

**Regional Advisory Group
Notes of the Meeting held on
6 December 2019**

Present	
<p>Clare Mangan (EA) - Chair</p> <p>Arlene Kee (EA)</p> <p>Andrew Bell (DE)</p> <p>Paul Brush (DE)</p> <p>Stephen Dallas (EA)</p> <p>Siobain Byrne (EA)</p> <p>Lynsey Branniff (EA)</p> <p>Paul Deighan (EA)</p> <p>Michael Hogg (EA)</p> <p>Rory McLaughlin (EA)</p>	
<p>Keith McCaugherty (Youth Work Alliance)</p> <p>Stephen Hughes (Youth Work Alliance)</p> <p>Andy Hewitt (Strategic Youth Forum)</p> <p>John Peacock (YMCA)</p> <p>Graeme Thompson (Churches sector)</p> <p>Claire Flowers (GirlGuiding)</p> <p>Claire King (Uniformed Hub)</p> <p>Johnathan Gracey (Boys Brigade)</p>	
In attendance;	
Item 4 - Girl Guiding Attitudes Survey	
Caitlin Smyth	
Item 5 - YMCA VOLT Programme	
<p>Kenny Baxter</p> <p>Johnny Hill</p> <p>Michael McDowell</p> <p>Ingi Menzies</p> <p>Ciara McAnulty</p>	
Apologies	
<p>Chris Quinn (NI Youth Forum)</p> <p>Michael Reid (Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster)</p> <p>Brenda McGrann (YouthLink)</p> <p>Jacqueline O'Loughlin (Playboard NI)</p>	
1.	<p>Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>Clare Mangan welcomed members to the meeting and in particular, Paul Brush Director of the DE Youth Work Policy team. She also welcomed the staff and young people from the YMCA VOLT programme and from Girl Guiding.</p> <p>Formal apologies were noted.</p>
2.	<p>Notes of previous meeting – Friday 27 September 2019</p> <p>Members were content with the accuracy of the notes of the 27 September 2019.</p>

3.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>3.1 EA Youth Service TV Channel</p> <p>It was noted for members that access has been granted to the EA Youth Service TV channel.</p> <p>3.2 SHARED Event</p> <p>Members were reminded that the next planned SHARED event will be taking place on 10th February 2020 in the EpiCentre, Armagh. The key theme is the role of youth service volunteers.</p> <p>3.3 Update on the EA Funding Scheme for Regional and Voluntary Youth Organisations.</p> <p>The EA funding website is progressing and will continue to be developed, based on Stakeholder engagement until its launch on 3rd March 2020. The timeline for key dates in the application and assessment scheme was noted including Support Clinics.</p> <p>Claire Mangan thanked members for their feedback and contribution to the development of the funding website.</p>
4.	<p>GirlGuiding; Girls Attitudes Survey</p> <p>Caitlin Smith presented an overview of the recent Attitudes Survey carried out by GirlGuiding in 2019.</p> <p>Caitlin noted that the survey had commenced in 2019 and 2118 girls and young women participated. She noted that participants were not solely girl guiders.</p> <p>There were 5 themes selected by young people themselves which formed the focus of the survey. Following engagement with girls and young women the following key results were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64% felt that they were under too much exam pressure • 88% believed there should be a greater societal emphasis on environmental matters. • The respondents questioned why there was a male dominance in STEM subjects in education • They noted the impact of online behaviours by young people • the importance of developing good friendships was stressed <p>RAG members asked a range of questions on how young people had selected the 5 areas of enquiry for the survey. Members noted interest in the large response in relation to environmental issues. In addition members noted their congratulations to the young people who had designed and carried out the survey.</p> <p>Claire Mangan thanked Caitlin and GirlGuiding for a very informative survey report and presentation which would assist with the RAoN.</p>
5.	<p>YMCA VOLT (Vocational Outdoor Learning Training) Programme</p> <p>A presentation was made by VOLT staff members Kenny Baxter and Johnny Hill and by course participants, Michael McDowell, Ingi Menzies and Ciara McAnulty.</p>

	<p>The VOLT representatives gave a background to the programme highlighting the collaboration and partnership work between EA and the Voluntary sector to establish the programme, which provides participants aged 18-25 years with an opportunity to pursue a career in Outdoor Learning. The course is a fast tracked 2 year programme with an OCN Level 2 & 3 accreditation in Youth Work (currently there are 8 participants on OCN Level 2 and 8 participants on OCN Level 3).</p> <p>Course participants gave personal accounts of their experiences throughout the course to date and highlighted the wide range of activities available including; rock climbing, high ropes, pool lifeguarding qualifications, beach lifeguard qualifications, canoeing and hill walking. The participants voiced their appreciation of being selected to complete the programme and the wealth of positive experiences and learning outcomes they have achieved.</p> <p>RAG members asked representatives a range of questions about their experiences and the benefits including outcomes which they achieved. A key area of enquiry was how these young adults would use Outdoor Learning in the future. Members noted their congratulations to the young people involved and to the organisations for their partnership delivery.</p> <p>Clare Mangan thanked VOLT representatives for their attendance and input today and wished them continued success with the programme completion.</p>
6.	<p>Regional Assessment of Need 2020-2023</p> <p>A presentation was provided by Paul Deighan on the Regional Assessment of Need 2020-2023 (RAoN).</p> <p>Paul highlighted the high volume of responses to the survey; over 16,000 compared to 11,000 in the previous Regional Assessment of Need. The diverse range of collections was noted comprising Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, postal and email.</p> <p>There was a 50/50 gender response with a 40% rural and 60% urban response. It was noted that the age range 9-13 years will be the largest population pattern requiring effective planning and service delivery over the next 3 year period of planning.</p> <p>Paul highlighted the 6 areas of enquiry and the value placed on the universal service in relation to generic youth work. Also notable was the response in relation to learning and achieving with 71% of participants indicating that they wished to undertake accredited programmes as part of their youth work journey.</p> <p>An overall consensus of the results of the survey demonstrated that youth work works for children and young people.</p> <p>RAG members provided some comment and feedback on the RAoN. In particular members voiced their appreciation on the emphasis and value placed on generic provision.</p> <p>Andrew Bell noted that he attended a number of RAG / LAG events. He noted the importance of peer to peer communication and that young people themselves become the promoters of youth work and youth provision. In addition he emphasised the importance of the Youth Service publicising their events and services to ensure that</p>

	<p>young people were aware of what youth provision they could access locally and regionally.</p> <p>Paul noted the forthcoming Inclusion Stakeholder engagement event on 10th January 2020 in Cookstown Youth Resource Centre.</p> <p>Members were reminded of the planning event taking place on 10th January regarding the design of the RYDP. Paul reminded members that the template to aid planning and provide Stakeholder Engagement should be returned by members to Nikki Green by 3rd January 2020.</p> <p>Andrew Bell informed members that other departments are keen to access this data to aid their planning for children and young people.</p> <p>RAG members expressed their appreciation of the work of the EA team and the survey participants in the completion of a very comprehensive Regional Assessment of Need.</p> <p>Clare Mangan thanked all involved for their work and responses leading to the development and publication of the Regional Assessment of Need 2020-2023.</p>
7.	<p>Future Events</p> <p>Members were reminded of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 March 2020 - Launch of EA Funding Scheme for Regional and Voluntary Youth Organisations • 7 March - RAG/LAG Conference Hilton Hotel Templepatrick • 13 March - RAG Meeting at 10am in Lorne Estate • 5 June - SHARED Event Youth Work through the medium of Irish, Culturlaan Ui Chanain, Great James Street, Derry • 11 June - RAG meeting at 10am in Derry Youth Office, Dungiven Road, Derry
8.	<p>Proposed Next Agenda Items</p> <p>Members were reminded that they could add to the agenda for the next meeting by contacting Nikki Green.</p>
9.	<p>Any Other Notified Business</p> <p>No additional items noted. Members were thanked for their input and the meeting ended.</p>