

**Regional Advisory Group
Notes of the Meeting held on
Friday 27 September 2019 at
10am in Bann House, Portadown, BT63 5AE**

Present	
<p>Clare Mangan (EA) - Chair Arlene Kee (EA) Alison Morgan (EA) Andy Hewitt (Strategic Youth Forum) Angela Morrison (DE) Aoife Nic Colain (Foram na nOg) Brenda McGrann (Youth Link NI) Cathy Galway (DE) Fergal Mac Ionnrachtaigh (Foram na nOg) Dreena Evans (DE) - <i>proxy</i> John Peacock (YMCA) Johnathan Gracey (Girl Guiding Ulster) - <i>proxy</i> Lynsey Branniff (EA) Graeme Thompson (Churches sector)</p>	<p>Martin McMullan (Youth Action NI) Michael Reid (Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster) Mary Field (Youth Work Alliance) Stevie Mallet (Youth Work Alliance – North West) Keith McCaugherty (Youth Work Alliance) – proxy Jacqueline O’Loughlin (Playboard NI) Chris Quinn (NI Youth Forum) Claire Flowers (Girl Guiding Ulster) Stephen Dallas (EA) Siobain Byrne (EA) Nikki Green (EA - <i>in attendance</i>) Paul Deighan (EA)</p>
Apologies	
<p>John McCavana – Eti Simon Sloan – DfC John Meikleham – Uniform Sector</p>	<p>Patricia McDermott - Uniformed Sector Susan Hunter - DfC Rita Burke – Youth Work Alliance</p>
1.	<p>Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>Clare Mangan welcomed members to the meeting and in particular, Graeme Thompson who was attending as a new RAG member.</p> <p>Special thanks was provided to Cathy Galway for her professional contribution to RAG as this was to be her final RAG meeting. . Cathy noted that Paul Brush would be taking up post as Director of The DE Youth Work Policy Team in October 2019.</p> <p>Formal apologies and proxy members were noted.</p>
2.	<p>Notes of previous meeting – 20 June 2019</p> <p>Members were content with the accuracy of the notes of the 20 June 2019 RAG meeting.</p> <p>Action: Alison Morgan to upload meeting notes onto RAG webpage.</p>
3.	<p>Agreed Notes of previous meeting – 22 November 2018</p> <p>Agreed notes were now available on the RAG webpages.</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>(a) SHARED Event</p> <p>It was noted that the SHARED event planned for October 2019 was cancelled due to lack of engagement. Discussion took place between the members on a new planned event on the broad theme of Irish Medium youth work practice.</p> <p>It was agreed that the SHARED event would take place on Friday 05 June 2020, in Derry and members will receive an invitation to join a working group to progress planning in due course.</p> <p>Members were reminded that the next planned SHARED event was taking place on 10 February 2020 in the EpiCentre, Armagh on the role of youth service volunteers.</p> <p>Action: RAG would consider a 2020-21 RAG Calendar of Events in March 2020 for the coming academic year.</p> <p>(b) EA Youth Service TV Channel</p> <p>A step by step guidance document was available on the RAG webpage to show members how to access the EA Youth Service films.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Regional Assessment of Need 2020-2023 (update)</p> <p>A presentation was provided by Paul Deighan on the progress of the Regional Assessment of Need survey 2020-2023 (RAoN) which would go live in three weeks.</p> <p>Discussion amongst the members took place on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pictorial displays of questions (to allow the survey to reach all ages and abilities of children and young people) • Use of terminology within the survey • Support being offered to young people to effectively complete the survey • Technology constraints within the survey monkey platform • New format & display of data collection • Regional Youth Development Plan Workshop • Improvement processes for data collection. <p>It was discussed and noted that the RAoN survey would not be translated into other languages at this time. Dr Mangan commented that topic of translation of documentation was being considered by the EA executive team across the organisation and that in the absence of further information there was no solution to the issue of translation at this time.</p> <p>Action: EA Youth Service to add an additional question to the survey to identify if young people live in a rural area.</p> <p>Action: Arlene Kee would write to members with details on the agreed Regional Youth Development Plan workshop planned for 10 January 2020. In advance of the workshop, members will be requested to provide feedback; through an issued proforma.</p>

6.	<p>Update on the Proposed New Funding Scheme for Regional and Voluntary Youth Organisations</p> <p>A presentation was provided to the members which considered (a) a summary of the public consultation, (b) a website demonstration as to what a new funding application scheme might look like if it was implemented (based on best practice within the sector), (c) transitional funding scheme arrangements and (d) question and answers.</p> <p>It was noted that all current EA registered groups (with a constitutional arrangement) would meet the criteria to access funding as part of the proposed New Funding Scheme for Regional and Voluntary Youth Organisations. In order to further support groups, a two year transitional funding arrangement package is proposed to assist with the effective completion of any application process.</p> <p>The comments from RAG members were positive, specifically regarding format, ease of use, the function of the eligibility checker, removal of minimum membership numbers for registration and funding.</p> <p>Dr Mangan thanked all members for the feedback and their contribution to the progress so far.</p> <p>Action: Arlene Kee to write to members where formal approvals are provided so members are aware of the next steps.</p>
7.	<p>Stakeholder Participation Events – Update (for noting)</p> <p>Members were directed to the reports and summary presentation made available on the RAG webpages on the events held in June 2019 on <i>The Emerging Needs of Children & Young People</i>.</p>
8.	<p>Dates of Next Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06 December 2019 (4pm) – Ballykeel, Ballymena • 13 March 2020 (10am) • 11 June 2020 (10am) <p>Members were content to continue rotating venues for RAG meetings across Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Action: December meeting agenda to note the March and June 2020 venues.</p>
9.	<p>Proposed Next Agenda Items</p> <p>Agenda items were noted as indicative and members were reminded that they could offer future agenda items via Alison Morgan.</p>
10.	<p>Any Other Notified Business</p> <p>No additional items noted. Members were thanked for their input and the meeting ended.</p>

