Children & Young People’s Services Directorate

Review of Youth Work through the Medium of Irish Language Provision

Thursday 20th June 2019
RAG Group Meeting
Belvoir Youth Centre, Belfast
Background

• Implementation of Irish Medium Education Report 2009 - Recommendation 18

• RYDP 2018 - EA tasked with Review of Youth Work through the Medium of Irish Language Provision (EA Funded Youth Provision)
RYDP 2018-2019

• Provide a baseline audit of current EA funded youth work providers through the medium of Irish both at a local and regional level
• Identify the needs of the IMYW sector
• Provide considerations for IMYW sector support and specifically regional support.
Information & Engagement

Sources of Information
• Previous ELB/YCNI IMYW sector review reports
• EA IMYW sector statistics
• EA Geo-mapping of youth services
• Fóram na nÓg Handbook 2014
• A Model of Irish-Medium Youth Working (2016)
• Feedback on the developments from the IMYW sector 2016-2018

Engagement
• IMYW sector paper presented to EA 2017
• Review Sub Group and Terms of Reference
• Review Focus Group
Findings

• IMYW relatively small sector - 1894 young people aged 4-25 years
• Approximately 40 active youth units operating 34 weeks per year
• Primary focus; promotion/development of Irish Language/non-targeted generic youth provision.
• Sector support:
  • Glór na Móna - development support for local delivery Belfast
  • Fóram na nÓg - regional support.
  • Governance support and development required
  • Issues presented by the sector are faced by other voluntary organisations
  • No clear strategy linking Irish Medium Education and IMYW
  • IMYW sector receives enhanced funding at both regional and local levels
The Way Forward

• IMYW sector regional support service to take forward the review findings
  • Access support provided by NICVA, on behalf of EA
  • Identify the current gaps in provision
  • Continue to evaluate engagement of children & young people
  • Embed youth work outcomes into the IMYW curriculum
  • Leadership development fostered across the IMYW sector
  • Strengthen links with potential strategic partners

• IMYW sector groups available to young people 42 weeks of the year
• Enhanced Funding should demonstrate Enhanced Outcomes
• EA Area Plans reflect the work of the IMYW sector