



National Youth Strategy – Have Your Say Consultation with Young People (Small Groups)

Notes for Facilitators

National Youth Strategy – Consultation Briefing Paper

The National Youth Strategy (NYS) has its basis in the overarching National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*, which outlines five outcome areas:

1. Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being
2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development
3. Safe and protected from harm
4. Economic security and opportunity
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world

The National Youth Strategy will apply the five national outcomes to young people, and sets out how the Government intends to achieve these in collaboration with key partners. The National Youth Strategy is one of three to be completed by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs under the overarching Framework. The others are the National Early Years Strategy and the National Policy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making.

Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures has been informed by over 1,000 written submissions and bilateral discussions with Government departments and state agencies. It was also informed by consultation with over 60,000 children and young people under the age of 18.

A more focussed consultation specific to the National Youth Strategy and engagement with stakeholders, including young people, is taking place, particularly in relation to the priorities for the National Youth Strategy and what actions are needed across Government, agencies and other relevant sectors such as youth sector, business etc. (whole of society approach) to deliver on the strategy and who should carry out these actions and by when.

The emerging priorities builds on *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* and previous consultations that have been carried out with young people over the past three years such as the EU Structured Dialogue Process, *Being Young and Irish*, *Growing Up in Ireland* and other relevant consultations, reports and surveys that have identified issues of importance to young people.

It must be recognised that there are a multitude of issues facing young people in Ireland today. Some of these issues, while they may only reflect a relatively small number of young people are of such concern that they may have to be given precedence. Additionally, the National Youth Strategy, as a whole of Government strategy for young people, will not be able to address in detail every issue raised through the consultation. It will however determine the most pressing priorities at a high level that can be progressed through the National Youth Strategy and identify actions to progress these priorities.

In addition to stakeholder consultations there will be consultations with young people. There are three parallel strands to consulting with young people:

Strand 1 – Online Survey

An online survey for all young people aged 10 – 24 years. This will be widely disseminated through youth organisations and networks, social media etc. Links to the survey may be embedded on youth organisation websites, promoted via Facebook, Twitter and other social media, and a link to the survey that can be directly emailed to young people

Please encourage young people to complete the online survey with a particular emphasis on 15 – 24 year olds (there was extensive consultation for Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures with those under 15 so while their participation in the survey is welcome, we need to ensure we hear the views of those over 15).

Strand 2 – Small Group Discussions

We recognise that not all young people may engage with an online survey for a variety of reasons. Therefore, there is the option to hold small group discussions with such young people (again, focused on 15 year olds and over) and upload the results via the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NYSYoungPeople>

The discussion group content is the same as the online survey. Guidance for holding small group discussions is enclosed. This is intended purely as guidance as the wealth of knowledge and experience of those working with young people is recognised and facilitators may use other methodologies as appropriate to achieve the outcomes required from the discussions, including ensuring the language is appropriate for the group.

Initial Findings from Strand 1 & 2

The initial findings from Strand 1 and 2 will be used to inform the stakeholder consultations days in early November. These days will also be open to young people aged 18 -24.

Strand 3 – National Consultation Day

There will be a one day consultation event for 100 young people aged 15 - 18. This will present back the findings from Strand 1 & 2. It will provide participants with the opportunity to explore the findings in depth and make recommendations for actions to be included in the National Youth Strategy. Details are on www.dcy.ie

If you have any questions in relation to the above please contact Rachael_Murphy@dcya.ie

Consultation with young people through small group discussions

Guidance

The purpose of the group discussions is to allow those young people who, for a variety of reasons, may not engage with the online survey, the opportunity to discuss and input into the National Youth Strategy. The group discussion is not intended to be highly formalised but rather a guided discussion with clear conclusions. The discussions should last 45 - 50 minutes. The conclusions from each discussion can then be uploaded by the facilitator via this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NYSYoungPeople>

The following is intended as guidance only and the group discussion may be facilitated in the way you/your organisation feel is most appropriate. You may also choose to amend the language based on the young people you are facilitating. However, prior to determining how you will design the group discussions please consider the information that you will need to gather in order to complete the online template:

1. Number of young people; genders; ages
2. Location of group
3. Each outcome area to be ranked by the group on a scale of 1 – 5 (1 being most important, 5 being least important)
4. The areas of support for young people ranked in order of importance (1 being most important, 2 next most important and so on)
5. The top areas for young people from the list provided in order of importance (1 being most important, 2 next most important and so on)

Suggested Group Size: Maximum 10

Materials Required: Copies of list of priorities; copy of list of supportive factors

The following is a suggested outline for the group discussions

1. Youth worker acts as facilitator and note taker
2. Record the total number of participants in the group and the number of young people, gender and age brackets (no. of 12 – 14; no of 15 – 17, number of 18+). Record key points throughout the discussion
3. Give brief input on NYS and importance of getting the views and opinions of young people
4. Discuss the following questions and determine priority areas/rankings Attached is a sheet that can be used as a handout or can be displayed on a flipchart.
5. Record determinations of the group. At the end of the session, feed these back to the group and also the key points that you have captured. Upload the conclusions of the group through the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NYSYoungPeople>

Note: The Group should be facilitated to reach a consensus on the rankings. If this is not possible use a method of priority voting or multivoting

Question 1: Five National Outcomes

Please rate each of the five outcomes on a scale of 1 – 5 (1 is the most important and 5 is the least important) in terms of their importance to you (each outcome is to be rated separately so you can have as many 5's or 1's as you like)

Outcome Area	Most Important 1	Quite Important 2	Important 3	Not very important 4	Least Important 5
1. Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being					
2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development					
3. Safe and protected from harm					
4. Economic security and opportunity					
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world					

Question 2: Supportive Factors

The following is based on what young people have said previously helped to support them in their lives. Please consider the list and place them in order of importance. Any number of things can be selected (1 being the most important, 2 next important and so on).

Area	Rank
Family	
Friends	
Teachers/Educators	
Youth Workers/Youth Group volunteers	
Health/Support Workers/Sports Coaches	
Online Support (forums/blogs etc) or Helplines	
Colleagues	
Social Media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat, LinkedIn)	
Hobbies (e.g. dance, drama, art, fishing etc.)	
Sport	
Youth Clubs/Projects	
Financial Independence	
Other – please specify	

Question 3: Areas of Importance

The following list is based on consultations with young people over the past number of years. Please consider the list prioritise - any number of things can be selected (1 being the most important, 2 next important and so on).

Area		Rank
1	Jobs	
2	Learning & Studying	
3	Access to services	
4	Good Mental Health	
5	Included in Community	
6	Cultural Diversity and Integration	
7	Involvement in social issues/participation in politics	
8	Personal & Online Safety	
9	Alcohol and Substance Misuse Prevention	
10	Transport	
11	Dealing with Bullying	
12	Positive Self-Image	
13	Emigration	
14	Relationships & Sexuality	
	Other – please specify	

General Comments

We recognise that the above exercise will have generated lots of debate and discussion. Please summarise the most important points below (200 word maximum). There is also the possibility to reflect back the discussion through the Young People’s Consultation Event.

Handout

Five National Outcomes

1. Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being
2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development
3. Safe and protected from harm
4. Economic security and opportunity
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Areas of Support for Young People

- Family
- Friends
- Teachers/Educators
- Youth Workers/Youth Group volunteers
- Sports Coaches
- Health/Support Workers
- Colleagues
- Social Media
- Hobbies
- Sport
- Youth Clubs/Projects
- Dance/Drama/Arts Based Activities

Areas of Importance to Young People

- Jobs
- Learning & Studying
- Good Mental Health
- Access to Services
- Included in my Community
- Cultural Diversity & Integration
- Involvement in social issues/participation in politics
- Personal & Online Safety
- Alcohol and Substance Misuse Prevention
- Transport
- Dealing with Bullying
- Positive Self-Image
- Emigration
- Relationships & Sexuality

Template for Completion by Facilitator

Date: _____

Location of Group (county): _____

Number of participants:

Male Female

Age range of Participants (please insert the number of participants in each age category)

10 – 14

15 – 17

18 - 24

Question 1: Five National Outcomes

Complete the following based on the consensus of the group's discussion – each outcome area to have a score from 1 – 5 (1 being most important, 5 being least important)

Outcome Area	Score
1. Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being	
2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development	
3. Safe and protected from harm	
4. Economic security and opportunity	
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world	

Question 2: Supportive Factors

Complete the following based on the consensus of the group – any number of things can be selected (1 being the most important, 2 next important and so on)

Area	Rank
Family	
Friends	
Teachers/Educators	
Youth Workers/Youth Group volunteers	
Health/Support Workers/Sports Coaches	
Online Support (forums/blogs etc) or Helplines	
Colleagues	
Social Media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat, LinkedIn)	
Hobbies (e.g. dance, drama, art, fishing etc.)	
Sport	
Youth Clubs/Projects	
Financial Independence	
Other – please specify	

Question 3: Areas of Importance

Complete the following based on the group consensus – any number of things can be selected (1 being the most important, 2 next important and so on)

Area	Rank
1 Jobs	
2 Learning & Studying	
3 Access to services	
4 Good Mental Health	
5 Included in Community	
6 Cultural Diversity and Integration	
7 Involvement in social issues/participation in politics	
8 Personal & Online Safety	
9 Alcohol and Substance Misuse Prevention	
10 Transport	
11 Dealing with Bullying	
12 Positive Self-Image	
13 Emigration	
14 Relationships & Sexuality	
Other – please specify	

General Comments (200 words or less)

The results of the group discussion should be uploaded to the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NYSYoungPeople>