

“From Here to Where? ...
Making Connections for Youth Participation”



DIALOGUE AND LEARNING EVENT

29th - 30th April 2008

Jackson's Hotel, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal, Ireland

Border Action
Pobal and Combat Poverty working in partnership



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The Youth Participation Project (YPP) is a cross-border initiative that is facilitating youth participation and real change in the planning and design of health and social care services. The YPP is a unique and innovative model of meaningful youth participation, which is committed to partnership working and has the potential to be replicated throughout the island of Ireland.

Since the YPP was established in 2004, the role of the Project has evolved from regional engagement in participation activities to supporting, facilitating and promoting youth participation throughout the island of Ireland. As the YPP moves forward from regional to national impact we are currently standing at a crossroads where we will be deciding our future direction. To aid us in this process “From Here to Where? ...Making Connections for Youth Participation” will open up dialogue with key players in the field within these islands and beyond. This learning event will create the connections necessary for YPP to move to its next stage of development.

Aims

- > To showcase the learning of the Youth Participation Project
- > To provide a networking opportunity in order to develop relationships between practitioners, key academics and institutions in the area of youth participation and key government departments.
- > To provide learning and development opportunities for those whose role is to involve children and young people.
- > To promote best practice in youth participation by examining a number of key case studies.
- > To ensure best use of research resources.
- > To communicate to a wide audience what is going on in youth participation.
- > To create/support international links.
- > To identify and challenge gaps in knowledge.

Delegates

The event is aimed at anyone who is working with children and young people and who is interested in learning more about youth participation practice. The event is targeted across the statutory, community, voluntary, and academic sectors.

Young people will be presenting and assisting, but the event is primarily targeted at adults.

Speakers

The event will be opened by **Ms Sylva Langford**, Director General, Office of the Minister for Children, Dublin, along with a young person from the reference panel.

Sylva previously worked in the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Department of Social Welfare, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Eastern Health Board.

Keynote Address

Gillian Calvert, Commissioner for Children and Young People, New South Wales, Australia
Participation: Sharing Our Journey

The Commission is an independent advocate for children and young people that reports directly to Parliament. It acts as a bridge between children, young people and decision makers so that their voices are heard. The Commission continually explores different ways of including children and young people in decision making in government, business and local communities.

www.kids.nsw.gov.au

Other Contributors

Dr. John Davis, University of Edinburgh

Participation in Services for Children and Young People: Theory, Reflexivity and Practice

Dr Davis is Head of Department in Educational Studies, at the School of Education of the University of Edinburgh. His work in the field of social justice and inclusion has been recognised internationally and involves in-depth experience of:

- > Promoting user participation in hospitals, mental health services, out of school clubs and respite care centres.
 - > Examining service users, staff and employers views of training in early years, children and family services.
 - > Delivering research projects on equality issues in health, education, community, leisure and social services.
 - > Developing inclusion and interagency projects for a range of public and voluntary organisations.
 - > Creating e-supported continuing professional development courses for education, and early years staff.
 - > Developing curriculum materials to support inclusion in schools and teacher training
- Producing books, journal articles, policy reports and practical guides for practitioners that are underpinned by an examination of the connections between theory, policy and practice.

Liam Cairns, Investing in Children, Durham Local Authority

Creating a Participation Strategy

Liam Cairns is the Director of Investing in Children. He previously worked with children, young people and their families in a variety of social work posts, in different local authorities in Scotland and the north of England before becoming the manager of Investing in Children in 1997.

Originally based in County Durham, and resourced by the local authority and the National Health Service, Investing in Children is an organisation concerned with the human rights of children and has developed a range of innovative strategies designed to create opportunities for children and young people to contribute effectively to democratic processes and become active participants in the design and improvement of services used by them. In 2004, the Investing in Children Development Agency was created, to allow other organisations within the public sector, beyond County Durham, to use the Investing in Children approach. In this way, a community of practice is being created.

Patricia Lewsley, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People and Representatives from the NICCY Youth Panel

Patricia took up post as Commissioner on 8th January, 2007. Previously Ms Lewsley was an MLA and councillor. She has a long track record of working on behalf of children and young people, which includes chairing the All-Party Assembly Groups on Children and Young People, Disability, Diabetes, Anti-Poverty, and Ethnic Minorities. She was a co-founder of Shopmobility in Belfast and initiated the appointment of the first and only Disability/Equal Opportunity Officer in local government.

Contribution from the Ombudsman for Children's Office, Ireland

The Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO) has statutory responsibility for promoting children's rights and welfare in Ireland. The role and functions of the Ombudsman for Children are set out in primary legislation, the Ombudsman for Children's Act, 2002. The main areas of work of the OCO are research and policy (including advising Government on how legislation may affect children); complaints and investigation; and communications and participation. Ensuring that children and young people's voices are heard is central to the philosophy and work of the Ombudsman for Children's Office.

Workshops

- Lobbying for Sexual Health, Milford Community Youth Project.
- Young People and Active Citizenship. Castlederg Youth Forum.
- Don't Judge! Just Listen. The Cedar Foundation, Derry.
- From Durham to Donegal, The Experience of Agenda Days, Donegal Youth Council / Comhairle na nÓg Dhún na nGall and Investing in Children, Durham.
- Outside In. Derry Children's Commission.
- The Big Deal Programme. Northern Ireland Youth Forum.
- Can you evaluate Youth Participation? Ruth Sinclair, National Children Bureau NI Director and Dr. Celia Keenaghan, Principal Research Officer, HSE Population Health, Children and Young People's Team.
- Youth Participation and Vulnerable Young People. Francis Chance, Barnardos, Ireland.
- Youth in Action Funding. Leargas, Youth Work Service and the Youth Council for Northern Ireland.
- Young People and Intercultural Dialogue. Philip Watt, Director, National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism.
- Practitioner's Workshop: Learning from Practice: What are the Outcomes? Cathy Mullan, WHSSB.
- From there to here: Children's Participation in Nicaragua and the UK – Navigating the Tensions. Harry Shier, Cessema, Nicaragua and Currently Practitioner Fellow at the Cities Research Centre, University of the West of England, Bristol.
- Spunout.ie: Weaving a Powerful Web of Participation. Ruairí McKiernan, Founder
- Another Brick in the Wall: Schools and Participation. Anne McAteer, Health Promotion.
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Fee

Residential €200
Non-residential €150

Delegates from the community and voluntary sectors with limited resources should contact us with a view to discussing their needs for a reduced rate for this learning event.

From Here to Where? will begin with lunch at 12.00pm on Tuesday 29th April and finish with lunch on Wednesday 30th April.

A dinner will be served at 7.30pm on Tuesday evening. This will be followed by entertainment provided by the highly acclaimed **Different Drums**, which bring the indigenous drums of Ireland, the Lambeg and the Bodhran together. The music also features the Uilleann pipes, whistles, guitar, snares, long drum and is driven by the engine of the African djembe. A unique celebration of cultural diversity and linkages.

A workshop exploring the Opportunities for Networking Participation Workers on these Islands will follow the event from 2 – 4pm on Wednesday 30th April.

For Bookings Contact:

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Minding the environment is everyone's business, including ours. With this in mind we are endeavouring to e-administer this event.

How to get there

