**Guidance for Creative Ireland Co-ordinators on the roll-out of Cruinniú na nÓg in 2019**

The first Cruinniú na nÓg took place this year on 23rd June 2018. Over 500 events took place right across the country covering a range of activities for all age-groups of children and young people. Based on feedback received, the initiative was viewed positively by organisers and participants with the need for a longer lead in time requested by all.

In 2019, Cruinniú na nÓg will take place on 15th June 2019. A sum of €15k will be provided to each local authority outside of Dublin, with the four Dublin local authorities each receiving a sum of €75k. This can be used to take on event managers or additional support for the Creative Ireland co-ordinator and Culture Team and also on any programming costs. Cruinniú events may be supplemented from your current allocations or funded wholly from that source. The €15k funding is optional.

The Creative Ireland Programme Office will provide programme support and a central communications strategy. The Creative Ireland Programme Portal will be utilised to upload events and clear deadlines will be notified to all well in advance to allow for more timely communications and planning.

This document sets out the following to assist co-ordinators in their planning for Cruinniú na nÓg 2019:

1. **Guiding Principles for Cruinniú na nÓg 2019**
2. **Guidance on framework for delivery**
3. **Consultation with Children**
4. **Guidance on Communications**
5. **Timelines for delivery**

Following discussions with Creative Ireland Co-ordinators, we understand that some would prefer to run this event through local schools. We discussed this with the Department of Education and relevant partners and it was felt that an informal approach at local authority level is the most effective way of doing this.

While the date for Cruinnú 2019 is set for for Saturday 15th June 2019 and would ask you to programme events for this day, if some co-ordinators want to hold some events through local schools on Friday 14th June, and have agreement from these schools, we are happy for co-ordinators to use some of the allocated funding for these events. Though if local authorities decide to do this, we would ask that you still programme some events on 15th June 2019.

**Creative Ireland Programme**

**November 2018**

1. **Guiding Principles for Cruinniú na nÓg 2019**

The focus of Cruinniú will remain on children and young people from 0-18. The guiding principles are:

* To empower children and young people to develop their creative expression by providing opportunities for them to participate in creative activities in their local area;
* To increase awareness of the benefits of participation in creative activities;
* All events should be focussed on children and young people (up to 18) Activities/events will be based on what children want and need. Children and young people are involved in the creation of the programme.
* Majority of events should be activity based i.e. children and young people ‘doing’, ‘making’, ‘creating’ but with a selection of suitable commissioned events also.
* Ground-up, community led approach mixed with commissioned pieces based on a clear and transparent, open-call process.
* Harder to reach children and young people should be included (i.e. children with disabilities, seldom heard children, direct provision).
* Programme of activities should be diverse covering a range of creative activities and events (beyond just the traditional arts and cultural activities).
* Quality over quantity!
* New local partners involved (outlined below)
* Capturing levels of participation and engagement

1. **Guidance on framework for delivery**

We are recommending that Cruinniu na nÓg 2019 is based on a multi-pronged delivery approach. However, Local Authorities can decide which approach best suits their own area and level of resources which are applied under each category. Recognising that each local authority is unique and has its own priorities, the model is intended to be flexible allowing Creative Ireland co-ordinators to develop the event in their own way.

1. **Longer-term developmental work within local communities**

We know that many of our Creative Ireland co-ordinators are actively involved with local youth groups including theatre, music, coding etc. It is envisaged that these groups could be activated to work on developmental projects which could culminate in a showcase, exhibition or performance of some of their work in the community on 15th June 2019 which would help get other children and young people involved and could have potentially longer-term benefits for children and young people.

1. **Open call to artists and creatives**

In parallel with the above, an open call is proposed to which professional artists and other creative organisations can respond to. A panel of suitable content developers can be drawn up based on this and these will also be tasked with additional programming to support local programming. This open call can also be used for part c below. If co-ordinators already have a system of programming professional artists and creatives then please use the system you already have. This is a suggestion for those who do not have such a system in place or for those who want to open the event up to new artists/creatives.

1. **Content in libraries and other publicly owned spaces in local authority areas**

It is proposed to use the library facilities and where possible other publicly owned spaces across local authorities to programme exciting and innovative workshops and events for children and young people. Co-ordinators are free to identify potential locations and programme as they wish.

1. **New Partners**

We are asking our co-ordinators to continue to widen the base of Creative Ireland Programme partners at local level particularly in areas outside of the traditional arts and cultural sector. Some ideas could include:

* Involving local architecture, design or tech companies
* Developing relationships with local sporting organisations
* Looking at opportunities with National Parks and Reserves if they fall within your area (CIP Office can assist with this where possible)
* Activating local language based groups
* Involving local debating societies

1. **Working with other other Local Authorities**

A number of co-ordinators said that they had some difficulties with programming due to limited access to practitioners. Where possible, we would ask that neighbouring local authorities could share resources where possible and consider some joint programming of initiatives which could be activated at different times throughout the day.

1. **Consultation with Children**

In 2018, we held two consultations with children from ages 8-12 and 12-18 to develop a series of ideas for local co-ordinators as to what children and young people would like to see in their own areas. While a good starting point we want to enhance this next year and are proposing a more localised consultation process with children so local co-ordinators can get some real insight into what children would like for Cruinniú na nÓg in their own areas. This will ultimately lead to a more meaningful programme and greater buy-in from children and young people.

We are working with Hub na nÓg in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to develop training and guidance for nominated persons at local authority level.

Hub na nÓg will train two individuals from every Local Authority area (nominated by the Local Authority Creative Ireland Coordinators) in the theory and practice of child participation in decision-making. To ensure continuity, we are suggesting that one of the two nominated trainees from each Local Authority could be the Comhairle na nÓg Coordinator.

The training will enable the establishment of advisory groups of children and young people in every local authority area with a particular focus on involving those that are seldom heard. The trained individuals will work local primary schools, Comhairle na nÓg and other organisations in recruiting children and young people to two advisory groups, one comprising 8 - 12 year-olds and one comprising 13 - 17 year-olds.

These advisory groups will develop simple surveys to seek the views of a wide range of children and young people about the activities and events they would like in the local Cruinniú na nÓg. The trained individuals will work with the advisory groups in reviewing the preferences of local children and young people from the survey/s and in exploring children and young people’s dream ideas for the Cruinniú na nÓg.

This training would provide trainees with the following learning objectives:

* The ability to describe the importance of child and youth participation decision-making with reference to the national and international context.
* The ability to use best practice fundamentals aligned with the Lundy model in involving children and young people in the development and running of the local Cruinniu na nÓg.
* The ability to establish and conduct children and young people’s advisory groups in Local Authorities to inform the development and running of Cruinniú na nÓg.
* The ability to use innovative and age–appropriate methods in developing simple surveys to seek the views of children and young people and conducting workshops on children and young people’s dream ideas that are not limited to what they already know or have experienced to inform the development and running of Cruinniú na nÓg.

It proposed that the training of the 62 individuals (two from every local authority) will be conducted over two training sessions by Hub na nÓg on 19 and 26 February 2019.

We understand that programing may already have begun in many areas. We also understand that not everything that children and young people may want will be possible. However, it is a good process to help planning for this year and future years and will help co-ordinators reach a wide range of children and young people and get them involved in local activities.

1. **Guidance on Communications**

The Creative Ireland Programme will be building on the media relationships developed for 2018 and will develop an overall communications plan for Cruinniú na nÓg 2019 which will involve all local authorities.

In addition, brand guidelines will be provided to all local authorities as well as Cruinniú na nÓg templates for posters and flyers.

Information on this campaign will be provided to co-ordinators in the run-up to Cruinniú na nÓg. We would ask all co-ordinators to assist the communications team in timely manner.

1. **Timelines for delivery**

**In order to allow for smooth planning, we propose the following:**

* **February/March/April - Loading publication ready information through Creative Ireland portal**
* **St. Patricks weekend - Broad messaging about Cruinniú begins**
* **All event/initiative information submitted by April 23rd**
* **Full searchable website live by April 23rd**
* **Programme Launch May 7th**
* **Drawdown of funding end July 2019 which will require a breakdown of funding and letter from CEO to say that all payments have been authorised.**

**Creative Ireland Programme**

**19 November 2018**