



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

**Summary
Report**

May 2007



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INTRODUCTION

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

The aim of the audit is threefold:

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

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 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 Children and Young People's Forum has been established to ensure the target groups full and effective participation in the running of The Big Deal. 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, management and decision-making;
- 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 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 & 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 PlayBoard's team of Play Rangers across a wide range of settings who cater for children in the 0-10 age range. This element of The Big Deal programme aims to increase children's participation and is underpinned by the principles and values of effective playwork. Play Quest will support children, parents and practitioners to achieve effective participation through play innovation.

Play Rangers work in settings over a period of one week to deliver a tailored programme designed to empower children. Participants will be supported to explore play work methods to create opportunities for children to become involved in meaningful decision-making. For example, to help an organisation to increase its capacity to include and engage

with children who would not traditionally participate in its activities and services and/or help it make links with other settings who work with children in a geographical area or community of interest. All aspects of the programme will be monitored and evaluated to ensure positive outcomes for children, practitioners and organisations.

11-16 and 17-25 Strategy

The 11-16 and 17-25 Age Specific Programmes are delivered by the Northern Ireland Youth Forum supported by the Education and Library Boards (ELBs). A Participation Hub 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 also 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.

At its simplest, participation means 'taking part' and in The Big Deal small grant's programme it is about taking part in projects that children and young people plan and decide what it is they want to do, when, where and how!

Further information on The Big Deal and a copy of the full audit report is available at www.thebigdealni.com



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.

METHODOLOGY

The data for this study was collected through a 21 question self-completion questionnaire. Questionnaires were emailed or posted if an email address was not available. The questionnaire was open for completion from December 2006 to April 2007 and was primarily issued to staff and volunteers known to play a co-ordination and support role to the structure.

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.

A total of 78 returned questionnaires were received, 68 respondents stated that they had a participative structure.

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

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.

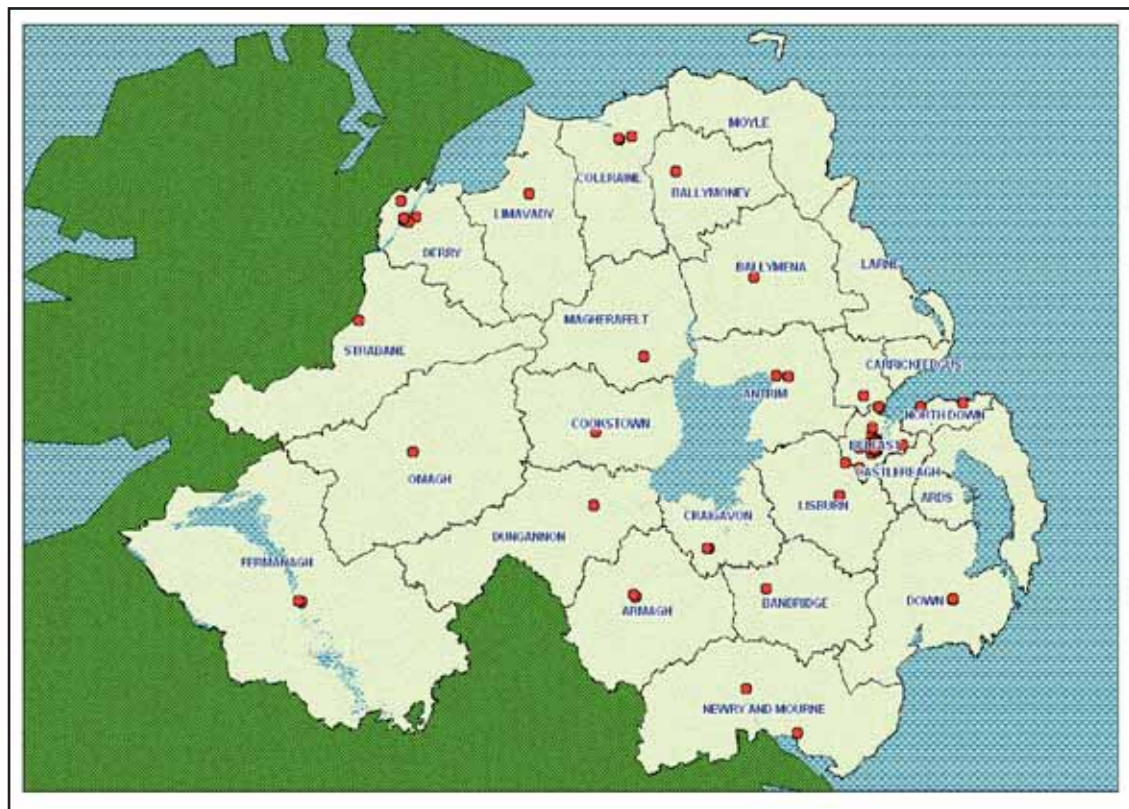
- o 2 questionnaires were received after the closing date and were not included in the analysis but are included in the list of respondents.
- o The Big Deal team is aware of 9 participative structures that did not return the questionnaire.
- o 5 youth councils/forums were not functioning when the questionnaire was open for completion.
- o Most of the 14 Community Empowerment Partnerships (CEP) in North Belfast were in the process of setting up a youth forum/council when the questionnaire was open for completion.

- o Some of the PSNI district areas were in the process of developing participative structures when the questionnaire was open for completion.
- o 3 organisations that do not currently have a participative structure responded. They would like to set up a structure in the next 12 months.

AUDIT RESPONSES

Where are the participative structures located?

The 68 participative structures that responded are located across Northern Ireland. The locations of the structures are illustrated on the map below.



In which District Councils areas do the participative structures function?

Table 1 shows the numbers of participative structures (both voluntary and statutory) which function in each district council area.

- o In this sample there are only 3 district council areas that do not have a participative structure.

Note: The Big Deal staff team believe there are participative structures in these areas. Efforts were made to include these structures in the audit, however responses were not received.

- o 21 of the 36 voluntary sector structures were located within the BELB area.

Note: These structures and some of the statutory sector structures may 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.



Table 1: Structures in district council areas

NEELB	n	vol	stat
Carrickfergus	1	0	1
Newtownabbey	1	0	1
Antrim	2	1	1
Larne	0	0	0
Ballymena	1	1	0
Magherafelt	1	0	1
Ballymoney	2	1	1
Moyle	0	0	0
Coleraine	2	0	2
TOTAL	10	3	7

SELB	n	vol	stat
Craigavon	2	0	2
Banbridge	1	0	1
Newry & Mourne	4	1	3
Armagh	2	1	1
Dungannon	1	0	1
Cookstown	1	0	1
TOTAL	11	2	9

SEELB	n	vol	stat
Castlereagh	0	0	0
North Down	2	2	0
Ards	1	0	1
Down	5	2	3
Lisburn	1	1	0
TOTAL	9	5	4

BELB	n	vol	stat
Belfast	25	21	4
TOTAL	25	21	4

WELB	n	vol	stat
Fermanagh	2	0	2
Omagh	1	1	0
Strabane	1	0	1
Derry	8	4	4
Limavady	1	0	1
TOTAL	13	5	8

What sector are the participative structures in?

- o There was an almost even split across the voluntary (53%) and statutory (47%) sectors for participative structures (see table 2).

In what area of work are the structures?

Table 3 shows the different areas of work of the voluntary sector structures.

In the statutory sector:

- o 27 of the structures were facilitated by the ELBs.
- o 4 were shadow youth councils/forums.
- o 1 was a children and young people's rights agency.

Table 2: 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

Table 3: Voluntary sector structures by work area

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

Table 4: Structure type by title (n)

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

What title do the participative structures use?

- o The most popular title for participative structures in the voluntary sector was children's/youth forum.
- o The most popular title for participative structures in the statutory sector was children's/youth council.
- o All the 'other' titles were voluntary sector structures.

What are the key functions of the 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 appear to be very similar as outlined below.

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

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

2. To be representative of other children and young people

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

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

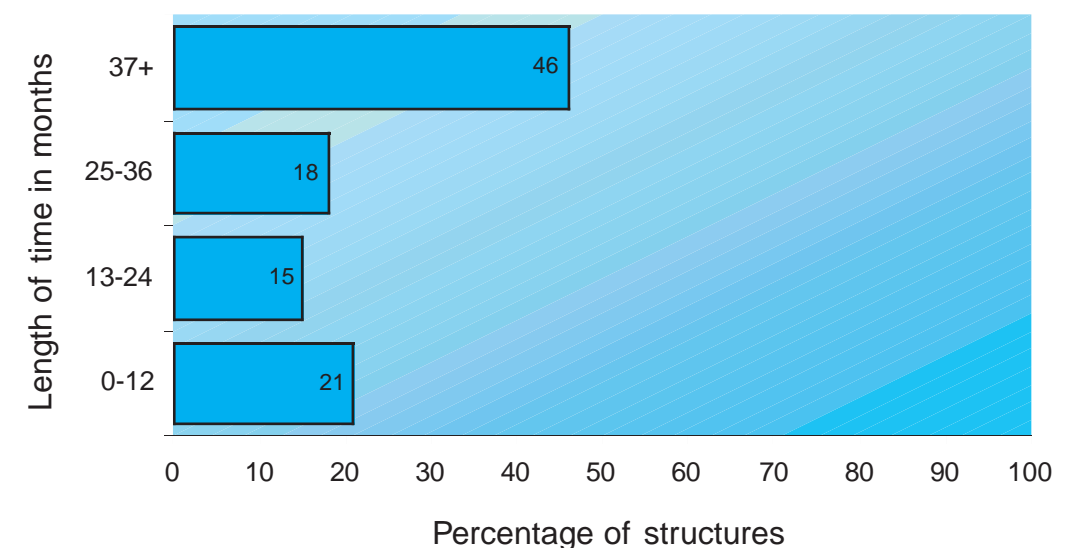
Age range of structure membership

- o Only 4 structures had members who were aged 10 and under.
- o 82% of the structures had members aged 11 to 16.
- o 90% of the structures had members aged 17 to 25.

Length of time the structure has been in operation

- o Over half (54%) of the structures are less than 3 years old.

Graph 1: Length of time the structure has been in operation



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

- To inform the development of the organisation or structure and influence policy and decision-making in the organisation

"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)

- To provide the opportunity for children and young people to influence what happens in their own community

"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)

- To expand the skills of the members and feed into their personal development

"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 their skills and talents for adulthood" (Youth forum in community sector)

- To organise events and programmes and participate in local projects and international work

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

- To provide opportunities for peer advocating, peer research, peer activities and peer support.

"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)

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.

"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)

How do children and young people participate in the structure?

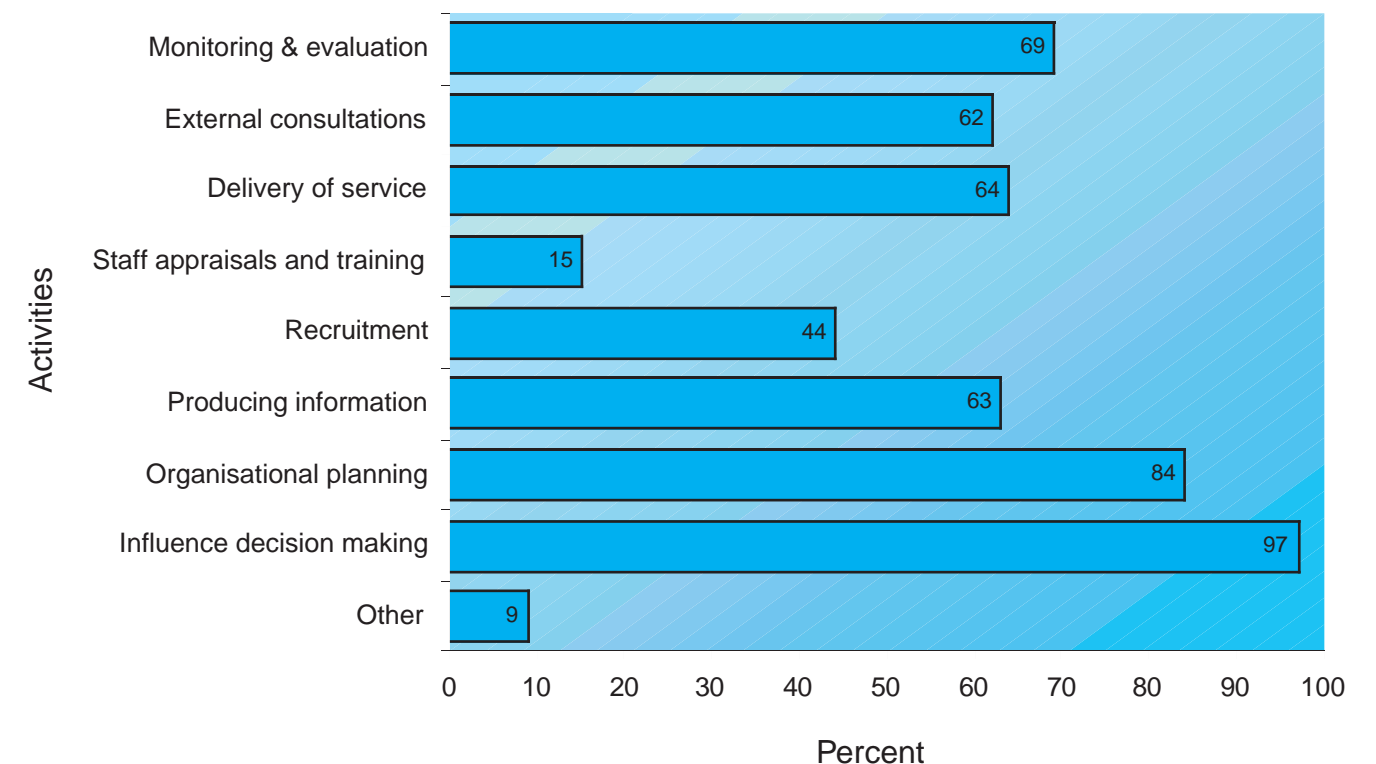
- The most common activity for children and young people in the structures was influencing decision making (97%).
- 84% of the structures engaged children and young people in organisational planning.
- 69% of structures involved children and young people in monitoring and evaluation of services.
- 64% 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 service delivery and staff appraisals/training.
- In the statutory sector children and young people were more likely to be involved in recruitment and external consultations.

Networking, co-operating and working in partnership with other participative structures

- 71% of the structures networked, co-operated or worked in partnership with other children/youth participative 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.

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



What do structures co-operate/network on?

Respondents provided examples of work they have completed with other organisations.

- o 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.
- o Another described how “We work with a number of international groups who also work in contested societies.” (Youth network in voluntary youth work organisation).
- o 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

- o Cross over in services
- o Lack of resources to facilitate young people’s needs
- o Funding difficulties
- o Training for young people, personal/social development, lack of confidence
- o Lack of consistency
- o Lack of information
- o Not a priority
- o Not productive
- o The structure needs a lot of support

The representation of marginalised/excluded groups in participative structures

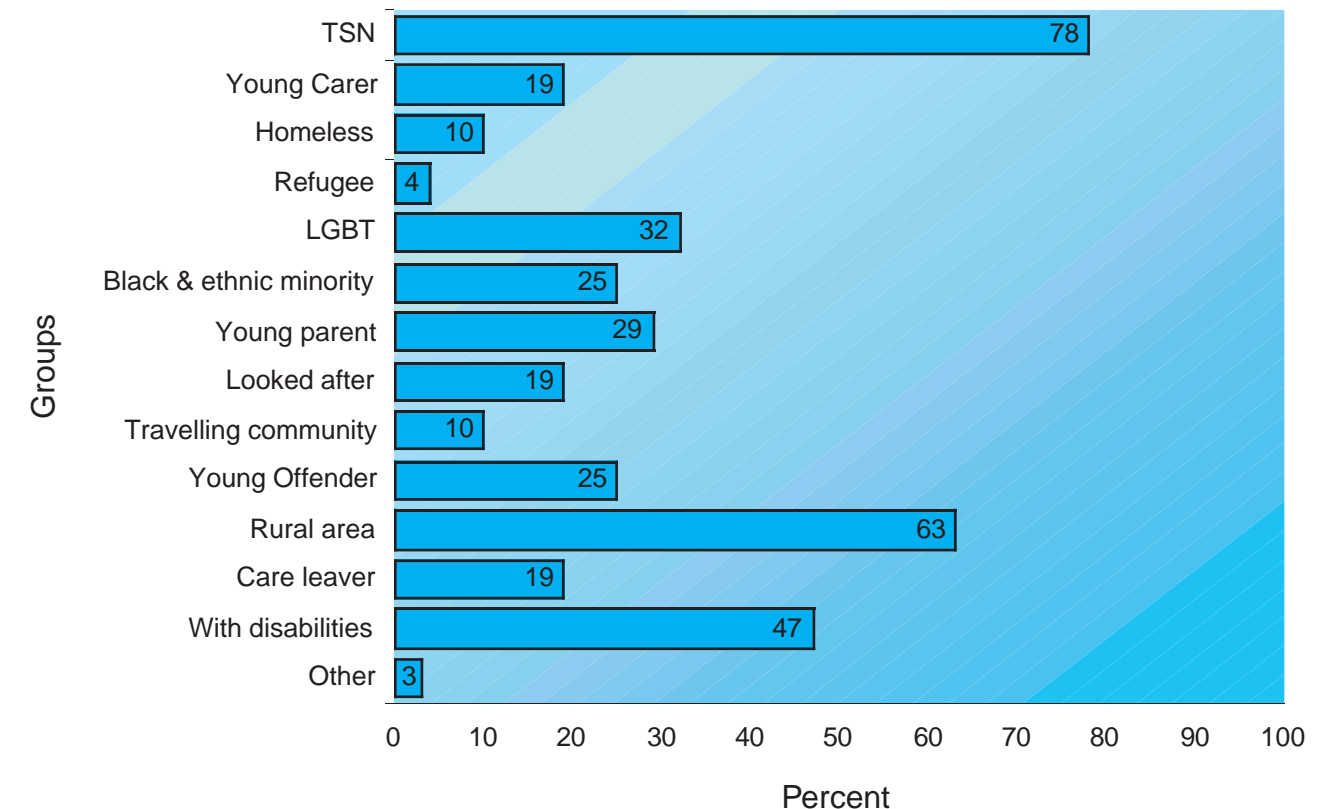
A significant focus of The Big Deal programme is to engage and support marginalised/excluded children and young people to increase their participation as decision makers. The respondents were asked if there are children or young people in the structure that were in perceived marginalised or excluded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

- o All the marginalised groups were represented in at least 4% of the structures.
- o 78% of the structures had members from TSN areas.
- o 63% had members from rural areas.
- o 47% of the structures had members with disabilities.
- o 32% of structures had representation from lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT).
- o One quarter of the structures had representation from young offender and black & ethnic minority groups.
- o The voluntary sector structures had a higher percentage of children and young people from 11 of the 13 the marginalised groups.
- o Structures in the statutory sector were significantly more likely to have young people from rural areas.

Staff & Support

- o 48% of the structures employed staff (49% in the voluntary sector and 47% in the statutory sector).
- o 33% of the structures employed part time staff and 28% employed full time staff.
- o 90% of the structures received adult support.

Graph 3: Groups represented in Participative Structures



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).

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, agenda development, fundraising, evaluations, guidance, planning, resource signposting, information, funding, mentoring and coaching.

Policies & Procedures

- o 51% had a membership criteria/membership recruitment policy.
- o 81% of the structures had a specific child protection policy and procedure.
- o 72% of the structures had a governing document which sets out the purpose, roles and responsibilities of the structure and its members.

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

Banking

- o 41% of the structures had their own bank accounts (36% in the voluntary sector and 47% in the statutory sector).
- o 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.

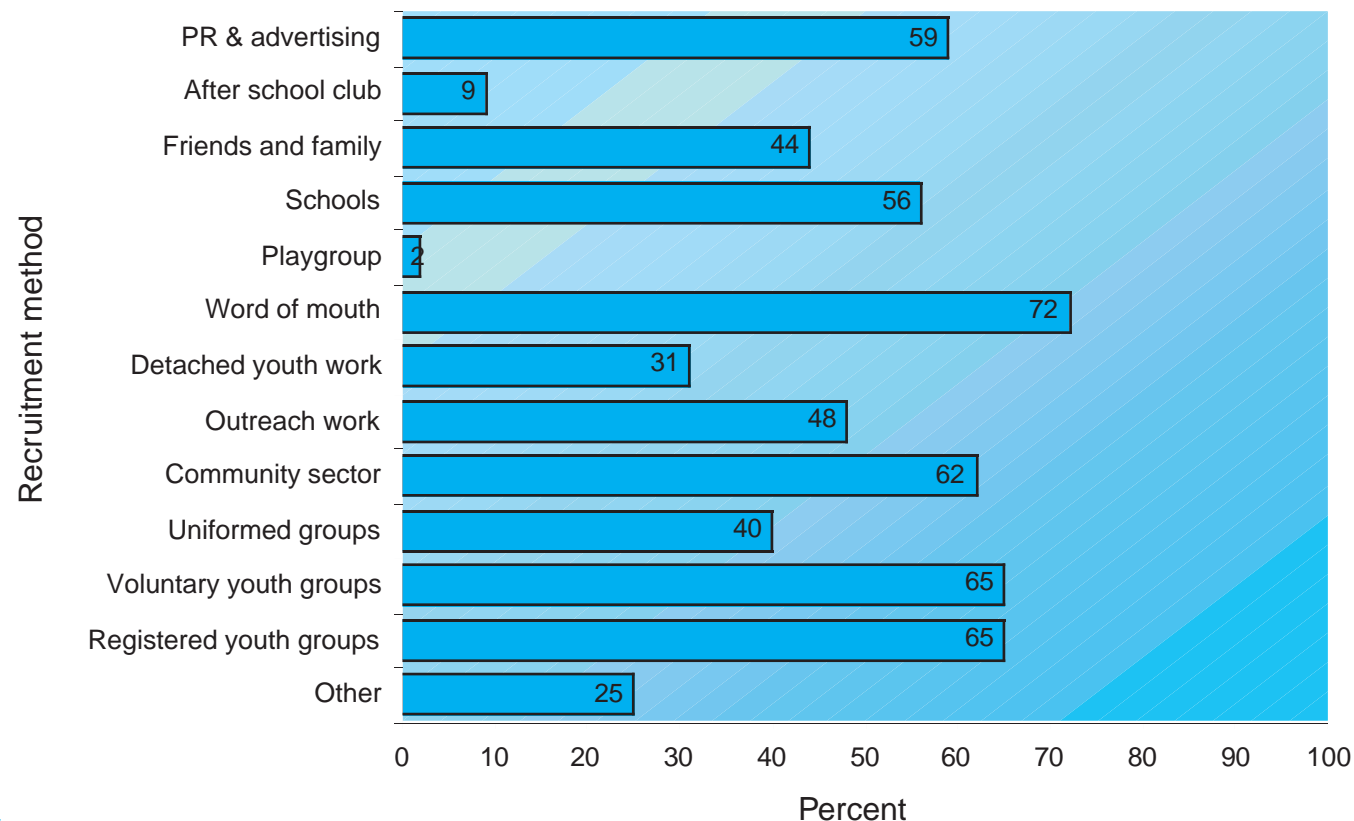
Recruiting children and young people to the structure

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

- o 72% recruited members through word of mouth.
- o 65% recruited members through voluntary youth groups and registered youth groups.
- o 62% recruited members through the community sector.
- o 59% used PR & advertising and schools to recruit members to the structure.

Respondents from the voluntary sector structures noted other methods they had used to recruit members to their structure.

Graph 4: Recruitment of children & young people to structure



- o 4 stated that they recruited service users from the organisation in which the structure is based.
- o 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.

Structure funding

- o 29% of the structures were solely funded by an ELB. This was expected as 40% of the structures were managed by the ELB's.
- o 28% of the structures were funded through a mixture of sources outlined in the audit questionnaire.
- o Small numbers received funding solely from HSST, DSD, EU or The Big Lottery Fund.
- o 29% received funding from other sources not outlined in the audit questionnaire.

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.

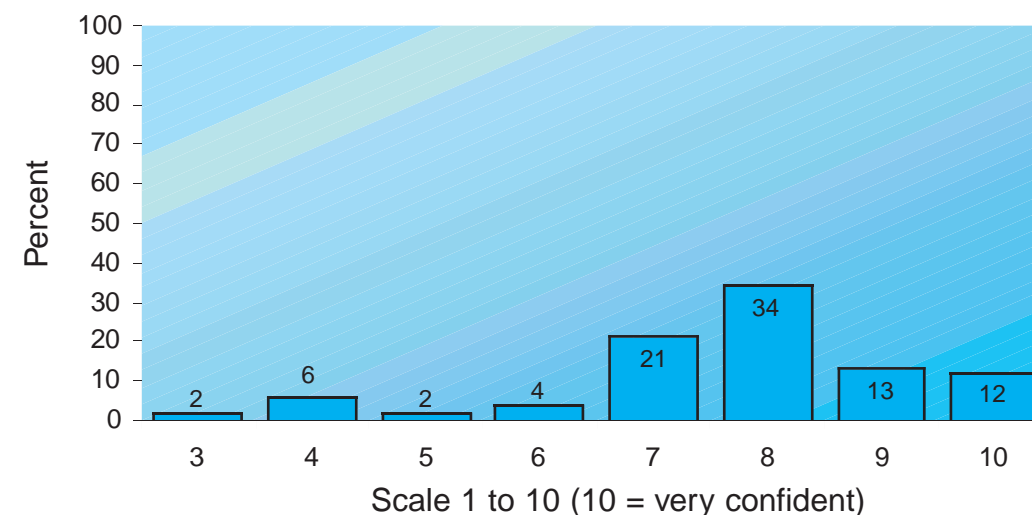
- o Most of the structures (32%) were dependent on a parent organisation or support body.
- o 22% were independent from a support body.
- o 21% stated they were semi-independent and moderately independent.

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.

Respondents' confidence in operating the 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 5).

Graph 5: How confident is organisation in operating structures



- o 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.

Improving the effectiveness of the structure

- o 62% of the respondents would like assistance in 'influencing decision making in your organisation, locally and beyond'.
- o 53% would like assistance 'making the structure more welcoming to marginalised children and young people'.
- o 50% would like assistance 'making links and networking with other children and young people'.
- o 44% would like assistance in 'broadening the age range and/or background abilities of the structure's membership'.

Respondents also noted other ways they could increase the effectiveness of their structure:

- o Greater awareness of the benefits of a participative structure.
- o Better ways for their structure members to communicate with young people.

There were differences in the voluntary and statutory sector:

- o The voluntary sector structures were significantly more likely than statutory sector structures to prioritise 'making links and networking with other children and young people's organisations'. 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.

- o 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 sector structures were less likely than voluntary sector structures to have children and young people from 11 of the 13 marginalised groups.

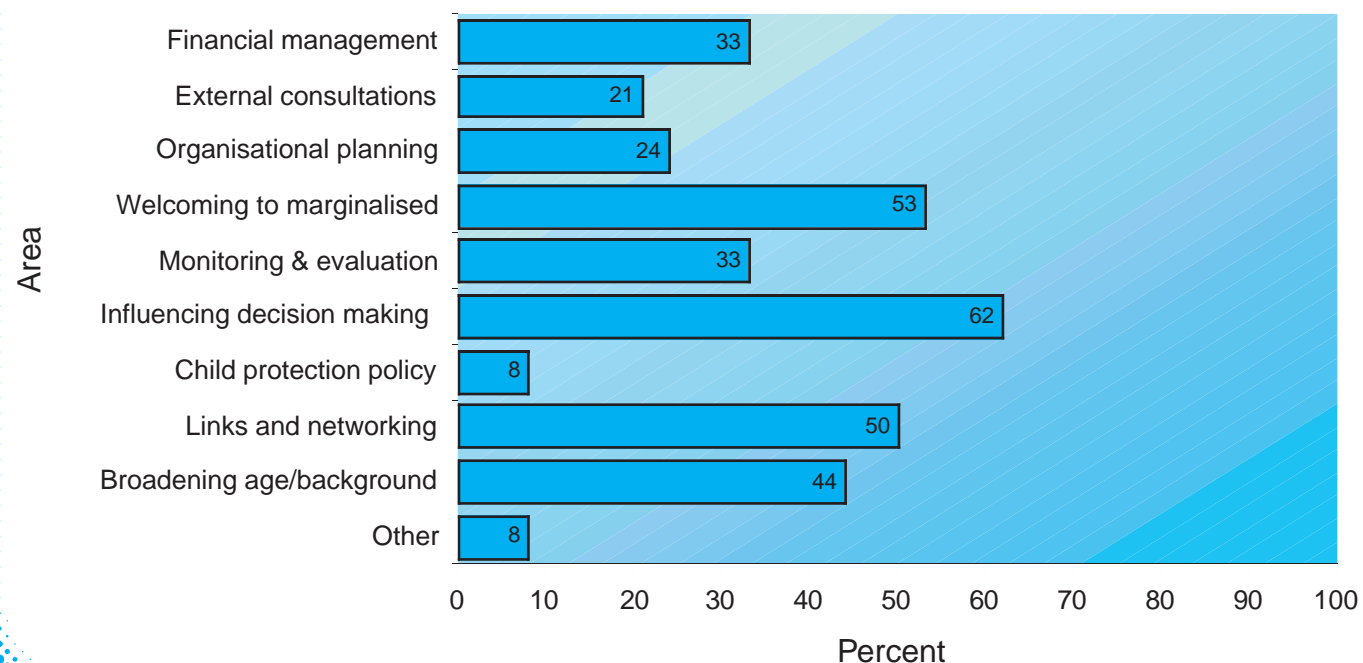
Children and young people's current involvement in the priority activities

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

- o Nearly all (98%) of the structures which had prioritised 'influencing decision making in their organisation, locally and beyond' already had children and young people engaged in this task.
- o 94% of structures that would like assistance in organisational planning also had young people involved in this activity.
- o Nearly three quarters (73%) of the structures that would like assistance in external consultations already have children and young people involved in this activity
- o 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.



Graph 6: Priorities to increase effectiveness of structure



These findings suggest that structures need support with existing functions as well as developing new functions.

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 work in a wide range of areas and are located in both the statutory and voluntary sectors. 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 the effectiveness of their structure by being more welcoming to marginalised children and young people. Even though there was representation of all the marginalised groups in the structures as a collective, the individual structures appear to be conscious that it is important their structure is representative of different sections of society. This links in with the explanations given of the structures key functions, one of which was 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.

In general, marginalised/excluded children and young people were 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.

Half of the structures would like assistance in networking and co-operating with other organisations /structures. 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. A major difficulty that respondents noted in networking and co-operating was accessing information about other structures.

Most of the respondents were confident in operating their structure. However 18% gave a score of 6 or less (on a scale of 1 to 10 indicating their confidence). Moreover, most of the structures already had children and young people involved in the tasks they would like assistance in. 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' based¹. 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.

¹ 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

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:
 - o the appropriate mechanism to involve younger children.
 - o other innovative ways for children and young people not represented on the structures to engage with and feed their views into the structures.
 - o 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.



PARTICIPATIVE STRUCTURES

Organisation / Structure name

- Antrim Youth Council
- Ballymena Youth Bank (Local Youth Banks, Youth Bank Forum, Youthbank Ireland network and Youthbank UK network)
- Ballymoney Youth Council
- Banbridge and District Youth Council - Craigavon District Youth Council
- Barnardo's Northern Ireland - Refer 2 Us
- Barnardo's Disabled Children and Young Persons Participation Project
- Belfast City Council Youth Forum
- Bytes - Centre 'user' committees
- Carrickfergus Youth Council
- Children's Law Centre - Youth@CLC
- Chinese Welfare Association - Open Meeting
- CLIC Sargent - Youth Forum
- Cliftonville Community Empowerment Partnership (CCEP) - Youth Forum
- Coleraine Youth Forum
- Corpus Christi YC - Members Forum
- Derry City Shadow Council
- Down District Volunteer Centre - Voluntary Youth Forum
- Dungannon Youth Council (DAFFY)
- East Belfast Area Youth Project - Youth Forum
- Fermanagh Shadow Youth Council
- Fermanagh Young People's Council
- Future Voices
- Gay and Lesbian Youth Northern Ireland
- Girl Guiding Ulster, Reach - Youth Forum
- Girl's Brigade Northern Ireland - National Youth Council (NYC)
- Greater Village Regeneration Trust - Village to Barrington Youth Forum
- Include Youth - The Young Voices Project
- Lisburn YMCA - "Apart of Project" Lisburn extended schools cluster forum
- Mourne Youth Forum
- NEELB - Sunlea Youth Project
- NEELB - Magherafelt & District Youth Council
- Newstart Education Centre - Alternative Education Provider (AEP) Youth Forum
- Newtownabbey Youth Centre - Newtownabbey Youth Council
- NICCY - Youth Panel (NYP)
- NICHs
- North Down YMCA Youth Forum
- Northern Ireland Youth Forum (NIYF) - Executive Committee
- Off the Streets Community Initiative - Galliagh Youth Forum
- Omagh & Strabane Youth Councils
- REACH Across Youth Committee
- SEELB - NCD (Newcastle, Castlewellsan and Dundrum) Youth Council
- SEELB - Ards Youth Council / Youth Forum
- SEELB - Ballynahinch Youth Council
- SEELB - Down Youth Forum
- SELB - Visions 4 2 moro
- SELB - South Armagh Youth Council
- SELB & The Big Deal - SELB Youth Stakeholder's Forum
- SELB - Craigavon District Youth Council
- SELB - Armagh District Youth Council
- SELB - Cookstown Youth Council W.H.O.S.
- South Belfast Area Youth Project - Steering committee
- The Big Deal - Children & Young People's Forum
- The E Go project
- The National Autistic Society, Northern Ireland - Social Programmes
- UK Youth Parliament
- Voluntary Arts Ireland - YACC (Young Arts Creativity Co-operative)
- WELB - Limavady Youth Council
- WELB - Caw Youth Development Committee
- WELB & The Big Deal - WELB Young person's Stakeholder Forum
- WELB Youth Information Service - Foyle Youth Council
- Young Citizens in Action - YCIA management committee
- YouthAction Northern Ireland - Youth Governance
- Youth Initiatives Youth Forum
- Youth Participation Project - Young people's steering group
- Zest - Service users volunteer group

GLOSSARY AND 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 audit questionnaire.

per cent (%):

Percentage or proportion of respondents who chose a particular answer option to a question in the audit questionnaire.

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

- BELB:** Belfast Education and Library Board
- C&YP:** Children and Young People
- C&YPF:** The Big Deal Children and Young People's Forum
- DHSS&PS:** Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
- DSD:** Department of Social Development
- ELB:** Education and Library Board
- 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
- 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



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