

Consultation document on “Proposals For The Future Of The Youth Council NI”.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (Council) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation.

The Council agrees that, given budgetary constraints, there is a need to rationalise the administration of regional youth services.

The Council realises that many of the youth organisations funded under Article 4 provide support to locally run youth organisations based in Fermanagh and Omagh District and it would be important that this support/infrastructure fund is continued under any new regime.

Questions for Consultation

1. Do you agree that the creation of the Education Authority combined with current budgetary constraints provides a need to rationalise the administration of regional and sub regional youth services?

YES

If you support the delivery of regional and sub regional youth services in the Education Authority, please identify the option that you think will achieve the desired effect.

Option 2 - Dissolution of the Youth Council and Protection of Youth Provision within the Education Authority.

This Option builds on Option 1 as it proposed that youth provision within the Education Authority is protected through the development of:-

- specific targets relating to youth provision set by the Minister and monitored by the Department;
- management/monitoring of the Education Authority youth budget to ensure it underpins these targets;
- greater flexibility in the allocation of resources, regionally and sub regionally;
- particular consideration given to the funding of Regional Voluntary Youth Organisations;
- designated staff for youth services within the Education Authority; and scope for strategic/higher level projects to be identified as part of the Regional Youth Development Plan preparation process, which will guide and support the delivery of services by the Education Authority

2. Are there any services currently provided by the Youth Council which you consider must be retained by the Education Authority? Yes No
If yes, please give details.

YES – The Council realises that many of the youth organisations funded under Article 4 provide support to locally run youth organisations based in the Fermanagh and Omagh District and it would be important that this support/infrastructure fund was continued under any new regime.

3. Do you consider that the dissolution of the Youth Council will adversely impact on regional youth services? Yes No

If yes, please specify

NO – Provided the protection to organisations funded under Article 4 above is given and locally based Youth Services are adequately funded through the Education Authority to work with local groups.

4. Do you consider that the options identified adversely impact on any of the Section 75 groups? Yes No

If yes, please tell us:-

Which groups do you think the option affects?

How do you think the groups would be adversely affected?

NO – Provided funding to Article 4 groups, including Section 75 support groups is protected.

5. Do you have any further comments, additional evidence or information that the Department should consider when assessing the proposed rationalisation of DE funded regional youth services.

No further comments.