

Our Young People: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework

Public opinion from questions on the 2019 Young Persons' Behaviour & Attitudes Survey

Outcomes Bulletin

This report presents an in-depth look at young people in Northern Ireland's overall attitudes to each of the 12 draft Programme for Government Outcomes.

Available population characteristics:

Gender, Religion, Deprivation, Free School Meals, Urban/Rural, Year Group, Disability, Health, Ethnicity, School Type

Separate bulletins focusing on each of these characteristics and headline results is available [on the TEO website](#).

Key findings

- Over 2 in 3 (67%) young people agreed with Outcome 11 (Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other), which was the highest across all 12 Outcomes. A similar proportion (66%) agreed with Outcome 5 (We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential) which was the second highest.
- Less than a quarter (22%) of young people agreed with Outcome 2 (We look after our environment) – the lowest rate across all 12 Outcomes. This was followed by Outcome 1 (We have a strong economy) at 31%.
- More than twice as many young people disagreed with Outcome 2 than agreed (50% disagreed, compared with 22% who agreed). This was one of three Outcomes where more respondents disagreed more than agreed – the other two being Outcomes 3 (We have an equal society) and 7 (We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other), although the differences here were much smaller (2 percentage points for each).
- Outcome 11 (Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other) had the highest mean score at 3.72, followed by Outcome 5 (We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential) at 3.69. Scores above 3.00 indicate on average respondents agreed more than they disagreed with this Outcome statement.
- Outcome 7 (We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other) had the most statistically significant differences by population characteristic (8 out of 10 characteristics analysed), suggesting a mixed reaction to this statement by young people.

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Draft Programme for Government & Outcomes Delivery Plan

The former Executive had agreed to develop a Programme for Government (PfG) for Northern Ireland with the stated purpose of “Improving wellbeing for all – by tackling disadvantage and driving economic growth”.

The contents of the PfG were developed following extensive public consultation in 2016-17, to gather citizens’ views on what the priorities of government should be in order to deliver for the population. The “Our Population: What Matters Most?” publication provides more details on the issues identified that helped develop the subsequent PfG framework - <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/our-population-what-matters-most>.

The draft PfG framework is used as the basis for the Outcomes Delivery Plan (ODP) which focuses on 12 stated Outcomes in key areas of economic and societal well-being. More information on the Outcomes Delivery Plan, draft Programme for Government and the Outcomes framework can be found on the “Making Government Work” page - <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/making-government-work>

Data presentation and terms

This report is focussed on the key findings for each of the 12 Outcome statements. There are two ways we measure the results:

- **Percentage** – that is, how many people as a percentage of the total responded with a given answer. For example, “The Outcome with which most respondents disagreed was Outcome 2 (We look after our environment) at 50%” or “At 44%, Outcome 1 (We have a strong economy) had the highest proportion of neutral responses”
- **Mean score** – responses to the Outcome statements are given a value between 1 and 5, where 1 = “Strongly disagree” and 5 = “Strongly agree”. We use this to calculate the average (mean) response to that Outcome statement. The higher the mean, the more people agreed with the statement. For example, a mean score of 3.0 (exactly in the middle of 1 and 5) tells us that respondents, on average, neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement. A mean score of 3.5 would suggest that, on average, respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement

Further information on the analysis and the survey are available in [Annex A](#).

Note on the Outcome statements

In order to aid understanding, the Outcome statements presented to pupils in this survey differ from those used in the draft Programme for Government/Outcomes Delivery Plan and the NI population version of this report. For example, Outcome 1 in the draft Programme for Government is “We prosper through a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy” but in this report it was presented and reported as “We have a strong economy”. These statements are based on those used in both the main and the child friendly Programme for Government consultation documents, but have been adapted to suit the format of the YPBAS questionnaire and audience. Prior to the survey being launched, testing for understanding, length and flow as carried out by NISRA’s Central Survey Unit and the National Children’s Bureau.

A full list of the statements used can be found in the [Data](#) section of this report.

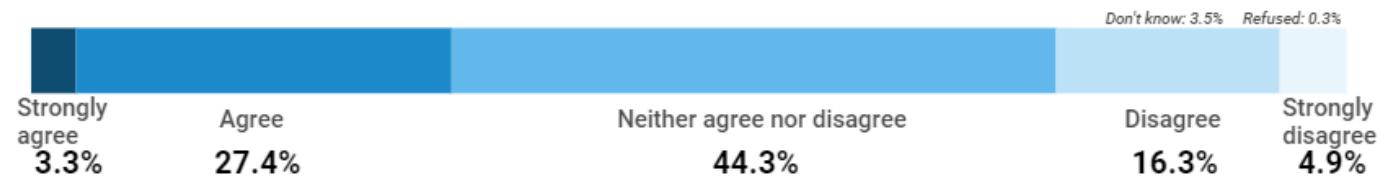
Outcome 1

“We have a strong economy”

Key Findings

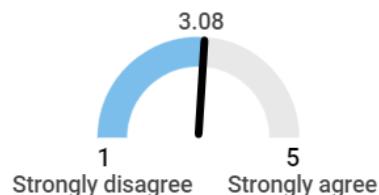
Outcome 1 had the highest proportion of respondents answering “Neither agree nor disagree”. At 44%, this was higher than the proportion of those agreeing (31%) and disagreeing (21%), and the only Outcome where this was the case. Outcome 1 also had the highest proportion of respondents answering “Don’t know” (3.5%).

Figure 1.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 1



Despite having the second lowest agreement rate of all 12 Outcomes, the high proportion of neutral responses means that when we look at the average score for each outcome, Outcome 1 is ranked 9th of 12, with a mean score of 3.08. At just above 3.00, this means respondents agreed slightly more than they disagreed with the statement “we have a strong economy”.

Figure 1.2: Mean score for Outcome 1



Group Differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 10 population characteristics. Significant differences were found in five, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. As was the case in all 12 Outcomes, the lowest score was found among respondents reporting “Very bad/bad health” (2.70). The highest score was found among those in “Year 8” (3.30), which was the case for all but one Outcome (Outcome 6).

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.08
 Religion	Those whose religion was Other/None/Missing/Refused agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 1 statement than Catholics.	Catholic: 3.10 Protestant: 3.09 Other: 2.99
 Year Group	For year group, we see a general pattern of mean score decreasing, as year group increases. Between the five groups, a number of these differences were significant, with the most pronounced being between Year 8 and Year 12. In fact, Year 8 agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 1 statement than all other Year Groups.	Year 8: 3.30 Year 9: 3.14 Year 10: 3.08 Year 11: 2.98 Year 12: 2.90
 Disability	Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 1 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 2.87 Without disability: 3.14
 Health	The mean scores for all types of health in Outcome 1 were significantly different* from each other, with “very bad/bad” agreeing the least and “very good/good” agreeing the most.	Very good/good: 3.13 Fair: 3.00 Very bad/bad: 2.70

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.08
 School type	Those attending a grammar school agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 1 statement than those attending a secondary school.	Secondary schools: 3.12 Grammar schools: 3.03

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

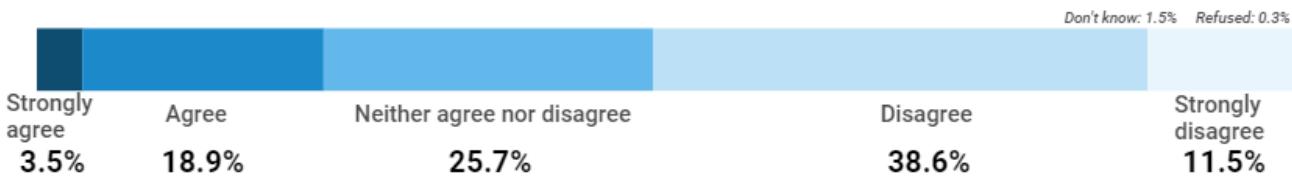
Outcome 2

“We look after our environment”

Key Findings

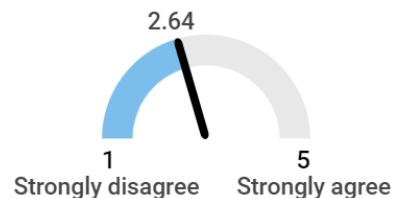
Outcome 2 had the highest proportion of respondents answering “disagree or strongly disagree”. At 50%, this was higher than the proportion of neutral responses (26%) and those agreeing (22%), and one of only three Outcomes where this was the case. At 22%, the agreement rate was the lowest observed across all 12 Outcomes.

Figure 2.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 2



As a result of having the highest proportion of “disagree or strongly disagree” responses, Outcome 2 also has the lowest overall mean score across the Outcomes – it ranks 12th of 12, with a mean score of 2.64. As this is below 3.00, this means respondents disagreed more than they agreed with the statement “we look after our environment”.

Figure 2.2: Mean score for Outcome 2



Group Differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 10 population characteristics. Significant differences were found in seven, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. Outcome 2 is the only case where there are no groups with a mean score of 3.00 or above, meaning that on average no group agreed with the statement more than they disagreed.

	Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
	Gender	Females agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 2 statement than males.	Male: 2.70 Female: 2.57
	Urban/ Rural	Those living in an urban area agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 2 statement than those living in a rural area.	Urban: 2.60 Rural: 2.69
	Year Group	For year group, we see a general pattern of mean score decreasing, as year group increases. Between the five groups, a number of these differences were significant, with the most pronounced being between Year 8 and Year 12. In fact, Year 8 agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 2 statement than all other Year Groups.	Year 8: 2.89 Year 9: 2.67 Year 10: 2.59 Year 11: 2.54 Year 12: 2.49
	Disability	Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 2 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 2.52 Without disability: 2.67
	Health	The mean scores for all types of health in Outcome 2 were significantly different* from each other, with “very bad/bad” agreeing the least and “very good/good” agreeing the most.	Very good/good: 2.70 Fair: 2.53 Very bad/bad: 2.19

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 2.64
	Ethnicity Those from a white ethnic group agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 2 statement than those from all other ethnic groups combined.	White: 2.61 Other: 2.84
	School Type Those attending a grammar school agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 2 statement than those attending a secondary school.	Secondary: 2.71 Grammar: 2.55

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

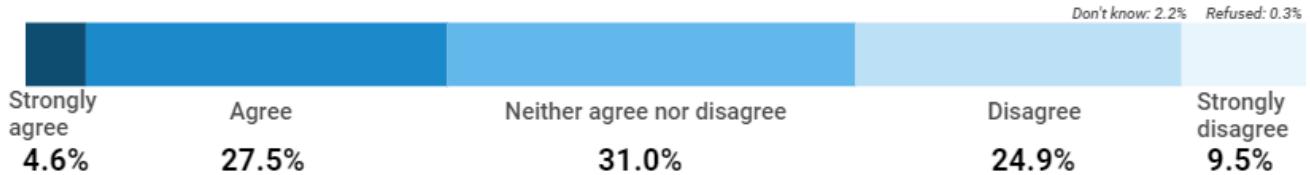
* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Outcome 3 “We have an equal society”

Key Findings

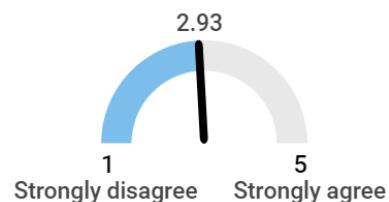
Outcome 3 had the second highest proportion of respondents disagreeing with the Outcome statement. At 34%, this was slightly higher than both the proportion of those agreeing (32%) and the proportion of neutral responses (31%). Outcome 3 is one of only three of the 12 Outcomes with a mean score below 3.00.

Figure 3.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 3



With around a third of respondents being in each of the “agree or strongly agree”, “neither agree nor disagree” and “disagree or strongly disagree” groups, respondents seem to have a mixed opinion on this Outcome statement. Overall, it ranks 11th of 12 Outcomes with a mean score of 2.93. At just below 3.00, this means on average respondents disagreed more than they agreed with the statement “we have an equal society”.

Figure 3.2: Mean score for Outcome 3



Group Differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 10 population characteristics. Significant differences were found in six, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. The highest mean score in this Outcome was 3.20 for Year 8. This was also the only mean score above 3.00, meaning they were the only group who on average agreed with the statement more than they disagreed.

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
		2.93
Gender	Females agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 3 statement than males.	Male: 2.98 Female: 2.86
Religion	Those whose religion was Other/None/Missing/Refused agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 3 statement than Catholics.	Catholic: 2.97 Protestant: 2.91 Other: 2.79
Year Group	For year group, we see a general pattern of mean score decreasing, as year group increases. Between the five groups, a number of these differences were significant, with the most pronounced being between Year 8 and Year 12. In fact, Year 8 agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 3 statement than all other Year Groups.	Year 8: 3.20 Year 9: 2.99 Year 10: 2.95 Year 11: 2.82 Year 12: 2.67
Disability	Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 3 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 2.68 Without disability: 2.99
Health	The mean scores for all types of health in Outcome 3 were significantly different* from each other, with “very bad/bad” agreeing the least and “very good/good” agreeing the most.	Very good/good: 3.00 Fair: 2.79 Very bad/bad: 2.50

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 2.93
 School Type	Those attending a grammar school agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 3 statement than those attending a secondary school.	Secondary: 2.99 Grammar: 2.85

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

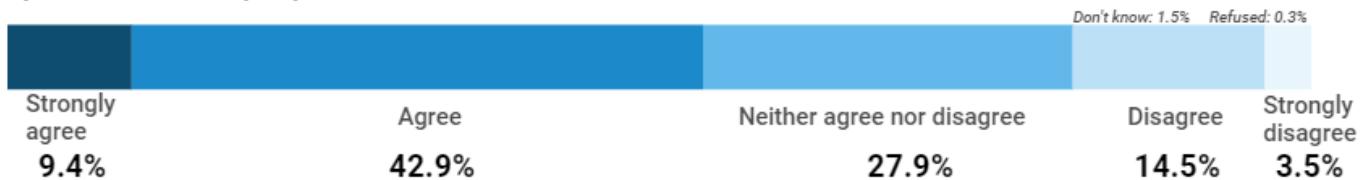
Outcome 4

“We enjoy long, healthy, active lives”

Key Findings

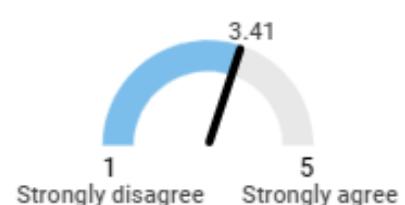
Over half (52%) of respondents agreed with Outcome 4. This was higher than both the proportion of neutral responses (28%) and those disagreeing (18%).

Figure 4.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 4



With a high agreement rate, and relatively low disagreement rate, the mean score for Outcome 4 ranks 6th of 12 Outcomes with a mean score of 3.41. As this is above 3.00, this means on average, respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement “we enjoy long, healthy, active lives”.

Figure 4.2: Mean score for Outcome 4



Group Differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 10 population characteristics. Significant differences were found in six, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. As was the case in all 12 Outcomes, the lowest score was found among respondents reporting “Very bad/bad health” (2.84) – this is the only group that had a mean score below 3.00, meaning it was the only group where respondents disagreed more than they agreed with the statement. The highest score was found among those in “Year 8” (3.75), which was the case for all but one Outcome (Outcome 6).

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.41
	Gender Females agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 4 statement than males.	Male: 3.48 Female: 3.33
	Religion The mean scores for all religion groups in Outcome 4 were significantly different* from each other, with Catholics agreeing the most, and those whose religion was Other/None/Missing/Refused agreeing the least.	Catholic: 3.49 Protestant: 3.37 Other: 3.24
	Urban/ Rural Those living in an urban area agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 4 statement than those living in a rural area.	Urban: 3.37 Rural: 3.47
	Year Group For year group, we see a general pattern of mean score decreasing, as year group increases. Between the five groups, a number of these differences were significant, with the most pronounced being between Year 8 and Year 12. In fact, Year 8 agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 4 statement than all other Year Groups.	Year 8: 3.75 Year 9: 3.49 Year 10: 3.39 Year 11: 3.26 Year 12: 3.14
	Disability Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 4 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 3.16 Without disability: 3.48

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.41
 Health	The mean scores for all types of health in Outcome 4 were significantly different* from each other, with “very bad/bad” agreeing the least and “very good/good” agreeing the most.	Very good/good: 3.51 Fair: 3.19 Very bad/bad: 2.84

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

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Outcome 5

"We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential"

Key Findings

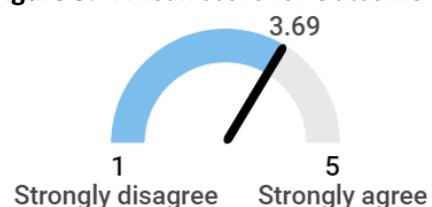
Around 2 in 3 (66%) of respondents agreed with Outcome 5 - the second highest agreement rate across all Outcomes. This was much higher than the proportion of those disagreeing at 10%. Outcome 5 also had the lowest proportion of respondents answering "Neither agree nor disagree" at 22%.

Figure 5.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 5



With a high proportion of "agree or strongly agree" responses, Outcome 5 is ranked 2nd of 12 Outcomes, with a mean score of 3.69. At above 3.00, this means respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement "we have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential".

Figure 5.2: Mean score for Outcome 5



Group Differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 10 population characteristics. Significant differences were found in seven, which can be found are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note are very small in real terms. No population characteristic group had a mean score below 3.00, suggesting that on average all groups agreed with the statement more than they disagreed.

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.69
	Gender Females agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 5 statement than males.	Male: 3.72 Female: 3.65
	Religion Catholics agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 5 statement than those whose religion was Other/None/Missing/Refused.	Catholic: 3.73 Protestant: 3.67 Other: 3.60
	Free School Meals Those entitled to free school meals agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 5 statement than those not entitled to free school meals.	FSM: 3.60 Non-FSM: 3.73
	Year Group For year group, we see a general pattern of mean score decreasing, as year group increases. Between the five groups, a number of these differences were significant, with the most pronounced being between Year 8 and Year 12. In fact, Year 8 agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 5 statement than all other Year Groups.	Year 8: 3.95 Year 9: 3.74 Year 10: 3.72 Year 11: 3.57 Year 12: 3.47
	Disability Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 5 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 3.52 Without disability: 3.74

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.69
 Health	The mean scores for all types of health in Outcome 5 were significantly different* from each other, with “very bad/bad” agreeing the least and “very good/good” agreeing the most.	Very good/good: 3.75 Fair: 3.57 Very bad/bad: 3.29
 School Type	Those attending a secondary school agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 5 statement than those attending a grammar school.	Secondary: 3.62 Grammar: 3.78

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

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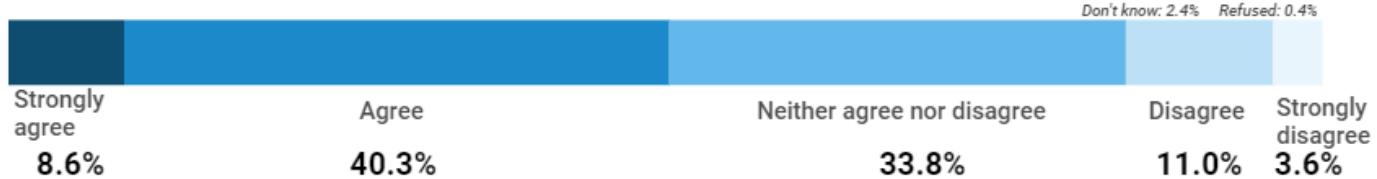
Outcome 6

“We have more people working in better jobs”

Key Findings

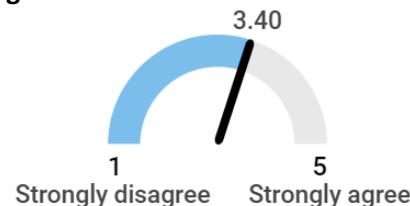
Outcome 6 had the second highest proportion of respondents answering “Neither agree nor disagree”. At around a third (34%), this was higher than the proportion of those disagreeing (15%) but lower than the proportion agreeing (49%). Outcome 6 also had the second highest proportion of respondents answering “Don’t know” (2.4%).

Figure 6.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 6



High proportions of neutral responses, and a generally low disagreement rate have driven a rank of 7th of 12 for Outcome 6, with a mean score of 3.40. At above 3.00, this means respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement “we have more people working in better jobs”.

Figure 6.2: Mean score for Outcome 6



Group Differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 10 population characteristics. Significant differences were found in four, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. As was the case in all 12 Outcomes, the lowest score was found among respondents reporting “Very bad/bad health” (3.00). In a departure from the pattern in all other Outcomes, the highest scores were found among those in “Year 10” and “Ethnicity – Other” (3.48).

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
	Free School Meals Those entitled to free school meals agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 6 statement than those not entitled to free school meals.	3.40 FSM: 3.33 Non-FSM: 3.43
	Year Group Between the five groups, a number of these differences were significant, with the most pronounced being between Year 8 and Year 12. In fact, Year 12 agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 6 statement than all other Year Groups.	3.45 3.43 3.48 3.40 3.25
	Disability Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 6 statement than those without a disability.	3.27 With disability: 3.27 Without disability: 3.44
	Health The mean scores for all types of health in Outcome 6 were significantly different* from each other, with “very bad/bad” agreeing the least and “very good/good” agreeing the most.	3.47 Very good/good: 3.47 Fair: 3.27 Very bad/bad: 3.00

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

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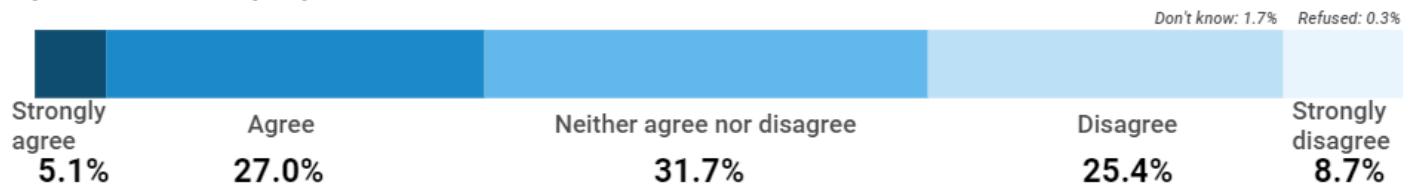
Outcome 7

“We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other”

Key Findings

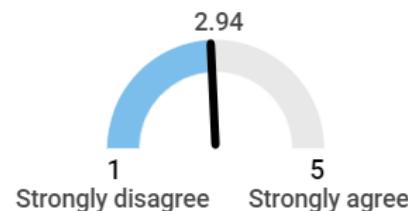
Outcome 7 was one of three Outcomes where more respondents disagreed than agreed. At 34%, this disagreement rate was one of the highest among all 12 Outcomes. Outcome 7 also had one of the lowest agreement rates at 32%

Figure 7.7: Percentage agreement with Outcome 7



With the third highest proportion of respondents disagreeing, and the third lowest proportion agreeing with the statement, Outcome 7 is ranked 10th of 12 Outcome, with mean score of 2.94. As this is below 3.00 it means respondents disagreed more than they agreed with the statement “we have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other”.

Figure 7.2: Mean score for Outcome 7



Group Differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 10 population characteristics. Significant differences were found in eight, which are detailed below. Outcome 7 had the highest number of population characteristics with significant differences amongst all the Outcomes, suggesting a somewhat mixed response. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms.

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
	Catholics agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 7 statement than Protestants and those whose religion was Other/None/Missing/Refused.	2.94 Catholic: 3.01 Protestant: 2.90 Other: 2.78
	Those entitled to free school meals agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 7 statement than those not entitled to free school meals.	2.87 FSM: 2.87 Non-FSM: 2.97
	Those living in an urban area agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 7 statement than those living in a rural area.	2.86 Urban: 2.86 Rural: 3.04
	For year group, we see a general pattern of mean score decreasing, as year group increases. Between the five groups, a number of these differences were significant, with the most pronounced being between Year 8 and Year 12. In fact, Year 8 agreed significantly more* and Year 12 agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 7 statement than all other Year Groups.	2.63 Year 8: 3.22 Year 9: 3.06 Year 10: 2.94 Year 11: 2.84 Year 12: 2.63

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 2.94
	Disability Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 1 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 2.65 Without disability: 3.01
	Health The mean scores for all types of health in Outcome 7 were significantly different* from each other, with “very bad/bad” agreeing the least and “very good/good” agreeing the most.	Very good/good: 3.02 Fair: 2.77 Very bad/bad: 2.50
	Ethnicity Those from a white ethnic group agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 7 statement than those from all other ethnic groups combined.	White: 2.93 Other: 3.09
	School Type Those attending a grammar school agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 7 statement than those attending a secondary school.	Secondary: 2.99 Grammar: 2.88

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

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Outcome 8

“We care for others and we help those in need”

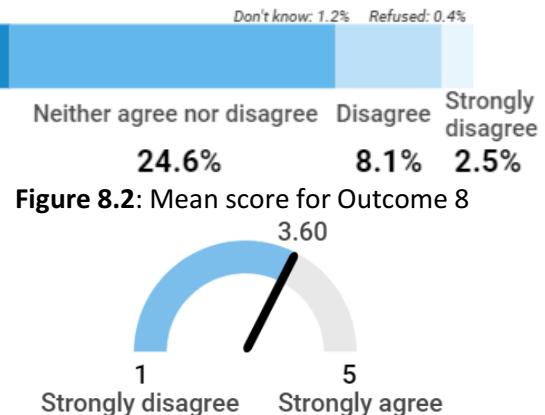
Key Findings

Outcome 8 had the fourth highest proportion of respondents answering “agree or strongly agree”. At 63%, this was higher than the proportion of neutral responses (25%) and those disagreeing (11%). Outcome 12 also had the lowest proportion of respondents answering “Don’t know” (1.2%).

Figure 8.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 8



With the fourth highest proportion of respondents agreeing, and the fifth lowest proportion disagreeing, Outcome 8 had a mean score of 3.60, placing it 5th of 12 Outcomes. This means respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement “we care for others and we help those in need”.



Group Differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 10 population characteristics. Significant differences were found in six, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. As was the case in all 12 Outcomes, the lowest score was found among respondents reporting “Very bad/bad health” (3.11). The highest score was found among those in “Year 8” (3.82), which was the case for all but one Outcome (Outcome 6). No group had a mean score below 3.00, suggesting that on average all groups agreed with the statement more than they disagreed.

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
	Catholics agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 8 statement than Protestants and those whose religion was Other/None/Missing/Refused.	Catholic: 3.68 Protestant: 3.54 Other: 3.47
	Those entitled to free school meals agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 8 statement than those not entitled to free school meals.	FSM: 3.53 Non-FSM: 3.63
	Those living in an urban area agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 8 statement than those living in a rural area.	Urban: 3.57 Rural: 3.64
	For year group, we see a general pattern of mean score decreasing, as year group increases. Between the five groups, a number of these differences were significant, with the most pronounced being between Year 8 and Year 12. In fact, Year 8 agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 8 statement than all other Year Groups.	Year 8: 3.82 Year 9: 3.69 Year 10: 3.62 Year 11: 3.49 Year 12: 3.38
	Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 8 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 3.40 Without disability: 3.66

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.60
 Health	The mean scores for all types of health in Outcome 8 were significantly different* from each other, with “very bad/bad” agreeing the least and “very good/good” agreeing the most.	Very good/good: 3.66 Fair: 3.50 Very bad/bad: 3.11

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

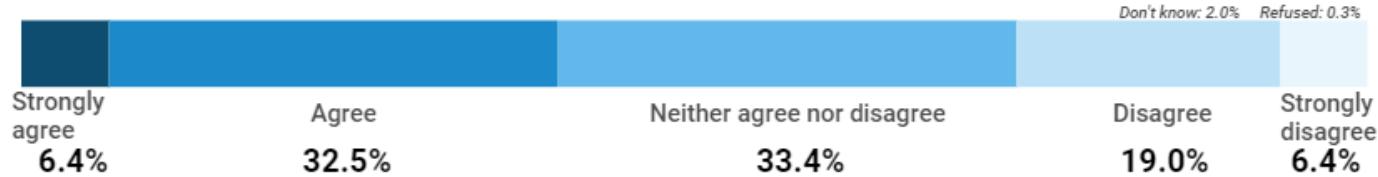
Outcome 9

"We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects difference"

Key Findings

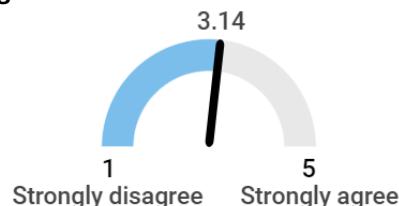
Outcome 9 had the third highest proportion of respondents answering "Neither agree nor disagree" (33%) and the fourth highest proportion answering "disagree or strongly disagree" (25%). Responses of "agree or strongly agree" accounted for 39% of the results for Outcome 9, which was the fifth lowest across all Outcomes.

Figure 9.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 9



Despite having a relatively low agreement and high disagreement rate, Outcome 9 is ranked 8th of 12, with a mean score of 3.14. At just above 3.00, this means respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement "we are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects difference".

Figure 9.2: Mean score for Outcome 9



Group Differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 10 population characteristics. Significant differences were found in six, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note are very small in real terms. As was the case in all 12 Outcomes, the lowest score was found among respondents reporting "Very bad/bad health" (2.72). The highest score was found among those in "Year 8" (3.48), which was the case for all but one Outcome (Outcome 6).

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.14
Religion	Catholics agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 9 statement than Protestants and those whose religion was Other/None/Missing/Refused.	Catholic: 3.20 Protestant: 3.08 Other: 3.03
Urban/ Rural	Those living in an urban area agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 9 statement than those living in a rural area.	Urban: 3.09 Rural: 3.19
Year Group	For year group, we see a general pattern of mean score decreasing, as year group increases. For the Outcome 9 statement, all differences were significant. Year 8 agreed significantly more* than all other Year Groups and Year 12 agreed significantly less* than all other Year Groups.	Year 8: 3.48 Year 9: 3.31 Year 10: 3.14 Year 11: 2.98 Year 12: 2.77
Disability	Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 9 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 2.88 Without disability: 3.20
Health	The mean scores for all types of health in Outcome 9 were significantly different* from each other, with "very bad/bad" agreeing the least and "very good/good" agreeing the most.	Very good/good: 3.21 Fair: 2.98 Very bad/bad: 2.72

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.14
 School Type	Those attending a secondary school agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 9 statement than those attending a grammar school.	Secondary: 3.23 Grammar: 3.03

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Outcome 10

“We have a place where people want to live, work and visit”

Key Findings

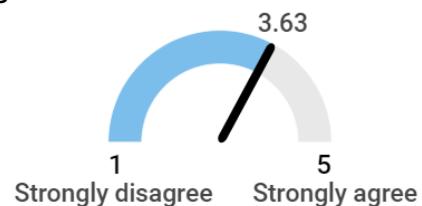
Over 3 in 5 (63%) of respondents agreed with Outcome 10 - the third highest across all Outcomes. Outcome 10 also had second lowest proportion of respondents disagreeing (9.6%), and the fourth lowest neutral responses (25%).

Figure 10.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 10



As Outcome 10 had both high agreement and low disagreement rates, it is ranked 4th of the 12 Outcome statements, with a mean score of 3.63. This means respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement “we have a place where people want to live, work and visit”.

Figure 10.2: Mean score for Outcome 10



Group Differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 10 population characteristics. Significant differences were found in five, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. No group had a mean score below 3.00, suggesting that on average all groups agreed with the statement more than they disagreed.

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
	Gender Females agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 10 statement than males.	Male: 3.65 Female: 3.60
	Religion Catholics agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 10 statement than Protestants and those whose religion was Other/None/Missing/Refused	Catholic: 3.68 Protestant: 3.57 Other: 3.56
	Year Group For year group, we see a general pattern of mean score decreasing, as year group increases. Between the five groups, a number of these differences were significant, with the most pronounced being between Year 8 and Year 12. In fact, Year 8 agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 10 statement than all other Year Groups.	Year 8: 3.81 Year 9: 3.69 Year 10: 3.66 Year 11: 3.54 Year 12: 3.41
	Disability Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 10 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 3.43 Without disability: 3.68
	Health Those with “very good/good” health agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 10 statement than those with “fair” or “very bad/bad” health.	Very good/good: 3.68 Fair: 3.51 Very bad/bad: 3.29

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Outcome 11

“Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other”

Key Findings

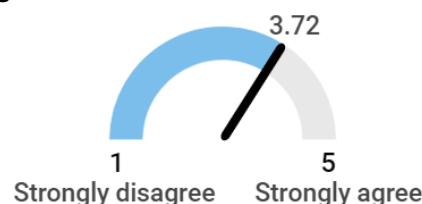
With over 2 in 3 respondents (67%) agreeing with the Outcome 11 statement, it had the highest agreement rate across all 12 Outcomes. Outcome 11 also had the lowest proportion answering “disagree or strongly disagree” (6.9%), and the second lowest proportion of neutral responses (23%).

Figure 11.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 11



As a result of having a high proportion of agreement, coupled with the low proportions of respondents either disagreeing or responding neutrally, Outcome 11 has the highest mean score of all Outcomes at 3.72. At well above 3.00, this means respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement “our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other”.

Figure 11.2: Mean score for Outcome 11



Group Differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 10 population characteristics. Significant differences were found in six, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some of these are very small in real terms. No group had a mean score below 3.00, suggesting that on average all groups agreed with the statement more than they disagreed.

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
	Gender Females agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 10 statement than males.	Male: 3.75 Female: 3.68
	Religion Catholics agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 11 statement than both Protestants and those whose religion was Other/None/Missing/Refused.	Catholic: 3.76 Protestant: 3.67 Other: 3.65
	Year Group For year group, we see a general pattern of mean score decreasing, as year group increases. For the Outcome 11 statement, Year 11 and Year 12 agreed significantly less* than Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10.	Year 8: 3.85 Year 9: 3.77 Year 10: 3.75 Year 11: 3.62 Year 12: 3.59
	Disability Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 11 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 3.55 Without disability: 3.76
	Health Those with “very good/good” health agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 11 statement than those with “fair” or “very bad/bad” health.	Very good/good: 3.77 Fair: 3.59 Very bad/bad: 3.41

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.72
 School Type	Those attending a secondary school agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 11 statement than those attending a grammar school.	Secondary: 3.68 Grammar: 3.75

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Outcome 12

"We give our children and young people the best start in life"

Key Findings

Outcome 12 had the fifth highest agreement rate, with around 3 in 5 respondents answering "agree or strongly agree" (62%). Outcome 12 also has the joint fourth lowest proportion of respondents answering "disagree or strongly disagree" (10%).

Figure 12.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 12



Driven by a relatively high agreement rate and a low proportion of respondents disagreeing, Outcome 12 has a mean score of 3.66, placing it 3rd of 12. This means respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement "we give our children and young people the best start in life".

Figure 12.2: Mean score for Outcome 12



Group Differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 10 population characteristics. Significant differences were found in seven, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. No group had a mean score below 3.00, suggesting that on average all groups agreed with the statement more than they disagreed.

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
	Religion Catholics agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 12 statement than Protestants and those whose religion was Other/None/Missing/Refused.	3.66 Catholic: 3.72 Protestant: 3.60 Other: 3.51
	Free School Meals Those entitled to free school meals agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 12 statement than those not entitled to free school meals.	FSM: 3.59 Non-FSM: 3.68
	Urban/ Rural Those living in an urban area agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 12 statement than those living in a rural area.	Urban: 3.59 Rural: 3.73
	Year Group For year group, we see a general pattern of mean score decreasing, as year group increases. Between the five groups, a number of these differences were significant, with the most pronounced being between Year 8 and Year 12. In fact, Year 8 agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 12 statement than all other Year Groups.	Year 8: 3.96 Year 9: 3.75 Year 10: 3.66 Year 11: 3.46 Year 12: 3.43
	Disability Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 12 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 3.32 Without disability: 3.74

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.66
 Health	The mean scores for all types of health in Outcome 12 were significantly different* from each other, with “very bad/bad” agreeing the least and “very good/good” agreeing the most.	Very good/good: 3.76 Fair: 3.42 Very bad/bad: 3.17
 School Type	Those attending a secondary school agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 12 statement than those attending a grammar school.	Secondary: 3.70 Grammar: 3.60

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Data

All data in this statistical bulletin is available in the [data tables](#) (available in Excel and ODS formats. Other formats available on request).

Table 1: Northern Ireland 2019 Young Persons' Behaviour & Attitudes Survey – Outcomes mean score

	Mean Score ¹
Outcome 1 - We have a strong economy	3.08
Outcome 2 - We look after our environment	2.64
Outcome 3 - We have an equal society	2.93
Outcome 4 - We enjoy long, healthy, active lives	3.41
Outcome 5 - We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential	3.69
Outcome 6 - We have more people working in better jobs	3.40
Outcome 7 - We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other	2.94
Outcome 8 - We care for others and we help those in need	3.60
Outcome 9 - We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects difference	3.14
Outcome 10 - We have a place where people want to live, work and visit	3.63
Outcome 11 - Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other	3.72
Outcome 12 - We give our children and young people the best start in life	3.66

¹Mean score agreement - responses to the questions have been given a numeric weight from 1 to 5, where 1 = "Strongly disagree" and 5 = "Strongly agree". The mean (average) of these scores is then taken; the higher the number, the more people agreed with the statement.

Glossary and data presentation

Glossary:

Programme for Government – The PfG is the Executive’s highest level strategic document. It determines the direction of travel and provides the basis for the work of every government department. Since 2016, and in line with recommendations of the OECD and consistent with a commitment contained in the Fresh Start Agreement, the local administration has been following an “Outcomes-based approach” to the PfG which puts a focus on achieving real world impacts in the things that people have told us matter most to them.

Outcomes – Focusing on Outcomes of societal wellbeing transforms the way public services are delivered. It removes organisational barriers and helps drive the collaborative working practices that are needed to effect meaningful and lasting change. The key principle is about government working in partnership with people and communities everywhere to identify and deliver improved quality of life conditions for people. In Northern Ireland’s current draft Programme for Government framework, there are 12 Outcomes – for example, “We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other”

Population characteristics – to help identify any inequalities that may exist in how the Outcomes are being perceived, the report presents data that allows the views from smaller groups within society to be monitored. For example, we can look at there is a difference between Males and Females in how those groups agree with the Outcome statements in this report.

Measuring the data / where does the data come from

The data in this report are collected using responses to the Young Persons’ Behaviour & Attitudes Survey (YPBAS), a school-based survey conducted among 11-16 year-olds. In 2019, a total of 3,892 pupils were surveyed on the YPBAS questionnaire with Outcome statements – this is the first time that questions relating to Outcomes have been included in the survey.

A list of the statements can be found in [Annex A](#). More information on the YPBAS can be found on the NISRA Central Survey Unit page:

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/find-your-survey/young-persons-behaviour-attitudes-survey>

Strengths and limitations

This bulletin explores the views of Northern Ireland’s young people on the 12 draft Programme for Government Outcomes and the differences that exist between groups on those views - for example between males and females. The results are based on a sample. So, when a difference or change is described as “significant”, this means we are 95% confident that there is an actual difference at population level. Where we cannot be confident (at the 95% level) of an actual difference or change, the result is not considered to be statistically significant.

Where there is a significant difference it does not necessarily mean one group agrees with a statement and another disagrees. A small difference may still be significant; for example, perhaps both males and females agree with a statement but the average for females is higher, indicating they agree more strongly than males.

This bulletin also references one or more groups having a “significantly higher” or “significantly lower” score than others. In all cases, the same thing could be said by changing the order around. For example, where the score for females is significantly higher than the score for males, it could also be said that the score for males is significantly lower than the score for females.

Related links

This report is part of a series: “Improving wellbeing for all”, which aims to collect information on what matters to the people of Northern Ireland and the public’s perception of the Outcomes within the draft PfG framework. This series includes:

- [Our Population: What Matters Most?](#) – exploring the day-to-day issues that were most important to the people of Northern Ireland
- [Our Population: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework – 2018/19 Headline report](#) – the overall results on how the population views the Outcomes
- [Our Population: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework – 2018/19 Outcomes Bulletin](#) (this report) – an in-depth look at how the population views each of the 12 Outcomes
- [Our Population: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework – 2018/19 Population Characteristics Bulletin](#) – an in-depth look at smaller sections of society and how they feel about the Outcomes

This report expands on the series and takes an in-depth look at young people in Northern Ireland’s overall attitudes towards the 12 Outcome statements, and looks at differences between groups within that population, with respect to each Outcome.

Annex A: Technical notes

Survey Questionnaire

To collect the data for this report, individuals were asked to respond to statements about Northern Ireland society today as listed below. The responses included a 5 point Likert scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The instructions and statements were:

"The following statements are about Northern Ireland society today. Please select whether you agree or disagree with each one."

1. We have a strong economy
2. We look after our environment
3. We have an equal society
4. We enjoy long, healthy, active lives
5. We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential
6. We have more people working in better jobs
7. We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other
8. We care for others and we help those in need
9. We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects difference
10. We have a place where people want to live, work and visit
11. Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other
12. We give our children and young people the best start in life

Young Persons' Behaviour & Attitudes Survey

This report presents findings from the 2019 Young Persons' Behaviour & Attitudes Survey (YPBAS) on the extent to which 11-16 year olds agree with 12 statements reflecting the Outcomes in the draft Programme for Government framework. The YPBAS is carried out by the Central Survey Unit (CSU) within the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Seven rounds of the survey have taken place: in autumn 2000, 2003, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016, and most recently in autumn 2019.

More information on YPBAS can be found here: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/ypbas-publications>

Sample

The target population for the YPBAS is young people at different stages in post-primary education. A stratified random sample of post-primary schools in Northern Ireland is drawn from a list held by the Department of Education (DE). The sample is representative of school size, selection type (i.e. Secondary, Grammar), management group (i.e. Controlled, Voluntary, Roman Catholic Maintained, and Grant Maintained Integrated etc.) and Education Authority regions. Participating schools provide details of the number of classes in Years 8-12, together with class names. A class in each of the five year groups is then randomly selected to take part. Only pupils from the selected classes are included in the survey.

A total of 3,892 pupils were surveyed on the questions related to Outcomes and 3,867 responses to the 12 Outcome statements.

Sampling error and weights

As the YPBAS is a sample survey there is a certain level of sampling error, i.e. the characteristics of the group sampled may differ slightly from the population as a whole. To account for this sampling error, the data has been weighted in order to produce estimates that better represent the population. The adjustment may be less than or greater than 1, but is generally close to 1. Two separate weights were produced – one for Year group, gender and religion; and a second for School type. This reduces (but does not completely eliminate) error. All reported means / percentages have been weighted.

Statistical significance

Statistically significant differences between groups (at the 95% level) have been highlighted throughout the report. This means that we can be 95% confident that the differences between groups are actual differences and have not just arisen by chance. The base numbers, mean scores and percentages have an effect on statistical significance. Therefore on occasion, a difference between two groups may be statistically significant while the same difference in mean score or percentage points between two other groups may not be statistically significant. The reason for this is because the larger the base numbers or the closer the percentages are to 0 or 100, the smaller the standard errors. This leads to increased precision of the estimates which increases the likelihood that the difference between the proportions is actually significant and did not just arise by chance.

Available population characteristics:

Gender

The YPBAS outlines two sex categories for respondents: Male and Female. Figures are reported based on school records for the pupil.

Religion

Figures are reported based on school records for the pupil. The religious categories represented within the report are:

- 1) Catholic
- 2) Protestant
- 3) Other
- 4) None/Missing/Refusal

The classifications “Other” and No Religion/Missing/Refusal have been combined to form the “Other” group within this report.

Deprivation

Deprivation figures presented in this report are based on the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, which is a measure of deprivation at the small area level. Quintiles of deprivation categorise an area of deprivation; Quintile 1 (Q1) represents the 20% most deprived areas, and Quintile 5 (Q5) represents the 20% least deprived.

Free School Meals

Figures are reported based on school records for the pupil. The question used to collect the information is: “Does this child receive free school meals (according to school records)?” to which data can be recorded as “Yes”, “No” or “unknown”. Due to small numbers, population characteristic breakdowns for “unknown” are not available.

Urban/Rural

Data presented in this report have also been analysed by whether respondents are living in areas that have been categorised as either urban or rural using the “Settlement 15” geography classification. Classification by SOA is available in the full YPBAS data set, but due to the small sample sizes for the “Mixed” category, Settlement 15 is presented here. More information on the definitions for urban/rural classifications can be found on the NISRA website: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/support/geography/urban-rural-classification>

Year Group

This is the year group that the responding students belonged to – Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 results are included in this report.

Disability - limiting long-standing illness

Respondents are defined as having a limiting long-standing illness if they have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expecting to last for 12 months or more, and these condition(s) or illness(es) reduce their ability to carry out day to day activities.

Health

The YPBAS outlines 5 distinct health categories by which respondents report on their general health. For the purposes of this report, responses were recoded into three groups; 1) Very good/good, 2) Fair, 3) Very bad/bad.

Ethnicity

The YPBAS outlines 16 distinct ethnic groups for respondents. For the purposes of this report, the aforementioned groups were coded into two distinct categories, as follows: 1) White 2) Other – to include Irish Traveller, White and Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White and Asian, Any other mixed / multiple ethnic background, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Any other Asian background, African, Caribbean, Any other Black / African / Caribbean background, Arab, and Any other ethnic group.

School Type

Figures are reported based on school records for the pupil. There are two categories; Secondary and Grammar.

Feedback

We are interested in understanding more about the quality of this publication and how it is used. This will help us provide a high quality service which meets users' needs. We would be grateful if you could spend a couple of minutes answering our User Feedback Survey questions. This can be accessed at the link below.

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/nisra-pfg-analytics/614468fc>