

**Youth Service  
Needs Assessment Findings & Young  
People's Feedback from NIYF RAG  
Residential**

**October 2016**

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# Background

- ▶ Between June and September this year, the Planning and Monitoring Group have conducted a survey of Young People as part of the Regional Assessment of Need.
- ▶ The survey is designed to find out Young People's views on the big issues for them in their lives and communities and about their experiences of Youth Work.
- ▶ The survey was distributed to young people via RVYOs and EA;
- ▶ It included an online survey.

# Findings

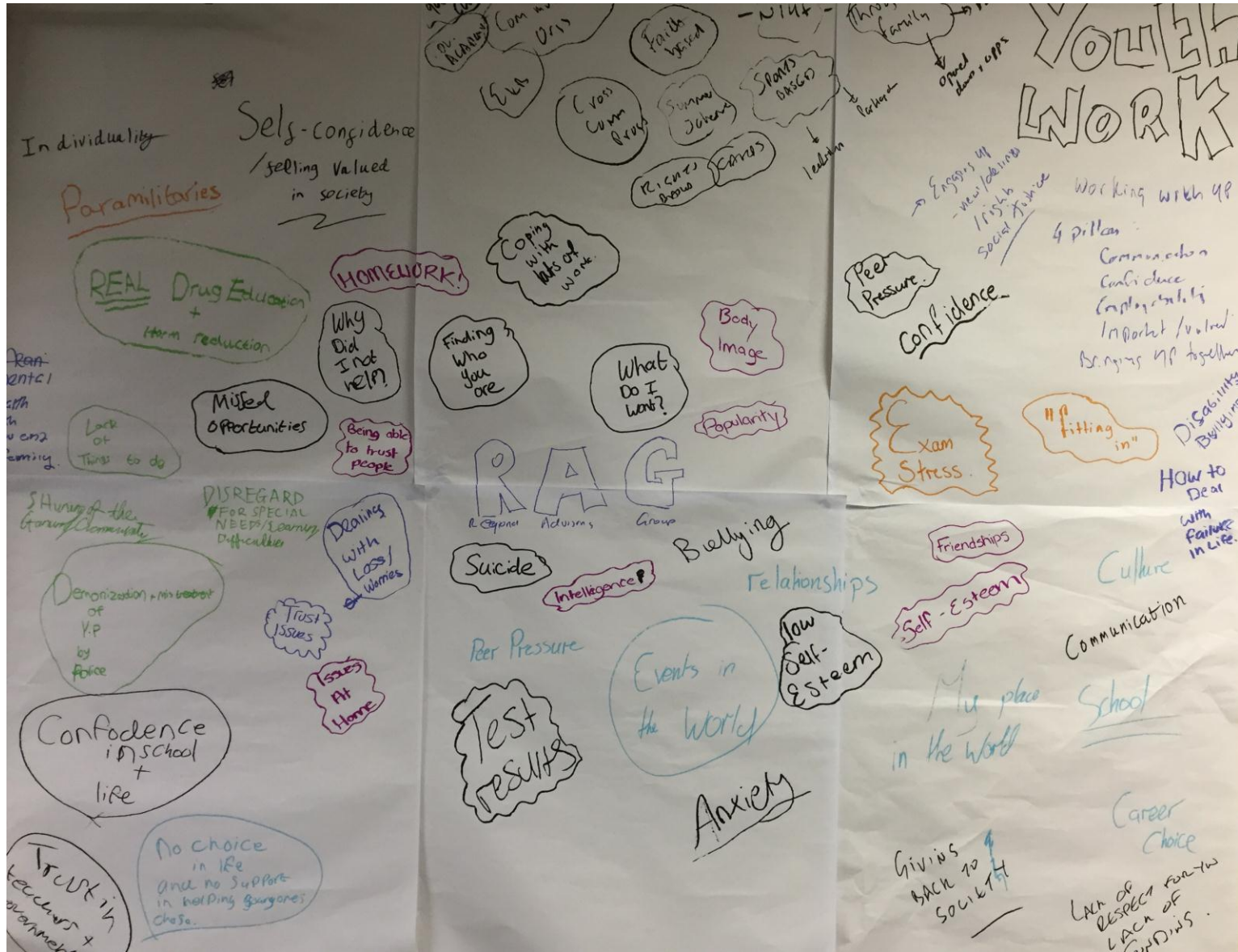
- ▶ The survey has been completed by 1 088 young people.
- ▶ This included 602 (55.5%) Females, 472 (43.5%) Males and 11 (1%) other.
- ▶ The largest response was from 14–18 year olds, with 699 responding. There were also 259, 18+ year olds and 128, 9–13 year olds who responded.

# Young People's RAG Residential October 2016

- ▶ Attended by over 60 young people from RVYOs; EA groups as well as those never involved in youth work.



- ▶ Workshops and Activities focusing on RAG and RYDP.
- ▶ Feedback and in depth discussion on survey findings.



# Issues facing young people

Issues	Response Percent	Response Count
Exam Stress	48.3%	526
Body Image	35.0%	381
Boredom	34.9%	380
Confidence	34.6%	376
Mental Health	30.2%	329
Careers	22.4%	244
Relationships	21.9%	238
Bullying	16.9%	184
Alcohol	16.6%	181
Health	14.8%	161
Drugs	10.8%	117
Transport	10.1%	110
Suicide	9.5%	103
Smoking	8.6%	94
Sexual Health	6.8%	74
Culture	6.4%	70
Discrimination	6.3%	68
Sectarianism	6.3%	68
Sexual Orientation	5.5%	60
Other (please specify)	5.2%	57
Racism	3.3%	36
Legal Highs	3.2%	35
Gender Issues	2.8%	30
Migration	1.5%	16

# Focus Group Feedback

- ▶ Young people highlighted the following as key issues:
  - Boredom & need for more opportunities;
  - Alcohol; Drugs; Smoking & Legal Highs should all be linked together in the findings = 35.7% of respondents highlighted these making this the second most important issue.
  - Similarly – body image; mental health; confidence; suicide could / should be grouped = 108.5% and arguably classified under ‘mental health’ – consistently been the top issue in NIYF surveys over the past number of years – ref: MYM; UNCRC; NIYC
  - Young people want to ‘find their place in society’; be valued and end negative stereotyping;
  - Need for support – particularly at times of crisis
  - ‘Paramilitaries’ – cited as an often ‘unseen’ issue for young people



# Activities and programmes for the Youth Service to provide for Young People in their areas to address the issues

Programme/activities	Response Percent	Response Count
Opportunities to Travel	35.3%	384
Qualifications	33.4%	363
Sport	30.5%	332
Residential	29.0%	316
Events	24.8%	270
Awareness Raising	24.4%	265
Volunteering	23.8%	259
Life Skills Programmes	23.8%	259
Outdoor Education	20.2%	220
Late Nights	19.9%	216
Meeting young people from different communities or ethnic backgrounds.	19.8%	215
Leadership Programmes	14.3%	156
Personal and Social Development Programmes	13.0%	141
Art	12.6%	137
Drop in	11.9%	130
Drama	11.3%	123
Media	10.2%	111
Inter-club activities	9.9%	108
Weekend Opening	8.5%	92
Peer Education	7.1%	77
School Based Programme	6.4%	70
Community Relations Work	5.1%	55
Youth Councils/Forums	3.7%	40
Other (please specify)	3.4%	37



# Focus Group Feedback

- ▶ Flexible youth led approach to youth work important – ability to respond to needs; at times that suit need.
- ▶ Too much focus on ‘qualifications’ and not enough on ‘life skills’ – education does not have to mean GCSEs and A levels. Experiential learning; new opportunities and experiences; non formal training and capacity building were cited as sometimes more important.
- ▶ Furthermore, young people highlighted that qualifications should be offered as ‘a side’ to projects – not the main aspect of them.
- ▶ New opportunities; overseas experiences; intensive work including programmes for older young people needed.

# Positive aspects of current youth provision

Aspect of youth provision	Response Percent	Response Count
Friendships	53.2%	579
Youth Workers	36.0%	392
Activities	31.2%	339
Place to hang out	25.6%	279
Being involved	23.4%	255
Sense of belonging	20.7%	225
Gaining qualifications	17.4%	189
Programmes	16.4%	178
Opportunities for progressing into Leadership	12.0%	131
Opportunities to Travel	9.2%	100
Opportunities to meet young people from different communities or ethnic backgrounds	7.7%	84
Other (please specify)	3.7%	40
Opportunities for Community Relations work	2.9%	32

# Focus Group Feedback

- ▶ Most positive aspects of youth provision as highlighted in focus groups:
  - Cross Border Projects;
  - Rights based programmes;
  - Overseas experiences;
  - Participation / Youth Voice and Youth Democracy projects – where young people connect directly with decision makers were highlighted as important.
  - Peer Education Programmes;
  - Charitable work;
  - Intense Personal and Social Development Programmes – e.g. ‘Full Time Programmes’ where young people meet 3 or more days a week; 6–7 hours a day;

# How youth provision could be improved

Activities	Response Percent	Response Count
More Activities	50.6%	550
More Facilities for Young People	45.6%	496
More Programmes	40.1%	436
More Volunteering Opportunities	29.4%	320
More Qualifications	27.9%	304
Extended Opening Hours	21.0%	228
More Community Relations	13.3%	145
More Peer Education	9.7%	106
Other (please specify)	5.2%	57

# Focus Group Feedback

- ▶ More for those with Special Educational needs;
- ▶ One to one support;
- ▶ Some described youth service as ‘outdated’; ‘for younger children’; ‘adult led’.
- ▶ Young People discussed the need for improved youth provision – where young people set the agenda;
- ▶ Funding was discussed including short term approach and how young people feel that they are the big losers when it comes to cuts and austerity.

# Concluding Observations

- ▶ Young people are keen to have a say on the design and delivery of Youth Work;
- ▶ Young people would like more investment in ‘things that have proven to work’;
- ▶ Government needs to listen an act – young people are asked over and over again – and give the same answers. Time for action!