



**Minutes of Board Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

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:** 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
**Time:** 1700hrs  
**Venue:** 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1  
**Chair:** Catherine Durkin

**Present :** Catherine Durkin (Chairperson) Michael Connolly (Company Secretary); Danielle Gayson (President Elect), Geraldine Hogarty, Deborah Fakeye (President); Donal Kelly, Molly Hickey, John Byrne; Caroline Flanagan, Sean Roche, Pat Hayes, Leo Gavin, Berni Smyth.

**Absent:** Eddie D'Arcy,

**Apologies:** Caroline Flannigan

**In Attendance:** Doireann Walsh, Patrick Burke CEO., Mary Horgan in attendance for Finance items.

	Agenda Item	Decision / Action
1	a. Welcome	The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting of the Board of Trustees.
	b. Quorum	The chair declared that a quorum was present for the meeting.
	c. Adoption of Agenda	The agenda was reviewed and approved.
	d. Conflict of Interest	The chair invited those present to state if any agenda item constituted a conflict of interest for them. No such conflict was declared.
	e. <i>Conflict of Loyalties</i>	The chair invited those present to state if any agenda item constituted a conflict of loyalty for them. No such conflict was declared.

	<i>F,</i>	Apologies	Apologies for Caroline Flanagan were recorded.
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes and Matters Arising</b>		
	<i>a.</i>	Minutes of Board Meeting 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	The minutes of the 8 <sup>th</sup> of Feb 2025 meeting were reviewed and approved.
	<i>b.</i>	Minutes for Board Meeting of 8th February 2025 for publication	The minutes of the 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 meeting (for publication) were reviewed and approved.
	<i>c.</i>	Matters Arising	There were no matters arising that did not appear on the agenda for today.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Finance</b>		
	<i>a.</i>	Management Accounts 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	At the invitation of the Chair and Treasure, the HOF provided the board with commentary on the Management Accounts, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Report. Broadly both expenditure and income were in line with expectation and exceptional income, or expenditure is expected.
	<i>b.</i>	Balance Sheet 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	The meeting reviewed the balance sheet 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025, and it was agreed that the balance sheet is currently very healthy. It was then formally approved by the board.
	<i>c.</i>	Cashflow Report 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	The HOF presented the Cash Flow projections for the coming 12 months. The board very much welcomed the positive report and then formally approved the report.
	<i>d.</i>	Response letter from SEUPB	<p>There was a wide-ranging discussion on how the board should respond to the reply to our letter from SEUPB.</p> <p>The CEO informed the meeting of the following steps which have been taken in order to ensue that we play our part in meeting the reporting demands of SEUPB in order to ensure that any underpayments cannot be blamed on any underperformance on our behalf:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular senior management meeting between YWI and YANI.</li> <li>• Our finance department are focused on ensuring that all the evidence needed is being collected fully, completely, accurately and on time by our internal partners.</li> <li>• SEUPB is kept on the agenda for our regular governance meetings with the DCEDIY (and soon to be the Department of Education and Youth).</li> </ul> <p><b>The following decision was agreed:</b></p> <p><b>We respond to SEUPB's recent response to our letter, committing ourselves to ensuring that we are doing all we can to report to them in accordance with their criterion. At the same time however, we make sure to keep the conversation open with SEUPB in order to avoid the late payment situation we had in previous funding periods.</b></p>
	<i>e.</i>	Update from Grants Committee	The HOF delivered the most recent report from the Grants Committee and very much welcomed the work the staff are doing in this area. In particular the board welcomed the grant of €200,000 for works to the back of Dominick Street,

		even though circa €103,000 over two years matching funding will be required. The CEO assured the board that a schedule of works including a budget will be prepared for the board before any move is made to carry our further works on the building with this grant.
	f.	Minutes of Governance Subgroup 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025 The meeting noted the minutes of the Governance meeting 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2026.
	g.	2024 Audit and Trustee Report The CEO informed the meeting that the 1 <sup>st</sup> draft narrative section of the Trustee Report was now completed and undergoing proof reading.
<b>4</b>	<b>Strategic Considerations</b>	
	a.	Europe Goes Local The CEO informed the meeting that a presentation will be made at the residential in relation to this work and he proposed that any discussion on this would be postponed until then. This was agreed by the board.
	b.	<p>ECYC update</p> <p><b>As previously agreed, the Chair provided the board with a comprehensive report on the work of ECYC (European Conference of Youth Clubs), and on their recent Sarajevo. Bosnia /Herzegovina General Assembly, March 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>New Secretary General</b> Andrew King commenced work in ECYC in the first week of January 2025. Thanks to Patrick Burke for joining the second-round panel interviews. The ECYC organization had been without a secretary general from September to December inclusive. This presented great challenges to the Bureau.</p> <p><b>Conference, 18 October, Ghent</b> An international conference was held in October in Ghent, the youth capital of Europe 2024. A notable feature was the contribution and participation of ECYC members to the programme. Patrick was on the main panel. The topics reflected the breadth of work taking place on a daily basis across Europe among our member organisations for the benefit of young people, and included: <b>Peace building among young people post war</b> (Bosnia- Herzegovina); <b>Racism</b>;(UK Youth) <b>Roma youth</b>: European Roma Grassroots Organisation (ERGO) <b>Disability</b>- European Network of independent Living (ENIL) <b>Big events for young people</b> (Denmark, Portugal); <b>LGBTQ+</b> (YWI); <b>Rural Youth</b>; (Norway and Romania)</p> <p><b>ECYC Programme 2025</b> <b>European Youth Foundation (EYF) REMIND: Reinforcing Mental Well-being and Inclusion in Youth Clubs (€50k+)</b> This has started and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A desk top review of mental health research on youth particularly post pandemic in Europe</li> <li>• Design of a questionnaire to be sent to our member youth services on their wellbeing programmes and approaches</li> <li>• 4 days in- person training course for youth workers later in the year</li> </ul> <p><b>EACEA: Empowering Youth through Open Youth Work in Europe (75k)</b> <i>A range of actions are included in this work plan. Some will complement the EYF fund and include:</i></p> <p><b>Conference</b> A major conference on resilience, mental health and wellbeing among young people- Portugal, October. It is intended to broaden the topic to include resilience extremism, etc. as barrier to resilience,</p>

		<p><b>Expert discussions.</b>  A range of online discussion will be held with experts in the field of youth work, in order to progress the following issues: how to link, integrate and affect European policies on youth participation at local regional and national levels. This discussion will be complemented by parallel discussions among young people in a number of our member organizations, identifying issues relevant to the lives of young people.  This online discussion will culminate in a 2 day in person meeting in Brussels where a position paper, policy document will be produced and disseminated.</p> <p><b>Online thematic seminars and training</b>  <b>Roma organization (ERGO)</b> will partner with ECYC in developing training modules for youth work relevant to the Roma community.  <b>ENIL</b> will help organize/ contribute to an online seminar on disability and youth.</p> <p><b>GA- further updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ger Moore YWI spoke on our campaign *Youth Work for all “and this was of great interest to the members.</li> <li>• Our hosts spoke on the cutting of US aid, which has been a disaster for the youth sector in Bosnia Herzegovina. €150 000k was cut leading to the closing of 26 centres .<b>ECYC is exploring how we can help and perhaps Youth Work Ireland could also make representations.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Other</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C Durkin President since October 2023. Geraldine Moore, YWI Representative and this will be invaluable when disseminating information to members in Ireland</li> <li>• Next GA meeting: October 2025 Braga, Portugal</li> <li>• April 2026: Italy</li> <li>• October 2026: Poland</li> </ul> <p>Velma Saric a well-known journalist spoke at the GA. No report such as this could bring to life her eloquence and the depth of her experience. She was involved in work on war crimes work and mass graves, worked with refugees and is involved with, post-conflict research centre. PCRC. She spoke on the challenges facing young people:  “People can interact with other ethnic groups through job opportunities. In smaller towns, there is no space to gain knowledge, travel or interact, and the education is very poor. There is no formal education that promotes peace and tolerance. Collaboration with youth clubs and other organizations help distribution of tolerance messages, media... Intergenerational trauma takes a long time to deal with and passes through families since there is no attempt at fixing it. There was no opportunity to provide support for the victims of war and genocide. A divide in memorialization harms youth because they have no educational background.</p>
c.	Report for ERYICA	<p>The CEO reported that he was participating in the meeting from Brussels where earlier on in the day he, as current president of ERYICA had signed an international partnership agreement with the president of the European Economic and Social Committee.</p> <p>This event marks a significant step in formalising the ERYICA-EESC partnership, ensuring that <b>youth information and youth participation are at the centre of European policymaking.</b> By aligning efforts in combating disinformation,</p>

		strengthening civic engagement, and ensuring youth access to quality information, this partnership will empower young people to be active and informed citizens in a rapidly changing digital landscape. The development was very much welcomed by the board.
	<i>d.</i>	Updates from DCEDIY The board agreed to take the written update on the most recent meeting with the Youth Affairs Unit as read.
	<i>e.</i>	Mid-term Review of current YWI Strategic Statement. The CEO reminded the Board that they had formally approved the review at their last meeting but that while he can have some conversations with the CEOs and with the Management Team, he has not as yet, due to time constraints, implemented the decision. He has committed to implementing the decision in the coming month.
	<i>f.</i>	YWI Research into Premises and Spaces for Young people and Youth Work The CEO provided the Board with a verbal update on progress. Interviews with key stakeholders have commenced and both he and the Head of Advocacy will be meeting with the consultants again shortly to give them further direction. It is hoped the research will give us good information in order to influence the new National Development Plan when it will shortly commence a consultation process.
	<i>g.</i>	Prebudget Submission 2026 The meeting reviewed the current draft of the pre-budget submission. Broadly speaking the top line figures correspond with NYCI. It has also been prepared earlier than usual this year as a result of advice received from the former Minister in the timing of submissions. The Chair proposed that youth work “asks” need to be brought to the top of the document and generalist youth asks should be towards the end of the document.
<b>5</b>	<b>Operational</b>	
	<i>a.</i>	Youth Work For All Campaign Update The CEO informed the meeting that as part of their recent residential, the Management Team did a lot of work on the promotion of the Youth Work For all campaign, A communications strategy for the campaign is currently being developed. The management team met with the WSTYCS management team on the campaign and there was very positive feedback from them on the wording, content and language used in the campaign. It is now proposed to visit all other MYSs on the topic in the coming months.
	<i>D,</i>	Board Staff Meeting 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 Michael Connolly provided a verbal report to the board on the most recent board staff meeting on April 4 <sup>th</sup> . He said it was a great opportunity to meet with the new staff teams and become familiar with the work they do, No significant issues were raised by the board or staff. The next board staff meeting will be a face to face meeting on 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2025.
<b>6</b>	<b>Federal Governance</b>	
	<i>a.</i>	Update on the new Constitution The CEO informed the meeting that the HOF continues to liaise with office of the Charities Regulator. It is hoped to get final approval shortly.
	<i>b.</i>	National Youth Action sub-group report Leo reported on the most recent work of the subgroup: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work continues on the proposed plan to visit the Council of Europe building in Strasbourg</li> <li>• The group will also be meeting in Europe in KCYS during the inspection being carried out by the COE as part of the renewal process for the Youth Centre Quality Label.</li> <li>• Plans are also in place to visit other MYSs with a view to recruiting new members for the group.</li> </ul>

		The CEO expressed his thanks to the NYAG for then very important and significant contribution to the political briefing on April 19 <sup>th</sup> . Leo agreed to pass on the thanks for the Board and the CEO to the team.
	<i>c.</i> Advocacy Sub-Group	Covered under 4.f. above.
	<i>d.</i> Membership Support and Practice Sub-group	Berni Smyth reported that the group in now working well although the TORs have yet to be finally brought to the board for approval. It was agreed that the CEOs would review the TORs at their next meeting at then they would be brought to the board for approval at the next meeting.
	<i>e.</i> Youth Justice Subgroup	The CEO reported that the upgrading of the group to a full subgroup of the board in its own right was very much welcomed by the membership. They recently held a full day facilitated process to begin to agree key national priorities for youth justice work. A further meeting of the group is planned to take place shortly after Easter.
	<i>f.</i> Clubs and Compliance with Charities Regulator	<p>The CEO informed the meeting that he has written and extensive letter to the following on the key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCEDIY (followed up by a face-to-face meeting)</li> <li>• The Charities Regulator</li> <li>• NYCI</li> <li>• The Wheel</li> <li>• Minister Helen McEntee (Minister for Education and Youth)</li> <li>• Minister Gerry Buttimer (Minister for Charities)</li> </ul> <p>He also provided extensive information to our solicitors and is awaiting advice from them.</p>
	<i>g.</i> Youth Work Ireland Safeguarding Workplan 2025	The meeting reviewed and approved the Safeguarding Work Plan 2025.
	<i>h.</i> CEO Network	The minutes of the most recent CEO Network's meeting were noted.
<b>7</b>	<b>National Office Governance</b>	
	<i>a.</i> Update on Premises	Please see 3.e., above.
<b>8</b>	<b>HR</b>	
	Line Management Structure	The meeting noted the updated Organogram of line management in the documents provided for the meeting.
	Youth Justice Research and Development Post	A schedule for the recruitment process has now been prepared and furnished to the department of Justice. It is hoped to have the role filled by mid-summer.
<b>9</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	<i>a.</i> Next Meeting	There was some discussion on the proposal to develop a Youth Work Ireland Dublin MYS. The CEO informed the board that he had produced a document on this a number of years ago which had been approved by the MYS's CEO and the Board. He would circulate this again to remind people of the decision to go ahead with this process. He will also ask Matthew Seebach to prepare a progress report for the next meeting. The CEO emphasised that he had to keep a certain

		<p>distance from this project in order to maintain the confidence of the other member youth services. The National Office must deal with all MYSs equally.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Micheal Conolly for his huge commitment to youth work Ireland during his two terms on the board. She said his commitment, advice and positive contribution would be missed by both the Board and the Staff. Even when Micheal was dealing with personal challenges due to a number of bereavements, he was still steadfast in his commitment to his duties as both Treasurer and Company secretary. She thanked him and proposed a vote of thanks.</p> <p>The next meeting will be the Board president on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May in Mullingar. All board members were requested to confirm their attendance with Breege.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked everybody, and the meeting was drawn to a close.</p>
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## 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 <sup>th</sup> October Board Training	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2023 Induction	29 <sup>th</sup> May	13 <sup>th</sup> July	28 <sup>th</sup> September	12 <sup>th</sup> December	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
1	John Byrne	✓	✓	✓	✓		Apol	✓	Apol	✓	Apol	✓
2	Michael Connolly	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Catherine Durkin	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Deborah Fakeye	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	Apol	✓
5	Caroline Flanagan	✓	✓	✓	✓		Apol	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apol

6	Danielle Gayson	✓	✓	✓	Apol		Apol	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Geraldine Hogarty	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	Apol	Apol	✓	Apol	✓
8	Eddie Darcy	✓		✓	✓		Apol	Apol	✓	✓	Apol	X
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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