

Fermanagh Youth Networking Event 19.11.25

Background

Included in the LPGs Action Plan is the action for enhanced awareness of youth supports. LPG members have identified that youth support is spread across a diverse landscape of providers due to funding streams delivered across statutory community and voluntary sectors. Members also identified that the uniformed, arts and interest groups which exist in the community have so much to offer that families / practitioners may not be aware of and can assist in involving a young person in the life of their community and all the benefits this can bring.

To bring this action to life a Youth Network Event in Fermanagh was planned.



How much did we do?

Range of Organisation Invited to Attend

- 52 organisations invited both local & regional; from statutory, community & voluntary sectors including uniformed, arts, sport and interest groups.
- A questionnaire was designed to capture participants thoughts on the 4 priorities as identified by the WAOG & LPG. Questions were based on how frequently the participants identified or observed each of the priorities while engaging / supporting / talking to a young person, and if they felt confident or knowledgeable they felt talking / supporting / sign posting the young person experiencing this priority.
- Additionally, each participants was asked about their training need in regard of each priority and to prioritise from a list which needs they felt young people are experiencing most.

How well did we do It?

The 14 Organisations / groups who contributed / presented at Fermanagh's Youth Network Event

MENCAP	EA Youth Service – Enniskillen, Belleek & Lisnaskea
YGAM	PCSP
WHSCT Family Response Team	Youth Action
NOW Skill Set	PSNI
Youth Voice	Youth Action
FODC Community & Wellbeing Team	Fermanagh Trust Community Volunteer Project
WHSCT Paediatrics Asthma/ Diabetes Awareness	Light House Project (Fermanagh Women's Aid)

Is anyone better off?

- Participants reported having not only the opportunity to showcase what they do but, they learnt so much from other participants about local opportunities - sharing resources, training, outings & even joint funding bids.
- Participants now have a better understanding of LPG / WAOG and the action planning that goes on in both.
- From the 15 questionnaires completed participants appeared to feel confident in engaging and sign posting to other organisations /supports/ websites/ helplines young people who shared that they were experiencing issues or concerns at home/school or other places. However several commented about some supports/ services not being available in the area and the young person having to travel to Belfast/ L'Derry/Derry.
- Participants seems less sure when it came to supporting/signposting those young people experiencing school based anxiety.
- Lack of family income was judged as the most prevalent experience for young people followed by access to emotion & mental health support and family stresses. Transport was scored highly as well.
- Participants listed training needs in regard of neurodiversity; LGBTQIA?; suicide & understanding parental addiction.

Recommendations moving forward

- Training needs were identified and gaps will hopefully be considered for 2026.
- Time will be spent linking people together in regard of poverty and particularly to the local Hub, Food Banks and poverty work through FODC as that appears to be a major concern for the participants.
- Link with more groups / organisations who are led by volunteers e.g. Scouts, Girls Brigade, disability young peoples groups & interest groups.
- Request for an online resource of all the participants that attended with what they can provide and contact details

Did the participants find the event useful?

This event gave me an insight into services which are offering programmes for young people. It also highlighted new services or those that have changed what they are delivering.

Yes, my opportunity to network & share experience & expertise is most welcome

We need more events like this that brings organisations together to link in more & highlight changes in services.

Great to be here and see so many local supports however, we still have to raise that often access to services are unavailable or not in Fermanagh area. Young people are often unable to access services locally and have to travel to Belfast / Derry based organisations

Great to meet others that work /support young people from all sorts of organisations/groups/agencies including statutory and voluntary.

I think the idea of various organisations coming together and showcasing what they do is a great idea it is just a pity that that there was a yellow weather warning & people travelling had to cancelled.

Brilliant, great event for putting names to faces, as by using email most of the time you don't get to create same connections. Great for discovering local supports.

The event provided a space to network with organisations and make connections.

Would like more opportunities like this to network and would love an event like this dedicated to the access of outdoor adventure in youth work as some can be scared of risk.

