

Positive Activities for Young People Local Youth Network (LYN) Terms of Reference

September 2014

1. Purpose

Definition of a Local Youth Network

A Local Youth Network (LYN) is a sub group of the Community Area Board. It represents a wide range of community stakeholders who work in partnership to facilitate a range of positive activities across the community area. Young people play a central role in all aspects of the LYN.

Local Youth Networks will identify local needs, priorities and outcomes and make recommendations to the Area Board on how funding for positive activities for young people should be deployed.

The obligations of the Community Area Board are set out in the 'Leaders Guidance for Community Area Boards on Positive Activities for Young People'.

2. Membership

The LYN may include representatives of:

- Members of the Community Area Board
- Young people (see below)
- Schools
- Town and Parish Councils
- Community and voluntary organisations and groups
- Police
- Health organisations
- Other organisations, agencies and individuals that have a genuine interest in promoting the welfare and interests of young people

All representatives must be subject to appropriate safeguarding requirements.

The participation and involvement of young people

Young people must play a central role in all aspects of the LYN including the design, development, delivery and review of the local positive activities offer.

LYNs are encouraged to use a variety of methods to ensure young people participate and are involved in decision-making processes. Existing Youth Advisory Groups (YAGs) may provide a useful forum for involving young people, although the decision to retain these groups is for local determination.

LYNs must ensure that consultation with young people is representative and takes into account the views and needs of underrepresented groups (those with protected characteristics) to ensure compliance with the local authorities Public Sector Equality Duty.

Roles of all members of the LYN

All members will be required to:

- Take an active part in the development of the LYN and its aims.
- Ensure that their organisation is represented by a person of appropriate experience/competency (or his/her appointed deputy) who has full authority within the relevant organisation to speak on behalf of the organisation and contribute fully to all discussions.
- Take responsibility for sharing information with the LYN relevant to their organisation/ stakeholders/sector.
- Contribute any information that may have a bearing on positive activities and ensure that this is shared with the LYN.
- Champion the voice and influence of young people in decision making.
- Be open and honest and work collaboratively.
- Work to promote equality and non-discriminatory practices in all aspects of the LYNs activities.
- Respect all members of the LYN and invited representatives.
- Work to improve outcomes for young people and ensure high quality safeguarding practice.

3. Structure and operation

The wider LYN may come together at events, workshops, youth fairs, meetings and consultations, operating in a way which encourages active engagement, dialogue, debate and improved partnership working between key stakeholders.

A smaller management group will take responsibility for coordinating and planning the LYNs activities. The Chair of the group will be decided locally (and could be a young person). The group will include a member of the Community Area Board, who will work with the Chair to present recommendations and provide updates on progress at Area Board meetings.

The management group will generally comprise of no more than ten members including:

- The chairperson and such other Area Board representatives as wish to attend
- Young people (at least 2)
- A local school representative
- Voluntary/community sector representative
- Any other key stakeholders identified locally

The management group will be supported by:

- The Community Youth Officer
- The Community Area Manager / Community Engagement Officer
- Such other officers as may be appropriate

The appointment of members (excluding officers) to the management group will normally be agreed at a full meeting of the Area Board. Membership may be varied, with the agreement of the Area Board Chairperson, subject to approval at the next full Area Board meeting.

Where required for flexibility, the Area Board may appoint an unnamed representative of an organisation to the management group (e.g. Town/Parish Council or Community Area Partnership) to ensure that the organisation is always represented at meetings. However, it is preferred that the same representative attends if possible to ensure consistency of membership.

If nominal membership of the management group exceeds ten members, attendance at meetings should be sought by those most appropriate to the agenda.

Key responsibilities for the management group include:

- Facilitating and coordinating the process to design, develop, deliver and review positive activities for young people in the local area;
- Maintaining regular and effective communication between all members of the LYN;
- Developing a written overview of the needs, outcomes, priorities and objectives for positive activities in the local area;
- Making recommendations to the Community Area Board on how positive activities funding should be deployed (to include evaluating grant requests and identifying suitable suppliers of positive activities);
- Overseeing the work plan of the Community Youth Officer;
- Monitoring and reporting on the quality and effectiveness of local youth activities;
- Addressing any conflicts of interest that may arise as part of the local decision making process.

Recommendations to the Community Area Board will usually be reached by consensus but if necessary these can be agreed by a vote.

The management group may invite representatives from local organisations/agencies to its meetings etc to provide expertise or to share local knowledge on activities, projects and programmes in the area.

The frequency, location and format of LYN activities should be determined locally, however it is recommended that the management group meets at least six times per year.

4. Media Relations

Members of the LYN may not issue media statements on behalf of the Community Area Board. Any media statements about the work of the LYN should be agreed with between the LYN and Chairperson of the Community Area Board.

5. Review

These terms of reference are subject to change and may be reviewed by the Leader on an annual basis.