that live in a rural area with higher costs associated for transport. Within Lisburn and Castlereagh approximately 13,316 (29.7%) of young people live in a rural area. Across SOA's, nine have been identified within the top 20% in terms of deprivation due to access to services. These are; Glenavy 2, Maze 2, Ballymacbrennan 2, Ballinderry 1, Dromara 2, Ballymacbrennan 1, Drumbo 2, Maghaberry 2, and Moneyrea 1.

36% of respondents from the Youth Service survey identified as being from a rural community.

It would appear from the Youth Service survey that there are good opportunities for young people to participate in Lisburn and Castlereagh with just over a quarter (76%) of young people identifying that they had the opportunity to take part in Youth Services in their area.

This means that just under a quarter of young people are missing out on Youth Service opportunities with 8% identifying that they did not have the opportunity and 16% indicating that they did not know if they had the opportunity to participate in Youth Services in their area. Of those respondents that did not have the opportunity or didn't know, support with health and wellbeing, helping them gain employment and enhancing their CV or providing help with education and learning were the top three answers across all the age bands suggested that might encourage young people to become involved.

The responses changed slightly across the three age bands. For example the 14-18 and 19-25 year olds both recommended getting help with employment /enhancing their CV, support with health and wellbeing and support with building confidence and self-esteem as their top three answers. The 9-13 also selected health and wellbeing and support with building confidence but also recommended help to deal with bullying.

Overall responses were similar across children and young people from urban and rural areas. Respondents that were asked as to why they chose not to participate in Youth Services and the top three answers albeit in varying positions included; not being aware of Youth Services in my area, having no interest in youth services and having no free time.

Youth workers were also asked as part of the survey how often they felt young people had opportunities to participate in Youth Services in Lisburn and Castlereagh. 22% felt that young people had opportunities to participate 'very often', 45% 'often' and 31% 'sometimes'. Youth workers identified that 2% of young people do not have opportunities to participate. When asked the most relevant reason for not participating, 43% of the youth workers identified that this was because Youth Services do not meet their needs. This is quite a stark statistic.

21% of youth workers identified that Youth Services were not in the area and 21 % felt that young people were not aware of Youth Services. One of the challenges therefore for Youth Services in Lisburn and Castlereagh is making sure young people most in need have access to services and that it meets their needs. The difference in the numbers of young people entitled to FSM's (4,876) and numbers of young people living in areas of deprivation (1,928) need to also be considered when targeting resources, taking account of local knowledge and through using other statistical data.

There is also a need to ensure that there is delivery of both generic and targeted youth work. Young people need to have more spaces to meet with their friends and build relationships in places that are safe and secure. This was particularly highlighted in recent Stakeholder events on 'The Emerging Needs of Children and Young People'. Young people were clearly articulating that they want safe spaces to go to where they can meet with their friends and access a range of opportunities through Youth Services. A recent Peer Research Report carried out by the Lisburn Castlereagh Youth Council on Anti-Social Behaviour in the Lisburn Area²⁰ also identified this. Young people want less structured social spaces to meet with friends and socialise with peers along with an increase in the amount of 'free' activities for teenagers in the Lisburn area'

The Early Intervention Lisburn Consultation Report (2018) also confirms this. Young people identified that there is a 'lack of things to do in Lisburn' with just under a third (30%) noting that they were concerned about 'boredom'. When asked what facilities there should be more of in Lisburn, young people indicated that they wanted 'youth clubs, sports clubs and sheltered places outside to hang out' as priorities.

Pathways to support the development of young people into Peer Education and Leadership roles is also key to help with the effective delivery of Peer Led programmes across a range of themes along with facilitating progression and retention of young people in the Service.

Almost a quarter of pupils in Lisburn and Castlereagh have a special educational need. There are also five Special Schools within the City. Young people with additional needs should have access to mainstream Youth Services and specific programmes tailored to meet the needs of young people with disabilities and promote greater inclusion.

²⁰ LCC Youth Council Peer Research Report on Anti-Social Behaviour in the Lisburn Area (2019)

Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity

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

Key Facts

- Whilst there are no specific numbers for Lisburn and Castlereagh, the most recent figures reveal that 498 Looked After Children were supported by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust. Some of these children and young people live and attend schools in the Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- 812 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh
- 5,284 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 Lisburn and Castlereagh this equates to approximately 625 young people.
- In April-June 2019 there were 20,000 young people (aged 16-24) in Northern Ireland who were not in education, employment or training (NEET). This represents 10.2% of all young people aged 16-24.
- According to the Simon Community there are at least 6,000 homeless young people across Northern Ireland. (Homeless can mean living in unsuitable and unstable accommodation).²¹
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,000 young carers in Northern Ireland.

Why is this measure important?

An equal society recognises people's different needs, situations and goals and removes the barriers that limit what people can do and can be.²²

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.²³ 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.

²¹ <https://www.simoncommunity.org/homelessness/knowledge-hub/homelessness-in-ni>

²² Equalities Review (2007) Fairness and Freedom: The Final Report of the Equalities Review. Norwich: HMSO.

²³ <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?

There is a strong legislative framework which protects individuals and groups of people from discrimination, however inequalities persist. Whilst the majority of children and young people in Northern Ireland 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.

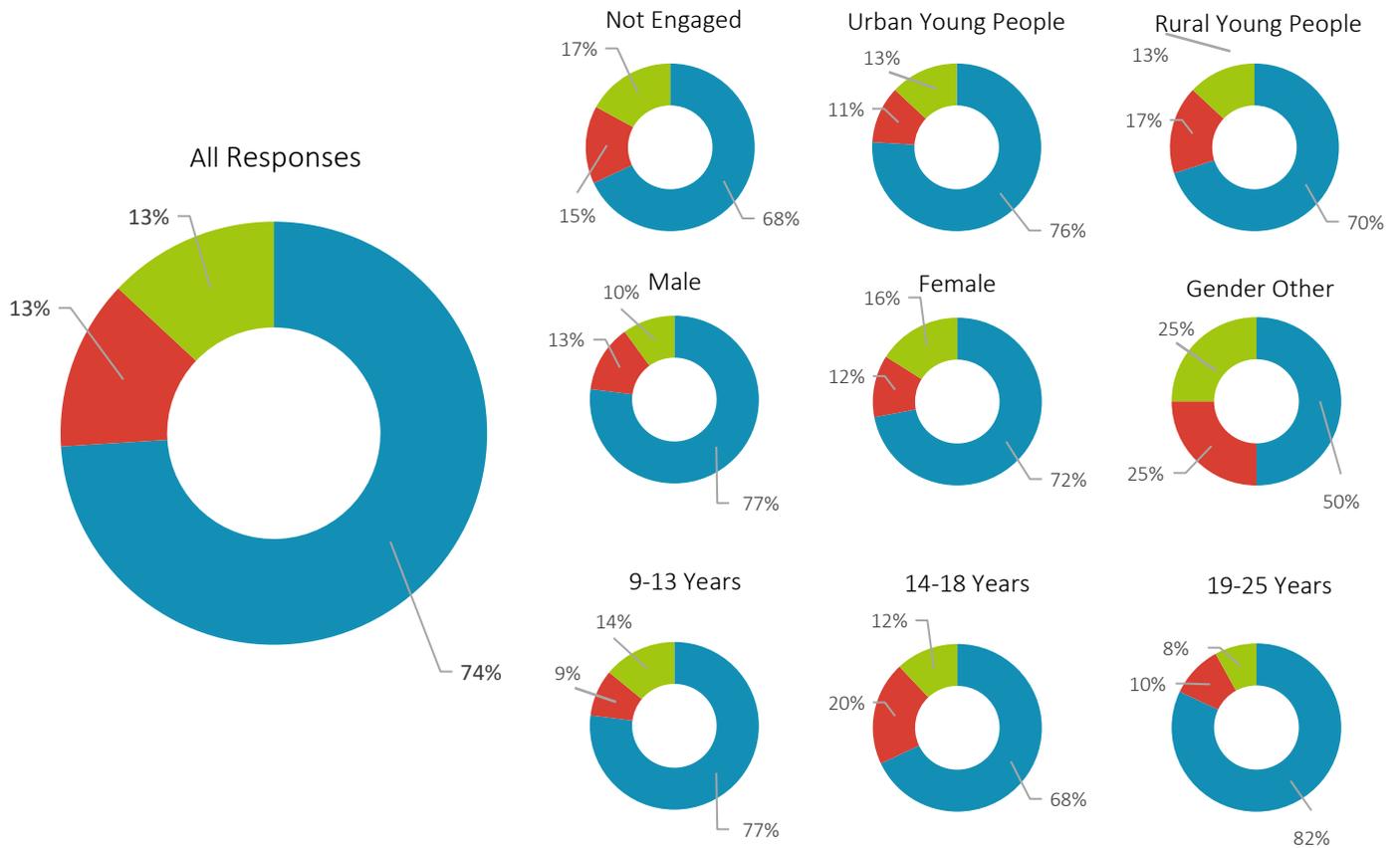
Children and young people experiencing prejudice and discrimination are less likely to feel part of a group and participate, withdraw from school and society, suffer poor mental health which can have a negative impact on their academic and social outcomes. Those most likely to encounter discrimination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

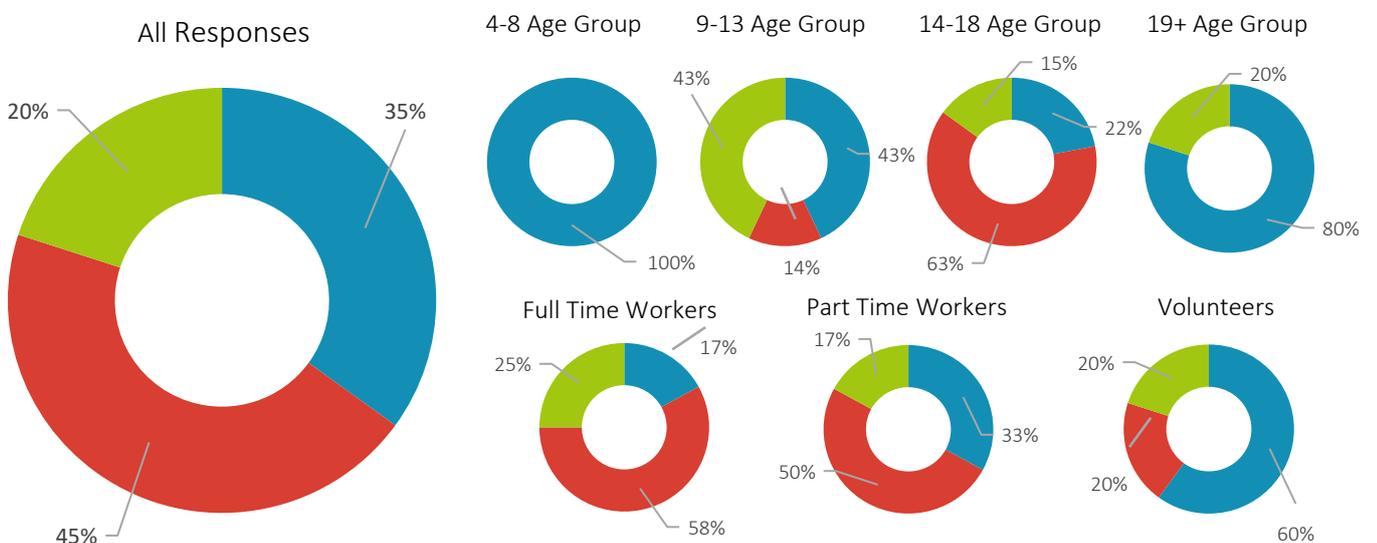
Young People

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



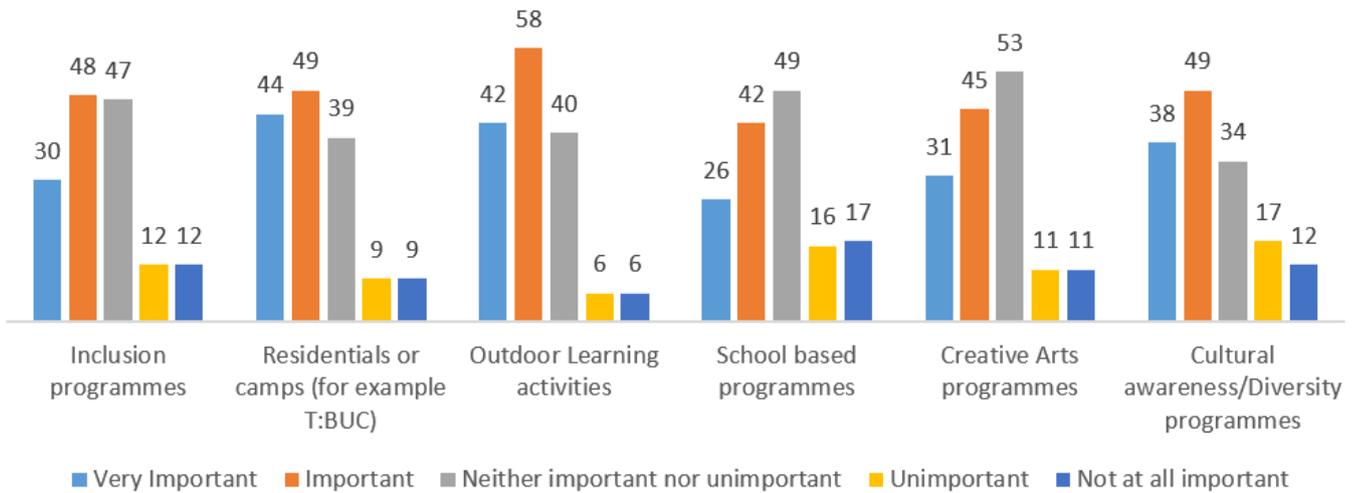
Youth Workers

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



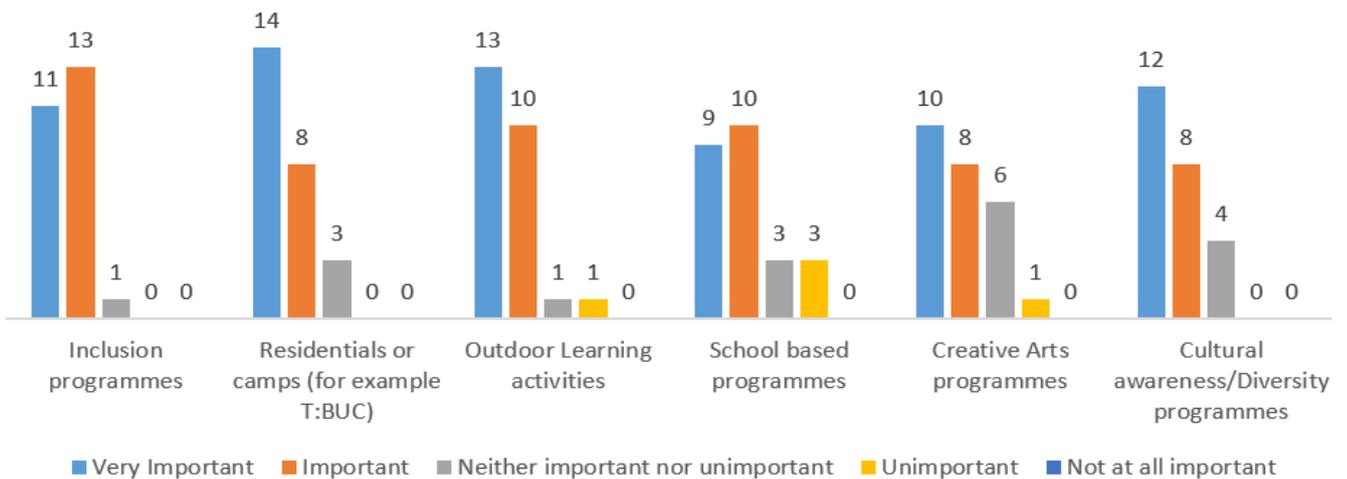
Young People

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



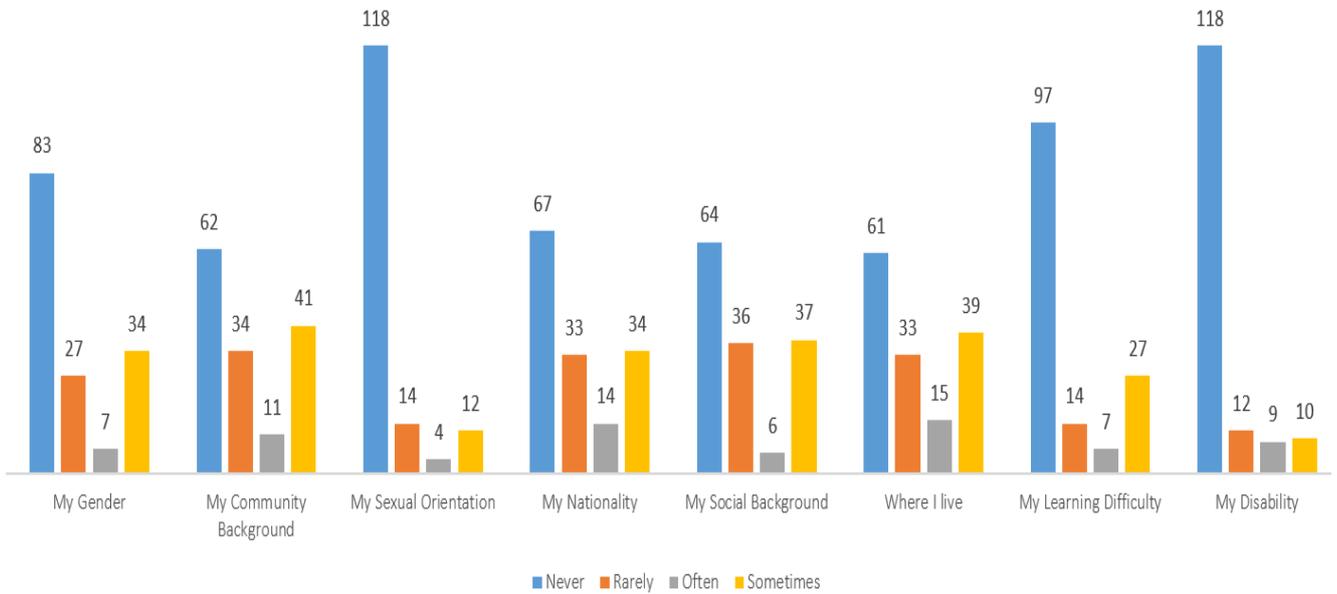
Youth Workers

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



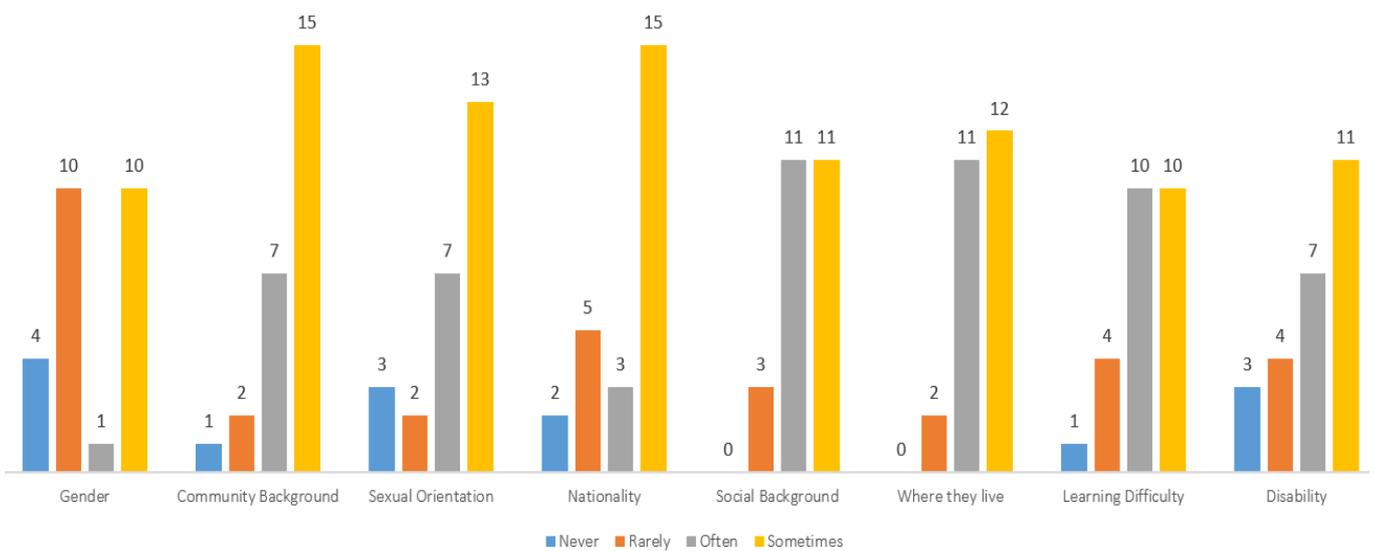
Young People

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



Youth Workers

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



Public Consultation Summary of Narrative Responses

- More safe spaces for young people to meet are also needed across Lisburn and Castlereagh, particularly in rural communities or shared facilities across rural communities.
- More inclusive team sports are needed in relation to gender and religion.
- A greater variety of sports is needed in Lisburn.

Local Advisory Group Consultation Summary of Narrative Responses

- Rural peripatetic outdoor education programmes are needed.
- More resources are needed for the delivery of quality youth services across the Lisburn and Castlereagh area.
- There needs to be increased opportunities for informal inclusion programmes in youth centres.
- Better links and partnerships with other agencies e.g. LCCC Arts Programmes.

Discussion

The Youth Service survey identified that overall 74% of young people surveyed in Lisburn and Castlereagh felt that they had the same opportunities in life and are treated the same as other people. The responses were quite similar for both males and females with 77% of males and 72% of females reporting accordingly. This is quite a shocking statistic with over a quarter of young people not feeling that they have the same opportunities in life or treated the same as other people in Lisburn and Castlereagh.

Of those respondents that felt that they did not have the same opportunities or were treated differently cited a number of reasons. All three age bands cited community background, and where they lived as to why they feel they are treated differently however the 9-13's and 19-25's also noted it was due to their nationality whereas the 14-18's felt it was also due to their social background.

Across urban and rural responses the top three answers were similar. Both groups of young felt it was because of where they lived and community background. Young people from rural areas also chose gender as a reason for being treated equally whereas urban young people also identified both nationality and social background as the joint second top reason.

Being treated differently because of where you live or community background can be experienced by some young people, particularly those that come from disadvantaged communities or from particular housing estates. Conflict between communities can impact young people and the associations/friendships they have with peers.

Targeted work continues to be needed to reach 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.

This includes work with young people with disabilities. Within Lisburn and Castlereagh there are over 5,000 pupils with a disability which is a quarter (25%) of all school aged young people. Support for young people with additional needs to access services is key whether that is through mainstream provision or targeted programmes aimed at young people with special needs.

The number of newcomer children and young people attending schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh is increasing with 812 currently engaged. Youth Services need to provide targeted support for these young people to integrate into communities and Youth Service provision. It is essential that awareness raising

programmes and initiatives are developed further to ensure effective and harmonious integration within communities.

Support to young people from the LGBTQ community is also important within the Lisburn and Castlereagh area. Whilst there are no area specific statistics available, national statistics indicate that 4.2% of 16-24 year olds identify as LGBTQ. That equates to approx. 799 young people and this does not take into account LGBTQ young people under the age of 16. Whilst support services for LGBTQ young people are mainly located in Belfast which is approx. 5-12 miles from those living in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area, consideration should be given as to how LGBTQ young people can be welcomed and supported at a local level through existing or targeted services.

The Youth Service survey also asked children and young people what they would like Youth Services to provide so they could feel more included. Outdoor education activities was within the top three answers across all the age bands. The 9-13's also favoured residential/camps and creative arts, the 14-18's residential/camps and cultural awareness programmes and the 19-25's creative arts and cultural awareness programmes.

When respondents' feedback was analysed across urban and rural responses, both groups of young people recommended outdoor learning and residential. Urban young people also suggested cultural awareness programmes and rural young people creative arts with their top three answers.

Youth workers however felt that that the Youth Service should provide residential/camps, outdoor learning programmes and inclusion programmes to engage more young people in good relations work.

Living in Safety & Stability

Area of Enquiry 6: Living in Safety and Stability

Key Facts

- Approximately 1,900 (4.3%) young people live in the most deprived areas of Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- Approximately 13,300 (29.7%) young people in Lisburn and Castlereagh live in a rural community.
- Whilst there are no specific numbers for Lisburn and Castlereagh, the most recent figures reveal that 498 Looked After Children were supported by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust. Some of these children and young people live and attend schools in the Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- The most recent figures reveal that there were 1,783 domestic abuse incidences in Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- The total number of movements within the Juvenile Justice Centre for Lisburn and Castlereagh in 2017/18 was 13.
- In 2017/18 a total of 7,715 days of custody was provided by the Juvenile Justice Centre in Northern Ireland.
- The total number of individual young people in custody in 2017/18 was 167 for Northern Ireland. (139 in 2016/17)
- In April - June 2019 there were 20,000 young people (aged 16-24) in Northern Ireland who were not in education, employment or training (NEET). This represents 10.2% of all young people aged 16-24.
- According to the Simon Community there are at least 6,000 homeless young people across Northern Ireland. (Homeless can mean living in unsuitable and unstable accommodation).
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,000 young carers in Northern Ireland.

Why is this measure important?

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.

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.²⁴

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.

²⁴ http://www.urbanchildinstitute.org/sites/all/files/databooks/TUCI_Data_Book_VII_2012.05_family.pdf

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.

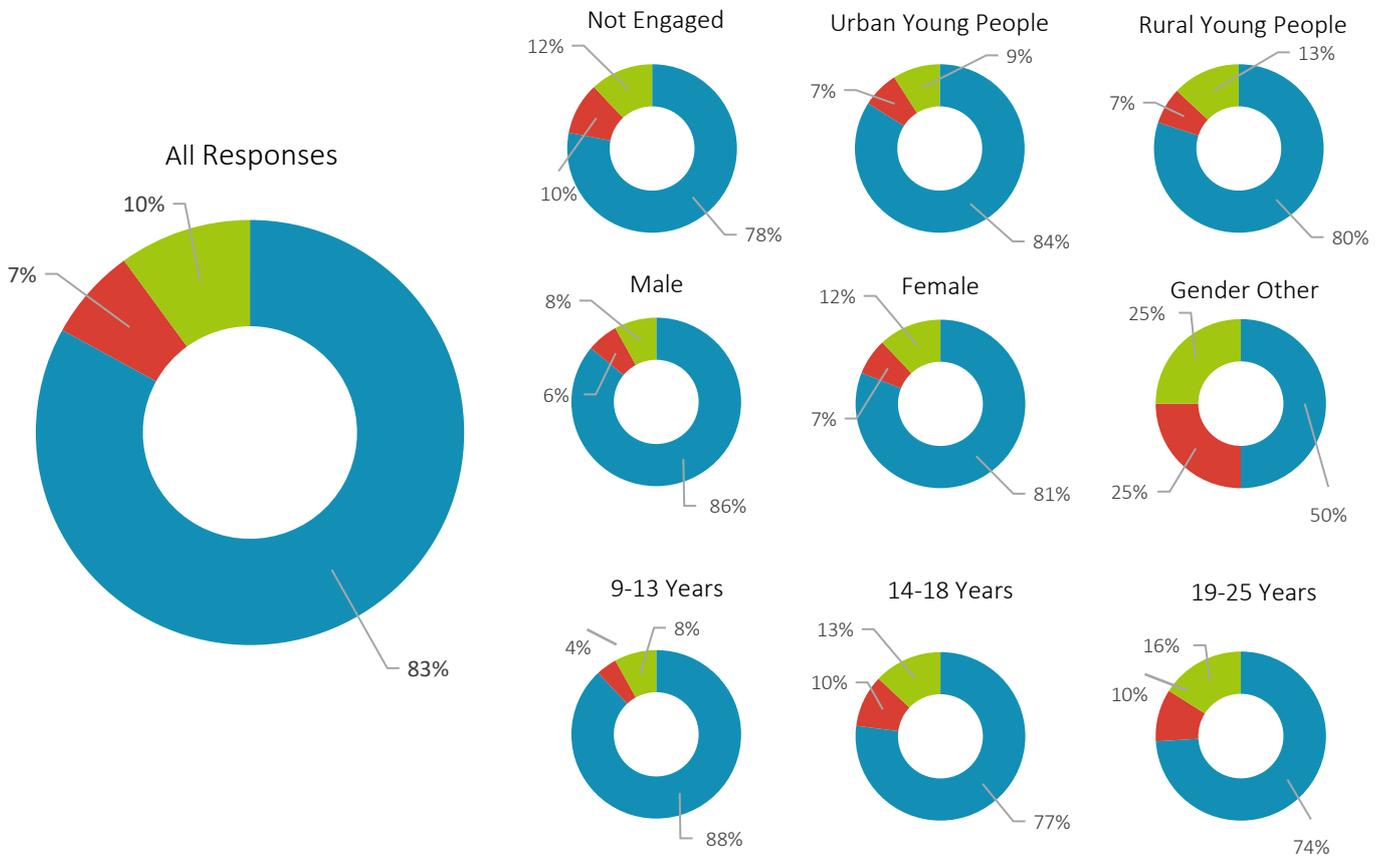
Children and young people from Section 75 groups are those most at risk of not living safely and securely. There are large numbers of these children and young people throughout Northern Ireland.

Survey Findings – Living in Safety and Stability

Yes No Don't Know

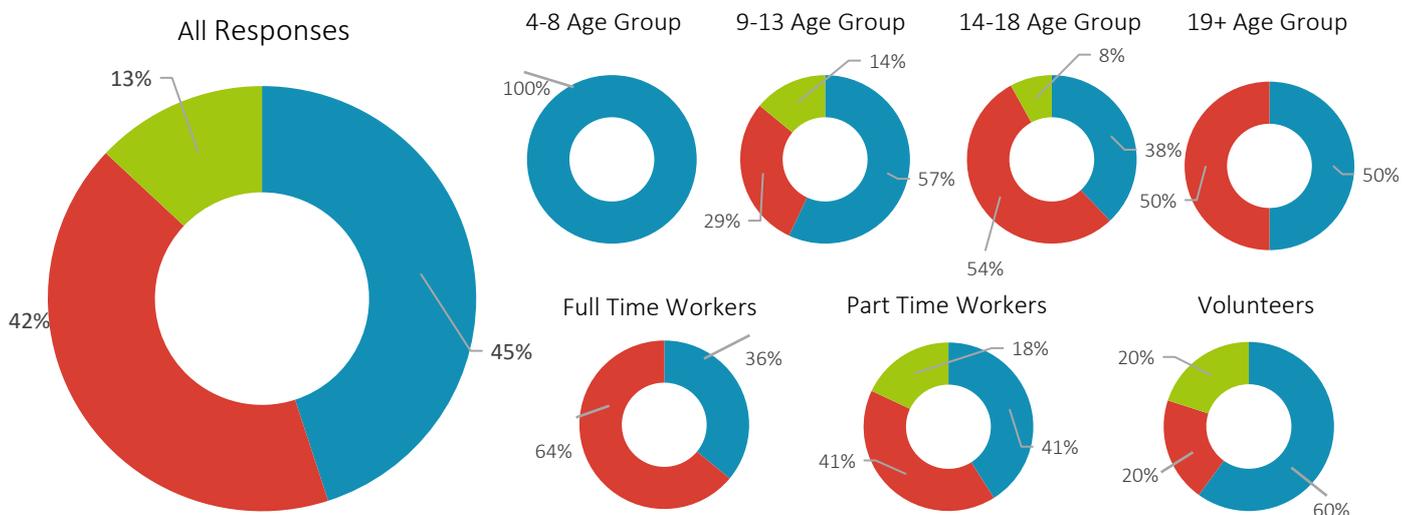
Young People

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



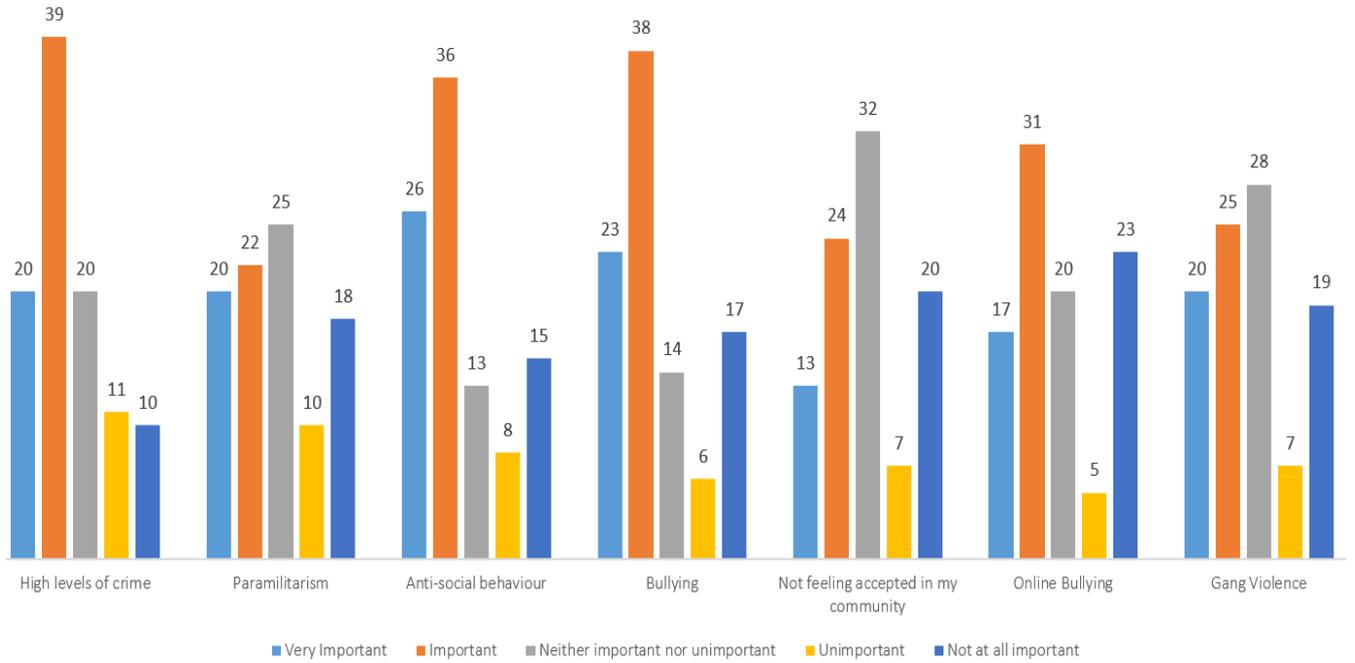
Youth Workers

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



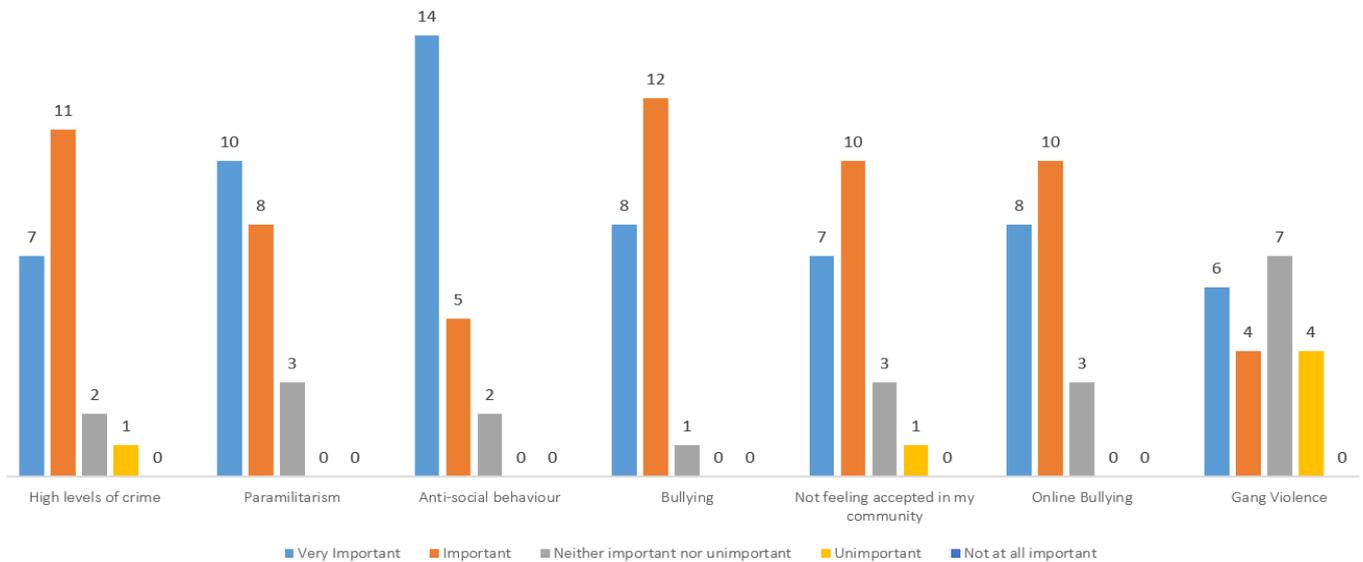
Young People

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



Youth Workers

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



Public Consultation Summary of Narrative Responses

- Youth Service provision needs to be open later in the evenings to meet the needs of young people and keep young people safe.
- More education is needed at a local level on the legacy of the conflict including paramilitarism.
- Young people need safe spaces where they can go and just have fun.

Local Advisory Group Consultation Summary of Narrative Responses

- There needs to be a greater focus on the 9-13 years to raise awareness of risk taking behaviours.
- More Outreach and Extended Provision.
- More youth work staff are needed to work with young people.
- There should be a focus for Youth Services on ASB and supporting young people to make better choices.
- Greater opportunities for intergenerational projects
- Youth Services should have better links with community safety partnerships and other agencies
- Youth Services should be delivering school based interventions to address particular issues such as bullying.

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.

For these children and young people insecurity and transitions create stress which can threaten a child or young person's sense of belonging and security. 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.

Within Lisburn and Castlereagh 83% of overall respondents reported that they felt safe in their own community. Of the remaining 17%, 7% reported not feeling safe and 10% did not know. Across the three age bands the 9-13 age group reported feeling most safe (88%).

The overall statistic of 83% is encouraging. This positive statistic is also replicated in the Early Intervention Lisburn Report (2018) with 88% of respondents reporting that they felt quite or very safe growing up in Lisburn.

Youth workers opinions on this area were quite different. They reported that only 45% of young people they work with feel safe in their own community, 42% don't and 13% did not know if they were safe or not. The differences in responses may be due to the knowledge base of youth work staff and the types of support they provide to young people they are engaging with that would be deemed 'at risk'.

Much work is being done at a local level through Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Community Planning. One of the overarching outcomes is to ensure that people in Lisburn and Castlereagh live in 'empowered, harmonious, safe and welcoming communities'.

Specific initiatives to address this issue are also addressed through the Lisburn and Castlereagh PCSP. Statutory, voluntary and community partners work towards achieving the PCSP key strategic priority – to improve community safety by tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

The overall top three answers given by young people as to why they do not feel safe were due to; anti-social behaviour, high levels of crime and bullying however it is important to also consider the other answers to fully begin to understand the issues for young people. The other reasons why young people do not feel safe also included; paramilitarism, gang violence, online bullying and not feeling accepted by their community.

The same top three answers were provided across all three age bands; ASB, bullying and high levels of crime but with different rankings of first, second or third.

The top response from youth workers was anti-social behaviour. The second most important reason was joint with bullying and paramilitarism being weighted the same and the third top answer was online bullying.

Responses analysed across both urban and rural young people identified that young people in urban areas (84%) feel slightly safer than their urban peers (80%). Both groups of young people identified anti-social behaviour bullying and high levels of crime as the top three causes of not feeling safe.

PSNI statistics for Lisburn and Castlereagh indicate that anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents have been increasingly. From December 2017 – November 2018 there were 3,101 ASB incidents and between December 2018 and November 2019 there were 3,185 ASB incidents demonstrating an increase of 2.7%. Issues in relation to young people and ASB in particular within Lisburn continues to be a problem. The issues being presented are; large groups of young people congregating in key hotspot areas, young people engaging risk taking behaviours often associated with alcohol or drug use, vandalism and causing a nuisance in relation to noise pollution, littering etc. Young people involved in these issues are mainly from the Lisburn area however due to the transient nature of young people are congregating in Lisburn from other areas outside of the Lisburn and Castlereagh Council.

Young people at a recent 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.

The Lisburn and Castlereagh Youth Council Research found that there was a correlation between attending a youth project and young people not congregating in a 'hot spot' area. Of those young people surveyed almost 30% identified that more social spaces for young people are needed within Lisburn and Castlereagh.

Across NI there are 498 Children Looked After. Within the Lisburn and Castlereagh area there are a number of homes that support children looked after and young people living in these homes are part of the Lisburn and Castlereagh community, accessing services, attending schools and being supported by the community. Youth services are also needed for children looked after as they can often be a particularly vulnerable group of young people in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area.

Work continues to be needed across Lisburn and Castlereagh to support young people to be recognised as a valuable part of the local community. The voices of young people need to be heard at a local level as well as a Council wide level through clear and supported participative structures. Young people should also be contributing to and be part of local community structures and work with the community to address local issues.

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 all services are delivered to meet the assessed needs of children and young people and ensure that resources are allocated based on need.

Area of Action: Proportionate Reporting on Youth Service Outcomes

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 survey with children and young people has demonstrated a lack of awareness of Youth Services available to children and young people. More specifically, children and young people not engaged in Youth Services do not fully understand the opportunities available to them. This area of action is key to ensure children and young people are aware of the service opportunities open to them, to increase the participation of children and young people and to promote the outcomes and benefits of Youth Services.

Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality

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

Health and Wellbeing

Greater focus is required on addressing issues regarding childhood obesity. With almost a quarter of Year 8's in Lisburn and Castlereagh with a BMI that falls within the overweight or obese range more emphasis is needed in terms of supporting young people to be physically active along with raising awareness of nutrition and exercise. Links and partnerships with other agencies such as local leisure centres need to be established to effectively address this issue and have maximum impact.

Youth Services need to focus on supporting young people in the area of mental health and suicide awareness. This may be through the delivery of health and wellbeing programmes and initiatives that provide an early intervention approach and equip young people with the necessary skills to keep healthy. Programmes need to address the impact of social media on the health and wellbeing of young people.

Youth services need to provide more spaces for young people to meet and participate in generic youth services whilst having access to targeted services as and when required. Providing safe spaces has been an important recommendation from young people and other key stakeholders and these must be available at key times for young people particularly in the evenings and at weekends (Friday, Saturday and Sunday).

Interventions and resources addressing issues relating health and wellbeing need to be targeted at young people experiencing deprivation. This is not only for young people living in deprivation but for those affected by different types of deprivation e.g. access to services, health deprivation, income deprivation. Consideration must be given to young people living in poverty but not in MDM areas.

Specific programmes and initiatives are required to support young people in the area of health and wellbeing and young people want particular support with alcohol and drugs, health programmes and sport and fitness. There needs to be a greater focus on the 14-18 and 19-25 age ranges as these were the largest groups that identified they wanted support in this area. The 9-13 and 19-25 year olds would like support on their health and wellbeing through outdoor learning and the 19-25's through gender based programmes.

Priority Targets:

- Physical fitness and health education programmes across all age bands and areas. This should include work with 9-13 year olds and 19-25 year olds using outdoor learning methodology.
- All youth service programmes should include, where possible, a physical activity element.
- New partnerships should be established with Council Leisure facilities where possible to increase access for young people.
- Targeted work tackling childhood obesity is required with young people age 9-13 and 14-18, particularly in SOA's of Old Warren, Hilden 1&2, Hillhall 1, Ballymacoss 1, Enler, Grahamsbridge, Lagan Valley, Lambeg 2, Seymour Hill and Tonagh.
- Positive mental health programmes are needed for young people age 14-18 and 19-25 with a focus on building resilience and the use of social media.
- The delivery of generic provision at key times including Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.
- Delivery of targeted drug and alcohol programmes for young people age 14-18.
- Delivery of gender based health and wellbeing programmes for young people age 19-25.

Learning and Achieving

Youth Services in Lisburn and Castlereagh need to consider how best it can support young people in the area of learning and achieving. There is a clear need for the delivery of more educational and accredited programmes for young people which provide pathways for young people to enhance their education and skills and ultimately prepare them for the further education, training or the world of work. Partnership working is key to ensure that programmes are tailored to meet specific need.

Initiatives that provide education or training opportunities need to be targeted at specific groups of young people or communities. For example the five SOA's that been identified as being within the top 20% ranking where young people are not achieving at least 5 GCSE's along with the four highest SOA's where 16/17 and 18 year olds are leaving school and not entering education, training or employment. There are also seven SOA's within the top 20% for school absenteeism in NI. These areas should also be a focus, to engage young people into the non-formal education system where a range of opportunities can be offered tailored to specific need. Recommended methodologies for this include through the use of lifeskills programmes, outdoor learning activities and education programmes.

There also needs to be a specific focus on supporting young protestant males across Lisburn and Castlereagh to address barriers to learning and provide opportunities for them to learn and achieve through the non-formal sector.

The Youth Service should also consider offering relevant vocational qualifications that may enhance the job prospects of young people and carry currency into the world of work. There needs to be a focus however on targeting young people across secondary schools to increase opportunities for learning and achieving.

Volunteering opportunities and volunteer training programmes are needed for young people (although not exclusively) aged 19-25 to enable them to gain experience as volunteers and develop key skills for work. Increased opportunities for volunteering in rural areas is a priority.

In addition to education and lifeskills programmes, outdoor learning programmes that help young people develop new skills should be delivered across all age bands.

Priority Targets:

- Delivery of accredited programmes across Lisburn and Castlereagh with a particular focus on SOA's of Lambeg 2, Hillhall 1, Old Warren and Carrowreagh 2.
- Delivery of lifeskills and education programmes across Lisburn and Castlereagh with a particular focus on SOA's of Lambeg 2, Hillhall 1, Old Warren, Carrowreagh 2, Hilden 1 & 2, Tonagh, Blaris 1, Lagan Valley 1, Enler and Knockmore 2.
- Targeted programmes that address barriers to learning for young men in Lambeg 2, Hillhall 1, Old Warren and Carrowreagh 2.
- Increased opportunities for young people to volunteer within youth services with a particular focus on young people age 19-25 and young people in the following rural communities: Glenavy 2, Maze 2, Ballymacbrennan 1 & 2, Ballinderry 1, Dromara 2, Drumbo 2, Maghaberry 2 and Moneyrea 1

Good Relations

There continues to be a need to create opportunities for young people from different backgrounds to meet in a safe and welcoming environment. Young people need spaces in which to build relationships with 'others'.

Specific programmes or interventions focusing on cultural awareness and diversity are required to break down barriers and to learn about local history, religion, politics and culture. Young people recognise that

they need more cultural awareness (it was within the top three answers provided) and this needs to be across both Protestant and Catholic communities but with a particular emphasis on Protestant communities. Programmes need to be delivered in partnership with other key agencies such as Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council linking into the areas Good Relations Strategy. A specific programme of work is needed around supporting young people during the marching season and associated 12th celebrations when intra community tension poses a risk to young people at this time in terms of their personal safety and wellbeing. There is a need to work in partnership with other agencies in the delivery of this work.

Good relations initiatives and programmes are particularly needed in rural areas across Lisburn and Castlereagh as only 65% of young people in rural areas identified that they have opportunities to meet 'other' young people.

Programmes to engage young people in the area of good relations need to be age appropriate and tailored to how young people would like them delivered. For example the 9-13 and 19-25 year olds particularly identified engagement of this area would be more likely if through the medium of outdoor learning activities or residential/camps and cultural awareness programmes. The 14-18 age groups also identified increased interest in the delivery of inclusion programmes.

Diversity and awareness raising programmes also need to look at difference in a much broader sense terms of race, ethnicity and gender to help address prejudice and discrimination.

Youth Services need to ensure that they are open and welcoming to all young people. Proactive steps are needed to engage vulnerable or marginalised groups of young people including newcomers. The delivery of targeted programmes are therefore required to support newcomer young people to integrate into local communities and to also gain support from Youth Services.

Priority Targets:

- Increased opportunities for young people to meet with 'other' young people on a more regular basis
- Delivery of cultural awareness programmes with a particular focus on protestant communities. Programmes should be delivered in partnership with other agencies.
- Partnership programmes focused on good relations work required at key times including July (Bonfire/12th) to address intra community tensions.
- Good relations programmes focused in rural communities within Lisburn and Castlereagh targeting young people 9-13 years and 19-25 years
- Diversity and inclusion programmes covering a range of themes including race, religion, ethnicity and gender for young people age 14-18
- Delivery of programmes to support newcomer young people in Lisburn town centre

Participation

There is a need for more generic youth provision and/or less structured spaces within Lisburn and Castlereagh that are widely accessible to young people and provide a safe space for young people to meet with friends in the evenings and at weekends.

Specific initiatives and programmes to encourage greater participation are also needed. Young people are recommending that these are based around getting support to gain employment and enhance their CV, help with help and support for building confidence and self-esteem. The 9-13 age group also need initiatives and programmes that address bullying. Delivery should be targeted at key areas based on deprivation across a range of domains e.g. education, poverty, employment etc.

Greater promotion of Youth Services is needed across the Lisburn and Castlereagh area. Young people have identified that their preferred method of communication is via social media however greater promotion across schools is also vital to reach young people currently not engaged.

Young people should have greater opportunities to contribute to civic life through the development of social action projects and should be supported and encouraged to have a voice at all levels of society.

There is also a need to increase levels of participation in Youth Services of young people with disabilities or additional needs. Due to almost a quarter of pupils within Lisburn and Castlereagh having a special educational need and five Special Schools operating within the Council area more work is needed to support young people with disabilities to engage in mainstream provision.

Peer Education Programmes should be developed to support young people across a range of programme areas and create pathways into leadership roles for young people.

Priority Targets:

- Generic youth provision in Lisburn City Centre providing services to young people late evenings and at weekends (Friday/Saturday/Sunday)
- Delivery of targeted programmes that will help enhance young people's CV and develop confidence and self-esteem.
- Delivery of programmes for young people age 9-13 to deal with bullying
- The Development of a communication plan to promote youth services across Lisburn and Castlereagh
- Increased opportunities for social action programmes and engaging young people in civic life
- Development of provision for young people with disabilities and engagement with 5 Special Schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh
- Development of a coherent leadership pathway including peer education programmes focusing on young people age 14-18 and 19-25.

Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity

It is recognised that there is a need for young people from diverse backgrounds to come together and meet on a more regular basis. New initiatives or programmes outside of TBUC need to be considered to enable this to happen. This includes bringing young people together from across communities or areas within Lisburn and Castlereagh.

Awareness raising programmes are needed to explore diversity in relation to gender and disability.

The causes of young people feeling that they do not have the same opportunities need to be explored with young people. Issues relating to communities, stereotypes associated with particular areas and social background need to be explored with young people and a strength based approach taken when working with young people who are experiencing being treated differently.

Targeted work is needed to engage vulnerable groups of young people including LGBTQ young people, young people with disabilities, children and young people looked after and newcomers to ensure they have access to services and barriers to engagement removed or addressed. The mechanisms to engage these groups of young people should be through residential/camps, cultural identity/diversity programmes, cultural awareness programmes and through the medium of creative arts. Links with schools is also required.

Priority Targets:

- Increased opportunities to bring young people together for social purposes and to build relationships with a range of 'other' young people
- Awareness raising programmes focusing on gender and disability
- Targeted programmes for young people from Section 75 groupings (including LGBTQ, Newcomers and young people with disabilities) to increase participation using a range of methodologies including residential, cultural identity/diversity programmes and creative arts.

Living in Safety & Stability

Partnership and multi-agency work is needed to address the key issues young people are identifying that are making them feel unsafe in communities. These include; anti-social behaviour, high levels of crime and bullying. This includes developing direct engagement with those young people on the periphery of criminal and anti-social behaviours or those vulnerable of being involved in paramilitary groups.

Specific initiatives are needed to help young people to stay safe online including how to deal with online bullying.

There is a need to have detached youth work teams to support vulnerable young people on the streets at key times. This is particularly needed in the evenings and at weekends. Detached youth workers need to have the flexibility to move location based on the transient nature of young people and respond to need and work in partnership with other key agencies within the Borough including; PSNI, PCSP, ANDBC and Street Pastors.

There needs to be increased safe spaces for young people to meet that provide activities attractive to teenagers and available in the evening and at weekends.

Specific programmes are required to engage with children looked after to increase their access to mainstream Youth Services and gain support at a local level.

The development of localised social action projects will enable young people to have a greater involvement in community life and engage with different sections of the community.

Priority Targets:

- Delivery of targeted partnership programmes for young people on the periphery of criminal behaviour, anti-social behaviour and for those at risk of being involved in paramilitary groups.
- Programmes to educate young people on how to stay safe online along with managing the online world across all age bands and areas
- Delivery of a flexible, detached/outreach youth work initiative that provides a youth work response in the evening and at weekends with young people not engaged in youth services with a particular focus on Lisburn Town Centre and surrounding areas.
- Targeted programmes for children looked after
- The provision of a safe space in Lisburn Town Centre
- Delivery of social action programmes to encourage greater involvement of young people in community life.

Developing the Non-Formal Education Workforce

Area of Action: Workforce Development

Youth Services should ensure all staff are trained to best respond to the current needs of children and young people. Succession planning will also be key to ensuring Youth Services are always resourced to continually meet this need.

Area of Action: Practice Development and Support

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

Area of Action: Volunteer Development

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

Improving the Non-Formal Learning Environment

Area of Action: Participative Structures

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

Area of Action: Development & Maintenance of EA Youth Estate

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

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

Area of Action: Digital Transformation of Youth Service

As outlined in Priorities for Youth, Youth Services should continue to develop its ICT infrastructure to enable the digitalisation of services to reduce administration and bureaucracy and improve reporting and decision making. Youth Services should consider all systems and processes that can be provided online using a digital first focus not digital only.

Transforming Governance and the Management of Non-Formal Education

Area of Action: Funding Scheme for Voluntary Youth Organisations

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

Summary of Recommend Areas of Action 2020-2023

Youth Work Priority: Raising Standards for All	
1.1	Delivering on Assessed Need
1.2	Proportionate Reporting on Youth Service Outcomes
1.3	Stakeholder Engagement & Research
1.4	Quality Assurance
1.5	Promotion of Service Opportunities

Youth Work Priority: Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality	
2.1	Health and Wellbeing
2.2	Learn and Achieve
2.3	Good Relations
2.4	Participation
2.5	Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity
2.6	Living in Safety and Stability

Youth Work Priority: Developing the Non-Formal Education Workforce	
3.1	Workforce Development
3.2	Practice Development & Support
3.3	Volunteer Development

Youth Work Priority: Transforming the Non-Formal Learning Environment	
4.1	Participative Structures
4.2	Development & Maintenance of EA Youth Estate
4.3	Digital Transformation of Youth Service

Youth Work Priority: Transforming Governance and the Management of Education	
5.1	Funding Scheme for Voluntary Youth Organisation

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