



PPN User Guide Review

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PPN User Guide Review

Your Submission

STRUCTURE OF THE PPN (County/City, Plenary, Secretariat, Municipal Districts PPNs, Linkage Groups, Membership)

The PPN structure is such that presently most PPNs are run by the local authorities the resource worker and ancillaries are in most cases on Local Authority pay roll and are selected by the Local Authority from within their HR selection process

In order to be autonomous the structure needs to be completely separate

The Reps on SPCs etc are in great proportion from the old Community Forum and have past Linkage to Local Authority through grants etc - there is also anecdotal evidence that 'new' entrants to pillars have difficulty joining as they are not from old Community Forum or past recipients of grant aid and no formal board etc. and as such have no previous ties to Local Authority thus giving rise to polarity

Ideally Pillar membership and therefore PPN membership, should be open to all groups/ people who have demonstrated work in their Pillar area ie Environmental SI or Community, whether or not they are a 'recognized' Group ie have a board, bank account or have received grant aid previously

This should be open in order to encourage involvement in the PPN and eliminate a perception of a Network only open to accepted groups it is currently a barrier to participation

In certain areas membership criteria is being used as a way to block new groups or people from becoming involved. As PPN members are generally voluntary and may not have a the requirements another means of review of suitability for membership should be considered.

Another similar issue is non acceptance of community groups in for example the environmental Pillar - this should not happen, if a person or group has a demonstrated interest and is willing to participate in any Pillar - it should be open to them.

**ACTIVITIES OF THE PPN
(Participation and Representation on
Decision/Policy Making Bodies,
Capacity Building and Training,
Information Sharing and
Communication)**

PPN representatives on all bodies should be suitable candidates for the position ie have some prior knowledge or proven interest in the area
PPN reps who do not attend meetings and provide active feedback should not continue on their role if 2 plus meetings are not attended without reason
PPN reps should only sit as a Rep on one Linkage committee as this precludes 'hogging' of roles and information with one person from a Linkage group perhaps sitting on 2/3 SPCs or LCDC Or JPC - precluding 'Public participation'
PPN training for representatives and secretariat members should be part of the process
All reps should have pre- training (not just an introduction by the resource worker) on their role responsibilities and the workings of the PPN prior to accepting the role in order to carry out their job effectively
On going capacity building and training should be built into the programme and not at the discretion of the resource worker/ Secretariat - it should be mandatory as part of the role - some areas required though not exclusively include public speaking, document / tender training, sales force and database management for PPN use
Feed in to Decision making and strategy requires expertise often not available within the PPN Linkage group itself & facility should be given to allow the PPN to actively source expert advice where required - recourse to SJI for SI, to community training (the Wheel) and to IEN for Environmental training

Meeting Activities..

Meeting level is sufficient (monthly) and MD (2annually) and Plenary (1 per Pillar) level also sufficient

Reports and Information Sharing..

As with Sales Force there should be a reports package for reps to file their reports online - which is open and visible to anyone in the PPN

This would facilitate information transfer and provide an open and transparent via for both Reps and the Plenary membership to receive all information

Information sharing is still not simple

Communication...

Communication strategies are still required for the PPN at national and Local level

A communications campaign is necessary nationally to clearly communicate that the PPN exists .. what it does .. who can join..

At local level communications is required to highlight the events carried out regionally (joint PPN initiatives) and locally - funds should be appropriately allocated to achieve these ends and ring fenced to achieve maximum success in communication .. which is still badly needed

OPERATION OF PPNs (Budget and

The Budget basically covers the Resource worker - some

Work plan, Resource Worker, Support Worker)

communications materials, Plenary meetings and events
Training currently is sporadic and often adhoc

The budget should not include the Resource worker or the Support when employed by the Local Authority

The budget should be the 'disposable income' of the PPN itself, apart from the resource worker and the budget should be linked to the workplan - target specific and funds drawn down on that basis in order to achieve specific objectives .. it is too loose!

It is currently too small to do much once Resource workers are paid from the budget. A more structured approach would yield better results.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE PPN AND THE RESPECTIVE LOCAL AUTHORITY (Budget, Resource Worker, Support Worker)

An ombudsman for the PPN should be in place to allow for dispute issues to be resolved in an open and neutral forum
The Budget for PPN should be wholly under the management of the PPN itself and not through the Local Authority or linked to the community section

Resource workers should be selected by the PPN Secretariat in an open tendering process, which should go out on eTenders and be clear and transparent - the PPN should at the very least have a say in who the Resource worker will be and in laying out their own requirements as each PPN will differ in their particular requirements

MONITORING AND EVALUATION (Budget, Workplan, Resource Worker)

Monitoring and evaluation should be independently assessed
Criteria for monitoring and evaluation should firstly be proposed and this should be accepted firstly by the National PPN Plenary not the Dept., as it is the PPN who should independently run itself.

Again monitoring and evaluation of resource workers should only be carried out by the PPN itself and under strict guidelines.. this is currently not possible with most PPNs, as resource workers are employed directly by the Local Authority and as such not independent employees of the PPN

What Templates would you regard as being helpful to include in a revised PPN User Guide (Constitution, Grievance Procedure, Representatives Charter, Expense Policy, Memorandum of Understanding, etc.)

Yes to all of the above - templates are useful, but should not be prescriptive as the PPN should be free to independently produce Policies and Procedures relevant to its own specific needs

Any other Recommendations in relation to the review of the User Guide?

The User Guide is perhaps a misnomer perhaps
The PPN Structure - User Guidelines

Language and use of acronyms should be clear and simple,
more diagrams less words

Guidelines should be concise

Templates should be flexible enough to cover the
requirements of a wide range of PPNs



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Supporting Documentation

Freedom of Information

All materials received by the Department will be subject to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. This means that all materials submitted during this consultation period could be released to a wider audience on request.