



Local Assesment of Need

2018 / 2020

Newry, Mourne & Down Division

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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 Senior 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, monitor and moderate provision, and represents the EA on strategic partnerships.

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

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

2. Policy Context

2.1 Introduction

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

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

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

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

2.2 Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021

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

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

The draft Programme for Government will require a significant change in approach from that used by previous administrations and a key feature is its dependence on collaborative

working between organisations and groups, whether in the public, voluntary or private sectors. Delivery of the Programme will encourage working across boundaries and focusing on the outcomes rather than traditional departmental lines.

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

2.3 A Fresh Start

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

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

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

2.4 Department of Education

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

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

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

2.5 Department of Education Business Plan

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

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

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

2.6 Priorities for Youth

Priorities for Youth, published in October 2013, clearly sets out the positive contribution that Youth Services can play in achieving the Department of Education's vision that every

young person can achieve to his or her full potential at each stage of his and her development.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Addendum identifies a range of key issues and actions for DE and education partners. In terms of resourcing CRED work in the youth sector, it notes that the Regional Youth

Development Plan will articulate how CRED related issues will be addressed. It also highlights that the Education Authority and other delivery organisations will take account of the particular needs of those of differing sexual orientation, racial groups and disability.

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

2.8 Shared Education

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.9 Rural Needs Act Northern Ireland 2016

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

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

2.10 DE Action Plan against Child Sexual Exploitation

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

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

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

3. Current Delivery

3.1 Introduction

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

3.2 Designated Area

The Newry, Mourne and Down Youth Office has oversight of youth services for the local government district of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.

The latest population estimates for the Newry, Mourne and Down area gave a population total of 177,816. These estimates also indicated that the region had a younger profile than that for Northern Ireland (NI) as a whole. It was estimated that had 33.9% of its population aged 25 and younger (32.1% in NI).

3.3 Youth Work Team

The Newry, Mourne and Down Youth Work Team consists of 2 Senior Youth Worker Team Leaders and 15 full-time youth workers, (9 in the statutory and 6 in the voluntary sector), responsible for the delivery of services in the area. There are 5 full time voluntary centres in the Newry, Mourne and Down Area. In addition, there are 3 controlled part time units and 99 registered units.

In addition to these youth clubs, Youth Work in the Newry, Mourne and Down area also operates on an accreditation programme basis or on a detached basis. Examples of these types of provision include Inclusion work with young people from Section 75 groups through the Inclusion Unit, Outdoor Learning facilitated by the Peripatetic Outdoor Learning Service, 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. Programmes have included, Leaders of Hope and Harmony (LOHAH) in Kilkeel, Newry City Film Project, Summer Splash in Warrenpoint, Gender Programmes in Ballymote, Downpatrick and Intervention projects addressing community issues in Killough.

The most recent figures reveal that almost 12,000 (11,964) young people in the Newry, Mourne and Down area participated in registered youth organisations.

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.

Other programmes and projects have been designed following the review of current research and thorough consultation with young people, Youth Workers and parents or guardians. Youth Service has delivered programmes which support the siblings of young cares, provided diversionary programmes in Ballymote and Killough, gender based programmes and programmes for BME young people across the area.

3.4 Generic and Targeted Youth Work

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

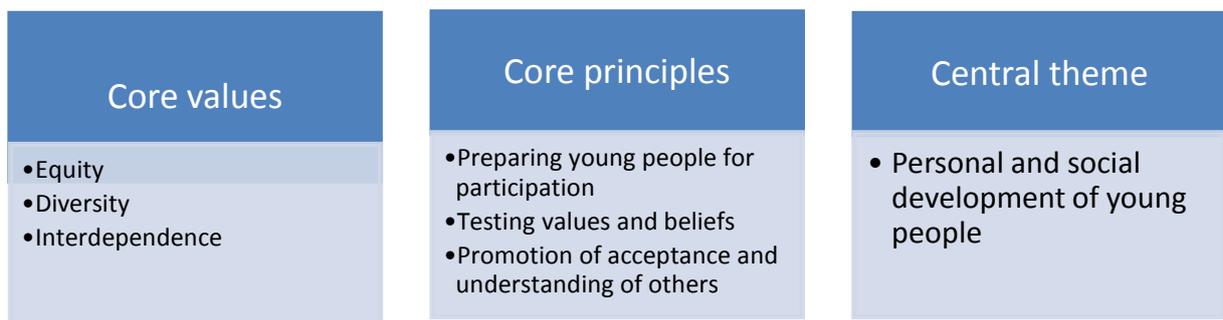
- Generalist youth provision ensures that supportive environments are made available to a significant proportion of young people throughout our communities. This allows them to enhance their personal skills, levels of motivation and general resilience and to help them to develop their ability to interact with other young people and adults.
- Targeted provision seeks to address the direct impact of exclusion and marginalisation, addressing key themes of work, such as risk-taking health behaviour, sectarianism and racism, disaffection and low levels of attainment in school, while also focusing resources on specific groups of young people that are most

marginalised, such as those young people in Section 75 groupings. Such targeting of provision is aimed at meeting policy imperatives and ensuring that Youth Services are positioned to tackle the impact of economic and social deprivation, particularly as such deprivation affects the ability of young people to make most of their life chances and general education.

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

3.5 Central Theme

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



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

- The focus for the age range 4-8 will be through general Youth Work provision linked to the Youth Work Curriculum
- For the age ranges 9-13 and 14-18 the focus will be on the provision of Youth Work activities, in line with the priority needs identified
- For the 16+ age range, the focus will be on programmes that provide access to leadership/training opportunities or apprenticeships. Young people should also have access to recognised and/or accredited programmes to volunteer either within units or in the wider community
- The focus for the age range 19-25 will be on issue based programmes or volunteering

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

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

3.6 Extended Provision

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

The following organisations are currently conducting Extended Provision programmes in this area. Full-time Youth Organisations; Magnet Young Adult Centre, Newry; Patrician Youth Centre, Downpatrick; St John Bosco Youth Centre, Newry; St Oliver Plunkett Youth Centre, Crossmaglen; and part-time youth organisation, JIMS Youth Centre, Kilkeel currently offer weekend and late night provision under the Extended Provision Scheme.

3.7 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 number of Inclusion projects have been delivered in Newry, Mourne and Down notably Inclusion in the City Disability Forum and the Base Project which works with young people whose siblings have a disability.

3.8 School Based Youth Work

Partnerships have been developed with a number of primary and post-primary schools in the Newry, Mourne and Down area. The EA Youth Service introduced a schools programme, 'Learning Together' in September 2014 in a number of schools in the Newry, Mourne and Down area. The Learning Together Programme has been developed with other educational support services and is delivered in partnership with teachers in schools. The programme offers young people, who may be at risk of low achievement and disaffection,

the opportunity to access supportive bespoke interventions within Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3, to help them make best use of their education and in Key Stage 4 to obtain a qualification equivalent to a GCSE grade B. These programmes are designed to break down the barriers that some young people may face to learning and achieving.

Currently the Learning Together KS3 and KS4 Programme operates in 3 schools in the Newry, Mourne and Down area, Newry High School, St Joseph's High School, Newry and St Mary's High School, Downpatrick.

3.9 Participation

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

The Youth Advocacy Programme (YAP) supports young people become involved in the LAG through a programme to enhance the personal capabilities of participants to advocate for their peers and represent young people at a Planning and Service delivery level and fully participate in the LAG process. Other participative structures such as Newry and Mourne Youth Council, Downpatrick Youth Council, Warrenpoint Youth Forum, a Disability Forum and South Armagh Youth Forum also exist in the council area.

3.10 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.

EA Youth Service is involved in a number of multi-disciplinary partnerships within the Newry, Mourne and Down area, most notably Community Planning with the Council as lead agency, Neighbourhood Renewal Areas in both Downpatrick and Newry and the Southern Outcomes group addressing identified targets.

At a strategic level the EA Youth Service also has representation on several multi-agency groups, including active involvement in the Peace 4 Partnership Board and the Police Community Safety Partnership in Newry, Mourne and Down council area.

4. Newry, Mourne & Down Needs Analysis

4.1 Methodology

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

Quantifying the needs of young people in Newry, Mourne and Down 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 Newry, Mourne & Down District Council was established on 1st April 2015. It is made up of the former Newry & Mourne and Down District Council areas.

The estimated population of Newry, Mourne and Down Local Government District at 30 June 2016 was 177,816, of which 88,112 (49.6%) were male and 89,704 (50.4%) were

female. One third of the total population of Newry, Mourne & Down Council, 60,337, (33.9%) are aged 25 years or under. (NI average 33.3%).

Table 2 – 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	12,871	13,234	11,586	11,795	10,851

Chart 1 – Projected Population 2016 – 2025

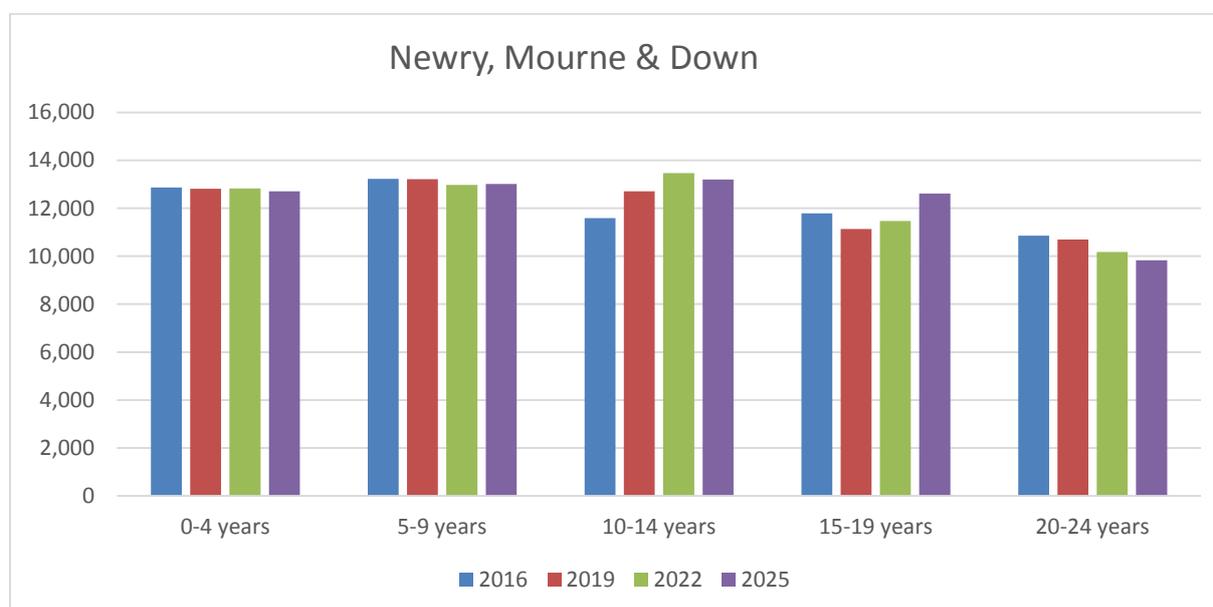


Table 3 – Projected Population 2016 – 2025

Age Groups	2016	2019	2022	2025
0-4 years	12,871	12,810	12,833	12,714
5-9 years	13,234	13,213	12,978	13,018
10-14 years	11,586	12,709	13,469	13,202
15-19 years	11,795	11,138	11,469	12,616
20-24 years	10,851	10,695	10,172	9,836

4.5 Deprivation

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

domains, or distinct types which in composite form is known as the Multiple Deprivation Measure. These are:

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

Within Northern Ireland significant numbers of young people live in areas of multiple deprivation as identified by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). Children and young people growing up in poverty have worse outcomes and life chances than those who do not. According to the Child Poverty Action Group, for young people poverty is not just about growing up in a low income household it is also about being denied good health, education and housing, basic self-esteem and the ability to participate in social activities.²

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

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

Table 4 below highlights the most recent NISRA statistics for Newry, Mourne and Down. It reveals that there are 14 Super Output Areas in Newry, Mourne and Down in the 25% most deprived (shaded red) and 41 in the 50% most deprived (shaded green).

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

Table 4: Super Output Areas

SOA	MDM Rank	SOA	MDM Rank	SOA	MDM Rank
Crossmaglen	57	Forkhill_1	249	Castlewellan_2	455
Drumgullion_1	70	Kilkeel Central_2	258	Derryboy_2	464
Creggan	72	Camlough	260	Burren and Kilbroney_1	473
Daisy Hill_2	75	Killough_2	261	Strangford	474
Murlough	89	Drumalane_2	279	Ballymaglave_2	475
Ballybot	93	Ballynahinch East	283	Kilkeel South_1	500
Silver Bridge_1	94	Spelga	284	Donaghmore_2	504
Forkhill_2	100	Shimna	295	Kilkeel Central_1	540
Cathedral_2	106	Ardglass_2	305	Drumgullion_2	551
Newtownhamilton	111	Dundrum	321	Derryleckagh_2	557
Kilkeel South_2	113	Tullyhappy	322	Mayobridge_2	587
Ballymote	115	Drumalane_1	326	Audley's Acre	599
St Patrick's_2	126	Donaghmore_1	334	Clonallan_2	619
Bessbrook	132	Binnian	335	Seaview_1	620
Clonallan_1	133	Lisnacree	336	Drumaness_2	629
Derrymore_1	147	Cathedral_1	352	Crossgar_2	660
Daisy Hill_1	171	Annalong_1	363	Burren and Kilbroney_2	663
Ardglass_1	176	Drumaness_1	364	Dunmore	666
Quoile_1	186	Windsor Hill_2	370	Crossgar_1	669
Annalong_2	187	Tollymore_2	372	Donard_2	671
St Mary's	207	Tollymore_1	375	Derryleckagh_1	686
Killough_1	217	Mayobridge_1	378	Kilmore_2	693
Silver Bridge_2	220	Killyleagh	381	Windsor Hill_1	710
Ballyward	233	Rostrevor	385	Derryboy_1	716
Castlewellan_1	235	Ballymaglave_1	396	Kilmore_1	735
Derrymore_2	237	St Patrick's_1	400	Quoile_2	761
Fathom	243	Seaforde	429	Saintfield_1	771
Seaview_2	244	Donard_1	442	Saintfield_2	781

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

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

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

Table 6: IDAC

SOA Name	IDAC Rank	SOA Name	IDAC Rank	SOA Name	IDAC Rank
Crossmaglen	10	Mayobridge_1	249	Bessbrook	460
Silver Bridge_1	15	Donaghmore_1	252	Derryleckagh_1	464
Drumgullion_1	25	St Mary's	253	Burren and Kilbroney_2	473
Creggan	26	Clonallan_2	257	Tollymore_1	474
Forkhill_2	29	Killough_2	260	Seaview_1	483
Silver Bridge_2	34	Dundrum	262	Ardglass_1	496
Tollymore_2	42	Lisnacree	263	Mayobridge_2	497
Newtownhamilton	50	Ballyward	271	Derryboy_2	505
Annalong_2	57	Rostrevor	277	Kilkeel Central_2	521
St Patrick's_2	77	Seaview_2	293	Castlewellan_2	537
Clonallan_1	81	Donaghmore_2	308	Dunmore	557
Spelga	86	Ardglass_2	316	Drumaness_2	565
Fathom	106	Daisy Hill_2	323	Crossgar_1	571
Annalong_1	110	Drumalane_1	325	Derryboy_1	573
Derrymore_1	118	Ballymaglave_2	335	Crossgar_2	577
Drumalane_2	134	Ballymaglave_1	343	Drumgullion_2	595
Murlough	138	Windsor Hill_2	347	St Patrick's_1	615
Derrymore_2	149	Ballymote	349	Kilkeel Central_1	618
Cathedral_2	162	Kilmore_2	354	Daisy Hill_1	638
Forkhill_1	164	Kilkeel South_1	356	Drumaness_1	642
Binnian	167	Kilmore_1	364	Donard_1	702
Kilkeel South_2	178	Saintfield_2	368	Cathedral_1	703
Killough_1	190	Donard_2	377	Windsor Hill_1	706
Ballynahinch East	201	Audley's Acre	384	Quoile_1	712
Camrough	211	Seaforde	397	Strangford	750
Tullyhappy	219	Burren and Kilbroney_1	405	Saintfield_1	822
Derryleckagh_2	230	Killyleagh	422	Castlewellan_1	827
Shimna	234	Ballybot	451	Quoile_2	843

Under the Government's People and Place strategy, 36 urban neighbourhoods across Northern Ireland have been designated as Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRAs). These communities are experiencing the highest levels of deprivation and are the focus of urban regeneration programmes. There are two NRAs within the Newry, Mourne and Down Council area. They are:

- **Newry** which covers 9 areas; 3 Ways, Ballybot, Barcroft, Carnagat, Derrybeg, Drumalane and Quayside Close, Greater Linenhall, Martin's Lane and Meadow and Armagh Road.
- **Downpatrick** which covers Flying Horse, Model , New Model, Kennedy Square, Marian Park, Meadowlands, Church Street , Mount Crescent and much of the town centre .

4.6 Education

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

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

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

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

A total of 9,622 (28.5%) of pupils in Newry, Mourne and down are eligible for Free School Meals. Although the national average of Free School Meals is 29.5% the table below indicates the schools with FSM percentage above the national average percentage. The schools highlighted represent the schools that the Youth Service currently work with.

Table 8: Free School Meal Entitlement, by post-primary school (2017/18)

De Ref.	School Name	School Type	Total Pupils	% Pupils Entitled to FSM
4410085	Down High School	Grammar	929	8.3%
4420086	Assumption Grammar School	Grammar	839	12.5%
5420060	Our Lady's Grammar School	Grammar	853	13.6%
5420059	Abbey Christian Brothers Grammar School	Grammar	885	14.1%
4420088	St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick	Grammar	680	14.3%
5420062	St Colman's College, Newry	Grammar	885	15.1%
5420076	Sacred Heart Grammar School, Newry	Grammar	843	15.5%
4210063	Saintfield High School	Non-grammar	376	19.4%
5210016	Kilkeel High School	Non-grammar	666	21.2%
5420045	St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel	Grammar	564	22.3%
5210025	Newtownhamilton High School	Non-grammar	187	22.5%
4210029	The High School Ballynahinch	Non-grammar	168	31.5%
4260281	Shimna Integrated College	Non-grammar	618	32.7%
4230161	St Colman's High School, Ballynahinch	Non-grammar	452	33.2%
5210186	Newry High School	Non-grammar	421	33.5%
4230102	St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar	Non-grammar	235	34.5%
5230135	St Mark's High School	Non-grammar	815	37.5%
4230211	St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan	Non-grammar	929	38.5%
5230157	St Paul's High School, Bessbrook	Non-grammar	1560	38.8%
4230224	De La Salle High School	Non-grammar	370	38.9%
4230023	St Mary's High School, Downpatrick	Non-grammar	411	40.1%
4260309	Blackwater Integrated College	Non-grammar	212	42.9%
5230108	St Mary's High School, Newry	Non-grammar	576	44.6%
5230167	St Joseph's High School, Crossmaglen	Non-grammar	615	48.0%
5230059	St Columban's College	Non-grammar	153	49.7%
5230056	St Joseph's Boys' High School, Newry	Non-grammar	346	50.3%

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

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

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

The combined Newry, Mourne and Down average is above the Northern Ireland average for GCSE achievement with English and Maths (81.3% (NI84.6%)) and without English and Maths (69.8% (NI 70.3%)). The following tables indicate the levels of achievement that are below the national average and in some schools significantly lower. The schools highlighted are the current schools the Youth Service deliver in the Newry, Mourne and Down area.

Tables 9 and 10 outline the number of school leavers in Newry, Mourne and Down achieving DE's expected standards of 5+ GCSEs A*-C and 5+ GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths. The tables outline the proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs in schools located within Newry, Mourne and Down for 2016/17 and for the two preceding years. The three year average percentage is shown for each school, listed in ascending order.

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

De Ref.	School Name	School Type	2016-17 % year 12 pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs grades A*-C (including equivalents)			3 Year Average
			2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	
5210186	Newry High School	Non-grammar	57.7	53.6	56.4	55.9
4210029	The High School Ballynahinch	Non-grammar	76.5	52.8	44.1	57.8
5230059	St Columban's College	Non-grammar	44.8	62.1	66.7	57.9
4230224	De La Salle High School	Non-grammar	52.5	63.9	64.8	60.4
4230102	St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar	Non-grammar	73.7	54.3	59.5	62.5
5230135	St Mark's High School	Non-grammar	57.6	76.6	57.7	64.0
4210063	Saintfield High School	Non-grammar	57.4	70.3	66.7	64.8
5210016	Kilkeel High School	Non-grammar	64.6	72.4	69.9	69.0
4260309	Blackwater Integrated College	Non-grammar	81.8	48.6	79.4	69.9
4260281	Shimna Integrated College	Non-grammar	67.1	72.3	73.1	70.8
4230211	St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan	Non-grammar	73.2	73.5	69.5	72.1
4230023	St Mary's High School, Downpatrick	Non-grammar	76.4	78.6	66.1	73.7
5230167	St Joseph's High School, Crossmaglen	Non-grammar	71.4	78.0	75.0	74.8
5230157	St Paul's High School, Bessbrook	Non-grammar	72.8	84.2	87.7	81.6
5230056	St Joseph's Boys' High School, Newry	Non-grammar	77.6	76.5	91.0	81.7
5210025	Newtownhamilton High School	Non-grammar	80.6	92.9	88.5	87.3
4230161	St Colman's High School, Ballynahinch	Non-grammar	81.6	93.3	90.7	88.5
5230108	St Mary's High School, Newry	Non-grammar	90.1	90.9	86.8	89.3
5420062	St Colman's College, Newry	Grammar	91.9	97.6	98.5	96.0
4420088	St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick	Grammar	93.8	96.9	99.0	96.6
5420045	St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel	Grammar	95.1	97.5	98.7	97.1
5420059	Abbey Christian Brothers Grammar School	Grammar	98.4	97.0	96.0	97.1
5420060	Our Lady's Grammar School	Grammar	98.4	100.0	99.2	99.2
5420076	Sacred Heart Grammar School, Newry	Grammar	98.4	99.2	100.0	99.2
4410085	Down High School	Grammar	100	99.2	99.2	99.5
4420086	Assumption Grammar School	Grammar	100	100.0	99.1	99.7

(Source: Summary of Annual Examination Results, DE)

Table 10 – Educational attainment: 5+ GCSE A*-C including English & Maths, (2016/17 and over three years)

De Ref.	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	
4210029	The High School Ballynahinch	Non-grammar	55.9	38.9	15.3	36.7
5210186	Newry High School	Non-grammar	30.8	46.4	40.0	39.1
4230224	De La Salle High School	Non-grammar	42.5	34.4	46.3	41.1
4230161	St Colman's High School, Ballynahinch	Non-grammar	28.9	30.0	65.1	41.3
4260309	Blackwater Integrated College	Non-grammar	54.5	22.9	50.0	42.5
5230059	St Columban's College	Non-grammar	37.9	41.4	50.0	43.1
5230056	St Joseph's Boys' High School, Newry	Non-grammar	59.2	33.3	40.3	44.3
4230211	St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan	Non-grammar	41.7	38.1	54.2	44.7
4230023	St Mary's High School, Downpatrick	Non-grammar	62.5	33.9	45.2	47.2
5230135	St Mark's High School	Non-grammar	52	56.2	37.7	48.6
4210063	Saintfield High School	Non-grammar	42.6	50.0	53.6	48.7
4260281	Shimna Integrated College	Non-grammar	44.3	53.0	52.6	50.0
5230167	St Joseph's High School, Crossmaglen	Non-grammar	67.5	37.4	53.8	52.9
4230102	St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar	Non-grammar	64.9	43.5	54.4	54.3
5210016	Kilkeel High School	Non-grammar	59.6	49.5	58.3	55.8
5230108	St Mary's High School, Newry	Non-grammar	57.7	62.5	56.6	58.9
5230157	St Paul's High School, Bessbrook	Non-grammar	57.4	64.4	67.5	63.1
5210025	Newtownhamilton High School	Non-grammar	72.2	78.6	65.4	72.1
4420088	St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick	Grammar	86.5	89.8	87.6	88.0
5420045	St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel	Grammar	84.1	91.3	91.0	88.8
5420062	St Colman's College, Newry	Grammar	82.3	96.0	95.6	91.3
5420059	Abbey Christian Brothers Grammar School	Grammar	94.5	93.9	93.5	94.0
5420060	Our Lady's Grammar School	Grammar	96.8	98.3	97.5	97.5
5420076	Sacred Heart Grammar School, Newry	Grammar	98.4	96.7	99.2	98.1
4420086	Assumption Grammar School	Grammar	100	100.0	96.6	98.9
4410085	Down High School	Grammar	100	98.4	98.5	99.0

(Source: Summary of Annual Examination Results, DE)

4.7 Special Educational Needs

Young people with Special Educational Needs are less likely to achieve DE’s key indicators of 5+ GCSEs A*-C and 5+ GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths. Table 11 highlights there were 7,049 Special Educational Needs Register within Newry, Mourne and Down.

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

Table 11: Special Educational Needs

LGD	Total enrolment	% Statemented pupils	% SEN (stages 1-4)	All SEN (Count)	% All SEN
Antrim and Newtownabbey	24513	2.60%	18.70%	5205	21.20%
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	39064	3.80%	14.00%	6974	17.90%
Belfast	54572	4.10%	24.70%	15754	28.90%
Causeway Coast and Glens	23317	3.60%	17.20%	4847	20.80%
Derry and Strabane	28328	3.60%	19.10%	6436	22.70%
Fermanagh and Omagh	21031	5.00%	20.50%	5358	25.50%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	23870	3.70%	15.50%	4580	19.20%
Mid and East Antrim	22001	2.40%	17.10%	4289	19.50%
Mid Ulster	28133	3.80%	14.60%	5188	18.40%
Newry, Mourne and Down	33787	4.70%	16.10%	7049	20.90%
North Down and Ards	24910	3.00%	17.00%	4983	20.00%
All Northern Ireland	323526	3.80%	18.10%	70663	21.80%

4.8 Newcomer Pupils

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

Recent figures reveal that there were 1,135 Newcomer pupils enrolled in primary and secondary schools in Newry, Mourne and Down. Newcomer young people are less likely to achieve DE’s key indicator, 5+ GCSE A*-C including English and Maths than their non-Newcomer peers.

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

Table 12: Newcomer Pupils, by LGD (2016/17)

	Pre-school, Nursery/Reception class	Primary School (Year 1-7)	Post primary	Special	All Newcomer Pupils
Antrim and Newtownabbey	110	630	95	5	845
Ards and North Down	40	220	55	5	325
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	240	1925	620	25	2810
Belfast	370	2050	490	40	2950
Causeway Coast and Glens	65	435	105	10	615
Derry and Strabane	45	290	80	5	420
Fermanagh and Omagh	85	550	160	0	790
Lisburn and Castlereagh	75	585	65	20	745
Mid and East Antrim	85	465	215	10	775
Mid Ulster	250	1760	440	10	2460
Newry, Mourne and Down	85	785	255	10	1135
All Northern Ireland	1460	9705	2645	140	13945

4.9 Access to Services

More than one third of young people from Northern Ireland live in communities that have been defined as rural. In Newry, Mourne and Down more than half of all young people live in rural areas. The table below indicates the breakdown of young people.

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

Table 13 - Number and Percentage of Young People Living in Rural Areas

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

4.10 Health

Health outcomes in Northern Ireland continue to improve thanks to advancements in medical knowledge, improved social conditions and investment in the healthcare system. However, these improvements mask a widening gap in health outcomes between the wealthiest and most deprived communities. Young people living in disadvantaged areas are more likely to endure health deprivation, disability or suffer mental health issues.

Health Deprivation and Disability Domain figures show that in Newry, Mourne and Down there are 19 Super Output Areas in the 25% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland for Health Deprivation and Disability and 46 Super Output Areas in the 50% most deprived areas for this domain, as the following table shows.

SOA	Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Rank	SOA2	Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Rank3
95NN04W1 - Ballymote	57	95VV08W1 - Creggan	415
95VV10S2 - Daisy Hill 2	75	95VV17S1 - Forkhill 1	437
95VV02W1 - Ballybot	80	95NN23S2 - Tollymore 2	440
95VV10S1 - Daisy Hill 1	83	95NN02W1 - Audley's Acre	449
95VV15S1 - Drumgullion 1	90	95NN23S1 - Tollymore 1	455
95NN17W1 - Murlough	114	95VV22W1 - Newtownhamilton	484
95NN07S2 - Cathedral 2	125	95VV26W1 - Spelga	485
95VV03W1 - Bessbrook	128	95VV16W1 - Fathom	487
95NN18S1 - Quoile 1	146	95NN20W1 - Seaforde	511
95NN07S1 - Cathedral 1	152	95VV19S1 - Kilkeel South 1	514
95VV28S2 - St Patrick's 2	154	95VV23W1 - Rostrevor	520
95VV19S2 - Kilkeel South 2	158	95VV20W1 - Lisnacree	525
95NN06S1 - Castlewellan 1	161	95VV21S1 - Mayobridge 1	552
95VV27W1 - St Mary's	188	95NN22W1 - Strangford	555
95NN01S1 - Ardglass 1	204	95NN09S2 - Derryboy 2	556
95VV07S1 - Clonallan 1	206	95VV18S1 - Kilkeel Central 1	570
95VV18S2 - Kilkeel Central 2	212	95VV11S1 - Derryleckagh 1	571
95VV12S1 - Derrymore 1	213	95NN08S1 - Crossgar 1	580

95VV12S2 - Derrymore 2	216	95VV01S1 - Annalong 1	590
95VV09W1 - Crossmaglen	229	95NN18S2 - Quoile 2	591
95VV30S2 - Windsor Hill 2	250	95NN19S1 - Saintfield 1	598
95VV24S2 - Seaview 2	257	95VV11S2 - Derryleckagh 2	607
95NN11S1 - Drumaness 1	258	95VV07S2 - Clonallan 2	610
95NN05W1 - Ballynahinch East	272	95FF02W1 - Ballyward	617
95VV01S2 - Annalong 2	288	95VV04W1 - Binnian	629
95NN14S1 - Killough 1	316	95NN11S2 - Drumaness 2	645
95VV14S1 - Drumalane 1	322	95VV13S1 - Donaghmore 1	647
95VV14S2 - Drumalane 2	323	95NN10S2 - Donard 2	652
95NN10S1 - Donard 1	326	95UU99C5 - Glенаan and Glendun	653
95NN03S1 - Ballymaglave 1	344	95VV13S2 - Donaghmore 2	654
95VV15S2 - Drumgullion 2	347	95VV24S1 - Seaview 1	663
95UU99C6 - Glentaisie and Kinbane	350	95VV25S2 - Silver Bridge 2	664
95VV06W1 - Camlough	364	95NN13W1 - Dunmore	677
95NN03S2 - Ballymaglave 2	365	95VV21S2 - Mayobridge 2	696
95NN21W1 - Shimna	368	95VV30S1 - Windsor Hill 1	698
95NN01S2 - Ardglass 2	372	95VV29W1 - Tullyhappy	712
95NN12W1 - Dundrum	376	95NN08S2 - Crossgar 2	720
95VV28S1 - St Patrick's 1	377	95VV05S1 - Burren and Kilbroney 1	726
95VV25S1 - Silver Bridge 1	380	95NN16S2 - Kilmore 2	820
95NN06S2 - Castlewellan 2	382	95VV05S2 - Burren and Kilbroney 2	823
95VV17S2 - Forkhill 2	395	95NN09S1 - Derryboy 1	835
95NN14S2 - Killough 2	401	95NN19S2 - Saintfield 2	837
95NN15W1 - Killyleagh	407	95NN16S1 - Kilmore 1	839

4.11 Stakeholder Engagement

A Northern Ireland wide consultation, as part of the Regional Assessment of Need (RAON) process, with young people, youth workers and parents and guardians was carried out in September 2017 and was published in an Addendum in November 2017. The consultation collected information from key stakeholders about the issues for young people in the 9-13 age band and 14-25 age band and from the information provided deduced the possibilities for types of youth provision young people and youth providers would like to see developed to best address these needs. Respondents were young people engaged in youth service provision, unattached young people, youth workers and parents and guardians of young people who attended provision.

434 young people aged 9 – 13 and 542 young people aged 14 - 25 from Newry, Mourne and Down responded to the survey. Approximately 62% of respondents aged 9–13 were currently engaged in youth service provision while 41% of 14 -25 respondents were engaged in youth services, with over 90% of the 14–25 respondents being between 14 and 18.

As well as the RAON process, youth workers and parents were also consulted directly and their findings correlated with those of the Regional Assessment of Need.

Young people aged 9–13 years old

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

Northern Ireland – Young people 9 to 13 years old

1. Bullying
2. Racism
3. Mental Health
4. Body Image
5. Lack of Confidence
6. Physical Health

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

Northern Ireland – 9 to 13 years old

1. Sport
2. Outdoor Education
3. Residentials
4. Weekend Opening
5. Late Night Opening
6. Art

Sport is the most preferred type of activity chosen by young people aged 9 -13 across Northern Ireland to address youth issues. Outdoor education residentials and art were also in the top six responses. It was also interesting to note that young people in this age group also considered extended youth provision as a means to address the main issues identified.

Young people 14 – 25 years old

The consultation survey, although Northern Ireland based, broke down the figures, for 14 - 25 year olds, on a Council by Council basis giving a very clear sight of the issues identified by young people in their Council area. The top six issues emerging for the 14-25 age range from the needs assessment were as follows:

Newry, Mourne and Down – 14 to 25 years old

1. Suicide
2. Body Image
3. Mental health
4. Lack of confidence
5. Bullying
6. Preparation for work

It is apparent from the issues identified that in general mental health is a major issue for young people aged 14 -25 in the Newry, Mourne and Down area. It would suggest that there would need to be a major push to deliver health and well-being programmes across the area.

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

Newry, Mourne and Down – 14 to 25 years old

1. Life Skills Programmes
2. Qualifications
3. Awareness Raising
4. Sport
5. Residentials
6. Careers/Employment Programmes

Youth Workers

In addition to the consultations with young people a survey was carried out with youth workers across Northern Ireland. In Newry, Mourne and Down 22 youth work staff and volunteers completed the survey (all from the voluntary sector). It should be noted that it would not be possible to interpret this accurately due to the small number of respondents. Youth workers identified that the top six issues they perceive affecting young people in Newry, Mourne and Down were as follows:

Newry, Mourne and Down – Youth Workers

1. Mental health
2. Confidence
3. Bullying
4. Drugs/Legal highs
5. Alcohol
6. Boredom

Interestingly some of these issues have not been identified as top issues by young people in their consultation. For example in Newry, Mourne and Down, youth workers identified alcohol, drugs and legal highs and sexual health as being one of the top six issues for young people yet young people did not rank these as within their top 6 priority issues.

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

1. Personal and Social Development Programmes
2. Outdoor Education
3. Community Relations
4. Awareness raising
5. Residentials
6. Peer Education

As previously stated the number of youth worker respondents is not significant enough to extrapolate and make general statements representative of all youth workers but those opinions should still be considered.

As part of the survey youth workers were asked about how youth provision could be improved in their area of work. The responses from across Newry, Mourne and Down were as follows:

1. More activities
2. More programmes
3. More community relations
4. More peer education
5. More qualifications

Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians of young people who attend youth service provision were also as part of the needs assessment consultation. A total of 862 parents and guardians in Northern Ireland responded on the LGD area where they live and the frequency with which the young people in their care attend a youth centre or project.

Please note that there are insufficient numbers in some LGD areas for the results to be fully meaningful when analysed by LGD area.

Newry, Mourne and Down – Parents and Guardians

Only 26 parents and guardians in the Newry Mourne and Down Area responded to the survey and previous health warnings apply as to the significance of the findings based on the data from a minimal respondent base.

75% of young people in the Newry, Mourne and Down Council area, according to the parents who responded, generally attend a youth centre/project either several times or at least once a week. 21% attend approximately once a month with the remaining 4% once a fortnight.

More significant really are the satisfaction ratings of the parents and guardians. There are high satisfaction ratings for enjoyment while participating, benefitting from participation, responding to concerns and provision of appropriate information. However parents and guardians have identified less than 50% satisfaction with communication from EA staff and the opportunities open to young people and 40% satisfaction with the range of activities on offer.

Based on these limited responses from parents and guardians it would appear that there is a need to consider broadening the range of activities and projects on offer and to improve communication with parents and guardians in relation to the operation and arrangements related to the delivery of youth work in the Newry, Mourne and Down Council area.

Summary of the Evidence

Some key data to note regarding needs of young people in the Newry, Mourne and Down Division are noted below:

- Just over 18% of the population in Newry, Mourne and Down aged between 4 and 25 years live in the top 25% of most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) in Northern Ireland
- Over 54% of young people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in rural areas
- 28.5% of pupils in Newry, Mourne and Down are entitled to free school meals
- There are 1,135 newcomer pupils at schools in Newry, Mourne and Down
- 10% of SOAs in Newry, Mourne and Down are within the most 100 most deprived SOAs measured by Multiple Deprivation Measures (MDM)
- 14% of SOAs in Newry, Mourne and Down are within the most 100 most deprived SOAs measured by Income Domain Affecting Children
- SOAs ranked 1,2,3 and 5 of the 100 most deprived SOAs measured by Income Domain are located in Newry, Mourne and Down
- Almost 2/3 of the of SOAs in Newry, Mourne and Down are within the 50% most deprived SOAs measured by Income Domain Affecting Children

Review and recommendations

DE 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 crucial given that DE funded Youth Work in Newry, Mourne and Down must be set within the context of the policy and in particular, the prioritised age ranges, priority groups and a clear definition of the need for targeted interventions, along with non-targeted provision that is assessed as needed.

The EA Regional Assessment of Need (RAoN) and the subsequent Draft Addendum published in November 2017 have been instrumental in identifying the information provided in this document. Additionally young people and youth workers have been active locally to provide further information which supports these findings and identifies further needs to be addressed.

A range of quantitative and qualitative research methods have been used and the EA Youth Service has endeavoured to use the most up to date data and statistics from a range of government and statutory sources.

A thorough assessment of need is an essential feature in informing the prioritisation of programmes and targeting of resources. The analysis of the information helps to ensure that appropriate service priorities are established and that support is given to the most essential programmes required to meet organisational goals and service objectives. Formal

needs assessment, together with effective, on-going monitoring and evaluation, ensures that not only are current models of delivery reviewed, but that emerging needs and new policy directions are adequately considered and responded to.

The key age bands for intervention work should be the 9-13 and 14-18 age ranges in line with Priorities for Youth Policy however there needs to be a focus on the recruitment and the retention of young people across these key age bands.

Educational underachievement should remain a key focus of EA funded youth provision and opportunities for young people to build confidence, develop skills to help them remain engaged in the education sector and/or gain employment.

The delivery of the Learning Together Programme in identified schools should remain a priority however the review of partner schools has been carried out and a new partnership formed based on evidenced need. The 2 schools currently involved in the LTP remain involved in this programme.

In relation to evening provision, the youth service will have target delivery of accredited programmes that will support young people to gain qualifications which will aid with their CVs and help them with their chosen career choices.

Given the very rural nature of the Division it is essential that young people in rural communities have access to services, either by the delivery of programmes or projects in the most isolated areas or access to programmes or projects within reasonable distances or by the provision of access to projects and programmes at times suitable to young people.

Young people in those areas where they are affected by low income or lack of resources need also be assisted to access services offered by the YS. This again may be by local delivery or by the provision of transport, suitable times or in conjunction with local partners.

Programmes that target those groups and young people who do not traditionally attend youth groups/projects need to be offered, particularly those young people and groups who are vulnerable, i.e., travellers; LGBT; newcomer young people etc.

Additionally, taking into consideration the Addendum to the RAO, young people clearly identified the need for Health and Wellbeing programmes, Personal and Social Development programmes, youth club extended opening, accredited programmes and other interventions to address the issues they identified.

Youth workers clearly identified issues around mental health, personal and social development and alcohol and legal highs usage for young people and they suggested PSD programmes, awareness raising programmes and Outdoor Education as a means to addressing these issues.

Although the response from parents and guardians from the Newry, Mourne and Down area was relatively small in number, their comments were quite insightful and useful. They were highly satisfied with the enjoyment and benefits their children gained while participating, the appropriateness of information provided and any response to their concerns, they did however identify less than 50% satisfaction with the **opportunities** on offer and the communication from EA staff and 40% satisfaction with the range of activities on offer.

There is a need to consider how parents and guardians are communicated with and review the range of activities on offer with a view to broadening the range of activities and programmes available to young people.

There are many significant challenges ahead for the delivery of youth services during the period from 2018 to 2020. Addressing the needs of young people will require new and effective partnerships to be developed, investment in young people, recruitment of new members of staff and volunteers and support and development of the existing workforce. There exist opportunities for new partnerships to be established to address new or emerging needs within the community.

5. Priority Areas for Action

Areas for Action

Areas for Action arising from the objective assessment of needs across the council area and consideration of stakeholder views, the Education Authority Youth Service is proposing to take forward the following areas for action within the Newry, Mourne and Down Division. The areas for action are grouped under the Department of Education's core objectives and a summary is provided on pages 54 and 55.

DE Priority: Raising Standards for All

Generic Youth Work/support to voluntary groups:

The average participation rate for Youth Services across Northern Ireland currently stands at 27.8%. In Newry, Mourne and Down participation rates are below average at 22.9%, indicating that there is a need to increase the involvement of young people in Youth Service provision in the area. However, Youth Service participation rates have been maintained in the area, identifying the demand for Youth Services and highlighting the need to provide effective responses in terms of both generic and targeted youth provision in the area.

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

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

Allocation of staff/resources:

Key resources will be allocated to those Super Output Areas in the top 25% areas of Multiple Deprivation within the area to ensure that young people most in need will have increased access to youth provision. There is a need for further youth service development in all of the areas identified below, which are consistently identified as some of the most deprived in Northern Ireland. Those SOAs ranked in the 25% most deprived include; Crossmaglen, Drumgullion, Creggan, Daisy Hill 1 & 2, Murlough, Ballybot, Silver Bridge, Forkhill, Cathedral, Newtownhamilton, Kilkeel South, Ballymote, St Patrick's, Bessbrook, Clonallan, Derrymore, and Ardglass.

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

Quality Assurance/measurement of youth work programme

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

Public Relations

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Health and Wellbeing

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

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

Addressing health issues such as 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 the Newry, Mourne and Down area will develop additional programmes and activities around exam stress, healthy eating, body image and mental health to counter the challenges facing young people today.

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

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

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

to a positive impact on the educational achievements of young people living in areas of deprivation.

The EA Youth Service has developed in partnership with the Public Health Agency an innovative support youth service for young people, experiencing poor mental health. The

programme, Facilitating Life and Resilience Education (FLARE), 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.

Access to services

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

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

CRED

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

Racism was highlighted as an issue for young people through research in the Newry, Mourne and Down area which 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 Controlled Youth Workers through their CDA/SLA.

Inclusive Youth Work

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

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

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

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

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

Positive Behaviour

The Newry, Mourne and Down area figures show above average numbers of young people referred to Youth Justice. A partnership agreement is in place with the Youth Justice Agency to support the inclusion of young people involved in Youth Justice to Youth Services across the area.

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

Participation

Many young people engaging in youth services express their interest in actively participating in decision making. The current Youth Councils that operate in Newry, Mourne and Down are extremely active groups, participating in many consultations with Youth Service and other Statutory Partners and signing a partnership agreement with Newry, Mourne and Down Council. Both Down and Newry and Mourne Youth Council have been involved in organising and facilitating workshops to consult on community planning.

Participation will continue to be a key priority for the Youth Service Team with resources and support from a dedicated worker to ensure that Youth Councils are sustained and Rural Youth Forums are maintained, or developed in the rural areas to ensure representation geographically. There will be a continued focus on broadening the membership to include young people from marginalised backgrounds and from Section 75 groups in order to ensure true representation.

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

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

Raising Aspirations

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

Outdoor Learning

The Education Authority has completed a review and public consultation on its residential and outdoor education services, and is now undertaking the transformation of the newly named "Outdoor Learning Service" (OLS). The 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.

Extended Opening Hours

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

The Scheme provided resources for extended late night opening on Friday; and/or opening on Saturday and/or Sunday nights, as well as opening on evenings when the youth clubs would be normally unavailable and during school holidays. Over 1400 young people engaged with the Extended Provision programmes in 5 youth organisations (4 full-time and 1 part-time). These programmes were available in Newry, Downpatrick, Crossmaglen and Killeel.

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

EA Youth Service aims to maintain the extended provision programmes in the 5 youth organisations currently providing this worthwhile service.

DE Enabling Goal; Developing the Education Workforce

Leadership and Volunteering

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

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

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

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

Adult Volunteers

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

Workforce Development

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

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

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

DE Enabling Goal; Improving the Learning Environment

Facility Management

Effective youth work is facilitated by the provision of safe and youth friendly environments. Funding allocated to capital programmes in recent years has seen the development of Newry Youth Resource Centre.

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

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

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

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

Capital Development

There is potential in the Downpatrick area for the development of a Youth Resource facility which would offer a dedicated office space for staff based in the area, access to resources and access to training facilities for developmental youth work with young people and training for volunteers and part-time staff.

This facility would provide the ideal facility for the development of the local Youth Council, the provision of modern up to date training rooms and a sophisticated environment attractive to young people and the community and which would project an outward vibrant image of the Youth Service in the Downpatrick area

DE Enabling Goal; Transforming Education Management

Youth Advocacy Programme

To further support the enhanced engagement of young people, Youth Service staff in the Newry, Mourne and Down Division developed a capacity-building programme aimed at enabling participants to be actively involved in the Local Advisory group (LAG) by researching peer opinion and advocating on behalf of young people in the area. The

programme has engaged 14 participants, aged 17-21, representing a cross-section of the community and involving both users of the Youth Service and non-users. The young people have committed to full participation in the two years of the programme and demonstrate a keen interest in advocating on behalf of others.

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

Securing External Funding

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

£414,000 has also been approved by SEUPB through the Peace IV, Beyond Tolerance programme to fund a Partner Delivery Project with Newry, Mourne and Down Council to develop Community Relations Programmes across the area over the next two years.

Summary Areas for Action

Raising standards for all:

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

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

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

Enhancing the quality of teaching by developing the workforce

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

Improving the Learning Environment:

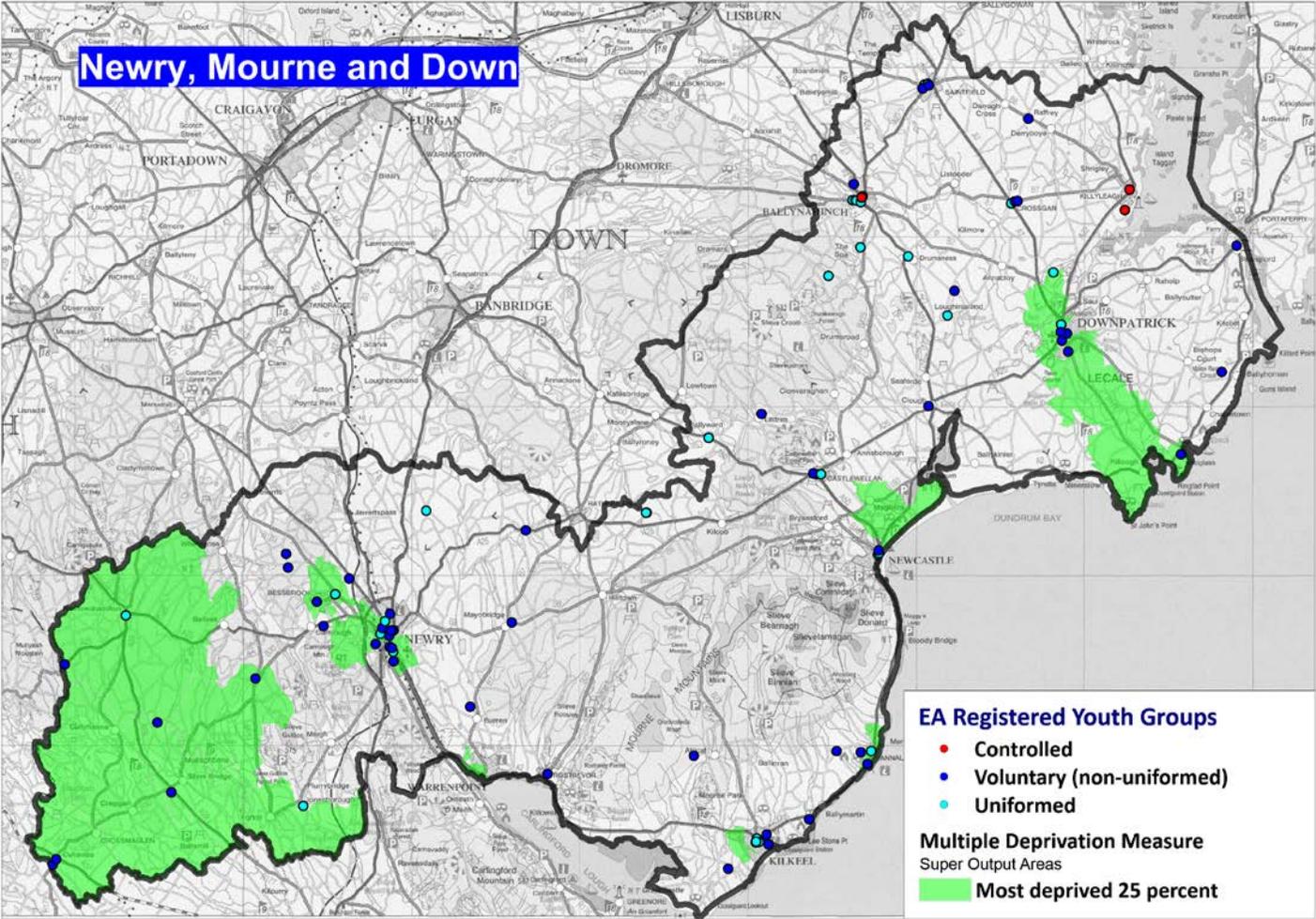
- To ensure that all Youth Service provision operates to accepted standards of Child Protection.

- To establish appropriate risk management and controls within controlled provision.
- To develop capital projects and appropriate maintenance programmes to ensure that the Education Authority estate is fit for purpose.

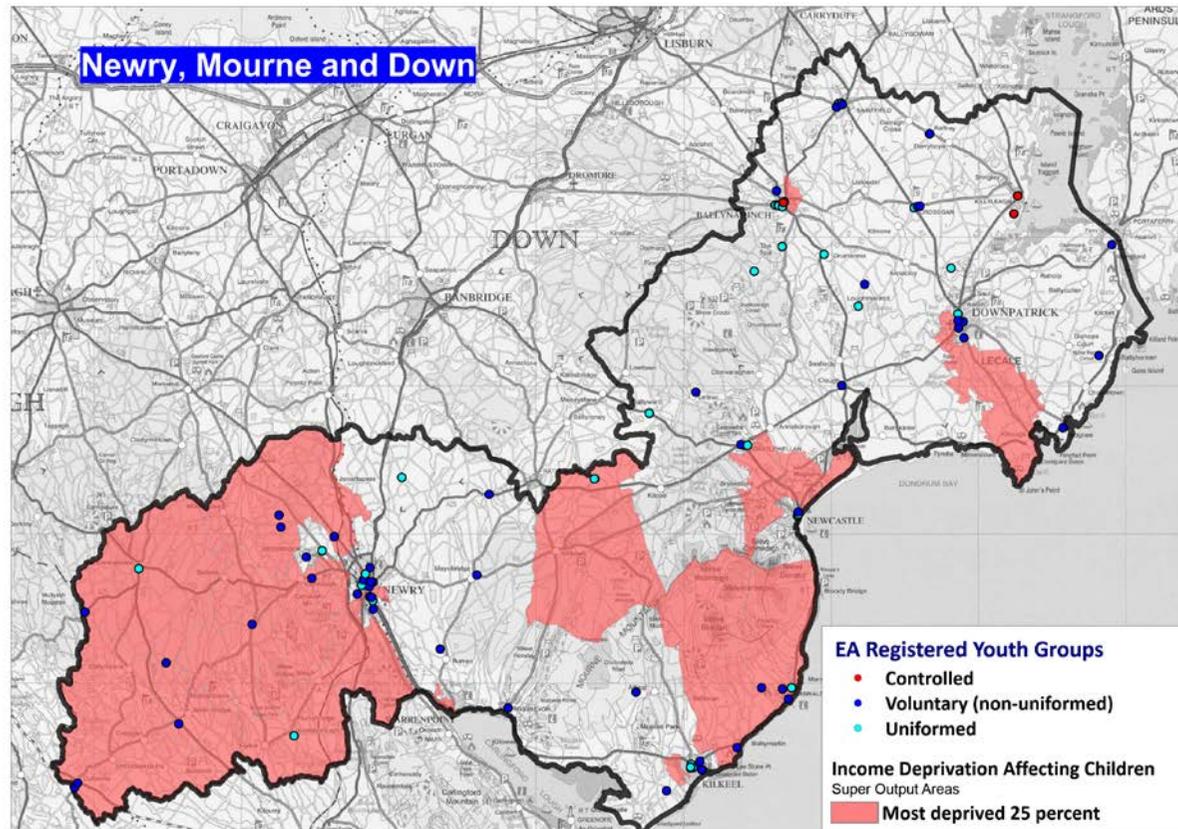
Transforming Education Management:

- The Local Advisory Group is established and operational in area.
- To ensure the maintenance and development of a range of participative opportunities, including Youth Councils, Youth Forums and the Youth Advocacy Programme for young people, to become involved in the management of youth services and advocacy on behalf of their peers.
- To secure additional funding to enhance the services offered to young people.
- Education Authority Youth Service practice will seek to be flexible and responsive to emerging needs and new policy direction during the life of this Plan.

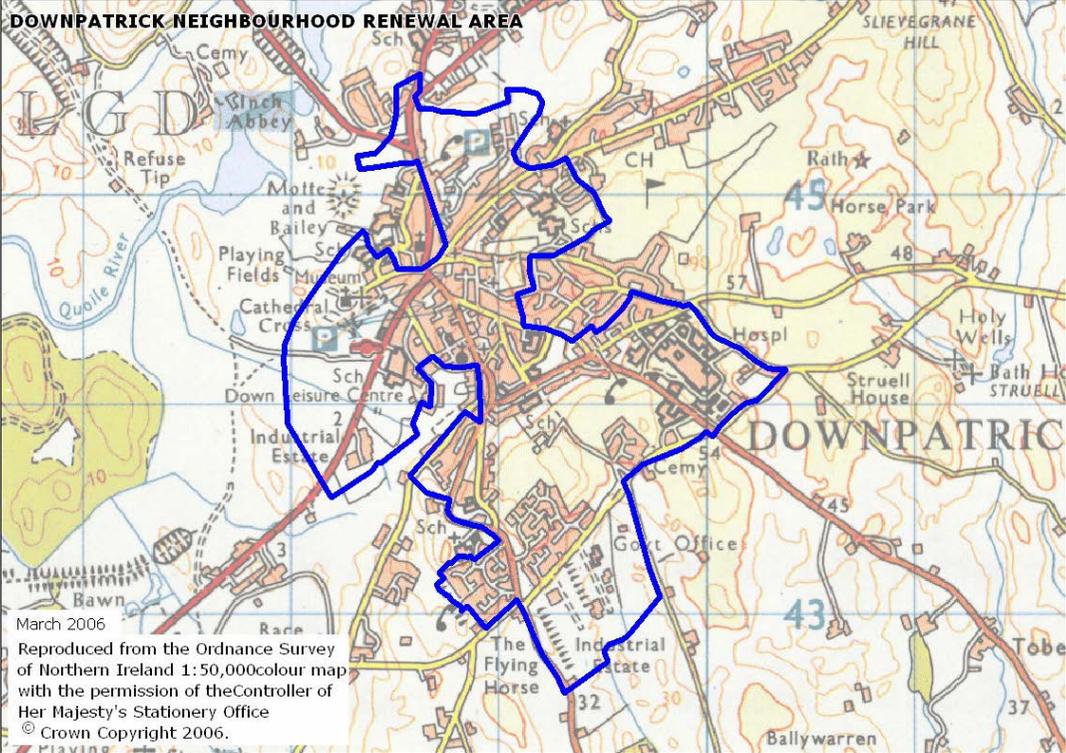
Appendix (i) – EA Registered Youth Groups in Newry, Mourne and Down Division



Appendix (ii) - Income Deprivation Affecting Children in Newry, Mourne & Down Division



Appendix (iii) - Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal Area



Appendix (iv) - Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Area

