

YouthAction
NORTHERN IRELAND

Young at  for

80
1944
YEARS
2024

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT END OF YEAR REPORT:

EA REGIONAL STRATEGIC 2024-2025





INTRODUCTION:



YouthAction NI is a membership-based organisation that has proudly supported young people and local voluntary youth organisations across Northern Ireland for 80 years. Throughout this time, we have strengthened our organisational infrastructure and created support systems to guarantee that we provide tailored, needs-driven packages co-designed with each member. From March 2024 to April 2025, YouthAction NI registered 188 members; 102 members are

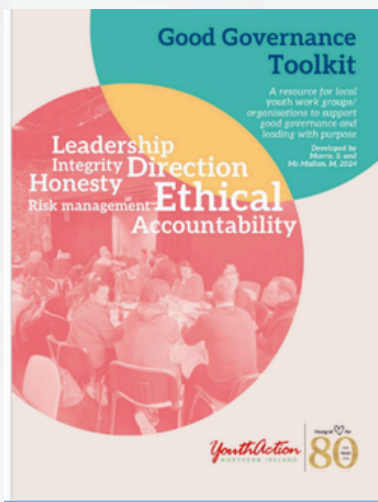
registered with the Education Authority. 76 of these members nominate YouthAction NI as their Regional Voluntary Youth Organisation reflecting a 25% increase in nominating members from the previous year. YouthAction continue to offer membership support and services to the additional 26 non nominating EA registered members.

YANI MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT:

YouthAction operates six regional hubs located in Kilkeel, Newry, Belfast, Fermanagh, Derry/Londonderry, along with a primary hub in Armagh. Recently, we established a new membership coordinator position for the North West region and will soon appoint a coordinator for the Belfast and Eastern Corridor region. Each regional hub is staffed with a team of youth workers dedicated to supporting individual members. Our membership strategy and support are overseen by a senior leader.

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT PROVIDED :

- A designated Youth Worker
- Individual needs assessment and training survey
- Volunteer and staff training (accredited and non-accredited)
- Governance resources and support to committees and boards
- Child protection training, policy support and reviews
- Access NI checks
- Funding assistance
- Insurance support
- Thematic curriculum aid (gender, LGBTQ+, peace-building, etc.)
- Quality assurance processes
- Impact reporting
- Risk assessment
- Communication and information services
- Networking opportunities
- Collective advocacy for a stronger voice
- Discounts on events and training





Area of Action 2: Provide youth work outcomes support to local EA registered youth organisations:

Why are we doing this?

To provide youth work outcomes support to EA registered local youth organisations, across rural and urban Northern Ireland, to improve services for young people and assist youth workers and young people to articulate and celebrate learning.

- To contribute to the Children and Young People's Strategy 2019 – 2029 “children and young people learn and achieve” (Outcome 3).
- To contribute to Priorities for Youth (2013) action 4.6.2 “The framework will measure expected outcomes and will take account of the broad range of youth work educational settings, including those focusing on personal and social development”.
- To contribute to the implementation of the EA Youth Service Engagement and Outcomes Framework across local organisations, to “establish approaches to improve the outcomes of all children and young people” (EA Strategic Plan 2017 – 2027; mid-term Corporate Objective 1 of Strategic Priority 1).

We will do this by providing EA registered members with:

- One-to-one support sessions with youth work staff to develop methods to measure and report on outcomes and engagement of young people, suited to their circumstances.
- Training workshops on YouthAction NI's Quality Assurance resource and other QA toolkits to support staff and volunteers to have increased understanding, confidence, and methods to record and measure impact.
- Training to measure, evaluate, and report on youth work outcomes (using the Quality Assurance Resource, Youth Achievement Awards, etc.).

Training on specific Engagement Frameworks to support EA local registered organisations to measure outcomes and prepare for EA monitoring and moderation (Engagement Framework Resource, New Quality Assurance Resource, Youth Achievement Awards, Scorecard Framework, Agenda For Peace, LIFEMAPS toolkit, etc.).



WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN 2024-2025?



Additionally, YouthAction provided hours of one-to-one support, centre visits, telephone calls, and email correspondence to local groups. All members have access to the YANI Membership workbook (summary of recording template findings / assessment of need), 21 members were supported in preparation for EA moderation and end of year reporting. YouthAction has also organised or participated in a total of 14 stakeholder events for its members, including our annual members' celebration and connection event, Light the Fire, Gender Equality conference, Irish Youth Music Awards, International Women's Day rally, Youth Peace Summits..

EA moderation and monitoring reports in Novemeber 2024 for Regional Strategic support categorised Youth Actions' Membership Support as "Exceeds Expectations."



SAFEGUARDING SYSTEMS AND SUPPORT PROVIDED

Headline figures for Access NI checks and Safeguarding Training include:

- 188 staff and volunteers vetted through Access NI (April 2024 – March 2025).
- 379 participants from 33 EA member groups completed M1/M2 Integrated Keeping Adults and Children Safe training, accredited through Volunteer Now.
- 20 Good Governance and safeguarding support sessions attended by 160 staff and volunteers, including Safeguarding Health Checks.
- Basic First Aid Training completed by 18 staff and volunteers from EA member groups.
- Safeguarding policy reviews provided to various EA members across regions by YouthAction staff, including Ask, Kilkeel, Kingdom YC, Magnet YAC, Don't Box Me In, Spring, Frank Gilligan, Cliftonville YC, St Patrick YC, Keady, Brookborough YC, Kildress YC, Fairhill YC, NW Islamic Association, Ballyhornan YC, and Yew Gen.
- 30 Youth Action NI staff completed the refresher workshop on Keeping Adults and Young People Safe, with 4 staff becoming trainers for the YouthAction Safeguarding Team.



Feedback

“Learning about different types of abuse and how young people can be affected by social media was really good. Also the topic of dealing with disclosures was very helpful to us in our youth club.”



Feedback

“That was very good; the training was interactive and the facilitator used good examples and scenarios that helped me understand how to deal with concerns.”



Feedback

“Good training, especially Policies and Procedures. The scenario examples and hearing other perspectives was beneficial, thanks”



Quality Assurance and Training Report 2024-2025

YouthAction NI quality assurance toolkits are offered to all EA members. These include:

- **Membership Support Workbook - Coaching Programme**
- **LIFEMAPS mental health toolkit**
- **Agenda for Peace QA Toolkit**
- **Status Traveller inclusion toolkit**
- **Youth Achievement Awards (OCN NI Endorsed)**
- **YANI Quality Assurance Resource**
- **Good Governance Toolkit**
- **EA Engagement Framework resource - Youth Work Outcomes**
- **Lifeskills Framework**



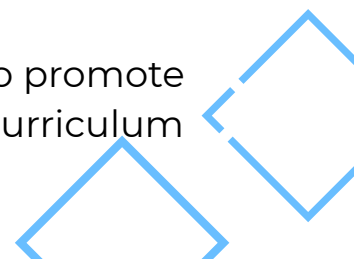
Membership Support Workbook: Offered to all 76 EA members. 56 members utilised it to review and assess staff, volunteer and organisational needs. This included a training survey, leadership audit, and safeguarding checklist. The Member's Workbook informed YouthAction Annual Training Calendar 2024-25.

Good Governance Toolkit: Is a newly developed resource, launched at our annual member's connection event in November 2024. The resource supports local youth organisations' boards and committees to govern and lead with purpose, providing information, guidance, templates, and exercises that can help boards to review and action plan in a number of key areas. 42 staff and volunteers from EA members participated in Good Governance taster workshops.

Agenda for Peace: A toolkit for youth organisations focusing on safety and stability. It provides a quality assurance framework for peace-building through youth work, featuring an eight-step process. 16 YouthAction NI staff were trained to disseminate the toolkit. 6 partner organisations, including Bytes Project and YMCA Ireland, also trained and 10 EA registered members requested support for using the toolkit.

Youth Achievement Awards (YAA): A quality assurance framework for recognizing young people's learning and achievements in youth work, endorsed by OCN NI. 2 YAA online workshops were held for EA members in Q4. 6 EA members showed interest in registering for YAA. YANI created a new YAA coordinator post to promote the awards to 76 EA members in 2025-26.

Cluster Support Workshops: 16 regional workshops conducted to promote quality assurance toolkits, the EA Engagement Framework, and curriculum support resources.





Training reported (Model of Effective Practice; QA & Youth Work Outcomes)

- **56** EA member groups completed templates for training needs / leadership audits to help identify need and inform our annual Training Calendar.
- Training Calendar developed, shared, updated with **76** EA members.
- Workforce development strategy / partnership in place and reviewed regularly.
- **16** x Regional Cluster Support meetings completed across 6 regions to keep training needs updated as well as provide training on funding support, curriculum resource and quality assurance.

Accredited OCNNI Level 1-4 Training offered to 76 EA registered members:

Q1-13 new learners completed leadership qualification and certified @ OCNNI levels 1-4. (2 x EA members - Ballinamallard YC and SPRING)

Q2-58 new learners completed leadership qualification and certified @ OCNNI levels 1-4. (4x EA members- Aspire NI, St Oliver Plunketts YC, Respect Project)

Q3- 50 new learners completed leadership qualifications and certified @ OCNNI levels 1-4. (6x EA members- Patrician YC, SPRING, Banbridge Amateur Boxing Club, Ballinamallard YC, Limestone United)

Q4 -71 new learners registered on levels 1-4. (EA members- St Columb's Park, Reach Across, Edgarstown, Galbally, Lincoln Courts, St Oliver Plunketts YC)

Level 4 Certificate In Youth Work Practice offered to 76 Member organisations. Staff and Volunteers from 4 member groups registered. (Diverse Youth, Magnet YAC, Divis YC, Ardoyne Youth Club, Active Communities)

Feedback from EA Moderator:

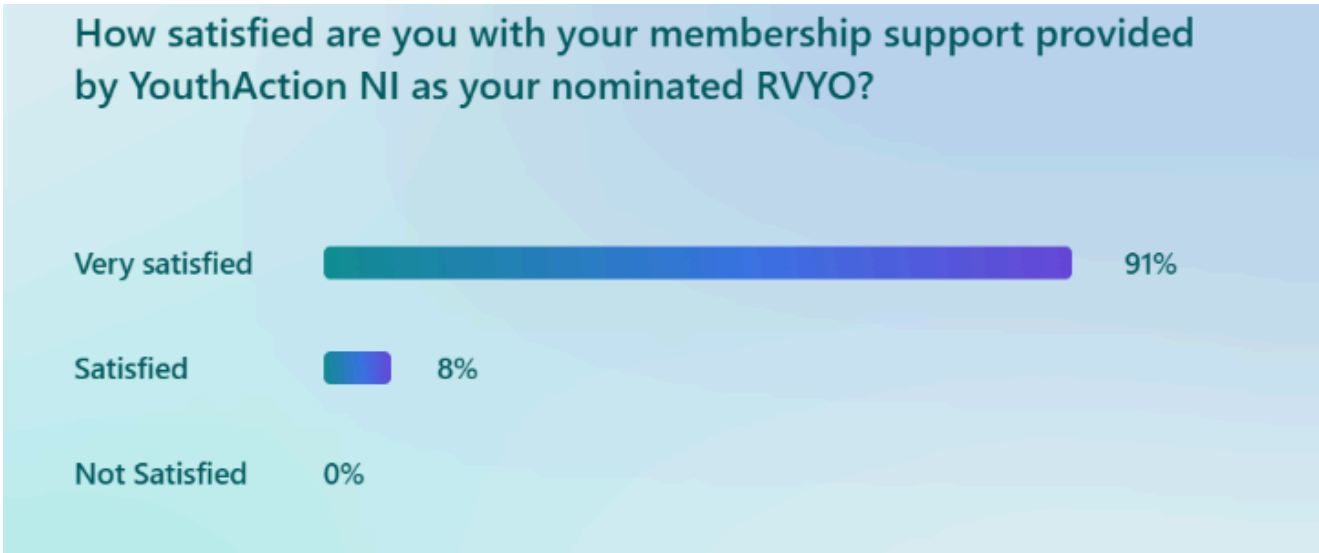
"I was incredibly impressed with Mary Jo and the lengths she has gone to, to support her learners. They spoke with great warmth about the support they have received from her and in speaking to several of them I could tell they have been on a significant learning curve."
(March 2025: Standards Catagorised as : **Exceeds Expectations**)





MEMBERS SATISFACTION REPORT: WELL HAVE WE DONE?

A total of 47 members participated in our Members' satisfaction survey. Among them, 43 expressed that they were very satisfied with the support they received, 4 indicated they were satisfied, and zero reported being unsatisfied.



(YANI Membership Satisfaction Survy, Microsoft Forms, April 2025)

WHAT HAVE MEMBERS SAID?

"Excellent support provided throughout the year including ongoing promotion of programmes and initiatives for our youth club to avail of. Also supporting staff and volunteers to complete safeguarding training and ACCESS NI. " (St Oliver Plunkett YC, Crossmaglen)

"The team have been really supportive, my staff have gained qualifications and I have seen a big improvement in their practice with young people YouthAction has made a profound impact." (Diverse Youth, Belfast)

"We couldn't have run the club without YouthAction's support. Young people in our area have had the opportunities to take part in activities, programmes and experiences they never had before." (Brookebouragh YC, Fermanagh)

"The support we were getting from Dominic over the last couple of years was outstanding. We would appreciate the continuous support especially as we are expanding our activities given our recent success in securing 3 year funding from the BBC CHILDREN IN NEED. Thank you for all the great work you do." (North West Islamic Association)

MEMBERS CASE STUDY RATHENRAW & MUCKAMORE PARISH:

CASE Study

The Antrim group, is made up of 6 Young People from a Catholic Youth Club (Rathenraw) and 6 from a Protestant Youth Club (Muckamore) the first time in 30 years groups from these communities have come together to carry out a sustained piece of work, they will complete an OCN level 1 in Youth Work, Safeguarding and LIFEMAPS:

Some Feedback from our Pre and Post Check ins:

Intra-Personal- One Young Man has demonstrated a:

•20% Increase in meeting new people.

•20% increase in Confidence, Motivation and Problem Solving.

Interpersonal- One Young Man has demonstrated a:

•40% Increase in empathy towards others.

Intergroup- One Young Woman has demonstrated a:

• 80% Increase in feeling confident to meet new people.

12 Young People (100%) have learned something new about themselves, their identity and attitudes towards others.

12 Young People (100%) Feel trying something new has helped them to be more open to learning something different.

12 Young People (100%) Feel more empathic towards others. (4 YP showed a 40% increase).

12 Young People (100%) Feel confident in meeting new people. (1 YP showed a massive 80% increase).

done x2 a year.

Enjoyed Session will be using this Tool again with Groups within RURA Partnership D. Caroline

Great session, not boring - interactive & allowed sensitive subjects to be discussed effortlessly.

Felt the Session was very good and beneficial.

made the session fun and kept everybody's attention @ all times. Very good.

VERY INTERACTIVE + ENGAGING.

very good - we both very pleasant and fun - good session for a Monday morning - not boring like other Trainings. 5 stars!

FUN + Informative! GREAT!

The session was great and interactive - went really well no complaints. ★★★★★

The session was very thought-provoking! Leaving session feeling really positive. Great facilitation.

Dr. [Name] & [Name] were great facilitators and kept the session interactive and engaging. Thoroughly enjoyed it.

Have Nothing to complain about the session. Emmett hope you do well in the last of your uni. journey. helpful & mind opening.

NORTH WEST ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION

Over the past 18 months, YANI has provided support to our member group, the North West Islamic Association (NWIA). During this period, we collaborated with volunteers and board members to review and update all their policies, allowing them to explore new funding opportunities. This support has led to NWIA successfully securing three years' of funding from Children In Need, amounting to £42,000. Additionally, they have obtained approximately £18,500 in further funding to strengthen community partnerships, host public open days, and develop youth and women's programmes (a first for them), along with educational initiatives in schools.

The volunteers at NWIA are now better positioned to enhance their organisational structure and create programmes that cater to the needs of young people. Both the board and volunteers have completed safeguarding training, as well as Access NI checks, and detailed records are maintained for the programmes they currently offer.

YANI will continue to support NWIA in delivering youth programmes, which include peer mentoring at OCN Level 1, Youth Achievement Awards OCN, a youth buddying project, and their summer scheme, all aligned with the curriculum model. We are also in the process of establishing a youth committee to ensure that these programmes are developed in collaboration with the young people involved.

Without YANI's support, NWIA would not have obtained this additional funding or the necessary training to address their organisational needs.

