

## Our Young People: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework

Public opinion from questions on the 2019 Young Persons' Behaviour & Attitudes Survey

### Headline Bulletin

This report presents the overall results on how Northern Ireland's young people view each of the 12 draft Programme for Government Outcomes.

#### Available population characteristics:

Gender, Religion, Deprivation, Free School Meals, Urban/Rural, Year Group, Disability, Health, Ethnicity, School Type

Separate bulletins focusing on each of these characteristics and each of the Outcomes is available [on the TEO website](#).

### Key Findings

- For Outcome 11, over 2 in 3 respondents (67%) agreed or strongly agreed with the statement (Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other), which was the highest rate of agreement.
- Meanwhile, less than quarter (22%) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with Outcome 2 (We look after our environment), giving it the lowest agreement rate.
- Outcome 2 also elicited the most negative responses, with half of respondents (50%) disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with the statement.
- As well as having the highest rate of agreement, Outcome 11 also had the lowest proportion of respondents disagreeing at 7%.
- Outcome 1 (We have a strong economy) had the highest proportion of neutral responses at 44%.

### Introduction

This report provides a summary of young persons' attitudes towards the 12 Outcomes from the draft Programme for Government and uses data from the 2019 Young Persons' Behaviour & Attitudes Survey. The Executive Office placed questions on the 2019 Young Persons' Behaviour & Attitudes Survey to gather information on perceptions around Northern Ireland's current position in relation to each of the Outcomes. This information is complementary to the formal tracking of NI population indicators to help assess NI's progress towards the Outcomes, and to our annual survey of the adult population's perceptions of the 12 Outcomes, which can be found on the TEO website - <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/our-population-perceptions-outcomes-framework>.

Respondents were presented with each Outcome as a statement and were asked about the extent to which they agreed or disagreed (e.g. "We have a strong economy"), thinking about Northern Ireland society today. These statements are based on those used in both the main and the child friendly [Programme for Government consultation documents](#), but have been adapted to suit the format of the YPBAS questionnaire and audience. Prior to the survey being launched, questions were piloted with the assistance of the National Children's Bureau, for understanding, length and flow.

For further information or to provide feedback please contact us at: [pfganalytics@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:pfganalytics@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)

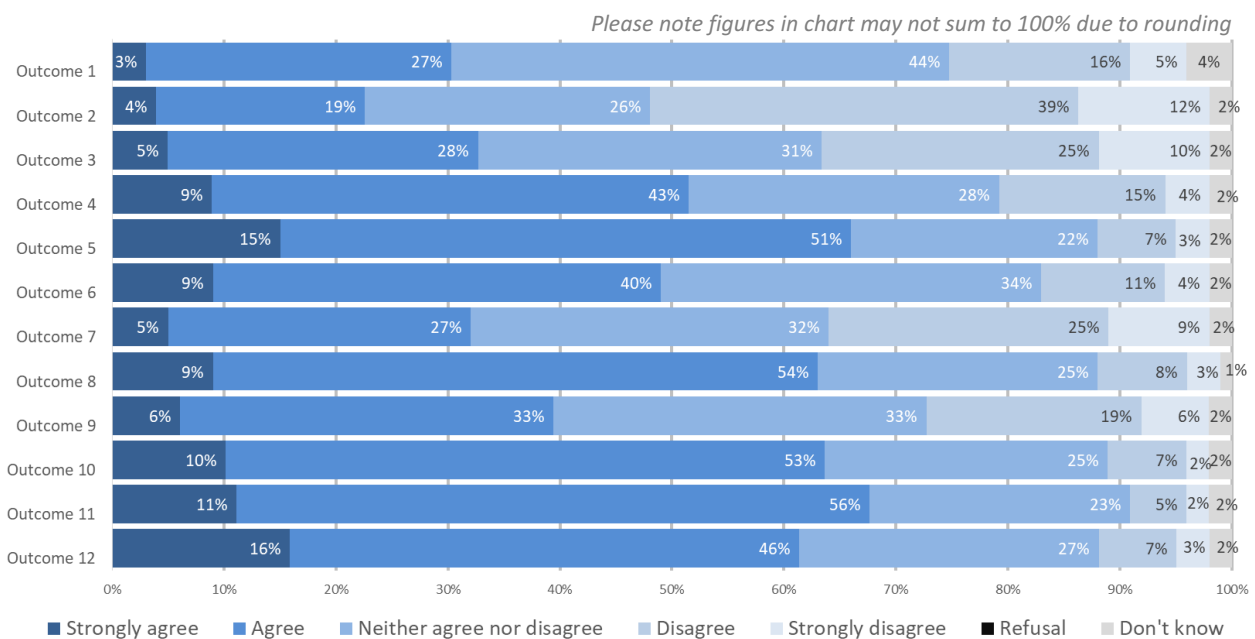
# Headline results

**Outcomes 11 and 5 had the highest rates of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing (67% and 66% respectively), while Outcomes 2 and 3 had the highest rates of disagreement (50% and 34% respectively).**

Those agreeing or strongly agreeing ranged from 67% for Outcome 11 (Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other) to 22% for Outcome 2 (We look after our environment). Meanwhile rates for those disagreeing or strongly disagreeing ranged from 50% (Outcome 2) to 7% (Outcome 11). At 44%, Outcome 1 (We have a strong economy) had the highest proportion of neutral responses. The range of responses to the survey are summarised in Figure 1 below.

When completing the survey, respondents would sometimes indicate they didn't know how they would like to respond, or refused to provide an answer. This response varied across the Outcomes with the highest rates recorded for Outcome 1 and Outcome 6 (We have more people working in better jobs) at 3.8% and 2.8% respectively.

**Figure 1:** Summary of responses for each Outcome<sup>1</sup>



**Outcome 11 was the most positively rated Outcome on average, while Outcome 2 was rated least positively.**

The majority of the Outcomes were viewed positively by respondents. Nine of the 12 Outcome statements had a mean score of 3.00 or above, suggesting that, on average, respondents agreed with these statements more than they disagreed with them.

Outcome 11 had the highest mean score at 3.72, while Outcome 2 had lowest at 2.64. Outcome 3 (We have a more equal society) and Outcome 7 (We have a safe community where we respect the law and each other) also scored below 3.00 (2.93 and 2.94 respectively). Despite having the second lowest agreement rate of all 12 Outcomes, the high proportion of neutral responses for Outcome 1 puts it 9th of the 12 Outcomes on average, with a mean score of 3.08.

**Figure 2:** Outcomes with the lowest and highest mean score



<sup>1</sup> See 'Survey questions' on the next page for a full list of the Outcome statements

## Draft Programme for Government & Outcomes Delivery Plan

The former Executive had agreed to develop a Programme for Government (PfG) for Northern Ireland with the stated purpose of “Improving wellbeing for all – by tackling disadvantage and driving economic growth”.

The contents of the PfG were developed following extensive public consultation in 2016-17, to gather citizens’ views on what the priorities of government should be in order to deliver for the population. The “Our Population: What Matters Most?” publication provides more details on the issues identified that helped develop the subsequent PfG framework - <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/our-population-what-matters-most>.

The draft PfG framework is used as the basis for the Outcomes Delivery Plan (ODP) which focuses on 12 stated Outcomes in key areas of economic and societal well-being. More information on the Outcomes Delivery Plan, draft Programme for Government and the Outcomes framework can be found on the 'Making Government Work' page - <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/making-government-work>

## Survey questions

“The following statements are about Northern Ireland society today. Please select whether you agree or disagree with each one.”

1. We have a strong economy
2. We look after our environment
3. We have an equal society
4. We enjoy long, healthy, active lives
5. We have opportunities for people to be innovative, creative and fulfil their potential
6. We have more people working in better jobs
7. We have a safe community where we respect the law and each other
8. We care for others and we help those in need
9. We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects difference
10. We have a place where people want to live, work and visit
11. Our communication and travel networks help people to connect with each other
12. We give our children and young people the best start in life

## Data presentation and terms

This report is focussed on the key findings for each of the 12 Outcome statements. There are two ways we measure the results:

- **Percentage** – that is, how many people as a percentage of the total responded with a given answer. For example, “The Outcome with which most respondents disagreed was Outcome 2 (We look after our environment) at 50%” or “At 44%, Outcome 1 (we have a strong economy) had the highest proportion of neutral responses”
- **Mean score** – responses to the Outcome statements are given a value between 1 and 5, where 1 = “Strongly disagree” and 5 = “Strongly agree”. We use this to calculate the average (mean) response to that Outcome statement. The higher the mean, the more people agreed with the statement. For example, a mean score of 3.0 (exactly in the middle of 1 and 5) tells us that respondents, on average, neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement. A mean score of 3.5 would suggest that, on average, respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement

Further information on the analysis and the survey are available in Annex A of the main Outcomes and Population Characteristics report in this series. These are available on the [TEO website](#).