

Regional Locality Planning Group Members Survey

2018



Introduction

- ✿ Locality Planning Groups (LPGs) have been in place since 2001 in some areas of Northern Ireland. CYPSP has continued to roll out this model across Northern Ireland with 26 LPGs now contributing to the outcomes based planning that makes up the structure of CYPSP alongside the Outcomes Groups, Regional Sub Groups and Family Support Hubs.
- ✿ In 2018 CYPSP conducted, for the first time, an online survey of the views of LPG members in order to gauge the effectiveness of the groups in making a difference to outcomes for children and young people and the co-ordination of services and resources. This report is a summary of those findings.
- ✿ Overall members have indicated that LPGs have a positive impact in improving outcomes at a local level.



Definition of Locality Planning Groups

- ✿ A Locality Planning Group is a Partnership of front line leaders and staff across all sectors from the local neighbourhood/locality. Their work focuses on Early intervention, Building preventative places and Improving outcomes for children and young people.
- ✿ Each Locality Planning Group reports to their respective Outcomes Group by sharing information, knowledge base and expertise about the local area and identifying opportunities to improve outcomes for children and young people by working better together.
- ✿ Members of each Locality Planning Group understand the issues for children and young people in their locality by using the CYPSP data sets, organisational data and input from children young people, and their families and link closely with local Family Support Hubs.



The Survey



Aim

- The aim of this survey was to ascertain the views of members on the services and collaboration LPGs facilitates
- To gain a better understanding of how effective Locality Planning Groups are at improving outcomes.
- To measure the co-operation and collaboration which is being facilitated by LPGs



Audience

- The CYPSP
- Outcomes Groups
- Locality Planning Group Membership
- Locality Planners



Response

- **1028** LPG members, across **527** organisation, were invited to complete the online survey
- Total of 303 responses, this is a response rate of **29.5%**



Next Steps

- Finding from the survey are shared across the CYPSP groups
- Learning is put in place to fine-tune the LPGs and processes

Levels of Response to Survey at Outcomes Group Area

Total number of Locality Planning Group Members

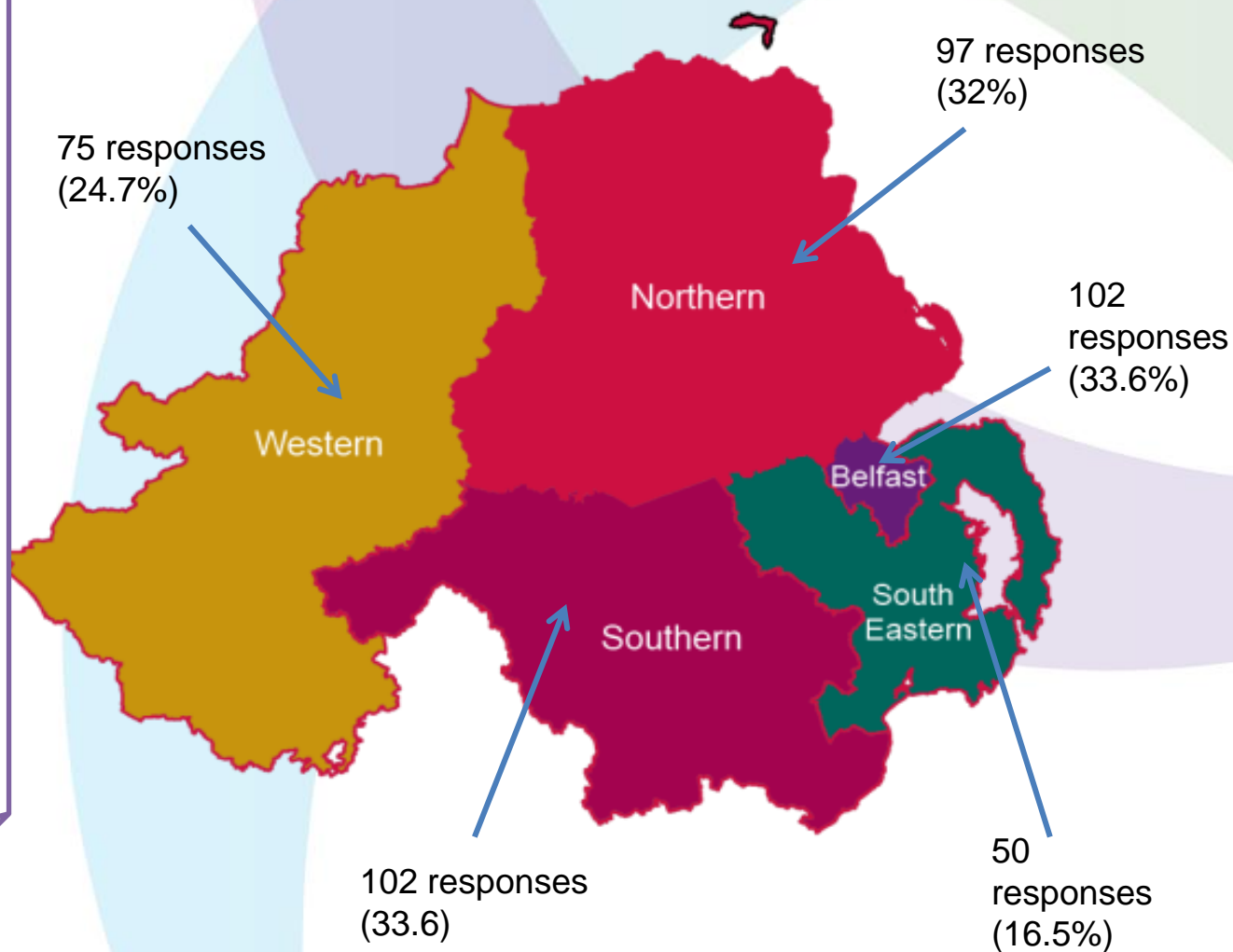
1028 LPG Members

Number of Responses:

303

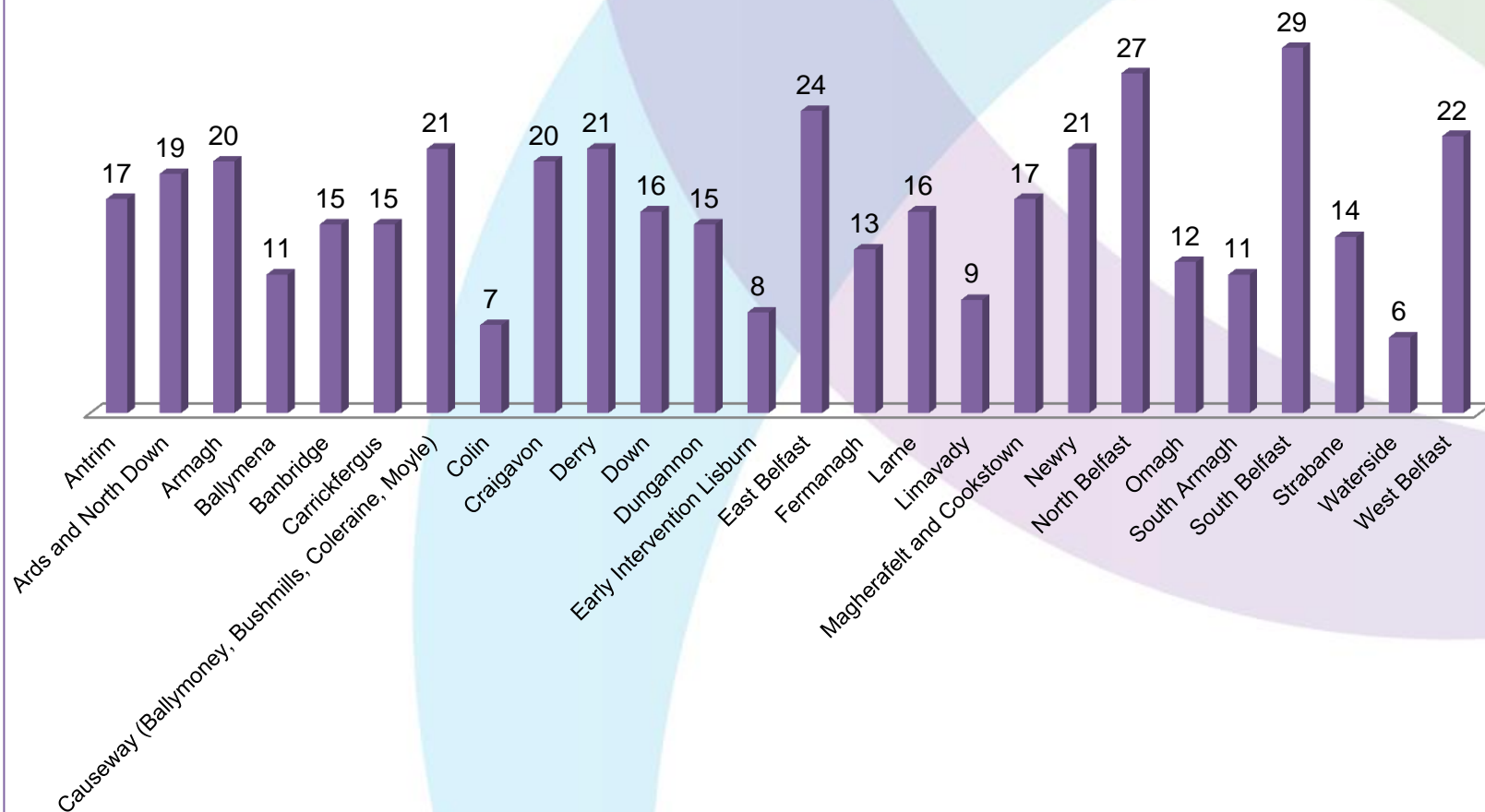
Percentage of Responses:

29.5%

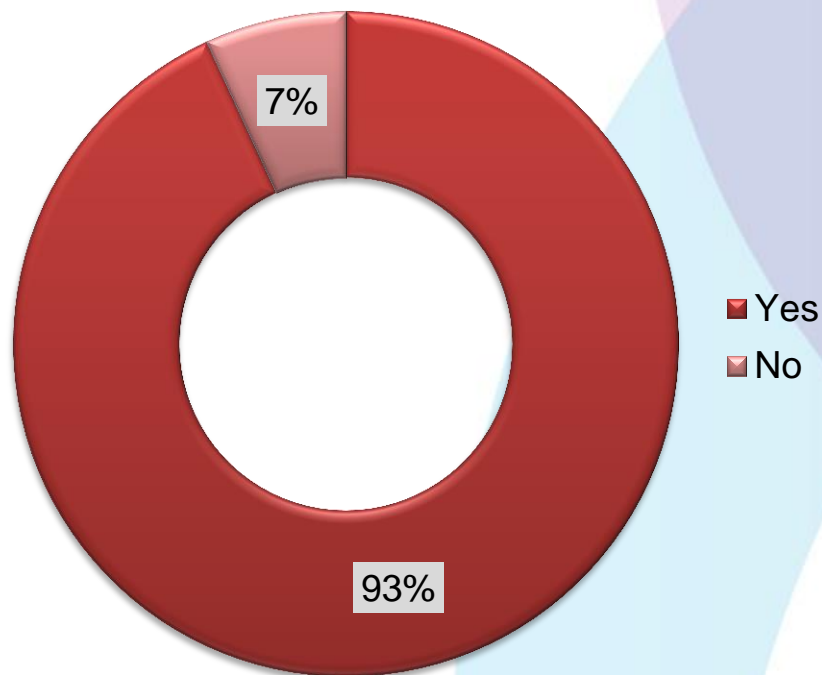


Level of Responses at Locality Planning Group Level

Number of Responses per Locality Planning Group
(Member may attend more than one group)



Do you feel you are the right person to represent your organisation on the LPG?



What does the data tell us?

The majority of the respondents who didn't feel they were the right person stated that it was down to their time capacity or that they feel someone more senior should attend

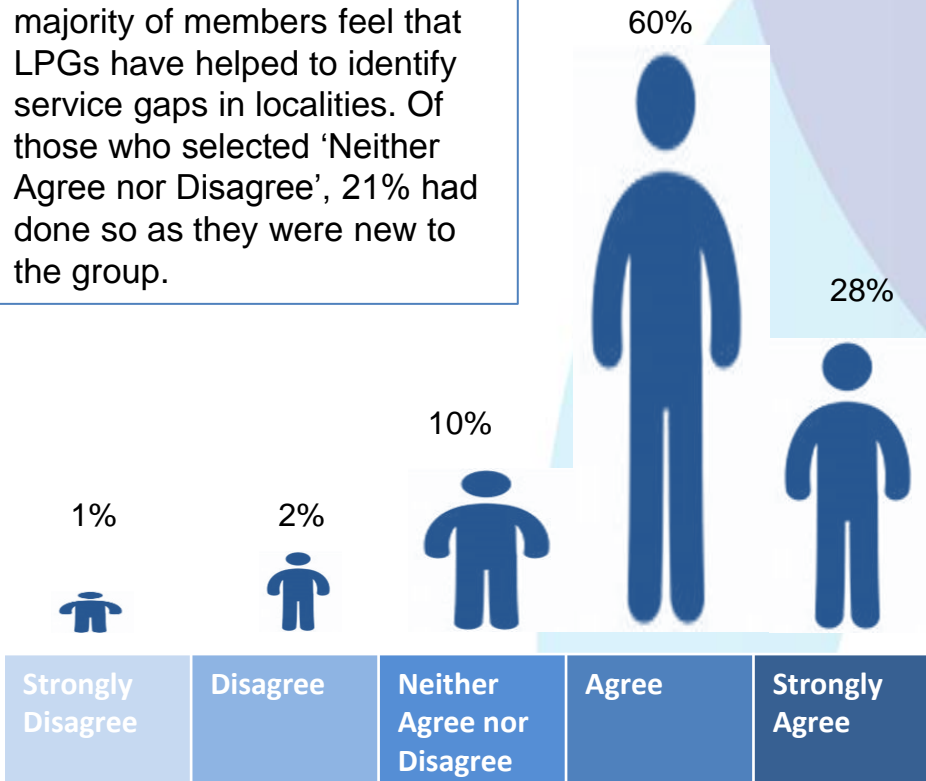
Comments:

- My role in our organisation involves representing our organisation. I also am a member of our Board and report back to our Trustees relevant information.
- I am the person with oversight of all our programmes and so can disseminate info as relevant; also other staff are part time and would not be available. It could be useful for other staff to have opportunity to attend (perhaps a special networking meeting for participant groups once a year?)
- It enables me to link my activities and relate them to wider area organisations supporting individuals and groups.
- I have an overview of early intervention strategies, approaches and services within the locality.
- Have shifted jobs a couple of times but have stayed connected to the Locality Group which I find useful

Has Locality Planning Groups helped to identify gaps in the Locality

What does this data tell us?

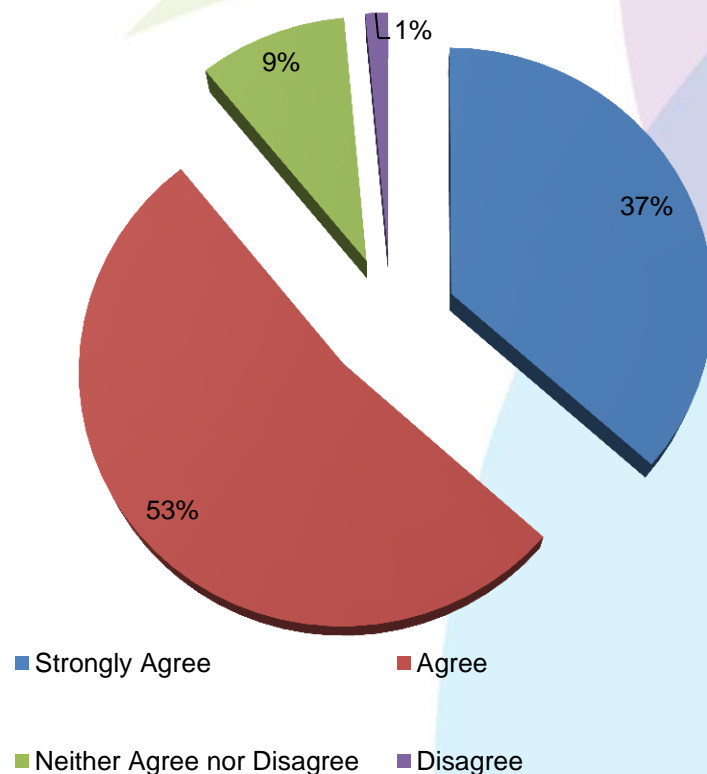
The data shows that a large majority of members feel that LPGs have helped to identify service gaps in localities. Of those who selected 'Neither Agree nor Disagree', 21% had done so as they were new to the group.



Comments:

- Unique opportunity for groups to consider gaps in provision
- People working at a local level can share what the issues are that they come across in their work
- We are a small organisation and the group allows us to have a voice in the area, discuss needs and share information about the work that we are carrying out.
- Extremely useful in picking up on gaps in services and training needs
- Yes, and the value of having a network of agency representatives around the table is really important.
- Locality groups are a pivotal mechanism for joined up thinking and multi-agency working to meet identified local needs.
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- Over the past approx. 12 years it has been useful to have the networking opportunity Locality Groups provide and to know that issues at ground level in relation to support for families can be advanced

Has the Locality Planning Groups Improved information sharing, communication and trust across organisations



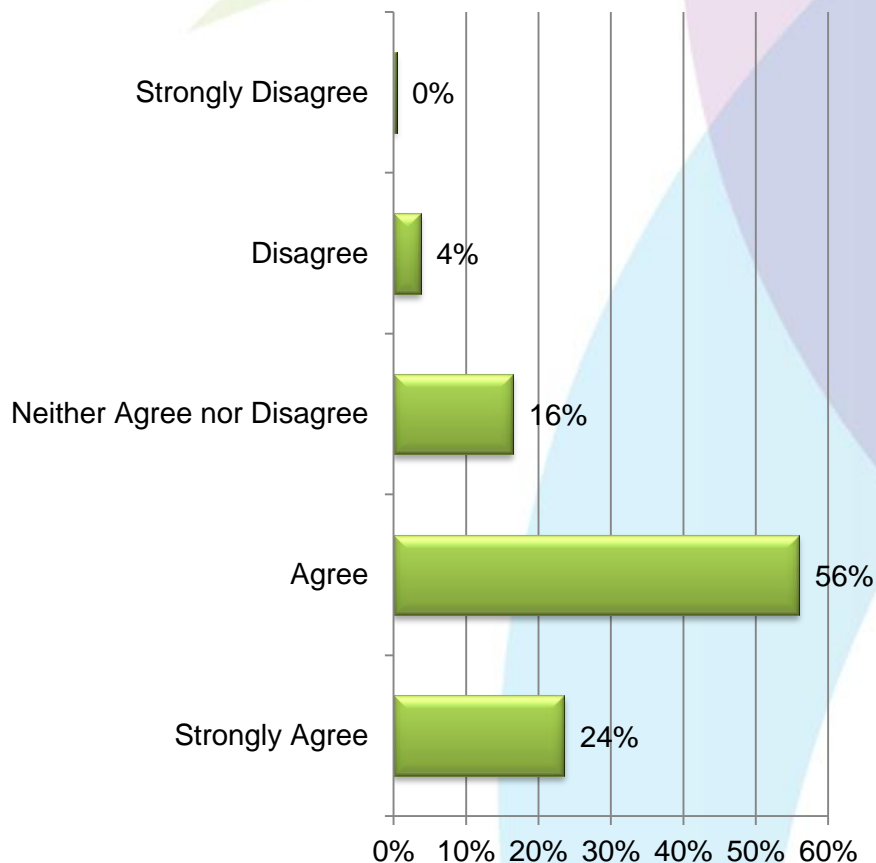
What does this data tell us?

Responses to this question show that 89% of respondents believe that LPGs have improved communication, information sharing, and trust among organisations operating in their locality.






Comments:

- The information sharing process is excellent.
- All organisations work well together and are respectful of each other.
- The LPG has enabled new relationships between statutory, voluntary, and private sector organisations working in the area and has also strengthened existing relationships which promotes information and ultimately real collaborative working.
- LPG has helped me to feel better connected to other local agencies in the area. Exchange of information/ideas at LPG has improved working relationships- networking, communication, trust, and clearer understanding of each others roles leading to improved access to services for families and likely more appropriate referrals to be made.
- Partner organisations are working together on areas and events that would not have been the case prior to the structure. It is forming communication and shaping services including those funded regionally

Has Locality Planning Groups Increased Co-operation and Collaboration across organisations



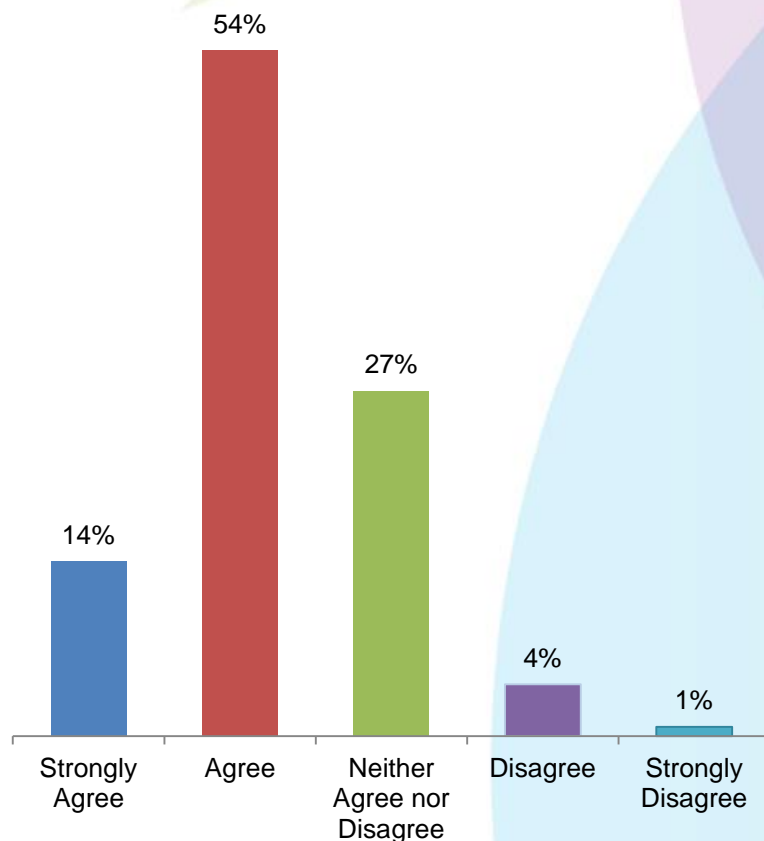
Comments:

-  In our LPG, organisations have come together to tackle the impact of poverty.
-  It provides a forum for relationships to be built between organisations and sharing of expertise.
-  Excellent opportunity to engage with other services and discuss practice.
-  There's a strong culture of collaboration within the LPG across a range of areas, including learning and funding issues.
-  Yes I totally agree we have delivered joint initiatives as a result of collaboration and cooperation built through locality planning, expertise has been shared and resources pooled in order to get the best outcomes for children in the area.

What does this data tell us?

Responses show that 79% believe that LPGs have increased collaboration and co-operation in their locality. Among those who selected 'Neither Agree nor Disagree' some were unsure whether or not co-operation could be attributed to LPGs or to other initiatives such as Family Support Hubs.

Have Locality Planning Groups increased the use of all the resources available for the locality?



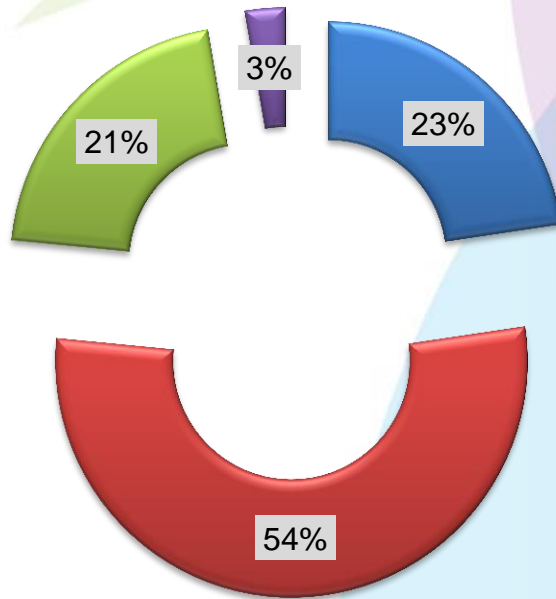
Comments:

- It provides an opportunity for a better understanding of where resources are available and through relationship building the opportunity of sharing resources.
- I think this is an area for further improvement however it all depends on the good will of the members as does every group. There is great potential for this to work better!
- Pooling of resources and reducing duplication of effort have been evident within Locality Planning Groups
- Yes - more aware of what is on offer for families we work with.
- Really good collaborative working has been established through the development of the LPG. it has reduced the competition for the community and voluntary sector

What does the data tell us?

A large proportion of responses in the 'Neither Agree nor Disagree' category were due to uncertainty about how to measure or evidence the use of resources in the locality or were from new members

Have Locality Planning Groups increased the focus on early intervention and prevention in the locality?



■ Strongly Agree

■ Agree

■ Neither Agree nor Disagree

■ Disagree

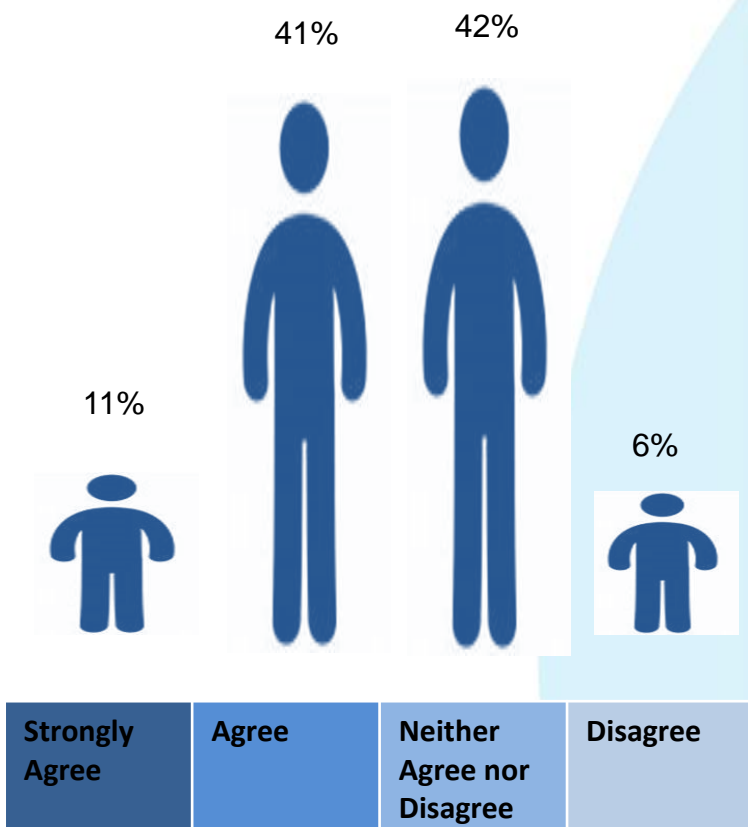
What does the data tell us?

78% of respondents strongly agree or agree that LPGs have increased the focus on Early intervention and prevention in the area, this is very positive.





Comments:

- Early Intervention is the main focus of our locality planning group
- Our organisation focus in on early intervention and prevention but we feel supported in this by the Locality Planning Group.
- LPGs have provided a forum for local discussion on early intervention and a platform from which to raise issues and inform policy makers, planners, at strategic level. For the first time have the evidence of unmet need, trends to inform funding local decisions.
- Some excellent examples
- I believe it has helped bring the focus to early intervention in both senses and has also helped organisations to focus on how they improve outcomes/make a difference.

Has the Locality Planning Groups reduced the likelihood of duplication of service provision in the locality?



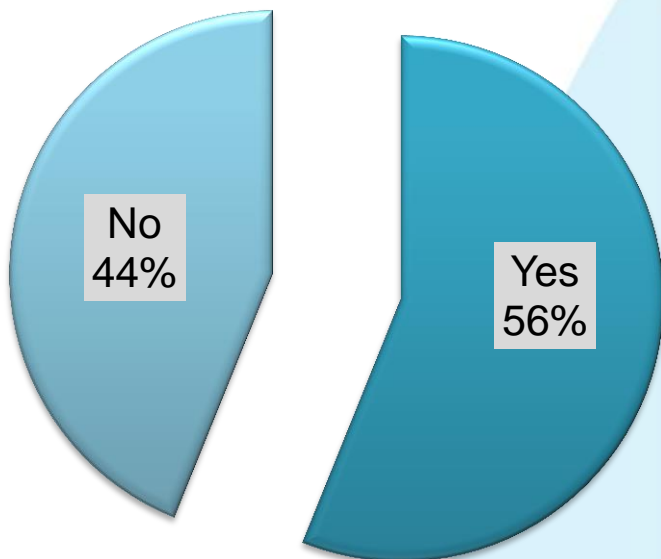
Comments:

-  This is an area that can keep developing and has proven helpful to our organisation when a need arises to understand what is being carried out by other organisations, we don't need to set up something ourselves but we can signpost our service users to an organisation already providing the service and vice-versa
-  I think there are more open discussions with providers in the area and generally referrers are better informed about existing services.
-  have the potential to with more collaborative working among organisations. We are still at the stage of relationship building at the moment, some people taking more action to build trust and relationships, than others
-  There have been some specific examples of this, for example where one service proposed to expand its remit which would have duplicated work another agency was covering. The LPG discussed this and it did not go forward.




What the data tells us

A majority agree/strongly agree that LPGs reduced the likelihood of duplication of service provision. However 41.8% neither agreed nor disagreed, comments indicated many were unsure how to measure this.

Are there services not engaging with the Locality Planning Groups



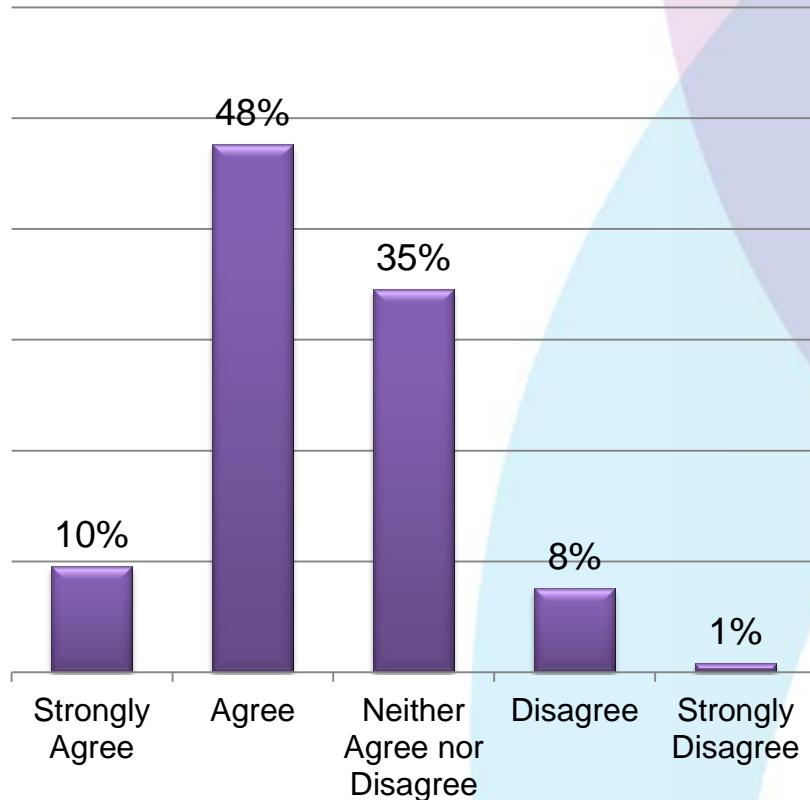
Comments:

-  There is always room for more collaboration and community engagement.
-  Many community based services are still not engaged. However due to many being delivered by volunteers and part time staff it's difficult to get them engaged in the process.
-  Not sure, but a high percentage are engaging




What does the data tell us?

A majority of respondents think that there are services not engaging with the work of LPGs. Many members pointed to constraints on time and resources as a factor affecting engagement with LPGs.

Has the LPGs led to greater involvement of service users and the wider community in planning



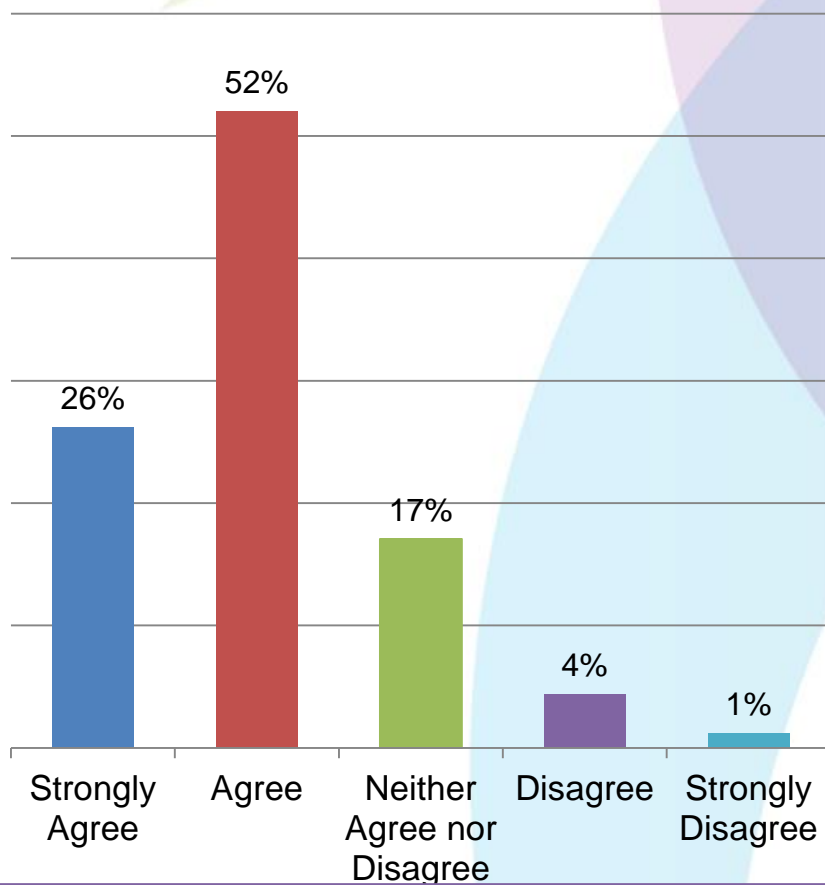
Comments:

-  To some extent
-  The more agencies involved in the LPG will represent greater number of service users. As some of the members of the LPG are and have been service users themselves this results in good involvement of service users in the process.
-  We are currently developing a strong renewed focus on this. Community outreach in identifying services was a very strong feature of our work between 2013-15, but has been less prevalent over the past two years due to capacity restraints





What does the data tell us?

58% of respondents believe that LPGs have led to greater involvement of service users and community in planning, However a little more than a third felt this was unclear, with 18% of those citing uncertainty over how to evidence this.

Has membership of a Locality Planning Group given greater understanding of needs of children and families



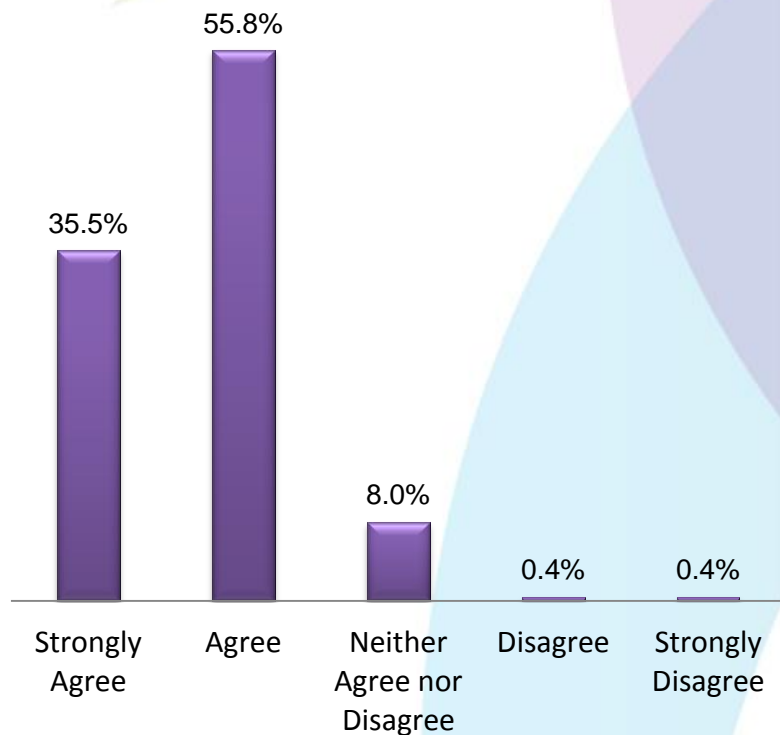
Comments:

-  The discussions at the LPG are useful for highlighting issues in the area that we would not be aware of.
-  It has given wider perspective on understanding the needs of all children and not just those in our age remit. This has led us to plan more effectively for services which minimise/prevent negative impacts which would feed into the difficulties of older children.
-  I work with a very specific group and so I have learned more about the needs of others
-  The meetings have allowed for a greater understanding of the groups around the table.






What does the data tell us?

Data shows that 78% of respondents feel that being a member of an LPG has given them a greater understanding of need to children and their families, thereby enabling them to plan more effectively.

Has membership of a Locality Planning Group increased knowledge of service availability in the Locality



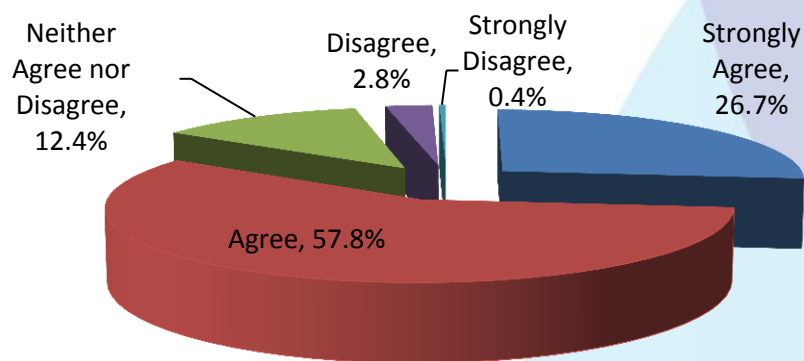
Comments:

-  We have only been involved in the group for a short period and we have gained helpful information for our organisation in that time.
-  Definitely highlights what is out there for families.
-  My role is all centred around collaborative working with other agencies and working on the ground with local communities. The Directory of Services compiled by the LPG is clear evidence of increasing knowledge of the availability of services to the local Community.
-  Information sharing and meeting up can only increase knowledge and hopefully utilisation of those services.
-  Excellent dissemination of information.

What does the data tell us?

90% of respondents believe that their participation in a LPG has increased their knowledge of the availability of services in their locality. Respondents emphasised the benefits of information sharing, the compilation of a directory of services, and the opportunity to form relationships.

Have Locality Planning Groups improved outcomes for children and their families



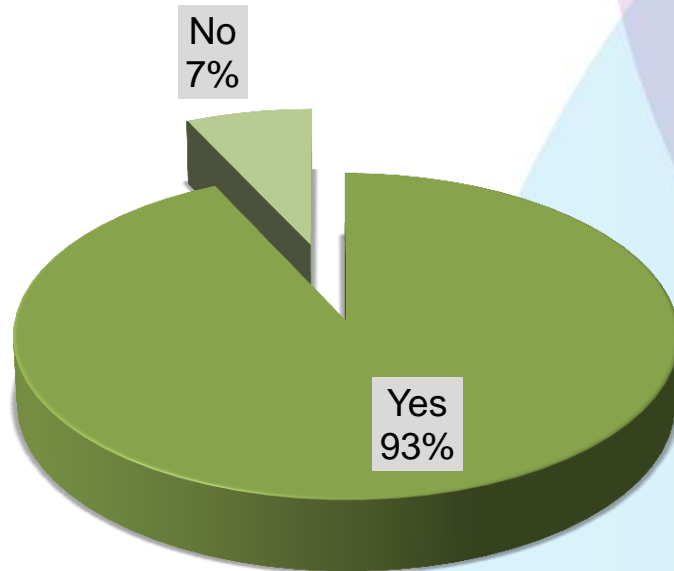
What does the data tell us?

Responses to this question indicate that 84% of members felt that LPGs make improved outcomes more likely for those accessing services.





Comments:

- Multi agency collaboration is vital to improving the outcomes for children and families
- As members we all feed into the group providing feedback on our needs and gaps, thus helping to shape new services and therefore increasing improved outcomes for children.
- If all agencies agree with the outcomes, and if these are now agreed goals, then there should be more chance of this happening. This can be measured.
- Agree with the likelihood of improved outcomes for children and families but feel this would be down to the individual organisations providing the support for families.
- Being aware of what is on offer, means I am able to signpost my service users.

Is the frequency of meetings correct



Comments:

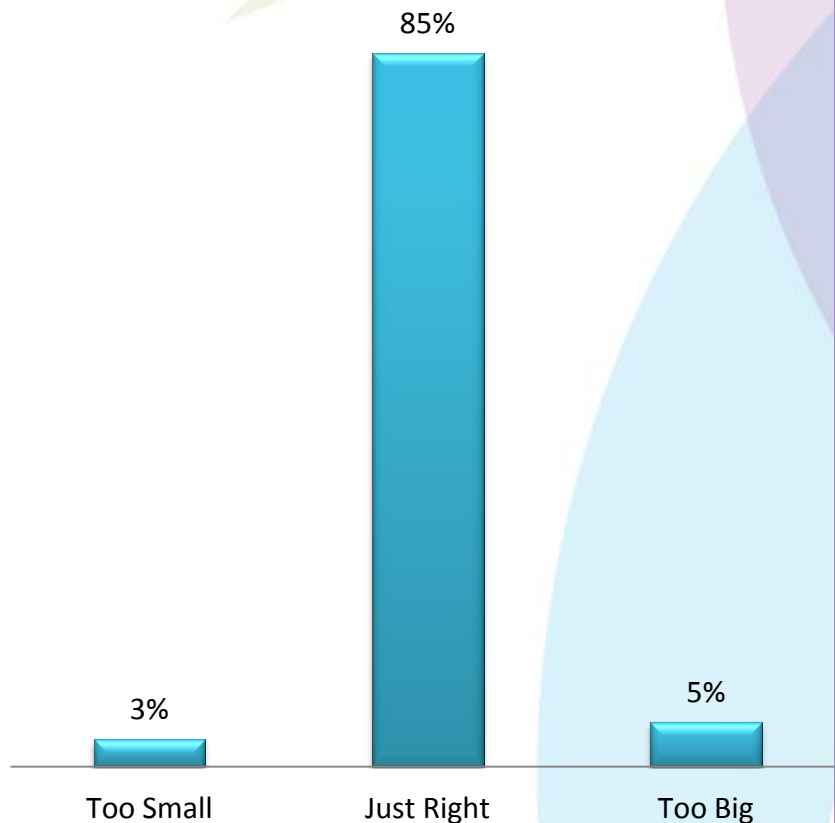
-  We aim to attend 4 meetings per year which is about right (sometimes this can fall to 3 due to work/meetings pressures, which is unfortunate).
-  In a small organisation it is difficult to commit to monthly meetings so the current frequency is fine, although sometimes it is difficult to remain up to date.
-  Because we cover the entire Trust area, it is impossible to attend all the groups. Good robust minutes from the meetings help us keep in the loop.
-  I would like meetings in the evening

What does the data tells us?







93% of members felt that the frequency of meetings was correct; this is useful for the Locality Planners and Chairs when planning for future meetings.



Is the geographical coverage of Locality Planning Groups the right fit



Comments:

-  Geographically for (the group I attend) I think the fit is right but that may not be the case for larger rural groups
-  I think the current Council areas are workable but do not believe the Group would be as effective if the geographical area covered was any greater.
-  I think so, particularly as I would like to see local voluntary groups attend, even if it were only for a focused meeting looking at a particular issue.
-  The rural hinterland is covered on the map but there is a lack of interaction with the rural areas. Need to be able to facilitated more activities in rural areas.
-  I feel that they are too small should be extended to cover all service which impact children and young people in the area.
-  needs to stay local to work

What does the data tell us?

Most members feel the geographical areas are the right size, those who felt it was too big were mainly members of LPGs that covered a large rural area or several legacy council areas, those who felt they were too small were members of several LPGs and one respondent didn't know what the geography of the LPG was



LPG Members Feedback





Selection of Members Further Feedback

- As an organisation we have been engaged in Family Support for a few years and participation in the Locality Planning Group has assisted us to strengthen our understanding and work practice.
- The group is very informative...The meetings should remain focused and all members should feel included. In general an excellent opportunity to meet and thank-you to the hard work of the organisers. Well done and your work is appreciated.
- Our group is still in its infancy but I believe it has the potential to address need and improve collaborative working and reduce duplication in the area.
- Locality planning is essential but the mechanism for the process probably needs more investment.
- Excellent joint agency working and information source.



LPG Members Feedback

Selection of Members Further Feedback

-  I feel LPG are necessary but think they need to have bigger teeth to encourage increased investment into local services for families and unfortunately this has not happened yet
-  The group certainly has the potential to do this[improve information sharing, communication, and trust across the organisations in the locality] but I have not witnessed this yet.
-  While the meetings themselves are extremely beneficial, in my estimation the process is significantly enhanced by skill, availability and information sharing provided by the Hub Coordinator.
-  This is one of the most mature groups I have sat on - the best working partnership that is delivering results for our communities



Conclusion

Overall the feedback from members about Locality Planning Groups has been very positive. A large proportion of members feel that LPGs have been a useful process for identifying service gaps in localities, increasing co-operation and collaboration, and improving information sharing, communication, and trust.

Some respondents have indicated some uncertainty regarding metrics used for gauging some areas, such as measuring involvement of service users and community in addressing planning needs.

Some of the comments have been slightly critical but these are very useful to inform where improvements are need to be made in the Locality Planning Group process.

Next steps will be for the Locality Planners to analyse the feedback for specific Locality Planning Groups and address the issues raised.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey and who engage with the Locality Planning Groups.

For further information regarding Locality Planning please contact:

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