

Presentation to Eurodesk Conference

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Where to Now?

- Where have we come from?
- Why now?
- Where have we got to?
- Where do we want to get to?
- What are the next steps to take us there?



Where have we come from?

- Operating for more than 25 years
- Underpinned by youth policy in Ireland and the European Union
- The Standards for Youth Information Centre's – the first Quality Standards Framework!
- Recognition at EU level that they underpinned quality provision
- Youth Information contributes to the objectives set out in a range of policy and strategy documents
- EU White Paper – A New Impetus for European Youth identifies information as a priority



Where have we come from?

- National Youth Work Development Plan – Action 1.10 proposed a review and possible upgrading and expansion of the network of existing youth information centres
- National Youth Information Monitoring Committee- excellent example of interagency working
- Strong strategic alliances e.g. Eurodesk
- Young person centred work
- Dedicated and professional staff
- Innovation and creativity



Why now?

- Unequal access for young people to youth information services
- Provision and distribution of services has little connection to demographics
- Need to respond to the changing needs of young people
- Review did not deliver the outcomes we had hoped for
- Lack of a shared vision
- Previous strategic vacuum at Departmental level
- Perceived/Real lack of strategic focus on youth information within youth organisations



Why now?

- Continuing lack of co-ordination and support
- Duplication of effort
- ‘Interim arrangements’ have become semi-permanent
- Ireland falling further behind other European countries
- Development of new Youth Strategy/Policy Framework
- New European Youth Strategy – “Youth - Investing and Empowering” 2009 recognises the mobilisation of youth information networks as a key priority
- It also recognises the opportunities that new technology offers young people for ‘learning, creating and participating



Where have we got to?

- Recognition that every young person has a right to quality information
- Recognition that the current services don't reach every young person
- Since Nov 2009 NYCI facilitating current providers
- Developed a strong shared commitment to a joint way forward for youth information
- Agreement that Youth Information is of strategic importance



Where have we got to?

- Expressed strong strategic commitment to youth information in organisations
- Strong commitment to ensure all young people have access to quality information
- Strong commitment to an integrated service
- Strong commitment to developing a shared vision
- Strong commitment to shared values
- Strong commitment to use of new technologies
- Recognition of the passionate and committed workers
- Recognition of best practice



Where do we want to get to?

- A new era for youth information in the long term
- Young people as central players in the design, implementation and evaluation of the service
- Working together –avoiding duplication, getting synergy through sharing ideas, information, expertise and resources
- Opening access for all young people to quality youth friendly information
- A universal service that targets young people in areas of disadvantage



Where do we want to get to?

- Consistent high quality youth information services available to all young people
- Strong branding/strong strategic alliances
- Aimed at deepening and broadening current provision
- Ensuring a cohesive, consistent and co-ordinated approach
- Within an integrated strategic framework
- Evidence based and needs led



Where do we want to get to?

- An approach based on strategic co-operation across the youth sector at national and local level
- Makes effective use of new technologies
- Ensuring the service is located within the new strategic framework for children and young people
- Strong national leadership and co-ordination
- Flexibility at local level to respond to local needs
- Have Champions for the new youth information service across the sector



What are the next steps to take us there?

- Positive!!!!!!!!!!
- Agreed shared vision/mission/values
- Agreed shared goals for Phase 1
- Establish an interim 'Board'
- Develop a 'memorandum of understanding'
- Put in place a comprehensive consultation process that includes all the stakeholders
- Research
- Consult/inform the OMCYA
- Resourcing
- Implementation



Thank you

