



**TO: NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**

**RE: Amendments to Local Youth Club Grant Scheme 2015 and integration of the National Quality Standards for Volunteer-led Youth Groups**

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## INTRODUCTION

A Task Group on the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme has met throughout 2014 and early 2015. The aim of the group has been to review the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme processes and documents, to recommend improvements and to agree how best to manage the integration of the National Quality Standards for Volunteer-led Youth Groups into the funding process. The changes detailed below have been agreed by the group and are now being communicated to Education and Training Boards and to National Youth Organisations to inform their work in these areas for 2015.

**Revised Documents:** Some revisions have been made to the application and information documents for 2015; these documents will issue from the DCYA to ETBs in February.

**Timeline:** the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme for 2015 will operate according to a new timeline as follows:

- **February to April** – ETBs will advertise and promote the scheme locally
- **April 17<sup>th</sup> 2015** – Deadline for receipt of funding applications to ETBs by local voluntary groups.

*An Annual Plan and Progress Report* on implementation of the National Quality Standards for Volunteer-led Youth Groups in 2014 should also be submitted to the Youth Officer of the ETB by **April 17<sup>th</sup> 2015**.

- **By end May** – ETBs to announce allocations to successful applicants
- **September 30<sup>th</sup>** – ETBs to submit the required summary report to DCYA
- **December 31<sup>st</sup>** – Local voluntary groups to submit the Club report form to their ETB.

## **Update on integration of reporting on National Quality Standards for Volunteer-led Youth Groups:**

All groups applying for Local Youth Club Grant Scheme funding should now be working towards **National Quality Standards for Volunteer-led Youth Group**. Throughout 2014 and early 2015 many national youth organisations and ETBs have provided support and guidance to volunteer-led youth groups to implement the National Quality Standards. Briefing/Information Sessions have taken place and more are planned throughout 2015

**Youth groups affiliated to national youth organisations** should consult with the Regional Youth / Development Officer of their national/parent organisation in relation to the standards. Youth Officers in ETBs will provide similar support and guidance to **youth groups that are not affiliated to a national youth organisation** or to other locally active groups. (A list of ETB Youth Officers is attached for your information).

Full guidance notes are available in the [Volunteer Group Leaders' Guide to National Quality Standards for Volunteer-led Youth Groups](#) booklet available on [www.dcyv.ie](http://www.dcyv.ie)

It is expected that groups will have attended an Information Session/Briefing on **National Quality Standards for Volunteer-led Youth Groups** by the closing date for applications to the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme. Many groups will also have progressed towards implementation. Groups who have commenced implementation should complete and submit *An Annual Plan and Progress Report* by **Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> 2015**. The report should be submitted to the ETB Youth Officer either via the national/parent organisations for groups affiliated to national youth organisations, or directly to the ETB for unaffiliated groups or groups not working via their national organisations. In 2016 it is envisaged that submission of *An Annual Plan and Progress Report* will be a requirement for an allocation under the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme.

**Youth Affairs Unit**  
**February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015**