

Board Documents:



Youth Work Ireland
Be Part of It

Minutes of Board Meeting

The main object for which the Youth Work Ireland is established is:

- To benefit the community through a planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young persons through their voluntary participation, and which is complementary to their formal, academic, or vocational education and training; and is provided by voluntary youth work organisations. (Constitution of YWI)

Date: 8th February 2025
Time: 11.00am – 2.00pm
Venue: 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1
Chair:

Expected : Catherine Durkin (Chairperson) Michael Connolly (Company Secretary); Danielle Gayson (President Elect), Geraldine Hogarty, Donal Kelly, Molly Hickey, Caroline Flanagan, , Sean Roche, Pat Hayes and Leo Gavin,
Apologies: Berni Smyth; Geraldine Hogarty, Eddie D’Arcy, Deborah Fakeye (President); Donal Kelly and John Byrne.
In Attendance: Doireann Walsh, Patrick Burke CEO., Mary Horgan in attendance for Finance items.

	Agenda Item	Decisions and Actions
1		Presentation from Anna and Kevin from our Participation Team on their work, followed by questions and answers. Following the presentation there followed a lively discussion on youth participation and on the contract from the DCEDIY which we share with Foroige. The board expressed their appreciation to both Kevin and Anna for a very interesting and informative discussion. The extent of their work and their passion about youth participation was particularly noted.
	a. Quorum <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i>	The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting of the Board of Trustees and declared that a quorum was present.
	b. Adoption of Agenda <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i>	The agenda was reviewed and approved.

	c.	Conflict of Interest <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i>	The chair invited those present to state if any agenda item constituted a conflict of interest for them. No such conflict was declared.
	d.	Conflict of Loyalties <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i>	The chair invited those present to state if any agenda item constituted a conflict of loyalty for them. No such conflict was declared.
	e.	Apologies	Berni Smyth; Deborah Fakeye (President); Geraldine Hogarty, John Byrne, Donal Kelly, and Eddie D’Arcy were noted
2	Minutes and Matters Arising		
	a.	Minutes of Board Meeting 12 th December 2024 <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i>	Minutes of Board Meeting 12 th December 2024 were reviewed and approved by the board.
	b.	Minutes for Board Meeting 12 th December 2024 for publication <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i>	Minutes of Board Meeting 12 th December 2024 for publication were reviewed and approved.
	c.	Matters Arising	There were no matters arising which were not listed for consideration in the agenda for the February meeting.
3.	Finance		Head of Finance commentary on the management accounts was made available to all Trustees prior to the meeting.
	a.	Management Accounts 31 st December 2024 <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i>	The board reviewed and approved the management accounts. Both income and expenditure were in line with expectations.
	b.	Balance Sheet 31 st December 2024	The Balance Sheet on the 31 st December 2024 was reviewed and approved after it was agreed that we have a very healthy balance sheet. It was agreed that since we will incur no penalties, that we will pay off the current loan from BOI immediately.

		<i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i>	
	c.	Cashflow Report 31 st December 2024 <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i>	The Cashflow Report to 31 st December 2024 was presented, reviewed, and approved by the board.
	d.	Draft letter to SEUPB <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i>	The CEO and HOF explained the rationale for the draft letter which was prepared by them for SEUPB. While we do not envisage arrears in payments until mid-next year, we do need to request some problem solving from SEUPB in this regard now and well in advance of anything happening. The meeting formally approved the sending of the letter.
	e.	Update from Grants Committee <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i>	The HOF updated the meeting on the discussions at the last grants meeting. New Grants Approved in 2024
	f.	Minutes of Governance Subgroup 3 rd February 2025 <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i>	The minutes of governance subgroup of the 3 rd of February were formally approved as the meeting was not quorumed.
	g.	2024 Audit and Trustee Report <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i>	The meeting reviewed the planning letter and the planning requested document list which had been forward by our external auditors. The new Auditor will meet with a delegation of the Governance Subgroup on Thursday 13 th Feb at 5.30 on line.
4	Strategic Considerations		
	a.	New Government and new Program for government	The meeting reviewed the following documents: YWI Press Release on the new programme for government Letter to new minister requesting meeting Letter to NYCI on the new programme for government

	<p>Board Priority Plan: 5 Monitoring of the External Environment</p>	<p>The meeting agreed that a discussion on this is critical and must form part of our “Youth Work For all” plan and campaign. This view was clearly expressed at the board meeting and the CEO was instructed to revert to the board with a “Youth Work for All” plan which will bring together the thinking from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan for the reinvigoration of youth clubs from some year ago • The Youth Work for All asks from the Consensus conference • The Report from the Consensus conference • The analysis of the external environment which was recently prepared by Michael • The press release following the budget • The press release following the programme for government • The recent letter to Minister seeking a meeting • The recent letter to NYCI • The Notes on Roderick O’Gorman’s recent input in the NYCI board • The notes on the last YWI Stakeholder Forum <p>The CEO suggested that this task could be considered at the forthcoming Management team residential. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next board meeting.</p>
b.	<p>ECYC update</p> <p>Board Priority Plan: 5 Monitoring of the External Environment</p>	<p>The Chair (who is current President of ECYC) reported that the new Director is now in place and that he is currently coming to terms with the role. There is ongoing planning for 2025 and also for the General Assembly which will be held in Sarajevo in March.</p>
c.	<p>Report for ERYICA</p> <p>Board Priority Plan: 5 Monitoring of the External Environment</p> <p>Board Priority Plan: 2 Maximizing the Power of the Federation</p>	<p>The CEO (and current President of ERYICA) provided the meeting with the most recent activities of the ERYICA network. He and the newly appointed Director are having a series of meeting with all member organization with the purpose of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the new Director • Requesting them to prioritize ERYICA actions which will support them in their work • Deal with any concerns or issues they have with regard to the Network. <p>One of the most exciting developments is that the European Social and Economic Council have agreed to offer patronage to the ERYICA youth information charter. Micheal McLoughlin (Head of Advocacy YWI) a current appointment by the Taoiseach, was instrumental in this happening.</p> <p>The forthcoming General Assembly will be held in Moldova in early May. The meeting agreed that Patrick Burke CEO would be nominated by YWI for a second term as president.</p>

d.	<p>Analysis of External Environment</p> <p><i>Board Priority Plan: 5 Monitoring of the External Environment</i></p> <p><i>Board Priority Plan: 2 Maximizing the Power of the Federation</i></p>	<p>The meeting reviewed the analysis of the external environment prepared by the Management Team. Board members were asked to consider the document and to refer back to the CEO with any comments or suggestions regarding the draft. See 4 a above for action arising out of this discussion.</p>
e.	<p>Mid-term Review of current YWI Strategic Statement.</p> <p><i>Board Priority Plan: 2 Maximizing the Power of the Federation</i></p>	<p>The board agreed to contract the original facilitators to lead a short, sharp review of the implementation of our current strategic statement.</p>
f.	<p>YWI Research into Premises and Spaces for Young people and Youth Work</p>	<p>The meeting was informed that there has been one meeting of the Steering Group this year and the consultants have conducted pilot interviews. It proved difficult to get another Steering Group meeting, but this happened in early February. The Consultants proposed the following for discussion and progress from the Steering Group meeting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview Schedule for Youth Services on the 'Development of their built facilities' • Interview schedule for decision makers & key stakeholders in Youth & Community Sectors • Draft desktop review • Stakeholders identification for interviews with Youth Services, decision makers and key stakeholders <p>The CEO informed the meeting that he had secured two places for DCEDIY officials to attend a conference of youth spaces being jointly organised by the Luxembourgish Government and the COE in May. This was very much appreciated by youth affairs.</p>
g	<p>Notes from Roderic O’Gorman’s input into NYCI Board Meeting</p>	<p>The meeting reviewed the note on the input prepared by Mary Horgan, and it was agreed that it was helpful in terms of our Lobbying agenda. See 4.a above of agreed actions.</p>

		<i>Board Priority Plan: 5 Monitoring of the External Environment</i>	
5	Operational		
	a.	Youth Work Ireland Stakeholder forum Nov 2024 (This item was deferred from the December 2024 meeting)	Again there was a comprehensive discussion on this document and since many of the issues in the document are related to other agenda items a common approach to all was proposed and approved. See 4.a above.
	D,	Consensus process and consensus conference (Nov 4 th 20204)	See 4.a above
6	Federal Governance		
	a.	Update on the new Constitution <i>Board Priority Plan: 7 Membership Support</i> <i>Board Priority Plan: 2 Maximizing the Power of the Federation</i>	The CEO informed the meeting that there were ongoing communications with the Charities Regulator. It seems now that the original company name registered with the Charity regulator is not the same as the one registered with the company's officer. We now have to formally apply for a change of name with the company's office.
	b.	National Youth Action sub-group report <i>Board Priority Plan: 7 Membership Support</i> <i>Board Priority Plan: 2 Maximizing the Power of the Federation</i>	A board member provided a verbal update on the recent work of the NYAG. He informed the meeting that they were successful in their recent application for funding to Leargas. A plan to visit the COE in Strasbourg is currently being formulated. While numbers continue to be good in the group, some have not been attending recently and it is planned to offer these places to other young people.
	c..	Advocacy Sub-Group	Please see item 4.f. above

	<p><i>Board Priority Plan: 7 Membership Support</i></p> <p><i>Board Priority Plan: 2 Maximizing the Power of the Federation</i></p>	
d.	<p>Membership Support and Practice Sub-group</p> <p><i>Board Priority Plan: 7 Membership Support</i></p> <p><i>Board Priority Plan: 2 Maximizing the Power of the Federation</i></p>	It was proposed to make the <i>Youth Justice Working Group</i> and <i>Safeguarding Working Group</i> full board subgroups in their own right. The was agreed unanimously.
e.	<p>New Member – Youth Work Ireland – Dublin</p> <p><i>Board Priority Plan: 2 Maximizing the Power of the Federation</i></p>	The meeting reviewed the report and welcomed that work continues on the development of this important initiative.
7	National Office Governance	
a.	<p>Plan for Board’s key priorities 2023-2024</p>	Key Board priorities document was reviewed by the board and its contents reaffirmed. It was agreed that it would be reviewed again in more depth at the 2025 residential. Recording the work under each of the objectives in the minutes of board meetings was very much welcomed by the board also. It was also suggested that a selected key priority could be reviewed at each board meeting,
b.	<p>Update on Premises</p>	The Chair and CEO reported that a meeting took place recently with Mr Kevin Blackwood (Architect) and members of the Irish and American Georgian Society. The young Georgian society has been doing some fundraising to help us restore the internal door overheads. Some of these are in storage and some were sold to the K Club. The Chair will wright to the K Club to see if they might be willing to give them back to us. The American Georgian society are planning two visits to Ireland in 2025. We are hoping to arrange a reception for both groups to see if we can attract significant funding for the project. We are currently reapplying for funding from the Heritage Council to develop a conservation management plan for the building. Once that is in place we will look at developing a feasibility plan to transform Dominick Street into a European Youth Centre under the Council of Europe, including an accommodation element.

8	HR	
	Staff Highlights Reports July – December 2024	The meeting noted and very much welcomed the staff highlights document. The extent, quality and reach of the work was very much emphasised in the discussion. The CEO was asked to pass on the sincere thanks of the board to staff members for all their hard work and dedication.
	Youth Justice Research and Development Post	This post has been located in YWI Galway for many years even though it is a federal role. The post has recent become vacant and there is now an opportunity to transfer the post from Galway to National Office. YWI Galway’s Board is supportive of this. It was agreed that the propose hosting of he post would be of significant strategic value to the federation. The proposal was formally agreed.
9	Any Other Business	
	a 2025 Meetings	Schedule of meeting for 2025 which some small adjustments were noted and formally approved.
	a. Next Meeting	10 th April 2025 – Online 5.00pm to 7.00pm is The chair thanked all participants, and the meeting was then formally closed.

Board Registration Record 2024 - 2025

14 current Members: Quorum is 50% +1 which is 8 Members present. Gender breakdown: 7 Identify as male, 7 as female and 1 as nonbinary

		Code of Conduct Signed	Trustee Register of Interest	Tablet Policy	25 th October Board Training	1 st Nov 2023 Induction	29 th May	13 th July	28 th September	12 th December	8 th Feb 2025
1	John Byrne	✓	✓	✓	✓		Apol	✓	Apol	✓	Apol
2	Michael Connolly	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Catherine Durkin	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Deborah Fakeye	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	Apol
5	Caroline Flanagan	✓	✓	✓	✓		Apol	✓	✓	✓	✓

6	Danielle Gayson	✓	✓	✓	Apol		Apol	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Geraldine Hogarty	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	Apol	Apol	✓	Apol
8	Eddie Darcy	✓		✓	✓		Apol	Apol	✓	✓	Apol
7	Sean Roche			No Tablet	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Bernie Smith	✓	✓	✓	✓		Apol	✓	✓	✓	Apol
11	Donal Kelly	✓	✓	✓	X	X	Apol	Apol	Apol	✓	Apol
12	Molly Hickey			✓		✓	Apol	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Leo Gavin	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apol	✓	✓
14	Pat Hayse					✓		Appointed	✓	✓	✓

In Attendance

14	Doireann Walsh	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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