



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

Equality Screening, Disability Duties and Human Rights Assessment Template

Part 1 – Policy scoping

Part 2 – Screening questions

Part 3 – Screening decision

Part 4 – Monitoring

Part 5 – Disability Duties

Part 6 – Human Rights

Part 7 – Approval and Authorisation

Guidance on completion of the template can be found on the Equality Commission website at [S75 screening template 2010 \(web access checked 230920\) .docx](#)

Part 1. Policy scoping

1.1 Information about the policy

Name of the policy:

Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2025-2028

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

This is the fifth Children and Young People's Plan 2025-2028 produced by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). The initial Children and Young People's Plan covered the period 2011-2014. The second substantive Plan covered the period 2014-2017 and was reviewed and extended annually to cover the period to March 2019. The third substantive Plan covered the period 2019-2021 and the fourth substantive Plan covered the period 2021-2024.

In line with the Children's Services Planning Guidance the CYPSP had agreed to move its planning cycle to align with the Programme for Government (PfG) and Comprehensive Spending Review. The Children (1995 Order) (Amendment) (Children's Services Planning) Order (Northern Ireland) 1998 allows for either a modification of an existing plan (2(b)(i)) or a new plan (2(b)(ii)).

This is a new Plan and it is intended to sit within the context of the Programme for Government, the Children and Young People's Strategy and refreshed Family Support Strategy. The overall work of the CYPSP is encapsulated in this Plan and the supporting plans produced by the Outcomes, Locality and Regional Planning Groups.

What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)

Please provide a Plain English description of the scope of this screening, to include what you are trying to achieve and how (ie. the key elements of the policy or decision).

The Children and Young People's Plan is the core plan for the multi-agency delivery of early intervention social care services for children and families in Northern Ireland. The Plan is supported by a number of lower-level plans which

are in place across the five Outcomes Group areas and associated 25 Locality Planning Groups.

This structure ensures that those plans contribute to the realisation of local outcomes, while taking cognisance of regional priorities, outcomes and activities.

The purpose of the Plan is to:

- Set out shared vision and strategic direction to guide the work of the NI CYPSP for the period 2025-2028;
- Provide a planning framework agreed by all partner agencies that will be used to develop, monitor, review and improve how we deliver early intervention services;
- Describe the outcomes we aim to achieve together and the improvements we need to deliver; and
- Set out an integrated approach to implementing our strategy and delivering those improvements.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?
If so, explain how.

The plan has been developed to meet the needs and deliver outcomes for ALL Children and Young People inclusive of Age, Gender, Religion, Disability, Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation, Political Opinion, Marital Status and Dependent Status – see below for detail

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

1.2 Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

Yes

If yes, are they (please delete as appropriate)

financial

legislative – Development of new Family Support Strategy would contribute positively to the intended aim and outcomes

The Plan also takes account of a number of other key strategic drivers. These include but are not restricted to: • Northern Ireland Programme for Government (PfG) (2021); • Executive Children and Young People's Strategy (2019-30); • The Independent Review of Children's Social Care NI • NI Mental Health Strategy • Making Life Better: A Whole System Strategic Framework for Public Health in NI ; • Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together (2016); • The Mental Capacity Act (NI) 2016; • Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (SEND Act); • Education Authority's Special Educational Needs Strategic Development Programme (EA SEND SDP); • NI Executive Child Poverty Strategy 2016-22; • Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland's Multi-Agency Neglect Strategy 2018-22; • Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services Framework (HSC, 2020); • Children & Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing in Education Framework (2021); • Draft HSC Regional Framework for Disability Services (2021); • The early years planning process and specifically the Article 20 Reviews⁴ undertaken by Childcare Partnerships; • Community Planning Processes with Local Government; • Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs); • Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young Peoples (NICCY) Report "Too Little, Too Late" (March 2020); • Ending Homelessness Together, The NI Housing Executive's Homelessness Strategy 2022-27; • Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Action Plan 2021-22 (DoH) • The Infant Mental Health Framework for Northern Ireland (DoH, 2016) • Future Planning Model, Integrated Care System NI Draft Framework (DoH, 2021); • Recommendations from the Northern Ireland Family Support Hubs Interim Review Report (SCIE, Nov 2021).

other, please specify _____

1.3 Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon? (please delete as appropriate)

Please provide details - for example all staff or particular teams of staff, actual or potential service users, and any other groups of people.

Staff; service users; other public sector organisations;
voluntary/community/trade unions

other, please specify _____

The Children's Services Planning (CSP) Guidance (July 1998) 4 notes that this process is concerned with children who are in need in the community and is designed "to promote collaboration and coordination between agencies in the planning and delivery of services for vulnerable children and in so doing it builds upon the Children (NI) Order 1995" (1.1).

The CSP Guidance (July 1998) also notes that "CSP's may well include children who are not 'in need' in statutory terms. For the purposes of defining the children included in a CSP a broad interpretation which encompasses all vulnerable children may be useful particularly as the legislative concept of need in the Children Order will not directly correspond with the priorities of non-social services agencies" (6.3)

CSPs require input from:-

- **Department of Health's Strategic Planning and Performance Group (DoH/SPPG) previously the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB)**
- **Department of Education**
- **Department of Communities**
- **Public Health Agency (PHA)**
- **Health and Social Care Trusts**
- **Education Authority**
- **Councils**
- **Housing Executive**
- **Police**
- **Probation Board**
- **Children's Court Guardian Agency NI**
- **SBNI**

- **Voluntary and Community organisations** who provide services to children in need or who represent the interests of children in need.
- **Children and young people themselves:** The engagement of children, young people and their families takes place across the CYPSP structure. Some illustrative examples include:
 - The CYPSP Regional Children and Young Peoples's Participation Network builds on our relationships with existing agencies, including youth advocacy groups, young carers and ethnic minority and migrant children and young people across Northern Ireland. This collaborative Network ensures that children and young people continue to inform the work of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.
 - CYPSP completed direct engagement exercises with young people around the development of priorities.
 - Locality planning has engaged regularly with young people and families.
 - The Western Area Outcomes Group has supported the development of Derry as a UNICEF Child Friendly City.
- **Parents and carers of children and young people:**
 - Family Support Hubs regularly engage with and collect data on parent's experience of support and this has generated ideas for change and improvement.
 - A Parental Participation Services for CYPSP is contracted by the Department of Health to enable perspective parents to influence the activities of the CYPSP and its working groups.

1.4 Other policies with a bearing on this policy

- what are they?
- who owns them?

The requirement to produce a Children's Services Plan was established in legislation in The Children (1995 Order) (Amendment) (Children's Services Planning) Order 1998[1], and the central aims of Children's Services Planning are included in the Children's Services Planning Guidance 1998 (DHSS/DENI/NIO) (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/1998/261/made>)

Additionally, The Children's Services Co-Operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015[2] (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2015/10/contents/enactedoutlines>) our duty to work together and states in 2 (1) that:

“Every Children’s Authority must, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of its children functions, co-operate with other children’s authorities and with other children’s services providers in the exercise of those functions”.

The Act also creates an enabling power to share resources and pool funds and states that a Children’s Authority may “(a) provide staff, goods services, accommodation or other resources to another children’s authority; (b) make contributions to a fund out of which relevant payments may be made.”

- **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** - The Act (2015) brings into domestic legislation a requirement to have regard to the relevant provisions of the UNCRC when determining the meaning of the term ‘wellbeing’ as it relates to children and young people, and states that one of the factors contributing to wellbeing of children and young people is living in a society which respects their rights.
- The CYPSP Plan is framed within the **NI Executive Children and Young People’s Strategy 2020-2030**. This is the overarching strategy for the delivery of improved outcomes for children and young people.
- **The Children and Young People’s Strategy (CYPS) Monitoring and Reporting Board** - Set up in 2023, the CYPS Monitoring and Reporting Board provides collaborative leadership, oversight and cross-departmental strategic direction on the co-ordination of all policy matters affecting children and young people and the implementation of the NI Executive Children and Young People’s Strategy. This Board consists of senior representation from:
 - The NI Executive Office;
 - Department of Health;
 - Department of Education;
 - Department for Communities;
 - Department of Justice;
 - Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs;
 - Department of Economy; and
 - Department of Finance.

An important element of our work throughout the next three years, will be exploring how we strengthen alignment between the work of CYPSP, and the CYPS Monitoring and Reporting Board in order to reduce / minimise duplication across Government Departments, and to maximise the potential for CYPSP to inform strategic decisions in line with the duties outlined in the Children’s Services Cooperation Act 2015.

The production of NI Children and young People's Plan 2025-2028 takes account of a number of key strategic activities of CYPSP Partners that impact on early intervention on children and young people. These include but are not limited to:

- **The Independent Review of Children's Social Care (NI)** - This review was a fundamental examination of Children's Services in NI. The review was commissioned in October 2021 by the Minister for Health and the report with recommendations was published in June 2023.
In response to the report, the Children's Social Care Services Strategic Reform Board was established to oversee a programme of work on service improvement and delivery of transformation through a number of workstreams. The CYPSP will continue to support reform activity in respect of the delivery of improvements in multi-agency early intervention family support services, through the provision of ongoing information sharing by Partners and through contribution to relevant workstreams.
- **NI Mental Health Strategy** - The NI Executive Mental Health Strategy for 2021-2031 sets the future strategic direction of mental health services in Northern Ireland. CYPSP will continue to support the Strategy Implementation Plan and associated Workstreams, in respect of Recommendations 1 and 2, which focus on early intervention and prevention across the whole life cycle.
- **Department of Education RAISE Programme** - The plan for the RAISE programme is for a whole community and place-based approach in localities across Northern Ireland to support the Department of Education's vision that "every child is happy, learning and succeeding". The programme aims to invest in whole community and place-based approaches to raise achievement to reduce educational disadvantage. Links have already been made with relevant existing CYPSP Locality Planning Groups to avoid duplication of effort and add value in promoting best outcomes for children and families in education settings.

To best harness the potential of integrated planning, all members are committed to ensuring that other strategic / policy interfaces and / or relevant multi-agency planning processes are taken account of during the life of this plan.

1.5 Available evidence

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative¹) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

Who is affected by the policy or decision? Please provide and discuss a statistical profile. Please specify what sources of information you used to identify the statistical profile. Also provide details of how you involved those impacted (service users, staff, voluntary sector organisations etc.).

What is the makeup of the affected group? (%) Do the statistics indicate that there are any issues or problems? For example, a lower uptake that needs to be addressed or greater involvement of a particular group?

Religious belief evidence / information:

General population

- 42.31% (805,151) of the population were either Catholic or **brought up** as Catholic.
- 37.36% (710,996) stated that they were Protestant or **brought up** as Protestant.
- 1.34% (25,519) of the population belonged to or had been **brought up** in other religions and Philosophies.
- 18.99% (361,512) neither belonged to, or religion not stated.

Children and Young People

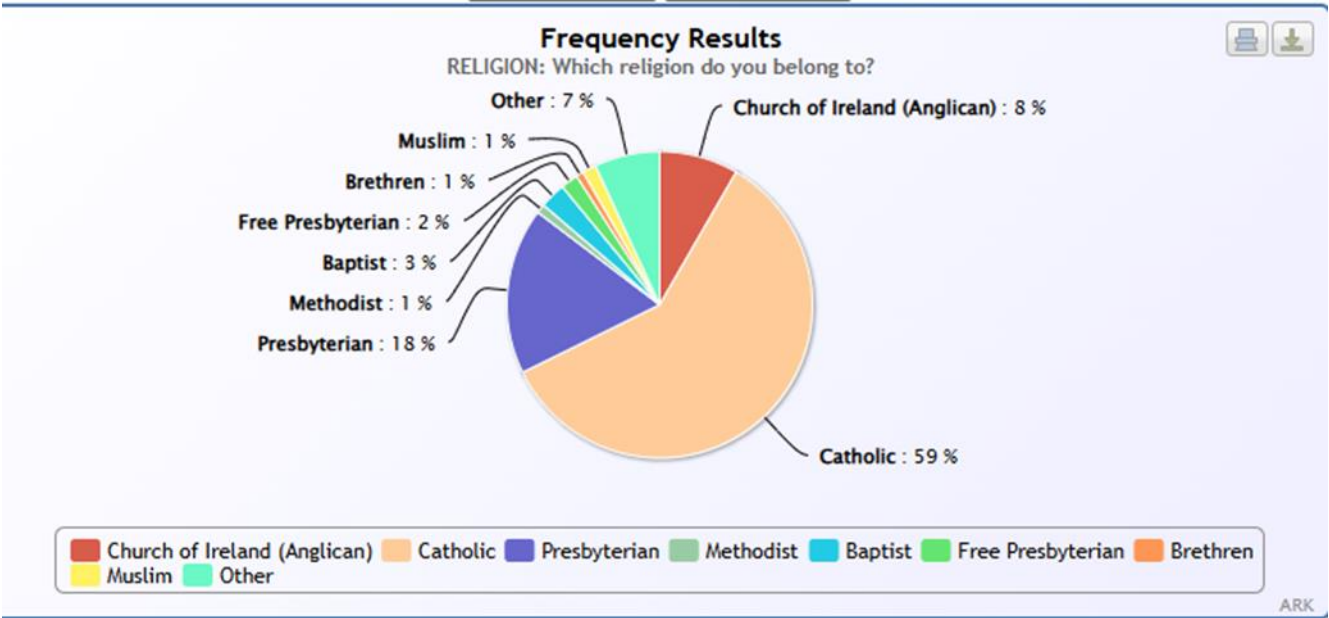
Children in Need – Religion and Ethnicity

Over a third (36%) of the children in need did not have religious background recorded. Of those with their religion recorded, some 48% were Roman Catholic; 36% were Protestant including other Christian faiths; and 9% had other religious faiths. Some 7% were recorded as having no religious beliefs. Almost a quarter (24%) of children in need did not have ethnic background recorded. Of those with ethnic background registered, some 92% were White, 2% were Black, 1% Chinese and 5% other ethnic backgrounds, including Traveller, Asian and mixed ethnicities.

¹ * **Qualitative data** – refers to the experiences of individuals related in their own terms, and based on their own experiences and attitudes. Qualitative data is often used to complement quantitative data to determine why policies are successful or unsuccessful and the reasons for this.

Quantitative data - refers to numbers (that is, quantities), typically derived from either a population in general or samples of that population. This information is often analysed either using descriptive statistics (which summarise patterns), or inferential statistics (which are used to infer from a sample about the wider population).

(Children’s Social Care Statistics 2023/24)



(Young Life & Times Survey 2023) (Completed by 2,065 16-year olds)

Year: 2023
Module: Community Relations
Variable: RELGALWY

Do you think religion will always make a difference to the way people feel about each other in Northern Ireland?

	%
Yes	75
No	11
Other	4
I do not know	10

Political Opinion evidence / information:

General Population - Source: Northern Ireland Life and Times survey 2024 -1,199 Adults

Year: 2024 Module: Political_Attitudes Variable: UNINATID

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a unionist, a nationalist or neither?

	%
Unionist	30
Nationalist	30
Neither	35

Other answer	2
I don't know	3

Results for men and women

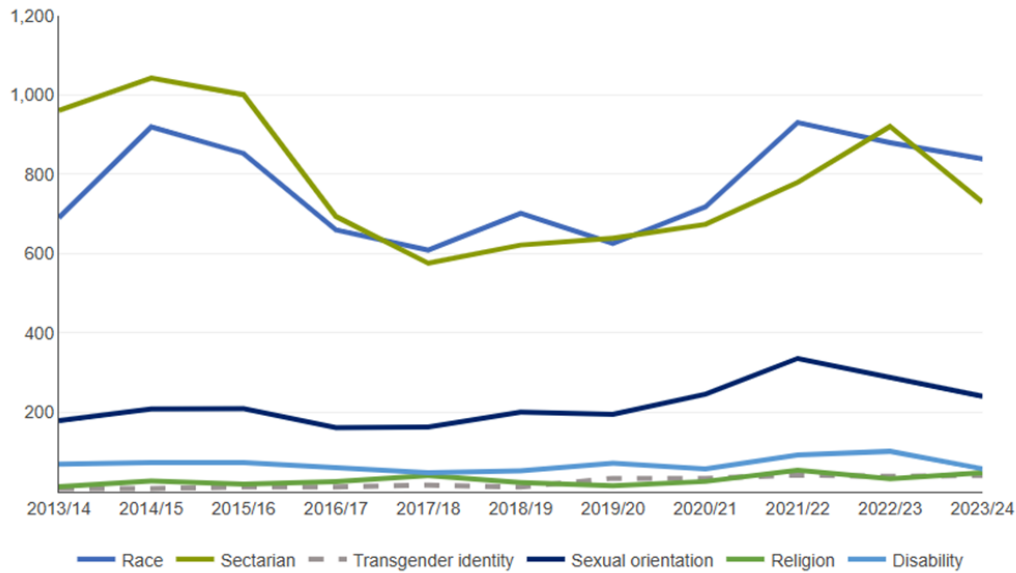
	%	
	Male	Female
Unionist	33	26
Nationalist	29	30
Neither	33	38
Other answer	3	1
I don't know	2	5

Results for people of different ages

	%					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Unionist	21	27	24	29	30	39
Nationalist	37	27	36	30	33	20
Neither	29	37	33	40	34	37
Other answer	2	1	2	0	3	2
I don't know	10	7	4	1	0	1

In 2023/24, 839 racially motivated and 730 sectarian hate crimes were recorded. All other categories of hate crimes when combined accounted for 20% of hate crimes.

Figure 14: Number of hate crimes



Note: Prior to 2022/2023, the “Sexual Orientation” category was labelled as “Homophobic”, and prior to 2023/2024, the “Transgender Identity” and “Race” categories were labelled as “Transphobic” and “Racial” respectively. These have been changed to remain in line with how the PSNI present these data. (PSNI)

Children and Young People

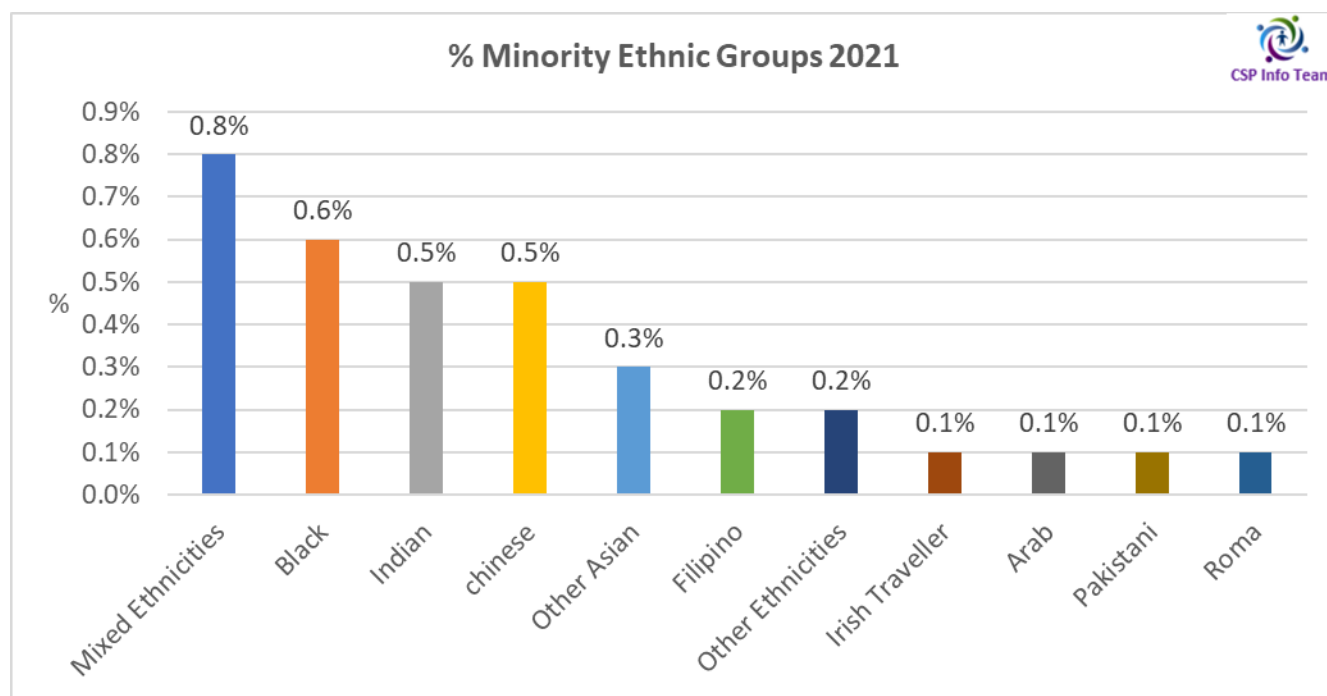
Source: YLT 2022 – 2,073 16 yr olds

Year: 2022 Module: Politics Variable: UNINATID

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a unionist, a nationalist or neither?

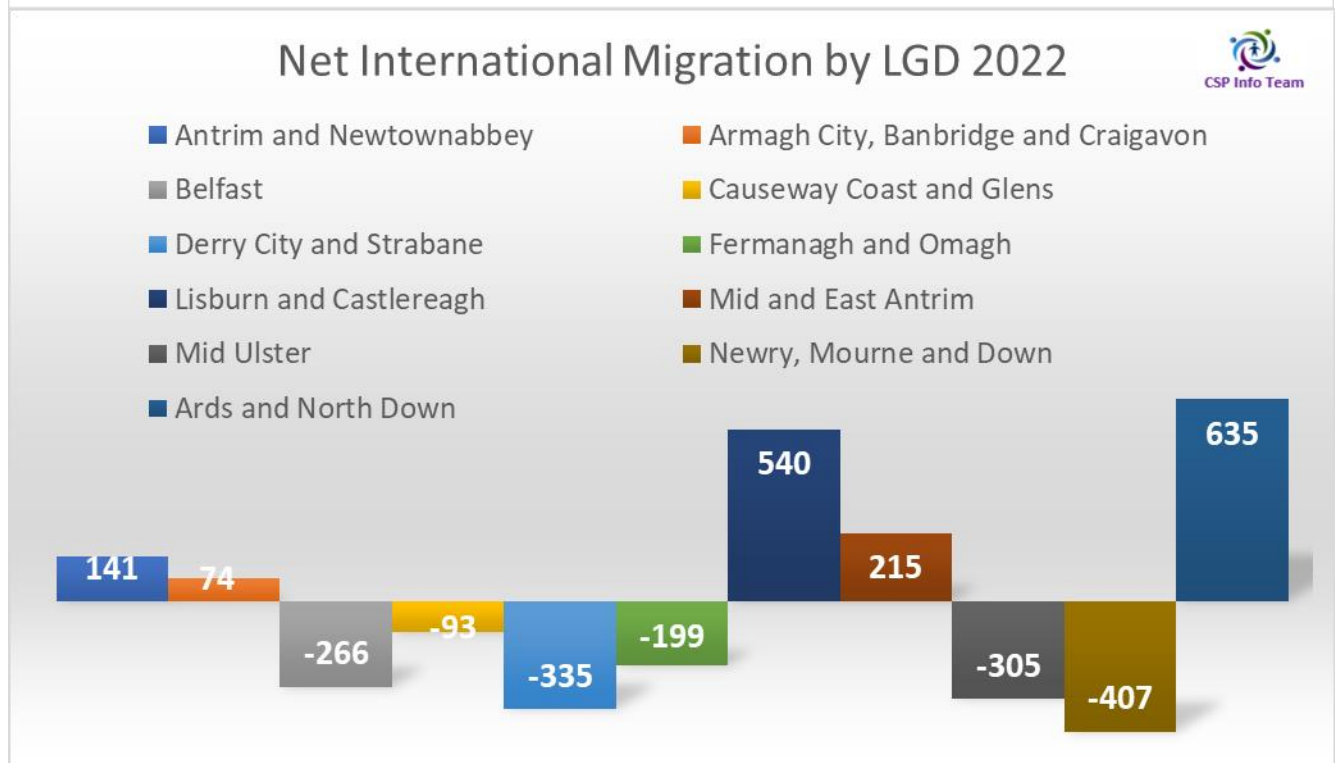
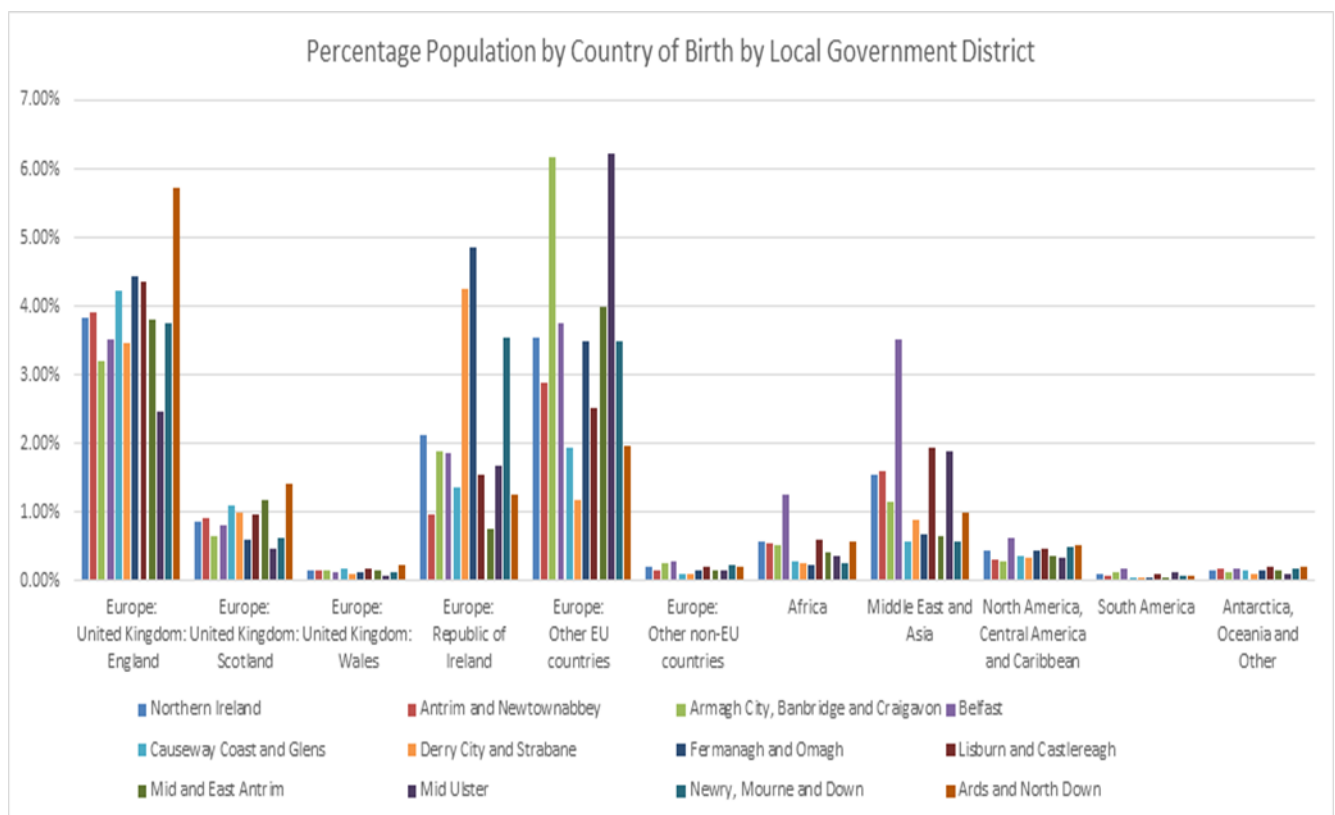
	%
Unionist	26
Nationalist	29
Neither	24
Other	1
Don't know	21

Racial Group evidence / information:



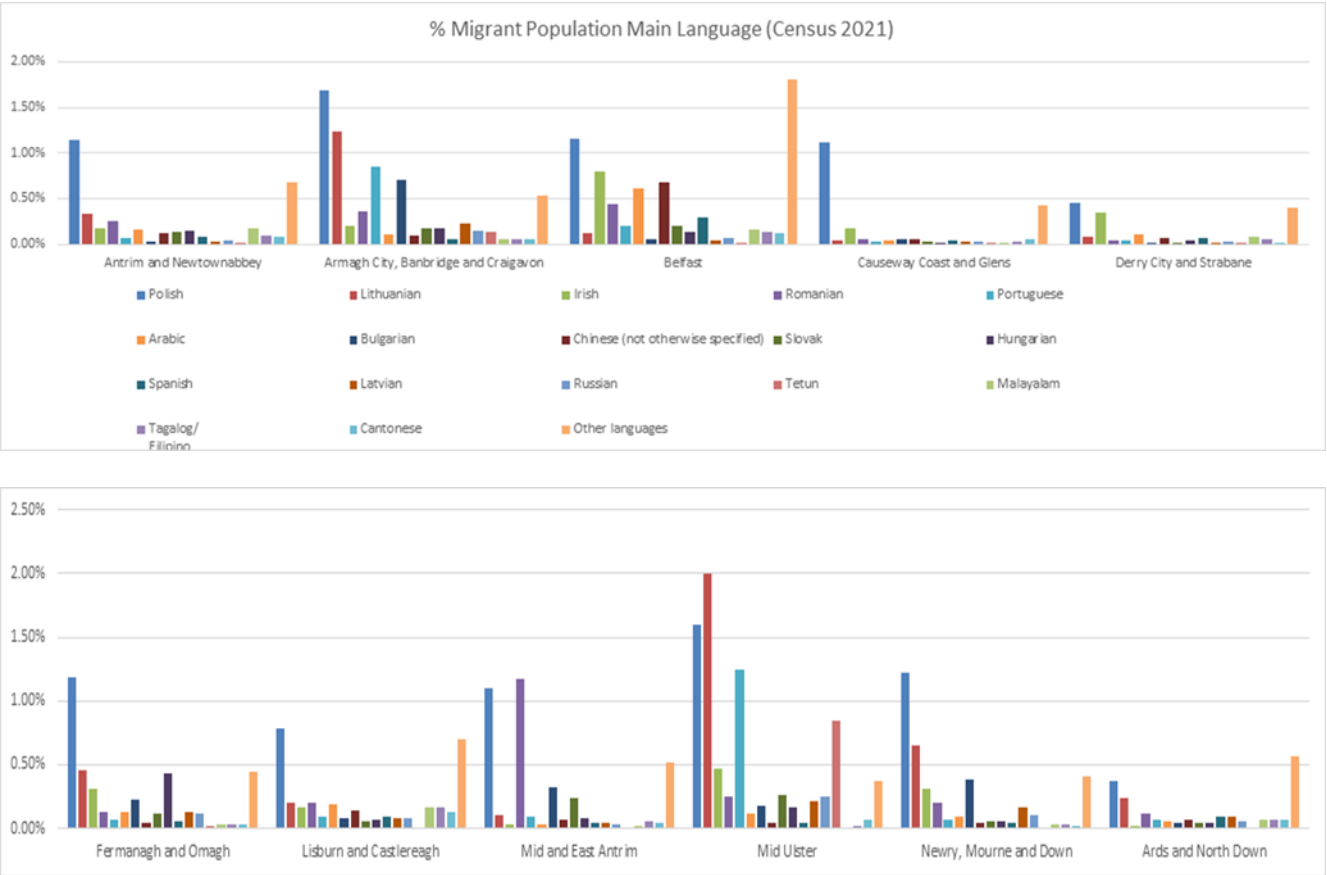
In 2021 the number of people with a white ethnic group was **1,837,600** (96.6% of the population). Conversely, the total number of people with a minority ethnic group stood at **65,600** people (3.4% of the population). Within this latter classification, the largest groups were Mixed Ethnicities (**14,400**), Black (**11,000**), Indian (**9,900**), Chinese (**9,500**), and Filipino (**4,500**). Irish Traveller, Arab, Pakistani and Roma ethnicities also each constituted **1,500** people or more.

The most diverse Local Government Districts are Belfast (7.1% of the population with a minority ethnic group), Mid Ulster (4.0%) and Lisburn and Castlereagh (3.9%).

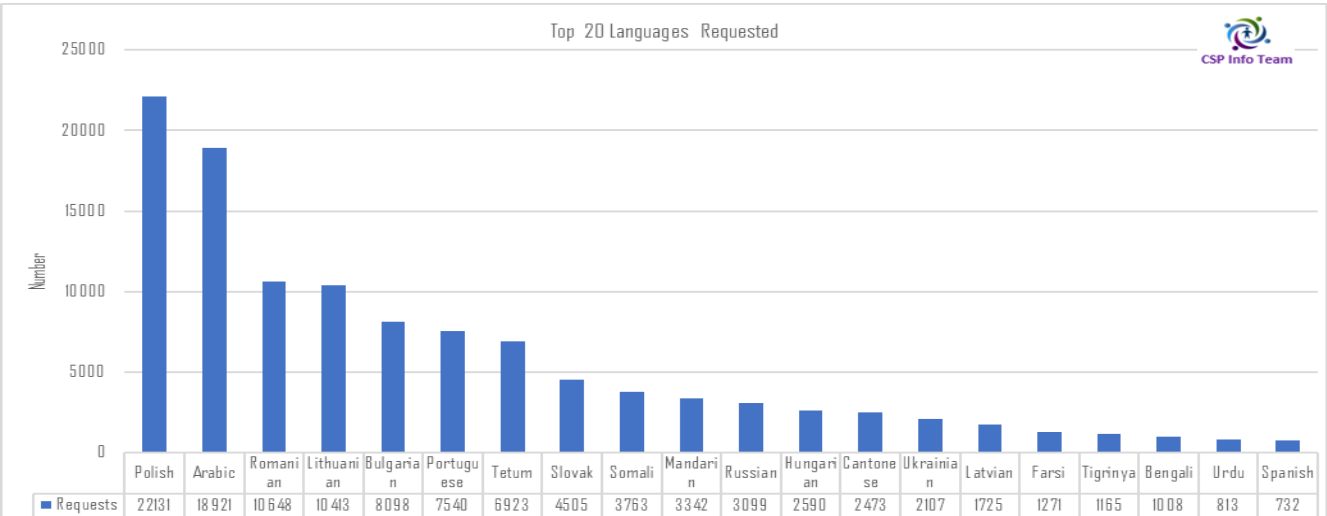


The chart shows how many migrants resided in each of the eleven Local Government Districts (LGDs) (Migrants per 1,000 population). The LGD with the largest number of migrants per 1,000 population was Belfast with 163. Ards and North Down had the least with 50 per 1,000 population. (NISRA Census 2021)

The number of migrants who cannot speak English well is the highest in Belfast LGD at **3,728** followed by Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD at **3,296**.



Interpreters Requested by Language by HSCTs 1 April – Mar 24



The top 2 languages requested by the HSCTs was Polish followed by Arabic in 2023/24.

Age evidence / information:

General population Mid-year population estimate (2023, published June 2024)

The size of the resident population in NI at 30 June 2023 is estimated to be **1.920** million people. Just over half (50.8%) of the population were female **974,897**, compared to **945,485** males.

General population

Mid-year population estimates published by NISRA in 2023 show that:

0-19 yrs (inclusive) = 482,839 (25.1% of all NI population)

20 – 34 yrs = 343,262 (17.9%)

35 – 49 yrs = 374,384 (19.5%)


50 - 64 yrs = 377,415 (19.7%)

65 – 74 yrs = 182,442 (9.5%)

75 – 89 yrs = 145,626 (7.6%)

90+ yrs = 14,414 (0.7%)

Children and Young People

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF TRUSTS WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND 2022						
 CSP Info Team	Belfast	Northern	S Eastern	Southern	Western	NI
0-4 years	20,284	27,026	20,258	25,859	18,505	111,932
5-9 years	21,634	30,235	23,450	28,146	20,193	123,658
10-14 years	22,380	31,963	24,822	28,958	21,166	129,289
15-17 years	11,922	18,129	13,665	16,154	11,956	71,826
0-17 Year Population	76,220	107,353	82,195	99,117	71,820	436,705
Whole Population	365,873	480,029	369,576	393,169	301,896	1,910,543
Child Population as a percentage of whole population	20.8%	22.4%	22.2%	25.2%	23.8%	22.9%

Note: 2023 MYE currently not available at Trust level

Marital Status evidence / information:

General Population

There were 693,000 adults who were married or in a civil partnership in Census 2021. This made up 46% of our population aged 16 and over. In contrast 577,000 adults (38%) were single (never married/civil partnered).

The percentage of adults who were 'divorced or widowed' has risen from 9% in 1971 to 12% in 2021. The number of divorced adults has risen from 3,000 in 1971 to over 90,000 in 2021.

Table 1: Marital or civil partnership status (Census 2021)

Marital or civil partnership status	Population	Percent
Single (never married/civil partnered)	576,700	38.1%
Married	690,500	45.6%
In a civil partnership	2,700	0.2%
Separated [note 1]	57,300	3.8%
Divorced [note 1]	91,100	6.0%
Widowed [note 1]	96,400	6.4%
Population aged 16 and over	1,514,700	100.0%

[Note 1: These classifications include both the married and civil partnership equivalents. 'Separated' is 'separated (still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership)', 'divorced' is 'divorced or formerly in a civil partnership now dissolved' and 'widowed' is 'widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership']

Sexual Orientation evidence / information:

General Population – Source Census 2021

- In total 31,600 people aged 16 and over (or 2.1%) identified as LGB+ ('lesbian, gay, bisexual or other sexual orientation'), 1.364 million people (90.0%) identified as 'straight or heterosexual' and 119,000 people (7.9%) either did not answer the question or ticked 'prefer not to say'.
- 4.1% of adults (1 in 25) in Belfast identified as LGB+, while 1.1% of adults in Mid Ulster identified as LGB+.
- 4.6% of people aged 16 to 24 identified as LGB+, this falls to 0.3% of people aged 65 and over.

- Across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland (2.1%) has the lowest percentage of people who identify as (LGB+), thereafter comes Wales with 3.0% of people who identify as LGB+ and then England with 3.2%.
-

Men & Women generally evidence / information:

The size of the resident population in NI at 30 June 2023 is estimated to be **1.920** million people. Just over half (50.8%) of the population were female **974,897**, compared to **945,485** males.

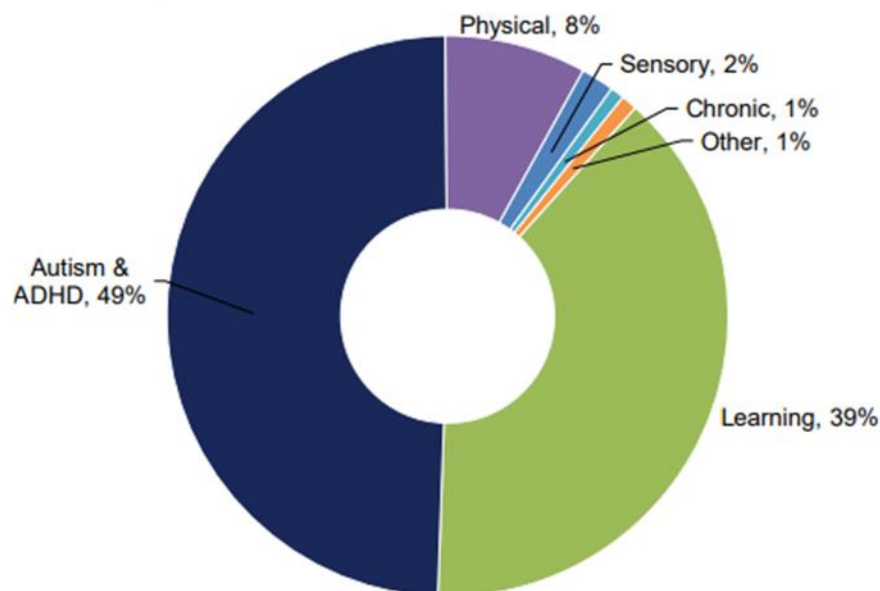
Disability evidence / information:

Of the 22,450 children in need in Northern Ireland, 25% (5,636) were recorded as having a disability. There is no statutory requirement for a child with a disability to be registered or have an open case file with the Social Services. The figures presented here therefore do not represent the prevalence of children with different disabilities in Northern Ireland but are rather a reflection of the service demand. The 2021 Household Census indicated that 8% of all under the age of 18 had a disability or long-term health problem in Northern Ireland.

Figure 3. Main type of disability of the 5,636 Children in Need who were recorded with a disability at 31 March 2024

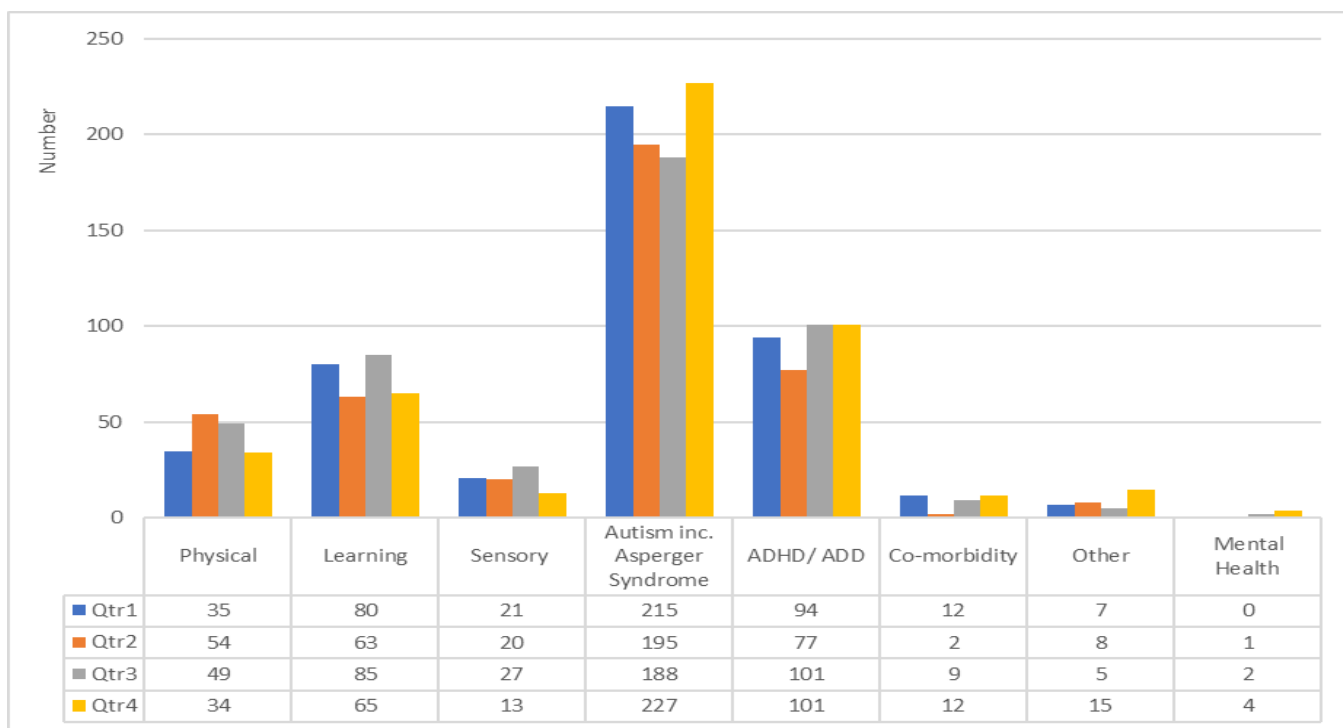
Source: Delegated Statutory Functions Return 10.1.6.

Note: In cases where children have more than one disability, they are in the below recorded against their most prevalent disability.



The HSC Trusts reported more male children in need with a disability (30%) than females (19%) in 2024. The gap was most evident amongst those recorded as having autism and/or ADHD as their main disability, where 15% of the males and 9% of the females were reported to have autism/ADHD. These findings are consistent with those published in 'The Prevalence of Autism (including Asperger's syndrome) in School Age Children in Northern Ireland, published on the Department's website. (Children's Social Care Statistics 2023/24)

Children with a disability referred to FSHs 2023/24



Dependants evidence / information:

General Population

- Census 2021 recorded that one person in eight of the population aged 5 or more (or 222,200 people) provided unpaid care to a relative or friend who had a health condition or illness.
- Census 2021 also recorded how many hours the carer provided each week. One person in twenty five (68,700 people) provided 50 or more hours of unpaid care per week.
- While people of all ages provided unpaid care, it was most common among those aged 40 to 64, at one person in five (or 124,600 people).
- The overall number of people providing unpaid care has not changed markedly from Census 2011 to Census 2021. However the number of people providing 50 or more hours unpaid care each week has increased (up from 56,300 people in 2011 to 68,700 people in 2021)

Children and young people

- The census also found that 2,600 children aged 5 to 14 provided unpaid care.
-

1.6 Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision?

Specify details of the needs, experiences and priorities for each of the Section 75 categories below:

Please also specify what sources of information you used to identify the needs/experiences/priorities (such as research papers, professional experience, engagement with those impacted). Also provide details of how you involved those impacted (service users, staff, voluntary sector organisations etc.).

Religious belief

CYPSP will ensure that diverse needs, experiences, and priorities related to religious beliefs are acknowledged and addressed when action planning. This includes promoting equal opportunities, preventing discrimination, and ensuring that religious beliefs of Children and Young people are not unfairly impacted.

It is important to note that children, young people and families across Northern Ireland have been central in helping shape this Plan, and we will continue to ensure service user involvement and consultation throughout the next three years.

Political Opinion

CYPSP will ensure that diverse needs, experiences, and priorities related to Political Opinion are acknowledged and addressed when action planning. This includes promoting equal opportunities, preventing discrimination, and ensuring that political opinions of Children and Young people are not unfairly impacted.

Racial Group

Parents and children from different ethnic backgrounds may face additional barriers in accessing and using services. These include a lack of awareness of the existence of community and statutory based services, as well as issues with language.

It is also recognised that some ethnic groups prefer service providers from their own gender. The following examples illustrate possible barriers some service users may face: Lack of awareness; Integration; Language; Health issues.

CYPSP have worked closely with Children, young people and families from different ethnic backgrounds and their support workers through needs assessment, direct engagement with families in relation to priorities within the new plan and have prioritised a translation hub and translation devices to meet language barriers.

Age

Age group 5 – 10 years consistently highest children in need group in referrals to family support hubs monitored quarterly. CYPSP recognise age can affect both how we say what we mean, as well as how we interpret what others mean. Children and young people may be less inclined to be assertive when speaking and may require aids to communication for openness, listening, empathy and feedback.

Marital status

CYPSP recognise the impact of divorce and separation, and the needs of one parent families – The highest group of families referred are One Parent Families with an increase from 5071 in 2022/23 to 5281 in 2023/24. Single parents may not have the same support available to them as parents who have the support of a spouse or partner. It is also recognised that single parents are at particular risk of poverty.

Sexual orientation

CYPSP recognise research indicates that despite increased equality and legislative protections that many young LGBTQ+ people continue to feel 'different' because of their minority sexuality or gender identity, and are more likely to be bullied due to their sexuality or perceived sexuality. This group of adults and young people are also more likely to experience poorer mental health.

LGBTQ+ people in NI are 3 times as likely as the general population to use illegal substances; twice as likely as the NI population to drink daily or most days. Drugs and Alcohol contributed to 30% of LGBTQ+ thinking about suicide and 13% attempting suicide. (Rainbow Project)

These issues may result in it being more difficult for gay, lesbian or bisexual parents and children to access services provided.

CYPSP will continue to promote and signpost to relevant and timely services within their resources and will continue to ensure service user involvement and consultation throughout the next three years.

Men and Women Generally

CYPSP will ensure that diverse needs, experiences, and priorities related to gender are acknowledged and addressed when action planning. This includes promoting equal opportunities, preventing discrimination, and ensuring that the gender of Children and Young people are not unfairly impacted.

It is important to note that children, young people and families across Northern Ireland have been central in helping shape this Plan, and we will continue to ensure service user involvement and consultation throughout the next three years.

Disability

CYPSP recognise factors in a person's environment that, through their absence or presence, limit functioning and create barriers. These include aspects such as: a physical environment that is not accessible; lack of relevant assistive technology (assistive, adaptive, and rehabilitative devices); negative attitudes of people towards disability; services, systems and policies that are either non-existent or that hinder the involvement of all people with a health condition in all areas of life.

CYPSP recognises that children with a disability can have significant issues in relation to having their voices heard and understands transition to be a key issue and therefore have engaged with Barnardo's PosAbility Group and MENCAP in relation to priorities within the new Plan.

Parents with disabilities (such as sight or hearing impairments, mobility issues and or cognitive impairment) also will have specific needs with regards to the

services offered, particularly with communication, access and ensuring services meet their needs.

CYPSP recognises that parents of children with a disability have first-hand knowledge on what is best for them and their child and therefore we have engaged with Parents in relation to priorities within the new Plan, co-production and service/resource developments.

Dependants

CYPSP has specifically acknowledged in its work the importance of young carers and access to education and social activities and manage the Young Carers Support Service contracts across NI.

Part 2. Screening questions

2.1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none

Details of the likely policy impacts on Religious belief: (See 1.6 above)

What is the level of impact? Minor / Major / None (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Political Opinion: (See 1.6 above)

What is the level of impact? Minor / Major / None (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Racial Group: (See 1.6 above)

What is the level of impact? Minor / Major / None (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Age: (See 1.6 above)

What is the level of impact? Minor / Major / None (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Marital Status: (See 1.6 above)

What is the level of impact? Minor / Major / None (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Sexual Orientation: See 1.6 above

What is the level of impact? Minor / Major / None (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Men and Women: (See 1.6 above)

What is the level of impact? Minor / Major / None (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Disability: (See 1.6 above)

What is the level of impact? Minor / Major / None (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Dependents: See 1.6 above

What is the level of impact? Minor / Major / None (circle as appropriate)

2.2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories? Yes/ No

Detail opportunities of how this policy could promote equality of opportunity for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

Based on the equality issues you identified in 1.5 and 1.6, what changes did you make and what do you intend to do in future in relation to the policy or decision in order to promote equality of opportunity?

In developing the policy or decision what did you do or change to address the equality issues you identified? Please specify below for each of the nine equality categories.

What do you intend to do in future to address the equality issues you identified?

Religious Belief - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Your mitigation to date:

CYPSP ensures that diverse needs, experiences, and priorities related to Section 75 are acknowledged and addressed when action planning. This includes promoting equal opportunities, preventing discrimination, and ensuring that outcomes for Children and Young people are not unfairly impacted.

Your intended additional mitigation in future:

It is important to note that children, young people and families across Northern Ireland are central in helping shape this Plan, and CYPSP will continue to ensure service user involvement, consultation and co-production throughout the next three years of the plan.

Political Opinion - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons

Your mitigation to date:

Building capacity within communities to connect families to early help networks.

CYPSP ensures that diverse needs, experiences, and priorities related to Section 75 are acknowledged and addressed when action planning. This includes promoting equal opportunities, preventing discrimination, and ensuring that outcomes for Children and Young people are not unfairly impacted.

Your intended additional mitigation in future:

It is important to note that children, young people and families across Northern Ireland are central in helping shape this Plan, and CYPSP will continue to ensure service user involvement, consultation and co-production throughout the next three years of the plan.

Racial Group - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons

Your mitigation to date:

Organisations that provide services to minority ethnic groups are represented on CYPSP and Outcomes Groups. In each instance a number of places is reserved.

It is recognised that individuals whose first language is not English may require translation services, both for face to face communication, as well as having documents provided in their own language. If this is required this can be done via the Interpreting service also a partner of CYPSP.

A new translation hub has been established on the CYPSP website CYPSP ensures that diverse needs, experiences, and priorities related to Section 75 are acknowledged and addressed when action planning. This

includes promoting equal opportunities, preventing discrimination, and ensuring that outcomes for Children and Young people are not unfairly impacted.

Your intended additional mitigation in future:

It is important to note that children, young people and families across Northern Ireland are central in helping shape this Plan, and CYPSP will continue to ensure service user involvement, consultation and co-production throughout the next three years of the plan.

New VASCO translation devices will also be piloted across CYPSP networks with front line services.

Age - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Your mitigation to date:

To ensure the voices of children are heard in the planning processes, children of all ages are actively involved as part of engagement processes with Children and Young People, Parent and Carers with a new Children's Reference Group established.

CYPSP ensures that diverse needs, experiences, and priorities related to Section 75 are acknowledged and addressed when action planning. This includes promoting equal opportunities, preventing discrimination, and ensuring that outcomes for Children and Young people are not unfairly impacted.

Your intended additional mitigation in future:

It is important to note that children, young people and families across Northern Ireland are central in helping shape this Plan, and CYPSP will continue to ensure service user involvement, consultation and co-production throughout the next three years of the plan.

Marital Status - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Your mitigation to date:

CYPSP ensures that diverse needs, experiences, and priorities related to Section 75 are acknowledged and addressed when action planning. This includes promoting equal opportunities, preventing discrimination, and ensuring that outcomes for Children and Young people are not unfairly impacted.

Your intended additional mitigation in future:

It is important to note that children, young people and families across Northern Ireland are central in helping shape this Plan, and CYPSP will continue to ensure service user involvement, consultation and co-production throughout the next three years of the plan.

Sexual Orientation - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Your mitigation to date:

Organisations that provide services to LGBTQ+ groups are represented on CYPSP Outcomes Groups and Locality Planning groups.

CYPSP ensures that diverse needs, experiences, and priorities related to Section 75 are acknowledged and addressed when action planning. This includes promoting equal opportunities, preventing discrimination, and ensuring that outcomes for Children and Young people are not unfairly impacted.

Your intended additional mitigation in future:

It is important to note that children, young people and families across Northern Ireland are central in helping shape this Plan, and CYPSP will continue to ensure service user involvement, consultation and co-production throughout the next three years of the plan.

Men and Women generally - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Your mitigation to date:

CYPSP ensures that diverse needs, experiences, and priorities related to Section 75 are acknowledged and addressed when action planning. This includes promoting equal opportunities, preventing discrimination, and ensuring that outcomes for Children and Young people are not unfairly impacted.

Your intended additional mitigation in future:

It is important to note that children, young people and families across Northern Ireland are central in helping shape this Plan, and CYPSP will continue to ensure service user involvement, consultation and co-production throughout the next three years of the plan.

Disability - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Your mitigation to date:

Barnardo's PosAbility group is a rights-based Participation and Advocacy Group that facilitates the involvement of children and young people with a range of disabilities and conditions, in high level strategic children's services planning. Having implemented tried and tested principles of good participation practice since 2002 the Project was mandated by CYPSP to lead the development of a model of young people's involvement in CYPSP.

There are a number of task and finish groups focused on the needs of Children with Disability and their Families.

In order to facilitate parents (and children) with disabilities (such as sight or hearing impairments, mobility issues and or cognitive impairment), access to sign language interpreters will be provided, as well as having any documentation in accessible formats upon request (e.g. braille, easy-read etc.)

CYPSP ensures that diverse needs, experiences, and priorities related to Section 75 are acknowledged and addressed when action planning. This includes promoting equal opportunities, preventing discrimination, and ensuring that outcomes for Children and Young people are not unfairly impacted.

Your intended additional mitigation in future:

It is important to note that children, young people and families across Northern Ireland are central in helping shape this Plan, and CYPSP will continue to ensure service user involvement, consultation and co-production throughout the next three years of the plan.

Dependants - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide reasons:

Your mitigation to date:

Parenting remains an issue for those working with families both at a statutory and community/voluntary level. The growing concern around managing children's behaviour, setting boundaries and routines and parenting teens has been raised in all localities. CYPSP have introduced a parent support

page and parent zone on Youth Wellness Web and have contracted a Parental Participation Service with Children in NI/Parentline NI.

CYPSP ensures that diverse needs, experiences, and priorities related to Section 75 are acknowledged and addressed when action planning. This includes promoting equal opportunities, preventing discrimination, and ensuring that outcomes for Children and Young people are not unfairly impacted.

Your intended additional mitigation in future:

It is important to note that children, young people and families across Northern Ireland are central in helping shape this Plan, and CYPSP will continue to ensure service user involvement, consultation and co-production throughout the next three years of the plan.

Having considered the above, are there any opportunities to better promote equality by adopting an alternative policy or decision?

Please specify what alternative policies or decisions you considered

Continue working with a broad range of Outcomes Groups/Task Groups in order to reflect the equality issues identified.

1. We will deliver better outcomes for children and young people and ensure **ALL** children get the best possible start in life and the best possible health and wellbeing in line with Programme for Government and NI Children' Strategy 2020-30.
2. Prioritise Children's mental health and emotional wellbeing.
3. Prioritise Early Intervention support for Children with disabilities and their families.
4. Prioritise support to children who's wellbeing is being affected by disruption to their schooling.
5. Prioritise contribution to strategic cross departmental actions in response to food and fuel poverty as well as locality-based services and resources.
6. Ensure the voice of young people underpins all future planning.
7. Improve access to services for Families, Children and Young people from Ethnic Minority Groups.

8. Improve access to services for Families, Children and Young people from LGBTQ+ community.

9. Promote resources, raise awareness and communicate effectively.

CYPSP recognise that monitored access to services across all CYPSP linked services for disability, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation will allow service providers to see whether the uptake of the services is proportionate to the demographics of the population that uses those services. Lower uptake may be an indicator that there is a need for additional action to ensure that services are accessible.

CYPSP will ensure that all planning groups ensure that section 75 representation is sought where there are issues pertinent to that group.

2.3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Please provide details of the likely policy impact and determine the level of impact for each of the categories below i.e. either minor, major or none.

Details of the likely policy impacts on Religious belief: (One of the parameters in the CYPSP is promotion of equality and good relations. One of the key outcomes the Children's and Young People's Plan seeks to achieve is that **ALL** children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations is promoted. The Plan sets the direction of travel for Outcomes Groups and service providers to achieve improvements across all Section 75 equality categories where appropriate. It is therefore anticipated that the impact of the Plan (realized through subsequent service delivery) will be positive)

What is the level of impact? Minor / Major / None (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Political Opinion: (As above)

What is the level of impact? Minor / Major / None (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Racial Group: (as above)

What is the level of impact? Minor / Major / None (circle as appropriate)

2.4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Detail opportunities of how this policy could better promote good relations for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

Religious Belief - If Yes, provide details: Potentially, through increased participation in services and community resources/events with others of different religion.

If No, provide reasons:

Political Opinion - If Yes, provide details: Potentially, through increased participation in services and community resources/events with others of different political opinion.

If No, provide reasons

Racial Group - If Yes, provide details: Potentially, through increased participation in services and community resources/events with others of different Race.

If No, provide reasons

2.5 Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category.

Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?

(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

One of the key outcomes the Children's and Young People's Plan seeks to achieve is that **ALL** children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations is promoted. Therefore, it encompasses those individuals with multiple identities. The Plan sets the direction of travel for Outcomes Groups and service providers to achieve improvements across all Section 75 equality categories where appropriate.

It is important to note that children, young people and families across Northern Ireland are central in helping shape this Plan, and CYPSP will continue to ensure service user involvement, consultation and co-production throughout the next three years of the plan. It is therefore anticipated that the impact of the Plan (realized through subsequent service delivery) will be positive.

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

The plan for the RAISE programme is for a whole community and place based approach in localities across Northern Ireland to support the Department of Education's vision that "every child is happy, learning and succeeding". The programme aims to invest in whole community and place-based approaches to raise achievement to reduce educational disadvantage. Links have already been made with relevant existing CYPSP Locality Planning Groups to avoid duplication of effort and add value in promoting best outcomes for children and families in education settings including young protestant men, minority ethnic young people/children and young people with disabilities/additional needs.

2.5 Was the original policy / decision changed in any way to address any adverse impacts identified either through the screening process or from consultation feedback. If so please provide details.

No

Part 3. Screening decision

3.1 Would you summarise the impact of the policy as; No Impact/ Minor Impact/ Major Impact?

Minor impact

3.2 Do you consider that this policy/ decision needs to be subjected to a full equality impact assessment (EQIA)?

No

3.3 Please explain your reason.

The Children and Young People's Plan provides the strategic direction for CYPSP Planning Groups and service delivery partners to deliver improvements in the wellbeing of children and young people in Northern Ireland. The intent of the Plan in relation to equality of opportunity and good relations are intended to be positive.

Section 75 obligations forms part of the planning assumptions that must be given due regard by all CYPSP Planning Groups.

Any programmes of work coming out of the CYPSP will be equality proofed.

3.4 Mitigation

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

The plan is a 3 year plan and is reviewed annually on progress towards outcomes and will not be amended or changed within the 3 year period – local actions to partners can be advised to promote equality of opportunity and or good relations.

If so, give the reasons to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.

3.5 Timetabling and prioritising

Factors to be considered in timetabling and prioritising policies for equality impact assessment.

If the policy has been ‘**screened in**’ for equality impact assessment, then please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations – **Rating** ____ (1-3)

Social need – **Rating** ____ (1-3)

Effect on people’s daily lives – **Rating** ____ (1-3)

Relevance to a public authority’s functions – **Rating** ____ (1-3)

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the public authority in timetabling. Details of the Public Authority’s Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the quarterly Screening Report.

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?

If yes, please provide details.

Part 4. Monitoring

Monitoring is an important part of policy development and implementation. Through monitoring it is possible to assess the impacts of the policy / decision both beneficial and adverse.

4.1 Please detail how you will monitor the effect of the policy / decision?

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership's main aim is improving the lives of all our children and young people and produces an annual outcomes monitoring report on How Children and Young people are doing in Northern Ireland.

Each section of this report identifies indicators set out under the following high level outcomes:

Physical and Mental Health; Enjoyment of play and leisure; Learning and achieving; Living in safety and with stability; Experiencing economic and environmental well-being; Contributing positively to community and society; Living in a society which respects their rights and promotion of equality and good relations. Rights based indicators are identified throughout the document.

The **Thirteenth** Outcome Monitoring Report shows how children and young people in Northern Ireland are doing in relation to the Government's eight outcomes and covers the period **2016** up to **2024** (where available). The report presents the information collected against agreed indicators for each outcome, providing trend analysis over time and comparison across geographical sectors. The information is also available in greater detail (Trust, District Council, New LGDs and Electoral Ward areas) on request to the CSP Information Manager, Social Care and Children (contact details on page **125**), who can also provide information on sources and how the information was collated. Visit www.cypsp.hscni.net to view the indicators visually mapped. (Training on the mapping system is available from the CSP Planning & Information Manager).

In reviewing progress towards achieving the eight outcomes it is essential to be able to measure the progress for our most vulnerable children. In order to do this, the data collected needs to be disaggregated by specific groups of children identified as priority by the Children's Services Planning process as well as the Section 75 (NI Act 1998) categories. The Children's Services Plan describes how the core indicators included in this report will be analysed for specific groups of children and complemented by additional indicators. Work is also

continuing to ensure the indicators allow us to measure children's rights and how they are being realised.

The Information collated in the report is already being used by Children's Services Planning Working Groups, together with needs assessment material collected from agencies, children and young people and communities, in the planning of services. It is also useful for locality partnerships, who can use it to help them plan better for children in a particular locality.

We publish this information as we hope it will be useful for any agency or partnership, at local or Northern Ireland level, in the analysis of how well our Children and Young people are doing, against our agreed outcomes. This information is also available on our CYPSP Interactive mapping system which can be found at <http://maps.cypsp.hscni.net/>

4.2 What data will you collect in the future in order to monitor the effect of the policy / decision?

Please specify your quantitative and qualitative monitoring arrangements for

(1) Equality and Good Relations

General population Mid-year population estimate (2023, published June 2024)

The size of the resident population in NI at 30 June 2023 is estimated to be **1.920** million people. Just over half (50.8%) of the population were female **974,897**, compared to **945,485** males.

General population

Mid-year population estimates published by NISRA in 2023 show that:

0-19 yrs (inclusive) = 482,839 (25.1% of all NI population)

20 – 34 yrs = 343,262 (17.9%)

35 – 49 yrs = 374,384 (19.5%)


50 - 64 yrs = 377,415 (19.7%)

65 – 74 yrs = 182,442 (9.5%)

75 – 89 yrs = 145,626 (7.6%)

90+ yrs = 14,414 (0.7%)

Children and Young People

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF TRUSTS WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND 2022						
 CSP Info Team	Belfast	Northern	S Eastern	Southern	Western	NI
0-4 years	20,284	27,026	20,258	25,859	18,505	111,932
5-9 years	21,634	30,235	23,450	28,146	20,193	123,658
10-14 years	22,380	31,963	24,822	28,958	21,166	129,289
15-17 years	11,922	18,129	13,665	16,154	11,956	71,826
0-17 Year Population	76,220	107,353	82,195	99,117	71,820	436,705
Whole Population	365,873	480,029	369,576	393,169	301,896	1,910,543
Child Population as a percentage of whole population	20.8%	22.4%	22.2%	25.2%	23.8%	22.9%

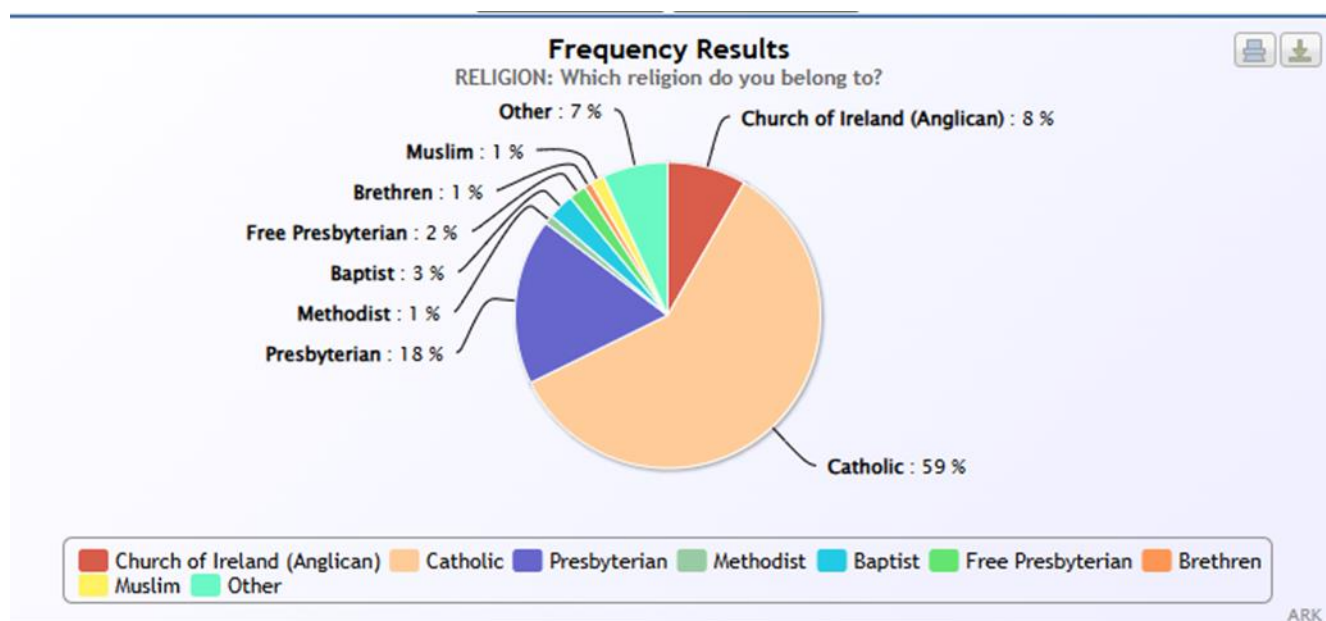
Note: 2023 MYE currently not available at Trust level

General population – (Census 2021)

- 42.31% (805,151) of the population were either Catholic or **brought up** as Catholic.
- 37.36% (710,996) stated that they were Protestant or **brought up** as Protestant.
- 1.34% (25,519) of the population belonged to or had been **brought up** in other religions and Philosophies.
- 18.99% (361,512) neither belonged to, or religion not stated.

Children in Need – Religion and Ethnicity

Over a third (36%) of the children in need did not have religious background recorded. Of those with their religion recorded, some 48% were Roman Catholic; 36% were Protestant including other Christian faiths; and 9% had other religious faiths. Some 7% were recorded as having no religious beliefs. Almost a quarter (24%) of children in need did not have ethnic background recorded. Of those with ethnic background registered, some 92% were White, 2% were Black, 1% Chinese and 5% other ethnic backgrounds, including Traveller, Asian and mixed ethnicities.
(Children's Social Care Statistics 2023/24)



(Young Life & Times Survey 2023) (Completed by 2,065 16-year olds)

Year: 2023

Module: Community Relations

Variable: RELGALWY

Do you think religion will always make a difference to the way people feel about each other in Northern Ireland?

	%
Yes	75
No	11
Other	4
I do not know	10

[View Pie Chart](#)

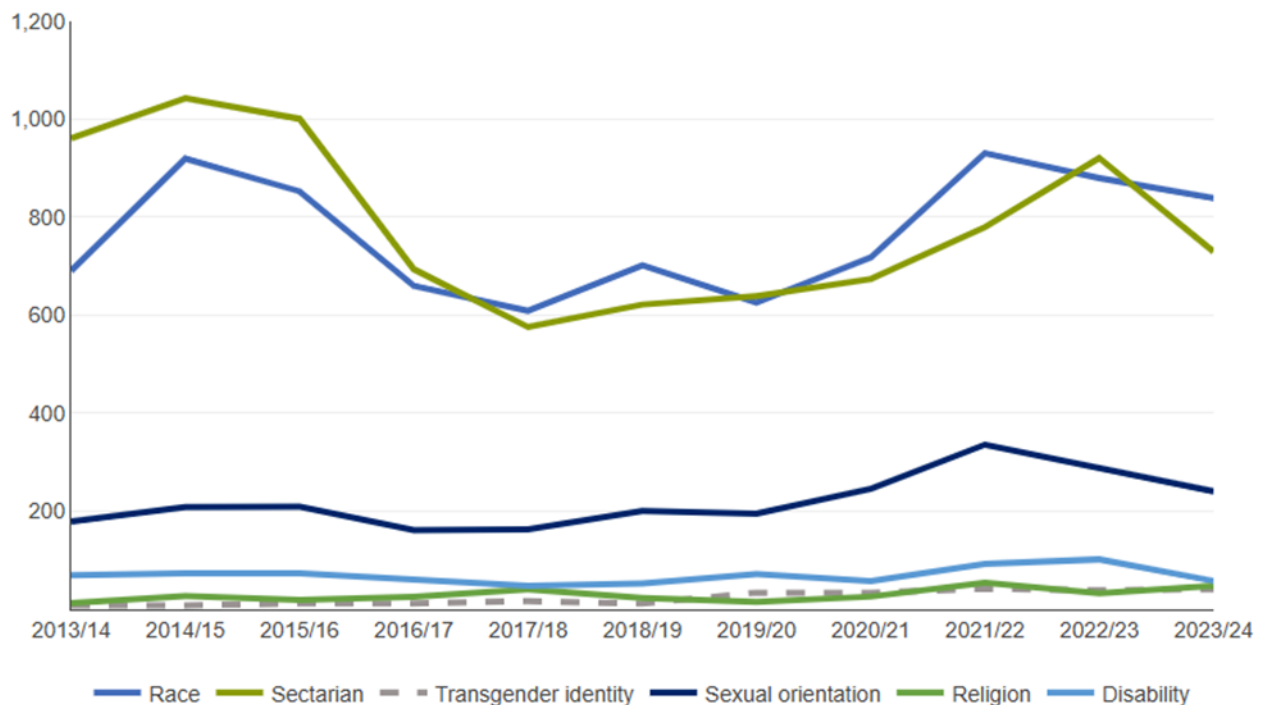
[Hide Pie Chart](#)

[Go to results for men and women, and people of different religions.](#)

[Go to technical notes](#)

In 2023/24, 839 racially motivated and 730 sectarian hate crimes were recorded. All other categories of hate crimes when combined accounted for 20% of hate crimes.

Figure 14: Number of hate crimes



Note: Prior to 2022/2023, the “Sexual Orientation” category was labelled as “Homophobic”, and prior to 2023/2024, the “Transgender Identity” and “Race” categories were labelled as “Transphobic” and “Racial” respectively. These have been changed to remain in line with how the PSNI present these data. (PSNI)

(2) Disability Duties

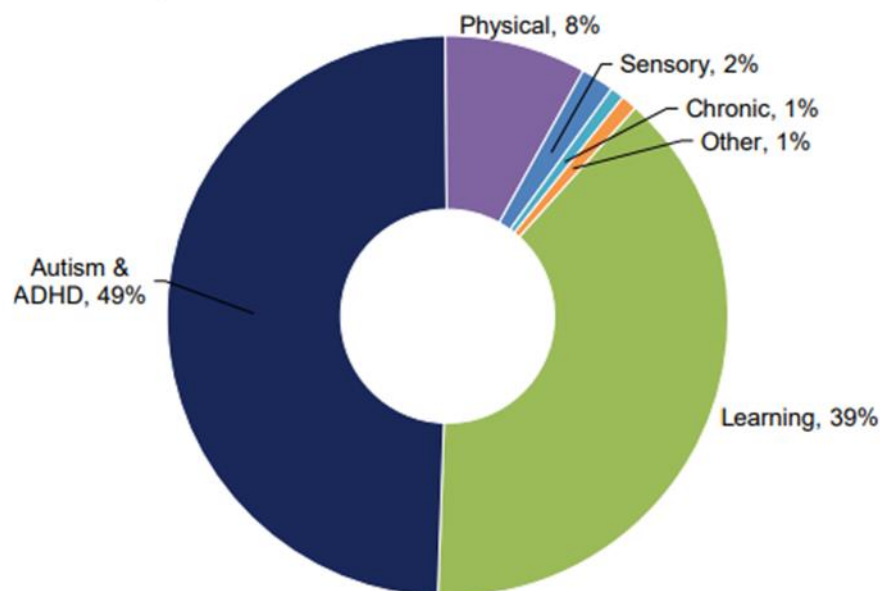
Children in Need with a Disability

Of the 22,450 children in need in Northern Ireland, 25% (5,636) were recorded as having a disability. There is no statutory requirement for a child with a disability to be registered or have an open case file with the Social Services. The figures presented here therefore do not represent the prevalence of children with different disabilities in Northern Ireland but are rather a reflection of the service demand. The 2021 Household Census indicated that 8% of all under the age of 18 had a disability or long-term health problem in Northern Ireland.

Figure 3. Main type of disability of the 5,636 Children in Need who were recorded with a disability at 31 March 2024

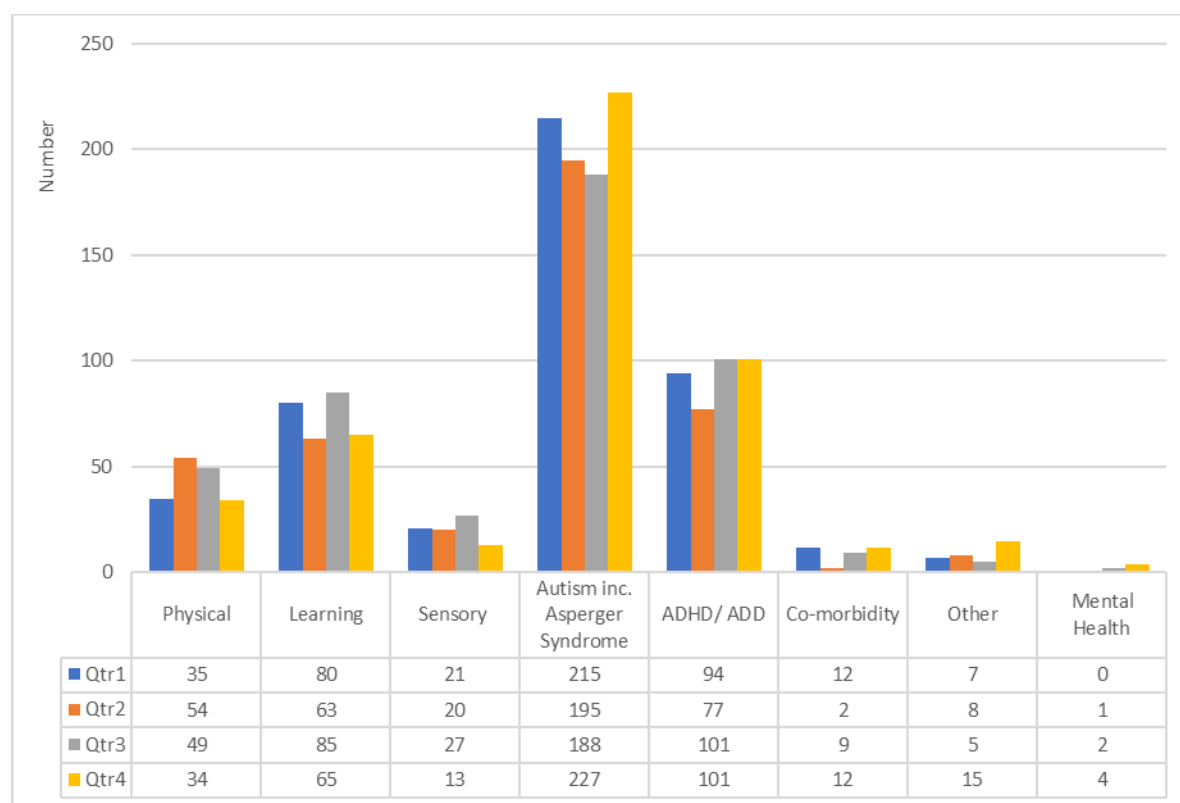
Source: Delegated Statutory Functions Return 10.1.6.

Note: In cases where children have more than one disability, they are in the below recorded against their most prevalent disability.



The HSC Trusts reported more male children in need with a disability (30%) than females (19%) in 2024. The gap was most evident amongst those recorded as having autism and/or ADHD as their main disability, where 15% of the males and 9% of the females were reported to have autism/ADHD. These findings are consistent with those published in 'The Prevalence of Autism (including Asperger's syndrome) in School Age Children in Northern Ireland, published on the Department's website. (Children's Social Care Statistics 2023/24)

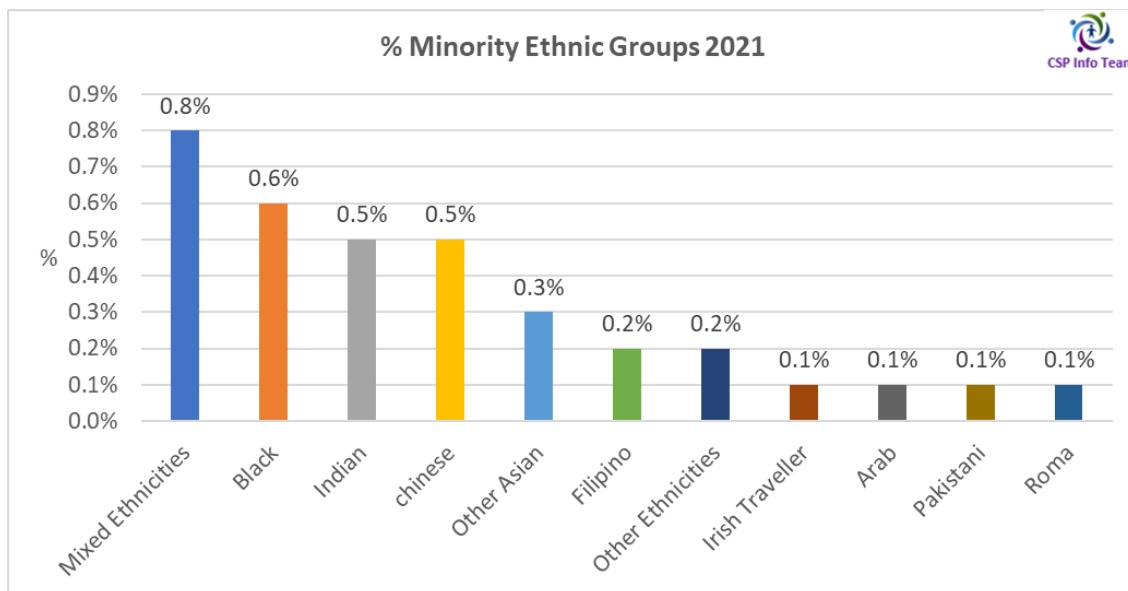
Children with a disability referred to FSHs 2023/24



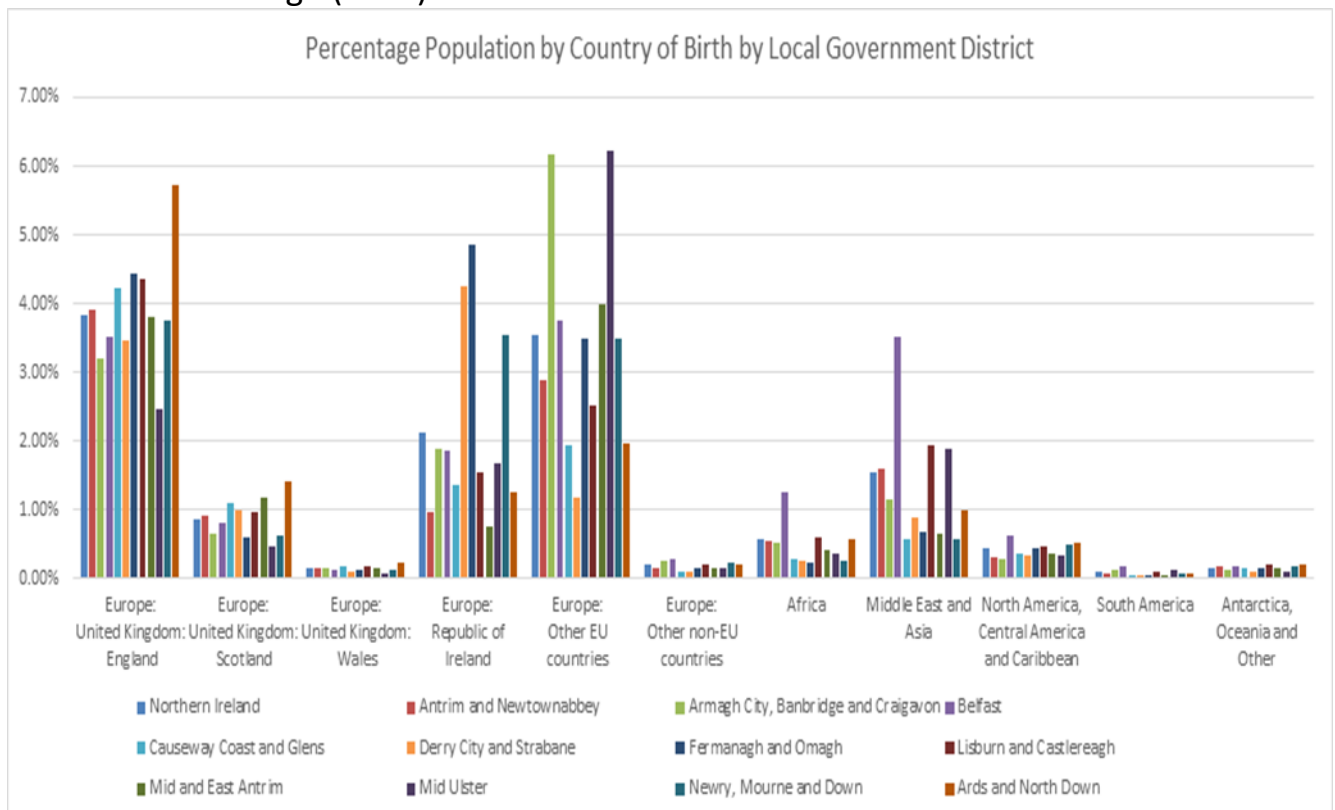
(3) Human Rights

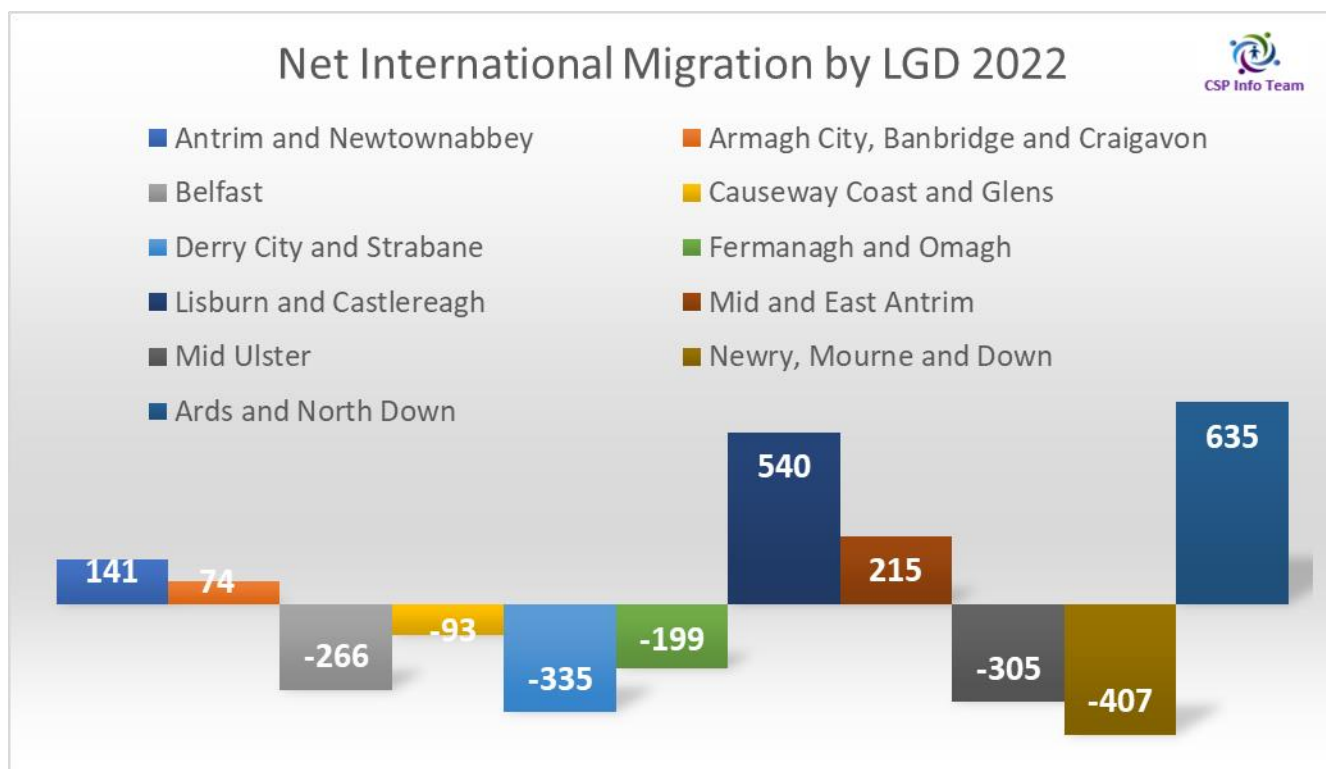
The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership's main aim is improving the lives of all our children and young people and produces an annual outcomes monitoring report on How Children and Young people are doing in Northern Ireland.

Each section of this report identifies indicators set out under the following high level outcomes: Physical and Mental Health; Enjoyment of play and leisure; Learning and achieving; Living in safety and with stability; Experiencing economic and environmental well-being; Contributing positively to community and society; Living in a society which respects their rights and promotion of equality and good relations. **Rights based indicators are identified throughout the document.-**
[Northern Ireland Outcome Monitoring Annual Report](#)



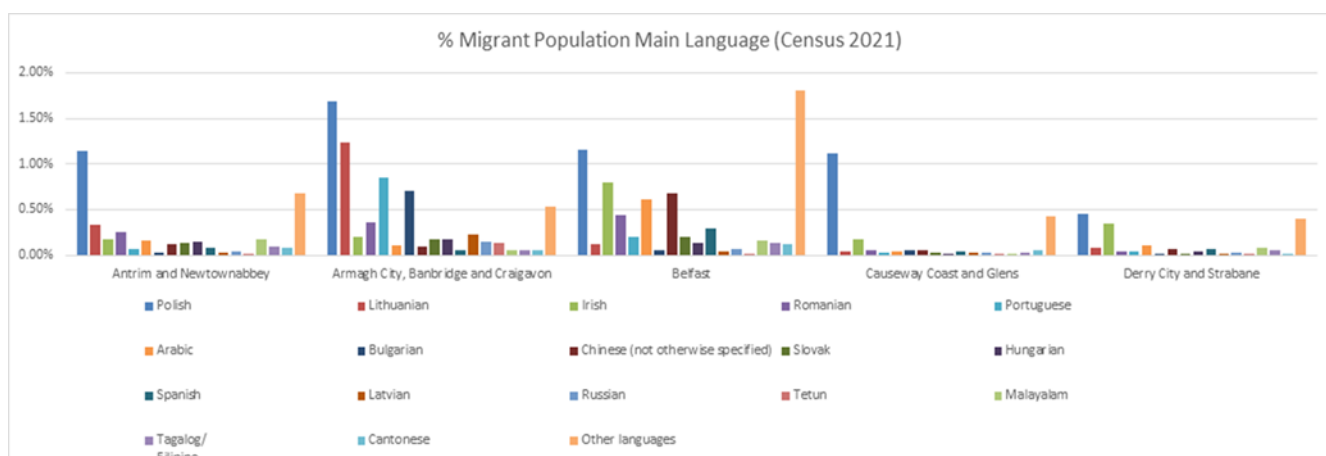
In 2021 the number of people with a white ethnic group was **1,837,600** (96.6% of the population). Conversely, the total number of people with a minority ethnic group stood at **65,600** people (3.4% of the population). Within this latter classification, the largest groups were Mixed Ethnicities (**14,400**), Black (**11,000**), Indian (**9,900**), Chinese (**9,500**), and Filipino (**4,500**). Irish Traveller, Arab, Pakistani and Roma ethnicities also each constituted **1,500** people or more. The most diverse Local Government Districts are Belfast (7.1% of the population with a minority ethnic group), Mid Ulster (4.0%) and Lisburn and Castlereagh (3.9%).

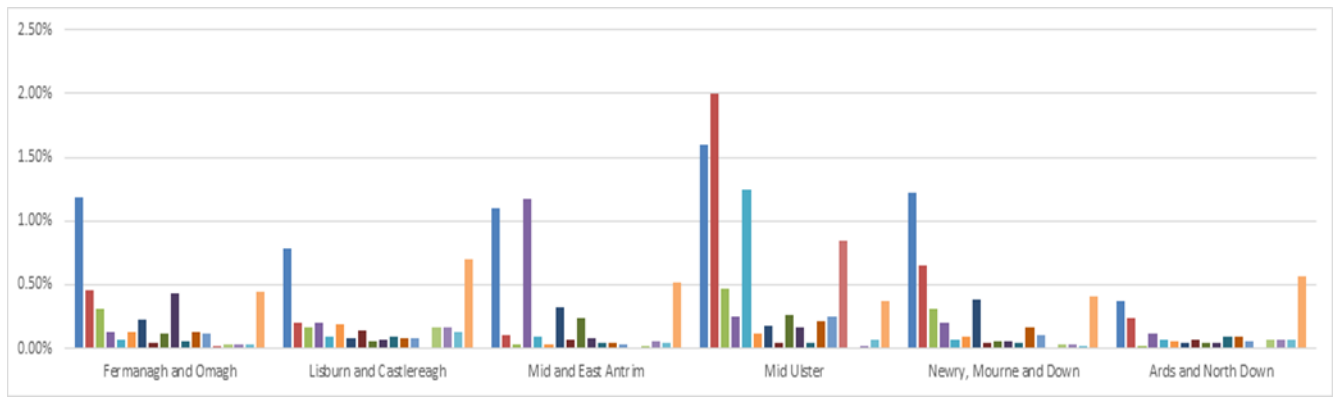




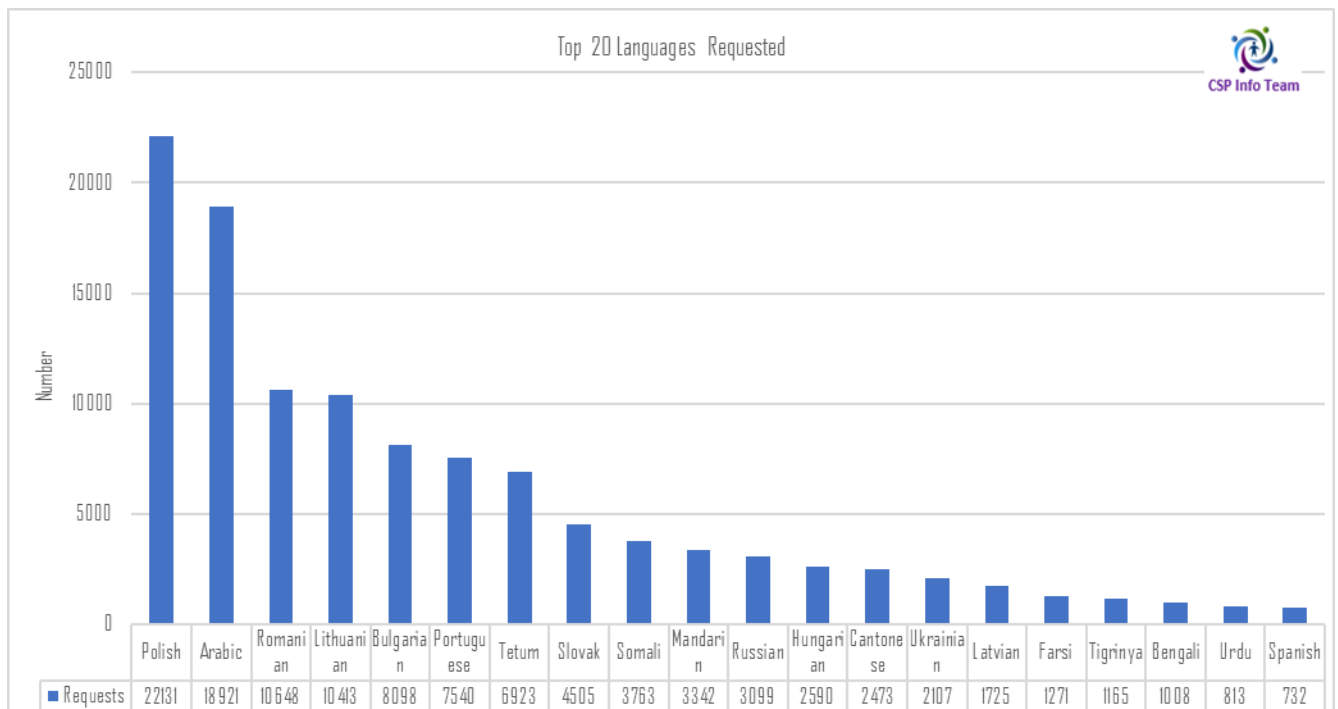
The chart shows how many migrants resided in each of the eleven Local Government Districts (LGDs) (Migrants per 1,000 population). The LGD with the largest number of migrants per 1,000 population was Belfast with 163. Ards and North Down had the least with 50 per 1,000 population. (NISRA Census 2021)

The number of migrants who cannot speak English well is the highest in Belfast LGD at **3,728** followed by Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon LGD at **3,296**.





Interpreters Requested by Language by HSCTs 1 April – Mar 24



The top 2 languages requested by the HSCTs was Polish followed by Arabic in 2023/24.

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Post-Primary School Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need

Children Aged 4-16 years Suspended from School

Children Aged 4-16 years Expelled from School

Primary School Pupils with Less than 85% Attendance

Post- Primary School Pupils with Less than 85% Attendance

Primary School Pupils with English as Additional Language (Newcomers)

Post-Primary School Pupils with English as Additional Language (Newcomers)

Key Stage One Communication (English) - Percentage of Children Achieving Level 2 or above

Key Stage One Maths - Percentage of Children Achieving Level 2 or above

Key Stage Two Communication (English) – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 4 or above

Key Stage Two Maths – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 4 or above

Key Stage Three Communication (English) – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 5 or above

Key Stage Three Maths – Percentage of Children Achieving Level 5 or above

Percentage of Young People gaining 5 GCSEs (A-C) or above

Percentage of Young People gaining 5 GCSEs (A-C) or above including English and Maths

Percentage of Young People Leaving School with No GCSEs

Percentage of Young People Aged 16-24 years on NEETS

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Crimes Recorded with a Domestic Abuse Motivation

Young People's Attitude to Domestic Violence

Offences Recorded with a Racist Motivation

Offences Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation

Road Traffic Casualties on the Roads

Children Killed, Seriously or Slightly Injured on the Roads

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

Anti-Social Behaviour, Road Safety and Travelling to School

Anti-Social Behaviour, Road Safety and Travelling to School (cont.)

Economic and Environmental Well-being

Children & Young People Living in Overcrowded Accommodation

Number of Families with Children Awarded as Full Duty Applicants

Dependent Children in Families Awarded as Full Duty Applicants

Number of Young People Aged 16-18 Awarded as Full Duty Applicants

Families with Dependent Children Living in Temporary Accommodation

Number of Children Living in Temporary Accommodation

Percentage of Children Living in Relative Low Income Poverty Before Housing Costs (BHC)

Percentage of Children Living in Absolute Low Income Poverty Before Housing Costs (BHC)

Percentage of Children who are Dependents of Claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance

Percentage of Children who are Dependents of Claimants of Income Support

Percentage of Lone Parent Families Claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

Percentage of Lone Parent Families Claiming Income Support

Key Points – Family Resource Survey

Making a Positive Contribution

Participation in Youth Activities

Contributing Positively to Society

Contributing Positively to Society (Cont.)

CYPSP recognise that monitored access to services across all CYPSP linked services for gender, age, disability, religion, ethnicity will allow service providers to see whether the uptake of the services is proportionate to the demographics of the population in need of those services. Lower uptake may be an indicator that there is a need for additional action to ensure that services are accessible.

Family Support Hubs Monitoring

Families

Parents and Children referred Children by age and gender

Children by Ethnic Group

Children with a Disability

Household composition – two parents, one parent, partner, guardian, kinship, other

Reasons for Referral

Accepted and Signposted

Referral process

Referral agency Families

Children did not engage

Quality Standards implemented

Case Studies Family Samples – outcomes of service intervention

Locality Planning Groups

Individual report cards on services delivered showing how much did we do, how well did we do it, is anyone better off.

Please note: - For the purposes of the annual progress report to the Equality Commission you may later be asked about the monitoring you have done in relation to this policy and whether that has identified any Equality issues.

Part 5. Disability Duties

5.1 Does the policy/decision in any way promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and/or encourage their participation in public life?

Development of the Children and Young People's Plan has been informed through a co-design process engaging with a large number of stakeholders to gauge their concerns and opinions about issues that affect children and young people, and their suggestions as to how the Plan could be used to effect improvements in their well-being. Barnardo's PosAbility Group and MENCAP Youth Group are also advisory groups to CYPSP in relation to Children and Young People's needs and are active participants across the CYPSP infrastructure to ensure the views of disabled people are taken into account and they have an active role in shaping the services.

We have developed a Co-production group with parents of children with a disability to advise and help shape future services based on their own journey and experiences.

We will facilitate opportunities for people with a disability to have their voice heard and listened to throughout the CYPSP infrastructure.

5.2 Is there an opportunity to better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people or encourage their participation in public life by making changes to the policy/decision or introducing additional measures?

A number of Disability and Diversity awareness training has been delivered to increase professional's knowledge on disability and for individuals to have a better understanding of what it is like to have a disability.

To promote positive attitudes towards disabled people we will consider:

- Implementation of recommendations identified within CYPSP Our Journey through Disability report.
- Disability inclusion workshops - to gain a fuller understanding of issues from Parents and for those working with children and young people with a disability through networking and sharing good practice, and to undertake an Outcomes Based Approach
- Further roll out of Disability and Diversity awareness training for professionals and service providers

- Produce a directory of summer activities for children and young people with a disability and co-ordinate information and make activities more accessible to potential participants.
- Develop new Treat me Well training for professionals working with Families of Children with Disabilities.
- Develop medical/social passports for Children and Young People with disability or additional needs.

Part 6. Human Rights

6.1 Does the policy / decision affects anyone's Human Rights?

Details of the likely policy impacts on Article 2 – Right to life: (There is no effect on Article 2)

What is the impact? Positive / Negative (human right interfered with or restricted) / Neutral (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Article 3 – Right to freedom from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: (Evidence suggests that timely access to prevention and early intervention helps reduce or prevent mental health incidence with children and young people and enables them to recover more quickly from episodes. This will allow them to better engage with society and give them opportunities to thrive)

What is the impact? Positive / Negative / Neutral (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Article 4 – Right to freedom from slavery, servitude & forced or compulsory labour: (There is no effect on Article 4)

What is the impact? Positive / Negative / Neutral (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Article 5 – Right to liberty & security of person: (Evidence suggests that timely access to prevention and early intervention helps reduce or prevent mental health incidence with children and young people and enables them to recover more quickly from episodes. This will allow them to better engage with society and give them opportunities to thrive)

What is the impact? Positive / Negative / Neutral (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Article 6 – Right to a fair & public trial within a reasonable time: (There is no effect on Article 6)

What is the impact? Positive / Negative / Neutral (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Article 7 – Right to freedom from retrospective criminal law & no punishment without law: (There is no effect on Article 7)

What is the impact? Positive / Negative / Neutral (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Article 8 – Right to respect for private & family life, home and correspondence: (Evidence suggests that timely access to prevention and early intervention helps reduce or prevent mental health incidence with children and young people and enables them to recover more quickly from episodes. This will allow them to better engage with society and give them opportunities to thrive)

What is the impact? Positive / Negative / Neutral (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Article 9 – Right to freedom of thought, conscience & religion: (Evidence suggests that timely access to prevention and early intervention helps reduce or prevent mental health incidence with children and young people and enables them to recover more quickly from episodes. This will especially support those with neurodivergent conditions and those who are trying to understand their sexual orientation and preferences.)

What is the impact? Positive / Negative / Neutral (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Article 10 – Right to freedom of expression: (Evidence suggests that timely access to prevention and early intervention helps reduce or prevent mental health incidence with children and young people and enables them to recover more quickly from episodes. This will especially support those with neurodivergent conditions and those who are trying to understand their sexual orientation and preferences)

What is the impact? Positive / Negative / Neutral (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Article 11 – Right to freedom of assembly & association: (There is no effect on Article 11)

What is the impact? Positive / Negative / Neutral (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Article 12 – Right to marry & found a family: (There is no effect on Article 12)

What is the impact? Positive / Negative / Neutral (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Article 14 – Prohibition of discrimination in the enjoyment of the convention rights: (There is no effect on Article 14)

What is the impact? Positive / Negative / Neutral (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on 1st protocol Article 1 – Right to a peaceful enjoyment of possessions & protection of property: (There is no effect on 1st Protocol Article 1)

What is the impact? Positive / Negative / Neutral (circle as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on 1st protocol Article 2 – Right of access to education: (Evidence suggests that timely access to prevention and early intervention helps reduce or prevent mental health or school avoidance incidence with children and young people and enables them to recover more quickly from episodes. This will allow them to better engage with educational opportunities.)

What is the impact? Positive / Negative / Neutral (circle as appropriate)

6.2 If you have identified a likely negative impact who is affected and how?

At this stage we would recommend that you consult with your line manager to determine whether to seek legal advice and to refer to Human Rights Guidance to consider:

- *whether there is a law which allows you to interfere with or restrict rights*
- *whether this interference or restriction is necessary and proportionate*
- *what action would be required to reduce the level of interference or restriction in order to comply with the Human Rights Act (1998).*

6.3 Outline any actions which could be taken to promote or raise awareness of human rights or to ensure compliance with the legislation in relation to the policy/decision.

Part 7 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Valerie Maxwell	Children's Services Planning & Information Manager	30 June 2025
Approved by:		
Maurice Leeson	Programme Manager, Partnership, Emotional Health and Wellbeing, CAMHS & Disability	9 July 2025
Copied to EHRU:		

The Screening Template is 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy (at least Grade 7), made easily accessible on the public authority's website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO INFORM THE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT TO THE EQUALITY COMMISSION

(PLEASE NOTE : THIS IS NOT PART OF THE SCREENING TEMPLATE BUT MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED WITH THE SCREENING)

1. Please provide details of any measures taken to enhance the level of engagement with individuals and representative groups. Please include any use of the Equality Commissions guidance on consulting with and involving children and young people.

Pivotal to developing the Plan has been the consultation with children, young people, parents / primary care givers, service providers and partners at regional and local level. The CYPSP Plan captures the voices of children and young people, and reflects our commitment to the United Nations Convention on Children's Rights. Our collective goal is to continue to improve our approach to engaging children and young people, including those from vulnerable or disadvantaged groups in the development of services, and to increase children and young people's direct participation in decision-making which directly affects them and their families.

2. In developing this policy / decision were any changes made as a result of equality issues raised during :

- (a) pre-consultation / engagement;
- (b) formal consultation;
- (c) the screening process; and/or
- (d) monitoring / research findings.

If so, please provide a brief summary including how the issue was identified, what changes were made, and what will be the expected outcomes / impacts for those effected.

Feedback from the consultation process with the CYPSP children and young people's Participation network in respect of the new Plan was provided to CYPSP in March 2024. Full report can be viewed at <https://cypsp.hscni.net/wpcontent/uploads/2025/01/CYPSP-Voice-of-Children-Young-People.pdf> Views were taken on board and included in the Plan.

3. Does this policy / decision include any measure(s) to improve access to services including the provision of information in accessible formats? If so please provide a short summary.

The main aim of the Plan is to improve wellbeing outcomes for everyone across the under eighteen population and up to 25 for Children with a Disability and

their families. It aims to create a society which promotes emotional wellbeing, positive mental health, cost of living support, disability support and minority ethnic/language support and access to services for everyone, and ensures children, young people and families have access to the right early help and treatment when they need it. It recognises the specific needs of vulnerable groups and seeks to ensure these are recognised and considered. It is therefore likely that the framework will have a positive impact on ALL Children, young people and families.

Thank you for your co-operation.
Equality and Human Rights Unit.