

# Measure Sheet for the Peace II Extension Programme

## **Measure 2.2 – Developing Children and Young People**

### **The educational context:**

Schools and the youth sector (both statutory and voluntary) have a crucial role to play in promoting the social inclusion of young people in Northern Ireland. Public and voluntary sector interventions commence with pre-school children and continue throughout their formative years to young adulthood in both the formal school system and through the Youth Service. This includes addressing early educational needs, providing special support programmes for groups of pupils and their schools, and other measures aimed at improving the educational performance of young people and reducing the risk of social exclusion. These are all critical interventions in the youth education sector.

However these interventions are not always successful, with some the most marginalised and excluded young people not making a successful transition into adulthood and not participating fully in all aspects of life in their local community. This is why the European Social Fund can fund a number of pre-labour market intervention strategies which will complement existing education programmes by targeting and supporting those young people most in need of advice and support.

### **The ‘Developing Children and Young People’ Response:**

Particular interventions are required to support and develop those children with special educational needs, with low school attendance, low educational attainment or high levels of social exclusion and thus enable them to achieve their potential. The work of the Youth Service also includes important interventions with vulnerable and disaffected young people.

**In addition to the generic ESF selection criteria (Chapter 5) it is mandatory that Measure 2.2 projects should include one or more of the following:**

- involve innovative approaches to tackling the needs of young people;
- seek to build the skills base of young people
- demonstrate how they plan to (re) integrate marginalised young people into education, training and employment;

**Projects within this Measure should also be able to demonstrate how they can achieve some of the following non-mandatory selection criteria:**

- innovative approaches which will encourage young people to remain in or return to education, to realise their full potential and prepare them for the world of work;

- innovative approaches for young people with special educational needs;
- innovative approaches for young people from minority ethnic backgrounds;
- projects which develop inter-sectoral, inter-professional partnerships which help young people to prepare better for the world of work;
- projects which provide innovative means of access to information, particularly through new technologies;
- the integration of ICT skills into the context and delivery of the projects;
- education, employment training and counselling services targeted at early school leavers and those at risk of being educationally disadvantaged;
- encouraging or facilitating an increased uptake of integrated education approaches;
- projects which comply with statutory regulations and best practice in relation to working with young people.

**Projects can also consider some of the following elements for their project:**

- clear procedures for supporting and developing the participation of young people in the design, management and evaluation of the Peace II project;
- research, publication and dissemination of good practice;
- the development of cross-border aspects;
- short-term interventions with a discrete, well-defined timetable and workplan.

**Targeted Groups, Areas and Sectors**

The targeted areas are those most affected by the conflict as defined by the Programme Complement

The targeted sector is youth education both formal and non-formal.

The targeted groups are youth organisations, schools and organisations in the community and voluntary sector with relevant specialised knowledge and experience.

In Northern Ireland this will apply especially to the areas regarded by central Government as suffering from highest social need (New TSN areas).