Youth Perspectives 2.0

The voice of young people in Dublin 15

FORÓIGE, DUBLIN 15

www.foroige.ie
In 2003, Foróige in Blanchardstown undertook a research project, *Youth Perspectives* which engaged young people to determine their views and priorities. Now, ten years later, *Youth Perspectives 2.0* revisits that work. It is intended that the primary focus of this report will influence its work and plans over the next number of years.
1. Introduction

1.1 Context

Blanchardstown Youth Service, Foróige, is the youth service designated to work with young people in Dublin 15. It is operated by Foróige, the National Youth Development Organisation, on behalf of the Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board. Blanchardstown Youth Service was established in 1982, and provides a range of services to young people, primarily aged 12-18 in the Dublin 15 area. This includes: youth clubs and groups, volunteer training and leadership supports, direct work with targeted young people and a range of community based youth projects in designated communities across its catchment area. Over the past thirty years, a number of associated projects were established such as community youth projects and Garda Youth Diversion Projects, which are now collectively know as Foróige, Blanchardstown.

Dublin 15 has one of the highest rates of young people in the country. This is largely as a result of the rapid growth of the area over the past twenty years. Figures analysed from Census 2011, highlights that:

- The population of Dublin 15 was 101,032.
- Three of the top five Electoral Divisions in Ireland whose population is under 15 years are in Dublin 15.
- Over a quarter or 26% of the overall population of Dublin 15 is under 15 years of age.
- 23.5% of the resident population are non-Irish nationals. This figure rises to 46% in one Dublin 15 area.

Over the past decade Dublin 15 has become increasingly diverse. People from all around the world now live there and the area exhibits higher than national average levels of ethnic diversity. This growing youth demographic and ethnic diversity provides
extensive opportunities and challenges for service delivery.

In 2003, Foróige in Blanchardstown commissioned a research project *Youth Perspectives* to engage with young people across their catchment area. This project aimed to determine the views and priorities of young people which in turn, informed the future work of Foróige in Blanchardstown. Further youth consultation was undertaken in 2004, (Project 321) and in 2007, (Today’s Voice, Tomorrow’s Vote) - both reports were aimed at candidates in general, European and local elections. Recommendations were also proposed to relevant organisations to address issues that were identified by young people as part of the process. [Details of Project 321 can be viewed here. To see, Today’s Voice, Tomorrow’s Vote, touch here.]

As it is ten years since the publication of *Youth Perspectives*, Foróige in Blanchardstown undertook to update this piece of work. *Youth Perspectives 2.0* aimed to engage with young people aged 12-18 living in Dublin 15 to determine their views and priorities. It is intended that the primary focus of the work of *Youth Perspectives 2.0*, is to influence the work and plans of youth work in Blanchardstown.

### 1.2 Methodology

A range of methods were used to gather the views of young people in Dublin 15 through *Youth Perspectives 2.0*. The VIBE, a youth participation structure of young people from across the catchment area, worked with Foróige in Blanchardstown to agree the research.
questions and the process to gather young people’s views. External support through Burtenshaw Kenny Associates was provided to design the online questionnaire, to support the design of the Youth Perspectives 2.0 workshop, to analyse and write up this report.

• Online survey - an online survey administered through survey monkey was developed based on themes and questions prepared by The VIBE. This survey was extensive with 48 questions across a range of topics. It asked young people their views on: socialising, drugs and alcohol, safety, education and employment, discrimination, peer pressure and bullying, body image and sexuality.

• 452 young people responded to this survey with 267 (59%) male and 185 female (41%). 401 (88.5%) young people completed all questions in the survey.

• 252 (56%) respondents were teenagers aged 15-18 with 200 (44%) aged 12-14.

• Youth Perspectives 2.0 Workshop- a full day workshop was held on Saturday 1st December where the outcomes of the online survey were presented. Sixty young people from across Dublin 15 attended. They participated in workshops and discussed their views relating to six themes that emerged from the survey. These workshops were facilitated by members of The VIBE with the support of Foróige staff.

1.3 Priorities emerging

While all of the topics that emerged are important for Foróige in Blanchardstown to consider, the young people who engaged in the Youth Perspectives 2.0 workshop outlined that the following are the issues that they would like Foróige in Blanchardstown to prioritise:

1. Bullying.
2. Alcohol and Drug Misuse.
4. Relationships and Sexuality.
5. Education and Employment.
1.4 Report format

This report presents the outcome of the consultation with young people in Dublin 15. It is presented under the following sections:

Section 2: Socialising and connecting with friends.

Section 3: Bullying.

Section 4: Alcohol and Drug Misuse.

Section 5: Safety.

Section 6: Relationships and Sexuality.

Section 7: Education and Employment.

Section 8: Discrimination.
2. Socialising and connecting with friends

2.1 Where young people spend free time

Young people in Dublin 15 outlined that the top four places to spend free time at weekends and evenings are:

- In each other’s houses, (282 young people - 64%)
- On the streets, (246 young people - 56%)
- At the shopping centre, (242 young people - 55%)
- Youth clubs/groups, including sports, (202 young people - 46%)

The park had the lowest responses by 149 young people, 33.6%

It is interesting to note that spending free time in each other’s houses, was consistent across the age groups amongst younger (12-14) and older (15-18 year olds). Older young people were less likely to be involved in youth clubs/groups.

2.2 What young people do in their free time

Over three quarters of respondents (331 or 75%) indicated that they spend their free time listening to music and meeting friends:

- Listening to music, (331 young people - 75%)
- Meeting friends, (319 young people - 72%)
- Playing sports, (249 young people - 56%)
- Going to the cinema, (247 young people - 56%)

209 young people (43%) indicated that they attend youth clubs/groups in their free time. 18 young people indicated that they don’t do anything in their spare time.
A breakdown by age again highlights that both younger and older young people like to spend their free time listening to music and meeting friends. The graph above presents a breakdown of this question by age:

2.3 Social Networking

Only one respondent of the online survey outlined that they did not use social networking facilities. This points to the widespread use of social networking as a way to communicate with others.

Almost all young people who responded to the survey use Facebook as a way of communicating (404 young people, 91% of respondents). Other popular ways to use social networking are texting and through YouTube.

- Facebook, (404 young people - 91%)
- Texting, (344 young people - 78%)
- You Tube, (310 young people - 70%)
The most common “other” responses included Viber, Tumblr and Reddit.

A breakdown by age again highlights that both younger and older young people exhibit similar trends to using Facebook, text, YouTube and email.

While most young people overall who responded to the survey, 243 (54.7%) indicated that they have never accepted a friend or followed somebody on Twitter that they don’t know (who isn’t a celebrity), 45.3% had. This figure is higher in the 15 - 18 age group.

269 (61%) respondents indicated that their Facebook page is private. This is consistent across the age groups. However, 40% or 175 respondents overall do not have privacy settings activated on their Facebook page. Eighty three (41.5%) of these young people are aged between 12-15 and 92 (37.7%) are 15 to 18 years old. This indicates high levels of young people who have not activated privacy settings.
Of these over a quarter or forty one young people do not know how to activate privacy settings. Twenty two are aged 12-14 and nineteen aged 15-18. Workshop discussions highlighted that it is very important that young people know how to activate privacy settings. Young people discussed that many young teenagers who use social networking sites are unaware of the ability to activate privacy settings. This concurred with the survey findings.

2.4 Key considerations for planning

Foróige in Blanchardstown should consider the following findings when developing their plans:

- To use social media is used as a way of communicating to young people.

- To develop responses to the gaps that emerged in relation to the levels of awareness and use of privacy settings on social media sites.

For a comprehensive list of research and reports on young people and the internet, visit EU Kids Online:

http://www2.lse.ac.uk/media@lse/research/EUKidsOnline/ParticipatingCountries/ireland.aspx
3. Bullying

3.1 Frequency of bullying

While the majority of young people indicated that they never experienced bullying, 197 indicated that they had. It is of concern that bullying is so prevalent. This was the experience of young people who responded to the survey across the age profile. The figure nationally is lower at 23%. According to the Anti-Bullying Centre in Trinity College Dublin, 31% of Primary Students and 16% of Secondary Students have been bullied at some stage.

The vast majority of respondents to the survey 316, (76%), indicated that they had never experienced cyber bullying.

This was the experience indicated across the age ranges in the survey. However, workshop discussions highlighted that social media does provide a way for people to bully others and do so anonymously.

This was largely consistent across the age ranges that responded to the survey.

3.2 Support

Young people indicated through the survey that they would primarily go to family and friends if they were experiencing bullying. Younger teenagers indicated that family would be their first choice with friends second. Older young people reversed that order with respondents indicating friends as their highest preference followed by family. The workshop discussions also highlighted that young people would primarily go to friends or family if they are being bullied. The remaining options were consistent across the ages.

Have you experienced bullying?

- Yes: 52%
- No: 48%
Of concern are the 59 young people who would not go to anybody or don’t know where they would access support. The workshop discussions also outlined that there are some young people who may not talk to anybody if they were in this situation which concurred with the survey findings.

The vast majority of young people 303 (73%) have never used designated websites to get information or support. The most common websites used are:

- aware.ie - 7%
- reachout.com - 3%
- headstrong.ie - 3%
- yourmentalhealth.ie - 2%

The workshop discussions highlighted that there are low level of awareness of websites, their role and the information that they provide.

### 3.3 Affects of bullying

Young people who responded to the survey outlined that bullying affects people many ways, (see graph on page 12). There was consistency across the age ranges. Of note is that almost a quarter of respondents (101, 24%) indicated that bullying does not affect people. However, this was not evident in the workshop discussions where the impact of bullying was agreed as being negative.

While the majority of young people would not continue to be friends with somebody/group that was pressuring them to do something that they didn’t want, it is of note that 46% would continue or didn’t know.
Older teens indicated that they felt most pressure to wear the “right clothes.” There are also high numbers of young people who feel under pressure to be the “right weight.” Young people generally feel least under pressure to have piercings or tattoos. Workshop discussions highlighted that wearing the “right clothes” is very important. Interestingly some communities within Dublin 15 have certain codes of dress which young people adhere to. However, if they are leaving the area for the day they may dress differently. The workshop also highlighted that girls are under more pressure than boys to dress a particular way and to be the “right weight.”

Would you continue to be friends with someone pressuring you?

- Don’t know: 47%
- Yes: 39%
- No: 14%

How bullying affects young people?

- Mental Health: 218
- Physically: 151
- Spiritually: 114
- Socially: 169
- Don’t know: 67
- No effect: 101
3.4 Key considerations for planning

Foróige in Blanchardstown should consider the following findings when developing their plans:

• Awareness and supports to respond to bullying and its impact are required for young people.

• Peer group pressure to look and act a certain way is strong. Being different to the norm is very difficult.

• Friends and family are central in supporting young people who are experiencing bullying.

• There is a low level of awareness and use of websites that provide support to young people experiencing bullying.

Foróige’s Be Health Be Happy Programme address health and well-being issues with young people. See Be Healthy Be Happy for more information.

For a comprehensive list of research and reports on bullying in Ireland, visit Trinity College’s Anti-Bullying Centre.

http://www.abc.tcd.ie/ABC.html
4. Alcohol and Drug Misuse

4.1 Why young people drink alcohol and take drugs

As indicated in the survey, the main reasons young people take alcohol and drugs are:

- To be cool, part of the gang (10%)
- Escape pressures & worries (34%)
- Don’t know (15%)
- Part of the culture, an expectation (12%)
- Part of growing up (29%)

There were some variations across the age groups; most notably, nearly 37% of 12 - 14 year olds say the main reason why young people drink alcohol and take drugs is ‘to escape from pressure or worries’ - the corresponding figure for 15 - 18 year olds is 52%. Also significant is nearly 25% of 15 - 18 year old state that drinking alcohol and taking drugs is ‘part of our culture or an expectation’ - the figure for 12 - 14 years is 13%.

The workshop discussions mirrored the survey responses. It was highlighted that the role of peers and friends can play a huge role in whether or not young people drink or take drugs. The workshops also highlighted that parental attitudes towards alcohol and drugs and parental usage of them plays a major role in the consumption of alcohol and drugs by young people. If occasions such as Christmas, birthdays and various religious celebrations are used as times for adults to drink a lot of alcohol, this sends the message that drinking excessively is the norm. These times of the year were also highlighted as times when young people drink most frequently.
While questions in relation to smoking cigarettes were not asked in the online survey, workshop discussions highlighted that young people were more likely to smoke if their parents did and that smoking by young people is more accepted in households where parents smoke.

### 4.2 Alcohol use

The following chart outlines how much alcohol survey respondents indicated that they drink every week. The majority of respondents (63%) indicated that they do not drink. However, almost 10% of all respondents indicated that they have five or more drinks every week. This is higher amongst older teens.

![Alcohol Use Chart]

Most people our age in school would have more than five drinks between Friday and Saturday.

52% state that young people take alcohol and drugs ‘to be cool’.

However, these results change when broken down by age as it can be seen that older teenagers are more likely to drink alcohol and to drink more regularly.
The majority of workshop attendants outlined that the survey results did not mirror their experiences and that alcohol use was underreported. There was widespread agreement that alcohol consumption, is much higher in reality. They also agreed that the amount of alcohol used every week, is higher than reported. This indicates that alcohol use could be higher than the survey respondents indicated.

4.3 How young people access alcohol

237 young people (68%) indicated that young people usually access alcohol by asking others to buy it for them. Friends and off licenses/shops were also highlighted as ways that young people usually access alcohol.
259 young people (80%) indicated that young people never access alcohol from youth clubs/groups. The level was similar for “in school” as 71% of young people indicated that alcohol is never accessed there. Responses to this question were broadly consistent across the ages.

The discussions that took place in the workshop mirrored these survey findings. Young people present at the workshop highlighted that it is common and easy to get others, usually young adults to buy alcohol. Young people also highlighted that accessing alcohol is relatively easy.

4.4 Drug misuse

The following outlines the levels of illegal drug misuse amongst respondents. The vast majority 358 (83%) indicated that they have never used illegal drugs, while 17% or 75 young people had. There are differences across the ages with respondents aged 12-14 indicating that 94.9% have never used illegal drugs. This is compared to 72.6% of 15-18 year olds. Therefore almost a third of young people (27.4%) aged 15-18 indicated that they have used illegal drugs.

The majority of young people (22) who indicated that they had taken drugs, outlined that they didn’t use drugs regularly. A number of young people indicated that they had stopped taking drugs. Others...
indicated that their use is sporadic and not planned; “on occasion.” However, 25 young people indicated that they use drugs at least once per week, with 12 indicating use on a daily basis. The following outlines how often young people who have used illegal drugs use them:

- **Daily**, (12 young people - 16%)
- **Several times per week**, (5 young people - 7%)
- **Once per week**, (8 young people - 11%)
- **One-two times per month**, (14 young people - 19%)
- **Once-twice per year**, (13 young people - 18%)
- **Other**, (22 young people - 30%)

Cannabis is the drug used by the vast majority of young people who have used drugs (66 or 89%). The second most common drug used is cocaine (17 or 23%) and ecstasy was used by 15 young people, 20%. Heroin was used by three young people. Of the eleven young people who indicated “other” the majority outlined that they used “hash” and “weed.”

The workshop discussions highlighted that the use of drugs could be higher than reported. Young people who attended the workshop outlined that cannabis is most used by young people because it is:

- **Easy to access**
- **It is safer than ecstasy/speed**
- **Smells nicer**

The following chart outlines where young people who used drugs accessed them. The vast majority access drugs from friends and from drug dealers. This is consistent across the age ranges. The workshops highlighted that drugs are relatively easy to access across Dublin 15.

*Bluies - Benzodiazepines or Benzos*
Where drugs are accessed

- School: 7
- Youth Group: 1
- Sports Group: 1
- Steal: 3
- Online: 2
- Friends: 44
- Drug dealer: 35
- Drug clinic: 2
- Siblings: 4
- Parents: 3
- Relatives: 3
- Other: 7
4.5 Information- alcohol and drugs

The majority of respondents 406, (94%) indicated that they have never been in debt as a result of using drugs or alcohol. However 26, (6%) have, seven of these are aged between 12-14. This is a major concern.

Parents/carers are again highlighted as the primary way that young people would get help if they had a drug/alcohol related debt. (59%). Brothers/sisters were also highlighted by 156, (36%) of young people as key sources of support. Eighty four young people (19%) said that they did not know who they would turn to. The five most common sources of support should young people require help in relation to a drug/alcohol debt are:

- Parent/carer, (59% - 253 young people)
- Friends, (45% - 194 young people)
- Brother/sister, (36% - 156 young people)
- Other relative, (25% - 107 young people)
- Youth worker, (23% - 101 young people)
These responses were consistent across the ages of respondents.

Sixty three young people indicated that they didn’t know who they would ask. A small proportion, 38 young people, indicated that they would ask a service set-up to respond to drug misuse. However, services to provide drug and alcohol information to young people under 18 are primarily provided through youth organisations as they are tailored for this age cohort. This is reflected in the responses shown. Friends were highlighted most frequently under “other.”

The workshop with young people highlighted in discussion that sisters/brothers or close relations such as uncles/aunts are more likely sources of information than parents. However, it is important to note that through both research processes, young people highlighted that they access information in relation to drug misuse, primarily within their family unit.

4.5 Key considerations for planning

Foróige in Blanchardstown should consider the following findings when developing their plans:

• The availability and accessibility of alcohol and drugs across Dublin 15.

• The use of drugs particularly cannabis, which at present is very potent.

• The role that parents and adults play as role models and information providers.

• The role that peers play in influencing decisions to drink alcohol and take drugs.

• The role that positive engagement in clubs and groups plays in supporting young people to delay or reduce their alcohol/drug use.
5. Safety

5.1 Community safety

The vast majority of young people indicated in the survey that they feel safe moving between different areas in Dublin 15 in:

- The morning, (377 young people - 88%)
- The afternoon, (382 young people - 89%)
- The evening, (273 young people - 64%)

However at night-time more young people feel unsafe moving between different areas in Dublin 15. These results are consistent across the age groups. However, younger teenagers feel slightly less safe overall than 15-18 year olds.

The outcomes of the survey were echoed in the workshop with young people. Young people outlined that they feel most safe walking in the area that they live in.

5.2 Experience of crime

Most young people indicated that they/their families had not been a victim of crime. However, older young people, (15-18 year olds) outlined were more likely to indicate that their families were victims of crime (40.3% indicted yes) than those aged 12-14.

Have you/your family been a victim of crime?

- Yes 54%
- No 33%
- Don’t know 13%
The majority of young people think that gang based crime, (organised adult crime gangs), is a big issue in their area. This was echoed in the workshop discussions.

Respondents indicated that the most frequent types of crime that they think young people are involved in are: Stealing, Assault, Vandalism, Drug dealing, Harassment. This is a broadly consistent view across age ranges.

5.3 Youth involvement in crime

The majority of young people, 277 (70%), indicated that they have never committed a crime. However, 130 (30%) indicated that they have. The levels of young people aged 15-18 who outlined in the survey that they committed a crime were higher than those aged 12-14. 37.3% of 15-18 year olds indicated that they had committed a crime. This is a significant proportion. Discussions at the workshop agreed that involvement in criminal activity is a concern in Dublin 15.

The majority of young people think that gang based crime, (organised adult crime gangs), is a big issue in their area. This was echoed in the workshop discussions.

Respondents indicated that the most frequent types of crime that they think young people are involved in are: Stealing, Assault, Vandalism, Drug dealing, Harassment. This is a broadly consistent view across age ranges.
The majority of young people who indicated that they committed a crime, did so with a group, (77 young people - 60%). This is consistent across the age groups.

The reasons that these young people committed a crime are outlined in the following table. The factors are different according to age:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>12-14 year olds</th>
<th>15-18 year olds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number 1</td>
<td>No money, 37.2%</td>
<td>Boredom, 32.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number 2</td>
<td>Boredom, 25.6%</td>
<td>Don’t know, 25.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number 3</td>
<td>Peer pressure</td>
<td>No money, anger, 23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number 4</td>
<td>Anger, 9.3%</td>
<td>Peer pressure, 18.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The levels of young people who answered “don’t know” to this question is very interesting. This indicates that young people can often find themselves involved in crime with no clear rationale.

The vast majority of young people outlined that they have never carried a weapon. However:

- 87 young people, (21%) indicated that they carried a bat/stick
- 63, (15%) indicated that they carried a knife
- 35, (9%) indicated that they carried a knuckle duster
- 15, (4%) indicated that they carried a gun.

These findings are consistent across the age groups.

5.4 Relationships with the Gardaí

The survey highlighted that 70% of young people outlined that relationships between the Gardaí and young people in Blanchardstown is generally poor or very poor. However, this response was even higher amongst young people aged 15-18; 78% indicated that relationships are poor or very poor. The workshop with young people highlighted their views that relationships between Gardaí and young people are not working well. Discussions highlighted that Gardaí, do not know or understand young people. The way that Gardaí communicate with young people could be improved.
5.5 Key considerations for planning

Foróige in Blanchardstown should consider the following findings when developing their plans.

• The impact of gang based crime on young person’s sense of safety.

• Critical analysis of the needs and issues surrounding a young persons offending behaviour.

• The need to increase understanding and improve relationships between the Gardaí and young people in the community.

Information on Foróige's Best Practice Unit and the development of *A Life Of Choices*, a programme developed to enhance Foróige's engagement with young people at risk and enable them to explore crime related issues.

[http://www.foroige.ie/about/best-practice](http://www.foroige.ie/about/best-practice)
6. Sexuality and Relationships

6.1 Influences

Young people indicated in the survey that while young people are aware of the dangers of unprotected sex (59%), they are pressurised to have sex from an early age (53%). It is not clear whether respondents are of the view that young people are practicing safe sex.

While 38% indicated that they are not, 30% are also not sure and indicated “don’t know”.

Alcohol was seen to be the main influence in young people’s decision to have sex.

What influences young people to have sex?

- Intimacy/love: 50%
- Drugs: 38%
- Alcohol: 61%
- Peer Pressure: 58%
- Media: 27%
- Fear of losing relationship: 48%
- Want to experience: 60%
- Don’t know: 12%
6.2 Information and awareness

The workshop discussion highlighted that information in relation to sexual activity and relationships is provided at school and through youth projects. The discussion highlighted that it is easier to engage and learn from the information provided in youth projects. The difficulty in discussing issues in relation to sex and relationships with parents was highlighted. Young people outlined how these kinds of discussions are embarrassing and are therefore difficult to have with adults. Young Travellers outlined the social stigma that exists for young Traveller girls who are sexually active before marriage.

The workshop highlighted that messages delivered through various media can encourage young people to become sexually active. In contrast there are also reality TV programmes highlighting the challenges experienced by young people who become parents early.

6.3 Key considerations for planning

Foróige in Blanchardstown should consider the following findings when developing their plans:

• Young people require accessible information and support to make choices in relation to sexual activity. Foróige’s Real U Programme should be resourced to include more young people.

• Young people experience pressures from a number of sources to be sexually active.

• The role of parents as supporters and educators in relation to sexuality needs to be supported and developed further.

7.1 Current and future education

The vast majority of young people who completed the survey are in secondary school, (358 - 85%). This is slightly higher for young people aged 12-14, (88.5%) and lower for those aged 15-18, (81.4%).

Young people who are still at school indicated that when they are finished they want to:

- Attend third level, (210 young people - 54%)
- Not sure, (85 young people - 22%)
- Attend a PLC course or other certificate, (35 young people - 9%)
- Get a trade, (19 young people - 5%)
- Enter the workforce, (21 young people - 5%)
- Emigrate, (19 young people - 5%)

The levels of young people who are not sure what they want to do are of note and were the second highest option indicated across both young and older age groups. These findings were largely echoed in the workshop discussions. The workshop also highlighted major concerns regarding the cost of third level. This was seen by many as impacting on their likelihood to progress.

Many young people outlined that the cost of staying on in secondary school can cause a real challenge for their families.
7.2 Support to remain in education

Respondents indicated that support and motivation to participate in education comes primarily from parents/carers, extended family and brothers/sisters. This was consistent across the age groups. The workshop discussions echoed this finding. Parents in particular are seen to have a very influencing role. However, other siblings and noise at home can really impact on young people’s ability to study and complete homework.

The workshop highlighted that schools and teachers can either be very supportive or a negative influence on staying in education.

The majority of respondents to the survey indicated concerns in relation to:

- Lack of jobs-employment opportunities
- Not getting enough points
- Not being clear on what they want to do
- Cost of third level
- Cuts in social welfare
- Training opportunities

Concerns are highest amongst young people aged 15-18 years.

Supporting young people to stay in education

Parents/carers: 352
Siblings: 142
Extended family: 168
Teachers: 211
Friends: 154
Youth leaders/Sports coaches: 125
Neighbours: 60
Nobody: 22

2270
7. 3 Key considerations for planning

Foróige in Blanchardstown should consider the following findings when developing their plans:

• Provide opportunities for young people to complete homework and access study support.

• Provide support for young people to consider career and educational choices.

• Identify and encourage young adults who are not in education, employment or training to participate in Foróige’s programmes.

• The impact of the recession on the ability of young people to stay in school, take up places at third level and sustain those places.

• The stress that young people, particularly those aged 15-18 are feeling as a result of the recession where competition for third level places is higher and job prospects are lower.

Foróige’s NFTE Programme is a youth entrepreneurship education and development programme. A number of NFTE programmes operate in Dublin 15.
8. Discrimination

8.1 Experience

While the majority of young people indicated that they had not experienced discrimination in the past month, 146 outlined that they had. This finding was relatively consistent across the age groups. The workshop discussions supported the view that young people experience relatively high levels of discrimination and believed that the levels may be higher than the survey indicated.

8.2 Reason for discrimination

The survey indicated age variations in relation to why young people felt that they were discriminated. Young people aged 12-14 indicated that physical appearance was the most common reason for discrimination (30 respondents, 47.6%). However, 15-18 year olds indicated that racial discrimination was the primary reason (30 respondents, 36.6%). This was supported in the workshop discussion, with racial discrimination was discussed as a key challenge in Dublin 15. Discussions highlighted that due to the high levels of ethnic diversity there are real challenges between cultures which results in discrimination and can lead to physical violence. The overall survey findings are presented below:

Discrimination is most likely to take place:

- On the streets (80%)
- At school (71%)
- Social networking sites (69%)
- Mobile phones/texts (59%)

Have you experienced discrimination?

- Yes: 35%
- No: 65%
It is of note that discrimination is less likely to take place in clubs/groups (28%). Both older and younger young people indicated that these are places that discrimination is less likely. The workshop discussions highlighted the level of discrimination that occurs in schools. While schools respond to the issue differently it was highlighted that teachers have a lot to deal with and may not know that discrimination and negative behaviours between young people is occurring.

The discussions also highlighted that discrimination takes place through social media, particularly Facebook and askfm. Young people highlighted that they are often hesitant to intervene directly when they witness others being discriminated against as they are afraid that they themselves may be then picked on.

Words used by some people about my skin colour or accent really upsets and angers me – even when used in a ‘harmless’ or joking way

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for Discrimination</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveller</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical appearance</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexuality</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability in school</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where you live</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8.3 Key considerations for planning

Foróige in Blanchardstown should consider the following findings when developing their development plans:

• Young people are experiencing discrimination for a variety of reasons. It is likely that some young people experience multiple forms of discrimination.

• Discrimination is taking place, primarily from young person to young person.

• School and social networking are common ways that discrimination is taking place.

• Discrimination on the basis of race is common. This is a core challenge in Dublin 15 given the levels of ethnic diversity in Dublin 15.

Foróige in Blanchardstown operates a Foróige National Integration Strategy whereby young people from ethnic minority communities are given every opportunity to participate in all programmes and activities through a range of actions. The Integrate Project 2013 is an initiative supported by Fingal County Council and funded by the Dept of Justice and Equality which addresses integration through a range of programmes; these include, leadership, mentoring and practical integration strategies.
Conclusion

This research was undertaken with the aim of ensuring that Foróige will strive to meet the needs of young people, both now and in the future. Despite the severe cuts to the youth work sector, the young people involved in this process are confident that the programmes developed by Foróige can continue to meet their educational and developmental needs as identified in this report.

Many of the recommendations will prove challenging, particularly in relation to youth employment and training. Foróige will need continued support from both the community and funders in order to ensure positive outcomes for all young people.
Acknowledgements

Author: Susan Bookle, Burtenshaw Kenny Associates.

Editor and iBook design: Gavin Byrne.

The VIBE: Michael Keegan Roche, Mark McMahon, Michael Eivers, Alex Davison, Jason Nesbitt, Daniel Whooley, Rekky Shopeju.

Youth Perspectives Team: Aoife Genocchi, Conor Devlin, Claire Barkey, Emma McNeely, Clodagh Rogers, Amy Casey, Billy Burke, Caitriona Freir, Gavin Byrne.

Very special thanks to the staff of Foróige who supported the Youth Perspectives 2.0 project.

Foróige in Blanchardstown acknowledge the ongoing support of Fingal County Council Community Department.

Foróige in Blanchardstown is funded through the Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board, formerly County Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Vocational Education Committees.
Further reading and resources

Foroíge Annual Review, 2012

Social and Economic Profile of Dublin 15, published by Blanchardstown Area Partnership, October 2012

National Youth Council of Ireland
Project 321, 2004, addressed youth needs and focused on influencing general election candidates.
Today's Voice, Tomorrow's Vote

Published May 2007