

Planning & Monitoring Cluster Group Meeting Notes
15th November 2017
Bann House, Portadown

In attendance: Liam Curran – EA (Chair), Kate Thompson – Duke Of Edinburgh's Award/Joint Award Initiative, Paul Deighan - EA , Dearbhla Ní Ruanaidh – Fóram na nÓg, Caroline Redpath - YouthAction NI, Steven Law – DE, Natalie Corbett - Northern Ireland Youth Forum, Orla Major – Prince's Trust, Houston Lowe – EA, David Gardiner, representing Anne-Marie McClure, Rory McLaughlin – EA.

Apologies: Arlene Kee – EA, Anne-Marie McClure – Start 360, Aideen McCormick - EA.

1. Welcome.

LC opened the Planning and Monitoring Group meeting and thanked members for attending. He extended condolences to CR on the death of her mother. He also introduced DG to the group. DG then gave the group an overview of his role and explained that he would attend future meetings in the absence of RVYO members.

2. Notes of the Last Meeting.

KT asked for a minor amendment to be made to the previous notes which RMcL agreed to do. The notes of the previous meeting (11/10/17) were agreed and accepted.

3. Draft Regional Assessment of Need Addendum update.

LC gave an overview of the rationale for the update. He noted that this would be an annual review looking at emerging or diminishing needs. He explained that it was a first draft and therefore a working document. Some members expressed disappointment that they did not have enough time to reflect on the document. LC apologised and suggested that the Group would meet within a short timeframe and said that the members would receive the second draft of the document at least one week before the meeting.

He pointed out the deficits from the original version and the work that had been done to address these issues. The key issues were:

- The 4-8 year old age group.
- Rural young people.

- Crime and Disorder.

In terms of the 4-8 age group, LC explained that Jacqueline McLoughlin from Playboard NI had submitted information which was included in the document.

Crime and disorder was still an issue that was difficult to measure regarding young people as statistics are not generally reported on by age. LC noted that EA are currently exploring ways of generating more useful information and collaborating with other agencies to achieve this.

With regards Rural Young people LC explained that a select tender document had been issued in order for research to be undertaken to provide a full picture of rural provision.

DG noted that there was concern among RVYOs that they were unable to bid to undertake this work. He noted that Young Farmers were keen to participate in a consultation regarding the proposed research. LC explained that this was a procurement regulation issue for bids under £30,000 that EA must comply with.

CR welcomed the fact that the research was taking place but felt disappointed that Regional Voluntary Youth Organisations were not invited to tender for the contract. LC noted all concerns.

A discussion then took place around the surveys and how the information was recorded in the document. PD noted that EA were still finding things in the survey that could be improved upon. It was also noted that this had been a great response in the timeframe.

Members then discussed the best means of interrogating the information and reporting on it. EA staff were tasked with looking into this and reporting back.

DG asked how the information from the review would inform the RYDP and action planning. LC noted that findings which indicated glaring needs would be included in the RYDP, but that the results would be particularly relevant at the local level.

It was agreed that EA staff would work on the document and an amended version would be circulated on Friday 1st December.

4. AOB

CR noted that the group had previously discussed accessing money from the DE research budget. SL stated that this resource was generally intended for school based research but that he would find out more about this budget and report back to the group.

5. Date of Next Meeting

LC thanked members for their attendance, participation and contributions at the meeting. The next meeting was arranged for Friday 8th December 2017 at 10.30am in Bann House, Portadown.

The meeting concluded at 11.30.

DRAFT