



Appendix 2 - Template for Information to be compiled

Information to be compiled by Public Authorities under Section 3(1) (a) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

(To be completed and included in public authorities' own annual reports and submitted to DAERA for inclusion in the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report).

Name of Public Authority:

Education Authority

Reporting Period:

April 20 18 to March 20 19

The following information should be compiled in respect of each policy, strategy and plan which has been developed, adopted, implemented or revised and each public service which has been designed or delivered by the public authority during the reporting period.

<i>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016¹.</i>	<i>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to².</i>	<i>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service³.</i>
Education Authority (EA) Online Recruitment	Education/ Jobs	<p>We know that certain pockets of people who live rurally have less access to the internet. NI Assembly research into internet/broadband provision in rural NI- Oct 2016</p> <p>Whilst there are issues in terms of broadband coverage and speed within rural Northern Ireland, the data in figure 1 reveals that rural households have comparable access to the internet at home as their urban equivalent. The most recent data from 2016 actually reveals that a greater proportion of rural households have internet access than either Northern Ireland as a whole or urban households in particular.</p>

Figure 3: Total internet access at home – percentage of NI households 2010-16¹⁰

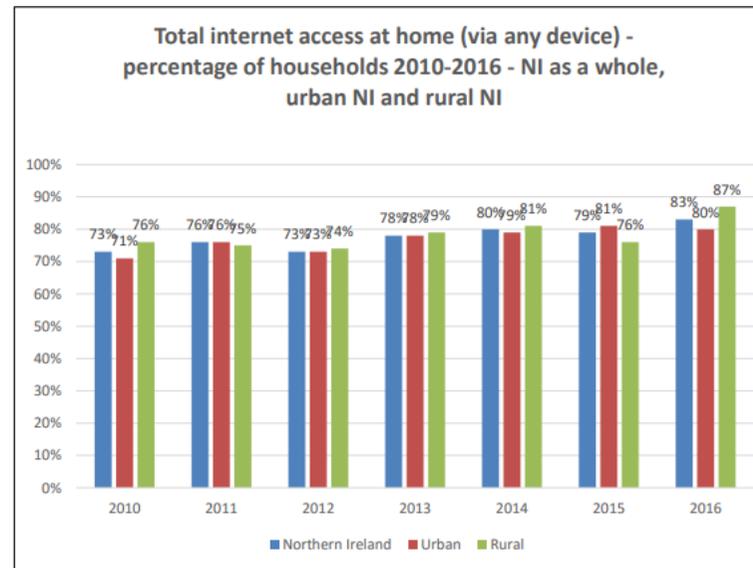


Figure 1.

Mitigating factor in developing the policy: Paper based copies will be accepted in certain circumstances.

EA Electronic Payslips for all Non-teaching Staff (ePayslips)
(Internal focused policy)

Education

This method of salary communication has been successfully piloted on 2 occasions (November 2013) in the legacy NEELB area and more recently (June 2018) in the Belfast region. During both these pilots, alternatives were offered as an option but were not taken up. During both pilots, all staff involved stated that they preferred to receive their payslip in this way.

Mitigating factor in developing the policy:
If anyone has access issues, EA will ensure a paper copy will be provided through opting out mechanism. EA will monitor the policy at 6 months and 18 months.

Proposed 5th Tier Structure of Infrastructure and Capital Development Division
(Internal focused policy)

Education

Rural impacts have been considered and there are no social and economic impacts from this 5th tier structure to people living in rural areas

School Crossing Patrols	Education	<p>EA Data – 12 November 2018</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1070 129 1906 280"> <thead> <tr> <th>School Locations</th> <th>Total Number</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Urban</td> <td>234</td> <td>67%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rural</td> <td>113</td> <td>33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>347</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>If the Education Authority were to remove School Crossing Patrols the effects would be:</p> <p><u>Negative</u> Whilst most pupils living in rural areas will have access to school transport; for those living in smaller rural villages and towns that have to walk to school, the SCP is often seen as the only safe way to cross roads. Part time employment available near to home especially for older people or those who do not access to transport. Health benefits for those that regularly walk to school.</p> <p><u>Positive</u> Pupils over reliance on assisted crossing can hamper their development around road safety and how to behave properly as a pedestrian.</p> <p>Following further consideration the Authority has decided not to proceed with the removal of the SCP Service. Where vacancies occur the EA will continue to review individual school crossing patrol sites in line with best practice.</p>	School Locations	Total Number	Percentage	Urban	234	67%	Rural	113	33%	Total	347	100%
School Locations	Total Number	Percentage												
Urban	234	67%												
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OPERATIONS AND ESTATES: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT Proposed 4th and 5th Tier Structure (Internal focused policy)	Education	Rural impacts have been considered and there are no social and economic impacts from this 4th tier structure to people living in rural areas												
OPERATIONS AND ESTATES: PUPIL SERVICES & PROCUREMENT Proposed 4th and 5th Tier Structure (Internal focused policy)	Education	Rural impacts have been considered and there are no social and economic impacts from this 4th tier structure to people living in rural areas												

<p>OPERATIONS AND ESTATES: TRANSPORT Proposed 4th and 5th Tier Structure <i>(Internal focused policy)</i></p>	<p>Education</p>	<p>Rural impacts have been considered and there are no social and economic impacts from this 4th tier structure to people living in rural areas</p>
<p>Education Authority (EA) - Advertising of Internal Trawls on SharePoint <i>(Internal focused policy)</i></p>	<p>Education</p>	<p>Whilst school kitchens have access to computer systems to log into SharePoint, other school facilities and outcentres may not have access.</p> <p>The onus will be place on Managers to ensure that staff in rural areas who are out of the workplace for any reason and do not have access to this system from home, are provided with trawls or are advised where they can access this information.</p> <p>Some rural areas may have restricted Broadband access which may result in difficulties in accessing the SharePoint system.-Whilst there are issues in terms of broadband coverage and speed within rural Northern Ireland, the data in figure 3 reveals that rural households have comparable access to the internet at home as their urban equivalent. The most recent data from 2016 actually reveals that a greater proportion of rural households have internet access than either Northern Ireland as a whole or urban households in particular.</p>
<p>Implementation of the National Joint Council (NJC) Pay Award 2019 – 2020 <i>(Internal focused policy)</i></p>	<p>Education</p>	<p>Rural impacts have been considered and there are no social and economic impacts from this policy, to people living in rural areas</p>
<p>Equality and Inclusion Strategy – EA Funded Youth Service</p>	<p>Education</p>	<p>Census figures for 2011 highlight that more than one third of young people from Northern Ireland live in communities that have been defined as rural. This figure is highest for Fermanagh and Omagh, where almost three quarters of all young people live in rural areas. In Mid Ulster almost two thirds of young people live in rural areas. This figure also remains relatively high for Newry, Mourne and Down where more than half of all young people live in rural areas.</p> <p>The EA Regional Assessment of Need highlights that for many children and young people, living in a rural community presents a range of</p>

challenges. There is a lack of facilities, such as cinemas or clubs, which their peers in urban areas take for granted. This isolation from services is often exacerbated by a lack of transport options and hidden poverty.

Rural deprivation is scattered and can be masked by living alongside relative affluence. Young people in rural communities face differing levels of social exclusion and marginalisation. Rural isolation also presents challenges for the provision of adequate public transport and the viability and accessibility of Youth Services. Those whose parents lack financial resources to pay for driving lessons and a care, or who are prevented from learning due to disability, are at a particular risk of disadvantage.

The Equality and Inclusion Strategy is underpinned by a commitment to embedding equality and inclusion across the youth service. Its assessment on the needs of young people noted that more than one third of young people from Northern Ireland live in communities that can be defined as rural, that rural deprivation is scattered, can be masked by living alongside relative affluence and that young people can experience poverty and social isolation as a result.

The Strategy sets out that young people living in rural areas are one of a number of excluded and marginalized young people whose needs require detailed consideration. All priority areas across the accompanying action plan must therefore consider the needs of young people in rural areas. In addition, research into the needs of young people living in rural areas has been identified as a priority in year one of the action plan, under priority three: 'Research into areas of Inclusion'. The findings of this research will be shared as an action under in year two of the action plan, priority four: 'Sharing Good Practice and Celebrating Achievements' and guidance and support materials will be developed as required to further support the development of delivery models to meet the needs of young people living in rural areas.

This Strategy therefore has the potential to have a positive impact on the lives of young people living in rural areas.

<p>New Local and Regional Funding Scheme for Voluntary Youth Work Organisations in Northern Ireland</p>	<p>Education</p>	<p>More than one third of young people from Northern Ireland live in communities that have been defined as rural. In Newry, Mourne and Down more than half of all young people, in Mid Ulster almost two thirds of young people and in Fermanagh and Omagh almost three quarters of all young people live in rural areas.</p> <p>A Department of Agriculture and Rural Development report noted that whilst poverty and social isolation exist in both urban and rural areas it should also be recognised that: ‘those living in rural areas often experience poverty and social isolation differently due to issues relating to geographical isolation, lower population density and the dispersed nature of many rural settlements’.</p> <p>The new Funding Scheme is an outworking of the DE Priorities for Youth policy, which specifies that there will be greater weighting of funding towards work with young people who are disadvantaged. The PfY policy stipulates that targeted youth service provision will be funded to help meet the needs of specific groups of young people, along with other young people who may experience a combination of barriers to learning.</p> <p>Funding will also be available to support non-targeted/generic youth work provision. The Funding Scheme will have a positive impact on rural areas by ensuring that organisations with a remit to work with young people in rural areas will address issues of youth provision, mental wellbeing, improved educational outcomes and employability.</p>
<p>Education Authority Website Project</p>	<p>Education</p>	<p>According to DAERA, 37% of the population lives in a rural setting.</p> <p>NI has a lower proportion of geographic data ‘not-spots’ and a greater proportion of its geographic area receiving data coverage from all four operators than the UK as a whole. Geographic not coverage refers to the proportion of an area’s landmass not receiving coverage – 7% in NI and 21% in the UK as a whole.</p>

Table 3: Snapshot of mobile data services in Northern Ireland - 2015⁸

Measure	NI	UK
Indoor data coverage by all four operators (% of premises)	57%	77%
Outdoor data coverage by all four operators (% of premises)	73%	88%
Indoor data complete not-spots	5%	3%
Outdoor data complete non-spots	1%	<1%
Geographic data coverage by all four operators	43%	13%
Geographic data complete not spots	7%	21%

The Communications Market Report produced by Ofcom in 2016 records that more than eight in ten (83%) households in Northern Ireland have access to the internet. Almost eight in ten households (79%) have access to fixed broadband at home, and two thirds (68%) of adults in NI use the internet through a mobile phone. 76% of adults in NI personally use a smartphone and 62% of households in NI own a tablet computer in 2016. Smartphone and tablet ownership do not vary significantly by urban or rural location in NI.

Rural households have comparable access to the internet at home as their urban equivalent. The most recent data from 2016 actually reveals that a greater proportion of rural households have internet access (84%) than either Northern Ireland as a whole or urban households in particular (75%).

It should also be stated that compared to rural areas in the UK as a whole rural Northern Ireland has faster average broadband download speeds. Furthermore, with regard to mobile internet access, Northern Ireland has a lower level of geographic data 'not spots' as compared to the rest of the UK, which theoretically increases the potential of mobile internet usage within rural areas.

Broadband Improvement Project

The broadband scheme will lay new fibre optic telephone lines to cabinets and in some cases to premises in many areas across Northern Ireland. This will improve telecommunications infrastructure provided through your telephone line.

Depending on where you live in Northern Ireland, the broadband scheme should allow you to:

- access superfast broadband;
- choose a supplier from several competing broadband companies in areas which have superfast broadband; and
- access other services such as video on demand or subscription television.

Superfast broadband speed is more than 24 megabits per second.

There could also be access to a computer terminal at local schools. Every school in NI has access to the internet and EA will seek to secure the support of schools in making access available to parents if their rural broadband is lacking.

Research shows that rural Northern Ireland have access to broadband services and 4G coverage particularly among those who own a smart phone. Helplines for a number of key offices will continue to exist along with switchboards across the local offices to provide local support to anyone who requires it.

Standardisation of the Parental Payments Scheme

Education/
Transport

A Rural Proofing Analysis was carried out by ESRI Ireland on behalf of the Authority. Through the data available in this report the Education Authority was able to adopt positive action measures to address rural inequalities by introducing pay bands based on how far you live from school.

In cases where payments must be provided due to the unavailability of a public transport option or a legitimate family or school scheduling reason, and based on the public transport rate of 25.7p, the Authority proposes using positive action to address inequalities by using the following payment bands:

Table 2: Payment Bands

BAND	YEARLY AMOUNT PAYABLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance from pupils home to nearest suitable school • Including Parental Miles* 	
Band A	£185.00
0-4 miles	£46.26 x 4= £185.04

Band B 4 – 10 miles	£465.00 £46.26 x 10= £462.60
Band C 10 – 15 miles	£695.00 £46.26 x 15= £693.90
Band D 15+ miles	£740.00 £46.26 x 16 = £740.16

This will therefore have a positive impact on people who live in rural areas.

Anyone who has an exceptional circumstance can apply to the EA and this will be considered on a case by case basis.

EA Digital Admissions Policy

Education

The Communications Market Report produced by Ofcom in 2017 records that more than eight in ten (83%) households in Northern Ireland have access to the internet. Almost eight in ten households (79%) have access to fixed broadband at home, and two thirds (68%) of adults in NI use the internet through a mobile phone. 76% of adults in NI personally use a smartphone and 62% of households in NI own a tablet computer in 2017. Smartphone and tablet ownership do not vary significantly by urban or rural location in NI.

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There should also be access to a computer terminal at local schools where applications can be submitted, every school in NI has access to the internet and EA will support parents to use these facilities if their rural internet is lacking.

		<p>The EA will make electronic hubs available in publicly accessible places for those who may have limited or no access to the internet. EA will consider enabling Helpdesk Staff to complete an application on behalf of a parent/guardian. EA will still accept a hard copy admission form in the unlikely event that a citizen cannot or chooses not to avail of the online facility.</p> <p>During January 2019, EA held a number of Digital Admission Clinics across NI to support parents and guardians in applying on line for a pre-school or primary place. These clinics were targeted at areas where there is a high number of newcomer families, high levels of social disadvantage and localities with poor access to broadband.</p> <p>The clinics operated on a drop in basis, with varying levels of translation services also available.</p>
EA Corporate Business Plan 2018-19	Education	<p>The work of the EA will impact on the rural population in Northern Ireland as, according to DAERA, 37% of the population lives in a rural setting. EA has approximately 490 schools within rural areas.</p> <p>The Corporate Business Plan 2018-19 contains a number of actions with the potential to impact on rural areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the Area Plan; this is related to development of the school estate to meet changing demand and demographics. Schools in rural areas may be affected; • Developing of a digital transformation programme; This policy may have issues for people in a rural area with limited broadband, alternative formats will be considered and equality screening will be carried out at the policy design stage by the policy lead; • Working collaboratively with Local Councils and other key partners to implement Community Plans; and • Designing and delivering 11 Local Area Plans, which are linked to Council areas and relate to community use of schools and youth groups.

		<p>This could have a positive impact on the needs of rural dwellers, with the EA becoming a more regional service provider and with local decisions on community planning being taken at a local level.</p> <p>EA will continue to deliver services in schools and associated transport to rural areas and will target provisions when and where necessary.</p>
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Further information on each screening can be found at:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/about-us/equality/equality-screenings>

NOTES

1. This information should normally be contained in section 1B of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
2. This information should normally be contained in section 2D of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
3. The information contained in sections 3D, 4A & 5B of the RNIA Template should be considered when completing this section.