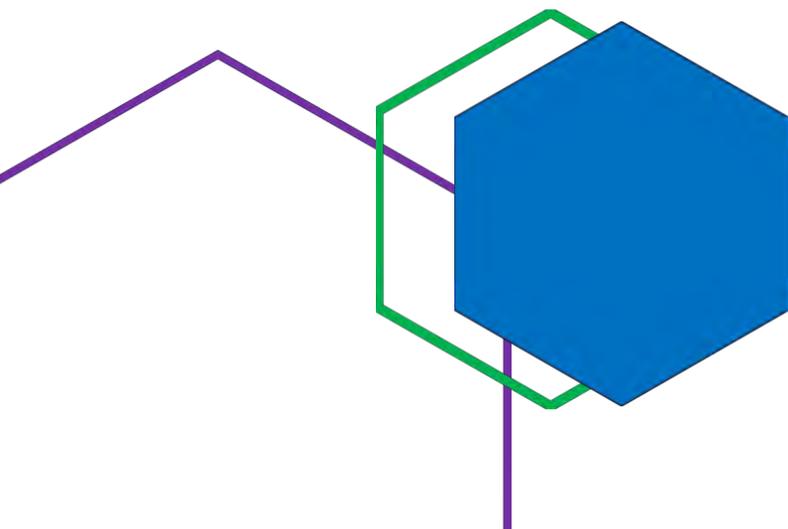


Youth Service

Local Assessment of Need

Newry Mourne and Down Area

2023



November 2022



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Executive Summary

Based on the analysis of the statistical data and the voice of stakeholders, including children and young people, whilst also considering the current uncertainty regarding public budgets, increases in the cost of living and the long lasting impact of covid-19 on the lives of children and young people, there needs to be a focus on prioritising 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 Newry, Mourne and Down Area:

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

Core youth provision ensures that supportive environments, delivering the youth work curriculum, are made available to a significant proportion of children and young people throughout our communities. This allows them to enhance their personal skills, their levels of motivation and general resilience and to develop their ability to interact with other children, young people and adults. Youth Services have a key role in providing these safe and supportive environments.

Addressing barriers to learning remains a significant need within Newry, Mourne and Down. Young people would like a range of learning supports and informal/vocational opportunities. Additionally, young people want to enhance their career chances by gaining experience in volunteering or gaining accreditation in youth leadership or other life skills.

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. A focus needs to be placed on wellbeing for all and early support programmes for children and young people to positively address any long-term impacts.

Children and young people in Newry, Mourne and Down require a focus on educational programmes and activities developing resilience and wellbeing for all which promote healthy decision-making and lead to a positive impact on the health outcomes for children and young people.

Young people supported the view that Youth Services should provide safe spaces for children and young people and promote inclusion and embrace and celebrate difference. This will be addressed through Good Relations, cultural awareness and diversity programmes and T: BUC residential or camps.

The Newry, Mourne and Down area requires programmes and activities that address specific areas of risk-taking including alcohol and drugs education, sexual health, digital resilience and safer driving.

Participation will continue to be a key priority for the Newry, Mourne and Down Youth Service.

Youth services will offer awareness raising programmes, as well as opportunities for social action projects such as planting trees or recycling in youth centres/projects, upcycling initiatives and community clean ups.



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 Newry, Mourne and Down.

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 Newry, Mourne and Down. 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 Newry, Mourne and Down.

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

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

A Local Advisory Group (LAG) is facilitated by Youth Services in the Newry, Mourne and Down 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 231 young people in Newry Mourne & Down 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 and can be found in appendix 2.

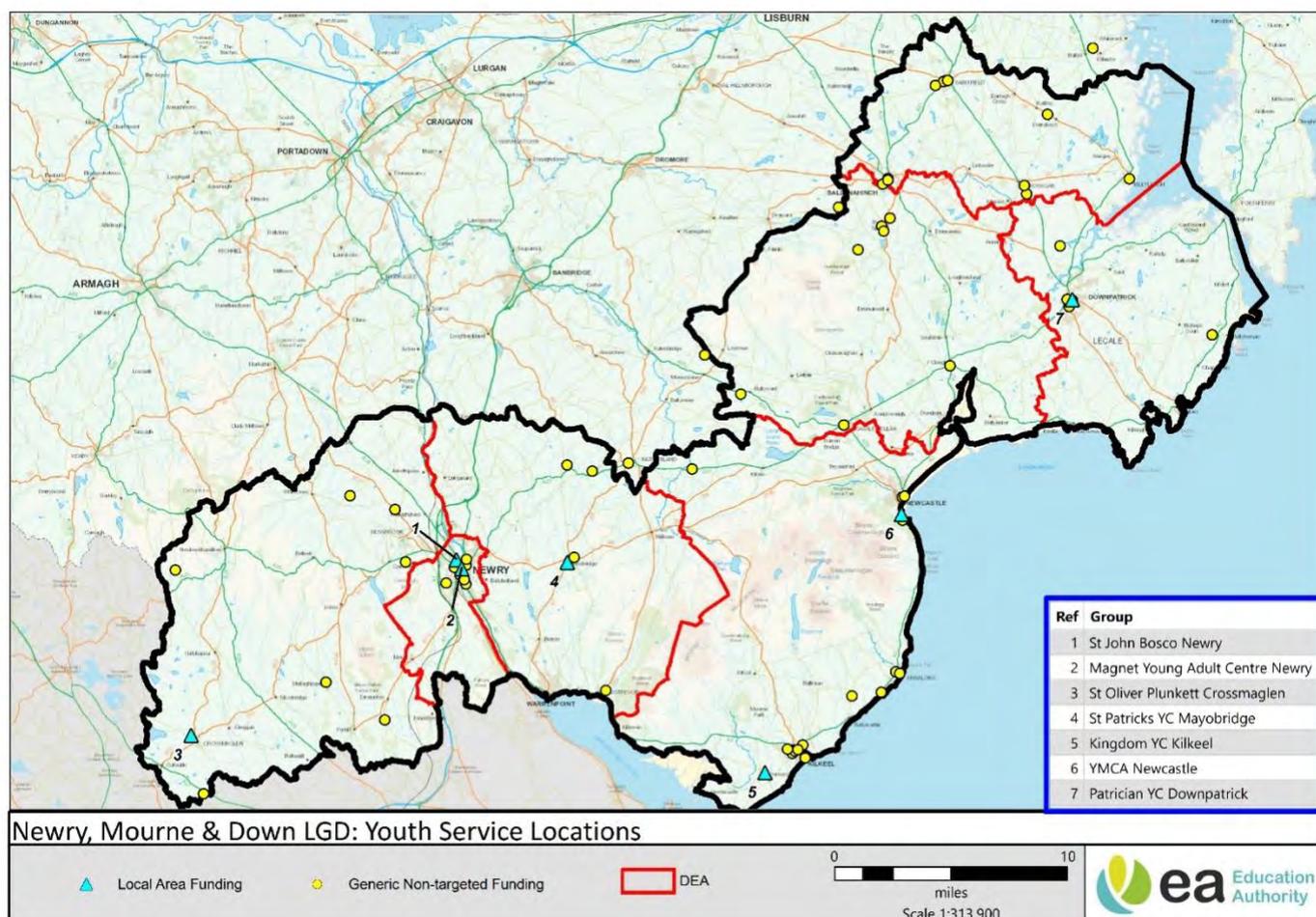
In addition to the survey and stakeholder events, focus groups were held within the DEA's in Newry and Downpatrick. There were 26 groups with 308 young people involved. The focus groups provided detailed analysis on a localised basis of the information contained within the survey. The survey responses were analysed and helped inform the Assessment of Need and can be found in appendix 3.



Area Profile

Overview of Area

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area covers the southeast of Northern Ireland, including southern County Armagh and large parts of County Down and borders Counties Louth and Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland. As the third largest District Council area in Northern Ireland, Newry, Mourne and Down makes up approximately 11% of the total land area of Northern Ireland, more than 100 miles of coastline, and services 182,067 residents. In addition to Newry City, the principal settlements are Downpatrick, Ballynahinch, Killeel, Newcastle, Warrenpoint and Crossmaglen.



Newry, Mourne and Down local government district in 2021 had a population of 182,067 people, of whom 90,057 (49.5%) are male and 92,010 (50.5%) are female. The population aged 25 years and under is 61,148 people which equates to 33.59% of the total population, with the NI average being 32.6%. The breakdown of the figures shows that 31,576 (51.63%) of the young people aged 25 and under were male and 29,572 (48.36%) of the young people were female. The population of young people under the age of 15 years is 40,079 which makes up 22.01% of the population in the district. Projections indicate that by 2030 there will be a slight increase in males in the 9-13, 14-18 and 19-25 age bands.

54.2% of young people have been identified as living in rural areas within Newry Mourne and Down district much higher than the 34.5% for NI as a whole.

The deployment of the Youth Work team ensures that attention is given to the needs of young people in rural and urban settings through 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.

Newry, Mourne and Down in Numbers

The estimated population of Newry, Mourne and Down in 2022 is **182,067**

61,148 children and young people aged 0-25 years old live in Newry, Mourne and Down in 2022

- 29,572 Female and 31,576 Male
- 9,471 aged 0 – 3 years
- 13,205 aged 4 – 8 years
- 13,603 aged 9 – 13 years
- 12,122 aged 14 – 18 years
- 14,021 aged 19 – 25 years

- 9,584 children and young people aged 0-25 years (18.1%) live in deprivation (2022)

- 28,699 children and young people (54%) live in a rural community in Newry, Mourne and Down. (2022)

- 1,448 Newcomers attend schools in Newry, Mourne and Down. (21/22)

- 9,223 (26%) of all pupils in Newry, Mourne and Down are eligible for Free School Meals. 2021/22 – (NI average 29%)

- 2,832 of pupils who attend school in Newry, Mourne and Down have a Statement 21/22

- 16,667 pupils (16.99%) who attend school in Newry, Mourne and Down have a Special Education Need or Disability. (21/22) – NI average 18%.

- In Newry Mourne & Down the childhood obesity rate is 5.1, slightly above the average for Northern Ireland which is 5.

- The overall suicide rate in Northern Ireland is currently 3 times the rate of road deaths. Most recent figures report death by suicide in Newry Mourne and Down to be 7.7 per 100 000 in 2020, 5 below the NI average.

- There were 4,797 incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded in Newry Mourne & Down in 2019 which rose by over 27% (1,311) to 6,108 in 2020.

Highlights:

1. There will be a trend of increased 14-18 years old throughout the period of this plan
2. There are a significant number of children and young people who live in rural areas who will require access to youth services
3. Youth Services need to be considered to meet the needs of SEN young people
4. Large numbers of young people are experiencing high levels of multiple deprivation.
5. The data indicates a range of vulnerabilities that youth work programmes can be designed to address

Newry, Mourne and Down Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM)

According to figures released by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) in 2017, 18.1 % of young people in Newry Mourne & Down live in the most deprived Super Output Areas within Northern Ireland below the NI average of 25.2%. Currently, this equates to approximately 9,584 young people living in areas of and experiencing high levels of multiple deprivation.

23 Super Output Areas are ranked in the top 25% most deprived in terms of **multiple deprivation** in Newry Mourne & Down based on the 2017 NI Deprivation Measures and 8 of these are within the 100 most deprived across NI. The top 10 super output areas in Newry Mourne & Down are Crossmaglen, Drumgullion 1, Creggan, Daisy Hill 2, Murlough, Ballybot, Silver Bridge 1, Forkhill 2, Cathedral 2 and Newtownhamilton.

Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRAs)

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs) are neighbourhoods identified as experiencing the most severe multiple deprivation and received support under the Department for Communities People and Place Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. In total 36 neighbourhoods have been identified to receive support. There are two in Newry Mourne & Down, one each in Downpatrick and Newry.

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

Children in Low Income

26 Super Output Areas are ranked in the top 25% most deprived in terms of **income deprivation affecting children (IDAC)** in Newry Mourne & Down and 12 of these are within the 100 most deprived across NI. The top 10 in our area are Crossmaglen, Silverbridge 1, Drumgullion 1, Creggan, Forkhill 2, Silverbridge 2, Tollymore 2, Newtownhamilton, Annalong 2 and St Patricks 2.

KEY FACTORS: LEARN & ACHIEVE

- 9,223 (26%) are eligible for free school meals in Newry, Mourne and Down. The NI average is 29%.
- 1448 Newcomer children and young people attend schools in the Newry, Mourne and Down area.
- 87.4% of young people attending schools in Newry, Mourne and Down achieved 5+ GCSE A*-C. NI average is 92.1%.
- 75.2% of young people attending schools in Newry, Mourne and Down achieved 5+ GCSE A*-C including English and Maths. NI average is 77.77%.
- 9,223 pupils (26%) in Newry, Mourne and Down are eligible for Free School Meals (NI average 28%). (DE school census data 21/22)
- 11,963 (28.9%) pupils attend schools in the Newry, Mourne and Down area that have been designated as rural (NI average 25.5%)
- The District Electoral Areas of Newry, Slieve Gullion and The Mournes, fall below the Northern Ireland Average of school leavers who achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A-C* and Achieved At Least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C including GCSE English and GCSE Maths

Special Education Need Data

- 16,667 (16.99%) have a Special Educational Need in Newry, Mourne and Down, which is just below the national average of 18%.
 - 1,899 are at Stage 1-4 on the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and 933 pupils at stage 5.
 - 12 Post Primary Schools in Newry Mourne & Down had between 20% – 55% of pupils attending with Special Education Needs in 2020-2021

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 Newry, Mourne and Down 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, practical 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 Newry, Mourne and Down have requested Youth Services to provide training opportunities that support with pathways to higher education or employment 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 across Newry, Mourne and Down stated that making friends and opportunities to have fun were the most important in terms of what they want from Youth Services. The rural nature of the area may prevent pupils from benefiting from extra-curricular activities that support this, hence the need for area and outreach youth work, which is delivered in communities.

In Newry, Mourne and Down 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. This will be supported through strengthening links with Further Education colleges like Southern Regional College to engage with young people who want to enhance their career chances by gaining experience in volunteering or gaining accreditation in Youth Leadership or other life skills.

In Newry, Mourne and Down 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. Young people would like a range of learning supports, informal/vocational opportunities.



Education is a positive factor in ensuring that young people thrive, learn and achieve, allowing them to enjoy a prosperous and rewarding life. It is also a means of breaking the cycle of poverty and deprivation and a powerful way of stopping young people engaging in risk taking activities, crime or anti-social behaviour.

As a society, we aspire for every child and young person to learn and achieve and reach their potential to become an active citizen. Acquiring a worthwhile education can make this a reality.

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

KEY FACTS: HEALTH & WELLBEING

- 1 in 5 young people have a mental health need. This equates to 12,230 young people in Newry, Mourne and Down
- Death by suicide in Newry Mourne and Down is 7.7 per 100 000 in 2020; at 14, this is 5 below the NI average.
- In Newry Mourne & Down the childhood obesity rate is 5.1, slightly above the average for Northern Ireland.
- Drugs continue to be a significant issue among the population in Newry Mourne & Down however the drug related death rate stands at 5.5 per 100,000 people which is lower than the NI average of 8.4.
- Evidence has shown that lung cancer is directly correlated to smoking. Newry has the highest rate of lung cancer with 99 per 100,000, which is higher than the average for Northern Ireland.

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 Newry, Mourne and Down face in terms of their general health outcomes and their mental and emotional wellbeing.

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

In Newry, Mourne and Down young people living in disadvantaged areas are more likely to endure health deprivation and suffer mental health issues. 18% of the children and young people in Newry, Mourne and Down are deemed to live in relative poverty. This means they are 5.5 times more likely to go hungry than their peers. This can lead to poor health and education outcomes as well as exposing children and young people to bullying which can negatively impact on their emotional and mental health. These young people are more likely to be absent from school which will negatively impact on their educational attainment.

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

Within Newry, Mourne and Down significant numbers of children and young people fall into these groups. Poor health outcomes are also linked to poor educational outcomes.

The high numbers of young people with a mental health need in Newry, Mourne and Down is reflected in the area having the highest level of support requests to the Facilitating Life and Resilience Education team across N. Ireland.

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

- 1448 newcomer children and young people attend schools in Newry, Mourne and Down.
- 16,667 (16.99%) have a Special Educational Need in Newry, Mourne and Down, which is just below the national average of 18%.
- According to the Office of National Statistics, 8% of young people in the UK aged 16-24 identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. In Newry, Mourne and Down this equates to approximately 1,606 young people. (ONS 2020)
- 144 Traveller children and young people attend schools in Newry, Mourne and Down.
- Whilst there are no specific numbers for Newry, Mourne and Down, the most recent figures reveal that 591 Looked After Children were supported by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust. Many of these children and young people live and attend schools in the Newry, Mourne and Down area. (HSC 20/21)
- The overall attendance figures for schools in Newry, Mourne and Down in 2021/22 was 92.8%, Northern Ireland in 2021/22 was 92.4%.
- According to the last census (2011) there are 8,480 young carers in Northern Ireland.
- 3,530 Children and young people Looked After attend schools in Northern Ireland
- Homophobic hate crime has increased across Newry, Mourne and Down in recent years.
- In April-June 2022, there were 25,000 young people (aged 16-24) in Northern Ireland who were not in education, employment or training (NEET). This represents 7.5% of all young people aged 16-24.

Discussion & Key Trends

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

There are still many single identity areas in Newry, Mourne and Down which encounter legacy issues and experience sectarianism.

Despite ongoing Good Relations work, Newry, Mourne and Down remains a divided community. The education system is segregated with the majority of children and young people attend schools based on their religion.

Whilst Newry, Mourne and Down does not have any designated interface areas, intra community tensions can arise at particular times of the year which has an impact on children and young people and their



behaviours within local communities. Paramilitary influence and control is also still prevalent within some communities and young people are at risk of being involved in these groups.

KEY FACTORS: LIVING IN SAFETY & STABILITY

- There were 33 sectarian incidents recorded in the Newry, Mourne and Down policing district in 2020. Similarly recorded sectarian crime rates between 2019 and 2020 fell from 28 to 26 respectively.
- There were 45 recorded racial incidents in 2020 in Newry Mournes & Down
- There were 26 recorded homophobic incidents in Newry Mourne & Down out of a total of 360 across Northern Ireland during 2020. However, there were 16 recorded homophobic crimes committed in 2019 which increased by 6 to 22 in 2020 which is similar to the Northern Ireland average of 17 and 23 respectively.
- There were 4,797 anti-social behaviour incidents recorded in Newry Mourne & Down in 2019 which is a significant increase of over 27% (1,311) to 6,108 in 2020.
- The online world is increasingly a place where our young people spend much of their free time and the proportion of young people sending images varies with age, with one study indicating that 26% of 14 year olds had sent and received sexual images, rising to 48% of 16 year olds.
- There were 226 domestic abuse incidents recorded where the victim is under 18 in the 2017/18 period. The figure fell to 211 in 2018/19 but increased again by 10 in 2019/20 to 221.
- 9,584 children and young people aged 0-25 years (18.1%) live in deprivation (2022)

Discussion & Key Trends

There are many factors that impact young people living in safety and stability.

We already know that children and young people who live in an area of multiple deprivation are more inclined to have lower educational attainment and poorer general and mental health. However, they are also likely to have reduced personal resilience and engage in risk taking activity including alcohol and drug misuse, anti-social behaviour, inappropriate use of social media and are more susceptible to be influenced or threatened by paramilitaries. Children and young people from Section 75 groups are those most at risk of not living safely and securely.

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

A safe, secure and loving home environment as well as a school, youth service and community which is consistent and nurturing, makes a big difference for children and young people in our society. It is important to note that children and young people reported that youth centres are places where they feel safe.



Anti-social behaviour can have a negative effect on the quality of life of individuals and communities. The term is used to describe a wide range of inconsiderate and nuisance behaviour such as excessive noise, graffiti, littering or disputes between neighbours.

The night-time economy in the urban centres of Newry, Downpatrick, Warrenpoint and Newcastle add to anti-social behaviour incidents and alcohol and drug use play a substantial role in the lead up to both domestic and public violence or crime. The current trend of drifting among young people living in rural communities can cause older residents to fear using the roads but also personal injury to those involved in accidents.

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 the Regional Advisory Group. Stakeholders highlighted the need for the Regional Advisory Group 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 Newry, Mourne and Down have access to some form of social, cultural or sporting outlet. Participation in school, Youth Services and wider society helps children and young people become more confident and independent. It can also provide opportunities to socialise and make friends with people from different backgrounds.

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

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



Survey Headlines

Survey Headlines

A total of 231 young people in Newry Mourne & Down 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.

Of the survey respondents, 51 % were 14 – 18 years; 37 % were 9 – 13 years. There were more young women who responded with 57% of all responses, with males at 39% and 2 % not identifying as either. Those engaged were representative of the rural population within the area.

Based on the responses from children and young people it highlighted that what is important to them is the fact that youth services provide safe inclusive spaces where they are welcomed, have fun and meet friends and new people, whilst supporting their emotional health and wellbeing needs as they express their views in trusted relationships. This reinforces the importance of youth services providing core youth work at this time.

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

- Life skills
- Emotional health and wellbeing including outdoor learning and activities
- Inclusive youth work
- Educational programmes to help support into employment
- Physical health and wellbeing
- Programmes based on the environment and climate

Stakeholder and young people feedback

In addition to the survey, focus groups were held within the DEA's and in Newry and Downpatrick. There were 26 groups with 308 young people involved. The focus groups provided detailed analysis on a localised basis of the information contained within the survey. Further analysis of these are provided by DEA in the appendices.

In summary these highlighted the need to:

- Provide opportunities for friendship development and having fun
- Provide opportunities for non-formal activities to support well-being
- Provide outreach to increase access to youth service to increase levels of engagement and provide support for young people in rural areas
- Develop and provide a wider curriculum offer
- Create pathways to volunteering, leadership and employment
- Provide support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities
- Provided early support for children and young people's mental health
- Develop programmes of generic provision, leading to targeted based on assessed need
- Further progress partnerships to support development of youth services

- 
- Provide intervention programmes aimed at promoting safer choices, particularly in relation to drugs and alcohol, sexual health and driving
 - Inclusion programmes to address racist and homophobic attitudes

Establishing Key Areas for Action

Based on the analysis of the statistical data and the voice of stakeholders, including children and young people, whilst also considering the current uncertainty regarding public budgets, increases in the cost of living and the long lasting impact of covid-19 on the lives of children and young people, there needs to be a focus on prioritising 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 Newry, Mourne and Down Area:

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

Priority Outputs for 2023

Key Area for Action: Learning and Achieving

Addressing barriers to learning remains a significant need within Newry, Mourne and Down.

This need is further deepened by the pandemic and high levels of SEN. Based on population data this will see an increase in children and young people transitioning from the 9-13 age range to the 14-18 age range over the planned period, which will result in an increased number of those taking examinations and considering employment/career pathways or routes into further and higher education.

Young people are concerned about school stress/anxiety, lack of educational supports at home and in school, resulting in low confidence. Young people would like a range of learning supports and informal/vocational opportunities. Additionally, young people want to enhance their career chances by gaining experience in volunteering or gaining accreditation in youth leadership or other life skills.

The rural nature of the area may prevent pupils from benefiting from extra-curricular activities that can enhance their physical and emotional health. Young people would like opportunities for training in life skills that will enhance their employability. They also want a better quality of education on risk taking behaviours to help them make more informed and safer choices.

Key Area for Action: Health and Wellbeing

It has been clearly highlighted by the voice of children and young people that health and wellbeing remains a core need for our children and young people. The Department of Education 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 any long-term impacts.

Children and young people in Newry, Mourne and Down require a focus on educational programmes and activities developing resilience and wellbeing for all which promote healthy decision-making and lead to a positive impact on the health outcomes for children and young people.

More specific programmes were identified as needed in relation to drug and alcohol education, sexual health, healthy eating and smoking and vaping cessation to help young people make healthy lifestyle choices and that youth service activities should also promote wellbeing in the outdoors and provide access to fitness and sporting activities.

Young people also stated a need to have a safe place to meet their peers and have trusted adults there that they can talk to about their worries.

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

Youth Services have a key role to play in promoting an inclusive society and can provide safe spaces for young people to explore their views and opinions whilst being challenged in a non-threatening way. Statistics available for newcomer young people are not up to date however across Northern Ireland there has been an increase in migrants and newcomers. Work is needed to support young people to develop an understanding of other cultures and traditions, reduce fears and create opportunities to build and integrate young people from other areas into local communities.

Work is also needed to encourage acceptance and understanding of all Section 75 groups within Newry, Mourne and Down, particularly LGBTQi+, young people and young people from minority ethnic groups, given the statistics relating to hate crimes.

This will be addressed through delivery of inclusive youth work practice and will also include thematic youth Work to support children and young people with special educational needs or a disability and rural young people who live within Newry, Mourne and Down. Newry, Mourne and Down Youth Service will engage young people experiencing rural isolation through Outreach and Area Youth Work.

At a stakeholder engagement event young people supported the view that Youth Services should provide safe spaces for children and young people and promote inclusion and embrace and celebrate difference. This should be addressed through Inclusion, diversity and equality of opportunity programmes, good relations opportunities and T: BUC residentials or camps.

Key Area for Action: Living in Safety and Stability

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 impact that young people can have in their local communities. Young people said they want more of a sense of belonging and to have more ownership of where they live.

Young people cite concerns of sectarian tensions and not feeling welcome outside of their own area. High levels of anti-social behaviour and communal segregation contribute to this. Additionally, parts of Newry, Mourne and Down have higher than average incidents recorded with a Domestic Abuse motivation and violent crime statistics are also above average in some DEA's. This highlights the need to support young people with early intervention initiatives to build resilience and other skills needed to cope with and mitigate the effect of violence at home and in the community.

There has been a significant increase in recent years of antisocial behaviour incidents, with young people suggesting in consultation that some of the reasons why anti-social behaviour occurred was due to easy access to alcohol and drugs and that boredom and having nothing to do is a factor in the decision to get involved in risk taking activities.

The Newry, Mourne and Down area requires programmes and activities that address specific areas of risk-taking including alcohol and drugs education, sexual health and safer driving.

Young people also recognised the growing concerns around digital resilience and the need for development of virtual resilience, including good digital and social media habits and a better understanding of online pressures.

Key Area for Action: Participation

Participation will continue to be a key priority for the Newry, Mourne and Down Youth Service. The voice of young people will be developed and sustained with a continued focus on broadening the membership to include young people from Section 75 groups to ensure a broad representation across all participative structures. Young people will be encouraged to participate at a level suitable to them, but will be provided at all stages with a platform to have their voices heard and responded to, through members groups, Local Voice groups, Thematic Voice and Local Advisory Groups.

The Local Advisory Group (LAG) will be facilitated by Youth Services in Newry, Mourne and Down to offer ongoing advice on the development and implementation of the local youth development plan.

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

The need for Core Youth Provision will also be a key area of delivery with a focus on 9-13-year olds, with the need to provide fun activities where young people can meet with others.

The Newry, Mourne and Down Youth Service will also engage young people experiencing rural isolation through outreach into communities.



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 services will offer awareness raising programmes, as well as opportunities for social action projects such as planting trees or recycling in youth centres/projects, upcycling initiatives and community clean ups. Partnerships will enhance the learning on how best to support our natural environment and inspire young people to take action to preserve this in their local area.



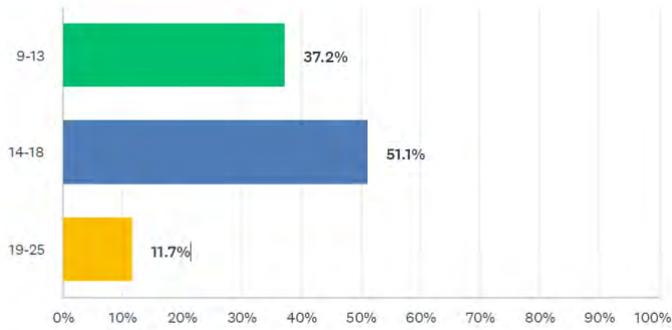
Appendix 1: Survey Results

Survey of Need – Who Responded

AGE CATEGORY

Q1 Please select your age category.

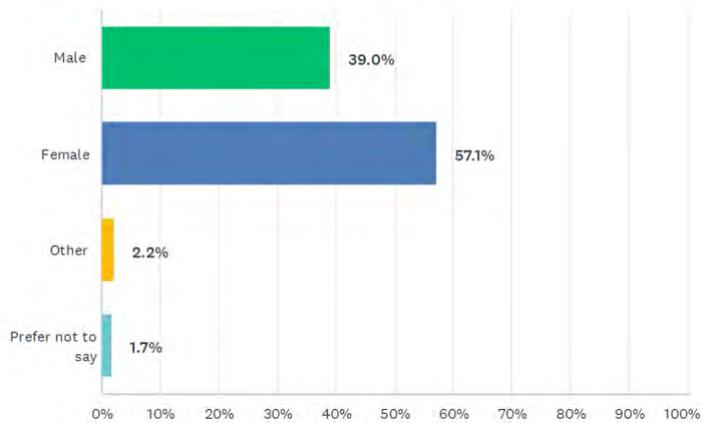
Answered: 231 Skipped: 0



WHAT IS YOUR GENDER?

Q2 Gender

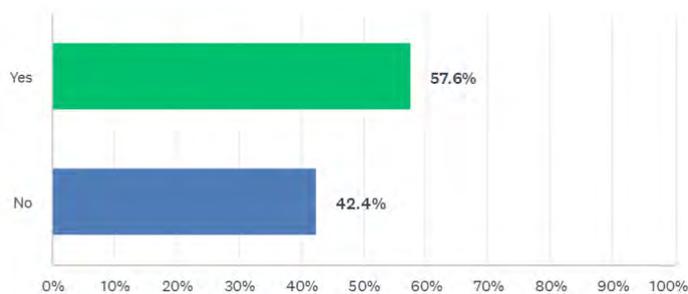
Answered: 231 Skipped: 0



DO YOU LIVE IN A RURAL AREA?

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

Answered: 231 Skipped: 0

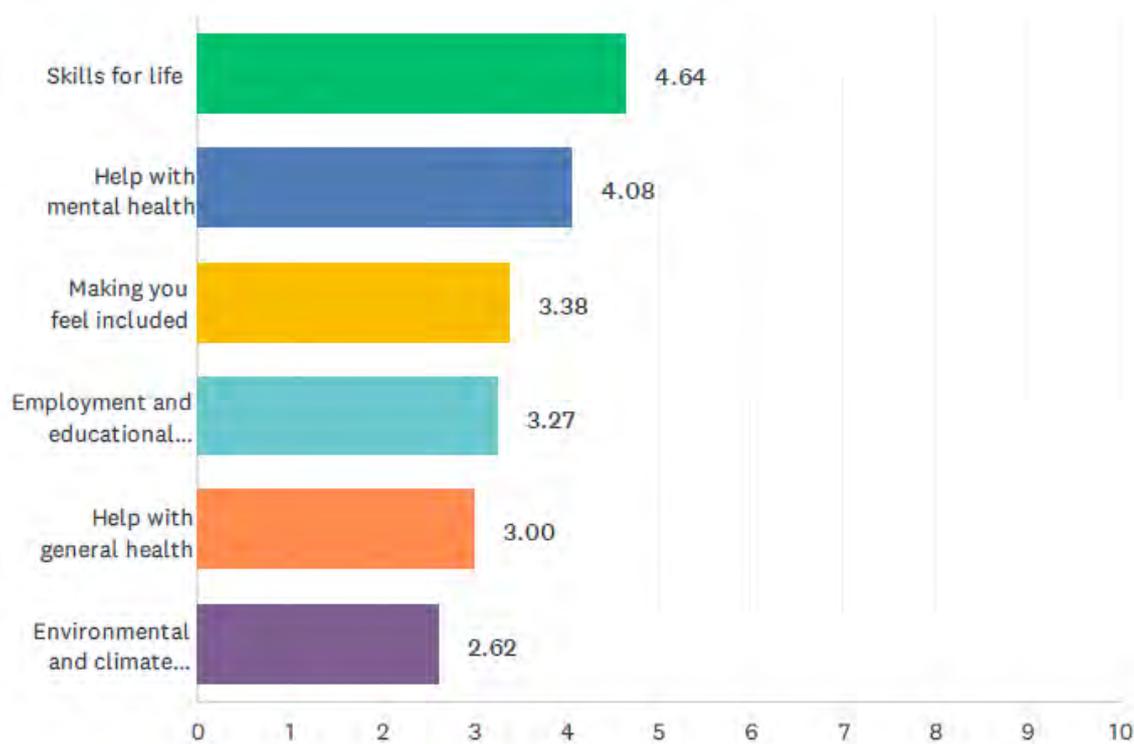


Headline Findings

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

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Good friendships	49.2%	94
Having fun	46.6%	89
Mental health and wellbeing	40.3%	77
Having somewhere to hang out	27.2%	52
Feeling safe in your community	23.6%	45
Family relationships	22.5%	43
Being happy at school	22.0%	42
Career/job/training opportunities	19.4%	37
Making good educational choices	13.6%	26
The cost of living or money problems	12.6%	24
Help with bullying	7.3%	14
Exploring faith and values	4.2%	8
None of the above	0.5%	1
Total Respondents: 191		

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



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

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Making friends and meeting new people	56.8%	109
Opportunities to take part in fun activities	50.0%	96
Regular activities/programmes to take part in	49.0%	94
Being able to express my views on things that matter to me in a safe space	30.7%	59
Opportunities to discuss issues e.g. friendships, bullying, home life, relationships	29.7%	57
A place to meet	28.6%	55
Support and advice from an adult I trust	19.8%	38
Opportunities to participate in Irish Medium youth work	14.6%	28
Opportunities to engage in Faith Based youth work	6.8%	13
Other (please specify)	2.1%	4
Opportunities to participate in Ulster Scots youth work	1.6%	3
Total Respondents: 192		



Appendix 2: Stakeholder Findings

Stakeholder Engagement Event Feedback - October 2020 – September 2022:

Event	Stakeholders	Key Feedback
RAG/LAG Stakeholder Engagement Event on the Needs of Children & Young People with Disabilities. October 2020	49 Young People 39 Adults	Mapping exercise to identify resources Disability work needs funding Have a quiet chill-out zone - adapt to their needs Don't compare young people because everyone's disability is different Disability trained staff and a welcoming atmosphere
Local Stakeholder Engagement Event on the Impact of Screen time on Children & Young People. January 2021	28 Young People 13 Adults	Learning new facts about how much time young people spend on their phones and learning how it affects our brains I learnt how phones can affect sleep and mental health. What do we replace phones with if they become a problem and how do we incorporate new technology without compromising physical and mental health.
Local Stakeholder Engagement Event on the Legacy of Lockdowns. March 2021	25 Young People 17 Adults	Lockdown effects are multiple. Zoom fatigue is deterring online engagement. Disengaging from education is a real possibility. Children need a safe place to come together in their local community. Young people have what they need to survive but they don't have what they need to thrive. As a transitional arrangement- offer short bite size courses to build confidence.
RAG/LAG Stakeholder Engagement Event on the Impact of Lockdowns on Children & Young People. June 2021	35 Young People 39 Adults	Young people viewed lockdown in both a positive and negative light. They missed out on key social opportunities & the freedom to physically meet with friends. They had time to reflect on the importance of living for 'today' as well as focusing on 'self' and 'others'. support to redevelop social skills & rebuild their confidence to be comfortable with other people.
Local Stakeholder Engagement Event on The Emotional health & wellbeing of children & young people. February 2022	57 Young People 15 Adults	Social media, Drugs, Alcohol, cigarettes, relationships, parents, tv shows and movies and school contribute to young people stress levels. Young people know that self-care & doing things they enjoy can help. Getting support to find ways to speak to their parents, having something to do or youth provision more locally available would help.

<p>RAG/LAG Stakeholder Engagement Event on the Interests of Children & Young People. Sept 2022</p>	<p>70 Young People 20 Adults</p>	<p>Young people acknowledge that the interests they have include both life enhancing and risk-taking ones. Following the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns young people have a new found appreciation for social connection and face to face contact with other. They currently need less structure and more flexibility to enjoy each other's company. Music, Sport and the outdoors are among the protective factors while vaping, drinking alcohol or drugs and excessive gaming are potential risk factors for our young people.</p>
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Local Advisory Group Feedback - June 2022:

Living in Safety and Stability	Health and Wellbeing	Learning and Achieving	Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity and Good Relations	Participation	Environment and Climate
<p>Drugs and alcohol awareness Outreach at weekends Employability programmes that show young people how to make a living legally PSNI/youth work team Supporting young people in their communities Protect young people from getting sucked into drug dealing Tackling drug use and accessibility Young woman's self-defence Martial arts in young clubs</p>	<p>Highest support request to FLARE across all of NI More support and Staff dealing with young people's needs Lack of opportunities in rural areas Mental Health courses for children and young people Joined-up creative initiatives Billboards/ Murals More funding needed More programmes using local assets eg canal lakes, mountains and beaches Breathing techniques Education about living food Staff training Drug and alcohol education Sexual Health education for young people Awareness on Ecigs and vapes Partnership with mental health organisations in schools. More help needed in primary schools.</p>	<p>Review – school based and accredited opportunities More pathway opportunities for all Practical courses for life- driving/cooking CV/Dress for success Youth Service young people should be given the choice to do either EA Youth Service Worker qualification or OCN equivalent. Education and employment programmes for 16+ Give mainstream people the same way of learning, as you would a young person in a learning support class to see if this is better than the main way.</p>	<p>More opportunity for rural areas Mournes/Crotlieve Support refugees in Newry More events for young people from all different walks of life, to let other people know about them and their life. Support Newcomer groups in Downpatrick and Newry Good relations between young people and PSNI Visibility for BME young people's needs to be/get better in all areas Visibility of section 75, across all areas</p>	<p>Generic provision in Rural towns and villages. 18+ clubs Structured volunteer groups for younger kids under (11), for example, Scouts and Guides Young parents programmes Youth Forums – South Armagh</p>	<p>Study visits Sustainability Growing own food Clean the streets More education on environment Vape awareness not disposable Land and Sea programmes Climate justice – Youth Council agenda Sustainable Development qualifications</p>

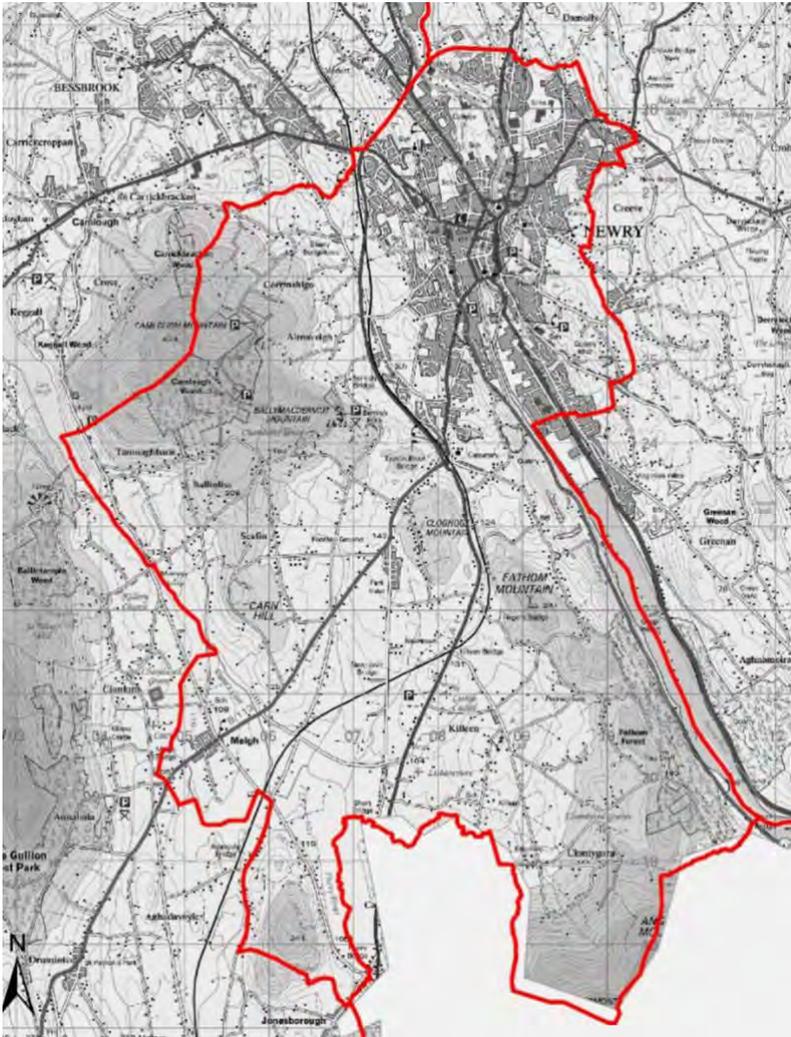
Feedback from the Youth Voice, Meet the Project Board Event - June 2022:

Generally	Newry	Slieve Gullion	Crotlieve
<p>Need better access to mental health services</p> <p>Bullying</p> <p>Poverty and cost of living</p> <p>Period dignity</p> <p>Waiting list of ASD and CAMHS</p> <p>Access to services in rural areas</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour</p> <p>Families with English as a second language</p> <p>Accessing services with GP and Dentists</p> <p>School disruption</p> <p>Anxiety related to school</p> <p>Sleep and behaviour</p>	<p>Better roads in rural areas and bus stops</p> <p>Anti-Social behaviour in parks</p> <p>New pitch or open areas for sport or creative arts</p> <p>Better and improved walkways</p> <p>Help for families with young children</p> <p>Park for young people</p> <p>Places for young people to socialise</p> <p>Little community activities</p> <p>Social areas for young people and safe area for children</p> <p>Poor transport especially bus limited in areas around Newry eg Resource Centre</p> <p>No support for young people with stress etc particularly in Grammar Schools</p> <p><u>Carrickmaclone ASB</u></p> <p>Damolly Belfast Road – ASB</p> <p>Cost of participation</p> <p>For rural young people</p>	<p>Only sport is football</p> <p>Lack of diversity in youth centres and activities</p> <p>Places for young people to go and chill out</p> <p>Better involvement in core decisions making</p> <p>Need places for young people to socialise</p> <p>No clubs in Camlough, Whitecross, Difficult to access to facilities ie transport</p>	<p>ASB Bonfire in <u>Mayobridge Hilltown</u>- Little to no activities for people after primary school</p> <p>Leads to “hanging about”</p> <p>Factory Lane</p> <p>GAA is the only option for young people,</p> <p>Teenage Disco leading to risk-taking behaviour</p> <p>Anti-Social behaviour and underage drinking in <u>Ringmacilroy Park, Clonallon Park Warrenpoint</u></p> <p>No use of youth clubs in Rostrevor</p> <p>More age appropriate weekend activities for 13-17 years old</p> <p>Drug use in public parks – <u>Ringmacilroy/Clonallen</u>, underage drinking</p> <p>No other activities for non-sporty people, especially 11-18yrs</p>

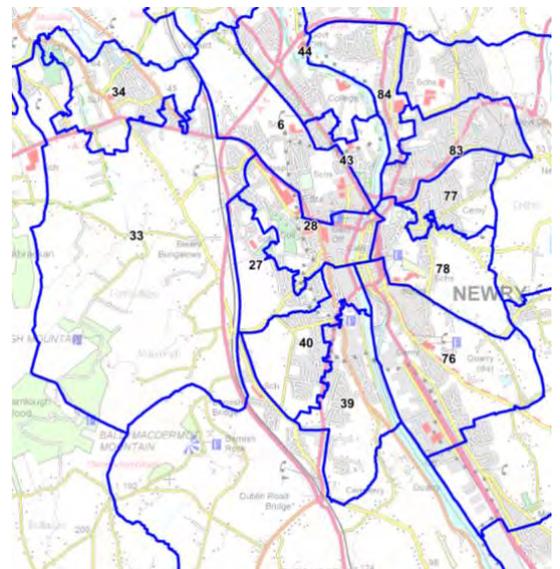


Appendix 3: DEA Profiles

Newry DEA



Number	Super Output Area	Rank
6	Ballybot	93
27	Daisy hill_1	171
28	Daisy hill_2	75
33	Derrymore_1	147
39	Drumalane_1	326
40	Drumalane_2	279
43	Drumgullion_1	70
44	Drumgullion_2	551
47	Fathom	243
76	St Mary's	207
77	St Patrick's_1	400
78	St Patrick's_2	126
83	Windsor Hill_1	710
84	Windsor Hill_2	370



Newry DEA

Newry DEA is the most densely populated DEA in Newry Mourne & Down and has an approximate population of 28,410. 6,260 are aged 0-15 years 22%, (above the NI average 21%). It contains 6 wards Abbey, Ballybot, Cathedral, Drumalane and St Patricks which are divided into the 14 super output areas listed above. It stretches from just outside Jonesborough in the south and includes villages of Meigh and Kileen as well as much of the city in the north.

Newry can be considered disadvantaged in relative terms as it has been identified by the NI Executive as having a level of deprivation to classify 9 estates as a Neighbourhood Renewal Area. The area is characterised by a number of inherent problems, it has higher than average rates of unemployment and economic inactivity, physical and mental ill health, lower levels of educational attainment and qualifications, skills deficits, higher rates of crime, drug and alcohol abuse, youth disillusionment and problems with quality and maintenance of the environment. The area is also impoverished in terms of employment opportunities and income levels. In terms of religious/cultural background Newry DEA is predominantly Roman Catholic therefore young people have limited opportunities to engage with their peers from Protestant/Unionist backgrounds. However, EA staff, schools and voluntary partners have consistently delivered good relations programmes funded through TBUC to address this. Over the last few years Newry has seen a big increase in the number of newcomer families living in and/or attending school within Newry city, families such as Bulgarian, Lithuanian, Polish, Syrian and Romanian.

Key Statistics

The multiple deprivation measure is a composite score combining all the deprivation domains giving a final score of where need is concentrated across the community. Out of a total of 14 Super Output areas in Newry, 12 are in the most deprived 50% and 6 of these are among the most deprived 25% namely Drumgullion 1, Daisy Hill 2, Ballybot, St Patricks 2, Derrymore 1 and Daisy Hill 1. In the rural parts of Newry DEA 4 SOAs are in the top 25% for lack of access to services namely Drumgullion 1, Drumalane 1, and Windsor Hill 1 & 2.

The Employment deprivation domain illustrates the lack of opportunities for work in each DEA and in Newry thirteen of the fourteen Super Output Areas are within the top 50% most deprived with five in the top 25% category, namely Ballybot, Drumgullion 1, Daisy Hill 1 & 2 and St Patricks 2. The main employers in Newry are within the pharmaceutical recycling and hospitality industries with a substantial number of schools the education sector provides employment, bus and rail stations and a hospital provide jobs in the health and transport sectors. There is a high proportion of the population caught in the benefits trap and therefore not able to join the workforce. In relation to the income measure of deprivation, 10 super output areas out of a total of 14 are within the top 50% most deprived areas and 6 of those are within the top 25% most deprived namely Drumgullion 1, Derrymore 1, Fathom, St Patricks 2, Daisy Hill 2 and Drumalane 2.

The IDAC (Income Deprivation Affecting Children) 2017 Income Score for Newry is 15.1%. This Income Score measures the proportion of the population living in households whose (equivalised) income is below 60 per cent of the NI median. However, when it comes to households with children under 15 years of age this score rises to 21.6% demonstrating that 1 in every 5 young families have less disposable income. The relationship between poverty, poor educational attainment and ill health is well documented. The current economic crisis has also led to social problems and many families living in debt.

Living Environment

Regards the living environment deprivation measure for the Newry area ten out of the fourteen super output areas are in the top 50% most deprived with five of these in the top 25% namely Drumalane 2, St Patricks 1 & 2, Fathom and Daisy Hill 2. Housing executive data tells us that there is 14.5% of domestic dwellings in a state of disrepair in the Newry area 5.6% households are overcrowded and 2.7% of domestic dwellings have problem scores the highest in the area. According to the Northern Ireland Living Environment deprivation measure there were 25.8% of the working age population who are income deprived in the Newry DEA. 83.2% of those with a disability were living in homes unadapted to their needs.

Safety & Stability

Crime levels in Newry have increased in recent years with a considerable increase in instances of violence, sexual offences, robbery, drug offences and offences recorded with a domestic abuse motivation. The nighttime economy especially at weekends or key times of the year can lead to excess alcohol or drug use among certain demographics. 2017 NISRA data remains unchanged with 8 out of the 14 Super Output areas among the top 50% most deprived on the Crime and Disorder domain. 5 of these are among the top 25% most deprived namely, Derrymore 1, Fathom, Daisy Hill 2, St Patricks 2 and St Marys. In Newry there were 648 incidents recorded with a Domestic Abuse motivation (above the NI Average 390) at a rate of 23 per 1000 of the population, 406 of these recorded as crimes. There were 1,468 antisocial behaviour incidents recorded (above the NI Average 950) a rate of 52 per 1000 of the population. The recorded crime for all offences was 2283 (almost double the NI average 1180) a rate of 80 per 1000 of the population. Confidence in policing may adversely affect reporting levels in this area so rates could be even higher than listed here. There were 271 cases of serious violent injury or death, with 95 of these caused by unlawful driving and there were 576 incidents of violence without injury including harassment as well as 43 sexual offences were recorded. Road safety data for 2020 indicate that there were 70 collisions, 10 of which were serious without any fatalities in the Newry area. Of the 121 casualties 11 were seriously injured which is above the Northern Ireland average.

Health

The Health and Disability domain illustrates that 12 out of a total of 14 super output areas are within the top 50% most deprived, 5 of which are in the top 25% quadrant, namely Daisy Hill 1 & 2, Ballybot, Drumgullion 1 and St Patricks 2.

When it comes to life expectancy, at the age of 65 for males Newry is the lowest where males generally live another 17.2 years and females an additional 20.4 years. A death is considered preventable if it could be avoided by public health interventions in the broadest sense, there were 196 preventable deaths in the Newry DEA which was the highest in the district. Avoidable deaths are defined as both preventable and treatable and two DEAs in Newry Mourne & Down are higher than the NI average namely Newry at 287 followed by Downpatrick. The standardised death rate caused by smoking in Newry Mourne & Down was at its highest in the Newry DEA at 180 per 100,000 higher than the average in the district and in Northern Ireland. In 2020 smoking during pregnancy was above the Northern Ireland average in three of the DEAs that is Downpatrick, Newry, Rowallane. In Newry 13.9% of mothers smoked while they are pregnant. Evidence has shown that lung cancer is directly correlated to smoking and Newry has the highest rate of lung cancer with 99 per 100,000, which is higher than the average for the district and Northern Ireland as a whole.

Three district electoral areas in Newry Mourne and Down consistently have higher levels of hospital admissions both generally and in emergency conditions these are Newry, Downpatrick and Slieve Gullion. For every 100,000 people Newry had 11,633 emergency admissions. Newry had the highest rate of admissions to hospital related to alcohol which was 1040 per 100,000 part of a population. Hospital admissions related to drugs was at its highest in the Newry DEA with 260 per 100,000 of the population which is higher than the average for the district and Northern Ireland. Likewise, when we look at admissions rates to hospitals for self-harm Newry was highest at 152 per 100,000 population.

Newry has the highest rate for prescriptions to combat mood and anxiety disorders with 234 receiving medication for their condition per 100,000. Between 2015-2019 there were 5 deaths from suicide per 100,000 lower than the average for the district, however it must be noted that deaths are recorded when registered not when they take place and that the family may wish not to have suicide recorded as the cause of death due to their religious beliefs.

Education

In terms of Education Skills and Training deprivation measure Newry has 12 out of 14 super output areas within the top 50% most deprived, of these 3 is in the top 25% most deprived namely Ballybot, Drumgullion 1 and Daisy Hill 1. Out of a total of 5232 pupils in the Newry DEA in 2022-2023 7.9% have a Statement of Special Educational needs and 11%

Newry DEA

are at Stages 1 & 2 on the Special Educational Needs Codes of Practice which is above average with SEN statements. In 2021 to 2022 there were 5232 pupils in Newry of those 1824 were entitled to free school meals which is 35%. The proportion of school leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C (or equivalent) including Maths and English in Newry was 25.6% (NI average 22.3%). There were 317 pupils who left school In 2021 In Newry, of those 24.6% were in receipt of free school meals achieving a 61.5% pass rate with five GCSEs including English and maths compared to a 78% pass rate for those not in receipt of free school meals, the lowest score for non FSM pupils across the district. According to the Department of Education's Statistics and Research team there were 52 pupils suspended from schools in the Newry DEA in 2020/21 which is above the NI average. 2% of 16-18-year olds leaving school in Newry do not enter further or higher education or employment (NEET) while 65.3% of 18-21-year olds also fall into the NEET category this figure being above the NI average.

Diversity

Newcomer pupils in nursery schools are above average in the Newry DEA they are also above average in all other types of education including Primary, Post Primary and Special schools. Three primary schools in Newry namely, Windsor Hill, St Clares' Abbey, St Joseph's Convent have substantial numbers of Newcomer pupils at 31%, 23% and 21% respectively. The High School in Newry has the highest number of newcomers in the secondary sector at 26% followed by St Joseph's Boys High School Newry at 17% and St Mary's High School at 7%.

PSNI statistics give us an indication of the level of tolerance to those who are different or the lack of acceptance across the district. In the Newry DEA they have recorded 9 incidents (above average) and 9 crimes with homophobic motivation, 24 incidents (above average) and 28 crimes were recorded with a racist motivation and 3 incidents along with 2 crimes recorded as sectarian in nature.

Youth Provision funded through EA Youth Service

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newry City Area Project• Derrybeg EA Youth Project• Magnet Young Adult Centre• St John Bosco Youth Club• Shamrock youth club• St Marys youth club	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st Newry (Earl Kilmorey) Scout Group• Barcroft community association• Dance Associate Ltd• Newry Cadet Fire Fighters• 1st Dromore Newry Scout Group
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Other youth provision not funded by EA includes Clanrye, The Respect Project, Three Ways Community, Sticky Fingers, the Crisis Café and Down-Right Brilliant.

Newry DEA has representation on the Newry Mourne & Down Local Advisory Group in terms of statutory and voluntary groups.

The area is also supported by the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (NRP) which is a community support agency operating across 9 estates in Newry City. The Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has played a key role in local regeneration and has, through a range of initiatives and funding opportunities, been laying the foundations for community development and capacity building in the area. As part of the People & Place Review the EA Youth Service sits on the Locality Co Design Group exploring the future of these neighbourhoods and the best way to meet their needs.

Central to these developments has been the designation of Newry as 'A Great Place to work' through the council sponsored Labour Market Partnership funded through the Department for Communities Employability NI programme. The partnership has a vision of transforming the employment opportunities within the area by synchronising both supply and demand in terms of matching the needs of local businesses and offering training and academies in specialist themes.

Newry DEA

Staff are always keen to work with key partners such as Road Safe NI, Newry Mourne & Down District Council, PSNI, PCSP, Community Federation, Newry Enterprise Agency, BID, Newry Chamber of Commerce, PIPs, Davinas Ark, Cuan Mhuire, Southern Regional College, local churches, and local schools to enhance delivery and outcomes for young people.

Survey Findings – Focus Groups in Newry

A total of 2 focus groups took place in Newry with 27 young people each facilitated by a youth worker. The tables collate the responses below:

Table 1 – Focus groups response broken into Areas for Action:

Name of DEA Area	The Environment	Health & Well Being	Living in safety & stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of opportunity, Good relations
<p>Within your own community</p> <p>What are the concerns you have in relation too?</p>	<p>Pollution</p> <p>Lake of green space</p> <p>It's grand</p> <p>The canal is vile</p> <p>The river is vile</p> <p>Too many cars speeding</p> <p>Poor people begging</p> <p>Littering</p> <p>Anti social behaviour</p> <p>Bin waste</p>	<p>Stress</p> <p>LBQTLQI – identity awareness</p> <p>PUL - community work</p> <p>Single gender (Young men/ young women's work</p> <p>Anxiety</p> <p>Coping strategies within young people</p> <p>Well a lot of people do be stressed though our community (tension)</p> <p>Isolation</p>	<p>Paramilitaries</p> <p>YP Do not feel safe within their community (Generally)</p> <p>Drugs pressure to take drugs – drug runners –</p> <p>Keeping YP safe at certain times of the year</p> <p>Some areas are rough</p> <p>Speed bumps to reduce children getting knocked down</p> <p>Drugs are everywhere</p>	<p>Stress over exams</p> <p>Enhancing life / employability skills</p> <p>Lack of leadership / volunteering training opportunities</p> <p>plenty of stress over exams</p> <p>Learning different languages</p> <p>Learning different skills</p> <p>Learning any Skills</p> <p>Achieving goals</p>	<p>Racism</p> <p>Newcomer young people</p> <p>Young mums – isolation work</p> <p>Young carers</p> <p>Disability/Special needs relationships</p> <p>gender awareness</p> <p>People get bullied for being different too often</p> <p>LGBT</p> <p>Single identity work (community relations)</p> <p>Cultural awareness</p>
<p>What Youth Services do you feel are needed to help with your concerns</p>	<p>Nothing really in my eyes</p> <p>They can go on trips, make them as fun as possible so we can learn about the environment etc</p> <p>I don't really know</p> <p>Youth services could put speed bumps to slow traffic down</p> <p>Litter picks and maybe provide food for homeless</p> <p>Get more bins in the area stop anti social behaviour and drinking and stop youths littering</p>	<p>They are helping the community in so many different ways as it is already</p> <p>-Make a safe place make everyone feel welcome just do what u r doing</p> <p>-The youth services could have at least one night a week where they have something in where teens can get together</p> <p>-Talk to people, seek professional help for people</p>	<p>Intervention programme</p> <p>Detached / Outreach</p> <p>-Nothing really</p> <p>-Make it sound not so scary and/or teach us martial arts</p> <p>-Start more youth groups in those areas</p> <p>-They can introduce speed bumps to the village</p> <p>- Teach people to slow down and drive safer</p>	<p>Driving project</p> <p>First aid training</p> <p>Maybe hold classes for students who might need a quiet room to go to for a proper studying session</p> <p>-Fun study tips</p> <p>Games</p> <p>Do your best and be happy with what you get</p> <p>-Provide an exam chill out group during exam period</p> <p>-Youth services could have certain amount of nights where they will tutor different skills or languages to children that are not offered it in school</p> <p>-Give you advice, lead you in best way possible</p>	<p>Hold awareness sessions on all of these</p> <p>Make motivational posters about it this is so important.</p> <p>Tell everyone we are unique special and VERY important, beautiful</p> <p>Buddy clubs -special needs</p>

Table 2 – Focus groups responses on Participation

PARTICIPATION					
	What do you gain from attending Youth Service Projects in your area	Why would Young people not access Youth projects in your area	Can you recommend some changes to increase participation	How do you think the Youth Service could gather the thoughts and opinions of young people	Are you aware of volunteering opportunities within the youth service
	<p>See friends and make new ones Confidence Safe space Exposure to other opportunities PSD Town centre provision (Café) -You get so many different topics to learn off, you get awareness of a lot of things I didn't even know was happening -New friends and a sense of hope -Leadership skills, and have fun -I have gained a lot from going to my driving project as I am now going for my driving test soon which I would not have done without the driving project -Communicating with people, getting involved, doing this out of my comfort zone, meeting new people -Good help</p>	<p>Afraid of not fitting in Lack of confidence Fear of the unknown Friends not going Anxiety Cliques Poor transport links (D1 licence or driver) Newry Area wide programmes -They all should -They r afraid start it off with fun days out -No knowledge of the groups -They may not access youth projects as they may not have any transportation services available -Transport, might get judged -Not a nuf activity for them</p>	<p>Make it more fun Somewhere "Just to be" (no agenda) Drop in facilities Make it fun element Further based within communities -Not really, what ur doing is awesome - maybe like if someone is bullying first sign get rid of them makes everyone feel safer -Make instg account -Go to schools -They could have a bus service -They could have different groups in different areas -More activities</p>	<p>Talk to youth Leaders -If they talked to the younger people on their level like try see the situation from there point and they might have a better chance of getting through to them -Quiz, games -Anonymous surveys -By having a meeting <u>once</u> a month about how they think their area can improve -Listen to them and understand them -More youth groups</p>	Yes
Numbers of YP surveyed in each age range	9-13 years	14-18years 15	18-25 years	Total number YP surveyed 15	Are the YP 15 Attached

Name of DEA Area Newry	The Environment	Health & Well Being	Living in safety & stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of opportunity, Good relations
Within your own community What are the concerns you have in relation too?	<p>Litter Canal <u>clean up/develop it.</u> More public transport Bessbrook pond-dumping Bins not being emptied</p>	<p>NHS-<u>under staffed/under paid.</u> Food banks Drugs/Alcohol Buying drink/in pubs <u>under age</u></p>	<p>Nowhere safe to go out at night. Break in/burglary Safety issues for young women. Homophobic attacks</p>	<p>Teachers putting pressure on us. Exams Dyslexia -not being recognised and getting help</p>	<p>Disability -young people falling through the gap in education. Racism- Bulgarian/Roma/Syrian /Ukrainians</p>
What Youth Services do you feel are needed to help with your concerns	<p>Environmental volunteer project</p>	<p>Fundraise for food bank. Collect food. More information sessions on mental health</p>	<p>Café /<u>drop in</u> town centre on weekend nights</p>	<p>Study clubs Mentor scheme</p>	<p>More information on different cultures</p>
PARTICIPATION					
	What do you gain from attending Youth Service Projects in your area	Why would Young people not access Youth projects in your area	Can you recommend some changes to increase participation	How do you think the Youth Service could gather the thoughts and opinions of young people	Are you aware of volunteering opportunities within the youth service
	<p>See friends and make new ones Be social. Meet fun people Experience new things. Move out of comfort zone</p>	<p>Afraid of not fitting in Not advertised where young people see them Not FB Too shy</p>	<p>Make it more fun <u>More fun</u> activities. Less issue based</p>	<p>Talk to youth Leaders Social media-not FB</p>	<p><u>Yes</u> through siblings. No-not well enough advertised</p>
Numbers of YP surveyed in each age range	9-13 years	14-18years 12	18-25 years	Total surveyed 12	Are the YP surveyed 12 Attached

Key priorities – Newry

Health & Wellbeing is highlighted in NISRA data tables and other research as a being a significant issue. Young people are particularly concerned about unhealthy lifestyles in terms of drug misuse, sexual behaviours, drinking and their mental health. They note the impacts on their own emotional and physical health causing them to feel isolated and struggling with low confidence and self-esteem. Although suicide is a decreasing in the area, it is worth noting that Newry has the highest rate of prescriptions for mood and anxiety disorder in the district and for hospital admissions due to self-harm. Health outcomes for people in the Newry make grim reading and although most are for the population at large it is reasonable to assume that the young people today will follow in the footsteps of their elders. It is not the responsibility of the youth service to address many of these issues however we can educate young people how to make healthy choices so that they can thrive as they grow. Young people recognise that key programmes are supporting them in terms of sport, group work, gender-based programmes that give young men a sense of hope and self-respect or give young women the confidence to express their voice, coping strategies and town centre drop in facilities. Young people require a safe place to meet their peers and have trusted adults there that they can talk to about their worries.

Living in safety and stability is also a significant issue featuring among the most deprived communities where paramilitary influence is still evident. This is also true on account of the night-time economy in the city centre with many coming to the town's bars and hotels for their entertainment. Although antisocial behaviour, domestic violence and crime in general is well above the NI average staff and young people feel that there may be cases of under reporting due to lack of confidence in the PSNI. Young people raise concerns of drug or alcohol use, domestic violence and anti-social behaviour. This affects them by not wanting to leave their own area or getting involved in local activities. However, young people welcome youth centres as safe spaces and enjoy programmes that encourage local community engagement.

Learning & Achieving remains a priority with education, skills, and training scoring between 100 –765 (Nisra data) with the lowest being Ballybot, Drumgullion and Daisyhill. Young people are concerned about school stress/anxiety, lack of educational supports at home and in school, resulting in low confidence. Young people would like a range of learning supports, informal/vocational opportunities. We know that pupils in receipt of free school meals or males consistently under achieve but in Newry even those not getting FSM had the lowest GCSE pass rate for the district last year. Pupils in receipt of free school meals and males should be targeted as well as school leavers at 18 who do not go on to education, employment or training. We aim to strengthen links with Further Education colleges like SRC to engage with young people who want to enhance their career chances by gaining experience in volunteering or gaining accreditation in Youth Leadership or other life skills.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity, and Good Relations. Newry has the highest number of newcomer pupils in the district as well as above average racist and homophobic attacks. Young people are concerned with the increase in racist and homophobic attitudes within their community and the limited opportunities to meet with other cultures. Young people want more opportunities such as TBUC and Community relations work to mix and learn about other cultures. A growing minority of newcomers to the community will require help in schools with language classes, orientation and integration supports. The youth service will support young people from minority ethnic communities to participate in existing provision.

Environment & Climate discussion has shown concerns in terms litter and fly tipping making the place untidy or lack of bins for recycling. The canal in Newry is an under-utilised asset and could be cleaned up to be a natural asset for people and wildlife. There is no green space or public park in Newry to provide outdoor recreation for young people or families. Youth service can offer awareness raising programmes, opportunities for social action projects or opportunities where young people to have their voices heard such as the public park plans, the use of white lights on the streets or the suggestion that the Mourne could be used to dump nuclear waste.

Location of services recognise the high proportion of young people falling within deprived communities, and their need to access provision. Ideally provision should extend from the town centre out to the 9 estates in the Neighbourhood renewal area. These include Drumgullion 1, Daisy Hill 2, Ballybot, St Patricks 2, Derrymore 1 and Daisy Hill 1. A range of provision is supported within the statutory and voluntary sector including Generic non-targeted groups. We will continually take stock of existing provision and target resources where gaps emerge. Statutory youth services will have responsibility for the delivery of youth work initiatives within school life determined by resourcing levels.

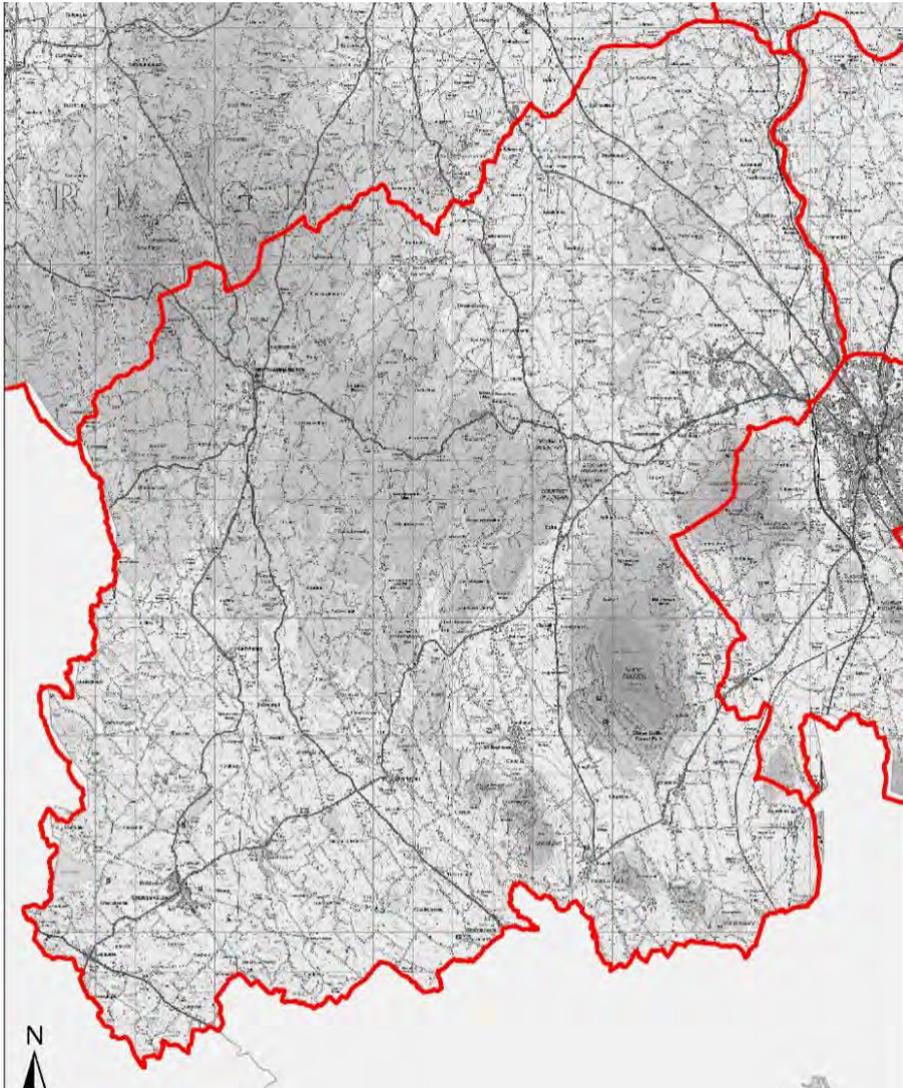
Core Youth provision will be prioritised throughout offering a wide range of curriculum programmes as defined by the 'Model for Effective Practice' (DE 2011). The focus of the curriculum will be to offer a safe space where young people can meet their friends with no agenda. The curriculum will reflect issues raised in the assessment of need and the programmes requested by young people in the focus groups. Outreach Youth Work will operate as and when needed within this provision.

Targeted Provision will be offered through Full Time Youth workers in the statutory sector, while voluntary providers and statutory partners will work in collaboration with youth service staff to identify young people in need of this focused work such as the Youth Volunteer Academy or Spark programmes.

Detached Youth Work is a methodology that can be deployed based upon the assessed need and resources available by the youth service. An education first approach will be taken by youth workers deployed under this remit, with some capacity to support key partners in addressing antisocial or risk-taking issues or at times of heightened tensions in July, August and October.

Additional Supports can be deployed to address many of the issues identified. It is recognised that Youth Services have a role to play in supporting other lead statutory and voluntary organisations to address these issues. As such youth services will be a supportive partner in these instances. Local statutory youth services will also employ the use of FLARE (Mental Health Worker), CADI (Creative and Digital Arts Worker) and OLS peripatetic (Outdoor Learning Worker), to address the emerging needs of young people.

Slieve Gullion DEA



Number	Super Output Area	Rank
12	Bessbrook	132
16	Camlough	260
23	Creggan	72
26	Crossmaglen	57
34	Derrymore_2	237
48	Forkhill_1	249
49	Forkhill_2	100
63	Newtownhamilton	111
73	Silver Bridge_1	94
74	Silver Bridge_2	220
82	Tullyhappy	322

Slieve Gullion DEA

There are 7 wards in Slieve Gullion, Forkhill, Mullaghbane, Crossmaglen, Newtownhamilton, Camlough, Whitecross and Bessbrook which are divided into the 11 super output areas listed above. It includes the towns of Crossmaglen, Silverbridge, Cullaville, Forkhill, Bessbrook, Newtownhamilton, Whitecross, Mullaghbane and Camlough with several of these falling within the most deprived in Northern Ireland and the most rurally isolated. South Armagh is a rurally isolated area situated along the border, between the town of Newry in Co. Down and Dundalk in Co. Louth meaning that many people have stronger social or educational links with the cities of Armagh or Dundalk. There is a substantial minority of young people from the traveller community in the Bessbrook area. Current transport services present major barriers for young people in this area due to its isolated rural location. It is a predominately Catholic area and there is a strong emphasis on GAA sport in the area. Large parts of this area are heavily occupied in farming. Statutory provision takes place in Killeavy, Meigh, Killeen, Jonesborough, Bessbrook, Cloughreagh and Newtownhamilton.

Key Statistics

Slieve Gullion DEA has an approximate population of 30,900. 8,110 are aged 0-15 years 26.2% (NI average 21%).

The multiple deprivation measure is a composite score combining all the deprivation domains giving a final score of where need is concentrated across the community. Out of a total of 11 Super Output areas in Slieve Gullion DEA all are in the most deprived 50% and 6 of these are among the most deprived 25% namely Crossmaglen, Creggan, Silverbridge 1, Forkhill 2, Newtownhamilton and Bessbrook.

22.1% of the properties in Slieve Gullion DEA have a broadband speed below 10Mb/s which is unsurprising given that 6 out of the 11 super output areas are in the highest 50% for access to services measure. With 2 SOAs in the top 25% for lack of access to services, Bessbrook and Silverbridge 1. This area suffers from high levels of rural isolation compounded by inadequate public transport provision or taxi services.

The Employment deprivation domain illustrates the lack of opportunities for work in each DEA and in Slieve Gullion nine of the eleven Super Output Areas are within the top 50% most deprived with two in the top 25% category, namely Crossmaglen and Bessbrook. The main forms of employment in this DEA include agriculture, haulage and construction with many people being self-employed.

Poverty remains a key issue in Slieve Gullion DEA. The relationship between poverty, poor educational attainment and ill health is well documented. The current economic crisis has also led to social problems with many families living in debt. High levels of newcomer families travel to employment outside of the area so work longer hours for minimum pay adding to the number of working poor in the area. In relation to the income measure of deprivation, all 11 super output areas are within the top 50% most deprived areas and 9 of those are within the top 25% most deprived namely Creggan, Forkhill 2, Silverbridge 1, Crossmaglen, Newtownhamilton, Silverbridge 2, Tullyhappy, Forkhill 1 and Camlough.

The IDAC (Income Deprivation Affecting Children) 2017 Income Score for Slieve Gullion is 20.8%. This Income Score measures the proportion of the population living in households whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the NI median. However, when it comes to households with children under 15 years of age this score rises to 26.4% demonstrating that families have to survive on less for their needs. Over one in four children in this area is living in poverty which is the highest across the district.

Slieve Gullion DEA

Living Environment

Regards the living environment deprivation measure for the Slieve Gullion area, seven out of the eleven super output areas are in the top 50% most deprived with five of these in the top 25% namely Crossmaglen, Silver Bridge 1 & 2, Creggan, Derrymore 2. According to the Northern Ireland Living Environment deprivation measure there were 23.9% of the working age population who are income deprived in the Slieve Gullion DEA. Housing executive data tells us that there is 16.9% of domestic dwellings in a state of disrepair in the Slieve Gullion area 6.3% households are overcrowded the highest in the area and 1.4% of domestic dwellings have problem scores. 84.8% of those with a disability were living in homes un-adapted to their needs.

Safety and Stability

Crime levels in Slieve Gullion have remained well below the NI average in recent years with instances of anti-social behaviour, violence, sexual offences, robbery, drug offences and offences recorded with a domestic abuse motivation. There have been reports of road blocking, raids and riots in some communities and a significant strain on community relations has developed with the Traveller community in Bessbrook. 2017 NISRA data remains unchanged with 8 out of the 11 Super Output areas among the top 50% most deprived on the Crime and Disorder domain. 5 of these are among the top 25% most deprived namely, Crossmaglen, Forkhill 1, Silverbridge 2, Newtownhamilton and Derrymore 2. South Armagh had a particularly traumatic experience during the troubles due to its proximity to the border and its residents are gradually recovering from this legacy. The PSNI have recently published a review of policing in South Armagh and have implemented over 90% of its recommendations. In 2020 there were 324 incidents recorded with a Domestic Abuse motivation (NI Average 390) at a rate of 10 per 1000 of the population, 237 of these recorded as crimes. There were 590 antisocial behaviour incidents recorded (NI Average 950) a rate of 19 per 1000 of the population. The recorded crime for all offences was 988 (NI average 1180) a rate of 32 per 1000 of the population. There were 127 cases of serious violent injury or death, with 41 of these caused by unlawful driving and there were 260 incidents of violence without injury including harassment as well as 29 sexual offences were recorded. Road safety data for 2020 indicate that there were 64 collisions, 11 of which were serious with 1 fatality in the Slieve Gullion area. Of the 94 casualties 18 were seriously injured and 1 died which is above the Northern Ireland average. Unsafe driving along with poor road infrastructure continues to be an issue for this community.

Health

The Health and Disability domain illustrates that 8 out of a total of 11 super output areas are within the top 50% most deprived 1 of which is in the top 25% quadrant namely, Bessbrook. Indicators for life expectancy at birth or at 65 years are average across this district as well as having the lowest rate of preventable and avoidable deaths. In Slieve Gullion 90% of mothers in this DEA give birth to babies with a healthy birth weight and 5.4% of mothers gave birth to underweight babies. Only 7% of mothers smoked while pregnant half the number that in Newry Downpatrick and Rowallane. Three district electoral areas in Newry Mourne and Down consistently have higher levels of hospital admissions both generally and in emergency conditions these are Newry Downpatrick and Slieve Gullion. For every 100,000 people Slieve Gullion had 24,438 general admissions and 10,992 emergency admissions above average for the district. This area had below average rates of patients being admitted to hospital due to self-harm, drug or alcohol problems. There were 205 instances of prescriptions to combat mood and anxiety disorder which is about the average across the district. There is anecdotal evidence of excessive levels of radiation poisoning resulting in cancer clusters with cause unknown. Numbers in receipt of disability living allowance and personal independence payments point to a higher than average number of the population with a disability.

Slieve Gullion DEA

Education

In terms of Education Skills and Training deprivation measure Slieve Gullion has 5 out of 11 super output areas within the top 50% most deprived of these 1 is in the top 25% most deprived namely, Bessbrook.

Out of a total of 6933 pupils in the Slieve Gullion DEA in 2022-2022 5.4% have a Statement of Special Educational needs and 10.8% are at Stages 1 & 2 on the Special Educational Needs Codes of Practice. The proportion of school leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C (or equivalent) including Maths and English in this DEA was 25.8% the highest in the district and above the NI average 22.3%. We are aware that there is a correlation between deprivation and educational attainment. In 2021 to 2022 1,992 were entitled to free school meals which is 29%.

Pupils receiving free school meals consistently underachieve when compared with their peers who don't. The average number of pupils who are in receipt of school meals leaving school in 2021 across Northern Ireland is 25.6%. All DEAs in Newry Mourne & Down are below that except Slieve Gullion with 32.7% of leavers receiving free school meals which is substantially higher than the Northern Ireland average. However, this indicator did not transfer into showing lowest achievements at GCSE including English and maths for that group as 63.4% achieved five GCSEs including English and maths compared to 79.5% pass rate for those not in receipt of free school meals.

1.5% of 16-18-year olds leaving school in Slieve Gullion do not enter further or higher education or employment (NEET) while 62.6% of 18-21-year olds also fall into the NEET category.

According to the Department of Education's Statistics and Research team there were 25 pupils suspended from schools in the Slieve Gullion DEA in 2020/21 which is below the NI average of 43 and less than half the number in Newry.

Diversity

Slieve Gullion has above average enrolment in post primary education for newcomer pupils with St. Michael's primary school in Newtownhamilton having the highest percentage at 41%.

PSNI statistics give us an indication of the level of tolerance to those who are different or the lack of acceptance across the district. In the Slieve Gullion DEA they have recorded 1 incident with homophobic motivation, 4 incidents and 3 crimes were recorded with a racist motivation and 4 incidents along with 1 crime recorded as sectarian in nature. Substantial numbers of Bulgarians in Newtownhamilton and Travellers in Bessbrook point to the need for increased inclusion services.

Youth Provision funded through EA Youth Service

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• South Armagh Area Project• St Oliver Plunket's Youth Centre• Carrickcruppen Youth Club• Gaelphobal Ard Mhacha Theas• Kingsmills Youth Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newry Riding for the Disabled• Shelagh Youth Club• Tullyvallen Youth Club• 12th Armagh Slieve Gullion Scouting Ireland
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Non-EA funded youth provision includes the many GAA and Football clubs, St Brigids Accordion Band Jonesborough, Boxing clubs in Newtownhamilton and Camlough, Young Farmers in Newtownhamilton, Youth Action, Public Health Agency, PHA funded YES Project, Respect and Clanrye in Slieve Gullion grounds.

Bessbrook and Crossmaglen have been identified through DfC local area profiles as "areas at risk". Council staff apply annually to DfC for funding and include a list of proposed courses/classes outlining targets and outputs. They aim to tackle deprivation, rural isolation and reduce percentage of school leavers with less than 5 GCSEs. The programme offers a mixture of recreational classes and job specific accredited courses to increase employability.

Slieve Gullion DEA

The area is also supported by a range of organisations such as Community Restorative Justice, An Tobar Wellness Centre and Cuan Mhuire which operate to address the acute addiction or mental health needs and support conflict resolution between groups or individuals.

CAWT seeks to add value to health and social care activity by bringing a cross border dimension to the on-going collaboration between the health systems in both jurisdictions.

The Wald Centre in Cullyhanna provides a range of recreation, sign posting and social opportunities for the communities of South Armagh thus improving employment opportunities. It is home to the Rural Health Partnership which raises awareness of mental health and well-being, by providing a range of programmes that cover personal exploration and practical self-care programmes aimed at improving physical health, opportunities to become more active with programmes led by qualified instructors, family and parenting focused skills programmes and a range of ICT, Educational and Work Skills initiatives from Beginners to Accredited Level 3. It is also the main satellite building for Southern Regional College with further and higher training provision.

The Tí Chulainn Cultural Centre has dedicated workshop and conference facilities which can cater for small and large groups who are seeking an alternative to the traditional hotel setting. The Men’s Sheds in Lislea and Newtownhamilton support the health and social needs of these communities and have potential for intergenerational or social action programmes playing a key role in healing and therapeutic responses in the area. Statutory partners such as the PSNI, Youth Justice Agency, Local Council and PCSP provide financial and in-kind support to enable all ages to access services and benefit from awareness raising workshops and personal safety advice.

Survey Findings – Focus Groups in Slieve Gullion

A total of 3 focus groups took place in with 40 young people each facilitated by a youth worker. The tables collate the responses below:

Table 1 – Focus groups on Key areas of inquiry

Name of DEA Area <u>Slieve Gullion</u>	The Environment	Health & Well Being	Living in safety & stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of opportunity, Good relations
Within your own community What are the concerns you have in relation too?	Littering, no facilities in communities outside GAA, no transport, roads are in poor condition (no footpaths, potholes) hard to access services and youth provision	<i>Lack of drug and alcohols education, lack of sexual health education, mental health overall is poor</i>	<i>Lots of peer pressure- <u>ecigs</u>, alcohol, sex, drugs- easily available Riots, barricading roads in Bessbrook, Arson in Acorn Hill Paramilitary influence All over the area</i>	<i><u>Don't</u> like school, stress over exams, limited opportunities within school</i>	<i>Too much focus on the past</i>
What Youth Services do you feel are needed to help with your concerns	<i>Transport provided, driving programmes, social action programmes to highlight issues.</i>	<i>Better quality of education on those subjects not just a brief overview of topics More understanding of consequences</i>	<i>Work with younger age to show its not ok to use substances etc7</i>	<i>More training opportunities like driving <u>lessons</u>, barista skills, digger licence</i>	<i>More opportunities to do them</i>

Slieve Gullion DEA

Table 2 – Focus groups on Participation

PARTICIPATION					
	What do you gain from attending Youth Service Projects in your area	Why would Young people not access Youth projects in your area	Can you recommend some changes to increase participation	How do you think the Youth Service could gather the thoughts and opinions of young people	Are you aware of volunteering opportunities within the youth service
	<i>Something to do Opportunities to go places Meet new people Made new friends Found people who had the same interests as me Got to try out things I never would have before Got to go places I never would have gone to before</i>	<i>School do not advertise them, People do not know about them, No transport to get there, Clashes with football, Afraid of not fitting in.</i>	<i>More trips More money for us to do things with Transport to things</i>	<i>Ask young people, meet with them where they are at</i>	<i>Some -but not all</i>
Numbers of YP surveyed in each age range	9-13 years 6	14-18years 20	18-25 years	Total number YP surveyed 26	Are the YP surveyed 15 Unattached 11 attached

Table 3 – Survey Feedback from Crossmaglen:

Top Concerns Of Young people	Effect on them	Possible solution	What programmes Young People would like	Concerns of Management
<i>Mental Health Studying /Homework Wellbeing (how to support each other) Drugs and Alcohol Sexual Health</i>	<i>The young people don't really have anyone to talk to about concerns or worry's they have.</i>	<i>Provide a counselling service for young people in the Youth Centre 2 or 3 nights per week.</i>	<i>Mental Health & Wellbeing Drug & Alcohol Awareness Sexual Health Young Men's /Women's Study / Homework Club Career Guidance Life Skills Programme Driving Aid Programme Music Relationships Cultural Awareness Have a book library in the club Change in opening times</i>	<i>Struggling to keep up with costs of basic supplies. Fundraising challenges when families are already stretched. Extortionate transport costs due to rurality.</i>

Key priorities – Slieve Gullion

Health & Wellbeing is a significant issue for residents across the DEA but particularly in the Bessbrook area. Health outcomes for this area are generally good across the indicators except for higher than average levels of hospital admissions. Generally young people are concerned about unhealthy lifestyles in terms of drug misuse, sexual behaviours, drinking and emotional health. They note the impacts on their own mental and sometimes physical health causing them to feel isolated and struggling with low confidence and self-esteem. Young people recognise that key programmes are supporting them in terms of sport, group work and targeted programmes on the consequences of substance misuse. They would prefer if mental health supports were more readily available to them both in schools and their youth centres or projects.

Slieve Gullion DEA

Living in safety and stability is less of an issue in this area but the incidence of road traffic incidents, the poor infrastructure and young people's interests in drifting points to the need to take seriously the dangers of speeding on the roads. Young people site concerns of paramilitary influence which affects them by not wanting to express themselves openly. Deramore Woods has become a meeting place for young people sometimes engaging in anti-social and risk-taking behaviour. It is important to have the ability to reach out and divert young people away from becoming criminalised or getting harmed. However, young people that attend welcome their youth centres as safe spaces, where they can get opportunities for meeting new young people and enjoy programmes that help them explore risk taking behaviour. Gender based programmes will be utilised to encourage young people to show respect to each other, and the roles each have as part of their contribution to the home and society.

Learning & Achieving remains key with education, skills, and training scoring the lowest in Bessbrook. Young people are concerned about school stress/anxiety, lack of educational supports in and outside of school, resulting in low confidence. Young people would like a range of learning supports, informal or vocational opportunities. With almost one third of school leavers receiving free school meals in this DEA it will be important to tackle underachievement due to poverty. The rural nature of the area may prevent pupils from benefiting from extra-curricular activities that can enhance their physical and emotional health. Young people are saying that they need spaces to get help with homework as well as opportunities for training in life skills that will enhance their employability. They also want a better quality of education on risk taking behaviours or substances to help them avoid their use.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity, and Good Relations. Some young people are concerned with the level of sectarianism, racist and homophobic attitudes among their peers and the limited work with other cultures. Young people want more good relations opportunities helping to integrate minority ethnic young people. They want to focus less on the past and more on the present and future. With the high levels of Bulgarian/Roma and Ukrainians there is a need for schools to provide orientation and English language support so that young people can fully integrate into their communities. Supporting indigenous communities to welcome newcomers is important and may help to break down barriers through programmes funded by The Executive Office such as Together Building a United Community (TBUC). Key areas for this will be Newtownhamilton and Bessbrook.

Environment & Climate raises concerns in terms of accessing affordable energy this winter. Actions would include awareness raising programmes and or mini enterprise initiatives exploring alternative energy creation such as wind farms, solar energy capture as well as opportunities for social action projects where young people can address local issues.

Location of services recognise the high proportion of young people falling within deprived communities, and their need to access provision in areas such as Crossmaglen, Creggan, Silverbridge 1, Forkhill 2, Newtownhamilton and Bessbrook. A range of provision is supported within the statutory and voluntary sector which are collaborative in nature with Generic non-targeted supporting the Faith based and Uniformed sectors. Statutory youth services will have responsibility for the delivery of youth work initiatives within schools determined by resourcing levels. Finding appropriate venues for youth work delivery continues to be a challenge across this border area due to sustained lack of investment in infrastructure.

Slieve Gullion DEA

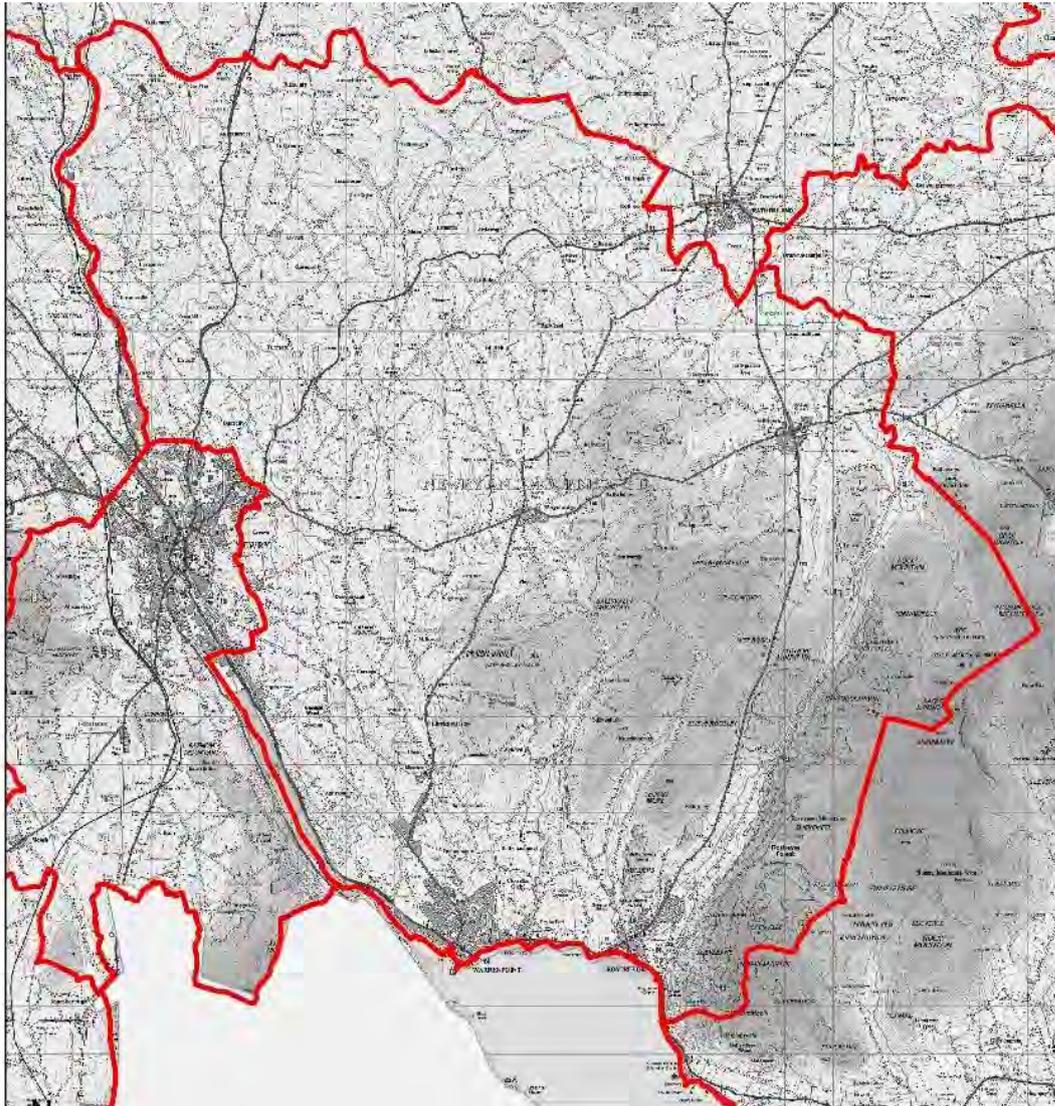
Core Youth provision will be prioritised throughout offering a wide range of curriculum programmes as defined by 'Model for Effective Practice' (DE 2011). The focus of the curriculum will be reflective of issues raised in the assessment of need and the programmes requested by young people in the focus groups. Outreach Youth Work will operate as and when needed within this provision beginning with local schools and extending to engage young people who are not involved in any other provision. We acknowledge the work being offered by football clubs across the area and expect that the Healthy Clubs Project will provide recreational opportunities for those who are more interested in the social aspect of the club.

Targeted Provision will be offered through Full Time Youth workers in the statutory sector, while voluntary providers and statutory partners will work in collaboration with the youth service to identify young people in need of this focused work.

Detached Youth Work is a methodology that can be deployed based upon the assessed need and resources available by the youth service. An education first approach will be taken by youth workers deployed under this remit, with some capacity to support key partners in addressing antisocial or risk-taking issues or at times of heightened tensions in July, August and October.

Additional Supports can be deployed to address many of the issues identified not least of which is resourcing to address the excessive travel required to ensure young people's participation in youth provision. We recognise that Youth Services have a role to play in supporting other lead statutory and voluntary organisations to address the above issues. Local Statutory Youth Services will also employ the use of FLARE (Mental Health Worker), CADI (Creative and Digital Arts Worker) and OLS peripatetic (Outdoor Learning Worker), teams to address the emerging needs of young people.

Crotlieve DEA



Number	Super Output Area	Rank
14	Burren and Kilbroney_1	473
15	Burren and Kilbroney_2	663
21	Clonallan_1	133
22	Clonallan_2	619
31	Derryleckagh_1	686
32	Derryleckagh_2	557
35	Donaghmore_1	334
36	Donaghmore_2	504
60	Mayobridge_1	378
61	Mayobridge_2	587
66	Rostrevor	385
70	Seaview_1	620
71	Seaview_2	244

Crotlieve DEA

There are 6 wards within the DEA, they are Warrenpoint; Rostrevor, Burren, Derryleckagh, Mayobridge and Hilltown, subdivided into 13 smaller super output areas. The Crotlieve DEA stretches from Warrenpoint and Rostrevor on Carlingford Lough in the South to Glen in the North with the villages of Burren, Ballyholland, Mayobridge and Hilltown in between. This incorporates areas of outstanding natural beauty such as Slieve Martin mountain, Kilbroney Forest Park, Rostrevor and Carlingford Lough.

Crotlieve DEA is characterised by significant areas of affluence however the community of Clonallan 1 presents several inherent problems. 17.4% of the population are unemployed and on most of the indicators they perform average or better than other areas. Rates of drug and alcohol abuse and youth disillusionment are prevalent in recent times.

Key Statistics

Crotlieve DEA has an approximate population of 29,080. 6,740 are aged 0-15 years 23.2% (NI average 21%).

The multiple deprivation measure is a composite score combining all the deprivation domains giving a final score of where need is concentrated across the community. Out of a total of 13 Super Output areas in Crotlieve DEA 5 are in the most deprived 50% and 1 of these are among the most deprived 25% namely Clonallan 1.

17.4% of the properties in Crotlieve DEA have a broadband speed below 10Mb/s which is unsurprising given that 10 out of the 13 super output areas are in the highest 50% for access to services measure. However, 5 SOAs are in the top 25% for lack of access to services namely Mayobridge 1, Donaghmore 1 & 2, Rostrevor and Burren and Kilbroney 2.

The Employment deprivation domain illustrates the lack of opportunities for work in each DEA and in Crotlieve two of the thirteen Super Output Areas are within the top 50% most deprived with Clonallan being in the top 25% category. In relation to the income measure of deprivation, 11 super output areas out of a total of 13 are within the top 50% most deprived areas and 4 of those are within the top 25% most deprived namely Clonallan 1, Donaghmore 1, Mayobridge 1 and Seaview 2. The main form of employment in the area is mushroom farming, Warrenpoint Docks, SAICA pack UK Ltd, Delilites industrial catering units, the Valley Dye Works and the Bradfor Ltd manufacturing airplane upholstery in Rostrover.

The IDAC (Income Deprivation Affecting Children) 2017 Income Score for Crotlieve is 15.1%. This Income Score measures the proportion of the population living in households whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the NI median. However when it comes to households with children under 15 years of age this score rises to 21% demonstrating that one in every five young families are living in poverty.

Education

In terms of Education Skills and Training deprivation measure Crotlieve has only 2 out of 13 super output areas within the top 50% most deprived. Out of a total of 5754 pupils in the Newry DEA in 2022-2022, 1134 were entitled to free school meals which is 20 %. 4.8% have a Statement of Special Educational needs and 10% are at Stages 1 & 2 on the Special Educational Needs Codes of Practice. The relationship between poverty, poor educational attainment and ill health is well documented. The current economic crisis has also led to social problems with many families living in debt.

There were 407 pupils who left school in 2021 in Crotlieve, of those 20.9% were in receipt of free school meals achieving 85.9% pass rate with five GCSEs including English and maths the highest percentage across the district. This is excellent, over 20 percentile points more than other DEAs, compared to 91.9% pass rate with 5 GCSEs for those not in receipt of free school meals. This DEA also boasts the lowest rates for NEETs both at age 16 and 18 years. 0.7% of 16-18-year olds leaving school in Crotlieve do not enter further or higher education or employment (NEET) while 55.7% of 18-21-year olds also fall into the NEET category.

Crotlieve DEA

The proportion of school leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSES at A*-C (or equivalent) including Maths and English in Crotlieve was 9.3% well below the NI average of 22.3%. According to the Department of Education's Statistics and Research team there were 26 pupils suspended from schools in the Crotlieve DEA in 2020/21 which is almost half the NI average of 43.

Living Environment

Regards the living environment deprivation measure for the Crotlieve area five out of the thirteen super output areas are in the top 50% most deprived with two of these in the top 25% namely Rostrevor and Clonallan 1. According to the Northern Ireland Living Environment deprivation measure there were 17.4% of the working age population who are income deprived in the Crotlieve DEA. Housing executive data tells us that there is 14.9% of domestic dwellings in a state of disrepair in the Crotlieve area 4.3% households are overcrowded and 1.3% of domestic dwellings have problem scores and 84.8% of those with a disability were living in homes not adapted to their needs.

Safety and Stability

Crime levels in the Crotlieve DEA have remained constant in recent years below the NI average with some instances of anti-social behaviour, violence, sexual offences, robbery, drug offences and offences recorded with a domestic abuse motivation. 2017 NISRA data remains unchanged with 7 out of the 13 Super Output areas among the top 50% most deprived on the Crime and Disorder domain. Two of these are among the top 25% most deprived namely, Rostrevor and Clonallan 1. In Crotlieve there were 263 incidents recorded with a Domestic Abuse motivation (NI Average 390) at a rate of 9 per 1000 of the population, 199 of these recorded as crimes. There were 675 antisocial behaviour incidents recorded (NI Average 950) a rate of 23 per 1000 of the population. The recorded crime for all offences was 833 (NI average 1180) a rate of 29 per 1000 of the population. There were 98 cases of serious violent injury or death, with 34 of these caused by unlawful driving. There were 258 incidents of violence without injury including harassment as well as 45 sexual offences were recorded. Road safety data for 2020 indicate that there were 49 collisions, 4 of which were serious without any fatalities. Of the 69 casualties five were seriously injured which is above the Northern Ireland average.

During the pandemic Warrenpoint hit the front pages of regional press with large gatherings of young people, this has remained a continued concern for PSNI & PCSP. Neighbourhood Policing Team continue to remain concerned about risk taking behaviours of young people in Warrenpoint as well as grooming and exploitation of young people into criminality or high-risk substance misuse.

Local Councillors and Community Reps cite localised areas in rural Crotlieve where community tensions are felt based on the legacy of the troubles.

A teenage disco is hosted monthly in the INF hall in Hilltown with associated risk-taking behaviours including alcohol and drug misuse and the resulting antisocial behaviour as many young people travel by bus to attend and therefore are not familiar with the village. Warrenpoint hosts seasonal music festivals in the spring and summer which increases tourist footfall and alcohol consumption, this can be opportunistic for young people to do likewise. The Fiddlers Green festival in Rostrevor every July attracts international musicians and performers to the village and the population increases significantly due to the popularity of camping at Kilbroney Forest. Similarly, there have been reports of anti-social behaviour in the Fairy Glen area by local young people.

Crotlieve DEA

Health

The health deprivation and Disability domain illustrates that only 2 out of a total of 13 super output areas are within the top 50% most deprived indicating that this community has average health outcomes overall. Crotlieve has the lowest rate for prescriptions to combat mood and anxiety disorders with 185 receiving medication for their condition. Hospital admissions related to drugs was at its lowest in the Crotlieve DEA with 111 per 100,000 of the population. This area had the lowest number of mothers who smoked while pregnant ie 4% and the second lowest number of deaths due to smoking at 133 per every 100,000.

Between 2015-2019 there were 6.2 deaths from suicide per 100,000 similar to the average for the district less than half the rate in Slieve Croob and Rowallane, however it must be noted that deaths are recorded when registered not when they actually took place and that the family may wish not to have suicide recorded as the cause of death due to their religious beliefs.

Diversity

Generally, this DEA is both white and indigenous with little visible diversity. Dromore Road Primary School in Warrenpoint has 33% Newcomer pupils and St Marks High School Warrenpoint have 5% newcomer pupils among their enrolment.

PSNI statistics give us an indication of the level of tolerance to those who are different or the lack of acceptance across the district. In the Crotlieve DEA they have recorded 4 incidents and 5 crimes with homophobic motivation, 10 incidents and 10 crimes were recorded with a racist motivation and 3 incidents along with 2 crimes recorded as sectarian in nature.

Youth Provision funded through EA Youth Service

- Warrenpoint & Crotlieve Area Project
- Mayobridge Youth & Community Centre
- Barnmeen & Drumgath Youth Club
- St. Bronagh's Youth Club
- Ardaragh Young People's Fellowship
- Rathfriland YFC

Other non EA funded youth providers in the area include Burren Youth Club, East Coast Adventure Outdoor learning Centre, Geology Rocks Adventure Tourism, Cloughmore Extreme outdoor activities, Rostrevor Mountain Bike Club, numerous Gaelic football and soccer clubs, Warrenpoint Panto Club, Warrenpoint Comhaltas, Faith based Youth work in St Peters Parish Centre. Down Right Brilliant offer provision for young people with special needs in Ballyholland Youth Club. Private facilitators offer gymnastics, dance, drama, music and outdoor activities for those who can afford them which supports the tourist industry but can be out of reach of those from deprived communities.

The area is also supported by The Cabbage Patchers, Burren Vision, The Community Centre for Warrenpoint Group, CDRCN and the Warrenpoint, Hilltown and Rostrevor Men's Sheds which are community led support groups operating across the area. They have played a key role in local activities and have been laying the foundations for community development and regeneration in the area. The Safer Warrenpoint Project have successfully drawn down funds to support community festivals at Halloween and diversionary activities over the past decade.

Tourism is a feature across Crotlieve with a number of key community festivals occurring annually. These have often been the occasion for young people to become involved in ASB & risk-taking behaviours detracting from young people's positive participation. Seasonal Festivals include Fiddlers Green in Rostrevor, Blues on the Bay and the Lockshore Festival in Warrenpoint and Back to the Booley in Hilltown.

Crotlieve DEA

Survey Findings – Focus Groups in Crotlieve

One focus group took place in Crotlieve with 12 young people facilitated by a youth worker. The tables collate the responses below:

Table 1 – Focus group response broken into Areas for Action:

Name of DEA Area	Climate & The Environment	Health & Well Being	Living in safety & stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of opportunity, Good relations
Within your own community What are the concerns you have in relation too?	<i>Poor transport links Pollution – Taking care of our environment Water Pollution & Biodiversity – Appreciation of our natural environment</i>	<i>Coping with social anxiety Active Learning on Mental Health Strategies Physical health activities using outdoors – sports & education workshops Being connected in our community Healthy Relationships</i>	<i>There's nothing for us to do here. We don't always feel safe in our community We have no where to go & nowhere in doors that is ours – we don't belong Young people engaging in lots of Risk-taking behaviours</i>	<i>Too much emphasis placed on results for schools Exam Pressures – Unprepared New level of pressure No place for us – hidden disabilities and not belonging & not achieving</i>	<i>Them and us mentally about people from different backgrounds Everyone seems 'the Same' we don't get to see/ meet anyone different Finding out about other cultures different to those in our community</i>
What Youth Services do you feel are needed to help with your concerns	<i>Social Action projects Intervention programmes Environmental Activism Projects – appreciating our environment Identifying new environmental projects such as Vaping Project – addressing pollution & health projects Wellbeing in the Outdoors – using natural environment to learn & support our environment Hear from Specialist groups in NI & Our community</i>	<i>Outdoor programmes Somewhere to chill and make friends – safe space & somewhere to belong Sports projects – alongside workshops promoting healthy choices Healthy relationships projects – healthy choices, keeping safe Specific Water Safety & ASB Projects Gender Specific Projects</i>	<i>Intervention programmes Increase in generic youth provision Dedicated Youth Space – Youth Café/ Drop in/ Tea & Toast Projects Safe Spaces</i>	<i>Homework clubs Practical courses eg: Dofe & John Muir award & OCN courses Workshops and Training programmes – Cookery, Personal Safety, first Aid Practical Learning opportunities – alternatives to school – using the outdoors and our environment as we don't have any indoor spaces – link to other partners in our community Transitions programme & trainee leaders</i>	<i>Residential and international opportunities Inclusion programmes</i>

Table 1 – Focus group responses on Participation:

PARTICIPATION					
	What do you think you would gain from attending Youth Service Projects in your area	Why would Young people not access Youth projects in your area	Can you recommend some changes to increase participation	How do you think the Youth Service could gather the thoughts and opinions of young people	Are you aware of volunteering opportunities within the youth service
	<i>Connections to others Meeting new people New opportunities & experiences Learning about myself & my skills Learning new skills</i>	<i>Don't want to – have other interests Don't know what it is or how to get involved Not enough projects or a space to go to</i>	<i>Have somewhere to go – a building High profile projects across the year to show what we can do & positive things young people to give to their community</i>	<i>Talking & asking young people Questionnaire & on the street & In schools Online with prize/give aways Hosting consultations in our area</i>	<i>Some of them – trainee leaders, Youth support worker & Volunteer training</i>
Numbers of YP surveyed in each age range	9-13 years 0	14-18years 8	18-25 years 4	Total YP surveyed 12	Are the YP surveyed 11 Attached 1 Unattached

Key priorities – Crotlieve

Health & Wellbeing. Young people are particularly concerned about unhealthy lifestyles in terms of alcohol and drug misuse, vaping, sexual behaviours and online gambling. They note the impacts on their own mental and sometimes physical health causing them to feel isolated and struggling with low confidence and self-esteem. Social anxiety has increased due both to the Covid lockdowns and over reliance on social media to communicate with peers. Young people recognise that programmes are supporting them in terms of sport, group work, TBUC and participative structures such as the local youth voice. They are asking for workshops to help them make healthy lifestyle choices and activities to promote wellbeing in the outdoors.

Living in safety and stability is also a significant issue on account of the night-time economy with many coming to the town's bars and hotels for entertainment. Staff in the area have noted an exponential growth in drug dealing among young people in Warrenpoint and will aim to get support from internal and external specialists to divert young people from this path. While crime rates are low in this DEA staff and young people feel that there may be cases of under reporting of crime due to lack of confidence in the PSNI. Young people site concerns of domestic violence, gangs/paramilitaries and not feeling safe in the town centres. This affects them by not wanting to socialise in their own area or getting involved in local activities. However, young people welcome youth provision as safe spaces, offering programmes that increase confidence and resilience. Capital investment is already being considered in collaboration with the council to have a new purpose-built community centre in Clonallan which will go some way to addressing this need.

Learning & Achieving is a strength of this area with the best GCSE results especially among those in receipt of Free school meals allowance. This area also has the lowest number of NEETS both at 16 and 18 years of age and the lowest number of suspensions from school in the district. Young people are concerned about exam stress/anxiety and lack of educational supports at home and in school and want more vocational or outdoor opportunities. Those with additional learning needs feel left behind because their disability is not visible. Practical life skills, personal safety, first aid and outdoor programmes are the preferred option for these young people.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity, and Good Relations. This area lacks the diversity of other communities and therefore young people have less opportunity to engage with difference. Young people are concerned with the increase in racist and homophobic attitudes within their community and to adapting living with other cultures. Young people want opportunities such as inclusion programmes with other cultures and international visits where they can widen their horizons.

Environment & Climate raises concerns in terms of coastal erosion due to the shipping industry. During storms the coast road frequently gets flooded with high waves attracting media attention. Young people realise they live in an area of outstanding beauty and feel that guest speakers from conservation groups would help educate and inspire them to take positive action. Youth service role would include awareness raising programmes, mini enterprise programmes exploring hydro-electric production and wind farming as well as opportunities for social action projects on the beaches and forest.

Crotlieve DEA

Location of services recognise that some young people fall within deprived communities, and their need to access provision. These include areas such as Clonallan 1, Donaghmore 1, Mayobridge 1 and Seaview 2. A range of provision is supported within the statutory and Generic non-targeted sectors. The youth service aims to build local capacity in Warrenpoint so that in time voluntary core youth provision can be supported. Statutory youth services will have responsibility for delivery of youth work initiatives within schools determined by resourcing levels. Finding appropriate venues for youth work delivery continues to be a challenge in Warrenpoint but hopefully this will be addressed with the capital investment project.

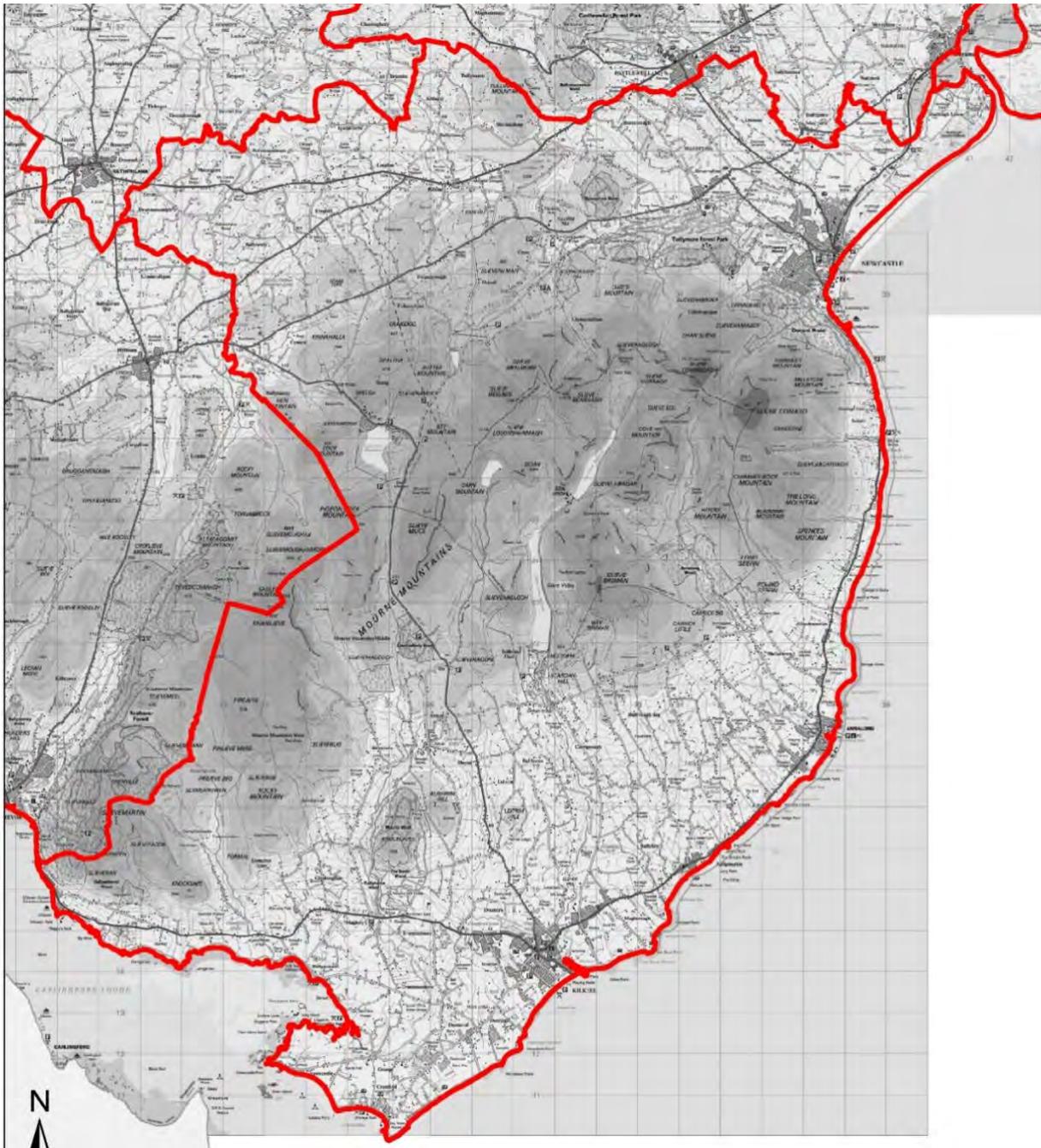
Core Youth provision will be prioritised throughout offering a wide range of curriculum programmes as defined by 'Model for Effective Practice' (DE 2011). The focus of the curriculum will be reflective of issues raised in the assessment of need and the programmes requested by young people in the focus groups. Places where they can learn about themselves and others, meet new friends and feel a sense of belonging has been suggested. Outreach Youth Work will operate as and when needed within this provision. The youth service acknowledges the work being offered by the football clubs across the area and expect that the Healthy Clubs Project will provide recreational opportunities for those who are more interested in the social aspect of sport.

Targeted Provision will be offered through full time statutory youth workers, while voluntary providers will work in collaboration with the youth service to identify young people in need of this focused work.

Detached Youth Work is a methodology that can be deployed based upon the assessed need and resources available by the youth service. An education first approach will be taken by youth workers deployed under this remit, with some capacity to support key partners in addressing antisocial or risk-taking issues or at times of heightened tensions in May, July and October.

Additional Supports can be deployed to address many of the issues identified. It is recognised that Youth Services have a role to play in supporting other lead statutory and voluntary organisations to address these issues. As such youth services will be a supportive partner in these instances. Local EA controlled Youth Services will also employ the use of FLARE (Mental Health Worker), CADI (Creative and Digital Arts Worker) and OLS peripatetic (Outdoor Learning Worker), to address the emerging needs of young people.

The Mourne DEA



Number	Super Output Area	Rank	Number	Super Output Area	Rank
1	Annalong_1	363	52	Kilkeel South_1	500
2	Annalong_2	187	53	Kilkeel South_2	113
13	Binnian	335	59	Lisnacree	336
37	Donard_1	442	62	Murlough	89
38	Donard_2	671	72	Shimna	295
50	Kilkeel Central_1	540	75	Spelga	284
51	Kilkeel Central_2	258	80	Tollymore_1	375
			81	Tollymore_2	372

The Mourne DEA

As the title suggests this DEA contains the vast majority of the Mourne Mountain Range and is thus a desirable location for hikers and Outdoor Education providers. It has 7 wards divided into 15 super output areas. It overlooks Carlingford Lough and the Cooley Mountains on the other side of the Irish Border and has been designated by the World Heritage Organisation as an area of outstanding beauty. The main urban centres are Kilkeel, Newcastle and Annalong. The Mourne DEA stretches from Cranfield beach in the south up to Murlough, Newcastle in the north and east to Kilkeel. Opposing cultural beliefs co-exist in this DEA with both Irish language as well as Ulster Scots being promoted, there are successful football clubs who perform well on an all-Ireland stage and many Orange lodges supported by marching bands.

The Mourne DEA can be considered disadvantaged in relative terms as the mountain range effectively cuts off these communities from the rest of NI. The area is characterised by significant rurality with pockets of deprivation. The area's dependence on the fishing industry leads to significant periods when no income is generated while boats are tied up in the harbour if the seas are inclement. There is a strong culture of self-reliance in this community.

Key Statistics

Mourne DEA has an approximate population of 29,900. 6,530 are aged 0-15 years 22% above the NI average of 21%.

The multiple deprivation measure is a composite score combining all the deprivation domains giving a final score of where need is concentrated across the community. Out of a total of 15 Super Output areas in The Mourne DEA 12 are in the most deprived 50% and 2 of these are among the most deprived 25% namely Murlough and Kilkeel South 2.

15.4% of the properties in the Mourne DEA have a broadband speed below 10Mb/s which is unsurprising given that 11 out of the 15 super output areas are in the highest 50% for access to services measure. However, 7 SOAs are in the top 25% for lack of access to services namely Tullymore 1, Kilkeel South 2, Kilkeel Central 1, Kilkeel Central 2, Annalong 2, Lisnacree and Binian the highest rates of rural isolation in the district.

The Employment deprivation domain illustrates the lack of opportunities for work in each DEA and in Mourne nine of the fifteen Super Output Areas are within the top 50% most deprived with three in the top 25% category, namely Murlough, Kilkeel South 2 and Kilkeel Central 2.

The relationship between poverty, poor educational attainment and ill health is well documented. The current economic crisis has also led to social problems and many families living in debt. In relation to the Income measure of deprivation, 11 super output areas out of a total of 15 are within the top 50% most deprived areas and like Newry 6 of those are within the top 25% most deprived namely Annalong 1 & 2, Kilkeel South 2, Spelga, Murlough, and Binian.

The IDAC (Income Deprivation Affecting Children) 2017 Income Score for The Mourne is 14.9%. This Income Score measures the proportion of the population living in households whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the NI median. However, when it comes to households with children under 15 years of age this score rises to 21.4% demonstrating that over one in every five young families are struggling financially.

Living Environment

Regards the living environment deprivation measure for the Mourne area eleven out of the fifteen super output areas are in the top 50% most deprived with four of these in the top 25% namely Spelga, Murlough, Kilkeel Central and Shimna. Housing executive data tells us that there is 84.7% of those with a disability were living in homes not adapted to their needs, 17.2% of domestic dwellings were in a state of disrepair in the Mourne, the second highest in the district, 4.7% households were overcrowded and just over 1% of domestic dwellings have problem scores. According to the Northern Ireland Living Environment deprivation measure there were 21.8% of the working age population who are income deprived in the Mourne DEA.

The Mourne DEA

Safety and Stability

Crime levels in the Mourne have remained constant in recent years with above average number of all offences and anti-social behaviour instances. 2017 NISRA data remains unchanged with 7 out of the 15 Super Output areas among the top 50% most deprived on the Crime and Disorder domain. Three of these are among the top 25% most deprived namely, Spelga, Shimna and Murlough. In the Mourne there were 366 incidents recorded with a Domestic Abuse motivation, below the NI Average 390, at a rate of 12 per 1000 of the population, 250 of these recorded as crimes. There were 1,182 antisocial behaviour incidents recorded, second highest in the district after Newry and above the NI Average 950, a rate of 40 per 1000 of the population. The recorded crime for all offences was 1335, third highest in the district behind Newry and Downpatrick and above the NI average 1180, a rate of 45 per 1000 of the population. There were 159 cases of serious violent injury or death, with 53 of these caused by unlawful driving along with 384 incidents of violence without injury including harassment. 47 sexual offences were recorded. Road safety data for 2020 indicate that there were 55 collisions, 11 of which were serious with 1 fatality in the Mourne area. Of the 82 casualties 12 were seriously injured and 1 died which is above the Northern Ireland average.

Health

The health deprivation and Disability domain illustrates that 7 out of a total of 15 super output areas are within the top 50% most deprived 2 of which are in the top 25% quadrant, namely Murlough and Kilkeel South 2. Life expectancy at birth is very good in the Mourne. For females at birth this DEA was the highest at 84.7 years. When it comes to life expectancy at the age of 65 for females the Mourne DEA again was the highest with 21.8 additional years. When it comes to premature mortality or potential years of life lost the Mourne DEA is the lowest at 6.4. Two DEAs stand out above all the others in Newry Mourne & Down for healthy birthweights in new-borns these are the Mourne at 94% and Rowallane.

Between 2015-2019 there were 7.6 deaths from suicide per 100,000 similar to the average for the district, however it must be noted that deaths are recorded when registered not when they actually took place and that the family may wish not to have suicide recorded as the cause of death due to their religious beliefs.

Education

In terms of Education Skills and Training deprivation measure the Mourne has 8 out of 15 super output areas within the top 50% most deprived of these Murlough is in the top 25%.

Out of a total of 5576 pupils in the Mourne DEA in 2022-2022, 1441 were entitled to free school meals which is 26%.

6.4% have a Statement of Special Educational needs and 12.2% are at Stages 1 & 2 on the Special Educational Needs Codes of Practice which is above average with SEN statements.

The proportion of all school leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C (or equivalent) including Maths and English in the Mourne DEA was 23.3% above the NI average 22.3% and third highest in the district.

There were 335 pupils who left school In 2021 In the Mourne, of those 21.5% were in receipt of free school meals achieving 61.6% pass rate with five GCSE S including English and maths compared to 81% pass rate for those not in receipt of free school meals. 1.7% of 16-18-year olds leaving school in the Mourne do not enter further or higher education or employment (NEET) while 63.8% of 18-21-year olds also fall into the NEET category. 38 suspensions occurred in this area, second highest behind Newry.

The Mournes DEA

Diversity

PSNI statistics give us an indication of the level of tolerance to those who are different or the lack of acceptance across the district. In the Mournes DEA have recorded 7 incidents (above average) and 5 crimes with homophobic motivation, 10 incidents and 5 crimes were recorded with a racist motivation and 9 incidents along with 10 crimes recorded as sectarian in nature.

Youth Provision funded through EA Youth Service

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilkeel & The Mournes Area Project • Shannaghmore Residential Outdoor Learning Centre • Kingdom Youth Club • 1st Newcastle Scout Group • 2nd Annalong Boys' Brigade • 2nd Kilkeel Boys' Brigade • 2nd Kilkeel Boys' Brigade Company • 3rd Kilkeel Boys Brigade • 89th Company Kilkeel Girls' Brigade N.I. • Autism Support Kilkeel (ASK) ADHD Hub • Annalong Girls' Brigade • Annalong Youth Enterprise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clonduff Presbyterian Church Youth Club • Kilkeel Baptist Youth Club • Kilkeel Parish Bridge Association Limited • Kilkeel Sea Cadets • Lifebuilders Gym • Mourne Gospel Fellowship • Mourne YFC • Newry Street Unite • Schomberg Society Kilkeel Ltd • 1st Annalong Boys Brigade • 1st Mourne Brownie Unit • Christ Church Kilkeel Girls' Brigade
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Other non-EA funded youth provision include Pairc na Mara in Annalong, Attical Youth Club, Monedarragh Youth Club plus a myriad of IFA and GAA sporting clubs. Twists and Spills in the Bracken Centre offer gymnastics, dance and drama for young women from both sides of the community. Mourne Stimulus offer day care facilities for young people with physical disabilities.

The Mournes DEA has statutory representation on the Newry Mourne & Down Local Advisory Group.

The area is also supported by Kilkeel Development Association (KDA) which is a community support agency operating across the area. KDA has played a key role in regeneration activities and has, through a range of initiatives, been laying the foundations for renewal in the areas of community, economic and social cohesion in the Nautilus Centre at the Harbour. Big Lottery funding enabled Mourne Matters, Regenerate and the Well at Kingdom Youth Club to offer counselling support to all ages and all communities.

The Shomberg Society Kilkeel Ltd is an organisation working throughout the area supporting community development and culture as well as events incorporating the medium of Ulster Scots with a Pageant every 12th of July and their annual radio broadcasts. They collaborate with the marching flute band Rising Sons of the Valley and provide dancing academies in Annalong and in Reivers House Kilkeel. USA based Friends Forever have facilities in Annalong and are making a significant contribution to peace building and improved community relations in the area.

The Mournes DEA

Survey Findings – Focus Groups in The Mournes

Two focus groups took place in The Mournes with 27 young people facilitated by a youth worker. The table collates the responses below:

Table 1 – Focus groups response broken into Areas for Action:

Name of DEA Area The Mournes	The Environment	Health & Well Being	Living in safety & stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of opportunity, Good relations
Within your own community What are the concerns you have in relation too?	Litter especially along the beaches Need bigger bins	We have Mournes Matters, the Well at Kingdom and Regenerate in <u>Jims</u> all funded through mental health and well being	Area still divided between Catholic and Protestant communities Legacy of the Troubles and division still underlying	Numbers increasing for Free school meals Lots of young people suffer exam stress post <u>Covid</u>	TBUC in schools and the community
What Youth Services do you feel are needed to help with your concerns	Generic Youth clubs in rural areas Programmes with Woodland Trust	More age appropriate programmes for the younger age groups	<u>Jims</u> , Outreach, Sea Cadets & Kingdom can do single identity work to help break down barriers	After school clubs in <u>Dunaman</u> , Local schools Kingdom & <u>Jims</u>	Existing provision in Kilkeel caters for this
PARTICIPATION					
	What do you think you would gain from attending Youth Service Projects in your area	Why would Young people not access Youth projects in your area	Can you recommend some changes to increase participation	How do you think the Youth Service could gather the thoughts and opinions of young people	Are you aware of volunteering opportunities within the youth service
	Meet new people Build confidence Learn about different cultures	Need signposted Afraid of taking the first step	Currently at capacity Increased funding for Generic provision	Talk to them in groups or face to face or using survey monkey	Yes
Numbers of YP surveyed in each age range	9-13 years 15	14-18years 12	18-25 years	Total number YP surveyed	Are the YP surveyed 27 Attached

Key priorities – Mournes

Health & Wellbeing. Health outcomes are generally good for people living in this area which has the highest life expectancy for females, the highest birth weights for new-borns and the lowest rate of premature mortality. Young people are concerned about unhealthy lifestyles in terms of drug misuse, sexual behaviours and drinking. They note the impacts on their own mental and sometimes physical health causing them to feel isolated and struggling with low confidence and self-esteem. Young people recognise that key programmes are supporting them in terms of sport, music, culture, faith-based youth work, group work, drop ins and having their say in youth fora.

Living in safety and stability is also a significant issue especially in deprived communities such as Murlough and Kilkeel South 2. Young people site concerns of sectarian tensions and not feeling welcome outside of their own area. High levels of anti-social behaviour and communal segregation contribute to this. This affects them by not wanting to mix outside of their own areas or getting involved in cross community activities. There are strong feelings of identity even within communities which presents as rivalry and tensions at sporting fixtures. However, young people welcome youth centres as safe spaces, with opportunities for expressing themselves and programmes that encourage local community involvement in a fun way such as events like “It’s a Knock Out”.

The Mourne DEA

Learning & Achieving remains a priority with Murlough scoring 176 (Nisra data) on the education, skills, and training domain. Young people are concerned about exam stress/anxiety post Covid, lack of educational supports in and outside of school, resulting in low confidence levels. Young people would like a range of learning supports, informal/vocational opportunities, after school clubs or accredited programmes that will help with getting employment.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity, and Good Relations. Young people are concerned about the incidence of sectarianism, racist and homophobic attitudes within their community and the limited work between the two main traditions here in NI as well as other cultures. Young people want good relations opportunities such as TBUC, including other cultures. It will be important to prepare groups for contact by offering single identity programmes so young people can feel a sense of communal pride as well an understanding of different perspectives.

Environment & Climate raises concerns in terms of sustainable fish stocks available to be caught by family members reliant on the fishing industry. The plans to use extinct granite quarries in the Mourne mountains as a nuclear dump have also caused widespread concern. Young people are keen to act sustainably however they have grown up in a disposable culture as opposed to the make do and mend one of their grandparents. Intergenerational projects might help to explore attitudes to living sustainably and create ideas for local and mini enterprises. Youth service role can include awareness raising programmes about the causes of changes in weather, how to reduce plastic use and opportunities for social action projects like beach clean ups. Specialist bodies can be invited in to give educational talks on how best to support our natural environment and inspire young people to take action.

Location of services recognise the high proportion of young people falling within deprived communities, and their need to access provision in areas such as Murlough and Kilkeel South 2. A wide range of provision is supported within the Generic non-targeted sector. Statutory staff will also have responsibility for the delivery of youth work initiatives within schools determined by resourcing levels.

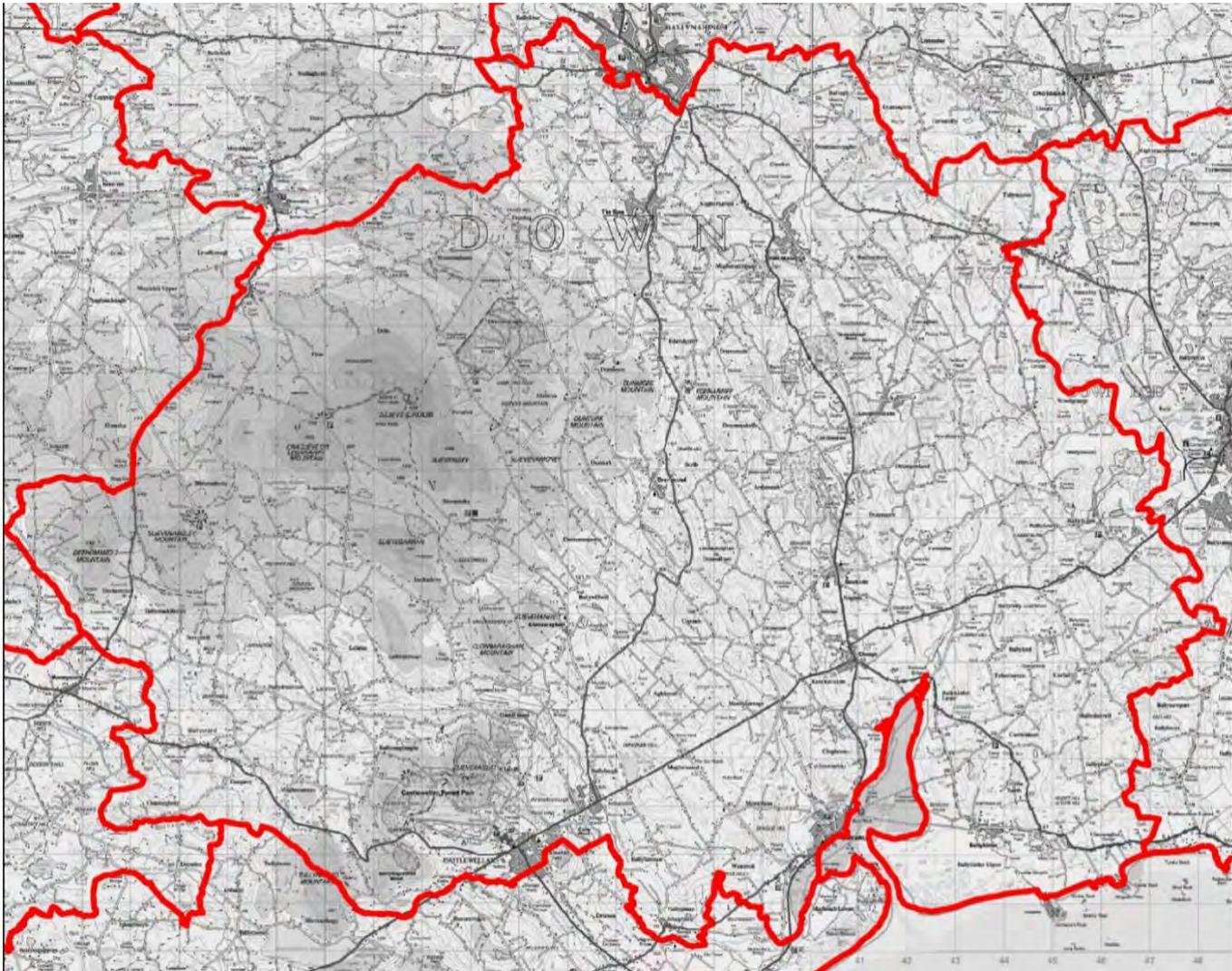
Core youth provision will be prioritised throughout offering a wide range of curriculum programmes as defined by 'Model for Effective Practice' (DE 2011). The focus of the curriculum will reflect issues raised in the assessment of need and the programmes requested by young people in the focus groups. This area boasts the highest number of generic non targeted providers across the district, 24 in total, indicating that the adults have a keen interest in the health and wellbeing of their young people and have the capacity to deliver.

Targeted Provision will be offered through full time statutory youth workers, while voluntary providers will work in collaboration with the youth service to identify young people in need of this focused work. Outreach Youth Work will operate as and when needed within this provision.

Detached Youth Work is a methodology that can be deployed based upon the assessed need and resources available by the youth service. An education first approach will be taken by youth workers deployed under this remit, with some capacity to support key partners in addressing antisocial or risk-taking issues or at times of heightened tensions in July, August and October.

Additional Supports can be deployed to address many of the issues identified above. It is recognised that Youth Services have a role to play in supporting other lead statutory and voluntary organisations to address these issues. As such youth services will be a supportive partner in these instances. Local EA controlled Youth Services will also employ the use of FLARE (Mental Health Worker), CADI (Creative and Digital Arts Worker) and OLS peripatetic (Outdoor Learning Worker), to address the emerging needs of young people.

Slieve Croob DEA



Number	Super Output Area	Rank
11	Ballyward	233
17	Castlewellan_1	235
18	Castlewellan_2	455
41	Drumaness_1	364
42	Drumaness_2	629
45	Dundrum	321
46	Dunmore	666
55	Killough_2	261
69	Seaforde	429

Slieve Croob DEA

Much of what is termed the Dromara hills is within the Slieve Croob DEA. The DEA boundary stretches from Castlewellan and Ballyward in the south to Drumaness and Spa in the north including the villages of Leitrim, Annsborough, Clough, Dundrum, Ballykinlar, Seaforde, Loughinisland, Drumaroad and Finnis. With 54% of Newry Mourne & Down classified as rural it is not surprising that this DEA is home to some of the most deprived areas in NI on the access to services measure. There are 5 wards divided into 9 super output areas as listed above.

Slieve Croob DEA is characterised by significant areas of affluence and rurality however the communities of Castlewellan, Annsborough, Ballykinlar present several problems in relation to recent reports of ASB. Drumaness, Spa, Loughinisland & Drumaroad also present problems in relation to access to youth work provision. These areas are characterised by a number of issues, they have worrying rates of mental ill health with the crude suicide rate at 20 the highest across the district.

Key Statistics

Slieve Croob DEA has an approximate population of 21,220. 4,710 are aged 0-15 years 21.2% just above the NI average 21%.

The multiple deprivation measure is a composite score combining all the deprivation domains giving a final score of where need is concentrated across the community. Out of a total of 9 Super Output areas in Slieve Croob DEA 6 are in the most deprived 50%, none of which are among the most deprived 25%.

30% of the properties in Slieve Croob DEA have a broadband speed below 10Mb/s which is unsurprising given that 6 out of the 9 super output areas are in the highest 50% for access to services measure. However, 3 SOAs are in the top 25% for lack of access to services namely Castlewellan 1 & 2 and Killough 2.

In relation to the Income measure of deprivation, 6 super output areas out of a total of 9 are within the top 50% most deprived areas and Ballyward is within the top 25%. The relationship between poverty, poor educational attainment and ill health is well documented. The current economic crisis has also led to social problems and many families living in debt.

The IDAC (Income Deprivation Affecting Children) 2017 Income Score for Slieve Croob is 13.9%. This Income Score measures the proportion of the population living in households whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the NI median. However, when it comes to households with children under 15 years of age this score rises to 19.1% demonstrating that almost 1/5 young families have less disposable income.

Living Environment

Regards the living environment deprivation measure for the Slieve Croob area four out of the nine super output areas are in the top 50% most deprived with Ballyward in the top 25%.

Housing executive data tells us that there is 16.9% of domestic dwellings in a state of disrepair in the Slieve Croob area 4% households are overcrowded and 1.3% of domestic dwellings have problem scores. 84.8% of those with a disability were living in homes not adapted to their needs

According to the Northern Ireland Living Environment deprivation measure there were 19.1% of the working age population who are income deprived in this DEA.

Slieve Croob DEA

Safety and Stability

Crime levels in Slieve Croob have remained low in recent years with almost all indicators below the NI average. 2017 NISRA data remains unchanged with 4 out of the 9 Super Output areas among the top 50% most deprived on the Crime and Disorder domain. However, to victims of crime their issues are just as traumatic as others. In this DEA there were 243 incidents recorded with a Domestic Abuse motivation below the NI Average of 390, at a rate of 11 per 1000 of the population, 165 of these were recorded as crimes. There were 531 antisocial behaviour incidents recorded below the NI Average of 950, a rate of 25 per 1000 of the population. The recorded crime for all offences was 659 almost half the NI average of 1180, a rate of 31 per 1000 of the population. There were 75 cases of serious violent injury or death, with 35 of these caused by unlawful driving and there were 187 incidents of violence without injury including harassment. 32 sexual offences were recorded. Road safety data for 2020 indicate that there were 67 collisions, 12 of which were serious with 2 fatalities in the area, above the Northern Ireland average. Of the 115 casualties 13 were seriously injured and 2 died.

Health

The Health and Disability domain illustrates that this area enjoys good health outcomes in the main with 5 out of a total of 9 super output areas are within the top 50% most deprived 1 of which is Castlewellan 1 which is in the top 25%.

Life expectancy at birth is very good in this DEA. For males Slieve Croob has the highest rate at 80.5 years whereas for females it is the lowest at 82.1 years. When it comes to life expectancy at the age of 65 for males Slieve Croob is highest where they generally live another 19.7 years whereas females get another 20.9 years below average for the district. A death is considered treatable if it can be avoided through good quality healthcare Slieve Croob had the lowest at rate of treatable deaths at 64 per 100,000. While 90% of mothers gave birth to babies with a healthy weight only 4.6% had babies with a low birth weight and only 6% of mothers smoked while pregnant.

There were only 456 people per 100,000 admitted to hospital in the Slieve Croob DEA in relation to alcohol problems the lowest across the district. Evidence has shown that lung cancer is directly correlated to smoking and Slieve Croob has the lowest rate of lung cancer with 61 per 100,000.

The crude suicide death rate per 100,000 population was the worst in Slieve Croob with 20. Between 2015-2019 there were 14.1 deaths from suicide per 100,000 worse than the average for the district and NI as a whole, however it must be noted that deaths are recorded when registered not when they actually took place and that the family may wish not to have suicide recorded as the cause of death due to their religious beliefs.

Education

In terms of Education Skills and Training deprivation measure Slieve Croob fairs well with 5 out of 9 super output areas within the top 50% most deprived, Castlewellan 1 is in the top 25%.

Out of a total of 4291 pupils in this DEA in 2022-2022, 797 were entitled to free school meals which is 19%.

6.4% have a Statement of Special Educational needs and 12.9% are at Stages 1 & 2 on the Special Educational Needs Codes of Practice which is above average with SEN statements.

The proportion of pupils not achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C (or equivalent) including Maths and English in Slieve Croob DEA was 19.7%, below the NI average of 22.3%.

Slieve Croob DEA

There were 290 pupils who left school in 2021 in Slieve Croob, of those 22.1% were in receipt of free school meals. Achieving 60.9% pass rate with five GCSE S including English and maths compared to 85.8% pass rate for those not in receipt of free school meals.

According to the Department of Education's Statistics and Research team there were 19 pupils suspended from schools in the Slieve Croob DEA in 2020/21 which is below the NI average of 43 and joint lowest in the district along with Downpatrick.

2.1% of 16-18-year olds leaving school in Slieve Croob do not enter further or higher education or employment (NEET) while 64.5% of 18-21-year olds also fall into the NEET category.

Diversity

PSNI statistics give us an indication of the level of tolerance to those who are different or the lack of acceptance across the district. In the Slieve Croob DEA they have recorded 2 incidents and 2 crimes with homophobic motivation, 2 incidents and 2 crimes were recorded with a racist motivation and 3 incidents along with 1 crime recorded as sectarian in nature.

Youth Provision funded through EA Youth Service

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slieve Croob Area Project• 1st Drumgooland Guides Brownies & Rainbows• 1st Spa Boys' Brigade• 1st Spa Girl Guiding Group• 1st Spa Rainbows• Spa Young Farmers Club• 290th Clough Presbyterian Girls Brigade• Ballynahinch Congregational Church Youth Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clough Presbyterian youth Club• Club Óige Ghlór Uachtar Tíre• Magherahamlet Girls Brigade• Newcastle CCE• Spa Presbyterian Church• 1st Clough Boys' Brigade• 1st Drumgooland Scout Troop
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The area is also supported by a range of sporting clubs providing activities for young people across the Area. As well as the EA Youth Service, the CDRCN, PSNI, HE, SESHT, PCSP, & Council DEA coordinators supported by local councillors have played a role in local regeneration activities and have been laying the foundations for renewal in the areas of community, economic, social, and physical infrastructure.

Non-EA registered groups include Mind Yourself and Your Mate (MYMY), Friday night Kicks, a fledgling community youth club and the Rabbit Hole performance space.

The County Down Rural Community Network is an umbrella organisation working throughout the Slieve Croob area supporting community development with strategic themes of Support & Capacity, Resource & Finance Services, and Health development.

Slieve Croob DEA

Survey Findings – Focus Groups in Slieve Croob

A total of 3 focus groups took place in Slieve Croob with 31 young people each facilitated by a youth worker. The tables collate the responses below:

Table 1 – Focus groups response broken into Areas for Action:

Name of DEA Area Slieve Croob	The Environment	Health & Well Being	Living in safety & stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of opportunity, Good relations
Within your own community What are the concerns you have in relation too?	<i>Not feeling connected to local community Lack of Outdoor education opportunities Lack of Volunteer opportunities Poor transport links Sustainability "Community is a tip"</i>	<i>Stress Coping with social anxiety Increase use of vapes Bullying Alcohol Struggling with Sleep Making Friends Depression Always feeling the need to be perfect. Body Image Limited mental health services for young people</i>	<i>YP <u>Don't</u> feel safe within their community Family problems <u>There's</u> nothing for us to do here. Drug dealing within communities Anti-Social Behaviour incidents</i>	<i>Stress over exams Struggle to get a part time job without experience Managing Homework Lack of leadership training opportunities Too much emphasis placed on results for schools</i>	<i>Racist comments from YP and adults Them and us mentality about people from different backgrounds Homophobic comments Lots of foreign national people moved into the town Limited career prospects</i>
What Youth Services do you feel are needed to help with your concerns	<i>Social Action projects Intervention programmes Horticulture Grow your own programmes Upcycle initiatives Sharing & Promoting life skills Community clean up initiatives</i>	<i>Outdoor programmes Opportunities to build confidence and self-esteem Somewhere to chill and make friends possible mindfulness, relationship, self-awareness, gender, creative arts, health & fitness/sports programmes</i>	<i>Intervention programmes Increase in generic youth provision need for Social Action projects Detached / outreach work Promoting sense of community, supporting <u>yp</u> to feel part of and ownership for their own community.</i>	<i>Homework clubs Stress management techniques Employability opportunities Practical courses <u>eg</u>: <u>Dofe</u> & John Muir award & OCN courses</i>	<i>Cultural programmes TBUC Awareness training Local level Events highlighting the positives of young people Cultural identity and Diversity awareness raising Programmes Residential and international opportunities Inclusion programmes</i>

Table 2 – Focus groups responses on Participation

PARTICIPATION					
	What do you think you would gain from attending Youth Service Projects in your area	Why would Young people not access Youth projects in your area	Can you recommend some changes to increase participation	How do you think the Youth Service could gather the thoughts and opinions of young people	Are you aware of volunteering opportunities within the youth service
	<i>See friends and make new ones Confidence to be myself Been able to spend time with my friends and get involved in different projects</i>	<i>Afraid of not fitting in Lack of confidence Fear of the unknown Anxiety Think it is not cool</i>	<i>Go on more trips/residentials Make it fun element based within communities Develop young men's & Young women's work</i>	<i>Talk to youth works Go into school, form classes</i>	<i>6 said <u>Yes</u> they Volunteered with junior group 25 said No</i>
Numbers of YP surveyed in each age range	<i>9-13 years 16</i>	<i>14-18years 15</i>	<i>18-25 years</i>	<i>Total YP surveyed 31</i>	<i>Are the YP 6 Attached 25 Unattached</i>

Slieve Croob DEA

Key priorities – Slieve Croob

Health & Wellbeing. Young people are particularly concerned about unhealthy lifestyles in terms of drug misuse, sexual behaviours, drinking. They note the impacts on their own mental and sometimes physical health causing them to feel isolated and struggling with low confidence and self-esteem. Suicide is a prevalent issue in the area. Young people recognise that programmes are supporting them in terms of opportunities to build confidence and self-esteem, having somewhere to make friends, creative arts, health & fitness or sports programmes. Mental health support, opportunities to build resilience, experience exciting activities and helping young people to be happy should mitigate against the risk factors for low self-esteem and depression.

Living in safety and stability. Crime levels are below average in this DEA however young people site concerns of drug dealing and not feeling safe due to anti-social behaviour. This affects them by not wanting to socialise in their own area or getting involved in local activities. Young people say that boredom and having nothing to do is a factor in the decision to get involved in risky activities. Staff and young people feel that there may be cases of under reporting of crime due to lack of confidence in the PSNI. However, young people want youth centres to offer them safe spaces, and programmes to encourage better relations with older members of their community. Young people want more of a sense of belonging and have more ownership of where they live.

Learning & Achieving remains an issue with education, skills, and training scoring between 142 – 662 (Nisra data) with Castlewellan 1 being the lowest. Young people are concerned about school stress/anxiety over exams, too much emphasis being placed on results, lack of educational supports at home and in school, managing homework resulting in low confidence. They struggle to get a part time job without experience or adequate public transport provision. Young people would like a range of learning supports, informal/vocational opportunities and leadership training opportunities. They have suggested practical courses, supporting future employability like D of E or John Muir Award.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity, and Good Relations. Young people are concerned with the lack of diversity within their community and the limited engagement with other cultures. Young people want more opportunities for good relations programmes including other cultures and international visits to educate them about diversity and the benefit it brings. Linguistic diversity is another area where there is a need to acknowledge that being able to learn and socialise in your mother tongue is beneficial to the preservation of an individual's sense of identity and culture. The growing demographic of Irish Medium speakers in this community is being supported by Foram na Nog through regional strategic funding.

Environment & Climate raises concerns in terms of sustainability appearance of the public realm and outdoor facilities. Youth service role will include awareness raising programmes, horticulture & grow your own programmes, upcycling initiatives and social action projects such as community clean ups.

Location of services recognise the high proportion of young people falling within rural communities, and their need to access provision in areas such as Castlewellan 1, Ballyward, Drumaness 2 and Seaforde. A range of provision is supported within the statutory and Generic non-targeted sectors. Currently there are no local area based funded voluntary providers in this DEA so there is a need for capacity building and volunteer development to grow this sector. Statutory staff will have responsibility for delivery of youth work initiatives within schools determined by resourcing levels.

Core Youth provision will be prioritised throughout offering a wide range of curriculum programmes as defined by 'Model for Effective Practice' (DE 2011). The focus of the curriculum will reflect of issues raised in the assessment of need and the programmes requested by young people in the focus groups. This area has a high number of generic non targeted providers across the district, indicating that the adults have a keen interest in the personal and social development of their young people.

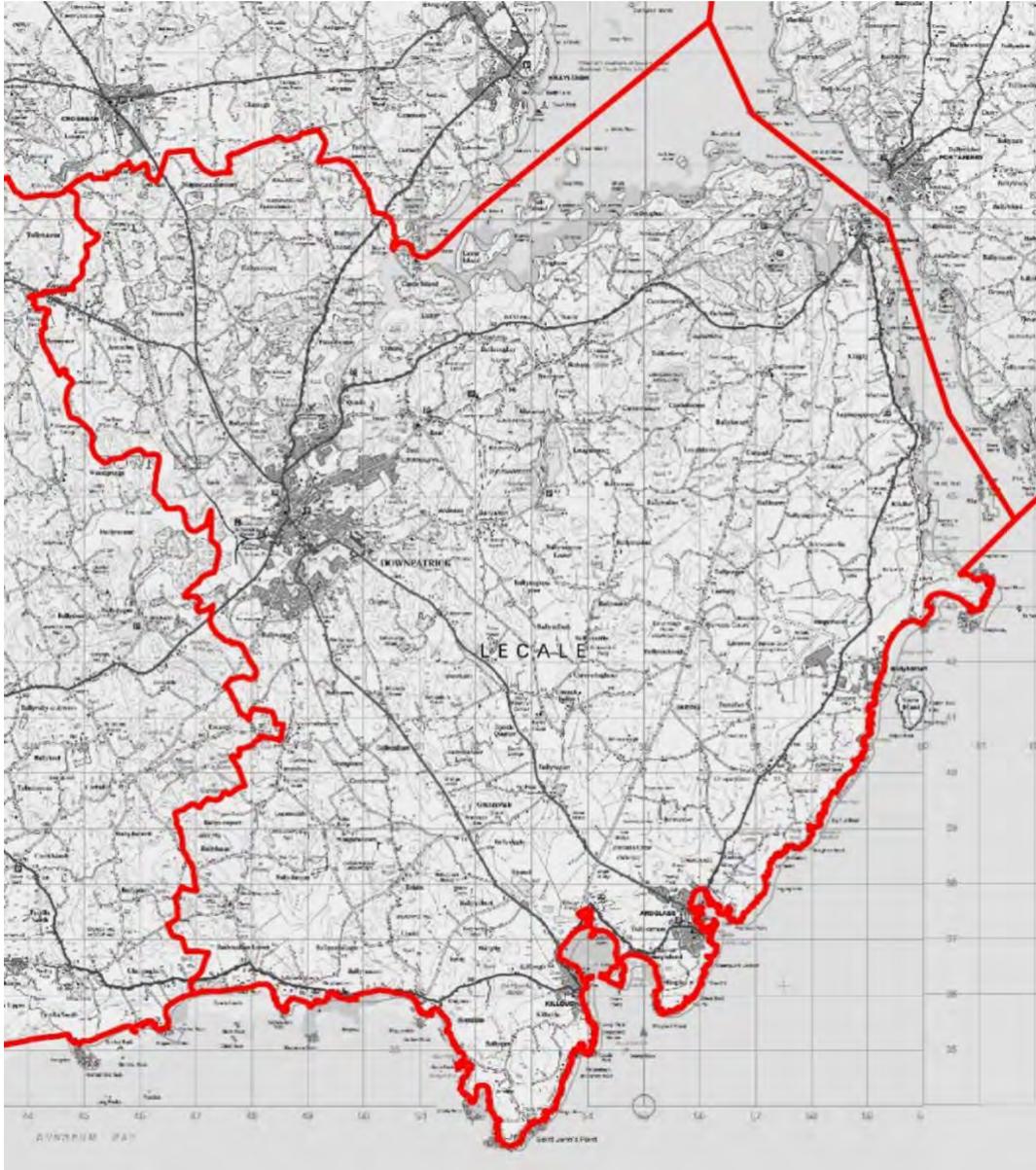
Slieve Croob DEA

Targeted Provision will be offered through a full-time statutory youth worker, while part time voluntary providers will work in collaboration with Slieve Croob Area Project to identify young people in need of this focused work. The youth service's long-term aim is to support local capacity to establish full time voluntary provision in Castlewellan. When established outreach will operate as and when needed within this provision.

Detached Youth Work is a methodology that can be deployed based upon need assessed and resources available by the Slieve Croob Area Project. An education first approach will be taken by youth workers deployed under this remit, with some capacity to support key partners in addressing antisocial or risk-taking issues. This approach will respond to seasonal variations or emerging trends in habits of young people in the area.

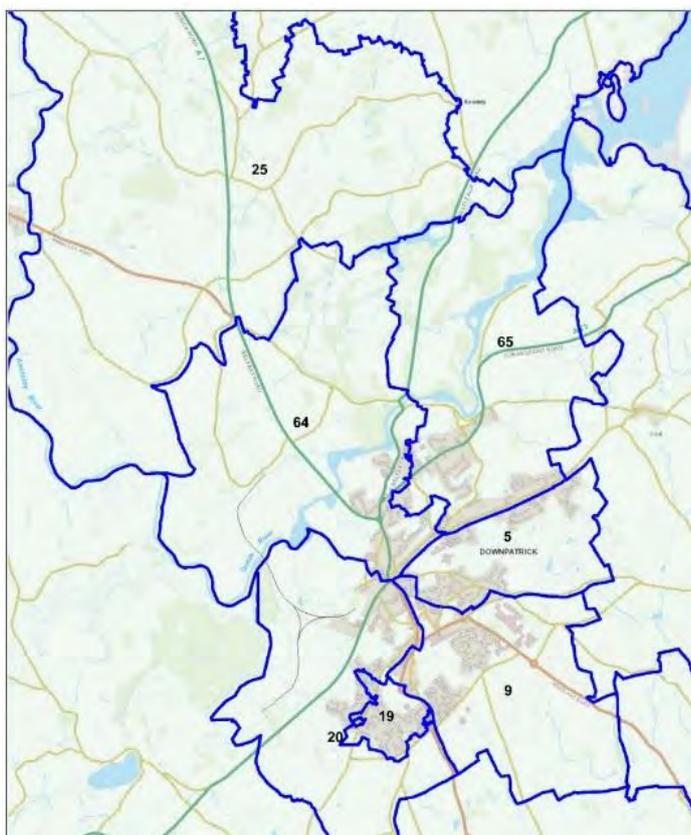
Additional Supports can be accessed to address many of the issues identified above. It is recognised that Youth Services have a role to play in supporting other lead statutory and voluntary organisations to address these issues. As such youth services will be a supportive partner in these instances. Local EA controlled Youth Services will also employ the use of FLARE (Mental Health Worker), CADI (Creative and Digital Arts Worker) and OLS peripatetic (Outdoor Learning Worker), to address the emerging needs of young people.

Downpatrick DEA



Downpatrick DEA

Number	Super Output Area	Rank
3	Ardglass_1	176
4	Ardglass_2	305
5	Audley's Acre	599
9	Ballymote	115
19	Cathedral_1	352
20	Cathedral_2	106
24	Crossgar_1	669
25	Crossgar_2	660
54	Killough_1	217
64	Quoile_1	186
65	Quoile_2	761
79	Strangford	474



This DEA contains 5 wards Cathedral, Knocknshinna, Lecale, Strangford and Quoile and is divided further into 12 Super Output Areas as listed above. It stretches from Tyrella Beach and Ardglass in the south to Strangford and Annacloy in the north. Urban centres include Killough, Ballyhornan, Ardglass, Strangford and the town of Downpatrick itself along with the villages of Saul, Raholp, Kilclief and Minerstown. Within Downpatrick the Neighbourhood renewal area includes the Flying Horse, Model Farm and New Model Farm. The area is host to world famous historical sites in relation to St Patrick and a museum with jail recording the areas past. The Down Coast Line is an area of outstanding beauty with 6 public accessible beaches, yacht clubs, coastal rowing clubs and canoe trails across Strangford Lough. It is an area rich in tradition with three annual Festivals the Hern Gutters in Ardglass, the Killough Community Festival and the Viking Festival in Strangford. Downpatrick plays host to a spectacular St Patricks Day Parade on the 17th March annually. In terms of religious breakdown Downpatrick would be predominantly Roman Catholic with a minority of Protestant/Other Faiths. In more recent times families from Bulgaria, Romania and Syria have settled in Downpatrick.

Key Statistics

Downpatrick DEA has an approximate population of 21,320. 4,680 are aged 0-15 years 21.9% (NI average 21%).

The multiple deprivation measure is a composite score combining all the deprivation domains giving a final score of where need is concentrated across the community. Out of a total of 12 Super Output areas in Downpatrick DEA 7 are in the most deprived 50% and 3 of these are among the most deprived 25% namely Cathedral 2, Ballymote and Ardglass 1.

Downpatrick DEA

14.8% of the properties in the Downpatrick DEA have a broadband speed below 10Mb/s which is unsurprising given that 11 out of the 12 super output areas are in the highest 50% for access to services measure. However, 3 SOAs are in the top 25% for lack of access to services namely Ardglass 1 & 2 and Strangford. Rural isolation is a significant issue for communities in Ballyhornan, Bishops court and Killough along the coast. While Strangford is a similar distance from Downpatrick it benefits from the commuting and tourist traffic using the ferry crossing to the Ards peninsula.

The Employment deprivation domain illustrates the lack of opportunities for work in each DEA and in Downpatrick seven of the twelve Super Output Areas are within the top 50% most deprived with four in the top 25% category, namely Ballymote, Quoile 1, Ardglass 1 and Cathedral 2. The main form of employment in this area involves the argri-food and fishing sectors, local government administration, and like Newry, Downpatrick has many schools and a hospital providing jobs in the education and health sectors.

Poverty and Income Deprivation remains a key issue in Downpatrick DEA. The relationship between poverty, poor educational attainment and ill health is well documented. The current economic crisis has also led to social problems with many families living in debt.

The IDAC (Income Deprivation Affecting Children) 2017 Income Score for Downpatrick is 12.7%. This Income Score measures the proportion of the population living in households whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the NI median. However, when it comes to households with children under 15 years of age this score rises to 17.9% demonstrating that young families have less disposable income. In relation to the income measure of deprivation, 6 super output areas out of a total of 12 are within the top 50% most deprived areas and Cathedral 2 is within the top 25% most deprived.

Living Environment

Regards the living environment deprivation measure for the Downpatrick area seven out of the twelve super output areas are in the top 50% most deprived with Quoile 1 in the top 25%. Housing executive data tells us that there is 18.5% of domestic dwellings in a state of disrepair in the Downpatrick area the highest across the district, 3.6% households are overcrowded and 1.1% of domestic dwellings have problem scores and 84.7% of those with a disability were living in homes un-adapted to their needs. According to the Northern Ireland Living Environment deprivation measure there were 24.7% of the working age population who are income deprived in this DEA.

Safety and Stability

Crime levels in Downpatrick has increased in recent years with a considerable increase in instances of anti-social behaviour, vandalism, arson, violence, sexual offences, robbery, drug offences and offences recorded with a domestic abuse motivation. 2017 NISRA data remains unchanged with 3 out of the 12 Super Output areas among the top 50% most deprived on the Crime and Disorder domain. Although none of these are among the top 25% recent ASB in the Flying Horse and Model Farm area indicate a growing number of marginalised young people. In Downpatrick there were 402 incidents recorded with a Domestic Abuse motivation, above the NI average of 390 and second highest in the district, at a rate of 19 per 1000 of the population, 304 of these recorded as crimes. There were 1,173 antisocial behaviour incidents recorded also above the NI average of 950 and third highest across the district, a rate of 55 per 1000 of the population. The recorded crime for all offences was 1551, above the NI average 1180 and second highest in the district, a rate of 73 per 1000 of the population. There were 161 cases of serious violent injury or death, with 76 of these caused by unlawful driving. There were 428 incidents of violence without injury including harassment as well as 51 sexual offences were recorded the highest number in the district. Road safety data for 2020 indicate that there were 49 collisions, 7 of which were serious and 3 were fatal in the Downpatrick area. Of the 69 casualties 8 were seriously injured and 3 died which is above the Northern Ireland average.

Downpatrick DEA

Health

The Health and Disability domain illustrates that 7 out of a total of 12 super output areas are within the top 50% most deprived 4 of which are in the top 25% quadrant, namely Ballymote, Cathedral 1 & 2 and Quoile 1. Life expectancy at birth for males in Downpatrick is the lowest at 76.9 years. A death is considered treatable if it can be avoided through good quality healthcare however Downpatrick had the highest rate of treatable deaths at 101 per 100,000. Avoidable deaths are defined as both preventable and treatable and two DEAs in Newry Mourne & Down are worse than the NI average namely Downpatrick at 273 just behind Newry. The standardised death rate caused by smoking in Newry Mourne & Down was at its second highest in the Downpatrick DEA at 159 per 100,000 higher than the average in the district and in Northern Ireland. When it comes to premature mortality or potential years of life lost Downpatrick comes in at the top with 8.8 years lost.

In 2020 smoking during pregnancy was above the Northern Ireland average in three of the DEAs that is Downpatrick, Newry, Rowallane. In Downpatrick 17% of mothers smoked while they are pregnant. Lower birth weight rate is also associated with less than optimal gestation and in Downpatrick 7.8% of mothers gave birth to underweight babies. Evidence has shown that lung cancer is directly correlated to smoking and Downpatrick has the second highest rate of lung cancer with 91 per 100,000, which is worse than the average for the district and Northern Ireland as a whole.

Three district electoral areas in Newry Mourne and Down consistently have higher levels of hospital admissions both generally and in emergency conditions these are Newry, Downpatrick and Slieve Gullion. For every 100,000 people Downpatrick had 25,203 general and 10,432 emergency admissions.

Hospital admissions related to drugs was the second highest in Downpatrick DEA with 200 per 100,000 of the population which is worse than the average for the district and Northern Ireland. Downpatrick also had the second highest rate of admissions to hospital related to alcohol which was 859 per 100,000 of a population. Likewise, when we look at admissions rates to hospitals for self-harm Downpatrick was the second highest at 117 per 100,000 population.

Between 2015-2019 there were 4.8 deaths from suicide per 100,000 the lowest for the district, however it must be noted that deaths are recorded when registered not when they actually took place and that the family may wish not to have suicide recorded as the cause of death due to their religious beliefs.

Education

In terms of the Education Skills and Training deprivation measure Downpatrick fares well with 6 out of 12 super output areas within the top 50% most deprived of these 3 are in the top 25% most deprived namely Ballymote, Cathedral 2 and Ardglass 1.

The proportion of school leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C (or equivalent) including Maths and English in Downpatrick DEA was 22.3% the same as the NI average. In 2021 to 2022 there were 4049 pupils in Downpatrick of those 1228 were entitled to free school meals which is 30%. There were 251 pupils who left school In 2021 In Downpatrick, of those 23.5% were in receipt of free school meals achieving 64.4% pass rate with five GCSEs including English and maths compared to 81.8% pass rate for those not in receipt of free school meals.

Out of a total of 4049 pupils in the DEA in 2022-2022 10.5% have a Statement of Special Educational needs and 15.9% are at Stages 1 & 2 on the Special Educational Needs Codes of Practice which is above average with SEN statements and the highest in the district.

According to the Department of Education's Statistics and Research team there were 19 pupils suspended from schools in the DEA in 2020/21 which is below the NI average of 43.

Downpatrick DEA

3% of 16-18-year olds leaving school in Downpatrick do not enter further or higher education or employment (NEET) above the NI average and the highest number in the district while 64.6% of 18-21-year olds also fall into the NEET category.

Diversity

Newcomer pupils in nursery schools are above average in Downpatrick DEA they are also above average in all other types of education including Primary, Post Primary and Special schools. Blackwater Integrated College have 6% and the De La Salle High School has 4%.

PSNI statistics give us an indication of the level of tolerance to those who are different or the lack of acceptance across the district. In the Downpatrick DEA they have recorded 5 incidents (above average) and 4 crimes with homophobic motivation, 10 incidents and 8 crimes were recorded with a racist motivation and 5 incidents along with 6 crimes recorded as sectarian in nature.

Youth Provision funded through EA Youth Service

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• East Down Rural Project• Lecale Area Project• Reach Project in Primary Schools• Delamont Outdoor Learning Residential Centre• Patrician Youth Centre• Ballyhornan Youth Club• Cumann Óige Leath Chathail	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Downpatrick Group Scouting Ireland• St Colmcille's Youth Club• St. John Ambulance Downpatrick Badger Sett• Youth Initiatives Downpatrick• 1st inch Scout Group
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Non-EA funded youth provision includes Jamboree for BAME young people and Autism Families.

Downpatrick DEA has both Voluntary representation on the Local Advisory Group.

The area is also supported by Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership which is a community support agency operating across the Ballymote and Neighbourhood Renewal areas in the town. The Partnership has played a key role in local regeneration and has been laying the foundations for renewal in the areas of community, economic, social, and physical infrastructure. Some of the groups represented are Downpatrick Community Collective, Flying Horse Ward Community Forum and Model Farm Community Association.

The County Down Rural Community Network is an umbrella organisation working throughout Downpatrick and beyond supporting community development with strategic themes of empowering, connecting and strengthening communities, supporting and enabling a strong community voice, providing services to members and developing an adaptive and sustainable organisation . <http://countydownruralcommunitynetwork.com/>

Survey Findings – Focus Groups in Downpatrick

A total of 8 focus groups took place in Downpatrick with 92 young people each facilitated by a youth worker. The tables collate the responses below:

Downpatrick DEA

Table 1 – Focus groups response broken into Areas for Action:

Name of DEA Area Downpatrick Area Project	The Environment	Health & Well Being	Living in safety & stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of opportunity, Good relations
Within your own community What are the concerns you have in relation too?	<i>Burnt signs Chopping down of trees Fires Road burnt Littering</i>	<i>Stress/ Depression Coping with social anxiety Increase use of vapes/ Alcohol Bullying Lack of confidence and Self Esteem <u>Self harm</u> Struggling with Sleep Making Friends Always feeling the need to be perfect. Friendship Fall outs / Toxic friendships Puberty Sexuality Questions Body Image / Eating Disorders</i>	<i>YP <u>Don't</u> feel safe within their community (General) Young women _cat calling/ living in a misogynistic environment Fire starters, stone throwing, vandalism in local community Family problems <u>There's</u> nothing for us to do here.</i>	<i>Stress over exams Struggle to get a part time job without experience Managing Homework load</i>	<i>Racist comments from YP and adults Support needed for YP from LGBTQIA+ Community – Education for those who are ignorant to harmful comments Them and us mentally about people from different backgrounds</i>
What Youth Services do you feel are needed to help with your concerns	<i>Social Action projects Intervention programmes (OLS)</i>	<i>outdoor programmes / Building Resilience / Opportunities to build confidence and <u>self esteem</u> / Provide information/ Someone to talk to/ A safe place/ Somewhere to chill and make friends /LGBTQIA+ support /</i>	<i>Intervention programme Detached / outreach work Support for those affected by living areas with safety concerns Promoting sense of community, supporting <u>yp</u> to feel part of and ownership for their own community. Provide a safe place Offering what young people request</i>	<i>Homework clubs Stress management techniques Employability opportunities</i>	<i>Cultural programmes TBUC Awareness training Local level Events highlighting the positives of young people</i>

Table 2 – Focus groups response broken into Areas for Action:

Name of DEA Area Downpatrick	The Environment & Climate	Health & Well Being	Living in safety & stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of opportunity, Good relations	Participation
Within your own community What are the concerns you have in relation too?	<i>Sustainability "Community is a tip"</i>	<i>Rising number in LBGTQI young people Lack of knowledge around the benefits of self-care <u>No where</u> to hang out with friends Limited mental health services for young people</i>	<i>Drug dealing within communities Anti-Social Behaviour incidents No community spirit "No idea what happens in my community"</i>	<i>Too much emphasis placed on results for schools Not enough vocational skills courses in schools</i>	<i>Lots of foreign national people moved into the town Limited career prospects</i>	<i>Not feeling connected to local community Lack of Outdoor education opportunities Lack of leadership training opportunities Lack of Volunteer development opportunities Not having a say in within local communities Poor transport links</i>
What Youth Services do you feel are needed to help with your concerns	<i>Horticulture Grow your own programmes Upcycle initiatives linking with men shed initiatives Sharing & Promoting life skills Community clean up initiatives, possible links with Live here love here, local council etc.</i>	<i>mindfulness, relationship, <u>self-awareness</u>, <u>creative arts</u>, health & fitness alcohol awareness drugs awareness sport & fitness gender specific Healthy Eating Social Action projects Sexual health <u>risk taking behaviours</u>. <u>Managing risk</u> positive relationship</i>	<i>Detached Youth work, Drug and Alcohol risk taking, outreach initiatives, interagency working Outreach Initiatives, early intervention high energy activities, diversionary programmes Increase in generic youth provision Social Action projects</i>	<i>Possibly more practical courses eg: Dofe & John Muir award & OCN courses More life skills learning courses within Youth Service provision, General Life skills, independent living, managing money</i>	<i>Cultural identity and Diversity Residential and international opportunities, Inclusion programmes volunteering opportunities, leadership training</i>	<i>Increase in generic youth provision Social Action projects, programmes that develop a sense of belonging for young people Proficiency courses/ taster sessions eg: 6-week kayaking course- Archery – paddle boarding Mountain Biking etc. Increase in OCN Leadership training, Volunteer recruitment strategy and building support networks Increased Local & Thematic voice initiatives Capacity building to support community led youth provision</i>

Downpatrick DEA

Table 3 – Focus groups responses on Participation

PARTICIPATION					
	What do you gain from attending Youth Service Projects in your area	Why would Young people not access Youth projects in your area	Can you recommend some changes to increase participation	How do you think the Youth Service could gather the thoughts and opinions of young people	Are you aware of volunteering opportunities within the youth service
	<p><i>See friends and make new ones</i></p> <p><i>Confidence to be myself</i></p> <p><i>So much, I have learnt so much made great friends. Gained a number of qualifications, free experiences I wouldn't have had without youth service</i></p> <p><i>Been able to spend time with my friends and get involved in different projects</i></p> <p><i>A sense of achievement</i></p>	<p><i>Afraid of not fitting in</i></p> <p><i>Lack of confidence</i></p> <p><i>Fear of the unknown</i></p> <p><i>Do not have a link</i></p> <p><i>Anxiety</i></p> <p><i>Think <u>its</u> no cool</i></p> <p><i>Don't want to be first friend to go</i></p>	<p><i>Go on more trips</i></p> <p><i>Make it fun element Further based within communities</i></p> <p><i>Develop young men's work</i></p> <p><i>Develop KS3 within De La Salle School</i></p> <p><i>Residentials</i></p> <p><i>Be more flexible, be quicker at organising trips</i></p>	<p><i>Talk to youth works</i></p> <p><i>Go into school, form classes</i></p>	<p>Yes,</p> <p>Youth leadership training</p> <p>Volunteer with junior group</p>
Numbers of YP surveyed in each age range	<p>9-13 years</p> <p>40</p>	<p>14-18years</p> <p>40</p>	<p>18-25 years</p>	<p>Total number YP surveyed</p> <p>80</p>	<p>Are the YP surveyed</p> <p>35 attached 45 unattached</p>

Key priorities – Downpatrick

Health & Wellbeing is highlighted in NISRA data tables and other research as a being a significant issue. Health outcomes are not great in this area with many indicators scoring the second lowest behind Newry. This area has the highest rate of buildings in disrepair which would also impact on mental and emotional health. Young people are particularly concerned about unhealthy lifestyles in terms of alcohol and drug misuse, sexual behaviours, bullying, vaping and gambling. They note the impacts on their own mental and sometimes physical health causing them to feel isolated and struggling with low confidence and self-esteem. Smoking cessation programmes for young women will help address the rates of smoking during pregnancy. Young people want a mental health support and a safe space to help them deal with anxiety and lack of social skills post Covid as well programmes to build resilience. There is a need for gender-based programmes using the Circle of Courage Model to address the attitudes and expectations young men and young women are facing and increase on their sense of belonging, independence, generosity and mastery.

Living in safety and stability is a significant issue especially in communities where there is low income, unemployment and crime, such as in Cathedral, Ardglass and Ballymote. Anti-social behaviour, deaths on the road, domestic violence and crime for all offenses are above average here. Staff and young people feel that there may be cases of under reporting of crime due to lack of confidence in the PSNI so actual figures could be much higher. Young people site concerns of domestic violence, anti-social behaviour, drugs, gangs/paramilitaries and not feeling safe. Young women have described an increase in sexist and misogynist attitudes among their peers and say they don't feel as safe as they used to. This affects them by not wanting to mix outside of their friendship group or get involved in local activities with young men.

Downpatrick DEA

Some young men have become marginalised in the estates and this has led to increased ASB. Targeted interventions and a multi-agency approach is required to begin to address this. However, young people who engage, welcome youth centres as safe spaces, offering thematic programmes or activities that encourage getting out into the natural environment supporting their mental health.

Learning & Achieving In terms of the education, skills, and training, Ballymote, Cathedral 2 and Ardglass 1 scores the lowest. Young people are concerned about school anxiety in meeting deadlines or passing exams, the focus on results, lack of educational supports at home and in school resulting in low confidence levels. Young people would like a range of learning supports, life skills, informal/vocational opportunities. There are several primary schools in the area and 5 post primary schools. Statutory staff currently deliver the Learning Together programme in 3 of the post primary schools, St Marys High School, Blackwater Integrated and De La Salle High School. The youth service aims to strengthen links with Further Education colleges like SERC to engage with young people who want to enhance their career chances by gaining experience in volunteering or gaining accreditation in Youth Leadership or other practical courses. There is an appetite for practical training either in the outdoor environment or life skills such as money management.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity, and Good Relations. Young people are concerned with the increase in sexist, racist and homophobic attitudes among their peers and the limited opportunities to engage with other cultures. Young people want more opportunities such as good relations work including other cultures and international visits to widen their horizons. A growing minority of newcomers to the community will require help from schools with language classes, orientation and integration supports. Cultural awareness programmes will provide opportunities to celebrate key milestones and annual events to build bridges. The youth service will work to integrate young people from minority ethnic communities into existing provision or inclusion programmes and give them the same opportunities to progress as indigenous young people. There is room for awareness raising programmes and ways to acknowledge the fears of local young people to the change in demographics in the community. TBUC programmes funded by the Executive Office will offer opportunities to deliver both single identity and contact programmes that will help address this.

Environment & Climate raises concerns in terms of arson, roads, signs and trees getting burnt, littering and general appearance of the area. Unusual weather has left people unsure as to how their actions can impact on that. The role of the youth service would include awareness raising programmes, workshops on the causes of climate change, mini enterprises on ways to generate electricity as well as opportunities for social action projects and community clean ups. Programmes with the Wildlife Trust and the nature reserve at the Quoile should help to explain the impact on the natural environment and animal life.

Location of services recognise the high proportion of young people falling within deprived communities, and their need to access provision in areas such as Cathedral 2, Ballymote and Ardglass 1. A range of provision is supported within the statutory and voluntary sector which are complementary in nature alongside Generic non-targeted providers. Statutory staff will have responsibility for the delivery of youth work initiatives within schools determined by resourcing levels.

Core youth provision will be prioritised throughout the area offering a wide range of curriculum programmes as defined by the 'Model for Effective Practice' (DE 2011). The focus of the curriculum will reflect issues raised in the assessment of need and the programmes requested by young people in the focus groups. There is a need to ensure young people from the Neighbourhood Renewal areas have access to core youth provision to meet their needs and prevent the emergence of marginalisation.

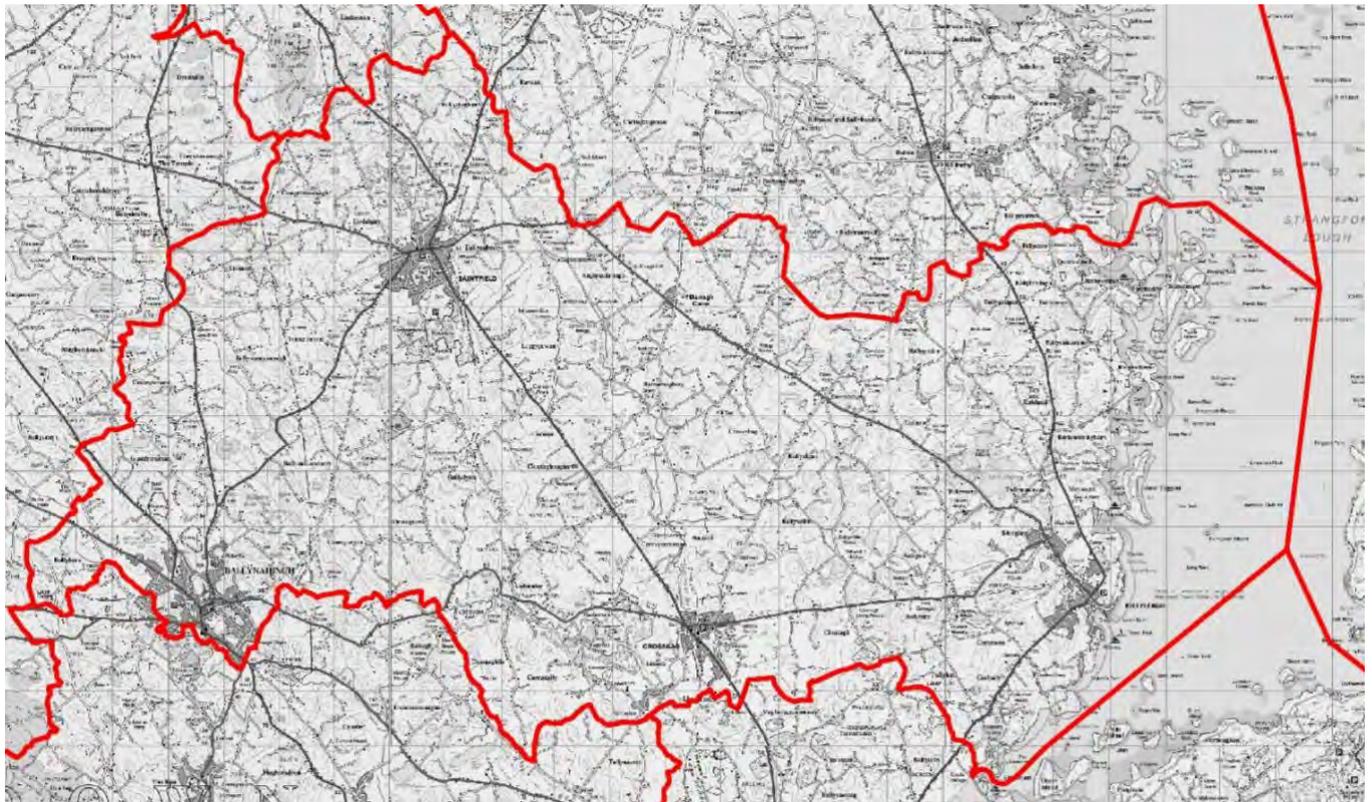
Targeted Provision will be offered by full time statutory youth workers, while voluntary providers will work in collaboration with youth service staff to identify young people in need of this focused work. Outreach Youth Work will operate as and when needed within this provision.

Downpatrick DEA

Detached Youth Work is a methodology that can be deployed based upon the assessed need and resources available by the youth service. An education first approach will be taken by youth workers deployed under this remit, with some capacity to support key partners in addressing antisocial or risk-taking issues or at times of heightened tensions in July, August and October. The Ballymote, town centre and Killough village are areas where there has been evidence of this approach needed to engage with marginalised young people. We note that the youth service is one piece of a wider jigsaw of government bodies that is required to address social challenges in communities.

Additional Supports can be deployed to address many of the issues identified above. It is recognised that Youth Services have a role to play in supporting other lead statutory and voluntary organisations to address these issues. As such youth services will be a supportive partner in these instances. Local EA controlled Youth Services will also employ the use of FLARE (Mental Health Worker), CADI (Creative and Digital Arts Worker) and OLS peripatetic (Outdoor Learning Worker), to address the emerging needs of young people.

Rowallane DEA



Number	Super Output Area	Rank
7	Ballymaglave_1	396
8	Ballymaglave_2	475
10	Ballynahinch East	283
29	Derryboy_1	716
30	Derryboy_2	464
56	Killyleagh	381
57	Kilmore_1	735
58	Kilmore_2	693
67	Saintfield_1	771
68	Saintfield_2	781

Rowallane DEA

The Rowallane DEA contains 5 wards, Saintfield, Derryboy, Kilmore, Ballynahinch and Crossgar & Killyleagh which includes the 10 super output areas (SOA) listed above. It stretches from Kilmore in the south to Saintfield in the north with Ballynahinch in the west and Killyleagh in the east. Along with the urban centres already mentioned villages include Raffery, Derryboye, Listooder and Shrigley. The Down Coast Line is an area of outstanding beauty with accessible beaches, yacht clubs, coastal rowing clubs and canoe trails across Strangford Lough. Killyleagh castle which is still inhabited is home to royalty and famous sons of the town include Hans Sloan and David Healy.

The Rowallane DEA is characterised by significant areas of affluence with few super output areas making it to the top 25% in any deprivation domain. The communities of Ballynahinch East and Killyleagh are the highest ranking presenting a few inherent problems. This area is characterised by issues such as higher than average rates of deaths on the roads, mothers who smoke while pregnant, children on stage 1 or 2 of the Code of Practice and deaths from intentional self-harm.

Key Statistics

Rowallane DEA has an approximate population of 21,030. 4,040 are aged 0-15 years 19.2% below the NI average of 21%.

The multiple deprivation measure is a composite score combining all the deprivation domains giving a final score of where need is concentrated across the community. Out of a total of 10 Super Output areas in Rowallane DEA, 3 are in the most deprived 50% none of these are among the most deprived 25% demonstrating that this community is relatively affluent.

9.9% of the properties in the Rowallane DEA have a broadband speed below 10Mb/s which is unsurprising given that 8 out of the 10 super output areas are in the highest 50% for access to services measure which illustrates their rurality. However, 3 SOAs are in the top 25% for lack of access to services namely Saintfield 2, Kilmore 1 and Derryboy 2.

The IDAC (Income Deprivation Affecting Children) 2017 Income Score for Rowallane is 12.4%. This Income Score measures the proportion of the population living in households whose equivalised income is below 60 per cent of the NI median. However, when it comes to households with children under 15 years of age this score rises to 18.7% demonstrating that young families have less disposable income illustrating pockets of financial deprivation. The relationship between poverty, poor educational attainment and ill health is well documented. The current economic crisis has also led to social problems and many families living in debt. In relation to the Income measure of deprivation, 4 super output areas out of a total of 10 are within the top 50% most deprived areas.

The Employment deprivation domain illustrates the lack of opportunities for work in each DEA and in Rowallane four of the ten Super Output Areas are within the top 50% most deprived which is most likely mitigated by the area's proximity to Belfast and Lisburn.

Living Environment

Regards the living environment deprivation measure for the Rowallane area four out of the ten super output areas are in the top 50% most deprived with Derryboy 2 being in the top 25%. According to this measure there were 16.5% of the working age population who are income deprived in the DEA. Housing executive data tells us that there is 14.8% of domestic dwellings in a state of disrepair in the area and 85.9% of those with a disability were living in homes unadapted to their needs. The rate of household overcrowding was 2.9% and 2.1% of domestic dwellings had local area problem scores.

Rowallane DEA

Safety and Stability

Crime levels in Rowallane have remained constant in recent years with instances of violence, sexual offences, robbery, drug offences and offences recorded with a domestic abuse motivation. 2017 NISRA data remains unchanged with 2 out of the 10 Super Output areas among the top 50% most deprived on the Crime and Disorder domain.

In Rowallane there were 314 incidents recorded with a Domestic Abuse motivation below the NI Average of 390, at a rate of 15 per 1000 of the population, 197 of these were recorded as crimes. There were 741 antisocial behaviour incidents recorded below the NI Average of 950, a rate of 35 per 1000 of the population. The recorded crime for all offences was 801 again below the NI average 1180, a rate of 38 per 1000 of the population. There were 76 cases of serious violent injury or death, 36 of these were caused by unlawful driving. There were 251 incidents of violence without injury including harassment as well as 30 sexual offences were recorded. Road safety data for 2020 indicate that there were 44 collisions, 7 of which were serious and 2 were fatal in the Rowallane area. Of the 75 casualties 13 were seriously injured and 2 died which is above the Northern Ireland average.

Health

The Health and Disability domain illustrates that 4 out of a total of 10 super output areas are within the top 50% most deprived. Although no SOAs fall within the top 25% Ballynahinch East and Ballymaglave 1 fall within the top 40% most deprived areas.

Life expectancy at birth and at 65 is generally better in this area except for females at birth where the average age is 82.6 years. A death is considered preventable if it could be avoided by public health interventions in the broadest sense, this area has the lowest number of avoidable and preventable deaths across the district at 200 and 126 respectively. The standardised death rate caused by smoking in Newry Mourne & Down was at its lowest in this DEA at 121 per 100,000.

In 2020 smoking during pregnancy was above the Northern Ireland average in three of the DEAs that is Downpatrick, Newry, Rowallane. In Rowallane 15.4% of mothers smoked while they are pregnant. Two DEAs stand out above all the others in Newry Mourne & Down for healthy birthweights in new-borns these are Rowallane at 93% just behind the Mournes. Lower birth weight rate is also associated with less than optimal gestation and in this area 5.7% of mothers gave birth to underweight babies. Studies show that low birth weight is a major determinant of mortality, morbidity and disability in infancy and childhood and also has a long-term impact on health outcomes in adult life.

Three district electoral areas in Newry Mourne and Down consistently have higher levels of hospital admissions both generally and in emergency conditions these are Newry Downpatrick and Slieve Gullion, however Rowallane had the lowest number of general and emergency admissions to hospital at 19,991 and 7822 respectively.

Between 2015-2019 there were 12.4 deaths from suicide per 100,000 higher than the average for the district and NI as a whole, however it must be noted that deaths are recorded when registered not when they take place and that due to their religious beliefs the family may wish not to record suicide as the cause of death. The crude suicide death rate per 100,000 population in Rowallane was the second highest behind Slieve Croob with 19.

Rowallane DEA

Education

In terms of Education Skills and Training deprivation measure Rowallane has 3 out of 10 super output areas within the top 50% most deprived.

Child Poverty levels indicate the almost ¼ or 23% (807) pupils out of a total pupil population of 3535 post primary pupils were eligible for Free School Meals in 2020/21 below the NI average of 25.6%. There were 245 pupils who left school in 2021 in this DEA. Of those 15.9% were in receipt of free school meals achieving 56.4% pass rate with five GCSE S including English and maths the lowest across the district and below the NI average of 59.8%. This is compared to an 85% pass rate for those not in receipt of free school meals.

The proportion of all school leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSES at A*-C (or equivalent) including Maths and English in Rowallane was 19.5% below the NI average of 22.3%.

Out of a total of 3535 pupils in Rowallane during 2021-2022 7.2% have a Statement of Special Educational needs and 12.5% are at Stages 1 & 2 on the Special Educational Needs Codes of Practice which is above average with SEN statements. 1.8% of 16-18-year olds leaving school in Rowallane do not enter further or higher education or employment (NEET) while a much higher 61.1% of 18-21-year olds also fall into the NEET category. According to the Department of Education's Statistics and Research team there were 22 pupils suspended from schools in the Rowallane DEA in 2020/21 which is below the NI average of 43.

Diversity

PSNI statistics give us an indication of the level of tolerance to those who are different or the lack of acceptance across the district. In the Rowallane DEA they have recorded 3 incidents and 2 crimes with homophobic motivation, 3 incidents and 1 crime was recorded with a racist motivation and 3 incidents along with 1 crime recorded as sectarian in nature making this area a relatively safe place to live.

Youth Provision funded through EA Youth Service

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rowallane Area Project• Reach Project• Killyleagh and Shrigley PT Youth Club• The Edge• 1st Saintfield Scout Group• 2004 (Ballynahinch) Squadron RAF Air Cadets• 2nd Saintfield Boys' Brigade• 2nd Saintfield Presbyterian Church Youth Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 87th NI Lissara Presbyterian Girls' Brigade• Crossgar Youth Club• First Saintfield Girls' Brigade• Killyleagh Girls Brigade• Raffrey Girls Brigade• Saintfield Boy's Brigade• Killinchy Prebyterian Youth Council
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The Rowallane DEA has representation on the Local Advisory Group in terms of statutory and community organisations.

The area is also supported by the Rowallane Youth Advisory Group which is a sub-group within the DEA made up of key stakeholders with a vested interest in supporting young people while diverting them from anti-social or risk-taking behaviours. Clanmill and Choice Housing Associations have played a key role in local regeneration and have, through a range of initiatives, been laying the foundations for renewal in the areas of community, economic, social, and physical infrastructure. Other community associations in Ballynahinch, Langly Road, Killyleagh and the Saintfield Community Development Hub collaborate with youth workers to support recruitment for programmes, assess need and advocate on behalf of young people in their area.

Rowallane DEA

The County Down Rural Community Network (CDRCN) is an umbrella organisation working throughout the Rowallane area supporting community development with strategic themes of Support & Capacity, Resource & Finance Services, and Health development.

Statutory partners such as the PSNI, Youth Justice Agency, Local Council, Health Trust, PHA and PCSP provide financial and in-kind support to enable all ages to access services and benefit from awareness raising workshops and personal safety advice.

Survey Findings – Focus Groups in Rowallane

A total of 5 focus groups took place in Rowallane with 50 young people facilitated by a youth worker. The tables collate the responses below:

Table 1 – Focus groups response broken into Areas for Action:

Name of DEA Area Rowallane	The Environment & Climate	Health & Well Being	Living in safety & stability	Learning & Achieving	Diversity & Equality of opportunity, Good relations	Participation
Within your own community What are the concerns you have in relation too?	Town looks unkept Littering	Place to hang out – come and go when we want New and exciting events Lack of awareness around looking after your physical health Breakfast club *	Lack of a safe space Drink and drugs within the communities Not always the young people causing the anti-social behaviour Lack of understanding around other cultures and communities	Experience new things Help with achieving in schools Opportunities to complete qualifications outside school Opportunities to volunteer	Language barrier Ukraine Families	Little opportunities to --take part in outdoor activities -experience new environments or cultures Having little to no say in the community
What Youth Services do you feel are needed to help with your concerns	Running an environment <u>6</u> <u>week</u> workshop completing practical activities in the community.	Providing more one-off drop-in events in communities for young people to attend Providing opportunities to learn more about healthy eating, learning how to cook and exercise.	Outreach Drugs and Alcohol awareness events for parents and young people (partnership events)	Completing different qualifications through outdoor learning, OCN'S Being a presence in the local schools and developing good partnerships Involving young people to become young leaders and take part in volunteering events and opportunities for qualifications	Providing cultural events for young people to take part in. Bespoke programs for young people.	Running 6-8-week outdoor learning programs such as sailing, biking, climbing etc Running a local voice within the area

Key priorities – Rowallane

Health & Wellbeing. Health outcomes are good in this DEA with higher life expectancy, lower numbers of hospital admissions, preventable & avoidable deaths and the lowest numbers of deaths due to smoking. Young people are particularly concerned about unhealthy lifestyles in terms of obesity, lack of exercise, loneliness, anxiety and stress. They note the impacts on their own mental health such as depression and peer pressure. Young people recognise that key programmes are supporting them such as outdoor learning, health programmes, access to support services and awareness raising initiatives. Smoking cessation for young women, healthy eating, physical exercise and challenging outdoor programmes to build confidence and self-esteem will be part of the Youth Service offering.

Living in safety and stability is also an issue within Rowallane. Young people cite concerns of safety within their own area of drug use and alcohol related incidents as well as anti-social behaviour. This affects them by not feeling it is safe to walk everywhere in their community or feeling pressured by peers leading them into trouble. Young people who engage welcome youth centres and projects as safe spaces in which to develop and make friends.

Rowallane DEA

This area has higher than average suicide rates and mothers who smoke while pregnant. It will be important to support young people with their health choices, physically, mentally and emotionally. They benefit from health and relationship programmes and are keen to do further work with partners such as the PSNI, PCSP, NIFRS, Coastguard, NIAS, Road Safety NI and Newry Mourne & Down District Council.

Learning & Achieving is satisfactory in this area with the education, skills, and training scores high in this DEA ranging from 238-856. However, for those pupils in receipt of free school meals, almost 1 in 4, the GCSE pass rate is low confirming the link between poverty and educational under achievement. We are also aware of the persistent underachievement among males in the Protestant community which is prevalent in this DEA. The statutory youth service engages with pupils in Ballynahinch to both improve their school readiness and close the performance gap between highest and lowest achievers. The post primary schools in Ballynahinch, Saintfield and Crossgar service pupils from a catchment area that extends beyond the DEA. By the same token many young people who live in the area travel to other DEAs for their education such as Downpatrick and Belfast. Young people have told us that they are concerned about exam stress/anxiety and motivation due to pressure to achieve. Young people would like a range of learning supports, informal/vocational opportunities and better links with businesses with work placements. Youth staff can offer accredited programmes using active learning methodologies that may prevent some young people from slipping through the net.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equality of Opportunity, and Good Relations. Young people are concerned with levels of intolerance within their community as more refugees and minority ethnic people reside there. Young people want opportunities such as good relations work and bespoke programmes that include other cultures to help break down barriers and strengthen positive relationships and mutual respect. Cultural events and more inclusive spaces to meet and engage with difference will go some way to help share cultural diversity.

Environment & Climate concerns include pollution from heavy traffic and ways to live sustainably that are affordable. Urban communities often have less opportunity to spend time in green spaces with clean air so public parks are a vital element for health promotion which all local councils are responsible for. Youth services will offer awareness raising programmes as well as opportunities for social action projects such as planting trees or recycling in youth centres/projects. Partnerships with the Wildlife Trust, the Coastguard and the Conservation Volunteers will enhance the learning and attitudinal change required to protect endangered species and preserve the natural assets in this area.

Location of services recognise 80% or more of the youth population live in an area situated within the more affluent areas near Montalto Estate in Ballynahinch, the Rowallane Gardens in Saintfield and the picturesque Killyleagh coastline on Strangford Lough. However, deprivation is still an issue in smaller pockets of communities such as Ballynahinch and Killyleagh. Provision is encouraged from voluntary/community sector partners and the uniformed and faith-based sectors to provide a generic non targeted provision across the district. Statutory youth staff will have responsibility for delivery of youth work within schools determined by resourcing levels and identified needs.

Core youth provision will be prioritised throughout offering a wide range of curriculum programmes as defined by 'Model for Effective Practice' (DE 2011). The focus of the curriculum will be reflective of issues raised in the area profile and the highlighted programmes requested by young people in the focus groups. Area based Youth Work may offer this provision in the absence of Voluntary partners in some communities.

Targeted Provision will be offered by Statutory services, and partners will work collaboratively to identify young people in need of this focused work. This includes initiatives such as the Rowallane Local Voice to encourage the voice of young people, health and wellbeing, gender-based and environmental awareness programmes.

Rowallane DEA

Detached Youth Work is a methodology that can be deployed based upon needs assessed and available resources by staff in the Rowallane Area Project with key partners in PSNI and Council. An education first approach will be taken by youth workers deployed under this remit. Collaborative working and information sharing have been established at specific times of the year or during times of heightened tension so that Local Youth Service staff can divert young people away from risk taking behaviours and support their personal safety.

Additional Supports can be deployed to address many of the issues identified. It is recognised that Youth Services have a limited role to play in supporting other lead statutory and voluntary organisations to address these issues. As such youth services will be a supportive partner in these instances. Local EA controlled Youth Services will also employ the use of FLARE (Mental Health Worker), CADI (Creative and Digital Arts Worker), OLS peripatetic (Outdoor Learning Worker) or Participation team to address the needs of groups in their community.

Youth Service