



FEEL GOOD ARMAGH
SATURDAY 10TH JUNE 2023

Report Card

Background

The 3 top priorities for Armagh Locality Planning Group's (LPG) 2021-24 Action Plan are:

- (i) Emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people
- (ii) Supporting parents and caregivers
- (iii) Addressing the impact of poverty, in particular the recent cost of living crisis

In November 2022 members of the LPG, representing a wide range of local organisations and services working with children, young people and families, agreed to host an event to address all 3 priorities in late Spring of 2023.

Member organisations of the LPG agreed to form a Planning Group, to identify aims and projected outcomes for the event, and to report progress back to the main LPG for collective input.

Member organisations of the planning group were: Ark Housing, Arke Sure Start, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (Community Development & Health Inequalities), Barnardo's / Family Support Hub, Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership / Children in NI, Southern Health & Social Care Trust (Promoting Wellbeing Team), Triangle Housing and Youth Action NI.



Background

To showcase the range of existing support for families in the Armagh area by hosting a range of information stalls for all ages on all issues that may support families.

To invite all communities in Armagh to attend to meet with local support services, make links and gather information to take away and access in the future.

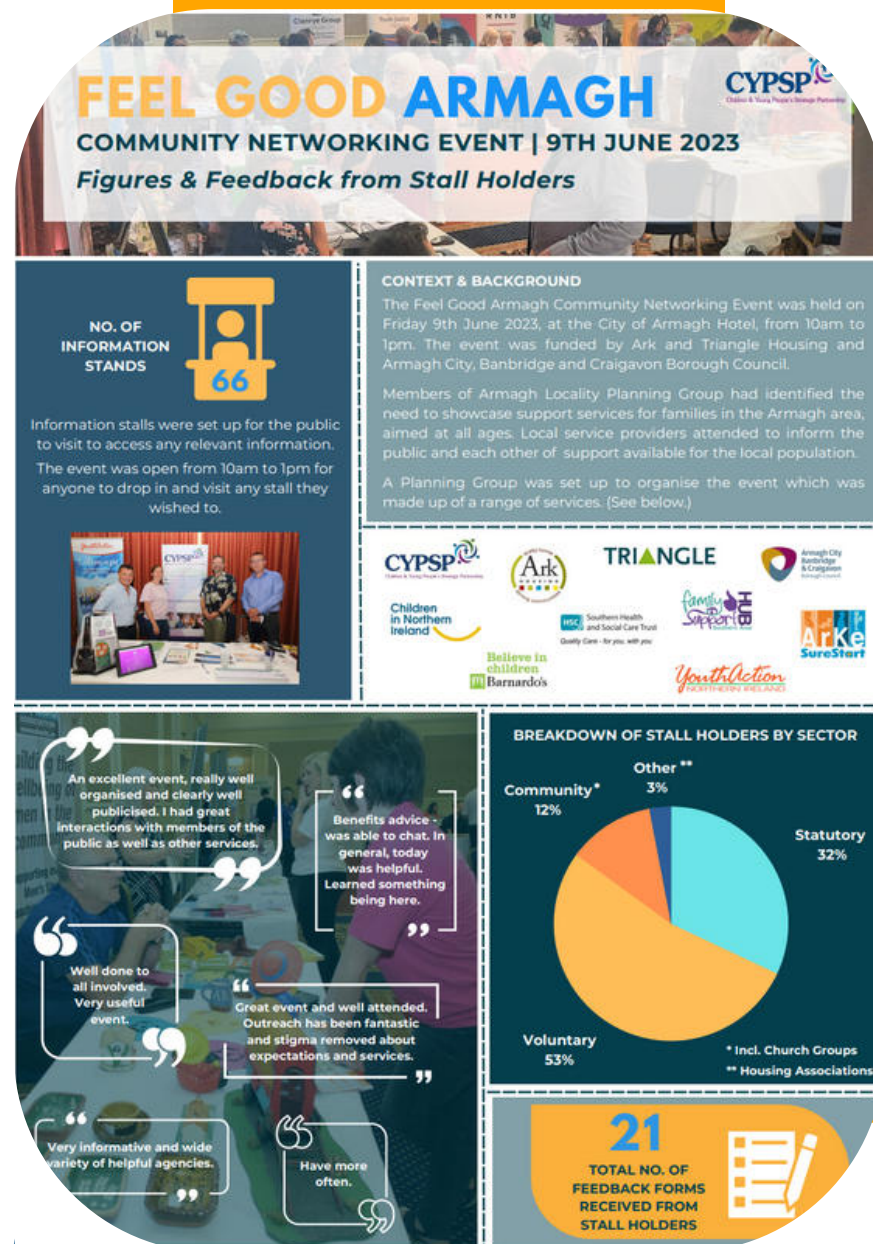
To hold a separate day specifically for young people to take part in a range of activities and learn about local opportunities and services for children and young people in Armagh.

To work with young people to plan the event, representing all key youth organisations in the local area.

Aims of the Events

The Planning Group agreed on 2 events to be run on consecutive days in June 2023: One for all ages and another for young people





What did we do?

Set up **2 Planning Groups**: One for the Community Networking Event on Friday 9th June and one for the Youth Event on Saturday 10th June 2023.

Organised **2 Events**: At Armagh City Hotel (9th June) and EA Youth Service's Epicentre (10th June).

Visit [HERE](#) to access an **Infographic of the Community Networking Event** on the 9th June.

The Youth Event on Saturday 10th June ran from 3.30pm-6.30pm with a range of activities and sessions, along with food and refreshments.

FEEL GOOD ARMAGH
For **Ages 11+**

SATURDAY 10TH JUNE 2023
3.30PM - 6.30PM
Epicentre Youth Centre
(59 Lisnally Lane, Armagh, BT61 7HF)

Food & Activities All FREE!

Including:
Pizza Van, DJ-ing, Band, Open Mic, Instrument Taster Sessions, Drumming Sports Challenges (incl. Disability Sport), Boxing Training with Sean Duffy, Pool, Table Tennis, Xbox, Dungeons & Dragons, Arts & Crafts, Face Painting, Photo Booth, Make-Up, Services for Young People, and much MORE...

Bring your friends!

This event is hosted & supported by:

Logos: CYPSP, Children in Northern Ireland, Southern Health, Public Health Agency, ea Education Authority, YouthAction, vibe, Believe in children, Barnardo's, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council, SPRING, react.

Photographs will be taken for publicity purposes by the above ser
For more info. e-mail Darren Curtis (localityplanning@ci-ni)

How well did we do it?

13

No. of partners in Planning Group
(All members of Armagh LPG)



22

No. of young people in Planning Group
(Young people involved with Epicentre, Youth Action NI, REACT, Vibe & Spring).

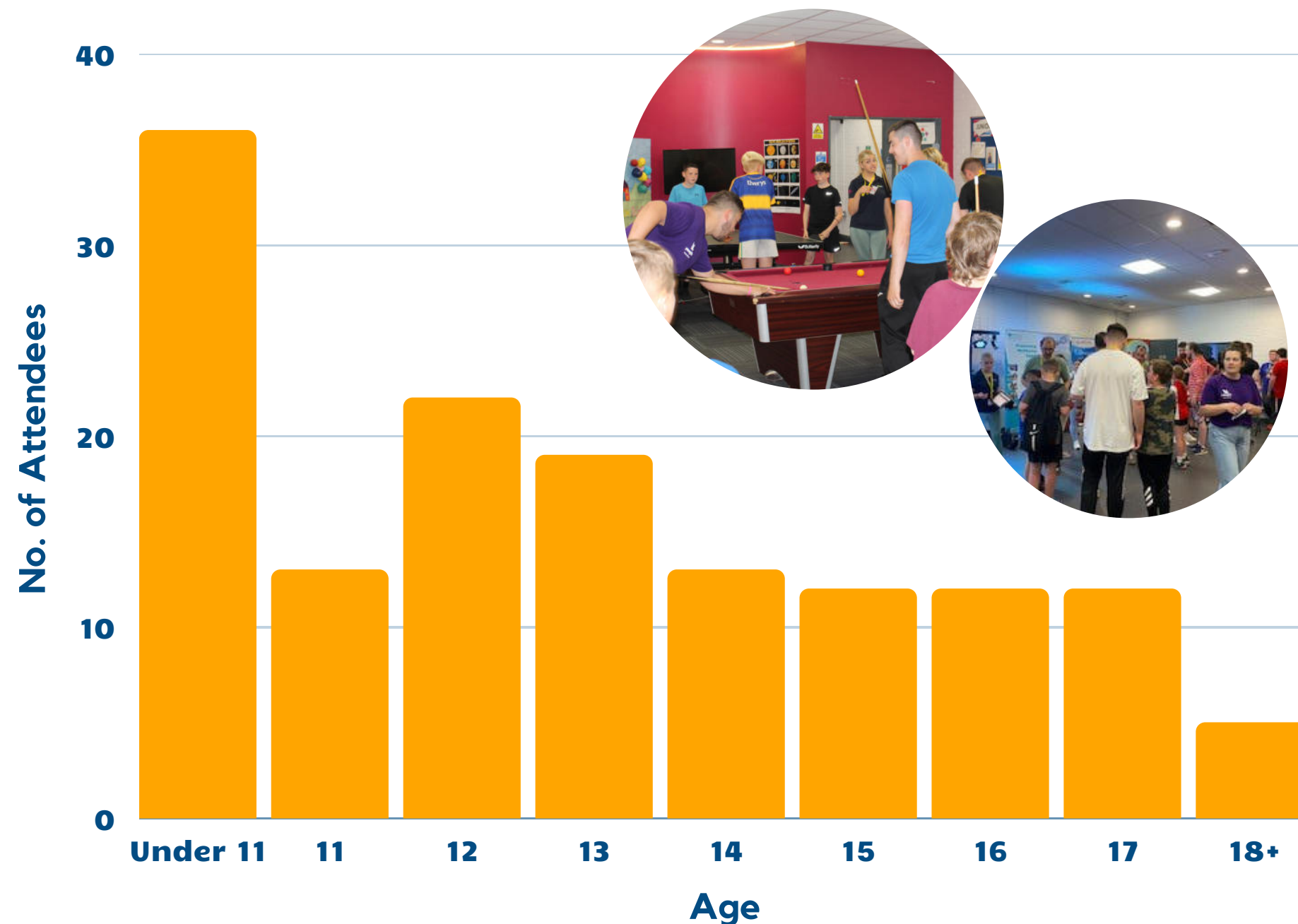
6

No. of Planning Group Meetings
(Included a meeting with 6 young people from Barnardo's PosAbility Group who advised on activities and format for young people with a disability).



The event was advertised by flyers, social media and word of mouth to young people across the Armagh area.

On the day...



132

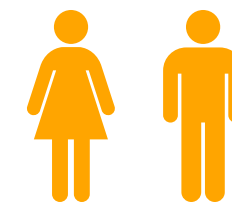
No. of **young people** registered*

16

No. of **parents** attended

30

No. of **volunteers** on the day**



Total Male: **81** (61%)

Total Female: **44** (33.5%)

No Reply / Other: **7** (5.5%)

*More young people attended but did not register (Estimated 12 extra for total of 144 young people)

**Young people from planning group, youth workers and members of the planning group from Armagh LPG

On the day...



22 Activities

- | African Drumming |
- | Arts & Crafts | Baking |
- | Barista Training | Boxercise | Chess |
- | Disability Sport |
- | Dungeons & Dragons |
- | Face Painting | Fruit Kebabs |
- | Learning Musical Instrument |
- | Make-Up | Manicure | Open Mic |
- | Pedicure | Photo Booth | Pool |
- | Prize Draw | Sports Challenges |
- | Table Tennis | Xbox |
- | Wood-Fired Pizza |

We also had a small number of stalls from key agencies who provided interactive activities on the day.

These were:



**Youth Justice Agency
Drugs Box**



**Common Youth
Sexual Health Quiz**



**Dunlewey Addictions Services
Young Person's & Family Service
Mocktails**



On the day...

Evaluations

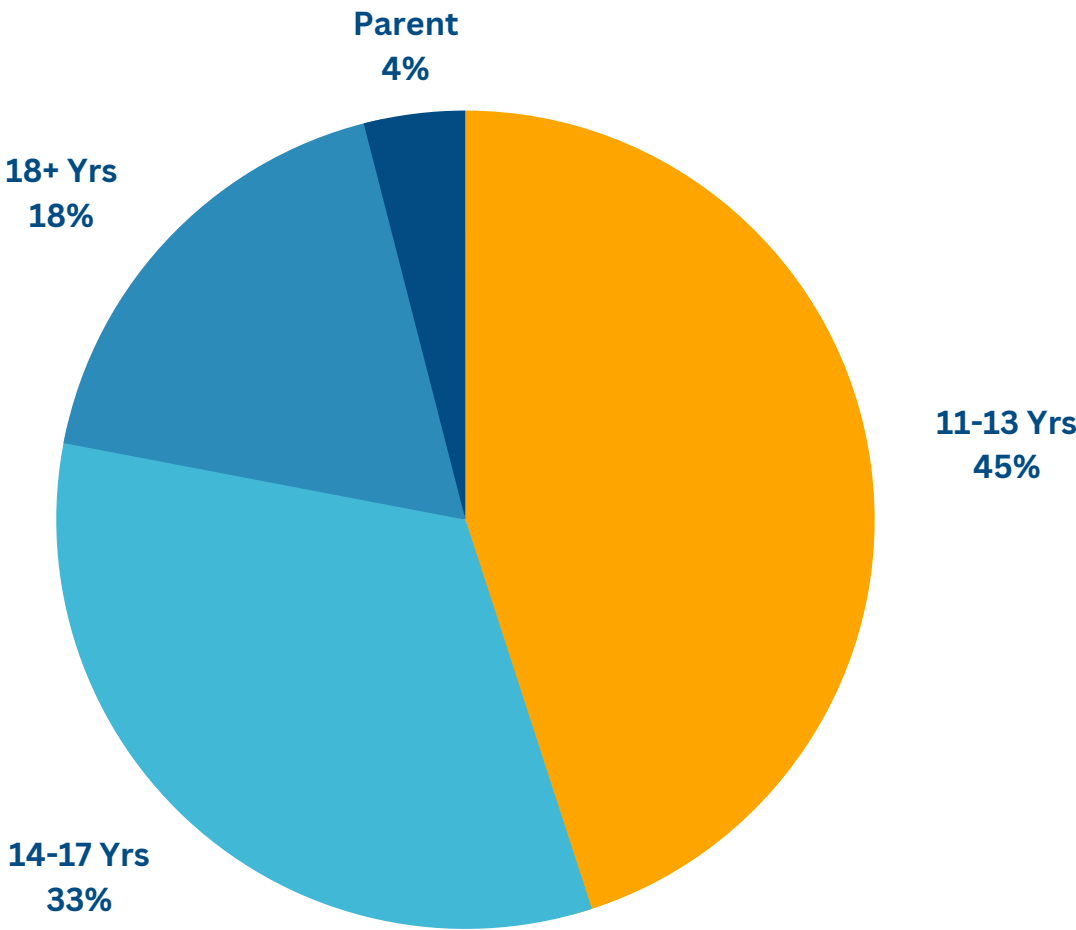
At the end of the event, organisers set a small number of questions for young people to give feedback via their mobile phones or iPads provided.

Everyone who completed an evaluation were entered automatically into a competition for a free draw.



Prizes were:

- 3 x One4All Gift Cards (£30, £20 and £10)
- 2 x Domino's Free Pizza Vouchers



51

Responses (38.6% of Total Attendees)

Feedback from Evaluations



Meeting
Friends

Seeing My
Friends

Boxing
Skills

Dungeons
& Dragons

Sports &
Other
Activities

Arts &
Crafts

Pizza

Public
Areas

Got To
See
Friends

Activities

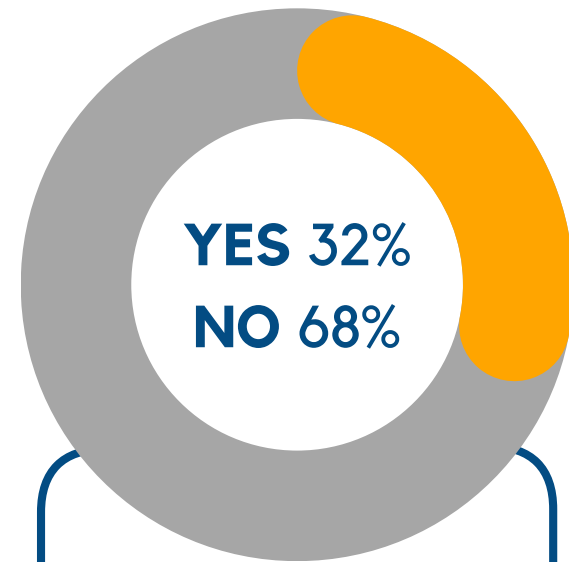
Face
Painting

Food &
Pizza

Friends

What did you
like most about
the event?

Feedback from Evaluations



Was this your first time attending a club/youth event?

Face Painting

Music

Youth Group

Drums

Genders & Sexes

Socialise Properly

Rocky Road

Daughter

Mocktails

Learned more about D&D

Pool

Dungeons & Dragons

Drugs

Boxing

Boxing Training

Did you try anything new / learn anything new at the event?

Feedback from Young People



The free pizza was great
and they were lovely

The music room was
the best

It was great craic with
loads to do

I'm going to join the
boxing club

I loved the sports with
Dean & Caolin

Got to meet up with
all my mates with
something to do

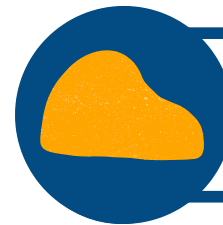


Feedback from Parents

What activities
would you like to
see for young
people in Armagh
in the future?



Football



Bouldering



Talking To Friends



Inter Club Events



Dance Classes



Feedback from Parents

Conversations with Parents on the day



ENJOYED THEMSELVES

Both children attended the event and both really enjoyed themselves.



OF GREAT BENEFIT

Some of the parents of disabled children stated that were delighted to be able to bring their children and stay with them. They also stated that the use of the sensory room was of great benefit to them for chill out time. One parent said their son loved being part of the event.



A GREAT EVENT

It was a great event. Some feedback from one parent was very positive, he wasn't even aware that that the epicentre existed. His son had a great time.

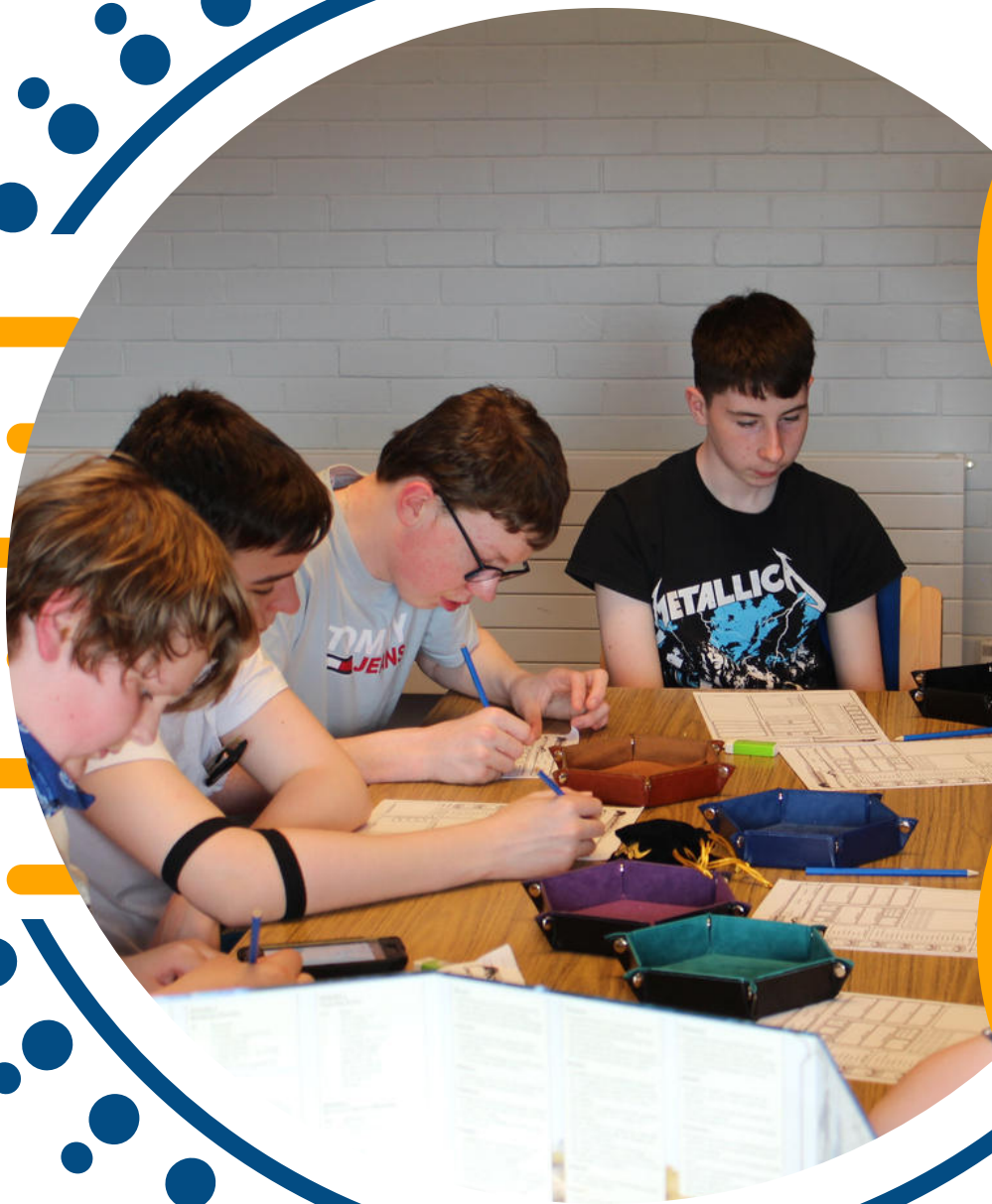


SUMMER ACTIVITIES

A male parent who had brought eight boys to the event after a birthday party left with summer activities registration forms for the boys to participate during the summer school break.

Feedback from Parents

Conversations with Parents on the day



I spoke with a family - mother, father and two daughters who had just recently moved to Armagh area. The daughter is starting St Catherine's in September but as the family are new to the area the parents wanted to get their daughter involved in community activities to make friends and build connections. That was their reason for attending on Saturday and they said they were very impressed with the Epicentre and their daughter was going to register and become a member.

I also spoke with two parents who were there together with their teenagers to provide support and supervision. During conversation the parents told me that both teenagers had learning difficulties and were told about the event by Barnardo's. The two young people were a couple and the parents said it was great for them to have a day out together and they could attend also. Parents both said it gave them the chance to chat to each other and other parents whose children attend Barnardo's.

At one of our chatty walks this week I randomly met a totally different single parent whose 3 children were at the event in Epicentre. She said it was great to be able to drop the 3 children off and for everything to be paid for. Two of her children (twins) also have a learning disability and attend Barnardo's and she said it was brilliant that the 3 children could go together to one event and commented that they rarely get to go to groups or activities together and usually have to do things separately.

When taking photos there was a group of boys sitting on the grass eating pizza. I got chatting to the mummy and she said she had taken her son and his friends to Feel Good Armagh for his birthday as she thought they would enjoy all the activities. When she said that to me - In my own head I remembered our initial conversations about the cost of living crisis and thought how we had possibly helped a family celebrate a birthday in a fun way without costing a fortune!

Feedback from Youth Workers (Planning Group Members)



I spoke to a number of young people who had never been to the Epicentre before and said they were keen to come back. All feedback from young people was positive and they were all grateful and appreciative of the day's activities and food.

It was lovely to see how well-mannered and thankful young people were even staying behind to help clean up at the end!

A lot of the boys commented on how much they enjoyed the boxing but funny enough none of them seemed to see Caelan fighting Sean Duffy!

31 parents/young people asked for registration information for the Epicentre Youth Centre.

3 young people attended the Epicentre's Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Programme for the first time the following Monday evening as a result of attending Feel Good Armagh.

Our young people really enjoyed being involved in the organising and being there on the day.

Thank you!

The young people thought the Epicentre was a great facility and enjoyed all the activities they participated in.

We felt that all the organisations that were there made it very interactive and informal making it very easy for young people to access information and ask questions without feeling they had to say the right thing or feel stupid. Some of the young people said they would like to learn to face paint, join some of the sports clubs and the boxing club.

We feel the day was a great success and had no bad feedback from anyone involved.

Well done to all the organisations involved for two very worthwhile events.

Feedback from Youth Workers (Planning Group Members)



I just wanted to offer our sincere thanks to all partners for organising 2 hugely successful events. This created a lovely buzz of activity and no doubt was well received.

Thank you for the opportunity for the Feel Good Armagh Weekend. It was absolutely fantastic and was a huge success.
The young people have expressed how enjoyable it was.

THANK
.. YOU
😊



Thank You

Young people on the planning group from Youth Action NI, REACT, Vibe, Spring and Barnardo's PosAbility, Duffy Fitness, Noelle McMahon (Armagh City FC), Domino's Pizza Armagh, EA Youth Service: Epicentre & CADI Teams, Ark Housing, Triangle Housing, SHSCT Promoting Wellbeing Team, Barnardo's PosAbility, Youth Action NI, REACT, Spring, Vibe, Common Youth, Dunlewey Addiction Services Young Persons & Family Services, Youth Justice Agency, Releasing Rhythms, Daniel McCarthy, James Graham, Tony and Herb's, Joy Armstrong, Mykenzie Cartmill, Artfunkle, MD Rafferty Music School and all volunteers on the day



The event was funded by:

Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership, Children in Northern Ireland,
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (Health Improvement),
Southern Health & Social Care Trust (Promoting Wellbeing Team)

