

The Education Authority
Proposed Funding Scheme for Regional and Local
Voluntary Youth Organisations

Consultation
Information Booklet



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Foreword

The statutory provision for the Youth Service is contained in Article 37 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986, which sets out the requirements in regards to the provision of Youth Services and the Youth Service (NI) Order 1989 which established the Youth Council (NI).

During 2018, the Department has allocated £32.6m recurrent budget to youth services, which the Education Authority (EA) must ensure is used effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of young people. No decisions have been taken in relation to future years budgets. Funding is provided to the EA for the delivery of Youth Services, to maximise opportunities for young people through support of regional services, maintaining statutory youth provision and to provide funding to local voluntary units who satisfy registration EA criteria and who are eligible for funding. EA supports 139,426 young people through the provision of funding to 1,668 youth organisations.

In line with Priorities for Youth (2013), the EA is committed to supporting our children and young people to have the best start in life, achieve the best possible outcomes and for the delivery of quality youth services within an educational framework.

I am pleased to launch a public consultation which contains proposals for the Education Authority's new Funding Scheme for Regional and Local Voluntary Youth Organisation in Northern Ireland. In time, this would replace historic funding arrangements to regional and local voluntary youth organisations.

The EA Strategic Plan 2017-2027 confirms our commitment:

“To inspire, support and challenge all our Children and Young People to be the best that they can be. All of us have a shared interest in improving outcomes for children and young people within our society to help them be the best that they can be.” (Education Authority Strategic Plan 2017-2027)

These proposals have been developed following significant engagement with a wide range of stakeholders.

I believe that the proposed new Funding Scheme for Regional and Local Voluntary Youth Organisations will contribute to positive long term outcomes for children and young people across Northern Ireland.

This public consultation provides you with the opportunity to comment on the key elements of the proposed new Funding Scheme. I would ask that you please read this document and complete the questionnaire provided.

During the consultation, a range of workshops will be facilitated regionally to ensure that the EA captures all of the feedback from key stakeholders.

Your contributions are a very important part of the review process and the EA, in consultation with DE, will give full consideration to these before finalising the framework for the new Funding Scheme for Regional and Local Voluntary Youth Organisations.



Dr Clare Mangan

Director of Children and Young Peoples Services

1.1 This document provides information relating to a proposed new Funding Scheme for Regional and Local Voluntary Youth Organisations and includes the following:

- The legislative and wider policy context relating to the Youth Service;
- The need for change as we introduce a new Funding Scheme;
- Engagement feedback from key stakeholders to date;
- The underpinning principles of the proposed new Funding Scheme;
- The funding proposals;
- Details of the public consultation.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 In October 2013, the Department of Education (DE) published a policy for youth work entitled *“Priorities for Youth – Improving Young Peoples’ Lives through Youth Work, 2013”* (PfY). The new policy outlined key actions for the transformation of Youth Services including funding for Regional and Local Voluntary Youth Organisations. It specifically states the following:

“Historical funding arrangements for local and regional programmes will be phased out and replaced with a converged (local and regional) approach to securing services on the basis of identified need to meet DE objectives. The new funding scheme will be developed to support local and regional services assessed as needed in the Regional Youth Development Plan, rather than services available.” (PfY; 4.24.1)

1.2.2 PfY states that this new Funding Scheme would emanate from the establishment of a new Education Authority (EA), providing the mandate for a converged youth service and the move from historical legacy arrangements. (See PfY 4.21-4.24)

1.2.3 The EA was formally established in April 2015. Prior to this, funding was allocated through the legacy arrangements; which included the 5 Education and Library Boards (ELBs) and the

Youth Council Northern Ireland (YCNI).

1.2.4 In April 2016, Regional Funding previously held by the YCNI transferred into the EA. This resulted in the EA taking responsibility for the current funding of Regional Voluntary Youth Organisations (RVYOs) and staff previously employed by the YCNI. Moving forward, the EA also has a role in the development of the implementation and future of the new Funding Scheme.

The YCNI continues to discharge its statutory functions as a Non Departmental Body of the Department of Education. In line with the direction issued (May/June 2016) by the Department of Education.

1.2.5 Currently the EA facilitates the deployment of 6 historical funding schemes; 5 from the legacy ELBs and one from the YCNI. In taking forward the relevant actions in PfY the new proposed funding scheme will cover funding for both regional and local youth organisations.

1.3 Stakeholder Engagement

1.3.1 To inform the proposals for the new proposed Funding Scheme, initial engagement with key stakeholders was undertaken during 2015 and 2016.

1.3.2 Since April 2016, the EA has had responsibility for both Regional and Local Funding of Voluntary Youth Organisations, and has continued to build upon this initial engagement.

1.3.3 In April 2016, a Project Management Board (PMB) was established to oversee the further development of proposals for a new scheme using PRINCE2 methodology. The PMB comprised officers from the EA Children and Young People's Services (CYPS) Directorate with representatives from the voluntary and community sector and the YCNI.

1.3.4 The proposed Funding Scheme would apply to both Regional and Local Voluntary Youth Organisations. Throughout this document; 'Regional' refers to RVYOs; supporting the delivery of quality youth services emanating from the Regional Assessment of Need. 'Local' refers to the direct delivery of youth work to children and young people, based on assessed need and resulting from Local Area Plans.

1.3.5 As we bring forward these proposals for consultation, the EA would like to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed to the development of the proposals, including our children and young people. Your views and contributions are of great value and the feedback from the engagement to date has contributed to the development of the proposed new Funding Scheme.



2.1 The following key legislation, strategies and policies have been considered in the development of the new Funding Scheme proposals:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990);
- Draft Programme For Government (2016);
- Children and Young People’s Strategy (2017);
- Priorities for Youth (2013);
- Shared Education (2016);
- Community Relations Equality and Diversity (2012) (CRED) and CRED Addendum (2016).

2.1.1 In addition, the EA has taken cognisance of the wider context within Northern Ireland, including the:

- Fresh Start Agreement (2015);
- Children’s Services Cooperation Act NI (2015);
- Code of Practice on Reducing Bureaucracy (2015);
- Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016;
- Section 75, NI Act 1998;
- Human Rights Act 1998.

2.2 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

2.2.1 The EA is committed to ensuring that the principles of the UNCRC continue to be taken into consideration; not least the right of all children and young people to have their voices heard, listened to and have those opinions taken into account (Article 12) and that education, in its broadest sense, be directed towards developing children and young people to their fullest potential (Article 29).

2.2.2 Our children and young people are key stakeholders in the development of the proposed funding Scheme and are central to the engagement process.

2.3 Draft Programme for Government

2.3.1 The EA recognises the intention of the Draft Programme for Government and a move to an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) framework, which is relevant for youth services. Through cross-sectoral engagement the EA has adopted a framework to assess the engagement of children and young people in youth work using an Outcomes Framework.

This Outcomes Framework provides a core set of outcomes at individual and community levels, common to all types of youth work provision. These can be used to support planning, delivery, quality assurance and evaluation and can be proportionately demonstrated and measured (Appendix 1; Framework of Expected Outcomes).

2.4 Children and Young People's Strategy

2.4.1 The draft Children and Young People's Strategy is linked to the Children's Services Cooperation Act (NI) 2015. The Act defines the well-being of children and young people against eight general characteristics. Based on these, the draft Children and Young People's Strategy sets out the eight outcomes we want for our children and young people, namely:

- Children and young people are physically and mentally healthy
- Children and young people enjoy play and leisure
- Children and young people learn and achieve
- Children and young people live in safety and with stability
- Children and young people experience economic and environmental well-being
- Children and young people make a positive contribution to society
- Children and young people live in a society which respects their rights
- Children and young people live in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted.

2.4.2 The outcomes of youth work can be clearly mapped across all of the above outcomes. In line with the Children and Young People's Strategy the new Funding Scheme seeks to

deliver on these priority outcomes and to improve the well-being of children and young people based on assessed need.

2.5 Priorities for Youth, Improving Young Peoples' Lives through Youth Work

2.5.1 Within PfY there are specific actions to be embedded in the proposed new Funding Scheme.

These are as follows:

- Historic funding arrangements for local and regional programmes and organisations will be phased out and replaced with a converged (local and regional) approach to securing services on the basis of identified need to meet DE objectives. (PfY 4.24.1)
- There will continue to be non-targeted/generic youth provision available in line with the assessment of need. (PfY 4.8.3)
- The EA will only provide funding to those organisations who demonstrate that their services are required in terms of the delivery of the RYDP. (PfY 4.24.2)
- Targeted provision will be supported to meet the needs of specific groups of young people; within the Section 75 groupings, or those who may be at greater risk of social exclusion, marginalisation or isolation because they experience a combination of barriers to learning. (PfY 4.8.4)
- Strategic planning and funding of Youth Services must reflect wider DE policy and be in response to the assessed need, prioritised age ranges and priority groups. (PfY 2.19)
- All funding decisions, local and regional, will be based on needs identified in the Regional Youth Development Plan (RYDP) which will provide greater consistency, coherence and cost effectiveness in the interests of maintaining front line services for young people. (PfY 4.22)
- The EA will design a framework of expected outcomes for all types of provision, proportionate to the support provided and in line with the RYDP. (PfY 4.6.4)
- Informal opportunities for learning through the medium of Irish in the youth sector will be encouraged and supported. (PfY 4.8.5; Rec 18 Review of Irish-Medium Education)
- A degree of flexibility will be required to deal with unforeseen circumstances and to adapt to meet changing needs. (PfY 4.6.2)
- Funding to support RVYOs will be capped at no more than 10% of the youth budget available to support local units, programmes and projects operating at a local level to ensure a focus on frontline delivery. (PfY 4.8.2)

- EA will support innovative schemes to enhance collaboration and cost effectiveness of regional support structures, such as sharing of back office functions, amalgamation or clustering arrangements. (PfY 424.4)
- The EA will provide access to a regionally managed small grants programme, supported by one organisation or a range of organisations, which will allow young people to administer grants to other young people. (PfY 4.20.5)

2.6 Shared Education

2.6.1 The Shared Education Act (NI) 2016 defines Shared Education as the education together of those of different religious belief, including reasonable numbers of both Protestant and Roman Catholic children or young persons and those who are experiencing socio-economic deprivation and those who are not.

2.6.2 Shared Education recognises that the organisation and delivery of education must align to the following principles:

- Meet the needs of and provide for the education together of learners from all Section 75 categories and socio-economic status
- Deliver educational benefits to learners, promote the efficient and effective use of resources, and promote equality of opportunity, good relations, respect for identity, diversity and community cohesion.

2.6.3 These principles are firmly embedded in the proposals of the new Funding Scheme at both regional and local level.

2.7 CRED and the CRED Addendum

2.7.1 In September 2016, DE published the CRED Addendum. Whilst the core CRED policy remains unchanged, the Addendum provides an updated set of commitments to be read in conjunction with the policy. The Addendum recognises the close relationship between the CRED, Shared Education and PfY policies.

2.7.2 The Addendum identifies a range of key issues and actions which are clearly reflected in the proposals for the new Funding Scheme and include:

- taking account of the particular needs of those of differing sexual orientation, racial groups and disability;
- ensuring practitioners, in particular within voluntary youth organisations, have the knowledge and skills to embed CRED through professional learning programmes, dissemination of good practice, training and mentor support.

2.8 Wider Policy Context Within Northern Ireland

2.8.1 As well as meeting PfY policy directives, the proposals for the new Funding Scheme are compliant with a range of wider public sector commitments, for example:

- The best practice principles set out in The Code of Practice for Reducing Bureaucracy in Grant Funding to the Voluntary and Community Sector, which has been developed to facilitate a greater focus on outcome
- The adoption of the Key Document Sharing Protocol (Funders' Passport) shared via the Government Funding Database (GFD)
- The Belfast Agreement, which recognises the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity, including in Northern Ireland, the Irish language, Ulster-Scots and the languages of the various ethnic communities.

2.8.3 This policy and legislative framework, delivered through the EA business plan, provides the context within which Youth Service will be funded. It is intended that there will be a commitment to our children and young people to:

- uphold the rights of the young person
- provide them with the best start in life
- support them to achieve positive long lasting outcomes
- promote a more tolerant and equal society
- engage with communities and support capacity building and resilience.

2.8.4 Equality legalisation underpins the way in which Youth Services are already delivered. Pfy highlights that Equality and Inclusion are fundamental to the planning and implementation of youth services and that the values of equality, diversity and interdependence should be at the heart of youth work. (see Pfy 3.3)

- 3.1** Currently the EA facilitates the deployment of a range of historical funding schemes for both regional and local funding. These include those previously managed by the legacy ELBs and the YCNI.
- 3.2** Historically the EA supported EA locally registered youth organisations through the provision of:
- Grant aid to voluntary part-time units: providing a contribution to running costs including heat, light and insurance;
 - Core Funding to part-time and full-time units: providing grant aid for facilities, staff and programme costs;
 - Extended Provision: supporting programmes for at risk youth in areas of deprivation;
 - Inclusion: supporting Section 75 young people to engage in youth services;
 - Irish Medium: supporting the development of Irish Medium youth work;
 - Outreach Funding: supporting young people who do not traditionally attend youth services.
- 3.3** Those schemes previously managed by YCNI under the YCNI funding policy “Young People Focused” (published 2009) supported recognised RVYOs with funding for:
- Infrastructure Funding; supporting organisations whose primary purpose is youth work and are who deemed to be an RVYO;
 - Thematic Funding; supporting organisations which do not meet the Infrastructure support criteria but which deliver ‘themed’ Youth Work considered of substantial value to the youth work sector;
 - Transitional Funding; supporting organisations who are deemed to be in a ‘transitional’ process of becoming recognised as a ‘RVYO’ and who were originally funded directly by the Department of Education;
 - Capacity Building Funding; supporting ‘emerging’ RVYOs seeking to develop NI wide youth work support services for member organisations;
 - Irish Medium Funding; supporting organisations as part of the Department of Education commitment to the development of Irish Medium Education and Irish Medium Youth Work provision;
 - Outreach Funding; supporting organisations in order to provide specific support to target disadvantaged areas or communities of interest.

3.4 Currently Voluntary Youth organisations are required to apply for funding on an annual basis for up to a maximum of six applications per year. This places an administrative burden on youth organisations and reduces the youth organisations ability to:

- plan services, maximising the outcomes for children and young people;
- sustain quality delivery;
- recruit and retain staff whilst maintaining a skilled workforce.

As we move forward the proposed new funding scheme provides an opportunity to address these issues.

3.5 Over the past number of years, these core issues have been consistently communicated to the EA by voluntary and community organisations and have been reflected in the DE policy, PfY.

3.6 In line with the PfY policy, the proposed new Funding Scheme enables consideration of new or emerging provision that will best address identified needs of children and young people. It will also bring consistency to the funding of Regional and Local Voluntary Youth Organisations, in line with published youth policy (PFY).

4 Summary of Engagement Feedback

- 4.1** The EA has engaged with key stakeholders, including children and young people, taking their views into consideration in the formulation of the proposed new Funding Scheme. The EA believes that engagement is integral to a strategic approach to develop the proposed new Funding Scheme and demonstrates good practice, as outlined in the *Guidelines on Effective Stakeholder Engagement* endorsed by the NI Executive. It also reinforces our commitment to involve young people in the co-design of services and provision.
- 4.2** Work in relation to the proposed new Funding Scheme commenced in 2015, prior to the establishment of the EA. In 2015/16 engagement was targeted at a range of stakeholders, to listen to and discuss views which would help shape the proposed new Funding Scheme for Regional and Local Voluntary Youth Organisations. The methodology for the initial engagement comprised a range of engagement sessions, focus groups, workshops and meetings with key stakeholders.

4.3 Engagement Table (1)

The following table provides details of the initial engagement completed.

| Activities | Dates |
|---|---|
| Children and Young People's Committee (CYPS) Meeting | 1 December 2016 |
| Funding Distribution Mechanism Group Meetings involving voluntary sector, DE, ELBs and YCNI representatives; Co-chaired by ELBs and YCNI | 29 June 2015 5 October 2015 9 November 2015 22 February 2016 |
| Stakeholder pre-consultation event conducted by YCNI as co-chair of Funding Distribution Mechanism Group | 24 September 2015 |
| Joint YCNI/EA Focus group meetings for local and regional groups | 22 October 2015 25 November 2015 |
| Review of Area Planning Process; Voluntary sector management and youth workers and EA statutory managers and youth workers; Focus Group Meeting | 27 May 2015 |
| Youth Service Reform Partnership Group (YSRP) Meeting; RVYOs, YCNI and Northern Ireland Youth Forum (NIYF) representatives; Chaired by DE | 28 September 2016 |

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Regional Advisory Group (RAG) Meeting; RVYOs, YCNI, DE, ETI and Young People; Engagement Workshops co-chaired by YMCA and EA | 15 November 2016 28 November 2016 |
| Meeting with NI Commissioner for Children and Young People | 8 March 2016 |
| Meeting with Trade Unions | 28 November 2016 |
| Broader stakeholder engagement with children and young people to explore their needs and ideas for potential youth work/ funding priorities Survey Monkey Questionnaire | 14th June to 26th September 2016 |
| Stakeholder engagement with youth workers on the needs of young people, youth work programmes/funding priorities Survey Monkey Questionnaire | 1st November to 16th November 2016 |
| Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey ; Engagement with parents Survey Monkey Questionnaire | 1st November to 16th November 2016 |

4.4 Further to the establishment of the EA the initial engagement feedback was re- considered. It was deemed beneficial to take this work forward within the context of the establishment of a PMB and to provide a project focus based on PRINCE2 methodology.

4.5 The PMB was established in 2017, with representation from voluntary youth organisations, the YCNI and EA officers. A project plan was developed to take forward this work.

4.6 Engagement Table (2)

A second phase of development and engagement was conducted from March 2017 until March 2018. A Project Team revisited the initial engagement feedback, through face to face contact with key stakeholders as well as with organisations in NI that have a specific interest in children and young people’s services.

4.7 The following table provides details of the second phase of engagement completed.

| Activities | Dates |
|---|-------------------|
| Children and Young People’s Committee (CYPS) Meeting | 27 September 2017 |
| Youth Service Reform Partnership Group (YSRP) Meeting; RVYOs, YCNI and Northern Ireland Youth Forum (NIYF) representatives; Chaired by DE | 26 April 2017 |
| Regional Advisory Group (RAG) Meeting; including RVYOs, YCNI, DE, ETI and Young People | 7 December 2017 |
| Meeting with NI Commissioner for Children and Young People | 27 September 2017 |

| | |
|--|---|
| Broader stakeholder engagement with children and young people to explore their needs and ideas for potential youth work/ funding priorities Survey Monkey Questionnaire | 22nd September 2017 to 6th October 2017 |
| Stakeholder engagement with youth workers on the needs of children and young people, youth work programmes/funding priorities Survey Monkey Questionnaire | 22nd September 2017 to 6th October 2017 |
| Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey; Engagement with parents Survey Monkey Questionnaire | 22nd September 2017 to 6th October 2017 |
| Meetings with Trade Unions | 10 February 2017 9 May 2017 13 September 2017 11 December 2017 |
| Preliminary Equality Impact Screening | 21 March 2017 |
| Project Management Board Meetings | 10 April 2017 21 June 2017 18 October 2017 |
| Project Team Meetings | 4 July 2017 13 September 2017 21 November 2017 |

4.8 Feedback arising from the engagement enabled key themes to be identified which have been embedded within the proposed new Funding Scheme. The feedback can be summarised as follows:

4.8.1 Feedback from Local Youth Organisations

(a) Funding should be:

- based on assessed need taking consideration of multiple deprivation
- available to meet the needs of children and young people who live in rural areas
- frontloaded i.e. upfront payments
- based on a full cost recovery model
- retained for the provision of local non-targeted/generic youth provision
- available to respond to emerging themes

- enhanced for work with at risk young people
- based on a commitment for a minimum of 3 years.

(b) Duplication of services should be avoided

(c) Provision should be made for transition funding as the new scheme is implemented.

4.8.2 Feedback from Regional Youth Organisations

(a) Funding should be:

- based on a full cost recovery model
- based on a commitment for a minimum of 3 years
- based on the breadth of services provided
- proportionate to the number of member organisations

(b) There should be a commitment to reduce bureaucracy within the Funding Scheme.

(c) There should be a balance between the funding available for local non-targeted/ generic youth provision and targeted youth provision.

(d) A key element of the funding scheme should be to focus on comprehensive support for member organisations including youth workers professional development.

(e) Funding for CRED is important.

4.8.3 Feedback from other key stakeholders

(a) The proposed new Funding Scheme should be underpinned by the UNCRC.

(b) Important principles should include openness and transparency.

(c) Reporting and evaluation should be proportionate to the funding provided.

4.9 This second phase of engagement was completed by March 2018.

4.10 The Project Team gave detailed consideration to the views of those involved in the first and second phase of engagement. This has been used to inform the key underpinning principles and detail of the new Funding Scheme proposals.

5.1 The EA key principles for the proposed new Funding Scheme fall into three categories:

- Meeting the assessed needs of all children and young people
- Enhancing and supporting the work of youth organisations
- Administrative support for the proposed new scheme

These are considered in further detail below.

5.2 Meeting the Assessed Needs of all Children and Young People

5.2.1 Child and Young Person Centred

Children and young people are the core of what we do. The promotion of the youth service curriculum, 'A Model for Effective Practice', is embedded into the proposed new Funding Scheme. This will support the personal and social development of our children and young people.

5.2.2 Participation and Development of Children and Young People

The voice of our children and young people is central to our planning, delivery and resourcing of youth services. As we move forward, our children and young people would be able to access different types of support and programmes which would meet their developmental and individual assessed needs within available resources. This will be enabled through the various funding opportunities provided within the proposed new Funding Scheme.

5.2.3 Outcomes-based

Children and young people deserve to have opportunities to achieve the best possible outcomes. There is a need for clear evidence in terms of what is working to meet needs identified, based on how our children and young people respond to youth work programmes and interventions. Outcomes Based Reporting (OBR) will be a key element of the new Funding Scheme.

5.3 Enhancing and Supporting the Work of Youth Organisations

5.3.1 Needs

The needs of children and young people is central to the application process for each youth organisation.

5.3.2 Best Value

Resources should be used to achieve priority outcomes, as noted in the RYDP, for all children and young people in the most cost effective way and according to best practice principles (public value).

5.3.3 Quality Services

Children and young people should have access to high quality services which follow best practice, including the highest standards of child protection.

5.3.4 Equality and Inclusion

There is a clear need to ensure that the proposed new Funding Scheme would be responsive to the needs of Section 75 groupings and other groups of children and young people with specific needs. This includes children and young people in rural communities and those experiencing barriers to learning.

5.3.5 Equality of Access

The proposed new Funding Scheme should provide open access for all youth organisations who meet the EA Registration criteria, are eligible to apply and can demonstrate that their services can address the RYDP.

5.3.6 Partnership Working

The proposed new Funding Scheme should support and enhance collaboration and the effective deployment of resources between regional support structures and Regional and Local Voluntary Organisations.

5.4 Administrative Support of the Proposed New Scheme

5.4.1 Reducing Bureaucracy

Within the new Funding Scheme the EA should give due regard to the Code of Practice for Reducing Bureaucracy in Grant Funding to the Voluntary and Community Sector, including making 'upfront' payments at the outset and robust qualitative and proportionate reporting systems to avoid unnecessary bureaucracy.

5.4.2 **Benchmarking of Costs**

The EA should make use of available national/regional benchmarks to determine levels of funding.

5.4.3 **Eligible Core Costs**

Guidance on Eligible Core Costs should be provided to all applicants. Eligible Core Costs should include staff and overheads, and be a contribution towards such expenditure incurred by an organisation in support of regional and/or local services assessed as needed in the RYDP and Local Area Plans.

5.4.4 **Full Cost Recovery**

The EA should pay the full costs of a project to an organisation where appropriate, including direct costs, such as project staff salaries, and indirect or shared costs', such as overheads. Full Cost Recovery payments should be based on agreed methods for apportioning shared costs.

5.5 **The new Funding Scheme proposals should ensure the following are taken forward:**

5.5.1 **For Children and Young People**

- Raising Standards for all and the delivery of non-targeted/generic youth provision which contribute to achieving the best possible outcomes for all children and young people
- Closing the Performance Gap, providing an inclusive youth service, whilst targeting resources proportionately to the level of disadvantage, based on assessed need for example; Shared Education and CRED.

5.5.2 **For Youth Organisations**

- Enhancing the resourcing and delivery of regional and local youth services based on assessed need
- Enabling planned regional priorities to complement and support local and tailored provision
- Being responsive to emerging needs.

5.5.3 For The Local Community

- An open, transparent funding scheme – enabling access for organisations eligible to apply for funding
- Provision of support for the voluntary sector for the delivery of high quality youth services
- Facilitating collaboration on key themes and areas within community planning
- Supporting the development of a sustainable, contemporary and responsive youth service with effective community engagement.

5.5.4 For The Youth Service

- Support, delivery and achievement on key actions for youth as set out in DE policy including PfY
- Enabling and providing support for effective reporting on the key outputs and outcomes of the youth service.

5.6 These key principles have been fully embedded within the proposed new Funding Scheme for Regional and Local Voluntary Youth Organisations.

6.1 Introduction: Equality Screening

6.1.1 In drafting these proposals the EA has listened to and taken cognisance of all stakeholder engagement, feedback and contributions. These have informed the development of the proposals for a new Funding Scheme.

6.1.2 Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998) the EA has a legal requirement as a public authority to pay due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard to the desirability of promoting good relations. Preliminary Equality Screening has therefore been carried out on the proposals for a new Funding Scheme for Regional and Local Voluntary Youth Organisations.

6.1.3 The results of the preliminary screening demonstrate the following:

- The proposals do not require an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and are not considered to have an adverse differential impact or effect on Section 75 groups except a potential minor impact for age. The EA Screening template can be found at www.eani.org.uk/consultations
- The new proposed Funding Scheme ultimately improves access to youth provision for those children and young people whose needs have been highlighted within the Regional Assessment of Need, including Section 75 groupings.
- The EA is proposing a phased approach to the new Funding Scheme and once agreed will monitor the impact of all changes, including impact, if any, on different age ranges.
- It is not possible to pre-determine any potential impact on youth service staff in respect of Section 75 categories – however the EA will monitor the impact on staff implementation.

6.2. Proposals

There are six proposals provided for the new Funding Scheme; three at Regional level and three at Local level.

| Regional | Local |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposal One: Strategic Funding• Proposal Two: Project Funding• Proposal Three: Development Funding | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposal Four: Area Based Funding• Proposal Five: Project Funding• Proposal Six: Non-targeted/(generic) youth provision funding |

6.3 Regional Funding

The purpose of Regional Funding is to support the delivery of quality local youth services as well as to deliver on key regional actions within PfY for example Network for Youth.

Regional Funding would only be available to organisations who have demonstrated that their services are required in terms of the delivery of the RYDP.

Organisations who successfully apply for Regional Funding would support the following:

- delivery of quality youth services at local level including areas such as workforce development
- governance and management support
- curriculum development support

Regional Funding would also be available to support key themes in the RYDP which require development at a local level, for example Section 75 groupings or those who may be at greater risk of social exclusion, marginalisation or isolation, including children and young people who live in rural areas, because they experience a combination of barriers to learning.

Strategic Funding at a Regional level will reflect wider DE policy and support priority age bands and priority groups for example Shared Education and CRED.

This funding would be capped at no more than 10% of the youth budget available to support local units, programmes and projects (PfY 4.8.2).

6.3.1 Proposal One: Regional Strategic Funding

| Purpose | Descriptor |
|---|---|
| <p>Regional Strategic Funding would be provided for the essential delivery of regional youth support services as evidenced in the EA Regional Assessment of Need and detailed in the RYDP. (see PfY 4.24.1)</p> <p>This includes services relating to; Governance, Compliance, Curriculum Development, Membership Services / Representation/Collaboration, Workforce Development (including accreditation), Quality Assurance, Child Protection</p> | <p>This funding opportunity is for strategic RVYOs who have EA locally registered groups as members and who provide support services to these member groups.</p> <p>This would be a bespoke open call application process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the availability of 3 years funding • Funding would be allocated for specified eligible costs (full cost recovery) • With proportionate monitoring of outputs and outcomes. |

6.3.2 Proposal Two: Regional Project Funding

| Purpose | Descriptor |
|--|---|
| <p>Regional Project Funding would be provided to address key regional themes as evidenced in the EA Regional Assessment of Need. This will support essential regional youth support services for a specific need or outcome and will include applications to support Shared Education and CRED policies. (see PfY 4.8.5)</p> | <p>Regional Project Funding would specifically relate to key themes emerging from the EA Regional Assessment of Need and relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 75 groupings • those young people who may be at greater risk of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - social exclusion, - marginalisation or isolation including rurality; because they experience a combination of barriers to learning. <p>Funding would be flexible to ensure that the emerging needs of young people are met.</p> <p>This would be a bespoke open call application process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the availability of 3 years funding • Funding would be allocated for specified eligible costs (full cost recovery) • With proportionate monitoring of outputs and outcomes. |

6.3.3 Proposal Three: Regional Development Funding

| Purpose | Descriptor |
|---|--|
| Regional Development Funding would be provided for additional or enhanced regional services which include key actions in PfY for example; Network for Youth and Small Grants Scheme. This would further support and enable organisations at a local level to effectively meet identified needs of children and young people. (see PfY 4.20.3; 4.20.5) | Regional Development Funding would be a bespoke open call application process with funding available for projects between 1 and 3 years. Funding levels will be determined by resources. Funding would be allocated for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• specified eligible costs (full cost recovery)• with proportionate monitoring of outputs and outcomes. |

6.4 Local Funding

The purpose of Local Funding is to support the direct delivery of quality local youth services in order to provide and maintain front line youth services for young people.

Local Funding would only be available to those organisations who successfully meet EA local registration criteria. Organisations who successfully apply for local funding will deliver youth work directly with young people.

Local funding would be responsive to assessed and identified need and will support the continuation of non-targeted/generic youth provision. In addition funding at a local level may support key themes identified in the RYDP and detailed in Local Area Plans. This may reflect for example Section 75 groups or those who may be at greater risk of social exclusion, marginalisation or isolation, including children and young people who live in rural areas, because they experience a combination of barriers to learning.

6.4.1 Proposal Four: Local Area Based Funding

| Purpose | Descriptor |
|---|--|
| <p>Local Area Based Funding would be provided for the essential delivery of local youth work, emerging from the Local Assessment of Need and detailed within Local Area Plans. (see PfY 4.6.1; 4.6.2; 4.20.2)</p> | <p>Local Area Based Funding would be allow for a mixed model of delivery including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • centre-based youth work • area based youth work • outreach/detached youth work. <p>This would be a bespoke open call application process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the availability of 3 years funding • Funding would be allocated for specified eligible costs (full cost recovery) • With proportionate monitoring of outputs and outcomes. |

6.4.2 Proposal Five: Local Project Funding

| Purpose | Descriptor |
|--|---|
| <p>Local Project Funding would be provided in order to address key local themes as evidenced in the local assessment of need and Local Area Plans. This will support essential local youth services for a specific need or a specific outcome which will include applications to support Shared Education and CRED policies. (see PfY 4.8.5; 4.24.1)</p> | <p>Local Project Funding will support essential local youth support services for a specific need or outcome.</p> <p>Local project support would specifically relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 75 groupings • those young people who may be at greater risk of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - social exclusion, - marginalisation or isolation including rurality; because they experience a combination of barriers to learning. <p>Funding would enable flexibility to respond to meet the emerging and or changing needs of children and young people.</p> <p>This would be a bespoke open call application process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the availability of 3 years funding • Funding would be allocated for specified eligible costs (full cost recovery) • With proportionate monitoring of outputs and outcomes. |

6.4.1 Proposal Six: Non-targeted/(Generic) Youth Provision Funding

| Purpose | Descriptor |
|--|--|
| <p>Local Non-targeted/(Generic) Youth Provision Funding would be provided for local, part-time and volunteer based youth work organisations who are registered with the EA. This would support the delivery of the RYDP based on assessed need and the delivery of non-targeted /(generic) youth provision detailed in Local Area Plans. (see PfY 4.8.3)</p> | <p>Local Non-targeted /(Generic) Youth Provision would be available through an annual application process for EA registered youth organisations. The funding would be a general grant which would contribute to the eligible costs associated with the delivery of youth work programmes.</p> <p>The level of funding available would be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the hours of programme delivered.• average attendance of young people. <p>There would be minimal monitoring of outputs and outcomes.</p> |

- 7.1 Public consultation on the new Funding Scheme proposals for Regional and Local Voluntary Youth Work Organisations will involve a wide range of stakeholders including;
- children and young people;
 - parents and other adults;
 - Regional and Local Voluntary Youth Organisations;
 - education providers and sectoral bodies;
 - other stakeholders including equality consultees;
 - the general public.
- 7.2 The consultation will take place from Tuesday 6th November 2018 at 4pm to Tuesday 5th February 2019 at 4pm.
- 7.3 The EA welcomes feedback on this consultation which would be facilitated through;
- an online consultation questionnaire;
 - a series of regional workshops planned to take place across the region;
 - specific focus groups for children and young people.
- 7.4 Alternatively, respondents can provide submissions in written format.
- 7.5 A young person's version, information and questionnaire will also be available.
- 7.6 A video will be prepared to assist access to the public consultation.
- 7.7 Following consultation and approval by the EA Board and presentation to DE, a summary report of responses to the consultation and the agreed new Funding Scheme for regional and local voluntary youth organisations will be made available to the public on the EA website www.eani.org.uk/consultations
- 7.8 In recognition of the longevity of funding made available to existing groups and to support the funding of new groups; the EA proposes a phased approach to the implementation of the proposed new Funding Scheme.

The Framework of Expected Outcomes is set out below. It is made up of six capability-based outcomes (see statements in bold below) and a number of indicators relating to each outcome. The six outcomes are generic to all types of youth work provision and reflect the central concern of youth work, i.e. the personal and social development of young people. In this way the Framework is directly compatible with 'A Model of Effective Practice'.

The Framework of Outcomes is **not a definitive list** of all potential outcomes of youth work. Nor is it expected that everyone who engages in a unit, club or project will progress in all of the outcome areas. Rather, it articulates core outcomes which are common to all types of youth work provision, and which can therefore be proportionately demonstrated and measured.

| INDIVIDUAL | GROUP/COMMUNITY/ SOCIETY CONTEXT |
|--|--|
| <p>Enhanced Personal Capabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-awareness • Confidence and self-esteem • Empathy • Resilience • Managing feelings. <p>Improved Health and Well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfaction with life/self • Awareness of health issues (sexual, physical and/or mental) • Ability to make healthy choices (reduction in risk taking behaviours/ reduced substance misuse). <p>Development of thinking skills, life and work skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision making • Planning and problem solving • Leadership and communication • Creativity. | <p>Development of positive relationships with others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to work with others (teamwork) • Positive peer relationships • Positive relationships with adults • Engagement with others from diverse backgrounds • Respect for difference. <p>Increased participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of belonging to community • Communication between young people and adults • Influences others, advocates on behalf of others or takes on a representative role. <p>Active citizenship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering (local and international) • Awareness of local & global issues • Social action • Employment, Education or Training. |

The development of the Outcomes Framework was underpinned by an extended process of research, dialogue and stakeholder consultation; including two substantive reviews of research that confirms the connection between good quality youth work and the expected outcomes, and in turn their connection to enhanced educational outcomes

