

**RPA Stakeholders' Group
3rd Meeting
Dunadry Hotel
11 September 2006**

Attendees:

Will Haire	(DE)
Chris Stewart	(DE)
Louise Warde-Hunter	(DE)
Ray Long	(DE)
Jacqui McLaughlin	(DE)
Eve Stewart	(DE)
Kim Martin	(DE)
David Cargo	(BELB)
David Guilfoyle	(NIYC)
Denis Palmer	(YouthNet)
Michael Wardlow	(NICIE)
Stephen Turner	(YMCA)
Finbar McCallion	(GBA)
John D'Arcy	(Assoc NI Colleges)
Mons. Liam McEntaggart	(Catholic Trustees)
Tom Hesketh	(RTU)
Irene Knox	(SEELB)
Donal Flanagan	(CMMS)
Janine Turner	(IEF)
Pauline Leeson	(CiNI)
Revd Robert Herron	(TRC)
Richard Hanna	(CCEA)
Sean O Coinn	(CnaG)
Terry Herron	(SELB)
Tom Gillen	(NIC/ICTU)
Barry Mulholland	(WELB)
Eddie McArdle	(GTCNI)
David Guilfoyle	(Youth Council NI)
Gordon Topping	(NEELB)
Frank Bunting	(NITC)

Apologies:

Helen McClengaghan	(SELB)
Gavin Boyd	(CCEA)
Patricia Weir	(Staff Commission)

No.	Description	Action

1.	Welcome and Introductions	
a.	Will Haire welcomed members to the meeting and in particular welcomed new member Eddie McArdle from the General Teaching Council NI, and also Jacqui McLaughlin from DE, Richard Hanna, CCEA and Terry Herron, SELB.	
b.	Will Haire outlined the current position and also updated members on the recruitment process for the Chief Executive (Designate) of ESA.	
2.	Minutes of the previous meeting	
a	The amended minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.	
3.	Youth Services Policy Paper	
a.	Louise Warde-Hunter presented the Youth Services policy paper and outlined existing arrangements, stakeholder engagement, issues for consideration in charting a way forward and legislation.	
b.	Will Haire opened the policy paper for discussion.	
c.	Members agreed that the paper was welcomed and was in the right direction.	
d.	The positive aspect of partnership within the youth sector was highlighted. It was hoped that the positive profile of youth services would continue post-implementation.	
e	It was highlighted that there had already been a significant change in the relationship between the voluntary and statutory sectors due to the creation of the Youth Service Liaison Forum, which had been a fundamental development. It was recommended that consideration be given to other mechanisms of consultation when establishing a young people's network.	
f	It was felt that there may be difficulty in drafting the legislation for the informal sector and a suggestion that it was important to come away from the concept of statutory/voluntary. There was discussion around the terms formal and non-formal/informal education.	
f	The issue of governance and accountability was raised. It was suggested that it was unfair to establish something aspirational that could not be delivered. It was recommended that young people should be at the core of developing the new system. The Equality Commission and the Children's Commissioner could be useful in this respect.	
g	There was a discussion on issue of finance and in particular the size of the budget and the short-term nature of the funding in the youth sector. This posed difficulties in planning. The role the community sector plays in youth work was outlined and it was emphasised that this sector was not getting access to resources. Will Haire	

	emphasised that the real issue was prioritising the budget.	
h	It was felt that it was important that we did not reduce the capacity of local communities to respond.	
i	It was also suggested that quality control in terms of inspection and monitoring rested more easily with ESA.	
j	It was agreed that research and statistics from the Boards Best Value Review could be incorporated into the Youth Services policy paper	LWH
k	There was a discussion about the age range of youth services. It was suggested that there was a high level of support up to the age of 14. Other age ranges were discussed including 10-25s and 10 – 21s, and the budget implications of this. It was suggested that there should be specific strategies for specific age groups.	
l	Within the RPA Board it was felt that strong proactive management was required. There was a concern that there was a danger of losing the good will of the sector and particularly the volunteers, of which there are approx 20,000.	
m	The issue of defining ‘entitlement to’ and ‘access to’ youth services was also discussed.	
n	Will Haire thanked members for their useful comments and said that work would continue on the issues raised and that we would engage more widely. He also said that he hoped to bring the issue of community planning back to the group soon.	
4	Any Other Business	
a	There was a discussion on legislation and issues surrounding the curriculum and entitlement. It was agreed that the legislation needed to be clear and unambiguous. It was also suggested that the balance needed to be struck between ‘entitlement to’ and ‘voluntarism’.	
b	On the issue of community planning, one of the difficulties highlighted was the interface between district councils and school owners.	
c	Will Haire suggested that secondary legislation could be used to define some of the issues raised.	
5	Date of next meeting	
	A note will issue with dates of the next meetings over the coming months.	PMO
	Meeting concluded at 16.30	

