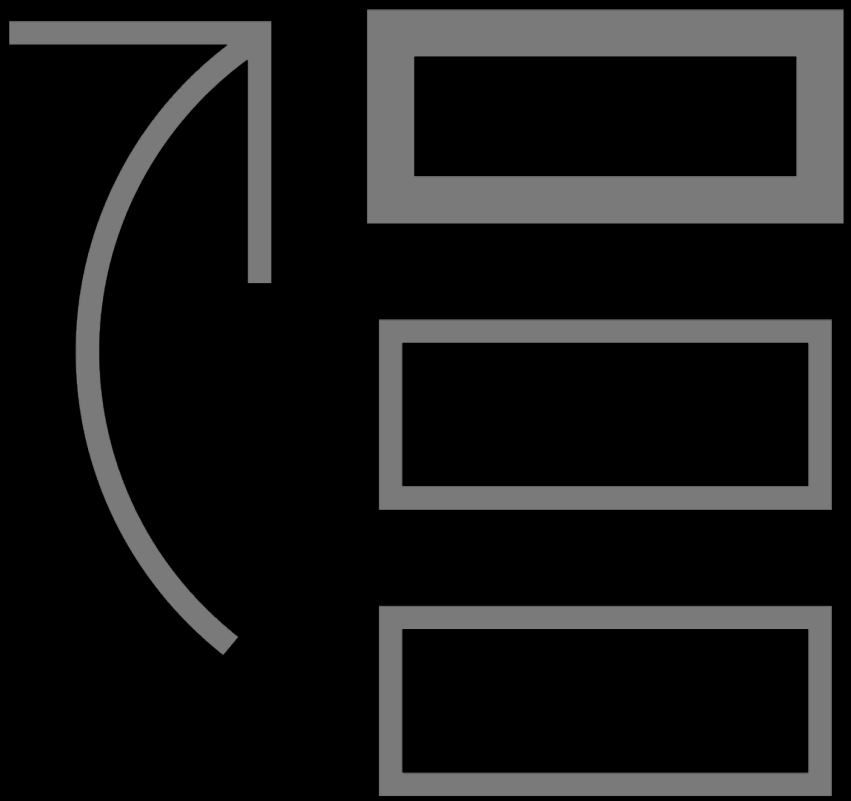
Year 1 of 3

Regional Action Plan 2026-2027



Education Authority | Youth Service

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Introduction & background

to the 2026-2027 Regional Action Plan

The Education Authority (EA) Youth Service Regional Action Plan for 2026-2027 is based on the Strategic intent of the three-year Regional Youth Development Plan 2026-2029. The Regional Action plan outlines the key actions and steps over the one-year period that will enable the Education Authority Youth Service to achieve its vision.

Identified through the Regional Development Plan were nine headline goals (page 7) underpinned by four strategic themes (page 6) for youth services. These themes and goals are the drivers for the actions in 2026-2027.

In line with the public health model, the stretch goal for the youth service delivery is outlined on page 8. This illustrates how the delivery of youth services both regionally and locally will be facilitated through a mixed funding model to achieve the maximum outcomes for children and young people.

This action plan focuses on providing the support and enablers for the youth service to deliver on its stretch goal. In addition to the Regional Action Plan, each local council area will have a three-year Local Youth Development Plan and Annual Action Plans, that will address the bespoke needs of children and young people, in line with the strategic themes and the needs of children and young people in their local area.

More detailed information and support materials related to Assessment of Need, Legislative and Policy Context, Research and Planning is available online here.

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Strategic Themes

for Youth Services in the 2026-2029 planning period

Underpinned by the findings in the Regional Assessment of Need 2026-2029, the Regional Youth Development Plan 2026-2029 identified the following four key themes to determine the planning and delivery of youth services for this period. These themes are the core reference point for the development of the Regional Action Plan, and as such, the plan will be presented aligned to these themes.

Child and Young Person Centred

Through a rights-based approach the planning and delivery of youth services will be based on the needs identified by children and young people, including feedback to children and young people on how we used the information they have provided to inform our decisions.

Delivering Services Based on Need and through Partnership

The delivery of youth services will be based on the needs of children and young people through existing statutory youth provision and through grant aid assistance to the community and voluntary sector. This includes through partnership and collaboration when it improves the outcomes for children and young people.

Evidence Informed

We will collect only what we need to inform the benefits and impact of youth work delivery in the lives of children and young people. We will engage in academic research to further provide evidence informed approaches to the impact, planning, and delivery of services with a focus on reducing bureaucracy and administration in the delivery of youth work.

Empowering All our Staff

We will ensure all those delivering youth work have the curriculum resources and skills to meet the needs of our children and young people accessing youth services.

Development Plan Goals

for Youth Services in the 2026-2029 planning period

Based on the themes and the identified needs through the Regional Assessment of Need 2026, the Regional Youth Development Plan has nine established headline goals to drive annual action planning for this period. The annual action plan will outline specific actions in the 2026-2027 period, in a stepped-out approach, to achieve progress against these goals and the vision.

Strategic Theme:	Headline Goal:
Child and Young Person Centred	Implementation of a process that constantly and consistently seeks the views of children and young people to inform the planning and delivery of youth services on a quarterly basis
	Based on the views of children and young people, review and update annual action plans quarterly, based on the changing assessed needs of children and young people
Delivering Services Based on Need and through Partnership	Based on available resources secure adequate, accessible universal youth provision for all children and young people to provide open access at the right time and in the right place
	Based on available resources (Youth Service funding and other earmarked funding) provide early intervention and prevention programmes based on the assessed needs of children and young people
	Develop and deliver, in partnership with other agencies and government departments, enhanced support for children and young people based on their assessed needs.
Evidence Informed	Implementation of a Benefits Realisation Framework for Youth Work with established indicators to reduce bureaucracy and administration linked to reporting on delivery
	Implementation of a programme of academic research to evaluate and measure the impact of universal, early intervention/prevention and enhanced youth work support for children and young people
Empowering All our Staff	Focus on developing the volunteer workforce in line with the Education Authority Youth Work Volunteer Strategy 2023-2029 to increase recruitment, improve retention and recognise and celebrate the role of volunteers
	Implementation of a Youth Service Workforce Development Strategy that effectively provides curriculum resources and builds the capacity of workforce to meet the ongoing needs of our children and young people through universal, early intervention/prevention and enhanced support programmes

Stretch Goal for Youth Services

STRETCH GOAL UNDERPINNED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH MODEL

Universal (Essential Goal)	Early Intervention & Prevention (Desirable Goal)	Enhanced Support (The Stretch Goal)
What is it?		
Providing **open access youth provision** that provides **safe and welcoming space** for all our children and young people.	Providing ongoing **thematic based group work programmes and projects** to address the **root causes impacting the needs** of children and young people.	Providing **targeted interventions** to address the **acute needs** of children and young people **in partnership** with other agencies to meet the needs of children and young people.
How will we do it?		
• Providing adequate universal youth provision for children and young people, ensuring that statutory and voluntary youth services are funded to prioritise the needs of children and young people who access them • Services are provided at the right times, in the right places based on what children and young people need • Services are informed with the participation of children and young people • Supporting children and young people who need early intervention/prevention to access programmes • Services are equipped with the resources to deliver a quality open access youth work programme of offer • Capacity of staff is supported to meet the needs of children and young people presented through universal provision	• Providing resources (curriculum, training and funding) to facilitate youth work programmes prioritised against assessed need through formal and informal settings • Supporting families, formal education and communities to support the needs of the young person • Services are informed with the participation of children and young people • Supporting children and young people who need it to access enhanced support or engage in universal support • Services are equipped with the resources to deliver quality early intervention and prevention programmes/projects • Capacity of staff is supported to meet the needs through the delivery of early intervention and prevention programmes/projects	• Providing resources (curriculum, training and funding) to facilitate enhanced professional development • Working with partners and agencies to deliver bespoke support services at an individual and group level • Supporting young people to attend specialist support services • Reintegrating young people into appropriate youth work opportunities • Reconnecting young people within their family, formal education and community • Supporting children and young people to progress through early intervention and prevention programmes or connect with universal support

Universal	Early Intervention & Prevention	Enhanced Support
How will we resource it?		
Focused use of the Department of Education Allocated Funding for Youth Work to the Education Authority	Mixed funding model approach using the Department of Education Funding for Youth Work and other Earmarked Funding aligned to the theme	Focused use of other earmarked funding supporting the delivery of youth work
The Benefits		
Children and Young People will have: • Increased protective factors in their lives • Increased sense of belonging • Experience social and emotional skills development • Increased agency to make informed decisions • Improved social connectedness • Increased sense of power to change the world around them	**Children and Young People will have:** • Improved the resilience, skills and abilities to manage their own wellbeing • Increased agency to make informed decisions • Increased participation in, and focus on, their learning • Improved emotional health and wellbeing • Development of their thinking skills, life skills and work skills	**Children and Young People will have:** • Complex needs of individual children and young people are met • Increased connection between statutory, community and public services • Enhanced youth service capacity to meet the complex needs of children and young people • Facilitated de-escalation support pathways
Benefit Indicators		
• Number of open access youth work sessions provided • Number of children and young people participating in open access youth provision • Percentage of young people satisfied with the service • Number of young people volunteering within the programme • Number of young people gaining accreditation • Status of children and young people's participation on the Engagement Framework • Number of training programmes provided • Number of staff participating in training	• Number of group work programmes delivered • Number of children and young people participating in youth work programmes • Percentage of young people satisfied with the programme • Number of young people gaining accreditation • Number of young people volunteering within the project • Number of referrals to external or enhanced support services or universal services • Number of training programmes provided • Number of staff participating in training • Number of children and young people progressing against one or more of the youth work outcomes	• Number of children and young people engaged in enhanced support youth work programmes • The numbers of children and young people referred to external agencies • Number of referrals to early intervention or universal services • Number of children and young people progressing against one or more of the youth work outcomes • Number of training programmes provided • Number of staff participating in training


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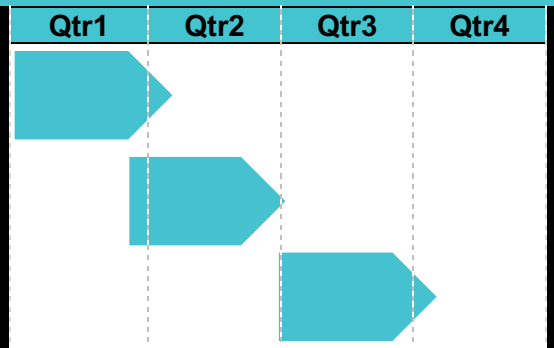
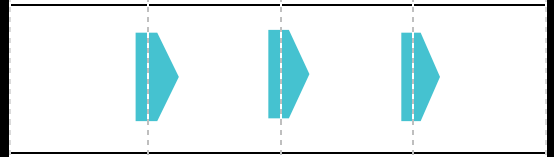
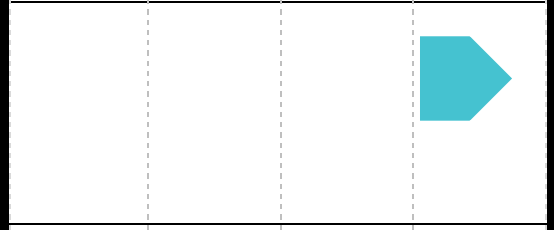
Strategic Theme: Child & Young Person Centred

Through a rights-based approach the planning and delivery of youth services will be based on the needs identified by children and young people, including feedback to children and young people on how we used the information they have provided to inform our decisions.

Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery	How will we know it happened and worked?
		Qtr1 Qtr2 Qtr3 Qtr4	
Implementation of a process that constantly and consistently seeks the views of children and young people to inform the planning and delivery of youth services on a quarterly basis	Develop through consultation with children and young people a core headline survey to identify the ongoing needs and priorities of children and young people, including through age-appropriate approaches		A core headline survey will be developed and agreed with children and young people
	Develop thematically focused surveys in consultation with children and young people to identify their detailed needs against a particular theme for those who wish to provide more information, including through age-appropriate approaches		Thematic surveys will be developed and agreed with children and young people
	Design and implement a system that supports the identified surveys, to be deployed regionally that will provide real-time data that effectively informs the planning and delivery of services on a quarterly basis		The system will be live by the end of May and shared with the sector to encourage and facilitate children and young people to provide information on their needs

Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery	How will we know it happened and worked?
		Qtr1 Qtr2 Qtr3 Qtr4	
	Children and young people will be engaged through Stakeholder engagement and focus groups to test the survey data for quarter 1 and seek the views of children and young people on how youth services can help address their needs		Engagement completed through focus groups of children and young people for this quarter completed
	Quarter 1 Summary review of feedback on the voices of children and young people and how EA has used the information to inform its decisions provided publicly for children and young people		Young person friendly report published online for children and young people to access feedback on what they said and how EA used the information to inform its decisions
	Children and young people will be engaged through Stakeholder engagement and focus groups to test the survey data for quarter 2 and seek the views of children and young people on how youth services can help address their needs		Engagement completed through focus groups of children and young people for this quarter completed
	Quarter 2 Summary review of feedback on the voices of children and young people and how EA has used the information to inform its decisions provided publicly for children and young people		Young person friendly report published online for children and young people to access feedback on what they said and how EA used the information to inform its decisions

Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery				How will we know it happened and worked?
		Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	
	Children and young people will be engaged through Stakeholder engagement and focus groups to test the survey data for quarter 3 and seek the views of children and young people on how youth services can help address their needs					Engagement completed through focus groups of children and young people for this quarter completed
	Quarter 3 Summary review of feedback on the voices of children and young people and how EA has used the information to inform its decisions provided publicly for children and young people					Young person friendly report published online for children and young people to access feedback on what they said and how EA used the information to inform its decisions
	Children and young people will be engaged through Stakeholder engagement and focus groups to test the survey data for quarter 4 and seek the views of children and young people on youth services can help address their needs					Engagement completed through focus groups of children and young people for this quarter completed
	Quarter 4 Summary review of feedback on the voices of children and young people and how EA has used the information to inform its decisions provided publicly for children and young people					Young person friendly report published online for children and young people to access feedback on what they said and how EA used the information to inform its decisions

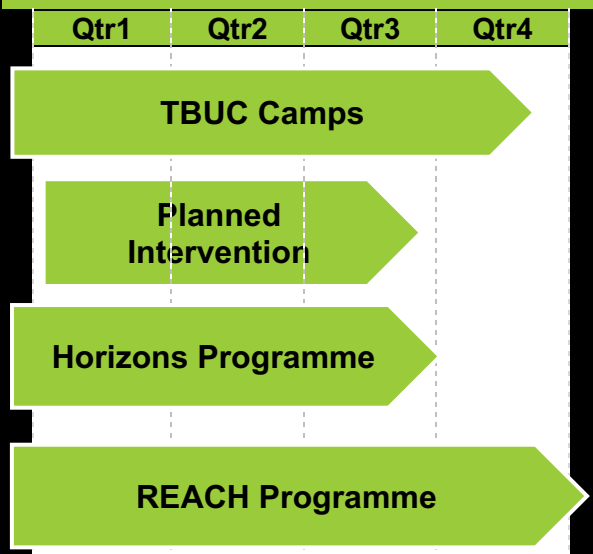
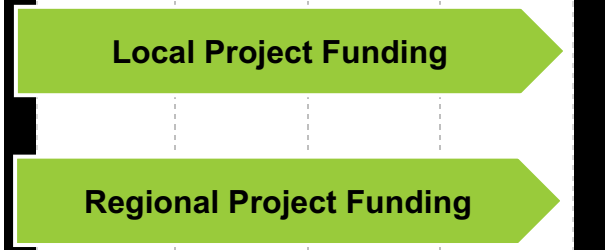
Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery	How will we know it happened and worked?
Based on the views of children and young people, review and update annual action plans quarterly, based on the changing assessed needs of children and young people	Quarterly Review of Needs Assessment Provided by Children and Young People from survey(s)		A summary report of survey responses and feedback from stakeholder engagement will be compiled for the identified period to inform planning and delivery decisions within the current planning year
	Quarterly review of Regional Action Plan completed, with updates made based on the Assessed Needs of children and young people		Revision and update to the annual regional and local action plans based on the identified needs
	Mid Quarter 4 review of Needs Assessment provided by children and young people from survey(s) to inform 2027-2028 Action Plan		An annual summary report of survey responses and stakeholder engagement will be compiled for the 2026-2027 period to inform the 2027-2028 Annual Action Plan
	2027-2028 Action Plan developed based on the needs of children and young people		2027-2028 Action Plan in place

Strategic Theme: Delivering Services Based on Need and through Partnership

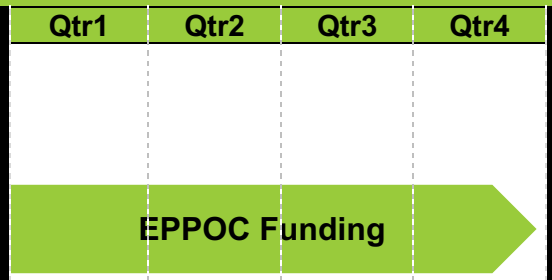
The delivery of youth services will be based on the needs of children and young people through existing statutory youth provision and through grant aid assistance to the community and voluntary sector. This includes through partnership and collaboration when it improves the outcomes for children and young people.

Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery	How will we know it happened and worked?
Based on available resources secure adequate, accessible universal youth provision for all children and young people to provide open access at the right time and in the right place	Identification of universal open access requirements based on population, geography, need and with considerations in line with policy expectations which ensures open access youth provision is provided in the right places and at the right times	Qtr1 Qtr2 Qtr3 Qtr4	An audit of existing statutory and voluntary registered youth provision against population data to establish requirements completed
	Delivery of universal open access youth services delivered through existing statutory youth provision based on identified requirements and resource availability, which specifically considers Irish speaking and Section 75 children and young people		Agreed open access delivery times and days active through all statutory youth settings
	Delivery of universal open access youth services supported by Generic Non-Targeted funding through volunteer led organisations, which specifically considers Irish speaking and Section 75 children and young people	Generic/Non-Targeted Funding	Generic non-targeted funding application process implemented, assessed, and awarded to volunteer led youth organisations

Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery				How will we know it happened and worked?
		Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	
	Delivery of universal open access youth services supported by Local Area Based Funding in the Community and Voluntary Sector based on identified requirements, which specifically considers the needs of Irish speaking and Section 75 children and young people	Local Area Based Funding				Agreed open access delivery times and days active through all community and voluntary youth settings supported through Local Area Based Funding
Based on available resources (Youth Service funding and other earmarked funding) provide early intervention and prevention programmes based on the assessed needs of children and young people	Identification of Early Intervention and Prevention requirements based on the needs of children and young people with a focus on and reviewed quarterly: • Support to address ending violence against women and girls • Community relations and equality beyond traditional Northern Ireland community backgrounds • Political education, citizenship, and civic engagement • Understand and exercising their rights • A youth work response to address poverty and food hunger • Increasing access to those section 75 groups • Managing their emotional wellbeing in particular sleep and rest • Addressing risk taking behaviours • Supporting young people for employment and further or higher education. • Environment and climate					Prioritisation of needs identified to inform the delivery of EA statutory Youth Services and the allocation of EA Youth Service Funding or Ear-Marked Funding which supports Early Intervention and Early Prevention youth work approaches

Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery	How will we know it happened and worked?
	Evaluation and implementation of other earmarked funds which address the needs identified by children and young people • T:BUC Camps Programme Funding* • Planned Intervention Funding* • A Fair Start Horizons Funding* • Emotional Health and Wellbeing Framework Funding*		Delivery of T:BUC Camps Programme funding to support Good Relations Programmes Delivery of Planned Intervention funding to support living in safety and stability Delivery of Horizons A Fair Start funding to support learning and achieving Delivery of the REACH Programme
	Establishment of early intervention and prevention programme delivery for both statutory and voluntary settings based the needs of children and young people and focused on gaps in provision not provided for by other earmarked funding, regionally and locally		Delivery of Local Project Funding Delivery of Regional Project Funding
Develop and deliver, in partnership with other agencies and	Implementation of partnership delivery in line with the Education Authority's Framework and Model for partnership and collaboration		Planning, Delivery and governance of partnerships and collaboration in line with the Framework and Model.

**Subject to annual funding being made available to EA*

Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery	How will we know it happened and worked?
government departments, enhanced support for children and young people based on their assessed needs.	Continue partnership work supported through EPPOC funding with targeted schools, Emergency Departments within Health, and Custody Suites within the PSNI in its final programme year in: • CONNECT Hospital* • CONNECT Custody* • FUSION Schools*		Delivery of EPPOC funded programmes
	Identification of partnership and Collaboration Projects/Programmes to support addressing the identified and ongoing needs of children and young people for this planning period		Number of partnerships established through the planning period that meet the needs of children and young people Report on the effectiveness and quality of partnership delivery
Overarching goal of delivering services based on need and through partnership	Continual critical self-reflection and evaluation of the effectiveness of processes and delivery of youth work in partnership with the community and voluntary sector, including stakeholder engagement		Summary report on the evidence returns from delivery, moderation and monitoring
	A Framework and Model developed for partnership and/or collaboration in the delivery		Established framework, model and guidance in place to inform effective partnership and/or collaboration
	Pilot Delivery (including evaluation) in year one of partnership and collaboration regionally and locally		Pilot delivery of partnership and collaboration models tested and evaluated.

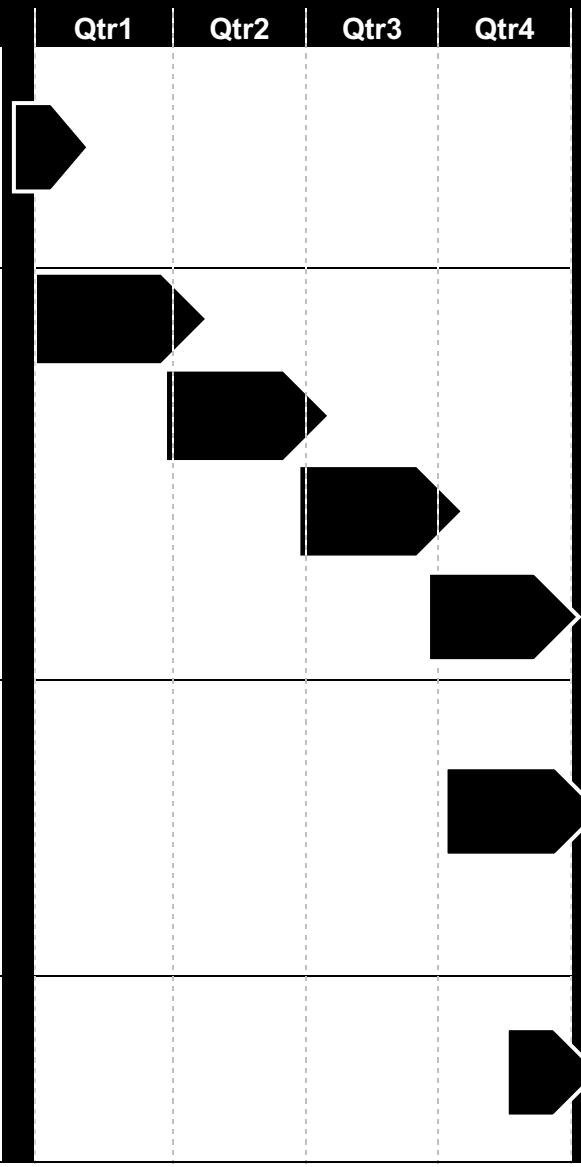
**Subject to annual funding being made available to EA*

Strategic Theme: Evidence Informed

We will collect only what we need to inform the benefits and impact of youth work delivery in the lives of children and young people. We will engage in academic research to further provide evidence informed approaches to the impact, planning, and delivery of services with a focus on reducing bureaucracy and administration in the delivery of youth work.

Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery				How will we know it happened and worked?
		Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	
Implementation of a Benefits Realisation Framework for youth work with established indicators to reduce bureaucracy and administration linked to reporting on delivery	Implementation of the Benefits Framework outlined on page 24 for the delivery of EA statutory and EA voluntary funded youth work delivery					Benefits framework embedded into all youth service reporting
	Implementation of an online return system, relevant to the frequency of the information available to facilitate centralised reporting for EA funded youth work based on the Benefits Framework for both statutory and voluntary settings Only the data required will be collected, it will be proportionate to delivery, and the frequency of data collection will be considered on a: • Monthly basis • Quarterly basis • Annually basis					Benefit reporting established in line with the framework, and mechanism in place to capture the data

Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery	How will we know it happened and worked?
	Establishment of live Business Intelligence Dashboards based on the Benefits Framework returns to provide real-time reporting for all EA funded youth work		Information provided by benefits report created and presented graphically through Business Intelligence dashboard for easier integration and live reporting
	Quarterly Benefits Realisation Report for EA Funded Youth Work, including an evaluation of the impact delivery is making on the lives of children and young people and any recommendations to change delivery approach based on evidence presented		Quarterly Benefits Realisation Report completed
	Annual Benefits Realisation Report for EA Funded Youth Work, including an evaluation of the impact delivery is making on the lives of children and young people and any recommendations to change delivery approach based on evidence presented		Annual Benefits Realisation Report completed
	Annual Report on the Department of Education Outcomes Accountability Report Card, using data already available through Benefits Realisation Reporting		Annual Department of Education Report completed, approved by EA Board and submitted to the Department



Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery				How will we know it happened and worked?
		Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	
Implementation of a programme of academic research to evaluate and measure the impact of universal, early intervention/ prevention and enhanced youth work support for children and young people	Work in partnership with academic institutions to map and evaluate the benefits realisation data against the impact or dampening effective universal open access youth services has on: • Health data • Crime and Disorder data • Education data • Employment data • Census data • Population data					Establishment of an ArcGIS mapping platform that: • Statistically evidences and reports the effectiveness of youth service delivery aligned to the public health model of universal, early intervention/prevention and enhanced support in real time • Provides the provision of real time data to inform decision making for youth service delivery • Explores the wider return in social value added by the presence and delivery of youth services regionally and locally All of which is contextualised against the voice of children and young people
	Work in partnership with academic institutions to map and evaluate the benefits realisation data against the impact or dampening effective early intervention and prevention programmes have on: • Health data • Crime and Disorder data • Education data • Census data • Population data • Employment data					

Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery				How will we know it happened and worked?
		Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	
	Work in partnership with academic institutions to map and evaluate the benefits realisation data against the impact or dampening effective of working in partnership to address the enhanced needs of children and young people: • Health data • Crime and disorder data • Education data • Census data • Population data • Employment data					
	Commission academic research that evaluates the quality of youth work delivery through universal open access					Submission of research paper by the identified academic institution
	Commission academic research that evaluates the quality of youth work delivery through early intervention and prevention programmes					Submission of research paper by the identified academic institution
	Commission academic research that evaluates the quality of youth work delivery through enhanced support and partnerships programmes					Submission of research paper by the identified academic institution

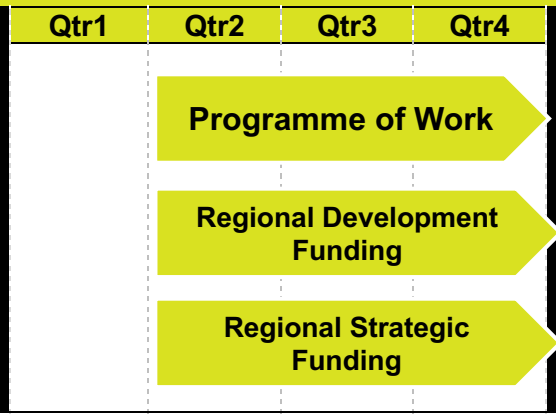
Strategic Theme: Empowering all Our Staff

We will ensure all those delivering youth work have the curriculum resources and skills to meet the needs of our children and young people accessing youth services.

Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery				How will we know it happened and worked?
		Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4	
Focus on developing the volunteer workforce in line with the Education Authority Youth Work Volunteer Strategy 2023-2029 to increase recruitment, improve retention and recognise and celebrate the role of volunteers	Midway evaluation of the effectiveness of the EA Youth Service Volunteer Strategy 2023-2029 and any required revisions					Evaluation report on the effectiveness of the volunteer strategy completed and if applicable the production of an updated strategy based on findings or lessons learned
	Regional and local Volunteer Celebration and Recognition events programme *(Volunteer Strategy Theme: Celebrating the contribution of Volunteers in Youth Work)*					Programme established and agreed by 1 May 2026 and delivered over 2026-2027 period locally
	Sectoral Volunteer Partnership and Collaboration Group established to share practice and support the delivery of the Volunteer Strategy that meets termly *(Volunteer Strategy Theme: A Shared Youth Work Sectoral Approach to Supporting Volunteers)*					Three sectoral engagement days completed to share practice and build networking support for volunteers

Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery	How will we know it happened and worked?
	Delivery of a programme of activities and actions for EA statutory youth work volunteers and youth work volunteers engaged through community and voluntary settings in line with the Volunteer Strategy themes of: • Promoting the youth work volunteer offer • Welcoming and building a community of volunteers • Minimising the expectations on youth work volunteers • Celebrating the contribution of volunteers in youth work • Nurturing leadership to support succession planning • Strength based and volunteer centred approach • Providing skills and immersive experiences for volunteers	Qtr1 Qtr2 Qtr3 Qtr4 Programme of Work Regional Development Funding Regional Strategic Funding	Delivery of activities and actions in support of the volunteer strategy in place and successfully delivered with the engagement of EA Statutory Youth Service volunteers Delivery of activities and actions in support of the volunteer strategy in place and successfully delivered with the engagement of community and voluntary Youth Service Volunteers, supported through Regional Development and Regional Strategic Funding
Implementation of a Youth Service Workforce Development Strategy that effectively provides	Sectoral training and curriculum needs assessment completed with paid and volunteer youth workers to inform a youth service sectoral workforce development strategy for training and curriculum resource development needs		Training and Curriculum Assessment of Need carried out with youth workers and volunteers with report completed

Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery	How will we know it happened and worked?
curriculum resources and builds the capacity of workforce to meet the ongoing needs of our children and young people through universal, early intervention/ prevention and enhanced support programmes	Development of a workforce development strategy that outlines: • the staff training development priorities and standards • the curriculum development priorities and standards • capacity building to support the delivery of universal open access youth work based on the needs of children and young people • capacity building to support early intervention or prevention youth work based on the needs of children and young people • Support to effectively succession plan from level 1 to level 6 qualifications in youth work to support sectoral need and growth	Qtr1 Qtr2 Qtr3 Qtr4	Strategy document developed for the training and curriculum development needs of the sector for the three-year planning period, which will inform an annual training programme and annual curriculum development programme
	Implementation of a paid and volunteer youth worker staff training and development programme based on the training needs of the sector and children and young people, delivered directly by the Education Authority, in partnership with others or through Regional Development Funding/ Regional Strategic Funding	**Programme of Work** **Regional Development Funding** **Regional Strategic Funding**	Delivery of training with youth work staff from EA statutory or voluntary registered youth organisations Delivery of Regional Development/ Regional Strategic funding where applicable to support direct training delivery by the community and voluntary sector or in partnership with EA

Headline Goal	Actions to Achieve Goal in 2026-2027	2026-2027 Delivery	How will we know it happened and worked?
	Implementation of a curriculum development programme based on the needs of the sector and children and young people, delivered directly by the Education Authority, in partnership with others or through Regional Development Funding/ Regional Strategic Funding		Delivery and development of curriculum resources to support youth work, either directly by EA, or directly by the community and voluntary sector or in partnership with EA supported through Regional Development Funding/ Regional Strategic Funding


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Benefits and Indicators

Summary of delivery benefits and indicators

Level	Benefit	Plan Indicators
Universal	***Increased protective factors in the lives of children and young people***	• Number of open access youth work sessions provided • Number of children and young people participating in open access youth provision • Percentage of young people satisfied with the service • Number of young people gaining accreditation • Number of young people volunteering within the programme • Status of children and young people's participation on the Engagement Framework • Number of training programmes provided • Number of staff participating in training
	Increased sense of belonging	
	Experience social and emotional skills development	
	Increased agency to make informed decisions	
	Improved social connectedness	
	Increased sense of power to change the world around them	
Early Intervention / Early Prevention	***Improved resilience, skills, and abilities to manage their own wellbeing***	• Number of group work programmes delivered • Number of children and young people participating in youth work programmes • Number of referrals to external or enhanced support services or universal services • Percentage of young people satisfied with the programme • Number of young people volunteering within the project • Number of young people gaining accreditation • Number of training programmes provided • Number of staff participating in training • Number of children and young people progressing against one or more of the youth work outcomes
	Increased agency to make informed decisions	
	Increased participation in, and focus on, their learning	
	Improved emotional health and wellbeing	
	Development of their thinking skills, life skills and work skills	
Enhanced Support	***Complex needs of individual children and young people are met***	• Number of children and young people engaged in enhanced support youth work programmes • The numbers of children and young people referred to external agencies • Number of referrals to early intervention or universal services • Number of children and young people progressing against one or more of the youth work outcomes • Number of training programmes provided • Number of staff participating in training
	Increased connection between statutory, community and public services	
	Enhanced youth service capacity to meet the complex needs of children and young people	
	Facilitated de-escalation support pathways	

Outcomes Based Accountability

for Department of Education funded youth work

Below is the established Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) agreed with the Department of Education for the delivery of youth work. The Education Authority has considered this report card as part of planning and will map the indicators collected through a benefits realisation approach to report on the agreed Outcomes Based Accountability.

How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
• Total Youth Service membership • Number of projects delivered with young people • Number of young people engaged by youth services (by age band) • Number of young people volunteering within youth projects • Number of Moderation/Monitoring visits • Number of adult volunteers • Average hourly contribution by volunteers	• Percentage of young people reporting improvement against one or more youth service outcomes • Percentage of young people satisfied with their service • Percentage of moderations rated 'meets requirements' or better • Percentage of moderations/monitoring visits that require to be followed up

Is anyone better off?
• Number and percentage of young people achieving an accredited outcome • Number and percentage of young people progressing to expected stage on the youth service engagement framework • Number and percentage of young people making progress against youth service outcomes

Youth Work Outcomes

for the delivery of youth work

The Youth Work Outcomes were established in 2015 through the Youth Service Sectoral Partners Group, linked to an action within Priorities for Youth which states the development of "*Robust quality and proportionate reporting systems*". The working group established the outlined framework of expected outcomes for youth work, with the aim to generate robust and proportionate data for all Department of Education funded youth work. The Youth Work Outcomes have been established as the unifying and common focus within a diverse sector and are embedded within all youth work delivery to measure the progression of children and young people.

INDIVIDUAL	GROUP, COMMUNITY, SOCIETY CONTEXT
Outcome: Enhanced personal capabilities Outcome Indicators: • Greater self-awareness • Increased confidence and self-esteem • Empathy • Resilience • Managing feelings	**Outcome: Improved relationships with others** Outcome Indicators: • Improved ability to work with others (teamwork) • Positive peer relationships • Improved relationships with adults • Positive engagement with others from diverse backgrounds • Greater respect for difference
Outcome: Improved health and wellbeing Outcome Indicators: • Increased satisfaction with life • Greater awareness of health issues (sexual/physical) • Improved ability to make healthy choices (reduction in risk-taking behaviours / reduced substance misuse)	**Outcome: Increased participative action** Outcome Indicators: • Increased sense of belonging to community • Improved communication between young people and adults • Positively influenced others, advocates on behalf of others or takes on a representative role
Outcome: Development of thinking skills, life skills and work skills Outcome Indicators: • Decision-making • Planning and problem solving • Leadership and communication • Creativity	**Outcome: Active citizenship** Outcome Indicators: • Volunteering (local and international) • Increased awareness of local and global issues • Employment, education or training

Youth Work Engagement Framework

for open access youth provision

The Engagement Framework was established in 2015 through the Youth Service Sectoral Partners Group, linked to an action within Priorities for Youth which states the development of "*Robust quality and* proportionate *reporting systems*". The Engagement Framework forms part of the annual return from universal open access youth provision to report on the participation levels of children and young people, based on a reflection completed by youth work practitioners.

Category of Engagement	Indicators of Engagement		
	Intensity and commitment of engagement	**Distance travelled for children and young people**	**Children and young people's influence in decision making**
Contact	• Attends, e.g. to meet friends and takes part in social, creative, recreational or sport activity	• Enhanced personal capabilities • Improved health and wellbeing • Positive relationships with others	• Makes personal decisions on participation in activities designed by others
Engagement	• Engages in short term group programmes • Makes new relationships	• Enhanced personal capabilities • Improved health and wellbeing • Developed thinking, life and/or work skills • Positive relationships with others	• Contributes to decision making with others relating to a specific programme or activity
Active Participation	• Participates in planned, long term, group work programme with youth work outcomes	• Enhanced personal capabilities • Improved health and wellbeing • Developed thinking, life and/or work skills • Positive relationships with others • Increased participation	• Actively involved in assessing needs, decision making, planning and problem solving either around a single activity or within the club, unit or project generally
Maximising Potential	• Participates in the design and/or delivery of programmes or activities for self and others, including evaluation • Acts in a leadership role • Involved in the unit/club/project to their maximum ability	• Enhanced personal capabilities • Improved health and wellbeing • Developed thinking, life and/or work skills • Positive relationships with others • Increased participation • Active citizenship	• Positively influences others, advocates on behalf of others • Takes on a representative role within and/or beyond your club, unit or project e.g. in governance arrangements or as part of a local or regional youth council or forum



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