

# Youth Arts Network Survey

## December 2007

**Brief:** Young at Art requested an online survey of organisations and individuals working in or around youth arts, with a view to establishing the need for a youth arts network in Northern Ireland.

**Methodology:** Young at Art drew up the list of questions for the survey, which was then sent out for consultation amongst various youth arts stakeholders to provide feedback. An online questionnaire was then constructed by Audiences NI, and an email prompt was sent to 185 email addresses via Audiences NI's Patronmail software. An incentive of £50 of Play Resource Centre vouchers was offered to encourage completion.



### Summary of Results:

- 51 people from 49 organisations responded to the email, representing an approximate response rate of 28%.
- These organisations are predominantly based in Belfast, but may tour or have a geographic remit beyond their locality.
- 38 of the 49 organisations (78%) who responded to the questionnaire have 10 full time staff or less. 12 of the 49 organisations (24%) have only 1 full time member of staff or no dedicated staff.
- 35 of the 51 respondents (69%) work for organisations which were registered charities.
- 20 respondents (39%) work for arts organisations, 9 respondents (18%) for community groups and 9 respondents (18%) for youth arts groups.
- 12 respondents (24%) indicated youth arts activity constitutes all of their work, while 32 respondents (63%) indicated it is only a part of their work.
- 88% of respondents are engaged in more than one different type of work with children and young people. Creating work with them (44 respondents, 86%), providing training (35 respondents, 69%) and showcasing work (32 respondents, 63%) were all selected by more than half of the respondents.
- The most popular age ranges being engaged with by respondents are 16 to 18 (48 respondents, 94%) and 13 to 15 (46 respondents, 90%). However, only one age range is being engaged with by less than 50% of the respondents; the age range 0 to 4 (20 respondents, 39%). 75% of respondents are engaging with 4 or more of the listed age ranges.
- Only theatre was selected as a provided artform by more than half of the respondents (28 respondents, 55%).
- 36 respondents (71%) are members of the Community Arts Forum, 29 respondents (57%) are members of Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action, 27 respondents (53%) are members of Voluntary Arts Ireland and 25 respondents (49%) are members of the Play Resource Centre.

## Summary of Results (continued)

- 44 respondents (86%) find their existing networks useful for information, 38 respondents (75%) find them useful for advice and services and 27 respondents (53%) find them useful for networking opportunities.
- 29 respondents (57%) had no problem with the existing networks. 15 respondents (29%) felt that there are too many networks duplicating services.
- 32 respondents (63%) believe Northern Ireland needs a network specifically for organisations involved in youth arts, and 27 respondents (53%) believe this should be housed within an existing organisation.
- All 6 listed organisational needs listed in the survey (information, networking opportunities, advice and services, lobbying, research and analysis and infrastructure support) were requested by more than 40% of the respondents. Information and networking opportunities were the most requested needs, by 42 and 41 respondents respectively (82%/80%).
- 37 respondents (73%) requested a combination of the methods of engagement with any proposed youth arts network listed.
- 31 respondents (61%) believe there should also be a youth arts network for children and young people. 23 respondents (45%) believe this should be part of the same network as the organisations, while 8 respondents (16%) believe this should exist separately from the organisational network.

## Respondents

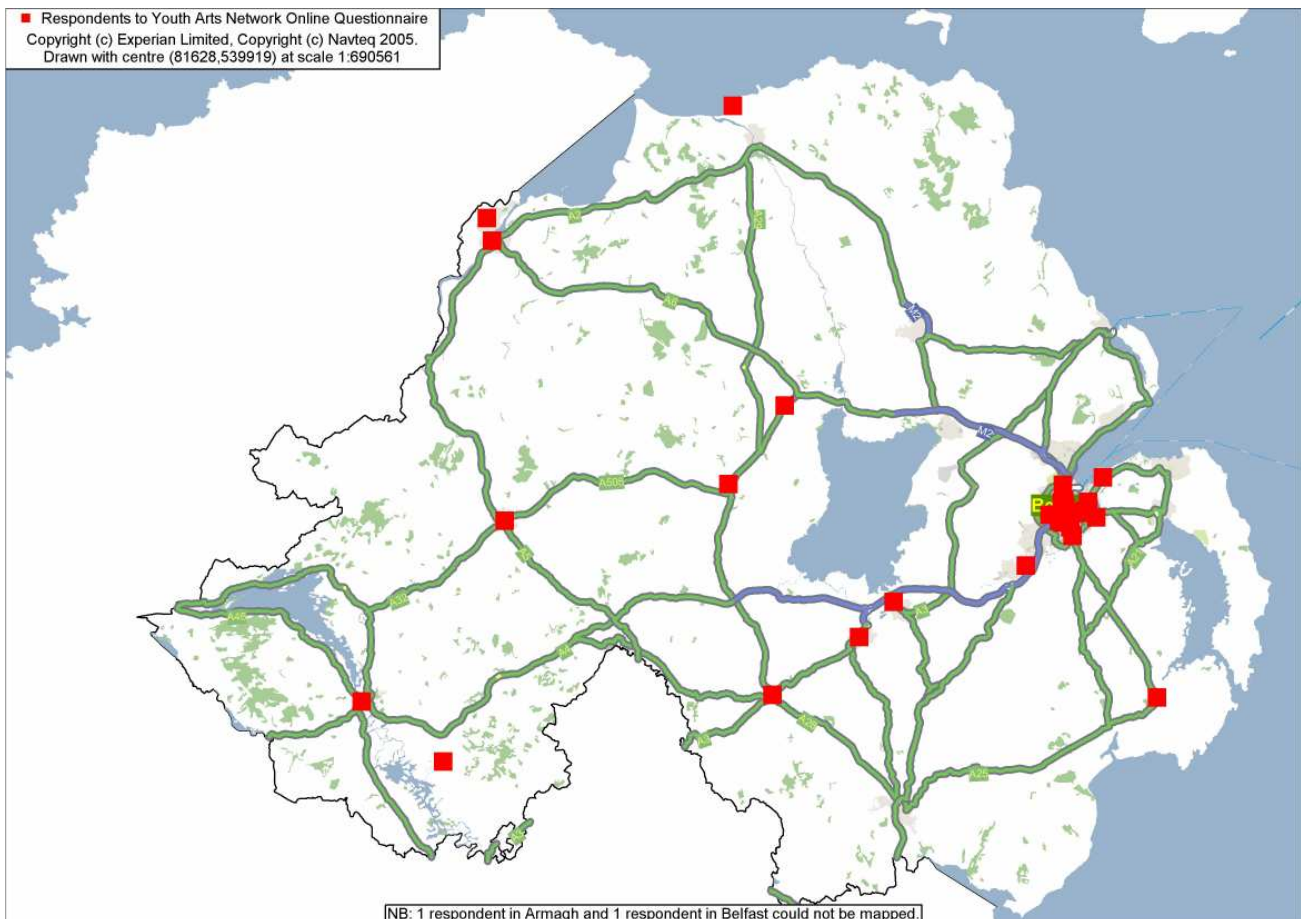
185 emails were sent out via Audiences NI's Patronmail system with 51 responses submitted, giving an approximate response rate of 28%.

- The following people and organisations responded to the online questionnaire:-

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Gavin O'Connor	Arts Council Of Northern Ireland
Lauren McCloud	Belfast Community Circus School
Will Chamberlain	Belfast Community Circus School
Pauline Hadaway	Belfast Exposed
Katy Radford	Belfast Jewish Community
Louise Rossington	Big Telly Theatre Company
Zoe Seaton	Big Telly Theatre Company
Stephen Beggs	Bruiser Theatre Company
Louise O'Neil	Cahoots NI
Liam Larmour	Cara Friend GLYNI
Heather Floyd	Community Arts Forum
Mary Crooks	Cookstown District Council
Richard Summerville	Creative Media Partnerships
Fionnuala Walsh	Creative Youth Partnerships
Moya Henry	Crescent Arts Centre
Eimear Ní Mhathúna	Cultúrlann Mcadam Ó Fiaich
Paul O'Hagan	Falls Community Council
Oliver Green	Greater Shantallow Community Arts
Bryony Flanagan	Green Hat
Rosemary Trainor	Inner East Youth Project
Sandra Workman	Inverary Community Centre
Louise Smith	Island Arts Centre
Sharon Curran	Magherafelt Arts Trust
Anne Craig	Millennium Forum
Sorcha Mc Veigh	Music Theatre 4 Youth (MT4Uth)
Conor Shields	New Belfast Community Arts Initiative
Katrina Newell	New Lodge Arts/Ashton Community Trust
Marilyn Hyndman	Northern Visions
Davy Matchett	Oh Yeah Music Centre
Ciara Hickey	Ormeau Baths Gallery
Karen McFarlane	Partisan Productions
Gail McGarvey	Play Resource Warehouse
Ciaran McQuillan	Prime Cut Productions
Bronagh Austin	Public Achievement
Fiona Bell	Replay Productions
Eithne Benson	SELB Music Service
Colette Ross	SELB Youth Service

# Respondents

Name	Organisation
Tracey Dempsey	Sonic Academy
Karen Smyth	Soundlines
Victoria Cunningham-Downey	Stretch & Play Co. Ltd.
Eileen Branagh	The Beat
Naomi Conway	Ulster Association Of Youth Drama
Pauline Matthew	Voluntary Arts Ireland
Roisin Timlin	VSB
Adam Turkington	Waterfront Hall
Noelle Mc Alinden	WELB/Creative Youth Partnerships
Tanya Kirk	Wheelworks
Maria Ellis	Women Of The World
Ali Fitzgibbon	Young At Art
Vincent Crossey	Youth Council For Northern Ireland
Tom Finlay	YouthAction Northern Ireland



# About Your Organisation

## Number of Paid Staff and Number of Volunteers (in order of Full Time Paid staff)

Organisation	No of Paid Staff	No of Volunteers
Cookstown District Council	200+	0
YouthAction Northern Ireland	60 (6 in arts unit)	35 in arts unit
Waterfront Hall	60	0
Arts Council Of Northern Ireland	58	0
SELB Music Service	30	0
Millennium Forum	23 full time plus 75 part time	0
VSB	21	3000
Falls Community Council	20	6
Youth Council For Northern Ireland	20	0
Island Arts Centre	16	10
Play Resource Warehouse	11	1
Northern Visions	10	90
Sonic Academy	9	0
Greater Shantallow Community Arts	8 full time plus 20 part time	200+
Belfast Community Circus School	6 plus 30+ freelancers	20 - 50
The Beat	7	up to 8
Inverary Community Centre	6	15
Crescent Arts Centre	6	varies
Voluntary Arts Ireland	6	up to 4
Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich	6	0
Public Achievement	5.5	30
Belfast Exposed	5	16
Community Arts Forum	5	15
Ormeau Baths Gallery	5	8
Replay Productions	5	0
Creative Youth Partnerships	5	0
WELB/Creative Youth Partnerships	5	0
Big Telly Theatre Company	4	7
Wheelworks	4	2
Green Hat	4	0
Young At Art	3	up to 45
Cahoots NI	3	up to 15
Prime Cut Productions	3	7
Creative Media Partnerships	3	4
Belfast Jewish Community	2	20+
Partisan Productions	2	varies
New Belfast Community Arts Initiative	2	0
Ulster Association Of Youth Drama	1 full time + up to 15 part time	12

## About your organisation

Organisation cont...	No of Paid cont...	No of Vol cont...
New Lodge Arts/Ashton Community Trust	1 full time + 1 part time	12
Bruiser Theatre Company	1	approx 12
Cara Friend GLYNI	1	15
Music Theatre 4 Youth (MT4Uth)	1	10
Soundlines	1	3
Stretch & Play Co. Ltd.	1	3
Women Of The World	1	20
Inner East Youth Project	0	0
Magherafelt Arts Trust	0	0
Oh Yeah Music Centre	0	20
SELB Youth Service	0	0

### What type of organisation is it?

Type of Org	Total	%
Arts	20	39%
Community	9	18%
Youth Arts	9	18%
Other	8	16%
Youth	3	6%
Education	2	4%

Other types of organisation:
Public body.
Community youth arts organisation.
Local government.
Community-based consultancy.
Arts/youth arts/community/education
Public authority run venue
Social enterprise providing healthy & creative activities to children and young people.

### Is your organisation a registered charity?

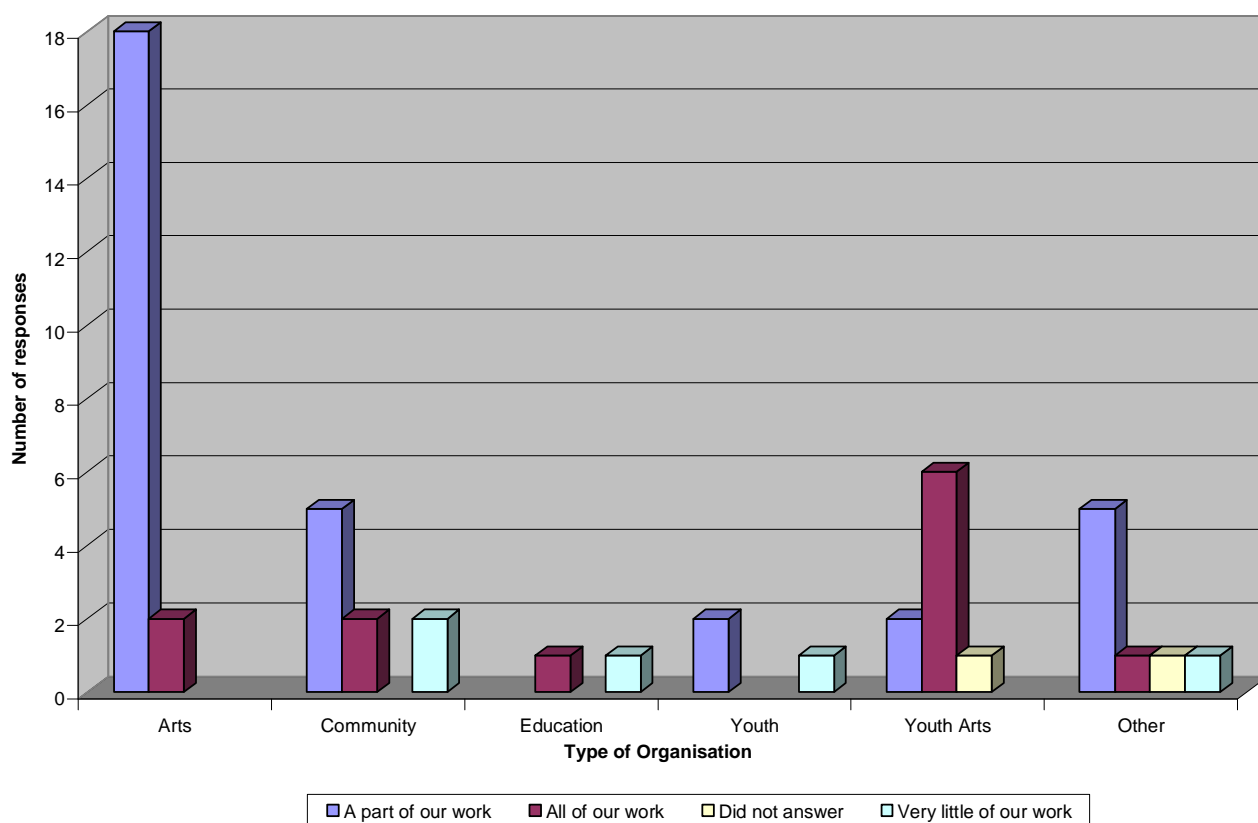
Type of Organisation	Registered charity		Total	% Registered Charity
	No	Yes		
Arts	4	16	20	80%
Community	1	8	9	89%
Education	2	0	2	0%
Youth	1	2	3	67%
Youth arts	3	6	9	67%
Other	5	3	8	38%
Total	16	35	51	69%

### How much of your organisation's work is youth arts activity?

How much youth arts activity?	Total	%
A part of our work	32	63%
All of our work	12	24%
Very little of our work	5	10%
Not selected	2	4%
Total	52	100%

# About your organisation

How much youth arts activity?	Arts	% Arts	Community	% Comm	Education	% Ed	Youth	% Youth	Youth Arts	% Y Arts	Other	% Other
A part of our work	18	90%	5	56%	0	0%	2	67%	2	22%	5	63%
All of our work	2	10%	2	22%	1	50%	0	0%	6	67%	1	13%
Did not answer	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	11%	1	13%
Very little of our work	0	0%	2	22%	1	50%	1	33%	0	0%	1	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>

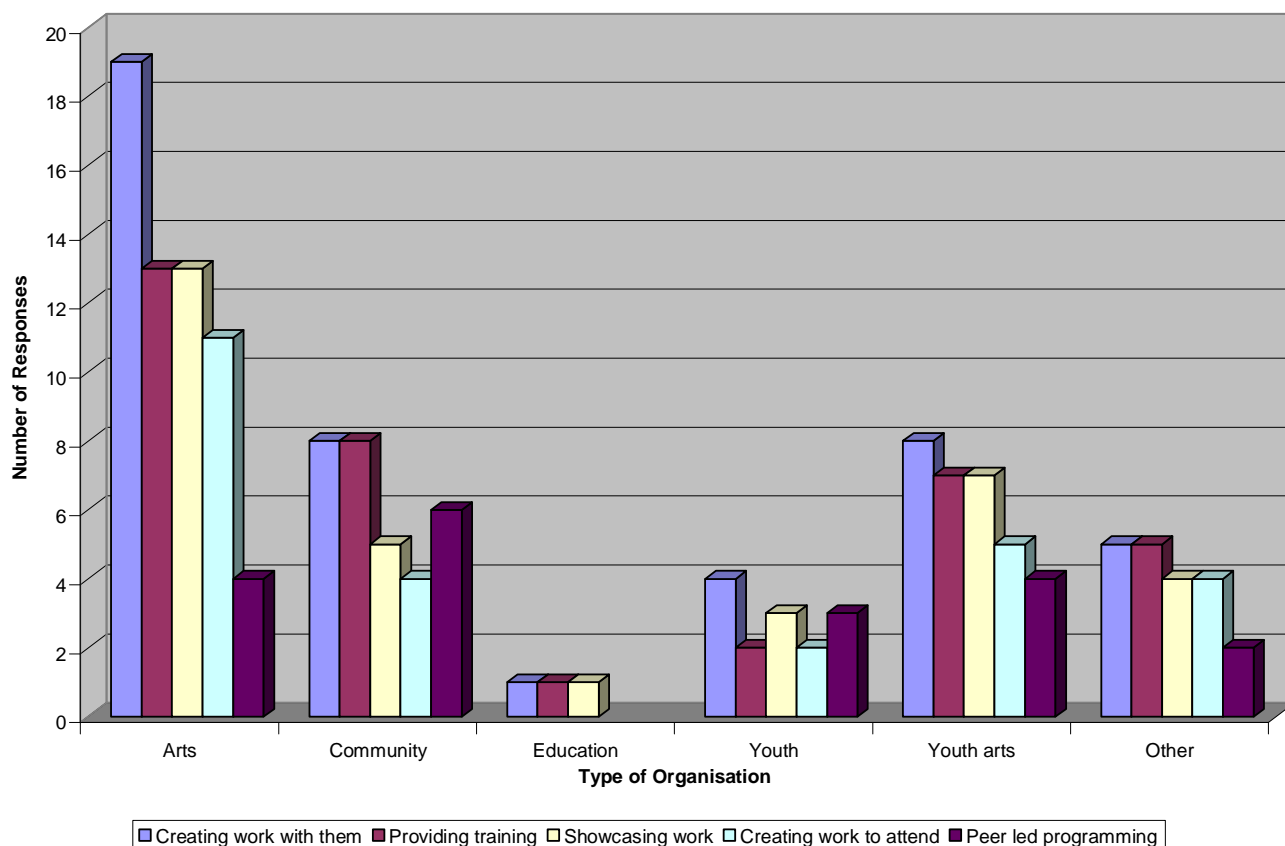


# About your organisation

## What is your organisation's involvement with children and young people?

Type of Involvement	Total	%
Creating work with them	44	86%
Providing training	35	69%
Showcasing work	32	63%
Creating work to attend	25	49%
Peer led programming	18	35%

Others types of involvement:
Active Youth Citizenship Programmes etc...
Bringing them to see work as audience.
Development of youth led arts organisation.
Evaluation & consultancy.
Funding and Development Agency.
Funding and training.
Performances.
Providing training for the adults who work with them.
Running part-time school of the performing arts (the Rainbow Factory) and managing Belfasts first dedicated Youth Arts performance and and rehearsal space in our Youth Arts Resource base at College Square North.
Teachers resources and training for adults.



## About your organisation

Number of types of involvement per respondent	Total	%
5	7	14%
4	11	22%
3	18	35%
2	9	18%
1	3	6%
0	3	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>

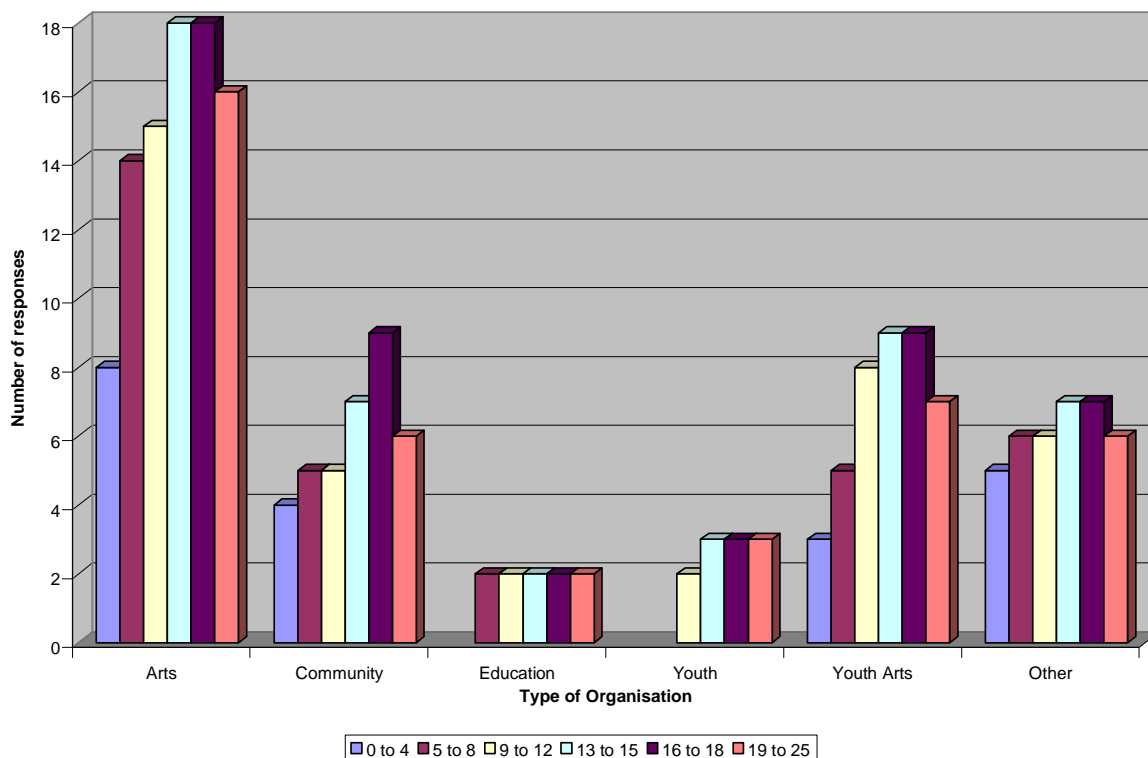
Number of types of involvement per respondent	Areas of work	Total	%
5	All five listed options	7	14%
4	Creating work with them/Creating work to attend/Showcasing work/Providing training	5	10%
4	Creating work with them/Showcasing work/Providing training/Peer led programming	4	8%
4	Creating work with them/Creating work to attend/Showcasing work/Peer led programming	2	4%
3	Creating work with them/Showcasing work/Providing training	9	18%
3	Creating work with them/Creating work to attend/Providing training	4	8%
3	Creating work with them/Creating work to attend/Showcasing work	2	4%
3	Creating work with them/Providing training/Peer led programming	2	4%
3	Showcasing work/Providing training/Peer led programming	1	2%
2	Creating work with them/Creating work to attend	4	8%
2	Creating work with them/Showcasing work	2	4%
2	Creating work with them/Peer led programming	1	2%
2	Creating work to attend/Providing training	1	2%
2	Providing training/Peer led programming	1	2%
1	Creating work with them	2	4%
1	Providing training	1	2%
0	None of listed options	3	6%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>

# About your organisation

## Which youth age ranges do you work with?

Age Ranges	Total	% of Respondents
0 to 4	20	39%
5 to 8	32	63%
9 to 12	38	75%
13 to 15	46	90%
16 to 18	48	94%
19 to 25	40	78%

Age Ranges	Arts	% Arts	Community	% Comm	Education	% Ed	Youth	% Youth	Youth Arts	% Y Arts	Other	% Other	Total	% Total
0 to 4	8	40%	4	44%	0	0%	0	0%	3	33%	5	63%	20	39%
5 to 8	14	70%	5	56%	2	100%	0	0%	5	56%	6	75%	32	63%
9 to 12	15	75%	5	56%	2	100%	2	67%	8	89%	6	75%	38	75%
13 to 15	18	90%	7	78%	2	100%	3	100%	9	100%	7	88%	46	90%
16 to 18	18	90%	9	100%	2	100%	3	100%	9	100%	7	88%	48	94%
19 to 25	16	80%	6	67%	2	100%	3	100%	7	78%	6	75%	40	78%
Total	20	100%	9	100%	2	100%	3	100%	9	100%	8	100%	51	100%



## About your organisation

Number of Age Ranges per respondent	Total	%
6	14	27%
5	12	24%
4	12	24%
3	8	16%
2	4	8%
0	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>

Number of Age Ranges per respondent	Age ranges	Total	%
6	All six listed options	14	27%
5	age 5-8/age 9-12/age 13-15/age 16-18/age 19-25	8	16%
5	age 0-4/age 5-8/age 9-12/age 13-15/age 16-18	4	8%
4	age 9-12/age 13-15/age 16-18/age 19-25	6	12%
4	age 5-8/age 9-12/age 13-15/age 16-18	4	8%
4	age 0-4/age 5-8/age 9-12/age 13-15	1	2%
4	age 0-4/age 5-8/age 9-12/age 19-25	1	2%
3	age 13-15/age 16-18/age 19-25	8	16%
2	age 16-18/age 19-25	3	6%
2	age 13-15/age 16-18	1	2%
0	None of the listed options	1	2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>

# About your organisation

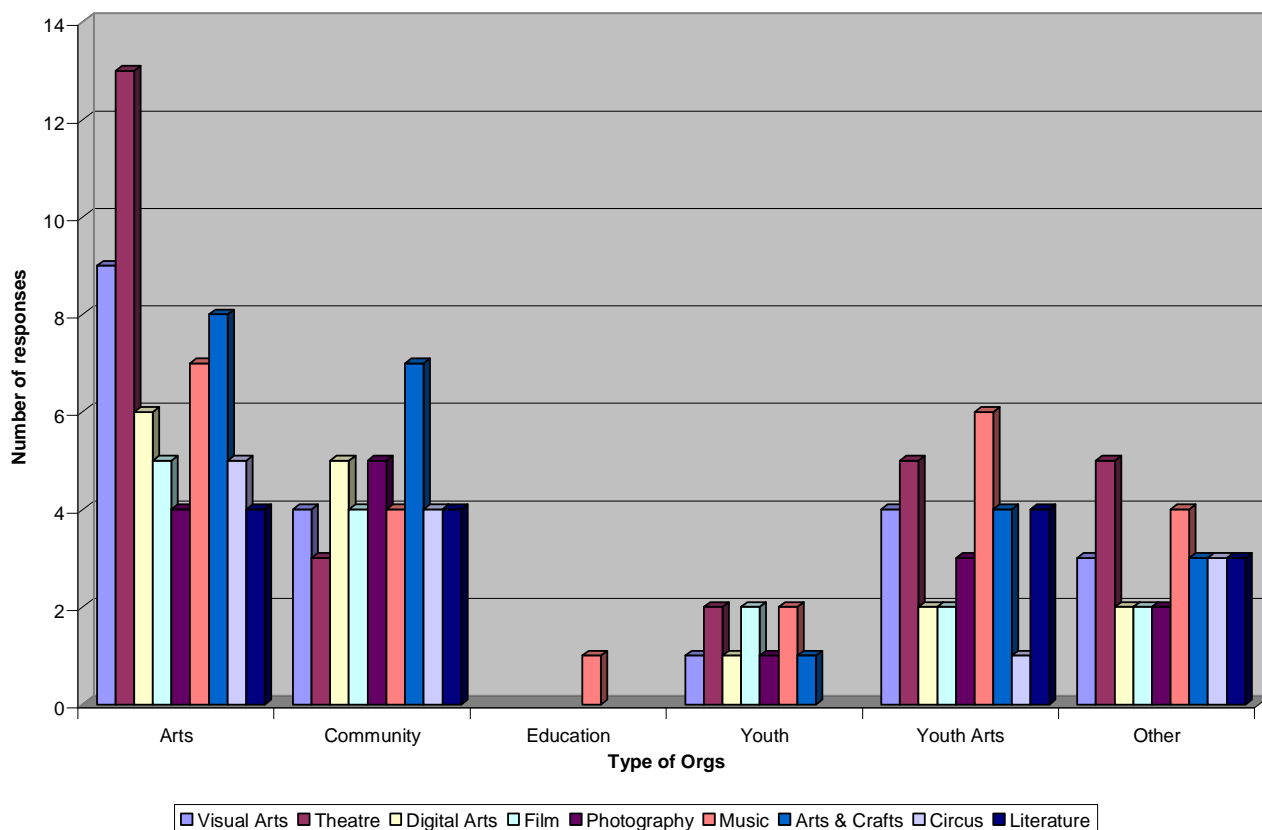
## Which art forms do you work in?

Artform	Total	%
Theatre	28	55%
Music	24	47%
Arts & Crafts	23	45%
Visual Arts	21	41%
Digital Arts	16	31%
Film	15	29%
Photography	15	29%
Literature	15	29%
Circus	13	25%

Other artforms:
Active storytelling.
All art forms.
All mediums and formats of arts.
Drama.
Dance.
Dance & Movement.
Dance!!
Film and television.
Training + education involving any of the areas of the arts that young people indicate an interest in, as well as group management skills.
CYP work with a wide range of agencies including health and well being e.g. Youth Justice Agency and Barnardos etc. This is so we see the development of youth arts and children's creativity transcends across a range of government departments and significant in the lives of young people.

Artform	Arts	% Arts	Community	% Comm	Education	% Ed	Youth	% Youth	Youth Arts	% Y Arts	Other	% Other
Visual Arts	9	45%	4	44%	0	0%	1	33%	4	44%	3	38%
Theatre	13	65%	3	33%	0	0%	2	67%	5	56%	5	63%
Digital Arts	6	30%	5	56%	0	0%	1	33%	2	22%	2	25%
Film	5	25%	4	44%	0	0%	2	67%	2	22%	2	25%
Photography	4	20%	5	56%	0	0%	1	33%	3	33%	2	25%
Music	7	35%	4	44%	1	50%	2	67%	6	67%	4	50%
Arts & Crafts	8	40%	7	78%	0	0%	1	33%	4	44%	3	38%
Circus	5	25%	4	44%	0	0%	0	0%	1	11%	3	38%
Literature	4	20%	4	44%	0	0%	0	0%	4	44%	3	38%
Total	20	100%	9	100%	2	100%	3	100%	9	100%	8	100%

# About your organisation



Number of artforms per respondent	Total	%
9	7	14%
7	2	4%
6	2	4%
5	2	4%
4	6	12%
3	6	12%
2	6	12%
1	14	27%
0	6	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>

## About your organisation

Number of Artforms per respondent	Artforms	Total	%
9	All Nine	7	14%
7	visual arts/theatre/digital arts/film/photography/music/arts & crafts	1	2%
7	visual arts/digital arts/film/photography/music/arts & crafts/literature	1	2%
6	visual arts/theatre/digital arts/music/arts & crafts/circus	1	2%
6	visual arts/theatre/photography/music/arts & crafts/literature	1	2%
5	visual arts/theatre/digital arts/film/photography	1	2%
5	visual arts/theatre/music/arts & crafts/circus	1	2%
4	visual arts/music/arts & crafts/literature	3	6%
4	visual arts/digital arts/film/arts & crafts	1	2%
4	visual arts/photography/music/literature	1	2%
4	photography/arts & crafts/circus/literature	1	2%
3	visual arts/digital arts/photography	1	2%
3	theatre/film/music	1	2%
3	theatre/film/literature	1	2%
3	theatre/music/arts & crafts	1	2%
3	theatre/arts & crafts/circus	1	2%
3	digital arts/film/photography	1	2%
2	theatre/music	2	4%
2	visual arts/music	1	2%
2	visual arts/arts & crafts	1	2%
2	theatre/film	1	2%
2	digital arts/music	1	2%
1	theatre	6	12%
1	arts & crafts	3	6%
1	music	2	4%
1	circus	2	4%
1	digital arts	1	2%
0	none	6	12%
	Total	51	100%

# About existing networks

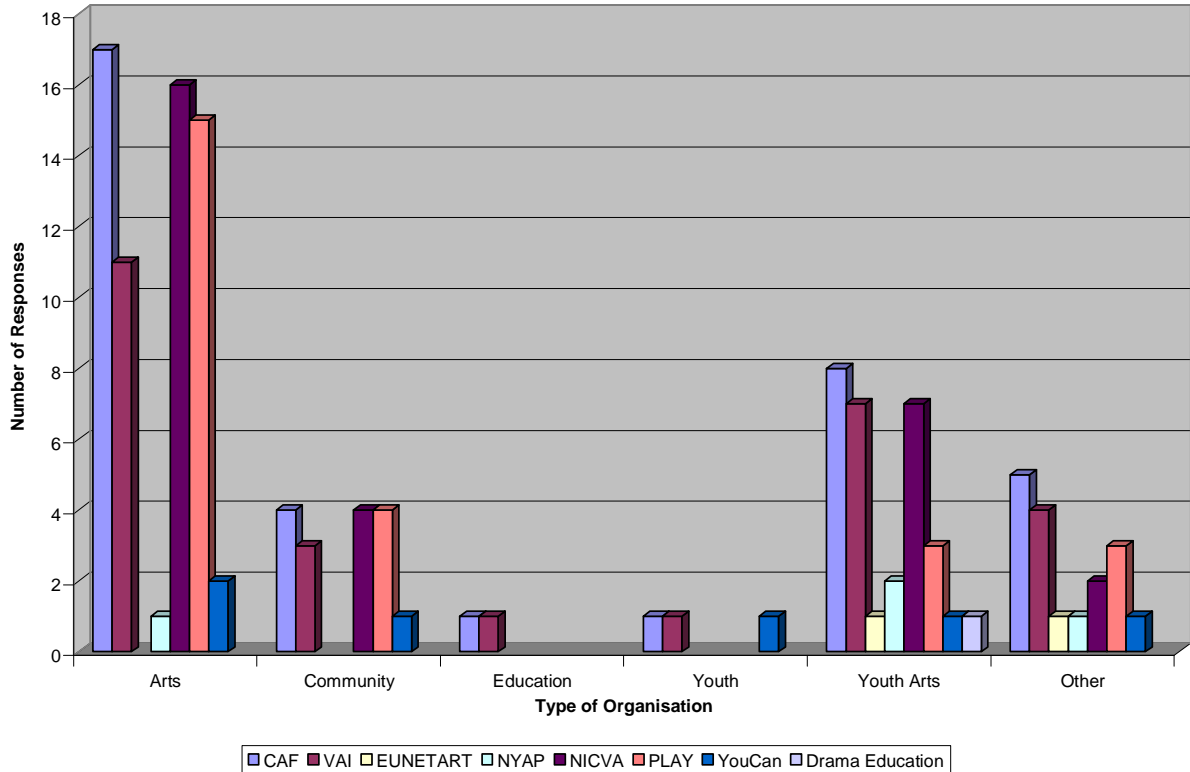
## Which networks or support bodies do you regularly use?

Networks	Total	%
CAF	36	71%
NICVA	29	57%
VAI	27	53%
Play Resource Centre	25	49%
YouCan	6	12%
NYAP	4	8%
EUNETART	2	4%
Drama Education	1	2%

Other Networks	Total
NITA	5
ASSITEJ	2
ACNI	1
Arts and Business	1
Audiences NI	1
BCC Festivals Forum	1
Belfast Arts Marketing Group	1
Children & Young People Now	1
CYP	1
Dance Resource Base	1
EFAH	1
ELB	1
Greater New Lodge CEP	1
Irish Theatre Institute (Dublin)	1
ITC	1
Kadmus Arts	1
NAYD	1
NIPPA - the early years organisation	1
Northwest Carnival Initiative	1
UAYD	1
Various lobbying campaigns	1
Visual Artists Ireland	1
Volunteer Development Agency	1

Network	Arts	% Arts	Community	% Comm	Education	% Ed	Youth	% Youth	Youth Arts	% Y Arts	Other	% Other
CAF	17	85%	4	44%	1	50%	1	33%	8	89%	5	63%
VAI	11	55%	3	33%	1	50%	1	33%	7	78%	4	50%
EUNETART	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	11%	1	13%
NYAP	1	5%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	22%	1	13%
NICVA	16	80%	4	44%	0	0%	0	0%	7	78%	2	25%
Play Resource Centre	15	75%	4	44%	0	0%	0	0%	3	33%	3	38%
YouCan	2	10%	1	11%	0	0%	1	33%	1	11%	1	13%
Drama Education	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	11%	0	0%
Total	20	100%	9	100%	2	100%	3	100%	9	100%	8	100%

# About existing networks



Number of networks per respondent	Total	%
8	1	2%
6	1	2%
5	4	8%
4	8	16%
3	15	29%
2	5	10%
1	9	18%
0	8	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>

## About existing networks

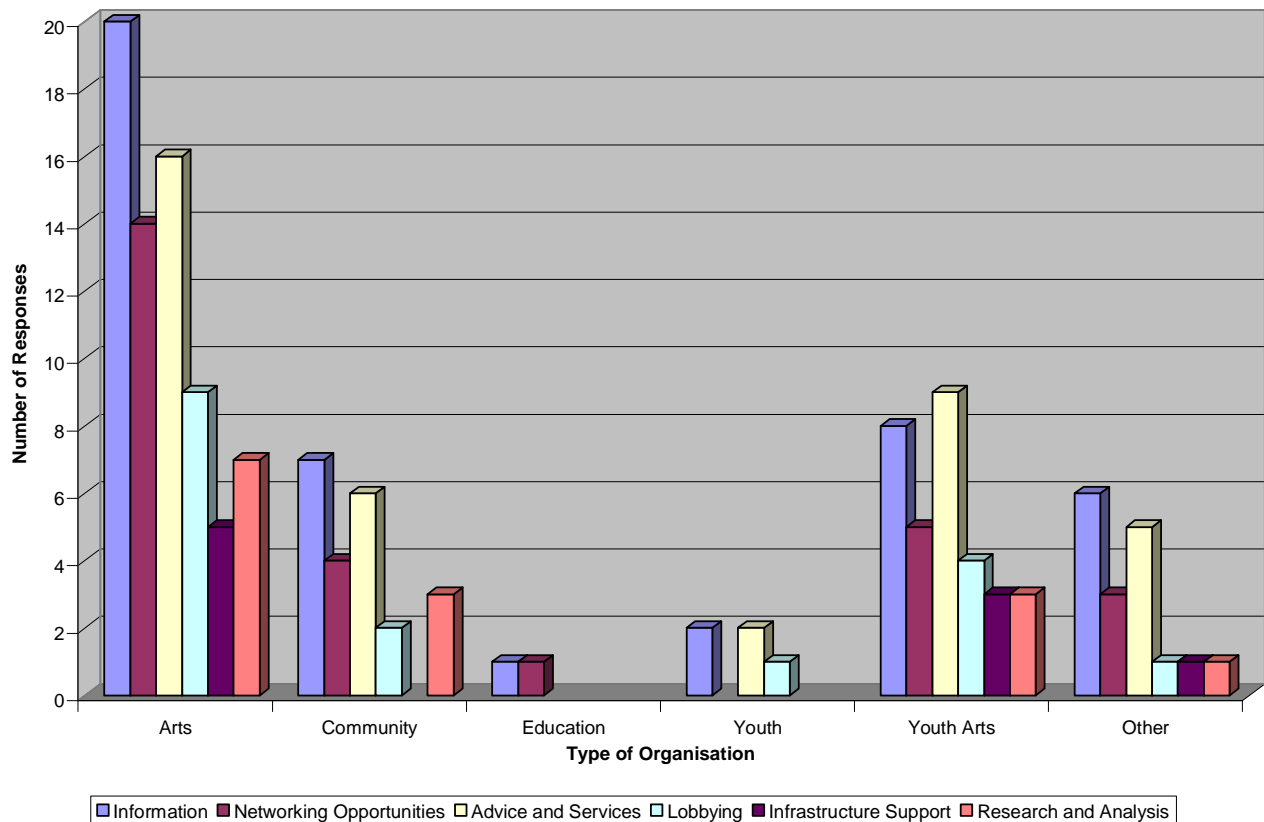
Number of networks per respondent	Organisations	Total	%
8	All eight listed options	1	2%
6	CAF/VAI/NYAP/NICVA/Play Resource Centre/YouCan	1	2%
5	CAF/VAI/NICVA/ Play Resource Centre /YouCan	2	4%
5	CAF/VAI/EUNETART/NYAP/ Play Resource Centre	1	2%
5	CAF/VAI/NYAP/NICVA/ Play Resource Centre	1	2%
4	CAF/VAI/NICVA/ Play Resource Centre	8	16%
3	CAF/NICVA/ Play Resource Centre	6	12%
3	CAF/VAI/NICVA	5	10%
3	CAF/VAI/YouCan	2	4%
3	CAF/VAI/ Play Resource Centre	1	2%
3	VAI/NICVA/ Play Resource Centre	1	2%
2	CAF/VAI	2	4%
2	CAF/NICVA	1	2%
2	CAF/ Play Resource Centre	1	2%
2	VAI/ Play Resource Centre	1	2%
1	CAF	4	8%
1	NICVA	3	6%
1	VAI	1	2%
1	Play Resource Centre	1	2%
0	None of the listed options	8	16%
	Total	51	

### What are the most useful features of the networks you currently use?

Useful Features	Total	%	Other Useful Features:
Information	44	86%	None listed
Advice and Services	38	75%	
Networking Opportunities	27	53%	
Lobbying	17	33%	
Research and Analysis	14	27%	
Infrastructure Support	9	18%	

# About existing networks

Useful Features	Arts	% Arts	Community	% Comm	Education	% Ed	Youth	% Youth	Youth Arts	% Y Arts	Other	% Other
Information	20	100%	7	78%	1	50%	2	67%	8	89%	6	75%
Networking Opportunities	14	70%	4	44%	1	50%	0	0%	5	56%	3	38%
Advice and Services	16	80%	6	67%	0	0%	2	67%	9	100%	5	63%
Lobbying	9	45%	2	22%	0	0%	1	33%	4	44%	1	13%
Infrastructure Support	5	25%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	33%	1	13%
Research and Analysis	7	35%	3	33%	0	0%	0	0%	3	33%	1	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>



## About existing networks

Number of Useful Features per respondent	Total	%
6	3	6%
5	4	8%
4	11	22%
3	15	29%
2	10	20%
1	2	4%
0	6	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>

Number of Useful Features per respondent	Useful Features	Total	%
6	All six listed options	3	6%
5	information/networking opportunities/advice and services/lobbying/research and analysis	3	6%
5	information/advice and services/lobbying/infrastructure support/research and analysis	1	2%
4	information/networking opportunities/advice and services/lobbying	5	10%
4	information/networking opportunities/advice and services/research and analysis	3	6%
4	information/advice and services/infrastructure support/research and analysis	2	4%
4	information/advice and services/lobbying/research and analysis	1	2%
3	information/networking opportunities/advice and services	9	18%
3	information/advice and services/lobbying	2	4%
3	information/networking opportunities/infrastructure support	1	2%
3	information/advice and services/infrastructure support	1	2%
3	information/lobbying/research and analysis	1	2%
3	advice and services/lobbying/infrastructure support	1	2%
2	information/advice and services	7	14%
2	information/networking opportunities	3	6%
1	information	2	4%
0	None of the listed options	6	12%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>

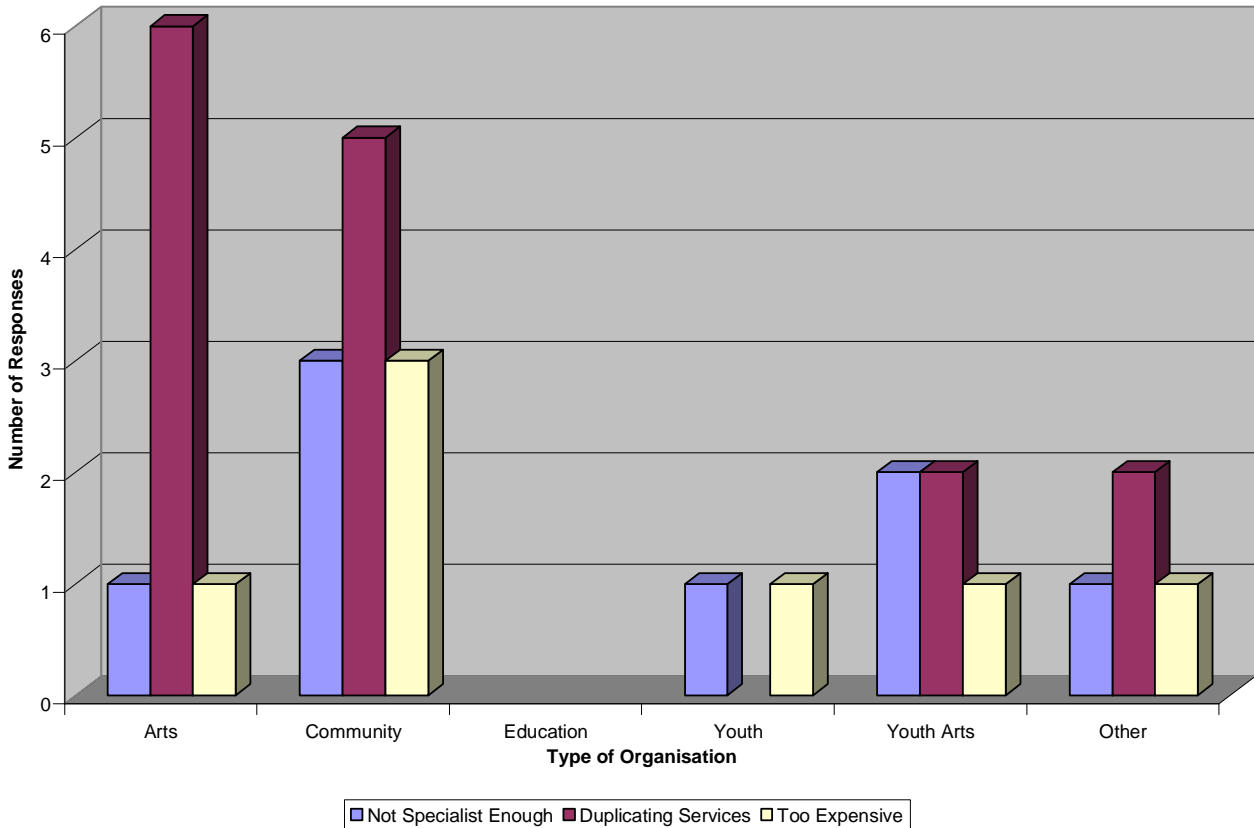
# About existing networks

What problems exist, if any, with the current networks?

Problems	Total	%
Services not specialist enough	8	16%
Too many networks duplicating services	15	29%
Membership fees too expensive	7	14%

Other Problems:
None Listed

Problems	Arts	% Arts	Community	% Comm	Education	% Ed	Youth	% Youth	Youth Arts	% Y Arts	Other	% Other
Services not specialist enough	1	5%	3	33%	0	0%	1	33%	2	22%	1	13%
Too many networks duplicating services	6	30%	5	56%	0	0%	0	0%	2	22%	2	25%
Membership fees too expensive	1	5%	3	33%	0	0%	1	33%	1	11%	1	13%
Total	20	100%	9	100%	2	100%	3	100%	9	100%	8	100%



## About existing networks

Number of problems per respondent	Total	%
3	1	2%
2	6	12%
1	15	29%
0	29	57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>

Number of problems per respondent	Problem	Total	%
3	All three listed options	1	2%
2	not specialist enough/duplicating services	3	6%
2	duplicating services/too expensive	2	4%
2	not specialist enough/too expensive	1	2%
1	duplicating services	9	18%
1	not specialist enough	3	6%
1	too expensive	3	6%
0	None of the listed options	29	57%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>

# About a Youth Arts Network for NI

## Does Northern Ireland need a network specifically for organisations involved in youth arts?

	Total	%
Yes	32	63%
No	11	22%
Did Not Answer	8	16%
Total	51	100%

### Yes, Northern Ireland does need a network specifically for organisations involved in youth arts ...

At present there is no dedicated Youth Arts Network, as such those engaged in Youth Arts activity have no recognised real or virtual space to meet and to discuss/explore issues of difference and commonality.

Because there is such a hidden level of activity that is not addressed by networks mainly aimed at adults.

But only as long as work is not duplicated

Combined opportunities for marketing etc

Because it is an area in need of development and investment

To collate all the scraps of information which currently come from lots of different places

I think it would be useful to have an overarching body with a specific remit for youth arts

It could improve access to the arts for young people and provide joined up thinking

It would be helpful to have one place to go to for youth arts, instead of having to go to arts networks, and then youth networks (which small youth arts organisations seem not to be covered by some networks in the very near future).

None exist at present, would help provide all the useful features as above but specialist to youth arts. Will also raise the profile of youth arts.

Possibly rather than yes. A question certainly worth exploring, a platform for networking and sharing experience and expertise could benefit the sector enormously. Would welcome the opportunity to showcase our outputs more widely.

Raising the profile of arts in both youth & community organisations; specialist support.

Targeted services.

There are a great many youth organisations, some of which carry out arts projects and activities. There are a number of arts organisations that work with young people. There is no comprehensive overview or understanding of who is doing what, why they are doing, how it could be improved, shared or extended, how organisations could learn from each other and work with each other for increased benefit to the young people. I also believe that the views, opinions and desires of the young people themselves are not represented in the decision making processes that lead to the development of much youth arts work. If there were a central organisation that could inform the youth arts, education and community sectors about what was going on and represent young people themselves, there could be a more cohesive and effective youth arts strategy for Northern Ireland. In light of current funding situations a joined up approach to youth arts programme planning and delivery could ensure sustained youth arts engagement via cross-sector development.

The more links between such organisations the better.

## About a Youth Arts Network for NI

### Yes, Northern Ireland does need a network specifically for organisations involved in youth arts ... (continued)

The value of arts across the range needs highlighted and youth need to be involved.

The youth of today need activities to keep them entertained. To allow them to pursue a hobby or interest.

There are many issues around working with young people e.g. child protection. A coherent approach to such things would be useful not only for those working but also the young people.

There isn't one to allow us to network and to lobby.

There should be more organised collaboration between youth organisations. No aspirational progression in youth arts from introductory training to more advanced training and opportunities.

This would strengthen the youth arts structure through a more cohesive approach and joint activity.

To create a stronger voice for youth arts. To provide opportunities for networking. For sharing of information.

To encourage more young people to take part.

To have a network devoted to dealing with all aspects of working with youth in arts would be beneficial, including child protection, facilitators, good rates on materials, support and advice.

To maximise all lobbying opportunities. To increase profile within sector.

To provide 1 centralised area where youth arts organisations and young people in Ireland can access information.

To provide specialist advice to youth arts sector.

To provide specialist information and to actively engage with policy on behalf of the arts sector.

Too many arts organisations focus specifically on general communities but not too much on young people, who would benefit from such a structured network.

### Did Not Answer

Duplication, young people's needs should be mainstreamed across existing working bodies where possible to avoid redirecting existing/new funding sources.

I think there is a need to build upon what we have. We have some excellent organisations e.g. Nerve Centre and others whose expertise has impacted upon not just supporting and developing young people but have played a huge part in supporting the continuous professional development of the adults, artists, community leaders and others they work with.

I'm not convinced to be honest. Convince me. I think one of the existing networks could house it ... oooooh that's the next question. I'm good!

Networks take a number of forms and I cannot comment on the need for a youth arts network until I know what it will provide.

Perhaps it would be useful to enjoy a dedicated forum that dealt specifically with youth and youth arts issues.

## About a Youth Arts Network for NI

### **No, Northern Ireland does not need a network specifically for organisations involved in youth arts ...**

Another talking shop with no power is only a waste of money and time.

Feel there is plenty of support from above organisations.

I think there are already many networks and groups existing which cover both youth and arts work. I'm not sure if a network like this would benefit our organisation. I feel that there are plenty of opportunities to share information and discuss relevant issues already. I will answer the other questions anyway.

It already has one! YouCan is for youth arts and VAI and CAF already provide enough information for organisations practicing youth arts. There is also a difficulty in voluntary arts organisations accessing information from community arts organisation umbrella bodies.

Opportunities for learning can come from like minded organisations regardless of the demographic they work with/for.

Plenty of organisations already established.

Rather than allocating a substantial portion of our tiny Arts budget creating a stand alone Youth Arts Network we should look at investing a smaller amount in one of the existing networks who can develop a Youth Arts section. With the systems and technology already in place one of the existing networking bodies within the Arts Sector could deliver a better product for a smaller investment. With the financial forecast for the Arts Sector so bleak it is important that what small funding we have is used to secure the best value to the NI population.

The money should be spent on frontline services for young people not in office work. There is really not enough money for another network in arts funding so suggest that an existing network makes an effort to include youth (which it should be doing anyway) within its existing budget.

There should be one network for all organisations involved in community arts.

What is needed in my opinion is an organisation that integrates arts/education and social/community groups.

# About a Youth Arts Network for NI

## Should this network be housed within an existing organisation?:

	Total	%
Yes	27	53%
No	12	24%
Not selected	12	24%
Total	51	100%

Suggested Organisations	Total
Young at Art	5
CAF	4
NICVA	1
Play Resource Centre	1
Voluntary Arts Ireland	1

### Additional Comments

Don't have the info to decide but guidance and policy development would be required.
No specific name- but an existing/ well established service deliverer acting as lead partner
Unsure - a consensus from existing youth arts groups that depends on the organisation maybe a partnerships between organisations may be better. Sharing ideas.
Possibly, if the right organisation was found. UAYD perhaps should be performing this role for drama.
Only if operates as independent forum with host organising & facilitating this network e.g. VAI, CAF
One central contact point would probably be most effective although there may be a number of central contact points across Northern Ireland, so long as they're linked.
I think so to create another organisation could be confusing and yet potentially divisive considering we have a wide range of quality youth Arts providers
If it's needed admin costs should at least be kept to a minimum.
In the current climate it is unlikely that a new organisation should be set up unless it merges existing functions of other networks. Another network agency such as VAI_ CAF or Youth link might fulfill such a purpose. There might also be a role for CYP?
Independent, but supported by all the youth, arts, community, education organisations that have something real to contribute to the process.
It could be set up through a partnership of orgs. However having an organisation which is willing to do the work is rare.

## What would your organisation need from a youth arts network?:

	Total	%
Information	42	82%
Networking Opportunities	41	80%
Advice and Services	37	73%
Research and Analysis	28	55%
Lobbying	27	53%
Infrastructure Support	22	43%

# About a Youth Arts Network for NI

## Other stated needs:

A Derry based voice.

Also need to ask young people themselves.

Education/Training/Networking opportunities for young people.

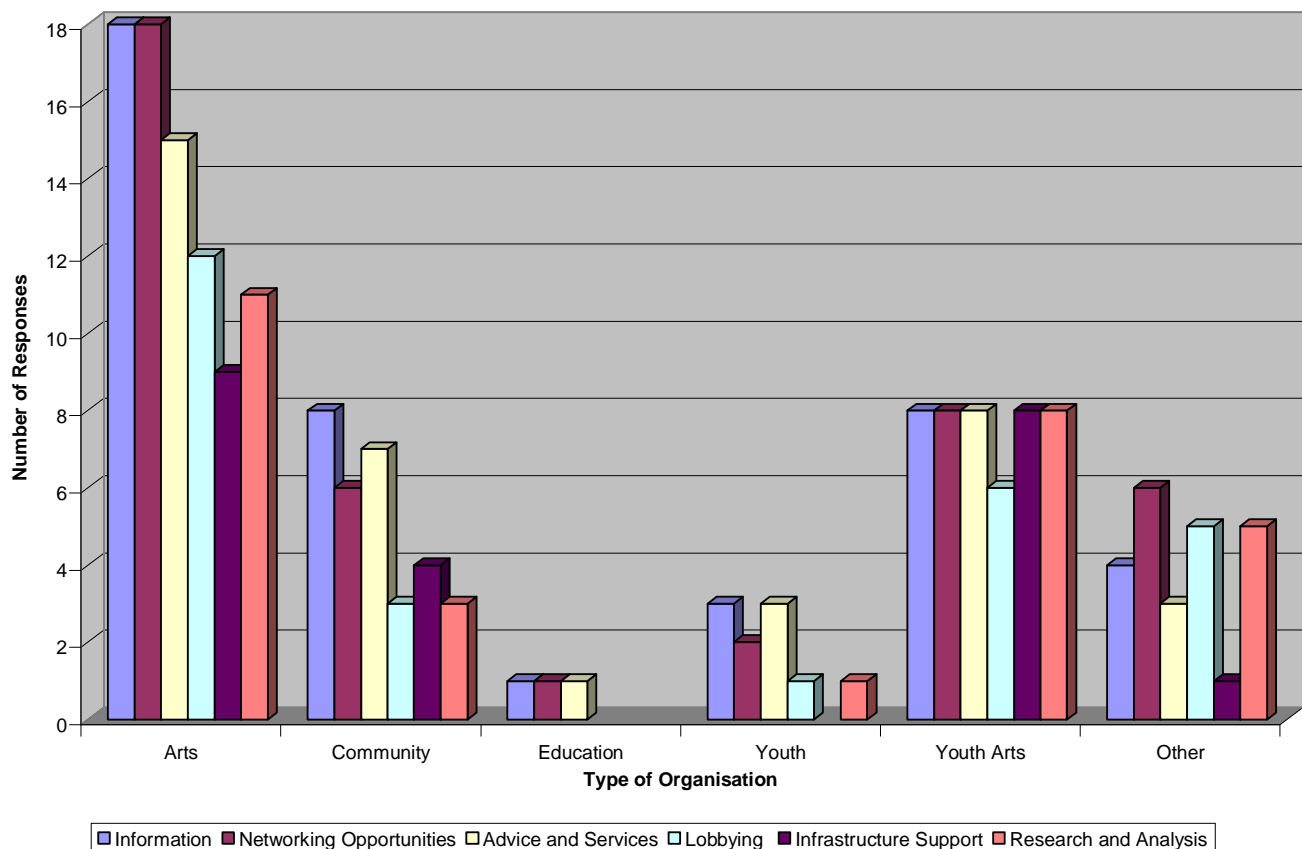
Forum for discussion of issues around youth experience and opportunities for social and creative expression.

It would be very useful to have an agency that could help organisations look at where their work crosses over and where they might share resources, premises etc.

P.R marketing/other specified training.

Establishment of standards.

To take forward policy development within the s (*incomplete answer*)



Organisational Needs	Arts	Community	Education	Youth	Youth Arts	Other	Total
Information	18	8	1	3	8	4	42
Networking Opportunities	18	6	1	2	8	6	41
Advice and Services	15	7	1	3	8	3	37
Lobbying	12	3	0	1	6	5	27
Research and Analysis	11	3	0	1	8	5	28
Infrastructure Support	9	4	0	0	8	1	22

## About a Youth Arts Network for NI

Number of Organisational Needs per respondent	Total	%
6	14	27%
5	2	4%
4	10	20%
3	13	25%
2	8	16%
1	1	2%
0	3	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>

Number of Organisational Needs per respondent	Organisational Needs	Total	%
6	All six listed options	14	27%
5	information/networking opportunities/advice and services/infrastructure support/research and analysis	1	2%
5	information/networking opportunities/lobbying/infrastructure support/research and analysis	1	2%
4	information/networking opportunities/advice and services/research and analysis	5	10%
4	information/networking opportunities/advice and services/lobbying	2	4%
4	information/networking opportunities/lobbying/research and analysis	1	2%
4	information/advice and services/infrastructure support/research and analysis	1	2%
4	advice and services/lobbying/infrastructure support/research and analysis	1	2%
3	information/networking opportunities/advice and services	6	12%
3	information/networking opportunities/research and analysis	2	4%
3	information/networking opportunities/infrastructure support	2	4%
3	information/networking opportunities/lobbying	1	2%
3	networking opportunities/lobbying/research and analysis	1	2%
3	advice and services/infrastructure support/research and analysis	1	2%
2	information/networking opportunities	3	6%
2	information/advice and services	3	6%
2	networking opportunities/lobbying	1	2%
2	advice and services/infrastructure support	1	2%
1	networking opportunities	1	2%
0	None of the listed options	3	6%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>

# About a Youth Arts Network for NI

## How would your organisation want to use such a network?

	Total	%
Combination	37	73%
Online only	5	10%
Attending youth arts events	4	8%
Did Not Answer	3	6%
Regular meetings	2	4%
Total	51	100%

### Other uses:

Meetings possibly.

Outreach visits.

A programme of seminars, discussion groups and online info.

We would be interested in hosting events in our new purpose built youth arts resource to encourage the youth arts sector to see the resource as something they can access. I am also Chairperson of UAYD and I know that as an organisation UAYD would see itself as integral to a Youth Arts Network.

## Does there also need to be a youth arts network for children and young people?

	Total	%
Yes, but part of the same network as the organisations	23	45%
No, there's no need for one	11	22%
Did Not Answer	9	18%
Yes, but separate from an organisational network	8	16%
Total	51	100%

### Yes, but part of the same network as the organisations

As above - for clear concise information. It would help if there was one place that young people, teachers, schools etc could be directed to to get information on youth arts organisations & projects happening across Northern Ireland.

Children & young people need to be at the heart of any network, not divorced from it.

Could be duplication of services.

Again, with youth and participant led governance becoming a more mainstream idea, this one central focus would be helpful to other providers.

Funding should be directed into service provision rather than into core admin costs.

I think there needs to be some kind of place (probably online) where children and young people can get information about arts activities, this could maybe be an off-shoot of another network or tied to the same site - connectivity is all important.

Individual organisations don't know enough about other youth work available. It is difficult to recommend and give advice with the lack of information about the quality and availability of opportunities on offer.

It would make more sense if the two were connected as one could feed into the other.

Revenue funding is a tad thin on the ground. Also it needs context.

Support roles needed.

They need a voice and support also.

There needs to be an integration of provision and providers of social and creative opportunities for children and a forum where they can discuss their ideas and needs.

## About a Youth Arts Network for NI

### Yes, but part of the same network as the organisations (continued)

There is a clear need for young people to be consulted with\_ represented in any planning and provision. They need support to ensure sustainability, but also need a degree of autonomy that allows them to develop as individuals and as an organisation which genuinely represents young people in Northern Ireland. A separate youth-led part of the youth arts network that informs the overall network, working with the bigger parent organisation to ensure that the views and needs of young people are translated into meaningful developments across the relevant sectors.

They should be empowered to have their say after all the work is for young people so they should feed into the development of it.

Young People are at the heart of creativity in Northern Ireland today and it is essential that their views are taken into account. Young People's engagement and understanding of the arts is as wide and varied as the arts themselves. Young People themselves must be key stakeholders in the Arts. Any discussion of Young People's participation in the Arts has to start from the needs and experiences of Young People today, how they engage with the arts and the resources needed to support this.

Young people need to inform the work / decisions that may be made in any network.

Youth arts is disregarded within the theatre community but has all the same issues - voice not heard.

### Yes, but separate from an organisational network

Children have ideas and should be able to express and share these with adults. Sometimes adults in inspiration.

Fulfilling two very different purposes so would have to be separate. Would be good if there was a website with details of all arts events going on for young people/ parents that they would have immediate access to an extensive list of upcoming events.

It's good to get the young people involved so they can have their opinions considered as well, since youth arts is for them.

Some forums currently exist through NICCY.

To allow the children to have their say. If this were to happen I would suggest it links with the NI Youth Forum.

Youth Arts is all about empowering young people and seeing them as active citizens they should have the opportunity to have their views heard and to lead the way in future youth arts policy.

### No, there's no need for one

As above - we should invest the small arts funding where it will have maximum input - by developing an existing network and creating space for children & young people we can have the same benefits for smaller investment.

As above, wrong time, funding constraints.

I am somewhat unsure about there being a need for one as a number are in existence. At UAYD we will soon be setting up an artform specific forum for our members.

I think this service should be provided by existing networks for young people.

Maybe in the future, but right now the sector itself has to take a lead.

More talking shops.

The reality is that any such network will largely be populated by confident children and young people from middle class backgrounds and will not represent the vast majority of youth. This opinion is based on observations of existing youth forums.

## About a Youth Arts Network for NI

### Did not answer

Depends on the focus of such a network and would need to be more detailed in terms of specification, lots of issues surrounding this.

The Early Years is such a specialist area that needs its own services.

Only if young people identify the need.

## Additional Comments

Dance was not included in the art forms listed above. Dance as part of youth arts could be more strongly promoted and supported.

How long do you have!

I believe Creative Youth Partnerships has played a significant part in building partnerships across N Ireland on an inter-sectoral basis. To date almost 50, 000 children have participated in and benefited from youth arts activity. This has been down to the work of the Development Officers and the CYP Artists (over 100 registered to date across a range of disciplines). The benefits of CYP is that it sits inside and alongside a range of contexts. Each CYP Dev Officer while they have their own autonomy are mentored and managed by the Creative and Expressive ELB Advisers, a Steering Group provides strategic direction and the 5 Action Zone support groups made up of local expertise acting in the interests of the young people with local expertise supporting CYP Dev Officers and feeding into regional strategy and providing insight, direction and strategic development.

I don't believe that youth arts should be represented as a platform segregated from the other aspects of youth culture and experience. In my experience this has led to many problems and lack of understanding between user groups and delivery groups. Strategic planning and networking needs to occur between arts groups and those working with the social and educational issues on the ground rather than the arts being a service that is bought in. To these ends it is important that arts organisations develop a social conscience dimension and those working in areas of social impact and intervention develop an artistic and creative dimension.

I feel that as an organisation we are at the forefront of delivering youth arts work not only in Belfast but across Northern Ireland, we would be very interested in helping put together a youth arts network. This network can then support the sector as well as lobby the Arts Council and government for the resources the sector needs and deserves.

I think that a Networking space for the youth arts sector would be beneficial but I think that it must be set up in such a way that the ultimate benefactors will be the NI population. The arts sector is under increasing financial pressure and it is imperative that the funding bodies take a strategic approach to the sectors development and growth.

Increased funding for youth arts organisations, both projects and salary costs.

Investment on a province wide basis in youth arts will pay dividends later on.

Okay - so I am developing a youth-led arts organisation, so obviously I am going to bang on about the importance of youth led participation and engagement. I am really excited at the prospect of a youth arts network BUT I really do want to see it engage with and work with the young people themselves and not just facilitate the funding requirements or programming plans of lead organisations involved in the network. Any youth-led part of this network needs to be genuine - no lip-service structures please!!

## Additional Comments

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) recognises and acknowledges the excellent and challenging work undertaken by artists, arts organisations and others in the development of Youth Arts activity for children and young people up to the age of 25 years across Northern Ireland. Similar to England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland, children and young people in the north of Ireland participate in the arts across all art forms and in contexts ranging from arts venues, festivals, schools, colleges and universities, and including libraries, health care settings, museums, youth clubs and community and voluntary groups. Their engagement sometimes takes place alongside adults but it occurs primarily through organisations, programmes and initiatives dedicated to them.

Participation in the arts by children and young people continues to be one of the major cultural policy issues in Northern Ireland. It will be increasingly important as one of the strategies emerging from a post conflict situation for developing an inclusive and intercultural society for children and young people both now and in the future within and between our communities. The arts do have the capacity to support and enhance social equity, interdependence and empowerment. ACNI strongly believe that one way this aim can be advanced and ultimately achieved is by supporting children and young people to deploy cultural and creative tools for social change, asserting themselves as artists and active culture makers within their own communities and winning recognition for their contribution to Northern Ireland's social and cultural capital.

ACNI are aware and committed to the need to foster and develop a greater understanding and proactive acceptance of the value that the arts has in the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland; the need to actively consider how children and young people connect with the arts while how best to further their participation in quality arts practice in a safe and enabling environment. Underpinning the artistic work with children and young people that ACNI supports through its ongoing funding and developmental activity with a wide range of partners is the view that the arts need to be recognised as central to the effectiveness of future policy for children and young people across all dimensions; educational\_ social and economic. In all these a cultural dimension is fundamental to achieving sustainable development.

The Youth Arts sector in Northern Ireland has developed significantly in the past ten years, creating a huge appetite from Young People for opportunities to experience the arts. ACNI has contributed to this growth notably through the distribution of government funding and funds received from the National Lottery.

The greatest need in Northern Ireland is for an independent youth arts unit as proposed by Nick Randall and Associates in a report commissioned by ACNI and YCNI some five years ago. A network is in danger of sucking in scarce resources from an under resourced sector with little net gain for the sector.

The involvement of young people in the Arts is highly undervalued and under resourced. The current youth arts forums and networks and statutory youth arts officers are not seen as having any impact on the support of the value of arts engagement within the North West of Ireland and Derry in particular.

There seems to be an emphasis on quantity rather than quality, largely due to funding criteria. This makes it difficult to offer continuity of services. Networking with other groups may help to alleviate this. Also a collective drive for increased quality of training for youth arts workers could be a benefit of further networking.

Youth Arts should have a champion & a forum which gives it equal status within the arts sector, e.g. community arts, Artscare, arts for older people, ADF, NITA all represent niche areas. Youth arts is often not seen by press & media as "credible" or as important especially RE: reviews for children's theatre.