

**Regional Advisory Group**  
**DRAFT** Notes of the Meeting held on  
**13 March 2020**

<b>Present</b>	
Clare Mangan (EA) - Chair	
Andrew Bell (DE)	Keith McCaugherty (Youth Work Alliance)
Paul Brush (DE)	Andy Hewitt (Strategic Youth Forum)
Stephen Dallas (EA)	John Peacock (YMCA)
Siobain Byrne (EA)	Graeme Thompson (Churches sector)
Lynsey Branniff (EA)	Claire Flowers (GirlGuiding)
Michael Hogg (EA)	Johnathan Gracey (Boys Brigade)
Michael Reid (Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster)	Jacqueline O'Loughlin (Playboard NI)
<b>In attendance;</b>	
<b>Item 5 – Model of Rural Youth Work</b>	
Beth Ferguson	
<b>Apologies</b>	
Chris Quinn, Niamh Mallaghan, Oisín Tomás Ó Raghallaigh and Chantelle McArdle (NI Youth Forum)	
Arlene Kee (EA)	
Paul Deighan (EA)	
Claire King (Uniformed Hub)	
1.	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b></p> <p>Clare Mangan welcomed members to the meeting</p> <p>Formal apologies were noted from Arlene Kee, Chris Quinn, Stephen Mallet and Claire King.</p> <p>Paul Brush was asked to give an update on Covid-19. He outlined that there is nothing new to offer at present but that he wanted to get an update from members about their experiences to date. PB noted there are daily meetings in the Department who are taking the lead from scientists. Any implications for the Youth Service should be addressed by contacting Arlene Kee. He confirmed that as guidance emerges for formal education it will also arise for youth services.</p> <p>Members discussed residentials taking place at a range of sites that are represented by RAG members. Many noted they are following the business as usual approach which is difficult with the variety of situations. Many felt that an early update on any changes would be welcomed by the sector.</p> <p>Discussed the impact on staff and concerns staff have attending the workplace and large events. Members outlined the range of inconsistent information provided from various groups. Some organisations are maintaining services and some are not.</p>

	<p>Key decisions from the EA Youth Service decisions were outlined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All trips outside NI are cancelled immediately;</li> <li>- We are working with PSNI re any large groups of young people to provide support;</li> <li>- Youth Oscars and training events are postponed until the Autumn;</li> <li>- Staff to conduct essential meetings using online platforms.</li> </ul> <p>A recommendation is being reviewed to close OLS by Monday but this is not yet confirmed.</p> <p>CM noted that plans will change daily and groups will need to identify the most up to date information. CM noted that MH to circulate the information above information on Youth Services to RAG members.</p>
2.	<p><b>Notes of previous meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019</b></p> <p>Members were content with the accuracy of the notes.</p>
3.	<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <p><b>3.1 RAoN was approved by the EA Board in January 2020</b></p> <p>CM outlined this was approved and in the public domain and members should review content to guide developments.</p> <p><b>3.2 RYDP was approved by the EA Board in January 2020</b></p> <p>This was also approved and in public domain.</p> <p>Martin McMullan noted that ToR outlines that RAG is to inform the development of RYDP. Now that it is developed he asked if the RAG ToR needs to be reviewed to clarify what RAG does now the RPDY now it is completed. He also noted that RAG is due a review on an annual basis.</p> <p>Michael Reid asked that as the assessment for the New Funding Scheme is due to take place will it impact the membership of RAG, as network steering group members sit on RAG, and may not be funded moving forward. MH confirmed that EA will review membership in the summer. Michael Reid noted that even though groups are not able to register as RVYO they will still be at the June RAG meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that mechanism to sign up for registration support workshops closed on the 13<sup>th</sup> March. CM noted that it will be extend by 1 week. JP noted that regional groups need clarity on their ability to apply for these sessions.</p> <p>PB noted that the NFS timeline would be reviewed follow the C-19 situation.</p> <p><b>3.3 NFS</b></p> <p>MH noted a positive launch of scheme. Several clinic have taken place and EA working through with these with staff. Email and phone line are available to address queries. JG asked if closing dates can be shared with groups as social media not best.</p>

5.

### **UFCU - A Model of Rural Youth Work**

A presentation was made by UFCU staff members Michael Reid and Beth Ferguson. Michael Reid provided a background to the programme highlighting the Rural Research. He noted that this is not completed but welcomed feedback from members which could be integrated.

Beth Ferguson reviewed the project outline, data collection methods and participant recruitment (143 participants and 15 focus groups). This provided the overview of 5 pillars and 3 foundations principles:

Five pillars:

- Transport
- Mental health
- Time and location
- Skills and personal development
- Resources and shared space

But these are based upon the foundations of:

- Youth Engagement
- Flexibility
- Community partnerships

These foundations are fundamental for service providers to engage with and make changes to improve rural youth work. Beth Ferguson outlined how young people provided feedback on the first two pillars (transport and mental health) and how they interact with the 3 foundations. This process reviewed work conducted by Translink and FLARE.

Beth Ferguson provided an overview of the remaining 3 pillars. Opening times have been considered in the report and the factors that need to be considered. Skills and Personal Development opportunities are currently within rural areas but there is a lack of awareness which linked to the idea of a social awareness hub. The community co-ordination would need to be high to achieve this result. Resources and Shared Space was outlined and highlighted the need to harness the available community resources, particularly those funded by other departments.

SD thanked MR for acknowledging the range of participants who were involved from the EA and level of engagement. SD noted that this showed the positive interaction between local services and regional support services.

JOL asked about twilight services and communication for all children and young people. She linked to available Playboard research. She also noted that we to look at this in a larger context and who we connect into services.

Clare Mangan thanked UFCU representatives for their attendance and input today and wished them continued success.

6.	<p><b>Survey on the theme of volunteering completed by Uniformed Organisations</b></p> <p>A presentation was provided by Clare Flowers on the Survey.</p> <p>This survey was shared with all Uniformed organisation in NI. Over 2,500 completed the survey. Clare outlined the description of each of uniformed group available in the research. The research outlined that over 10,000 volunteers and over 52,000 young people involved with Uniformed organisations.</p> <p>Clare Mangan welcomed the report and noted the excellent presentation of the research.</p>
7.	<p><b>Future Events</b></p> <p>Members were reminded of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 June - SHARED Event Youth Work through the medium of Irish, Culturlaan Ui Chanain, Great James Street, Derry</li> <li>• 11 June - RAG meeting at 10am in Derry Youth Office, Dungiven Road, Derry</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Proposed Next Agenda Items</b></p> <p>Members were reminded that they could add to the agenda for the next meeting by contacting Nikki Green.</p>
9.	<p><b>Any Other Notified Business</b></p> <p>No additional items noted. Members were thanked for their input and the meeting ended.</p>