

# YCNI POLICY SCREENING FORM

## Background

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Youth Council for Northern Ireland (YCNI) is required to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and,
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

Without prejudice to the obligations set out above, the Council is also required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

## Screening

The screening procedure should lead to one of two conclusions:

- The policy being screened does not have a significant impact on equality of opportunity and therefore does not require an EQIA
- The policy being screened has (or is likely to have) a significant impact on equality of opportunity and may require an EQIA.

## **Scoping the Policy**

**Title of Policy: International Work**

### **Brief Description:**

The policy describes all those Council activities that either move beyond the boundaries of Northern Ireland or, within Northern Ireland, increase awareness and understanding of European citizenship and intercultural dialogue.

The Council acts as an intermediary for certain programmes, including Youth in Action 2007-2013, which was established by the European Commission to support non-formal learning activities for young people and those who work with them, and in particular marginalised young people. The British Council (London) currently is the UK national agency for the programme, operating through three regional committees and including one for Northern Ireland. The Council can and does provide advice on good practice in the context of Northern Ireland but the broader parameters are set by the European Commission.

The Causeway Programme was established by the British and Irish governments to dispel longstanding myths and misunderstandings and create greater mobility between peoples of the two islands. The programme is governed by a Board comprising representatives from government departments, North and South, partner organisations including YCNi, British Council (London) and LEARGAS (Dublin).

The Ncompass Programme, funded under Peace 2 through the European Union, involves 3 partner groups, the British Council (Belfast), LEARGAS (Dublin) and YCNi. The programme aims to develop partnerships and promote links between formal and non-formal education systems North and South, in such a way that misunderstanding and ignorance are diminished and that issues which are relevant to them can be addressed in a supportive and positive manner and environment. In particular it seeks to address issues of exclusion and social disadvantage experienced by young people in rural and urban areas on both sides of the border.

The International Committee, as a standing sub-committee of the Council, establishes policies in this area and provides a strategic steer to the Council in this area.

**Policy Aim:**

To influence European Union and relevant local policies and to encourage and enable young people, and those who work with them, to increase their levels of European awareness and to benefit from North/South and European Community programmes, through effective information exchange, international contact and travel.

**Who defines or defined the policy?**

The Council works along with others, in a variety of roles, to effectively deliver these programmes throughout Northern Ireland across the statutory and voluntary youth sector and beyond. The degree of influence that the Council has over the design and delivery of these programmes varies significantly.

**Who implements the policy?**

International Officer and International Committee representatives and strategic partners.

**[Answer only if applicable] Is the policy applied uniformly throughout the organisation? *If NO, what are the consequences***

Yes.

**Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy?**

Young people and those who work with them, youth organisations, strategic partners, British Council, LEARGAS and government.

**What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the aim or implementation of the policy?**

Lack of international strategy for education, lack of resources, funding climate, changes in government policy and/or priorities, RPA (and in particular regarding education), policies and strategies adopted by ESA, cooperation and partnership within the education and voluntary sectors.

**How does the Council interface with other bodies in relation to implementation of this policy?**

See above.

**Which other policies are related to this policy?**

European Youth Policy, Risk and Safety, Child Protection, JEDI.

**What data are currently available to facilitate the screening of this policy?**

Terms of reference

National programme evaluations

Independent programme evaluations, particularly at end of funding cycle

Site visits to ongoing exchange activities and locally based projects

Tracking of participants post-programme (Causeway)

## Screening the Policy

### **Answering the Four Screening Questions**

The four questions ask for evidence in relation to the Section 75 dimensions. You should not think of the “don’t know” column in the form as the easy option to respond to any of the questions. In cases where you don’t know and you don’t have data, you will need to make a judgement based on experience as to whether the policy you are screening may have an impact on any of the nine dimensions. If your judgement is that the policy may have a differential adverse impact in relation to any of the Section 75 dimensions (i.e. it affects some groups differently and less favourably than other groups), you should seek to obtain evidence. You should note that evidence can be qualitative – i.e. drawn from the experience of individuals from their perspective - as well as quantitative. Officers must give consideration to steps that they could reasonably be expected to take to obtain evidence and thereby inform their decision-making. Such steps could include meeting with a representative group or selective consultation.

**Where there is little or no evidence, and common sense indicates that a differential impact may be expected, you should discuss this with the Equality Officer.**

### **1. Is there any evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by different groups?**

	Yes	No	Not known
Religious belief		X	
Political opinion		X	
Racial group		X	
Age	X		
Marital status		X	
Sexual orientation		X	
Gender		X	
Disability		X	
Dependency		X	

Please comment:

Age limits (13 – 30) have recently been extended for Youth in Action programme (core 15 – 25).

NCompass requires monitoring of participants by S75 grounds; other programmes do not record this information.

Programmes are monitored to ensure that groups represent the broad spectrum of potential participants.

Where specific needs are identified then positive action measures have been implemented.

**2. Do different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to this policy issue?**

	Yes	No	Not known
Religious belief	x		
Political opinion	x		
Racial group	x		
Age	x		
Marital status	x		
Sexual orientation	x		
Gender	x		
Disability	x		
Dependency	x		

Please comment:

The programmes acknowledge and celebrate the differences between each Section 75 ground and deliberately set out to be all inclusive through the promotion of active citizenship, tolerance and participation.

**3. Have consultations with relevant groups, organisations or individuals indicated that policies of this type create problems that are specific to them?**

	Yes	No
Religious belief		x
Political opinion		x
Racial group		x
Age		x
Marital status		x
Sexual orientation		x
Gender		x
Disability		x
Dependency		x

Please comment:

The International Committee deliberately includes representation and dissemination of information to relevant groups and organisations (including direct targeting), and these consultations have highlighted universal support for the work while acknowledging the challenges which this work presents.

**4. In relation to implementing this policy, is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations by altering the policy or by working with others in Government or in the larger community?**

Yes                      No  
                     

**Please elaborate:** This is integral to the work. We will continue to influence the strategic partners to ensure best practice in line with Section 75 obligations.

**5a. With reference to Questions 1 to 4 please summarise how you believe the policy may impact on the Council's obligation to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity.**

Through this work, the Council's obligations will be enhanced.

**5a. With reference to Questions 1 to 4 please summarise how you believe the policy may impact on the Council's obligation to have due regard to the need to promote positive attitudes towards disable people and encourage their participation in public life.**

Direct targeting of disability groups has resulted in an increased uptake from this sector.

**6. What data do you believe will be required to ensure effective monitoring of the policy following implementation?**

We will continue to work with strategic partners to put in place realistic monitoring measures.

**7. In the context of Question 3 are there any relevant groups which you believe should be consulted at this time? Please specify**

No.

**8. Any other comments on the policy and/or screening exercise?**

No.

**9. On the basis of answers to Questions 1 to 4 above (and in particular positive answers), do you recommend that the policy should be subjected to a full impact assessment?**

Yes

No

**Please elaborate**

Screening of the policy has highlighted a clear commitment to equality of opportunity in respect of promoting inclusion and ensuring access to education and training in youth work is open to all.