



NCGE Management of Guidance Committee (MGC) 2017-2020

Record of the 16th Meeting

26 February 2020

1. Draft Meeting Record

There were no changes to the Meeting Record of the 15th Meeting, which is to be uploaded onto the NCGE website.

2. Minutes from the last meeting (18th December 2019) and Matters Arising

There were no amendments to the Minutes.

Matters Arising

Updates: -

- Léargas/NCGE 2020 Performance Delivery Agreement (PDA) with Department of Education & Skills (DES) signed in February. Contains new requirements to reflect children guidelines and sustainable development goals.
- DES Indecon internal Task Force next scheduled meeting on Friday 28th February.
- NCGE Strategic Plan 2019-2020 is on the NCGE website.
- The NCGE-ETB GDPR Agreements to be posted out to individual ETBs on Thursday 27th February.
- DEASP and DEIS Schools Project: On Thursday 20th February, DES hosted a meeting with DEASP and NCGE on the DEASP Initiative in Post-Primary Schools which was a pilot project in collaboration between DEASP and a school in Cork and one in Blanchardstown, Dublin.

3. Items for Agenda under Part B – Discussion/Decisions

The Chair proposed adding the Accenture Report for discussion in Part B of the meeting, which was accepted.

4. NCGE Points of Information

NCGE Points of Information, included:

- PSI Register of Psychometric Test Use for Guidance Counsellors - NCGE working with PSI on encouraging all guidance counsellors to sign up to the PSI Register
- European Schools Guidance Provision – Kathy Finnegan was successful in her application to work as an external expert with NCGE. The MGC noted the appointment and are satisfied that a conflict of interest does not apply.

5. Points of Information from MGC Members

- DES School Inspectorate and DES Post-Primary Inspector presenting on Whole School Guidance at the Annual Institute of Guidance Counsellors (IGC) Conference in Galway.
- NCGE Junior Cycle resources are available online from NCGE and that many school guidance counsellors have indicated they would welcome a curriculum for guidance.
- Jobs Week starting on Monday 2nd March – Showcase in Dublin Castle, 8 seminars and streamed on EURES website.
- IGC developing a new website with a resources section possibly linked to NCGE resources also.
- The MSLETB and DEASP initiative for the under 25s took place in Sligo recently.

6. Governance & Risk

Possible governance or risk issues suggestions included:

- Pathways to Work has expired and DEASP looking at vulnerable groups which will have huge implications for guidance. Currently waiting for launch of the new Pathways to Work.
- No FET Guidance Strategy and is delayed pending the Indecon Report.
- DES Indecon Review – awaiting an outcome from the DES policy decision and may be delayed further due to absence of a new Government.
- HE Report – suggests that the role of guidance is only to support the economy which transmits a limited view of guidance.
- Accenture Report - a copy of the Accenture Report was given to each of the members and considered a potential risk in respect of presenting a limiting and narrowing perspective on guidance.
- The absence of a new Government is a potential risk to developments for NCGE.
- HEA Human Capital Initiative – Pillar 3. Funding, scope is very broad. Pillar 1 + 2 limited due to where the money came from the NTF (FD).
- Problem in transitioning people in employment. Need for transferable skills and for universities to look at soft skills, not just 'hard core' skills.
- At university level there are anecdotal reports indicating the emerging prevalence of an underground and serious drug issue which as a health and wellbeing issue will impact on priorities at university level for student support staff

7. Finance Sub-Committee Report

A copy of the Finance Sub-Committee Report, from the Finance Sub-Committee Meeting on the 29th January, was provided to each of the members. Points noted:

- Budget unchanged for 4-6 years despite staff salary increases.
- Expenditure can only be within budget. As salary increases are due, non-pay expenditure will decrease which has direct implications on the programme of NCGE activities.
- EU Euroguidance funding: 40% of the 3-year funding received in 2019. Final amount will come through in 2021 following submission of final reports.
- MGC requested breakdown and balance to be added to the Finance Sub-Committee Report.

8. AOB

8.1. Jim Mullin, Léargas Executive Director

The Chair informed the Committee of Jim Mullin's retirement at the beginning of April and read out an email message from Jim to the MGC, thanking the Chair, the Committee members, the NCGE Director and NCGE staff. The Chair formally acknowledged the commitment and contribution from Jim since the establishment of NCGE and his willingness to engage with and support NCGE.