



Education Authority
Youth Service

**Local
Assessment
of Need**
2018/2020

Derry City and Strabane 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 service 2 new council areas and the remaining 4 will manage a Council area each. This new model ensures that each officer will manage an area with similar numbers of young people.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Policy Context

2.1 Introduction

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

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

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

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

2.2 Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021

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

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

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

The Department of Education will take the lead role on one of the Programme for Government outcomes, we give our children and young people the best start in life. There may be implications for DE funded Youth Provision to support this outcome. The greater impetus for collaborative working and the adoption of outcomes based accountability, both of which are central features of the draft Programme for Government, may also have repercussions for the scope and approach of Youth Provision in future.

2.3 A Fresh Start

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

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

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

2.4 Department of Education

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

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

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

2.5 Department of Education Business Plan

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

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

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

2.6 Priorities for Youth

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

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

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

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

- To contribute to raising standards for all and closing the performance gap between the highest and lowest achieving young people by providing access to enjoyable, non-formal learning opportunities that help them to develop enhanced social and cognitive skills and overcome barriers to learning; and
- To continue to improve the non-formal learning environment by creating inclusive, participative settings in which the voice and influence of young people are championed, supported and evident in the design, delivery and evaluation of programmes.

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

- Participation in Youth Services is voluntary and should enable young people to develop the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to tackle the issues that are important to them.
- The active participation of young people should be fostered, supported and evident across all youth settings.
- Equality and inclusion should be fundamental to planning and implementation and the values of equality, diversity and interdependence should be at the heart of Youth Work.
- Young people, their families and the wider community should be involved in Youth Work in a meaningful way, with expectations managed within the resources available.

- Young people should expect high quality services, which follow best practice including the highest standards of child protection.
- Collaborative working between the voluntary, uniformed, faith-based and statutory sectors should play an important part in securing improved outcomes for young people and the continued commitment from the youth workforce, including volunteers.
- The contribution of the volunteer workforce within the youth sector is invaluable and should be acknowledged, supported and celebrated;
- Resources should be used to achieve priority outcomes for young people in the most cost effective way, according to best practice principles (public value).
- The needs of the young person should be the key focus at each stage of development.
- Activities should be engaging, enjoyable and planned to deliver improved outcomes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Department of Education launched the Community Relations, Equality and Diversity (CRED) policy for Youth Services and schools in March 2011. The aim of the CRED Policy was to contribute to improving relations between communities by educating children and young people to develop self-

respect and respect for others by providing them, in formal and non-formal education settings, with opportunities to build relationships with those from different backgrounds and traditions within the resources available.

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

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

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

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

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

2.8 Shared Education

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.9 Rural Needs Act Northern Ireland 2016

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

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

2.10 DE Action Plan against Child Sexual Exploitation

The findings of the Marshall report into Child Sexual Exploitation 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 all Youth Workers 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 Derry and Strabane 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 Designated Area

The Derry City and Strabane Youth Office has oversight of youth services for the local government district of Derry City and Strabane District Council Area (DCSDC).

The latest population estimates for the DCSDC area gave a population total of 150,500. These estimates also indicated that the region had a younger profile than that for Northern Ireland (NI) as a whole. It was estimated that DCSDC had 33.7% of its population aged 24 and younger (32.1% in NI).

3.3 Youth Work Team

The Statutory Youth Worker team for the Derry and Strabane area consists of 16 full-time youth workers (centre and area based). The team is led by a Senior Area Youth Officer and supported by two Team Leaders, responsible for the delivery of services in the area.

There are 4 full time statutory youth centres in the Derry and Strabane Area (Shantallow YC, Pilots Row YC, Caw YC, Rosemount YC), 11 controlled part time units, and a young adult drop-in located in Derry city centre to target provision at young people who do not traditionally avail of Youth Services.

The Derry and Strabane Youth Work Team has two Youth Hubs, an area youth office based in Derry and a Youth Resource Centre in Strabane. The youth hubs house a variety of specialist and area workers complementing the workers who are placed within full-time centres.

There are 9 full time youth workers employed in 6 voluntary sector youth centres (Long Tower YC, St. Marys YC, YMCA, Pennyburn, Newbuildings and The Whistle). In addition there are 122 registered units in the Derry and Strabane area.

In addition to these youth clubs, Youth Work in the Derry and Strabane area also operates on an accreditation programme basis or on a detached basis. Examples of these types of provision include, 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, Inclusion schemes and Youth Intervention.

The most recent figures reveal that a cumulative total of 32,566 young people were involved in youth work within the Western Office area (Omagh, Fermanagh, Derry, Strabane and Limavady) in 2015.

3.4 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.

3.5 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.

3.6 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

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



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

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

3.7 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 are currently operating Extended Provision programmes in this area; Shantallow Youth Centre, Lenamore Youth Centre, Strathfoyle Youth Centre, Long Tower Youth and Community Centre,

3.8 Inclusion

Each professional Youth Worker and funded Voluntary full time organisation is required to conduct Inclusion projects in designated areas or with specified groups. Furthermore a scheme of assistance has been established to support Inclusion work to target communities of interest and those who may be at greater risk of social exclusion, marginalisation or isolation as they experience a combination of barriers to their learning.

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.

3.9 School Based Youth Work

Partnerships have been developed with a number of primary, post-primary and special schools in the Derry and Strabane area. The EA Youth Service introduced a schools programme, 'Learning Together' in September 2014 in 5 schools in the Derry and Strabane area. The Learning Together Programme has been developed with other educational support services and is delivered in partnership with teachers in schools. The programme offers young people, who may be at risk of low achievement and disaffection, the opportunity to access supportive bespoke interventions within Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3, to help them make best use of their education and in Key Stage 4 to obtain a qualification equivalent to a GCSE grade B. These programmes are designed to break down the barriers that some young people may face to learning and achieving. The Learning Together Programme takes place in the following schools: Lisneal College, St. Joseph's Boys' School, St. Brigid's College and St. Mary's College. Programmes are also delivered in Special Schools to young people with Special Educational Needs or who are disabled. This currently takes places in Ardnashee College in Derry.

3.10 Participation

As proposed in "Priorities for Youth" a Local Advisory Group (LAG) has been established during 2016/17 to: *provide 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 LAG includes key stakeholders and young people from the local 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 participative structures in the area include 2 youth councils, one in Derry and one in Strabane. The aim of Youth Councils are to create a network of Youth led local structures that are recognised as providing a voice for young people and are valued by both young people and policy and decision makers.

The Youth Council mission is to access and represent the views of local young people on issues of relevance to them, with the intention of influencing and effecting change for the benefit of all young people.

3.11 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.

3.12 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. Through a successful application to DfC the youth service has received funding for the Youth Engagement Plus programme which employs a Senior Youth Worker/Team Leader and 12 Youth Workers who deliver Youth Work programmes to young people who reside in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas and who do not participate in generalist services.

At a strategic level the EA Youth Service has representation on several multi-agency groups, including active involvement with Derry City and Strabane District Council as on the Peace 4 Partnership Board, the PCSP, Derry City and Strabane Civic Forum, Year of Youth 2019 and UNICEF Child Friendly Cities.

4. Needs Analysis - Derry City and Strabane District

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

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

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

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

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

- Demographics
- Deprivation
- Proximity to Services
- 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 estimated population of Derry City and Strabane Local Government District at 30 June 2016 was 150,142, of which 73,696 (49.1%) were male and 76,446 (50.9%) were female. More than one third of the total population of Derry City & Strabane LGD, 50,705 (33.8%) are aged 25 years or under. (NI average 33.3%).

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 Children	10,493	10,270	9,441	10,563	9,938

Within the Derry and Strabane area significant numbers of young people live in areas of multiple deprivation as identified by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). The Multiple Deprivation Measure is made up of seven key indicators including, income deprivation, employment deprivation, health deprivation, education deprivation, proximity to services, crime and disorder and the living environment.

The Youth Service in the Western Region (Derry, Limavady, Omagh and Strabane) has 32,566 young people as registered users which is almost 37% of the total youth population in the region.

Youth Service participation rates in the Derry and Strabane area have been maintained at 31% with over 7,000 young people of the 4-18 age groups participating in youth programmes. These statistics coupled with a youthful population underline the continuing need and demand for youth services and highlights the need to provide effective responses in terms of both generalist and targeted youth provision in the area. Programmes need to be reviewed and evaluated to show that the needs of young people are being met and new ways to engage young people through new methodologies such as City Centre provision (Our Space) and outreach.

The demographics of the area indicate that the majority of young people live in an area that is essentially urban in character with the majority of its population living within the boundaries of Derry City and Strabane. However the deployment of the Youth Work team ensures that attention is also given to the needs of young people in rural and semi-rural settings through area based workers, rural outreach workers and grant aided units.

The most commonly occurring age range at present for participation in the Youth Service in the Western Region is 14-18, accounting for 12,684 young people of the overall membership, closely followed by the 9-13 age groups which have 12,422 young people registered as members. Participation rates decline considerably in the 19-21 and 22-25 age bands. Table 2 shows participation in the Western Region Youth Service as a percentage of the youth population. Only a very small proportion of the population over the age of 18 participate and those that do tend to be involved in leadership and volunteering roles or participate in accredited programmes.

Table 2: Western Region-Youth Service Participation Rates (% of resident population)

Total membership counts and participation levels for all youth work in the Western Office area by age group.

Age	Population	Unit Based	Non-Unit based	% Unit Based	% Non-unit Based
Age 4-8	20857	5992	164	28.7%	0.8%
Age 9-13	19151	8074	4348	42.2%	22.7%
Age 14-18	21558	5748	6936	26.7%	32.2%
Age 19-21	11069	805	164	7.3%	1.5%
Age 22-25	15418	329	6	2.1%	0.0%
Age 4-18	61566	19814	11618	32.2%	18.9%
Age 4-25	88053	20948	11618	23.8%	13.2%

4.3 Deprivation

Children and young people growing up in poverty have worse outcomes and life chances than those who do not. According to the Child Poverty Action Group, for young people poverty is not just about growing up in a low income household it is also about being denied good health, education and housing, basic self-esteem and the ability to participate in social activities.²

Young people living in deprived areas tend to have lower aspirations, have low educational aspirations and tend to underachieve in school. Close knit local social networks, low population

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

mobility and a history of economic decline also appear to characterise neighbourhoods where young people are less likely to develop high educational aspirations.

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

4.4 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

Table 3 provides deprivation comparisons for all the LGD's in Northern Ireland. In comparison to other LGDs Derry and Strabane LGD is ranked second to Belfast as the area with the most SOA's within the top 100 most deprived SOA's in Northern Ireland.

Table 3: Deprivation Comparisons by LGD

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

Table 4 illustrates that in the Derry & Strabane LGD 54.7% of young people are living in the top 20% of the most deprived Super Output Areas (SOA) in Northern Ireland.

If local Government Districts are ranked in order of 1 to 11, with 1 being the area with the highest percentage of young people living in deprived areas, Derry and Strabane would be ranked number 1 with Belfast ranked number 2.

Table 5: Number and Percentage of Young People Living in Deprived Areas.

LGD	Aged 4-8	Aged 9-13	Aged 14-18	Aged 19-25	Total
Derry and Strabane YP	9575	10523	11812	14631	46541
Derry and Strabane YP living in Deprived Areas	4942	5463	6369	8692	25466
% Derry and Strabane YP living in Deprived Areas	51.6	51.9	53.9	59.4	54.7
Northern Ireland YP	113426	116079	126256	176168	531929
Northern Ireland YP living in Deprived Areas	27547	28057	31561	46770	133935
% Northern Ireland YP living in Deprived Areas	24.3	24.2	25.0	26.5	25.2

The table below shows each SOA in Derry & Strabane 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 6: SOA's MDM Rank

SOA	MDM Rank	SOA	MDM Rank
East	1	South_1	236
Crevagh_2	3	Banagher	245
Strand_1	5	Victoria Bridge	266
The Diamond	6	Lisnagelvin_1	274
Creggan Central_1	10	New Buildings_1	278
Brandywell	13	Caw	287
Shantallow West_1	19	Slievekirk	299
Culmore_2	22	Culmore_4	300
Shantallow West_2	27	Plumbridge	304
Creggan South	33	Shantallow West_4	327
Ballycolman	37	Clare	333
Ebrington_2	38	Claudy_2	340
Clondermot_1	43	Artigarvan	376
Westland	45	Strand_2	405
Shantallow West_3	51	Kilfennan_2	415
Carn Hill_2	59	Ebrington_1	416
Rosemount	68	Pennyburn_1	419
Creggan Central_2	69	Eglinton_1	421
Shantallow East	86	Holly Mount_1	470
Glenderg	90	South_2	477
Altnagelvin_1	101	Claudy_1	490
Culmore_3	130	Lisnagelvin_2	513
North	141	Altnagelvin_3	525
Crevagh_1	142	Altnagelvin_2	545
Springtown_1	144	Springtown_2	578

Dunnamanagh	148	Holly Mount_2	603
Crevagh_3	149	Ballynashallog_1	621
Castledearg	152	Kilfennan_1	630
Victoria	153	Clondermot_2	633
Finn	166	Enagh_2	634
West_2	170	Eglinton_2	636
Sion Mills	175	Culmore_1	650
Enagh_1	180	Foyle Springs_1	713
Beechwood	196	Culmore_5	738
Newtownstewart	201	New Buildings_2	739
West_1	205	Pennyburn_2	755
Carn Hill_1	226	Ballynashallog_2	808
Foyle Springs_2	229		

In comparison with the rest of Northern Ireland when the 100 most deprived SOAs within NI are selected, 20 of these SOAs can be found in the DCSDC area. The most deprived SOA in DCSDC is East in Strabane. In addition, this SOA is the most deprived in NI according to MDM. The total population of the SOAs listed below is estimated to be 37,000. This equates to 25% of the population of DCSDC. Table 7 lists those SOA's in Derry and Strabane that are within the 100 most deprived in Northern Ireland.

Table 7: DCSDC SOAs within 100 most deprived in Northern Ireland

DCSDC SOAs within 100 most deprived in Northern Ireland DCSDC SOA	NI rank (1 = most deprived; 890 is least deprived)
East	1
Crevagh 2	3
Strand 1	5
The Diamond	6
Creggan Central 1	10
Brandywell	13
Shantallow West 1	19
Culmore 2	22
Shantallow West 2	27
Creggan South	33
Ballycolman	37
Ebrington 2	38
Clondermot 1	43
Westland	45
Shantallow West 3	51
Carn Hill 2	59
Rosemount	68
Creggan Central 2	69
Shantallow East	86
Glenderg	90

The Youth Service will work to ensure all wards within the top 25% of areas of multiple deprivation in Northern Ireland will have access to full-time services delivering programmes to improve levels of educational attainment, developing leadership and volunteering opportunities, promoting awareness of risk taking behaviour's among young people and greater emotional health and well-being.

4.5 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 (NRA in the Derry and Strabane areas, these are: Outer West, Outer North, Triax, Waterside and Strabane).

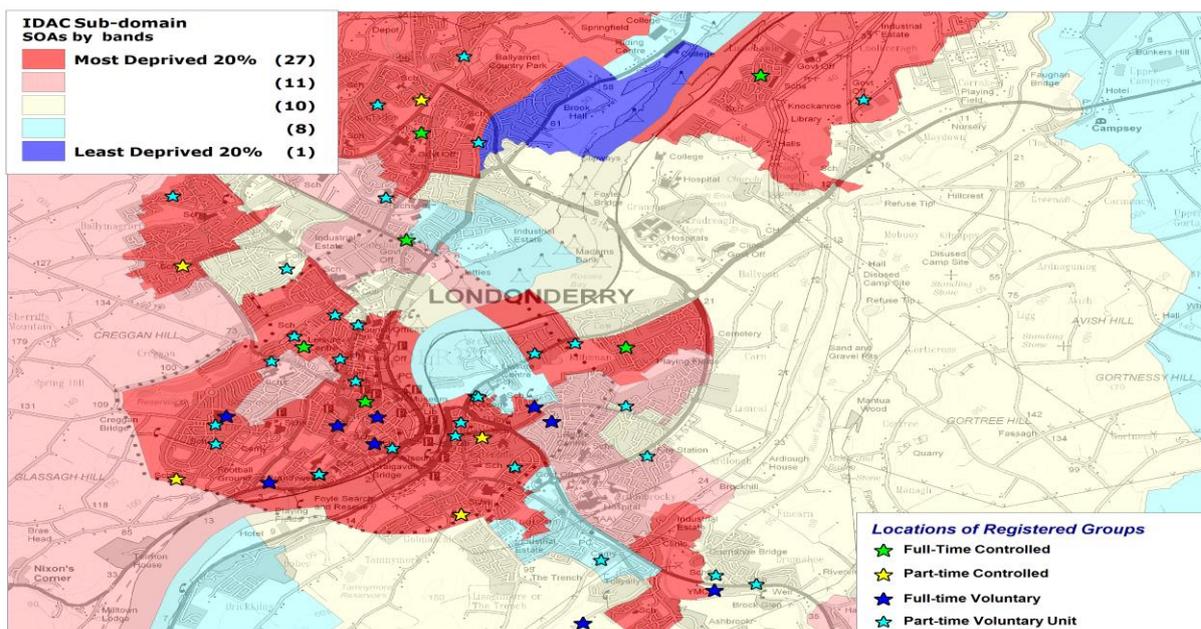
Those young people who live in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas tend to have lower educational outcomes than their peers who don't live in renewal areas. Therefore Youth Service's will aim to target resources at those areas that have been identified as being the most deprived in order to raise standards for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

In addition to statutory and voluntary workers in place in NRA the EA has secured funding from the Department for Communities to co-ordinate a team of 12 youth workers who deliver Youth Work programmes to young people who reside in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. These workers will complement work that the EA currently provides in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.

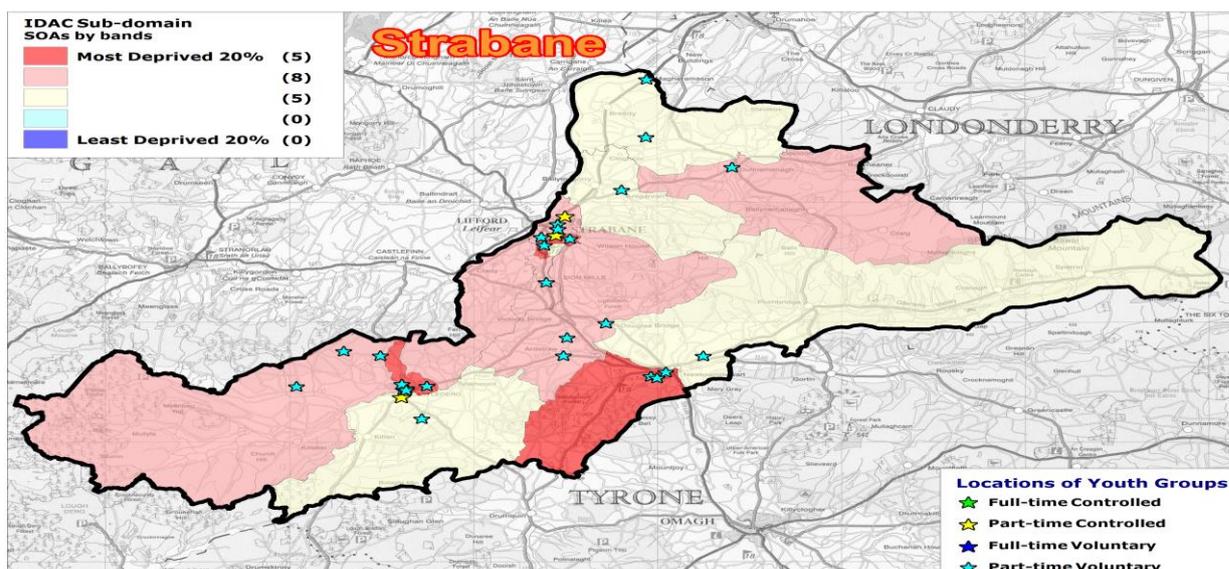
Youth services have been and will continue to be in place in the areas that have been identified as being most in need and provide a varied and wide ranging youth work programme that is both generalist and targeted.

The maps overleaf illustrates the location of youth services in Derry (Map 1) and Strabane (Map 2) area demonstrating that units are well placed to address the needs of young people from areas where there is high levels of Income Deprivation (Dark red on the map).

4.6 Map 1: Income Deprivation Affecting Children and Location of Registered Units in the Derry City Area



4.7 Map 2: Income Deprivation Affecting Children and Location of Registered Units in the Strabane Area



4.8 Education

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.

4.9 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. Schools in Derry and Strabane have high levels of pupils eligible for Free School Meals (40%) reflecting the high levels of disadvantage that exists throughout the area compared to the Northern Ireland average (30.4%) for free school meal eligibility.

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

4.10 Educational Achievement

Educational achievement in the Derry and Strabane LGD (Table 8) is on a par with that of the rest of Northern Ireland.

Table 8: Educational attainment, by LGD (2016/17)

LGD	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
Derry and Strabane	1691	85.0%	72.0%
All Northern Ireland	19938	84.6%	70.3%

Whilst living in a deprived area has been identified as a contributory factor to educational underachievement, it should be noted that there is a significant number of young people attending school in the Derry and Strabane area who live in a Neighbourhood Renewal Area. As such the statistics in table 9 mask the lower educational outcomes and achievements of those young people living within neighborhood renewal areas. School leavers in the 5 Neighborhood Renewal area achieved lower averages in 5+ GCSE's at grade A*-C, and 5+ GCSE's at grade A*-C including English and Math's.

Table 9: Educational attainment, by NRA (2016-17)

NRA	Achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C (%)	Achieved At Least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C (or equiv) inc. GCSE English and GCSE Maths (%)
Strabane	70.0	40.0
Waterside	65.6	52.2
Triax - Cityside	70.3	55.5
Outer North Derry	80.7	60.2
Outer West Derry	76.7	60.8
Northern Ireland	84.6	70.3

Priorities for Youth, DE's policy document, noted that non-formal education in the form of Youth Work is an important aspect of the education system as it encourages young people's participation, allowing them to engage or re-engage in positive learning within a non-formal setting. *Priorities for Youth* also placed a greater emphasis on the needs of disadvantaged children and young people, as well as those for whom Youth Work can provide a valuable link with formal education to increase their life chances in areas such as future employment and training opportunities.

Youth 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.

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.

4.11 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 in the North West (4.05%) remains above the NI average (3.4%)
- Male Life expectancy in the most deprived areas was 4.4 years less than the average
- Female Life expectancy in the most deprived areas was 2.7 years less than the average
- The adult obesity rate in the most deprived areas (28%) was 47% higher than the rate in the least deprived areas (19%)
- Primary 1 obesity levels were 86% higher in the most than least deprived areas. The inequality gap for Year 8 pupils was 62%

- Almost one in five (19%) people in NI showed signs of a mental health problem
- The rate in the most deprived areas (30%) was double the rate in the least deprived areas (15%) and 63% higher than the NI average³

A recent study by the Centre for Mental Health noted that:⁴

- 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, 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.

Table 10 presents the most deprived SOA's in Derry and Strabane according to the health and disability domain. This places all these SOA's in the top 10% of the most deprived health areas in Northern Ireland.

Table 10: Health Domain

SOA RANK	SOA Name
9	Crevagh 2
13	Shantallow West 1
22	Culmore 2
23	Creggan Central 1
32	Brandywell
35	Creggan South
36	Strand 1
44	The Diamond
45	Clondermot 1
46	Shantallow West 2

Consultation with young people adds to the information presented in the needs assessment with young people informing us that there is a need for the service to focus on programmes addressing concerns about risk-taking behaviours and positive health choices. Young people are seeking information and support to address issues related to sexual health, smoking, self-harm, mental health, bullying, drug and alcohol use. The youth service will develop programmes that aim to improve young people's self-esteem, resilience, mental health and well-being, as well as providing alternatives to risk-taking behaviour.

³ Department of Health, 2016, Health Inequalities in Northern Ireland: Key Facts 2015, DOH, Belfast.

⁴ Centre For Mental Health, 2015, Children of the New Century: Mental Health Findings from the Millennium Cohort Study, UCL, London.

4.12 Access to Services

Table 11 outlines the percentage of young people in each LGD that live in rural areas, almost 40% of the young population in the Derry and Strabane LGD live in rural areas which is more than the Northern Ireland average of 34.5% of young people living in communities that have been defined as rural.

Table 11: Number and Percentage of Young People Living in Rural Areas

LGD	Aged 4-8	Aged 9-13	Aged 14-18	Aged 19-25	Total
Derry and Strabane YP	9575	10523	11812	14631	46451
Derry and Strabane YP living in Rural Areas	40007	4451	4723	5161	18342
% Derry and Strabane YP living in Rural Areas	41.8	42.3	40.0	35.3	39.4
Northern Ireland YP	113429	116079	126256	176168	531929
Northern Ireland YP living in Rural Areas	41926	42988	44996	53401	18311
% Northern Ireland YP living in Rural Areas	37.0	37.0	35.6	30.3	34.5

The most deprived SOA's within the access to services domain in Derry and Strabane are outlined in table 12. Plumbridge is ranked as the most deprived SOA in Northern Ireland for access to services.

Table 12: Most deprived SOA's within Derry and Strabane LGD for access to services

SOA	Rank
Plumbridge	1
Dunnamagh	21
Glenderg	23
Claudy 2	32
Banagher	41
Slievekirk	52
Clare	60
Victoria Bridge	114
Newtonstewart	162
Culmore 1	165

4.13 Access to Services: Rural

For many children and young people, living in a rural community presents many challenges. There is a lack of facilities, such as cinemas or clubs, which their peers in urban areas take for granted. This isolation from services is often exacerbated by a lack of transport options and hidden poverty.

Rural deprivation is scattered and can be masked by living alongside relative affluence. Young people in rural communities face differing levels of social exclusion and marginalisation. Rural isolation also presents challenges for the provision of adequate public transport and the viability and accessibility of Youth Services.

A Department of Agriculture and Rural Development report noted that whilst poverty and social isolation exist in both urban and rural areas it should also be recognised that: 'those living in rural

areas often experience poverty and social isolation differently due to issues relating to geographical isolation, lower population density and the dispersed nature of many rural settlements'.⁵

A recent report suggested that young people living in rural areas face a number of uniquely rural barriers, particularly concerning access to transport, careers advice, employment and training support and access to Youth Services.⁶

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 are at, therefore alleviating issues of accessibility and transport.

4.14 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.

4.15 Young People Living at Interface Areas

There are three direct interface areas in the Derry and Strabane area, Bishop Street and the Fountain Estate, Tullyalley and Currynierain and Top of the Hill and Irish Street, although many issues that exist in interface areas are prevalent in neighbouring areas.

A recent research project funded by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) highlighted that whilst interface neighbourhoods are often associated with sectarianism and inter-community conflict, wider risk factors can negatively impact on a young person's development, coping skills, emotional well-being, anxiety, sectarian behaviour and adjustment problems. The multi-dimensional research drew on a number of data sources, including a longitudinal survey data, collected between 2007 and 2012, interviews and focus groups with at risk young people and interviews with mothers. Research participants were drawn from 24 socially deprived neighbourhoods in Belfast.

The research found that the types of risks facing young people living in interface areas included alcohol and drug use, mental health problems, aggression, conduct problems including antisocial behaviour and problems with authority figures. These factors were in turn related to the erosion of the traditional family unit and problems in the school setting.

Qualitative data suggested high levels of alcohol and substance abuse across all age groups, and alcohol abuse was particularly pronounced among females in the younger age group (11-14 years). The quantitative survey also indicated that 36% of participants reported binge drinking, with over 5% reporting binge drinking 2-3 times per week. Young people's involvement and exposure to heavy and persistent drug use was also a major theme to emerge from the research, with the highest drug and

⁵ Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2016, Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation – A New Framework, DARD, Belfast.

⁶ Commission for Rural Communities, 2012, Barriers to Education, Employment and Training for Young People in Rural Areas, Commission for Rural Communities, Gloucester.

substance abuse found among those aged 15-18 years. The study noted young people’s lack of awareness of the health and social risks of both binge drinking and drug and substance misuse.

The qualitative evidence suggested that mental health problems, such as low-self-esteem, anxiety, depressive feelings and low mood posed a risk to the well-being of participants and also pointed to problem behaviours such as hostility, anger, aggression and conduct problems. Further analysis suggested that young people with aggression and hyperactivity were more likely to have problems interacting with friends and family members, creating additional barriers to their social development.

The challenges associated with living in Interface areas extended to engagement in sectarian antisocial behaviour, which commonly took the form of rioting with the *other* community. Those growing up in enclave communities were more likely to rationalise riotous behaviour as *defence of the area*. The study found that those young people who engaged in sectarian behaviour tended to identify much more strongly with being Catholic or Protestant than those who did not engage in such activity. However, the study also found that young people who had been victims of physical, verbal or emotional abuse stated that this mainly emanated from within their own communities. Intra-community or non-sectarian conflict was more frequent than inter-community or sectarian conflict. Knowledge of issues regarding paramilitary activity was experienced by a minority of research participants but experience was more pronounced within Loyalist or Unionist communities and experience of paramilitaries was most common among older males.

Young people from interface areas were not only at risk of being victims of within community antisocial behaviour but were also considered as potential perpetrators. The study found that young people referenced taking part in activities identifiable as high risk including criminal damage, breaking into derelict property, fire-lighting, graffiti and window breaking. These forms of antisocial behaviour were often related to recreational and hard drug use in public. More serious instances of crime were noted among some older research participants, those aged 15-18.⁷

Table 13 highlights the recorded offences in 2014 that have a homophobic, racist or sectarian motivation in NRA’s. The number of offences recorded with a sectarian motive are highest in Triax (41) and Waterside (21) where the three interface areas in Derry are located.

Table 13: Hate Crime Offences NRA

NRA	2014		
	Offences Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation	Offences Recorded with a Racist Motivation	Offences Recorded with a Sectarian Motivation
Northern Ireland	209	921	1043
Triax - Cityside	14	22	41
Waterside	0	2	21
Outer West Derry	0	5	4
Limavady	0	1	2
Outer North Derry	1	2	1

⁷ Cummings, E., Shirlow, P., Browne, B., Dwyer, C., Merrilees, C. & Taylor, K., 2016, Growing up on an Interface: Findings and Implications for the Social Needs, Mental Health and Lifetime Opportunities of Belfast Youth. OFMDFM, Belfast.

In 2010, The Terry Enright Foundation undertook research into the views and opinions of young people living in interface communities in the Greater Belfast area. The study comprised a survey of 506 young people (aged 12-25) and five workshops involving young people and Youth Workers. Less than half (44%) of respondents had been involved in intervention programmes, just over half (53%) had been involved in cross-community programmes, and 70% had participated in some sort of summer scheme.

A high proportion (44%) admitted being involved in some form of rioting or stone throwing at interface areas and a third (33%) had engaged in vandalism. Less than 10% had been involved with either the Youth Justice or Probation Services. When asked to prioritise the most important issue or concern facing young people the most popular response was drugs and alcohol. Other frequent responses included peer pressure and unemployment although these were identified by significantly fewer respondents than those who had cited drugs and alcohol.

Asked about their knowledge of locally available services, most respondents were aware of youth centres, sports teams and leisure centres whilst there was less awareness of restorative justice programmes, Youth Service programmes and local interface workers. When asked to rate the most useful programmes for young people living in interface communities there was high interest in late night programmes at youth clubs and sports centres, youth centres open at weekends and at times of potential trouble on interfaces, cross community programmes and sports and residential opportunities.

During the workshops, young people identified alcohol and boredom as key contributors to risk taking behaviour and clearly articulated the links between alcohol misuse, violence and rioting at interfaces. Youth Workers and interface workers voiced concern about the lack of strategic and targeted investment in interface areas.⁸

The Youth Service has developed a Youth Intervention programme targeting interface areas and areas of potential unrest aimed at young people who are at risk of becoming involved in anti-community behaviour particularly around key dates and events. There were 34 Intervention programmes registered in 2016, with a total participation of 1,326. Most of these (28) were located in the Derry area.

4.16 Tackling Paramilitarism

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. One of the areas identified in Northern Ireland was Brandywell and Creggan. Paramilitarism and sectarianism ranked above the Northern Ireland average as an issue of concern among the 14-25 age group in Derry and Strabane.

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

⁸ McKeivitt, B. & Armstrong, H., 2010, Youth Work in Interface Communities, The Terry Enright Foundation, Belfast.

4.17 Community Relations, Equity and Diversity (CRED)

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

Youth Services in the Derry and Strabane area delivered CRED programmes with young people to raise awareness of community relations issues and create meaningful contact between young people from different communities. In 2014/15 there were 10 programmes relating to the CRED Enhancement Scheme accounting for 611 participants in the Western Region with 6 of these programmes being delivered in the Derry area with 110 young people and 2 in the Strabane area with 142 young people.

TABLE 14: CRED programme participants by area

Div. Off Area	Count	Participation
DERRY	6	110
FERMANAGH	2	359
LIMAVADY	-	-
OMAGH	-	
STRABANE	2	142
Total	10	611

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

4.18 Inclusion

The Derry and Strabane area team will target resources at groups of young people who are marginalised within their communities, paying due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between those groups detailed in Section75 of the Northern Ireland act 1998.

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

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

and by developing appropriate equality and inclusion guidance and support materials where required

4.19 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 Centre's, youth forums in distinct geographical locations and young people registered as volunteers within the service.

A Local Advisory Group (LAG) will be facilitated by Youth Services in the Derry and Strabane area to offer advice on the development and implementation of the local area plan. The LAG will consist of representation from the statutory and voluntary sector as well other key stakeholder's. One key aspect of the terms of reference for the LAG is that 50% of the membership should be young people. To support and empower young people in this process a Youth Advocacy Group (YAP) has been established in is facilitated by a senior Youth Worker.

4.20 Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder's 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 Service provision.

Stakeholder engagement is a key element in the design and delivery of Youth Service provision. Questionnaires for four specific groups of stakeholders were designed by the Planning and Monitoring Group, these were:

- Young people aged 9 to 13.
- Young people aged 14 to 25.
- Youth Workers.
- Parents and guardians.

EA Youth Service and Volunteer partners used a planned approach to the collection of data to ensure an equitable reflection of needs from young people in Northern Ireland. The Derry and Limavady area targeted number of responses in areas such as:

- Young people in Youth Centre's/Youth Clubs.
- Young people engaged in Projects/Programmes.
- Schools in the local areas.
- Youth Councils.
- LAGS/RAG/YAPS.
- Youth Workers.
- Local Councilors & Council.
- Local voluntary groups.
- Regional voluntary groups.

A summary of the responses from young people in the Derry and Strabane area are provided over

the next several pages highlighting those issues which ranked as the top 5, other issues not ranked in the top 5 remain important and are catered for by the youth service. Full details of all surveys, can be provided on request.

4.22 Consultation Survey Findings

Young People Aged 9-13

Background Variables

An on-line survey of young people aged 9-13 was conducted as part of the EA Youth Service needs assessment consultation. A total of 5,301 young people from this age group responded. In the Derry and Strabane Council area there was a total of 589 responses.

Weighted averages were calculated for all responses, on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the most concerned. A comprehensive breakdown of issues can be found in the appendices.

In the Derry and Strabane area the 5 issues that are most prevalent for 9-13 year olds are:

- Bullying
- Internet Safety
- Physical health
- Making positive relationships
- Anti-social behaviour

The issue of internet safety was the greatest concern among this age group, based on its weighted average, and was in the top 5 issues among all Super Council Areas.

The issue of bullying was ranked 2nd among the issues affecting young people in Derry and Strabane, and was ranked 1st in Northern Ireland.

Anti-social behaviour and crime for young people in the area was above the Northern Ireland average.

Youth Service Activities

Weighted averages were calculated for all responses from young people on the programmes and activities that young people aged 9-13 believed the youth service should provide in order to address the issues affecting them, and reveals the varying degrees of importance with which the range of programmes and activities were perceived by those young people surveyed.

The key activities and programmes most prevalent for 9-13 year olds are:

- Sport
- Outdoor Education
- Residential
- Weekend opening
- Art

Similar to rest of Northern Ireland sporting activities, residential, weekend and late night opening featured strongly among the responses of this cohort of young people.

Weekend opening and drop-in are key interventions in reducing risk taking behaviours, anti-community behaviour and crime, all issues identified as important by young people.

There are several benefits to residential experiences and sport is as it offers young people the opportunity to gain new skills, broaden horizons and participate in diversionary activities.

Although sectarianism and racism were below the Northern Ireland average of issues affecting young people in the Derry area, community relations work and inter-club activities featured highly.

Awareness raising programmes were also important for this age group. Personal and Social Development programmes are weighted above the Northern Ireland average.

Educational programmes such as peer education and school based programmes were among those rated as less important.

4.23 Consultation Survey Findings Young People Aged 14-25

Background Variables

An on-line survey of young people age 14-25 was conducted as part of the EA Youth Service needs assessment consultation. A total of 6,636 young people from this age group responded with 589 responses from the Derry and Strabane area. Analyses of their responses are set out below.

Headline Results

Issues Affecting Young People aged 14-25

In the area the 5 issues that are most prevalent for 14-24 year olds are:

- Mental health
- Bullying
- Suicide
- Making positive relationships
- Physical health

Mental health and its associated issues of suicide, self-harm, lack of confidence, body image and bullying were among those issues of greatest concern to the young people surveyed and were all above the Northern Ireland weighted average.

Almost half of all respondents noted that physical health was a major issue. After health related issues preparation for work was a concern for this age group.

Paramilitaries and sectarianism ranked above the Northern Ireland average as an issue of concern among this age group, with racism equal to the Northern Ireland average. Cultural identity, gender and rural isolation were ranked among the issues of least concern.

Youth Service Activities

Weighted averages were calculated for all responses from young people on the programmes and activities that young people aged 14-25 believed the youth service should provide in order to address the issues affecting them, and reveals the varying degrees of importance with which the range of programmes and activities were perceived by those young people surveyed.

The key activities and programmes most prevalent for 14-25 year olds are:

- Qualifications
- Life skills programmes
- Residential programmes
- Peer Education programmes
- Careers and employment programmes

It is interesting to note to note that qualifications and careers or employment programmes rank highly as activities Youth Services should provide to meet their needs which is in line with the issues they expressed around preparation for work.

Personal and social development programmes, life skills programmes and peer education were also seen as an important way to tackle their issues of concerns and are often the methodologies used by youth workers to address the subjects of mental health and well-being, and physical health.

Whilst cultural identity was not identified as a major concern, it is worth noting that a substantial number of young people were keen to participate in community relations programmes and community relations or diversity programmes. This is also in keeping as way to address the needs identified around racism, sectarianism and paramilitaries.

Art and drama were perceived to be the least important activities.

4.24 Consultation Survey Findings

Youth Workers Regional Results

An on-line survey of Youth Workers and volunteers was conducted as part of the EA Youth Service needs assessment consultation. A total of 795 Youth Workers responded and of these 673 specified the LGD where they carried out their youth work with 45 responses from the Derry and Strabane area. Of those youth workers surveyed in the Derry and Strabane area 40% worked in EA and 60% in the Voluntary Sector.

Survey Results

Issues affecting young people

Youth Workers were asked to rank in order the issues affecting young people according to their weighted averages. It should however be recognised that there will be variances between different Super Council Areas and a more detailed breakdown can be found in the appendices.

An exceptionally high proportion of youth workers surveyed in Derry and Strabane rated mental health and confidence as being of most concern to young people (over three quarters of all respondents).

Over half of youth workers surveyed in Derry & Strabane attributed the most emphasis on body image as an issue for young people, compared with other areas of Northern Ireland.

All of the issues, with the exception of racism, had a weighted average of 3 or above, indicating that youth workers perceived all of the issues to be of particular concern to young people in their areas. Risk taking behaviours around alcohol, drugs, and legal highs were also rated highly. This is consistent with concerns raised by young people themselves.

Youth Service Activities

Youth Workers were asked to rank in order of importance, what they believed the youth service should provide for young people in their area to address the issues affecting them, and reveals varying extents to which the stated range of issues concerned the young people surveyed by LGD area.

72% of survey respondents in Derry & Strabane favoured personal and social development programmes to meet the needs of young people to the greatest extent of importance possible, with awareness raising programmes coming second.

High proportions (62%) of youth workers surveyed in Derry & Strabane also cited volunteering as very important in this way.

Every activity or programme has a weighted average of 3 or above, emphasising the importance that youth workers place on each activity.

Although qualifications had a weighted average less emphasis was put on school based programmes, which is reflective of feedback from young people.

Youth workers attached most value to having more programmes and activities as a means of improving youth provision in their area.

4.25 Consultation Survey Findings

Parents and Guardians Results

An on-line survey of parents and guardians of young people who attend youth service provision was conducted as part of the EA Youth Service needs assessment consultation. A total of 862 parents and guardians responded. Derry and Strabane had 169 parents respond to the survey.

Survey Results

Frequency of attendance at youth centre/project

The survey results for parents and guardians in Derry and Strabane are more likely to have young people who attend their club/project frequently. 95% of young people attend the service several times a week or at least once per week.

Satisfaction with key elements of Youth Service provision

Feedback on parent satisfaction with the service in the Derry and Strabane area was above the average for all LGDS.

87% of respondents reported that their young person enjoyed participating in youth services and 83% of respondents felt that their young person benefits from participating in youth services.

5. Priority Areas for Action

Arising from the objective assessment of needs across the three council areas and consideration of stakeholder views, the Education Authority Youth Service is proposing to take forward the following areas for action within the Derry and Strabane Division. The areas for action are grouped under the Department of Education's core objectives.

5.1 DE Priority; Raising Standards for All

Generic Youth Work/support to voluntary groups

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

Statutory units will also continue to provide generic youth work activities, with a view to engaging young people to access youth services, aiming to increase participation and engagement levels across Derry and Strabane.

EA will continue to main and support the delivery of youth services through the medium of Irish.

Allocation of staff/resources

Key resources will be allocated to those wards in the top 25% areas of Multiple Deprivation within the Derry and Strabane area to ensure that young people most in need will have increased access to youth provision. There is a need for further youth service development in areas consistently identified as some of the most deprived in Northern Ireland.

Programmes in these areas will focus on targeted interventions, including personal and social development opportunities which aim to address key themes of work, such as risk-taking health behaviour, disaffection and low levels of attainment in school.

Quality Assurance/measurement of youth work programme

The Youth Service has a coherent and robust evaluation framework, to ensure continuous improvement of delivery and youth work provision.

Youth Workers use a variety of tools to monitor and evaluate units/programmes, gathering information regarding quantitative data (outputs) and qualitative data (outcomes and evaluations). The primary emphasis of evaluation is to measure the impact of the programme on young people with reference to the *generic outcomes for youth work*⁹.

⁹ The generic outcomes for Youth Work have been developed by the Youth Service Sectoral Partnership Group (YSSPG)

Evidence is maintained by Youth Work staff in the form of files, which are assessed on an ongoing basis.

Quality assurance is carried out by 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.

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.

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

Addressing low educational attainment

Failure to address the gap in education attainment ensures that young people from the most deprived areas and those from the vulnerable Section 75 groups identified in *Priorities for Youth* will face a future with fewer opportunities and greater challenges.

In order to address the gap between the highest and lowest achieving young people there is a clear need to tackle the root causes of educational disadvantage and barriers to learning through interventions in both the formal education sector and in the non-formal Youth Service settings.

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

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

Educational Attainment at Key Stages 3 and 4 is improving in Northern Ireland, however there is a tail of underachievement which is prevalent among vulnerable groups, including those with Special Educational Needs, 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 Derry and Strabane is an area with above average numbers of pupils identified as having Special Educational Needs, there is a clear need to develop programmes to assist the formal Education sector with supporting these young people and to also provide educational opportunities outside of the formal environment. Youth Service currently has programmes being delivered in Ardnashee (Derry) Special schools.

Health

Young people living in disadvantaged areas are more likely to endure health deprivation, disability or suffer mental health issues.

These vulnerable young people are more likely to be absent from school which will negatively impact on their educational attainment.

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

Addressing health issues such as smoking, alcohol and drug misuse, physical activity and sexual health has been an integral part of Youth Work.

In response to the Assessment of Need, Youth Workers in Derry and Strabane 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 health behaviour, to provide opportunities for young people to participate in engaging activities that develop their personal, social and emotional skills to promote and enhance personal resilience, healthy decision-making and wellbeing and lead to a positive impact on the educational achievements of young people living in areas of deprivation.

Flare Programme

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

2 Youth Workers will be based in the western trust region, with one a remit to support the Derry and Strabane 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.

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 are at, 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 Derry, Limavady and Rural Foyle. 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.

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 2,500 young people engaged with both these programmes, across a total of 150 projects, and

approximately 500 young people achieved accreditation for their learning.

The Extended Provision (EP) Programme will aim to continue funding 9 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. We will continue to develop “Our Space” a drop-in for young adults in Derry city centre targeting young people not currently accessing youth services. As a city centre provision it is viewed as a shared space, it is easily accessible as it is within 200 yards of the main transport hub for the north-west and offers drug and alcohol free entertainment, coupled with personal and social development opportunities for young people.

In the young people’s survey, late night opening was identified as a top youth service area to address young people’s needs.

The team would seek to build on the success of the “Our Space” model in Derry city centre which offers an additional service to those that currently exist in the area and is a departure from the traditional youth club setting which is often associated with generalist services and recreation.

“Our Space” is an accessible town centre space for young people that is a safe, engaging, drug and alcohol free environment and is the first of its kind in the North West. It acts as both a place where young people can meet and a place that promotes the ethos of participation, acceptance and understanding of others and the testing of values and beliefs. “Priorities for Youth” outlines the need to “prioritise access to and longer opening hours for centres or units working within areas of disadvantage and on or near interface areas.”

The drop-in facility targets young people aged 14-17, engaging them in a range of developmental programmes. The late night and weekend drop-in is complimented by youth work programmes throughout the week that aim to engage young people in developmental work that contributes to their personal and social development and educational outcomes.

CRED

Changes in the demography of the population of Northern Ireland have resulted in a more diverse school population. Given the numbers of newcomer pupils and Travellers 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 North West. 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.

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.

Promoting Lawfulness

A Tackling Paramilitarism Youth Outreach Worker funded by Department of Justice will work with young people most at risk of influence or coercive control by paramilitaries and organised criminal gangs.

Youth Workers in Derry and Strabane 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.

Positive Behaviour

The numbers of young people in the Derry and Strabane area that are involved with Youth Justice Services are higher than the national average with 10% of all cases coming from the district. A Partnership is in place with the Youth Justice Agency to support the inclusion of young people involved in Youth Justice to Youth Services.

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 in interface areas, where there is the likelihood of heightened tensions and unrest during the summer.

Participation

Many young people engaging in youth services express their interest in actively participating in decision making. The current Youth Councils that operate in Derry and Strabane 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.

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.

Outdoor Learning

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

5.3 DE Enabling Goal; Developing the Education Workforce

Leadership and Volunteering

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

A coherent training route has been developed for part time workers and volunteers offering mandatory and optional training programmes providing a pathway from induction through to principles and practice.

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

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 (YMCA and St. Marys) in the Derry and Strabane area 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.

5.4 DE Enabling Goal; Improving the Learning Environment

Facility Management

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

Capital Development

Funding allocated to capital programmes in recent years has seen the completion of Strabane Youth Resource Centre and minor refurbishments of statutory youth centres. A business case has been presented for the upgrade of Wateride Youth Club and the Derry Youth Office which may see the development of a young adult resource centre, area youth office and youth centre in 2018/20189.

5.5 DE Enabling Goal; Transforming Education Management

Youth Advocacy Programme and Local Advisory Group

To further support the enhanced engagement of young people, Youth Service staff in the Derry and Strabane 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.

Securing External Funding

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

The Derry and Strabane area currently receives £253,000 funding from the Department for

Communities for a Senior Youth Worker/Team Leader, based in the Derry Youth Office and Youth Workers based within the voluntary sector in the 5 NRA's in Derry and Strabane.