

Newry Mourne and Down

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. DE notes that effective Youth Work enables young people to identify their personal and social development needs and involves them in shaping the services designed to meet those needs to 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 Newry Mourne & Down are delivered by a range of diverse Groups and organisations, including Statutory, Voluntary, Uniformed and Church based, many of these are supported by grants from EA. These range from rural groups with small memberships to large urban organisations.

Youth provision is delivered directly to young people in a variety of settings including full-time and part-time youth centres, Outdoor Learning centres, Youth Work in schools as well as Outreach and Detached work and specialist programmes, particularly focussed on improving outcomes for young people and enhancing their inclusion and participation.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is a local authority in Northern Ireland and was established on 1 April 2015. It replaced Newry and Mourne District Council and Down District Council. EA youth services are co terminous with the council and enable effective planning and partnership working.

Youth Services in Newry Mourne & Down are constantly innovating and evolving to meet the present and emerging needs of young people. Youth Work can be categorised broadly into two types, Generic and Targeted.

Generic Provision

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

Targeted Provision Purpose

Targeted provision seeks to address the direct impact of exclusion and marginalisation, addressing key themes of work, such as risk-taking health behaviour, sectarianism and racism, disaffection and low levels of attainment in school, whilst also focusing resources on specific groups of young people who are most marginalised, such as those young people in 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

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/>

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.

Structured formal planning takes place throughout the service (regionally and locally) in order to effectively allocate staff and resources in response to policy priorities, DE targets and an objective assessment of needs. 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, provide evidence of support, inform service planning and resource allocation ensuring improved outcomes and a reduction in inequalities.

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

Understanding the needs of young people, demographic changes and the geographical differences in which they reside allows 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 Department of Education 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 Newry Mourne & Down is a complex and difficult task. There is a clear variation and level of needs across the district, with some areas facing greater challenges than others. Newry Mourne & Down is a large geographical area with broad ranging and diverse needs and issues.

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

The information gleaned from the research has then 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 Newry Mourne & Down.

Where possible quantitative and qualitative data has 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 as well as being 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 the Department of Education 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 analyse qualitative information from a range of sources. These sources were generally from government departments or other statutory agencies. The information collected from these sources helped identify key priority areas of need within Newry Mourne & Down. 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 the Department of Education and the Education Authority 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 using Survey Monkey:

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

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 16,132 young people in Northern Ireland responded to the survey, 916 of those were from the Newry Mourne & Down area. Young people from a range of statutory, local and voluntary youth groups involved in DE funded Youth Work participated. Young people not currently involved in Youth Services were also canvassed. A similar survey based on the same areas of enquiry was designed and distributed to Youth Workers and Volunteers. There were 704 respondents to this survey, 28 from Newry Mourne & Down. Youth Workers and Volunteers from a range of statutory, local and voluntary youth groups involved in DE funded Youth Work took part in the survey.

The survey responses were analysed and helped inform the Assessment of Need.

Stakeholder Engagement Events

The Education Authority Youth Service organised a series of Stakeholder Engagement events looking into:

- 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 17 December 2019 at Newry Youth Resource 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 the local assessment of need.

Local Advisory Group

The Newry Mourne & Down Local Advisory Group were also consulted on Monday 6th January 2020 regarding the Local Assessment of Need for the 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.

Newry Mourne & Down in Numbers

Newry Mourne & Down in Numbers

- 62,742 children and young people live in Newry, Mourne and Down.
- 11,356 (18.1%) live in an area of deprivation.
- 34,006 (54.2%) live in a rural community.
- One in five young people have a mental health need. (12,548 young people).
- 1,098 young people identify as LGBTQ. (14-25).
- 11,074 are engaged in youth work.
- 9,728 (27.8%) of all pupils in Newry, Mourne and Down are eligible for Free School Meals.
- 7,577 (21.4%) of all pupils have a Special Educational Need or a Disability.
- 1,339 Newcomers attend schools in Newry, Mourne and Down.
- 155 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Newry, Mourne and Down
- 91 Roma children and young people attend schools in Newry, Mourne and Down.

Demographics

The estimated population for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for 2019 is 181,551 of which 90,054 (49.6%) are male and 91,497 (50.4%) are female. More than one third of the total population of Newry, Mourne and Down, 62,748 (34.6%) are aged 25 years or under. (NI average 33.1%).

Population Age Bands 2019

0-3 Years	4-8 Years	9-13 Years	14-18 Years	19-25 Years
10,063	13,267	13,055	11,696	14,667

Projected Population 2020-2029

Age Groups	2020	2023	2026	2029
0-3 Years	9,899	9,725	9,601	9,516
4-8 Years	13,324	12,936	12,603	12,389
9-13 Years	13,380	13,520	13,297	13,006
14-18 Years	11,707	12,778	13,620	13,505
19-25 Years	14,432	13,843	13,624	14,684

According to figures released by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) in 2017, 18.1% of children and young people from Newry, Mourne and Down live in the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas within Northern Ireland. Currently, this equates to approximately 11,350 young people living in areas of and experiencing high levels of multiple deprivation.

NISRA also reported in 2017 that 54.2% of young people from Newry, Mourne and Down live in what has been designated as a rural area. Currently, this equates to approximately 34,000 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:

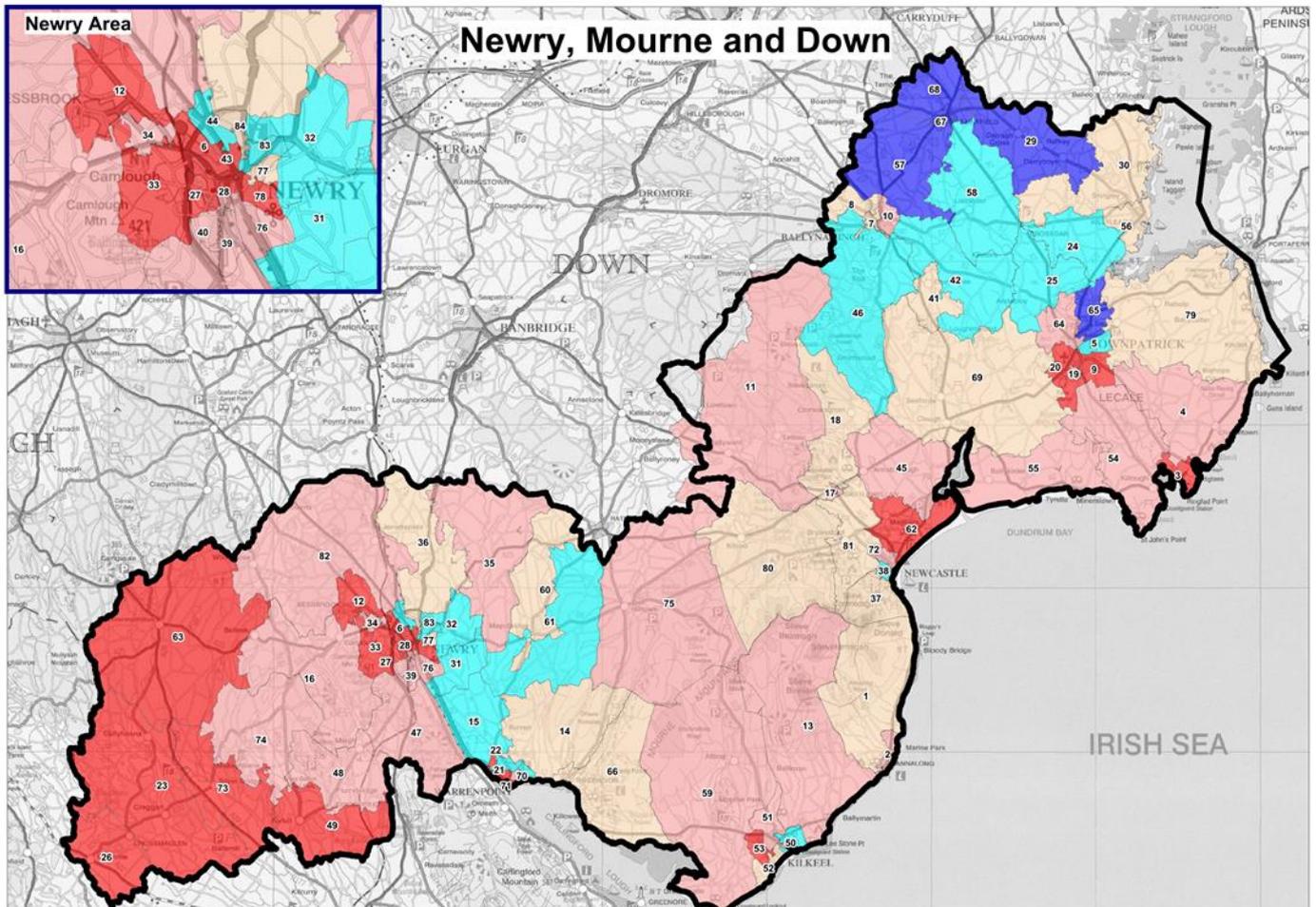
- Income Domain
- Employment Domain
- Health Deprivation and Disability Domain
- Education, Skills and Training Domain
- Access to Services Domain
- Living Environment Domain
- Crime and Disorder Domain

The Newry, Mourne and Down area consists of 84 Super Output Areas.

- 8 Super Output Areas are ranked in the top 100 most deprived in terms of multiple deprivation.
- 12 Super Output Areas are ranked in the top 100 most deprived in terms Income Deprivation Affecting Children.
- In 2012/13-2014/15, 24.3% of the population were in relative poverty (before housing costs) in Newry, Mourne and Down, compared with 20.4% in Northern Ireland.
- In 2012/13-2014/15, 26.4% of children were in relative poverty (before housing costs) in Newry, Mourne and Down, compared with 23.0% in Northern Ireland.

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs) are neighbourhoods identified as experiencing the most severe multiple deprivation and have been chosen to receive support under the Department for Communities People and Place strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. In total 36 neighbourhoods have been identified to receive support. There are 2 NRAs in Newry, Mourne and Down:

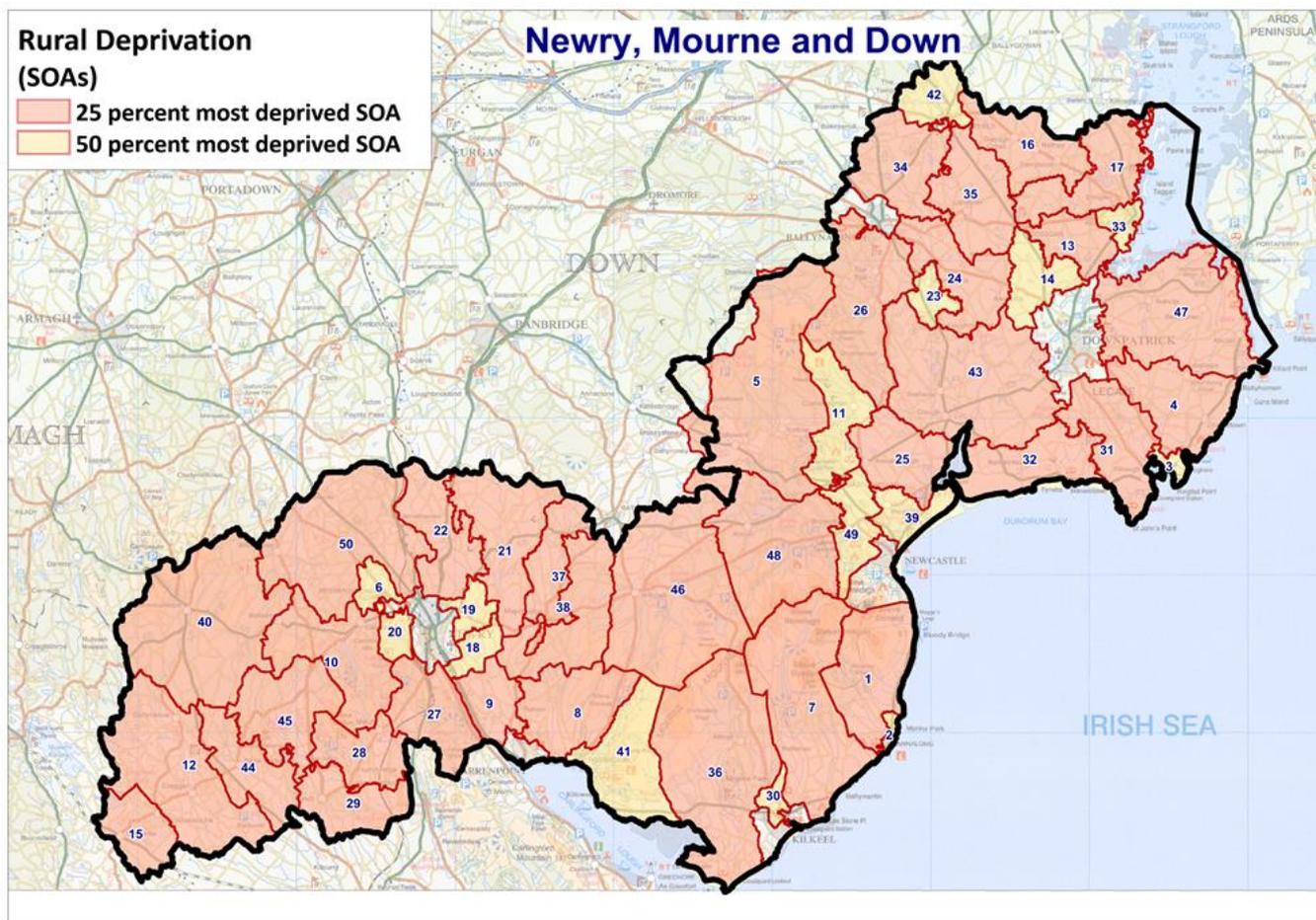
- Downpatrick
- Newry



The map above illustrates the extent to which multiple deprivation is concentrated across the division.

The following table provides the measure for each Super Output area in rank order showing the most deprived in dark red and the least deprived in purple. The EA youth Service will focus provision on the areas in the top 25% most deprived communities.

Reference	SOA	Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank (1-890)	Reference	SOA	Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank (1-890)
1	Annalong_1	363	43	Drumgullion_1	70
2	Annalong_2	187	44	Drumgullion_2	551
3	Ardglass_1	176	45	Dundrum	321
4	Ardglass_2	305	46	Dunmore	666
5	Audley's Acre	599	47	Fathom	243
6	Ballybot	93	48	Forkhill_1	249
7	Ballymaglave_1	396	49	Forkhill_2	100
8	Ballymaglave_2	475	50	Kilkeel Central_1	540
9	Ballymote	115	51	Kilkeel Central_2	258
10	Ballynahinch East	283	52	Kilkeel South_1	500
11	Ballyward	233	53	Kilkeel South_2	113
12	Bessbrook	132	54	Killough_1	217
13	Binnian	335	55	Killough_2	261
14	Burren and Kilbroney_1	473	56	Killyleagh	381
15	Burren and Kilbroney_2	663	57	Kilmore_1	735
16	Camlough	260	58	Kilmore_2	693
17	Castlewellan_1	235	59	Lisnacree	336
18	Castlewellan_2	455	60	Mayobridge_1	378
19	Cathedral_1	352	61	Mayobridge_2	587
20	Cathedral_2	106	62	Murlough	89
21	Clonallan_1	133	63	Newtownhamilton	111
22	Clonallan_2	619	64	Quoile_1	186
23	Creggan	72	65	Quoile_2	761
24	Crossgar_1	669	66	Rostrevor	385
25	Crossgar_2	660	67	Saintfield_1	771
26	Crossmaglen	57	68	Saintfield_2	781
27	Daisy Hill_1	171	69	Seaforde	429
28	Daisy Hill_2	75	70	Seaview_1	620
29	Derryboy_1	716	71	Seaview_2	244
30	Derryboy_2	464	72	Shimna	295
31	Derryleckagh_1	686	73	Silver Bridge_1	94
32	Derryleckagh_2	557	74	Silver Bridge_2	220
33	Derrymore_1	147	75	Spelga	284
34	Derrymore_2	237	76	St Mary's	207
35	Donaghmore_1	334	77	St Patrick's_1	400
36	Donaghmore_2	504	78	St Patrick's_2	126
37	Donard_1	442	79	Strangford	474
38	Donard_2	671	80	Tollymore_1	375
39	Drumalane_1	326	81	Tollymore_2	372
40	Drumalane_2	279	82	Tullyhappy	322
41	Drumaness_1	364	83	Windsor Hill_1	710
42	Drumaness_2	629	84	Windsor Hill_2	370

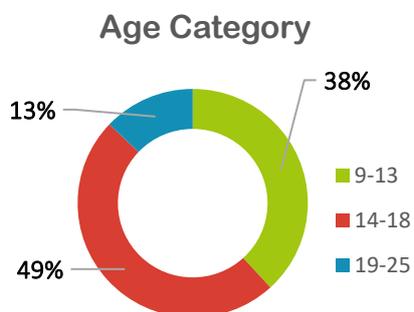


There is a large proportion of the Newry, Mourne and Down classified as rural, demonstrating the extent of deprivation in terms of lack of access to services for many of our communities. The Youth Service will endeavour to address this by supporting local communities to become registered voluntary youth groups, particularly in the top 10%. These Super Output areas include Ballyward, Donaghmore 1, Lisnacree, Mayobridge 2, Strangford, Newtownhamilton, Creggan, Seaforde, Silverbridge 2, Killough 2, Tullymore 1 and Silverbridge 1.

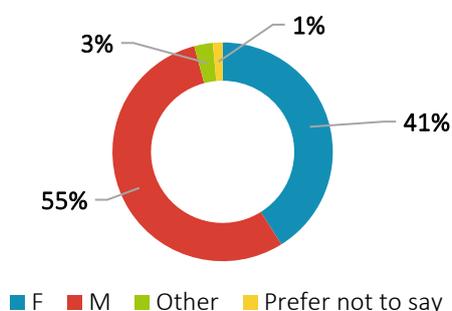
Survey Headlines

Survey of Need - Who Responded

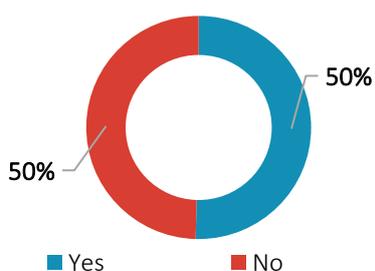
Young People



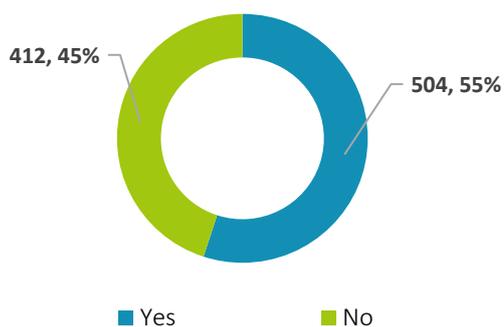
What is your Gender?



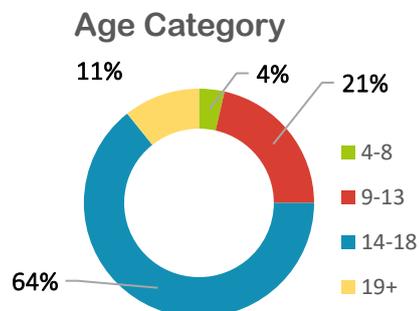
Do you live in a Rural Area?



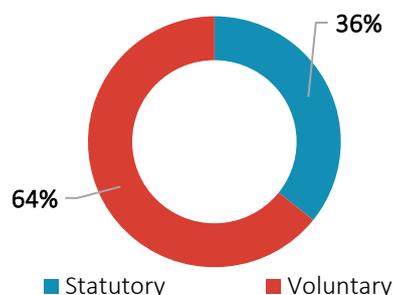
Do you currently participate in Youth Services?



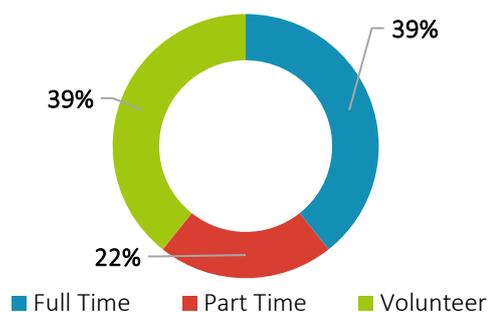
Youth Workers



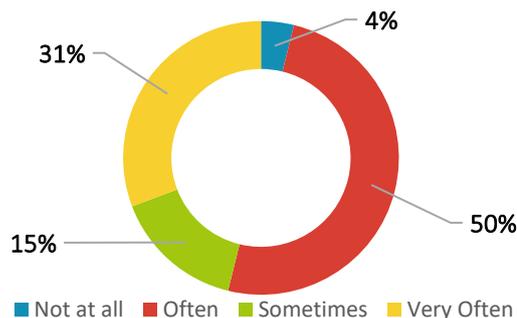
Sector



Type of Worker

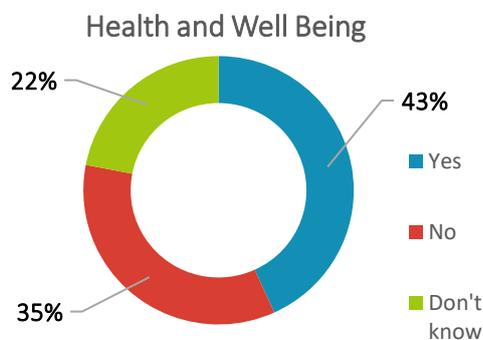


Participation

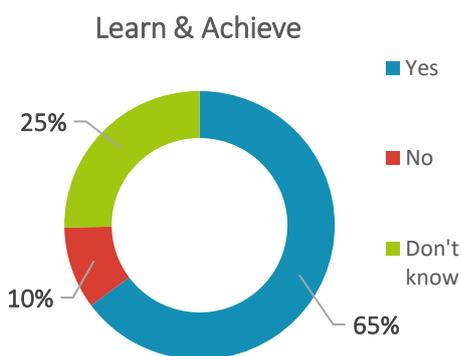


Survey of Need-Headline Findings

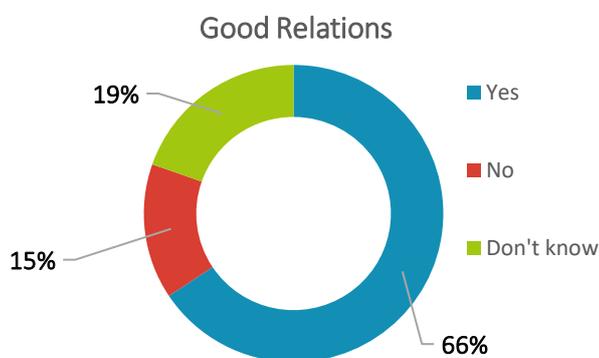
Young People



Is your Health and Well Being something you would want Youth Services to help you with?

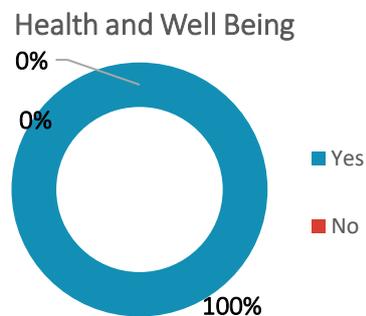


Do Youth Services in your area provide you with opportunities to take part in new experiences?

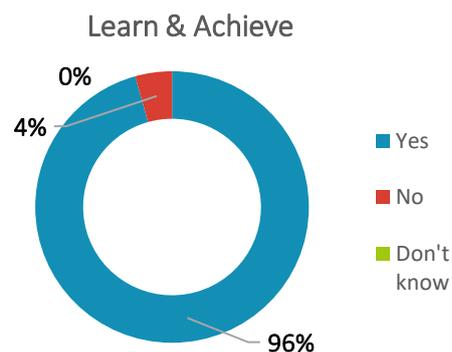


Do you have opportunities to meet, learn and socialise with people from different backgrounds in your area?

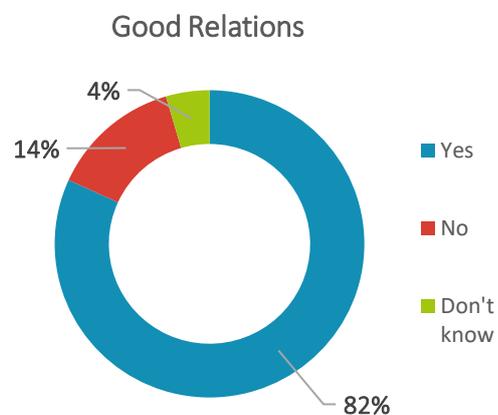
Youth Workers



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

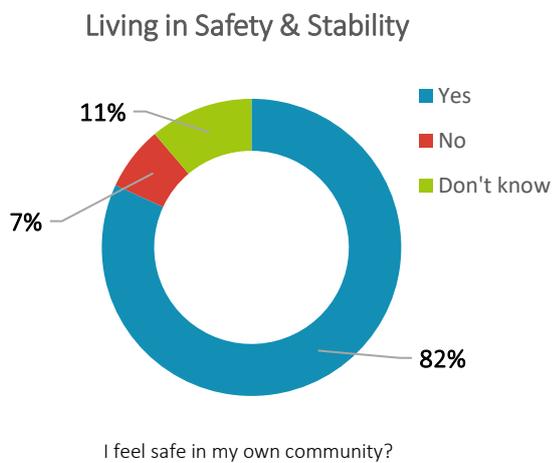
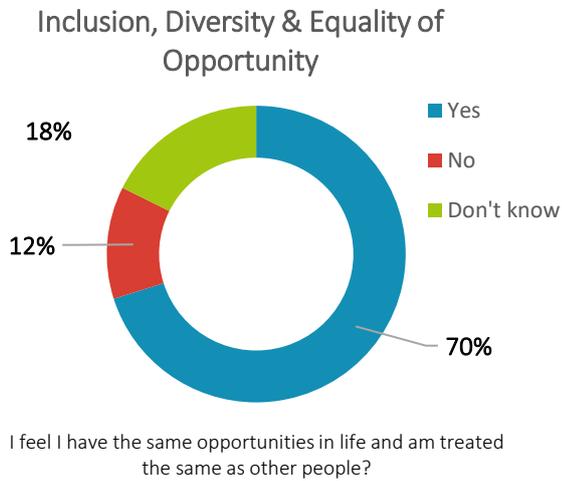
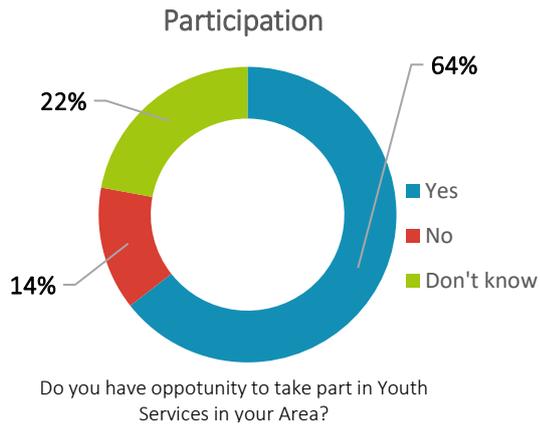


Do Youth Services in your area provide young people with opportunities to learn and take part in new experiences?

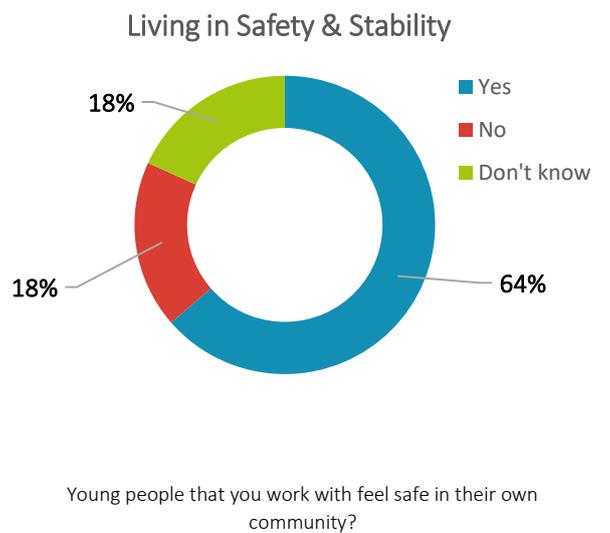
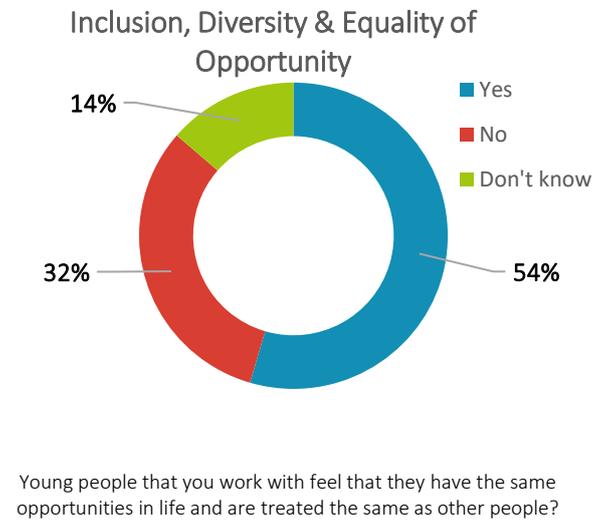
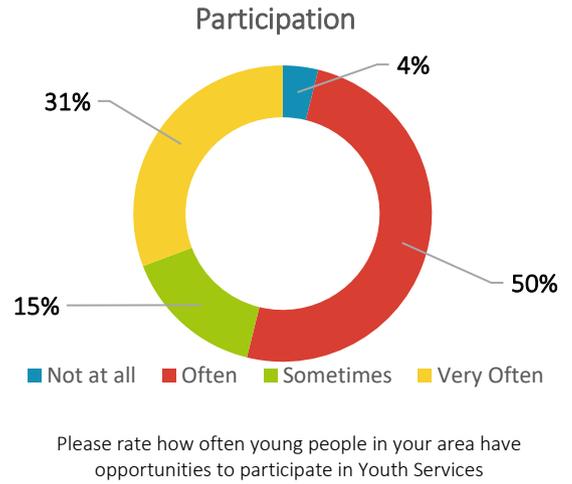


Do young people have opportunities to meet, learn and socialise with people from different backgrounds in your area?

Young People



Youth Workers



Health & Wellbeing

Area of Enquiry 1: Health and Wellbeing

Key Facts

- Male life expectancy in Newry Mourne & Down is 78.9 years. In the most deprived areas, it is 76.5 years.
- Female life expectancy in Newry Mourne & Down is 82.6 years. In the most deprived areas, it is 81.6 years.
- The standardised incidence rate for cancer in Newry Mourne & Down is 593 per 100,000 population. In the most deprived areas, it is 662 per 100,000 population.
- The standardised admission rate for self-harm in Newry Mourne & Down is 150 per 100,000 population. In the most deprived areas, it is 247 per 100,000 population.
- The crude suicide rate in Newry Mourne & Down is 16.1 per 100,000 population. In the most deprived areas, it is 22.1 per 100,000 population.
- The standardised admission rate for drug related issues in is 195 per 100,000 population. In the most deprived areas, it is 303 per 100,000 population.
- The standardised admission rate for alcohol related issues in Newry Mourne & Down is 660 per 100,000 population. In the most deprived areas, it is 971 per 100,000 population.
- The teenage birth rate for Newry Mourne & Down is 7 per 1,000 population. In the most deprived areas, it is 10.8 per population.
- The proportion of Primary 1 pupils identified as obese or overweight is 20%. In the most deprived areas, it is 21%.
- The proportion of Year 8 pupils identified as obese or overweight is 27%. In the most deprived areas, it is 33%.
- The standardised prescription rate for Mood and Anxiety in Newry Mourne & Down is 205 per 1,000 population. In the most deprived areas, it is 246 per 1,000 population.
- In 2017, 32.5% of children aged 0-2 years in Newry Mourne & Down were registered with a dentist.
- In 2017, 75.4% of children aged 3-5 years in Newry Mourne & Down were registered with a dentist.
- The overall suicide rate in Northern Ireland is currently 3 times the rate of road deaths.
- One in five young people in Newry Mourne & Down have a mental health need at any one time.
- Waiting times for mental health services in Newry Mourne & Down are a minimum of 14 weeks with Flare youth workers and up to 4 months with CAMHS providers

Why is this measure important?

The promotion of health and wellbeing and maintaining a healthy population is the basic goal of any society. According to the World Health Organisation, enjoying better health is central to human happiness and wellbeing. It can also make a significant contribution to economic progress, as healthy populations live longer, are more productive, and enjoy a better standard of living.³

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.⁴

³ <https://www.who.int/hdp/en/>

⁴ <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/healthy-living/the-mental-health-benefits-of-exercise.htm>

According to the Department for Children, Schools and Families a young person's health is an integral part of their emotional, mental, social and environmental development and wellbeing.⁵

According to the Health Foundations recent report "A Healthy Foundation for the Future" the stresses young people experience in their social environment are complex. Persistent stress places a greater burden of wear and tear on the body termed "allostatic load." Socio-economic disadvantage in adolescence and early adulthood has been associated with higher allostatic load which has been associated with multiple chronic disease outcomes.⁶

In this 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.⁷ 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.

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

There are a range of social determinants which are responsible for significant levels of unfair health inequalities. The World Health Organisation has described these as the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of their daily lives.⁸

Therefore, health inequalities are directly linked to one's social status and this may explain some of the growing inequalities that many vulnerable people in Newry Mourne & Down face in terms of their general health outcomes, their mental and emotional wellbeing and their life expectancy. In his report Fair Society, Healthy Lives, Michael Marmot stated that inequalities in health arise because of inequalities in society. It was also noted that reducing these health inequalities can bring about considerable benefits to both individuals and communities.⁹ A recent study noted that inequalities in health outcomes are more likely to affect those without equal access to resources or support. It stated that 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 young people, including Children and Young People Looked After, those with Special Educational Needs or a disability, those from ethnic minorities, young carers, young people identifying as LGBTQ or those who have experienced adverse childhood experiences are also more likely to have poorer health outcomes than their peers.¹⁰ Within Newry Mourne & Down significant numbers of young people fall into these groups. Poor health outcomes are also linked to poor educational outcomes.

⁵http://www.earlyyearsmatters.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/eyfs_unique_child_health1.pdf

⁶ <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/a-healthy-foundation-for-the-future>

⁷ Ibid.

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

⁹ www.ucl.ac.uk/marmotreview

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

Survey Findings – Health and Well Being

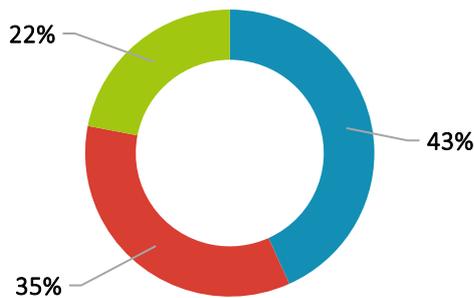
■ Yes
 ■ No
 ■ Don't Know

Young People

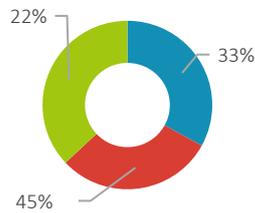
Is promoting positive Health & Wellbeing (mental, emotional or physical) something that Youth Services should offer to help and support young people?

All Responses

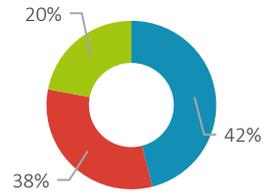
Health and Well Being



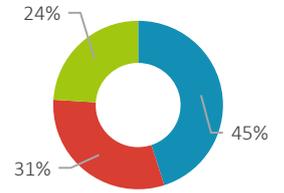
Not Engaged



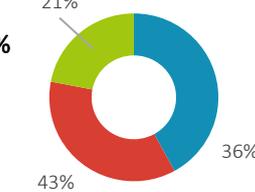
Urban Young People



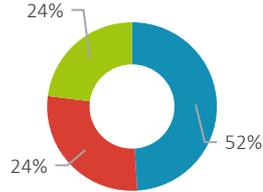
Rural Young People



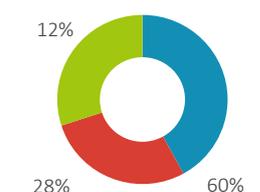
Male



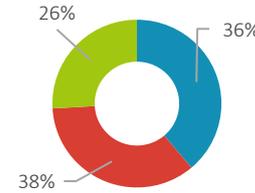
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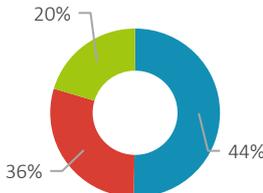
Gender Other



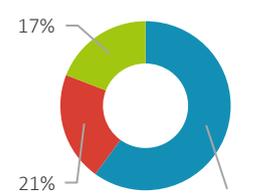
9-13 Years



14-18 Years



19-25 Years



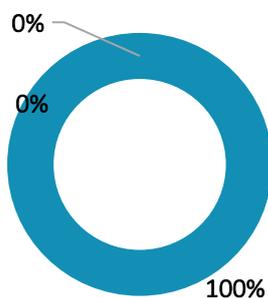
62%

Youth Workers

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

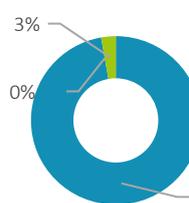
All Responses

Health and Well Being

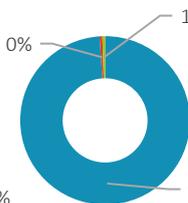


■ Yes
 ■ No
 ■ Don't know

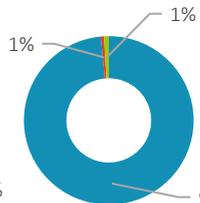
4-8 Age Group



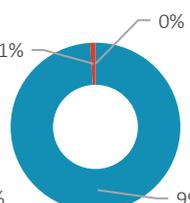
9-13 Age Group



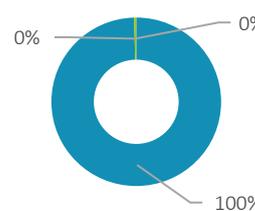
14-18 Age Group



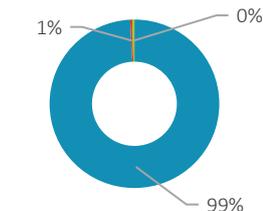
19+ Age Group



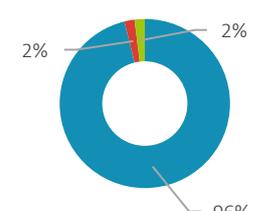
Full Time Workers



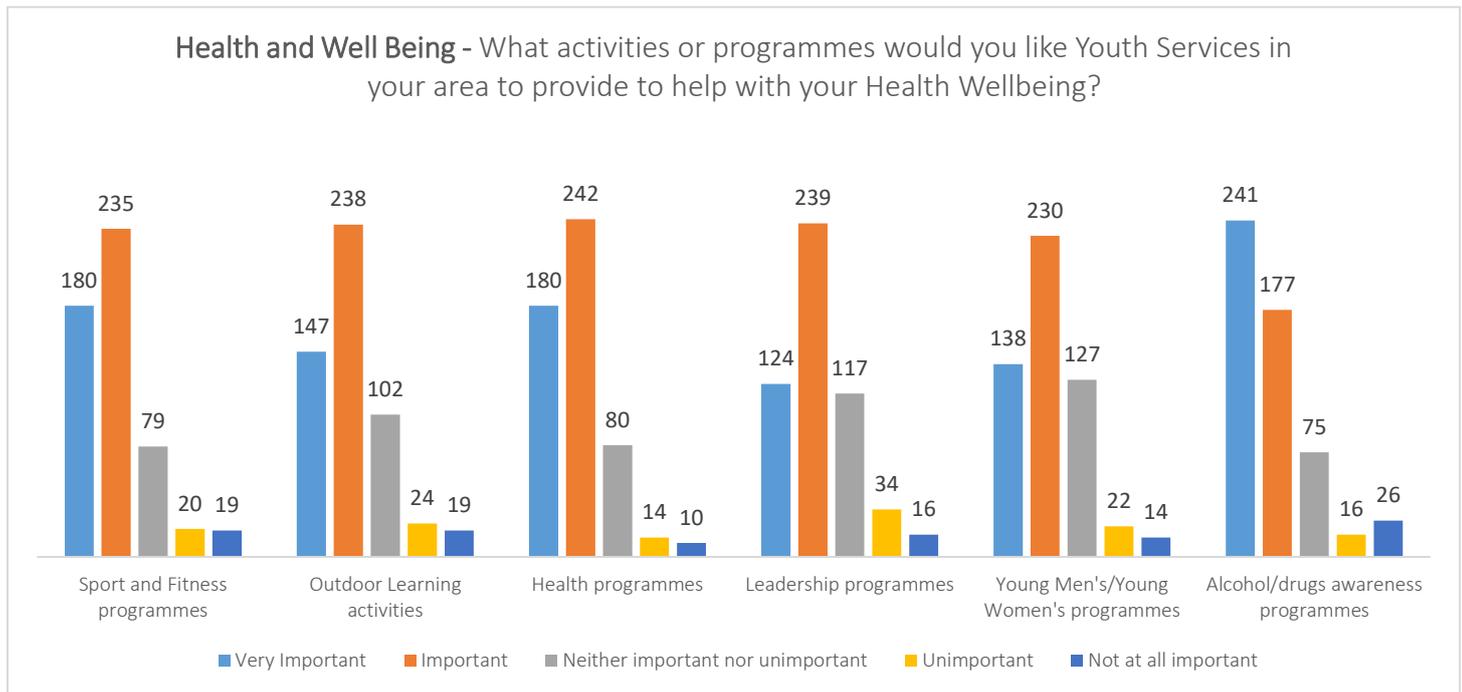
Part Time Workers



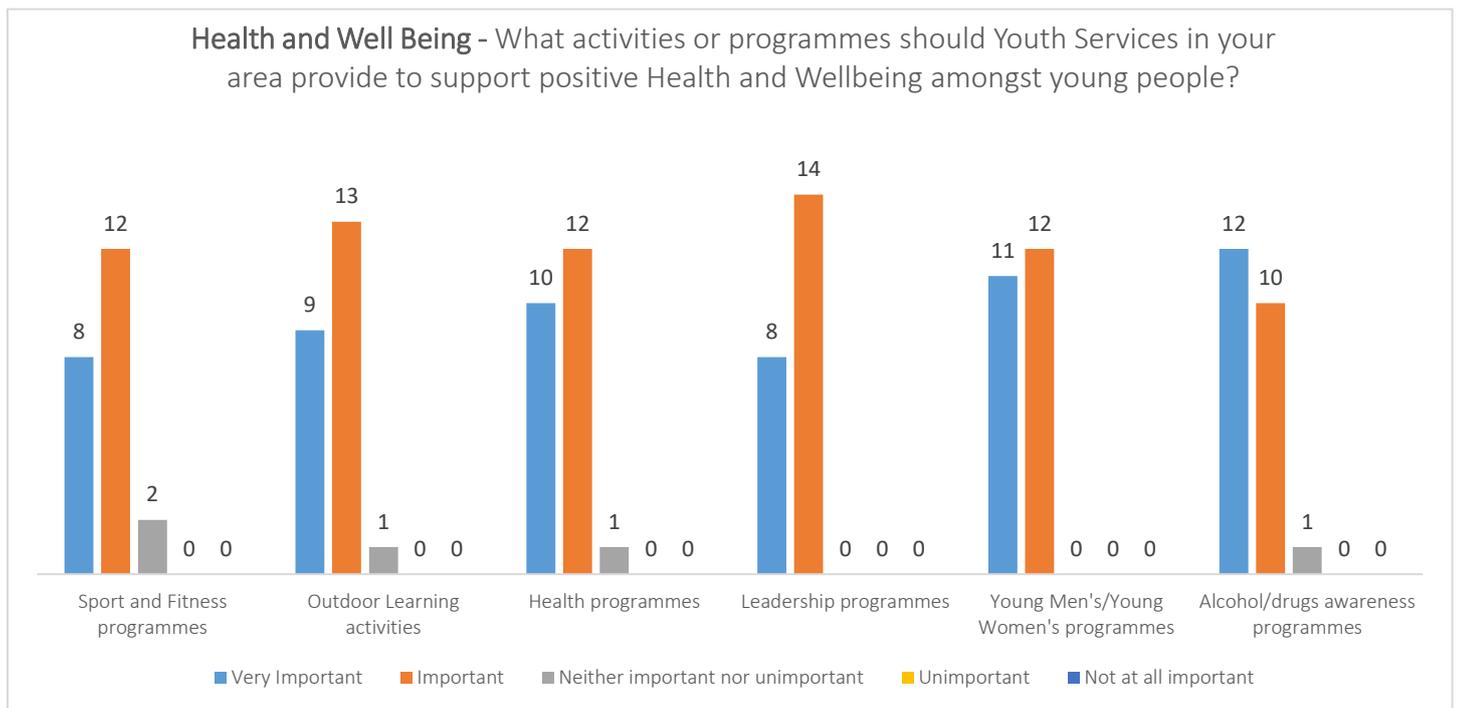
Volunteers



Young People



Youth Workers



Discussion

Increasingly the health and wellbeing outcomes of children and young people in Newry Mourne and Down need to be considered in their broadest sense, emphasising mental and social health, as well as physical aspects of health.

43% of young people surveyed stated that they would like the youth service to help them with their health and wellbeing. The highest response was 62% for 19-25 year olds, down to 36% for males and 9-13 yr olds

35% did not want the youth service to help with this aspect of their lives and 22% didn't know if the youth service could help with this. This means 57% of young people are not aware of the impact that the youth service can make to their health & wellbeing.

One possible reason for the low results are that the Youth Service is not usually associated with the health service by the general public whose first port of call may be the doctor or the pharmacy. There may also be a lack of acknowledgement that self-care is the first step in taking responsibility for our own health and that there is a lot that we can do to prevent illness in terms of our diet and lifestyles.

When asked what programmes or activities they would like the youth service to offer that would help with their health & wellbeing respondents stated their preference for the following; health programmes was the top answer overall and 1st choice for 19-25 year olds; alcohol and drugs awareness programmes was the second most popular choice but the top answer for females & 14-18 year olds; sport & fitness programmes came third overall but was the top answer for males & 9-13 year olds; these were closely followed by outdoor learning; gender specific and leadership programmes.

- Young people wanted access to mental health, suicide awareness and mindfulness programmes.
- Relationships, sexual health and awareness programmes were also important to young people.
- Young people talked about early intervention, the importance of youth clubs and the value of talking and listening.
- The consequences of taking drugs and alcohol was a clear message from the young people. They were keen to participate in health based programmes exploring these issues.

Youth Workers responded unanimously that promoting health and wellbeing is one of their key functions. When asked what activities or programmes the youth service should deliver to support positive health and well-being amongst young people they put Drugs and Alcohol programmes at the top of their list, followed by gender specific work which can be tailored to each group's needs. Workers then suggested health programmes, leadership programmes, outdoor learning and sport and fitness programmes as activities to address this need.

- It was also suggested that generalist Youth Work and early intervention was an important part of addressing these issues.
- Sexual Health and Health and Fitness projects should be encouraged ensuring young people were less dependent on their mobile phones and internet.
- Social media, resilience, sexual health and relationships were also highlighted as ongoing issues for young people.

Newry Mourne and Down compares favourably against the Northern Ireland average in a wide range of health statistics. Of all the key facts in the determinants of health, it is the proportion of year 8 pupils identified as obese or overweight in the most deprived areas that is 3% above the NI average.

Two Stakeholder engagement events were held on the theme of young people's health and well-being needs recently identifying a need for the youth service to have a presence on social media to engage with young people and at the same time provide them with good digital skills to navigate the online world. Young people want us to work in partnership with Sport and Fitness providers so that they can have increased access to train and manage their body image in a safe environment. The high expectations placed on young people by the media, society, employers, schools, friends, family and themselves has resulted in feelings of not being enough leading to stress and anxiety. Escape strategies include a range of risk taking behaviours from drugs and alcohol to gaming and gambling resulting in further isolation or relationship difficulties.¹¹

Of the 62,742 children and young people live in Newry, Mourne and Down, 11,356 (18.1%) live in an area of deprivation and 9,728 (27.8%) of all pupils in Newry, Mourne and Down are eligible for Free School Meals. Lack of financial resources prevent many young people from accessing youth services and in Newry Mourne and Down there are 23 Super Output areas in the top 25% most deprived areas. The Health and Disability domain for Newry Mourne and Down identifies the following most deprived areas as Ballymote, Daisy Hill 2, Ballybot, Daisy Hill 1, Drumgullion 1, Murlough, Cathedral 2, Bessbrook, Quiole 1 and Cathedral 1.

Of the 62,742 children and young people live in Newry, Mourne and Down, 34,006 (54.2%) live in a rural community with half of the survey's respondents identifying themselves as living in rural communities. Out of the 890 Super Output Areas across NI the top 10 in Newry Mourne and Down for lack of access to services are Ballyward, Donaghmore 1, Lisnacree, Mayobridge 2, Strangford, Newtownhamilton, Creggan, Seafords, Silverbridge 2, and Killough.

Multiple Deprivation measures combine a range of domains to reach a composite figure and quantify how these accumulate to adversely affect our communities. The top 10 of these are Crossmaglen, Drumgullion 1, Creggan, Daisy Hill 2, Murlough, Ballybot, Silverbridge 1, Forkhill 2, Cathedral 2 and Newtownhamilton.

A recent poverty report found that the poorest families are unable to meet the government's healthy food requirements.¹²

A report by the Children's Society noted that children and young people living in poverty are 5.5 times more likely to go hungry than their peers.¹³

Mental illness is the single largest cause of ill health and disability in Northern Ireland. One in five children and young people will have a mental health need at any one time and the symptoms of a mental illness are distinct from those of adults.¹⁴

Young people with mental health problems are more likely to engage in risk taking activity and alcohol and drug misuse. Among the determinants of poor mental health include socio-economic pressures, gender discrimination, social isolation, an unhealthy lifestyle, bullying and the risk of violence.¹⁵

The most common mental health problem affecting children and young people are severe and persistent behavioural problems.¹⁶

¹¹ <https://www.eani.org.uk/services/youth-service/governance-and-leadership/regional-advisory-group/meetings>

¹² Scott, C., Sutherland, J. & Taylor, A. (2018), Affordability of the UK's Eatwell Guide, The Food Foundation, London.

¹³ <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/news-and-blogs/press-release/report-echoes-hunger-brutal-reality-families-children>

¹² Betts, J. & Thompson, J. (2017), Mental Health in Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Assembly, Belfast.

¹³ <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-health-strengthening-our-response>

¹⁴ Green, H. et al. (2005) The mental health of children and young people in Great Britain 2004, Basingstoke, Palgrave.

Children and young people from low-income families are four times more likely to experience mental health issues than those from higher income families.¹⁷

Young people from the LGBTQ community are more likely to have suicidal thoughts and are three times more likely to have made a suicide attempt at some point.¹⁸

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.¹⁹

The Children and Young People Strategic Partnership's Locality Planning Group in Down have recently conducted a needs assessment of children between 0-18 years old. While Trust boundaries differ from the Education Authority's the areas surveyed stretch from Saintfield to Newcastle and enhance our own findings. 262 young people and 144 parents responded to this survey. When asked to identify the 3 priority issues for young people parents put mental health at the top of the list. They also identified the need for opportunities to play sport and physical activity, help with motivation and confidence levels and support for moving from primary to secondary school.

Newry Mourne and Down District Council have recently produced a Health Inequalities Report and looked at the information by each of the 7 District Electoral Areas. This focused on 25 separate indicators under 6 key headings which were life expectancy and general health, premature mortality, major diseases, hospital admissions, mental health and alcohol, smoking & drugs. Newry and Downpatrick consistently appear as having the highest level of need in most areas with Slieve Gullion, Slieve Croob and the Mournes showing the highest rates of deaths by suicide in the district.

This information was added to other data to inform a score cards for each DEA presenting a picture of comparable need and performance under 4 key priorities Environment and spatial, Prosperous communities, Safety and good relations and Health and wellbeing. When asked to state if they participated in at least 30 minutes of physical activity daily 31% of respondents in Slieve Croob did not reach this on any day followed by 25% in Downpatrick and Crotlieve areas.

particular needs.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ Statham, H., Jaclva, V. & Daly, I. (2012), The School Report: The experiences of gay young people in Britain's schools in 2012, London, Stonewall.

¹⁷https://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, 87.6% of year 12 pupils from Newry, Mourne and Down achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent. (NI Average 86%).
- In 2017/2018, 75.5% of year 12 pupils from Newry, Mourne and Down achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent including English and Maths. (NI Average 71.8%).
- 7,577 pupils (21.4%) in Newry, Mourne and Down have a Special Educational Need. (NI Average 23%).
- 9,728 pupils (27.8%) in Newry, Mourne and Down are eligible for Free School Meals. (NI Average 29.2%).
- 15,039 (42.5%) pupils attend schools in the Newry, Mourne and Down area that have been designated as rural. (NI Average 25.5%).
- 1,339 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in the Newry, Mourne and Down area.
- Whilst there are no specific numbers for Newry, Mourne and Down, the most recent figures reveal that 498 Looked After Children were supported by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and 547 Looked After Children were supported by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. Some of these children and young people live and attend schools in the Newry, Mourne and Down.
- 4,069 pupils were suspended from schools in Northern Ireland in 2017/18. (3,199 male pupils (78.6%), 870 female pupils (21.4%))
- There are 2 Education Other Than at School centres in Newry, Mourne and Down supporting 23 young people.

Why is this measure important?

Education is not just about being able to read, write and count. Education is key to one's personal and professional success and provides various types of knowledge and skills. Education is also a basic human right and is a significant factor in the development of young people, communities and nations. According to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) education is the clearest indicator of life outcomes such as employment, income and social status and is a strong predictor of attitudes and wellbeing.²⁰

Education can have a transformational impact on the lives of children and young people. 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.

Recent research from Australia noted that education is important for children and young people as it helps achieve academic growth, increases access to opportunities, develops positive attitudes about themselves and their learning and heightens aspirations and interests to support their career pathways. The report suggested that a combination of these factors support young people to make positive decisions about their future and allow them to reach their potential.²¹

²⁰ Economic and Social Research Council, 2014, The Wellbeing Effect of Education, <https://esrc.ukri.org/files/news-events-and-publications/evidence-briefings/the-wellbeing-effect-of-education/>

²¹ <https://www.teachforaustralia.org/2017/04/02/the-cycle-of-disadvantage/>

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

Educational attainment in Newry Mourne and Down has increased among all 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 young person Looked After, being a Newcomer, being a Carer, coming from the Travelling Community or another minority group and being from a Section 75 group. This list is not exhaustive, however, failure to address the gap in educational attainment from these groups will ensure that vulnerable young people will continue to face a future with limited opportunities and greater social and economic challenges.

The attainment gap has persisted despite a series of intervention programmes and additional investment. A recent report from England noted that these inequalities manifest themselves in later life outcomes. Vulnerable children and young people are less likely to continue into post-compulsory education, have lower average earnings, poorer health and a greater chance of becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour than their peers.²²

Within Newry Mourne & Down, the vast majority of young people achieve and succeed at school. However, there are groups of vulnerable young people who are at risk of failing to fulfil their potential either as a result of their social context, an educational need or their experiences and attitudes towards the formal education system. There is no universal definition of what being vulnerable throughout childhood is, however it can be based on a combination of circumstances where one is at risk of not achieving positive life outcomes. In many cases, these vulnerable young people face a variety of difficulties and challenges adapting to the formal curriculum and require an education that can meet their particular needs.

²² Andrews, J., Robinson, D. & Hutchinson, J., (2017), Closing the Gap – Trends in Educational Attainment and Disadvantage, Education Policy Institute, London.

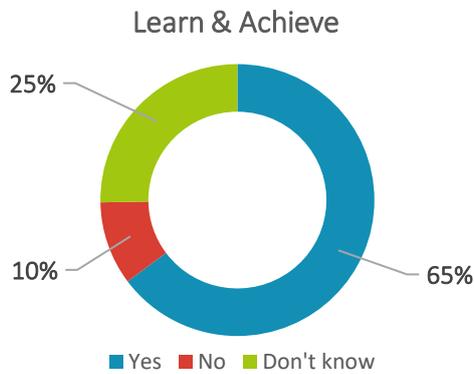
Survey Findings – Learn & Achieve

Yes No Don't Know

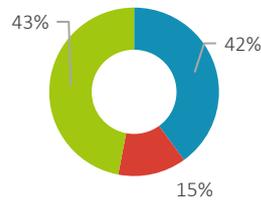
Young People

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

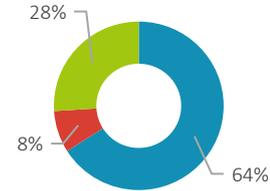
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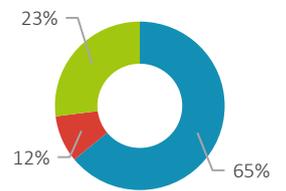
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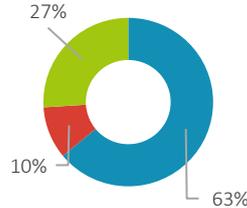
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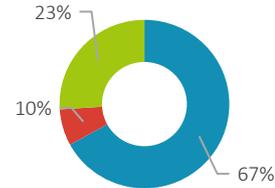
Rural Young People



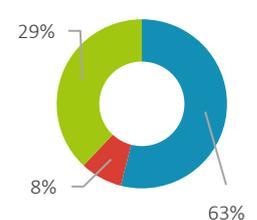
Male



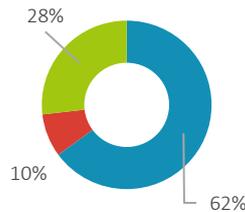
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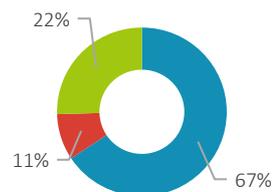
Gender Other



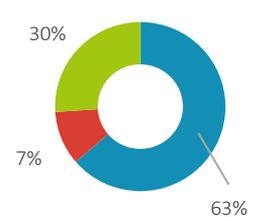
9-13 Years



14-18 Years



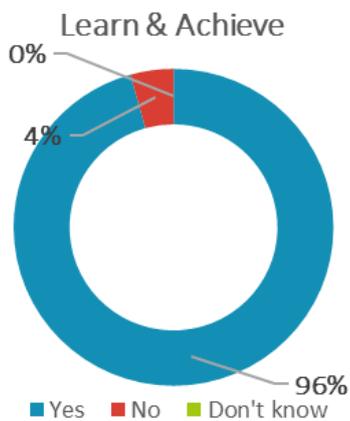
19-25 Years



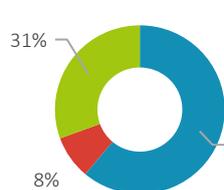
Youth Workers

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

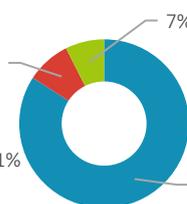
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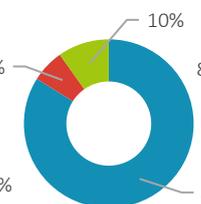
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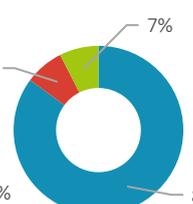
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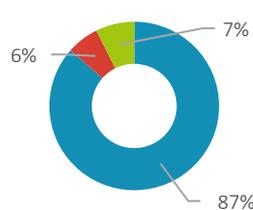
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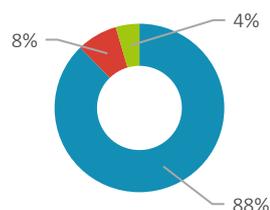
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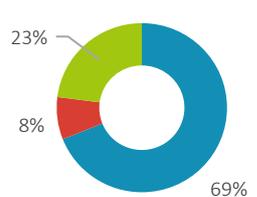
Full Time Workers



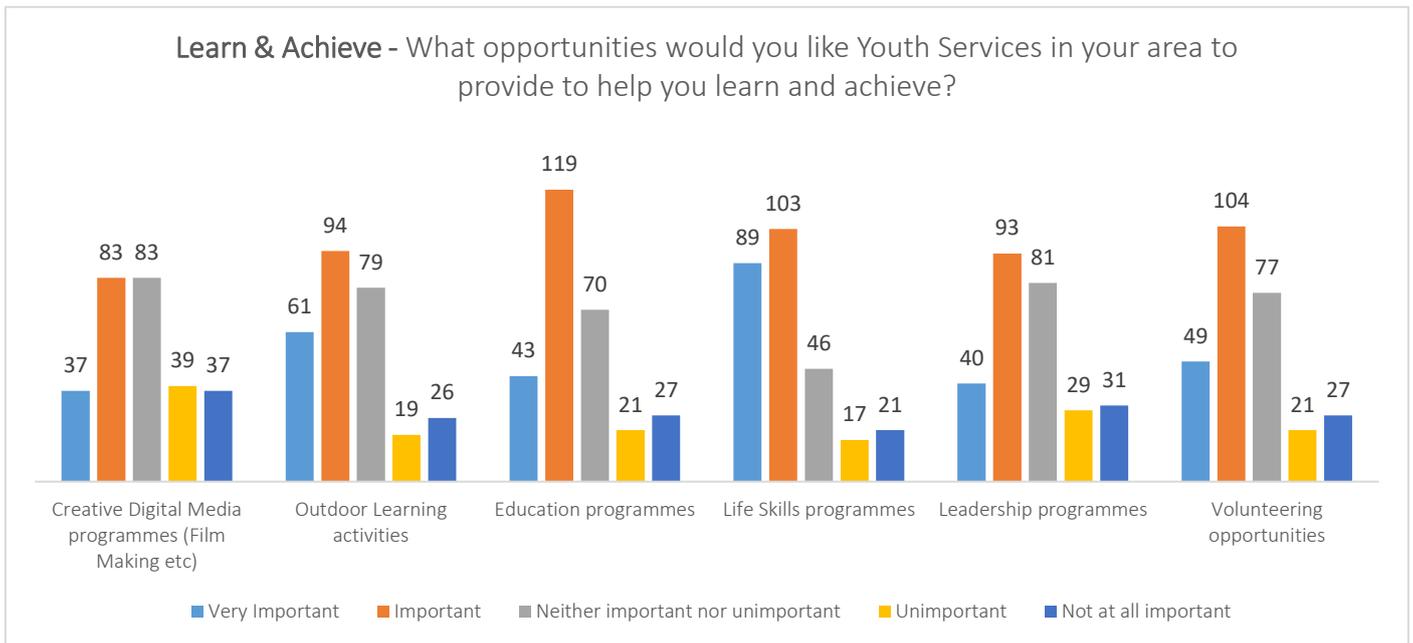
Part Time Workers



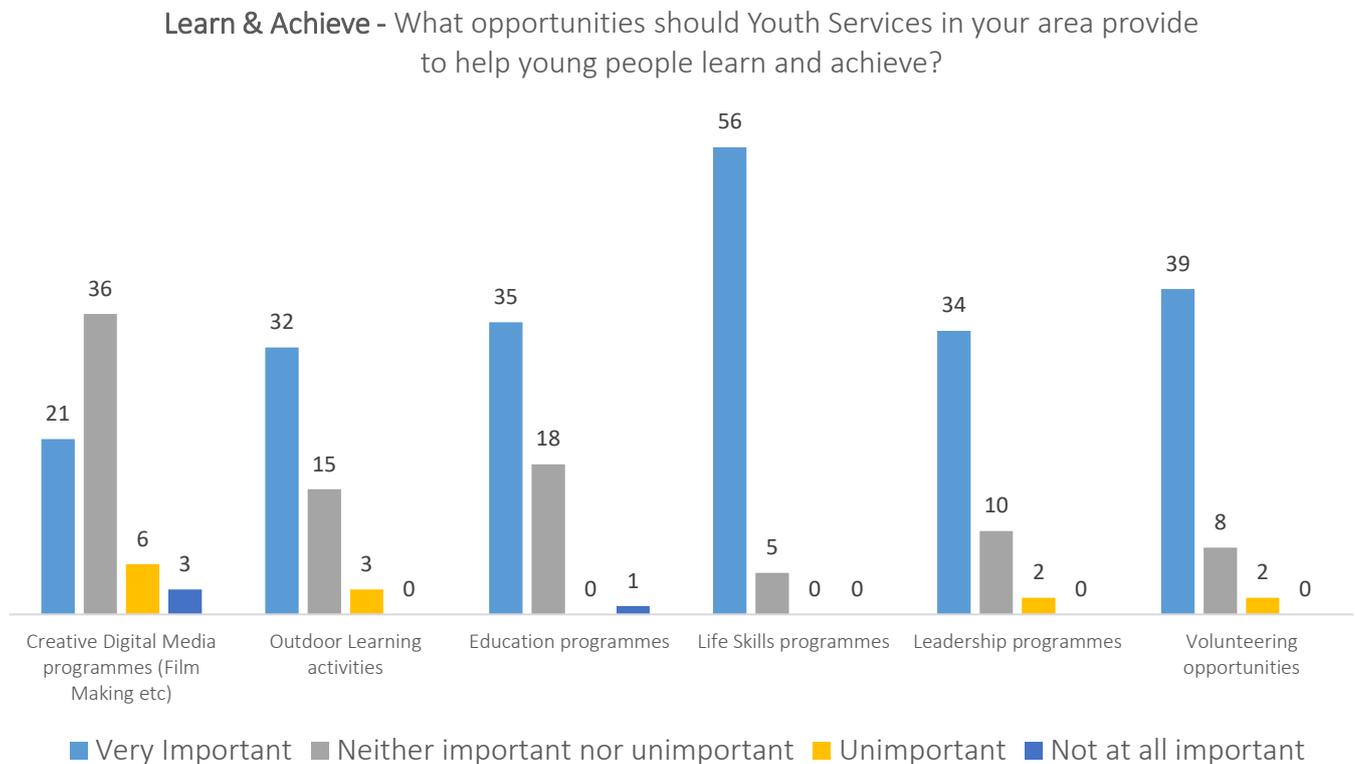
Volunteers



Young People

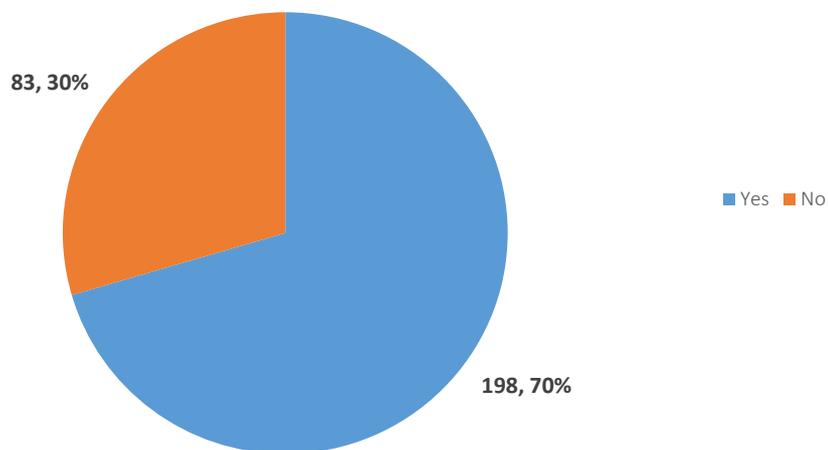


Youth Workers



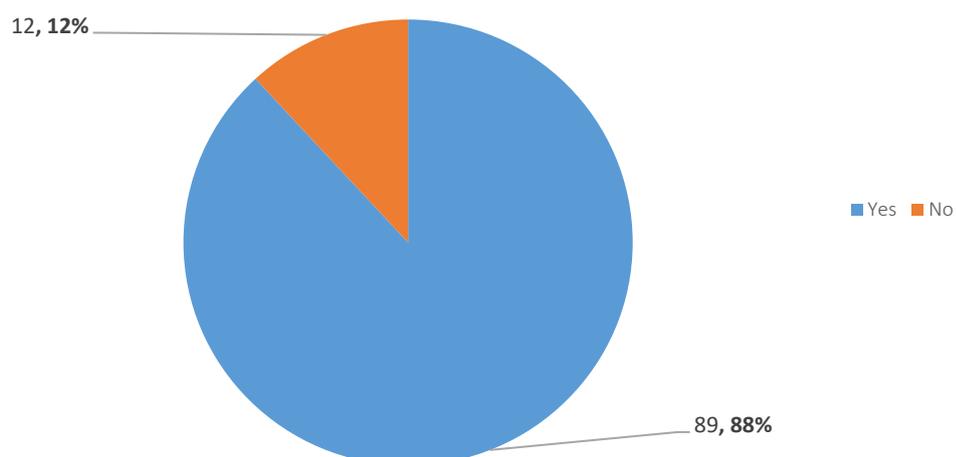
Young People

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



Youth Workers

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



Discussion

Education is a gateway for social mobility and breaking the cycle of poverty. The Centre for Social Justice noted that in order to tackle educational failure, our best schools should be in our poorest communities.²³ Educational underachievement can have a negative impact on a young person's life chances and opportunities. A New Zealand report noted other negative outcomes such as involvement in juvenile crime, drug and alcohol misuse leading to other risk taking activity and a dependency on welfare.²⁴

65% of young people overall agreed that youth services provided them with opportunities to learn and take part in new experiences. 67% of Females and young people aged between 14-18 years believed this to be so down to 62% of young people in the 9-13 age category. 10% of young people disagreed and 25% were not sure meaning that just over 1/3 of young people surveyed need to be offered a wider more creative curriculum of activities to meet their learning needs.

70% of young people surveyed stated they would like programmes offered by the youth service to be accredited. Young people want programmes that have currency and can demonstrate added value to their employability and future careers.

When asked what opportunities the youth service should provide to help young people learn and achieve, the top 4 responses given were:

life skills programmes which *was top in all groups*, volunteering opportunities, education programmes, outdoor learning programmes leadership and creative & digital media programmes.

- Young people recognised that they needed additional support to help them develop their employability skills, communication skills and prepare them for adulthood and the world of work.
- There was an increasing focus on programmes on art, music, drama, creative arts and home economics being delivered in a Youth Work setting.

96% of youth workers surveyed agreed that the youth service does provide opportunities for young people to take part in new experiences and 100% stated that programmes should be accredited. When asked what type of programme the youth service should provide to help young people learn and achieve their top answers were outdoor learning and creative & digital media programmes closely followed by leadership, life skills and educational programmes. Opportunities to volunteer were also considered ways to build skills and contribute to young people's enhanced employability.

- Young people should be provided with opportunities that prepare them for the world of work. Youth Workers suggested greater access to employability and vocational programmes and more opportunities to volunteer and take on leadership roles.
- Availability to social action, active learning, outdoor learning and citizenship opportunities were important issues highlighted by Youth Workers and Volunteers.

Most youth workers engage in targeted school based provision across the district. A criteria that compares total pupil population, free school meal entitlement, numbers of pupils with Statements of educational needs and GCSE results with and without English & Maths helps us as planners to determine the schools that would benefit most from targeted intervention. Statutory staff are currently engaged in key schools in the Newry Mourne and Down area, these include St Marys High School Downpatrick; De La Salle High School Downpatrick; Newry High School; St Joseph's High School Newry; St Marks High School Warrenpoint and Killeel High School.

²³ <https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/policy/breakthrough-britain/education-failure>

²⁴ Fergusson, D. M., Swain-Campbell, N. R. & Horwood, L. J., (2002), Outcomes of leaving school without formal educational qualifications. New Zealand Journal of Educational Studies, Christchurch.

Based on analysis of the above criteria we hope to establish a presence in St Pauls High School Camlough; Blackwater Integrated College Downpatrick and Ballynahinch High School resources permitting.

Two Stakeholder engagement events were held on the theme of supporting children & young people's learning recently identifying a need for the youth service to incorporate more creative approaches into the curriculum including visual and performing arts and to involve young people in the co-design of programmes better matched to their needs leading to meaningful qualifications. Feedback raised the need to have extended opening of provision and to offer opportunities to get tutorial support with coursework in a safe relaxing environment.

Newry Mourne and Down compares favourably against the NI average in many of the key facts in terms of educational attainment. There are lower numbers of pupils with a statement of Special educational need 7,577 (21.4%) and receiving free school meals 9,728 (27.8%) than in Northern Ireland generally.

There are a total of 134 Nursery, Primary, Post-Primary and Special Schools in Newry, Mourne and Down. 7 Nursery schools, 99 Primary schools, 25 Post-Primary schools and 3 Special schools. Of these, 80 are located in a rural setting, 74 Primary schools and 6 Post-Primary schools. Over 15 thousand pupils that attend schools in Newry Mourne and Down are in rural locations almost double the rate for NI generally.

Of the 62,742 children and young people live in Newry, Mourne and Down, 34,006 (54.2%) live in a rural community with half of the survey's respondents identifying themselves as living in rural communities. Out of the 890 Super Output Areas across NI the top 10 in Newry Mourne and Down for lack of access to services are Ballyward, Donaghmore 1, Lisnacree, Mayobridge 2, Strangford, Newtownhamilton, Creggan, Seafords, Silverbridge 2, and Killough.

In terms of comparable rates of deprivation on the Education skills and training domain the areas ranked as most in need in Newry Mourne and Down are Bessbrook, Ballybot, Drumgullion 1, Daisy Hill 1, Ballymote, Castlewellan 1, Cathedral 2, Ardglass 1, Murlough and Clonallan 1.

In terms of comparable rates of deprivation on the Employment domain the areas ranked as most in need in Newry Mourne and Down are Ballybot, Murlough, Drumgullion 1, Ballymote, Daisy hill 2, Quoile 1, Crossmaglen, Ardglass 1, Kilkeel South 2 and Daisy Hill 1. This measure may provide an indication of a dearth of employment opportunities which could contribute to lower aspirations among young people living in these areas.

Regarding the diverse nature of our school population 1,339 Newcomers, 155 Traveller children and 91 Roma children and young people attend schools in Newry, Mourne and Down. These pupils present with additional needs in terms of language and cultural barriers that need to be addressed.

Young people have stated that the results driven culture in schools can be a major source of stress and anxiety and that both the Higher Education and Youth service pathways are equally valid routes helping young people transition successfully. Young people commented that "having authentic and personalised support can be transformational in building confidence and enabling young people to take positive steps in areas such as work, housing and relationships."²⁵

The Newry Mourne and Down District Council score cards show that the destination of school leavers continues to be Higher Education followed by Further Education options. Newry is the only DEA that has a reverse trend with 45.2% going on to FE colleges and 37.5% moving to University.

²⁵ <https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/a-healthy-foundation-for-the-future>

These figures fail to take account of the range of degrees offered locally thereby avoiding the need to move away to attend university and preventing the accrual of financial debt associated with studying at 3rd level institutions.

While subjects allied to medicine continue to be the most popular single field, increasing numbers are not following the traditional routes indeed new fields like blogging and other online personal reality vlogs are presenting young people with options that weren't available to their predecessors.

The Newry Mourne and Down District Council score cards also note the level of volunteering during 2018 with the Slieve Gullion and Crotlieve coming out tops at 17% who said they volunteer regularly, followed by Slieve Croob at 15%.

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.
 - Disability incidences 97
 - Faith/Religion incidences 46
 - Transphobic incidences 40
- The following rates are for Newry Mourne & Down:
 - Racist incidences 47
 - Homophobic incidences 20
 - Sectarian incidences 42
- 1,339 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in Newry, Mourne and Down.
- 7,577 children and young people have a Special Educational Need or a disability.
- 155 Traveller pupils attend schools in Newry, Mourne and Down.
- 91 Roma pupils attend schools in Newry, Mourne and Down.
- 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 Newry, Mourne and Down this equates to approximately 850 young people.
- In 2018/19 643 young people participated in 14 TBUC camps programmes in Newry Mourne & Down and 23 applications have been submitted for 2019/20.

Why is this measure important?

Good relations is said to exist where there is a high level of dignity, respect and mutual understanding and an absence of prejudice, hatred, hostility or harassment.²⁶ In Newry Mourne & Down, 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 good relations strategy is about instilling the values of fairness, equality and respect and improving the quality of life for everyone who lives here.

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.

²⁶ Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

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.

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

Following years of conflict, Newry Mourne & Down has made great strides towards maintaining a normal, peaceful society. Despite this, there are still a number of factors which ensure that community tensions, polarisation and segregation remain. Politics is polarised and many people in Newry Mourne & Down 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 Newry Mourne & Down that encounter legacy issues and experience sectarianism. In some cases 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 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.

Many rural areas in Newry Mourne & Down also demonstrate separate living patterns, although these are not formally recognised as interface areas.

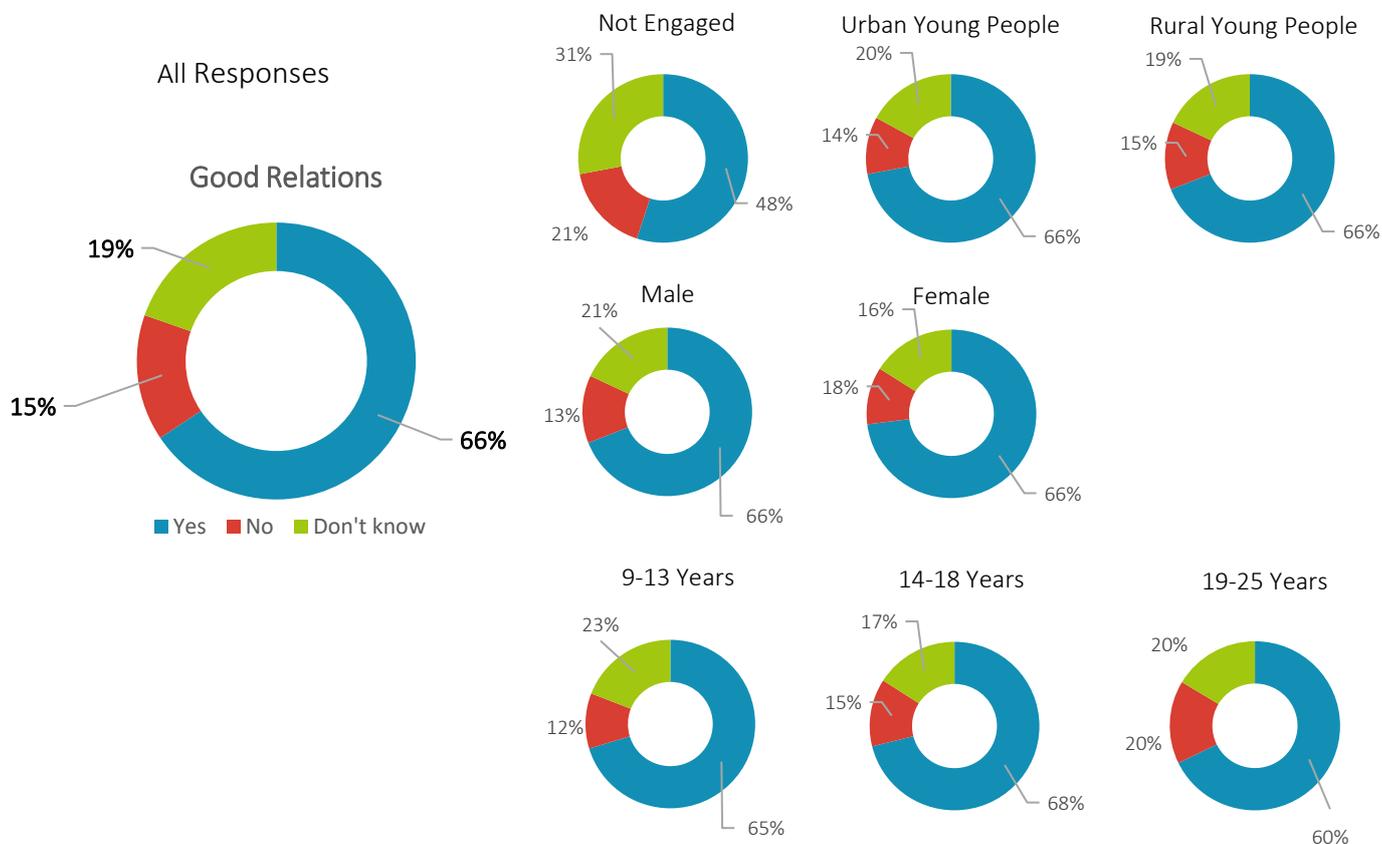
Newry Mourne & Down now has a much more diverse population. There are growing numbers living here who were born outside Northern Ireland, growing numbers of people identifying as LGBTQ, especially young people and other marginalised or Section 75 groups who are subject to bullying, racism and intolerance.

Survey Findings – Good Relations

Yes No Don't Know

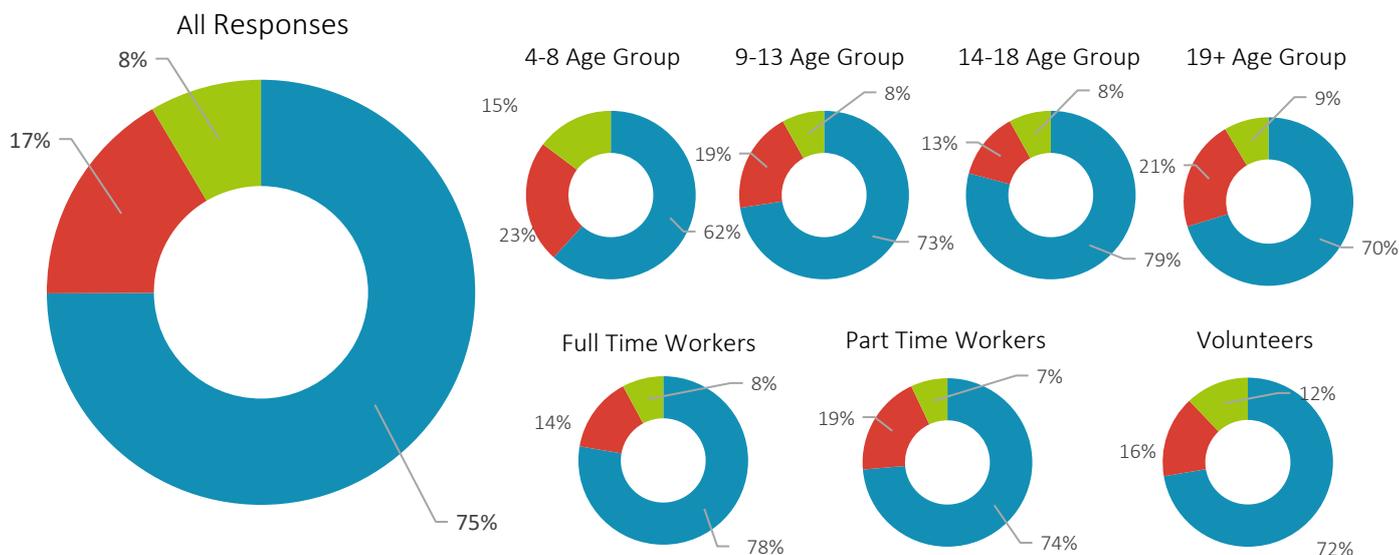
Young People

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



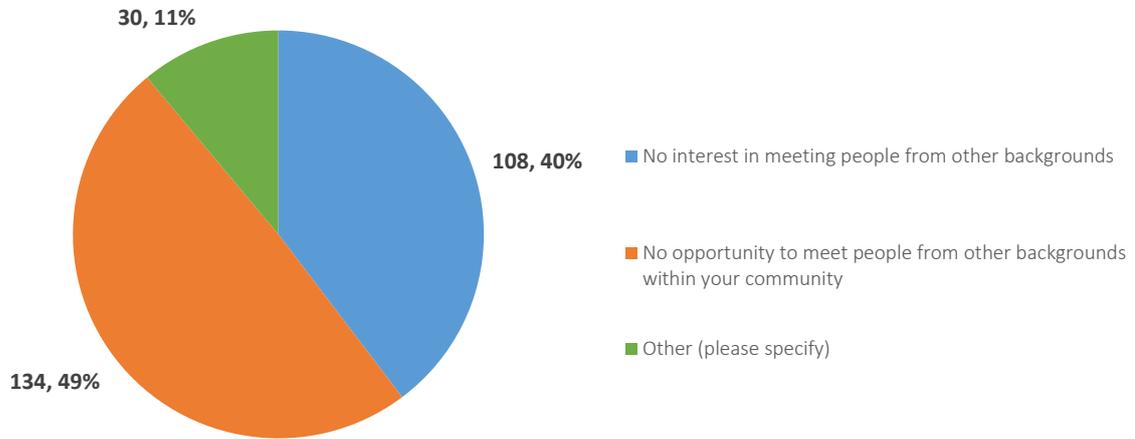
Youth Workers

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



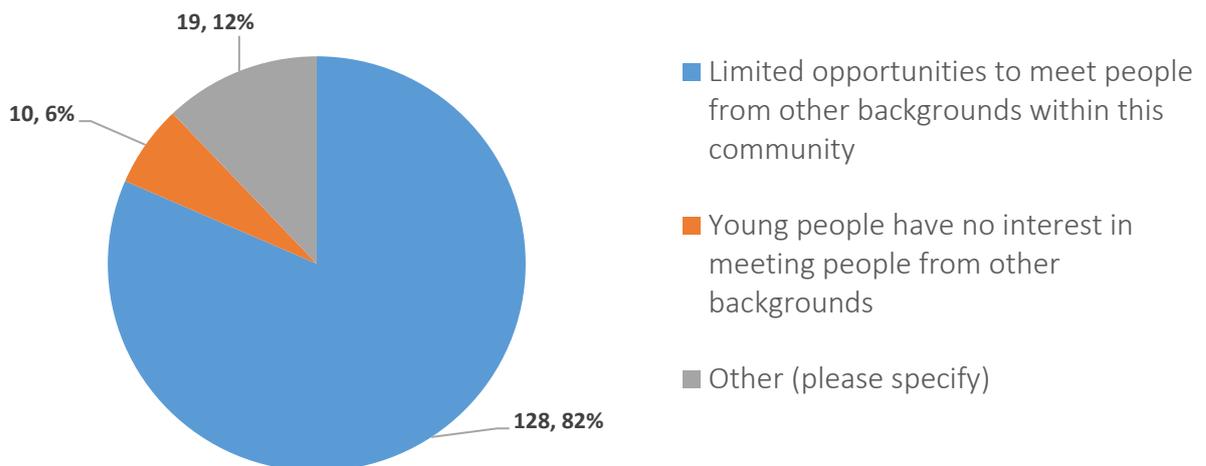
Young People

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

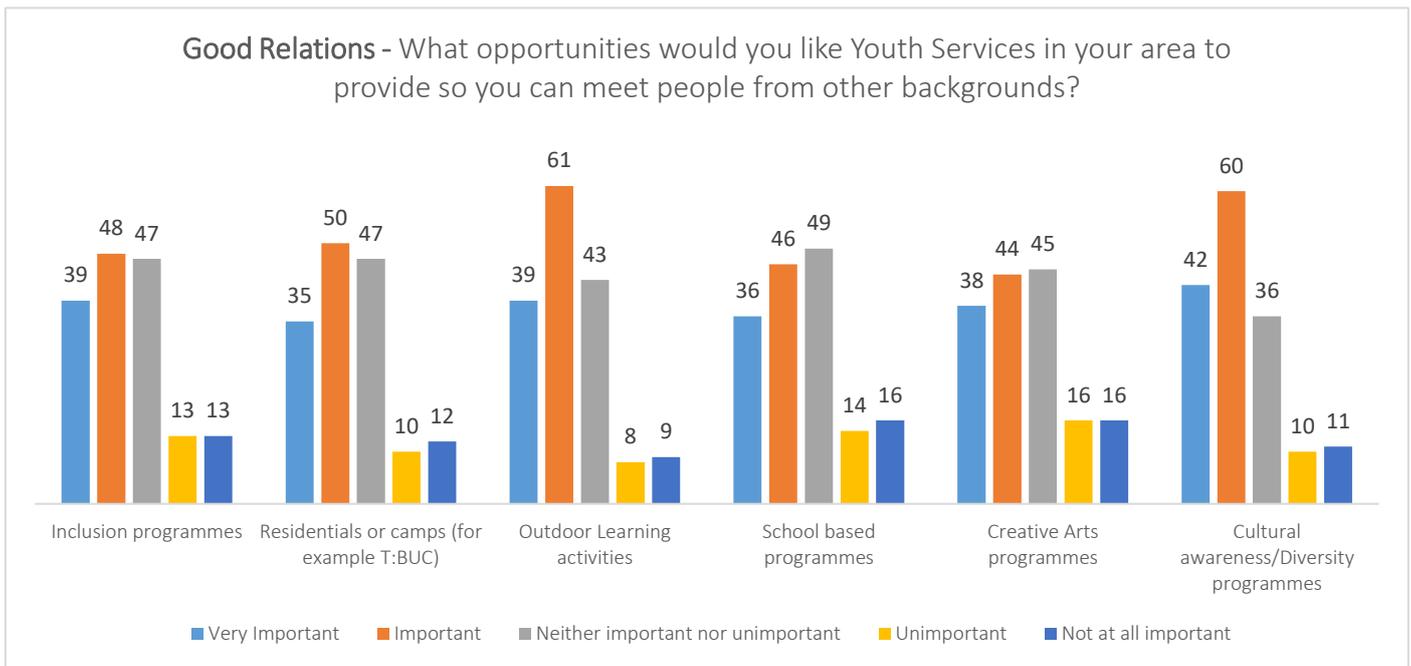


Youth Workers

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

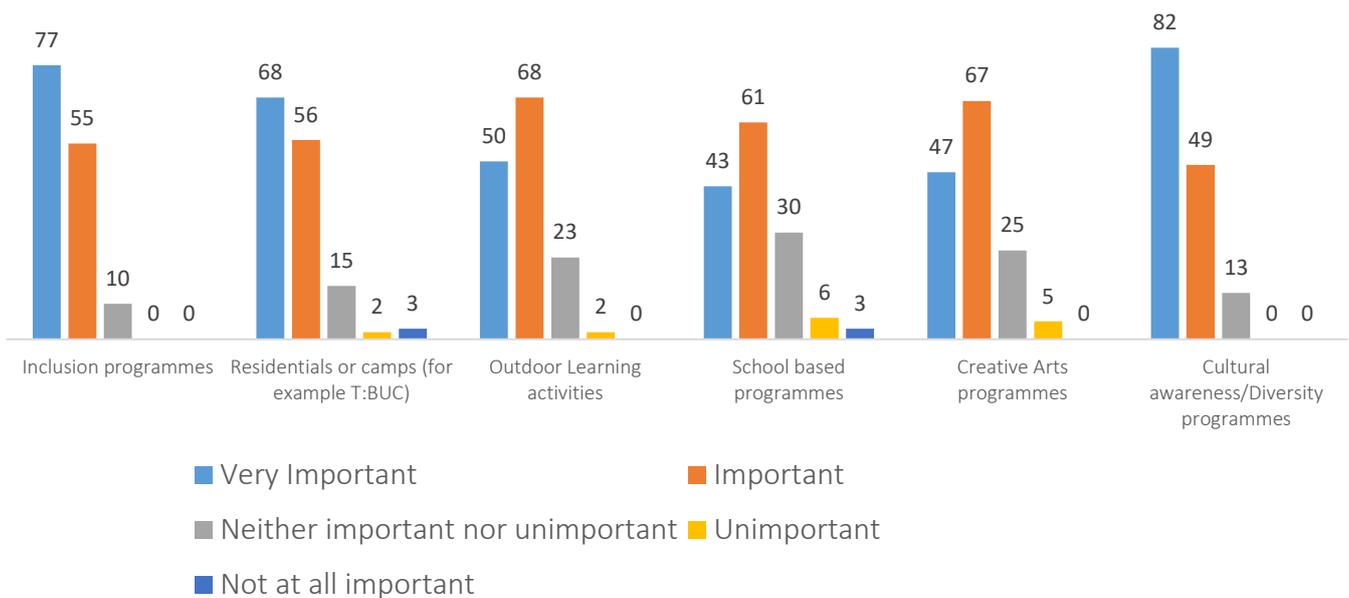


Young People



Youth Workers

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



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.*²⁷

Overall 66% of young people surveyed felt that they did have the opportunity to socialise with people from different backgrounds, the highest response came from young people between 14-18 years old at 68% and the lowest came from 19-25 year olds at 60%.

15% responded that they did not have the opportunity to meet and socialise with people who are different and 19% weren't sure. This means that 34% of young people in the Newry Mourne & Down area have yet to experience or appreciate the rich diversity within our communities.

When asked to give the reasons why young people do not mix and socialise with people from different backgrounds 40% of respondents stated they had no interest in meeting people from other backgrounds, 49% said they had no opportunity and 11% gave other reasons.

When asked what opportunities the youth service could provide that would enable them to meet people from different backgrounds, the top 4 answers were; cultural awareness and diversity programmes also the top answer for females and 14-25 year olds; outdoor learning opportunities also the top answer for males and 9-13 year olds; inclusion programmes and residential or camps.

Creative arts and school based programmes followed closely.

- Young people wanted access to diversity and inclusion programmes that helped them have a better understanding of other cultures and beliefs as well as allowing them to question their own cultural identity.
- Young people also believed that International programmes would provide a greater insight into aspects of Good Relations.

82% of youth workers believed that young people do have the opportunity to meet and socialise with people who are different and 75% attributed this to limited opportunities or 25% to other reasons. Youth workers believed that residential or camps would most likely encourage young people to mix more easily, closely followed by creative arts or outdoor learning programmes. Interventions such as cultural awareness and Diversity programmes, school based or Inclusion programmes were also regarded as appropriate responses to achieve more integration.

- Youth Workers and Volunteers suggested partnership working with schools or Shared Education programmes to deliver Inclusion and Diversity programmes.
- International, residential and thematic based programmes were other suggestions they proposed to support Good Relations among young people.

Continued segregation in housing and schools in Newry Mourne & Down contributes to a lack of knowledge of others. The South Down and Newry & Armagh Constituencies have been held by Nationalists or Republicans for over 30 years and the Protestant, Unionist, Loyalist (PUL) community has decreased in size, therefore providing less opportunities to mix.

²⁷ Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, 2008, Promoting Good Relations, ECNI, Belfast.

It may be prudent to be cautious regarding the term “different backgrounds” as it is quite possible for this to be interpreted by young people within communities referring to estates or geographical areas.

Hate crime is proved based on the perception of the victim and carries a heavier weighting in terms of sentencing compared to other crimes or criminal damage. PSNI partners have noted that Newry Mourne and Down have among the lowest rates of hate crime across all of Northern Ireland which may result from under reporting from the public.

Newry Mourne and Down District Council score cards have captured data on hate crimes that track rates of homophobic, racist and sectarian incidences from 2011 until 2018. Out of the 20 homophobic incidences recorded Downpatrick and Newry appear to have the most in 2018, Slieve Croob, Rowallane and Slieve Gullion have had a few with no incidences recorded in the Mournes and Crotlieve. 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 Newry, Mourne and Down this equates to approximately 850 young people.

A recent Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey highlighted increasing levels of intolerance among people in Northern Ireland and the 18-24 year old age group were the most intolerant.²⁸

Out of the 47 racist incidents in 2018 the number was higher in Newry and the Mournes closely followed by Downpatrick and Rowallane and the least number of incidents were recorded for Crotlieve DEA. With 1,339 Newcomer pupils, 155 Traveller pupils and 91 Roma pupils attending schools in Newry, Mourne & Down more work needs to be done to enable better integration and appreciation of diversity.

42 Sectarian incidences have been recorded in all DEAs with the most recorded in Newry and Downpatrick closely followed by the Mournes and Crotlieve and Rowallane, the least rates of sectarian incidences were in Slieve Croob.

²⁸ <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/blogs/belfast-and-beyond/northern-irelands-increasing-problem-racism>

Participation

Area of Enquiry 4: Participation

Key Facts

- The overall attendance figures for schools in Newry, Mourne and Down in 2017/18 was 94.5%.
- 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 11,350 children and young people from Newry, Mourne and Down live in a deprived area.
- Approximately 34,000 children and young people from Newry, Mourne and Down live in a rural area.
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,000 young carers in Northern Ireland.
- 1,339 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in the Newry, Mourne and Down.
- 155 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Newry, Mourne and Down.
- 91 Roma children and young people attend schools in Newry, Mourne and Down.
- Whilst there are no specific numbers for Newry, Mourne and Down, the most recent figures reveal that 498 Looked After Children were supported by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and 547 Looked After Children were supported by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. Some of these children and young people live and attend schools in the Newry, Mourne and Down.
- 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 Newry, Mourne and Down Ireland this equates to approximately 850 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.
- 11,074 children and young people from Newry, Mourne and Down were registered with a youth group in 2017/18.
- There are 2 Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) centres in Northern Ireland supporting 11+ children and young people.

Why is this measure important?

Article 12 of the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that: *Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.*²⁹

Children and young people's participation in decision making on issues that affect them has increasingly been recognised and valued as a right. It has also been reported that successfully engaging young people in the institutions, communities and contexts in which they live and building their capacity as active citizens can be a critical factor in their positive development as individuals, enhance their career prospects and life chances and support their positive contribution to these same contexts and institutions.³⁰

²⁹ https://downloads.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/UNCRC_summary-1.pdf?_ga=2.10450293.1730959173.1571222212-2071504256.1570712098

³⁰ Chaskin, R.J., McGregor, C. & Brady, B. (2018), *Engaging Urban Youth: Community, Citizenship and Democracy*, NUI, Galway.

Participation enhances children and young people's personal, social and political development and provides practical experiences and teaches them how to behave responsibly.³¹

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 to the challenges they face.

The benefits of participation for children and young people are many and include some of the following: As well as empowering young people to be active citizens and engage with wider society, participation develops their leadership skills, increases their sense of ownership and belonging, improves their communication, negotiation and collaboration skills, enhances their self-confidence and self-esteem and improves their career prospects. Participation also allows young people to express their needs and ideas.

Participation comes in many forms from attending school or a youth centre, involvement in social activities and clubs, playing sport, music or cultural activities as well as youth leadership, volunteering and peer mentoring. Meaningful participation can enhance a young person's sense of belonging, connectedness and feeling of being valued, which can contribute to positive mental health.³²

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.³³ 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. Young people may be disaffected from schools and fail to engage in education and will therefore lack the necessary skills to engage in wider society.

In some instances young people may disengage due to social, economic, or 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 young person Looked After or having a disability or Special Educational Need.

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

³¹ <https://www.niccy.org/media/1330/niccy-advice-benefits-of-engagement-with-children-and-young-people-dec-14.pdf>

³² <http://mypeer.org.au/design-implementation/youth-participation-2/benefits-of-youth-participation/>

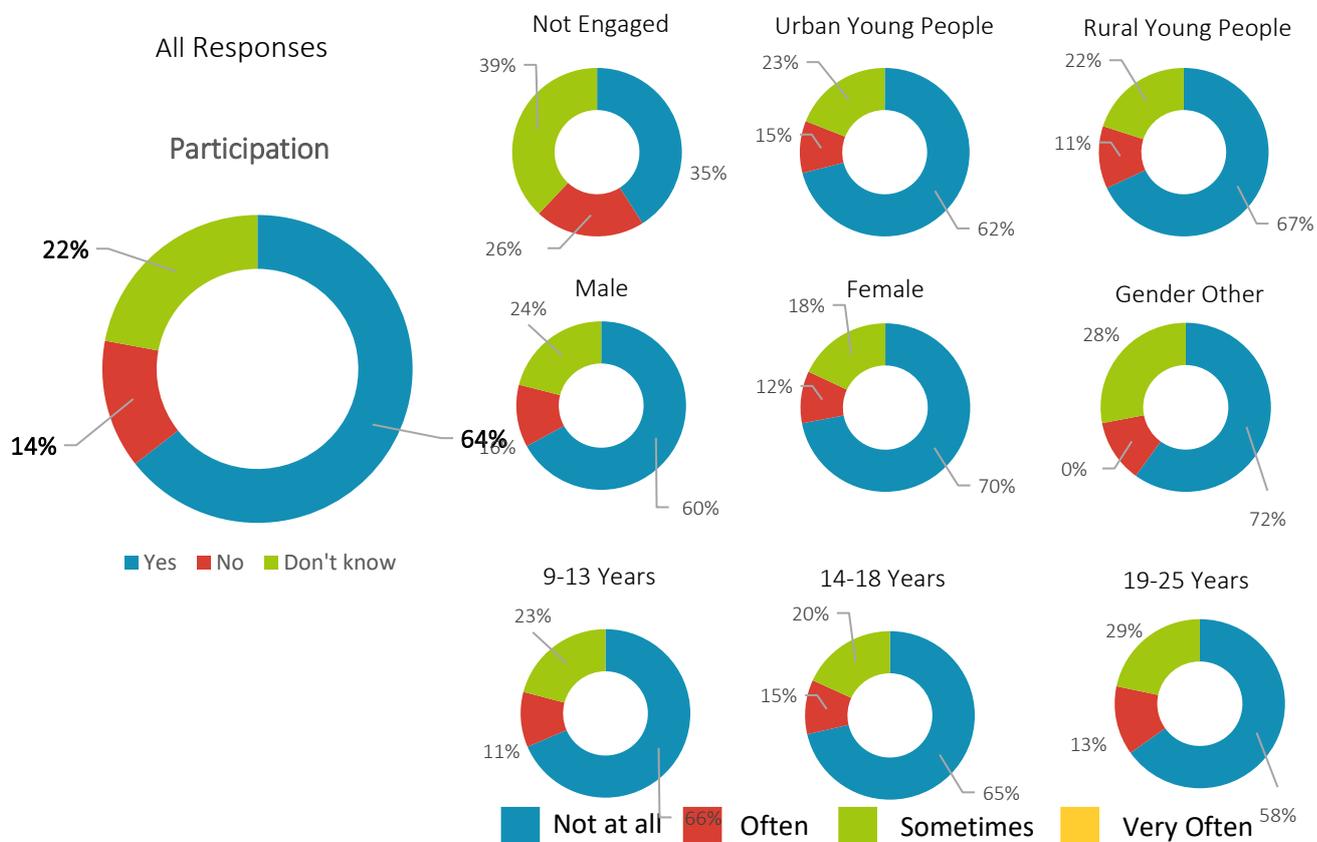
³³ Holdsworth, R. Stokes, H. Blanchard, M. & Mohamed, M. 2006, Civic Engagement and Young people in the city of Melbourne, Australian Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne.

Survey Findings – Participation

Yes No Don't Know

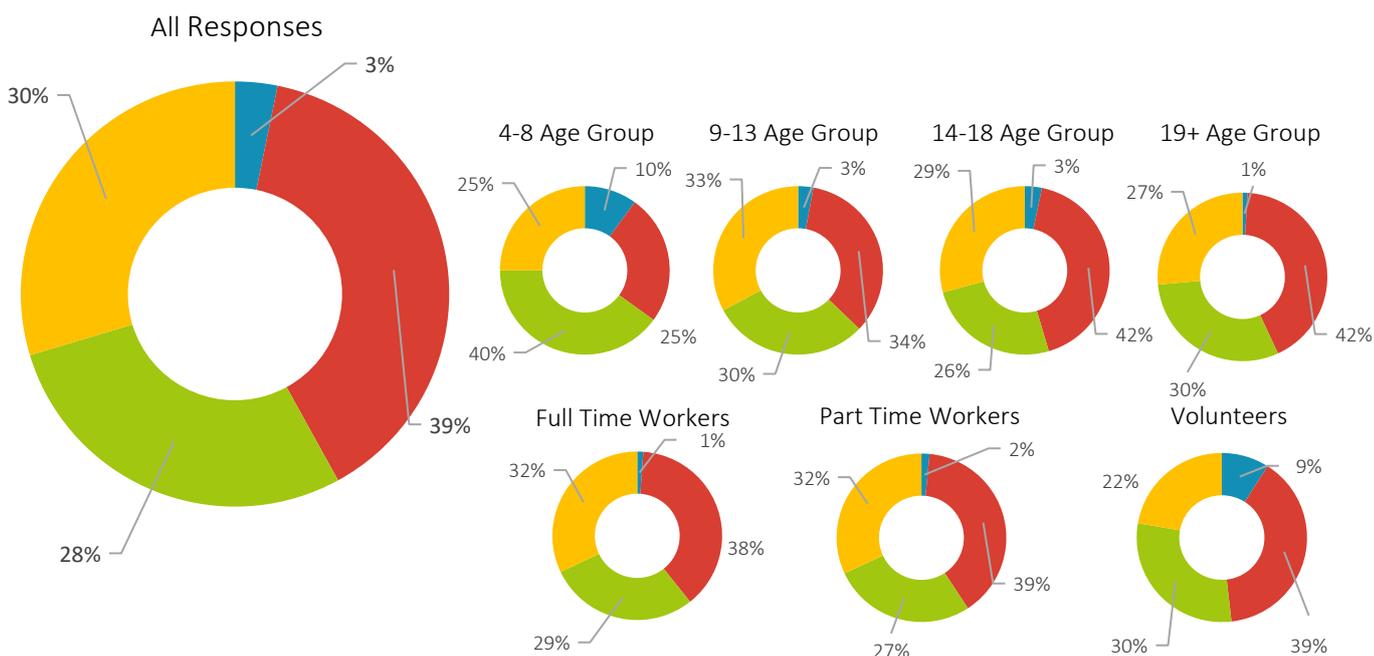
Young People

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



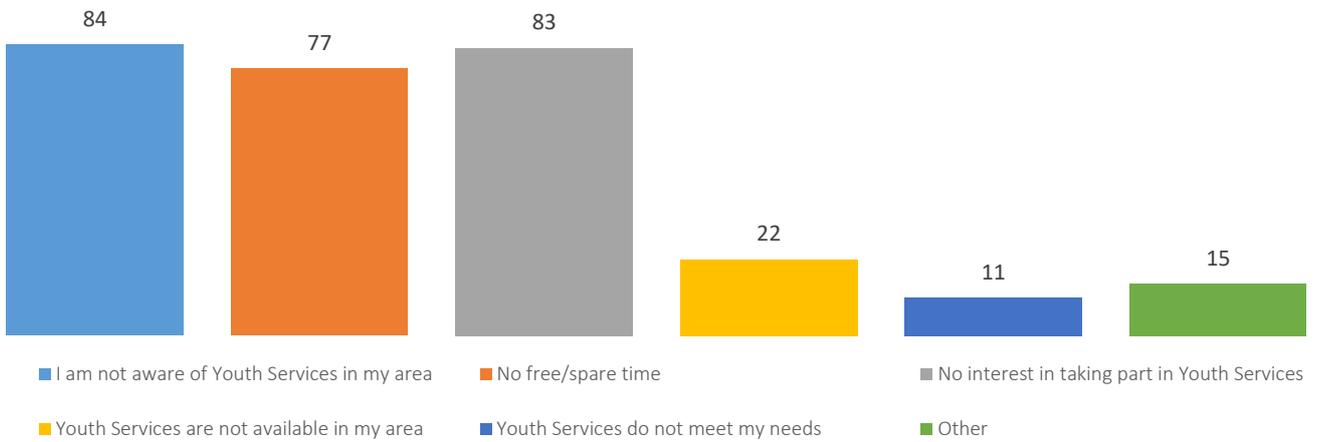
Youth Workers

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



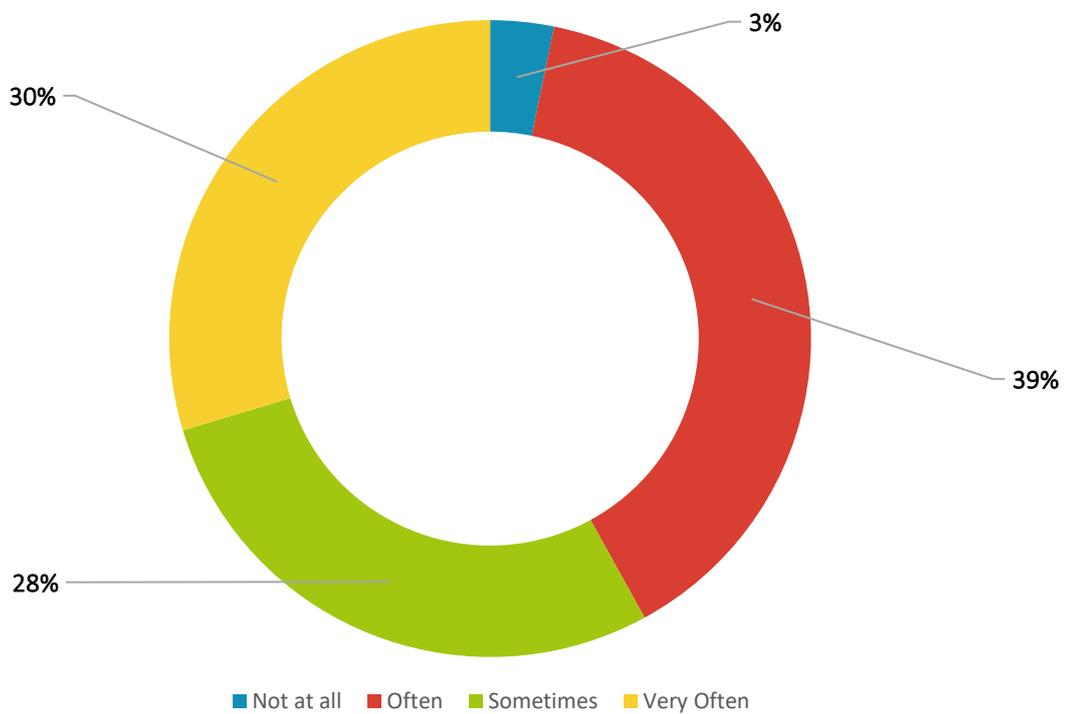
Young People

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

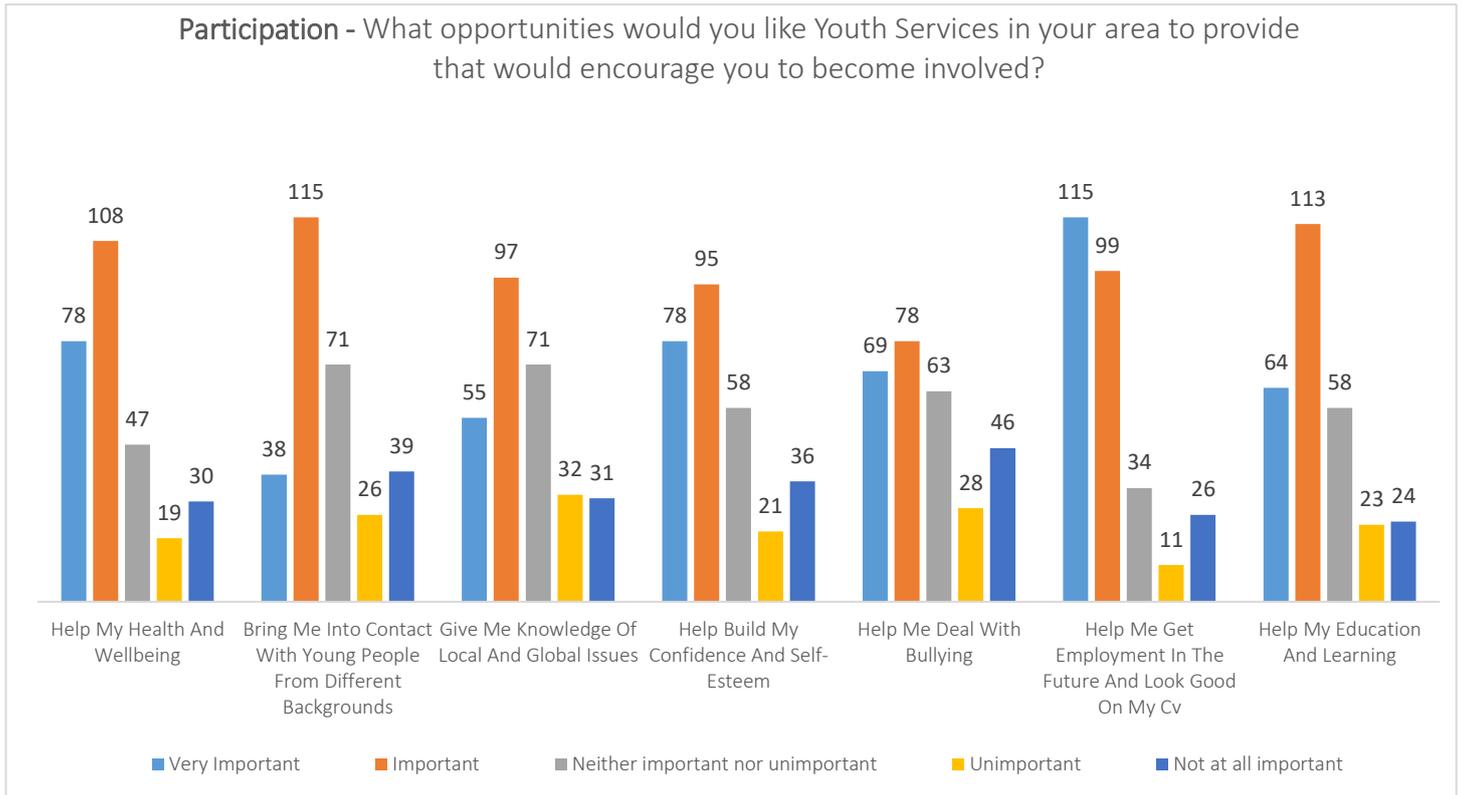


Youth Workers

Participation

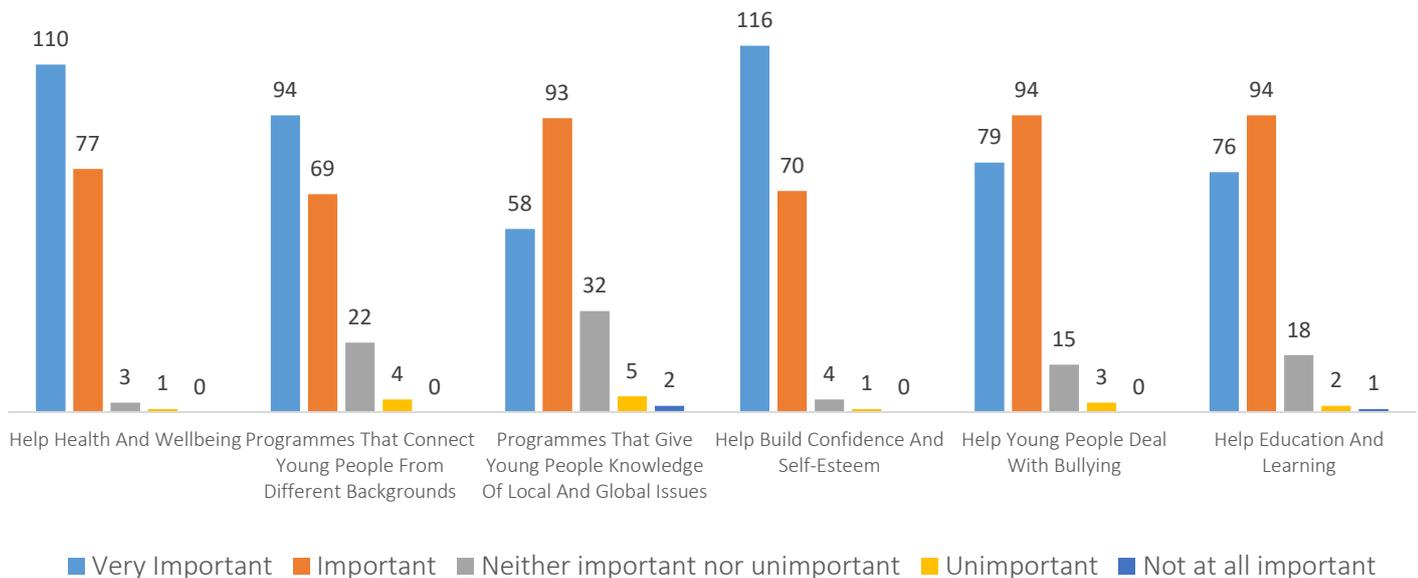


Young People



Youth Workers

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



Discussion

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

Of the 62,742 children and young people live in Newry, Mourne and Down, 11,074 (21%) are currently engaged in youth work.

Of the 62,742 children and young people live in Newry, Mourne and Down, 11,356 (18.1%) live in an area of deprivation and 9,728 (27.8%) of all pupils in Newry, Mourne and Down are eligible for Free School Meals. Lack of financial resources prevent many young people from participating in youth services and in Newry Mourne and Down there are 23 Super Output areas in the top 25% most deprived areas. The top 10 areas in Newry Mourne and Down for Income deprivation are Creggan, Forkhill 2, Silverbridge 1, Crossmaglen, Newtownhamilton, Silverbridge 2, Drumgullion 1, Annalong 1, Derrymore 1, Kilkeel South 2.

Of the 62,742 children and young people live in Newry, Mourne and Down, 34,006 (54.2%) live in a rural community with half of the survey's respondents identifying themselves as living in rural communities. Out of the 890 Super Output Areas across NI the top 10 in Newry Mourne and Down for lack of access to services are Ballyward, Donaghmore 1, Lisnacree, Mayobridge 2, Strangford, Newtownhamilton, Creggan, Seaford, Silverbridge 2, and Killough.

Multiple Deprivation measures combine a range of domains to reach a composite figure and quantify how these accumulate to adversely affect our communities. The top 10 of these are Crossmaglen, Drumgullion 1, Creggan, Daisy Hill 2, Murlough, Ballybot, Silverbridge 1, Forkhill 2, Cathedral 2 and Newtownhamilton.

64% of young people believed they had the opportunity to participate in youth services in their area although only 55% actually do take this up. Out of all the demographic groups who responded females were the highest at 70% and the lowest rate was from the 19-25 year old group at 58%. Over all 14% of young people said they did not have the opportunity to participate in youth services and 22% did not know either way.

36% of young people surveyed are missing out on the opportunity to experience the benefits of youth provision where they live. The reasons they provided for this in rank order were not being aware of youth services, no interest in taking part, not having any spare time or the youth service does not meet my needs.

When asked what opportunities would encourage them to become involved in youth services the top answer across all groups was getting help with employment and enhancing their CVs. Young people need us to offer them activities that they can learn and demonstrate their skill set to prospective employers. The second most popular answer was getting help with their health and wellbeing except for females whose second answer was getting help to build their confidence and self-esteem. The third most popular answer was help with their education and learning.

- Young people valued participating in youth clubs, however, in some instances they were critical of opening times and lack of a weekend service or at times when they felt they needed it most.
- Afternoon or after school activities would allow some young people to participate, particularly those from rural areas.
- Young people from rural areas also complained that Youth Services were not always available in their area.

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

81% of youth workers indicated that young people had opportunities to participate either often or very often with 19% stating that young people could participate either sometimes or not at all. They reasoned that either services were not available in their areas or that young people were not aware of existing provision. The top three activities that would encourage young people to become involved according to youth workers were programmes that connect young people from different backgrounds, those that help with education and learning and those that help build confidence and self-esteem.

- Young people in urban areas had difficulty accessing services because they did not live in an area of high social need, despite having particular needs themselves.
- Family and social circumstances and being from a vulnerable or minority group were also put forward as barriers to participation in Youth Services and society as a whole.
- Rural isolation was also a major barrier to participation.

A recent report from the Child Poverty Action Group found that increasing numbers of young people from low income families were going hungry. As a consequence, young people experience feelings of shame and stigmatisation, feel cut off from their learning and social opportunities due to a lack of money and food.³⁴

³⁴ <https://cpag.org.uk/news-blogs/news-listings/why-food-not-answer-hunger-uk>

Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity

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

Key Facts

- The most recent available figures indicate that there are 3,109 Looked After Children and Young People in Newry Mourne & Down.
- 154 of these Looked After young people are on the Child Protection Register.
- According to the Simon Community there are at least 6,000 homeless young people across Northern Ireland. (Homeless can mean living in unsuitable and unstable accommodation).³⁵
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,000 young carers in Northern Ireland.
- 15,290 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in Newry Mourne & Down.
- 77,965 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 Newry Mourne & Down this equates to approximately 11,500 young people.
- 1,027 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Newry Mourne & Down.
- 660 Roma children and young people attend schools in Newry Mourne & Down.
- 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.

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.³⁶

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 leave anyone behind.

Diversity is the term used to describe the 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 and celebrating these differences.

Equality is not about treating everybody the same. It is about treating everybody fairly.³⁷ 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 young people have an equal chance to reach their potential and be the best that they can be.

³⁵ <https://www.simoncommunity.org/homelessness/knowledge-hub/homelessness-in-ni>

³⁶ Equalities Review (2007) Fairness and Freedom: The Final Report of the Equalities Review. Norwich: HMSO.

³⁷ <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 Newry Mourne & Down enjoy safe, happy and active lives, there are significant numbers of 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.

Inequalities can arise from discrimination and prejudice that children and young people may face based on an aspect of their identity.³⁸ A recent report from Barnsley Council noted that inequality and discrimination and a lack of respect for others hold us all back.³⁹

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
- 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 Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)
- Victims or witnesses of domestic abuse
- Those at risk of offending
- Those living in a deprived or rural area
- Homeless young people

School age mothers.

³⁸ <http://www.seemescotland.org/>

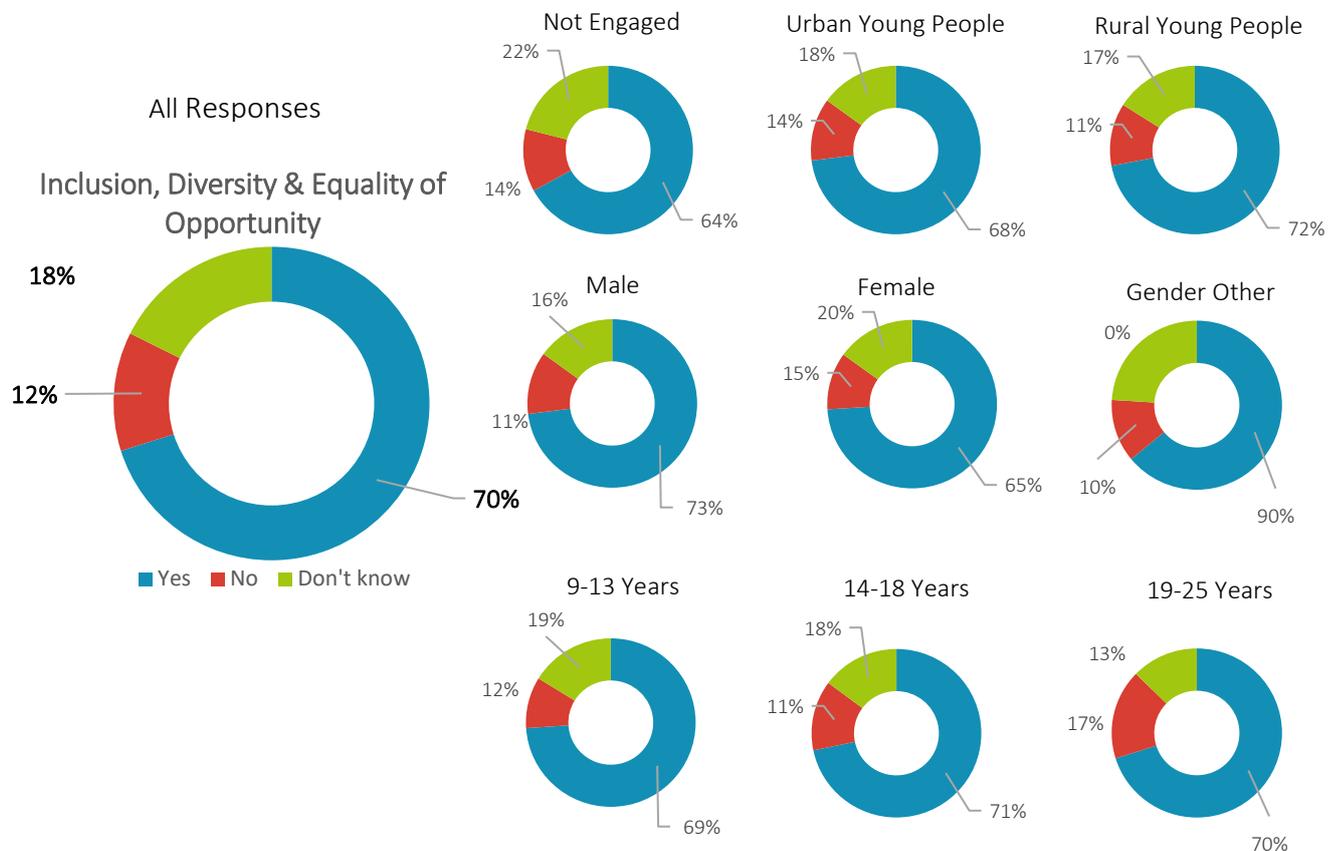
³⁹ <https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s36773/Appendix%201.pdf>

Survey Findings – Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity

Yes No Don't Know

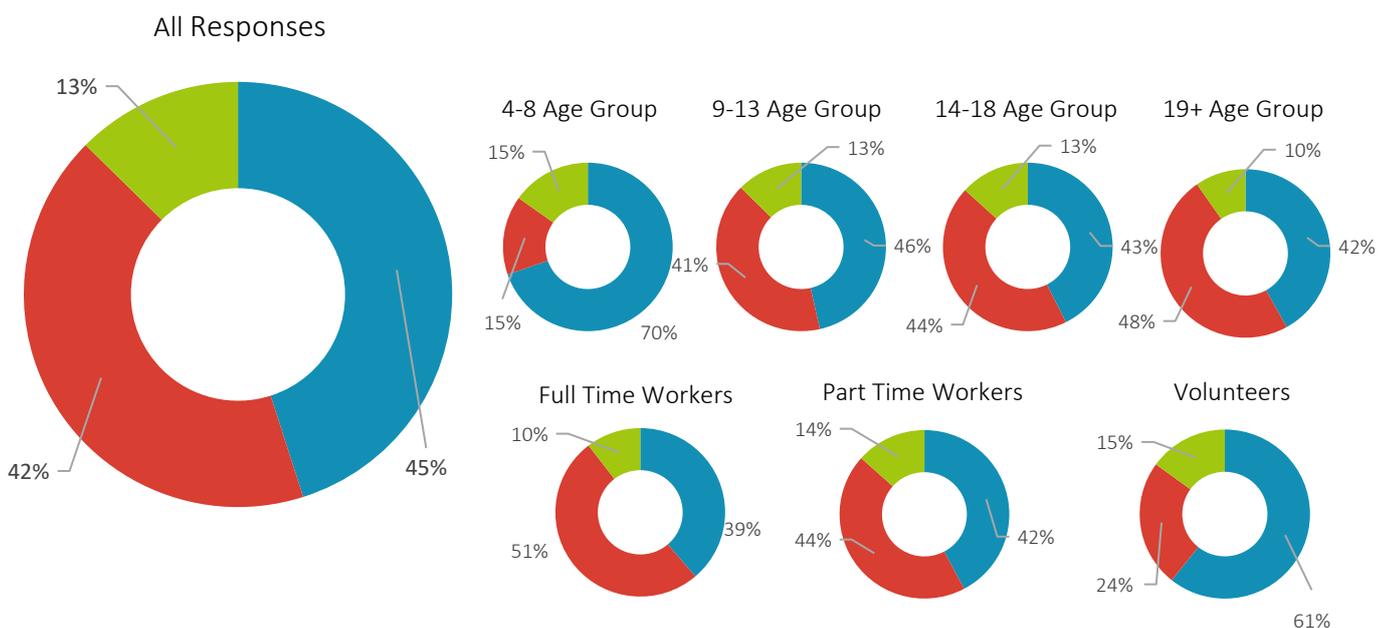
Young People

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



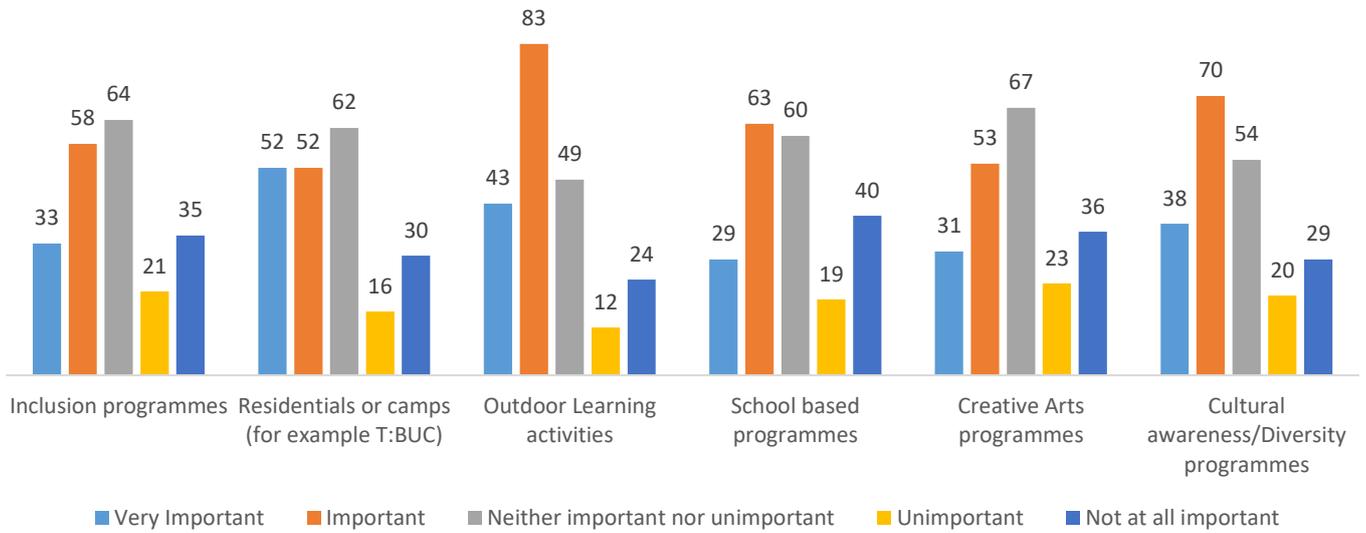
Youth Workers

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



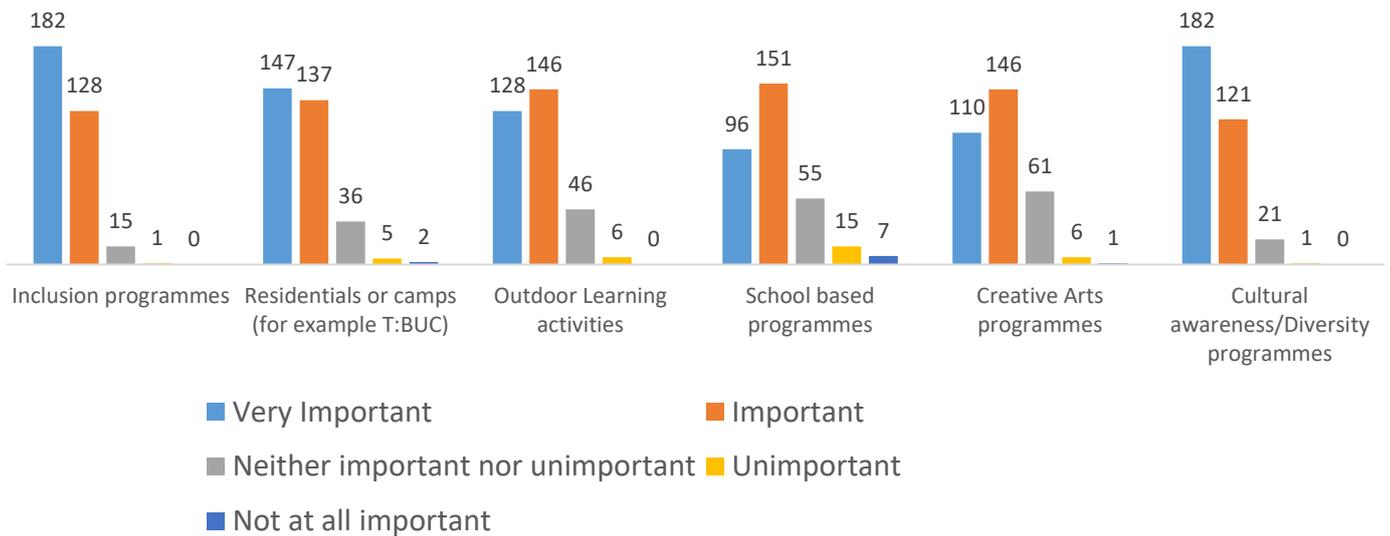
Young People

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

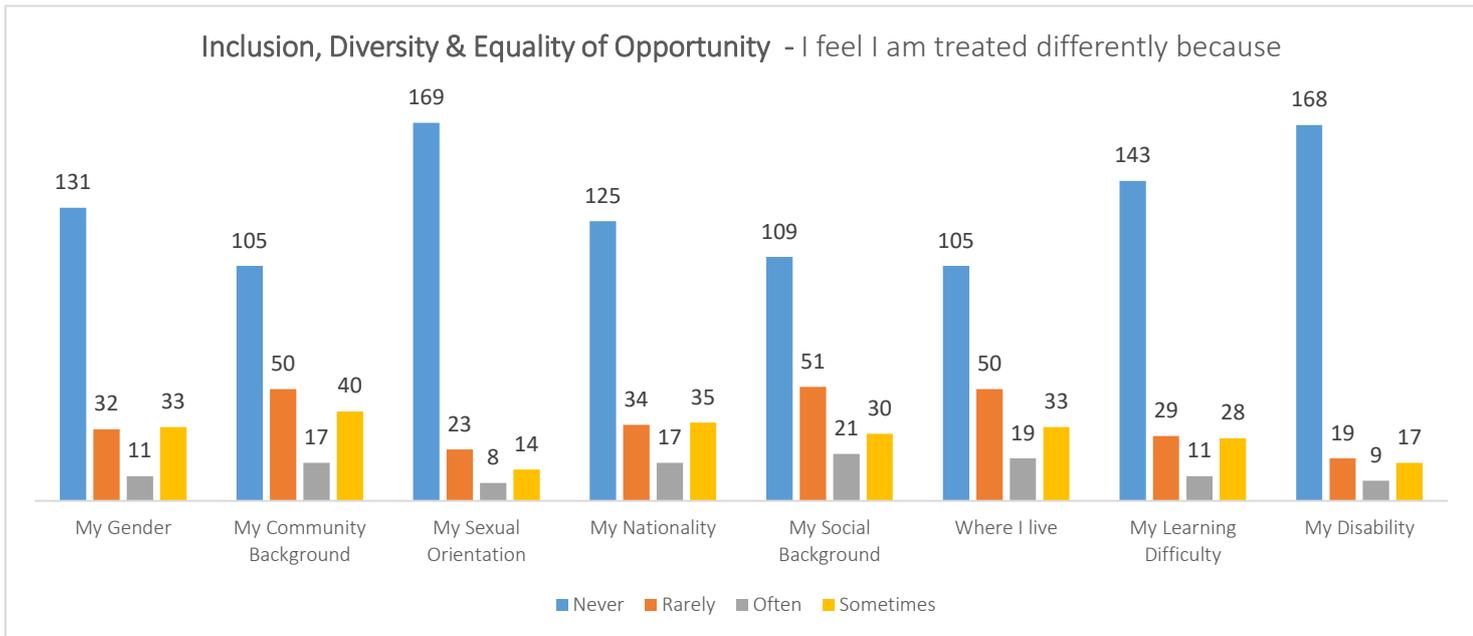


Youth Workers

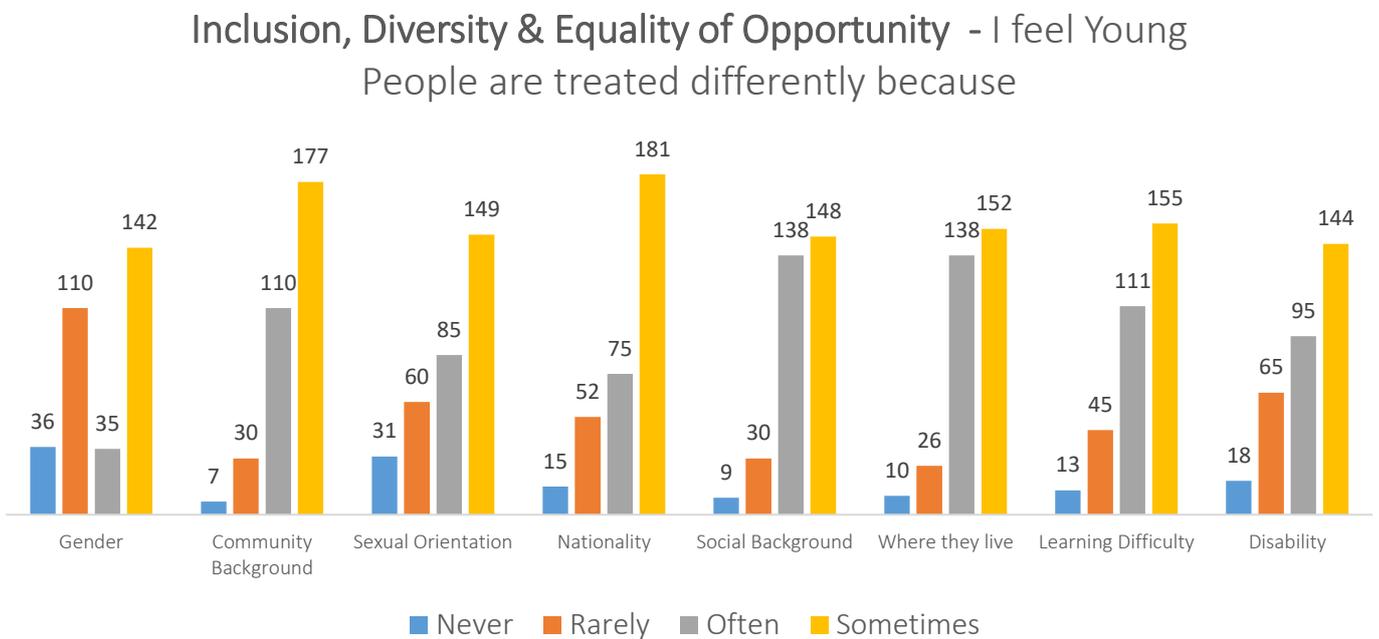
Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of Opportunity - What opportunities should Youth Services in your area provide so young people can feel more included?



Young People



Youth Workers



Discussion

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

Overall 70% of the young people surveyed stated that they felt they had the same opportunities in life and were treated the same as other people. Males were the highest at 73% and females were the lowest at 65%, all other groups were in between this range.

When respondents were asked to suggest why they might be treated differently their top reason overall was their community background which was the top for females and 14-18 year olds. Identity markers such as sports tops and school uniforms have previously been cited as risk factors where there is the potential for intolerance. 42 Sectarian incidences have been recorded in all DEAs with the most recorded in Newry and Downpatrick closely followed by the Mourne and Crotlieve and Rowallane, the least rates of sectarian incidences were in Slieve Croob. PSNI partners have noted that Newry Mourne and Down have among the lowest rates of hate crime across all of Northern Ireland which may result from under reporting from the public.

- Some young people suggested they were bullied and intimidated because of their appearance and felt they were given limited support to positively express themselves.

The second most popular answer was nationality which was the top for young men or where they lived. Out of the 47 racist incidents in 2018 the number was higher in Newry and the Mourne closely followed by Downpatrick and Rowallane and the least number of incidents were recorded for Crotlieve DEA. With 1,339 Newcomer pupils, 155 Traveller pupils and 91 Roma pupils attending schools in Newry, Mourne Down more work needs to be done to enable better integration and appreciation of diversity.

- Other young people believed their poor mental health or having a learning difficulty were barriers to them feeling included.

The third most popular answer was their social background which was top for 9-13 year olds and 19-25 year olds. Young people are hyper conscious about the appearance and peer pressure increasingly drives them to purchase the latest “merch”, clothes, digital devices or cars. Of the 62,742 children and young people live in Newry, Mourne and Down, 11,356 (18.1%) live in an area of deprivation and 9,728 (27.8%) of all pupils in Newry, Mourne and Down are eligible for Free School Meals. Lack of financial resources prevent many young people from availing of youth services and in Newry Mourne and Down there are 23 Super Output areas in the top 25% most deprived areas. The top 10 areas in Newry Mourne and Down for Income deprivation are Creggan, Forkhill 2, Silverbridge 1, Crossmaglen, Newtownhamilton, Silverbridge 2, Drumgullion 1, Annalong 1, Derrymore 1, Kilkeel South 2.

- Young Carers and other vulnerable young people noted that their opportunities to be included were restricted due to their circumstances and the opinions of their peers.

The fourth most popular response was their gender which was 2nd for females. Other reasons included, the way I look, my school, my height, weight or because I speak Irish.

When asked to suggest opportunities that the youth service could provide to make them feel more included their answers in rank order were; outdoor learning activities the *top for males and 9-18 year olds*; cultural awareness or diversity programmes the *top for females, 19-25year olds*; residential or camps and school based programmes

54% of youth workers believed that young people have the same opportunities in life and treated the same as other people. 32% disagreed that this was the case and 14% were not sure. Workers largely concurred with young people regarding the reasons for them being treated differently although they suggested that having a disability or a learning difficulty may have more of an impact on how others treat them. Given that 7,577 children and young people have a Special Educational Need or a disability in Newry Mourne and Down their needs should be adequately addressed. Interestingly workers regarded gender as the least likely cause of young people being treated differently in sharp contrast to what young women have stated.

When compared to young people workers appear to underestimate the numbers of young people who feel treated fairly and overestimate the numbers who are not. This could be the case possibly because they provide guidance more often to those who feel excluded alternatively workers believed that young people with limited experience away from their community possibly do not realise they may be treated differently.

Workers were asked to list the opportunities that would help young people to feel more included and they responded with cultural awareness and diversity or inclusion programmes, followed by residential and camps and outdoor learning opportunities. While Creative arts opportunities seems to be the least popular response from youth workers it has been requested by young people during stakeholder engagement events.

- Youth Workers and Volunteers suggested developing more advanced Inclusion and Diversity programmes to challenge the increasing issues that young people were experiencing.
- It was proposed that Social Action and Civic Engagement programmes and also programmes targeting the most vulnerable be introduced to support all young people in this area.

Living in Safety & Stability

Area of Enquiry 6: Living in Safety and Stability

Key Facts

- There are 18 interface areas in Newry Mourne & Down.
 - 10 in Belfast
 - 5 in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon
 - 3 in Derry and Strabane
- The most recent available figures indicate that there are 3,109 Looked After Children and Young People in Newry Mourne & Down.
- 154 of these Looked After young people are on the Child Protection Register.
- According to the Simon Community there are at least 6,000 homeless young people across Northern Ireland. (Homeless can mean living in unsuitable and unstable accommodation).⁴⁰
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,000 young carers in Northern Ireland.
- The most recent figures reveal that there were 31,531 domestic abuse incidences in Newry Mourne & Down.
- The total number of movements within the Juvenile Justice Centre in 2017/18 was 582. (443 in 2016/17).
- In 2017/18 a total of 7,715 days of custody was provided by the Juvenile Justice Centre.
- The total number of individual young people in custody in 2017/18 was 167. (139 in 2016/17)
- In April-June 2019 there were 20,000 NEET young people aged 16-24.

Why is this measure important?

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

A recent study noted that children thrive in stable and nurturing homes and environments where they know what to expect and feel that their relationships, health and safety are secure.⁴¹ To develop to their full potential, children and young people require safe and secure housing, a balanced diet, access to medical care, secure relationships with parents and guardians, including nurturing and responsive parenting and high-quality learning opportunities at home and in school.⁴²

⁴⁰ <https://www.simoncommunity.org/homelessness/knowledge-hub/homelessness-in-ni>

⁴¹ <https://ifstudies.org/blog/how-instability-affects-kids>

⁴² Sanderson, H., & Huerta, S. (2013), The Negative Effects of Instability on Child Development: A Research Synthesis, The Urban Initiative, Washington.

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

Adverse childhood experiences can have a detrimental effect on a child or young person's personal and social development. As well as having negative consequences for the individual it can also impact on other 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.⁴³

Judith Harris however argues that peer and community influence are more important than family influence in determining how children turn out. Studies have shown that a child is better off in a good community and a troubled family than he or she would be in a good family in a troubled community.⁴⁴

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

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.

⁴³ http://www.urbanchildinstitute.org/sites/all/files/databooks/TUCI_Data_Book_VII_2012.05_family.pdf

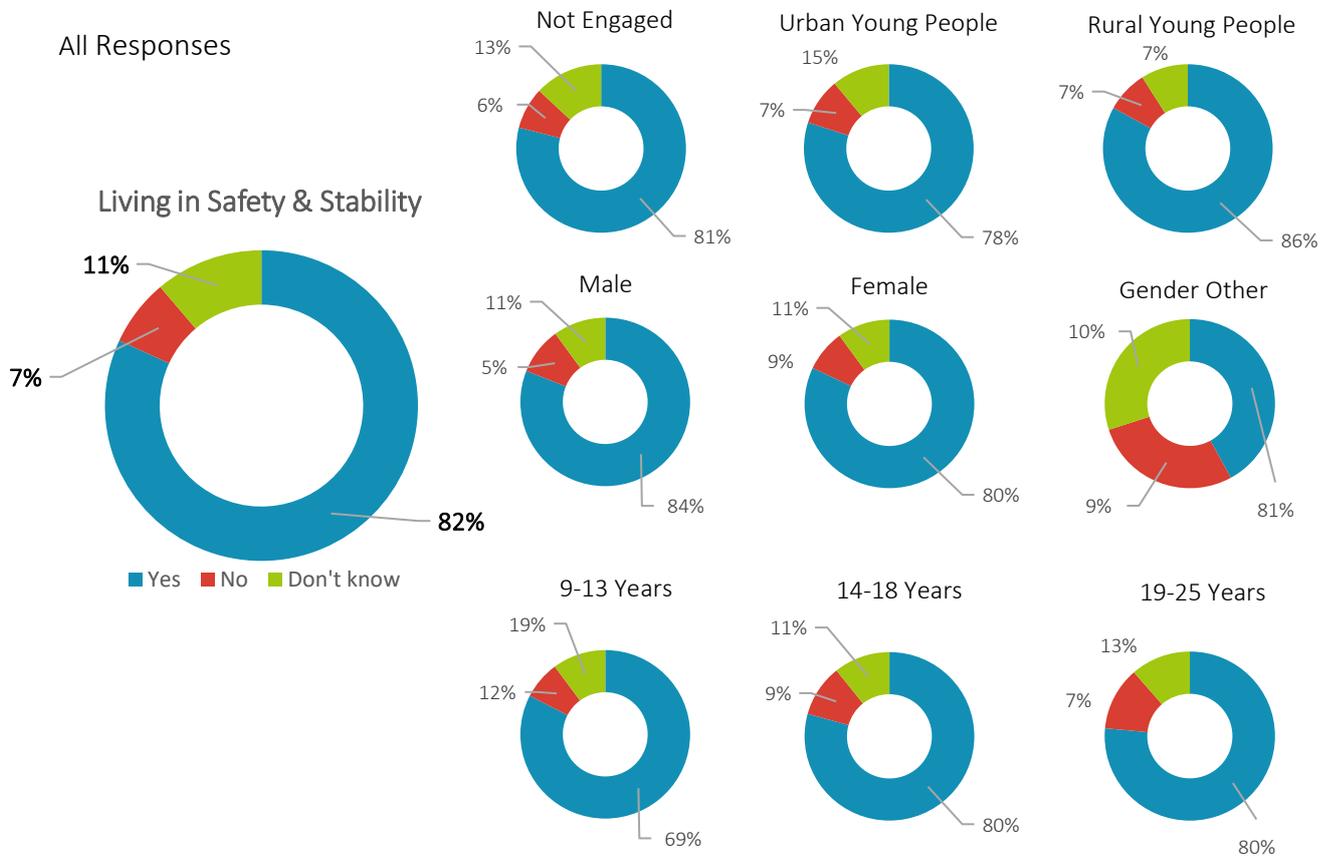
⁴⁴ Gladwell Malcolm, The Tipping Point: How little things than make a big difference. Abacus; GB: 2000

Survey Findings – Living in Safety and Stability

Yes No Don't Know

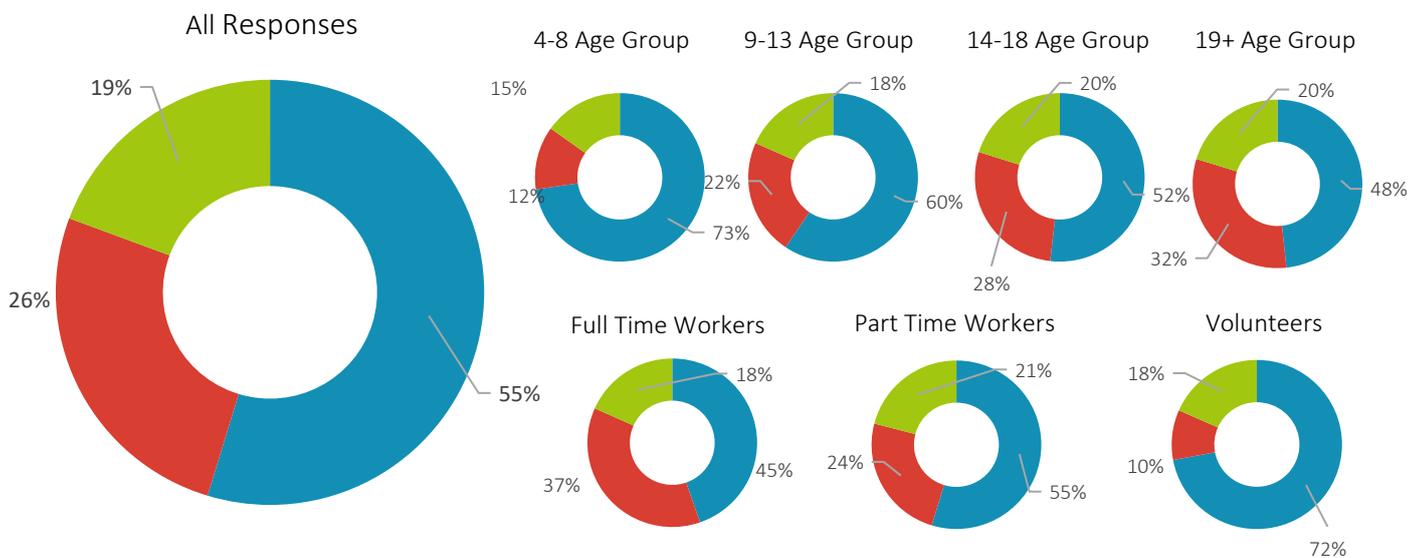
Young People that you work with feel safe in their own community?

Young People

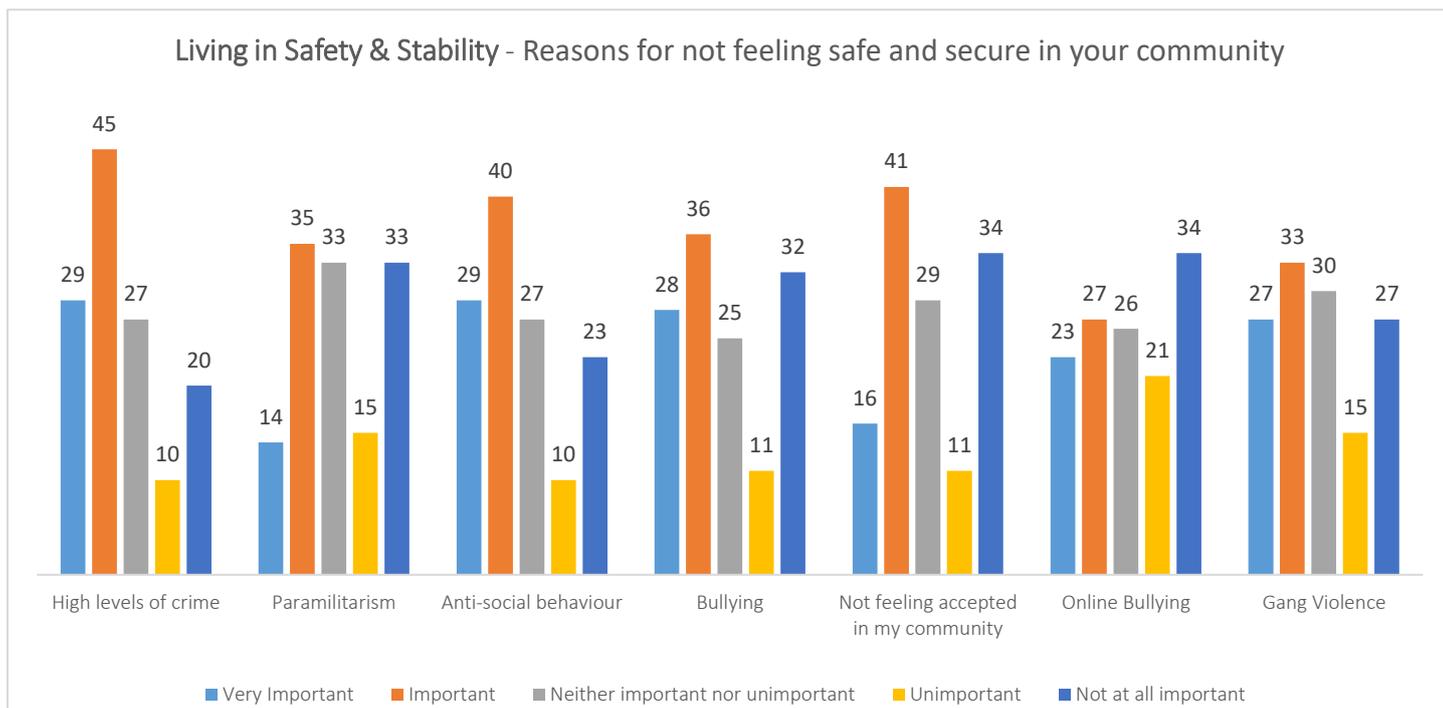


Youth Workers

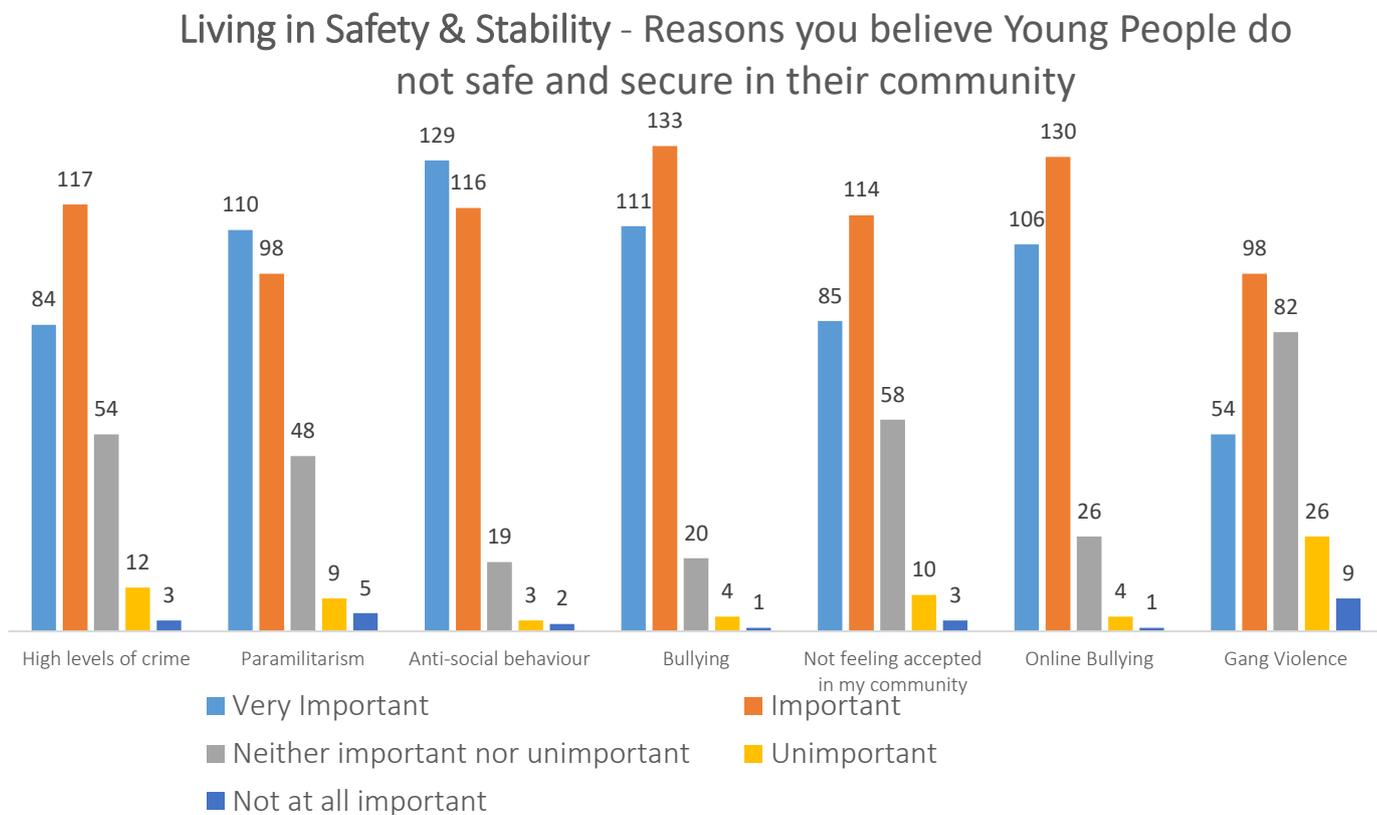
Young People that you work with feel safe in their own community?



Young People



Youth Workers



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 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 young people insecurity and transitions create stress which can threaten a young person's sense of belonging and security. Over all 82% of young people surveyed said that they felt safe in their community, the range was close across all demographics with 9-13 year olds feeling the safest at 83% and females or 14-18 year olds the lowest at 80%. 7% of young people disagreed stating they did not feel safe in their communities and 11% weren't sure.

When asked to list why they did not feel safe answers ranged in rank order from high levels of crime which was Top in most groups; anti-social behaviour especially at Halloween; bullying; gang violence; not feeling accepted by their community; online bullying to Para militarism. Additional factors included the prevalence of drugs, guns, drinking, the police and people in the community.

- The main reason young people gave for not feeling safe in their own community was drug use and the increasing availability of drugs in their areas.
- This in turn led to anti-social behaviour and increased levels of crime in local communities.
- Some young people reported that the lack of a police presence made them feel less secure whilst other young people noted that a police presence led some to become involved in risk taking behaviours.
- Some young people also felt unsafe and afraid of being bullied because of their appearance or background.
- It was noted that living in a segregated community ensured one did not feel safe all the time.

Supports suggested by the young people surveyed included the installation of CCTV or Street Lighting, increased Police patrols, increased acceptance & awareness of people who are different as well as having more youth clubs safe places at weekends for socialising.

There is much agreement on the reasons for not feeling safe between workers and young people. 64% of youth workers believe that the young people they work with feel safe in their community. 18% disagreed and a further 18% did not know either way. Although workers can only speak about the 55% that they engage with, they underestimate the numbers of young people who feel safe and overestimate the numbers who don't. This is possibly because they provide guidance and support more often to those who express their fears.

When asked to list the possible reasons why young people did not feel safe the workers responded that bullying, and online bullying along with anti-social behaviour and high levels of crime contributed to this among young people. The other reasons offered included young people not being accepted in their communities, the fear of Para militarism or gang violence.

- Youth Workers and Volunteers also identified drug usage and its availability as an issue in some communities, especially among vulnerable young people.
- Rioting, organised fights and community tensions were all growing areas for concern.

- Young people also feel threatened because they are different and there was a feeling that Youth Services could be providing more programmes to support these vulnerable young people.

Para militarism is a reality for many in Northern Ireland and also a growing threat to children and young people, particularly those from the most deprived communities where they exert the greatest control.

Other consultation events do not concur, stating that young people do not feel safe in their town centres or at night with the increasing incidence of knife crime or one punch attacks.

Research has shown that as children and young people are spending more time on social media they are more vulnerable to being victims of child sexual exploitation.⁴⁵

Another report noted that young people who have been exposed to paramilitaries, either as victims or witnesses, have mental health issues, endure feelings of anger and fear, have suicidal thoughts and use alcohol and drugs as coping mechanisms.⁴⁶

Newry Mourne and Down compares favourably against the Northern Ireland average in the Crime and disorder measure however within the district the top ten most deprived areas for this are Daisy Hill 2, Cathedral 2, Ballymore, St Patrick's 2, Ballybot, Murlough, Drumalane 2, Shimna, Clonallan 1 and St Marys.

PSNI statistics compare rates of anti-social behaviour across all DEAs with Newry and Crotlieve showing a marked decrease of 11% and 15%. Newry still has the highest recorded incidents standing at 1202 in 2019, with Slieve Gullion showing a 15% increase from 336 in 2018 to 387 in 2019. It is notable that the Ballybot ward has the highest incidence rate overall with 454 incidents recorded in 2019. While figures are low Forkhill and Mullaghbane both showed an increase of 69% and 65% of anti-social behaviour incidents.

Domestic incidents are on the increase in Downpatrick, Slieve Croob and The Mournes however Newry remains the most significant area for this with 567 recorded in 2019. Other figures released regarding crime, criminal damage, theft, burglary and violence against the person indicate that Newry Mourne and Down's rates are below those in other areas in Northern Ireland.

Statistics for D District show a slight decrease in anti-social behaviour rates between 2018 and 2019 of 1%. Crossmaglen and Newry have decreased by 14% and 12%. Newtownhamilton and Downpatrick have increased by 19% and 5% respectively.

Newry Mourne and Down District Council score cards have captured data on the extent to which people feel safe either during the day or at night. Respondents who felt very safe during the day ranged from 83% in Crotlieve to 32% in Rowallane. Figures for each DEA at night dropped in all areas and ranged from 63% in Slieve Croob to 29% in Rowallane. The highest rates for feeling fairly safe both day and night were in the Rowallane area who also had the highest percentage of respondents who felt fairly unsafe after dark at 13%.

⁴⁵ <https://www.knowsleyscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/7-Minute-Briefing-CSE-and-Social-Media.pdf>

⁴⁶ <https://theconversation.com/paramilitaries-still-cast-shadows-over-lives-of-young-people-in-northern-ireland-106205>

Establishing Areas for Action

Establishing Areas for Action

Youth Work Priorities

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

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

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

Raising Standards for All

Area of Action: Delivering on Assessed Need

Youth Services should develop 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 establish 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 must ensure the voice of young people remains present in shaping and planning services to meet the needs of all 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 decisions are evidence based and critically reflect on the planning and delivery of services.

Area of Action: Quality Assurance

The Education Authority 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 young people has demonstrated a lack of awareness of Youth Services available to young people. More specifically, young people not engaged in Youth Services do not fully understand the opportunities available to them. This area of action is key to ensure young people are aware of the service opportunities open to them, to increase the participation of 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

It is worrying that over half of those surveyed were not aware of the positive impact the youth service could make on their health. Combined data from this survey and that produced by the council and the Health Trust Locality Planning team indicates that young people face challenges in how they feel about and see themselves. They often escape these through risk-taking behaviour or withdraw further from the social networks around them. To address these issues the Youth Service in Newry Mourne & Down will provide the following:

- Health programmes for 19-25 year olds
- Alcohol and drugs awareness programmes for females & 14-18 year olds in Neighbourhood Renewal areas
- Sport & fitness programmes for males & 9-13 year olds in Neighbourhood Renewal areas
- Outdoor learning opportunities
- Gender specific programmes
- Leadership programmes
- Programmes to promote digital skills so young people can safely navigate the online world
- Anti-bullying programmes
- Safe spaces for young people to receive emotional guidance and support
- Programmes that increase confidence and self-esteem for females
- Programmes to enable smooth transitions for young people

Learning and Achieving

Academic achievement in Newry Mourne & Down continues to outpace many areas in NI generally. However school based interventions help to mitigate against a tail of underachievement in some areas. Young people learn outside of school in non-formal situations and the youth service provides an additional safety net for those who experience barriers to learning. We have learnt that young people want to be offered age appropriate life skills and they want these to have currency in the world of work. To address these issues the Youth Service in Newry Mourne & Down will provide the following:

- Young people involved in the design of programmes to meet their career needs
- Curriculum widened to include more creative methodologies such as visual/performing arts
- Age appropriate life skills programmes universally
- Educational programmes using creative and digital media
- Outdoor learning methodologies particularly for males and 9-13 year olds
- Spaces that offer help with school work and careers guidance while reducing exam stress
- Volunteering programmes in the Down area
- Leadership programmes in the Down area
- Increased presence in targeted schools in the Down area
- Inclusion programmes supporting traveller and newcomer young people in Bessbrook and Newtownhamilton
- Embed a strengths based approach

Good Relations

M Two thirds of the young people surveyed stated they had the opportunity to meet with people from different cultural backgrounds. However many areas continue to be segregated across the district leaving young people with no opportunity to experience diversity. This situation can result in a range of negative outcomes such as prejudice or hate crime. Increasing numbers of Newcomer and ethnic minority young

people need support to help them integrate effectively. To address these issues the Youth Service in Newry Mourne & Down will provide the following:

- Cultural awareness and diversity programmes for females and 14-25 year olds
- Programmes that use outdoor learning opportunities for males and 9-13 year olds
- Inclusion programmes that integrate Traveller and Roma groups with indigenous young people
- Programmes that use residential or camps
- Programmes that use creative arts
- School based programmes that explore active citizenship and mutual understanding
- TBUC programmes with groups in the Down area

Participation

Young people experience many barriers to participating in youth services. Some of these are beyond their control, such as whether youth provision is offered in their community or not or the extent to which they know about what is on offer locally.

Both of these will also be addressed in the priorities raising standards for all and transforming governance. The EA youth service will endeavour to respond to the survey by providing creative programmes that better match young people's needs to gain skills and confidence. To address these issues the Youth Service in Newry Mourne & Down will provide the following:

- Increased availability of generic provision especially in Slieve Croob
- Targeted programmes for 9-13 & 19-25 year olds
- Employability programmes for 14-18 year olds
- Volunteering opportunities that provide work experience for young people
- Activities that demonstrate new skills & add currency to Curriculum Vitae
- Health and well-being programmes for all age groups
- Programmes to build confidence and self-esteem for females
- Age appropriate accredited programmes
- After school provision for young people from rural communities that support learning
- Weekend provision
- Programmes that connect young people from diverse backgrounds
- Increased partnership working with the business sector

Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity

Most young people felt that they were treated the same as everyone else. Community background was the most common reason for some young people regarding how they were treated. The service will need to address the issue of cultural identity to promote increased tolerance and mutual respect. Some groups within the community need to be targeted to enable them to overcome barriers to participation. Young people from Section 75 groups will be engaged with both inside and outside of school settings. After school provision may need to be instated to enable those living in rural communities to access services more easily. Opportunities to meet and develop relationships with other young people from different cultures was an effective way to address exclusion, these work best using the methodology of outdoor learning or residential. To address these issues the Youth Service in Newry Mourne & Down will provide the following:

- Inclusion programmes to support integration in Newtownhamilton, Bessbrook, Newry and Downpatrick.
- Programmes that promote appreciation of diversity and cultural awareness
- CRED initiatives to address sectarianism
- Young women's programmes to build confidence and self-esteem
- Outdoor learning methodologies for 9-18 year old males.

- Buddy programmes to support young people with disabilities
- Creative school based programmes
- Residential and international opportunities

Living in Safety & Stability

While over 80% of young people said they felt safe in their communities that figure drops when they consider town centres. Young people are wary of crime and anti-social behaviour taking place at night and on weekends. They are also experiencing a lack of safety in the online world where their digital footprint never sleeps. There are dangers from witnessing or becoming involved in organised fights as a result of the potential for hostility to escalate online. They have asked for increased evening and weekend access to drop in facilities where they can socialise in a safe environment with their peers. To address these issues the Youth Service in Newry Mourne & Down will provide the following:

- Programmes to promote awareness and acceptance of difference
- Clubs and centres opened at weekends
- Citizenship programmes that develop a sense of belonging for young people
- Outreach and detached methodologies where anti-social behaviour occurs in Newry & Downpatrick
- Social action and peer education programmes
- Anti-bullying and cyber safety programmes
- Intergeneration programmes to build positive relationships between all ages
- Relationship and anger management programmes

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

- LGBTQ Young People
- Children Looked After
- Children and Young People with Learning and Physical Disabilities
- Newcomer Children and Young People
- Young People from the Travelling Community

Furthermore, evidence from desktop research and the online survey places a particular emphasis on the need to provide quality generalist provision for young people. Providing a high quality universal service will assist in limiting the need for early intervention or targeted services for young people as they progress into adulthood.

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

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 the service 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 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

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 CRED policy 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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