



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

Venue: Minister's Conference room, DCYA.

Date: Thursday 2nd June 2016

In Attendance:	
Martina Moloney	Independent nominee and Vice Chairperson of CYPSC SG
Colma Nic Lughadha	National Co-ordinator for CYPSC, CES
Conor Rowley	Policy Innovation Unit, DCYA
Dr Julie Heslin	Health Service Executive
Caroline Duignan	CYPSC Co-ordinator nominee
Mark Considine	Policy Innovation Unit, DCYA
Mary Hargaden	TUSLA, Child and Family Agency
Angela Toolis	CYPSC Chairperson nominee
Sinead Carr	Local Authority representative & CYPSC Vice Chairperson nominee
Emer Connolly	Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government
Willie McIntosh	Department of Education and Skills
Eileen Connolly	Policy Innovation Unit, DCYA
Apologies:	
Shay Fulham	Community & Voluntary sector
Ann O'Dwyer	Education and Training Board Ireland (ETBI)

Actions from meeting	Responsible
Circulate a briefing on the Advisory Council	DCYA
Circulate to SG members ToR and minutes from CYPSC National Implementation Group	DCYA
Confirm new Chairperson for NSG	DCYA
Follow up with DSP for representative on NSG	Conor Rowley
Publish CYPSC Steering Group minutes on www.cypsc.ie	Colma Nic Lughadha
<u>Work Plan 2016-17</u> - Amendments to Work Plan - All SG members to review work plan, identify actions within their responsibility and initiate - Draft a template for members to use to complete Sub action 1.1.2	Colma Nic Lughadha All Sinead Carr
Review Commissioning document	All
Consider themes for CYPSC National Seminar	All
Nominate member to attend Consortium meeting	Vice Chairperson
Follow up with Department of Health re health representation	Conor Rowley
Circulate Programme For Government	DCYA



1. Introductions:

The Vice Chairperson Martina Moloney welcomed Minister Katherine Zappone to meet the Steering Group and outlined the role and goals of the Steering Group for the Minister. Minister Zappone emphasised how the work of this group is integral to her own work and the work of the Department to demonstrate that we must focus on improving outcomes for children and young people and removing barriers to their potential. The Minister noted:

- the leadership from this group
- the work of CYPSC at local level as vehicles for change
- the work of CYPSC as ambassadors for interagency working which ultimately is about building relationships and trust.

On behalf of the Steering Group Martina Moloney thanked the Minister for her support and assured her that this group is keen to deliver on its mandate.

Martina Moloney welcomed Willie McIntosh to the Steering Group as the new representative from the Department of Education and Skills.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:

-Sub group with Advisory Council on C&V sector engagement in CYPSC:

DCYA are currently seeking a meeting date for all concerned. The purpose of this sub-group is to consider the form and levels of engagement and representation of the Community and Voluntary (C&V) sector on CYPSC and their subgroups.

An update will be provided at the next meeting.

-Status of CYPSC Co-ordinator appointments:

Mary Hargaden updated the group on the transfer of CYPSC posts into Tusla and the status of appointments to vacant posts. The group was also informed that the time from offer to appointment is taking longer than anticipated. Tusla are taking steps to address this.

-Update on CYPSC National Implementation Group:

Mark Considine updated the group on the new CYPSC National Implementation Group. This group held their first meeting on 18th May. It will support management, co-ordination and operation of CYPSC between DCYA, Tusla-Child and Family Agency and the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC. The Terms of Reference for this group and the minutes from their meetings will be circulated to the CYPSC NSG. Membership of this group is Colma Nic Lughadha (National Co-ordinator), Mary Hargaden (Tusla), Eifion Williams (Tusla), Conor Rowley (DCYA) and Mark Considine (DCYA).

-Chairperson for NSG:

Conor Rowley updated the group that a number of suggestions for Chairperson will be discussed with the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. Any views from the Steering Group are welcomed. It was agreed that the Chairperson be a person with public sector experience, an understanding of the Community and Voluntary sector, and with a commitment to children and young people and have interagency-working experience. Any suggestions can be sent to



Conor. It was agreed that a new Chairperson be in place by the next Steering Group meeting and in time for the National CYPSC Seminar.

-Guidance on the Participation of children and young people in CYPSC:

Mark Considine updated the group that a second draft of the guidance for CYPSC on Participation will be sent to the Reference Group working on it and then on to the local CYPSC for their observations. SG members emphasised the importance of local committees being consulted regarding the guidance document. The Steering Group recognised the importance of children and young people being in the conversations affecting them in an age-appropriate manner.

-Feedback from the Children and Young People's Policy Consortium meeting March 2016:

Conor Rowley updated the group on 4 items brought to the Children and Young People's Policy Consortium from the NSG, in March.

1. Re member from Department of Social Protection (DSP) on local CYPSC: DSP gave no commitment on standing presence on CYPSC but will attend for meetings where needed and can follow up on issues bilaterally.
2. Re seniority of membership on CYPSC: there is a clear mandate and clear support for CYPSC and the Secretary General of DCYA as Chairperson of the Children and Young People's Policy Consortium will continue to drive this support.
3. Re finance for CYPSC: there is commitment to secure contributions from key agencies to fund local initiatives. This will continue to be explored.
4. Re buy-in to CYPSC planning: Consortium members were asked to reference CYPSC in their plans and to underscore the importance of communications with CYPSC

The Chairperson summarised the discussion that followed and noted that it was fundamental to the work of CYPSC and to building relationships and trust that there is no "opt out" by one agency. DSP presence on CYPSC will add impact in particular where it has been noted that CYPSC need emphasis on Outcome 4, Economic Security and Opportunity.

Conor Rowley suggested that the DSP be asked for a nominee to the CYPSC SG. This was agreed. CR to write to the DSP to arrange further discussion and convey the CYPSC SG opinion that membership is necessary if engagement is to be meaningful and work to be productive. It was also agreed that the CYPSC SG's response be relayed back at the next Children and Young People's Policy Consortium meeting.

The minutes of 24th February 2016 were agreed and will be published online on www.cypsc.ie.

3. National Update on CYPSC implementation:

Colma Nic Lughadha presented a National CYPSC Implementation Update Report for the period January to June 2016 providing a high level overview of CYPSC implementation.

Discussion followed noting that Child and Youth Mental Health is a prominent theme being addressed by CYPSC. Given developments nationwide in particular the work of the National Office of Suicide Prevention (NOSP) and of Jigsaw, the need for joined up working on youth mental health with a HSE lead was noted. It was agreed to raise at the next Children and Young People's Policy Consortium meeting the need for co-ordination regarding Youth Mental Health.



The National CYPSC Implementation Update Report also indicated that the greatest number of local CYPSC activity is reported under Outcome 1 Active and Healthy; illustrating the clear potential of CYPSC to support the implementation of national policy on health. The approach taken regarding the engagement by the HSE with Local Community Development Committees, led by Healthy Ireland, was noted. It was agreed to seek clarification from the HSE at the next Children and Young People's Policy Consortium meeting regarding a HSE lead for CYPSC engagement noting the productive approach utilised in the LCDC context.

4. Local view on CYPSC Implementation:

Angela Toolis and Caroline Duignan provided a flavour of the work being done by Galway CYPSC and Roscommon CYPSC including work to:

- Address the impact of parental mental health on children and young people
- Scale up county-wide supports for positive transition from pre-school to primary school
- Promote internet safety
- Develop Guidelines for Youth Party Night organisers
- Develop a LGBT Support Code of Practice
- Develop a Homework support club
- Build youth participation in Clifden

The Vice Chairperson thanked Caroline and Angela for these examples of local CYPSC work.

5. NSG Work Plan 2016 -2017:

The group worked through the items on the Work Plan amending as necessary and assigning responsibility for items among the membership. Actions pertaining to commencement of delivery of the Work Plan are included in the "Actions from the Meeting" table on page 1.

The Work Plan 2016-17 was agreed and is provided at Appendix 1.

It was agreed that key action 3.1.2 "Explore contributions from state agencies to a programme budget for CYPSC" and an update from HSE on new initiatives should be Agenda items for the next meeting.

6. Planning and Reporting Framework for CYPSC – Issues for consideration:

Colma Nic Lughadha provided some initial notes on the features of planning and reporting frameworks for discussion on what the Steering Group would like to see captured in CYPSC reporting. The group noted the following:

- Evidencing the value of CYPSC
- Plans that are succinct, accessible, timely and outcomes focussed
- Measuring the process of CYPSC
- Having Children and Young People's Plans in place
- Evidencing change and impact for children and young people

It was agreed that CYPSC Planning and Reporting be an Agenda item for the October meeting.

7. Presentations on Commissioning:

Conor Rowley circulated a briefing document on Commissioning. Due to time constraints at the meeting it was agreed that the group would consider this paper and send any observations on it to Conor. Mary Hargaden noted that the Tusla Commissioning work is in 5 pilot sites at the moment, matching needs and resources.- It is anticipated that by Q3 2016, the learning from these sites will aid Tusla planning with DCYA for 2017.

Commissioning will be an Agenda item for the October meeting.



8. National Seminar for CYPSC:

A brief discussion was held on holding the national CYPSC Seminar in 2016 or pushing it out into 2017. Development opportunities regarding CYPSC Leadership support, noted in the National CYPSC Implementation Update Report, plus the provision of training to newly appointed and existing CYPSC Co-ordinators will require sufficient allocation of time in 2016. The benefits of holding a national CYPSC Seminar in terms of promoting inter-CYPSC learning as well as engaging with external stakeholders to promote engagement with CYPSC were noted. A combination of these to be considered by the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC for 2016. Suggested themes for a national seminar can be sent to Colma Nic Lughadha.

9. Messaging/Items fao the Consortium:

The next Children and Young People's Policy Consortium meeting is on Thursday 23rd June. The Vice Chairperson is not available to attend. A substitute will be sought. Items to be brought to the attention of the Consortium

- 1) Importance of DSP membership on CYPSC
- 2) HSE lead for engagement with CYPSC noting the approach utilised regarding LCDC engagement by HSE.
- 3) Co-ordination of Youth Mental Health policy and provision.

10. Any other Business:

Caroline Duignan informed the meeting that she is studying for a PhD . Her research topic is understanding the impact of interagency structures. Caroline may be calling on members of the Steering Group to participate in her research and will share her findings.

Julie Heslin questioned if the Health representative on this group should be a Department of Health person. Conor Rowley will follow up to discuss with Kate O'Flaherty of Healthy Ireland.

The Vice Chairperson requested that the new Programme for Government (PFG) be circulated to the Steering Group and that a discussion on elements of the PFG impacting on CYPSC be an Agenda item for the next meeting.

Next meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 13th October 2016 in DCYA, Mespil Road.

Appendix 1

CYPSC SG Work Plan 2016-17



Key Action	Sub action	Lead & Partners	Comment	To be completed
1.1 Embed CYPSC into national and local planning cycles and programmes				
1.1 Ensure that state agency plans (a) support the necessity of agencies to engage with CYPSC and (b) reflect CYPSC priorities.	1.1.1. Monitor participation of state agencies in CYPSC including levels of attendance and leverage of funding.	Colma Nic Lughadha, National Co-ordinator	Data collected through CYPSC Progress Reports	Q4, 2016 Q4, 2017
	1.1.2. Monitor references to CYPSC in state agency policies and plans and forthcoming plans.	Chairperson, All SG members Sinead Carr draft template.	1.1 To be raised at National Policy Consortium	Q4, 2016
1.2 Ensure that state sponsored programmes across Health, Education, Child & Family, Economic Security, Social Inclusion (a) support the necessity to engage with CYPSC and (b) reflect CYPSC priorities.	1.2.1 Plot and disseminate to the SG the various significant planning stages and cycles within Government Departments	Emer Connolly, DHPCLG		Q3, 2016
	1.2.2 Plot and disseminate to local CYPSC significant priority strategies, plans and policies of state agencies and state sponsored programmes	SG members	DCYA to work with SG members	Q4, 2016
1.3 Explore the development of MoUs between CYPSC and relevant Agencies.	1.3.1 Develop guidance on the relationship between CYPSC and other agencies	Mark Considine, DCYA	DCYA to work with SG members	Environment – Q4 2016 Tusla – Q4 2016 HSE – Q1 2017
1.4 Use the intelligence from Children and Young People's Services Committees in relation to local need and priorities to inform the allocation of national and local funding streams.		DCYA	Annual progress reports generated by local CYPSC, compiled by National Co-ordinator	Q4, 2016 Q4, 2017
2.1 Strengthen CYPSC membership and participation				
2.1 Ensure that the composition of local CYPSC membership is robust.	2.1.1 Support Agency members of CYPSC to develop internal systems for supporting local CYPSC membership	Julie Heslin HSE, Agency SG members	National Co-ordinator to work with Agency SG members	HSE - Q1, 2017
	2.1.2 Work with the national Advisory Council to provide guidance for CYPSC on Community and Voluntary sector membership on every local CYPSC.	Mark Considine, DCYA	Sub Group of SG to be convened	Q3, 2016
3.1 Develop CYPSC implementation & impact				
3.1 Ensure realisation of a resourcing framework for CYPSC	3.1.1 CYPSC Co-ordinator posts secured and full complement in post within Tusla	Mary Hargaden, Tusla		Q3, 2016
	3.1.2 Explore contributions from state agencies to a programme budget for CYPSC	Chairperson	Chairperson to bring to the National Policy Consortium	Ongoing

Appendix 1

CYPSC SG Work Plan 2016-17



Key Action	Sub action	Lead & Partners	Comment	To be completed
3.2 Provide guidance and direction to CYPSC on addressing national Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity	3.2.1 Review the local structures pertaining to economic development and how CYPSC can be aligned with these.	Sinead Carr, Local Authority		Q1, 2017
	3.2.2 Disseminate recommendation accompanied by guidance to local CYPSC regarding the set-up of an Outcome 4 Sub Group	Colma Nic Lughadha National Co-ordinator		Q3 2017
3.3 Ensure planning and co-ordination of parenting supports at local level through Children and Young People's Services Committees (G.2. BOBF)	3.3.1 Map current local CYPSC practice to fulfil BOBF commitment G.2 and identify good practice.	Colma Nic Lughadha National Co-ordinator		Q4, 2016
	3.3.2 Ensure connection and alignment between local CYPSC and key agencies: ETB, HSE, TUSLA	ETB, HSE, TUSLA SG members	Building on the findings of 3.3.1	Q2, 2017
3.4 Ensure that the needs of children and young people with disabilities are addressed within the CYPSC plans	3.4.1 Ensure alignment of CYPSC with National Disability Strategy and Local Implementation Groups.	Julie Heslin, HSE	DCYA to work with HSE SG member	Q3, 2017
3.5 National CYPSC Seminar	3.5.1 Plan seminar and generate report	Colma Nic Lughadha National Co-ordinator		Q4 2016 or Q2 2017
4.1 Reporting				
4.1 Oversight of progress and impact of CYPSC	4.1.1 Contribute to identification of scope of Reporting Framework	Colma Nic Lughadha National Co-ordinator	Discussion at June 2016 meeting	Q2 2016
	4.1.2 Receive CYPSC Progress reports with a view to surfacing emerging trends, issues, themes and practices requiring national attention.	Colma Nic Lughadha National Co-ordinator		Q2 & Q3 2016 Q1 & Q2 & Q3 2017
	4.1.3 Communicate emerging trends, issues, themes and practices to the appropriate policy body or agency.	Chairperson	To Consortium and other agencies	Q2 & Q3 & Q4 2016 Q1 & Q2 & Q3 2017
5.1 Communications				
5.1 Increase awareness of CYPSC: structures, work, successes through the National Communication Plan 2016 & 2017	5.1.1 Purposeful communication up to the Consortium	Chairperson	Key items agreed at each SG meeting	Q2 & Q3 & Q4 2016 Q1 & Q2 & Q3 2017
	5.1.2 Purposeful communication back to local CYPSC	Colma Nic Lughadha National Co-ordinator	Minutes to be published. Network of local CYPSC Co-ordinators	Q3 & Q4 2016 Q1 - Q4 2017
	5.1.3 Ambassador type role for SG members into parent Department / Agency	SG members	Agree Comms role and key messages	Ongoing