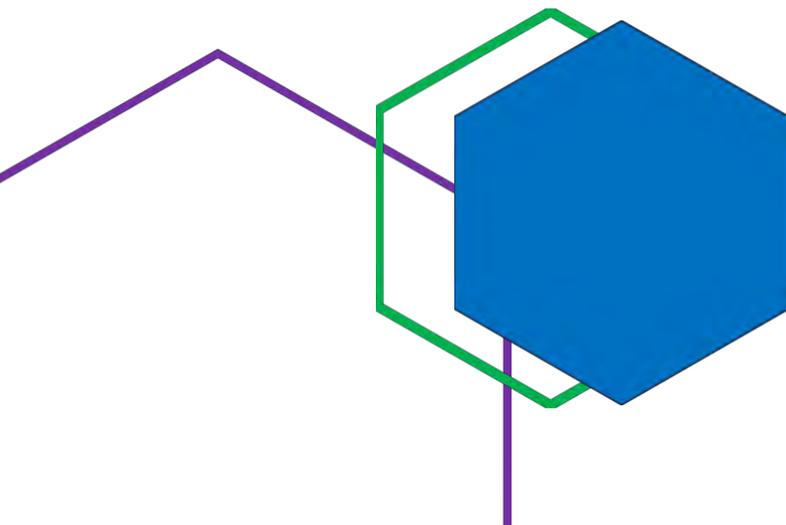


Youth Service

Local Assessment of Need Mid and East Antrim

2023



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Executive Summary

The Mid & East Antrim Local Assessment of Need is the first phase of the process informing the direction of Youth services within Mid & East Antrim. The purpose of the assessment of need is to identify the big picture in terms of the needs and inequalities facing children and young people and vulnerable groups whose needs are not currently being met and who experience poor educational, health or social outcomes. This needs assessment identifies unmet need and informs service planning and resource allocation ensuring improved outcomes for children and young people and a reduction in inequalities.

Quantifying the needs of young people in Mid & East Antrim is a complex and difficult task. There is a clear variation and level of needs across the area, between urban and rural areas with some DEAs facing greater challenges than others. Mid & East Antrim is a large geographical area with broad ranging and diverse needs and issues.

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

A total of 180 children and young people in Mid & East Antrim responded to a survey issued regionally on their needs. In addition to the survey, stakeholder consultations by statutory and funded voluntary organisations along with local consultations during July 2022 included a further 920 young people.

Priority Outputs for 2023

Mid & East Antrim has a population of 41,984 aged 0 -25 years with 16% living in deprived areas and 25.5% living in rural areas. Children and young people living in areas of the highest deprivation are more likely to underachieve at school due to the other competing needs in their lives not being met. They will come up against greater obstacles to live a life of fulfilled potential.

The Assessment of need clearly establishes the following Key Areas for Action for the delivery of Youth Services in Mid & East Antrim.

Learning and Achieving

Addressing barriers to learning remains a significant need. This need is further deepened by the pandemic, increased newcomers, high levels of SEN and children looked after. Based on population data there is a significant number of young people in the 14-18 age range who will be taking examinations and considering employment/career pathways or routes into further and higher education. There will be an opportunity and need to provide new and additional leadership and volunteer opportunities along with vocational training, taking into account the bespoke needs at that time.

Health and Wellbeing

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

- Emotional Health and Wellbeing to be a feature of all youth provision
- Early support group work programmes with a focus on emotional health and wellbeing

- The use of sports and physical activity
- Establishing a positive peer culture within youth settings to nurture discussion with children and young people regarding health and wellbeing
- Support for Drug and Alcohol use and the rising use of Vaping/e-cigarettes.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity, and Good relations

Taking into consideration the key facts and findings within this area of enquiry there is a significant need for youth service delivery to be proactively inclusive.

Thematic Youth Work to support children and young people with Special Educational Need, disability, Newcomer young people, LGBTQIA+ young people, members of the Travelling Community, rural young people, young parents and socially isolated young people. Youth provisions should be welcoming and accepting to all these groups.

As Mid & East Antrim has become a more culturally diverse place with a significant number of racist hate crimes. At a recent engagement event young people supported the view that Youth Services should provide safe spaces for children and young people and promote inclusion and embrace and celebrate difference. This can be addressed through Good Relations, cultural awareness and diversity programmes and T: BUC residential or camps.

Mid & East Antrim still experiences segregation between the two main communities, and this can lead to inter-community tensions, involving children and young people especially at contentious times of the year and particularly at interface areas. This can also lead to children and young people coming under the influence of paramilitaries. Youth provision can address this through focused youth work during periods of heightened tension including Bonfire season (July – August).

Living in Safety and Stability

Children and young people including those with additional needs require programmes and activities that focus on emotional health and resilience to counter the challenges facing young people in their communities. There is a need for Inclusive Youth Service provision to be delivered. Core Youth Work Provision will support,

- children and young people from ethnic minorities and newcomers
- young people engaged in risk-taking behaviours
- young people experiencing or taking part in anti-social behaviour
- young people experiencing or living with domestic abuse/coercive control
- young people affected by paramilitarism
- young people living through family breakdowns
- young people with adverse childhood experiences
- young people experiencing sectarianism

Youth Services have a key role in providing these safe and supportive environments to enable young people to build the skills needed to cope with and mitigate the effect of adverse experiences.

Participation

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

Local Advisory Group (LAG) will be facilitated by Youth Services in the Mid & East Antrim area to offer advice on the development and implementation of the local area plan. Youth Voice members have spaces reserved on the LAG.

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

The need for Core Youth Provision will also be a key area of delivery with a focus on 9-13 and 14-18 year olds.

The findings from the survey and consultations show that young people continue to value a safe space where they can feel accepted and be themselves. Barriers to participation include proximity to services, age appropriate activities, childcare needs for young parents, perceptions around acceptance due to race, sexuality, gender disability, and accessibility.

Opening times and days need to be focused on young people's availability. Young people need to have a voice in their provision and to be consulted on programmes they feel will enhance their life skills.

Young people need spaces to develop new and enhance existing friendships, particularly with those from other backgrounds.

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

Environment and Climate

Environmental and climate change are key areas of concern for young people as the effects of climate change are being better understood and young people are becoming more active in highlighting this and acting on the matter.

Youth provision needs to set priorities around Green Standards and educational programmes for young people. Youth Services should provide opportunities for making youth settings more environmentally friendly inside and out and to move towards green energy sources and materials. Youth groups can be proactive in keeping their area litter free, reducing plastic use, increasing recycling, and creating an environmentally friendly outdoor space. Youth Services actions to also include delivering environmental and climate programmes, programmes to include redesigning outdoor environments e.g. with trees, wildlife gardens and bird/bug/hedgehog boxes.



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 Mid & East Antrim.

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

Methodology

A range of quantitative and qualitative research methods have been used to inform this Assessment of Need. The most up to date data and statistics from a range of government and statutory sources along with recent, relevant reports have been analysed and examined. A full outline of statistics used, is provided in the separate Local Government District area profile for Mid & East Antrim. 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 Mid & East Antrim.

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 Mid & East Antrim 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 180 children and young people from Mid & East Antrim responded to the survey. Children and young people from a range of statutory, local and voluntary youth groups involved in DE funded youth work participated. Children and young people not currently involved in Youth Services were also canvassed.

Stakeholder Engagement Events

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

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

These events were co-designed and co-delivered by young people. Along with young people, key stakeholders from a range of statutory, voluntary and community organisations attended and participated in these events. The findings from these stakeholder events have also been used to inform this Assessment of Need. [\(link to access to be added in here\)](#)

Consultations

In addition to this EA Youth Service in Mid & East Antrim organised a series of focus group events examining identified themes. Three events took place in July 2022.

Each EA Youth Centre an Area Project consults with their membership through their Local Voice structure. Feedback from these 9 sources helped inform this assessment of needs.

EA funded groups from Carrickfergus, Larne and Ballymena completed and shared their needs assessments along with a wider council area consultation submitted by Bytes.

The Local Advisory Group were also consulted on the needs in each DEA.

A summary of these findings can be found in appendix 2 and in the DEA summaries (appendix 4).

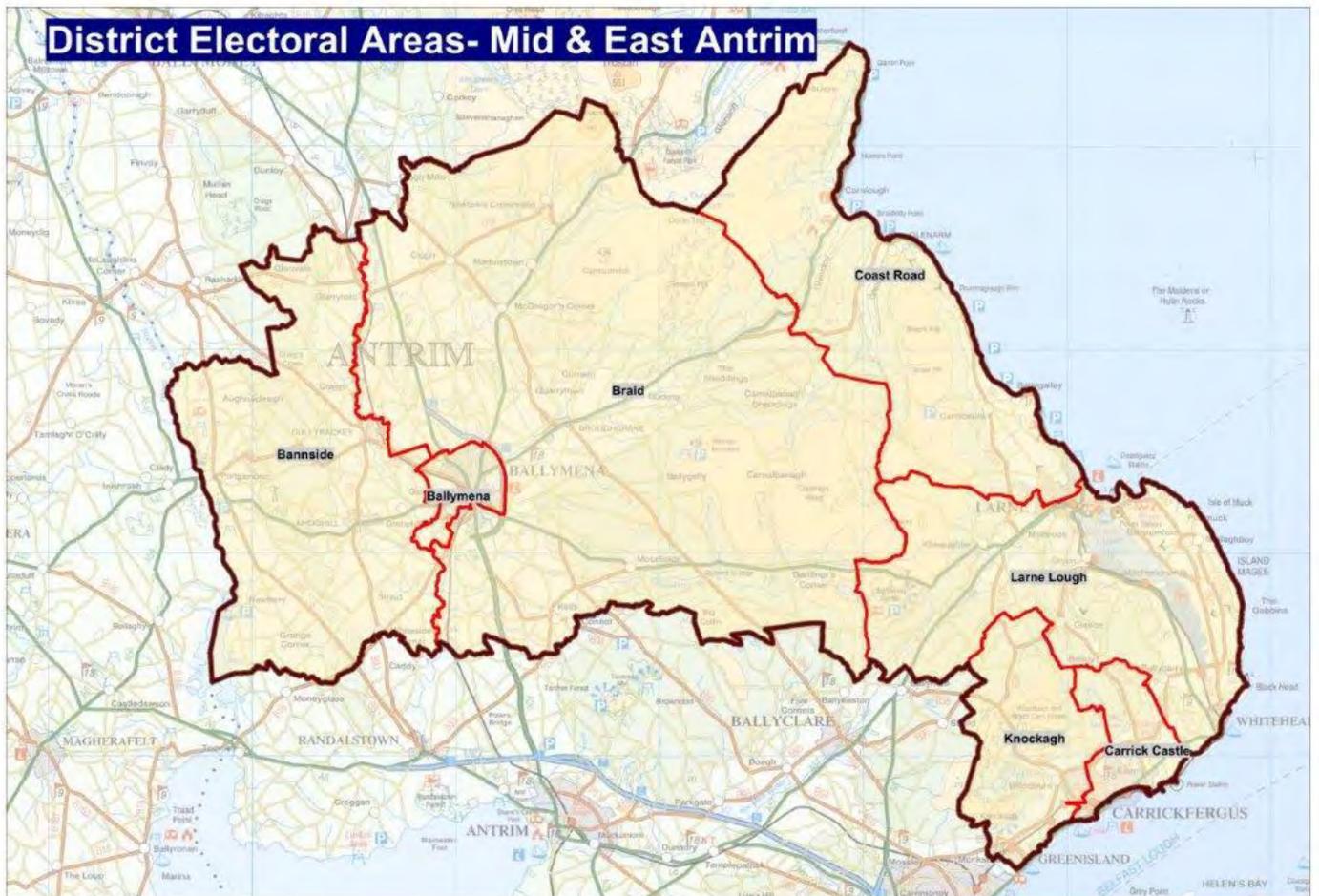


Area Profile

Overview of Area

Mid and East Antrim is a local government district in Northern Ireland. It was created in April 2015 following the merger of the Borough of Larne, the Borough of Ballymena, and the Borough of Carrickfergus. It is divided into 7 DEAs namely, Ballymena, Bannside, Braid, Carrick Castle, Coast Road, Knockagh and Larne Lough.

The district is wholly located in County Antrim, and stretches from the River Bann in the west to the Antrim Coast, taking in the southern part of the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as well as the major towns of Ballymena and Carrickfergus, and the important port of Larne.



Demographics

Mid and East Antrim local government district in 2021 has a population of 148,965 people, of which 73,255 (49.18%) are male and 75,710 (50.82%) are female. The population aged 25 years and under is 41,984 people which equates to 29.98% of the total population, with the NI average being 32.6%. The breakdown of the figures show that 21,602 (51.45%) of the young people aged 25 and under were male and 20,382 (48.55%) of the young people were female.

The demographics of the area indicate that 35.5% of young people live in areas that are essentially rural in character. The deployment of the Youth Work team ensures that attention is given to the needs of young people in rural and urban settings through centre-based, area youth workers, outreach workers and voluntary sector organisations, supported by grants from Education Authority. Moving forward these datasets will be reviewed in line with the published outcomes of the 2021 NI Census.

Mid & East Antrim in Numbers

The estimated population of Mid & East Antrim in 2021 is 148,965

41,984 children and young people aged 0-25 years old live in Mid & East Antrim

- 20,382 Female and 21,602 Male
- 6,023 aged 0 – 3 years
- 8,333 aged 4 – 8 years
- 8,812 aged 9 – 13 years
- 8,476 aged 14 – 18 years
- 10,340 aged 19 – 25 years
- The youth population for the key Youth Service age Bands of 9-13 and 14-18 is projected to drop from over 17,500 to under 16,900 by the end of the decade.
- 5,860 children and young people aged 4 -25 years (16.3%) live in deprivation (NI average 25.2%) (2022)
- 12,766 children and young people (35.5%) live in a rural community. (2022)
- 2,414 food bank parcels were handed out by the Trussell Trust to young people in Mid & East Antrim in 2020/21

Mid & East Antrim Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM)

According to figures released by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), 16.3% of children and young people (aged 4-25) from Mid & East Antrim are living in Deprived Areas. This equates to 5,851 young people living in areas of and experiencing high levels of multiple deprivation.

Mid & East Antrim consists of 65 Super Output Areas.

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

- Northland
- Ballee
- Moat
- Ballyloran
- Ballykeel
- Dunclug
- Antiville
- Love Lane
- Castle Demesne
- Central
- Craigy Hill
- Fair Green

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

- Ballykeel
- Town Parks
- Moat
- Academy
- Portglenone_2
- Ballyloran
- Gortalee
- Harryville
- Fair Green
- Northland
- Ballee

Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRAs)

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs) are defined as areas in the most top 10% deprived areas of Northern Ireland based upon the Multiple Deprivation Measures as identified by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs) are neighbourhoods identified as experiencing the most severe multiple deprivation and have been chosen to receive support under the Department for Communities People and Place strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. In total 36 neighbourhoods have been identified to receive support. There is one in Mid & East Antrim

- Ballymena

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

Rural

12,766 young people aged 4-25 (35.5% of the total youth population) live in rural areas. Mainly in Bannside, Braid, Coast Road, and Larne Lough DEAs. These young people experience difficulties in accessing youth services and other mainstream services. Transport in rural areas is poor, especially in evenings. Rural young people tend to have limited access to social media due to reduced internet speeds and mobile coverage; this can exacerbate feelings of social isolation.

KEY FACTORS: LEARN & ACHIEVE

There are a total of 73 nursery, primary, post-primary, and special schools in Mid & East Antrim

- 4 nursery schools
- 54 primary schools
- 13 post-primary schools
- 2 special schools
- Of these, 29 are located in a rural setting, 1 nursery, 25 primary, 3 post-primary schools
- Of the 23,503 children and young people attending special, primary and post-primary schools in the area, 5,651 (24%) are eligible for free school meals. The NI average is 28%.
 - 1,974 (30.89%) of post-primary pupils attending non-grammar schools are eligible for free school meals
 - 2,948 (25%) primary pupils are eligible for free school meals
 - 241 (45%) of special school pupils are eligible for free school meals
- 786 children and young people from a BAEM background attend schools in the area
- 28 children and young people from a Traveller background attend schools in the area
- 1,044 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in the area.
- 90.7% of young people attending schools in Mid & East Antrim achieved 5+ GCSE A*-C. (NI average is 92.1%.) 2020
- 74.8% of young people attending schools in Mid & East Antrim achieved 5+ GCSE A*-C including English and Maths. (NI average is 77.77%) 2020

Special Education Need Data

- 1,861 (16.73%) of post-primary pupils have a Special Educational Need. (NI average is 18%)
 - 1,474 (13.2%) are at Stage 1-4 on the Special Educational Needs register, pupils with special educational needs but not a statement. NI average is 12%.
 - 387 (3.5%) have a Statement. NI average is 6%.

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 Mid & East Antrim therefore are ideally placed to contribute to the reduction in barriers to learning through personal and social development programmes, focusing on outcomes such as enhanced personal capabilities, improved health and well-being, the development of thinking skills, life skills and work skills, improved relationships with others, increased participative action and active citizenship. This,

alongside the availability of accredited and non-accredited programmes in the youth setting can potentially increase educational attainment among the most vulnerable young people and minority groups.

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

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

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

In Mid & East Antrim underachievement remains prevalent among children and young people living in deprived areas, having a Special Educational Need or disability, being a child or young person Looked After, being a newcomer, being a young carer, coming from the Travelling Community or another minority group and being from a Section 75 group. This list is not exhaustive; however, failure to address the gap in educational attainment from these groups will ensure that vulnerable young people will continue to face a future with limited opportunities and greater social and economic challenges.

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

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

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

KEY FACTORS: HEALTH & WELLBEING

- 1 in 5 young people have a mental health need.
- The standardised self-harm Admission Rate in Mid & East Antrim is 197 per 100,000 population (NI rate is 117) this is the highest rate across NI Councils. Ballymena DEA is 319
- The Crude suicide death rate in Mid & East Antrim is 16 per 100,000 population (Northern Ireland is 16). Ballymena DEA is 24.6
- The rate, in 2020, for drug related deaths in Mid & East Antrim is 21 per 100,000 population 2nd highest rate across NI Councils just behind Belfast (21.2)
- The standardised alcohol Admission Rate in Mid & East Antrim is 652 per 100,000 population (NI rate is 659). Ballymena DEA is 1053
- The teenage birth rate for Mid & East Antrim is 8.72 per 1,000 population (Northern Ireland is 8.3).
- In 2019, the teenage birth rate for mothers aged under 17 years in Mid & East Antrim was 2.56 per 1,000 females. The comparative figure for Northern Ireland was 1.4.
- Childhood obesity rates per 10,000 in Mid & East Antrim is 4.9 (NI average is 5)
- 22% of Primary 1 pupils are obese or overweight (NI average 23%)

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 Mid & East Antrim face in terms of their general health outcomes and their emotional health and wellbeing

Children and young people living in low income households and in the most deprived communities in Mid & East Antrim are more likely to be obese, have lower life expectancies and are more likely to have worse physical, emotional and sexual health outcomes.

Young people living in disadvantaged areas are more likely to endure health deprivation and suffer mental health issues. 16% of the children and young people live in deprived areas. This means they are 5.5 times more likely to go hungry than their peers. This can lead to poor health and education outcomes as well as exposing children and young people to bullying which can negatively impact on their emotional health and wellbeing. 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 LGBTQIA+ 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.

In response to the Assessment of Need, children and young people in Mid & East Antrim require a focus on programmes and activities developing resilience and wellbeing for all. Risk taking behaviour is also a particular concern especially the very high rate of drug related deaths and self-harm admissions. Alcohol use and suicide rates specially in the Ballymena DEA are a very high concern.

The Mid & East Antrim Youth Service require educational programmes and activities that target specific areas of risk-taking behaviour, and young people impacted by deaths from suicide or drug misuse, to provide opportunities for young people to participate in engaging activities that develop their personal, social and emotional skills to promote and enhance personal resilience, healthy decision-making and wellbeing.

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

- 12,766 young people live in rural areas of Mid & East Antrim
- 1,044 newcomer children and young people attend schools in Mid & East Antrim.
- 3,795 pupils (16.1%) in Mid & East Antrim have a Special Educational Need (NI average 18%). (DE school census data 21/22)
- In 2020 hate crime incidents and crimes in Mid & East Antrim were:
 - 41 Racist incidents and 28 crimes recorded
 - 9 Homophobic incidences and 4 crimes recorded
 - 68 Sectarian incidences and 52 crimes recorded
- 786 children and young people from a BAEM background attend schools in the area
- 70 children and young people from a Traveller background attend schools in the area
- According to the Office of National Statistics, 8% of young people in the UK aged 16-24 identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. In Mid & East Antrim this equates to approximately 1,021 young people. (ONS 2020)

Discussion & Key Trends

Mid & East Antrim has made improvements towards maintaining a peaceful society. There are still a number of factors which ensure that community tensions, polarisation and segregation remain. Politics in Northern Ireland are polarised and many people in the area experience some forms of residential, educational, environmental, and social segregation.

Despite the Good Relations policy, some communities in Mid & East Antrim remain divided. The education system is segregated with the majority of children and young people attend schools based on their religion. Young People in Carrick and Larne feel that their areas are very mono-culture defined by murals and other sectarian markings. They don't feel that these symbols represent them.

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

Mid & East Antrim has become a more culturally diverse place in recent years. Unfortunately, one outcome has been that racist hate crimes has frequently sectarian hate crimes, latest statistics have seen a reduction in racist incidents and crimes. At a stakeholder engagement event young people supported the view that Youth Services should provide safe spaces for children and young people and promote inclusion and embrace and celebrate difference. This could be addressed through Inclusion, diversity and equality of opportunity programmes, good relation opportunities; and T: BUC residential or camps.

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

Consultations indicated that young people from deprived communities and rural areas did not believe they had the same opportunities to participate and achieve in education and participate in Youth Services.

Participants at a stakeholder engagement event noted that in rural areas there was a lack of facilities and access to services for young people to come together and promote inclusion, especially with young people from Section 75 groups. Consultations with rural young people identified issues regarding public transport in the evenings and lack of opportunities for young people other than sports. Young people noted the social isolation of some of their peers who don't leave their homes and spend their time online.

In consultations Mid & East Antrim many young people noted that they had the same opportunities in life as others and were treated the same. However, some vulnerable groups believe they do not feel included or have the same opportunities as others, particularly amongst LGBTQIA+ young people.

For other young people who believed they were not treated the same as others the reasons given were because of where they lived or their social and community backgrounds. This appears to indicate that many feel discriminated against because of where they live and the disadvantages they face in their daily lives and within their communities. Young people in rural areas feel particularly isolated.

It's important that youth workers develop programmes that help redress this imbalance and develop partnerships that can provide opportunities for those that wouldn't otherwise have them. All children and young people have the right to be heard and negative attitudes, behaviours, and stereotypes towards them should be addressed. Specific individuals and groups may encounter systematic, attitudinal, and physical barriers to equality because of their personal circumstances or characteristics. This exclusion ensures that these vulnerable groups of children and young people may feel isolated and marginalised. Discrimination and prejudiced based bullying and social isolation can impact a young person's educational outcomes and also affect their overall health and wellbeing, loss of self-esteem, lack of motivation and depression and anxiety, leading them to withdraw from mainstream society.

Young people reported that in order to address some of their concerns around Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity that they would most like to engage in Outdoor Learning activities, Cultural Awareness and Diversity programmes and Residential or Camps. Youth Workers stated that Inclusion programmes, Cultural Awareness and Diversity programmes and Residential and Camps were the best services to provide so that young people felt included.

Both young people and Youth Workers noted that it was important to work with young people in the design of programmes to meet their needs in this area. It was also noted that young people felt safe to explore these issues in a Youth Work setting.

KEY FACTORS: LIVING IN SAFETY & STABILITY

- There was a total of 1,227 crimes and 2176 incidents with a domestic abuse motivation recorded in 2020/21, 243 where the victim was under 18
- In 2020 hate crime incidents and crimes in Mid & East Antrim were:
 - 74 Racist incidents and 55 crimes recorded
 - 12 Homophobic incidences and 8 crimes recorded
 - 34 Sectarian incidences and 32 crimes recorded
- There were 4,922 anti-social behaviour incidents in the year to January 2021 a 35.5% increase (NI average increase is 30.5%)
- 5,850 children and young people aged 4 -25 years (16.3%) live in deprivation (NI average 25.2%) (2022)
- 2,414 food bank parcels were handed out by the Trussell Trust to young people in Mid & East Antrim.
- 5.6 children per 1000 are referred to Youth Justice Agency (NI average 5) in 2019/20, this is the third highest rate in NI councils

Discussion and Key Trends

Adverse childhood experiences can have a detrimental effect on a child or young person's personal and social development. As well as having negative consequences for the individual it can also impact on other children and young people in local communities. A recent study noted that a negative home environment can lead to a series of problems, including among others, poor language development, deficit in school readiness, later behavioural problems, and emotional health issues.

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

Children and young people are more inclined to have behavioural problems, poor educational attainment and limited career prospects and poorer general and mental health. They are also likely to have limited personal resilience and engage in risk taking activity including alcohol and drug misuse, anti-social behaviour, inappropriate use of social media is more susceptible to be influenced or threatened by paramilitaries. Children and young people from Section 75 groups are those most at risk of not living safely and securely.

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

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

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

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

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

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

For these young people insecurity and transitions create stress which can threaten a young person's sense of belonging and security. A recent local consultation event with young people reported that Youth Services have a key role in providing safe and supportive environments in helping young people achieve their potential and to promote the positive role that young people can contribute to their local communities.

Of those young people who responded to the survey over three quarters, (77%), reported that they felt safe in their own community. There was little difference between genders and non-gender though females did report feeling slightly safer. Of particular concern is older young men where only two thirds reported feeling safe within their own community. This will be a focus of youth work in Mid & East Antrim to determine why this is the case and help address the issue.

The principle reasons given by young people for not feeling safe were anti-social behaviour, high levels of crime bullying, online bullying, paramilitarism, drugs and not feeling accepted in their community. Young people who experience bullying are more likely to miss school or attend a youth centre, feel safe, happy or achieve, be healthy and are less likely to make a positive contribution to their community.

Consultations with young people have suggested that some of the reasons why anti-social behaviour and crime occurred was due to easy access to alcohol and drugs, lack of a police presence, poor lighting, and limited CCTV. Young people raised concerns that they had with paramilitary activity in their communities. Paramilitarism is a reality for many in Northern Ireland and also a growing threat to children and young people, particularly those from the most deprived communities where paramilitaries exert the greatest control. A recent report noted that without a functioning Executive and the uncertainty regarding Brexit ending Paramilitarism is now more difficult. Young people supported the idea of community partnerships, based on trust and respect, involving all key stakeholders to provide children and young people with alternative, positive opportunities. Youth Centres were identified as a place of safety and more access to Youth Centres for older young people was seen as a positive way of addressing safety issues. The development locally of Senior Rooms within Youth Centres which provide a more mature, calm space for young people to relax in may help address this.

Research has shown that as children and young people are spending more time on social media they are more vulnerable to being victims of child sexual exploitation. Engaging in sexting or the sharing of inappropriate sexual images between adults or their peers can lead to bullying or blackmail and can have a detrimental effect on a young person's emotional health and resilience. Young people at an engagement event recognised the growing concerns young people had around child sexual exploitation and supported the development of new digital resources and programmes to help young people develop virtual resilience, including good digital and social media habits and a better understanding of their online presence.

KEY FACTORS: ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

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

KEY FACTORS: PARTICIPATION

Article 12 of the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that: Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. Children and young people's participation in decision making on issues that affect them has increasingly been recognised and valued as a right. It has also been reported that successfully engaging children and young people in the institutions, communities and contexts in which they live and building their capacity as active citizens can be a critical factor in their positive development as individuals, enhance their career prospects and life chances and support their positive contribution to these same contexts and institutions.

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

Many young people engaging in youth services express their interest in actively participating in decision making. All statutory and EA Funded Voluntary Organisations operate an appropriate participation structure which enables the voice of young people to influence the organisations delivery.

The Youth Voice structure operating in Mid & East Antrim in partnership with the Borough Council are extremely active, participating in many consultations with Council, Youth Service, Local Advisory Group and other Statutory Partners.

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



Survey Headlines

Survey Headlines – Regional

The survey was responded to by 180 young people across Mid & East Antrim of which 33% were 14 – 18 years; 54% were 9 – 13 years and the remaining 13% were 19-25. 64% of respondents identified as female, 34% as male, 1% as other, with 1% preferring not to say. Rural young people were overrepresented in the survey with 48% of respondents compared to the 35.5% of young people in the general population who live in rural areas. 99% of respondents identified as white which shows an underrepresentation of the 3% non-white children and young people in the general population of Mid & East Antrim. 17% considered themselves as disabled, almost 33% of whom cited a learning disability.

Based on the responses from children and young people it highlighted that what is important to them is the fact that youth services provide safe, inclusive spaces where they are welcomed, have fun and meet friends whilst supporting their emotional health and wellbeing needs as they express their views in trusted relationships. This reinforces the importance of youth services providing core youth work at this time. Young people look to the youth service to help them make positive choices around risk-taking behaviours, provide a wide range of activities and opportunities, support their physical, mental and sexual health and give them a say on decisions that affect them. Young people also want to meet people from other backgrounds and achieve in education and training.

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

- Sports and fitness
- Life skills
- Health and wellbeing programmes including emotional health and wellbeing
- Outdoor learning and activities
- Volunteering and leadership development
- Gaming and coding
- Arts and Crafts
- Gender based programmes
- Music
- Help with employment and interviewing

Local Stakeholder including Young people Consultations

EA Youth Service in Mid & East Antrim organised a series of focus group events examining identified themes. Three events took place in July 2022.

Each EA Youth Centre an Area Project consults with their membership through their Local Voice structure. Feedback from these 15 sources helped inform this assessment of needs.

EA funded groups from Carrickfergus, Larne and Ballymena completed and shared their needs assessments along with a wider council area consultation submitted by Bytes.

The Local Advisory Group were also consulted.

In total a further 920 young people were directly consulted, alongside 22 stakeholders representing youth providers in the area.

The findings from these consultations were similar to the regional survey.

Headline findings were:

- Physical activities including outdoor activities
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing support
- Access to services for rural young people
- Social isolation especially young people engaged in online activities

- Use of Vapes, Alcohol, drugs and smoking
- Influence of paramilitarism
- Support for young parents
- Informal learning opportunities, accredited and non-accredited
- Youth Leadership opportunities
- Vocational skills e.g. Barbering, Hairdressing, Beauty, Barista
- Lifeskills around cooking/meal preparation, budgeting
- Programmes that connect with other cultures and backgrounds including religious belief, political opinion, race, disability and LGBTQIA+
- Opportunities to be part of participative structures within youth provision and beyond
- Environmental issues around individual responsibility

Establishing Key Priorities of Work for 2023

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

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

Priority Outputs for 2023

Key Area for Action: Learning and Achieving

Addressing barriers to learning remains a significant need. This need is further deepened by the pandemic, increased newcomers, high levels of SEN and children looked after. Based on population data there is a significant number of young people in the 14-18 age range who will be taking examinations and considering employment/career pathways or routes into further and higher education. There will be an opportunity and need to provide new and additional leadership and volunteer opportunities along with vocational training, taking into account the bespoke needs at that time.

Key Area for Action: Health and Wellbeing

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

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

- Support for Drug and Alcohol use and the rising use of Vaping/e-cigarettes.

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

Taking into consideration the key facts and findings within this area of enquiry there is a significant need for youth service delivery to be proactively inclusive.

Thematic Youth Work to support children and young people with Special Educational Need, disability, Newcomer young people, LGBTQIA+ young people, members of the Travelling Community, rural young people, young parents and socially isolated young people. Youth provisions should be welcoming and accepting to all these groups.

As Mid & East Antrim has become a more culturally diverse place with a significant number of racist hate crimes. At a recent engagement event young people supported the view that Youth Services should provide safe spaces for children and young people and promote inclusion and embrace and celebrate difference. This can be addressed through Good Relations, cultural awareness and diversity programmes and T: BUC residential or camps.

Mid & East Antrim still experiences segregation between the two main communities, and this can lead to inter-community tensions, involving children and young people especially at contentious times of the year and particularly at interface areas. This can also lead to children and young people coming under the influence of paramilitaries. Youth provision can address this through focused youth work during periods of heightened tension including Bonfire season (July – August).

Key Area for Action: Living in Safety and Stability

Children and young people including those with additional needs require programmes and activities that focus on emotional health and resilience to counter the challenges facing young people in their communities. There is a need for Inclusive Youth Service provision to be delivered. Core Youth Work Provision will support,

- children and young people from ethnic minorities and newcomers
- young people engaged in risk-taking behaviours
- young people experiencing or taking part in anti-social behaviour
- young people experiencing or living with domestic abuse/coercive control
- young people affected by paramilitarism
- young people living through family breakdowns
- young people with adverse childhood experiences
- young people experiencing sectarianism

Youth Services have a key role in providing these safe and supportive environments to enable young people to build the skills needed to cope with and mitigate the effect of adverse experiences.

Key Area for Action: Participation

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

Local Advisory Group (LAG) will be facilitated by Youth Services in the Mid & East Antrim area to offer advice on the development and implementation of the local area plan. Youth Voice members have spaces reserved on the LAG.

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

The need for Core Youth Provision will also be a key area of delivery with a focus on 9-13 and 14-18 year olds.

The findings from the survey and consultations show that young people continue to value a safe space where they can feel accepted and be themselves. Barriers to participation include proximity to services, age appropriate activities, childcare needs for young parents, perceptions around acceptance due to race, sexuality, gender disability, and accessibility.

Opening times and days need to be focused on young people's availability. Young people need to have a voice in their provision and to be consulted on programmes they feel will enhance their life skills.

Young people need spaces to develop new and enhance existing friendships, particularly with those from other backgrounds.

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

[Key Area for Action: Environment and Climate](#)

Environmental and climate change are key areas of concern for young people as the effects of climate change are being better understood and young people are becoming more active in highlighting this and acting on the matter.

Youth provision needs to set priorities around Green Standards and educational programmes for young people. Youth Services should provide opportunities for making youth settings more environmentally friendly inside and out and to move towards green energy sources and materials. Youth groups can be proactive in keeping their area litter free, reducing plastic use, increasing recycling, and creating an environmentally friendly outdoor space. Youth Services actions to also include delivering environmental and climate programmes, programmes to include redesigning outdoor environments e.g. with trees, wildlife gardens and bird/bug/hedgehog boxes.

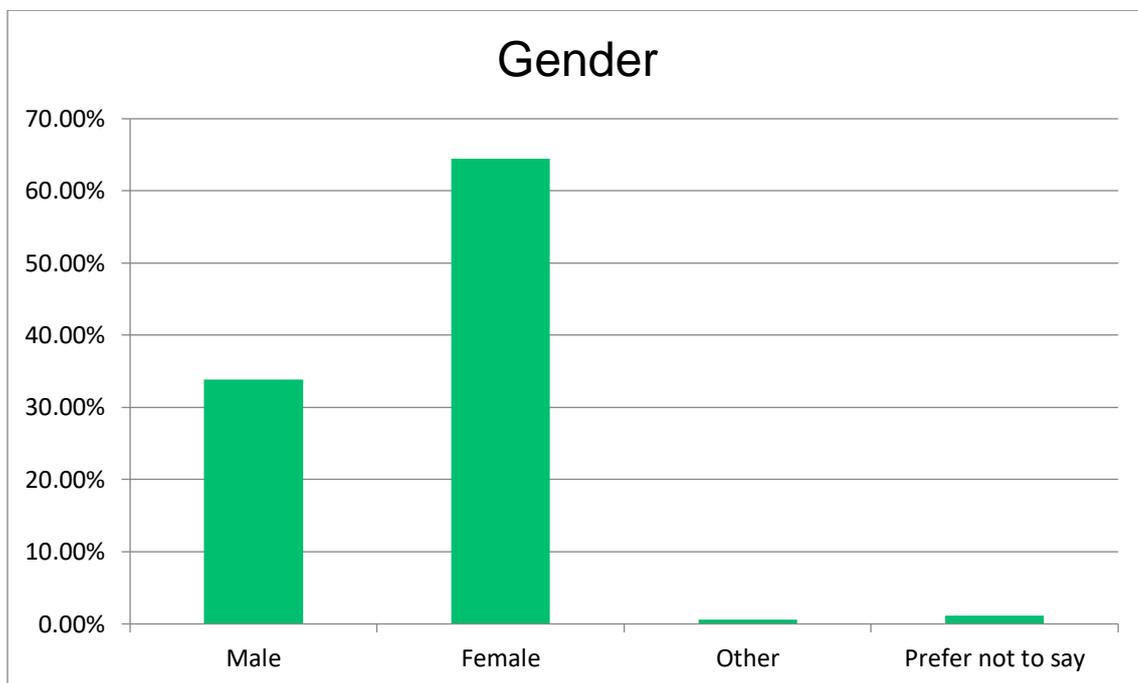
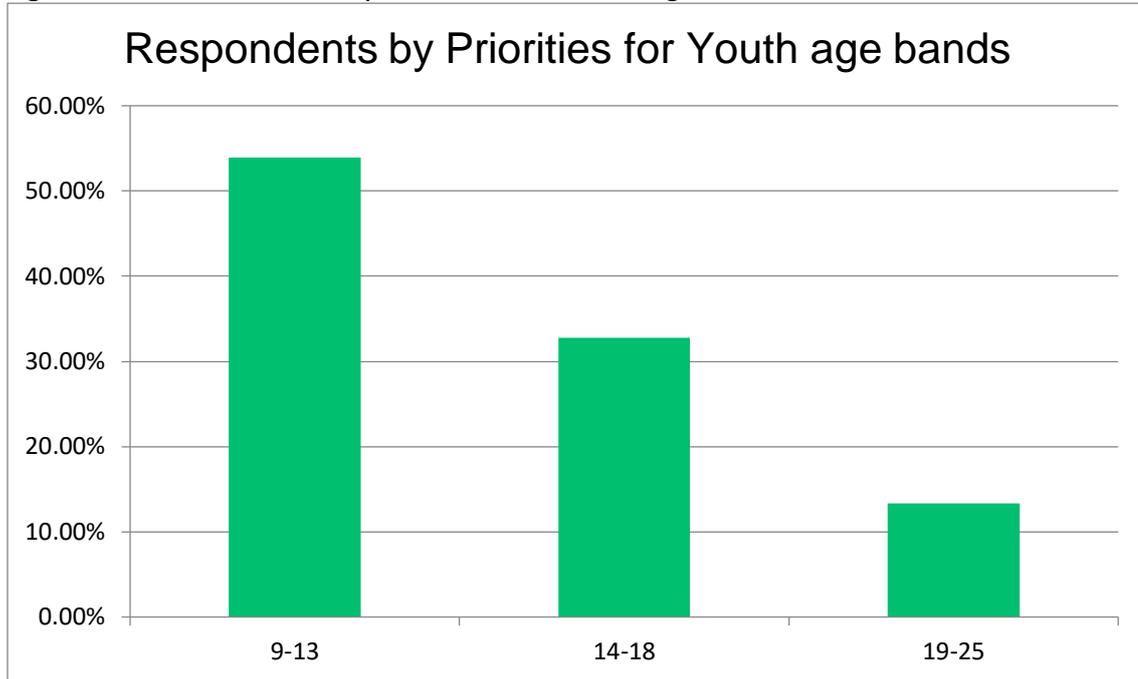


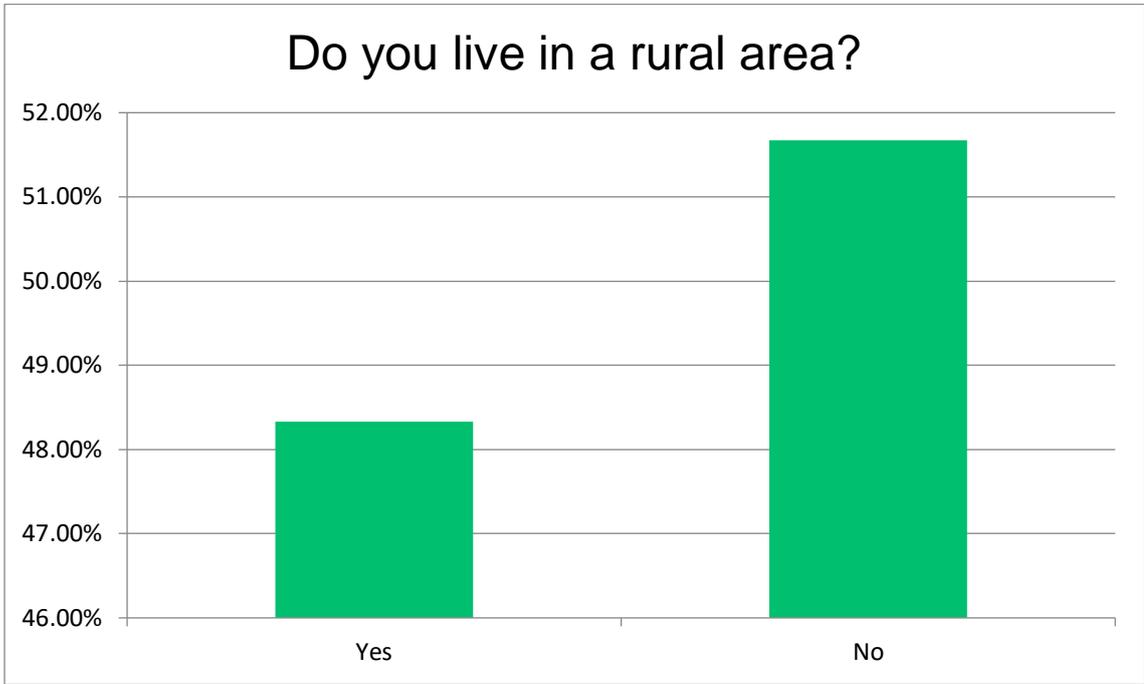
Appendix 1: Survey Results

Survey Findings

The regional survey had 180 submissions from young people in Mid & East Antrim. Their age and gender breakdown is shown on the charts below.

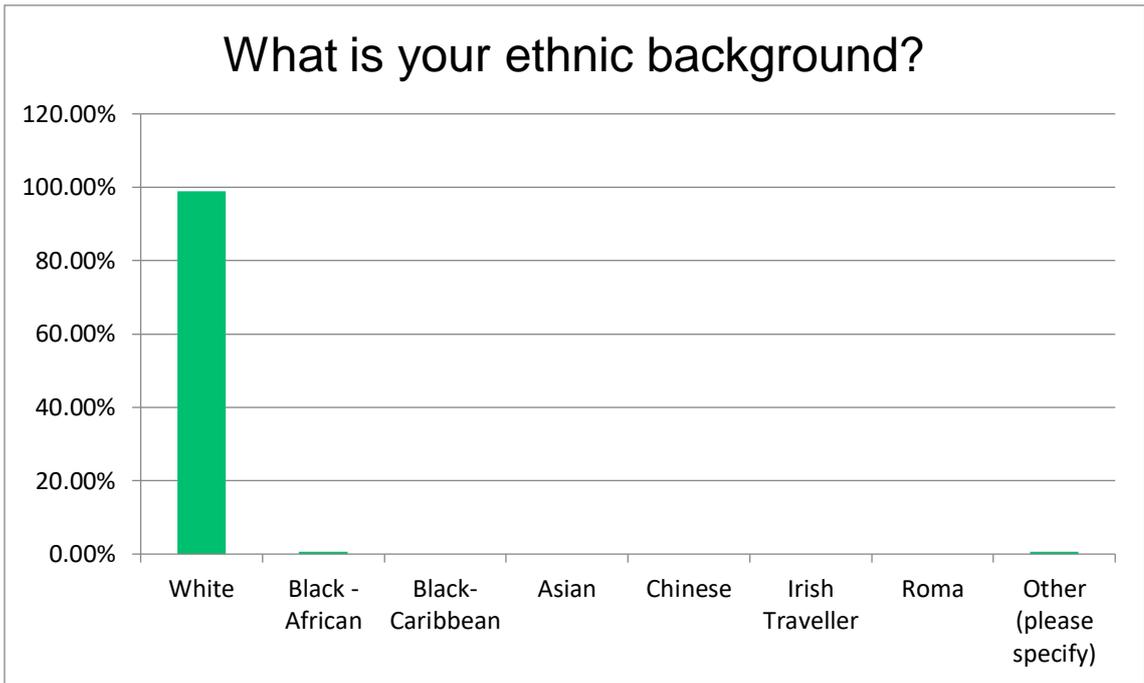
Age is broken down into key Priorities for Youth. Age bands.



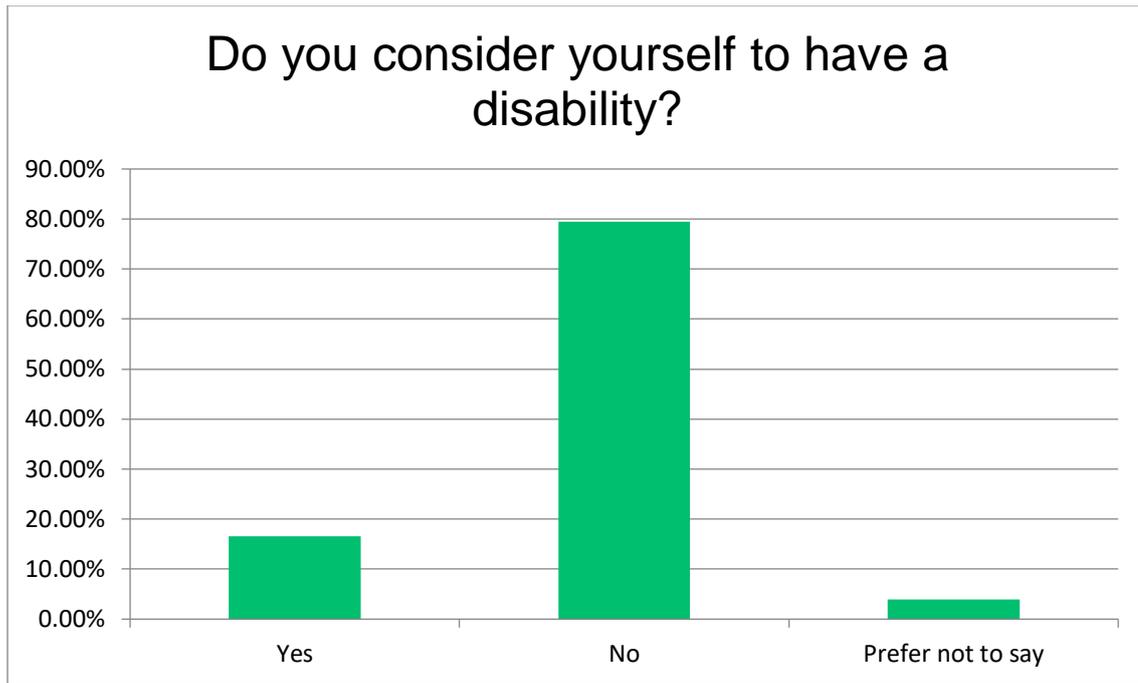


48% of respondents live in rural areas.

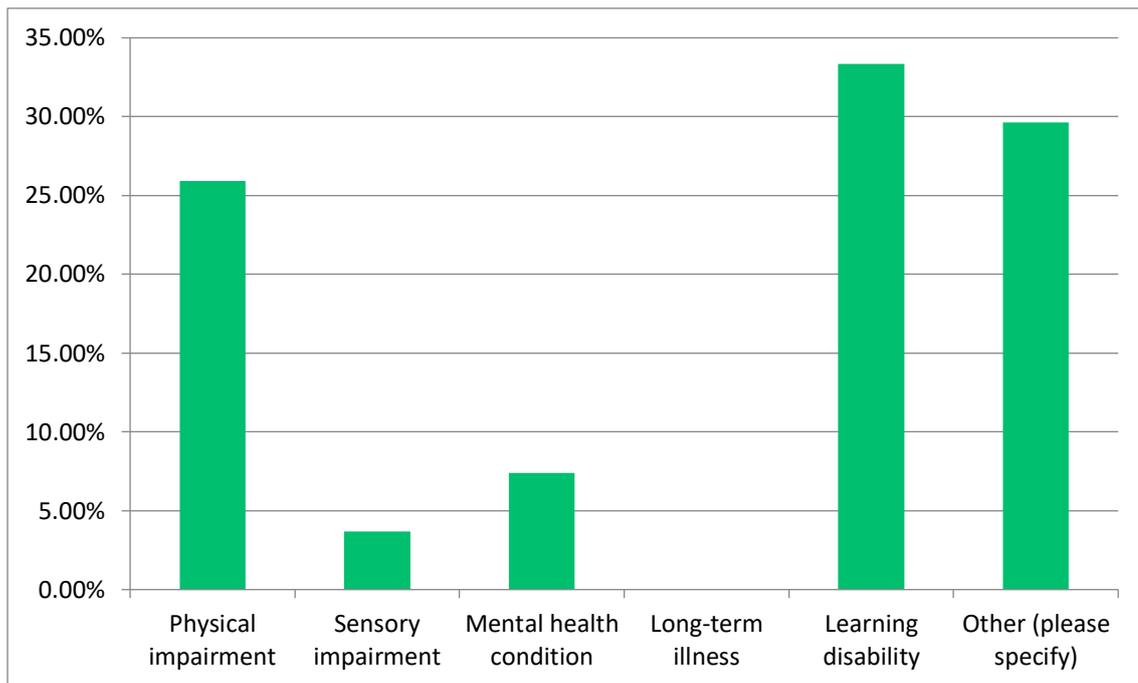
Responses to the Regional survey were overwhelmingly from a white background



Around 15% of respondents considered themselves to have a disability.

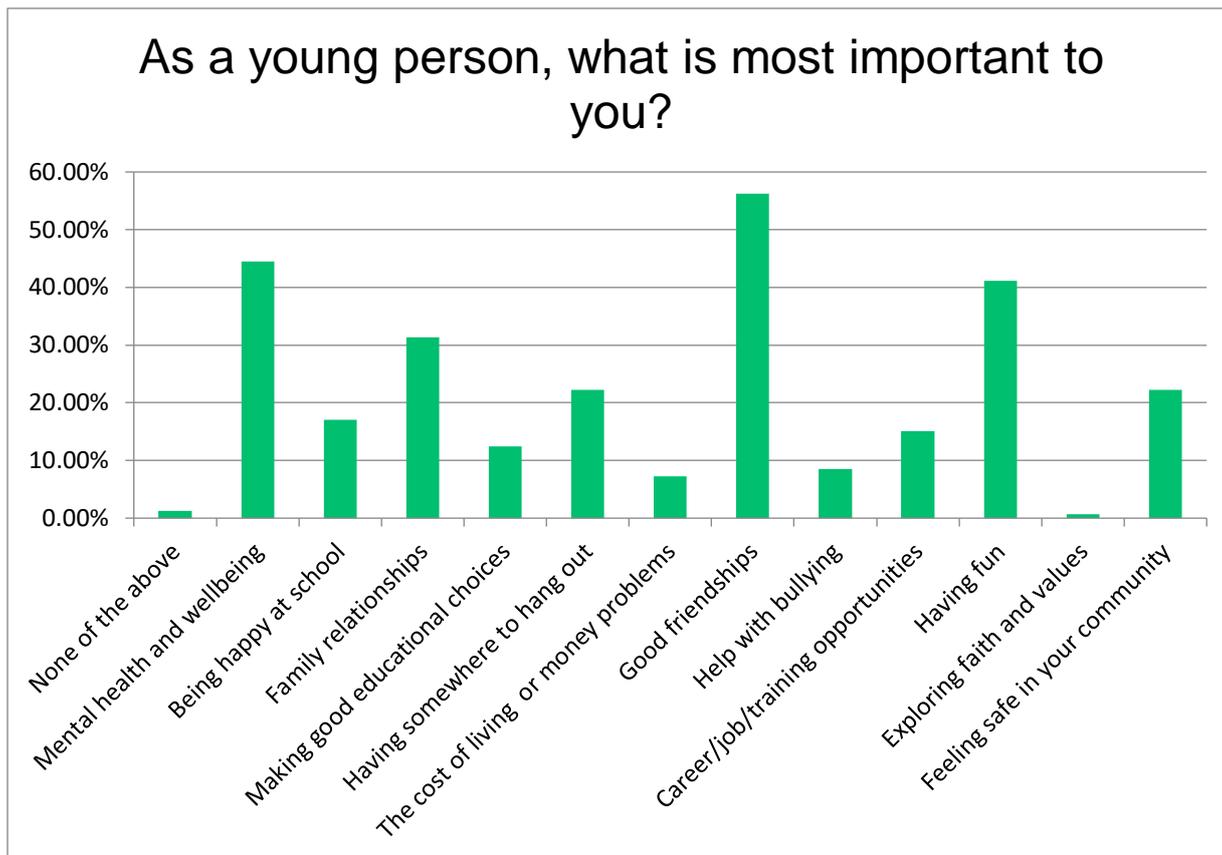


The following chart shows the disability they consider themselves having.

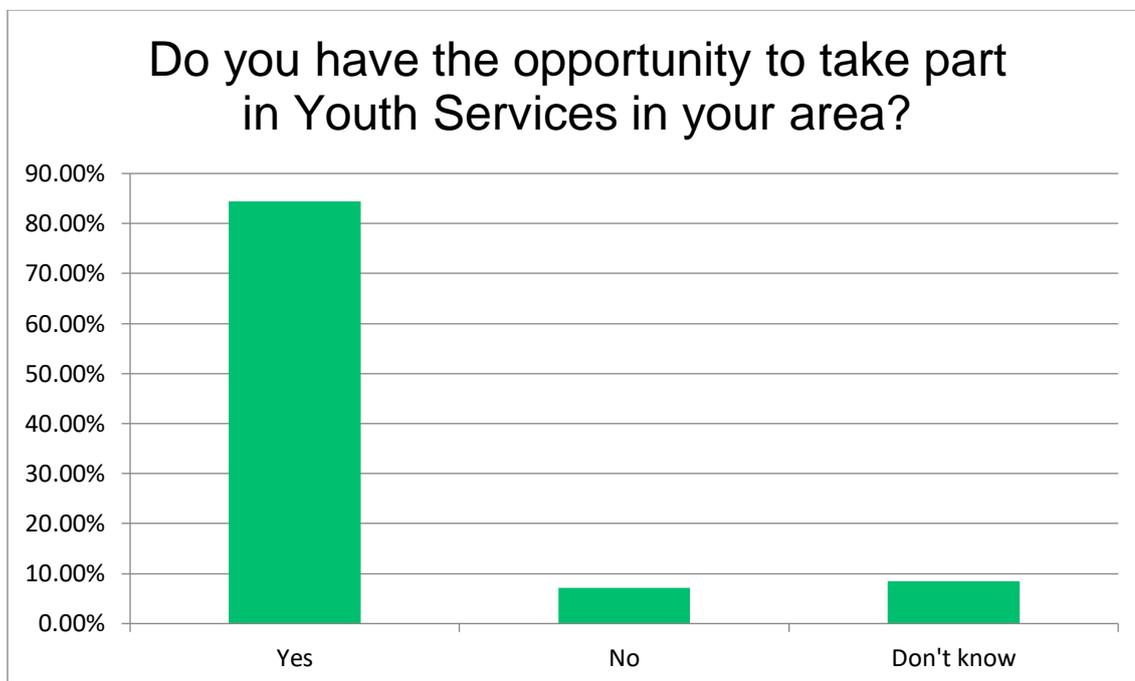


Those who replied with "other" specified the following, ADHD, ASD, Dyslexia, Anxiety and 2 respondents who preferred not to specify their disability.

The respondents were asked a series of questions to determine what is important to them and what they want/expect from youth services; their responses are shown on the following charts and tables.



Almost 85% of young people did have the opportunity to take part in Youth Services in their area.



Please rate the following statements according to how important they are to you.	Weighted Average
Youth Services ensure that children and young people have access to a wide range of activities and opportunities	4.32
Youth Services enable children and young people to have a say on decisions on issues and services that affect them	4.28
Youth Services provides children and young people with opportunities to meet and engage with others from different backgrounds	4.25
Youth Services encourage children and young people to make positive choices preventing them from engaging in risk taking behaviours	4.2
Youth Services provide opportunities for children and young people to support their physical, mental and sexual health	4.19
Youth Services support children and young people to achieve and remain in education and training	4.12
Youth Services should provide children and young people with opportunities to explore environmental and climate issues	3.97

What are the most important things about taking part in Youth Services.	Responses
Making friends and meeting new people	60.39%
Opportunities to take part in fun activities	42.86%
A place to meet	37.01%
Regular activities/programmes to take part in	35.71%
Opportunities to discuss issues e.g. friendships, bullying, home life, relationships	34.42%
Being able to express my views on things that matter to me in a safe space	32.47%
Support and advice from an adult I trust	29.22%
Opportunities to participate in Irish Medium youth work	5.19%
Opportunities to engage in Faith Based youth work	3.90%
Other (please specify)	2.60%
Opportunities to participate in Ulster Scots youth work	0.00%

Respondents who specified "other" said that "spend time with mates", "free activities to take part in", "bring ASD children together in small groups to help social skills" and "my youth club" as being important to them.

What activities/programmes could Youth Services provide that would be most helpful to you?	Responses
Sport and fitness	46.75%
Life Skills programmes	38.31%
Health and wellbeing programmes	37.66%
Outdoor learning	33.77%
Mental and emotional health programmes	33.77%
Volunteering opportunities	26.62%
Outdoor activities in natural surroundings	25.32%
Gaming/coding opportunities	25.32%
Arts and crafts	22.73%
Drama	22.73%
Leadership	21.43%
Young men's/young women's programmes	21.43%
Music	20.78%
Programmes that help with employment in the future	19.48%
Employment and interview training	14.29%
Homework clubs	7.79%
Environmental programmes	5.84%
Mentoring programmes/opportunities	4.55%
Irish Medium youth work	3.25%
Other (please specify)	3.25%
Faith Based youth work	2.60%
Ulster Scots youth work	0.65%

Te respondents who selected "other" identified the following activities/programmes, "bookclub/writing", "computers", "happiness", "better gyms for young people only at a rate young people can afford" and "gymnastics".



Appendix 2: Consultation Findings

Key Area of Enquiry	Issues Faced by Young People	How can Youth Services address these issues
Health & Well Being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual/Gender Identity • Food Poverty • Self-Image / Fitting In • COVID still having an impact on isolation • Drugs & Alcohol • Mental Health Wellbeing • Pressures to achieve in school • Vaping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes or Services in place to deal with Mental Health Issues • Motivational workshops to challenge mindsets • Relationship Programmes • Drug & Alcohol Workshops • Support with Positive Coping Mechanisms • Self-care events and days away • Opportunities to escape the local area through trips and Residentials
Learn & Achieve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Achieving in School • Employment Opportunities • Accreditation & Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathways to employment • Career guidance • Civic Leadership Programmes • Resilience Work • Support with School Work / Homework • Life and Employment skills training
Living in Safety and Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling unsafe in specific areas • Pressures to get involved in Drugs and Alcohol • Peer Pressure • Social Media • Paramilitarism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide safe places to relax with friends with modern amenities • Citizenship & Lawfulness Engagements • Drug & Alcohol Workshops • Online Safety Programmes • Weekend Opening
Environmental & Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly tipping of household items • Fumes from smokers/vapers. • litter and food waste from discarded takeaways. • Trees being cut down and the negative impact this has on air quality. • Chemical pollution from industry and farming. • Behaviour of community, littering isn't just a young person's habit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising programmes • Community clean ups • Climate programmes • Programmes on health to cycle and walk, to reduce pollution. • Tree planting, vegetable growing. • Recycling campaign, each youth centre have a recycling bin and promote recycling to help combat littering issues. • Awareness raising programmes - John Muir's Award. • Programmes showing how things can be reused - art or furniture and the positive impact this will have on the environment.
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to youth centres • Rural Isolation • Opening times of centres • Young people in social isolation due to gaming, social media etc • Newcomers being excluded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening times of centres to be set in consultation with young people • Outreach programmes targeting rural young people/newcomers
Inclusion, Diversity & Equal Opportunities including Good Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to engage with others especially newcomers, other cultures, LGBTQIA+, Disabled young people • Young parents' issues, access to services, employment, accreditation, child minding • Gender Identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes required to break down these barriers • Inclusion in regional programmes • Youth Club Visits / Interclub activities • Youth Centres to have gender neutral programmes and facilities • Training on LGBTQIA+ issues for staff and young people • Support for young parents to enable them to avail of services



Appendix 3: Area Profile

Demographics

Chart 1 – Total Population in Local Government District Compared to NI by Gender (Aged 0 – 25 years)

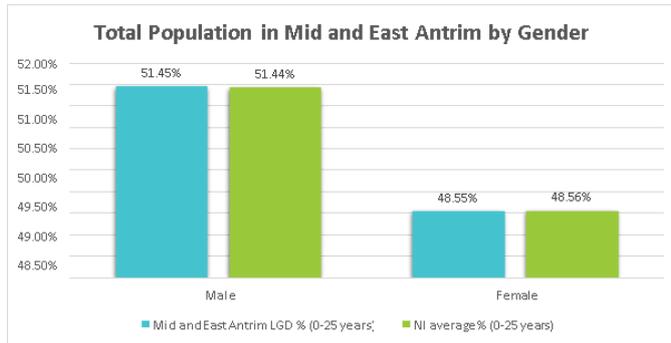
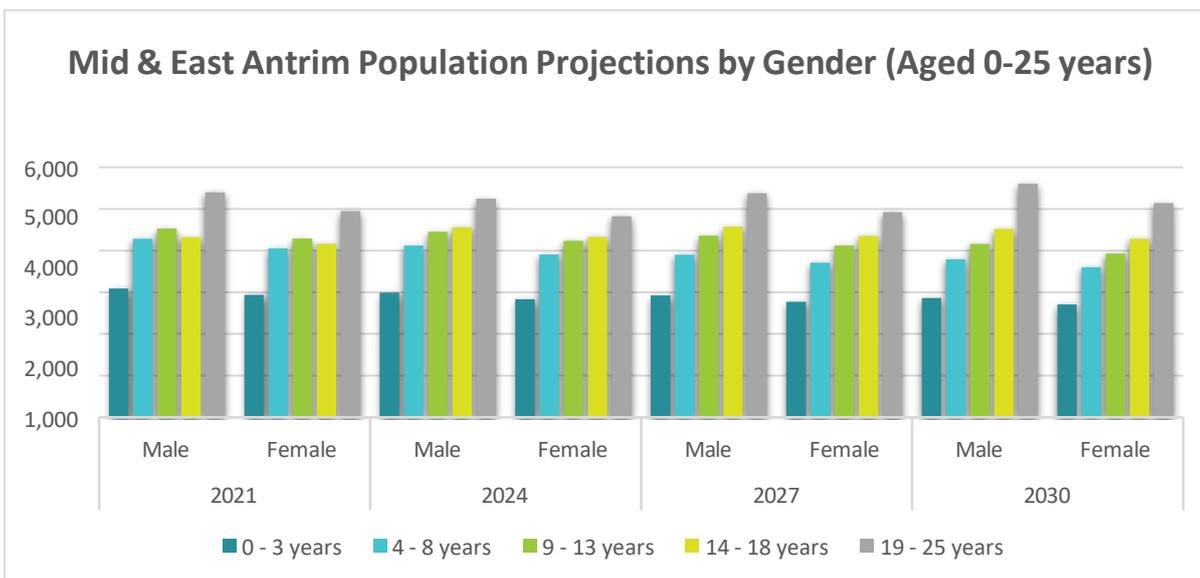
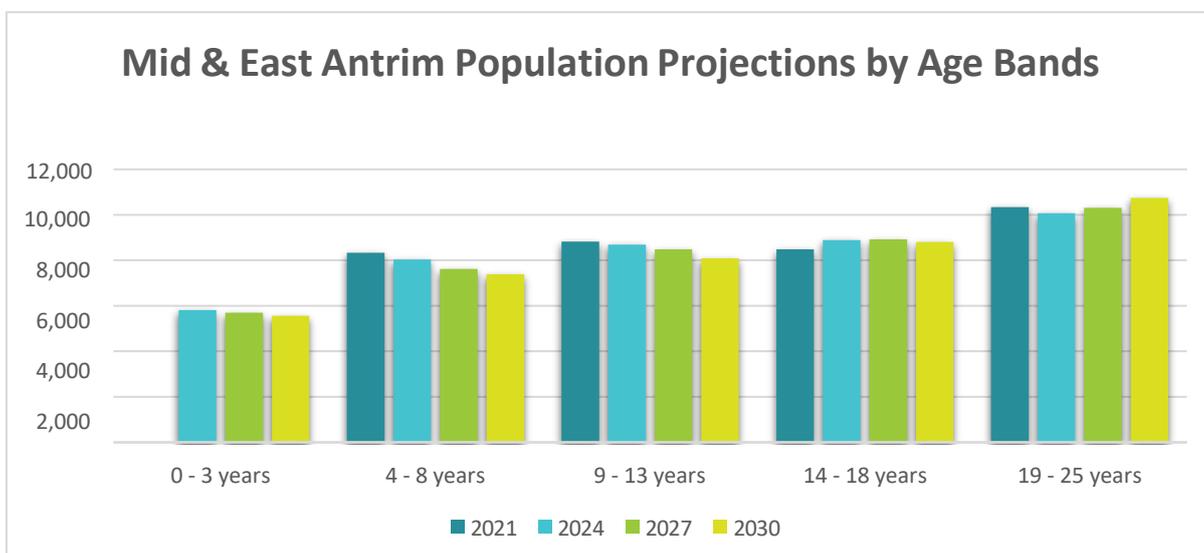


Chart 2 – Projected Population by Gender 2021 – 2030 (Aged 0 – 25 Years)

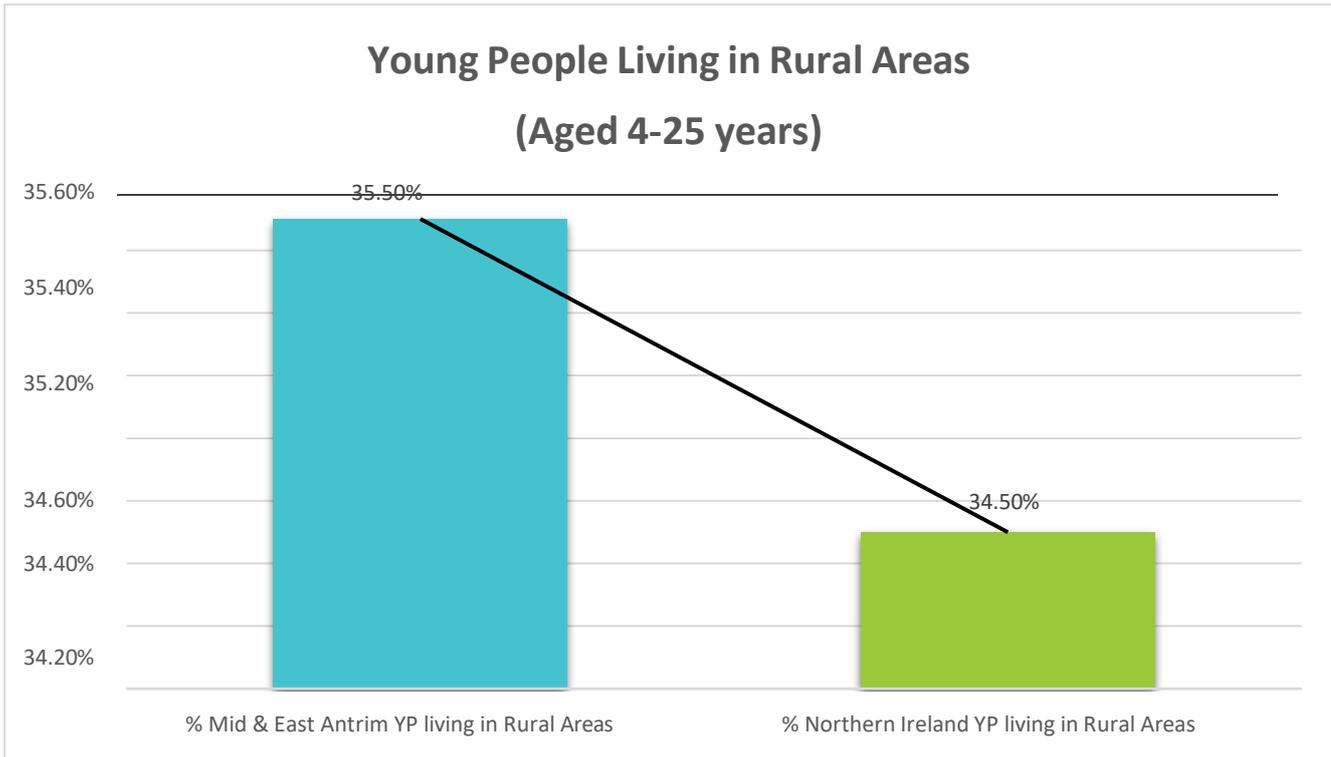


The youth population for the key Youth Service age Bands of 9-13 and 14-18 is projected to drop from over 17,500 to under 16,900 by the end of the decade.

Chart 3 – Projected Population by Age Bands 2021 – 2030 (Aged 0 – 25 Years)



A higher proportion of young people in Mid & East Antrim live in rural areas compared to the Northern Ireland average



This equates to a total of 12,766 young people. Rural isolation can have a significant impact on young people due to lack of access to services, poor internet and mobile phone coverage and lack of transport.

Deprivation

The table below highlights the top 25% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOA's) in the Mid & East Antrim Local Government District. This table is sorted in descending order of Multiple Deprivation rank and is based on the 2017 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures. The indicator ranks from 1 to 890 (with 1 being the top rank and 890 the least top rank).

SOA2001_name	Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank (where 1 is most deprived)	Income Domain Rank (where 1 is most deprived)	Employment Domain Rank (where 1 is most deprived)	Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Rank (where 1 is most deprived)	Education, Skills and Training Domain Rank (where 1 is most deprived)	Access to Services Domain Rank (where 1 is most deprived)	Living Environment Domain Rank (where 1 is most deprived)	Crime and Disorder Domain Rank (where 1 is most deprived)
Northland	65	50	135	98	13	686	707	365
Ballee	85	146	85	103	41	629	590	106
Moat	91	90	99	127	95	722	491	79
Ballyloran	104	70	129	141	150	432	401	158
Ballykeel	110	55	144	187	177	421	464	182
Dunclug	154	181	186	177	96	556	427	89
Antiville	156	212	117	217	160	689	134	118
Love Lane	173	553	95	134	54	594	824	157
Castle Demesne	183	171	314	247	94	751	120	52
Central	192	280	166	223	268	723	36	41
Craigy Hill	209	515	104	156	145	633	323	357
Fair Green	222	126	222	346	223	777	337	349

Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDAC) is derived from the proportion of the population aged 15 and under living in households whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the NI median.

The table below highlights the top 25% most deprived Super Output Areas within the Mid & East Antrim Local Government District. This table is sorted in descending order of Multiple Deprivation rank and is based on the 2017 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures.

SOA Name	IDAC Rank	IDAC %
Ballykeel	31	29.8%
Town Parks	47	28.2%
Moat	55	27.5%
Academy	84	25.5%
Portglenone_2	105	25.0%
Ballyloran	124	24.4%
Gortalee	128	24.4%
Harryville	137	24.1%
Fair Green	155	23.7%
Northland	157	23.7%
Ballee	213	22.5%

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas

A Neighbourhood Renewal Area is defined as an area in the most top 10% deprived areas of Northern Ireland based upon the Multiple Deprivation Measures as identified by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs) are neighbourhoods identified as experiencing the most severe multiple deprivation and have been chosen to receive support under the Department for Communities People and Place strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal

Northern Ireland has a total of 36 Neighbourhood renewal areas. There are 14 in Belfast, 6 in the North West (including 4 in Derry) and 16 situated in other towns and cities across Northern Ireland.

Table 12 – Number of Neighbourhood Renewal Areas in the Local Government District

Local Government District	NRA's
Mid and East Antrim	1
NI Total	36

Table 13 – Neighbourhood Renewal Areas Breakdown in the Local Government District

NRA Name	District Council Area	NRA Code
Ballymena	Mid & East Antrim	95RDO_03

Living in Safety

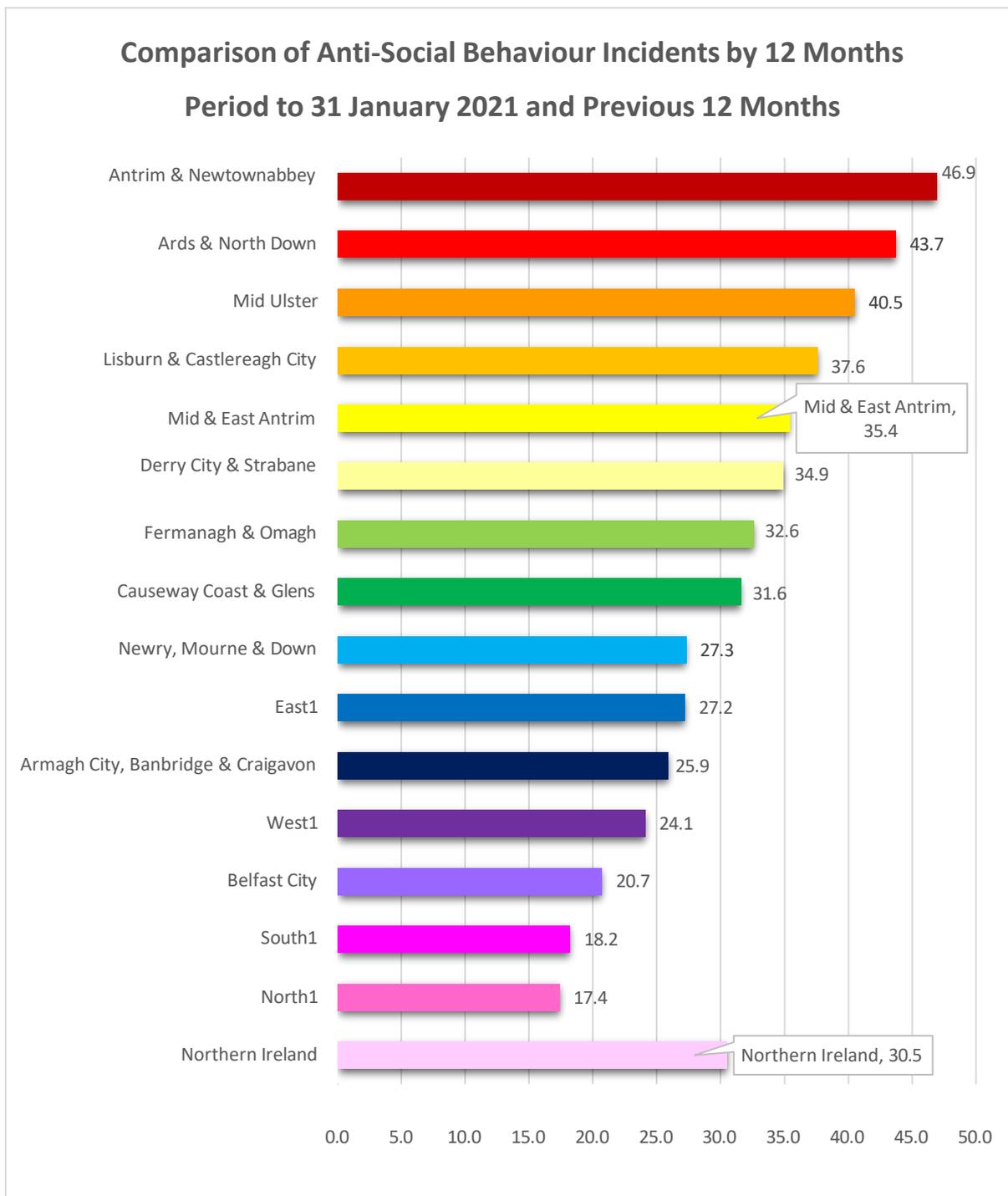
Mid & East Antrim is one of only 4 LGDs to show an increase in numbers of sectarian incidents between 2019 and 2020. It had the second highest increase behind only Belfast City.

Policing District	Jan 19 – Dec 19	Jan 20 – Dec 20	Difference
Belfast City	291	355	64
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	49	51	2
Ards & North Down	26	27	1
Newry, Mourne & Down	45	33	-12
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	79	84	5
Mid Ulster	68	51	-17
Fermanagh & Omagh	40	37	-3
Derry City & Strabane	141	92	-49
Causeway Coast & Glens	82	52	-30
Mid & East Antrim	44	68	24
Antrim & Newtownabbey	53	34	-19
No Area Assigned	0	0	0

Sectarian crimes recorded over this period showed Mid & East Antrim to be one of only 3 LGDs to show an increase. Again Mid & East Antrim ranked 2nd highest increase behind Belfast City.

Policing District	Jan 19 – Dec 19	Jan 20 – Dec 20	Difference
Belfast City	195	255	60
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	46	31	-15
Ards & North Down	14	17	3
Newry, Mourne & Down	28	26	-2
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	65	52	-13
Mid Ulster	56	40	-16
Fermanagh & Omagh	30	23	-7
Derry City & Strabane	112	70	-42
Causeway Coast & Glens	61	35	-26
Mid & East Antrim	30	52	22
Antrim & Newtownabbey	37	32	-5
No Area Assigned	0	0	0

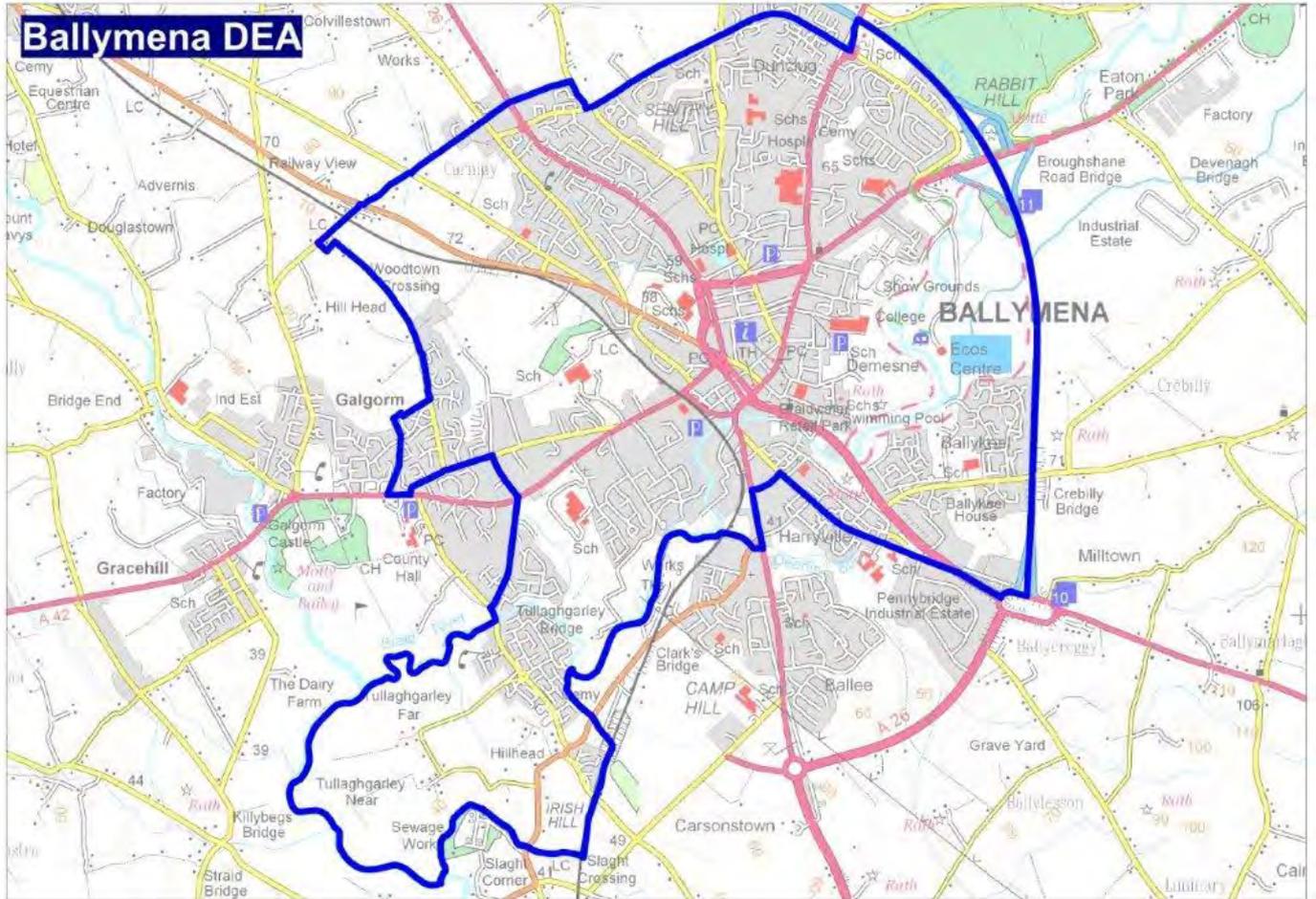
In the 12 months to January 2021 Mid & East Antrim showed an increase of 35.4% in Anti-Social Behaviour incidents; this is ahead of the Northern Ireland average of 30.5%.





Appendix 4: DEA Profiles

Ballymena DEA



Ballymena DEA

Key Facts

- 7554 young people aged under 25
- 3538 fall within the key youth service priority age bands of 9-13 and 14-18
- 18% of young people below the age of 16 live in households whose income is below 60% of the Northern Ireland median
- 19.7% of working age population are employment deprived
- 5% of 16-18 year olds are not in Education, Employment or Training.
- 68.4% of 18-21 year olds are not enrolled in Higher or Further Education
- 66% of school leavers attain 5 GCSES inc. English & Maths (Northern Ireland 78%)
- 44% of Free School Meals Entitled school leavers attain 5 GCSES inc. English & Maths (Northern Ireland 60%)
- 85% of school leavers attain 5 GCSEs or equivalent (Northern Ireland 92%)
- 77% of Free School Meals Entitled school leavers attain 5 GCSEs or equivalent (Northern Ireland 84%)
- 715 newcomer pupils, 30% at post-primary (Northern Ireland 21%)
- The standardised admission rate for self-harm is 319 per 100,000 population. (Northern Ireland 117).
- The Crude Suicide Rate is 24.6 per 100,000 population. (Northern Ireland 16.1)
- 1552 Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in 2020-21
- 12 crimes with a racial motivation in 2020-21
- 11 crimes with a sectarian motivation in 2020-21
- 363 crimes with a domestic abuse motivation in 2020-21

Current Education Authority funded Youth Provision

- Ballymena Senior Youth Worker
- FLARE Senior Youth Worker
- Ballymena South Area Youth Worker
- Ballykeel Youth Resource Centre
- Waveney Youth Centre
- All Saints Youth Club

Survey/Consultation findings

Participation

Young people reported on a lack of things to do for those aged 14 and above.

Health and Wellbeing

The effects of misuse of Drugs and alcohol and the impact of domestic violence is impacting on young people's Physical and Emotional Health and Wellbeing.

LGBTQIA+ young people report on the need for support with their Emotional Health

Ballymena DEA

Mental Health has been impacted by COVID pandemic and has impacted on behaviour expressed through high levels of anxiety and personal wellbeing.

Food Poverty is beginning to impact on young people's physical health.

Learning and Achieving

Young people want more opportunities to engage effectively in schools in Ballymena

Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity, including Good Relations

Young people felt there was a fear/lack of understanding of others in community, particularly amongst newcomer young people and those from a Black or Ethnic Minority. Background. A joined up approach to engage effectively with newcomers rather than Organisations working in isolation has the potential to work effectively.

Young people want the opportunity to engage with newcomers and those from other communities in order to tackle segregation

LGBTQIA+ young people report the need for more inclusivity and to have spaces where they can feel accepted.

Single identity and cross community projects opportunities is something young people want more of in Ballymena

Living in Safety and Stability

Anti-social behaviour is an ongoing issue for young people leading to them feeling unsafe in their area.

Influence of paramilitaries is still seen as being a fear for young people.

Many young people report being affected by domestic violence.

Summary

Centre based delivery times should be modified in line with consultations with young people.

Key Inclusion issues need addressed with newcomers, ethnic minority and LGBTQIA+ young people.

Programmes should include a focus on physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

Young people should have opportunities to engage with other communities and build positive relationships.

Young people should have the opportunity to engage with others within their own communities, build positive relationships, and be more aware of the impact of their actions e.g. inter-generational work, Anti-Social Behaviour.

Support for young people experiencing the influence of paramilitaries.

Young people should have relevant vocational training opportunities, accredited and non-accredited.

Environmental impacts should be included within all programmes.

Bannside DEA

Key Facts

- 6273 young people aged under 25
- 3093 fall within the key youth service priority age bands of 9-13 and 14-18
- 15% of young people below the age of 16 live in households whose income is below 60% of the Northern Ireland median
- 14.2% of working age population are employment deprived
- 19% of school leavers went onto Further Education (Northern Ireland 27%)
- 6% of school leavers went onto Training (Northern Ireland 10.6%)
- The standardised admission rate for alcohol related issues is 1053 per 100,000 population. (Northern Ireland 659)
- The standardised admission rate for self-harm is 319 per 100,000 population. (Northern Ireland 117).
- 454 Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in 2020-21
- 2 crimes with a racial motivation in 2020-21
- 7 crimes with a sectarian motivation in 2020-21
- 103 crimes with a domestic abuse motivation in 2020-21

Current Education Authority funded Youth Provision

- Ballymena Senior Youth Worker
- FLARE Senior Youth Worker

Survey/Consultation findings

Participation

This rural area has a lack of venues for young people to access, youth service provision is dependent the availability of premises to deliver. Young people identified mostly church based provisions ranging from Boys/Girls Brigades, Scouts/Guides to church halls providing weekly generalist services. These venues cater for the whole of the community. There is a need to continue to support these vital generalist provisions and to enhance delivery.

No public transport available rurally after 7.00 pm which impacts on young people's ability to access youth centre provision in Ballymena.

Health and Wellbeing

Vaping is described by young people as a visible pandemic and young people lack education and understanding on the consequence of using vapes.

Drugs are prevalent in villages and some young people have experienced issues with drug use.

Access to mental health services is limited.

Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity, including Good Relations

Young people reported on feeling isolated due to the rurality of where they lived

They feel that segregation and exclusion is rife and visible in Ballymena along the lines of race and religion.

Bannside DEA

Living in Safety and Stability

The consultation with young people reported an increase in young people experiencing and witnessing domestic violence and coercive control within their or their peer's homes.

LGBTQIA+ young people reported not feeling understood or accepted and not feeling safe.

Car based anti-social behaviour, particularly in Portglenone racing on rural roads around villages in the vicinity.

Summary

Young people need signposted to local youth services taking into account the impact that living in rural areas has on young people's mobility.

Key Inclusion issues need addressed with LGBTQIA+ and rurally isolated young people.

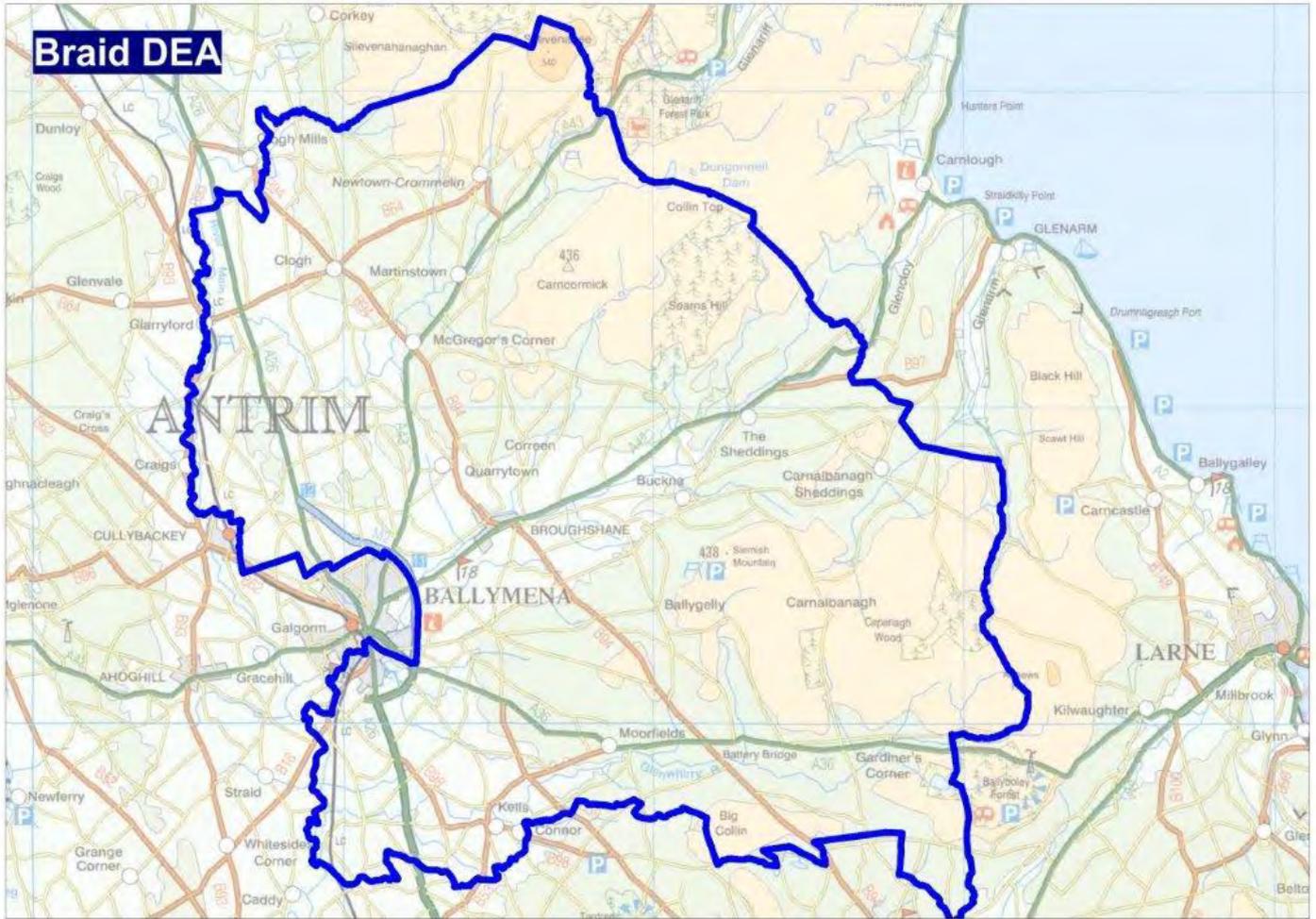
Programmes should include a focus on physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

Young people should have opportunities to engage with other communities and build positive relationships.

Young people should have the opportunity to engage with others within their own communities, build positive relationships, and be more aware of the impact of their actions e.g. inter-generational work, Anti-Social Behaviour.

Support for young people experiencing the influence of Domestic Violence.

Braid DEA



Key Facts

- 7411 young people aged under 25
- 2922 fall within the key youth service priority age bands of 9-13 and 14-18
- 18.5% of young people below the age of 16 live in households whose income is below 60% of the Northern Ireland median
- 15.3% of working age population are employment deprived
- 44% of Free School Meals Entitled school leavers attain 5 GCSES inc. English & Maths (Northern Ireland 60%)
- 17% of domestic dwellings are in a state of disrepair
- 684 Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in 2020-21
- 5 crimes with a racial motivation in 2020-21
- 12 crimes with a sectarian motivation in 2020-21
- 2 crimes with a homophobic motivation in 2020-21
- 193 crimes with a domestic abuse motivation in 2020-21

Current Education Authority funded Youth Provision

- Ballymena Senior Youth Worker
- FLARE Senior Youth Worker
- Ballymena South Area Youth Worker
- Kells Youth Club (The Bytes Project)

Survey/Consultation findings

Participation

Lack of transport links and appropriate public transport impacts on young people being able to access services in Ballymena or Larne

There is a lack of local youth provision and venues to meet young people.

Health and Wellbeing

Young people reported issues around drug and alcohol use, vaping as well as the impact of domestic violence on their emotional wellbeing.

Mental Health has been impacted by COVID pandemic and has impacted on behaviour expressed through high levels of anxiety and personal wellbeing.

Food Poverty is beginning to impact on young people's physical health.

Learning and Achieving

Young people expressed an interest in youth leadership programmes.

Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity, including Good Relations

Rural Isolation, young people want more opportunities to engage with their peers.

Issues with newcomers in area – fear/lack of understanding of others in community

Braid DEA

LGBTQIA+ young people feel a lack of acceptance.

Young people need more opportunities to engage with those from other backgrounds including newcomers.

Tensions between older and younger people, Kells young people want more opportunities to engage in intergenerational programmes.

Kells young people reported a rise in Hate Speech especially directed towards newcomers.

[Living in Safety and Stability](#)

Influence of paramilitaries on young people is still a fear for many young people.

Young people are experiencing the impact of domestic violence

Summary

Young people need signposted to local youth services taking into account the impact that living in rural areas has on young people's mobility.

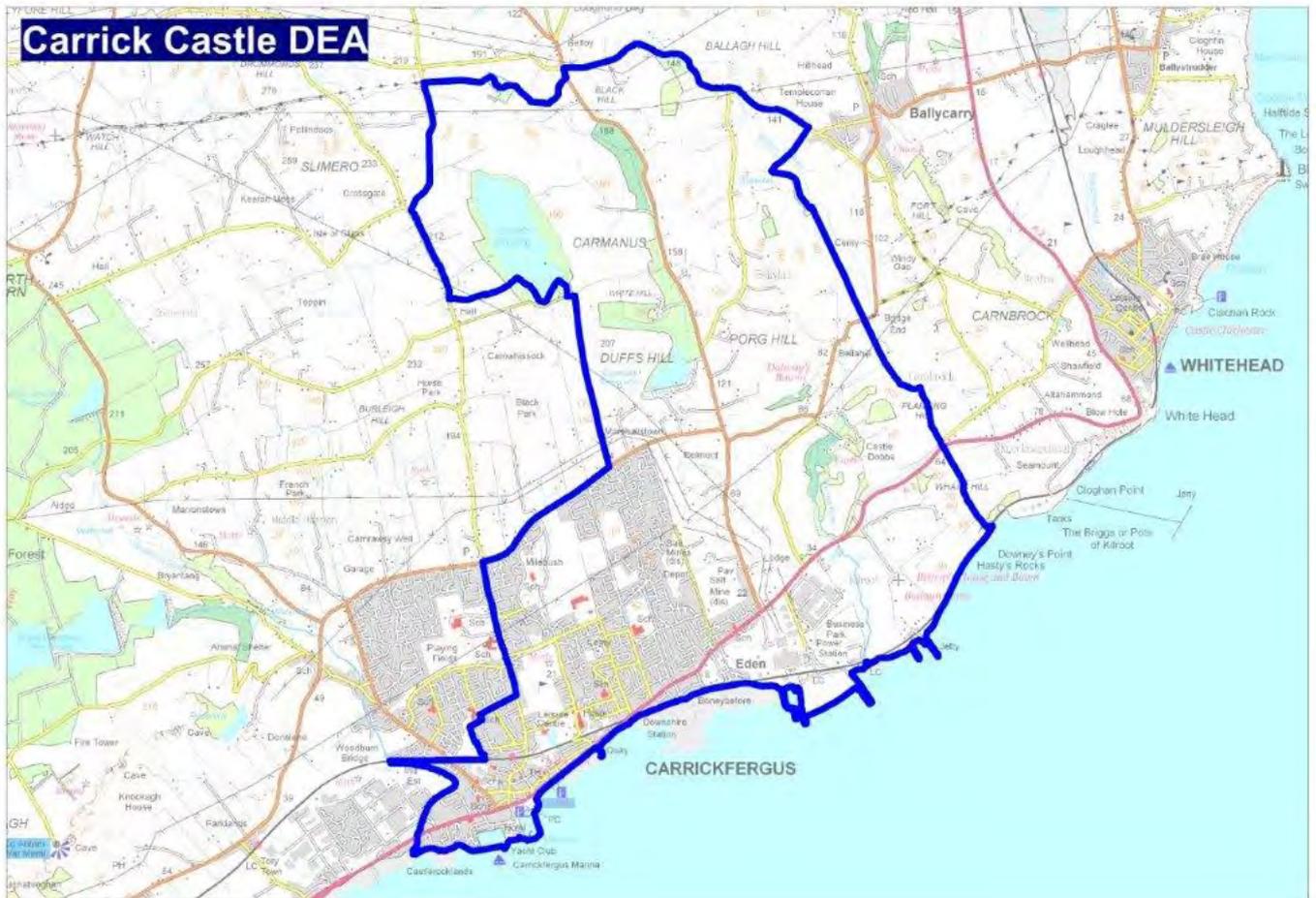
Key Inclusion issues need addressed with LGBTQIA+ and rurally isolated young people.

Programmes should include a focus on physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

Young people should have opportunities to engage with other communities and build positive relationships.

Young people should have the opportunity to engage with others within their own communities, build positive relationships, and be more aware of the impact of their actions e.g. newcomers inter-generational work, Anti-Social Behaviour.

Carrick Castle DEA



Carrick Castle DEA

Key Facts

- 5218 young people aged under 25
- 2165 fall within the key youth service priority age bands of 9-13 and 14-18
- 173% of young people below the age of 16 live in households whose income is below 60% of the Northern Ireland median
- 18.7% of working age population are employment deprived
- 5.6% of 16-18 year olds are not in Education, Employment or Training
- 51% of school leavers attained 2+ A-Levels or equivalent (Northern Ireland 60%)
- 84% of school leavers attain 5 GCSEs or equivalent (Northern Ireland 92%)
- 65% of school leavers attain 5 GCSEs inc. English & Maths (Northern Ireland 78%)
- 9.8% of school leavers are unemployed (Northern Ireland 4%)
- 48% of Free School Meals Entitled school leavers attain 5 GCSEs or equivalent inc English and Maths (Northern Ireland 50%)
- 70% of Free School Meals Entitled school leavers attain 5 GCSEs (Northern Ireland 84%)
- The standardised admission rate for self-harm is 158 per 100,000 population. (Northern Ireland 117).
- 674 Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in 2020-21
- 1 crimes with a racial motivation in 2020-21
- 4 crimes with a sectarian motivation in 2020-21
- 155 crimes with a domestic abuse motivation in 2020-21

Current Education Authority funded Youth Provision

- Carrickfergus and Larne Senior Youth Worker
- FLARE Senior Youth Worker
- Carrickfergus & Larne Area Youth Worker
- Downshire Youth Centre
- Carrickfergus YMCA

Survey/Consultation findings

Participation

Young people reported a lack of opportunities for new experiences.

Won't go to other centre due to the area it's in

Young people want to be listened to and have their voice heard

Health and Wellbeing

Many young people come from low income families. This impact on their opportunity to engage in healthy activities and to have healthy diets.

Mental health issues, many young people experience a lack of support.

Media influences on body image.

Carrick Castle DEA

Drug use is high

Wanting to improve health and stop smoking

Young people are reporting as always hungry; youth centres are a key source of food for them.

Bullying and its impact on health.

Learning and Achieving

young people feel failed by schools especially those with additional needs/or who require additional support.

young people 9-13 want more careers advice.

young people aged 9-13 want opportunities outside of basic curriculum.

Some young people feel unwelcome or constantly in trouble or suspended from School

Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity, including Good Relations

young people do not feel part of their community.

Lack of belonging in centre/area

Consultation with 73 young parents 16-25 years. Mid & East Antrim found the 27.5% young parents stated they do not have good friends. 57.5% of young parents stated they don't spend time regularly with other parents and their babies. 65% of young parents stated they knew hardly anything about finances and financial benefits they are entitled to. 62.5% surveyed felt they would like to attend a group for young parents for their mental health and well being and a safe space for them and their child. Family nurse partnership have stated they have 20+ young parents in the Carrickfergus area that would benefit from small group work. keen to collaborate with Flare and local youth service to progress opportunity of Drop in and employability skills.

Young people expressed an interest in exploring other cultures

Adults only shout at us

Living in Safety and Stability

Young people do not feel safe in their areas because of paramilitaries.

Young people feel Police are not welcome

Summary

Centre based delivery times should be modified in line with consultations with young people .

Key Inclusion issues need addressed with LGBTQIA+, Young Parents, and Newcomers young people being a priority.

Key health issues around Drug and Tobacco use need addressed.

Programmes should include a focus on physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

Issues around self-esteem, self-image and bullying need addressed.

Young people should have opportunities to engage with other communities and build positive relationships.

Carrick Castle DEA

Support for young people experiencing the influence of paramilitaries.

Opportunities to build positive relations with PSNI and other emergency services.

Young people should have relevant vocational training opportunities, accredited and non-accredited.

Environmental impacts should be included within all programmes.

Coast Road DEA



Coast Road DEA

Key Facts

- 5084 young people aged under 25
- 2486 fall within the key youth service priority age bands of 9-13 and 14-18
- 18% of young people below the age of 16 live in households whose income is below 60% of the Northern Ireland median
- 21.9% of working age population are employment deprived
- 7.4% absenteeism in post-primary schools
- 19.7% of school leavers go onto Further Education (Northern Ireland 27%)
- 9.8% of school leavers are unemployed (Northern Ireland 4%)
- 715 newcomer pupils, 30% at post-primary (Northern Ireland 21%)
- The standardised admission rate for self-harm is 238 per 100,000 population. (Northern Ireland 117).
- The Crude Suicide Rate is 19.6 per 100,000 population. (Northern Ireland 16.1)
- 605 Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in 2020-21
- 3 crimes with a racial motivation in 2020-21
- 7 crimes with a sectarian motivation in 2020-21
- 178 crimes with a domestic abuse motivation in 2020-21

Current Education Authority funded Youth Provision

- Carrickfergus and Larne Senior Youth Worker
- FLARE Senior Youth Worker
- Carrickfergus & Larne Area Youth Worker
- Larne Area Youth Worker
- Larne YMCA

Survey/Consultation findings

Participation

Young parents living in this DEA they reported lack of Controlled provision, we have identified that young parents, linked with the Family Nursing Partnership are facing a lack of socialisation from peers and lack of accessibility to services for support and opportunities. Through consultations with these young people, there is a lack of knowledge regarding their entitlements to Government Support, Social Housing, and a concern in speaking to professionals e.g. doctors, health visitors, about support or advice that they need. The parents have a lack of self-confidence in themselves and their abilities, with a fear of being judged. This has linked into postnatal mental health, with a number of young parents that we have consulted having a mental health diagnosis. There is a high need for a safe space to work with the young parents to support and address these needs.

Rurality – lack of venues/isolated/lack of opportunity/infrastructure.

Health and Wellbeing

Vaping/smoking. Glenarm

Drugs and criminality. Glenarm

CAMHS heavily subscribed. Massive waiting lists.

Coast Road DEA

Learning and Achieving

Pupils at local schools have not really been briefed on careers advice. This has gotten worse since pandemic. Glenarm

Further Education (proximity of services – Techs are miles away and transport links are poor).

Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity, including Good Relations

Patchy community involvement. Glenarm

ASB towards emergency services. Glenarm

Living in Safety and Stability

Paramilitary influence impacting on young people's feeling of safety. Glenarm

Issues around Racism and Sectarianism/flags/murals has become normalised.

Summary

Young people need signposted to local youth services taking into account the impact that living in rural areas has on young people's mobility.

Key Inclusion issues need addressed with LGBTQIA+, Young Parents, and Newcomers young people being a priority.

Key health issues around vaping and smoking need addressed.

Programmes should include a focus on physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

Young people should have opportunities to engage with other communities and build positive relationships.

Support for young people experiencing the influence of paramilitaries.

Opportunities to build positive relations with emergency services.

Young people should have relevant vocational training opportunities, accredited and non-accredited.

Environmental impacts should be included within all programmes.

Key Facts

- 5156 young people aged under 25
- 2564 fall within the key youth service priority age bands of 9-13 and 14-18
- 16% of young people below the age of 16 live in households whose income is below 60% of the Northern Ireland median
- 16.8% of working age population are employment deprived
- 5% of 16-18 year olds are not in Education, Employment or Training
- 18.6% of school leavers go onto Further Education (Northern Ireland 27%)
- 6% of school leavers went onto employment (Northern Ireland 10.6%)
- 13% of school leavers are unemployed (Northern Ireland 4%)
- 72% of school leavers attain 5 GCSES inc. English & Maths (Northern Ireland 78%)
- 55% of Free School Meals Entitled school leavers attain 5 GCSES inc. English & Maths (Northern Ireland 60%)
- 89% of school leavers attain 5 GCSEs or equivalent (Northern Ireland 92%)
- 77% of Free School Meals Entitled school leavers attain 5 GCSEs or equivalent (Northern Ireland 84%)
- 573 Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in 2020-21
- 4 crimes with a racial motivation in 2020-21
- 6 crimes with a sectarian motivation in 2020-21
- 1 crimes with a homophobic motivation in 2020-21
- 126 crimes with a domestic abuse motivation in 2020-21

Current Education Authority funded Youth Provision

- Carrickfergus and Larne Senior Youth Worker
- FLARE Senior Youth Worker
- Carrickfergus & Larne Area Youth Worker
- Greenisland Youth Centre
- Sunnylands Youth Centre

Survey/Consultation findings

Health and Wellbeing

High numbers Young people in receipt of food packs

Background home in low income housing have access to food banks and financial support of learning how to save and manage finances

Learning and Achieving

learning how to save and manage finances

Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity, including Good Relations

In receipt of Government benefits DLA and in housing estate homes impacting on equality of opportunity.

lack of identity/sense of belonging in their communities.

Knockagh DEA

Living in Safety and Stability

Influence of paramilitaries on young people.

Fear of going into other communities.

Summary

Centre based delivery times should be modified in line with consultations with young people.

Impact of poverty on young people's development needs addressed.

Programmes should include a focus on physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

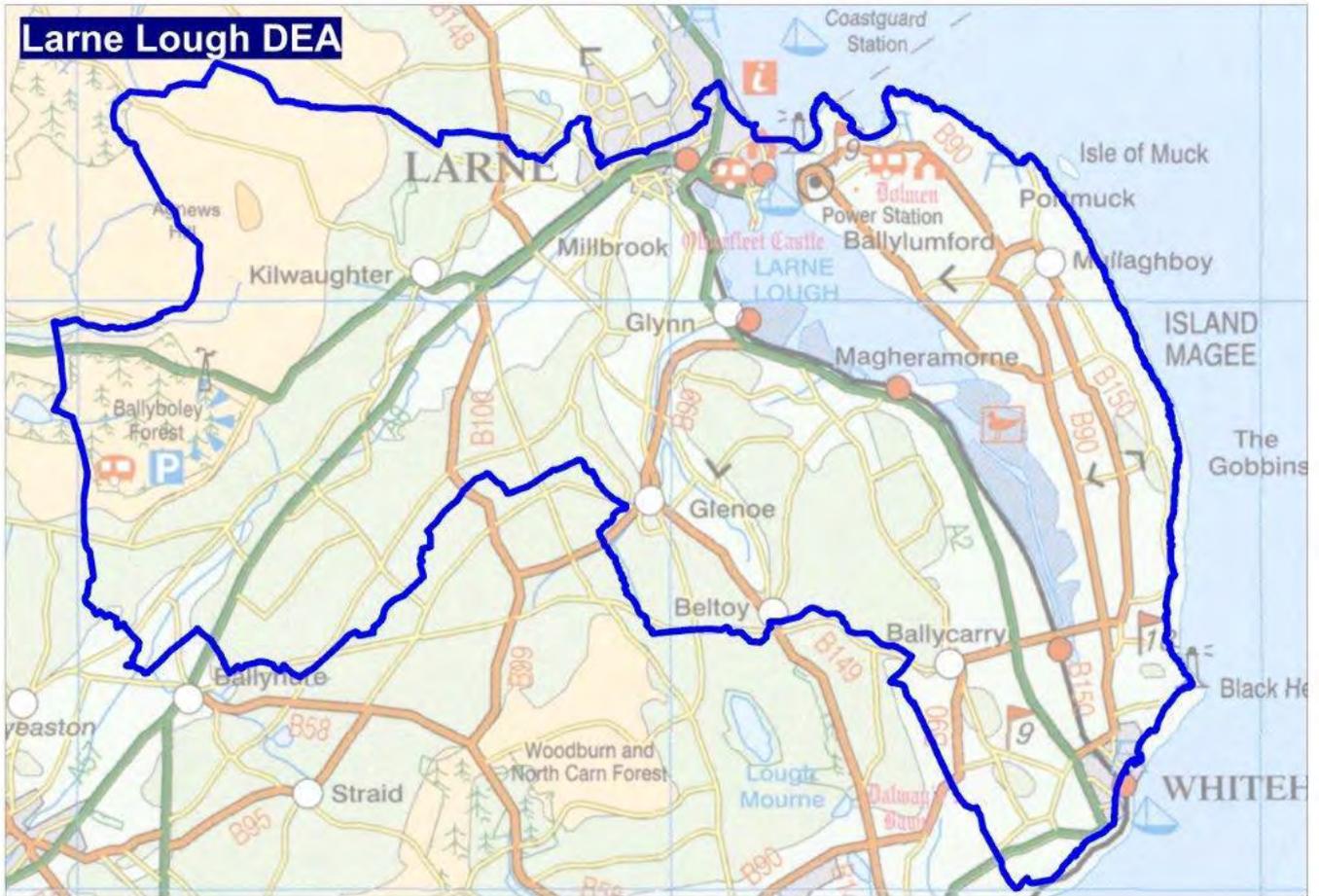
Young people should have opportunities to engage with other communities and build positive relationships.

Support for young people experiencing the influence of paramilitaries.

Young people should have relevant lifeskills training opportunities, accredited and non-accredited.

Environmental impacts should be included within all programmes.

Larne Lough DEA



Larne Lough DEA

Key Facts

- 5273 young people aged under 25
- 2657 fall within the key youth service priority age bands of 9-13 and 14-18
- 17% of young people below the age of 16 live in households whose income is below 60% of the Northern Ireland median
- 16.5% of working age population are employment deprived
- 4% of 16-18 year olds are not in Education, Employment or Training
- 4% of school leavers go onto employment (Northern Ireland 10.6%)
- 5.5% of school leavers are unemployed (Northern Ireland 4%)
- 78% of Free School Meals Entitled school leavers attain 5 GCSEs or equivalent (Northern Ireland 84%)
- 17.5% of domestic dwellings are in a state of disrepair
- The standardised admission rate for self-harm is 195 per 100,000 population. (Northern Ireland 117).
- 766 Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents recorded in 2020-21
- 4 crimes with a racial motivation in 2020-21
- 7 crimes with a sectarian motivation in 2020-21
- 109 crimes with a domestic abuse motivation in 2020-21

Current Education Authority funded Youth Provision

- Carrickfergus and Larne Senior Youth Worker
- FLARE Senior Youth Worker
- Carrickfergus & Larne Area Youth Worker
- Whitehead Youth Centre

Survey/Consultation findings

Participation

Proximity to services/lack of venues/accessibility.

Poor transport links to Larne

Impact of rising energy costs on opportunity.

Lack of consultation with young people.

Health and Wellbeing

Instances of alcohol dependence with younger people 18-21 increased on previous year (post covid)

Concerns over the habitual use of vapes.

Learning and Achieving

Higher cases of anxiety preventing young people attending school.

Inclusion, Diversity and Equality of Opportunity, including Good Relations

Young parents reported limited services specific to them and their needs in Larne areas especially rural.

Larne Lough DEA

Young people in Larne reported feeling they lived in “Zones” certain people could only mix with their group eg. Craigyhill and Millbrook very close proximity but not socialising

LGBTQIA+ feel a lack of understanding/acceptance.

Lack of opportunity

Opportunity to participate Good Relations/Inclusion programmes.

Newcomers attending schools lack of preparation or context at schools

The “look” of Larne town appears single Identity (white, PUL)

[Living in Safety and Stability](#)

Loyalist influence in communities

Paramilitaries (related criminal activity)

Feel unsafe in communities (especially after dark)

Summary

Centre based delivery times should be modified in line with consultations with young people taking into account the needs of rurally isolated young people.

Key Inclusion issues need addressed with LGBTQIA+, Young Parents, and Newcomers young people being a priority.

Key health issues around alcohol use need addressed.

Programmes should include a focus on physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

Young people should have opportunities to engage with other communities and build positive relationships.

Support for young people experiencing the influence of paramilitaries.

Young people should have relevant vocational training opportunities, accredited and non-accredited.

Environmental impacts should be included within all programmes.

Youth Service