



Minutes of Board Meeting 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: 12th December 2024
Time: 1700 hrs.
Venue: Teams
Chair: Catherine Durkin

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

| Agenda Item | | Decision / Action |
|-------------|----|--|
| 1 | a. | Quorum <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i> |
| | b. | Adoption of Agenda <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i> |
| | c. | Conflict of Interest <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i> |
| | d. | Conflict of Loyalties |
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| | | Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office | |
| | e. | Apologies | Apologies were received from Sean Roche |
| | f. | Vote of Sympathy | On behalf of the board, the Chair extended the sympathies of the board to Micheal Connolly and his family on the recent death of his brother. A further vote of sympathy was passed to the Board, staff, volunteers and young people of Clare Youth Services on the recent passing of Fr. Sean Sexton their founder and for many years CEO. His huge contribution to youth policy at both a national and international level was noted. |
| 2 | Minutes and Matters Arising | | |
| | a. | Minutes of Board Meeting 28 th September 2024 Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office | Minutes of Board Meeting 28 th December were reviewed and approved. |
| | b. | Minutes for Board Meeting 28 th September 2024 for publication Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office | Minutes of Board Meeting 28 th December (for publication) were reviewed and approved. |
| | c. | Matters Arising | The were no matters arising. |
| 3. | Finance | | |
| | a. | Management Accounts 31 st October 2024 Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office | The Head of Finance provided the Board with an extensive commentary and verbal update on the Management accounts to 21 st October 2021. Both Income and expenditure are broadly in line with budget and expectations. Not issues of concern were identified. |
| | b. | Balance Sheet 31 st October 2024 Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office | The balance sheet to 31 st Oct was reviewed and noted and approved. It was however agreed that we investigate again the payment of the loan in full at the first meeting of the Board in the new year. |
| | c. | Cashflow Report 31 st October 2024 Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office | The cash flow statement for the period was reviewed and noted. A Trustee shared comments and suggestions on how the cashflow report could be improved which will be incorporated into the report from now on. |
| | d. | Budget 2025 Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office | The HOF provided the following commentary on the draft Budget for 2025: The figures in this draft budget reflect a 5.5% increase in YSG funding for 2025 confirmed to us by the department recently. N After some discussion and clarifications, the Budget was then formally approved. Proposed: Doireann Walsh, Seconded: Danielle Gayson |

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| | e. | Trustee Report and external Audit 2024 <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i> | The meeting was informed that the Trustee report is scheduled for preparation in January and that the External Audit is scheduled for commencement in early March 2025. |
| | f. | Minutes of Governance Subgroup 14 th November 2024 <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i> | The meeting noted the minutes of the Governance Subgroup Meeting of 14 th November 2024. |
| | g. | Grants Booklet 2025 <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i> | The meeting reviewed and discussed the Grants Booklet 2025. It was then formally approved: |
| 4 | Strategic Considerations | | |
| | a. | General Election Manifesto <i>Board Priority Plan: 5 Monitoring of the External Environment</i> | The CEO updated the Board on the work that has been done on the lead up to the General Election. MYSs have been involved in lobbying candidates and in ensuring that they have copies of our manifesto. Our Head of Advocacy is now working with MYSs to ensure that our manifest is influencing the program for government which is currently being negotiated. |
| | b. | ECYC update <i>Board Priority Plan: 2 Maximizing the Power of the Federation</i> | The Chair updated the Board on the most recent work of ECYC. Much of the work fell to our Chair in recent months as a new Director was being recruited. A very successful conference took place in Belgium and a program of work for 2025 was agreed. Applications for funding to the European Commission and the COE have been submitted for 2025. |
| | c. | Report for ERYICA <i>Board Priority Plan: 2 Maximizing the Power of the Federation</i> | A new director of ERYICA has now been appointed and our CEO will travel to Luxembourg in early January to carry out an induction. The General assembly has now been agreed for early May in Moldova. |
| 5 | Operational | | |
| | a. | Youth Work Ireland Stakeholder forum Nov 2024 <i>Board Priority Plan: 7 Membership Support</i> | The meeting noted the report on the most recent stakeholder forum. It will be discussed in full at the Feb 8 th Board meeting. |
| | b., | Consensus process and consensus conference (Nov 4 th 20204) | As at 5.a |

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| | <p><i>Board Priority Plan: 5 Monitoring of the External Environment</i></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> | |
| 6 | Federal Governance | |
| a. | <p>ETB Board Nominations</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> | The meeting very much welcomed the fact that we nominated YWI representatives to each of the 16 ETB boards. 5 nominations were accepted. |
| b. | <p>Update on the new Constitution</p> <p><i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i></p> | The meeting was informed that there is ongoing communication between us and the Charities Regulator regarding the updated constitution. We do not have a definitive document approved yet but neither do we anticipate any difficulties. The plan is to put the final document before the AGM for approval in 2025. |
| c. | <p>National Youth Action sub-group report</p> <p><i>Board Priority Plan: 3 Provision of designated and safe places for young people.</i></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> | There are still high levels of participation in the group, and they have been working on the General Election manifesto and on an application for Erasmus funding in 2025. |
| d. | <p>Advocacy Sub-Group</p> <p><i>Board Priority Plan: 3 Provision of designated and safe places for young people.</i></p> | The Chair of the subgroup reported that they are working on the research into spaces for youth work at the moment. Contracts have been signed with the researchers after a tendering process. We hope to have a first draft of the report midway through 2025. |
| e. | <p>Membership Support and Practice Sub-group</p> | The report was deferred to the next meeting. |

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| | | <i>Board Priority Plan: 7 Membership Support</i> | |
| | | <i>Board Priority Plan: 2 Maximizing the Power of the Federation</i> | |
| | f. | New Member – Youth Work Ireland – Dublin <i>Board Priority Plan: 5 Monitoring of the External Environment</i> <i>Board Priority Plan: 2 Maximizing the Power of the Federation</i> | The meeting was informed that work continues on this project and a number of meetings have already taken place with the relevant ETBs and some community and voluntary organisations. A sum has been set aside in the 2025 budget to support some of this work. |
| | g | DCEDIY Biannual Governance Questionnaire <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i> | The meeting was informed that our Biannual Governance meeting with the DCEDIY took place on Friday 29 th November. No issues were identified with the questionnaire or with YWI’s governance. The board approved the Questionnaire retrospectively. |
| 7 | National Office Governance | | |
| | a. | Plan for Board’s key priorities 2023-2024 <i>Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office</i> | This document will be discussed in detail at the next meeting. |
| | b. | Update on Premises | The meeting was informed that unfortunately we were unable to get the conservation management plan over the line in 2024 due to the unavailability of relevant professionals. We will most likely need to reapply to the Heritage Council in 2025. It was agreed that this is a priority as any plans on the future use of the building will need to be build on the conservation management plan. |
| 8 | HR | | |
| | | National Youth Work Ireland Youth Arts Coordinator <i>Board Priority Plan: 7 Membership Support</i> | Following the recruitment process an appointment has now been made that the new staff member will commence work in February 2025. |
| 9 | Any Other Business | | |
| | a | 2025 Meetings | The schedule of meetings for 2025 were formally approved: |

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| | | Board Priority Plan: 8 Compliance Function of National Office | Proposed: Doireann Walsh, Seconded: Danielle Gayson |
| | a. | Next Meeting | Saturday 8 th Feb 2025 11.00am – 2.00pm Face to Face in Dominick Street |



Enjoy the Christmas



Board Registration Record 2023 - 2024

12 current Members: Quorum is 50% +1 which is 7 Members present.

| | | Code of Conduct Signed | Trustee Register of Interest | Tablet Policy | 25 th October Board Tras | 1 st Nov 2023 Induction | 9 th Dec 2023 | 10 th Feb 2024 | 11 th April 2024 | 18 &19 May | 29 th May | 13 th July | 28 th September | 12 th December |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | John Byrne | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | Apol | ✓ | Apol | ✓ | Apol | ✓ |
| 2 | Michael Connolly | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3 | Catherine Durkin | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 4 | Deborah Fakeye | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | Apol | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 5 | Caroline Flanagan | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | Apol | Apol | Apol | ✓ | Apol | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 6 | Danielle Gayson | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Apol | | ✓ | ✓ | Apol | ✓ | Apol | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 7 | Geraldine Hogarty | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | Apol | ✓ | Apol | ✓ | ✓ | Apol | Apol | ✓ |

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| 8 | Eddie Darcy | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | Apol | ✓ | Apol | Apol | Apol | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 7 | Sean Roach | | | No Tablet | ✓ | | Apol | ✓ | Apol | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 10 | Bernie Smith | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Apol | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 11 | Donal Kelly | | ✓ | | X | X | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Apol | Apol | Apol | ✓ | |
| 12 | Molly Hickey | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | Apol | Apol | ✓ | Apol | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 13 | Leo Gavin | ✓ | N/A | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Apol | ✓ | |
| 14 | Pat Hayse | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | Appointed | ✓ | ✓ |

In Attendance

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| 14 | Doireann Walsh | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Apol | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
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