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 CLUBS GOVERNMENT AREA YOUNG
 WITHIN FAMILY GOOD
COMMUNITY
 NEEDS PLAY
 OPPORTUNITIES ALSO FRIENDS CLUB
 KIDS LIKE WORK HELP MATES GROUP PROJECTS
 THINK KNOW THINGS MUCH
 SERVICES FEEL POSITIVE STOP DRUGS NOTHING LOOK CENTRES STREETS ONE CLEAN
 FUNDING GROUPS LOCAL BETTER PLACE LEISURE
 ENOUGH PUT AREAS SOCIAL
 SPACE GIVE PLACES NEED GET NONE LESS LOT TALK LEADERS
PEOPLE
 MONEY TOGETHER INVOLVED CENTRE
 PARKS KEEP WORKERS GREEN EVERYONE ARDOYNE CLOSE
 PITCH SPORTS USE MADE COMMUNITIES MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES
 FOOTBALL PART REPRESENTATIVES OPEN MAKE TAKE IMPROVE
 SWIMMERS MAKING ADVERTISING

LISTEN UP!

AYE YOUTH SURVEY 2017



The 'wordcloud' on the cover reflects the words most commonly used by the young people in answering our survey's open-ended questions. The 'wordcloud' on page 5 reflects the youth workers' answers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Survey facilitators

Seán Breen, Jake Clements, Brian Hagans, Paddy Lavelle, Liam Mills.

Data analysis

Seán Breen, Catherine Couvert.

Editor

Catherine Couvert.

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We would also like to thank Johnny Byrne, Ulster University, and Andrea Thornberry, NICVA, for expert advice.

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INTRODUCTION

In spring 2017, Ardoyne Youth Enterprise completed a survey of young people and youth work practitioners living in the Ardoyne and Marrowbone area, in order to:

- get a snapshot of the most important issues identified by local young people;
- establish themes and statistics on which to inform our priorities for action and develop further research;
- compare this with the perceptions of youth providers.

As advocates for young people's needs, we wanted to develop a checkpoint and record a large sample of young people's opinions on key issues that affect them locally, listen to the young people, record their concerns and thoughts and act on these to improve service provision in the area.

It is our intention to share this information widely and advance collaborative initiatives with young people and youth providers to address the issues and concerns raised.

We will further develop platforms through which young people can be heard and involved.

Throughout this process, we engaged with a huge sample of 12 to 17 year olds in the area, approximately 1 in 4 of that age group living locally, and we are very grateful for their participation and support.

Shane Whelehan
Director
Ardoyne Youth Enterprise

DO YOU FEEL YOU BELONG TO THE ARDOYNE/MARROWBONE COMMUNITY?

Almost two thirds of the young people feel part of the community, but over 1 in 5 don't.

149 young people answered this question.

14 youth workers replied to a question on whether they think young people feel part of the community. The young people were more positive than the youth workers.

Over 65% of the young people feel part of the community.

A significant proportion (22%) do not feel part of the community.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAID

I feel part of the community because

"I know most people and I be mates with most people."

"I have friends and family here."

"I got involved in a lot of groups in Ardoyne and the Marrowbone community."

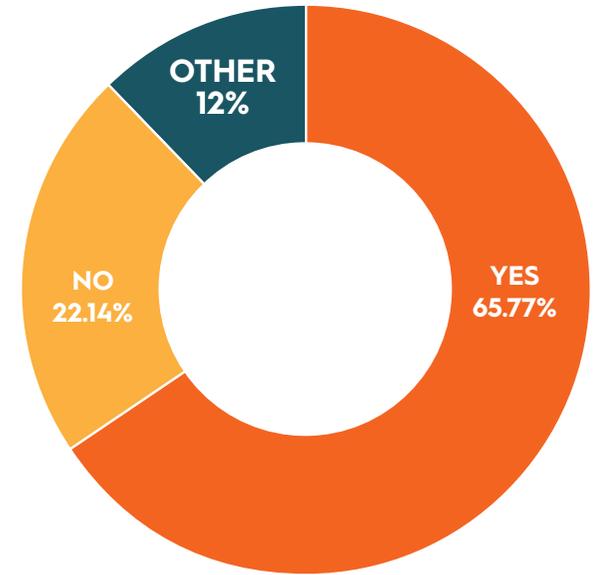
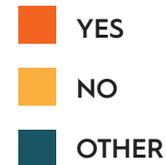
"There is people to look up to and youth workers to go to if you need help with anything."

"There's lots to do."

"I take part in community events."

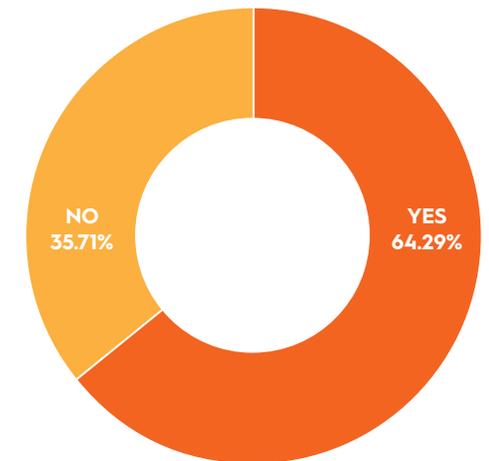
Do you feel part of the community?

What young people said.



Do young people feel part of the community?

What youth workers said.



I don't feel part of the community because

"I spend a lot of time in the house or at other places because there isn't much to do or places to go to in my own area."

"Nothing to be associated with in the community."

"I do not feel safe in Ardoyne/Marrowbone."

I'm not sure because

"Sometimes I feel vulnerable and alone."

"Sometimes there's violence."

"We as a family only talk to a few houses right beside mine."

"Apart from scouting I don't associate with anything else in the area."

"I do feel part of the community with people my age and family but people who don't know me look down on me and reject me from it."

"Sometimes when good things are happening I like to be involved but when negative things are happening I feel like I am not part of the community."

When asked what opportunities they have to contribute to the community, young people mostly mentioned youth projects and activities, including:

"Youth work programmes and surveys."

"Volunteer in the youth club."

"Playing for my local sports team."

"We work on projects with the youth club to tackle social issues such as anti-social behaviour and homelessness."

"Youth workers consulting me."

Some feel there are few or no opportunities:

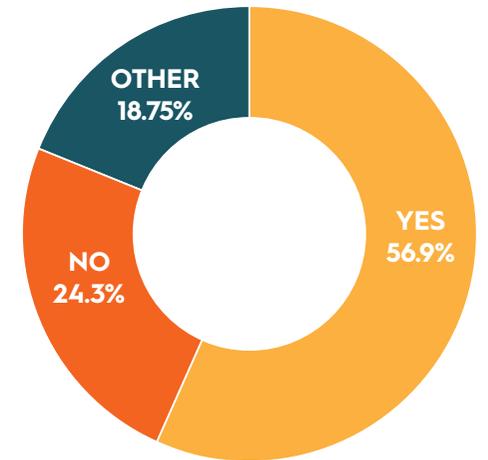
"Limited because I am a young mother and childcare is an issue."

"Little chance unless someone feels they can use you to their advantage (volunteering)."

IS IT A NICE PLACE TO LIVE?

What young people said.

- YES
- NO
- OTHER



More than half of the young people surveyed think it's a nice place to live, but almost one in four say it's not.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAID

144 young people responded to this question.¹

Over 56% of the young people like living in Ardoyne/Marrowbone.

Over 24% think it's not a nice place to live.

Over 18% have mixed feelings.

When asked to explain what they like about living in the area, young people talked about friends, youth projects, family and community spirit:

"When something tragic happens everyone comes together."

"Nearly all of the community members are very kind and always happy to talk with you and there seems to be quite

a family aspect once you become part of the community."

"Always have people to talk to."

"It's where I grew up, it's my life here and the people in it, especially the youth workers they give their all for the young people of the area."

10 young people said there was nothing good about living in the area, and some expressed mixed feelings:

"I've a roof over my head at least."

"Nothing except the youth club."

"Fuck all."

"Sometimes nothing, sometimes everything. Can be the worst place ever but also the best."

¹Youth workers were not asked this question.

WOULD YOU EVER MOVE OUT OF THE AREA?

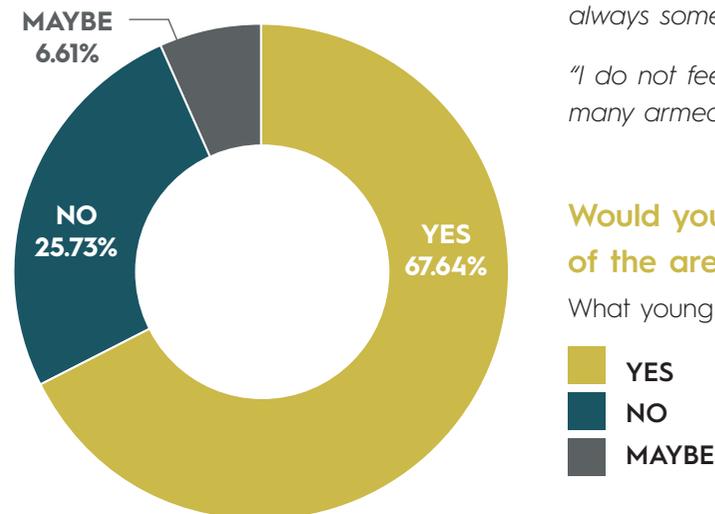
More than two thirds would consider moving out of the area and their reasons vary: for work, new opportunities, to get away from tensions in the community, or just to live somewhere sunny...

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAID

136 young people answered this question.²

Over 67% of the young people would consider moving out of the area.

Over 25% said they would never want to move away.



Some of the young people explained why they would consider moving out:

"A better life with more opportunities."

"If I had another job somewhere."

"It's shite and not enough work within the whole of Belfast."

"Sometimes it's a worse place and always something happening."

"I do not feel safe, there are too many armed groups."

Would you ever move out of the area?

What young people said.



²Youth workers gave similar answers to a question on the young people's mobility.

WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES AFFECTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE AREA?

Young people in Ardoyne and Marrowbone see drugs and alcohol abuse, mental health and anti-social behaviour as the most important issues affecting them. More than half think there isn't enough to do or places to go. Armed groups and relationship with police also rank high among their concerns.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAID

Asked to pick 5 important issues from a choice of 33 options, 112 young people responded.

Over 62% of the young people thought 'drug and alcohol misuse and abuse' was an important issue for young people in the area.

Over 52% thought mental health was an important issue.

Over 51% thought anti-social behaviour was an important issue.

(In addition, 25% cited street violence, 19% vandalism, 8.9% death driving.)

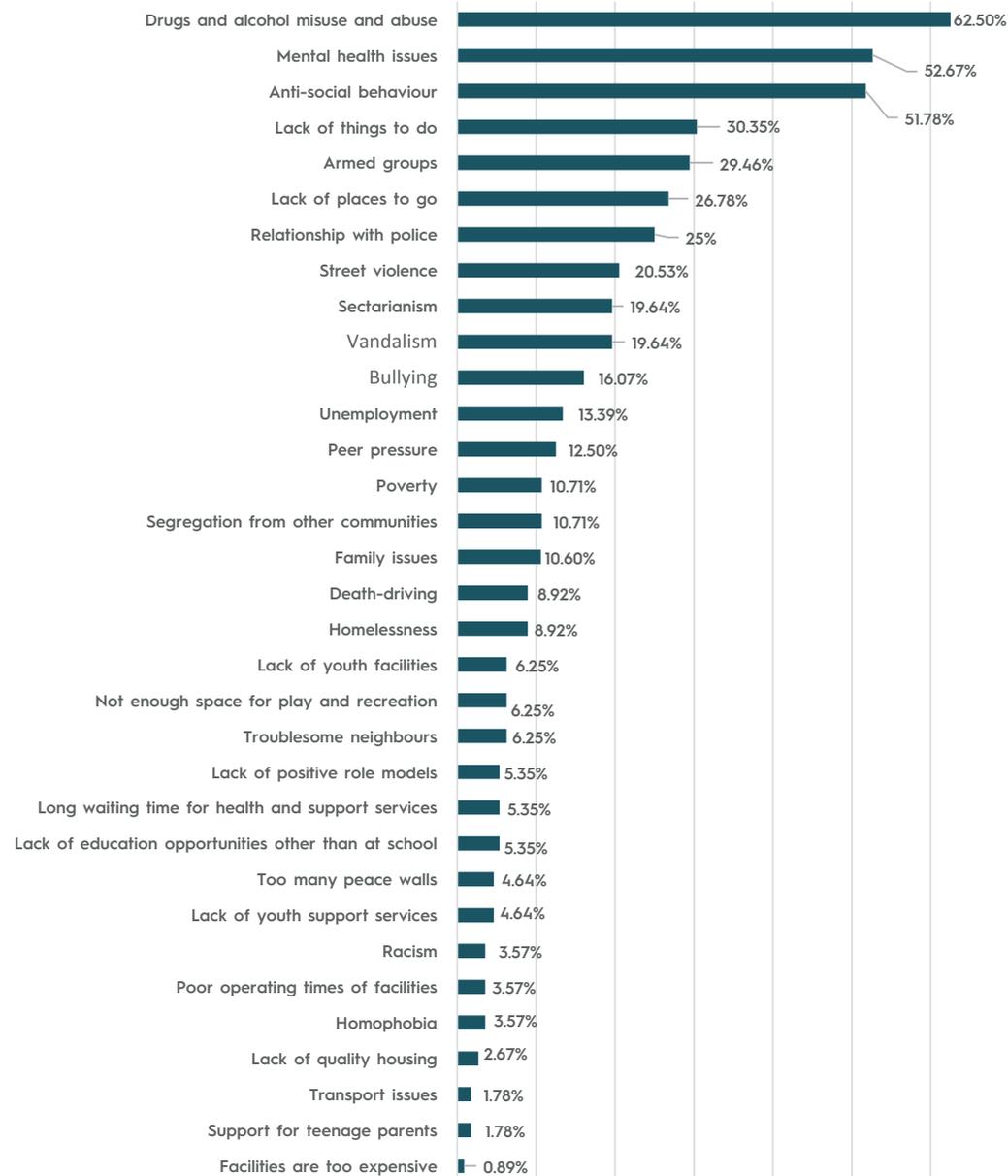
Altogether, more than half of the young people identified 'lack of things to do' or 'lack of places to go' as an important problem ('lack of things to do': over 30%; 'lack of places to go': over 26%).

Over 29% identified 'armed groups' as an important issue, and 25% identified 'relationship with police'.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAID

Asked to pick 5 important issues from a choice of 33 options, 112 young people responded.

Key issues affecting young people in Ardoyne/Marrowbone. What young people said.



WHAT YOUTH WORKERS SAID

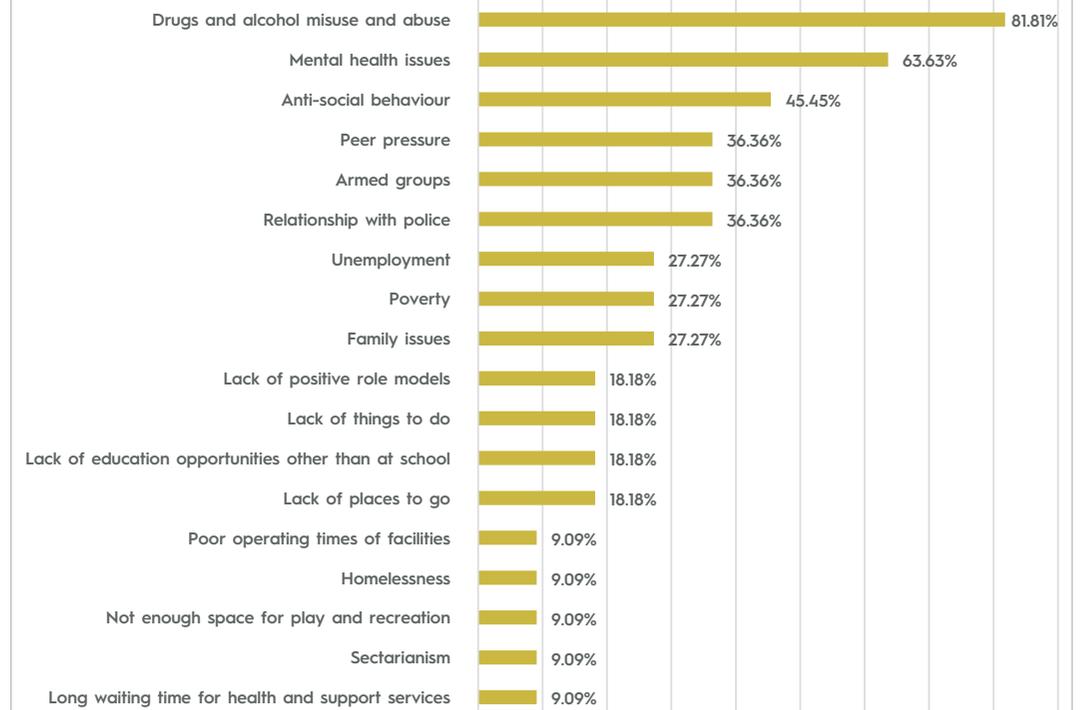
11 youth workers responded to this question.

Like the young people, youth workers identified drugs and alcohol issues,

mental health issues and anti-social behaviour as the three most important issues.

Unlike the young people, they did not see lack of things to do or places to go as important issues.

Key issues affecting young people. What youth workers said.



HOW DO THESE ISSUES AFFECT YOU?

More than a third of young people say these issues have an impact on their mental health. Significant numbers say they are afraid to leave the area, or afraid to socialise in the area.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAID

Asked to name the two main ways in which these issues affected them, 112 young people answered the question.

Over 37.5% of the young people said that issues affecting them had a negative impact on their own mental health.

Over 31% said they were afraid to leave the area.

Over 23% said they were afraid to socialise in the area.

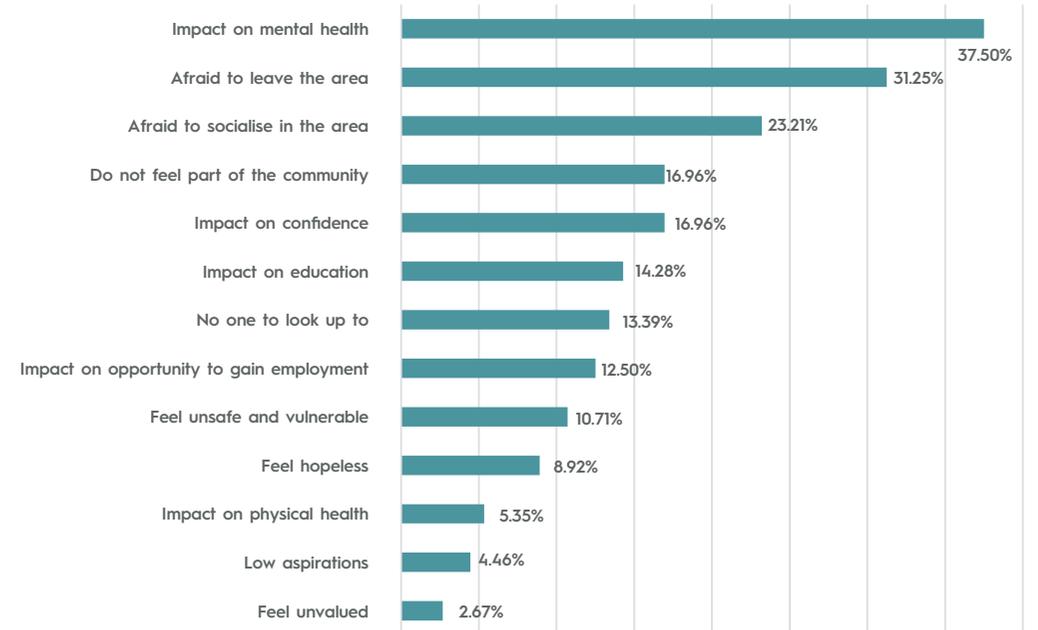
Over 16% said it made them feel that they were not part of the community, and over 16% said it impacted on their confidence.

WHAT YOUTH WORKERS SAID

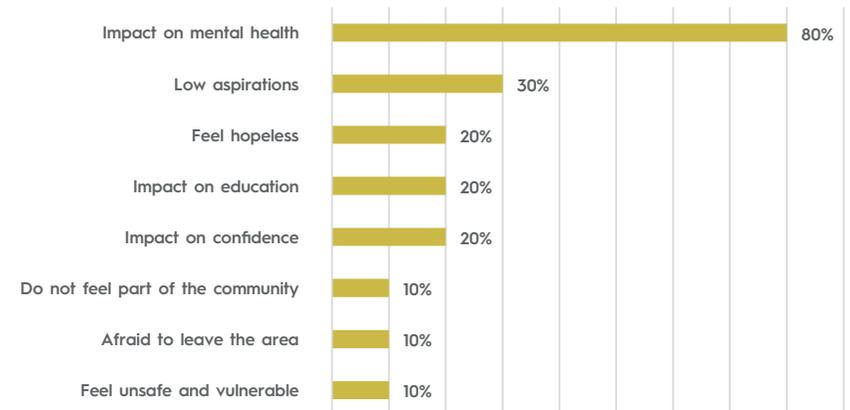
10 youth workers answered a question about how they thought young people were affected.

Youth workers were mainly concerned about the impact on young people's mental health. Unlike the young people, they did not see 'afraid to socialise in the area' as an important impact.

Impact on young people. What young people said.



Impact on young people. What youth workers said.



WHO CAN DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES?

Young people do not see themselves as having much power to influence change. They place a lot of faith on the role of youth work. They see the community, government and police as also having a significant part to play.

Young people were asked to choose five groups in society who they think can address the issues. 110 young people answered this question.³

The young people did not see themselves as important agents for change: just over 13% chose 'myself'.

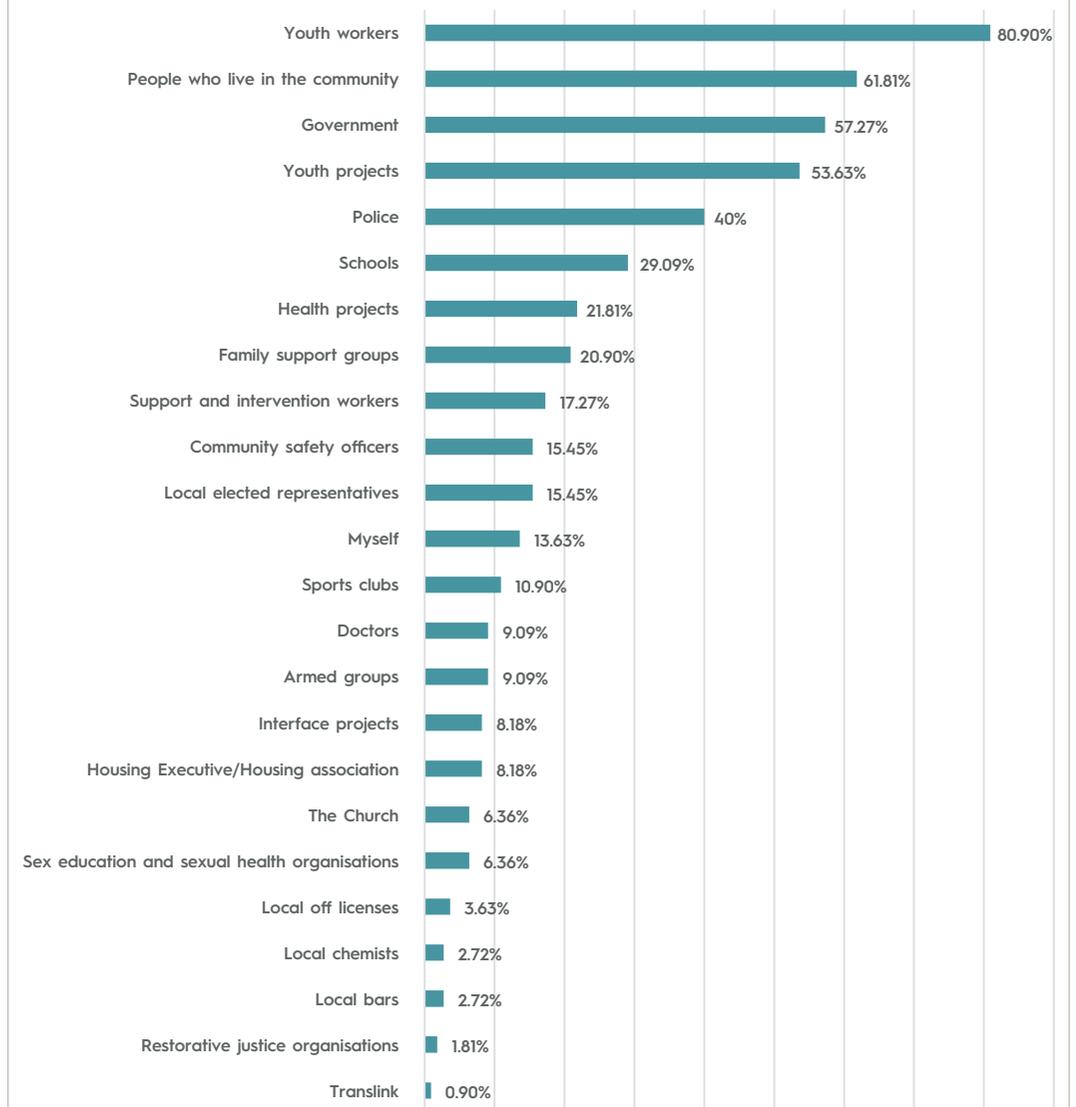
They placed a high importance on the role of youth work in addressing the issues: over 80% chose youth workers, and over 53% selected youth projects.

They also saw an important role for people who live in the community (selected by over 61%).

The next most important groups were government (selected by 57%) and the police (40%).

They also saw a role for schools (29%), health projects (21%) and family support groups (20%) in addressing issues affecting them.

Groups best suited to address these issues. What young people said.



³Youth workers were asked a different question so their answers cannot be compared.

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE THIS AREA BETTER?

When asked to tell us what would make the area better to live in, young people mainly talked about more youth activities, outreach and drop-in services open at night and weekends, more green spaces and play areas, more sporting opportunities, more shops and opportunities for young people. They would like these facilities to be open more often, better promoted and better resourced.

They also said they would like more efforts put into increasing community pride and improving the physical environment they live in, more joined-up working between youth and community groups, better relationships with other communities.

They would like to see more health facilities for young people, as well as more resources put into battling mental health problems, drug and alcohol addiction, and into making the area feel safer for them.

They want adults to listen to them, respect their views and encourage them to participate more in the community.

A selection of the young people's answers are included here.

ARDOYNE/MARROWBONE AS A PHYSICAL SPACE

"Not enough green areas."

"Not enough areas for kids to play, kids need to get outdoors more."

"It looks good, the murals, the fun and excitement in the community at times are unreal (but) there's not really much places young people can go."

"Looks run down unloved, littered."

"Graffiti makes it look ugly and feels dangerous."

"Local parks are constantly being destroyed."

WHO CAN MAKE THE AREA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN AND HOW

"Government, they would need to stop building so many houses and build more facilities."

"It is important that there are opportunities for the whole community and local representatives to discuss ideas and improvements to make the area a more fun and welcoming place to live in."

"Myself and other members of the community contributing to local events, volunteering."

"More time and effort put into the community instead of abusing it."

"Put drug dealers out of the area."

"Get rid of paramilitary groups."

"Politicians pure and simple, they have failed our youth."

HOW TO IMPROVE ON FACILITIES AND SERVICES IN THE AREA

YOUTH AND LEISURE SERVICES

"Leisure centres and youth clubs that open 24/7 to reduce boredom of young people to also decrease antisocial behaviour."

"More drop-ins on the weekend could prevent some underage drinking."

"No cuts to the clubs."

"Swimmers."

"More events in summer, more things to look forward to."

"More facilities for children of a younger age, a place they can play during rainy days, a homework club or library etc."

"More arts-related facilities (...) dance classes, art classes, performing arts events etc."

HEALTH

"Mental health and drug awareness services."

"Sexual health clinics as young people may not feel confident going to a family doctor."

"Better health youth facilities."

EDUCATION

"A vocational education centre."

BETTER COMMUNICATION AND GOOD RELATIONS

"Let more people know the good things that happen."

"Community organisations working together."

"More cross-community work."

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING FACILITIES AND SERVICES AND HOW TO TACKLE THEM

FEAR AND LACK OF CONFIDENCE

"I don't know many people in the community. I am often too nervous to take advantage of the facilities."

"Young people sometimes feel too scundered to sign up to the facilities or scared because they are unsure about how it will turn out or what other people will think if they join."

"People need to feel safe leaving their house to go."

"People being afraid to get involved because of street violence and antisocial behaviour."

"Bullies."

"Don't feel welcome."

"Young people not having good relationships with police or community workers."

LIMITATIONS OF YOUTH AND SPORTS FACILITIES

"Some people can't afford to use them, and also some people who aren't in sports teams can't use them."

"Long waiting times and the 3G pitch that was got for the community and is too dear for us."

"Places closing early and costing lots of money."

"In a deprived area, youth clubs charging massive prices for trips."

"Some clubs don't have wheelchair access."

"Young people may feel that they will lose relationships if they go to another youth centre."

SOCIO-ECONOMIC REASONS

"Childcare, family situation, limited money."

"Sectarianism and peace walls."

"Religion, age."

SOME SUGGESTIONS

"More advertisements in youth hotspots to let us know what's happening."

"Getting a group of friends to join a youth group together."

"Organise lifts, or taxis."

"Young people being given more of a voice."

"Cross community events/clubs."

"To have no requirements of certain ages and religions. More services for under 18s and cross community so all people can be involved in the different services."

WHAT WOULD GIVE THEM A BETTER SAY IN DECISION MAKING IN THE AREA

"Being on a junior committee."

"A meeting of some sort once a week with the youth leaders to let the young people speak about how we should tackle these issues."

"Take part in local community group and enjoy the craic and helping out as a volunteer."

"Older people to listen, armed groups to listen."

"Stop giving the same specific people all the opportunities based on favouritism."

"More meetings or surveys with young people in the area about their ideas on how to build the community, and these meetings should be made known through the whole community so that every young person gets a say."

"More youth groups to give young people a voice to local representatives and government so they can make a change."

WHAT YOUTH WORKERS SAID

The youth workers' answers broadly show the same concerns and priorities as the young people.

The main difference is that they think there are many opportunities for young people and that the biggest problem is lack of awareness and accessibility.

They are mainly concerned about lack of mental health support and outdoor space.

They think youth providers will have to develop a more collaborative approach in order to provide services better tailored to the needs of young people in the area.

HOW WE DID THIS SURVEY

We used a mix of multiple choice and open ended questions, circulated to the young people through paper surveys, and to youth workers through an online survey.

Young people aged 12 to 17 – 151 respondents – at least one in four of 12 to 17 year olds living in the area⁴.

How they were approached:

- young people engaged on past or current AYE programmes,
- young people engaged in other Ardoyne/Marrowbone youth programmes,
- young people approached through our detached work, who are not usually engaged in youth programmes.

Youth workers – 15 respondents

We approached 35 youth workers through the informal network of youth practitioners operating in the Ardoyne/Marrowbone area. 15 responded.

Anonymous surveys

Both surveys were anonymous, and no personal or demographic information was collected.

Analysis

Both young people and youth workers skipped some of the questions but the response rate was high for all questions. Percentages calculated here are based on the number of responses to each question.

Some questions involved multiple choice answers, including ranking by order of importance. For the sake of clarity, and because they did not add significant information, the rankings have been omitted in this report.

Our full analysis can be provided on request, along with a list of survey questions.

We also asked a series of open-ended questions to allow respondents to give us their own ideas in their own words. Some of the most significant and interesting answers have been selected to illustrate young people's views.

⁴The most recent firm data on the number of 12 to 17 year olds in our catchment area is in the 2011 Census: 525 recorded. Although there is no firm data on the number of 12-17 year olds in 2017 in our catchment area, we can estimate that there are currently around 550 young people in that age group in the Ardoyne ward.

Sources

2011 Census: <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/PivotGrid.aspx?ds=2678&lh=38&yn=2011&sk=136&sn=Census%202011&yearfilter=2011>

NISRA 2016 population estimates: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/SAPE-Ward-0116.xls>

NISRA births by ward 2005-2015: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/live-births-by-ward-2005-2015>

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AYE Youth Survey 2017, a publication of Ardoyne Youth Enterprise.

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise
11a Flax Street, Belfast BT14 7EJ
T: 028 9074 1479
W: www.ardoyne.org

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