

YOUTH COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 JANUARY 2011,
IN FORESTVIEW, BELFAST.**

ACTION

1.00 PRESENT

Chairperson Ms M Young
Members Mr D Capper Ms A-M McClure
Staff Mr D Guilfoyle Ms S Rader

2.00 APOLOGIES

2.01 Apologies were received from Mr B Faulkner, Mr J Currie, and Mr G Doran.

3.00 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [16.12.2010]

3.01 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 December 2010 were approved and signed.

4.00 MATTERS ARISING

4.01 Min 7.06: Social Return on Investment - Update. The Chief Executive reported on developments in relation to this strategic sector-wide initiative. There had been sufficient interest in this bespoke course to train staff, from a cross-section of youth service agencies, to become accredited SROI practitioners, to consider running a second course. It was noted that the first course was scheduled to commence in late Spring 2011.

D Guilfoyle

4.02 Min 8.05: NI Youth Forum Transitional Director Post - Update. The Chief Executive reported that he had written to Ms L Wilson, Head of Families and Communities Division, DE, to highlight the key issues relating to NIFY, and seeking Departmental agreement to an appropriate course of action regarding the future funding of the Forum. Following subsequent discussions with DE officials, a final resolution was anticipated shortly and the Chief Executive was optimistic of a positive outcome to extend the Transitional Director's post to 31 August 2011. The Youth Forum had been kept informed of the actions taken by Council in this matter.

D Guilfoyle
K W'spoon

4.03 Min 9.01: Youth Works Programme - Update. It was reported that Mr J Hawkins would take up the post of Programme Manager, with effect from 01 March 2011. In the interim, his current employer - YFCU - had agreed to release him for one day per week, to work towards the appointment of the Delivery Agents. It was anticipated that this process would be completed, and appointments made by April 2011.

D Guilfoyle

4.04 Min 9.02: North/South Youth Work Collaboration. At its December 2010 meeting, Council had approved in principle a proposal for the submission of a Peace III funding bid under this heading. If successful, the bid would develop a 3-year cross-border programme to address issues of shared mutual concern, facilitate cross-border co-operation, overcome barriers to co-operation in a divided society and provide outputs/outcomes that could be shared by all sections of society, North and South. It was reported that the bid had been approved at a meeting of the YESIP Board earlier today.

4.05 Min 10.02: Revised Management Structure/Voluntary Severance Business Case – Update. The Chief Executive reported that the business case for Voluntary Severance/Revised Management Structure had now been completed, and would be formally submitted to ESAIT on 28 January 2011. It was noted that all business cases were to be reviewed and signed off by the ESA Chief Executive (Designate) in the first instance, and then by the DE Permanent Secretary.

ACTION

D Guilfoyle

5.00 CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

5.01 DE Governance and Accountability Training. The next scheduled training session would be attended by A-M McClure. Recognising that some Council members have existing work commitments which necessitate their employer engaging alternative cover during their absence, the CE was asked to ascertain if this cost could be borne by YCNI in accordance with the Council's legislation.

D Guilfoyle

5.02 Meeting with Permanent Secretary. The Chairperson and Chief Executive were scheduled to meet with P Sweeney and L Wilson, on 04 February 2011. This meeting would provide an opportunity to promote the role of Council in supporting DE priorities, facilitating collaboration within the sector, attracting resources into the sector, and demonstrate the link between YCNI's role and improved front-line delivery. Relevant staff would provide inputs on specific work areas, including Training/International/CRED/RVYOs/Partnership Initiatives.

M Young
D Guilfoyle

In line with the views expressed by members, the Chairperson would also take the opportunity to raise the issue of Council's concern about the delay in the development of the Priorities for Youth.

M Young

5.03 Strategic Planning Day. As it had not been possible to get consensus on the dates previously circulated, the following alternatives were proposed: Wednesday 23rd or Monday 28th February 2011, commencing at 4.30 pm.

ALL

S Rader would contact members to confirm their availability/preferred date.

S Rader

6.00 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DRAFT BUDGET 2011-15

6.01 A copy of the draft budget plan for the period, and the Minister's Statement was circulated. It was noted that the draft budget was now subject to consultation until 16 February 2011.

6.02 In a briefing, the Chief Executive identified a number of points for consideration/discussion, including:

- Youth Service did not feature within the draft budget. It was neither protected (like SEN, extended schools, early years), nor earmarked as an area for specific savings. However, subsequent statements by the Minister to the Assembly Education Committee would indicate that the YS was now a protected service.
- The baseline figure identified by DE as the total current expenditure level was unclear at this time.
- Administration and management costs of Arms Length Bodies (which included YCNI) were shown as an area where savings iro £15 million were envisaged, however, it was unclear what exactly was included under this heading.
- It was possible that the Department might seek to reduce earmarked funding for areas such as Child Protection and CR.

ACTION

6.03 In order to assess the impact of the budget on the wider youth service and the delivery of Council's functions, and to plan appropriately for the budget cuts anticipated, members would require further clarification on the draft budget.

When preparing Council's response to the budget consultation, the importance of emphasising Council's functions/staff roles in supporting the delivery of services on the ground, at minimal management/administration costs, was highlighted by members.

D Guilfoyle

6.04 Following discussion, it was agreed to seek further clarification from the Department, liaise with other Youth Service partners in order to seek to develop a consensus YS response (if possible), and to prepare a response highlighting the crucial role played by YCNI and its staff in supporting the sector.

D Guilfoyle

7.00 RVYO FUNDING 2010/11

7.01 CnaG – Irish Medium Funding Proposal. CnaG had submitted a proposal to access earmarked funding for Irish-medium provision in the non-formal sector. Members were reminded that YCNI had previously provided funding, in 2009/10, towards the employment of a Youth Development Officer to develop Irish-medium youth provision, and to build capacity in key target areas.

Additional funding was now sought towards the salary costs of the CnaG Youth Development Officer in order to:

- (i) Develop youth-service delivery in the IM sector;
- (ii) Establish youth-provision structures to facilitate the continued long-term development of IM youth provision as part of mainstream provision, including:
 - a. Training structures for IM youth workers;
 - b. Centres of delivery;
 - c. Contact-network of IM providers; and
 - d. Links with formal education providers.

In response to a query on the accountability arrangements for funding awarded, members were advised that CnaG had provided a workplan identifying clear youth work delivery outputs/outcomes, and the Council's normal SLA/monitoring arrangements would be applied.

K W'spoon

Council approved a payment of £20,000 to CnaG, from the earmarked funding provided by DE.

7.02 Ocean Youth Trust – Update on financial position. It was reported that the 4th Quarter Thematic Infrastructure Support Funding payment had not yet been issued, awaiting the return of the six-month monitoring report to 30 September 2010. In addition, the 5% retention was held, awaiting submission of the OYT 2009/10 Audited Accounts.

An Audit Verification Visit was scheduled, and would concentrate on cash flow, and income generation during 2010/11. It was noted that OYT remained on the "red alert" list, and Council would continue to review its funding arrangements to the organisation in preparation for the new financial year.

K Traynor
K W'spoon

It was noted that the YCNI Chief Executive had been nominated to the North/South Steering Group established to develop an Action Plan to operate Sail Training on an all-Ireland basis in the future. From Council's perspective, the importance of ensuring that a strong youth work dimension be included in the Action Plan was stressed by members. A further update would be provided at the next meeting of Council.

D Guilfoyle

ACTION**8.00 PEACE III FUNDING BID**

8.01 The Chief Executive briefed members on the background to this initiative. YCNI had previously agreed to the submission of a Peace III bid. However, given that five youth organisations (including YCNI), submitted separate bids, SEUPB had encouraged YCNI to become the lead partner in developing a strategic consortium bid involving the other organisations – YouthAction, Bytes, Youth Initiatives, and New Border Generation (based in Louth). These four bodies welcomed the opportunity and actively collaborated in the preparation of the joint application which had to be submitted by the deadline of 17 January 2011. As the lead partner, Council would be responsible for the financial management of the project, facilitate the local delivery by the other partners, and assist with regional initiatives.

Given the timescale for submission of bids, the Chairperson and Chief Executive had approved the final application for submission to SEUPB. Formal Council ratification of this submission was now sought.

8.02 Whilst Council ratified the submission of the funding application to SEUPB, members sought assurance that a full cost recovery mechanism would be built into the budget to ensure that this funding did not skew the Council's management and administration costs. [A similar issue was noted in relation to the Youth Works Programme.]

D Guilfoyle

9.00 GOVERNANCE and ACCOUNTABILITY

9.01 Extension of Honoraria Payments to 31 March 2011 – Update. A business case had been submitted to the Permanent Secretary, outlining a range of options to ensure that appropriate accountability and continuity of service mechanisms remained in place for the delivery of Council's functions. It was noted that the honoraria remained the most cost effective option. A response from DE was awaited.

D Guilfoyle

9.02 The Income/Expenditure Profile to 31 December 2010 was presented for information and performance monitoring, and noted by Council.

As approved at the December Council meeting, an Equipment Grant call had been issued to the RVOs. At the closing date (04 February), applications would be assessed, and a proposed list of grant payments presented to Council for approval, and payment before the end of the financial year.

K W'spoon

In the event of monies remaining after this equipment grant call, the Chief Executive was requested to alert members by e-mail to the situation, and provide alternative proposals for the remaining funds, to ensure that the money would be spent in this financial year. [One suggested alternative was the funding of additional SROI courses.]

D Guilfoyle
K W'spoon

9.03 Operational Plan 2010-11 – Update Report for the period April to December 2010. An update on progress against the objectives/targets set for the year was tabled for performance monitoring/information. It was noted that all objectives had been achieved, or were on track for achievement, by the relevant dates.

9.04 Effective Governance – Review against the Good Governance Standard. This item was deferred until the March meeting of Council.

M Young
D Guilfoyle

10.00 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.01 There were no items of AOB.

12.00 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

12.01 Meeting dates for 2011 were agreed as follows:

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| • February 2011 – Date to be confirmed – Strategic Planning Meeting | |
| • Monday 14 March 2011 | • Thursday 12 May 2011 |
| • Monday 27 June 2011 | • Thursday 22 September 2011 |
| • Monday 07 November 2011 | • Thursday 15 December 2011 |

Signed Date

ACTION

ALL