

**Dormant Accounts Scheme
Return Form and Consultation Questions**

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Company Name or Organisation (if applicable): N/A
Please tick one box from the list below that best describes you/your company or organisation:
Member of the public:
Representative Organisation:
Voluntary or Community Group:
Local Government:
Central Government:
Financial Institution:
Other (please describe): This submission has been prepared by staff drawn from statutory and voluntary organisations broadly representative of the Youth Service.
<p>If you are responding on behalf of an organisation/interest group how many members do you have and how did you obtain the views of your members?</p> <p>Those involved include representatives of the five education and library boards, Youth Council for NI, Youthnet which has over 70 organisations in membership and NI Youth Forum. The youth sector makes provision for over 166,000 children and young people aged between 4-25 years and there are 22,000 registered staff volunteers.</p> <p>On 22 September 2009 a group representative of these bodies met to consider a possible response to the Consultation Document. A list of those who attended the meeting is attached. A summary of the views expressed at that meeting was circulated by e-mail around the main youth service organisations across NI. A list of these organisations is also attached.</p> <p>This submission attempts to put forward a consensus view of the feedback received from this process.</p>
<p>If you would like your response or personal details to be treated confidentially please explain why:</p> <p>N/A</p>

DORMANT ACCOUNTS SCHEME: PUBLIC CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Introduction

The Youth Service is a large and loose consortium of organisations committed to the well being of young people aged between 4 and 25. The scale of the service in Northern Ireland is approx

2275 units

2000 paid workers

22,000 volunteers

The 4 – 25 age cohort is approx 30% of the population

They collectively offer a wide range of activities and influences but are governed by common principles. These can be summarised by quoting from the Strategy for the Delivery of Youth Work in NI 2005-08 published by the Department of Education in 2005 This stated the youth service's vision of the future as one "where all young people in NI:

- are able to enjoy themselves, realise their potential and participate as active citizens in a secure and peaceful society
- know their rights and responsibilities and have these rights protected and promoted
- are valued, understood and involved and feel safe and supported."

It set out four key themes for youth work and a number of priorities under each aim that would guide the development of the youth service over the period. The key themes were:

- **Effective inclusive youth work**

The aim is to ensure that high quality youth work is inclusively and effectively delivered to facilitate the personal and social development of young people within a supportive public policy framework.

- **Participation**

The aim is to ensure that young people have the skills, knowledge and opportunities to make informed choices about their lives, are at the heart of designing, managing and evaluating youth work policy and practice, have opportunities to address issues they are interested in, and can make a meaningful contribution within their communities and within public and political decision-making processes.

- **Resources and Funding**

The aim is to ensure that there is adequate funding and resources to consolidate existing provision and effectively deliver the Youth Work Strategy.

- **Implementation**

The aim is to ensure that there are clear roles and responsibilities for the Delivery of Youth Work Strategy and that the organisations involved are held accountable for that delivery and collaborate effectively.

Main Stakeholders

- The Department of Education (DE) Policy Maker
- Youth Council for Northern Ireland (YCNI) Minister's Advisory Body
- The five Education and Library Boards (ELBs) Responsibility for Area Provision

These bodies make up the Statutory service.

- Youthnet
- NI Youth Forum (NIYF)
- 70+ Regional Youth Organisations
- 2000+ Local Units

Constitute the Voluntary Sector

Response

1. Within the general definition of social and environmental purposes are there particular areas/issues that would benefit from these funds?

Under the definition of social and environmental, the group would favour social spending on behalf of children and young people.

This project will allow the development of practice in consulting young people and those who work with them

The definition of actual Themes will be undertaken at a later date and in line with achievement of consultation as above.

Funds must be additional to mainstream Government spending.

2. Are there particular groups of individuals/organisations that should be specifically targeted?

They envisage beneficiaries from a 0-25 age range, incorporating three transitions (0-11, 12-18, 19-25). This bid should ideally be complementary to submissions made by allied sectors e.g. the children's sector. From discussions with agencies within this sector, it would appear that a level of synergy will apply to various responses.

3. Do you think disadvantaged areas* in particular should be targeted?

Awards would have a bias towards disadvantaged young people and programmes but the use of the 36 Neighbourhood Renewal Areas was considered to be too restrictive and should not be a limiting factor. Aspects such as disability and community relations are valid examples of disadvantage across social and cultural backgrounds.

4. A particular issue in Northern Ireland since the inception of the National Lottery has been the ethical difficulties that some groups have had with seeking access to funds generated by gambling. How best could we accommodate organisations that on moral or ethical grounds did not secure funding from the lottery?

With such a high level of youth activity emanating from Churches, the group were very conscious of the ethical difficulty some churches were having accessing Lottery funds. The Lottery was acknowledged as a natural home for this fund but the Churches' ethical difficulties with this were recognised and there was support for the proposal for a unique and separate branding of the money

5. Do you have any views on how the funds should be delivered? e.g. should the scheme be used for revenue and/or capital purposes; loans to promote social enterprise; should the funding be delivered over a short or longer time frame; do you have any views on the size of grants; should an endowment, be created, or endowments supported.

The consensus option was the setting up of a social investment fund scheme, using a bid figure of approx £6m or 60% of the available figure. This should produce an annual yield of a minimum of £180,000 p.a. which could be matched with approx £60,000 (60%) of the subsequent input of the Dormant Accounts fund. This would create a valuable but manageable fund to be awarded against Themes which would be reviewed frequently in consultation with children and young people to ensure their relevance to current and emerging issues. At the core of this arrangement would be the Lottery Big Deal model of young people as decision makers on funding awards. Funding decisions would therefore be made by those under 25. Further details of this process can be found on the YouthNet website www.youthnet.co.uk

The group was not persuaded that there needed to be such a large spend in Year 1 as was envisaged in the consultation paper.

The idea of large capital "trophy" building was rejected as impractical and unnecessary. The investment bank concept would conversely leave a fund in existence in virtual perpetuity.

The actual funding themes would be decided closer to the time but there appears to be a level of reasonable anticipation:-

- The age range envisaged would allow compatibility with the emerging Play and Leisure Policy (which provides for 0-18's).
- There is anticipation that, when the new local authority arrangements are in place and when public involvement in Community Planning is more evident, this fund could underwrite the young people's participation in this process by providing seeding grants to each Council area thus encouraging Council involvement in youth issues

- The grants should have a range of funding opportunities for small, intermediate and large groups and the application process should reflect this. Also, the application process should be as simple and straightforward as possible.
- On the more general issue of funds delivery, the investment model would result in long term access to funding.

6. Could the Dormant Accounts Scheme be used as an opportunity to promote partnership working with others in government or the larger community?

The group is attracted to the concept of partnership and coalition. The emergence of this response reflects joint consideration by statutory and voluntary agencies. The proposed beneficiary age of 0-25 goes beyond youth work and demands co working with other sectors. The scope for the development of Intergenerational projects would again require intersectoral alliances.

7. We would welcome your comments as to why you think that your identified spending priorities/areas merit support.

These proposals are seen as meriting priority for a variety of reasons. Above all, they are a strategic fit between new emerging policies and the capability of youth service. In this time of flux, youth work, as an Educational function, will become part of a unified system under ESA. Local Government will soon show a hugely different complexion. OFM/DFM'S Ten Year Strategy and the Play and Leisure policy are new drivers for future work with children and young people. The format outlined in this paper will fit the new dispensations perfectly and will thrive within them. They focus on a large section of the population and, particularly, if the intergenerational option holds, will link age bands which are growing and which have high profile problems. In so doing, they promote delivery alliances in areas of greatest need over a long period. Above all, it provides a realistic opportunity to make a significant group integral both in grant making and planning partnerships. In so doing, they will encourage the devolvement of a range of responsibilities to young people.

*For the purposes of this Consultation "Disadvantaged Areas" are defined as the 36 Neighbourhood Renewal Areas

Attendees at Seminar held on 22 September 2009

Education and Library Boards

Gilbert Bell, NEELB
Gerard Doran, SELB
Trevor Murphy, BELB

Youth Council for NI

David Guilfoyle

NI Youth Forum

Chris Quinn

Youthnet

Mary Field, Youthnet
Joe Hawkins, Young Farmers
John Meikelam, Scout Foundation
Morva Brown, Girls Brigade
Rainer Pagel, FACE Inclusion Matters
Aodhan Connolly, The Prince's Trust
Roisin McCooey, Playboard
Gemma Donnelly, Extern.

Appendix 1

Summary of meeting circulated to:

5 Education and Library Boards	Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme	Positive Futures
Youth Council for Northern Ireland	ExternFace Inclusion Matters	Presbyterian Youth Department
NI Youth Forum	Forthspring	The Prince's Trust
Action Mental Health – VOTE Project	GLYNI	Public Achievement
An Munia Tober	The Girls' Brigade	RNIB
Army Cadet Force Association	Girls Friendly Society	The Rainbow Project
The Beat Initiative	GirlGuiding UK, Province of Ulster	St Columb's Park House
Belfast Community Circus School	Harmony Community Trust	St John Ambulance
Belfast Islamic Centre	Hope UK	Scout Foundation Northern Ireland
The Boys' Brigade	Hostelling International	Share Centre
British Red Cross	Include Youth	Springboard Opportunities Limited
Brook, Belfast	Mencap	Terry Enright Foundation
The BYTES Project	Mulholland After Care Services	The Spirit of Enniskillen Trust
Cathog	Multi Cultural Resource Centre	Voice of Young People in Care
Catholic Guides of Ireland	NIACRO	VS B – Young Citizens In Action
Challenge for Youth	National Council of YMCA's of Ireland	Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland – Young Person's Development Project
Chinese Welfare Association	Newry Volunteer Bureau	Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster
Church of Ireland Youth Council	NICH S	YouthAction
Cinemagic	NI Children's Enterprise	YouthCom
Clubs for Young People	NI Council for Ethnic Minorities	Youth Initiatives
Contact Youth	NI Deaf Youth Association	Youth Link NI
Co-operation Ireland	NI Forces Youth Service	
Corrymeela Community	NI Scout Council	
Department of Youth & Children's Work (Methodist Church)	Northern Area Sea Cadets	
Disability Action Youth Project	Oh Yeah Music Centre Ltd	
	Opportunity Youth	
	Playboard	