



a study of values, attitudes and opinions

young people in the greater shantallow area

A partnership between Off The Streets
Community Youth Initiative, Institute for
Conflict Research and St. Brigids College.

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Section 1 - Introduction

Introduction

In 2003, Off the Streets participated in the Social Economy Agency's Economy Advisory Programme. The programme supports the concept of a Social Economy particularly among voluntary groups. Such a programme allows voluntary groups to maintain service delivery and their voluntary ethos whilst developing much needed business capacity so as to enhance the sustainability of groups.

It was this desire to develop our own business acumen that led directly to our participation on the programme. We wanted to look beyond the continuous funding cycles that have beset the voluntary sector (and in many ways undermine its potential to move away from a culture of dependency) and plan for the future, one in which we effectively control our own funding and not the other way about.

Involvement in this programme necessitated a piece of research primarily to determine our, in market terms, target group and competitors. However, we looked upon the research as an opportunity to do more than that! We felt that if we were going to 'go to the bother' of compiling a piece of research why not make it more comprehensive and certainly much more in-depth.

Within the context of our strategic review, we looked upon the research as a means to an end, i.e., effectively helping determine how we should deliver future services and to also test whether or not our current provision was 'hitting the target.'

This report describes the initial work conducted by Off the Streets Community Youth Initiative (Off the Streets) in Galliagh, Derry and the Institute for Conflict Research (ICR) in partnership with St. Brigid's College to develop and undertake a collaborative research programme on key issues and problems for young people in the Greater Shantallow Area. The paper presents the findings from a survey of 417 young people attending St Brigid's College in Galliagh. The results of the research will be used to inform the future work of Off the Streets with young people and with other agencies in the area.

1.1 Background

In January 2004 Off The Streets approached the Institute for Conflict Research to discuss the possibility of providing some research training and help with developing a questionnaire to survey pupils at St Brigid's College. The aim of the co-operation was to develop knowledge and practical skills about research methods and to initiate and carry out research work that Off the Streets considered to be of interest and value to their work in the Greater Shantallow area. The main part of

this collaboration was the design and administration of a self-completion questionnaire, which explored young people's experience and understanding of key personal and social issues in the Greater Shantallow area.

1.2 Programme

The initial meeting involved discussion of aims and expectations and an outline of general research skills and methodologies, and as part of the training, regular meetings were held between staff from ICR and Off the Streets. After the initial meetings, there were regular meetings between members of the two organisations to monitor progress made with the survey work and also the processing of data.

The initial discussions explored a broad range of approaches that might be appropriate to the project and focused on the following areas of research activity:

- Designing a questionnaire
- Determining the main issues and themes
- Type and style of questions
- Deciding on sample size
- Piloting and revising the questionnaire
- Analysing preliminary findings
- Identifying main themes
- Presenting the results

1.3 Questionnaire

Having agreed a draft of the questionnaire, discussion focused on who was going to be surveyed and also how the dissemination of the questionnaires was to take place. It was agreed to carry out a survey of the opinions of 11-19 year olds, it was also agreed to try to ensure a balance between the three sub-age groups - 11-13, 14-16 and 17+ and to survey a balance of males and females among the pupils of St Brigid's College.

Staff from Off the Streets established contacts with St Brigid's College and sought the necessary consent from parents, they also piloted the questionnaire among 50 pupils. The process indicated that some alterations and adjustments were required. The pilot process revealed that the questionnaire only took a few minutes to complete and the young people had few difficulties filling it out. The pilot study thus provided Off The Streets with an initial experience in administering questionnaires and

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conducting survey work. The pilot survey was carried out in March 2004 and the main survey work started in early March and was completed by the end of May, with a two-week break at Easter.

The survey data was processed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) by ICR staff and then staff from both organisations worked together in analysing the results. The initial report was drafted by Ulf Hansson at ICR and then revised in collaboration with staff from both organisations.

Together, ICR, Off the Streets and St. Brigid's College, view this document as a marker or perhaps more so, an indicator of just some of the views and opinion of young people on a wide range of topics relevant to their lives in the Greater Shantallow Area at this time.

We believe it offers a useful insight into the thinking and understanding that young people have on a range of issues. It provides the 'Adult World', including agencies and organisations with responsibility for services to young people with the opportunity to reflect on the nature of provision, i.e., the how, what, where, when and why? It also provides the 'Adult World' in general with pause for thought with regard how they perceive and respond to young people.

Whilst we acknowledge the limitations of this type of research we feel the environment it was delivered in and the manner with which it was administered leads us to believe it offers a reflective, well-balanced and informed 'picture' of values, attitudes and opinion among a cross-section of young people from the Greater Shantallow Area.

We are also of the opinion, that St. Brigid's College is a microcosm of the Greater Shantallow Area at large and reflects the needs, issues and challenges facing young people on a daily basis and therefore offered an ideal setting to maximise opinion on the range of subjects included in the survey. It should also be noted that the survey was conducted by staff from Off the Streets and this facilitates greater objectivity than if administered by staff from St. Brigid's.

The size of the 'sample' questioned also leads us to believe that the findings can be given credibility. Numbers surveyed amount to almost half the school-going population of St. Brigid's College and this we believe is significant enough to underpin our findings. We are unaware of any other research of this size undertaken with young people from this area.

The findings presented in the following pages are two-fold in purpose. First of all, each table is analysed for its statistical content whilst (in *italics*) further examination tries to tease out underlying questions and issues in an

effort to raise discussion and debate. At no time does report attempt to determine wholesale responses to the issues raised but rather leave it open for further exploration.

Ultimately, these findings will at the very least determine some of how and what we do (Off The Streets) in the future, partly to meet our strategic objectives, but also to try and be seen to respond to issues raised by young people. We hope to work with ICR again to further explore issues raised. We also want to develop a comprehensive programme with St. Brigid's College that not only is in tune with curriculum objectives but responds positively to the issues identified.

However, we would also extend an invitation to all those agencies that have responsibility for young people, particularly within the context of the Greater Shantallow Area, to embrace the findings of this report and examine how it might be incorporated into future practice. Let's begin the process by engaging in conversation.

Section 2 - Survey Findings

2.1 Demographic Information

A total of 417 questionnaires were completed by the pupils in St Brigid's College. This represents 44% of the school population. Fifty four percent of the participants were male, while 46% were female. The majority of respondents were in the middle age-bracket, followed by the younger age-bracket.

Table 1: Age break down of respondents

Age	Number	% of respondents
11-13	165	40
14-16	198	48
17+	54	12
Total	417	100

Nearly half of all respondents lived in Galliagh, with around one in five living in Shantallow. Most respondents lived in estates that comprised the Greater Shantallow Area, although a small number came from further afield including the city centre area and the Bogside area and from Muff just over the border in County Donegal.

Table 2: Place of residence

Area	Number	% of respondents
Galliagh	198	45
Shantallow	78	19
Carnhill	30	7
Culmore	16	4
Ballyarnet	11	3
Coshquin	11	3
Other	10	2
Pennyburn	8	2

2.2 Important issues for young people

An initial question tried to identify the types of issues that raised concerns for young people. Respondents whether they were very concerned, concerned or not concerned at all about a broad range of personal issues such as family, friends, money, health, being accepted, bullying etc. Some of the issues were followed up with other questions in the survey, others were not.

The three main issues from the list of 15, which young people identified as causing a lot of concern were family, health and bullying, while issues such as drugs and alcohol; pressure from friends and eating disorders were the issues that caused least concern.

Table 3: Main areas of concern

Issue	Very concerned	Concerned	Not concerned
Family	67	22	11
My health	55	32	13
Bullying	33	34	33
Self-confidence	28	48	24
Being accepted	21	42	38
Depression/stress/ anxiety	21	36	43
Being alone	20	31	49
Drugs/alcohol	20	21	59
Relations	19	54	28
Eating disorders	18	29	54
Money	18	52	30
Image	17	55	28
Pressure from friends	12	33	55
Coping from morning to night	11	33	55
Numeracy/literacy	10	49	42

Rather worryingly, some 89% of respondents were concerned or very concerned about their family life. It was not possible to extract what aspects in particular of family life caused them concern, while the questions on family life revealed that most young people had fairly engaged relationships with their family (see below). It was possible to discern a difference in gender on this matter as 75% of females were very concerned or concerned about family compared to 60% of males.

Health was another issue that concerned young people: 89% of females and 86% of males were very concerned or concerned. In the case of bullying females were more likely to cite this as an issue of concern than males (73% compared to 63%).

Other differences relating to gender were to be found among issues such as eating disorders. Overall this was rated as one of the issues of low concern, with 54% saying it was not an issue. However, 62% of females said they were very concerned or concerned about this matter compared to 34% of males.

The number of young people concerned about drugs and alcohol was low. Overall 59% of young people said they were not concerned about this issue, although it was slightly more significant among females than males, 55% said they were not concerned about drugs and alcohol compared with 63% among males. Other questions asked about young peoples attitudes towards use of a variety of legal and illegal drugs and these revealed a disapproval of the use of illegal drugs but a greater tolerance of the use of alcohol (see Section 2.8).

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There were no great differences in the overall pattern of concerns in the various age-groups. However among 17-19 year olds a smaller percentage expressed concern about their health than in the other two age-groups. This older age-group also had a higher percentage of people who felt very concerned about 'coping from morning to night'.

What specific concerns do young people have and why are males less concerned than their female counterparts? Both males and females are almost equally concerned about health but are concerns around the same issues? And why is concern so high? What issues underlie concerns about eating disorders among young females? And although considerably less than females, half of young men are also concerned about eating disorders - does this represent a growing trend among young men?

Questions: *Why are young people not concerned about drugs and alcohol? Are young people genuinely aware of the dangers of alcohol or simply ignoring them? Is their attitudes to it and perceptions of it different to that of the 'Adult World'? Does the disapproval of illegal drugs go against the 'Adult World's' perceived level of use by young people? And why do young people disapprove when all other research suggests alarming levels of use among young people? Are attitudes among young people changing or only different in the Greater Shantallow Area?*

What other concerns are there in these findings? Only 10% are very concerned about numeracy/literacy - does this concur with St. Brigid's College understanding of numeracy/literacy needs among the school going population at St. Brigid's College? Should we be worried that over 40% are at least very concerned about coping from morning to night? Equally peer pressure is a concern whilst Image and Money seems to be a concern with almost 4 in every 5 young people.

Why is there such disparity in concerns along gender lines? For example, if you compare figures for bullying, numeracy, eating disorders, peer pressure, being alone and self-confidence, with the exception of money, females are more concerned every time.

2.3 Family Life

Respondents were asked a number of general questions about their family situation. The replies revealed that 96% of respondents said they lived with their mother, while somewhat fewer, 81%, said that their father lived in the house. Around three in four lived with siblings with 74% of respondents living with brothers, while 71% had sisters living in their house. Only 1.4% (6 persons) said they lived with a grandparent, while 10 people (2.4%) said a niece or nephew lived with them, 5 people (1.2%) said an aunt or uncle lived in the house and a similar number lived with a step parent. Among respondents, 23% came from single parent households.

A substantial majority of the respondents, (89%), said they, or their family, had access to a car. It was however possible to establish that single parents made up an overwhelming majority, (90%), of families with no access to a car.

Respondents were asked what activities they did with their families. Over ninety percent (91%) said they had meals together with their family and 88% of respondents also went on holiday with their family. The next two most popular activities done as a family were watching TV (81%) and visiting relatives (78%). A large majority of females (76%) said they went shopping with their family, whereas only a minority of males (40%) admitted to doing so.

Table 4: Things young people do with their families

Activities	Number of respondents	% of respondents
Eat together	378	91
Holiday	366	88
Watching TV	336	81
Visiting relatives	321	78
Shopping	244	59
Church	207	50
Homework	201	49
Leisure centre/ pool	94	23
Sports	90	22
Cinema	85	21
Nothing	9	2

It also emerged that the role of the family was very important for the young people when trying to deal with problems. Nearly seven out of ten respondents (69%) said that they would turn to their parents when they had a problem, a third (34%) said they would turn to a brother or sister, and a quarter (25%) said they would turn to a relative. However overall a friend was the second most popular choice to turn to with problems after a parent (52% - 69%).

Questions: *Our research showed that 19% of respondents live at home without their father - what are the implications of fewer people living without their father being present? What are the reasons for this? Does this effect males more significantly than females in terms of numbers and impact? Is there any link between the lack of fathers living at home and a lack of a male role model in the lives of young men? What is the impact socially and economically living in a single parent household?*

What is the impact on family life not having access to a car? Is it restrictive? Does it limit opportunities for mobility? Is it

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an indication of levels of income? Whilst single parent households are less likely to have a car (as compared with two parent households), females were 4 times as likely to be without a car than their male counterparts. Why? What does this tell us about un/employment and/or income patterns? What does it tell us (if anything) about support structures for single parent (female) households?

What are the trends with regards to families eating together? Do respondents eat together at breakfast and dinner? What do meals consists of? What does their diet consist of? What is discussed at the dinner table? Does eating together suggest quality time and does this contradict the belief that families don't spend enough time together? What about the importance of children/young people and parents/adults doing sports together?

What is the implications of only half of respondents going to church with their family? Likewise only 49% do their homework together - what are the reasons for this? How much time is spent watching TV together? What programmes are watched? What is the impact of spending time watching TV together? How often and for how long do respondents go on holidays with their families? Where do they go?

Going to the leisure centre or doing sports together scores low - is this an indications of how health, fitness or leisure is viewed? Two per-cent say they did nothing together - is this reflective of a broader picture and what is the impact of this?

Table 5: Who do you turn to if you have a problem?

Person	Number of respondents	% of respondents
Parent	280	69
Friend	213	52
Brother/sister	138	34
Relative	100	25
Boyfriend/girlfriend	65	16
Teacher	57	14
Priest	29	7
Neighbour	15	4
Doctor	15	4
Youth Worker	13	3

However, the choice of whom to turn to differed between males and females and also between the various age-groups. Sixty five percent of females said they would turn to their parents compared with 72% of males. More females (65%) than males (41%) turned to their friends. The number who turned to brother/sister was similar both among males and females, 33% and 35% respectively.

Among the 11-13 year olds age-group a large majority (82%) said they would turn to their parents with a

problem, but among the 17-19 age-group this had dropped to 50%. This group, as did the 14-16 year-olds said they turned to friends (53%), followed by parents.

Only small percentages of young people said they would turn to a youth worker, a doctor, a neighbour or a priest, and only slightly larger numbers said they would turn to a teacher.

Questions: *Does this go against what might be considered a commonly held belief that young people cannot or will not talk to their parents? Also, friends cannot be underestimated. Quite clearly, the importance of peers as a source of support is significant. Does this indicate a clear role for young people in the delivery of programmes and projects, i.e., peer education? Those who might normally be viewed as source of support such as a teacher, doctor, etc fair poorly. Surprisingly the community youth worker figures last! Can we read too much into this - if we can't be viewed as a source of support for young people is the reputation or credibility of youth workers in question?*

This contrasts completely with that in table 23 when youth workers are viewed as the most supportive after parents and friends. It seems to suggest that young people are reluctant to approach youth workers (which raises questions over approachability or the perception that they are or can be supportive) but however, are seen to be among the most supportive behind parents/adults and friends.

Interestingly enough, males are more willing to turn to family than friends. Does this imply that males are less comfortable confiding in their friends and vice versa for females? What factors explain the drop (between younger and older age groups) in turning to parents when there is a problem? Is it a question of trust, inhibitions about subject matter or something else?

Table 6: Reason for turning to someone outside the family

Reason	Number of respondents	% of respondents
Understand me better	143	42
Less likely to judge me	79	23
Interested in what I have to say	77	23
Won't stick their nose in it	57	17
More prepared to listen	56	17
Will make time for me	42	12
Don't know my family	32	6

The most popular reason for turning to someone outside the family was that 'they would understand me better' (42%), followed by 'less likely to judge me' (23%) when having a problem. A slightly higher percentage of females

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than males (53% compared with 47%) said they would turn to someone outside the family because 'they understand me better'.

Questions: Do these figures indicate that there is less support at home and that the issues are too serious to face objectively? Why is it that young people feel the need to have to turn to someone outside the family? Young people want to be understood and not judged - what is the challenge for the 'Adult World' here? What are the implications for young people and adults in meeting expectations and norms of society? How can we help young people achieve the balance between how they should behave and how adults should treat young people?

2.4 Community life and facilities

Young people were asked if they thought the Greater Shantallow Area was a friendly place to live. A third of the respondents (32%) agreed or strongly agreed, while less than a quarter (23%) disagreed or strongly disagreed. However, nearly half (47%) neither agreed nor disagreed with this statement.

When asked about facilities used by young people in the Greater Shantallow Area, the most popular choice was the Bowling Alley (73%), followed by the Northside Shopping Centre (67%) and Templemore Sports Complex (66%). Only a small percentage of respondents (7%) said there were no facilities within the area. Very few respondents (31%) referred to youth clubs as facilities they would currently use, with no more than one in five young people identifying any single such facility.

Questions: This question, due to its failure to conclude clearly if the Greater Shantallow Area is or isn't friendly in many ways tells its own story, i.e., there is a need to address how the area is perceived or what can be done to enhance the friendliness of the area?

As can be seen in table 7 the Bowling Alley was the most popular location among both males (70%) and females (75%), while the Northside Shopping Centre was more popular among females (76%) than with males (58%). The Templemore Sports Complex was more popular among males, 71% said they used it compared to 62% among females. There was a similar difference between genders when it came to the use of the playing fields: 59% of males said they used these, compared to only 24% of females. These differences are illustrated in Table 8 below.

The majority of respondents, 68%, indicated that there were not enough facilities for young people in the Greater Shantallow Area. However the majority of the 28% who indicated that there was the right amount of facilities were in the youngest 11-13 age group.

Table 7: Facilities used by young people

Facility	Number of respondents	% of respondents
Bowling Alley	291	73
Northside Shopping Centre	268	67
Templemore Sports Complex	266	66
Playing Fields	170	42
Shantallow Youth Club	80	20
Shantallow Health Centre	75	19
St Joseph's Youth Club	42	11
Marian Hall	35	9
St Brigid's Parish Hall	30	7
No facilities in the area	26	7
Off The Streets	21	5
Carnhill Community Centre	17	4
Greater Shantallow	9	2
Community Arts		

Questions: There are also a number of clear messages emanating from the responses to these questions. Young people do not use community facilities in the area - questions of why has to be examined. Only 1 in 5 use statutory youth provision whilst even less use voluntary youth provision - overall less than 1 in 2 use any form of youth provision. Significantly high numbers use the Bowling Alley, Northside and Templemore Sports Complex. Questions as to why this is also have to be examined.

What attracts young people to these buildings in preference to the youth service? In our Strategic Plan we wrote

Youth Work is being redefined by the many political, social, economical and technological developments including the growth in the IT industry, new legislation, changing youth culture and the vast array of organisations now providing services to young people.....Young People no longer see youth provision as among their priorities but as one of the many alternatives available to them. Young People want the option of choosing from their desired list of priorities but without the obligation of having to be part of a service all of the time. (p9)

Given that most use the Bowling Alley does suggest that young people are willing to travel. It would also be interesting to determine the geographical spread of those using the Bowling Alley to determine how far they have travelled. Also, why do more females attend both the Bowling Alley and Northside as compared with males attending Templemore Sports Complex?

Those in the younger age group are satisfied with facilities (is this because their needs are less than those in the mid or late teens?) but overall more than 2/3 are quite clearly saying that there's not enough facilities.

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Table 8: Facilities used by males & females			Table 9: Facilities requested by young people		
Facility	% of males	% of females	Facility	Number of respondents	% of respondents
Bowling Alley	70	75	Ice-rink	104	26
Northside Shopping Centre	58	76	Outdoor pursuit centre	76	19
Templemore Sports Complex	71	62	Soccer/GAA pitch	67	17
Playing Fields	59	24	Cinema	61	15
Shantallow Youth Club	19	21	Youth Facility open 24 hours	32	8
Shantallow Health Centre	15	23	Leisure centre	31	8
St Joseph's Youth Club	12	9	Swimming pool	17	4
Marian Hall	7	11	Safe environment to drink in	12	3
St Brigid's Parish Hall	6	9	Other	10	2
No facilities in the area	7	6	Better/cheaper public transport	7	2
Off The Streets	4	7			
Carnhill Community Centre	3	6			
Greater Shantallow Community Arts	2	3			

Respondents were also asked to select one new facility for the Greater Shantallow Area. The most popular choices for a new facility was an ice-rink (26%), an outdoor pursuit centre (19%) and a soccer/GAA pitch (17%).

Questions: *Is there a genuine case for any of these facilities to be built? We already know how popular outdoor activities are among young men but combined with some sort of soccer/GAA capacity would this go some way to alleviating the boredom that young men feel? At the same time it does not answer the question as to why when there is indoor and outdoor pitches available at Shantallow Community Centre, Templemore Sports Complex and Leafair that the need for more seems apparent? Should we assume that young people and young men in particular feel excluded from these? Perhaps costs is a barrier? Is an ice-rink the only facility that young females would be in favour of?*

As can be seen from Table 9 at the top of the next column it was possible to discern major differences between males and females in their choice of a new leisure facility. Overall the most favoured facility was an ice-rink, and while this was favoured by 39% of females, only 13% of males did so. In contrast males (53%) were somewhat more in favour than females (46%) of an outdoor pursuit centre. The differences were most marked in relation to a soccer/GAA pitch. Overall 29% of males were in favour of such a pitch, compared to only 2% of females.

An ice-rink was the most favoured new facility across all age-groups. However the second most requested facility among 11-13 year olds was a cinema, whereas among both older age groups the second most requested facility was an outdoor pursuit centre. Respondents in the 17-19

age-group also favoured a youth facility that was open 24 hours a day as well as better and cheaper public transport.

There was an extensive knowledge among respondents of where different facilities and amenities were. The only two facilities respondents had difficulties locating were the unemployment office ('dole office') and the Job centre. Knowledge of the location of these two amenities was, not surprisingly, higher in the 17-19 group.

Questions: *Interestingly a youth facility open 24 hours was favoured by few which implies that providing a facility is less important than providing a service or that interest among young people is much broader now and that 24 hour youth provision is only 1 of many options young people want to choose from. Even less in demand is a safe environment to drink in. Surely if you believe all that you read and hear about young people and the culture of drinking then this would be much higher?*

Only 2% wanted better cheaper public transport. Does this mean young people walk everywhere or are prepared to or all have access to transport and therefore don't need to? Does this mean they are content with the standard of public transport available?

The need for a 24-hour facility and better public transport was more popular among the 17-19 age group although it should be noted that this group made up only 13% of the respondents. That said, there is a need to explore this in more detail, i.e., what do young people think of when they talk about 24 hour youth provision. What kind of provision would they look for and how would it be managed?

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Table 10: Knowledge of facilities in this area

Facility	Number of respondents	% of respondents
Library	396	97
Chemist	373	92
Post Office	369	90
Health Centre	353	86
Optician	311	78
Dentist	288	72
Dole Office	152	40
Job Centre	112	30

Questions: Whilst expected that 17-19 year olds would know where Dole Office & Job Centre is any misconception that both would be known to all young people is laid to rest as can be seen from table 10 overleaf. It's often assumed that the children of parents of benefits would know where these offices are. Does this mean a high percentage of parents are working or simply that there is no reason that they should know.

Table 11: Reasons for going to the city centre

Reason	Number of respondents	% of respondents
Shopping	291	71
Meet friends	267	65
Cinema	217	53
Bar/Club	83	20
Sports	73	18
Work	26	6
Church	6	2

The city centre provided an outlet for a majority of respondents, 36% said they visited the city centre several times a week and 38% said they went at least once a week. The most popular reasons for accessing the city centre was for shopping (71%) and to meet friends (65%), followed by going to the cinema (53%). The reason cited least of all was to go to work, which is a reflection of the small number of people over 16 in the sample.

Among both 11-13 year olds (72%) and 14-16 year olds (63%) the most popular activity in the city centre was to meet friends. But among the 17-19 year olds a large majority (78%) favoured shopping followed by going to pub or club (63%), with smaller numbers citing going to the cinema (20%).

The three most popular activities in the city centre were shopping, meeting friends and going to the cinema.

Questions: Another misconception is that young people are not willing to travel - however figures for those visiting the city centre suggest this is not the case. It seems that young people use the town to either shop (which suggests much disposable income) meet friends or to socialise. Again, as with Table 7, this suggests that given the right conditions young people will travel. Sixty-seven per-cent use Northside whilst a combined 74% use the city centre at least once a week.

Table 12: Reasons for going into the city centre among males and females

Reason	% of males	% of females
Shopping	54	90
Meet friends	63	67
Cinema	58	47
Bar/Club	24	20
Sports	28	5
Work	6	6
Church	1	2

Some examination the reasons why such high percentages of young people use Northside, the City Centre and the Bowling Alley are necessary. Is it the opportunity to meet their peers in warm, spacious and bright comfortable surroundings central to this? All 3 locations inevitably require disposable income but are young people spending money or just using the city centre as a meeting place? One in five young people travel to the town centre or go to a bar or club. What are the reasons behind this and at what age do they start? What bars and clubs do they frequent? How do they subsidise this?

However, there were different priorities between males and females. The most popular city centre activity among females was shopping (90%) whereas only 54% of males cited shopping. Among males the activity most frequently referred to was meeting friends (63%). This was the second highest reason given by females, 67% said they met friends in the city centre. The second highest reason among men was to go to the cinema, 58% who cited this compared with 47% of females.

It was also noticeable that 28% of males referred to 'sports' as a reason for going to the city centre compared to only 5% of females who listed this as a reason for going into the city centre.

Questions: There are some interesting parallels - almost equally males and females use the city centre for meeting friends, going to the cinema, working and going to church but the big differences are in shopping and in sport. Understandably more people will go to the city centre to shop but 28% will use the city centre for sports.

This is almost identical to the number of young men who asked for a soccer/GAA pitch. Is there a correlation between

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the two although greater examination would unearth what sports they're going to the city centre for, how often, how much it's costing and why they're travelling there in the first place. Another question: if there was a major shopping centre with 'big name' outlets in the Greater Shantallow Area would young people then stay within the area or would they still go to the city centre? One other interesting aspect is that for every one young person who goes to town to socialise in a bar or club almost 3 use the cinema. In fact, according to our findings more males go to the town for sports than go to the bar!

Table 13: Mode of transport

Mode of transport	Number of respondents	% of respondents
Bus	346	83
Car	140	34
Taxi	99	24
Walk	38	9
Bicycle	4	1

The most frequent means of transportation was by bus (83%), followed by car (34%) and taxi (24%). The bus was used slightly more often by males than females, (85% compared to 82%), but more females than males used taxis (28% compared to 20%) and used cars (38% compared to 30%).

The bus scored highest among all the different age-groups as a means of transport. Travelling by car came second among 11-13 year olds (45%) and among 17-19 year olds (41%). Among 14-16 year olds however, the second most popular mode of transport was by taxi (25%).

Questions: Only 1 in 10 is prepared to walk to the city centre - why? Is this a general reflection on attitudes to physical activity? This compares similarly with the Life & Times Survey carried out in 1999. Should we be more pro-active in encouraging young people to walk? What is their reason for walking? Do they prefer to walk or is it an economic issue?

2.5 Feeling Safe

Respondents were asked if they felt safe walking in the area at different times of the day and week. A large majority, 82%, said they felt safe walking in the area during the day. However, this number fell to 48%, when asked if they felt safe walking in the area at night during the week. And when asked if they felt safe walking in the area at night during the weekend, only 40% said yes. A majority of respondents, 80%, said they felt safe walking in the area with friends and only 4% said they never felt safe.

A large majority (80%) of females said that they felt safe during the day, but at night during the week, the number

Table 14: Feeling safe based on gender

Time of day	% of males	% of females
Daytime	83	80
At night	59	37
Night at weekend	51	27
With friends	80	80
Never	5	3

fell to 37% and at night at the weekend it fell still further to only 27%. Even though there was a drop among males feeling safe, it was not as significant. The male sense of

Table 15: Feeling safe based on age-group

Time of day	% of 11-13 year olds	% of 14-16 year olds	% of 17-19 year olds
Daytime	75	86	83
At night	38	59	40
Night at weekend	30	50	34
With friends	83	79	74
Never	3	4	4

safety fell from 83% during the day to 59% at night during the week and 51% during the night at the weekend.

The 14-16 age-group were the group who claimed to feel the safest, regardless of time of day.

Questions: The perception of the Greater Shantallow Area and Galligh in particular, as unsafe is probably made worse by media coverage. Only 4% said they never felt safe! That said there are clearly Community Safety issues. Adults and older people might argue that the reason for only 4% feeling unsafe is because young people hang around in large numbers and therefore are more likely to feel safe. However, there are key times when equally young people feel unsafe - at night and at night during the weekends. This was felt by both male and females but more significantly females. Does this mean that young people are less likely to be out at night? Is there a need to be doing more street work during the day?

More work has to be done addressing these perceptions and actions that might increase feelings of safety at key times. Also, some examination of why the 14-16 age group feels safest of the 3 age groups needs to be developed. Whilst there is a drop in feeling safe at key times it's still significantly higher than the two other age groups. Is there a temptation to link this with the perception of 'gangs of young teenagers roaming the streets'? Is this age group most likely to be or perceived as most likely to be involved in anti-social behaviour?

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2.6 Crime and Disorder

The respondents were asked to indicate the levels of violence and disorder in the community. There was a strong indication from the young people that some or a lot of violence and disorder occurred within the Greater Shantallow Area. The table below highlights the main responses from the young people. Ninety three percent of males and 96% of females said that some or a lot of violence and disorder had taken place in their area. There was no difference in these opinions among the different age-groups.

Activity	Number of respondents	% of respondents
Some	258	67
A lot	105	27
None	21	6

The survey asked the young people to indicate what type of activities occurred in the area. The three most frequently cited activities were graffiti (80%), followed by

Table 17: Types of violence and disorder occurring in Greater Shantallow

Activity	No. of respondents	No. of respondents
Graffiti	322	80
Joyriding	293	73
Damaging/ vandalising property	272	67
Fighting with people from own area	248	61
Burglary & theft	212	53
Fighting the police	202	50
Drug dealing	181	45
Attacks on young people	152	38
Attacks on elderly people	128	32
Rioting	123	30
Attacks on travellers/ethnic minorities	68	17
None occur	25	6

joy riding (73%) and causing damage or vandalism to property (67%). Only a small percentage of respondents (6%), believed that no incidents of violence and anti-social

behaviour occurred in the area. The table 17 on the left highlights the main responses.

It was not possible to establish any distinctive gender differences regarding the types of violence occurring in the area. It was however clear that an awareness of these activities increased with each age-group: 46% of 17-19 year olds and 34% of 14-16 year olds referred to rioting compared to only 20% of 11-13 year olds. Respondents

Table 18: Age groups involved in violence and disorder

Age group	Number of respondents	% of respondents
15-17	239	63
18-21	66	17
12-14	59	15
Under 12	9	2
Adults	9	2

were also asked to state which age group they believed was most frequently involved in these incidents of disorder. The most frequent age group associated with these incidents was 15-17 year olds (63%), followed by 18-21 year olds (17%) and 12-14 year olds (15%).

It was not possible to discern any difference between males and females regarding the opinion about the age-groups involved. Among the different age-groups however, the largest number of 11-13 year olds (32%) said the age-group mainly involved was the 12-14 year olds. Of respondents in the older group, 8% also said adults were involved.

The young people were also asked if they knew of anyone who had been involved in these activities. Two out of three respondents (67%) said they knew of someone who had been involved in writing graffiti and half of the sample also knew someone who had been involved in fights with people from the same area. Slightly lower numbers (44%) knew of someone who had been involved in joy riding and acts of vandalism. When it came to joy-riders, 48% of females said they knew a joy-rider compared to 41% of males.

Overall 19% of young people said that they did not know anyone who was involved in any of the listed activities in table 19 overleaf. This was highest among 17-19 year olds, 32% of whom said that they did not know of anyone who had been involved, compared with 28% of 11-13 year olds and only 10% of 14-16 year olds.

Sixty percent of 14-16 year olds said they knew of someone who had been involved in fighting with people

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Table 19: Knowing of anyone who has been involved in violence and disorder

Activity	No.of respondents	% of respondents
Graffiti	240	80
Fighting people from own area	180	73
Joy-riding	159	67
Damage/vandalism	158	61
Fighting with the police	146	53
Drug dealing	127	50
Burglary and theft	104	45
Rioting	98	38
Attacks on young people	79	32
Attacks on elderly people	45	30
Attacks on travellers/ethnic minorities	39	17
None of these activities	70	6

from their own area, compared to 37% of 11-13 year olds and 51% of 17-19 year olds.

Questions: What is the impact of violence on how young people think and act? Like adults, young people recognise the breadth of violence and disorder in their area. Respondents identified that 15-17 year olds are most likely to be engaged in this. If this is the case, why? What are the reasons that are most likely to contribute to young people in this age group being involved? Is there work that can be done with the school to examine this?

Overall two-thirds of respondents knew of those involved in anti-social behaviour. This suggests that there is potential for work within school that might help draw young people away from negative behaviour either involving practitioners or other young people using methods of peer education. It is worth developing some form of programme particularly in light of the introduction of and likely threat of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders. For instance making young people aware of the implications and consequences of anti-social behaviour, it is likely to help reduce it.

One third knew of attacks on old people but only 13% knew of those involved in the attacks. This is still a sizeable figure. By and large attacks are still more likely to occur between and against young people. From the tables produced it seems overwhelmingly that young people in the mid-teens are most likely to be involved or know of someone who is involved in anti-social behaviour. Alcohol and drugs seems to be key

factors influencing in this age group. This suggests that much work needs to be done with this age group on a prevention and cure basis. However, what measures can we realistically adopt to tackle this and what hope do we have of making an impact?

In table 19, 67% of respondents know of someone who has been at least involved in Graffiti. If taken as a marker then two-thirds of someone who is involved in some sort of anti-social behaviour. However, it does not offer an indication or any kind of figure of those who would have involvement in a wide range of anti-social behaviour. More examination of this is required to gain an accurate picture of levels of involvement, numbers involved, backgrounds, etc.

2.7 Involvement in social disorder

When respondents were asked if they had ever tried to persuade a friend not to get involved in any of these

Table 20: Reasons why young people are involved in violence and disorder

Reasons	No.of respondents	% of respondents
Friends were involved	260	64
Influence of alcohol	227	56
Influence of drugs	210	52
Excitement	162	40
Boredom & frustration	157	39
Hatred	134	33
Needed money	128	31
Challenge	94	23
Don't know	48	12

activities, a majority, 52% said they had not. The role of friends or peer pressure was also highlighted, as the majority of respondents (64%) gave this as the reason why people got involved in these types of activities. The next most highly cited reasons that were given was due to being under the influence of alcohol (56%) and under the influence of drugs (52%).

Among 14-16 year olds the main reason for involvement seemed to be alcohol (67%) and also drugs (62%) a difference compared to the other age-groups, which followed the table above. It was also of interest to notice that among 11-13 year olds, the idea of a challenge was a more important factor (30%) compared to the older age groups, as only 20% of 14-16 year olds and 15% of 17-19 year olds cited this as a factor.

Questions: Reasons for involvement in anti-social behaviour do not come as a shock but the importance of peer pressure

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is greater than anticipated - 64% cited this as a reason but more than half have made no attempt to persuade a friend not to become involved. This implies much work has to be done with regard to how peer pressure can be used in a positive way. Alcohol and Drugs were also major factors and would seem to support the link between consumption and an increase in anti-social behaviour, i.e., key times such as night, and at night time at the weekends.

Excitement and boredom were also key factors - this provides a challenge for youth providers, i.e., to try and alleviate the boredom and substitute 'the buzz' that goes with deviant behaviour as young people set about asserting their identity or presence. Can we achieve/provide 'the buzz' without young people feeling the need to engage in negative behaviour? Whilst alcohol and drugs might be a greater influence in becoming involved in anti-social behaviour among 14-16 year olds, challenge was the major factor among the younger age group. Money was also highlighted as a motivating factor - what does this suggest? Why do young people need the money? Is there some kind of hierarchy among how young people assert themselves, i.e., the challenge of deviant behaviour in early teens followed by progression into drugs and alcohol?

Table 21: Reasons why young people are involved in violence and disorder-as suggested by the different age-groups

Reasons	11-13	14-16	17+
Friends were involved	64	64	62
Influence of alcohol	42	66	57
Influence of drugs	39	62	47
Excitement	35	46	30
Boredom & frustration	26	48	42
Hatred	28	38	28
Needed money	22	40	26
Challenge	30	20	15
Don't know	22	5	8

The influence of peer pressure is consistent throughout but (with the exception of challenge) seems to decrease with age. All other factors are most prevalent among 14-16 year olds and seem to peak at this time. For the 17+ age group, Drugs, Alcohol, Boredom and the influence of peers are the main reasons for involvement in anti-social behaviour. If this is the case what can we do to tackle this in an effort to minimise the potential for involvement in anti-social behaviour?

Based on these answers it was clear that many young people were involved in a wide range of forms of anti-social behaviour. This was made more explicit when we asked how young people specifically contributed to these

Table 22: How young people contribute to violence and disorder

Contribution	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Participate	165	41
Start	76	19
Stop	41	10
Control	16	4
Don't contribute	11	3
Don't know	89	22

activities that occurred in their area. The largest number of respondents (41%) said young people participated in violence and disorder, while 19% said young people started the disorder. Only a small number of respondents said young people controlled the violence and disorder (4%).

Question: When asked about how young people contribute, 41% said young people participate. This suggests that 6 out of 10 young people are not involved in anti-social behaviour. According to our figures only 2 in every 10 young people actually start it but just over 1 in 10 control it. These figures seem to suggest that most young people don't take part in violence and disorder and only a small percentage start it but even fewer have it within their capacity to do anything about it.

There is an issue here with regard to the lack of positive peer pressure that can be exerted in those situations. There is a need perhaps to address peer pressure in a meaningful way within the local college. Could this be done as part of the curriculum? One last question, if as according to the table above, only 2 in every 10 young people start violence disorder, who else does?

2.8 Support

The respondents were also asked what types of people they felt were the most supportive to young people

Table 23: Those who young people found the most supportive

Person	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Parents & adults	240	59
Friends	203	50
Community/Youth workers	140	34
Teachers	67	17
Police	30	7
Paramilitary groups	24	6
Clergy	21	5
None	36	9

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within the community. It was also interesting to note that the most supportive category were parents and adults (59%) followed by friends (50%) and youth workers (34%). The value given to these groups contrasted with that given to the police, paramilitary groups and the clergy.

The importance of parents and friends mirrors the findings of an earlier question that asked who young people they would turn to with a problem (Table 5). However, the prominence given to youth and community workers in this question contrasts with the very low percentage (3%) of young people who said they would turn to a youth worker with a problem.

Parents and adults were the most important source of support for both males (60%) and females (58%). Friends tended to be more popular among females (56%) compared to males (45%). Parents and adults also scored highly among 11-13 year olds (76 %) whereas only 37% of 17-19 year olds named this category as important. Teachers also scored much higher among 11-13 year olds (24%) compared to the older age-group (4%).

Questions: *As for those young people would turn to if they needed help, parents and friends were still the two most important, although both were seen as less supportive when dealing with issues but only slightly less. Amazingly, young people, found Community/Youth workers the third most supportive even considering they were the least likeliest to be approached if young people need support (Table 5).*

A worrying aspect is that 9% of respondents felt that they found none of those listed supportive. Whilst there were fewer options than contained in Table 5 this does seem to suggest that there are a number of young people who have no-one to turn to if help is required. Worryingly for the clergy only 5% of young people find them supportive whilst surprisingly 7% found police supportive, just slightly higher than paramilitaries.

Is there any correlation between those who found no one supportive and those of whom engaged in anti-social behaviour? Are there many issues or worries being overlooked due to young people not feeling they have someone they can turn to? Why have young people turned to both paramilitaries and police in almost equal measure? What are the implications for clergy?

2.9 General attitudes

The final section of the questionnaire explored the opinions of young people to a diverse range of statements. These can be broadly grouped into statements about values and behaviour; about use of drugs and alcohol; about crime; about racism and 'otherness' and about moral positions.

Table 24: Attitudes to School and Bullying

Activity	Always OK	Sometimes OK	Never OK
Lying to a teacher	4	55	41
'Dobbin' school	2	22	76
Bullying	2	3	95
Telling a teacher you have been bullied	72	18	10
Telling on someone	10	66	24

In Table 24 the first group of statements refer broadly to matters relating to school. These reveal some ambivalence about lying to teachers and 'dobbin' school, with 59% saying lying to teacher was OK in some circumstances and 25% saying the same about missing school. In contrast only 5% felt that bullying was ever acceptable and 90% felt it was appropriate to report acts of bullying to a teacher and 76% also said it was OK to tell on someone.

Questions: *Worryingly (for St. Brigids College in particular) 6 in 10 young people are prepared to lie whilst a quarter are prepared to 'dobb' school although for the vast majority it is a case of sometimes ok to do this and not always. However, greater examination of why it is ok in any circumstance should take place. Reassuringly for the school 95% said Bullying was never ok but as 5% said it was sometimes or always ok then it would seem to suggest its presence in some form.*

Even more worrying is that 10% said that it was never ok to tell a teacher if you're being bullied which rises to 24% who say its never ok to tell on anyone. This suggests some form of code exists among young people and that there are many young people who do not speak out when being bullied. What are the implications or consequences if you do? Are there any issues that aren't being dealt with? Are young people suffering in silence? Is there ways that young people can let someone know if they're being bullied for example? Is it wrong to tell a teacher because it's a teacher? If it was someone else that pupils could inform or turn to would it make it more acceptable and might it be easier to do so?

The section about use of drugs and alcohol reveal a clear difference between attitudes to legal and illegal drugs.

As can be seen from Table 25 (overleaf) sixty percent of young people felt drinking alcohol was OK in some situation and 44% felt the same about buying alcohol for a friend. In contrast a large majority of respondents were of the opinion that it was never ok to use a variety of illegal drugs, such as cannabis (87%), E (97%), heroin and aerosols (97%).

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Table 25: Attitudes to Drugs and Alcohol

Activity	Always OK	Sometimes OK	Never OK
Drinking alcohol	9	51	40
Buying alcohol for a friend	9	35	57
Using cannabis	3	10	87
Using Es	1	2	97
Buying drugs for a friend	2	5	94
Taking heroin	1	2	98
Sniffing glue/aerosol	1	2	97

A large majority (83%) of the older 17-19 age group said it was always or sometimes OK to drink alcohol and the figure was also surprisingly high among 14-16 year olds at 74%. Similar attitudes were found when asked whether it was OK to buy alcohol for friends with 59% of the 14-16 year old group believing this to be so.

Questions: *Whilst the figures for those who think its always or sometimes ok to drink alcohol is not surprising, i.e., 6 in 10, 4 in 10 say it's never ok. Is it a misconception then that all young people drink? Have young people been done a disservice when it is assumed all young people want to drink? However, why do so many young people think it is acceptable? What are the reasons for drinking - peer pressure, escapism, feel good factor? Further examination of why young people choose to drink needs to be carried out.*

The figures are almost reversed for buying alcohol for friends? Why do young people view it this way? Why is it never ok for 6 in 10 and in what situation is it sometimes ok? With regard to drugs, according to our figures, its use is by and large unacceptable although the attitude to Cannabis is more tolerant than that of other drugs mentioned. Why? What is the thinking behind the attitudes and is it a true reflection of young people's attitudes in general?

The next set of statements looked at attitudes to Crime and Violence. Taking into consideration that half of the sample knew someone who had been involved in fighting with people from the same area, it was of interest to look at the young people's attitudes to crime and violence. The survey revealed that a high percentage of young people expressed disapproval of the various forms of criminal activity that they were questioned about, stealing was never OK for 97%, joy-riding was opposed by 94%, claiming benefits that you were not entitled to by 84% and 'breaking the law' by 83%.

However, attitudes to forms of violence reveal very different patterns: 77% of respondents said using violence

in self-defence was OK in some situations, while 55% said taking revenge was acceptable and 53% said fighting was OK and more worryingly 30% believed carrying a weapon was OK.

There were some differences between males and females in attitudes to weapons with 37% of males believing it OK to carry a weapon whereas among females the figure

Table 26: Attitudes to Crime and Violence

Activity	Always OK	Sometimes OK	Never OK
Stealing money or things	0	2	97
Using things without permission	1	37	63
Claiming benefits not entitled to	3	13	84
Breaking the law	1	16	83
Carrying a weapon	2	29	69
Using violence in self-defence	29	48	23
Taking revenge	11	44	46
Fighting	3	50	48
Spraying/painting graffiti	2	20	78
Joy-riding	1	5	94

was 25%. The use of violence in self-defence was also more acceptable to young men with 81% of males believing it to be OK in some circumstances compared to 72% of females. Similarly fighting was seen as always or sometimes OK by 60% of males, but only by 45% of females.

There were also differences in attitudes in relation to age, with 86% in the 14-16 age-group believing that the use of violence in self-defence was always or sometimes OK compared to 79% in the 17-19 group and 64% in the 11-13 age-group. In regard to fighting, 39% of the 11-13 age group and 55% of the 14-16 age group believed it to be OK, while 67% of the 14-16 age group felt the same.

Question: *Why do 55% say taking revenge is ok and 30% think carrying a weapon is acceptable? What are the reasons for this? This requires further examination. On a positive note, apart from using violence in self-defence all others scored low in the Always ok bracket which suggests stronger values than might normally be perceived among young people. At least 9 out of every 10 young people said stealing and joy riding was never ok whilst 8 in every 10 said that breaking the law, graffiti and claiming benefits you weren't entitled to is never Ok.*

Worryingly less than half said that fighting or taking revenge was never ok. Whilst for many taking revenge might be a

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natural reaction to a given solution the notion that it is sometimes or always ok to fight is concerning - does this mean young people are devoid of any other ideas as to how to resolve conflict or do they perhaps choose to ignore them? Males in each age group are ok with fighting as is the case with significant numbers of female respondents.

The vast majority (95%) of respondents believed that racism was never OK, and high percentages of young people also felt that calling people names such as Paki

Table 27: Attitudes to Racism & Otherness

Activity	Always OK	Sometimes OK	Never OK
Racism	1	4	95
Calling people Jaffas/Huns	12	20	68
Calling people Fenians/Taigs	3	10	87
Calling people Gypsies/Stokes	6	18	76
Calling people Chinks	3	10	87
Calling people Paki	3	10	87
Calling people Lessie	5	14	82
Calling people faggot/queer/poof	7	20	73
Calling people Tout	10	28	62

and Chinks or Fenians and Taigs was never acceptable. However fewer people (73%) objected to the use of homophobic abuse, while 32% felt it was OK to call someone a Jaffa or Hun in some circumstances. Males were also more likely to feel that use of Jaffa or Hun was more acceptable than females (64% - 24%).

Question: Significant numbers of young people felt it was never ok to call anyone names, racist, sectarian, homophobic or otherwise. Ninety-five per-cent felt racism is wrong but differentiated this from name calling for people from different background. This suggested that for many young people that name calling is not racist. Interestingly, 32% thought it was ok to call people 'Jaffa' or 'Hun' as compared with 13% using 'Fenians'/'Taigs.' Again, some examination of these attitudes is required as is the case with Homophobia as almost 1 in 5 young people thought it was ok to use terms 'lessies' whilst almost 1 in 3 thought it ok to use 'faggot', 'queer', etc.

The final group of questions addressed young people's attitudes in relation to a range of moral positions and values. These revealed that a large majority believed it was never OK to treat women differently from men,

while 78% felt that divorce was acceptable in some situations and 24% felt the same about abortion. Few young people felt that eating meat was wrong, and more

Table 28: Moral Positions

Activity	Always OK	Sometimes OK	Never OK
Treating women differently	4	15	82
Divorce	7	71	22
Abortion	2	22	77
Eating meat	66	28	7
Wearing real fur	28	43	29
Cloning animals	9	30	61
Medical experiments on animals	6	26	69
Throwing litter in a public place	9	38	54

than two thirds did not object to wearing fur, but 61% objected to cloning animals and 69% felt that conducting medical experiments on animals was never OK. Over half of young people (54%) also felt that throwing litter in a public place was never appropriate.

Questions: When questioned about Moral Positions, there is a real mix of opinion. On one hand 8 in 10 believe it never ok to treat a woman differently whilst only 2 in 10 think divorce is never ok. Almost a quarter believe that abortion is sometimes or always ok. More than two-thirds think its ok to wear fur whilst at least one third of young people think it is ok to clone animals and carry out medical experiments.

Almost half think it's ok to throw their litter in a public place. These percentages alone throw up some very interesting figures and suggest that young people are perhaps better informed about a wide range of issues than previously thought. Equally it could be argued that responses are based on reactions and do not offer a clear insight. Considering the wealth of debate and the presence of pressure groups on issues such as fur, cloning and medical experiments it might be natural to assume young people adopting a 'Never ok' position on those issues. However, until such a time that these issues are further examined and debated opinions will remain divided.

Section 3 - Conclusions

3.1 Summary

This report summarises the findings of a survey of nearly half the pupils attending St Brigid's College in Carnhill. It reveals something of their feelings and experiences across a broad range of issues from family life, local facilities, experiences of violence and disorder and attitudes to drugs and racism.

A large majority of respondents came from two-parent households and lived in nuclear families, but a significant minority, 23%, came from single parent households. It was reassuring to find that a large majority of young people engaged in a wide range of activities with their families. However, the survey also revealed that a majority of **young people felt that family life and health were the issues of most concern to them.**

The majority of respondents felt a great affinity to the area in which they lived, but there was a general consensus that **more facilities and activities were needed.** The most favoured new facilities were, somewhat surprisingly, an ice-rink and an outdoor pursuit centre. **The most popular places for young people by a long way were the Bowling Alley, Northside Shopping Centre and Templemore Sports Complex.** The high number of respondents who used these facilities in comparison to local youth clubs is striking. Only 20% of respondents referred to regular use of the Shantallow Controlled Youth Club.

Young people also tended to visit the city centre on a regular basis, primarily to go shopping and to meet friends. The main modes of transport, perhaps not surprisingly given the ages involved were bus and taxi.

It is worth noting that young people, who are often accused of harassing adults and contribute to their sense of fear, **do not really feel safe in the area themselves particularly at night-time or without any friends.** Young people also referred to the area as experiencing some incidents of violence and disorder but also referred to the main activities being of 'lower level', such as graffiti and damaging of property. Perhaps surprisingly, joyriding scored highly, both in activities referred to and also when asked if they knew of anyone involved in activities.

Somewhat worryingly a large number of young people cited **fighting with people from their own area as a common activity,** something which might also explain the high number of young people not feeling safe in the area. **Peer-pressure and the role of friends also came out as being quite significant as a reason for being involved in violence and disorder.** However, a majority of young people had not actively tried to prevent a friend from getting involved.

Young people in the survey also expressed very strong opinions on activities such as crime, drug use and general anti-social behaviour. **They were strongly opposed to use of illegal drugs, but more accepting of alcohol. They were critical of activities such as claiming benefits when not entitled and stealing, but more tolerant of using violence and carrying weapons.**

The vast majority were **opposed to racism and the use of racist name calling, but were more tolerant of terms of abuse such as calling someone Jaffa, Hun, a tout or of forms of homophobic abuse such as queer and faggot.**

This survey has highlighted certain issues, which are prominent in the lives of young people in the Greater Shantallow Area. It is hoped that this report will raise awareness of the attitudes and experiences of young people in the Greater Shantallow Area, and will provide youth and community workers and service providers with a greater knowledge of the range of issues and concerns that they might need to address and respond to.

Some of the key issues are listed below - questions have been added in an attempt to stimulate how this might lead to action. We have put these under three headings: Services to Young People, Role of Family and Working with Peers. This on one hand is to try and put some sort of structure to the process of responding to these questions but on the other should not be seen as exhaustive, restrictive or the only option.

Hopefully, the end result is that agencies, families and young people can work together to respond positively to the issues raised. We at Off the Streets will use findings to inform our own practice. However, individuals and agencies with a responsibility for young people in the Greater Shantallow Area can use also this document as the basis for guiding their own practice and in doing so attempting to create long-term change for young people and ultimately the community.

Section 3 - Conclusions

3.2 Questions For Consideration

Area	Questions For Consideration
Services to Young People	The perception of professionals as a source of support for young people is poor and should be addressed by all agencies that have responsibilities for young people.
	Support structures/networks for young people - young people need to know of services available, i.e., where they can access help, information and advice. Do we promote our services well enough to young people?
	Failure of youth provision (both statutory and voluntary) to provide for young people as compared with alternative options such as going to the Bowling Alley, Cinema, etc. What should we do to address this?
	Lack of facilities in the area - young people are clearly willing and able to travel outside of their area to locations where they can meet their peers (including a strong cinema going population). What can we do to promote or develop facilities within the area?
	Community Safety - young people share many of the same concerns as adults particularly at key times such as night and at weekends. Young people in the 14-16 age group feel safest but are also identified as most likely to be involved in anti-social behaviour. Can this age group be used to positively influence the behaviour of their peers with regard to issues of community safety? How do we make young people in this area more aware of community safety issues?
	Programmes are required at 'key times' to replace the boredom and 'buzz' of deviant behaviour - is more funding required to provide programmes or a greater pooling of resources to alleviate boredom? Where can we access funding and how can we work together in partnership to achieve greater targeting of young people at key times?
	Attitudes to violence, whilst not shocking is worrying. There are high percentages of young people who for instance thinking carrying a weapon and revenge is acceptable. There is a also a growing culture of violence as the only acceptable means of resolving conflict. What can we do to address this?
	There needs to be further examination of attitudes around sectarianism, racism and homophobia. Can we put in place a range of programmes and measures to look at this?
	Are young people well informed and confident decision makers or misled and easily influenced? There is a need for debate on this theme.
Role of Family	The importance and role of the family - families provide a lot of support but is there a need to provide training for parents/adults in dealing with the challenges of adolescent behaviour?
	The lack of male role models, i.e., 1 in 5 boys and young men live at home without their father. What is the long-term consequences of this?
	The gap in the relationship between parents/adults and young people as young people grow older - do agencies need to work together better to deliver programmes that promote the relationships between generations? Is this one way of addressing anti-social behaviour?
Working with Peers	The influence and support of peers. How can we use this positively to minimise risk taking?

Section 3 - Conclusions

3.2 Questions For Consideration

Area	Questions For Consideration
Working with Peers (Continued)	The issue of Peer Pressure needs addressed - pro-active programme addressing issues raised needs to be developed and delivered in co-operation with young people. How should we do this?
	Are there ways that young people can assert their identity and presence without the use of drink and drugs? How can young people be viewed as strong and confident among their peers without the need to access drink and drugs?
	Males are less concerned about a wide range of issues as compared with their female counterparts. Why? What is impact of this?
	Is there a culture of silence among young people where there is great pressure not to tell on your peers even if it means suffering from bullying?

