

Children & Young People's Participation Network

Terms of Reference

Context/Background

The views of children and young people are fundamental to the development and implementation of the NI Children's Services Plan. It is therefore the collective goal of the CYPSP to continuously develop and improve our approach to engaging children and young people in this process, and to capture the voice of children and young people in a manner which reflects the commitment of CYPSP to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Purpose

The Regional Children and Young People's (CYP) Participation Network has been developed to ensure meaningful and direct contribution from Children and Young people, as partners, to the CYPSP strategic planning and review process.

Membership of Network

The membership of the CYP Participation Network builds on our relationships with existing youth groups, and will include representation/collaboration from the following organisations:

- EA Youth Voice Groups NI Wide (11 council areas)
- Youth Advisory Panel- Children's Law Centre
- Pure Mental NI
- Bytes Project
- Northern Ireland Youth Forum
- Include Youth
- Futureproof Youth Group
- Bolster Youth Group
- Disabled Children and Young People's Participation Project

Review of Membership

The ongoing success of the CYP Participation Network depends on the members of the aforementioned groups and therefore, where possible, consultation will be led by the young people and facilitated by the most appropriate professionals. Members will champion inclusion and diversity and hold the CYPSP accountable for ensuring all young people involved have the opportunity for their voice to be heard.

As the CYP Participation Network progresses, membership will be reviewed with the possibility of new members being added.

What will the group do

- Provide consultation and feedback in relation to development and review of CYPSP priority areas of need, to ensure the inclusion of CYP voice in strategic and local planning activity and associated early intervention service delivery.
- This will include attendance and/or contribution to the CYPSP annual planning and review workshop
- Provide expert input to the development and maintenance of CYPSP Youth Wellness Web - <http://www.cypsp.hscni.net/youth-wellness-web/>, and associated activities.

Provision of support

Coordination of CYP Participation Network activity will be provided by the CYPSP Support team.

Valerie Maxwell (Information Manager) and Kori McLaughlin (Children's Services Planning Support Officer) will liaise with the following groups:

- Children's Law Centre
- Pure Mental NI
- Bytes Project
- Northern Ireland Youth Forum
- Include Youth
- Futureproof Youth Group
- Bolster Youth Group
- Disabled Children & Young People's Participation Project

Kori McLaughlin will liaise with the following EA Youth Voice groups:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey Council Area
- Causeway Coast and Glens Council Area
- Ards and North Down Council Area
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council Area
- Belfast City Council Area
- Fermanagh and Omagh Council Area
- Lisburn and Castlereagh Council Area
- Mid and East Antrim Council Area
- Mid Ulster Council Area
- Newry, Mourne and Down Council Area

Una Casey (Business Support Manager) will liaise with the following EA Youth Voice Group:

- Derry and Strabane Council Area

This will include:

- The provision of materials/ packs for consultation and feedback.
- Liaison with youth leaders on the facilitation of focus groups. Due to Covid-19, some meetings may be held virtually or where possible, we will attempt to meet the young people face-to-face and provide transport. There may be times where it is more appropriate for the youth leader/ chair of their groups to carry out consultations on behalf of CYPSP.
- Safeguarding policies will be adhered to and appropriate stewardship expected at all times.
- The provision of relevant updates to all members and young people involved.
- Informed consent will be sought from the young people where appropriate.

Accountability

The experience of all members should be positive, fulfilling and appropriate with a clear understanding of expectations. There will be clear objectives outlined to the young people around what they can expect of CYPSP, including the purpose of this network, their involvement, how their feedback will be taken into account and any practical limitations to their taking part.

CYPSP will liaise with members to ensure young people are not taking on too much to participate in the Network. All young people who participate at any time within the Network will receive a Certificate of Recognition for their feedback and contribution.

CYPSP will keep report logs of all consultations and feedback sought from the young people. This report will feed into the work CYPSP does to improve outcomes for young people in Northern Ireland. CYPSP will report back to members and the young people regularly on how their contribution has impacted the work being carried out to improve services. Members and young people will therefore have the opportunity to hold the CYPSP to account, ensuring the work carried out by the Network is having a positive impact.

Key contacts within CYPSP Support Team

Kori McLaughlin Children's Services Planning Support Officer Email: Kori.mclaughlin@hscni.net	Valerie Maxwell Children' Services Planning & Information Manager Email: Valerie.maxwell@hscni.net
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Appendix

Identified Groups	Link Person	Consultation/Feedback
EA Youth Voice Groups NI wide (11 Council Areas)	Rosie Thorpe EA	Local (x council area) and Regional
Youth Advisory Panel – Children’s Law Centre	Sinead McSorley, CLC	Regional
Pure Mental NI	Lauren Mallon, Pure Mental NI	Regional
Bytes Project	Stephen Dallas, BYTEs	Regional
Northern Ireland Youth Forum	Martin Kelly, NIYF	Regional
Include Youth	Niall Cooke, IY	Regional
Futureproof Youth Group	Lucinda Love Teggarty, YES	Local (Banbridge)
Bolster Youth Group	Tom Frankin/Allison Slater, Bolster	Local (Newry)
Disabled Children & Young People’s Participation Project	Eugene Mone, Barnardo’s	Local and Regional

CYP Participation Network Actions and Report Logs

CYP Participation Network YP Feedback Form and Certification of Recognition