
3. IPPN – FROM THE BOTTOM UP

IPPN Structure consists of 3 different layers of organisation

- Local Principals' Support Groups
- 26 County Networks
- A National Committee with Executive Officers

3.1. LOCAL PRINCIPALS' SUPPORT GROUPS

Support Groups form the main cell structure of IPPN. Principals' Support Groups have been in existence and sustained with the aid of Local Education Centres. Every Support Group has its own dynamic. The most commonly shared characteristics of successful support groups are:

- ❖ One member co-ordinates the date and venue of the next meeting.
- ❖ One main topic selected by consensus as the focus of the next meeting - each meeting used to discuss a variety of current issues.
- ❖ Regular monthly meetings e.g. second Thursday of the month.
- ❖ Meetings immediately after school or by night – some groups meet in the afternoons of administration days.
- ❖ Small groups – normally 8 to 12.
- ❖ A high degree of confidentiality and discretion.
- ❖ A regular social dimension.
- ❖ Frequent sharing of resources, ideas and strategies.
- ❖ No formal agenda.
- ❖ No minutes or reports.
- ❖ No external speakers.

By definition, a Principals' Support Group does not include Deputy Principals as the main motivation of the group is to support those who are in the role of Principal. As in the case of resource teachers, learning support teachers etc. if and when DPs wish to avail of support groups, the establishment of such groups should be negotiated with the local Education Centre.

3.2. COUNTY NETWORKS

(See Section 5 - IPPN County Network Guidelines)

When a member joins IPPN, his or her school determines the county network to which she/he belongs. Each County Network will typically organise one Continuous Professional Development Event per term, i.e. 3 per annum. These Continuous Professional Development Events are funded through IPPN nationally and are open to all Principals and Deputy Principals of member schools.

3.3. NATIONAL COMMITTEE

(See Memorandum & Articles of Association)

Each September a given County Network will elect/nominate two members to act as its representatives to the National Committee. Two Representatives from each of the 26 County Networks form a 52 person National Committee. The IPPN National Committee elects 16 Executive officers at its AGM in October to manage the affairs of the organisation.