

Charities, Non-Profits and Funders – Performance, Reporting and Accountability

Thursday, 2 May 2019, 8.00am – 10.30am

Institute of Public Administration, 57-61 Lansdowne Road, Dublin D04 TC62
A light breakfast will be served at 8am and the proceedings will commence at 8.30am

There have been some significant recent developments in the not-for-profit governance landscape in Ireland, including the recent publication by the Charities Regulator of the first Charities Governance Code in November 2018. This Code provides guidance to non-profit organisations on how to abide by minimum good governance standards and, beyond this, to improve their performance and accountability to both the communities they serve and with the donors that provide their funding. Furthermore, an eagerly-awaited report on the role of voluntary organisations in publicly-funded health and social services was published in January 2019 by the Independent Review Group, outlining some radical and innovative ways to not only strengthen the governance of voluntary organisations but also to reset and rebalance their relationships with the State. As such, this timely briefing will explore the current governance and accountability challenges for the non-profit sector and consider the linkages with the public sector as a regulator and as a source of funds. The presentations will provide an overview of where the sector stands at the moment, starting with an outline by the Chair of the Independent Review Group of some key recommendations that could assist in progressing the relations between voluntary organisations and the State. The perspective from a representative organisation will then allow for reflection around the concrete steps the not-for-profit sector can take and how it can embrace the opportunities for change that have emerged. Finally, it will be useful to benefit from the public sector/funder point of view and shed light on the new role it can play as a key stakeholder of the non-profit sector.

Among the questions to be considered by the contributors and peers at the briefing will be:

- What steps would enhance the relationship between the public sector and non-profits?
- Are there innovative ways to help governance compliance and accountability of non-profits without inhibiting them from achieving their goals?
- What are the governance areas that non-profits should prioritise?
- Should the public sector recalibrate its expectations from the voluntary and community organisations it funds?



Catherine Day is a former Secretary General of the European Commission. Prior to her appointment as Secretary General, she was Director General for Environment and deputy Director General of the external relations department of the European Commission. Catherine now chairs the Governing Body of University College Cork and she is on the board of the European Movement Ireland and the Institute of International and European Affairs in Dublin, among others. In 2017, at the request of the Minister for Health, she chaired an independent review group to examine the role of voluntary organisations in publicly funded health and personal social services in Ireland. She is a special adviser to the President of the European Commission, Mr Juncker.



Ivan Cooper is Director of Public Policy at The Wheel, Ireland's national association of charities, community and voluntary organisations and social enterprises. He is responsible for progressing The Wheel's policy positions on cross-cutting issues affecting the community and voluntary sector, such as charity regulation, funding the sector and raising awareness of the role and significance of the sector. He represents The Wheel on a range of national and international fora, and also acts as one of the organisation's lead trainers in the areas of Governance, Strategic Leadership and Demonstrating Impact.



Jerry Murphy is Deputy Chief Executive of Pobal. Jerry's work has included managing a wide range of national programmes to support community-based and civic society activities. He has led a range of work on area-based development initiatives, on the development of monitoring and reporting systems for community initiatives and on the production of strategic planning processes for community initiatives. He has sat on a range of national governmental groups leading work on employment issues, on public and community service integration, local economic development and area regeneration.

Time & Location

The briefing will take place on Thursday, 2 May 2019 at the IPA, 57-61 Lansdowne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 TC62.

A light breakfast will be served from 8.00am. The presentations and open forum discussions will commence at 8.30am and conclude at 10.30am.

Cost and Bookings

Members of the Forum may nominate up to two participants to the briefing without charge. The cost for additional nominees is €100 per person. The cost for non-forum members is €250 per person but subject to availability. Bookings can be made using the attached booking form or by contacting Jane Greer (jgreer@ipa.ie)