



Education Authority
Youth Service

**Local
Assessment
of Need**
2018/2020

**Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon
Division**

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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 coterminous 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 each 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 need. 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 Head of Regional Youth Services (HoRYS) 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 HoRYS 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 Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon 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 Divisional Youth Work Team

The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Youth Work Team consists of 13 full-time youth workers in the controlled and voluntary sector and 1 youth tutor, supported by 2 Team Leaders, responsible for the delivery of services in the area. There are 4 full time controlled and 4 voluntary centres in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Area. In addition, there are 3 controlled part time units and 183 registered units. These include:

Full time Controlled:

1. Brownlow Resource Project:
 - a. Brownlow Youth Resource Centre (3 FT Youth Workers)
 - b. Tullygally Youth Centre, Craigavon (1 PT Leader in Charge)
 - c. Drumgor Youth Centre, Craigavon (1 PT Leader in Charge)
2. Lurgan Youth Annex (1 FT Youth Worker)
3. Taghnevan Youth & Community Centre, Craigavon (1 FT Youth Workers)
4. Epi Centre, Armagh (3 FT Youth Workers) (1 Youth Worker Post Vacant)
5. Dromore Youth Centre (1 Youth Tutor)

Full time Voluntary:

1. YMCA, Portadown (3 FT Youth Workers and 1 FT student on the EA Apprenticeship Programme)
2. Seagoe Youth Centre, Portadown (1 FT Youth Worker and one FT student on the EA Apprenticeship Programme)
3. St Mary's Youth Centre, Portadown (3 FT Youth Worker)
4. Clann Eireann Youth Centre, Lurgan (1 PT Leader in Charge)

Part time Controlled:

1. Tandragee Youth Centre (1 PT Leader in Charge)
2. Banbridge Youth Centre (1 PT Leader in Charge)
3. Every Night Project, Banbridge (1 PT Leader in Charge)

Substantial Part time Voluntary:

1. Lurgan YMCA (1 PT Leader in Charge)
2. St Patrick's Youth Club Keady (1 PT Leader in Charge)

In addition to these youth clubs, Youth Work in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon 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.

The most recent EA figures reveal that over 5,650 young people in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area participated in 350 registered Youth Work programmes.

3.3 Controlled Delivery Agreements/Service Level Agreements

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. Education Authority youth workers 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 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.

3.4 Generic and Targeted Youth Work

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

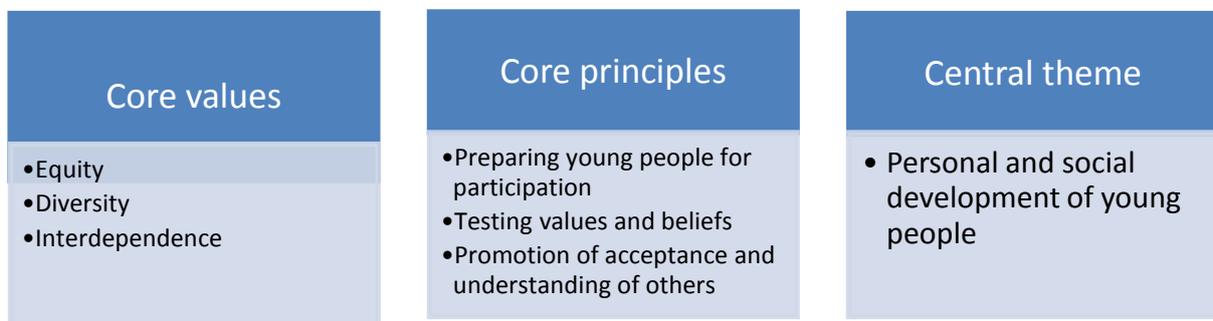
- Generalist youth provision ensures that supportive environments are made available to a significant proportion of young people throughout our communities. This allows them to enhance their personal skills, levels of motivation and general resilience and to help them to develop their ability to interact 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.

3.5 Central Theme of Youth Work

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



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

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

- 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

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. Through Our Eyes: Time to Talk, Armagh Youth Council published Peer Research in October 2017 highlighting many of the issues young people face particularly in relation to stress and mental and emotional health. They hope to use this report to inform their future social action projects and to secure improved services for young people in the area.

The Peace IV funding stream administered by Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council has a range of strategic objectives that complement those within Priorities for Youth. These include increased support for children and young people helping them to be better prepared for life and less likely to be involved in anti-social behaviour. A greater willingness to engage in cross community activity and appreciation of the contribution ethnic minority communities make to society. It aims to build positive relations among those most affected by the legacy of the conflict, increase tolerance and reduce the likelihood of sectarianism and racism.

- Peace IV Youth Café Project Group in Armagh
- Peace IV Good Relations: Council wide area project for young people at risk to promote active citizenship and positive relationships within communities.

3.6 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).

The following organisations currently conducting Extended Provision programmes in this area are:

- Tullygally Youth Centre, Craigavon
- Drumgor Youth Centre, Craigavon
- Lurgan Youth Annexe
- Taghnevan Youth & Community Centre, Lurgan
- Seagoe Youth Centre, Portadown
- St Mary's Youth Centre, Portadown
- Clann Eireann Youth Club, Lurgan

3.7 Inclusion

Schools in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area have the highest number of Newcomer children outside of Belfast. Out of a total of 2,810 children in these schools with English as their second language, the vast majority are at Primary level. 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. Examples of delivery include:

Voluntary:

- Ameera Youth Group, Craigavon-Social Activities Helping Engagement, Learning & Integration with newcomer young people
- Hadaya Youth Group Social Engagement Learning & Friendship (SELF) with BME young people
- IncredABLE, Richill –Engage young people with disabilities
- Cabin Club, Portadown- Inclusion Project
- Travellers Support Committee, Craigavon-HYTE - Helping Young Travellers Engage
- Laurencetown Youth Group- Keep Er Lit
- Oasis Youth (Community Intercultural), Armagh DVDS PROJECT (Dance, Volunteering, Drama & Sport)
- Seagoe Youth Group/Killicomaine YC, Portadown -In-Clue-Shine

Controlled:

- Brownlow Area Inclusion Project, Inclusion Group for young people with disabilities
- Dromore Youth Conekt Project
- Epicentre Armagh, YES Project Youth Engage & Support

A Regional Inclusion/Participation Unit has been established. This unit includes a Senior Youth Worker/Team Leader and 4 Senior Youth Workers to implement the Inclusion/Participation Strategy across the area, developing the capacity of staff in the delivery of Inclusion programmes as well as the delivery of training and innovative inclusion initiatives. One member of this team will be based at the regional hub in the Epicentre, Armagh.

3.8 School Based Youth Work

Partnerships have been developed with a number of primary, post-primary and special schools in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area. The EA Youth Service introduced a schools programme, 'Learning Together' in September 2014 in 7 schools in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon 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.

Although the majority of young people achieve the expected standard as set out by DE, there are a significant number of young people who require additional support and alternative progression routes. EA will continue to support improved educational outcomes for those pupils who face multiple barriers to learning. Through our signature Learning Together Programme staff are currently deployed in:

- Craigavon Senior High School Portadown Campus
- Craigavon Senior High Lurgan Campus
- St Ronan's College, Lurgan
- Lismore Comprehensive College
- Lurgan Junior High School
- Banbridge High School
- St Patrick's College, Banbridge

The Learning Together Programme consists of a suite of interventions targeted at each stage of development for pupils. The Key Stage 2 Transitions programme delivered with Primary 7 pupils in the summer term aims to ease their move from Primary into Post Primary education. This is complemented by an accredited Peer Mentor training programme with pupils in year 13 aimed at building the pastoral care offering with the school to ensure senior pupils act as befrienders and points of contact for incoming pupils when they join in September and throughout their first year.

The Key Stage 3 aspect offers dedicated youth work interventions for pupils between years 8 and 10 on issues such as peer pressure, self-esteem and resilience. Staff have the flexibility to respond to emerging needs within the school community and work closely with the head of Pastoral Care and Head of Key Stage 3 when they identify trends or pupil behaviour that needs to be understood or challenged.

The Key Stage 4 element offers pupils who are at risk of not achieving the minimum 5 GCSE passes an opportunity to gain the equivalent of an additional B grade by completing 10 modules which are part of the Certificate for Personal Success & Wellbeing accredited by Open College Network Northern Ireland.

The Youth Tutor in Dromore High School continues to offer day time provision for pupils in wider key skills.

3.9 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 Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon 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 to 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.

Other formal participative structures exist such as a Youth Council in each of the following three areas of Armagh, Banbridge, & Craigavon.

All units offer opportunities for participative structures within their units. Across the division there are 3 youth councils for young people aged 14-17 whose agenda is local democracy and representation.

3.10 Youth work through the medium of Irish Language

In planning youth services the EA encourages and supports informal opportunities for learning through the medium of Irish. There are currently 3 Irish language youth clubs in the area and the EA will continue to support these services. These include:

- Taghnevan Youth & Community Centre, Club Na Nog/ partnership with St Francis's PS Lurgan
- Club Spraoi Tassagh
- Cairde Teo

3.11 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. Examples of local groups are:

- EA Neighbourhood Renewal Social Inclusion Unit
- Post Primary Schools involved in the Learning Together Programme
- Bulgarian Roma Interagency Group
- North Lurgan Stakeholders
- Lurgan Town Project
- Armagh DEA

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 Armagh, Craigavon & Banbridge council area and sits on a range of Southern Area Locality Planning Groups.

4. Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon 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 Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon is a complex and difficult task. 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 have been identified, although this list is not exhaustive:

- 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

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.

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.

4.2 Demographics

The Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council was established on 1st April 2015. It replaced Armagh City and District Council, Banbridge District Council and Craigavon Borough Council. It is the second largest council, in terms of population, after Belfast City Council.

The estimated population of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council at 30 June 2016 was 210,260, of which 104,323 (49.6%) were male and 105,937 (50.4%) were female. One third of the total population of Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council, 69,550, (33.1%) are aged 25 years or under. (NI average 33.3%)

The demographics of the area indicate that the majority of young people live in areas that are essentially rural in character with the exception of the densely populated Craigavon area and the two large urban centres of Armagh and Banbridge. However the deployment of the Youth Work team ensures that attention is given to the needs of young people in rural and urban settings through centre-based and area based workers, rural outreach workers and grant aided units.

Table 1 – Population by Age Bands 2016

Age	0 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 19 years	20 - 24 years
Number of Young People	15,253	15,551	13,338	12,906	12,502

Chart 1 – Projected Population 2016 – 2025

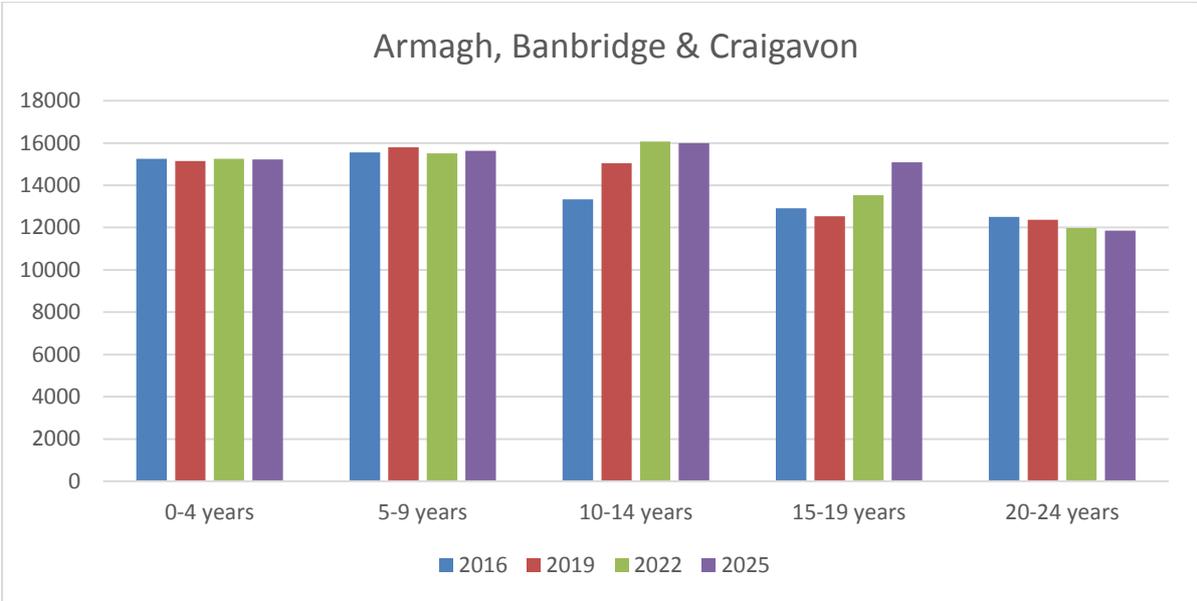


Table 2 – Projected Population 2016 – 2025

Age Groups	2016	2019	2022	2025
0-4 years	15,253	15,142	15,258	15,217
5-9 years	15,551	15,795	15,515	15,633
10-14 years	13,338	15,045	16,075	16,000
15-19 years	12,906	12,542	13,534	15,083
20-24 years	12,502	12,365	11,977	11,860

Over the next 7 years, youth population projections indicate that children up to 9 years old will remain relatively static at their current levels however the number of young people between the ages of 10-19 years are expected to rise. Out of a total of 69,550 young people under the age of 25 in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area, 13,361 are aged between 0-13 and 12,887 are aged between 15-19 years old.

4.3 Deprivation

Northern Ireland Multiple 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

The following tables illustrate some of the levels of deprivation that exist in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD, detailing the levels of deprivation at SOA level for all domains, followed by those indicators (data selected to compose each domain) selected that are of most relevance to children and young people. These focus on income related deprivation, educational attainment and characteristics and crime. The map at the end of this document shows the 25% and 50% most deprived SOAs in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

The results for Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD are highlighted below, in comparison to the Northern Ireland average in the table below which compares the relative distribution of the 100 most deprived SOAs in Northern Ireland that are within each LGD, using:

1. The NI Multiple Deprivation Measure, and
2. The Income Deprivation Affecting Children sub-domain (a constituent of the Income Domain)

Table 3 – Deprivation Comparisons by LGD

LGD	Count of SOAs	SOAs within 100 most deprived SOAs-MDM	%SOAs within 100 most deprived SOAs-MDM	SOAs within 100 most deprived SOAs-IDAC	%SOAs within 100 most deprived SOAs-IDAC
Antrim and Newtownabbey	72	1	1%	1	1%
Ards and North Down	86	3	3%	8	9%
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	87	8	9%	7	8%
Belfast	174	50	29%	29	17%
Causeway Coast and Glens	72	3	4%	16	22%
Derry City and Strabane	75	20	27%	15	20%
Fermanagh and Omagh	49	3	6%	5	10%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	67	0	0%	1	1%
Mid and East Antrim	65	3	5%	4	6%
Mid Ulster	59	1	2%	2	3%
Newry, Mourne and Down	84	8	10%	12	14%

Table 3 illustrates that outside of Belfast, Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon have the largest number of Super Output Areas. Out of 890 Super Output Areas across Northern Ireland, 87 are located in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area.

According to the NIMDM 9% of these are among the top 25% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. These include Woodville 1, Drumgask 1 & 2, Court 1 & 2, Church, Annagh 2, Drumgor 2, Drumnamoe 1, Corcrair 1& 2, Tavanagh and Ballybay in the Craigavon Area. In the Banbridge area the top 25% most deprived areas are Derrynoose and The Cut along with Callan Bridge and Keady in the Armagh area.

The figures fall slightly when we consider the Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDAC) which occurs in 7 Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon super output areas accounting for 8% of most deprived areas.

New areas have been identified by observing numbers of children and young people living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the Northern Ireland average. The Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDAC) measure includes many areas already within the top 20% experiencing multiple deprivation. However areas

such as Derrynoose, Poyntz Pass and Tandragee in the Armagh area and Edenderry 1 and Rathfriland in the Banbridge area have emerged as areas in need of targeted youth outreach.

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

Counts and percentages of young people living in the 25% deprived SOAs using the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure.

LGD 2014	Aged 4-8	Aged 9-13	Aged 14-18	Aged 19-25	Total
Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon YP	13445	13092	13084	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
Northern Ireland YP	113426	116079	126256	176168	531929
Northern Ireland YP living in deprived areas	27547	28087	31561	46770	133935
% Northern Ireland YP living in deprived areas	24.3	24.2	25.0	26.5	25.2

There are a total of 5,256 young people living in communities that fall within the top 25% most deprived areas in NI. This equates to 9% of the total youth population in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area.

The table below shows each SOA in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon 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%.

Table 5

SOA	MDM Rank	SOA	MDM Rank	SOA	MDM Rank
Woodville_1	14	Tandragee	353	Derrytrasna_2	608
Drumgask_2	52	Charlemont	403	Kernan_2	616
Court_1	54	Bannside	411	Bleary_2	631
Callan Bridge	61	Ballyoran	412	Rich Hill_2	637
Church	62	Parklake	417	Quilly	639
Annagh_2	73	Brownstown_1	423	Aghagallon_1	649
Drumgor_2	81	Abbey Park	424	Hamiltonsbawn_2	651
Drumnamoe_1	83	Observatory	426	Hamiltonsbawn_1	657
Corcraun_2	108	Edenderry_1	427	Seapatrick	672
The Cut	120	Banbridge West	430	Knocknashane_1	678
Keady	125	Killylea	432	Hockley	680
Corcraun_1	129	Killeen	443	Edenderry_2	682
Tavanagh	164	Brownstown_2	447	Aghagallon_2	684
Court_2	179	Katesbridge	449	Magheralin_2	689
Ballybay	200	Killycomain	468	Derrytrasna_1	697
Drumgask_1	208	Loughbrickland	485	Waringstown_1	715

Derrynoose	212	Lawrencetown	496	Demesne_1	718
Edenderry	224	Ballymartrim	498	Donaghcloney_2	727
Drumgor_1	262	Dromore North	502	Magheralin_1	746
The Mall	269	Fort	503	Waringstown_2	767
Carrigatuke	273	Loughgall	505	Woodville_2	772
Downs	288	Donaghcloney_1	519	Knocknashane_2	775
Poyntz Pass	294	Gransha	520	Kernan_1	780
Mourneview	301	Demesne_2	521	Dromore South_1	785
Markethill	310	The Birches_1	534	Rich Hill_1	786
Rathfriland	328	The Birches_2	577	Dromore South_2	797
Taghnevan	332	Annagh_1	583	Ballydown_2	805
Gilford	347	Laurelvale	588	Ballydown_1	806
Drumnamoe_2	351	Milford	600	Bleary_1	825

Table 5 demonstrates the stark contrast across the Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon area from Woodville 1 as the most deprived to Bleary 1 as the least deprived indicating that 47% of all Super Output areas are in the top 50% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland.

Table 6 below illustrates the spread of deprivation across the three legacy council areas highlighting Craigavon as having the most concentrated number of deprived areas with 21 out of the 44 super output areas either in the top 50% or 25% most deprived.

Table 6

ARMAGH SOAs		BANBRIDGE SOAs		CRAIGAVON SOAs	
Callan Bridge	61	The Cut	120	Woodville_1	14
Keady	125	Edenderry	224	Drumgask_2	52
Derrynoose	212	Rathfriland	328	Court_1	54
The Mall	269	Gilford	347	Church	62
Carrigatuke	273	Bannside	411	Annagh_2	73
Downs	288	Banbridge West	430	Drumgor_2	81
Poyntz Pass	294	Katesbridge	449	Drumnamoe_1	83
Markethill	310	Loughbrickland	485	Corcrair_2	108
Tandragee	353	Lawrencetown	496	Corcrair_1	129
Charlemont	403	Dromore North	502	Tavanagh	164
Abbey Park	424	Fort	503	Court_2	179
Observatory	426	Gransha	520	Ballybay	200
Killylea	432	Quilly	639	Drumgask_1	208
Killeen	443	Seapatrick	672	Drumgor_1	262
Ballymartrim	498	Dromore South_1	785	Mourneview	301
Loughgall	505	Dromore South_2	797	Taghnevan	332
Demesne_2	521	Ballydown_2	805	Drumnamoe_2	351
Laurelvale	588	Ballydown_1	806	Ballyoran	412
Milford	600			Parklake	417
Rich Hill_2	637			Brownstown_1	423
Hamiltonsbawn_2	651			Edenderry_1	427
Hamiltonsbawn_1	657			Brownstown_2	447
Hockley	680			Killycomain	468

Demesne_1	718		Donaghcloney_1	519
Rich Hill_1	786		The Birches_1	534
			The Birches_2	577
			Annagh_1	583
			Derrytrasna_2	608
			Kernan_2	616
			Bleary_2	631
			Aghagallon_1	649
			Knocknashane_1	678
			Edenderry_2	682
			Aghagallon_2	684
			Magheralin_2	689
			Derrytrasna_1	697
			Waringstown_1	715
			Donaghcloney_2	727
			Magheralin_1	746
			Waringstown_2	767
			Woodville_2	772
			Knocknashane_2	775
			Kernan_1	780
			Bleary_1	825

4.4 Neighbourhood Renewal

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas are those neighbourhoods that are within the 10% most deprived electoral wards and Enumeration Districts in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland has 36 Neighbourhood Renewal Areas and 5 Strategic Partnerships have been developed to plan delivery in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.

Substantial parts of Craigavon have been designated as Neighbourhood Renewal areas (NRA's). There are 3 Neighbourhood Renewal Areas namely, Lurgan, Brownlow and Portadown. The highest percentage area is Lurgan (almost 50%), closely followed by Brownlow (34%) and Portadown (15%).

By sustaining additional funding and by working in partnership with other agencies the EA Youth Service help facilitate the out workings of the Youth Engagement Plus Programme which is funded by the Department of Communities (DFC).

Those young people who live in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas tend to have lower educational outcomes than their peers who don't live in renewal areas. Therefore Youth Service's will aim to target resources at those areas that have been identified as being the most deprived in order to raise standards for young people and to close the educational gap.

Youth services have been and will continue to be in place in the areas that have been identified as being most in need and provide a varied and wide ranging youth work programme that is both generalist and targeted.

The maps in the appendices illustrates the location of youth services in the area demonstrating that units are well placed to address the needs of young people from areas where there is high levels of Income Deprivation.

4.5 Educational Achievement

Whilst the majority of young people in Northern Ireland achieve and succeed at school, other vulnerable young people are at risk of failing to fulfil their potential, either as a result of their social context, an additional educational need or their experiences and attitudes towards the formal education system.

The Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon area has 23 post primary schools 6 of which have grammar status and the three year average of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs range from 98.4% to 49%.

Table 7 shows that out of a total of 2298 year 12 pupils in the academic year 2016/17 81% achieved at least 5 GCSE passes. When Maths and English are included among the pass rate, the score for the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area falls to almost 67% which is below the NI average of 70.3%.

Table 7: Educational attainment, by LGD (2016/17)

	No. Of Year 12 pupils	% year 12 pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs grades A*-C	% year 12 pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs grades A*-C including English and Maths
Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon	2298	82.1%	66.8%
All Northern Ireland	19938	84.6%	70.3%

4.6 Education and Deprivation

The link between educational underachievement and disadvantage is well documented. A child’s educational success can be dependent upon their social background and where they live. Children growing up in poverty and disadvantage are less likely to do well at school

Almost 25% of pupils attending Primary and Post Primary schools in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area are entitled to free school meals lower than the Northern Ireland average of 29.5%.

Eligibility for Free School Meals is strongly linked with underachievement, however, there are other factors that can negatively impact on a young person’s ability to achieve and learn. These include, among others, one’s socio-economic background, ethnicity and parents with low educational aspirations. Other significant factors which impact on a young person achieving at school include some of the following:

- Being a Looked After Child
- Being a Newcomer Pupil
- Being a Carer
- Being from the Travelling Community
- Being from a Section 75 group
- Living in a deprived area
- Family Breakdown

Close to 18% of pupil enrolment have been identified as having special educational needs in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area. Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area schools have the highest number of Newcomer children outside of Belfast. Out of a total of 2810 children in these schools with English as their second language, the vast majority are at Primary level.

4.7 Health

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

The Department of Health factsheet, Health Inequalities in Northern Ireland: Key Facts 2015 confirms that health outcomes are much worse for people living in deprived communities. Among the health inequalities they identify include the following:

- The percentage of births to teenage mothers under 20 years old in the Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon area at just over 8.7% remains below the levels for the rest of Northern Ireland which is 10%.
- Male Life expectancy at birth is 79.2 years slightly higher than for the Northern Ireland Average.
- Female Life expectancy at birth is 82.5 years, also slightly higher than for the Northern Ireland Average.
- Young people in the southern trust area are marginally more likely to consume the recommended daily 5 pieces of fruit and vegetables than generally in Northern Ireland.
- Smoking prevalence among post primary pupils, physical activity levels and electronic cigarette use are at the same levels in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon area as those across Northern Ireland standing at 4%, 13% and 5% respectively.
- 21% of young people in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon area drink alcohol slightly lower than the level of 23% for the Northern Ireland average.
- There were 36 recorded cases of young people under the age of 18 in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon area receiving treatment for alcohol or drug misuse in 2017.

A recent study by the Centre for Mental Health noted that:²

- 10% of 11-year-old children experienced a mental health problem in 2012.
- Children from low-income families are four times more likely to experience mental health problems than children from higher-income families.
- Mental health problems are twice as common in boys as girls.
- Over 20% of children experience a mental health problem at some point between the ages of 3 and 11.
- Many of the target groups identified in *Priorities for Youth* such as LGBT&Q, NEET, Looked After Children, Young Carers and Young Parents report disproportionately higher levels of mental health issues, which can include depression, self-harm and attempted suicide. Mental and emotional well-being has also been consistently identified as a concern among the wider youth population.

²Centre For Mental Health, 2015, Children of the New Century: Mental Health Findings from the Millennium Cohort Study, UCL, London.

Table 8 presents the most deprived SOA's in Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon according to the health and disability domain. This places all of these SOA's in the top 25% of the most deprived in terms of health in Northern Ireland. It will be important to ensure that young people living in the areas have access to information and programmes that promote healthy life choices resulting in improved health and well-being.

Table 8: Health and Disability Domain

SOA RANK	SOA Name
31	Drumnamoe 1
42	Drumgask 2
64	Drumgor 2
67	Court 1
91	Woodville 1
100	Court 2
121	Callan Bridge
124	Drumgask 1
130	The Cut
145	Edenderry
168	Corcraín 1
183	Mourneview
199	Church
202	Drumnamoe 2
208	Taghnevan
211	Corcraín 2

4.8 Access to Services: Rural

Given the significant amount of rurality across the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area, over 42% of the total youth population, 24,766 young people, live in areas where access to services restricts their life chances and opportunities. Taking account of the Rural Needs Act 2016 local voluntary youth provision will be supported to provide services in rural districts. Where these are not available EA Area Youth Workers (AYW) will be deployed where resources allow, to address identified need in consultation with local stakeholders.

Table 9 - 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
Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon YP	13445	13092	13084	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
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

Areas in the top 25% experiencing rural isolation and lack of access to services in the Banbridge area include Bannside, Katesbridge, Gransha , Quilly, Laurencetown and loughbrickland. In the Armagh

area they range from Derrynoose, Killylea, Carrigatuke, Poyntz Pass, Ballymartrin, Hockley, Killeen, Charlemont, Hamiltonsbawn 1 & 2, Loughgall and Millford. While in the Craigavon area they include The Birches 1& 2, Donacloney 1 &2, Aghagallon 1 & 2 and Derrytrasna.

A number of part-time units are operational in these areas and we will continue to monitor current provision to highlight any gaps.

Table 10 - 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
Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon YP	13445	13092	13084	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
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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

Given the significant amount of rurality across the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area, over 42% of the total youth population, 24,766 young people, live in areas where access to services restricts their life chances and opportunities. Taking account of the Rural Needs Act 2016 local voluntary youth provision will be supported to provide services in rural districts. Where these are not available EA Area Youth Workers (AYW) will be deployed where resources allow, to address identified need in consultation with local stakeholders.

Areas in the top 20% experiencing rural isolation and lack of access to services in the Banbridge area include Bannside, Katesbridge, Gransha and Quilly. In the Armagh area they range from Derrynoose, Killylea, Carrigatuke, Poyntz Pass, Ballymartrin, Hockley, Killeen, Charlemont, Hamiltonsbawn 1 & 2, Loughgall and Millford. While in the Craigavon area they include The Birches 1& 2, Derrytrasna and Donacloney.

4.9 Access to Services: Urban

A key point in feedback from both young people and other stakeholders was their frustration that youth service’s and primarily youth clubs are not always open when they needed them most. In order to increase accessibility to youth services work will be undertaken with controlled and voluntary providers to continue to provide extended opening of Youth Centre’s over periods of time and on days when traditionally Youth Centre’s have not been open (late nights and weekends), particularly in areas of significant deprivation.

4.10 Young people living at interface areas

The Draft PSNI Community Prioritisation Index measuring Community Harm, Vulnerability and Disengagement ranks Kilwilke in the top 5 rural areas. North Lurgan has multiple issues that are constantly being brought to the attention of all statutory bodies.

Certain areas within Craigavon have increased problems with anti-social behaviour and this could

be associated with difficulty in policing i.e. North Lurgan, Drumbeg and Meadowbrook and Garvaghy road. A range of multi-agency approaches are being implemented to address these issues.

4.11 Crime

According to the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 rates of antisocial behaviour are highest in the following super output areas of Armagh, Callan Bridge and Downs and in the Cut and Edenderry in the Banbridge area. The super output areas with the highest rates of ASB in Craigavon range from Court 1 & 2, Annagh 2, Drumgor 1 & 2, and Woodville 1 to Church, Corcraun 2 and Tavanagh.

Recorded incidents of domestic abuse where the victim is under 18 years of age for the past 3 years indicate that Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon has the highest rates outside of Belfast. While some areas are experiencing a decline Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon has experienced an increase of 68 in the last year.

4.12 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. Drumgask and Kilwilkie have been identified by the Programme Board as areas where paramilitary activity is prevalent in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon area. EA has been awarded funding for a voluntary sector partner to employ a youth outreach worker to divert young people vulnerable to paramilitary influence or violence into more positive pursuits.

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.

Youth Workers in the Division will deliver programmes which will contribute to a respect for the law, and address risk factors which could put young people at risk of influence by paramilitary groups or organised criminal gangs, working with:

- **Generality of young people** in youth centres/projects and schools (**Education**) across the Education Authority. This will involve education and awareness-raising. There will be high numbers involved in this action, which will be run out in a minimum of 60 schools across the region as one of the modules in the Education Authority's Learning Together Programme aimed at Key Stage 4 (Year 11 & 12), as well as workshops for Key Stage 3 on lawfulness, policing and life skills such as resilience, positive mental health and employability. This action will be delivered in the main by local youth workers and teachers in schools across the region.

4.13 CRED

In Connected: A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon recent statistics indicate that there have been 83 recorded incidents of racism and 84 recorded incidents of sectarianism in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon area.

The area has 5.4% or 10,846 residents who were born outside of the UK or Republic of Ireland. Of these 7896 spoke a language other than English as their main form of communication. The most common languages spoken were Polish, Lithuanian and Portuguese. Since the last census the area has become home to families from Bulgaria and to refugees from Syria who are located across the borough. Regular targeted engagement with young people in the Armagh area from the PUL community has increased through interventions in Tandragee and Markethill but is still significantly less than young people from a CNR community.

4.14 Inclusion

The number of Newcomer children has risen in this area over the last number of years and outside of Belfast, Craigavon has the second highest number of newcomer children accounting for almost 2810. The service provided by Craigavon Intercultural Programme continues to provide support to young people and families from different backgrounds and the numbers of young people using Youth services has risen substantially.

Craigavon and in particular the Brownlow Area houses a large travelling community. At present there is a population of approximately 308, 122 adults and 186 young people, and at any one time

around 70 families will be living within the Craigavon area. There is substantial support from Youth Services in Brownlow that work with young people from the travelling community. Some of the young people are participating in high end programmes and gaining many new skills and competencies.

In Connected: A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon recent statistics indicate that offences with homophobic motivation have continued to occur with 32 recorded incidents. This reinforces the need for training and awareness raising on LGBT issues The PRISM support group for young people from the LGBT community is growing and is helping to address need in this area.

Youth unemployment continues to pose a risk of creating a cycle of exclusion with few job opportunities available young people who need to be supported to ensure they have skills and dispositions to be able to join and progress through the world of work. Low educational attainment; limited mobility and lack of employment, job creation and entrepreneurship are major issues facing certain communities within Craigavon.

4.15 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.

4.16 Stakeholder Engagement

4.16i Consultation Survey Findings - Young People Aged 9-13

An on-line survey of young people was conducted as part of the EA Youth Service needs assessment consultation. The top six issues that young people aged 9-13 identified as affecting them included:

Armagh	Banbridge	Craigavon
Bullying Racism Physical health Mental health	Bullying Mental health Physical health Internet safety	Bullying Racism Physical health Internet Safety

Internet Safety Crime	Crime Racism	Making positive relationships Mental health
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When asked what activities or programmes they would you like the Youth Service to provide to address their concerns these included:

Armagh	Banbridge	Craigavon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport • Outdoor Education • Residentials • Weekend opening • Late night opening • Drop in • Inter-club activities • Awareness raising • School based programmes • Personal & Social development programmes • Community Relations • Art/Drama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport • Outdoor Education • Weekend opening • Drop in • Late night opening • Community Relations • Residentials • Personal & Social development programmes • Awareness raising • Art/Drama • Inter-club activities • Cultural awareness programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport • Outdoor Education • Residentials • Weekend opening • Drop in • Late night opening • Personal and Social... • Awareness raising • Cultural awareness • Inter-club activities • Community Relations • Peer Education programmes • School based programmes

4.16ii Consultation Survey Findings - Young People Aged 14-25

Within the age group 14-25 the top six issues young people identified as affecting them included:

Armagh	Banbridge	Craigavon
Suicide Mental Health Bullying Self-Harm Making positive relationships	Making positive relationships Physical health Mental health Bullying Suicide Body Image	Mental health Making positive relationships Physical health Preparation for work Lack of confidence Bullying

Physical health		
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When asked what activities or programmes they would you like the Youth Service to provide to address their concerns these included:

Armagh	Banbridge	Craigavon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifications • Sport • Life Skills Programmes • Weekend Opening • Late night Opening • Careers/ employment programmes • Residentials • Awareness Raising programmes • Outdoor Education • Leadership programmes • Personal & Social development programmes • Drop in • School based programmes Cultural awareness • Inter-club activities • Peer Education programmes • Community Relations • Youth Councils/Forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifications • Weekend opening • Life Skills programmes • Careers/employment programmes • Late night opening • Drop in • Outdoor Education • Leadership programmes • Residentials • Sport • Awareness raising • Personal and Social development Programme • Inter-club activities • Community Relationship Programmes. • Youth Councils/Forums • Peer Education programmes • Cultural awareness • School based programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifications • Life Skills programmes • Sport • Careers/employment programmes • Residentials • Late night opening • Weekend opening • Awareness raising programmes • Leadership programmes • Outdoor Education • Personal and Social development programmes • Peer Education programmes • Cultural awareness programmes • Inter-club activities • Drop in • Community Relationship programmes

4.16iii Consultation Survey Findings - Youth Workers Results

Respondents in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon perceived that alcohol and drugs/legal highs were of most concern to young people (weighted averages of 4.5 & 4.1 respectively).

Results sorted in order of weighted average (from 1 to 5 indicating increasing level of concern)

LGD	Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	ALL LGDs
Mental Health	4.24	4.19
Alcohol	4.57	4.07

Confidence	3.79	3.99
Drugs/Legal highs	4.44	3.97
Bullying	3.8	3.96
Body Image	3.93	3.86
Boredom	3.32	3.79
Careers	3.47	3.67
Relationships	3.68	3.61
Sexual Health	3.81	3.56
Smoking	4.05	3.55
Sectarianism	3.53	3.35
Physical Health	3.22	3.21
Cultural Identity	3.21	3.17
Discrimination	3.36	3.16
Sexual Orientation	3.22	3.12
Racism	3.44	2.95

Activities or programmes that youth workers would like the Youth Service providing for young people to address the issues raised include:

LGD	Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	ALL LGDs
Personal and social Development programmes	4.51	4.35
Awareness raising	4.12	4.24
Volunteering	4.28	4.17
Outdoor Education	4.09	4.11
Drop in	4.32	4.09
Peer Education	4.35	4.07
Qualifications	4.13	4.06
Community Relations	4.09	4.03
Events	3.55	4
Residential	4.04	4
Inter-club activities	3.96	3.95
Weekend opening	4.35	3.95
Sport	3.76	3.86
Travel	3.89	3.86
Youth Councils/Forums	3.96	3.79
Late nights	3.86	3.72
Media	3.5	3.69
School Based programme	3.91	3.57
Art	3.37	3.4
Drama	3.18	3.3

4.16iv Consultation Survey Findings - Parents and Guardians Results

Parents were asked how do you think Youth provision in your area could be improved?

	Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	TOTAL COUNT
More programmes	55.90%	389
More activities	45.80%	439
More qualifications	47.50%	233
More peer education	30.50%	154
More volunteering opportunities	42.40%	199
More community relations	35.60%	239
Other	13.60%	93

5. Priority Areas for Action

Arising from the objective Assessment of Needs across the three areas and consideration of stakeholder views the EA Youth Service is proposing to take forward the following areas for action. The individual actions are grouped under the Department of Education's Priorities for Youth Policy.

Priority 1:	Raising Standards for All
Priority 2:	Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality
Enabling Goal:	Developing the Non-Formal Education Workforce
Enabling Goal:	Improving the Non-Formal Learning Environment
Enabling Goal:	Transforming Governance and Management of Non-Formal Education

According to *Priorities for Youth* the strategic aims of youth work in support of the DE vision are:

- *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*

This plan will deliver on these aims using the following clear areas for action under each of DE's key objectives.

DE Priority 1: Raising Standards for all

5.1 Generic Youth Work

Youth Work staff will continue to provide opportunities for the generality of young people to meet and socialize together. A place where they can make new friends, learn new skills and develop competencies in communicating and listening with their peers and their leaders. Group work activities will aim to develop the young people personally as they learn about their own strengths, limitations and identity and will provide a wide range of opportunities for social interaction through sports, culture, creative and performing arts and outdoor education. The 183 registered voluntary groups in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon area will be supported financially to deliver this vital service to children and young people across

the division.

5.2 Allocation of staff/resources

Each area within the top 50% MDM will have access to a full time youth worker based in both controlled and voluntary units. Where possible increased resources will be directed to deliver programmes in the top 25% most deprived communities and based in units which are located in these areas. Full time staff will be supported by a team of part time staff and volunteers and the necessary facilities will be provided with running costs and ancillary staff. The distribution of current resources can be clearly seen in the map in Appendix 1.

5.3 Quality Assurance/measurement of youth work programme

Staff will have a responsibility to ensure programmes delivered in their units are fit for purpose and meet the required standards. They will brief their staff prior to delivery regarding intended outcomes and outputs and measure success at debriefings. Procedures such as the engagement framework capture participation levels of young people, attendance records track numbers of young people involved, nightly reflections, focus groups, surveys and questionnaires all contribute to a picture of quality youth work in each unit. Staff will maintain evidence files to document their interaction with the young people and use this to inform future planning to ensure that interventions continue to meet the needs of the young people involved. Outcome based accountability will be rolled out across all units and youth workers will be made aware of the need to focus on outcomes and be intentional in their efforts with the young people in their units. Quality assurance is carried out by Senior Youth Officers and Senior Youth Worker/Team Leaders via staff supervision, moderation of youth work delivery, practice support, collation of statistical returns and the completion of a target monitor.

5.4 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 the media, in ways that are attractive to young people. Presently, this is only possible through submission to the EA communications department, therefore all staff use the media to advertise their programmes/units. On a local level youth workers have established a network of key stakeholders whom they share publicity materials with to ensure the widest possible audience is reached.

DE Priority 2: Closing the Gap between the highest and lowest performers, improving access and equity

5.5 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, young people from the Travelling Community 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.

The Youth Service “Learning Together Programme” (LTP), delivers both accredited and non-accredited programmes 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.

As Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon is an area with 18% 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. Youth Service currently has programmes being delivered in Lisanally Special School.

5.6 Health & 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 risk taking issues such as smoking, alcohol and drug misuse and sexual health has been an integral part of Youth Work.

In response to the Assessment of Need, Youth Workers in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon 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 be addressed, 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 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.

5.7 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.

A Youth Worker will be based in the southern trust region, with a remit to support the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon division 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.

5.8 Access to Services

In order to address the issues facing young people in rural areas the youth service has developed a network of part-time and sponsored youth groups who are supported in their delivery by an area youth worker. These workers will engage with young people in rural areas where they live, therefore alleviating issues of accessibility and transport.

The Youth Service aims to engage young people experiencing rural isolation through Outreach and Area Workers Youth Workers in Armagh and Banbridge. These workers are vital to engage young people experiencing social isolation through the development of educational/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.

5.9 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 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.

Sectarianism was highlighted as an issue for young people and the need for interventions is backed up through the number of recorded hate crimes in the Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon area. This indicates a need to provide opportunities for young people to build relationships with those of different backgrounds and traditions.

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 Statutory Youth Workers through their CDA/SLA.

5.10 Inclusive Youth Work

All statutory youth work staff will deliver inclusive youth work programmes for young people with support from the regional service.

In addition the Inclusion Funding scheme provides grant aid to groups to develop work that promotes 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.

5.11 Promoting Lawfulness

A Tackling Paramilitarism Youth Outreach Worker funded by Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board will work with young people most at risk of influence or coercive control by paramilitaries and organised criminal gangs in the Lurgan area.

Youth Workers in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon will deliver programmes which will contribute to a respect for the law, and address risk factors which could put young people at risk of influence by paramilitary groups or organised criminal gangs.

The Education Authority's Learning Together Programme aimed at Key Stage 4 (Year 11 &

12), as well as workshops for Key Stage 3 on lawfulness, policing and life skills such as resilience, positive mental health and employability will be delivered in the main by local youth workers and teachers in schools across the region.

Youth work staff will raise awareness of the desirability for young people to become responsible citizens and work to ensure their communities continue to transform into safe places to live and grow up in.

5.12 Positive Behaviour

According to the 2016 mid-year population estimates for Northern Ireland the numbers of young people between 10 and 17 years old in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon area that were involved with the Juvenile Justice Services in 2016/17 have fallen to 87 equivalent to 4.1 out of every 1000. This has decreased over the previous 8 years from 133 young people equivalent to 6 out of every 1000 young people. Youth Workers will seek Youth Intervention funding in order to decrease tension and Anti-Social Behaviour in targeted areas during the summer period. Work will be specifically carried out at areas where there is the likelihood of heightened tensions and unrest during the summer.

5.13 Participation

Many young people engaging in youth services express their interest in actively participating in decision making. The current Youth Councils that operate in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon are extremely active groups, participating in many 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 to ensure that Youth Councils are sustained with a continued focus on broadening the membership to include young people from marginalised backgrounds and from Section 75 groups in order to ensure a broad representation. Rural Youth Forums will be developed to ensure rural representation and all statutory units will have participative structures in place for their members.

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.

A Local Advisory Group (LAG) will be facilitated by Youth Services in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon 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 as other key stakeholders. 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 and is facilitated by a senior Youth Worker.

5.14 Raising aspirations

Having carried out consultation with young people for the assessment of need each youth worker will deliver a minimum of one accredited programme per year, 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.

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.

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 outworkings of the transformational process is leading to the consolidation of four outdoor learning centres (OLC) across the region, namely Gortatole, Shannagh-more, 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.

5.15 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 club would be normally unavailable and during school holidays.

Over 1,120 young people engaged with these programmes, across a range of short term projects, and participated in 10 residential experiences supported by 1638 volunteer hours.

The Extended Provision (EP) Programme will aim to continue funding 7 existing core youth provision centres to be open late night and at weekends in interface areas or areas of high deprivation (25%MDM) as identified in the Area Plan or The EP Programme. In the young people's survey, late night opening was identified as a top youth service area to address young people's needs.

DE Enabling Goal: Developing the Education Workforce

5.16 Leadership and Volunteering

Professional Youth Work staff will continue to recruit new volunteers to support programme delivery in their units. They will offer progressions routes for young people to train in youth leadership and provide opportunities for practical experience in co-delivery with trained staff already in place. This occurs generally throughout the summer schemes and continues with generic provision to junior members in many units. This will be further developed across the area to improve the confidence, skills and knowledge of young people and contribute positively to their employability.

5.17 Adult volunteers

In Connected: A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon recent statistics indicate that 14% of adults undertook some voluntary activity in the past year. Professional Youth Work staff will retain and continue to recruit new volunteers to support programme

delivery in their units. Following induction, volunteers will have the opportunity to experience all aspect of provision and co deliver with colleagues to build relationships with members and identify their strengths and skill set. Staff will deploy their volunteers appropriately to ensure the young people in their units are safe, programmes are stimulating and staff are competent in the area of curriculum they are delivering. Volunteers will be supported to build capacity in facilitation skills as they work alongside trained staff in group work situations. Units submit returns on an annual basis detailing the number of volunteer hours worked and celebration events are key opportunities to acknowledge and recognize the generous contribution that volunteering makes to local provision and the lives of young people.

5.18 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. Two voluntary youth units the YMCA & Seagoe Youth Centre in Portadown are part of the studentship scheme.

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.

Youth Workers will deploy their part time support staff appropriately to ensure the young people in their units are safe, programmes are stimulating and individuals are competent in the area of curriculum they are delivering. Opportunities for unit based training and continuous improvement will be provided at team meetings including external support as and when required. Staff will be kept up to date with child protection and first aid training as well as be made aware of support for emerging needs such as participation and mental health initiatives.

DE Enabling Goal: Improving the Non-Formal Learning Environment

5.19 Facility Management

Effective youth work is facilitated by the provision of safe and youth friendly environments.

5.20 Capital Development

Funding allocated to capital programmes in recent years has seen the completion of a BMX Bicycle Track at the EPI Centre in Armagh to include changing and drying facilities. A business case is about to be presented to the department for a new build at Brownlow Youth Resource Centre in Craigavon and minor refurbishments of Lurgan Youth Annexe.

DE Enabling Goal: Transforming Education Management

5.21 Youth Advocacy Programme and Local Advisory Group

To further support the enhanced engagement of young people, Youth Service staff in the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon area will develop 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 will be aimed at young people aged 17-21, representing a cross-section of the community and involving both users of the Youth Service and non-users.

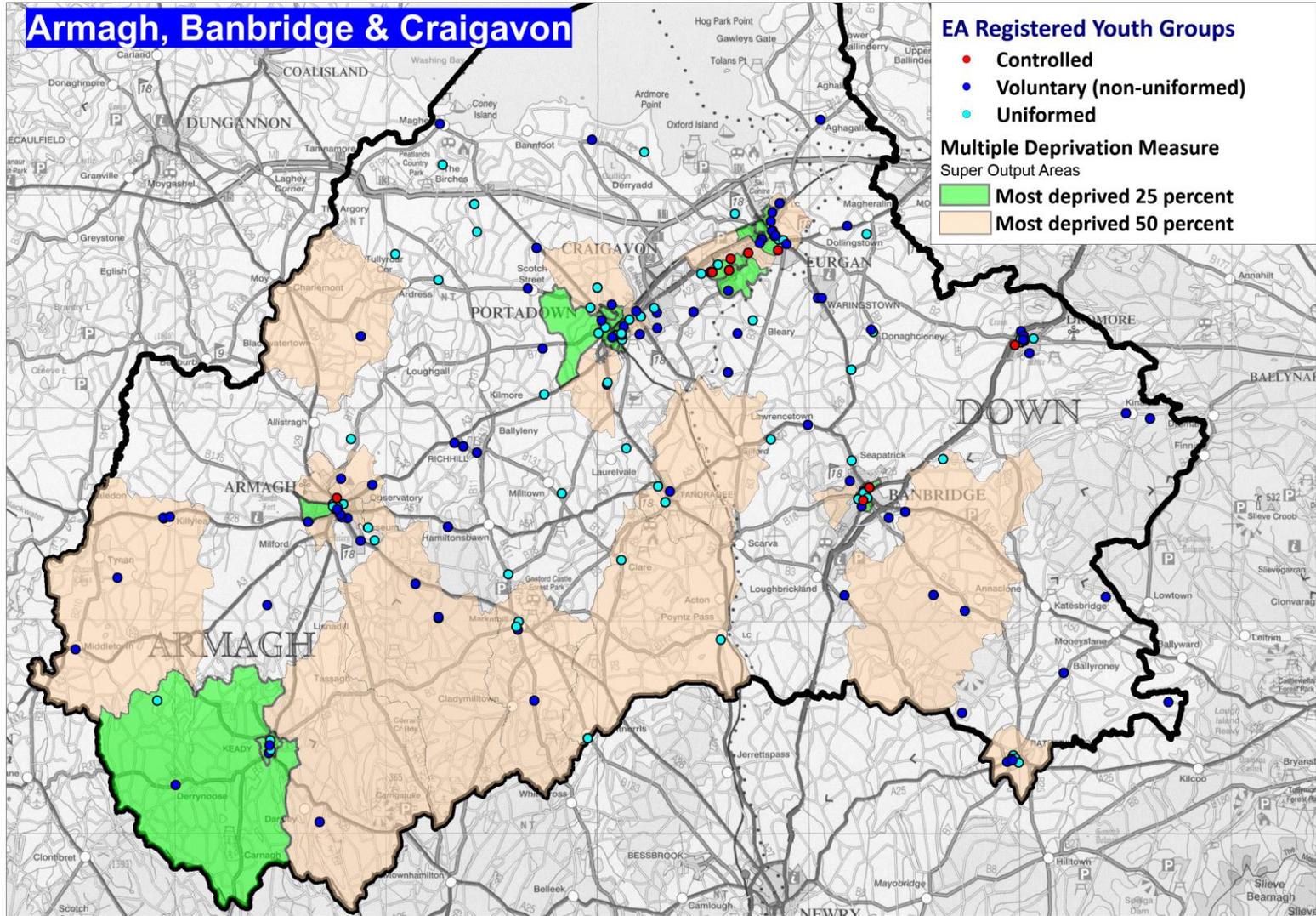
5.22 Securing External Funding

The EA Youth Service receives the major part of its 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 key programmes and projects. Such partnerships, for example the Department for Communities (DFC), The ABC Council Peace 1V, and the Council, have strengthened the ability of the service to deliver innovative and highly creative projects for the most marginalised young people in our community.

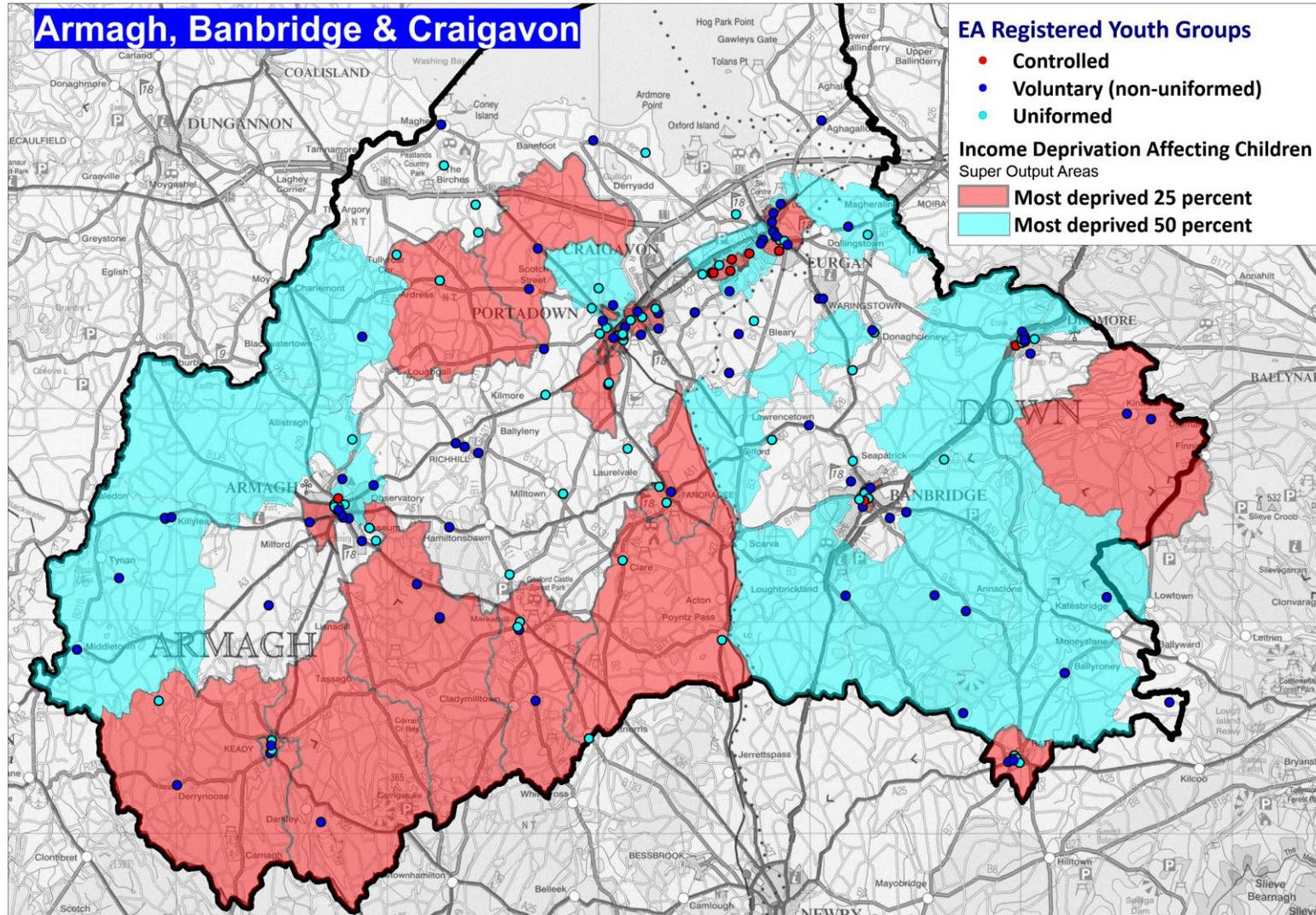
External funding allows young people to benefit from increased provision in the areas most in need in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon and leads to effective collaboration with key agencies to avoid duplication of services.

Appendices

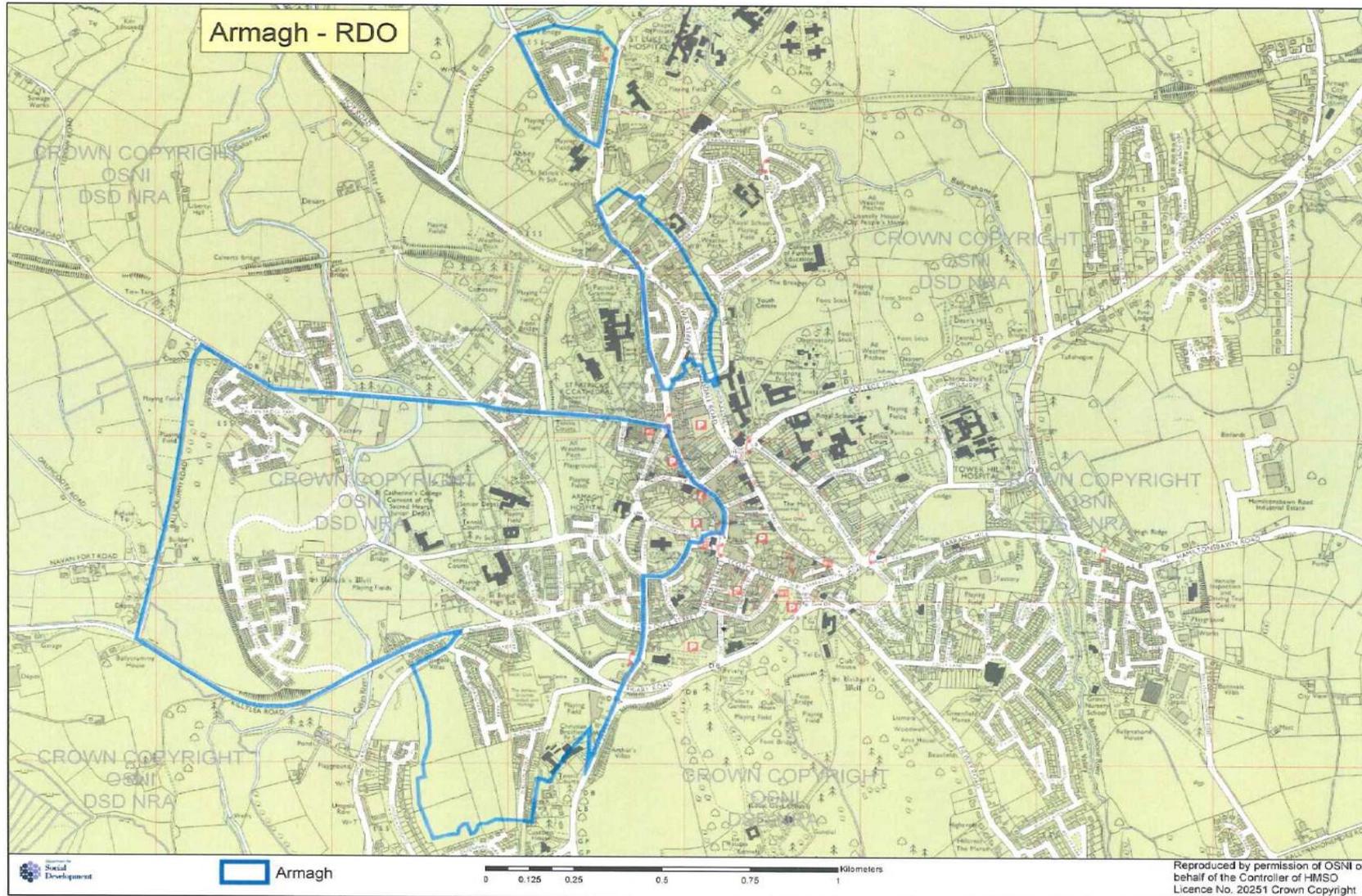
Appendix 1 Distribution of Controlled, Voluntary and Uniformed Youth Provision in the area



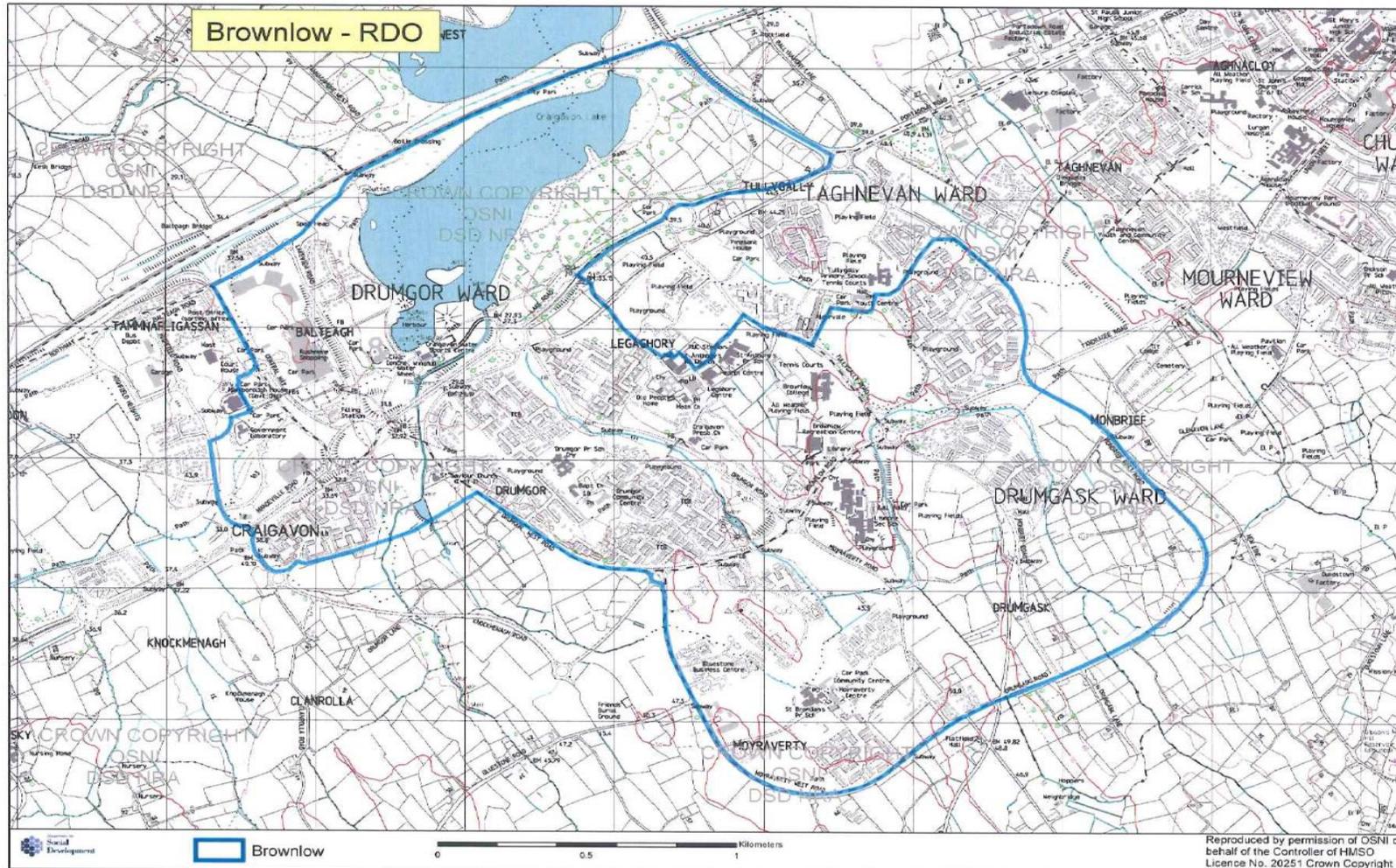
Appendix 2 Income Deprivation Affecting Children



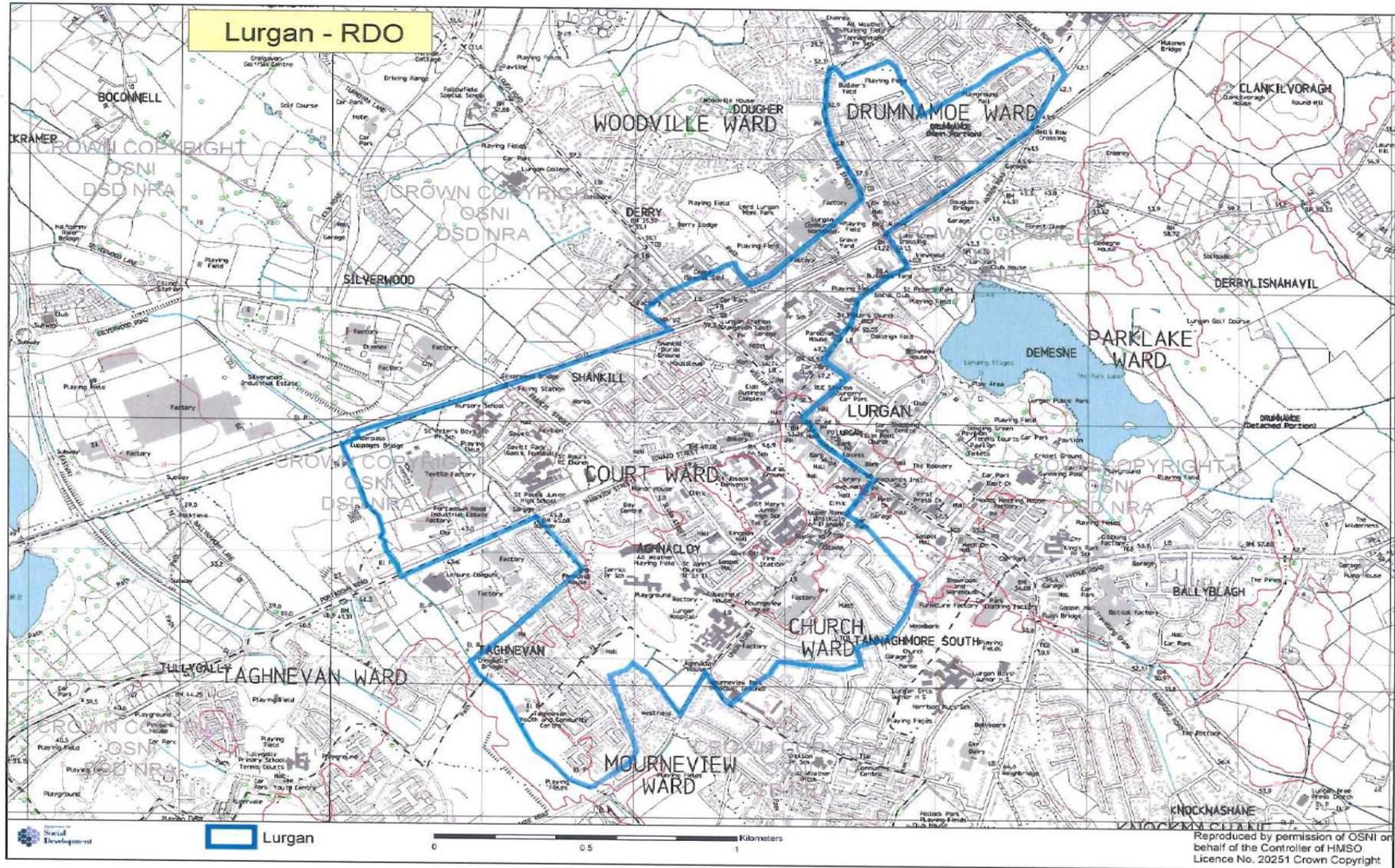
Appendix 3 Armagh Neighbourhood Renewal Areas



Appendix 4 Brownlow Neighbourhood Renewal Area



Appendix 5 Lurgan Neighbourhood Renewal Area



Appendix 6 Portadown Neighbourhood Renewal Area

