

The Boys Brigade – Belfast Battalion

NINFY Pre-consultation

Thoughts of a group of representative young people.

1. VISION

NINFY should be a direct voice for young people, facilitating greater access to local, regional and UK Government and its associated Departments.

NINFY should also champion active Citizenship of young people providing effective educational programmes on the importance of electing representatives and how we can influence, through them, an effective programme of Government.

2. VALUES

An understanding of the values and beliefs of all communities in Northern Ireland especially addressing vulnerable young people and those from marginalised communities.

3. FUNCTIONS

Draw up an effective educational programme for young people with specific reference to Government Make-up, purpose and voting rights of young people that will enable young people to express their opinion. NINFY should offer advice to and challenge Government for adequate funding and resources to tackle the issues they confront.

NINFY should also have a role in creating and maintaining links with other youth organisations both at their Executive Committee level and Peer Group level, offering, for example, guidance on the recruitment and retention of young leaders.

NINFY should be conscious when drawing up its programmes that they are age specific and address the needs of each individual age group.

4. EXISTING STRUCTURES

Strengthen links with existing regional youth forums using their strengths to further vocalise the opinions of young people – strengthen their voice through existing bodies and pre-actively engage charitable bodies who share a common purpose.

Would the NICCY be consulted and included in this network?

5. EXISTING MODELS

Regional Youth Parliaments et Funky Dragon – Welsh Youth Parliament, European Youth Council, and NI Youth Forum – Council Youth Forums

6. BARRIERS

Non participation, Apathy – young people won't get involved.

Inadequate funding for implementation.

Poor recruitment of young people (needs to be driven) – exclusive rather than inclusive representation.

Lack of support from Government both in subvention and authority – token gestures.

Ineffective marketing of merits of programme – poor publicity.

While the Group would be of the opinion that a 'young people led' network would be useful to demonstrate and vocalise their concerns, issues and provide support to further their active role in society, we believe there also needs to be some measures of accountability together with mechanisms to quality assure that their programmes achieve their aims and objectives. Such procedures, we believe, could be overseen by a composite directorate drawn from Dept. of Education via YCNI, Electoral Office, NICCY, representatives from NI Assembly, to name but a few. Other organisations delivering youth work provision/delivery should also be represented to quality assure progress.