

Communication and Consultation

Steering Group for the Development of a new Youth Justice Strategy

This paper sets out the proposed Communication and Consultation arrangements to assist the Steering Group in the development of the new Strategy, separated into two main areas -

A - Direct Advisory Support for the Steering Group

B – Broader Consultation.

A Direct Advisory Support for the Steering Group

1 Advisory Groups. The work of the Steering Group will be assisted by a number of advisory groups, which will allow experts from different fields to provide feedback and advice, as the strategy develops. Particular Steering Group members will act as liaison with the Advisory Groups. So far, we have arrangements for two Advisory Groups but we expect that there will be others, as set out below.

2 Community Sector

Steering Group Liaison - Tanya Ward, CEO, Children's Rights Alliance.

Tanya will facilitate feedback from Child and Community representative groups, using her networks from the Children's Rights Alliance and also in her capacity as Chairperson of the National Advisory Council on the implementation of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures (the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People from 2014 – 2020) and its constituent strategies. The intention is that the new Youth Justice Strategy will form a constituent strategy within the next iteration of the national policy framework after 2020.

3 Academic / Research

Steering Group Liaison – Prof. Ursula Kilkelly, UCC.

Ursula will facilitate feedback from the academic and research community. She is recognised as one of the leading voices in research and discourse on Youth Justice in Ireland and she has already facilitated

some discussions with colleagues on the need for a new national strategy. Ursula is also Chair of the Board of Oberstown Child Detention Campus.

4 Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPs)

IYJS intends to establish an advisory committee for the network of Garda Youth Diversion Projects. This group is not yet established, but it is intended that a representative will join the Steering Group at a later stage.

5 Thematic Issues

5.1 It is anticipated that the Steering Group will decide on a number of key themes for inclusion in the new Strategy. The precise method for assessing each theme may vary but it may include establishing a small advisory group, including one or more Steering Group members and others with relevant expertise including, but not limited to the organisations represented on the Steering Group. (e.g. Courts Service, Prison Service, might be asked to participate).

5.2 Some consultation groups may only meet one or two times depending on the theme that is being discussed, and bearing mind that the steering Group is trying to determine strategic objectives as opposed to conducting detailed examinations. The organisation of consultations and any necessary background work will be facilitated by IYJS.

5.3 Other methods such as surveys or questionnaires to particular groupings (e.g. Garda Juvenile Liaison Officers, Probation Officers, Youth Justice Workers, ACTS service) and focus groups may also be employed to further inform the Steering Group's deliberations.

B Broader Consultations

6 Voice of the Child.

6.1 Hearing the Voice of the Child will be an essential element throughout the strategy development and its subsequent implementation. As a first step, IYJS will engage with the Youth Participation hub in DCYA in relation to this with a view to outlining a framework for this consultation which can be discussed by the Steering Group.

6.2 It may be necessary to establish a sub-group to manage how the voice of the child will be heard and taken into consideration as the strategy develops

7 Open Policy Forum

It is intended to hold an Open Policy Forum with an invited audience of relevant stakeholders. Arrangements for the Forum will be decided following consideration by the Steering Group, including the list of invitees and the broad areas for discussion. It is envisaged that the Open Policy Forum will take place in the first half of 2019.

8 Other Stakeholder Consultations

8.1 IYJS will facilitate any necessary one on one, informal consultations with key stakeholders in the Youth Justice Sector to develop thinking on key themes and of the overall vision for the YJ system.

8.2 There may also be consultation with front line personnel such as Youth Justice Workers, social workers, ACTS service, Garda, Probation Service etc, in particular to help illuminate particular thematic areas, as outlined as 5.3, above.

9 Public Consultation

The format for other public consultation will be considered by the Steering Group and it is envisaged that further public consultations will take place when a reasonably developed draft Strategy is available.



