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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The rationale of the event was to engage with key stakeholders provide the opportunity to consult on the theme of Inclusion and the needs of our children and young people.

Many young people who attended the event stated that living in their rural community presents many challenges, including boredom and isolation, which creates more of a sense of exclusion as opposed to feeling included. There is a belief of a lack of facilities and access to services for young people to come together to promote inclusion, work together to break barriers and improve services for all young people that falls within the Section 75 grouping.

Key recommendations included more accessible services (operating times), review of curriculum and programmes on offer to young people to heighten awareness, break down culture barriers and address indifferences, accessibility to provision that included transport as a wider issue and having access to internet in youth centres for educational purposes. More collaborative working in the form of celebration events, inclusion and CRED programmes, camps and residential and accreditation opportunities were further recommended. Volunteering and employability was also seen as both a challenge and a recommendation for development.

1.1 Introduction heading 1 (e.g. Aims and Objectives/purpose)

Key aim is to develop an integrated approach to participation:

1. **Priorities for Youth 3.3** - The active participation of young people should be fostered, supported and evident across all youth settings
2. **4.20.3** - EA, in collaboration with key sectoral partners and young people, will develop options for a flexible contemporary model for strengthening participation in the youth service at a local, sub-regional and regional level. The model...must take into account existing and emerging participative structures and forums, but must link effectively to the delivery of the RYDP
3. **Children's Services Co-operation Act (N Ireland) 2015**
4. **Children and Young People's Strategy** - To ensure the participation and involvement of children, young people, families and communities in the integrated planning process

2.1 Methodology (Methods used, programme design)

2.1.1 There was a variety of methodologies used to capture evidence throughout the engagement event. Below is a range of the methods used:

- Menti-metre – online engagement tool through the use of iPads, to capture responses of a variety of questions used throughout the event. 8 tables of approximately 8 attendees had the opportunity to feedback and respond via the app. (see appendix 1 for results)
- Video interviews – range of key stakeholders took part in a video interview to capture evidence of the event and feedback on the needs of young people in relation to inclusion
- Flipcharts – flipcharts were scattered around the room for participants to feedback, recommend or respond to the needs of young people.
- Evaluations – 95% of participants completed the satisfaction survey and evaluation of the event. (see appendix 2 for results)
- Guest speakers – 3 young people from the Mid Ulster area gave 3 inputs into their lives and experiences of living from varying backgrounds and how youth service involvement has improved their confidence, self-belief and self-worth.
- Programme and invites – agenda and programme of the evening was on display and sent prior to the event (see appendix 3)

3 ATTENDANCE

- A total of 64 attended the Engagement event with the majority of attendee's young people that represented the Mid-Ulster council areas.

- Key stakeholders included local Councillors, Community and Voluntary Sector representatives, PSNI, Schools, Mid Ulster Council and EA Staff.
- 3 guest speakers – 3 young people giving their views and experiences

3.1 Attendance Figures

Attendance Group	Number
Young People	38
Local Advisory Members	20
Regional Advisory Members	1
Youth Work Staff	12
Other (Community and Voluntary Sector Representatives)	12

4.1 Heading 1 (Presentation & analysis of qualitative and/or quantitative feedback)

Key findings from the event included the following:

- Many young people feel a sense of disadvantage living in a rural setting that hinders their chances of feeling “included” in youth services.
- Transport is a major disadvantage to accessing services and youth provision –even more limited in evenings and weekends.
- Communication – language barriers, culture barriers and general feeling that not enough targeted services and programmes for young people i.e. ethnic minority background Young travellers and LGBT&Q.
- Employment – limited access to local part-time jobs – if jobs become available, it’s in the larger towns but transport to and from these jobs is difficult.
- Lack of transport and access to facilities leads to heightened sense of isolation and loneliness among young people – this may lead to long term mental health issues and lack of social skills.
- Education – with the lack of transport / limited access to services and wifi - further education, skills development and training is limited. More programmes should be developed to address this such as independent living skills, CV and employability programmes and accredited programmes.
- Curriculum and programmes – juggling time, lack of awareness and the feeling of not fitting in leading to social isolation. Additionally, more early intervention work needs to be done to tackle Racism and discrimination.

5.1 Heading 1 (Key outcomes/actions/recommendations to carry forward/put in place)

- More accessible youth provision at weekends and after school clubs / twilight programmes rather than set evening times that is unrealistic and difficult for young people to attend.
- More funding available for young people from more isolated areas to access residential, trips, programmes and summer events. CRED programmes, TBUC events and celebration events to tackle issues of isolation, racism and discrimination were also recommended.
- More volunteer opportunities and accredited programmes that leads to better job prospect opportunities for young people
- Wider curriculum for young people to access in youth settings that is beyond sport and activity based - i.e. First aid programmes, LGBT&Q programmes, leadership programmes, CV and employability programmes, Outdoor learning programmes etc.
- More collaborative approach between EA Youth Service and Voluntary and statutory organisations – communication of programmes and inclusion events to celebrate inclusion.
- Mobile youth units / Youth service presence in more rural settings that can be deployed to the more rurally isolated areas with access to Wifi.
- Accessibility and awareness of EA Youth Services – Promotion of Youth service – 70% of young people acknowledged they do not know what youth services are available in their own areas.

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What does Inclusion mean to you?

Mentimeter



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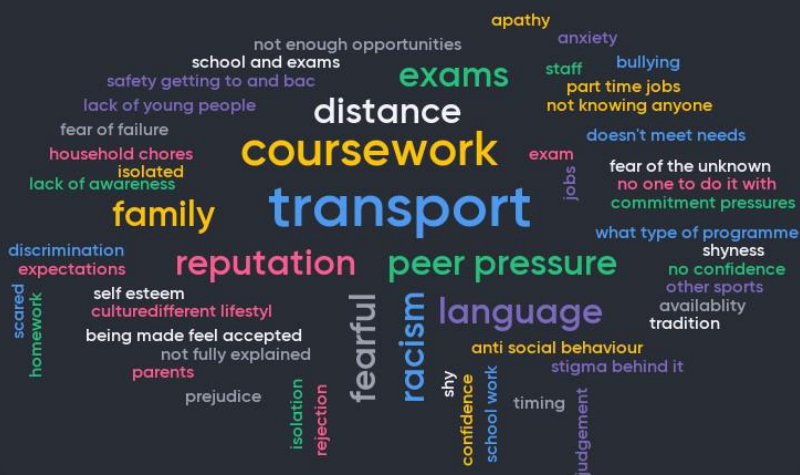
What do you feel are the most challenging inclusion issues for young people in Mid Ulster today?

Mentimeter



26

What makes you feel excluded or prevents you from getting involved in projects/events/programmes?



28

Do you feel that you know how or where to get help if you need it?



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Title: Stakeholder Participation Event – Young People and Inclusion

Venue: Cookstown Youth Resource Centre

Date: Monday 2nd December 2019 - 6:30pm – 9:30pm

1. Do you feel that the aims of the Participation Event were met?

Aim	Very well	Well	Partially	Not at all
(i) To engage with young people and other Youth Service stakeholders to identify the issues surrounding the needs of young people on the theme of Inclusion				
(ii) To discuss and identify concerns around the issues identified and how these can be addressed by Youth Services				

2. What did you find most useful about the event?

3. Overall would you say the event was...

Very satisfactory Satisfactory Not satisfactory

Results:

Aim 1 - 80% of young people and key stakeholders felt this aim was met very well and the other 20% felt it was well met. No participants felt it was either partially met or not met at all.

Aim 2 - 85% of young people and key stakeholders felt this aim was met very well and the other 15% felt it was well met. No participants felt it was either partially met or not met at all.

Satisfaction survey

90% of participants felt very satisfied with the event and the other 10% felt Satisfied. No one felt unsatisfied with event.





Local Advisory

Engagement Event

Young People and Inclusion
Monday 2nd December 2019
Cookstown Youth Resource Centre @ 6:30pm – 9:00pm

Agenda

6:30 – 7:00pm Registration - Tea / coffee / sandwiches on arrival.

7:00pm – 7:15pm Welcome - Open Remarks – Head of Service (Local Delivery) – **Lynsey Branniff**.

7:15pm – 7:30pm - Setting the scene – key note speakers (**Aine Owens, Ciaran Ridewood and Claudio Santos**.)

(3 young people share their experiences, as an LGBT&Q young person and its challenges, living with a disability and an insight of living in Northern Ireland as a young person from an Ethnic Minority background)

7:30pm – 8:00pm Workshop 1 (Issues affecting young people)

(Interactive session facilitated by youth work staff and young people to identify the main inclusion issues for children and young people. A range of youth work resources and activities will be used to generate discussion around these issues and the identified barriers)

8:00pm – 8:15pm - Tea / coffee Break

8:15pm – 8:45pm Workshop 2 (How can EA support young people / promote inclusion)

(Participants will be encouraged to consider and put forward ideas on how youth services can develop inclusive youth work, to include areas for development and ideas for celebration events)

8:45pm - 9:00pm – Evaluation and Closing Remarks.

- **Networking opportunities will be available on the evening, as members of the Mid Ulster LAG will host local groups / organisations / EA Youth services that promote and support young people under the theme of Inclusion.**
- **Stands, information and promotional material will be available on the night for all in attendance around support services to promote inclusion.**
- **Local partners such as Cara Friend, Bernardos, Dungannon Youth Resource Centre, Ogras Youth Centre, Mid Ulster Good relations and local PCSP, Mid Ulster Disability Forum, EA Regional Inclusion and FLARE team and local schools will be represented at the event.**