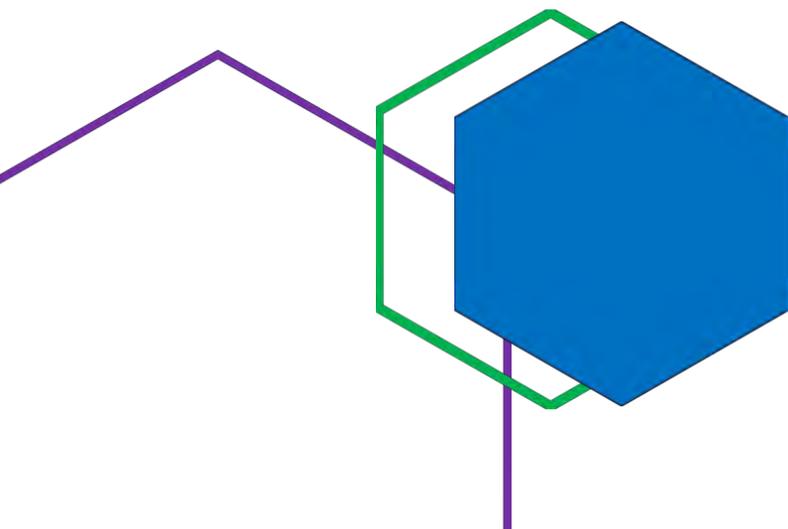


Youth Service

Local Assessment of Need Lisburn and Castlereagh

2023



November 2022



Copyright © 2022 Education Authority Youth Service
All rights reserved. Use of any content in this
publication must reference the original source

Author

Senior Youth Officer Lisburn and Castlereagh area

Produced by

Education Authority Youth Service

Ards Youth Office

62 South Street

Newtownards

BT23 4JU

www.eani.org.uk/youth

Contents

Executive Summary

Page 4

Introduction & Methodology

Page 6

Area Profile

Page 9

Survey Headlines

Page 21

Key Priorities 22-23

Page 25

Appendix 1: ROAN Need Survey Results

Page 30

Appendix 2: Focus Group Feedback

Page 41

Appendix 3: DEA Profiles

Page 56

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

DE Priorities for Youth Policy (2013) has identified that planning, funding and delivery of youth work is to be based on a composite assessment of need and will be linked to DE key priorities at a local, sub regional and regional level. This Local Assessment of Need document is part of that process to identify the needs of children and young people within Lisburn and Castlereagh in 2022.

Youth work supports children and young people to identify their personal and social needs and includes them in the shaping of services to meet those needs and to develop their skills to ensure they have a better future for themselves and their communities. By providing a youth work curriculum that meets the needs of children and young people, barriers are removed, and vulnerable children and young people are given opportunities to access services and support. Core youth services is about providing a safe space for young people to meet with friends, have the support from trusted adults and have access to opportunities that enable them to fulfil their potential.

The Lisburn and Castlereagh Local Assessment of Need was carried out between June and September 2022 and focused on the Key Areas for Action: Learning and Achieving, Health and Wellbeing, Living in Safety and Stability, Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations, Participation and Environment and Climate Change. A range of methodologies were used in the process including; analysis of the Regional Assessment of Need survey responses, local focus groups based on DEA structures and consultations with key stakeholders including young people. The voices of children and young people were central to this process.

Within the Lisburn and Castlereagh area key priorities for the service have been identified. These include support for young people's emotional health and wellbeing, creating new pathways and opportunities for young people to achieve, providing additional support for specific groups of young people including those from Section 75 groupings and those from rural communities and creating safe spaces for young people to meet with friends, build relationships and find opportunities to develop key skills for life, school and work.

It is important that the needs of children and young people continue to be monitored as we move forward in an ever-changing society ensuring that Youth Services provides the most appropriate support and engagement.

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 Lisburn and Castlereagh.

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 Lisburn and Castlereagh. 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 Ards and North Down.

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 Lisburn and Castlereagh area and they have been engaged in the development of the local assessment of need and the local youth development plan. The Local Advisory Group involves representation from the statutory and voluntary sector as well other key stakeholders.

Surveys

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

A total of 872 children and young people from Lisburn and Castlereagh 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 Area Profile](#))

In addition to this a number of focus groups with young people were held across the seven DEAs in Lisburn and Castlereagh. There was a total of 106 young people involved in the focus groups. The results were analysed and are outlined further in appendices 2 and 3.

Other stakeholder engagement events were held in Lisburn and Castlereagh. These included:

Consultation with the EA Local Advisory Group	25 May 2022
Public Council wide focus group	26 July 2022
Consultation with Lisburn & Castlereagh Youth Council	6 June 2022
Meetings with LCCC elected members	18 July & 3 August 2022
Consultation with Cara Friend	19 July 2022
Consultation with Angel Eyes	4 August 2022
Consultation with Public Health Agency	19 July 2022
Meetings with Local EA funded youth groups	17 June, 26 June & 11 July 2022

Area profile

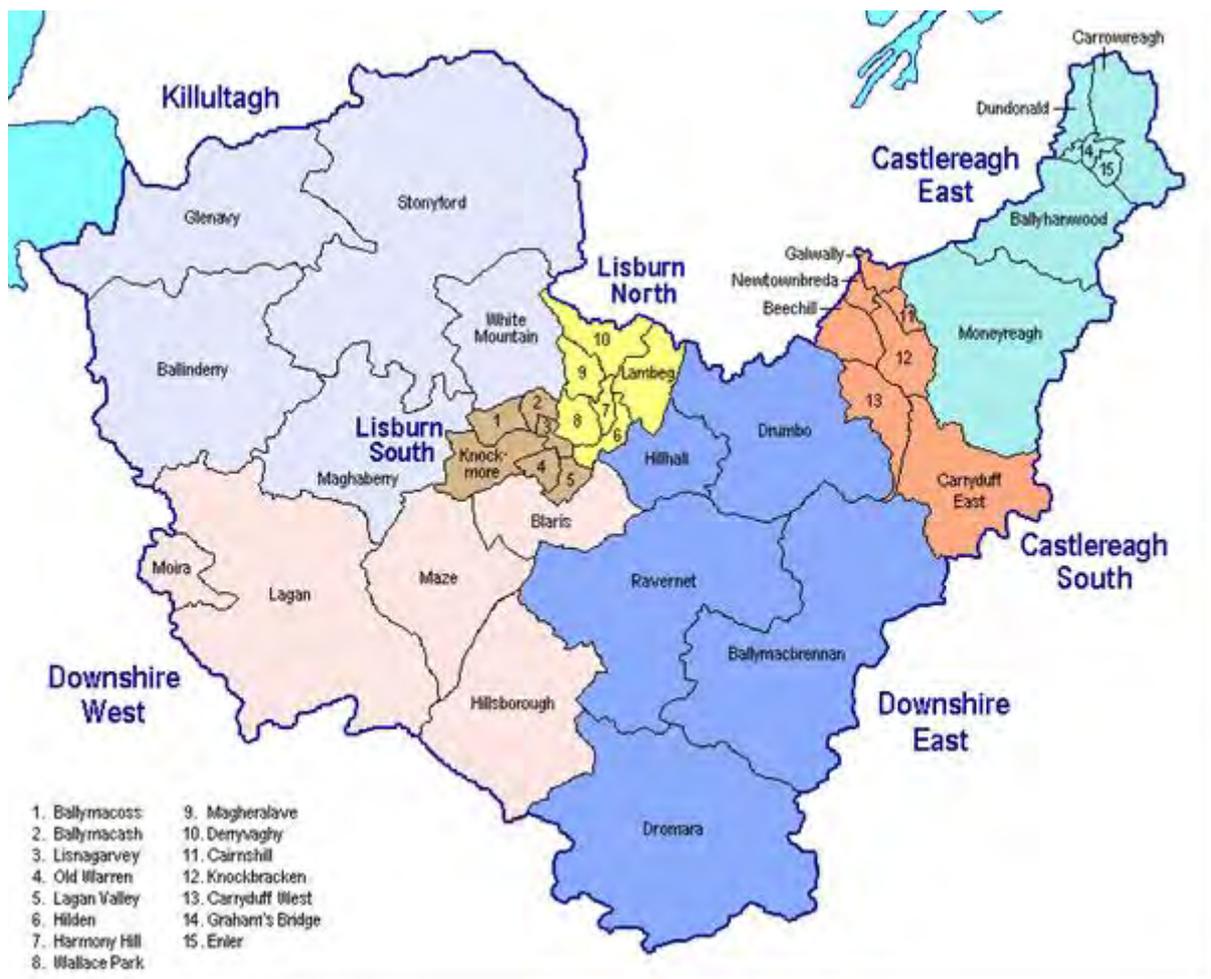
Area Profile

Overview of Area

Lisburn City and Castlereagh area is a local government district in Northern Ireland. It was created in April 2015 following the merger of the Borough of Lisburn and the Borough of Castlereagh. The new district stretches from the greater Belfast area to the rural areas of Dromara and Hillsborough.

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area consists of seven DEA's

- Lisburn North
- Lisburn South
- Killultagh
- Downshire West
- Downshire East
- Castlereagh South
- Castlereagh East



Demographics

The population of Lisburn and Castlereagh local government district in 2022 is 148,965 people, of which 73,255 (49.18%) are male and 75,710 (50.82%) are female.

The population (based on 2021 figures) aged 25 years and under is 45,623 which equates to 30.63% of the total population in comparison to the NI average of 32.6%. The breakdown of figures shows that 23,801 (52.17%) of the young people age 25 and under were male and 21,822 (47.93%) of the young people were female.

The demographics of the area indicate that 29.7% of young people (11,462) live in areas that are essentially rural in character with 70.9% living within the more populated urban area of greater Lisburn. The deployment of the Youth Work team ensures that attention is given to the needs of young people in rural and urban settings through centre-based, area youth workers, outreach workers and voluntary sector organisations, supported by grants from Education Authority.

Lisburn and Castlereagh in Numbers

The population of Lisburn and Castlereagh in 2022 is **148,965**.

45,623 children and young people aged 0-25 years old live in Lisburn and Castlereagh in 2021

- 21,822 Female and 23,822 Male
- 7,031 aged 0 – 3 years
- 9,357 aged 4 – 8 years
- 9,840 aged 9 – 13 years
- 8,649 aged 14 – 18 years
- 10,716 aged 19 – 25 years

- Over the next nine years there will be an increase in females in the 14-18, 19-25 year age range and a slight reduction in females in the 0-3, 4-8 and 9-13 age range.
- Over the next nine years there will be a slight increase in males in the 14-18 and 19-25 year age range and a slight decrease in the 0-3, 4-8 and 9-13 age range.
- 1,659 children and young people aged 0-25 years (4.3%) live in deprivation (2021). The NI average is 25.2%.
- 11,462 children and young people (29.7%) live in a rural community in Lisburn and Castlereagh (2021). NI average 34.5%.
- 950 Newcomers attend schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh (2019).
- Between 2019 and 2020 the Benefit Claimants Count for 18-24 year olds more than doubled.
- Between 2017 and 2020 the percentage of Benefit Claimants Count for 18-24 year olds increased.
- Lisburn and Castlereagh is the third highest rates of drug related deaths per 100,000 population in 2019.

- Lisburn and Castlereagh saw the third highest Homophobic Incidents (23) between January – December 2020. This was an increase from 2019-2020 by 8.
- Lisburn and Castlereagh saw the fourth highest increase in Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents (37.6%) between January – December 2020.

Lisburn and Castlereagh Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM)

According to figures released by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) in 2017, 4.3% of children and young people from Lisburn and Castlereagh live in the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas within Northern Ireland. Currently, this equates to approximately 1,659 young people living in areas of and experiencing high levels of multiple deprivation.

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

3 Super Output Areas are ranked in the top 25% most deprived in terms of multiple deprivation. These are:

- Old Warren
- Hilden_1
- Hilden_2

5 Super Output Areas are ranked in the top 25% most deprived in terms Income Deprivation Affecting Children. These are:

- Hilden_2
- Hilden_1
- Lagan Valley_2
- Graham's Bridge
- Knockmore_2

Highlights:

1. There will be a trend of increased 14-18 and 19-25 years old throughout the period of this plan
2. Youth Services need to be focused on areas where young people are experiencing deprivation
3. There is a significant increase in the number ASB incidents. Safe spaces are needed for young people to along with a range of support for young people at risk of engaging in ASB
4. Youth Services need to be considered to meet the needs of newcomer children and young people as numbers increase

KEY FACTORS: LEARNING AND ACHIEVING

There are a total of 48 nursery, primary, post-primary and special schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh.

- 5 nursery schools (1 Integrated)
 - 33 primary schools (2 Integrated)
 - 6 post-primary schools (2 Integrated)
 - 4 special schools
-
- 950 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area (2019). The majority of these are in the Lisburn South DEA. The majority of newcomer pupils are attending Primary Schools.
 - 11,462 children and young people (29.7%) live in a rural community in Lisburn and Castlereagh (2021). NI average 34.5%.
 - 86.1% of young people attending schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh achieved 5+ GCSE A*-C. NI average is 92.1%.
 - 68.3% of young people attending schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh achieved 5+ GCSE A*-C including English and Maths. NI average is 77.77%. This is the third lowest across all Council areas.
 - There are four schools in Lisburn and Castlereagh where less than half of pupils are achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C including English and Maths. The lowest Grammar school is 97.8%.
 - Lisburn South DEA has the lowest percentage of pupils achieving at least 5 GCSEs grades A* - C (69.1%) which is within the lowest 20% in Northern Ireland.
 - Lisburn South DEA has the lowest percentage of FSME pupils leaving school with at least 5GCSEs grades A* - C including Maths and English at 43.1%. Downshire West DEA is slightly higher at 57.9%.
 - Lisburn and Castlereagh has the fourth highest percentage of pupils with SEN across Northern Ireland at 18.53%. The DEAs with the highest percentages of pupils with a statement are Lisburn South (8.7%), Lisburn North (7.5%) and Castlereagh East (6.7%). All these areas have above average numbers of pupils with an SEN statement.
 - Lisburn South DEA has the highest rates of school absenteeism at Post Primary Schools which are within the top 20% in Northern Ireland.
 - In April-June 2022, there were 25,000 young people (aged 16-24) in Northern Ireland who were not in education, employment or training (NEET). This represents 7.5% of all young people aged 16-24.

Discussion & Key Trends

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 Lisburn and Castlereagh 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.

According to statistics there needs to be a focus on the Lisburn South and Downshire West DEAs in terms of learning and achieving due to lower percentages of young people achieving qualifications to enhance their employment and training opportunities compared to other DEAs in Lisburn and Castlereagh. It is also essential that more support is put in place for FSME pupils who in these two DEAs are not achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C including English and Maths as their peers in other areas. There also needs to be a focus on Lisburn South and Lisburn North DEAs due to the high levels of school absenteeism with additional supports put in place to enable young people to remain in education.

KEY FACTORS: HEALTH & WELLBEING

- 1 in 5 young people have a mental health need. This equates to 9,124 young people in Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- The rate for drug related deaths in Lisburn and Castlereagh is 9.6 per 100,000 population (Northern Ireland is 8.4). The third highest in Northern Ireland.
- Lisburn and Castlereagh has the second highest suicide death rates across Northern Ireland.
- Lisburn and Castlereagh has the lowest childhood obesity rates in Northern Ireland with a rate of 3.9 per 10,000 of the population (2015).
- There are 3 SOAs within Ards and North Down that are within the top 25% of MDM in Northern Ireland.
- There are 5 SOAs in Ards and North Down that are identified at an area with Income Deprived Affected Children.

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 Lisburn and Castlereagh 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 Lisburn and Castlereagh are more likely to be obese, have lower life expectancies and are more likely to have worse physical, mental and sexual health outcomes.

In Lisburn and Castlereagh, 1,659 young people living in disadvantaged (MDM) areas and are more likely to endure health deprivation and suffer mental health issues. 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. Poor health outcomes are also linked to poor educational outcomes.

Lisburn and Castlereagh has the second highest suicide rate in Northern Ireland and support is needed for young people to be able to access early support for mental health issues. Youth Service interventions need to support the wellbeing of all young people and provide activities that build resilience and support young people with good health and wellbeing outcomes.

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

- 950 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area (2019). The majority of these are in the Lisburn South DEA. The majority of newcomer pupils are attending Primary Schools.
- 1,437 young people in Lisburn and Castlereagh have a Special Educational Need stage 1-5 which is 18.53% of the total school age population. NI average is 18%.
- The Castlereagh East, Lisburn North and Lisburn South DEAs have an above average percentage of pupils with a SEN statement.
- According to the Office of National Statistics, 8% of young people in the UK aged 16-24 identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. In Lisburn and Castlereagh this equates to approximately 3,649 young people. (ONS 2020)
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,480 young carers in Northern Ireland.
- 25 pupils were expelled from schools in Northern Ireland in 2020/21.
- 3,506 pupils were suspended from schools in Northern Ireland in 2020/21. (2,702 male pupils (77%), 804 female pupils (23%).)
- 3,530 Children and young people Looked After attend schools in Northern Ireland

Discussion & Key Trends

In Northern Ireland, Good Relations is about promoting better relationships between people from different political, religious and racial backgrounds, tackling sectarianism and racism and promoting cultural diversity and inclusion. Good relations seeks to promote mutual understanding, positive cross-community relations and respect for cultural traditions.

Lisburn and Castlereagh 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 is polarised and many people in Ards and North Down experience some forms of residential, educational, environmental and social segregation. The area has a majority protestant population however this is changing according to recent Census figures. The current political situation also has a major influence on the area and in recent years has increased community tensions within the Borough.

Whilst Lisburn and Castlereagh does not have any designated interface areas, intra community tensions can arise at particular times of the year which has an impact on children and young people and their behaviours within local communities. Paramilitary influence and control is also still prevalent within some communities and young people are at risk of being involved in these groups.

Youth Services have a key role to play in promoting an inclusive society and can provide safe spaces for young people to explore their views and opinions whilst being challenged in a non-threatening way. Statistics available for newcomer young people are not up to date however across Northern Ireland there has been an increase in migrants and newcomers. Work is needed to support young people to develop an

understanding of other cultures and traditions, reduce fears and create opportunities to build and integrate young people from other areas into local communities.

Work is also needed to encourage acceptance and understanding of all Section 75 groups within Lisburn and Castlereagh including LGBTQi+, young people, young people with disabilities and young people from minority groups.

KEY FACTORS: LIVING IN SAFETY & STABILITY

- Between 2019-20 Sectarian Crimes in Lisburn and Castlereagh had an increase of 2
- Between 2019-20 Sectarian Incidents in Lisburn and Castlereagh had a reduction of 15
- Between 2019-20 Racial Crime in Lisburn and Castlereagh had an increase of 2
- Between 2019-20 Racial Incidents in Lisburn and Castlereagh had a decrease of 2
- Between 2019-20 Homophobic Crime in Lisburn and Castlereagh had an increase of 8
- Between 2019-20 Homophobic Incidents in Lisburn and Castlereagh had an increase of 15
- The greatest difference in statistics in Lisburn and Castlereagh was in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents. Lisburn and Castlereagh saw the fourth highest increase in ASB incidents between 2019-20 – an increase of 37.6%. The NI average was 30.5%.
- There is 1 Residential Units for Children and Young People Looked After in Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- Recorded Domestic Abuse Incidents were down by 29 between 2019-20 and the Domestic Abuse Incidents where the victim is under 18 for Lisburn and Castlereagh is the lowest in Northern Ireland however it is widely acknowledged that Domestic Violence Incidents are under-reported across Northern Ireland therefore these statistics cannot be used in isolation.

Discussion and Key Trends

In Lisburn and Castlereagh there has been an increase in ASB Incidents over the 12-month period 2019 - 20. Much work has already been done by partner agencies to try and support young people engaging in risk taking behaviours and in providing safe spaces for young people at key times. This partnership work needs to continue to address this issue to ensure young people remain safe. It is important that Youth Services provide safe and welcoming spaces for young people to meet with peers, build friendships and get support for a range of issues through Youth Service programmes and activities. Having access to Youth Services provides a pathway for young people to other support services when more specialised work or interventions are required.

There are many factors that impact young people living in safety and stability. This includes mental health issues, use of drugs and alcohol, poverty or young people's living environment. Work is needed with those young people who are most vulnerable across Lisburn and Castlereagh including Children Looked After and those experiencing multiple deprivation.

The increase in homophobic incidents and crimes within the area is a concern. More work is needed to increase awareness of difference and provide spaces for young people to explore their views and opinions and be challenged in a non-threatening way. More support is also needed for LGBTQi young people in the community and to engage in services.

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

Many young people engaging in Youth Services express their interest in actively participating in decision making. The current participation structures operating in Lisburn and Castlereagh are extremely active groups, participating in many consultations with Youth Service and other Statutory Partners.

Participation will continue to be a key priority for the Lisburn and Castlereagh area to ensure that Youth Voice structures are developed and that other participative structures are encouraged across all levels to ensure increased opportunities for the voices of children and young people to be heard.

KEY FACTORS: ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

Environmental and climate change is a new area of action for Youth Services. Youth Services has an important role to play in terms of addressing climate change issues and raising awareness of environmental concerns within local communities. Feedback from stakeholders (see appendix 2) has also identified that this is an important issue for Youth Services who should have a key role in educating and awareness raising amongst children and young people.

This area of action is underpinned by the new Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and Green Growth Strategy 2022 aimed at tackling the climate crisis in the right way.

Lisburn and Castlereagh has significant forests and areas of rich natural beauty. Youth Services should utilise the local environment to raise awareness and promote greater understanding of environmental issues and what that means for the local environment in which young people live.

Survey Headlines

Survey Headlines

Survey Headlines – Regional

The Regional Assessment of Need was carried out across Northern Ireland in June 2022 to gain the views and opinions of young people on the current key issues for young people. From the 6,475 responses, 872 responses were from young people in Lisburn and Castlereagh. Based on the responses from children and young people it highlighted that what is important to them is the fact that youth services provide safe, inclusive spaces where they are welcomed, have fun and meet friends whilst supporting their emotional health and wellbeing needs as they express their views in trusted relationships. This reinforces the importance of youth services providing core youth services at this time.

When asked what activities they wanted Youth Services to provide they highlighted that the following were important to them:

- Sports and fitness
- Life Skills
- Outdoor learning
- Gaming/Coding
- Arts and crafts

When asked the type of programmes they wanted Youth Services to provide they highlighted the following as important to them

- Skills for life,
- Help with mental health,
- Making you feel included,
- Help with general health,
- Employment and educational training.

Survey Headlines – Local

In addition to the survey a number of focus groups were held across the 7 DEAs in Lisburn and Castlereagh. In the focus groups young people two key questions on each of the six areas for action:

1. What are the needs of children and young people within this area of action and
2. How should Youth Services address these issues?

A total of 96 young people were involved in 7 focus groups across the 7 DEAs. In addition to the focus groups a public meeting was held along with individual meetings with elected members and a number of meetings with organisations involved with working with children and young people. The key areas were identified as follows:

Health and Wellbeing:

- Emotional health and wellbeing issues including depression, stress and anxiety, bullying and self image
- Physical health issues e.g. obesity

- Access to gyms, sports clubs etc especially in rural communities
- Unhealthy lifestyle choices e.g. use of alcohol, drugs, vaping
- Friendships

Young people identified that they would like Youth Services to support them with Health and Wellbeing issues through programmes, projects, awareness raising sessions, sporting activities, drop in provisions, themed events, workshops, training and through working with other youth services such as FLARE, CADI etc.

Learning and Achieving:

- Current style of formal education not fitting or appealing with all young people
- Pressure and stress from continual testing and focus on grades rather than progression
- Lack of emotional and pastoral support available in school
- Support for the transition between primary and post-primary along with post-primary to Higher Education
- Lack of support and guidance around careers

Young people identified that they would like Youth Services to support them with Learning and Achieving issues through programmes, projects, support around exam stress, access to support for school work and alternative qualifications.

Environment & Climate Change:

- Lack of education on climate change
- Poor understanding on the impact of individuals on the environment
- Limited availability of recycling and green initiatives in school and wider community

Young people identified that they would like Youth Services to support them with Environment & Climate Change issues through programmes, projects, awareness raising workshops, support for social action projects and provision of recycling facilities in youth and school buildings.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity & Good Relations:

- Lack of opportunities for young people to mix with other backgrounds
- Homophobia
- Sexism
- Racism
- Limited awareness of difference

Young people identified that they would like Youth Services to support them with Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity & Good Relations issues through programmes, projects, awareness raising workshops, increased focus on T:BUC programmes, support for newcomer young people and opportunities to mix and learn about communities.

Living in Safety & Stability:

- No or limited secure places other than youth centres for young people
- Drug and Alcohol use
- Anti-social behaviour and negative stereotypes attached to this
- Child Protection issues including Child Sexual Exploitation
- Cyberbullying and bullying

Young people identified that they would like Youth Services to support them with Living in Safety & Stability issues through programmes, projects, increased publicity of youth provision, awareness programmes on drugs and alcohol, secure places to play and spend time and increased Street Based youth work.

Participation:

- Lack of awareness of opportunities currently available
- Limited time to commit to programmes
- Lack of real leadership opportunities
- Age limits on targeted work can rule some young people out

Young people identified that they would like Youth Services to support them with Participation issues through programmes, projects development of groups that can include all, increased promotion and visibility of programmes, links to mental health and talking to trusted adults, partnership work and confidence building programmes.

Key Priorities 22-23

Key Priorities 22-23

Health and Wellbeing

Stakeholders on the six areas of enquiry identified that Youth Services had been effectively addressing the key health and wellbeing issues for young people, particularly since COVID. Stakeholders identified that mental health continues to be a priority for young people across all ages with a particular need to support young people with issues that affect young people's mental health e.g. anxiety, low self-esteem and confidence. They felt that young people needed support with developing coping skills, resilience to help them deal with issues they were facing throughout their adolescence and also within the school environment.

Young people identified a number of key issues relating to health and wellbeing. These included issues around the use of alcohol and drugs. Young people also felt that mental health remained an important issue and they needed support with anxiety and stress. Young people identified that they also required better relationship and sexual health education. More support for Transgender young people was another important area young people felt Youth Services could help them with.

The feedback on how Youth Services should be addressing these issues, covered a range of responses. Stakeholders felt that it was important that Youth Services were offering alternatives to young people. They felt that work was needed with both Primary and Post Primary young people and that greater links could be made between the school and Youth Services. A range of methodologies in relation to the delivery of services were offered and stakeholders also recommended that Youth Services should provide more opportunities for young people to access mentoring or one to one support. It was felt that Youth Services should continue to deliver bespoke health and wellbeing programmes that address a range of issues including life skills, sex and drug education along with specific support for transgender education.

Learning and Achieving

Stakeholders on the area of learning and achieving identified that Youth Service interventions over the past three years have been appropriate and should continue however there still remains key issues for young people in Lisburn and Castlereagh that need to be addressed. More support is needed in terms of educational attainment, particularly within communities with Protestant young males. Stakeholders felt that young people had a lack of key life skills and independence skills such as money management and Youth Services could be supporting young people in this area along with helping them with their career pathways. Feedback would also indicate that young people are still struggling in school and that there remains a gap of lost learning as a result of the COVID years. With the increase in newcomer young people into Lisburn and Castlereagh and increase in migrant families in the area it was felt that more support was also needed for these young people.

Young people identified that they required support with practical tasks to support them to progress their learning or employment. For example, with CV writing, preparing job applications etc. Young people felt that more help was needed with managing money including budgeting.

Feedback on how Youth Services should support this area of enquiry was provided by stakeholders and covered a range of ideas and suggestions. There was a general feeling that more youth workers should play

a key role in supporting young people in their learning and achieving. Greater connections with partners including local businesses and organisations involving Protestant young men such as flute bands should be utilised to reach targeted groups of young people to help raise aspirations and increase achievements including accreditations. Mentoring was also identified as an effective way to support young people to achieve. Young people felt that Youth Services should be offering more employment opportunities and should provide alternative pathways to employment and education.

Participation

Feedback from stakeholders on the area of participation identified a number of issues for young people that should be considered moving forward. It was felt that there needed to be greater participation of young people with special educational needs in mainstream youth services with additional support being required to ensure engagement. Youth Services are also experiencing a lack of volunteers particularly young volunteers coming forward and therefore this needs to be considered to increase participation in this area. Newcomer young people also require support to increase their participation within the Service and this will become even more important as migrants begin to settle within the Lisburn and Castlereagh area. Stakeholders recognised the importance of having the voices of young people heard and that Youth Services had a role to play in providing platforms for this to happen.

Young people also identified that there were not enough opportunities for young people from different groups to come together and particularly those from minority groups.

The engagement with stakeholders provided some clear suggestions as to how Youth Services could address the issues identified in relation to participation. Stakeholders agreed that there needed to be better pathways and opportunities for young people to volunteer and this could be supported by having more youth led opportunities within the Service. Stakeholders shared that there needed to be more inclusive youth work practices that involved underrepresented groups. Youth Services also has a key role in making sure the voices of young people are heard particularly with regard to decisions that affect them and that Youth Services were best placed to create these spaces and be more flexible around participative structures for young people. Young people felt that Youth Services should increase its advertisement and promotion of youth services across the area including the Lisburn and Castlereagh Youth Council in terms of having a presence on social media.

Environment and Climate Change

The Environment and Climate Change area of enquiry is a new area this year however this has been an area championed across Youth Services and within youth work programmes over a number of years. Having a specific area of enquiry on the environment was welcomed by stakeholders who felt that it was an area for all the community to address. Stakeholders felt that there was a general lack of awareness by young people of the individual impact they can have and that they needed support with specific issues relating to young people e.g. littering, graffiti. Stakeholders recognised that for some young people this area may not be seen as a priority.

Young people did recognise that this was an important area for development and provided a range of ideas as to how it could be addressed by Youth Services. They offered practical ideas that Youth Service buildings could do such as providing more recycling bins and ensure that buildings were more environmentally

friendly. They also felt that Youth Services had a role in terms of raising awareness of environmental issues and that programmes could be linked to accreditation. Young people also suggested these programmes could be delivered in partnership with schools.

Other key stakeholders suggested that Youth Services could link with local groups e.g. Men's Sheds and should be providing a range of educational programmes including social action initiatives to encourage young people to address this area. Stakeholders felt that keeping the theme in the local vicinity would allow young people to relate to issues and see the impact of their work. Youth workers felt that training in this area would be beneficial to support them to deliver quality programmes and encourage participation. One suggestion on how to motivate young people to participate in environmental initiatives was to incentivise participation. It was suggested that Youth Services should be working with young people from an earlier age delivering age appropriate initiatives, along with promoting key universal messages such as reducing food waste.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations

A wide range of issues within the area of Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations were identified by key stakeholders. There was a clear emphasis on supporting newcomer and migrant young people to settle within communities along with work with communities to be welcoming for all. Stakeholders felt that more diverse and inclusive youth work is needed with specific support required for Transgender young people and young people with disabilities. It was recognised that the religious profile of some communities is changing in Lisburn and Castlereagh. Young people don't like the traditional focus on the Protestant/Catholic divide therefore the themes explored within this area of action need to be broader and more relevant to young people.

Young people also felt that there remains a pressure in some communities to fit in and be accepted. This includes pressure to join paramilitary groups or criminal gangs in order to be accepted and protected.

Stakeholders presented a range of suggested youth work responses and interventions to support young people regarding Inclusion, diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations. Youth Services should be providing opportunities for young people to meet with others and build relationships with young people who are from different communities. These opportunities could be through inter-club activities along with more targeted programmes, by bringing schools together along with engagement at key cultural events. It was recognised that Youth Services had a role to play in developing a shared future particularly as community profiles are changing. It is also important for Youth Services to ensure the voices of young people are heard in this process.

Youth Services should be engaging more with Primary School children in this area to create opportunities to explore difference and promote acceptance of others and can use methodologies such as sport to bring young people together. The Youth Service relational approach is important for working with LGBTQi+ young people particularly Transgender young people.

Living in Safety and Stability

Stakeholders identified that there are a number of issues for young people in Lisburn and Castlereagh with regard to the area of enquiry, Living in Safety and Stability. There continues to be issues with large numbers

of young people gathering at key hotspot areas throughout the year. Stakeholders recognised that there are issues with young people using social media and online which includes but not limited to bullying, sharing explicit images and overreliance on social media. Young people need support with these topics to ensure that they remain safe in the online world. Similar issues can be seen with young people particularly post COVID and need help with making and developing healthy relationships, recognising when things are wrong and when/where to seek help. There continues to be a need to provide safe spaces for young people across the Council area.

Young people also recognised they needed help and support to keep themselves safe. They talked of the increased use and availability of drugs and the need for better awareness and education. Young people identified that paramilitary and criminal gang influence remains in some communities.

Stakeholders felt that Youth Services should be addressing these issues through its relational approach and through education and awareness. There remains a continued need for outreach and detached youth work to reach those young people not currently engaged in Youth Services. Stakeholders felt that young people needed more access to mentoring opportunities to help them navigate issues with the support of a trusted adult. Stakeholders felt that Youth Services should be providing safe spaces for young people and could use outdoor learning and sport as a method of engagement. More education and guidance are required regarding behaviours online in order to keep young people safe and to provide advice when things go wrong. There continues a need to support young people being influenced by negative community and paramilitary activity. Young people in particular identified the need for more education in relation to drugs and the impact on their safety.

Appendix 1: Regional Assessment of Need Survey Results

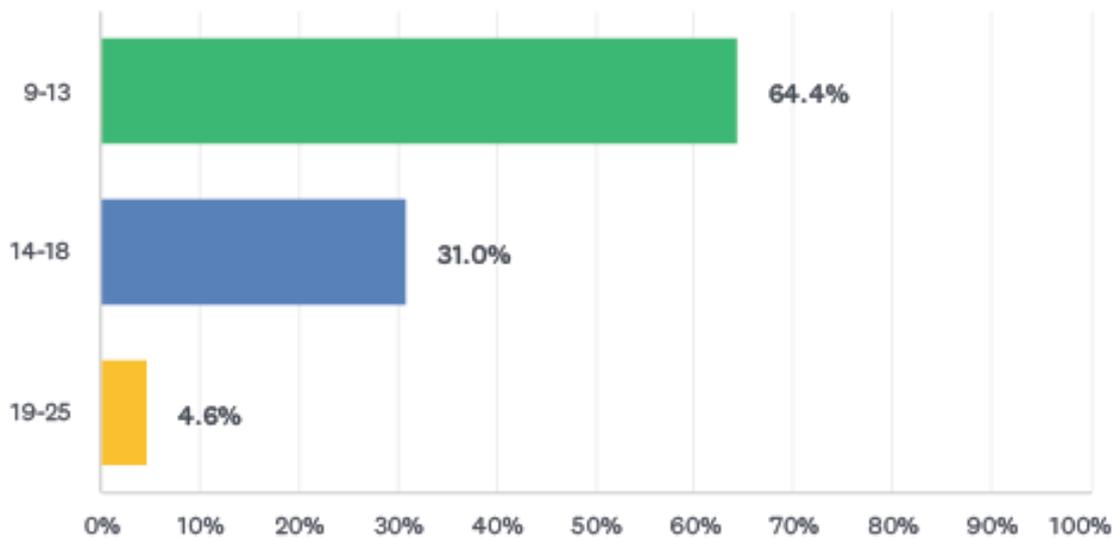
Appendix 1: Regional Assessment of Need Survey Results

A Regional Assessment of Need was carried out across Northern Ireland in June 2022 to gain the views and opinions of young people on the current key issues for young people. From the 6,475 responses, 872 responses were from young people in Lisburn and Castlereagh.

The information provided by these young people is outlined in the graphs below.

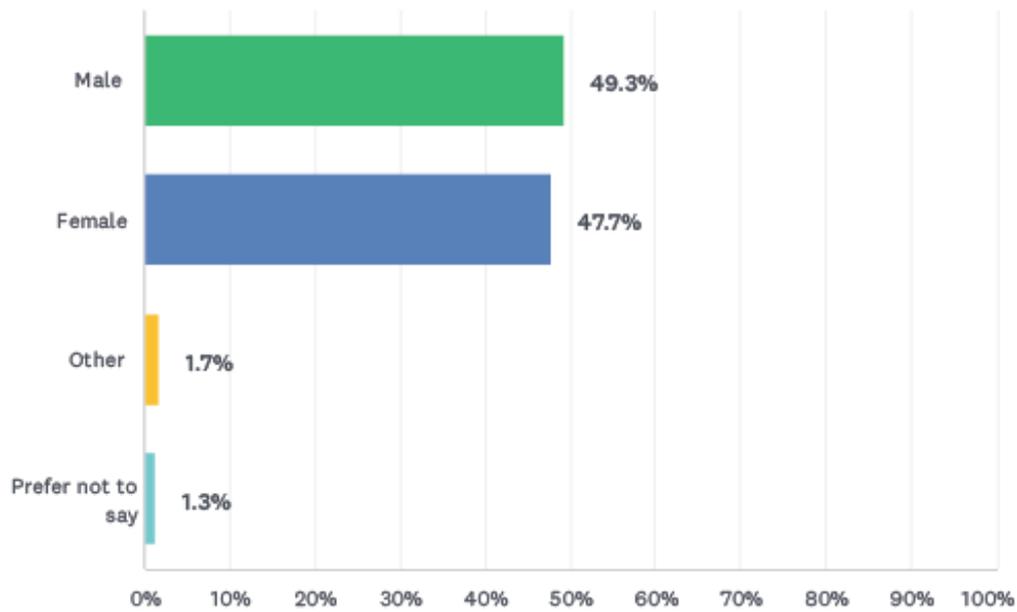
Q1 Please select your age category.

Answered: 872 Skipped: 0



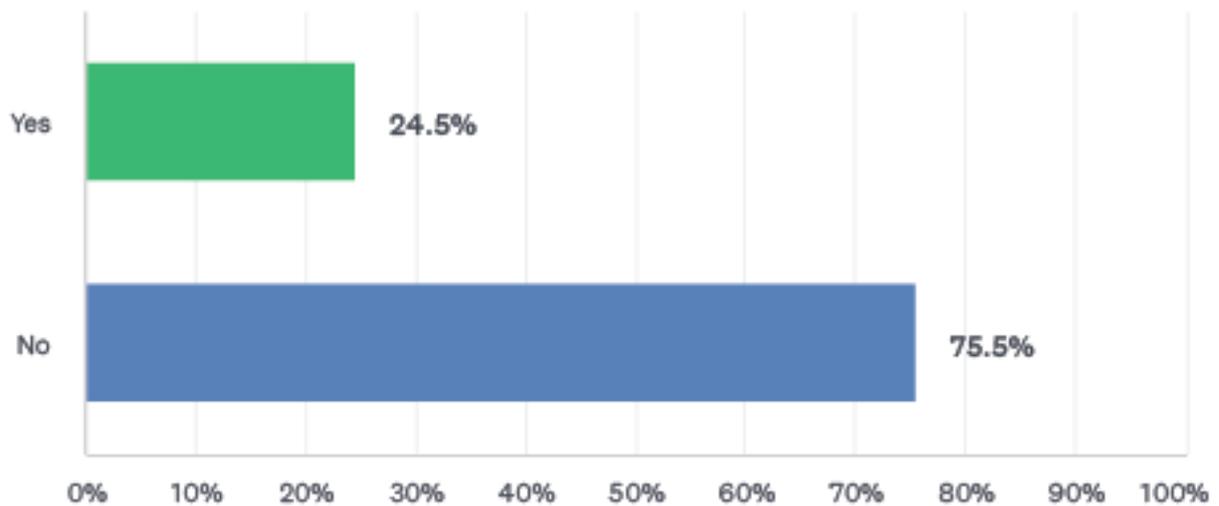
Q2 Gender

Answered: 872 Skipped: 0



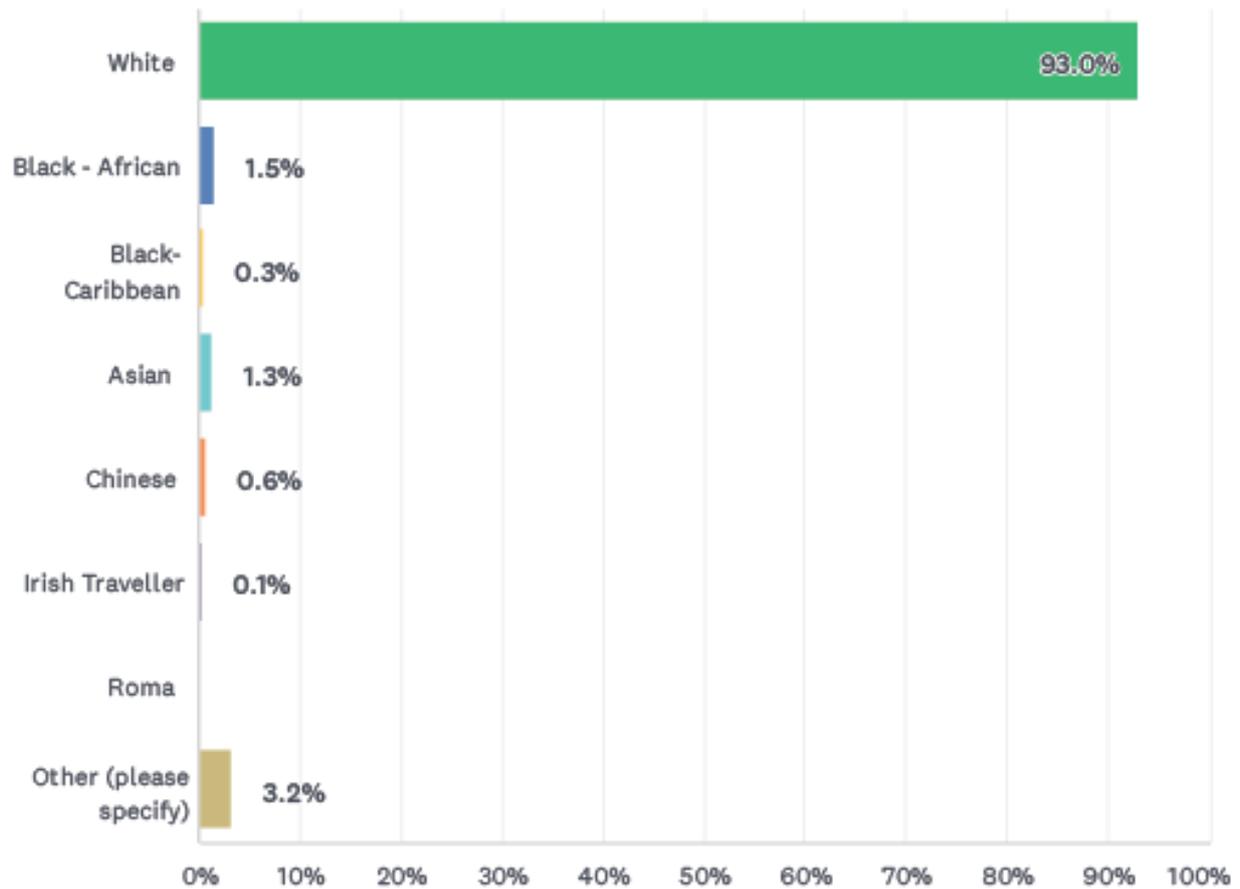
Q3 Do you live in a rural area? (outside a town or city)

Answered: 872 Skipped: 0



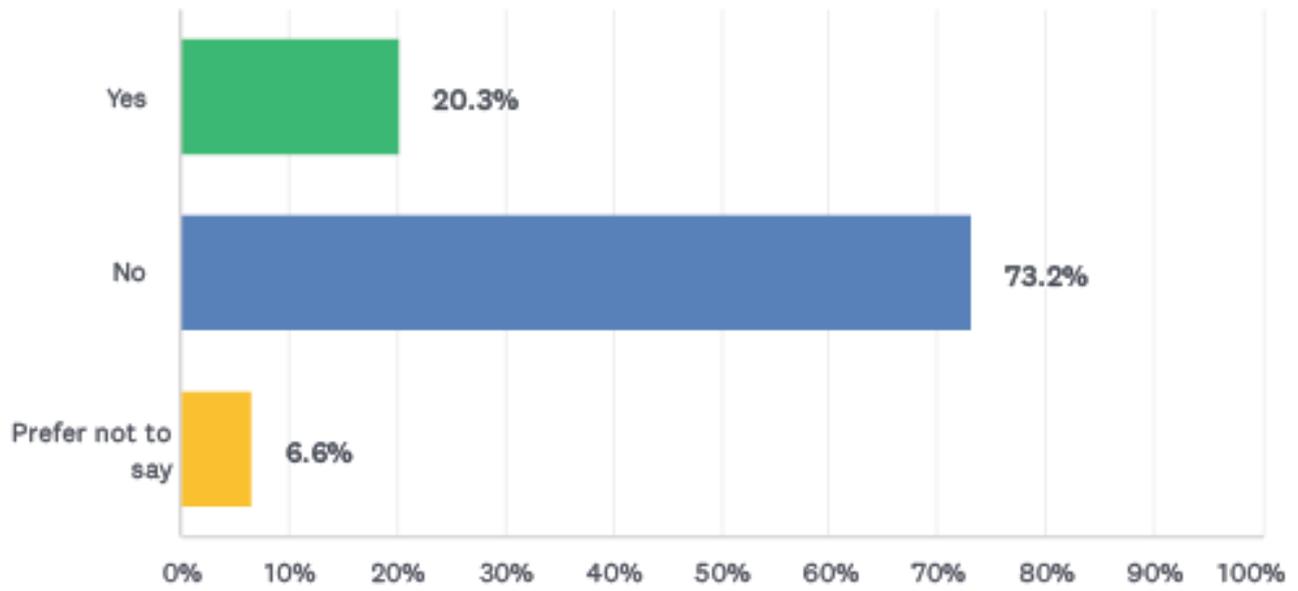
Q4 What is your ethnic background?

Answered: 872 Skipped: 0



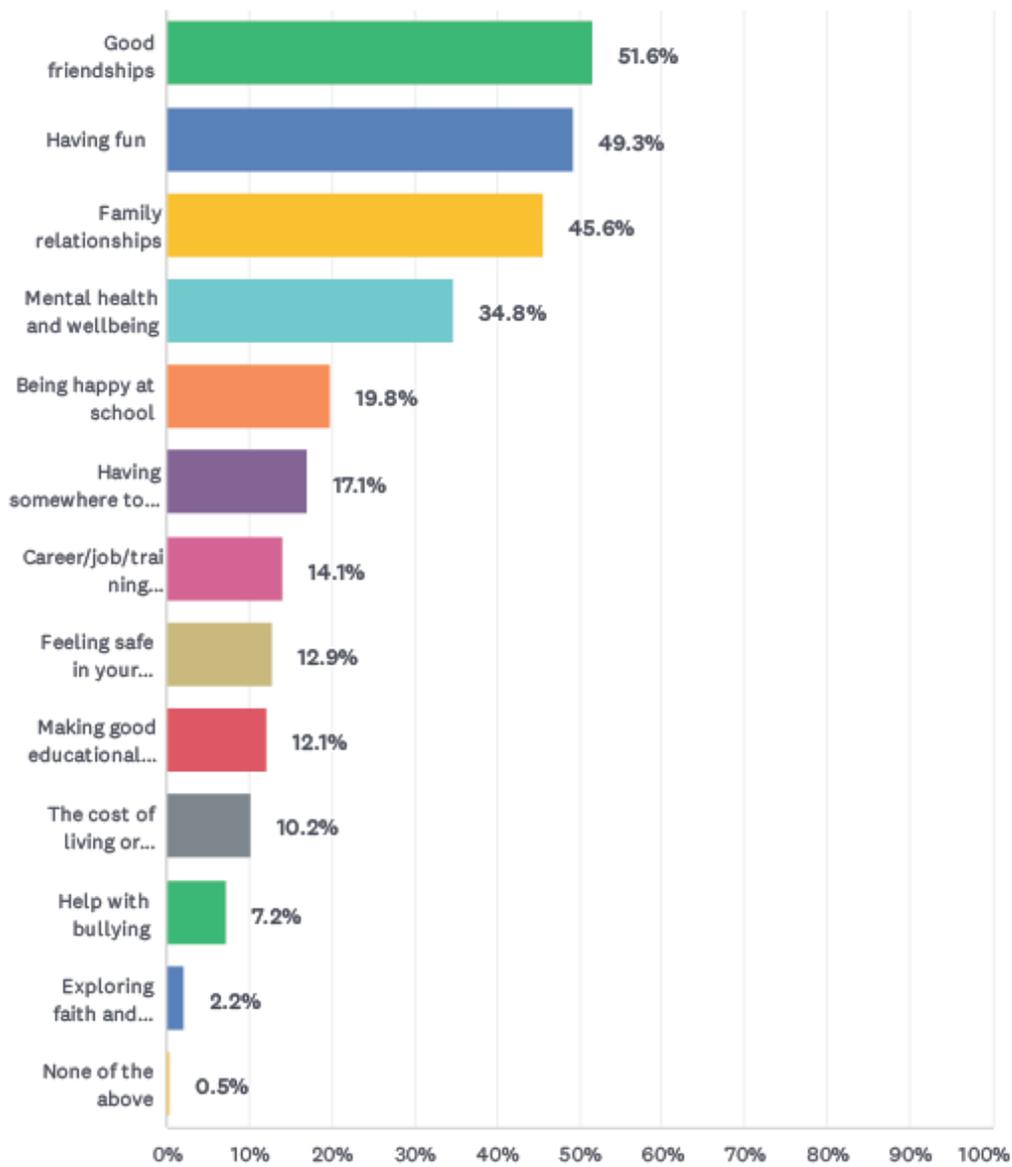
Q7 Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Answered: 869 Skipped: 3



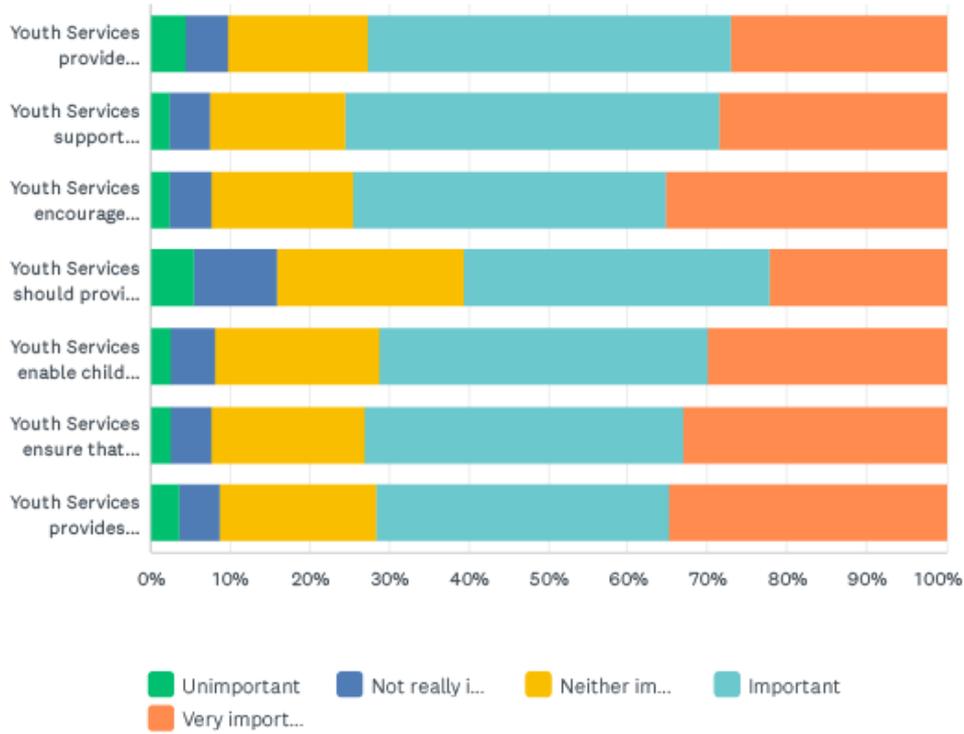
Q9 As a young person, what is most important to you?(Please select a maximum of your THREE most important answer choices)

Answered: 824 Skipped: 48



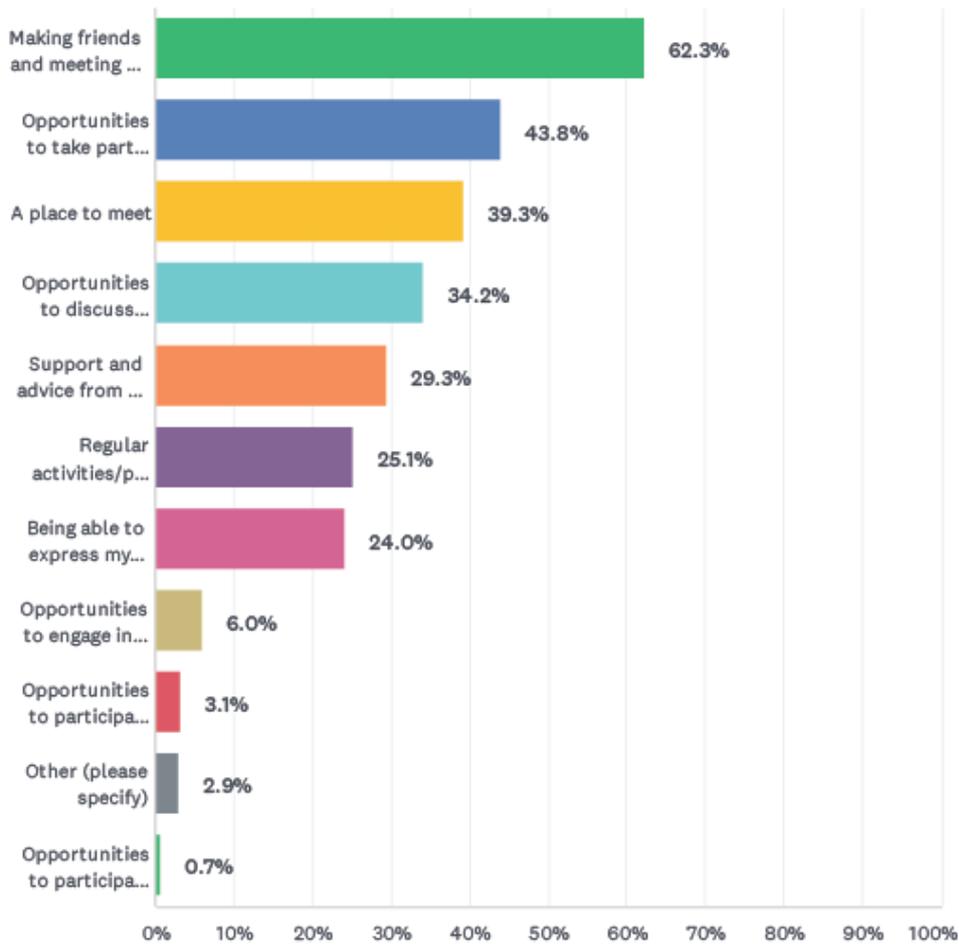
Q11 Please rate the following statements according to how important they are to you.

Answered: 828 Skipped: 44



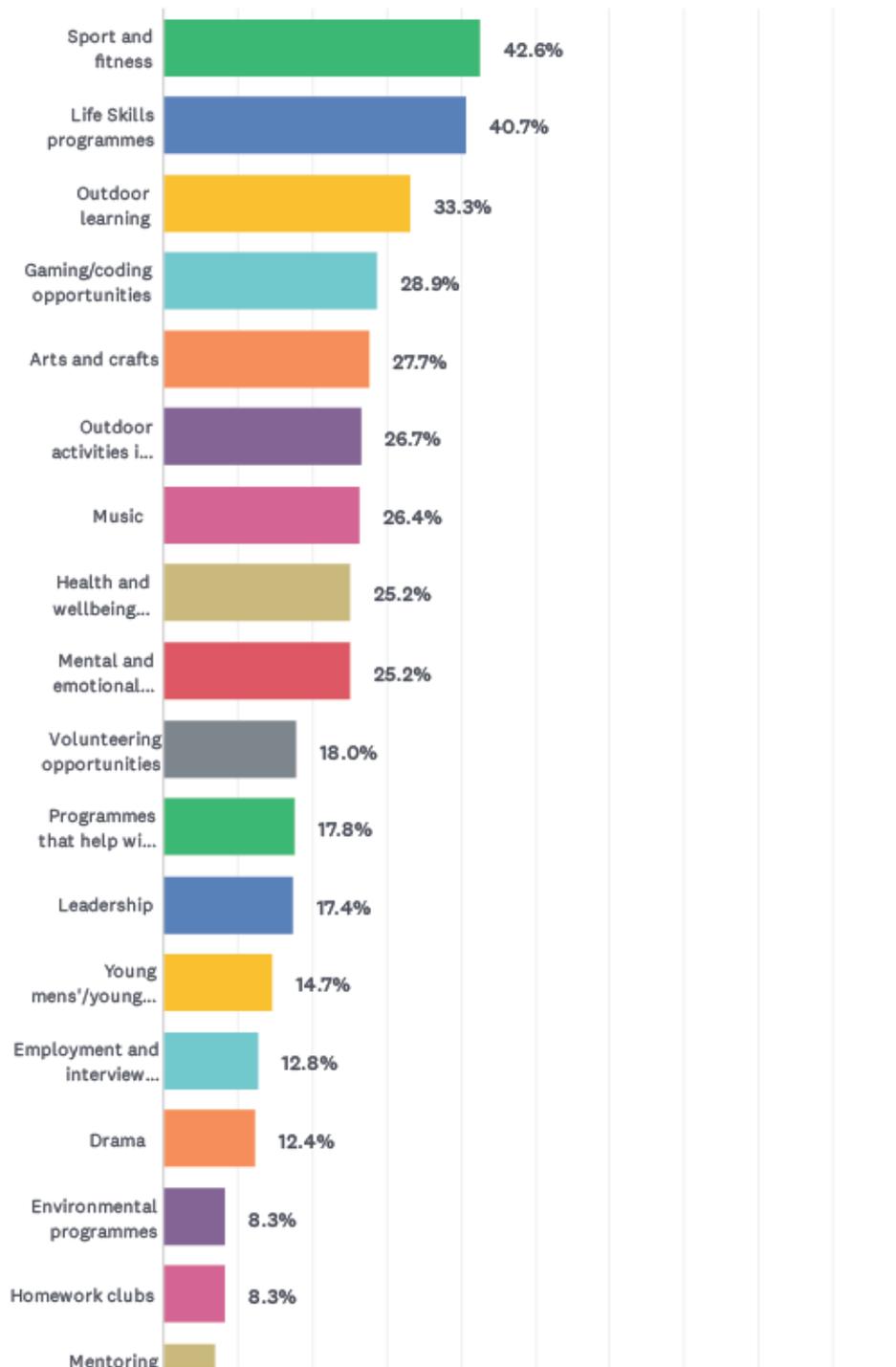
Q12 From the list below, please identify the most important things about taking part in Youth Services.(Please select a maximum of your THREE most important answer choices)

Answered: 828 Skipped: 44



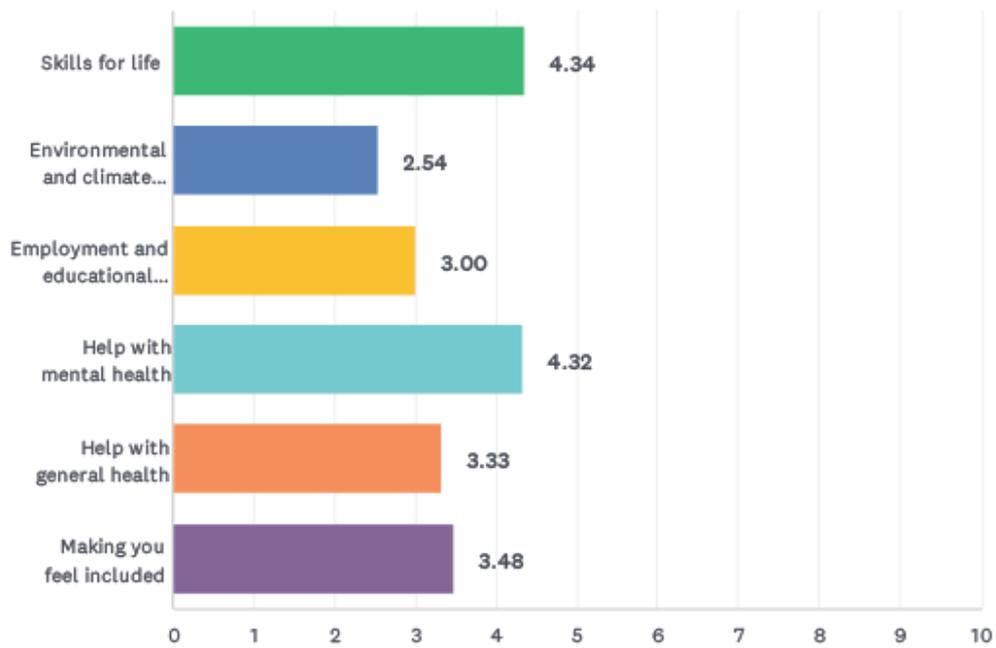
Q13 What activities/programmes could Youth Services provide that would be most helpful to you?(Please select a maximum of your FIVE most preferred answer choices)

Answered: 828 Skipped: 44



Q14 Please rank by importance the type of programmes Youth Services should provide for you.(Drag and drop the answer choices in order of importance)

Answered: 808 Skipped: 64



Appendix 2: Focus Groups Feedback

Appendix 2: Focus Groups Feedback

Stakeholders Feedback

Stakeholders were consulted on the needs of young people and how Youth Services should be responding to these needs.

The following information was collated from across all stakeholders and is detailed in the tables below.

Health and Wellbeing

Key issues (not ranked in order of importance)	Youth Service response (not ranked in order of importance)
Lack of coping skills Need help with building resilience Mental health Poverty Physical health CSE Health inequalities Anxiety Depression Difficulties at school Drugs and Sexual activity in schools Underage drinking Support needed for transgender young people More support for developing lifeskills e.g. money management, jobs etc. Sexual health	Offer alternatives for young people Deliver targeted programmes Early intervention programmes in Primary Schools Greater link between the PSNI & Youth Services More work in Post Primary Schools Develop clinics in schools for support with health – youth workers and nurses working together More support for young people in the community – social prescribing 1:1 support for young people in schools Creation of more recreational activities during school time – yp may be more likely to engage Help young people make more positive choices More support for parents Peer support initiatives Greater connections between youth services and counselling Youth services to align with other strategies e.g. Drugs and Alcohol Strategy Youth services should consider professional thresholds to help frame youth work interventions Lifeskills programmes Positive mental health programmes Addressing mental health through conversations and building relationships Sex education Transgender education Offer meditation and mindfulness sessions Drugs education including what to do in an emergency Better promotion of mental health support available

Learning and Achieving

Key issues (not ranked in order of importance)	Youth Service response (not ranked in order of importance)
<p>Lack of educational attainment by Protestant young males</p> <p>Independent Living Skills</p> <p>More support needed for migrant or newcomer young people</p> <p>There is a need to catch up on lost learning during the COVID years</p> <p>Lack of lifeskills including money management</p> <p>Support needed to help with CV's and employment opportunities</p> <p>Lack of knowledge of money management including budgeting</p> <p>More support is needed to help with options post 16</p>	<p>Support with translation services for newcomer young people</p> <p>Youth services should provide more opportunities for different qualifications e.g. joinery</p> <p>Great links with local businesses – partnership working</p> <p>Greater connection with flute bands to support Protestant young men</p> <p>Provide opportunities for young people to explore aspirations and motivation</p> <p>Support young people into mainstream education</p> <p>Support young people in mainstream education who are struggling with learning and remaining in school</p> <p>More partnership work to enhance youth work delivery</p> <p>Offer mentoring programmes in schools to help young people achieve</p> <p>Education on managing budgets, cost of living and its impact</p> <p>Financial advice on funding available for young people to continue in education e.g. bursaries, grants</p> <p>Youth services should provide alternative pathways into employment</p> <p>Youth services should offer employment opportunities including work experience, training and apprenticeships</p>

Participation

Key issues (not ranked in order of importance)	Youth Service response (not ranked in order of importance)
<p>Increased participation of young people with special educational needs in mainstream youth services</p> <p>Lack of young volunteers</p> <p>Increased participation by newcomer young people in youth services</p> <p>More spaces needed for young people's voices to be heard</p> <p>Not enough engagement between different groups of young people</p>	<p>Better pathways and opportunities for volunteering in youth services for example more youth led initiatives</p> <p>More inclusive youth work practices</p> <p>Educate young people in local communities about newcomers</p> <p>Ensure there are sound participative structures within youth services and online and have greater flexibility around participative structures</p> <p>Youth services need to create spaces for young people's voices to be heard</p> <p>Greater engagement by the youth council at a local level</p> <p>Better advertising of youth services</p> <p>Ensure that young people have a say in decisions regarding them</p> <p>Increased provision in rural communities</p> <p>Provide more opportunities for young people from minority groups to participate</p> <p>Youth council needs to have its own social media pages to publicise better the work of the youth council</p>

Environment and Climate Change

Key issues (not ranked in order of importance)	Youth Service response (not ranked in order of importance)
<p>Lack of awareness of individual impact on the environment</p> <p>Issues related to young people; littering, graffiti etc need to be addressed</p> <p>Not seen as a high priority for some young people</p> <p>Young people not really interested in climate change</p>	<p>Develop work with local groups e.g. Men's Shed</p> <p>Deliver education programmes</p> <p>Deliver social action programmes</p> <p>Ensure programmes are delivered at a local level so young people can relate to issues and see impact</p> <p>Training for youth workers in this area</p> <p>Incentivise the work to encourage participation of young people</p> <p>Create an app such as CONQUER where young people complete challenges and get rewards</p> <p>Early education is needed</p> <p>Deliver age appropriate initiatives</p> <p>Use the theme to develop key skills for employment</p> <p>Raise awareness of issues</p> <p>Help promote universal messages e.g. reducing food waste</p> <p>Use the theme to introduce citizenship education</p> <p>Offer qualifications relating to climate change and sustainability</p> <p>Deliver more programmes in schools</p> <p>Make youth service buildings more environmentally friendly</p> <p>Provide more recycling bins within youth service buildings</p>

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations

Key issues (not ranked in order of importance)	Youth Service response (not ranked in order of importance)
<p>Newcomer, migrants and unaccompanied minors settling into the area</p> <p>LGBTQ_i support</p> <p>Need more diversity and inclusive youth work particularly to support transgender young people</p> <p>More support needed for young people with disabilities</p> <p>Greater integration of young people with additional needs into mainstream services</p> <p>Changing religious profile of areas</p> <p>More work needed on culture and identity</p> <p>Young people don't like the religious split of Protestant/Catholic</p> <p>Young people feel pressure to fit in to communities – feel pressure to join paramilitary groups</p>	<p>Use of sport to develop good relations work</p> <p>Diversionary programmes</p> <p>Support new families to integrate into communities by getting them involved in youth services</p> <p>Delivery of cross community programmes</p> <p>Provide opportunities for young people to explore difference and promote acceptance of others in a safe environment</p> <p>More work within Primary schools – work with young people earlier</p> <p>Youth provision needed for new housing areas e.g. Thaxton</p> <p>Youth service should consider what role it has to play in developing a shared future and how young people's voices are heard in this process</p> <p>Education programmes</p> <p>Provide support to transgender young people using a relational approach</p> <p>Intergenerational work</p> <p>More work around bonfires</p> <p>Bring people together – both schools and youth services</p> <p>Better engagement by youth services at key cultural events and celebrations</p>

Living in Safety and Stability

Key issues (not ranked in order of importance)	Youth Service response (not ranked in order of importance)
<p>Lack of citizenship and awareness of the need to remain within the law</p> <p>Domestic abuse</p> <p>Sexual abuse</p> <p>Cyber safety – young people also desensitised to online content</p> <p>Hate crime</p> <p>ASB – particularly large numbers of young people congregating at key hotspot areas</p> <p>Lack of community infrastructure in Castlereaigh South</p> <p>Sexploitation</p> <p>Sharing explicit images online</p> <p>Cyber bullying</p> <p>Unhealthy relationships</p> <p>CSE – both male and female</p> <p>Over reliance on social media</p> <p>Reaching young people at risk</p> <p>Young people need more spaces to meet</p> <p>Increase use of drugs of certain drugs e.g. Spice and more drug education is needed</p> <p>Paramilitary recruitment in some communities</p>	<p>Create opportunities for open and transparent conversations with young people</p> <p>Build good relationships with young people to enable tough issues to be explored</p> <p>Education on a range of issues</p> <p>Outreach and detached youth work needed for those young people not engaging in youth services or who chose not to engage at particular times</p> <p>Provide mentoring for young people</p> <p>Create leadership opportunities</p> <p>Provide opportunities that are attractive to young people e.g. linked with sport</p> <p>Provide safe spaces for young people</p> <p>Educating young people about online use and behaviours online</p> <p>Extension of the partnership between EA and schools, to support young people who are in homes where there is domestic violence, to youth services</p> <p>Use outdoor learning to address this area for action</p> <p>Drug education</p> <p>Support for young people to say no to paramilitaries</p>

Lisburn North Focus Group Feedback

A focus group of 17 young people age 8-17 from the Lisburn North DEA were also consulted as part of the local assessment of need. The responses are detailed below:

	Key issues (not ranked in order of importance)	Recommended Youth Service response (not ranked in order of importance)
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs – evident people are under the influence in town. Most common drug is cannabis. • Smoking and vaping (disposables) • Alcohol • Better access to local gyms and sports activities • Mental health • Health relationships • Wellbeing and self-image 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stress management and self-care programme • More help for young people who are under the influence like SOS bus • Better education on drugs, alcohol, and vaping on the dangers but more importantly how to look after your friends who are under the influence i.e. first aid • Free or reduced cost of a gym memberships and available from age 11. • One to one support in every youth service. • Programme addressing self-image concerns – especially for girls
Learning and Achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School does not suit everyone • Pressure put on students from teachers • Regular tests throughout the year create more stress for students • Suspension and report card in school (however young people enjoyed having time off school and did not see it as a punishment) • Lack of pastoral care/ counselling in schools • Moving from P7 to high school • Career and employment advice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative teaching techniques to support those who struggle in school • Extra support with exams to reduce stress • Mental health support including techniques, pastoral care and counselling • Workshops in school to prepare you for leaving school/ getting a job i.e. CV writing and money management • Youth workers speak with teachers about the concerns from young people about exam stress • Alternative to suspension to keep young people in school and young people be rewarded for good behaviour. • P7's has the opportunity to make friends with other P7's before moving to high school •
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not aware of opportunities • Lack of confidence to share their opinion or join a youth club. • No programmes that meet their interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better advertisement • Small groups for those who are nervous to attend and incorporate into bigger group as they grow in confidence • Bigger range of programmes on offer
Environment & Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No recycling bins in schools • Not everyone cares or wants to make a change to the environment • Litter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling bins in schools and youth centre • Inform through conversations, games, activities and posters – make it fun, not scary, or forceful • More bins near parks

<p>Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity & Good Relations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people do not naturally meet young people from other backgrounds • Racism, sectarianism, and sexism • Young people did not want to meet young people from other backgrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More T: BUC programmes to meet other young people • Informal education on racism, sectarianism, and sexism to try and change young people's point of view • Young people would take part in a good relations programme if it was fun and had lots of trips
<p>Living in Safety & Stability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of shops and places to hang out in Lisburn • Some young people felt unsafe in Lisburn • Cost of living crisis • Number of ASB hotspots • Homelessness • Cyberbullying • Crime such as kidnapping • Lack of streetlights and scared to walk home in the dark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better advertise youth clubs • More youth centre/ activities for young people • Education on key issues in the new to better educate young people, reduce fear and make information young person friendly. • Youth workers speak to young people hanging about rather than the police • Better education on cyberbullying and signposting if you are getting bullied • More police to fight crimes • More lights on dark roads

Lisburn South Focus Group Feedback

A focus group of 23 young people age 13-17 from the Lisburn South DEA were also consulted as part of the local assessment of need. The responses are detailed below:

	Key issues (not ranked in order of importance)	Recommended Youth Service response (not ranked in order of importance)
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health • Physical health • Obesity • Lack of local & affordable sports facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme to address mental health issues • Mental health ambassadors • Young People's counselling services • More local facilities/affordable • Chill & chat time
Learning and Achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many YP not achieving 5 GCSE • Not enough transition work between primary and post primary schools • Lack of technology and equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing tutors to help before exams e.g., IQE • More transition programmes • Extension of homework clubs • More educational supplies/equipment
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of target groups have age limits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop groups and programmes that can include all • Programmes to develop confidence for YP to move out of their comfort zone
Environment & Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of education on climate change • Lack of respect for local environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar panels on centres • More education on climate change • More social action projects to help the environment
Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity & Good Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homophobia • Racism • Sexism • Discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More TBUC programmes • More education on certain subjects • More targeted projects
Living in Safety & Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No secure places outside centres for young people to go • Lack of street lights • Bullying • Drugs & Alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More detached work • Secure places to play outside • More equipment for centres were YP feel safe to go

Killultagh Focus Group Feedback

A focus group of 10 young people age 14-17 from the Killultagh DEA were also consulted as part of the local assessment of need. The responses are detailed below:

	Key issues (not ranked in order of importance)	Recommended Youth Service response (not ranked in order of importance)
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs/alcohol • Smoking/eSig's • Bullying cyberbullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses • Activities
Learning and Achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of motivation • Not attending courses/school • Dropping out of school at a young age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses • Study sessions • Learn techniques how to work/revise
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stigma • Bullying • Mental health • Drug and alcohol abuse • Lack of relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonding exercising • Courses on bullying • Talk to a trusted adult on mental health • Positive mental health reinforcement
Environment & Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter In community • Pollution in river • Dog fouling in street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters about dog fouling and litter to stop • Community clean up
Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity & Good Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prejudice • Sexual orientation • Religion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with other groups • Courses • Ensuring everyone is treated equally in the community
Living in Safety & Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abuse • Child protection issues • Crime and break ins • Poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to a trusted adult • Having services available • Working with community officers.

Downshire East Focus Group Feedback

A focus group of 18 young people age 12-16 from the Downshire East DEA were also consulted as part of the local assessment of need. The responses are detailed below:

	Key issues (not ranked in order of importance)	Recommended Youth Service response (not ranked in order of importance)
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual health & Relationships • Mental Health • Physical health • Obesity • Better & affordable sports facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme to address mental health issues • Mental health ambassadors • Young People's counselling services • More local facilities/affordable • Programme to address sexual exploitation
Learning and Achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many YP not achieving 5 GCSE • Not enough transition work between • Lack of skilled apprenticeships • primary and post primary schools • Lack of technology and equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing tutors to help before exams e.g., IQE • More transition programmes • Extension of homework clubs • More educational supplies/equipment • More practical work based programmes in youth centre.i.e. Joinery etc.
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lack of time to commit to bigger leadership projects • Lack of real leadership opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More international project opportunities • Programmes to develop confidence for YP to move out of their comfort zone
Environment & Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of education on climate change • Lack of respect for local environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar panels on centres • More education on climate change • More social action projects to help the environment
Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity & Good Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homophobia • Racism • Sexism • Discrimination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More TBUC programmes • More education on certain subjects • More opportunities to mix and learn about newcomer communities • More targeted projects
Living in Safety & Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No secure places outside centres for young people to go • Lack of streetlights • Bullying • Drugs & Alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More detached work • Secure places to play outside • More equipment for centres were YP feel safe to go

Downshire West Focus Group Feedback

A focus group of 9 young people age 14-16 from the Downshire West DEA were also consulted as part of the local assessment of need. The responses are detailed below:

	Key issues (not ranked in order of importance)	Recommended Youth Service response (not ranked in order of importance)
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure – homework • Alcohol – issues • Mental health issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug and alcohol awareness • DofE (quote - life changing) • Outdoor Pursuits really helps mental health
Learning and Achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough info around jobs • Poor careers advice • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers evenings • Careers advice • Help with CV's • Interview techniques • Open place to study (at LOGIC)
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time can be an issue • Transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth committees • More opportunities for young people to join in
Environment & Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough bins in certain areas • Bins not being emptied • More recycling • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific bins for specific rubbish
Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity & Good Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties getting to know new people • Interpersonal skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team work • Outdoor Pursuits to bring people together
Living in Safety & Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking in the park • Antisocial behaviour • Drug Misuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer good programmes • Offer safe welcoming place for those on the fringes • Awareness of others

Castlereagh South Focus Group Feedback

A focus group of 10 young people age 14-16 from the Castlereagh South DEA were also consulted as part of the local assessment of need. The responses are detailed below:

	Key issues (not ranked in order of importance)	Recommended Youth Service response (not ranked in order of importance)
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaping • Cannabis use and underage drinking around the area • No gyms or football teams in the local area • Isolation living in a rural community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports sessions (Football, bench ball, dodgeball, tennis exercise, volleyball) • Drug and alcohol workshops • Have police come in and deliver a session on ASB
Learning and Achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major issues but feel there should be more accredited programmes for young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run programmes with OCN accreditation. Especially OCNs to do with sport, cooking and music
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some young people in the community that are not engaged • Deliver more drop-in's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detached work to engage older young people • Trips • Partnership work • Have CADI or OLS come in to deliver a programme
Environment & Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Littering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community clean up lead by the young people
Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity & Good Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of opportunities to meet with other young people • Sectarianism • Homophobia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detached work in the community • TBUC programmes
Living in Safety & Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASB • Drinking in the streets • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach • Increase youth work presence • Youth work programmes to address drinking and drug taking

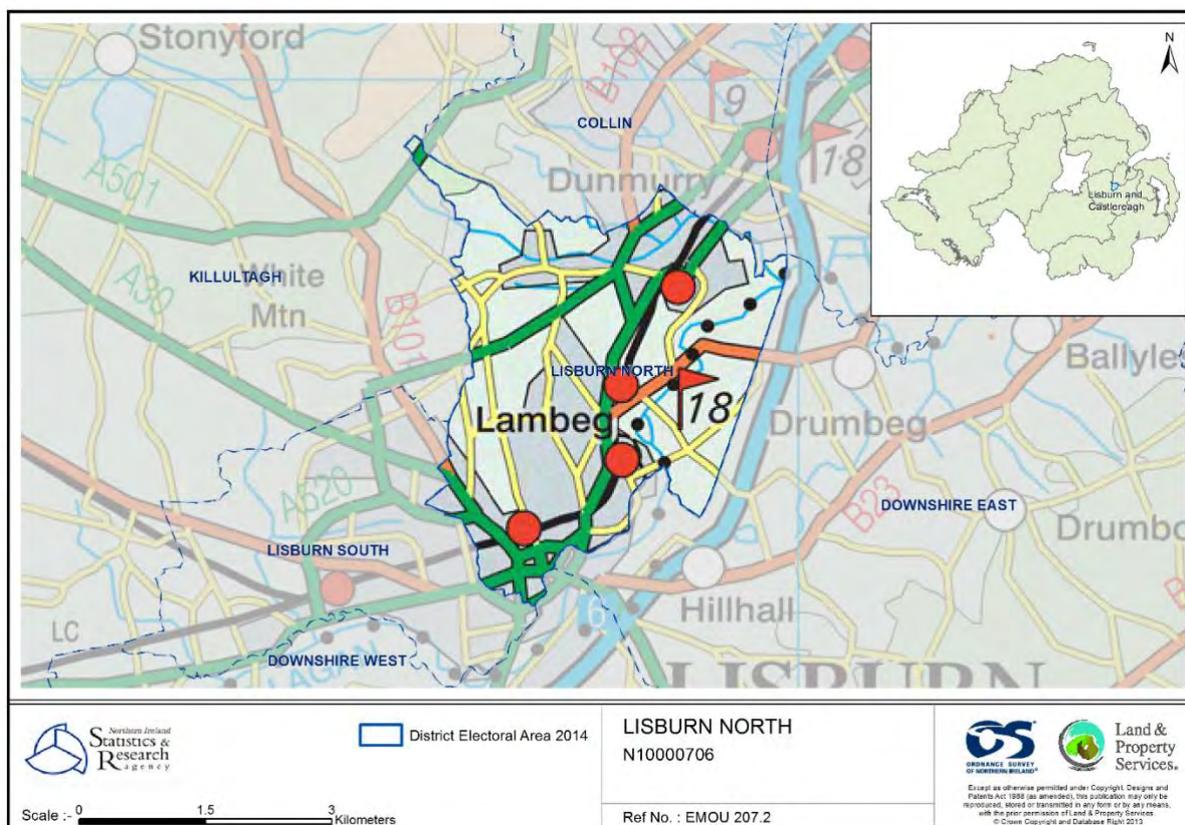
Castlereagh East Focus Group Feedback

There were two focus groups totalling 19 young people age 10-18 from the Castlereagh East DEA were also consulted as part of the local assessment of need. The responses are detailed below:

	Key issues (not ranked in order of importance)	Recommended Youth Service response (not ranked in order of importance)
Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of facilities including gyms or football teams • Lack of access to GP's • Drink & Drugs • Smoking/ Vaping • Sexual Health • Mental Health • Cost of living 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes – Interactive, with outings and educational visits • Free food • Access to • Bring in professionals inc police • Sports sessions • Drugs and alcohol workshops
Learning and Achieving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to learning to drive programmes • Support needed for FE and HE • Know about different cultures • More accredited programme opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International work • Develop programmes to aid in learning • Support YP to get access to FE and HE • Delivery of OCN programmes
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clash of services • More engaging content • Groups of young people not engaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage days/ times of youth clubs with local provision. • Provide opportunities to get out of the local community (particularly rural community where yp feel isolated) • Bring other organisations in to talk to young people • Detached work to engage hard to reach yp • More educational visits • Partnership work • Engage CADI or OLS to deliver programmes •
Environment & Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of recycling bins in area • Lack of bins in such a large area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring it to local voice and speak with politicians. • Let young people lead community clean ups
Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity & Good Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of understanding in the term good relations • Friendships with BME & nationalist communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More TBUC programmes • Interclub stuff • Detached youth work
Living in Safety & Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASB • Drinking in the streets • Areas that's not safe (The Wall/ Greenway) • Behavioural issues – ADHD, ASD • Medication awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach • Increase youth work presence • Programmes that help all YP understand, behaviours and medications.

Appendix 3: DEA Profiles

Lisburn North DEA



Key facts

- Lisburn North has approximately 23,170 residents with 7,206 young people aged 0-24 or 4,370 young people aged 0-15.
- In terms of poverty, 10.4% of the population live in a household whose equivalent income is below 60% of the NI median. 16.4% of the population aged 15 and under is living in a household whose equivalent income is below 60% of the NI median and 16% of the population are income deprived. This would be the second highest rates across all DEAs in Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- There are 2 SOAs Lisburn North that are within the top 25% of areas of multiple deprivation (MDM 2017) – Hilden 1 and Hilden 2.
- There are 3 SOAs in Lisburn North that are within the top 25% of areas of deprivation in terms of Income Deprived Affected Children (IDAC). These are: Hilden 2, Hilden 1 and Lagan Valley 2.
- There are 863 pupils out of 3,770 pupils entitled to Free School Meals (2021/22).
- There are 282 statemented pupils within Lisburn North and 330 pupils identified as having special educational needs (Stages 1-2). The overall percentage of pupils in Lisburn North with a statement is 7.5% which is above the NI average for pupils per DEAs.

Lisburn North DEA

- The proportion of school leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSE's at A* - C (or equivalent) including Maths and English in Lisburn North is 78.9% (2020/2021). This is the second lowest across all DEA's within Lisburn and Castlereagh with only 50.8% progressing to higher education. 23.6% progressed into further education and 13% went into directly into employment – the second highest across all DEA's in Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- Out of the 199 school leavers in 2020/2021 only 63% of school leavers entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C (or equivalent) including Maths and English compared to 83.7% of non-FSM school leavers.
- There are 7 Primary and Nursery Schools and 4 Post Primary Schools (1 Integrated, 1 Secondary and 2 Grammar) in Lisburn North DEA. Many young people travel into Lisburn North from other DEAs to attend these schools.

Current Education Authority funded Youth Provision

- There are two statutory youth service projects currently funded to delivery in Lisburn North DEA – Lisburn Area Project – Seymour Hill (FT) and Lisburn Area Project – Derriaghy (PT). There is one voluntary partner funded to deliver in Lisburn North – Resurgam Youth Initiative (FT).
- There are also 15 voluntary units funded under generic non targeted funding e.g. uniformed groups, community-based youth clubs, church groups to deliver youth work in Lisburn North DEA.

Survey/Consultation findings

Participation issues identified by young people in the Lisburn North DEA were related to a lack of awareness of what was available for young people. Young people also suggested that Youth Services should hold smaller groups for those young people who are less confident to join a larger group of young people. They also felt that there should be a bigger range of programmes on offer by Youth Services. Stakeholders felt that across Lisburn and Castlereagh there should be greater participation of minority groups of young people e.g. those with special educational needs, newcomer young people and more opportunities for the voices of young people to be heard.

Health and Wellbeing is highlighted as an important issue for young people in the Lisburn North DEA. Young people identified that they need support across a range of health issues including mental health and physical health. They identified that they needed help with making healthy lifestyle choices, particularly around drugs and alcohol. Health statistics reveal that Lisburn and Castlereagh has the third highest drug related deaths across NI, therefore work is needed to support young people in this area. Young people want to have better and more affordable access to gyms and sports facilities within Lisburn North DEA to help them stay healthy. They also recognise that support for relationships is also crucial along with how they feel about themselves. This was particularly evident amongst young women.

Young people identified that **Learning and Achieving** was a key issue for young people in the Lisburn North DEA. Young people felt that the formal school environment does not suit everyone and that there are considerable pressures on young people from teachers to achieve. They identified that the transition

from primary to post primary was particularly challenging and wanted more help with managing the stresses of exams and pressures in school. Young people also recognised that more support was needed with career pathways and employment. The percentage of young people in Lisburn North leaving school with 5 or more GCSEs Grades A* - C including English and Maths is amongst the lowest in Lisburn and Castlereagh (78.9%) and only 50.8% progress to higher education. There is also a significant difference between FSME young people's academic achievements and non-FSME young people. Only 63% of FSME young people achieved 5 + GCSEs Grades A* - C including English and Maths compared to 83.7% of non-FSME young people. Better pathways to support young people to achieve accreditations is needed through Youth Services.

Stakeholders recognised that more is needed to be done to support Protestant young men to remain in education but also identified that COVID had had an impact on young people's learning. Other support required was in the area of lifeskills training for young people in areas such as money management and budgeting.

In relation to **Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations**, young people from Lisburn North DEA felt that there were issues with racism, sexism and sectarianism. They felt that more programmes were needed to address these issues including more TBUC programmes that focuses on good relations and targeted projects. They also felt that there needed to be more informal education to challenge young people's perceptions and values in a safe way. Statistics reveal that Lisburn North has one of the highest percentages of young people with a statement. These figures show Lisburn North to be within top 20% of percentages in NI. This would indicate therefore of the need to ensure that young people with SEN have access to Youth Services and receive support to engage. Within Lisburn and Castlereagh area there are also groups of young people from different ethnic groups. The needs of these young people must be considered in the delivery of Youth Services to ensure the promotion of good relations and acceptance of diversity. The statistics also reveal an increase in homophobic incidents and homophobic crimes. Lisburn and Castlereagh saw the third largest increase in homophobic crimes across all Council areas in 2020. Youth work in this area is needed to promote tolerance and understanding amongst young people whilst celebrating diversity within local communities.

Living in Safety and Stability is a concern for young people that live in the Lisburn North DEA. Young people have felt that there was a lack of places for them to 'hang out' and felt unsafe in particular areas. Other areas of concern were ASB, lack of streetlights which make young people feel scared and unsafe, crime or the fear of crime, homelessness and cyber bullying. Young people feel that more detached work is needed along with secure places for them to play outside.

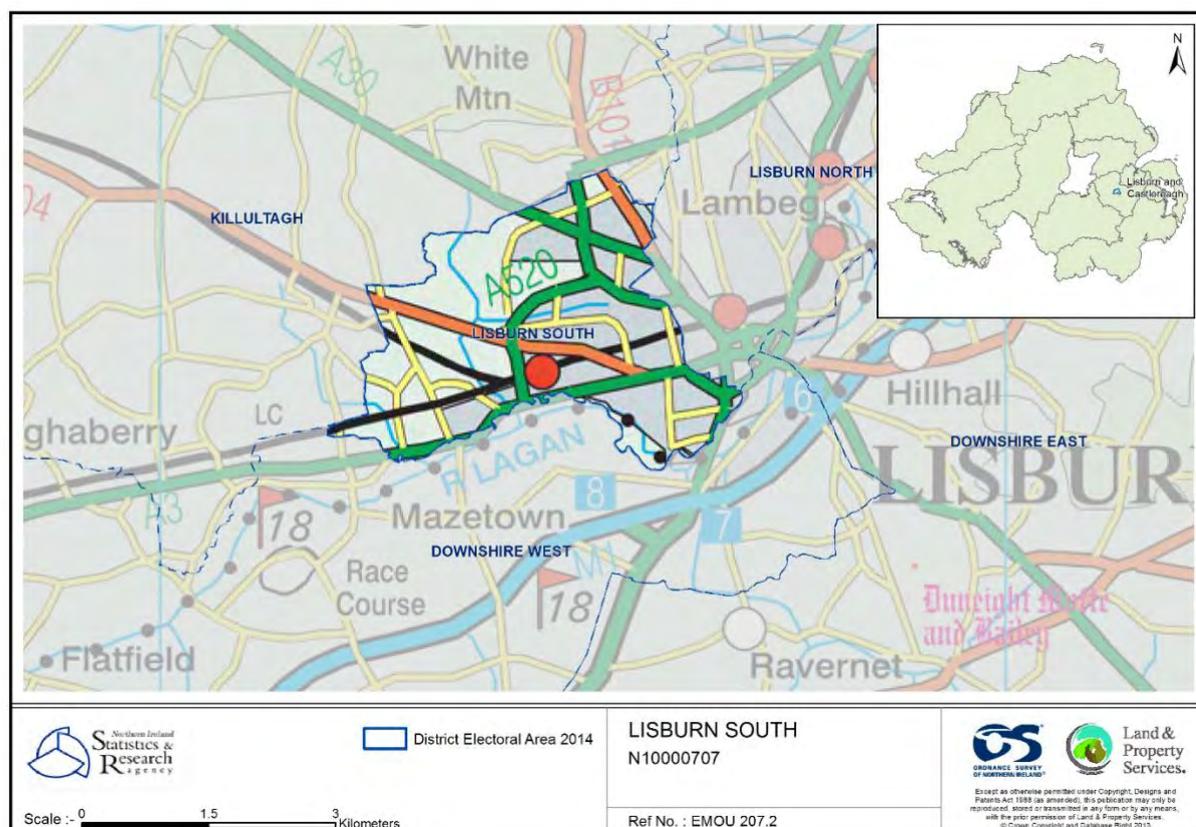
Statistics for ASB in Lisburn and Castlereagh show a sharp increase between 2019 and 2020. Lisburn and Castlereagh had the third highest increase across all Council areas within this period. Key stakeholders were in agreement with the issues raised by young people. They too identified the need for more safe spaces for young people to meet where good relationships with young people could be developed to address some of these issues.

Within the area of **Environment and Climate Change** young people identified that there was a lack of education in this area. They felt that young people did not 'respect' their local environment and that

Lisburn North DEA

Youth Services should be educating young people along with taking practical steps to protect the environment and prevent climate change. Young people felt that the topic needed to be introduced in a fun and exciting way to engage more young people. These needs were also mirrored by key stakeholders who reported that there is a lack of awareness amongst young people on the individual impact on the environment and that more education was needed.

Lisburn South DEA



Key Facts

- The Lisburn South DEA has approximately 23,520 residents with 7,953 young people aged 0-24 or 5,160 young people age 0-15.
- In terms of poverty, 12.2% of the population live in a household whose equivalent income is below 60% of the NI median. 18.6% of the population aged 15 and under is living in a household whose equivalent income is below 60% of the NI median and 21.1% of the working age population are employment deprived. These are the highest percentages across all Lisburn and Castlereagh DEAs
- There is 1 Super Output Areas in Lisburn South DEA that is within the top 25% of areas deprivation (MDM 2017) – Old Warren. Old Warren is the topmost deprived area in Lisburn and Castlereagh ranking 118 out of 890 in Northern Ireland.
- There are 2 Super Output Areas in Lisburn South that are within the top 25% of areas of deprivation in terms of Income Deprived Affected Children (IDAC). These are: Lagan Valley 2 and Knockmore 2.
- There are 1634 pupils out of 4664 pupils entitled to Free School Meals (2021/22) which equates to 35%. This is higher than the NI average of FSME which is 28%.

Lisburn South DEA

- There are 407 statemented pupils within Lisburn South and 560 pupils identified as having special educational needs (Stages 1-2). The overall percentage of pupils in Lisburn South with a statement is 8.7% which is above the average number of pupils with SEN. The proportion of pupils attending Special Schools or who are attending Post Primary Schools with special educational needs (Stages 3-5) is 10%. This is within the top 20% in Northern Ireland.
- The proportion of school leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSE's at A* - C (or equivalent) including Maths and English in Lisburn South is 69.1% (2020/2021). This is within the top 20% lowest percentages in Northern Ireland. Only 34.6% of school leavers progress into higher education. This is also within the 20% lowest rates in Northern Ireland. The percentage of pupils going into training (19.1%) becoming unemployed (6.5%) is also within the highest 20% across Northern Ireland. The percentage absenteeism from Post Primary School is also within the top 20% in Northern Ireland (7.8%). Lisburn South has one of the lowest percentages of pupils achieving 2+ A Levels (51.6%) – again this is within the lowest 20% across Northern Ireland.
- Out of the 146 school leavers in 2020/2021 only 43.1% of school leavers entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C (or equivalent) including Maths and English compared to 79.9% of non-FSM school leavers in the Lisburn South DEA. This figure is within the lowest 20% in Northern Ireland.
- The ratio of dental extractions in 2017 in Lisburn South DEA was higher than the NI average at 124.9 (NI average 100).
- Lisburn South DEA also has the highest percentage of women smoking during pregnancy – 17.6% which is among the top 20% rates in Northern Ireland.
- Figures relating to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) were higher in the Lisburn South DEA in 2017 than any other DEA in Lisburn and Castlereagh. There were 36.3 incidents per 1000 population. In 2020 the number of crimes reported with a domestic abuse motivation (excluding fraud) was 367 which was within the top 20% in Northern Ireland.
- The DEA of Lisburn South has one of the highest rates of newcomer pupils. In 2019 there were 375 newcomer pupils with the majority of these being (77.3%) Post Primary School pupils.
- There are 9 Primary and Nursery Schools and 3 Post Primary Schools (1 Integrated and 2 Secondary) in the Lisburn South DEA.

Current Education Authority funded Youth Provision

- There is currently one statutory part time youth service provision at Laurelhill Youth Centre and two voluntary EA funded provisions, Resurgam Youth Initiative (FT) which focuses on delivery in Old Warren, Knockmore, Tonagh and Manor and Resurgam Youth Initiative (PT) which focuses on delivery in the Ballymacash area.

Lisburn South DEA

- There are also 11 EA groups funded to deliver generic non targeted youth work within Lisburn South DEA.
- There is one EA youth service building in the Lisburn South DEA – Laurelhill Youth Centre. The centre is located adjacent to Laurelhill Community College. The part time generic youth club operates 2 nights a week within the centre. Laurelhill Youth Centre also hosts a number of other EA projects such as the Lisburn and Castlereagh Youth Council and targeted youth work programmes based on identified need.
- Laurelhill Youth Centre is also the admin base for the Lisburn youth work team.

Survey/Consultation findings

Participation issues identified by young people in the Lisburn South DEA were related to the restriction in age bands for Youth Services which young people felt prevented participation. Young people felt that Youth Service programmes and groups should include ‘all’ young people and that programmes should be developed to build young people’s confidence to enable them to try something new. Stakeholders felt that across Lisburn and Castlereagh there should be greater participation of minority groups of young people e.g. those with special educational needs, newcomer young people and more opportunities for the voices of young people to be heard.

Health and Wellbeing is highlighted as an important issue for young people in the Lisburn South DEA. Young people identified that they need support across a range of health issues including mental health, physical health and desire to have more local facilities for young people to meet in a relaxed environment with their peers. Young people also felt that there was a lack of local affordable sports facilities in the area that could be used by young people to support their health and wellbeing. Stakeholders identified the area of health and wellbeing as being important for young people. They also felt that both mental health and physical health issues were prevalent amongst young people but also identified issues in terms of sexual health and the unhealthy choices some young people may be making in terms of their alcohol and drug use. Health statistics also reveal that Lisburn and Castlereagh has the third highest drug related deaths across NI, therefore work is needed to support young people in this area. Lisburn South is also within the top 20% of areas across NI that have a highest proportion of mothers smoking during pregnancy.

Young people identified that **Learning and Achieving** was a key issue for young people in the Lisburn South DEA. They felt that many young people were not achieving 5 GCSEs and this is supported and confirmed by education statistics which reveal that Lisburn South has the lowest percentage of pupils leaving school achieving at least 5 GCSE’s grades A*- C including Maths and English within Lisburn and Castlereagh. Lisburn South is also within the lowest 20% of areas across Northern Ireland. FSME pupils educational achievements were significantly lower and within the lowest 20% in Northern Ireland. Lisburn South also has the highest percentage of young people going directly into training or unemployment in Lisburn and Castlereagh and these percentages are also within the top 20% across

Lisburn South DEA

Northern Ireland. Young people have identified that more should be done to support young people during the transition from Primary to Post Primary school and that homework clubs would support young people to achieve along with access to up to date technology and resources.

Stakeholders recognised that more is needed to be done to support Protestant young men to remain in education but also identified that COVID had had an impact on young people's learning. Other support required was in the area of lifeskills training for young people in areas such as money management and budgeting.

In relation to **Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations**, young people from Lisburn South DEA felt that there were issues with homophobia, racism, sexism and discrimination. They felt that more programmes were needed to address these issues including more TBUC programmes that focuses on good relations and targeted projects. Statistics reveal that Lisburn South has one of the highest percentages of young people with a statement and one of the highest percentage of pupils with SEN Stages 1-2. These figures show Lisburn South to be within top 20% of percentages in NI. This would indicate therefore of the need to ensure that SEN young people with have access to Youth Services and receive support to engage. Within Lisburn and Castlereagh area there are also groups of young people from different ethnic groups. Lisburn South DEA has the greatest number of newcomer pupils in Lisburn and Castlereagh and therefore Youth Services need to engage and support these young people to integrate within local communities. The needs of these young people must be considered in the delivery of Youth Services to ensure the promotion of good relations and acceptance of diversity. The statistics also reveal an increase in homophobic incidents and homophobic crimes. Lisburn and Castlereagh saw the third largest increase in homophobic crimes across all Council areas in 2020. Youth work in this area is needed to promote tolerance and understanding amongst young people whilst celebrating diversity within local communities.

Living in Safety and Stability is a concern for young people that live in the Lisburn South DEA. Young people have cited that they feel there are no secure places 'outside' for the them to go. They identify that in some areas a lack of streetlights is a concern along with bullying and drugs and alcohol. Young people feel that more detached work is needed along with secure places for them to play outside. The identify that youth centres are safe spaces, but these need more equipment and resources. Statistics for ASB in Lisburn and Castlereagh show a sharp increase between 2019 and 2020. Lisburn and Castlereagh had the third highest increase across all Council areas within this period. Key stakeholders were in agreement with the issues raised by young people. They too identified the need for more safe spaces for young people to meet where good relationships with young people could be developed to address some of these issues.

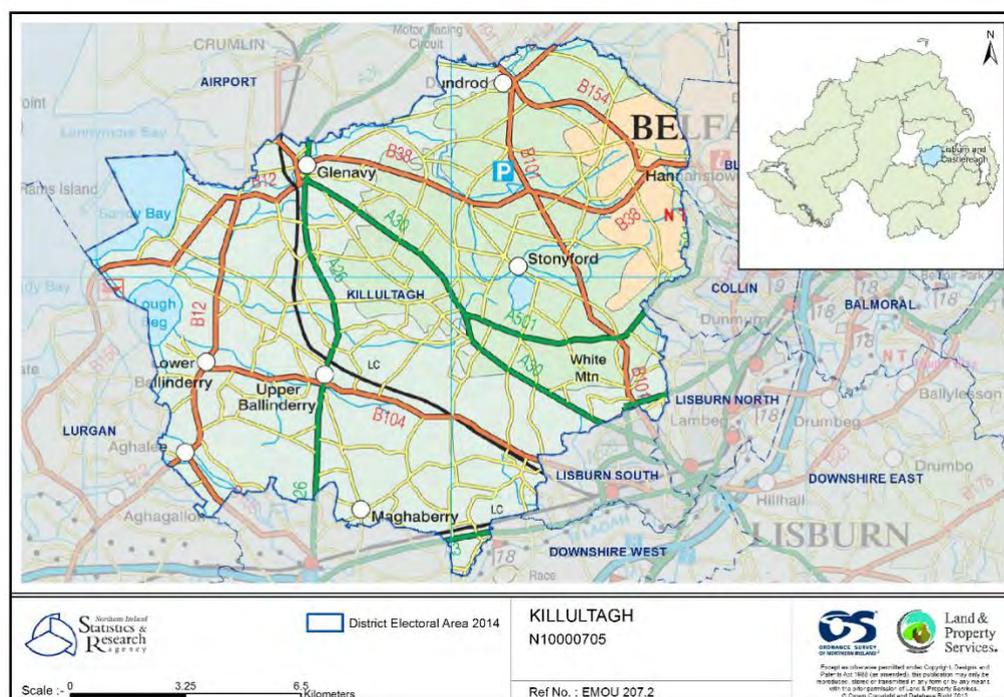
Within the area of **Environment and Climate Change** young people identified that there was a lack of education in this area. They felt that young people did not 'respect' their local environment and that Youth Services should be educating young people along with taking practical steps to protect the environment and prevent climate change such as installing solar panels on youth centre buildings. These



Lisburn South DEA

needs were also mirrored by key stakeholders who reported that there is a lack of awareness amongst young people on the individual impact on the environment and that more education was needed.

Killultagh DEA



Key Facts

- The Killultagh DEA has approximately 21,510 residents with 7,284 young people aged 0-24 or 4,910 young people age 0-15.
- In terms of poverty, 10% of the population live in a household whose equivalent income is below 60% of the NI median. 14.2% of the population aged 15 and under is living in a household whose equivalent income is below 60% of the NI median and 11% of the working age population are employment deprived.
- The SOAs of Glenavy 2 and Ballinderry 1 rank high in terms of access to services – Ballinderry 1 ranks 45 out of 890 and Glenavy 2 ranks 87 out of 890.
- There are 504 pupils out of 4379 pupils entitled to Free School Meals (2021/22).
- There are 233 statemented pupils within Killultagh DEA and 413 pupils identified as having special educational needs (Stages 1-2).
- The proportion of school leavers achieving 5 or more GCSE's at A* - C (or equivalent) including Maths and English in Killultagh DEA is 85.2% (2020/2021).
- Out of the 218 school leavers in 2020/2021, 91.7% of school leavers entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C (or equivalent) including Maths and English which was the highest percentage across all DEA's in Lisburn and Castlereagh. This was also higher than non FSME school leavers (84.9%).

Killultagh DEA

- The DEA of Killultagh has the smallest number of newcomer pupils within its area in 2019 however the majority of these are of Primary School age.
- There are 4 Primary Schools and 1 Special School in the Killultagh DEA. Young people attending post primary school have to travel outside of the DEA to schools in Lisburn and Belfast etc.

Current Education Authority funded Youth Provision

- The EA Youth Service currently funds one statutory provision, Lisburn Rural Project (FT) and one voluntary provision, Glenavy Youth Project (FT) in the Killultagh DEA.
- There are also 6 generic non targeted groups funded to delivery youth services in the Killultagh DEA.
- There are no EA youth buildings within the Killultagh DEA. Youth provision is delivered in local facilities such as community centres and church halls. Young people are also transported to Laurelhill Youth Centre when appropriate to participate in youth work programmes.

Survey/Consultation findings

Young people in Killultagh DEA identified a number of barriers to young people's **Participation** in Youth Services. These included bullying, mental health, drug and alcohol abuse and lack of peer relationships. Young people suggested that Youth Services should therefore be delivering programmes and activities that bring young people together and build relationships along with delivering courses on bullying and promoting positive mental health and wellbeing. Key stakeholders also felt that across Lisburn and Castlereagh young people needed to build contact across different groups of young people to build friendships and help young people to develop skills in forming and maintaining relationships. They felt that there was a need to ensure that Youth Services were available to all young people including those young people with additional needs and newcomer young people.

Within **Health and Wellbeing** young people noted concerns in relation to unhealthy choices particularly in the areas of drugs and alcohol misuse, smoking/vaping and bullying/cyber bullying. They identified that providing more courses and activities relevant to these areas would be beneficial to support young people. Stakeholders also felt that across Lisburn and Castlereagh young people needed support with both their mental health and sexual health. They also felt that young people would benefit from life skills education and training to help them in areas such as budgeting and money management. Health statistics also support the need for drugs education as Lisburn and Castlereagh has the third highest drug related deaths across NI.

Learning and Achieving is another priority area for young people from Killultagh DEA. They felt that young people lacked the motivation to engage in formal education and reported that young people are dropping out of school or not attending courses because of this. Young people recommended that Youth Services provide more courses for young people along with study sessions and guidance on how to revise for exams. Whilst statistics for Killultagh DEA indicate that 85.2% of school leavers achieved at least 5

Killultagh DEA

GCSE's Grades A* - C including Maths and English (2021) the overall statistics for Lisburn and Castlereagh reveal that the percentage of young people leaving school with 5 GCSE's Grades A* - C including Maths and English is the third lowest in Northern Ireland. Key stakeholders also recognised the need to support young people across Lisburn and Castlereagh to learn and achieve. This included support to write CV's and employment opportunities along with training in life skills such as money management and budgeting.

Young people in Killultagh DEA identified some key concerns within the area of **Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations**. Young people are experiencing prejudice in terms of sexual orientation and religion. The feedback from young people suggested that the best way for Youth Services to support young people in this area was by delivering courses to young people along with working in partnership with other groups to break down barriers and build friendships across different groups of young people. Young people also felt that Youth Services had a key role in ensuring that everyone is treated equally within communities. Within Lisburn and Castlereagh area there are young people from different ethnic groups and newcomer young people. The needs of these young people must be considered in the delivery of Youth Services to ensure the promotion of good relations and acceptance of diversity. The statistics for Lisburn and Castlereagh also reveal an increase in homophobic incidents and homophobic crimes. Lisburn and Castlereagh saw the third largest increase in homophobic crimes across all Council areas in 2020. Youth work in this area is needed to promote tolerance and understanding amongst young people whilst celebrating diversity within local communities. Key stakeholders were also in agreement with the need to support different groups of young people and in particular support for the LGBTQi+ community and felt that there should be greater integration of young people with additional needs into mainstream Youth Services.

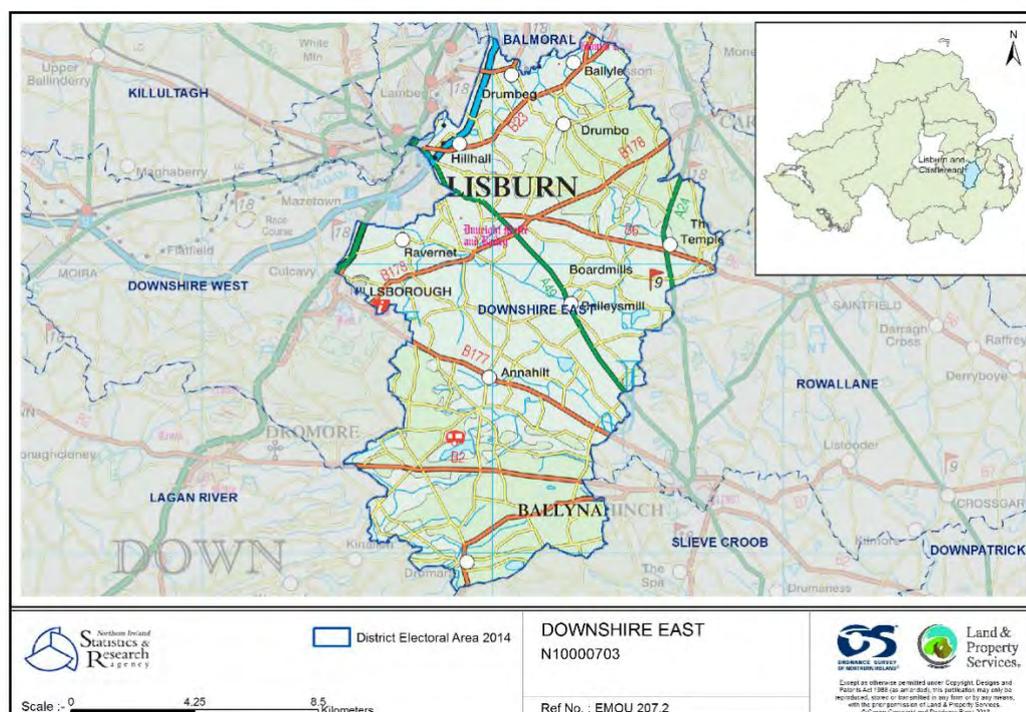
Within the area of **Living in Safety and Stability**, young people in Killultagh DEA cited safeguarding issues as affecting young people living in safety and stability within communities. They also noted that crime including break in's along with poverty are issues for young people and felt that Youth Services should provide opportunities for young people to work alongside community officers to address the issues. Young people also recognised the importance of having a trusted adult for support. Stakeholders reported that they felt that young people also needed support whilst online along with the issues identified by young people. The increase in ASB within Lisburn and Castlereagh was noted. This is supported by PSNI statistics which reveal that Lisburn and Castlereagh had the third largest increase in ASB in 2021. Stakeholders recommended and that outreach and detached youth work was needed to engage those young people on the street at key times.

Within the area of the **Environment and Climate Change** young people identified local issues which were of concern to young people. These included litter within the community, pollution of local rivers and dog fouling. Young people suggested that raising the profile of the issues and getting young people and the community involved in social action initiatives would be the best way of dealing with these issues. Stakeholders also felt that across Lisburn and Castlereagh more education was required on the theme of

Killultagh DEA

the environment and climate change and also suggested social actions programmes and the promotion of universal environmental messages as an effective way to explore and address this theme with young people.

Downshire East DEA



Key Facts

- The Downshire East DEA has approximately 16,770 residents with 5,230 young people aged 0-24 or 3,430 young people age 0-15.
- In terms of poverty, Downshire East 10.3% of the population live in a household whose equivalent income is below 60% of the NI median. 15.1% of the population aged 15 and under is living in a household whose equivalent income is below 60% of the NI median and 11.7% of the working age population are employment deprived.
- There are 346 pupils out of 2985 pupils entitled to Free School Meals (2021/22).
- There are 185 statemented pupils within Downshire East and 287 pupils identified as having special educational needs (Stages 1-2). The overall percentage of pupils in Downshire East with a statement is 6.2%.
- The proportion of school leavers achieving 5 or more GCSE's at A* - C (or equivalent) including Maths and English in Downshire East is 85.8% (2020/2021) which is the second highest across all DEA's in Lisburn and Castlereagh. 67.4% of young people achieved 2+ A Levels or equivalent in 2020/2021.
- Out of the 190 school leavers in 2020/2021 only 64% of school leavers entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A* - C (or equivalent) including Maths and English compared to 89.1% of non-FSM school leavers in the Downshire East DEA.

Downshire East DEA

- There are 7 Primary Schools and 1 Post Primary Special School within the Downshire East DEA. All pupils attending mainstream Post Primary Schools have to travel outside the DEA.

Current Education Authority funded Youth Provision

- There is one full time statutory project, Lisburn Rural Project that delivers youth services to young people in the Downshire East DEA, Killultagh DEA and Downshire West DEA. EA also funds one full time voluntary youth partner, Resurgam Youth Initiative to deliver services in the Hillhall area.
- There are 14 voluntary groups funded through EA to provide generic non- targeted youth services to young people in the Downshire East DEA.

Survey/Consultation findings

Participation issues for young people in Downshire East DEA focused on the lack of leadership opportunities within Youth Services and the community. Young people felt that there was also a lack of available time for young people to commit to bigger leadership projects. They also suggested that Youth Services should be delivering programmes to develop young people's confidence to participate and offer more international programmes which may attract young people into the service. Key stakeholders voiced concern regarding the lack of volunteers within Youth Services in Lisburn and Castlereagh and the need for greater engagement between groups of young people to help build relationships and friendships.

Health and Wellbeing is a priority area for young people within Downshire East DEA. Young people identified that they needed support with their mental health, physical health (including obesity), sexual health and sexual exploitation. Young people felt that Youth Services should be providing programmes to address these issues along with creating mental health ambassadors and providing access to counselling services. Young people also noted that they wanted better and more affordable sports facilities within the Downshire East area. Stakeholders felt that across Lisburn and Castlereagh young people needed support with both their mental health and sexual health and how to deal and manage with difficulties in school.

Within the area of **Learning and Achieving** young people identified that they had concerns about young people's educational achievement in Downshire East DEA. The statistics show that the percentage of school leavers achieving 5 or more GCSE's at Grade A* - C including English and Maths was good – 85.8%, which was the second highest across Lisburn and Castlereagh. However, only 64% of school leavers entitled to FSM achieved 5 or more GCSE's compared to the 89.1% on non-FSM leavers. Young people also identified that there wasn't enough support to help young people transition from Primary to Post Primary school and this work along with the extension of homework clubs and access to better technology would encourage young people to remain engaged with education. The young people also identified a lack of apprenticeships for young people in Downshire East DEA and felt that Youth Services should be providing more practical work-based programmes with youth centres e.g. joinery courses. Key stakeholders recognised the need to support young people across Lisburn and Castlereagh to learn

Downshire East DEA

and achieve. This included support to write CV's and employment opportunities along with training in life skills such as money management and budgeting.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations is an important area for young people from Downshire East DEA. Young people have identified that they are affected by homophobia, sexism and racism within their communities and have experienced discrimination across these key areas. They want Youth Services to provide more education and awareness on these issues through specific programmes and activities and feel that by increasing opportunities for young people from different backgrounds to meet, prejudice and discrimination can be addressed and reduced. The statistics for Lisburn and Castlereagh also reveal that there is an increase in homophobic incidents and homophobic crimes. Lisburn and Castlereagh saw the third largest increase in homophobic crimes across all Council areas in 2020. Youth work in this area is needed to promote tolerance and understanding amongst young people whilst celebrating diversity within local communities. Key stakeholders were also in agreement with the need to support different groups of young people and in particular support for the LGBTQi + community and felt that there should be greater integration of young people with additional needs into mainstream Youth Services.

Living in Safety and Stability is a concern for young people in the Downshire East DEA. They reported that they feel there are no secure places outside of youth centres for them to go and socialise. They highlighted areas in communities where there is a lack of street lighting. This impacts their feelings of safety along with behaviours such as bullying by peers and young people's use of drugs and alcohol. Young people were very clear that a way to address these fears is by having more detached work on the streets. They felt that Youth Services along with other agencies have a role in providing secure outside places and that if youth centres had more equipment and resources it would encourage more young people into these safe indoor spaces.

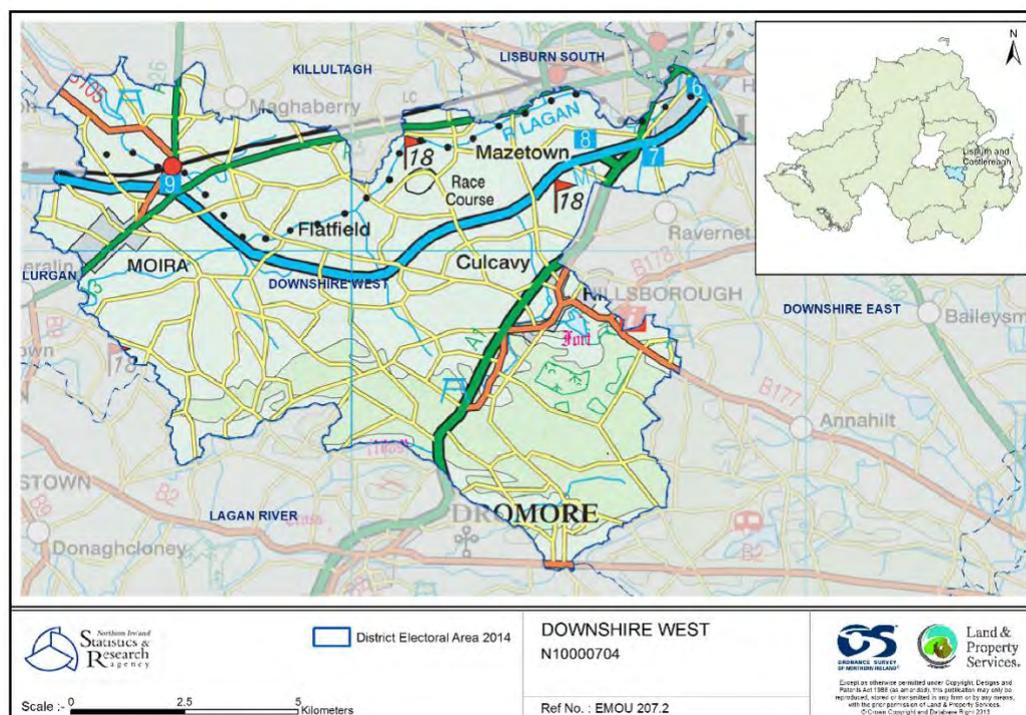
Stakeholders felt that youth services should be addressing these issues through its relational approach and through education and awareness. They agreed there remains a continued need for outreach and detached youth work to reach those young people not engaged in Youth Services or those choosing not to engage at particular times. Stakeholders felt that young people needed more access to mentoring opportunities to help them navigate and deal with issues having the support of a trusted adult. Stakeholders felt that Youth Services should be providing safe spaces for young people and can use a range of methodologies to engage young people including outdoor learning and sport. More education and guidance is required regarding behaviours online in order to keep young people safe and to provide advice when things go wrong. There continues a need to support young people being influenced by negative community and paramilitary activity.

Concerns regarding the **Environment and Climate Change** should be addressed by providing more education in this area according to young people. Young people felt that there was an overall lack of respect for the environment and that engaging young people in social action projects would provide a good opportunity for more to be involved in this area. Young people also suggested that youth centres

Downshire East DEA

should be more environmentally friendly, for example using solar panels for energy. Other key stakeholders suggested that Youth Services could link with local groups e.g. Men's Sheds and should be providing a range of educational programmes to encourage young people to address this area. Stakeholders felt that keeping the theme local would work best with young people so they could relate to issues and see the impact of their work. Youth workers felt that training in this area would also be beneficial to support them to deliver quality programmes and encourage participation. One suggestion on how to motivate young people to participate in environmental initiatives was to incentivise participation. It was suggested that Youth Services should be working with young people from an early intervention perspective delivering age appropriate initiatives along with promoting key universal messages such as reducing food waste.

Downshire West DEA



Key Facts

- The Downshire West DEA has approximately 17,180 residents with 4,786 young people aged 0-24 or 3,210 young people age 0-15.
- In terms of poverty, 9.7% of the population live in a household whose equivalent income is below 60% of the NI median. 13.9% of the population aged 15 and under is living in a household whose equivalent income is below 60% of the NI median and 11.7% of the working age population are employment deprived.
- There are 262 pupils out of 2746 pupils entitled to Free School Meals (2021/22) – the lowest percentage across all DEA’s in Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- There are 130 statemented pupils within Downshire West DEA and 221 pupils identified as having special educational needs (Stages 1-2). The overall percentage of pupils in Downshire West with a statement is 4.7%, the lowest percentage across all DEA’s in Lisburn and Castlereagh.
- The proportion of school leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSE’s at A* - C (or equivalent) including Maths and English in Downshire West is 83.6% (2020/2021). The majority of young people progressed into higher education (60.5%). The percentage of pupils going onto further education or employment are among the lowest 20% in Northern Ireland – 19.8% and 5.90% respectively.

Downshire West DEA

- Out of the 177 school leavers in 2020/2021 only 57.9% of school leavers entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*- C (or equivalent) including Maths and English compared to 86.7% of non-FSM school leavers in the Downshire West DEA.
- There are 3 Primary Schools and 1 Post Primary Special School in the Downshire West DEA. Most young people travel outside the DEA to attend Post Primary school.

Current Education Authority funded Youth Provision

- There is one statutory youth service project in the Downshire West – Lisburn Rural Project however this project works across other DEAs including Killultagh and Downshire East. There is one full time voluntary EA funded centre in Moira – Logic Café and one voluntary EA funded part time unit Resurgam Youth Initiative focused on provision in the Maze and Culcavy area.
- Within Downshire West DEA the Headquarters of the Boys Brigade is located. This is funded by EA as a Regional Strategic Organisation to support BB Companies across Northern Ireland.
- There are 14 groups funded to deliver generic non-targeted youth work within Downshire West DEA.

Survey/Consultation findings

Participation issues for young people in Downshire West DEA focused on the challenges young people have with spare time. They also identified that the lack of transport could impact participation as transport in rural communities is limited. Young people wanted more opportunities for initiatives such as youth committees to encourage young people to actively participate in Youth Services. Key stakeholders also identified that across Lisburn and Castlereagh the lack of volunteers within Youth Services can impact participation and that there needs to be greater engagement between groups of young people from different communities to help build relationships and friendships.

Health and Wellbeing is a priority area for young people within Downshire West DEA. Young people identified that they needed support with their mental health along and in particular dealing with stress from schoolwork along with support for drug and alcohol issues. Young people felt that Youth Services should be providing awareness raising programmes to address these issues and suggested that an effective methodology is through outdoor learning such as Duke of Edinburgh programmes and outdoor activities. Stakeholders agreed that young people need support with their mental health and how to deal and manage with difficulties in school.

Within the area of **Learning and Achieving** young people from Downshire West DEA identified that they had concerns about the lack of careers advice and job advice available to young people. They felt that more support was needed for young people to apply for jobs including CV writing and interview skills. Young people also felt that have more spaces to study would be beneficial in helping young people learn and achieve. The percentages of young people leaving school with 5+ GCSEs Grades A* - C including English and Maths is good in Downshire West DEA however those school leavers that are entitled to

Downshire West DEA

FSME are not achieving as well. In 2021 only 57.9% of FSME leavers achieved 5+ GCSEs Grades A* - C including English and Maths compared to 86.7% of non-FSME leavers. More support is therefore needed for these young people to achieve including other pathways to accreditation and employment and training.

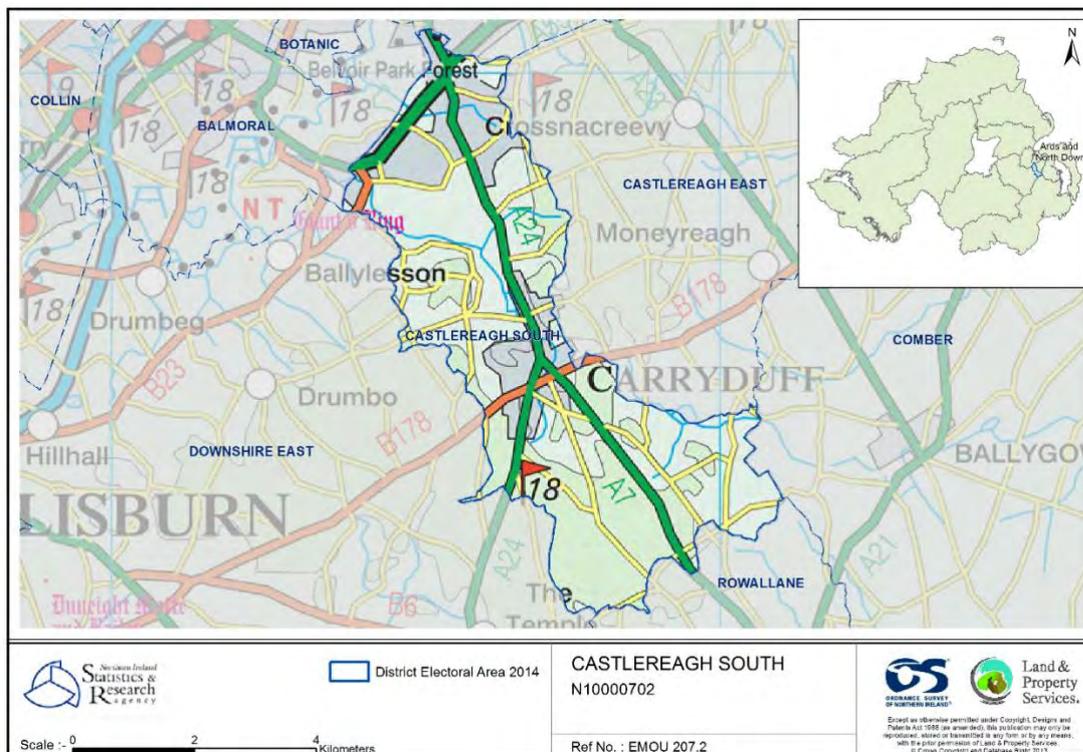
Key stakeholders also recognised the need to support young people across Lisburn and Castlereagh to learn and achieve particularly in the area of developing CV's and employment opportunities along with training in life skills such as money management and budgeting.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations is an important area for young people in Downshire West DEA. They mainly feel that there are challenges with meeting new people outside their area and Youth Services should be providing opportunities for young people to build relationships with other young people outside their immediate peer group. Teambuilding and outdoor pursuits were recommended as effective methodologies to address issues of inclusion, diversity, equality of opportunity and good relations work along with specific programmes and initiative to build interpersonal skills and relationships. Lisburn and Castlereagh saw the third largest increase in homophobic crimes across all Council areas in 2020. Youth work in this area is needed to promote tolerance and understanding amongst young people whilst celebrating diversity within local communities. Key stakeholders were also in agreement with the need to support different groups of young people and in particular support for the LGBTQi+ community and felt that there should be greater integration of young people with additional needs into mainstream Youth Services.

Living in Safety and Stability is a concern for young people in the Downshire West DEA. They reported that ASB was a concern along with young people consuming alcohol in the local park and taking drugs. Young people suggested that Youth Services should be offering good programmes to raise awareness as well as providing a safe space for young people to meet and get support. Stakeholders across Lisburn and Castlereagh agreed with these suggestions, particularly in relation to providing a safe space for young people to meet. They also suggested that Youth Services should use a range of methodologies such as outdoor learning and sport to address issues within this theme.

Concerns regarding the **Environment and Climate Change** in Downshire West DEA focused mainly on the lack of bin and recycling facilities in the area. Young people felt that there was a lack of bins in the community and those that were there were not being emptied frequently. Other key stakeholders suggested that Youth Services should link with local groups to address environment and climate change issues along with providing a range of educational programmes to encourage young people to address this area. Stakeholders felt that keeping the theme local would work best with young people so they could relate to issues and see the impact of their work. It was also suggested that Youth Services should be working with young people from an early intervention perspective delivering age appropriate initiatives along with promoting key universal messages such as reducing food waste.

Castlereagh South DEA



Key Facts

- The Castlereagh South DEA has approximately 23,970 residents with 7,240 young people aged 0-24 or 4,720 young people age 0-15.
- In terms of poverty, 7.1% of the population live in a household whose equivalent income is below 60% of the NI median. 9.9% of the population aged 15 and under is living in a household whose equivalent income is below 60% of the NI median and 10.4% of the working age population are employment deprived. These are the lowest percentages across all DEA's within Lisburn and Castlereagh. There are no Super Output Areas in this area within the top 20% in terms of deprivation.
- There are 492 pupils out of 4100 pupils (12%) entitled to Free School Meals (2021/22) which is well under the NI average of 28%.
- There are 223 statemented pupils within Castlereagh South and 326 pupils identified as having special educational needs (Stages 1-2).
- The proportion of school leavers achieving 5 or more GCSE's at A* - C (or equivalent) including Maths and English in Castlereagh South DEA is 90.1% (2020/2021). This is the highest percentage across all Lisburn and Castlereagh DEA's. Only 5.5% of school leavers went onto training. This is within the lowest percentage of pupils going into training in Lisburn and Castlereagh.

Castlereagh South DEA

- Of the 293 school leavers in 2020/2021 only 61.1% of school leavers entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C (or equivalent) including Maths and English compared to 94.2% of non-FSM school leavers in the Castlereagh South DEA.
- In 2019 there were 150 newcomer pupils in Castlereagh South DEA. Of those, 80% were at Primary School. This percentage is in the top 20% in Northern Ireland demonstrating higher levels of newcomer Primary School pupils in Castlereagh South DEA.
- There are 4 Primary Schools and 1 Post Primary Schools in the Castlereagh South DEA. Most young people travel outside of the DEA to schools in Belfast for their Post Primary education.

Current Education Authority funded Youth Provision

- There is no EA statutory youth provision within the Castlereagh South DEA however, in the neighbouring DEA is Belvoir Youth Centre which is a statutory youth centre that provides services to young people from the Belvoir estate and neighbouring communities.
- EA currently fund one voluntary provider - Dreamscheme on a part time capacity to deliver services to young people from the Newtownbreda area.
- There are 11 groups funded through EA generic non-targeted funding to deliver services within the Castlereagh South DEA.

Survey/Consultation findings

Participation issues for young people in Castlereagh South DEA focused on those young people not accessing Youth Services. Young people identified that having more drop in type provision would attract those currently not engaged along with detached or outreach work. Young people also recommended using educational visits to attract more young people to engage along with working in partnership with other agencies. Having creative and interactive programmes such as those delivered by CADi or OLS may also attract new young people into the service. Key stakeholders identified that across Lisburn and Castlereagh the lack of volunteers within Youth Services can impact participation and that there needs to be greater engagement between groups of young people from different communities to help build relationships and friendships.

Health and Wellbeing is a key area for young people within Castlereagh South DEA. Young people identified that unhealthy lifestyle choices is a major concern including vaping and drug use. Young people would like to see Youth Services providing workshops to address these issues and recommended linking with partners such as the PSNI who could be involved to raise awareness. Young people identified that

Castlereagh South DEA

they would like to have more sports-based activities provided by Youth Services. Stakeholders agreed that young people need support with unhealthy lifestyle choices but also specifically need support with their mental health and wellbeing and how to deal and manage with difficulties in school.

Within the area of **Learning and Achieving** young people from Castlereagh South DEA did not identify any specific issues but wanted Youth Services to provide more accredited programmes in a range of different subjects. The statistics for Castlereagh South DEA do not identify any specific issues with young people achieving qualifications however those young people on FSME are not achieving to the same level as non-FSME young people. More support therefore is needed for this specific group of young people in Castlereagh South DEA. Other Key stakeholders have identified that across Lisburn and Castlereagh young people need support with developing CV's and training in life skills such as money management and budgeting.

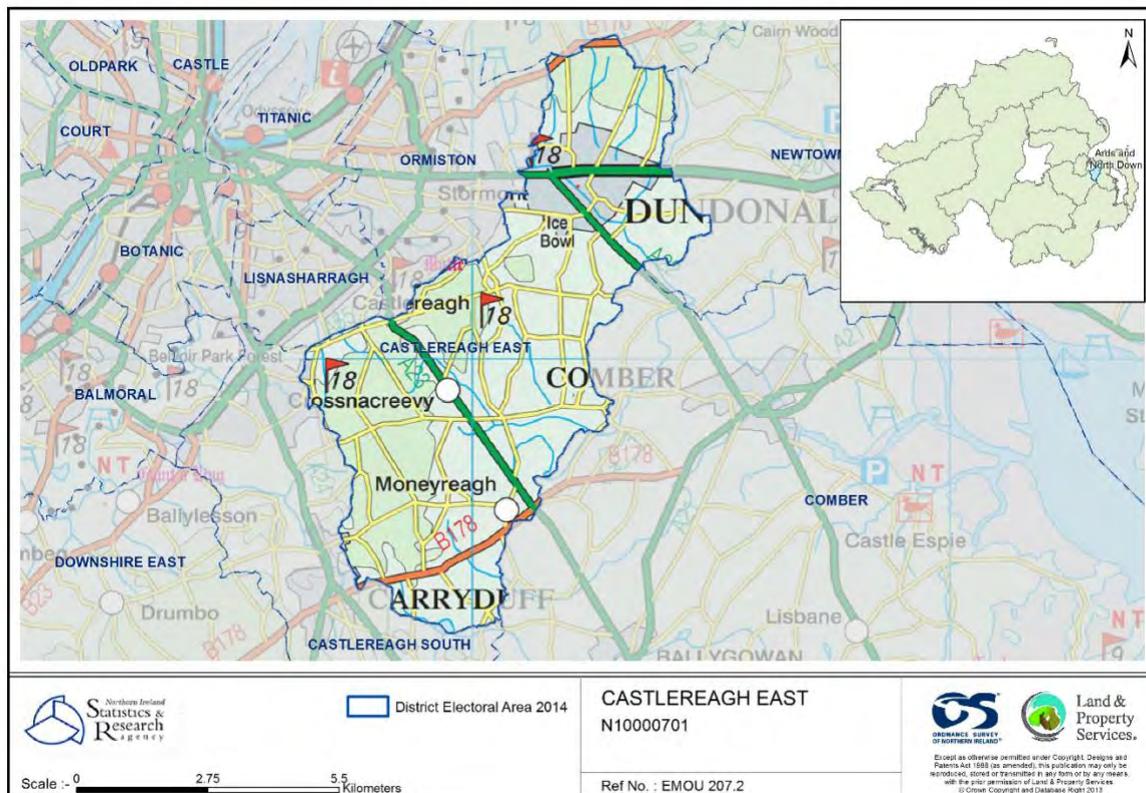
Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations is an important area within Castlereagh South DEA. Young people felt that they do not get enough opportunities to meet with other young people outside of their area. They felt that issues still exist with sectarianism and that the Youth Service should address these issues through the delivery of programmes such as TBUC. Young people also recommended that there should be more detached youth work to engage and support young people out in the community. Young people identified that homophobia is an issue and this was supported by key stakeholders who felt that Youth Services should be providing additional support for LGBTQi+ young people along with young people with additional needs.

Living in Safety and Stability is a concern for young people in the Castlereagh South DEA. Issues relating to ASB and the consumption of alcohol and drugs were cited by young people as a key concern. Young people identified that Youth Services should be providing outreach to increase youth workers presence on the streets along with delivering youth work programmes to meet the needs of young people. Stakeholder feedback across Lisburn and Castlereagh also felt that it was important that young people had a safe space to meet and that Youth Services should use a range of methodologies such as outdoor learning and sport to address issues within this theme.

Castlereagh South DEA

Concerns regarding the **Environment and Climate Change** in Castlereagh South DEA focused mainly on the lack of bin and recycling facilities in the area. Young people felt that there were a lack of bins in the community and those that were there were not being emptied frequently. Other key stakeholders suggested that Youth Services should link with local groups to address environment and climate change issues along with providing a range of educational programmes to encourage young people to address this area. Stakeholders felt that keeping the theme local would work best with young people so they could relate to issues and see the impact of their work. It was also suggested that Youth Services should be working with young people from an early intervention perspective delivering age appropriate initiatives along with promoting key universal messages such as reducing food waste.

Castlereagh East DEA



Key Facts

- The Castlereagh East DEA has approximately 21,100 residents with 6,232 young people aged 0-24 or 3,920 young people age 0-15.
- In terms of poverty, 9.4% of the population live in a household whose equivalent income is below 60% of the NI median. 15.1% of the population aged 15 and under is living in a household whose equivalent income is below 60% of the NI median and 15% of the working age population are employment deprived.
- There is 1 Super Output Areas in Castlereagh East that falls within the top 25% of areas of deprivation in terms of Income Deprived Affected Children (IDAC). This is: Grahams Bridge which ranks 185 out of 890.
- There are 659 pupils out of 3477 pupils entitled to Free School Meals (2021/22).
- There are 232 statemented pupils within Castlereagh East and 372 pupils identified as having special educational needs (Stages 1-2). The number of pupils with a statement is above the NI average at 6.7%.

Castlereagh East DEA

- The proportion of school leavers achieving 5 or more GCSE's at A* - C (or equivalent) including Maths and English in Castlereagh East is 80.3% (2020/2021). Less than half of these school leavers progressed to higher education (45.2%), the second lowest across DEAs in Lisburn and Castlereagh. Interestingly the percentage of pupils going into employment or training in Castlereagh East is within the lowest 20% in Northern Ireland – only 3.8% of young people entered employment and only 4.8% of young people entered training.
- Out of the 228 school leavers in 2020/2021, only 62.3% of school leavers entitled to Free School Meals (FSME) achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C (or equivalent) including Maths and English this is well behind non FSME leavers at 85.7%.
- There are 2 Primary Schools, 1 Post Primary School, 1 Integrated Post Primary School and 3 Special Schools in Castlereagh East.

Current Education Authority funded Youth Provision

- There is currently one full time statutory youth centre in the Castlereagh East DEA – Brooklands Youth Centre. This is located in the grounds of Brooklands Primary School in Ballybeen. The Comber, Ballygowan & Moneyrea Project also delivers youth work programmes to young people in the Moneyrea area one evening per week as the project is split across two council areas.
- There are 15 groups funded by EA to deliver generic non-targeted youth work programmes to young people in the Castlereagh East DEA.

Survey/Consultation findings

In terms of **Participation**, young people identified that some Youth Services needed more engaging content to attract participation of young people. Suggestions on how to improve this included bringing other organisations into provisions, providing more residential experiences and providing opportunities to be involved in more creative youth work through CADi etc. They recognised that there were groups of young people who were not choosing to engage in Youth Services and suggested that there could even be a potential clash of services. Young people recommended better management of Youth Service times to ensure young people can access a variety of provision and voiced that they wanted more opportunities to go out of the local community and learn about other areas. Young people also recommended that Youth Services should deploy detached youth workers to engage with young people on the streets. Other key stakeholders felt that across Lisburn and Castlereagh there should be greater involvement of minority groups in Youth Services e.g. SEN young people, newcomer young people along with more opportunities for the voices of young people to be heard.

The **Health and Wellbeing** of young people in Castlereagh East DEA remains a key priority. Young people have concerns about their unhealthy lifestyle choices in terms of the use of alcohol and drugs, smoking and vaping. Lisburn and Castlereagh has the third highest drug related deaths across NI, therefore work is needed to support young people in this area. Young people that live in the area feel that they have

Castlereagh East DEA

limited access to services such as GP practices and facilities that support good health such as gyms or sports clubs. Young people have also identified they require support with their mental health and sexual health and suggest that Youth Services should be delivering targeted programmes to address these issues. They also recommended that Youth Services engage other professionals to help meet the needs of young people.

Castlereagh East DEA has one Super Output Area that falls within the top 25% of areas IDAC. The link between poverty and poor health outcomes is well documented. This needs to be considered when delivering programmes that support better health and wellbeing outcomes. Other key stakeholders identified that across Lisburn and Castlereagh, young people need support with building coping skills and resilience skills. It was also identified that support for health and wellbeing was also needed particularly for Transgender young people with more education needed to help young people make informed choices.

Learning and Achieving is also a key priority for young people. Young people in Castlereagh East DEA feel that more opportunities are needed for young people to develop skills for careers and vocations. One suggestion was to provide better access and support for young people who want to learn to drive. Young people recommended that Youth Services develop programmes to help with learning and provide better support to young people wishing to progress to higher or further education. This is an important area within Castlereagh East DEA. Whilst the percentages of young people leaving school with 5 or more GCSE's at Grades A* - C including Maths and English appears relatively good (80.3%) it is the third lowest in Lisburn and Castlereagh and less than half of these pupils (in 2020-21) progress to higher education (45.2%). The lowest percentage of young people going into employment or training in within Castlereagh East which is also within the lowest 20% in Northern Ireland. There is also a stark difference to the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSE's that are non-FSME leavers (85.7%) with those that are FSME leavers (62.3%).

Other stakeholders recognised that more support is needed for Protestant young men to remain in education and that COVID had a significant impact on young people's learning. Other support required was in the area of life skills training for young people in areas such as money management and budgeting across all of Lisburn and Castlereagh.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations is an important area within Castlereagh East DEA. Young people felt that across the community and amongst young people there was a lack of understanding of what good relations work is. They recommended that young people should have more opportunities to engage and build friendships with young people from other communities including BAME young people and young people from Nationalist communities. This could be through engagement in TBUC programmes, interclub activities or through detached youth work engagements. Within Lisburn and Castlereagh there are young people from different ethnic groups and newcomer young people. Other stakeholders felt that the needs of these young people must also be considered in the delivery of Youth Services to ensure the promotion of good relations and acceptance of diversity. Statistics for Lisburn and Castlereagh also reveal an increase in homophobic incidents and homophobic

Castlereagh East DEA

crimes. Lisburn and Castlereagh saw the third largest increase in homophobic crimes across all Council areas in 2020. Youth work in this area is needed to promote tolerance and understanding amongst young people whilst celebrating diversity within local communities. Key stakeholders also felt particular support was needed for the LGBTQi + community and young people with additional needs. This is particularly important within the Castlereagh East DEA as the percentage of young people with special educational needs is within the top 20% across all DEA's in Northern Ireland.

Living in Safety and Stability was an important area for young people within Castlereagh East DEA. Young people recognised issues in relation to ASB and young people drinking on the streets. Statistics for ASB in Lisburn and Castlereagh show a sharp increase between 2019 and 2020 with Lisburn and Castlereagh having the third highest increase across all Council areas within this period. Young people within the Castlereagh East DEA identified that there were areas in their community in which they do not feel safe. These included the Comber Greenway and 'the wall', a known hotspot for youths gathering. Young people also identified that behavioural issues can also have an impact on young people living in safety and stability. Young people recommended that outreach youth work would be an appropriate intervention to help young people feel safer on the streets and in the community. Having an increased youth work presence along with specific programmes to raise awareness would support young people more within this area.

Key stakeholders were in agreement with the issues raised by young people. They too identified the need for more safe spaces for young people to meet where good relationships with young people could be developed issues addressed.

Within the area of the **Environment and Climate Change** young people identified that topics of concern within Castlereagh East DEA were littering and the lack of recycling bins within the area. Young people recommended that their Local Voice should raise the issue with elected members along with young people actively leading social action programmes within the area such as community clean ups. Stakeholders also felt that across Lisburn and Castlereagh there was a lack of awareness of environmental issues amongst young people and a lack of understanding of the individual impact of actions on the environment. It was felt that Youth Services should deliver more education programmes in this area.

Youth Service