

The Federation of Women's Institutes

Northern Ireland

Membership Survey

The Executive is very concerned by the continuing fall in membership and particularly the closure of Institutes and the loss of an Area (Mourne), with others on the brink. To reverse this trend it has established a working group to take an in depth look at the problem and to come up with recommendations.

To get a clear picture of the situation and to help it come forward with ideas for the future, the Working Group is carrying out a survey of all the Institutes. It asks that all Institutes discuss the survey with its members as it is their views that are needed to find a way forward. This may take time as members have many views on the subject and it is a lengthy survey, however, we would ask you to persevere and fully answer all the questions.

Institute name..... Area.....

Established.....

Number of members..... Age range of members.....

Average age of members:

1.0 Your Institute

1.1 Is your Institute rural or town/village based?

1.2 Where and when does your Institute meet? (day of month and time)

1.3 Does your Institute have its own premises?

1.4 What is the best thing about your WI?

2.0 Membership

2.1 Are you experiencing a decline in your membership?

2.2 Why do you think that this is so?

2.3 What steps are you taking to encourage new members to join you?

2.4 Have they been successful?

2.5 What do you think can be done to stop members leaving?

2.6 Do you have many younger women?

2.7 Do you think that your programme encourages younger women to join?

3.0 Communication

3.1 How do you communicate with your members?

3.2 Do you use the WI web site to promote your activities?

3.3 Does your Institute have a Facebook page or use any other social media such as Twitter and Instagram?

3.4 Do you have a member/s trained in uploading information on to the WI web site and to keep your social media up to date?

3.5 If training was available on the use of the web site and social media, do you have members who would attend?

3.6 Do your members buy the Ulster Countrywoman and do any members leave copies in doctors surgeries, libraries etc?

4.0 Publicity

4.1 Do you have a Press Officer and does she regularly send information to the Ulster Countrywoman and your local press?

4.2 Do your members contribute articles/photographs/poems etc. to the Ulster Countrywoman? Do they take part in the competitions?

4.2 Do you invite the local press to your WI events?

4.3 Do you have display boards, a banner etc to advertise your WI's presence in an area.

5.0 Your Committee

5.1 Are your members happy to take a turn to serve on Committee?

5.2 Do you have problems in getting a President or other officers?

5.3 Would your Institute be interested in a short course in leadership, how to manage a committee, speaking in public etc?

5.4 Would a course for Treasurers be useful?

5.5 Do you have a Programme Secretary to assist the Secretary? Is this useful?

5.6 Do the members of your Committee change regularly? Do you think that this is useful?

6.0 Your Programme

6.1 Are you an Institute that has an emphasis on craft?

6.2 Do you run any community outreach events?

6.3 Does your Institute run any courses, exercise classes, craft groups etc. as well as regular Institute meetings? If so what are these?

6.4 Does your Institute apply for grant funding for courses, travel etc.? If so what are these?

6.5 Would it encourage you to apply for external funding if the required Federation information, policies and procedures were more accessible?

6.6 Does your Institute take part in your Area events. If not, why not?

6.7 Does your Institute take part in any Federation events? If not, why not?

6.8 Does your Institute get involved and comment on social issues? Do you ever comment on Local Council or Government consultation documents?

6.9 Has your Institute ever put forward a Resolution to the Federation AGM?

7.0 General Comment

7.1 What impression do you think the public has of the WI? Do you think this is fair? Do you think the public's perceptions of the WI needs changing and how do you think this can be done?

7.2 Have you any further comments to make? Please take as much space as you need.

Thank you.

Please return your survey in an envelope marked "Survey" to Federation House no later than **Thursday 23 May 2019**.