Youth Sector Development Partnership (YSDP)

Launch webinar

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Delivered by:

NYA National Youth Agency

TRIUMPH

UK YOUTH

YPF TRUST

What we will cover in this session:

- Background to the YSDP
- The goals of the YSDP and the ambition behind it
- The partnership behind it and how it will all come together
- The role of regional partnerships
- How partnerships can apply
- What happens next

Questions?

Q&A is open

If you have questions as we go through the presentation, then please add them to the Q&A function and we will try and answer as many as we can at the end of the session

Background to the YSDP

Consultations led by NYA, UK Youth and DCMS have consistently highlighted the erosion of the infrastructure supporting youth organisations and youth workers.

This has weakened the quality, reach and equity of youth work, limiting its impact on young people.

In particular we have seen:

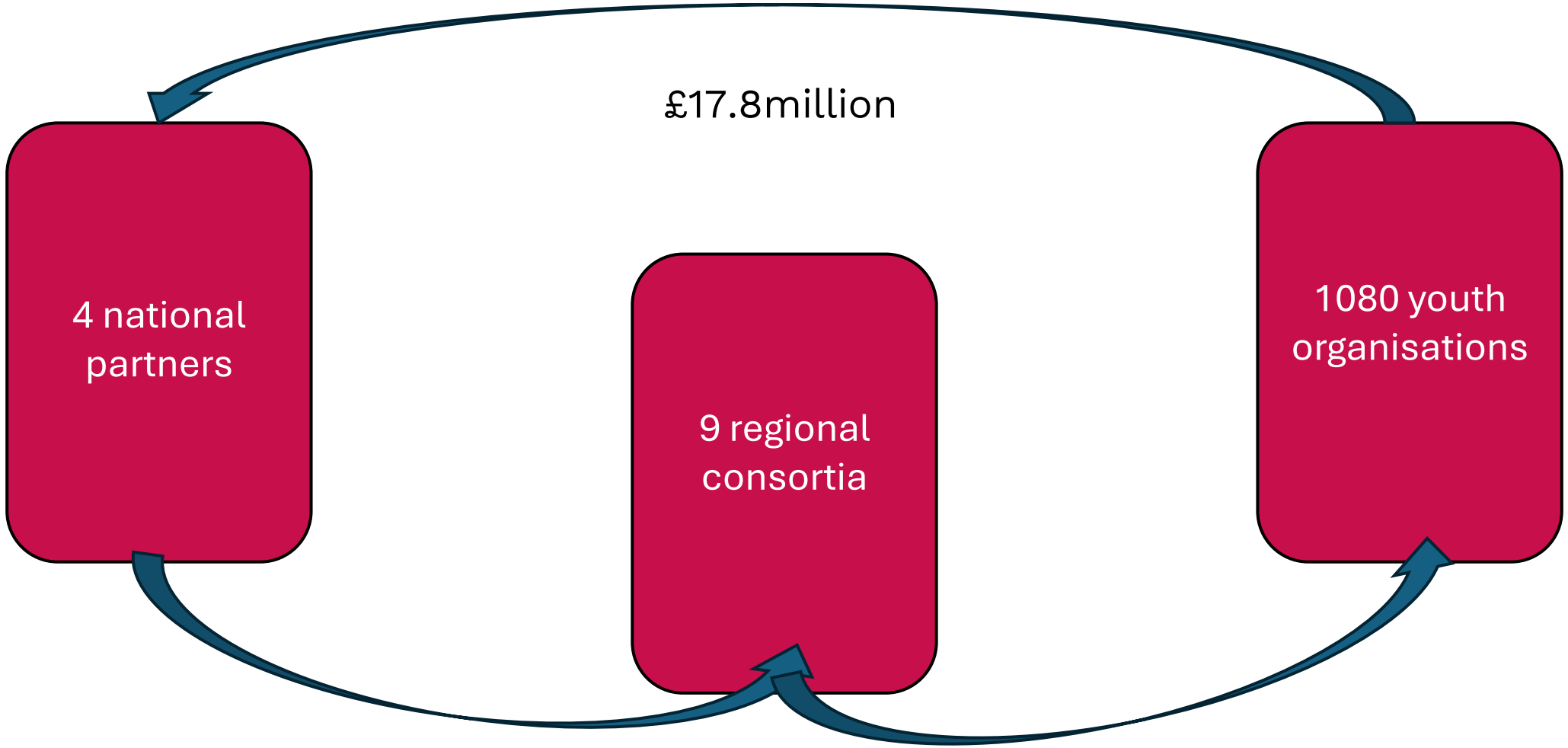
- **Workforce loss:** 4,500 front-line youth workers have been lost since 2011.
- **Funding instability**: there has been a 73% drop in local authority youth spending since 2010.
- **Capacity gaps**: 94% of organisations in UK Youth's 9,000+ network highlight funding and sustainability as their biggest challenge.
- **Fragmentation and weak data**: constraining effective investment and shared learning.

Goals for the YSDP

This is a major investment in the infrastructure that underpins youth work across England, combining national coordination with locally responsive delivery to strengthen the quality, equity and sustainability of the sector.

- Stronger, more diverse workforce
- More sustainable resilient organisations
- Improved regional infrastructure and support
- Greater coordination across the sector
- Better informed policy and investment

The YSDP partnership



The role of the national partners

National partners will provide:

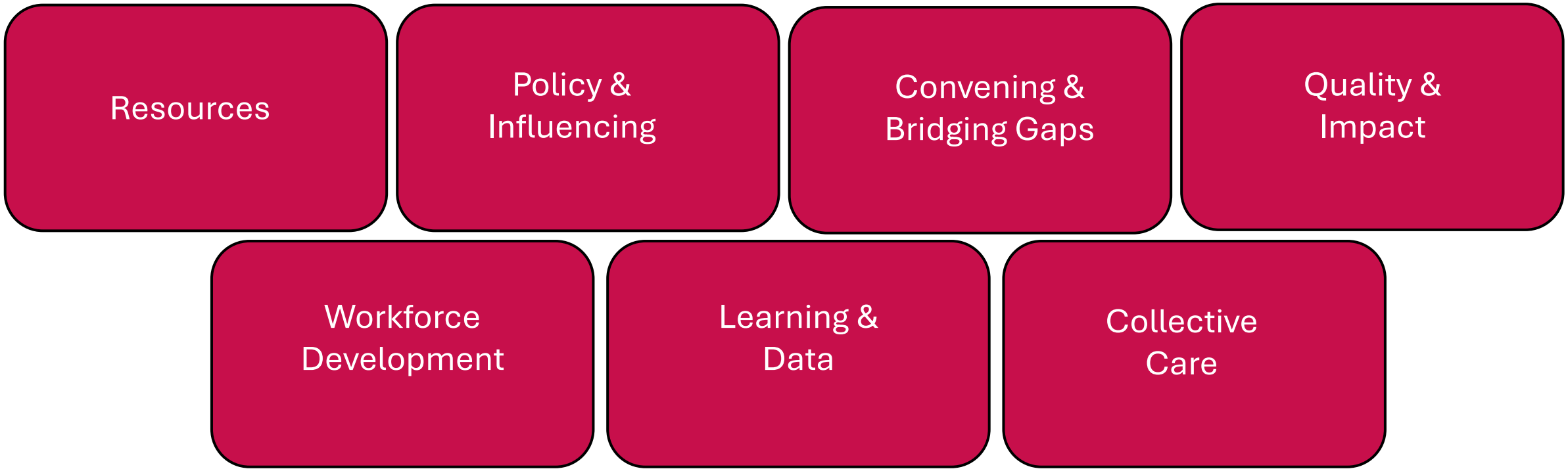
- Strategic leadership
- Programme oversight
- Ensure it is tailored regionally and contributing to national outcomes
- Specialist delivery roles

National partners will also lead on a national youth workforce campaign and a data challenge prize.

Crucially, they will use all of the above to work on the sustainability of the programme from the outset. Our ambitions go far beyond the three years.

Essential Youth Sector Infrastructure Framework

As part of the development of the YSDP we have identified seven essential roles that youth sector infrastructure should fulfil to underpin a healthy and resilient youth work ecosystem.



The role of Regional Partnerships

Regional Partnerships should bring together a diverse group of organisations that collectively understand the needs of the local youth sector and have the credibility, relationships and capacity to support its development

They will:

- **Co-design and applying the Essential Youth Sector Infrastructure Framework** (EYSIF) to map local provision
- **Receive a three year grant** to deliver locally tailored capacity-building and skills development offers
- **Take part in facilitated learning sessions** and communities of practice, feeding local intelligence into national picture
- **Involve young people** locally to shape the offer

Partnerships might include Regional Youth Work Units, County Youth Work Associations, Young People's Foundations, and specialist organisations supporting workforce development, quality improvement or equity.

Equity

- **Equity built in, not bolted on**
- TRIUMPH is leading on race equity, including leadership development for global majority leaders.
- We are also investing significantly in expert support for youth workers on disability, class, and LGBTQ+ inclusion.
- Equity should be considered as a cross-cutting principle rather than a standalone workstream.
- To help prospective partnerships during the EOI process, our equity partner, TRIUMPH will convene two online drop-in sessions for regional partners to come and reflect on their practice and ask questions.

Resources for partnerships

- Each Regional Partnership has been allocated a budget of **£684,000 over three years**.
- This is for the period April 1st 2027 to March 31st 2030 and equates to **approximately £228,000 per annum.**
- In addition, a budget of £3,788,600 has been held centrally for the deployment of additional support to the regions across the three years of the project and enhance local delivery.
- This includes funding to support youth organisations in each region with equity, monitoring and evaluation, leadership training, youth work bursaries and other training as needed.



Application information

- **Lead partner should be infrastructure organisation whose primary audience is the youth sector, fulfilling at least one EYSIF role and legally constituted**

- Partners envisaged to primarily come from the voluntary sector

- Assessed on five criteria
  1. Understanding regional need
  2. Partnership capability and track record
  3. Partnership approach to collaboration
  4. Partnership Approach to Equity
  5. Lead partner capacity and capability

- Application pack, documents and FAQs now available on UK Youth website

- For any application queries you can email ysdp@ukyouth.org

How partnerships can apply

11th November 2026 to 5th January 2027	**Launch and partnership development**	Launch and regional events
5th January 2027 to 23rd February 2027	**Applications open**	Regional Partnerships can apply via UK Youth grants portal submitting EOI by 5pm 23rd February 2027
March 2027	**Applications assessed**	Partnership EOIs are assessed and a preferred partnership per region is selected
April and May 2027	**Regional business planning**	Regional Partnerships enter business planning phase to agree delivery plans and budgets responsive to local need Partnerships will receive the first two months of their grant to cover costs for this phase and the remaining 10 months of the grant for Year 1 once plans are agreed.

What happens next?

Regional events across the nine regions:

Wednesday 18th November – Yorkshire and Humber – Leeds
Friday 20th November – South East – Reading/Newbury
Tuesday 24th November – East of England - Cambridge
Wednesday 25th November – London - London
Wednesday 2nd December – North East - Newcastle
Thursday 3rd December – West Midlands - Coventry
Friday 4th December – North West - Manchester
Tuesday 8th December – East Midlands - Leicester
Friday 11th December – South West - Bristol/hybrid

Exact times and locations will be confirmed as soon as possible - afternoons

Questions and Answers

Picking up from the Q&A

Thank you

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