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1. GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION LINKS

ALL FUNDING APPLICATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO THE ALLOCATION AND AVAILABILITY FUNDING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

All applicant Organisations should read the guidance notes regarding applying for the EA Funding Schemes for Regional and Local Voluntary Youth Organisations below completing an application. Outlined below are links to this information.

1. [Guidance Notes for Applicants](#)
2. [Application Assessment Criteria](#)
3. [Terms and Conditions of EA Youth Service Funding for Voluntary Youth Organisations](#)
4. [Moderation and Monitoring of EA Funded Voluntary Youth Organisations](#)
5. [Financial Verification of EA Funded Voluntary Youth Organisations](#)
6. [Use of the Education Authority Logo for EA Funded Voluntary Youth Organisations](#)

2. FUNDING PERIOD

Start Date	1 st April 2026
End Date	31 st March 2029

3. DESIGNATED LOCAL VOLUNTARY YOUTH ORGANISATIONS TO BE SUPPORTED

Assessment of application responses will be based in the context of delivery for the following target areas

Area
To support Education Authority Registered Uniformed or Federated Local Youth Voluntary Youth Organisations on a regional basis, who are NOT Irish Medium, Community Based, or Church Based

4. MAXIMUM AVAILABLE AWARD

For those with a minimum of 15 but 50 or less Local Voluntary Youth Organisation Members (evidence will be required through your membership census submission as part of your application)

Max Available for the <u>full funding period</u> of this funding opportunity	£464,265.60*
Max Available Award Year 1 (2026-2027)	£152,006.88*
Max Available Award Year 2 (2027-2028)	£154,737.00*
Max Available Award Year 3 (2028-2029)	£157,521.72*

For those with 51 or More Local Voluntary Youth Organisation Members (evidence will be required through your membership census submission as part of your application)

Max Available for the <u>full funding period</u> of this funding opportunity	£673,900.48*
Max Available Award Year 1 (2026-2027)	£220,506.06*
Max Available Award Year 2 (2027-2028)	£224,606.16*
Max Available Award Year 3 (2028-2029)	£228,788.26*

*Funding levels will be reviewed annually and are:

- Subject to budget from the Department of Education
- Subject to change as a result of partnership work
- Subject to changes based the DE review of Youth Work Policy
- Subject to the outcome of the Task and Finish Group on SEND

This funding is to support the Regional Strategic Funding core delivery areas in line with the seven areas outlined in the Regional Strategic scheme and in line with the delivery requirements section in 10. In line with the Regional Youth Development Plan and Action Plan, additional opportunities for workforce and curriculum development above and beyond the requirements of the requirements in Regional Strategic Funding will be offered directly to regional and local youth organisations/units to access centrally under the sectoral Practice and Workforce Development Strategy.

5. PARTNERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Education Authority welcomes partnership applications. As part of your application the option will be provided to make a partnership application. Should you choose this option you will be required to provide an outline of all partners involved and meet the associated essential criteria 1 and essential criteria 2 requirements which denotes exceptions for responses from partnership applications.

6. APPLICATION ASSESSMENT WEIGHTING

Applications which meet the Essential Criteria 1 and 2 will be evaluated by panels and scores weighted as outlined below. Applicant organisations are required to meet the minimum marks in ALL AREAS to be considered for award.

Criterion	Weighting	Available Marks	Minimum Marks Required
Proven Successful Track Record of Governance Support	10%	100	25
Proven Successful Track Record of Youth Work Curriculum Support	20%	200	50
Proven Successful Track Record of Workforce Development Support	20%	200	50
Proven Successful Track Record of Safeguarding & Child Protection Support	20%	200	50
Proven Successful Track Record of Reporting on Youth Work Outcomes Support	10%	100	25
Proven Successful Track Record of Representation & Collaboration Support	10%	100	25
Proven Successful Track Record of Quality Assurance Support	10%	100	25
Total	100%	1000	

7. ESSENTIAL CRITERIA 1 - VIABILITY

The following criteria are essential requirements for all applications for this particular award that provide assurances to the Education Authority that appropriate governance, safeguarding, policy and tenure arrangements are in place to deliver on the award requirements.

Criterion	Minimum Grade Required
Organisations (including all partners in a collaborative application) are Registered Regional Voluntary Youth Organisation(s)	Active and Verified Registration with EA as a Regional Voluntary Youth Organisation
Organisations (including all partners in a collaborative application) are not part of any other collaborative application within the same funding stream of Regional Strategic	Single Applicant Organisations are not part of any other Regional Strategic Funding Application OR Any partner is part of any other application to Regional Strategic Funding received by the Education Authority
Declaration and upload on your application that your organisation has suitable tenure and premises in place at the point of application, which include appropriate insurance, health and safety arrangements.	Yes Response Required
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies that meet the requirements outlined for the scheme (see requirements here)	All required areas covered in Policy
Organisation Governance Arrangements in place to meet the requirements of Bonafede status (see requirements here)	All required areas of governance covered in documentation, Signed & Dated
Application costs do not exceed the Maximum available award, outlined for this funding opportunity	Figures are equal to or less than the Maximum available award
Delivery of all youth work (including awarded funding opportunities) are required to embed the follow Polices/Frameworks within the delivery of awarded plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Relations Equality & Diversity (CRED) Policy including the CRED Addendum • Joint Department of Health and Department of Education Emotional Health and Wellbeing Framework 	Confirmation that all applicant(s) associated with the application will deliver in line with these policies and frameworks
(If applicable) Letters of Support outlining the contribution of all joint applicants provided, who are verified as registered with the Education Authority Youth Service as a Regional Voluntary Youth Organisation.	Letter of support per joint applicant provided (Signed & Dated) and Verified Registration Status upload as part of application
Confirmation through submission of a membership census that you are the designated headquarter organisation for that sectoral area	By upload of your Membership Census as part of the application

All applicant organisations **must pass the Essential Criteria 1 - viability criteria AND Essential Criteria 2 - strategic support requirements** for their application to be considered for assessment.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Applications who fail to meet the any of the areas in essential criteria 1 or 2 will NOT be assessed by panels.

8. ESSENTIAL CRITERIA 2 – STRATEGIC SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

The following criteria is a declaration by applicants that either as a single applicant organisation or as part of a partnership application that you can deliver on all the required strategic support areas of Regional Strategic Funding

Criterion	Minimum Grade
Your organisation (or Partnership) can provide Governance Support to the designated local youth organisations and their management committees	Required Yes Selection either as single applicant organisation or partnership
Your organisation (or Partnership) can provide Youth Work Curriculum Support to the designated local youth organisations in the development of their programme of youth activities and projects	Required Yes Selection either as single applicant organisation or partnership
Your organisation (or Partnership) can provide Workforce Development Support to the designated local youth organisations in relation to their staff, staff training and development	Required Yes Selection either as single applicant organisation or partnership
Your organisation (or Partnership) can provide Safeguarding & Child Protection Support to the designated local youth organisations in line with DE policy and guidance that ensures they are appropriately trained in safeguarding and child protection	Required Yes Selection either as single applicant organisation or partnership
Your organisation (or Partnership) can provide Youth Work Outcomes Support to the designated local youth organisations to report effectively on Engagement Framework and Outcomes Framework for Youth Work	Required Yes Selection either as single applicant organisation or partnership
Your organisation (or Partnership) is committed to providing Representation & Collaboration in support of the designated local youth organisations needs at the request of the Education Authority	Required Yes Selection either as single applicant organisation or partnership
Your organisation (or Partnership) is committed to providing Quality Assurance support to the designated local youth organisations that ensure youth service funding provides a high quality and reflective service for children and young people	Required Yes Selection either as single applicant organisation or partnership

All applicant organisations **must pass the Essential Criteria 1 - viability criteria AND Essential Criteria 2 - strategic support requirements** for their application to be considered for assessment.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Applications who fail to meet the any of the areas in essential criteria 1 or 2 will NOT be assessed by panels.

9. MEMBERSHIP CENSUS

You will be required to provide a document upload of your membership census using the template provided as part of verification of your application to assess your Eligibility for Regional Strategic Funding. **This census will be requested annually in January as an update from your category as a Regional Strategic Funded Organisation. Designated organisation membership listed through this submission (and annually) will not be required to registered with the Education Authority or be subject to verification visits upon registration.** Through this submission your organisation is declaring and indemnifying the Education Authority that the organisations meet the registration requirements to be considered a local voluntary youth organisation. Which includes the following (which will not be asked for as part of membership census and will be taken as in place by their inclusion on the list):

1. *Each designated local voluntary youth organisation has entered a membership arrangement with you as a Regional Voluntary Youth Organisation as the sole provider of their strategic support if funded by the Education Authority to deliver the services*
2. *Each organisation delivers youth work in line with the model for effective practice*
3. *Each organisation delivers youth work in line with the Youth Work Policy Priorities for Youth: Improving the lives of children and young people*
4. *Each organisation has appropriate safeguarding policies, trained staff and practices in place, in line with DE Circulars and Guidance, and are reviewed regularly*
5. *Each organisation is Bonafide and have appropriate governance arrangements in place for the delivery of youth work*
6. *Each organisation has in place appropriate health and safety arrangements, including insurance for the delivery of youth work activities*

The Education Authority reserves the right to validate the information provided with the local voluntary youth organisation directly after your application is submitted and if successful during your delivery, this will include an annual satisfaction survey carried out by the Education Authority with your declared members on the quality of support they receive. **Providing inaccurate information will be considered a false declaration and your application will not be considered, including if awarded funding recovery on a full cost recovery basis, as set out in the principles of the scheme.**

You will be required to provide the following information as part of the membership census:

1. Organisation Name (in line with the name on their governance documentation)
2. Organisation Address
3. Organisation Postcode
4. Main Contact Person
5. Main Contact Person Email Address
6. 4-8 Year Registered Youth Membership
7. 9-13 Year Registered Youth Membership
8. 14-18 Year Registered Youth Membership
9. 19-25 Year Registered Youth Membership
10. Number of Part-time Paid Staff funded by EA
11. Total Number of Part-time Paid hours per week funded by EA
12. Number of Full-time Paid Staff funded by EA
13. Total Number of Full-time Paid hours per week funded by EA
14. Number of Volunteers
15. Total Number of Volunteer Hours Per Week

10.FUNDED DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS

Regional Strategic Area: Governance Support to the designated local voluntary youth organisations and their management committees	
Regional Youth Development Plan Strategic Theme(s)	Strategic Theme: Delivering Services Based on Need and through Partnership
Regional Youth Development Plan Headline Goal(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Funded Delivery Requirements and Expectations	
<p>For Designated Local Voluntary Youth Organisations You Provide Regional Strategic Support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing clear and concise communication on opportunities, changes in policy that impacts practice • Support for organisations to access funding from EA Youth Service and funding external of EA Youth Service. For example but not limited to TBUC Camps Programme or Planned Intervention Programme. • Provide support, guidance and signposting to other support services to ensure that the designated local voluntary youth organisations have and maintain good governance to operate as a local voluntary youth organisation. 	
<p>As a Regional Strategic Funded Regional Voluntary Youth Organisation or Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead on the planning and implementation of governance and membership services based on the needs identified by your designated local voluntary youth organisations, within the scope of youth policy and the youth work curriculum • Provide Regional Strategic Funding Reporting on time and accurately to the Education Authority as outlined 	

Regional Strategic Area: <u>Youth Work Curriculum Support</u> to the designated local voluntary youth organisations in the development of their programme of youth activities and projects	
Regional Youth Development Plan Strategic Theme	Strategic Theme: Empowering all Our Staff
Regional Youth Development Plan Headline Goal(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Funded Delivery Requirements and Expectations	
<p>For Designated Local Voluntary Youth Organisations You Provide Regional Strategic Support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide curriculum support, guidance, signposting and resources to your designated local youth organisations, based on the needs of children and young people, which must include resources to support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Quality assurance</i> • <i>Measurement and reporting on youth work outcomes and engagement framework</i> • <i>Safeguarding and child protection in line with DE Policy</i> • <i>Organisational Governance</i> • Provide support to youth work volunteers within your designated local voluntary youth organisations line with the Education Authority Volunteer Strategy Strategic Themes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Theme 1: Promoting the Youth Work Volunteer Offer</i> • <i>Theme 2: Welcoming and building a community of Youth Work Volunteers</i> • <i>Theme 3: Minimising the expectations on Youth Work Volunteers</i> • <i>Theme 4: Celebrating the Contribution of Volunteers in Youth Work Delivery</i> • <i>Theme 5: Nurturing Leadership</i> • <i>Theme 6: Strength Based and Volunteer Centred Approach</i> • <i>Theme 7: Providing Skills and Immersive Experiences for Youth Work Volunteers</i> • <i>Theme 8: Shared Youth Work Sectoral Approach to Supporting Volunteers</i> • Support is provided to both paid and volunteer youth work staff within the designated local voluntary organisation • Share and promote resources developed as a result of the sectoral practice and workforce development strategy to your designated voluntary youth organisations 	
<p>As a Regional Strategic Funded Regional Voluntary Youth Organisation or Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead on the planning and implementation of the curriculum development based on the needs identified by the designated voluntary youth organisations you support, which is in line with youth work policy, the youth work curriculum, the Regional Youth Development Plan Strategic Themes and Headline Goals noted above • Actions should be in place to ensure volunteers as well as paid staff have access to curriculum support and resources 	

- Maintain records of curriculum resources developed and support provided to facilitate Education Authority benefits reporting as a Regionally Strategic Funded organisation.
- Curriculum Development Actions must also complement or give due regard to following Regional Youth Development Plan Strategic Themes, its headline goals and based on the needs of children and young people:
 - *Strategic Theme: Empowering All Our Staff*
 - *Headline Goal: 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*
 - *Headline Goal: Implementation of a Youth Service Workforce Development Strategy that effectively provides curriculum resources and builds the capacity of the workforce to meet the ongoing needs of our children and young people through universal, early intervention/prevention and enhanced support programmes*

Regional Strategic Area: Workforce Development Support to the designated local voluntary youth organisations in relation to their staff, staff training and development	
Regional Youth Development Plan Strategic Theme	Strategic Theme: Empowering all Our Staff
Regional Youth Development Plan Headline Goal(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Funded Delivery Requirements and Expectations	
<p>For Designated Local Voluntary Youth Organisations You Provide Regional Strategic Support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide workforce development support, guidance, signposting to your designated local voluntary organisations based on the needs of children and young people which must include training options on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Quality assurance</i> • <i>Measurement and reporting on youth work outcomes and engagement framework</i> • <i>Safeguarding and child protection in line with DE Policy</i> • <i>Good Organisational Governance</i> • Provide support to youth work volunteers within your designated local voluntary youth organisations line with the Education Authority Volunteer Strategy Strategic Themes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Theme 1: Promoting the Youth Work Volunteer Offer</i> • <i>Theme 2: Welcoming and building a community of Youth Work Volunteers</i> • <i>Theme 3: Minimising the expectations on Youth Work Volunteers</i> • <i>Theme 4: Celebrating the Contribution of Volunteers in Youth Work Delivery</i> • <i>Theme 5: Nurturing Leadership</i> • <i>Theme 6: Strength Based and Volunteer Centred Approach</i> • <i>Theme 7: Providing Skills and Immersive Experiences for Youth Work Volunteers</i> • <i>Theme 8: Shared Youth Work Sectoral Approach to Supporting Volunteers</i> • Support is provided to both paid and volunteer youth work staff within the designated local voluntary organisation • Share and promote access to staff training and development opportunities developed as a result of the sectoral practice and workforce development strategy to your designated local voluntary youth organisations 	
<p>As a Regional Strategic Funded Regional Voluntary Youth Organisation or Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead on the planning and implementation of workforce development based on the needs of your designated local voluntary youth organisations you support, which is in line with youth work policy, the youth work curriculum, the Regional Youth Development Plan Strategic Themes and Headline Goals noted above 	

- Actions should be in place to ensure volunteers as well as paid staff have access to workforce development
- Maintain records of workforce development provided to facilitate Education Authority benefits reporting as a Regionally Strategic Funded organisation.
- Workforce Development Actions must also complement or give due regard to following Regional Youth Development Plan Strategic Themes, its headline goals and based on the needs of children and young people:
 - *Strategic Theme: Delivering Service Based on Need and Through Partnership*
 - *Headline Goal: Based on Available Resources secure adequate, accessible universal youth provision for children and young people*
 - *Headline Goal: Based on Available Resources provide early intervention and prevention programmes based on the assessed needs of children and young people*

Regional Strategic Area: <u>Safeguarding & Child Protection Support</u> to the designated local voluntary youth organisations in line with DE policy and guidance that ensures they are appropriately trained in safeguarding and child protection	
Regional Youth Development Plan Strategic Theme	Strategic Theme: Empowering all Our Staff
Regional Youth Development Plan Headline Goal(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Funded Delivery Requirements and Expectations	
<p>For Designated Local Voluntary Youth Organisations You Provide Regional Strategic Support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Access NI services to designated local voluntary youth organisations • Provide support to designated local voluntary youth organisations on the development and review of child protection and safeguarding policies and procedure • Provide training based on the Department of Education Circular and Guidance (including any subsequent changes made by the Department) for Safeguarding which must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Safeguarding Awareness Training (or equivalent for your organisation, but compliant with DE Policy) for all paid staff and volunteers, including refresher training in line with policy requirements</i> • <i>Designated Youth Worker Training (or equivalent for your organisation, but compliant with DE Policy) for paid staff and volunteers who require it, including refresher training in line with policy requirements</i> • <i>Advisor/Manager/Committee Member Training (or equivalent for your organisation, but compliant with DE Policy) for paid staff and volunteers who require it, including refresher training in line with policy requirements</i> 	
<p>As a Regional Strategic Funded Regional Voluntary Youth Organisation or Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop (or maintain an existing) resources and programme of training for safeguarding and child protection in line with the areas noted above which is in line with the Department of Education Circular and Guidance for Child Protection and Safeguarding, including any revisions for any future changes based on the circular and guidance noted. • Promote preventative curriculum programmes in support of reducing the harms and risks to children and young people • Maintain records of safeguarding and child protection training provided to facilitate Education Authority benefits reporting as a Regionally Strategic Funded organisation. 	

Regional Strategic Area: <u>Youth Work Outcomes Support</u> to the designated local voluntary youth organisations to report effectively on Engagement Framework and Outcomes Framework for Youth Work	
Regional Youth Development Plan Strategic Theme	Strategic Theme: Evidence Informed
Regional Youth Development Plan Headline Goal(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of a Benefits Realisation Framework for youth work with established indicators to reduce bureaucracy and administration linked to reporting on delivery
Funded Delivery Requirements and Expectations	
<p>For Designated Local Voluntary Youth Organisations You Provide Regional Strategic Support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to designated local voluntary youth organisations on their reporting requirements for funding received from the Education Authority to effectively and accurately on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Work Outcomes • Engagement Framework • <i>Quarterly Reporting Returns (Where applicable)</i> • <i>Annual Reporting Returns</i> • Provide support to designated local voluntary youth organisations to confidently and accurately record and measure the progress of children and young people against the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Work Outcomes • Engagement Framework 	
<p>As a Regional Strategic Funded Regional Voluntary Youth Organisation or Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain resources to support designated local voluntary youth organisations to effectively report on funded youth work delivery • Provide a programme of support at key times of year linked to designated members needs to report 	

Regional Strategic Area: Representation & Collaboration to the designated local voluntary youth organisations needs at the request of the Education Authority	
Regional Youth Development Plan Strategic Theme	Strategic Theme: Child & Young Person Centred Strategic Theme: Empowering all Our Staff
Regional Youth Development Plan Headline Goal(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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
Funded Delivery Requirements and Expectations	
<p>For Designated Local Voluntary Youth Organisations You Provide Regional Strategic Support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to the voices of staff, volunteers and young people within your designated local voluntary Youth Organisations to assess current and future strategic needs • Communication with members to improve services, quality and understanding of delivery, including communication on behalf of the Education Authority • Promoting, encouraging and supporting your designated local voluntary member organisations to engage effectively with assessing the needs of children and young people to inform the Education Authority planning and decision-making process • Promote and encourage your designated local voluntary youth organisation to respond to the annual Education Authority Regional Strategic Funding member satisfaction survey to assess the effectiveness of the support you provide in line with the delivery requirement of Regional Strategic Funding. 	
<p>As a Regional Strategic Funded Regional Voluntary Youth Organisation or Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent your designated local voluntary youth organisations needs at the request of the Education Authority on forums designated by the Education Authority • Represent the curriculum, workforce and needs of children and young people on noted forums designated by the Education Authority • To support and coordinate your designated members to return the annual Education Authority Regional Strategic Satisfaction Survey 	

Regional Strategic Area: <u>Quality Assurance Support</u> to the designated local voluntary youth organisations that ensure youth service funding provides a high quality and reflective service for children and young people	
Regional Youth Development Plan Strategic Theme	Strategic Theme: Delivering Services Based on Need and through Partnership Strategic Theme: Empowering all Our Staff
Regional Youth Development Plan Headline Goal(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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
Funded Delivery Requirements and Expectations	
For Designated Local Voluntary Youth Organisations You Provide Regional Strategic Support to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either identified and by the request of the Education Authority or as identified as a Regionally Strategic Funded Organisation, provide quality assurance support to ensure the organisation takes effective steps to bring about improvement within designated local voluntary youth organisations in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reporting on Youth Work Outcomes and Engagement Framework</i> • <i>Good Organisational Governance</i> • <i>Safeguarding and Child Protection</i> • <i>Delivery of Quality Youth Work in line with the needs of children and young people</i> 	
As a Regional Strategic Funded Regional Voluntary Youth Organisation or Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate and support improvement plans for and with designated local voluntary youth organisations • Monitor and report at the request of the Education Authority the status of improvement plans with designated local voluntary youth organisations 	

11.BENEFITS REPORTING

The Education Authority has as part of its Regional Youth Development plan introduced Benefits Realisation Report for 2026-2029. Regional Voluntary Youth Organisations will be required to submit benefits indicator reporting in the following metrics quarterly as part of the terms of funding which will be publicly made available:

Level	Expected Benefits	Regional Strategic Delivery Indicators
Support Services or Delivery in line with Universal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased protective factors in the lives of children and young people 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 	Number of training courses provide in universal programmes provided including specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Protection Awareness Youth Worker (or equivalent) Training programmes provided (Renewed every 2 years) Designated Youth Worker Safeguarding (or equivalent) Training programmes provided (Renewed every 3 years) Committee Members Safeguarding (or equivalent) Training programmes provided (renewed very 3 years) Youth Work Outcome Training Programmes Engagement Framework Training Programmes Quality Assurance Organisational Governance
		Number of paid and volunteer staff participating in universal training and specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Protection Awareness Youth Worker (or equivalent) Training programmes provided (Renewed every 2 years) Designated Youth Worker Safeguarding (or equivalent) Training programmes provided (Renewed every 3 years) Committee Members Safeguarding (or equivalent) Training programmes provided (renewed very 3 years) Youth Work Outcome Training Programmes Engagement Framework Training Programmes Quality Assurance Organisational Governance
		Number of universal curriculum resources created
		Number of universal curriculum resources shared with designated local voluntary youth organisation member
Support Services or Delivery in line with Early Intervention/Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved 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 	Number of early intervention/prevention training programmes provided
		Number of paid and volunteer staff participating early intervention/prevention in training
		Number of early intervention or prevention curriculum resources created
		Number of early intervention or prevention curriculum resources shared with designated local voluntary youth organisation member
Support Services or Delivery in line with Enhanced Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	Number of enhanced training programmes provided
		Number of paid and volunteer staff participating in enhanced training
		Number of enhanced curriculum resources created
		Number of enhanced curriculum resources shared with designated local voluntary youth organisation member

12.CONDITIONAL OFFER STAGE PLAN SUBMISSION

Successful applicant organisations will be invited to submit a delivery plan in line with the delivery requirements outlined in section 10, including that all actions proposed are in line with the Youth Work Curriculum, Youth Work Policy, Regional Youth Development Plan and Regional Action Plan. Anything outside of this scope will not be considered.

13.KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)

The Education Authority reserves the right to terminate funding or apply funding sanctions if the successfully awarded organisation(s) fails to meet the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) outlined below:

KPI Description	Performance Measure
Moderation and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a minimum level of “Standards Met” through Moderation visits carried out by an EA Officer. 1 Moderation visit will be carried out by EA per annum. • Maintain a minimum level of “Standards Met” through Monitoring visits carried out by an EA Officer. 1 Monitoring visit will be carried out by EA per annum.
Financial Verification & Receipting and Vouching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a minimum level of “Satisfactory” financial verification visits carried out on a basis of one per annum by an EA Officer for the period of the funding. N.B. follow up financial verifications maybe required where concerns are noted. Verification, Receipting and Vouching are carried out on the following frequency • Over £5,000 to £30,000 total funding per annum requires the return of income and expenditure report at end of year or project term along with Original Receipts/Invoices and Statements • Over £30,000 funding per annum requires the return of income and expenditure report at end of year or project term along with Original Receipts/Invoices and Statements AND a Financial Verification Visit by an EA Officer(s)
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting tasks completed accurately and submitted within the given deadlines • Annual Report submitted