

National Youth
Strategy
Consultation –
those working with
young people

Facilitator/Note Taker Briefing Paper

National Youth Strategy – Consultation Briefing Paper

The National Youth Strategy (NYS) has its basis in the overarching National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*, which outlines five outcome areas:

1. Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being
2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development
3. Safe and protected from harm
4. Economic security and opportunity
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world

The National Youth Strategy will apply the five national outcomes to young people, and sets out how the Government intends to achieve these in collaboration with key partners. The National Youth Strategy is one of three to be completed by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) under the overarching Framework. The others are the National Early Years Strategy and the National Policy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making.

Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures has been informed by over 1,000 written submissions and bilateral discussions with Government departments and state agencies. It was also informed by consultation with over 60,000 children and young people under the age of 18.

A more focussed consultation specific to the National Youth Strategy and engagement with stakeholders, including young people, needs to take place, particularly in relation to the priorities for the National Youth Strategy and what actions are needed across Government, agencies and other relevant sectors such as youth sector, business etc. (whole of society approach) to deliver on the strategy, who should carry out these actions and by when.

The emerging priorities builds on *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* and previous consultations that have been carried out with young people over the past three years such as the EU Structured Dialogue Process, *Being Young and Irish, Growing Up in Ireland* and other relevant consultations, reports and surveys that have identified issues of importance to young people.

It must be recognised that there are a multitude of issues facing young people in Ireland today. Some of these issues, while they may only reflect a relatively small number of young people are of such concern that they may have to be given precedence. Additionally, the National Youth Strategy, as a whole of Government strategy for young people, will not be able to address in detail every issue raised through the consultation. It will however determine the most pressing priorities at a high level that can be progressed through the National Youth Strategy and identify actions to progress these priorities.

There are two main elements of the consultation process – consultation with young people through an online survey and a consultation event and consultation with stakeholders and those working with young people

Consultation with those working with young people

There are two parallel strands to consulting with those working with young people:

Strand 1: Online Survey for those working with young people:

This is to be completed following group discussions held locally among those working with young people (staff and volunteers). This will enable greater numbers of staff and volunteers of youth sector organisations to express their views. A template has been created for use as a discussion document and is mirrored online where the conclusions of the discussions can be entered.

Strand 2: Stakeholder Consultation Days

There will be 2 consultations days (the content and format is the same on both days) which are open to those working with young people to attend. Details can be found on the DCYA website (www.dcy.a.ie). Feedback from the online survey for young people and the online template for youth workers will be provided on those days and discussed in more detail.

Consultation with those working with young people

Guidance

The purpose of the group discussions is to allow those working with young people, both paid staff and volunteers the opportunity to discuss and input into the National Youth Strategy.

In particular, it provides an opportunity for those who may not be able to attend the consultation events (e.g. volunteers) to have their views and opinions taken into consideration. The group discussion is not intended to be highly formalised but rather a guided discussion with clear conclusions. The discussions should last 30 – 45 minutes. The conclusions from each discussion can then be uploaded via this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NYSYouthWorkers> for consideration.

The following is intended as guidance only and the group discussion may be facilitated in the way you/your organisation feel is most appropriate. However, prior to determining how you will design the group discussions please consider the information that you will need to gather in order to complete the online template:

1. Each outcome area to be ranked on a scale of 1 – 5 (1 being most important, 5 being least important)
2. The top areas for young people from the list provided in order of importance 1 – 5 (1 being most important, 2 being the next most important etc)
3. The critical enablers for effective implementation ranked 1 – 4 in order of importance (1 being most important, 4 being least important)
4. 200 words or less summary of the key points covered in the discussion not included in 1 – 3 above

Note: The information should be reached by the consensus from the group. If this is not possible please use a system of priority voting/multivoting.

Suggested Group Size: Maximum 10

Materials Required: Copies of the background to the National Youth Strategy, copies of the Handout and 2 copies of this document (one for the facilitator, one for the note-taker)

The following is a suggested outline for the group discussions

1. Select a facilitator and a note-taker for the group
2. *Note taker:* Record the total number of participants in the group and the number of paid staff (whatever capacity) and number of volunteers. Record key points throughout the discussion
3. *Facilitator:* Circulate the background to the National Youth Strategy and allow participants time to read it
4. Discuss the following questions and determine priority areas/rankings
5. *Note Taker:* Record determinations of the group. At the end of the session, feed these back to the group and also the key points that you have captured. Upload the conclusions of the group through the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NYSYouthWorkers>

Question 1: Five National Outcomes

The following is a list of the five national outcomes as outlined in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People: 2014 -2020*.

Please rate each of the five outcomes on a scale of 1 – 5 (1 being most important and 5 being least being least important) in terms of their importance to the young people you work with (each outcome is to be rated separately so you can have as many 5's or 1's as you like)

| Outcome Area | Most Important 1 | Quite Important 2 | Important 3 | Not very important 4 | Least Important 5 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being | | | | | |
| 2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development | | | | | |
| 3. Safe and protected from harm | | | | | |
| 4. Economic security and opportunity | | | | | |
| 5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world | | | | | |

Question 2: Areas of Importance to Young People

The following list is based on consultations with young people over the past number of years. Please consider the list and prioritise the areas of importance to young people. *Note:* Not all of the items have to be ranked, please prioritise as many, or as few, as the group chooses

Please rank the following with 1 being most important, 2 next important and so on

| Area | Rank |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1 Jobs | |
| 2 Learning & Studying | |
| 3 Access to services | |
| 4 Good Mental Health | |
| 5 Included in Community | |
| 6 Cultural Diversity and Integration | |
| 7 Involvement in social issues/participation in politics | |
| 8 Personal & Online Safety | |
| 9 Alcohol and Substance Misuse Prevention | |
| 10 Transport | |
| 11 Dealing with Bullying | |
| 12 Positive Self-Image | |
| 13 Emigration | |
| 14 Relationships & Sexuality | |
| Other – please specify | |

Question 3: Effective Implementation

A key element of the National Youth Strategy will be to ensure effective implementation of the strategy. The following list is based on key activities, as outlined in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*, to ensure the success of the National Youth Strategy and to achieve the five national outcomes for young people.

Please rank from 1 - 4 (1 being most important and 4 being least important):

| Area | Rank |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Ensuring quality services for young people | |
| Enhancing workforce development | |
| Improve planning and co-ordination at all levels | |
| Improved data collection to support service development | |

General Comments

We recognise that the above exercise will have generated lots of debate and discussion. Please summarise the most important points below (200 word_maximum). There is also the possibility to reflect back the discussion through the National Consultation Day's for Stakeholders.

Handout for Participants:

Background to the National Youth Strategy

The National Youth Strategy (NYS) has its basis in the overarching National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures*, which outlines five outcome areas:

1. Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being
2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development
3. Safe and protected from harm
4. Economic security and opportunity
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world

The National Youth Strategy will apply the five national outcomes to young people, and sets out how the Government intends to achieve these outcomes in collaboration with key partners. The National Youth Strategy is one of three to be completed by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs under the overarching Framework. The others are the National Early Years Strategy and the National Policy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making.

Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures has been informed by over 1,000 written submissions and bilateral discussions with Government departments and state agencies. It was also informed by consultation with over 60,000 children and young people under the age of 18.

A more focussed consultation specific to the National Youth Strategy and engagement with stakeholders, including young people, needs to take place, particularly in relation to the priorities for the NYS and what actions are needed across Government, agencies and other relevant sectors such as youth sector, business etc. (whole of society approach) to deliver on the strategy, who should carry out these actions and by when.

The emerging priorities builds on *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* and previous consultations that have been carried out with young people over the past three years such as the EU Structured Dialogue Process, *Being Young and Irish, Growing Up in Ireland* and other relevant consultations, reports and surveys that have identified issues of importance to young people.

Consultation is being carried out with young people, those working with young people and other stakeholders in the National Youth Strategy.

For more information on *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* and the development of the National Youth Strategy please visit www.dcyia.ie

Handout for Participants:

Five National Outcomes

1. Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being
2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development
3. Safe and protected from harm
4. Economic security and opportunity
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world

Areas of Importance to Young People

- Jobs
- Learning & Studying
- Good Mental Health
- Access to Services
- Included in Community
- Cultural Diversity & Integration
- Involvement in social issues/participation in politics
- Personal & Online Safety
- Alcohol and Substance Misuse Prevention
- Transport
- Dealing with Bullying
- Positive Self-Image
- Emigration
- Relationships & Sexuality

Priorities for Implementation

- Ensuring quality services for young people
- Enhancing workforce development
- Improve planning and co-ordination at all levels
- Improved data collection to support service development

Template for Completion by Note taker

Date: _____

Number of participants:

Staff Volunteers

Optional: Location of discussion group (county):

Question 1: Five National Outcomes

Complete the following table based on the consensus of the group. **Each outcome area to have a score from 1 – 5 (1 being most important, five being least important)**

| Outcome Area | Score |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being | |
| 2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development | |
| 3. Safe and protected from harm | |
| 4. Economic security and opportunity | |
| 5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world | |

Question 2: Areas of Importance to Young People

Complete the following table based on the consensus of the group:

Five topics to be selected rated 1 – 5 (1 being most important, 2 being next most important and so on until the fifth option has been selected.)

| Area | Rank |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1 Jobs | |
| 2 Learning & Studying | |
| 3 Access to services | |
| 4 Good Mental Health | |
| 5 Included in Community | |
| 6 Cultural Diversity and Integration | |
| 7 Involvement in social issues/participation in politics | |
| 8 Personal & Online Safety | |
| 9 Alcohol and Substance Misuse Prevention | |
| 10 Transport | |
| 11 Dealing with Bullying | |
| 12 Positive Self-Image | |
| 13 Emigration | |
| 14 Relationships & Sexuality | |
| Other – please specify | |

Question 3: Effective Implementation

A key element of the National Youth Strategy will be to ensure effective implementation. The following list is based on key elements as outlined in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, to ensuring the success of the National Youth Strategy.

Please rank from 1 - 4 (**1 being most important and 4 being least important**):

| Area | Rank |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Ensuring quality services for young people | |
| Enhancing workforce development | |
| Improve planning and co-ordination at all levels | |
| Improved data collection to support service development | |

General Comments (200 words or less)

The results of the group discussion should be uploaded to the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NYSYouthWorkers>