
Second Meeting of the Engaging Young Men Project (EYMP) Advisory Group: Minutes

Date:	Wednesday 26 th March 2014
Time:	1.00pm - 2.30pm
Venue:	Video-link between the Institute of Public Health in Ireland's Dublin and Belfast offices
Present:	<u>Dublin</u> - Lorcan Brennan, Paula Carroll, Billy Grace, Finian Murray, Owen Metcalfe and Bidy O'Neill <u>Belfast</u> - Colin Fowler
Apologies:	Nick Clarke, Susan Kenny, Maria Lohan and Noel Richardson
Chairperson:	Owen Metcalfe
Minutes:	Colin Fowler

Agenda Items

1. Welcome and Introductions

Owen, as Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked them for their attendance. He introduced Billy Grace - the postgraduate student from the Institute of Technology in Carlow (ITC) who will be undertaking the mapping stage of the Engaging Young Men Project (EYMP). Everyone present was asked to introduce themselves to Billy. Colin will make sure that Billy is included in the mailing list for EYMP minutes.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the first Advisory Group meeting were accepted and approved as an accurate reflection of that gathering.

3. Matters Arising

- Susan has not yet sent Colin a copy of the NOSP reporting template. Colin will contact Susan to request this.
- Bidy informed the group that the contact she had mentioned in Headstrong is Gillian O'Brien, Director of Education and Training. Gillian's telephone number is: 01 472 7010. Colin will contact Gillian to ask if she would be willing and free to join the Advisory Group.
- It has been agreed that Paula will act in a support role to the mapping research which Billy Grace is currently undertaking.
- All other tasks proposed at the January meeting have been completed.

4. Terms of Reference

Colin made the necessary amendments to the Terms of Reference document and circulated them for approval before today's meeting. It was felt that the revised version is clear and accurate, and they were accepted by the group.

5. Research Tender for Mapping Exercise

5.1 Invitation to Tender Document

Colin drafted an Invitation to Tender document and circulated this to the Tender Sub-Group (Owen, Bidy and Susan) for approval. A few minor amendments were suggested, and these were included in the final paper. Colin was asked to send a copy of this file to all Advisory Group members for their records.

At the January 2014 Advisory Group meeting, it was agreed that any member of the Group from a research background could bid to undertake the mapping exercise - rather than putting it out to open tender. Only the National Centre for Men's Health (NCMH) in ITC was interested in undertaking this piece of work, and a copy of the Invitation to Tender document was forwarded to them. Paula Carroll from Waterford Institute of Technology will, however, also act as a supervisor and researcher for this initiative.

The Invitation to Tender document was issued to NCMH on Thursday 30th January 2014 and the date for return was Noon on Tuesday 11th February 2014. As there was only one applicant, the Tender Sub-Group felt that there was no need to meet to discuss the application and, instead, agreed the proposal via email correspondence.

5.2 Service Agreement with NCMH

Colin drafted a Service Agreement with NCMH, and circulated it to the Tender Sub-Group for approval. This was accepted, issued to NCMH, and the electronically signed copy was received by Colin on Monday 24th February. Colin acted as the signatory for the EYMP Advisory Group and Noel Richardson signed on behalf of NCMH. Colin will re-send a copy of this Service Agreement to all Advisory Group members for their records.

5.3 Mapping Exercise Progress

Billy Grace was asked to provide a progress update on the mapping exercise part of EYMP. He informed the group that ...

- He has been appointed as the postgraduate student to undertake research related to this initiative.
- The project began on schedule (i.e. Monday 3rd March 2014).
- The ITC Ethics Committee was asked to review the research proposal, and approval for it has been granted.
- The first six weeks of the research will focus upon: agreeing the scope of papers and publications to be reviewed; reviewing academic and grey literature; preparing a synthesis of key findings; making preparations for Focus Groups (e.g. agreeing target groups, making contact with participants, arranging venues and catering); finalising a list of key questions for the Focus Groups.
- The Young Men and Suicide Project report, the National Men's Health Policy in Ireland, and NCMH's existing resources have proved to be useful starting points for his investigation.
- The literature review on young men and mental health will examine both academic and 'grey' literature, and will have a specific focus upon identifying examples of models that work well with young men.
- Noel and Billy will cross-check all findings.

It is expected that the literature review will inform what can / should be developed. However, one of the biggest problems is that much of the literature reports overall findings, rather than the practical steps and stages which need to be followed to engage young men e.g. the effectiveness of posters and fliers, where to advertise, use of texting and social media, what will attract young men to a programme etc.

6. Filters for Literature Review

There was a wide-ranging discussion about who this project should target and what the filters for the literature review should be. It was agreed that ...

- The focus should be upon young men aged 18-30 years – so, avoiding school age young people who are already being catered for.
- Our role is to look at preventative measures for the whole population of young men, rather than treatment-based provision for young men who are already in contact with support services (although it is recognised that there might still be something to learn from exploring why and how these young men got ‘into the system’).
- Initiatives in the community, voluntary and statutory sectors should all be considered.
- The literature review should specifically explore the ways and means of creating positive environments / ‘hooks’ which will encourage young men to be involved in programmes. The EYMP focuses upon how to get young men involved, rather than what to offer them. However, it was acknowledged that sometimes it may be the type of programme which is, itself, the hook.

7. Focus Groups

The following agreements were made ...

- There should be at least 8-10 participants recruited for each Focus Group to allow for one or two drop-outs on the day.
- Since the minimum target age range has been increased to 18 years of age, there is no longer a need to recruit secondary level teachers. Instead, college lecturers / Student Union officers are the most appropriate respondents.
- Paula informed the group that the Garda in Templemore were very supportive when the National Men’s Health Policy was being devised, and might be a good point of contact for this initiative as well. She will pass on the contact details to Billy.
- Noel will help to make contact with the Sports Council, FAI, GAA and IRFU.
- The clergy hold their AGM in May. It might be useful to request a meeting during this time.
- It was acknowledged that Primary Health Care staff are likely to be the most difficult to access. Bidy will contact Shirley Keane about arranging a meeting with the Primary Care Team.
- It was agreed that there is a lot of relevant experience amongst youth and community workers in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. If possible, a Focus Group will be run in each jurisdiction. Colin will help Billy to identify participants in Northern Ireland. This group is likely to include a lot of the trainees on the current ‘Engage’ programme.
- Billy will send a copy of the information pack for potential respondents to Bidy so that she can pass it on to Shirley Keane.

The proposed list of Focus Groups is:

- Lecturers and student union officers - South East
- Sports coaches and sporting bodies - Dublin
- Probation services and Gardai - Dublin / Templemore
- Youth and community workers - South East
- Youth and community workers – Northern Ireland
- Clergy and chaplains - Letterkenny
- Personnel from men's health / mental health organisations - Galway
- GPs - possibly at their Summer School in June
- Young men who are 'experts by experience' - via youth mental health organisations such as Headstrong or ReachOut.com Other useful contacts might be Anne Sheridan and Janet Gaynor in Donegal
- Statutory Primary Care Staff - possible contacts include Sean McCarthy, Agatha Lawless, Linda Thorpe and Lawrence Gaughan (Mayo - Paula has contact)
- Workplace Occupational Health - have been contacted but we won't do anything more unless SIPTU respond.

8. Action Points

- Colin will add Billy's email address to the EYMP Advisory Group mailing list.
- Colin will contact Susan to get a copy of the NOSP reporting template.
- Colin will contact Gillian O'Brien from Headstrong to ask if she would be willing and free to join the EYMP Advisory Group.
- Colin will email copies of the Invitation to Tender document and the Service Agreement with NCMH to Advisory Group Members.
- Billy will coordinate the convening of the Focus Groups.
- Paula will pass on the contact details for the Garda in Templemore to Billy.
- Noel will help Billy to make contact with the Sports Council, FAI, GAA and IRFU.
- Bidy will contact Shirley Keane about arranging a meeting with the Primary Care Team.
- Billy will send a copy of the information pack for potential respondents to Bidy so that she can pass it on to Shirley Keane.
- Colin will help Billy to identify people from community and youth work settings in Northern Ireland as potential participants in a Focus Group.

9. Next Meeting

Wednesday 28th May 2014, from 1.30pm until 3.00pm, via video-link between the Institute of Public Health in Ireland's Dublin and Belfast offices.