

YOUTH COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2009,
IN FORESTVIEW, BELFAST.

1.00 PRESENT

Chairperson	Ms M Young	
Members	Mr B Faulkner Mr G Doran	Mr D Capper
Staff	Mr D Guilfoyle Ms S Rader	Mr J McCormick Ms K Witherspoon

2.00 APOLOGIES

2.01 Apologies were received from Ms P Haren and Mr P Murphy.

3.00 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (10.09.09)

4.01 Minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 September 2009 were approved and signed.

4.00 MATTERS ARISING

4.01 Min 4.01: "Right Here" Project Update. The Chief Executive reminded Council of the scope of this project and confirmed that the bid submitted by the consortium of NI agencies comprising YCNI, YouthAction, HPA and Action Mental Health was one of four successful bids from across the UK. Consortium representatives had recently attended a briefing meeting, in London, of all funded groups, and were also working closely with representatives of the Hamlyn Foundation in the development, roll-out and evaluation of the of the programme. The support of colleagues in the Western Education and Library Board Youth Service, Western Health and Social Care Trust, and Fermanagh District Council was highlighted.

4.02 Min 7.00: Youth Service Month/YCNI Legacy Projects – Update. The Chief Executive provided an update on arrangements for Youth Service Month – November 2009. This is an initiative of the Youth Service Sectoral Partners Group (YCNI, ELBs Youth Service, YouthNet, NIYF, University of Ulster Community Youth Work Department) and supported by DE and ETI.

A Calendar of Events would be available on the Youth Council website, showing the range of events and activities planned under the Youth Service Month banner. Financial sponsorship from YCNI for a number of key events during the month, including support for a range of RYVO Youth Service Month events and activities, was approved by Council. Support for the YouthNet Conference, in early December, was also approved.

Three key events, branded Thinking SeriouslyAbout ... were drawn to members attention:

- (i) Thinking Seriously About ... Quality Assurance, 06 November, organised by the Curriculum Development Unit;
- (ii) Thinking Seriously About ... Youth Work and Schools, 13 November, Organised by the Department of Education with support from YCNI; and

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D Guilfoyle

- (iii) Thinking Seriously About ... The Future of the Youth Service, 25 November, organised by the YCNI on behalf of the YSSPG.

Work was continuing in preparing the YCNI 20th Anniversary publication. As previously agreed, this would include a section highlighting important issues which must be addressed in the future (i.e. under ESA).

5.00 CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

5.01 The Chairperson reminded members that, with the formal establishment of ESA scheduled for 01 January 2010, the Youth Council would cease on 31 December 2009.

5.02 The Chairperson stressed the importance, for decision making purposes, of having a quorum for the Council meeting scheduled for 14 December 2009. The Chairperson would contact members to confirm their availability for the meeting.

6.00 FINANCE

6.01 The Chief Executive briefed members on correspondence received from J McGrath, Deputy Secretary, Department of Education, in relation to a Statement from the Finance Minister on departmental budget cuts in the current financial year. The letter gave direction that YCNI should not enter into any further commitments for this financial year that were discretionary or non-essential.

6.02 The Income/Expenditure Report to 30 September 2009 was presented for information.

6.03 In relation to Salaries, it was noted that it might be necessary to make financial provision for an equal pay issue (related to Civil Service Administrative Officer Pay scales). The Chief Executive was scheduled to meet with the ESA Finance Director (Designate) to seek further clarification on this issue, and an update would be given at the next Council meeting.

6.04 Members were briefed on the budget headings showing a projected underspend, including programme funding and consultancies/projects. Discussion on utilising the underspend is recorded under 7.04 and 7.05 below.

6.05 On the issue of protection of non-DE carryover, members sought reassurance that this money would not be clawed back or lost. It was agreed that the Chief Executive would seek clarification on this issue, and report back to Council.

7.00 RVYOs FUNDING

7.01 Updates were provided on the Strategic Funding Strands

7.02 Strategic Funding Strands

(i) Promoting Inclusion (Disability). The Panel was now content with the actions taken and information supplied by the consortium comprising Face Inclusion Matters, Mencap and RNIB, and funding had been subsequently released.

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(ii) Supporting Youth Work Practice. J McCormick reported that he had now met with those organisations whose applications required clarification/follow-up. As a result, it was reported that the Panel had decided to offer a lower level of funding than had been sought by the applicants. This would take the form of seeding grants (totalling circa £78,000) to the organisations concerned to undertake Training Needs Analysis, and to develop Training Plans. It was noted that this would leave a considerable underspend in this funding strand.

D Guilfoyle

7.03 Community Relations and Cultural Diversity. It was reported that all outstanding issues had been followed-up and clarified with the applicant organisations concerned, and funding decisions had been finalised by the Panel. It was noted that all funding under this heading had now been accounted for and expended.

7.04 Development Funding Proposal. Members were reminded that, as part of the "Young People Focused" funding policy, Council had agreed to earmark some resources for a Development Fund in recognition of the difficulties faced by emerging RVYOs in developing services across Northern Ireland. Eligible organisations would be required to demonstrate "intent" and capability" and then be supported through a planned and phased process of extending their services to a point where they could fully meet the practical Regionality Test.

Two proposals were presented for consideration:

- (i) In order to reflect the Council's intent more accurately, it was proposed that the fund be renamed the "Capacity Building" Fund.
- (ii) Given the significant level of interest in the development fund, and the availability of additional funding (see 6.04 above), it was proposed that the level of funding be raised from £25,000 to £50,000.

Members approved the proposals (i) and (ii). Discussion ensued on the criteria and application process for the Capacity Building Fund. In terms of the process, applications would be sought through a public advertisement, and applicant organisations would be required to provide written submissions to demonstrate how they are attempting to become regional. Shortlisted applicants would then be interviewed. A Service Level Agreement would be developed with successful applicant organisations. Monitoring and evaluation would be critical in order to demonstrate how funding through the YCNI Capacity Building Fund was used to develop their strategy.

D Guilfoyle
K W'spoon

7.05 Equipment Grant Proposal. Members considered the proposal presented in the context of the income and expenditure profile [see Minute 6.04], and the underspend referred to at 7.02 (ii). However, it was the view of members that it would be more appropriate to provide "Additional Support" to RVYOs in receipt of Infrastructure Support Funding and Thematic Infrastructure Support funding. The available funding could be distributed pro-rata, based on an individual organisation's funding band, and against the headings already agreed in their SLA. Organisations would be required to provide details on how they would propose to utilise the additional support, and this would be monitored and tracked through the SLA.

Following this discussion, it was agreed that Council would provide "Additional Support" funding as outlined above. The relevant financial information would be presented at the December Council meeting.

D Guilfoyle
K W'spoon

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<p>7.06 The Grants Manager reported that a <u>review of the Infrastructure Support Funding/Thematic Infrastructure Support Funding Process</u> was underway, and meetings had been held with Chief Executives/Finance Officers from a representative sample of funded organisations. Comments on the implementation of the new funding policy process would also be sought from members of the various Grants Panels. A written report would be presented at the December meeting of Council.</p>	K W'spoon	
<p>8.00 EDUCATION AND SKILLS AUTHORITY</p>		
<p>8.01 The Chief Executive briefed members on a number of <u>Continuity and Transition issues</u>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information requests/meetings relating to Council's committee structures and the work of Council. • Location on 01 January 2010 - would remain as Forestview. The future location strategy was currently with the Minister. • Accommodation in Forestview – within its premises, YCNI had provided workstations for two of the ESAIT IT staff. • Voluntary Severance – no further progress to report, as ESA was awaiting the necessary approvals from DE. • Details of the Deputy Director structure were still under consideration. • The Staff Transfer Scheme was nearing final agreement and would then be issued to staff. • Timescale for establishment of ESA remains as 01 January 2010, but the passing of the legislation remains in the hands of the Assembly. • In relation to finance, it was reported that YCNI salaries and wages would be processed by CEA from January 2010; central purchasing arrangements would apply with effect from mid-November. • G Boyd would attend a briefing session for all YCNI/Staff Commission staff on 11 December 2009. 		
<p>8.02 D Capper sought clarification in relation to the YCNI committees (YWTB, International etc) obligations and continuity, particularly in relation to governance issues. The Chief Executive would request information from ESA on how continuity issues would be addressed, and report back at the December Council meeting.</p>		D Guilfoyle
<p>9.00 DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p>		
<p>9.01 The next meeting of Council would be held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 14 December 2009, 5.30 pm in Forestview. 		ALL

Signed

Date