

Community Connect conference Report
Wed. Oct 10th 2018 in Ormonde hotel, Kilkenny



Wexford PPN represented by attendees: Ms. Annette Dupuy, Noel Stacey and David Doyle

Welcome address: Delivered by John Warren of JE Warren consulting.

Official opening : Performed by John Paul Phelan, T.D. Minister of state Dept of Housing, Planning and Local Govt.

Opening session: Proceeded on time

General session : Presented by Mr. John Farrelly, CEO of the Charities Regulatory Authority.

Educational sessions: Attendees could choose from three educational sessions schedules throughout the day's conference, each with three different subject areas.

Session 1 (1045 – 1145 AM) contained the following choices.

- Memo and Arts, facilitated by Sean Nolan . David Doyle attended this session wherein the participants explored why a governing document is needed. How it should be used and how we can use it to become a more effective organisation. The lessons learnt were applicable to both a parent PPN organisation as well as member organisations within PPN. i.e. While the depth of a private commercial company constitution is not always necessary, best practise suggests **For a PPN as follows:** 1) it would be worth reviewing PPN guiding constitution/or its memorandum with LA. 2) review any articles of association. 3) Review activities stated in the memorandum being implemented. 4) Memo should state explicitly governance relationships and roles and goals.
- **Fund raising:** facilitated by Kevin Dempsey this session explored how to mobilise support from the community. It looked at examples and experiences of fund raising campaigns.
- **Role of company secretary** , facilitated by Conor Sweeney it examined key responsibilities and statutory duties.

Session 2 12.00 – 1.00 PM contained choices as follows:

- **Social enterprise**, facilitated by Eoghan Ryan, it was about delivering innovative solutions for critical social issues. From a member group within our PPN it can be noted that a related recent publication and essential reading on this subject was written by Senan Cooke Ph. D "The Enterprising Community", its 5 key conclusions and 11 enabling tools and 25 case studies lend a good start off kit to anyone wanting to follow up on social enterprise ideas.
- **Leadership and managing change** session was facilitated by Carol Conway
- **Communications** session was facilitated by Gert Ackerman. It explored why we should communicate, are we communicating the right message in the right way? Who we should be communication with? David Doyle attended this session with some main lessons learnt

and applicable both at PPN level and at member organisation local level. 1) A review should be undertaken to see where a Vision and Strategy could be beneficially re-articulated, the benefits of having a strategy no matter how simple or detailed can help the organisation, PPN or otherwise. It may be noted that the PPN implements a strategy, none the less, a recommendation for Wexford PPN emanating from this part of the conference is that a dedicated work group be given Terms of Reference to review Wexford PPNs Vision and strategy for Communications as we work forward. **From a member group perspective the lesson learnt is that, it depends on the group's context but it appears to be a central tenet for all local groups that connectivity and engagement with community are communication issues which need to be addressed in order to improve effectiveness.**

Session 3 , 3.15 PM – 4.15 PM covered the following topics:

- **Data Protection, Hugh Jones** Explored where are we post GDPR? It gave practical tips re membership forms and re – registration
- **Good governance, Eva Gurn** This session explored what good governance looks like. It sought to better define roles, goals and responsibilities. Consistency and equity were issues much sought after in organisations was a key conclusion.
- **Effective minute taking, Ruari Cosgrove** Attended by David Doyle, this session explored what you need to know in order to take good minutes. How agenda planning contributes to effective minute taking was examined. While the PPN is very well served in these respects by an efficient and effective Support Officer, the lessons learnt were more applicable at members local organisation levels. Recommendation, that this subject area be included in capacity building events.

Conclusions.

In addition to the a/m recommendations I suggest the following **broad conclusions firstly for Wexford secretariat PPN:**

- Selected field trips should be undertaken to known successful groups such as 1) Global Investment brief (DREL, CO Waterford) for Enterprise Site briefing. 2) Cumasu 22; Assets and opportunities Audit and report on findings should be invited to present findings.

Secondly for member groups:

- **In capacity building events, presentations on Communications and on Effective minute taking as part of and within the subject area of effective committee workings could be beneficial.**

David Doyle.

David Doyle Oct 31st 2018