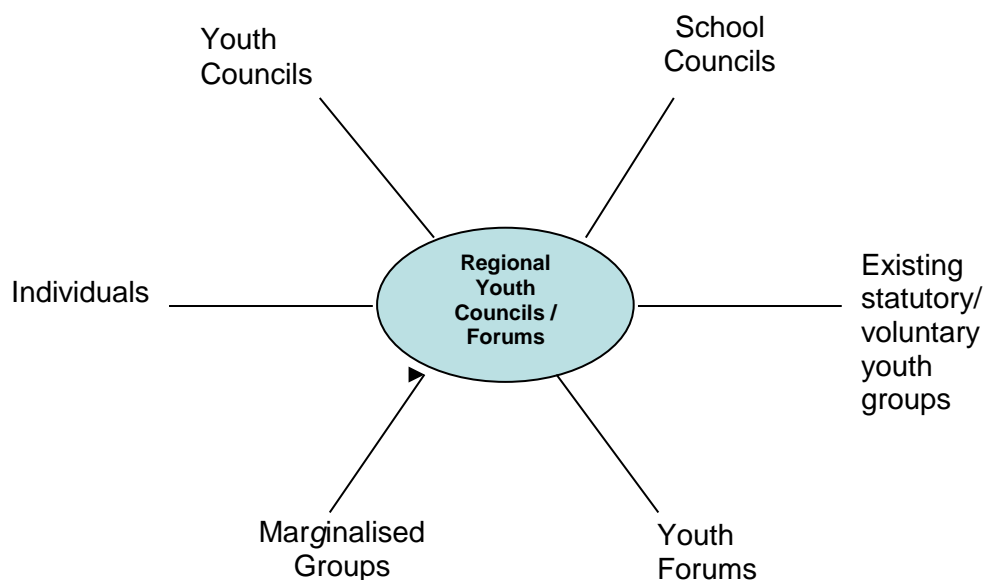


NICCY's Northern Ireland regional model of engagement

The model below was developed originally by NICCY in response to the Department of Education's consultation on the NI Network for Youth in 2008. The model has renewed relevance with regard to the regional engagement of children and young people and the outworking of Community Planning.

This model provides a direct avenue for children and young people to get involved in and have their say on local issues through area based & community planning.

11 Regional Youth Councils/Forums would directly reflect the 11 new District councils restructured under the RPA.



Regional youth councils/forums can feed into local issues, e.g. community planning, play & leisure, anti-social behavioural issues to local representatives, i.e. councillors / MLAs

The model offers:

- Direct and meaningful communication between children & young people and government
- Access to all groups and individuals
- A local voice to local issues
- Identification of contemporary issues
- The voice of young people is central to the development of local policy and legislation making
- Personal development and increased political awareness
- Agenda led and managed by young people

- Young People representing themselves and/or other groups on the local youth councils/forums
- Local groups connecting with each other through the local youth council/forum

The model can also involve younger children by organising age specific events on policies or issues that have a direct impact on their lives. This could be done by developing methods to engage with younger children.

The model can also work across and between council areas with regional councils/forums linking with each other, sharing experiences and good practices, as well as potentially linking into any future NI Youth Assembly.