

Report from PPN Advisory Group -7th June 2017-06-12

The group has a new Principal Officer-Jason Kearney

Advisory Group Nomination Process

Most PPNs were confining the call for nominations to the Secretariat. Each secretariat can submit three names , one from each college. All names will go into a hat . Final meeting of Existing group will take place in September with new group starting in October

National PPN Coordinator

There was a lot of discussion on this item. However on the advice of the Department officials present it was felt that a request for funding for a part time administrator for each PPN would have more of a chance of success so it was decided to put this request formally to the department.

Salesforce

Many PPNs reported problems with Salesforce. The Volunteer Centre has a support contract to the end of 2017. PPNs requested that this should be extended to 2018 as most PPNs found the support they got from Trish Murphy of Volunteer Centre very helpful.

National PPN Conference

Sligo is the EU capital for Volunteering for 2017 so Sligo PPN is proposing to hold a national PPN conference outlining the progress of PPNs under Social, Political, Cultural and Environmental headings to be held possibly in October. It could be used to formally launch the PPN plus launch the activity report 2016.

Sligo PPN does an annual report that is presented to the County Council .

Activity Report

There were no amendments to the template for the activity report that had been circulated. Social Justice Ireland have agreed to collate all the quantifiable data. A sub group has been set up to advise on the final shape of the report (I'm a member of the sub –group)

Expenditure

The Department stressed the importance of keeping notional expenditure as accurate as possible. They don't want reports with very little actual expenditure .

DPER Consultation

The Principal Officer was going to a meeting in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to discuss ways of consulting PPNs in relation to budgets etc.

Environmental Pillar

Michael Ewing of the Environmental Pillar had been asked to look at how the number of environmental groups could be expanded so that there would be broader representation . He has now set up a Dublin Community Environmental Network and done some work with Laois PPN to address the issue. He needs more resources and support to build up the environmental Pillar. The

Environmental Pillar is part of an European Project raising awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals focussing on PPNs and Council Staff.

Well Being Statement

SJI is looking at producing a toolkit on how this can be done and hoping to have a roll out of a simple framework by Autumn.

Training for PPNs

SJI has done extensive training with PPNs, Councils, Councillors

Main issues arising :

- PPNs would like more engagement with policy and policy issues
- How to make linkage groups work
- More integration of the PPN reps on different bodies

SJI has developed a Degree in Social Policy in partnership with Waterford IT., to be run part time.

There is also training being developed for LCDCs .