



YOUTH SERVICE

**REGIONAL
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
PLAN –
YEARLY ACTION PLAN**

DRAFT

2018 - 2019

Introduction

The Department of Education's policy for youth work is set out in detail in *Priorities for Youth – "Improving young people's lives through Youth Work"*, published in October 2013. The policy document (*PfY*) provides the strategic direction and overall framework for the future delivery of DE funded youth services.

One of the key actions required within *PfY* is the development of a **Regional Youth Development Plan (RYDP)**. This was developed following publication of the **Regional Assessment of Need 2017 - 2020**, and consultation with the Regional Advisory Group (RAG) and with representatives of Local Advisory Groups (LAG) including a significant number of young people at a RAG/LAG conference held on 11th March 2017. Further consultation took place with Regional Voluntary Youth Organisations and their constituent groups providing additional information at a RAG meeting on 23rd March 2017.

The RYDP is a 3 year, strategic Regional Plan, responding to assessed need and focused on outcomes to address the priorities and actions identified in *PfY*. This is a one year action plan to monitor the progress of the 3 year Strategic Plan.

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ACTION PLAN
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General Points from Feedback:

How does the RYDP Action Plan 2018-19 fit with the current RYDP 2017-2020

- The action plan for 2017-2020 outlined a 3 strategic plan for the RAG to deliver. Last year this was translated into a one year action plan which ran in parallel with the 3 year plan. As a number of actions on the 3 year action have been completed the 2018-19 plan reflects the main areas that are still to be completed. It is the role of the EA to complete this to ensure clarity of the key actions the RAG are undertaking this year.

Reporting

- The CYPS Director will provide an update prior to each RAG via a progress column on the RYDP Action Plan 2018-19. The RAG will have the opportunity to support the EA to reflect on achievements and areas for improvement. As requested at the RAG the EA will seek to present this as a traffic light model.

Opportunities for Young People to Shape RYDP

- Network for Youth noted that young people are frustrated that they ordinarily do not see the RYDP and they don't know what it is and feel it is important that they have a say in identifying and designing areas for action; outputs and outcomes. Young people described current outcomes are weak and very high level – the feeling is that they are abstract to the realities of young people's lives. There was no information if young people feel the same way about the local action plans that link more effectively to local need. Young people have suggested that they need more opportunity to shape the RYDP and determine need. They were also concerned that there appears to be no connection between the RYDP and the Children and Young People's Strategy;

The RYDP should include priorities set by EA; the voluntary sector and by young people. EA should recognise the expertise and knowledge base within the voluntary sector and utilise this as a vehicle in designing and delivering a youth service that is fit for purpose.

Notes

- RAG MEMBERS NOTES ARE BLUE.
- NETWORK FOR YOUTH FEEDBACK IN ORANGE.
- EA FEEDBACK IN GREEN.

New actions added following feedback are highlighted in yellow.

DE Priority: Raising Standards for All					
Area for Action	Outputs	Outcomes	Measurement / Target	PFY	Comments
Assessment of Need	Complete regional assessment of need addendum for 2018-19 which will include the needs of young people from rural communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composite assessment of regional need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual review of Regional Assessment of Need Addendum to capture emerging need by 31st March 2019 	4.2 4.3 4.8.4	RAG members wanted to have information about this process particularly the rural needs assessment. This information has been shared with RAG members with interest in this area.
	Local Assessments of Need for each council area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local priorities identified for effective targeting of resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 Local Assessment of Need developed for local EA Area Offices by 30th June 2018 	4.8.4	Feedback is that these dates are too early and might negate effective local engagement. There was a strong desire to see wider voluntary sector engagement. This action is due to the need to complete the Area Plans for new officers by September 2018.
Planning	Regional Youth Development Plan 2017-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effective and coordinated regional youth service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-year Regional Youth Development Action Plan 2019-20 implemented 1st April 2019 	4.2 4.6.2 2.20	
	Area Plans 2018-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective allocation of resources in response to local assessment of need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Area Plans devised and implementation on 1st September 2018 	2.20 4.6.1	<p>Feedback queried the effectiveness of engagement between EA and the Voluntary Sector.</p> <p>EA Comment: The EA engaged through LAGs and regular meetings with local Youth Officers who have completed Area Plans for the 01st September 2018. Senior Youth Officers have engagement evening planned in September 2018 with local politicians to establish new LAGs and all voluntary sector management committees. Significant engagement is ongoing with the Northern Ireland Youth Work Alliance.</p>
	Local Delivery Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local delivery agreements reflect Area Plan priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Area Plans for 2018-20 to include support for generic and targeted provision for 30th September 2018 	2.20 4.6.1	The 18 month duration of local agreement was welcomed and there was a hope that this would increase moving forwards.
	Specifications for regional support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional service supported to provide local services and regional delivery assessed as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority areas of work agreed by 30th April 2018 	2.20 4.6.1 4.3	Flexible approach by EA welcomed in this area. RAG members noted that funding should be made available to enhance good governance of the voluntary sector.

	Rurality Act 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Embed Rurality Act into EA planning cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All plans to embed key priorities by 30th September 2018		
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DE Priority: Raising Standards for All					
Area for Action	Outputs	Outcomes	Measurement / Target	PFY	Comments
Monitoring of Outcomes	EA Monitoring Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved processes to monitor all Department of Education Funded Youth Work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cascade outcomes information by 30th June 2018 Embed Engagement Framework by 31st March 2019 Embed a new framework for Outreach and Detached work by 31st March 2019 Review Target Monitor and systems by 31st March 2019 	4.6.4	<p>There was concern that the Engagement Framework for youth work was not fit for purpose (re language and functionality). Noted the need to include Outreach and Detached Framework as a target. This has been added.</p> <p>It was noted that the some RVYOs had concerns about the capacity of their membership to complete necessary EA returns. This should be captured and addressed within the systems review to be complete by March 2019.</p> <p>EA Comment - a working group was established with the voluntary sector to complete a draft framework for Outreach and Detached work addressing this issue. The EA is moving forward with a Digital Transformation process which will support the development of a target monitor and look at more cost effective means at addressing the development of a more effective MIS for youth service. The aim behind this is to support more effective EA returns.</p>
	Youth Service Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Service OBA provision published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published by 30th April 2019 	4.6.6	
Local Engagement	Local Advisory Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective local engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Advisory Groups to reform based upon new EA Area Office boundaries by 31st October 2018 Number of consultation events on local plans 90% satisfaction regarding engagement process 	4.6.2	<p>Based upon points regarding planning and effective engagement RAG members wanted feedback on level of satisfaction of the engagement. This target has been added.</p> <p>There was a desire to have more engagement between LAGs and RAG – this will be considered by LAG/RAG conference.</p>
Quality Assurance	Quality Assurance Framework or agreed bespoke quality assurance system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any unit in receipt of Department of Education funding to implement agreed quality assurance system by 1st April 2018 	4.6.10	<p>There was a request to provide support for local units to undertake QAF</p> <p>EA Comment – this would be addressed within PDG.</p>
Audit of Delivery	Continual audit of voluntary and controlled sector delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaps in provision and potential for over-provision identified. Opportunities to devolve controlled provision identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of assessment meetings by EA Senior Managers at review meetings 	4.20.1 4.3	<p>There was a sense that the EA could continue to look at this to ensure voluntary sector is the preferred delivery agent.</p>

DE Priority: Raising Standards for All					
Area for Action	Outputs	Outcomes	Measurement / Target	PFY	Comments
Cross Departmental Support	Continue strategic collaboration with key strategic partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building positive relationships for a shared future in region • Improved mental health support services for young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together Building United Communities programme delivered by March 2019 • Fresh Start programme effectively delivered with Department of Justice by 30 March 2019 • Public Health Agency programmes delivered and reported on by 30 March 2019 	2.10	

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DE Priority: Closing the gap between the highest and lowest performers, improving access and equality					
Area for Action	Outputs	Outcomes	Measurement / Target	PFY	Comments
Non Targeted / Generic Youth Provision	Funding for registered youth groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non targeted / generic youth provision supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for registered youth groups issued for 2018/19 financial year by 30th April 2018 	4.8.3	
Thematic / Communities of Interest / Section 75	Programmes funded for themes of work assessed as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local youth groups delivering priority areas of work Regional support for the delivery of key areas of work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local programme funding issued by 30th April 2018 Regional programme funding issued by April 2018 Report to RAG by January 2019 regarding mental health initiatives delivered through EA funded Youth Service. 	4.8.4 4.8.2	<p>There was a desire to see Mental Health added as a specific area of action. The RYDP covers this through Planning (above pg 4). The RAON highlights mental health as a top priority and will inform all programmes that the EA undertake in this area through local delivery agreement (actions on page 11).</p> <p>Last year the voluntary sector and the EA worked together to engage over 4000 young people in health and well-being programmes. This information is generated from the EA Target Monitor. This will increase next year as we support more people to engage with this reporting format. This does not include the work in this area completed by RVYOs.</p> <p>In the 3 year RYDP mental health is noted as a specific action. All these actions have been addressed in year one. However in order to highlight the actual work and progress made on this area the EA and voluntary partners we will consider how best to present some information to the RAG on this theme through the target monitor and case studies from RVYOs. New target added.</p> <p>The NfY noted that the RYDP needs to be more specific in reflecting the key issues for young people such as mental health; discrimination and rights (language, age, gender, race, sectarianism etc); drug and alcohol misuse; participation & having a voice; social media; social exclusion and youth facilities; education and improved 'learning for life and work' agenda.</p> <p>EA Comment - The mental health action is address in other targets particularly planning section – others are covered under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discrimination and rights will come under target work/thematic communities of interest (both above) and CRED (page 10) - Education (page 10) - Drugs and alcohol under targeted work above - Participation – all page 12 - Social media (page 5 - which will reflect the priority areas from RAON and social media is high) - Social exclusion – covered under this area of action - Youth facilities – covered under generic youth provision above

DE Priority: Closing the gap between the highest and lowest performers, improving access and equality					
Area for Action	Outputs	Outcomes	Measurement / Target	PFY	
Irish Medium	Irish Medium Youth Work Funding at local level Regional support for IMYW sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish Medium youth work supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding Scheme implemented by 30th April 2018 Regional seminar conducted 31st March 2019 Embed recommendations of the Review of Youth Work through the Medium of Irish Language by 31st March 2019 	4.8.5	
Youth Service contribution to formal education sector	Youth work provision in schools within areas of high deprivation Youth work provision for school aged young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in underachievement and barriers to learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of all programmes by 31st March 2019 	4.8.4	RAG members noted that this output could be extended to take account of accreditation of young people who are involved in Leadership etc and who attend FE colleges. This areas of work is included within the Workforce Development key actions (see page 10). Added new output to incorporate this item.
CRED Addendum	CRED Programmes for young people Shared Education embedded where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More inclusive youth service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key actions within CRED Addendum reflected in regional and local plans 	4.8.5	RAG members requested that shared education be embedded.

DE Priority: Developing the Education Workforce					
Area for Action	Outputs	Outcomes	Measurement / Target	PFY	
Workforce Development	Implementation of Workforce Development Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved capacity of workforce Improved Youth Work practice in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workforce Development Action Plan reviewed quarterly by PDG Strategy undergoes an interim evaluation 31st March 2019 	4.13.1 4.13.2	RAG members noted that this is an ambitious timeframe for evaluation. This has been addressed by the provision of an interim report.
	EA Volunteering Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced and increased skills for volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EA Volunteering Strategy completed by 30th September 2018 Celebrate the role of Volunteering in EA by 11 events on local council areas by 31st January 2019 Three events to celebrate the role of Volunteering across 3 council areas by 31st March 2019 	4.13	RAG members asked who was leading on this action. The EA are currently reviewing the need for more volunteers supporting delivery within the EA and wider. This has been reviewed by EA and updated
	Young People's Suite of Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased employability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of all accredited work provided by the EA Minimum 80% participant achievement of accreditation 	4.13	

DE Priority: Improving the Learning Environment

Area for Action	Outputs	Outcomes	Measurement / Target	PFY	
Participation – Voice of young people in decision making	Network for Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people able to influence others, advocate on behalf of others or take on representative roles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly Monitoring of Network for Youth Network for Youth consortium to report to RAG as an agenda item by 31st January 2019 Annual report by 30th March 2019 	4.20.3	RAG members noted a lack of knowledge about the level of engagement of young people in N4Y. An action has been added to provide an interim report and feedback on progress.
	Young people supported to be involved in Regional Advisory Group (RAG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased participation of young people Young people contributing to shaping the direction of regional Youth Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people aged 17+ involved in setting key priorities each year, based on regional assessment of need Young people attending or contributing to each Regional Advisory group meeting 	4.6.2	RAG members queried the age limitations applied to young people participating in LAGs. It should be noted that the age limit of 17+ is in place to enable a clear age group target for the LAGs (the youth council is age 16+).
	Young people supported to be involved in Local Advisory Groups (LAG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased local participation of young people Young people contributing to shaping the direction of local Youth Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation meetings with young people to support participation in Local Advisory Groups Young people attending and contributing to each meeting of Local Advisory Groups 	4.6.2	
	Youth Councils in each EA Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased participation of young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Council operating in each EA area by September 2018, involving young people aged 16+ 	4.20.4	
	Local Participation Hubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased participation of young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A hub in place for all DE funded youth work programmes by September 2018 involving young people aged 9+ 	4.20.4	
	Small Grants Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased participation of young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Grants Scheme launched and administered by young people annually from 30th June 2018 	4.20.5	

DE Priority: Improving the Learning Environment					
Area for Action	Outputs	Outcomes	Measurement / Target	PFY	
International Work	Common guidelines and procedures for International Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributing to Individual and Societal outcomes of Youth Services particularly development of work skills and active citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines and procedures for effective International work across the region developed by December 2018 	4.20.3	
Outdoor Learning	Implementation of agreed recommendations from the Review of Outdoor Education and Residential Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor Education contributing effectively to Individual and Societal outcomes of Youth Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key actions implemented on a planned and phased basis 	4.20.1	

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DE Priority: Transforming Governance and Management of Non-Formal Education					
Area for Action	Outputs	Outcomes	Measurement / Target	PFY	
New Funding Scheme	New funding scheme developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding scheme linked to regional and local assessment of need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding scheme developed and transitional arrangements agreed for implementation – timeline TBC. New funding scheme totally operational from – timeline TBC 	4.21 4.22 4.23 4.24	
Safeguarding / Child Protection	Organisational Safeguarding / Child Protection policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people are safe and protected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% organisations funded by EA are compliant with DE regulations 	3.3	
Data Protection	Support the voluntary sector to prepare for the General Data Protection Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data relating to young people is safe and protected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% organisations funded by EA are compliant with regulations 		