

NI Youth Forum announce the Appointment of Paul Dynes as Director

Monday 26th February 2024

The Executive Committee of the NI Youth Forum have announced that Paul Dynes has been appointed as Director of the youth-led organisation. Paul will work closely with the youth-led Executive Committee and the Senior Management Team of the organisation to deliver its Strategic Plan and meet its operational objectives. Paul will take up his new role on the 8th April 2024.

NI Youth Forum Chairperson, Cohen Taylor has said, “I am so pleased to be able to announce Paul Dynes as our new Director. His experience both as a Senior Manager at New Lodge Youth Centre and more recently as a Senior Youth Work Manager within NI Youth Forum has provided him with the experience and passion for youth participation that is needed to ensure the ambitions of our membership are fully realised.

Vice Chair, Aoife Murphy added, “Paul’s proven track record of securing opportunities for global youth work and working closely with stakeholders to promote youth voice makes this appointment an incredibly exciting one for our membership. I have no doubt that Paul will continue to champion the voices of young people from marginalised communities, ensuring that Article 12 of the UNCRC is fully implemented throughout society.”

Honorary Secretary, Ciara Ní HÚisceith went on to add, “This is an incredibly exciting time for the NI Youth Forum as we prepare to launch a number of new initiatives in the coming months, meeting the ever evolving needs of young people across the region. Particularly in the midst of a cost of living crisis, it is more important than ever that every young person has access to needs based support that they can rely on.”

Incoming Director, Paul Dynes then added, “It is truly a privilege and honour to have been chosen as the next Director of the NI Youth Forum. Succeeding Chris Quinn leaves big shoes to fill and I would like to thank Chris for all of his hard work for more than a decade within the organisation. I look forward to working with him as Commissioner for Children and Young People.

“I am confident that, supported by our Executive Committee, our incredible staff team, our vibrant membership and, crucially our funders, I will be able to ensure our organisation fulfils its core objective of promoting youth voice for many years to come.

“I am also grateful for the support of Amanda Stewart and Natalie Corbett who have served as Interim Co-Directors since Chris’s departure. Both of whom have worked to ensure we can meet the needs of the young people we serve in a challenging funding environment.

“I look forward to working alongside our members, Executive Committee, staff and funders to ensure we continue working to amplify young people’s voices each and every day.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

- A. The NI Youth Forum is a regional, youth-led organisation which was established in 1979 by the Department of Education, with the objective of promoting youth voice. It is governed by an Executive Committee of 20 young people aged 15-25.
- B. The Director of the NI Youth Forum works with a team of senior managers, qualified youth workers, youth apprentices and administrative staff to deliver the operational and strategic objectives set by the Executive Committee.
- C. Article 12 of the UNCRC states that “every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.” *Source: UNICEF.*
- D. For further information, please contact Paula Williams.
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