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| **Title of Innovation in policy and practice presentation** Health Quality Mark (HQM). The health promotion award for the youth sector in Ireland |
| **Setting/problem**The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) is the representative body of voluntary youth organisations in Ireland. Figures show there are 40,000 volunteers, 1,400 professional youth workers and 380,000 young people engaged in the youth sector in Ireland. In 2000, the National Youth Health Programme within NYCI recognised the youth sector as an important setting for health promotion and youth organisations should be encouraged and supported to develop a holistic approach to addressing the health needs of all those involved in youth organisations.**Intervention**The HQM is the health promotion award for the youth sector in Ireland. The HQM aims to promote quality youth health promotion practice which promotes healthy and supportive environments for young people and those who work with them. When young people engage with youth organisations, they have the potential to access a range of programmes and services, which contribute positively to their wellbeing. The HQM is a set of quality standards and takes the form of an award conferred on organisations that satisfy agreed criteria. The 12 criteria are based on best practice in youth health. There are varying levels of the HQM (Bronze, Silver, Gold) depending on the criteria achieved by organisations.The 12 criteria are: Health promotion policy, role description and terms of reference for health promotion team, organisational health promotion strategy, youth participation structures, peer health promoting initiative, resource bank for health promotion, training plan for staff/management, intersectoral working and partnerships, model of good practice for health promotion activittes, health and safety policy, equality and inclusiveness, child protection policy**Outcomes**The HQM facilitates organisations embed health promotion within their practices via developing personal skills through health education, partnership with others, creating supportive environments and policy development. The HQM also: * Recognises and acknowledges good practice and high standards of quality in all aspects of health promotion in organisations
* Positively differentiates ‘health promoting youth organisations’ from other service providers in the sector
* Ensures ongoing support and training

**Implications**Development and sustainability of quality health promotion in youth organisationsGood practice in health promotion and evaluation of all health promotion activitiesEnsurance that all health polices, programmes and practices are integrated effectivelyThe health of all those involved in the youth organisations are promoted**Preferred presentation format**Oral |