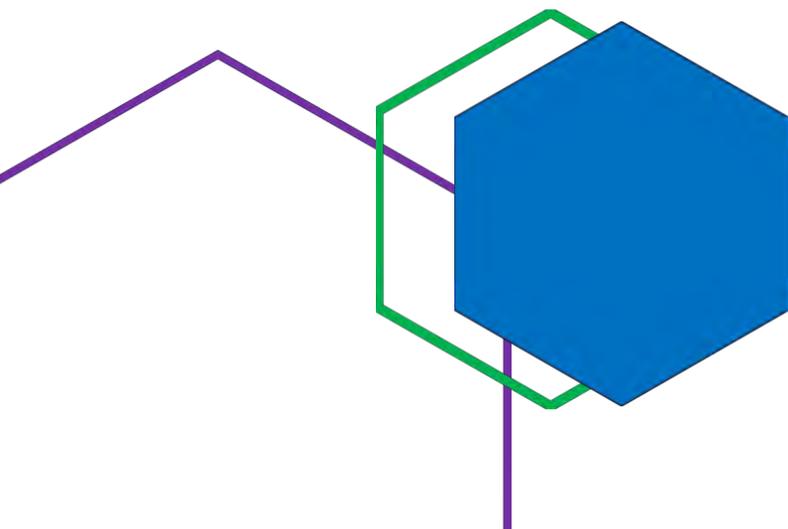


Youth Service

Local Assessment of Need South and West Belfast

2023





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District Electoral Area

Executive Summary

This Local Assessment of Need document summarises the needs of children and young people in South and West Belfast and the key priorities for youth service delivery from April 2023- March 2026.

There is a clear variation and level of needs across the area, with some areas facing greater challenges than others. The area as a whole presents with broad ranging and diverse needs and issues.

A range of desktop research methods including most up to date data and statistics from a range of government and statutory sources along with recent, relevant reports have been used to inform this Assessment of Need. Additionally, extensive consultation with young people and key stakeholders has been undertaken focusing on six key areas of enquiry relevant to youth work practice.

Taking into consideration the needs identified and the financial challenges on public services, the priority for South and West Belfast is to support and protect core youth services that will focus on providing safe spaces for children and young people.

The Assessment of need establishes the following Key Areas for Action for the delivery of Youth Services in South and West Belfast:

Learning and Achieving

- Youth Work programmes in schools
- Accredited and non-accredited training
- Vocational learning opportunities
- Leadership Opportunities
- Lifeskills

Living in Safety & Stability

- Programmes to promote difference and respect
- Create a safe space for young people
- T:BUC programmes
- Detached youth workers
- Awareness programmes with external agencies

Participation

- Creation of welcoming and inclusive Centres
- Provision of local participative structures across all age bands
- Volunteering and Leadership Opportunities

Environment and Climate

- Climate awareness programmes
- Litter campaigns
- Environmental projects

Inclusion Diversity Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations

- Cultural awareness nights, LGBTQ+ Awareness
- Appropriate and inclusive activities and programmes
- Create a safe space

Health and Wellbeing

- Health and wellbeing programmes
- Physical activities,
- Access to counselling, fitness programmes, provide food and healthy eating programmes

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 South and West Belfast

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 Belfast. 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 South and West Belfast.

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 South Belfast and West Belfast areas 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 1036 children and young people from Belfast 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. [\(link to access to be added in here\)](#)

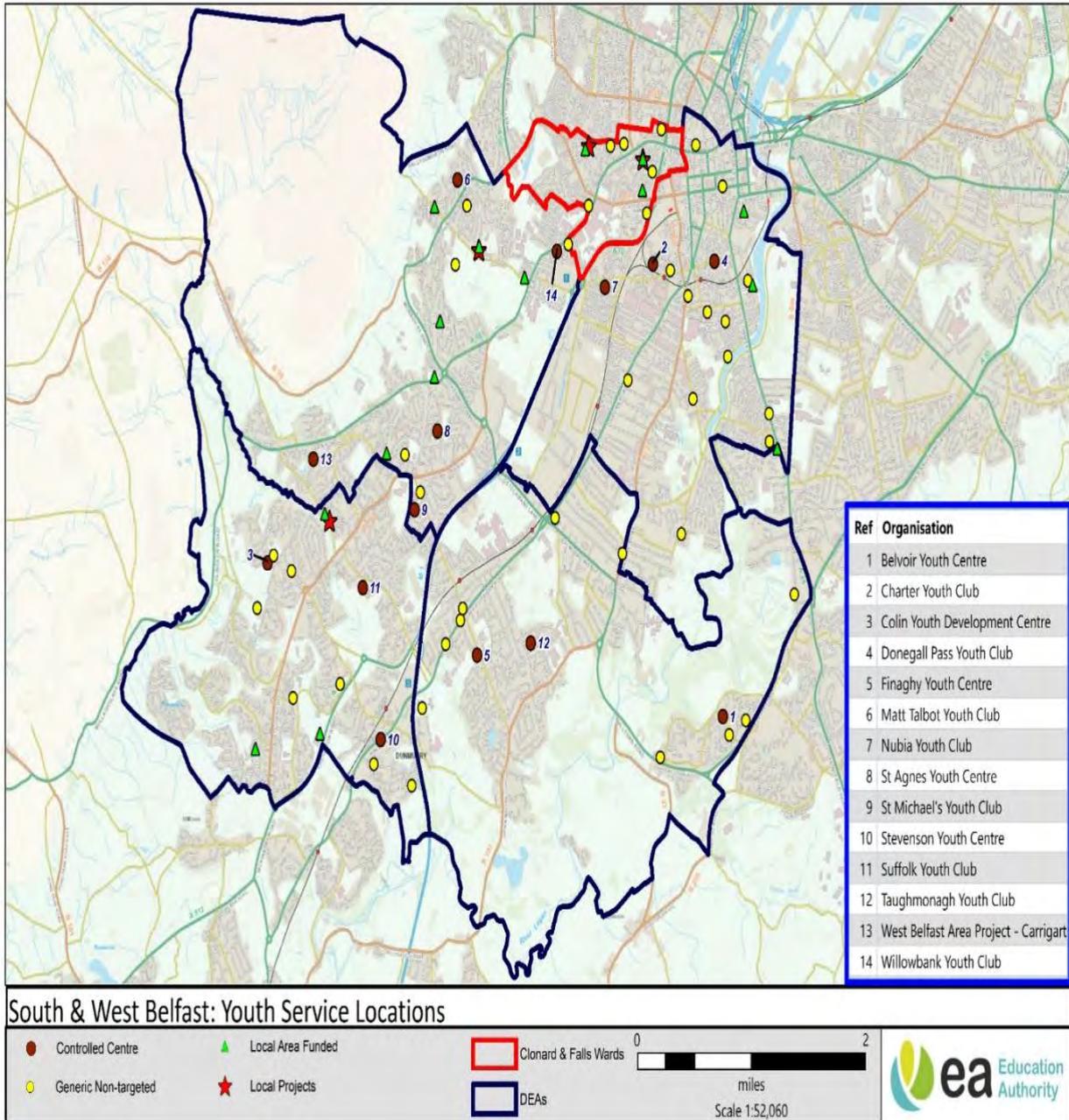
In addition to this a further survey based on the same areas of enquiry was designed and distributed within the 5 DEA's of South and West Belfast. There were 346 respondents to this survey (appendix 2).

Area Profile

Overview of South and West Belfast

The Youth Service in the Belfast area is divided into two areas: North and East Belfast and South and West Belfast. Each area is managed by a Senior Youth Officer.

Youth Services in Belfast are continuously evolving to meet the current and emerging needs of young people. The current Education Authority Youth Service controlled team in South and West Belfast comprises 10 Full-time and 8 Part time units. There are also 14 Voluntary Youth sector organisations and 45 Generic Non-Targeted organisations providing Youth Services in this area under the New EA Youth Service Funding Scheme. Youth Units providing youth services are in areas defined by the greatest need and ease of access, for young people living in the vicinity as shown in the Map below. (Please note this map does not included Generic/Non targeted units)



Belfast in Numbers

The estimated population for South and West Belfast is 174,940. More than one third of the total population of Belfast, 69, 392 (39.6%) are aged 25 years or under. (NI average 32.6%). Moving forward these datasets will be reviewed in line with the published outcomes of the 2021 NI Census.

- 11,507 aged 0 – 3 years
- 6,014 aged 4 – 8 years
- 17,278 aged 9 – 13 years
- 9,061 aged 14 – 18 years
- 25,532 aged 19 – 25 years

- 9% of children and young people living in Belfast are from a different ethnic background

- In terms of sexuality 2,423 young people (14-25) identify as LGBT&Q in 2017
- 1 in 5 young people report a mental health need (23,846) in Belfast.
- 26,084 (39.4% of the youth population) in Belfast are eligible for FSM. All Non-Grammar schools in South and West Belfast have between 46-72% of pupils attending eligible for Free School Meals
- 19,550 (28.7%) of all pupils have a special Education Need or disability in Belfast. Non-Grammar Post Primary Schools in South and West Belfast report a population of pupils between 18-57% with special educational needs
- 2,277 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in South and West Belfast

South and West Belfast Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM)

The South and West Belfast area consists of 87 Super Output Areas:

- 44% of SOA's in West Belfast are in the top 10% most deprived in Northern Ireland in terms of multiple deprivation
- 2 Super Output Areas in West Belfast are ranked in the top 10 most deprived in terms of **Education, Skills and Training**.
- 5 Super Output Areas in West Belfast are in the top 11 most deprived in terms of **Health & Disability**
- 3 Super Output Areas in West Belfast are in the top 20 most deprived in terms of **Employment**
- 1 Super Output Area in South Belfast is in the top 5% most deprived in terms of **Income**
- 7 Super Output areas in South Belfast and 1 in West Belfast are in top 11 most deprived in terms of **Living Environment**
- 3 Super Output Areas in South Belfast and 3 in West Belfast are in the top, most deprived in terms of **Crime and Disorder**

Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRAs)

A Neighbourhood Renewal Area is defined as an area in the most top 10% deprived areas of Northern Ireland based upon the Multiple Deprivation Measures as identified by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs) are neighbourhoods identified as experiencing the most severe multiple deprivation and have been chosen to receive support under the Department for Communities People and Place strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. Northern Ireland has a total of 36 Neighbourhood renewal areas. There are 15 such areas in Belfast, seven of which are in the South and West Belfast Areas:

- Andersonstown
- Colin
- Falls/ Clonard
- Inner South Belfast
- Outer West Belfast
- South West Belfast
- Upper Springfield/ Whiterock

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

KEY FACTORS: LEARN & ACHIEVE

- The proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs including English and Maths in Non-Grammar schools from 2016/17 to 2018/19, show a three-year average ranging from 67-89% located within South and West Belfast
- 26,084 (39.4% of the youth population) in Belfast are eligible for FSM. All Non-Grammar schools in South and West Belfast have between 46-72% of pupils attending eligible for Free School Meals
- 19,550 (19.5%) of all pupils have a Special Education Need or disability in Belfast. Post Primary Schools in South and West Belfast report a population of pupils between 18-57% with special educational needs.
- 2277 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in the South and West Belfast area.
- 766 child or young person Looked After were supported by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. Many of these children and young people live and attend schools in the Belfast.

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 South and West Belfast 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 South and West Belfast 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.

In South and West Belfast 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 South and West Belfast 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 South and West Belfast, 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 FACTORS: HEALTH & WELLBEING

- 1 in 5 young people report a mental health need (23,846) in Belfast.
- Most recent figures report death by suicide in Belfast to be 3 times the NI average. Males aged 15 - 25 years are a grouping deemed high risk within this figure.
- In 2019 Belfast reported the rate of drug related deaths as 25.9 per 100,000 population (Northern Ireland average 8.4)
- Male life expectancy in Belfast is 75.8 years. (Northern Ireland 78.5). In the most deprived areas it is 71.3 years. (Northern Ireland 74.2).
- Female life expectancy in Belfast is 81 years. (Northern Ireland 82.3). In the most deprived areas it is 77.6 years. (Northern Ireland 79.6).
- The standardised incidence rate for cancer in Belfast is 653 per 100,000 population (Northern Ireland 596). In the most deprived areas it is 767 per 100,000 population. (Northern Ireland 689).
- The standardised admission rate for self-harm in Belfast is 191 per 100,000 population. (Northern Ireland 154). In the most deprived areas it is 350 per 100,000 population. (Northern Ireland 290).
- The standardised admission rate for alcohol related issues in Belfast is 1,119 per 100,000 population. (Northern Ireland 691). In the most deprived areas it is 2,156 per 100,000 population. (Northern Ireland 1,491).
- The teenage birth rate for Belfast is 16 per 1,000 population. (Northern Ireland 9.5). In the most deprived areas it is 29.4 per population. (Northern Ireland 17.2).
- The proportion of Primary 1 pupils identified as obese or overweight is 21%. (Northern Ireland 21%). In the most deprived areas it is 23%. (Northern Ireland 36%).
- The proportion of Year 8 pupils identified as obese or overweight is 27%. (Northern Ireland 28%). In the most deprived areas it is 32%. (Northern Ireland 30%).
- The standardised prescription rate for Mood and Anxiety in Belfast is 248 per 1,000 population. (Northern Ireland 213). In the most deprived areas it is 340 per 1,000 population. (Northern Ireland 287).

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 South and West Belfast 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 South and West Belfast are more likely to be obese, have lower life expectancies and are more likely to have worse physical, mental and sexual health outcomes.

In South and West Belfast 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 South and West Belfast 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 South and West Belfast 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 South and West Belfast.

The South and West Belfast 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

- Interface Areas: There are 16 interface clusters in Northern Ireland; 5 of these are in South and West Belfast
- 2277 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in South and West Belfast.
- 19,550 (19.5%) of all pupils have a Special Education Need or disability in Belfast. Post Primary Schools in South and West Belfast report a population of pupils between 18-57% with special educational needs.
- According to the Office of National Statistics, 4.2% of young people in the UK aged 16-24 identify as either Lesbian, gay or bisexual. In Belfast this equates to approximately 2,423 young people.
- 154 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Belfast.
- 276 Roma children and young people attend schools in Belfast.
- In April-June 2019 there were 20,000 young people (aged 16-24) in Northern Ireland who were not in education, employment, or training (NEET). This represents 10.2% of all young people aged 16-24.
- According to the Simon Community there are at least 6,000 homeless young people across Northern Ireland. (Homeless can mean living in unsuitable and unstable accommodation).
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,000 young carers in Northern Ireland.

Discussion & Key Trends

South and West Belfast 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 South and West Belfast 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 South and West Belfast which encounter legacy issues and experience sectarianism.

South and West Belfast have 5 interface areas where inter-community tensions exist. Research has highlighted that whilst interface neighbourhoods are often associated with sectarianism and inter-community conflict, wider risk factors can negatively impact on a young person's development, coping skills, emotional well-being, anxiety, sectarian behaviour and adjustment problems.

The research found that the types of risks facing young people living in interface areas included alcohol and drug use, mental health problems, aggression, conduct problems including antisocial behaviour.

The interface between Lanark Way and Springfield Road has been a regular scene of violence involving young people in the past 2 years.

Despite the Good Relations policy, South and West Belfast Belfast 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 South and West Belfast Belfast 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.

South and West Belfast Belfast 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

- Approximately 63,200 (53%) young people live in the most deprived areas of Belfast.
- 44% of SOA's in West Belfast are in the top 10% most deprived in Northern Ireland in terms of multiple deprivation
- There are 5 interface areas in South and West Belfast.
- The most recent figures reveal that there were 8,389 domestic abuse incidences in Belfast. (Northern Ireland 31,531).
- Counts of recorded domestic abuse incidents where the victim is under 18 years is 626 in 2019/20 in Belfast (Northern Ireland 2,725)
- The total number of movements within the Juvenile Justice Centre for Belfast in 2017/18 was 159. (Northern Ireland 582).
- In April - June 2019 there were 20,000 young people (aged 16-24) in Northern Ireland who were not in education, employment, or training (NEET). This represents 10.2% of all young people aged 16-24.
- According to the Simon Community there are at least 6,000 homeless young people across Northern Ireland. (Homeless can mean living in unsuitable and unstable accommodation).
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,000 young carers in Northern Ireland.
- Sectarian Hate Crime incidents reported to the PSNI (2019-2020). Belfast reported 355 out of 884 incidents for the whole of Northern Ireland in 2020.
- Racial incidents reported to the PSNI (2019-2020). Belfast reported 416 out of 939 incidents for the whole of Northern Ireland in 2020.
- Homophobic incidents reported to the PSNI (2019-2020). Belfast reported 151 out of 360 incidents for the whole of Northern Ireland in 2020.
- Almost half of the Northern Ireland incidents for sectarianism, racial and homophobia take place in Belfast.

Discussion and 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, behavioural problems, and wellbeing for all needs.

In South and West Belfast there are several 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 South and West Belfast 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 and 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 South and West Belfast, 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.

Children and young people living in areas of high rates of attacks and interface violence will feel unsafe in their communities and sometimes their homes and less likely to access services within or even outside their perceived community. In addition, young people are at greater risk of involvement in criminal behaviours or coercion.

Paramilitarism is a reality for many in Northern Ireland and 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.

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 through focus groups 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. During a Stakeholder event, it was 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 South and West Belfast 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. All statutory and EA Funded Voluntary Organisations operate an appropriate participation structure which enables the voice of young people to influence the organisations delivery.

Participation will continue to be a key priority for South and West Belfast Youth Services to ensure that Local Youth Voice is developed and sustained with a continued focus on membership to include young people from Section 75 groups in order to ensure a broad representation.

Survey Headlines

Regional Survey

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

A survey focussing on the six key areas of enquiry was designed for young people and circulated regionally in June 2022.

A total of 1036 young people in Belfast responded to the survey. Responses were returned from children and young people from a range of statutory, local and voluntary youth groups involved in DE funded youth work and Children and young people not currently involved in Youth Services.

Overview of Regional Assessment of Need Results

Overview of responses to Youth Service Regional Assessment of Need:

- 1,036 Young people across Belfast completed the survey
- 36.5% of respondents were from West Belfast
- 18.7% of respondents were from South Belfast

- 47.2% of respondents were aged 9 – 13 years
- 44.1% of respondents were aged 14 -18 years
- 8.7% of respondents were aged 19-25 years

- 42.6% of respondents were male
- 55% of respondents were female
- 0.9% identified as other
- 1.5% preferred not to say
- 11.9% considered themselves to have a disability

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
- Volunteering and leadership development
- Creative arts
- Outdoor learning

Focus Group Headlines - Local

In addition to the regional survey, focus groups were held within the 5 District Electoral Areas (DEA's) in South and West Belfast. 34 focus groups with a total of 346 participants were facilitated.

In summary the focus groups highlighted services which create positive change in many of the needs assessed:

Health & Wellbeing

- Health and wellbeing programmes
- Physical activities,
- Access to counselling, fitness programmes, provide food and healthy eating programmes

Living in Safety & Stability

- Programmes to promote difference and respect
- Create a safe space for young people
- T:BUC programmes
- Detached youth workers
- Awareness programmes with PSNI

Learning & Achieving

- More Youth Work programmes in schools
- Accredited and non-accredited training
- Vocational learning opportunities

Inclusion Diversity Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations

- Cultural awareness nights, LGBTQ+ Awareness
- Appropriate and inclusive activities
- Create a safe space

Environment & Climate

- Climate awareness programmes
- Litter campaigns
- Environmental projects

Establishing Key Priorities of Work for 2023

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 South and West Belfast Area:

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

Priority Outputs for 2023

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: Learning and Achieving

It is very clear from a range of evidence that young people living in areas of disadvantage are disproportionately underachieving at school compared to young people from more affluent areas. Addressing barriers to learning remains a significant need within South and West Belfast. 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.

Recent consultations with young people recorded that they felt the formal education system was not tailored to their learning needs and was therefore a barrier to learning. They recognised the value of youth work as an opportunity to increase their educational attainment in a delivery method more suited to their style of learning.

Youth workers in South and West Belfast will continue to offer a diverse range of programmes which are valued by young people as they both complement and enhance the learning provided through formal schooling.

Key Area for Action: Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations

Developing initiatives with young people around community relations, equality and diversity allows them to develop the skills, attitudes and behaviours that enable them to value and respect difference and engage positively with it.

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

Further work will be supported through the T:BUC funding which will provide opportunities from the catholic and protestant communities to work together in developmental youth work programmes. Given the numbers of newcomer pupils particularly in South Belfast there is clearly a need for work around cultural awareness and diversity.

Developing initiatives with young people around inclusion, equality and diversity allows them to develop the skills, attitudes and behaviours that enable them to value and respect difference and engage positively with it.

Youth Services in South and West Belfast will target resources at groups of young people who are marginalised within their communities, paying due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between those groups detailed in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Key Area for Action: Participation

The survey results highlighted that children and young people would like to see Youth Services provide support through programmes that will help with their confidence and self-esteem, programmes that helped them obtain employment in the future, and also programmes that supported their education and health and wellbeing. Youth workers and volunteers suggested that programmes to develop their confidence and self-esteem, health and wellbeing programmes and education and learning programmes were most likely to encourage children and young people to become involved in Youth Services.

Key Area for Action: Living in Safety & Stability

Instances of crime, not just to property but including violence and public order, are significant in South and West Belfast. Youth workers in South and West Belfast will endeavour to continue to seek intervention funding in order to decrease tension and ASB in targeted areas during the summer months. This funding has been instrumental in previous years in enabling youth work staff to offer diversionary and interface programmes which have been very successful in helping reduce tensions during traditional periods of unrest. Evidence from desktop research and the online survey places a particular emphasis on the need to provide quality generic provision for children and young people. Providing a high quality universal service will assist in limiting the need for early intervention or targeted services for young people as they progress into adulthood.

Respondents to the survey also highlighted the need to recognise children and young people's contribution to participating in Youth Work programmes, projects or generic provision.

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.

Youth provision needs to set priorities around Green Standards and educational programmes for young people. 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.

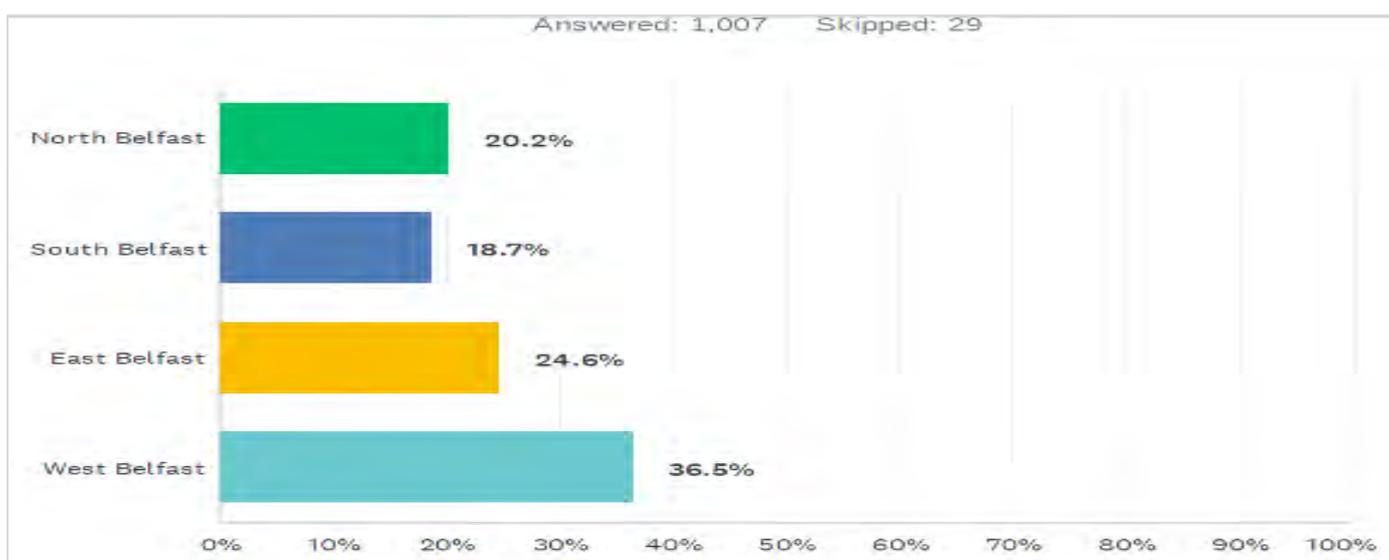
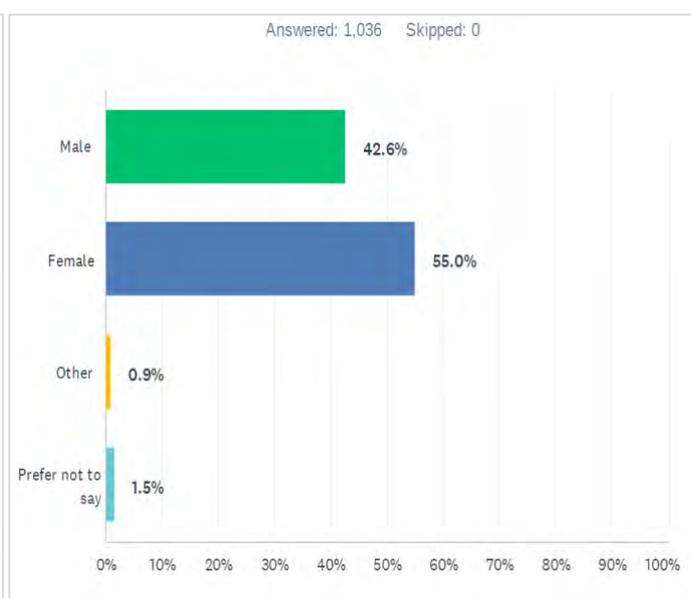
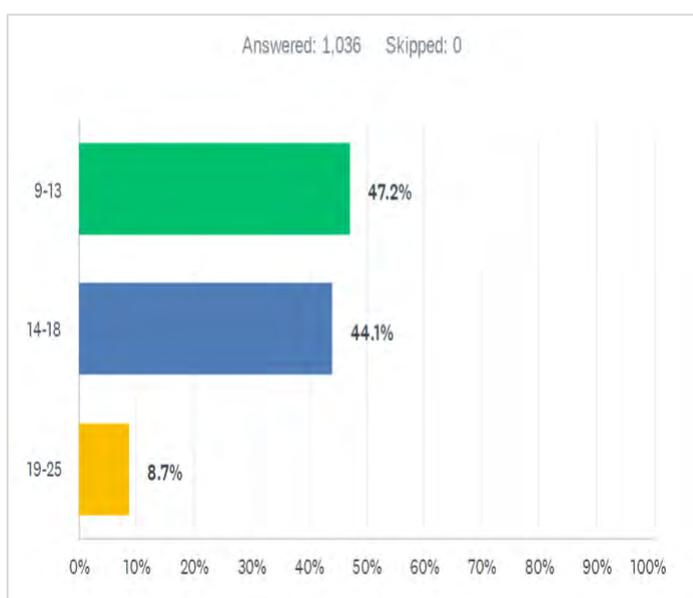
Appendix 1: Regional Survey

Regional Assessment of Need Survey Headlines June 2022 – Belfast only

A survey focussing on key areas of enquiry was designed for young people and administered using Survey Monkey was released in June 2022 for 2 weeks

A total of 1036 children and young people in Belfast 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.

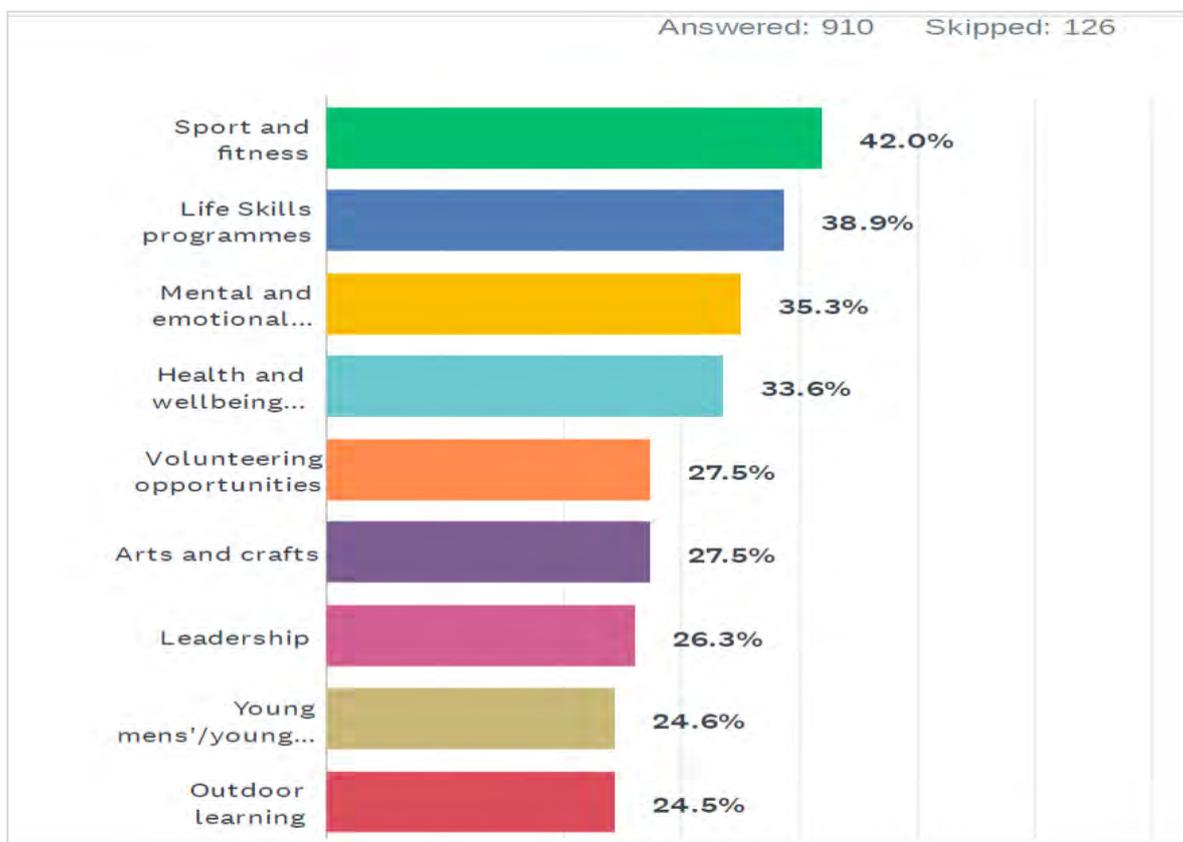
The tables below summarise the key Headlines for Belfast respondents



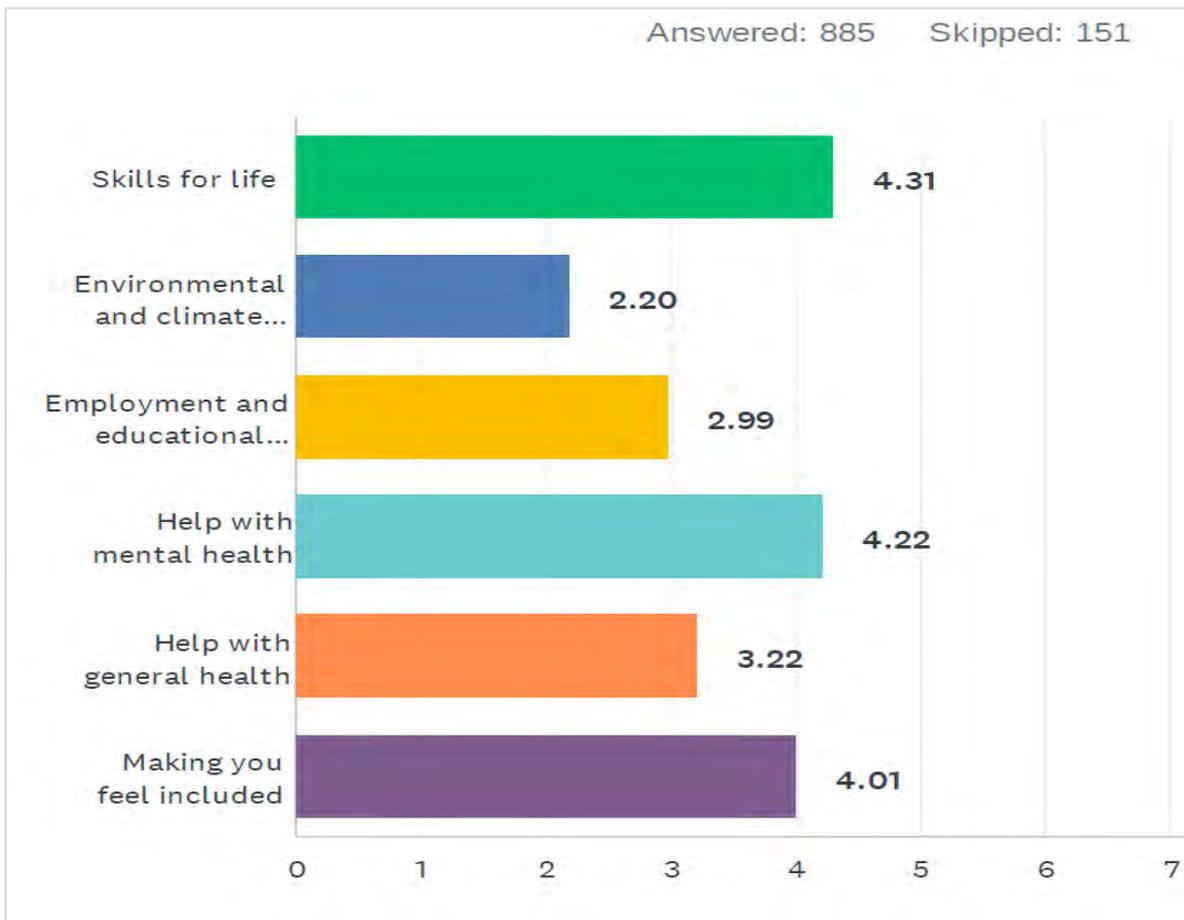
As a young person, what is most important to you?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Good friendships	52.1%	474
Having fun	47.1%	428
Mental health and wellbeing	37.8%	344
Family relationships	31.4%	285
Having somewhere to hang out	28.3%	257
Feeling safe in your community	25.0%	227
Making good educational choices	14.3%	130
Career/job/training opportunities	13.2%	120
Being happy at school	12.8%	116
The cost of living or money problems	11.8%	107
Help with bullying	7.7%	70
Exploring faith and values	3.0%	27
None of the above	0.4%	4
Total Respondents: 909		

What activities/programmes could Youth Services provide that would be most helpful?



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



Appendix 2: Stakeholder Feedback

A number of stakeholder engagement events were facilitated in South and West Belfast over the past year under key themes. The table below highlights key actions identified from participants:

Event	Participants	Actions Identified
Inclusion of Young Parents February 2021	64 Young people 24 Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early interventions on a range of topics • Day time session to reflect responsibilities • Childcare facilities • Support for young fathers
Needs affected by Drugs & Alcohol December 2021	119 Young people 28 Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs and alcohol programmes need to reflected current trends • Programmes should be offered to parents • Information offering support on what to do if under the influence • access in each local area one on one support services
The Safety of Children and Young People March 2022	71 Young People 16 Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YP feel safe knowing YW are street based • Further engagement with PSNI • More awareness around consequences
Shared Event-Street Based Youth Work	56 Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review how Street Based Youth Work is considered in the Planning of Youth Services to meet the assessed needs of Children and Young People. • Engage with external stakeholders to clarify remit and expectations of the Youth Service • Engage in further consultation to develop a Sector wide model for Street Based Youth Work.
Young Women & Violence April 2022	103 Young People 18 adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness • Challenging stigma and 'Taboo free spaces' • Collaborative approaches

Local Advisory Group recommendations are noted below and have been taken into consideration for future planning

- Youth Service delivery over 48 weeks per year Maximum of 5 or 6 nights per unit with provision spread across 7 nights in a DEA area
- City wide initiatives should include Inclusion projects, Cross community, city wide detached work led by the voluntary sector
- Keep Generic as a separate funding opportunity
- Targeted work presented as a project across an identified area

Appendix 3: Feedback from Focus Groups-South and West Belfast

A series of focus groups with young people within each DEA in South and West Belfast recorded the responses noted in Tables 1 & 2 when young people were asked the following questions:

Table 1:

- What are the issues for young people in relation to Environment and Climate, Health and Wellbeing, Living in Safety and Stability, Learning & Achieving, Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of opportunity?
- What can Youth Service do to help address these issues?

Table 2:

- Is Good Relations Work relevant to you?
- What can youth service do to support you with Good Relations?
- What do you gain from attending Youth Services in your area?
- Why would young people not access youth services in your area?

Table 1: - BALMORAL

DEA - BALMORAL

Environment & Climate	Health & Wellbeing	Living In Safety & Stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of Opportunity
Issues				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Litter and rubbish ▪ Youtube videos telling people/races will die if we dont clean up the planet ▪ climate change ▪ communities with empty bottles/ cigarettes and dangerous items for younger youth to find on streets ▪ smoking/vapin ▪ no housing/green areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neglecting their own health both physically and mentally ▪ stress from schools ▪ addiction to vaping ▪ poor diets ▪ poor sleep schedule ▪ lack of active lifestyles ▪ seeing older people do stuff that isn't good for them and their mental health and copying ▪ Not being able to express feelings ▪ negative self-confidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ behaviour in communities ▪ difficult to adapt with other religions and cultures ▪ different language and not feel safe in community ▪ people may get attacked because of their race/gender or sexuality ▪ feel unsafe because of their religious background, pretty much everything that others see different ▪ internet crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ not many people get what they need to help their learning ▪ not much support ▪ people have problems with basic tasks and it becomes an issue ▪ writing (dyslexia) ▪ specific teaching styles for special needs ▪ preferred learning for youth instead of one way - not fun way to learn ▪ Pushed too quick to learn things and no regard to waiting at youth's pace so they can achieve ▪ Maybe cant read or write well for the qualifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People can be Left out ▪ Not being asked to friendly events just because they are different ▪ Excluded for being in any way different have warped views of people considered 'other' ▪ thinking that because people look or act different they cant do things or be good at anything ▪ Struggles with trying to get involved in community ▪ Everything in English although speak a different language ▪ Scared that will be treated differently in places - projects
Solutions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do projects about littering and destroying the ozone layer ▪ Mindfulness about the world/ learn to care project ▪ Litter pick up groups ▪ Climate days for young people ▪ Reports/ highlighting wildlife and why should value it more ▪ Teach young people about the climate crisis ▪ environment groups/projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Run programs ▪ Teach young people about healthy lifestyles ▪ Learn about your mental state and how to maintain them ▪ Do a project to show what happens when you let yourself go like fat Thor in avengers ▪ Make a social group conference to learn about health and wellbeing ▪ Groups that make people feel safe/mental health ▪ Do activities stuff to help our health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make groups of different religions and cultures to gather respect and talk together ▪ Make new groups for people to have a safe place ▪ Talk about difference in other people ▪ Antisocial behaviour and discrimination by creating safe spaces for youth ▪ Bring people in to talk to us from other places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe go to the school and talk with them • Make more chances for them to learn with different qualifications • Have small activities that can boost their intellect skills • Have youth services help by providing a space where youth with special needs can learn at their own pace • Show learning is not a bad thing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusion ▪ Addressing the issue of exclusion of certain places ▪ people with special needs have a space to socialise with those of different religion or disability ▪ Create a safe space for people to come to in centres ▪ Use simple language ▪ Make smaller groups for people ▪ Bring different races together on days- friendly events

Table 2: - BALMORAL

	Good Relations		Participation				
DEA	Is it relevant?	What can Youth Service do to support you with Good Relations?	What do you gain from attending Youth Service in your area?	Why Would Young People not access Youth Services in your area?	Can you recommend changes to increase participation?	How are Young Peoples thoughts and opinions heard in the Youth Services you attend?	Are you aware of the volunteer opportunities within your Youth Service?
Balmoral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes – its important to socialise and better ourselves • Get to work well with others • Helps us learn not to attack people and be kind and not judge • Learn about different cultures and make new friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide programmes, go on trips with other communities, cross community programmes, working with other cultures and learn about them. • Bring different clubs together • Cross community residentials • Help us understand and socialise and what we need to do to have good relations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting new people and new friendships • Group activities and have fun • Staff are nice and kind • Help me with my confidence • Knowledge • Opportunities • Self worth & feel valued • Respect • Beating mental health and anxiety issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't enjoy it • Too many questions get asked • Not feeling welcomed or comfortable • Bullying • Shy & feeling insecure • Disabilities • Religion • Lack of facilities • Not having friends • Fear of being judged • Not enough trips or entertainment in centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open more days during the week • Advertise youth centres & programmes • More opportunities within the clubs ie sports programmes • Trips • More funding for residentials • More resources • Inter club visits • Chill time to relax • Smaller group to help meet others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They listen to us • Help us in group when asking • Have supported when needed • Through the youth voice • Talking with other youth workers • Expressing issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes

Table 1: - BOTANIC

DEA - Botanic				
Environment & Climate	Health & Wellbeing	Living In Safety & Stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of Opportunity
Issues				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pollution ▪ climate change ▪ lack of recycling ▪ littering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ mental health ▪ cyber bullying ▪ exercising ▪ socialising ▪ diet and healthy eating ▪ period poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drug/ alcohol abuse • junkies • violence • Sectarianism • paedophilia • drug dealers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not enough help in school • OCN • unemployment • parents not being able to help with school work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bullying • racism • sectarianism • homophobia • refugee
Solutions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Waste bins ▪ Litter picking ▪ Signs to direct people to bins and recycling ▪ More groups on how to save the planet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create more awareness programmes ▪ Create positive posters and signs for the youth centre ▪ Healthy eating and cooking groups ▪ Period poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drug and alcohol workshops ▪ Provide safeguarding information to make young people aware of how to report issues they have ▪ Cross community groups ▪ Meet with police to remove paedophiles from the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide OCN training to help with education and development apprenticeships and Job opportunities ▪ Afterschool programmes for older young people to help with school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduce more lgbtq+, muslim, jewish, Indian, polish people into our area so that we can get to know them better and understand their culture better ▪ Cultural nights to invite people in and try food from their country small worlds getting to know refugees better

Table 2: - BOTANIC

	Good Relations		Participation				
DEA	Is it relevant?	What can Youth Service do to support you with Good Relations?	What do you gain from attending Youth Service in your area?	Why Would Young People not access Youth Services in your area?	Can you recommend changes to increase participation?	How are Young Peoples thoughts and opinions heard in the Youth Services you attend?	Are you aware of the volunteer opportunities within your Youth Service?
Botanic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes through TBUC programmes but needs to be more than protestant and catholic • Understand different communities and cultures • Helps to build peace and friendship and young people more open to get involved. • Contributes to multiculturalism and inclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have more programmes • TBUC programmes • Different groups and activities for us to learn from • Visit different areas and youth clubs • International programmes to meet different people • Cross community groups • Workshops on religion and culture meeting ex paramilitary prisoners • Raise awareness through campaigns/posters • Events to meet and experience others backgrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel like we belong somewhere • Communication skills and increased confidence • Learn about others • Better understanding of Mental health and wellbeing • Friendships • Feeling valued • Safe place • New experiences • Qualifications • Social interaction • Go on trips • Fun • Trips away 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not feel safe because of religion or culture • Don't speak English • Have no friends who go • Bullying • Racism • Sectarianism • Not enough info on social media and around the area • Home problems • Friendship problems • Scared • Social anxiety • Lack of confidence • Friends may be involved in other things • Drugs and bad experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer funding from EA • More residential and programmes • Recognition of Irish language • Opening day time and longer • Welcoming • Promotion flyers • Open days/nights • More social media advertising • Engage more with YP • Open more opportunities for YP programmes and activities • Better equipment • Open all rooms within youth club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listened to by staff • Surveys • Evaluations • Being able to have a voice • Stakeholder meetings • Talk with our youth workers • Group activities • New committee that we can have our voices heard and let the club know about the issues and activities we want • Word of mouth • Junior and senior youth forum which meets once a month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes

Table 1: - COURT WEST

DEA – Court West				
Environment & Climate	Health & Wellbeing	Living In Safety & Stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of Opportunity
Issues				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of Green Space ▪ Interface Walls ▪ Lack of play space ▪ Air quality ▪ Lack of opportunity to effect change ▪ Waste ground ▪ Graffiti and vandalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poor mental health ▪ Drugs and alcohol ▪ Child sexual exploitation ▪ Relationship ▪ Violence/domestic abuse ▪ Sexual violence ▪ Bullying ▪ Open use of drugs ▪ Poverty ▪ Poor physical health ▪ Lack of emotional regulation ▪ Poor decision making ▪ Car crime ▪ Poverty ▪ Paramilitary attacks ▪ Lack of health education ▪ Lack of support services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staying off the streets ▪ Bonfires ▪ Police ▪ Paramilitaries ▪ Gangs ▪ Drugs ▪ Joyriders ▪ Being robbed ▪ Sex crimes/Abuse ▪ Bullying (online & personal) ▪ Violence ▪ Peace Walls ▪ Anti-social behaviour ▪ Knife crime ▪ Not able to walk the streets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School exclusion ▪ Not good at exams ▪ Schools dinners (poverty) ▪ No Wifi ▪ GSL work ▪ Only one computer in the house ▪ Training for work ▪ Life skills ▪ Residentials/GSL ▪ Accreditations ▪ Home work support ▪ Drug education ▪ Working with other people ▪ Learn about mental health ▪ Not achieving in life ▪ Teachers don't care about us 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peace Walls ▪ Sectarianism ▪ People with disabilities are isolated ▪ Women's issues ▪ LGBTQ+ opportunities ▪ Irish language ▪ Lack of multiculturalism ▪ Prejudice ▪ Violence ▪ Kids are barred ▪ young people are not consulted ▪ Young women are violated, bullied & threatened ▪ Health issues ▪ Divis gets nothing
Solutions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education on how the issues effect residents ▪ Create opportunities for environmental ▪ Participation ▪ Provide support services for young people wanting to volunteer ▪ Facilitate social action opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide education programmes ▪ Help with drugs and alcohol support ▪ Risks of poor health ▪ Stop the bullying ▪ Provide counselling ▪ Run sports programmes ▪ Run more residentials ▪ Provide complimentary therapies every night ▪ Provide healthy food ▪ Stop the hoods stealing cars ▪ Reduce programmes ▪ Help with stress ▪ Sexual Health programmes ▪ Gender violence programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Detached workers on the streets ▪ SPARK Programme ▪ GSL Programme ▪ Keep the youth centre open later at the weekend ▪ Drug & alcohol programmes ▪ Support young people who are struggling ▪ Offer education programmes ▪ Somewhere to go ▪ Something positive to do ▪ More counselling ▪ complimentary therapies ▪ More trips/residentials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employment programmes ▪ Courses & training ▪ Accreditation ▪ Working for people who have been suspended ▪ Skills for work ▪ Life skills programme ▪ Work experience ▪ GSL Programme ▪ 3 C's programme ▪ Learn about relationships ▪ Sexual health ▪ Drug programmes ▪ Learn about bullying ▪ Detached workers in the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employment Programmes ▪ SPARK for girls ▪ GSL for more young people ▪ Run a disabled project ▪ More cross community work ▪ More GSL work ▪ Help us get a voice and be heard ▪ More job experience ▪ Irish language classes ▪ More opportunities for kids from Divis ▪ More opportunities to engage with people of colour ▪ Operate an LGBTQ+ programme

Table 2: - COURT WEST

	Good Relations		Participation				
DEA	Is it relevant?	What can Youth Service do to support you with Good Relations?	What do you gain from attending Youth Service in your area?	Why Would Young People not access Youth Services in your area?	Can you recommend changes to increase participation?	How are Young Peoples thoughts and opinions heard in the Youth Services you attend?	Are you aware of the volunteer opportunities within your Youth Service?
Court West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, we need to have a better relationship within the community and across the Shankill. • Bad reputation within community which can be changed • Different issues within different cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding for cross community work and support clubs with new opportunities for meeting others • Good relations is about inside our estate too • Opportunities for YP to not only work together but have opinions and make the trouble a thing of the past • Welcoming and programmes from other culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New friendships • Support with drug and alcohol • Homework support • New experiences • Qualification • Opportunities and development of employment skills • Volunteering • Understanding of relationships and support • Socialising • Somewhere to go • Safe place to meet friends • Can learn Irish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If they don't want to be seen doing things that are wrong • If they feel unsafe • No sense of belonging • Past barring from other centres/projects • Bullying • Don't like the staff • Centre not open at the right times • Shy • Once over 18 cant attend • Programmes aren't attractive enough • No interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have time for over 18s • More advertising of programmes • Open day • Football teams • Give members a budget • Late night opening • Provide opportunities for Irish speakers • Provide opportunities for victims of violence and CSE • Increase support such as complimentary therapies • Increase counselling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members forum • Annual youth conference • Evaluations • YP attend staff meetings and have rep on management committee • Feedback from sessions staff asking for opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes

Table 1: - BLACKMOUNTAIN

DEA - Blackmountain				
Environment & Climate	Health & Wellbeing	Living In Safety & Stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of Opportunity
Issues				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Litter ▪ Smoking/Vaping/E Cigs ▪ Pollution ▪ Transport ▪ mountain fires ▪ Green house effect ▪ Global warming ▪ Lack of greenery ▪ No bilingual signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drugs and alcohol ▪ Smoking/Vaping ▪ Self harm ▪ Bullying ▪ social media ▪ Mental health ▪ Physical health ▪ Emotional health ▪ Abuse ▪ Anxiety ▪ Depression ▪ Lack of service through Medium of Irish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alcohol ▪ Drugs ▪ Poorly maintained communities ▪ Lack of PSNI presence ▪ Finance and debt ▪ Sectarianism ▪ Following the older generation beliefs ▪ Feeling unsafe around parks ▪ Lack of Irish medium services available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School ▪ Bullying ▪ Mental health ▪ Exam pressure ▪ Anxiety/Impact of Covid 19 ▪ Learning difficulties ▪ school doesn't help ▪ Didn't fit in to school ▪ exams School focus on the general topics and not life ▪ Social Skills ▪ Not enough things that fit interests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Racism ▪ Sexuality ▪ Ageism ▪ Disabilities ▪ Homophobic ▪ Religion ▪ Hate crimes ▪ Ethnic minorities ▪ Stero-typing ▪ Judging ▪ Lack of legislation /resources/investment for Irish language right/youth services
Solutions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plant Trees ▪ Eco Friendly Trips ▪ Promote eco friendly ▪ Transport ▪ Littering programmes ▪ Environment programmes ▪ Gardening Groups ▪ Resources available in Irish ▪ Recycling bin/plastic free ▪ Delivery of programmes through Medium of Irish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide a space ▪ Programmes around awareness ▪ Fitness programmes ▪ Support and advice ▪ Provide people to talk to ▪ Educational visits ▪ Increase access to Irish Medium within area ▪ Addition nights of Irish Medium service ▪ Volunteer opportunities through Medium of Irish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cross community groups ▪ TBUC ▪ Awareness programmes with PSNI ▪ Detached and outreach workers ▪ Provide more nights of service for Irish speakers ▪ Raise awareness homelessness and food poverty ▪ Provide safe and non-judgemental space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More youth workers in school ▪ Help build confidence ▪ Encourage and support learning instead of judging ▪ More OCN's ▪ Accredited/non accredited training through Medium of Irish ▪ Resources available in Irish ▪ Vocational learning opportunities, wide range 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be inclusive ▪ Offer opportunities for everyone ▪ Make sure activities are appropriate ▪ Make youth centre more inclusive and lower age range ▪ Irish service to operate more nights ▪ Invest in Irish medium services ▪ Raise awareness of Irish medium campaigns ▪ Influence linguistic and social use of Irish language outside school

Table 2: - BLACKMOUNTAIN

		Good Relations	Participation				
DEA	Is it relevant?	What can Youth Service do to support you with Good Relations?	What do you gain from attending Youth Service in your area?	Why Would Young People not access Youth Services in your area?	Can you recommend changes to increase participation?	How are Young Peoples thoughts and opinions heard in the Youth Services you attend?	Are you aware of the volunteer opportunities within your Youth Service?
Black-mountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes very relevant • Yes others from different backgrounds and cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBUC programmes • More funding opportunities for residentials for longer periods • More cross community programmes • International youth groups • Help to get cross community groups set up • Youth-led Young people's voices are central to the provision offered to them • Providing more courses and educational training around the topics • Run More Good Relation events for young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidence • Qualifications • Socialising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun • Entertainment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trips • Support and guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn new skills • Safe space • Sense of leadership and positive attitude <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships • How to interact with others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting off the street • Increased self esteem • Allow you to be yourself • Group work educational programmes • How to be a better citizen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not like others who attend • Not enough opportunities for everyone • Sometimes the staff are stressed • Thinking the club is not for their lifestyle • Afraid • Perception of what peers may think of them • Intimated by attending • Don't like rules • Unaware what the club has to offer • Get shouted at • Involved in other activities • Afraid of being bullied • Can be boring • Lack of confidence • Mental health • Youths clubs are diverse and other may not like it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise more • Late night opening • More funding for more staffing • Open 7 nights a week • Be more welcoming • Have more activities • More fundraising and charity work • Show awareness of issues • More inclusive programmes and activities • Ensure everyone feels included and their voice heard • More trips and residentials • More space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to staff • Questionnaires • Group work • Evaluations • Suggestion box • Online surveys • Consultations • Youth forums • Video diaries • Some YP engage with management committee • Talking part in staff meetings • Junior and senior steering group • Senior members council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes

Table 1: - COLIN

DEA - Colin				
Environment & Climate	Health & Wellbeing	Living In Safety & Stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of Opportunity
Issues				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not really something people think about in my area ▪ No recycling bins in centres ▪ Green spaces being destroyed by ASB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suicides ▪ Exam stress ▪ Family breakdowns ▪ Poverty/ lack of food ▪ Drug abuse ▪ Lack of facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Domestic abuse ▪ ASB ▪ Joy Riding ▪ Young people becoming isolated ▪ Drug and alcohol abuse ▪ Family breakdown ▪ Poverty ▪ unemployment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excluded from school ▪ Exam pressure ▪ Too much stress ▪ Schools are too strict not enough informal\ fun subjects ▪ Misunderstood behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of diversity in communities too focused of protestant and Catholics ▪ Racism ▪ Centres not equipped for all genders ▪ Lack of understanding of LGBTQ+ issues ie pronouns
Solutions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recycling bins in all centres ▪ Energy efficient buildings ▪ Young people taking part in litter picks/ community clean ups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff to be trained on issues facing young people ▪ More fitness facilities in youth centres ▪ Food and healthy eating programmes for all members ▪ More outdoor activities ▪ Longer centre opening times ▪ Better online services with information on what's available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More activities to provide alternatives to ASB ▪ Longer opening hours late nights and weekends ▪ FUN activates on offer all year ▪ Provide health food for young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More OCN's/ qualifications ▪ Centres open during the day for young people not in school ▪ Provide programmes that are interesting ▪ Help with CV and employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More opportunities to mix with different people residential/TBUC ▪ Centres better set up for young people of ASD ▪ Promotion and more programmes of the diversity in communities ▪ Training and programmes on offer on LGBTQ+ issues

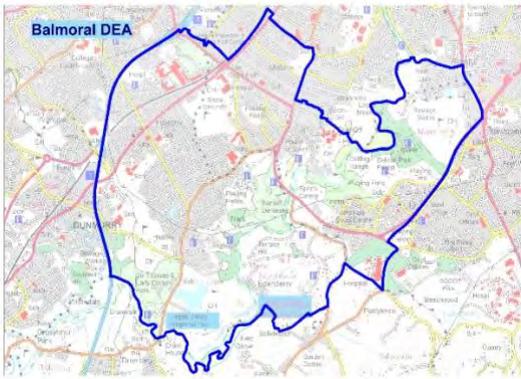
Table 2: - COLIN

	Good Relations		Participation				
DEA	Is it relevant?	What can Youth Service do to support you with Good Relations?	What do you gain from attending Youth Service in your area?	Why Would Young People not access Youth Services in your area?	Can you recommend changes to increase participation?	How are Young Peoples thoughts and opinions heard in the Youth Services you attend?	Are you aware of the volunteer opportunities within your Youth Service?
Colin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not really only in summer Yes and good to know other people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detached workers Cross community residentials and programmes More people should be included, work with more youth centres and make it feel more comfortable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Somewhere to go to meet new people Feeling supported by staff Getting involved in programmes Getting out of my community Chance to travel Learn and gain qualifications Getting out of trouble Off the street and a roof over our heads Socialise and feel supported One to one help Trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have more fun activities Promote what is available within centre Engaging in anti-social behaviour Feel like they're not included Scared of bad kids Bullying No parents to help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer food Longer opening hours More spaces for 14-16 Yr Olds International residentials Midnight clubs Sports tournaments Cleaner building/new build More activities Have boy only and girl only groups Ask parents to come Prize nights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff always listening Evaluations Asked our opinions and what we would like Meetings with senior management Feedback forms Surveys Word of mouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes

Appendix 4: District Electoral Area Summaries

District Electoral Area: Balmoral

Balmoral



Balmoral contains the wards of Belvoir, Finaghy, Malone, Musgrave and Upper Malone.

The district is bounded to the west and south west by the M1 Motorway, to east and south east by the River Lagan, to the east and north east by the Malone Road and to the north by Belfast City Hospital, Queen's University Belfast and Royal Victoria Hospital. According to the 2011 Census, the population of **Balmoral** District Electoral Area is **24,478** accounting for **1.35%** of the NI total. **17.48%** are aged under 16 years, **3.21%** do not have English as their first language. The Balmoral DEA has many communities perceived as affluent, however, there are clear pockets of deprivation within the DEA. 1 SOA in Balmoral is in the top 25% most deprived in the multiple deprivation domain, 1 SOA is in the top 10% most deprived in terms of education and one is in the top 10% most deprived in the crime domain.

A series of focus groups with young people within Balmoral DEA recorded the responses noted in Tables 1 & 2 when young people were asked the following questions:

Table 1:

- What are the issues for young people in relation to Environment and Climate, Health and Wellbeing, Living in Safety and Stability, Learning & Achieving, Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of opportunity?
- What can Youth Service do to help address these issues?

Table 2:

- Is Good Relations Work relevant to you?
- What can youth service do to support you with Good Relations?
- What do you gain from attending Youth Services in your area?
- Why would young people not access youth services in your area?

Table 1:

DEA - BALMORAL				
Environment & Climate	Health & Wellbeing	Living In Safety & Stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of Opportunity
Issues				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter and rubbish Youtube videos telling people/races will die if we dont clean up the planet climate change communities with empty bottles/ cigarettes and dangerous items for younger youth to find on streets smoking/vapin no housing/green areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neglecting their own health both physically and mentally stress from schools addiction to vaping poor diets poor sleep schedule lack of active lifestyles seeing older people do stuff that isn't good for them and their mental health and copying Not being able to express feelings negative self-confidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> behaviour in communities difficult to adapt with other religions and cultures different language and not feel safe in community people may get attacked because of their race/gender or sexuality feel unsafe because of their religious background, pretty much everything that others see different internet crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> not many people get what they need to help their learning not much support people have problems with basic tasks and it becomes an issue writing (dyslexia) specific teaching styles for special needs preferred learning for youth instead of one way - not fun way to learn Pushed too quick to learn things and no regard to waiting at youth's pace so they can achieve Maybe cant read or write well for the qualifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People can be Left out Not being asked to friendly events just because they are different Excluded for being in any way different have warped views of people considered 'other' thinking that because people look or act different they cant do things or be good at anything Struggles with trying to get involved in community Everything in English although speak a different language Scared that will be treated differently in places - projects
Solutions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do projects about littering and destroying the ozone layer Mindfulness about the world/ learn to care project Litter pick up groups Climate days for young people Reports/ highlighting wildlife and why should value it more Teach young people about the climate crisis environment groups/projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run programs Teach young people about healthy lifestyles Learn about your mental state and how to maintain them Do a project to show what happens when you let yourself go like fat Thor in avengers Make a social group conference to learn about health and wellbeing Groups that make people feel safe/mental health Do activities stuff to help our health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make groups of different religions and cultures to gather respect and talk together Make new groups for people to have a safe place Talk about difference in other people Antisocial behaviour and discrimination by creating safe spaces for youth Bring people in to talk to us from other places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maybe go to the school and talk with them Make more chances for them to learn with different qualifications Have small activities that can boost their intellect skills Have youth services help by providing a space where youth with special needs can learn at their own pace Show learning is not a bad thing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion Addressing the issue of exclusion of certain places people with special needs have a space to socialise with those of different religion or disability Create a safe space for people to come to in centres Use simple language Make smaller groups for people Bring different races together on days- friendly events

Table 2:

	Good Relations		Participation				
DEA	Is it relevant?	What can Youth Service do to support you with Good Relations?	What do you gain from attending Youth Service in your area?	Why Would Young People not access Youth Services in your area?	Can you recommend changes to increase participation?	How are Young Peoples thoughts and opinions heard in the Youth Services you attend?	Are you aware of the volunteer opportunities within your Youth Service?
Balmoral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes – its important to socialise and better ourselves • Get to work well with others • Helps us learn not to attack people and be kind and not judge • Learn about different cultures and make new friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide programmes, go on trips with other communities, cross community programmes, working with other cultures and learn about them • Bring different clubs together • Cross community residentials • Help us understand and socialise and what we need o do to have good relations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Meeting new people and new friendships + Group activities and have fun + Staff are nice and kind + Help me with my confidence + Knowledge + Opportunities + Self worth & feel valued + Respect + Beating mental health and anxiety issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't enjoy it • Too many questions get asked • Not feeling welcomed or comfortable • Bullying • Shy & feeling insecure • Disabilities • Religion • Lack of facilities • Not having friends • Fear of being judged • Not enough trips or entertainment in centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open more days during the week • Advertise youth centres & programmes • More opportunities within the clubs ie sports programmes • Trips • More funding for residentials • More resources • Inter club visits • Chill time to relax • Smaller group to help meet others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They listen to us • Help us in group when asking • Have supported when needed • Through the youth voice • Talking with other youth workers • Expressing issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes

Current EA Funded Youth Provision:

Belvoir Youth Centre

Taughmonagh Youth Centre

Finaghy Youth Centre

LYNKD Youth Centre @ Fleming Fulton School

11 Generic Non-Targeted Youth Groups

South Belfast area Project also support targeted youth work in the area

Analysis of Need:

Health and Wellbeing

Young people have cited issues with both their physical health and their mental health. They have recognised that some of the choices they make impact on their health. This includes poor diet, inability to express feelings and lack of exercise. Young people would welcome opportunities to gain further education about improving their physical and mental health and would like further provision of physical activities.

Learning and Achieving

Academic and qualification focus in school is a concern for young people who feel that the learning styles through the formal education sector do not always meet their educational needs and instead create barriers to learning and increase feelings of limited support in school. Most of the post primary schools in South Belfast are high performing grammar schools. There are only 2 non grammar post primary schools in South Belfast which means that many young people from within the Botanic ward travel outside of their areas to attend school. Opportunities for alternative qualifications and learning experiences facilitated in a more relaxed, fun manner would enhance learning and help remove some of the barriers presented.

Living in Safety and Stability

Feedback from young people has recognised the risks to safety associated with race, religious background and sexuality. Many are also concerned about increasing levels of ASB in their communities. Additionally, a recent stakeholder engagement event highlighted the concerns of young people in relation to domestic abuse and feeling safe in their own homes.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity, and Good Relations

Young people have expressed concerns that those with special educational needs and disabilities risk social isolation as opportunities to engage with others outside of school are very limited. Difference in ethnicity caused struggles for young people trying to become involved within their communities. In 2019 there were 195 newcomer pupils from Balmoral registered in schools.

It was shared that creating a safe space for young people to learn develop relationships with others would enhance understanding of difference, increase feelings of safety and help develop respect for others.

Environment and Climate

Litter, pollution and lack of green spaces have been highlighted as the main concerns for young people within Balmoral DEA. Support from youth service in addressing these issues could include social action projects and awareness raising.

Participation

Young people need youth centres to enable them to access a safe space where they can develop new friendships, seek support for health and wellbeing, feel valued and participate in new experiences. Young people felt centres could be more accessible if they extended opening times, promoted their services more widely and provided more programme opportunities.

Botanic



Botanic Contains the wards of Blackstaff, Central, Ormeau, Stranmillis and Windsor.

Botanic is a very diverse area. It has a number of inner-city working class PUL and CNR communities as well as the Holylands student area and some more affluent areas. Botanic has a significant number of newcomer and BME communities, 38% of all newcomer children in Belfast live within the South Belfast area. According to the 2011 Census, the population of **Botanic** District Electoral Area is **43,437** accounting for **2.4%** of the NI total. **12.27%** are aged under 16 years, **9.67%** do not have English as their first language.

4 of the super out-put areas (SOA's) in Botanic rank within the top 10% of the health deprivation domain with a further 2 SOA's in the top 20%.

11.9% of the population living in households in Botanic have an income which is below 60 per cent of the NI median.

Antisocial behaviour is a concern with 7 of the SOA's ranking in the top 5% of areas recording highest levels of ASB.

A series of focus groups with young people within Botanic DEA recorded the responses noted in Tables 1 & 2 when young people were asked the following questions:

Table 1:

- What are the issues for young people in relation to Environment and Climate, Health and Wellbeing, Living in Safety and Stability, Learning & Achieving, Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of opportunity?
- What can Youth Service do to help address these issues?

Table 2:

- Is Good Relations Work relevant to you?
- What can youth service do to support you with Good Relations?
- What do you gain from attending Youth Services in your area?
- Why would young people not access youth services in your area?

Table 1:

DEA - Botanic				
Environment & Climate	Health & Wellbeing	Living In Safety & Stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of Opportunity
Issues				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pollution ▪ climate change ▪ lack of recycling ▪ littering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ mental health ▪ cyber bullying ▪ exercising ▪ socialising ▪ diet and healthy eating ▪ period poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drug/ alcohol abuse • junkies • violence • Sectarianism • paedophilia • drug dealers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not enough help in school • OCN • unemployment • parents not being able to help with school work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bullying • racism • sectarianism • homophobia • refugee
Solutions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Waste bins ▪ Litter picking ▪ Signs to direct people to bins and recycling ▪ More groups on how to safe the planet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create more awareness programmes ▪ Create positive posters and signs for the youth centre ▪ Healthy eating and cooking groups ▪ Period poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drug and alcohol workshops ▪ Provide safeguarding information to make young people aware of how to report issues they have ▪ Cross community groups ▪ Meet with police to remove paedophiles from the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide OCN training to help with education and development apprenticeships and Job opportunities ▪ Afterschool programmes for older young people to help with school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduce more lgbtq+, muslim, jewish, Indian, polish people into our area so that we can get to know them better and understand their culture better ▪ Cultural nights to invite people in and try food from their country small worlds getting to know refugees better

Table 2:

	Good Relations		Participation				
DEA	Is it relevant?	What can Youth Service do to support you with Good Relations?	What do you gain from attending Youth Service in your area?	Why Would Young People not access Youth Services in your area?	Can you recommend changes to increase participation?	How are Young Peoples thoughts and opinions heard in the Youth Services you attend?	Are you aware of the volunteer opportunities within your Youth Service?
Botanic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes through TBUC programmes but needs to be more than protestant and catholic • Understand different communities and cultures • Helps to build peace and friendship and young people more open to get involved. • Contributes to multiculturalism and inclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have more programmes • TBUC programmes • Different groups and activities for us to learn from • Visit different areas and youth clubs • International programmes to meet different people • Cross community groups • Workshops on religion and culture meeting ex paramilitary prisoners • Raise awareness through campaigns/posters • Events to meet and experience others backgrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel like we belong somewhere • Communication skills and increased confidence • Learn about others • Better understanding of Mental health and wellbeing • Friendships • Feeling valued • Safe place • New experiences • Qualifications • Social interaction • Go on trips • Fun • Trips away 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not feel safe because of religion or culture • Don't speak English • Have no friends who go • Bullying • Racism • Sectarianism • Not enough info on social media and around the area • Home problems • Friendship problems • Scared • Social anxiety • Lack of confidence • Friends may be involved in other things • Drugs and bad experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer funding from EA • More residential and programmes • Recognition of Irish language • Opening day time and longer • Welcoming • Promotion flyers • Open days/nights • More social media advertising • Engage more with YP • Open more opportunities for YP programmes and activities • Better equipment • Open all rooms within youth club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listened to by staff • Surveys • Evaluations • Being able to have a voice • Stakeholder meetings • Talk with our youth workers • Group activities • New committee that we can have our voices heard and let the club know about the issues and activities we want • Word of mouth • Junior and senior youth forum which meets once a month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes

Current EA funded Youth Provision in Botanic:

St John Vianney Youth Centre

Rosario Youth Centre

St Malachy' Youth Centre

Nubia Youth Centre

Donegall Pass Youth Centre

Charter Youth Centre

13 Generic Non Targeted Youth Groups

South Belfast area Project also support targeted youth work in the area particularly with newcomer children

Analysis of Need:

Health and Wellbeing

In South Belfast, Shaftsbury 1,2 and 3, Botanic 4 & 5 and Blackstaff 1 & 2 and are all ranked in the top 25% most deprived SOA's in the health domain. Over the whole of the Inner South Communities in terms of health and wellbeing the areas on average fall into the top 5% most deprived areas of Northern Ireland. The specific focus is relayed upon mental health, showing that between Donegall Pass, The Lower Ormeau Road and The Market Area are within the top 10% of mental health fatalities and addiction abuse in the whole of Northern Ireland. Young people have highlighted lack of exercise as an issue affecting health and have cited cyber bullying as a factor impacting mental health. Creating greater awareness and providing a range of emotional and physical health programmes can help educate young people on how to improve their health concerns.

Learning and Achieving

In the 2020-21 academic year 67.2% of young people in Botanic achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths. Young people have stated that they don't receive sufficient support through the formal sector to help develop learning opportunities. Furthermore, it was highlighted that parents are not able to support with learning at home. They recognised that youth service provision in the afternoon and alternative qualifications could enhance educational attainment.

Living in Safety and Stability

With its proximity to the city centre, there has been a noted increase in the use of drugs and alcohol in open spaces, an issue that has been highlighted by young people as impacting their feelings of safety. Out of the top 10 most deprived SOAs in the crime and disorder domain, 5 are located within Belfast with Botanic 3 ranking 4th. Factoring in the rest of the Inner South wards it is within the top 10%.

7302 crimes were reported within the Botanic area in 2020. 663 of these had a domestic abuse motivation. When looking into the crime map provided online by the PSNI, only 20% of all reported crime are located within the areas of Donegall Pass, The Lower Ormeau Road and The Market.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity, and Good Relations

In 2019 there were 1055 newcomer pupils from Botanic registered in schools. A recent report from Red Cross highlighted 110 children aged 5-11, and 69 young people aged 12-16 from a number of African countries are currently housed in hotels in Belfast City Centre with their families who are seeking asylum. Young people have recognised that racism and is an issue within their community and believe that cultural sessions in youth centres would create a better understanding of the levels of diversity within their community and would help promote understanding of difference. There was a recognition that Good Relations work was very relevant and that additional programmes such as T:BUC would support multiculturalism and inclusion.

Forward South Partnership's Connecting Communities project funded by The Executive Office's Urban Village Initiative aims to promote good relations and to find innovative ways of building on those relationships. This project in partnership with Urban Village covers the three core areas of Markets, Donegall Pass and Sandy Row in South Belfast.

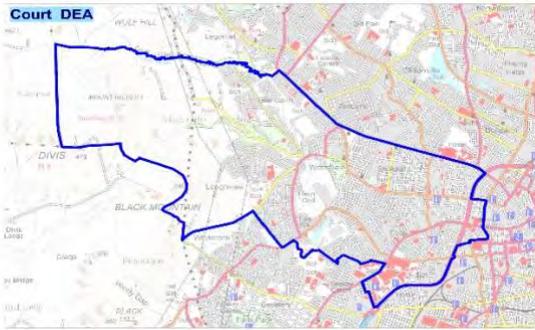
Environment and Climate

Much of Botanic is inner city and the environment is affected by those travelling to the city on a daily basis for professional and social reasons. Pollution and litter in communities is an ongoing issue recognised by young people as having a negative impact on their living environment.

Participation

Youth centres in Botanic are ideally placed to ensure they are accessible to the young people most in need. Young people have stated that meeting new people and developing new friendships is a reason why they attend their youth centre. They recognise the support they receive in terms of mental health and anxiety issues and welcome the opportunities the programmes offer.

Court West



Court West is part of **Court DEA**. Court straddles the Lower Falls and Clonard wards collectively known as Court West and The Greater Shankill (Court North).

According to the 2011 Census, the population of **Court** District Electoral Area is **32,786** accounting for **1.81%** of the NI total. **20.78%** are aged under 16 years, **2.49%** do not have English as their first language.

All SOA's in Court West rank in the top 10% most deprived in terms of multiple deprivation. 4 are ranked in the top 5% most deprived in the health domain, 1 SOA in the top 2% most deprived in Education and 3 SOA's within the top 5% for ASB.

A series of focus groups with young people within Court West DEA recorded the responses noted in Tables 1 & 2 when young people were asked the following questions:

Table 1:

- What are the issues for young people in relation to Environment and Climate, Health and Wellbeing, Living in Safety and Stability, Learning & Achieving, Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of opportunity?
- What can Youth Service do to help address these issues?

Table 2:

- Is Good Relations Work relevant to you?
- What can youth service do to support you with Good Relations?
- What do you gain from attending Youth Services in your area?
- Why would young people not access youth services in your area?

Table 1:

DEA – Court West				
Environment & Climate	Health & Wellbeing	Living In Safety & Stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of Opportunity
Issues				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of Green Space ▪ Interface Walls ▪ Lack of play space ▪ Air quality ▪ Lack of opportunity to effect change ▪ Waste ground ▪ Graffiti and vandalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poor mental health ▪ Drugs and alcohol ▪ Child sexual exploitation ▪ Relationship ▪ Violence/domestic abuse ▪ Sexual violence ▪ Bullying ▪ Open use of drugs ▪ Poverty ▪ Poor physical health ▪ Lack of emotional regulation ▪ Poor decision making ▪ Car crime ▪ Poverty ▪ Paramilitary attacks ▪ Lack of health education ▪ Lack of support services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staying off the streets ▪ Bonfires ▪ Police ▪ Paramilitaries ▪ Gangs ▪ Drugs ▪ Joyriders ▪ Being robbed ▪ Sex crimes/Abuse ▪ Bullying (online & personal) ▪ Violence ▪ Peace Walls ▪ Anti-social behaviour ▪ Knife crime ▪ Not able to walk the streets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School exclusion • Not good at exams • Schools dinners (poverty) • No Wifi • GSL work • Only one computer in the house • Training for work • Life skills • Residential/GSL • Accreditations • Home work support • Drug education • Working with other people • Learn about mental healthy • Not achieving in life • Teachers don't care about us 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace Walls • Sectarianism • People with disabilities are isolated • Women's issues • LGBTQ+ opportunities • Irish language • Lack of multiculturalism • Prejudice • Violence • Kids are barred • young people are not consulted • Young women are violated, bullied & threatened • Health issues • Divis gets nothing
Solutions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education on how the issues effect residents ▪ Create opportunities for environmental ▪ Participation ▪ Provide support services for young people wanting to volunteer ▪ Facilitate social action opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide education programmes ▪ Help with drugs and alcohol support ▪ Risks of poor health ▪ Stop the bullying ▪ Provide counselling ▪ Run sports programmes ▪ Run more residentials ▪ Provide complimentary therapies every night ▪ Provide healthy food ▪ Stop the hoods stealing cars ▪ Reduce programmes ▪ Help with stress ▪ Sexual Health programmes ▪ Gender violence programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Detached workers on the streets ▪ SPARK Programme ▪ GSL Programme ▪ Keep the youth centre open later at the weekend ▪ Drug & alcohol programmes ▪ Support young people who are struggling ▪ Offer education programmes ▪ Somewhere to go ▪ Something positive to do ▪ More counselling ▪ complimentary therapies ▪ More trips/residentials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employment programmes ▪ Courses & training ▪ Accreditation ▪ Working for people who have been suspended ▪ Skills for work ▪ Life skills programme ▪ Work experience ▪ GSL Programme ▪ 3 C's programme ▪ Learn about relationships ▪ Sexual health ▪ Drug programmes ▪ Learn about bullying ▪ Detached workers in the park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Programmes • SPARK for girls • GSL for more young people • Run a disabled project • More cross community work • More GSL work • Help us get a voice and be heard • More job experience • Irish language classes • More opportunities for kids from Divis • More opportunities to engage with people of colour • Operate an LGBTQ+ programme

Table 2:

	Good Relations		Participation				
DEA	Is it relevant?	What can Youth Service do to support you with Good Relations?	What do you gain from attending Youth Service in your area?	Why Would Young People not access Youth Services in your area?	Can you recommend changes to increase participation?	How are Young Peoples thoughts and opinions heard in the Youth Services you attend?	Are you aware of the volunteer opportunities within your Youth Service?
Court West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, we need to have a better relationship within the community and across the Shankill. • Bad reputation within community which can be changed • Different issues within different cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding for cross community work and support clubs with new opportunities for meeting others • Good relations is about inside our estate too • Opportunities for YP to not only work together but have opinions and make the trouble a thing of the past • Welcoming and programmes from other culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New friendships • Support with drug and alcohol • Homework support • New experiences • Qualification • Opportunities and development of employment skills • Volunteering • Understanding of relationships and support • Socialising • Somewhere to go • Safe place to meet friends • Can learn Irish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If they don't want to be seen doing things that are wrong • If they feel unsafe • No sense of belonging • Past barring from other centres/projects • Bullying • Don't like the staff • Centre not open at the right times • Shy • Once over 18 cant attend • Programmes aren't attractive enough • No interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have time for over 18s • More advertising of programmes • Open day • Football teams • Give members a budget • Late night opening • Provide opportunities for Irish speakers • Provide opportunities for victims of violence and CSE • Increase support such as complimentary therapies • Increase counselling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members forum • Annual youth conference • Evaluations • YP attend staff meetings and have rep on management committee • Feedback from sessions staff asking for opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes

Current EA Funded Youth Provision in Court West

Divis Youth Project

St Peter's Immaculata Youth Centre

Clonard Monastery Youth Centre

7 Generic Non Targeted Youth Groups

Analysis of Need:

Health and Wellbeing

All SOA's in the Court west DEA are ranked within the top 5% most deprived in the health domain. Young people have noted social issues including drugs and alcohol as having an impact on their health. Issues related to mental health, poor physical health, poverty and lack of education being an issue. There was recognition that behaviour of others had an impact on health, this included violence and domestic abuse and paramilitary attacks.

Learning and Achieving

In the 2020-21 academic year, 59.9% of young people from within the Court DEA achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths. This is the lowest percentage of all DEA in the South and West Belfast area. This percentage decreases to only 49.5% when considering only those pupils entitled to free school meals. The DEA also reports the highest number of households (16.5%) whose income is below 60% of the NI median and the highest percentage of the working age population (38.3%) who are income deprived. Academic attainment levels clearly reflect the impact on employment and earning opportunities. Young people highlighted that they felt they weren't good at exams and were not achieving in life. Lack of wifi and access to computers at home was noted as another impact on their ability to learn and achieve. It was felt through the feedback provided that the young people would benefit from lifeskills programmes, work experience and alternative qualification opportunities.

Living in Safety and Stability

Court West has an interface area which runs the area from Townsend Street, through the Lower Falls and Clonard areas to Bombay Street and Cupar Street. It continues along the Springfield through Lanark Way up to Workman Avenue on the Springfield Road and the Innovation Centre. The West Circular Roundabout area would also be considered an interface. On the other side of the area the interface stretches from the vicinity of Broadway roundabout down the length of the Westlink towards Roden and Distillery Streets. Both of these interfaces have experienced increased levels of antisocial behaviour in the past 2 years resulting in young people being involved in riotous behaviour and becoming involved in the youth justice system. Young people have reported that the peace walls have an impact on their feelings of safety and stability.

The Lower Falls community has seen a significant increase (+41%) in anti-social/community behaviour within the area (PSNI Bulletin, 2021). There has been a reported increase in domestic violence, interpersonal violence, crime, sexual and online abuse and CSE related harm to young people.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity, and Good Relations

The peace walls in the community and increased levels of sectarian related conflict have been highlighted by young people as having an impact on Good Relations with neighbouring communities.

7.4% of post primary school pupils living in Court DEA currently have an educational statement, an additional 18.6% are at stages 1-4 of the assessment process. Young people feel that those with disabilities are isolated. There are 315 newcomer pupils in the area, 69.8 % of whom are primary school age and 22.2% in post primary schools. PSNI hate crime statistics 2019 highlight 176 recorded hate related incidents, the highest of these (48) relating to race.

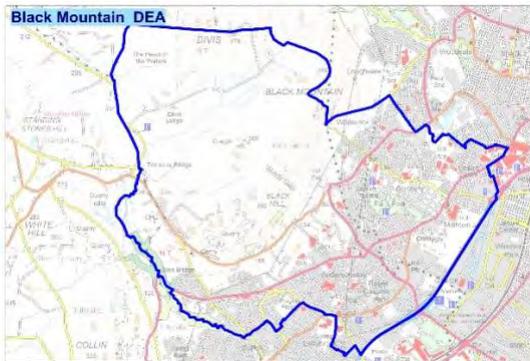
Environment and Climate

Much of Court West is inner city and the environment is affected by those travelling to the city on a daily basis for professional and social reasons. Air quality, lack of green space and litter in communities is an ongoing issue recognised by young people as having a negative impact on their living environment. Young people also feel that they have limited ability to affect change in their community.

Participation

Youth centres have been acknowledged as safe spaces where young people can meet friends and make new friendships. Young people recognise the opportunities they can avail of including participation in programmes, access volunteering opportunities and develop employment skills.

Blackmountain



Blackmountain contains the wards of Andersonstown, Ballymurphy, Beechmount, Colin Glen, Falls Park, Shaw's Road and Turf Lodge

According to the 2011 Census, the population of **Blackmountain** District Electoral Area is **36,259** accounting for **2.02%** of the NI total. **21.27%** are aged under 16 years, **3.56%** do not have English as their first language.

12.4% of the population within the DEA are living in households where the income is below 60% of the NI average and 36.4% of the working age population are employment deprived with 3 SOA's recorded as being in the top 2% most deprived in the employment domain.

3 SOA's are in the top 1% most deprived in terms of health with 2 of these ranking 1st and 2nd most deprived in all of NI. 3 wards within Blackmountain DEA are designated Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.

A series of focus groups with young people within Blackmountain DEA recorded the responses noted in Tables 1 & 2 when young people were asked the following questions:

Table 1:

- What are the issues for young people in relation to Environment and Climate, Health and Wellbeing, Living in Safety and Stability, Learning & Achieving, Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of opportunity?
- What can Youth Service do to help address these issues?

Table 2:

- Is Good Relations Work relevant to you?
- What can youth service do to support you with Good Relations?
- What do you gain from attending Youth Services in your area?
- Why would young people not access youth services in your area?

Table 1:

DEA - Blackmountain				
Environment & Climate	Health & Wellbeing	Living In Safety & Stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of Opportunity
Issues				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Litter ▪ Smoking/Vaping/E Cigs ▪ Pollution ▪ Transport ▪ mountain fires ▪ Green house effect ▪ Global warming ▪ Lack of greenery ▪ No bilingual signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drugs and alcohol ▪ Smoking/Vaping ▪ Self harm ▪ Bullying ▪ social media ▪ Mental health ▪ Physical health ▪ Emotional health ▪ Abuse ▪ Anxiety ▪ Depression ▪ Lack of service through Medium of Irish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alcohol ▪ Drugs ▪ Poorly maintained communities ▪ Lack of PSNI presence ▪ Finance and debt ▪ Sectarianism ▪ Following the older generation beliefs ▪ Feeling unsafe around parks ▪ Lack of Irish medium services available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School ▪ Bullying ▪ Mental health ▪ Exam pressure ▪ Anxiety/Impact of Covid 19 ▪ Learning difficulties school doesn't help ▪ Didn't fit in to school exams School focus on the general topics and not life ▪ Social Skills ▪ Not enough things that fit interests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Racism ▪ Sexuality ▪ Ageism ▪ Disabilities ▪ Homophobic ▪ Religion ▪ Hate crimes ▪ Ethnic minorities ▪ Stero-typing ▪ Judging ▪ Lack of legislation /resources/investment for Irish language right/youth services
Solutions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plant Trees ▪ Eco Friendly Trips ▪ Promote eco friendly ▪ Transport ▪ Littering programmes ▪ Environment programmes ▪ Gardening Groups ▪ Resources available in Irish ▪ Recycling bin/plastic free ▪ Delivery of programmes through Medium of Irish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide a space ▪ Programmes around awareness ▪ Fitness programmes ▪ Support and advice ▪ Provide people to talk to ▪ Educational visits ▪ Increase access to Irish Medium within area ▪ Addition nights of Irish Medium service ▪ Volunteer opportunities through Medium of Irish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cross community groups ▪ TBUC ▪ Awareness programmes with PSNI ▪ Detached and outreach workers ▪ Provide more nights of service for Irish speakers ▪ Raise awareness homelessness and food poverty ▪ Provide safe and non-judgemental space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More youth workers in school ▪ Help build confidence ▪ Encourage and support learning instead of judging ▪ More OCN's ▪ Accredited/non accredited training through Medium of Irish ▪ Resources available in Irish ▪ Vocational learning opportunities, wide range 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be inclusive ▪ Offer opportunities for everyone ▪ Make sure activities are appropriate ▪ Make youth centre more inclusive and lower age range ▪ Irish service to operate more nights ▪ Invest in Irish medium services ▪ Raise awareness of Irish medium campaigns ▪ Influence linguistic and social use of Irish language outside school

Table 2:

Good Relations		Participation					
DEA	Is it relevant?	What can Youth Service do to support you with Good Relations?	What do you gain from attending Youth Service in your area?	Why Would Young People not access Youth Services in your area?	Can you recommend changes to increase participation?	How are Young Peoples thoughts and opinions heard in the Youth Services you attend?	Are you aware of the volunteer opportunities within your Youth Service?
Blackmountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes very relevant • Yes others from different backgrounds and cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBUC programmes • More funding opportunities for residential for longer periods • More cross community programmes • International youth groups • Help to get cross community groups set up • Youth-led Young people's voices are central to the provision offered to them • Providing more courses and educational training around the topics • Run More Good Relation events for young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidence • Qualifications • Socialising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun • Entertainment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trips • Support and guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn new skills • Safe space • Sense of leadership and positive attitude <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships • How to interact with others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting off the street • Increased self esteem • Allow you to be yourself • Group work educational programmes • How to be a better citizen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not like others who attend • Not enough opportunities for everyone • Sometimes the staff are stressed • Thinking the club is not for their lifestyle • Afraid • Perception of what peers may think of them • Intimated by attending • Don't like rules • Unaware what the club has to offer • Get shouted at • Involved in other activities • Afraid of being bullied • Can be boring • Lack of confidence • Mental health • Youths clubs are diverse and other may not like it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise more • Late night opening • More funding for more staffing • Open 7 nights a week • Be more welcoming • Have more activities • More fundraising and charity work • Show awareness of issues • More inclusive programmes and activities • Ensure everyone feels included and their voice heard • More trips and residential • More space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to staff • Questionnaires • Group work • Evaluations • Suggestion box • Online surveys • Consultations • Youth forums • Video diaries • Some YP engage with management committee • Talking part in staff meetings • Junior and senior steering group • Senior members council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes

Current EA Funded Youth Provision:

Willowbank Youth Centre

St John's Youth Centre

Corpus Christi youth Centre

Glor na Mona

Newhill Youth Centre

Matt Talbot Youth Centre

Holy Trinity Youth Centre

St Teresa's Youth Centre

St Agnes' Youth Centre

St Michael's Youth Centre

Upper Andersonstown Community Forum

Glen Parent Parent and Youth Group

Suffolk Youth Centre

West Belfast Area Project also support targeted youth work in the area particularly with newcomer children

Analysis of Need:

Health and Wellbeing

Whiterock 2, Colin Glen 1, Falls 2 and Whiterock 3 are all ranked in the top 1% SOA's experiencing health deprivation with Whiterock 2 being identified as the most deprived in Northern Ireland in the health domain.

40 deaths by suicide have been recorded between 2014 and 2018 in the 3 NRA's. Young people have highlighted that the majority of their health concerns are related to mental health and recognise that youth provision offers a safe space where they can seek support and advice on health matters.

Learning and Achieving

Of the 3000 post-primary pupils' resident in Blackmountain DEA, 58.3% have an entitlement to free school meals. In 2021 71.1% of pupils achieved at least 5 A* to C grades at GCSE including English and Maths. 22.1% are at SEN stage 1-4 or are statemented.

2 SOA's in Blackmountain are in the top 2% most deprived in the education domain. Young people have reported that schools focus heavily on exam success in subjects that do not fit with their interests. They feel there are limited opportunities to develop social skills and would welcome a more a more varied range of vocational subjects.

Living in Safety and Stability

3 SOA's are ranked in the top 10% for ASB reported incidents. The DEA also has a number of areas that would be recognised as hotspots for antisocial behaviour and as such are seen as unsafe for young people. Drugs and alcohol misuse within the DEA has been an issue noted by young people as impacting on their feelings of safety. An interface area on the Stewartstown Road separates the CNR Lenadoon community and the PUL Suffolk community. This interface has recently experienced an increase in tensions between young people. These are not particularly at key periods of high tension but are more sporadic with little to indicate what has led to this happening.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity, and Good Relations

13.7 % of young people from Blackmountain attend a special needs school or at a post primary school with SEN needs stages 3-5. 260 newcomer young people enrolled in education in Blackmountain DEA. Young people recognise there are issues within their community relating to others perceived as being different and understand the range of hate crimes that take place against individuals. PSNI hate crime statistics 2019 highlight 83 recorded hate related incidents, the highest of these relating to homophobia.

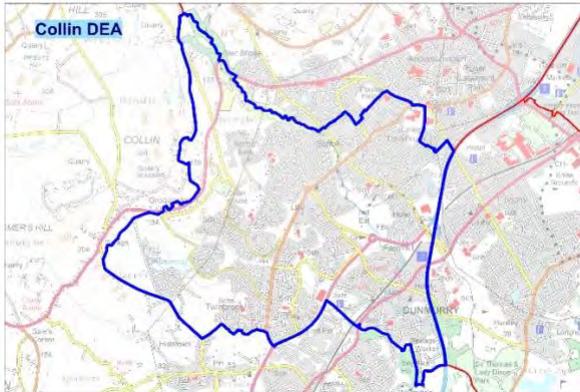
Environment and Climate

Young people have a good understanding of environmental issues that impact on their daily lives. They recognise the contribution that youth services can make to improving this locally and would like to see more programmes and activities that promote understanding and knowledge of the benefits of improving their environment.

Participation

Young people have articulated that they are aware of volunteering opportunities within youth service and recognise the benefits of participating in youth services. They have highlighted reasons why young people would not attend youth service provision and have made a number of recommendations on how youth service can improve to encourage access by all. Youth service should promote services better and be more inclusive to ensure all young people feel that their voice is being heard.

Collin



Collin contains the wards of [Dunmurry](#); [Ladybrook](#), [Lagmore](#), [Poleglass](#), [Twinbrook](#) and [Stewartstown](#).

According to the 2011 Census, the population of **Collin** District Electoral Area is **34,021** accounting for **1.88%** of the NI total. **25.9%** are aged under 16 years, **1.98%** do not have English as their first language. Collin was previously located in the Lisburn City Council area, however, since the reorganization of council boundaries in 2016 it now sits within Belfast City Council area.

6 SOA' sin the DEA are ranked in the top 25% areas for multiple deprivation. There has been major development of housing in recent years, however, the infrastructure to support the high number of residents does not currently meet need. As such residents including young people travel outside the area for social, economic and post primary educational needs. Collin is a neighbourhood renewal area and is also supported by Urban Villages.

A series of focus groups with young people within Collin DEA recorded the responses noted in Tables 1 & 2 when young people were asked the following questions:

Table 1:

- What are the issues for young people in relation to Environment and Climate, Health and Wellbeing, Living in Safety and Stability, Learning & Achieving, Inclusion, Diversity & Equality of opportunity?
- What can Youth Service do to help address these issues?

Table 2:

- Is Good Relations Work relevant to you?
- What can youth service do to support you with Good Relations?
- What do you gain from attending Youth Services in your area?
- Why would young people not access youth services in your area?

Table 1:

DEA - Collin				
Environment & Climate	Health & Wellbeing	Living In Safety & Stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of Opportunity
Issues				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not really something people think about in my area No recycling bins in centres Green spaces being destroyed by ASB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suicides Exam stress Family breakdowns Poverty/ lack of food Drug abuse Lack of facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic abuse ASB Joy Riding Young people becoming isolated Drug and alcohol abuse Family breakdown Poverty unemployment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excluded from school Exam pressure Too much stress Schools are too strict not enough informal\fun subjects Misunderstood behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of diversity in communities too focused of protestant and Catholics Racism Centres not equipped for all genders Lack of understanding of LGBTQ+ issues ie pronouns
Solutions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycling bins in all centres Energy efficient buildings Young people taking part in litter picks/ community clean ups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to be trained on issues facing young people More fitness facilities in youth centres Food and healthy eating programmes for all members More outdoor activities Longer centre opening times Better online services with information on what's available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More activities to provide alternatives to ASB Longer opening hours late nights and weekends FUN activates on offer all year Provide health food for young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More OCN's/ qualifications Centres open during the day for young people not in school Provide programmes that are interesting Help with CV and employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More opportunities to mix with different people residential/TBUC Centres better set up for young people of ASD Promotion and more programmes of the diversity in communities Training and programmes on offer on LGBTQ+ issues

Table 2:

		Good Relations		Participation			
DEA	Is it relevant?	What can Youth Service do to support you with Good Relations?	What do you gain from attending Youth Service in your area?	Why Would Young People not access Youth Services in your area?	Can you recommend changes to increase participation?	How are Young Peoples thoughts and opinions heard in the Youth Services you attend?	Are you aware of the volunteer opportunities within your Youth Service?
Colin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not really only in summer Yes and good to know other people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detached workers Cross community residentials and programmes More people should be included, work with more youth centres and make it feel more comfortable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Somewhere to go to meet new people Feeling supported by staff Getting involved in programmes Getting out of my community Chance to travel Learn and gain qualifications Getting out of trouble Off the street and a roof over our heads Socialise and feel supported One to one help Trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have more fun activities Promote what is available within centre Engaging in anti-social behaviour Feel like they're not included Scared of bad kids Bullying No parents to help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer food Longer opening hours More spaces for 14-16 Yr Olds International residentials Midnight clubs Sports tournaments Cleaner building/new build More activities Have boy only and girl only groups Ask parents to come Prize nights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff always listening Evaluations Asked our opinions and what we would like Meetings with senior management Feedback forms Surveys Word of mouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes

Current EA Funded Youth Provision:

Colin Youth Development Centre
Colin Detached Project
Lagmore Area Project
Saints Youth Centre
Lagmore Youth Project
7 Generic Non Targeted Groups

Analysis of Need:

Health and Wellbeing

7 SOA's are ranked in the top 5% most deprived in the health domain. Drug abuse, poverty and family breakdowns have been noted by young people as having an impact on their health and wellbeing. 17.8 % of young people aged under 15 years are living in households where the income is below 60% of the NI average. There is recognition that additional staff training for those working in youth centres to enable them to fully support young people with the issues they are presenting with.

Learning and Achieving

The area has several primary schools and one non grammar post primary school. There are 3205 post primary pupils living in Collin. 46.3% of the young people have free school meal entitlement. However, the only post primary school in Collin records that 72.2% of it's pupils have entitlement to free school meals. 21.7% of post primary pupils are registered at SEN stage 1-4 and 5.8% have an educational statement. In the 2021 academic year 70.6% of young people achieved at least 5 GCSE's at A* -C grade including English and Maths. Young people surveyed through focus groups highlight exam pressure as an issue facing them in school. They feel that youth service can offer a range of alternative qualifications including OCN's which would support their educational attainment.

Living in Safety and Stability

5 SOA's are ranked in the top 5% for ASB reported incidents. The DEA also has a number of areas that would be recognised as hotspots for antisocial behaviour and as such are seen as unsafe for young people. Drugs and alcohol misuse, domestic abuse and poverty within the DEA has been an issue noted by young people as impacting on their feelings of safety. In recent months incidents of ASB have escalated. Street based youth workers in partnership with community safety representatives and PSNI have been working with young people to address these issues and have implemented interventions to engage the young people with limited success.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity, and Good Relations

PSNI hate crime statistics 2019 highlight 53 recorded hate related incidents, the highest of these being race and sectarian related. 2019 statistics indicate that 110 newcomer children are registered in school in the Collin area.

Environment and Climate

Young people note that little is done by youth services to promote awareness of the environment and climate. While there are green spaces within the Collin area some are deemed to be unsafe because of the levels of ASB which takes place. Programmes to promote environmental awareness including community clean ups and recycling in youth centres should be offered within the youth service programme.

Participation

Young people have reported the value of participating in youth service provision but also recognise the reasons why young people do not attend. These include lack of promotion of services, feeling excluded and limited activities on offer. Gender based programmes, provision of food to address hunger and more activities would potentially increase participation.

Youth Service