



5.00 CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

5.01 The Chairperson referred to the planned members/staff event planned and indicated that further information would be circulated.

5.02 Awards for Bridging Cultures. The Chairperson had accepted an invitation to sit on the judging panel for the 2009 awards. Since participating in the panel in 2008, she had sought to encourage/instigate applications from Northern Ireland projects.

5.03 The Council's Annual Progress Report 2008/09 to the Equality Commission on Section 75 and Disability Discrimination duties, was noted for information and performance monitoring.

5.04 Quorum. It was noted that with only 4 Council members present, the meeting was not quorate. However, it was reported that the Chief Executive had discussed those agenda items requiring a decision with G Doran, who had indicated his support for the recommendations, prior to the meeting.

6.00 RVYOs FUNDING

6.01 The Chairperson thanked the members and staff involved in the various Grants Panels. The Chief Executive then briefed Council on the grants process, and the outcomes/grants awarded.

6.02 Strategic Funding Strands

(i) Promoting Inclusion (Disability). One bid was submitted under this Strand from a consortium involving FACE, Mencap and RNIB. It was noted that there were some issues to be resolved before a final decision could be reached by the Panel. Council would be advised of the outcome at its next meeting.

(ii) Promoting Wider Life Chances for Young Adults. Six bids had been submitted under this Strand. The following organisations were shortlisted, and attended an interview with the Panel: Prince's Trust, YouthAction, and Youth Link. YouthAction was selected to deliver this strategic initiative.

6.03 Supporting Youth Work Practice

A total of 12 applications were received. Of these, three were not shortlisted, five were shortlisted, and four required further followup, before funding decisions could be finalised by the Panel. Council would be advised of the outcome at its next meeting.

6.04 Community Relations and Cultural Diversity

A total of 16 applications were received. Of these, four were not shortlisted, four were shortlisted, and the remaining six required further followup, before funding decisions could be finalised by the Panel. Council would be advised of the outcome at its next meeting.

6.05 It was reported that the Department had confirmed in writing that the CRYSSS Funding would now continue to March 2010. An additional £70,000 had been made available for the period September 2009 – March 2010. Members welcomed this development.

6.06 The Grants Manager reported that a review of Infrastructure Support Funding/Thematic Infrastructure Support Funding was underway. A report would be presented at the October meeting of Council.

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7.00 YCNI LEGACY PROJECTS

7.01 Following preliminary discussion at the June meeting, the Chief Executive presented a paper outlining a number of planned and/or proposed events and activities under this broad heading. Given that YCNI and the ELBs would be subsumed into ESA from 01 January 2010, these would provide opportunities for the sector to influence the future shape of the Youth Service within ESA.

7.02 The Youth Service Sectoral Partners Group (comprising YCNI, ELBs, YouthNet and NI Youth Forum) had prepared a joint position paper, "Shaping the Future of the Youth Service". This paper would be used a "script" to engage with and lobby key stakeholders, such as MLAs, ESA, and other relevant groupings.

7.03 There was YSSPG support to designate November 2009 as Youth Service Month. During the month, a series of events would be staged, with a common strapline – "Thinking Seriously About ...". The aims of the month would be to:

- provide opportunities to reflect on important issues affecting the future impact of the youth service on young people;
- celebrate the contribution of the Youth Service to the development of young people and the communities in which they live; and
- influence the future shape of the Youth Service.

A number of complementary events, organised by Youth Service, and non-Youth Service, organisations were planned for the month.

A key event would be a major one-day conference planned for Wednesday 25 November 2009: Thinking Seriously About ... The Future of the Youth Service. This would provide delegates with an opportunity to consider a range of topics and themes in order to help inform the future policy and shape of the Youth Service.

The Conference report, and the documents referred to at 7.02 and 7.05, would be submitted to DE/ESA as representing the sector's views on the future of Youth Service within the new public sector structures in Northern Ireland.

D Guilfoyle

7.04 Council supported the plans presented, and members were content with Council's role as financial sponsor of the YSSPG initiatives, the joint publication, and the staff time allocated to facilitate and co-ordinate events.

7.05 YCNI 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Publication. To coincide with the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of Council, Council approval was given to update and extend the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Timeline. The updated document would highlight how the work and functions of Council had contributed to the development of the wider Youth Service to date. A section would also be included, under each work area, highlighting important issues which must be addressed in the future (i.e. under ESA).

D Guilfoyle

8.00 DE YOUTH WORKS PROGRAMME SUBMISSION

8.01 Council considered a paper setting out the background, aims, objectives, and outputs of this programme. In summary, the Department of Education had secured funding from IFI to support a programme aimed at enabling marginalised young people to find their way back to fulfilling their full potential. DE had invited YCNI to submit a bid to become the Managing Agent for this programme. It was noted that ESA would ultimately "inherit" this project.

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8.02 Following a discussion on the key roles and responsibilities set out in the paper, Council gave its approval for the submission, to DE, of a proposal for YCNI to become the Managing Agent for the Youth Works Programme.

#### 9.00 RESPONSE TO DSD VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY CONSULTATION

9.01 Consultation on the DSD paper on a Volunteering Strategy for NI opened in July, and would close on 9 October 2009. It was noted that the Consultation Paper had been drafted for DSD by the Volunteer Development Agency, with guidance from a Volunteering Strategy Group on which YCNI was represented.

9.02 A draft YCNI response was presented for consideration. The response

- welcomed and generally concurred with the draft strategy;
- suggested some revisions to streamline the format and clarify the text;
- suggested that the strategy may benefit from an additional proposal relating to research; and
- emphasised the potential role for youth services in the implementation stages of the strategy.

9.03 Whilst approving the content of Council's response, members were of the view that the following additional references were required:

- the expertise that exists within the Youth Service regarding volunteer training and support;
- the financial benefit and social return from the investment in volunteers; and
- the valuable route volunteering can provide in terms of skills development and work-related experience.

9.04 The document would be amended as above, and submitted to DSD by the consultation deadline. It would also be available on the Council's website.

#### 10.00 YOUTH ARTS SUBMISSION

10.01 The Chief Executive reported that an opportunity existed for £250,000 Lottery funding from the Arts Council to be accessed by a consortium of Youth Service partners. This would build on the Creative Youth Partnerships Pilot initiative between ACNI, the ELBs, DCAL and DE, which ran between 2004-2009.

10.02 Council approval was sought for YCNI take a lead role in a consortium, comprising YCNI, ELBs and YouthNet, to develop a bid. This would focus on:

- producing resource materials and training in the field of Youth Arts for youth workers in both statutory youth settings and community-based youth settings;
- the delivery of programmes to young people, particularly those in the most disadvantaged communities and in community settings, and the delivery of more sustained rather than short-term opportunities; and
- implementation of an agreed evaluation framework in order to prove the merit of the programme to ESA.

If approved by Council, and the other partner agencies, the ESA Implementation Team would be briefed on this initiative with a view to encouraging ESA to maintain this project after Arts Council funding ended.

10.03 Council gave its approval for YCNI involvement in the consortium, with the proviso that the bid submitted would clearly indicate what the outputs for the youth work sector would be, as distinct from those of the youth arts sector.

