

Screening of Policies Update February 2009

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 the Youth Council for Northern Ireland (YCNI) is a designated public authority. As such the YCNI has a statutory duty to ensure that all its new and adopted policies have been screened to identify any potential adverse impacts in relation to one or more of the following nine categories - gender, marital status, religious belief, political opinion, age, sexual orientation, disability, dependency and race / ethnic origin. In line with its statutory obligations, the proposed amendment to YCNI's Core/Infrastructure/Programme Funding Schemes for Regional Voluntary Youth Organisations (RVYOS) has been screened for potential adverse impact.

As an outcome of the screening it was felt that because the fundamental formula and principles of the policy will remain the same and that the proportion of funds has been modified to reflect and be proportionate to the applications received, the EQIA remains current.

Between 16th December 2008 and 11th February 2009 over 190 organisations were invited to view and offer comment on the outcome of this exercise.

One organisation took time to formally record feedback. The YCNI wishes to thank this organisation, which welcomed the proposed changes aimed at encouraging applications from groups which provide services to under-represented categories of Section 75 people.

Recommendations to establish robust monitoring and evaluation systems to determine the equality of opportunity outcomes aspired to for listed Section 75 groups and, in particular, people with disabilities and to review the policy after two years to assess impact have been noted.