

Causeway Coast and Glens

Borough Council

To: Council Meeting

Date: 15th December 2015

Correspondence report

Copies attached electronically, hard copy available upon request from Democratic Services

1. Minister Farry, proposed meeting Invitation

Following Council's decision to invite Minister Farry to a meeting at Civic Headquarters to seek the restoration of the £8.6 million reduction in the budget of the Ulster University, representatives from Minister Farry's Office have been unable to coordinate a suitable date and time. Minister Farry has, however, invited a Council Delegation to meet at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, to discuss the issue. Council is asked to consider this request.

2. Coleraine Sure Start Partnership, dated 17 November 2015

The Directors of Coleraine Sure Start Partnership have asked about the possibility of a local Councillor joining the Board of Governors. Sure Start is a government initiative funded by the Department of Education and provides a joined up delivery for families in order to improve the ability to learn; improve health and well-being and improve social development. The Board is currently made up of local community, voluntary and statutory reps such as Libraries NI, NHSCT, Women's Aid, West Bann Development, Ballysally Youth and Community Centre, Focus on Family, Harpurs Hill Children and Family Centre and Kylemore Nursery. In a recent review of Sure Starts in NI it was recommended to recruit a local Councillor to their Board.

2. OFMDFM, Good Relations and Financial Governance Division

The Executive's good relations Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) strategy recognises the important role played by District Councils and local representatives in delivering the strategy's aims and objectives. In recognition of this vital role, the T:BUC Programme Board, has asked the Equality Commission (ECNI) and the Community Relations Council (CRC) to deliver a series of good relations seminars to district council local representatives.

The aim of these seminars will be to inform and provide support for local representatives in the delivery of their responsibilities for good relations in their community.

Representatives from CRC/ECNI will be in contact in the near future seeking suitable times to schedule a seminar for council.

3. NILGA Council Newsletter, dated 30 November 2015

This bulletin provides members and officers with key information on the work being taken forward through NILGA, councils and partners, delivering results for local government.

- <http://www.nilga.org/getattachment/9732d0b7-2bcf-4297-bf82-24bb1cabd74d/NILGA-Bulletin---November-2015.aspx>

4. Chief Inspector Catherine Magee, Causeway Coast & Glens District Command Unit

Correspondence has been received requesting support from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for the Youth Volunteer Academy pilot scheme which will commence in Ballymoney in January 2016. The Policing and Community Safety Partnership has been advised of the scheme during meetings in November and December 2015.

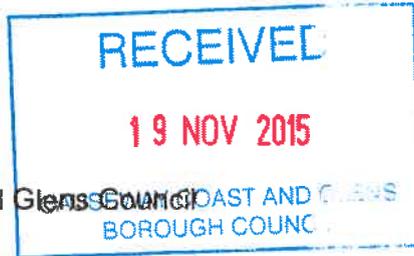
Council's support is sought for the scheme and a presentation could be made to Council if required.

5. Conference: Business Rates in Northern Ireland: The Case for Change, Chambré Public Affairs

The Case for Change, Half Day Conference, 12 January 2016, Riddell Hall
Queen's University Belfast, Stranmillis, 8.50 am - 1.15 pm
Standard Rate £125, NILGA Member Rate £105

17 November 2015

Mr David Jackson
Chief Executive
Causeway Coast and Glens Council



Coleraine
SureStart
Partnership

Dear David

The Directors of Coleraine Sure Start Partnership have asked me to contact you regarding the possibility of a local Councillor joining our Board of Directors. We are unsure as to the protocol or processes for this type of request, so understand that you may pass this on to a colleague.

Sure Start is a government initiative funded by the Department of Education and provides a joined up delivery for families in order to improve the ability to learn; improve health and well being and improve social development. Coleraine Sure Start Partnership has been in existence since 2001, working to provide a good start for children under the age of four who live in the top 25% of deprived areas in the Coleraine area.

We have a main base in Society Street, where we employ seventeen staff, and in addition deliver services through community partners with whom we have Service Level Agreements, and they collectively employ forty staff through Sure Start funds. We have an annual budget of approximately £920,000 which is used to provide family support, parenting, early years, education and health outcomes to the local community. There are over eight hundred local children on our database.

We are a Company Limited by Guarantee and are governed by a Board of Directors, monitored by the Health and Social Care Board and Childcare Partnership. We are represented on the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Board and Working Groups, Early Years Local Branch, Causeway Early Years Forum and Teen Antenatal Steering Group.

Our Board is currently made up of local community, voluntary and statutory reps, such as Libraries Ni, NHSCT, Women's Aid, West Bann Development, Ballysally Youth and Community Centre, Focus on Family, Harpurs Hill Children and Family Centre and Kylemore Nursery. In a recent review of Sure Starts in Northern Ireland it was recommended that we also look to recruiting a local Councillor to our Boards – we would preferably like one with a young family or who lives or works in our area (Ballysally, Central, Cross Glebe, Churchland, Royal Portrush Wards or estates of Windy hall or Millburn).

I hope you can assist us with this, and look forward to hearing from you or a colleague in the near future.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine Donnelly".

Elaine Donnelly

Programme Manager

elaine@colerainesurestart.org.uk

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Good Relations and Financial Governance Division**

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Office of the
**First Minister and
Deputy First Minister**
www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk

25 November 2015

Dear CEO

The Executive's good relations Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) strategy recognises the important role played by District Councils and local representatives in delivering the strategy's aims and objectives. In recognition of this vital role, the T:BUC Programme Board, has asked the Equality Commission (ECNI) and the Community Relations Council (CRC) to deliver a series of good relations seminars to district council local representatives.

The aim of these seminars will be to inform and provide support for local representatives in the delivery of their responsibilities for good relations in their community.

The seminars will provide a legislative and strategic overview of district councils' roles and responsibilities and examine how development and delivery of good relations and anti-racism objectives are assimilated within the community audit and planning processes. In this context the seminars will provide an opportunity to assess local good relations and race issues, as identified within District Council Good Relations Programme Audits and explore effective intervention possibilities.

I understand that CRC and ECNI have already engaged with a number of partners to date, including NILGA, to discuss content and practical arrangements. Initial scoping to date indicates short sessions are likely to be most useful and feasible. Further engagement with NILGA is anticipated and they have agreed to encourage attendance.

Representatives from CRC/ECNI will be in contact with you in the near future seeking suitable times to schedule a seminar for your council. I would therefore be most grateful if you could co-operate with the CRC/ECNI representatives, endeavour to schedule a seminar at the earliest opportunity and encourage attendance.

Yours sincerely



GRAINNE KILLEN

MARGARET ROSE McNAUGHTON

This bulletin provides members and officers in your council with key information on the work being taken forward through NILGA, councils and partners, delivering results for local government. The bulletin is supplied for wide distribution including at Full Council/ Council Committee meetings, reception and information points.

MORE RESOURCES APPLIED LOCALLY: COUNCILS MUST BE PART OF THE NEXT PROGRAMME for GOVERNMENT

BREAKING NEWS - REGENERATION LEGISLATION

Minister Mervyn Storey MLA confirmed 26/11/15 that the legislation which would have transferred regeneration powers to the new councils will **not** be proceeding until after April 2016. The Minister is now placing this critical cornerstone of the reform outcomes within the overall review of central government department's. NILGA has *immediately* called for formal reassurances that transferring budgets will be maintained rather than eroded further, and will require that the legislative processes suffocating these key transfers are (i) accelerated with whatever special provisions exist to do so and (ii) in no way diminish the authority of councils to plan, develop and invest in regeneration. **The Executive must put their trust in councils, now.**

1. REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS – KEY REPRESENTATION, KEY ISSUES, CO-ORDINATED BY NILGA

Member Development and Workforce Working Group

NILGA's Member Development & Workforce Working Group met on 5th November 2015. Members received updates on a range of activity in relation to elected member development (some of which is outlined below) and held a discussion around regionally co-ordinated training and information events. Suggestions included:

- Training solely for new elected members, around decision taking, prioritisation skills, speed reading, in a regional or sub regional setting, to allow new members to ask questions/raise issues outside of a more formal, council specific environment;
- "Bread and butter" constituent issues e.g. Housing, Benefits and understanding the purpose of rates
- A dedicated phone line for elected members to NIHE, SSA, similar to that available to MPs and MLAs.
- How to use Social Media well (as opposed to the "Don't Do" rules of Social Media) linked to Strategic activities of Council - such training, of high quality, could well be available free and simply requires co-ordination, marketing and investing in venues.

Planning & Regeneration Working Group and Network

The NILGA Planning & Regeneration Working Group and Network met on 25th November, with 10 of the 11 councils represented by members and officers. The Group was briefed by Departmental officials on progress post-reform and had a robust discussion about issues that councillors are facing in relation to planning. There was broad agreement on the content of a member training programme, to be developed in collaboration with the NAC and LGTG; production of an elected member guide to planning (similar to the recently published NILGA Waste & Resource Efficiency Guide); and a drive to initiate discussions with the Department, the RTPI and others on the potential for a Northern Ireland Planning Advisory Service. A long term schedule of meetings was also agreed, to complement and align with council planning committee meetings.

Community Planning & Well-being Working Group and Network

The NILGA Community Planning & Well-being Working Group and Network will be having its first meeting on 2nd December, and will be developing a forward work programme in addition to receiving updates on recent Council & NILGA activity in this area of work. It is hoped that the members attending will be keen to discuss local examples of good practice, any difficulties being experienced and changes that may be required, to inform a member development programme on community planning and well-being. There will also be discussion regarding the potential for production of additional regional guidance, and examination of what is available to members in other regions.

EU / Rural & Economic Investment Working Group

The Rural & Economic Investment Working Group met in combined form on 17th November 2015 to discuss how best to regional support councils growing need for SMART INVESTMENT - how to get things done without raising taxes or rates. The Group are focused on the development of a wider council engagement information programme and the re-launch of a guide to delivering local growth through NI's councils in the New Year.



Open Days / European Entrepreneurial Region Event, October 2015

NILGA co-ordinated with councils and DETI a workshop as part of the Brussels Open Days. This was an exclusive opportunity specific to councils from NI enabling us to engage with, and learn from, previous winners of the EER Award, awarded to NILGA following its submission last year, by the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

NILGA secured senior officer attendance from DETI, Invest NI, CoR and private sector FDI companies and their advisors wanting to do business in NI. A number of key engagement events have been planned follow the event, further information to follow. **A copy of the NILGA EU Open Days report is available at - www.nilga.org/Publications---Reports.aspx**



NISMP – Update and Progress

The first group of refugees is set to arrive in Northern Ireland in December as part of the UK Vulnerable People Relocation Scheme. This group will comprise less than 100 people, mostly in family groups. NISMP is part of the Operational Group, led by DSD to coordinate the arrangements to manage their arrival and settlement. The Immigration Bill 2015 is currently passing through parliament. NISMP believes that some provisions within this bill will impact on issues which have been devolved to Northern Ireland with a disproportionate impact for businesses and citizens within the region. **The NISMP briefing on the bill is available at www.migrationni.org/DataEditorUploads/Immigration%20Bill%202015%20briefing.pdf** Please contact Mary Kerr at the NILGA office for further information m.kerr@nilga.org

2. NILGA AWARENESS SESSIONS & GUIDANCE - GET INFORMED!

Business Rates Consultation Event – Free Event

Next year's RATES are upon us and priorities are being established for short and long term priorities. NILGA is hosting a half day consultation event on the proposed revisions to Business Rates. Given the potential impact in regard to local councils, options for variances in domestic and non-domestic rates, impacts on sports and charities, vacant buildings and council facilities, there is already substantial registration for this event. It will take place at Oxford Island, Craigavon, on Friday 11th December 2015 (from 10.30am). **DFP consultation - www.dfpni.gov.uk/consultations/review-northern-irelands-non-domestic-rating-system** **NILGA WILL BRING TOGETHER A RESPONSE before the deadline of 25th January 2016.** Places are limited, to secure your please contact Claire Bradley at NILGA c.bradley@nilga.org as soon as possible.

Elected Member Development Charter Update

Seven of our eleven new councils have obtained or have formally sought to gain National Charter award, with new expectations including Antrim and Newtownabbey, Mid and East Antrim) working towards assessment in 2016, and Lisburn and Castlereagh City) now commenced its work to be recognised as an exemplary, Charter Council. Training for new councillor and officer “mentor assessors” took place on 6th October 2015. 10 councillors and 2 officers have recently become accredited mentor assessors, with more coming in from “Charter ready” councils. Well done all! **For more information please contact Derek McCallan at NILGA d.mccallan@nilga.org**

General Power of Competence Training

This compelling new Power is much lauded but little understood. Crucially, and based upon demand, we completed two sessions, delivered through APSE and supported by LGTG and NILGA, examining what the Power is, how it is being used in other jurisdictions and how councils in Northern Ireland may take advantage of it. As a result, a further awareness (overview) event has been scheduled for 28th January 2016 (Craigavon's Oxford Island, 9.30am – 12.30pm, no charge). There are very limited spaces available on this date and they will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. **To book, please contact Claire Bradley at the NILGA office c.bradley@nilga.org**

3. CONSULTATIONS / RESPONSES

Draft NILGA views - Delivering Social Change through Childcare Strategy Consultation

NILGA welcomed the opportunity to comment on the development of a Ten Year Strategy for Affordable and Integrated Childcare 2015 - 2025. We welcomed the two-pronged approach proposed in the consultation document to attempt to ensure that both the needs of children and the needs of parents are recognised and addressed in the context of childcare provision in NI. NILGA recommend close liaison with councils to ensure joined up and efficient solutions to the issues raised in the consultation. **The NILGA response is available at - www.nilga.org/Publications---Reports.aspx**

NILGA views - Higher Education Big Conversation

Higher Education "Big Conversation" – NILGA welcomed the DEL 'Big Conversation' on Higher Education, stressing that higher level skills are crucial for existing indigenous companies and new investors. Universities and University Colleges must work closely with employers (including local councils) and other key stakeholders to ensure that the higher level skills that they provide, match the needs of local employers and Foreign Direct Investors, to support the rebalancing of the Northern Ireland economy. **The NILGA response is available at - www.nilga.org/Publications---Reports.aspx**

Review of the Public Health (NI) Act 1967

NILGA (in close collaboration with council Environmental Health Officers) is continuing to develop a local government view on the Review of the Public Health (NI) Act 1967 which is due for response to DHSSPSNI by 18th December. A consultation event was held by the Department on 23rd November which was attended by a large number of council officers and others. NILGA is keen to ensure that council views are fully incorporated in the regional local government response, as this consultation may result in additional responsibilities for councils. We would therefore be grateful for any comments your council may wish to make, to be forwarded to Karen Smyth at the NILGA offices, preferably by 11th December k.smyth@nilga.org

4. STANDING UP FOR COUNCILS - EVIDENCE

DARD Rural Needs Bill - Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. NILGA, in conjunction with SOLACE, presented evidence to the DARD Committee on 24th November, led by Cllr Cathal Mallaghan, NILGA's Rural Team Chair. This evidence amplified work completed by NILGA earlier this year in regard to Rural Proofing, and an emphasis was placed on accepting the principles, but getting the resources, to do effective, enforceable, rural needs regulation and scrutiny. **NILGA's Rural Needs key summary piece can be downloaded at - www.nilga.org/Publications---Reports.aspx**

5. REPRESENTING & PROTECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT - MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

Within the first quarter of 2016, the NILGA Office Bearers supported by senior officers will be meeting with a number of government Ministers. The Department of the DoE to discuss the reform of local government post implementation and the Financial Impact Review, the Department of Finance and Personnel to discuss the review of Business Rates and the related changes to wider rating policy and the Department of Justice Minister to discuss the sustainability of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships. A full report on each of the meetings will be provided to members and councils.

6. BE PART OF THE PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT!

NILGA issued a consultation on developing a Programme for Local Government to all Councils on 4th September. The consultation exercise is aligned to and ideally should complement the development of the next NI Executive Programme for Government, but it is not dependent upon it nor the governance and functions of the NI Assembly. The closing date for responses is 31st December 2015. **Responses should be directed to Claire Bradley at NILGA c.bradley@nilga.org**

7. CHAMPIONING COUNCILS IN NI AND BEYOND



On the 3rd November, the NILGA President met with US Consul General Daniel Lawton to discuss the development of business links between companies and local government regions in the United States and counterparts across Northern Ireland.



NILGA CEO addressed Colleges NI, Further Education Conference on the 15th October 2015. Derek's address focussed on the new councils and the opportunities for engagement and development through the further education collages.



The NILGA President and Chief Executive addressed the Northern Ireland Government Affairs Group on the 11th November, providing delegates with an update on the work of the Association and the opportunities and challenges facing the local government sector in NI.

8. PRE ELECTION PARTY CONFERENCES – LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S INPUT TO POLICY

During October and November, NILGA members and officers attended the UUP, SDLP, DUP and TUV party conferences ensuring forward policy planning and engagement at every level of influence. Having worked for councils at SDLP, UUP, DUP and TUV events this past weekends, NILGA will additionally represent strong local government messages at the forthcoming Sinn Fein and Alliance party conferences, scheduled for early 2016.

9. KEY DATES AND MEETINGS

December 2015			Please contact
2 nd Dec.	Community Planning and Well-being WG	NILGA Offices, Bradford Court	k.smyth@nilga.org
3 rd Dec.	agendaNi - Agricultural and Food Conference	Dunadry Hotel, Antrim	NILGA Offer. For bookings please call – 028 9261 9933
9 th Dec.	Waste Programme Board	Strabane, Derry City and Strabane District Council	k.smyth@nilga.org
10 th Dec.	Charter Assessment - Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Mossley Mill	d.mccallan@nilga.org
10 th Dec.	APSE Economic Development Event	Guildhall, Derry / Londonderry	For bookings please email – kswaby@apse.org.uk pbrennan@apse.org.uk
11 th Dec.	NILGA SPECIAL Executive Meeting & Business Rates Consultation Event	Lough Neagh, Craigavon	s.little@nilga.org c.bradley@nilga.org
January 2016			Please contact
12 th Jan.	Chambré PA, Business Rates in NI	Riddell Hall, Belfast	NILGA Offer. For details contact – 028 9026 8600 or jack@chambrepa.com
13 th Jan	Economic Development Managers Event (proposed)	Ardeevin, Ballymena	k.bishop@nilga.org
15 th Jan.	NILGA Executive meeting		s.little@nilga.org
28 th Jan.	General Power of Competence Training Session 3	Lough Neagh, Craigavon	c.bradley@nilga.org
29 th Jan.	NILGA Full Members meeting	Canal Court, Newry	s.little@nilga.org
February 2016			Please contact
9 th Feb.	NILGA Planning and Regeneration WG	NILGA, Bradford Court	k.smyth@nilga.org
12 th Feb.	NILGA Executive meeting		s.little@nilga.org
March 2016			Please contact
11 th Mar.	NILGA Executive meeting		s.little@nilga.org
25 th Mar.	NILGA Full Members meeting		s.little@nilga.org

NILGA

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NILGA - the voice of local government

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Our Reference: 2184-15

8 December 2015

Mr David Jackson
Chief Executive
Causeway Coast & Glens District Council
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY

Dear David

Re: Causeway Coast and Glens District Council support for The Youth Volunteer Academy.

I would like to request support from Causeway Coast and Glens Council for the Youth Volunteer Academy pilot scheme which will commence in Ballymoney in January 2016.

The Policing and Community Safety Partnership have been advised of the scheme during our meetings in November and December 2015.

We are seeking council support for the scheme and would be able to present to the council if required.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Magee
Chief Inspector
Causeway Coast & Glens District Command Unit

The Youth Volunteer Academy

The Youth Volunteer Academy is an organised youth group which will meet once a week in local community/youth friendly venues. Funding has been secured for the pilots from the United Youth Foundation. The programme will be delivered by youth workers, who will be supported by staff from the Police and Ambulance services. Other organisations such as the Fire and Rescue Service and District Councils will also have an input into the programme that will be delivered. The aim is to provide young people with a supporting environment in which they can learn, develop and grow. It is not to replace any existing group; it's just an additional option for young people.

The 3 pilot branches are being set up in Newry, Belfast and Ballymoney. They will start in January 2016 and run initially for one year. An ongoing evaluation of the scheme will be carried out, to help determine whether and/or how the scheme should continue, beyond December 2016.

Participants will learn about a variety of topics related to personal safety and how the Ambulance, Police and Fire Services work (both separately and together). They will also have the opportunity to gain knowledge about other areas of the criminal justice system and associated public services. They will be given support to develop their skills around problem solving, team work and leadership as well as being encouraged to volunteer themselves, within an area which is of interest to them. All young people taking part will be offered the opportunity to complete a First Aid course and the possibility of gaining qualifications in the future is being explored.

The 4 objectives of the scheme are:

- To encourage good citizenship, learning and development and the spirit of adventure
- To provide young people with an opportunity to be heard, to have their say in issues that affect them and to influence social change
- To promote a practical and positive understanding of the emergency services, the criminal justice system, policing with the community, and the wider public services
- To build community relations by promoting positive engagement between young people and the police

How will it work?

Meetings will run in line with school holidays generally breaking at Easter, Christmas, Half Terms and the Summer Holidays. However, local leaders may decide to run additional activities over the summer holiday period or over other school holidays, if possible.

Meetings will last 1.5 to 2 hours during which time the participants will generally:

- Carry out a learning activity;
- Have some social time; and
- Take part in a skills development exercise.

At all times the process will be fun, interactive and relaxed. This scheme is not designed to be an extension of school. Please note: some weeks may not follow this format outlined above due to off-site visits, social activities and/or guest speakers.

The first 8 weeks of the programme are an induction period designed to develop the participants understanding of the programme and encourage the development of relationships among the young people. The table below outlines the learning activity that will be covered each week. **Participants will also be invited to attend a residential during this period which will focus on team building activities and First Aid training.**

Learning Activity

Week 1	What is the Youth Volunteer Academy? This will include what the Academy is about; what's in it for you; ice breaker exercises; and having a 'What I like to do' session with one of the leaders
Week 2	What is expected of You? Discussions and agreement around group rules, expectations of each other/the leaders and developing a group contract
Week 3	The Emergency Services – a brief introduction Input from and Q&A session with representatives of the Emergency Services
Week 4	What happens when someone phones 999 – part 1? Split into groups for visits to relevant agencies control rooms
Week 5	What happens when someone phones 999 – part 2? Compare and contrast the different services Group Exercise – Part 1 There's been a robbery what happens next? The victim, the witnesses and the community
Week 6	Group Exercise – Part 2 (including guest speaker) The crime scene, the CSI and the evidence (including a practical demonstration and opportunity to practice CSI skills)
Week 7	Volunteering What it is; the benefits to you and others; and types of volunteering available (may include guest speaker) Group Exercise – Part 3 Suspects – searching for the truth
Week 8	Residential preparation Group Exercise – Part 4 To charge or not to charge - the rationale and the responsibility

There will be a further 8 topics that all the participants will be expected to cover over the course of the year. These topics are detailed below. The timetable around when these will be covered will be at the discretion of the Branch Leaders.

- What to do if you witness a crime
- Ambulance Service familiarisation – a day in the life of...
- Police Service familiarisation – a day in the life of...
- Fire and Rescue Service familiarisation – a day in the life of...
- Why the law is important
- E-safety
- Respect for diversity
- Human Rights

The remainder of the weeks (14 approx.) will cover topics that will be chosen by the participants as well as trips, visits and social events. Listed below are some of the topics that may be covered. Please note this is not an exhaustive list. Every effort will be made to cover topics of interest suggested by the young people.

Anti-Bullying	Drugs and Alcohol Awareness
Local Councils	Victim Support
Ambulance Service – specialist skills and units	Police Service – specialist skills and units
Suicide Awareness	Personal Safety – The One Punch Campaign
Fire Service – specialist skills and units	Public Services in Northern Ireland
Criminal justice agencies e.g. Prison, Probation and Public Prosecution Services	Mental Wellbeing
Personal Safety – Guns and Knives Ruin Lives	Local Government
Coast guard	Consultations – what, why, who, when and how.
Public Speaking and Presentation skills	Search and Rescue
Oversight of the police e.g. the Policing Board, the Ombudsman and PCSPs	CV writing and interview skills

Who is it for?

The Academy is for young people from secondary school age upwards. Local youth workers will advise on the specific age range for their local pilot. This will be monitored as the pilots progress and altered if necessary. The aim is to have participants from all backgrounds and communities in each scheme particularly those who could benefit from additional support and encouragement.

What's in it for the Young People?

- Having a voice in the issues that matter to them
- Developing new skills
- Qualifications and training
- Experiencing a variety of activities
- The chance to make new friends

They will also be actively involved in identifying areas they are interested in learning more about and activities they wish to try.

How will you keep my child safe?

Child Protection and Safeguarding is of paramount importance to the organisations involved in the Academy. All leaders will receive training in Child Protection issues and the Child Protection Policy will be made available to parents and guardians. Risk assessments will be carried out for all activities undertaken; recommended child to adult ratios will be adhered to; and a selection of leaders will be First Aid trained. The venues picked for the meetings are community based, within local areas.

What is the cost for participating?

There will be no cost for attending the weekly meeting; obtaining the First Aid training or attending the initial residential. Future events/residentials may incur a small cost however this will be kept to a minimum and where at all possible will be covered by the supporting organisations

Consultation with young people has shown they would like to wear an Academy top such as a hoodie or a half-zip, branded with the Academy logo. This will be provided to the young people free of charge. Please note: the branding of the supporting organisations **will not** appear on this top.