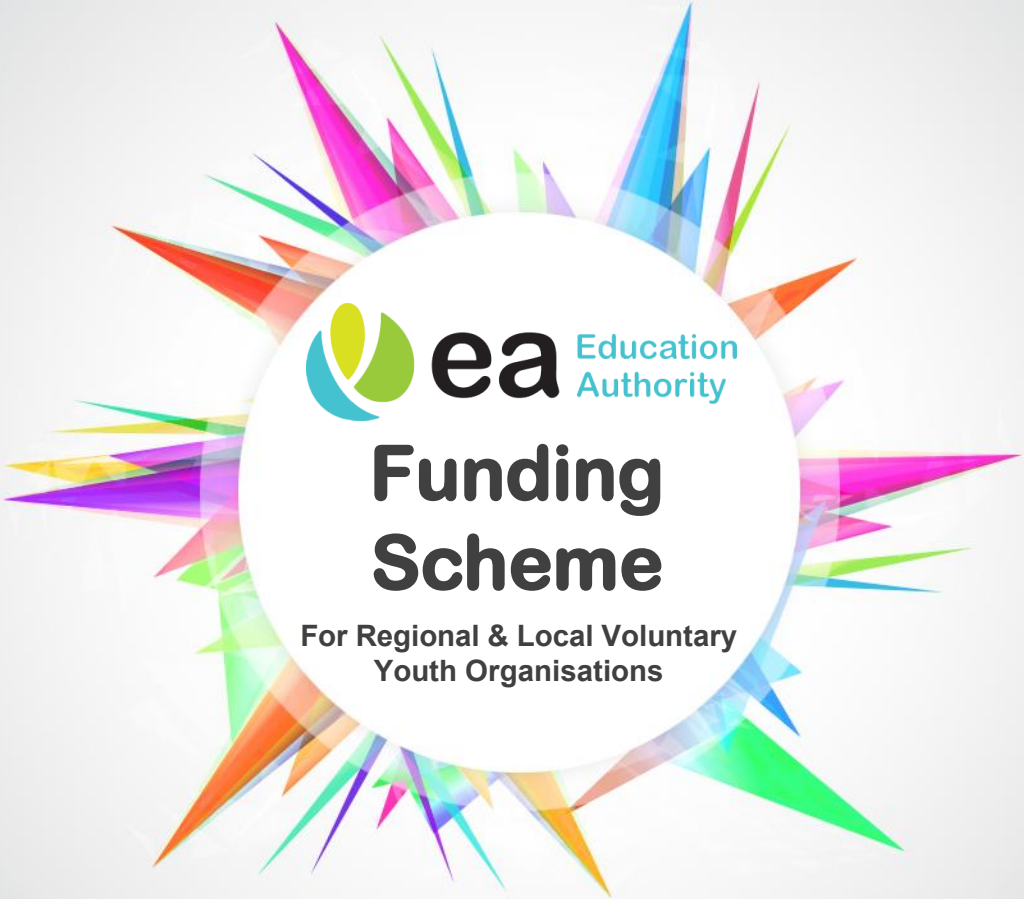

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Education
Authority
Funding
Scheme
For Regional & Local Voluntary
Youth Organisations

Agenda

01 Welcome & Introductions

02 Context

03 Feedback => Changes

04 Overview of funding released

05 Application Questions and Criteria

06 Assessment Process

07 Timeline

08 Questions

Context

This session will provide information and guidance now that the application process is open.

This is an opportunity for anybody who has questions or experiencing difficulties with their application to seek support.

Please remember you can also email youthfunding@eani.org.uk for additional support.

The session will also help you navigate the funding website to find support materials, the funding portal and any other information that may aid your application.

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All 2026-2029 Funding is Subject to:

- Subject to the level of budget the Education Authority receives from the Department of Education for the 2026-2027 period and subsequent years
- Any impact as a result of the Department of Educations Review of Youth Work Policy
- The outworkings of delivery linked to partnership and collaboration
- The outcome of the task and finish group on SEND

Regional Planning Strategic Themes

Child and Young Person Centred

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

Delivering Services Based on Need and through Partnership

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

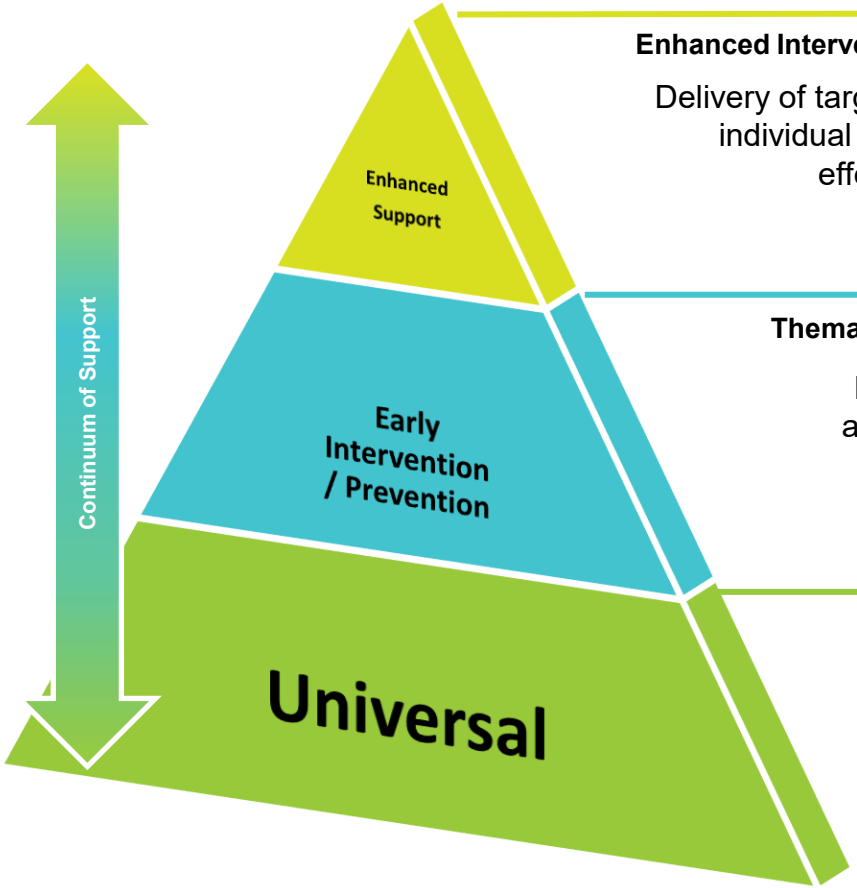
Evidence Informed

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

Empowering All our Staff

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

Youth Service Public Health Approach



Enhanced Interventions Through Partnership (Highly Desirable)

Delivery of targeted interventions to address the acute and individual needs of children and young people through effective inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches with youth work.

Thematic Based Youth Work Programmes (Desirable)

Delivery of thematic based early intervention and early prevention youth work programmes that address the root causes that impact the needs of children and young people.

Open Access Youth Work (Essential)

Delivery of quality youth services through an open access approach, open to all and delivered based on children and young people's needs.

Youth Service Public Health Model Stretch Goal

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

Feedback Leading to Changes

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We heard…	We changed…
The need to submit a delivery plan at application put applicants in a position where they had to commit to excessive targets.	We have moved the Delivery plan to the conditional offer stage.
The word count remained restrictive.	The word count on all questions has been increased to 1000.
Delivery requirements were still too prescriptive (although better than earlier releases).	A range of changes have been implemented (hours per week, rather than sessions / average attendance rather than sessional etc.).
Summer programming was deemed to be important but the previous format limited organisations to adopt their programme to meet seasonal need.	There are 2 weeks of the year that groups can decide to move their evening provision earlier in the day if they feel it better suits the needs of children and young people.
The previous approach excluded young people under 9 / over 18.	We now ask that you prioritise young people aged 9-18 (as per policy) and applicants can demonstrate how they will do so at application.
It was difficult to link the Funding Opportunity to the LAoN/LYDP.	See sections 10 and 11 which link every award directly to the LAoN and LYDP.
The budget profile sheet was perceived to be cumbersome.	This has been removed from the application process and will be agreed at conditional offer stage.
The reprofile process was perceived to be too bureaucratic.	We will allow awarded groups to reprofile up to 10% from any budget heading without formal approval. To move more than 10%, you will still require approval.
Awarded organisations felt disconnected from wider service delivery.	We have introduced regular engagement for sharing practice and promoting opportunities for collaboration. The establishment of Collaboration and Youth Work Practice Development Sectoral Partnership also addresses this.
Some felt the assessment criteria was advantageous to those who did not receive EA Moderations.	This has been removed from the assessment criteria.
The timing of application / assessment / notification was too late.	We have released awards a month earlier to allow for notification prior to the Christmas break.

Local Funding Releases

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Funding Opportunities

- The majority of Local Area Funding opportunities have a funding period of 1st April 2026 – 31st March 2029. We have continued to release awards over a 3-year period despite uncertainty around Policy review and budget allocations.
- SEND awards are for 1 year only and will be reviewed based on the work of a Task and Finish Group.
- Benchmarking engagements validated the process. Updated JNC has been included, as is the case for every new funding release.
- We have released additional Local Area Awards (increasing from 96 to 104)
- We have increased the funding allocated across the stream by 21% and prioritised Local Area over Local Project in line with the Delivery Model.

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LOCAL AREA FUNDING

Council Area	25/26 Awarded	26/27 Allocated	Change (%)	Change (£)	27/28 Allocated	28/29 Allocated
Antrim and Newtownabbey	£83,819.06	£308,158.00	268%	£224,338.94	£315,905.00	£323,893.00
Ards & North Down	£154,993.00	£179,179.00	16%	£24,186.00	£183,533.00	£188,024.00
Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon	£708,956.00	£813,722.00	15%	£104,766.00	£791,302.00	£810,565.00
Belfast (City Wide)	£53,507.00	£61,631.00	15%	£8,124.00	£0.00	£0.00
Belfast (N&E)	£1,046,691.24	£1,259,968.00	20%	£213,276.76	£1,290,737.00	£1,322,479.00
Belfast (S&W)	£1,464,628.72	£1,683,359.00	15%	£218,730.28	£1,724,013.00	£1,765,968.00
Causeway Coast and Glens	£285,389.12	£487,338.00	71%	£201,948.88	£499,440.00	£511,918.00
Derry and Strabane	£1,451,516.16	£1,651,388.00	14%	£199,871.84	£1,570,587.00	£1,608,510.00
Fermanagh and Omagh	£107,122.00	£117,548.00	10%	£10,426.00	£120,352.00	£123,246.00
Lisburn & Castlereagh	£510,799.36	£604,885.00	18%	£94,085.64	£577,669.00	£591,977.00
Mid and East Antrim	£354,801.92	£393,732.00	11%	£38,930.08	£403,177.00	£412,924.00
Mid Ulster	£422,458.71	£481,622.00	14%	£59,163.29	£493,426.00	£505,606.00
Newry, Mourne & Down	£709,544.52	£875,355.00	23%	£165,810.48	£854,484.00	£875,345.00
Totals	**£7,354,226.81**	**£8,917,885.00**	**21%**	**£1,563,658.19**	**£8,824,625.00**	**£9,040,455.00**

Application Questions & Criteria

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Application Questions

- Streamlined and reduced process.
- All questions are now directly linked to the EA Strategic Themes and headline goals outlined within the Regional Youth Development Plan and your Local Youth Development Plan.
- For Local Funding, the questions focus on the following Strategic Goals:
  - Child & young person centred
  - Delivering services based on need and through partnership
  - Evidence informed
- We are asking applicants to demonstrate how they will contribute to those goals, based on the resource available.
- All criteria is on the website under the Assessment Criteria tab.

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General Advice

- Once an application has been submitted, it cannot be edited further. All submissions are final.
- All applicants are encouraged to review their draft applications, this is accessible through the ellipsis (3 dots) to download a copy of your application:



- Criteria is accessible on the funding website and all responses will be assessed against the criteria.
- To achieve the noted mark, applicants must provide evidence against each of the points noted in each category.
- It is important to note that the assessment criteria requires all points under “Meet Requirements” to be addressed.

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Outline how you capture and respond to the views of children and young people to inform planning and delivery of services within the geographical area(s) outlined in the funding opportunity.

Meets Requirements	The response provides assurances that: • Stakeholder engagement processes are facilitated with key stakeholders including Children and Young People. • There is an awareness of the Education Authority Local Assessment of Need. • Needs assessment processes inform Youth Work delivery. • The organisation delivers youth work within the geographic area outlined in this funding opportunity.	50
Good	The response provides assurances that: • The organisation undertakes their own Assessment of Need within the community. • The organisation provides opportunities for young people to express their views within the provision. • Stakeholders influence planning and Youth Work delivery through engagement. • There is an awareness of the Education Authority Local Assessment of Need, with reference made. • The organisation is embedded within the local community and clearly articulates good working relationships with specific stakeholders.	100
Excellent	The response provides assurances that: • The organisation undertakes their own Assessment of Need within the community, at least annually, with evidence of how the results inform the prioritisation of services. • The organisation provides opportunities for and actively supports young people to express their views within and beyond the provision. • Young people are involved in the planning and evaluation of Youth Work delivery. • Stakeholders influence planning through ongoing engagement, and the organisation provides feedback to those engaged. • There is an awareness of the Education Authority Local Assessment of Need, with reference made. • The organisation is embedded within the local community and clearly articulates good working relationships with specific stakeholders referenced. • The organisation considers other services available to young people and plans the provision accordingly.	200

Outline how you will ensure quality youth provision is accessible at the right time and place, within the geographical area(s), and planned to address the needs identified in section 10 of the Funding Opportunity.

Meets Requirements	The response provides assurances that: • Youth provision will be accessible to young people, within the geographical area(s) outlined in the funding opportunity. • The minimum delivery requirements (hours per week and weeks per year) outlined in the funding opportunity will be achieved. • A broad and balanced Youth Work curriculum will be delivered, which may contribute to the DE Emotional Health and Wellbeing Framework and the issues to be addressed within this Funding Opportunity. • Young people aged 9-18 will be prioritised in service delivery. • A participative structure will be facilitated. • Inclusive Youth Work will be delivered.	150

Good	The response provides assurances that: • Ensure youth provision is accessible to young people within the geographical area(s) outlined in the funding opportunity at the right times, with a rationale provided. • The minimum delivery requirements (hours per week and weeks per year) outlined in the funding opportunity will be achieved or exceeded. • A broad and balanced Youth Work curriculum will be delivered, which contributes to the DE Emotional Health and Wellbeing Framework. • The organisation will make a clear contribution to the needs identified within this Funding Opportunity, to include Early Intervention programmes. • Young people aged 9-18 will be prioritised in service delivery. • A participative structure will be facilitated to promote and develop the voice of children and young people in all aspects of service planning and delivery. • Inclusive Youth Work will be delivered, in line with CRED Policy.	250

Outline how you will ensure quality youth provision is accessible at the right time and place, within the geographical area(s), and planned to address the needs identified in section 10 of the Funding Opportunity.

Excellent	The response provides assurances that: • Youth provision will be accessible to young people, within the geographical area(s) outlined in the funding opportunity, at the right times with a rationale provided having considered what else exists. • The organisation will be working in partnership with other voluntary and statutory youth organisations in the area. • The minimum delivery requirements (hours per week and weeks per year) outlined in the funding opportunity will be achieved or exceeded. • A broad and balanced Youth Work curriculum will be delivered, which contributes to the DE Emotional Health and Wellbeing Framework. • The organisation will make a clear contribution to the issues to be addressed within this Funding Opportunity through specific Early Intervention programmes. • Opportunities for Shared Education approaches will be explored. • Young people aged 9-18 will be prioritised in service delivery, in line with Priorities for Youth. • A participative structure will be facilitated to promote and develop the voice of children and young people in all aspects of service planning and delivery, along with a commitment to engage in wider youth consultation processes. • Youth leadership and volunteering opportunities are provided within the programme of offer. • Inclusive Youth Work will be delivered, in line with CRED Policy.	400

Provide evidence that your organisation(s) is best placed to achieve the impact outlined in section 11 and demonstrate how this impact will be measured.

Meets Requirements	The response provides assurances that: • The organisation(s) has experience of delivering Youth Work within the geographical area(s) outlined in the funding opportunity. • They will embed quality assurance processes in the delivery of this award. • The applicant has a proven track record of delivering Youth Work to a standard that meets the expectation of funders. • The organisation(s) has a history of being compliant with reporting requirements that met the expectations of funders. • The organisation(s) will evaluate the impact in line with the Youth Work Outcomes Framework. • The organisation(s) will demonstrate progress in line with the impact to be achieved in this Funding Opportunity.	100

Good	The response provides assurances that: • The organisation(s) has experience of delivering Youth Work within the relevant geographical area(s) and previously achieved impact relevant to this funding opportunity. • Quality Assurance processes are in place to ensure continuous improvement. • High delivery standards are validated by external stakeholders and/or funders. • The applicant has a proven track record of delivering Youth Work to a standard that meets the requirements of funders and provides examples of good practice. • The organisation(s) has a history of being compliant with reporting requirements that met the expectations of funders. • The organisation(s) will evaluate the impact in line with the Youth Work Outcomes Framework. • The organisation(s) will demonstrate progress in line with the impact to be achieved in this Funding Opportunity.	200

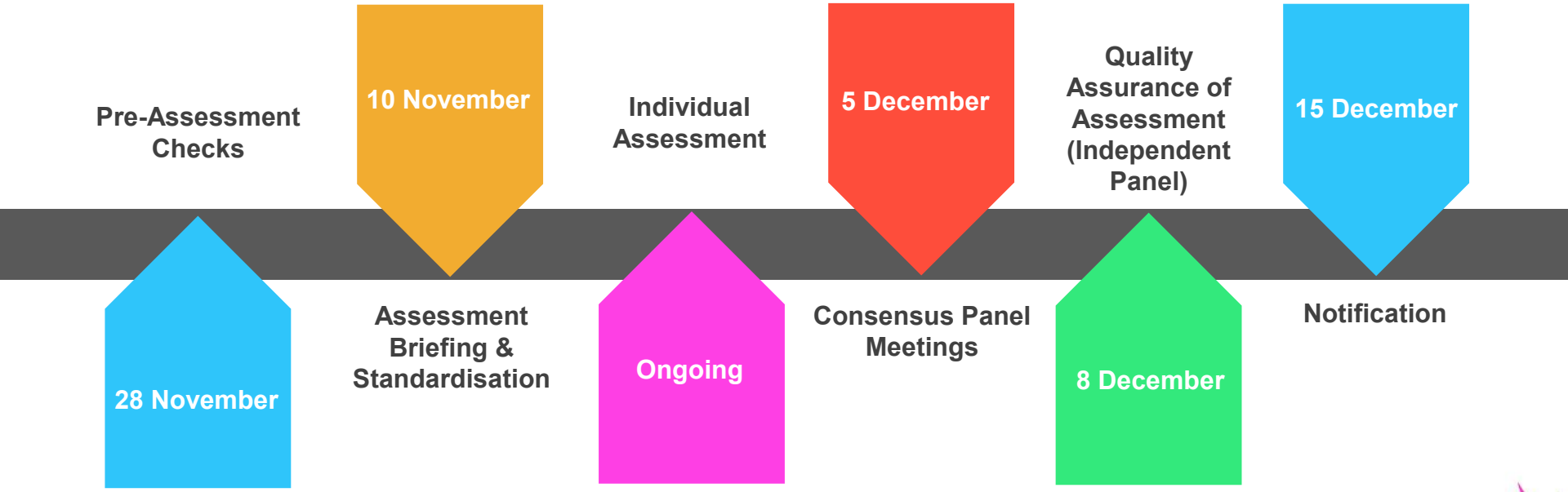
Provide evidence that your organisation(s) is best placed to achieve the impact outlined in section 11 and demonstrate how this impact will be measured.

Excellent	The response provides assurances that: • The organisation(s) has experience of delivering Youth Work to address the issues outlined in this funding opportunity within the relevant geographical area(s) and previously achieved impact relevant to this funding opportunity. • The organisation(s) is accepted and valued within the relevant geographical area(s). • Quality Assurance processes are in place to ensure the continuous improvement and development of the organisation, its people and their practice. • High delivery standards are validated by external stakeholders and/or funders. • The applicant has a proven track record of delivering Youth Work to a standard that meets the requirements of funders and provides examples of good practice relating to the issues identified in this funding opportunity. • The organisation(s) has a history of being compliant with reporting requirements that met the expectations of funders. • The organisation(s) has a clear plan to evaluate the impact in line with the Youth Work Outcomes Framework. • The organisation(s) will demonstrate progress in line with the impact to be achieved in this Funding Opportunity.	300

Assessment Process

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Assessment Process

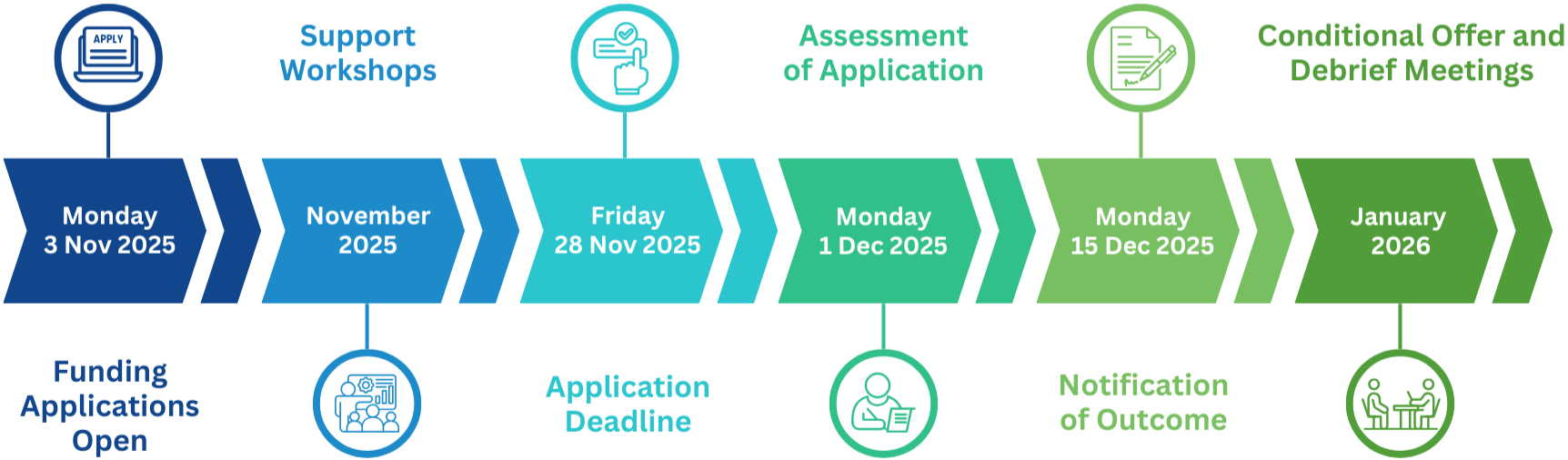


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Application Timeline

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Funding Scheme Timeline



Funding Period Begins 1 April 2026
This funding subject to budget availability

EA Funding Website

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EA Funding Website

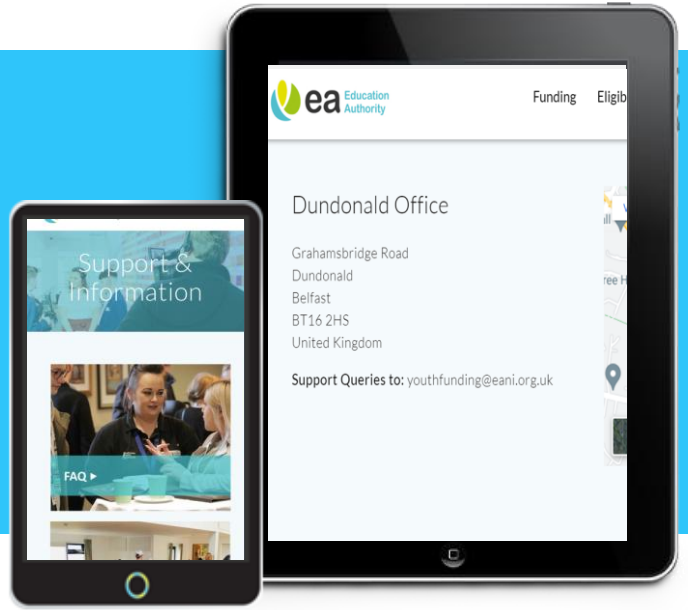
www.eanifunding.org.uk

Support & Resources

Our dedicated funding website has a support & information section loaded with resources to help you complete your application. We will continue to build more resources into this section based on experience and feedback from the sector.

Contact us

Our dedicated funding website also contains a section to help you connect with EA. Queries should be emailed to the Application Support Team at youthfunding@eani.org.uk



Apply Online for Funding

Resources

Annual Reports

FAQs

Step by Step Guidance Films for Online Applications

Help Available

If you have any issues with the application process, please email youthfunding@eani.org.uk in the first instance.

As noted earlier in the presentation Funding Officers are unable to provide any direct support or feedback on individual responses to application questions however, we can assist with queries or issues relating to the application process.

Key Contacts:

Application Support Team

youthfunding@eani.org.uk

Conor Murphy

conor.murphy@eani.org.uk

028 9598 5697

Marc Giboney

marc.giboney@eani.org.uk

028 9598 5670

Eamonn Fleming

eamonn.fleming@eani.org.uk

028 9082 1484

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Questions
& Answers



Thank you

For attending our information session on the EA Funding Scheme for Regional and Local Voluntary Youth Organisations