



Youth Service

Small Grants Programme

Regional Advisory Group Meeting

20 October 2016

Background

- The Small Grants Programme is a key action in the Department of Education's policy document, "Priorities for Youth - improving young people's lives through youth work" (2013)
- The Programme is a Youth Service initiative supported by Full-time EA Youth Staff and has been set-up to enable young people to administer grants to other young people
- The Programme is about strengthening the participation of young people as decision-makers

Programme Development

- Young People's Award Panel was established in November 2015
- The Panel is made up of young people representing both the voluntary and statutory sector from around NI
- The Panel have met 5 times and agreed the outline of the programme
- 4 additional sessions have been held with 95 young people external to the sub-group process to test out the emerging criteria.

Award Panel Training & Support

Training for the Award Panel has included:

- Input on the 'Bigger Picture', i.e. Priorities for Youth, RAG, RYDP
- Exploring what we as young people want to get out of our participation on the Award Panel
- The value of youth led grant giving (to applicants, their peers, youth groups and communities)
- Group roles and dynamics
- Building an understanding of what is participation
- What influences our decisions (testing values and beliefs/promoting acceptance & understanding of others)
- How to make fair and balanced decisions.

Project Outcomes

- The Panel want to fund projects that help make a difference in the lives of the applicants and the lives of others in their peer group, family, youth group, school, community and or area.
- All projects are expected to contribute to positive change in **one** of the following six outcome areas.

Outcome area

Enhancing Personal Capabilities, which is about building self-awareness, confidence and esteem, and helping to manage your feelings better, etc.

Improving Health and Well-being can be about improving awareness of health issues, making healthy choices and reducing risky behaviours, etc.

Developing thinking skills, life and work skills is about adding to your communication, planning, problem solving skills and leadership skills, etc.

Outcome area

Developing positive relationships with others can be about teamwork or engaging with or increasing respect for others from diverse backgrounds, etc.

Increasing participation can be about influencing or advocating on behalf of others or increasing communication between young people and adults, etc.

Active citizenship includes volunteering, increasing awareness of local or global issues, social action, or identifying own education, training or employment needs.

Programme Information

- The programme was launched on the 14th October and applications can be downloaded from the EA website
- This year the EA Youth Service has £40,000 to distribute in grants.
- A group can apply for a grant of between £300 and £1,500
- Completed applications will be returned by 11th November
- Youth Panel assessment of applications 19th November
- Successful groups notified and Letters of Offer issued by 25th November

Programme Information

- Projects delivered between December 16 and March 17
- Youth Panel members will moderate a selection of the projects
- All projects must be completed by 31 March 2016
- Celebration event for all projects March 17

Future Training & Support

- Further assessment and selection training - Oct 16
- Application assessments and selection – Nov 16
- 2 monitoring and evaluation training and support sessions – Dec 16 / Jan17
- Moderation of selected projects Jan / Feb 17
- Celebration event planning and delivery Jan / Mar 17

Questions