

All about
YOUTH
Conference

THURSDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2026

Armagh, Banbridge &
Craigavon LPG Areas

[Scorecard 26.3]



Background & Context

Feedback from discussions held at LPG meetings has highlighted that those working with children and young people play an essential role in shaping the next generation and that it is imperative that children and young people have access to support networks that are strong, connected and responsive. It has also been recognised that youth providers (both paid-for and voluntary!) need to support their own health and wellbeing so that they are best placed to face challenges experienced by children and young people in areas such as mental health, digital wellbeing, inclusion and community safety.

The **All About Youth Conference** aimed to provide an opportunity for youth workers, teachers, community representatives, volunteers and partner organisations to connect, learn and share best practice in supporting their health and well-being, as they continue to deliver invaluable services to children and young people on the ground.

The **Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon LPGs** are a partnership of statutory, voluntary, and community organisations working to improve outcomes for children and young people in the Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council Area.

Each meeting five times a year, the groups share information, build connections, identify local needs, and work together to address them and the groups are supported by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP).





Background & Context

All those working or volunteering with children and young people in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Areas were invited to attend the All About YOUTH Conference.

The aim of the day was to:



Discover mindfulness and self-care activities to support individual wellbeing



Connect with peers and build valuable networks



Dive into challenges of working with children and young people



Share experiences and best practice to strengthen your impact



All about **YOUTH**

A conference for those working with **Children and Young People**

Thursday 26th February
9.30am-3.30pm
Craigavon Civic & Conference Centre
Light refreshments and lunch

Spaces are limited so booking is essential.




The Executive Office
T:buc
T:buc Councils
CYPSP
Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council



Background & Context

The All About YOUTH Conference made a contribution to **all 8 High Level Outcomes for Children in the 2020–30 NI Children and Young People’s Strategy** relating to the wellbeing of children and young people.

Bringing together a wide range of local statutory, community and voluntary organisations, the event offered a unique day of learning, connection and inspiration, focusing on wellbeing, networking, sharing of experiences and celebrating good practice across the youth sector.

Attendees also took part in collaborative sessions designed to build stronger partnerships and to ensure that services remain responsive, inclusive and aligned with the needs of children and young people living in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Areas.

How much did we do?

All About YOUTH Conference held on **Thursday 26th February 2026**
at Craigavon Civic & Conference Centre, from **10am to 4pm**

Conference open to all those working or volunteering with
children and young people in the Armagh City, Banbridge and
Craigavon Borough Council Area



Opening Speaker

Lord Mayor Alderman Stephen Moutray

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Martin McMullan, CEO of Youth Action NI

Overview of CYPSP Locality Planning Groups

Lucinda Love-Teggarty, Banbridge LPG Chair, FutureProof

How much did we do?

Roundtable Discussions, based on the following themes, as pre-selected by attendees as part of registration process:

Life in a Growing Technological World

Neurodiversity

Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing of Children & Young People

Youth Provider Burnout



How much did we do?

Self-Care Activities included:

Laughter Yoga

The Sunshine Project

Health Checks*

Verve Health Network Trainers

Mindfulness

Colouring & Crafts

EA Youth Service

Walk & Talk around

Craigavon Lakes



**20 Health Checks were carried out on the day*

How much did we do?

Conference organised by **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council**, **CYPSP** and the **Education Authority** and funded through **The Executive Office District Council Good Relations Fund**



How much did we do?

Planning Group consisted of **10** members representing **6** different services/agencies/organisations

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP)

Education Authority

Youth Action Northern Ireland

Home-Start Craigavon

FutureProof – Banbridge Youth Engagement Service

6 Pre-Event Planning Meetings took place

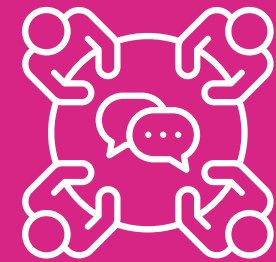




How well did we do it?



138 people attended the day in total
(**86%** of target number of **160**, showing the levels of interest in the conference)



Sector Representation:
46% Statutory (Education, Health, Other)
53% Community/Voluntary
1% Other (Private Business, Carer)



38% (**53**) of total attendees completed an Evaluation

How well did we do it?



Youth Provider Feedback Gathered

Roundtable Facilitators
Mentimeter
(All information collated and shared with attendees)



Connections Made

Human Bingo
Afternoon Walk & Talk
Opportunity to network during Break & Lunch



Self-Care Promoted

Laughter Yoga
Health Checks
Mindfulness Colouring & Crafts
Breakfast & Hot Lunch



Local Support Services Advertised

Digital Carousel
Goodie Bag

What changed as a result?

How much have you learnt about services & activities in the ABC Area for children, young people and/or parents?

A lot
55% (29)

Some
45% (24)

100% of respondents stated that they learnt “a lot” or “some” about services & activities in the ABC Area for children, young people and/or parents.

53 attendees in total replied to this question

What changed as a result?

How much have you learnt about services & activities in the ABC Area for children, young people and/or parents?

Great link made with PSNI to provide support resources for parents of neurodivergent children.

Events like All About YOUTH, for example, can offer solutions to ongoing / emerging local needs by bringing services together to share ideas & best practice.

I have learnt that there is quite a lot of young people's service within the ABC Area.

Lots of organisations doing valuable work with young people and keen for partnership to support young people in our communities.

At my table were colleagues from CAMHS and SHSCT and I gained an insight to the young people they work with.

Learned more about statutory provisions for young people.

What changed as a result?

Have you learnt of any solutions to the barriers raised during the table discussions?

A lot
40% (21)

Some
57% (30)

Not much
3% (2)

97% of respondents stated that they learnt "a lot" or "some" about solutions to the barriers raised during the table discussions.

53 attendees in total replied to this question

What changed as a result?

Have you learnt of any solutions to the barriers raised during the table discussions?

Safeguarding is an important lens to put on the IT world.

I have learnt about organisations that can offer free sessions for young people that can benefit to their learning.

Changing the algorithm of young people's feed, can improve the content they are consuming and their well being.

Some organisations have psychiatrists or chaplains that come in weekly to help with staff's wellbeing.

How different organisations have ensured that their groups are inclusive.

The importance of an organisation's culture in helping with burnout.

What changed as a result?

Roughly how many new services/contacts have you learnt about/made today?

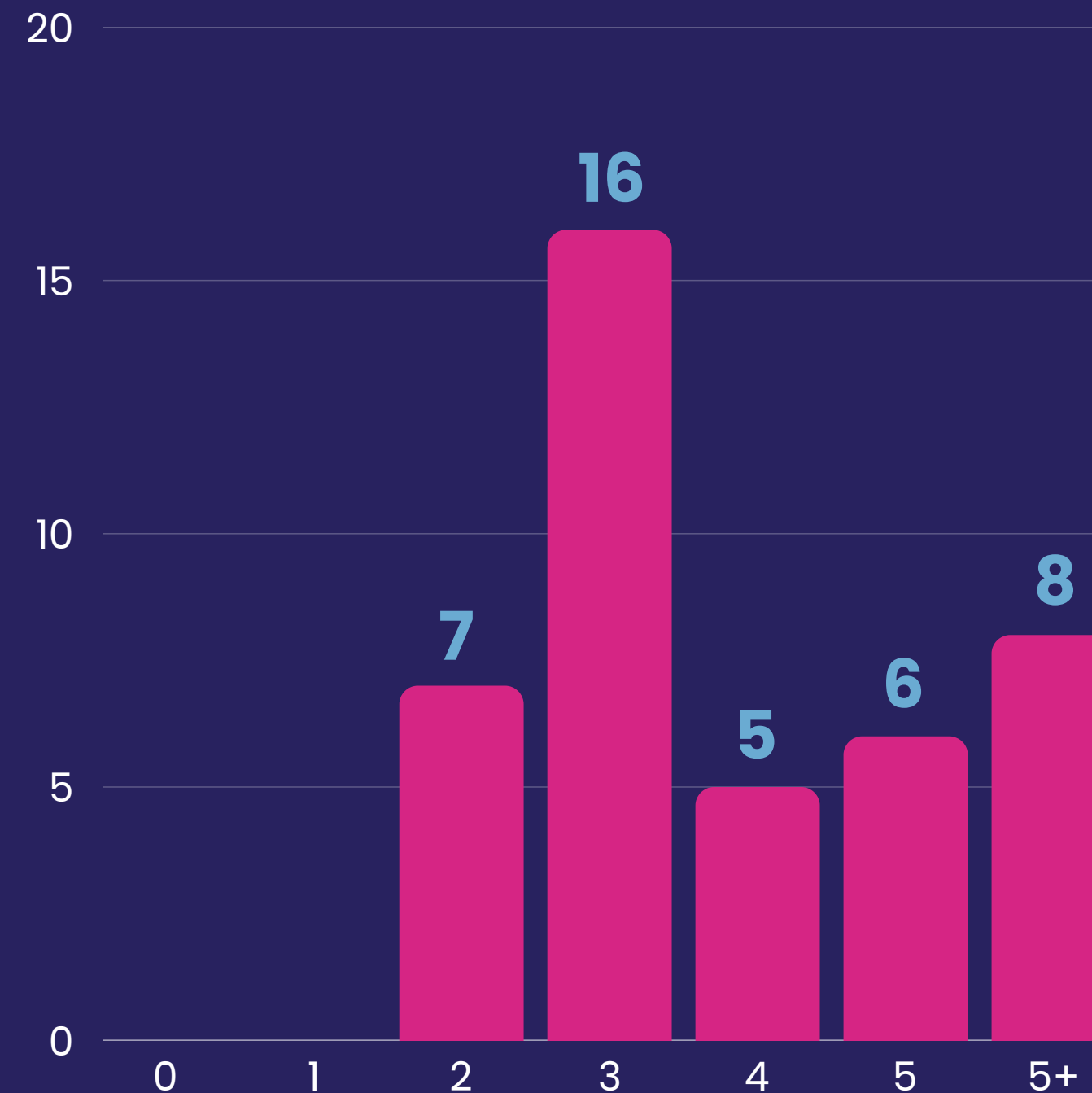
152

Minimum total new services/contacts learnt about/made

4

Minimum average no. of new services/contacts learnt about/made per respondent

42 attendees in total replied to this question



What changed as a result?



How much more motivated/enthused are you about your work after today's event?



85% of respondents stated that they felt "much more" or "slightly more" motivated/enthused about their work after today's event.

40 attendees in total replied to this question

What changed as a result?

What will you do, as a follow-up to today's event?

I have already passed on details to other participants to explore some opportunities.

Share this with my colleagues and explore more self-care.

Continue to build relationships, with the aim finding solutions (collaboratively!) to local needs/issues. And allow myself to laugh more!!

E-mail to find out more about two of the services coming into the groups I run and share resources with the others.

Share feedback with my own team and will email new contact who can potentially help a family I work with.

I will research more about what is out there and what I can signpost my YP forward to.

32 attendees in total replied to this open-ended question

What changed as a result?

What will you do, as a follow-up to today's event?

It will help me to make contact with the appropriate services in the area to provide the most appropriate support for children and young people.

Plan more staff days for promoting health and wellbeing.

Continue to network and attend further events like this which provides the space to meet others and take time away from other, often demanding tasks.

Follow up more regarding laughter yoga as some exercises will be useful in my role as a mental health counsellor.

I have made so many contacts and will be able to signpost people to ensure a great return for the valuable resources in our area.

Make contact with 2 new contacts for a project in 2026/27.

32 attendees in total replied to this open-ended question

What changed as a result?



What training opportunities would benefit your organisation?



AI Awareness for ALL & Digital Safety



Wellbeing, Self-Care & Burnout Prevention



Supporting Young People with Additional or Complex Needs



Volunteer Development & Workforce Skills



Specialist Youth Practice & Emerging Needs



Neurodiversity (Autism, ADHD & SEND)



Managing Challenging Behaviour



Multi-Agency Working & Partnership Development



Family Support & Early Intervention



Supporting Young People's Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing

26 attendees in total replied to this open-ended question

Based on the responses, several clear themes emerged (Some topics were directly mentioned multiple times, while others appeared across different comments with similar underlying needs – The strongest message from attendees was that they value practical, wellbeing-focused training that equips them to support increasingly diverse and complex needs, while also protecting the wellbeing of the workforce itself)

All about
YOUTH

Further Info.



To access the Support Services Digital Carousel shown on the day
click [HERE](#)



To access a short video of the day
visit [HERE](#)

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