

Realising the 18-24 year old CYPSC member

Notes from the workshop to explore the potential of a GAISCE/CYPSC partnership to realise youth participation (18-24 yrs) on CYPSC, April, 2019

1. Introduction

An agreed agenda was circulated before this meeting and a copy of this can be found in Appendix 1, along with a list of attendees.

The participants from CYPSC and Gaisce agreed the following objectives for the workshop:

- increase our understanding of both GAISCE and CYPSC
- identify relevant policy and plans within GAISCE/CYPSC (and other drivers for the proposal)
- flesh out the broad Proposal/future possible position and options
- identify early implementation issues and next steps

The meeting was facilitated by an external facilitator. These notes are taken from the flipcharts used to record the meeting and the facilitators interpretation of the discussion.

2. Information Sharing

Avril Ryan, GAISCE provided an overview of their Awards including the Programme Framework and particularly noted the diversity of the organisations they work with: Education and Training Boards (ETB), Community Training Centres, Homeless Services for example, along with Schools. This was broader than had been understood by the CYPSC Co-ordinators, and they agreed that this would support the need for broad representation of young people on the CYPSC. (Presentation provided in Appendix 2)

Colma Nic Lughadha, CYPSC provided information on Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) including the CYPSC model of interagency working, local structures and a DCYA guidance document pertaining to the participation of children and young people in CYPSC. She described current CYPSC practice in implementing the Lundy Model of Participation in alignment with the national participation strategy. She also talked about the alignment of this exploratory proposal with Better Outcomes Brighter Futures and as a means of fulfilling recent policy on young peoples' participation, including the guidance for CYPSC on the issue (February, 2018). GAISCE expressed interest in exploring the use of the Lundy Model of Participation in Gaisce. (Presentation provided in Appendix 3)

Each of the six CYPSC Co-ordinators present, gave some information on their committees with a focus on youth participation. They also highlighted their progress and readiness for the engagement of 18-24 year olds with their CYPSC. The CYPSC have a broad range of experiences in engaging young people in their work for example: Comhairle na nÓg youth councils, Maynooth College,

transition year students. To date the emphasis has been primarily on consultation. Many are actively exploring options for CYPSC membership participation, some are working with other agencies e.g. County Council, ETB Youth Committees, universities and some are waiting to see the potential for this partnership. None of the CYPSC present had ongoing representation from 18-24 year olds or a nominating or selecting structure or process. However, Donegal is engaged in a process through the youth body in the county and a member sits on Donegal CYPSC.

3. The Broad Proposal

Gaisce and the CYPSC will partner to enable the participation of young people (18-24 years of age) in decision making through the CYPSC across the country along with participation on the CYPSC National Steering Group. The intention is to have a broad range of young people engaged in CYPSC committees and ensuring that they have a variety of positive experiences of participation.

The young person will be an equal member of the CYPSC committee. They will be on the committee as individuals, bringing a personal youth perspective and not as a representative of all 18-24 year olds in their county / CYPSC area.

The young person will participate as part of their broader programme for the Gaisce award. The participation on the CYPSC will fulfil all or part of the "Community Involvement" component of the programme. It is most likely that it will be part of the Gold Award (as this is for age 17+), however participation could be part of the Silver or Bronze Awards Programme.

The Community Involvement element of Gaisce is 1 hour per week over 52 weeks. This limits the participation on a CYPSC. The young person could use all of this time participating on the CYPSC or combine this participation with other components in organisations where Gaisce is delivered e.g. volunteering with the local youth service, ETB, Traveller Community, Uniformed Groups, Homeless Service or Probation. Ideally, linking their participation on a CYPSC to a theme with other elements of their Community Involvement – this would be up to the President's Award Leader (PAL) and the participant to work out.

Each young person working toward a Gaisce Award has a PAL (President's Award Leader trained by Gaisce) to support their programme through structured supervision. The young person, therefore will be well supported in their broader programme. A PAL may already be working in a member organisation of a CYPSC and consequently the CYPSC could provide a PAL. Whether or not they act in this broader support capacity, the CYPSC can facilitate that the young person has opportunity to access a body of work that will contribute to their awards and ensure they are well briefed and supported in the CYPSC part of their Programme.

Participation on CYPSC will need to be flexible enough to fit the needs of the young person and their self-directed challenges or goals on the Gaisce programme. Gaisce participants may be linked to different organisations. Also, each area and CYPSC is different and can offer different opportunities. Therefore the details of the participation and involvement will be different for each young person. For example a young person could be part of the main CYPSC, on a sub-group, a consulting representative, participate in projects with the CYPSC or member agencies or any combination of these approaches. However, the primary aim is to have young people participating on the main CYPSC as a CYPSC young person (18 – 24 year old) member.

Consideration could be given to having more than one Gaisce participant involved with a CYPSC.

Young people will be made aware of the opportunities through the CYPSC and Gaisce Websites and through both organisations networks. Gaisce will help CYPSC identify representation from a diverse group of young people and organisations and CYPSC will identify real opportunities for young people to contribute and engage.

The partnership will amplify the participation of young people in decision making through awareness and promotion at both CYPSC and Gaisce local regional and national events, providing young people with a platform to speak about their Gaisce award journey, how they made a difference in their communities and the impact that being part of a CYPSC has made to this experience.

4. Benefits of the approach

A number of benefits were identified. Some benefits apply across the spectrum and are common to the young people, Gaisce and CYPSC.

Young Person: examples of benefits

- Experience of being involved on a county level committee with a wide range of local agencies
- Provide an option to develop community involvement and leadership skills
- Meet a new group/build network of people – be involved in decision-making at senior level
- Enhance confidence by working on a county level interagency committee
- Participate in decision-making relevant to young people in the county
- Opportunity to improve communication, presentation skills and public speaking
- Involvement in a process that makes a difference to children and young people
- Be part of shaping what is happening in the County
- Understand how CYPSC works and effects change
- Opportunity to be an active/better citizen
- Opportunity to make a positive difference through their contribution
- Work with senior managers across the county, getting an insight into how organisations across the sectors actually work
- Potential opportunity to chair a key county committee or its subgroups
- Opportunity to understand the challenges in creating change “making it happen”
- Influence the delivery of what young people identify as their priorities across the county
- A sense of belonging to a broader group
- Opportunity to see how the budgets and finance works
- Opportunity to see the human face of the more corporate world (large agencies, departments)

CYPSC: examples of benefits

- The involvement of young people 18-24 (aligning with policy)
- This participation is already prioritised in many of the CYPSC plans, so a common system between the CYPSCs to do it

- Good fit between the organisations and some organisations are already common to both Gaisce and CYPSC
- A commonality between ethos, aims and objectives e.g. equality of access to participation, reaching out to seldom heard groups for example LGBTI young people and those seeking Asylum /Refugee status
- A pool of young people engaged in Gaisce that may be interested in participation in the CYPSC
- There is a national structure through Gaisce to enhance support , training and the process more generally for the involvement of young people
- Gaisce have experience of doing this (alongside the experience of the CYPSC)
- Opportunities for people in agencies involved in CYPSC to become PALS
- Opportunity to develop 'softer skills' / transferrable skills
- Opportunities to highlight the work of the CYPSC
- The positive difference that will emerge from their contribution
- The opportunity to give young people a positive experience of working with the committee
- Enable CYPSC to gain from their [young person's] knowledge, point of view and their energy
- They can say things – sometimes more directly – and this can be positive
- Their presence in itself has a power
- In teasing out the proposal – there are advantages for the CYPSC in linking this to what is happening at county level already
- The age profile is positive for a starting point i.e. less complex than children under 18
- We want to let them know that we really want them involved and we will benefit from what they have to offer (not just a response to policy or tokenism)

Gaisce: examples of benefits

- Participation would fulfil part of the Community Challenge element of the Gaisce Award
- It would add an additional interesting option for young people in this element (more choice for young people)
- Both Gaisce and CYPSC have regional/county structures along with the national one (broad geographical spread of staff noted)
- Open up avenues to other organisations (engaged on the CYPSC) for Gaisce and participants
- There is a good fit between CYPSC and Gaisce: policy, aims and approaches (e.g. working to get seldom heard voices, evidence informed work etc.)
- Opportunity to promote Gaisce and the awards: young people, policy makers, agencies
- Opportunity to encourage other agencies and young people to engage with Gaisce, more access points to Gaisce and more people may be interested in training as PALS
- We want all young people to have the opportunities provided through Gaisce, so this partnership supports that thinking

5. Implementation Issues and Challenges

The following are some of the key challenges explored, most of them apply to the implementation stage of the proposal:

How will the CYPSC use the 52 hours (given that there are 6-9 main committee meetings per year)?

- Involvement in more than CYPSC meetings, could be a range of different things and different in each CYPSC area
- However, the participant needs to use one hour per week on the community activity i.e. can't use 52 hours over a shorter period (this is a restriction)
- Development of the GAISCE participant's programme of work will be completed by the young person in conjunction with their PAL and in consultation with the CYPSC.

Example of what the participation could look like at county level:

- LGBTI Group in Donegal could provide the PAL and young person could attend the CYPSC or/and sub-group as part of their joint volunteering with the LGBTI group and CYPSC
- CYPSC as an Award Partner and PAL with overall responsibility for supporting the journey
- The young person could be involved in an initiative e.g. support broader consultation with young people (through the CYPSC)
- They could conduct observations on CYPSC meeting (s) – "youth-proofing"- and feedback their experience of the CYPSC (noted Meath example)

If they come from a specific organisation e.g. disability, they could be more focussed on that issue

- Not expected to represent all young people – so this will need to be agreed
- Note there could be more than one young person

The meetings may not be interesting enough for them (focussed on getting work done etc.)?

- Important that they are not just sitting in on a meeting, they may need to have an active role on the committee e.g. report in on something, have a support person on the CYPSC
- The CYPSC overall have a role in facilitating an engagement that is productive and positive
- It is expected (& hoped) that the involvement of young people will change the group process at the CYPSC and National level. This won't necessarily be easy.
- This is self-directed learning/challenges – so young people will be selecting the CYPSC

What about confidentiality issues (or GDPR issues)?

- Note they are not paid employees
- The type of discussion at the CYPSC is not expected to exclude young people
- We will need to check in on this as we go along, has this become an issue to date?

Our times wont suit them – statutory agencies won't meet in the evening?

- Reminder that this is expected to create change, change in how we do/conduct our work

Can we fund/pay them?

- Gaisce does not provide any supplements to participants. BOBF programme funding for CYPSC from DCYA does allow for expenses incurred by young people attending meetings to be covered. Need to check how this can be operationalised in relation to basic expenses e.g. travel costs under Tusla financial regulations and procedures.

The results maybe too slow for young people?

- They may get frustrated by the length of time it takes to get change experience of this in the group
- If they are only there for 1 year – the change they see will be very limited
- It will be positive to get their feedback on this
- Reminder that the young people involved are 18-24 and therefore issues that may emerge in relation to younger age group, do not apply here.

GardaVetting?

- Gaisce noted the PALs are Garda vettied, others may require Garda vetting depending on the final options (As everyone is over 18 this is likely not an issue)

6. Next Steps

Decision on continuing the process between CYPSC and Gaisce

- all of the participants (Gaisce and CYPSC) felt that there was more than sufficient potential for the process to continue onto the next phase i.e. to test implementation

A test stage

- all of the CYPSC Co-ordinators said they would be interested in engaging in a test or pilot stage. The National Co-ordinator suggested that the test stage include the National Steering Group.
- the view was that the test stage could include a number of CYPSC, a mix of rural and urban would be useful

Next stage information

- information is required from Gaisce (to move to the next phase). The information should include a county by county (CYPSC by CYPSC) list of the projects/agencies/ organisations involved with GAISCE and, the scale of relevant participant involvement
- the information will enable the CYPSC Co-ordinators to identify if any organisations are already engaged in the CYPSC committee or sub-groups and make contact at county level and will then scope out the potential
- Gaisce can provide the names of Gaisce Award Partners (GAP) who deliver the programme for the interested CYPSC areas
- In the first instance they will provide information with a focus on those with bronze, silver and gold level participants that are 18+.
- Gaisce will check GDPR issues and likely only provide the GAP name and location
- Gaisce can contact PALs directly
- Gaisce have nominated Niall Barrett as the key Development officer on the project

CYPSC

- CYPSC Co-ordinators will report back to the CYPSC (it was noted that the CYPSC involved are all actively interested in seeing participation from this age group)
- they will establish if some of the CYPSC agencies are engaged with Gaisce
- they will also establish whether or not there are member agencies interested in engaging from this information they will informally scope out some potential projects or scenarios

Further Steps

- once the CYPSC have established the potential at county level, the variety and the extent of the difference between the potential project and their readiness to process, work will be

- undertaken on “drilling down” into the roles and responsibilities and establishing national and or local agreements: CYPSC Co-ordinator, CYPSC, Agency/PAL,
- Gaisce noted the potential for CYPSC to become a ‘Challenge Partner’, this will need to be explored further at national level.
 - CYPSC participating in the pilot to also consider the role description for potential participants.

In reviewing and closing the session, participants said it was useful to explore the issues involved, substantial work was undertaken at the meeting, they were much clearer on the ideas and expectations now and they were excited by the potential of the project.

Facilitator: Rita Burtenshaw
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Appendix 1: Agenda and list of attendees



GAISCE
THE PRESIDENT'S
AWARD



Realising the 18-24 year old CYPSC member

An exploratory workshop between GAISCE and CYPSC

Purpose:

To explore the potential of a GAISCE/CYPSC partnership to realise youth membership (18-24 years) on CYPSC

- increase our understanding of each GAISCE and CYPSC
- identify relevant policy, plans within GAISCE/CYPSC (and other drivers for the proposal)
- flesh out the broad Proposal/future possible position and options
- identify early implementation issues
- identify next steps

Outline Agenda:

11.00am	Welcome and Introductions -Outline and agreement on agenda and ground rules	Avril & Colma Facilitator
11.15am	GAISCE Overview including: -GAISCE organogram / infrastructure, -profile of GAISCE Gold awardees and participants (number, location, activity and associated organisations) -similar work undertaken, related policy or plans re. participation	Avril
11.40am	CYPSC Overview -CYPSC infrastructure, Guidance document, -summary of CYPSC participation practice & similar work to date	Colma
11.50am	Brief local CYPSC updates (current youth participation, number/times of meetings, to describe their progress towards / readiness for a 18-24 yr old CYPSC member) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clare • Kerry • Donegal • Kildare • Sligo Leitrim • Meath 	Sinead Claire Anne Emma Maeve Leonard
12.20pm	What is the possible broad Proposal/what is envisaged ?	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of the Proposal - role of 18-24 year old, what is expected of them, supports, - role of GAISCE - role of CYPSC (National and County) -How can CYPSC help / contribute towards a Gold Award? <i>(commence the Benefits and Challenges prior to lunchbreak if possible)</i> 	Colma Group Discussion
1.00pm	LUNCH	
1.45pm	<p>Benefits and Challenges</p> <p>What are the benefits for 18-24 year olds generally? What are the benefits for a young person who is a CYPSC member? What are the benefits for the GAISCE, CYPSC agenda? What are the key challenges, issues and gaps with the proposal? Are there other options or opportunities?</p>	Break-out Group Discussion
2.05pm	<p>What are the key implementation issues?</p> <p>What is the pathway for an 18-24 year old to become a CYPSC member? What supports might / would a Young Person (18-24 years) CYPSC member require? Numbers, geographical spread</p>	Group Discussion
2.20pm	<p>What next?</p> <p>Are there sufficient grounds to move the proposal forward What needs to be clarified /resolved at this point What are the possible next steps (information requirements, write-up process, briefings, pilot)</p>	Group Discussion
2.35pm	<p>Check in / Reflection</p> <p>What was achieved, gaps and issues</p>	Group Discussion
2.45pm	CLOSE	

For Reference:

- www.gaisce.ie
- www.cypsc.ie
- GAISCE/CYPSC Partnership Proposal 2018
- [*Guidance for Children and Young People's Services Committees \(CYPSC\) on participation by children and young people in decision-making*](#)
- [*National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making 2015 - 2020*](#)

List of Attendees

A) GAISCE

- Avril Ryan - Operations and Development Manager
- Patricia Owen - Development Officer [South Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Carlow]
- Niall Barrett - Development Officer [North Dublin, Wexford, Wicklow]
- Marc Tuffy - Development Officer [Youth Justice Development Officer]

B) CYPSC

- Sinead Collopy – Clare CYPSC Co-ordinator
- Emma Berney – Kildare CYPSC Co-ordinator
- Maeve Whittington – Sligo Leitrim CYPSC Co-ordinator
- Ann Timony Meehan – Donegal CYPSC Co-ordinator
- Claire O’Toole – Kerry CYPSC Co-ordinator
- Leonard Callaghan – Meath CYPSC Coordinator
- Colma Nic Lughadha – National Co-ordinator for CYPSC

Appendix 2: [Gaisce Presentation](#)



Appendix 3: [CYPSC Presentation](#)



An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of Children and Youth Affairs



CYPSC – GAISCE Exploratory Workshop

Colma Nic Lughadha

National Co-ordinator for Children and Young People's Services Committees

April 2019