

**The Big Deal**  
**A programme for**  
**children and young people**



**The Big Deal Audit of  
Participative  
Structures for Children  
and Young People in  
Northern Ireland**

**May 2007**

## CONTENTS

Contents	1
Acknowledgements	2
List of tables and figures	3
Glossary	4
Executive summary	5
1: INTRODUCTION	9
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	14
3. METHODOLOGY	15
4. AUDIT RESPONSES	17
4.1 Profile of the participative structures	17
4.2 What are the key functions of participative structures	22
4.3 How do children and young people participate in the participative structures	26
4.4 Networking, co-operating and working in partnership with participation structures	29
4.5 The representation of marginalised/excluded groups in the participative structures	31
4.6 Staff, policies and banking	34
4.7 Recruiting children and young people to participative structures	38
4.8 Structure funding and dependence of structure	40
4.9 Respondent's confidence in operating the structure and improving the effectiveness of the structure	43
	47
5. CONCLUSION	
6. RECOMMENDATIONS	49
7. REFERENCES	50
Appendix 1: Audit questionnaire	52
Appendix 2: Participative structures – contact details	57
Appendix 3: Additional tables	64
The Big Deal contacts	67

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This report has been written by Helen McNamee, Policy & Research Support Worker for The Big Deal. The author is grateful to The Big Deal staff team and steering group for their assistance in obtaining respondents and their support in writing the report. The author would also like to thank Clare Harvey at the Youth Council for Northern Ireland.

Finally, the author would like to thank the 68 participative structures who participated in this study and also those who completed and returned the questionnaire that did not have a participative structure.

## LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1:	Location of structure by county	17
Table 2:	Location of structure by ELB area	17
Table 3:	Structure in district council areas	18
Table 4:	Structure by sector	19
Table 5:	Voluntary sector structure by work area	19
Table 6:	Structure by title	19
Table 7:	Titles used in the voluntary and statutory sector	20
Table 8:	Involvement in activities in the voluntary and statutory sector	27
Table 9:	Groups represented in the voluntary and statutory sector structures	32
Table 10:	Number of part-time staff in structures	34
Table 11:	Number of full-time staff in structures	34
Table 12:	Required signatories for payment	36
Table 13:	Signatories age	36
Table 14:	Recruitment methods used by structures in the voluntary and statutory sectors	39
Table 15:	Structure funding in the voluntary and statutory sector structures	40
Table 16:	Dependence of structures in voluntary and statutory sectors	42
Table 17:	Priorities to increase effectiveness in the voluntary and statutory sector structures	45
Graph 1:	Length of time structure has been operating	21
Graph 2:	Children and young people's involvement in activities in the structure	26
Graph 3:	Groups represented in the participative structures	31
Graph 4:	Recruitment of children and young people to the structure	38
Graph 5:	Resource/funding of the structure	40
Graph 6:	Dependence of structure on parent organisation or support body	41
Graph 7:	How confident is organisation in operating the structure	43
Graph 8:	Priorities to increase effectiveness of the structure	44

# GLOSSARY AND TERMS USED

## Terms used

### **Participative structure:**

A structure that brings together children and young people regionally, sub regionally or locally to participate as decision makers. For the purposes of this research, the structure must involve children and young people from more than one unit, group, branch, club or project and/or is a thematic structure. It does not have to be a formal structure, any way of involving children and/or young people in governance, planning, management or decision-making is considered a participative structure.

**Sample:** Complete dataset, total number of participative structures who completed the questionnaire

**Respondents:** Refers to the person in the participative structure who completed the questionnaire

**n:** Total number of respondents to a particular question in the survey

**per cent (%):** Percentage or proportion of respondents who chose a particular answer option to a question in the survey.

**Median:** This is the value above and below which half of the measurements or cases fall. The median is not affected by extreme outlying values

**Mode:** This reflects the most commonly occurring score in a set of data; it is possible to have more than one mode.

## Glossary

**BBC:** British Broadcasting Cooperation

**BELB:** Belfast Education and Library Board

**CIN:** Children in Need

**C&YP:** Children and young people

**DHSS&PS:** Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

**DSD:** Department of Social Development

**ELB:** Education and Library Board

**EU:** European Union

**HSST:** Health and Social Services Trust

**LGBT:** Lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender people

**NEELB:** North Eastern Education and Library Board

**NICCY:** Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People

**NIYF:** Northern Ireland Youth Forum

**NSPCC:** National Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children

**PSNI:** Police Service of Northern Ireland

**SEELB:** South Eastern Education and Library Board

**SELB:** Southern Education and Library Board

**TSN:** Targeting Social Need

**WELB:** Western Education and Library Board

**YCNI:** Youth Council for Northern Ireland

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This audit is a Northern Ireland study of one distinct area of children and young people's participation as decision makers and that is participation structures.

The aim of the audit is threefold:-

- i. To gain insight and knowledge of existing participative structures in Northern Ireland.
- ii. To create links and network with other organisations.
- iii. To feed into the strategic development of The Big Deal programme.

The data for this study was collected through a 21 question self-completion questionnaire. The questionnaire was open for completion from December 2006 to April 2007. In total 68 questionnaires were returned from groupings which had a participative structure.

The study is a product of The Big Deal, a £4 million programme funded through The Big Lottery Fund under its Northern Ireland Young People's Fund programme. The Big Deal has been specifically designed to increase children and young people's participation as decision-makers.

### **Main findings**

In this sample, there was a participative structure in nearly every district council area. Most of the structures main offices were based in Belfast and Derry/L'Derry. Young people aged 17 to 25 were the most common age group represented in the structures (90%) and 82% of the structures had members aged 11 to 16. Only 4 of the structures had members aged 10 and under. There was an almost even split of responses from the voluntary (53%) and statutory sector (47%). Most of the contact addresses for the voluntary sector structures were in the BELB area. There is evidence to suggest there has been a recent boom in participation structures, as 54% of the structures had been set up in the last 3 years.

The main functions of participative structures in the voluntary and statutory sectors structures appeared to be very similar. The most common activity for children and young people was to influence decision making (97%), 84% of the structures also involved children and young people in organisational planning.

Nearly three quarters of the structures had a governing document which set out the purpose, roles and responsibilities of the structure and its members. Two thirds of the structures had their own bank accounts. Nearly half of the structures employed staff and 9 out of 10 received adult support.

Statutory sector structures were more likely to co-operate, network or work in partnership with other organisations or structures than their voluntary sector counterparts. The findings showed that voluntary sector structures were more likely to state they would like assistance to co-operate, network and work in partnership with others. One key blockage to networking/co-operating with other structures was a lack of information about other structures.

Respondents were asked if a number of perceived marginalised/excluded groups were represented in the structures. All the groups were represented in the structures. Just over half of the respondents believed they could increase their effectiveness of their structure by being more welcoming to marginalised/excluded children and young people. The voluntary sector structures had a higher percentage of children and young people from 11 of the 13 marginalised groups. Interestingly, a higher percentage of statutory sector structures stated that their structure would be more effective if they could be more inclusive of marginalised children and young people. Structures in the statutory sector were significantly more likely to have members from rural areas.

The most popular way to recruit children and young people to the structure was through word of mouth (72%). The statutory sector structures were significantly more likely to recruit young people through uniformed groups, voluntary youth groups, registered groups and detached youth work.

The priority that most respondents felt would increase effectiveness was 'influencing decision making in your organisation, locally and beyond' (62%). Nearly all (98%) of the respondents that stated this was a priority already had children and young people engaged in decision-making. It was also evident that respondents would like assistance in other activities, that the structure was already involved, for example, external consultations, organisational planning and monitoring and evaluation. This suggests that structures need assistance with their current functions as well as assistance in developing new areas.

This study has shown that there are participative structures in nearly every part of Northern Ireland and as a collective they are representative of marginalised children and young people. It also appears that in recent years there has been an increase in this method of involving children and young people in decision-making. The structures in the voluntary and statutory sectors have a similar purpose and are striving for the same goals. In the main the respondents were confident in operating the structures. However, there are some areas for improvement. Hopefully, The Big Deal can go some way to develop existing, new and emerging participative structures in Northern Ireland.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Guidance needs to be developed which provides assistance and support to participative structures on how to increase their effectiveness and signpost them to other sources of support and information.
- A resource of participative structures needs to be developed. This resource should have up to date contact details for all participative structures in Northern Ireland. An adult, child or young person who uses the resource should be able to search for a structure, geographically, thematically or by age range.
- The audit found that children aged under 10 were not well represented in participative structures. Further research is required to explore:
  - the appropriate mechanism to involve younger children.

- other innovative ways for children and young people not represented on the structures to engage with and feed their views into the structures.
  - effective practice within the participative structures to see if it is age appropriate and where necessary find ways to make structures more child friendly incorporating playful age appropriate methods.
- The awareness of participative structures needs to be raised, the benefits of the structures need to be highlighted for children and young people, their parents and guardians, schools and the services that work with children and young people.
- This study should be repeated in three years time, to see if participative structures have changed with the advent of The Big Deal.
- Further research needs to be completed on other aspects of participative structures. It would be beneficial to find out more about how the structures function on a day to day basis; how many young people are actually involved in the structures; and the views of children and young people on participative structures.

# **1. INTRODUCTION**

Throughout Northern Ireland there is an increasing commitment to involving young people in governance, planning, management and decision making. There is an ever growing expectation and demand that children and young people are involved in not only personal decisions about their own lives but also decisions about the planning, delivery and assessment of services.

This has arisen not only from legislative and policy requirements but also from the rising knowledge of the benefits of participation to children and young people and to the organisations that involve them.

This audit will look at one specific area of involving children and young people in decision making – participative structures. The aim of the audit is threefold:

- i. To gain insight and knowledge of existing participative structures in Northern Ireland.
- ii. To create links and network with other organisations.
- iii. To feed into the strategic development of The Big Deal programme.

## **Background to the research**

The Big Deal is a new £4 million programme funded through the Big Lottery Fund under its Northern Ireland Young People's Fund programme.

The Big Deal brings together many of the key stakeholders involved in the development, delivery and management of children and youth services in Northern Ireland:

- Youthnet (lead partner and responsible for small grants programme);
- PlayBoard (0-10 delivery partner Play Quest programme);
- Northern Ireland Youth Forum (delivery partner) supported by the Education & Library Boards (11-16 and 17-25 Age Specific Strategies);
- Youth Council for Northern Ireland (strategy and co-ordination partner).

The aim of The Big Deal is to encourage children and young people to become involved in participatory activities which enhance their personal and social development; to have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to make informed choices about their lives and demonstrate their positive contribution to family and community life.

Working across three flexible age bands, 0-10, 11-16 and 17-25, The Big Deal has a number of elements which are designed to bring about the greater participation of children and young people in decision-making.

### **1. Children & Young People's Forum**

The Big Deal Children and Young People's Forum has been established to ensure the target group's full and effective participation in the running of the programme. Through their involvement, children and young people will also have the chance to share and have their opinion heard on:

- How services for children and young people could be delivered better or differently;
- How organisations could change to more effectively include children & young people in planning and management;
- How The Big Deal celebrate the success of the programme in reaching out to, welcoming and involving children and young people from diverse communities, backgrounds, abilities and beliefs.

There are two *main* ways for children and young people to contribute to the running of The Big Deal.

- **As The Big Deal Steering Committee members** who will join with current adult members of The Big Deal Steering Committee in developing and overseeing its future direction.
- **As award panel members** who will make decisions on funding applications for small grants of between £500 - £2,500 from individuals and groups of children and young people.

## 2. Participation hub

The Big Deal has created a Participation Hub to deliver a coherent approach to the participation of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

Targeting children and young people aged 0-10, 11-16 and 17-25 years old, the Hub operates three linked age specific strategies which will involve:

- Identifying what participative structures currently exist and sharing models of effective practice;
- Increasing the level of children and young people's involvement in the planning and management of activities and services for them;
- Building connections and creating networks for children and young people to influence public policy and decision-making locally, sub-regionally and across communities of interest

### 0-10 Strategy - Play Quest Programme

Play Quest is delivered by The Big Deal's team of Play Rangers based in PlayBoard. It is delivered across a wide range of settings that cater for children aged 0–10 years. The programme aims to increase children's participation, and is underpinned by the principles and values of effective playwork, i.e. *'that children choose what they do, how they do it and why they do it'*. The programme will support children, parents and practitioners to achieve effective participation through play.

Community, voluntary and statutory organisations can be part of the programme, including schools, preschools, parent and toddler groups, school aged childcare providers, youth clubs, uniformed and church groups or projects with a specific focus e.g. looked after children, children with a disability, or those from minority ethnic or rural communities.

Play Rangers work in settings for up to a period of one week to deliver a tailored programme designed to empower children. Play Quest uses a flexible approach of delivery to suit a group/organisations needs to include an initial visit, observation of

play, delivery and a revisit. For example, Play Quest could help to increase a group/organisations capacity to include and engage with children who would not traditionally participate in activities and/or help a group/organisation make links with other organisations in their community. The programme also has an emphasis on working with organisations in clusters within communities to help develop and sustain partnerships.

### **11-16 and 17-25 Age Specific Strategies**

The 11-16 and 17-25 Age Specific Programmes are delivered by The Big Deal team based in Northern Ireland Youth Forum and are supported by the Education and Library Boards (ELBs). A Participation Worker, located in each of the five ELB areas, supports the work of existing and facilitates the development of new and emerging participation structures.

The Big Deal Participation Workers coordinate innovative programmes for organisations that work with young people. These programmes are designed to achieve the greater participation of young people as decision-makers in the activities and services they take part in.

The Hub team support youth participation structures and organisations to review their methods of engaging and involving young people, providing training and helping to develop policies and structures to enable young people to contribute to all levels of decision-making.

### **3. Small grants programme**

The Big Deal small grants programme is all about increasing children and young people's participation as decision makers through projects in which children and young people plan and decide what it is they want to do, when, where and how!

#### **Project outcomes**

We want to fund projects that help make a difference in children and young people's lives and the lives of others in their peer group, family, youth group, school, community or area.

As well as increasing participation, we want the projects we fund to lead to:

**A.** increased health and well-being;

and/or

**B.** increased achievement and learning;

Or

**C.** wider family and community support for children and young people.

#### **Project themes**

We also have three themes and we want the projects we fund to focus on at least one of them. These are:

### **1. Impact of conflict and tackling sectarianism**

This can be about exploring the effect or lasting impression the 'troubles' or conflict in Northern Ireland has had on their life and/or the lives of others in their peer group, family, area or community. **For example**, a project could involve cross community activities that lead to changes in how they and/or their group think about and act toward people from another religious, political or community background.

### **2. Transition from infancy to adulthood**

This can be about using their own experience of change (or transition) to help others who are coming up to or facing a similar change in their lives. **For example**, the change from pre-school to primary school, primary to secondary school, puberty to adolescence, school to work or from the family home or place of care to independent living, etc.

### **3. Additional needs of vulnerable socially excluded and disaffected children and young people**

This can be about focusing a project on a group of children and young people who, for whatever reason, need extra support. **For example**, children and young people who have a disability, looked after or leaving care, in or have just come out of the juvenile justice system, experiencing poverty, from black and minority ethnic communities or lesbian, gay, bi-sexual or transgendered.

### **Who can apply?**

Individuals or informal groups of children and young people aged 0 to 25 (a group applying should be made up of no less than 3 people). An informal group can be a friendship group or a group who share a common interest. They can also be members of a club or centre who are supporting the project but we cannot fund the club or centre they belong to.

The Big Deal small grants programme does not fund organisations.

### **How much can you apply for?**

An individual can apply for a grant of £500.

An informal group can apply for a grant of between £500 and £2,500.

The Small Grants programme has £1 million to support projects across Northern Ireland up to September 2010. However, it is anticipated that the programme will close for applications in the autumn of 2009.

### **How does the audit fit in?**

This audit is a key element of discovering how children and young people currently participate as decision makers in Northern Ireland and the findings will be of great assistance to the programme. The staff team are also out on the ground networking with different organisations that involve children and young people as decision-makers.

The audit will not include projects that children and young people participate on a consultative basis or with project of a set life span. It focuses on participative structures where participation is an ongoing practice and children and young people are at the heart of decision making.

### **What is a participative structure?**

A participative structure is defined as a structure that brings together children and young people regionally, sub-regionally or locally to participate as decision makers. For the purposes of this study the structure must involve children and young people from more than one unit, group, branch, club or project and/or is a thematic structure (e.g. a group that works with young people with disabilities or young people at risk of exclusion). This does not have to be a formal structure, any way of involving children and/or young people in governance, planning, management or decision-making is considered a participative structure.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Benefits of participation**

A great deal of research has been completed on the benefits of children and young people's involvement in decision making. These benefits are not only to the advantage of the children and young people involved but also to organisations. An early Northern Ireland report on participation in youth work noted how the participative approach helps foster skills in young people which allow them to analyse, take risk, make decisions and act in ways which are constructive and which promote growth and understanding (YCNi 1993). A Northern Ireland study completed in 2000 found that organisations that involved young people in decision making were extremely positive about the process and the impact young people make on decision making. Some 82% stated that the involvement of young people had improved aspects of their organisation's internal decision making processes. Half of the respondents had links externally with a range of decision makers and stated the involvement of young people had resulted in a range of positive impacts from benefits to community/society to changes in attitudes and behaviour, as well as an ability to influence local/central government policy (Green 2000).

It is generally agreed that participation by children and young people does result in tangible benefits for the children and young people, for services for children and young people and for society as a whole (Cutler 2001).

#### **Benefits for children and young people**

- Increases confidence and self-belief
- Develop skills such as communications, negotiations and teamwork
- Promotes pro-social behaviour
- Positive career choices (including for those considered at risk)
- Future active involvement and greater responsibility
- Gain practical skills
- It can be fun and sociable

#### **Benefits to services for children and young people**

- Improved service development
- Improved client support
- Increased access and use of services
- Increased participatory practice

#### **Benefits for society**

- Helps children and young people fulfil their rights under UNCRC
- Increases belief in children and young people's own ability to create change and levels of control over elements of their lives
- Increases children and young people's political and social knowledge
- Increases levels of responsibility for oneself and others
- Improves relationships and perceptions of young people amongst communities, professionals and peers

(Adapted from Kerby et al 2003 and Cutler 2001).

## Legislation and policy

Participation has been spoken about and written about in youth work for many decades. The 1987 Policy for the Youth Service in Northern Ireland (DENI) set out among its objectives: *"to develop a partnership between young people and adults through the Youth Group with support from the family and wider community; and to give young people an opportunity to express their views and to participate in the planning and management of their own activities"*(DENI 1987).

Currently, The Strategy for the Delivery of Youth Work in Northern Ireland (2005-2008) has brought participation to the forefront in youth work as one of four strategic themes. Aim 2 of the strategy sets out to *"ensure that young people have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to make informed choices about their lives, are at the heart of designing, managing and evaluating youth work policy and practice, have opportunities to address issues they are interested in, and can make a meaningful contribution within their communities and within public and political decision making processes"*(Strategy for the Delivery of Youth Work in Northern Ireland 2005-2008, 2006:08)

Policy surrounding participation is not limited to the youth sector. The United Kingdom ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1991. Article 12 emphasises young people's rights to have a say in decisions that affect their lives. Northern Ireland has added legislation to the rest of the United Kingdom. Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 states that public authorities have to have what is called "due regard" for the need to promote equality of opportunity across nine separate equality categories, one of which is age. The needs of children and young people have therefore to be taken into consideration.

Moreover, The principal aim of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) is described legislation as *"to safeguard and promote the rights and best interests of children and young persons"* (The Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003).

A Shared Future (2006) aims for a society where everyone including children and young people are treated as equals. It states *"The overall aim of A Shared Future, is to establish, over time, a shared society in which all individuals are considered equals, where differences are resolved through dialogue in the public sphere and where all individuals are treated impartially"*(A Shared Future 2006:08)

However, the inclusion of the following pledge in the Children and Young People's Strategy (Northern Ireland) has brought the interest in participation into an even wider arena. *"In accordance with the UN convention on the Rights of the Child, we will be proactive in obtaining the views of children on matters of significance to them"* (Our Children and Young people – Our Pledge 2006:20). In addition, the strategy states *"For the life of the strategy and beyond, we will, therefore, ensure that children and young people are routinely involved in the public decision-making process"*(Our Children and Young people – Our Pledge 2006:21)

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The data for this study was collected through a 21 question self-completion questionnaire (appendix 1). The questionnaires were emailed or posted if an email address wasn't available. The questionnaires were primarily issued to staff and volunteers known to play a co-ordination and support role to the structure. The Big Deal staff team were aware of a number of participative structures that existed. In order for the audit to be as accurate as possible, it was important to try and capture all these structures in the study.

It was decided to exclude schools from the audit, The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) have recently completed research into participation in schools and it was felt it was unnecessary to repeat the exercise.

The following methods were used to distribute the questionnaire

- Youthnet member organisations.
- Northern Ireland Youth Forum youth council/forum members.
- Include Youth's directory of diversionary services for young people in Northern Ireland.
- Children in Northern Ireland's participation portal.
- PlayBoard contact's for organisations that work with under 10's.
- The Big Deal Participation Workers distributed the questionnaire to participation structures they were aware of in their respective Education and Library Board areas.
- The researcher contacted various governmental bodies.

The questionnaire was initially sent out with a two week return. Follow up letters and emails were sent again extending the deadline for returns. Organisations and structures were then contacted via telephone with a verbal request to complete the audit. The questionnaire was open for completion from December 2006 to April 2007.

Some of the explanations for not returning the questionnaire were as follows:

- Lack of time.
- Person responsible for the structure no longer employed in the organisation or the organisation was between co-ordinators.
- The structure was not fully functional at that time.
- The structure no longer existed.
- The structure was in the early planning stages and had yet to be established.
- Difficulty completing the questionnaire. For example, the organisation involves young people in an informal and ad-hoc basis that didn't fit the questionnaire.

A total of 78 returned questionnaires were received, 68 of these had a participative structure. 66 of the questionnaires were completed by the adults responsible for the participative structure. The chairperson of one structure and the vice-chairperson of another structure completed the remaining 2 questionnaires.

The quantitative data was analysed using SPSS, and the qualitative data gathered in the open-ended questions, was analysed thematically.

Respondents were asked in the questionnaire if they agreed to the information they provided being shared on a Big Deal database or a public database. A number of respondents declined. For this reason the names of the organisations or structures in the report have been substituted with a description of the organisation or structure.

### **Participative structures not included in this audit**

The following is presented to give an accurate picture of the work taking place in relation to existing, new and emerging participative structures.

- Two questionnaires were received after the closing date and were not included in the audit.
- The Big Deal team were aware of another 9 participative structures that did not return the questionnaire.
- Five youth councils/forums were not functioning when the questionnaire was open for completion.
- Most of the 14 Community Empowerment Partnerships (CEP) in North Belfast were in the process of setting up a youth forum/council when the survey was open for completion
- Some of the PSNI district areas were in the process of developing participative structures when the questionnaire was open for completion
- Three of organisations that responded which do not have a participative structure would like to set a structure up in the next 12 months.

## 4. AUDIT RESPONSES

### 4.1 Profile of structures

#### Where are the participative structures located?

The 68 participative structures that responded are from across Northern Ireland. The location of the structures are illustrated in the map below\*.



**Table 1: Location of structure by county\***

County	n*	%
Antrim	31	46
Down	13	19
Derry/L'Derry	13	19
Armagh	5	7
Tyrone	4	6
Fermanagh	2	3
Total	68	100

**Table 2: Location of structure by ELB area\***

Area	n	%
SELB	11	16
WELB	13	19
NEELB	10	15
SEELB	9	13
BELB	25	37
Total	68	100

\* For the purposes of this audit the contact address of the structure is used to identify the location of the structure. The structure may have a regional or sub-regional remit with members from different parts of Northern Ireland.

\* n = number of responses.

Most of the structures were located in Co. Antrim/BELB area and Derry/L'Derry/WELB area. This was expected as the two largest cities in Northern Ireland are based in these areas and many organisations have their main base in one of the two locations.

## How many participative structures are in each District Council area?

**Table 3: Structures in district council areas**

<b>NEELB</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>vol</b>	<b>stat</b>	<b>SEELB</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>vol</b>	<b>stat</b>
Carrickfergus	1	-	1	Castlereagh	-	-	-
Newtownabbey	1	-	1	North Down	2	2	-
Antrim	2	1	1	Ards	1	0	1
Larne	-	-	-	Down	5	2	3
Ballymena	1	1	-	Lisburn	1	1	-
Magherafelt	1	0	1	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
Ballymoney	2	1	1				
Moyle	-	-	-	<b>BELB</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>vol</b>	<b>stat</b>
Coleraine	2	0	2	Belfast	25	21	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>SELB</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>vol</b>	<b>stat</b>	<b>WELB</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>vol</b>	<b>stat</b>
Craigavon	2	0	2	Fermanagh	2	0	2
Banbridge	1	0	1	Omagh	1	1	0
Newry & Mourne	4	1	3	Strabane	1	0	1
Armagh	2	1	1	Derry	8	4	4
Dungannon	1	0	1	Limavady	1	0	1
Cookstown	1	0	1	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>				

Table 3 shows the numbers of voluntary and statutory sector structures located in each district council area. It is clear to see that in this sample there are only 3 district council areas that do not have a participative structure. The Big Deal staff team believe there are participative structures in these areas. Efforts were made to include these structures in the audit; however the responses were not forthcoming.

It is possible to see that 21 of the 36 voluntary sector structures were located in the BELB. These structures may however have a regional or sub-regional remit with members from different parts of Northern Ireland. For the purposes of this audit the contact address of the structure is used to identify the location of the structure.

## What sector are the participative structures in?

**Table 4: Structure by sector**

Type	n*	%		n	%
Voluntary	30	44	Voluntary	36	53
Community	6	9			
Shadow Council/Forum	4	6	Statutory	32	47
Statutory	1	2			
ELB	27	40			
Total	68	100		68	100

Just over half (53%) of the structures were in the voluntary sector and just under half (47%) were in the statutory sector (see table 4).

## In what area of work are the structures?

**Table 5: Voluntary sector structures by work area**

	n		n		n		n
Uniformed youth group	2	Community relations	3	Public decision making	2	Lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender	1
Youth work organisation	4	Black & ethnic minority	1	Alternative Education	1	National C&YP charity	1
Volunteering	2	Arts	2	Health	4	Disabilities	2
Grant making	1	At risk YP	2	C&YP Rights	1	Unemployed YP	1
Community focus	6						

In the statutory sector, 27 of the structures were facilitated by the ELBs, 4 were shadow youth councils/forums and one was a children and young people's rights agency. Table 5 shows the different areas of work of the voluntary sector structures.

## What title do the participative structures use?

**Table 6: Structure by title**

Type	n	%
Children's/youth network	3	4
Children's/youth committee	7	10
Children's/youth council	20	29
Children's youth forum	24	35
Reference group	7	10
Other ways of involving C&YP	7	10
Total	68	100

Respondents were asked what title they would use to describe their structure, 35% of respondents described their participation structure as a children's/youth forum and 29% described their participation structure as a youth council. One in ten described their structure as a reference group and one in ten described it as a children's/youth committee. The title least used by the structures was a children's/youth network (4% of structures), (see table 6).

Another 10% described their structure in another way. Titles given were advisory group, steering group and user representation group. Respondents that ticked more than one box without a description in the structure name were also included in this category. Nearly a quarter (24%) of the respondents ticked more than one box. However, for the purposes of this investigation whatever title was given in the structure name was used.

## **Titles used in the voluntary and statutory sector**

**Table 7: Structure type by title (n)**

<b>Type of structure</b>	<b>Structure title</b>					
	<b>Network</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Forum</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Voluntary</b>	1	6	1	15	7	6
<b>Statutory</b>	2	1	19	9	1	0

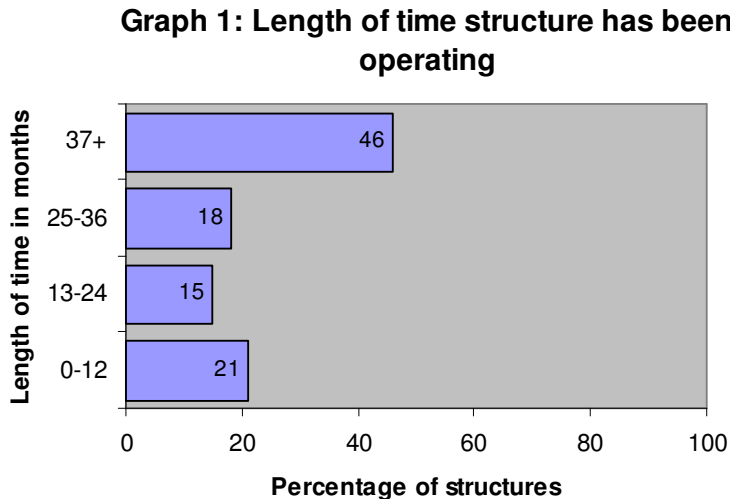
Table 7 shows the titles that were used by the voluntary and statutory sectors. In the voluntary sector the most common title was 'forum' followed by 'reference group' and 'committee'. Only one voluntary structure used the title 'council'. Whereas in the statutory sector the most common title was 'council', nevertheless, this was expected, as most of the structures based in the statutory sector were youth councils facilitated by the ELBs. Notably, all the 'other' titles for structures were in the voluntary sector.

## **Age range of structure membership**

In total 4 of the participative structures involved children under 10, in all 4 cases the structures were not exclusive to the under 10 age group. One of the structures was The Big Deal Children and Young People's Forum. The other 3 structures were also in the voluntary sector, one in health, one in the arts and one that had a focus on children and young people with disabilities. The PlayBoard team spoke to various key people within the children's sector and there were uncertainties around whether these structures are appropriate mechanisms to involve children under 10 in decision-making.

Most of the participative structures had members aged 17-25 (90% of the structures), 82% of the structures had members aged 11 to 16. Voluntary sector structures and statutory sector structures were no more likely than each other to have members aged 11 to 16 year old or members aged 17 to 25 year old.

## Length of time the structure has been in operation



Graph 1 illustrates the length of time the structures have been in operation, 54% of the structures are less than 3 years old. A third (33%) had been operating between 13 and 36 months and 21% had been in operation for a year or less. This suggests there has been a boom in participative structures in recent years.

There was no difference between the length of time in operation and ELB area or whether the structure was in the voluntary or statutory sector (For more information see appendix 3).

### Key Findings

- Most of the structures were located in the two largest cities in Northern Ireland, Belfast and Derry/Londonderry.
- Only 3 district council areas in the sample did not have a participative structure.
- There was an almost even split of responses between the voluntary (53%) and statutory (47%) sectors.
- Most of the main offices of the voluntary sector structures were in the BELB area.
- The most popular title for participative structures in the voluntary sector was children's/youth forum
- The most popular title for participative structures in the statutory sector was children's/youth council
- Only 4 structures had members who were aged 10 and under.
- 82% of the structures had members aged 11 to 16.
- 90% of the structures had members aged 17 to 25.
- Over half (54%) of the structures are less than 3 years old.

## 4.2 What are the key functions of participative structures?

Respondents were asked about the key functions of their participative structure. In the analysis, a number of main themes were apparent. The key functions of participative structures in the voluntary and statutory sectors appeared to be very similar.

### 1. To act as a voice for children and young people

This theme arose in both the voluntary and statutory sectors structures. However, it was stronger in the statutory sector structures. In some cases the words 'voice' or the 'views' of young people were used in reference to the services the organisation provided;

*"To be the voice of all young people using our services in Northern Ireland"* (Youth reference group -National C&YP charity)

*"Its acts as a voice for young people and encourages their participation in decision making processes"*(Youth council WELB)

However, for other structures young people had the opportunity to get their voice heard outside the organisation, as is apparent in the following quotations:

*"...consult with young people and support them to have their views heard by those in key positions of authority and influence"* (Youth reference group in voluntary sector– At risk young people)

*"To give young people in the Community Empowerment Partnership areas a voice, and to bring young people together to put on the local and regional agendas the issues are truly relevant to them"*(Youth forum in community sector)

### 2. To be representative of other children and young people

Respondents also noted that it was important for the children and young people in the structure to be representative of other children and young people.

One of the ELB respondents stated:

*"To be a representative voice for young people in the area"*(Youth council NEELB)

A voluntary sector structure had a similar response:

*"To represent the views of both ourselves and other young people with similar experiences"*(Youth forum in voluntary sector - health)

It wasn't just representing the views, but also educating young people to be a representative voice of their peers.

*"Enskill young people to be representative of their peers"* (Youth reference group in voluntary sector - large youth work organisation)

### **3. To address, discuss, debate and input into issues that affect the children and young people in the structure**

This was a strong theme in the voluntary sector, as is described below:

*"Opportunity for young people outside mainstream education to address issues affecting them"* (Youth forum in voluntary sector – alternative education)

### **4. To inform the development of the organisation or structure and influence policy and decision- making in the organisation**

Taking the previous theme a step further, a specific role of participative structures is to inform the development of the organisation where the structure is based and feed into policy and decision-making.

*"The aim is to involve young people in the planning and development of our work by empowering them to have input at all stages"* (Youth reference group in voluntary sector – community relations)

Furthermore, young people are given the opportunity:

*"To influence policy and decision-making within the agency"* (Youth reference group - Large voluntary youth organisation)

In the ELB's one of the functions of the participative structures is to influence youth provision in their area:

*"So that young people can have an active part in making decisions in relation to youth provision in the area"* (Youth Committee WELB)

### **5. To provide the opportunity for children and young people to influence what happens in their own community**

Another function of the structures was to influence what happens locally and in their own community. This was noted more frequently by the statutory structures.

*"To encourage young people to make a positive contribution to their community"* (Youth network in voluntary sector- public decision making)

*"The youth council aims to encourage and develop the skills of the individual, and begin the process of equipping young people to work effectively with other people in the community, in both formal and informal settings"* (Youth council SEELB)

### **6. To expand the skills of the members and feed into their personal development**

This was a function for a number of structures in the voluntary and statutory sectors. However, it was more widespread in the statutory sector:

*"The aim of the group is to work in partnership with the staff, committee and funding bodies to ensure that the program for the centre meets the needs and interests of the young people we are meant to provide services for. We use this system as a learning tool to enable young people to develop skills and talents for adulthood"* (Youth forum in community sector)

*"The youth council aims to encourage and develop the skills of the individual, and begin the process of equipping young people to work effectively with other people in the community, in both formal and informal settings"*(Youth Council SEELB)

## **7. To organise events and programmes and participate in local projects and international work**

Only the statutory sector structures noted this function. Indeed, a sole function of one of the statutory sector structures was to organise an annual youth conference. This purpose is demonstrated with the following quotations:

*"...organising events and programmes for their peers"*(SELB Youth Council)

*"To organise and participate in residential and international exchanges"* (NEELB youth council)

## **8. To provide opportunities for peer advocating, peer research, peer activities and peer support.**

This purpose ties in with the previous theme. The structures provide opportunities for children and young people to work together with their peers.

*"An opportunity for peer support amongst young people"* (Youth committee in voluntary sector - arts)

While this second quotation links decision making, community focus and peer education

*"To get them to take ownership of their centres in terms of development, peer education and tackling wider community issues"* (Youth committee in voluntary sector–unemployed young people)

## **Structures in shadow youth councils/forums**

Shadow councils/forums appear to have an extra function. This is a relationship with council officers, elected members and policy and decision makers. The young people in shadow councils /forums have the opportunity to meet with these people and feed their views to them directly.

This process is described by 2 of the shadow councils/forums below

*"To allow young people to address pertinent local issues through communication, developing active projects and events and by meeting directly with policy and decision makers"*(Shadow forum)

*"Derry City Shadow Council is a group of young people who are elected by their peers to represent young people in the City. The Shadow Council works closely with Derry City Council and acts as a bridge between young people and the Council."*(Shadow council)

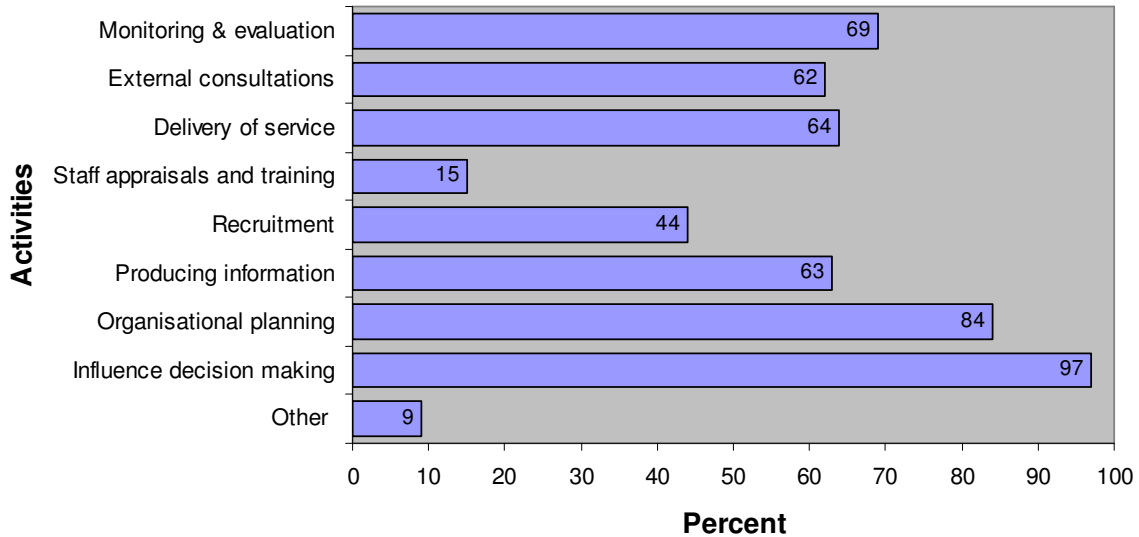
## **Key Findings**

- The purpose of participative structures in the voluntary and statutory sectors appear to be very similar. The main functions were as follows:
  - To act as a voice for children and young people.
  - To be representative of other children and young people.
  - To address, discuss, debate and input into issues that affect the children and young people in the structure.
  - To inform the development of organisation or structure and influence policy and decision- making in the organisation.
  - To provide the opportunity for children and young people to influence what happens locally and in their own community.
  - To expand the skills of the members and feed into their personal development.
  - To organise events and programmes and participate in local projects and international work.
  - To provide opportunities for peer advocating, peer research, peer activities and peer support.
- The young people in shadow councils /forums were given the opportunity to give their views directly to local councillors and elected members.

### 4.3 How do children and young people participate in the structure?

The respondents were asked to indicate how the children and young people in their structures participate. The responses are exemplified in graph 2.

**Graph 2: Children & young people's involvement in activities in the structure**



The most common activity for children and young people in the structures was to influence decision making, 97% of respondents stated this activity. Children and young people engaged in organisational planning in 84% of the structures.

Around the same number of structures involved children and young people in

- Monitoring and evaluation of services (69%)
- The delivery of service e.g. peer mentoring & welcoming (64%)
- Producing information about the organisation (63%)
- External consultations (62%)

In 44% of the structures children and young people participated in recruitment. Children and young people were least likely to contribute to staff appraisals and training (15% of structures).

There was no difference between the activities the children and young people were involved in and the ELB area the structure was located (see appendix 3). A comparison of the activities in which the children and young people got engaged in the voluntary and statutory sector can be seen in table 8.

In the voluntary sector respondents were more likely to have children and young people involved in delivery of service and staff appraisals/training. In the statutory sector the members were more likely to be involved in recruitment and external consultations. There

was no major difference between any of the other activities and voluntary and statutory sector structures.

**Table 8: Involvement in activities in the voluntary and statutory sector**

Involvement activities	in	Voluntary sector		Statutory sector	
		n	%	n	%
Monitoring & evaluation of services		25	69	22	69
External consultations		19	53	23	72
Delivery of service e.g. peer welcoming		25	69	19	59
Staff appraisals and training		8	22	3	9
Recruitment		14	39	16	50
Producing information about organisation		22	61	21	66
Organisational planning		31	86	26	81
Influence decision making		35	97	31	97

### **What other ways are children and young people were involved in the structure?**

Several respondents outlined other ways that children and young people were involved in the structures. Examples given are as follows

- Active participation modules
- Capacity building
- Communication resources - publications, media work
- Competitions for youth forums
- Conferences – organising, attending and presenting
- Cross community work
- Focus groups
- Fundraising
- Hosting/MC'ing events
- Open Space initiatives
- Organising, events and programmes for their peers, including residentials and international exchanges
- Peer Advocacy
- Peer research
- Training
- Visits to youth groups
- Website development, contribution to website content and message board moderation
- Youth Jury

One voluntary sector structure that is based in a health organisation described how they participated in a national enquiry into self-harm. The structure is devising and developing

information packs for schools, youth clubs etc, media interviews and radio and television productions (Children and youth reference group in voluntary sector– health).

An ELB Youth forum provided an example of a way young people are involved in their structure *"We have recently completed a survey in schools and youth groups to raise awareness of the organisation and its purpose, and we will hope to use the information to plan the action of the Forum in the future"*(Youth forum SELB).

## **Key Findings**

- The most common activity for children and young people in the structures was influencing decision making (97%).
- 84% of the structures the children and young people engaged in organisational planning.
- 69% of structures involved children and young people in monitoring and evaluation of services.
- 64% of structures involved children and young people in the delivery of service.
- 63% of structures involved children and young people in producing information about the organisation.
- 62% of the structures involved children and young people in external consultations.
- In 44% of the structures children and young people participated in recruitment.
- Children and young people were least likely to contribute to staff appraisals and training (15% of structures).
- In the voluntary sector respondents were more likely to have children and young people involved in the delivery of service and staff appraisals/training. In the statutory sector the members were more likely to be involved in recruitment and external consultations.

## 4.4 Networking, co-operating and working in partnership with other participation structures

In total, 71% of the structures networked, co-operated or worked in partnership with other children/youth participation structures. Networking/co-operating was more common in the statutory sector, 81% of statutory sector structures networked/co-operated with other structures compared to 63% of structures in the voluntary sector.

### Who do the structures co-operate network with?

The respondents named various organisations that they co-operated/networked with. These are listed below.

- Statutory/voluntary organisations, e.g. social services, DHSS&PS, Foyle Trust, ELBs, NSPCC, PSNI, NIYF, Children's Law Centre, NICCY, Youth Justice Agency, Probation Board NI, NIACRO, Headliners, Catalyst partnership.
- The Joint Youth Panel
- Practitioners forum
- With all registered youth groups in the area, youth service, social services, youth justice, schools, youth centres
- Other youth councils in board area and from other areas
- Link with thematic forums
- Indian community – 'Artsekta' – possible joint programmes
- Ards Healthy Living Council

### What do structures co-operate/network on?

Respondents provided examples of work they have completed with other organisations. One respondent described how they work with other organisations if there is a particular issue they need to address and they would like support from organisations that have expertise in the area.

Others described how *"We work with a number of international groups who also work in contested societies.* (Youth network in voluntary youth work organisation).

Whereas an ELB youth council noted how they make contact with groups in their area and regional groups *"Other SELB led youth forums – meeting to share resources, address local issues, NIYF – taking part in regional events/programmes."* (Youth council SELB)

### Blockages to networking/co-operation

Respondents whose structures did not network/co-operate with other organisations/structures explained why this was the case. Some examples given were as follows

- Cross over in services
- Lack of resources to facilitate young people's needs
- Funding difficulties
- Training for young people, personal/social development, lack of confidence.

- The structure needs a lot of support
- Lack of consistency

A structure facilitated by the SELB noted another reason:

*"Lack of consistency has prevented us developing sustained links with other organisations"* (Youth Forum SELB)

- Lack of information

Other respondents noted difficulties that could be resolved more easily:

*"No major blockages except for the lack of information about similar structures"* (Youth reference group in voluntary sector -community relations).

*"There is no wider system that enables young people to network and move through a process. I am aware of the NI Youth Forum but the breadth of their contacts and the levels of their participation does not enable our young people to become involved"* (Youth forum in community sector)

- Not a priority

Respondents also indicated that networking and co-operating with other structures is not a priority for them. A lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) group explained that: *"LGBT youth groups tend to operate outside of the mainstream youth sector and therefore have little or no contact with other non-LGBT youth groups."* (Youth committee in voluntary sector-LGBT)

*"Role of user committee is set up to be internally focused."* (youth committee in voluntary sector –unemployed young people)

- Not productive

Another respondent explained that working in partnership was unproductive for their structure:

*"The group has made attempts to join in partnership with other larger forums but have found this to be unproductive. The young people have thought these agendas to be generic; they want to focus on their own area"* (Youth forum BELB).

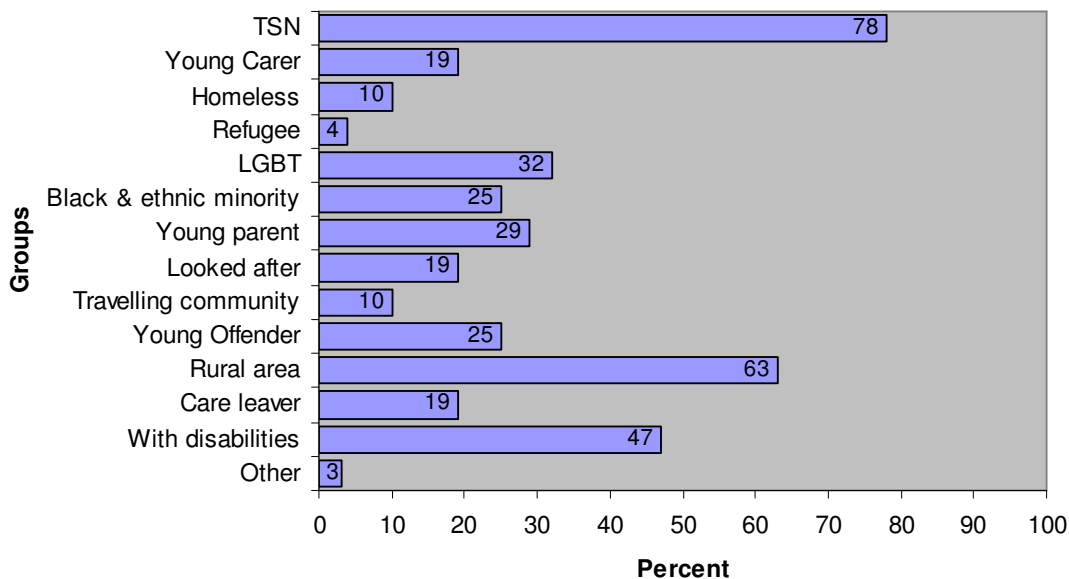
## **Key Findings**

- 71% of the structures networked, co-operated or worked in partnership with other children/youth participation structures.
- 81% of statutory sector structures networked/co-operated with other structures compared to 63% of voluntary sector structures.
- Respondents networked with a wide range of organisations and structures.
- Blockages to co-operation and networking were given. These were as follows:- lack of funding/resources, more training for young people; lack of consistency; lack of information; networking/co-operating was not a priority for the structure and networking/co-operating was not productive.

## 4.5 The representation of marginalised/excluded groups in participative structures

A significant focus of The Big Deal programme is to engage and support marginalised/excluded children and young people to increase their participation as decision makers. The respondents were asked if there are children or young people in the structure that were in perceived marginalised or excluded groups. The different groups that were represented in the participative structures can be seen in Graph 3.

**Graph 3: Groups represented in Participative Structures**



Interestingly, all the marginalised/excluded groups were represented in at least 3 of the structures. The group of young people that were present in most of the participative structures were young people from Targeting Social Need (TSN) areas, 78% of the structures had members from this group.

Children and young people from rural areas were represented in 63% of the structures. Children and young people with disabilities were also widely represented, 47% of the structures had children and young people from this group. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT) are also reasonably represented; 32% of the structures had representation from this group.

One quarter of the structures had children & young people from black & ethnic minority groups and young offender groups. Young parents were represented in 29% of the structures. While children and young people from the young carer, looked after and care leaver groups were all represented in 19% of the structures. The homeless and the travelling community were each represented in one in ten of the structures.

Respondents had the opportunity to state other marginalised/excluded groups that were represented in their structure. Young people at the risk of exclusion and Irish language speaking young people were recorded. One of the respondents noted *"the membership*

*varies over time but all of the above (categories of marginalised/excluded young people) have been involved at various times” (Youth other in voluntary sector– C&YP rights).*

The voices of young marginalised/excluded young people are being represented in the groups. This, however, may mean that young people who do not fit into perceived marginalised or excluded groups are not getting their voice heard through this means.

Table 9 shows the groups that are represented in the voluntary and statutory sector structures. The voluntary sector had a higher percentage of children and young people from 11 of the 13 marginalised groups.

**Table 9: Groups represented in the voluntary and statutory sector structures**

Marginalised group	Voluntary sector		Statutory sector	
	n	%	n	%
TSN	26	77	27	84
Young Carer	7	21	6	19
Homeless	6	18	7	3
Refugee	3	9	-	-
LGBT	12	35	10	31
Black and Ethnic minority	10	29	7	22
Young parent	15	44	5	16
Looked after	9	27	4	13
Travelling community	5	15	2	6
Young offender	12	35	5	16
Rural area	17	50	26*	81
Care leaver	7	21	6	18
With disabilities	19	56	13	41

The only groups that the statutory sector had a higher percentage of young people were TSN and rural areas. Indeed, the statutory sector was significantly more likely to have people young people from rural areas. This was expected as most of the voluntary sector structures main offices were located in the BELB area. There was no major difference between ELB area and the marginalised groups that are represented in structures (For a breakdown see appendix 3).

---

\* There is a statistically significant difference between the voluntary and statutory sector

## Key Findings

- All the marginalised groups were represented in at least 3 of the structures.
- 78% of the structures had members from TSN areas.
- 63% had members from rural areas.
- 47% of the structures had members with disabilities.
- 32% of structures had representation from lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT).
- One quarter of the structures had representation from young offender and black & ethnic minority groups.
- Young parents were represented in 29% of the structures.
- 19% had children and young people from young carer, looked after and care leaver groups.
- The homeless and the travelling community were each represented in one in ten of the structures.
- The voluntary sector structures had a higher percentage of children and young people from 11 of the 13 the marginalised groups.
- Structures in the statutory sector were significantly more likely to have young people from rural areas.

## 4.6 Staff, policies and banking

### Staff & Support

Nearly half (48%) of the structures employed staff, in the voluntary sector 49% employed staff and in the statutory sector 47% employed staff. One third of the structures employed part time staff and 28% employed full time staff. As can be seen in table 10 and 11, the number of part-time staff employed ranged from 1 to 5 and the number of full time staff employed from 1 to 11.

**Table 10: Number of part-time staff in structures**

Number of part time staff	n
1	14
2	3
3	2
4	1
5	1

**Table 11: Number of full-time staff in structures**

Number of full time staff	n
1	12
2	3
4	2
11	1

In total, 9 out of 10 of the structures received adult support. Respondents were asked to describe the adult support given to the children and young people in the structure. Some respondents described *who* provided the support and others described *how* the support was provided.

In most instances the support was provided by a youth worker or co-ordinator. In other cases the support was provided by peer educators, adult volunteer workers or community workers. Some respondents noted that alongside the main support person(s) additional support was used when required.

A respondent in the community sector described how support is provided in their structure:

*"The project co-ordinator organises regular meetings and helps the groups to arrange training and projects that they are interested in pursuing"* (Youth forum in community sector).

A respondent from an SELB youth forum described a similar role:

*"The youth forum is supported by the senior youth workers for the area, a peer support worker (3 hours per week) and also some additional help with projects from staff and from other youth organisations"* (Youth forum SELB)

Some respondents listed the type of support that was given to children and young people in the structures. The support provided was described as follows; administration,

developing agendas, fundraising, evaluations, guidance, planning, signposting to other resources, information, funding, mentoring and coaching.

## **Policies & Procedures**

### **Membership criteria/membership recruitment**

Just over half of the participative structures (51%) had a membership criteria/membership recruitment policy. There was no major difference between voluntary and statutory sector structures, 51% of voluntary sector structures had a membership policy and 50% of statutory sector structures had a membership policy. 8 out of 10 of the policies were written documents.

### **Child protection policy and procedures**

Overall, 81% of the structures had a specific child protection policy and procedure. This figure was the same for both voluntary and statutory sector structures. The other respondents indicated that their structures child protection policies came under a lead organisations child protection policy.

### **Governing document**

In total, 72% of the structures had a governing document which set out the purpose, roles and responsibilities of the structure and its members. Again, there was little difference between the voluntary (74%) and statutory (72%) sector structures. In 92% of cases the governing document was a written document.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

Respondents described how the roles and responsibilities of the structure were carried out. It was evident from the responses given that there is not a uniform way of allocating roles and responsibilities.

A number of the structures indicated that roles and responsibilities were decided via an election process. The role that the young people are given at the election determines their responsibilities. In other cases the young people decide among themselves their roles and responsibilities.

One respondent described how initially they had a formal approach to allocating roles and responsibilities but they changed to a method which was better suited to their work:

*"The group when in operation meet to undertake projects of interest. Initially in 2002 the group established a committee with formal chair, secretary etc but the group preferred the less formal approach and met to undertake project work or in response to the Community (for example to speak on behalf of young people in their area)." (Youth forum in community sector)*

A statutory youth forum explained that:

*"The panel volunteer to chair and organise meetings in a rotational basis. Panel members volunteer for different sub-committees." (Youth forum -statutory)*

Another respondent described how training was provided to the young people to decide on the roles:

*"...(roles and responsibilities) will be agreed through discussion with the Steering Group of young people who will be setting it up and who will have training to gain understanding of the tasks and responsibilities of running an organisation"* (Youth committee in voluntary sector -arts)

A voluntary youth forum described how they use a Terms of Reference to determine roles and responsibilities:

*"There is a Terms of Reference for the forum which sets out the remit of the work of the Forum. Roles and responsibilities in the Forum are agreed amongst members of the Forum and are adapted based on the needs of the members of the Forum and the work that needs to be carried out."* (Children and youth forum in voluntary sector – Youth work organisation)

## Banking

In total, 41% of the structures had their own bank accounts, 36% of the voluntary sector structures and 47% of the statutory sector structures had their own bank accounts. Of the total 28 structures that had bank accounts, 27 required 2 signatories to make a payment and 1 required 3 signatures. In 25 of the structures the signatories were aged under 25 and over 25. In 2 of the structures the signatories were all under 25 and in 5 structures the signatories were all over 25 (see table 12 & 13).

Only 1 of the structures that had their own bank account had children under 10 in their structure. In this case, however, the signatories were all over 25. There were no structures in the voluntary sector where all the signatories were under 25.

Required signatories	n
2	27
3	1

**Table 13: Signatories age**

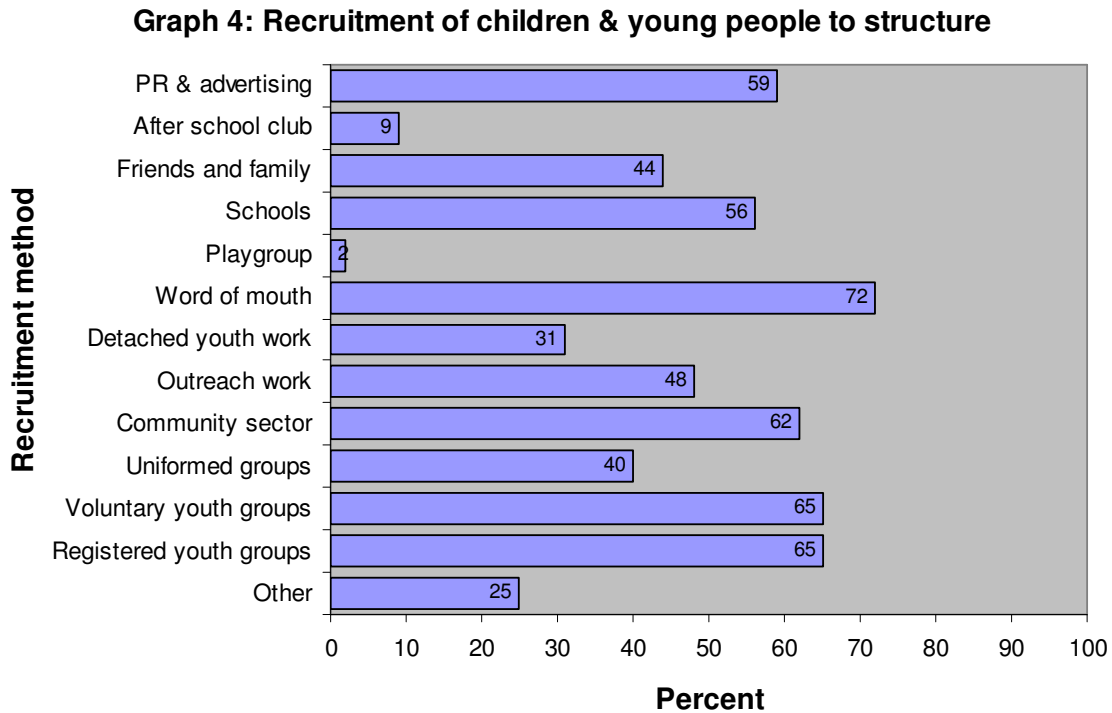
Signatories age	Age range of members			Sector		
	n	0-10	11-16	17-25	vol	stat
All under 25	2	0	2	2	0	2
Under 25 & over 25	21	0	16	21	10	11
All over 25	5	1	2	5	3	2

## Key Findings

- 48% of the structures employed staff, 49% of structures in the voluntary sector employed staff and 47% of structures in the statutory sector employed staff.
- 33% of the structures employed part time staff and 28% employed full time staff.
- 90% of the structures received adult support.
- 51% had a membership criteria/ membership recruitment policy.
- 81% of the structures had a specific child protection policy and procedure.
- 72% of the structures had a governing document which sets out the purpose, roles and responsibilities of the structure and its members.
- 41% of the structures had their own bank accounts, 36% of structures in the voluntary sector and 47% of structures in the statutory sector had their own bank accounts.
- Only 1 of the structures that had their own bank accounts had members aged 10 or under in this case the signatories were all over 25.

## 4.7 Recruiting children and young people to the structure

The respondents used a range of ways to recruit children and young people to the structure. Graph 4 illustrates the methods used by the structures.



The most common way to recruit new members was through word of mouth 72% of the structures used this process. 65% recruited through voluntary youth groups and registered youth groups and 62% recruited through the community sector. 59% used PR & advertising and 56% used schools to recruit children and young people. Nearly half (48%) recruited new people through outreach work, while 44% used friends and family and 40% used uniformed groups. Detached youth work was used by 31% of the structures.

Unsurprisingly, considering the lack of children aged 10 and under in the participation structures, playgroup and after-school clubs were not a popular choice for recruitment.

There was no difference between the ELB area the structure was located and the methods that were used to recruit children and young people to the structure (see appendix 3). There were, however, differences in the methods used by structures in the voluntary and statutory sectors (see table 14). The statutory sector structures were significantly more likely to recruit young people to the structure via uniformed groups, voluntary youth groups, registered youth groups and detached youth work.

**Table 14: Recruitment methods used by structures in the voluntary and statutory sectors**

Recruitment	Voluntary sector		Statutory sector	
	n	%	n	%
PR & advertising	21	60	19	54
After school club	5	14	1	3
Friends and family	13	37	17	53
Schools	18	51	20	63
Playgroup	1	3	-	-
Word of mouth	25	71	24	75
Detached youth work	7	20	14	44*
Outreach work	17	49	15	47
Community sector	20	57	22	69
Uniformed groups	10	29	17	53*
Voluntary youth groups	18	51	26	81*
Registered youth groups	16	46	28	88*

Respondents from the voluntary sector structures noted other methods they had used to recruit children and young people to their structure.

- 4 stated that they recruited service users from the organisation in which the structure is based
- 4 stated that they had recruited via referrals from other agencies or professionals that work with children and young people.

This may account for the voluntary sector structures not utilising the methods preferred by the statutory sector structures.

## Key findings

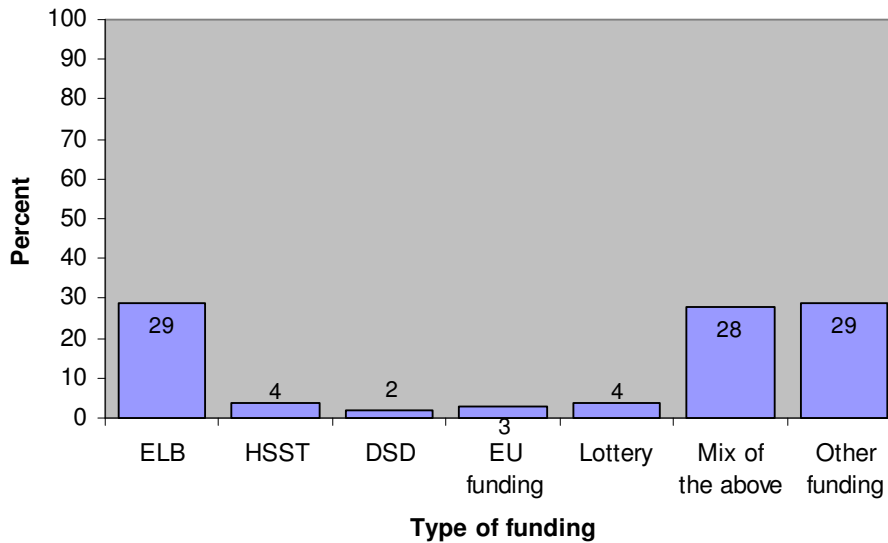
- 72% recruited members through word of mouth.
- 65% recruited members through voluntary youth groups and registered youth groups.
- 62% recruited through the community sector.
- 59% used PR & advertising and schools to recruit children and young people to the structure.
- 56% recruited children and young people through schools.
- 48% recruited new members through outreach work.
- 44% used friends and family to recruit new members.
- 40% used uniformed groups to recruit new members.
- Detached youth work was used to recruit members by 31% of the structures.
- The statutory sector structures were significantly more likely to recruit members to the structure via uniformed groups, voluntary youth groups, registered youth groups and detached youth work.

---

\* There is a statistically significant difference between the voluntary and statutory sector structures

## 4.8 Structure funding and dependence of structure on a parent organisation or support body

Graph 5: Resource/funding of the structure



Graph 5 illustrates the funding sources of structures. In total, 29% of the structures were solely funded by ELB. This was expected as 40% of the structures were managed by the ELB's, 28% of the structures were funded through different means. Small numbers received funding solely from HSST, DSD, EU and Lottery, while, 29% received funding from other sources. These sources varied, the following were noted

- BBC
- Lloyds
- Comic Relief
- CIN
- DHSS&PS
- YCNI
- Diana Memorial Fund
- Save the Children
- Council funding
- Vodafone
- Carnegie Trust
- Health Service executive

In total, 4 respondents stated that their structure did not receive any funding at that present time and some respondents stated that their structure was supported by the organisations own funding and fundraising.

**Table 15: Structure funding in voluntary and statutory sector structures**

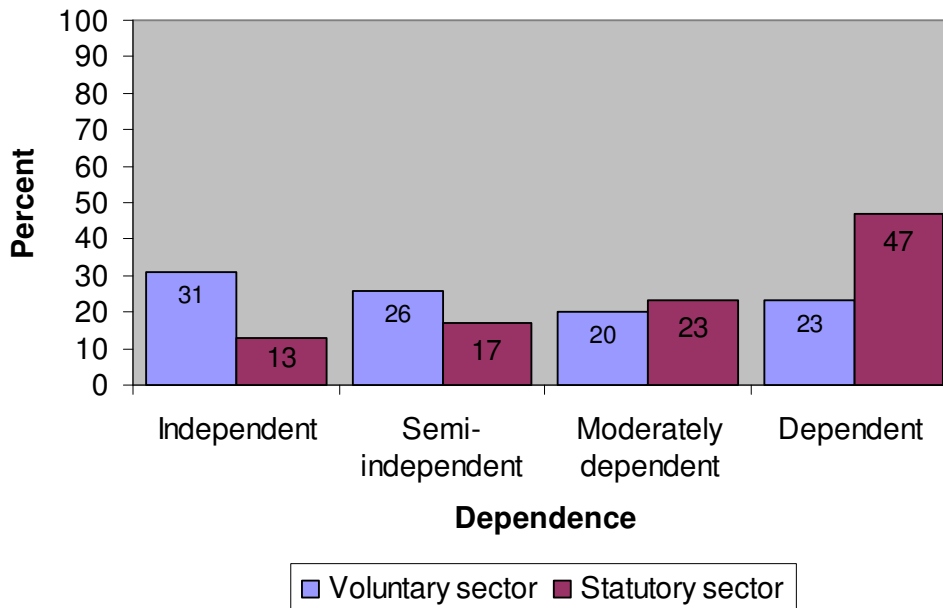
Structure funding	Voluntary sector		Statutory sector	
	n	%	n	%
ELB	1	3	19	59
HSST	3	8	-	-
DSD	1	3	-	-
EU funding	1	3	1	3
Lottery	3	8	-	-
Mix of the above	12	33	7	22
Other	15	42	5	16

There was no difference between the funding received and the ELB area that the structure was located. Table 15 shows the funding received by structures in the voluntary and statutory sectors. Most of the statutory sector structures were solely funded by the ELB, 1 received EU funding and the rest had other funding or a funding from a number of different sources. Funding for the voluntary sector structures varied, a structure in the voluntary sector actually received their funding from an ELB.

### Dependence of structure on a parent organisation or support body

The respondents were asked how they would describe the dependence of their structure on a parent organisation or support body. Most of the structures (32%) were dependent on a parent organisation or support body, 22% were independent from a support body. While 21% stated they were semi-independent and moderately independent.

**Graph 6: Dependence of structure on parent organisation or support body**



Graph 6 shows the responses by the voluntary and statutory sector structures to the question. This graph suggests that the voluntary sector structures are more independent than their statutory sector counterparts.

The responses of 'independent' and 'semi-independent' were joined together as were the categories of 'moderately dependent' and 'dependent'. The voluntary sector structures were significantly more likely to be independent or semi-independent than statutory sector structures. 58% of the voluntary sector structures were independent or semi-independent compared to 30% of statutory sector structures (see table 16)

<b>Dependence*</b>	<b>Voluntary sector</b>		<b>Statutory sector</b>	
	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
Independent or semi-independent	20	58	9	30*
Moderately dependent or dependent	15	43	21	70

There was no difference between the ELB area the structure was located and how dependent they were on a parent organisation or support body.

## **Key Findings**

- 29% of the structures were solely funded by the ELB.
- 28% received funding from a combination of sources.
- 4 respondents stated that their structure did not receive any funding at that present time.
- 32% were dependent on a parent organisation or support body
- 22% stated they were independent from a support body.
- 21% stated they were semi-independent
- 21% stated they were moderately independent.
- Voluntary sector structures were more likely to be independent or semi-independent than statutory sector structures.

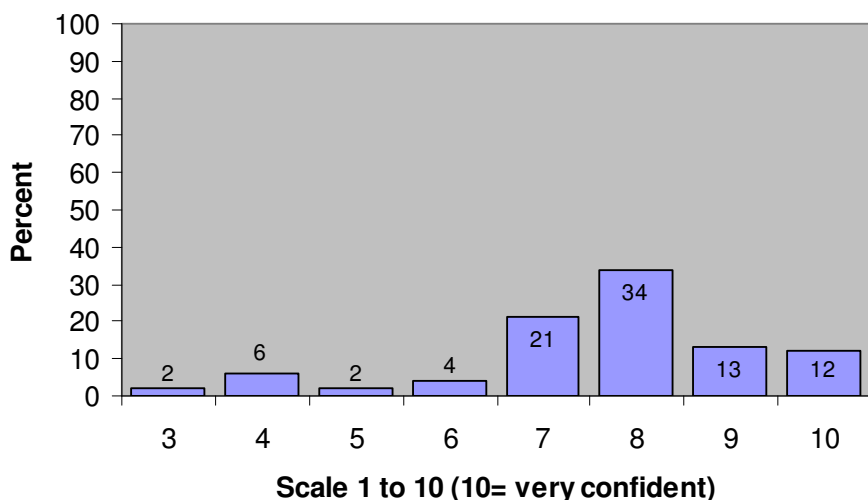
---

\* Three respondents did not answer the question, the total numbers therefore do not add to 68.

\* There is a statistically significant difference between the voluntary and statutory sector structures

## 4.9 Respondents confidence in operating the structure and improving the effectiveness of the structure

Graph 7: How confident is organisation in operating structure



Respondents were asked 'on a scale of 1 to 10 how confident (10 = very confident) is your organisation in operating the structure'. Responses ranged from 3 to 10 (see graph 7). The average score given was 7.7 and the median and mode were both 8. These findings suggest that most of the respondents are confident in running their structure. Nevertheless, there are some that could be perceived as having difficulties.

There was no significant difference between the respondents score and whether they were a structure based in the voluntary or statutory sector, there was also no significant difference in the score of the respondents in different ELB areas.

### Improving the effectiveness of the structure

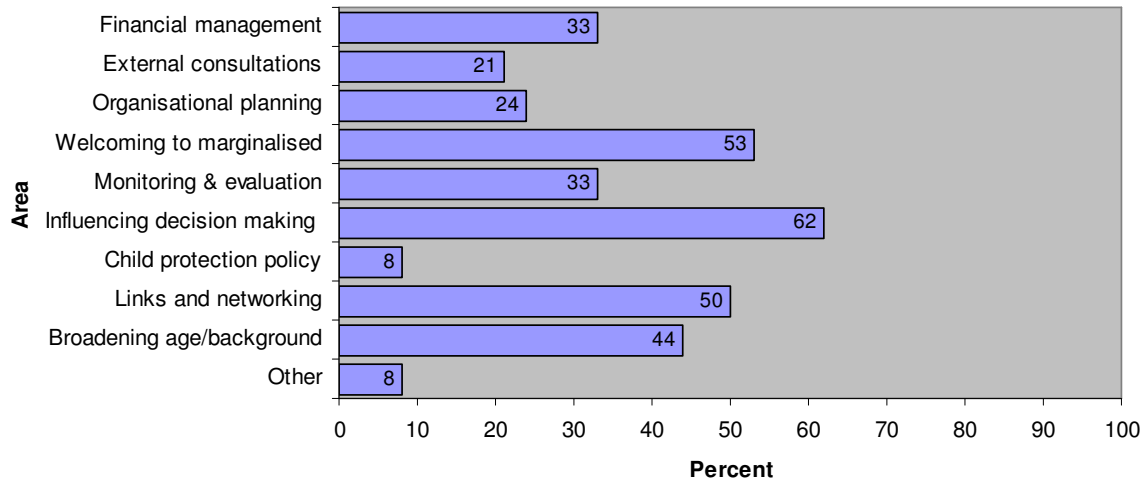
Respondents were asked if they wanted to increase the effectiveness of their structures what their priorities would be. The results can be seen in Graph 8. The priority that most respondents felt would increase the effectiveness of their structure was 'influencing decision making in your organisation, locally and beyond'. This was ticked by 62% of the respondents.

Around half of the structures stated that 'making the structure more welcoming to marginalised children and young people' (53%) and 'making links and networking with other children and young people's organisations' (50%) were priorities for their structure.

44% of the structures would like assistance in 'broadening the age range and/or background abilities of the structure's membership'. One third of the respondents felt their structures would benefit from 'financial management/funding options' and 'monitoring and evaluation of services', 24% would like assistance in 'organisational planning' and 21% would like assistance with external consultations.

The least popular priority was 'developing a child protection policy, procedures and training'. This was not unexpected as mentioned earlier (81%) of the structures have a specific child protection policy.

**Graph 8: Priorities to increase effectiveness of structure**



A number of respondents gave other priorities for increasing the effectiveness of their structure.

- Core funding
- Increased resources
- Dedicated staff support
- More training for a younger management committee
- Greater awareness of the benefits of a participative structure

*"Greater awareness of the role of young people in youth councils regionally and a clear public recognition and appreciation of such groups"* (Youth forum SELB)

*"Improved awareness of the project, both amongst our target group of young people and also amongst relevant organisations"* (Reference group in voluntary sector– at risk young people)

- Better ways for their structure members to communicate with young people

*"Ways in which the Volunteer Executive group best liaise with young people and engage in dialogue and joint decision making.*

(Reference group in voluntary sector– youth work organisation)

Table 17 shows the priorities that the voluntary and statutory sector structures stated would increase their effectiveness of their structure.

**Table 17: Priorities to increase effectiveness in voluntary and statutory sector structures**

Effectiveness	Voluntary sector		Statutory sector	
	n	%	n	%
Financial management/ funding options	14	40	9	28
External consultations	9	26	6	19
Organisational planning	11	31	5	16
Making the structure more welcoming to marginalised C&YP	16	46	20	63
Monitoring and evaluation of services	15	42	7	22
Influencing decision making in your organisation locally and beyond	18	51	24	75*
Developing a child protection policy, procedures and training	2	6	3	10
Making links and networking with other C&YP organisations	22	63	12	38*
Broadening age range and/or background/abilities of structures membership	15	43	14	44

The statutory sector structures were significantly more likely to state 'influencing decision making in your organisation, locally and beyond' as a priority.

The voluntary sector structures were significantly more likely to state 'making links and networking with other children and young people's organisations' was a priority. This links to the earlier finding that 81% of statutory sector structures networked/co-operated with other structures compared to 63% of the voluntary sector structures. A respondent from a voluntary sector structure commented how they would like to develop links in the future:

*"Looking to develop links with other organisations- we have operated in a vacuum for too long!!!"* (Youth council in voluntary sector –uniformed youth group)

A higher percentage of structures in the voluntary sector stated that priorities for assistance were financial management, external consultations, monitoring and evaluation and organisational planning. Interestingly, more statutory sector structures would like assistance in making their structure more welcoming to marginalised children and young people. This links to the earlier finding that statutory organisations were less likely than voluntary organisations to have children and young people from 11 of the 13 marginalised groups.

There was no difference between the structure location and what their priorities would be to increase the effectiveness of the structure (for a breakdown of figures see appendix 3).

---

\* There is a statistically significant difference between the voluntary and statutory sector structures

## **Children and young people's current involvement in the priority activities**

Respondents were asked if the children and young people in the structure were currently involved in activities which had been identified in the questionnaire as priority areas.

Nearly three quarters (73%) of the structures that would like assistance in external consultations already have children and young people involved in this activity and 59% of the structures that indicated that they would like assistance in monitoring and evaluation of services already have members that engage in this activity.

Nearly all (98%) of the structures that stated 'influencing decision making in their organisation, locally and beyond' was a priority already had children and young people engaged in this task. Furthermore, 94% of structures that would like assistance in organisational planning had young people involved in this activity. These findings suggest that structures need support with existing functions as well as developing new functions.

### **Key Findings**

- Most of the respondents were confident operating their structures.
- 62% of the respondents would like assistance in 'influencing decision making in your organisation, locally and beyond'
- 53% would like assistance 'making the structure more welcoming to marginalised children and young people'
- 50% would like assistance 'making links and networking with other children and young people's
- 44% would like assistance in 'broadening the age range and/or background abilities of the structure's membership'.
- The statutory sector structures were significantly more likely to state 'influencing decision making in your organisation, locally and beyond' as a priority.
- Voluntary sector structures were significantly more likely to state 'making links and networking with other children and young people's organisations' was a priority.
- 73% of the structures that would like assistance in external consultations already have children and young people involved in this activity.
- 59% of the structures that indicated that they would like assistance in monitoring and evaluation already engage children and young people in this activity.
- 98% of those who stated influencing decision making in their organisation, locally and beyond was a priority, already had children and young people engaged in this task.
- 94% of structures that would like assistance in organisational planning, already had young people involved in this activity.

## ○ 5.0 CONCLUSION

This audit found that there are participative structures for children and young people in nearly every district council area in Northern Ireland. The structures are located in both the statutory and voluntary sectors in a wide range of work areas. The audit found that children aged under 10 were not well represented in participative structures. PlayBoard staff spoke to various key people within the children's sector and there were uncertainties around whether these structures are appropriate mechanisms to involve children aged under 10 in decision-making.

Just over half of the respondents believed they could increase their effectiveness of their structure by being more welcoming to marginalised children and young people. Even though all the marginalised groups were present in the structures as a collective, the individual structures appear to be conscious that it is important their structure is representative of different sectors of society. This links in with the explanations given of the structures purpose, a function of which was very clear - to be representative of other children and young people. Similarly, over two-thirds would like to broaden the age range and ability of their membership, again the children and young people in the structure becoming more representative of their peers.

Interestingly, 47% of the structures had members with disabilities. This is a stark improvement from earlier studies. Local studies have reported that young disabled people are much less likely to be involved in youth provision than their non-disabled peers (Gordon 2004). Furthermore, nearly a third of the participative structures had representation from LGBT young people. This is proportionally higher than the number of LGBT people in the general population which is estimated at 6% (Campbell 2005). In general, marginalised/excluded children and young people are well represented in the structures, this may mean however, that the views of children and young people who are not from perceived marginalised or excluded groups are not as strong in the structures.

The most popular way to recruit children and young people to the structures was through word of mouth, the statutory sector structures were more likely to recruit young people to the structure via uniformed groups, voluntary youth groups, registered youth groups and detached youth work. The voluntary sector structures appeared to use other methods such as referrals and recruiting young people within in the organisation to attract new members.

Half of the structures would like assistance in networking and co-operating with other organisations. The voluntary sector structures were less likely to network and co-operate with other structures and predictably were more likely to state they would like assistance with networking and co-operation. While a few respondents outlined reasons why making links was not a priority for them, it was evident that some structures would benefit from this assistance. A major difficulty that respondents noted in networking and co-operating was finding information about other structures.

Most of the respondents were confident in operating the structure; however 18% gave a score of 6 or less (on a scale of 1 to 10 indicating their confidence). The priority that most respondents felt would increase the effectiveness of the structure was 'influencing decision making in your organisation, locally and beyond'. Statutory sector structures

were significantly more likely to state this as a priority. Indeed, 98% of those who stated they would like assistance in influencing decision making already had this as an activity the membership were involved in. In addition, 94% of those who stated they would like assistance in organisational planning, 73% that stated they would like assistance in external consultation and 59% that would like assistance in evaluation and monitoring already had children and young people involved in these tasks. This suggests that respondents would not only like assistance to develop new tasks but would also like assistance to improve their current functions.

A local study completed in 2000 which looked at young people's involvement in public decision making found that opportunities for children and young people's involvement was sporadic and initiatives tended to be short term and 'project' based (Green 2000). This study shows that there are now many permanent participative structures in place for children and young people to get involved in decision-making, over half of the structures in this sample were established in the last 3 years. These structures have young people from a range of marginalised groups and the structures are based in many different work areas. This is a very positive finding, nevertheless there is room for improvement and hopefully the Big Deal can go some way to help develop existing, new and emerging participative structures in Northern Ireland.

## 6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Guidance needs to be developed which provides assistance and support to participative structures on how to increase their effectiveness and signpost them to other sources of support and information.
- A resource of participative structures needs to be developed. This resource should have up to date contact details for all participative structures in Northern Ireland. An adult, child or young person who uses the resource should be able to search for a structure, geographically, thematically or by age range.
- The audit found that children aged under 10 were not well represented in participative structures. Further research is required to explore:
  - the appropriate mechanism to involve younger children.
  - other innovative ways for children and young people not represented on the structures to engage with and feed their views into the structures.
  - effective practice within the participative structures to see if it is age appropriate and where necessary find ways to make structures more child friendly incorporating playful age appropriate methods.
- The awareness of participative structures needs to be raised, the benefits of the structures need to be highlighted for children and young people, their parents and guardians, schools and the services that work with children and young people.
- This study should be repeated in three years time, to see if participative structures have changed with the advent of The Big Deal.
- Further research needs to be completed on other aspects of participative structures. It would be beneficial to find out more about how the structures function on a day to day basis; how many young people are actually involved in the structures; and the views of children and young people on participative structures.

## 7. REFERENCES

*A Shared Future, First Triennial Action Plan 2006-2009, Making it Happen – implementing the policy & strategic framework for good relations in Northern Ireland* (2006) Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister: Belfast available at 05 July 2007 [http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/triennial\\_action\\_plan.pdf](http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/triennial_action_plan.pdf)

Campbell, D (2005) '3.6m people in Britain are Gay-Official' *The Observer* Sunday December 11, 2005 accessed at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/gayrights/story/0,,1664827,00.html> 21 May 2007

Commonwealth Secretariat (2005) *One, Participation in the Second Decade of Life: What and Why?* Commonwealth Secretariat: London

Cutler, D (2001) *Taking the Initiative: Promoting young people's involvement in public decision making in the UK Carnegie Young People Initiative*: London

Gordon H (2004) The importance of being exclusive: Examples of youth work practice involving disabled people in Northern Ireland Disability Action & Disability Interagency Support Group: Belfast accessed at <http://www.disabilityaction.org/publications/The%20Importance%20of%20Being%20Inclusive.pdf> 21 May 2007

Green, R (2000) *Taking the Initiative: promoting young people's involvement in public decision making in Northern Ireland* Save the Children and Youth Council for Northern Ireland: Belfast

Hart, R (1992) *Children's Participation from Tokenism to Citizenship* Florence: UNICEF

Involve (2005) *People and Participation: How to put citizens at the heart of decision-making* Involve: London

Keenan, P. & Harvey C. (2003) *Turning up the sound: The feasibility of establishing a consortium to support the involvement of children and young people in public decision making processes*, Northern Ireland Youth Forum, Save the Children Northern Ireland, Youth Council for Northern Ireland, YouthNet: Belfast

Kirby et al (2003) *Building a Culture of Participation: Involving children and young people in policy, service planning, delivery and evaluation Handbook* Department for Education & Skills: London

*Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge: A ten year strategy for children and young people in Northern Ireland* (2006) Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister: Belfast. Available at [www.allchildrenni.gov.uk](http://www.allchildrenni.gov.uk)

*Policy for the Youth Service in Northern Ireland* (1987) Department of Education for Northern Ireland: Belfast

*Strategy for the Delivery of Youth Work in Northern Ireland 2005-2008* (2005) Department of Education: Belfast

Youth Council for Northern Ireland (YCNI) (1993) *Participation Youth Work Curriculum Guidelines* Youth Council for Northern Ireland: Belfast

# APPENDIX 1

## The Big Deal Audit of Participation Structures for Children & Young People

### Contact Person Details

**First name**  **Surname**  **Male**  **Female**

**Has the designated contact person any communication needs?** This might include textphone, sign language, large print, audiotape, Braille or another community language.

**Organisation**

**Web Address (if applicable)**

**Position in organisation**

**Contact address**

**Postcode**

**Contact phone number**

**Email Address**

**Mobile number**

**Fax**

**Please give a brief description of your organisation**

**1. Do you agree to the information you provide being shared on**  
Written report only<sup>1</sup>  A Big Deal database  A public database (e.g. website)

**2. Does the organisation have a participation structure<sup>2</sup> that brings together children, and/or young people (C&YP) regionally, sub-regionally or locally (but**

<sup>1</sup> The information you provide will only be presented in a collated form with the data from other organisations. Individual organisations will not be identifiable.

**involving children and/or young people from more than one unit, group, branch, club or project)**

YES  Go to Q 2c

NO  Go to Q 2a

**2a. Would you be interested in setting up a participative structure?**

YES  Go to Q 2b

NO  end of questionnaire

**2b. Do you have plans to establish such a participation structure in the next 12 months?**

YES  Briefly describe your plans below

NO  end of questionnaire

end \_\_\_\_\_ of

**2c. What type of structure?**

Children's/youth network

Children's/youth council

Children's/youth committee

Children's/youth forum

Reference group

Other ways of involving children and young people, please describe below

**3. How long has the structure been operating?**

0 to 12  months

13 to 24 months

25-36 months

37 months+

**4. What is the name of the structure?**

**5. Briefly, what is its purpose?**

**6. What is the age group of the children and young people involved? (Tick all boxes that apply)**

0-10  11-16  17-25

---

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this questionnaire a participation structure does not have to be a formal structure. This can mean any way of involving children and/or young people in governance, planning, management or decision-making.

**7. On average, how often does the structure meet in a year?**

Weekly  Monthly  Quarterly  Annually  When required

**8. Are young people from any of the following groups of children and/or young people represented or members of the structure? Tick all that apply.**

Group	X	Group	X	Group	X
With disabilities		Looked after		Refugee	
Care leaver		Young parent		Homeless	
Rural area		Black & ethnic minority		Carer	
Young offender		Lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender (LGBT)		Targeting social need (TSN) area	
Travelling community					
<i>Other, please indicate</i>					

**9. From the list below select the type of activities that the children and/or young people are involved in**

Activities	X	Activities	X	Activities	X
Influence decision making		Recruitment		External consultations	
Organisational planning		Staff appraisals and training		Monitoring and evaluation of services	
Producing information about organisation		Delivery of service e.g. peer mentoring & welcoming			
<i>Other, please indicate</i>					

**10. On a scale of 1 to 10 how confident (10 = very confident) is your organisation in operating this structure**

\_\_\_\_\_

**11. How does your organisation recruit children and young people to the structure?**

Recruit through	X	Recruit through	X	Recruit through	X
Registered youth clubs		Outreach work		Schools	
Voluntary youth clubs		Detached youth work		Friends and family	
Uniformed groups		Word of mouth		After school club	
Community sector		Playgroup		PR & Advertising	
<i>Other, please indicate</i>					

**12. Does your structure have a membership criteria/ membership recruitment policy?**

YES  Go to Q 12a NO  Go to Q 13

**12a. Is this a written document?**

YES  NO

**13. Does the structure have a specific child protection policy and procedure?**

YES  Go to Q 13a NO  Go to Q 13b

**13a. Is this a written document?**

YES  Go to Q 14 NO  Go to Q 14

**13b. Does the structure come under a lead organisations policy and procedure?**

YES  NO

**14. Does the structure have a governing document, for example, a constitution or set of rules which sets out the purpose, roles and responsibilities of the structure and its members?**

YES  Go to Q 14a NO  Go to Q 14b

**14a. Is this a written document?**

YES  Go to Q 15 NO  Go to Q 14b

**14b. Briefly describe how the roles and responsibilities are agreed and carried out**

**15. How would you describe the dependence of the structure on a parent organisation or other support body?**

Independent  Semi-independent  Moderately dependent  Dependent

**16. Does the structure currently network, co-operate or work in partnership with any other similar children's/youth participation structures?**

YES  If Yes, briefly describe who this is with and what you network/co operate on.

NO  If No, briefly describe any blockages there may be to such co-operation /networking.

**17. Does the structure have its own bank account?**

YES  Go to Q 17a NO  Go to Q 18

**17a. How many signatories are required to make a payment?**

1  2  3

**17b. Are the signatories:**

All Under 25  Under 25 & over 25  All Over 25

**18. How is the structure resourced/funded?**

Resources/Funding	X	Resources/Funding	X	Resources/Funding	X
ELB		Dept Social Development		Lottery	
HSST		EU funding		Mix of the above	
<i>Other, please indicate</i>					

**19. Does the structure employ staff?**

YES  Go to Q 19a NO  Go to Q 20

**19a. How many are:**

Part-time

Full-time

**20. Does the structure receive adult support from, example, a youth worker, play worker, social worker, volunteer leader?**

YES  Go to Q 20a

NO  Go to Q 21

**20a. Briefly describe the type of support provided in the box below**

**21. If you wanted to increase the effectiveness of the structure, which of the following areas would be a priority for you? (Tick all that apply)**

<b>Assistance in</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Assistance in</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Assistance in</b>	<b>X</b>
Broadening age range and/or background/abilities of the structures membership		Influencing decision making in your organisation locally and beyond		Organisational planning	
Making links and networking with other C&YP organisations		Monitoring and evaluation of services		External consultations	
Developing a child protection policy, procedures and training		Making the structure more welcoming to marginalised C&YP		Financial management/ Funding options	
<i>Other, please indicate</i>					

## APPENDIX 2 – PARTICIPATIVE STRUCTURES

### **Antrim Youth Council**

Noel Gallagher  
Senior Youth worker  
Antrim Youth Projects Office  
2A Castle Street  
Antrim BT41 4JE  
028 9442 8003  
[noel.gallagher@neelb.org.uk](mailto:noel.gallagher@neelb.org.uk)

**Ballymena Youth Bank** (Local Youth Banks, Youth Bank Forum, Youthbank Ireland network and Youthbank UK network)

Karina Pieterston  
Ballymena youth bank co-ordinator  
Glendun Drive  
Ballymena  
BT43 6SR  
028 2565 1032  
07809 297988  
[karina@ballymenacommunityforum.org](mailto:karina@ballymenacommunityforum.org)

### **Ballymoney Youth Council**

**Ballymoney Youth Council**  
Ciara McKay  
Temporary co-ordinator/Secretary  
9a Abbey Street  
Area Youth Offices  
Co.Londonderry BT52 1DS  
07821 771 424  
[ciamckay@hotmail.com](mailto:ciamckay@hotmail.com)

### **Banbridge and District Youth Council**

David Mc Crory  
Senior Youth Worker  
C/o Banbridge Youth Centre  
Hill Street  
Banbridge BT32 4DP  
028 4066 9503  
[banbridgesyw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:banbridgesyw@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Barnardo's Northern Ireland Refer 2 Us**

Rhoda Cassidy  
Participation Development Worker  
542-544 Upper Newtownards Road  
Belfast  
BT4 3HE  
028 9067 2366  
[rhoda.cassidy@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:rhoda.cassidy@barnardos.org.uk)

### **Barnardo's disabled children and young persons participation project**

Rosemary Murray  
Childrens services manager  
The Children & Young Person's Centre  
Dobbin Street  
Armagh BT61 7QQ  
028 3751 2023  
[rosemary.murray@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:rosemary.murray@barnardos.org.uk)

### **Belfast City Council Youth Forum**

Chris Quinn  
Children & Young People's Co-ordinator  
5th Floor Cecil Ward Building  
4-10 Linenhall Street  
Belfast BT2 8BP  
028 9050 0521  
07771 738 607  
[quinnchris@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:quinnchris@belfastcity.gov.uk)

### **Bytes Centre - 'user' committes**

Charlene Loughlin  
Administrator  
Twin Spiers Complex  
Unit 5, Filor Building  
155 Northumberland Street Belfast, BT13 2JF  
028 9028 8810  
[admin@bytes.org](mailto:admin@bytes.org)

### **Carrickfergus Youth Council**

Gavin Campbell  
Chairperson  
134a Ballyclare Road  
Newtownabbey  
BT36 5HP  
028 9084 0971

**Children's Law Centre - Youth@clc**

Paddy Kelly  
Director  
123/137 York Street  
Belfast  
BT15 1AB  
028 9024 5704  
[paddykelly@childrenslawcentre.org](mailto:paddykelly@childrenslawcentre.org)

**Chinese Welfare Association - Open Meeting**

Johnny Ashe  
Youth Worker  
133-135 University Street  
Belfast  
BT7 1HP  
028 9028 8277  
[youth@cwa-ni.org](mailto:youth@cwa-ni.org)

**CLIC Sargent Youth Forum**

Lindsay Bagwell  
Youth Development Worker  
3rd Floor, 31 Bruce Street  
Great Victoria Street  
Belfast BT2 7JD  
028 9072 5780  
07716 779 653  
[lindsay.bagwell@clicsargent.org.uk](mailto:lindsay.bagwell@clicsargent.org.uk)

**Cliftonville Community Empowerment Partnership (CCEP) Youth Forum**

Catherine O'Kane  
Youth Co-ordinator  
185 Clifton Park Avenue  
Belfast  
BT14 6DT  
028 9074 9147  
07999 995 613  
[catherine.ccrf@btconnect.com](mailto:catherine.ccrf@btconnect.com)

**Coleraine Youth Forum**

Brendan Patterson  
Youth Development Worker  
The Base  
18 Waterside  
Coleraine BT51 3DP  
028 7032 7084  
07917 166 023  
[youth.forum@btconnect.com](mailto:youth.forum@btconnect.com)

**Corpus Christi YC - Corpus Christi members forum**

Stephen Hughes  
Youth worker  
15-17 Ballymurphy Road  
Belfast  
BT12 7JL  
028 9033 0246  
07850 039104  
[corpusyouthclub@btconnect.com](mailto:corpusyouthclub@btconnect.com)

**Cruse Bereavement Care - Cruse Youth Advisory Group**

Elaine Roub  
Regional Co-ordinator of Children and Young People's Services  
Piney Ridge  
Knockbracken Health Care Park  
Belfast BT8 8BH  
028 9079 2419  
[elaine.roub@cruse.org.uk](mailto:elaine.roub@cruse.org.uk)

**Derry City Shadow Council**

Karen Johnston Smith  
co-ordinator  
The Junction  
8 Bishop Street  
Derry/Londonderry BT48 6PW  
028 7136 1942  
028 7126 4641  
[kjohnstonsmith@thejunction-ni.org](mailto:kjohnstonsmith@thejunction-ni.org)

**Down District Volunteer Centre - Down District Voluntary Youth Forum**

Janine Connolly  
Youth Project officer  
31a St Patrick's Avenue  
Downpatrick  
BT30 6DW  
028 4461 9122  
[info@downdistrictvb.org](mailto:info@downdistrictvb.org)

**Dungannon Youth Council (DAFFY)**

Eithna McCracken  
Unit 2  
4 Church Lane  
Dungannon BT71 6AA  
028 8772 2167  
[eithna.mccracken@selb.org](mailto:eithna.mccracken@selb.org)

**East Belfast Area Youth Project -  
East Belfast Youth Forum**

Alan Wilson  
Senior Youth Worker  
c/o Avoneil Primary school  
Avoneil Road  
Belfast BT5 6SF  
028 9073 1854  
[ebayp@belb.co.uk](mailto:ebayp@belb.co.uk)

**Fermanagh Shadow Youth Council**

Diane Noble  
Project Worker  
Intec Centre  
36 East Bridge Street  
Enniskillen BT74 7BT  
028 6634 3946  
07841 106 575  
[info@fsyc.net](mailto:info@fsyc.net)

**Fermanagh Young People's Council**

Richard O'Neill  
Senior Youth Worker  
The Lakeland Youth Centre  
Wellington Road  
Enniskillen BT74 7HL  
028 6632 6932  
[lakeland\\_youthcentre@welbni.org](mailto:lakeland_youthcentre@welbni.org)

**Future Voices**

Peter McNiece  
Young adult support worker  
The Gordon Wilson Centre  
97 Malone Avenue  
Belfast BT9 6EQ  
028 9066 2926  
07843 576732  
[info@futurevoices.org.uk](mailto:info@futurevoices.org.uk)

**Gay and Lesbian Youth Northern  
Ireland**

Liam Larmour  
Volunteer leader in charge  
c/o Cathedral Buildings  
64 Donegall Street  
Belfast BT1 2GT  
07884 308 557  
[liamlarmour@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:liamlarmour@hotmail.co.uk)

**Glebeside Youth Forum**

Ian McFee  
Glebeside Community Development  
Officer  
18 Belford Park  
Ballymoney, BT53 6HR  
028 2766 7624  
[glebesideca@hotmail.com](mailto:glebesideca@hotmail.com)

**Girl Guiding Ulster Reach- Youth  
Forum**

Claire Bradley  
Executive Manager  
Lorne House  
Station Road  
Holywood BT18 0BP  
028 9042 5212  
[claire@girlguidingulster.org.uk](mailto:claire@girlguidingulster.org.uk)

**Girl's Brigade Northern Ireland -  
National Youth Council (NYC)**

Chloe Hemphill  
Director  
C2, Kilbegs Business Park  
Ferguson Drive  
Antrim BT41 4NN  
028 9454 8054  
[chloe@gbni.co.uk](mailto:chloe@gbni.co.uk)

**Greater Village Regeneration Trust -  
Village to Barrington Youth Forum  
(V2B)**

Healy King  
Youth Project co-Ordinator  
337 Donegall Road  
Belfast, BT12 6FQ  
028 9033 3527  
[healy.king@gvrt.org](mailto:healy.king@gvrt.org)

**Include Youth - The Young Voices  
Project**

Mat Crozier  
Young Voices Development Worker  
Alpha House  
3 Rosemary Street  
Belfast BT1 1QA  
028 9031 1007  
07894 693 341  
[mat@includeyouth.org](mailto:mat@includeyouth.org)

**Lisburn YMCA "Apart of Project" -  
Lisburn extended schools cluster  
forum**

Kevin Hughes  
Youth Department Manager  
28 Market Square  
Lisburn  
BT28 1AG  
028 9267 0918  
07806 776198  
[kevin@lisburnymca.com](mailto:kevin@lisburnymca.com)

**Mourne Youth Forum**

Paul Bradley  
Facilitator  
Youth Info Centre  
81a Hill Street  
Newry BT34 3AS  
028 3026 8132  
07710 835 513  
[newryyouthinfo@dnet.co.uk](mailto:newryyouthinfo@dnet.co.uk)

**NEELB - Sunlea Youth Project**

Jim McCartney  
Team leader/Senior youth worker  
Sunlea Youth Projects Office  
180 Ballycastle Road  
Coleraine BT52 2NL  
028 7035 1599  
07720 717255  
[jim.mccartney@neelb.org.uk](mailto:jim.mccartney@neelb.org.uk)

**NEELB - Magherafelt & District  
Youth Council**

Allen Fleming  
Senior Youth Worker  
Magherafelt Youth Office  
Unit 14, Workspace, 80-82 Rainey Sreet  
Magherafelt BT45 5AH  
028 7930 0235  
07933 477695  
[allen.fleming@neelb.org.uk](mailto:allen.fleming@neelb.org.uk)

**Newstart Education Centre -  
Alternative Education Provider (AEP)  
Youth Forum**

Mairead McCafferty  
Manager  
Unit 13/1 Blackstaff Complex  
77 Springfield Road  
BT12 7AE  
028 9031 5674  
[newstartedu@hotmail.com](mailto:newstartedu@hotmail.com)

**Newtownabbey Youth Centre -  
Newtownabbey Youth Council**

Mark Coiley  
Vice chairperson  
367 Merville Garden Village  
Newtownabbey, BT37 9TZ  
07849 772911  
07849 572 911  
[surger\\_2004@hotmail.com](mailto:surger_2004@hotmail.com)

**NICCY Youth Panel (NYP)**

Ken Smyth  
Participation Manager  
Millenium House  
17-25 Great Victoria Street  
Belfast BT2 7BA  
028 9031 6390  
[ken@niccy.org](mailto:ken@niccy.org)

**NICHS**

Jackie Chalk  
Director  
547 Antrim Road  
Belfast, BT15 3BU  
028 9037 0373  
[jackie.chalk@nichs.org](mailto:jackie.chalk@nichs.org)

**North Down YMCA - North Down  
YMCA Youth Forum**

Geoff Phillips  
Leader in charge  
39 Queens Parade  
Bangor, BT20 3BJ  
028 9145 4290  
[geoff@northdownymca.org](mailto:geoff@northdownymca.org)

**Northern Ireland Youth Forum -  
NIYF Executive committee**

Stuart Mullan  
Director  
68 Berry Street  
Belfast, BT1 1FJ  
028 9033 1990  
07782 560 190  
[stuart@niyf.org](mailto:stuart@niyf.org)

**Off the Streets Community Initiative  
- Galliagh Youth Forum**

Alison McDaid  
Youth Outreach worker  
131 Galliagh Park  
Derry  
BT48 8DF  
028 7135 8048  
[offthestreetsinitiative@hotmail.com](mailto:offthestreetsinitiative@hotmail.com)

**Omagh & Strabane Youth Councils**

Mary McGarrigle  
Facilitator  
Strabane Youth Office  
Unit 9  
Upper Main Street Strabane  
028 7138 2096  
[mary\\_mcgarrigle@welbni.org](mailto:mary_mcgarrigle@welbni.org)

**REACH across - Reach Across youth  
committee**

Brian McGuigan  
Youth Co-ordinator  
21 The Diamond  
L'Derry  
BT48 6HP  
028 7128 0048  
[reach\\_across@hotmail.com](mailto:reach_across@hotmail.com)

**SEELB NCD Youth Council  
(Newcastle, Castlewella and  
Dundrum)**

Sean Irving, Area Youth Worker  
Down Youth Office  
2-4 English Street  
Downpatrick BT61 6AB  
028 4461 3754  
07734 282 272  
[sean.irving@seelb.org.uk](mailto:sean.irving@seelb.org.uk)

**SEELB Ards Youth Forum**

Winston Ward  
Senior Youth Worker  
Ards Arena  
62 South Street  
Newtownards BT23

**SEELB Ballynahinch Youth Council**

Michael Robinson  
Senior Youth Worker  
Down Youth Office  
2-4 English Street  
Downpatrick BT30  
028 4461 3754 / 028 97560857  
[michael.robinson@seelb.org.uk](mailto:michael.robinson@seelb.org.uk)

**SEELB Down Youth Forum**

Michael Robinson  
Senior Youth Worker  
Down Youth Office  
2-4 English Street  
Downpatrick BT30  
028 4461 3754 / 028 97560857  
[michael.robinson@seelb.org.uk](mailto:michael.robinson@seelb.org.uk)

**SELB Visions 4 2 more**

Rosie Carey  
Senior Youth Worker  
Armagh/ Newry & Mourne Youth Office  
Newry Teachers Centre  
Newry, BT34 1EE  
028 3025 3162  
[rosie.carey@selb.org](mailto:rosie.carey@selb.org)

**SELB South Armagh Youth Council**

Rosie Carey  
Senior Youth Worker  
Armagh/ Newry & Mourne Youth Office  
Newry Teachers Centre  
Newry, BT34 1EE  
028 3025 3162  
[rosie.carey@selb.org](mailto:rosie.carey@selb.org)

**SELB & The Big Deal - SELB Youth Stakeholder's Forum**

Drew Neill  
Senior Youth Worker Participation  
Craigavon/Banbridge Youth Office  
Bann House, Bridge Street  
Portadown BT63 5AX  
028 3833 8556  
07894 067 883  
[drew@niyf.org](mailto:drew@niyf.org) or [drew.neill@selb.org](mailto:drew.neill@selb.org)

**SELB Craigavon District Youth Council**

Eamonn Fleming  
Senior Youth Worker  
Bann House  
Bridge Street  
Portadown BT63 5AE  
028 3833 8556  
[eamonn.fleming@selb.org](mailto:eamonn.fleming@selb.org)

**SELB Youth Service Armagh District**

Colette Ross  
Senior Youth Worker, Armagh District  
39 Abbey Street  
Armagh BT61 7DY  
028 3752 3632  
[colette.ross@selb.org](mailto:colette.ross@selb.org)

**SELB Cookstown Youth Council W.H.O.S.**

Jimmy McCann  
Senior Youth Worker  
Unit 2 Cookstown Enterprise Centre  
Derryloran Industrial Estate  
Cookstown BT80 9LU  
028 8675 7168  
07742 420 348  
[mccannj.cookstownnyo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mccannj.cookstownnyo@hotmail.co.uk)

**South Belfast Area Youth Project - Steering committee**

Anita Duff  
Senior Youth Worker  
C/o Finaghy Youth Centre  
59-73 Finaghy Road South  
Belfast BT10 0BY  
028 9061 1460  
07739 075 581  
[southbelfastareaproject@hotmail.com](mailto:southbelfastareaproject@hotmail.com)

**The Big Deal Children & Young People's Forum**

Leighann McConville  
Children & Young People's Forum Worker  
68 Berry Street  
Belfast, BT1 1FJ  
028 9033 1990  
07894 067 884  
[leighann@niyf.org](mailto:leighann@niyf.org)

**The E Go project**

Catherine Donaghy  
Project co-ordinator  
12b Foundry Lane  
Omagh, BT78 1ED  
028 8225 9333  
[info@theegoproject.com](mailto:info@theegoproject.com)

**The National Autistic Society - Northern Ireland Social Programmes**

Anne-Marie McAlorum  
Social Programmes Manager  
57a Botanic Avenue  
Belfast, BT7 1LJ  
028 9026 2962  
07917 227 938  
[anne-marie.mcalorum@nas.org.uk](mailto:anne-marie.mcalorum@nas.org.uk)

**UK Youth Parliament**

Debbie Francey  
Northern Ireland Co-ordinator  
c/o Northern Ireland Youth Forum  
68 Berry Street  
Belfast BT1 1FJ  
028 9033 1990  
07736 842 498  
[debbie@niyf.org](mailto:debbie@niyf.org)

**Voluntary Arts Ireland - Young Arts Creativity Co-operative(YACC)**

Pauline Matthew  
Young Arts Co-ordinator  
c/o 12 English street  
Downpatrick  
BT30 6AB  
028 4483 9327  
[pauline@vairreland.org](mailto:pauline@vairreland.org)

**WELB Limavady Youth Council**

Majella Shiels  
Senior Youth Worker  
2a Ballyquin Road  
Limavady, BT49 9ET  
028 7776 0930  
[majellashiels@btinternet.com](mailto:majellashiels@btinternet.com)

**WELB CAW Youth Development Committee**

Marc Giboney  
Youth Worker in Charge  
Caw Youth Centre  
69 Seymour Gardens  
Londonderry BT47 6ND  
028 7134 5270  
[caw\\_yc@welbni.org](mailto:caw_yc@welbni.org)

**WELB & The Big Deal WELB Youth Stakeholder Forum**

Michelle Reid  
Senior Youth Worker, Participation  
Derry Area Youth Office  
Embassy Building 2nd Floor  
3 Strand Road Derry, BT48 7BH  
028 7127 1932  
07894 246 620  
[michelle\\_reid@welbni.org](mailto:michelle_reid@welbni.org) or  
[michelle@niyf.org](mailto:michelle@niyf.org)

**WELB Youth Information Service - Foyle Youth Council**

Stephen Quigley  
Service Manager  
40 Dungiven Road  
Waterside  
Derry BT47 6BW  
028 7131 3444  
[stephen\\_quigley@welbni.org](mailto:stephen_quigley@welbni.org)

**Young Citizens in Action - YCIA management committee**

Roisin Timlin  
Senior Project Worker  
34 Shaftsbury Square  
Belfast  
BT2 7DB  
028 9020 0850  
[roisin@vsb.org.uk](mailto:roisin@vsb.org.uk)

**Youth Action Northern Ireland**

Martin McMullan  
Assistant director- Youth Work Strategy  
14 College Square North  
Belfast  
BT1 6AR  
028 9024 0551  
[martin@youthaction.org](mailto:martin@youthaction.org)

**Youth Initiatives Youth Forum**

Colm Fanning  
Volunteer Co-ordinator  
Cloona House  
31 Colin Road  
Belfast BT17 0LG  
028 9030 1174  
[colm@youthinitiatives.com](mailto:colm@youthinitiatives.com)

**Youth Participation Project - Young people's steering group**

Hugh Doyle  
Project Manager  
1 St Columba's Terrace  
High Road  
Letterkenny Donegal  
00 353 7491 03255  
00 353 87 904 9179  
[hugh.doyle@mailb.hse.ie](mailto:hugh.doyle@mailb.hse.ie)

**Youthcom youth forum**

Joe McKeown  
Faith Development Officer  
68 Berry Street  
Belfast  
BT1 1FJ  
028 9023 2432  
[joemckeown@youthcom.org](mailto:joemckeown@youthcom.org)

**Zest - Service users volunteer group**

Noella McConnellogue  
Service manager/counsellor  
15a Queen Street  
Derry  
BT48 7EQ  
028 7126 6999  
[zestni@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zestni@yahoo.co.uk)

## APPENDIX 3

Involvement in activities	SELB (n)	WELB (n)	NEELB (n)	SEELB (n)	BELB (n)	Vol		Stat	
						n	%	n	%
Monitoring & evaluation of services	7	9	7	4	20	25	69	22	69
External consultations	9	7	6	3	17	19	53	23	72
Delivery of service e.g peer welcoming and monitoring	8	9	4	7	16	25	69	19	59
Staff appraisals/training	1	2	3	1	4	8	22	3	9
Recruitment	5	7	4	3	11	14	39	16	50
Producing information about organisation	6	10	7	3	17	22	61	21	66
Organisational planning	8	11	9	6	23	31	86	26	81
Influence decision making	11	14	9	8	24	35	97	31	97

Marginalised group	SELB (n)	WELB (n)	NEELB (n)	SEELB (n)	BELB (n)	Vol		Stat	
						n	%	n	%
TSN	8	11	8	7	19	26	77	27	84
Young Carer	6	-	1	-	6	7	21	6	19
Homeless	1	2	-	-	4	6	18	7	3
Refugee	-	-	-	-	3	3	9	-	-
LGBT	5	4	2	1	10	12	35	10	31
Black and ethnic minority	1	5	2	1	8	10	29	7	22
Young parent	3	3	3	-	11	15	44	5	16
Looked after	2	-	3	2	6	9	27	4	13
Travelling community	1	1	-	-	5	5	15	2	6
Young offender	1	2	4	-	10	12	35	5	16
Rural area	10	10	8	6	9	17	50	26	81*
Care leaver	3	3	1	-	6	7	21	6	18
With disabilities	6	4	3	3	16	19	56	13	41

\* There is a statistically significant difference between the voluntary and statutory sectors

Time structure has been operating	SELB (n)	WELB (n)	NEELB (n)	SEELB (n)	BELB (n)	Vol		Stat	
						n	%	n	%
37+ months	5	6	5	3	11	17	50	13	40
25 to 36 months	1	4	1	1	5	6	18	6	19
13 to 24 months	3	1	1	2	3	4	12	6	19
0 to 12 months	2	3	1	2	6	7	21	7	22

Recruitment	SELB (n)	WELB (n)	NEELB (n)	SEELB (n)	BELB (n)	Vol		Stat	
						n	%	n	%
PR & advertising	9	6	6	4	15	21	60	19	54
After school club	-	2	-	1	3	5	14	1	3
Friends and family	6	5	6	4	9	13	37	17	53
Schools	6	8	6	5	13	18	51	20	63
Playgroup	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-
Word of mouth	9	8	7	7	18	25	71	24	75
Detached youth work	3	6	5	2	5	7	20	14	44*
Outreach work	4	6	5	5	12	17	49	15	47
Community sector	8	8	6	4	16	20	57	22	69
Uniformed groups	5	3	6	6	7	10	29	17	53*
Voluntary youth groups	9	9	6	7	13	18	51	26	81*
Registered youth groups	10	8	6	6	14	16	46	28	88*

Structure funding	SELB (n)	WELB (n)	NEELB (n)	SEELB (n)	BELB (n)	Vol		Stat	
						n	%	n	%
ELB	5	6	4	5	-	1	3	19	59
HSST	1	1	1	-	-	3	8	-	-
DSD	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	-	-
EU funding	-	1	1	-	-	1	3	1	3
Lottery	-	-	-	-	3	3	8	-	-
Mix of the above	5	2	2	2	8	12	33	7	22
Other	-	3	1	2	14	15	42	5	16

Dependence of structure	SELB (n)	WELB (n)	NEELB (n)	SEELB (n)	BELB (n)	Vol		Stat	
						n	%	n	%
Independent	1	4	4	2	4	11	31	4	13
Semi-independent	2	2	3	1	6	9	26	5	17
Moderately dependent	2	3	1	2	6	7	20	7	23
Dependent	6	5	1	4	6	8	23	14	47

Effectiveness	SELB (n)	WELB (n)	NEELB (n)	SEELB (n)	BELB (n)	Vol		Stat	
						n	%	n	%
Financial management	3	4	4	4	8	14	40	9	28
External consultations	4	2	2	3	4	9	26	6	19
Organisational planning	3	3	3	1	6	11	31	5	16
Welcoming to marginalised	6	9	7	4	9	16	46	20	63
Monitoring and evaluation	4	4	2	2	10	15	42	7	22
Influencing decision making	8	11	7	5	11	18	51	24	75*
Child protection policy	2	1	-	-	2	2	6	3	10
Links and networking	6	6	6	1	15	22	63	12	38*
Broadening age/background	6	4	4	5	10	15	43	14	44

# THE BIG DEAL CONTACTS

## Play Quest programme

The Big Deal  
 PlayBoard  
 59-65 York Street  
 Belfast BT15 1AA  
**t:** 028 9080 3380  
**f:** 028 9080 3381  
**e:** playboard@thebigdealni.com  
**w:** www.thebigdealni.com

## 11-16 & 17-25 Strategies

The Big Deal  
 N I Youth Forum  
 68 Berry Street  
 Belfast BT1 1FJ  
**t:** 028 9033 1990  
**f:** 028 9023 8157  
**e:** niyf@thebigdealni.com  
**w:** www.thebigdealni.com

## Children and Young People's Forum

The Big Deal  
 N I Youth Forum  
 68 Berry Street  
 Belfast BT1 1FJ  
**t:** 028 9033 1990  
**f:** 028 9023 8157  
**e:** cypf@thebigdealni.com  
**w:** www.thebigdealni.com

## Small Grants programme

The Big Deal  
 Youthnet  
 5th Floor, 20 Adelaide Street  
 Belfast BT2 8GD  
**t:** 028 9033 1880  
**f:** 028 9033 1977  
**e:** info@thebigdealni.com  
**w:** www.thebigdealni.com