

CfE 2024.243

21 October 2024

Issued via Email

Aoibhinn Treanor, Clerk Committee for Education

Email: Aoibhinn.treanor@niassembly.gov.uk

Dear Aoibhinn

Re: The Committee agreed that I should write to you asking for details of current Education Authority youth work programmes which provide RSE and address, in particular, topics such as

- **Tackling misogyny**
- **Challenging rape myths**
- **Addressing violence against women and girls**
- **Explaining the impact of alcohol and drugs on healthy relationships.**

Delivery

Youth services are delivered based on the assessed needs of children and young people through a Regional and Local Assessment of Need (per council area) to inform planning. Themes and delivery of youth work programme are delivered in line with the youth work curriculum which involve a co-design process with children and young people. Based on the requested for information outlined below are programmes delivered through statutory youth services for the period of 2023-2024:

- 43 programmes with 803 children and young people on the theme of Relationships.
- 22 programmes with 392 children and young people on the theme of Sexual Health.
- 39 programmes with 600 children and young people on the theme of Child Sexual Exploitation.
- 47 programmes and events with 1,460 children and young people on the theme of Drugs and Alcohol.
- 26 programmes with 247 children and young people on the theme of Digital Resilience.
- 133 programmes with 1796 children and young people through gender specific programmes on the theme of Emotional Health and Wellbeing.

Resources developed for the sector.

The Education Authority has either developed or resources the voluntary and community sector to develop resources to support addressing the needs identified through the Regional Assessment of Need. These has been made available to the sector support the delivery of the Youth Work Curriculum. Listed below are the resources available (including website links)

- [Relationship and Sexuality Education Resource for Youth Workers](#)
- [Drugs and Alcohol Prevention Curriculum](#)

Tackling Paramilitarism Programme

Safety and Stability Team

The Fresh Start Agreement (November 2015) resulted in the Executive Action Plan in 2016, the aim of which is to tackle paramilitary activity, criminality, and organised crime.

The Executive Action Plan is a cross departmental project, and the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board has tasked the Department of Education to take forward Action A4, which states that:

“The Executive should commission appropriate initiatives aimed at promoting lawfulness in schools and through youth work in communities.”

The ENGAGE programme locates a JNC-qualified Youth Outreach Worker in identified areas to target and provide youth work interventions to vulnerable young people, and the capacity building element of the project aims to equip Youth Workers and teachers with new skills and perspectives and build their knowledge around the complexities of the work.

Group workshop delivery to young people is needs based and incorporates drug and alcohol education and often includes partnership working with community providers depending on the topic. Individual mentoring support from an Engage youth worker provides more detailed interventions, for example, young people who are impacted by drug and alcohol addictions.

As a theme emerges youth providers will put conversations, programmes and interventions in place in response to the themes. Throughout 23/24 3,551 young people received specialist support for a range of issues including but not limited to coercion, drugs and alcohol, violence, gender-based violence and healthy relationships. Over the year emerging themes included:

- 6 CSE workshops
- 1 workshop on the issue of consent
- 4 Resilience Building Programmes
- 14 Social Action Projects
- 25 Drug & Alcohol Programmes
- 3 Therapeutic Wilderness Programmes
- 18 health and wellbeing programmes
- 10 Leadership Programmes
- 1 Exploitation Awareness workshop
- 4 sessions on non-violent approaches
- 6 Young Women and Violence workshops
- 2 Sexual Health Awareness workshops
- 3 peer education programmes
- 1 positive peer culture programme

“To inspire, support and challenge all our Children and Young People to be the best that they can be.”

Education Authority

3 Charlemont Place, The Mall, Armagh BT61 9AX

T: 028 37512535 | email: dale.hanna@eani.org.uk Web: <https://www.eani.org.uk>

Queen's University Research team and Youth Workers have co-produced the Y-Box programme, which is an evidence informed model for engaging young men around the theme of masculinity and violence. The model provides a framework to addressing male gender norms and violence related outcomes with young men aged 12-21 at risk of violence as a victim and/or perpetrator. Thematic areas incorporate 3 topics: Masculinities; Violence and Healthy Relationships. Safe spaces are provided to engage young men in critical group work discussion, individual self-reflection, skills development, observation and feedback. Similarly, a gender conscious model is in development to engage young women.

The 'Mentors in Safety' is a programme delivered by youth workers in schools which aims to develop young people as 'peer mentors' around safety and stability in their school and community. The programme explores the scope of harm and viewing 'harms through a gendered lens' and reaches the wider audience of young people to participate in discussions which impact on their safety.

CONNECT is a hospital-based youth work programme located in Altnagelvin, Ulster and Craigavon Hospitals working with young people who present to Emergency Departments in Hospitals. Young people invited to participate in a mentoring intervention are those who are aged 15 to 25 and are vulnerable to harm. The key trends that presented in the mentoring process were:

- Mental Health
- Self Harm
- Substance Misuse
- Violent Attack/Assault
- Credible Threat

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy:

Youth Service began engaging with The Executive Office Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy team in May 2023 and since then, have engaged with 147 young people across 18 groups across Northern Ireland, from a range of statutory and voluntary sector organisations. These young people have explored issues affecting young women and gender-based violence including:

- Informed consent.
- Children's rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Types of violence, abuse and microaggressions.
- Healthy relationships and coercive control.
- Acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, social norms and normalisation of violence.
- Creating a child friendly version of the draft strategy and action plan.
- How young people can create change.

Their main work has involved:

- Youth event in Stormont to bring together the youth panels for practical workshops and consultation on the strategy.
- Cross border work with Foroige in Dublin to design and deliver a youth-led 'twin cities' event for local schools in Derry and Strabane areas, along with an event delivery pack for other projects to deliver the same event.

"To inspire, support and challenge all our Children and Young People to be the best that they can be."

Education Authority

3 Charlemont Place, The Mall, Armagh BT61 9AX

T: 028 37512535 | email: dale.hanna@eani.org.uk Web: <https://www.eani.org.uk>

- Engagement with Department of Education and Ulster University around appropriate relationships and sexuality education for young people.
- Co design of an Ending Violence Against Women and Girls curriculum to be delivered in formal and informal education contexts.
- Consultation on Police Service Northern Ireland and Department of Justice campaign called 'Turning Point' on exploring appropriate and inappropriate behaviours.
- Youth panels helped to design and deliver a week of engagements celebrating International Women's Day which worked with 404 young people through events, workshops, panels and social action projects.

We have also delivered 7 training sessions for statutory and voluntary sector youth workers, including one session for 48 youth workers to explore child rights-based practice and six sessions for 66 youth workers to explore Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

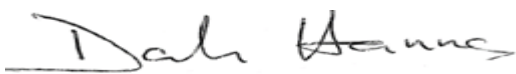
Work in Development:

Bystander Intervention Resource Development

The Education Authority Youth Service is working through a North-South Practice Development Hub to develop a short course for young people aged 16+, to raise awareness and increase understanding of Bystander Intervention approaches. This resource will look particularly, in the areas of gender-based/relationship violence, coercive control, sexual harassment/assault, risk-taking behaviours and consent, with a focus centred around the following objectives:

- Increase understanding of Bystander Intervention - causes and considerations.
- Increase awareness and understanding of what gender-based/relationship violence and coercive control is - characteristics and how they manifest in attitudes and behaviours.
- Increase awareness of risk-taking behaviours - peer pressure and influence.
- Increase understanding of consent - the concept and definition.

Yours sincerely



Dale Hanna
Director
Children and Young People's Services

Email: Dale.Hanna@eani.org.uk

"To inspire, support and challenge all our Children and Young People to be the best that they can be."

Education Authority

3 Charlemont Place, The Mall, Armagh BT61 9AX

T: 028 37512535 | email: dale.hanna@eani.org.uk Web: <https://www.eani.org.uk>



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

Mr Richard Pengelly
Chief Executive
Education Authority
40 Academy Street
Belfast
BT1 2NQ

Date 10/10/2024
Our Ref: 2024.243

Dear Mr Pengelly,

Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) provision in youth work

Please convey the Committee's thanks to EA officials who provided a briefing in relation to the Committee's inquiry into RSE recently.

The Committee agreed that I should write to you asking for details of current Education Authority youth work programmes which provide RSE and address, in particular, topics such as

- tackling misogyny
- challenging rape myths
- addressing violence against women and girls
- explaining the impact of alcohol and drugs on healthy relationships.

I would be grateful for a reply by 24 October 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Aoibhinn Treanor

**Aoibhinn Treanor
Clerk
Committee for Education**