



Participation Network

Supporting the Public Sector to engage
children & young people

CYPSP BME Sub-Group

December 18

2012

This Report contains a summary of the views and experiences of a small group of BME children and young people who are participate in activities provided by some of the support organizations who are members of the BME Sub-Group. The views and opinions relate to the key priorities identified within the draft BME Sub Group Action Plan.

*Summary Report on
Initial Engagement
with BME children and
young people*

Summary

At the BME Sub Group meeting on 16th October, Participation Network undertook to contact and meet a number of key people from the different organizations (that sit on the Sub Group) that work directly with BME children and young people. The purpose of this was to establish what level of engagement might be possible with some BME children and young people on the draft priorities within the Action Plan, and where possible, facilitate this engagement and feedback the responses.

The table below gives a brief summary of activity;

Name and Agency	Outcomes
<p>Meetings with following agencies;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eileen Chan-Hu, Chinese Welfare Centre, Belfast 2. Andrew McCreery, Youth Worker at Craigavon Intercultural Centre, Portadown 3. Jo Marley, Joanne Neill and Dawn Thompson, from Bryson House, Belfast 4. Kathryn Beirne, Southern Area Action with Travellers, Safe and Well Project, Armagh 5. Deirdre McAliskey and other staff (Roisin, Lena, Joanne, Moira and Roisin), BELONG , Coalisland 	<p>Focus group with CIP MBE members – Sampled opinions of up to 55 children aged 4-11 years from 6 different BME groups.</p> <p>Online survey for members of the CIP Tuesday night drop in – 13 completed surveys</p> <p>Facilitated discussions with 4 Roma Children involved with Bryson, aged 6-9 years</p> <p>Discussion with young Mum’s involved with the SAAT Safe and Well Project</p> <p>Facilitated conversations with primary age Traveller children involved with BELONG</p>

This Report contains a summary of the feedback from Craigavon Intercultural Project, Bryson, Belong and the SAAT Safe and Well Project.

Outcome: Being Healthy

1. What helps you to feel happy, healthy and good about yourself?
2. What would help you feel ever happier?
3. If you feel upset or are worried about something – who do you go to for help? How do they help you?
4. What would make it even easier to get help and support?

Bryson – Roma Children's Responses –

- Good food, fruits (lots of pears) and water and playing outside
- Mummy takes me to the hospital emergency, we don't have a GP; the doctor gives me medicines
- I like injections because they help me get better
- If doctors would have toys for children

- Playing with my friend and my doll
- I'd go to my doctor or to the hospital
- Doctors are nice and help me get better

- Having good friends
- Spending more time outside
- I go to my mummy, she takes me to the hospital or to the pharmacy
- Doctors are good with me and they give me a sticker if I'm good
- Not waiting so long to be seen by the doctor

- I'm healthy when I have toys to play with and if I take tablets when I'm ill
- I can ask mum to take me to the doctor and my dad can go buy medicines for me
- The doctor helps me get better
- Be given fruits and toys in the hospital

Craigavon Intercultural Project – online survey responses

- I have friends in school, this makes me happy. I am outgoing so make friends easily
- My image being nice, like hair and clothes.
- My main plan is to get good grades in school. This would make me happy
- Celebrating my Portuguese culture Coming to youth club to see Portuguese friends and make new friends from other countries
- Beating the youth leader at pool, I look forward to this every week
- Getting good grades helping people out Spending time with friends and family
- I like all types of sports.

- when someone compliments me
- I enjoy football, I love this club, the one thing that makes me feel good is that it is the place where I meet my friends
- I'm naturally happy
- Talking to Friends,
- I'm always happy without a reason

- I struggle at school and need help. Sometimes at school I think they are just happy as long as I behave. I do better than most people from my country, but feel that this makes the teacher happy, even though I still need help; I want to be at top of my class, not just top of foreign people.
- If I could speak English perfectly and didn't have more difficulty to communicate with groups.
- Having more opportunities in the school.
- If I was more sporty, to be fit again. Since I moved here I am not so fit.
- I am behind in school, I don't know why, because I know I can do it. But it doesn't seem to get results I deserve
- To be involved in sport more. I don't know anyone in some of sports clubs and don't want to go myself
- People not judging you before they know you because you're a migrant. Less pressure to conform to celebrity images.
- being in an enjoyable atmosphere
- Confidence to talk to other people more. I would like to help people more, but don't know how.
- I am quite content
- Having some more friends, they keep changing. I don't keep friends well
- More music from my own culture

- My granny gives me good advice and my sister helps.
- My mum always gives me advice but she doesn't speak English to help me sometimes.
- Mum or close friends that I can trust.
- closet friends, they tell me good and bad things about the situation and help me understand it more
- I sort it out myself
- Usually just my friend. Things pass in time.
- Club Leaders. They email my social worker. She does not listen to me, but when they tell her she listens more.
- just my friends, we always talk about stuff, but we don't tell anyone else
- friends and family
- Club leaders. They say all the time just to message them or call them, even it is the middle of night and they will help us. I haven't need to yet
- My best friend
- Go to teacher
- I deal with it myself

Craigavon Intercultural Project Focus Group

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?	WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU EVEN HAPPIER?	IF YOU FEEL WORRIED OR UPSET OR BULLIED WHO WOULD YOU ASK FOR HELP?
Playing football People being nice to me I want to go on a holiday Reading My Family Something funny Playing Football My fish Art make me happy Jumping up and down My Mum & Dad Playing	Having more friends More Art opportunities Go back to Portugal Having a dad Sometimes people are rude Getting more presents 😊 Having more fun at home If my dad was here Having a dad No family here	Mum – 8 My parents /Mum or Dad- 5 people at Oasis Club (CIP) – 2 Teachers - 2 Older people/helper – 2 I would ask myself – 2 Police -2 No one – 2 My friend -1

Outcome: Enjoying, learning and achieving

1. What helps you to enjoy learning? (At school, at home, at clubs and groups?)
2. What would help you enjoy learning even more?
3. What would help your parents to help you with your learning?
4. How comfortable and safe do you feel about your culture at home, at school, outside, at other clubs and groups?
5. What would help you feel more comfortable?

Bryson – Roma Children's Responses

- Going out on a break, writing, having people around me
- Teachers and books, having a ruler and pencils
- Nothing, I can manage on my own
- Playing football in front of the house, fighting with my cousin – it's fun
- Friends: have no one to go to the park with

- I like playing, colleagues are nice
- Teachers
- I can't communicate with children who cannot speak English
- Having pencils and books at home
- I go to the Roma Resource Centre, play inside or outside my house
- More fun activities in the school (after classes)

- Playing football with my colleagues
- Knowing how to read, getting help to do with my homework
- My parents don't need help
- Come to the Roma Resource Centre, playing games, football and tennis
- Nothing else

- Writing and doing my homework
- Teachers and Helpers
- Having books and toys and games at home
- Having more money for food
- Go to the Roma Resource Centre, playing with my sister at home, writing
- Go to clubs for children my age

Craigavon Intercultural Project online survey responses

- Visual help, because too many English words make me confused.
- My school mates or a friendly teacher.
- Whenever the teacher is good. This is the main difference between learning and not. Some

teachers are not good at helping foreign kids.

- visually seeing things makes me learn
- Listening to music,
- I learn more when the teacher and I get on. Listening to music, but mostly not allowed
- I want to speak my own language, but I have forgotten it a lot because I live in foster care. My friends from Latvia speak to each other in Russian and I don't understand anymore.
- I don't like that I am put back one year when I come here. I am older and taller than my whole class.
- I think if you are having fun you learn more. That's why I enjoy learning at club more than school.
- Having more English. Don't understand everything
- Having a more fun or creative approach in school
- I have to travel a lot to school. It didn't work out at local school, now I have to get up very early and travel a lot to school.
- Learning in small groups.
- Making it more fun. I get left behind because I don't understand some things in English
- more fun,

How comfortable do you feel about your culture in the following places;

	Always comfortable	Mostly comfortable	Sometimes comfortable	Never comfortable
At home	92.3% (12)	7.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
At school	15.4% (2)	61.5% (8)	7.7% (1)	15.4% (2)
Outside	0.0% (0)	46.2% (6)	46.2% (6)	7.7% (1)
At other clubs and groups	9.1% (1)	72.7% (8)	18.2% (2)	0.0% (0)

What would help you feel more comfortable?

- If people stop thinking of me as different and treat me as equal
- If I could speak English all the time. When I speak my own language to friends sometimes people give me dirty looks and ask am I talking about them. But I relax mostly in my own language and it's not so tiring as speaking English.
- If the racism stopped
- people being more welcoming about my culture
- People understand me.
- I feel more comfortable at home. I fit in better there

Craigavon Intercultural Project Focus Group

WHERE DO YOU ENJOY LEARNING THE MOST?

School – 8, club – 5, Internet – 1

Outcome: Living in safety and with stability

1. How safe and secure do you feel - at home, the area you live, at school/college, in town, on busses/trains, other places?
2. What would help you to feel more safe and secure?
3. If you feel bullied or treated unfairly who should help you and what should they do?

Bryson Roma Children's Responses

- I'm feeling safe but not on my own, I'm afraid someone could come and beat me
- I went to the park once and 'bad people' chased after me. I was fast and they ran when they saw the police. I would go to the police officer on the street.
- People who behave badly need to change
- My neighbours are good but not all the time
- I'd go tell mum at home, or to the Roma Resource Centre, Kids Klub
- Not having bad people shouting and throwing stuff at me and my family
- I'm feeling safe
- I would go home, to my Romanian neighbors or to the Roma Resource Centre
- More police on the streets
- I like my house but I'm afraid to be in a room on my own: I'm afraid of vampires and of the bad people who set the house next door on fire
- Older boys in school push me and call me 'Romania'; I told the teacher and she 'punished' them. Some boys from the church we go to tell us we smell, I didn't tell anybody, I just want them to stop.

Craigavon Intercultural Project online survey responses

How safe and secure do you feel in the following places;

	Always safe	Mostly safe	Sometimes safe	Never safe
At home	91.7% (11)	8.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
The area you live	25.0% (3)	41.7% (5)	25.0% (3)	8.3% (1)
At school/college	41.7% (5)	58.3% (7)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)
In town	8.3% (1)	41.7% (5)	50.0% (6)	0.0% (0)
On busses/trains	63.6% (7)	18.2% (2)	18.2% (2)	0.0% (0)

- It just feels like the world is a bad place sometimes
- People still focus on our differences

- Talk to someone who you can trust and who is friendly. I would hope this would sort it out but not always the time.
- My mum or my favourite teacher
- Mum - ask her to talk to school teacher - tell the teacher about problems youth leader - to ask them to speak to bullies parents
- Again I sort it myself
- my teacher or school counsellor
- Club leaders
- Teachers / parents but the bullying does not stop. it is always one word against another
- friends or family
- Teachers
- My Social Worker
- Teachers should do more

Craigavon Intercultural Project Focus Group

HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN YOUR SCHOOL?	HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL AT HOME?	HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL IN THE YOUR STREET AND IN TOWN?
Always Safe – 12 Safe - 1 Mostly Safe -1 So so-1 Mrs. C. keeps me safe -1	Always safe – 8 Safe safe safe – 1 Never Safe - 1	Always safe – 6 Mostly safe – 2 Sometimes safe – 10 Never Safe – 6

South Armagh Action on Travellers – Safe and Well Project

Parent and Toddler group. (Newry)

Out of a group of 8, Only one parent came on the day, and she is aged 23. She has 2 children, a 3 yr old and 5 yr old. Facilitator asked her questions and she answered them in relation to her children.

Discussion focused on safety and stability as that relates to the parent and toddler group.

1. How safe and secure do you feel (as a Traveller) where you live- “Very safe. It is a quiet wee spot. The children are happy and play with other children” (Traveller and non-Traveller children)
2. How safe and secure do you feel when you go out (with the children)- “Fine, no problem”
3. Would you change anything about where you live to make it better (for the children)? - “No. It is a nice quiet spot, and there is a good park for the children to play. We are happy.”

Outcome: Economic and Environmental Wellbeing

1. What do you like about the area you live?
2. What would make living there even better for you?

Bryson Roma Children's Responses

- I like the Botanic Gardens
- More Kids Club
- Swings
- The nice, clean houses
- Clubs for older children (I`m too old for Kids Klub)
- Playing in the park
- Good weather

Craigavon Intercultural Project Online Survey Responses

- People are mostly nice, but some don't because I am not the same religion as them and don't go to same school as my neighbour
- Friendly neighbours and helpful. (most of them)
- Having more friends, I don't know many people. I
- To make the parks safer at night. I miss that it is not safe to stay there in evening like in my own country
- Quiet, the weather, I used to spend all time outside, but since coming here I mostly stay at home
- Lots of people from different nationalities here. I like to learn from different people
- I like clubs like Oasis, because it is different backgrounds together. I'm not the odd one out there.
- I wish there was less arguing between Catholics and Protestants. I don't want to have to take sides, but sometimes I need to fit in
- I like some of the people, my area needs done up. It is so run down it makes me feel bad I live in this area.
- It is peaceful, but nothing to do
- Close to shopping centre, but there is nothing else to do and the weather is bad all the time.
- There isn't much to do in my area.

Craigavon Intercultural Project Focus Group

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE TOWN WHERE YOU LIVE – WHAT WOULD MAKE IT BETTER?

Nice shops but needs a cinema

It is mostly a safe place

Most people are kind

My family live here so I like it

I don't like where I live, want to go home

My granny lives here now

I don't like Craigavon

What would make me happy? Never going to tell

I do not like Craigavon

It is peaceful place

I have no friends here

Outcome: Contributing positively to community and society

1. Are you involved in any clubs/groups or volunteering activities?
2. What would help you to get involved in activities in the community?
3. How do you feel about the way children and young people from BME communities are shown in newspapers, magazines, TV and radio?
4. What would make it better?

Bryson Roma Children's Responses

- I only go to school, the Roma Resource Centre and Kids Klub
- Have a place to go to for football

- Kids Klub
- I'm being nice to people but they're not all being nice to me
- More police officers

- I do no harm to anybody

- I have one friend, she is Chinese and she is very good to me
- I'd like to have more friends, if only I could play with them and show them I'm good they would then play with me too

Craigavon Intercultural Project Online Survey Responses

Are you involved in any clubs/groups or volunteering activities?

	% Response
Yes	50.0%
Yes, and I would like to be involved in more activities	41.7%
No	8.3%
No and I am not interested in being involved in any activities	0.0%
No, and I would like to be involved in some activities	0.0%

- If I didn't have to pay as my granny cannot afford money for me.
- If it was a group of friends.
- If my friends were there. I don't want to do things alone.
- Just this one
- I just go to Oasis.
- Oasis Club Only

- I don't know what else there is. Someone should tell us the options.

How do you feel about the way young people from Black or Minority Ethnic communities are shown in newspapers, magazines, TV and radio?

	Always happy	Mostly happy	Mostly unhappy	Never happy
newspapers	20.0% (2)	30.0% (3)	40.0% (4)	10.0% (1)
magazines	50.0% (5)	30.0% (3)	10.0% (1)	10.0% (1)
television	20.0% (2)	50.0% (5)	30.0% (3)	0.0% (0)
radio	20.0% (2)	50.0% (5)	30.0% (3)	0.0% (0)

- Getting good story about ethnic young people
- Depends if it is positive or negative. Sometime media will say like "40 year old Lithuanian man was drunk driving" but why do they put nationality. If it is local it just says like "40 year old man" This changes peoples mind towards us badly.
- Talk about the good stuff we do instead of always the bad

Outcome: Living in a Society which respects their rights

- 1. Do you feel part of a society that respects children’s rights?
- 2. What more needs to happen for you to feel that your rights are respected?

Bryson Roma Children’s Responses

- What makes a child happy: have toys to play with, a football, food, books, doctors
- Children are happy when they have who to play with, have a bicycle and everything else they enjoy, have Santa bring them presents and know how to read and write.

Note: Feedback from the support worker who undertook the discussions with the Roma children indicated that they all (4) struggled with the whole concept of rights. Strong feedback that Roma children and young people do not recognize that they have any rights.

Craigavon Intercultural Project on line Survey Responses

Do you feel part of a society that respects children's rights?

Yes, fully	9.1%
Yes, partly	90.9%
No	0.0%
Not sure	0.0%

- To be taught about my right.
- My parents read my texts and I don’t know if they are allowed or can I have privacy. Things like this we don’t know
- To learn what our rights are
- Listened to more, like the youth forum
- be listened to more
- Ask my opinion, just like this page