

# Cross Nation Youth Work Partnership MOU

2023-2028\*

---

## Who we are

UK Youth, Youth Scotland, Youth Cymru, YouthAction NI and Youth Work Ireland (The partnership) are five leading youth work charities collaborating to improve the lives of young people. With a historical relationship spanning 100 years we renew our partnership vision with this document. This document thereby supersedes all former concordats or historic agreements and constitutes the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the member organisations. It will be reviewed on an annual basis to assess progress.

## What we do

Within our collective networks we;

- facilitate a diverse network of youth organisations and cross sector partners, working with young people across The Partnership.
- deliver high quality youth work, workforce development, strong collaborations and partnerships; advocating for the needs of young people and youth work.

## Context

This strategy sets out our ambitions to work strategically together across the partnership. Acknowledging the changing relationships and political landscape between the countries and jurisdictions of The Partnership.

We do not “have” to work together. We “get” to work together. We commit to work through the details of how we work together with our respective operational teams, using this new strategic framing as a steer. Our goal is to leverage our unique skills, insights and reach to impact the lives of young people across Ireland and the UK. Where our partnership alone is the best avenue to do this we will prioritise working together. Where others are needed we will seek to expand engagement, ideally with the respective nation organisation taking the lead.

---

## Our Vision

To create a dynamic movement for social change to enrich young people’s lives, driven by the values and power of youth work.

## Our Values

Our work is driven by these shared values;

- **Collaboration.** We work together to leverage our collective networks and influencing power to make a greater impact with and for young people.
- **Courage.** We challenge inequalities and have the courage to drive positive change for young people and communities across Ireland and the UK. We believe in an assets based and strengths driven approach.
- **Community.** We are focussed on building a deeper reconciliation of communities across Ireland and the UK. . We build on the strengths of our communities and work together to build a shared understanding of our history and heritage.

1. UK Youth’s strategic commitments run through to 2025 and as such commitments to this will be reviewed then.

We will ensure our partnership is distinguished by collaboration, open-ness and shared values led by the views of young people and our collective networks

## **Our Key Objectives**

As 5 leading youth work charities we are able to collectively leverage a powerful UK and Ireland partnership. We get to work together to achieve an impactful vision of change for young people. We will ensure that we;

1. Build a shared cultural understanding, learning and connections across youth work communities across The Partnership.
2. Support young people and youth workers to influence change at a local, regional, national and international level.
3. Champion the value of youth work collectively across Ireland and the UK and build a greater understanding of its impact as a key enabler for change.
4. Grow and develop a diverse, inspired and skilled British-Irish workforce by developing opportunities to share learning, develop connections and create innovation.

## **Priorities for 2023-24**

In order to achieve these objectives, we have set out the following priorities for our work activity in 2023-24;

Objectives	Activities
Build a shared cultural understanding, learning and connections across the youth work community across our partnership.	Identify opportunities for young people and youth workers to build connections and learn about the cultural heritage across the partnership.
Support young people and youth workers to influence change at a local, regional, national and international level.	Establish a programme of activity to enable young people and youth workers to influence change.
Champion the value of youth work (including outdoor learning) collectively across the partnership and build a greater understanding of its impact as a key enabler for change.	Use programmes, projects and campaigns as opportunities to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- develop and deliver a cross nation comms and influencing plan. Showing our combined impact and focussing on the stories of young people and youth workers.</li> <li>- develop shared insights and resources to show the depth of work, areas of good practise and impact of youth work across the partnership</li> </ul>

1. UK Youth’s strategic commitments run through to 2025 and as such commitments to this will be reviewed then.

<p>Grow and develop a diverse, inspired and skilled British-Irish workforce by developing opportunities to share learning, develop connections and create innovation.</p>	<p>Deliver regular “learning out loud” seminars across our staff teams, networks – sharing on our shared cultural heritage, the youth work policy landscape and cross nation insights. .</p> <p>Design and deliver a Cross Nations Leaders retreat to bring together a diverse cohort to share learning, develop connections and create innovation. (Integrating into existing plans, striving to think from a cross nation perspective)</p>
---	--

---

## **Ways of working Steers**

### **Strategic Partnership Governance**

The spirit of the partnership is shared equity and strategic alignment. To ensure greater sense of shared accountability and mutual value add within the Cross Nation Youth Work Partnership as a whole, we will rotate the operational coordination and strategic secretariat function across the partnership. With each cross nation partner rotating the central coordination, hosting and agenda’s for core activities and meetings.

All organisations commit to;

- Support the shared strategic plan and objectives, and ensuring the relevant investment in staff time to support and deliver this.
- Work to the shared values of the partnership. Respecting the national role, individual strengths and unique expertise of each organisation.
- Ensure young people and youth workers have the opportunity to input into the future direction and delivery of the partnership.
- Develop a culture of building connections, partnerships and learning as a Cross Nation Youth Work Partnership.
- Share insights, research and information that may be of interest and aligned to our shared goals.
- Co-operate and campaign on issues of mutual concern.
- Promote together; cooperation and understanding between young people across the partnership.
- Sign post local youth organisations in need of support or advice to the relevant organisation.
- Communicate and discuss any operational challenges or concerns about the delivery of this partnership or other contracted activity with the relevant CEO or identified senior member of staff.
- Communicate with each other, staff and our Boards on a regular basis to share updates on organisational activities, progress and partnerships.

- Where relevant, each partner will be named under each initiative to ensure clarity around participation.

## **Funding**

We will seek collective funding to enable the core objectives of the Agreement to take place. As a partner of equals, we will collectively maximise efforts to source funding.

## **Safeguarding**

All organisations are responsible for ensuring they have appropriate Safeguarding policies and procedures in place. Where a meeting/ event/ residential is organised for young people, the host partner will take the lead on safeguarding arrangements for that specific event.

## **Confidentiality and data protection**

All organisations will adhere to legal nation guidelines, data protection policies and procedures. Where permissible and/or required each organisation will share relevant information with each other to assist in the delivery of the Cross Nations Youth Work Partnership Strategy.

In cases of safeguarding, information will be shared securely in line with the need to ensure the safety of children and young people.

---

We will action the following schedule of meetings to ensure regular communication and governance mechanisms;

- CEO Meeting; CEOs to meet quarterly (preferably in person) to monitor overall progress and progress strategic direction as well as build peer support.
- CEO/ Board Meeting; CEOs and Chairs (or nominated board member) to meet regularly (cadence to be agreed) and share regular progress updates.
- Operational meetings to be agreed based on the workplan


We will review the above annually to ensure the MOU, governance structure and meetings remain fit for purpose.

---

**Signatures:**

Youth Work Ireland: Signature:  Role: CEO Date: 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023

YouthAction NI: Signature:  Role: Chief Executive Date: 23/03/23

Youth Cymru: Signature:  Role: Joint CEO Date: 30/03/2023

Youth Scotland: Signature:  Role: Chief Executive Date: 23/03/23

UK Youth: Signature:  Role: CEO Date: 31/03/2023