

# Children & Young People's Services Directorate

## Summary Feedback on Stakeholder Participation: The Emerging Needs of Children and Young People

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Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019

RAG Group Meeting

Bann House, Portadown



# Event details

## Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 – Lisburn and Castlereagh LAG Event - 3D Youth Centre, Lisburn

- 63 people in attendance – 33 young people and 30 adults
- Key stakeholders included the Director of Children and Young People’s Services, Dept of Education representative, Youth Work Alliance representative and EA and Voluntary Youth Service staff, including Head of Service.

Attendance Group	Number
Young People	33
Local Advisory Members	8 (6 young people and 2 adults)
Regional Advisory Members	3
Youth Work Staff	17 (10 EA, 7 Voluntary Sector)
Other, e.g. PCSP	2



# Event details

## Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 – Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Event - Seagoe Youth Centre, Portadown

- 95 people in attendance - 64 young people and 31 adults
- Key stakeholders included Dept of Education Representative, Head of Service, Community and Voluntary Sector representatives, a representative from the Youth Work Alliance and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon PCSP representative.

Attendance Group	Number
Young People	64
Local Advisory Members	13 (7 adults and 6 young people)
Regional Advisory Members	2
Youth Work Staff (Local and Regional)	22 (10 EA, 8 Voluntary Sector and 4 other)



# Key Findings – Lisburn and Castlereagh

The following key emerging issues were identified for young people:

- Use of technology including social media and gaming
- Drugs, alcohol, smoking/vaping and associated addictions including gambling
- Identity, diversity and a lack of ‘a sense of belonging’
- Uncertainty about the future including job prospects and the pressures of exams
- Lack of political leadership
- The voice of young people

The top 6 issues identified by young people in the Regional Assessment of Need (2016) were exam stress, boredom, body image, confidence, mental health and relationships. From the responses from each of the groups at the Event a number of these issues remain a priority, particularly mental health and exam stress.

Many of the responses demonstrated that young people feel that there is a deficit in terms of not being valued e.g. not having a say, lack of understanding, lack of certainty, lack of political representation.



# Key Findings – Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon

The following key emerging issues were identified for young people:

- The effect of social media on young peoples mental health combined with bullying was a major concern in terms of internet addiction, isolation, body image, sleep and the fear of missing out
- Violence and arranged fights organised using social media
- Unemployment
- Engaging in risk taking behaviours, including drugs and alcohol
- Gambling and online gaming
- Lack of positive adult relationships
- The consequence of Brexit

From the responses from each of the groups at the event a number of issues highlighted in the previous RAON remain a priority, particularly mental health and bullying.



# Recommendations – Lisburn and Castlereagh

- Youth Service should provide continued support for young people with social media and the online world to remain safe
- Social media should be used to increase the visibility of the youth service online
- Support for young people in relation to drugs, alcohol smoking/vaping and addictions is important. The youth service should provide attractive alternatives for young people along with having an educational and supportive role
- The creation of quiet spaces for young people was recommended for supporting young people with mental health issues
- Additional outreach work and working with communities through specific community initiatives or partnerships to support young people on their identified needs
- The Youth Service has a key role in supporting young people to understand their identity, create opportunities to explore and understand difference and to help young people develop a sense of belonging
- Youth Service have a role in preparing young people for their journey into adult life and chosen careers; support should continue to be provided to help young people deal with the stresses of exams and assessments along with building the necessary skills for their career pathway
- Youth services have an extremely important role in terms of giving young people a voice and creating platforms for young people to engage with adults on decisions that affect them



# Recommendations – Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon

- Young people need more opportunities that encourage and enable them to express their emotions and aspirations, through creative, sporting and challenging opportunities, including Outdoor Learning
- Youth Service should continue to provide positive, engaging activities and to create opportunities for exploring, addressing and tackling issues along with young people, including creating safe spaces that young people want to go to
- Youth Service can discourage young people from becoming involved in risk taking behaviours (arranged fights) by engaging them with street based outreach / detached teams of youth workers
- The Youth Service should create new digital well-being resources and programmes to help young people to develop good digital habits and better understand their tech usage
- Youth workers need to be encouraged to take more risks with their youth work practice and be more responsive to young people's needs, reacting quicker to emerging issues
- There should be increased effective multi-agency working across statutory and voluntary sector organisations to tackle the emerging issues raised
- There should be more training and support for youth work staff on new and emerging issues



# Further Events

## The Health & Wellbeing of Children & Young People

**Monday 07<sup>th</sup> October 2019 (19:00 – 21:00)**

- Venue 1: Ards Arena
- Area 1: North Down & Ards
- Venue 2: Patrician Youth Centre
- Area 2: Newry, Mourne & Down

## Research & Innovation within Youth Services

**Monday 04<sup>th</sup> November 2019 (19:00 – 21:00)**

- Venue 1: Carrickfergus YMCA
- Area 1: Mid & East Antrim
- Venue 2: Rathcoole Youth Centre
- Area 2: Antrim & Newtownabbey

## Young People & Inclusion

**Monday 02<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 (19:00 – 21:00)**

- Venue 1: Hammer Youth Club
- Area 1: Belfast (North)
- Venue 2: Cookstown Youth Resource Centre
- Area 2: Mid Ulster

