An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and Community Development

PPN User Guide Review

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Queries

Please contact ppnuserguidereview@drcd.gov.ie or Alan Monks at (076) 100 6907.

Your Details

Are you making this submission as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

On behalf of an Organisation

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Tuesday, April 30, 2019

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Your Submission

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

While the user guide explains in a very detailed manner the roles and structures within the PPN, it is not reflective of how the realities on the ground within each county which are incredibly diverse in respect of socio-economic profile, culture etc
This itself means there cannot be a "one size fits all" approach. The user guide needs to acknowledge and reflect the differences and diversity amongst the counties and within the counties, down to MD level. What may work in one county, may not transition to another.

Each Municipal District are obligated to undertake/develop a wellbeing statement for their respective areas- again, is this realistic? Many wellbeing statements will crossover the Local Developments Plans that are already established and many of which are being reviewed or new plans being developed. We may be duplicating a significant amount of content.

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

The User Guide (Appendix 5) should explain that the number and terms of reference of SPC's (and other committees ?) may change after each round of Local Government elections. It should recommend when and how any such changes are made and should recommend a process that a PPN Secretariat should use in order to ensure continuing appropriate representation on a Council's committees after each Local Government elections.

This section of the user guide is content heavy and it is not user friendly for members or representatives. The use of language is floral in tone and not fluid or in plain, simple English which is easy to interpret and understand.

The format also requires attention. It needs to be more professional looking and consistent. The graphics are incredibly amateur looking and if you are becoming familiar with the PPN and its structure, could be perceived as being confusing for the user.

**OPERATION OF PPNs (Budget and
Work plan, Resource Worker, Support
Worker)**

This section could be synopsized/condensed into more reader friendly content.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE PPN

Many PPN's are experiencing positive relationships with their respective LA's while maintaining an independence. Perhaps

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

this is an area that could be tapped into and reflected in the user guide. Examples of work plans and MOU's incorporated for referral.

Example of a budget breakdown would be advantageous especially as a guide for new resource workers.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION (Budget, Workplan, Resource Worker)

It is not clear how Representatives are elected to the NAG and what their roles and responsibilities are in respect of fully representing all the PPN's and their resource workers. How they can influence and impact in terms of the Department and role of the PPN in general.
Again, an example of a budget breakdown should be incorporated for referral.

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.)

All of the above should be included for referral in a separate easy to read section. It should also include an example of a budget, Election guide for both traditional and online voting methods.

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.