

YOUTH COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2009, IN FORESTVIEW, BELFAST.

1.00 PRESENT

Chairperson	Ms M Young	
Members	Mr B Faulkner	Mr D Capper
	Mr J Currie	Ms A-M McClure
	Mr B McKee	
Staff	Mr D Guilfoyle	Ms S Rader
	Ms K Witherspoon	

2.00 APOLOGIES

2.01 Apologies were received from G Doran, P Haren, P Murphy and D Spence.

3.00 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (18.09.08)

4.01 Minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 December 2008 were approved and signed.

4.00 MATTERS ARISING

4.01 Min 6.03: Youth Service Sectoral Partners Group Update. The Chief Executive reminded Council of the membership of this grouping. A summary report of the group's meeting with the Minister (19.02.09) was presented, highlighting the issues raised, and the Ministers response to these, and other related issues.

The Sectoral Partners Group was also working on a document setting out a youth service policy framework, and associated papers on specific issues such as "youth work in schools". Work had also commenced on the development of a youth service resource strategy, addressing a range of issues, including convergence of funding streams, to support the transfer of youth service into ESA.

Members noted the role which the Youth Council had played, and continued to play, in co-ordinating and servicing this strategic grouping within the youth service.

4.02 Min 8.00: "Right Here" Project Update. The Chief Executive gave an update report on the progress of the bid submitted by the consortium of NI agencies comprising YCNI, YouthAction, HPA, and Action Mental Health. Two hundred and twenty UK-wide bids had been submitted to the Hamlyn Foundation, and the above consortium bid was one of 11 put through to the next stage, along with another NI bid from a project in Ballymurphy.

Representatives of the consortium had attended a Stage 2 briefing day, held in London. This stage of the process gives the 11 groupings time (up to 22.04.09) to flesh-out the details of their bids, which will then be shortlisted down to the final 4 projects which will be supported.

D Guilfoyle paid tribute to YouthAction staff for their expertise and work in developing this project.

ACTION

ACTION

One of the issues which emerged at the briefing day was the Hamlyn Foundation's expectation in relation to matching public sector funding.

Members were reminded that, strategically, this was an opportune time to further develop links between youth service and the health sector, and that a successful bid would draw in £800,000 over the next three years. Subject to further discussions with, and the approval of, DE and ESA, a proposal was presented to Council that YCNI would identify £15,000 from its 2009/10 budget to support the development of the consortium bid.

Council agreed to this proposal in principle. The final detailed proposal would be made available to members.

D Guilfoyle

5.00 CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

5.01 It was noted that the letters of extension to member's term of appointment had been issued. The Chairperson thanked members for agreeing to continue to serve.

5.02 The Chairperson encouraged members to participate in the OFMDFM Disability Survey.

5.03 The Chairperson reported that the grant awards process, under the new funding policy, was now complete. The Grants Panels were thanked for their work and contribution to the process. Grants Panel members, Chief Executive and Grants Manager would carry out a learning review of the process.

D Guilfoyle
K W'spoon

5.04 International Committee Update. It was reported that Mr C Henderson had replaced Mr B Adams as Chairperson of the International Committee, with immediate effect.

5.05 The resignation of M Robinson, IT Manager, was noted.

5.06 The Chairperson and Chief Executive briefed members on a recent meeting with the Chairperson and Director of YouthAction, at which YouthAction's concerns about the impact of the Council's new funding policy on their organisation were discussed.

5.07 It was reported that the Chairperson and Chief Executive would be meeting with the Chairperson and Director of Belfast Community Circus School at the end of March.

6.00 FINANCE

6.01 YCNI Income/Expenditure profile to 28 February 2009. The Income/Expenditure profile was presented for information. An extrapolation to the year end was noted, with the Chief Executive highlighting those areas where savings had been effected. Non-DE monies carried over would give Council the scope to fund some strategically targeted initiatives in the 2009/10 financial year.

6.02 YCNI Provisional Outline Budget 2009/10. It was noted that official confirmation of the Council's budget had not yet been received from the Department. Estimates against the income and expenditure headings were presented in order give staff authority to allocate spending from 01 April 2009.

ACTION

Subject to DE confirmation of the YCNI Budget figures, approval of the outline budget 2009/10 was proposed by B Faulkner, seconded by D Capper, and agreed.

The Chief Executive would continue to press DE staff for the budget figures, in order to ensure that Council would be in a position to confirm the RVYO grant offers.

D Guilfoyle

7.00 RVYO FUNDING

7.01 Additional Allowances 2008/09

(i) It was noted that the Council had successfully bid for additional funding in recognition of the significantly higher utility bills being faced by RVYOs. An additional £28,000 was secured and allocated, pro-rata, across the RVYOs currently in receipt of infrastructure grants.

(ii) An underspend of £50,000 was identified in the Council's 2008/09 budget. With the approval of the Chairperson, this funding was allocated pro-rata across those organisations currently in receipt of infrastructure grants for the purchase of equipment. RVYOs were currently submitting details of their proposed equipment expenditure and when these had been vetted by Council staff, the funds would be released.

K W'spoon

Approval of the additional allowance figures presented under (i) and (ii) was proposed by D Capper, seconded by J Currie, and agreed by Council.

7.02 Thematic Infrastructure Support Funding – Band Allocations. The Chief Executive briefed members on the process of assessing the applications in this funding stream and determining the Band Allocations as presented to Council. Council ratified the Band Allocations for Thematic Infrastructure Support Funding.

7.03 Grant Allocations 2009/10. The Chief Executive reported that the assessment process for both Infrastructure Support Funding and Thematic Infrastructure Support Funding had been completed and allocations made under the "Young People Focused" (new) funding policy. Given the phasing-in arrangements, it was noted that the grant aid provided to those organisations currently in receipt of infrastructure funding would comprise two components during 2009/10 to reflect the fact that this was a transition period.

Declaration of Interest by Members [see Note 1 on page 6]

The proposed 2009/10 Grant Offer figures were presented for approval:

- (i) Infrastructure Support Funding;
- (ii) Thematic Infrastructure Support Funding; and
- (iii) Reduced Infrastructure Grant.

Given that, to date, the Council had not received confirmation of its total grant-in-aid for 2009/10, it was noted that the figures in the spreadsheets may need to be revised in order to reflect any reduction in the Council's total grant-in-aid figure for 2009/10. Council gave staff authority to apply a percentage reduction in the allocated grants, not exceeding the percentage reduction in the Council's budget, before issuing the Letters of Offer to the organisations identified in the attached spreadsheets [see attached].

D Guilfoyle
K W'spoon

Approval of the Grant Offer figures for (i), (ii) and (iii) was proposed by J Currie, seconded by B Faulkner, and agreed by Council.

ACTION

7.04 Appeals Process. The Grants Manager provided an update on the appeals process, including the composition of the Appeals Panels. It was noted that the closing date for appeals under Infrastructure Support Funding had now passed and one appeal had been received. The closing date for Thematic Infrastructure Support appeals was 20 March 2009. An update would be provided at the next meeting of Council.

K W'spoon

7.05 Programme Support Funding 2009/10 – Outline Proposal. A paper proposing 3 sub-strands under the Programme Support Funding heading was presented for consideration:

- Strategic Programme Support Funding
- Short-term Programme Support Funding
- "Developmental" Funding

During discussion, members welcomed this as an opportunity to strategically fund projects and programmes which would be of significant benefit across the youth work sector. The documentation of good practice must be an outcome of any grant awarded, and the staging of an event to demonstrate the learning was proposed. A range of suggested themes and categories were also identified.

On the basis of members' views, the Chief Executive and Grants Manager would prepare a detailed set of proposals for consideration at the April meeting of Council.

D Guilfoyle
K W'spoon

7.06 Exceptional Grant Request – Face Inclusion Matters.

Before considering this request, members reviewed the Exceptional Grants Framework. As the framework had not been updated since 2001, it was agreed that the upper limit of grant awards should be increased from £10,000 to £12,000 to take account of inflation.

D Guilfoyle

Members were briefed on the current position pertaining to this organisation. A number of measures has been taken by the organisation to address the situation, including a restructuring of its operation in relation to Kids on the Block to focus more on work with youth organisations. To assist in this restructuring, and in order to retain the KOB staff to develop a programme appropriate to youth organisations, an exceptional grant request was submitted to Council. On the basis of meetings with representatives of Face, and the information submitted, YCNI staff recommended a one-off payment to FACE. The conditions set out in the Council's Exceptional Grants Framework would be applied to this grant.

It was proposed by B Faulkner, seconded by B McKee, and agreed that an Exceptional Grant payment of £12,000 be made to Face Inclusion Matters. One-third of the grant would be payable immediately, and the remaining two-thirds payable in April. The covering letter to Face would indicate that this was a one-off, exceptional grant payment without further commitment, precedent or obligation on the part of Council.

D Guilfoyle
K W'spoon

8.00 MINUTES OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

8.01 Minutes of the Youth Work Training Board (12 November 2009), and the International Committee (11 November 2008) were noted for performance monitoring and information.

9.00 OPERATIONAL PLAN 2008-09 PROGRESS REPORT

9.01 Presentation of the progress report 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2009 was deferred to the April meeting of Council.

10.00 ESA UPDATE

10.01 As part of its process on the design of ESA, the ESA Implementation Team had issued Proposals for the Director Level Structure for consultation. A draft response was prepared by staff and submitted to ESA by the consultation deadline (06 March 2009). This response was presented to Council for ratification.

10.02 Whilst welcoming aspects of the proposed structures, the submission identified the potential for weakening the improved coherence within the sector which all the partners had worked hard to create. It highlighted the importance of protecting the position of the youth service within the new arrangements, and recognising the unique characteristics of the service and the context in which it operated. The ESA proposals must be tested against these to ensure that the revised arrangements would maintain a coherent approach, bring added value to the youth service and improve outcomes for children and young people.

10.03 Discussion ensued, and members ratified the Council's draft submission, with the following inclusions/additions:

- An explanation/definition of youth work;
- Expansion on what constitutes youth work settings;
- A comment on the term youth worker (voluntary/statutory) and their role;
- A comment on the role of the voluntary sector and the volunteer within youth service;
- A reference to the Strategic Development of Youth Services by building on partnerships and frameworks that already exist;
- A reference to the Quality Standards which the youth service works to;
- A reference to the Responsibility for Professional Validation.

10.04 The Chief Executive would issue an updated submission to the ESA Implementation Team, and copy to members for information.

All Staff, with the exception of the Chief Executive, left the meeting at this point. Council met "In Committee" to discuss the following item.

10.05 Recruitment, Redeployment and Voluntary Severance (RRVS) Strategy for the creation of ESA Senior Management

A paper outlining the issues of concern was presented for discussion. The following Action Points were agreed:

1. Legal advice should be sought by Council.
2. An amended paper would be circulated to members for comments by 27 March, prior to formal submission to ESAIT.
3. The Chairperson would seek to raise the Council's concerns with the Minister.
4. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson would seek a meeting with G Boyd, ESA Chief Executive Designate to press for an amendment to Appendix 4.

ACTION

D Guilfoyle

D Guilfoyle

D Guilfoyle

D Guilfoyle

M Young

M Young
B Faulkner

11.00 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11.01 The next scheduled meeting dates are:

- **Monday 27 April 2009**
- **Thursday 25 June 2009**

NOTE 1

Declaration of Interest by Members

Minute 7.03- Grant Allocations 2009/10

Before consideration of this item, the following interests were declared:

- M Young – Wheelworks and VSB*
- A-M McClure – Opportunity Youth*
- D Capper – Scouts*
- B McKee – Youth Link.*

It was determined that, as this item related to general and overarching approvals only, and not specific consideration or discussion of individual grant awards, members were not debarred from the process.

ACTION

ALL

Signed

Date

MINUTE 7.03

GRANT ALLOCATIONS 2009/10

(i) INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT FUNDING	
Organisation	Grant Offer 2009/10
Boys Brigade NI	£113,210
Catholic Guides of Ireland	£58,142
Clubs for Young People NI	£97,642
Duke of Edinburgh Award	£43,798
GirlGuiding Ulster	£83,143
Girls Brigade	£100,892
Include Youth	£13,480
National Council of YMCAs	£158,566
NI Scout Council	£68,080
NI Youth Forum	£97,954
PlayBoard	£98,890
Scouting Ireland (SI)	£40,501
Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster	£85,004
YouthAction NI	£238,292
Youth Link NI	£128,139
YouthNet NI	£93,594
TOTAL	£1,591,327

(ii) THEMATIC INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT FUNDING	
Organisation	Grant Offer 2009/10
Belfast Community Circus	£1,240
Contact Youth	£45,080
Face Inclusion Matters	£60,280
Headliners	£2,520
NI Deaf Youth Association	£33,640
Ocean Youth Trust	£16,020
OMAC	£1,160
Opportunity Youth	£7,200
Play Resource	£19,600
Public Achievement	£2,960
RNIB	£2,800
Royal Mencap Association	£42,720
Share	£44,100
St John Ambulance	£10,960
Volunteer Development Agency	£5,520
Voluntary Service Bureau	£22,240
Wheel Works	£20,720
Young at Art	£980
TOTAL	£339,740

(iii) REDUCED INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT	
Organisation	Grant Offer 2009/10 (80%)
Army Cadet Force Association	£2,620
Church Lads & Girls Brigade	£2,169
Corrymeela Community Group	£25,546
TOTAL	£30,335