

**Regional Advisory Group
Notes of Induction Meeting held on
30 September 2021 via Microsoft Teams**

RAG Induction 30 September 2021

Present:

Orlaith Mhic Leannáin (Fóram na nÓg)
Mikhaila Woods (Mencap)
Gavin Melly (BUD Club)
Paul Brown (Knock Presbyterian Church)
John Lynch (Longtower)
Alexey Janes (Ulster Wildlife)
Lee Cullen (Cara Friend)
Ali Talbot (Headliners)

Matthew Taylor (Pure Mental)
Annette Byrne (Scout Foundation NI)
Simon Henry (Church of Ireland Youth
Department)
Gareth Doherty (Headliners)
Lisa Keys (Boys' Brigade)
Adele Brown (Dept of Justice)

In attendance:

Arlene Kee (EA)
Lynsey Branniff (EA)
Paul Deighan (EA)
Andrew Bell (Youth Work Policy Team DE)
Mary Cunningham (National Youth Council Ireland)

1.

Welcome

Arlene Kee formally welcomed new members to the induction meeting of the Regional Advisory Group.

2.

Introductions

Arlene Kee introduced herself as the Assistant Director of Youth Services and the Chair of the RAG. Senior Staff Lynsey Branniff and Paul Deighan were also introduced to members. Arlene Kee explained that the purpose of the meeting was to give new members an insight into the role of the Regional Advisory Group and its members. Members were informed that a Microsoft Teams site will host meeting papers, the Terms of Reference, presentations, research, and resources accordingly.

3.

RAG Terms of Reference (introduction and discussion)

Arlene Kee shared a presentation (available on Teams) with members which introduced the EA Youth Service.

Members were then asked to introduce themselves and the name of the organisation which they represent.

Following the introductions Arlene Kee explained that under the Terms of Reference there is a need to ensure broad representation from across the sector including the Uniformed Sector, the Church Sector, Section 75 groups and colleagues from a wide range of Government Departments. A random selection process was used to select

	<p>members from registered youth organisations. All members are considered key stakeholders.</p> <p>RAG members are asked to bring the views of young people either through their own presence in the meeting or inviting young people in person, and through members' opinion of various EA Youth Service papers. Members can drive the agenda and the sharing of innovative practice accordingly.</p>
4.	<p>Regional Assessment of Need</p> <p>Recently published 2021-2023 published on Teams</p>
5.	<p>Regional Youth Development Plan</p> <p>One year Action Plan published on Teams site</p>
6.	<p>Frequency of Meetings</p> <p>The Regional Advisory Group is a voluntary commitment of 4 meetings per year to be held quarterly. Members will be notified in advance of both the date and the venue.</p>
7.	<p>Key agenda items moving forward, initial discussion and forward planning</p> <p>An item raised by Gavin with regards to the Needs of SEN Children and Young People. It was agreed that this area of practice should be a key consideration of the group moving forwards.</p> <p>Orlaith informed members about 2 pieces of research carried out by Fóram na nÓg. The first was carried out over lockdown with 50 young people in a pilot project in a youth centre in Belfast who were working with children with SEN through the medium of the Irish language. The paper will be launched on 14 October 2021. Orlaith is keen to share the paper on the Teams site and to give consideration to the paper and the outcomes of the research at a future RAG meeting. The second paper due to be launched by Fóram na nÓg is a comprehensive audit of the Irish Medium sector at this time. This paper is to be launched in November/December 2021 and again Orlaith would like to add this as an agenda item for a future.</p> <p>Members agreed that EA bring forward suggested agenda items based on the themes raised in today's Q&A which will be sent out to members for consideration and comment.</p>
8.	<p>Dates for the diary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ RAG / LAG Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Needs of Children and Young People Affected by the digital divide (30.09.21) • The Needs of Children and Young People Affected by drugs and alcohol (08.12.21) ➤ RAG / LAG Conference March 2022 10.00am – 4.00pm

9.	<p>Question and Answer session</p> <p>Arlene Kee opened the floor to members and invited questions for herself and Andrew Bell. Questions related to returning Youth Services back to normal whilst complying with guidance; the impact of Covid on the Youth Sector; the wellbeing of staff and volunteers; ways of re-engaging with young people and the pooling of ideas and resources; looking at issues coming down the line including environmental issues; working with young people outdoors.</p> <p>Arlene Kee suggested that from the conversations there appeared to be six key themes emerging to explore and to ensure that Youth Services are getting right in terms of the assessment of need:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cross Government – best use of resources, what is Youth Service and how is the ring-fenced budget being protected 2. Covid – understanding young people and how our plans reconfigure as we reconnect 3. Outdoors 4. Mental health, resilience 5. Celebrating young people and their achievements 6. Key themes which can identified now that we see on the horizon <p>Themes in summary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Being purposeful and determined about what we are doing in the informal space with children and young people and protecting it 2. Being in the right frame of mind and understanding what we are doing and are we in the right space 3. Planning to the future and how we plan <p>Members agreed with this summary.</p> <p>Arlene Kee invited 1:1 meetings should members wish to discuss any questions that were not raised today.</p> <p>Paul Deighan introduced members to the Teams site. Explained where members could find the papers and shared resources.</p>
10.	<p>Potential dates for RAG meetings for consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 16 December (2.00pm – 5.00pm) Members confirmed date and time was suitable for this meeting. Venue will be confirmed for a blended meeting • Wednesday 30 March (10.00am – 1.00pm) Venue to be confirmed
	<p>Arlene Kee thanked members for their attendance and confirmed that EA would send out a list of potential agenda items for the next meeting and asked for comment and consideration from members.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 12.10pm.</p>