



Education Authority
Youth Service

**Local
Assessment of
Need**
2018/2020

Mid & East Antrim

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1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Policy Context

2.1 Introduction

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

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

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

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

2.2 Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021

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

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

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

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

Programme for Government, may also have repercussions for the scope and approach of Youth Provision in future.

2.3 A Fresh Start

The Fresh Start Agreement (November 2015) provides a set of inter-related and high level proposals which seek to overcome some of the most challenging and intractable issues within Northern Ireland. One of the key issues addressed within A Fresh Start is that of legacy and the impact of paramilitary activity. Among the strategic actions to end paramilitarism, is a commitment to a cross-departmental programme to prevent vulnerable young people becoming involved in paramilitary activity. In 2016 the NI Executive published its Action Plan on Tackling Paramilitary Activity, criminality and organised crime. The Action Plan states that the NI Executive should commission appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting lawfulness in schools and through Youth Work in communities. The Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board has tasked the Department of Education to take forward Action A4, which states that:

“The Executive should commission appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting lawfulness in schools and through youth work in communities.”

The 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.

The Programme Board has identified eight areas which are particularly vulnerable to paramilitary activity, and where therefore there is a high risk of young people being drawn into paramilitary activity:

- New Lodge and Greater Ardoyne;
- Lower Falls, Twinbrook, Poleglass, Upper Springfield, Turf Lodge and Ballymurphy;
- Shankill (upper and lower, and includes the Woodvale);
- Brandywell and Creggan;
- Larne area, including Antiville and Kilwaughter and Carrickfergus area including Northland and Castlemarra;
- The Mount - SOA(1) (2) and Ballymacarrett (2) and (3) in East Belfast;
- Drumgask and Kilwilkie – in Craigavon/Lurgan;
- Clondeboye - SOA(2) and (3) and Conlig (3) which includes Kilcooley (Bangor)

2.4 Department of Education

Although the work of the Department of Education extends across many of the 14 Outcomes in the draft Programme for Government, its key area of focus lies within Outcome 14, which states that : We

give our children and young people the best start in life. DE will lead on the development of Delivery Plans for the following 4 indicators in the draft Programme for Government:

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

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

2.5 Department of Education Business Plan

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

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

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

2.6 Priorities for Youth

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In 2014/2015 DE undertook a formal review of the CRED policy to ensure that the policy was meeting its aims and objectives and to inform further development of the policy. The review findings confirmed that the policy was fit for purpose and largely effective in improving attitudes of children and young

people towards those they perceived to be different, helping prepare them to take their place in an increasingly diverse society.

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

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

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

2.8 Shared Education

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.9 Rural Needs Act Northern Ireland 2016

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

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

2.10 DE Action Plan against Child Sexual Exploitation

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

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

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

3. Current Delivery

Introduction

The Youth Service in the Mid & East Antrim 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.

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.

Central Theme

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

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

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

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

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

Youth Work Team

The Mid & East Antrim Youth Work Team consists of 8 full-time youth workers in the controlled and voluntary sector, supported by 1 Team Leader, responsible for the delivery of services in the area. There are 4 full time controlled and 3 voluntary centres in the Mid & East Antrim Area. In addition, there are 3 controlled part time units and 138 registered units. The full-time youth centres and their staff are,

- Ballykeel Youth Resource Centre(controlled) – Centre Based Youth Worker
- Waveney Youth Centre(controlled) – Centre Based Youth Worker
- Greenisland Youth Centre(controlled) – Youth Support Worker-in-Charge (24 hour)
- Whitehead Youth Centre(controlled) – Youth Support Worker-in-Charge (24 hour)
- All Saints Youth Centre(voluntary) – Centre Based Youth Worker
- Larne YMCA(voluntary) – Youth Support Worker-in-Charge (24 hour)
- Carrickfergus YMCA(voluntary) – Youth Support Worker-in-Charge (24 hour)

The part-time youth centres are,

- Sunnylands Youth Centre – Youth Support Worker-in-Charge (9 hour)
- Downshire Youth Centre – Youth Support Worker-in-Charge (9 hour)
- Broughshane Youth Centre – Youth Support Work Volunteer (3 hour)

In addition to these youth clubs, Youth Work in the Mid & East Antrim area also operates on an accreditation programme basis or on a detached basis. Examples of these types of provision include Inclusion work with young people from Section 75 groups, Outdoor Learning facilitated via residential experiences or day visits at Outdoor Learning centres, Community Relations, Equality and Diversity (CRED) programmes, statutory funded area based projects such as programmes for rural Youth Work and Outreach, Health programmes, Personal and Social Development programmes, Environmental projects, Inclusion schemes and Youth Intervention. There are 2 Area Youth Workers, 3 Senior Youth Workers managed by a Senior Youth Worker (Level 3 Team Leader). The Area Youth Workers deliver programmes 4 evenings per week on an Outreach basis as well as delivering a daytime school based programme 1 day per week. The Senior Youth Workers (L2) deliver programmes 3 evenings per week on an Outreach and/or Centre Based basis as well as delivering a daytime school based programme 1 day per week.

The most recent figures reveal that over 10,200 young people in the Mid & East Antrim area participated in registered Youth Work.

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

Full-time 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.

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).

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.

All Saints Youth Centre have an inclusion club for young people with special educational needs, this runs on an additional evening to the generalist youth club.

School Based Youth Work

Partnerships have been developed with a number of primary, post-primary and special schools in the Mid & East Antrim area. The EA Youth Service introduced a schools programme, 'Learning Together' in September 2018 in 4 schools in the 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.

Previous delivery within Schools across the area helped pupils at Key Stage 3 and 4 who were experiencing issues which affected their participation, engagement and ability to fulfil their potential in the formal education sector. These programmes ran in St Patricks College, Carrickfergus College, Larne High School, St Killian's College, and Downshire School. These programmes specifically dealt with mental health issues, family issues, bullying, alcohol and drug use, self-esteem and self-confidence issues.

The formal sector value highly the input from Youth Service and the flexibility the service offers. The intervention ranged from small group programmes to whole class workshops feedback responses from young people, teaching staff and school management was extremely positive.

Participation

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

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

Mid & East Antrim Youth Council operates across the three former council areas giving young people aged 14+ a voice in the area. Plans are in place to establish formal links with Mid & East Antrim Borough Council to provide a mechanism for young people to be consulted.

International Work

Mid & East Antrim has a strong tradition of International Work. Currently two projects are ongoing, the Global Service Learning programme which brings young people from Larne and Ballymena together in an accredited citizenship programme which includes a working visit to Washington DC.

The International Citizenship Project brings together young people from Larne and a youth group in Finland.

Partnership working

EA Youth Service receives the major part of its funding from the Department of Education. However, the service has also developed key strategic partnerships to enable the securing of additional resources for the delivery of 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. There is a partnership agreement to develop youth provision in the Doury Road estate in Ballymena with the Doury Road Development Group.

At a strategic level the EA Youth Service has representation on several multi-agency groups, including active involvement in the Peace 4 Partnership Board and the PCSP in Mid & East Antrim council area. EA Youth Service is represented on Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership and play an active role in relevant sub-groups on this partnership; EA Youth Service is also represented on Dunclug Partnership in Ballymena. Currently EA Youth Service is a partner on the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Locality Groups in Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne.

4. Mid & East Antrim Needs Analysis

Mid & East Antrim is a local government district in Northern Ireland. The district was created on 1 April 2015 by merging the Borough of Ballymena, the Borough of Larne and the Borough of Carrickfergus.

The estimated population of Mid And East Antrim Local Government District at 30 June 2016 was 137,821, of which 67,485 (49.0%) were male and 70,336 (51.0%) were female. Less than one third of the total population of Mid Ulster LGD, 40,892, (29.7%) are aged 25 years or under. (NI average 33.3%).

Table 1 – Population by Age Bands 2014

Age	0 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 19 years	20 - 24 years
Number of Young People	7,953	8,427	8,197	8,247	8,068

Chart 1 – Projected Population 2016 – 2025

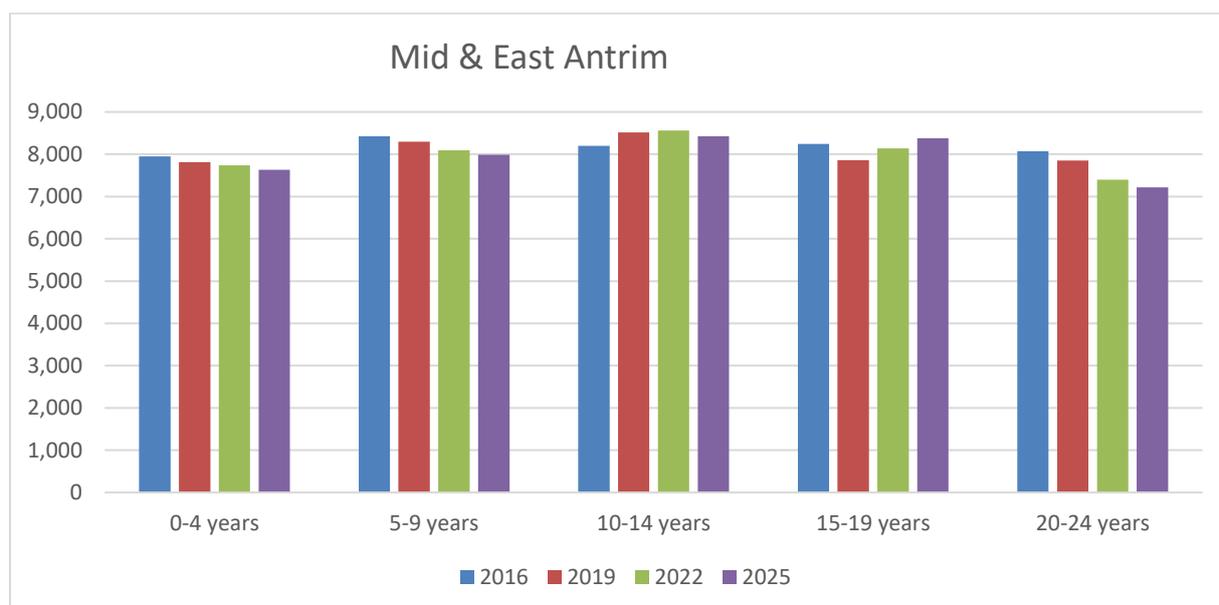


Table 2 – Projected Population 2016 – 2025

Age Groups	2016	2019	2022	2025
0-4 years	7,953	7,815	7,737	7,634
5-9 years	8,427	8,300	8,095	7,987
10-14 years	8,197	8,515	8,563	8,425
15-19 years	8,247	7,862	8,138	8,379
20-24 years	8,068	7,850	7,398	7,214

Table 3 - Number and Percentage of Young People Living in Deprived Areas

Mid & East Antrim LGD 2018

Counts and percentages of young people living in the 20% deprived SOAs using the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure.

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

Mid & East Antrim LGD 2018

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

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

Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM)

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

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

The following tables illustrate some of the levels of deprivation that exist in Mid & East Antrim LGD, detailing the levels of deprivation at SOA level for all domains (or types of deprivation) followed by those indicators (data selected to compose each domain) selected that are of most relevance to children and young people. These focus on income related deprivation, educational attainment and characteristics and crime. The map at the end of this document shows the 20% and 50% most deprived SOAs in Mid & East Antrim. The lookup table on the following page references each SOA to the legacy LGD areas.

The results for Mid & East Antrim LGD are highlighted below, in comparison to other LGDs in the table below which compares the relative distribution of the 100 most deprived SOAs in Northern Ireland that are within each LGD, using:

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

Table 5 – Deprivation Comparisons by LGD

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

Table 6 – Mid & East Antrim Super Output Areas

Mid & East Antrim LGD 2018

The table below shows each SOA in Mid & East Antrim in rank order for MDM. Red shading indicates a rank, from 1 to 890, placing that SOA in the 25% most deprived in Northern Ireland. Green shading indicates a rank within the most deprived 50%.

SOA	MDM Rank	SOA	MDM Rank
Northland	65	Gardenmore	595
Ballee	85	Portglenone_1	596
Moat	91	Ahoghill_1	598
Ballyloran	104	Blackhead	605
Ballykeel	110	Victoria	609
Dunclug	154	Ballycarry	612
Antiville	156	Eden_2	617
Love Lane	173	Glenwhirry	642
Castle Demesne	183	Woodburn	644
Central	192	Grange	648
Craigy Hill	209	Glenravel	679
Fair Green	222	Academy	681
Harryville	228	Broughshane_1	691
Sunnylands	230	Kells_2	692
Killycrot	252	Whitehead	699
Gortalee	276	Broughshane_2	717
Glenarm	281	Kilwaughter_1	728
Clipperstown	286	Carncastle	729
Town Parks	292	Summerfield	734
Portglenone_2	342	Eden_1	752
Blackcave	367	Bluefield_1	766
Carnlough	369	Burleigh Hill_1	774
Harbour	441	Ahoghill_2	778
Slemish	484	Greenisland	783
Island Magee	514	Boneybefore	791
Kells_1	518	Galgorm_1	794
Milebush	536	Bluefield_2	810
Park	537	Ardeevin	817
Cullybackey	538	Burleigh Hill_2	829
Glynn	555	Knockagh	865
Kilwaughter_2	568	Galgorm_2	869
Craigywarren	590	Ballyloughan	874
Dunminning	591		

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas

There is one Neighbourhood Renewal Areas within Mid & East Antrim covering part of Ballymena. EA Youth Service is represented on both of the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships and on any relevant working sub-groups. Youth Service premises and workers help address issues and targets identified by the partnerships.

Education

The table below shows the proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs including English and maths in schools located within Mid & East Antrim for 2016/17 and for the two years previous to this. The three year average percentage is shown for each school, listed in ascending order.

Table 7 – Educational attainment: 5+ GCSE A*-C including English & Maths, (2016/17 and over three years)

School Name	School Type	% year 12 pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs grades A*-C (including equivalents) including GCSE English and GCSE maths			3 Year Average
		2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	
Downshire School*	Non-grammar	29.8	31.0	32.2	31.0
Larne High School	Non-grammar	31.5	32.1	33.3	32.3
St Patrick's College Ballymena	Non-grammar	45.7	27.3	34.3	35.8
Carrickfergus College*	Non-grammar	37.6	40.0	34.7	37.4
Cullybackey College	Non-grammar	40.8	37.9	37.0	38.6
Dunclug College	Non-grammar	47.5	36.8	43.9	42.7
Ulidia Integrated College	Non-grammar	67.1	41.7	42.2	50.3
Slemish College	Non-grammar	65.7	58.6	57.7	60.7
St Killian's College	Non-grammar	69	75.8	67.4	70.7
Larne Grammar School	Grammar	96.2	88.3	94.5	93.0
Cambridge House Grammar School	Grammar	93.2	97.3	92.4	94.3
Carrickfergus Grammar School	Grammar	95.7	97.5	97.5	96.9
Ballymena Academy	Grammar	97.7	97.1	98.9	97.9
St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena	Grammar	100	100.0	97.1	99.0

(Source: Summary of Annual Examination Results, DE)

* from September 2018 these schools have amalgamated as Carrickfergus Academy

Mid & East Antrim has one of the lowest levels of attainment at GCSE level of all the 11 Northern Ireland Councils. Four of the non-grammar schools have been targeted for the Youth Service Learning Together Programme namely Carrickfergus Academy, Larne High School, St Patrick's College and St Killian's College.

The table below shows a series of education variables that partially constitute the Education, Skills and Training domain at SOA level, sourced from the 2017 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures. SOAs are ranked 1 to 890, 1 being the most deprived. The table is sorted by the rank of

the proportion of school leavers not achieving at least 5 GCSEs at A*-C. Cells highlighted red indicate that the Super Output Areas are in the 25% most deprived in Northern Ireland and those shaded green are within the 50% most deprived for each indicator.

The SOAs reflect the catchment areas of the lower performing schools and also the focus for accredited programmes within the controlled youth centres and area projects which service these SOAs. Ballee SOA is the worst performing SOA in Northern Ireland.

Table 8 - Indicator data from the Education, Skills and Training Domain

SOA	Proportion of school leavers not achieving at least five GCSEs at A*-C (and equivalent) incl. English and maths (rank)	Proportion of those leaving school aged 16, 17 and 18 not entering Education, Employment or Training (rank)	Proportion of 18-21 year olds who have not enrolled in Higher Education Courses at Higher Education or Further Education establishments (rank)	Proportion of pupils attending Special Schools or who are attending post-primary schools with Special Education Needs Stages 3-5 (rank)	Absenteeism at post-primary schools (rank)
Ballee	1	300	36	252	227
Northland	6	10	11	137	40
Moat	19	410	77	339	272
Love Lane	22	53	147	376	27
Killycrot	59	102	145	99	112
Craigy Hill	79	176	153	422	115
Harryville	111	220	38	478	167
Dunclug	122	12	40	353	153
Fair Green	133	158	122	364	417
Castle Demesne	140	14	108	634	104
Clipperstown	154	109	136	763	98
Harbour	176	669	390	744	510
Ballykeel	208	492	70	124	313
Antiville	273	850	217	56	48
Kells_1	278	244	165	869	360
Sunnylands	280	217	125	244	14
Ballyloran	287	333	229	221	41
Ballycarry	292	85	408	438	379
Blackcave	295	695	205	37	145
Boneybefore	314	225	363	585	516
Glynn	344	499	638	739	534
Island Magee	370	200	552	423	324
Victoria	382	101	302	526	298
Blackhead	384	99	582	366	197
Cullybackey	388	151	192	417	479
Portglenone_1	400	670	435	708	780
Gardenmore	403	142	251	866	743
Bluefield_1	416	218	807	344	315

Mid & East Antrim LGD 2018

SOA	Proportion of school leavers not achieving at least five GCSEs at A*-C (and equivalent) incl. English and maths (rank)	Proportion of those leaving school aged 16, 17 and 18 not entering Education, Employment or Training (rank)	Proportion of 18-21 year olds who have not enrolled in Higher Education Courses at Higher Education or Further Education establishments (rank)	Proportion of pupils attending Special Schools or who are attending post-primary schools with Special Education Needs Stages 3-5 (rank)	Absenteeism at post-primary schools (rank)
Central	417	98	135	606	250
Town Parks	420	256	237	451	331
Gortalee	423	113	107	200	18
Ardeevin	432	270	692	493	575
Milebush	448	7	325	183	225
Broughshane_1	454	813	723	792	399
Eden_1	476	310	373	525	500
Ahoghill_1	514	292	263	450	381
Dunminning	517	769	431	827	773
Greenisland	527	343	585	587	334
Woodburn	531	144	651	684	396
Kilwaughter_1	541	518	307	772	547
Carnlough	547	374	464	295	414
Glenravel	553	472	595	674	814
Ballyloughan	556	393	686	888	877
Eden_2	564	90	529	460	472
Park	575	243	286	706	444
Glenarm	592	601	618	676	485
Summerfield	624	115	385	810	594
Whitehead	625	231	729	714	633
Kilwaughter_2	626	568	616	779	520
Craigyarwarren	643	527	737	758	882
Portglenone_2	645	482	381	149	349
Broughshane_2	666	523	579	718	705
Glenwhirry	673	783	741	794	724
Burleigh Hill_1	690	187	355	788	734
Ahoghill_2	691	510	397	881	681
Grange	702	557	724	791	794
Galgorm_1	728	652	627	835	784
Kells_2	732	490	661	845	671
Burleigh Hill_2	738	301	705	400	836
Carncastle	747	271	740	776	463
Bluefield_2	759	586	605	819	703
Academy	762	377	840	651	798
Knockagh	833	528	736	831	808
Galgorm_2	843	450	873	821	864
Slemish	863	656	574	868	770

Access to Services

For much of the Mid & East Antrim area access to services ranks highly however outside the urban areas there are 12 SOAs which rank in the top 25% most deprived and a further 26 in the top 50% most deprived on the Access to Services Domain Rank. These areas are shaded Red and Green respectively in the table below.

Table 9 – Indicator data from the Access to Service Domain Rank

SOA	Rank	SOA	Rank
Slemish	34	Blackhead	297
Grange	49	Whitehead	303
Islandmagee	69	Kilwaughter 1	313
Glenwhirry	71	Broughshane 2	319
Glenravel	92	Bluefield 1	320
Kilwaughter 2	99	Bluefield 2	321
Carnlough	115	Ardeevin	324
Dunminning	121	Burleigh Hill 1	336
Ballycarry	122	Galgorm 1	342
Craigwarren	132	Galgorm 2	350
Portglenone 1	149	Knockagh	353
Glynn	178	Cullybackey	360
Kells 2	197	Eden 2	369
Woodburn	198	Harbour	381
Eden 1	239	Greenisland	391
Ahoghill 2	241	Burleigh Hill 2	394
Kells 1	256	Broughshane 1	409
Carncastle	165	Academy	422
Ahoghill 1	281	Victoria	438

Young people are disproportionately affected by proximity to services as they have less options when it comes to personal or private transport relying on older friends or relatives. Depending on the service they require this can affect their confidence in asking for transport. Youth services provide a link for young people to access other vital services and to access safe spaces to socialize.

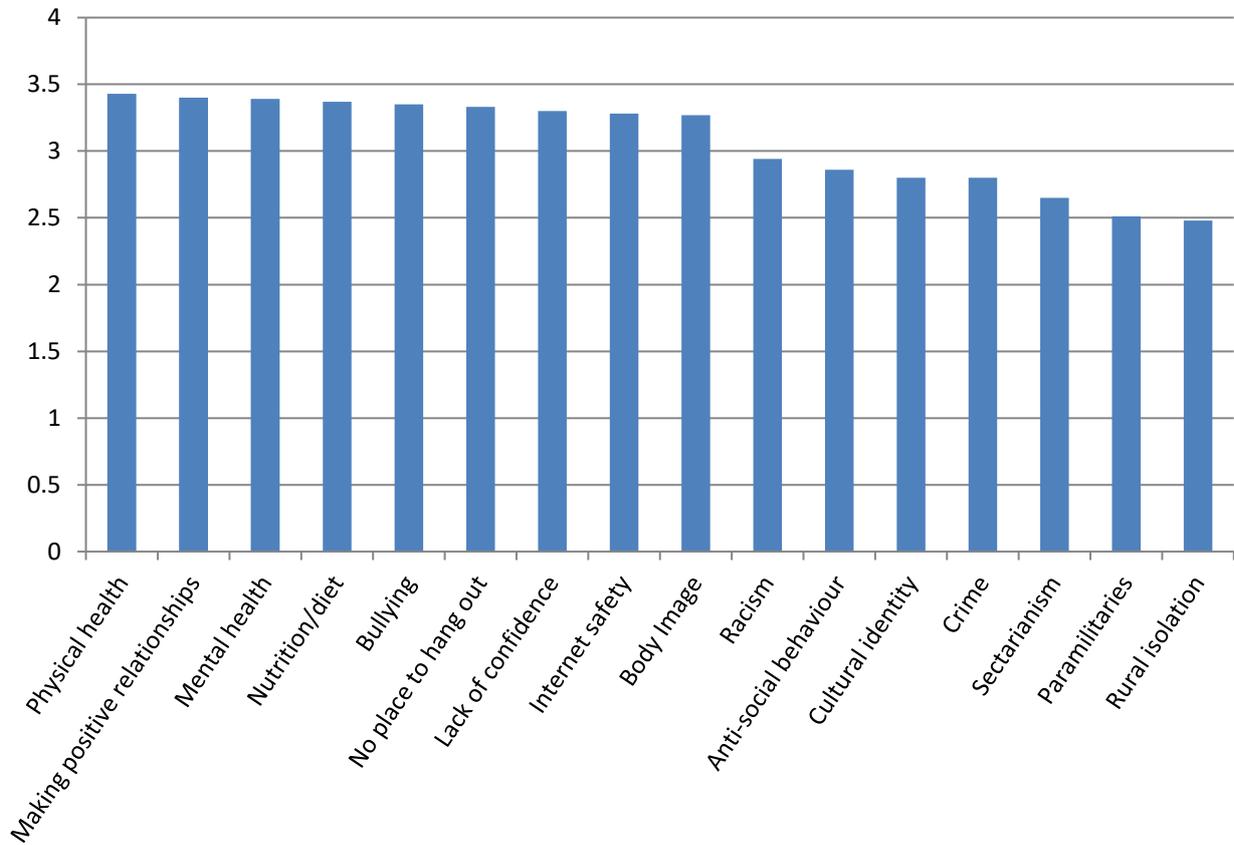
Stakeholder Consultation

During September and October 2017 young people, parents and youth workers were consulted through a Survey Monkey survey. The Youth Workers came from the controlled and voluntary sectors and ranged from volunteers to professionally qualified staff. Young People were surveyed in a variety of settings including young people who do not currently avail of Youth Service. The results for Mid & East Antrim are broken down into two age groups of young people (9-13 and 14-25) in line with Priorities for Youth age bands and Youth Worker's responses. Parents completed a Youth Service satisfaction survey.

The respondents were asked to list their concerns on a range of issues, each issue could be rated from 1-5, where 5 is of highest concern. The results were then calculated as a weighted average which incorporates the range of concern that the respondents had on any issue.

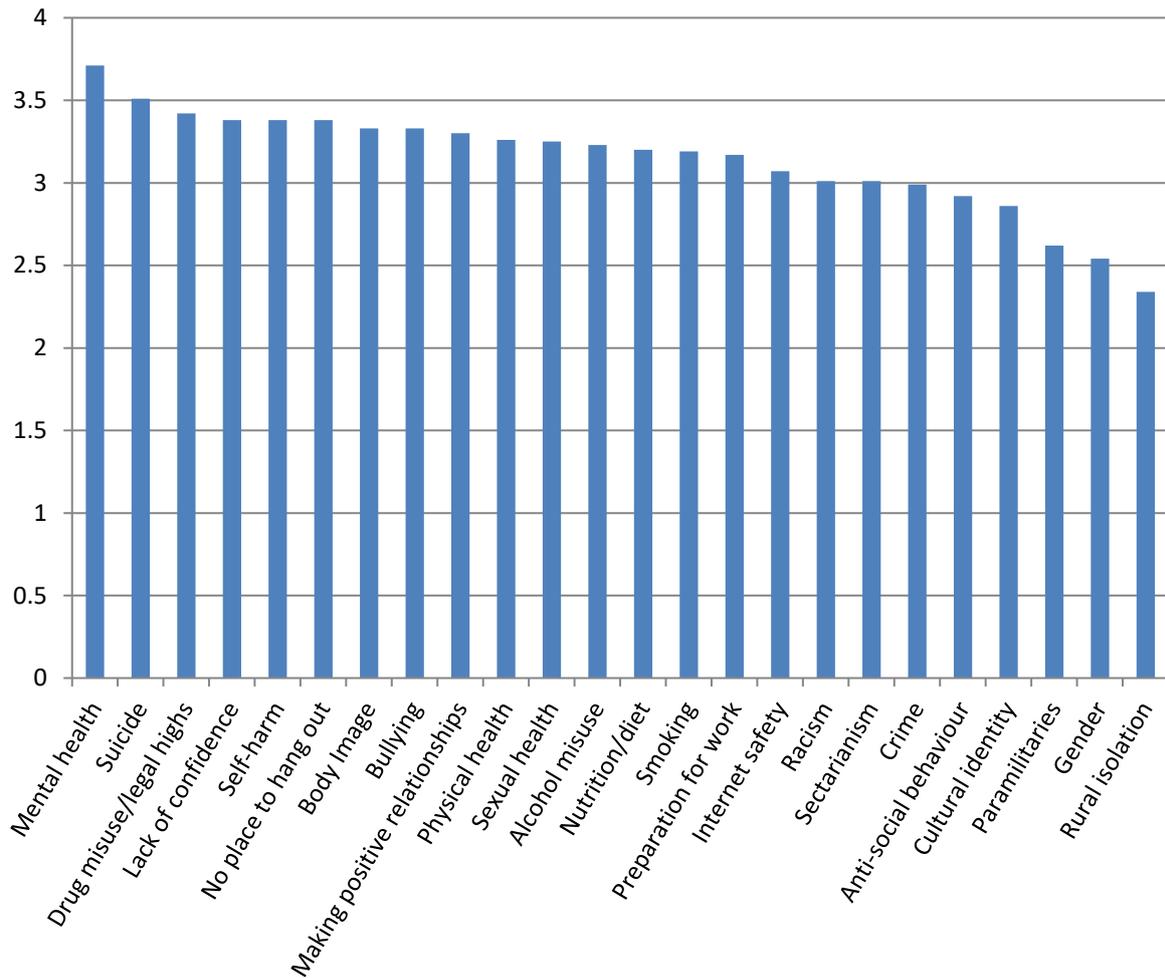
Issues which score 3 or higher show an above average level of concern. The following tables show the responses.

Chart 2 – Responses from 9-13 year olds



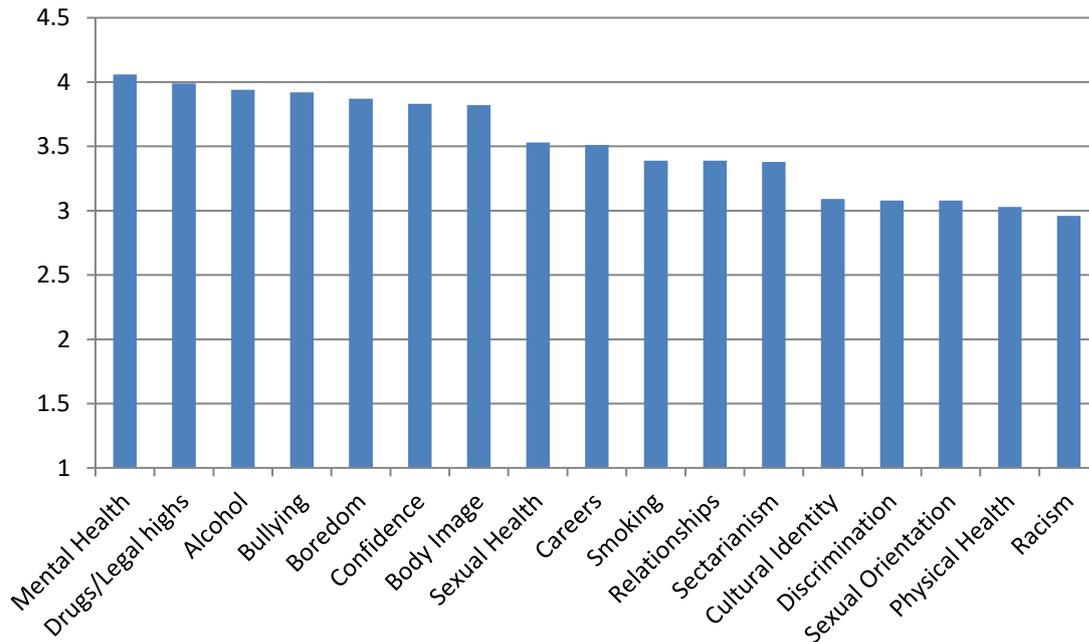
Health issues feature highly with this age group with a range of physical and mental health issues being identified. Bullying programmes will be a focus for all workers as well as physical and mental health programmes. Safe places to meet and hang out show the need for more physical spaces which are young people friendly, the mobile youth unit can help meet this need. Safe spaces coupled with skilled youth workers can help young people create positive relationships.

Chart 3 – Responses from 14-25 year olds



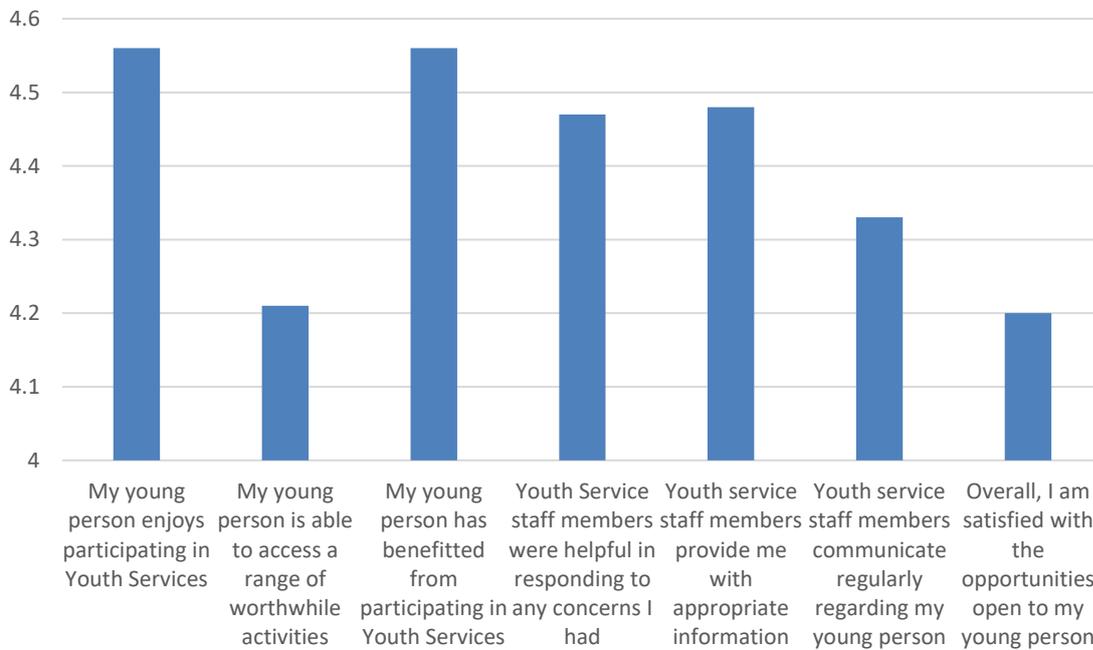
This age group show a heightened awareness of mental health issues including suicide; these responses are in line with data from other professional sources. Physical health issues also rank highly and many of the issues interlink e.g. nutrition/diet, body image and lack of confidence. Youth service programmes focus on these issues and in providing safe spaces for young people to explore them in an inclusive, welcoming environment.

Chart 4 – Responses from Youth Workers



Youth Workers findings are in line with the findings of the young people’s surveys with the exception of the recognition by workers on the influence that Alcohol and other Drugs has on the behaviours and health of young people.

Chart 5 – Parent Satisfaction response



The survey shows that parents rate youth service provision very highly with all replies ranked 4.2 or higher out of a total of 5.

5. Areas for Action

Arising from the objective assessment of needs across the Mid & East Antrim area and consideration of stakeholder views, the Education Authority Youth Service is proposing to take forward the following areas for action. The areas for action are grouped under the Department of Education's core objectives and a summary is provided on pages 34-46.

DE Priority; Raising Standards for All

Generic Youth Work/support to voluntary groups

138 voluntary groups are registered and receive funding for generic provision. 7 controlled youth centres operate a generic youth work programme across the area including a school based provision, these aim to increase engagement levels.

Allocation of staff/resources

Key resources will be allocated to those Super Output Areas in the top 50% of Multiple Deprivation Measure Rank within the Mid & East Antrim area to ensure young people most in need will have increased access to youth provision. There is a need for further youth service development in all of the areas identified below, which are consistently identified as some of the most deprived in Northern Ireland:

The Ballymena Neighbourhood Renewal Area encompassing the Ballee SOAs which is ranked 85 out of 890 for multiple deprivation. The Area Youth Worker will focus work here.

Doury Road and Ballykeel areas will be a main focus of Centre based Provision along with Carrickfergus.

Further Super Output Areas in the top 25% which form a focus for the service are Dunclug, Antiville, Northland, Love Lane, Moat, Castle Demesne, Craigy Hill, Central and Fair Green. Area Youth Workers and Youth Centres are allocated to these areas and the Mobile Youth Unit will provide a regular intervention in the more rural areas.

Quality Assurance/measurement of youth work programme

The Quality Assurance Framework is in operation in all controlled provision. In addition to quarterly moderation visits to monitor the quality of provision at centre and area project levels. All workers will use the Target Monitor along with Outcomes Based Reporting to show the quality and measure the impact of their work.

Public relations

Centre based provision will continue to make use of local press and social media to promote their generalist programme. The area youth work team publicise achievements through these outlets. Area based interventions and events will also be publicised widely.

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

Addressing low educational attainment

Youth Service provision will be provided in 4 post-primary schools namely, St Killian's College, St Patrick's College, Carrickfergus Academy and Larne High School.

From September 2018 the Learning Together Programme will be rolled out across these post-primary schools.

Tackling Paramilitarism – EA START Programme

The START Programme is delivered by the Education Authority youth service in the Mid & East Antrim area. The Tackling Paramilitarism Youth Outreach Worker in the area will work with the following groups of young people:

- **Core Group (Intervention)** - The primary target group for the 8 Youth Outreach workers are those young people in the areas above, most at risk of influence or coercive control by paramilitaries and organised criminal gangs. The intervention will be a long-term engagement with low numbers of young people, with very high quality delivery. It will involve 1-1 work, family support, peer mentoring, life coaching, advocacy on their behalf with those who want to harm them, as well as with Juvenile Liaison Officers in the PSNI, liaison with statutory agencies with whom the young person is already engaged (eg Social Services, PBNI, Youth Justice Agency) and referral to other providers who can meet their needs (eg NIACRO Aspire Programme).
- **Siblings, friendship groups and peer groups of the Core Group above in the areas above (Prevention).** This will involve working with bigger numbers, but the expectation is for high quality delivery. Family intervention, education, health, personal and social development, awareness raising, school liaison, parental engagement, peer education and diversionary activity are some of the methods to be employed.

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

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

Health and Wellbeing

All controlled youth centres and area youth workers will deliver a health related programme, a Child Sexual Exploitation programme, and an Internet Safety programme. Area projects focusing on Mental Health issues will continue to operate in the area, building on the success they have achieved.

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

A Youth Worker will be based in the Northern Trust region to support the delivery of a 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.

The service will continue to abide by healthy eating guidelines and to promote a physical lifestyle for all young people. This includes Alcohol, Smoking and Drug education along with age-specific programmes on sex, sexuality and gender issues.

Access to services

2 programmes relating to rural isolation and proximity to services will run throughout the rural parts of the area.

CRED

T:BUC funded CRED programmes including the annual Summer Camp which has provision for 60 young people will be run within the area.

Inclusive Youth Work

Programmes on the topics of Race, Gender, Sexuality and Disability will form part of Youth Workers Controlled Delivery Agreements. Youth Centres will provide spaces and times for young people who fit into a community of interest.

Positive behaviour

5 programmes are running across the area focusing on risk-taking behaviour. A further 5 programmes focussing on Anti-Social/Criminal behaviour will be completed.

Participation

Youth Council will operate across Mid & East Antrim following the EA Youth Council format. Each controlled Youth Centre and Worker will nominate young people to the youth council. All controlled youth centres have a members committee or forum.

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

International Programmes giving young people the opportunity to broaden their horizons including the Global Services Learning programme will operate through youth centre and projects.

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, Shannagh-more, Delamont and Woodhall. Three Outdoor Learning Day Centres in Conlig, Armagh and Ballycastle will cater for groups seeking non-residential outdoor activity, and two self-catering centres, Corick Residential Centre in Co. Tyrone and Ballyhome Residential Centre in Co Antrim are available for EA-registered groups to book. The final strand in the OLS sees the appointment of 10 Peripatetic Outdoor Learning Instructors to deliver services locally across the region.

DE Enabling Goal; Developing the Non-Formal Education Workforce

Leadership and Volunteering

The Regional Advisory Group have approved the Workforce Development Plan and it is the role of the Practice Development Group to enact it. All new staff and volunteers will complete their induction within their first week in post and all mandatory training within their first 6 months in post.

Adult volunteers

A volunteering strategy is currently being developed to increase volunteering within the youth service.

Staff Development

100% of professionally qualified full time staff will attend CPD week in January. Fresh Start training for all these workers will be cascaded to them.

A coherent training route for all staff and volunteers is now in place.

DE Enabling Goal; Improving the Non-Formal Learning Environment

Facility Management

Financial control systems are in place and moderated regularly in line with EA policy. All centres are Health and Safety checked and Fire Risk assessed.

Capital Development

All youth centres in the area have been reviewed by EA Architects with plans drawn up for refurbishment, renovation or replacement. The proposed developments take into account the feedback from older young people that they need somewhere to hang out.

Rathcoole Youth Centre is to undergo development to create a new Area Youth Worker hub and refurbished facilities including Art Room, Kitchen, Training Room and Hairdressing Room.

Glengormley Youth Resource Centre will be redeveloped to include a new IT facility, Senior Area, Music Room and Sensory Room. Mill Green Youth Centre's redevelopment will include a new Games Hall, Senior Area and Art Room.

These improvements will be started by March 2019 and completed within the 2019-20 financial year.

DE Enabling Goal; Transforming Governance and Management of Non-Formal Education

Youth Advocacy Programme

The Youth Advocacy Programme (YAP) is available to young people aged 17+ who have been appointed to the EA Youth Service Local Advisory Group (LAG). The YAP provides Young People with the skills and confidence to take part fully in LAG meetings.

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.

7. Map of provision in Mid & East Antrim

