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Board Meeting 18th July 2026 Minutes For Publication



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: 18th July 2026
Time: Board Meeting 10.30pm – 2.00pm
Venue: Dominick Street
Chair: Catherine Durkin

Expected : Catherine Durkin (Chairperson) Sean Roche, Doireann Walsh, Geraldine Hogarty, Molly Hickey, Jamie Mac Giolla Bháin, Deirdre Bermingham, Pat Hayes (Treasurer)

Apologies : Leo Galvin, Caolan Faux, Danielle Gayson (President), Donal Kelly,

Resigned: Ger Conlon,

Absent:

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

	Agenda Item	Decision / Actions
1	a. Welcome	The chair welcomed all to the meeting.
	b. Quorum	Quorum achieved
	c. Adoption of Agenda	The meeting reviewed the agenda, and it was formally approved:
	d. Conflict of Interest	The chair invited those present to declare if any item on the agenda represented a conflict of interest for them. No such conflict was declared.
	e. Conflict of Loyalties	The chair invited those present to declare if any item on the agenda represented a conflict of loyalty for them. No such conflict was declared.
	f. Apologies	Apologies from Leo Galvin, Caolan Faux, Danielle Gayson (President), Donal Kelly were noted.

	g.	Board Correspondence Outwards	The meeting noted the letter to members of the National Youth Action Group arising from the decisions at the Board Residential. The CEO informed the meeting that he attended a meeting of the group to discuss the letter. This item will be discussed later in the meeting.
	h.	Board Correspondence Inwards	The meeting noted the letter of thanks from the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Children and Equality. The committee expressed appreciation for the participation of YWI young people in their discussion on "Engagement with young people on the topic of 'Technology, social media and children' with a focus on the safety and well-being of children online. The meeting agreed that it is very important that we support our young people to engage in these discussions. The meeting acknowledged with regret the letter of resignation from Ger Conlon from the board. It was agreed that the Chair would formally write to Ger thanking him for his contribution to the work of the board and expressing the hope that at some future stage, he will be available to serve on the board again.
2	Minutes and Matters Arising		
	a.	Minutes of Board Meeting 16 th & 17 th May	The meeting reviewed the minutes of the meeting of 16 th and 17 th May 2026 and then they were formally approved.
	b.	Minutes of Board Meeting 16 th & 17 th May (For Publication)	The meeting reviewed the minutes of the meeting of 16 th and 17 th May 2026 (for publication), and then they were formally approved.
3.	c.	Notes of Facilitated session for Helen Newman 16 th May 2027	The meeting reviewed the notes from Facilitation Matters (Helen Newman) of the meeting of 16 th May 2026 and then they were formally approved. It was noted that items from this meeting will be discussed under a number of different agenda items at this meeting.
	c.	Matters Arising	There was no matter arising that did not appear on the agenda.
	Finance		
	a.	Management Accounts 31 st May 2026	The HOF presented the Management Accounts to the end of April 2026 to the board. Both income and expenditure continue to be broadly in line with expenditure.
	b.	Balance Sheet 31 st May 2026	It was noted that the Balance Sheet continues to be strong and healthy, and this was very much welcomed.
	c.	Cashflow Report 31 st May 2026	The meeting reviewed the cash flow report for the year, and no items of concern were highlighted. The management accounts, balance sheet and cash flow were then formally approved:
	d.	Update from Grants Committee	The meeting reviewed the grants report and noted that so far this year, we are really successful in attracting significant money into the organisation. It was noted that much of this money also impacts positively on the finances of the member youth services.
	e.	Minutes of Governance Subgroup 2 nd July 2026	The meeting noted the minutes of the Governance Subgroup 2 nd July 2026

	f.	Pobal Audit (Ongoing follow up work with Pobal and DOEY)	The meeting reviewed the action tracker for the implementation of the recommendations of the Pobal audit and the progress to date was welcomed.
	g	Biannual Governance Report to the DOEY	The board reviewed and approved the Biannual Governance Report to the DOEY.
4	Strategic Considerations		
	a.	Youth Work For all Campaign	The Chair and the CEO provided the board with a verbal update on the progress regarding the MYS <i>Youth Work for All</i> stakeholder events. 8 out the 20 MYS have organised events and others are continuing try to agree dates to hold event. It is heartening that so many MYSS are using the language of the campaign and the logo in their communications and social media.
	b.	Pre Budget Submission	The CEO informed the meeting that the final prebudget submission was sent to the relevant government departments in June. ACTION: It was agreed that we would follow up our submission with a letter calling for greater funding for the youth work sector to the Taoiseach, Tánaiste, Minister of Expenditure, Minister for finance, Ministers for justice, Health, and Education and Youth.
	c.	Update from ECYC	ECYC Report General Assemblies The most recent GA took place in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia. There were extensive discussions on the challenges currently faced by ECYC regarding funding. Catherine Durkin was re-elected as President. Funding applications ECYC has a number of applications into Erasmus - two where we are lead partner and 5 where we are partnering. If any are successful, they will go some way to relieving the financial pressures on the organization Reporting The secretary general is on extended sick leave. This has created great challenges for ECYC. Reporting on the 2025 extensive body of work has been delayed but Bureau members are undertaking this work.
	d.	Update from ERYICA	The ERYICA report from Geraldine Lacey was reviewed by the board: • 117th GB online meeting, 12th May – key priorities; upcoming online GA –attendees, voting tool and voting rights; 40th Anniversary; EGA in Ireland November 2026; financial report. • 118th GB online meeting, 8th June – key priorities; evaluation of online GA; New members applications - Slovakia approved; financial report; ERYICA AI Strategy to be developed; VR in Youth Work KA2 project sustainability – The Secretariat will undertake a preliminary assessment of the governance, operational, financial, and sustainability implications of ERYICA potentially hosting or supporting the

		future development of Youth Work Virtual to be presented at a future meeting of the GB; Youth Participation Taskforce work continues in advance of EGA; ERYICA AI Strategy work in progress; new Director visited Office in advance of commencing employment to meet the team and attend the online GA; Provisional programme for the EGA presented – planning meeting to be attended by Susan, Sif & Geraldine with Youth Work Ireland on the 19th June. • Planning meeting with YWI for the EGA – the event has been added to the calendar for the Ireland EU Presidency, logistics discussed, and a follow up meeting is planned for Tuesday 30th June. • 119th GB scheduled for 13th & 14th of October, Pamplona, Spain.
e.	Infonomics Conference	• Conference will take place on 17th November in the RADISSON HOTEL In Dublin city centre • The Conference will be part of a larger Programme of activities including the EYRICA GA, The EYRICA and Irish Youth Information Quality Label Awards and the EYRICA 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner • Two working groups – a joint EYRICA/Youth Work Ireland group, and Youth Work Ireland Project Team are meeting on a fortnightly basis to progress
f.	YWI data collections System on supports and services to Young people	• A trial collector form has been sent to all Member Services for review and testing • A trial data set will be developed for delivery in Q3 2026 • Jan 2026 a federal system will commence • The proposal is that the system will count engagement with young people under main funding lines, and not the number of individual young people. • More detailed analysis will develop – based on review and discussion with members and priorities to be set by them.
g.	Youth Work Ireland Dublin	• Progress has been made in developing governance structures and policies with draft company filings and constitution in place.
h.	Communication Tool to manage communication between NO and Membership	• SharePoint Sites for all Board subgroups and CoPs have been built • Population of the SharePoint Sites now taking place • Onboarding of members will begin with CEOS on July 8th, with Sub-Groups and CoPs to follow • Site visits to services will commence in August 2026 to introduce communications tools and provide re-introductions to Youth Work Ireland

	i.	Progress on report on our direct work with Young People	The Board agreed that a more detailed review and analysis of Youth Work Ireland’s activities would be required in order to assess the impact of direct delivery within the overall work plan. A full analysis of activity is now being finalized and will be made available to the board once complete.
	j.	Update on the implementation of the Communications Strategy	Reviewed and approved
5	Operational		
	a.	Work plan and progress on implementation	Reviewed and approved
	b.	Plan for the reinvigoration of Youth Clubs.	The meeting was informed that once the plan is complete, it is proposed to ask members of the working group to merge with a group from Youth Action Northern Ireland to look at the recruitment, support, retention and recognition of volunteers in contemporary society. We are looking to launch the new plan as part of the AGM / Convention which will be held in Clare as part of the European City of Volunteering in 2027
	c.	Research into Youth Spaces	The CEO informed the meeting that the first draft of the research finding has just been received and is currently being reviewed by the CEO and Head of Advocacy. This item will be on the agenda for the September Meeting
6	Federal Governance		
	a.	Federal Leadership Group - Action Tracker	The Federal Leadership Group Tracker Document was noted by the board, and it was agreed that most of the key items on the agenda were on the agenda as separate items for today’s board meeting.
	b.	Proposal for the development of the Strategic Statement 2028-2032	The meeting discussed the Strategic Statement Review Process to support the development of the Strategic Statement Youth Work Ireland 2028 – 2032. It was noted that the vibe check of the current Strategic Statement was completed in 2026 providing a check in on progress against the strategic pillars. The current Statement will be further critiqued with a view to informing a new Strategic Statement through a consultation process across the stakeholder groups within Youth Work Ireland The suggested schedule Board/Staff Day

	e.	Report from National Youth Action Group	Molly reported that the group had finalised their TOR and they will go to the next board meeting for approval. The CEO reported that he met with the group to discuss the board decisions as outlined in correspondence to the group following the last board meeting. The decisions were accepted by the group and will be implemented going forward. He further informed the group that Eppy will be taking over from Micheal as secretariat to the group going forward.
	f.	Report from Support to Member Youth Services	No report was available
	g.	Report from Advocacy Sub-group	The group met to finalise the prebudget submission and they will now be meeting shortly to review the draft research report into youth spaces in Ireland
	h.	Report for the Safeguarding Subgroup	The group continues to meet regularly to review policies and practices on an ongoing basis. Mandated Persons were appointed / reappointed by the board:
7	National Office Governance		
	a.	Risk Assessment and Risk Management	Following a brief presentation by the CEO of Principle 2 of the Charities regulator, “acting with integrity”, there followed an extensive discussion on both the mitigation that is currently in place and also the appropriateness of the pre control and post control scorings. The meeting was informed that the Management Team review and input in these risk reports prior to the board discussions. The report was then formally approved:

	b.	Review of list of Company Policies for review in 2026	Under this agenda item the meeting reviewed the rolling list of policy reviews of Youth Work Ireland. It was agreed that it was helpful to include this document in order to ensure that we are constantly. The following new Policies were review by the board and approved subject to ongoing review in terms of implementation: YWI Information Technology policy and procedures YWI IT Disaster recovery Plan YWI IT Acceptable Use Policy YWI AI Usage Policy In relation to the AI document the CEO will revert to the board with clarification on the following issues: Why are we limiting AI use to Copilot? Where does this data get stored (in EU or in USA) and what are the data protection issue which emerge? What protections have we in place to ensue that staff members do not upload personal data into AI engines? The policies were approved while acknowledging that we will need to constantly review them to ensure that the are fit for purpose in a quickly changing environment.		
8	HR				
		Recruitment of ACEO	The role will be advertised in September 2028		
9	Any Other Business				
	a.	2026 Meetings and Trainings	Meeting Schedule 2026: available HERE Next Meeting: Board / Staff Meeting followed by Board Meeting on September 26th at 10.30 – 4.00pm		

13 current Members: Quorum is 50% +1 which is 6 Members present. Gender breakdown: 7 identify as male, 5 as female and 1 as non-binary

		Code of Conduct Signed	Trustee Register of Interest	Safeguarding Training	Induction Training Revised Pack	22 nd No 2025	7 th Feb 2026	23rd April 2026	16 &17 May 2026	18 th June
1	Catherine Durkin	✓	✓	✓ 12/05/26		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Danielle Gayson	✓	✓	✓ 12/05/26		✓	✓	Apo	✓	Apol
3	Geraldine Hogarty	✓	✓	✓ 12/05/26		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Sean Roche	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	Apol	✓
5	Donal Kelly	✓	✓	✓ 12/05/26		✓	✓	✓	Apol	Apol
6	Molly Hickey	✓	✓	✓ 12/05/26		✓	✓	Apo	✓	✓
7	Leo Galvin	✓	N/A			✓	✓	✓	Apol	Apol
8	Pat Hayes	✓	✓	✓ 12/05/26		Apol	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Doireann Walsh	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	Apol	✓
10	Ger Conlon	✓	✓	Resigned 18/07/2026		✓	✓	Apo	Apol	Resigned
11	Caolan Faux	✓	✓	✓ 12/05/26		Apol	✓	Apo	✓	Apol
12	Jamie Mac Giolla Bháin	✓	✓	✓ 12/05/26		Appointed	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Deirdre Bermingham	✓	✓	✓ 12/05/26		Appointed	✓	✓	✓	✓

Signed:_____ Date:_____