Dormant Accounts Fund Youth Cafe Funding Scheme
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Brief Guide to Recent Youth Cafe Publications
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Context of Work

- National Recreation Policy (2007) - Youth Cafés identified as a key need both by and for young people.
  - Wish to hang-out and be with your peers
  - Need for safe place...
- Office of Minister for Children and Youth Affairs funded two pieces of research:
  1. Youth Cafés in Ireland - A Best Practice Guide
  2. Youth Café Toolkit - How to set-up and Run a Youth Café in Ireland

What is a Youth Café

- What is a Youth Café?
  - It is a safe, dedicated, quality meeting space for young people ranging in age from 10 to 25 years. It is determined by young people for young people, in partnership with adults.
  - a relaxed meeting space, which is safe, friendly, inclusive and tolerant;
  - a place for both sexes and for young people from all social and cultural backgrounds to engage in social interaction with their peers in a safe and supportive drug- and alcohol-free environment;
  - a location for relaxation, recreation and entertainment, and, where appropriate, as a site for information, advice or even direct care/service provision;
  - a place where young people can develop good quality relationships with their peers and with adults.

- No-one model fits all areas and needs.

- Youth Cafés should not be seen as panacea for all youth issues

- Instead, one of a range of options available that compliments other provisions
What does a Youth Café do?

- We developed a Conceptual Model – Cafés fit neatly within youth work principles (informal education, voluntary youth participation, adult involvement, positive youth development and civic engagement).
- Can work with a range of young people - those with few or no issues to those with more serious issues.

In addition, we identified four underlying concepts:

- Social Support – Youth Cafés offer both formal support to the young person – and access to new informal networks. Café important hub.
- Attachment – Adolescence can be a challenging time – Youth Cafés offer for example, a secure base to explore talents, interact with peers and develop social skills.

Recent Publications

1. Youth Cafés in Ireland - A Best Practice Guide
   - Foundation document
     - Conceptual Model & Outcomes Focussed Framework
     - Guiding Principles for Youth Cafés
     - Operational Issues (management, funding, location, promotion etc )
     - Information, Monitoring and Evaluation Systems
Recent Publications

2. Youth Café Toolkit - How to set-up and Run a Youth Café in Ireland

- Designed for:
  - Well-established Café – enhance practice
  - Just be starting out – get tips
  - Just thinking of one – focus approach
- The Toolkit offers advice on 11 areas that are core to Youth Cafés (See Youth Café Wheel)

Using the Recent Publications

Essential Eligibility Criteria for Strands 1 and 2

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Strands</th>
<th>Best Practice Guide</th>
<th>Toolkit</th>
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| 1. Café as a safe, quality space | • A safe and quality space – p.30  
• Building design and content – p.52  
• Location – p.49 | No. 6 Design & Location |
| 2. Café has a clear purpose | • Conceptual model and framework, p.17  
• A clear purpose – p.32 | No. 3 Mission |

- Regardless of Strand, check that application has addressed the issues identified as core for Youth Café development as outlined in Toolkit and Best Practice Guide

Acknowledgements

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  - young people,
  - staff in Youth Cafes,
  - representatives of Statutory, Community and Voluntary organisations
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