

Regional Advisory Group

Notes of the meeting held on 27 February 2017 at 10.00 am in the Education Authority Offices, 40 Academy Street, Belfast, BT1 2NQ

Present

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| Clare Mangan (EA) – <i>Chair</i> | Brenda McGrann (Youth Link) |
| Alison Morgan (EA) – <i>Minutes</i> | Dreena Evans (DE) |
| Arlene Kee (EA) | Liam Curran (EA) |
| Brenda Shearer (DE) | Stephen Mallet (Youth Workers' Alliance – North West) |
| Chris Quinn (NIYF) | John Peacock (YMCA) |
| Maire Young (YCNI) | Ciarán Mac Giolla Bhéin (Fóram na nÓg) |
| Martin McMullan (Youth Action NI) | Aideen McCormick (EA) |
| Michael Reid (Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster) | John Meikleham (Scout Foundation) |
| Peter Mogey (Youth Congress via NI Youth Forum) | Simon Sloan (Dept for Communities) |
| Brian Gibson (Youth Workers' Alliance – Belfast) | |

Apologies

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| Stephen Dallas (EA) | Tara Connelly (NI Youth Forum) |
| Siobain Byrne (EA) | Julie Jamieson (Dept for Economies) |
| Cathy Galway (DE) | Joanne Jones (ETi) |

1 Welcome

Dr Mangan welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were given for Cathy Galway (DE), Julie Jamieson (Dept. for Economies), Joanne Jones (ETi) and Tara Connelly (NI Youth Forum). It was noted that there was one substitute nominee present to represent RAG member June Wilkinson from DE and Dreena Evans was welcomed to the meeting.

2 Notes of Meeting held on 15 November 2016

Dr Mangan mentioned that notes from the workshop held on 28 November 2016 were appended to the notes of the previous RAG meeting for reference. Notes were agreed.

3 Matters Arising

Slight amendment suggested to the agenda to account for a note on C2K.

a) C2K

Arlene Kee informed the group that initial contact had been made with the C2K schools team however at this stage we could only utilise the Newsfeed functionality of the system. Posts to the newsfeed would last a maximum of one week. It is hoped that another meeting before the end of the school year will take our request forward.

Dr Mangan reminded the group that the original prompt from Young People at RAG was that Youth Services could use the C2K system to promote local youth provision in schools. EA Youth Services will continue to work with the support team on the ICT requirements.

Any requests for uploads to the C2K newsfeed from RAG members should be sent to Alison Morgan by email.

Maire Young informed the group that the Youth Council anticipate the launch of their new website to be end of March 2017.

b) Transitional Funding Arrangements

Arlene Kee updated the group that the transitional funding scheme meetings had now taken place with all the voluntary groups with additional support being offered by way of a third party.

c) Launch of Regional Assessment of Need (RAoN)

Liam Curran informed the group that the RAoN document was now available online and today in hard copy. Input from a range of stakeholders in youth services had gone into the compilation of the RAoN and this will be reviewed annually. Reviewing also ensures the document is taking account of any emerging needs in youth and that it is a usable and useful document in the sector. The RAoN was already being used to feed into local area planning processes.

The group discussed including the effect of rural living on youth work and young people within the RAoN going forward. It was suggested contact could be made with colleagues in the Department for Communities who sit on the Rural Communities Network Forum for input. EA Youth Services agreed to establish this contact and take this forward.

Any comment or feedback would be welcomed after the meeting through Alison Morgan.

d) Review of Residential and Outdoor Education

Arlene Kee noted that the public consultation on the Review of Residential and Outdoor Education closed at 4pm on 06 February 2017. A team within EA would soon be considering the qualitative and quantitative feedback gathered over the 12 week consultation period. After the data is reviewed and key themes summarised the Education Authority will hold a workshop with the RAG members (between 23 March and 12 May 2017) to allow for feedback to RAG and to discuss the recommendations ahead of presentation to the EA Board. Alison Morgan will email the members with a 'save the date' shortly.

Maire Young enquired as to the response rate of young people through the process. Arlene Kee highlighted that over 1370 online questionnaires were received, 470 printed questionnaires (mostly from young people and those youth clubs with limited ICT infrastructure) as well as written responses and letters of from schools and service users of the centres.

4 Management Information System (MIS) Proposal

Liam Curran gave a presentation to the group on the progress for the implementation of a Youth Service Management Information System. It was highlighted the overall aims of the MIS were:

- To develop a common & coherent approach to collate, manage and disseminate information
- To inform future planning and evaluation
- To support and inform planning, target setting and decision-making
- To provide information that is consistent, accurate, timely and relevant.

Questions & Feedback

- Michael Reid noted the importance of extensive auditing and consultation with all system users before the procurement or design stage of the process.
- The group discussed the current stage that the MIS project board had reached. Arlene Kee noted that ahead of the design or procurement stage for the MIS three key questions would be addressed:
 - a) Have we established a sub-group of the original project group to assess the above and audit the system requirements?
 - b) Do we have a list of all we need / what functionality we require of the system (locally and regionally)?
 - c) Do we have a list of the essential requirements vs desired requirements as well as the timescale and outcomes?

Young People Feedback

Peter Mogey said he would like it if the MIS could be considered assessable for young people as well as youth workers and staff. Peter commented that the purchase of the system should not be rushed as it could cost a lot of money to fix issues or modify the application afterwards. Overall Peter said he saw the system as beneficial and helpful but that if it was a completely new system the transitional arrangements and time required should be considered as well as data protection.

Stephen Mallet wondered if the MIS could link with formal education profiling of young people. He saw the information collected through youth groups as another dimension to the achievements of young people and felt they should be reflected alongside academic profiles. Dr Mangan commented that we should keep in mind the numerous systems already in place being used to track data on young people and try to minimise duplication of effort in this regard. Peter Mogey felt the concept should be explored (alongside budget) during the design and specification stage.

Chris Quinn commented that he felt the concept of tracking progress was a constant theme already practiced in young people's behaviour (for example through social media) and that the need to involve them through access to the MIS was key to its success.

5 LAG / RAG Conference

A conference planning group was setup with proportionate number across the various stakeholders and on the 11th March 2017 the first LAG/RAG Conference will take place in Templepatrick. All LAG and RAG members were invited (with reminders sent). The main outcomes of the event are to address areas for action/inclusion within the RAoN and the Regional Youth Development Plan through a series of presentations, feedback sessions and workshops.

Questions & Feedback

- Martin McMullen queries any links between the LAGs and a Newry and Down project board in place. It was agreed Aideen McCormick would take this forward directly with Martin after RAG based on the local target area(s).
- A member of the group queried whether the evaluation of RAG (including participation/terms of reference) would be a topic on the agenda at the conference. Brenda Shearer noted that this would be a DE role and would take place around April 2017.

Young People Feedback

Peter informed the members that he was involved in the planning group and would had a role on the day capturing data from the workshops. Peter noted that RAG representation at the conference was very important because the members of RAG are the people driving the work forward. He hoped the day went well as the topics being discussed were important issues for the future of youth work.

Dr Mangan saw the conference as a positive step in youth work and that we should raise awareness by way of a press release.

Question was raised whether the conference one for young people as it was highlighted to have 68 young people in attendance. The conference is for RAG and LAG members with LAG members being large in number perhaps due to the amount of LAG groups there are. Brenda Shearer highlighted that the purpose of the conference was about linking the LAG and RAG together to the targets of the Priorities for Youth policy.

It was agreed that a further email to the RAG and LAG groups would be sent to re-iterate the invite was for all members to attend and a note of the conference purpose.

6 Draft Regional Youth Development Plan (RYDP)

Arlene Kee handed out copies of the RYDP for 2015/16 which had been updated to include a note of the progress made on achievement of the outcomes. The members were asked to form two groups and make comment on areas that their organisations would like to see included in the 2017-2020 RYPD. The comments gathered today would then feed into the workshop part of the LAG/RAG Conference on the 11th March 2017.

A copy of the blank RYDP template would be available to download from the RAG webpage of the EA website. Arlene noted that we would be seeking to take any feedback ahead of the 23rd March RAG Meeting and Alison would be in touch by email a week beforehand to collect feedback for presentation at the next RAG.

6 Dates of Next Meetings

Dr Mangan noted members would receive an agenda only for the 23rd March RAG meeting and this would be forwarded just in advance of this date.

- 23 March 2017
- 12 May 2017