something to say!
a condensed TRIPROJECT report
on the views of young school leavers
in the Derry City Council District areas

CONDENSED

Drugs
Education
Violence
Inclusion
Authority

Head of project and author: Rosellen Roche
Something to Say!

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2005 Blackstaff
Derry Youth & Community Workshop was founded in 1978, with the simple aspiration of its founder Paddy Doherty to provide a space for young people to develop. Over the years many thousands of young people have progressed through the Workshop developing from disillusioned teenagers to mature young adults.

Today, the Workshop strives to maintain its ethos and still has as a priority its original aspiration to provide space for young people to develop. In recent years the mission has become more formalised, with a clear aim to prepare young people for “adult working life”. The Workshop delivers nationally recognised qualifications across a variety of vocational and essential skills. It has been successful, evolving to become a Recognised Training Organisation delivering programmes to both the youth and the unemployed in the Derry City Council District areas. It has gained recognition for the quality of its training provision and now has over 400 people enrolled in its various programmes.

The Workshop has had many discussions with its young people aimed at developing a congruent strategy so that staff and students could work together towards achieving its mission. Not only has it been obvious that the concept of “adult working life” means many different things to adults and to teenagers, but even the language used to describe the various concepts is often dissimilar, leading to misunderstanding of each other’s views. Many discussions ended
with adults believing that young people do not want to talk, and young people believing that adults do not want to listen and vice versa.

Six years ago Dr Rosellen Roche appeared at the Workshop to conduct initial qualitative research with young people in our area. The research sought to understand the lives of young people in our city, a community evolving after years of conflict. One of the inspiring aspects of her research was the fact that the young people actively participated in and contributed towards the work. Rosellen was so impressed by the young people that she proposed that they could and should be encouraged to help define their own thoughts and explore their lives and the lives of their peers. It was their input that led to this project.

The Toward Reconciliation and Inclusion Project (TRIPROJECT) has been designed by the young people around subjects that they believe to be important to them. Rosellen has acted as a mentor and interpreter to make their ideas understandable to us as adults.

It is vital that those involved in the design and provision of resources and programmes for young people make the effort to understand what is important in their lives and their environment. This project will make a valuable contribution towards this understanding.
We at the TRIPROJECT have a large number of people to thank for making this project possible, particularly the dedicated staff of Derry Youth and Community Workshop, who hosted the programme and the young people, who wholeheartedly participated, and gave of their time and their effort to every aspect of this project.

We would also like to thank all the staff at all the organisations who participated in the project in some way, including:

Cathedral Youth Club  New Buildings Community Centre
Caw Community Centre  Off the Streets
City of Derry Boating Club  One Parent Group
Clooney Terrace Community House  Open Door Housing
Curryneiran Community Centre  Pilot’s Row
Derry Bytes  Pennyburn Youth Club
Derry Youth and Community Workshop  Prehen Area Group
Divert  Reach Across
Dumahoe Area Group  Shadow Youth Council
Dove House  Shantallow Community Centre
Enterprise Ulster  Shantallow Training Services
Fountain Community Group  Shepherd’s View
Foyer Football Tournament Players  Simon Community
Foyle Trust Leaving and Aftercare  Saint Columb’s Park House
Foyle Youth Forum  Strand Foyer
Gobnascale Area Group  Strathfoyle Community Association
Irish Street Community Centre  Strathfoyle Group
Jefferson Court  Steps
John’s Street Hostel  Tullyally Community Centre
Lettershandoney Community Centre  Twilight Zone Project
Lincoln Court Community Centre  WELB Access and Lift Off Project
Long Tower Youth Club  Whistle Project (Gobnascale)
Maydown Ebrington Group  Wider Horizons
Monday Night Group  Young Women’s Group
Nerve Centre  Youth Action
We would like to extend our gratitude to our funders:

The European Union Programme for Peace and Reconciliation
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The Community Relations Council;
Derry City Council;
The Ireland Funds;
The Honourable the Irish Society.

We would also like to thank all the members of the voluntary board
of DYCW for overseeing the project: Mr Jack McCauley (Chairman),
Mr Ivor Browne, Mr Eddie Dobbins, Mr Aubrey Fielding, Ms Margaret
Logue, Mr John Nicholl, Mrs Geraldine Mellon, and Mr Terry
Wright.

A special thanks needs to be extended to the members of the voluntary academic board consisting of members from both the University of Ulster and the Queen’s University, Belfast, that helped to oversee and advise the project. Particular thanks to Provost Professor Thomas Fraser, Professor Paul
Arthur, Professor Gillian Robinson, Professor Alan Sharpe, Dr
Dominic Bryan, Dr John Mallet and Dr Rosellen Roche.

Many people helped with the formatting of the questionnaire and the processing of the statistical information. An especial thanks needs to be extended to Dr John Mallet of the School of Psychology at the University of Ulster, Magee, for his generous time and effort concerning the cross-tabulation and check of all the data. Thanks to Professor Gillian Robinson, Head
of the Initiative for Conflict Research (INCORE) for her consistent and helpful suggestions regarding questionnaire construction and data analysis. Thanks to Professor Morris Stringer and Mr Patrick McCollum of the School of Psychology and the Social Survey Centre, University of Ulster, Coleraine, for the formatting and processing the questionnaire. Thanks to Ms Deirdre O'Connor, our Finance Coordinator for her steadfast assistance with the project finances and reports. Thanks to Mrs Mairead Hull of DYCW for her painstaking proofing and formatting of the texts. Thanks to Mr Colm McCarrol of MD Internet Services for his formatting and meticulous design of graphical material contained throughout the texts. Thanks to Ms Margaret Mellor for her continuing secretarial assistance to this project.

We would like to thank those that helped to create the documents and visual presentations. In particular, we would like to thank Mr Terry Curran for his insight and design of all documents and the visual presentation. Thanks to Mr Stefan Baxter at CDS/Blackstaff Publications for his time and effort in organising the publications.

All these people were instrumental in the production of this report and we trust that this research will stand as testimony to all their efforts. Equally, it is DYCW's and TRIPROJECT's sincere hope that this work will aid the young people of the future in both the DCCD areas and across Northern Ireland.

Mr Declan Doherty
Chief Executive
Derry Youth & Community Workshop
1 September 2005
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TRIPROJECT, the Toward Reconciliation and Inclusion Project, was a youth initiative, hosted by Derry Youth and Community Workshop between April 2003 and December 2005. Created by, and geared toward young school leavers in the Derry City Council District (DCCD) areas, TRIPROJECT sought to quantitatively and qualitatively uncover some of the most common contemporary concerns facing young people in these areas aged 15-25, both Catholic and Protestant, both male and female.

A third the size of Belfast, Londonderry or the City of Derry, and its local voting district areas (DCCD areas) are split by the River Foyle with the majority of the city’s approximate 66,000 Catholic population living on the commonly called “Cityside” area of the city (Cityside), and the majority of the approximate 24,000 Protestants living on the commonly called “Waterside” area of the city (Waterside).
The City of Derry, long known as a city of industry, currently finds itself one of the least lucrative regions in the North West of the island of Ireland. As implied from this economic decline, deprivation in the DCCD areas is high. 23 of the 30 wards that comprise the DCCD areas are classified as deprived under the Robson indices of deprivation. Indeed, although the city contains just over 5% of all wards in Northern Ireland, it accounts for 10% of the 50 most deprived wards in the region.

In addition to deprivation, all young people currently growing up in this area have been subject to the "Troubles", "Troubles" related installations and the sectarianism that persists in the region. Although many strides towards an integrated and peaceful Northern Ireland have been made throughout the past decade, problems still endure. Changes in policing procedures and reported complaints against the police, paramilitary influences, and persistent segregation, have influenced the city and its people for four decades.

While it has been established that areas with highest levels of violence experience highest levels of deprivation and family poverty in Northern Ireland, the implications of these connected issues for children and young people and how they cope with these ongoing and new pressures have been under-explored, and particularly so in the DCCD areas. Perhaps most importantly, however, research among young people in Northern Ireland generally is conducted among those who are still in school, and has rarely been undertaken dedicatedly among school leavers and those who are most at risk and disadvantaged.

TRIPROJECT hoped to address this need and to probe the concerns of young school leavers in the DCCD areas through multiple cross-community working groups and a questionnaire of the young people's design. Issues covered throughout the scope of the project
included questions regarding schooling and leaving school, pastimes, substance use and abuse, street violence, sectarian threat, as well as attitudes towards police and paramilitaries in the DCCD areas and Northern Ireland as a whole. With a focus to reach those who had left school, the questionnaire was distributed to young people throughout the five DCCD electoral districts with the help of many institutions that worked with young school leavers and young people more at risk or marginalised. Throughout the course of three years, over 900 young people participated in the project as round table participant, outing participant, questionnaire respondent, questionnaire monitor or post questionnaire discussant.

What follows is a condensed report on a unique project reflecting the ingenuity and hard work of all the young people involved in our programme. We hope that these results will assist voluntary and governmental bodies alike in their decision making and we hope that these results will promote further research among and with young people, and particularly young school leavers, both across DCCD districts and Northern Ireland.

To end, this document is intended to provide only a brief synopsis of the project and the young people’s views. Here, we have included only highlights of the results that we hope the reader finds interesting and compelling. We encourage all readers to examine "Something to Say", the complete report, which details in full the project and its outcomes. A copy of the TRIPROJECT questionnaire is also included within the complete report.


3 Indeed, over the decade between 1987-1997, Northern Ireland experienced a higher rate of long-term unemployment than the United Kingdom as a whole during the same period. Cf. NISRA at http://www.nisra.gov.uk/nisra/index.htm.


5 “First Annual Report”, Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (2002a:25). Statistics illustrate that complaints against the police for oppressive behaviour have declined from 2000 to 2002, this possibly following trends as the public awareness of the Ombudsman increased (57% to 86% awareness). Cf. “First Annual Report”, Police Ombudsman (2002a). Due to the accessibility of distributing questionnaires within school environments most surveys noted throughout the complete report had a heavy emphasis on young people still in school.

6 Roche (2005).
ONE
Sample breakdowns, schooling and employment status

Approximately 900 self-report questionnaires were circulated under supervision around Derry City Council District areas (DCCD areas) in an opportunity sample between 30 April 2004 and 20 July 2004. The survey closed on 25 July 2004, with the last questionnaires being collected on that date. In total, 514 young people completed the questionnaire. Out of this total, 486 questionnaires were in usable condition and 486 respondents were included in the questionnaire results. All DCCD areas were included throughout the process of the survey and the completion of the questionnaire, with a representative sample from each district compared to population in each age category.

This section documents the total numbers and percentages of respondents according to their reported age, sex and community affiliation. Respondents’ experiences of schooling and their reported current employment status are also discussed in this section. Some areas for consideration then follow.

“\textquote{My ma keeps telling me to move out of here and she’s right. Everyone else’s ma seems to tell them to have wains (children) like and all the rest of it. And just try to get a job. There are no jobs here. My ma used to work in (factory) and they closed that. And my brother is in (factory). I mean, there’s no future in that.}”

17 year old female
TRIPROJECT aimed to focus on the views of young people between the ages of 15-25, with a particular emphasis on those 21 and under, and those who have left school.

51% of respondents were male and 49% were female.

With regard to religious community affiliation, the majority of young people affiliated themselves with either the Catholic or Protestant communities. 65% listed themselves as Catholic and 27% listed themselves as Protestant. Almost 9% listed both (Catholic and Protestant community heritages), atheist, other or no comment categories.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Catholic</th>
<th></th>
<th>Protestant</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>No. Respondents</td>
<td>% Catholic</td>
<td>No. Respondents</td>
<td>% Protestant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The split of the sexes within religious community categories was relatively evenly distributed. 53% of males and 47% of females reported Catholic affiliation. 46% of males and 54% of females reported Protestant affiliation.

Because TRIPROJECT sought to work with as many school leavers as possible and wanted to tap into their experiences, from the outset, we asked all the young people in our survey how young people felt about their experience in school generally. In group discussions, young people had varied feelings about their experiences whether they had left school early or not. Although some did have positive reported experiences of school of all respondents in the sample, reported sex of those in two major community categories out of all respondents in the sample.
feelings about school and their learning experiences, many suffered from feelings of regret and feelings of inadequacy at school. Many young people also noted that their parents encouraged them to leave school to pursue a trade. The majority of these participants came from backgrounds where their families had not pursued further education and their parents had also left school. Finally, there were some candidates who felt they had been academically "left behind" at school and felt like they could never catch up.¹

Of those in the sample, 79% (384 respondents) reported having left school. Of those who reported leaving school, 32% have left school early, with no significant gender difference between those having left school early. Only 21% of the young people sampled considered themselves still in school.

"Just wanting to leave" at 25%, "being bored" at 22%, and "being expelled" at 21%, were the three most popular responses for why young people left school early.

79% of those that left school reported attending a governmental training scheme or noted that they remain unemployed.

Currently, among employment opportunities and vocational training that young people pursue in the DCCD areas, the public sector accounts for almost half (40%) of employment. Employment is increasing in service sectors such as wholesale and retail distribution, hotels,
restaurants, transport and communications. This closely compared to a ten year period (since 1993) which has seen job opportunities grow in direct correlation with the downturn of civil unrest in the city and an upsurge of tourism.\textsuperscript{2}

With 79\% of TRIPROJECT respondents being in the position of having left school, and with 79\% of that population attending a young person’s training scheme (under 18s Jobskills programmes), a New Deal training scheme (over 18s), or remaining unemployed, issues surrounding jobs and job attainment are important for city officials to consider.
For Consideration

Further research addressing why young people feel isolated from schooling environments after leaving should be considered. While factors such as the age of respondents may influence why young people may feel hesitant to think about re-entering education, the "all or nothing" structure of exams and cut off points were a noted hurdle for our young people.

Campaigns to combat stereotyping of the typical student should be considered. All governmental effort should be made to create public awareness of the various ages, classes and creeds who seek out education at many levels. The experiences of young people and older people who have succeeded in pursuing education past the usual years should be promoted through a prominent campaign to make all young people aware that despite some barriers, education is attainable.

Should structures be put in place where the young person who has left school recently could be given a chance to refresh and re-enter mainstream schooling? And if there were such programmes, would the young

"I don't know, ye know? I mean, I should have stayed on maybe and I wouldn't be in here, like (on a training scheme). I think you see things differently after it. I guess it was a good place. All my friends were there. It was good craic. I should have just stopped acting the maggot and got on with it."

18 year old male
school leaver take advantage of them? Little is known about important topics like these and further research should be undertaken to explore whether young people who have left school would feel that a programme that would assist them in re-entering school could be of value to them.

- Finding out why school is "boring" is imperative. Is it the students, the teachers or learning difficulties that affect the young people and those more apt to leave school? Or is it that young people feel, as one young person noted, "overwhelmed" within the schooling environment? While much of the complaint could be bravado to hide insecurity regarding leaving, many young people also made a conscious decision to leave school because they wanted to leave. What are the differences between those that leave school because of boredom and "just because", compared to those who purposely leave? Are there differences to how these young people cope with their futures? Who are the most disaffected and why?

- How can we strive to keep young people interested in school at an early age? Programmes to explore these aspects early within the schooling years are recommended. A pilot project targeting those most disaffected in the early schooling years and providing mentoring opportunities should also be considered. Not unlike the American inner-city school-based
Breakthrough Programme, where trainee teachers are integrated with students most at risk in a mutually beneficial programme, a programme such as this could use already existing schemes and assist the most disaffected students. A programme focused on the school leaver before he or she leaves may help to catch some young people who only need that bit of “help” at home or at school.

- For those furthest from the labour market, hopefully new pilot initiatives such as the governmentally funded Job Assist Centres will help to address the concerns of those who have been unemployed for a long period of time. The results of such a programme remain to be seen and we suggest that it is imperative that those who have sought assistance from these initiatives be consulted for further evaluation of programme goals and targets.

1 Cf. Roche (2005), “Something to Say”, the complete report, for further information regarding questions concerning schooling.
2 Foyle Trade Directory (2002:5).
This section discusses TRIPROJECT findings regarding young people's attitudes and opinions on living in the DCCD areas. Here, we discuss what our young people consider "fun" pastimes as well as "boring" activities. Subjects also explored include topics such as sport and joyriding. Some areas for consideration follow.

Overall, young people were satisfied with living the DCCD areas. When asked if they "liked living in the city and its surrounding areas", a total of 63% of our respondents stated that, "yes", they currently "liked" living in the city and its surrounding areas.
However, when respondents were asked if they would like to live here all their lives, opinions changed. Only 35% continued to report "yes" responses, while a further 65% stated "maybe" or "no".

For those who were dissatisfied, the most common reason for dissatisfaction with living in the DCCD areas was that "it's boring here" at 31%. Others (27%) listed farther flung destinations such as Canada, USA and mainland Europe as destinations they would prefer to visit "for a year or so" or to which to emigrate. 22% felt that "it's not just this city, Northern Ireland is not a nice place to live", while 21% of the respondents noted that they would "like to move anywhere other than here".

Only 50% of Protestants compared to 71% of Catholic respondents stated that they "liked living in the city". However, when listing reasons for dissatisfaction, percentages illustrated that members of both the Catholic and Protestant communities are very close in their reasons regarding their dissatisfaction.
When it comes to "fun" in the city, the middling opinion reigns. Overall, 56% of young people found the city and its surrounds "just alright". Only 20% found it "fun and exciting".

Age defines parameters of "fun" in the city with young people becoming less content as they grow older. While 25% of young people aged 18 and under find the city "fun", only 12% of those aged 19-21, and 16% of those aged over 22 find the city "fun and exciting".

Overall, the 3 most popular recreational activities in the city as noted by the young people were going to dance clubs (62%), going to pubs (56%), and hanging out on the street with friends (46%).

Most popular recreational activities reported by all respondents in the sample (total and sex)
"Aye, this place is alright like. It's just, it's just that I know there is a mile lot out there, if you know what I mean? Like, more jobs and that. And more better living maybe. I don't know, though. I'll probably just stay here like everyone else. It's alright. My family is here."

18 year old female

It's good here. Better than, I don't know, a big city or something. People know ye. They know what you're at. They're good to each other. And they look out for one another."

16 year old female

Although many young people, particularly males, participated in some form of “kick about” games of football, or other games, young people in general felt dissatisfied with the amount of organised sporting opportunities that were available to them. Out of the total population in this survey, only 28% participated in sport on a regular basis, leaving the remaining respondents reporting only occasionally, or never, participating. 39% of males stated that they regularly participated in organised sport compared to 17% of females.
While driving and interest in automobiles are a popular pastime for young people, only 14% of those queried reported having a driving licence. However, 36% of the respondents reported driving without a licence at some point.

Joyriding revealed itself as an activity noteworthy of some concern, with 23% of young people in our sample reporting that they have taken an automobile or been in a car as a joyrider.

More males than females reported their involvement in joyriding, with 26% of males and 20% of females stating that they had participated in joyriding or been in a car as a joyrider at some time.

Findings also indicated that joyriding is a current activity with the highest percentage of participants (28%) being 18 years and under.
"The thing is that there is no one to get things organised, no coaches or anything. I've heard that before, when all the (T)roubles was on and all that, that there used to be all sorts of coaches taking the wee ones to sport to keep them out of bother. Now ye either get it in school, or you find it on your own. But it's all football really. And that never seems to work neither because no one ever turns up."

19 year old male

- Often there are complaints by adults that young people in the DCCD areas seem idle. What these adults are missing is that what may seem the most banal of activities to an adult, often is a highly compelling and important youth activity in and of itself. Too often recreational facilities are thought to "solve" the youth "problem", however what may be missed is the fact that young people have voiced that they often like to seek out places for themselves and their friends. This may be as simple as a street corner where the young people meet. It is important that authorities in the DCCD areas do not approach all young people in the same manner and understand that some "loitering" may be a harmless escape with friends.

- At the same time, young people should be encouraged to use youth facilities at their own pace. And youth facilities should try to meet these needs. The institution of permanent staff at many community and youth clubs has made a large difference in the DCCD areas, but evening and weekend times are still hard to fill. More provision for an "open door" policy at youth and community centres should be considered. We hope that this evidence encourages application in this area.
- More work needs to be accomplished regarding finding out what excites young people, and particularly young school leavers, and what would encourage them to be physically active. Far too few young people regularly engage in exercise activities and a strong and prominent campaign is needed to increase both young men’s and young women’s participation in sport. It is also important to consider varying needs. Many young people have requested an ice rink or skate boarding park in or near the area.

- The realities of joyriding often are ignored by young people. A prominent Northern Irish and local campaign is needed to discourage young people from stealing cars and driving cars illegally. Young people have noted that graphic seat belt campaigns have influenced their wearing of seat belts while travelling. It is suggested that a forceful campaign revealing the illegality, harm, tragedy and reality of joyriding is needed.

6.2. If you could change one thing about the city, what would it be? (Please fill in)

- There would be more social clubs for people 21 plus to meet friends as after school most people drift apart and feel lonely
Throughout our discussions, young people often spoke about the influence of alcohol and drugs in their lives. This section documents TRIPROJECT findings regarding respondents’ reported use of both alcohol and drugs, and sheds some light on why the young people who do use these substances may use them. Some areas for consideration then follow.

Out of our 486 respondents, 40 respondents reported that they have never taken a drink and 77 have never tried a drug. Only 4% or 21 young people who completed the questionnaire reported that they were completely drug and alcohol free.

Most young people indicated that they preferred leisure activities that revolved around pubs or clubs. This places young people in the heart of environments that serve alcohol. 92% of the total sample reported that they drink or have drunk alcohol. There is little difference between the sexes with 91% of males and 93% of females reporting that they drink or have drunk alcohol.

Concerning those young people in our sample who did report that they drink (446 respondents), the most frequently reported ages for getting tipsy or drunk for the first time were the ages of 13 (17%), 14 (12%), 15 (15%) and 16 (13%). A sufficient number of young people also stated that they got tipsy or drunk for the first time at age 11 (14%).
Out of those who drink (446 respondents), the majority of young people (63%) listed that they drink on the weekends. 65% of drinkers aged 18 and under, 65% of drinkers aged 19-21 years and 56% of drinkers aged 22 years and over reported that they drank most often on the weekends.

The average alcohol units consumed when “drinking to get drunk” was between 14 and 16 units. Male drinkers consumed on average 20.45 units. Young female drinkers consumed less at 11.25 units per average night out.

Reported ages when young drinkers first got tipsy or drunk (total and sex)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>% Total</th>
<th>% Male</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To give a sense of what these young people are drinking, these units equal approximately 10 pints of lager or stout, or 13 Northern Ireland pub measures of spirits for men, and 5 pints of lager or stout, or 9 measures of spirits for women. These consumption rates are well over UK guidelines for healthy alcohol consumption noted as no more than 4 units per day for males, and no more than 3 units per day for females.¹

To give a sense of a unit, in ordinary strength drinks (about 4% vol.), a pint of regular lager or cider equals approximately 2 units. A Northern Ireland pub measure of spirit equals 1.5 units, a small pub bottle of wine is 2.25 units and a standard bottle of ready-mixed alcopop drink equals 1.5 units.²
Reported average consumption of drinkers on a night out to get drunk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Average units consumed</th>
<th>No. Respondents</th>
<th>% Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 16</td>
<td>12.74</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 – 18</td>
<td>15.83</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 – 21</td>
<td>17.35</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 – 24</td>
<td>16.10</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 24</td>
<td>11.46</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14.70</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Units of alcohol consumed by different aged drinkers on average night out to get drunk (total and age)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units of Alcohol</th>
<th>% Total</th>
<th>% Under 16 yrs</th>
<th>% 16-18 yrs</th>
<th>% 19-21 yrs</th>
<th>% 22-24 yrs</th>
<th>% Over 24 yrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 through 4 units</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 through 9 units</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1 through 13.5 units</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.6 through 19 units</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.1 through 26 units</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.1 and higher units</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean consumption, however, becomes more disquieting when shown in a detailed age breakdown. Although suspected usage was common, underage drinking revealed itself among those we surveyed. Of those questioned who were under 16 (15 year olds in our sample), the average mean consumption for those who drank to "get drunk" on a night out was 12.74 units. This number rose to 15.83 for drinkers aged 16-18. The highest averages for drinking were among drinkers aged 19-21 years where 17.35 units on average were consumed on a night out to get drunk.
Binge drinking patterns became steeper among those aged 19-24 with the heavier usage being between 9.1-26 units. This use, however, declined in the over 24 category, with average alcohol intake to "get drunk" clustered between 0-13.5 units.

When young people in our survey were asked if they drank too much, many young people didn't think so. When young people were asked to consider what they drank after they listed it in the questionnaire, a large number (37%) altered their opinions of their drinking.

Indeed, after drinkers were asked to list their drinking habits on an average night out to get drunk, 30% of young drinkers in our sample...
stated that they would consider their behaviour excessive. A further 25% said that their drinking was "maybe" excessive. 45% reported that they did not consider their drinking excessive.²

What young drinkers considered physical signs of over-indulgence varied. Young drinkers generally reported "passing out" (63%), "not being able to remember what happened" (59%) and "vomiting" (55%) as the key signs to excessive drinking. 79% of respondents who drink reported that they, at some point, had engaged in drinking to the point where they had fallen over or vomited. Young female drinkers revealed themselves as more sensitive to the signs of excessive drinking.
Regarding illicit drug use, young people consulted throughout the course of TRIPROJECT wanted to create a question that probed both current and past use of drugs. The question also was created to record one time usage, occasional usage or everyday use.

Results indicated that cannabis-based products were the most frequently used drugs. Out of the total sample, 61% (296 respondents) reported current use of cannabis. Of those who responded and reported current use of cannabis, 19% stated that they had tried it once, 66% reported occasional cannabis use, and 15% reported using cannabis everyday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>% Total</th>
<th>% Male</th>
<th>% Female</th>
<th>% Catholic</th>
<th>% Protestant</th>
<th>% 18 yrs and under</th>
<th>% 19-21 yrs</th>
<th>% 22 yrs and over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecstasy</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poppers</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tranquillizers</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magic Mushrooms</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acid</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/Codeine</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glues</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methadone/ Doloine</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number

486 246 239 314 131 255 131 98
Methamphetamines or "speed" follows. 40% (194 respondents) reported current use of speed. Of those who reported using speed, 57% had tried speed once and 43% used the drug occasionally. No respondent reported using the drug everyday.

Ecstasy is the third most popular drug with 32% (155 respondents) in the total sample having stated that they currently use the drug. Of those who reported currently taking ecstasy, 26% reported trying it once, and 73% reported that they used the drug occasionally. Only 1% of users reported using the drug everyday.

Concerning current drug use, on the whole young women exhibited a more experimental culture showing higher percentages in the one time use categories and tapering off as drug use became higher. The exception to this was cannabis; out of the total who reported using cannabis currently (61%), 76% of female users use the drug occasionally, while 4% of female users use the drug everyday. Young male users, however reported using more cannabis everyday with 24% of young male users using the drug everyday and 58% using it occasionally.

Overall, concerning current usage, differences between Catholic users and Protestant users shows variation, with Protestant users having
shown slightly higher percentages with some drugs. However, when examined in detail, Protestant users experimented with more drugs on a one time basis, whereas more Catholic users exhibited more occasional and everyday use of some selected drugs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>% Total</th>
<th>% Male</th>
<th>% Female</th>
<th>% Catholic</th>
<th>% Protestant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inhalants</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecstasy</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magic Mushrooms</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poppers</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acid</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tranquillizers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/Codeine</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodone/Dolopine</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reported past use of drugs revealed that 52% (252 respondents) previously used cannabis at an age earlier than they were at the time of filling in the questionnaire. 42% of those who reported having used cannabis in the past, used between the ages of 10 and 15 years, and 56% reported previous use of cannabis between the ages of 16 and 21 years.

6.2. If you could change one thing about the city, what would it be? (Please fill in)

less Drugs and Violence at Night
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>% Under 10 yrs</th>
<th>% 10-15 yrs</th>
<th>% 16-21 yrs</th>
<th>% Over 21 yrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inhalants</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecstasy</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magic Mushrooms</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poppers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acid</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tranquillizers</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/Codeine</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methadone/Dolopine</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reported age at which past users used drugs (total for each drug used and age)
The second most popular substances that young people used in the past were inhalants. Out of the total sample, 36% (177 respondents) reported having used inhalants at some point in the past, with the overwhelming majority of this use reported between the ages of 10 and 15 years (79%).

Finally, ecstasy was the third most commonly used drug in the past. 35% (172 respondents) reported having used the drug in the past. The majority of those who reported having used "Es" in the past, had taken the drug between the ages of 16 to 21 years (79%).

Below: From whom current drug users reported that they obtained drugs (total and community affiliation [349 respondents])

- Friends: 55, 57, 53
- A dealer: 35, 39, 25
- Several dealers: 30, 28, 34
- Paramilitaries: 7, 8, 7
"It does ye no harm really. It's like smoking. Only it chills you out a wee bit more. It's not like taking speed or anything, so it's not."

19 year old female

For those who currently take drugs, where they obtain drugs is important. Out of those currently using drugs (349 respondents), 55% reported that the most common source for obtaining drugs was friends. Following this, 35% stated a dealer as the best source, while 30% stated that they obtained drugs through several dealers. 7% reported that they obtained drugs through the paramilitaries and 7% through family members.

"Just that wee bit, the bit of 'wacky tobaccy' and you're all relaxed like. If this place would all get on the staff we wouldn't have no fightin' or any of that craic any more. I can tell ye that. Everyone would be pure civil, so they would."

17 year old male

6.2. If you could change one thing about the city, what would it be? (Please fill in)

More things to do - less drug dealers, so I could stop taking them.
Untangling the "whys" of any young person's life is tricky. However, when asked why young people may indulge in alcohol or drugs, out of those who do, 63% reported that they took them because they "want to". Following this, the second most popular answer was that young people just wanted "to chill out" (40%). Thirdly, many young people stated they drink or take drugs "for the excitement of it" (28%). And finally, many young people cited that taking alcohol and drugs were an inevitable process of "the only thing around here to do" (23%).

Noted reasons for using alcohol or drugs by current users (total [333 respondents])
The binge drinking culture is a problem. By asking young people whether they considered their drinking excessive both before and after they listed what they would consume on an average night to “get drunk”, it became apparent that unless shown their intake, many young people were unaware of exactly how much they were drinking. Within discussions, young people noted that the popular television programme, You Are What You Eat, revealed to the viewers what average participants ate within one week. Most participants (and viewers) were horrified at their weekly overindulgence. A campaign on these levels is needed across Northern Ireland and the DCCD areas to make young people aware of the actual amounts of alcohol that they drink on a regular weekend basis. More simply, and as suggested by a young person herself, youth organisations and schools could demonstrate average weekend consumption in school assemblies for both students and parents, and make the point on an immediate level.

Equally, young people noted the ease with which, at any age over 17, they could enter pubs or clubs. Publicans and state bodies perhaps need to think about introducing a system where young people must verify their required age to enter drinking establishments.
This should be enforced by law and with serious fines if underage drinkers are discovered on the premises. One young person stated that authorities should consider "hitting them where it hurts", and "closing them down for a week or more". Although such fines already exist, rarely are they enforced with vigour.

Drugs are here in the DCCD areas and use of them is prevalent among our sample. This is the DCCD areas' chance to become readied for the rising tide of drug use. Young people had little or no understanding aside from immediate personal experience as to the effects of drugs. A programme of awareness and the deleterious effects of drugs is suggested. Our young people, again, suggested that more forceful campaigns make the most inroads with young people and the hard evidence of drug use should be exemplified. They also suggested this campaign, like that against smoking, should be introduced in schools when young people are in their earliest years.

- While some programmes in the DCCD areas already exist and are making inroads, the support for such programmes is important. Too often adults think that Northern Ireland is unaffected by drug use to date and the problem is controlled by community and state influences. Parents and educators also need to be involved in such programmes. Again, programmes introduced early before the use of drugs is prevalent among teens are vital.

Speed is, it's something illegal. Well alright, 'Es are illegal but they're sold like, in packs. You can walk right in (to a dance club) with them like. You can get them from your friend or whatever. Speed. It's a different sort of a thing. It's not like it's something everyone tries. It's a drug, ye know? You have to get from a dealer and that's a whole handling (a bigger problem).

19 year old male
As the problem widens and expands across Northern Ireland, DCCD areas should be prepared. Clinics and rehabilitation centres should be established in conjunction with existing hospital services to give prompt response to those who exhibit habitual use.

Finally, most young people who used alcohol and drugs reported taking substances for a variety of reasons. The most prominent of these reasons were because they wanted to, to chill out, for the excitement of it, because they felt it's the only thing in the DCCD areas to do, and to forget about problems. These few reasons are just some of the myriad concerns the young people involved in our survey have, but also show that the young people are fully aware of why they are taking substances. When so many community organisations involved in the TRIPROJECT voiced a need for staff support and counselling support for their young people, should it not be these concerns that are addressed as well as the substance use? It is hoped that this document will assist in helping to secure support for these various community and youth services to employ the staff needed to address these concerns.

2 "Focus on Alcohol", Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland (2001).
3 Cf. Roche (2005), "Something to Say", the complete report, for further discussion regarding the respondents' responses concerning excessive drinking.
This section discusses TRIPROJECT findings regarding young people's opinions on, and interactions with known authority figures in their lives — namely police and paramilitaries. Here, we also discuss how young people perceive restorative measures and how they feel about personal aspects of retributive justice. Some areas for consideration follow.

"I hate them (police) so I do."
18 year old male

Types of police contact as reported by all respondents (total)

- I was stopped and questioned: 32%
- I was asked to move on: 24%
- They searched me: 18%
- I was shouted at: 17%
- I was involved in committing a crime: 14%
- They often speak to me on the streets while I hang out with friends: 12%
- I threw something at their vehicles or shouted at them: 12%
Contact with police personnel was classified by young people throughout the course of the project as everything from PSNI speaking to young people on the streets to the young people themselves being involved in or witnessing a crime. Out of all the respondents in our sample, the three most common forms of contact with police personnel were listed as: "I was stopped and questioned" (32%), "I was asked to move on" (24%) and "They searched me" (18%).

Important variations occurred between Catholic and Protestant respondents with regard to certain responses. Significantly more Protestants (46%), compared to Catholics (26%) in our sample stated that they have been "stopped and questioned", 33% of Protestants compared to 20% of Catholics reported that they have been "asked to move on", and 25% of Protestants compared to 14% of Catholics in our sample reported that they were "shouted at". However, some
experiences were more evenly distributed across communities. 19% of Protestants compared to 17% of Catholics stated that they "had been searched". Percentages of those who made a complaint were almost equal with 7% of Catholics and 8% of Protestants having reported making a complaint to the police.

Regarding informal and formal police procedures, such as having their names written in police notebooks or being formally charged or arrested, 62% of respondents reported that, at some time, they had their names written in a police notebook as a warning, and 20% had been formally charged or arrested.
329 respondents reported that they had some form of general contact with police. 68% of those young people (224 respondents) reported improper contact with police. Of those who felt they had been treated improperly, 74% considered this harassment.

Regarding improper contact, our findings indicated that out of respondents who reported some form of improper contact, 37% stated that the police were "disrespectful and impolite". Following this, 36% felt that they were "wrongly accused of misbehaviour" by the PSNI or RUC, and 36% stated they were "stopped for no reason".

While young people were reporting the same types of incidents overall, certain types of contact were more frequently reported within the older age brackets.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>% Male</th>
<th>% Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They hit me with a weapon</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They searched my bag</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They took an item from my property</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They used deceit</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They used a verbal threat</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They took a picture of me</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They searched my body</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They used sexual pressure</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication barrier</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Total</th>
<th>% Catholic</th>
<th>% Protestant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In general, those aged 22 years and over reported the highest frequencies of improper contact. Importantly, incidents that echo an era of heavier emergency conditions, such as body and house searches, showed an important drop in response rates in the younger age brackets.

Across the sample, opinions regarding improvement in the policing force since they became PSNI, were unsure to rather negative. Only 10% agreed that the police had improved since becoming the PSNI. Importantly, these responses were almost identical between communities.

On the positive side of things, 30% of all of our respondents agreed that the police were there to protect them. Catholic and Protestant respondents showed almost identical response rates with 30% of Catholics and 31% of Protestants agreeing that "the police are there for their protection".

Regarding joining the PSNI, 10% of the young people in our sample stated that they would consider becoming part of the PSNI. 13% of Protestants compared to 8% of Catholics would consider joining.

Finally, when all respondents were questioned about the
April 1998 witnessed the signing of the Belfast Agreement, facilitating the establishment of a Northern Irish Legislative Assembly and cross-border power sharing initiative. This document emphasised legislation for Northern Ireland on policing, human rights and equality. In reference to police specifically, the Agreement indicated that the police service should be representative of the community as a whole, and that it should to sustain an equally mixed Catholic and Protestant force.²

role of the police Ombudsman, 63% of respondents stated that they "didn't know", 25% stated that the Ombudsman was to "investigate complaints against the police", 7% stated that it was to "receive complaints about the police", while 4% stated that the role of the Ombudsman was to "protect the police against investigation".

Regarding other forms of authority, young people included in the total sample were asked about restorative justice measures. When asked about restorative justice, 70% of respondents stated they "didn't know what it was".

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<table>
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<th>% 22 years and over</th>
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<td>Number</td>
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Regarding other forms of control, 42% of respondents reported that paramilitaries should look out for their own communities. Following this, 32% of young people queried believed that paramilitaries should punish antisocial behaviour. It was revealing that 51% of those who agreed that paramilitaries should look out for their own communities and 34% of those who agreed that paramilitaries should punish antisocial behaviour were young people 18 years and under.

```
'Some of us give them (police) a wile, wile hard time. At the door. Ye know, when they come we say things to them, like: 'Why are ye at my door?' and shit like that. And then when people let them inside the house they are very civil to them. It's so that the people around you don't think you are like, welcoming them in ye know. It's stupid.'
```

22 year old female

6.2. If you could change one thing about the city, what would it be? (Please fill in)

Stop all the breaks, police go on nice instead of putting you about the place then drag would be a better place as for drugs there for mugs but if you feel you need to take them take them.
"It's that ye learn to rely on yourself. Ye can't trust nobody. Ye have people in the area, sure. And then there's the cops. But that's, that's not a good, it's not good. It's because sometimes ye feel like that's the only way to handle it. Just finding out yourself, I mean."

19 year old female

<table>
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<th>Response</th>
<th>% Total</th>
<th>% Male</th>
<th>% Female</th>
<th>% Catholic</th>
<th>% Protestant</th>
<th>% 18 yrs and under</th>
<th>% 19-21 yrs</th>
<th>% 22 yrs and over</th>
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<td>251</td>
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or use the paramilitaries (21%). 57% of young males compared to 31% of young females stated that they would prefer to "sort them out myself", while 41% of young females compared to 20% of young males reported that they would go to the police.
Since the ceasefires of 1994, beatings and threats continue in Northern Ireland's deprived, working-class communities. RUC records indicate that between 1995 and 2000, over 1,000 people were recipients of paramilitary punishments or shootings by both Republican and Loyalist paramilitaries. Many beatings and threats never come to be officially reported, however. RUC figures for 1999, for example, listed 206 cases of paramilitary punishments, while the Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO) Youth Justice Unit, a unit that works with families under paramilitary threat, received 624 referrals during that same year.

3.16. If "Yes" to the above question, what did the incident entail?
(Please cross ALL that apply to you)

☐ Just a feeling that I had
☐ Threatening looks or glances
☐ Threatening words
☐ Physical threat
☐ Physical contact
☐ Prejudice in obtaining a place in a club or on a sports team
☐ Prejudice in obtaining a job placement
☐ Other (Please write in)

[Box was written in: knee capping]
Responses from all respondents regarding to whom respondents would go to find out who perpetrated the malicious act (total and community affiliation)

Reported responses of all respondents as to what they would do/to whom they would turn after the perpetrator was known (total and community affiliation)
- Young people who are more disaffected are more apt to be drawn into situations with police. Reflected in both the statistics and in conversations, our young people revealed that they were often stopped and questioned, asked to move on, or searched. Results concerning improper contact, were similar, with young people reporting impolite behaviour, being wrongly accused, and being stopped for no reason. The Policing Board should consider the current training programmes for the PSNI and include within their regime specific training and units for the policing of youth.

- However, not all contact is negative. Regarding friendly relations with police personnel, person to person contact was crucial for our young people. Young people often voiced that certain members of the police were "sound", and many young people agreed that the police were there to protect them. There is too much psychological distance between police and the everyday young person. Young people see the police as their adversary and feel that the notion is mutual. Programmes that encourage person to person contact with one or two members of the police should be pursued in every way possible. As many young people suggested, these programmes should start at early ages in schools so the policing services can forge stronger
relationships with each community one young person at a time.

- Regarding approaching young people still in school, the police should also consider hosting a series of fun events, such as a sports tournament, or an annual day out for young people. This should be done in all schools across the district equally and without discrimination. Although initiatives like these exist and are sponsored by policing services, most young people were unaware that the police authorities were supporting or hosting these events. It is important, therefore, that the advertisement of such programmes is promoted, and the sources of such projects are transparent to the public. Our young people have shown that issues of civility and friendliness are of the most import to them. Establishing annual events like these would allow policing services the opportunity to become involved in communities without focus on police practices and procedures.

- For those out of school, police authorities should consider more direct projects with community organisations that provide youth services. Sponsored events and nights out to local fun venues could be a good way to start. Often times it is not about discussing problematic issues, but again about showing the civility between the groups. Gathering members of the PSNI and young people in neutral situations could be of
benefit to both the policing services and the young people.

- The DCCD areas hold a special and unique heritage regarding the history of the emergence of the civil rights campaign as well as the history of policing in the area. Many young people from both communities felt that the police had a strong presence in both Catholic and Protestant areas, and our results concur and highlight this. However, young people from Protestant areas reported experiencing more kinds of general contact with policing services overall. Although members within Protestant communities may have more occasions for everyday routine policing situations such as within the season of parades, it is important that young people, particularly from Protestant areas do not feel that they are especially targeted or admonished.

- As suggested by the young people, policing authorities should think about establishing “talking shops” where young people could voice their feelings directly to police personnel. Young people want their concerns heard by the police personnel themselves. As suggested by one young person, a public venue or debate could be set up in this area, and perhaps televised in which young people could talk to police and police could discuss these points in return. Equally, another type of forum, such as an internet “chat room”, could be set up by the local council and policing authorities allowing young people to voice both their
complaints and questions to police in an anonymous atmosphere.

- Tied to issues surrounding policing is the genuine lack of knowledge regarding the Police Ombudsman. In general, the lack of knowledge regarding the Ombudsman’s role was also reflected in a lack of recognition of its office. "What is it?" and "Where is it?" were the two most popular questions. Some young people suggested a symbol that they could recognise and a more prolific campaign to gain the office recognition among young adults. We also recommend that the Ombudsman consider an office located in the North West.

- It is not just the PSNI that are considered prominent authority figures by our young people, however. In the changing dynamic of the peace process, many young people still see control of youth by their local paramilitary authorities as a valid course of corrective action for antisocial behaviour. Although policing services are seen more and more as a valid source for justice, our results show that many young people will turn to their local paramilitary members to resolve issues. Equally, many young people saw these sources as the most effective. These issues can not be ignored. The local area partnerships, policing authorities and city council need to set up working groups within communities to discuss ideologies of retributive justice to try to establish what is prompting the city’s young
people to see these avenues as more beneficial than other forms of authority.

- Equally important are the misgivings and confusions regarding restorative justice measures. While seen as highly successful in many areas throughout Northern Ireland, our sample showed notable misunderstanding. Equally relevant, restorative measures are confined within community boundaries. Does this help or hinder the programmes? Questions and considerations regarding these initiatives need to be brought to the forefront considering the relevant nature of such programmes.

- Finally and importantly, tied to issues regarding justice are important revelations that many young people felt that they should resolve threatening issues themselves. Such faith in vigilantism is worrying, and further exploration into this issue is imperative. However, could this attitude be harnessed in some way? Some young people suggested a peer network to control and influence other young people. Could young people actively become involved in influencing peer behaviour? Or would initiatives like these turn into peer bullying? Further research and work needs to be done regarding alternative peer programmes within other urban and coming-from-conflict communities that have been successful.
There is less difference between communities when they report improper contact with police. This is highlighted further in this section. Also cf. Roche (2005), "Something to Say", the complete report, for further information regarding these differences.


4 Cf. Hall (2000:3 [Pamphlet: 29]).

5 Cf. Hall (2000:3 [Pamphlet: 29]).
Regarding the topics of general well being and safety, not much is known about how young people feel about travelling through, and living in the DCCD areas. This chapter explores TRIPROJECT findings regarding practicalities of what our young people deemed safe and pleasant, or conversely threatening and unpleasant. Within this section, issues regarding perceived and actual harm are investigated and we report the results of how young people feel about sectarianism in the area. To end, we discuss what the "Troubles" mean for the young people involved in this survey. Some areas for consideration then follow.

Regarding aspects of safety and comfort, during the day, 43% of the total respondents found the city a "pleasant" place to be. A further 51% found the city "neither pleasant nor unpleasant" and only 6% found the city "unpleasant" during the day.

Noticeably more Catholics (52%) than Protestants (24%) felt that it was "pleasant during the day", with 67% of Protestants having reported that it was "neither pleasant nor unpleasant".

"It's just that sometimes, ye know, it can be hard to get a taxi. And ye hear about wee girls getting into bother and things . . . It never used to be like that. I thought it was safer sort of. I don't like being out late anymore. Even with (boyfriend). It's like they get drink in them and then it all starts. Like on Shipquay Street. I don't want my wain in that, ye know?"

21 year old female
Regarding safety during the day, overall, 27% stated that they found the city "safe" during the day, while 61% stated they found it "neither safe nor dangerous". 12% stated they found the city "dangerous" during the daytime.

Importantly, 34% of Catholics and 10% of Protestants answering the query felt the city was "safe" during the day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>% Total</th>
<th>% Male</th>
<th>% Female</th>
<th>% Catholic</th>
<th>% Protestant</th>
<th>% 18 yrs and under</th>
<th>% 19-21 yrs</th>
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<td>292</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>90</td>
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"Ah, it's just that a crowd of wee boys gets going, or the cops come up and it's just that things start. And even in the clubs. It can happen. And it can be all "jaffa" and "taig" and all that too. I guess it's that people are all in (the same place) together. It's good, but there's more in it. Most people want a good night, so they do. They want to just get out, like. But sometimes a crowd can start.*

17 year old male

Feelings about the city changed when our young people were queried about their opinions on the city after dark. Among the total sample, 21% found the city "pleasant" after dark, while 44% found the city "neither pleasant nor unpleasant", and 35% stated that they found the city "unpleasant" after dark.

Of those stating that the city was "pleasant" after dark, 24% were Catholic respondents and 15% were Protestant respondents. Of those stating that it was "unpleasant", 32% were Catholics and 42% were Protestants. While this comparison shows noticeable differences, the communities showed closer results on opinions concerning being
in and moving around the city after dark, as opposed to being in the city during the daytime. In sum, respondents from both communities agreed that it was more unpleasant to be in, and to move around the city after dark.

Overall, views on dangerousness were even more apparent. Only 7% felt that the city was "safe" after dark. While 29% indicated that the city is "neither safe nor dangerous", and 65% stated that the city was "dangerous" after dark.

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<th>% Female</th>
<th>% Catholic</th>
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<th>% 18 yrs and under</th>
<th>% 19-21 yrs</th>
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Regarding personal threat and bodily harm, young people were asked if they had ever been involved in a threatening or violent incident. For the question, respondents were invited to tick as many responses as they felt appropriate. Out of the total sample, 47% had engaged in "fist fighting", 39% had engaged in acts involving "pushing and shoving", 39% had engaged in incidents involving "kicking", and 27% have been involved in incidents utilising "weaponry (such as sticks, bricks or knives)". Equally of note, 57% had been involved in incidents using "threatening words" while 42% considered themselves to have been involved in incidents involving "threatening looks and glances".
Only 13% (63 respondents) of the total sample reported that they have never been involved in a threatening or violent incident such as those listed within the questionnaire.

Out of all respondents included in the sample, 50% indicated that they had been involved in a violent incident with "two or more people". 33% indicated that they had been involved in incidents with those their "own age". 18% reported they were involved in an incident with "one person", while 17% stated that they had been involved in threatening or violent incidents with those that they "knew".

Regarding with whom young people are engaging, males and females responded remarkably similarly to these preferred responses.

A few variations between responses were apparent between respondents from each community. 63% of Protestant respondents compared to 45% of Catholic respondents stated that they had engaged with "two or more people". 39% of Protestant respondents compared to 30% of Catholic respondents reported that they engaged in threatening or violent incidents with "people my own age". Finally, 18% of Protestant respondents compared to 11% of Catholic respondents have
engaged with “people in the paramilitaries”. Conversely, 16% of Catholic respondents compared to 9% of Protestant respondents have engaged in threatening or violent incidents with “people that they do not know”.

Location of threat was very important to young people. Out of the total sample, 72% stated that they felt most threatened “outside pubs and clubs”. A further 45% stated that they felt most threatened “inside pubs and clubs”. The third most threatening environment was indicated as “crossing through housing areas of the opposite community” at 44%. While selected locations of potentially threatening or violent incidents

Locations where all young people reported feeling that threatening or violent incidents might occur (total and community affiliation)
Aye. Well, it’s about. Noh. They’re not over. You still see the patrols and have the rule from Britain and all. It’s still here. Sure, everything’s still “Jaffs” and “Taigs” and all. I don’t know when it’s goin’ to be put right.”

19 year old female

were chosen relatively evenly between the sexes, community responses showed some variation.

61% of all respondents felt that “a lot” of sectarianism exists in DCCD areas. 31% felt that there was “some sectarianism”. 7% felt that there was “little sectarianism” and 2% felt there was “no sectarianism” in DCCD areas.

When asked what young people experienced that was sectarian, out of the total sample,

6.1. What is your favourite thing about living here? (Please fill in)

- Fighting with police
- Hanging with my mates
- Taking alone time with the youth club

6.2. If you could change one thing about the city, what would it be? (Please fill in)

- Get the Fenians out
- And get rid of Racelimit

something to say! condensed
More Protestant respondents compared to Catholics respondents in our sample reported subjective experiences of sectarianism. 28% of Protestant respondents compared to 12% of Catholic respondents stated that their sectarian experience was "just a feeling that I had". 53% of Protestants compared to 24% of Catholics reported that they were subjected to "threatening looks" that were sectarian in intent. Finally, 34% of Protestant respondents compared to 22% of Catholics stated that they were "physically threatened".

Young people included in the sample were asked to define the "Troubles" and what it meant for them. Out of a selection of some of the most common definitions collected from group discussions, the top three definitions for the "Troubles" were defined as: "something that involves explosives, shootings and high levels of violence" (62%).

"Oh, aye. It's all about still like. It'll never be over until we get the government sorted!"

17 year old male
"something that involves sectarianism" (58%), and "something that happened in the past" (53%).

While our young respondents generally agreed that the "Troubles" were about high levels of violence and issues of sectarianism, for Catholic respondents the idea of the "Troubles" is revealed to be more a thing of the "past" and something that "grandparents and parents experienced". Significantly, Protestant respondents noted more subjective and "present" signifiers of the "Troubles" such as "anything that happens in Northern Ireland", "something that is very personal", and "something that I experience everyday".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>% Total</th>
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<th>% Female</th>
<th>% Catholic</th>
<th>% Protestant</th>
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</table>

"It's (the Troubles) not about what it used to be, ye know? It's something that was about the bombings and the shooting. It's not about the young ones."

16 year old female
"It's, I don't know. It's like it's all the one thing all tied up together. RUC, PSNI, the IRA, the UDA, the UVF, politicians, whatever. Even the hoods. They're all tearin' at one another and they don't disappear. They pull everything down just. I mean, Northern Ireland wouldn't be Northern Ireland without the "Troubles". That's the way I think on it, anyways."

21 year old female
For Consideration

- Young people demonstrated concern regarding their safety while travelling through, and being in the city areas after dark. Equally, young people noted specific areas where young people mingle as particularly dangerous or threatening. While many might believe that young people may be less sensitive to concerns of safety and well-being, our young people have proved themselves to be alert and attentive to areas and times that may be more problematic regarding their safety. This indicates that city incentives to protect its citizens from harm would be wholly appreciated by young people. The recent initiative to prohibit use of plastic glasses on the exit from pubs, for example, was one remarked upon improvement by young people. City councillors and city planners should consider workshops where young people could voice their opinions on the how to make their city safer.

- Pubs and clubs are obvious areas of concern. Many of these venues are nestled within specific areas or streets already known to young people and city planners as funnels for problematic encounters. The sheer volume of young people located around these venues in addition to the influence of substances creates a dynamic that should be considered by urban planners. How can young people be moved from these areas after they exit certain venues? Although night buses were attempted previously, some young people
suggested that buses again could be attempted and promoted throughout the city. Distinct night bus logos and alternative pick-up points, other than the bus depot, were also suggested. Perhaps a series of minibuses also could be provided for community groups to utilise on the weekends. This would allow young people the ability to “book” or reserve them ahead of time. These were just some of the ideas suggested by our young people. Options such as these should be considered as the city plans its new developments in the next decade.

- Physical threat is a problem in the DCCD areas. However, young people indicate that they are primarily engaging in groups and with peers. Similarly, they indicate that often they know the people with whom they are engaging. Factoring in with this are subjective feelings of being threatened by looks and words. Is this a growing phenomenon of youth violence, or is this something to which the local populace is just coming to grips with? Further research and inquiry needs to be accomplished on this problem of youth-on-youth contact.

- When threatening or violent contact occurs, often passers-by and onlookers become involved in the fracas. Equally, when policing authorities become involved a new element is added to the fray. With much emphasis on the CCTV systems in operation, young people often questioned what could be done by individuals to help diffuse such situations? If anything? One young person in our discussion groups suggested peer monitoring systems where young people in clearly
marked paraphemalia could assist in diffusing possible encounters. Would such a programme be helpful? Alternatives involving the young people themselves should be considered to combat heightened situations of possible violence.

- Equally, instead of what are perceived of as standard socialising venues for young people in the area, alternative measures should be considered to engage young people, and to particularly encourage non-substance using activities. We suggest that business ventures encouraging non-alcoholic alternatives and evening openings should be top priority when considered for aid or investment. Equally, highly successful alternative ideas such American inner-city programmes where young people are encouraged to play sport, such as football or basketball, in the city’s stadiums after midnight in sponsored tournaments, could perhaps be pursued by governmental or voluntary bodies. Young people living in the city’s most deprived areas should be those most involved in such programmes.

- Sectarianism is still felt to be a problem in the city. With many young people noting the problem, and highlighting crossing through areas where members of the other community reside as potentially threatening venues, all officials need to turn their attention to the problem of division in the area. There is also a need to examine more closely why more integration is not possible. While the peace process continues to rectify such problems, this current perspective lends great insight into a constant concern. We hope that this evidence encourages further important application in
the areas addressing the need for cross-community services, particularly for young people.

- Our young people coming from Protestant areas felt more alienated, threatened and unhappy. What can be done to halt this growing feeling of exclusion? Further work needs to be accomplished within Protestant areas to find out why young people are feeling alienated and to help young people to feel less excluded. One young person suggested that, considering the draw of large dance clubs, that more exciting dance venues and pubs could be integrated in the Waterside areas to encourage a cross-community mingling over the bridge. While there is no easy solution for feelings of alienation and threat, every effort should be made to address these concerns of a minority population within the city and to give a voice to their concerns.

- Finally, while the "Troubles" are something that is in the "past" for many of our young people, many respondents, and with particular attention to those within the Protestant community, experience the "Troubles" personally and currently. This project and research only scratches the surface of discovery regarding such concerns. What can be learned about enclaved communities feeling the ongoing effects of "Troubles" related installations? What can be done to encourage those from the Protestant communities to voice their feelings of threat and discontentment? All effort should be made to address these areas in need of further research and much concern.
Throughout the course of the Toward Reconciliation and Inclusion Project, the young people we spoke to had much to say. Not only did they voice their concerns over survey construction, they helped to build and disseminate a unique and insightful questionnaire.

Across the sample, our results have shown a variety of similarities as well as differences between and among young men and women, young people from each community, as well as young people from differing age brackets. This brief report has lent insight into their experiences, attitudes and feelings regarding topics such as school, pastimes, alcohol and drugs, authority and threat. It is important to remember that in most cases, young people created the questions out of a selection of responses that were chosen in group sessions. The responses therefore reveal what young people wanted to ask about and how they were feeling about situations at the time. For example, in a question about why a young person might leave school, to include a choice of "just left" is indicative of how young people often perceived of their situations. A person does not need a "reason" to leave. Sometimes a person "just" leaves.

It is therefore both the structure of the questionnaire and the report that hopefully will be of value. The topics probed are both comparable to other surveys, while simultaneously being very much the ingenuity of the young people involved in the TRIPROJECT. We hope that the
results of the young people's hard work will be of importance to the voluntary, state and executive bodies concerned with those who have left school or those who may find themselves more at risk than those in the mainstream.

To end, young people involved in the project most often voiced that they "did normal things" and the questionnaire should cover these aspects of their everyday, "normal" lives. The perception of what is "normal" and what is average behaviour for young people is relative to what young people perceive that to be. For many of our young people, leaving school early was expected of them and considered typical behaviour. For many, early drinking and some early experimentation with illicit substances was the norm. This often led to experimentation with different and more drugs, and occasional use of them later on. Binge drinking across their mid teens to early twenties was particularly prevalent. The average young person in our sample liked to go to pubs and clubs but felt the least safe at these venues. Most young people also felt less safe at night. Whether male or female, many had been involved in some sort of threatening incident with their peers. Most of our sample felt sectarianism was still present in the
city, and some felt that paramilitary policing was still one of the most viable solutions for antisocial behaviour. Although some felt that the police were there to protect them, young people generally felt that police do not understand them and are impolite.

These are just a few aspects of what our young people perceived as the norm in their world. However, young people involved in the process of the survey also voiced confusion over their current situations and that many of these "things" should "change". And young people did not consider themselves outside of this "change". When shown the actual amount of their average alcohol consumption on a night out to get drunk, for example, many of our respondents changed their opinion of what was "good" or "normal" drinking. Young people struggled with ideologies regarding authority figures and stated that they are dealing with new and changing cultural and communal rules regarding what is, and what is not, acceptable. And these are but a few examples where young people are learning and growing within a changing environment.

"I hope it all just gets better. I mean, we're bored. You get through things early and get bored with it. Like the clubs. But I'm getting more interested in the government and things. And elections. I did one of them talk things on the radio (vox pop) and gave my opinion. I was on the radio and all. I wouldn't have done that before ye know. / . . . / But I think it's bad that some of them are getting like hundreds of pounds a year to do nothing and then I'm in here. I feel like telling them like, go and see wains on the streets at night, breaking things or whatever, or setting the bins on fire. It's like everyone needs to wake up, like and get it sorted."

21 year old female
What should be remembered is that to alter what is considered normal and acceptable for a young person is to encourage change overall, across the whole of the society. This research emphasises that we should be listening to young people and trying to learn what is standard and acceptable, and what is not. Most young people will tell you if you ask them and then listen to them. What is vital is that the society begins to emphasise that certain practices are unhealthy or hazardous, and encourage change in the home, in school, among city councillors, among employers, on the streets and among peers.

To make change, it needs to be at every level of the society and all people, not just young people, need re-educated. It is important, therefore, that dialogue be continued at every level with young people and with those who work, and live with them. Ideas for varieties of dialogue and venues for dialogue varied from confidential internet “chat rooms” to one-on-one debates with police service members. But importantly, the ideas were there. And they came from the young people themselves. Not unlike this project, taken from the ideas of the young people, it is perhaps about listening and then learning about it together. From there, change and growth can be achieved.
References

Helpful articles & books


Helpful documents from agencies concerned with Northern Irish affairs

Community Relations Unit (CRU)

Community Restorative Justice (Ireland)

Department of Social Services and Public Safety

Greater Shankill Alternatives

Her Majesty's Stationery Office

Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland

NACD and DAIRU (National Advisory Committee on Drugs and Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Unit)

Northern Ireland Office

North West Alcohol Forum

Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland

The Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland
2001. "Focus on Alcohol."

Youth Council Northern Ireland

Helpful documents at websites


Recommended Safe Limits of Alcohol Patient UK 2005 at http://patient.co.uk/showdoc/23069189/.

