

## Appendix 1: Council's Youth Forum Future cities event – Young People's opinions summary

The Youth Forum designed and delivered 2 Future cities events in March:

**#Live louder:** (a music competition with 40 entries; 8 finalist acts performing at Oh Yeah Centre to 100 young people who voted 'The Left Backs' winners).

**#Digi dragons:** 11 school/ youth organisations entered to create digital solutions/ applications; 6 finalists and the winners were St Louise's (environmental category) and Victoria College (mental health category).

The legacy of which is the winning band and digital apps will be launched are part of the upcoming co-ordinated CYP programme of activity celebrating CYP generally throughout the year.

These events were the first opportunity for the Youth Forum to be actively engaged in facilitating the opinions of their peers to inform what Belfast as a future city could be.

YF members were trained and then worked in advance on an e survey and interviewed the young people at the events using the council's super connected iPads to record these findings.

90 surveys were recorded and from mainly 15-18 years old, the majority of which were at school. The analysis indicated the following:

- They were 'happy or very happy at the time; felt welcome (95%) in the city centre and adults listened to them 'sometimes'
- Council should make Belfast safe, a fun place to hang out and clean.
- Knew they had rights even if they were not sure what UNCRC was.
- Safe in where they lived or the city centre by day however less so at night especially in the city centre;
- The main worry they had was school work and exams,
- They preferred to exercise at least once a week by going to the gym, running, football, dancing and horse riding.
- 82% had green space near their home and recycled.
- 73% chose to hang out with their friends in their spare time;
- Most wanted to go onto college or university when older;
- Where they lived was good, nice, safe, friendly and great as a place to live but would change it with more activities that all children and young people can do, better sports clubs/ centres and better shops.
- They used Facebook (76%) on a daily basis and primarily use the internet for schoolwork, research and entertainment.

These findings guide the YF development and also enable the Unit to support other officers and members in developing active engagement and/or build on the outcomes focused survey work.