



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Comhairle na nÓg  
National Executive

Comhairle na nÓg National Executive

Meeting newsletter 1

12th Feb 2022

# Attendees



Clare, Oisín Coughlan; Cork City, Akshita Gupta; Cork County, Amy O'Brien; Donegal, Erin Gallagher; Dublin City, Emma Whelan; Dublin South, Marly Bah; DLR, Prachi Agrawal; Fingal , Sophie Leahy; Galway City, Leo O'Connell; Galway County, Eimear Nic Dhonnachadha ; Kerry, Máire O'Shea; Kildare Aoibhe Toft; Kilkenny, Michael Doyle; Laois , Lucy Doyle; Leitrim, Niamh Ryan; Limerick, Sarah Jane Williams; Longford, Dariusz Konefal; Louth, Andrew Rosbotham; Mayo, Sinead Murray; Meath, Grayson Mcgill; Monaghan, Dylan McKenna; Offaly, Jamila Mokrani; Roscommon, Ruth Cunningham; Sligo, Alfie Barron; Tipperary, Jack Ryan; Waterford, Saoirse Firth; Westmeath, Tori Trower; Wexford, Doireann Rossiter; Wicklow, Kate Macadam

## Introductions to the National Participation Office team

- Renagh Hayden, Participation Manager
- Suzanne Byrne, Participation Officer
- Karyn Farrell, Participation Coordinator



Padlet - led by Suzanne in full group

Here are some of the comments made by National Executive members

## Hopes

- "I hope to meet lots of new people + to work on creating change nationally!!"
- "To work towards something that makes a real change to people"
- "To work effectively as a team to provide as much positive change, whatever form that may take, as we can to not only youth, but to other sectors of society"

# Fears



- "Not being listened to"
- "not feeling like any change has been made"
- " being nervous around new people, feeling awkward"
- " speaking in big groups"

# Expectations

- "To be able to bring awareness to certain issues surrounding equality"
- " To feel after the two years I have helped make an impact"
- " new friendships and overcoming my fears"
- " to make a positive impact and meet likeminded amazing people"

To read all comments, click on the link below

<https://padlet.com/sbyrne44/i8z5dqardba31hwl>

# What is the National Executive



DCEDIY Participation Unit input by Linda O'Sullivan (in place of Eileen Leahy who is the DCEDIY Assistant Principal Officer with responsibility for Comhairle na nÓg National Executive)  
Eileen will be taking over for all future meetings

## Comhairle na nÓg

- Permanent Structure for Young People's Participation in Decision-Making in Ireland
- One of Ireland's commitments to ensuring children and young people have a voice in decision-making. This is set out in Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Local Level - Local Comhairle na nÓg, each Local Authority
- National Level - National Executive

## Role of Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

- To support and enable National Executive of Comhairle na nÓg to progress their chosen topic
- To work with National Executive to influence change at government level

# What is the Participation Framework?



<https://hubnanog.ie/participation-framework/>

Supports government and other organisations to improve their practice in listening to children and young people and giving them a voice in decision-making

## How will it help you?

- A model, checklists and feedback forms
- Guidance on how adult decision-makers should involve young people in decision-making

## How DCEDIY worked with Nat Exec 2019-2020

- Work with Nat Exec and National Participation Team to identify what resources and support are needed – e.g. experts to talk to nat exec, commission research, set up meetings with decision-makers.
- Set up a Steering Committee made up of members who can help Nat Exec with knowledge and understanding of the problem, who have power to influence change.
- Support Nat Exec when they are ready to meet the decision makers.
- Support Nat Exec when they are ready to develop material, research, social media campaigns to promote their work.

## What else might National Executive of Comhairle be asked to do:



- Sometimes government departments and agencies or ministers might want to get the National Executive's opinion on something.
- DCEDIY will work with you and the participation team to help you form and give your views on the question.
- Be involved in working to improve Comhairle na nÓg as set out in Comhairle's five year development plan.

## Your role as a member of Comhairle na nÓg National Executive

- Attend meetings to the best of your ability
- Tell us what you need.
- Communicate back to your Local Comhairle na nÓg. Let them know what the National Executive is doing.
- Let us know when our work is not meeting the standards of the Participation Framework.

## Test your Comhairle na nÓg knowledge – Kahoot quiz led by Karyn



The winner was Aoibhe who had 100% correct answers – very impressive

Second place – Doireann

Third place – Leo

## Information on Dáil na nÓg 2022 – Renagh

- It will take place on **Sat 26th March** in the Convention Centre in Dublin
- All National Executive members are required to attend, along with their fellow Comhairle members
- The Minister will be present on the day at the Opening Ceremony
- There will be an input from the previous National Executive on their work on the Youth Travel Card and two of them will be MCs for the event
- You will have the opportunity to participate in a workshop on the topic of Equality



# Workshop session at Dáil na nÓg 2022



In October 2022 we ran three online events on the Dáil na nÓg topic of Equality with Comhairle members from all over the country. Across the three days, the same themes emerged again and again. Below are the three overarching recommendations which will be discussed in detail at this year's event

Every delegate will have the opportunity to discuss each of these topics in detail, and at the end of the day will vote on the topic which they think should go forward to form the workplan for the new National Executive.

- **Addressing inequality and barriers to education**
- **Addressing gender inequality**
- **A more inclusive relationships and sexuality education**



## Date for the next meeting



- Likely to take place midweek during the Easter Holidays - date to be confirmed
- It will be a full day in-person meeting in DCEDIY buildings, Miesian Plaza, Baggot St, Dublin 2
- Karyn will be in touch with everyone in advance with details of reimbursement of travel expenses, directions and public transport info