



An Online Survey of
Road Safety Education

in

Youth Services Provision

across
Northern Ireland

July 2015



Providing Inspection Services for

Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Introduction

In 2011, the Department of the Environment (DoE) launched a new road safety strategy for Northern Ireland (NI), '*Northern Ireland's Road Safety Strategy to 2020*'¹ with 199 cross-departmental action measures and four key targets for the reduction in the number of deaths and serious injuries caused on NI's roads.

The key targets are to:

- reduce the number of people killed in road collisions by at least 60% by 2020;
- reduce the number of people seriously injured in road collisions by at least 45% by 2020;
- reduce the number of children (aged 0-15) killed or seriously injured in road collisions by at least 55% by 2020; and
- reduce the number of young people (aged 16 to 24) killed or seriously injured in road collisions by at least 55% by 2020.

The key targets will be measured against the baseline average figures for deaths and serious injuries for the period 2004-2008. During this period, the total number of fatalities declined from 147 in 2004 to 107 in 2008, as did the total number of serious injuries falling from 1183 in 2004 to 990 in 2008. Similarly, the number of child fatalities reduced from eleven in 2004 to seven in 2008, and the child serious injuries range from 140 in 2004 to 94 in 2008.

To assist in achieving these challenging targets, the road safety education provision within schools and youth work is recognised in '*Northern Ireland's Road Safety Strategy to 2020*' as having an important role in developing children's and young people's attitudes and behaviours to become safer road users, as children and as adults in later life. Within the strategy, action measure 185 requires the Department of Education (DE) to:

Conduct a baseline survey, via questionnaire, of the issues facing schools and youth services (youth work) in relation to road safety education. The DE is to give due consideration to the findings and consider whether to commission additional work from the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI).

Subsequently, in March 2012 the ETI published the findings of a baseline survey of the road safety education provided in schools across NI². This report presents the findings of a similar online survey of the road safety education provided through youth work across NI. Due to the diverse and contextual nature of youth work, including road safety education, the findings from this online survey will be not be used to baseline any future follow-up work.

¹ The full strategy document is available at <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/road-safety>

² The baseline survey report is available at <http://www.etini.gov.uk>

2. The survey

During the period April to June 2014, youth centres³ from the statutory⁴ and voluntary⁵ youth sectors across NI were invited⁶ to participate in a survey via an online questionnaire. The questionnaire covered the following key areas:

- the range and nature of the road safety education provision;
- the use of external agencies to support the delivery of road safety education;
- the professional development requirements to support staff to deliver road safety education; and
- the promotion and provision of high-visibility clothing or accessories.

Based on information provided by the DE, at the time of the survey there were 98 youth centres controlled by the Education and Library Boards⁷ and 1,738 controlled by voluntary groups. In most youth centres, there are multiple age-specific and/or gender-specific programmes. The youth centres were asked to submit separate survey returns for age or gender specific groups, where these exist in the youth centre. In total, there were 176 survey returns received from 160 youth centres, of which 133 (76%) were from the voluntary youth sector, and 43 (24%) were from the statutory youth sector. Overall, only 9% of the youth centres responded to the survey. A comparison of the youth centres in the sample against the target population in terms of some key characteristics suggests that the sample does not accurately represent the population of youth service providers in NI and may therefore be biased. For example, the voluntary youth sector is under-represented⁸. For this reason caution should be used in making generalisations about all youth centres based on the findings of this survey.

3. Presentation of results

Percentages derived from base numbers of less than 100 should be viewed with caution to avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions from the data. In this report, such cases are indicated by ***** Caution small numbers*. For questions 6a and 6b of the survey, the number of respondents is less than 100.

4. Key findings

Provision

- Only a small number of the respondents are involved in any regional or local planning for the provision of road safety education for young people.

³ This is a generic title used in this report to cover all youth service providers.

⁴ Comprises of youth centres overseen by the Education Authority.

⁵ Comprises voluntary youth organisations that work with children and young people across Northern Ireland.

⁶ In May 2014, the ETI requested all of the legacy Education and Library Boards, Youth Council NI and YouthNet NI to distribution a letter of invitation to participate in the survey to all of the youth service providers on their mailing lists. This request was followed-up with a reminder letter four weeks later.

⁷ Known as the statutory youth sector; the Education Authority replaced the Education and Library Boards on 1st April 2015.

⁸ The response rate from the voluntary sector is 8%, compared to 44% from the statutory sector.

- Most (76%) of the respondents provide contextual responses to road safety issues on at least an occasional basis⁹.
- A majority (72%) of the respondents never provide safer driving talks for young drivers.
- A majority (67%) of the respondents never provide vehicle passenger safety talks.

External Support

- Only a minority (17%) of the respondents receive any advice from an external agency or support in their delivery of road safety education to young people.
- Most (86%) of the respondents in receipt of external support receive it from the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).
- A minority (24%) of the respondents in receipt of external support receive it from the Department of the Environment (DoE).

Professional Development

- Almost all (93%) of the respondents would value additional professional advice and guidance to support them in the delivery of road safety education.

High-visibility Clothing or Accessories

- Only a small proportion (5%) of the respondents promotes the use of, or provides high-visibility clothing or accessories for the young people, to aid safe walking to and from the youth centre.

5. Conclusions and key considerations

Based on the survey findings, it is noteworthy that most (76%) of the youth centres who responded, at least occasionally, provide contextual responses to any road safety issues that arise locally. It is a concern, however, that a majority of the respondents do not provide any road safety talks for young drivers or for vehicle passengers. Going forward, the survey has identified the following key questions that would benefit from further consideration and guide any future development:

- ❖ How can youth centres be more involved in any regional and/or local planning of road safety educational programmes to enable them to provide a more relevant and complementary road safety programme for the communities they serve?
- ❖ How can the unique role of youth work be further developed and supported by key stakeholders to more effectively promote road safety education, particularly in relation to any areas identified by local communities as high-risk?

⁹ In the context of this report, on an occasional basis is defined as road safety educational activities occurring at irregular intervals, usually in response to a local need. These activities are very infrequent insofar as some young people may not experience them during their period of attendance at the youth centre.

- ❖ How can the DE raise awareness amongst youth centres of the very useful advice and support available to them from a wide range of external agencies?
- ❖ How can existing agencies and bodies currently responsible for road safety education across NI promote and build further capacity for the delivery of road safety education within youth work?

SURVEY FINDINGS

6. Provision

Context

Youth work provision is characterised by the diverse nature and voluntary participation of young people, ranging from four years old to 24 years of age. The statutory youth service, provided by the Education Authority, and the wide range of voluntary youth groups, collectively provide an informal setting for young people to socialise and develop their personal attributes, such as self-esteem, personal responsibility and respect for others. Consequently, the young people are provided with a wide range of structured activities to underpin their personal and social development. This often involves age-appropriate activities to increase their awareness of, and capacity to cope with, adverse cultural issues, such as alcohol abuse. This may also include opportunities to address personal safety issues, including road safety.

The majority (57%) of the youth centres that responded offer mixed gender provision; there is a good range of age bands provided for. Almost one-third (31%) of the youth centres offer provision for 9-18 year olds specifically. Although the youth centres may offer provision for a wider age range of age bands, Table 1 indicates the degree to which specific age bandings are provided for by the responding youth centres. A further breakdown of the age and gender provision of youth centres is available in Annex 1.

Age bands	% of the respondents representing for age bands
4 to 8	26%
9 to 13	74%
14 to 18	71%
19 to 24	15%

Table 1: Breakdown of respondents providing for specified age bands¹⁰.

Of the 176 respondents, only a small number were involved in regional and/or local planning for the provision of road safety education for young people within their youth centre.

Nature and frequency of the road safety education

Based on the returns provided, the nature and frequency of the road safety education provided for young people by youth centres is very diverse, with considerable variance in the frequency of the activities provided, as illustrated in Figure 1. The most common road safety education activity is the provision of contextual responses to road safety issues that arise locally; just over three-quarters of the respondents provide this type of road safety education on at least an occasional basis. A majority of the respondents provide specific road safety talks or safety talks incorporating road safety, on at least an occasional basis. Only a minority, however, provide these talks on an annual basis. It is a concern that only a significant minority of the respondents provide road safety talks for young drivers or on vehicle passenger safety.

¹⁰ Youth centres have been counted against each age band for which they have provision. For example, a youth centre with provision for 4-24 year olds has been counted once in each age band. Percentages are calculated on the base of 176 youth centres responding

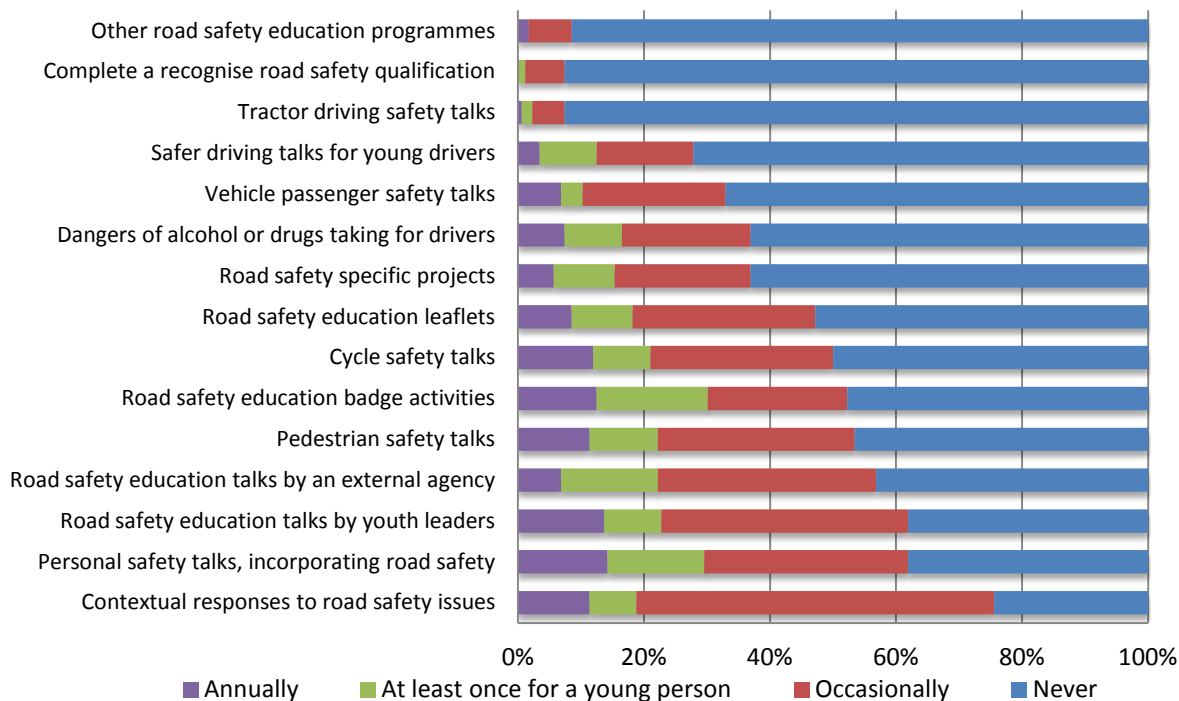


Figure 1: Nature and frequency of road safety education activities.

7. External support

Of the 176 respondents, only 17% (29) had ever received any support or advice from an external agency in the delivery of road safety education to the young people within their youth centre. The nature and range of the external support utilised by the youth centres over the last three years is summarised in Table 2. In the youth centres in receipt of external support, it is apparent that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) provides the highest level of advice and support, mainly in the form of an external speaker. Around one-half of the youth centres in receipt of external support, receive this from the headquarters of their parent organisation. Almost all of the youth centres receiving external support were at least satisfied with the quality of the service they received.

External organisation providing support ¹¹	Number of occurrences of providing:						
	Speaker(s)	Posters	Leaflets	Learning Support material	DVD	Website guidance	Other
ELB's curriculum unit	0	1	4	3	0	4	2
PSNI	21	9	12	10	5	4	2
ROSPA	0	0	3	0	0	1	0
NIF&RS	14	5	8	6	3	1	0
DoE	0	2	5	0	0	3	1
Organisation's own HQ	3	2	6	3	1	2	3
Other	2	1	0	0	0	1	2

Table 2: Breakdown of the range and frequency of external support provided¹².

¹¹ See glossary of terms.

8. Professional development

Most (93%) of the youth centres who responded would value additional professional advice and guidance to support them in the planning and delivery of a suitable road safety education provision within their youth services setting.

9. High-visibility clothing or accessories

Only a small proportion (5%) of the respondents promotes the use of, or provides high-visibility clothing or accessories for the young people, to aid safe walking to and from the youth centre.

¹² Based on 29 respondents who had received some form of external support.

Survey results

Question 1. Type of youth centre provision

Voluntary		Statutory		Total	
%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency
75.6%	133	24.4%	43	100.0%	176

Question 2. Gender and age range of youth centres

Age band	Female only	Male only	Mixed	Information Missing	Total	%
	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	
Information missing	0	0	0	5	5	2.8%
4 to 8	0	0	10	0	10	5.7%
4 to 13	0	0	7	0	7	4.0%
4 to 18	0	0	17	0	17	9.7%
4 to 24	0	0	12	0	12	6.8%
9 to 13	13	5	10	0	28	15.9%
9 to 18	8	20	27	0	55	31.3%
9 to 24	0	5	7	0	12	6.8%
14 to 18	11	6	10	0	27	15.3%
14 to 24	2	0	0	0	2	1.1%
19 to 24	0	0	1	0	1	0.6%
Total	34	36	101	5	176	100.0%
%	19.3%	20.5%	57.4%	2.8%	100.0%	

2a. Breakdown of respondents providing for specified age bands¹³

	Number of responds providing for age band	% of respondents providing for age bands
4 to 8	46	26.1%
9 to 13	130	73.9%
14 to 18	125	71.0%
19 to 24	27	15.3%

¹³ Youth centres have been counted against each age band for which they have provision. For example, a youth centre with provision for 4-24 year olds has been counted once in each age band. Percentages are calculated on the base of 176 youth centres responding.

3. Youth centres number of days of operation per week

No of days of operation per week								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Frequency	90	17	14	19	16	15	5	176
%	51.1%	9.7%	8.0%	10.8%	9.1%	8.5%	2.8%	100.0%

4. Is your youth centre involved in any regional or local planning regarding road safety issues within your area?

Yes		No		Total	
%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency
2.3%	4	97.7%	172	100.0%	176

5. How frequently are the following road safety education activities provided?

	At least once a year		At least once during young person's time at the youth centre		Occasionally		Never		Total	
	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency
How often do you provide a badge/activity on road safety education	12.5%	22	17.6%	31	22.2%	39	47.7%	84	100.0%	176
How often do you provide road safety talks provided by an external agency	6.8%	12	15.3%	27	34.7%	61	43.2%	76	100.0%	176
How often do you provide road safety talks/advice provided by the youth group leaders	13.6%	24	9.1%	16	39.2%	69	38.1%	67	100.0%	176
How often do you provide a road safety information leaflet	8.5%	15	9.7%	17	29.0%	51	52.8%	93	100.0%	176
How often do the youth group leaders respond contextually to any road safety issues	11.4%	20	7.4%	13	56.8%	100	24.4%	43	100.0%	176
How often do the young people carry out a specific road safety project	5.7%	10	9.7%	17	21.6%	38	63.1%	111	100.0%	176
How often do you provide talks/presentations for young drivers to promote safe driving	3.4%	6	9.1%	16	15.3%	27	72.2%	127	100.0%	176
How often do you provide talks/presentations on driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs	7.4%	13	9.1%	16	20.5%	36	63.1%	111	100.0%	176
How often do you provide talks/presentations on pedestrian safety	11.4%	20	10.8%	19	31.3%	55	46.6%	82	100.0%	176
How often do you provide talks/presentations on cycle safety	11.9%	21	9.1%	16	29.0%	51	50.0%	88	100.0%	176
How often do you provide talks/presentations on tractor safety	0.6%	1	1.7%	3	5.1%	9	92.6%	163	100.0%	176
How often do you provide personal safety talks/presentation, which include aspects of road safety	14.2%	25	15.3%	27	32.4%	57	38.1%	67	100.0%	176
How often do you complete a recognised road safety external award/qualification	0.0%	0	1.1%	2	6.3%	11	92.6%	163	100.0%	176
How often do you provide talks/presentations on passenger safety	6.8%	12	3.4%	6	22.7%	40	67.0%	118	100.0%	176
How often do you provide another road safety programme/activity, different from those described above	1.7%	3	0.0%	0	6.8%	12	91.5%	161	100.0%	176

6. Have you ever received any support or advice from an external body or agency in planning or delivering road safety education to the young people within your youth centre?

Yes		No		Total	
%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency
16.5%	29	83.5%	147	100.0%	176

6a. Please select the degree to which following bodies/agencies that have provided you with assistance in delivering your road safety education, including the nature of that assistance, over the last three years

	Speaker	Posters	Leaflet	Support material	DVD	Website	Other	Overall total***
	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency
ELB's curriculum development unit	0	1	4	3	0	4	2	10
PSNI	21	9	12	10	5	4	2	25
ROSPA	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	3
Fire and Rescue Service	14	5	8	6	3	1	0	16
DoE	0	2	5	0	0	3	1	7
HQs	3	2	6	3	1	2	3	14
Other	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	5

6b. How satisfied are you with the resources offered?

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Total
	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency
ELB's curriculum development unit	3	6	1	0	10
PSNI	19	5	1	0	25
ROSPA	0	2	1	0	3
Fire and Rescue Service	13	3	0	0	16
DoE	1	5	1	0	7
HQs	4	10	0	0	14
Other	2	3	0	0	5
Total	42	34	4	0	80
Overall % satisfaction***	52.5%	42.5%	5.0%	0.0%	100.0%

*** Caution small numbers

7. With respect to safe walking to and from the youth centre, does your setting provide/promote reflective clothing/accessories?

Provide only		Promote only		Both provide and promote		Neither		Total	
%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency
0.0%	0	0.0%	0	5.1%	9	94.9%	167	100.0%	176

8. Would you value professional advice and guidance to plan and deliver a suitable road safety education within your youth centre?

Definitely Not		Probably Not		Probably Yes		Definitely Yes		Total	
%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency
2.3%	4	5.1%	9	42.0%	74	50.6%	89	100.0%	176

Glossary of abbreviations

Abbreviation/Term	Definition
DE	Department of Education for Northern Ireland
DoE	Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland
NIF&RS	Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
ROSPA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

Quantitative terms

In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75% - 90%
A majority	-	50% - 74%
A significant minority	-	30% - 49%
A minority	-	10% - 29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

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