

## Regional Advisory Group

### Notes of Workshop held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 at 10am Academy Street, Board Room

#### ***Theme: Regional Youth Development Plan 2017-2020***

#### **In attendance:**

##### **Present**

Arlene Kee (EA)	Brenda McGrann (Youth Link)
Alison Morgan (EA) – <i>Minutes</i>	June Wilkinson (DE)
Cathy Galway (DE)	Aideen McCormick (EA) Liam Curran (EA)
Philip Glennon (NIYF)	Stephen Mallet (Youth Workers’ Alliance – North West)
Maire Young (YCNi)	John Peacock (YMCA)
Caroline Redpath (Youth Action NI)	Aoife Nic Collaim (Fóram na nÓg)
Michael Reid (Young Farmers’ Clubs of Ulster)	Jacqueline O’Loughlin (Playboard)
Peter Mogeey (Youth Congress via NI Youth Forum)	John Meikleham (Scout Foundation)
Tara Connelly (NI Youth Forum)	Simon Sloan (Dept for Communities)
Brian Gibson (Youth Workers’ Alliance – Belfast)	Stephen Dallas (EA)

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##### **Apologies**

Joanne Jones (ETi)  
Kathleen Grego (Start 360)  
Brenda Shearer (DE)  
Dr Clare Mangan (EA) – Chairperson

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Apologies were provided for Dr Mangan (RAG Chair), Joanne Jones (ETI) and Kathleen Grego (Start 360). Arlene Kee welcomed everyone to the workshop and all members provided a formal introduction. It was agreed that the workshop notes provided would be agreed at the next formal RAG meeting alongside any notes on today’s workshop.

It was noted that Philip Glennon was in attendance for Chris Quinn (NI Youth Forum), Aoife Nic Collaim was in attendance for Ciáran Mac Giolla Bhéin (Fóram na nÓg) and Caroline Redpath was attending in place of Martin McMullan (Youth Action NI).

#### **Workshop on the Review of Residential and Outdoor Education**

It was noted that a workshop would be taking place, as discussed during the last RAG meeting on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017, in Academy Street at 1pm with tea/coffee and tray bakes on arrival. Arlene informed the group that due to the confidential nature of the discussions and information being presented at the workshop no papers would be circulated and any copies provided on the day would be collected afterwards. Members were asked to come to the workshop familiar on the details of the consultation documentation and report.

## **LAG/RAG Conference**

Collated feedback was received on behalf of those in attendance at the LAG/RAG conference and this was distributed to the members. It was agreed that each heading would be discussed and note made on the request for input. After the groups discussion for input on the Regional Youth Development Plan 2017-20 (RYDP) Arlene would then present the EA current draft copy of the RYDP 2017-20. EA Officers would redraft the document based on discussions today.

### Raising the Standards for All

#### a) Voluntary Youth Work Sector Delivery

Discussion took place surrounding an issue in data gathering and auditing youth provision across NI (between EA funded groups, voluntary sector groups to those regionally based).

DE noted their awareness of the issue and that it was being considered as part of another working group. YCNI noted they too are also looking at the issue and will provide advice if they can when their research is completed.

It was noted that there is a very real need for the sector to have an audit document that provides clear identification of youth service provision (statutory and voluntary). This would allow us to identify the gaps, and any support required for the voluntary sector to bridge the gap and fulfil the need (in line with Priorities for Youth).

#### b) Quality Assurance

i. Understand and learn from existing practice

ii. Review QUAF on experience

iii. Agree all the elements in what needs to be in a system, based on delivery and proportionality

iv. Self-review and internal critique within the ETI evaluation scheme, towards improvement.

### Closing the Gap

#### a) CRED addendum

ii. Note Youth Services commitment to Shared Education and we should capture all that we are doing within CRED to report. Discussion took place on the membership of Council forums and youth service's representation on these to delivery and bid for tenders for the delivery of programmes. Arlene noted that she would like to raise the issue with SOLAS.

iv. Remove point on international study and put this under its own RYDP heading as it is not limited to CRED. YCNI noted they are looking at including supporting international study as part of their business plan.

b) Target work for those most marginalised

Agreed.

c) Irish-Medium

Inclusion of a point for review of the Irish-Medium funding provided. Groups under this heading have increased from 10 to 39 with no change in budget. Agreed for inclusion.

### Developing the Education Workforce

a) Workforce development inclusive of the full youth work sector

Arlene noted that all the issues highlighted under this section were discussed during a recent Practice Development Group (PDG) meeting and have been included within the EA draft RYDP, especially in relation to young people opportunities.

It was noted that the Youth Work Training Board is a committee of the YCNI but has no operational responsibilities and assumes an advisory role only. Terms of reference and membership will be reviewed in April 2017. A member noted that its inclusion in the RYDP will ensure the valuable work the Board is recognised and utilised going forward.

### Improving the Learning Environment

a) Relevance of modern youth work to improve the learning environment

Agreed.

b) Review of the full youth work estate (statutory and voluntary)

Arlene Kee noted that an audit was recently conducted of the statutory youth services estate. This resulted in the compilation of a complex document however the relevant elements can be shared with RAG members in the new year once finalised.

c) Network for Youth

Discussion to go forward after RAG between YMCA and NI Youth Forum regarding how the voluntary sector enrolls young people on this programme.

### Transforming the Governance and Management of Non-Formal Education

a) Regional and Local assessment of need

Slight amendment suggested regarding the accessibility and language of this section.  
Agreed.

The latter part of the workshop was a presentation from Arlene Kee on the EA draft of the RYDP 2017-2020 based on EA Officers and other working group's input over recent months. Reference was made to the areas accounted for during that morning's discussion.

Following the presentation the Committee members broke into two working groups to discuss any further comments or input they may have. EA Officers would then feed back to the next Senior EA Managers meeting for consideration and inclusion.