

## Regional Advisory Group

### Notes of Meeting

<b>Date and Venue</b>	20 September 2022. THE HUB, First Floor, Northside Shopping Centre, Derry, BT48 8NN
<b>Present</b>	Alexey Janes (Ulster Wildlife) Gavin Melly (Playtrail Bud Club) Paul Brown (Knock Presbyterian Church) Orlaith Mhic Leannáin (Fóram na nÓg) Drew Launchbury (SFNI) Sylvia Gordon (Corrymeela) Mandy Jones (TEO) Gordon McCalmont (PSNI) Lisa Keys (Boys' Brigade) Dairine McGarrigle (Dept for Communities) Joanne Jones (ETI)
<b>In Attendance</b>	Arlene Kee (Education Authority) Paul Deighan (Education Authority) Michael Hogg (Education Authority) Rory McLaughlin (Education Authority) Rosie Drysdale (Youth Work Policy Team DE) Joe Hawkins (National Youth Council Ireland) Paul Brush (DE) Claire Dineley (DE) Aaron Kelly (Ulster Wildlife)
<b>Apologies</b>	Anita Waite (Dept for Communities) Lee Cullen (Cara Friend) John Lynch (YWA) Claire Hazeldene (TPP) Simon Henry (CIYD) Liam McCusker (Holywood Family Trust) Rosemary Magee (Mayobridge Youth Club) Mikhaila Woods (Mencap) Lynsey Branniff (Education Authority)

### Meeting Notes

<b>1.</b>	<b><u>Welcome and apologies</u></b> Arlene Kee welcomed all members to the RAG meeting and thanked Gavin and the team for the use of the venue and hospitality provided.
<b>2.</b>	<b><u>Notes of previous meeting</u></b> Page1 – Mandy Jones attendance to be amended – apologies to be noted. Remainder of notes agreed by all members and will be published on the RAG page on the EA funding website.

3.	<p><b><u>Update from DE &amp; EA</u></b></p> <p>Safeguarding Guidance – Rosie Drysdale thanked Arlene Kee, Paul Deighan, and Siobain Byrne for their input. Addendum which is specific to youth will be published in a few weeks.</p> <p>➤ Agenda item for next meeting.</p>
4.	<p><b><u>Update from North South Practice Hub</u></b></p> <p>Joe gave an update on the Bystander Intervention Programme being developed on a North South basis. A working group has been established and a draft is with the group. Timeline for finalised document and pilot programme will be by the end of this year, into the fourth quarter (Jan – Mar).</p> <p>North South LGBTQI providers group – Rory McLaughlin and Mary McGrath attend from EA. Group are looking at an all island conference exploring barriers, challenges, and opportunities for providing services for LGBTQ+. This will be next year.</p> <p>September 12 – Mental Health session in Omagh – 36 attendees. Positive feedback from attendees. A research and evidence piece was shared – Joe to share with Rory.</p> <p>Liaising with Rodney Green (EA International Officer) to establish connections between North and South. Recently East Belfast EA Young Men’s linked with Swan Youth Service in North Dublin.</p> <p>Arlene Kee noted that staff are finding this helpful and there is a lot of energy around the North South practice.</p> <p>Feedback at the RAG meeting key themes – violence and young people; cost of living crisis; and what is youth work and how do we protect its core.</p>
5.	<p><b><u>Update on Sectoral Conference October 2022</u></b></p> <p>Arlene Kee gave an update on the Cross Sectoral Conference due to take place in October.</p> <p>Currently registration stands at 400 with maximum capacity of 600. The venue is the ICC Waterfront. There are 3 international speakers on the key themes: Vulnerability and young people. Steve Chalke will speak on this; young people and additional needs, particularly autism and Prof. Jane Hickey will be speaking on this topic; and the third speaker is Michael Fernandez who will talk about the challenging environment and the connection with the community.</p> <p>Every table will be a mixture of voluntary and statutory staff, all welcome, Committee members, part time staff and volunteers.</p> <p>You will be sent links and papers to read before the day, along with links to videos they will provide.</p> <p>The questions to be asked are: What; So What; Now What.</p> <p>What? – Speakers will give context So what? – Attendees will reflect and analyse Now what? – What can I do? What next?</p>

Steph will be contacting members to request names of facilitators; videos and good practice; and names of people to help out on the day.

Hopefully this will be the start of cross sectoral conferences and the hope is that the next conference will be organised by the voluntary sector.

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### **Young people and the environment**

Alexey Janes and Aaron Kelly presented on young people and the environment and sustainability issues.

Alexey started by asking members to ask each other why they believe it is important that the youth sector engage young people with the environment. Members then discussed answers as a group.

Alexey then gave a presentation:

- Positive reasons for engaging young people with the environment and ecological crisis. Young people have the longest time to effect change. The environment is an excellent theme for youth work and can be Personal, Social Development and Participation.
- Planting trees: Sometimes this is just a photo opportunity, young people can explore why, where, what kind and should we even do this? In Northern Ireland peatland covers 12% of land most of which is in bad condition and is giving off carbon. Trees are starting to grow on peatland, these are being cutdown to allow the peatland to re bog and absorb carbon.
- Social media - campaign by Ulster Wildlife youth forum run on social media #learnmoreoutdoors which was all about the benefits of being outdoors. Young people's skill sets, and interests can be utilised for these campaigns.
- Youth activism – school strikes for climate – genuine youth led activism. Young people are taking on the world's problems and we need to ask how youth work can help to support young people to take on this pressure.
- Young leaders – Northern Ireland represented on a global stage
- Video – EA Youth Service and Ulster Wildlife Sustainable Youth. Alexey to send link to 10 minute video
- Training delivered to youth workers – training delivered in over 20 youth work settings around the curriculum model giving them extra confidence to deliver
- Seven stages of sustainable youth including: What is all the fuss about? What should we do about?
- Key concepts for youth workers to look at including: Climate and biodiversity crisis, everything is interconnected and active hope.
- Accreditation available OCN Level 1 and 2 and also Wild Youth Awards: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Alexey handed over to Aaron Kelly. Aaron talked to members about his love of wildlife from a young age. Aaron's youth worker would have taken a group of young people to The Black Mountain and shown them native wildlife. When a

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quarry on the mountain threaten to destroy the mountain Aaron's youth worker took the group to the quarry to protest and stop the quarry. After the death of Aaron's youth worker, the group stopped visiting the mountain. With the pandemic drawing people to the mountain for exercise Aaron decided to bring a group back to the mountain to look after it and ensure it was not destroyed. During this time Aaron discovered pine martins were living on the mountain, this discovery led to the protection of the mountain again. Aaron went on to discover several other rare animals and birds on the mountain. It was at this point Aaron received help from Ulster Wildlife. As a result, acres of trees are being planted on the mountain. The community has come together to preserve the mountain and protect the wildlife. Aaron has created the Black Mountain Wildlife Project with the purpose of teaching children and young people the importance of conservation. The local people have come together to care about the wildlife and to understand the power and the healing that nature has, and the power to change people.

Alexey finished by asking the question "What can the youth sector do to increase young people's engagement with environmental and sustainability issues."

Arlene thanked Alexey and Aaron for their input, noting that this is a fantastic example of what the funding scheme has achieved. The passion shown by Aaron is fantastic.

Noted responses:

Mandy Jones this is inspirational, and we know this is a massive issue and from TEO perspective it is about trying to integrate it into Good Relations. Young men focused on recycling, collecting newspapers, young people saw the vulnerability of the animals and it made them want to do something about it.

Orlaith Mhic Leannáin has seen Aaron's practice and uses Aaron's social media to show young people the amazing work and they are buzzing about it.

Paul Brush thanked Aaron noting his input was inspirational. Paul noted that you can never start too young (early years). There has been some effort to encourage outdoor learning, the challenge is to get this into the mainstream. There is a need to normalise this work.

Arlene Kee noted that we have to have a launch and celebration of the resources.

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### **Draft Regional Assessment of Need and Regional Youth Development Plan**

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Arlene Kee informed members that today we are indicating what the RAoN is saying. You will have the opportunity to write to youth operations and add to that. By 30.09.22 we will send to you the draft RAoN and RYDP. You will also receive the papers from the working groups, and we will give an indication of where funding needs to go. On 6 October you will be invited to Broughshane Youth Centre to an all day event. The morning will focus on the draft RAoN for discussion, the key actions within the RYDP for comment. In the afternoon you will get a sense of regional opportunities for funding.

Arlene handed over to Rory and Paul to discuss the methodology and how we have gone through the RAoN.

Paul Deighan gave an overview of the methodology.

Rory McLaughlin gave an overview of the statistical data

Paul Deighan to send the presentation to be made available to members on the Teamsite.

A discussion then took place around the presentation and the highlights presented by Paul Deighan and Rory McLaughlin.

Noted responses:

Orlaith Mhic Leannáin noted that IM education system within EA the figures were not included. Rory McLaughlin noted that there is breakdown of all figures from schools.

Mandy Jones asked if community background had been noted. Rory McLaughlin stated that Information Governance put constraints on the questions asked which could identify young people – GDPR issue.

Michael Hogg – how does this plan set the space in which youth work will occupy on its own and with others and where it just advocates. That is the challenge and there is a reset required, starting with the question what is core youth work?

Joe Hawkins back to basics like single identity which was fundamental to youth work/ There will always be a need as we still live in segregated spaces, educate in segregated spaces.

Paul Deighan stated generic/core is our priority, need to be bold in some key areas.

Lisa Keys – where is the responsibility of schools? This cannot be the responsibility of youth work – what is our responsibility. What struck me most is that young people just want to have fun, we need to remember that.

Drew Launchbury we need to bring young people into a shared place and celebrate that.

Joanne Jones – At the heart of this work it is about PSD and protecting the integrity of youth work. For people coming into the sector what is this about, what makes it different, what binds us together whether you work in statutory or voluntary. What are the core things that bind the staff together? Listen to young people about the impact we are having on them and build on that going forward.

Joe Hawkins – critical self-evaluation, critical reflective practice and quality assurance there is a need to factor those times and spaces carve out into provision of service into specifications that they become a target. Ensure staff are getting support and supervision.

Paul Deighan then spoke about raising standards (presentation)

Arlene Kee thanked Paul Deighan and Rory McLaughlin.

It was agreed that the presentation would be uploaded to the Teamsite for members.

Arlene recapped on the direction of travel, by the end of September members will receive:

1. Draft Regional Assessment of Need
2. Draft targets that EA think need to fill out from RAoN into RYDP

Broughshane – Michael will facilitate. The morning session will look at RYDP. Afternoon session will look at funding opportunities.

After the meeting on 6 October we will amend all papers and resend them to members for a final view before it goes live in November.

At a local level, the same thing is happening, they are holding on for the RYDP. Pau Brown commented that some members are representing groups and asked if members should consult in any way.

Arlene stated that minutes of last meeting should be uploaded to the RAG webpage but that the presentation should remain with members. Once the final document is signed off you can consult widely with them.

Nest RAG meeting – RAG members agenda item Vulnerable Children and young people and the youth work response. Venue was agreed as Glengormley Youth Centre with 11.00am. When you come to December please think about the agenda item you would like for the March meeting.

Arlene checked in with members as to how they were feeling about the direction of travel, Lisa Keys asked if there was a timetable for funding. Arlene Kee informed members that in broad terms funding opportunities will be made live and on the portal in November. There will be a four week window to apply. The week before Halloween there will opportunities to meet funding officers and support to apply to the scheme, these will be geographical, thematic, and individual and groups. Closing the scheme in early December then assessment panels in December. Funding awards will be known in early January, allowing people from January to March to plan. Mandy Jones noted that TBUC funding opens in November. Joanne Jones asked about the time to consult with other groups, Arlene confirmed 3 weeks. RAG will see the final version before everyone else.

All agreed they were content; Arlene thank everyone, and the meeting ended at 2.00pm.

8.	<p><b><u>Any Notified Business</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
9.	<p><b><u>Dates for Diary</u></b></p> <p>RAG meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6 December 2022 – Vulnerable young people and youth work response. Venue agreed as Glengormley Youth Centre start time 11.00am.</li><li>• 21 March 2023 – TBC</li></ul> <p>Stakeholder Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tuesday 29 November 2022 – Pathways into Employment</li><li>• Tuesday 28 February 2023 – The Importance of Youth Citizenship</li></ul> <p>SHARED Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wednesday 19 October 2022. Venue TBC SHARED Event on Play</li><li>• Thursday 10 November 2022. Venue TBC</li></ul>

SHARED Event: Child Sexual Exploitation

- Thursday 9 February 2023. Venue TBC  
SHARED Event Outdoor Learning

#### CONFERENCES

- Saturday 8 October 2022. Venue ICC Belfast  
Voluntary and Statutory Youth Sector Conference