

UBU Bagenalstown

Stakeholder Consultation



kcetb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Chill Chainnigh agus Cheatharlach
*Kilkenny and Carlow
Education and Training Board*



**An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige**
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth





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Introduction

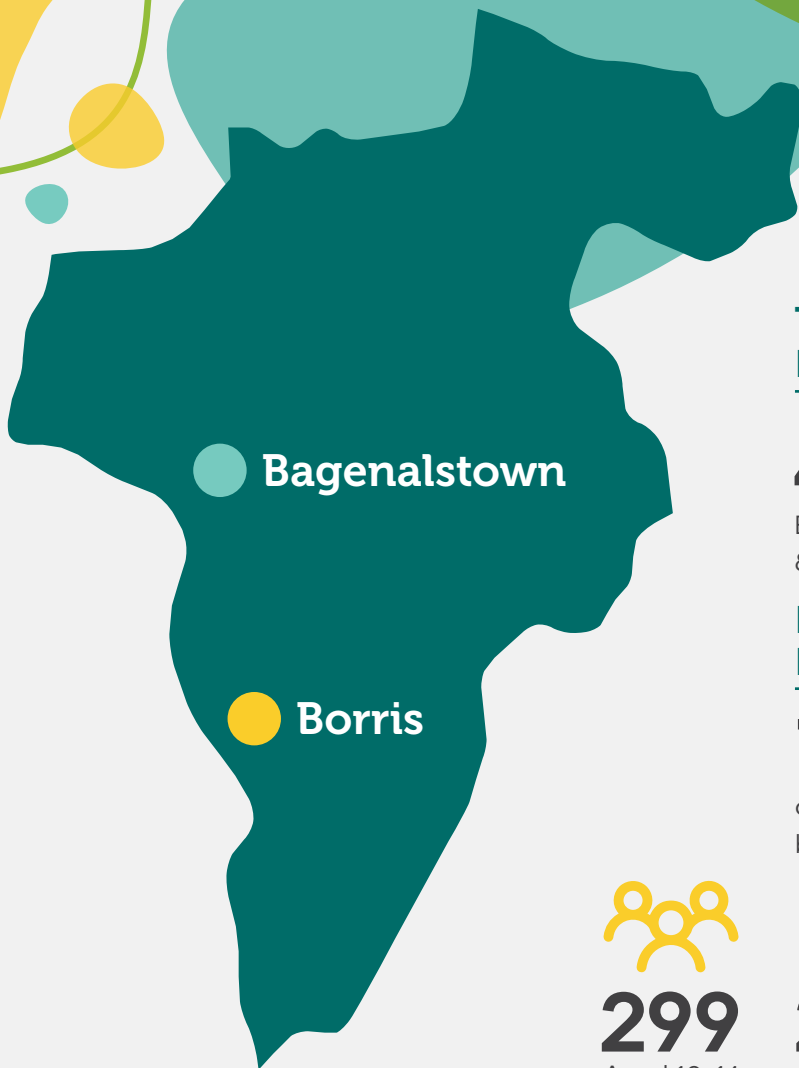
In September 2021 Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board (KCETB) responded to a call from the Department of Children Equality Disability Integration Youth (DCEDIY) to be part of a new national UBU Service Selection Panel for 2022-2023. KCETB applied to the Department for a new UBU project in Bagenalstown and were notified in December 2021 that they were successful in reaching the next stage of the process.

In January 2022, key stakeholders in Bagenalstown and environs were consulted to ensure the proposed service was in line with the needs identified on the ground. The key purpose of this consultation was to support KCETB in completing the DCEDIY Area Profile, Needs Assessment and Service Requirement (APSNAR) Tool with the view to progressing towards the establishment of a New UBU Your Place Your Space Youth Service based in Bagenalstown with outreach to Borris and the South Carlow area in 2022.

A survey was created for both the community and statutory stakeholders and young people in the area. A number of organisations, agencies, schools, and clubs were invited to complete the survey in January 2022. The responses received represented the Youth Services, CYPSC, Voluntary youth clubs and a Post Primary School.

The survey was also circulated to young people with the assistance of the local Post Primary Schools and Youth Organisations. 57 responses were received from young people.

The survey was filtered into the key thematic areas included in the DCEDIY APSNAR tool. An analysis of the responses received are provided in this report.



Total Population

4,362

Bagenalstown (Urban & Rural) & Borris

Population Breakdown**

788

or 18% are aged 10-24 years broken down as ...



299

Aged 10-14



250

Aged 15-19



239

Aged 20-24

Number who are looking for first regular job



73

(aged 15 and over)

Number who are unemployed having lost or given up previous job



789

(aged 15 and over)

Low Educational Attainment



15.6% do not progress beyond primary school and 19% do not progress beyond lower secondary

Deprivation Index



Bagenalstown Urban -10.14

Bagenalstown Rural -1.3

Borris -6.56

42.7% of people in Bagenalstown live in disadvantaged areas

Source: CSO:2016

** Represents Bagenalstown Urban, Rural & Borris combined

Stakeholders' Surveys

Better Outcomes Analysis

Better Outcomes Brighter Futures is the first National Policy Framework for Children and Young People which sets out five national outcomes for children and young people. A series of questions were asked of those consulted with reference to this policy in line with the requirements of the APSNAR tool.

Outcome 1: Active and healthy with physical and mental well being

Respondents were requested to provide a rationale for the choices made in relation to Outcome 1, with a key focus in this area being on the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns on young peoples mental health. **Services reported an “increase in social anxiety, coupled with a lack of opportunities for socialisation outside of sport”.** The impact poor mental health has had on

school attendance and academic performance was identified.

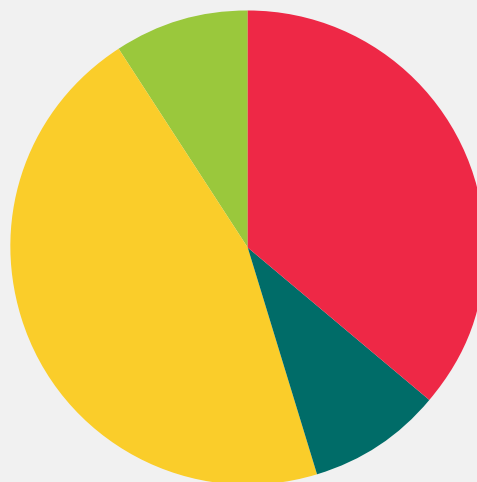
The lack of access to public transport and the absence of a dedicated recreational space for young people in Bagenalstown were also mentioned by respondents.

Respondents were required to identify additional supports, programmes or initiatives that a dedicated youth service could provide in Bagenalstown to address the issues identified under Outcome 1. The responses here focused on the need for services to support young people’s mental

health in Bagenalstown.

The presence of a Drop in Youth Cafe where young people are safe and can link with professional, qualified Youth Workers was also identified. In addition to the above access to sports and physical activities to provide social outlets for young people was identified.

- Mental Health (4)
- Physical Health (1)
- Sexual Health (0)
- Emotional Well being (5)
- Other (1)



Outcome 2: Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development

Stakeholders were requested to present the main issues presenting for young people in Bagenalstown and its environs under Outcome 2.

vulnerable young people.

Respondents were requested to provide a rationale for the choices made in relation to Outcome 2, with a key focus in this area being the research carried out by Carlow Community Development Partnership (CCDP) (2019&2021) on school retention numbers

the issues identified under Outcome 2. The suggestions put forward here were far reaching and very much **focused on individual specialised supports for the young people in the first instance to support school retention.** Areas covered here included but were not limited to youth led awareness campaigns, life skills

Main issues presenting for young people in Bagenalstown and its environs under Outcome 2

Engagement in and achievement in education	3
Opportunity to progress to third level education/alternative educational and training pathways	4
Reduced timetables for very vulnerable young people which is leading to young people leaving school early	1
The local secondary schools provide an excellent service in this area	1

The main challenges presented under Outcome 2 focused on the need to offer opportunities for young people to engage with and achieve in education (3 respondents) and progress in their educational opportunities (4 respondents). Other areas identified here were the excellent service provided by secondary schools in the area and the impact of reduced timetables on early school leaving for

and supports. Other areas identified here included the many issues facing young people in school - bullying, lack of social networks, problematic substance use, anxiety and the lack of access to transport for rurally isolated young people.

Respondents were required to identify additional supports, programmes or initiatives that a dedicated youth service could provide in Bagenalstown to address

programmes, progression opportunities guidance supports, counselling supports and the provision of a safe, quality space.

Additional areas highlighted in this area included access to Afterschool's service and support, opportunities for collaborations between services and IT Carlow and consideration of the recommendations made in the 2021 CCDP report on Enhancing Supports.

Outcome 3: Safe and protected from harm

Participants were requested to present the main issues presenting for young people in Bagenalstown and its environs under Outcome 3.

with a key focus in this area being the feedback received from Strengthening Families, Healthy Streets programmes and Feedback to CYPSC/subgroups. The necessity for young people in Bagenalstown to have a place they can call their own, to meet off the streets, that

support, anti-bullying programmes as well as youth led committees and campaigns were other areas identified. Additional supports in the areas of in terms of referral and advocacy supports for young people where child welfare/ protection concern emerge

Main issues presenting for young people in Bagenalstown and its environs under Outcome 3

Protected from bullying and discrimination	3
Safety from crime and anti-social behaviour	3
Safety from abuse, neglect and exploitation	2
Access to a secure, stable and caring home environment;	2
Drug use;	1

The main challenges presented under Outcome 3 focused on protected from bullying and discrimination and safety from crime and anti-social behaviour with 3 respondents in each. Other areas identified here were Safety from abuse, neglect and exploitation, Access to a secure, stable and caring home environment with two responses in each and Drug use with one respondent.

Respondents were requested to provide a rationale for the choices made in relation to Outcome 3,

is staffed by professional qualified Youth Workers came through strongly in this section.

Respondents were required to identify additional supports, programmes or initiatives that a dedicated youth service could provide in Bagenalstown to address the issues identified under Outcome 3. The necessity for a youth led space came through strongly in this section again. Training and education programmes aimed in the areas of leadership training, peer

were identified in this section also.

"The necessity for young people in Bagenalstown to have a place they can call their own, to meet off the streets, that is staffed by professional qualified Youth Workers came through strongly"

Outcome 4: Have economic security and opportunity

Participants were requested to present the main issues presenting for young people in Bagenalstown and its environs under Outcome 4.

difficulties experienced by some young people in engaging in online schooling and supports due to poor broadband in some areas and access to the necessary hardware was compounded for those living in poverty or experiencing social exclusion.

youth participation models was identified. Another area identified was the provision of opportunities for young people to participate in local and national Youth Participation Groups.

Main issues presenting for young people in Bagenalstown and its environs under Outcome 4

Protection from poverty and social exclusion	3
Opportunities for ongoing education and training	3
Pathways to economic participation, entrepreneurship, employment and independent living	3

The responses received in this section with reference to the main issues presented under Outcome 4 were equally weighted as detailed above across the three sections.

Respondents were requested to provide a rationale for the choices made in relation to Outcome 4 with the CSO Youth Employment figures referenced here. Anecdotal reports from those working with families and young people in the area were also referenced. The reports mainly focused on the

Respondents were required to identify additional supports, programmes or initiatives that a dedicated youth service could provide in Bagenalstown to address the issues identified under Outcome 4. The necessity to promote educational pathways and provided local youth employment initiatives was referenced in this section. The provision of Youth Groups to promote personal and social development, drug education programmes, basic needs programmes, as well as the provision of individual work based on

"...difficulties experienced by some young people in engaging in online schooling and supports due to poor broadband in some areas and access to the necessary hardware was compounded for those living in poverty or experiencing social exclusion."

Outcome 5: Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Participants were requested to present the main issues presenting for young people in Bagenalstown and its environs under Outcome 5.

lives being referenced here. The responses received in this area focused strongly on the need for young people in the area to have something for them in their community that they can engage with to enhance their sense of identity and sense of belonging to the wider community.

provide opportunities for young people to develop self-confidence and a sense of identity as part of their overall development. Other areas such as supporting young people to deliver a programme of summer activities in Bagenalstown and the rural areas and Intergenerational or Partnership Projects were

Main issues presenting for young people in Bagenalstown and its environs under Outcome 5

A sense of identity	3
A part of a positive network of friends, families and communities	4
Civic engagement	3
Awareness of rights, responsible and respectful of the law	3

The responses received in this section with reference to the main issues presented under Outcome 5 were quite equally weighted as detailed above, with the area of the necessity for positive network of friends, families and communities coming out slightly above the others with four responses.

Respondents were requested to provide a rationale for the choices made in relation to Outcome 5 with the impact of the Covid 19 restrictions on young people's opportunity to participate fully in matters which affect their

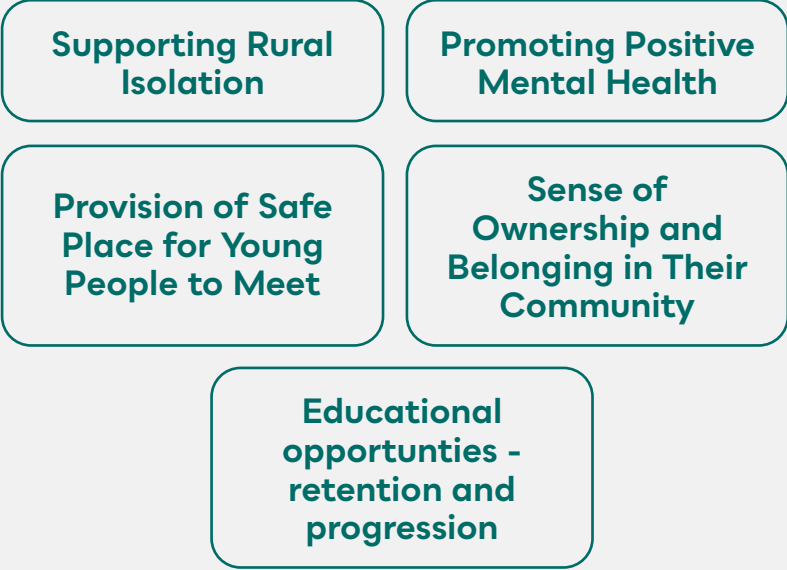
Respondents were required to identify additional supports, programmes or initiatives that a dedicated youth service could provide in Bagenalstown to address the issues identified under Outcome 5. The provision of a youth service which would offer opportunities to young people to be involved in activities to benefit the whole community that was supported by youth workers was referenced in this section. The provision of these services and potentially a youth leadership programme could

also referenced here. Opportunities to provide educational evenings through links with the local Gardai to make them aware of what is actually happening in the area especially in relation to drugs was another area put forward.

"... impact of the Covid19 restrictions on young people's opportunity to participate fully in matters which affect their lives..."

Needs Prioritisation

Respondents were requested to identify under the five outcomes, what the five greatest priority needs for young people were in Bagenalstown and the surrounding area. The top five areas identified were:



Target Age Group

Stakeholders were requested to identify what specific age group should be targeted by the potential new service. The age groups identified were:

- 10-12 Years (1)
- 12-14 Years (4)
- 14-18 Years (5)
- 18-24 Years (0)



Benefit of full-time youth service

For young people

Respondents were required to identify what benefit the provision of a full-time youth service would have for young people in the area. Detailed below are a flavour of the responses received.

Provide opportunities for young people in the area to inform the service on the needs in the area

Safe space to meet, with qualified professional Youth Workers, offering a variety of different needs-based youth work programmes and activities to meet their needs

Youth Work Works!

Needed for young people that don't have any interest in sport's

For Parents

Support parents in supporting their children, providing information, activities and programmes appropriate to the needs of their young people

Will ensure that their young person is safe and has access to wide range of supports and opportunities to help them thrive and reach their potential in life.

Wider Community

Providing for the needs of the young people and allowing them to become constructively involved in the community, participating in ways which would benefit their area

Youth Project needs to become a key part of the wider community if it is to be successful.

If youth were off the streets and had some places to go

Do you anticipate ways in which your service can compliment and work with a dedicated youth service to support young people in the area?

As detailed previously there is a strong community foundation in Bagenalstown this was reflected in the desire among those surveyed to work collaboratively to support young people in the area.

The opportunities identified here ranged from the provision of forum to support agencies to work collectively to ensure the voice of the young people is heard, that information

around supports in the area are shared and the provision of physical resources such as the Scout field.

The services already provided in the area by Carlow Regional Youth Services (CRYS), these being the outreach provision in Bagenalstown and the youth led summer programme in Borris were also highlighted in this section.

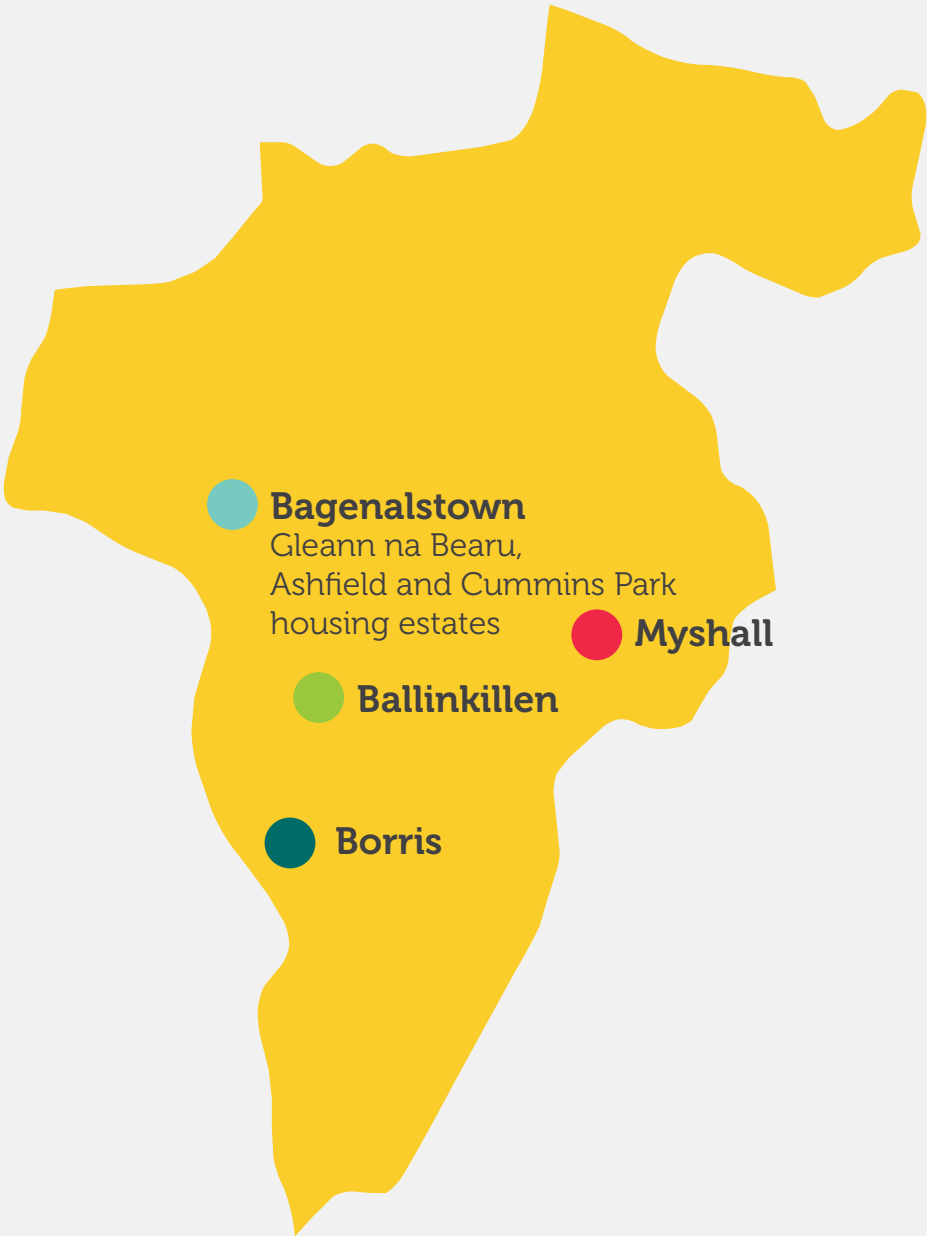
SCOT Analysis

As part of the process, KCETB was required to complete a Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities and Threats analysis (SCOT) for Bagenalstown, its surrounds and the services within it. Respondents were requested to complete a SCOT analysis for the area from their perspective.

S	C	O	T
Strengths	Challenges	Opportunities	Threats
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Good community services in the area e.g. FRC, CRYS 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On the HP Deprivation Index 47% of the population of Bagenalstown is classed as disadvantaged 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The FRC, Carlow Regional Youth Services and the CCDP are all well placed to support a new service in Bagenalstown 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COVID-19
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Three post-primary schools in the area 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Youth unemployment in Bagenalstown in 2021 is approximately 8.3% 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To build on work carried out to date by CRYS 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The lack of volunteers will have impact on many clubs as is seen already
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Large Youth Population 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Only one school in the area has DEIS status 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Goodwill for a new community youth project 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Strong community network with good community leaders 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Need for afterschool's support for young people 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. We have plenty of building that could be used for a place to meet for the youth and build it to what they would require once they find their home 	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Lack of funding to date for a full-time project 		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Transport to access youth work supports 		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Ensuring that rural young people's needs are met 		

Area Prioritisation

Stakeholders were requested to consider, from their knowledge of the area, specific small areas/ neighbourhoods/ estates within Bagenalstown itself, Borris and its environs that should be prioritised for a new youth services to target. The map below details the areas prioritised.



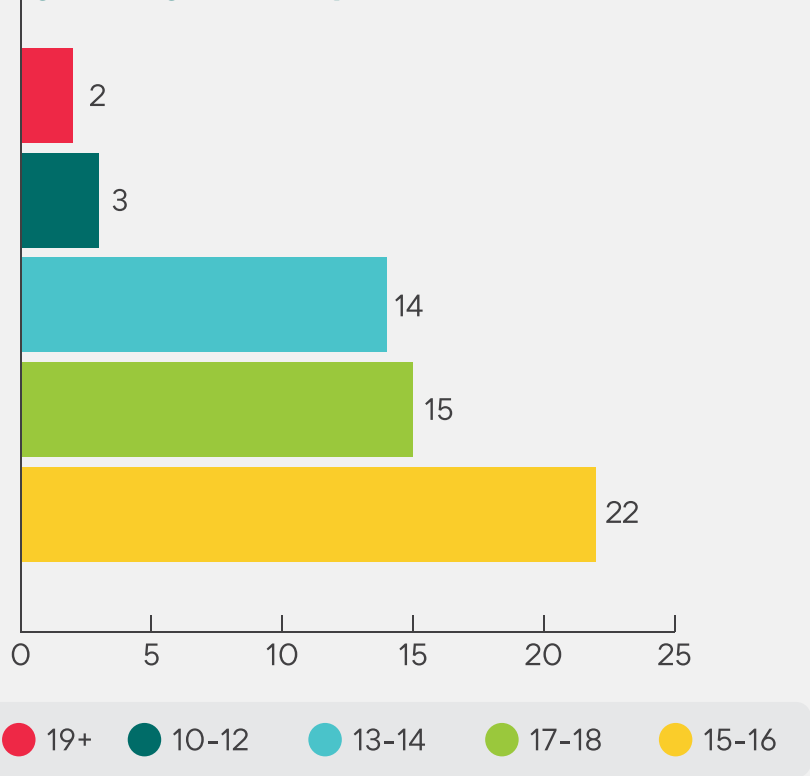
Consultation with Young People

Context:

Ensuring that the voice of the young people was heard through a consultation process was of paramount importance in order to ensure that any service would meet their identified needs.

A microsoft forms survey was created and circulated to the three secondary schools in the local area, Carlow Regional Youth Service and Bagenalstown School Completion Project in January 2022. There were 57 responses were received from young people.

Age Range of Respondents



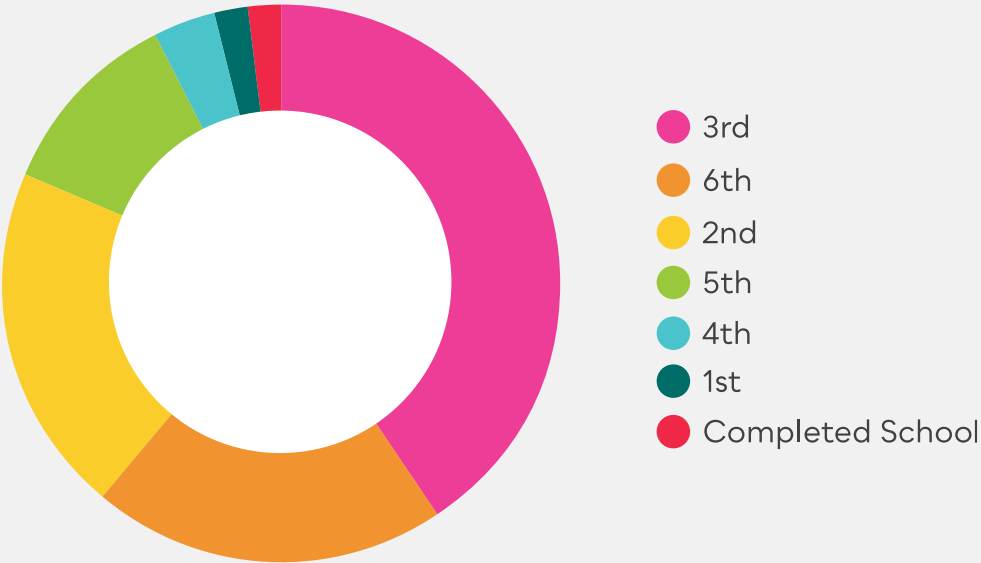
What area do you live in?

* 3 respondents chose not to complete this question.

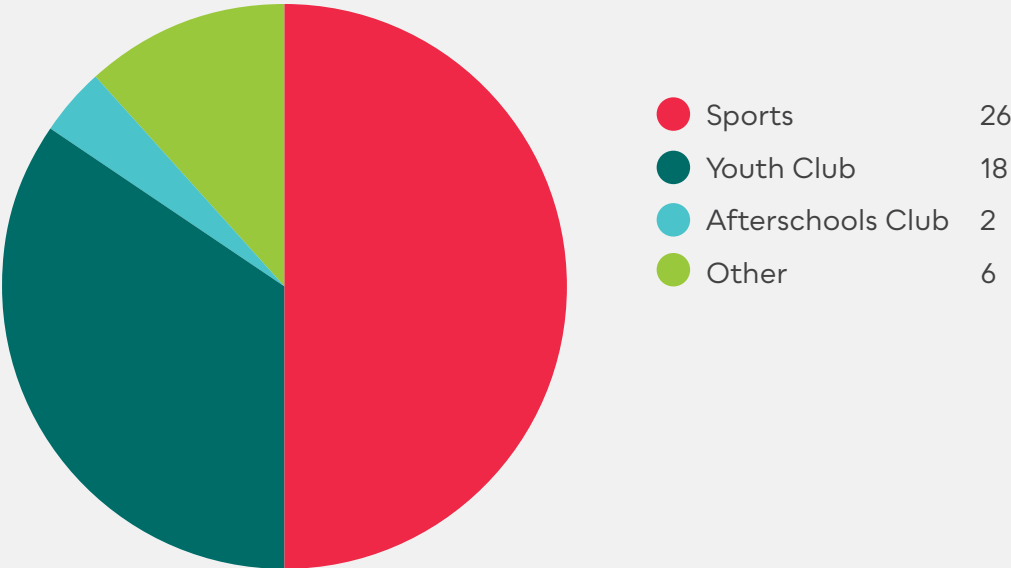


Bagenalstown	32
Old Leighlin	3
Loughlinbridge	1
Paulstown	5
Augha	2
Nurney	2
Milford	1
Ballinkillen	1
Harrow Cross	1
Myshall	1
Kellymount	1
Borris	2
Killedmond	1
Knockdrumagh	1

What year in school are you in?



Activities already involved in



What do you like most about the area in which you live?

24% | 13 respondents answered
friends for this question



What do you not like about the area in which you live?

01

Lack of recreational facilities

Lack of transport facilities and distance from friends

02

03

Lack of social activities in the evening time

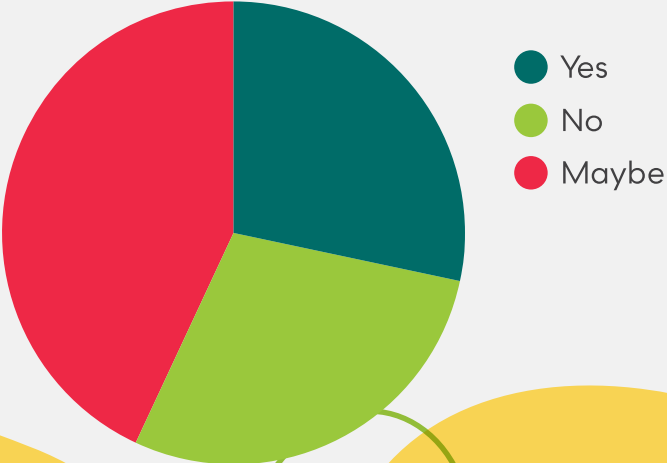
Dangerous roads

04

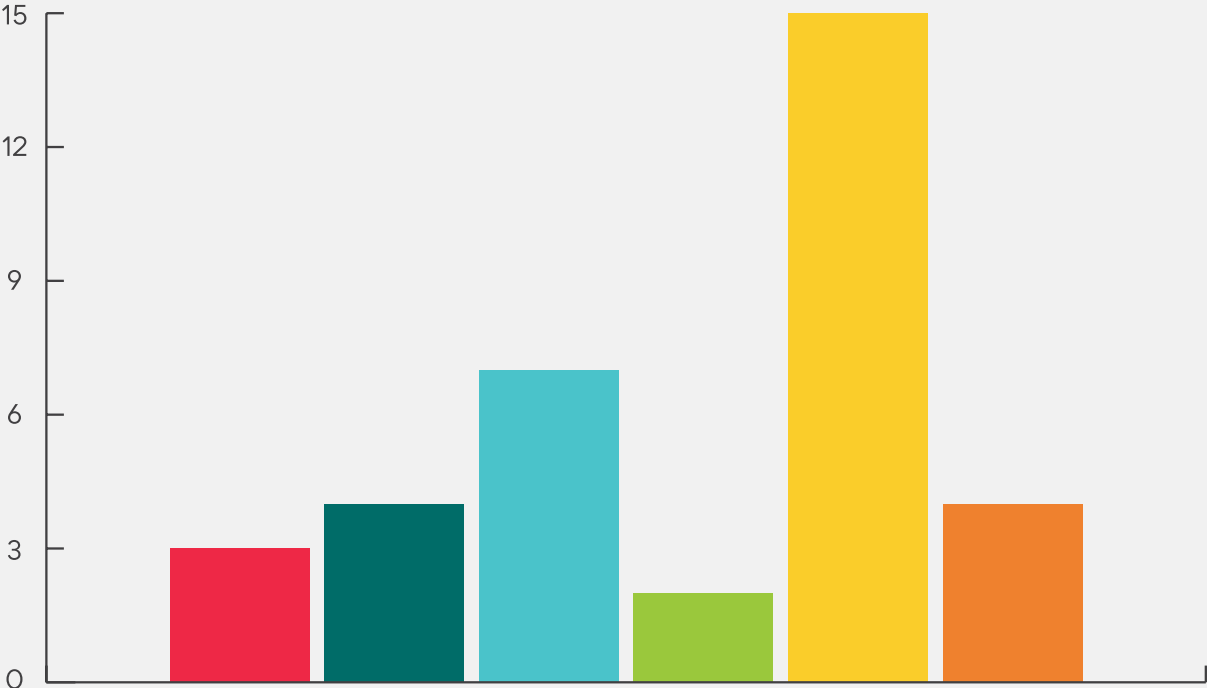
What else would you like to see in your area that would make it a nicer place for young people to live?

- 01 Recreational and Youth facilities
- Shops 02
- 03 More clubs that don't have sports
- Afterschool clubs 04
- 05 Safer Roads

Would you attend a local youth service if there was one open full time in your local area?

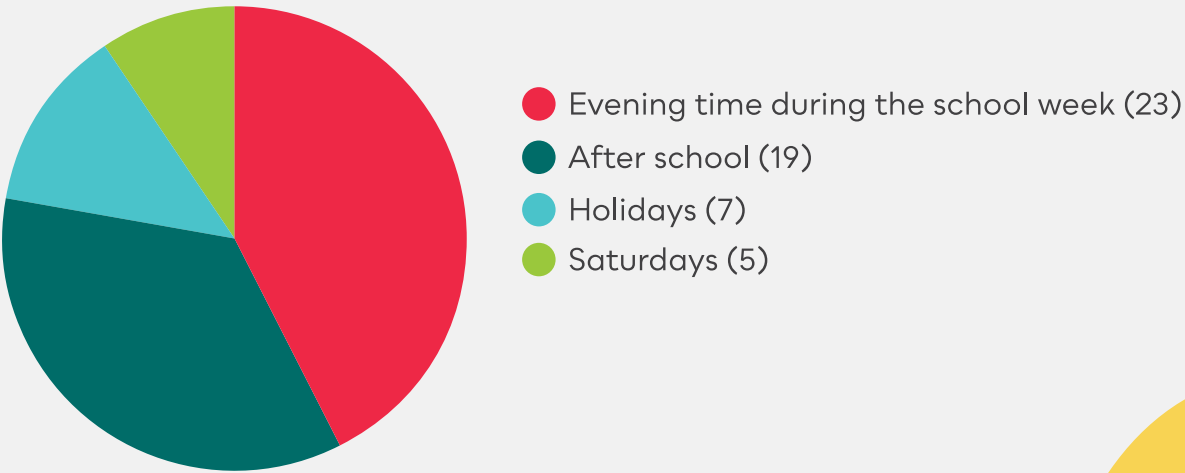


What factors would prevent you from attending a local youth service?



- Home commitments (3)
- School commitments (4)
- Committed to other extra curricular (7)
- Transport issues (2)
- No interest (15)
- Other (4)

What time would suit you most to attend Youth Service programmes, supports and activities?



- Evening time during the school week (23)
- After school (19)
- Holidays (7)
- Saturdays (5)

What are the main challenges you face today as a young person?

01

COVID-19

Pressure of the state exams and getting good grades

02

03

Social anxiety

Making friends

04

How do you think a local youth service in your area could help overcome these challenges?

Place to get away from the stress of school

Get to see people my own age and different activities

Learn life skills

Tips on how to study efficiently

Distract you from problems

Outdoor activities

Mix with people

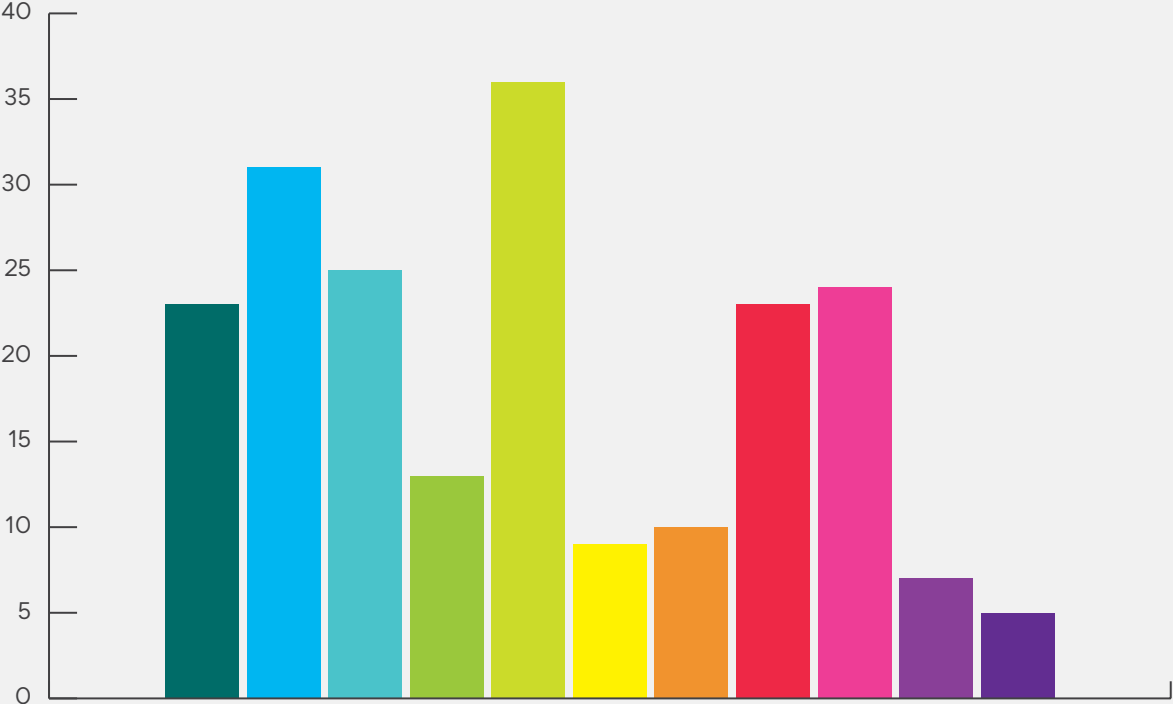
Give people a chance to unwind and relax

Helping me to make new friends

Provide opportunities to meet up in a friendly and supportive environment

Providing mental health counselling alongside a youth club would be great

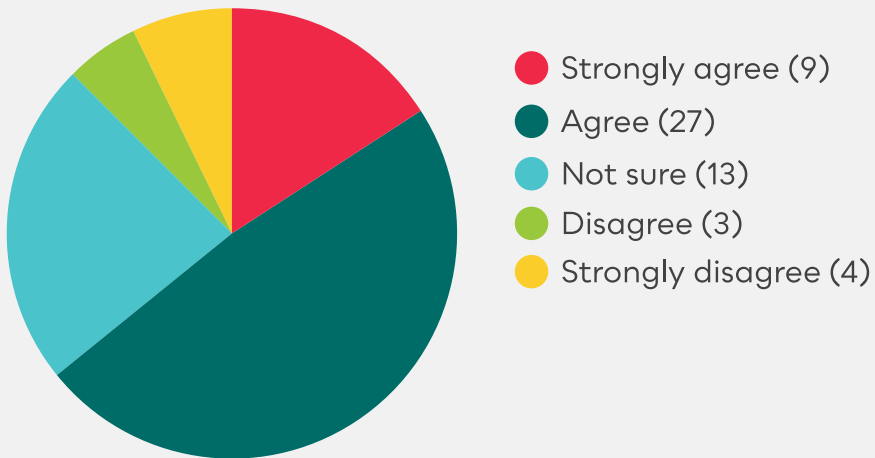
What programmes, supports or activities would you like to see running in a local youth service?



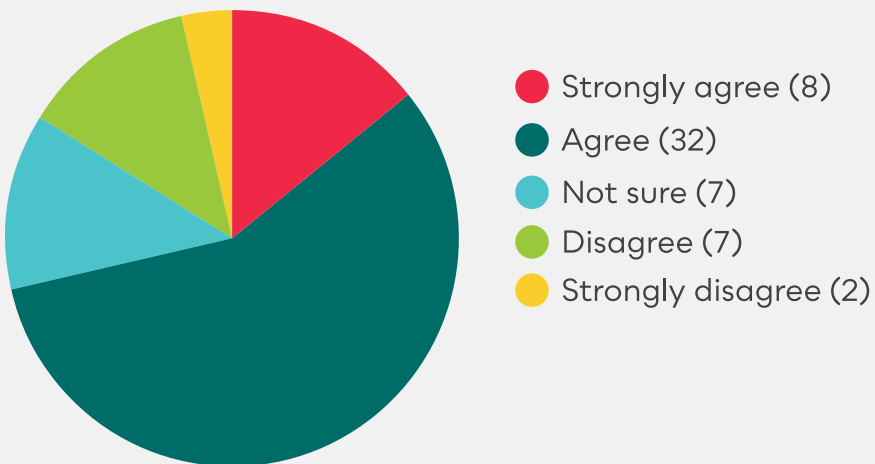
- Sports (23)
- Music (31)
- Arts (25)
- STEAM (13)
- Gaming (36)
- Other activities based program... (9)
- Drop in (10)
- Counseling (23)
- Programmes focused on mem (24)
- Access to information (7)
- Other (5)

Statements with reference to Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures

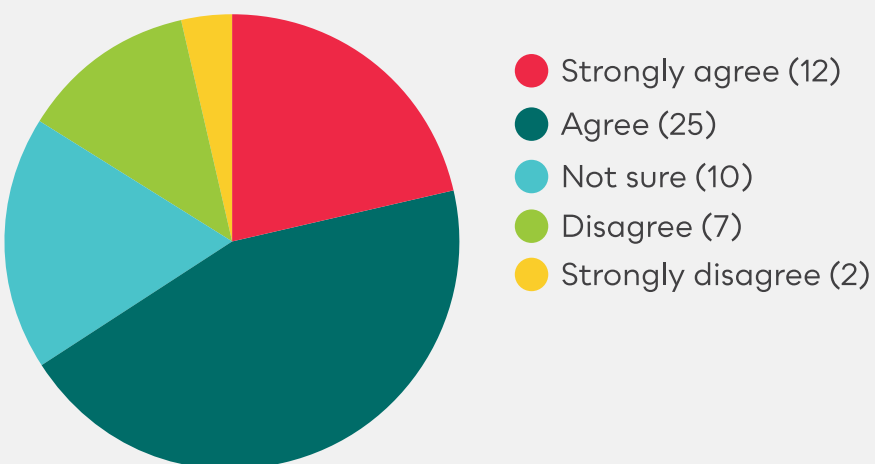
In general, I feel happy and satisfied with my life



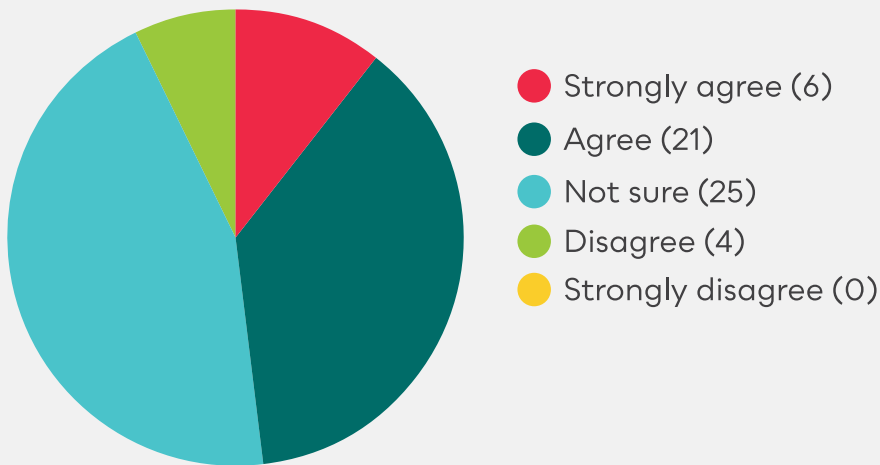
I feel that my mental health could be better



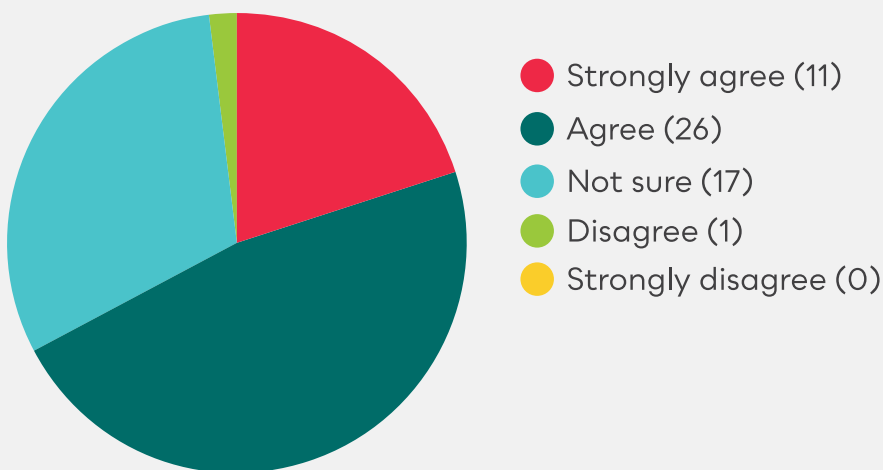
I feel that my physical and emotional health could be better



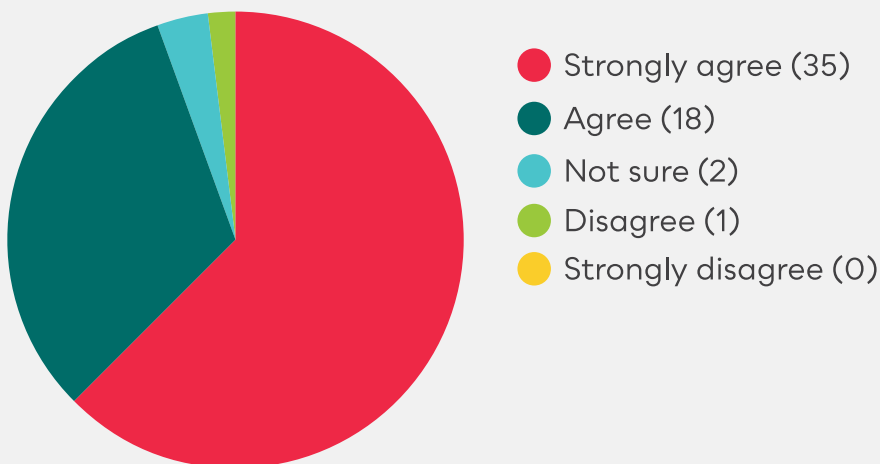
In general, I feel positive about my future



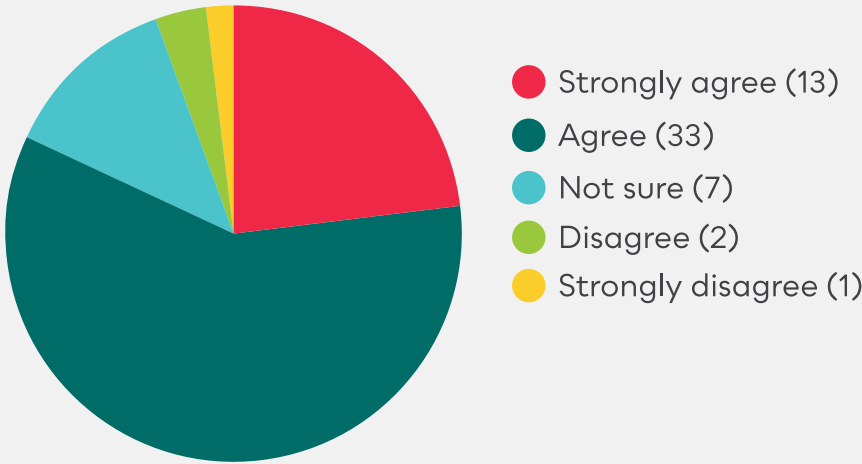
The opportunities to complete my Leaving Cert and progress onwards to further education, training and employment are available to me



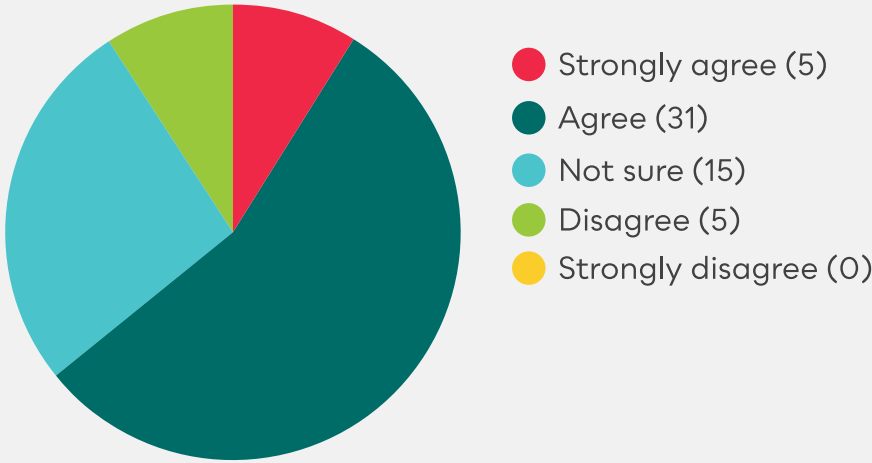
I feel safe in my home



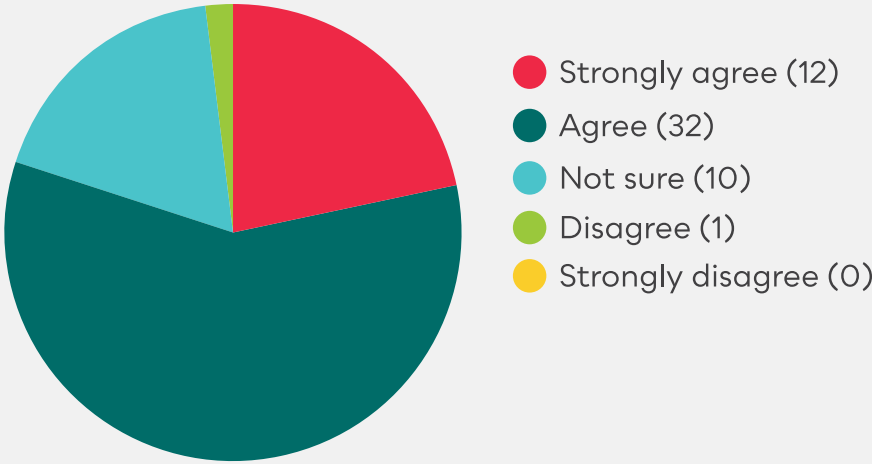
I feel safe in my school and community



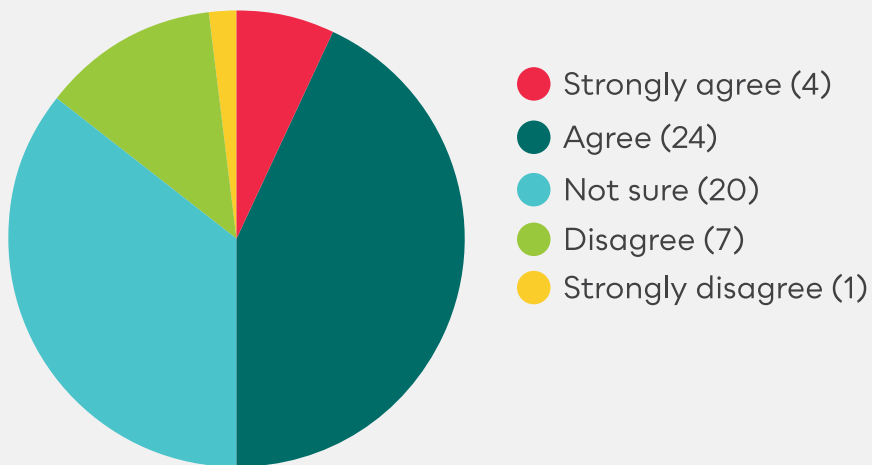
I feel I am valued, respected and listened to by my peers



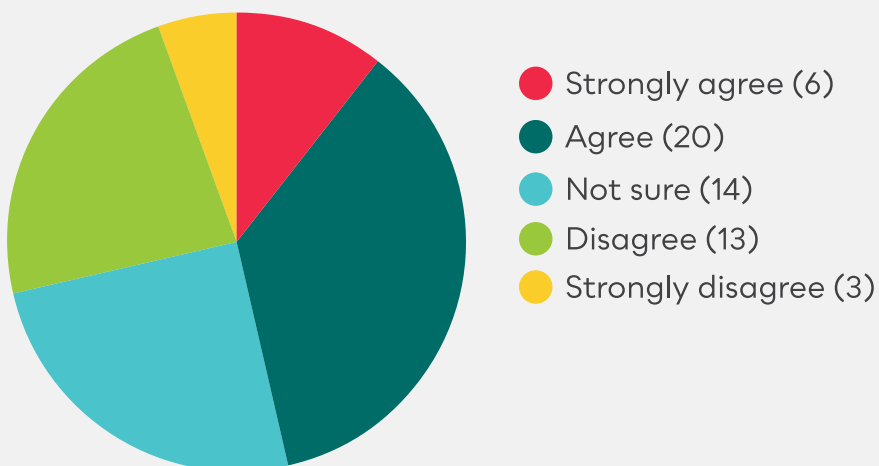
I feel I am valued, respected and listened to by the adults in my life



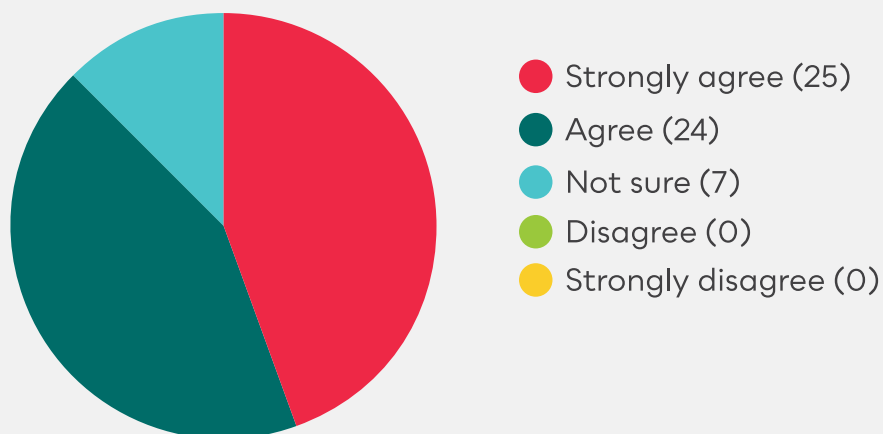
I feel I am valued, respected and listened to in my community



At times, I feel left out, isolated or discriminated against



I have an adult in my life that I can talk to and get support when I need it



Conclusion

Following the consultation process, KCETB made a submission to DCEDIY to be considered for funding for a new site. KCETB was successful in this process and secured funding of €120,000 per annum for a full time dedicated UBU Youth Service for Bagenalstown and South Carlow from 2022 onwards.

Following the allocation of the funding by the DCEDIY a selection process was instigated and Carlow Regional Youth Services were successful in the application process.

KCETB would like to thank the respondents for taking the time to participate in the consultation process. The feedback received formed the basis of our submission and ensured that the voices of the services and young people who will most benefit from the new service were strongly represented in our application.

We look forward to working with Carlow Regional Youth Services in progressing towards the establishment of the new service in 2022.

Notes

Dotted lines for writing notes.



kcetb

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