Regional Assessment of Need 2026 – 2029

Focus Groups

Full Data Report

Education Authority | Youth Service

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Introduction

to the focus group data report





This report is a support document to the Education Authority's Regional Assessment of Need 2026 to support the development and delivery of the Regional Youth Development Plan 2026-2029.

This document contains an unfiltered collation of all information provided by children and young people across the focus group period of engagement for the assessment of need.

All statutory and voluntary registered youth organisations were invited to facilitate a focus group on one or more of the eight themes for the regional assessment of need. This invite was issued via email to staff and organisations along with support materials to facilitate focus groups.

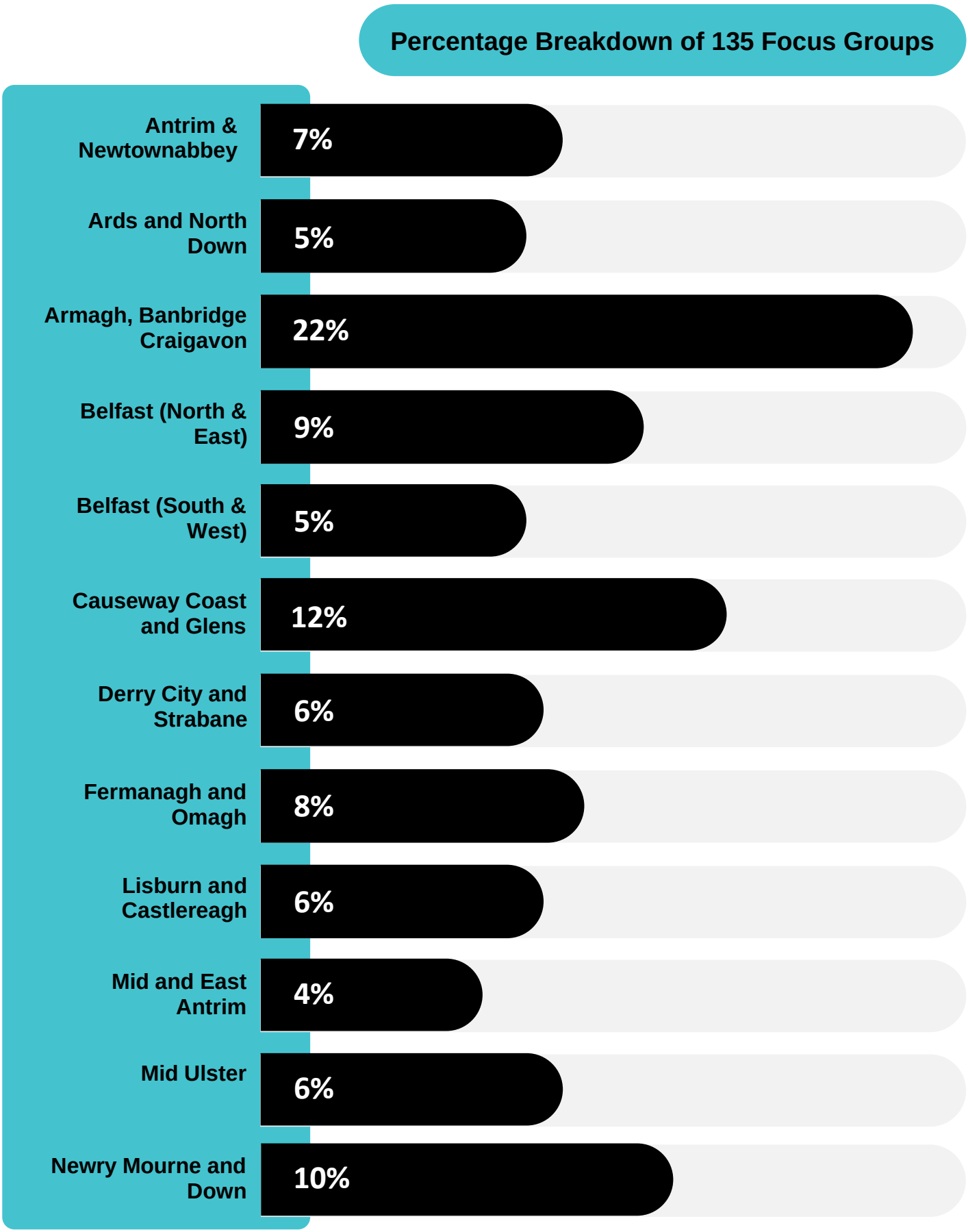
Detailed support materials and resources were provided designed in partnership with children and young people to facilitate the discussion. This included 'kick' questions to help get the discussion going which you will see reflected in some of the data responses. These resources are available online here.

Focus groups explored two key areas; validation of the survey findings to date (which launched 4 weeks prior to the focus group period) and to ask young people how they would like youth service to support and address their needs.

Focus groups ran between the 22 November 2024 until the 31 January 2025. It is important to note this report is only the presentation of the exact data received from the focus groups (which does not include corrections for spelling or grammar) and not an analysis, this will be contained within the final Regional Assessment of need report.

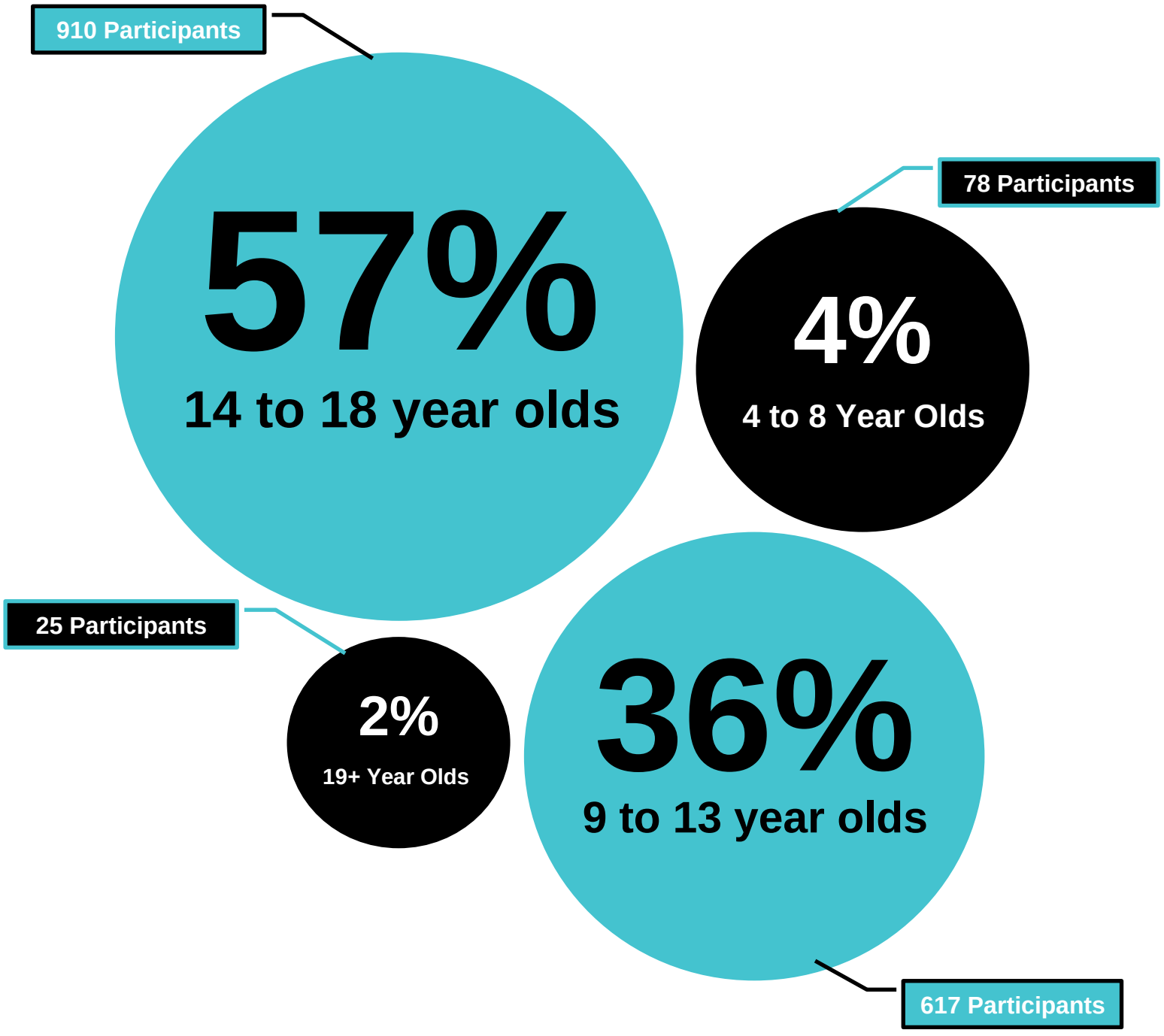
Response Demographics

By Council Area

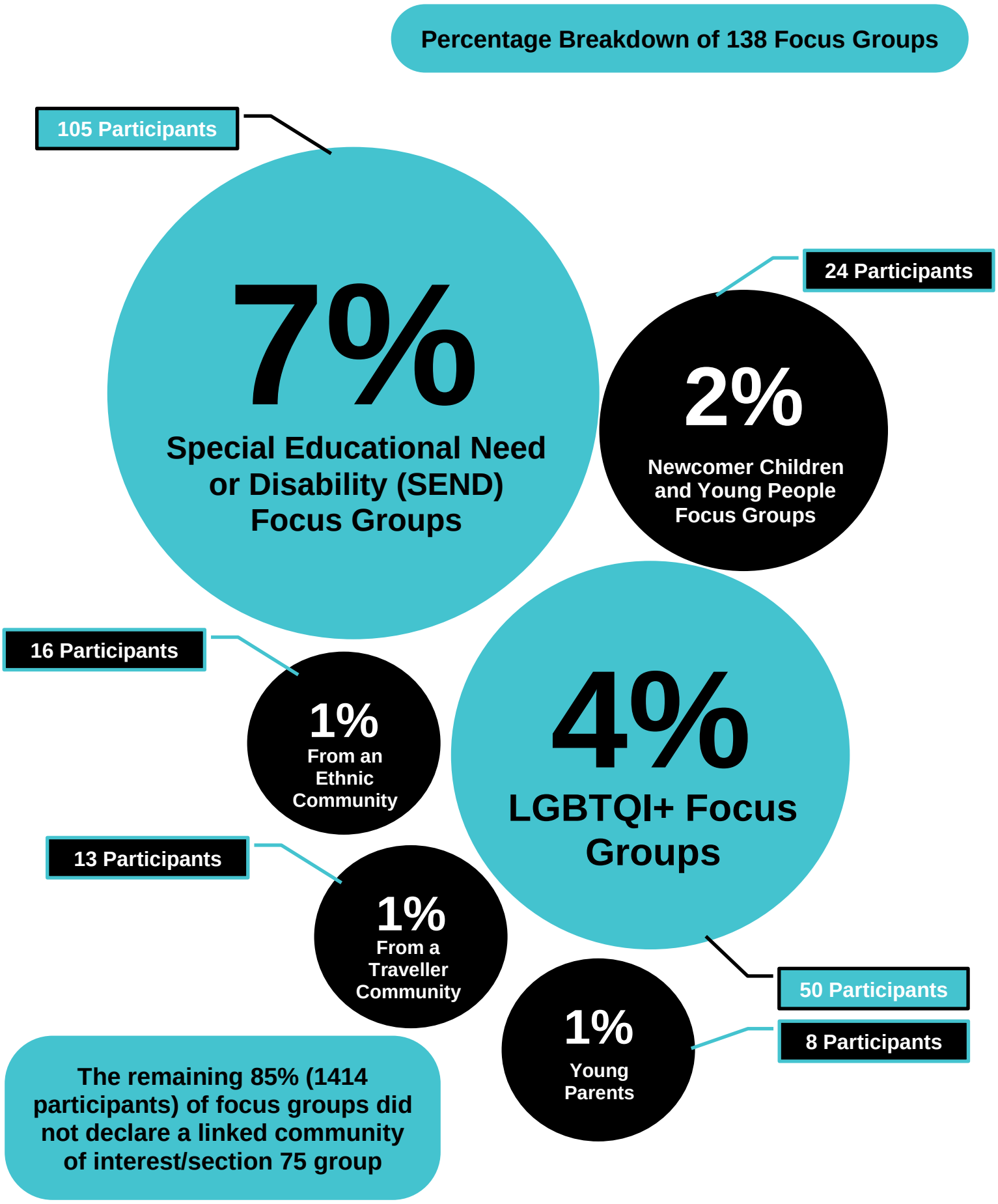


By Age Range

Percentage Breakdown of 1,630 Children and Young people



By Communities of Interest



The Responses

Emotional Health & Wellbeing 10

Access to Play & Leisure 45

Learning & Achieving 73

Living in Safety & Stability 95

Economic & Environmental Wellbeing 120

Making a Positive Contribution to Society 157

Respect for Young Peoples Rights 169

Good Relations & Equality 183

Strategic Theme 1: Emotional Health & Wellbeing

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	We are engaged in a project with Jason were we do Podcasting and we have a chance to talk about our health & wellbeing. For example one of the areas we are talking about is that there is not enough support for some of us in school and it impacts badly on our health & wellbeing. The main thing that we experience is anxiety! We find it hard to discuss these things with our teachers. We have a room called the "Haven" room which is for pupils at our school who are struggling with their wellbeing. It is a good idea, but some teachers think you are trying to get our of class if you ask for a "time-out". You also need to have a toilet pass, and you need a medical note to get one. All we need to do at our group sessions is ask for a time out or ask to speak with our youth workers and they help us, giving us the time we need. At our youth project we find our youth leaders listen us to , helping us talk about our anxiety and other stresers. We get to do work but we also have free time which helps us unwind. We also feel good about having a voice and that it is heard by our Youth Service. We feel like we are equals in our working relationships, not being spoken down and we feel like we are treated as young adults. This is important for our self esteem, making us feel good about ourselves and this is one of the reasons why we keep attending our youth projects.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	What influences or impacts your physical health? Your physical health can be influenced by a variety of factors, including Diet, Exercise: Sleep and Stress Management. Young people also expressed environmental Factors including Pollution and Toxins: Exposure to air pollution, Climate, Access to Clean Water and Healthcare, Habits and Addictions: Where are you able to find support and how useful is it? In Newtownabbey, Northern Ireland, there are several sources of support for maintaining and improving physical health. These resources include healthcare services, fitness facilities, community programmes, and local organizations including school and youth services. There is a number of Healthcare Services including GP Services, Social Care Trust and Pharmacies2. Fitness and Well-being Facilities. There is Loughshore Leisure Centre, Ballyearl Arts and Leisure Centre, Newtownabbey Running

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Club and Private Gyms: Mental and Emotional Support Services which also impact physical health are MindWise, Samaritans, Social Prescribing. Community-based programmes can be particularly useful for engaging with physical activity, especially for young people in need of social support to stay active. They also help foster a sense of belonging and reduce isolation, which benefits overall health. What opportunities can the youth service provide to improve or maintain good physical health? Here's an overview of the types of support and activities the EA Youth Service may provide, Sports and Physical Activity Programmes, Youth Clubs and Sports Initiatives, sporting Competitions and Events, Healthy Eating and Nutrition Education, Cooking Classes. Mental Health and Well-Being Support including Stress Management and Well-Being Programmes: Peer Support and Mentoring: Outdoor Adventures and Expeditions, Nature Walks and Environmental Activities: Impact on Health, Youth Engagement in Local Health Projects, Community Health Initiatives and volunteering Opportunities, Campaigns on Specific Health Topics, Health Information Distribution, Training and Leadership Opportunities. The EA Youth Service provides a variety of opportunities to improve and maintain physical health, including regular physical activities (sports, fitness classes, outdoor adventures) nutrition education and healthy cooking skills, mental well-being programs and stress management, Community health projects and awareness campaigns and youth leadership and personal development opportunities. What influences or impacts your emotional health? Here are some key influences on emotional health by young people who took the survey. Childhood Experiences, Trauma, PTSD, loss and grief, Anxiety and Depression, Chronic Stress, Self-esteem and Body Image, Relationships and Social Support, Social Isolation, Cultural and Societal Influences, Exercise and Physical Health, Sleep, Nutrition, Substance Use, Emotional Resilience, Coping Skills, Job or Academic Pressure, Financial Stress, Major Life Transitions, Faith and Spirituality, Political Uncertainty and Media Exposure. Where are you able to find support and how useful is it for your emotional health in Newtownabbey

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Mental Health Support Services such as Community Mental Health Teams, MindWise, Samaritans, private Therapists and Counselling Services, Local Support Groups, EA Youth Service, Religious and Spiritual Support. In Newtownabbey, there are numerous opportunities for emotional health support, ranging from mental health services and counselling to community programmes and peer support. Dealing with mental health issues, life stress, or emotional challenges. What opportunities can the youth service provide to improve or maintain good emotional health? Mental Health Awareness Workshops, resilience-building Activities, peer Support groups, mentoring programmes, access to professional Counselling, Crisis Support, Sports and Physical Activity, creative and Expressive Activities, mindfulness Programmes ,Relaxation Activities
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	12 to 13 Years	More conversations about our mental health & wellbeing. Better relationships with our youth workers were we can feel confident to go them with our issues. This means our youth club in Crumlin needs to be open all week with different age groups on different nights. We have a serious vaping problem in our friendship group/club. Vaping can impact badly on your physical health. For example, shortness of breath, popcorn lungs and brain development. More help for us is required to support us about reducing the potential harm we are doing to ourselves, For example, time outs during sessions to allow for vaping but no vaping at all other times. More educational programmes about the dangers of vaping. We cannot use many of our outside facilities in winter due to not having floodlights. This in turn does not allow us to participate in physical activities, e.g. football, team games etc. Please make our outdoor spaces accessible in winter. We look to our friends to find support and information about mental health & wellbeing problems. Youth Service should have more time set aside to focus on our mental health & wellbeing. We need more funds for food to help ensure people get something to eat.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	9 to 11 Years	What influences or impacts your physical health? - What you eat - Drinking lots of water - Making sure you take a bath - PE - Football - Food - Washing hands

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			- Washing - Exercise 2. What impacts your mental and emotional health? - Family Fights - Friends Fighting - Losing football match - death - brothers or sisters - Bullies - Social media - Cyber Bullying - teachers - friends - family 3. Where are you able to find support? - Parents - Siblings - family - friends - teachers - school counsellor - teachers - youth workers 4. What opportunities can the youth service provide to improve or maintain good physical health? - Cooking programmes and skills - exercise classes - do more football matches between youth clubs - promote good diet - cook healthy meals for young people - encourage different sports in club 5. How can the youth service better support mental and emotional health? - Listening to yp more - groups looking at mental health - bringing people in who understand and can offer advice.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	They can promote places that can provide the proper services required or educate people on how to maintain your physical health More outdoor programmes like residentials, mountain bike courses and more couch to 5kTheir website or social media or if they provide counselling. Support programmes in school and at youth clubs. Fundays so we get to see what they offer Youth services can provide good emotional health by

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			helping find support groups or do 1 on 1 sessions They can try and help provide better emotional support like counselling, like a one stop shop theme. Support young people going places such as to counselling, case conferencing etc. Their website or social media around making it easier to find information Youth service can provide good emotional help by linking with support groups and doing taster session in youth clubs or community They can signpost
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	9 to 11 Years	Trips outside of the club including linking up with the local leisure centre to do partnership work or reduced fees for young people Getting in sports coaches to support with physical health A running group like a couch to 5k and then doing Saturday couch to 5k . People who don't have friends make a club for them - Young people referring to those with ASD who find it difficult in mainstream setting - Alluded to quiet hour etc. Staff training mental health Fruit and more healthy stuff to eat and drink
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	The need for a varied sports curriculum and not the standard football and hockey - Some suggestions include bringing in more outdoor instructor, using the OLS peri worker more and basic fitness programmes. Membership for youth centres and link with local community centres around reduced membership fees. They listen to us and give us great opportunities to express our emotions Mental health groups Having fun and talking to youth workers They can help us and teach us how to control are emotions
Ards and North Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Living in a rural area the participants felt that they were disadvantaged in relation to opportunities to take part in physical activities. Due to lack of transport and the time it takes to travel home from school/colleges most young people are not getting home until 6.30pm - the rural area is very Sport orientated GAA/football clubs which does not suit every one. Participants suggested that Youth Service could respond by providing a weekly programme with the Outdoor Learning service to include water activities that where progressive and land challenges age related such as hiking, camping, accreditation courses. Participants felt that living in rural areas - poverty was a connection to their health and well-being particularly with the rise in the cost of living and transport systems - rural areas have little shops therefore pay more for food etc compared to towns where

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			there is more choice - this impacts on the families and young people to meet the cost of taking part in activities. Participants also raised the issue that rural Ards does not have an EA FLARE worker for emotional support.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Provide further opportunities that help enhance a young persons health and well being. For example, further inter club events like the ABC courage cup, ABC pool comp, ABC Bake off etc but more and different events like basketball. Also link in with council and get young people more into gyms with initatives like if you attend a youth club, you could also get discount with gyms or PT etc...
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Have more programmes on emotional well being. Including programmes around hygiene and healthy eating such as finding out how much sugar is in different drinks and food etc...
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Participants raised concerns about mental health stigma, stress from exams, and limited access to fitness facilities. They also discussed the environmental impact of vaping and smoking. Additional Points: Ensure all wellbeing services are fully accessible in Irish, with bilingual counsellors where possible. Create Irish-language apps or podcasts focused on mental health and stress reduction. Set up environmental clean-up events that combine health promotion with community service. Promote outdoor sports and nature-based activities through Irish-speaking clubs. Suggestions for Youth Service: Offer confidential mental health drop-ins where young people can talk without judgment. Provide free or low-cost access to gyms, swimming pools, and fitness classes. Deliver workshops on coping with exam stress and managing emotions. Run educational programmes on vaping, smoking, and environmental responsibility.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Regional Assessment of Need - Thursday 5th of December 2024 PAL Group – St. Patrick's College, Banbridge Health and Well – Being - How can youth workers help you if you feel you need support? Are we already doing it? A youth worker can help you by talking to you about how your feeling or what you need help with.

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			I don't know – you could go to someone you trust. I think Youth Workers can help you feel supported by just being there for you and listening to you whenever you need it because if I was in their position I would do the same. Do you think a lot of young people vape? Does your group see it as a problem? Yes and No because some people are only doing it for the crack and to fit in with groups and the hoods. Some people are doing it because they are struggling with family problems and mental health. Vaping is not wise, people who do it have something going on in their heads. No, I think vaping is not a problem because some people do it to help with their anxiety. Yes, I think a lot of young people vape, however I don't see it as a problem. They know what they are doing to their bodies and choose to do it anyway. If they don't know what it is doing to them they should not be doing it. Do you feel you get enough Sleep? Over all answer from group is, Yes. Would you like to participate in more team games – getting up and about in the Youth Centre? I would love to, it would be good fun. We should do more as more people would like than sitting at a table all of the time. Good Craic. Do you think you have enough opportunities to exercise, get involved in Sports? Do you want to? I participate in many activities, gaelic, gym and school football. I participate in Boxing I like to walk/ run with my dog I walk my dog and work I do dancing and go to the gym Do you think Anxiety and stress are a big thing for young people? I think a bit of stress is good for young people so they learn to deal with it in the future. But some people can't deal with it as good as others and can lead to bad outcomes. I don't think stress is good because it can lead to bad mental health and you can make bad decisions like self harm and suicide. Do you think young people struggle with Body Image? Looking Perfect? Yes, as seeing other people on the internet who look

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			'Perfect' Young people can start to compare themselves and people at a young age don't always act in the way they may think is right to make them 'Perfect'. Yes as young people are walking round school everyday and they don't want to be know as unpopular. What do you think are the top 3 issues/ challenges for young people – Health and Wellbeing Alcohol, drugs, vaping and smoking Feeling insecure which could lead to eating disorders or trying to change how they look. Social Media such as comparing themselves to others, inappropriate videos, photos or messages, bullying. Getting your driving test can make you more stress and going on the M1 for the 1st time. Do you know where to go if you or a friend needed help? Can you name any services? Yes, we can go to our school counsellor and the safe guarding team in school Yes a trusted classroom assistant, teacher, adult, someone that you trust. No named services given. Do you think young people have good relationships with each other? Depends, because some people can be rude and don't talk to you, but some people have good humour and get along with everyone. I think they can have a good relationship with each other to where they can have a good relationship with each other, have fun and get along with each other. But people take things to serious these days and that causes fallouts for stupid reasons.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	The young people involved already are aware of needs for peers and other young people in the centre around Anxiety and managing Temper and feelings emotions they did all feel that more could be done with respects from health providers and within school but did feel they were at a current juncture where they felt they had a voice listened too and were being encouraged to act upon the challenges and barriers they feel they are facing and being proactive in achieving positive achieveable outcomes through creating Mental Health First Aid Kits for a peer as well as other centre users within Brownlow to utilse when needed beyond the already youth created sensory room.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Influences on impact physical health- Drugs, Drinking, Smoking, Eating lots, lack of sport for free. Influences on emotional health - Bullying, Social media,

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			School. Where do you find support - Police, Youth Club, Youth Leader, NHS, Websites, Good Useful Support. Where are you able to find support and how useful is it - To find support you can ask a qualified Adults, People tend to reach out to school and wellbeing teams, people and teenagers often don't want to reach out to family and its important to understand that and support the person struggling, Finding help is important because people don't reach out and their mental health gets worse and people can harm themselves and people will have everyday impacts to normal everyday activities. What opportunities can the youth service provide to improve or maintain good physical health - The youth club could start going on trips that include sports such as Football, Gaelic, Dancing, Hiking ECT as well as healthy eating programmes. What opportunities can the youth service provide to improve or maintain good emotional health- Group Work, More, Free Thing, Talk, Trips.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Which skills do you learn through Youth Service ? Communication skills To make friends Hairdressing and Make Up Art and Friends Teamwork Listening Skills Respect Kindness Cooking Friends Make Friends Life Skills Cooking Baking Social Skills Confidence Communication Physical Skills
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	things young people had mentioned for physical and emotional well being were: *Outdoor sports facilities accessible to them

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			*Running clubs *Being able to use the EA outdoor learning centres (lack of availability for youth groups) *Fun physical activities *Coaching oppertunities/ Qualifications *Fidget toys/ resources for sensory needs *Music *Youth councilor within the centres (designated young person for people to talk to) *Mediation room *Spaces to be with friends For Poverty they added things from *When old enough help and support young people to get jobs *Learn and educate young people about money management and saving *Clothing banks/ Drop off for people to drop off clothes that could go to families and or homeless shelters etc *Opening later to provide warm spaces *Food banks/ drop offs to donate to people in need *food programmes/ feed us
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	9 to 11 Years	Irish dancing Gaelic/gaelic coaching Netball coaching Being with friends Going walks with dogs Stress balls Music Movies/films
Belfast (North and East)	No	9 to 11 Years	care about their physicals health and think that its important for their own wellbeing as its times to learn new skills, improve and be with friends
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Physical health impacted by, Substance abuse, family impacts, unhealthy eating habbit's, influences from friends and family (healthy wise) Domestic Violence and abuse- unhealthy relationships, poverty, malnourished, social anxiety not going out. Mental Health impacted by - friendships, relationships, who you surround yourself with, self esteem, how you view yourself, social media, expectations, bullying, schools, exams, pressure- keeping up with social life, grief, weather, substance abuse, poverty, feeling isolated, homeless, relationship break downs, fighting and arguing, failing, not feeling good enough. Support- youth clubs, family and friends, counsellor, youth worker heavily support young people, coaches (sports) teachers, support groups, services, realtionships (bf. Gf) depends on what is on how useful it is.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			What can youth service do for physical health- groups based on exercising, well being, confidence, self esteem, healthy cooking groups, access to free gym memberships for under 16 yrs old's, What youth service can do to help with mental health- 1-1's, groups, youth workers in schools, detached, having a space to socialize, sense of belonging, make things fun, activities, new experiences, issue based discussion groups, internationals, meeting new people Relationships Sexual Education is VERY important part of youth work role, educating is needed and is not given In schools, alot more resources put into this work- resources, groups based around this, how to stay safe, factual information, creative delivery. Relationship sessions healthy and unhealthy- domestic violence, abuse, recognising coercion and control . sexuality work explored, more safer spaces, vaping and addiction, substance abuse awareness sessions.
Belfast (North and East)	No	12 to 13 Years	- Young people discussed the changing culture of drugs/alcohol within their community and how these types of programmes are still relevant- expressed their concerns for friends who may be involved in this and what type of measures they could take or learn about to keep them safe - The group explored mental health and related this to body image and social media pressures they experience so again- internet safety is still quite relevant for them
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	What influences your physical health? - Exercise/ having a routine - Having a positive peer group that value their health - Eating habits - The cost of fizzy drinks in comparison to water - Lying in bed all day or being lazy - Substances, vaping smoking & alcohol What influences or impacts your mental and emotional health? - Stable family life contributes to positive mental health - Toxic friends are going to drag you down with them - Social media creates jealousy, and it is to easy to leave negative comments - Feeling pressured to try and fit into trendy clothes/shoes - Not having enough money to meet basic needs Where are you able to find support and how useful is it? - Household, friends, family, school, youth workers, peers, lifeline, counselling, teachers - Support can be found in youth centres, schools and local communities What opportunities can Youth Service provide to improve or maintain good physical health?

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			- Needs based programme and group with others that need the same support - Becoming more self-aware about how to articulate needs and issues - Trips, residentials, outdoor learning, internationals, activities How can Youth Service better support mental and emotional health? - Opportunities to attend group and interact with young people with similar difficulties - Strengthening relationships between young people and staff - More funding for mental health groups/organisations - Speaking one to one with us - Signpost young people when necessary
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people discussed their support within groupwork sessions with youth workers and school teachers and what stresses them .We also discussed what they do to release stress. Youth service response Funding for more youth provision/services in East Belfast
Belfast (North and East)	Young Parents	19+ Years	Mums discussed factors that impact their physical health : Anxiety which can keep them and their children indoors, at home. Not having transport or not being able to afford transport to attend leisure centers or gyms. They found the cold climate an obstacle and also the lack of safe green spaces. They though more physical health activities whilst in group with an onsite creche would be useful. The things they felt impact their mental and emotional health the most were; stress, pressure, parenthood, social media, difficult relationships, poverty, isolation, addiction, waiting lists for help and others judgement of them as young parents. They all felt that the young mums programme being able to provide a safe and inclusive space for them and a childcare facility on-site for their children which they have confidence in has enabled them to find support both from one another, myself and a counsellor that they can be referred to and be seen within two week period. A few of the mums found A &E as a useful place to find support, one found social services useful, and a few found their GP as a useful support. They thought youth service could provide more programmes and funding specifically for young parents programmes.
Belfast (South and West)	No	12 to 13 Years	Young people emphasised the importance of mental health support and having spaces for mental wellbeing, such as safe zones where they can talk or relax. There was a call for more outdoor activities like walking, group outings, and fitness activities to boost wellbeing. Suggestions to combat

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			stress included reducing screen time and encouraging mindfulness. Additional Points: Ensure that all mental health resources, workshops, and safe zones are available in Irish to support linguistic and cultural identity. Develop Irish-language mindfulness apps or materials specifically tailored for young people. Provide training for Irish-speaking youth leaders to facilitate peer-led mental health and wellbeing sessions. Encourage the integration of traditional Irish outdoor activities, such as céilí dancing or Gaelic games, into wellbeing programs. Suggestions for Youth Services: Create safe spaces specifically aimed at promoting mental health. Organise regular outdoor group activities such as nature walks or fitness days. Provide workshops on mindfulness and stress reduction techniques.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Issues such as mental & physical health, body image concerns, and anxiety were discussed. Suggestions for Youth Service: Provide free slots in local gyms to promote physical health and fitness. Encourage the establishment of programs or spaces for relaxation and mindfulness. Offer workshops to educate young people about managing anxiety and body image issues. Support activities that foster mental resilience, such as swimming and outdoor programs. Smoking and vaping among young people is a growing concern, especially the impact of plastic vape waste on the environment. The need for climate education to address broader health issues related to air pollution and smoking. Additional Points: Ensure all health and wellbeing workshops, including those on anxiety, body image, and mental resilience, are delivered in Irish to foster cultural relevance and accessibility. Provide Irish-language fitness and mindfulness resources, such as guided meditation videos or apps, to support young people in practicing self-care. Create Irish-medium campaigns to educate young people on

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			the environmental and health effects of smoking and vaping. Partner with local gyms and wellness centers to offer free or subsidised memberships for Gaelic-speaking youth, with bilingual staff where possible. Suggestions: Introduce workshops addressing the harmful effects of smoking and vaping on health and the environment. Incorporate climate change and health education into existing programs.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Stress Management Programs offered in Youth Centre's Health Days offered in the Youth Club - Head Massages
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	RAON Focus Group – St Mary's Limavady Seniors Tue 3rd Dec Your Health and Wellbeing What influences or impacts your physical health? The main thing that has an impact for those wanting to do physical activity is access to services. Locally hard to access, main provider is leisure centre or private gyms. The cost of this is not accessible to everyone. On a positive the leisure centre does offer concessionary rates for young people and special offers. There are several sports clubs but again these have costs for training sessions kits etc. Another import issue highlighted is that lots of young people don't want to access physical activities. There is a culture of staying indoors, gaming, and not getting outside apart from going to school. Where are you able to find support and how useful is it? Young people stated that once you know you want to use these types of facilities there is good support. With training classes and

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			inductions to help give information on how to safely use the equipment. This coupled with reduced fees and incentives makes it more attractive to Young people. There were still highlighted issues with finding free recreational spaces. As football and the 3g pitches being closed unless booked, with Charges. Free spaces like play parks close early or are dark in the winter with no lighting. What opportunities can the youth service provide to improve or maintain good physical health? Youth clubs are a good space for providing free physical activity with most youth clubs having access to a sports hall, especially when located within a school. There are always physical activities on offer either within evening sessions or through summer provision. It was mentioned about the links to good physical health and poor diet. There was a conversation around young people and energy drinks and how youth club promotes not drinking energy drinks. There is a level of education that needs to continue regarding diet and nutrition and its links to poor physical health. What influences or impacts your emotional health? Young people recognised a number of issues they face that impact their emotional health. This included: pressures from school and exams, friendships and relationship breakdowns, home life and the situations they face with family and gaming. It was recognised that some gaming was having negative effects on their mental health causing stress and anger specifically with competitive games. Where are you able to find support and how useful is it? The young people said that there is support out there however, mental health services through the doctor and to have access to mental health services like CAMS for counselling have waiting lists of about 12 months. They said there are other services for support through schools and youth groups or through attending youth programmes are positive mental health and coping strategies. The group talked about a programme within the club which

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			happened with FLARE earlier in the year. This ended with the young people producing notice board with information for others who attend the club which was helpful. Some also highlighted that from the advice given on these types of programmes that they do some of the suggested strategies when they are stressed like, exercise, running, walking or socialising with friends. What opportunities can the youth service provide to improve or maintain good emotional health? It was highlighted that the current services provided needed to continue. Having access to support and information was really important. They said that workshops were a good way to discuss and get support for their emotional health as well as having information about support displayed. It was stated that current activities especially as discussed previously regarding sporting activities and health initiatives in youth club should also continue.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	Key Feedback: Young people identified key factors affecting health and wellbeing, including: Positive factors: Mental health, healthy food, access to water, exercise, sleep, and brain health. Challenges faced: Alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, bullying, problems at home, and phone overuse. Increasing levels of anxiety, depression, self-harm, and suicide. "Wealth is your health" was emphasised as a key message. Additional Points: Ensure that all support resources, such as workshops and youth clubs, are accessible through the Irish language to promote inclusivity and cultural identity. Develop Irish-language mental health campaigns and materials tailored to young people to increase awareness and reduce stigma. Train Irish-speaking mental health professionals to address

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			the cultural and linguistic needs of Irish-language youth effectively. Suggestions for Youth Service: Provide more support resources, including: Youth clubs for regular engagement and support. Informational workshops conducted by experienced facilitators to educate young people about health and wellbeing. Workshops to help young people identify their "happy place" and build resilience. Increase collaboration with Northern services to provide more accessible mental health support.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	In terms of influencing your health and well-being, young people highlighted a number of things for both physical and emotional including; vaping, energy drinks, alcohol/drugs, exercise, school, friendships, social media and bullying to name a few, the group looked at it in a positive stance and negative stance. They then completed a blob tree colouring certain blobs under certain categories. negatives seemed to be aimed towards school, bullying and social media, where as youth club, exercise and eating good food made the young people feel good and happier. When looking then at the support available and how useful it is the young people noted: their youth centre provides great help and advice for health and well-being but because its only open certain evenings it held a barrier there. Doctors and hospitals again can give good advice however waiting times / appointment availabilities are a barrier and Childline was highlighted as a great help for emotional as its open 24hrs a day and can be used for a number of reasons. (please see more in evidence attached). In terms of what the youth service can do to maintain good health and well-being it was noted; continue with programme work to raise awareness, more trips / residentials for young people to gain new experiences. OLS for physical outdoor activities you wouldn't always get the opportunity to do. baking / cooking / life skills projects for young people to make healthier choices and have the skills to maintain this for later life. All evidence will be emailed over for further reading.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	Theme Health & Well Being Area The Glens DEA (RURAL YW) Age band 15-18 Male 0 Female 5 QUESTIONS

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			What influences or impacts your physical health? Low mood, Anxiety No access to independant travel Not the right opportunities Where you live What you eat Periods How heavy you are. What influences or impacts your mental and emotional health? School Parents Siblings Family Boys Music in a good way Food but not in a good way Sexuality Pressures/ stress of achieving unrealistic expectations of life. Body image Trauma in life Where are you able to find support and how useful is it? Physical Hurling clubs do not give support You are either sporty or not there is no in-between Teams- belong or don't Where are you able to find support and how useful is it? Emotional GP mental health team-Useless Don't understand Donta take seriously CAMHS FLARE -SHAUN- Brillant! SHIP- Ballymena School Counsellor No one really wants to listen or address the real problem Don't want to hear the problem just try to fix what they don't know. They don't ask enough questions (we are unable to just tell them the problem. We want a counsellor to explore the problem by questioning it until they clearly understand it.) Not guess solutions.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			What opportunities can Youth Service provide to improve or maintain good physical health? Colour Runs Duke of Ed Sports clubs should prioritise physical health NOT youth services other than to educate . How can Youth Service better support mental and emotional health? Supporting metal health is a complex. Each individual has a unique mental health. Safe place to talk about it. FLARE service Issues Nice to be able to talk about it openly.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	12 to 13 Years	The young people think the following impacts their physical health: Sports, what you eat, how much you exercise you do, what you do – hobbies, how much you sleep, ow much you go on your phone. The believe they are able to find support: At home from parents and family, at school, at youth club, at sports club. The youth service could provide opportunities to take part in physical activities, provide healthy snacks and deliver educational programmes. The group of young people suggested that school, friends, family, school work, emotions, weather, boredom/things to do all influence or impact their emotional health. They feel they are able to find support at home, at school, at youth club, talking to friends, counsellors, outside agencies eg Dry Arch. The said youth service can offer different programmes eg Take 5, someone to talk to, provide activities that keep you active and “allow you to do stuff”.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Key Feedback: Young people identified key factors affecting health and wellbeing, including: Positive factors: Mental health, healthy food, access to water, exercise, sleep, and brain health. Challenges faced: Alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, bullying, problems at home, and phone overuse. Increasing levels of anxiety, depression, self-harm, and suicide. "Wealth is your health" was emphasised as a key message.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Additional Points: Ensure that all support resources, such as workshops and youth clubs, are accessible through the Irish language to promote inclusivity and cultural identity. Develop Irish-language mental health campaigns and materials tailored to young people to increase awareness and reduce stigma. Train Irish-speaking mental health professionals to address the cultural and linguistic needs of Irish-language youth effectively. Suggestions for Youth Service: Provide more support resources, including: Youth clubs for regular engagement and support. Informational workshops conducted by experienced facilitators to educate young people about health and wellbeing. Workshops to help young people identify their "happy place" and build resilience. Increase collaboration with Northern services to provide more accessible mental health support.
Derry and Strabane	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	19+ Years	Young people shared they feel they have opportunities to participate in physical activities in BUD Club as they have weekly access to dance, hip-hop and Jo Jingles. The young people shared outside of this they spend a lot of time at home, and on devices. In order to improve young people health and well-being is to provide opportunities for young people to take part in activities that promote well-being, where they can be active and they at tailored to meet their needs.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	What influences or impacts your emotional health? Lack of sleep and diet Stress from games Losing darts/pitching 2 people - People that your close to start to distance themselves from you and talk about you behind your back Going places your friends might go What opportunities can the youth service provide to improve or maintain good emotional health? Yoga More funding for courses Therapist/counselling Going on trips to places that might take your mind of things More funding Where are you able to find support and how useful is it?

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			Friends are very useful Play darts My family (mummy) 2 people - Talk to friends and family What influences or impacts your physical health? No gyms close Lack of sleep School being closed School work Youth club Home Where are you able to find support and how useful is it? Friends My family support me Youth club Doing a sport Going to gym Doing physical activities What opportunities can the youth service provide to improve or maintain good physical health? Provide funding More trips More group work Time Funding for trips
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	9 to 11 Years	They said that everything around them impacts their physical and emotional health including school, family, friends. They said that some of the access to services is limited. It is difficult to get appointments at the doctor if something is wrong. They haven't really found the counsellor in school useful. They don't like talking about their feelings
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	- Young people highlighted the need for a space in centre that focus on physical health for people that a may not have the confidence to attend a gym or sports club etc. but the centre could develop a space with low level physically activities to develop their confidence and self-esteem - Healthy eating is expensive. - Providing after school services where young people can come to wait on their bus, take part in programmes or do homework / coursework. The service could also look at providing some food for after school / evening programmes. - More trips provided to increase young people opportunities and experiences to get outside their own

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			community and see the wider world and visit other places. - Build more mental health into every programme
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Influences/Impacts on Physical Health = Medical Issues/Physical Impairments, Diet, Level of Ability, Sleep Patterns & Behaviours, Genetics (Inherited Diseases), Lifestyle, Access To Health Care, Family & Friends, Self Consciousness, Fear of Using Gym - being male dominated, Extra Expenses. Influences/Impacts on Emotional Health = Social Media/Social Pressure, Bereavement, Family Issues/Networks, Mental Health, Age, Friendships, Geographics (access), Trauma, Diet, Stereotypes (Male/Female) Sexual Orientation, Money, Housing, Culture, Physical Health, Genetics. Where Can You Find Support = GP, Referral Services (Takes too Long), NHS, NI Direct (But not young person friendly - some information is patronising, long waiting lists), Charities What Opportunities Can Youth Service Provide for Physical Health=Fun Activities, Wellness Activities, Advice, Sports Programmes, Relaxation Activities, Get Active Programme, Moving More Programmes, Exercise Programmes - Couch to 5K, Nutritional Cooking Programmes, What Opportunities Can Youth Servuce Provide for Emotional Health = Health & Wellbeing Activities, Spending Time In Nature, Creative Activities/Programmes e.g. Graffitti Art, Self Care Activities/Programmes (Laughing Yoga, Support Groups, Social Network Opportunities (Young Women's Groups, Young Men's Groups, Social Action Groups), Music & Dance.
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	For health and wellbeng, the group felt that there should be more focus on - More specific exercise programmes - Healthy eating workshops - Opportunities to compete against other clubs in different sports/athletics, similar to what happens between schools - Youth services should provide more health snacks - More opportunities to talk about their feelings and emotions - No phones at YC - Positive speech only to be a focus within centres - No isolating each other allowed - Everyone to be more inclusive - Encouragement of friend making - Programmes focused on vaping - Programmes focused on drugs and alcohol
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	The young people present all said that the best thing for their Health and wellbeing was coming to the youth club. They also talked about if they had their own space or centre

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			they could go more often and would volunteer with the younger kids. Belleek has nothing except Gaelic. They all go to school in Enniskillen and are involved in Rowing, running, Netball, and going to the gym. this helps their wellbeing. They don't like being told to go for a walk as it is boring on your own. There is also a Muga but mostly boys use this for football. The games we play at youth club are good for us and we have a laugh which helps us feel good. The EA could provide another evening so we could split the age groups, this would help us as well. Roisin keeps us informed about Mental Health and we discuss this in the Youth Club so the EA is helping us. We just need a centre or our own space!
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	This discuss highlighted needs for more work around H&WB generally, coping with stress and managing self. Pressures of personal circumstances impacting on young people like finances (or lack of) at home, education issues etc. Issues put forward included self harm, YS response suggestions; harm reduction (prevention methods and education as well as support groups, funding staff), continue to provide inclusive activities accessible to all, offer personal hygiene products, education on substance misuse,
Fermanagh and Omagh	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	*Health issues raised Vaping, Alcohol, Eating too much, Bad Food, Depression and Stress *Support available through- School, Youth Club, South West College, Teachers, Youth Workers, Parents and Friends *Recognising improvements for physical health- Obstacle courses, Couch to 5k etc *Recognising improvements for Emotional health- Resilience, Self Esteem Bespoke programmes which can help young people emotionally
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Emotional Wellbeing Impacts and Influences: The people around you Family The area around you School (exams, teachers) Relationships Where can you get support: Parents Animals/pets Friends Youth Centres School Counsellor Form Teacher Opportunities that the youth service can provide:

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			Fun Projects New friends from different backgrounds Art Nature Walks Shopping Music Socialising Trips away Physical Wellbeing Impacts and Influences: Diet Exercise Sleep patterns Friends Access to services Where can you get support: Local Gyms/Leisure centre (not everyone has access) Local community walks Omagh Futsal Football Clubs Opportunities the youth service can provide: Football Sports Competitions Opportunities to go swimming Explore different sports - golf, tennis, GAA
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	The young feel that food, desire to keep fit keeping hydrated, balanced diet and not smoking/ vaping influences young people's physical health. in relation to what influences their mental health the young people expressed the people around them such as family friends, youth workers etc., social media, school, cyber bullying and problems in their home life. one young person went onto discuss how they feel inspirational quotes and speeches help influence their mental and emotional health. When discussing what support they have available the young people identified that they could go to Youth workers, doctors, teachers, counselling services, support groups, family, friends, youth clubs and even use their pets for comfort. In relation to the opportunities that the Youth Service can provide for physical and mental health the young people discussed socializing with peers at youth club, days out with youth groups, promote making new friends, one-to-one support, outdoor activities continue to provide activities

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			that are different from school, but possibly during school time.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	As part of this focus group the young people were asked what influenced their physical, mental and emotional health, and they referred to social media taking part in sport you enjoy motivates you, walking the dog as it is needed, taking part in PE, when it is something fun they said you don't realise that this helps mental and physical health and you done see it as exercise, friends, family, peers and team mates also contribute to these factors. Youth club/Worker were also discussed as young people felt that they were able to talk to a youth worker if they needed to, but if they weren't then they would be influenced by music, movies and video games. The young people were then able to identify different support available for them family, friends, GP, Youth workers, counselling, specific organisations and they said school sometimes and they would speak to certain teachers that would be nice, kind and caring, but some don't appear this way and would use old teaching methods and some of the young people don't like coming to school so they wouldn't use this for support. Finally the young people were then asked what the Youth Service could do to support them with their physical and mental health, to which they suggested food, games, art activities, fishing, more awareness of what they can do outside and when asked if they knew the EA Youth Service has OLS they said no, they were asked if they would like to know more they said they would.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	12 to 13 Years	Spoke about youth club and having set baking nights Doing more outside sport (weather dependent) Walks over summer months Learning more in club but not written work then spoke about using iPads more and videos Bringing people in to speak about healthy eating and healthy lifestyle, they have voiced they feel school do talk about it but people don't open up. When asked why this was it was down to teachers being scary. Youth workers are more approachable and the Youth Club setting is more informal. Youth workers are more supportive of the wellbeing of young people.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Health & Wellbeing – what influences or impacts our physical health? - Facilities available - Sleep – not getting enough - Diet

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			- Peer pressure to be better – going to the gym with friends (influenced by your peers) - Family – if parents don't buy good healthy food - PE not compulsory throughout - Sports clubs – whats available in your area Health & Wellbeing– where are you able to find support for your physical health and how useful is it? - School PE department – teachers would be helpful - Internet – work out videos/apps/info - Family - Doctor - School nurse - Youth workers - Sports teams Health & Wellbeing - what opportunities can the youth service provide to improve or maintain good physical health? - Information on facilities - Good foods - Learning to cook for yourself - Outdoor learning activities - Opportunity for physical activities such as sports/games/use of gyms etc - Daily mile - Opportunities to trial out different types of physical activities Health & Wellbeing – what influences or impacts your emotional health? - Weather - Social media - Friends - School - Exams - Stress - Relationships - Home life - Physical health - Self esteem - Peer pressure - Alcohol and drugs - Diet - Sleep - Domestic violence Health & Wellbeing – where are you able to find support for your emotional health – how useful is it? - School councillor

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			o depends on the school o Self referral o Only there on certain days o Only given 3 sessions o Can't access outside of school – long waitlist o Kept confidential o Some teachers don't like you getting out of class - GP o Doesn't sound useful o Hard to get to talk to them - Peers and family - Youth Workers – FLARE - Childline - Women's Aid - Samaritans - Common Youth in Belfast Health & Wellbeing – what opportunities can the youth service provide to improve or maintain good emotional health? - Point you towards a councillor - Go in and make sure schools are doing better - Having spaces for young people to do - FLARE - Reassurance that its ok - Youth workers picking up on if someone isn't their usual self
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Influences on young people's physical health the young people suggested: - Playing sport - Going to the gym - Friends - Parents - Health benefits - Enjoy physical movement - Social media Influences on young people's mental and emotional health the young people said how they look, current trends, family, friends, getting complements and social media. The young people were able to identify different support available for them, with therapy, school, family, friends, youth workers, doctor, gym partner, boy/girlfriend. The young people then went onto discuss how the youth service can support and improve children and young people with their physical and mental health Discussions through one-to-one work, outdoor activities but as a school class and hands on work outdoors, as this would help benefits both areas.
Mid and East Antrim	No	14 to 18 Years	Lack of facilities' and proximity to health services including statutory and community services. with limited access to

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			community transport and Public transport. impact of social media on confidence and self esteem, e.g. Peers sharing messages on whatsapp including threats, bullying and violence's (arranged fights.) Vaping happens everywhere and its not challenged. peer influence to try vapes in school and community settings with risks of spice being taken in classrooms. These complex issues are eroding young peoples confidence's and causing anxiety. Young people would like youth workers to be open and support them with safe places to address issues that affect them. Financial strain and poverty is affecting young peoples physical and mental health. Smaller villages around Mid and East Antrim have poor or limited community infrastructure which results in a lack of knowledge of support and capacity to respond to community need.
Mid and East Antrim	Traveller Children and Young People	9 to 11 Years	Health and wellbeing What influences our physical health? Fizzy drinks and sweets, if we do not exercise, too much screen time. Where can we find support? Parents, school, youth club, family and grandparents. What can the Youth Service do? Yoga, circuits, work out sessions, play sports, spa nights, more mindfulness and keep talking to us. What influences our emotional health and wellbeing? Bullying either physical or cyber bullying, people being rude and unkind or rude. You always remember it and it's nice for people to be kind.
Mid and East Antrim	No	12 to 13 Years	Youth clubs and projects enable young people to participate in activities that promote good mental and sometimes physical health. "There's not much going on that I'd get out of bed for". Local GP surgery closed and now a 20 mile round trip for health care without adequate transport. Anxiety regarding social media, immigration protests/riots, prospect of World War. Bullying in school and in the community. Schools cannot address bullying issues in a caring sensitive way. Issue is sensationalised rather than adopting a nurturing approach. Lack of. or poor public spaces for leisure and recreation, which inhibits socialisation and group physical activities. Poverty and lack of opportunities inhibit good mental health Public parks in state of disrepair with no budget to mend or refurbish. Online friendships have replaced in-person contact due to lack of adequate transport. Beaches and country walks attract young people, but transport to these places is impossible in lots of rural

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			communities, even on public transport routes. Schools seem unwilling or unable to really deal with the vaping issue, as this is a method for using drugs during the school day, sometimes even in the classroom. Playing an instrument can help with stress and provide focus.
Mid and East Antrim	No	12 to 13 Years	Identified by young people - "food, ADHD, Social media (comparing yourself to other) , Rumor's, Bullying, exercise, takes mind of things, keeps you fit, death" Youth Service can provide support and encouragement by providing a safe space for young people to talk to peers and the youth workers they engage with. By having the centre open the young people have said it helps to keep us off streets. mental/emotional support in areas such as lifestyle and creating more activities to "make us better at sport". From conversation as a service we can provide opportunities to encourage young people to engage in sports activities by providing different opportunities, Mental health and coping strategies can be included in the sessions to provide young people a safe space to look at their own self, Bullying programmes and identity programmes are too a good way to start looking at the Social media and bullying areas identified.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	The Augher young women's group expressed that school, social media, the weather and peers play a negative role in impacting their mental health along with the lack of facilities within rural areas. They have expressed that coaches, parents, friends and youth workers have a positive influence on their emotional and physical health. Suggestions for the youth service is to provide groups with more mindfulness resources, access to self-care resources and the opportunity to go on a mental health retreat/residentials. The youth service could respond to Health and well-being by giving equal opportunities and resource's to young people in rural areas.
Mid Ulster	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	Schools and home life constantly affect my daily stress and emotional health and wellbeing. Struggling to get appointments with your GP, this may take weeks. Social Media has a negative impact on young people's mental health around unrealistic standards, i.e. body image and lifestyles. Vaping is a massive health issue among young people - we don't know the harm it is doing. Youth Service can provide Mental health awareness events

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			and help with coping strategies. Youth Service projects like FLARE and REACH can support on a one to one basis. Projects in the YS around positive mental health, online safety awareness and giving us information for support . Vaping awareness programmes is something the youth service can look at.
Mid Ulster	No	9 to 11 Years	The group shared some factors that impacted their physical health: Food (healthy and unhealthy), Physical Activity, Preforming in Drama, Energy Levels, Keeping Fit, Emotional Health (being happy, showing kindness), Spending all day on Games/Devices - not enough time to do other healthy things, Going Outside, Sleep and Relaxing, Friends. The group shared some factors that impacted their emotional and mental health: Going Outside, Sleep and Relaxing, Friends, School Subjects, People/Classmates, Religions/Faith/Mass/Praying, School, Youth Club (positive), family/ grandparents (both positive and negative), being Hangry (Food or lack of food). How can the youth service help: Provide physical activities for the young people to engage in. Entertain us! Do Challenges - like a push up or skipping rope challenge. Listen to us more and please play more games - we just want to play games and have fun while we are still kids!!
Mid Ulster	No	12 to 13 Years	What influences or impacts your physical health? (Quotes) Doing sports – positive influence. Develops your fine motor skills. Junk food. Low confidence if someone puts you down. Lack of opportunity to practice or engage in sports. What you are eating. Where are you able to find support and how useful is it? Youth club, school, coaches, counsellor at school What influences or impacts your emotional health? (Quotes) Sports (positive). Bullying. Poor mental health. If you don't have a loving home. Social Media. Lack of sleep. Poor friendships/ influence from others. Some people don't get healthy meals. Peer pressure or expectations from others (including parents or siblings). Exclusion for liking other things. What opportunities can the youth service provide to improve or maintain good emotional health? (Quotes) Provide counselling sessions. Provide a safe place for children – even just somewhere to hang out – not necessarily do programme work. Do sessions that allow young people to express themselves. Therapy sessions. Provide more opportunities for young people to do what they love.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	There are a number of things that influence and impact on our physical health and wellbeing such as lack of facilities, diet, lack of exercise, smoking, drinking and negative gym

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			culture. There are a few places you can find support but it is hard to find. These include within schools, doctors, councilors and online support. There are a number of things that influences our emotional health such as social lives, school life, school/university work, relationships, bullying, your personal environment, home life, friends and family. All of these can be in both a positive and negative way depending on your own personal circumstances. Youth services should implement more sports workers into regular youth clubs every so often like a professional coach. Facilities for young people to exercise freely, supervised but not in a shard space with the older generations. Youth services can provide a good social circle, a place to meet new friends, different innovative activities, someone who a young person can talk to, offer advice, have events on mental health and have new experiences.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	-The opportunity to meet new people and improve social skills in a positive environment -Informational Flyers -Bring people together to socialise -Cards with relevant numbers on them
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	- More Programmes - More Socials - Residentials - Study Visits
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	"youth services can provide talks and workshops on emotional health and well being" "talking with your youth worker" "workshops that focus on reki pilaties things like that"
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	GAA positively influencing the physical health of young people in South Armagh Area, outside of GAA though there are limited opportunities. Puberty also impacting girls participating in sport for a variety of reasons Group discussed the impact of drugs, alcohol and vaping on the physical health of young people- Weed and cocaine in particularly highlighted as very readily available, easily acccessed and commonly used among young people in the area. Issues of body dysmorphia common among both boys and girls- including over training and use of gyms, protien powders etc Mental health is impacted significantly by rural isolation and loneliness being 'stuck' at home, also the physical living environment of peoples houses and surrounding area impacting their mental health. Young people stated many young people their age had difficulty coping and had poor

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			coping strategies to manage big emotions, information on where to access support locally was also limited. Some also felt that youth group was a positive outlet and contributed significantly to having positive mental health. Again Youth Groups and GAA were recognised by young people as having a significant positive influence on their emotional health. Young people felt that the EA Youth Service could improve Physical Health of young people by: 1. Residentials allow you to try new activities and sports you otherwise wouldnt try, this needs to be encouraged more and made more available for opportunities for young people 2. Taking young people to matches like the Belfast Giants Ice Hockey allows them to see other sports that exist and other opportunities in NI. 3. The South Armagh Champions League is a good initiative that gets so many young men involved in activities that maybe have never played sport before. 4. International Mens Day events also focused on physical health of men which was good 5. More workshops on things like exercise, diet, nutrition 6. Provide us with access to contraception Young people felt that the EA Youth Service could improve Mental Health of young people by: 1. Educate us on where help is available locally. 2. Teach us better ways to cope 3. Have more workshops with guest speakers and experts in the field so we gain more knowledge 4. Normalise mens mental health issues 5. Normalise having issues within the group setting so we can support each other 6. Have opportunities for 1-1 Youth Work incase some young people dont want to talk in a group or feel that they need extra support for a period of time- with our own youth worker not a different service 7. Have more drop in facilities for young people if we are feeling down, we've nowhere to go - youth group is only once a week- if your struggling there is literally no where to go in south armagh
Newry, Mourne and Down	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	The young people recorded that there continues to be little on offer beyond the traditional involvement in GAA activities for young people in their areas. They said that their well being is being hailed as a priority but there is little evidence in their schools and community that this is the case. They see provision for younger children and those involved in the GAA, but beyond that there is little on offer

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			for them, outside of this programme. What they wanted to see from the youth service was sessions which were split into workshop and directed time as well as time for activity which is engaging, fun and non-competitive. More time and space to be free to just hang out with their friends without being moved on or seen as a nuisance.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Participants raised concerns about mental health, stress management, and peer pressure related to body image. They highlighted the importance of having trusted adults available for guidance. Additional Points: All mental health and wellness resources should be available through the medium of Irish, ensuring cultural sensitivity and accessibility. Launch social media campaigns in Irish addressing body positivity, anxiety management, and mental health awareness. Create an Irish-language mental health support hotline or chat service. Collaborate with sports clubs to provide bilingual coaching and wellness activities. Suggestions for Youth Service: Provide free or subsidised memberships to gyms and fitness classes to promote physical activity. Offer regular mindfulness and relaxation sessions tailored for young people. Deliver workshops on self-esteem, emotional resilience, and peer support. Introduce peer-led wellness initiatives where young people can share their experiences.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Feedback Young people within this age bracket felt that their time for exercise was very limited due to other pressures such as - part time employment - exams and study - the pressures with social media - the lack of friendship groups - pressures from Schools, parents and peers - doctors playing lip service and to readily handing out medication rather than just listening Suggestions for how youth service can respond More Youth service support within schools

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			Ongoing communication with Young people in relation to up coming health & well being events, Sign posting to relevant organization's providing safe spaces for young people to meet implementation of qualified councilors within Youth Services
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	influences- how often we have to wait for GP appointment, social media, ability to cope with bereavement Support- can find numbers online or talk to people
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Participants wanted better information on services available locally. desire for guest speakers of experience and knowledge. Sleep hygiene and strategies for better sleep. Full health packages including cookery & nutrition. more programmes which support positive mental health & physical health of young people. Impact of bullying on young people - online and what to do & how
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Influence/impacts of physical health? Mental Health. family life, not having access to clubs, school: workload and pressure bad days at school, social media, social life, family life: access to money for activities good quality food. Opportunities youth service can provide to maintain good physical health? Old style sports days, gym classes, help with building healthy eating habits, sports events, providing food/snack, healthy eating programmes which educate about balance. Influence/impact on emotional health: Friends/Peers, school and exams, exam pressure, work placement, family, physical health, financial situation, SOCIAL MEDIA makes you think everything in you life has to be perfect and if not your a failure. where can you find support? Friends, online, family, doctors if they answer the phone, youth clubs resources and workshops, school. Opportunities can YS provide: support and to be able to spend more time to get help and support and also bring us to other places that provide the support, check ins, more one to ones to build up a relationship and help unpack issues (Flare is too understaffed and too busy) mental health workshops (Flare) more free time for one to ones meet for coffee outside of group hj
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	9 to 11 Years	Influences- local GAA, Camogie, Football- very good in local area Negative- PE at school don't have enough time to do it, uniform compliance- puts them off going to school, lots of us dont do PE, teacher allows them to opt out Impacts- competitive football matches, some take it very

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			seriously So much to do at school, feel not given enough time to do the work- impacts negatively on mental health Too much homework- don't raise any issues of stress in school as feel nothing is done about it Don't raise issues in school as don't feel will be supported. Youth workers great at supporting us- more of this. Victim to alot of verbal abuse from boys- happens in school alot and nothing done about it. Lack of sleep- staying awake to 2am and affecting their physical and mental health- all not asleep before midnight. Feel very tired in school and cant concentrate.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Health & Wellbeing was a number 1 priority voiced by the young people. Young people expressed their need for "better mental health services" and access to these being of equal importance. They believed that investment of better mental health services would impact a better world for everyone and made a direct link that it would "also reduce crime". In terms of a Youth Service response, young people felt better awareness around stress would help young people and more investment into youth services themselves as they are safe places that benefit young peoples emotional wellbeing.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Discussion around both physical and mental health. Very concerned about bullying both in person and on line which could lead to self harm and suicide. More awareness around mental health and stress management. Also not enough opportunities for physical activity for young women if not interested in or able to join team sports. Discussion around benefits of walking but safety issues .Possibly set up a walking group for young women

Strategic Theme 2: Access to Play and Leisure

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Where are safe spaces for you to socialize or hang out with your friends? Safe spaces for socializing or hanging out with friends include youth clubs in different areas, Abbeycentre, McDonald's, Belfast, Airtastic, the gym, the park, and school. What impact do you think play and leisure has on your wellbeing? Feeling safe, developing new skills, meeting new people, being social, getting rid of any stress, exercise, clears your mind, not being bored, having fun, gets you out of the house, Do you have the opportunity to take part in play and leisure activities in your area? Football 3 mile pitches, gymnastics at Valley, Monkstown pitches, hockey at Mossley, Swimming at the Valley, gym, park, school clubs What sports, cultural or artistic activities are you currently able to avail of? Go lead, art club, gymnastics, dance, pool, football, basketball, PlayStation, x-box, Nintendo. What sports, cultural or artistic activities can youth service provide to improve your play and leisure? Roller skating, developing new skills, different types of ball games, basketball, hockey, gymnastics, boxing, ice skating, competition games in teams. Outline suggestions for how Youth Service can respond: Youth Services can respond to safe spaces for socializing by providing additional safe environments and events at local youth clubs, community spaces or parks, offering a space for young people to gather and interact in a supervised, safe setting. They can also partner with local venues, like gyms or leisure centres, to host youth-oriented social events.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	12 to 13 Years	Our school work load does not allow for enough free time! Our youth centre is so small that we can only do small things. We need to get out of our area to visit other leisure centres, swimming pools and youth centres. This is good but costs a lot of money for our Youth Worker to organise and pay for minibuses. We need more funds for transport our a bus we can use more often. When we ask to go to some places we are told we cant because of EA and their risk assessment procedures. This is not fair!

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Our youth club is definitely a safe space where we socialize. We sometimes go to the church youth club. I used to box for the boxing club in Crumlin. I use to do Irish Dancing in Crumlin. We need to do more arts and crafts programmes. We know that money is tight but we love doing tie dye, drawing, working with paints etc. Things that can occupy us more! Play and participating in games can keep our bodies and minds healthy. For example keeping slim, developing our muscles etc.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	9 to 11 Years	1. Do you have opportunity to take part in play and leisure activities in your area - Youth club - Top park - GHS - Hockey Club - Horse Riding - Football - Team Games - Hanging out - Boxing 2. Where are the safe spaces you can socialise? - Youth Club - Bedroom - Garden - Street - Park Near house - Football Pitch - Fields - Lakes - Valley V36 - Youth Club - Summer Scheme - School - House 3. What sports, culture or artistic activities are you currently able to avail of? - Hockey - Gymnastics - Swimming - Ballet - Judo - Running (park runs) - Football - Horse riding - Football - Gymnastics - Mma - Boxing 4. What sport culture or artistic activities are you able to avil of in yc?

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			- Roller skating - Rounders - Art - Lego - Paint - Clay - Hair styling - Glass painting 5. What impact do you think play and leisure have on your wellbeing? - Makes me feel nice - Good - Relief - Smart - Angry - Upset - Being healthy - Feeling good cause you can do things other cant - Being outside - Having fun
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Provide charity games to help strengthen communities and also raise for good causes Equipment for various sports and activities (football nets, tennis rackets, safety mats etc) - I feel funding pressures mean our youth centre has a lack of resources - Church group More around different cultural events such as Chinese new year etc. I notice that there are more new incomers. More youth club activities between each other around good relations Youth Service can provide basic leisure activities like sports team and basic events in the local area such as parks or places of interest to young poeple; some young people feel there is a sitgma around youth centre so seeing youth workers on the street would help make a connection.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	9 to 11 Years	Enhancing the varity of sports that are available within the youth centre to include more Football, volleyball, basketball, boxing, darts ,dodgeball and more like wheelchair games
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Football coach gaa coach and tons of activities during the summer scheme Self defence classes Can start up more groups or even bring in football coaches The need for a varied sports curriculum and not the standard football and hockey - Some suggestions include bringing in more outdoor instructor, using the OLS peri worker more and basic fitness programmes. Going out on walks to local places of interest
Ards and North Down	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Staff adapted the questions slightly to meet the needs of young people participating in the focus group. Young people identified that playing sports was good for their health, they said it keeps them fit and healthy. The only time

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			they would play sports or take part in physical activity is when they are at school, in Youth Club or attending a sports club that a parent brings them to. The group said they would not go to local sports facilities or parks on their own or with friends. When asked what other clubs the young people attend, they said the following: Be kind project Mencap Rugby Football clubs Special Olympics basketball team Young people said youth club, sports clubs and school are safe spaces they can go to socialise and hang out with friends. There were 3 young people in the group who do not attend any other clubs except for youth club, they see youth club and school as the only place's they can see friends to socialise. One young man said he would do a lot of online gaming and talk to his friends through online gaming platforms. Finally, the young people were asked what other activities they feel would improve youth club, they said they would like the following: PlayStation 5 Internet (for online gaming) Spa day Xbox More sports (football)
Ards and North Down	No	9 to 11 Years	Young people stated that they would go to the following to play sports:- horse riding arena, Football Clubs, Youth Clubs, Clubs, Aurora, Gymnastics Club, Clubs, Track (horse riding), Arena for horse riding, Sportsplex. The young people stated that places they would go to spend time with their friends are:- park, home, school, out on the street, Youth Club, Bloomfield Shopping Centre, Movie Theatre, their own or their friend's home. Young people stated that other clubs or groups they attended are:- Horse riding, Girl Guides, Drama, Rugby, Football, GB, Youth Club, Cheerleader Club, Swimming Club, Brownies, Football, Scouts. The young people all said that playing sports is good for you and their reasons were:- keeps you healthy, it is exercise, it is fun, because it keeps you fit, it is exercise and it is fun, because it makes you more active, and you can make new friends and get exercise. The activities the young people said they like/would like to do in/with Youth Club are:- football, rounders, trip to football match, Mount Pleasant Horse riding (as you are led around gently), more baking and cooking, bracelet making, make spicy curry, horse riding, getting the Outdoor Learning Service (Scott) in again with us, games - fish and chips, more trips and rugby,

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			art, baking, four corners, Cinema, Aquarium, Ice Cream, go to the theatre to see Wicked, baseball. Some dangers that the young people know about at home, school and in youth club are:- hot water, trips and falls, kettle, knives, door step, water near electrics, oven, plug sockets, glass, fall in playground, bullies, fires. Things that the young people said make them feel safe at home, in school and in youth club are:- adults they trust, locks, people, my safe word, bedroom, hallway, friends, fire alarms, guns, pets, dogs and people I trust.
Ards and North Down	No	4 to 8 Years	Young people stated that they have a few places within their estate which they can take part in play activities (Kilcooley YC, School, two play parks, dance school), although feel that many sports teams can be a wee bit far away for them to attend all the time. The group stated that they have safe spaces to social in, in the form of the youth club, school, their homes and friends homes. Mentioning that school and the youth club have workers who are all trained to keep children safe. The young people highlighted football, dance, flute bands and cheerleading as sport, cultural and artistic activities which they can currently avail of. They then listed arts and crafts, football and other outdoor sports, dance and the use of technological devices such as games consoles and iPads as those types of activities which they can engage in currently within the youth centre and that new sports which aren't in their local parks and communities would be good to have in the centre to improve their play and leisure. They also stated that engaging in play and leisure makes them feel happy, calm and safe.
Ards and North Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people (from Ards & North Down area) felt that they do not have the opportunity to take part in many leisure activities, other than through Youth Services. They identified areas such as local parks, community centres, leisure centres, sports clubs, youth centres and gym as places in their area that would provide leisure activities but some are more focused on young children, such as local community centres. Most of these facilities would also be located in Ards or Bangor, those from towns/villages along the peninsula have to travel into the main town for leisure activities. Some of the group have previously participated in horse riding, boxing, going to the gym choir and the youth programmes through Youth Service (youth club, horizons, CADI, go lead) but that time constraints with school and jobs can impact the time they have to do leisure activities. Other barriers to them being able to take part in some leisure activities is transport, particularly from rural areas into Ards/Bangor but also from Ards/Bangor to Belfast, for example, which would have a wider range of leisure activities suitable for their age. The cost of leisure activities for young people can also be a barrier to

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			them accessing these services. Some of the young people felt that there was a lack of safe spaces in their community for young people to socialise, particularly in rural areas. The young people identified the youth centre as a safe space for them, they also said some of their local community centres were Ok but not open all the time. They also said that they can sometimes sit with friends in McDonalds or the shopping centre but sometimes they area asked to leave, sometimes they can sit in a friends house. Young people feel that play, hobbies and interests are important to take part in as they are good for your physical health, such as sports, they are good for your mental and emotional health by helping to keep you busy and can be a good chance to socialise
Ards and North Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people stated that there are a number of opportunities within their area to take part and engage in play and activities, such as; Kilcooley Youth Centre, local football clubs, Dance Project, local parks, Aurora leisure centre and Bangor Sportsplex. The young people highlighted Kilcooley YC, local churches, their homes and their friend's houses as safe spaces to socialise within their area. The young people currently prevail of dance, football, running clubs and the local drum and flute band as forms of sport, cultural and artistic activities within their community. Along with this, the group mentioned football, arts and crafts, use of technological equipment and pool tables as activities which youth service can provide to improve your play and leisure. They stated that play and leisure makes you more confident, happy, included, connected, excited and independent. Overall highlighting that this can have a positive impact on your well-being.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	- The young people felt they had a lot of opportunities - Their safes spaces are the youth Centre, Gaelic Clubs and friends houses - They currently avail of youth Centre programmes and activities and sports activities such as Gaelic and netball -They feel like play and leisure is good for physical health, it keeps them fit and helps with mental health. They mentioned that it is good to get outside and exercise to ensure you are getting vitamin D. How can youth services support: - Youth club can help them understand how to become more healthier and how to maintain and healthy lifestyle - They feel inspired by the youth workers who keep themselves fit and healthy, who go to the gym and play for the local GAA team - They have access to physical activity in the youth Centre and would like to see more of this - More activities such as art and cooking.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	There should be more activities such as basketball, cricket, golf or even waterpolo - giving young people opportunities like that.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Be able to go to more places that you can experience play like to the play parks, trampoline parks to give us more opportunities to play.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Participants expressed a lack of creative workshops and outdoor activity centres. They also noted that many hobby groups were too expensive. Additional Points: Develop cultural workshops focused on Irish traditions, such as traditional music, dance, and storytelling. Partner with local artists and craftspeople to deliver skills-based courses in Irish. Launch a mobile arts programme that brings creative activities to rural areas. Provide Irish-speaking youth leaders for outdoor adventure programmes. Suggestions for Youth Service: Organise free or subsidised creative workshops in music, art, and drama. Establish community-led sports leagues that are inclusive and accessible. Offer eco-camps where young people can explore nature while learning new skills.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	9 to 11 Years	Young people strongly outlined that they feel like they have the opportunity to get involved in play & leisure activities through Tandragee Youth Provision alongside, Scouts & within the Church. The group expressed that play and leisure makes them feel happy and excited, often acting as a stress relief. They felt it improves both their physical and mental health as they are in a safe space.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	We have alot to do across our area Lots of green spaces and lots of open air spaces along with walks around black paths and lake Lots to do and lots on offer from council, schools, youth centres and a lot of various sports clubs
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Lots of different sports activities from Volleyball, Swimming, Darts, Cricket, Mountain walking, Netball, Tennis and running. In terms of arts, being able to bring in different cultures through art activities and cooking for different cultures.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	9 to 11 Years	Musical statues More art and art materials Irish dancing Bingo Gaelic Hide & seek

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Snakes & ladders/ board games Baking
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Newcomer Children and Young People	14 to 18 Years	YP outlined a range of activities in their area including community Gaelic football clubs, football clubs and after school activities. They outlined how areas are active but find there is an overall lack of interest from older YP, 15+. YP stated they have had a lack of opportunities to engage in programmes and would like to get involved in creative programmes, especially music (NYE YP).
Belfast (North and East)	No	9 to 11 Years	most activities are costly for parents there is a few local parks the young people enjoy more youth clubs are needed and more youth facilities learning life skills are important like cooking lots of activates are outside their area
Belfast (North and East)	No	12 to 13 Years	- Young people had an interest in visiting other youth centers for games & building relationships - They expressed an interest in arts/crafts for their particular age i.e fashion design
Belfast (North and East)	No	4 to 8 Years	Young people feel that their area has places for them to engage in sporting activities they also feel that there is a good number of local parks within their area they think that some of the parks could be lit better with street lights they feel safe playing in them and the reason for this is because they trust the adults that are supervising, they didn't like how people let their dogs of leads and then didn't pick up there mess. within youth centers they enjoy the activities that the club is offering they feel that their could be more done on learning life skills as a number of the young people said they enjoyed cooking and baking.
Belfast (North and East)	No	9 to 11 Years	The young people think that the sports clubs and other evening clubs they are apart of are really good and they enjoy attending, there was only 3 from the group that attend a ea youth center, they enjoy the local parks but they feel safer and more comfortable when there is a mature adult or teenager their so they can get help if they need they did say that there area does have issues with dog mess and do become slightly scared when they see teenagers vaping in the local play parks. they dont like how some of the places take down the football goals in the summer and how during the winter there isnt enough street lights they like how they are learning about the youth centers around East Belfast and they have made request to see them and get more information
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people discussed learning new practical life skills that can be used in every day life.ie Home economics housework. Young people discussed their hobbies and what they do in their free time.
Belfast (North and East)	No	12 to 13 Years	The group talked about their youth clubs, dance groups or football clubs as being the only places they can take part in play and leisure activities. Some of the young people spoke about going for walks up Cave Hill or the local Greenway areas but usually only if they are with an adult, mainly due to not feeling

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			safe on there own. They did mention going to the local Tesco's and McDonalds because they can hang out there and play "Tig", before they are shouted at and told to leave. Leisure centres were mentioned but they can only use the swimmers and some did say about the cost if they were using it a lot. The only place they feel safe to socialise in is their youth clubs, and sports groups. They said that even walking to and from these groups can be frightening and they try and make sure that they are with friends. The young people talked about the lack of opportunities to take part in play and leisure activities outside of their youth clubs and sports groups. They talked about their Dance groups and football clubs, but these only happen at most twice a week and again the cost was talked about. They also talked about local parks but only during the day and in summer when it is light. The young people said they take part in football/Gaelic , youth groups, SKY programme that covers good relations and cultural awareness, arts and crafts, dance, DJing, and flute bands. When asked about Youth Service and what they could do to improve their play and leisure they said that they would love to do different things in youth clubs instead of the in their words the "boring stuff", like go karting, water parks, adventure walks, that their could be football, rugby, Gaelic teams from youth clubs, dance instructors, fitness coaches, mental health coaches, therapies and more groups around culture and meeting people from different countries. They also said about opening clubs at different times and weekends. The group spoke at length about their well being and how play and leisure effects them. They said they have better mental health, they feel good, happy, their friendships are better and they make more friends, their grades improve in school, they sleep better, better moods, it keeps them fit, improves relationships with their parents, they don't get into trouble and they just want to enjoy themselves and have fun.
Belfast (North and East)	No	9 to 11 Years	Where do you have the opportunity to play in your area- Young people listed here youth clubs and parks, young people felt that in Glencairn there isn't as much options as other places to play. Where do you feel safe- Some young people felt safe in the park where as others arent allowed as its too far away or not in the winter when its dark. Young people said the youth club and their primary school are safe spaces, along with their houses and grandparents houses. What sports, cultural or artistic activities are you involved- A lot of the young people speaking of sport spoke about school as there is no pitch that young people can play football and the youth club doesnt have the space for this either. In the youth club they felt like they can get involved in arts and crafts and learning about different cultures through different themes. What sports, cultural or artistic activities can youth services provide to improve your play and leisure- Young people felt that youth service could provide more space, events and chances for young people to be involved in. Young people felt there should

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			be more celebrations for everyone. What impact do you think play and leisure has on your wellbeing? Young people said this is very important for them to feel happy and make friends.
Belfast (South and West)	No	12 to 13 Years	Suggestions included more youth clubs offering diverse activities and workshops, such as physical activity sessions and creative outlets. There were calls for increased lighting in outdoor spaces to allow safe evening play. Young people also showed an interest in animal-related activities, such as volunteering at animal shelters. Additional Points: Open Irish-language youth clubs offering creative and cultural activities such as traditional music, dance, and storytelling, and contemporary issues relevant to young people and young Irish speakers. Organise Irish-medium adventure programs, including hiking, kayaking, and other outdoor activities, to build confidence and camaraderie. Develop workshops through Irish that combine technology and creativity, like coding, robotics, or digital art. Suggestions for Youth Services: Open more youth clubs with varied activities like sports, art, and crafts. Ensure parks and outdoor play areas are well-lit to promote safety. Partner with local animal shelters to allow youth involvement in caring for animals.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Limited safe and inclusive spaces for recreational activities. Additional Points: Establish Irish-medium hobby groups focusing on eco-friendly activities such as traditional Irish gardening practices, birdwatching, or outdoor crafts. organise bilingual community events, such as sports tournaments or cultural fairs, to encourage inclusivity and showcase Irish traditions. Provide Irish-speaking facilitators for recreational activities to ensure young people can engage in their preferred language. Suggestions: Develop local play areas that cater to diverse needs, ensuring they are accessible and welcoming for all young people. Encourage eco-friendly hobbies like community gardening and nature trails.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or	14 to 18 Years	Volunteering in the Youth Club Award nights for young volunteers Bring Drama workshops and plays for families back into the

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
	Disability (SEND)		Youth Clubs Dance Clubs and workshops Learn how to play musical Instruments
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Young people highlighted that their activities take part in the youth centre on one evening. Activities such as the animals, clay workshops and aunt sandras workshop and other EA agencies such as OLS play a vital role in coming into the centre to enable the young people to develop various skills but this cost money so the young people have to apply for Small Grants as there is not a set budget available or rely on budgets from Area Youth Workers. Young people who attend the centre feel they are in a safe environment and can express their ideas. There is no stress, have freedom to relax and be calm and it helps with their health and wellbeing. It is a safe place to hang out as they know the staff, there is access for wheel chairs and accessible in comparison to other centres that arent fully accessible to meet their needs both individually and colletively. Young people highlighted that places arent on EA tender lists and transport is very difficult to impossible to have if they have an interest to go to a shopping centre for a visit (life skills) (social awareness) and then food courts are not on tender/ tea shops. Young people expressed that they can play, and participate in activities in centre such a football, boccia , various other activities because Fleming Fulton school is all one level- no lifts or stairs in comparison to other centres. Some young people feel that their interests are met in a negative way as all activities have to brought into the centre or activities arent available at night- for example to go ten pin bowling - odyssey SSE is a central location for parents to drop off and collect young people but not on tender and dundonald/ lisburn is too far away. This is also the case for cinema visit as Cineworld SSE is not on tender, and although moviehouse is on tender the space availability for wheelchairs is limited and screens are small. The only transport was Translink wheelchair bus but this costs money if available and is limited for bookings to go to locations such as Aquarium or places of interests and are not open at night to accommodate. Young persons express that it was for staff making it fun, enjoyable atmosphere and enabled them to participate in activities but staffing was limited for young people with SEN needs.
Belfast (South and West)	No	4 to 8 Years	Feedback - stated great social clubs within the area for GAA, Youth Centre, Parks, Schools, Irish dancing, Parades/festivals, different sports groups, - the benefits of how these all effect their lives and how these make them feel - young people stated if youth service could provide more opportunities for GAA sports - more reading materials in centres - more outtings to different parks - themed group work rooms within centres - more designed art - music equipment within centres - develop more themed work in activities throughout the year
Belfast (South and West)	No	4 to 8 Years	This was the main theme we focused on throughout the workshop. We explored the different range of activities our young people are involved in. There was a wide range of cultural

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			and sporting activities such as Gaelic, football, Irish dancing, music and playing instruments. The young people discussed that when they are in these groups doing their activities they play games to keep it fun and interesting. They believe it is vital for young people to play different ranges of games, it helps them make friends and become more confident in themselves. They expressed how important their youth centre is to them as it gives them the opportunity to socialise with friends outside of school setting. Being involved in these different activities allows them to keep fit and active making them feel good.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	Provide Irish-language extracurricular clubs focusing on sports, arts, and music to cater to diverse interests while maintaining cultural integrity. Facilitate Irish-medium hobby-based workshops, such as coding, filmmaking, or crafts, ensuring that young people can pursue modern skills in their language.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	12 to 13 Years	What sports, cultural or artistic activities can youth service provide to improve your play and leisure? • More water sports • Wi-Fi • Dedicated space for those who don't like loud noises • Have more sports-based clubs • Including the needs of SEN • Hockey Clubs • More clubs for older people • Outdoor gym • Residentials – Woodhall, Corrymeela, Rathlin • Go and visit other clubs What sports, cultural or artistic activities are you currently able to avail of? • Hockey - Coleraine School • Football – University • Netball – University • Running • Drama – Tech • Horizons – Coleraine, Sunlea, Ballymoney • Youth Voice – Coleraine, Sunlea, Limavady • The Hub – Coleraine SAFE SPACES Where are safe spaced for you to socialise or hang out with your friends? • School • Youth Club – Coleraine, Sunlea, Horizons • Home • Friends Houses • McDonalds & Tim Hortons Car Park • Work • Jet Centre

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			• Castlerock • Portstewart – the prom & beach What impact do you think play and leisure has on your wellbeing? • Keeps fitness • Healthy lifestyle • Good for mental health • Meet new people • Helps get a routine • New opportunities • Helps with social life • Can give you new skills • Gets you out of the house • Gives you more interests PLAY, HOBBIES & INTERESTS Do you have the opportunity to take part in play and leisure activities in our area? • Yes • Leisure Centre - swimming pool & gym • Jet Centre – mini golf, bowling • Score – Jump Lanes, football • Gym – different classes e.g. spin classes • The Manor – Pool place • Barrys/Currys • Tennis Courts • Free outdoor gym – Ballysally, Limavady, Ballymoney • Cycling
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	12 to 13 Years	What sports, cultural or artistic activities can youth service provide to improve your play and leisure? • A variety of sports • Inter-Club Competitions • Singing Coaches • Digital Arts/Crafts • Movie Making • Language Classes • Cooking • Resin Art PLAY, HOBBIES & INTERESTS Do you have the opportunity to take part in play leisure activities in our area? 8 people in group – 8 voted Yes • Score – Football, Boxing • Pure Gym – Weight Training • Beaches – Walks • University Football • Rugby Club – Rugby • Leisure Centre – Swim, Gym, Badminton, Football • Rugby Avenue – Hockey • Rose Gardens – Tennis

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			• Shopping • Walking • Youth Club What sports, cultural or artistic activities are you currently able to avail of? • Church • Bands • Rugby/Gaelic • Football • Marshall Arts • Arts & Crafts • Museums • Visiting Historical Places • AOH • St Patricks Day • Christmas – Eat • Expressing our identities SAFE SPACES Where are safe spaced for you to socialise or hang out with your friends? • Youth Club • Park • School • Town Centre • House – own and friends • Jet Centre • Leisure Centre • Youth Work Projects What impact do you think play and leisure has on your wellbeing? • Keeps you active • Keeps you healthy • Keeps you busy • Watch movies – relaxation • Sleep – rest • Motivation • Focus • Recharge battery • Youth Club and getting out of the house – enjoying yourself
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	12 to 13 Years	Yes, all the young people felt they had the opportunity to take part in play and leisure activities in their area eg LHS Youth Club, Roe Valley Leisure Centre, Limavady Youths, Ballyspallen Cricket, Limavady Rugby Club. They felt safe spaces for them to socialize or hang out with their friends are: LHS Youth Club, at home/friends' homes, Irish dancing classes, Sports groups/clubs, school. The group of young people currently avail of: Youth club, Cricket, Football, Rugby, Irish dancing, Hockey, Netball, Horse riding. Play and leisure impacts their wellbeing by making young people feel happy, giving them something to do, giving them confidence

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			and making them healthy and getting to socialize with others – making new friends.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	4 to 8 Years	All ten of the young people in the focus group felt that they have the opportunity to take part in play and leisure activities in their local area. The sports, cultural and artistic activities they currently avail of are: Tennis Football Gymnastics Hockey Table Tennis Basketball Pool Irish Dancing Gaelic Catch Play Park Flowerfield Art Centre Just Jemima Dance They identified the following safe spaces where they socialise with their friends: Their homes The local park Tree houses/ gardens Playgrounds Friends houses School Youth Club Sports Clubs Sports , cultural and artistic activities they would like the youth service to provide in order to improve their play and leisure are: Craft activities Football Cooking Baking Making friends Learning to be kind Trampolines Gymnastics Travel Trips Opportunities to go outside in nature Being able to listen to the birds

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			They think play and leisure impacts their wellbeing by: Making them feel good Making them happy Helping them relax Gives them something to look forward Allows them to feel excitement Helps them stay healthy Allows them time in the sun
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Provide Irish-language extracurricular clubs focusing on sports, arts, and music to cater to diverse interests while maintaining cultural integrity. Facilitate Irish-medium hobby-based workshops, such as coding, filmmaking, or crafts, ensuring that young people can pursue modern skills in their language.
Derry and Strabane	No	9 to 11 Years	Q1 – Where do you have the opportunity to take part in play and leisure activities in your area? Youth club School – games in playground PE At home – siblings Games like playing ball in the street Play outside in the street Going to forests and beaches Playing in your Garden Football and other places like top of the hill Celtic Studio 2 Gymnastics Q2 – Where are the safe space/places for you to socialise? At school At home or at your friends house At your dads house Football clubs School play ground Here at the youth club They are supervised by adults Keep strangers out Walls and gates can keep us safe at club and school Clubs like karate and swimming Q3 – What Sports or Art activities can Youth Services/Your club provide to improve play and leisure? Football Do more Art Paint Have a gymnastics room and teacher A swimming pool or swimming lessons at the pool Go on trips Bowling ally

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			Go in a plane Football matches Zoos or museums Funfair Aquarium Q4 – What impact do you think play and leisure activities has on your wellbeing? You can exercise Builds a good community Makes you happy Play with siblings You smile Meet your friends after school Its warm and you can do different things Try new things Learn new things
Derry and Strabane	Newcomer Children and Young People	19+ Years	Q1 - Youth Club Foyle arena Bowling ally Dates Templemore sports complex – football Q2 Youth Club is a safe place Home We would like to be in another youth club on our own on a different night. Waterside. Q3 Swimming Dance Have Transport Gym Singing Play football Q4 Makes you feel good Happy Smiling Good Craic yeah
Derry and Strabane	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	19+ Years	Young people shared the safe space they have is BUD Club, its where they can be their authentic selves and don't feel judged due to disability. They feel BUD Club is a place where they are welcomed and have friends. Young people shared that the only play they have is when at BUD Club, as they don't go outside

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			their houses outside of school or BUD Club, unless they with a parent or family member. Young people shared that play, hobbies and interests are extremely important and they a good way to make friends and build relationship. The safe spaces young people said they have is school, BUD Club and their family home.
Derry and Strabane	No	12 to 13 Years	Do you have the opportunity to take part in play and leisure activities in your area? 3 No No we should go on trips evey two weeks 2 yes What sports, cultural or artistic activities are you currently able to avail of? Football 2 band 2 Cadets Hockey Happy Stage Drama school Highland Dancing Netball Sports None, I live with old people. Where are safe spaces for you to socialise or hang out with your friends? My House Phone YMCA 5 Friends House Park Nowhere Im not sure only leave house to go to youth club and school What impact do you think play and leisure has on your wellbeing? I don't know causes I don't leave my house Makes me Happy x2 Its good for my mental health x3 What sports, cultural or artistic activities can youth service provide to improve your play and leisure? Rounders, Badminton Basketball x2 Arst and Crafts clubs Netball x2 Dont know Henna x2 Acting x2 Gymnastic x2
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	9 to 11 Years	There is limited things which they can do if they are not interested in physical activities. They are very far away from other indoor opportunities such as cinema, shopping, bowling etc. Some of the YP do take part in football and scouts but have

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			found that if they do something outside of what is considered a 'normal' hobby they can be judged by others, which can have an impact on their wellbeing. YP noted that they would like the opportunity to try out different activities which would be considered non traditional such as jewelry making, photography. They also said that a larger space such as sports hall would help to improve their experience at youth club
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	- Young people highlighted the need for different sports other then GAA, Soccer. Sports such as volleyball, wheelchair basketball, basketball etc. - Centre could be open after school to offer extra curricular activities that are outside school environment - Indoor sports facilitate in the centre to provide more activities. - Online gaming programme
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Do You Have The Opportunity To Take Part in Play & Leisure Activities In Your Area. Yes = Play Parks, Leisure Centre, Sports Club, Gaelic, Soccer, Swimming, 4G Pitch, Muga, Irish Dancing, Rowing. No= Don't Live Near Any Facilities, Too Dangerous, No Access, Cannot Get Lifts To Where The Facilities Area. The Lakeland Forum Will Soon Be Closing. What Sports, Cultural or Artistic Activities Are You Currently Able to Avail of = Gaelic, Soccer, Irish Dancing, Cheer Leading Gymnastics, Rugby, Rowing, Debate Clubs (School), Running, Athletics, Choir, Church Groups, Canoeing, Marching Bands, Art Club (School) Safe Spaces = Youth Centre, Youth Clubs, Young Women's Group, What impact Do you think Play & Leisure Has On Your Wellbeing = Improve Social Interaction, Develop Social Skills, Fun Moments, Create Memories, Promote A Feeling of Wellbeing, Relieves Stress & Anxiety, Improve Mood, Physical Activity reduces risk of illness, improves mental health & existing conditions, develop skills, learn about the world, helps emotions & mood. What can Youth Service Provide = Sports (Basketball, Boxing, Rugby, Volleyball, Footballs, Bowling, Skateboarding, Swimming, Tennis. Arts (Pottery, Painting, Dance, Drawing, Photography, Drama, Murals, Games, Knitting/Crochet) Cultural (Social & Cultural Events, Festivals -arts, music, food, traditions, games, cooking classes, awareness classes
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	This was something the young people had strong feelings about, and the importance towards their wellbeing it had. - Young people discussed about not having enough safe spaces to spend time with friends. - Youth Club was important to all 10 in the group, as somewhere they felt was their space, and a safe place to spend time and be themselves. - Although sports clubs are really important to the group, they did reflect on the importance of enjoying the relaxed nature of youth club, as sports clubs can be quite regimental, they felt. - More provision was something the group talked about. - Irvinestown has a number of sports clubs and other clubs many

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			are involved in, Irvinestown Wanderers, St.Molaise GAA, Irish Dancing, Youth Club, Scouts, Gymnastics. Hobbies like the above, the group felt had massive benefits to health and wellbeing, Making friends, and helping them socialise. The group felt Youth services should have more Inter-club competitions, more soccer and GAA. Creative opportunities such as podcasting, Art and talent shows were also discussed as important. Things that make them feel unsafe in the area were - Drug use - People stealing and robbing houses - Drug dealers - People involved in crime, violence etc
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	Majority felt that Belleek offered very little apart from Gaelic and Traditional music. Some people only attend these as there is nothing better /else to do. If you don't play Gaelic, then you wont be part of the matches or the celebrations which is big in the town. The young people claim there is no safe space to go and meet friends and socialise - There are coffee shops but these close early and mostly old people in them. They would like the EA to provide a youth centre where you can go and hangout with friends. They enjoy the group with me - Roisin but sometimes want to do nothing but chat to friends they don't see at school or who are at a different school. Young people in Belleek go to 5 different schools around Enniskillen.
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Discussion confirmed that yp that do have opportunities to take part in play and leisure. Safe spaces identified as youth centres, parks, home, cinema, library, coffee shops. Community activities to participate in identified as youth voice, youth clubs, local teams(sports) , gym, night classes etc. Impact of accessing these things are that it makes young people happier, they can make friends/bonds, meet new people, physical improvement (physical health) and develop new skills. YS response suggestions; promote services more, art classes, taster sessions, sports classes, cooking classes, general clubs e.g. book club
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	Young people said that they have opportunities to experience play in their area through the local play park. They enjoy bike riding in the forest, walks and playing football at their local pitch in Fintona. They said that there is no leisure facilities and the closest leisure centre is in Omagh. They mentioned that there is little to do for over 12's aside from attending youth club and this has led to a lack of motivation for some young people to leave their homes. In relation to sport and culture, young people said that they have the opportunity to engage in social events, i.e St Patrick's Day, 12th of July etc but these are only one-off events.

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			They enjoyed the input during the TBUC programme which allowed young people to experience different music, traditions and sports from different communities. When discussing safe spaces, young people from Fintona talked about the youth club as a safe space and the local play park during the daytime as often the street lights are not switched on. The Ecclesville Centre is also somewhere they can go to play football at a cost. When discussing the impact that play has on the young people's wellbeing, they have noted that they enjoy the opportunity to engage in competition through sport, however this can sometimes be unavailable due to lack of transport to the competition. This can have a negative impact on young people especially in a rural area as they may feel trapped, lonely and a fear of mental health worries. We discussed the possibility of inter-club competitions to ease the problem of access to services in a rural area.
Fermanagh and Omagh	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	*Young people have the opportunity to take part in loads of different activities in the Omagh Area- leisure Centre, Boxing, Swimming, Gym, Gymnastics, Cheerleading, Taekwondo so being inclusive for these activities in our sessions can help *The young people feel the centre is a safe space but tend to hand out in their local playpark which is central for where they all live. *Boys- make sessions more for football and potentially rent out 1/4 of 4G Pitch outside belonging to Omagh Leisure Centre *Youth centre can help young people feel connected to their friends especially if they attend different schools in the town
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	4 to 8 Years	Play/Leisure activities in the area (inc sports/cultural/artistic activities) include football, camogie, drama, music, irish dancing, boxing, singing, youth club, handball, gaelic, arts and crafts, guitar, tin whistle, volleyball Safe spaces to meet with friends include; park, youth club, chapel car park, football pitch, each others houses, local community centre and shop. Impact of leisure activities; staying fit, making friends, not staying at home (getting out of the house), knowing people outside of school for when you go to big school, feel good, therapy, healthy mind healthy body, have a laugh, scocialising, if you don't have friends you don't have a life. YS suggested response; trips, opening a shop, access to the sensory room, drama, dancing, girls room only, volleyball, food, learning spanish, arts and crafts
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	12 to 13 Years	Spoke about Noel (OLS) and using him more Lack of knowledge about what the young people enjoy in their spare time, lack of passion Trips to farms and sports venues Residential – to learn as we spoke about the purpose of this and the cost and having an aim Spoke about starting a committee within the youth club where they have a voice in planning events and activities. Start small and then lead up to a larger activity eg residential

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Lisburn and Castlereagh	From and Ethnic Minority	14 to 18 Years	Play – do you have the opportunity to take part in play and leisure activities in your area? - Yes – Wallace Park, Lisburn Leisureplex, shops, cinema and ice bowl Resources are there. Council/businesses provide opportunities. - No – not enough for older kids Costs too much. Play – where are the safe spaces for you to socialise or hang out with your friends? - Houses - School - Green spaces - Youth centres - Parks - Leisureplex - Cinema - Ice bowl - Cafes and Restaurants Play – what sports, cultural or artistic activities are you currently able to avail of? - Football - Basketball - Netball - Badminton - Ping pong - Swimming - Rugby - Ice skating - Civic centre activities - Bonfires – twelfth night - Band parades - Festivals - Feile Play – what impact do you think play and leisure has on your wellbeing? - Boost mental health and self esteem - Reduces stress - Increased social skills - Improves social life - Exercise helps mental and physical health Play – what sports, cultural or artistic activities can you service provide to improve your play and leisure? - Football - Basketball - Board games - Pottery - Drawing - Celebrate cultural festivals - Rugby - Video games - Language classes - Archery

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			- Painting - Dodgeball - Arts and Crafts
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	9 to 11 Years	What fun things are there to do in your area? - Not a lot - Games - Lough Moss Park - Sports - Lidl - Park - Shop - Funtastic - Youth Club - School - Friends - Lets Go Hydro Where do young people go to hang out with their friends in the community that are safe? - Youth Club - People's houses - Parks - School - Sports Centres - Gyms - Street we live in What new activities/opportunities could the Youth Service provide that would give the opportunity to take part in sports, culture and fun activities? - Culture days - Sports day - Relax day - Spa day - Walking - Debates - Youth club more than once a week during a week day - Ask our opinions - Sports - Games eg cross the red sea
Mid and East Antrim	No	14 to 18 Years	Limited to no safe places, proximity to leisure facilities and services. cinema expensive, part time and limited access due to transport, community spaces are run down and need fixed or replaced, (eg Muga pitches and parks.). everything costs money, even if events are free it still cost money to get there. The only things that people were doing is free uniformed organisations however it still cost to buy equipment or uniforms. GAA is recognized for being a really healthy community hub, the PLU community do not have an alternative organisations. Cultural trips and opportunities to travel. Good weather scheme April to sept. Friendship club or lunch club for kids.

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			project work when ready, opportunities for games nights and activities.
Mid and East Antrim	Traveller Children and Young People	9 to 11 Years	Yes the young people felt there is enough to do in the area, they have the youth club, the park, by the river, school, café, outdoor areas. They are involved in skating, camogie, football, Gaelic, badminton, arts and crafts, music. It makes them feel happier, less depressed, more exercised, not just stuck in the house alone. Things the Youth Service could do to support this is more days during the summer schemes, more evenings at youth club, weekend nights.
Mid and East Antrim	No	12 to 13 Years	MUGA and football pitches are hang-out spaces. Public parks, but not after dark. Not enough street or flood lights, or turned off by community representative or council. Unsafe and broken equipment. Places where young people hang about are safe...although may be not regarded as such by adults/police. Community representatives in Islandmagee try to include young people in cultural activities. Parks tend to attract older teens in the evenings. Sometimes there is anti-social behaviour and younger children will not go there due to personal safety concerns. Lack of consultation by council regarding issues with MUGA in Glenarm...safety issues and loss of personal property due to inadequate infra-structure. Young people who live on the coast can use the beach and water, not only in summer time, for fun and leisure activities. GAA and some sports clubs provide a sense of belonging and promote community cohesion, but not in all areas / communities. Lack of an alternative in PLU communities. Leisure centres are usually in the bigger towns and access to them is inhibited or restricted due to transport and cost.
Mid and East Antrim	No	12 to 13 Years	Identified by Young people - Barn club, Leisure centre, School, phones, youth club, imagination, 3G pitches, skate park are all place to socialize and engage with peers. Safe place - friends house, youth club football, rugby, school when with trusted people. Youth Service can help more by providing more creative activities, providing more evenings or time for the young people to attend, having more projects to allow young people to be part of something. From Conversation the young people want to be able to do more creative arts and cultural projects in the centre. They further want to have more evenings in the center's to give them a space to attend, as well as having more programmes like the Pathways to Horizons.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	They have the opportunity to access football and dancing in their area and access to play and leisure activities within youth programmes. They do not have access to a wide variety of play and leisure activities due to living in a rural area however, they have local cafes and their youth group to interact and socialise.

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			They have expressed that playing sport is important as it helps with their stress, an opportunity to clear their mind and engage with their friends and their community. The Youth Service could respond to this by providing resources for more sport activities and opportunities to explore arts and cultural expressions.
Mid Ulster	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	In the area we live, there are very few activities for mixed genders to go to. This is difficult for Trans young people as they don't feel comfortable going to one specific gender sport/activities. The Youth Service provides a safe, warm space for us to go to. We can be ourselves and do things that interest us, like art activities, cooking when there is funding etc. Being able to go to Youth Club, gives me a break from school and home. The youth service can help by providing more programmes on Cooking, art and physical activities.
Mid Ulster	No	9 to 11 Years	Do you have the opportunity to take part in play and/or leisure activities in Ardboe? (Vote) Yes: 13 No: 2 Sometimes: 1 Where can you safely hangout with friends in Ardboe? At home, at school (but don't get to talk and play a lot), the GAA pitch, Youth (Ardboe Hall), Tobin in Moortown, Cookstown (but have to travel there - so only as a treat), The Diamond Chinese, play park but its not very good. How is play and leisure activities good for your health and wellbeing? (Quotes) Keeps us fit and makes us happy. Keep a good mind and improve or develop skills. Stay fit, socialise and make friends. Stay healthy, fit, exercise. Helps us stay healthy and fit, its fun and helps us exercise. They keep us skinny and its fun.
Mid Ulster	No	12 to 13 Years	Do you have the opportunity to take part in play and leisure activities in your area? All said yes. Where are safe spaces for you to socialise or hang out with your friends in Pomeroy? (Quotes) Football pitch. Handball alley. Café Blas. Pomeroy forest. The Hub. Playpark. The Rowantree. What sports, cultural or artistic activities are you currently able to avail of in Pomeroy? GAA (football, handball, Camogie/hurling), Netball, Cross Country. Irish Dancing, Tin Whistle, Cheotis, The forest – Santa's Magical Forest. What impact do you think that play and leisure has on your wellbeing? (Quotes) Lets you be free. Builds your confidence. Makes you a likeable, fun person. Socialising more. Exercise is goof for physical health. Lets you be a bird. What sports, cultural or artistic activities can youth service

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			provide to improve your play and leisure? (Quotes) Do more sports at youth. Do art programmes. Teach young people to use/ develop their artistic skills. Music – explore different musics, new activities. Paint bubbles for Christmas – do arts around each season/ celebrations.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people reported that they didn't have the opportunities to take part in play and leisure activities in their area and if they did then it was at a cost. Youth clubs are the only free services for young people to connect with their peers. Safe spaces for young people to meet include in their cars, youth centres, coffee shops and school. Young people stated that there was no where in their local area to take part in sports, culture or artistic activities. The only ones they are aware of is afterschool clubs such as netball and football. Young people felt that play and leisure had a positive import their them a it could make them have a positive mindset, it can provide motivation, give good vies and can make you feel more confident and happy. Youth services should provide activities such as dance, swimming and anything that young people are interested in.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	-More Residentials - More fun days - More places to go to
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	- More Music Opportunities - More safe spaces
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	"a one off night to try new sports" "sports programme" "teach about cultural sports"
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Participants expressed a desire for more creative outlets and safe, well-maintained play areas. Additional Points: Host Irish-language arts festivals, talent shows, and creative competitions. Provide bilingual instructors for music and creative arts workshops. Set up local youth councils to help design and manage public play spaces. Establish a mobile youth centre offering various activities in rural or underserved areas. Suggestions for Youth Service: Build safe, well-lit community spaces for recreational activities. Offer arts, music, and drama workshops. Develop eco-friendly hobbies like community clean-ups, wildlife conservation, and gardening projects.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people felt that if you were not interested in a sport your choices to be involved were very limiting, there was a barrier in relation to affordability for some choices to get involved - the

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			current cost of living crisis we are facing at the moment etc. - provide more opportunities for young people to get involved in outdoor activities more use of outdoor centers
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	We believe in some areas it is easily assessable, the issue is for rural areas it is more difficult Some clubs can be some expensive to be a member of This theme is so important for our well being We feel safe in each others houses
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Group wanted lots of new experiences - and more of them. saw greater involvement as an opportunity to get out of the house and discussed a range of opportunities including panto, choir, church, sports & drama - they would like more new experiences - go to see a production on a theme, meet new people through these experiences
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	what is available in your area: sports/ loads of sports clubs, artistic, art dance music clubs/groups what can YS provide: have games days/nights, ice breaker workshops, LOADS of trips, club more than once a week on different nights, integrating all different group, group games/challenge. memberships for activities ie swimming, start up a football team etc. drama productions, art groups , afterschool youth group Opportunities to take part in activities: Yes BUT groups have limited funding therefore can only take so many numbers, football teams are capped with numbers everything is so limited. youth clubs have budget cuts resulting in youth clubs closing early or not open at all eg heat broken and no budget to fix it, staff shortages and no money to have bigger staff team. Impact of activities on wellbeing: it improves well being by being able to socialize, making young people feel confident, positive impact on self-esteem, physical and mental health , communication and meeting new people. Where are safe spaces to socialise/hangout? parks are NOT safe, home, bosco youth club, sports clubs, home, youth club, library, at home, grounded coffee shop, public speaking.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	9 to 11 Years	Alot of football, camogie for us Music gymnastics for us- all which are also cross community Transport an issue to get young people out to rural provision- youth club Impact- gets out of house, makes me feel happy, clears my head, relaxes me, get talking to my friends more and cant really do this in school.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Its so important the local council have facilities for young people in their own communities. In Newcastle for example there isn't great provision for young people to get involved in things. "There isn't any groups we can join"(Young person). "We can only meet up at Donard park". The EA could help start groups for example walking groups especially at the foot of Donard mountain, and utilsing the local resources. Health is important as

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			'it helps clear my head if I'm stressed, it helps me to make new friends'. 11 young people felt there was adequate facilities in their areas(Newcastle, Downpatrick, Annalong) with smaller rural villages like Dundrum having little to no provision. Working in partnership with the local Newry, Mourne and Down Council would benefit possible opportunities for young people to avail of better facilities with organized groups to run them.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	12 to 13 Years	Trips, residential opportunities, provide a place to hang out, Art, Trips Abroad, Fun Stuff

Strategic Theme 3: Learning & Achieving

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Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	We feel that there should be more youth workers in schools. We go to a variety of different schools in Crumlin, Lisburn and Belfast and there is no youth worker in our school. They would be a good support link. Some of our teachers are too busy to help us with our issues. The youth worker can help us with the many areas that we find as a block to us having a positive educational experience. We are completing a Level 2 OCN with our Youth Workers and we feel that schools should offer more of these alongside GCSE's. This is because they are more practical and there are different ways we can learn! More resources should be made available to the youth club in Crumlin to become full time. We feel that there would be more opportunities to learn about ourselves and others by having more nights of operation and more programmes to participate in. During the school day Crumlin YC building is not being used. The youth worker is not in the school and it could be more beneficial to us and the other pupils if the club was open for free time and youth programmes.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Which skills do you learn through Youth Service? Through Youth Service, you develop a variety of important skills that contribute to personal growth and social awareness. These include enhancing social skills and understanding social cues, which help in building stronger interpersonal connections. Leadership and communication abilities are also cultivated, boosting your confidence in taking charge and engaging effectively with others. Additionally, Youth Service offers opportunities for making new friends and learning about diverse communities, fostering a deeper understanding of different cultures and backgrounds. It also provides valuable education on relationships and sexualities, promoting a broader perspective on human interactions. How important is it for Youth Services to provide accredited qualifications? This is very important as its help people get jobs, practice for the future, identify personal growth and give people a chance in life. Are there any skills you think should be taught by Youth Service but aren't? Learn how to sow, more group work, cookery skills, practical car skills and basic life skills in life and the home. How can Youth Service help you to overcome those barriers? Youth Service can help you overcome various barriers by providing a supportive environment where you can practice

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			speaking to others and improve your communication skills, making it easier to engage in conversations and seek help when needed. It encourages you to be noticed and recognized for your contributions, boosting your confidence. Additionally, through mentorship and guidance, Youth Service can help you overcome the tendency to withhold information by teaching you how to provide clear and detailed communication. It also addresses issues like procrastination, fostering determination and the ability to stay focused and finish tasks. Furthermore, Youth Service aids in setting achievable goals, helping you stay motivated and organized in your personal development. What are some of the barriers you experience in your education or learning journey? Team building and group work will help overcome the barriers with feeling anxious speaking to others. Participating in group work will help us to build confidence and hopefully be determined to finish tasks and meet deadlines. Are there any external pressures or circumstances which impact your ability to do well in education? External pressures and circumstances can significantly impact your ability to do well in education. Bullying can create a hostile environment that affects concentration and self-esteem, making it harder to focus on studies. Mental health struggles, such as anxiety or depression, can also make it difficult to stay motivated and engaged in learning. The influence of teachers, whether positive or negative, can either support or hinder your academic progress. Family issues, such as financial stress or conflicts at home, can add emotional strain that interferes with school performance. Additionally, problems with friends and relationships can create distractions, affecting your emotional well-being and ability to concentrate on your education. How can Youth Services support you in educational transitions to make them a positive experience? Youth Services can support educational transitions by providing valuable information and guidance, helping to ease the process. Asking a youth leader for support and reassurance can offer the encouragement needed during this time of change. Youth Services can help make transitions feel positive by emphasizing growth and new opportunities. By ensuring that young people are aware of their options and offering preparation for interviews and life skills, they can build confidence. Additionally, having positive role models can inspire and motivate youth, making the transition a more empowering experience.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	1. What Skills do you learn through the youth service? - Team work - Listening - Cooking - Sports

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			- Being able to volunteer - Being able to think about the decisions ive made and how I can make better choices in the future - employment - Understanding my identity - Being able to manage emotions - Being able to speak out about things that are affecting me - Being able to speak to other people and get to know people I would never have met - Building relationships with youth workers - None I learn them from my parents - Being able to focus and listen to someone teaching us new things and new ways of thinking 2. How important is it for youth services to provide accredited qualifications? - Very important, I have learning difficulties and school is something I struggle with but I like learning in the youth club because I don't feel the same pressure - I think it is very important as the qualifications are always about something we enjoy learning about but also something we think we should be learning about - I think everyone should have the chance to learn and get qualifications in the youth centre - I think no matter where you get qualifications they always help when building a cv - I like doing the groups in the club because they are more fun than in school. - I don't think its very important unless you don't go to school 3. Are there any skills you think should be taught by youth services that aren't? - More cooking - How to manage money - Speaking with other communities - Meeting people from other backgrounds - Art - Different sports - Music and expressing yourself - Listening - School skills 4. How can youth services help you overcome those barriers? - Staff doing more group rather than just ryan - I always read new posters in the club so maybe if posters were made and put up. - Having people come in and speak to us - Doing cross community groups 5. How can youth services support you in education transitions to make them a positive experience? - I would like to see ryan in our school doing groups

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			- Have our classes in the youth centre - Teachers act more like youth workers - Im not sure - Homework clubs and after schools groups - Having club youth workers come into our school and doing classes like we see in other schools
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Confidence, communication, understanding other people's perspectives How to interact with those who may experience difficulty learning through traditional methods More survival skills that would help people succeed in their life Like mountain walking , canoeing and outdoor programmes to do more with children. I need more information of what they actually do learn life skills / Life skills such as finance / money skills / How to cook How to manage money How to manage work life balance dont what skills are taught by youth services to be honest Help me be more confident with more activities and more practical hands on activities. More peer support groups with other people They should try and branch out and actively help rather that wait for people to apply to join a service as some may find it difficult to join for example if no friends do it they may feel out of place Provide funnier ways of learning so that it's not boring for us but learning at the same time eg more social activities Try and provide more information about their new school as well as more social events that help them feel less awkward meeting new people
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	9 to 11 Years	School support such afterschool groups to help with those that are struggling Raise money for school chairtyz and have a better partnership and connection Have a word with their teachers or prepare us to deal with what teachers say to us that we find difficult to process Life skills:cook,money,cleaning BUDGET mOnEy Learn how to make toast and basic skills that will help us in the world, most subjects dont make sence as to why we might need them in the future.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Additional classes for English and maths More emotional support and help with subjects Getting additional support outside of school, lack of relationship with teachers and the feeling of not being able to cope leaves them feeling vulnerable. How to cook ,clean and just life skills Sex education Budget money Learn to cook how to balance money First aid skills Discipline

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Ards and North Down	No	4 to 8 Years	The focus group said that they learn skills in sport, arts and crafts, meeting new friends, trying new things, 'rights and wrongs' and new games as the skills they learn through Youth Service. The young people involved highlighted that new sports and craft work such as sketching, shading and drawing would be good to taught in Youth Service. This group of 7-8 year olds stated that it is important to provide qualifications but they also do this in school, so youth centre should be fun rather than tests and learning subjects for their age, but that it would be good for the older young people. Barriers which the group felt they experience in their education were - hard subjects, people in their class messing around and also sometimes staying off school stops them learning. The group stated that teachers, family and friends can sometimes be external pressures which can make them find it hard to understand some subjects. The group spoke about after-school homework clubs with Youth Service would help to overcome barriers as they would be able to focus. As well as workers being there to listen and talk to. This was also mentioned again for how youth services support in educational transitions, as the youth workers will listen to how you feel and help you make the right choices.
Ards and North Down	No	14 to 18 Years	The young people highlighted leadership, teamwork skills, learning how to make new friends, communication skills, listening skills, respecting others (opinions) and ownership as skills which are learnt through Youth Service. The young people feel that youth service could teach more cooking, basic first aid, life skills such as sowing and childcare throughout their service. The group also highlighted that it is very important to provide accredited qualifications for the likes of CVs in the future. Barriers they experience in their education include not enjoying school, lack of concentration levels, teacher's attitudes, feeling disrespectful. External pressures include parental expectations, social media, peer pressure. Youth service can help young people overcome barriers through group work and transition work, Camps to meet new people, international programmes and after school clubs. Youth Services can support young people in educational transitions through group work and meeting new people.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	better organisational skills, more employability, more help with car theory tests and them really skills we need.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Have stalls at in schools when they are running open nights to showcase what the youth centres can do. Have youth workers in schools for longer periods of time so students can go to them

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			throughout the whole day. Have youth centres open during the day so if they arent at school, as an alternative, they can go to the youth centre and learn with the youth worker using youth work methods.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Concerns were raised about exam pressure, limited life skills education, and unequal access to learning resources for Irish speakers. Additional Points: Develop an Irish-language online learning platform covering key life skills and practical subjects. Establish mentorship programmes where older students support younger peers through their academic journey. Organise regular career fairs featuring bilingual employers and apprenticeship providers. Provide Irish-language work experience placements in a range of industries. Suggestions for Youth Service: Introduce study skills workshops to help students manage exam stress and improve learning techniques. Offer financial literacy, cooking, and DIY courses to prepare young people for independent living. Create a homework support programme in Irish-medium schools.
Belfast (North and East)	No	9 to 11 Years	Belive that attending school is important as it leads to them achieving their true asperations and dreams

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Which skills do you learn through Youth Service? -Leadership, Communication, Time Management, Confidence, Respect, Problem Solving, Resilience, Teamwork, Interpersonal skills, Adaptability. • Are there any skills you think should be taught by Youth Service but aren't? -Life skills (Day to day skills, Cooking, finances, CV building, Job and Career applications and interviews) How important is it for Youth Services to provide accredited qualifications? -Helps with getting a job and pursuing a career -OCN levels in Youth Work (YWIC) can help pursue a career in Youth Work -Expands knowledge on topics -A safety net if you under achieve in Formal Education What are some of the barriers you experience in your education or learning journey? -Dyslexia and other Learning difficulties -Young people's attendance/ Participation -Learning styles and struggling in a formal education environment -Access to Youth provision in areas -Relationships with Educators -Peer environment keeping you back Are there any external pressures or circumstances which impact your ability to do well in education? -Parental Pressure to succeed in exams and in Formal Education -Career aspirations being a pressure -Finding a suitable place to go to school, geographical areas and school places being more competitive How can Youth Service help you to overcome those barriers? -Enhance support for young people feeling pressures -Youth workers be present in formal setting to support young people -Provide young people with qualifications -Rewarding young people for achievements and recognising achievements for young people How can Youth Services support you in educational transitions to make them a positive experience? -More information and workshops on steps to take next (ie tech and uni application and courses) -Interview prep and advice -Support on University and Tech culture -Arranging a tour of Universities and Tech colleges -Provide experiences and opportunities to put on CV

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Discussion wide range of skills taught ie Leadership, social skills ,Patience .Importance of accredited qualifications to help complete CV and get experiences for work experiences in the future. Youth Service response for young people transitioning ,provide information packs and support for young people ,Barriers in education exam stress, relationships with teachers, lack of care/ passion from some teachers, special educational needs ,issues at home .External pressures mobile phones ,Family/home issues mental health issues.
Belfast (North and East)	Young Parents	19+ Years	They skills they found they have gained through Youth service are; life skills, coping skills, teamwork, confidence, parenting skills and accreditation. Most left school with very little educational attainment and feel that the provision of childcare for the as a section 75 group is imperative to them being able to part take in education. The worry that they have a lack of experience in training and education because they have been busy raising a child, they feel what qualifications they did leave school with are now irrelevant. All of them felt that youth service needs to invest funding for accreditation that will enhance their employability, for example driving qualification, professional accreditations in beauty, social care, nursing, mid wifely etc.
Belfast (South and West)	No	12 to 13 Years	There were requests for more workshops focusing on practical life skills, such as budgeting and preparation for adulthood. Suggestions also included incorporating more comprehensive sexual education programmes. Additional Points: Advocate for the delivery of practical life skills workshops in Irish, including budgeting, cooking, and interview preparation. Expand the availability of Irish-language STEM workshops to inspire interest in science, technology, and engineering careers. Introduce Irish-medium resources addressing topics like mental health, consent, and healthy relationships within sexual education. Suggestions for Youth Services: Organise life-skills workshops aimed at practical preparation for adulthood. Enhance sexual education curricula to address more specific issues faced by young people.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Concerns about life skills and basic skills (e.g., cooking, budgeting, and practical everyday knowledge) were raised. Additional Points: Develop Irish-language modules on practical life skills, including cooking, budgeting, and home management, to prepare students for independence. Advocate for a more equitable distribution of resources for Irish-medium schools to address overcapacity and staffing

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			shortages. Provide Irish-language career guidance and job readiness programs, ensuring students have access to tools and mentors who share their linguistic background. Support professional development for teachers in Irish-medium schools, focusing on inclusive practices and stress management strategies. Suggestions: Advocate for smaller class sizes and additional staff support to reduce pressure on students and teachers. Invest in inclusive school resources, especially for Irish-speaking students, to ensure equal opportunities. Provide workshops for staff on inclusive practices and nurturing approaches to teaching.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Young people highlighted that education was not just qualifications as some of the things they can physically do but enjoyed the social skills through talking to others, learning about internet safety, teamwork, climate change in a fun way because it was delivered on a basic level to meet their needs and if their was a qualification it had to be on a level of basic understanding. Young people enjoyed gaining confidence through projects within their comfort zones, small committees and small grants because it enabled learning to be fun but this was down to the youth worker and staff delivery. Having OLS attend in sessions enabled stargazing, hot chocolate, campcraft at a basic level. Youth service has no training for Makaton for staff or young people to cater for specific communication needs and limited staffing in centre and only open one evening. Young people discussed education on a wider scale in terms of schooling and being at Met/tech - In school young people are worried about school in general, making new friends , changing class and class schedules and staff could be in their school as a link between club and school as the youth worker knows most of us and have enjoyable learning. In school young people highlighted the problems with uniforms, wheelchairs and various parts breaking down which limits interactions and plus if their bus breaks down then they cannot attend school with limited transport to taxis that are adaptable. The transition from school to tech/ met is nervous and there could be support from youth service during daytime as teachers are in school - youth workers could be in Belfast Met to help us settle in and be not nervous because in tech people with disabilities arent made to feel welcome and feel different and people make fun of us. Then if we dont go to tech after school we go to daycentres with people not our own age and not support groups for us after we leave school as youth service is limited to 24 years. Sometimes people with disabilities have child like minds even at 30.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	Key Feedback: Key issues raised included the lack of subjects available to

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			students attending Irish-language schools. Young people expressed the desire for greater opportunities, variety, and options in their education. Additional Points: Ensure that all career guidance and environmental sustainability workshops are accessible in Irish, empowering young people to envision futures that align with their cultural heritage. Develop Irish-language mentorship programs connecting young people with professionals in various fields. Support youth-led climate initiatives, providing Irish-speaking facilitators and resources to encourage participation and leadership. Suggestions for Youth Service: Advocate for more diverse subject offerings in Irish-language schools. Create partnerships with English-language schools to foster collaboration and shared resources.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	12 to 13 Years	Theme Education Area The Glens DEA (Ballycastle Schools Group) Age band 11/12 Male 12 Female 0 QUESTIONS Which skills do you learn through Youth Service? Football How to make money at tuck shop Communication Are there any skills you think should be taught by Youth Service but aren't? Life skills Respect Jesus Saving How to revise Business Religion Degree Cooking How important is it for Youth Services to provide accredited qualifications? Yes certificates are good Should get them for just turning up Not like homework Not like school What are some of the barriers you experience in your education or learning journey? Behaviour

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Attitude Disrespect Hurting others It isn't fun Are there any external pressures or circumstances which impact your ability to do well in education? Involved in sleep over type things Other things music, boxing eyc Parents at work Stuff going on at home How can Youth Service help you to overcome those barriers? BLANK-Don't know How can Youth Services support you in educational transitions to make them a positive experience? Know how you are feeling Mental health Help you make friends Free not need bank card or money to get there
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	12 to 13 Years	The young people said they learn the following skills at youth club: social skills, personal skills, teamwork skills, communication skills, how to build relationships, bake and cook. The group of 12/13 year olds were not yet aware of any accredited courses that are delivered but when this was explained they thought it would be good to get qualifications at youth club if it was something they were interested in. An external pressure that impacted some of the group were that there is no family support sometimes if parents are out or working or don't know what to do to help. They felt the youth service could support them when moving from p7 to 1st year with opportunities to find out about youth club.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Key Feedback: Key issues raised included the lack of subjects available to students attending Irish-language schools. Young people expressed the desire for greater opportunities, variety, and options in their education. Additional Points: Advocate for the inclusion of modern subjects, such as technology, engineering, and environmental studies, through the Irish language. Develop online learning platforms in Irish to supplement classroom teaching and offer broader subject options. Provide scholarships and funding opportunities for Irish-language students to pursue higher education. Suggestions for Youth Service: Advocate for more diverse subject offerings in Irish-language schools.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Create partnerships with English-language schools to foster collaboration and shared resources.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Which skills do you learn through Youth service? 3 people - Teamwork Team building Following instructions 2 people - Listening Communication You learn listening skills which is important because you can get higher qualifications How important is it for youth services to provide accredited qualifications? Very important 3 people - Good to put on cv Doing OCNS to get a higher qualification What are some of the barriers you experience in your education or learning journey? Anxiety Education struggles Friends People take longer than others Different learning styles Being late and having a disability Not having an idea on what you're looking to do and not getting enough sleep Are there any external pressures or circumstances which impact your ability to do well in education? Mental health Living far away Not getting on with teachers No not really Doing placement Not knowing what you want to do Are there any skills you think should be taught by youth service but aren't? Listening skills How to help others with mental health Confidence boosters How can youth service help you overcome these barriers? Homework and revision clubs Exam help Connect with employees How can youth services support you in educational transitions to make them a positive experience? Offer support with work

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Life skills in life to look after yourself Get past pupils in
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	9 to 11 Years	They said that through YC they can learn about kindness, respect and art skills. They think that some of the barriers to their education learning is the school environment and their own learning difficulties. They think that what other pupils say can impact their ability to do well in education. They don't think that it is important for EAYS to offer accredited qualifications. They think that we should be able to offer self defense for young women. They said that there is nothing positive when it comes to school and that the school don't offer enough preparation time when it comes to making important decisions such as what GCSE's they want to do. They are expected to make decisions with very short notice.
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	- Youth Service to do bespoke training for young people on different career pathways - Teach life skills for the future
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Skills you learn through Youth Service = communication, empathy, problem solving, life skills, decision making, patience, tolerance, confidence building, listening skills, team work, resilience, relationships, leadership, creating change. Barriers to education = family, home environment, poverty, lack of resources, lack of money/funding, educational support, SEN, peer pressure, disability, caring responsibilities, low self-esteem, mental health, undetected/late learning difficulties, gender, emotional factors, lack of goals/motivation, poor nutrition/being hungry, transport. How important is it for Youth Services to promote accredited qualification = very important = gives recognition, can lead to professional jobs/employment/allocation of places at university/courses, open doors/more opportunities, access to resources/better way of learning, bespoke programmes that can suit young people (time/ability), helps build up skills, expands young people's horizons, helps with personal development & growth, courses can be flexible, informal environment, situational teaching, can fit into time that suits young person, learn by doing.. External pressures = money, SEN, ability, disability, poverty, mental health Skills that should be taught by youth service but aren't = DIY, Learning to Drive How can youth service help you overcome those barriers = engage & empower with young people (continue to do this), provide support & training, educational programmes, lifeskills, create safe spaces,
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	A lot of the discussion on this centered around achieving in school, and how this made them feel happy. We discussed how the Youth service provided opportunities for building - teamwork skills - leadership skills

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			- Communication skills - Social skills - Decision making skills - Problem-solving skills - Creativity skills We could help with the following - Developing interview skills - Programmes that could give them qualifications that aren't Writing heavy, like school - Young Volunteer programmes, with qualifications at the end being more available - Accredited progammes more readily available when they are older
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Feedback re schools; not enough knowledge on disabilities (ADHD, Autism and mental health issues). More awareness needed for young carers. Not enough practical life skills taught. Sex education should be modernised and more openly discussed - give home resources. YS help build soft skills; YS response suggestions; more LLW skills would be needed (not done in schools), help Yr 8s socialise with peers(transfer), productive conversations about suicide; advise don't advertise, harm reduction over dramatisation
Fermanagh and Omagh	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	*Youth Service offers life skills, social skills, communication skills and singing lessons. Young people are taking part in Barista Training over the next few weeks to help get PT jobs in Omagh Area. *Life Skills Training can help gain the young people Employment in the future so very beneficial *Barriers in Education is a lot around Bullying and not knowing who to talk to in School and if they should say anything or keep it to themselves. Reiterated always to ask Staff in Youth Centre for Guidance and we will point them in the right direction of who to speak too.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	The young people were asked what skills they have or continue to develop through the Youth Service, and they discussed areas such as speaking with others, overcoming problems, leadership, teamwork, communication, listening, social skills. The lead the discussion to the importance of the Youth Service providing qualifications and the young people reasoned with all the young people putting it at high importance as they the service provides qualifications that are achievable, have no exams, helps to build a better future for yourself, Youth workers listen and provides you with an alternative to GCSEs with no exams. In relation to the barriers the young people face in their education the young people discussed areas such as lack of confidence, leadership and teamwork as a barrier, some went onto say not knowing how to make and when to use a CV, while others discussed the language that is used at times can be confusing, as well as learning disabilities and young people being stubborn as well. one young person then said that hating

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			going to school is a barrier as they don't want to engage resulting in poor performance. When looking at how the Youth Service can support young people in education/training this involved being taught things that are relevant, be direct and important life skills such as bank accounts, mortgages etc. provide a breakdown on the work and support with problem solving, also provide hands on course such as apprenticeships for school leavers and more GCSEs through course work. The young people were then asked about what skills/ opportunities that Youth Service do not deliver in your area and all of the young people said driving lesson signs of poor mental health could be improved and more qualifications in school.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	In relation to the education of the young people they were asked to identify the skills they have/continue to develop through the Youth Service, and they identified Communication, listening, group work, teamwork, new skills and working to deadlines. When asked to comment of the importance of the Youth Service providing accredited qualification the whole group said it was important because it helps you learn new things, there is no exams and a youth worker teaching us is so different to a teacher. This led to the young people being asked to distinguish the barriers they face in their education/training, and they said not know how to apply for sixth year/college, not understanding the terminology used, money (for travelling & eating) and then teachers as some are negative and stereotype. The young people were then aske how can the Youth Service support in their education/training experience, and the young people suggested teaching techniques to cope with stress and exams etc, youth workers could teach life skills in schools and teach new things that are outside of what school normally teaches but making it fun. This then allowed the young people to explore the skills/opportunities that the Youth Service do not deliver in the area and the young people stated it would be good if youth workers delivered essential skills (Maths, English & IT) and CV workshops in small groups or one-2-one.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Education – which skills do you learn through Youth Service? - Leadership - Teamwork - Communication - Listening - Social Awareness - Acceptance - Debate - Public Speaking - Presentation skills - Graphic Design - Representation and Advocacy - Young peoples rights Education – how important is it for youth services to provide accredited qualifications?

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			- Recognises your work - Helps with future - More employable - Fighting unemployment - Yes it is important - Get something out of it at the end Education – are there any skills you think should be taught by youth services but aren't? - Cooking - Basic life skills - How to use an airfryer - CV Writing - Managing finances - Barista skills - Employability - Good relationships - Keeping healthy - How to open a bank account (finance) - Driving theory – basics of driving Education – what are some of the barriers you experience in your education or learning journey? - Not enough disability support - Not enough money to buy supplies - Language – non English speakers - Teaching methods - Curriculum – should be amended - Bullying and not wanting to go to school - Not a lot of 1-1 support for teachers - Exam stress/pressures - Family background (circle of poverty) - Procrastination Education – how can youth services help you to overcome those barriers? - Accredited courses - New opportunities - Good role models - Broaden horizons Education – are there any external pressures or circumstances which impact your ability to do well in education? - Social media - Family Life - Mental health - Lack of motivation - School you go to - Part-time jobs Education – how can youth service support you in educational transitions to make them a positive experience? - Part of life - Transitions programmes - Helping those whose parents aren't around - Learn about what the new school day might look like

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	The young people discussed education and identified what skills they have learnt through the youth service and the young people said, Listening, Communication, Independence, Improved relationships and teamwork. They then were asked how important the Youth Service is to provide accredited qualification, and all the young people said it is very important as they are more hands on, more support and help in class that is different to teaching/Classroom assistant staff. When discussion g the barriers to education/training the young people said they don't listen if the subject is boring to them, if they are tired, difficulty with peers and not having the confidence to be able to speak in front of the whole class when asked questions. This led to the young people discussing how the Youth service can support young people in their education/training experience, and they suggested that Youth Workers help with revision, more youth work staff in classrooms, with the youth service supporting young people in the next step of their educational journey i.e. college/university applications. Finally the young people were asked to discuss skills/opportunities the youth service do not deliver on in the area and the young people suggested youth workers do more in school and would like them to teach more classes, with more hands-on life skills.
Mid and East Antrim	No	14 to 18 Years	The focus group felt that youth service was very good at providing accredited courses such as OCNs as they found this type of learning beneficial as it was different from a formal school setting. Informal learning for some removed certain barriers such as pressure as they felt they could go at their own pace. Young people shared how they have learned a variety of skills through their role as young leaders within the youth service such as communication and leadership. The group explored barriers to education such as bullying, conflict with certain teachers and exam pressure. They group highlighted that youth service could help overcome these barriers by helping them become more resilient and self aware by doing a group work programme perhaps around emotional heath and well being.
Mid and East Antrim	No	14 to 18 Years	School curriculum not suited to a lot of young people, careers advise is worst cast in affective and minimal use, advise doesn't link. Careers advise from 1st year to support young people with subjects and opportunities. The skills that are learned through youth services programme, young people feel they are more beneficial than subjects at school. Youth service need to maintain OCN for young people, travel and new experiences are massive learning opportunities Barriers to Educational >School dinners (cost and access) sometimes poor quality food. >Anxiety and lack of confidence > French, Spanish and other languages what is the point? (Latin and learning about the "Classics") > Teachers who don't care (career path rather than a caring nurturing roles.)

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			>Old and unsuitable/Unhealthy building. < Subjects not available <Sometimes GSCE's subjects clash (can't choose)
Mid and East Antrim	Traveller Children and Young People	9 to 11 Years	What skills do you learn through the Youth Service? We learn how to talk, play new sports, make friends, roller skating, play new games, pool, learn how to bake. Is it important for the Youth Service to provide accreditation? Yes it's important we didn't know we could do that.
Mid and East Antrim	No	12 to 13 Years	Not all teachers care, and not all teachers are good educators. Depending on area where you live, you may not get your first choice of secondary school. Long distances on public or private transport to post-primary schools will add hours on to a school day and when homework is factored in, there is little time for social time or opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities. Anti-social behaviour in schools is a distraction, and a safety issue. If food is important to fuel a pupil's ability to learn, issues around eating food in canteens (some choose toilets), cost of lunches, quality of lunches...some young people do not eat good food at home and school dinner is the best meal of the day. Schools do not feel like safe spaces. Pills being passed around, and other drugs in vapes. Limited access to toilets during the school day. Are all schools meant to have sensory or safe spaces for students to take respite?
Mid and East Antrim	No	12 to 13 Years	Socializing, speaking, opportunities to make friends, self defense, Karate, how to be safe, boosts my confidence/wellbeing, youth club can help me learn socializing and learning about helping people, Skills in youth club - football, cooking, respect, ping pong and pool, WANT - job skills, making a CV, OCN and qualifications problems - teachers, Early start, train times, Youth Service can help by putting on activities such as arts, cooking and sports. More in depth programming such as life skills further skilling up for employment and local voice to help with taking positive action to make change. From Conversation train times are a huge issue identified that young people need to leave early to get the train home from club. Having clear boundaries set so young people are aware of what the expectation of the evening and their behavior is.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	The overall feedback about their education through the youth services has been positive. They have said that the youth services provided them with skills such as teamwork, communication, confidence, first aid, and friendship building. They have expressed that it is somewhat important that they receive qualifications through the youth service. They have expressed that they face many pressure in their education journeys due to the struggle of finding balance and with the

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			expectations that is put on them along with their school environment. The external pressures they are faced with are, expectations, attitudes to priorities school over everything and extra circular activities. The suggestions outlined by the young people for the youth services are to provide more study skills sessions around the time of exams, time management courses within their school setting (delivered by a youth worker) and 'chill sessions' every now and again at groups.
Mid Ulster	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	Not enough is done in school to support around: - Careers and pathways - Sexual Health - contraception - Mental and Emotional Health and Wellbeing - Healthy Eating - Physical Health - apart from PE which not everyone is sporty! - Independent Living Skills, i.e. how to Budget, how to do basic life skills like working the washing machine, ironing etc. How to complete forms i.e. CV's etc. Youth Service support us more on the above things. Youth Service also provide opportunities such as OCN's and training programmes in Youth Work. It has programmes like this one to support young people from LGBTQ+ Community.
Mid Ulster	No	9 to 11 Years	What stops you from doing well at school? (Quotes) Loud noises and bad behaviour (at school). Talking and shouting (at school). People shouting and talking loud (at school). Peers, subjects, music in school (at school). Teachers and Classroom Assistants - mean or don't actually help me (at school). Lots of talking at my table (at school). Too much homework! How can youth help? (Quotes) Help be more energetic/ excited for school - new games. Do an art club or music club. Helps us make friends. By introducing us to new things and help me have fun and take part. Homework club and reading club. Be happy.
Mid Ulster	No	12 to 13 Years	What skills do you learn through youth services? (Quotes) Teamwork. Group work. Patience. Independence. Mobility/Movement. Talking and Listening. Social Skills. How important is it for youth services to provide you with qualifications? (Quotes) It could help young people learn in a fun environment. It is free. It can help people who can't go to school. What are some of the barriers you experience in your education or learning journey? (Quotes) Discouraging people. Mental Wellbeing. Teachers. Physical Health. Bullies. Are there any external pressures or circumstances what impact your ability to do well in education? (Quotes) Cyberbullying. Mental Health. Physical Health. Family Issues. Home Life. How can youth services support you in educational issues or barriers? (Quotes) Spread awareness of different types of bullying. Step in if someone is struggling.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	Skills that have been learnt through youth services are leadership skills, communication skills, teamwork skills, social skills and time keeping skills. It is important for youth services to provide qualifications as it is unique opportunities within a comfortable environment in comparison to school which can help people get qualifications in a fun way. Getting qualifications through youth services feels better than at school as the topics are practical and it doesn't feel like a waste of your time as you feel you are learning something useful. It is also important as it is good for your future jobs university and the future. There are a number of barriers which have been identified through experiences within formal education such as the work load which makes it challenging to keep up with self-care and look after your mental health. It has been difficult to pass the key subjects such as maths GCSE, it is difficult trying to get all coursework and exam revision done in a short amount of time. It is hard as you aren't listened to by teachers all the time as they are only focused on you getting your work done. Mixed reviews around external pressures as some people feel pressures from parents/guardians, however some others don't have that pressure. Some of the other pressures discussed included lack of transport and finance in being able to access other means of education. Youth services can support young people in their education journey by providing homework support after school to encourage and support young people to do their home works. Youth services could also enable a space for young peoples voices to be heard in relation to exam pressures and how it is affecting them, youth service could provide revising tips and give advice and guidance on how to manage the workload.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	-Provide a safe space to talk - Helping find a solution - Help with CV and interview skills
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	- More programmes - Revision Classes
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	"talking, advising, more learning experiences, international trips or residentials" "going on residential with other groups at least once or twice a year" "more trips" "funding for trips in our local groups" "workshops on how to do our best in schools without making it about marks and grades"
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	na
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Young people requested better career advice, job interview preparation, and financial literacy education. Additional Points: Establish a career mentoring network through Irish-speaking

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			professionals. Develop an interactive online career guidance platform in Irish. Ensure that school-leaver transition programmes cover practical life skills. Expand work experience placements in Irish-speaking organisations. Suggestions for Youth Service: Offer job-readiness programmes with mock interviews and CV workshops. Create budgeting and money management classes. Provide mentorship schemes linking young people with professionals in different career fields.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Lack of opportunities in rural areas. EA could do so much more in relation to life skills Barriers- don't like asking parents for any money for trips etc. EA could help us more on finance skills
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	When discussing education young people talked about inequality felt and experienced in school- and associated 'school' with feelings of inequality. in education there is talk about your rights but they don't see it being practiced. school as an opportunity to learn and get qualification - but some struggle with maths in particular and still feel they are out of their depth - linked to feelings of fear about their future and careers - In school as a place where they hear lots of discrimination - racial slurs, inequality towards girls - favouritism towards young men - feel youth service can continue to promote experiences of feeling welcomed, where young people can have a say, space to learn about difference in a comfortable way, they can ask questions and be supported in their learning - people will not argue against you - they will talk with you. young people want more of this. more opportunities to learn more about diversity. more opportunities to grow their skills - to be upskilled in variety of qualifications which help them feel confident about themselves if they aren't doing well in some subjects.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Skills you learn through YS: Confidence in public speaking, how to be respectful, leadership skills, communication, teamwork, good manners, problem solving. Any skills you thought should be taught by YS but aren't? Life skills, cooking, cleaning, managing money, how we do food shopping, conflict resolution, time management, more on communication skills. How can Ys support transitions? General support, workshops, training, giving you access to resources, guidance, financial support, help with social skills, groups of yp going through similar transitions, peer support, mental health support, help with time keeping. Barriers to education: personal independence. lack of support, lack of confidence, problems at home, special needs, mental health issues, motivation to go to school and also to do work,

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			time to focus on an education, learning needs, having to make money as well YS service support to overcome barriers? Support group, homework clubs as some yp have young siblings at home and might need help but aren't able to get it, provide a safe space, drop in after school to decompress, provide you with a strong support system, someone to help you, build our confidence External pressures: Home life, personal life issues, Jobs, mental health issues, studying to be able to drive, social life. how important is it for YS to provide accreditation? Makes you stand out, helps with applications, to be given the same opportunity everyone else gets if you are not doing well in school you will still have achieved.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people felt that education was really important but that there are many ways to learn. Young people said they feel they learn better when they are listened to, heard and can express themselves creatively. They highlighted inclusion being important in formal education. Young people feel youth service is the best place to teach them what is outside their school curriculum. They would like to see youth service take lead on RSE education and neurodiversity.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Skills learned for youth service: independence, leadership, teambuilding, teamwork, increased tolerance of difference Gaps: Budgeting and cooking (not taught at school) self sufficiency, how to live, how to deal with/recognise mental health problems in others early signs and a greater awareness of mental beginning to suffer for both self and others. conflict resolution and dealing with others, accepting others views and deescalating situations. More TBUC and more awareness that TBUC programme are available young people in vol centres are unaware of what TBUC is or its availably outside of the Centre. Personal care and personal hygiene. Barriers to education: lack of careers advice for future education and uni, lack of info given in school around topic specifically sex ed, some schools won't acknowledge some young people's reality ie dropping out or just wanting to get out to work instead of achieving exams, peers pressure feeling like you have to go to the same school/uni/course as friends to continue to have a friendship group heavily dependent on friends at a particular age. Finance is every aspect, training, working, uni etc. how to overcome barriers: youth service should have a careers advisor to signpost to/provide the info that teachers wont workshops on sex ed for everyone in the year groups not just selected classes/skills focused education not everyone wants to go to uni/ Alternative training and opportunities links with trades to help people find placements to be able to do courses in SRC if you have no placement you are in tech all week and end up dropping out/ study support and a support class for

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			filling in forms creating CVs and personal statements. what can YS do? provide apprenticeships /over see and co ordinate apprenticeships / provide placements for experience/ an OCN calendar for the year of courses being run for young people/ easier access to Flare one to one and immediate access during difficult times/ chill space and café to unwind from the stress of studying and exams with no expectations

Strategic Theme 4: Living in Safety & Stability

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	What can Youth Services do to make you feel more safe and reduce your worries or concerns? - More Mental Health Support for YP - Review of how policy responses to gender - More appropriate opening times (weekends and all evenings) - Encouraging youth voice in every centre - Updating YP on decisions regarding them - Provide small meals for those who need - Safe, educational spaces for young people - Encourage communication other youth providers and communities - Encourage peer support - Signposting to other support services What risks or dangers are present at home, in school, in youth provision or in your local area? - Abuse, Drugs, Alcohol, Homelessness, Poverty, crime, unemployment - Bullying and Discrimination - Lack of trained / educated staff in schools - Lack of practical resources in youth centres - Environmental hazards in local areas - Police - Being followed / Walking home alone - Lack of transport / no access to youth provision - Educational opportunities - Not having access to required needs - Police harassment What should youth services do to support women and girls through youth work? - Education talks - International Visits - Inclusive activities - Gender sensitive training - Empowerment programmes - Always creating safe spaces - Listen and encourage the voices of Young women and girls - Provide sanitary products - Volunteering opportunities - Women only projects / events - Women fitness programmes
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	What can youth services do to make you feel safer and reduce worries or concerns? Youth services can make young people feel safer and reduce worries by offering reflection sessions, creating a welcoming and calm environment, and providing a safe center for young

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			people to gather. They can implement night groups open to all, ensure inclusivity across age groups, and train staff properly to foster trust. Regular checkups and mentoring programs can help connect individuals, while providing a phone number or website for those unable to speak in person ensures accessibility. Additionally, after-school programs, confidentiality awareness, and education on safeguarding and the negative effects of media can support young people's well-being. Access to authority figures and continuous availability can further ensure young people feel supported and safe. What risks or dangers are present in school, in youth provision or in your Community? In schools, youth provisions, and communities, various risks and dangers can threaten safety and well-being. These include predators, anti-social behavior, and issues like underage drinking, drug use, and sexting. There's also the presence of bullying—verbal, cyber, and physical—along with racism, sectarianism, and sexualization. Environmental hazards such as potholes, dog waste, and broken lights contribute to safety concerns, while a lack of proper communication between parents and staff can lead to neglect. Additionally, the absence of sufficient police presence, CCTV, and medical expertise, as well as the influence of paramilitary groups, further exacerbates the risks. Other challenges include child abuse, inappropriate images, and the growing impact of global warming. What makes you feel safe at home, in school, in youth provision or in your local area? Feeling safe at home, in school, youth provisions, or in the local area is often supported by trustful relationships and strong community connections. For example, places like Monkstown Boxing Club and inclusive youth centers provide welcoming environments where people feel supported. Trusting teachers, like Andrew, and having reliable family members offer reassurance. Being able to express oneself openly without judgment, seeking help from local support groups, and having access to medical attention further enhance feelings of safety. Group solidarity, especially at night, streetlights, and the presence of authority figures such as teachers and the police all contribute to a secure atmosphere. Additionally, safe spaces that do not tolerate bullying and the presence of CCTV or cameras provide additional protection. What should youth service do to support the safety of women and girls through youth work? Youth services should support the safety of women and girls by educating boys on respect, offering self-defense workshops, creating safe spaces, and providing resources such as a phone number or online support services. They can also teach men about healthy relationships, the hardships women face, and

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			how to support women, while educating younger generations on the importance of equality and healthy relationships. Additionally, providing women-only youth groups, support groups, and self-defense classes can empower women and girls to feel safer and supported. Outline suggestions for how Youth Service can respond: Youth services should provide reflection sessions, create welcoming and calm environments, and establish safe spaces for gathering. They can host inclusive night groups for all age groups. After-school programmes, confidentiality awareness, and education on safeguarding can help protect young people. In response to risks such as predators, bullying, underage drinking, and environmental hazards, youth services can address these dangers by promoting awareness, encouraging positive behaviours, and creating a proactive support system. Offering targeted support to women and girls is essential.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	9 to 11 Years	1. What makes you feel safe at home, in school, in youth provision or in your local area? - My phone - Family - Glasses - Area is safe - Youth leaders - Teachers - Locks on doors - Rules 2. What risk/dangers are present at home in school in youth provision or in your local area? - Fights - Paramilitaries - Sectarianism - Antisocial behaviour - Riots - Vandalism 3. What can youth services do to make you feel safer and reduce worries/concerns? - Having chats with youth workers - Peer leaders - Volunteers - Rules - Help from youth workers - Groups like tbuc
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Support and challenge others if they see things that aren't right like language or excluding people. Provide later night clubs so people have safe spaces to go like weekends to. Be more on the streets Calm people down and show them everything is okay and

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			there's nothing to be scared of through programmes which enable young people to self-regulate Provide a hangout spot at night time to get the delinquents off the streets Spend more time with you - Later opening hours for youth centre and more of a presence of outreach/detached workers on the street over the weekends when risk is higher. Link in with Free martial arts and self defense classes Inform people in basic safety in public areas - I once saw the minibus in the leisure centre car park which made me feel safe. Tell them how to handle situations that put them in danger and educate men on how to make women not feel uncomfortable, do programmes to make them more confident. To talk more open about risk and consequences so people are aware
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	9 to 11 Years	3 strike rule - Have more boundaries in the centre to raise awareness and hopefully this will make people more aware of risk and concenques. Someone keeping a eye on the park cause there's fights there - More staff Education - Make people more aware.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Have more staff round when it comes to safety for girls Help them know they aren't in danger / Help them know there not in danger Engage with them build trust Education support Provide talks for the girls in the community They keep us off the streets and if anything bad happens in the area they make sure we are in the youth club and that we are safe Be more approachable I feel safe in a secure building By taking time to listen and understand us and being more approachable
Ards and North Down	No	14 to 18 Years	The things that young people said makes them feel safe is their family and their home (where they feel most safe), knowing the community the live in (same background as them, know the layout so less likely to get lost), being with friends (trust each other and look after each other, less intimidating being in a group than by yourself), being in a car is safer than walking home. Young people feel safe in youth services or school because there is child protection policies and workers, trusted adults, can protect yourself (feel comfortable), schools will ring home if you are not signed in for the day to check in with parents. Young people feel that some of the risks they encounter are getting lost somewhere you don't know, going into communities of different backgrounds (e.g. catholic/protestant), crime (young people carrying knives), big groups of young people (anti-social behaviours/intimidating/fighting), lack of street lights (walking home at night), road safety, drugs & alcohol, vandalism

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Young people feel that youth services can help promote safety by helping young people to get to know others, having trusted adults for support, cross community programmes, help develop your understanding of others (if someone is bullying you, why they are doing this/what is going in in their lives to make them do it), safe space
Ards and North Down	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Staff adapted the questions slightly to meet the needs of young people participating in the focus group. The young people did not understand some of the language being used, so the topics of conversation focused on safety and what makes young people feel safe. The young people were asked if they could identify some dangers at home, in school and in youth club. The young people spoke about the dangers at home being focused on the kitchen and items that could cause physical harm. When asked about school and youth club, the young people again focused on physical dangers such as kitchen appliances or items that can be used to hurt someone such as pool cues. When the young people were asked if they could identify what makes them feel safe at home, school or youth club they said their friends, leaders and taking part in activities.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Some individuals feel safe with family -take good care of you. Sometimes in school, would feel unsafe in big crowds. Feel safe in their Bedroom - Safe/ Happy Space - have your TV, gaming, watching movies, kind of feel safe in Banbridge - Lurgan, people being blocked, feeling unsafe - rumors about certain areas as no go areas - night time - The Dark - Alley ways - people jumping out. Banbridge some people think that anti social behaviour isn't around, in certain areas there is more anti social behaviour - lots of under age drinks - No Activities for Young People - Cyber Bullying - Trolling a big issue - Online and In Person bullying are all interlinked. People are not seeing people as real and writing the worse thing. Group Chats are dangerous - Instagram - toxic - People can sometimes feel safe in those spaces to be their true selves - there is a real dangerous that people don't see them as real people.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	None
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Teach young people self defense.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Educate young men and girls on how to stay safe when alone, self defense classes or have someone in that it has directly affected to educate young men about the emotional consequences of actions.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Check in more with young people and have more conversations with them about their safety and how they feel. Provide safety devices such as torches/ lights for late nights walking. Work more with emergency services and first aid training for young people. Possibly providing buses for young people who dont feel safe walking home, or having staff be able to walk them

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			home. Knowing safer routes for young people and providing them to the young people. Also, opening later at weekends. Better/ bigger bike lanes, one young person had mentioned how bike lanes are always being used by walking pedestrians causing danger to young people on bikes and the people walking.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Young people mentioned concerns about public safety, bullying at school, and lack of safe places to hang out after school. Additional Points: Create an Irish-language community safety app where young people can report issues anonymously. Partner with local police to run bilingual safety awareness workshops. Establish peer-led safety committees within schools. Offer self-defence and personal safety classes taught in Irish. Suggestions for Youth Service: Set up youth-friendly public spaces that are safe, well-lit, and supervised. Launch anti-bullying campaigns in partnership with schools and community groups. Advocate for safer transport options, including school buses and night services.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	9 to 11 Years	The group outlined they have a number of safe spaces to socialise with their friends, including during youth provision as well as in Church, School and Clubs. However, they expressed how the park is not a safe space to hang out.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Home feel safe with family/ doors locks but social media can be toxic - no escape. School - feel safe in school Internet - Cyber bullying, social media not safe - worried about trolling, group chat drama Sports Activities - safe, all nice and friendly - know the coaches - in the Park feel unsafe, violence, most youths hang out there. Most of the group feel safe on their own - afraid of violence - meeting people you don't know - walking alone/ dark. Feel safe with family and sometimes in school - big crowds in schools scary. Bedroom is safe/ happy place - your TV, gaming, watching movies. Sometimes feel safe in Banbridge - Lurgan, people being drunk feeling unsafe. Rumors about certain areas as no go areas. Night time - the dark - alley ways - people jumping out. Banbridge some people think that anti social behaviour isn't around. More where you go - certain areas of anti social - lots of underage drinks - no activities for young people. The police scare young people are they are intimating.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	9 to 11 Years	What risks or dangers are present at home, in school, in youth provision or in your local area? - Pedophiles

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			- Fights in school and out on the streets and threatened to get involved - Violence in the subway beside school which is the journey to and home from school - People taking drugs and drinking and being afraid t walk around the community - Vaping and the pressures to try these - Homeless - Scared of some young people who fight in the youth club and would be seen as fighters - Slagging and backstabbing What should youth services do to support the safety of women and girls through youth work? - Provide a box with a code for period products so young women can access these and they also wont be thrown about the place and cause embarrassment - Older female members to volunteer with younger female members to support and have more female presence - More young women programmes focusing on safety and support - More women's sports - Self defense classes - Code word for Young Women to say to leaders if they feel unsafe which will then give opportunity to go directly to a quieter space to discuss confidentially - More education on periods and women's health What makes you feel safe in the youth club? - Youth Leaders - the young people feel like they can talk to youth leaders about things and get support - Friends - Doors in the youth centre make them feel safe - Sports - Programmes make them feel safe as they can talk about their problems or seek support on a more personal level - Games What can youth workers/service do? - 'Talk to us and actively listen' - Whenever they want to say something private or get support they would like to go to a private area (office) to discuss - Cooking - Chill out room - make it more welcoming with more sensory items - More activities focused on young women
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	9 to 11 Years	The young people at start didn't consider safety however on breaking it down into locations and having them think about some of the things they face and fear it was interesting to hear

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			and learn their views from spiders and broken glass to some really interesting lenses on radiators not being covered in home school to wall outside the youth center not being blocked off and anyone can walk it and could fall off - Although a lot of their answers were innocent and from a place of self need and worry it was clear that they value what they youth center provides - That its indoors especially on dark cold evenings - that its consistent and that staff are and they are really supportive and caring - they love having their own space to be be with young people their own age and not have to worry about older ones coming in and taking over .
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	They all felt really safe in youth Centre with the staff and knowing who to talk to and having that trusted adult or person to confide in with they also felt safe in school but not as safe as way more people being brought together and its somewhat intimidating and they talked about being at transitions ages and fearing being bullied and not knowing and worrying and change and new schools challenges and having to meet new people whilst losing friends. Many were oblivious to poitical and social issues across the area they live however they did say they would like to know more and understand what these were about to best support them as know helps them avoid or have answer when needed to keep themselves and their peers safe
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	What risks or dangers are present at home, in school, in youth provision or in your local area? - People who are walking around the community under the influence of drugs. Sometimes they get aggravated and there is a risk of fighting. - Murders in the local area - Robberies - Pedophiles - Drunk people leaving the pun when we are walking home - makes us feel scared and unsafe - Being attached by drunk people - Fights in school - Organised fights in school - organised on snapchat - People under the influence of drugs in school - needs have been found - Spice, heroin and THC pens in school - Sometimes feel unsafe in the youth centre because there are people attending from different communities - Residents from the community coming to the youth centre and accusing young people of things they didn't do. What can youth services do to make you feel safer and reduce worries or concerns? - More trips and residential - More privacy in youth club so we can be with our own friends - Add more opening times - during afternoons - More targeted programmes with a residential at the end - Boxing classes with supervised matches

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			What makes you feel safe at home, in school, in youth provision or in your local area? - Youth Leaders make us feel safe because we can trust them - Knowing that our youth workers grew up in the same community as us makes us feel safe
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Risks & Dangers young people identified and addressed in their local area, - school: knives & weapons being brought in *significant prominence* prominence of overdoses in school / tech drugs - home & local community: sexual assault alcoholism emotional abuse PSNI engagement & activity is high in area - showing a lot more crime Pedophiles Neglect Domestic Violence Safety of Women, - significantly worse - safety at night - fear of being 'mugged' - cat-calling & harassment is 'normalised' Young people reported feeling safe at home however, within their local community the increase in knife crime and use of weapons causes fear. Youth service can offer support through, - alarms & flashlights - education - dangers of being alone at night & how to stay safe through use of safe spaces - a sense of hate towards the PSNI - can this be changed?
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Newcomer Children and Young People	14 to 18 Years	YP outlined risks are present due to the access to illicit drugs. YP see schools in their local area having a large amount of problems with spice usage. Paramilitary groups are very active in local estates within the area. Youth Service can help YP feel safer in centres by keeping check ups with YP engaged e.g. open & informal group work discussions. YP identified safe spaces in their community as Epicentre, Spring Project, Vibe & React.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Belfast (North and East)	No	9 to 11 Years	feel safe at school, home with family and friends when its not dark or when near responsible people like being with mature people want to work will qualified professionals
Belfast (North and East)	No	12 to 13 Years	- The group discussed the initial feelings of not feeling safe in their own communities due to drug taking, paramilitaries' and anti social behavior- - Young people also discussed their negative experiences as young women living in society in terms of again, not feeling safe walking home at night, using public transport alone - suggested more in depth group work with young men on this topic
Belfast (North and East)	No	9 to 11 Years	Please see play, hobbies and interest's
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Discussion around young people feel safe at home, school and area what makes them safe support from parents, youth workers and police, safe spaces and friends very important, Risks to young people they felt Robbery, travelling within Belfast and further afield, Vapes lack of funding in East Belfast and if funding is reduced. Youth service response more youth provision/programmes ,self defense programmes.
Belfast (North and East)	Young Parents	19+ Years	All of the participants responded that they feel safe in youth provision that they attend for their young mums programme, they feel confident that their children are safe on our onsite creche facility and have confidence in the childcare staff looking after their children. All participants say they do not feel safe in their homes or in their local area. They stated the dangers locally are paramilitaries, sectarianism, drug addicts and anti-social behaviour. Steps they take to feel safer include; having family close by, having trustworthy neighbours, increasing security in their homes. One had a door camera but the rest cannot afford. They feel youth service could help them by working more with anti-social behaviour and drug education and increasing safe provision that they and their children can attend.
Belfast (South and West)	No	12 to 13 Years	A strong desire was expressed for safer community spaces, with concerns raised about bullying and harassment. Young people also wanted more community officers or visible safety measures. Additional Points: Employ Irish-speaking community officers to build trust with young people and ensure communication in their preferred language. Create youth-led initiatives, conducted in Irish, to raise awareness about bullying, harassment, and safety in public spaces. Provide an Irish-medium helpline for young people to report concerns about safety and receive guidance. Suggestions for Youth Services: Increase visible security in community spaces.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Provide anti-bullying programmes and peer mediation initiatives.
Belfast (South and West)	No	14 to 18 Years	What risk or dangers make you feel unsafe. Mum and dad not getting on, Bullying, fighting with others, other people coming into our area, P.S.N.I being heavy handed and not knowing whos living in our community anymore. What make young people feel safe. Family, friends, youth workers, youth club and people in their community. What can youth service do yo make young people feel safe. Positive relationship projects, P.S.N.I need to do more, youth workers listening to us, having a safe youth club, open youth club more at weekends and teach us life skills. What should youth service do to support women and young girls. Positive relationship programmes for males and females, P.S.N.I should do more, Have a girls only night in youth club, have a women's group to promote it, listen to the fears of young women and girls and act on the findings and make the community safer for them.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Young people expressed concerns about safety in their local communities, including issues related to transportation and littering. Additional Points: Train Irish-speaking youth officers to provide a visible and accessible safety presence in communities and on public transport. Create bilingual educational campaigns on littering and pollution, emphasizing the environmental impact and fostering civic pride. Support youth-led safety projects, such as clean-up campaigns and neighbourhood watch initiatives, conducted in Irish to empower young people and reinforce cultural identity. Suggestions for Youth Service: Advocate for safer and more reliable transportation systems, ensuring that young people feel secure while traveling to school or recreational activities. Encourage local councils to implement stricter fines for littering and pollution to create cleaner, safer public spaces. Collaborate with schools and communities to create awareness campaigns about the importance of maintaining safe and welcoming environments. Introduce youth-led initiatives where young people can voice their concerns about safety and propose solutions.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational	14 to 18 Years	Young people (SEN) discussed that being in LYNKD kept them safe as there are friendly faces, their friends are here and they

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
	Need or Disability (SEND)		know the staff and are comfortable with them and can ask for help if needed within the club. The young people know the building and surroundings and are supported through chats, discussions in a safer space and can do projects about their concerns or worries though at times they just want to come to the youth centre to hang out. Young people expressed that the building does have leaks and spillages in the school and there is limits of going to the bathroom without support as there is less staff than in school times. Youth services can have talks about womens safety, bring awareness to various matters and have the psni come into the club as some of the young people are nearly the age of going out to bars/ restaurants and use social media. Youth services can help SEN young people about being safe in relation to the internet, plus youth workers have contacts for parents to inform them and chat about their disabilities which helps young people feels safe.
Belfast (South and West)	No	4 to 8 Years	Safety responses in area - felt safe due to parents, family, friends - youth workers, teachers. Always threat of kidnap - strangers to and from schools and youth centre - young people really discussed their safety in school in regards to bullying - fear of being left alone or lost was big within the young people - fear of safety of been taken by strangers within area - fear of getting hurt was also a big thing and someone not being their to always protect them. Big fear of fire and being trapped - youth service could provide sessions with fire service - Young people doing programmes on safety on streets and at home in centres youth just to always provide safe space to come
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	Key Feedback: Safety concerns related to transportation were highlighted. Public safety and the cleanliness of local environments were recurring themes. Additional Points: Ensure transport information, signage, and communication systems in public spaces are bilingual to ensure Irish-speaking youth feel represented and safe. Train Irish-speaking counselors and safety officers who can address the concerns of young people in their preferred language. Suggestions for Youth Service: Advocate for better public transport options, ensuring young people feel safe and supported while traveling. Support youth-led safety initiatives that focus on creating secure, clean, and welcoming spaces for all.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	9 to 11 Years	Young People voiced that the risks that are present within their local community are social media- online bullying. Young People highlighted that what makes them feel safe at youth club is that the inside is bright and welcoming, registration, having to sign in, Club Contract, the child protection board and being able to talk to the leader in charge.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Young People stated that youth service could put in place policies that doesn't allow phones at youth club as this could help to prevent any online bullying and also educational programmes. Young People also voiced that youth service could provide information/posters on the the safety of women and girls and educational programmes to help young people understand this topic in more detail.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	12 to 13 Years	The group thought the following present risks or dangers: bullying, teachers you don't like, social media dangers, friends, family, the road, nighttime – going out at night , groups of young people, bad habits – drugs, alcohol, antisocial behaviour – burglary. Youth service could offer programmes about safety online to reduce worries and maybe bring in the police. Talk about safe road use/driving and drugs and alcohol. Parents, family, some teachers, youth leaders, friends make the young people feel safe. The youth service could provide educational programmes to support safety of women and girls even though the girls in the group didn't feel they were at any danger.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Key Feedback: Safety concerns related to transportation were highlighted. Public safety and the cleanliness of local environments were recurring themes. Additional Points: Ensure transport information, signage, and communication systems in public spaces are bilingual to ensure Irish-speaking youth feel represented and safe. Train Irish-speaking counselors and safety officers who can address the concerns of young people in their preferred language. Suggestions for Youth Service: Advocate for better public transport options, ensuring young people feel safe and supported while traveling. Support youth-led safety initiatives that focus on creating secure, clean, and welcoming spaces for all.
Derry and Strabane	No	9 to 11 Years	SAFETY Q1 – What makes you feel safe in Youth Club, Home, School and your local area? No strangers come in Adults see you and look out for you Grownups – like you I can talk to the adults about anything Being with friends Q2 – What risks or Dangers are there in your youth club, school, or your local area where you live? Getting robbed

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Getting kidnaped Stranger danger People being mean Cars Can't always trust people Its always dark now. Q3 – What can Youth Services/Youth Club do to make you feel safer and take away worries or concerns? Supervise Be kind Be caring Keep talking to us. Watch us in the building and be there when people try to bully us. Stop bad behaviour.
Derry and Strabane	Newcomer Children and Young People	19+ Years	Q1 We are happy here You and Marty are here – Youth Workers We feel safe when we are together Q2 Don't feel any We feel good No dangers for us. Q3 Bus/Transport We live together some of us. Social workers help us to get what we need.
Derry and Strabane	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	19+ Years	Young people shared that they feel safe at BUD Club and this is their community, when youth worker asked young people about the area's they live in and the youth providers in these areas, young people shared that they don't attend these services due to fear of bullying, they don't go out within their communities and don't play in the streets or never did as limited friends. Young people shared they feel safe in BUD Club, they feel welcomed, have the opportunities to meet and see friends and they feel equal. Many of the young people shared that they don't walk alone or travel alone in their community or city, due to fear or the support they require, others shared they don't have the skills to do this.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	What makes you feel safe at home, in school, in youth provision or in your local area? Family support at home Talking to my friends My friends Home time What risks or dangers are present at home, in school, in youth provision or in your local area?

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			No danger 2 people - Peer pressure Bad people What should youth services do to support the safety of women and girls through youth work? 2 people - Funding for self defence classes Rape alarm Safety pack What can youth services do to make you feel safer and reduce worries or concerns? 2 people - One to one chats with youth worker Keep youth club open to have a place to meet friends More funding
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	9 to 11 Years	YP discussed risks such as; bullying, vaping, drugs, alcohol, local environment. They went on to say that they felt safe being at home or with friends. They said there should be a young women's group within the centre, or a girls safety code
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	- Provide self-defenses classes - Safety awareness workshops for young girls women. - give young people safety key chains or items that deter bad people. - Youth Service could have youth workers on the street to engage with young people.
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	What Risks/Dangers Are Present At Home, School, In Youth Provision in Your Local Area = School (Risky Online Behaviours, Bullying, Peer Pressure, Vaping, Alcohol. Home = Mouldy Homes, Potential Homelessness, Not enough Social Housing, Poverty - not enough money in family home, isolation -living in rural areas, no socialisation opportunities, family break ups/domestic violence/alcohol issues/drugs. What makes you feel safe = Home (security, emotional support, feeling understood, family dynamics, healthy relationships, open communications. School = supportive classroom environment, feeling understood/listened to, rules (but not always good), teachers. Local area = Neighbourhood Watch. Youth Provision = Fun Activities, Freedom of Choice, Child Protection/Safeguarding, Respectful/Professional Relationships, Opportunities, No Judgement from Leaders, Help & Support, Listening ear, getting your voice heard, boundaries, respecting difference, transparency, accountability, empathy. What Can Youth Services Do To Make You Feel Safe = Empowering Programmes, Informed Choices Programmes, How to Keep Safe Programmes - Drugs & Alcohol, Bullying, Vaping, Peer Pressure. Life Skills Programmes, Physical Safety, Emotional Safety, Peer Relationships, Self Defense Lesson. Safety of Women & Girls, What Can Youth Services Do to Support = Help prevent gender based violence by increasing funding -e.g. Champion Poogramme - Women's Empowerment, Stand Up Against Harassment Programmes, Self Defence

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Training/Awareness, Safety Campaigns, learn about personal safety, recognise & respond, provide support, male allyship partnership with young women's group, feeling safe in public e.g. become a peer educator/advocate for younger girls/women, street smart activities.
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	Some of the risks at home, school etc were, - Drinking alcohol - Smoking - Vaping - Young car drivers "rallying" the roads at night - Bullying - Cyber-bullying Things that made them feel safe were - Family - Certain teachers - Friends - Youth club leaders - Being part of sports clubs
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	The group felt that the town was safe enough but some said they hated walking home some nights as it is very dark and always groups of boys hanging out in cars or in groups. They just shout at you or call you names in a joking way but its really embarrassing if you are on your own. Nobody can really help make this better as these boys are bad mannered and rude and would fight with other boys. There needs to be more self defense classes or boxing so we can learn to look after ourselves and boys need to be taught that they cant go around being horrible to girls and how this makes us worry and feel unsafe. And more lights outside the main town would help
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Risks identified as drunk people in public, other people, cars/reckless drivers, abusive people/relationships. What makes yp feel safe is warm dry environment, procedures/rules followed, voice (YPs) heard in Youth Centre, friends there. YS response suggestions; intervene in abusive situations, open earlier, provide counselling services, educate people. In relation to Safety of women and girls discussions highlighted a need for self defence classes, women's only rights, awareness raising, hold people accountable for actions
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	Some young people had noted that some of the risks in their area would include feeling unsafe walking home in the dark, although they feel their area is safe during the day time. They noted that there are irresponsible people within the town and highlighted Halloween (fireworks) as a dangerous time for them. They feel safe at youth club and are aware that it is a safe space where they can come and speak to youth leaders about any issues that are troubling them. They also say that there are

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			adults at school that they can talk to and they feel safe in their homes with their family. The young people feel that youth services can make them feel safer by talking to them and and developing programmes to support them. They also stated that they feel it is valuable having the chance to plan programmes together and share their input. Young people also noted that youth services can give information about how young people can keep themselves safe, and promote the youth service as a support network.
Fermanagh and Omagh	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	*Risks identified are Cars, Vaping, Drinking, Drugs, Getting involved with the wrong people. Vaping workshop was delivered by CB1 and Reach Worker to SHC in Omagh last June- Very effective and will be delivered again this year by CB1. *Keeping programmes gun and engaging can help make the young people feel safer and let them know that they are valued here in Omagh Youth Centre. *They feel safe in Omagh Youth Centre by the pleasant staff, friends, having a lot of people around them, teachers and classroom assistants in school. *Include sessions on Sexual Assault and Rape programme
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	The young people were asked what makes them feel safe and the suggestions are being with friends, family, school, familiar surroundings, doors that can be locked and a place with fences, police presence. This then led the group to discuss what dangers have they came across as young people, to which they identified social media, Drug (singling out spice), people taking control of them, danger of being spiked, peer pressure towards smoking and alcohol, bullying, general health and safety and abuse. The young people when then asked to discuss their community and how it makes them feel safe. Most of the young people said they don't feel safe in their community and when asked why they said it was because there is a lack of measure taken against illegal activity, with the minority of the group suggesting that family, friends and youth workers help them to feel safe. In relation to what the Youth Service could do to promote their safety, the young people identified have set night for being able to come in and talk about the issues, teach young people ways to keep yourself safe in different scenarios, keep the youth clubs going as they are and maybe more nights for young people to attend so they aren't out on the streets, give advice to young people and teach young people how to use social media positively, but this needs to be posted on to current social media that young people use such as Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat etc.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	The young people were first asked what makes them feel safe and they identified the following: - Home - School - Friends - Knowing how to defend yourself - Family

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			- Having a dog The young people were then asked what risks or dangers young people come across as a young person and they identified the following - Smoking - Drinking - Drugs - Others carrying a knife - Bullying - Paramilitary presence - People with addition (on the street in city centre/ in local communities) When asked if they feel safe in their community, there was a clear divide in the group as half said yes and others said no. Those stating yes, they feel they live in a calm area, and some have neighborhood watch. For those in the no category they sated things that don't make them feel safe include drug use and no support to residence when there is an issue makes them feel unsafe. This allowed for the young people them to make suggestions as to what the Youth Service could be doing to promote their safety and the young people suggested promoting personal safety, talk in the community and have a drop-in service in the afternoon to get advice or information on who they can go to as young people to get more support if needed.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Safety–what risks or dangers are present at home, in school, in youth provision or in your local area? - Robberies in the area have increased - Vandalism - ASB in parks - Creepy people following people - Cat calling - Hydebank prison and people escaping - Not feeling safe to walk home alone - Bullying - Domestic Violence - Drugs in school – SPICE - Being spiked - Sending nudes/revenge porn - Paedophiles - Voyeurism – filming without permission - Upskirting - Schools not taking acts against girls from boys seriously - Getting jumped for your religion - Paramilitaries and selling drugs - Fighting between young people - Flags – intimidating Safety – what can youth services do to make you feel safer and reduce worries or concerns? - Work with local police - Talk to young people if they feel scared and come up with a

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			safety plan - Education around being safe and staying away from paramilitaries - Youth workers being approachable and not scary Safety – what makes you feel safe at home, in school, in youth provision or in your local area? - When someone smiles/says hello in the street - Having a police presence - Neighbourhood watch - Ring doorbells - Life360 - Find my iphone Safety –what should youth services do to support the safety of women and girls through youth work? - Educating boys and girls on how to be respectful - Self defence classes - Educating boys on what is the right thing to say - Consent – should be taught earlier (tea) - Signs of controlling behaviour in relationships - More RSE
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	When discussing safety, the young people said it depends on the area and how it looks, and ensuring there is good lighting in the area and local community members known to the young people, as well as having fences helps make an area feel safe, thus meaning they feel safe. When discussing the community making young people feeling safe the young people discussed in some locations there is nothing for young people to do, however others in the group said that they have the youth centre they can attend if they wish. The young people said that hate crime and not knowing their surroundings are the risks and dangers they face. Finally, when discussing what the youth service could be doing to promote safety the young people suggested more work with the PSNI and ask how they are.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	9 to 11 Years	I feel safe in my local area AGREE 9 DISAGREE 0 UNSURE 2 Comments • Small area • Know most people • Family live here • Lots of old people • Nice community I am worried about the safety of women and girls AGREE 1 DISAGREE 5 UNSURE 5 Comments • The news is crazy with women being killed

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			• Theft • I do not know if I should be worried I understand the difference between positive and negative risk AGREE 10 DISAGREE 1 UNSURE Comments - None I am worried about crime in my area AGREE 4 DISAGREE 6 UNSURE Comments • I feel safe. • We know everyone. • I have not heard of crime in my area. I feel that our Youth Club is a safe space to go AGREE 11 DISAGREE 0 UNSURE 0 Comments • Everyone talks and has friends • Youth workers are very nice • Adults and other young people support me • Definitely youth workers make us feel safe • Close to home
Mid and East Antrim	No	14 to 18 Years	Lack of safe places, for some young people they don't feel safe at home or in school. Online world is dangerous and for a lot of young people that's their only world. In rural costal routes strangers make youth feel unsafe due to parking in carparks. paramilitaries' are alive and well in the community (PLU) Drugs is rife in rural communities which makes young people feel more vulnerable and unsafe. PSNI presences limited and don't seem to be affective. Youth workers can provide safe spaces.
Mid and East Antrim	Traveller Children and Young People	9 to 11 Years	Some of the risks the young people feel are fires in the area, fights at school, police everywhere, drugs and alcohol. Youth Service can solve it, teach us things about safety, provide us with self defense. Talk to us. Things that make us feel safe are staff that protect us in youth club, listen to us, calmer in here and activities to do door is always locked at youth club so nobody can get in. Cameras and police everywhere in town to help us.
Mid and East Antrim	No	12 to 13 Years	Vulnerable adults in the community make young people feel scared and unsafe. Tensions with neighbouring villages / communities stir up

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			sectarianism and intolerance. Small communities help to feel safe as families tend to know one another, and strangers are instantly recognisable and there is suspicion of them. Rural communities don't tend to have footpaths, and are sparsely-lit. Roads are unsafe to walk on, especially after dark. Lack of traffic-calming and speedy drivers. Lack of police presence. When called it takes them ages to attend scene of crime etc. Where older teenagers hang out (and at weekends especially), younger children feel unsafe and sometimes intimidated. Never seen drug-dealing going on, but know it happens in their community. Dogs off leads in public parks and spaces. There has been instances of attempted kidnapping in Islandmagee/Whitehead. Strangers entering people's houses claiming they 'got the wrong house', and burglaries occurring. Drunk and stoned people in the street at all times of the day.
Mid and East Antrim	No	12 to 13 Years	Young people did identify feeling unsafe in their community with certain people. youth service could do Social Action work to get young people in their community and see the benefits within their area.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	The arising theme when focusing on safety was social media, rurality and lack of transport. Within youth provisions and home young people feel safe due to their environment and as they can be themselves without the fear of judgement or worry. The youth services can respond by continuing to provide safe and inclusive spaces for young girls and women raising awareness on issues and rural safety. Youth services can respond by facilitating programmes on safety in a fun and engaging way along with providing access to resources that will encourage and keep young people safe.
Mid Ulster	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	Bullying, Parents attitudes, peers, cyber bullying, Domestic Violence, All the ism's i.e. Racism, Sectarianism, homophobia etc. YS can provide a safe space for minorities in particular. Awareness Workshops, Self Defense classes, first aid training, afterschool provision / homework clubs to support school / tech work. We feel safe around people we trust like teachers, youth workers, friends etc. Home can be safe at times, depending on how the form is of parents, siblings and us. Teach it to your son's don't preach it to your daughters! Programmes around challenging male masculinity and misogynistic attitudes is badly needed! Keep doing young women's programmes, provide safety alarms, make young people aware of the ROWAN Centre in Antrim.
Mid Ulster	No	9 to 11 Years	Do you feel safe in Ardboe? (Vote) Yes: 15 No: 1

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			If no, why? (Quotes) Throwing fireworks at Halloween. Dogs. Robbers. My house is haunted. How can the youth service help? (Quotes) Being kind. Being kind, being helpful and teaching manners. Helping people if they need help!
Mid Ulster	No	12 to 13 Years	What risks or dangers are present at home in school or in your local area? (Quotes) Being jumped by people. We don't think there is a lot here. What makes you feel safe at home, in school and in your local youth provision? Family and safe spaces. What can youth services do to make you feel safe? (Quote) Youth can run self defense / rape defense programme
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	There are many risks and dangers within the local area such as vaping, smoking, drugs, alcoholism, anti-social behaviour, stealing and knife crime. There are a lot of older generation of druggies/criminals who influence younger people, the influence of gangs makes young people feel unsafe. Having friends and family around makes people from safe as well as being in a safe environment. It is important that you feel you can trust the people around you and you have constant people in your life that you can rely on. Youth services should get young people off the streets before something else gets to them, they should do something to education more men from diverse backgrounds about appropriate behaviour. Youth services can have safe spaces for young people to meet and youth workers around so we can build relationships with a trusting adult. Youth services can improve the safety of woman by providing safe spaces for them to mix and feel comfortable as well as providing information and awareness of sextortion.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	- Self Defense Classes - Create a safe space for girls to be able to talk - flyer or information card with helplines or numbers on it - Awareness workshops
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	- More awareness programmes - Self Defense Classes
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	"doing talks to educate women on how to be safe" "giving talks to boys on how to respect women" "keep providing spaces for us to feel safe" "what we done in our group was good learning about how to be safe and doing self defence class"
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	The safety of young women was discussed by the group- 5 of the young women aged 15-17 stated that they had felt 'unsafe' within the last fortnight. They all provided examples, this was challenging for the young men present to hear , who felt that they were now being blamed in society for the behaviour of other men. Controversial discussion with no resolutions offered. Girls felt that EA Youth Service need to educate young men on the importance of standing up for women and protecting them.

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			Young men felt the youth service needed to do more to support their mental health
Newry, Mourne and Down	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	This group have stated that they have felt unsafe within their own communities and feel that this is only getting worse. They stated that all had experienced some type of bullying behavior and grow increasingly concerned by how they are influenced and being manipulated by the online world. The group had stated that young women can be particularly vulnerable specifically on a night out. They would like to see programmes which look at personal safety (potentially programmes with self defense), as well as online safety, how to keep yourself safe in the online world.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Concerns were raised about unsafe public transport, poorly lit streets, and the threat of bullying in schools and online. Additional Points: Ensure public safety campaigns and posters are bilingual. Create youth safety councils to advise local authorities on safety improvements. Provide workshops on conflict resolution and assertiveness in Irish. Set up community patrols with Irish-speaking volunteers. Suggestions for Youth Service: Improve lighting in public spaces and parks. Launch anti-bullying campaigns targeting both in-person and online harassment. Increase the presence of community safety officers near schools and youth centres.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Risks- Abuse, bullying, drug abuse, domestic violence, knife crime Safety- Parents, teachers
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people talked a lot about feeling unsafe in their community - school and in their local towns. they want more opportunities to be involved with youth service to make spaces where young people feel safe and welcomed and supported - they have something positive to do - not just stand on the street - feeding into the idea the place is unsafe. young people sighted lots of examples of reasons why young people would feel unsafe in their community - associated with diversity and encounters of people from diverse cultural backgrounds that clashed. want youth service to be a safe space to come to. at peek times of the year there being increased feelings of not being safe - wanting youth service to offer something positive. young people discussed lots of access to misinformation online - questioned if youth service could support them to challenge that and promote inclusion and make more welcoming spaces.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	12 to 13 Years	Group of boys aged 11-13. Dangers/issues for them -bullying both on line and

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			physical,older boys hanging round parks and intimidating them ,not enough lighting in estates,racism and also cultural differences(afraid of travellers and Newcomers living in and hanging about in their areas) drugs ,alcohol . Some of the boys also said they were worried for girls and women.Though they also said that they felt boys were also in danger from violence /fights . They said they felt that family teachers friends ,football coaches and youth workers made them feel safe. They liked coming to the group and it made them feel safe that they had somewhere safe to meet up.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	risks/dangers at home in school or in youth provision: school; sectarianism, bullying, road safety. home; abuse in any form; neglect, verbal, POVERTY. local area; drugs, knife crime, organised fights what makes you feel safe at home, in school in youth provision? teachers, nurse/first aid,, caretaker, security cameras, friends, peers groups, socialising, police, neighbourhood watch, laws, youth workers, youth clubs to go to, locks, parents, siblings, cameras, alarms. what should YS do to support safety of YWAG: provide rape alarms/equipment, event son international women's day to highlight issues, learn what is right and wrong, provide resources, self defense class, self defense, acting out scenarios to be confident, offer a support system of YWAG, educate men, safety workshops, provide women with a voice. What can YS do to make you feel safer? worry box (anonymous) open the youth clubs every day, create safe spaces for young people to talk, provide resources, talk about it, all of it! to be a confidant for young people.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people felt that Safety was really important in their lives. "Youth Service offers us a safe space/refuge where we can be represented, heard, protected, loved and be who we are" Issues around Safety included; They felt that they weren't comfortable walking alone but also noted that the community would express safety concerns when the young people were simply playing together, in a play park or being reported on for playing football. This made the young people feel disheartened and defensive. A way youth service could respond could be through more collaborative work in the community. The young people suggested social actions as one way of doing this but that there needs to be more of an effort to break down some of the assumptions towards young people and teenagers. The young people also felt strongly about creating safer environments for all, highlighting discrimination on areas such as ablism and expression of self. They said there needs to be more spaces where people are included, welcomed because "not enough peoples voices are being heard".

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	very concerned about safety for young women. Fears about going out walking and also safety on a night out.Talked about Ask for Angela scheme and also wanted self defence classes

Strategic Theme 5: Economic & Environment Stability

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	We are anxious about our future because so many of us are struggling at school. We keep getting told we need exams to get a good job or go to Uni or training but the way our schools are set up doesn't work for some of us. Some of us really feel anxious and nervous when we do exams because we feel so much pressure! We like the OCN courses we are doing with Jason and Rhiann. They are relaxed, move at our pace and we have a good working relationship with our tutors/youth workers. We feel more of these should be offered in school and in the evenings at our youth project. We have had discussions with our youth workers and we have told him of our concern about whether our youth center and our Youth Project worker will be here for the next few years. You hear all the things in the news about cuts to Education and whether monies would be better spent in our Health Service and schools. We are worried that the younger ones yet to come to our projects will have the chance to!
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Do you feel hopeful for the future? Why or why not? Mixed response from the group as some said yes as they feel they will always have a way to make money, and others were not so sure because technology will take over the world How confident do you feel that can live independently? 100% of the group said they could live by themselves and feel confident with cooking and cleaning, however, might struggle to stay on top of bills. Some young people only learnt how to use a toaster a short time ago. How do you think poverty impacts young people and families in your area? People end up in debt from taking drugs to get away from their problems. Can turn to alcohol and join paramilitaries. What might stand in the way of achieving your full potential? Alcohol, girls and relationships, mental health issues, overthinking, drugs, self-doubt, decline in family support and jealousy. How can the Youth Service support you with employability and preparing for your future? Give advice, take you to job fairs, speak to more young people, have a jobs wall in the youth centre, help with CV and interview skills. How can youth services reduce the impact of poverty on young people?

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Youth services can't help because young people are to young to work, poverty already exists in families, offer a food bank, fundraising in local communities. Most youth clubs do provide food each session, but it's limited to funding and availability on youth club budgets. Outline suggestions for how Youth Service can respond To address this, EA Youth Service could provide support by offering advice, taking young people to job fairs, fostering more peer interactions, creating a jobs wall at the youth center, and assisting with CVs and interview skills. Additionally, to reduce the impact of poverty, Youth Services could provide food banks and engage in local fundraising initiatives. While youth clubs already offer food during sessions, their capacity is limited by funding and available resources.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	1. How can youth services support you with employability and preparing for the future? - Help with CV's - Help us create CV's - Get more confidence through groups with OCN's - Bring business people in to speak to us in groups like we see other youth clubs doing - Visit local businesses - Help us look for jobs and apply for them - Help us look for jobs - Filling out application forms 2. How can youth services reduce the impact of poverty on young people? - Fun days for the community - Make hampers of essential items - Connect with local food banks - Health days with professionals - Community days - Making donations of clothes and food all year - Free warm meals in youth centres - Doing groups for more and more people - Barring people for bullying
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	12 to 13 Years	We are all hopeful for our futures. We have plans and goals we want to achieve. I am an optimist and I am always hopeful. I know that if I try hard enough at school and in my jobs I can do anything I want to! I feel that I am smart enough and this is why i am hopeful for the future. We learn from others about how we can live by ourselves. Our parents don't really prepare us for this. we get this information from our youth workers. Having kids would stop me fulfilling my potential. Country's starting wars scares me. This could stop me having a future. Climate change and pollution is a serious issue. The ice melting really freaks me out because the sea levels are rising and we might get flooded! This can stop me/us from having a hopeful future. More environmental programmes and resources are

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			needed in our youth club/projects to help us do our best to save our planet!Yes poverty is a problem. They cannot afford clothes that everyone else has. They cannot afford hygiene products an they can be bullied as a result. More funds for food in our club will help those that are poor. If you are sick you are more likely to have health complications if you live in a poor home. More money for hygiene products. More money for clothes, access to transport to help with doctors appointments, new experiences etc.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Give you advice and guide you to make positive choices Teach basic tasks even doing mundane topics like filling out a cheque or doing your washing Life skills programmes Giving us information on how we can get where we want to be career wise eg which subjects / courses to get to the career we want Helping with application forms and overall having more jobs available Providing lessons on financial and employability advice They can try and help signpost people to places that will help them or have events or courses that would allow people to learn things that would help them survive provide us with work experience and provide employability Signpost to suitable services or even have a open day where all providers come and we can go around them link school does but less formal were there are games etc.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	9 to 11 Years	Cv skills Do more quiz games about future Also ask local college to come in and talk to us about their education course Help them sign in for football clubs and other clubs which will help them learn about being part of a team etc. Help kids by cv skills
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Cv skills get university's and colleges in to talk to us about courses Cb skills ,getting university in to talk, interview skills They can help us because they have been are age once looking for jobs they can help us build are CVs Life skills to help us cope when we have to move out To be more ok with our emotions as these have a big impact on the future and pressues.
Ards and North Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Participants voiced that living in rural areas was a major disadvantage to young people gaining suitable employment. Due to lack of employment opportunities in their villages/town, transport systems are limited - they voiced that this might disadvantage them with potential employers outside of their villages as a potential employer might disregard their application due to the time it took for the young person to actually get to work, the weather conditions etc. Participants voiced that in order to gain employment you needed experience, however in order to gain experience you needed employment they felt it was a vicious circle. Opinions voiced on how Youth Service could support the issue of gaining experience was to provide specific vocational programmes for

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			employment for example Beautician, Cookery skills, Barbering, ICT, Hairdressing, Coding, Gaming. In relation to Poverty - participants where particularly vocal on how rural areas are disadvantaged in the lack of food shops, cost of petrol in rural villages due to lack of competition - whereby the cost of living a bigger threat to families and young people - Participants expressed that Youth Service could support Poverty through the provision of food for young people attending youth centres - programmes.
Ards and North Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people feel that there are different opportunities for education after you leave year 12 but most are dependent on GCSE results, if you don't have good grades then the options can be limited (e.g. to get into sixth forms or tech courses). Young people feel that it can be challenging to get into a tech course you are interested in because all techs do not offer same courses and have limited spaces. There are not enough opportunities for young people to get apprenticeships when leaving school. They feel that there is some support in school for helping you with making your decisions for after you leave year 12. Young people feel that there could be better opportunities for employment for school leavers, there are usually more options for part-times jobs but not if you leave school at 16 and want full time employment. Young people feel like there is quite a lot of pressure to know what you want to do when you leave school. Young people feel that some barriers for them reaching their potential is lack of employment opportunities for young people, not enough interview experience, lack of qualifications or the pressure of GCSEs deciding your future and also finding what it is you want to do for a job. Young people do not feel that they are ready to live independently as they still rely on parents quite a bit, cost of living is so expensive and they don't all have the life skills to live independently. Youth services could support young people by providing programmes around life skills (money management/bank accounts/interview skills etc) and help with driving theory/lessons (help with learning how to organise insurance etc)
Ards and North Down	No	14 to 18 Years	The young people feel that there are not enough opportunities for employment for young people leaving school or whilst still studying, usually only local food establishments or shops that will employ young people and then it is usually for a 0 hour contract, it can sometimes be hard managing shifts around studies etc. The young people feel that there are not enough training or education opportunities for young people leaving school, as there are not many apprenticeships for example, you need to know someone already working within a trade to do this, and the local tech does not always do the course you want to do and/or there are not enough tech places.

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			The young people feel the main barriers to the achieving their potential are transport, from rural areas, if you have to travel to Belfast for tech and also some jobs require transport, such as care work but car insurance is so expensive. Other barriers are the lack of employment and training opportunities available for their age also mental health and anxiety can be a barrier. The levels of qualification and experience needed for some jobs can be a barrier, particularly for those who find school very challenging and do not attend much, also some jobs ask for experience which is not helpful for a first job. Young people also feel that CV's and completing job applications and forms can be a barrier, not always taught how to write a good CV or how to fill in an application form or what to do at an interview. Young people feel that they would need to have full time jobs and be able to manage finances to be able to live independently, they could not do this right now or as soon as they leave school. The young people feel that Youth Services could help prepare them for their future by supporting them with CVs/application forms/car insurance/banking etc. Programme to support young people to get their driving theory and practical tests, programme around managing money/budgeting and lifeskills programmes. The young people would also benefit from support with securing tenancies.
Ards and North Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people stated they are looking forward to their futures as they are involved in a lot of groups and programmes. Some young people stated that they would be confident living independently whereas others said they wouldn't be as they rely on parents so much. Costs, distractions, balancing life and family could possibly stand in their way of achieving full potential. Youth services can support young people with employability and prepping for their future through employability skills and programmes. Youth services can reduce the impact of poverty on young people through offering safe spaces and lasting initiatives. Young people highlighted that they feel climate change doesn't directly affect them at this moment in time. But also stated that not enough is being done to prevent it. Youth services according to the group can encourage young people to engage in programmes involving social action, environmental change and litter picking to help climate change.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Do you feel positive about the future? Please explain why? No I don’t feel positive about the future because no one cares about the Earth anymore and everyone is slowly giving up because of money and inflation and that everything is so much money and no one can afford to live anymore! What might stop you in the future? • Money is going to be a big issue in the future as all the government is doing is stealing our money and we don’t even know where it is going!

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			• Over Population will cause loads of problems, for example, when we need food our just normal resources there isn't going to be any food or resources due to over populations and consumption. Do you ever feel concerned about climate change – things going on in the World? Yes, we are very deeply concerned about climate change as it destroys the lives and habitats of our wildlife – For Example, climate change causes the Ice Caps to melt and polar bears and penguins decreasing rapidly. Also, causing sea levels to rise and flooding in places. Animals are dying daily, and more and more species are going, other animals are running out of food and soon future generations will have no knowledge of nature. Do you think Lift Off helps you for the future? I feel like we get informed and taught a lot of stuff in Lift Off for life and work and safety. It can prepare us for the future life. Also, it's fun and can show us that everything doesn't have to be hard and work and the future can be fun! Group Two: Do you think Youth Club can help people that might be struggling with money? The youth club can help you get a better job or how to manage your money better. The youth club can help you get a qualification so maybe you can get a job in Youth Society. I think the youth club can give you on job because there is people who can help you with what you want to do. Do you think Lift Off helps you for the Future? Yes, life off helps you by thinking about what you like and help you choose different trades and help you down a good path. Yes, I believe Lift off can help me in the future – it gets you to communicate better and taking a break is good to get your mind refreshed. I think Lift off can help you in the future because it teaches you different skills. Do you feel hopeful for the future? Please explain your answer… I'm hopeful for the future because I'm very good at boxing and hopefully I can make it Pro someday. I'm hopeful for the future because I work already and have a good feel of work and work with my family business and one day I'll take that over. I'm hopeful that for the future I have experience working with my brother. Do you feel worried about the World? – Climate Change etc.? I'm worried about all the Wars and if Belfast kicks off again. No I'm not worried about the World Personally, I don't care. Group Three: What things do you think might stop you doing everything you

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			want to do? • Money • Emotional and Physical Well Being • Prejudice • Family and Friends. Do you think people struggle for money in the Banbridge Area? Yes, the cost of everything is rising and many families struggle financially for many different reasons, especially paying bills, getting groceries and then trying to keep their children happy on their birthdays and Christmas. They may have many other things to pay for, helping other family. Do you feel hopeful about the future? Please explain why… No, the cost of everything is rising, people are a lot more judgemental and worry more about what other people are doing, and many people are so selfish and self-centred. Social Media makes everything and everyone so perfect which affects the young people in this generation. Do you feel that you can live on your own in the future? No, you would get so lonely and have the possibility of bad mental health because of it. You wouldn't socialize with anyone daily which could make you very anxious when you go out.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Young people stated the following: - They feel like they are useless because they cannot pass tests and struggle with exams and fear this will impact future employment and education - Friends can influence you to make bad choices -Do not feel hopeful -Bad grades -Bad teachers, teachers not being in - this is getting in the way of education -They do not feel supported in school -School does not teach you how to make money or provide you with life skills and survival skills Poverty: - Children get bullied if they don't have branded clothes or are not dressed nice -They are insecure of the stuff they do not have and others do -They might not want their friends over to their house because they are embarrassed -Feel isolated -Feel judged -Hunger How can youth services help: - Youth club and youth workers can help us to be respectful to others -Teach us how to make better choices in life -Teach us how to be independent -Teach us how to cook, bake, life skills and creative skills

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			-Develop friendships -Help build confidence -They feel like they can open up to the youth workers to get support
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	They can provide us with various opportunities and courses that can help people have a higher chance of getting employed in the area of their choice.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	have more lifeskills progbrammes, team work, social skills, communication skills, first aid and independant skills - to better equip young people so they are more ready for the bigger world.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Participants were concerned about job opportunities, future housing costs, and environmental sustainability. Additional Points: Develop a Gaeilge-speaking internship programme across various industries. Partner with environmental NGOs to create youth-led sustainability projects in Irish-speaking areas. Host “Future Skills” expos featuring workshops on career development, entrepreneurship, and job searching. Offer youth leadership training through Irish-speaking community groups. Suggestions for Youth Service: Provide career mentoring and job shadowing opportunities in local businesses. Offer housing and budgeting workshops for young people approaching adulthood. Launch eco-leadership programmes focused on sustainability and environmental advocacy.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	9 to 11 Years	Young people stated they felt hopeful for the future as lots of things could change or happen but one young person expressed how they felt the future is scary. They all agreed they felt they would be able to live independently in the future but did address how it may be 'complicated.' Young people explored barriers that might get in the way of them achieving their full potential. They were able to name several including, bullying, technology, social media, stuff at home and themselves. At present, young people outlined how they find support through their mother, parents and God. Young people identified that in order to be prepared for their future youth service can help by offering more programmes like the one already in place which encourages individuals to socialise and allows new skills to be developed through bespoke programmes and inter-club acitvities - ABC Bake off and advice of issues from past experiences.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Young people all had a good idea of what they wanted to be when they were older - this ranged from a paramedic to a professional gymnast to an engineer. However all discussed how they felt this was a far out there idea for them and that

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			they didn't feel that they would ever be able to achieve it. We discussed why and what they thought would hold them back - a large part of this was around money, not having enough and needing money to be able to pay for study but not being able to work while studying in order to earn money - catch 22 situation. Others shared how they felt they were not smart enough to achieve qualifications that they would need to pursue their chosen career path. We also discussed the idea of living independently - some young people felt that they are getting the opportunity at home now to learn skills that would be useful when they are older and living independently eg cooking, doing the laundry, walking the dog. Others felt that they have no opportunity to learn these skills at the moment as everything is done for them at home. Looking at what young people feel is going to stand in their way as they grow up are; mental health, not getting GCSEs, anxiety/ADHD, disability (hidden disability), not having enough experience on your CV to get a job, friendships/peer pressure/other people holding you back, lack of self belief, what if there are no jobs to go to? What can youth service do to support? - confidence building programmes, team building and leadership opportunities, sessions on money management and budgeting, workshops around different careers and pathways (bringing people in to share about them), CV writing and help with job applications, opportunity to try out new sports, new activities, traditional crafts eg sewing, knitting etc, opportunity to complete OCN qualifications
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Newcomer Children and Young People	14 to 18 Years	This group were members from ABC youth voice they are a variety of young people from across the Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon area they all had a variety if ideas opinions additionally these young people represent new nationals and new comer diverse ethnic backgrounds and it was great learning about their views and opinions around their futures how they see northern Ireland and indeed what support they feel like they have versus what support they still need. There as also of ideas around having lots of opportunities they would not normally have which is great however there is still an air of institutionalized racism and hate underlaying across our communities especially entrenched in more older and settled groups of people versus the more accepting and open younger generations that jut get on with it. Many see their educational future here however beyond that and beyond pressures from family around cultural identity and choices they see their adult lives further afield with more prospects opportunities and indeed money for their skills and chosen areas of education and growth outside of northern Ireland. Although they all acknowledged they get wonderful support and direction both from schools and youth services they feel this is part of their capacity building and resilience strengthening to create

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			pathways and choices that will help them flourish and grow and adults
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Do you feel hopeful for the future? Why or Why not? 'Don't feel hopeful- worried not getting qualification' 'Yes feel hopeful' 'I feel hopeful about some stuff yes, some stuff no' How confident do you feel that can could live independently? 3 young person answered yes to living independently, 1 young person responded no that they did not have the appropriate living skills. How do you think poverty impacts young people and families in your area? ' Poverty could drive young people more' 'If you have nothing it makes you work harder' 'Not having the same thing as your friend' 'Not having the same clothes, games or phones' How can youth services reduce the impact of poverty on young people? 'Offer paid training programmes, where we can get money' 'I like the fact everything is free and you don't get treated any differently' 'Free trips and more residential/internationals' 'Getting to France for free as part of the Horizons programme was a big way that everyone got same experience no matter the money, it opened the world to me' What might stand in the way of achieving your full potential? 'Exam stress, not doing well in school' 'Feeling like Lurgan is awful and no opportunities' 'Not enough apprenticeships' 'Drink, drugs and distractions' How can the Youth Service support you with employability and preparing for your future? Practical Skills, money management, budgeting, help applying for job. More international travel like Horizons and experiences like going to different country.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people think the youth service could help by: *Providing opportunities for jobs within the EA for young people * Providing job fairs for young people ready for employment *C.V training *Interview training

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			*Homework clubs (some said the school ones dont really help with their homework) *GCSE study opportunities/ tutors *Delivering groups suited more to them gaining experiences that get them ready for jobs *Bring back the types of groups that ran before such as SPARK. It allowed us to get paid, training and experience and also OCNs
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people explored how they feel about the future and reported feeling hopeful as they have, - family support - youth support - school's support - resources & opportunities in their local area - likely to get a job In correlation, young people discussed how they are becoming more independent and look forward a having more independence as they outlined their aspirations such as, moving countries and travelling. They discussed how they have life skills and responsibilities whilst acquiring qualifications. However, young people reported a sense of laziness amongst their generation that may prevent many from being independent. Young people explored the barriers that may prevent them from achieving what they want to in the future stating the following concerns, - finance/money - confidence - uncertainty - lack of support for other young people - schools - CAHMS Lastly, cost of living was discussed, looking at how families may struggle and what youth services can do to support. Family Struggles outlined were, - heating - fuel/diesel - electricity - expense of groceries due to ongoing inflation - increase in use of pre-loved school uniform services & foodbanks - not financially secure Youth service can support through, - providing a safe space - fundraising - donations - foodbanks - pre-loved uniforms & clothes - EMA payments - is there something similar Youth Service can provide?

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			- no waste / reduce waste - free school meals for everyone - FLARE support
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Newcomer Children and Young People	14 to 18 Years	YP are excited for their future and to find a job in Northern Ireland. They see Armagh as a fruitful area for careers. YP stated that Youth Service is a supportive area to develop their English Langauge skills. They would like to achieve qualifications through Youth Service, particularly in music and other creative areas. They would like employment programmes to support their future. YP see poverty as a major issue affecting them through illegal money lenders and the influence of paramilitaries through illegal money lending. They addressed how poverty is linked to substance abuse in the community. YP explored climate change and what this might mean for their future. They outlined concerns regarding outdoor activities due to shifting weather conditions.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	The young people focused on identifying issues facing young people in their local community which they felt youth services could help to address for more positive future outcomes, these were: - Mens Mental Health - Struggling to get jobs - Being judged by their age - Bullying - Drugs - Vaping - Gender bias/expectations - Suicide rates in teens
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	We got young people to tell us about some of the issues they were facing in the community which they felt need addressed to better their future, they fed back: - Climate change - Lack of knowledge - Loud Noises - Protestant/Catholic divide - Electric Cars - Drugs - Mean People - Murder - Shop lifters - Homelessness
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	9 to 11 Years	We discussed with the young people things they would like to see us doing to make what we do better and give them opportunities to develop for the future, the young people fed back: - Life skills (cooking, baking)

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			- Mental Health (Stressballs, sensory/messy art etc) - Confidence building (Preforming)
Belfast (North and East)	No	9 to 11 Years	have a clear focus on what they want for the future and understand that they will have to work hard and learn that school is a must but also believe they learn from other and in different places by doing a range of different things
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Do you feel hopeful for the future if so why/why not?-School affects it, barriers- money ,lack of opportunities, schooling affects belief, schools failure not reaching expectations what everyone thinks, bad things happen all the time, cautious mindset,scared to get a job, trying to get one at this age is hard with little to no experience Yes the group feel hopeful because of Opportunities, groups, youth work. young people have a fear of being on their own, dont feel confident to live independly-school needs to focus on life skills, money, mortgage things young people feel stop them from achieving their full potential- money, opportunities, school, people, families expectations, not staying on in school, good grades, what youth service can do-More qualification's, CV building, leadership programmes, work experiences, placements, groups to build up skills. Programmes around trades Poverty impacts- malnourished, needs not being met, clothing, lack of aspiration, school supplies, lack of food, personal hygiene, bullied, made fun of, cant go on experiences. how youth service can help tackle issue of poverty- Food banks in local youth clubs, leaders being aware of yp in need, low budget cooking, youth clubs feeding kids, cook groups ensuring yp get fed, how to budget and manage, educating parents on what their entilited to, helping young people upskill to be able to earn money
Belfast (North and East)	No	4 to 8 Years	The young people understood that they have to be focused attend school and put there education first if they want to achieve all that they aim to do. many of the young people spoke of wanting to attend university and stay on in education as they said they enjoy learning but do know that it will be hard and come with frustrations but they young people do think and care about their education and future
Belfast (North and East)	No	9 to 11 Years	The young people are waiting to find out their secondary school and are nervous as they have dreams and ambitions when questioned on what they would like for the future they shared how they care about their education and want to go on and stay on at school attend university. They understand how there after schools and evenings activities is helping them and look forward to working more with ebap and different youth centers and clubs as they see the benefits that they offer them one thing they did like was meeting older young people and gaining insight support and encouragement from them as they understand how other can help and support
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Do you feel hopeful for the future, why? and why not? -Not knowing what you want to do, being unsure if future

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			career options -Not wanting to go outside your comfort zones (leaving Northern Ireland) -Owning a business and the steps to take to own a business -Fears and anxieties around the cost of living and owning a home and how hard it is nowadays -Lack of knowledge around Finances (credit score, mortgages, finances) How confident are you that you could live independently? -Anxiety of the future and being able to afford to live by themselves and if they will be able to. -Fears and anxiety of growing up (massive transitions in life school>university) and more responsibilities of an adult vs a child What might stand in the way of reaching your full potential -Barriers to reaching full potential: Money, jobs, education, health, Toxic relationships in your life (Romantic, Friends, Family) -Any criminal convictions that are on your name -To work in certain careers body image plays a massive part and how we look -Low confidence and with that a lack of Knowledge How can the youth service support you with employability -Focus on Life skills and finances i.e. (Banking, Finance, Mortgages) -CV workshops, Job interview prep, Steps to create your own business -Revision and homework clubs -Helping to gain qualifications and accreditation to put on CV Poverty How does poverty impact people in your area -Impacts in mental health as quality-of-life won't be great -No social life which will further impact mental health -Nothing put into the community because of a bad reputation and there is nothing to do How can youth service support people in poverty in communities -Provide food and a warm place to socialize -Provide sanitary products and hygiene products -Providing accreditation to help get jobs -Food hampers and other social actions and projects to help wider community
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Group discussion young people do not feel hopeful as jobs are hard to find and education for some young people is difficult. Young people believe they do not have the skills presently for the future. Youth service response provide life skills and employability skills. Concerns on climate change, there is

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			nothing we can do on a large enough scale for things to change .People who can make change don't. ALL TALK NO ACTION.
Belfast (South and West)	No	12 to 13 Years	Young people expressed interest in having career-focused workshops and better access to guidance for future opportunities. They also emphasised the importance of volunteering opportunities to build skills. Additional Points: Offer career guidance services and workshops in Irish, including CV writing, interview preparation, and mentorship opportunities. Develop Irish-medium volunteering programs that provide certificates or recognition to build young people's resumes. Partner with businesses to create internship opportunities for Irish-speaking students in various industries. Suggestions for Youth Services: Facilitate workshops with career professionals and local businesses. Promote volunteering opportunities within local and regional communities.
Belfast (South and West)	No	14 to 18 Years	Do you feel hopeful for your future. Not really its going to be hard to get a job, no Sandy Row is not getting any help, No as new comers age getting all the jobs and houses, No they are taking everything away from my community, no you can feel the hopelessness within my community and only way I'm getting a future is if I make it at my football. What might stand in your way of achieving your potential. My government who does not care, not getting any G.C.S.E's, The education I have and my self-confidence. How confident are you of living independently. Not sure how I could do it on my own, no would not have the skills and have not got enough skills yet. How can youth service support you. Life skill programmes, practical things like teaching us building skills, doing C.V's with us, learn us employability skills and the group work we do helps as it makes us reflect and think. How does poverty impact you. I be hungry sometimes then can't constraint in school, my mum can't always heat our home, it affects my mental health, you turn to drugs, because we are working class people no one care about us and parents feel bad as they can't get us stuff then I feel bad. How can youth service help with poverty. Cook food in club so we are not hungry, give us a safe place to go at weekends, teach us life-skills so we can cook for

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			ourselves, provide more funding for our youth club, having our youth workers to talk to helps reduce our stress and youth work can only do so much we need help from others.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Emphasis on transportation systems: improving bus services and fines for littering. Additional Points: Ensure that all career guidance and environmental sustainability workshops are accessible in Irish, empowering young people to envision futures that align with their cultural heritage. Develop Irish-language mentorship programs connecting young people with professionals in various fields. Support youth-led climate initiatives, providing Irish-speaking facilitators and resources to encourage participation and leadership. Suggestions: Launch youth-led environmental projects focused on reducing waste and promoting sustainability in local communities.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Young people in Lynkd highlighted the thought of working makes SEND nervous as to the type of job they could do with their disabilities or even if they could be employed or find jobs that suit their disabilities. The fear of being put into day centres -old before their time as put in with others that are older than them and dont know about their SEND. So day centres are only open one day - transport is limited and then be isolated through no social interactions with others, so it ends up being on the phone, listening to radio or having to stay indoors and not being in society. Young people expressed about being worried about going into supported living, parents not being around and who could care for them and its unfair that young people cannot be in centres with people their own age groups. Annoyed that there is nothing for young people after the age of 24 for disabled young people and SEN groups and young people feel forgotten with limited opportunities. Young people can only attend youth centres for so long and only 1 night a week with limited staff. Young people also expressed that there is worries and scared that they will be alone in the future, nobody to care for them if parents pass away and feel there is no plan for SEN people as they have to rely on parents, siblings. Simple aspects of life worry young people with SEND- getting outside with wheelchairs, going for a walk, worried about the weather and in the context of climate change, harsh weather conditions, rubbish on paths, wheelchairs mobility and dog fouling. Enjoyed that youth service discussed climate change in a project although it was abit long. While the club is in the school, there are limits to plant trees or change the landscape in the school. Suggested a youth centre for SEND different nights with own space.

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Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	1. Do you feel hopeful for the future? Most of the young people said they do feel hopeful for the future. They explained that the developments in technology are starting to offer new careers in aspects like IT, medicine and the environment. They were hopeful of new and emerging careers and careers paths. Young people said there are plenty of opportunities through university and Tech. They hoped to see an increase in apprenticeships which will give young people the opportunity to get paid employment whilst learning, without the cost of a degree. Some were more unsure, as even at 15-17 many young people are still unsure as to what career path they want to take. This forces them to make decision regarding GCSEs and A Level which are not relevant to what they end up doing as career. 2. How confident do you feel about your ability to live independently? The majority do not feel confident about living independently mainly due to the cost of living. Including cost of accommodation, weekly shopping etc will be very difficult. It was discussed how you need to be in a relationship with 2 incomes to be able to afford to buy your own house and this was a concern. Some were confident in their ability cope with living independently where others said they would find it difficult as they still lacked many life skills they would need in the future. 3. How do you think poverty impacts young people and families in your area/ The young people recognised that since Covid there has been a huge increase in poverty and families having to use food banks and vouchers to help with heating and electricity. Some people are not able to work due to health issues and benefits are not enough to cover the increased costs of living. They recognised that most families need 2 working adults to be able to afford to live comfortably. There was an understanding that even some working families must use food banks. It was also stated that families are under pressure to buy luxury items, the latest fashion etc for their young people to feel they fit in.

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			4. What might stand in the way of your full potential? Tests – Some young people highlighted that they were not suited to traditional exams, and these were just how good you could remember facts. Some stated that they did not feel supported in school to make decisions about their career path. They felt they were not given enough information about the full range of career options available. The cost of a degree was also given as a reason as some young people were concerned about getting themselves so much in debt at a young age. The group also said they felt that Northern Ireland did not give some the same opportunities regarding demand of careers and wages. This would force some to work in England or abroad. 5. How can Youth Service support you with employability and preparing for your future? Assistance in where to find the right jobs and apprenticeships. Programmes around money management, CV writing and being able to recognise and evidence skills development. To continue to deliver OCN qualifications. By providing programmes with leadership opportunities that help with personal development. Young people highlighted the benefits of being given leadership and peer leader opportunities including Epic award recognition. 6. How can Youth Service reduce the impact of poverty on young people? This question was more difficult to draw answers on. Young people were positive about the services provided. They stated the importance of having food and drink available at youth club sessions and that it needed to continue. It was highlighted that for some people coming to youth club and eating could for some be the only time they have eaten something substantial that day. It was stated the importance of having food available at every session even if it was just tea and biscuits or toast. They recognised that it was a positive that Youth Service does not charge entrance fees and that trips and res
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	Key Feedback: Young people emphasised the importance of empowerment, having a voice, and building their future through direct action. Concerns about how the state represents them and fears of the Irish-language community being stifled were raised. Additional Points: Create mentorship programs pairing Irish-speaking young people with professionals in various fields to inspire career paths and leadership. Ensure access to career guidance and resources through Irish,

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			enabling young people to explore opportunities confidently. Organise Irish-language workshops focused on entrepreneurship and innovation to encourage future leaders in the community. Suggestions for Youth Service: Support young people in organizing direct action initiatives such as protests and strikes to amplify their voices. Provide platforms for young people to express their rights, freedom, and ideas for change confidently.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	Theme Future & Poverty Area The Glens DEA (RURAL YW) Age band 15-16 Male 0 Female 9 QUESTIONS Do you feel hopeful for the future? Why or why not? Good-Plans for the future. Travelling and a dream job. Ideas about what I want my future to look like. University & Staying in NI Entrepreneurship Travel Tech, greenmount Hopeful for the future Less barriers for women these days How confident do you feel that you could live independently? Positive I can. Have the skills to cooking, cleaning, money managing etc Not financially able to yet. No Housing How do you think poverty impacts young people and families in your area? How can Youth Services reduce the impact of poverty on young people? It's a big issue- for women Poor housing for independent females Lack of services for yw, yp in rural areas Lack of Community spirit Not knowing how- poor recruitment/advertisements Funding but not for the right things Rural isolation Lack of rural transport What might stand in the way of achieving your full potential? Money How affordable it is Transport

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			How can Youth Services support you with employability and preparing for your future? Age specific /More TBUC With Organising and planning skills Work experience opportunities More work experience opportunities about other industries Travel opportunities Recruitment in communities What concerns you about climate change? Do you think enough is being done to prevent climate change? What can Youth Services do to educate or contribute towards climate change? BLANK
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	9 to 11 Years	1. What concerns you about climate change? The danger and issues it are causing to the world. Antarctica melting and the reduction of population of the wildlife like polar bears The smoke/smog in the air in Belfast – it is already bad Scared that humanity will be extinct Litter on the beaches is getting worse which will impact the sea life Food concerns – meat, cows, avocados – how much carbon it takes? If animals die what will be the food source? Deforestation – reduction of oxygen Don't want the world to end up like Wall-E Don't want ozone layer to be more destroyed We need to protect the puffins There is a fear of Rathlin Island flooding in the future It is unfair for animals – mass murders of animals i.e. cows to reduce population 2. Do you think enough is being done to prevent climate change? Everyone said no that there is a lot to talk about it but not a lot of actions, that the actions are always too expensive. There was a discussion about electric cars and how they are supposed to help with the environment but what can be done with the batteries when they are finished Governments are not funding climate change enough More solar panels are needed but its too expensive Should be actions rather than constantly talks about what actions can be taken. More research needs to be about Nuclear Energy and hopefully it will become a use in the future As a society we need to take inspiration from the past and use more candles for light. Tesla's won't save the planet. There needs to be more sanctions on fishing to protect the animals 3. What can youth service do to educate or contribute to

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			reducing the impacts of climate change? Campaigning and advocating for the impacts We need to do more beach clean ups Social actions and enterprises which the money is donated to charities for climate change Workshops about ways to reduce your own carbon emissions Videos and games could be created to show the impacts of climate change and use local groups to discuss the impacts in Northern Ireland i.e. lift raft Posters for youth clubs Youth workers should have a qualification about climate change Programmes which could be ran - bear Grylls type programme – not using any electricity to survive, gardening programmes PLANT TREES All youth clubs and projects should have a recycling system There should be a way to recycle clothes in clubs – vinted but in clubs Ensure all resources can be either reused or recyclable – to ensure less waste All new building should include solar panels, bird boxes and plants to build biodiversity
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	12 to 13 Years	All young people said yes they feel hopeful for their future because of the opportunities available in the community for eg jobs, money, education and further. However, they do not feel very confident at the minute (age 12 13) that they can live independently as young people rely on parents and other family members. The young people thought that poverty impacts young people and families in the area a lot, because everything nowadays is so expensive and some families cannot afford things their children are asking for. Some people may become homeless. More people use the foodbank or need to borrow money. They said that other people, friends, family, how much money you have, what skills you have to succeed, what opportunities you are given at school and youth organisations all stand in the way of achieving their full potential. The youth service can help develop skills like social skills, personal skills, allow you to work with other people, run programmes to prepare for work eg how to write a CV, food hygiene. The youth service can reduce the impact of poverty on young people by providing food and snacks and providing a warm safe space and opportunities for trips to go to different places.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Key Feedback: Young people emphasised the importance of empowerment, having a voice, and building their future through direct action. Concerns about how the state represents them and fears of the Irish-language community being stifled were raised. Additional Points: Create mentorship programs pairing Irish-speaking young

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			people with professionals in various fields to inspire career paths and leadership. Ensure access to career guidance and resources through Irish, enabling young people to explore opportunities confidently. Organise Irish-language workshops focused on entrepreneurship and innovation to encourage future leaders in the community. Suggestions for Youth Service: Support young people in organizing direct action initiatives such as protests and strikes to amplify their voices. Provide platforms for young people to express their rights, freedom, and ideas for change confidently.
Derry and Strabane	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	19+ Years	Majority of the group struggle to feel hopeful for the future in regards to employment or further education due to their disability. The group worry about the limited opportunities that they have to socialise and engage with other young people, due to their disability and limited friendships they have outside of BUD Club environment. The main concern for the group was their future being able to have opportunity to socialise and make friends, the group shared they live in communities, but don't feel part of that community (one young person said, no one ever knocked in for him growing up, or he never had the opportunity to go out to the street to play) - many of the other group members agreed with this. They all shared that BUD Club is their community, where they feel a sense of belonging. Due to nature of the young people's disability, they all shared they don't think they will be able to live independently, and for many this is not something they ever thought of, or would consider as a option. Opportunities in the future was a huge concern for the group, and when asked what opportunities they would like they suggested safe spaces like BUD Club to meet their friends, have opportunities to gain volunteering or supported work placement and residential experiences.
Derry and Strabane	No	12 to 13 Years	Environment and Climate What concerns you about climate change? People Gretta Thumberg Litter x3 Polar Bears Antarctica x2 Climate clock Factories Do you think enough is being done to prevent climate cha 7 No No cause the polar bears have no ice. No cause it is still happening What can youth services do to educate or contribute to

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			reducing the impacts of climate change? 5 people said litter-pick Bring in people who run eco groups. Bins Teach people about climate change.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Your future and poverty Do you feel hopeful for the future? Why or why not? I feel very confident that I can provide for myself as I am good at money management. I feel hopeful for the future as I am excited to get a job to provide for myself and I am excited to get a job which I love My grades are low so opportunities will be minimised 2 people- Yes, I feel there are lots of options and opportunities I have to explore Yes I do feel hopeful for the future since I believe that there will be opportunities for me to get a job or do other things Yes I feel there are lots of options and opportunities I have to explore Yes because there is lots of people giving young people a chance. No I am not hopeful for the future. I believe I will leave NI for Uni No. Not doing good in school How confident do you feel that you can live independently? Not very confident due to money Very confident, but financially I would struggle I feel that I could live independently sine I feel I have the basic meeds like the skills to manage money I feel relatively confident that I could live independently. The finance aspect may be more difficult as I would need a full time job therefore missing out on some education Yes I am very confident I could live alone in terms of caring for myself and money management I feel like I could live on my own as I can be independent I feel like I could maybe live independently but the price of the bills are high I feel very confident that I could live independently What might stand in the way of achieving your full potential? Poverty impacts young people in our community as some kids parents can't afford extra curricular activities which could hinder their future especially if they like the arts/music etc as it can be very expensive Mental health and lack of education Negativity can be a big impact and set back on us I think my motivation and lack of passion for studying may decrease my ability to reach my full potential Job will be limited and I feel that transport would affect me going places My wellbeing. Finding school extremely difficult scares me as I

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			fear I may not pass my exams. I think that there could be things that might stand in the way. Things like grades to get into places like uni or tec. My confidence and the way I see myself might stand in the way of me achieving my full potential How can the Youth Service support you with employability and preparing for your future? Developing programmes or getting people from different profession coming in to talk about their jobs Developing skills and placements Do placement for youth work and set up a small business Create opportunities like cafe which can help us with skills we need for the future They may help me prepare for my future by providing courses to educate me on basic and more intricate needs for everyday life e.g money management Money can stand in your way of achieving your full potential, for example if you want to go to University but you can't afford it if it can make your jobs somewhat limited and time can be in your way of achievement as you may not have enough time to study. I think people from the desired careers of the young people talking to them to prepare them for what may or is needed to get them where they want to go Learning about money management like housing & savings. Bring in people to talk about their professions Teaching skills that could contribute to getting employment and preparing for the future How do you think poverty impacts young people and families in your area? It can increase reasons for arguments among families which can build resentment and mental health issues in young people affected. It can also affect their physical health e.g. higher risk of illness Impacts young people's mental health and their ability to focus from stress and pressure It restricts them from opportunities that could lend them to having better jobs and having to teach them how to budget at a young age Impacts young people's mental health and
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	9 to 11 Years	YP have noted that they are anxious about having to choose their GCSE's next year without knowing what they want to do in the future. They believe that school or university can stand in their way from achieving their full potential. They have also said that additional learning needs can stand in their way. They said that they aren't sure about how confidently they can live independently in the future as they don't like talking for themselves and the fact that their parents will be far away. They think that EAYS can help by providing food during the

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			sessions and that the lack of food for families can impact people in their area.
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	- I would like to see more things done about equipping us with the realistic skills of move into careers, world of work and further education i.e cooking, cleaning, employment rights, reading pay slips etc. - Accredited training
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Do you feel hopeful for the future= No (low self-esteem, not enough medical help/long waiting lists, that interfere or make you fear for the future, not enough help you need at school (Dyslexia, Learning Difficulties), Fears of not being financially stable, housing/living issues, not enough job opportunities in the local area, fears of domestic violence against women & girls (feeling afraid walking alone), choosing jobs for stability rather than what you really like to pursue, Pay Gap between male/female. Yes = doing well/achieving., however the way the world is presently portrayed it is sometimes difficult to be positive about the future. How Confident Do you feel that you could live independently = Not Very Confident (medical issues - where you need extra support, would leave living independently difficult, safety issues (Women being attacked, not knowing who is living in the area, safety, violence) Confident = Independence, own space, own choices, responsible, grown adult, choices are your own. What might stand i the way of achieving your full potential = medical issues, wheelchair use/disabilities, learning difficulties, sensory issues, financial worries/stabilities, housing support, lack of jobs/career opportunities, not enough career advice - alternatives if you don't achieve what you want. How can the Youth Service support you with employability & preparing for the future = OCN Courses, additional courses, volunteer opportunities, certified courses, experience for part time jobs, CV building, mock interviews, career advice, interview preparations. How does poverty impact young people/famillies in the area = Financial pressures, affects seld-esteem & confidence, pressures at Christmas/easter, new school year- uniforms can be expensive. Utility bills - having to juggle e.g. making choices between food or warm house. How can Youth Service reduce the impact of poverty on young people = fun raising, hardship support funding, provide meals at programmes, offer resources for school e.g. stationery/paper/photocopying, empower young people living in poverty, build up resilience, support for education (formal/informal, help period poverty, uniform swap, food bank, education
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	Only half the group felt hopeful of the future. They talked about the cost of going to college and having no jobs when finished. They were looking forward to getting out of Belleek and going to Belfast of further for college or work. They believe they could look after themselves to live independently. The group felt that some families in the town were struggling

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			financially because there just wasn't same amount of jobs - Belleek pottery is the biggest employer but a lot of men work over the border in the south of Ireland and lose money then transferring the Euro to Pounds. Some families cant afford to buy Football boots all the time, some parents give there boots to younger kids as they don't fit them but are still good boots. What stands in your way - Money - some may not be able to go to college as it is very expensive now and not everyone gets help with paying for it. opportunities - there are very little opportunities especially now that there is no local school. Your Family - Not all parents want their kids going away at 18 - sometimes it financial but they also want help on the farm. It is more the schools responsibility to help get you ready for leaving to go on to something else but Cooking programmes and Life skills we do with Roisin helps us. The EA helps reduce the impact of poverty by making Youth club available to all and no charge so everyone can go. We learn alot about communication and teamwork and these skills will help us in the future as well.
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Not enough students aware of benefits they could access; grant schemes, scholarships YS suggested response; More awareness needed on support available for families affected by poverty Making people aware of scams Teaching finances in a way that is not boring More active support for young carers Education and work opportunities
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	Some young people were hopeful for the future where others were not. The group agreed that this depended on their age. The older you are the more aware you become. Things that may stand in young people's way are stress and overthinking and poor mental health. The influence of other young people can cause fear of judgement. Some young people said that their is a lack of opportunities and educational choice at some schools. The need for money/part-time jobs vs school work. Young people also said that parents can have an influence on their future which can have benefits and drawbacks as there is a fear of pressure and disappointment. With regards to living on their own, most of the young people said they would not be ready and they would be fearful of living by themselves. When discussing how youth services can help with this they suggested help with money management, organization skills, and help with overall wellbeing. In relation to poverty young people would like youth service to continue to provide a safe, warm space with food. This can distract from problems at home and allow them to have fun experiences that they may not have access to otherwise. In relation to climate change some of the older young people

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			were concerned about climate change and the possibility of irreversible damage. Some of the younger members said that this is not something that they particularly care about and is not an issue for them. They feel health and well being is more important to them. Young people feel that they are doing something to help as they try and recycle where possible but not enough is being done. They believe youth services can promote awareness about climate change and be more proactive through recycling and tree planting.
Fermanagh and Omagh	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	*Some of the young people felt they could live independently if they had Part Time jobs and others say no they would not be able to. They would like to get a life skills programme on budgeting, financial pressures and other factors to help them in later life. *Poverty wasn't an issue for these young people as they haven't experienced it thankfully. *Youth Service should offer food as an incentive for these young people even something as simple as tea, toast and biscuits.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	The young people discussed different area in relation to their future firstly around employment opportunities for school leavers and the young people stated there isn't enough opportunities for them when they leave school, even if they wanted to go straight into employment. Further to this the young people stated that young people must go to tech/college to get a good job. Another group of young people in the focus group said that they find employment as overwhelming for their self-esteem, further to this the young people felt that there was a lack of opportunities for employment due to a lack of qualifications. This then led the discussion to around opportunities in training and education. Some of the young people believe that there aren't enough opportunities for them, when you leave education with your qualifications there isn't enough time to think what you want to study further. Where most of the group felt that there is enough opportunity for them as they have tech/college 6th form options and are aware apprenticeships are a thing, but based on pervious questions the young people don't fully understand these. Barriers to reaching full potential: The young people identified you must pay for resits which related to the poverty statistic, it is hard to start work and education transitions, pressure from teachers to achieve and peer pressure from friends, mental health, bullying, social media, teachers and learning disability contributes to the barrier to reaching their full potential. Young people were then asked to discuss their confidence in living independently, most of the group said yes stating they not depending on others to solve your problem they could, but asking more probing questions the young people believe they would be able to do this more confidently if they are taught how to manage their money, what needs to be done and how things work.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			This then led to the young people being asked how the Youth Service was able to support them for their future and suggested area of learning such as life skills to include tax, CV, college application, how to run a house/ live independently, support with support in getting work placement, courses and getting a job.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	The young people were first of asked if there are enough employment opportunities for young people when they leave school, and all the young people said no. When asked why they think this they discussed how they felt that employers never get back to you or they just say they aren't looking at the minute. This then transitioned to asking the young people if there is enough education and training opportunities for school leavers and all the young people agreed there was and where able to list different organisations they could go to, such as SERC, Peoples 1st, Sixth form and work experience. When discussing the topic of future, the young people were asked to identify barriers that they face in order to reaching their full potential and the young people stated Teachers, as some don't explain the work well, they cause stress and with some of this group they weren't able to pick their GCSE's they wanted and were told what they were doing. Further to this the young people said negative attitude and not caring (Both young people and educators) was a barrier in themselves as it doesn't inspire them to want to work. The young people were asked how the Youth Service can support your future, and it was interesting to see the young people suggest that life skills is an area that can support young people's future, as well as providing food if need. This then promoted the question if the young people were able to live independently and all of them believe they could if they had a steady job and income. Some then related this question to the life skills as this will allow them to live on their own and be able to handle this.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	12 to 13 Years	Felt lost on where they are going- they don't know what jobs they want Some of the group felt they don't know enough about jobs School haven't spoke about future Homework club – we spoke about would people come Lack of understanding about what they want to do with some of the group showing an interest in a health and beauty career.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	From and Ethnic Minority	14 to 18 Years	Climate Change – what concerns you about climate change? - Nothing - The animals dying - Greenhouse gases - Overpopulation - Do not think it is real Climate Change – do you think enough is being done to prevent climate change? - No – too many cars using fuel - No – not enough sustainable or renewable energy sources

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			- No – too many fossil fuels Climate Change – what can youth services do to educate or contribute to reducing the impacts of climate change? - Raise awareness - Promote to media - More education through group work Your future – do you feel hopeful for the future? Why or why not? - Yes o If you put effort in to school/education you can make your own life. o N.I. is a developing economy and there will be many opportunities for jobs such as film. o There are new areas being developed. - No o Increase in drug taking, too easy to access illegal drugs and get addicted. o University and further education costs a lot of money and some people cannot afford it. Your future – how confident do you feel that you could live independently? - Confident o Have life skills to allow me to live independently. o I am qualified to get a job. - Not confident o In one parent households there is less opportunity to learn the life skills required. o Cost of living crisis, everything is too expensive now. o School does not teach us the essential life skills to live independently. Your future – what might stand in the way of achieving your full potential? - Money – cost of living and lack of jobs - Alcohol – additions and cost - Addictions- gambling, alcohol and drugs - Lack of education – don't get qualified and can't afford further education - Body modifications preventing you from looking professional - Lack of motivation Your future – how can Youth Service support you with employability and preparing for your future? - Help with CVs - Provide guidance and life skills - Improve punctuality and time keeping - Emotional and mental health support - Social skills - Making connections - Qualifications (OCN) Poverty – how do you think poverty impacts young people and families in your area?

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			- Can't afford basic needs - Minimum wage - Can't afford food - Low self esteem - Eating disorders - Malnourished Poverty – how can Youth Services reduce the impact of poverty on young people? - Providing shelter and activities for free - Help meet open minded people - Provide guidance and help - Provide food - Sign post to agencies that can help.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	The young people were first asked if they felt there was enough employment opportunities for school leavers and 100% of them said no. When asked if there was enough education and training opportunities for school leavers the young people all said yes and they weren't on to discuss the number of schools that offer 6th form and there is colleges for those that don't fit into the school environment, which offers a wide range of courses. When asked to discuss the barriers to young people reaching their full potential the young people said not getting the grades they need due to exams, which at times cause unnecessary stress and anxiety, your health for both physical and mental health if it is poor then this is a barrier to achieving, and finally the young people stated that bullying in the school environment is a direct barrier to reaching their full potential, as this causes low self-esteem. The young people then were asked how they felt about their ability to being able to live independently and only one young person in the groups said they felt comfortable to do so, as the rest said they don't feel equipped to do this, as they don't know enough about bills, accounts mortgages and what it actually takes to live alone. This then led to the final part of the discussion, which looked at what the youth service could do to support young people and their future. The young people suggested more life skills classes in schools because people are more likely to listen, more around managing money and this is to include credit score and managing finance responsibly and finally support in getting their own home.
Mid and East Antrim	No	14 to 18 Years	One young person said "I am optimistic about my own future, but not my communities or the world." > Never ending poverty > Lack of job opportunities locally, even with 3rd level Education. > Everything is going to be more expensive < What does the future look like for owing a house or a car? > Benefit cultural will be worse > Personal safety (immigration, the fear is immigrants don't share the same values.) >Every young person surveyed said that they do not see

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			themselves living in their community in the future. > Lack of positive role models >Young woman feeling fearful (even in small villages) > General opportunities for socializing and and sharing healthy activities due to lack of access or money. > School doesn't equip for the future, careers advise poor, so young people make uninformed choices. "You don't know what you want to do for a job when your picking your GSCE's .
Mid and East Antrim	Traveller Children and Young People	9 to 11 Years	Yes they all feel hopeful for the future, good education can get them a good job, most young people said they could live independently. "I am independent already" "I can cook". The effect of poverty on young people, young people wont have money for school, people will go hungry, winter will be so cold for people, people might be made homeless, can't buy things they need and this can stand in the way of their future. Youth Service could help prepare for the future by doing work experience, life skills how to cook, education and doing fundraisers or providing food. We could also provide jobs and provide skills to get jobs.
Mid and East Antrim	No	12 to 13 Years	World War Three? Anxiety and stress. Family members being called up and dying. Limited opportunities for jobs, housing. Nearly half of those surveyed said they plan to leave their community to study or work, and never come back home. Some are hopeful for the future, as they have thought about their career path and are optimistic their hopes will be realised. Crime rates likely to increase. Personal safety issues Playing an instrument as a hobby can increase opportunities. Poverty and lack of opportunities in small communities. Broadening horizons will mean that people leave their community to live or work. Those who were optimistic about their future showed an interest in travelling to work or to study or just to live well and have foreign holidays. They knew they would have to have a job and earn money to be able to travel. There were others who were daunted by the prospect of low wages, not doing well in school, limited opportunities and feared being 'on the dole' or even homeless. These young people were not hopeful. It's such a young age to be talking about the future, and it was an abstract concept. Some young people were very literal and talked about their future self was dependent on their physical health, or the make-up of their families, and any plans for the future can de destroyed by one incident or a bad decision.
Mid and East Antrim	No	14 to 18 Years	RAON Focus Group – Glenravel 14th Jan 2025 7 Young people, mixed gender, 16-18yrs Your Future 1. Do you feel hopeful for the future? Most of the young people said they do feel OK for the future.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			1 in particular was extremely hopeful with the developments in technology that are starting to offer new careers in aspects like IT, medicine and the environment. They were hopeful of new and emerging careers and careers paths. His thoughts were about also looking further a field chasing the jobs/money Most of them are taking advantage of opportunities through School and Regional college. In addition they hoped to see an increase in apprenticeships which will give young people the opportunity to get paid employment whilst learning, without the cost of a degree. Looking at activities such a Health and Beauty, Engineering etc Some were more unsure, as even at 16-17 many young people are still unsure as to what career path they want to take. This forces them to make decision regarding GCSEs and A Level which are not relevant to what they end up doing as career. 2. How confident do you feel about your ability to live independently? The majority commented that they would like to be able to live independently, however do not feel confident presently mainly due to the cost of living. Including cost of accommodation, weekly shopping etc will be very difficult. They felt that to do so you would need more that 1 income to be able to afford to buy your own house and this was a concern. Some were confident in their ability cope with living independently where others said they would find it difficult as they still lacked many life skills they would need in the future. They felt they would still need some sort of attachment to parents 3. How do you think poverty impacts young people and families in your area/ The young people recognised that there has been a huge increase in poverty and families having to use food banks and vouchers to help with heating and electricity particularly since and from the Covid pandemic. Within their area they see people not being able to work due to health issues and benefits are not enough to cover the increased costs of living. They recognised that most families need 2 working adults to be able to afford to live comfortably. There was an understanding that even some working families must use food banks. It was also stated that families are under pressure to buy luxury items, the latest fashion etc for their young people to feel they fit in. Things are more expensive and they aren't doing as many activities with family or friends

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			4. What might stand in the way of your full potential? School/ Education - A number of the young people highlighted that they were not suited to traditional exams, and these were just how good you could remember facts. They felt they were more practical, hands on type learner (Doing). They all commented that they did not feel supported in school to make decisions about their career path. They felt they were not given enough information about the full range of career options available. The cost of a degree was also given as a reason as some young people were concerned about getting themselves so much in debt at a young age. 3 of the group also said they felt that as soon as they were able to they would move abroad ie Australia etc for career opportunities as they felt Northern Ireland did not give some the same opportunities regarding demand of careers and wages. This would force some to work in England or abroad. 5. How can Youth Service support you with employability and preparing for your future? They felt that through schools they were given little or no assistance in where to find the right jobs and apprenticeships. They feel that Careers period was just a 'gap filler'. The group present feel strongly enough that they think youth service could provide programmes around money management, CV writing and being able to recognise and evidence skills development. To
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	The young people feel hopeful for their future, they feel like they could face barriers such as money, education, opportunities and access to travel. The lack of access to travel was an occurring theme as they are limited to job opportunities due to the lack of public transport. They feel that they could live independently due to the skills the youth services has helped them develop. however they feel that there could me more funding allocated. The youth service could respond by providing programmes on life skills such as how to apply for your provisional, and basic skills and resources needed to provide for themselves in the future. They feel that poverty plays a role as it affects people in their area and worldwide. Due to living in a rural area there is a lack of job opportunities for young people throughout and even young people living in small towns. They feel that the price's of necessitates and the cost of living is having a negative affect on young people, families and small businesses. Increasing stress levels and worries. They feel the youth service could respond to this by more events raising money for people who are living in the midst of poverty, support young people in communities and promote more social actions/ opportunities for social actions.

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			They have also suggested that the youth service could respond through hiring young people or using them as apprentices.
Mid Ulster	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	As a group we are worried about our future, for job prospects. We don't have the right support and guidance in schools. The cost of living crisis is scaring us, as we fear we won't be able to live independently because of the cost of things. The Youth Service can help with careers preparation i.e. interview skills, educational courses etc. Provide OCN training, practical skills training such as using the Barista machine here in the centre. This will help us for future jobs. Group work programmes will help with confidence, team work skills, communication etc. The youth service is a warm and comforting place for us to go. We would like to see food included during sessions, as this would help those young people coming from families that are struggling financially in the current cost of living crisis. It would reduce stress on families.
Mid Ulster	No	9 to 11 Years	Do you feel hopeful about your future? (Vote) Yes: 12 No: 4 How can the youth service help to prepare you for the future? (Quotes) Teach us to behave = listen at school. Listen, be kind, teach us well. Teach us stuff that we might not know about! Be nice and encourage them to do well and try hard. Help us get off phones! Teamwork. Teach us to be kind, tell us more about stuff you might experience when we are older.
Mid Ulster	No	12 to 13 Years	Do you feel hopeful for the future? (Vote) All do What might stand in the way of you reaching your full potential? (Quotes) My maths scores. Academic performance. People not hiring you. Not being good at your work. Not liking school subjects. Having false confidence or ideas. False expectations and reality. Teachers that don't teach well. How confident do you feel that you could live independently? (Vote) Very confident: 5 Confident: 2 Not confident: 5 How can youth services support you with your employability and preparing you for your future? (Quotes) Work on resumes. Prep for jobs, work experience programme – link in with shops. Link in with young entrepreneurs.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	Some young people said that they feel somewhat hopeful for the future as they feel confident but they feel unsure about employment and anxious about any events that might hit them off-guard. Some of them felt less confident in their future as there are many factors that could impact their lives such as environmental issues, finance issues such as the cost of living crisis which might make it hard to buy a house or a car. Young people felt that there are a few things that might stand

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			in their way of reaching their full potential such as confidence, lack of opportunities and lack of motivation. Some of the young people felt that they could live independently but they would be nervous about getting things wrong. Youth services should help us to get prepared for the working world, give our more information and provide opportunities for young people to think about potential future jobs.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	- Maybe give help on how to apply for jobs eg workshop - More programmes to explain - More programmes on the future eg teaching about taxes
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	- Help with CV's - Help with GCSE- study classes - Find opportunities - Help find jobs
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	"teach us employability skills and how to get a job" "can help support me by providing me with talks and workshops to help prepare for the future, getting a job, show me how to get a job and tell me how to provide for myself in the future"
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Young people stressed the need for environmental projects and clearer routes into careers through apprenticeships. Additional Points: Host annual Irish-language environmental action days. Partner with sustainability-focused businesses to provide training in climate-resilient careers. Offer “Green Careers” summer camps in Irish-speaking areas. Suggestions for Youth Service: Fund youth-led sustainability projects like recycling programmes and eco-gardens. Offer work experience placements in green industries. Organise career fairs featuring a range of apprenticeship and college options.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Feedback Young people felt that their future was pretty bleak looking at the moment due to - Cost of living crisis, Pay gap for young people and how to gain suitable employment - a stigma around attending further education colleges and gaining university opportunities/placements - gaining a placement on an apprenticeship scheme within a local college but finding it extremely difficulty to get an employer to take you on as a placement student due to high costs for insurance etc. Suggestions for how youth service can respond Provide more educational opportunities - OCN qualifications etc. Provide more opportunities for young people to gain employment within the service - Leadership qualifications prior to turning 18 years old so that there is a smooth transition into

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			PT employment within local projects - Rolling out yearly LYNC programme opportunities leading into Pathways programme and UNI opportunities etc.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Stand in the way- the Government and their lack of support for our generation. Young people don't like, don't trust Government.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	young people talked about lots of negativity - poverty, organised crime, not feeling safe in schools or their community. Young people wanted more support and better direction on the opportunities they could have - hope to get a job - wanted youth service to host life skills, career opportunities fare - outside school - real experiences of people who have achieved - from being self employed or working for the NHS- show options available to others growing up.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	do you feel hopeful for your future? no unsure of everything, uni? housing? money? grades? yes I have received a lot in terms of education and my community, yes I have developed the skills to be hopeful Impact of poverty? not having money to pay bills, not fed therefore not confident to socialise with others, malnourishment, not having somewhere to live or to be able to keep up with rent, not having money for membership in clubs, not being bale to have a social life with friends, negative impact on academic performance, mental/physical health suffers. what might stand in your way? feel like i cant live on my own, lack of confidence in abilities, anxiety/stress, don't know basic skills ie bills groceries, how to get services etc, limited opportunities where i live, driving, cooking, unsure of career, lack of support from schools, finances, getting the right job, genuinely unsure, pressure for grades. how can YS reduce the impact of poverty? Teach about finances and savings, food back, food parcels, giving support to families on how to manage money, give yp paid work, workshops eg. come dine with me, cooking on a budget. breakfast clubs, lunch club, dinner club, providing a space for all young people to feel safe and to access food and heat, learn basic life skills. How can YS support employability? give us support to find and apply and to prepare for interview via one to one, finance workshops, building transferable skills for future work and interviews, common household help; teach the basics; washing, insurance, money, banking, bills, phone lines, internet ,. Building a cv workshop, help preparing for uni, mock interview, sample questions, personal statements. how confident are you to live independently? no very, don't have skills, fairly confident, I cant even cook.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Feedback from group was that they were not really concerned about their future in terms of employment as they felt that there were plenty of work opportunities.They did accept that they needed to achieve academically to enable them to have better jobs
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	'I'm hopeful for the future where there is more jobs available'. 'Being part of the Horizons program has given me the

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			confidence to speak up and be hopeful'. The 12 young people felt that they were focused on their future, and were aware of what sacrifices were needed in order to get there. 7 out of the 12 young people have opened a savings account to help them prepare for University life. Programs like Horizons has given the young people opportunities to earn new skills such as getting involved in Social action projects gaining skills and qualifications in the process. All 12 young people maintained that opportunities such as HORIZONS gives young people opportunities to develop themselves in order to be ready for the future. Young people felt that not getting their grades might affect their ability to meet their potential.
Newry, Mourne and Down	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Confidence in living independently- not happy, can sit alone and read, happy by myself, feel pressure, uncomfortable but ok, anxiety, panic attacks, nervous on my own, sad, lonely, uncomfortable, would like the privacy, no one will help me, fine because I will have my electronics, alone and bored by ok, cant cook, cant bake, delighted as i can eat what i want and watch what i want, no thanks- I cant cook or do stuff on my own, i need more skills, i would move in with friends so I am not alone, I would feel sad leaving by brother, I would see my friends anytime I like, I can still see my mum and dad, I would not be confident and would have panic attacks, I would be scared, I cant live by myself, I would need to learn how to cook, I would need 1-1 support all the time, i would want someone I know living with me, I need my family next door, I need more skills like how to tidy up, i would feel sad- no one to keep me company Poverty Impact families- no school trips, no essentials for heating, no food, warm clothing, medical costs, no leisure, need money for insurance, hard for young people to process, feel anxious and sad, miserable, upset, emotional, parents would feel guilty, life would be tough, could cause crime to increase Reduce impact of poverty- more jobs, budgeting, buy less coffees, reduce waste and plastics, more benefits, higher pay, no takeaways, lower taxes, food donations, food banks, people who are more fortunate could donate to charities, stop inflation How YS could support with employability- work together with training orgs, help us seek appropriate placements, health and well being workshops, help with relationships, cooking skills, help us in supported living, mentoring, more jobs for young people with SEN, future is fully focused on living with parents, build our confidence, new skills like interpersonal and communication, how to cope with change, budget skills, keeping safe, managing money, different currency, provide relevant job qualifications, access to career advisor, assisted living need to involve youth workers, much more on life skills programmes- cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, groceries, road safety, safety in the home, changing beds, keeping a routine. provide relevant opportunities in Newry, I cant travel

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			on my own. Stand in your way of achieving full potential- Travelling- how to plan and organise, other peoples prejudice and discrimination, my own health an if I can get a license, my lack of motivation and confidence, not having enough money, not having skills, not having access to services that relate to my goals, not having enough experience, being bale to have my own home, having enough money to pay bill, not having access to training, not having my independence and relying on others, other people doubting my abilities, not having a good support network Hopeful for the future- I feel more secure in my future than when I was in school, I want to save the planet through eco work, I don't know, I'm not certain about my future, I'm not sure what will come next, I hope to get a job in entertainment, I'm unsure of the possibilities for myself, I want to get a FT job, I want PT work when I'm older, I think the world might be getting better for us all, I have a job so I hope to get progress and better myself

Strategic Theme 6: Making a Positive Contribution to Society

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Did not complete during focus groups
Ards and North Down	No	4 to 8 Years	The young people said that helping others in the club who might be struggling in activities, as well as being nice to others shows how they are currently making a difference in their communities. They stated that making a positive impact is important because it makes people feel happy and it's good to be kind. This group mentioned that youth service is giving chances and opportunities to make positive impacts on their local communities like the older group (Young Leaders) are doing with them. The group highlighted that they feel they are listened to a lot in youth club and school and enjoy when they can be part of planning things that go on in both. Some stated that they feel that they are listened to more when they have a bad day. They also stated that Youth Services could include them more in decision making when it comes to club nights/planning parties. The group said they want to do more things like the older group, mentioning helping poor kids, older people and also meeting new people from different centres.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Young people felt excluded from community decisions and expressed a desire for more opportunities to make a difference. Additional Points: Launch an annual “Youth Voice” summit where young people can present projects to local leaders. Establish Irish-language citizenship education programmes focused on leadership and social action. Offer grants to youth-led projects promoting community development and social justice. Provide civic engagement training in areas like public speaking, organising events, and campaigning. Suggestions for Youth Service: Create youth councils where young people can share ideas and

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			propose local projects. Offer training on how to participate in public consultations and advocacy efforts. Encourage volunteering through school-based programmes and local charities.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	How do you make a difference in your school, community or youth club? Be kind Teachers be nice to us and we will be nice to them so everyone will be happy Anti Bullying Nothing Being Me I'm the most funniest person ever Be kind to others Set a good example for younger ones Being helpful and helping the community
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	For Citizenship, some responses we got were: Provide proof that when completing these types of surveys young people are actually being listened too which will encourage them to do them more. Ask questions that is relatable to young people, some said they feel the questions are more suited to the EA than young people Take more feed back from young people Provide more opportunities for young people to get involved with the community Promote the club more Youth workers organise activities that focus on team work and skills that will benefit us in our lives Be more inclusive to different cultures Provide outdoor learning more Better funding to do the likes of SPARK (this was mentioned a few times) More workshops with outside agencies and Organisations Educate more about different cultures and religions (someone young people are born here but have families from the likes of Poland and some young people dont think about this when making certain comments not realising it can hurt their friends)
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Discussions around How we make a difference through Student councils, Local voice, Is Citizenship important Yes as it is helping others children in need, encourages young people to speak out/protest on local issues. Youth Service response Keep doing what we ware doing.
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Do you feel that young people have the power to change things- Young people in this discussion largely felt that young people didn't have the power to change things. Some young people felt that they where "seen not heard" and no one wants to listen to them. Some of the young people in the group says depends on the circumstance they feel like they are listened to if it benefits others and is useful. Young people feel

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			like they have power to change things within their youth groups as youth workers listen to them. In school there are things like student voice, youth council and prefects can just be for image not actually to do something and this often can depend on the person. Young people also spoke about voting age and how young people aren't seen as powerful enough to change communities. Young people lastly touched on that young people are the future but they don't believe anyone is powerful enough to change the attitudes people have, especially in northern Ireland. Do you feel that young people are listened to and valued- Young people felt valued within in youth work as they are listened to but in likes of school and their communities this wasn't the case. Young people said in school again said that the young people that are seen as being "good" are valued but those who aren't labelled that way aren't valued or listened to because of their behavior. Some young people said they feel valued in their community but only at certain times of the year when the community relies on them to collect for bonfires, do clean ups etc. but any other time they are seen in a negative light. One young person spoke about how they feel valued in their community with being involved in a flute band but outside of this and youth work they don't feel values and listened too. Some group member then spoke about how every young person should feel valued within their family but this sometimes isn't the case because they come from bad backgrounds. Again they group spoke about how if they where valued and listened too the voting age for this would be lower so young people could have their voice heard and feel valued to make a different in government. How can youth services provide more opportunities for you to make a positive contribution to society- Young people gave a range of examples which included more international work giving the young people opportunities to learn about other cultures then put their learning into the communities when home. The group then spoke about more social action experiences joint up with the community to change the opinions and attitudes of the community. More intergenerational groups and more events to continue to involve the community inviting community, politicians etc. to celebrate the work young people do. Young people also spoke that more youth led programmes would help young people make a positive contribution to society. Do you feel that citizenship or making a positive contribution is important- Young people believed this was important for a number of reasons these included so you are respected within your community, if you don't have a positive image you will have a negative one and being a positive role model for young people growing up in their local areas. Young people also said its important to try because no one is going to and so people can understand and learn from other young peoples working. How can youth service make a difference- Young people said

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			campaigns, encourage and listen more to young people. Young people have to have more of a say in what they want to do with budgets, monthly feedback from different young people involved in projects
Belfast (South and West)	No	12 to 13 Years	Many participants wanted to see more cultural programmes and Irish language activities. There were calls for campaigns addressing societal issues like climate change and inclusion. Additional Points: Run Irish-language cultural immersion camps focusing on history, traditions, and contemporary societal issues. Support youth-led Irish-medium podcasts, blogs, or campaigns addressing topics like environmental sustainability and social justice. Foster dialogue sessions between Irish-speaking and English-speaking youth to build bridges and address shared societal challenges. Suggestions for Youth Services: Develop Irish language programmes or cultural exchange activities. Organise youth-led campaigns addressing climate change and diversity.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Young people feel a lack of belonging in their communities. Not all feel they have a voice in local decision-making. Additional Points: Offer Irish-language civic engagement programs that teach young people how to advocate for change within their communities. organise Irish-medium workshops to help young people understand their role as active citizens and the importance of their voices in decision-making processes. Partner with local councils to create Irish-speaking youth advisory boards to ensure representation in policymaking. Suggestions: Create programs that help young people engage with their communities and feel included. Provide citizenship education with a focus on empowering youth voices.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Young people in Lynkd with SEND felt that in the youth service on Thursday night it was a safe place to voice their views in the club, make decisions to form a small committee and apply for small grants to help others and enabled older members to ask others their views. The youth worker and others can give us space to design the outlay of the club with activities each Thursday and plan what might happen in the club but are limited to bring people in and limited to attend places due to transport, companies not on systems and not have enough

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			funding for the year. Youth services gave opportunities to attend events -international womens day, one young world and able to meet other young people. In the club able to discuss topics relating to world events, having a club can decide on activities and learn about community and safe to give opinions on themes.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	Feedback: Young people raised concerns about the lack of recognition of their rights, particularly for Irish-language speakers. Suggestions for Youth Service: Conduct workshops to educate young people on their rights and the power of community action.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	How do you currently make a difference in your school, youth provision or community?: Young people highlighted that they are young leaders through the horizons programme and have completed a number of social action projects for their community including a good relations fun day and making French souvenirs to sell in Annecy for cheaper than tourist prices. They continue to use their leadership in school by completing social action activities to raise money for school funds including their current mission Christmas scheme and their secret Santa gifting project. Some young people also raised how they make a difference in youth provision by volunteering their time as peer leaders. Do you feel that citizenship or making a positive contribution is important? Why?: All in the group agreed that it is very important to make a positive contribution as if they don't, who will! One young person highlighted that it's all well and good complaining about your community but if you really want something done you should try your best to at least make a start in getting it done yourself. It was also raised that often in our community young people get a bad name or often are blamed for negative things within the community however by taking on a leadership role and getting involved in citizenship they hope to shape the narrative for those in their community that not all young people are bad or are causing trouble in the community. Do you feel that young people are listened to and valued? Where and how?: The group agreed that in the most part in their community they are listened to and valued but only as they have gotten older. They highlighted that in school they didn't have much opportunity to take the lead until they were post 16. They all highlighted that within their horizons group they 100% feel they have had the chance and can continue to make positive change as they would come with ideas and youth workers help to provide the knowledge and resources required to make a difference. Young people also highlighted that in their community at times they can feel that leadership

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			opportunities are set in order to tick a box and this shouldn't be the way - student councils in school was highlighted as being part of this. Do you feel that young people have the power to change things? How?: Yes absolutely, young people said that through their leadership programmes they are testament that this is true. By giving young people the confidence and resources needed they can absolutely change things the group said sometimes they just need that little push or having someone believing in them. How can Youth Services provide more opportunities for you to make a positive contribution to society?: Young people highlighted that the Horizons Programme was the best fit for this purpose. They highlighted that the programme equipped them with the skills, resources and confidence to be positive young leaders in their community and beyond. How can Youth Services listen to you and value your opinion more, or include you more in decision making?: Continue to provide spaces where young peoples voices are heard and taking into consideration like youth voice, LAG groups etc and take what we say when planning for the needs of young people etc. It was also highlighted how young people from Rural areas need to be included more in decision making / regional opportunities as a lot of the times things are held in the city which isn't easy to get to for us.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	12 to 13 Years	The young people feel they currently make a difference by being school council rep, being part of a form class, being part of a sports team, listening to others' ideas, giving ideas. The young people responded Yes, they do feel making a positive contribution is important because you will get respect from others and it makes you feel good about yourself. The youth service could do community projects that will help people. Some young people felt yes, they are listened to and valued – one young person said "if you treat others right then you will be valued". Some said No- because "sometimes young people are cheeky to others and this makes young people not valued". Others said Sometimes – depends on their behaviour and the situation and who is listening to them. The group said Yes they feel young people have the power to change things through: school council, playing sports, being members of clubs and giving ideas eg youth club, pupil voice at school and youth club. Youth service can use local voice and hold meetings for young to express their ideas and include young people in planning events at different times in year.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Feedback: Young people raised concerns about the lack of recognition of their rights, particularly for Irish-language speakers. Suggestions for Youth Service: Foster collaboration between Irish- and English-speaking communities to build understanding and unity. Conduct workshops to educate young people on their rights and the power of community action.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Q1 – school council and having a voice – Q2 – Yes – so your voice is heard, make change and make a difference. Speak up for those who cant. Advocacy for our peers. Q3 – Changing youth policy, we wouldn't be engaged or participate if it wasn't for this group. We can develop enough through participation to enable us to be involved in decision making with adult workers and decision makers. Q4 – In youth groups, somthimes they arnt because we are seen as young people. Not really, not taken seriously. We can t engage fully or are reluctant to if not trained and don't have the awareness. Q5 – No – not really. People have a job for that. We need to have young people involved in planning, decision making and sitting with designers etc. Q6. Young people should have the opportunity for co-design, tavel, meet other groups.
Derry and Strabane	No	12 to 13 Years	How do you currently make a difference in your school, youth provision or community? Student Council Junior Forum x4 Eco Group Do you feel that citizenship or making a positive contribution is important? Why? 5 Yes Cause it helps people So I can speak up Because it makes people happy. Because everyone should be heard How can Youth Services provide more opportunities for you to make a positive contribution to society? Junior forum

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			Let me come out of school to come and help out in the community and society Carolling or sign-song for care homes Volunteer to help people in need Give care packages to old people Do you feel that young people are listened to and valued? Where and how? Not a school Teachers don't listen Don't get to share your opinions in school Teachers don't care as long as you do well Yes at YMCA cause they listen to you and care about what you have to say. The youth staff listens to us. Do you feel that young people have the power to change things? How? No, because we don't have a say N,o because the school doesn't listen We do in YMCA cause we are in the junior forum Yes in your club cause we have the power to change Tuck Shop. How can Youth Services listen to you and value your opinion more, or include you more in decision making? Junior Forum Have more meetings Ask us what we want to do Let us be the leaders Having more programmes and stuff.
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	How do you currently make a difference in your school, youth provision and community: Student Council SAP Anti-bullying Ambassadors Make citizenship part of the school curriculum Do you feel that citizenship or making a positive contribution is important, why: Yes it makes people feel better as they are making a positive contribution to their community and can help your voice get heard. How can youth services provide more opportunities for you to make a positive contribution to society: By providing meaningful projects that benefit our community. Do you feel that people are listened to and valued, where and how? Sometimes it depends where you are. Can be heard in school sometimes and they do feel heard in school as they have opportunities to plan projects to meet their needs and interests.

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			Do you feel that young people have the power to change things, how? Yes by suggesting ideas to school counsellor, principal, youth club as you can suggest different ideas if you don't want to do something. How can youth services listen to you and value your opinion more, or include you more in decision-making? Taking part in surveys with ideas to improve the youth club for everyone.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Citizenship – how do you currently make a difference in your school, youth provision or community? - School council - Local Voice - Debate Club - Youth Workers listen and help make change - Have captain to speak on behalf of the team. Citizenship – do you feel that citizenship or making a positive contribution is important? Why? - 100% say yes – helps young people be seen as better citizens in the community Citizenship – how can youth services provide more opportunities for you to make a positive contribution to society? - Get involved in charity work - Partnerships in local community - Social Action - Social Enterprise - Host events Citizenship – do you feel that young people are listened to and valued? Where and how? Depends on the situation/who you go to. Where o Youth Centre – always there to speak o Youth Workers – seem o be interested and actually listen to you o Coaches – they want to be there and are interested in each person o Church leaders – always someone to talk to and suggestion box Recommendation o Smiley face system (like lidl) o Digital feedback on wall Citizenship – do you feel that young people have the power to change things? How? - 90% No o People don’t listen o Adults don’t think young people don’t understand - 10% Yes o Coming together as a large group o Promote through social

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Citizenship – how can youth services listen to you and value your opinion more, or include you more in decision making? - Social media - Anonymous feedback - Smiley face system (like lidl) - Surveys – short and direct, not long e.g. tick boxes
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	9 to 11 Years	Do you think people listen to the voice and opinions of young people? - Sometimes, other young people, family, teachers and youth workers - Most of the time, depends on what you are saying - Not really, if they are strict they don't - Think children's opinions don't matter. Do you feel you have the opportunity to tell others what you think? - Yes - if I am worried I can talk to parents and teachers. - Yes – teachers and adults. - Yes – when you talk to them sometimes they ask our opinion. Do you think your opinions are listened to and taken seriously? - Sometimes yes - depends on who you are talking to. - Can ask for what we want and be listened to Do you think young people can change things for the better? - Yes – good ideas and creativity when you are young - Yes – respect young people more - Yes – big ideas should be listened to.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	The Young people expressed they make a difference within their community, school and youth groups by raising awareness on topics such as mental health, rural safety/women's safety, period poverty and inclusivity. They feel that making a positive contribution is important as they are the voices of the future. They have expressed by doing so it helps them be pro-active in their community and create change for themselves and others. They feel it can be difficult at times to try tackle bigger issues as they are from a rural area and they feel their voices at times get dismissed by the wider community and beyond. They have said that this can create a barrier for them. They feel valued and heard within groups, clubs and programmes were they can openly express themselves. They feel that youth services could respond by continuing to encourage and support young people by giving them the space were they can advocate for themselves and others and also provide opportunities to try new things.
Mid Ulster	No	9 to 11 Years	Should the youth/ young people/ children have a voice and share their opinions and ideas to make the world a better place for all? (Vote) Yes: 10 No: 1 Sometimes: 5
Mid Ulster	No	12 to 13 Years	How do you currently make a difference in your school, youth clubs or community? (Quotes) Santa's Magical forest every year for winter/Christmas. Sports, Handball etc - you represent your community. Selling tickets

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			will raise money for e.g. new pitches, gear and equipment. Do you feel that making a positive contribution is important? Why? (Quotes) Yes, because it represents young people and gets the point across. It shows that young people can be good and are good. Do you feel that young people are listened to and valued? Sometimes Do you feel that young people have the power to change things? Kinda, yes. How can youth services provide more opportunities for you to make a positive contribution to society? It provides more opportunities to do things and get involved in the community.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	We make a difference in our school, youth clubs and local communities as we are in sixth form, the younger pupils look up to us. We are also part of the horizons programme which encourages cross community communication. In our youth clubs we also want to learn about local uses and have trips aware that try to help us see things from a different culture. Some of the young people are also anti-bullying ambassadors within schools which supports young people with their personal issues. Young people felt that making a positive contribution was important as it makes a positive impact on society, as this inspires us to want to learn and make positive changes. Young people felt that some young people are listened to within school but it is clear that within youth services young people are listened to the most. All of the youth people felt that they were more valued and listened to in youth services that they are in school. Within other settings sometimes young people's opinions aren't valued as some adults are very ignorant and don't want to hear the views of young people. Young people felt that they are listened to within youth services and through the school council but they are still unable to vote so they feel they aren't listened to within society. Youth services can provide more opportunities for young people to make a positive contribution to society by providing more youth clubs that are for our age group (16 -18), they should also give young people a stage to share their views.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	- More opportunities such as Youth Voice or residentials - By Supporting what we want to do to make a change - More Residentials and opportunities to work with other groups - To Network more with other group and to contribute to run event - Provide more programmes to make a change in your community
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	"opportunities of being involved in society" "social actions and giving back" "international experiences where we learn about others"

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Participants expressed a desire to engage in local decision-making and be recognised as active community members. Additional Points: Provide training in community activism through Irish-language workshops. Set up Irish-speaking youth councils to advise on community projects and policies. Organise cultural exchange programmes that promote global citizenship through the lens of Irish heritage. Suggestions for Youth Service: Create youth advisory boards where participants can propose community projects. Offer leadership development programmes. Facilitate volunteering initiatives focused on community development.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	We volunteer within our community, help other out, support school events, on student council in school. We don't feel listened to in school as the teachers don't understand participation Youth Service could provide an online system to provide feedback on new policies and some of their decisions
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people felt as citizens that they aren't heard, that their voices aren't represented in issues that impact them and gave voting as this example.

Strategic Theme 7: Respect for Young People's Rights

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Do you feel that youth service respects your rights? Where could they improve? - I believe that youth service respects your rights as they often provide a safe space, an inclusive circle and encourage equality. They could improve by becoming more informed on young peoples troubles. - Yes they respect us and our decisions - Youth services are always there for us - Youth services 100% respect our rights as they don't look down on us or make us feel useless - They listen to our opinions - Yes I think they do respect and listen to everything - Yes it is there jobs to respect our rights - Yes, I think new youth workers need informing on the issues effecting young people - LGBTQIA+ inclusivity and addressing current policy How can youth services support or advocate for your rights? - Youth workers and youth services can support your rights by listening and answering any questions you may have - Organizing group events - Listen to us and do everything they can to change it - Creating effective policy change by actually listening to YP - By providing educational opportunities for young people about their rights - Teach you what it looks like to have your rights impacted and young people how to fight for their rights How could youth services educate young people on their rights more? - Links on the internet they can read - Events and Talks - Facilitating engaging workshops - Bring in experts from the field to speak with young people - Educational visits or talks - Different group visits - Hold an engaging club event surrounding young peoples rights and how they can be impacted in day to day scenarios. (you cant inform a yp that doesn't want to be informed)
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Do you know your rights? Where do you find information about your rights? School and friends, Google, youth leaders, Social media pages, Assemblies, Having group discussions and friends. Do you feel like your rights are respected in society? Where and how? Yes In youth centres/school. The youth centres and school

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			respect us and trust us towards our rights. How could Youth Services educate young people on their rights more? Posters. More assemblies on the topics. Encourage people to take part in marches on their rights. A lot more group work and social media. Information talks, Social media, Leaflets in youth clubs, Quiz, groupwork. Do you feel confident in standing up for your rights? How? Yes, by telling them what I'm entitled to. Yes, as there are young people who will/can support me. Yes, as I know my voice should be heard. No, people are too judgmental and speak before they know someone. Do you feel that Youth Service respects their rights? Where could they improve? Yes, less attitude from young people and staff. Yes, They could improve by giving us more freedom towards young people taking on responsibilities. How can Youth Services support or advocate for your rights? They can help educate us and explain by giving us flexibility. Help in educating the youths on their rights. Outline suggestions for how Youth Service can respond: EA Youth Service can offer workshops, seminars, and interactive resources that explain their legal entitlements in areas such as education, safety, and discrimination. They can organize peer-led sessions, where young people become ambassadors for educating their peers, and provide one-on-one mentoring to address specific concerns.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Participants mentioned not knowing where to turn for help with legal, educational, or social issues. Additional Points: Publish guides on young people's rights in Irish and distribute them in schools and community centres. Host regular "Rights Awareness" events featuring guest speakers from advocacy organisations. Develop an Irish-language rights information podcast targeting young audiences. Establish an online support service where young people can confidentially ask questions about their rights. Suggestions for Youth Service: Deliver "Know Your Rights" workshops in schools and youth centres. Create a youth-friendly rights information website with multilingual support. Provide access to legal advice clinics for young people.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	The Young people involved in this feel like they knew some rights like right to privacy, right to education, right to be and feel safe. However they were not sure of many of their rights especially those that would assist them more within every day life having challenges and barriers relational to their learning difficulties and autism - They do utilise services and feel like they are getting support from family, school and youth service but would like to be equipped with more understanding support and knowledge to be more effective and included in their own life decisions and choices
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Do you feel like your rights are respected in society? Where and how? NO because I'm young NO because my teachers don't respect me NO cus my bus driver NO YES NO YES NO older people are stereotyping of younger people and discriminate because of what we wear We don't be taken seriously because we are young.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Newcomer Children and Young People	14 to 18 Years	YP feel like they know their rights however, they outlined that they do not know where to access information on their rights and said they would like to know more about the UNCRC. They stated that Youth Service respects their rights and the rights of all YP. They discussed how youth leadership programmes can support young people in many different ways - personal & social development, future aspirations, life skills and ongoing support.
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Some know their rights, never discussed them before, google about rights- rights of child explored in school childcare, geography Educate in a fun way about rights, what young people are entilited to, Older generations don’t respect most young peoples views, young people get the blame of everything, they feel school doesn’t respect rights (toileting etc) Youth service do respect rights because youth workers are understanding, you have choices, voluntary participation, youth workers listen and are non judgmental, sign posting to other services How can youth service advocate for your rights-Local voice groups- creating campaigns, consultation, needs assessment, listening to young people, things not being tokenistic
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Knowing your rights ,topic discussed in schools and Local Voice Victoria/Kieran. Where are rights respected school/education, government, Youth workers give us the opportunity to express our views on topics. Rights to equality ,gain confidence to stand up for what you feel is right. Youth

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			service response Confidence building/speaking up, Educate groups on rights .
Belfast (South and West)	No	12 to 13 Years	Young people expressed the need to be listened to and included in decision-making processes. They wanted more education on their rights and how they can exercise them. Design Irish-language educational materials explaining rights, responsibilities, and pathways for advocacy. Include young people in Irish-medium panels or focus groups to influence decisions at school, community, and government levels. Train Irish-speaking youth ambassadors to represent their communities in regional and national decision-making processes. Suggestions for Youth Services: Hold interactive sessions explaining youth rights and how to advocate for them. Include youth voices in community planning discussions.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Constant struggle for funding for initiatives supporting young people. Irish-speaking youth often feel overlooked. Additional Points: Advocate for the inclusion of Gaeilge-speaking youth in funding allocation decisions to address their unique needs. Develop Irish-language resources on youth rights, including guides and workshops that empower young people to advocate for themselves. organise regional events in Irish to celebrate and promote minority language rights, fostering pride and awareness. Suggestions: Advocate for consistent and equitable funding for youth services. Ensure resources are provided for minority language communities to support their rights.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Young peoples feedback regarding your rights was that it was online and can learn about it through posters and discussions in groups. Learn about rights in lynkd session but found the topic boring and too long and too much to taken in when participation team came out to the sessions regarding SEND consultation although some aspects were fun. Some young people thought that there was too many consultations and always asking us as SEND young people if there was a target to be met in youth services, but when it was done in discussion groups that were smaller and delivered by youth workers who know us it became fun and interactive. If it was learned in class then there could be online user friendly

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			versions to help young people with SEND to understand various parts and with some younger members it didnt come across their minds. Parents know all about that. Lynkd is a club that enables young people to have the rights to play and have fun and belong and that disability young people enjoy going too.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	Feedback: Young people expressed frustration that their rights are not fully recognised by the state. Concerns about discrimination against the growth of the Irish-language community were emphasised. Additional Points: Develop educational campaigns in Irish to teach young people about their rights and how to challenge discrimination effectively. Lobby for legislation that ensures equal rights for Irish speakers and protects their linguistic identity in all public services. Suggestions for Youth Service: Advocate for young people's rights at the governmental level. Create youth campaigns centered on the themes of equality, rights, and freedom.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	12 to 13 Years	The majority of young people in the group said that no – they did not know about their rights and they were unsure where to find out about their rights. The young people had mixed views on whether their views are respected in society. One or 2 said – "No sometimes young people get barred from places like shops if we are out in groups". Others said that some older people think all young people are the same. But they thought their rights are respected in youth club and in some classes at school – do a group contract. Some young people think their rights should be respected by being able to go to the toilet when they ask in school. The youth service could provide relevant and appropriate information about their rights at different ages. The majority of young people in the group did not feel confident in standing up for the their rights as they are not really sure what they are exactly. The group did feel that youth service respects your rights as all young people are treated equally and there are different activities for different interests.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Feedback: Young people expressed frustration that their rights are not fully recognised by the state. Concerns about discrimination against the growth of the Irish-language community were emphasised. Additional Points:

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Develop educational campaigns in Irish to teach young people about their rights and how to challenge discrimination effectively. Lobby for legislation that ensures equal rights for Irish speakers and protects their linguistic identity in all public services. Suggestions for Youth Service: Advocate for young people's rights at the governmental level. Create youth campaigns centered on the themes of equality, rights, and freedom.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Q1 -Rights work – Unicef – Horizons, Youth Voice, copy of UNCRA Articles. Need information points displayed in all clubs. UNICEF Child Rights training. Needs to be at the centre of all youth work not just inclusion and participation. Q2. MORE INTERACTIVE -UNICEF. Rights based exercises. NICCY can deliver sessions. Involve Young people in developing rights based programmes. Q3.Dont really know them all. No. We have Rights but we don't necessarily see where they are being met. Some of the obvious rights are clear such as right to Education etc, but young people don't understand the 42 + Articles. Q4. yES – They listen, talk to you and make decisions with you. Youth Service actively set up or establish groups for young people. Youth service = Informal education Youth Service staff can help us to realise how rights are being met. Such as when we meet us to make decisions explain that this is Article 12 in action. Q5. Mostly No. conflict is ackward. If someone took my phone or tried to I wouldn't give it up. Q6. Listen to our voices and take our voices forward. Need a seat at each table.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Young people are full of ideas. Even though there would need to be discussion and compromise we would produce better results when young people and adults work together.
Derry and Strabane	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	19+ Years	Young people shared that they feel they understand their rights, when asked many said they never challenge anything when it comes to their rights, and digging deeper it was more because they just accept a lot of things when they are told, as it usually standard practice for people with disabilities to be left out, excluded or not listened to. The young people shared that they feel their rights are encouraged and promoted at BUD Club, they feel accepted here with staff and friends, they don't feel the same way within the communities they live in.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Do you know your rights? Where do you find information about your rights? I think I am relatively well educated on most of my rights but I could learn more about them. I can find out about my rights through the internet 2 people - No I don't know my rights and I don't know how to find them Yes I know my rights. I don't know where to find information about it I sort of know my rights but I don't know them well, but I think I could google my rights I don't know my rights and I think you could find info on the internet I only know about a few of my rights. I'm not sure where to find information about my rights I know my rights, but not necessarily through youth club however, through needing to know my rights and finding them through Google. Do you feel like your rights are respected in society? Where and how? I don't know because I don't know what my rights are I think they are respected in society in my school and youth club since I am allowed to leave school at 16 which gives me a right of freedom Yes I do because I feel respected and accepted I do not feel like my rights are respected in society because if there is a large group out people make bad assumptions I do feel my rights are respected No. In school we have lost the right to use the bathroom and keep our phones I feel that my rights are respected around my society for example at school and home and I am respected and treated fairly in my household and school. Yes I feel like my rights are respected as I am provided with

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			education and opportunities to expand socially etc How could Youth Services educate young people on their rights more? By doing schemes on our rights and how to show them Have a programme about our rights in youth club Develop awareness of the actual rights. Bring in someone to educate us Informational talks on rights 2 people - Hold workshops or provide links to provide more information Holding workshops and educating us Do programmes/qualifications to help us learn more about our rights or maybe they could bring someone in Do you feel confident in standing up for your rights? How? I do feel confident since if my rights are being disrespected I can give reason of how they are being disrespected and how to fix it No. I don't know my rights I think so although I would be kinda scared doing it at the time lol but I would stand up and maybe talk about the issues more openly No. I am not confident on standing up for my rights, specifically in school. Most teachers think they are better than you Nope. I am unaware of my rights and feel that if I stand up form them i'm being disrespectful to the adult I do feel like I can stand up for my rights I can stand up for my rights if I have to Do you feel that youth services respect your rights? Where could they improve? 3 people - Yes They do respect my rights and there is not much they can do to improve since they display my rights well Yes they have respect for all young people and offer us any skill development or guidance to understand the need Yes because I feel respected and comfortable I feel that they youth service respects my rights already fully respected and don't feel the need for improvement I feel youth club is one of the only institutions where my rights are respected How can youth services support or advocate for your rights? Youth services could help young people understand their rights by providing programmes and leaflets to aid their rights education They can advocate for my rights by standing up for me when my rights are being disrespected and taken control of Going out and putting our voice out there. They can also post educational videos

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Making sure that our rights are heard and listened to I am unsure what to say as I don't understand the statement I think youth services can advocate our rights with things like senior committee and other committees They can by providing more info about rights for young people so they feel more confident when a situation comes up where they need to fight
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	- Young people don't know their rights - more awareness days on the different right young people have.
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Do you know your rights = Yes (Right to life, protection from harm, education, expression, religion, equality) Where = A Youth Club/Centre, asking parents, youth workers, school, citizen's advice.. Do you feel confident = Yes/How = speaking to someone who will listen to you & help you complain/deal with something/or needs aren't being respected, technology - protests, petitions, awareness training, functions, researching & presenting results to the public. Are your rights respected in society = depends where. Youth Centres - young people are listened to, young people are involved in planning, safe space, being understood, no judgement, by empowering them, valuing difference, treated equal. School - to an extent but can be restricted.. Society - negative perceptions/views on young people, media coverage makes young people look negative -affects confidence How can youth Service educate young people on their rights more = human rights workshops/programmes, empower young people by giving them sense of ownership over the rightss work (young person led sessions), invite outside organisations to groups to talk about activism, educate to promote democracy, peace & tolerance. What can Youth Service do to support/advocate for young people's rights - help young people understand their rights and give them space to discuss openly, support young people to make informed choices, campaigns/educate society about young people's rights, support for LGBTQ+, Youth Leadership Programmes, Mental Health Programmes.
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	A lot of the group were unsure about their rights, and where to find information on the subject. Most said they felt the rights they did know about such as, non-discrimination, right to feel safe, right to privacy were all respected. some commented they didn't feel like they were listened too enough generally. The group said they would stand up for their rights, if they had more knowledge of what they actually are. The group said we could provide workshops on their rights to

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			help educate them more. They discussed how they enjoyed being given a voice in Youth Club to help shape activities, and this made them feel respected.
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	Some of the group were aware of the UNCRC as they had been learning this in school. They don't understand how some towns, like Irvinestown or Enniskillen have so much stuff for their youth club but they get nothing. They think this isn't fair on them. They believe that parents treat them like babies sometimes and don't let them have a say in anything. They like being able to decide things as a group in Youth club but somethings they ask for cant happen - Go Karting and Water Parks and this isn't fair either. The youth service does give opportunities but sometimes you have to be older - 15/16 to get involved (Horizons) They like being part of rural voice but its no good since we cant meet up with other groups like before
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Feedback; majority of yp don't know their rights, rights aren't respected in schools, young people don't feel comfortable advocating for their rights, YS supports advocacy for young people, false stigma round rights and people don't believe its important to know what it is. YS response; educate yp on their rights and continue to support advocacy, more education on recycling and reusing generally, more meetings with wide range of people, more budgets for rights projects
Fermanagh and Omagh	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	*Information for their rights can be found online and different booklets. Young people feel that not everyone is treated the same as there are a lot of people treated differently to others. A lot of prejudice happening and there was throwing stones at a protestant house in one of the young people's parks recently over the last few weeks. *Omagh Youth Centre is welcoming and inclusive, staff help the young people feel inclusive. Make people more aware so going to include a culture programme for 2025-2026. Special Needs- a lot of people have a misunderstanding of what and who they actually are.
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Do you know your rights and where can you get info: Yes learned about them in school through LLW, Personal Development and Life Skills. We also discussed them at a rural voice meeting. Do you feel that your rights are respected within society: Yes - through school, the right to an education youth service - programme planning together How can youth services educate young people on their rights more: Guest speakers Discussions/scenarios Attend LAG meetings

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Do you feel confident about standing up for your rights, how: talk to youth workers talk to teachers friends parents Do you feel that youth service respects your rights? Where could they improve: Yes - give more information about rights How can youth services support or advocate for your rights: If rights are violated, they are aware that they can speak to youth workers for help and advice and that we will advocate on their behalf.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Rights – do you know your rights? Where do you find out information about your rights? No – unsure of what their rights are but know there to get info Yes – UNCRC and would know what to look for Rights – do you feel like your rights are respected in society? Where and how? Sometimes: o Don't have a say in politics o Young people don't keep up with politics but then don't know who to vote for when able. o Schools – LLW subjects o Youth clubs allow you to have your voice heard o Youth parliament o Youth council Rights – how could youth services educate young people on their rights more? - Youth council - Local voice - Compulsory classes with youth workers in school - Night time groups don't work for youth groups - Do it during form time in school Rights – do you feel confident in standing up for your rights? How? - Majority of the group say No o Education needed on this o Events with food – during school time but no inside a school o Must be interactive - Yes o Social media is used to learn about rights and promote through social media more than Facebook. Rights – do you feel that youth service respects your rights? Where could they improve? 100% of group says Yes. Improvements o Ask how young people feel about their rights/situation o Management committee (young people and adults) to have

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			voice heard Rights – how can youth services support or advocate for your rights? - Have youth service meet with MLAs and ministers with young people - More one to one or small group work
Mid and East Antrim	No	14 to 18 Years	A mixed response was given about children's rights and some felt that youth service should educate on their rights more especially the 16-17 year old's who are looking for employment. they also mentioned that they don't really learn about rights in school and in some situations are discouraged for having a voice. Young people in the group felt the youth service listens to their voice and respects their rights more so than in a school environment. Young people feel that their rights aren't respected in society and that most adults treat like them like children and in part time jobs. Most of the group feel confident in standing up for their rights however on occasions lead to conflict with teachers within the school environment. Young people feel that youth service provides a safe environment for them to speak openly and adults respect them
Mid and East Antrim	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people generally have no idea about their rights but they feel they should know when we started this conversation about being human and an active citizen. Some young people heard of UNCRC, but didn't know it applied to them under life.
Mid and East Antrim	Traveller Children and Young People	9 to 11 Years	How do we find out about our rights? Google, learn it in school, ask someone, look at our passport. Are your rights respected? We are listened too, we feel safe, right to have a home, right to go to school and see our parents. We learn about our rights in youth club. Does the Youth Service respect your rights? Yes they ask us about which trips we would like, ask us what we want to do and we would like to put up on the display boards.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	The young people are aware of where they can find information about their rights. They expressed that their rights are respected in society however, in school they feel their rights are not upheld due to not having permission to go to the bathroom when needed, along with the lack of hygiene resources in school. i.e.- soap and period products. They have also expressed that the bathrooms at times be locked within the school premises. The group feels confident in standing up for their rights however this is only to a certain extent as they feel their voices are at times overlooked. They feel that the youth service Respect their rights and there does not seem to be a gap for improvement however, the youth service could respond by running programmes that can help educate them more about their rights.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Mid Ulster	No	9 to 11 Years	Do you know all of your rights? (Vote) Yes: 3 No: 13 Do you feel respected and listened to at your youth group? (Vote) Yes: 14 No: 1 IDK: 1
Mid Ulster	No	12 to 13 Years	Do you know your rights? Where do you find information about your rights? (Quotes) I learned child's rights at youth club. We know that you should never be pressured to do drugs or alcohol and that your privacy should be protected. We know that you should never be pressured to do anything you don't want to do. We learned it at youth club - we have been learning them. Do you feel like your rights are respected within society? Where and how? (Quote My rights/ my groups rights are respected, but unfortunately not everyone's is! Do you feel confident in standing up for your rights? (Quote) Yes because Ruth taught me them. Do you feel that youth services respects your rights? Where could they improve? (Quote) Yes the youth service does. How could youth services educate young people on their rights more? (Quote) A short video about a child's rights - maybe we could be a part of it!
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	Some of the young people knew some of their rights however, felt that they don't know where to go to get more information on them. Young people felt that in some cases their rights aren't respected such as in jobs as they are seen as young, also some authorities such as police and schools don't seem to fully understand that young people have rights. Some other young people felt that their rights were upheld within society. Some young people said that they were confident enough to stand up for their rights however, some others stated that they don't exact know what their rights are so they wouldn't know what to stand up for. All the young people felt that their rights within youth services are upheld however, they felt that they should be taught more about what rights they have and the difference areas that they could stand up for their rights. Youth services should show videos and teach young people on their rights, they should have discussion groups and teach about rights that could be important for their future for example in relation to jobs and housing. Young services should do more information nights on specific topics such as rights.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	- More leaflets -Provide a talk for young people that don't understand their own rights

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	- More Programmes around it and made awareness of young peoples rights
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	"they already learnt me things about my rights" "one off workshops" "programmes on it would be boring so one offs"
Newry, Mourne and Down	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	This group stated they know very little about their rights and even less about how to ensure that their rights are being respected or recognised by adults in their homes, schools and communities. They would like to receive education on their rights and where and how to go about challenging situations which are not recognising their rights.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Participants were unsure of their legal rights and how to advocate for themselves. Additional Points: Develop an Irish-language youth legal advice app. Host annual youth rights summits featuring guest speakers and peer-led discussions. Offer legal rights education as part of school curriculums in Irish-speaking schools. Suggestions for Youth Service: Run “Know Your Rights” workshops on topics such as housing, employment, and healthcare. Publish youth-friendly rights guides in print and online.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	More needs to be done on womens rights- we don't feel respected or valued.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people feel in lots of areas of their life they are not taught or supported to implement their rights. feel youth services is welcoming to everyone - can talk to youth workers - In local shops some young people feel discriminated against - treated differently than adults - young people feel youth services needs to keep educating young people on their rights and how to challenge constructively when they feel their rights are not being respected.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people felt that their Rights were extremely important but that there needs to be more education around these. A suggestion to Youth Service could be providing Rights focused workshops, training and opportunities for young people to learn more about these and provide spaces for peer-peer learning. More access to information as global citizens, being able to compare Rights in NI to other parts of the world.

Strategic Theme 8: Good Relations & Equality

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	We think we could learn more about equality if we had more chances to meet other people who are different from us. we live in a village and we feel isolated some times from learning about other religions, identities and cultures. Our youth worker doesn't have enough money to hire buses to take us out of Crumlin for these reasons, so if we had more financial baking we could do more educational trips, meeting up with other young people. Our youth worker is also on a waiting list for permission to drive a minibus and this has been going on for ages. There is no equality with our circumstances and those of other groups and club who have transport.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	How could youth services promote better relationships between different communities and young people from different backgrounds? - More International Visits opportunities - Educational Talks - Trips and Visits that are out of the area - Cross community programmes – that are more than just catholic and protestant - New opportunities - Challenges to old opinions and values - Create a welcoming space with posters, leaflets etc. that promote inclusion Do you feel youth services are welcoming and inclusive? - Yes - Not Really - Could be improved with posters, events and training for new staff and young people How could they improve? - Changing policy - the language isn't friendly to LGBTQAI+ - Collect voice of yp - Educating staff
Antrim and Newtownabbey	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	1. Do you feel that youth services are welcoming and inclusive? How could they improve? - I think they try yes - Welcoming yes inclusive no - Youth centres need to focus on all young people not ones causing trouble - Its always the 'bad' young people get the groups - The travellers from longlands don't come down anymore I think its because they never felt welcome and were being called names - I think youth centres could have more welcoming and inclusive posters and groups - Start groups with juniors about being inclusive and push this from an early age

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			- Staff should be trained in LGBTQAI+ language - Could we make our youth club more welcoming for people with disabilities 2. How could youth services promote better relationships between communities and young people from different backgrounds? - Youth groups - Groups - Cross community groups - Giving us a chance to meet them - Bringing them here and we go there - Having community events and inviting them and their families to attend - As volunteers we could reach out to them and maybe create welcome packs for new members? - Giving them the chance to tell us about their backgrounds and countries - Culture days - Link with schools and invite families to see the youth club
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Concerns about discrimination, lack of cultural understanding, and unequal educational resources were frequently raised. Additional Points: Create an Irish-language "Equality in Action" youth forum where young people can share experiences and propose solutions. Develop workshops on cultural awareness, including understanding Irish heritage and traditions. Support campaigns against discrimination through bilingual advocacy materials. Host cultural exchange programmes with other minority-language communities. Suggestions for Youth Service: Promote inclusive education that celebrates cultural diversity and minority languages. Offer equality awareness training for teachers, youth workers, and community leaders. Provide grants for youth-led equality projects.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	9 to 11 Years	Young people explored the idea of poverty and what impact this may have on other young people and families within their local community. They understood that individuals would have fewer privileges' and may be left out in school or amongst friends. They may also face bullying if they are not wearing branded clothes or going places.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	(The following are direct responses from young people) Do you feel that young people are treated equally in your area? How? - All 7 young people said no, because of bullying

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			- Not all people get treated the same for different reasons 'poor people' -People are rude -Pedophiles in the area Is there prejudice and discrimination in your area? - Yes young people are treated different - Not the same opportunities for everyone - A lot of people judge others before getting to know them Do you feel that Youth Services are welcoming and inclusive? How could they improve? - Deal with the problem at the time - More group work - More nights for everyone to attend together - More welcoming notice boards - More up to date information for support and equality What impact does this have on young people? - If treated different young people don't want to come - Feeling low -Feeling sad - Loose friendships - Affects mental health - Feel stressed - Higher risk of feeling like running away Do you think young people treat others who are different with respect? - No people are cheeky and rude and they don't care how they make others feel - No we wouldn't treat them the same if they were different religion, skin colour or hair colour How could Youth Services promote better relationships between different communities and backgrounds? - More communities coming together for events. game nights and groupwork - more notice boards about different backgrounds to learn more about them - Support each other no matter what happens and youth workers support us with that -Invite others from different communities and backgrounds to the centre
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Newcomer Children and Young People	14 to 18 Years	YP do not feel like they area treated equally in local businesses and can see a clear distinction in how they are treated (Newcomer Young People v. Local Community). YP outlined how they see prejudice & discrimination towards the LGBTQIA+ as 'rife' in the Armagh area.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			YP can promote better relations through an increase of cultural and diversity programmes similar to TBUC. This would allow YP to meet others with similar interests & backgrounds from other communities. YP are proud of who they are and their culture. YP also outlined how YP are proud of their community connections to paramilitary organisations. However, YP feel they are not a valued member of society in their school or local work as they work for less than minimum wage and find it difficult to find a well paying job.
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Discussions around young people being treated equally in your area, No young people feel that they are constantly being scrutinised by adults/police. Young people feel there is a difference between catholic and protestant areas as there is constant issues at Short Strand/Pitt Park with rioting and anti social behaviour and gang fights. This brings other young people from Belfast Wide over to our area ,rising tensions in the area .Youth Service response, Bring local communities together, Educate young people on dangers,, community relations programmes bringing young people and communities together.
Belfast (South and West)	No	12 to 13 Years	Concerns were raised about equal access to facilities and opportunities for all youth, regardless of their background. There was also a desire for LGBTQ+ support groups and more inclusive youth spaces. Additional Points: Create Irish-medium inclusivity training programs for youth leaders and educators, ensuring that all young people feel represented. Develop cultural sensitivity workshops in Irish that celebrate diversity within the community. Establish Irish-speaking peer support groups for LGBTQ+ youth and other marginalised communities. Suggestions for Youth Services: Provide targeted programmes for marginalised or underrepresented groups. Create LGBTQ+ support groups to foster inclusivity and belonging.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Inequality in educational access for Gaelic speakers. The system is not inclusive enough for young people with disabilities or from minority backgrounds. Additional Points: Promote equal access to extracurricular programs by offering Gaelic-medium options for students from diverse backgrounds. Develop Irish-language support networks for young people

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			with disabilities, ensuring inclusivity in all activities and services. Facilitate partnerships between Gaelic-speaking schools and organizations to address systemic inequalities collaboratively. Suggestions: Develop policies to address linguistic and cultural inclusivity. Partner with local organizations to identify and address systemic barriers to equality.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	Feedback: Young people noted that equality can be enhanced by promoting collaboration between Irish- and English-speaking schools and communities. Youth clubs could be broken into three age groups to cater to different developmental needs. Additional Points: Encourage partnerships between Irish- and English-language schools through joint projects, fostering mutual respect while maintaining linguistic diversity. Establish equality-focused initiatives, such as anti-bullying campaigns and inclusive events, delivered through the Irish language. Suggestions for Youth Service: Facilitate equal opportunities for engagement between Irish- and English-language communities. Develop age-specific youth clubs to ensure appropriate activities for all groups.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	Theme Equality Area The Glens DEA (Cushendall) Age band 15-17 Male 6 Female 1 QUESTIONS: Do you feel that people are treated equally in your area? How? Group equal and gets along, A lot of programmes offered – horizons Able to lead Youth feel able to feel heard Women's projects, men's projects, related and included Programmes helped confidence and meet needs – able to join Is there prejudice or discrimination in your area? Sports are GAA Focused, don't play you are treated differently if don't play Immigrant world, treated differently in local factory by employer (identified by previous employee What impact does this have on young people? No other options – no discos or pool competitions

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Less workers in area – opportunities for older young people Transport /food providers Lack of base resources Do you feel that Youth Services are welcoming and inclusive? How could they improve? Recruitment, tictoc and snap – more young people use this School visits – how Cormac was recruited Advertise in local shop window Ensure that room/ buildings are accessible to wheel chairs etc – need for modified bathrooms How could Youth Services promote better relationships between different communities and young people from different backgrounds? Welcome from other groups, information needed from other areas GFA,GR, culture Do you think young people treat others who are different with respect? Yes, knowledgeable youth workers
Causeway Coast and Glens	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	Do you feel that people are treated equally in your area? - Yes and no, depending on different circumstances. From the perspective of them as young people in the LGBTQIA+ community they feel a lot of the time they aren't treated equally and are often made a laughing stalk and face judgment in everyday life. They also highlighted that in particular those from the LGBTQIA+ community, SEND and neurodiversity community and ethnic minorities. young people from these communities often act differently, have different ways of thinking and acting and other beliefs that in our communities may not meet societal norm - which can often leave them feeling isolated in their own communities. Is there prejudice or discrimination in your area?: Yes - Young people spoke about their communities especially in peer groups / school settings where it can be the 'norm' to make racist jokes, use derogatory language and young people also find themselves excluded in big settings for being 'different' - they also highlighted the importance of having a youth service provided that allows them to express themselves and have their needs met. What impact does this have on young people?: Young people highlighted that they often can feel lonely and isolated in their own communities and that they feel that they have to act differently around certain people and this can be exhausting. Young people also commented that sometimes they don't feel good enough and their own identity isn't as important as fitting in with the crowd they are in.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Do you feel that Youth Services are welcoming and inclusive? How could they improve?: Young people highlighted that they feel their project in Ballymoney is welcoming and inclusive as they are never afraid to be who they are and are glad they now have a group where they can relate to the young people around them and have formed strong relationships through this. They feel that it's inclusive for their needs around identifying as LGBTQIA+ but can see how this could be exclusionary for young people who aren't in this community but as there are other evenings available as generic that this shouldn't be an issue. The young people this it is important to have a space for young people to come as a community and meet / talk about the issues they face and learn about the support that is there for them about particular issues. They also spoke about having a youth worker there to talk to about their needs and issues is particularly important as sometimes they dont feel confident to ask their parents or teachers about these issues and can feel embarrassed or ashamed where as the environment of the youth service doesnt hold the same feelings and nothing is too silly to ask.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	12 to 13 Years	Some feel yes people are treated equally as – all the rights are the same. Some says no - people get targeted. Some young people not respected depending on what area they live in. This group were unsure of what prejudice meant but when we talked about discrimination they thought that religion – catholic/protestant is a problem for some people. Some of the group mentioned more ethnic minorities in the town with different races that haven't always been here. Some mentioned people living in different areas of the town – "rich v poor". All the group members felt that the youth service is welcoming and inclusive and all young people feel they have a safe place to go to in the evenings. Sometimes young people can be kind or mean depends on the individual. TBUC programmes, cultural events, guest speakers. Cooking events could help youth services promote better relationships between different communities and people from different backgrounds.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Feedback: Young people noted that equality can be enhanced by promoting collaboration between Irish- and English-speaking schools and communities. Youth clubs could be broken into three age groups to cater to different developmental needs. Additional Points: Encourage partnerships between Irish- and English-language schools through joint projects, fostering mutual respect while maintaining linguistic diversity.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Establish equality-focused initiatives, such as anti-bullying campaigns and inclusive events, delivered through the Irish language. Suggestions for Youth Service: Facilitate equal opportunities for engagement between Irish- and English-language communities. Develop age-specific youth clubs to ensure appropriate activities for all groups.
Derry and Strabane	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	19+ Years	Young people also shared that they don't feel they have the same opportunities as all other young people, they also feel that they are treated differently due to their disability. Some of the young people are travelling 10 to 20 miles to access a service that meet their needs. BUD members feel that they are welcomed to young people from different backgrounds and don't think about people religion or colour of skin. When providing the young people with the statitics on the powerpoint, it says 53% of all young people think everyone is included, this raises concerns around is this completed by people from section 75 groups and if so how many young people with disabilities completed this survey. Young people also said they would answer they feel included, as if they completing a survey in BUD Club and would read the question about do they feel included in youth services, they would say yes as they are included in BUD Club, however they don't attend other services, so yes they feel included in BUD but don't feel safe to attend other services.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Do you feel that people are treated equally in your area? How? I think that some young people can sometimes be subconsciously treated differently, e.g. excluded by other young people I don’t feel people are treated equally in my areas if they have different backgrounds etc I do feel that people are treated equally in my area but there is a big divide in some areas when it comes to different denominations They are too a certain extent but there's times where some youth are treated unfairly due to backgrounds I feel like everyone is treated fairly within their community I do think everyone gets treated equally in my area No I don;t feel that young people are treated equally because there is discrimination No I do not feel people are treated equally even when it comes to religion No I don’t feel that they aren't treated equally as some are sometimes left out in certain aspects or opportunities Is there prejudice or discrimination in your area? Yes There is a lot of prejudice behaviour in the community I don't think there are prejudice or discrimination in my area

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Yes all the people coming over and taking the jobs Yes, prejudice is often witnessed in my area and some young people experience discrimination because of religion, race or disabilities. Yes there is prejudice since people will have a pre decided ida on how you will act and stuff Yes, people can't get over what happened with two sides of the same religion Do you feel that youth services are welcoming and inclusive? How could they improve? Yes Yes they could provide for a better variety of languages They are very inclusive but they could offer more cross community or education about different ethnicities I think youth services are welcoming on every stance They are very welcoming but could improve by providing things in different languages They are inclusive already as well as including but we should employ more people which can specific different sign languages/ sign languages Have a multi language poster Youth services that I have experienced have been very welcoming. They could possibly improve by becoming more sociable with young people and families Yes I feel youth services are welcoming to people from different backgrounds What impact does this have on young people? It has a positive impact on young people since it lets them grow up in a less prejudice worlds They can be seen as lazy and not get the job Can make them not want to go out and isolate themselves Could feel excluded and isolated and make them feel undervalued Could lead to isolative behvaior and impact their mental health. They could feel excluded Equality has a positive impact on mental health in young people It can make people feel excluded Self worthlessness from this could lead to them isolating themselves or beeing or feeling isolated If someone is discriminated against they could feel excluded and isolated from other people which can lead to depression and just feel down. Do you think young people treat others who are different with respect? Sometimes, but the certain people that do treat them with respect is because they come from a life of accepting No as you will be seen as an outsider and not fit in Not all the time as some people treat other people differently Sometimes but not all the time as people from a different background can often get bullied or ridiculed because where

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			they are from No! Especially in this community if you don;t fit a mould you are not ‘normal’ or ‘cool’ enough I think young people can subconsciously exclude people that are different because they are used to the people they are surrounded by No, because they dont give themselves the chance to get to know them No always but most of the times yes as people are more educated about it nowadays Naw because the younger children may make comments on accents or skin colour or tradition How could Youth Services promote better relationships between different communities and young people from different backgrounds? Implement ways
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	9 to 11 Years	YP said that they felt it depended on the people as to whether they were treated equally. They said that there is limited consequence in school if things are said to them. They have said that if a person is different and not 'popular' they often be made fun of because they are different. They have said that the language used by other YP can make people feel targeted and can have an effect on their overall wellbeing. They have said that they always feel respected by staff but not by other young people and they think that its up to YP to learn that they can't target someone because they are different.
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people aren't treated equally, they are not taken seriously, there is "old" thinking, treated as cheap at work, treated as , mentality is that young people have it easy - times have changed. Prejudice is present in our area as well as sectarianism and violence in school. Impact on yp is discrimination and lack of equality. It decrease self confidence, impacts on mood/attitudes, reinforces stereotypes. YP don't treat people who are different with respect, this causes bullying e.g. Belfast school example, name calling in schools, internet influencing negative attitudes. YS are welcoming and inclusive, the level of how well this is done depends on who attend the centre/project i.e. members and bias. Suggested YS response; more general drop in/hangout, better community reflections, appreciation nights for different cultures, promote inclusion, reach out to all schools.
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	In relation to being treated equally, young people feel that in school boys are often favoured for physical activity or helping with lifting 'heavy' objects. Some young people feel that some religions and nationalities are more welcomed than others. E.g. Syrian students have been welcomed in local Omagh school whereas these young people have witnessed other students having racial slurs and comments made about them. This has a negative impact as young people may feel left out, insecure, lonely and isolated. This can impact mental health and there may be less opportunities for young people who are segregated. In relation to prejudice and discrimination, young

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			people have experience of this and her parent has also experienced this in her workplace. They believe that there are judgements made about different backgrounds. When discussing respect, young people feel that the majority of young people do treat others with respect but some people with additional needs can be treated differently and feel isolated. The young people believe that the youth service is welcoming and inclusive and is a safe space for young people to go. They believe that we could promote the youth service more through posters, online and word of mouth. The young people suggested that we can promote better relationships with different communities by offering culture nights and possibly doing a joint project with others from different areas.
Fermanagh and Omagh	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	*Young people like the fact that in this centre they feel listened to and valued by the staff team and volunteers. Leaders are great!! They feel the centre is different and helps to make people laugh when they are here. *The young people feel that they do have the power to change things although it will not happen over night and will take some time but they are hopeful that things will change.
Lisburn and Castlereagh	No	14 to 18 Years	Equality – do you feel that people are treated equally in your area? How? - Yes – all welcomed, treated as anyone else that has come to youth club/sports club. - Not too many events promoting equality but the odd one. - Spors club agreement in place to promote equal treatment. - Young people feel adults are less accepting of new change and young people are more accepting of diversity. - Could be an idea that people have their own provision/club/space to support and education for additional needs. - More education needed for older generation/adults around treating others equally. - For young people to try and see ignorance, try and tackle this, educate possible consequences. Equality – is there prejudice or discrimination in your area? - News influences people to be targeted - Adults stating that there are too many other nationalities - Social media shows young people targeting houses of foreign people - Some protest in relation to immigration - Limited jobs of entry level jobs, lack advertising - Classism, some young people based on parents' income leads to bullying Equality – do you feel that youth services are welcoming and inclusive? How could they improve? Yes o Let everyone in o Do give always with equipment etc o Ulster hockey give hits out to help o Conversation based on issues that emerge o Staff being welcoming and nice

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			o Someone there to welcome you o Always there to support you o Staff always speak with you o Staf always willing to provide support. Equality – what impact does this have on young people? - Makes people want to attend provision – welcoming service - Young people fed up with other discrimination and want change - Creates awareness Equality – do you think young people treat others who are different with respect? - If others treat young people in focus group with respect they will do the same and will help with others to do the same. - Sometimes around visible disabilities - Young people said they have noticed others making fun at others with difference - Peer pressure to make fun. Equality – how could youth services promote better relationships between different communities and young people from different backgrounds? - More education - Interactive groups with games - Residentials to promote difference (own youth provision).
Mid and East Antrim	Traveller Children and Young People	9 to 11 Years	Is there discrimination in your area? Yes, some people are racist, people say bad things about you/me. Makes us feel happy to be equal, feels good being treated fairly and makes you feel good being included. People are racist about Romanian people, if travelers go into a shop, they look at you like you are going to steal. When you go to a shop and pay for something sometimes, they accuse you of stealing it. The youth service can help by making people spend more time together, more team games make a friend with someone new and don't leave someone on their own.
Mid and East Antrim	No	12 to 13 Years	Young women felt that they were unsafe compared to boys of their own age.
Mid Ulster	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	There is big issue in this area around prejudice and discrimination. Racism, Sectarianism, Homophobia, Transphobia and sexism are prominent in the area. Accessibility for physically disabled people is an issue. Youth Service is a welcoming place for everyone, we feel it provides us with a safe place were we can be ourselves. It provides awareness raising events to educate young people on their use of negative language towards others and it promotes a place of acceptance and tolerance for everyone. It could improve on services for non native speaking young people. As some may not know what is on offer due to language barriers.
Mid Ulster	No	12 to 13 Years	"everyone deserves to be treated equally"
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: Participants felt that some groups face unequal access to

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			educational and recreational resources. Additional Points: Train staff on inclusive practices with an emphasis on cultural awareness. Establish Irish-medium support groups for LGBTQ+ youth and those with disabilities. Launch equal-opportunity scholarships for Irish-speaking students pursuing further education. Suggestions for Youth Service: Ensure all programmes are fully inclusive, with support for young people with disabilities. Increase funding for minority language schools and services.
Newry, Mourne and Down	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	Question: Do you feel that people are treated equally in your area? "Not really, because I see active use of slurs in my area" "I believe that LGBTQ+ young people are not treated equally in my local area due to there being less accommodating for them and less education about LGBTQ+" "No because people get left out for not fitting in to the normal standards people have : Communities/backgrounds" "No, I personally believe that many groups are discriminated against in my area" "my youth clubs try make it as even to get opportunities as possible but there will always be people who miss things like these programs and don't apply or get included." Suggestions: Having talks from different groups of people from different backgrounds - Find similar/mutual interests for them to connect with. - Educate YP on different backgrounds. - Have people from different backgrounds in group so they can get to know them. - teach people not to discriminate and encourage talking. - host more events bringing people together - Advertise more -
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Feel there is a stigma towards foreigners Prejudice spreads to younger generations, as they are influenced by their elders EA could do more cultural workshops and programmes
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people discussed lots of feelings of inequality - across genders, racial & minority groups, and in lack of opportunities. young people want youth service to continue to offer them positive fun experiences that support them to feel included - challenge inequalities they see, do new things, meet new people & challenges situations where they feel unheard or discriminated against - create new experiences to grow young peoples confidence in feeling part of their community and less excluded
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	9 to 11 Years	Don't feel we are treated equally to adults in schools, don't feel our voice is heard and listened to Feel when it comes to sport and in football- boys are treated

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			more favourably, they get preference. Live in a divided community in Kilkeel- in July, especially don't feel safe walking into town in GAA tops

Other Responses

Themes that Emerged from discussions 198

Other needs not covered linked to the themes 207

Themes that Emerged from Discussions

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Adults thinking that young people are all trouble makers, a pain and they look down on us. We need to change this!
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	The group highlighted a lack of Youth provision in the areas they are from, lack of practical transport and issues with drugs, alcohol, violence against LGBTQAI+ community
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	Some of the group are concerned about violence against woman and girls and want this to be made a priority.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	Lack of opportunities due to low staff in their youth centers Issues with violence towards LGBTQAI+ Community in the area poverty was something the group spoke at length about, they recognized after speaking about it that it is a serious issues in their community that they were fortunate enough not to know too much about but are not keen to try and tackle this as volunteers in the community.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	14 to 18 Years	It was evident that those within the session had varied knowledge around youth service and the various roles/areas they engage in which had an impact on the overall session however suggestions could be considered as emerging needs/areas that they feel other services are under pressure ie counselling services etc.
Antrim and Newtownabbey	No	9 to 11 Years	Young people, due to their age, found this difficult to artictulate, most young people in this group were 9 years old.
Ards and North Down	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Young people with special educational needs and disabilities have limited opportunities to socilaise with friends. Our current SEND provision is connected to one school within Ards & North Down. Although EA Youth Service have a very good working relationship with the school, it has been identified through conversations that there are a number of SEND young people who attend different schools within the area and have limited opportunities to meet with friends outside of school. Also, unless young people with SEND are with an adult, they have very limited opportunities to visit local parks or leisure facilities.
Ards and North Down	No	9 to 11 Years	Some of the young people have said they have anxiety and have a safe word when feeling stressed and don't want to say to their friends.
Ards and North Down	No	4 to 8 Years	- Lack of places to help with homeworks and subjects they don't understand after-school.
Ards and North Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Issues with access, particularly around transport and cost of living

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Ards and North Down	No	14 to 18 Years	- Lack of afterschool programmes - Distractions such as peer pressure and school expectations
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Young People discussed that police scare me, they are a bit intimating. Parks are seen as no go areas - violence with young people Meeting people you don't know Walking alone and in the dark.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Young People really reflected that they have Climate and World Anxiety
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	More opportunities to take part in international exchanges, an NI wide football tournament
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	People feeling unsafe walking home by themselves. No lighting along the black paths, making it more dangerous when walking home. Drug dealing in the area and being easy accessible. Knife crime slowly becoming an issue. To much underage drinking and drug taking, and not enough awareness on how to help friends when drunk or under the influence of drugs. Broken glass all over the area, there is not enough bins. Road islands, pot holes on roads and bad footpaths. Young people fear they could fall on bad footpaths and hurt themselves, or drivers not stopping at road islands specially end of school days when the roads are busier and young people are coming out of school.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: The need for more structured youth activities, environmental activism, and better public transport options. Additional Points: Establish a network of Gaeilge -speaking environmental clubs promoting sustainability. Develop after-school and weekend youth programmes offering sports, arts, and coding classes. Advocate for improved rural transport services to ensure young people can access educational and social activities.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	Please see notes.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Just the dark being an issue and young people don't want to come out late at night to go to Youth Centres as they are afraid walking back home.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	This is a vulnerable group of young people in so many ways beyond their barriers and what is a good programme of offer weekly for them socially there needs to me more awareness and support around relationships, managing feelings and emotions and indeed understanding of triggers and how to manage them respectfully and appropriately and with understanding and dignity when triggers and resulted behaviours occur

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Newcomer Children and Young People	14 to 18 Years	More support could be given to workers to understand cultural needs and expectations which would support staff in education more in supporting young people There needs to be more discussion and support around the role of the young person and recognition for many that they are translators and bridges between parents and society as well as learning and educating on top of this
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	9 to 11 Years	More awareness for young ones around speaking out if feeling afraid or being bullied more awareness around internet and social media safety
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Being heard listened to given further support in schools around transitions and changes
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	9 to 11 Years	They didn't really understand much of what was being asked
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	14 to 18 Years	They also discussed issues they felt could get worse overtime if not addressed: - Cost of Living - Environment - Inflation - Crime rate and things they felt were helping to address issues: - Education Authority - Tree Planting
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	We are seeing cost of living impact for young people having a massive impact, we are incorporated cooking activities into this session as a means of supplying a hot meal
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	9 to 11 Years	We are seeing the impact of the cost of living and have incorporated cooking into the programme to provide hot meals and a warm space
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Realtionships and sexual health was a top priority for young people, they feel its an important aspect of life to learn about and have alot of questions and want to be able to have access to factual information and are to afriad to speak to parents so they would feel comfortable exploring this topic with youth workers. The groups also spoke about the need for more work around domestic violence and abuse and the ending violence against women and girls- how this affects them and their mindset and creating more awareness and education to all genders. Sexuality and lack of understanding around these themes Inclusion and diversity work- more people need to understand different peoples cultures.
Belfast (North and East)	No	4 to 8 Years	sometimes the center doesn't have stuff for baking and cooking and i wish they had more as we really enjoy doing these things in the club
Belfast (North and East)	No	9 to 11 Years	Lack of knowing what clubs are in their areas as some only attend school and sports clubs

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Discussions around the cost of living An increased in anxiety over future opportunities Not being certain they can live independently
Belfast (North and East)	No	12 to 13 Years	The lack of safe space for young people. The fear they have going into town and parks. They also spoke about the police and how they look at young people and at times they are afraid of them.
Belfast (North and East)	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people spoke about the attitudes and opinions of others on youth can be a barrier for most things.
Belfast (South and West)	No	12 to 13 Years	A need was identified for more youth training opportunities, such as leadership programmes and soft-skills development. Young people also called for improved mental health resources tailored for teenagers. Additional Points: Provide Irish-medium leadership programs focusing on public speaking, teamwork, and conflict resolution. Ensure that mental health services tailored for teenagers are available in Irish, including counseling and peer support. Invest in bilingual digital platforms offering training resources and access to workshops in both Irish and English.
Belfast (South and West)	No	14 to 18 Years	The drugs in our community. The trust issues with the P.S.N.I The way young people are feeling about new comers.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	12 to 13 Years	The need for access to structured extracurricular programs to encourage both mental and physical well-being. Climate change and its impact on their lives, both physically and emotionally, were recurring concerns. Additional Points: Provide structured extracurricular programs in Irish, such as sports leagues, music classes, and coding clubs, to support mental and physical wellbeing. organise Irish-medium climate change awareness campaigns and initiatives, such as tree-planting days or recycling workshops, to empower young people to take action.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Environment - Bin Recycling in our Youth Clubs should be put in place
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	Young people voice that perhaps there should be a separate youth centre for SEND with various nights and own space. Funding/money as the club is limited to small grants or youth workers money to help over a year and not that many staff members to support people with disabilities which makes it difficult to bring in other young people due to the needs of the groups.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	As stated above, these are continuing concern around needing to continue and enhance provision already provided.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	Emerging Issues: The lack of adequate transportation services and infrastructure for young people. Additional Points: Address the need for bilingual transport infrastructure to accommodate Irish-speaking young people traveling to school and youth centre's. Develop youth-friendly apps in Irish for real-time transport updates and navigation.
Causeway Coast and Glens	No	14 to 18 Years	Vaping Lack of knowledge/resources on how to prepare healthy meals etc.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Emerging Issues: The lack of adequate transportation services and infrastructure for young people. Additional Points: Address the need for bilingual transport infrastructure to accommodate Irish-speaking young people traveling to school and youth centers. Develop youth-friendly apps in Irish for real-time transport updates and navigation.
Derry and Strabane	Newcomer Children and Young People	19+ Years	Worries about Asylum and being rejected which means having to leave the country. the moving around causes anxiety and stress.
Derry and Strabane	No	14 to 18 Years	Groups need to be representative of the community/District profile. Targeted recruitment is therefore essential. Young people need to be invited to engage with adults whenever possible but need to develop their own understanding, capacity, skills and roles through training and awareness before engagements.
Derry and Strabane	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	19+ Years	Complexity of needs of children and young people with disabilities changing and the support that is required Internet safety Travel training Supported work placements/volunteering opportunities
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	14 to 18 Years	During discussion after school providing was highly mentioned by young people and the different spaces that can be used and turned into "spaces of interest's" to young people such as, physical / sport activity space, cooking space and online gaming space.
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	Climate change was discussed but the young people were not very interested. They felt I - Roisin use too much paper and flipchart paper is a watse of money! They also said would help out if there was a river clean up or litter pick in the town

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	12 to 13 Years	Before we started the focus group I informed the young people who are part of a young women's project, of some of the statistics that have been produced so far from the RAON. They were surprised to hear that there was concern from both boys and girls about the safety of young women and girls. Some young people gave personal experiences to some of the issues they have faced. One young person who is from Hungarian heritage talked about her and her mum's experience of harassment. Another young person talked about 2 members of her family that are lesbians and how other people in her class reacted to this negatively.
Fermanagh and Omagh	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14 to 18 Years	*A lot of Bullying going on in Schools *Young people feel safe in youth centres because of heat, equipment and familiar faces
Fermanagh and Omagh	No	4 to 8 Years	No except a real value for the Youth Club and what it offers them
Mid and East Antrim	No	14 to 18 Years	more help and support with employability such as applying for part time jobs. Lowering the age to 16 to work in youth centers.
Mid and East Antrim	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people felt this survey was tokenistic and feel that they have been asked theses questions several times over the last couple of years but nothing has changed. Rural areas need investment in all areas but especially for young people who miss out of youth provisions because of where they live.
Mid and East Antrim	Traveller Children and Young People	9 to 11 Years	They see a lot of racism in their area and the town of Ballymena. It is very prevalent in their answers.
Mid and East Antrim	No	12 to 13 Years	Proximity to local and regional services.
Mid and East Antrim	No	12 to 13 Years	Train times from and to club are not helpful, train prices are higher than in the past.
Mid and East Antrim	No	14 to 18 Years	The cost of living from their discussions are impacting more than they want to recognise
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	The Group have discussed that Climate change change is a concern. They feel that people of power disregard climate change and the ones with power have a negative impact on our climate. They have raised concerns about the temperatures we are facing as a result of climate change and the rise in natural disasters across the world. Their concerns lye with endangered animals, melting of the ice caps and the rise of sea levels. They feel the youth service could respond by promoting climate change across their social media, encouraging young people to be more eco friendly. They feel that the youth service could also respond by running more programmes about climate change within youth groups and schools. Along with promoting Reuse Reduce and Recycle throughout clubs, programmes and events.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Mid Ulster	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	Online Safety in terms of sharing nudes / inappropriate photos and videos is a massive issue among young people. More needs to be done in schools and youth clubs to try and stop this. Food - this is something the group feel strongly about. Many young people are continually saying in the different clubs and group settings that they are hungry. If we could provide even tea and toast to the young people this would be a help! Rural issues - young people in rural areas not having the same opportunities to attend Youth Service as Urban/Town young people.
Mid Ulster	No	9 to 11 Years	Being on phones and social media too much. Not having manners and being respectful to other people. Lack of empathy for others.
Mid Ulster	No	12 to 13 Years	LACK OF MANNERS and RESPECT for others and themselves. Very poor attention spans and ability to stay focused on tasks. Struggle with losing - think that everyone should receive an award for participating and get upset when they lose (in games and team challenges), this may affect their ability to cope later in life when they experience significant losses or failures. Poor sportsmanship. LACK OF EMPATHY and an overall INCREASE IN DEHUMANISATION. Addiction to phones and social media. False realities or unrealistic expectations from influencers on social media - leads to poor self esteem, low confidence, poor view on self worth, etc. that can lead to mental health issues such as depression and anxiety - This also includes poor examples and expectations of relationships.
Mid Ulster	No	14 to 18 Years	Poverty - People who live in poverty have less opportunities, they're not as aware of services available. They don't get the opportunities to leave their local town for long periods of time as they have no way of getting anywhere due to lack of transport. Positive has a negative effect on people's lives as they might not be able to afford heating, food, clothes and many live in negative environments for example houses that might have mold which will have a negative effect on their health. Youth services should be providing opportunities for people to leave their local areas. Youth services should support young people to help them have a positive mindset, offer them advice and try to provide them with as much as they can. Climate change - Young people didn't have an understanding of what climate change actually is and how it could affect them in the future. Young people felt that they didn't have any concerns but they thought this was because they weren't

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			educated enough on the topic. Some felt that youth services should provide more to encourage discussions around it while others felt that older adults also need to be educated on the issue.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	12 to 13 Years	Key feedback: The need for more extracurricular options and better public transport. Additional Points: Provide extracurricular clubs in Irish, covering technology, arts, and sports. Set up a youth transport network offering subsidised travel for school and extracurricular activities.
Newry, Mourne and Down	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	when asked "is there discrimination in your area YP highlighted "yes, in school it is hard to fit in as the people talk about you and make fun of you" "yes, there are local people who shout offensive slurs in public (LGBTQ Slurs)" "Yes in Rathcoole/Belfast people argue and protest about LGBTQ and foreigners being here and how foreigners should move back to their own countries" "yes where i live people are trying to get Muslims and people from different backgrounds out of Rathcoole" "elderly people will often be prejudice and discriminatory to LGBTQ+ young people in my local area" "yes in county Down we experience frequent verbal and sometimes physical abuse against LGBTQ+ peoples" Question Do you think young people treat people who are different with respect? "Majority of young people don't treat people in the LGBTQ+ community and other young people from different backgrounds with respect as they dont understand or agree with it " "from my personal experience i have found that some young people in the are are discriminatory against other young people communities, but there are a majority or respectful young people" "from my experience I think young people treat others with respect" "It will depend on the certain person as some will respect you and others will not"
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Poverty
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	discussions around the increasing numbers of SEN diagnosis at later stages, the large number of young people living in a state of anxiety.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	This group of young people felt strongly about public transport, how it is under resourced and impacts their lives of being able to travel and have adequate access to other services.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Period poverty was also highlighted as an issue
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	All 12 young people felt that projects such as Horizons allows young people to learn about commitment, to help shape the community they live in and work towards building them up as citizens for the future. Having a space for young people to come together was a top priority as well as the likely impact of the Mourne Gateway project(Gondola) affecting the local environment.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	12 to 13 Years	rural isolation any community spaces are used by boys, young girls dont feel they have a place just accept the boys use the spaces the group struggled with what youth service could do as they have just started with us and never experience youth work before
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people feel that there are huge expectations on them everywhere they go.

Other needs not covered linked to the themes

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	Ensure Irish-language representation on local advisory boards and funding committees. Develop partnerships with community organisations to deliver long-term projects promoting cultural heritage and language rights. Host an annual youth cultural festival celebrating Irish identity and environmental activism.
Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	No	12 to 13 Years	This focus group involved 14 + young people
Belfast (North and East)	No	12 to 13 Years	What I got from the group was that they want to be young people and enjoy getting outside to just play with their friends. They want to be able to go on bike rides, play in the streets, they worry about the increase in the amount of people in their areas that are taking drugs and making it unsafe for them, there is also still a small fear of people from different religions and cultures.
Belfast (South and West)	No	12 to 13 Years	Ensure sustained engagement with youth groups through regular feedback and follow-up initiatives.
Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	12 to 13 Years	The need for more targeted interventions addressing environmental concerns and language equality. Additional Points: Advocate for dedicated funding to support Gaelic-medium programs addressing environmental concerns and cultural equality. Establish regular Irish-language youth forums to gather ongoing feedback and refine services based on their needs and aspirations.
Derry and Strabane	Newcomer Children and Young People	19+ Years	This group was developed in partnership with Social work staff team to address the need of isolation, loneliness and access to safe spaces. it was agreed that EA Youth Service was best placed to deliver this service and feedback has been recorded as extremely positive on a weekly basis by young people and staff.
Derry and Strabane	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	19+ Years	Over the past few years we at BUD Club have seen the numbers grow rapidly within disabilities/SEND, the numbers of referrals are growing in sizes, but also in regards to the needs of complexity of needs of each young person. We are finding it much more challenging to meet the demand and the complex needs, and at BUD Club we are providing much more than a universal service, we are supporting our members and families in every aspect of life.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			I feel the funding model needs to be reviewed and not a one size fits all approach, the level of need that SEND providers are working with, needs to be considered and flexibility added in regards to additional staffing resources we require in order to best support the needs of children and young people with disabilities and to create a safe space where young people are supported and encouraged. We need to be able to provide stimulating and calming experiences for children and young people with disabilities and this is hard with the current one size fits all approach to youth work, the value placed on providing this service. Additional resources particularly in staffing resource needs to be looked at in regards to providing good models of practice of youth work in a SEND environment.
Mid and East Antrim	No	12 to 13 Years	Rural youth work needs to be properly funded. In terms of budget, rural youth work is drastically under-funded, and parity across the sector is a fine idea but in real terms rural young people are being let-down by lack of investment. Young people from these communities have not been able to avail of CADi, for example, due to transport issues.
Mid Ulster	No	9 to 11 Years	Climate Change - Are you concerned about climate change? (Vote) Yes: 6 No: 6 Sort of: 4 Poverty: Are some people in Ardboe not able to pay for things (like food, heating, clothes, rent, Christmas presents, activities, etc.) Vote: Yes: 8 No: 2 IDK: 6 How can the youth service help families/ young people in poverty? (Quotes) More free events/ activities/ groups. Have more nice activities that are free and raise money. Making things cheaper or even free, more charity events. Have a day for everyone to buy something that would help others and bring it to youth. Shoe box appeal. Raising money for charities/ food banks.
Mid Ulster	No	12 to 13 Years	Poverty: How do you think poverty impacts young people and families in your area? (Quotes) Starvation – not enough food. Not being able to go to services/entertainments. Can't support funding for football, etc. Can't afford summer camp. Parents can't afford to pay for things the kids need or want, like birthday presents, cakes, etc and Christmas. People getting teased because they wear second hand clothes or hand-me-downs/ can't afford new clothes/ shoes.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
			Transportation/lack of. Can't afford dinners. Lack of education on budgeting can lead to poverty. School funds – some parents can't afford. Some uniforms look old and hand-me-downs – can't afford new school uniforms. How can youth services reduce the impact of poverty on young people? (Quotes) Do social action projects – eg. Make backpacks with necessary items etc. to give to poorer young people. Get the schools reduce prices. Provide more opportunities for youth to engage in that they maybe can't afford. Climate Change: What concerns you about climate change? The ozone layer disappearing and affecting the planet. What is the earth going to look like in 4 years? Excessive flooding, more erupting volcanoes, the polar ice caps melting and the poor polar bears and other animals. The earth getting hotter and messing up seasons. Do you think enough is being done to prevent climate change? Most of the group said no. What can youth services do to educate or contribute to reducing the impacts of climate change? Spread awareness, give details and share the information of what is actually happening. Pick up litter, clean up your environment. Stop using so much paper.
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	12 to 13 Years	Create annual youth engagement events showcasing achievements of Gaeilge -speaking young people. Establish Irish-language youth media platforms to highlight positive stories and raise awareness of key issues.
Newry, Mourne and Down	LGBTQI+	14 to 18 Years	young people believe equality has a big impact on them which can be positive or negative depending on the circumstances Negative: Negative mindset; low self esteem; lower confidence; male people feel less safe; people change themselves to fit in social norm; less job opportunities; downfall in mental welbeing; less freedom; some groups need more assistance than others therefore equity should be put in place rather than equality. Positives: Healthy Mindset; good self esteem; higher confidence; will make people feel safer; it will give more resources to young people; allows people to feel they fit in; having a voice; gives more opportunities; makes them feel more safe and welcome. I
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	14 to 18 Years	Young people were able to identify the "rising tensions" across society and this sparked a conversation about cultural understanding and acceptance of each other being as important now as ever. Thanks for the opportunity to feedback.

Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Age range	Focus Group Feedback
Newry, Mourne and Down	No	12 to 13 Years	the sleive croob area is very rural with poor transport to bigger towns and opportunities. Young people were able to identify Forrest parks and walks. they are quite spread out and isolated

List of Focus Group Respondents

Focus Groups List

Project or Centre or Organisation Name:	Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Focus Group Date	No. Young People	Age range:
Crumlin Youth Projects	Antrim and Newtownabbey		26/11/2024	11	14 to 18 Years
Antrim and Newtownabbey Youth Voice - Newtownabbey South Area Project	Antrim and Newtownabbey		09/12/2024	9	14 to 18 Years
Bridge Youth Centre	Antrim and Newtownabbey		11/12/2024	30	14 to 18 Years
Newtownabbey South Area Project	Antrim and Newtownabbey	LGBTQI+	12/12/2024	6	14 to 18 Years
Crumlin Youth Projects	Antrim and Newtownabbey		18/12/2024	3	12 to 13 Years
RAON Focus Group - Rathcoole Youth Centre - 9-13 year old Urban	Antrim and Newtownabbey		17/12/2024	10	9 to 11 Years
Antrim & Newtownabbey East Area Project - Ballyclare Secondary School	Antrim and Newtownabbey		05/12/2024	12	14 to 18 Years
Millgreen Youth Centre - Junior Members	Antrim and Newtownabbey		03/12/2024	8	9 to 11 Years
Millgreen Youth Centre - Senior Members	Antrim and Newtownabbey		28/01/2025	12	14 to 18 Years
ARDS RURAL PROJECT	Ards and North Down		05/12/2024	9	14 to 18 Years
Ards Estates- Learning Together Programme	Ards and North Down		12/12/2024	4	14 to 18 Years
Ballymagee Youth Centre - SEND provision (EA Youth Service)	Ards and North Down	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	12/12/2024	5	14 to 18 Years
Ballymagee Youth Centre	Ards and North Down		16/12/2024	10	9 to 11 Years
Kilcooley Youth Centre - North Down Area Project	Ards and North Down		13/12/2024	8	4 to 8 Years

Project or Centre or Organisation Name:	Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Focus Group Date	No. Young People	Age range:
Ards Estates Project	Ards and North Down		13/01/2025	8	14 to 18 Years
North Down Area Project	Ards and North Down		15/01/2025	7	14 to 18 Years
Learning Together Programme - Year 11/12 St. Patrick's College - Banbridge Youth Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	05/12/2024	15	14 to 18 Years
Learning Together Programme - Year 12 Group - Tuesday Group Banbridge Youth Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		03/12/2024	15	14 to 18 Years
Taghnevan Youth & Community Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		03/12/2024	8	12 to 13 Years
Drumgor Youth Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		07/12/2024	10	14 to 18 Years
Drumgor Youth Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		06/12/2024	12	14 to 18 Years
Tullygally Youth Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		05/12/2024	8	14 to 18 Years
Fóram na nÓg- Aonach Mhacha, Gaelphobal Ard Mhacha Theas , Spréagadh , Clg Uladh	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		04/12/2024	15	12 to 13 Years
Tandragee Area Youth Project	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		09/12/2024	4	9 to 11 Years
Banbridge Youth Resource Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		18/12/2024	8	12 to 13 Years
Banbridge Youth Centre - PAL School Year 11	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		05/12/2024	16	14 to 18 Years
Banbridge Youth Centre - LTP Year 11 and 12 group	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	05/12/2024	13	14 to 18 Years
Taghnevan Youth & Community Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		12/12/2024	8	9 to 11 Years

Project or Centre or Organisation Name:	Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Focus Group Date	No. Young People	Age range:
Brownlow Youth Resource Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	12/12/2024	10	14 to 18 Years
Brownlow Youth Resource Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Newcomer Children and Young People	10/12/2024	5	14 to 18 Years
Drumgor YC	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		09/12/2024	11	9 to 11 Years
Brownlow youth resource centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		09/12/2024	8	12 to 13 Years
Taghnevan Youth and Community Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		16/12/2024	8	12 to 13 Years
Taghnevan Youth & Community Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		17/12/2024	6	14 to 18 Years
Taghnevan Youth and Community Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		17/12/2024	15	12 to 13 Years
Taghnevan Youth and Community Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		17/12/2024	20	12 to 13 Years
Taghnevan Youth and Community Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		17/12/2024	20	12 to 13 Years
Lurgan Area Project	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		17/12/2024	4	14 to 18 Years
Tullygally Youth Centre/ Brownlow Integrated College	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		17/12/2024	21	14 to 18 Years
Tullygally Youth Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		19/12/2024	8	9 to 11 Years
Taghnevan Youth & Community Centre	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		20/12/2024	7	12 to 13 Years
Armagh Area Youth Project	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		10/01/2025	6	14 to 18 Years
Armagh Area Youth Project	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon	Newcomer Children and Young People	09/01/2025	12	14 to 18 Years

Project or Centre or Organisation Name:	Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Focus Group Date	No. Young People	Age range:
YMCA Lurgan	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		06/01/2025	16	14 to 18 Years
YMCA Lurgan	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		15/01/2025	11	12 to 13 Years
YMCA Lurgan	Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon		17/01/2025	20	9 to 11 Years
East Belfast Area Project	Belfast (North and East)		04/12/2024	30	9 to 11 Years
North Belfast Area Project	Belfast (North and East)		17/12/2024	10	14 to 18 Years
Mountcollyer youth centre	Belfast (North and East)		11/12/2024	9	12 to 13 Years
East Belfast Area Project	Belfast (North and East)		04/12/2024	30	4 to 8 Years
East Belfast Area Project	Belfast (North and East)		04/12/2024	30	9 to 11 Years
North Belfast Area Project	Belfast (North and East)		15/01/2025	9	14 to 18 Years
NBAP	Belfast (North and East)		16/01/2025	9	14 to 18 Years
East Belfast Area Project	Belfast (North and East)		16/01/2025	8	14 to 18 Years
EBAP	Belfast (North and East)	Young Parents	22/01/2025	8	19+ Years
north belfast area project	Belfast (North and East)		27/01/2025	11	12 to 13 Years
North Belfast Area Project	Belfast (North and East)		29/01/2025	9	14 to 18 Years
Glencairn Youth Initiatives	Belfast (North and East)		29/01/2025	5	9 to 11 Years
Fóram na nÓg - Cumann Óige Uachtar Chluanaí, Cumann Óige na bhFál, Laochra Loch Lao, Club óige na Fuiseoige, An Chumann Ghaelach CF, An Droichead, Colin Gaels	Belfast (South and West)		26/11/2024	13	12 to 13 Years

Project or Centre or Organisation Name:	Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Focus Group Date	No. Young People	Age range:
Charter Youth Centre	Belfast (South and West)		10/12/2024	9	14 to 18 Years
Fóram na nÓg - Sólás na nÓg (Bespoke SEN project)	Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	27/11/2024	11	12 to 13 Years
Matt Talbot Youth Centre	Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	13/12/2024	3	14 to 18 Years
SOUTH BELFAST AREA PROJECT- LYNKD (SEN)	Belfast (South and West)	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	12/12/2024	10	14 to 18 Years
St Michaels Youth Centre	Belfast (South and West)		17/12/2024	10	4 to 8 Years
Stevenson Youth Centre	Belfast (South and West)		18/12/2024	7	4 to 8 Years
Limavady Resource Centre - TBUC Group	Causeway Coast and Glens		29/11/2024	19	14 to 18 Years
St Mary's Limavady	Causeway Coast and Glens		03/12/2024	28	14 to 18 Years
Fóram na nÓg - Glór na Maoille , Gael Ruairí Óg	Causeway Coast and Glens		28/11/2024	16	14 to 18 Years
Coleraine Horizons Group (Cohort 3)	Causeway Coast and Glens		05/12/2024	17	14 to 18 Years
Sunlea Youth centre	Causeway Coast and Glens		06/12/2024	11	12 to 13 Years
Ballysally Youth Club	Causeway Coast and Glens		09/12/2024	8	12 to 13 Years
Cushendall Horizons	Causeway Coast and Glens		05/12/2024	7	14 to 18 Years
Glens Rural (Schools)	Causeway Coast and Glens		11/12/2024	12	12 to 13 Years
Causeway Rural Youth Work	Causeway Coast and Glens		12/12/2024	9	14 to 18 Years

Project or Centre or Organisation Name:	Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Focus Group Date	No. Young People	Age range:
Causeway Rural Girls	Causeway Coast and Glens		13/12/2024	5	14 to 18 Years
Ballymoney Area Project	Causeway Coast and Glens	LGBTQI+	09/12/2024	12	14 to 18 Years
Ballymoney Area Project	Causeway Coast and Glens		13/12/2024	15	14 to 18 Years
Ballycastle Youth Centre	Causeway Coast and Glens		04/12/2024	22	9 to 11 Years
Rathlin Youth Project	Causeway Coast and Glens		30/11/2024	8	9 to 11 Years
Limavady High School Youth Club	Causeway Coast and Glens		17/12/2024	10	12 to 13 Years
Portrush Youth Centre	Causeway Coast and Glens		10/12/2024	10	4 to 8 Years
Fóram na nÓg - Club Óige Setanta	Derry and Strabane		28/11/2024	16	14 to 18 Years
Waterside Youth Club	Derry and Strabane		05/12/2024	13	9 to 11 Years
Pilots Row Youth and Community centre	Derry and Strabane	Newcomer Children and Young People	06/12/2024	7	19+ Years
North West Ministry of Youth	Derry and Strabane		09/12/2024	10	14 to 18 Years
Liberty Consortium - BUD Club	Derry and Strabane	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	08/01/2025	10	19+ Years
Londonderry YMCA Junior Forum	Derry and Strabane		20/01/2025	6	12 to 13 Years
Londonderry YMCA Tullyally Senior Committee	Derry and Strabane		15/01/2025	7	14 to 18 Years
Londonderry YMCA Drumahoe Senior Committee	Derry and Strabane		20/01/2025	9	14 to 18 Years
Lisnaskea Youth Centre	Fermanagh and Omagh		04/12/2024	10	9 to 11 Years
Fermanagh Youth Voice & Senior Youth Club Lakeland Youth Centre	Fermanagh and Omagh		10/12/2024	29	14 to 18 Years

Project or Centre or Organisation Name:	Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Focus Group Date	No. Young People	Age range:
Lakeland Youth Centre -FIRST Young Women's Group	Fermanagh and Omagh		11/12/2024	8	14 to 18 Years
Irvinestown YC	Fermanagh and Omagh		06/12/2024	10	12 to 13 Years
Belleek Youth	Fermanagh and Omagh		12/12/2024	12	12 to 13 Years
FO Youth Voice	Fermanagh and Omagh		14/01/2025	8	14 to 18 Years
Omagh Area Project	Fermanagh and Omagh		13/01/2025	8	12 to 13 Years
Omagh Area Project	Fermanagh and Omagh		14/01/2025	4	12 to 13 Years
Omagh Youth Centre	Fermanagh and Omagh	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	14/01/2025	16	14 to 18 Years
Carrickmore Youth Centre	Fermanagh and Omagh		17/01/2025	13	4 to 8 Years
Omagh Area Project	Fermanagh and Omagh		22/01/2025	12	14 to 18 Years
Laurelhill Youth Centre	Lisburn and Castlereagh		17/12/2024	14	14 to 18 Years
Lisburn Area Project	Lisburn and Castlereagh		17/12/2024	6	14 to 18 Years
Brooklands Youth Centre	Lisburn and Castlereagh		06/12/2024	12	12 to 13 Years
Lisburn Castlereagh Youth Council	Lisburn and Castlereagh		04/12/2024	18	14 to 18 Years
Lisburn Castlereagh Area Project	Lisburn and Castlereagh	From and Ethnic Minority	05/12/2024	16	14 to 18 Years
Lisburn Area Project	Lisburn and Castlereagh		11/12/2024	18	14 to 18 Years
Laurelhill Youth Centre	Lisburn and Castlereagh		17/12/2024	6	14 to 18 Years

Project or Centre or Organisation Name:	Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Focus Group Date	No. Young People	Age range:
Lisburn and Castlereagh Area Project	Lisburn and Castlereagh		17/01/2025	11	9 to 11 Years
Ballykeel Youth Resource Centre	Mid and East Antrim		09/12/2024	7	14 to 18 Years
Mid and East Antrim Rural Projects 14-18	Mid and East Antrim		12/12/2024	19	14 to 18 Years
Waveney Youth Centre	Mid and East Antrim	Traveller Children and Young People	10/12/2024	13	9 to 11 Years
Rural Area Work	Mid and East Antrim		12/12/2024	20	12 to 13 Years
Downshire Youth Centre	Mid and East Antrim		16/12/2024	46	12 to 13 Years
Glenravel Teenagers UP	Mid and East Antrim		14/01/2025	7	14 to 18 Years
Augher Young Woman's Group	Mid Ulster		03/12/2024	16	14 to 18 Years
PRISM Group - Cookstown Area Youth Project	Mid Ulster	LGBTQI+	05/12/2024	8	14 to 18 Years
Cookstown Area Project - Ardboe Junior Youth Group	Mid Ulster		04/12/2024	16	9 to 11 Years
Cookstown Area Project - Pomeroy Girls Group	Mid Ulster		10/12/2024	12	12 to 13 Years
Magherafelt Area Project	Mid Ulster		02/12/2024	12	14 to 18 Years
Mid Ulster Youth Voice	Mid Ulster		09/12/2024	11	14 to 18 Years
Dungannon BOB Young Women's Group	Mid Ulster		03/12/2024	12	14 to 18 Years
Education Authority - Clonoe Young Womens Group	Mid Ulster		03/12/2024	14	14 to 18 Years
South Armagh Area Project	Newry, Mourne and Down		10/12/2024	9	14 to 18 Years

Project or Centre or Organisation Name:	Council Area	Section 75 Communities or Interest Engaged	Focus Group Date	No. Young People	Age range:
Crotlieve Area Project	Newry, Mourne and Down	LGBTQI+	11/12/2024	12	14 to 18 Years
Fóram na nÓg - Glór Uachtar Tíre , Club Óige na Mara, Cumann Óige Leath Chathail, St Colemans Drumaness , Cill Cua	Newry, Mourne and Down		29/11/2024	16	12 to 13 Years
Down Area project	Newry, Mourne and Down		09/12/2024	14	14 to 18 Years
EDRP	Newry, Mourne and Down	LGBTQI+	13/12/2024	12	14 to 18 Years
Mourne Youth Forum	Newry, Mourne and Down		16/12/2024	6	14 to 18 Years
Warrenpoint Crotlieve Area Youth Project	Newry, Mourne and Down		10/12/2024	12	14 to 18 Years
Newry City Area Project	Newry, Mourne and Down		10/12/2024	10	12 to 13 Years
Newry City Area Project - Youth Voice	Newry, Mourne and Down		10/12/2024	11	14 to 18 Years
Mournes Area Project	Newry, Mourne and Down		17/12/2024	10	9 to 11 Years
Newcastle YMCA	Newry, Mourne and Down		11/12/2024	10	14 to 18 Years
Newry City Area Project- Young Womens Group(Girl Power)	Newry, Mourne and Down		15/01/2025	12	14 to 18 Years
Horizons group-Newcastle	Newry, Mourne and Down		14/01/2025	12	14 to 18 Years
Slieve Croob	Newry, Mourne and Down	No	03/02/2025	6	12 to 13 Years
Wonder Youth Group	Newry, Mourne and Down	Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND)	30/01/2025	12	14 to 18 Years
Newry City Area Project - Horizons cohort 3	Newry, Mourne and Down	No	29/01/2025	12	14 to 18 Years