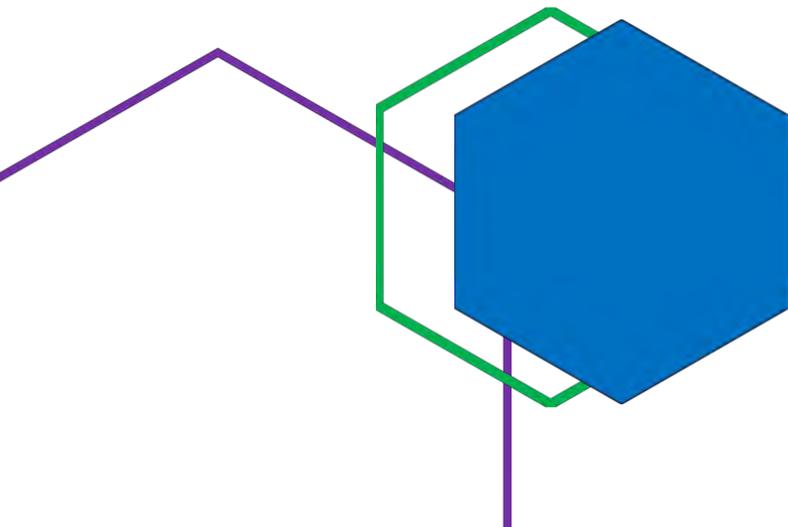


Youth Service

# Local Assessment of Need Armagh Banbridge Craigavon

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# 2023



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**Authors**

Youth Service Planning and Monitoring Team  
Senior Youth Officer, Armagh, Banbridge and  
Craigavon Area

**Produced by**

Education Authority Youth Service  
Portadown Youth Office  
Bann House  
Bridge Street  
Portadown  
BT63 5AE  
[www.eani.org.uk/youth](http://www.eani.org.uk/youth)

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## Executive Summary

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough is made up of seven District Electoral Areas including; Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, Cusher, Lagan River, Lurgan and Portadown.

Based on the analysis of the Statistical data and the voice of stakeholders, children and young people, considering also the current uncertainty regarding the future of budgets, increasing cost of living and long lasting impacts on the lives of children and young people as a result of covid-19, there needs to be a clear focus on the priority to protect core services for children and young people. The Assessment of need clearly establishes the following Key Areas for Action for the delivery of Youth Services in the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Area:

- Learning and Achieving
- Health and Wellbeing
- Living in Safety and Stability
- Inclusion Diversity Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations
- Participation
- Environment and Climate

Addressing barriers to learning remains a significant need within Armagh Banbridge Craigavon. This need is further deepened by the pandemic, increased newcomers, high levels of SEN and children looked after. Based on population data this will see an increase in children and young people transitioning from the 9-13 age range to the 14-18 age range over the planned period, which will result in an increased number of those taking examinations and considering employment/career pathways or routes into further and higher education. There will be an opportunity and need to provide new and additional leadership and volunteer opportunities taking into account the bespoke needs at that time.

It has been clearly highlighted by the Voice of Children and Young People that health and wellbeing remains a priority need for our children and young people. The DE Emotional health and wellbeing framework has highlighted and evidenced that a focus needs to be placed on Wellbeing for All and Early Support programmes for children and young people to positively address this need long term impacts.

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

Children and young people are also experiencing significant adversity in their home lives. Exposure to adverse childhood experiences such as domestic abuse, breakdown in family relationships, having a family member with mental illness, substance or alcohol misuse requires services to be trauma informed and supports the need for early intervention to provide support to build the skills needed to cope with and mitigate the effect of adverse experiences. Youth Services have a key role in providing these safe and supportive environments.



# Introduction & Methodology

## Introduction

Structured formal planning takes place throughout Youth Services to effectively allocate staff and resources in response to policy priorities, DE targets and an objective assessment of need. Local Planning, therefore, is part of a coherent planning framework established within the Education Authority Youth Service.

An assessment of need is the first phase of the planning process. The purpose of this Assessment of Need is to identify the bespoke needs of Children and Young People including vulnerable groups within the geographical area of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

This needs assessment will be foundational in the planning and resource allocation to improve outcomes for children and young people.

## Methodology

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. A full outline of statistics used, is provided in the separate Local Government District area profile for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon. Statistical profiles by DEA, are also included later in the document. An extensive consultation with young people and key stakeholders was also undertaken.

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

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

It remains a policy imperative that young people are included in the design and development of youth services. Many young people engaging in youth services express their interest in actively participating in decision making.

A Local Advisory Group (LAG) is facilitated by Youth Services in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area and they have been engaged in the development of the local assessment of need and the local youth development plan. The Local Advisory Group involves representation from the statutory and voluntary sector as well other key stakeholders.

## Surveys

A survey focussing on key areas of enquiry was designed for young people and administered using Survey Monkey (appendix 1)

A total of 934 children and young people from Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Area responded to the survey. Children and young people from a range of statutory, local and voluntary youth groups involved in

DE funded youth work participated. Children and young people not currently involved in Youth Services were also canvassed.

## Stakeholder Engagement Events

Over the three-year funding cycle there have been a series of Stakeholder Engagement Events completed on behalf of the Regional Advisory Group. They focused on the following topics:

- The Emerging Needs of Children & Young People
- Needs of Rural Young People
- Supporting Young People's Learning
- The Emerging Needs of Children and Young People
- Young People and Inclusion
- The Health & Wellbeing Needs of Children and Young People
- Research and Innovation in Youth Work
- Needs of Children and young people after lockdown
- Impact of Environmental and Climate Change
- The needs of Children and Young People affected by the Digital divide
- The impact of drugs and alcohol on children and young people
- The needs of Newcomer children and young people
- The inclusion of young parents
- Volunteering
- Violence against young women

These events were co-designed and co-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 this Assessment of Need.

EA Youth Service in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon organised focus group events examining identified themes (further details are provided in Appendix II)

- Youth focus group event 15th February 2022 (15 young people)
- Youth focus group event 16th February 2022 (12 young people)
- Youth Focus group event 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (25 young people)
- Youth focus group event 21st June 2022 (10 attendees and 12 young people)
- Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Local assessment of Need Focus Group 16th August (5 young people)
- Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Local Assessment of Need Focus Group 13th September (8 attendees)

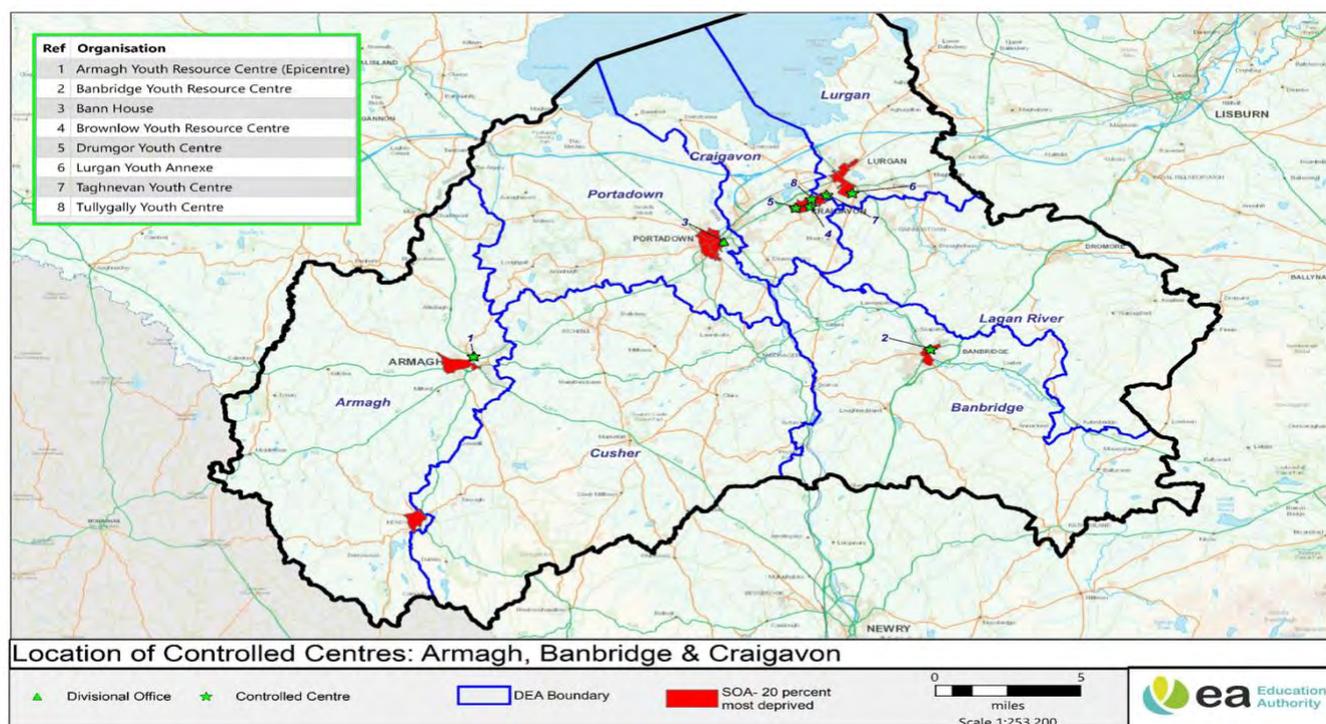


# Area Profile

## Overview of Area

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough is made up of seven District Electoral Areas as shown below: Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, Cusher, Lagan River, Lurgan and Portadown.

The Council Area recognises a settlement hierarchy which places the hubs of Armagh City, Craigavon Urban Area (Portadown, Central Craigavon and Lurgan) and Banbridge as the main settlements. Within this hierarchy, the Borough also has six smaller local towns (Keady, Markethill, Tandragee, Dromore, Rathfriland and Gilford), 29 villages and 66 small settlements.



The estimated population of Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon local government district in 2022 is 222,191 people, of which 110,859 (49.9%) are male and 111,332 (50.1%) are female.

The population aged 25 years and under is 74,101 people which equates to 33.35% of the total population, with the NI average being 32.4%. The breakdown of the figures shows that 38,119 (51.4%) of the young people aged 25 and under were male and 35,911 (48.5%) of the young people were female.

The demographics of the area indicate that 42% of young people live in areas that are essentially rural in character with 58% live within the densely populated Craigavon area and the two large urban centres of Armagh and Banbridge. The deployment of the Youth Work team ensures that attention is given to the needs of young people in rural and urban settings through centre-based, area youth workers, outreach workers and voluntary sector organisations, supported by grants from Education Authority. Moving forward these datasets will be reviewed in line with the published outcomes of the 2021 NI Census.

# Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon in Numbers

The estimated population of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon in 2022 is **222,191**

**74,110 children and young people aged 0-25 years old live in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon in 2022**

- 35,991 Female and 38,119 Male
  - 11,282 aged 0 – 3 years
  - 15,599 aged 4 – 8 years
  - 16,281 aged 9 – 13 years
  - 14,786 aged 14 – 18 years
  - 16,162 aged 19 – 25 years
- 
- 6,670 children and young people aged 0-25 years (9%) live in deprivation (2022)
  - 31,127 children and young people (42%) live in a rural community in ABC. (2022)
  - 3,709 Newcomers attend schools in ABC. (21/22)
  - 9,271 (22.4%) of all pupils in ABC are eligible for Free School Meals. 2021/22 – (NI average 28%)
  - 2,121 (5.2%) of pupils who attend school in ABC have a Statement (Sen stage 3) 21/22 – NI average 6%
  - 6,936 pupils (16.8%) who attend school in ABC have a Special Education Need or Disability (Sen stage 1-3). (21/22) – NI average 18%.
  - 4,806 pupils who attend school in ABC have a Special Educational Need (SEN) but not a Statement (SEN Stage 1-2)
  - The proportion of Primary 1 pupils identified as obese or overweight in ABC is 19.4% with NI average 23.2%. This represents 23.4% of girls (NI 27%) and 15.7% of boys (NI 19.5%) –
  - The proportion of Year 8 pupils identified as obese or overweight in ABC is 25.7% (NI average 27.1%). This represents 25.7% of females (NI 27.1%) and 25.7% of males (NI 27.2%) – data source ninis – range 2017/2018 – 2019/2020.
  - Suicide rates in ABC have more than doubled from 2018 (14) to 2020 (20). NISRA 2020. Craigavon DEA has the highest crude suicide death rate (20 per 100,000) in ABC from 2014-2018, which is above the NI average of 16 per 100,000 (2020.2021 data NISRA).
  - 153 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon. (2020/21)

## Highlights:

1. There will be a trend of increased 14-18 years old throughout the period of this plan
2. There are a significant number of children and young people who live in rural areas who will require access to youth services
3. Youth Services need to be considered to meet the needs of newcomer children and young people
4. The Data indicates a range of vulnerabilities that youth work programmes can be designed to addressed

## Demographics

The estimated population of Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon local government district in 2022 is 222,191 people, of which 110,859 (49.9%) are male and 111,332 (51.1%) are female.

The population aged 25 years and under is 74,101 people which equates to 33.35% of the total population, with the NI average being 32.4%. The breakdown of the figures shows that 38,119 of the young people aged 25 and under were male and 35,911 of the young people were female.

The demographics of the area indicate that 42% of young people live in areas that are essentially rural in character with 58% live within the densely populated Craigavon area and the two large urban centres of Armagh and Banbridge. The deployment of the Youth Work team ensures that attention is given to the needs of young people in rural and urban settings through centre-based, area youth workers, outreach workers and voluntary sector organisations, supported by grants from Education Authority.

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

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

The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area consists of 87 Super Output Areas.

- 8 Super Output Areas are ranked in the top 100 most deprived in terms of multiple deprivation. These are:
  - Woodville 1
  - Drumgask 2
  - Court 1
  - Callanbridge
  - Church
  - Annagh 2
  - Drumgor 2
  - Drumnamoe 1

- 7 Super Output Areas are ranked in the top 100 most deprived in terms Income Deprivation Affecting Children. These are:
  - Woodville 1
  - Church
  - Annagh 2
  - Keady
  - Callanbridge
  - Derrynoose
  - Corcrair 2

## Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRAs)

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs) are neighbourhoods identified as experiencing the most severe multiple deprivation and received 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 four in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area

- Armagh
- Brownlow
- Lurgan
- Portadown North West

Young people living in NRAs tend to have lower educational outcomes than their peers who do not live in renewal areas. Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Youth Service requires the delivery of youth provision in these areas in order to raise education standards and contribute to closing the performance gap.

## Children in Low Income

Within Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, the proportion of children living in low income families ranged from 4.5% in Waringstown 2 to 51.8% in Drumgask 2 super output areas. Of the 87 super output areas in the Borough, 27 had higher proportions of children living in low income families than the NI average. Urban areas tended to have higher rates of children in low income families, than rural areas.

## KEY FACTOS: LEARN & ACHIEVE

There are a total of 128 nursery, primary, post-primary and special schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

- 12 nursery schools
  - 90 primary schools
  - 23 post-primary schools
  - 2 special schools
- Of these, 61 are located in a rural setting, one is a nursery school, 55 are primary schools and 4 are post-primary school.
  - Of the 40,193 children and young people attending primary and post-primary schools in the ABC area, 8,902 (22.15%) are eligible for free school meals. The NI average is 28%.
  - 3,709 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in the ABC area.
  - 90.5% of young people attending schools in ABC achieved 5+ GCSE A\*-C. NI average is 92.1%.
  - 74.4% of young people attending schools in ABC achieved 5+ GCSE A\*-C including English and Maths. NI average is 77.77%.
  - 9,271 pupils (22.4%) in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon are eligible for Free School Meals (NI average 28%). (DE school census data 21/22)
  - 11,963 (28.9%) pupils attend schools in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area that have been designated as rural (NI average 25.5%)
  - Whilst there are no specific numbers for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, the most recent figures reveal that 591 Looked After Children were supported by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. Many of these children and young people live and attend schools in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area. (HSC 20/21)
  - The District Electoral Areas of Portadown, Armagh, Craigavon, Lurgan, Banbridge and Lagan River all fall below the Northern Ireland Average of schools leavers who achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A-C\* and Achieved At Least 5 GCSE's grades A\*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths

### Special Education Need Data

- 6,936 (16.8%) have a Special Educational Need. NI average is 18%.
  - 4,806 (11.6%) are at Stage 1-2 on the Special Educational Needs register, pupils with special educational needs but not a statement. NI average is 12%.
  - 2,130 (5.15%) have a Statement. NI average is 6%.

## Education Newcomer Data

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon has the highest number of newcomer pupils outside of Belfast with 2,709 newcomer pupils. Presentation Primary School, Portadown has the highest percentage of newcomer pupils in NI at 89%. Portadown, Armagh, Craigavon and Banbridge DEA's are above the NI average for Newcomer pupils in schools.

## Discussion & Key Trends

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

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

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

Children and Young people from Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon have requested Youth Services to provide training opportunities that support with career and job prospects and qualifications that are accessible, meaningful and would meet their career and life opportunities.

It is interesting to report that children and young people from all age groups from within Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon stated that sport and fitness and life skills programmes were the top two most important in terms of them successfully transitioning into adulthood.

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

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



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

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

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

Therefore, we consider youth work within the community to be a vehicle to address this issue through creative youth work programmes.

## KEY FACTS: HEALTH & WELLBEING

- 1 in 5 young people have a mental health need. This equates to 14,882 young people in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon
- The rate for self-harm in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 104.4 per 100,000 population (Northern Ireland 117).
- The suicide rate in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 12.7 per 100,000 population (Northern Ireland is 16.1). In the most deprived areas, it is 21.6 per 100,000 population (Northern Ireland 19.7).
- The rate for drug related issues in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 167 per 1000,000 population (Northern Ireland is 193).
- The rate for alcohol related issues in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 628 per 100,000 population (*Northern Ireland is 659*).
- The teenage birth rate for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 7.9 per 1,000 population (*Northern Ireland is 8.3*).
- In 2018-2020, the teenage birth rate for mothers aged under 17 years in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon was 0.7 per 1,000 females. The comparative figure for Northern Ireland was 1.3.
- Primary 1 pupils identified as obese or overweight in ABC is 19.4%. (NI average 23.2%) This represents 23.4% of girls (NI 27%) and 15.7% of boys (NI 19.5%).
- Year 8 pupils identified as obese or overweight in ABC is 25.7% (NI average 27.1%). This represents 25.7% of females (NI 27.1%) and 25.7% of males (NI 27.2%).
- The prescription rate for mood and anxiety in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 209 per 1,000 population (*Northern Ireland 216*).
- In 2020, 27.83% of children aged 0-2 years in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon were registered with a dentist (Northern Ireland 29.7%).
- In 2020, 75.2% of children aged 3-5 years in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon were registered with a dentist (Northern Ireland 75.6%). (Nisra 2020)

## Discussion & Key Trends

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

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

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

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

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

In response to the Assessment of Need, children and young people in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon require a focus on programmes and activities developing resilience and wellbeing for all. Risk taking behaviour is also a particular concern noted by local statutory agencies in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

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

## KEY FACTORS: INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND GOOD RELATIONS

- ABC Interface Areas: There are 16 interface clusters in Northern Ireland; 13 in Belfast (1 in Antrim & Newtownabbey DCA); 1 in Derry; 1 in Lurgan – 1 area with Interface barriers/ defensive architecture; 1 in Portadown; 7 areas with Interface barriers/ defensive architecture
- 3,709 newcomer children and young people attend schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.
- 6,936 pupils (16.8%) in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon have a Special Educational Need SEN Stage 1-3 (NI average 18%). (DE school census data 21/22)
- According to the Office of National Statistics, 8% of young people in the UK aged 16-24 identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. In Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon this equates to approximately 1,762 young people. (ONS 2020)
- 153 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.
- Whilst there are no specific numbers for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, the most recent figures reveal that 591 Looked After Children were supported by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. Many of these children and young people live and attend schools in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area. (HSC 20/21)
- 3,709 newcomer children and young people attend schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.
- The overall attendance figures for schools in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon in 2021/22 was 92.8%, Northern Ireland in 2021/22 was 92.4%.
- 25 pupils were expelled from schools in Northern Ireland in 2020/21.
- 3,506 pupils were suspended from schools in Northern Ireland in 2020/21. (2,702 male pupils (77%), 804 female pupils (23%).)
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,480 young carers in Northern Ireland.
- 3,530 Children and young people Looked After attend schools in Northern Ireland
- In April-June 2022, there were 25,000 young people (aged 16-24) in Northern Ireland who were not in education, employment or training (NEET). This represents 7.5% of all young people aged 16-24.

### Discussion & Key Trends

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

Interface area is the name given in Northern Ireland to areas where segregated nationalist and unionist residential areas meet. There are still many single identity areas in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon which encounter legacy issues and experience sectarianism.

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon have 5 interface areas where inter-community tensions exist. These areas often have weak community infrastructure and children and young people growing up in these areas are more likely to have lower educational attainment, poor career opportunities and engage in anti-social behaviour. The interface between the loyalist Corcraign Road and republican Obin's Drive has been a regular scene of violence in the town. Violence broke out here in 2011 after youths had liaised with each other through social network sites in order to launch the disturbances.

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

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

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon has become a much more culturally diverse place in recent years. However, in the last number of years racist hate crimes have exceeded sectarian hate crimes. At a stakeholder engagement event young people supported the view that Youth Services should provide safe spaces for children and young people and promote inclusion and embrace and celebrate difference. This should be addressed through Inclusion, diversity and equality of opportunity programmes, good relation opportunities; and T: BUC residential or camps.

Other marginal groups also experience intolerance and prejudice. For example, the LGBTQ community reported that they have been subjected to political and social intolerance, where their rights have been denied and not respected. For many within this community, discrimination and prejudice begins in school and many young people noted ongoing bullying and harassment.

## KEY FACTORS: LIVING IN SAFETY & STABILITY

- There are 16 interface areas in Northern Ireland 5 in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon
- There was a total of 3,112 incidences of hate crime recorded in Northern Ireland between July 2021 and June 2022
  - There were 119 Racist incidents recorded across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon
  - There were 47 Homophobic incidences recorded across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon
  - There were 1082 Sectarian incidences recorded across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon
- Approximately 6,670 (9%) young people live in the most deprived areas of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon (NI average 25.2%)
- Approximately 31,127 (42.2%) young people in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon live in a rural community (NI average 34.5%)
- 591 Looked after Children were supported by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust; many of these children and young people live and attend schools in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Area (*HSC 20/21*)
- There are 4 Residential Units for Looked after children and young people in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon

Women's Aid received 397 referrals for women living within the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2019/20. During 2020/21, 549 referrals were received. There was increased need for practical support such as food, finances and clothing to the families Women's Aid support. Since March 2020, the organisation has provided 60 woman and 112 children per month with a range of essentials. Within the Borough, the following support was also provided:

- 27 families to access food vouchers supported by Cash for Kids to the value of £2,380
- 26 families to access food vouchers supported by Red Cross at £1,200
- 79 children received Christmas presents at £7,900
- 42 women received Christmas gifts at £1,500
- 30 families received Christmas fresh meat vouchers at £900
- 40 food parcels (approx. 160 beneficiaries) at £1,600
- 13 families supplied with heating oil
- 23 families secured a family action grant at £29,000.

## Discussion & Key Trends

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

and young people in local communities. A recent study noted that a negative home environment can lead to a series of problems, including among others, poor language development, deficit in school readiness, later behavioural problems and mental health issues.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A further important emerging issue affecting the lives of children and young people is drugs and alcohol. Young people also suggested that some of the reasons why anti-social behaviour occurred was due to easy access to alcohol and drugs. It is also important to note that children and young people reported that youth centres were places where they felt safe.

Young people also recognised the growing concerns young people had around digital resilience and supported the development of programmes to help children and young people develop virtual resilience, including good digital and social media habits and a better understanding of online pressures.

Paramilitarism is a reality for many in Northern Ireland and also a growing threat to children and young people, particularly those from the most deprived communities where paramilitaries exert the greatest control. A recent report noted that without a functioning Executive and the uncertainty regarding Brexit ending Paramilitarism is now more difficult. Young people supported the idea of community partnerships, based on trust and respect, involving all key stakeholders to provide children and young people with alternative, positive opportunities. Identified as N8 TPP.

## KEY FACTORS: ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

Environmental and climate change are key areas of concern for young people as the effects of climate change are being better understood and young people are becoming more active in highlighting this and acting on the matter. Young people and adults at the stakeholder event agreed that environmental issues needed addressed urgently and came up with practical improvements that could be made at youth group level right through to RAG. Stakeholders highlighted the need for RAG to set priorities around Green Standards and education for Youth Workers and young people. It was also recommended that Local Youth Services act on making youth settings more environmentally friendly inside and out and to move towards green energy sources and materials. Youth groups can be proactive in keeping their area litter free, reducing plastic use, increasing recycling, and creating an environmentally friendly outdoor space

## KEY FACTORS: PARTICIPATION

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

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

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

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



# Survey Headlines

## Survey Headlines

The survey was responded to by 934 young people across the ABC area of which 57 % were 14 – 18 years; 37 % were 9 – 13 years. There was almost equal representation between male and female with 3 % not identifying as either. Those engaged were representative of the rural population within the area. Based on the responses from children and young people it highlighted that what is important to them is the fact that youth services provide safe, inclusive spaces where they are welcomed, have fun and meet friends whilst supporting their emotional health and wellbeing needs as they express their views in trusted relationships. This reinforces the importance of youth services providing core youth work at this time.

When asked what programmes the youth service could provide to support these needs young people highlighted that the following were important to them:

- Physical health and wellbeing
- Life skills
- Emotional health and wellbeing including outdoor learning and activities
- Creative arts
- Gaming and coding
- Volunteering and leadership development

## Stakeholder and young people feedback

In addition to the survey completed by Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon team 6 focus groups and stakeholder groups were completed to further investigate the responses from children and young people. In summary these highlighted the need to:

- Opportunities for non-formal activities to support well-being
- Outreach to increase access to youth service to increase levels of engagement
- Wider curriculum offer
- Pathways to leadership and employment
- Support for Newcomer children and young people
- Support for children and young people with additional special education needs and disabilities
- Early support for children and young people's mental health
- A programme of generic provision leading to targeted based on assessed need
- Further develop partnerships and explore collaboration models across the service
- Afterschool / Twilight opportunities to address barriers to learning and to explore social enterprise opportunities
- Impact of poverty of children and young people
- Drugs and alcohol are key issues in Armagh, Lurgan, Craigavon, Portadown

## Establishing Key Areas for Action

Based on the analysis of the Statistical data and the voice of stakeholders, children and young people, considering also the current uncertainty regarding the future of budgets, increasing cost of living and long lasting impacts on the lives of children and young people as a result of covid-19, there needs to be a clear focus on the priority to protect core services for children and young people. The Assessment of need clearly establishes the following Key Areas for Action for the delivery of Youth Services in the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Area:

- Learning and Achieving
- Health and Wellbeing
- Living in Safety and Stability
- Inclusion Diversity Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations
- Participation
- Environment and Climate

### Priority Outputs for 2023

#### **Key Area for Action: Learning and Achieving**

Addressing barriers to learning remains a significant need within Armagh Banbridge Craigavon. This need is further deepened by the pandemic, increased newcomers, high levels of SEN and children looked after. Based on population data this will see an increase in children and young people transitioning from the 9-13 age range to the 14-18 age range over the planned period, which will result in an increased number of those taking examinations and considering employment/career pathways or routes into further and higher education. There will be an opportunity and need to provide new and additional leadership and volunteer opportunities taking into account the bespoke needs at that time.

#### **Key Area for Action: Health and Wellbeing**

It has been clearly highlighted by the Voice of Children and Young People that health and wellbeing remains a core need for our children and young people. The DE Emotional health and wellbeing framework has highlighted and evidenced that a focus needs to be placed on Wellbeing for All and Early Support programmes for children and young people to positively address this need long term impacts. The Local Assessment of need has highlighted that this can be address through youth work by;

- Wellbeing For All Programmes and Culture within youth provision
- Early support group work programmes with a focus on emotional health and wellbeing
- The use of sports and physical activity
- Establishing a positive peer culture within youth settings to nurture discussion with children and young people regarding health and wellbeing

## **Key Area for Action: Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good relations**

Taking into consideration the key facts and findings within this area of enquiry there is a significant need for Inclusive Youth Service provision to be delivered across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area.

This will be addressed through delivery of inclusive youth work practice. Thematic Youth Work will support children and young people with Special Educational Need or a disability, Newcomer and Roma children and young people, LGBTQ young people, members of the Travelling Community and rural young people who live within Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon. Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Service will engage young people experiencing rural isolation through Outreach and Area Youth Work.

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

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is overwhelmingly segregated between the two communities and this can lead to inter-community tensions, involving children and young people especially at contentious times of the year and particularly at interface areas. This can also lead to children and young people coming under the influence of paramilitaries. Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Area will address this through Street based youth work during periods of heightened tension including Bonfire season ( July – August). Key geographical areas include: Portadown, Brownlow and Lurgan.

## **Key Area for Action: Living in Safety and Stability**

Children and young people including those with additional needs across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon require programmes and activities that focus on emotional health and resilience to counter the challenges facing young people and to support with rising suicide rates. There is also a need for Inclusive Youth Service provision to be delivered. Core Youth Work Provision will support children and young people with Special Educational Needs or a disability, Newcomer and Roma children and rural young people who live within Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area.

The Area requires programmes and activities that address specific areas of risk-taking including alcohol and drugs misuse. Young people suggested that some of the reasons why anti-social behaviour occurred was due to easy access to alcohol and drugs.

Children and young people are also experiencing significant adversity in their home lives. Exposure to adverse childhood experiences such as domestic abuse, breakdown in family relationships, having a family member with mental illness, substance or alcohol misuse requires services to be trauma informed and supports the need for early intervention to provide support to build the skills needed to cope with and mitigate the effect of adverse experiences. Youth Services have a key role in providing these safe and supportive environments.

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

providing safe spaces for children and young people and by providing opportunities that promote, embrace and celebrate differences, including street based work during periods of heightened tension including Bonfire season (June – August). For example, the SPARK programme is a youth work intervention and public health approach to the participation and safety and stability of our children and young people. SPARK aims to engage young people gathering in areas of heightened tension, contentious spaces such as bonfire sites or who are involved in behaviours that place them at risk.

Paramilitarism is a reality for many in Northern Ireland and also a growing threat to children and young people, particularly those from the most deprived communities where paramilitaries exert the greatest control. A recent report noted that without a functioning Executive and the uncertainty regarding Brexit ending Paramilitarism is now more difficult. Young people supported the idea of community partnerships, based on trust and respect, involving all key stakeholders to provide children and young people with alternative, positive opportunities. Identified as N8 TPP.

### **Key Area for Action: Participation**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Key Area for Action: Environment and Climate**

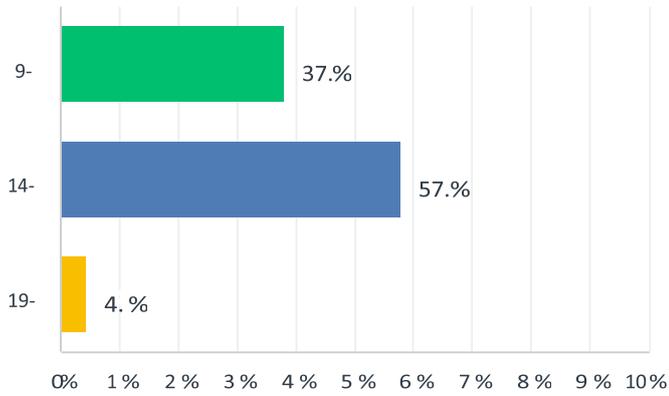
Environmental and climate change are key areas of concern for young people as the effects of climate change are being better understood and young people are becoming more active in highlighting this and acting on the matter. Young people and adults at a stakeholder event agreed that environmental issues needed addressed and came up with practical improvements that could be made. Stakeholders highlighted the need to set priorities around Green Standards and educational programmes for young people. It was also recommended that Youth Services should provide opportunities for making youth settings more environmentally friendly inside and out and to move towards green energy sources and materials. Youth groups can be proactive in keeping their area litter free, reducing plastic use, increasing recycling, and creating an environmentally friendly outdoor space. Youth Services actions to also include delivering environmental and climate programmes, programmes to include redesigning outdoor environments with trees, wildlife gardens and bird/bug/hedgehog boxes.



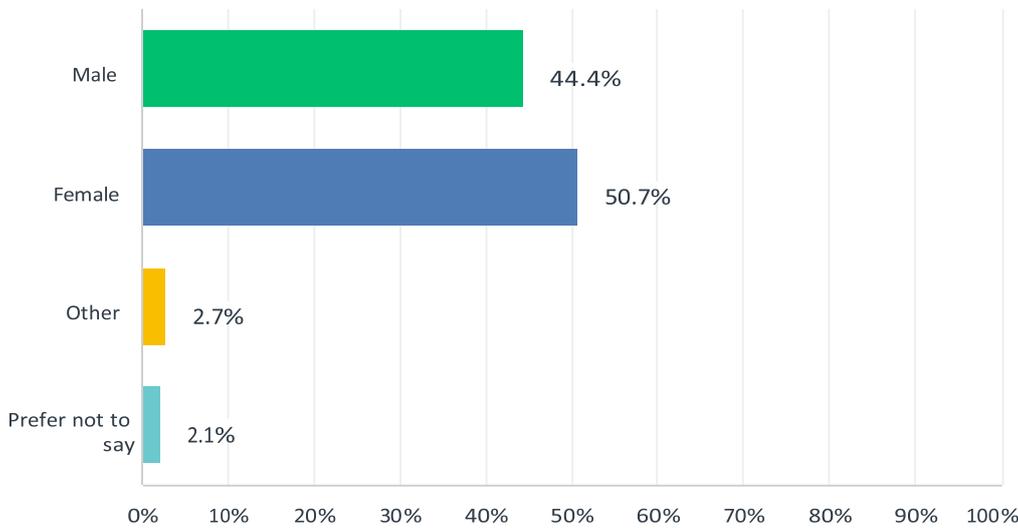
# Appendix 1: Survey Results

# Survey of Need – Who Responded

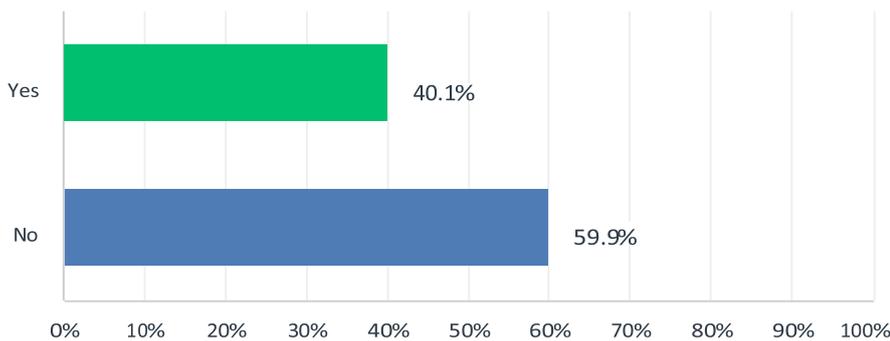
## AGE CATEGORY



## WHAT IS YOUR GENDER?



## DO YOU LIVE IN A RURAL AREA?



## WHAT IS YOUR ETHNIC BACKGROUND?

| Answer choices         | Responses |            |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|
| White                  | 92.2%     | 861        |
| Black – African        | 1.5%      | 14         |
| Black – Caribbean      | 0.2%      | 2          |
| Asian                  | 1.3%      | 12         |
| Chinese                | 0.6%      | 6          |
| Irish Traveller        | 0.6%      | 6          |
| Roma                   | 0.5%      | 5          |
| Other (please specify) | 3.0%      | 28         |
|                        |           | <b>934</b> |

## Headline Findings

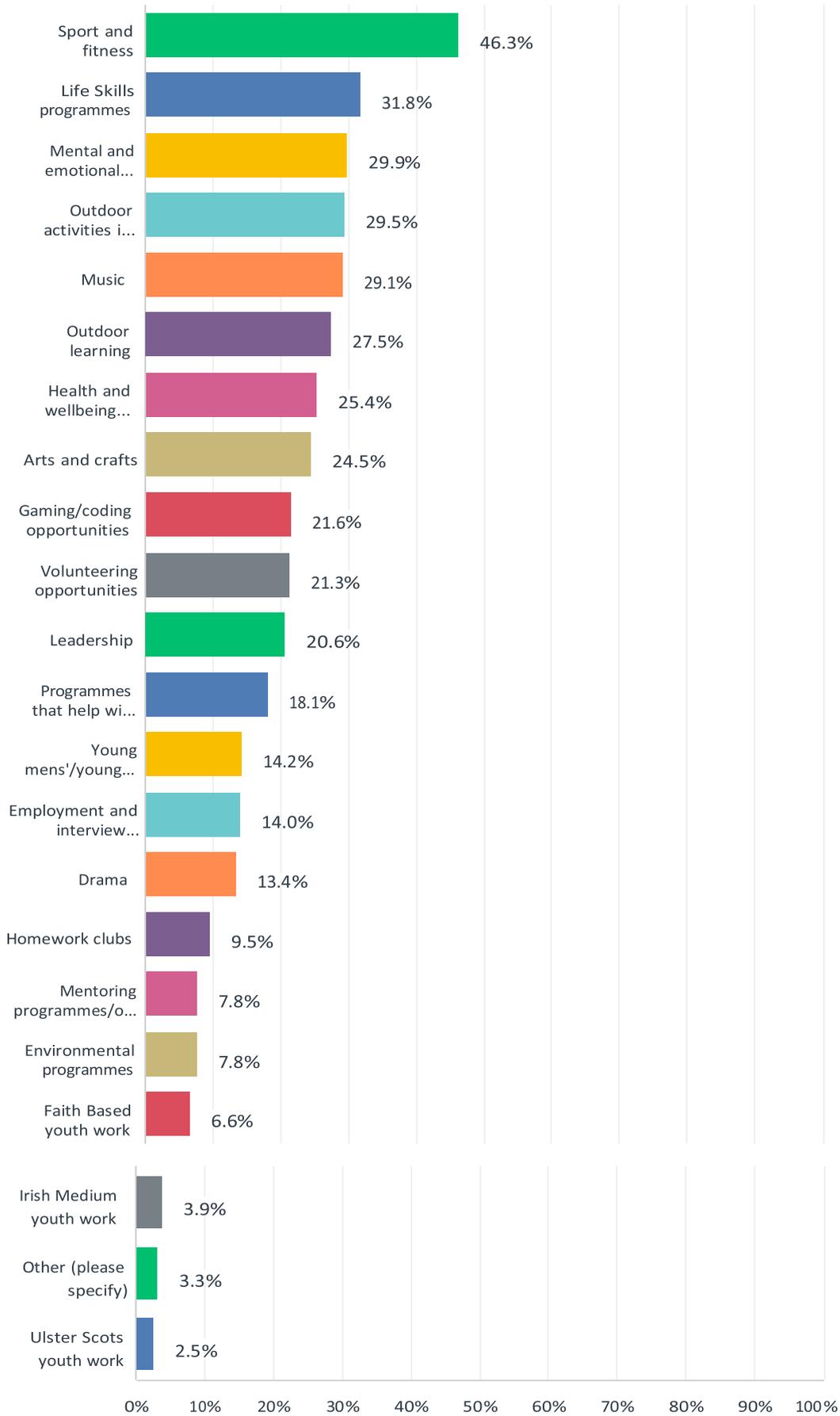
### As a young person, what is the most important to you?

| Answer choices                       | Responses |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Good friendships                     | 56.9%     | 455 |
| Having fun                           | 49.9%     | 399 |
| Family relationships                 | 40.7%     | 325 |
| Mental health and wellbeing          | 34.8%     | 278 |
| Having somewhere to go               | 18.1%     | 145 |
| Career/job/training opportunities    | 18.1%     | 145 |
| Being happy at school                | 18.0%     | 144 |
| Feeling safe in your community       | 15.4%     | 123 |
| Making good educational choices      | 14.3%     | 114 |
| The cost of living or money problems | 9.9%      | 79  |
| Exploring faith and values           | 4.3%      | 34  |
| Help with bullying                   | 3.6%      | 29  |
| None of the above                    | 1.1%      | 9   |
|                                      |           | 799 |

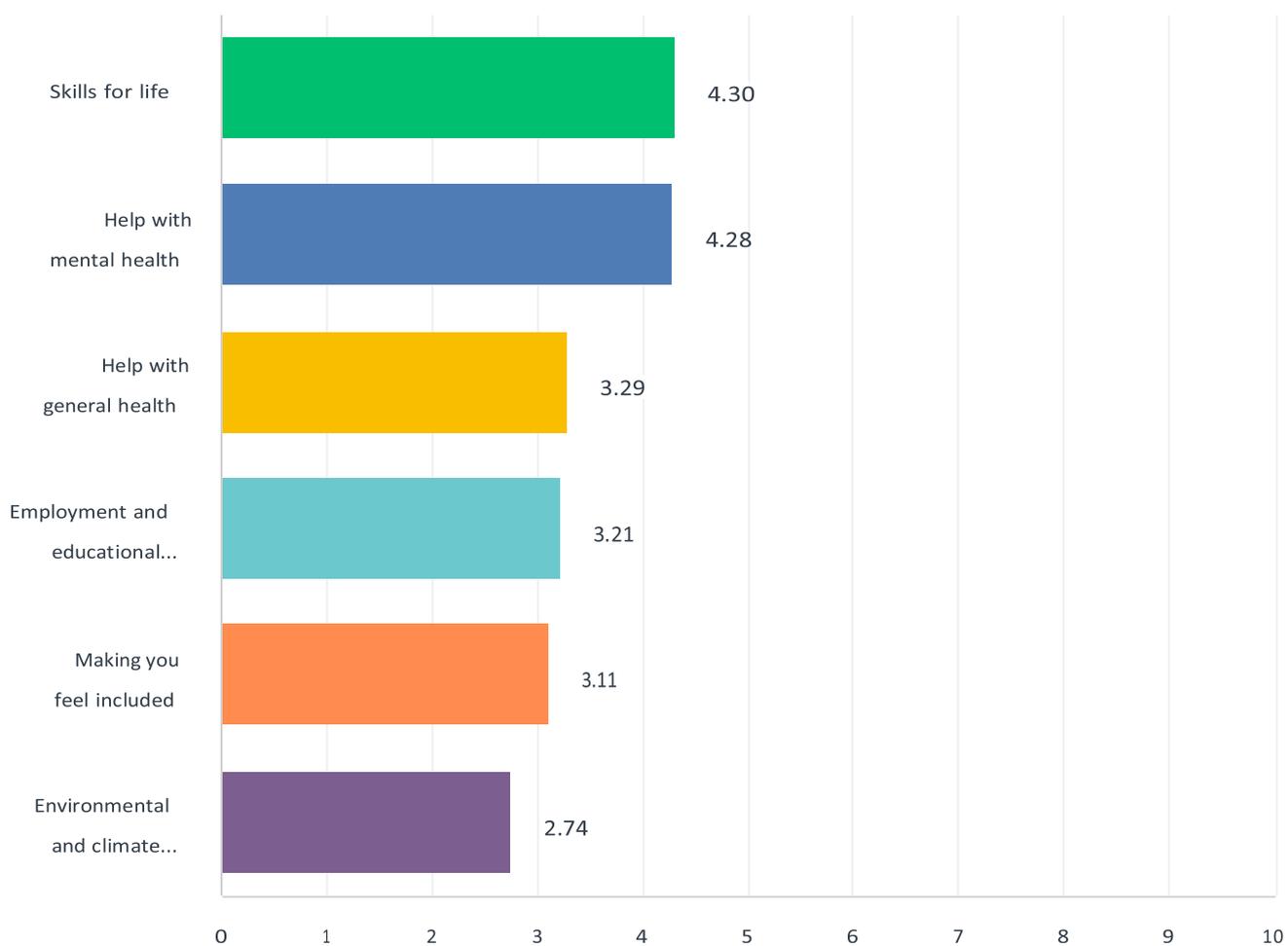
## What are the most important things about taking part in Youth Services?

| Answer Choices   | Response |     |
|--|----------|-----|
| Making friends and meeting new people  | 65.1%    | 521 |
| Opportunities to take part in fun activities   | 42.0%    | 336 |
| A place to meet  | 38.8%    | 310 |
| Opportunities to discuss issues e.g. friendships, bullying, home life, relationships | 32.3%    | 258 |
| Being able to express my views on things that matter to me in a safe space           | 30.0%    | 240 |
| Regular activities / programmes to take part in                                      | 28.6%    | 229 |
| Support and advice from an adult I trust   | 28.6%    | 229 |
| Opportunities to engage in Faith Based youth work                                    | 8.8%     | 70  |
| Opportunities to engage in Irish Medium youth work                                   | 4.6%     | 37  |
| Opportunities to engage in Ulster Scots youth work                                   | 3.5%     | 28  |
| Other  | 1.8%     | 14  |
|  |          | 800 |

## What programmes could Youth Service provide that would be most helpful?



## Rank by importance the type of programmes Youth Services should provide for you -





# Appendix 2: Stakeholder Findings

| Key Area of Enquiry                                   | Issues Faced by Young People  | How can Youth Services address these issues   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Health &amp; Well Being</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual Identity</li> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Self-Image / Fitting In</li> <li>• Covid still having an impact on isolation</li> <li>• Drugs &amp; Alcohol</li> <li>• Mental Health</li> <li>• Pressures to achieve in school</li> <li>• Vaping</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmes or Services in place to deal with Mental Health Issues</li> <li>• Motivational workshops to challenge mindsets</li> <li>• Relationship Programmes</li> <li>• Drug &amp; Alcohol Workshops</li> <li>• Support with Positive Coping Mechanisms</li> <li>• Self-care events and days away</li> <li>• Opportunities to escape the local area through trips and Residential</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Learn &amp; Achieve</b>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under Achieving in School</li> <li>• Employment Opportunities</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathways to employment</li> <li>• Career guidance</li> <li>• Civic Leadership Programmes</li> <li>• Resilience Work</li> <li>• Support with School Work / Homework</li> <li>• Life and Employment skills training</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Living in Safety and Stability</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feeling unsafe in designated areas</li> <li>• Pressures to get involved in Drugs and Alcohol</li> <li>• Peer Pressure</li> <li>• Social Media</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide safe places to relax with friends with modern amenities</li> <li>• Citizenship &amp; Lawfulness Engagements</li> <li>• Drug &amp; Alcohol Workshops</li> <li>• Online Safety Programmes</li> <li>• Weekend Opening</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Environmental &amp; Climate</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fly tipping of household items</li> <li>• Fumes from smokers/vapers.</li> <li>• litter and food waste from discarded takeaways.</li> <li>• Trees being cut down and the negative impact this has on air quality.</li> <li>• Chemical pollution from industry and farming.</li> <li>• Behaviour of community, littering isn't just a young person's habit.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness raising programmes</li> <li>• Community clean ups</li> <li>• Climate programmes</li> <li>• Programmes on health to cycle and walk, to reduce pollution.</li> <li>• "Look After Our World" Campaigns</li> <li>• Recycling campaign, each youth centre has a recycling bin and promote recycling to help combat littering issues.</li> <li>• Awareness raising programmes - John Muir's Award.</li> <li>• Programmes showing how things can be reused - art or furniture and the positive impact this will have on the environment.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Participation</b>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities to try new things</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-media workshops/ Creative Imaging</li> <li>• Urban Sports</li> <li>• Interclub Activities</li> <li>• Inclusion in consultations</li> <li>• Safe place to meet Friends</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Inclusion, Diversity &amp; Equal Opportunities</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mistrust of other cultures, communities &amp; religions</li> <li>• Opportunities to meet with other groups and young people</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmes required to break down these barriers</li> <li>• Inclusion in regional programmes</li> <li>• Youth Club Visits / Interclub activities</li> <li>• Centralised events</li> </ul>  |

## Stakeholder Feedback: Adults & Young People

- Opportunities for non-formal activities to support well-being
- Outreach to increase access to youth service to increase levels of engagement
- Wider curriculum offer
- Pathways to leadership and employment
- Support for Newcomer children and young people
- Support for children and young people with additional special education needs and disabilities
- Early support for children and young people's mental health
- A programme of Generic provision leading to targeted based on assessed need
- Further develop partnerships and explore collaboration models across the service
- Afterschool / Twilight opportunities to address barriers to learning and to explore social enterprise opportunities
- Impact of poverty of children and young people
- Drugs and alcohol are key issues in Armagh, Lurgan, Craigavon, Portadown



# Appendix 3: DEA Profiles



# Armagh DEA

Armagh DEA is the county town of County Armagh. Although classed as a medium-sized town, Armagh was given city status in 1994. The Armagh DEA encompasses the City in the East to the village of Middletown in the West and Charlemont in the North to Cargagh in its south. It is also the location of the larger town of Keady.

It has a population of 32,400. This accounts for 7,590 children and young people who are aged 0-15 years old representing 23% of DEA population compared to the NI average of 21%. (3,710 female and 3,880 male).

## Health and Wellbeing

- 21.3%. IDAC (Income Deprivation Affecting Children) This is above the NI average measure of 18.7%.
- 10.1% of mothers smoked during pregnancy which is below the NI Average (12.1%)
- 15.2% of properties with broadband speed below 10Mb/s (%) this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest area across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon. This is above the NI Average (11.6%)
- In 2021/22 – 14,019 school aged children in NI have been diagnosed with autism which represents a prevalence rate of 4.7% of the school aged population. School census data 2021/22 reveals that males are almost three times more likely to have an autism diagnosis than females.
- One in 8 young people (0-18yrs) and young people have a mental health need
- One in 5 Adults (18 plus) have a mental health need.
- Young people in Northern Ireland experience ill mental health at 25% higher prevalence than the rest of the UK
- 50% of mental health problems are established by the age of 14 years

## Learn & Achieve

- 23% of primary and post primary school pupils are entitled to Free School Meals (2021/22).
- 77.3% of non-free school meals entitled pupils achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C including GCSE English and Maths compared to 60% of those pupils who are entitled to free school meals achieving the same.
- 27.4% School leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A\*-C (or equiv) including Maths and English compared to the NI average of 23.3%.
- In 2020/21 the percentage of school leavers achieving 2+ A levels is 53% which is well below the NI average of 60.5%.
- 42.3% of school leavers went onto Higher Education which falls below the NI average of 48%.
- 23% of primary and post primary school pupils are entitled to Free School Meals (2021/22).
- 51 pupils were suspended in the 2020/21 academic year (NI Average 43)

## SEN DATA

- 1,457 primary and post primary pupils have a Special Education Need. This represents 325 pupils (5.25%) with a SEN Statement Stage 3 and 807 pupils (12.8%) SEN Stage 1-2. The NI average for pupils with a SEN Stage 3 Statement is 6% and pupils with a SEN Stage 1-2 at 12%.

# Armagh DEA

## Living in Safety and Stability

Armagh is above the Northern Ireland Average for Incidents recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation and Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) Areas in Red are above average for recorded incidents and crime.

| DEA2014 (2020.21 data) | All usual residents DEAs 2020 | Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation | NI Average Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation rate per 1,000 | Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) | NI Average Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) | Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) rate per 1,000 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Northern Ireland       | 1,895,510                     | 31196   | 390  | 16   | 19036  | 238   | 10  |
| ARMAGH                 | 32,400                        | 472   | 390  | 15   | 239  | 238   | 7   |

Armagh is below the Northern Ireland Average for Incidents recorded with a racist motivations and Crimes (excluding fraud) recorded with a racist motivation. Areas in Red are above average for recorded incidents and crime.

| DEA2014 (2020:21 data) | All usual residents DEAs 2020 | Incidents Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| Northern Ireland       | 1895510                       | 366   | 993   | 934  | 246  | 719  | 674   |
| ARMAGH                 | 32400                         | 3   | 12  | 14   | 3  | 10   | 9   |

## Anti-Social Behaviour

Armagh is above the Northern Ireland Average for Anti-social behaviour incidents. Areas in Red are above average for Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

| DEA2014          | Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents | Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents per 1,000 | Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents - NI Average |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Northern Ireland | 76,063                          | 40  | 950  |
| ARMAGH           | 1,189                           | 37  | 950  |

# Armagh DEA

## Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations

Newcomer pupils in Armagh DEA 2014, 2021/22

| DEA 2014 Name | Nursery Schools | Primary | Post-primary | Special |
|---------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| ARMAGH        | 15              | 497     | 277          | 9       |

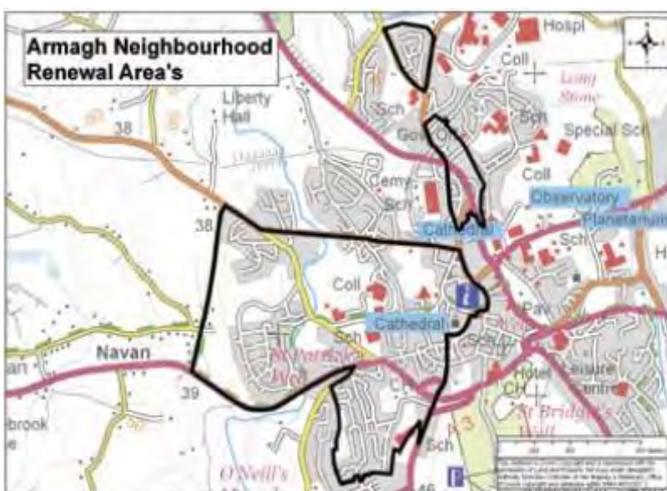
Armagh DEA is above the NI average for Newcomer pupils in schools and has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest numbers of newcomer pupils in schools all Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Area.

### Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs) are neighbourhoods identified as experiencing the most severe multiple deprivation and received support under the Department for Communities People and Place Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. In total 36 neighbourhoods have been identified to received support. There is one NRA in the DEA area of Armagh -

Young people living in NRAs tend to have lower educational outcomes that their peers who do not live in renewal areas.

### Map of Armagh NRA



## Current Youth Provision Funded Through EA Youth Service

- Epicentre Armagh
- Area Youth Worker II Armagh Urban & Rural
- Area Youth Worker Pathway Urban & Rural
- FLARE Area Worker II supports Targeted Programmes across the area
- CADI Area Worker II delivers digital and creative arts programmes across the area
- REACH programmes supporting early intervention emotional health and wellbeing are offered to primary and post primary schools across the area
- Youth Work in schools is delivered with KS3 & KS4 in City of Armagh High School
- St Patrick's Youth Club Keady Voluntary Sector partner currently delivers 4 evenings per week

## DEA Armagh Summary Findings

Children and young people including those with additional needs across the DEA of Armagh require programmes and activities that focus on emotional mental health and resilience to counter the challenges facing young people today.

There is a need for Inclusive Youth Service provision to be delivered. Core Youth Work Provision will support children and young people with Special Educational Need or a disability, Newcomer and Roma children and young people, LGBTQ+ young people and rural young people who live within Armagh DEA.

In order to address the gap between the highest and lowest achieving young people across the area, Core Youth Provision is ideally placed to contribute to the reduction in barriers to learning through personal and social development programmes, the development of thinking skills, life skills and work skills, improved relationships with others, increased participative action and active citizenship

The area also requires Youth Service to provide opportunities and activities that support with career and employability prospects. The DEA Area requires programmes and activities that address specific areas of risk-taking including alcohol and drugs misuse.

Many children and young people across DEA are experiencing significant adversity in their home lives. Exposure to adverse childhood experiences such as domestic abuse, breakdown in family relationships, having a family member with mental illness, substance or alcohol misuse requires services to be trauma informed and supports the need for early intervention to provide support to build the skills needed to cope with and mitigate the effect of adverse experiences.

Armagh continues to become a much more culturally diverse place in recent years and whilst below the Northern Ireland average for racist hate crimes young people support the view that Youth Services should provide safe spaces for children and young people and promote inclusion and celebrate difference through inclusion programmes and TBUC camps.

Environment & Climate concerns raised by children and young people include fly tipping, fumes from smokers/vapes, behaviour of community littering and pollution from industry and farming. Children and young people suggested programme opportunities such as awareness raising programmes, tree planting, social action community clean ups and climate programme could support with these concerns.

## Armagh DEA

Currently there is a resource allocation of one Statutory full time Youth Centre in Armagh City and 2 Statutory Area Youth Worker posts alongside support from Statutory regional support teams Flare and CADI who provide core youth work provision throughout urban and rural areas of the DEA. The small town of Keady which falls within 25% most deprived has limited access to core youth provision and therefore requires attention.



# Banbridge DEA

Banbridge is an area in County Down, Northern Ireland. It lies on the River Bann and the A1 road. Some notable Villages within the Banbridge DEA include Gilford, Scarva and Rathfriland. It has a population of 34,940. This accounts for 7,520 children and young people who are aged 0-15 years old representing 21% of DEA population similar to the NI average of 21%. (3,680 female and 3,850 male)

## Health & Wellbeing

- The IDAC 18.9%. This is slightly above the NI average measure of 18.7%.
- 9.3% of mothers smoked during pregnancy which is below the NI Average (12.1%)
- In 2021/22 – 14,019 school aged children in NI have been diagnosed with autism which represents a prevalence rate of 4.7% of the school aged population. School census data 2021/22 reveals that males are almost three times more likely to have an autism diagnosis than females.
- One in 8 young people (0-18yrs) and young people have a mental health need
- One in 5 Adults (18 plus) have a mental health need.
- Young people in Northern Ireland experience ill mental health at 25% higher prevalence than the rest of the UK
- 50% of mental health problems are established by the age of 14 years

## Learn & Achieve

- 82.2% of non-free school meals entitled pupils achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C including GCSE English and Maths compared to only 43.1% of those pupils who are entitled to free school meals achieving the same. This ranks as the lowest DEA in ABC and is in the bottom achieving 10% in NI for young people who are entitled to FSME achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C including GCSE English and Maths.
- School leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A\*-C (or equiv) including Maths and English in Banbridge DEA was 24.9% compared to the NI average of 23.3%.
- 2020/21 the percentage of school leavers achieving 2+ A levels is 51.9% which is well below the NI average of 60.5%.
- 44.6% of school leavers in Banbridge DEA went onto Higher Education which falls below the NI average of 48%.
- 21% of primary and post primary school pupils are entitled to Free School Meals (2021/22).
- Number of pupils suspended in the 2020/21 academic year – 71 (NI Average 43)

## SEN DATA

- 1,459 primary and post primary pupils have a Special Education Need. This represents 370 pupils (5.8%) with a SEN Statement Stage 3 and 719 pupils (11.3%) SEN Stage 1-2. The NI average for pupils with a SEN Stage 3 Statement is 6% and pupils with a SEN Stage 1-2 at 12%.

# Banbridge DEA

## Living in Safety and Stability

Banbridge is above the Northern Ireland Average for Incidents recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation and Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) Areas in Red are above average for recorded incidents and crime.

| DEA2014 (2020.21 data) | All usual residents DEAs 2020 | Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation | NI Average Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation rate per 1,000 | Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) | NI Average Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) | Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) rate per 1,000 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Northern Ireland       | 1,895,510                     | 31196   | 390  | 16   | 19036  | 238   | 10  |
| BANBRIDGE              | 34,940                        | 616   | 390  | 18   | 365  | 238   | 10  |

Banbridge falls below the Northern Ireland Average for Incidents recorded with a racist motivations and Crimes (excluding fraud) recorded with a racist motivation. Areas in Red are above average for recorded incidents and crime.

| DEA2014 (2020:21 data) | All usual residents DEAs 2020 | Incidents Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| Northern Ireland       | 1895510                       | 366   | 993   | 934  | 246  | 719  | 674   |
| BANBRIDGE              | 34940                         | 10  | 12  | 16   | 4  | 15   | 10  |

## Anti-Social Behaviour

Banbridge is above the Northern Ireland Average for Anti-social behaviour incidents. Areas in Red are above average for Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

| DEA2014          | Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents | Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents per 1,000 | Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents - NI Average |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Northern Ireland | 76,063                          | 40  | 950  |
| BANBRIDGE        | 1,505                           | 43  | 950  |

# Banbridge DEA

## Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations

### Newcomer pupils in schools by DEA 2014, 2021/22

| DEA 2014 Name | Nursery Schools | Primary | Post-primary | Special |
|---------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| BANBRIDGE     | 2               | 151     | 16           | 1       |

Banbridge DEA is below the NI average for Newcomer pupils in schools.

## Current Youth Provision Funded Through EA Youth Service

- Banbridge Youth Centre
- Banbridge Area Youth Worker Urban & Rural
- ENP Project Part Time Youth Centre
- REACH programmes supporting early intervention emotional health and wellbeing are offered to primary and post primary schools across the area
- FLARE Area Worker II supports Targeted Programmes across the area
- CADI Area Worker II delivers digital and creative arts programmes across the area
- Youth Work in schools is delivered with KS4 in St Patricks College & Banbridge High School

## DEA Banbridge Summary Findings

Findings demonstrate that whilst slightly above the IDAC for Northern Ireland children and young people including those with additional needs across the DEA of Banbridge continue to require programmes and activities that focus on emotional health and wellbeing and resilience to counter the challenges facing young people today.

There is a need for Inclusive Youth Service provision to be delivered. Core Youth Work Provision will support children and young people with Special Educational Need or a disability,

In order to address the gap between the highest and lowest achieving young people across the area, Youth Services are ideally placed to contribute to the reduction in barriers to learning through personal and social development programmes, the development of thinking skills, life skills and work skills, improved relationships with others, increased participative action and active citizenship. The area also requires Youth Service to provide opportunities and activities that support with career and employability prospects.

The DEA Area requires programmes and activities that address specific areas of risk-taking and anti-social behaviour.

## Banbridge DEA

Many children and young people across Banbridge are experiencing significant adversity in their home lives. Exposure to adverse childhood experiences such as domestic abuse, breakdown in family relationships, having a family member with mental illness, substance or alcohol misuse requires services to be trauma informed and supports the need for early intervention to provide support to build the skills needed to cope with and mitigate the effect of adverse experiences. Youth Services have a key role in providing these safe and supportive environments.

Banbridge whilst below the Northern Ireland average for racist hate crimes and sectarian crimes young people support the view that Youth Services should provide safe spaces for children and young people and promote inclusion programme and celebrate difference including opportunities for TBUC camps.

Environment & Climate concerns raised by children and young people include fly tipping, fumes from smokers/vapes, behaviour of community littering and pollution from industry and farming. Children and young people suggested programme opportunities such as awareness raising programmes, tree planting, social action community clean ups and climate programme could support with these concerns.

Currently there is a resource allocation of one statutory full time and one statutory part time youth centre with Banbridge Town and 1 Statutory Area Youth Worker post alongside support from Statutory regional support teams Flare, CADI and REACH who provide core youth work provision throughout urban and rural areas of the DEA including Gilford, Scarva and Rathfriland

# Craigavon DEA



## Craigavon DEA

Craigavon is an area in northern County Armagh. It's construction began in 1965 and it was intended to be the heart of a new linear city incorporating Lurgan and Portadown. Among local people today, "Craigavon" refers to the area between the two towns. It is built beside a pair of artificial lakes and is made up of a large residential area (Brownlow), a second smaller one (Mandeville), plus a central area (Highfield) that includes a substantial shopping centre. The area around the lakes is a public park and wildlife haven made up of woodland with walking trails.

It has a population of 28,910. This accounts for 6,930 children and young people who are aged 0-15 years old representing 24% of DEA population compared to the NI average of 21%. (3,370 female and 3,560 male)

### Health & Wellbeing

- The IDAC Craigavon DEA at 17.3%. This is below the NI average measure of 18.7%.
- The suicide rate in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is 12.7 per 100,000 population (Northern Ireland is 16.1). In the most deprived areas, it is 21.6 per 100,000 population (Northern Ireland 19.7).
- Craigavon suicide rate is 20 which is above the Northern Ireland Average
- 15.5% smoked during pregnancy which is above the NI Average (12.1%)
- In 2021/22 – 14,019 school aged children in NI have been diagnosed with autism which represents a prevalence rate of 4.7% of the school aged population. School census data 2021/22 reveals that males are almost three times more likely to have an autism diagnosis than females.
- One in 8 young people (0-18yrs) and young people have a mental health need
- One in 5 Adults (18 plus) have a mental health need.
- Young people in Northern Ireland experience ill mental health at 25% higher prevalence than the rest of the UK
- 50% of mental health problems are established by the age of 14 years

### Learn & Achieve

- 81.1% of non-free school meals entitled pupils achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C including GCSE English and Maths compared to 49% of those pupils who are entitled to free school meals achieving the same. This ranks in the bottom 10% in NI for young people who are entitled to FSME achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C including GCSE English and Maths.
- School leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A\*-C (or equiv) including Maths and English in Craigavon DEA was 27.1% compared to the NI average of 23.3%.
- 2020/21 the percentage of school leavers achieving 2+ A levels is 49% which is below the NI average of 60.5%.
- 36.2% of school leavers in Craigavon DEA went onto Higher Education which falls well below the NI average of 48%.
- 23% of primary and post primary school pupils are entitled to Free School Meals (2021/22).
- Number of pupils suspended in the 2020/21 academic year – 57 (NI Average 43)
- 6.7% absenteeism at post-primary school (NI Average 6.5%)

# Craigavon DEA

## SEN DATA

- 1,271 primary and post primary pupils have a Special Education Need. This represents 323 pupils (5.3%) with a SEN Statement Stage 3 and 625 pupils (10.3%) SEN Stage 1-2. The NI average for pupils with a SEN Stage 3 Statement is 6% and pupils with a SEN Stage 1-2 at 12%.

## Living in Safety and Stability

Craigavon is above the Northern Ireland Average for Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation. Areas in Red are above average for recorded incidents and crime.

| DEA2014 (2020.21 data) | All usual residents DEAs 2020 | Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation | NI Average Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation rate per 1,000 | Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) | NI Average Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) | Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) rate per 1,000 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Northern Ireland       | 1,895,510                     | 31196   | 390  | 16   | 19036  | 238   | 10  |
| CRAIGAVON              | 28,910                        | 236   | 390  | 8  | 275  | 238   | 10  |

Craigavon falls below the Northern Ireland Average for Incidents recorded with a racist motivations and Crimes (excluding fraud) recorded with a racist motivation. Areas in Red below are above average for recorded incidents and crime.

| DEA2014 (2020:21 data) | All usual residents DEAs 2020 | Incidents Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| Northern Ireland       | 1895510                       | 366   | 993   | 934  | 246  | 719  | 674   |
| CRAIGAVON              | 28910                         | 4   | 15  | 16   | 2  | 11   | 8   |

## Anti-Social Behaviour

Craigavon is above the Northern Ireland Average for Anti-social behaviour incidents. Areas in Red are above average for Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

| DEA2014          | Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents | Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents per 1,000 | Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents - NI Average |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Northern Ireland | 76,063                          | 40  | 950  |
| CRAIGAVON        | 1,013                           | 35  | 950  |

# Craigavon DEA

## Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations

Newcomer pupils in school by DEA 2014, 2021/22

| DEA 2014 Name | Nursery Schools | Primary | Post-primary | Special |
|---------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| CRAIGAVON     | 8               | 545     | 287          | 0       |
| NI Average    | 6               | 167     | 53           | 2       |

## Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs)

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs) are neighbourhoods identified as experiencing the most severe multiple deprivation and received support under the Department for Communities People and Place Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. In total 36 neighbourhoods have been identified to received support. There is one NRA in the DEA area of Craigavon named Brownlow.

Young people living in NRAs tend to have lower educational outcomes that their peers who do not live in renewal areas.

### Map of Brownlow NRA Area



## Current Youth Provision Funded Through EA Youth Service

- Brownlow Youth Resource Centre
- Tullygally Youth Centre
- Drumgor Youth Centre
- Brownlow Area Youth Worker II Urban
- Youth Work in schools is delivered with KS3 & KS4 in St Ronan's College, Lismore College and Brownlow Integrated School
- SYTES Programmes has been delivered in Lismore College
- SPARK Programme is delivered in the Drumgask area Craigavon DEA
- FLARE Area Worker II supports Targeted Programmes across the area
- ENGAGE Targeted Programme is delivered in the Drumgask area of Craigavon DEA
- CADI Area Worker II delivers digital and creative arts programmes across the area
- REACH programmes supporting early intervention emotional health and wellbeing are offered to primary and post primary schools across the area

## DEA: Craigavon Summary Findings

Findings clearly demonstrate that children and young people across the DEA of Craigavon require programmes and activities that focus on mental health and resilience to counter the challenges facing young people and to support with rising suicide and high percentages of mothers smoking during pregnancy.

In order to address the gap between the highest and lowest achieving young people across the area, Youth Services are ideally placed to contribute to the reduction in barriers to learning through personal and social development programmes, the development of thinking skills, life skills and work skills, improved relationships with others, increased participative action and active citizenship. The area also requires Youth Service to provide opportunities and activities that support with career and employability prospects.

The DEA Area requires programmes and activities that address specific areas of risk-taking including alcohol and drugs misuse. Young people suggested that some of the reasons why anti-social behaviour occurred was due to easy access to alcohol and drugs.

The DEA Area also requires programmes and activities that works with young people most at risk of influence or coercive control by paramilitaries and organised criminal gangs.

Tackling Paramilitarism Youth Outreach programme ENGAGE, funded by Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board works with young people most at risk of influence or coercive control by paramilitaries and organised criminal gangs in the Drumgask area of Craigavon DEA. Led by Statutory Youth Services, the Engage programme connects directly with young people within communities who have been harmed by paramilitary groups and/or those who are most at risk of becoming involved in paramilitary activity. Individual assessment of need identifies skills-based interventions delivered using trauma informed practices. The programmes develops relationships with young people in the 'higher risk' of being involved in or under the influence of paramilitary activity known as the 'core group' to deliver programmes that develops the young

## Craigavon DEA

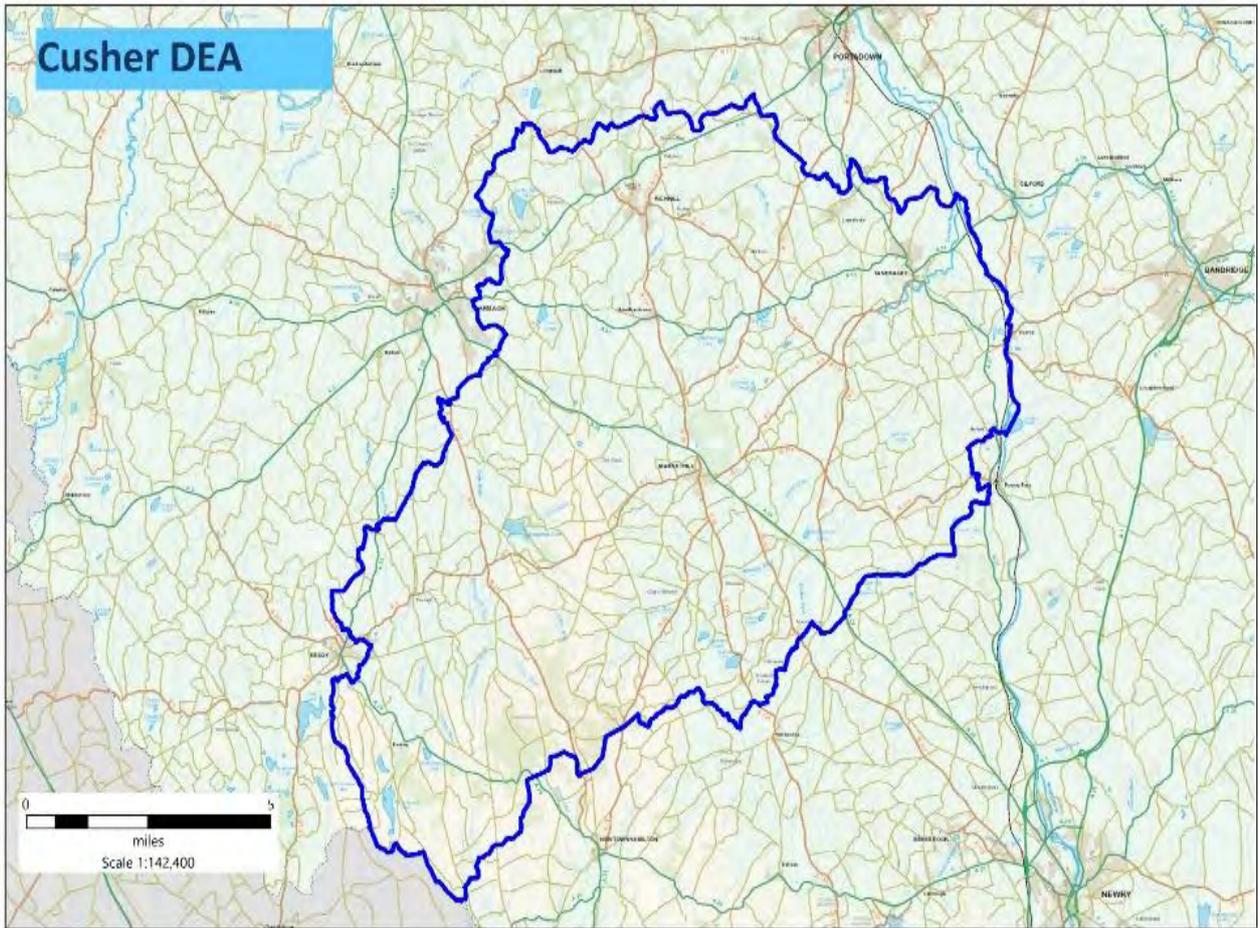
people's resilience and awareness of risk factors. Resilience is increased by developing new skills, building knowledge, and examining the attitudes of young people to law and order.

Children and young people in Craigavon are also experiencing significant adversity in their home lives. Exposure to adverse childhood experiences such as domestic abuse, breakdown in family relationships, having a family member with mental illness, substance or alcohol misuse requires services to be trauma informed and supports the need for early intervention to provide support to build the skills needed to cope with and mitigate the effect of adverse experiences. Youth Services have a key role in providing these safe and supportive environments.

Craigavon continues to become a much more culturally diverse place and whilst below the Northern Ireland average for racist hate crimes young people support the view that Youth Services should provide safe spaces for children and young people and promote inclusion and celebrate difference including TBUC camps.

Environment & Climate concerns raised by children and young people include fly tipping, fumes from smokers/vapes, behaviour of community littering isn't just a young person's habit, pollution from industry and farming. Children and young people suggested programme opportunities including awareness raising programmes, tree planting, social action community clean ups and climate programme.

# Cusher DEA



## Cusher DEA

The Cusher DEA lies between Armagh and Banbridge and south of Portadown. The demography of Cusher would be mostly of a rural setting and has notable villages such as Tandragee, Richhill, Markethill and Poyntzpass. Cusher also has the tourist attractions of Clare Glen and Gosford Forest Park which attracts additional footfall to the area. It has a total population of 25,910. This accounts for 5,860 children and young people who are aged 0-15 years old representing 22% of DEA population compared to the NI average of 21%. (2,920 female and 2,940 male)

### Health & Wellbeing

- IDAC 20.2%. This is above the NI average measure of 18.7
- 6.0% of mothers smoked during pregnancy which is below the NI Average (12.1%)
- 22.6 % of properties with broadband speed below 10Mb/s (%) across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon. This is above the NI Average 11.6%
- In 2021/22 – 14,019 school aged children in NI have been diagnosed with autism which represents a prevalence rate of 4.7% of the school aged population. School census data 2021/22 reveals that males are almost three times more likely to have an autism diagnosis than females.
- One in 8 young people (0-18yrs) and young people have a mental health need
- One in 5 Adults (18 plus) have a mental health need.
- Young people in Northern Ireland experience ill mental health at 25% higher prevalence than the rest of the UK
- 50% of mental health problems are established by the age of 14 years

### Learn & Achieve

- 83.4% of non-free school meals entitled pupils achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C including GCSE English and Maths (NI Average 83.8%) compared to 67.1% of those pupils who are entitled to free school meals achieving the same (NI Average 59.8%)
- School leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A\*-C (or equiv) including Maths and English in Cusher DEA was 19.8% compared to the NI average of 23.3%.
- 2020/21 the percentage of school leavers achieving 2+ A levels is 47.3% which is below the NI average of 60.5%.
- 39.1% of school leavers in Cusher DEA went onto Higher Education which falls below the NI average of 48%.
- 18% of primary and post primary school pupils are entitled to Free School Meals (2021/22).
- Number of pupils suspended in the 2020/21 academic year – 35 (NI Average 43)

### SEN DATA

- 987 primary and post primary pupils have a Special Education Need. This represents 239 pupils (4.9%) with a SEN Statement Stage 3 and 509 pupils (10.3%) SEN Stage 1-2. The NI average for pupils with a SEN Stage 3 Statement is 6% and pupils with a SEN Stage 1-2 at 12%.

# Cusher DEA

## Living in Safety & Stability

Cusher is above the Northern Ireland Average for Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation. Areas in Red below are above average for recorded incidents and crime.

| DEA2014<br>(2020.21 data) | All usual residents DEAs 2020 | Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation | NI Average Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation rate per 1,000 | Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) | NI Average Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) | Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) rate per 1,000 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Northern Ireland          | 1,895,510                     | 31196   | 390  | 16   | 19036  | 238   | 10  |
| CUSHER                    | 25,910                        | 445   | 390  | 17   | 123  | 238   | 5   |

Cusher falls below the Northern Ireland Average for Incidents and Crimes recorded with homophobic motivation, racist motivation, sectarian motivation and Crimes) recorded with a racist motivation.

| DEA2014<br>(2020:21 data) | All usual residents DEAs 2020 | Incidents Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| Northern Ireland          | 1895510                       | 366   | 993   | 934  | 246  | 719  | 674   |
| CUSHER                    | 25910                         | 0   | 1   | 11   | 0  | 1  | 3   |

## Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations

Newcomer pupils in schools by DEA 2014, 2021/22

| DEA 2014 Name | Nursery Schools | Primary | Post-primary | Special |
|---------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| CUSHER        | 3               | 76      | 12           | 0       |
| NI Average    | 6               | 167     | 53           | 2       |

## Current Youth Provision Funded Through EA Youth Service

- Area Youth II Worker Rural
- Area Youth I Worker Pathway Urban & Rural
- FLARE Area Worker II supports Targeted Programmes across the area
- CADI Area Worker II delivers digital and creative arts programmes across the area
- REACH programmes supporting early intervention emotional health and wellbeing are offered to primary and post primary schools across the area

## DEA: Cusher Summary Findings

Findings demonstrate that children and young people across the DEA of Cusher require increased access to core youth work provision to address the gap between the highest and lowest achieving young people across the area, Youth Services are ideally placed to contribute to the reduction in barriers to learning through personal and social development programmes, the development of thinking skills, life skills and work skills, improved relationships with others, increased participative action and active citizenship. The area also requires Youth Service to provide opportunities and activities that support with career and employability prospects.

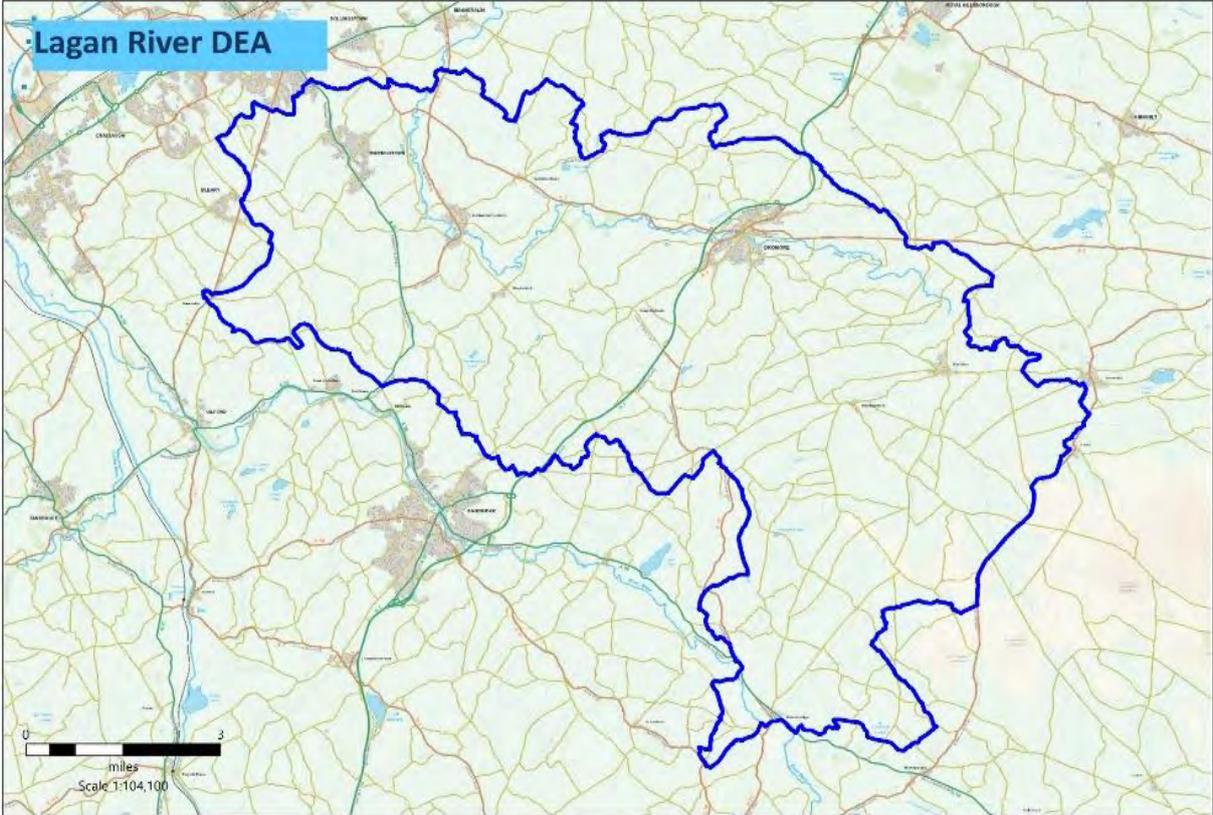
Children and young people in Cusher are also experiencing significant adversity in their home lives. Exposure to adverse childhood experiences such as domestic abuse, breakdown in family relationships, having a family member with mental illness, substance or alcohol misuse requires services to be trauma informed and supports the need for early intervention to provide support to build the skills needed to cope with and mitigate the effect of adverse experiences.

Youth Services have a key role in providing opportunities through the delivery of Core Youth Provision to embed the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Framework in Youth Work Delivery and CRED policy through the delivery of programmes and activities for young people to develop and understand the skills and strategies necessary to improve health and wellbeing outcomes and good relation outcomes for children and young people.

Environment & Climate concerns raised by children and young people include fly tipping, fumes from smokers/vapes, behaviour of community littering isn't just a young person's habit, pollution from industry and farming. Children and young people suggested programme opportunities including awareness raising programmes, tree planting, social action community clean ups and climate programme.

Currently there is a resource allocation of 2 Statutory Area Youth Worker posts, 1 Part Time Youth Centre in Tandragee alongside support from Statutory regional support teams FLARE, CADI, REACH, who provide youth work provision throughout Tandragee, Markethill, Richhill and Poyntzpass.

# Lagan River DEA



# Lagan River DEA

The Lagan River DEA lies east of Banbridge south of Lurgan. The demography of Cusher would be mostly of a rural setting and has notable villages such as Warringstown, Bleary, Donaghcloney and Katesbridge. It is also the location of the larger town of Dromore. It has a total population of 24,360. This accounts for 5,300 children and young people who are aged 0-15 years old representing 22% of DEA population compared to the NI average of 21%. (2,580 female and 2,720 male)

## Health & Wellbeing

- The IDAC 18.3%. This is below the NI average measure of 18.7%.
- 9.1% of mothers smoked during pregnancy which is below the NI Average (12.1%)
- 13.2% of properties with broadband speed below 10Mb/s (%). This is above the NI Average (11.6)
- In 2021/22 – 14,019 school aged children in NI have been diagnosed with autism which represents a prevalence rate of 4.7% of the school aged population. School census data 2021/22 reveals that males are almost three times more likely to have an autism diagnosis than females.
- One in 8 young people (0-18yrs) and young people have a mental health need
- One in 5 Adults (18 plus) have a mental health need.
- Young people in Northern Ireland experience ill mental health at 25% higher prevalence than the rest of the UK
- 50% of mental health problems are established by the age of 14 years

## Learn & Achieve

- 79% (NI Average 84.7%) of non-free school meals entitled pupils achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C including GCSE English and Maths compared to 61.1% (NI Average 59.8%) of those pupils who are entitled to free school meals achieving the same.
- School leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A\*-C (or equiv) including Maths and English in Lagan River DEA was 23.1% compared to the NI average of 23.3%.
- 2020/21 the percentage of school leavers achieving 2+ A levels is 61% which is above the NI average of 60.5%.
- 53.2% of school leavers in Lagan River DEA went onto Higher Education which is above the NI average of 48%.
- 14% of primary and post primary school pupils are entitled to Free School Meals (2021/22).
- Number of pupils suspended in the 2020/21 academic year – 32 (NI Average 43)
- 7.4 % absenteeism at post-primary school. Lurgan has the highest across ABC (NI Average 6.5%)

## SEN DATA

- 865 primary and post primary pupils have a Special Education Need. This represents 220 pupils (4.8%) with a SEN Statement Stage 3 and 425 pupils (9.2%) SEN Stage 1-2. The NI average for pupils with a SEN Stage 3 Statement is 6% and pupils with a SEN Stage 1-2 at 12%.

# Lagan River DEA

## Living in Safety & Stability

Lagan River is below the Northern Ireland Average for Incidents & Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation.

| DEA2014 (2020.21 data) | All usual residents DEAs 2020 | Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation | NI Average Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation rate per 1,000 | Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) | NI Average Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) | Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) rate per 1,000 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Northern Ireland       | 1,895,510                     | 31196   | 390  | 16   | 19036  | 238   | 10  |
| LAGAN RIVER            | 24,360                        | 286   | 390  | 12   | 173  | 238   | 7   |

Lagan River falls below the Northern Ireland Average for Incidents and Crimes recorded with homophobic motivation, racist motivation, sectarian motivation and Crimes) recorded with a racist motivation.

| DEA2014 (2020:21 data) | All usual residents DEAs 2020 | Incidents Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| Northern Ireland       | 1895510                       | 366   | 993   | 934  | 246  | 719  | 674   |
| LAGAN RIVER            | 24360                         | 5   | 4   | 9  | 4  | 1  | 8   |

## Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations

Newcomer pupils in school by DEA 2014, 2021/22

| DEA 2014 Name | Nursery Schools | Primary | Post-primary | Special |
|---------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| LAGAN RIVER   | 0               | 42      | 2            | 0       |
| NI Average    | 6               | 167     | 53           | 2       |

## Current Youth Provision Funded Through EA Youth Service

- Dromore Youth Centre (Part-Time)
- Area Youth Worker II Rural
- FLARE Area Worker II supports Targeted Programmes across the area
- CADI Area Worker II delivers digital and creative arts programmes across the area
- REACH programmes supporting early intervention emotional health and wellbeing are offered to primary and post primary schools across the area

## DEA: Lagan River Summary Findings

Findings demonstrate that children and young people across the DEA of Lagan River require increased access to core youth work provision to address the gap between the highest and lowest achieving young people across the area, Youth Services are ideally placed to contribute to the reduction in barriers to learning through personal and social development programmes, the development of thinking skills, life skills and work skills, improved relationships with others, increased participative action and active citizenship. The area also requires Youth Service to provide opportunities and activities that support with career and employability prospects.

Children and young people in Cusher are also experiencing significant adversity in their home lives. Exposure to adverse childhood experiences such as domestic abuse, breakdown in family relationships, having a family member with mental illness, substance or alcohol misuse requires services to be trauma informed and supports the need for early intervention to provide support to build the skills needed to cope with and mitigate the effect of adverse experiences.

Youth Services have a key role in providing opportunities through the delivery of Core Youth Provision to embed the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Framework in Youth Work Delivery and CRED policy through the delivery of programmes and activities for young people to develop and understand the skills and strategies necessary to improve health and wellbeing outcomes and good relation outcomes for children and young people.

Environment & Climate concerns raised by children and young people include fly tipping, fumes from smokers/vapes, behaviour of community littering isn't just a young person's habit, pollution from industry and farming. Children and young people suggested programme opportunities including awareness raising programmes, tree planting, social action community clean ups and climate programme.

Currently there is a resource allocation of 1 Statutory Area Youth Worker posts, 1 Part Time Youth Centre in Dromore alongside support from Statutory regional support teams FLARE, CADI, REACH, who support youth work delivery.

# Lurgan DEA



# Lurgan DEA

Lurgan DEA is in County Armagh, near the southern shore of Lough Neagh. Lurgan is about 18 miles (29 km) south-west of Belfast and is linked to the city by both the M1 motorway and the Belfast–Dublin railway line. For some purposes, Lurgan is treated as part of the "Craigavon Urban Area" along with neighbouring Craigavon and Portadown as part of the New City Initiative. The legacy of the Troubles is continued with tension between communities which has occasionally resulted in clashes at flashpoint 'interface areas'. It has a total population of 37,620. This accounts for 8,280 children and young people who are aged 0-15 years old representing 22% of DEA population compared to the NI average of 21%. (4,010 female and 4,270 male)

## Health & Wellbeing

- The IDAC 19.5%. This is above the NI average measure of 18.7%.
- 13.6% smoked during pregnancy which is above the NI Average (12.1%)
- In 2021/22 – 14,019 school aged children in NI have been diagnosed with autism which represents a prevalence rate of 4.7% of the school aged population. School census data 2021/22 reveals that males are almost three times more likely to have an autism diagnosis than females.
- One in 8 young people (0-18yrs) and young people have a mental health need
- One in 5 Adults (18 plus) have a mental health need.
- Young people in Northern Ireland experience ill mental health at 25% higher prevalence than the rest of the UK
- 50% of mental health problems are established by the age of 14 years

## Learn & Achieve

- 79.8% of non-free school meals entitled pupils achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C including GCSE English and Maths compared to 53.3% of those pupils who are entitled to free school meals achieving the same.
- School leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A\*-C (or equiv) including Maths and English in Lurgan DEA was 26.3% compared to the NI average of 23.3%.
- 2020/21 the percentage of school leavers achieving 2+ A levels (or equivalent) is 51% which is below the NI average of 60.5%.
- 40.1% of school leavers in Lurgan DEA went onto Higher Education which falls below the NI average of 48%.
- 27% of primary and post primary school pupils are entitled to Free School Meals in (2021/22).
- Number of pupils suspended in the 2020/21 academic year – 110 (NI Average 43)

## SEN DATA

- 1,709 primary and post primary pupils have a Special Education Need. This represents 405 pupils (5.7%) with a SEN Statement Stage 3 and 899 pupils (12.7%) SEN Stage 1-2. The NI average for pupils with a SEN Stage 3 Statement is 6% and pupils with a SEN Stage 1-2 at 12%.

# Lurgan DEA

## Living in Safety & Stability

Lurgan is the highest area across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon that is above the Northern Ireland Average for Incidents & Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation

| DEA2014 (2020.21 data) | All usual residents DEAs 2020 | Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation | NI Average Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation rate per 1,000 | Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) | NI Average Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) | Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) rate per 1,000 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Northern Ireland       | 1,895,510                     | 31196   | 390  | 16   | 19036  | 238   | 10  |
| LURGAN                 | 37,620                        | 799   | 390  | 21   | 495  | 238   | 13  |

Lurgan is above the Northern Ireland Average for Incidents and Crimes recorded with racist motivation.

| DEA2014 (2020:21 data) | Incidents Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation |
|------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| Northern Ireland       | 366   | 993   | 934  | 246  | 719  | 674   |
| LURGAN                 | 10  | 28  | 10   | 9  | 26   | 7   |

## Anti-Social Behaviour

Lurgan is above the Northern Ireland Average for Anti-social behaviour incidents and is the highest area across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon for Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents. Areas in Red are above average for Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

| DEA2014          | Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents | Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents per 1,000 | Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents - NI Average |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Northern Ireland | 76,063                          | 40  | 950  |
| LURGAN           | 1,606                           | 43  | 950  |

# Lurgan DEA

## Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations

Newcomer pupils in school by DEA 2014, 2021/22

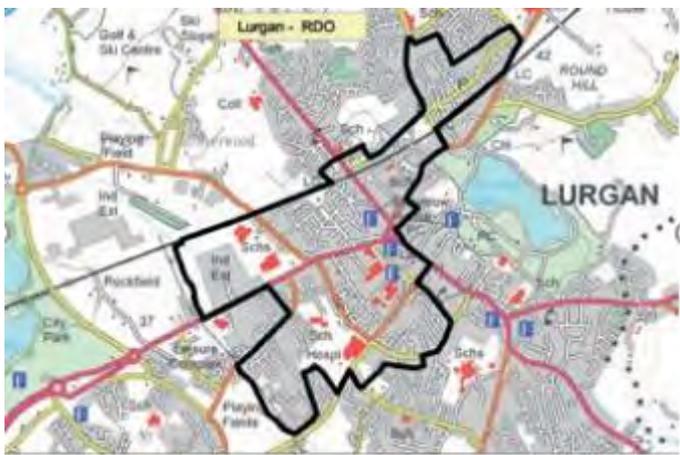
| DEA 2014 Name | Nursery Schools | Primary | Post-primary | Special |
|---------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| LURGAN        | 5               | 483     | 157          | 24      |
| NI Average    | 6               | 167     | 53           | 2       |

## Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs) are neighbourhoods identified as experiencing the most severe multiple deprivation and received support under the Department for Communities People and Place Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. In total 36 neighbourhoods have been identified to received support. There is one NRA in the DEA area of Lurgan

Young people living in NRAs tend to have lower educational outcomes that their peers who do not live in renewal areas.

## Map of Lurgan NRA



## Current Youth Provision Provided Funded Through EA Youth Service

- Taghnevan Youth Centre
- Lurgan Youth Annexe
- Lurgan Area Pathway Youth Worker
- Clann Eireann Youth Club – Voluntary Sector partner currently deliver on a 4 night a week provision
- YMCA Lurgan – Voluntary Sector partner currently deliver on a 4 night a week provision
- Youth Work in schools is delivered with KS3 & KS4 in St Ronan’s College
- SPARK Programme is delivered in the North Lurgan area of the DEA
- FLARE Area Worker II supports Targeted Programmes across the area
- ENGAGE Targeted Programme is delivered in the North Lurgan area of the DEA
- CADI Area Worker II delivers digital and creative arts programmes across the area
- REACH programmes supporting early intervention emotional health and wellbeing are offered to primary and post primary schools across the area
- Horizons Programme

## DEA: Lurgan Summary Findings

Children and young people including those with additional needs across the DEA of Lurgan require programmes and activities that focus on mental health and resilience to counter the challenges facing young people and to support with rising suicide rates.

There is a need for Inclusive Youth Service provision to be delivered. Core Youth Work Provision will support children and young people with Special Educational Need or a disability.

Youth Services are ideally placed to contribute to the reduction in barriers to learning through personal and social development programmes, the development of thinking skills, life skills and work skills, improved relationships with others, increased participative action and active citizenship. The area also requires Youth Service to provide opportunities and activities that support with career and employability prospects.

The DEA of Lurgan is still overwhelmingly segregated between the two communities and this can lead to inter-community tensions, involving children and young people especially at contentious times of the year and particularly at interface areas. This can also lead to children and young people coming under the influence of paramilitaries. Programme and opportunities are required to address these issues through providing safe spaces for children and young people and by providing opportunities that promote, embrace and celebrate differences, including street based work during periods of heightened tension including Bonfire season (June – August). For example, the SPARK programme is a youth work intervention and public health approach to the participation and safety and stability of our children and young people. SPARK aims to engage young people gathering in areas of heightened tension, contentious spaces such as bonfire sites or who are involved in behaviours that place them at risk.

The DEA Area also requires programmes and activities that works with young people most at risk of influence or coercive control by paramilitaries and organised criminal gangs. Tackling Paramilitarism Youth Outreach programme ENGAGE, funded by Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board works with young people most at risk of influence or coercive control by paramilitaries and organised criminal gangs in the North Lurgan

## Lurgan DEA

area of Lurgan DEA. Led by Statutory Youth Services, the Engage programme connects directly with young people within communities who have been harmed by paramilitary groups and/or those who are most at risk of becoming involved in paramilitary activity

Lurgan continues to become a much more culturally diverse place and is above the Northern Ireland average for racist hate crimes therefore programmes and opportunities are required to promote inclusion and celebrate difference including TBUC camps.

Children and young people in Lurgan are also experiencing significant adversity in their home lives. Exposure to adverse childhood experiences such as domestic abuse, breakdown in family relationships, having a family member with mental illness, substance or alcohol misuse requires services to be trauma informed and supports the need for early intervention to provide support to build the skills needed to cope with and mitigate the effect of adverse experiences. Youth Services have a key role in providing these safe and supportive environments. Youth Services have a key role in providing safe and supportive environments.

The DEA Area also requires programmes and activities that address specific areas of risk-taking including alcohol and drugs misuse. Young people suggested that some of the reasons why anti-social behaviour occurred was due to easy access to alcohol and drugs.

Environment & Climate concerns raised by children and young people include fly tipping, fumes from smokers/vapes, behaviour of community littering isn't just a young person's habit, pollution from industry and farming. Children and young people suggested programme opportunities including awareness raising programmes, tree planting, social action community clean ups and climate programme.

Currently there is a resource allocation of 2 Statutory full time Youth Centres and 1 Statutory Area Youth Worker post alongside support from Statutory regional support teams FLARE, CADI, REACH, ENGAE, SPARK, SYTES and Horizons who provide youth work provision throughout Lurgan DEA.

The DEA also has 2 rural super output area of Aghagallon 1 & Aghagallon 2 that fall within the top 25% experiencing rural isolation and lack access to services with limited access to core youth provision and therefore requires attention.

# Portadown DEA



# Portadown DEA

Portadown DEA is in County Armagh and sits on the River Bann in the north of the county, about 24 miles (39 km) southwest of Belfast. Portadown is treated as part of the "Craigavon Urban Area", alongside Craigavon and Lurgan as part of the New City Initiative. Portadown is the site of the long-running Drumcree dispute, over yearly marches which often sparked protests. In the 1990s, the dispute escalated and prompted a massive security operation, drawing worldwide attention to Portadown.

It has a total population of 32,690. This accounts for 7,290 children and young people who are aged 0-15 years old representing 22% of DEA population compared to the NI average of 21%. (3,550 female and 3,750 male)

## Health and Wellbeing

- The IDAC 21.2%. This is above the NI average measure of 18.7%.
- 12.3% smoked during pregnancy which is above the NI Average (12.1%)
- In 2021/22 – 14,019 school aged children in NI have been diagnosed with autism which represents a prevalence rate of 4.7% of the school aged population. School census data 2021/22 reveals that males are almost three times more likely to have an autism diagnosis than females.
- One in 8 young people (0-18yrs) and young people have a mental health need
- One in 5 Adults (18 plus) have a mental health need.
- Young people in Northern Ireland experience ill mental health at 25% higher prevalence than the rest of the UK
- 50% of mental health problems are established by the age of 14 years

## Learn and Achieve

- 75.3% of non-free school meals entitled pupils achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C including GCSE English and Maths compared to 52.8% of those pupils who are entitled to free school meals achieving the same.
- School leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A\*-C (or equiv) including Maths and English was 30% compared to the NI average of 23.3%.
- School leavers achieving 2+ A levels (or equivalent) is 43.8% which is above the NI average of 60.5%.
- 38.7% of school leavers went onto Higher Education which falls below the NI average of 48%.
- 27% of primary and post primary school pupils are entitled to Free School Meals (2021/22). This is below the NI average of 28%.
- Number of pupils suspended in the 2020/21 academic year – 41 (NI Average 43)
- Presentation Primary School, Portadown has the highest percentage of newcomer pupils in NI at 89%.
- 7.3% absenteeism at post-primary school (NI Average 6.5%) Portadown has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest absenteeism across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Area.

## SEN DATA

- 1,481 primary and post primary pupils have a Special Education Need. This represents 341 pupils (5.6%) with a SEN Statement Stage 3 and 799 pupils (13.1%) SEN Stage 1-2. The NI average for pupils with a SEN Stage 3 Statement is 6% and pupils with a SEN Stage 1-2 at 12%.

# Portadown DEA

## Living in Safety and Stability

Portadown is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest area across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon that is above the Northern Ireland Average for Incidents & Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation

| DEA2014 (2020.21 data) | All usual residents DEAs 2020 | Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation | NI Average Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation rate per 1,000 | Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) | NI Average Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) | Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation (excluding fraud) rate per 1,000 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Northern Ireland       | 1,895,510                     | 31196   | 390  | 16   | 19036  | 238   | 10  |
| PORTADOWN              | 32,690                        | 588   | 390  | 18   | 357  | 238   | 11  |

Portadown is above the Northern Ireland Average for Incidents and Crimes Recorded with racist motivation

| DEA2014 (2020:21 data) | All usual residents DEAs 2020 | Incidents Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Incidents Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Racist Motivation | Crimes (excluding fraud) Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| Northern Ireland       | 1895510                       | 366   | 993   | 934  | 246  | 719  | 674   |
| PORTADOWN              | 32690                         | 4   | 31  | 10   | 3  | 24   | 4   |

## Anti-Social Behaviour

Portadown is above the Northern Ireland Average for Anti-social behaviour incidents and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest alongside Banbridge for Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon. Areas in Red are above average for Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

| DEA2014          | Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents | Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents per 1,000 | Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents - NI Average |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Northern Ireland | 76,063                          | 40  | 950  |
| PORTADOWN        | 1,505                           | 46  | 950  |

# Portadown DEA

## Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations

Newcomer pupils in schools by DEA 2014, 2021/22

| DEA 2014 Name | Nursery Schools | Primary | Post-primary | Special |
|---------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| PORTADOWN     | 42              | 840     | 215          | 0       |
| NI Average    | 6               | 167     | 53           | 2       |

## Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs) are neighbourhoods identified as experiencing the most severe multiple deprivation and received support under the Department for Communities People and Place Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. In total 36 neighbourhoods have been identified to received support. There is one NRA in the DEA area of Portadown

### Map of Portadown North West NRA Area



Young people living in NRAs tend to have lower educational outcomes that their peers who do not live in renewal areas.

# Portadown DEA

## Current Youth Provision Funded Through EA Youth Service

- St Mary's Youth Centre Voluntary Sector partner currently deliver on a 6 night a week provision
- YMCA Portadown Voluntary Sector partner currently deliver on a 5 night a week provision from April to September and 6 nights per week from October to March
- Seagoe Youth Club Voluntary Sector partner currently deliver on a 6 night a week provision
- Goal Line Youth Club Voluntary Sector partner currently deliver on a 2 night a week provision
- SPARK Programme is delivered in the Portadown area of the DEA
- FLARE Area Worker II supports Targeted Programmes across the area
- CADI Area Worker II delivers digital and creative arts programmes across the area
- REACH programmes supporting early intervention emotional health and wellbeing are offered to primary and post primary schools across the area

## DEA: Portadown Summary Findings

Children and young people including those with additional needs across the DEA of Portadown require programmes and activities that focus on mental health and resilience to counter the challenges facing young people and to support with rising suicide rates. There is also a need for Inclusive Youth Service provision to be delivered. Core Youth Work Provision will support children and young people with Special Educational Need or a disability, Newcomer and Roma children and rural young people who live within Portadown DEA.

Youth Services are ideally placed to contribute to the reduction in barriers to learning through personal and social development programmes, the development of thinking skills, life skills and work skills, improved relationships with others, increased participative action and active citizenship. The area also requires Youth Service to provide opportunities and activities that support with career and employability prospects.

The DEA Area requires programmes and activities that address specific areas of risk-taking including alcohol and drugs misuse. Young people suggested that some of the reasons why anti-social behaviour occurred was due to easy access to alcohol and drugs.

Children and young people in Portadown are also experiencing significant adversity in their home lives. Exposure to adverse childhood experiences such as domestic abuse, breakdown in family relationships, having a family member with mental illness, substance or alcohol misuse requires services to be trauma informed and supports the need for early intervention to provide support to build the skills needed to cope with and mitigate the effect of adverse experiences. Youth Services have a key role in providing these safe and supportive environments. Youth Services have a key role in providing safe and supportive environments.

Portadown is still overwhelmingly segregated between the two communities and this can lead to inter-community tensions, involving children and young people especially at contentious times of the year and particularly at interface areas. This can also lead to children and young people coming under the influence of paramilitaries. Programme and opportunities are required to address these issues through providing safe spaces for children and young people and by providing opportunities that promote, embrace and celebrate differences, including street based work during periods of heightened tension including Bonfire season (June – August). For example, the SPARK programme is a youth work intervention and public health approach to the participation and safety and stability of our children and young people. SPARK aims to engage young

## Portadown DEA

people gathering in areas of heightened tension, contentious spaces such as bonfire sites or who are involved in behaviours that place them at risk.

Portadown continues to become a much more culturally diverse place and is above the Northern Ireland average for racist hate crimes therefore programmes and opportunities are also required to promote inclusion and celebrate difference including TBUC camps.

Environment & Climate concerns raised by children and young people include fly tipping, fumes from smokers/vapes, behaviour of community littering isn't just a young person's habit, pollution from industry and farming. Children and young people suggested programme opportunities including awareness raising programmes, tree planting, social action community clean ups and climate programme.

EA currently fund 4 Voluntary full time Youth Centres to deliver youth work provision across the Portadown DEA. Voluntary Sector also currently deliver on the SPARK programme.

**Youth Service**