

Contents

[Welcome to Issue 2!](#)

[Focus on community relations](#)

[Surveys On-Line](#)

[Young Life and Times](#)

[ARK Policy Unit](#)

[Recent publications](#)

[Coming soon](#)

[About ARK](#)

[Contact us](#)

Welcome to Issue 2!

Welcome to Issue 2 of the ARK newsletter, which highlights ARK's events and resources. Given that the *Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration* strategy document is now available for consultation, this issue includes a section focusing on ARK's resources on community relations. The ARK Policy Unit is also highlighted. We hope that you will find something of interest.

[Back to top](#)

Focus on community relations

Surveys On-Line

[Surveys On-Line \(SOL\)](#) provides quick and easy access to information on a range of academic and voluntary sector social surveys. A major part of the SOL website provides time series data on community relations, with three main resources:

- [Tables of attitudes of adults](#) - beginning with the 1989 Northern Ireland Social Attitudes survey, and running up to the 2009 Life and Times Survey.
- [Tables of attitudes of 16 year olds](#) - data from the Young Life and Times surveys, from 2003 to 2009.
- [Dataset](#) containing key community relations variables from 1989 to 2009.

These resources allow us to see how attitudes to community relations have changed – or not.

[Back to top](#)

Young Life and Times

In 2009, the Young Life and Times (YLT) survey included questions on volunteering among 16-year olds. On 16 September, *Volunteer Now* is holding an event at Queen's University to present the findings of how volunteering is related to community relations in Northern Ireland. Further information on the event, and details on how to register, can be found on the [YLT website](#).

[Back to top](#)

ARK Policy Unit

ARK aims to support policy development and debate in Northern Ireland through providing information and critical analysis. Over the last two years, the Policy Unit of ARK has built on its close connections to the voluntary sector and initiated links with policy makers within the Northern Ireland Assembly and Government departments. It has worked to develop a facility for a more critical appraisal of policy which is based on knowledge and evidence, and to encourage public engagement with social policy.

During 2010, the Policy Unit has organised two policy roundtable events, and has also initiated a Policy Brief series. This series aims to explore key policy issues facing Northern Ireland, and draws on published research evidence and the discussions at the associated policy roundtables (see Recent Publications below).

For more information, visit the [Policy, Research and Resources](#) section of the ARK website.

[Back to top](#)

Recent publications

ARK produces a range of publications, including Research Updates and fact sheets. For further information visit our [Publications](#) page.

Our most recent publication is a Policy Brief focusing on [Welfare to Work](#) by Ann Marie Gary and Goretta Horgan.

[Back to top](#)

Coming soon

Results from 2010 Kids' Life and Times.
The 2010-11 ARK seminar series – visit the [Events](#) section for more details.

[Back to top](#)

About ARK

ARK is a joint initiative between Queen's University and the University of Ulster, and began in 2000. Our mission is to make social science knowledge on Northern Ireland easily accessible to the widest possible audience. Most of our dissemination is via our website at www.ark.ac.uk, which is divided into four main areas:

- [Surveys](#)
- [Conflict, Politics and Elections](#)
- [Policy, Research and Resources](#)
- [Outreach, Dissemination and Training](#)

[Back to top](#)

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[Back to top](#)