



Education Authority

Youth Service

**Local
Assessment
of Need**
2018/2020

Ards & North Down District

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1. Introduction

On April 1st 2015 the existing educational structures in Northern Ireland were replaced with a single regional body, the Education Authority (EA), coinciding with the implementation of new local government structures. The new Education Authority took over all of the roles and responsibilities of the former Education and Library Boards (ELBs) and the Staff Commission.

The Department of Education (DE) is committed to implementing a coherent policy brief for Youth Work providing a clear focus, a new way of looking at planning, delivery and evaluation and a high quality service for young people with improved outcomes.

The Education Authority delivers youth services directly to young people in a variety of settings such as full-time and part-time youth centres and outdoor education centres, as well as through outreach work and specialist programmes, particularly focussed on enhancing the inclusion and participation of young people. A significant proportion of youth work programmes also takes place in voluntary sector organisations, supported by grants from EA.

The structure of EA Youth Service delivery has also changed. The previous model was based on the legacy Education and Library Boards, whereby, there were 14 Youth Officers managing areas from the old 26 District Council areas.

Following restructuring, the new model sees the introduction of a co-terminous delivery model based on the new Local Government Districts. There are now 9 Youth Officers managing the new eleven Council areas. Two Officers are based in Belfast, three Officers will service 2 new council areas and the remaining 4 will manage a Council area each. This new model ensures that each officer will manage an area with similar numbers of young people.

Structured formal planning takes place throughout the service in order to effectively allocate resources in response to policy priorities, DE targets and an objective assessment of needs. Area Planning is part of a coherent planning framework established within Youth Services.

The Area Plan describes the policy and local context for the service and summarises a needs assessment of the area. The Action Plan, the delivery model, will reflect DE policy and targets and will also articulate how the needs of the area will be addressed over the next three years.

EA has developed two strands to ensure the delivery of quality provision for young people; these are local services and regional services.

Local services aim to provide a universal service based on policy directives including Priorities for Youth, Community Relations Equality and Diversity (CRED) and Shared Education whilst aiming to provide a targeted service based on key priorities within an assessment of need. Local services aim to ensure the delivery of essential services by the voluntary and statutory sector and manage statutory provision in distinct geographical areas.

The Head of Service for Local provision has responsibility for the effective engagement of children and young people in service design, delivery and evaluation of youth service. The HOS has overall responsibility for the leadership and management of strategic planning and quality assurance for local youth services across the Education Authority.

As part of local services 9 Senior Youth Officers (SYO) have been employed to manage the strategic development of the youth service in designated areas. The SYOs oversee the implementation of the Area Plan, monitors and moderates provision, and represents the EA on strategic partnerships.

Regional services are managed by a Head of Service with responsibility for the leadership and management of strategic planning and quality assurance for regional youth services across EA, as well as providing the relevant support for the delivery of youth work in line with key policy directives including Priorities for Youth, Community Relations Equality and Diversity (CRED) and Shared Education.

The HoS has responsibility for the design, delivery and evaluation of training and curriculum support services and the development of effective quality assurance systems. A key element of the role of the HOS is to ensure effective engagement with strategic partners including voluntary sector organisations.

2. Policy Context

2.1 Introduction

On April 1st 2015 the existing educational structures in Northern Ireland were replaced with a single regional body, the Education Authority (EA), coinciding with the implementation of new local government structures. The new Education Authority took over all of the roles and responsibilities of the former Education and Library Boards and the Staff Commission.

Established as a non-departmental public body in 1990, the Youth Council for Northern Ireland (YCNI) continues to advise the Department of Education, the Education Authority and other bodies on the development of the Youth Service; to encourage cross-community activity by the Youth Service; to encourage the provision of facilities for the Youth Service and facilities which are especially beneficial to young persons, and encourage and assist the co-ordination and efficient use of the resources of the Youth Service. In 2016 YCNI was conferred with an additional statutory function to encourage and facilitate Shared Education.

The policy landscape also changed following the 2016 Assembly elections. Northern Ireland had a new Minister for Education, a new Programme for Government and a series of high level strategies set for implementation from early 2017 which may have potential ramifications for Youth Services. There is also the impending UK exit from the European Union which may influence the focus and direction of Youth Services in the future.

Strategic planning within Youth Services must take account of this high level policy context alongside wider DE policies. The following sections are a brief outline of some of the key policy areas. It should however be remembered that the policy context is constantly evolving and subject to change.

2.2 Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021

The Programme for Government is the highest level strategic document of the Northern Ireland Executive, setting out the priorities that will be pursued by the Assembly and identifying the most significant actions it will take to address them.

The draft Framework contains 14 strategic outcomes which touch on every aspect of Government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and establishing confident and peaceful communities. The 14 outcomes are supported by 42 indicators which are clear statements for change and each indicator is accompanied by a measure largely derived from existing statistics.

The draft Programme for Government will require a significant change in approach from that used by previous administrations and a key feature is its dependence on collaborative working between organisations and groups, whether in the public, voluntary or private sectors. Delivery of the Programme will encourage working across boundaries and focusing on the outcomes rather than traditional departmental lines.

The Department of Education will take the lead role on one of the Programme for Government outcomes, we give our children and young people the best start in life. There may be implications for DE funded Youth Provision to support this outcome. The greater impetus for collaborative working

and the adoption of outcomes based accountability, both of which are central features of the draft Programme for Government, may also have repercussions for the scope and approach of Youth Provision in future.

2.3 A Fresh Start

The Fresh Start Agreement (November 2015) provides a set of inter-related and high level proposals which seek to overcome some of the most challenging and intractable issues within Northern Ireland. One of the key issues addressed within A Fresh Start is that of legacy and the impact of paramilitary activity. Among the strategic actions to end paramilitarism, is a commitment to a cross-departmental programme to prevent vulnerable young people becoming involved in paramilitary activity. In 2016 the NI Executive published its Action Plan on Tackling Paramilitary Activity, criminality and organised crime. The Action Plan states that the NI Executive should commission appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting lawfulness in schools and through Youth Work in communities.

The Department of Education developed initiatives to ensure that those schools and youth groups dealing with the effects of paramilitary activity on young people are appropriately trained to identify risk factors and to adopt a whole school or group approach to help deal with those challenges.

The Department of Education and the Executive Office will deliver Youth Intervention Programmes specifically targeted at vulnerable young people, including those most at risk of becoming involved in or affected by paramilitary activity, so that they can make a positive contribution to their communities. The expertise within the Youth Service, particularly its strong track record in transformative and developmental work with young people who have been exposed to paramilitary threat, interface violence and sectarianism, ensures that the Service can make a positive contribution in supporting these initiatives.

2.4 Department of Education

Although the work of the Department of Education extends across many of the 14 Outcomes in the draft Programme for Government, its key area of focus lies within Outcome 14, which states that : We give our children and young people the best start in life. DE will lead on the development of Delivery Plans for the following 4 indicators in the draft Programme for Government:

- Indicator 11: Improve Educational Outcomes
- Indicator 12: Reduce Educational Inequality
- Indicator 13: Improve the Quality of Education
- Indicator 15: Improve Child Development

The DE Corporate Plan for Education will outline the strategic direction for DE and the wider education service and set out the key priorities and objectives during the period that it covers. The Corporate Plan is developed from the draft Programme for Government and will follow once the draft Programme for Government has been agreed and published. Each year DE will develop an annual business plan setting out its commitments to delivering the corporate goals and strategic objectives contained in the Corporate Plan.

2.5 Department of Education Business Plan

The overarching DE vision is that all children and young people receive the best start in life to enable them to achieve their full potential at each stage of their development. The DE business plan reflects the key priorities and objectives during the 2016/17 financial year in support of the draft Programme for Government (PfG) framework (2016-2021). The Plan will be updated as and when the draft PfG (2016-2021) has been agreed and finalised. Currently DE's plan is set out under seven corporate goals:

- Improving the well-being of children and young people: Supporting the draft PfG Indicator 15: Improve child development.
- Raising standards for all which supports the draft PfG Indicator 11: Improving educational outcomes.
- Closing the performance gap, increasing access and equality: Supporting the draft PfG Indicator 12: Reduce educational inequality.
- Developing the education workforce which supports the draft PfG Indicator 13: Improving the quality of education.
- Improving the learning environment which supports the draft PfG Indicator 13: Improving the quality of education.
- Transforming the governance and management of education.
- Discharging our corporate responsibilities effectively.

Specific references to Youth Services in the 2016-2017 business plan include progression of the implementation of Priorities for Youth and development of the Network for Youth model.

2.6 Priorities for Youth

Priorities for Youth, published in October 2013, clearly sets out the positive contribution that Youth Services can play in achieving the Department of Education's vision that every young person can achieve to his or her full potential at each stage of his and her development.

The policy affirms that Youth Work can, through various methodologies and in various settings, provide additional opportunities to support young people's learning and development and improve employability by re-engaging disadvantaged young people with education.

The policy also recognises that Youth Work has a major role to play as we continue to deal with the legacy of conflict, moving towards a shared and inclusive society, by equipping young people with the skills, attitudes and behaviours to recognise, understand and respect difference.

Priorities for Youth revised the overarching aims of Youth Work to reflect a closer alignment between Youth Work and education priorities, and presented the strategic aims of Youth Work as:

- To contribute to raising standards for all and closing the performance gap between the highest and lowest achieving young people by providing access to enjoyable, non-formal learning opportunities that help them to develop enhanced social and cognitive skills and overcome barriers to learning; and

- To continue to improve the non-formal learning environment by creating inclusive, participative settings in which the voice and influence of young people are championed, supported and evident in the design, delivery and evaluation of programmes.

The policy identified the following principles underpinning all aspects of Youth Work supported by DE:

- Participation in Youth Services is voluntary and should enable young people to develop the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to tackle the issues that are important to them.
- The active participation of young people should be fostered, supported and evident across all youth settings.
- Equality and inclusion should be fundamental to planning and implementation and the values of equality, diversity and interdependence should be at the heart of Youth Work.
- Young people, their families and the wider community should be involved in Youth Work in a meaningful way, with expectations managed within the resources available.
- Young people should expect high quality services, which follow best practice including the highest standards of child protection.
- Collaborative working between the voluntary, uniformed, faith-based and statutory sectors should play an important part in securing improved outcomes for young people and the continued commitment from the youth workforce, including volunteers.
- The contribution of the volunteer workforce within the youth sector is invaluable and should be acknowledged, supported and celebrated;
- Resources should be used to achieve priority outcomes for young people in the most cost effective way, according to best practice principles (public value).
- The needs of the young person should be the key focus at each stage of development.
- Activities should be engaging, enjoyable and planned to deliver improved outcomes.

Priorities for Youth directs that Youth Work must be planned in response to the assessed need, prioritised age ranges and other identified groups. It emphasises that strategic planning within Youth Services must reflect wider DE policy and that future Youth Provision will be consistent, transparent and allocated proportionate to the level of disadvantage experienced by young people.

Whilst the needs of specific groups of young people are prioritised, the policy is clear that general Youth Provision will also continue to be supported in line with the assessment of need.

Although the policy strives for closer alignment between DE funded Youth Work and the DE agenda, it also affirms that Youth Work can assist in the delivery of a range of other strategic outcomes such as the:

- Programme for Government.
- Children and Young People's 10 Year Plan.
- Play and Leisure Policy.
- Child Poverty Policy.
- Pathways to Success.
- Delivering Social Change.
- Together: Building a United Community.

The policy acknowledges initiatives and funding opportunities available at European level, along with the need to build on co-operation between youth sectors on a north/south and east/west basis.

The policy also recognises and supports the shared values and principles in the 2011 Concordat between the voluntary and community sector and the NI Executive and notes that DE is committed to working with partners in line with the Concordat. In turn, DE requires the Education Authority and other arms-length-bodies to adhere to the values and principles of the Concordat when carrying out activities on its behalf.

In planning for youth provision, Priorities for Youth asserts that managers must take account of a range of high level education policies and services, such as CRED, Extended Schools, Full Service Schools, Education Other Than At School (EOTAS), Irish Medium Education, Special Education, Area Learning Communities and the Entitlement Framework.

2.7 Community Relations, Equality and Diversity (CRED) and CRED Addendum

The Department of Education launched the Community Relations, Equality and Diversity (CRED) policy for Youth Services and schools in March 2011. The aim of the CRED Policy was to contribute to improving relations between communities by educating children and young people to develop self-respect and respect for others by providing them, in formal and non-formal education settings, with opportunities to build relationships with those from different backgrounds and traditions within the resources available.

To assist the implementation of the CRED policy, earmarked funding was provided to support capacity building for teachers and Youth Workers. This was designed to provide opportunities for young people to engage in meaningful activities, to develop resources and to establish a dedicated website to display and disseminate effective good practice. However this funding was withdrawn in March 2015.

In 2014/2015 DE undertook a formal review of the CRED policy to ensure that the policy was meeting its aims and objectives and to inform further development of the policy. The review findings confirmed that the policy was fit for purpose and largely effective in improving attitudes of children and young people towards those they perceived to be different, helping prepare them to take their place in an increasingly diverse society.

In September 2016 DE published the CRED Addendum. While the core CRED policy remains unchanged, the Addendum provides an updated set of commitments to be read in conjunction with the policy. The Addendum recognises the close relationship between the CRED, Shared Education, and Priorities for Youth policies. DE states that its arms-length bodies will assist educational partners in reflecting the aims, objectives and core values of the CRED policy within plans to progress Shared Education and Priorities for Youth in a holistic way.

The Addendum identifies a range of key issues and actions for DE and education partners. In terms of resourcing CRED work in the youth sector, it notes that the Regional Youth Development Plan will articulate how CRED related issues will be addressed. It also highlights that the Education Authority and other delivery organisations will take account of the particular needs of those of differing sexual orientation, racial groups and disability.

The Education Authority will identify priority areas for professional learning for practitioners and ensure voluntary youth organisations have the knowledge and skills to embed CRED through dissemination of good practice, training and mentor support.

2.8 Shared Education

The Shared Education Act (NI) 2016 received Royal Assent in May 2016, and the purpose of the Act is to make legislative provision in relation to Shared Education. It provides a definition of Shared Education and confers a duty on DE to encourage, facilitate and promote Shared Education. The Act also confers a power on relevant arms-length bodies, including the Education Authority and the Youth Council for Northern Ireland to encourage and facilitate Shared Education.

The Shared Education Act (NI) 2016 defines Shared Education as the education together of those of different religious belief, including reasonable numbers of both Protestant and Roman Catholic children or young persons and those who are experiencing socio-economic deprivation and those who are not. This form of education is secured by the working together and co-operation of two or more relevant providers. A relevant provider means a person providing education at a grant-aided school or services of any kind, including youth services, which provide educational benefit to children or young persons.

Shared Education means that the organisation and delivery of education must align to the following three principles:

- Meets the needs of and provides for the education together of learners from all Section 75 categories and socio-economic status.
- Involves schools and other education providers of differing ownership, sectoral identity and ethos, management type or governance arrangements.
- Delivers educational benefits to learners, promotes the efficient and effective use of resources, and promotes equality of opportunity, good relations, equality of identity, respect for diversity and community cohesion.

The vision for Shared Education, articulated in the DE policy 'Sharing Works' (September 2015) is for: Vibrant, self-improving Shared Education partnerships delivering educational benefits to learners, encouraging the efficient and effective use of resources, and promoting equality of opportunity, good relations, equality of identity, respect for diversity and community cohesion.

The policy reflects that equality and inclusion are key features of high performing education systems, and states that all children and young people should have the opportunity to be involved in Shared Education. The policy is therefore aimed at:

- Both statutory and voluntary early-years educational settings.
- Primary, post-primary and special schools.
- Non-formal educational environments, such as statutory and voluntary Youth Work settings.

2.9 Rural Needs Act Northern Ireland 2016

Rural proofing is the process by which policies, strategies and plans are assessed to determine whether they have a differential impact on rural areas and, where appropriate, adjustments are made to take account of particular rural circumstances. Rural Proofing has been a requirement for all Government Departments in Northern Ireland since 2002 and has been an integral part of the policy development process. In 2016, this commitment to rural proofing was strengthened with the introduction of the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016.

There are three main areas of responsibility for public authorities under the Act and these relate to the consideration of rural needs; monitoring and reporting on how the public authority has complied with this requirement; and co-operation and sharing of information with other public authorities.

2.10 DE Action Plan against Child Sexual Exploitation

The findings of a report into Child Sexual Exploitation in Northern Ireland, the Marshall report, were presented to Ministers of the NI Executive in 2014. In 2015 DE published an Education Action Plan in response to the Marshall Report which comprised 40 recommendations and associated actions, including eSafety advice and guidance to teachers and an eSafety zone within the C2k Exchange.

Among the recommendations which may directly relate to the Youth Service are:

- DE should conduct a review of Youth Services that take account of the views of young people and aim to ensure that such provision is attractive and appropriate.
- DE should explore the possibilities for peer education and mentoring as a way of informing and supporting young people about CSE.
- DE should ensure that Youth Workers, whether paid or voluntary, should receive training to help them to inform and support young people who may be at risk of CSE and to identify and report safeguarding issues appropriately.

3. Current Delivery

3.1 Introduction

The Youth Service in the Ards & North Down area is constantly innovating in addressing its approach to meeting the consistent and emerging needs of young people. The EA provides a range of Youth Services directly to young people in a variety of settings such as full-time and part-time youth centres, as well as through area work and specialist programmes with particular focus on enhancing the inclusion and participation of young people. A significant proportion of Youth Work programmes take place in voluntary youth sector organisations, supported by funding from the EA Youth Service.

3.2 Generic and Targeted Youth Work

The provision of Youth Work can be categorised broadly into two types, Generic and Targeted.

- Generalist youth provision ensures that supportive environments are made available to a significant proportion of young people throughout our communities. This allows them to enhance their personal skills, levels of motivation and general resilience and to help them to develop their ability to interact with other young people and adults.
- Targeted provision seeks to address the direct impact of exclusion and marginalisation, addressing key themes of work, such as risk-taking health behaviour, sectarianism and racism, disaffection and low levels of attainment in school, while also focusing resources on specific groups of young people that are most marginalised, such as those young people in Section 75 groupings. Such targeting of provision is aimed at meeting policy imperatives and ensuring that Youth Services are positioned to tackle the impact of economic and social deprivation, particularly as such deprivation affects the ability of young people to make most of their life chances and general education.

Whilst the Assessment of Need puts a particular focus on the needs and circumstances of specific groups, as defined by Priorities for Youth, it is important to emphasise the DE policy directive that universal or generic Youth Work will continue to be supported. Therefore, regardless of socio-economic or situational context, all children and young people have universal developmental needs which can be effectively supported by age-appropriate Youth Work provision in accordance with the Youth Work curriculum.

3.3 Central Theme

Youth Work: A Model for Effective Practice identified personal and social development as the central theme of Youth Work in Northern Ireland. The following diagram illustrates this as well as highlighting the core values and principles of Youth Work.¹

¹ Curriculum Development Unit, 2003, Youth Work: A Model for Effective Practice, CDU, Antrim.

Core values	Core principles	Central theme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Equity •Diversity •Interdependence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Preparing young people for participation •Testing values and beliefs •Promotion of acceptance and understanding of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Personal and social development of young people

The developmental needs of children and young people are not static and so the policy also directs that the focus of Youth Work activities should progress according to age, as follows:

- The focus for the age range 4-8 will be through general Youth Work provision linked to the Youth Work Curriculum
- For the age ranges 9-13 and 14-18 the focus will be on the provision of Youth Work activities, in line with the priority needs identified
- For the 16+ age range, the focus will be on programmes that provide access to leadership/training opportunities or apprenticeships. Young people should also have access to recognised and/or accredited programmes to volunteer either within units or in the wider community
- The focus for the age range 19-25 will be on issue based programmes or volunteering and leadership opportunities
- For the age range 22-25, the focus will be on those who are either in, or at risk of being in, the group of young people not in education, employment or training or those who have not yet accessed developmental or other educational opportunities and are unlikely to do so

3.4 Youth Work Team

The Ards & North Down Youth Work Team consists of 6 full-time youth workers in the controlled and voluntary sector, supported by 1 Team Leaders, responsible for the delivery of services in the area. There are 5 fulltime controlled youth projects and 1 full time voluntary centre in the Area. In addition, there are 4 controlled part time units 2 voluntary part time units and 111 registered units.

Name of Youth Centre/Project	Area	Cont/Vol	Full time/Part time	Staffing
Ards Estates Project	Central Ards	Controlled	Full time	1 x Area Youth Worker II 5 x Part time youth workers
Ards Rural Project	Ards Peninsula	Controlled	Full time	1 x Area Youth Worker I 1 x 20hr YSWIC 2 x Part time youth workers
Ards Rural Project (Extended)	Ards Peninsula	Controlled	Full time	1 x YSWIC 4 x Part time youth

Funding)				workers
Ards West Project	Ards & Down - Comber, Ballynahinch, Drumaness, Ballygowan	Controlled	Full time	1 x Area Youth Worker I 4 x Part time youth workers
North Down Area Project	Dufferin, Clondeboye, Rathgill, Conlig & Ballymagee PT Centre	Controlled	Full Time	1 x Area Youth Worker II 1 YSWIC 3 x Part Time Youth Workers
Hollywood Family Trust	Loughview & Redburn	Voluntary		Youth Support Worker in Charge, 1 x Part Time
North Down YMCA	Bangor	Voluntary		Part Time Staff

In addition to these youth clubs, Youth Work in the Ards & North Down area also operates on an accreditation programme basis or on a detached basis. Examples of these types of provision include Inclusion work with young people from Section 75 groups through the Inclusion Unit, Outdoor Learning facilitated by a Peripatetic Outdoor Instructor, Community Relations, Equality and Diversity (CRED) programmes, statutory funded area based projects such as programmes for rural Youth Work and Outreach, Health programmes, Personal and Social Development programmes, Environmental projects, Inclusion schemes and Youth Intervention. Examples include; The Late Late programme which runs once per month on a Saturday night at Ards Arena. The theme is improved health and well-being, reduction in risk taking behaviour, increased life satisfaction and a reduction in substance misuse. Young people engaged are from multiple areas of rural isolation across the Ards Peninsula with limited resources. Young people from Ards Estates also attend the Late Late programme.

The most recent figures reveal that over 10,489 young people in the Ards & North Down area participated in registered Youth Work.

Members of staff have responsibility for providing appropriate Youth Services for designated areas or groups identified as being most in need to enhance opportunities that will raise educational standards. Staff employed by the Education Authority, complete an annual Controlled Delivery Agreement (CDA) and those from Voluntary Units complete a Service Level Agreement (SLA). These agreements identify work that will be carried out throughout the year as identified in the Area Plan and aim to provide opportunities to address inequalities. This work will primarily focus on those areas that fall into the top 25% of most deprived wards in Northern Ireland but will also support generic work.

Full-time projects/centres are well placed to deliver programmes in designated areas and also to deliver generic Youth Work. The Service particularly targets areas of economic and social deprivation which are normally in the top 25% most deprived in Northern Ireland and at groups identified as Section 75 or those most in need. These areas and groups will have access to a range of targeted

Youth Services that will help young people enhance their personal skills and improve their levels of motivation and general resilience. The full-time team is supported in its delivery by both volunteers and part-time youth workers.

Other programmes and projects have been designed following the review of current research and thorough consultation with young people, Youth Workers and parents or guardians. For example; Global Service Learning- a project targeting marginalised, socially excluded and isolated young people residing across the Ards peninsula and Ards Estates. The programme is based in Ards Arena.

3.5 Extended Provision

The Extended Provision Scheme is targeted at identified providers in areas ranked in the top 25% Multiple Deprivation Measure. The scheme seeks to increase access to youth club and youth provision and to prioritise access to and longer opening times for centres or units operating within areas of disadvantage and on or near interface areas (Priorities for Youth, para.4.8.6).

Within the Ards and North Down area there is only one project in receipt of Extended Funding. The Ards Rural Project has secured funding to deliver enhanced provision across the Ards Peninsula. This scheme has allowed increased access to youth services by young people experiencing disadvantage due to rurality and lack of access to services.

3.6 Inclusion

Each professional Youth Worker and funded Voluntary full time organisation is required to conduct Inclusion projects in designated areas or with specified groups. Furthermore a scheme of assistance has been established to support Inclusion work to target communities of interest and those who may be at greater risk of social exclusion, marginalisation or isolation as they experience a combination of barriers to their learning. Partnerships have been developed with a number of primary, post-primary and special schools in the Ards & North Down area including Clifton School Bangor.

3.7 School Based Youth Work

The EA Youth Service introduced a schools programme, 'Learning Together' in September 2014 in 6 schools in the Ards & North Down area. The Learning Together Programme has been developed with other educational support services and is delivered in partnership with teachers in schools. The programme offers young people, who may be at risk of low achievement and disaffection, the opportunity to access supportive bespoke interventions within Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3, to help them make best use of their education and in Key Stage 4 to obtain a qualification equivalent to a GCSE grade B. These programmes are designed to break down the barriers that some young people may face to learning and achieving. The Learning Together Programme is currently being delivered in Movilla High School, Priory College and Bangor Academy.

3.8 Participation

As proposed in “Priorities for Youth” a Local Advisory Group (LAG) has been established during 2016/17. The LAG includes key stakeholders and young people from the Ards & North Down area and provides advice to support the development and implementation of local Youth Service provision via Area Youth Development Plans and influence the development of the Regional Youth Development Plan.

The Youth Advocacy Programme (YAP) supports young people become involved in the LAG through a programme to enhance the personal capabilities of participants to advocate for their peers and represent young people at a Planning and Service delivery level and fully participate in the LAG process.

Across Ards & North Down there are a range of other participative structures in place to ensure young people have a ‘voice’ in decision making within their centre/project and local community. Within the Ards & North Down a new Youth Council will be reinstated to address key youth issues. Youth Forums also exist within a number of projects/centres.

3.9 Partnership working

EA Youth Service receives the major part of it’s funding from the Department of Education. However, the service has also developed key strategic partnerships to enable the securing of additional resources for the delivery of specific programmes and projects. Such partnerships, for example with the Department for Communities (DfC) and local district councils have strengthened the ability of the service to deliver innovative and highly creative projects for the most marginalised young people in our community.

At a strategic level the EA Youth Service has representation on several multi-agency groups, including active involvement in the Peace 4 Partnership Board and the PCSP in Ards and North Down council area. The Youth Service is also a key partner on the South Eastern Trust’s Family Support Hubs which operate for Ards & North Down.

Within the Ards & North down Area, Youth Service and Bangor Alternatives have worked together over a number of years on a range of joint youth work programmes responding to identified need in the Kilcooley and Clandeboye areas of Bangor. A Partnership Agreement is now in place between the EA Youth Service and Bangor Alternatives outlining the arrangements for the delivery of joint youth provision for the period commencing 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019. This provision will reflect specific aims from both organisations in addressing identified need.

4. Ards & North Down Needs Analysis

4.1 Methodology

The Priorities for Youth policy maintains that the strategic planning and resourcing of youth work must address the assessed need for youth work interventions. Therefore an effective assessment of need is critical given that DE funded youth work must be set within the context of prioritised age ranges, priority groups and a clear definition of the need for targeted interventions, alongside an element of non-targeted provision that is assessed as needed.

Quantifying the needs of young people in Ards & North Down area is a complex and difficult task. There is a clear variation and level of needs across the council boundaries, with some areas facing greater challenges than others. A range of quantitative and qualitative research methods have been used to inform this Assessment of Need. We have endeavoured to use the most up to date data and statistics from a range of government and statutory sources along with recent, relevant reports. An extensive consultation with young people and key stakeholders was also undertaken.

The information gleaned from the research has then been collated and analysed and the evidence gathered has been used to compile this report, highlighting the key issues and levels of need affecting young people.

Where possible quantitative and qualitative data has been used to inform this needs assessment. The information and data used in the assessment of need process came from variety of sources, including the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Department of Education, Health Trusts and other government and statutory statistics. All the information used was publicly available as well as being objective and unambiguous. The datasets were also related to outcomes and had a clear focus on educational underachievement and disadvantage.

Data is continually being updated and may be outdated by the time plans have been published, therefore it is imperative that the assessment and analysis of the needs of young people is an ongoing process and planners should be aware of this in terms of their own local plans.

Within this document, assessed needs are set within a framework for planning that takes into account current government policy, in particular those identified by the Department of Education in its policy document, Priorities for Youth. The following are some of the key themes that the group have identified, although this list is not exhaustive:

- Demographics
- Deprivation
- Proximity to Services
- Demographics
- Deprivation
- Proximity to Services
- Educational Underachievement
- Health and Wellbeing
- Crime and Disorder

The needs assessment also reflected upon the following:

- Generic provision needs
- Targeted Needs
- The composite assessment of need
- Stakeholder engagement
- Highest levels of disadvantage
- DE Policies
- Collaborative planning and need
- Emerging needs

4.2 Desktop Research

The initial stages of the Assessment of Need involved desktop research. This process involved analysing existing assessment of needs models, both national and international, to gain an insight into good practice and assist in the design and development of the assessment of need.

Desktop research was also used to gather and analyse qualitative information from a range of sources. These sources were generally from government departments or other statutory agencies. The information collected from these sources helped identify key priority areas of need within the area. A review of recent, relevant literature was also undertaken. Evidence gathered from these documents and reports were used to support the original findings.

4.3 Questionnaires and Surveys

Stakeholders' voices, especially those of young people, are important to both the Department of Education and the Education Authority in the design and delivery of Youth Services.

Young people, engaged and not engaged in youth work were surveyed as part of the process and Youth Workers and parents/guardians were also surveyed. A series of focus groups were also facilitated by EA.

4.4 Ards and North Down Needs Analysis

Ards and North Down Borough Council is a local authority in Northern Ireland that was established on 1 April 2015. It replaced Ards Borough Council and North Down Borough Council. The estimated population of Ards & North Down LGD at 30 June 2016 was 159,593, of which 77,345 (48.5%) were male and 82,248 (51.6%) were female.

Table 1 – Population by Age Bands 2018

Age	0 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 19 years	20 - 24 years
Number of Young People	9,016	9,773	9,151	9,072	8,077

Less than one third of the total population of Ards and North Down LGD, 45,089, (28.3%) are aged 25 years or under. (NI average 33.3%)

Chart 1 – Projected Population 2016 – 2025



Table 2 – Projected Population 2016 – 2025

Age Groups	2016	2019	2022	2025
0-4 years	9,016	8,763	8,582	8,378
5-9 years	9,773	9,532	9,184	8,997
10-14 years	9,151	9,709	9,861	9,547
15-19 years	9,072	8,660	9,035	9,466
20-24 years	8,077	8,037	7,644	7,448

4.5 Deprivation Measures (NIMDM)

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure was published in November 2017, identifying small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Northern Ireland. The results are presented by small areas known as Super Output Areas (SOAs). Northern Ireland is divided into 890 of these SOAs which are ranked according to deprivation using seven domains, or distinct types which in composite form is known as the Multiple Deprivation Measure. These are:

- Income Domain
- Employment Domain
- Health Deprivation and Disability Domain
- Education, Skills and Training Domain
- Access to Services Domain
- Living Environment Domain
- Crime and Disorder Domain

Within Northern Ireland significant numbers of young people live in areas of multiple deprivation as identified by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Children and young people growing up in poverty have worse outcomes and life chances than those who do not. According to the Child Poverty Action Group, for young people poverty is not just about

growing up in a low income household it is also about being denied good health, education and housing, basic self-esteem and the ability to participate in social activities.²

Young people living in deprived areas tend to have lower aspirations, have low educational aspirations and tend to underachieve in school. Close knit local social networks, low population mobility and a history of economic decline also appear to characterise neighbourhoods where young people are less likely to develop high educational aspirations.

Young people and their parents are influenced by the people and places where they live. Neighbourhood characteristics such as housing, the local environment, crime rates and the quality of services are also likely to influence and impact upon the attitudes and outcomes of young people.

The table below shows each SOA in Ards & North Down in rank order for MDM. Red shading indicates a rank (between 1-890), placing that SOA in the 25% most deprived in Northern Ireland. Green shading indicates a rank within the most deprived 50%.

² Child Poverty Action Group, 2016, <http://www.cpag.org.uk/povertyfacts/index.htm>

Table 3: Super Output Areas Ards & North Down

SOA	MDM Rank	SOA	MDM Rank	SOA	MDM Rank
Scrabo_2	71	Carrowdore_1	506	Ballymaconnell_1	751
Glen_1	97	Donaghadee North_1	508	Craigavad	756
Central	99	Bloomfield_2	523	Cultra	762
Conlig_3	134	Loughries_2	524	Movilla_2	765
Harbour_1	174	Movilla_1	528	Groomsport	768
Donaghadee South_1	199	Silverstream	530	Lisbane_1	770
Portaferry_2	219	Rathgael	532	Bryansburn_1	776
Ballywalter_1	223	Carrowdore_2	548	Churchill_2	788
Portavogie_1	225	Killinchy_1	564	Bryansburn_2	789
Scrabo_1	231	Bangor Castle	585	Comber West_2	795
Ballyrainey	240	Donaghadee South_2	597	Churchill_1	798
Whitehill	242	Conlig_2	602	Whitespots_1	803
Loughview_1	250	Harbour_2	632	Holywood Priory	816
Kircubbin_2	263	Millisle_2	635	Princetown	818
Comber North_1	303	Holywood Demesne	647	Crawfordsburn	824
Millisle_1	306	Glen_2	683	Whitespots_2	828
Clandeboy_1	307	Comber East_2	696	Ballycrochan_2	830
Dufferin	317	Lisbane_2	698	Ballyholme	840
Comber East_1	325	Ballygowan_2	701	Ballymaconnell_2	847
Gregstown_1	339	Clandeboy_2	702	Movilla_3	850
Gregstown_2	345	Comber West_1	704	Springhill_1	855
Bloomfield_1	354	Ballymagee_2	714	Ballycrochan_1	863
Clandeboy_3	356	Killinchy_2	719	Ballymagee_1	864
Ballywalter_2	374	Gregstown_3	721	Broadway_2	868
Portaferry_1	402	Broadway_1	726		
Kircubbin_1	448	Springhill_2	731		
Bradshaw's Brae_1	467	Ballycrochan_3	737		
Portavogie_2	472	Comber North_2	741		
Loughview_2	480	Bradshaw's Brae_2	743		
Conlig_1	497	Ballygowan_1	744		
Loughries_1	501	Donaghadee North_2	750		

Table 4 - Number and Percentage of Young People Living in Deprived Areas

LGD 2014	Aged 4-8	Aged 9-13	Aged 14-18	Aged 19-25	Total
Antrim & Newtownabbey YP	8892	8810	9239	12887	39828
Antrim & Newtownabbey YP living in Deprived Areas	2524	2399	2580	3943	11446
% Antrim & Newtownabbey YP living in Deprived Areas	28.4	27.2	27.9	30.6	28.7
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon YP	13445	13092	13804	18325	58666
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon YP living in Deprived Areas	1208	1080	1175	1793	5256
% Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon YP living in Deprived Areas	9.0	8.2	8.5	9.8	9.0
Belfast YP	18621	19261	22438	42080	102400
Belfast YP living in Deprived Areas	10664	11062	12822	19733	54281
% Belfast YP living in Deprived Areas	57.3	57.4	57.1	46.9	53.0
Causeway Coast & Glens YP	8533	9228	9860	13552	41173
Causeway Coast & Glens YP living in Deprived Areas	1592	1681	1792	2517	7582
% Causeway Coast & Glens YP living in Deprived Areas	18.7	18.2	18.2	18.6	18.4
Derry & Strabane YP	9575	10523	11812	14631	46541
Derry & Strabane YP living in Deprived Areas	4942	5463	6369	8692	25466
% Derry & Strabane YP living in Deprived Areas	51.6	51.9	53.9	59.4	54.7
Fermanagh & Omagh YP	7466	7785	8252	9851	33354
Fermanagh & Omagh YP living in Deprived Areas	877	863	908	1204	3852
% Fermanagh & Omagh YP living in Deprived Areas	11.7	11.1	11.0	12.2	11.5
Lisburn & Castlereagh YP	8151	8378	9092	11026	36647
Lisburn & Castlereagh YP living in Deprived Areas	368	326	375	514	1583
% Lisburn & Castlereagh YP living in Deprived Areas	4.5	3.9	4.1	4.7	4.3
Mid & East Antrim YP	8210	8225	9155	11456	37046
Mid & East Antrim YP living in Deprived Areas	1333	1191	1341	2163	6028
% Mid & East Antrim YP living in Deprived Areas	16.2	14.5	14.6	18.9	16.3
Mid Ulster YP	9697	9583	10141	13853	43274
Mid Ulster YP living in Deprived Areas	1343	1278	1335	2038	5994
% Mid Ulster YP living in Deprived Areas	13.8	13.3	13.2	14.7	13.9
Newry, Mourne & Down YP	11689	12056	12852	16096	52693
Newry, Mourne & Down YP living in Deprived Areas	2018	2117	2230	3164	9529
% Newry, Mourne & Down YP living in Deprived Areas	17.3	17.6	17.4	19.7	18.1
North Down & Ards YP	9147	9138	9611	12411	40307
North Down & Ards YP living in Deprived Areas	678	597	634	1009	2918
% North Down & Ards YP living in Deprived Areas	7.4	6.5	6.6	8.1	7.2
Northern Ireland YP	113426	116079	126256	176168	531929
Northern Ireland YP living in Deprived Areas	27547	28057	31561	46770	133935
% Northern Ireland YP living in Deprived Areas	24.3	24.2	25.0	26.5	25.2

Table 5 – Number and Percentage of Young People Living in Rural Areas

LGD 2014	Aged 4-8	Aged 9-13	Aged 14-18	Aged 19-25	Total
Antrim & Newtownabbey YP	8892	8810	9239	12887	39828
Antrim & Newtownabbey YP living in Rural Areas	1658	1820	1858	1922	7258
% Antrim & Newtownabbey YP living in Rural Areas	18.6	20.7	20.1	14.9	18.2
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon YP	13445	13092	13804	18325	58666
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon YP living in Rural Areas	5942	5668	5965	7191	24766
% Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon YP living in Rural Areas	44.2	43.3	43.2	39.2	42.2
Belfast YP	18621	19261	22438	42080	102400
Belfast YP living in Rural Areas	0	0	0	0	0
% Belfast YP living in Rural Areas	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Causeway Coast & Glens YP	8533	9228	9860	13552	41173
Causeway Coast & Glens YP living in Rural Areas	4257	4655	4759	5953	19624
% Causeway Coast & Glens YP living in Rural Areas	49.9	50.4	48.3	43.9	47.7
Derry & Strabane YP	9575	10523	11812	14631	46541
Derry & Strabane YP living in Rural Areas	4007	4451	4723	5161	18342
% Derry & Strabane YP living in Rural Areas	41.8	42.3	40.0	35.3	39.4
Fermanagh & Omagh YP	7466	7785	8252	9851	33354
Fermanagh & Omagh YP living in Rural Areas	5654	5885	6240	7199	24978
% Fermanagh & Omagh YP living in Rural Areas	75.7	75.6	75.6	73.1	74.9
Lisburn & Castlereagh YP	8151	8378	9092	11026	36647
Lisburn & Castlereagh YP living in Rural Areas	2588	2658	2740	2915	10901
% Lisburn & Castlereagh YP living in Rural Areas	31.8	31.7	30.1	26.4	29.7
Mid & East Antrim YP	8210	8225	9155	11456	37046
Mid & East Antrim YP living in Rural Areas	3021	3001	3279	3848	13149
% Mid & East Antrim YP living in Rural Areas	36.8	36.5	35.8	33.6	35.5
Mid Ulster YP	9697	9583	10141	13853	43274
Mid Ulster YP living in Rural Areas	6528	6424	6729	8901	28582
% Mid Ulster YP living in Rural Areas	67.3	67.0	66.4	64.3	66.0
Newry, Mourne & Down YP	11689	12056	12852	16096	52693
Newry, Mourne & Down YP living in Rural Areas	6585	6738	6914	8316	28553
% Newry, Mourne & Down YP living in Rural Areas	56.3	55.9	53.8	51.7	54.2
North Down & Ards YP	9147	9138	9611	12411	40307
North Down & Ards YP living in Rural Areas	1686	1688	1726	1995	7095
% North Down & Ards YP living in Rural Areas	18.4	18.5	18.0	16.1	17.6
Northern Ireland YP	113426	116079	126256	176168	531929
Northern Ireland YP living in Rural Areas	41926	42988	44996	53401	183311
% Northern Ireland YP living in Rural Areas	37.0	37.0	35.6	30.3	34.5

4.6 Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDAC) - Rank

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children measure is derived from the proportion of the population aged 15 and under living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the NI median. The following table reveals the IDAC rankings for Ards & North Down. Cells shaded red, indicate that the Super Output Areas are in the 25% most deprived in Northern Ireland and those shaded green are within the 50% most deprived.

SOA Name	IDAC Rank	SOA Name	IDAC Rank	SOA Name	IDAC Rank
Central	22	Conlig_1	317	Ballygowan_1	604
Scрабо_2	67	Comber West_1	320	Portavogie_2	606
Loughview_1	69	Lisbane_2	352	Portaferry_2	625
Ballywalter_2	73	Clandeboyе_3	370	Ballymagee_1	653
Bloomfield_1	75	Donaghadee North_1	378	Ballymagee_2	666
Loughview_2	90	Harbour_1	379	Loughries_2	667
Gregstown_1	92	Scрабо_1	386	Comber West_2	670
Glen_2	96	Kircubbin_1	387	Princetown	677
Conlig_3	104	Carrowdore_2	412	Donaghadee South_2	687
Broadway_1	122	Churchill_2	413	Ballycrochan_2	696
Gregstown_2	126	Silverstream	432	Gregstown_3	715
Donaghadee South_1	130	Bryansburn_2	439	Cultra	729
Kircubbin_2	132	Groomsport	446	Ballygowan_2	730
Glen_1	135	Bangor Castle	458	Comber North_2	735
Rathgael	139	Bloomfield_2	475	Hollywood Priory	746
Clandeboyе_1	141	Killinchy_1	479	Ballymaconnell_1	757
Carrowdore_1	142	Bradshaw's Brae_2	490	Movilla_3	771
Springhill_2	166	Ballycrochan_3	493	Churchill_1	792
Ballywalter_1	172	Comber East_2	506	Lisbane_1	796
Millisle_1	173	Dufferin	516	Comber North_1	797
Comber East_1	199	Donaghadee North_2	526	Broadway_2	817
Movilla_1	205	Ballymaconnell_2	539	Ballycrochan_1	820
Portaferry_1	217	Ballyholme	540	Whitespots_1	821
Hollywood Demesne	221	Conlig_2	576	Whitespots_2	849
Whitehill	236	Loughries_1	582	Crawfordsburn	867
Bradshaw's Brae_1	239	Bryansburn_1	583	Springhill_1	870
Ballyrainey	248	Harbour_2	585		
Movilla_2	307	Craigavad	588		
Portavogie_1	310	Clandeboyе_2	597		
Millisle_2	315	Killinchy_2	602		

4.7 Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Under the Government's People and Place strategy, 36 urban neighbourhoods across Northern Ireland have been designated as Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs). These communities are experiencing the highest levels of deprivation and are the focus of urban regeneration programmes. There is one NRA within the Ards & North Down area.

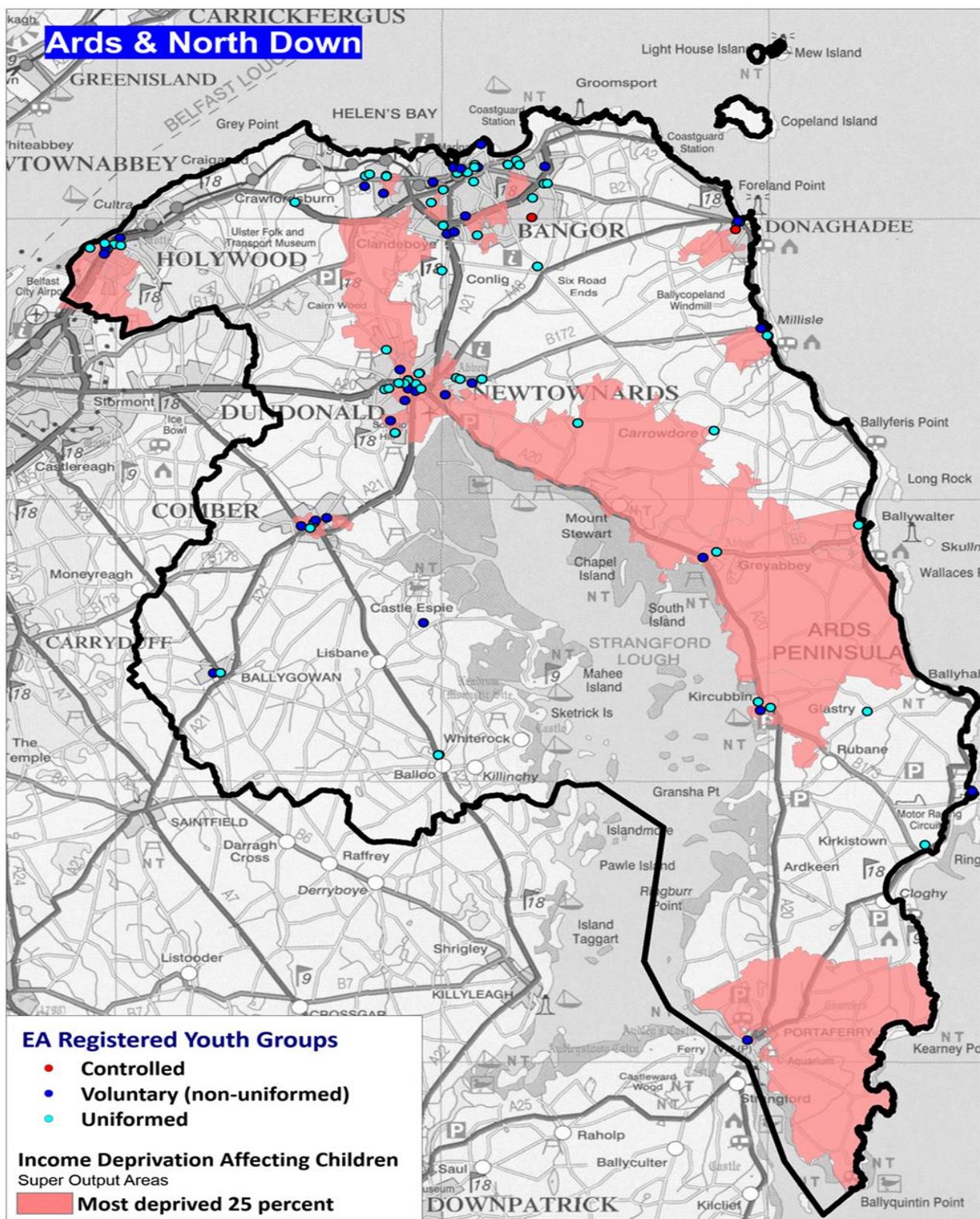
Kilcooley³ In North Down, Kilcooley estate (Dufferin/Clandeboyne SOA) in Bangor was recognised as being a Neighbourhood Renewal area. Moving forward, responsibility for the Bangor NRA will transfer to the new Ards and North Down Council. As part of this process the Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership completed an action plan for the 2016-18 period. It noted a range of information about Bangor NRA:

- The population of the NRA is 2,655
- 43.5% of children aged 0-19 are living in poverty
- Only 36% of young people achieve 5 or more GCSEs and 15% left with no GCSEs¹

The range of needs regarding closing the gap between the lowest achievers is clearly a concern. This is highlighted further for primary education in the Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan: *a significant percentage of children Kilcooley Primary School have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties the staff at Bangor Academy and Priory Integrated College have noted that pupils from Kilcooley Primary School find the transition to post primary school very traumatic. (P. 40).*

³ 1 Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership, Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan 2016-18: Page 35-40

Map 1 Location of Youth Centre/ Projects and Income Deprivation



4.8 Education

Children and young people growing up in poverty have worse outcomes and life chances than those who do not. Young people living in deprived areas tend to have lower aspirations, have low educational ambitions and tend to underachieve in school. Young people and their parents are influenced by the people and places where they live. Neighbourhood characteristics such as housing, the local environment, crime rates and the quality of services are also likely to influence and impact upon the attitudes and outcomes of young people.

Youth Work is designed to complement the formal education system and the Department of Education (DE) recognised that it plays an important role by encouraging learning in a non-formal setting and by developing young people’s personal, social and other key life skills.

Priorities for Youth, DE’s policy document, noted that non-formal education in the form of Youth Work is an important aspect of the education system as it encourages young people’s participation, allowing them to engage or re-engage in positive learning within a non-formal setting. Priorities for Youth also placed a greater emphasis on the needs of disadvantaged children and young people, as well as those for whom Youth Work can provide a valuable link with formal education to increase their life chances in areas such as future employment and training opportunities. Youth Work in Northern Ireland offers a diverse range of programmes which are valued by young people as they both complement and enhance the learning provided through formal schooling.

A young person’s socio-economic status also has an impact on their overall educational attainment. Social disadvantage as measured by free school meal entitlement or living in a Neighbourhood Renewal Area ensures that a young person is less likely to achieve educationally and boys are less likely to succeed than girls and there are also significant differences in terms of religion.

A total of 5,315 (21.3%) primary pupils in the Ards & North Down area are eligible for Free School Meals. Although the national average of Free School Meals is 29.5% the table below indicates the schools with a FSM percentage above the national average percentage.

Table 7: Free School Meal Entitlement, by post-primary school (2017/18)

De Ref.	School Name	School Type	Total Pupils	% Pupils Entitled to FSM
4420044	Sullivan Upper School	Grammar	1076	5.2%
4410063	Regent House Grammar School	Grammar	1409	11.7%
4410097	Glenlola Collegiate	Grammar	1030	13.2%
4420015	Bangor Grammar School	Grammar	867	14.1%
4210296	Bangor Academy and 6th Form College	Non-grammar	1523	29.5%
4260295	Strangford Integrated College	Non-grammar	677	31.5%
4210046	Glastry College	Non-grammar	610	32.5%
4230067	St Columba's College	Non-grammar	178	34.8%
4230107	St Columbanus' College	Non-grammar	674	35.2%
4210045	Nendrum College	Non-grammar	413	38.5%
4250024	Priory College	Non-grammar	589	40.1%
4210012	Movilla High School	Non-grammar	180	50.6%

The education system in Northern Ireland has been characterised by a significantly higher gap in achievement as compared with the rest of the UK. On one hand many young people achieve a high degree of academic success, however, significant numbers of young people fail to achieve to their fullest potential.

Levels of academic achievement in Northern Ireland are rising slowly however, disparities still exist according to socio-economic background, gender and residency. Pupils from economically deprived backgrounds achieve considerably lower results and social deprivation has a more pronounced negative impact within the Controlled school sector, and this is especially true of boys.

An analysis of pupil outcome statistics reveals that the overall educational figures for Northern Ireland are improving and exceed those of other regions in the United Kingdom. However, these positive figures mask a long tail of underachievement.

In the 2016-17 academic the combined Ards & North Down average is below the Northern Ireland average for GCSE achievement with English and Maths (67.8.% (NI 70.3%) and without English and Maths (86.1% (NI 84.6.%)). The following tables indicate the levels of achievement that are below the national average and in some schools significantly lower. The schools highlighted are the current schools the Youth Service deliver in the Ards & North Down area.

Tables 8 and 9 outline the number of school leavers in Ards & North Down achieving DE's expected standards of 5+ GCSEs A*-C and 5+ GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths. The tables outline the proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs in schools located within Ards & North Down for 2016/17 and for the two preceding years. The three year average percentage is shown for each school, listed in ascending order.

Table 8 – Educational attainment: 5+ GCSE A*-C (2016/17 and over 3 years)

De Ref.	School Name	School Type	% year 12 pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs grades A*-C (including equivalents)			3 Year Average
			2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	
4210012	Movilla High School	Non-grammar	75	51.0	18.4	48.1
4210046	Glastry College	Non-grammar	61.5	50.5	55.0	55.7
4230107	St Columbanus' College	Non-grammar	68.8	71.6	60.2	66.9
4250024	Priory College	Non-grammar	76.8	68.1	59.8	68.2
4210296	Bangor Academy and 6th Form College	Non-grammar	66	68.2	71.4	68.5
4230067	St Columba's College	Non-grammar	100	75.8	61.9	79.2
4210045	Nendrum College	Non-grammar	90.5	89.3	64.6	81.5
4260295	Strangford Integrated College	Non-grammar	97.4	79.5	69.1	82.0
4420015	Bangor Grammar School	Grammar	93.4	95.4	96.8	95.2
4410097	Glenlola Collegiate	Grammar	96.8	96.8	98.1	97.2
4410063	Regent House Grammar School	Grammar	98.1	99.1	96.2	97.8
4420044	Sullivan Upper School	Grammar	99.4	97.4	98.7	98.5

Table 9 – Educational attainment: 5+ GCSE A*-C including English & Maths, (2016/17 and over 3 years)

De Ref.	School Name	School Type	2016-17 % year 12 pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs grades A*-C (including equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths			3 Year Average
			2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	
4210012	Movilla High School	Non-grammar	27.5	27.5	13.2	22.7
4210046	Glastry College	Non-grammar	42.9	31.8	29.7	34.8
4210045	Nendrum College	Non-grammar	37.8	34.7	34.2	35.6
4210296	Bangor Academy and 6th Form College	Non-grammar	36.5	34.1	37.8	36.1
4260295	Strangford Integrated College	Non-grammar	30.8	39.7	44.4	38.3
4250024	Priory College	Non-grammar	43.5	40.3	33.3	39.0
4230107	St Columbanus' College	Non-grammar	54.5	61.7	47.7	54.6
4230067	St Columba's College	Non-grammar	73.1	48.5	45.2	55.6
4420015	Bangor Grammar School	Grammar	92.6	91.5	95.2	93.1
4410097	Glenlola Collegiate	Grammar	91.8	96.8	93.0	93.9
4410063	Regent House Grammar School	Grammar	97.6	98.1	95.7	97.1
4420044	Sullivan Upper School	Grammar	99.4	97.4	98.1	98.3

(Source: Summary of Annual Examination Results, DE)

4.9 Newcomer Pupils

A newcomer pupil is one who has enrolled in a school but who does not have the satisfactory language skills to participate fully in the school curriculum, the wider environment and does not have a language in common with the teacher, whether that is English or Irish.

Recent figures reveal that there were 325 Newcomer pupils enrolled in primary and secondary schools in Ards & North Down. Newcomer young people are less likely to achieve DE's key indicator, 5+ GCSE A*-C including English and Maths than their non-Newcomer peers.

A review of research into the experiences of newcomer children highlights a range of barriers to educational achievement including limited English language ability, lack of knowledge of the education system, racist bullying, social exclusion, starting the school year at different points in time, being placed in younger age or lower ability groups and the capacity of schools to respond to Newcomer pupils' needs.

4.10 Special Educational Needs

Young people with Special Educational Needs are less likely to achieve DE's key indicators of 5+ GCSEs A*-C and 5+ GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths. Table 10 highlights the percentage of young people on the Special Educational Needs Register within schools in the Ards & North Down Area.

A young person is deemed to have a Special Educational Need (SEN) if he or she has significant learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children of the same age. Special Educational Needs can be broken down into two categories, SEN with a Statement which sets out a young person's needs and the additional support they should have and SEN without a Statement which identifies pupils with less severe educational needs.

Special Educational Needs Pupils, by post-primary school (2017/18)

De Ref.	School Name	School Type	Total Pupils	% Pupils SEN
4410063	Regent House Grammar School	Grammar	1409	2.9%
4410097	Glenlola Collegiate	Grammar	1030	5.0%
4420044	Sullivan Upper School	Grammar	1076	6.6%
4210296	Bangor Academy and 6th Form College	Non-grammar	1523	11.3%
4420015	Bangor Grammar School	Grammar	867	13.6%
4260295	Strangford Integrated College	Non-grammar	677	25.7%
4210046	Glastry College	Non-grammar	610	30.2%
4230067	St Columba's College	Non-grammar	178	33.7%
4230107	St Columbanus' College	Non-grammar	674	35.9%
4210045	Nendrum College	Non-grammar	413	42.9%
4250024	Priory College	Non-grammar	589	45.5%
4210012	Movilla High School	Non-grammar	180	58.9%

4.11 Access to Services

For many children and young people, living in a rural community presents many challenges. There is a lack of facilities, such as cinemas or clubs, which their peers in urban areas can take for granted. This isolation from services is often exacerbated by a lack of transport options and hidden poverty. Rural deprivation is scattered and can be masked by living alongside relative affluence. Young people from rural communities face differing levels of social exclusion and marginalisation. Rural isolation also presents challenges for the provision of adequate public transport and the viability and accessibility of Youth Services.

Rural North Down & Ards: Covers a wide area across Ards & North Down . It is estimated that 17.6% of the youth population live in Ards & North Down areas. Although not scoring highly on MDM there are identified pockets of deprivation in terms of access to services in key areas of Portaferry 1, Kircubbin 1, and Killinchy 1. There are issues of rural isolation, lack of transport and proximity to services.

Tackling Paramilitarism

The EA will work with other statutory and voluntary partners to promote lawfulness and has successfully secured funding from the Department of Justice to work with those young people most at risk and to train youth workers and teachers to promote lawfulness in schools and youth clubs.

Community Relations, Equity and Diversity (CRED)

The need for interventions and resources to be targeted at community relations, equity and diversity issues is illustrated by the number of racist, homophobic and sectarian motivated incidents and crimes in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area. The impact of sectarianism and in particular community tensions was an issue raised by young people through consultation. The youth service will continue to target youth intervention funding and resources to those areas designated as interface areas and where in the past there has been a spike in violence during times of heightened tensions. Youth intervention programmes will offer diversionary activities for young people coupled with developmental opportunities.

The Youth Service will deliver programmes to provide young people from different religious and cultural backgrounds the opportunity to be involved in meaningful contact, to test their values and beliefs and to work towards acceptance and understanding of others.

Inclusion

The Lisburn and Castlereagh area team will target resources at groups of young people who are marginalised within their communities, paying due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between those groups detailed in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

As these groups of young people can be more difficult to identify and engage due to the fact they are not clustered around small geographic areas the EA Youth Service has developed an inclusion scheme to target and engage those young people who face a combination of barriers to inclusion and educational achievement.

An Inclusion unit consisting of a Senior Youth Worker and 2 Area Youth workers with specialisms has been established to engage young people who face a number of barriers to inclusion and are underrepresented in youth services and to support youth workers through workforce development and by developing appropriate equality and inclusion guidance and support materials where required

Participation

The right of young people to have a say in the youth service, how it is run and how it is delivered was a key issue within the feedback from young people. Young people commented on the opportunities that the youth service presented them to participate at all levels and the impact that this has on their sense of belonging and their leadership and communication skills.

The service will encourage and develop opportunities for the participation of young people. This will be achieved through the promotion of youth councils in the area, participative structures in all full time Youth Centres, youth forums in distinct geographical locations and young people registered as volunteers within the service.

A Local Advisory Group (LAG) will be facilitated by Youth Services in the Derry and Strabane area to offer advice on the development and implementation of the local area plan. The LAG will consist of

representation from the statutory and voluntary sector as well other key stakeholder's. One key aspect of the terms of reference for the LAG is that 50% of the membership should be young people. To support and empower young people in this process a Youth Advocacy Group (YAP) has been established in is facilitated by a senior Youth Worker.

4.12 Health and Well Being

The Health and Disability Rank of Scrabo, Glen 1, Central and Conlig 3 place within the top 25% of deprivation under this theme. This measure gives an indication of the range of health issues in the North Down area. A recent survey conducted as part of the Regional Assessment of Needs of Young People by EA Youth Service identified a number of key health issues facing young people in NI including;

- **Physical health:** Obesity as a result of poor diet and lack of exercise has become a major public health concern for Northern Ireland. Girls and young women aged 14 and over are less likely to engage in sport or physical activity resulting in this group being more at risk of obesity and a range of health problems. Alcohol and Drug misuse is an area of concern in all areas of NI.
- **Mental Health:** Poor mental health has been consistently identified as a concern among the wider youth population. Research evidence reveals that mental well -being is not a singular construct and can be linked to a range of diverse issues including, body image, exam stress, confidence, suicide, bullying and boredom.

4.13 Tackling Paramilitarism – EA START Programme

The Fresh Start Agreement (November 2015) resulted in the Executive Action Plan in 2016, the aim of which is to tackle paramilitary activity, criminality and organised crime.

The Executive Action Plan is a cross departmental programme of work, and the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board has tasked the Department of Education to take forward Action A4, which states that: *The Executive should commission appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting lawfulness in schools and through youth work in communities.*

The Programme Board has identified eight areas which are particularly vulnerable to paramilitary activity, and therefore, where there is a high risk of young people being drawn into paramilitary activity. These include the following areas within Ards & North Down: Clondeboy SOA(2) and (3) and Conlig (3) which includes Kilcooley (Bangor)

The START Programme is delivered by the Education Authority in the Ards and North Down area. The Tackling Paramilitarism Youth Outreach Worker in the area will work with the following groups of young people:

- **Core Group (Intervention)** - The primary target group for the 8 Youth Outreach workers are those young people in the areas above, most at risk of influence or coercive control by paramilitaries and organised criminal gangs. The intervention will be a long-term engagement with low numbers of young people, with very high quality delivery. It will involve 1-1 work, family support, peer mentoring, life coaching, advocacy on their behalf with those who want to harm them, as well as with Juvenile Liaison Officers in the PSNI, liaison with statutory agencies with whom the young person is already engaged (eg

Social Services, PBNI, Youth Justice Agency) and referral to other providers who can meet their needs (eg NIACRO Aspire Programme).

- Siblings, friendship groups and peer groups of the Core Group above in the areas above (Prevention). This will involve working with bigger numbers, but the expectation is for high quality delivery. Family intervention, education, health, personal and social development, awareness raising, school liaison, parental engagement, peer education and diversionary activity are some of the methods to be employed.

4.14 Stakeholder Engagement

A Northern Ireland wide consultation with young people and youth workers was carried out in September 2017. The consultation gathered a range of information from key stakeholders about the issues for young people in the 9-13 age band and 14-25 age band and identified the types of youth provision young people and youth providers wanted to see developed to best address these needs. The respondents were young currently people engaged in youth service provision and unattached young people.

773 young people age 9-13 and 864 young people age 14-25 responded to the survey across the Ards & North Down Council areas. From the consultations carried out with the 9-13 age range approximately 43% of respondents were currently engaged in youth service provision whilst 57% of respondents were not engaged in youth services. From the consultations carried out with the 14-25 age range 37% of young people surveyed were currently engaged in youth service provision and 63% were not engaged in youth services.

In terms of the geographical location of respondents 63% of the 9-13 and 68% of the 14-25 overall responses from the Ards & North Down survey were from young people living in the area. The responses therefore provide a good representation of the needs of young people from the Ards and North Down area.

The survey identified that the top six issues emerging for the 9-13 age range were as follows:

- Bullying
- Lack of confidence
- Mental Health
- Body Image
- Racism
- Physical Health

Young people aged 9-13 were then asked to identify how the youth service could best address these issues by providing a range of activities. The top six suggestions were as follows:

- Sport
- Art
- Awareness raising
- Outdoor Education
- Drama
- Residential

Sport is the most preferred type of activity chosen by young people across Ards & North Down to address youth issues. Outdoor education residentials and art were also in the top six responses in both areas.

The top six issues emerging for the 14-25 age range from the needs assessment were as follows:

- Body Image
- Lack of confidence
- Bullying
- Mental Health
- Physical Health
- Suicide

As you can see from the list, body image was the top issue for young people age 14-25. In addition to mental health, lack of confidence and bullying were also ranked within the top six issues. Young people in Ards & North Down identified physical health to be an important issue ranking it fifth.

Young people aged 14-25 then identified that the youth service could best address these issues by providing a range of activities. The top six suggestions were as follows:

- Sport
- Qualifications
- Awareness raising
- Careers/Employment programmes
- Drop In
- Life Skills programmes

It is interesting to note that once again sport is the most preferred type of activity chosen by young people across Ards & North Down to address the issues facing young people. Qualifications and Careers and employment programmes featured in the top 6 recommendations, with drop in provision being recommended and Life Skills programmes also being recommended by young people in the area.

In addition to the consultations with young people a survey was carried out with youth workers across Northern Ireland. In Ards and North Down 22 youth work staff and volunteers completed the survey (seven from the statutory sector and fifteen from the voluntary sector). Youth workers identified that the top six issues they perceived affecting young people in Ards & North Down were as follows:

- Confidence
- Mental Health
- Body Image
- Bullying
- Alcohol
- Sexual health

Interestingly some of these issues have not been identified as top issues by young people in their consultation. For example, in Ards & North Down youth workers identified alcohol and sexual health

as being one of the top six issues for young people, yet young people did not rank this as a priority issue.

Youth workers were also asked to identify through the survey the types of activities or programmes that the youth service could provide to address these issues. The top 6 activities or programmes they identified were as follows:

- Drop In
- Travel
- Awareness raising
- Sport
- Events
- Residentials

In relation to the responses from young people in Ards & North Down sport was the top response and this also features as the fourth highest response from youth workers. The top response from youth workers in Ards & North Down was drop in provision and this also came out as the fifth most important activity identified by the 14-25 age range that youth services should be providing. Interestingly, awareness raising was the third most important area for the 9-13 age range, the 14-25 age range and youth workers. Outdoor education and residentials were also identified by both young people and youth workers as an activity the youth service should deliver.

As part of the survey youth workers were asked about how youth provision could be improved in their area of work. The responses across Ards & North Down were as follows:

- More activities
- More programmes
- More community relations
- More peer education
- More volunteering

Parents and guardians of young people who attend youth service provision were also as part of the needs assessment consultation. A total of 432 parents and guardians in Northern Ireland responded on the LGD area where they live and the frequency with which the young people in their care attend a youth centre or project. Please note that there are insufficient numbers in some LGD areas for the results to be fully meaningful when analysed by LGD area.

Review and Recommendations

The focus for delivery of youth provision in Ards & North Down must take into account of the range of statistical information available, stakeholder feedback and local knowledge of key issues.

From the statistical information we can identify that within Ards & North Down the population of young people available to engage in youth services is changing. From projected population statistics there will be an increase in the 10-14 age range in 2019, however, there is also a predicted decrease in the 5-9 age range and 15-19 age range.

To identify specific communities/areas of need it is important to look further at government statistics including the identification of Super Output Areas across Ards & North Down. Out of the 86

Super Output Areas (SOA) in Ards & North Down, 7 areas have been identified as being in the top 25% most deprived (Scrabo 2, , Glen 1, Central, Conlig 3, Harbour 1, Donaghadee South 1, Portaferry 2, & Ballywalter 1,) and twenty five in the top 50% (Scrabo 2, , Glen 1, Central, Conlig 3, Harbour 1, Donaghadee South 1, Portaferry 2, Ballywalter 1, Portavogie 1, Scrabo 1, Ballyrainey, Whitehill, Loughview 1, Kircubbin 2, Comber North 1, Millisle 1, Clondeboy 1, Dunferrin, Comber East 1, Gregstown 1, Gregstown 2, Bloomfield 1, Clondeboy 3, Ballywalter 2, Portaferry 1).

Within these areas other important statistics highlight the levels of need and support required by youth services to help young people living within these communities. For example in Scrabo 2 the statistics reveal that the community specifically suffers from the most deprivation in relation to Income and Employment, Colig 3 Health and Disability, Glen 1 Education, Skills and Training, Killinchy 1 Access to Services, Harbour 1 Living Environment and Crime and Disorder. Statistics on Free School Meals also provides youth services with an indicator on levels of need. Within Central (Conway Square) the percentage of young people in both primary and post primary schools receiving free school meals are higher than the NI average. A similar picture emerges with Scrabo 2, Glen 1 and Portaferry 2 SOA's.

Other areas noted within the top 50% of areas of deprivation require specific interventions by youth services based on identified need. For example whilst Portavogie 1 is ranked within the top 50% in terms of multiple deprivation, other statistics identify that it is also ranked high in terms of deprivation to proximity to services and deprivation in terms of employment and education skills and training.

Harbour 1, Central, Glen 1 and Conlig 3 should also be identified as key areas based on their ranking in the top 25% of areas of multiple deprivation but they also rank high in terms of Crime and Disorder. This would also be evidenced through local knowledge of issues within the community in relation to need and support required for the community to tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour.

Across Ards & North Down the educational outcomes for young people need to be addressed. In figures detailing the qualifications of school leavers in 2016/2017, 67.8% left school with 5 or more GCSE's grade A*-C (Including English and Maths) which falls below the Northern Ireland average of 70.3%.

The statistics available for the Ards & North Down Area present some key issues to be addressed by youth services. Issues in relation to education, skills and training, health, employment are key and are supported by many of the issues identified by young people. The responses from the survey with young people and youth workers identify health to be a major issue. This is across both age bands of 9-13 and 14-25. Young people have identified that they are struggling with health issues such as physical health, mental health including suicide and struggling with how they view themselves and cope with the world around them. Both age groups have identified that they lack confidence and have issues with body image which should be a key focus for youth services in the Ards and North Down area supporting young people to feel better about themselves and deal with issues such as bullying experienced by so many young people across different spheres of communication.

How youth services drive forward strategies and interventions to support young people in these key issues is crucial for 2018-2020. Through the mediums identified by young people such as sport,

awareness raising interventions, drop in facilities, outdoor education and residential youth services must engage young people from the key areas of need, effectively targeting resources and providing activities and programmes that have positive outcomes for young people.

5. Priority Areas for Action

Areas for Action

Areas for Action Arising from the objective assessment of needs across the council area and consideration of stakeholder views, the Education Authority Youth Service is proposing to take forward the following areas for action across the Ards & North Down area. The areas for action are grouped under the Department of Education's core objectives.

5.1 DE Priority: Raising Standards for All

Generic Youth Work/support to voluntary groups

In Ards and North Down participation rates are below average, indicating that there is a need to increase the involvement of young people in Youth Service provision in the area. However, Youth Service participation rates have been maintained in the area, identifying the demand for Youth Services and highlighting the need to provide effective responses in terms of both generic and targeted youth provision in the area.

The EA Youth Service note the important role played by the many part-time units within the Service and will continue to support their critical work through grant-aid processes and the provision of localised training.

Controlled units will also continue to provide generic youth work activities, with a view to engaging young people to access youth services, aiming to increase participation and engagement levels across the Ards and North Down area.

Allocation of staff/resources

Key resources will be allocated to those Super Output Areas in the top 20% & 50% areas of Multiple Deprivation within the area to ensure that young people most in need will have increased access to youth provision. There is a need for further youth service development in all of the areas identified below, which are consistently identified as some of the most deprived in Northern Ireland. Those SOAs ranked in the 25% most deprived include; Scrabo 2, Glen 1, Central, Conlig 3 and Harbour 1. Programmes in these areas will focus on targeted interventions, including personal and social development opportunities which aim to address key themes of work, such as risk-taking health behaviour, disaffection and low levels of attainment in school.

Quality Assurance/measurement of youth work programme

The Youth Service has a coherent and robust evaluation framework, ensuring the continuous improvement of delivery and youth work provision. Youth Workers use a variety of tools to monitor and evaluate units/programmes, gathering information regarding quantitative data (outputs) and qualitative data (outcomes and evaluations). The primary emphasis of evaluation is to measure the impact of the programme on young people with reference to the generic outcomes for youth work. Evidence is maintained by Youth Work staff in the form of files, which are assessed on an ongoing basis. Quality assurance is carried out by the Senior Youth Officer and Team Leader via staff supervision, moderation of youth work delivery, and collation of statistical returns and completion of a quarterly target monitor.

Public Relations

Stakeholder engagement identified the need to improve how youth service advertise and promote the service. Surveys undertaken with Youth Workers revealed that the best way to encourage more young people to become involved in Youth Services was through social media. It is clear there is a need to further utilise social media in ways that are attractive to young people. Presently, this is only possible through submission to the EA communications department, therefore all staff will aim to utilise social media to promote their programmes/units.

5.2 DE Priority; Closing the gap between the highest and lowest performers, improving access and equity

Addressing low educational attainment

Failure to address the gap in education attainment ensures that young people from the most deprived areas and those from the vulnerable Section 75 groups identified in Priorities for Youth will face a future with fewer opportunities and greater challenges. In order to address the gap between the highest and lowest achieving young people there is a clear need to tackle the root causes of educational disadvantage and barriers to learning through interventions in both the formal education sector and in the non-formal Youth Service settings.

Youth Services therefore are ideally placed to contribute to the reduction in barriers to learning through personal and social development programmes, focusing on outcomes such as enhanced personal capabilities, improved health and well-being, the development of thinking skills, life skills and work skills, improved relationships with others, increased participative action and active citizenship. This, alongside the availability of accredited and non-accredited programmes in the youth setting can potentially increase educational attainment among the most vulnerable young people and minority groups.

Youth Work can help young people succeed in education and allow them to continue to participate in learning in a non-formal education setting. Success for many of these vulnerable young people will not be through the traditional formal school system but rather in a Youth Work setting which provides both academic and vocational opportunities which are engaging and challenging and meet the needs of the most vulnerable young people.

Educational Attainment at Key Stages 3 and 4 is improving in Northern Ireland, however there is a tail of underachievement which is prevalent among vulnerable groups, including those with Special Educational Needs and pupils entitled to Free School Meals.

When surveyed, some young people discussed how the formal education system has failed them and did not support them to fulfil their full potential. Many spoke about how Youth Work provided life changing opportunities for them.

As the Ards & North Down Area is an area with significant numbers of pupils identified as having Special Educational Needs, there is a clear need to develop programmes to assist the formal Education sector with supporting these young people and to also provide educational opportunities outside of the formal environment.

The Youth Service 'Learning Together' (LTP) educational programmes, which are both accredited and non-accredited, are delivered in targeted schools where attendance levels are below average and young people are underachieving, therefore requiring support to achieve.

These programmes will be continued in order to maintain and support this valuable link with formal education to increase the life chances of young people in areas such as future employment and training opportunities.

Youth Work methodologies will be utilised within LTP as appropriate to re-engage and support young people with education, particularly those who are facing particular barriers to learning, or who could potentially disengage from mainstream education.

There is also a need to develop and deliver training and leadership opportunities to young people in youth centres and youth programmes to help them to overcome barriers to learning by providing further opportunities to gain qualifications, to volunteer and to develop a range of skills and attributes that will improve their life outcomes as individuals and as contributors to their local community and the wider economy.

Health and Wellbeing

Young people living in disadvantaged areas are more likely to endure health deprivation, disability or suffer mental health issues. These vulnerable young people are more likely to be absent from school which will negatively impact on their educational attainment.

Increasingly, health and wellbeing among children and young people needs to be considered in its broadest sense, emphasising mental and social health as well as physical aspects of health. The survey results show that body image, confidence and mental health featured highly in the issues facing young people.

Addressing health issues such as alcohol and drug misuse, physical activity and sexual health has been an integral part of Youth Work. In response to the Assessment of Need, Youth Workers in the Ards and North Down area will develop additional programmes and activities around exam stress, healthy eating, body image and mental health to counter the challenges facing young people today.

These programmes will be designed so that young people are emotionally and physically healthy and resilient to cope with the demands of adolescence and making the transition into adulthood.

Risk taking behaviour is a particular concern that will to be addressed with young people in the Ards and North Down area, particularly in view of Assessment of Need research findings and raised awareness of the issues associated with Child Sexual Exploitation.

The Youth Service Action Plan will address this through educational programmes that target specific areas of risk-taking health behaviour, to provide opportunities for young people to participate in engaging activities that develop their personal, social and emotional skills to promote and enhance personal resilience, healthy decision-making and wellbeing and lead to a positive impact on the educational achievements of young people living in areas of deprivation.

Flare Programme

The Education Authority Youth Service has developed, in partnership with the Public Health Agency (PHA), an innovative support service for young people (Year 11-25 years old) experiencing poor mental health. The model is a development of the effective Young Men's Support Project, operated since 2010. Extensive health service research and evidence has established the need for such a regional service to improve young people's mental health and well-being. Poor mental health is proven to affect young people's educational attainment, ability to form positive relationships thus increasing isolation, sense of happiness, and threat to their future opportunities and meaningful role in the community and economy.

1 Youth Workers will be based in the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust region, with a remit to support the Ards & North Down area, delivering youth work practice based support service for young people experiencing mental issues or impacted by suicide. The project offers outreach support, out of hours cover and individual mentoring and motivational support.

Access to Services

There is a disparity in what resources, facilities and opportunities which are available to young people across Northern Ireland. It is evident that there is a need to develop and sustain provision for young people living in rural areas, especially where they also present as areas of deprivation to address inequality of access to youth provision.

With 17.6% of young people in Ards & North Down living in rural areas, the Youth Service aims to engage young people experiencing rural isolation through Rural Outreach Youth Workers in the area. These workers are vital to engage young people experiencing social isolation through the development of educational and personal development programmes, responsive to the needs of young people in areas where there is little or no provision. This work also involves building capacity in communities to sustain youth provision through the development of community workers or young volunteers.

CRED

Changes in the demography of the population of Northern Ireland have resulted in a more diverse school population. Given the numbers of newcomer pupils and travellers in the area, there is clearly a need for work around cultural awareness and diversity and to support young people in relation to Community Relations, equality and diversity, taking account of different faiths, cultures, ethnicities, disabilities and sexual orientations in delivery.

Developing initiatives with young people around Community Relations, Equality and Diversity allows them to develop the skills, attitudes and behaviours that enable them to value and respect difference and engage positively with it. CRED programmes will be delivered by all Controlled Youth Workers through their CDA/SLA.

Inclusive Youth Work

The Youth Service in the area currently employs two Youth Workers who specialise in the increased inclusion of young people from Section 75 groups and providing support to youth organisations, through training and mentoring.

Whilst all youth work staff deliver inclusive youth work programmes for young people, the specialist service has had a positive impact on the numbers of young people from Section 75 groups engaging in youth services for a number of years.

The Inclusion Programme aided the development of youth work focusing on the most marginalised or excluded groups of young people. In addition, a funding scheme was set up, to support youth groups, directly, to develop work that promoted inclusion and inclusive youth work practice.

Through consultation with key stakeholders an Inclusion Strategy has been developed in order to underpin the Service's commitment to the engagement of disadvantaged and vulnerable young people who are at a greater risk of exclusion. The Strategy sets out a series of actions to remove barriers to participation and to enable young people to achieve their full potential.

Moving forward, set within the context of current budget restrictions, there is a significant challenge for the EA Youth Service to build on the success of these programmes, however they have become essential elements of the Service in addressing DE policy priorities as described in 'Priorities for Youth' (2013) and reviews of these programmes have highlighted the continued need to expand the inclusion agenda in youth projects in all areas.

Tackling Paramilitarism – EA START Programme

The Fresh Start Agreement (November 2015) resulted in the Executive Action Plan in 2016, the aim of which is to tackle paramilitary activity, criminality and organised crime.

The Executive Action Plan is a cross departmental programme of work, and the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board has tasked the Department of Education to take forward Action A4, which states that: *The Executive should commission appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting lawfulness in schools and through youth work in communities.*

The Programme Board has identified eight areas which are particularly vulnerable to paramilitary activity, and where therefore there is a high risk of young people being drawn into paramilitary activity. The START Programme is delivered by the Education Authority in the Ards and North Down area - Clandeboye – SOA (2) and (3) and Conlig (3) which includes Kilcooley (Bangor).

Positive Behaviour

Staff in the area will also aim to seek Youth Intervention Funding in order to decrease tension and ASB in targeted areas during the summer period.

Participation

Many young people engaging in youth services express their interest in actively participating in decision making. The current Youth Council that operates across the Ards & North Down area are extremely active group, participating in consultations with Youth Service and other Statutory Partners.

Participation will continue to be a key priority for the Youth Service Team with resources and support from a dedicated worker to ensure that the Youth Council is sustained and Rural Youth Forums are maintained, and or developed in the rural areas to ensure representation geographically.

There will be a continued focus on broadening the membership to include young people from marginalised backgrounds and from Section 75 groups in order to ensure true representation.

The Small Grants Programme is a key action in the Department of Education's policy document, "Priorities for Youth - improving young people's lives through youth work" (2013). The programme has been set-up to allow young people to administer grants to other young people, and aims to strengthen the participation of young people as decision-makers within the local and wider community. Participation within the Small Grants Programme context is about young people taking part in projects which have been planned by young people for young people. It's what they decide to do, when, where and how.

The Small Grants Programme is open to groups of young people aged 4 through to 25 who are part of an Education Authority Youth Service (EA-YS) registered / funded group, and grants of £300 - £1500 are available.

Raising Aspirations

Opportunities to travel were identified both regionally and locally as an activity/programme that young people felt should be offered by Youth Service. This has also been identified by staff, as a means to young people becoming active citizens and learning life skills, which in turn will lead to young people with raised aspirations. A number of staff will apply for external funds, in order to organise study visits, with a view to the development of future exchange programmes.

Outdoor Learning

The Education Authority has completed a review and public consultation on its residential and Outdoor Education Services, and is now undertaking the transformation of the newly named "Outdoor Learning Service" (OLS). The out workings of the transformational process is leading to the consolidation of four outdoor learning centres (OLC) across the region, namely Gortatole, Shannaghmore, Delamont and Woodhall. Three Outdoor Learning Day Centres in Conlig, Armagh and Ballycastle will cater for groups seeking non-residential outdoor activity, and two self-catering centres, Corick Residential Centre in Co. Tyrone and Ballyhome Residential Centre in Co Antrim are available for EA-registered groups to book. The final strand in the OLS sees the appointment of 10 Peripatetic Outdoor Learning Instructors to deliver services locally across the region.

Extended Opening Hours

The Education Authority has received additional funds, in recent years, from the Department of Education to increase access to mainstream youth services in disadvantaged areas, with priority given to interface areas. This funding aimed to provide additional access to the Youth Service and was targeted at areas ranked in the top 25% for Multiple Deprivation. The Extended Provision Scheme sought to make youth provision available at times when, traditionally, it had not been open to young people.

The Scheme provided resources for extended late night opening on Friday; and/or opening on Saturday and/or Sunday nights, as well as opening on evenings when the youth clubs would be normally unavailable and during school holidays.

Moving forward, set within the context of current budget restrictions, there is a significant challenge for the EA Youth Service to build on the success of these programmes, however they have become essential elements of the Service in addressing DE policy priorities as described in 'Priorities for Youth' (2013) and reviews of these programmes have highlighted the continued need for extended opening hours in targeted areas. This has also been highlighted in the Addendum to the RAoN document published in November 2017.

EA Youth Service aims to maintain the extended provision programmes in Ards Rural.

5.3 DE Enabling Goal; Developing the Education Workforce

Leadership and Volunteering

Volunteering has become a long term focus of the Youth Service Team with a number of Controlled workers developing programmes which allow young people the opportunity to volunteer. This focus on volunteering was validated in the regional stakeholder survey with young people identifying it as an initiative to improve youth services.

Youth Service staff have collaborated with Volunteer Now to register young people for the Millennium Volunteer Award. The Youth Service Team actively promote and facilitate volunteering development opportunities, which is highly evident in Youth Centres where young people volunteer with younger groups and disability groups and are trained yearly to deliver summer schemes/programmes in the Centres. This will be further developed across the area to improve the confidence, skills and knowledge of young people and contribute positively to their employability.

The area team also encourage young people to take on peer leadership roles and will develop a number of initiatives where young people take part in training to educate their peers on issues important to them.

The Ards & North Down also aims to promote the development of young people as leaders in the communities by further developing the Duke Edinburgh Open Award. This will allow an increase in the numbers of young people being able to access the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award outside of the school environment.

Adult Volunteers

A training programme, to include the Youth Support Worker Qualification will be delivered across the Ards & North Down area to develop the confidence, skills and knowledge of volunteers.

Workforce Development

The EA has implemented a Youth Service Workforce Development Strategy 2018-2021 which will enable managers, youth workers and volunteers to articulate the value of the service and celebrate its educational achievements; evaluate their work effectively; support the active and meaningful participation of young people in various youth work settings and provide ongoing and specialist training for specifically identified needs.

EA has funded through the voluntary sector a Professional Studentship scheme aimed at creating a professional workforce and the development of professional competence resulting in an improved service for young people.

A Trainee Youth Support worker programme has been designed to ensure that young people are qualified and eligible to apply for available Youth Support Worker posts as they arise. They are encouraged to continue as Volunteers in their locality with ongoing support from their centre/project supervisors.

5.4 DE Enabling Goal; Improving the Learning Environment

Facility Management

Whilst the controlled staff establishment has been increased in recent years, there is a need to increase the involvement of young people in youth services in the area. As engagement figures have sustained in recent years, but not increased, a different service should be provided to what is currently being offered.

Having carried out consultation with young people for the assessment of need they identified the need for more youth work facilities and programmes, further volunteering opportunities and additional opportunities to gain qualifications.

Aside from the controlled targeted services provided by the EA professional team of staff and the full-time voluntary units, the remainder of provision is part-time and primarily recreational.

Priorities for Youth also called for a renewed focus in *active and evidenced participation of young people that provides a voice for the powerful articulate young people and the less empowered less articulate young person.*

5.5 DE Enabling Goal; Transforming Education Management

Youth Advocacy Programme

To further support the enhanced engagement of young people, Youth Service staff in Ards & North Down developed a capacity-building programme aimed at enabling participants to be actively involved in the Local Advisory group (LAG) by researching peer opinion and advocating on behalf of young people in the area. The programme has engaged 14 participants, aged 17-21, representing a cross-section of the community and involving both users of the Youth Service and non-users. The young people have committed to full participation in the two years of the programme and demonstrate a keen interest in advocating on behalf of others.

They are fully engaged in the Local Advisory Group and have been an invaluable resource to support Youth Service planning and review.

Securing External Funding

External funding allows young people to benefit from increased provision in the areas most in need in Ards & North Down and leads to effective collaboration with key agencies to avoid duplication of services.

Summary Areas for Action

Raising standards for all

- To ensure that all planning, funding and delivery of services is based on the Regional and Local Assessment of Need and implements policy requirements.
- To ensure that there is a full-time youth centre or full-time youth worker present in each of the top 25% of the most deprived SOAs.
- To implement agreed Inter-board standards for the registration of youth units.
- To provide financial assistance and support to registered units.
- To develop and apply appropriate quality assurance measures and systems.
- To maintain generic youth provision across the area to ensure young people have access to youth services.

Closing the gap between the highest and lowest performers, improving access and equality

- To promote inclusion of Section 75 young people and address issues relating to diversity.
- To enhance the educational attainment of young people, particularly those underachieving, through direct work in schools.
- To reduce barriers to learning by promoting healthy choices and reducing risk taking behaviour.
- To reduce conflict and promote positive behaviour in areas of community tension.
- To engage young people in isolated rural areas.
- To engage young people who want to become active citizens by supporting and delivering the following projects: Duke of Edinburgh, Youth Councils and Youth Forums.
- To develop and maintain appropriate partnerships with statutory and voluntary organisations to enhance youth work provision for young people in the Division.

Enhancing the quality of teaching by developing the workforce

- To increase volunteering opportunities within the service.
- To offer an annual calendar of staff development opportunities.

Improving the Learning Environment

- To ensure that all Youth Service provision operates to accepted standards of Child Protection.
- To establish appropriate risk management and controls within controlled provision.
- To develop capital projects and appropriate maintenance programmes to ensure that the Education Authority estate is fit for purpose.

Appendix

Registered Youth Groups Ards & North Down
1ST HOLYWOOD GIRLS BRIGADE 50TH NI
1st HOLYWOOD YOUTH GROUP
14TH DOWN SCOUT GROUP
129TH HOLYWOOD METHODISTGIRLS BRIGADE
1ST HOLYWOOD SCOUTS
ST COLMCILLES YOUTH CLUB HOLYWOOD
HOLYWOOD FAMILY TRUST
2ND HOLYWOOD SCOUT GROUP
HOLYWOOD YOUTH GROUP
12TH DOWN SCOUT GROUP - SCOUTING IRELAND
2ND NEWTOWNARDS GUIDES & 3RD NEWTOWNARDS SCOUT
COMBER DISTRICT GUIDING
FRIENDS OF GUIDING HOLYWOOD
12TH BANGOR BOYS BRIGADE
9TH BANGOR SCOUT COUNCIL
12TH BANGOR GUIDES
7TH BANGOR SCOUTS
297TH WEST PRESBYTERIAN GIRLS BRIGADE
NORTH DOWN ATHLETICS CLUB
CARNALEA METHODIST YOUTH CLUB
11TH BANGOR BOYS' BRIGADE
BANGOR FIRE CADETS

1ST BALLYGILBERT RAINBOWS, BROWNIES, GUIDES
12TH BANGOR SCOUT GROUP
TOWERVIEW YOUTH COUNCIL
CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP COMBER
10TH BANGOR BOYS BRIGADE
14TH BANGOR GUIDE UNIT
BALLYCROCHAN BAPTIST CAMPAIGNERS
13TH BANGOR BOYS BRIGADE
CHRIST CHURCH PRIMACY GIRLS BRIGADE
BALLYGRAINEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH YOUTH COUNCIL
825 BANGOR SQN ATC
BANGOR ELIM YOUTH CAMPAIGNERS
BANGOR SENIOR GATEWAY
ST COMGALLS BRIGIN GUIDES
ST COMGALLS YOUTH CLUB
ST ANDREWS 48TH GIRLS BRIGADE BANGOR
1ST BANGOR BOYS' BRIGADE
1ST BANGOR GIRLS' BRIGADE
HAMILTON ROAD METHODIST YOUTH CLUB BANGOR
6TH BANGOR SCOUTS
HAMILTON ROAD GIRLS BRIGADE BANGOR
HAMILTON ROAD BAPTIST YOUTH BANGOR
BANGOR SEA CADETS
LISNABREEN PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CLUB

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH YOUTH COUNCIL
NORTH DOWN YMCA
KINGS CHURCH BANGOR YOUTH
3RD BANGOR SCOUTS
8TH BANGOR RAINBOWS, BROWNIES & GUIDES
4TH BANGOR SCOUTS
BALLYHOLME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH YOUTH COUNCIL
1ST BANGOR SCOUTS
DONAGHADEE YOUTH FOR CHRIST DROP-IN CENTRE
2ND DONAGHADEE SCOUT GROUP
104TH NI GIRLS BRIGADE COMPANY
1ST DONAGHADEE SEA SCOUTS
1ST GLASTRY BOYS BRIGADE
PORTAVOGIE & DISTRICT YOUTH CLUB
PLACE2B PORTAFERRY
CLOUGHEY PRESBYTERIAN GIRLS BRIGADE
1ST BALLYBLACK BOYS BRIGADE
197TH BALLYBLACK GIRLS BRIGADE
MILLISLE YOUTH FORUM
CARROWDORE & BALLYFRENIS PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CLUB
MILLISLE PRESBYTERIAN GIRLS BRIGADE
1ST GREYABBEY BOYS BRIGADE
BALLYWALTER GIRLS BRIGADE
1ST GREYABBEY BROWNIES

1ST KIRCUBBIN GUIDES & BROWNIES
1ST KIRCUBBIN SCOUT GROUP
KIRCUBBIN YOUTH CLUB
LINK FAMILY & COMMUNITY CENTRE
NEWTOWNARDS URBAN SAINTS
1ST NEWTOWNARDS SCOUT GROUP
NEWTOWNARDS SEA CADETS
6TH NEWTOWNARDS BOYS BRIGADE COMPANY
77TH NI GIRLS' BRIGADE
GLEN WARD YOUTH CLUB
ARDS GATEWAY
SCRABO HALL YOUTH MINISTRIES
1ST NEWTOWNARDS BOYS BRIGADE
1ST NEWTOWNARDS GIRL GUIDES
6TH ARDS SEA SCOUT GROUP
ELEMENT
REGENT STREET METHODIST GIRLS BRIGADE
10TH NEWTOWNARDS BOYS BRIGADE
SCRABO GIRLS BRIGADE
2ND COMBER BOYS BRIGADE COMPANY
COMBER YOUTH FOR CHRIST
CHERRYVALLEY YOUTH GROUP
1ST COMBER SCOUTS
1ST COMBER PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH

1ST COMBER BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY
BALLYGOWAN PRESBYTERIAN GIRLS BRIGADE
BALLYGOWAN YOUTH & COMMUNITY FORUM
KILLINCHY ACTIVITY GROUP
KILLINCHY PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH COUNCIL
307TH GIRLS BRIGADE/7TH BOYS BRIGADE NEWTOWNARDS
4TH ARDS BOYS BRIGADE COMPANY
3RD ARDS BOYS BRIGADE COMPANY
NEWTOWNARDS ELIM CHURCH YOUTH COUNCIL
CONLIG PRESBYTERIAN GIRLS BRIGADE
MOVILLA ABBEY YOUTH COUNCIL
9TH ARDS BOYS BRIGADE
MOVILLA PRESBYTERIAN GIRLS BRIGADE
ARDS EVANGELICAL CHURCH YOUTH
STRANGFORD DISTRICT EXPLORER SCOUTS
NEWTOWNARDS ACF
WEST WINDS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION YOUTH CLUB

