



Meeting of the National Steering Group for Children and Young People's Services Committees

Venue: Minister's Conference room, DCYA.

Date: Wednesday 24th February 2016

In Attendance:	
Dr Sheelah Ryan	Chairperson
Colma Nic Lughadha	National Co-ordinator for CYPSC
Conor Rowley	Principal Officer, Policy Innovation Unit, DCYA
Shay Fulham	Community & Voluntary sector
Dr Julie Heslin	Health Service Executive
Caroline Duignan	CYPSC Co-ordinator nominee
Ann O'Dwyer	ETBI (Education and Training Board Ireland)
Mark Considine	Policy Innovation Unit, DCYA
Mary Hargaden	TUSLA, Child and Family Agency
Angela Toolis	CYPSC Chairperson nominee
Sinead Carr	CYPSC Vice Chairperson & Local Authority representative
Martina Moloney	Chair nominee
Emer Connolly	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
Eileen Connolly	Policy Innovation Unit, DCYA
Apologies:	
Nora Duggan	Young Person (no longer available to attend)
Anne O'Mahony	Department of Education and Skills (no longer available to attend)

1. Introductions:

The Chair welcomed Angela, Caroline and Sinead to the group. Two new members will be required to cover the vacancies arising from the Department of Education and Skills and Young Person positions.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:

The minutes of 14th September 2015 were agreed.

- **Matters arising:**

The Chair asked for agreement to publish the minutes of these meetings online and this was agreed by the group for records of minutes from today's meeting onwards.

The Chair complimented the very professional report from the Steering Group's Workshop Day 11th December 2015 and thanked all those involved. The Chair requested that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for this group outlined in this report be adopted. Martina Moloney proposed and Shay Fulham seconded and the ToR was agreed.

The Chair requested that the group consider appointing a Vice Chair for the group. This was agreed by the group. Sheelah Ryan nominated Martina Moloney for the Vice Chairperson role, this was seconded by Sinéad Carr and Martina Moloney was appointed Vice Chairperson.



- **LCDC Development:**

Martina Moloney provided a short summary on the work of Local Community Development Committees and circulated an information document. The discussion that followed highlighted the importance of growing how we work with other structures and agencies to avoid gaps: for example, linking the CYPSC three-year Children and Young People Plans (CYPP) and the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) and acknowledging that new structures, like Public Participation Networks (PPN) are emerging and operating differently from county to county, and to explore their potential as a nominating body to CYPSC. The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) will issue a guide to PPN shortly.

- **Update on resourcing of CYPSC Co-ordinator posts:**

Mary Hargaden updated the group on the recruitment of CYPSC Co-ordinators by Tusla Child and Family Agency stating that

- Tusla was pleased with the volume of interest in the CYPSC Co-ordinator post and the range of backgrounds of applicants.
- Interviews concluded last week.
- A national Talent Pool (panel) has been established.
- Letters/emails to applicants will issue in week of 29th February 2016.
- Seven transfers into Tusla have been agreed to regularise existing posts located within non-Tusla organisations.
- Appointments to vacant or new posts will take place from the Talent Pool.

The Chair and Conor Rowley thanked Mary, Colma and Mark for all their work in bringing this work forward where we will have a complete national network of co-ordinators. CR noted that there will be a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DCYA and Tusla going forward. With secured resources from the budget, it is now incumbent on us all to make CYPSC an effective initiative. It was noted that the seed funding issued by DCYA in November 2015 to twenty one CYPSC is a welcome initiative.

3. CYPSC NSG Work Plan 2016:

- **Work Plan 2016:**

A draft SG Work Plan 2016-17 was circulated for discussion, selection and prioritisation of actions.

In terms of prioritising items on the work plan, the Chair advised that the SG needs to be responsive to the national agenda and the CYPSC agenda. After working through the items on the draft work plan the group agreed priorities for 2016 into 2017. Colma Nic Lughadha will amend the Work Plan accordingly and consider “the how” to enact the Plan for the June meeting. The Chair requested that the SG Work Plan should be a standing item on the agenda for our meetings and members should bring a copy of the work plan to each meeting.

As this group is uniquely placed for feeding information back up to DCYA, we need structuring to improve reporting in and from CYPSC on emerging needs. It was agreed that discussion on an annual programme of work in relation to CYPP would be an item on the agenda for the next meeting.



- **C&V engagement in CYPSC:**

Conor Rowley circulated information on the work of the Advisory Council and the five priorities assigned to the 5 key sponsor Departments.

CR advised of the need to establish a Sub Group to work with the Advisory Council to develop guidance on the participation of the Community and Voluntary sector on CYPSC. SG members self-nominated to participate in this sub-group as follows: Martina Moloney will lead, Shay Fulham, Ann O'Dwyer, Sinead Carr, Colma Nic Lughadha, Angela Toolis and DCYA to participate. DCYA will draft a Terms of Reference for this sub group.

- **2016 National CYPSC Seminar:**

Some suggestions on theme and format for the next National Seminar for CYPSC were put forward: challenges of interagency working, piece on economic approach, area to display each CYPSC's achievements. The date will be confirmed when the new Government is in place.

- **National Communications Map:**

Colma Nic Lughadha circulated a plan of national communications activity in 2016 and asked SG members to review and reflect on which activities they may wish to contribute to or consider could be developed. For example, submission of articles on CYPSC to sector-specific publications of SG members. It was noted that the plan is very helpful in mapping out significant CYPSC events and should be on display at the National Seminar. If any member wishes to contribute to the Communications Plan they can contact Colma. It was noted that the CYPSC website is a good platform to showcase the work of each local CYPSC.

4. National Update on implementation of CYPSC- Report from National Co-ordinator:

The National Implementation Update 2015 report presented by Colma Nic Lughadha was reviewed. Discussion that followed highlighted the importance of the three-year plans developed by each CYPSC. It was agreed to table CYPP development and the idea of an annual programme of work from CYPPs as agenda items for the next meeting. Ann O'Dwyer noted that the national update would be a useful communications tool for use locally and requested that a copy be sent to her. This report is available using the link below from the CYPSC website www.cypsc.ie.

http://www.cypsc.ie/_fileupload/Documents/Resources/CYPSC-Ntl-Implementation-Update-2015.pdf

Mary Hargaden emphasised the need for seniority of representation on CYPSC. The Chair will raise this point at the next Consortium meeting.



5. Local View on CYPSC implementation:

Angela Toolis and Caroline Duignan presented examples of the work of local CYPSC. They noted the benefits of CYPSC as unlocking possibilities and observed that it can take two years for people to see the value of this model of inter-agency work. The work of CYPSC has purpose and is relevant and people want to come to meetings now as they see the value of what is being done. There are good sub-groups established based on children and young people's needs and a lot of goodwill and energy for their projects. Among these projects are:

- "Helping Hands" for children who experience conflict in the home
- "Wise guys, Strong girls" for young people
- Working with the HSE Nurture programme
- Working with ETB for training needs
- "This is me" Transitions booklet for children moving from pre-school to primary school
- Working with An Garda Síochána to address poor relationships between young people and Gardaí. This project is being showcased to the Tusla board on 26th February.
- Internet safety programme in progress with good collaboration from many partners.

The Chairperson thanked Angela and Caroline for these wonderful examples which serve as reminders of the reason behind CYPSC work.

6. Engagement with Children and Young People's Policy Consortium meeting:

The Chair will bring the following items to the attention of Consortium on 3rd March:

- To request a Department of Social Protection representative on each CYPSC
- To highlight the need to have seniority of membership among the representatives on CYPSC
- Priming finance for CYPSC
- Quality Assurance / Proofing of own in-house plans (i.e. of Consortium members) to ensure that CYPSC is included

7. Quality and Capacity Building Initiative (QCBI) Update:

Conor Rowley updated the group on the initial development phase for QCBI which is being developed by his unit in DCYA, Policy Innovation. There are four key elements – the first two are key infrastructure ones of data and learning, the third is coaching and the fourth is quality delivery. The "why" behind it is to harness the yield and learning from the investment made in recent years by Atlantic Philanthropies in order to find what works for children, young people and services most effectively.

Dr Sinead Hanafin from "Research Matters" has been contracted to draft a roadmap of options for the development of data relating to children and young people. There will be specific references to CYPSC in this work as it is anticipated that they will be one of the primary local structures through which the training and coaching component of the programme is delivered. The timeframe for the project is December 2016 to run through to 2017/18.

The group welcomed the initiative as there is a need for improved data collection and mapping service provision to demographics.



Shay Fulham noted that the pressure on the C&V sector has become immense due to the changes associated with Commissioning and an agenda for tendering. He noted the danger of a system being created where only large Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) could compete and ultimately exist. He asked how small NGOs can be equipped so that they can sustain and survive as they are often the backbone of specialised services. Anne O'Dwyer suggested that the Steering Group needs to look at supporting the C&V sector and develop a view on the changing context.

It was noted that Tusla is working on their approach to Commissioning. In addition, Conor Rowley is working with Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) and the Department of Health (DoH) in the development of guidance on Commissioning in the community and voluntary sector. It was agreed that Commissioning could be considered as an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

8. Any other business:

The Chair thanked the group for their attendance and attention to the very packed agenda today. She asked SG members to consider individually what each will bring to the SG and suggested that Colma or Mark is available to discuss and scope out with SG members support for their contributions and thinking. Dr Sheelah Ryan informed the meeting that for personal reasons she would be stepping down as Chairperson and resigning from the Steering Group. Dr. Ryan wished everyone well in their work going forward.

Conor Rowley expressed his gratitude on behalf of DCYA and the National Steering Group to Sheelah for all her hard work and advice to us all.

Decisions from meeting	Responsible
Prepare amended Work Plan 2016-17	Colma NicLughadha
Sub-group on C&V engagement	Martina Moloney
Draft Terms of Reference for C&V sub group	Mark Considine
Input from group on C&V engagement	All
Input from group on theme for National Seminar	All
Items to bring forward to the Consortium	Chair/vice Chair

Next meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 2nd June 2016, in DCYA, Mespil Road, 10.30am