



NORTH EAST
YOUTH ALLIANCE

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CHILD POVERTY NETWORK**

Self Assessment Framework

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CHILD POVERTY NETWORK SELF ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK



The Child Poverty Network Self-Assessment Framework has been developed in line with the North East Youth Alliance Child Poverty Network key principles. Both the principles and framework have been developed by a number of professionals from across the region and provides a structured way to self-evaluate the performance and behaviours of your organisation. It is designed to help organisations working with young people to reflect on their strengths, identify areas for improvement, and align actions with core values in relation to child poverty.

The framework is designed to support organisations of all sizes and therefore self-assessment should be conducted in line with the activities and resources relevant to the size of your organisation. We hope the framework will support you to recognise what you're already doing well, as well identify areas for improvement.

For further information about the National Child Poverty Strategy, click [here](#).

For further information about the NECA Region Child Poverty Plan, click [here](#).

Speak to officers from your local authority if you would like to learn more about local arrangements.

Each principle will be given a number score on a scale from 1 - 3, which indicates the level of improvement required. The scale is as follows:

1
Needs
Improvement

2
Working
Towards

3
Achieved

YOUNG PERSON-CENTRED ACTIVITIES AROUND POVERTY

Youth organisations should design activities that are centred on the needs & perspectives of young people, particularly those facing poverty.

Engagement and participation are key, with activities that actively involve young people, giving them a voice and choice in shaping the programmes they are part of.

Success Criteria

- At least **75% of relevant programmes** are co-designed with young people.
- **Regular feedback forums/mechanisms** with young people take place and are documented.
- Each relevant project includes **youth-led decision-making opportunities**.

Self Evaluation Score		1	2	3
Improvement Action Plan				
Action	Lead Person Responsible	Deadline		

Resources

www.regionalyouthunits.com/centre-for-youth-voice

www.youngvoicesheard.org.uk/resources

www.nya.org.uk/cpd

INCLUSIVITY & ACCESSIBILITY

Youth organisations should ensure all activities are inclusive and accessible by removing financial, logistical, and cultural barriers. Programmes must be free or low-cost, age-appropriate, and held at safe, welcoming, and accessible venues.

Communication should use inclusive language and diverse channels, avoid gendered expectations, and ensure no participant goes hungry.

Success Criteria

- All programmes **free/low-cost** with no participant turned away due to finances.
- **Venues are accessible** (location, transport, disability access).
- All promotional materials are reviewed for **inclusive language and imagery** regularly.
- Session plans are **adapted** to ensure accessibility.
- Food/snacks are offered wherever possible and are considered in funding bids.

Self Evaluation Score	1	2	3
Improvement Action Plan			
Action	Lead Person Responsible	Deadline	

Resources

www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-2025

www.nya.org.uk/document/youth-club-in-a-box

www.our1community.co.uk

EDUCATIONAL & EMPOWERING

Youth organisations should empower young people by amplifying their voices, recognising their experiences, and creating opportunities to lead and learn.

Programmes must prioritise youth voice, encourage learning by doing, and share support resources in accessible, shame-free ways with both young people and their families.

Success Criteria

- Programmes include **leadership/skills** development opportunities.
- **Youth contributions** are visibly integrated into organisational decision-making.
- Young people have opportunities to **share their voices wider** than their own project e.g. local youth councils.
- Information/Resources about **support services** are shared in accessible formats.

Self Evaluation Score			1	2	3
Improvement Action Plan					
Action	Lead Person Responsible	Deadline			

Resources

www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/resources/teaching-resources/guidance-assemblies-lessons/the-lundy-model-article-12-in-practice

www.nya.org.uk/ukyp

www.dofe.org/

HOLISTIC APPROACH

Youth organisations should adopt a holistic approach by engaging families in meaningful conversations (where appropriate), fostering mutual respect, and building positive relationships across communities. This creates a supportive system that nurtures growth, resilience, and wellbeing while tackling poverty.

Success Criteria

- **Family engagement** is included in relevant programmes/activities.
- A mechanism is in place to ensure young people are supported with a **wraparound needs assessment/support plan** where appropriate.
- **Cross-referrals** made to family/community services where appropriate.

Self Evaluation Score		1	2	3
Improvement Action Plan				
Action	Lead Person Responsible	Deadline		

Resources

For this principle, we recommend making links with your local family hub and accessing your local young people services directory also.

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

SUSTAINABILITY & IMPACT

Youth organisations should work towards long-term sustainability and impact through consistent delivery. They should aim to avoid disruptions which could undermine trust and demonstrate ongoing commitment to young people and communities and transparent communication.

Success Criteria

- Young people are given **sufficient and timely information** regarding the duration of programmes/services when time limited or at risk.
- **Impact measurement** framework reviewed annually.
- **Programme evaluation** shared with funders/partners each year.

Self Evaluation Score	1	2	3
Improvement Action Plan			
Action	Lead Person Responsible	Deadline	

Resources

www.smallcharities.org.uk/impactmeasurement

www.theoryofchange.org/what-is-theory-of-change

COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration and partnerships enable youth organisations to maximise impact by pooling resources, expertise, and insights. Working together allows them to address young people's needs, tackle poverty, and provide equitable services. Sharing information and aligning efforts across organisations fosters a strong, efficient, and responsive support network, leading to better outcomes for young people and their families.

Success Criteria

- **Formal partnership agreements** with other organisations are in place where appropriate.
- **Resources are shared** (venues, staff, expertise) where possible.
- Participation in **cross-organisation forums** e.g. local youth partnerships.
- **Access to information and training** is considered.

Self Evaluation Score	1	2	3
Improvement Action Plan			
Action	Lead Person Responsible	Deadline	

Resources

www.neya.org.uk/join-us

www.neya.org.uk/charity-commission-tool

SAFETY & PROTECTION

Youth organisations should prioritise young people’s safety and basic needs, providing essential resources in a dignified, inclusive, and stigma-free way. By focusing on safeguarding and meeting fundamental needs, organisations create environments where young people feel protected, valued, and empowered to thrive.

Success Criteria

- All of staff trained in safeguarding annually.
- Annual review of Safeguarding Policy.
- Identified **Designed Safeguarding Officer**.
- All young people’s basic needs (food, clothing, wellbeing) are consistently met during sessions.

Self Evaluation Score	1	2	3
Improvement Action Plan			
Action	Lead Person Responsible	Deadline	

Resources

www.nya.org.uk/cpd

www.nya.org.uk/safeguarding-hub

Also contact your Local Authority Safeguarding for additional support

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

Youth organisations should act with openness, integrity, and transparency, clearly communicating services and objectives while taking responsibility for their impact. Shared accountability and honest engagement foster trust with young people and their families.

Success Criteria

- Publish an **annual impact and financial report**.
- All service users receive **clear information** about programme aims and support available.
- At least **two feedback channels** open for young people and families.

Self Evaluation Score	1	2	3
Improvement Action Plan			
Action	Lead Person Responsible	Deadline	

Resources

www.gov.uk/guidance/prepare-a-charity-trustees-annual-report

INNOVATIVE & ADAPTIVE

Youth organisations should prioritise innovation and adaptability, focusing on young people’s evolving needs. Flexibility, inclusivity, and responsiveness to feedback help create supportive spaces and ensure services effectively address current and emerging challenges, including poverty.

Success Criteria

- Young people **engaged in co-creating** new ideas.
- **Annual evaluation/needs survey** is conducted with young people.
- **Annual review of services** to respond to emerging needs.

Self Evaluation Score	1	2	3
Improvement Action Plan			
Action	Lead Person Responsible	Deadline	

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Youth organisations should provide accessible, non-judgmental programmes that respect young people’s diverse experiences, especially those facing poverty. Ethical practices foster trust, enabling young people to access the support and resources they need to thrive.

Success Criteria

- A **complaints process** is in place and accessible to young people and families.
- All staff trained in **equality and diversity**.
- New programmes are reviewed for **ethical alignment** and inclusivity.

Self Evaluation Score	1	2	3
Improvement Action Plan			
Action	Lead Person Responsible	Deadline	

Resources

www.charityexcellence.co.uk/charity-complaints-procedure-template

www.functionalskillsuk.co.uk/courses/equality-diversity

CHILD POVERTY NETWORK PRINCIPLES



The North East Youth Alliance (NEYA) Child Poverty Network is a regional youth sector stakeholder network, closely aligned with the North East Child Poverty Commission (NECPC) and share their belief that child poverty in the North East is not inevitable and ending it is worth working for together.

Our collective principles have been designed by professionals who are a part of the Child Poverty Network.

Young Person Centred Activities around Poverty

Organisations working with young people should design activities that are centred on the needs and perspectives of young people, particularly those facing poverty. Engagement and participation are key, with activities that actively involve young people, giving them a voice and choice in shaping the programmes they are part of. This ensures that their experiences and needs are central to the planning and implementation of activities.

Inclusivity and Accessibility

Organisations working with young people must prioritise inclusivity and accessibility by addressing financial, logistical, and cultural barriers to participation in sessions. Activities should be free or low-cost. Programmes must be age-appropriate, scheduled at accessible times, and held in venues that are safe, welcoming, and easy to reach. Promotion should use inclusive language and diverse communication channels, ensuring outreach is broad and equitable. Programmes must avoid gendered expectations, foster an environment inclusive of all genders, and provide food to ensure no participant goes hungry. Information relating to support services should be free to access without having to ask.

Educational and Empowering

Organisations working with young people should foster an environment that empowers young people by amplifying their voices, recognising their unique experiences, and providing opportunities to lead and learn. Youth voice must be central, with young people actively contributing to decisions and initiatives. Programmes must encourage learning through doing, connecting shared experiences, and helping young people recognise the value and uniqueness of their perspectives. Resources and information about available support should be widely shared in accessible, shame-free ways, reaching not only young people but their families too. Young people should be supported to voice their opinions on topics without pressure to relate it to their own direct experiences.

Holistic Approach

Time must be allocated for meaningful conversations with families to ensure a supportive network around the young person. This approach encourages mutual respect and the development of positive relationships across diverse communities. By focusing on collaborative efforts with families and leveraging the uniqueness of individual experiences, youth organisations can create a comprehensive support system that nurtures growth, resilience, and community well-being and tackles poverty. Organisations working with young people should be aware of other routes of support for families and young people.

Sustainability and Impact

Organisations working with young people must prioritise long-term sustainability and meaningful impact by ensuring consistency in their programmes and services wherever possible. Stable, ongoing funding is critical to avoid "cliff edges" where support abruptly ends, disrupting progress and trust. Consistent delivery of activities builds reliability, fosters trust among participants, and reinforces the organisation's commitment to young people and their communities.

Collaboration and Partnerships

Collaboration and partnerships are essential for maximising the impact of organisations working with young people by leveraging collective resources and expertise. A collaborative approach enables organisations to work together in addressing the needs of young people, ensuring access to necessary services and support for need fulfilment and to tackle poverty. Sharing resources - whether physical, financial, or informational - across youth organisations strengthens the ability to provide comprehensive and equitable services.

By sharing themes and insights from groups across partnerships, youth organisations can identify common challenges, align efforts, and develop cohesive strategies to address the needs of young people and their families. This collaborative model fosters a network of support that is more robust, efficient, and responsive, creating stronger outcomes for all involved.

Safety and Protection

Organisations working with young people must prioritise the safety and protection of young people by creating environments where basic needs are met without stigma and safeguarding is central to all activities. Ensuring access to essential resources, such as food, clothing, and support services, in a dignified and inclusive manner helps build trust and a sense of security. By fulfilling basic needs and maintaining a strong focus on safety, organisations can provide a foundation where young people feel protected, valued, and empowered to thrive.

Transparency and Accountability

Organisations working with young people must operate with openness and integrity, ensuring transparency in their actions and decisions around poverty. This includes clear communication with young people and their families about available services, resources, and programme objectives. Accountability should be a shared commitment, with organisations taking responsibility for their impact and fostering trust through consistent, honest engagement.

Innovative and Adaptive

Organisations working with young people must embrace innovation and adaptability to meet the evolving needs of young people effectively. Focusing on needs rather than rigid structures allows for more flexibility and inclusivity, creating spaces where young people feel seen and supported. By continually adapting to feedback and changes, organisations can remain dynamic and ensure their services address both current and emerging challenges around poverty.

Ethical Standards

Organisations working with young people should ensure that their programmes are accessible, non-judgmental, and sensitive to the diverse experiences of young people, particularly those facing economic hardship/poverty. By working ethically, organisations foster an environment of trust and respect, where young people can access the resources and assistance necessary for their well-being and development.

