

Outreach and Detached Engagement Framework - Guidance Notes

Background - The Engagement Framework

The Engagement Framework was launched in January 2017. It describes four categories of engagement in youth work, from 'Contact' to 'Maximising Potential' for use by all locally registered youth groups. It supports the assigning of children and young people registered as members into one of four categories based on their engagement with the youth service over an annual monitoring period.

The Engagement Framework is an outworking of the Department of Education's Priorities for Youth policy and provides a tool for all EA registered youth work to capture the outcomes of youth work. During the first year of application it was identified that in addition to this Engagement Framework a separate framework would be required to meet the needs of outreach¹ and detached youth work².

The Outreached and Detached Engagement Framework

The Outreach and Detached Engagement Framework is set out on page three. It has been developed for use in recording the engagement of children/young people in detached and outreach youth work activities, and primarily those not registered as a member of your provision and, therefore, unable to be assigned to a category within the established Engagement Framework.

Categories of Engagement

The Outreach and Detached Engagement Framework describes three categories of engagement: 'in Conversation', 'Developing Contact' and 'Referral'. These categories relate solely to the outreach and detached context and provide the primary tool to assign each child or young person you work with through outreach and detached youth work to their most appropriate category based on his or her engagement over the past year.

¹ Detached Youth Work is a model of youth work practice, targeted at vulnerable young people, which takes place on young people's own territory (such as streets, cafes, parks, and pubs) and at times that are appropriate to them on their terms. It is characterised by purposeful interaction between youth worker and young people.

² Outreach Youth Work can and does generally take place on young people's own territory; although it can also include work in existing youth facilities, educational institutions, and commercial settings. It is characterised by purposeful interaction between youth worker and young people and involves contact, information giving and the invitation to join an existing or proposed youth programmes and other services based on the assessed needs of the young people.

Indicators of Engagement

The indicators of engagement are set out under three headings:

- Intensity and commitment of engagement,
- Distance travelled for children and young people, and
- Children and young people’s influence on decision making.

How to Use the Outreach and Detached Framework

Looking back over the past year, you are asked to assign each child/young person you work with to the most appropriate category, based on his/her engagement in your outreach or detached work/project. We strongly recommend you complete the Outreach and Detached Engagement Framework with the team of staff involved in the delivery of this provision. Starting with a list of all the outreach and detached youth work you have delivered over the past year undertake the following;

- For the *In Conversation* stage tally the total number of children or young people you engaged in your outreach or detached work through conversation. This will total the overall numbers you have been *in conversation* with and will also be the overall total number of children and young people involved in your detached or outreach work/project.
- For the *Developing Contact* stage tally the total number of children and young people engaged in 4 or more contact meetings/sessions. These numbers will already be included in your *In Conversation* stage.
- For the *Referral* stage tally the number of children and young people from your *In Conversation* stage whom you have referred to another service or provision. These may already have been included in the *Developing Contact* stage also.

Outreach/Detached Engagement category	Total Numbers Engaged
In conversation	
From the total numbers included the <i>In Conversation</i> stage above please detail the numbers involved in;	
Developing contact	
Referral	

Including these categories as part of nightly record sheets will assist this process.

Outreach and Detached Engagement Framework

		Indicators of Engagement		
		Intensity and commitment of engagement	Distance travelled for children and young people	Children and young people's influence in decision making
Categories of Engagement	in conversation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engages in purposeful conversations with outreach/detached youth worker. Typically 1-3 contact meetings within the outreach/detached setting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced Personal Capabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes personal decisions on participation in purposeful conversations with the outreach/detached youth worker.
	developing contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engages in, short term, personal and social development activities within the outreach/detached setting. Typically 4 or more contact meetings/sessions within the detached setting or participation on a project within the outreach setting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced Personal Capabilities Improved Health and Well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes personal decisions to participate in short-term outreach and detached activities based on relationship building and needs assessment.
	referral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs assessment based on contact within the outreach/detached setting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced Personal Capabilities Improved Health and Well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes personal decisions to participate in referral activities based on needs assessment.