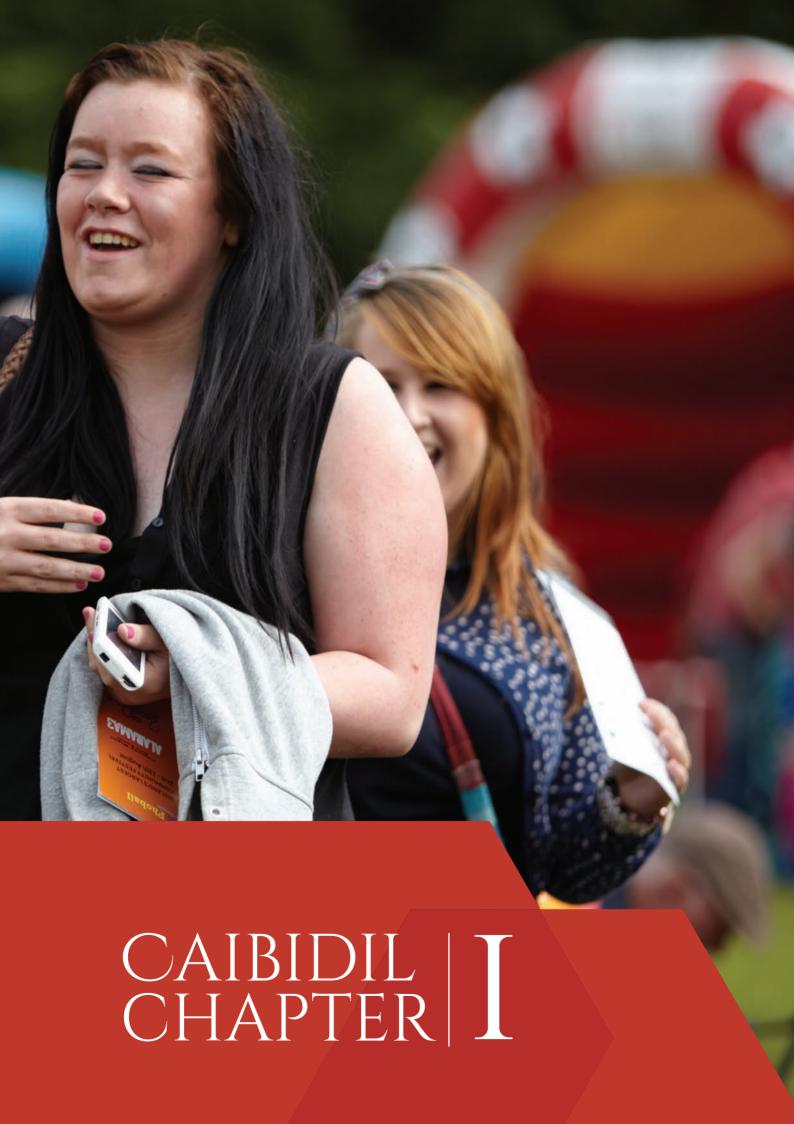


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#### FÓRAM NA NÓG COMHTHÉACS

Is é Fóram na nÓg an eagraíocht ionadaíoch don earnáil óige trí mheán na Gaeilge i dTuaisceart Éireann. Féachann an eagraíocht leis an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge a fhorbairt trí chomhoibriú le hoibrithe agus le saorálaithe óige, coistí clubanna óige, eagraíochtaí Gaeilge, eagraíochtaí reachtúla, ranna rialtais agus, na daoine is tábhachtaí, na daoine óga féin. Tá an páipéar réamheolais seo dírithe orthu siúd go léir a bhfuil leas acu san earnáil óige trí mheán na Gaeilge, le heolas ar aidhmeanna agus ar chuspóirí Fhóram na nÓg don earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge, cúlra na hearnála óige lán-Ghaeilge agus na oibre óige lán-Ghaeilge, sonraí na hoibre comhairliúcháin a rinneadh agus na moltaí a d'éirigh aisti sin. Tá súil againn, má chuirtear na moltaí seo i bhfeidhm, go mbeidh bonn ann le go mbeidh gaeilgeoirí óga in ann a nglórtha a úsáid agus ról gníomhach a bheith acu i múnlú a n-earnála agus a sochaí.

#### FÓRAM NA NÓG CONTEXT

Fóram na nÓg (Youth Forum) is the representative organisation for the Irish-medium youth sector in Northern Ireland. The organisation seeks to develop the Irishmedium youth sector through co-operation with youth workers and volunteers, youth club committees, Irish language organisations, statutory organisations, government departments and most importantly, young people themselves. This introductory information paper has been designed for all those with an interest in the youth sector through the medium of Irish, with information on the aims and objectives of Fóram na nÓg for the Irish-medium youth sector, background on the Irish language sector and Irishmedium youth work, details of consultation work carried out and resulting recommendations. It is our hope that the implementation of these recommendations will be a basis to enable young Irish speakers to use their voices and play an active role in shaping their sector and society.

#### 1.2 ÁR RÁITEAS MISIN

'Fás agus forbairt na hearnála óige lán-Ghaeilge a éascú le riar ar riachtanais oideachais agus shóisialta gaeilgeoirí óga.'

#### 1.2 OUR MISSION STATEMENT

'To facilitate the growth and development of the Irish-medium youth sector, in order to meet the educational and social needs of Irish-speaking young people.'







#### 1.3 AIDHMEANNA FHÓRAM NA NÓG

- 1. Eispéireas oideachais agus shóisialta gaeilgeoirí óga a fheabhsú trí sheirbhísí óige lán-Ghaeilge a chur ar fáil.
- 2. Comhairle agus treoir a thairiscint dóibh siúd go léir atá bainteach le seirbhísí óige Gaeilge a chur ar fáil.
- 3. Cuidiú plean straitéiseach fadtéarmach a chur le chéile don earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge.
- 4. Deiseanna agus cumas oiliúna a fhorbairt i gcomhar leis an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge.
- 5. Stocaireacht a dhéanamh thar ceann na hearnála.
- 6. Bheith ag obair i gcomhpháirt leis an Roinn Oideachais, le Comhairle Óige Thuaisceart Éireann agus le gach eagras bainteach eile agus an polasaí Tosaíochtaí don Óige á chur i bhfeidhm.
- 7. Na naisc láidre phobail idir an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge agus pobal na Gaeilge a fheabhsú a thuilleadh.
- 8. Coiste na nGael Óg a fhorbairt, is é sin fóram ionadaíoch daoine óga atá páirteach san earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge.
- 9. Cur chuige trasteorann éifeachtach a fhorbairt a thuilleadh i leith na hoibre óige lán-Ghaeilge trí chomhoibriú le heagraíochtaí óige náisiúnta atá ann cheana.
- 10 Meitheal na nÓg, fóram réigiúnda do chlubanna óige Gaeilge a éascú agus a riar a bheirfidh deis do na clubanna obair i gcomhpháirtíocht ar cheisteanna agus tionscadail a bhfuil suim leasmhara acu ann. Beidh an fhóram tiománta do neartú agus buanú neamhspleáchas agus suimeanna leasmhara na baill grúpaí.

#### I.3 AIMS OF FÓRAM NA NÓG

- 1. To enhance the educational and social experience of young Irish speakers through the provision of Irish-medium youth services.
- 2. To offer advice and guidance to all those involved in the provision of Irish-medium youth services .
- 3. To assist in the formulation of a strategic, long term plan for the Irish-medium youth sector .
- 4. To develop training opportunities and capacity with the Irish-medium youth sector
- 5. To lobby on behalf of the Irish-medium youth sector.
- 6. To work in partnership with the Department of Education, the Youth Council of Northern Ireland and all other relevant bodies in the implementation of the Priorities for Youth policy.
- 7. To further enhance the strong community links between the Irish-medium youth sector and the Irish speaking community.
- 8. To develop Coiste na nGael Óg, a representative forum of young people involved in the Irish-medium youth sector.
- To further develop an effective, crossborder approach to Irish-medium youth work through co-operation with existing national youth organisations.
- 10 To facilitate and provide secretarial administration to a representative regional IME youth providers Forum, Meitheal na nÓg, which will give locally based Irish medium youth clubs a regular opportunity to work in partnership on issues and projects of common interest. This forum will be committed to upholding and strengthening the independence and locally-based interests of its member groups.



#### I.4 BUNÚS FHÓRAM NA NÓG

Oibrithe óige deonacha lán-Ghaeilge, ar ghníomhaithe teanga iad, a chuir Fóram na nÓg ar bun in 2009 le tacaíocht straitéiseach ó oifigigh Gaeilge (fostaithe ag údaráis áitiúla agus grúpaí pobail) agus ó eagraíochtaí a bhfuil oibleagáidí reachtúla acu i leith na Gaeilge. Ba léir ó chomhráite ag an tús leis na páirtithe leasmhara seo agus ó aiseolas uathu go raibh gá le ceannaireacht agus comhordú straitéiseach a bheith curtha ar fáil don earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge. Sular bunaíodh Fóram na nÓg ní raibh sé ar chumas aon ghrúpa ar leith guth agus treoir éifeachtach a chur ar fáil don earnáil. Is mian linn, mar sin, seo a chur ar fáil do chlubanna óige lán-Ghaeilge, oibrithe, saorálaithe agus, go háirithe, na páistí a fhreastalaíonn ar na clubanna seo.

Sular bunaíodh Fóram na nÓg ba ghnách an chuid ba mhó de chlubanna óige a bhunú ar bhonn áitiúil le riar ar éileamh áitiúil agus de ghnáth is é a bhí i gceist leis seo gur fheidhmigh siad astu féin, gan an cuidiú agus na hacmhainní a bhí de dhíth. Cuireann Fóram na nÓg leis an obair dhearfach atá déanta i bpobail áitiúla ag clubanna óige lán-Ghaeilge réamhbhunaithe trí ghlór straitéiseach a chur ar fáil don earnáil agus trí chomhordú a dhéanamh ar na seirbhísí agus ar an tsolóthar oiliúna atá ar fáil leis an earnáil a neartú ina hiomláine.

Leanfaidh Fóram na nÓg ar aghaidh ag obair le comhpháirtithe ar an talamh agus leo siúd a bhfuil oibleagáidí reachtúla orthu maidir leis an obair óige agus daoine óga d'fhonn an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge a thabhairt isteach agus a phríomhshruthú i mór-earnáil na hoibre óige. Déanfaidh siad seo trí fhéacháil le cinntiú go bhfuil an obair a dhéantar san earnáil aitheanta

#### I.4 ORIGINS OF FÓRAM NA NÓG

Fóram na nÓg was established in 2009 by a voluntary group of Irish-medium youth workers, language activists with strategic support provided by Irish language officers (employed by local authorities and community groups) and organisations with statutory obligations relating to the Irish language. It was clear from early discussions with these stakeholders and feedback from them that there was a need for strategic leadership and co-ordination to be provided to the Irish-medium youth sector. Prior to the formation of Fóram na nÓg no single group had the capacity to offer an effective voice and direction to the sector. We seek, therefore, provide this to Irish-medium youth clubs, workers, volunteers and especially the children and young people who attend these clubs.

Until the establishment of Fóram na nÓg, Irishmedium youth clubs had, for the most part, been established on a local basis in order to meet local demand and generally this meant that they operated in isolation, without necessary assistance and resources. Fóram na nÓg builds upon the positive work which has already been carried out in local communities by established Irish-medium youth clubs by offering a strategic voice to the sector and by co-ordinating the services and training provision which are available in order to strengthen the sector overall.

Fóram na nÓg will continue to work with partners on the ground and those with statutory obligations relating to youth work and young people with the aim of incorporating and mainstreaming the Irish-medium youth sector into the broader youth work family. It will do this by seeking to ensure that the work carried out within the sector is recognised by the relevant



ag na Ranna Feidhmeannais ábhartha agus na heagrais reachtúla ábhartha. Tá súil ag Fóram na nÓg bheith ag obair leis an Roinn Oideachais, an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta, na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlann a bheidh ann, agus Comhairle Óige TÉ le riachtanais na hearnála óige lán-Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn.

Tá creatlach curtha ar fáil ag *Priorities for Youth* (2013) ón Roinn Oideachais le haghaidh treoir don obair óige i dTuaisceart Éireann do bhlianta fada le teacht agus, mar sin, tá Fóram na nÓg ag súil le bheith ag obair i gcomhar leis na páirtithe ábhartha leis an pholasaí seo a chur i bhfeidhm ar mhaithe le barrleas earnáil na hoibre óige lán-Ghaeilge agus na ndaoine óga a úsáideann an tseirbhís seo.

Aithníonn Fóram na nÓg gné dheonach na hearnála óige, mar a bhaineann sé le daoine óga a bhíonn páirteach sna clubanna óige agus a úsáideann na seirbhísí agus mar a bhaineann sé leis an iliomad oibrithe óige deonacha a chinntíonn go bhfuil na seirbhísí seo ar fáil ar an talamh. Mar aitheantas air seo féachfaidh Fóram na nÓg le hionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar a son sa dóigh is láidre agus is féidir le cinntiú go bhfuil an comhordú ceart ann, go bhfuil áiseanna ar fáil sna ceantair ina bhfuil siad ag teastáil agus go bhfuil na daoine atá páirteach san earnáil in ann teacht ar oiliúint agus ar chuidiú le riar ar a riachtanais áirithe féin. Sa deireadh thiar thall is é is aidhm d'Fhoram na nÓg soláthar na seirbhíse óige lán-Ghaeilge ar ardchaighdeán a uasmhéadú, rud a ligfidh do gach gaeilgeoir óg an tseirbhís sin a úsáid.

Executive Departments and statutory bodies. Fóram na nÓg hopes to work in conjunction with the Department of Education, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, the Education and Library Boards and the Youth Council of NI in order to promote the needs of the Irish-medium youth sector.

The Department of Education's *Priorities for Youth* policy (2013) has provided a framework for the direction of youth work in Northern Ireland for many years to come and therefore Fóram na nÓg looks forward to working in co-operation with the relevant partners in order to implement this policy in the best interests of the Irishmedium youth sector and the young people using this service.

Fóram na nÓg recognises the voluntary nature of the youth sector, both for the young people who take part in the youth clubs and avail of the services and for the many voluntary youth workers who ensure that these services are available on the ground. In recognition of this, Fóram na nÓg will seek to represent their interests in the strongest possible manner to ensure that the correct co-ordination takes place, facilities are available in the areas where they are needed and that those involved in the sector can access training and assistance in order to meet their particular needs. Ultimately, Fóram na nÓg aims to maximise provision of a high quality Irishmedium youth service which allows every young person with Irish to avail of that service.





## CAIBIDIL CHAPTER 2

#### AN OBAIR ÓIGE 2.1 AN TÁBHACHT A BHAINEANN LEIS AN OBAIR ÓIGE

Aithníonn an Roinn Oideachais gur meicníocht thábhachtach í an obair óige trínar féidir le páistí agus daoine óga a scileanna pearsanta agus sóisialta a fheabhsú lena lánacmhainneacht a bhaint amach.

"Spreagann oideachas neamhfhoirmiúil, i bhformáid obair don ógra, páistí agus daoine óga lena scileanna pearsanta agus sóisialta a fhorbairt agus bheith rannpháirteach sa phróiseas foghlama." (Priorities for Youth, an Roinn Oideachais, 2013)

Ba cheart an obair óige a bheith ina phróiseas a chumasaíonn, próiseas a ligeann do dhaoine óga a lánacmhainneacht mar dhaoine aonaracha agus mar ghrúpa a bhaint amach, agus iad a bheith níos gníomhaí mar shaoránaigh agus mar dhaoine a bhrúnn an t-athrú chun tosaigh ina bpobail agus sa tsochaí ar fad. Gnéithe ríthábhachtacha de phróiseas foghlama ar feadh an tsaoil is iad na deiseanna ar chairdeas, na caidrimh lán brí, sealbhú scileanna nua, agus fás muiníne agus na féinmhuiníne atá ann mar gheall ar sheirbhísí óige.

Ach bheith páirteach san obair óige tá deiseanna gan áireamh ann do dhaoine óga casadh ar chairde nua, scileanna nua a shealbhú agus a muinín agus a bhféinmhuinín a mhéadú.

### YOUTH WORK 2.1 1MPORTANCE OF YOUTH WORK

Youth work is recognised by the Department of Education as an important mechanism through which children and young people can improve their personal and social skills in order to reach their full potential.

"Non-formal education in the form of youth work is an important part of education as it encourages children and young people's participation to develop their personal and social skills encouraging them to engage or re-engage in positive learning within a non-formal setting." (Priorities for Youth, Department of Education, 2013)

Youth work should be an enabling process which allows young people to reach their individual and collective potential, while becoming more active citizens and agents for change in their communities and in society as a whole. For a great many children and young people the opportunities for friendship, meaningful relationships, the acquisition of new skills, and the growth of confidence and self-esteem provided by youth services, are vital elements of a life-long learning process.

Participation in youth work provides endless opportunities for young people to make new friendships, acquire new skills, and to build their confidence and self-esteem.



Sa chiorclán de chuid na Roinne, *Model for Effective Practice* (2003), tugtar breac-chuntas ar an iliomad bealaí inar féidir leis an obair óige saol daoine óga a fheabhsú, agus sonraítear ann ceithre phríomhchuspóir na hoibre óige:

- Go roghnaíonn daoine óga bheith páirteach. Tá an obair óige deonach agus is de bhrí go mbíonn na daoine óga féin ag iarraidh bheith páirteach, scileanna nua a fhoghlaim agus casadh ar chairde nua a tharlaíonn sí.
- Gur chóir an obair óige a bheith dírithe ar an óige. Caithfidh sí tacaíocht a thabhairt ar na cinntí a dhéanann daoine óga agus ligean dóibh a smaointe, a ndearcthaí agus a dtuairimí féin a fhorbairt ar a luas féin.
- 3. Gur chóir go bhfreastalódh an obair óige ar gach duine óg, agus go léireodh sí meas ar a gcumais agus a dtréithe áirithe féin.
- 4. Gur chóir an méid a dhéanann fostaithe agus saorálaithe a bheith aitheanta agus go mbainfear amach a lánacmhainneacht trí chomhoibriú agus oiliúint.

Tá ról eile ag an obair óige lán-Ghaeilge dóibh siúd atá páirteach san earnáil seo. Chomh maith leis na buntáistí atá le fáil san earnáil óige trí chéile, tugann an obair óige tríd an dara teanga deis thábhachtach do dhaoine óga a stór focal sóisialta a fhorbairt, dóibh siúd a shealbhaigh an Ghaeilge sa ghaeloideachas agus dóibh siúd chomh maith arb í an Ghaeilge an chéad teanga

The Departmental curricular, *Model for Effective Practice* (2003), outlined the many ways in which youth work can enhance the lives of young people and stated that the four main objectives of youth work are:

- That young people choose to become involved. Youth work is voluntary and takes place because the young people themselves want to take part, learn new skills and to make new friends.
- 2. That youth work ought to be youth-led. It needs to support the decisions that are made by young people and allow them to develop their ideas, attitudes and opinions at their own pace.
- 3. That youth work should cater for all young people, and respect all their different capabilities and qualities.
- 4. That the contribution of staff and volunteers is recognised and that their potential is realised through co-operation and training.

Irish-medium youth work has an additional role to play for those involved and participating in this sector. In addition to gaining the benefits which are cross-sectoral, youth work through a second language provides an important opportunity for young people to develop their social vocabulary, including both those who acquired Irish in Irishmedium education and those whose first home language is Irish. Irish-medium youth work



bhaile acu. Cuireann an obair óige lán-Ghaeilge ar a gcumas do dhaoine óga an Ghaeilge a úsáid taobh amuigh de thimpeallacht acadúil, a chuireann lena gcumas í a úsáid go sóisialta i measc a gcomhaosach agus méadaíonn sin a muinín sa teanga tríd is tríd (tá tuilleadh eolais le fáil air seo i gCaibidil 3.3). Tá sé ríthábhachtach, mar sin, an acmhainn cheart a bheith ag an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge le ról gníomhach a bheith aici i bhforbairt phearsanta, shóisialta agus theangeolaíoch gaeilgeoirí óga, le cuidiú, mar sin, leis an obair atá á déanamh san earnáil oideachais lán-Ghaeilge.

enables young people to use the Irish language outside of an academic environment, which increases their ability to use it socially amongst their peers and increases their confidence in the language overall (more information on this can be found at Chapter 3.3). It is, therefore, vitally important that the Irish-medium youth sector is adequately equipped in order to play an active role in the personal, social and linguistic development of young Irish speakers, thus complementing the work being carried out in the Irish-medium education sector.

#### 2.2 ÉITEAS DÍRITHE AR AN ÓIGE

Aithníonn Fóram na nÓg gurb í bunchloch na hoibre óige éifeachtaí rannpháirtíocht an aosa óig. Le cinntiú go léirítear seo in obair Fhóram na nÓg, tá sé ag plé go leitheadach le daoine óga le fáil amach cad iad a dtosaíochtaí i leith na hearnála óige lán-Ghaeilge, agus cad iad a dtuairimí ar fhorbairt na hearnála amach anseo. Spreagann Fóram na nÓg rannpháirtíocht ghníomhach ar gach leibhéal. Mar chuid den phróiseas seo ina bpléitear le daoine óga, agus le fáil amach cad iad a dtuairimí agus a mianta, chuaigh Fóram na nÓg i gcomhairle le daoine óga a bhaineann úsáid as seirbhísí óige lán-Ghaeilge, na hoibrithe óige agus na saorálaithe sna seirbhísí seo, agus lena fháil amach cad iad na saincheisteanna is dóigh leo go gcaithfear tabhairt fúthu san earnáil. I gCaibidil 4.3 den doiciméad seo leagtar amach achoimre ar mholtaí a éiríonn as an phróiseas comhairliúcháin seo, agus tá na sonraí go léir ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin Fhóram na nÓg (www.foramnanog.com).

#### 2.2 YOUTH LED ETHOS

Fóram na nÓg recognises that the cornerstone of effective youth work is youth participation. In order to ensure that this is reflected in the work of Fóram na nÓg, it has engaged extensively with young people in order to determine what their priorities are for the Irish-language youth sector, and what their opinions are on its future development. Fóram na nÓg actively encourages participation at all levels. As part of this engagement process, and to find out their opinions and wishes, Fóram na nÓg consulted with young people who avail of Irish-medium youth services, the youth workers and volunteers within these services, and to identify the issues that they felt need to be addressed within the sector. Chapter 4.3 of this document sets out a summary of recommendations arising out of this consultation process, and full details are available on the Fóram na nÓg website (www.foramnanog.com).





#### 2.3 RANNPHÁIRTÍOCHT NA HÓIGE -COISTE NA NGAEL ÓG

Tá Fóram na nÓg tiomanta do chinntiú go bhfuil tuairimí agus barúlacha na ngaeilgeoirí óga a úsáideann seirbhísí óige lárnach sna cinntí a dhéanann sé. Chuige seo cuireadh Coiste na nGael Óg ar bun le daoine óga a chumasú lena dtuairimí a roinnt ar bhealach daonlathach, rannpháirtíoch agus bríoch.

Tá Coiste na nGael Óg déanta de ghaeilgeoirí óga idir 16 agus 18 mbliana d'aois a bhfuil spéis léirithe acu san obair óige lán-Ghaeilge, bíodh sin trí bheith páirteach sa tseirbhís mar bhaill nó mar shaorálaithe. Déanann na daoine óga seo ionadaíocht ar gach réimse den earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge agus tagann siad i gceann a chéile roinnt uaireanta sa bhliain le plé, díospóireacht agus cinneadh a dhéanamh maidir leis an treoir ba mhaith leo an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge bheith ag dul.

Agus iad ag obair i gcomhar le Fóram Óige Thuaisceart Éireann, fuair baill Choiste na nGael Óg oiliúint ar an Big Deal Pack. Ba é Fóram Óige Thuaisceart Éireann a dhear an Big Deal Pack le heolas agus treoir a chur ar fáil ar an bhealach is féidir le fóram óige, leithéid Choiste na nGael Óg, bheith chomh héifeachtach agus chomh tairbheach agus is féidir dóibh siúd atá páirteach.

Is meicníocht é Coiste na nGael Óg trína gcinntíonn Fóram na nGael Óg go bhfuil ár gcuid oibre dírithe i gcónaí ar an óige agus go bhfuiltear ag riar go héifeachtach ar riachtanais agus ar mhianta daoine óga.

#### 2.3 YOUTH PARTICIPATION – COISTE NA NGAEL ÓG

Fóram na nÓg is committed to ensuring that the views and opinions of the young Irish speakers who avail of youth services are central to the decisions that it makes. To this end, Coiste na nGael Óg (The Committee of Young Irish Speakers) was established in order to enable young people to share their views in a democratic, participatory and meaningful way.

Coiste na nGael Óg is made up of young Irish speakers, between 16 and 18 years of age, who have shown an interest in Irish-medium youth work, either through engaging with the service as members or as volunteers. These young people represent all areas of the Irish-medium youth sector and come together several times a year in order to discuss, debate and determine the direction that they would like to see the Irish-medium youth sector taking.

Working in conjunction with Northern Ireland Youth Forum, the members of Coiste na nGael Óg received training on the Big Deal Pack. The Big Deal Pack was designed by the Northern Ireland Youth Forum to provide information and guidance on how a youth forum, such as Coiste na nGael Óg, can be as effective and beneficial to those involved as possible.

Coiste na nGael Óg is a mechanism through which Fóram na nÓg ensures that our work is, at all times, youth centred and that the needs and aspirations of young people are being met effectively.





# CAIBIDIL CHAPTER 3

#### AN GHAEILGE 3.1 AN GHAEILGE I DTUAISCEART ÉIREANN

Léiríonn daonáireamh 2011 go bhfuil eolas éigin ar an Ghaeilge ag beagnach 11% den daonra i dTuaisceart Éireann. Tá an Ghaeilge a labhairt ar fud na hÉireann leis na mílte bliain agus baineann sí le teaghlach na dteangacha Ceilteacha, le gaol gairid le Gaeilge na hAlban agus leis an Mhanainnis, agus gaolta chomh maith leis an Bhreatnais, an Choirnis agus an Bhriotáinis. Cé gur tháinig meath ar an teanga agus go raibh a lán bac roimpi sa 19ú haois agus i dtús an 20 haois, bhí aiséirí mór agus athbheochan mhór aici ó shin. Tá méid áirithe aitheantais agus cosaint dhlithiúil aici anois, lena n-áirítear:

- Dualgas reachtúil ar an Roinn Oideachais a 'encourage and facilitate' Irish-medium education (Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998)
- Geallúint i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta 1998 agus i gComhaontú Chill Rìmhinn 2006 an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn ag leibhéal an Fheidhmeannais
- An Chairt Eorpach um Theangacha Réigiúnacha nó Mionlaigh, a daingníodh in 2001, a thugann cosaint agus cearta do ghaeilgeoirí i dTuaisceart Éireann. 'Le haghaidh tuilleadh eolais, féach Aguisín A'.

#### TRISH LANGUAGE 3.1 THE TRISH LANGUAGE IN NORTHERN TRELAND

The 2011 census showed that almost 11% of the population in Northern Ireland has some knowledge of Irish. Irish has been spoken across Ireland for several thousand years and belongs to the Celtic language, closely related to Scottish Gaelic and Manx Gaelic, and also to Welsh, Cornish and Breton. While the language declined and faced many obstacles in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it has subsequently undergone a huge resurgence and revival. It now has a degree of recognition and legal protection, including:

- A statutory duty on the Department of Education to 'encourage and facilitate' Irishmedium education (Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998)
- A commitment in both the Good Friday Agreement 1998 and the St. Andrew's Agreement 2006 to promote the Irish language at an Executive level
- The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, ratified in 2001, giving protection and rights to Irish speakers in Northern Ireland.
   'For more information, see Appendix A'.



#### 3.2 AN GAELOIDEACHAS

Is earnáil fhásmhar í an ghaeloideachas i dTuaisceart Éireann. In 2014 bhí 45 réamhscoil, 36 bhunscoil agus cúig iar-bhunscoil ag cur ar fáil gaeloideachais d'os cionn 5,000 páiste. Cé go bhfuil líon beag ach méadaitheach páistí ann arb í an Ghaeilge a gcéad teanga, tagann an chuid is mó páistí a fhreastalaíonn ar an ghaeloideachas ó thithe nach labhraítear Gaeilge iontu. Ó tharla gurb í an modh teagaisc an sprioctheanga baineann na páistí leibhéal níos airde inniúlachta amach sa tumtheanga ná mar a tharlaíonn nuair nach dteagasctar an teanga ach mar ábhar scoile. Úsáidtear córais tumoideachais i gCeanada, sa Nua-Shéalainn, san Ísealtír, sa Bhreatain Bheag agus ina lán tíortha eile ar fud an domhain i bpobail teanga mionlaigh. Cuireann na scoileanna seo ar a gcumas do dhaltaí a scileanna teanga a fhorbairt trí ghnáthimeachtaí scoile agus bíonn siad dá bharr sin dátheangach. Aithníonn an Roinn Oideachais an luath-thumoideachas a bheith ar an mhodh tumoideachais is éifeachtaí mar a bhaineann sé le sealbhú na Gaeilge (Johnson agus Swain, 1997). Chomh maith leis seo, tugann an gaeloideachas oideachas ina dteanga féin do pháistí ó theaghlaigh Ghaeilge.

#### 3.2 TRISH-MEDIUM EDUCATION

Irish-medium immersion education is a growing sector in Northern Ireland. In 2014, there were 45 preschools, 36 primary schools, and five postprimary schools providing Irish-medium education to over 5,000 children. While there is a small but growing number of children whose first language is Irish, the vast majority of children attending Irish-medium education come from homes where Irish is not spoken. Since the teaching medium is the target language they gain a much higher level of proficiency in the language of immersion than occurs when the language is simply taught as a school subject. Immersion systems of education are used in Canada, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Wales and many other countries around the world in minority language communities. These schools enable pupils to develop their language skills through everyday school activities, thus becoming fully bilingual. Early total immersion education is recognized by the Department of Education as the most effective model of immersion education in terms of acquisition of the Irish language (Johnson and Swain, 1997). As well as this, Irish-medium also provides education in their own language to



Is ionann aidhmeanna an ghaeloideachais agus aidhmeanna aon earnála oideachais mar a bhaineann sé le seachadadh an churaclaim, aistriú an chultúir agus sóisialú. Tugann an tumoideachas do gach foghlaimeoir an leibhéal is airde agus is féidir forbartha teanga, cognaíche, mothúchánaí agus sóisialta. Tá sé d'aidhm ag an earnáil oideachais lán-Ghaeilge oideachas den scoth a chur ar fáil do gach foghlaimeoir, le múinteoireacht den scoth a chuirfidh ar a gcumas an Ghaeilge a shealbhú ar gach leibhéal. Aithnítear go hidirnáisiúnta go bhfuil cláir thumoideachais an-éifeachtach ag forbairt teanga acadúil daltaí (Stein, 1999). Mar sin de, ó tharla gur dlúthchuid de de chuid an chórais tumoideachais í an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge, tá sé ríthábhachtach struchtúir chearta thacaíochta a bheith i bhfeidhm don earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge. Tá sé seo riachtanach ionas gur féidir eiseamláirí den chleachtas is fearr i ndlínsí eile a leanúint, rud a bhéarfaidh do pháistí sa ghaeloideachas an seans a bhfoghlaim agus a n-úsáid teanga a fhorbairt agus a uasmhéadú i suíomh sóisialta taobh amuigh den oideachas fhoirmiúil, bíodh siad ó theaghlach gaelach nó ná bíodh. Treisíonn agus neartaíonn sé seo sealbhú teanga sa tseomra ranga, sa bhreis ar na buntáistí go léir eile sa tsoláthar óige.

I measc an réimse leathain taighde atá ar fáil ar an ábhar, tá léirithe ag Wang (2012) agus Wilson agus Keil (2001) na buntáistí ollmhóra is féidir a bheith ag an luath-dhátheangachas d'fhorbairt chognaíoch agus mhothúchánach daoine óga. Tá na torthaí seo aitheanta ag an Roinn Oideachais chomh maith maidir leis an ghaeloideachas: children from Irish speaking families. The aims of Irish-medium education are the same as those in any education sector as regards delivery of the curriculum, transmission of culture and socialisation. Immersion education provides every learner with the highest possible level in linguistic, cognitive, emotional and social development. The Irish-medium education sector aims to provide each learner with an excellent education, with top quality teaching enabling the acquisition of Irish at every level. It is internationally recognized that immersion education programmes are extremely effective in developing the academic language of pupils (Stein, 1999). Therefore, as the Irish-medium youth sector is a central part of the immersion education system, it is essential that proper support structures are in place for the Irishmedium youth sector. This is necessary so that examples of best practice shown in other jurisdictions can be followed, thus giving children in Irish-medium education, whether from Irish speaking homes or not, the opportunity to further develop and maximise their language learning and use in a social setting outside of formal education. This reinforces and strengthens classroom language acquisition, above and beyond all the other usual benefits of youth provision.

Among the wide range of research available on the subject, Wang (2012) and Wilson and Keil (2001) have shown the enormous benefits early bilingualism can have on the cognitive and emotional development of young people. These results have also been ackowledged by the Department of Education in relation to Irish-





"Bilingualism can be a sought after commodity, with cognitive benefits in:

- i) Language acquisition
- ii) Cognitive and academic development
- iii) The self-confidence and self-esteem of the children and
- iv) Problem solving abilities, with children who are less afraid to get things wrong."(An Roinn Oideachais, 2011)

#### 3.3 AN SOLÁTHAR ÓIGE TRÍ MÆÁN NA GAEILGE

I dtuarascáil a choimisiúnaigh Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta (2008) tarraingíodh aird ar an bhuntátal seo a leanas:

"Although minority language communities may be successful in increasing the number of children in immersion language education programmes and in developing high standards in written skills, there is a concern that 'social' use of the language in out of school contexts is not developing satisfactorily."

I ainneoin fás leanúnach earnáil an ghaeloideachais, cuireann an tuarascáil seo in iúl nach bhfuil an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge forbartha go dtí an chéim ag a mbeadh sí in ann cur go sásúil le scileanna teanga sóisialta na ndaoine óga go léir atá ag freastal ar ghaelscoileanna.

In 2009 d'fhoilsigh an Roinn Oideachais athbhreithniú cuimsitheach ar gach gné den ghaeloideachas. Rinne an t-athbhreithniú réimse medium education also:

- "Bilingualism can be a sought after commodity, with cognitive benefits in:
- i) Language acquisition
- ii) Cognitive and academic development
- iii) The self-confidence and self-esteem of the children and
- iv) Problem solving abilities, with children who are less afraid to get things wrong."
  (Department of Education, 2011)

### 3.3 TRISH-MEDIUM YOUTH PROVISION

A report commissioned by Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta (2008) highlights the following key finding:

"Although minority language communities may be successful in increasing the number of children in immersion language education programmes and in developing high standards in written skills, there is a concern that 'social' use of the language in out of school contexts is not developing satisfactorily."

Despite the continued growth of the Irishmedium education sector, the finding of this report highlights the fact that the Irish-medium youth sector has not developed to the stage that it can satisfactorily contribute to the social language skills of all the young people attending Irish medium schools.

In 2009, the Department of Education published a comprehensive review into all aspects of Irish-





leathan moltaí maidir le cad é mar ba chóir don Roinn Oideachais bheith ag comhlíonadh a dualgas reachtúil an gaeloideachas 'a spreagadh agus a éascú', lena n-áirítear an soláthar a dhéantar don obair óige lán-Ghaeilge. Seo a leanas moladh 18 den athbhreithniú:

Ba chóir don Roinn Oideachais deiseanna foghlama neamhfhoirmeálta a thacú agus a spreagadh trí mheán na Gaeilge in earnáil na hóige, agus trí chur chuige na scoileanna méadaithe. Beidh úsáid TFC ina cuid ríthábhachtach d'fhorbairt agus de sholáthar na ndeiseanna foghlama.

Aithníonn an moladh seo an ról tábhachtach atá ag an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge i sealbhú scileanna teanga Gaeilge agus ag cinntiú go gcuirtear ar a gcumas do dhaoine óga an tairbhe iomlán a bhaint as tumoideachas.

Nuair a chuirtear deiseanna neamhfhoirmiúla leis an Ghaeilge a labhairt agus a úsáid ar fáil do dhaoine óga bíonn an Ghaeilge ina huirlis shóisialta bhainteach. In easnamh na ndeiseanna seo tá an teanga teoranta do shuíomh na scoile agus fanann sí cuid mhór mar chuid dá noideachas foirmiúil, ag baint le comhthéacs acadúil amháin, a shrianaíonn a gcumas an teanga a fhorbairt agus tairbhe a bhaint aisti go hiomlán. B'fhánach na seirbhísí óige a chuirtí ar fáil do ghaeilgeoirí óga ar feadh na mblianta fada agus ba thacaíocht dheonach a fuair siad ó eagraíochtaí mar Ógras. Le blianta fada tá Ógras ag cur seirbhísí óige ar fáil do ghaeilgeoirí óga ach, go dtí seo, níl aon mhaoiniú nó gnáth-thacaíocht faighte acu. Ba oibrithe óga agus pobal na Gaeilge, le cuidiú ó Ógras, a rinne cuid den obair seo. I gceantair eile, seachadadh seirbhísí gan aon tacaíocht sheachtrach nó aon mhaoiniú seachtrach agus a bhrath go hiomlán ar an obair dheonach a rinne oibrithe óige agus pobal na Gaeilge ina gceantair féin. Tá cur chuige atá níos dírithe maidir le straitéis agus atá níos comhordaithe de dhíth.

medium education. This review made a wide range of recommendations relating to how the Department of Education ought to be fulfilling its statutory duty to 'encourage and facilitate' Irishmedium education, including the provision that is made for Irish-medium youth work.

Recommendation 18 of the review is as follows:

The Department of Education should encourage and support informal opportunities for learning through the medium of Irish in the youth sector, and through the extended schools approach.

This recommendation recognises the important role that the Irish-medium youth sector has to play in the acquisition of Irish language skills and ensuring that young people are enabled to gain the full benefit of an immersion education system.

Through making informal opportunities to speak and use the Irish language available to young people, the language becomes a relevant social tool. In the absence of these opportunities, the language is restricted to a school setting and remains very much a part of their formal education and relevant only in an academic context, which restricts their ability to develop and enjoy the language to its full potential. The youth services that were provided to young Irish speakers for many years were sporadic and supported voluntarily by organisations such as Ógras. For many years, Ógras has provided youth services to young Irish speakers but, to date, has not been in receipt of funding or mainstream support. Some of this work has been carried out by voluntary youth workers and the Irish language community, with the assistance of Ógras. In other areas, services were delivered with no outside support or funding and were totally dependent upon the voluntary work that was put in by youth workers and the Irish language



Léiríonn na foinsí a luaitear thuas go bhfuil sé ríthábhachtach seirbhísí óige ar ardchaighdeán a chur ar fáil do ghaeilgeoirí óga le cuidiú riar ar a riachtanais shóisialta, oideachais agus teanga. In easnamh soláthar mar seo beidh gaeilgeoirí óga ag freastal ar sheirbhísí óige Béarla (nó, mar is amhlaidh go minic, ní bheidh siad páirteach sa tseirbhís óige ar chor ar bith). Mar thoradh air seo is é an Béarla a bhíonn mar theanga shóisialta i measc páistí agus daoine óga, agus coscann agus laghdaíonn sin an obair atá á déanamh i ngaelscoileanna.

Tá seirbhísí óige lán-Ghaeilge anois ar fáil do dhaoine óga ar fud Thuaisceart Éireann. Ó bhí Márta 2014 ann tá 23 chlub óige ag feidhmiú, iad ag soláthar seirbhísí do 30 bunscoil lán-Ghaeilge, 5 iar-bhunscoil ina bhfuil soláthar lán-Ghaeilge agus 15 iar-bhunscoil Bhéarla ina bhfuil an Ghaeilge á teagasc mar dhara teanga. Tá timpeall 1,000 duine óg ag freastal go rialta ar chlubanna óige lán-Ghaeilge ina gceantar féin, atá á n-éascú ag 100 oibrí óige, atá ar an chuid is mó ag obair go deonach. Tá an líon seo ag méadú leis, agus leanfaidh Fóram na nÓg leis ag spreagadh na hearnála óige lán-Ghaeilge agus ag tacú léi le cinntiú gur féidir leis an earnáil bheith ina dlúthchuid den earnáil óige i dTuaisceart Éireann.

Tá liosta cuimsitheach de sholáthraithe óige lán-Ghaeilge in Aguisín B.

Aithníonn Fóram na nÓg a thábhachtaí is atá sé na deiseanna neamhfhoirmiúla seo a chur ar fáil do dhaoine óga agus tá Fóram na nÓg tiomanta do bheith ag obair le grúpaí óige lán-Ghaeilge, scoileanna agus páirtithe leasmhara eile le cinntiú gur féidir leis an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge leanúint ar aghaidh ag fás agus ag forbairt, mar atá sí a dhéanamh le blianta beaga anuas.

community in their local areas. A more strategically focussed and co-ordinated approach is necessary.

The sources cited above show that it is essential that high quality youth services are made available to young Irish speakers in order to complement their social, educational and linguistic needs. In the absence of such provision, young Irish speakers will attend English medium youth services (or, as is often the case, not engage with the youth service at all). As a result of this English becomes the social language among children and young people, which impedes and diminishes the work being done in Irish-medium schools.

Irish-medium youth services are now available to young people across Northern Ireland. As of March 2014, 23 youth clubs were in operation, providing services to 30 Irish-medium primary schools, 5 secondary schools with Irish-medium provision and 15 English-medium secondary schools which teach Irish as a second language. Around 1,000 young people are regularly attending Irish-medium youth clubs in their area, facilitated by over 100 youth workers, mostly working on a voluntary basis. These numbers continue to grow, and the further expansion of the Irish-medium youth sector will continue to be encouraged and supported by Fóram na nÓg in order to ensure that the sector can become an integral part of the youth sector in Northern Ireland.

A comprehensive list of the current Irish-medium youth providers can be found at Appendix  $\int$ .

Fóram na nÓg recognises how important it is that these informal learning opportunities are made available to young people and is committed to working with Irish-medium youth groups, schools and other stakeholders to ensure that the Irish medium youth sector can continue to grow and develop, as it has done over the past number of





# CAIBIDIL CHAPTER 4

#### COMHAIRLIÚCHÁN FHÓRAM NA NÓG 4.I COMHAIRLIÚCHÁN PÁIRTITHE LEASMHARA

Le go mbeadh sé in ann a fhís le haghaidh thodhchaí na hearnála óige lán-Ghaeilge a fhorbairt, b'éigean d'Fhóram na nÓg plé le réimse mór páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha, arbh iad na cinn ba thábhachtai iad siúd atá ag seachadadh na hoibre óige lán-Ghaeilge faoi láthair agus na daoine óga atá ag baint úsáide as na seirbhísí seo iad féin. Le cinntiú go ndéanfaí seo ar an bhealach is éifeachtaí agus ab fhéidir d'éascaigh Fóram na nÓg lá pleanála ar a raibh ionadaithe ó 18 n-eagraíocht agus club éagsúla, a bhfuil leas acu go léir i bhforbairt agus i bhfás na hearnála óige lán-Ghaeilge amach anseo. San áireamh bhí ionadaithe óna leanas:

- Foras na Gaeilge
- · Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta
- Clubanna lán-Ghaeilge ó cheantar gach Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlann
- Ógras
- · Forbairt Feirste
- Feachtas
- · Oifigigh Gaeilge ó na húdaráis áitiúla
- Oifigigh forbartha teanga ó ghrúpaí áitiúla pobail

Tá liosta iomlán den lucht comhairliúcháin le fáil in Aguisín C.

#### FÓRAM NA NÓG CONSULTATION 4.I STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

In order for Fóram na nÓg to develop its vision for the future development of the Irish-medium youth sector, it needed to engage with a whole range of relevant stakeholders, most importantly those delivering Irish-medium youth work at present and the young people availing of these services themselves. In order to ensure that this was done in the most effective way possible, Fóram na nÓg facilitated a planning day that was attended by representatives from 18 different organisations and clubs, all with an interest in the further development and growth of the Irish medium youth sector. This included representatives from:

- Foras na Gaeilge
- · Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta
- Irish-medium clubs from each of the Education and Library Board areas
- Ógras
- Forbairt Feirste
- Feachtas
- Irish Language Officers from local authorities
- Language development officers from local community groups

A complete list of consultees can be found at Appendix C.



De thoradh ar an lá pleanála tháinig ceithre phríomhthéama a aithníodh a bheith lárnach d'fhorbairt na hearnála óige lán-Ghaeilge amach anseo. Ba iad seo:

- 1. Maoiniú agus Aitheantas
- 2. Oiliúint
- 3. Polasaithe agus Éiteas
- 4. Comhoibriú agus Comhordú

This planning day resulted in the emergence of four key themes which were identified as being central to the future development of the Irish medium youth sector. These were:

- 1. Funding and Recognition
- 2. Training
- 3. Policies and ethos
- 4. Cooperation and coordination

#### 4.1.1. MAOINIÚ AGUS AITHEANTAS

Is é ceann de phríomhfheidhmeanna Fhóram na nÓg comhairle a thabhairt do chlubanna óige lán-Ghaeilge maidir le foinsí maoinithe atá ar fáil dóibh agus cuidiú leo an maoiniú seo a rochtain. Cé go bhfuil sé tairbheach nuair a bhíonn airgead curtha ar fáil do chlubanna óige lán-Ghaeilge, caithfidh na clubanna féin a bheith eolach ar na foinsí ioncaim seo agus a fhios a bheith acu cad iad na riachtanais a chaithfear a chur i gcrích lena rochtain. Tá maoiniú ar fáil faoi láthair ó réimse foinsí éagsúla, lena n-áirítear na Boird Oideachais agus leabharlann agus comhairlí áitiúla, agus ba chóir don earnáil seo ar fad a úsáid. Tá an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge forbartha a fhad seo a bhuíochas le hobair saorálaithe agus in easnamh maoiniú imleor, agus sin an fáth go bhféadfadh sé bheith an-tairbheach don earnáil dá rachfaí i ngleic leis an tsaincheist seo. D'éascaigh Fóram na nÓg cruinnithe idir na clubanna óige lán-Ghaeilge agus hionadaithe ó na seirbhísí óige ó na

#### 4.1.1. FUNDING AND RECOGNITION

One of the main functions of Fóram na nÓg has been advising Irish-medium youth clubs on the sources of funding which are available to them and helping them to access this funding. Although it is beneficial when money is made available to Irish-medium youth clubs, the clubs themselves need to be aware of these sources of income and know what requirements need to be met in order to access it. Funding is currently available from a range of different sources, such as Education and Library Boards and local councils, and this should to be fully utilised by the sector. The Irishmedium youth sector has largely developed thus far due to the work of volunteers and in the absence of adequate funding, which is why addressing this issue could be very beneficial to the sector. Fóram na nÓg facilitated meetings between the Irish-medium youth clubs and representatives of the youth services from the ELB's to encourage enrolment with the boards,



Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlann le clárú a spreagadh leis na boird, agus ionas go bhféadfadh na clubanna tairbhe a bhaint as breis airgid a bhí curtha ar fáil ag an Roinn Oideachais don earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge ar feadh líon teoranta blianta. Maith agus uile is a bhí sé seo, aithníonn a lán daoine san earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge go gcaithfear an maoiniú seo a phríomhshruthú amach anseo nó d'fhéadfadh meath teacht ar an obair iontach atá spreagtha aige go dtí seo mar gheall ar easpa maoiniú feasta. Le cinntiú go mbeidh an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge inbhuanaithe agus go bhforbrófar go fadtéarmach í caithfear maoiniú do chlubanna óige lán-Ghaeilge a chinntiú agus a chur isteach mar chuid de bhuiséad lárnach sheirbhís óige na BOL.

Tá foinsí féideartha eile maoinithe aimsithe ag Fóram na nÓg don earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge agus tá siad ag leanúint ar aghaidh le cinntiú go mbainfidh clubanna óige lán-Ghaeilge tairbhe as na deiseanna seo. Ní eagras é Fóram na nÓg a chuireann maoiniú ar fáil, ach oibríonn sé le grúpaí óige le teacht ar mhaoiniú riachtantach trí thacaíocht agus trí chomhairle a thairiscint le linn an phróisis iarratais ar fad.

Baineann an dara cuid den obair seo le haitheantas ar an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge mar chuid den mhórearnáil óige i dTuaisceart Éireann. Is é a bheadh i gceist leis seo an obair óige lán-Ghaeilge a chomhtháthú i ngach gné den obair óige, trí ionadaíocht imleor ar choistí páirtithe leasmhara agus polasaí, lena n-áirítear an Grúpa Comhairleach Réigiúnach, an Grúpa Feidhmithe Tosaíochtaí don Óige agus naisc a neartú le grúpaí óige eile ar fud na hearnála. Mar shampla, oibríonn Fóram na nÓg le réimse eagraíochtaí, lena n-áirítear Fóram Óige Thuaisceart Éireann, Youthnet agus Comhairle Óige Thuaisceart Éireann. Forbróidh Fóram na nÓg na naisc seo a thuilleadh agus cuirfidh sé leo, nó creideann sé go

and so that the clubs could avail of additional money that the Department of Education had made available to the Irish-medium youth sector for a limited number of years. As welcome as this was, it is recognised by many within the Irish-medium sector that this funding must be mainstreamed in the future or the great work that it has encouraged thus far could be eroded in the future due to an absence of continued funding. To ensure the long term sustainability and development of the Irish-medium sector, funding for Irish-medium youth clubs must be secured and placed within the core budget of ELB's youth service.

Fóram na nÓg have also identified other potential sources of funding for the Irish medium youth sector and continue to work to ensure that these opportunities are availed of by Irish youth clubs. Fóram na nÓg is not in itself a funding body, but it does work with youth clubs to access necessary funding through offering support and guidance throughout the application process.

The second part of this work involves the recognition of the Irish-medium youth sector as part of the broader youth sector in Northern Ireland. This would involve the integration of Irish-medium youth work into all aspects of youth work, through adequate representation at stakeholder and policy committees such as the Regional Advisory Group, the Priorities for Youth Implementation Group and the strengthening of connections with other youth groups from across the sector. For example, Fóram na nÓg works with a range of organisations such as the Youthnet, Challenge for Youth and the Youth Council of Northern Ireland. These links will be further developed and built upon by Fóram na

## Melanéige agus tiecfaidh si!

bhfuil an comhoibriú seo ríthábhachtach do chomhtháthú na hearnála óige lán-Ghaeilge isteach sa mhórearnáil. Caithfear a thuilleadh dea-oibre a dhéanamh san earnáil féin leis an dea-rialachas agus leis an chleachtas is fearr a bhuanú, chomh maith le hinniúlacht na ndaoine atá ag obair san earnáil a fhorbairt. Beidh comhoibriú le heagraíochtaí deonacha óige réigiúnacha eile ríthábhachtach chuige seo. Ach aitheantas agus tacaíocht a thabhairt d'Fhóram na nÓg mar eagraíocht dheonach óige réigiúnach bheadh bunús láidir ann arbh fhéidir seo agus réimsí tábhachtacha eile oibre a fhorbairt air.

nÓg, as it believes that this co-operation is vital to the integration of the Irish-medium sector into the youth sector as a whole. More work needs to be done within the sector to establish good governance and best practice, as well as developing the competency of those working within the sector. Co-operation with other regional voluntary youth organisations (RVYOs) will be vital to this. The recognition and support of Fóram na nÓg as a regional voluntary organisation for the Irish-medium sector would provide a strong basis upon which this and other important areas of work could be further developed.

#### 4.I.2. OILIÚINT

Le cinntiú go gcuirtear an obair óige lán-Ghaeilge ar fáil ar an chaighdeán is fearr agus is féidir agus go bhfuil sí de réir an dea-chleachtais atá i réim, tá sé ríthábhachtach oiliúint chuí a dhearadh agus a chur ar fáil trí Ghaeilge d'oibrithe óige agus do shaorálaithe lán-Ghaeilge ar fud na hearnála. Nuair a chuirtear san áireamh a óige is atá na daoine san earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge tá sé tábhachtach ceannaireacht agus scileanna rialachais san earnáil a fhorbairt. Ach na scileanna seo a fhorbairt neartófar cumas na hearnála óige lán-Ghaeilge agus tabharfar na scileanna, an muinín agus an inniúlacht atá de dhíth do na daoine atá páirteach san earnáil leis na caighdeáin is airde oibre óige a bhaint amach. I gcomhar le Comhairle Óige Thuaisceart Éireann agus na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlan, tá Gaeilge curtha ag Fóram na nÓg ar Leibhéil 1, 2 agus 3 den OCN agus, chomh maith leis seo, tá 5 mhodúl bhreise deartha acu atá curtha in oiriúint le freastal ar riachtanais na hearnála óige lán-Ghaeilge.

#### 4.I.2. TRAINING

In order to ensure that the Irish-medium youth work that is made available is of the best possible standard and is in compliance with established good-practice, it is essential that appropriate training is designed and made available through Irish to Irish-medium youth workers and volunteers across the sector.

Given the comparatively young nature of the Irish-medium youth sector, it is highly important that leadership and governance skills within the sector are developed. The development of these skills will strengthen the capacity of the Irish-medium youth sector and equip those involved in the sector with the skills, confidence and competence necessary to achieve the highest standards of youth work.

Fóram na nÓg, in conjunction with the Youth Council of Northern Ireland and the Education and Library Boards, has translated OCN Levels 1, 2 and 3 into Irish and, in addition to this, has designed 5 extra modules which are specifically tailored to meet the needs of the Irish medium youth sector.



Is iad na cúig mhodúl atá sainoiriúnaithe don earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge:

- 1. An éagsúlacht teanga agus cultúr a thuiscint
- 2. An athbheochan chultúrtha a thuiscint
- 3. An fhéiniúlacht chultúrtha, phearsanta agus áitiúil a thuiscint
- 4. Ról na hearnála óige san athbheochan teanga agus chultúrtha a thuiscint
- 5. An fhorbairt teanga agus oideachais i suíomh neamhfhoirmiúil óige a thuiscint

Leis an oiliúint seo a sheachadadh do bhunadh na hearnála ar fud an Tuaiscirt d'éascaigh Fóram na nÓg oiliúint do chuid oibrithe óige le cúrsa dar teideal Ag Ullmhú le Teagasc san Earnáil Foghlama ar feadh an tSaoil. Cuireann an cháilíocht seo ar a gcumas do na rannpháirtithe an oiliúint a sheachadadh d'oibrithe agus do shaorálaithe óige ar fud an Tuaiscirt, ag leathnú, mar sin, chumas na hearnála óige oiliúint agus tacaíocht a thabhairt do sheirbhísí óige, ar a leagtar béim sa doiciméad Tosaíochtaí don Óige. Tá an obair seo ar siúl i rith an ama.

Chomh maith leis na cáilíochtaí san obair óige atá riachtanach dóibh siúd atá ag obair san earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge, tá sé riachtanach chomh maith na scileanna cuí teanga a bheith ag na oibrithe seo atá riachtanach le seirbhísí óige a thabhairt do dhaoine óga trí mheán na Gaeilge. Le go mbainfidh páistí agus daoine óga a fhreastalaíonn ar na seirbhísí seo an buntáiste is mó as an obair óige lán-Ghaeilge tá sé ríthábhachtach na scileanna cearta teanga sóisialta agus teicniúla a bheith ag na hoibrithe agus ag na saorálaithe. Tá píolótú déanta ag Fóram na nÓg i gcomhar leis an Dr. Fionntán de Brún in Ollscoil Uladh ar chúrsa teanga atá dírithe ar an obair óige, cúrsa

The five modules which have been specifically tailored to Irish-medium youth sector are:

- 1. Understanding the diversity of language and culture
- 2. Understanding the cultural revival
- 3. Understanding cultural, personal and local identity
- 4. Understanding the role of the youth sector in language and cultural revival
- 5. Understanding language and educational development in an informal youth setting

In order to deliver this training to those in the sector across the North, Fóram na nÓg has facilitated the training of a number of youth workers through a course entitled Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector. This qualification enables the participants to deliver training to youth workers and volunteers across the North, therefore expanding upon the capacity of the youth sector to deliver training and support youth services, which is highlighted in the Priorities for Youth document. This work is ongoing.

In addition to the youth work qualifications which are required for those working in the Irishmedium youth sector, it is also essential that these workers are equipped with the appropriate linguistic skills necessary to deliver youth services to young people through the medium of Irish. In order to maximise the benefits of Irish-medium youth work to the children and young people availing of these services, it is vital that the workers and volunteers have the right social and technical language skills. Fóram na nÓg have piloted a youth-orientated language course with Dr. Fionntán de Brún of the University of Ulster. The course was designed to meet the specific



atá ceaptha le riar ar na riachtanais ar leith teanga atá ag oibrithe óige lán-Ghaeilge. Tá súil againn seachadadh an chúrsa seo a leathnú sa todhchaí.

Aithníonn Foras na nÓg gur féidir na riachtanais a bhaineann leis an oiliúint san obair óige agus i scileanna teanga bheith deacair, go háirithe do shaorálaithe óige atá ag díriú a gcuid am saor ar an obair óige cheana féin. Tá Fóram na nÓg tiomanta, mar sin, do bheith ag obair le hoibrithe óige le cinntiú go bhfuiltear ag freastal ar a riachtanais féin ar leith ar bhealach atá oiriúnach agus cuidiúil do na hoibrithe agus saorálaithe seo.

linguistic needs of Irish-medium youth workers. We hope to expand the delivery of this course in the future.

Fóram na nÓg recognises that the demands of training in both youth work and language skills can be difficult, especially for volunteer workers who are already devoting their free time to youth work. Fóram na nÓg is, therefore, committed to working with youth workers in order to ensure that their specific requirements are met in a way that is suitable and helpful to these workers and volunteers.

#### 4.I.3. POLASAITHE AGUS ÉITEAS

Mar a aibhsíodh cheana, as siocair go bhfuil an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge dírithe ar an phobal, bhí a lán clubanna atá ar bun cheana ag feidhmiú ar feadh i bhfad ar leithligh ó sholáthraithe seirbhíse óige eile agus dá thoradh sin níor cuireadh éiteas agus féiniúlacht na hearnála i bhfriotal agus bhí siad éagsúil ó chlub go club.

Sna seisiúin phleanála éagsúla bhí toil ann éiteas ar leith a fhorbairt don earnáil a léireodh go soiléir gnéithe ar leith na hearnála seo agus cad é mar ba cheart don éiteas tionchar a imirt ar an obair a dhéanann clubanna óige.

Tá tréadchúram láidir tábhachtach d'Fhóram na nÓg, le leas agus cothú gach duine óg i gcroílár ár gcuid oibre. Léiríonn staidéir go leanúnach go mbaineann daoine óga leibhéil níos airde gnóthúcháin amach nuair atá siad sásta, ar a suaimhneas agus nuair a mhothaíonn siad go

#### 4.I.3. POLICIES AND ETHOS

As has already been highlighted, due to the community-led nature of the Irish-medium youth sector, many already established clubs operated for a long time in isolation from other youth service providers, meaning that the ethos and identity of the sector remained unarticulated and varied from club to club.

The various planning sessions showed a willingness to see a distinct ethos developed for the sector which can clearly identify what the particular characteristics of this sector are and how this ethos should affect the work carried out by youth clubs.

Strong pastoral care is important to Fóram na nÓg, with the wellbeing and nurturing of all young people at the centre of our work. Studies consistently show that young people reach higher levels of achievement when they are happy, relaxed and feel valued. A good pastoral care



bhfuil luach á chur orthu. Ba cheart go mbeadh sin ann má tá soláthar maith tréadchúraim ann, taobh istigh agus taobh amuigh den scoil. I suíomhanna oideachais Gaeilge foirmiúla agus neamhfhoirmiúla bíonn an t-idirghníomhú idir daoine fásta agus daoine óga níos réchúisí, e.g. úsáidtear céadainmneacha múinteoirí. Cuidíonn sé seo muinín agus feinchreidiúint a chothú i ngaeilgeoirí óga.

Is minic a dhearctar air seo mar ghné shuaithinseach den ghaeloideachas agus agus is minic a luann tuismitheoirí luach breise seo an ghaeloideachais a bheith ar cheann de na cúiseanna a roghnaigh siad é dá bpáistí. Féachann an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge le gné láidir thréadchúraim a chur go daingean ina cuid oibre.

Cuideoidh Fóram na nÓg éiteas a fhorbairt don obair óige lán-Ghaeilge bunaithe ar an *Mhúnla don Chleachtas Éifeachtach*. Sa mhúnla seo tá curaclam agus struchtúr forbartha a thugann do na daoine óga deis le páirt a ghlacadh i dtionscadail forbartha agus le róil cheannaireachta a ghlacadh le haghaidh imeachtaí agus gníomhaíochtaí éagsúla.

Is é bunéiteas clubanna lán-Ghaeilge soláthar óige ar ardchaighdeán a sheachadadh do dhaoine óga trí mheán na Gaeilge, ag soláthar deise dóibh a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid i suíomh sóisialta. Tá an earnáil seo go hiomlán oscailte agus fáiltiúil d'aon pháiste nó duine óg, gan bheann ar a gcúlra. Caithfear a chuimhneamh, mar sin féin, cé go dtarlaíonn feabhsú teanga go nádúrtha, tá an obair óige lán-Ghaeilge ann le seirbhís a sholáthar *trí* Ghaeilge do ghaeilgeoirí óga, agus gan an Ghaeilge a *theagasc* do dhaoine óga nach bhfuil Gaeilge acu. Is é an t-aon réamhriachtanas, mar sin, an páiste nó an duine óg agus gach duine

provision, both within and without school should achieve that. In both formal and non-formal Irish language education settings, the interaction between adults and young people is more relaxed, e.g. teachers' first names are used. This helps to engender in young Irish speakers a confidence and belief in themselves.

This is often seen as the mainstay of an Irishmedium education and many parents often comment on this added value to an Irish-medium education as one of the reasons they chose it for their children. The Irish-medium youth sector seeks to imbed a strong pastoral care element into its work.

Fóram na nÓg will help to develop an ethos of Irish-medium youth work, based on the *Model for Effective Practice*. The Model employs a curriculum and a developed structure providing the young people with an opportunity to partake in a personal development projects and to assume leadership roles for of various events and activities.

The fundamental ethos of Irish-medium youth clubs is that high quality youth provision is delivered to young people through the medium of Irish, providing them with the opportunity to use their Irish in a social setting. The sector is entirely open and welcoming to any child or young person, regardless of their background. It must be borne in mind, however, that, although language enhancement naturally occurs, Irish-medium youth work exists to provide a service *through* Irish for Irish speaking young people, and not to *teach* Irish to young people who do not speak Irish. The sole prerequisite, therefore, is that the



fásta atá páirteach a bheith toilteanach bheith páirteach, agus bheith in ann bheith páirteach, leis an obair óige seo trí Ghaeilge. Mura mbeadh sin amhlaidh chaillfí buntáiste an tumoideachais. Dá dtabharfaí oibrithe, saorálaithe nó daoine óga gan Ghaeilge líofa isteach sa tsuíomh seo chuirfí ar neamhní agus bhainfí an bonn ar fad as na buntáistí teanga breise do na daoine óga a bhfuil Gaeilge acu agus dá thoradh sin bheadh meath ar úsáid shóisialta na Gaeilge. Tá sé seo comónta dá lán pobal mionteanga agus, leoga, ar fud earnáil an ghaeloideachais anseo. Ní féidir le daoine óga nach bhfuil aon chur amach acu ar an Ghaeilge clárú le Coláiste Feirste, mar shampla, an iarbhunscoil lán-Ghaeilge i mBéal Feirste, mar a bhfuil líofacht Gaeilge ina réamhriachtanas.

child or young person and all adults involved must be willing to engage, and capable of engaging, with this youth work through Irish. Otherwise the benefit of the immersion setting is lost. Introducing workers, volunteers or young people without fluent Irish into this setting would completely nullify and completely undermine the added linguistic benefits for those young people with Irish and lead to the erosion of the social use of Irish. This is common for many minority language communities and indeed, across the Irish-medium education sector here. Young people with no knowledge of Irish cannot, for example, enrol with Coláiste Feirste, the Irish-medium secondary school in Belfast, where fluency in Irish is a prerequisite.

#### 4.1.4. COMHOIBRIÚ AGUS COMHORDÚ

Mar chuid den éascú ar sheisiún a dhearcann ar réimsí de chomhoibriú méadaithe idir oibrithe óige agus saorálaithe i gceantair éagsúla, rinneadh moltaí éagsúla. Ag éirí as seo bainfear níos mó úsáide as suíomh gréasáin ar leith ag Fóram na nÓg agus suíomhanna éagsúla meán sóisialta, leithéid Twitter agus Facebook. Cuireann na modhanna seo eolas ar fáil go réidh do gach duine atá páirteach san earnáil, agus tá siad go speisialta tarraingteach do dhaoine óga, a bhfuil sé mar chuid sá saol laethúil cheana féin na meáin shóisialta a úsáid. Is iomaí sin sampla d'úsáid na meán seo in Albain le daoine óga a spreagadh Gaeilge na hAlban a úsáid ansin, trí thionscadail déanta scannán agus ranganna podchraolta. Ní hamháin go gcuireann siad seo scileanna nua ar fáil do dhaoine óga, ach spreagann siad úsáid na teanga i bhfóraim nua.

### 4.1.4. CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION

As part of the facilitation of a session looking into areas of increased collaboration between youth workers and volunteers in different areas, various recommendations were made. Following from this, greater use will be made of a dedicated Fóram na nÓg website and various social media sites, such as Twitter and Facebook. These methods make information readily accessible to all involved in the sector, and hold a particular attraction for young people, for whom the use of social media is already a part of their daily lives. There are many examples of the use of these media in Scotland to encourage young people to use the Gaelic language there through film making projects and podcast tutorials, which not only provide young people with new skills, but also encourages the use of the language in new forums.



Le níos mó comhoibriú a éascú idir soláthraithe seirbhíse óige lán-Ghaeilge, caithfidh Fóram na nÓg bunachar sonraí buan a chur ar fáil ina mbeadh na sonraí seo:

- 1. Clubanna óige áitiúla
- 2. Éascaitheoirí agus soláthraithe seirbhíse cáilithe
- 3. Ócáidí ag teacht aníos
- 4. Deiseanna oiliúna

Fóram na nÓg a choinneoidh an bunachar sonraí seo agus nuashonrófar é go rialta ar shuíomh idirlín Fhóram na nÓg ionas go mbeidh oibrithe agus saorálaithe óige in ann teacht go réidh ar an eolas atá riachtanach lena gcuid oibre a dhéanamh.

Tá ionadaí ag Fóram na nÓg ar an Fhóram Náisiúnta Soláthraithe Óige Lán-Ghaeilge a bhfuil bunachar sonraí de sholáthraithe seirbhísí óige tiomsaithe acu le deireanas, a chuimsíonn ó speisialtóirí imeachtaí allamuigh go tiománaithe bus, atá in ann a seirbhísí a sheachadadh i nGaeilge. Beidh sé seo ina bhuntáiste ollmhór don earnáil lán-Ghaeilge, a chuir in iúl go leanúnach go bhfuil tionchar ag easpa soláthair seirbhíse ar a gcumas bheith ag obair trí mheán na Gaeilge. Comhordóidh Fóram na nÓg chomh maith rannpháirtíocht daoine óga i dTuaisceart Éireann in imeachtaí náisiúnta óige ardphróifíle, leithéid Scléip na hÓige, mórimeacht óige lán-Ghaeilge, agus cuirfidh siad i gcrích chomhthionsnaimh le heagraíochtaí óige náisiúnta leis an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge ar leibhéal náisiúnta. Spreagann agus gríosaíonn imeachtaí mar seo déagóirí agus oibrithe óige araon.

In order to facilitate increased collaboration between Irish-medium youth service providers, Fóram na nÓg needs to make available a permanent database containing the contact details of:

- 1. Local youth clubs
- 2. Qualified facilitators and service providers
- 3. Upcoming events
- 4. Training opportunities

This database will be maintained by Fóram na nÓg and updated regularly on the Fóram na nÓg website, so that youth workers and volunteers can easily access the information required in order to carry out their work.

Fóram na nÓg has a representative on the National Irish-medium Youth Providers Forum which has recently compiled a database of youth service providers, from outdoor pursuits specialists to bus drivers, who are able to deliver their services in Irish. This will be of huge benefit to the Irish-medium sector who have consistently highlighted that a lack of adequate service provision impacts on their ability to deliver their work through the medium of Irish. Fóram na nÓg will also co-ordinate the participation of young people in Northern Ireland in high profile national Irish-medium youth events, such as Scléip na hÓige, a major Irish language youth event, and will carry out joint initiatives with national youth organisations in order to promote the Irish-medium youth sector at a national level. Events such as these motivate and encourage teenagers and youth workers alike.



Má tá an obair óige lán-Ghaeilge le bheith rathúil, aontaítear go gcaithfear an comhar agus an comhoibriú ar leibhéal áitiúil, réigiúnach agus náisiúnta a chomhtháthú in obair na seirbhíse óige lán-Ghaeilge. Do dhaoine óga atá ag freastal ar chlubanna óige lán-Ghaeilge tá sé go speisialta tábhachtach go gcuirtear in aithne iad do ghaeilgeoirí óga eile agus gur féidir breathnú ar an teanga mar theanga fhuinniúil bheo. Féadann dearcaidh dhearfacha i leith mionteangacha bheith ar an tosca spreagtha is mó ar fad le daoine óga a spreagadh le leanúint ar aghaidh ag úsáid a dteanga mar chuid dá bhforbairt shóisialta, phearsanta agus oideachais, ar bunchlocha iad uilig den obair óige.

For Irish-medium youth work to be successful, it is agreed that co-operation and collaboration at local, regional and national level needs to be embedded in the work of the Irish-medium youth service. For young people attending Irish-medium youth clubs, it is especially important that they are introduced to other young Irish speakers and that the language can be viewed as vibrant and alive. Positive outlooks regarding minority languages can be the biggest single motivating factor in encouraging young people to continue to use their language as part of their social, personal and educational development, all of which are cornerstones of youth work.

#### 4.2. TUILLEADH COMHAIRLIÚCHÁIN LE HOIBRITHE ÓIGE AGUS DAOINE ÓGA

Ag leanúint ón lá pleanála seo reáchtáil Fóram na nÓg tuilleadh comhairliúcháin leis na hoibrithe óige agus na daoine óga a bhaineann úsáid as na seirbhísí óige. Thíos anseo tá achoimre ar phríomhthátail an chomhairliúcháin bhreise seo. Is féidir tátail iomlána an chomhairliúcháin a fheiceáil ar shuíomh gréasáin Fhóram na nÓg nó trí theagmháil dhíreach a dhéanamh le Fóram na nÓg.

Sa chomhairliúchán seo bhí ceistneoirí agus grúpaí fócais le hoibrithe óige, agus le daoine óga a bhaineann agus nach mbaineann úsáid as aon seirbhísí óige. Chomhlánaigh 51 mhac léinn nach mbaineann úsáid as aon seirbhísí óige faoi láthair ceistneoirí ar leith agus chomhlánaigh 52 dhuine óg atá rannpháirteach i seirbhísí óga iad. Bhí na fócasghrúpaí a reáchtáladh ar siúl ar feadh

## 4.2. FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH WORKERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Following on from this planning day, Fóram na nÓg conducted further consultation with the youth workers and young people who avail of the youth services. Below is a summary of the main findings of this further consultation. The full findings of the consultation can be seen on the Fóram an nÓg website or through contacting Fóram na nÓg directly.

This consultation included questionnaires and focus groups with youth workers, and with young people who both do and do not avail of any youth services. Separate questionnaires were completed by 51 students who do not currently avail of any youth services, and by 52 young people who do participate in youth services. The focus groups which were carried out took place over one week



seachtain amháin i mí Eanáir 2014. Bhí na rannpháirtithe idir 11 agus 16 bliana d'aois agus cuireadh ceisteanna orthu i ngrúpaí de 5-7 ag aon am amháin. Ar an iomlán tugadh na ceisteanna céanna do 8 ngrúpa, ceisteanna a bhí oscailte d'aon turas ionas go mbeadh plé ann agus go roinnfí tuairimí.

Ba iad na príomhthéamaí a tháinig chun cinn ón chomhairliúchán roghanna teanga, acmhainní agus áiseanna, agus oiliúint agus feasacht. in January 2014. The participants were aged between 11 and 16 and were questioned in groups of 5-7 people at a time. Overall, 8 groups were given the same questions, intentionally open-ended to allow for discussion and the sharing of opinions.

The main themes which emerged from the consultation were language choices; resources and facilities; and training and awareness.

#### **ROGHATEANGA**

Na páistí agus na daoine óga a bhaineann úsáid as seirbhísí óige lán-Ghaeilge, lena n-áirítear páistí arb í an Ghaeilge a gcéad teanga, déanann siad sin de bhrí go bhfuil cinneadh déanta acu i leith teanga, agus gur roghnaigh siad an Ghaeilge atá foghlamtha acu ar scoil nó sa bhaile i suíomh sóisialta. Léirigh líon an-ard rannpháirtithe gur chuid thábhachtach den fháth go raibh siad páirteach san obair óige ab ea gné theanga á gclub. Dúirt 98% de rannpháirtithe gur chreid siad gur chuidigh sé leo bheith ag freastal ar sheirbhísí óige lán-Ghaeilge leis na leibhéil Ghaeilge a fuair siad ar scoil a fheabhsú.

Léirigh 79% de fhreagróirí, céadatán suntasach, nach raibh aon deis eile acu Gaeilge a labhairt taobh amuigh den scoil, seachas sa chlub sóisialta. Tarraingíonn sé seo aird ar an tábhacht a bhaineann leis an deis shóisialta seo, scileanna teanga a úsáid agus a fheabhsú, a úsáid le cur leis an obair atá á déanamh i scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge.

#### **LANGUAGE CHOICE**

The children and young people who avail of Irishmedium youth services, including children whose first language is Irish, do so because they have made a language choice, and have chosen to use the Irish that they have learnt in school or at home in a social setting. Very high numbers of participants indicated that the language element of their club was an important part of why they participated in youth work. 98% of participants stated that they believed that attending Irishmedium youth services helped to improve the levels of Irish that they had acquired at school.

A significant 79% of respondents indicated that they did not have any other opportunity to speak Irish outside of school, apart from at the youth club. This highlights the importance of providing this social opportunity in which to use and improve linguistic skills, in order to build upon the work being carried out in Irish-medium schools.





#### ACMHAINNÍ AGUS ÁISEANNA

Caithfear na hacmhainní agus na háiseanna atá ar fáil do ghrúpaí óige lán-Ghaeilge a fheabhsú ionas go mbeidh na clubanna in ann leanúint ar aghaidh ag fás agus ag forbairt. Dúirt 75% de rannpháirtithe go bhfreastalódh siad ar a gclub óige níos minice dá mbeadh an tseirbhís sin ar fáil dóibh.

Caithfear níos mó deiseanna a chur ar fáil don obair óige lán-Ghaeilge tarlú taobh amuigh de phríomhionad an chlub (e.g. trí thurais agus trí chuairteanna eile) ionad gur féidir na gníomhaíochtaí seo bheith ar siúl trí mheán na Gaeilge, de réir éiteas na gclubanna seo.

#### OILIÚINT AGUS FEASACHT

Léirigh na fócasghrúpaí a reáchtáil muid le hoibrithe óige lán-Ghaeilge go bhfuil gá le níos mó feasachta ar riachtanais éagsúla na hearnála óige lán-Ghaeilge trí gach réimse den earnáil óige. Caithfear seo a dhéanamh ionas go mbeidh soláthraithe seirbhíse óige in ann a seirbhísí a oiriúint do riachtanais na hearnála.

Tá níos mó deiseanna oiliúna d'oibrithe óige lán-Ghaeilge ríthábhachtach le cumas na hearnála a mhéadú, le go mbeidh soláthar níos leithne ann.

Ní leor na háiseanna agus na hacmhainní atá ar fáil faoi láthair do chlubanna óige atá ag feidhmiú trí Bhéarla a ghlacadh, go díreach, le húsáid don obair óige lán-Ghaeilge. Tá riachtanais agus gnéithe ar leith ag an earnáil a chaithfear a chur san áireamh lena chur ar a cumas don earnáil forbairt de réir an éilimh ar na seirbhísí seo. Tá achoimre ar mholtaí d'fhorbairt na hearnála ag 4.3.

#### RESOURCES AND FACILITITES

The resources and facilities which are currently available to Irish-medium youth groups need to be improved in order to allow the clubs to continue to grow and develop. 75% of participants stated that they would attend their youth club more frequently if that service was available to them.

More opportunities for Irish-medium youth work to take place outside of the club's primary location (e.g. through trips and other visits) need to be made available so that these activities can take place through the medium of Irish, in keeping with the ethos of these clubs.

#### TRAINING AND AWARENESS

The focus groups which were carried out with Irish-medium youth workers showed that there needs to be further awareness raised of the different needs of the Irish langauge youth sector across all areas of the youth sector. This needs to be done in order to enable youth service providers to tailor their services to the needs of the sector.

Increased training opportunities for Irish-medium youth workers are essential in order to increase the capacity of the sector, enabling more widespread provision.

To simply take the facilities and resources which are currently available to youth clubs operating through English and allow them to also be used for Irish-medium youth work is insufficient. This sector has particular needs and features which need to be taken into consideration in order to fully enable the sector to develop in line with the demand for these services. Recommendations for the development of the sector are summarised at 4.3.



#### 4.3. MOLTAÍ DON EARNÁIL ÓIGE TRÍ MEÁN NA GAEILGE

Caithfidh an earnáil óige, i gcomhar le gach comhpháirtí eile taobh istigh agus taobh amuigh den earnáil, bheith ag obair anois le cinntiú go bhfuil deiseanna ag daoine óga a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid i gcomhthéacsanna sóisialta agus ar bhealaí a rachaidh chun tairbhe dá bhforbairt phearsanta, shóisialta agus oideachais.

Creideann Fóram na nÓg go bhfuil eagraíocht thiomanta de dhíth le forbairt straitéiseach agus comhordú a chur ar fáil don earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge. Tá Fóram na nÓg ag beartú an bhearna seo a líonadh trí bheith ag obair le heagraíochtaí óige eile atá ar bun cheana féin, na Boird Oideachais agus Leabhharlann, pobal na Gaeilge agus páirtithe leasmhara eile. Oibreoidh Fóram na nÓg le cuidiú le seirbhís óige lán-Ghaeilge éifeachtach agus inbhuanaithe a chur ar bun i ngach ceantar ina bhfuil éileamh.

Má ta an earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge le forbairt mar is gá caithfidh gach duine atá páirteach i soláthar seirbhísí óige anseo gníomh dearfach a dhéanamh. Áirítear orthu seo an Feidhmeannas, an Roinn Oideachais, na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlann agus gach eagraíocht a oibríonn chun tairbhe do pháistí agus do dhaoine óga.

Bunaithe ar an taighde agus ar an chomhairliúchán leitheadach a rinne Fóram na nÓg, molaimid na gníomhartha seo a leanas:

 Oifigigh óige lán-Ghaeilge i ngach ceantar Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlann le cuidiú le forbairt agus fás na hearnála lán-Ghaeilge ar an talamh.

# 4.3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUTH SECTOR THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF TRISH

The Irish-medium youth sector, in conjunction with all other partners within and without the youth sector, now needs to work to ensure that young people have opportunities to use their Irish in social contexts and in ways which will benefit their personal, social and educational development.

Fóram na nÓg believes that a dedicated organisation is needed in order to provide strategic development and co-ordination to the Irish medium youth sector. Fóram na nÓg plans to fill this gap through working with other already established youth organisations, the Education and Library Boards, the Irish language community and other appropriate stakeholders. Fóram na nÓg will work to facilitate the establishment of an effective and sustainable Irish-medium youth service in all areas where there is demand.

In order for the Irish-medium youth sector to develop as is necessary, positive action needs to be taken by all those involved in the provision of youth services here. This includes the the Executive, Department of Education, Education and Library Boards and all organisations which work for the benefit of children and young people.

Based on the extensive research and consultation carried out by Fóram na nÓg, we recommend that the following actions:

 Dedicated Irish-medium youth officers in all Education and Library Board areas in order to facilitate the development and growth of the Irish-medium youth sector on the ground.



- An obair óige lán-Ghaeilge a bheith san áireamh mar chuid den earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge nuair atá Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlann, an Chomhairle Óige agus an Roinn Oideachais ag pleanáil. Caithfidh an roinn stádas sonrach earnála a thabhairt don obair óige lán-Ghaeilge sa mhórsheirbhís óige, cosúil leis an stádas a tugadh don ghaeloideachas.
- Caithfidh eagraíochtaí óige agus soláthraithe seirbhíse taobh istigh den earnáil óige bheith eolach ar a bhfreagrachtaí i leith gaeilgeoirí óga. Tá Fóram na nÓg tiomanta do bheith ag obair le heagraíochtaí óige bunaithe le cinntiú go bhfuil an tseirbhís a chuirtear ar fáil don earnáil óige ar fad fóirsteanach dá clubanna lán-Ghaeilge.
- Tá sé ríthábhachtach go bhforbróidh clubanna óige lán-Ghaeilge i dTuaisceart Éireann comhghuaillíochtaí praiticiúla le gaelscoileanna áitiúla agus grúpaí forbartha agus eagraíochtaí Gaeilge áitiúla agus a oibríonn ag leibhéal na cosmhuintire. Cinnteoidh comhoibriú straitéiseach agus pleanáilte idir na páirtithe leasmhara éagsúla seo inbhuainitheacht agus rath na hoibre óige lán-Ghaeilge i gceantar ar leith. Tá Fóram na nÓg den tuairim go bhfuil forbairt agus inbhuainitheacht fhad-téarmach an ghaeloideachais ag brath ar fhorbairt earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge atá beoga agus gairmiúil agus ag a bhfuil tacaíocht.
- Caithfear cur le deiseanna oiliúna d'oibrithe óige lán-Ghaeilge, agus mar sin an cumas agus na hacmhainní atá ar fáil don earnáil le riar ar an riachtanas seo. Tús maith atá sna modúil OCN atá sainoiriúnaithe don earnáil óige lán-Ghaeilge, atá deartha agus seachadta ag Fóram na nÓg cheana féin agus creidiúnaithe

- Irish-medium youth work to be considered as an integral part of the youth sector in planning that is done by Education and Library Boards, the Youth Council and the Department of Education. Specific sectoral status for Irishmedium youth work within the broader youth service, similar to status given to Irish medium education, needs to granted by the department.
- Youth organisations and service providers
  within the youth sector need to be aware of
  their responsibilities to young Irish speakers.
  Fóram na nÓg is committed to working with
  established youth organsatons in order to
  ensure that the services provided for the entire
  youth sector are suitable for its Irish-medium
  youth clubs.
- Is it imperative that Irish-medium youth clubs in Northern Ireland develop practical alliances and working relationships with local Irishmedium schools and local Irish language development groups and organisations working at grassroots level. Strategic and planned co-operation between these various stakeholders will ensure the sustainability and success of Irish-medium youth work in a specific area. Fóram na nÓg is of the view that the long term development and sustainability of Irish-medium education is dependant upon the development of a vibrant, professional and supported Irish-medium youth sector.
- Training opportunities for Irish-medium youth workers need to be increased, and therefore the capacitiy and resources which are available to the sector in order to meet this need. The OCN modules which are specifically tailored for the Irish medium youth sector, which have already been designed and delivered by Fóram



- ag an Chomhairle Óige. Caithfear, áfach, níos mó deiseanna oiliúna a chur ar fáil ar fud na hearnála óige lán-Ghaeilge le riar ar riachtanais na hearnála óige lán-Ghaeilge.
- Caithfidh gach straitéis do pháistí agus do dhaoine óga bunriachtanas an Rialtais an obair óige lán-Ghaeilge a phríomhshruthú trí mheasúnú a dhéanamh ar riachtanais gaeilgeoirí agus foghlaimeoirí Gaeilge agus trí sholáthar a phleanáil de réir a riachtanas le go bhfaighidh siad tacaíocht agus seirbhísí ina rogha teanga. Is féidir seo a dhéanamh i gcomhar le Fóram na nÓg agus le páirtithe leasmhara eile.
- Ba cheart gníomhaireachtaí ábhartha rialtais aitheantas agus tacaíocht a thabhairt d'Fhóram na nÓg mar eagraíocht óige dheonach.

- na nÓg and accredited by the Youth Council, are a strong beginning. However, more training opportunities need to be made available right across the youth sector in order to meet the needs of the Irish-medium youth sector.
- All future strategies for children and young people must recognise the key Government responsibility of mainstreaming Irish-medium youth work by assessing the needs of Irish speakers and Irish learners and planning provision according to their needs, in order for them to receive support and services in the language of their choice. This can be done in conjunction with Fóram na nÓg and other stakeholders.
- Fóram na nÓg should be recognised and supported by relevant government agencies as a regional voluntary youth organisation.



CAIBIDIL 5 CHAPTER

# CAIBIDIL CHAPTER 5

#### 5.I. CONCLÚID

Tá breac-chuntas thuas ar an tábhacht a bhaineann le timpeallacht neamhfhoirmiúil agus phobalbhunaithe a chur ar fáil do dhaoine óga lena gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid. Is é an dúshlán atá roimh eagraíochtaí atá ag obair le daoine óga trí mheán na Gaeilge an soláthar a phleanáil i gcomhthéacs sóisialta, pobail agus gairme le tacaíocht a thabhairt don bhealach a bhforbraítear agus a úsáidtear na scileanna seo. Tá na deiseanna sóisialta seo ríthábhachtach le cinntiú go mothaíonn daoine óga go bhfuil úinéireacht acu ar an teanga agus go mothaíonn siad go gcuirtear luach ar a bhféiniúlacht chultúrtha agus teanga. Tá siad ríthábhachtach chomh maith le comhthéacs a thabhairt inar féidir le daoine a scileanna teanga a fhorbairt agus muinín a fháil an Ghaeilge a úsáid i ngach gné dá saol. Tabharfaidh sé seo, ar ndóigh, buntáistí móra don aistear oideachais ar a bhfuil na daoine óga seo i ngaelscoileanna agus cuideoidh siad leis an aistear sin. Neaartóidh seo chomh maith na leibhéil líofachta i measc daoine óga, rud a chuideoidh go mór, is dócha, sprioc teanga an Aontais Eorpaigh a bhaint amach - is é sin gur cheart go mbeadh gach saoránach Eorpach in ann dhá theanga a labhairt chomh maith lena mháthairtheanga. Chomh maith leis sin, ba cheart go mbeadh rochtain ag daoine óga arb í an Ghaeilge a gcéad teanga ar an réimse chéanna deiseanna agus atá ag páistí a labhraíonn Béarla.

#### 5.I. CONCLUSION

The importance in providing an informal and community based environment for young people to use their Irish is outlined above. The challenge for organisations working with young people through the medium of Irish is to plan the provision in a social, community and vocational context to support the way these skills are developed and used. These social opportunites are essential to ensure that young people feel a sense of ownership of the language and feel that their cultural and linguistic identity is valued. They are also vital to provide a context wherein individuals can develop their language skills and gain confidence to use Irish in every aspect of their lives. This will, of course, bring huge benefits to and complement the educational journey these young people are undertaking in Irish-medium schools. It will also strengthen the levels of fluency amongst young people which should significantly support the achievement of the European Union's language target – which is that each European citizen should speak two languages as well as their mother language. Also, young people whose first language is Irish should have access to the same range of opportunities as English speaking children.



Má tá an tasc a gcuirtear síos air thuas le déanamh go héifeachtach caithfear bunphrionsabail a chomhaontú. D'fhéadfadh tuiscint a bheith sna prionsabail:

- Go bhfuil teanga ríthábhachtach don fhéiniúlacht phearsanta agus chultúrtha
- Gur speictream scileanna atá sa chumas teanga
- Go gcaithfear roghanna teanga a dhéanamh nuair atá dhá theanga ag duine
- Go bhfuil caidreamh cumhachta ann idir teangacha agus grúpaí teanga agus mar sin caithfear comhionannas deiseanna a chothú do ghaeilgeoirí, bíodh an Ghaeilge acu ón bhaile mar chéadteanga nó sealbhaithe sa ghaeloideachas.

Mar chuid den phróiseas cumhachtaithe a chuireann buntaca faoin obair óige tá sé ríthábhachtach go nglacfaidh daoine úinéireacht ar a gcinniúint agus ar a dtodhchaí féin, rud a chuirfidh ar a gcumas dóibh ceannaireacht a thabhairt amach anseo, rud atá, arís, lárnach i gcuraclam na hoibre óige.

In ainneoin obair chrua agus mheon dearfach na ndaoine atá páirteach faoi láthair i seachadadh an tsoláthair oibre óige, tá an earnáil go fóill tearcfhorbartha maidir le cleachtas agus aitheantas a fháil dá bhfuil i gceist leis an obair óige lán-Ghaeilge. Le cleachtas rathúil i leith na hoibre óige lán-Ghaeilge a bheith inár soláthar óige tá gá le timpeallacht oibre inchreidte, oibrithe óige oilte le scileanna teanga ábhartha,

For the task outlined above to be done effectively, an agreement on fundamental principles must be established. These principles could include an understanding that:

- Language is centrally important to personal and cultural identity
- · Language ability is a spectrum of skills
- Having two languages means having to make language choices
- A power relationship exists between languages and language groups and hence an effective and equality of opportunity has to be fostered for Irish speakers, whether Irish is their first home language or acquired through Irishmedium education.

As part of the empowerment process that underpins youth work, it is essential that young people take ownership of their own destinies and futures which will provide them with the capacity to lead in the future, which again is a central tenet of the youth work curriculum. Despite the hard work and positive attitude of those involved in currently delivering Irishmedium youth provision, the sector is still underdeveloped in terms of practice and in gaining recognition for what actually constitutes Irishmedium youth work. Developing a successful Irish-medium youth practice within our youth provision requires a credible youth work environment, trained youth workers with relevant language skills, high-standard training

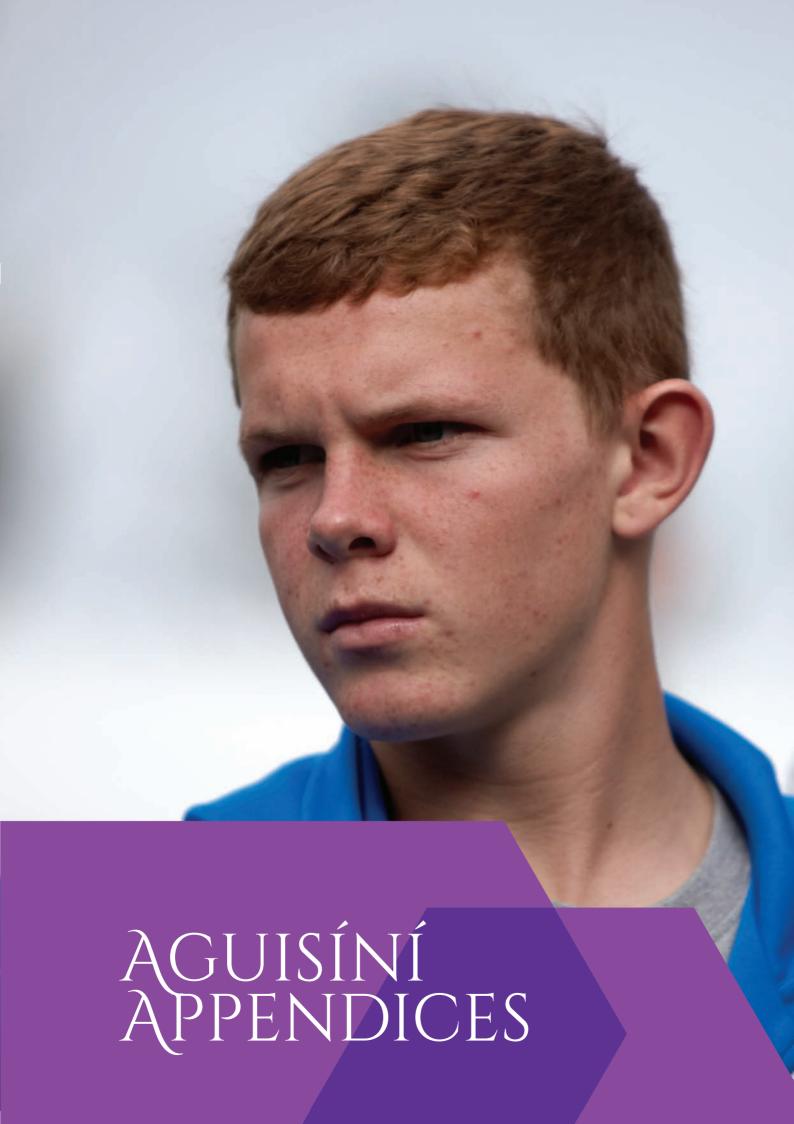


cláir oiliúna ar ardchaighdeán agus gníomhaíochtaí do dhaoine óga. Má tá seo le forbairt caithfidh an Rialtas creatlach chothromasach agus straitéiseach a ghlacadh agus caithfear an tacaíocht riachtanach a thabhairt dóibh siúd san earnáil.

Is eol d'Fhóram na nÓg na príomhathruithe atá ag tarlú faoi láthair taobh istigh den earnáil óige de thoradh an pholasaí Priorities for Youth. Luaitear in Priorities for Youth, 'youth work can no longer be allowed to remain a separate policy detached from overall education priorities'. Tá seo fíor go háirithe i gcomhthéacs an oideachais lán-Ghaeilge mar a bhfuil a lán páistí ag sealbhú an dara teanga ar scoil agus go bhfuil siad á dteagasc trí mheán na teanga sin, agus páistí arb í an Ghaeilge a gcéad teanga. Níl ach fíorbheagán deiseanna ag na páistí seo sa ghaeloideachas a rogha teanga a úsáid taobh amuigh den scoil agus den bhaile. Tá sé ríthábhachtach tacaíocht bhreise a thabhairt do na daoine óga seo leis an phróiseas sealbhaithe teanga a éascú agus a iomlánú. Tugann oibrithe óige an bealach is éifeachtaí, is taitneamhaí agus is inbhuanaithe ó thaobh airgeadais le seo a dhéanamh.

programmes and activities for young people. All of this will require an equitable and strategic framework for its development being adopted by Government and the necessary support being given to those within the sector.

Fóram na nÓg are aware of the major changes currently taking place within the youth sector as a result of the *Priorities for Youth* policy. *Priorities* for Youth states that 'youth work can no longer be allowed to remain a separate policy detached from overall education priorities'. This is especially true in the context of Irish-medium education where many children are acquiring a second language at school and being taught through the medium of that language, and children whose first language is Irish. These children in Irish-medium education have very little opportunity to use their chosen language outside school and home. It is imperative that additional support is given to these young people to facilitate and enrich the language acquisition process. Youth work offers the most effective, enjoyable and financially viable way of doing this.



## AGUISÍNÍ APPENDICES A

APPENDIX A
POBAL DOCUMENT ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRISH LANGUAGE IN
NORTHERN TRELAND.

#### 1.0 Background

People with knowledge of Irish in the North constitute 10.65% of the overall population (Census 2011). There are 184,898 people who have some ability of the Irish language, an increase of over 17,366 people since the previous census. There are 80 Irish medium schools in the North providing education for some 5,000 children through the medium of Irish.

In spite of an increase in the overall population of the 6 counties, from 1,617,957 to 1,735,711 (aged 3 years and over) in the ten years between the two censuses, there was a fall of 1.92% in the section of the population aged 3-24 years during this period (from 542,228 in 2001, to 531,805 in 2011). In spite of this reduction, in the same ten years there has been a significant increase of 74.98% in the number of young people in the same age range who understand spoken Irish, from 11,125 to 19,467.

This is a positive indication of the vitality of Irish, but international experience and research shows the importance of provision geared to language maintenance and usage among young people to ensure they do not 'fall away' from the language as they progress through different life stages. In the following sections, we will take a look at the current context for the language and for young Irish speakers in the North of Ireland.

#### 2.00 Status of Irish

Irish belongs to the Celtic family of languages (along with Gaelic in Scotland, Manx on the Isle of Mann, Welsh, Breton and Cornish). It is one of the oldest languages in Europe and is now an Official Language of the European Union. Irish is recognised in the constitution of the south of Ireland as 'first official language'. However, in the six counties, it has often been the subject of hostility and negative attitudes. The 1998 Good Friday Agreement represented an historic departure for the Irish language. For the first time in the North, certain written commitments were made in respect of Irish. These appeared in the section of the document called, Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity, under Economic, Social and Cultural Issues. The GFA commitments are as follows:

'4. In the context of active consideration currently being given to the UK signing the Council of Europe Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the British Government will in particular in relation to the Irish language, where appropriate and where people so desire it:

- take resolute action to promote the language;
- facilitate and encourage the use of the language in speech and writing in public and private life where there is appropriate demand;
- seek to remove, where possible, restrictions which would discourage or work against the maintenance or development of the language;
- make provision for liaising with the Irish language community, representing their views to public authorities and investigating complaints;
- place a statutory duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate Irish medium education in line with current provision for integrated education;
- explore urgently with the relevant British authorities, and in co-operation with the Irish broadcasting authorities, the scope for achieving more widespread availability of Teilifis na Gaeilige in Northern Ireland;
- seek more effective ways to encourage and provide financial support for Irish language film and television production in Northern Ireland; and
- encourage the parties to secure agreement that this commitment will be sustained by a new Assembly in a way which takes account of the desires and sensitivities of the community.'

(This is the text as it appears in the official English language versions of the Agreement. Two of the three words in Irish in the text have been misspelled, including the word 'Gaeilge', the name of the language itself.)

Society in the north of Ireland has changed a great deal in recent years. The Irish language now is stronger and subject to greater recognition than ever before, not only under the Good Friday Agreement and the Agreement at St. Andrews (2006), both of which were entered into by the British and Irish governments, and international instruments, such as the Council of Europe's European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and its Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities, to which Britain is a party. The Irish language remains, however, the only primary indigenous language in these islands that is not subject to specific domestic legislative protection. Welsh has been protected by the Welsh Language Act since 1993, and more recently, the legal regime for Welsh has been further developed by the Welsh Language Measure 2011. Gàidhlig is now subject to the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005. The Irish language is of course the subject of constitutional protections and the Official Languages Act 2003 in the south of Ireland, and has been adopted as an official language of the European Union.

In March 2013, fifteen years after the signing of the GFA, research was carried out by the Irish language umbrella advocacy group, POBAL to find out community opinions of how effective the provisions of the Good Friday Agreement had been for Irish. The research report showed high levels of dissatisfaction regarding the progress being made, with a range of community voices, including veteran activists, journalists, academics, teachers and parents flagging up failings at the level of legislation, services, funding and political leadership. Education is a major factor in successful language revival and restoration, and the Good Friday Agreement makes specific reference to it. Today, Irish Medium Education is one of the strongest of the Irish language sectors in the North. The research includes a short survey focussing on the attitudes and opinions of 140 people involved in Irish Medium Education, or training as IM teachers, on the state of the language and of IM education fifteen years after the GFA. Respondents were asked to comment on their level of satisfaction as to the fulfilment of each of the commitments as they appeared in the Good Friday Agreement.

In a following section, 3 questions were put regarding the level of importance which the respondents placed on legislative, policy and strategic approaches in relation to the development of the language and of Irish Medium education.

Some interesting patterns emerge in the 140 responses collected in relation to attitudes. (The full report can be found at http://pobal.org.gridhosted.co.uk/gaeilge/wp- content/uploads/2013/04/15-Bliana-D%C3%A9ag-15-Years.pdf). But it is interesting here to note some of the additional comments which respondents wrote in on their survey forms. It may be significant to note that already, the passage of time and the age of respondents may have an influence on how matters are viewed. Amongst the comments noted on the forms, some related to age, with respondents saying they were, 'ro-óg' / 'too young' at the time of the signing of the Agreement to remember clearly what the situation was for Irish beforehand. This shows the importance of rapid and effective implementation of change for young people. In the perceived absence of this, there were general comments including, 'Barraíocht de dhíth go fóill' / 'Too much still needed'; 'Na gealltanas ó Chill Rímhin agus ón Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta a chur i bhfeidhm ANOIS!' / Implement the GFA and St Andrews promises NOW!'; 'Níl go leor dul chun cinn déanta' / 'Not enough progress has been made'; and, 'Tá sé in am Acht na Gaeilge a bheith againn' / 'It is time we had an Irish Language Act'.

Specific to IM Education, a number of comments were made: 'Níl an Ghaeilge ar chomhchéim i CCEA nó i Roinn an Oideachais' / 'Irish isn't on an equal footing in CCEA or in the Department of Education'; 'Cothrom na féinne a thabhairt don Ghaeloideachas ó thaobh pleanáil & áiseanna do' / ' Give fair treatment to IM education from the point of view of planning and resources'; 'Drochchoiriú na scoileanna faoin tuath' / 'The bad state of repair of schools in rural areas'; and also the following comment, 'Ceapaim go bhfuil siad seo ar fad an-tábhachtach ach nach féidir le múinteoirí/príomhoidí/scoileanna dearmad a dhéanamh ar an ndualgas atá orthu féin an Ghaelscolaíocht/Gaeilge srl a chur chun cinn ar bhealaí éagsúla' / 'I think that this is all very important indeed but that teachers / heads / schools cannot forget their own duties to promote Irish and IM education in various ways.'

The survey then goes on to ask three questions relating to legislation, policy and strategy development. The first asked what importance a comprehensive, rights-based Irish Language Act has to the development of the language and to Irish Medium education. 90.7 % of respondents said that it was 'vital', 'very important' or 'important'. Of these categories, more than six times more people said the Irish language Act was 'vital' rather than 'important'.

The second of these questions asked what importance, 'a comprehensive policy and more developed understanding of Irish medium education within the Department of Education' would have for the development of Irish and IM education. 93.56 % said it was 'vital', 'very important' or 'important'. Twice as many respondents felt this was 'vital' rather than 'very important'. 4.28 % did not answer the question.

The final questions asked what importance, 'An active recruitment strategy with definite aims by the Department of Education to increase the number of pupils in Irish medium education' has, and 93.56 %, the same percentage as in the previous question (although in a slightly different breakdown of emphasis) said that it was 'vital', 'very important' or 'important'.

It is clear from this short survey that there remains a high level of dissatisfaction amongst respondents as to the progress being made in relation to the development and promotion of Irish and IM Education and the perceived failure of government to fulfil its obligations. The longer this remains the case, the greater the danger that new generations will cease to remember the precise detail of the commitments, but will nonetheless experience a sense of frustration and disappointment that, in spite of their own determination and hard work, obstacles and disadvantage remain an everyday reality.

#### 3.00 Legislation

The language is protected in domestic legislation in one clause in the Education Order 2000 and the need for comprehensive, appropriate domestic legislation for the Irish language in the north is one that has been clear to our community for many years. It has been a consistent demand from Irish speakers for over thirty years.

In February 2006, following intense work and with support and advice from internationally renowned experts in language legislation, POBAL ran a community consultation and published agreed proposals in the document The Irish Language Act, NI which was then updated in 2012. However, in spite of a clear commitment by the British government in the 2006 St Andrews Agreement to introduce an Irish language Act, no such legislation has yet been enacted.

#### 3.1 Responsibilities in respect of Irish – the latest findings

#### 3.1.a The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

The Charter is an international convention designed to protect and promote regional and minority languages. The UK Government ratified the Charter on 27 March 2001. The Charter came into force on 1 July 2001. It is binding upon each of the ratifying states. Thus it has implications for all Northern Ireland departments and associated bodies, for Whitehall departments operating in Northern Ireland and for district councils. In Northern Ireland the general provisions of Part II of the Charter apply to Irish and Ulster-Scots. Part III of the Charter, which creates a number of specific obligations applies to Irish alone. This point is made clear in a government circular,<sup>1</sup>

#### Should I make exactly the same provision for Irish and Ulster-Scots?

37. No. Both languages are different and your actions should reflect this. Whereas both Irish and Ulster-Scots are covered by the Objectives and Principles set out in Part II of the Charter – objectives and principles that entail definite obligations (see para 11) – the Government has in addition ratified certain paragraphs and sub-paragraphs in Part III [Measures to promote the use of regional or minority languages in public life] and has agreed to apply them to Irish.

The UK Government must provide periodic reports to the Council of Europe Committee of Experts (COMEX) who report on each state's compliance with its Charter obligations. In addition to detailed commentary, the report notes whether, in the view of the Experts' the specific obligations of Part III have been fulfilled. In its third report on the application of the Charter, issued in 2010, the COMEX take the unprecedented step of changing a number of previous findings in respect of measures being taken for Irish, to 'unfulfilled.' This is a clear sign that the progressive implementation of the Charter is not being met. In relation to local Council services, the report comments,

123. The COMEX has been informed of several instances, especially within local councils where it was decided not to promote or use the Irish language within their services on the grounds that it would contravene Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, which states that public authorities should take due regard of the need to promote equality of opportunity, among others between persons of different religious belief or political opinion. The Committee of Experts emphasises that this undertaking states that the adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES, GUIDANCE ON MEETING UK GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS IN RESPECT OF IRISH AND ULSTER SCOTS (Version 2), August 2005, Inter-Departmental Group on the Implementation of the Charter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> ECRML (2010)4, Strasbourg 21 April 2010, Application of the Charter in the UK, 3rd Monitoring Cycle, pg 19, parag 123

The COMEX published its 4th report in January 2014. In it, it states that the information provided by the UK on the application of the Charter was both late and incomplete, lacking information about the situation in Northern Ireland. The report notes that, 'The delay has hampered the process of timely and effective application of charter provisions throughout the UK (para 2).

The report notes that a 'persisting hostile climate' exists for the Irish language at the Assembly level. In addition, it states,

The Committee of Experts strongly urges the authorities to provide an appropriate legislative base for the protection and promotion of Irish in Northern Ireland. (para 14)

#### 3.1.b The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

The Framework Convention was ratified by the UK in 1995. Its broad aims are to ensure that the signatory states respect the rights of national minorities, undertaking to combat discrimination, promote equality, preserve and develop the culture and identity of national minorities, guarantee certain freedoms in relation to access to the media, minority languages and education and encourage the participation of national minorities in public life.

In 2011 in its report on the application of the *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*, the Council of Europe Advisory Committee focuses on the issue of provision for Irish speakers in the North, re-enforcing the findings of the COMEX, above. The Committee states,

147. [...] The Advisory Committee regrets that, in addition to a lack of clear legal guarantees for the use of the Irish language, there is a lack of promotion of the Irish language and culture. It understands that, in practice, very little is done to promote the use of Irish in the public sphere and that, although some Irish language officers have been appointed in a few municipalities, the possibilities to use this language in relations with local administrative authorities remain limited. It is also concerned that the overall climate in Northern Ireland does not encourage Irish speakers to use and develop their language freely. The Advisory Committee was disconcerted to hear that some representatives of the authorities consider that promoting the use of the Irish language is discriminating against persons belonging to the majority population. Such statements are not in line with the principles of the Framework Convention, and in particular with the provisions of Article 10. It also reiterates that, in line with Article 4.2 and Article 4.3 of the Framework Convention, implementation of minority rights protected under the Framework Convention are not be considered as discriminating against other persons...<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Third Opinion on the United Kingdom adopted on 30 June 2011, Strasbourg, 22 December 2011, ACFC/OP/III(2011)006.

In relation to local Councils and signage, the Advisory Committee makes the following points,

158. In Northern Ireland, the Advisory Committee regrets that only limited progress has been made regarding the erection of bilingual signposting and topographical indications, particularly road signs, despite the fact that there is, reportedly, a demand for this in a number of municipalities. Additionally, it finds it problematic that the official policy is to limit the erection of such signs to certain areas where the issue would not raise controversies.

Referring to a decision by Belfast City Council to reject in March 2011 a proposal to erect bilingual signs, the Advisory Committee state that it,

[...] is concerned that this approach is not in line with the spirit of the Framework Convention and, in particular, the provisions of Article 11, the aim of which is to value the use of minority languages, including through the setting up of bilingual signposting, with a view to promoting more tolerance and intercultural dialogue in society.

#### 4.0 Survey of Young Irish Speakers

Services that cater for the specific needs and aspirations of young people have long been recognised as an important building block in society. Youth provision for Irish speakers is a emerging issue. In 2014, POBAL, the umbrella advocacy organisation for the Irish language conducted an attitude and needs survey of 772 young Irish speakers throughout the north. The full findings can be found on http://pobal.org.gridhosted.co.uk/gaeilge/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Suirbh%C3%A9-POBAL-ar-an-%C3%93ige-Youth-Needs-Survey- Eis-1.pdf. But among the key points to note, are that 92.2% of respondents said that the Irish language was either 'very important' or 'important' to them and that there was widespread dissatisfaction with the level of activities available to them through Irish in many local areas. The results show the major differences in English language provision compared with Irish language provision. Only 35.4% of respondents said there was a good range of activities through Irish in their area, compared with 82.8% who responded positively for English language activities. The results show the particular importance to young people of socialising with peers through sport (19.4%) and youth clubs (19%) and how these activities could be used as a focus when planning facilities in local areas. Once more, the survey highlights the perception that provision should be underpinned by rights-based legislation. 95% of respondents said that language rights were important to them, and 94% responded 'yes' that an Irish language act is needed.

# AGUISÍNÍ APPENDICES B

#### **Details of Irish-medium Youth Clubs**

Name of Club	Details
Cairde Uí Neill	Cookstown, Co. Tyrone iarscoiluineill@hotmail.co.uk www.facebook.com/cairde.uineill
Caisleán Uidhilín	Castlewellan, County Down emerohagan@yahoo.co.uk www.facebook.com/glor.uachtartire @GlorUachtarTire
Club na nÓg, An Lorgáin	Lurgan, County Armagh taghnevanyc@btconnect.com
Club Óige an Chollan	Colin, County Down https://www.facebook.com/gloranchollain
Club Óige an Droichid	An Droichead, Ormeau Road, Belfast https://www.facebook.com/cumannoige.androichead
Club Óige an Dúin	Downpatrick, County Down prooney@serc.ac.uk www.facebook.com/cluboige.anduin
Club Óige an Iúir	Gaeláras Mhic Ardghail, Newry, County Down cluboigeaniuir@hotmail.com https://www.facebook.com/coaniuir @oigeaniuir
Club Óige an Luraigh	An Carn, County Derry www.facebook.com/ograsluraigh.ancarn @carntochair1
Club Óige Chaisleán Ghlas	Greencastle, County Tyrone
Club Óige Mhachaire Bóthain	Marrowbone, Belfast https://www.facebook.com/ClubOigeMhachaireBothain
Club Óige na Carraige Móire	Carrickmore, County Tyrone

Name of Club	Details
Club Óige na hÓmaí	Omagh, County Tyrone
Club Óige Setanta	Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin, County Derry www.facebook.com/setantaclub.oige
Club Spraoi an Ghráinseach Mhór	Granemore, County Armagh club-spraoi@hotmail.com www.facebook.com/club.spraoi
Croí Éanna	Glengormley, County Antrim www.facebook.com/croieanna @CroiEanna
Cumann Óige an Chluanaí	Upper Springfield, Belfast www.facebook.com/glor.mona @GlornaMona
Cumann Óige Bhóthar na bhFál	Cultúrlann Mac Adam Ó Fiach Falls Road, Belfast
Cumann Óige Mhic Reachtain	Antrim Road, Belfast cluboige.mhicreachtain@hotmail.com https://www.facebook.com/cluboigemr @comhicreachtain
Glór an Ghleanna	Andersonstown, Belfast eolas@gloranghleanna.com www.facebook.com/glor.ghleanna @GloranGhleanna
Óg-Ógras Dhún Geimhin	Dungiven, County Derry
Ógras an Chaistil	Ballycastle, County Antrim
Ógras na dTrí Abhainn	Strabane, County Derry gaelphobal@btconnect.com www.facebook.com/gaelphobal

Name of Club	Details
Ógras Oirialla	Crossmaglen, County Armagh ograsoirialla@hotmail.com www.facebook.com/OgrasOirialla @OgrasOirialla
Seal Spraoi Corr Chroíthach	Cookstown, County Tyrone cairdeaseoghain@yahoo.ie
Seal Spraoi Dún Geanainn	Dungannon, County Tyrone gaelscoilaodharua@yahoo.ie
Seal Spraoi Oilean an Ghuail	Coalisland, Couny Tyrone www.facebook.com/seal.spraoi.5

# AGUISÍNÍ Appendices C

#### AGUISÍN C PÁIRTITHE LEASMHARA AGUS LUCHT COMHAIRLIÚCHÁIN

- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta an t-eagras a chuireann an gaeloideachas chun cinn
- · Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlann:
  - BOLBF
  - BOLOT
  - BOLOD
  - BOLD
  - BOLI
- Feachtas eagraíocht óige Ghaeilge uile-Éireann
- Foras na Gaeilge eagras reachtúil atá freagrach as an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn
- Oifigigh forbartha Gaeilge agus ionadaithe ó ghrúpaí áitiúla pobail:
  - · An Carn, Machaire Rátha
  - Cairde Uí Néill. Oileán an Ghuail
  - · Glór Uachtar Tíre, Caisleán Uidhilín
  - Forbairt Feirste, Béal Feirste
  - Glór na Móna, Béal Feirste
- Ógras eagraíocht óige Ghaeilge uile-Éireann

#### APPENDIX C STAKEHOLDERS AND CONSULTEES

- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta body for the promotion of Irish-medium education
- · Education and Library Boards:
  - BELB
  - NEELB
  - SEELB
  - SELB
  - WELB
- Feachtas all-Ireland Irish language youth organisation
- Foras na Gaeilge cross-border statutory body responsible for the promotion of Irish
- Irish language development officers and representatives from local community groups:
  - An Carn, Maghera
  - · Cairde Uí Néill, Coalisland
  - Glór Uachtar Tíre, Caisleán Uidhilín, Castlewellan
  - Forbairt Feirste, Belfast
  - Glór na Móna, Belfast
- Ógras all-Ireland Irish language youth organisation

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## NÓTA BUÍOCHAS

Cuireadh an leabhrán seo le chéile go príomha d'earnáil óige na Gaeilge ó thuaidh agus dár ndóigh, murach inchur luachmhar, sáiniúil s'acu, ní fhéadfadh linn seo a dhéanamh. Ba mhaith liom, thar ceann coiste Fhóram na nÓg, ár mbuíochas a ghabháil leis na clubanna óige ar fud a ghlac páirt sna comhráití, séisiúin pleanála, cruinnithe agus eile. Bhailigh muid eolas thar a bheith tábhachtach uaibh agus tá súil againn go dtagann seo fríd sa cháipéis.

Fosta, ní mór buíochas a ghabháil le Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta agus Foras na Gaeilge a chuidigh, go straitéiseach, le forbairt Fóram na nÓg ón tús. Cuireadh acmhainní, baill foirne agus áiseanna na heagraíochtaí seo ar fáil agus lig sin dúinn forbairt mar eagraíocht neamhspléach.

Le roinnt blianta anuas, chuidigh na heagraíochtaí seo ar fad linn, ar bhealaí éagsúla agus ba mhian linn sin a aithint: Ógras, Forbairt Feirste, Comhairle na hIúir agus Múrna, Comhairle Dhoire, Comhairle na hÓmaigh, Comhairle Machaire Fíolta, Comhairle Dhún Geanáinn agus Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin, Doire.

This booklet was compiled primarily for the Irish medium youth sector and undoubtedly, without their invaluable, specialised contribution, it would have been an impossible task. On behalf of the Fóram na nÓg committee, we would like to thank the youth clubs that all contributed to the conversation, the planning sessions, meetings etc...We collected important information from you and we hope it is reflected within.

Also, we are grateful to Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta and Foras na Gaeilge who provided strategic help with the development of Fóram na nÓg from the beginning. They made resources, staff members and expertise available to us which in turn allowed us to develop into an independent organisation.

Over the past number of year, the following organisations have all contributed to the development of Fóram na nÓg, in various ways, and we would like to recognise their support: Ógras, Forbairt Feirste, Newry and Mourne District Council, Derry City Council, Omagh District Council, Magherafelt District Council, Dungannon District Council and Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin, Derry.

Ba mhaith linn fosta ár mbuíochas a ghabháil leis an scátheagras POBAL, as ucht as an pháipéar fáisnéise a chur ar fáil, atá ar fáil mar aguisín sa leabhrán féin.

Sa deireadh, bhí forbairt Fhóram na nÓg éascaithe ag deá-thoil ó pháirtnéirí agus daoine aonaracha ón earnáil Bhéarla. Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas ó chroí a ghabháil le Comhairle na hÓige, Tuaisceart Éireann (YCNI) a thug treoir, tacaíocht agus comhairle luachmhar dúinn ón tús. Fosta, thug an Northern Ireland Youth Forum agus Youthnet tacaíocht agus comhairle iontach dúinn agus tá muid buíoch astu. Thug Stella Gilmartin comhairle cuidiúil dúinn fosta le bliain anuas agus ba chóir ról s'aici a aithint i bhforbairt Fhóram na nÓg.

Ciarán Mac Giolla Bhéin Cathaoirleach Fóram na nÓg We would also like to express our gratitude to the umbrella organisation, POBAL for their briefing which is available as an appendix to the booklet.

Finally, Fóram na nÓg's development was facilitated by the good will from partners and individuals from the English medium youth sector. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Northern Ireland Youth Council (YCNI) who provided fantastic support, direction and advice to us from the beginning. Also, the Northern Ireland Youth Forum and Youthnet have helped and guided us as we have developed. Stella Gilmartin deserves special mention also for the invaluable advice se gave us this past year and her role in the development of Fóram na nÓg should be recognised.

Ciarán Mac Giolla Bhéin Chairperson Fóram na nÓg



