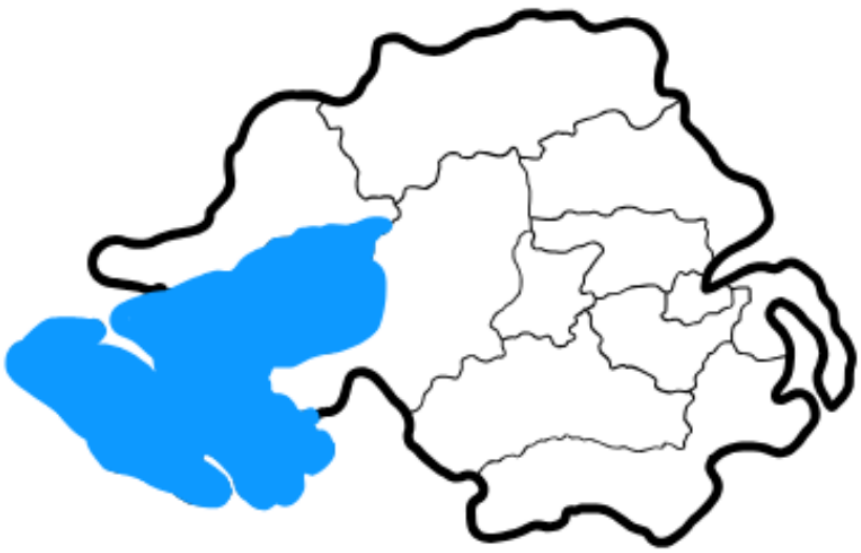


FERMANAGH & OMAGH

LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2026 - 2029

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PUBLISHED
3 November 2025

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Introduction & Background

The Education Authority (EA) Local Youth Development Action Plan for Fermanagh and Omagh (2026-2029) outlines the key targets to be achieved by the EA Youth Service, based on the Local Assessment of Need for 26-29. This is delivered in accordance with the Department of Education (DE) Policy, 'Priorities for Youth.' The plan will be reviewed regularly, and progress will be reported in line with the Regional Youth Development Plan 2026-29 and the framework of the EA's Strategic Plan (2017-2027) and Corporate Business Plan. The resources provided to the Education Authority Youth Service by the Department of Education are deployed in accordance with the local plan to achieve specific policy led objectives, outputs and outcomes. Key actions within this Local Area Youth Development Plan are informed by the Local Assessment of Need, Local Statistical Profiles, Regional Assessment of Need and the Regional Youth Development Plan.

The legislative and policy context for the Local Youth Development Plan is referenced within the RYDP which can be found here.

Fermanagh and Omagh is a predominantly rural district in the southwest of Northern Ireland, encompassing the entirety of County Fermanagh and much of western County Tyrone. The district is defined by its expansive natural landscape, including lakes, forests, and farmland, with key population centres in Enniskillen, Omagh, and smaller towns such as Lisnaskea, Irvinestown, and Carrickmore. The area is divided into seven District Electoral Areas, and its dispersed rural settlement pattern presents both logistical challenges and rich opportunities for community-based youth engagement.

The Education Authority (EA) delivers statutory Youth Services across Fermanagh and Omagh, prioritising safe, inclusive environments that promote personal and social development, participation, and equality of access for young people aged 4–25. These services are delivered through a combination of EA-operated youth centres, such as Omagh Youth Centre, Carrickmore Youth Centre, Irvinestown Youth Centre, Lisnaskea Youth Centre and Lakeland Youth Centre, along with the Fermanagh Area Project and Omagh Area Project, designed to reach isolated and rural communities

Youth provision across the Fermanagh and Omagh area is further enriched by a dynamic generic voluntary youth sector, with local churches, sports clubs, cultural organisations offering tailored programmes that reflect the district's diverse heritage and social needs. These include initiatives focused on mental health and wellbeing, youth leadership, cross-community engagement, and skills development. Area based youth work, pop-up events, and seasonal programmes are used to bridge geographic gaps and ensure that young people in remote areas have access to meaningful opportunities.

Statutory and voluntary youth organisations work collaboratively to ensure that Youth Services are flexible, responsive and inclusive, adapting to the unique geography and demographics of Fermanagh and Omagh. This partnership approach helps to build strong local networks, empower young people, and deliver high-quality youth work that reflects both local identity and regional priorities.

Vision

The vision for Fermanagh and Omagh is to create an inclusive, youth-led service where all young people can thrive, fulfil their potential and help shape their communities. This vision reflects a deep belief that delivering high-quality, accessible youth work across both rural and urban communities, can break down barriers to engagement, strengthen wellbeing and foster a culture where every young person feels a sense of belonging, empowered to lead and equipped with opportunities to thrive.

Through collaboration with young people and stakeholders, and by aligning with the needs of local District Electoral Areas (DEAs), the aim is to create a Youth Service that is responsive and equitable.

The strategic vision for youth work in Fermanagh and Omagh is built on five interconnected pillars:

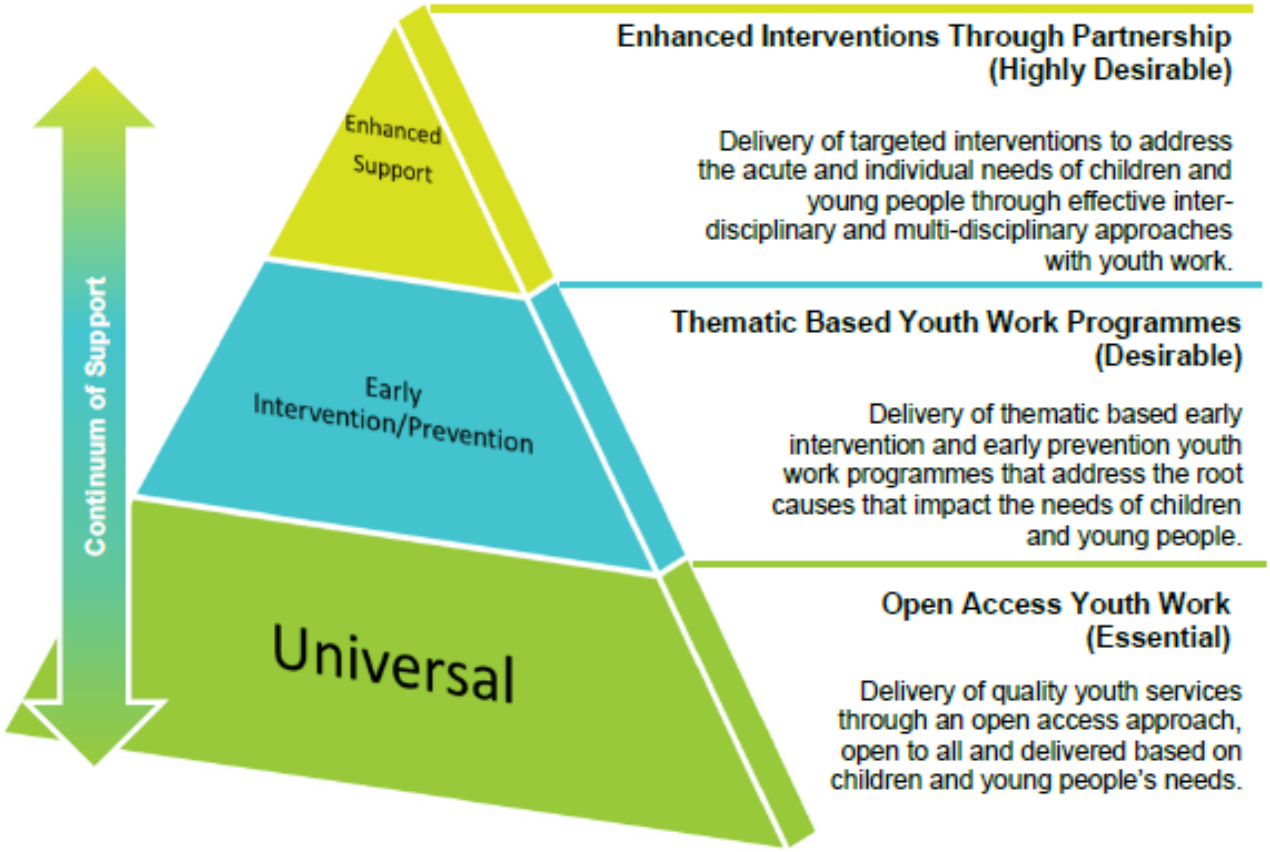
Youth Voice and Co-Design, Partnership and Collaboration, Capacity Building, Inclusive and Responsive Services and Achieving Quality and Standards. It aims to embed youth participation at every stage of planning, delivery and evaluation, establishing youth-led forums that reflect the region's diversity and respond to emerging needs. Strong partnerships that include community and voluntary sector youth groups, statutory bodies and other stakeholders will promote joined up working to maximise resources and impact. Investment in youth workers, volunteers, and young leaders through training and mentoring will build a resilient infrastructure. Services will prioritise universal access while remaining responsive to marginalised and underrepresented groups, supporting their social, emotional and educational development. Finally, all practices will align with the Education Authority Youth Services QAF (Quality Assurance Framework), ensuring continuous improvement, accountability and meaningful outcomes for all.

Youth Service Delivery Model

The Youth Service Delivery Model outlines how Youth Services will be developed through an adaptation of the Public Health approach that focuses on the provision of Universal, Early Intervention and Prevention and Enhanced Support services (Part 1a). The provision of universal services will be prioritised and where resources can be enhanced through collaboration, partnerships or additional funding acquisition further provision can be delivered at the Early Intervention/Prevention and Enhanced Support levels based on the needs of children and young people. The delivery model recognises that there is overlap between the three tiers. Effective universal work will deliver youth work outcomes to children and young people that mitigate the need for specific or dedicated early intervention or prevention work. This model when accompanied with the stretch goal (Part 1b) provides how this overlap will be achieved.

Youth provision will ensure that young people are supported as they transition through the model. As a guide it is expected that Youth Services will take the lead at the Universal tier and act as key partners and actively support young people at the Early Intervention/Prevention and Enhanced Support tiers.

Model 1a - Youth Service Delivery Model



Part 1B- Stretch Goal

STRETCH GOAL		
Universal (Essential Goal)	**Early Intervention and 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 local children and young people in Fermanagh and Omagh.	Providing ongoing **thematic based group work programmes and projects** to address the **root causes impacting the needs** of local children and young people in Fermanagh and Omagh.	Providing **targeted interventions** to address the **acute needs** of children and young people **in partnership** with other agencies to meet the needs of local children and young people in Fermanagh and Omagh.
How will we do it?		
• Providing adequate universal youth provision for children and young people in Fermanagh and Omagh, ensuring that statutory and voluntary Youth Services are funded to prioritise the needs of children and young people who access them, both in a rural and urban setting. • Services are provided at the right times, in the right places based on what children and young people need across Fermanagh and Omagh. • Continue to fund registered groups across Fermanagh and Omagh that meets the criteria for GNT funding. • Services are informed with the participation of children and young people. • Supporting children and young people who need early intervention/prevention to access	• 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 across Fermanagh and Omagh with the participation of children and young people. • Supporting children and young people in Fermanagh and Omagh who need enhanced support to access programmes or connect with universal support. • Services are equipped with the resources to deliver a quality early intervention and prevention programmes/projects.	• Providing resources (curriculum, training and funding) to facilitate enhanced professional development. • Working with partners and agencies in Fermanagh and Omagh to deliver bespoke support services at an individual and group level. • Supporting young people to attend specialist support services within Fermanagh and Omagh. • 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

programmes across the Fermanagh and Omagh area. • Services are equipped with the resources to deliver a quality open access youth work programme of offer. • Capacity of Fermanagh and Omagh staff is supported to meet the needs of children and young people presented through universal provision. • Services are informed by the voice of children and young people.	• Capacity of Fermanagh and Omagh staff is supported to meet the needs through the delivery of early intervention and prevention programmes/projects. • QAF Model implemented and monitored and moderated within Fermanagh and Omagh.	universal support within Fermanagh and Omagh. • QAF Model implemented and monitored and moderated.
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 across Fermanagh and Omagh 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. • Increased participation and decision making.	**Children and Young People within Fermanagh and Omagh 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 across Fermanagh and Omagh will have:** • Their complex needs 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 (Impact, Outcomes and outputs)		
BU1 Number of open access youth work sessions provided. **BU2** Number of children and young people participating in open access youth provision. **BU3** Percentage of young people satisfied with the service. **BU4** Number of young people volunteering within the programme. **BU5** Number of young people gaining accreditation. **BU6** Status of children and young people's participation on the Engagement Framework. **BU7** Number of training programmes provided. **BU8** Number of staff participating in training. **BU9** Increased alignment between Youth Service planning and identified needs (measured by stakeholder satisfaction or service uptake). **BU10** Number of Improved responsiveness of services to emerging youth issues (tracked via feedback or service adjustments). **BU11** Number of measured engagement metrics or perception surveys (Enhanced trust and transparency between EA and young people). **BU12** Number of participation rates or implementation of youth-led suggestions - Increased youth ownership and relevance of services. **BU13** Number of feedback loops (Demonstrated adaptability of services to changing youth priorities).	**BEI1** Number of group work programmes delivered. **BEI2** Number of children and young people participating in youth work programmes. **BEI3** Percentage of young people satisfied with the programme. **BEI4** Number of young people gaining accreditation. **BEI5** Number of young people volunteering within the project. **BEI6** Number of referrals to external or enhanced support services or universal services. **BEI7** Number of training programmes provided. **BEI8** Number of staff participating in training. **BEI9** Number of children and young people progressing against one or more of the youth work outcomes.	**BES1** Number of children and young people engaged in enhanced support youth work programmes. **BES2** The numbers of children and young people referred to external agencies. **BES3** Number of referrals to early intervention or universal services. **BES4** Number of children and young people progressing against one or more of the youth work outcomes. **BES5** Number of training programmes provided. **BES6** Number of staff participating in training.

Voice of children and young people and other key stakeholders in Fermanagh and Omagh

This document outlines a vision for supporting children and young people across Fermanagh and Omagh. Built on a deeper understanding of their lived experiences, it draws from a wide range of research tools and engagement from adults and young people, to explore the challenges they face and the opportunities they seek. From emotional wellbeing and education to safety, inclusion and participation, it sets out practical actions to ensure every young person across Fermanagh and Omagh feels empowered, supported and able to shape a future they are happy to be part of.

Young people have asked for youth-friendly health and wellbeing programmes that are confidential, easy to access and tailored to their age group. Helping young people build emotional resilience and develop practical coping skills is essential for getting through and dealing with the everyday challenges they face. Whether it is dealing with academic stress, social pressures or personal setbacks, these skills empower them to respond with confidence and maintain their wellbeing. Youth work plays a key role in creating safe environments where young people can explore emotions, strengthen self-awareness and learn tools to manage stress in healthy and constructive ways.

Fermanagh and Omagh prides itself with natural beauty and endless outdoor opportunities. Young people also want more opportunities for physical activity and outdoor experiences, which they recognise as key to improving their physical and emotional health. They have highlighted the need for education around healthy eating, lifestyle choices and managing screen time, especially in relation to the pressures of social media. Crucially, they want their emotional struggles to be taken seriously and to know that help is available without judgement or stigma.

Access to play, leisure and recreational activities remains a key priority for young people in Fermanagh and Omagh. They want fun, inclusive spaces that support their development and help them build friendships. Both young people and stakeholders have highlighted the importance of creating environments that reflect and respect the district's growing diversity and ensure everyone feels welcome and valued. The area's rich cultural heritage and strong sense of community identity, offer a foundation for connection and belonging. However, rural isolation (73% of the population living in a rural area) and limited transport often make it difficult for some to take part. In response, many young people and key stakeholders have called for more flexible and accessible options, such as twilight sessions and rural area project-based provision, that meet young people where they are and fit around their lives.

Education is another area where young people are calling for change. Although not solely an EA Youth Service responsibility, they want learning experiences that are flexible, inclusive and responsive to their individual needs. Some face barriers such as school refusal, underachievement or lack of motivation, often linked to mental health, caring responsibilities or limited local opportunities. Young people from farming families have highlighted the challenges of balancing school with agricultural responsibilities. These duties often affect their sleep, reduce motivation for learning as they get older and leave little time to manage schoolwork alongside daily commitments, especially when farming is prioritised within the household.

Safety and stability are essential for young people's wellbeing. They have shared concerns about the risks they face, such as domestic abuse, violence against young women and girls that includes misogyny, substance misuse, bullying and online harm. In rural areas, these challenges can be more difficult to escape or seek help for. Young people need trusted adults, safe environments and clear pathways to support when things go wrong.

Building on this, both adults and young people have called for greater awareness and education around healthy relationships, consent and staying safe online. Addressing poverty, discrimination and anti-social behaviour is also seen as vital to helping young people feel secure, respected and included. Road safety has emerged as a particular concern, especially in rural areas where reckless driving poses serious risks. Again, whilst not solely the responsibility of EA Youth Services, young people have asked for more education and community-wide efforts to improve safety and reduce harm.

Economic stability poses a major challenge for many young people in Fermanagh and Omagh, where rural poverty, limited job prospects and poor digital connectivity often lead to low aspirations and increased risks to mental health. Those living in isolated areas or with restricted access to services can feel particularly disadvantaged. Young people consistently identify their future as their greatest concern and are calling for youth, schools and community organisations to collaborate in offering hands-on learning experiences, from outdoor education and independent living programmes to entrepreneurship and life skills. These opportunities help them discover their strengths and prepare for adulthood. They have asked for early intervention, tailored support and alternative routes to success, including pathways progression and careers guidance. Above all, they want to embrace new challenges, expand their horizons and feel confident about what lies ahead.

Young people in Fermanagh and Omagh care deeply about the environment and want to be part of the solution to climate change. They are eager to learn green skills, get involved in sustainability projects and make a positive impact in their communities. But their ambitions go beyond environmental action, they want to feel seen, heard and valued. Many have expressed a desire to contribute meaningfully to their communities, take on leadership roles and be involved in decisions that shape their lives. Yet in rural areas, limited opportunities for youth engagement can leave them feeling disconnected.

To address this, young people are calling for safe, supportive spaces where they can express themselves, explore their identities, and participate in projects that matter. Political education and youth-led initiatives are seen as powerful tools to help them understand their rights, build confidence and find purpose. Crucially, they want clear, accessible information about their entitlements in areas like education, employment and participation, delivered in youth-friendly formats and in ways that reflect their language and lived experience. When their rights are respected and their voices are included, young people feel empowered to lead, contribute, and grow into active citizens who strengthen their communities.

It is important to note that the Youth Service Regional Assessment of Need (RAON) and Regional Youth Development Plan (RYDP) are key drivers of DE supported youth provision and the setting of Regional Priorities. Whilst this is considered at a local level, the development of Local Assessment of Need

(LAON) and localised stakeholder engagement supports the development of relevant priorities for this Local Youth Development Plan (LYDP) outlined in the following sections.

Priorities for Delivery

The priority needs of children and young people in Fermanagh and Omagh will be met through the delivery of Universal Services and Early Intervention/Prevention Initiatives, guided by the principles of the Youth Work Curriculum, A Model for Effective Practice. This framework ensures high-quality, needs-led youth work that supports personal and social development, and addresses priorities identified in both the Regional Assessment of Need and Local Assessment of Need in a purposeful, inclusive and empowering way.

A key foundation of youth provision is ensuring that all young people, regardless of background or location, have access to safe and welcoming spaces. These must be inclusive and accessible across both urban and rural areas, offering consistency, connection and emotional security through trusted relationships and regular support.

Youth centres and area-based youth work should be available during the times that matter most to young people, including evenings, weekends and school holidays. In rural areas, flexible youth work is essential to overcome geographic barriers and ensure equitable access.

Within the Fermanagh and Omagh area, Universal Services will focus on the following:

Universal Service Priorities in Fermanagh and Omagh

Support Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Emotional wellbeing is a significant concern for children and young people in Fermanagh and Omagh, particularly in rural areas where access to support can be limited. Youth work will prioritise emotional health and well-being, offering safe spaces where young people can talk openly, build resilience and strengthen coping strategies. Programmes will help young people build confidence and connect with others, while also encouraging activities such as exercise, relaxation techniques and creative expression. This approach supports both emotional wellbeing and personal growth.

Deliver Universal Services

Young people in Fermanagh and Omagh have voiced a need for inclusive, welcoming spaces, especially in rural areas where isolation can limit access to support and connection. Youth Services will create environments that reflect the area's diversity and respond to the unique experiences of all young people. Programmes will be available outside of school hours to offer consistent opportunities for engagement, personal growth and a sense of community.

Support Play, Leisure, and Creative Opportunities

Access to leisure and creative activities is essential for wellbeing, yet rural transport and affordability remain barriers. Youth work will aim to create fun opportunities including music, drama, art, digital media and outdoor recreation, ensuring young people accessing Youth Services can participate regardless of location or income.

Support Learning and Achievement / Life Skills for Employment

Youth work should be recognised as a vital complement to formal education, offering non-formal learning experiences and alternative routes to success. Programmes will be designed to build essential life skills, such as budgeting, communication and teamwork, while also providing accredited opportunities that celebrate individual growth and achievement.

Advance CRED and Shared Education and enhance awareness

Fermanagh and Omagh's Youth Services will aim to embed inclusion and respect for difference across all delivery. Programmes will promote understanding and challenge prejudice, creating spaces where young people feel valued and heard. Activities will celebrate cultural diversity and support shared learning and good relations across communities.

Integrate Environmental Awareness:

Local young people have expressed concern about environmental issues. Youth Services will integrate sustainability into everyday practice through climate education, biodiversity projects and community clean-ups. These initiatives will connect environmental action with wellbeing, pride of place and local identity.

Strengthen Youth Voice Structures

Youth voice structures such as Fermanagh and Omagh Youth Voice are vital platforms for participation. Youth work will continue to embed young people's voices in service design and decision-making. Leadership and volunteering opportunities will help build confidence, ownership, and transferable skills for life and employment.

Digital Safety and Positive Online Engagement

With increasing digital engagement, young people need support to navigate online spaces safely. Youth work will promote digital wellbeing, helping young people balance screen time, understand online behaviour and build respectful digital communities. Peer-led initiatives will encourage kindness, consent and a positive online culture.

Early Intervention and Prevention Themes in Fermanagh and Omagh

Prevent Violence and Harm

Youth work will aim to support young people experiencing instability at home, in school or in the community. Targeted groupwork and mentoring will help build positive relationships, conflict resolution skills and a sense of safety. Programmes will raise awareness of bullying, domestic abuse and online exploitation, offering early support before crises escalate.

Address Risk Taking Behaviours:

Youth Services will aim to provide preventative education and support around substance misuse, including drugs, alcohol and vaping, with a focus on harm reduction and informed choices across the Fermanagh and Omagh area.

Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Support

Building on universal services, targeted early intervention will aim to support young people facing emotional distress, anxiety or social withdrawal. These programmes will foster resilience and connect young people to external supports when needed.

Reduce Cultural Tension Issues

Building on universal services, youth work in Fermanagh and Omagh will play a key role in promoting cohesion and tackling discrimination. Programmes will create shared spaces for young people from different backgrounds to learn together, celebrate diversity and challenge stereotypes through anti-racism education and youth-led equality campaigns.

Tackle Barriers to Learning and Achievement

Youth Services will focus on supporting young people who may be struggling to stay engaged with education. Programmes will respond to challenges like low self-confidence, irregular attendance and the potential of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training), by offering tailored mentoring, academic support and practical life skills. Ensuring access to meaningful learning remains a core priority. Youth work will champion personal development and accredited learning, particularly for those affected by school avoidance, rural isolation or other barriers to participation.

Life Skills and Economic Stability

Youth work across Fermanagh and Omagh will equip young people with essential skills for independent living and employment. Programmes will focus on budgeting, interview preparation, time management and workplace readiness, with targeted support for those from low-income households.

Digital Resilience and Online Safety

Building on universal services and with the increasing influence of social media and online culture, youth work will play a key role in promoting digital wellbeing across all areas of provision. Young people will be supported to use digital spaces safely, maintain a healthy balance between online and offline life, and understand how digital behaviour can affect their mental health and relationships. Youth Services will lead by example, encouraging positive online engagement and supporting peer-led initiatives that champion kindness, consent and mutual respect in digital environments.

Support Environmental Awareness and Action

Youth-led environmental initiatives will promote sustainability and pride in the area where young people are from. Activities such as clean-up campaigns, community gardening and awareness projects will link environmental protection to wellbeing and local identity.

Youth Participation and Active Citizenship (Strengthen Youth Voice Structures)

Youth work will empower young people to become active citizens and leaders in their communities. Participation programmes will build confidence and communication skills, especially for underrepresented groups, enabling meaningful engagement in decision-making and getting their voices truly heard.

Expand Horizons Locally and Globally

By providing youth work experiences at local, national and international level, this will help young people build confidence, broaden their cultural awareness and raise aspirations. Through meaningful engagement in varied settings, this will help strengthen young people's sense of identity, discover new perspectives and grow into active global citizens.

Alongside the delivery of Universal Services and thematic work focused on Early Intervention and Prevention, a range of targeted interventions are also being implemented in the Fermanagh and Omagh area working in partnership with other agencies to meet the specific needs of children and young people. These include:

REACH

This targeted programme is focused on wellbeing for all and early intervention and prevention support under the joint Department of Education and Department of Health Emotional Health and Wellbeing Framework provided in school settings

All targeted initiatives funded under Early Intervention are subject to annual funding being made available to EA.

Summary for Fermanagh and Omagh:

Delivery across both universal and early intervention/prevention Youth Services in Fermanagh and Omagh will ensure that:

- All young people can access safe, inclusive, and engaging youth provision, regardless of background or location.
- Emotional wellbeing, learning, inclusion and youth leadership remain at the heart of youth work practice.
- Services are adaptable, responsive and shaped by local needs and evidence.
- A strong focus on participation, early support and collaborative working empowers young people to grow, contribute and feel a genuine sense of belonging in their communities.

Delivery of these priorities will be proportionate to the resources available and should be carried out in collaboration with key partners to ensure a coordinated and effective response. For more detail on DEA-specific themes, refer to the Fermanagh and Omagh Local Assessment of Need 2026 – 2029.

Strategic Approach for Youth Services – Fermanagh and Omagh

Considering the findings from the Regional Assessment of Need, including the legislative and policy context for youth work, there are four emerging strategic themes to inform the Regional Youth Development Plan. Strategic themes are crucial as they provide a high-level framework for aligning efforts towards common goals and achieving the long-term objectives over the three-year planning period. The themes below will act as a roadmap to guide decision making and the prioritisation of delivery across the Fermanagh and Omagh area.



Child and Young Person Centred

In Fermanagh and Omagh, Youth Services will be shaped by what young people say matters most to them, from emotional wellbeing and safety to play, education and feeling heard. By listening closely to their experiences and ideas, we will design programmes and invest in the support that reflects real local needs.

Just as importantly, we will keep the conversation going, showing young people how their voices have made a difference through regular updates, youth forums, and open communication. This approach builds trust, strengthens community ties, and ensures that young people across the district feel genuinely involved in shaping the services that support them.



Delivering Services Based on Need and through Partnership

Youth Services in Fermanagh and Omagh will be delivered in response to locally identified needs, using a mix of statutory provision and grant-aided support to voluntary youth organisations.

Services will be strengthened through meaningful partnerships and collaboration ensuring resources are targeted where they make the greatest impact for children and young people, who has the support, opportunities, and voice they need to thrive.

Evidence Informed

In Fermanagh and Omagh, Youth Services will collect only the data needed to understand the impact of youth work on young people's lives. The evidence will be used to shape services, reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and collaborate with academic partners to strengthen planning, delivery and evaluation



Empowering All our Staff

In Fermanagh and Omagh, EA Youth Services will ensure that all those delivering youth work are equipped with the curriculum resources, training, and skills necessary to meet the evolving needs of our children and young people. Recognising the diverse challenges and opportunities faced by young people in both rural and urban parts of the region, there is a commitment to supporting youth workers with high-quality, relevant tools that enable them to deliver impactful, inclusive and engaging programmes.

This includes ongoing professional development, access to up-to-date curriculum frameworks and opportunities to share best practice through local networks and partnerships.

2026-2029 Fermanagh and Omagh Local Youth Development Plan

Success across the four key strategic themes in practice will look like:

1 Child and Young Person Centred	1.1 Processes within the Fermanagh and Omagh Area will capture the views of local children and young people to inform planning and delivery of services on a quarterly basis.
	1.2 The Fermanagh and Omagh Local Action Plan will respond to the changing assessed needs of children and young people.
2. Delivering Services Based on Need and through relevant Partnerships	2.1 Accessible universal youth provision will be available for children and young people in the Fermanagh and Omagh area at the right time and at the right place based on available resources.
	2.2 Based on available resources (Youth Service funding and other earmarked funding) early intervention and prevention programmes will be delivered in Fermanagh and Omagh area based on the assessed needs of children and young people.
	2.3 Develop and deliver, in partnership with other agencies and government departments, enhanced support for children and young people to meet assessed need in the Fermanagh and Omagh area.
3. Evidence Informed	3.1 In line with the RYDP the LYDP will use a Benefits Realisation Framework for reporting on delivery.
	3.2 Information systems will be used to support the development of evaluation and measurement of impact for local Youth Services in the Fermanagh and Omagh area.
	3.3 Dynamic planning processes will drive a flexible, responsive approach to service design and delivery that allows for continuous adaptation based on new evidence, feedback and changing needs.

4. Empowering All Our Staff	4.1 Increase recruitment, improve retention and recognise and celebrate the role of volunteers in Youth Services in Fermanagh and Omagh in line with the EA Youth Work Volunteer Strategy 2023- 2029.
	4.2 A skilled local workforce will be developed and supported to meet the needs of children and young people within universal and early intervention/prevention through a localised training programme in line with the EA Youth Service Workforce Development Strategy.

To bring the 2026–2029 Fermanagh and Omagh Local Youth Development Plan (LYDP) to life, this action plan outlines a clear roadmap for translating strategic intent into meaningful practice. Grounded in the four key themes highlighted above, child and young person centred, delivering services based on need and through Relevant Partnerships, evidence Informed, and empowering all our staff, the plan within the following section sets out targeted actions to ensure that Youth Services are inclusive, responsive, and impactful. It prioritises the voices of children and young people in shaping services, ensures provision is guided by assessed need and delivered in collaboration with key partners, and embeds robust evaluation mechanisms to drive continuous improvement. At its core, the plan recognises that a skilled, supported, and celebrated workforce is essential to delivering high-quality youth work. Through this action plan, the Local Youth Development plan will be operationalised with a focus on accountability, adaptability, and sustained positive outcomes for all young people across Fermanagh and Omagh.

Local Youth Development Plan – Action plan

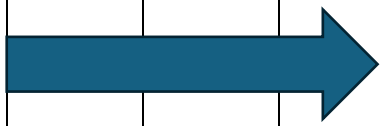
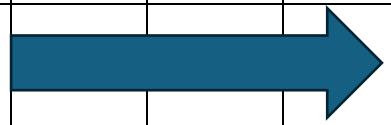
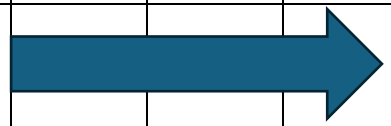
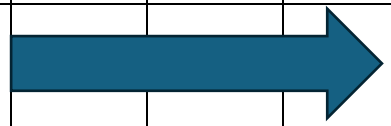
To support the implementation of the Strategic Themes in the following action plan, this section outlines a clear progression from strategic intent to measurable impact. Each component of the action plan is designed to build upon the previous, creating a coherent flow that ensures accountability and alignment with the overarching goals of the Local Youth Development Plan (LYDP).

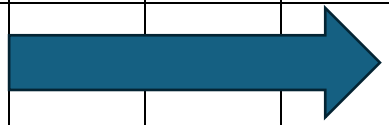
We begin with the Strategic Theme, which sets the vision for embedding youth voice and agency at the heart of all Youth Service planning and delivery. This is translated into a Headline Goal that captures the essence of what success looks like, namely, that children and young people in Fermanagh and Omagh are actively shaping the services that affect them.

From this goal, it is identified in Actions to Achieve the Goal, which detail the practical steps required to operationalise the theme. These actions are then broken down across Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3, allowing for phased implementation, reflection and adaptation over time.

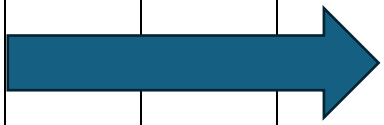
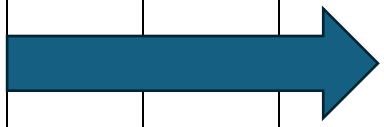
The final column, how will we know it happened and worked is critical. It will include specific outputs, including number of youth consultations held across Fermanagh and Omagh, the diversity of participants and changes made to services based on feedback and clearly mapped benefits aligned with the Strategic Goals (SG). These benefits are linked to the Part 1B Stretch Goal (Pages 6-8) that include increased youth engagement, improved service relevance and stronger outcomes for young people showing real impact. This column ensures that each action is not only tracked but also evaluated for its contribution to the broader strategic vision, enabling continuous improvement and transparent reporting.

By setting out the plan in this way, EA Youth Service is trying to ensure that the ideas behind each strategic theme are turned into practical actions that can be delivered locally. Each step, from the headline goal to the yearly actions, shows how things happen locally across Fermanagh and Omagh. The final column is especially important: it will show what is being done, what has changed and how it has made a difference for our children and young people. It will include clear outputs and link directly to the benefits outlined in the Strategic Guidance, helping track progress and make sure EA Youth Services are meeting the needs of children and young people across the area.

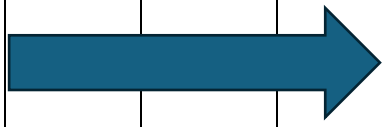
Strategic Theme	**1. Child and Young Person Centred**				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
1.1 Processes within Fermanagh and Omagh will capture the views of children and young people to inform planning and delivery of services.	**1.1.1** Ongoing assessment of needs and priorities of children and young people to effectively inform the planning and delivery of services through consultations with the Local Advisory Group, Youth Voice, Rural Voice, Local Voice and other relevant surveys.				Key Output: Annual summary report of consultation findings from Youth Voice, Rural Voice, Local Voice and surveys. Key Benefits Indicator: BU9
	1.1.2 Consult with children and young people to identify their needs against a particular theme to effectively inform the planning and delivery of services on a quarterly basis.				Key Output: Findings from consultations collated and published addressing a specific youth-related theme. Key Benefits Indicator: BU10
	1.1.3 Ongoing 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				Key Output: Published "You Said, We Did" updates showing how youth feedback influenced EA decisions. Key Benefits Indicator: BU11
1.2 The Fermanagh and Omagh Action Plan will respond to the changing assessed needs of children and young people.	**1.2.1** Children and young people will be engaged to review data and to seek their views on how Youth Services can help address their changing needs.				Revision and update to the annual local action plans based on the assessed need. Key Output: Youth-led analysis sessions or workshops reviewing service data and proposing improvements.

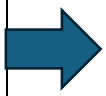
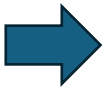
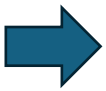
Strategic Theme	1. Child and Young Person Centred				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
					Key Benefits Indicator: BU12
	1.2.2 Biannual review of local Action Plan completed, with updates made based on the Assessed Needs of children and young people.				Revision and update to the local youth action plan based on the identified needs. Key Output: Two updated Local Action Plans per year reflecting assessed youth needs. Key Benefits Indicator: BU13

Strategic Theme	**2. Delivering Services Based on Need and through relevant Partnerships**				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
2.1 Accessible universal youth provision will be available for children and young people in Fermanagh and Omagh at the right time and at the right place based on available resources.	**2.1.1 Deliver Statutory Universal Services:** Provide safe and welcoming open access Youth Services through existing statutory provision, guided by local needs and available resources.	→			Key Output Staff CDA's and Action Plans. Key Benefits Realised: BU1, BU2, BU3 BEI9
	2.1.2 Support Volunteer Led Provision Allocate generic non targeted funding to volunteer led organisations to deliver inclusive, open access youth programmes	→			Key Output Annual funding allocation reports and programme delivery summaries from volunteer-led groups. Key Benefits Realised: BU1, BU2, BU3 BEI9
	2.1.3 Fund Voluntary Youth Organisations Universal Services: Use local area-based funding to support voluntary youth organisations in delivering universal youth work that reflects local priorities.	→			Key Output Area-based funding agreements and delivery reports aligned to local priorities. Key Benefits Realised: BU1, BU2, BU3 BEI9

Strategic Theme	2. Delivering Services Based on Need and through relevant Partnerships				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
	2.1.4 Implement Youth Work Curriculum: Deliver youth work in line with *A Model for Effective Practice*, Department of Education policy and priority age bands to ensure consistency and quality.				Key Output Youth work session plans and delivery logs aligned with A Model for Effective Practice. Key Benefits Realised: BU1, BU2, BU3 BEI1, BEI2, BEI3, BEI9
	2.1.5 Support Learning and Achievement Create accessible pathways for learning, accreditation, and personal growth through youth work.				Key Output Number of young people achieving accredited outcomes (e.g. OCN, Youth Support Worker Qualification, Duke of Edinburgh). Key Benefits Realised: BU5, BU6, BEI1, BEI2, BEI4, BEI9
	2.1.6 Strengthen Youth Voice Structures: Support youth voice groups to ensure young people influence planning and delivery.				Key Output Number of active youth voice groups and documented contributions to service planning. Key Benefits Realised: BU5, BU6, BEI9

Strategic Theme	2. Delivering Services Based on Need and through relevant Partnerships				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
	2.1.7 Support Emotional Health and Wellbeing: Incorporate wellbeing into youth work through activities that build resilience, confidence, and coping skills.				Key Output Delivery of wellbeing-focused programmes with pre/post evaluation tools. Key Benefits Realised: BU1, BU2, BU6, BEI1, BEI2, BEI6, BEI9
	2.1.8 Advance CRED and Shared Education: Deliver programmes that promote community relations, equality, diversity, and inclusion and build connections across communities.				Key Output Number of cross-community/shared education programmes delivered and participant feedback that includes TBUC and Good Relations Programmes. Key Benefits Realised: BU6, BEI1, BEI2, BEI3, BEI9
	2.1.9 Promote Healthy Play and Physical Activity: Facilitate regular opportunities for movement, fun and creative play to support emotional regulation and physical wellbeing.				Key Output Weekly physical activity sessions delivered, and participation logs maintained. Key Benefits Realised: BU1, BU2, BU3, BU6, BEI1, BEI2, BEI9

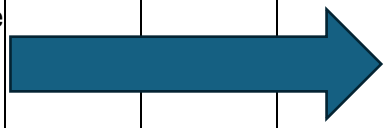
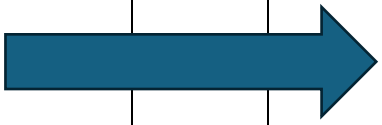
Strategic Theme	2. Delivering Services Based on Need and through relevant Partnerships				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
	2.1.10 Enable Youth Volunteering and Leadership: Encourage young people to lead and contribute to youth led initiatives that build skills and confidence.				Key Output Number of youth-led initiatives (Peer mentor programmes/Ambassadors programmes supported, and youth volunteers engaged. Key Benefits Realised: BU4, BU6, BEI5, BEI7, BEI9
	2.1.11 Enhance Awareness: Increase visibility of Youth Services among minority communities.				Key Output Outreach campaigns and translated promotional materials targeting minority communities. Key Benefits Realised: BU2, BEI2, BEI6
	2.1.12 Integrate Environmental Awareness: Include sustainability and climate focused activities in youth programmes to reflect young people's environmental concerns.				Key Output Number of sustainability-themed youth sessions or projects delivered. Key Benefits Realised: BU6, BEI1, BEI2, BEI9

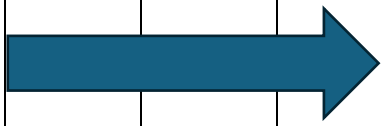
Strategic Theme	2. Delivering Services Based on Need and through relevant Partnerships				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
	2.1.13 Deliver Life Skills for Employment: Provide practical programmes focused on employability, financial literacy and job readiness.				Key Output Delivery of employability workshops and number of participants completing job-readiness programmes Key Benefits Realised: BU5, BU6, BEI4, BEI9
2.2 Based on available resources (Youth Service funding and other earmarked funding), universal and early intervention and prevention programmes will be delivered in Fermanagh and Omagh based on the locally assessed needs of children and young people.	**2.2.1 Tackle Barriers to Learning and Achievement:** Support vulnerable and marginalised young people through community programmes that address educational inequality and promote positive transitions.				Key Output Number of targeted interventions delivered in communities for at-risk youth. Key Benefits Realised: BEI1, BEI2, BEI4, BEI9, BES1
	2.2.2 Expand Horizons Locally and Globally: Facilitate youth work experiences at local, national and international levels to build confidence, cultural awareness, and aspiration.				Key Output Number of local, national and international youth exchanges or trips completed that includes Horizons/Go Global. Key Benefits Realised: BEI1, BEI2, BEI3, BEI9.

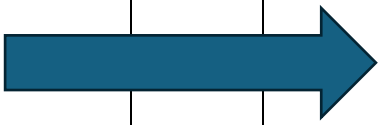
Strategic Theme	2. Delivering Services Based on Need and through relevant Partnerships				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
	2.2.3 Prevent Violence and Harm: Implement youth work programmes that address violence against women and girls (EVAWG), hate crime, racism and child criminal exploitation through education, peer support and advocacy	→	→	→	Key Output Delivery of EVAWG, anti-racism and exploitation prevention programmes with attendance records. Key Benefits Realised: BEI1, BEI2, BEI6, BEI9, BES2, BES3.
	2.2.4 Work to reduce Cultural Tensions and Interface Issues: Deliver preventative youth work in areas and times of heightened cultural tension, including contested spaces and interfaces, to promote dialogue and reduce conflict.	→	→	→	Key Output Number of interventions delivered during high-risk periods (Halloween and Summer). Key Benefits Realised: BEI1, BEI2, BEI9, BES1, BES4
	2.2.5 Promote Equality and Inclusion: Strengthen access and participation for Inclusive groups through inclusive programming and community relations work.	→			Key Output Inclusive programme delivery logs and Inclusive monitoring reports. Key Benefits Realised: BEI1, BEI2, BEI3, BEI9

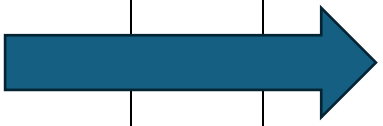
Strategic Theme	2. Delivering Services Based on Need and through relevant Partnerships				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
	2.2.6 Address Risk Taking Behaviours: Provide preventative education and support around substance misuse, including drugs, alcohol and vaping, with a focus on harm reduction and informed choices.	→	→	→	Key Output Number of harm reduction workshops delivered and participant engagement data. Number of letters of offer from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. Key Benefits Realised: BEI1, BEI2, BEI6, BEI9, BES2, BES3
	2.2.7 Build Digital Resilience and Online Safety: Equip young people with the skills to navigate online spaces safely, manage digital risks, and build healthy digital habits.		→		Key Output Youth-led digital safety campaigns and online safety workshops delivered. Key Benefits Realised: BEI1, BEI2, BEI9
	2.2.8 Support Environmental Awareness and Action: Engage young people in youth led sustainability initiatives that promote environmental responsibility and community impact.	→		→	Key Output Youth-led environmental projects implemented and community impact reports. Key Benefits Realised: BEI1, BEI2, BEI9
	2.2.9 Strengthen Youth Participation and Voice: Create meaningful opportunities for young people to influence programme design, policy, and decision making at local and regional levels.	→	→	→	Key Output Number of youth consultations held and documented influence on policy or programme design. Key Benefits Realised: BU6, BEI4, BEI9

Strategic Theme	**2. Delivering Services Based on Need and through relevant Partnerships**				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
2.3 Develop and deliver, in partnership with other agencies and government departments, enhanced support for children and young people to meet assessed needs in Fermanagh and Omagh	**2.3.1** Identification of partnership and Collaboration Projects/Programmes to support addressing the identified and ongoing needs of children and young people for this planning period (Policing Community Safety Partnership and Children and Young Peoples Service Planning, schools).				Key Output A compiled register or directory of active partnership projects/programmes including objectives, target groups and delivery timelines. Key Benefits Realised: BES1, BES2, BES3, BES4, BES5, BES6
	2.3.2 Ongoing critical self-reflection and evaluation of the effectiveness of processes and delivery of youth work in partnership.				Key Output Quarterly evaluation reports or reflective practice logs summarising partnership effectiveness, youth outcomes and areas for improvement. Key Benefits Realised: BES4, BES5, BES6

Strategic Theme	**3. Evidence Informed**				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
3.1 In line with the Regional Youth Development Plan and Local Youth Development Plan will use a Benefits Realisation Framework for reporting on delivery.	**3.1.1** Implementation of the Benefits Framework outlined on page 7-9 for the delivery of Education Authority Statutory and voluntary funded youth work delivery.				Key Output Benefits framework embedded into all Youth Service reporting. Key Benefits Realised: The systematic use of the Benefits Framework.
	3.1.2 Annual Reporting 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.				Key Output Annual Reporting completed. Key Benefits Realised: Evidence-based reporting and adaptation of youth work delivery.
3.2 Information systems will be used to support the development of evaluation and measurement of impact for local Youth Services in the Fermanagh and Omagh area.	**3.2.1** Supporting and contributing to research with academic institutions to map and evaluate benefits realisation data, including its impact.				Key Output Contribution to research paper that informs aspects of future youth work planning or delivery. Key Benefits Realised: Collaborative research validating impact.

Strategic Theme	**3. Evidence Informed**				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
3.3 Dynamic planning processes will drive a flexible, responsive approach to service design and delivery that allows for continuous adaptation based on new evidence, feedback and changing needs.	**3.3.1** Endorsing and supporting pilot initiatives that assess the quality of youth work delivery through local universal open access and early intervention programmes.				Key Output Pilot initiatives completed and evaluated, with documented findings informing aspects of future youth work planning or delivery. Key Benefits Realised: Quality assurance through pilot initiatives.

Strategic Theme	**4. Empowering All Our Staff**				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
4.1 Increase recruitment, improve retention and recognise and celebrate the role of volunteers in Youth Services in Fermanagh and Omagh in line with the EA Youth Work Volunteer Strategy 2023-2029.	**4.1.1** Local Volunteer Celebration and Recognition events programme aligned to the annual National Volunteer Week (1-7 June). (Volunteer Strategy Theme: Celebrating the contribution of Volunteers in Youth Work).				Key Output Programme established and agreed by 1 May 2026 and delivered over 1-7 June 2026 locally. Key Benefits Realised: BU4, BEI5
	4.1.2 Delivery of a programme of activities and actions for EA Statutory Youth Work volunteers in line with the EA Volunteer Strategy themes.				Key Output 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. Key Benefits Realised: BU4, BEI5, BEI7, BEI8

Strategic Theme	**4. Empowering All Our Staff**				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
4.2 A skilled local workforce will be developed and supported to meet the needs of children and young people within universal and early intervention/prevention through a localised training programme in line with the EA Youth Service Workforce Development Strategy.	**4.2.1** Implement and support training to ensure a skilled workforce meets the evolving needs of children and young people, aligned with the Workforce Development Strategy.				Key Output Staff trained annually through programmes aligned with the EA Youth Service Workforce Development Strategy. Staff feel knowledgeable around the need of children and young people. Staff feel confident in addressing those needs. Key Benefits Realised: BU7, BU8, BEI7, BEI8, BES5, BES6