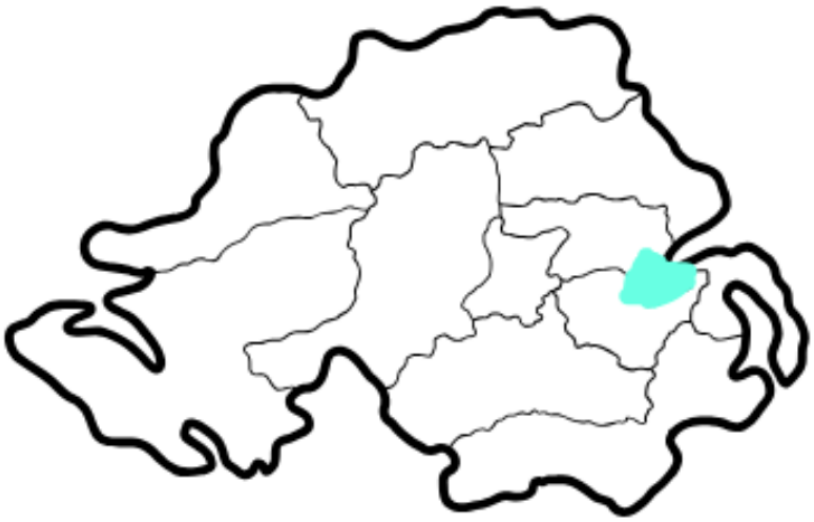


SOUTH & WEST BELFAST

LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2026 - 2029

AUTHOR
Rosie Thorpe

PUBLISHED
3 November 2025

Contents

Introduction & Background 2
South and West Belfast Vision Statement 3
Voice of children and young people and other key stakeholders in South and West Belfast 4
Youth Service Delivery Model 6
Part 1a – Model of Delivery 6
Part1b - Stretch Goal 7
Priorities for Delivery 10
Strategic Approach to Youth Services – South and West Belfast 13
2026-2029 South and West Belfast Local Youth Development Plan 14

Introduction & Background

The Education Authority (EA) Local Youth Development Action Plan for South and West Belfast outlines the key targets to be achieved by EA Youth Service for the area, based on the Local Assessment of Need for 2026. This is delivered in accordance with the Department of Education (DE) Policy, 'Priorities for Youth.'

The plan will be reviewed regularly, and progress reported in line with the Regional Youth Development Plan (RYDP) 2026-29 and the framework of the EA's Strategic Plan (2017-2027) and Corporate Business Plan. The resources provided to the EA 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.

South and West Belfast consists of 5 District Electoral Areas. These are Botanic, Balmoral, Collin, Blackmountain and Court (West) and the South and West Belfast Local Assessment of Need 2026-29 highlights the importance of providing universal youth services for children and young people within these DEAs ensuring they have access to safe, inclusive and welcoming spaces, that deliver the youth work curriculum as outlined in the Model for Effective Practice. Early intervention and prevention initiatives will provide additional support to young people when needed and within the universal programme of offer.

South and West Belfast Vision Statement

Youth Services in South and West Belfast aims to provide safe, quality and welcoming services that meet the diverse needs of children and young people. Youth Services will provide spaces where young people will be supported to grow, learn and develop personally and socially, and build positive varied pathways for their future. This vision is underpinned by a number of key objectives that commit youth services to be:

- Safe & Supportive Environments: Provide safe and warm spaces where children and young people feel valued, can connect with others and develop a sense of belonging.
- Needs-Led: Delivering quality services, programmes, opportunities and fun activities tailored to the needs of children and young people.
- Responsive to the voice of children and young people: Promoting active participation and embedding the voices of children and young people into service design, delivery, and evaluation.
- Inclusive with a Welcoming Ethos & Programmes: Developing a culture of understanding and respect where every young person feels welcomed and valued.
- Have Personal & Social Development as its primary focus: Supporting young people's personal, social and emotional development, providing opportunities for new experiences and enhanced future pathways.
- Invested in Workforce Development: Building an informed, skilled, and supported staff team equipped to engage effectively with children and young people, ensuring the successful delivery of the vision for South and West Belfast.

Voice of children and young people and other key stakeholders in South and West Belfast

The voices of children and young people are central to the development of youth services across South and West Belfast. Young people have provided clear insights into their issues and personal challenges they face growing up in Belfast. Through local focus groups, surveys and wider engagement with schools, youth groups and community partners a range of shared concerns and unmet needs have emerged.

One of the key issues identified by young people is the need for more social spaces where they can play, relax, and connect with others. This includes access to safe, inclusive, and accessible indoor and outdoor environments that are open during evenings and weekends, and offer warm, dry facilities. Young people have expressed a strong desire for a wide range of activities - social, physical, and creative that cater to diverse interests and age groups. Outdoor activities and innovative use of outdoor spaces are seen as particularly valuable. Additionally, there is a clear need to improve awareness and understanding of available youth services, especially amongst minority groups such as newcomer young people, to ensure that all communities feel welcomed and included.

Health and wellbeing has been highlighted as key priority for children and young people in South and West Belfast. Physical health is a particular concern, with statistics showing that over a quarter of Year 8 pupils are classified as overweight or obese. There is a pressing need to raise awareness and improve signposting around the risks associated with gambling, substance use including drugs, alcohol, and vaping and the importance of healthy lifestyle choices. Mental health and emotional wellbeing has also emerged as a major theme, with young people identifying stress, anxiety, depression, body image issues, trauma, and self-harm as significant challenges. Adequate rest and sleep is essential for maintaining overall wellbeing, yet this is often overlooked by young people.

Raising aspirations amongst young people has been identified as a critical need in South and West Belfast. Low aspirations are impacting school attendance, engagement, the value placed on education, and young people's self-belief and confidence. Supporting young people through the transition from adolescence to adulthood is essential, with a strong emphasis on developing life skills, vocational training, leadership development, and preparation for employment. Young people also highlighted the importance of gaining real-life experiences and opportunities that help build confidence and broaden horizons. Support during key transition points, particularly when making decisions about education and career pathways is vital. Additionally, there is a growing need to ensure young people are equipped to navigate emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, as part of their future learning and development.

The importance of ensuring that young people feel safe within their communities is strongly emphasised in the voices of children and young people. Key priorities include education and raising awareness to safeguard young people from risk-taking behaviours, interface violence, rioting, involvement in paramilitary activities, hate crimes, and vandalism. Equally significant is focussing on violence against women and girls, as well as supporting young people with the negative impacts of social media misuse and bullying.

Poverty is reported to have a significant impact on children and young people, both physically and emotionally. There is a need to support children and young people, their self-esteem and self-worth as they experience these challenges. A key priority identified through engagement with young people is preparing them for adulthood and employment and poverty can have an impact on these pathways. Young people want opportunities to gain volunteering experience, access pathways to employment, and develop practical life skills to raise their aspirations.

Another priority need for young people in South and West Belfast that has been highlighted through engagement is the need to deepen young people's connections with their local communities. Young people have a significant contribution to make to local communities and this needs to be valued, supported and promoted. Young people want support to volunteer within their local communities, campaign about issues that matter to them and ultimately to have their voices heard.

Young people in South and West Belfast have voiced a strong need for greater education and awareness around their rights and how to exercise them. They expressed a desire to feel more empowered and informed, particularly in areas where rights are not always clearly understood or upheld. The rights of girls and young women were highlighted as a priority, alongside the rights of minority groups, disabled young people, and those with cultural and linguistic interests. Young people want to see their rights respected in all aspects of their lives.

Young people also highlighted the importance of promoting good relations and fostering a culture of respect, understanding, and acceptance in South and West Belfast. They expressed a need for greater awareness and education around diversity and inclusion, with particular emphasis on supporting newcomer communities, children and young people from different ethnic backgrounds, LGBTQIA+ individuals, those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and gender equality. Creating safe and inclusive spaces where all young people feel valued and respected is seen as essential to building stronger, more connected communities.

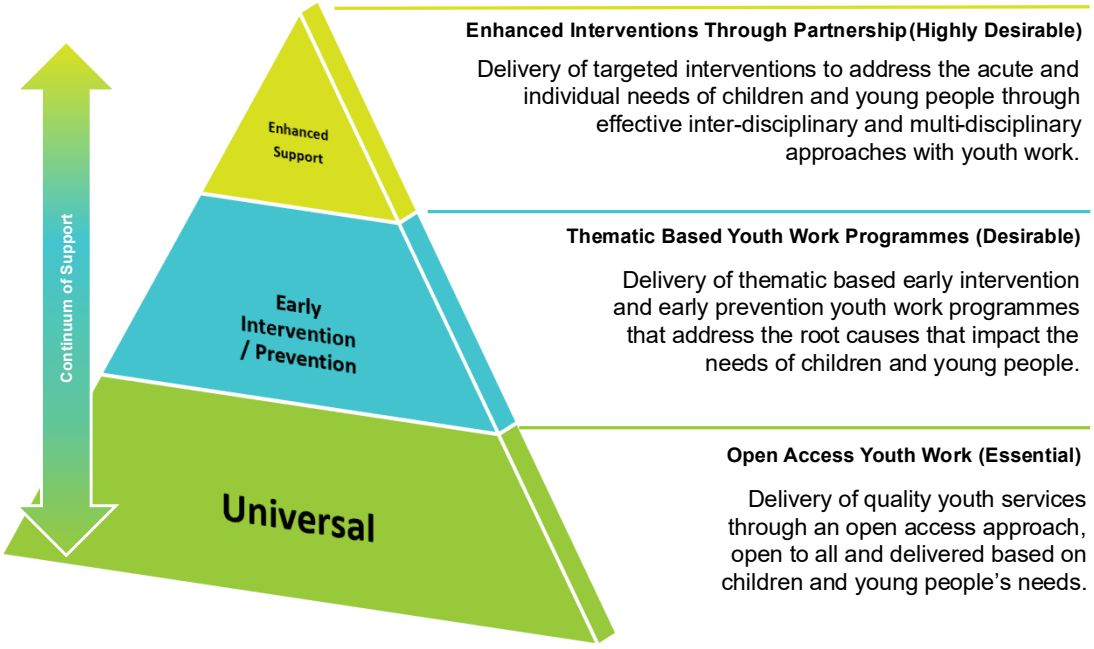
In addition to all the above, climate change was recognised by young people as a pressing global issue that demands local action. Young people are asking for more education and awareness around environmental matters and want to be actively involved protecting the environment. Empowering young people with the knowledge and practical tools is therefore essential.

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 in the first instance 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.

Part 1a – Model of Delivery



Part1b - Stretch Goal

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

• Capacity of staff is supported to meet the needs of children and young people presented through universal provision	needs through the delivery of early intervention and prevention programmes/projects	universal 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. For example: Department of Justice: Another way, Engage and Fusion. Department of Education, A Fair Start: Horizons.
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		
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	**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	**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

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	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	work outcomes **BES5** Number of training programmes provided **BES6** Number of staff participating in training

Priorities for Delivery

The needs of children and young people in South and West Belfast will be met primarily through the delivery of Universal Services and Early Intervention/Prevention Initiatives guided by A Model for Effective Practice.

Provision will ensure all young people have access to safe, inclusive, and meaningful spaces that promote wellbeing, learning, and belonging. Delivery will be locally responsive and will reflect the voices of young people, as captured through the Local Assessment of Need 2026–2029, which identified the following top priority themes: Your Future, Play and Hobbies, Health and Wellbeing, Safety, Education, Equality, Rights, and Citizenship.

These priorities will be reviewed annually, ensuring that youth work remains flexible, needs-led, and connected to the lived realities of young people across all District Electoral Areas (DEAs).

Universal services will be prioritised in the first instance, and early intervention or enhanced support will be provided if resources are available.

Within the South and West Belfast area, the Universal Service priorities are:

1. **Safe, Welcoming, and Inclusive Spaces**
   The provision of safe warm, inclusive, and accessible environments for all young people, available at times that best meet their needs. Universal provision will offer spaces that are free from discrimination and accessible to all, including those with disabilities, newcomer and ethnic backgrounds, or LGBTQIA+ identities including opportunities to engage with peers in their own linguistic community.

2. **Play Leisure and Creative Opportunities**
   The provision of a wide range of diverse and engaging curriculum based on A Model for Effective Practice that provides activities to promote the personal and social development of young people. A particular focus is also needed on the themes of physical development, creative development, cultural awareness, environmental awareness and using the outdoors for learning.

3. **Learning, Achievement and Life skills**
   Youth work will support young people in their educational journey and provide alternative pathways to achievement. This will include opportunities to develop life skills and preparation for transitions in both education and work.

4. **Emotional Health and Wellbeing**
   The promotion and support of young people's wellbeing will be embedded throughout universal services to provide safe and trusted spaces for young people whilst encouraging healthy lifestyles and building resilience.

5. **Youth Voice, Leadership, and Volunteering**
   Young people's voices will be at the centre of youth service design and delivery. The voices of children and young people will be visible and heard through participation structures. Leadership

and volunteering opportunities will support young people to lead and contribute within their communities.

6. **Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (CRED)**
   Inclusion and respect for difference will underpin all universal services. Promotion of respect, acceptance, and understanding across communities will be encouraged, supporting equality, diversity, and inclusion through CRED principles.

Within the South and West Belfast area, thematic areas that should be delivered through both universal and early intervention and prevention services will focus on the following:

1. **Living in Safety and Stability**

   Youth work will support young people in the area of violence and harm. This will include providing a curriculum that addresses issues such as violence against women and girls, domestic violence, healthy masculinity, interface violence, social unrest and racism.

2. **Health and Wellbeing**

   Prevention and support for young people engaging in risk taking behaviours is important to help them consider the consequences and impact of their behaviours whilst also signposting young people to other services. Key areas for prevention and support for young people are in the areas of alcohol use, drugs and vaping, gambling and relationships & sexual health.

3. **Emotional Health and Wellbeing**

   Building on universal provision, the youth work curriculum will provide support for the emotional health and wellbeing of young people. This is particularly important in supporting young people around managing stress, anxiety, and addressing issues around body image.

4. **Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (CRED)**

   Youth work will promote equality and inclusion through services that enhance community relations engagement and increase access for Section 75 groups.

5. **Learning and Achieving**

   Through youth work opportunities there will be increased opportunities to address barriers to learning and achieving. This is particularly important for the most vulnerable and marginalised children and young people, to help them overcome challenges and fulfil their individual potential.

6. **Youth Voice, Leadership, and Widening Horizons**

   Youth work will empower young people to be active citizens and advocates for change through more focused initiatives that will support young people into youth voice structures, youth leadership and widening horizons opportunities.

Delivery of Universal Services and Early Intervention/Prevention Initiatives in South and West Belfast will be underpinned by a rights-based approach, ensuring that all actions respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of children and young people as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

This approach ensures that youth provision, both universal, early intervention and preventative, reaches the areas of highest need, helping to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes. It promotes

fairer delivery, strengthens effectiveness, and stays aligned with best practice and evidence-based approaches in youth work.

For more information on the specific themes by localised District Electoral Areas refer to the Local Assessment of Need (2026 – 29 South & West Belfast) found here.

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 South and West Belfast area working in partnership with other agencies to meet the specific needs of children and young people. These include:

- **ENGAGE**
  This targeted programme is focused on tackling paramilitarism through groupwork, outreach and detached work, peer mentoring and peer support

- **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

Within the scope of Enhanced Support, a range of targeted interventions are also being implemented in South and West Belfast area which also involves working in partnership with other agencies to meet the acute needs of children and young people. These include:

- **Another Way**
  A new partnership programme with the PSNI and Department of Justice has been developed in South Belfast to provide an alternative diversion for young people who come into contact with the justice system.

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

Strategic Approach to Youth Services – South and West Belfast

When considering the delivery of local youth services in South and West Belfast, it is important to also consider the findings from the Regional Assessment of Need and the Regional Youth Development Plan. The Regional Assessment of Need has identified four emerging strategic themes: being children and young person centred, delivering services based on need and through partnership, using evidence to inform practice, and empowering all our staff. These themes provide a framework for South and West Belfast youth services to align common goals and achieve long-term objectives over the three-year planning period. The Strategic themes within the South and West Belfast Local Youth Development Plan are outlined below:



Child and Young Person Centred

In South and West Belfast, youth services will be planned and delivered using a rights-based approach, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and be based on the needs identified by children and young people. We place great value on active participation, and the voices of children and young people are central to decision making processes when planning and shaping services. We highly value the importance of feedback to the children and young people and will inform them of how their voices have impacted decisions on services and delivery.



Delivering Services Based on Need and through Partnership

In South and West Belfast, the delivery of youth services will be shaped by the diverse needs of children and young people, achieved through a combination of statutory youth provision and grant aid assistance to the voluntary sector. South and West Belfast Youth Services will prioritise universal work delivering youth work outcomes while reducing the need for targeted early intervention or prevention. The Youth Service will act in partnership, working collaboratively to provide active support across the Early Intervention/Prevention and Enhanced Support tiers, with the goal of improving outcomes for children and young people.

Evidence Informed

In South and West Belfast, we will actively listen to the voices of young people, gather feedback from stakeholders, and draw insights from programme evaluations and reflective practices.

This collective information will guide us in identifying what is working well and where improvements can be made. It will also play a key role in enhancing our services and informing planning and decision making to better meet the needs of children and young people across the area.



Empowering All our Staff

In South and West Belfast, we will ensure all those delivering youth work have the curriculum resources, training and skills to meet the evolving needs of our children and young people accessing youth services.

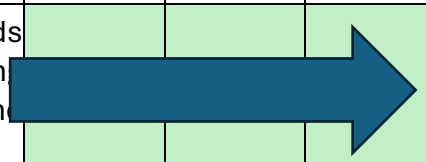
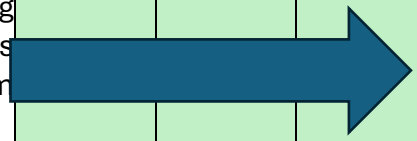
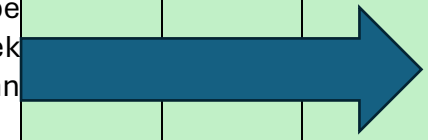
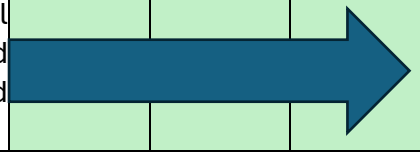
This includes ongoing professional development, access to up-to-date curriculum frameworks and resources, and opportunities to share best practice.

2026-2029 South and West Belfast Local Youth Development Plan

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

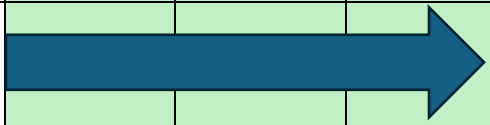
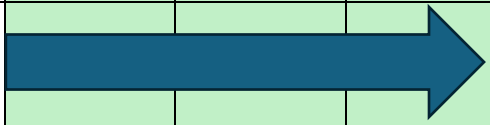
1. Child and Young Person Centred	**1.1** Processes within the South and West Belfast Area will capture the views of children and young people to inform planning and delivery of services on a quarterly basis
	1.2 The South and West Belfast Action Plan will respond to the changing assessed needs of children 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 South and West Belfast 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 South and West Belfast 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 South and West Belfast 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 South and West Belfast 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.

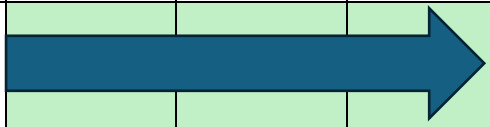
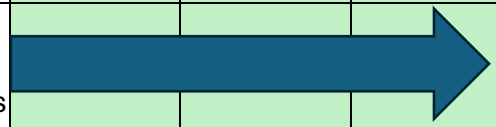
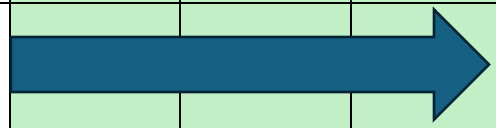
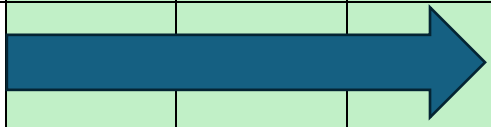
 **4.** **Empowering All Our Staff**	**4.1** Increase recruitment, improve retention and recognise and celebrate the role of volunteers in youth services in the South and West Belfast area in line with the EA Youth Work Volunteer Strategy 2023-2029
	4.2 A skilled local workforce will be developed and 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

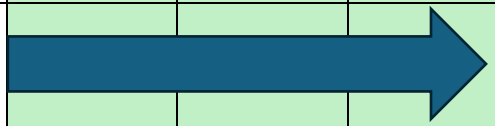
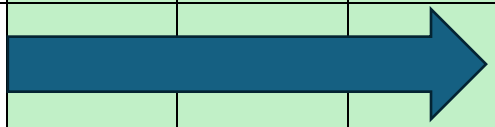
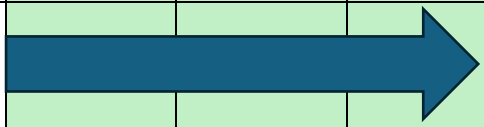
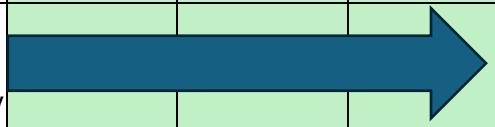
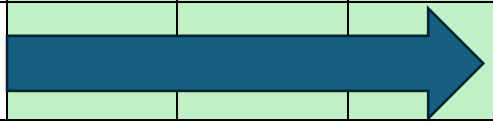
Strategic Theme	**1. Child and Young Person Centred**				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
1.1 Processes within the South and West Belfast Area will capture the views of children and young people to inform planning and delivery of services on a quarterly basis	1.1.1 Continual assessment of needs and priorities of children and young people to effectively inform the planning and delivery of services.				Number of engagements and consultations with children and young people. **BEI1** Feedback and reporting provided on how these responses have influenced decisions made.
	1.1.2 Consult with children and young people on thematically focused areas to identify needs to effectively inform the planning and delivery of services.				Number of thematic consultations that identify children and young people's needs. **BEI1** Feedback and reporting provided on how these responses have influenced decisions made.
1.2 The South and West Belfast 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.				Number of engagements and consultations with children and young people. **BEI1** Revision and update to the annual local youth action plan based on assessed needs.
	1.2.2 Biannual review of the Local Action Plan, with updates made based on the Assessed Needs of children and young people.				Revision and update to the annual local youth action plan based on assessed needs.

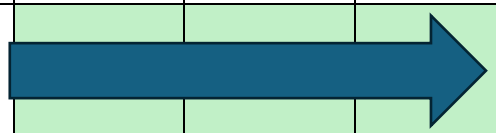
Strategic Theme	2. Delivering Services Based on Need and through relevant Partnerships				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
2.1 Accessible universal youth provision will be available for children and young people in the South and West Belfast Area at the right time and at the right place based on available resources	2.1.1 Provision of safe warm universal open access youth services delivered through existing statutory youth provision based on identified needs and resources				BU1, BU2, BU3
	2.1.2 Allocate generic non-targeted funding to volunteer-led organisations to deliver universal open access youth programmes.				BU1, BU2, BU3
	2.1.3 Use Local Area Based Funding to support voluntary youth organisations to deliver universal open access youth services based on identified local needs and priorities.				BU1, BU2, BU3
	2.1.4 Youth work curriculum delivered in line with A Model for Effective Practice, DE Policy and priority age bands				BU1, BU2, BU3 BEI1, BEI2, BEI3, BEI9
	2.1.5 Deliver non-formal				BU1, BU2, BU3, BU5, BU6

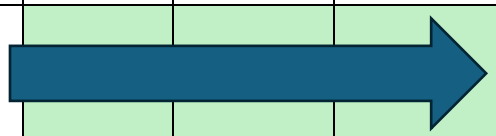
Strategic Theme	2. Delivering Services Based on Need and through relevant Partnerships				
Headline Goal	**Actions to Achieve Goal**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**How will we know it happened and worked?**
	learning opportunities that support young people to grow, learn and develop personally and socially				BEI1, BEI2, BEI3, BEI9
	2.1.6 Develop the local, thematic and youth voice of children and young people across the area, supporting them to influence decisions that affect them.				BU3, BU6, BEI9
	2.1.7 Emotional health and wellbeing for all Offer programmes and activities that help young people, build confidence, resilience and develop coping strategies.				BU1, BU2, BU6, BEI1, BEI2, BEI6, BEI9
	2.1.8 Implementation of Community Relations Equality and Diversity & Shared Education programmes that promote community relations, equality, diversity and understanding of others and build connections across communities and interfaces.				BU6, 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?**
	2.1.9 Physical Health and wellbeing for all Offer awareness workshops and programmes, fun, movement, creative play and outdoor activities that help young people learn about their physical health, emotional regulation, and social skills.				BU1, BU2, BU3, BU6, BEI1, BEI2, BEI9
	2.1.10 Supporting young people to volunteer and take active roles in shaping and delivering youth-led initiatives				BU4, BU6, BEI5, BEI9
	2.1.11 Preparation for Life and Work Programmes and activities to enhance life skills, raising aspirations, preparation for employment and transitions support.				BU5, BU6, BEI4, BEI9
	2.1.12 Outreach to promote greater knowledge and awareness of youth services, particularly with minority communities				BU1, BU2

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 Environmental Awareness & Climate Action Programmes to provide awareness and knowledge with opportunities to voice, act and make a difference				BU4, BU6, BEI1, BEI2, BEI6, BEI9
	2.1.14 Gender specific programmes to raise awareness of identity, rights and positive relationships				BU6, BEI1, BEI2, BEI9
2.2 Based on available resources (Youth Service funding and other earmarked funding) early intervention and prevention programmes will be delivered in South and West Belfast based on the assessed needs of children and young people	2.2.1Preventative Youth Work Curriculum on Violence and Harm: Youth work initiatives that actively support the prevention of violence against women and girls, (EVAWG), healthy masculinity, hate crime, racism, Child Criminal Exploitation and interface violence				BEI1, BEI2, BEI3, BEI9
	2.2.2 Preventative Youth Work Curriculum on Risk taking behaviours, substance misuse including alcohol and vaping,				BEI1, BEI2, BEI6, 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?**
	gambling and sexual health.				
	2.2.3 Equality and Inclusion Programmes to strengthen community relations, acceptance and understanding of others and increase access for Section 75 groups.				BEI1, BEI2, BEI6, BEI9
	2.2.4 Reduce barriers to learning and achievement by delivering school-based and community programmes that support vulnerable and marginalised young people.				BEI1, BEI2, BEI4, BEI6, BEI9
	2.2.5 Youth Leadership opportunities and skills development with enhanced pathways for young people				BEI1, BEI2, BEI4, BEI5, BEI6, BEI9
	2.2.6 Strengthening digital awareness, digital conduct, resilience, and online safety				BEI1, BEI2, BEI4, BEI9
	2.2.7 Widening Horizons through local, national and international Youth Work				BEI1, BEI2, BEI4, BEI5, BEI6, 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 need in the South and West Belfast area	2.3.1 Identification of partnership and collaboration Projects/Programmes and signposting to address the identified needs of children and young people. (City wide or locally based).				BES1, BES2, BES3, BES4, BES5, BES6
	2.3.2 Ongoing self-reflection and evaluation of the effectiveness of the delivery of youth work in partnership				BES1, BES2, BES3, 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 RYDP the LYDP will use a Benefits Realisation Framework for reporting on delivery	3.1.1 Implementation of the Benefits Framework outlined on page 7 for the delivery of EA statutory and EA voluntary funded youth work delivery				Benefits framework embedded into all youth service reporting
	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				Annual Reporting completed
3.2 Dynamic planning processes will be used to support the evaluation and measurement of impact for local youth services in the South and West Belfast area	3.2.1 Evaluation of benefits realisation data, including its impact.				Benefits framework embedded into all youth service evaluation and reporting
3.3 A flexible, responsive approach will be used to assess needs, evidence impact and inform future planning and delivery	3.3.1 Assess the quality of youth work delivery through local universal open access and early intervention programmes.				Local universal open access and early intervention programmes evaluated, with documented findings informing aspects of future youth work planning or delivery.

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 the South and West Belfast area 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)				Programme established and agreed by 1 May and delivered over 1-7 June annually in the South & West Belfast BU4, BU6, BEI5
	4.1.2 Delivery of a programme of activities and actions for EA Statutory Youth Work volunteers in line with the E Volunteer Strategy themes.				Number of volunteer programmes delivered in line with the volunteer strategy. Number of volunteers attended. Percentage of volunteers that are satisfied with the service. BU4, BU7, BU8, 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.				BU7, BU8, BEI7, BEI8