

# GET YOUR VOICE HEARD

9 JANUARY 2019



## POST-IT CONSULTATION REPORT

ARDOYNE YOUTH ENTERPRISE

# GET YOUR VOICE HEARD – AN AYE MATTER EVENT

On Wednesday 9 January 2019, Ardoyne Youth Enterprise organised a youth engagement event with Belfast Lord Mayor Deirdre Hargey:

- to inspire young people in North Belfast to participate in decision-making in their community and in wider society;
- to give them an opportunity to share their issues and concerns with decision-makers.



Other speakers were:

- John Jo McGrady and Megan McConnell of Belfast Youth Forum;
- Tamera Farrell, a young leader at Ardoyne Youth Club;
- Linsey Farrell of the Urban Villages Initiative;
- Shane Whelehan of Ardoyne Youth Enterprise.

There was a short Q&A session and a ‘post-it’ consultation of the under 25s in the room.

## YOUNG PEOPLE’S VIEWS

In the Q&A session, young people highlighted mental health as an urgent issue for schools, Council and government to address. They talked about bringing the voting age down to 16, and asked how reforms to youth and education services can be addressed in the absence of a fully functioning Stormont government. Homelessness and minority rights were also high on their agenda.

This report lists the young people’s responses to the ‘post-it’ consultation.

It will be distributed to participating organisations, City Council, the Executive Office and AYE member groups.

# POST-IT CONSULTATION - HOW DID WE DO IT?

The post-it consultation was for under 25s only. It involved 24 young participants, aged 14 to 21, from:

- Mercy College (8 students, year 13)
- Trinity College (10 students, year 11 learning for life and work class)
- AYE OCN Level 2 group (one participant)
- Ardoyne Youth Club (2 young leaders)
- Belfast Youth Forum (1 student from St Malachy's, one student from St Louise's)
- Stranmillis College (1 young musician)

We posted titles around the room under four themes:

- Home and school
- Your community
- Your city
- How can young people bring about change?

Under each title, we included sample answers taken from responses to our **'Listen Up!' youth survey 2017**.

We asked young people to add post-its with their views and suggestions under each title.

The young people were facilitated by their teachers and youth workers.



# HOME AND SCHOOL

Bigger classrooms

Stop bullying

Less hate towards LGBT people

Make the most of school

Mental health support

More healthy school meals

Make sure integrated schools are 50/50

Let students off for St Patrick's and other holidays like that

Less bullying toward people with special needs

Better equipment (x2)

Let students have more non-uniform days to express who they are

More awareness of problems in the area in schools

Let students have dyed hair and piercings

More counsellors to help young people's mental health

Have more mental and emotional support in place, especially for sixth form / seniors

Let students be free to do what they want, it's a free country

Funding for more space within our schools, eg study halls, computers

Wider range of class options (more courses available)

More light on mental health + support

Drugs + alcohol – lack of support and knowledge of where to go for help in both school and homes = a more direct signpost of support available



# YOUR COMMUNITY

AYE: drugs are taking over the community. Have rehabs and help centres, support groups etc

Alcohol and smoking

Thugs

Littering

Littering around the streets

More events to bring our community together, eg festivals

More mental health awareness as suicide rates are high in my community

Mental health – failure to aid and support – More support should be in schools etc.

Mental health

Bad area

More events to bring community closer together

Poverty – eating from foodbanks: more job opportunities



# YOUR CITY

More support for homeless people, beds, meals etc

More activities to bring everyone together

More money into mental health services as it is becoming an ongoing problem in our city

Environment help, community work etc

More drug awareness for younger people

Help homeless get off the street, help the less fortunate

More youth centres in local communities for young people

More places for teenagers to sit and relax

Make more activities for young people and clean up the city!

To support young people's mental health more

More cross community groups

Cross community [peace sign]

More awareness for homeless

Less homelessness

Divided

Less rubbish



# HOW CAN YOUNG PEOPLE BRING ABOUT CHANGE?

Be involved in your community  
Speak up and get involved if you have the chance  
Cross community work  
Stay in touch with people  
Get involved in your community

[peace sign]

Cross community

More LGBTQ projects?

With the more diverse learning YP have, having their say can bring about change!

Talk to their local MP about problems in their community

Trans inclusive clubs

Be involved in your community

Keep doing things such as trips to less developed countries to show our community the difference

Get involved in cross-community

Student council – to improve our school life and how we want to change it

Be confident about yourself and speak to people across the country

If we all campaigned constantly and worked together!

Mental health awareness days in schools

More talks addressing mental health



## ARDOYNE YOUTH ENTERPRISE

11a Flax Street, Belfast

[www.ardoyne.org](http://www.ardoyne.org)

**On Facebook and YouTube:**

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise

**On Twitter and Instagram:**

@ayebelfast



## LINKING YOUTH WITH OPPORTUNITY

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise manages youth, community development and good relations initiatives in North Belfast through:

- youth outreach, training and personal development
- strategic and communications support for youth and community groups and cross community work.

## LISTEN UP!

AYE Youth Survey 2017

[www.ardoyne.org/publications.html](http://www.ardoyne.org/publications.html)

## SPEAK UP ARDOYNE AND MARROWBONE

On YouTube: 'Speak Up Ardoyne and Marrowbone'

