

VOLUNTEERING CONFERENCE -26/27 NOVEMBER 2001

Minutes of Meeting - 24 July 2001

The meeting was arranged to allow the Belfast and Dublin secretariats to prepare a draft format for the Conference for submission to the two sub-committees.

I Overall Objectives

The overall objectives were agreed as follows.

Objective: To celebrate the historical contribution of volunteering

Method: Presentations

Objective: To develop a shared understanding/view of volunteerism.

Method: Presentations and workshops.

Objective: To identify changes within society which present new challenges for volunteerism and explore ways in which the Sector can meet them.

Method: Presentations and workshops.

Objective: To encourage volunteering

Method: Presentations, primarily international speakers, and workshops.

Objective: To develop and promote a shared vision for the development of volunteering.

Method: Presentations and workshops.

It was agreed that the objectives should be linked to the aims.

II Key Components for Success

The following will need to be achieved in order for the Conference to be successful.

- Expectations must be set to what can realistically be achieved.
- Speakers must be inspirational.
- There should be ample time for delegates to network.
- All delegates should have an opportunity to contribute.
- There should be tangible output from the Conference.

III Proposed Format of the Conference

Day 1

10.30 -12.00 **Registration**

12.00 -1.00 **Buffet Lunch**

1.00 -1.45 Entertainment by "Different Drums"

1.45- 2.05 *Chris Flood/Jimmy Kearney*

- Opening Welcome

Ministerial Representatives

- IYV and Event Endorsement [Minister Dermot Ahern; Minister Maurice Morrow?]

2.05- 2.25 **Sharon Capeling-Alakija, UN Volunteers**

- Volunteering in an international context
- IYY experience from a global perspective
- Recognition of the value and contribution of volunteering

2.25- 2.45 **Dr. Duncan Morrow, Professor in University of Ulster**
Dr. Freda Donoghue, National College of Ireland

- Recognise the historical contribution of volunteering
- Review where Irish society has come from and the new social trends
- Identify the new challenges as a result of changing trends
- Recognise the value of volunteering and the importance of preserving it

2.45- 4.30 *Single Topic Workshops*

Workshop Objectives

- Review definition of Volunteer and arrive at a shared view
- Identify the key elements of volunteering
- Identify the challenges facing the future of volunteering
- Identify methods of appealing to diverse pools of volunteers

4.30- 5.00 **Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS**

- Review the term "Volunteer"
- Identify differences between "Community" and "Voluntary"
- Identify the importance of civic engagement and the impact an individual can have

5.00- 5.30 **Sharon Capeling-Alakija/Duncan Morrow/ Kumi Naidoo**

- Questions and Answers

5.30- 5.40 **Chris Flood/Jimmy Kearney**

- Closing Remarks

5.40- 5.45 **"Different Drums"**

7.00 -8.00 **Pre-dinner drinks with light entertainment**

8.00 -10.00 **Dinner**

10.00- 10.15 **After Dinner Speaker- Patrick Kielty (possibly)**

10.15 -11.10 **Tea/Coffee available with light entertainment**

Day 2 -Theme "Encouraging Volunteering"

9.30- 9.45 *Local Uplifting Entertaining*

9.45 -10.05 Liz Burns, Scottish Volunteer Development Agency

- What encourages volunteers
- Challenges for policy makers and organisations
- Corporate Community involvement

- Set the context for moving into specific issues

10.05 -10.30 *Experiences, Challenges and Aspirations of Individuals*

Special Olympics [next being held in Ireland]

- Diversity of volunteers
- Strategies for Corporate Supported Volunteering
- Raise the possibility of the C & V Sector converting volunteers into long-term volunteers. .

Geraldine ? , NIGRO?? [ex-prisoners]

- Mentoring schemes
- Accreditation

Ennis Refugees

- Volunteers working with ethnic minorities
- Using ethnic minorities as volunteers

10.30 -12.30 **Issue Based Workshops**

Role of Central and Local Government in supporting volunteering - Objectives

- To explore the role of government in supporting volunteering
- To identify existing support
- To identify key messages arising from discussions

Good practice in finding and keeping volunteers - objectives

- To review methods of finding volunteers
- To review methods of training/inducting volunteers
- To review accreditation and recognition
- To identify key messages arising from discussions

Community Involvement - Objectives

- To review the need for Civil Society
- To review the impact of civic engagement
- To identify key messages arising from discussions

Employer Supported Volunteering - Objectives

- To explore the role of employer supported volunteering
- To identify the key issues in relation to such volunteering
- To identify how the C & V Sector could take advantage of such volunteering
- To identify key messages arising from discussions

Volunteering Research - Objectives

- To identify what is currently being done on a Global and Irish basis.
- To identify trends arising from research
- To identify areas which require research
- To identify key messages arising from discussions

12.30- 2.00 *Two-course sit down lunch*

2.00- 2.30 *Youth Conference Feedback*

- Feedback on Volunteering from the Youth Conference

2.30- 3.00 *Feedback from the workshops*

- Overview of the key messages from workshops

3.00- 3.30 **Individual Volunteering Stories**

- Volunteer from Foyle Search and Rescue
- Volunteer from Summerhill Active Retirement
- Two more Volunteers, one from North and South, possibly Rural and Disability

3.30- 3.45 *Chris Flood/ Jimmy Kearney*

- Concluding remarks - highlights of the Conference

3.45- 3.55 *Closing poem and music*