



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

Venue: Ground Floor Conference Room, Miesian Plaza, DCYA.

Date: Tuesday, 18th September 2018

In Attendance:	
Conor Rowley	Tusla Programme Development and Cross Government Framework Unit, DCYA
Colma Nic Lughadha	National Co-ordinator for CYPSC
Eifion Williams	Tusla - Child and Family Agency
Sé Fulham	Community & Voluntary Sector
Dr Julie Heslin	Health Service Executive
John Cole	Tusla Programme Development and Cross Government Framework Unit, DCYA
Deirdre Maloney	Department of Rural and Community Development
Siobhan Lawlor	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
Caroline Duignan	Local CYPSC Co-ordinator member
Sonya Kavanagh	County and City Management Association
Greg Straton	Department of Health
Eileen Connolly	Tusla Programme Development and Cross Government Framework Unit, DCYA
Apologies:	
Dr Noelle Spring	Chairperson
Ann O'Dwyer	Education and Training Board Ireland (ETBI)
Willie McIntosh	Department of Education and Skills
David Dalton	Department of Rural and Community Development
Vacancy:	
Young person aged 18-24	
Local Authority representative & CYPSC Vice Chairperson nominee	
Local CYPSC Chairperson nominee	

Please note that the Actions from this meeting are listed at Appendix 1 in Task List



1. Welcome and Introductions:

- Conor Rowley chaired the meeting as the Chairperson sent her apologies.
- Sonya Kavanagh was welcomed on to the NSG as the representative from the County and City Management Association. Sonya is the Director of Services in Kildare County Council with responsibility for Economic, Community and Cultural Development.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:

Minutes of last meeting:

- A change was requested to the last bullet point on page 4. With this change the minutes of 19th June meeting were agreed and will be posted on CYPSC website.

Matters arising:

- The audit of Education representatives on CYPSC is almost complete and Caroline will liaise with the National Co-Ordinator further on this.
- It was noted that it will be useful to have a method to measure membership on CYPSC.

3. Update from the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC:

- CNL circulated the *National Co-ordinator for CYPSC Update for the CYPSC National Steering Group* – see Appendix 2. The following discussion items ensued:
- Work to progress local CYPSC Children and Young People's Plans, the national network of CYPSC Co-ordinators and enhancing integration of CYPSC with other Tusla work streams was highlighted.
- CNL noted that Healthy Ireland Funding to CYPSC is very welcome; emphasised the need to realise the prompt transfer of funding to CYPSC in order to support effective use of the fund and offered input to any reflection or development of a Round 3 fund.
- Also noted was that communications regarding Healthy Ireland funding between the main partners; Pobal, Tusla and DCYA could be improved.
- GS stated that the forthcoming review of the HI funding will contribute to the future planning of the fund.
- Work on integrating the CYPSC programme into Tusla is going well with supports being leveraged from Tusla business support sections. Additionally the volume of work is greater than the personnel resources available.
- The role of the NSG to guide implementation by CYPSC of national policy objectives that refer to CYPSC e.g. recent LGBTI+ strategy, upcoming Early Years Strategy and the forthcoming Youth Justice Action Plan was noted.
- CNL highlighted some parallel processes/new initiatives being rolled out by Government Departments and the need to ensure that there is cognisance of existing work of CYPSC in order to link/co-ordinate with the CYPSC initiative.

In the discussion that followed, GS noted that Pobal have committed to review the HI feedback and improve communications. The extension of the closing date for Round 2 has impacted on the review; however the preliminary results are very promising and will be circulated when completed. CR thanked CNL for this comprehensive update and noted that DCYA will arrange a meeting with local CYPSC co-ordinators in Q4 of 2018 to progress matters of mutual interest.



4. Update from the National Implementation Group (NIG):

- The minutes of the last meeting of this group on 11th June 2018 are in the pack for today's meeting.
- Items from NIG are covered further in today's agenda.

5. Vacancies on NSG:

- There are currently 5 vacancies on the NSG.
- JC thanked the Vice Chairperson Martina Moloney, and the Local CYPSC Co-ordinator member, Caroline Duignan, for all their work and enormous contribution at national level since 2016 with the NSG.
- A CYPSC Chairperson has been nominated via Tusla to the NSG and formal notification is expected in DCYA shortly.
- The vacancy for a local CYPSC Co-ordinator member will be filled through the nomination process of the CYPSC Co-ordinators' National Network.
- Nominations have been received in DCYA for the vacancies for young person, community and voluntary person and for CYPSC Vice Chairperson nominee and these will be finalised with the Chairperson shortly.
- CNL noted that she is working with GAISCE to develop a potential pool of local CYPSC members aged 18-24 years and that this could also benefit the CYPSC NSG. It was also suggested that NSG could look to, Young Scientists and Public Participation Networks (PPN) groups for other young people nominees.
- SF noted the importance of ensuring that smaller C&V organisations be represented at the NSG table. The NSG would welcome a C&V nominee from some of the smaller organisations.

6. Update on CYPSC event:

- The final programme outline for both days of the *CYPSC: Enhancing Child and Youth Well-being* national event were circulated to the group.
- Members of the Planning Group for the event are monitoring registrations for both days. There is currently low registration from Government Departments and SG members are asked to remind their colleagues of the event.
- It was noted that a Healthy City and Counties event in Belfast on 3rd October may impact on attendance from LCDC staff.
- HSE support for the event is welcomed, with the Quality Improvement Division supporting Day 1, 3rd October.
- Conor thanked Colma and the planning group for all their work towards the event.

7. Update on the Review of the Blueprint for CYPSC:

- The next meeting of the review group will be on 8th Oct and it is planned to circulate a draft after this meeting to the co-ordinators and members of NSG for their feedback.
- Detail is needed on a planned chapter on the way forward for CYPSC and outputs from Day 1 of the CYPSC event could be drawn on to progress the vision for CYPSC.



- Commissioning, QCBI and Early Years Strategy pieces will also be included in the revised Blueprint and a piece on the work of CYPSC to date and the great amount of work being done with partners.

8. Update on Quality and Capacity Building Initiative (QCBI):

- Ruth Doggett updated the group on the background to QCBI and the current status of the initiative. (This update will be circulated to the group after the meeting.)
- The discussion that followed in relation to the Innovation Fund noted the importance of sharing the learning from projects and surfacing innovations in geographical areas that hadn't previously applied for funding.
- Sé gave an example of a family support project under QCBI Innovation Fund for parents compromised by their own childhood experiences.
- CYPSC are recognised as an important structure for embedding Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) in the system and the DCYA team would be open to CYPSC highlighting where CYPSC might be able to engage with QCBI to advance its objectives. Dr. Noelle Spring sits on the QCBI governance group to represent CYPSC.

9. Joint Commissioning and CYPSC:

- CNL circulated a draft Terms of Reference for the CYPSC Joint Commissioning Working Group to be established by Tusla Child and Family Agency under the auspices of the CYPSC National Steering Group. The group's purpose is to explore options for realisation of joint commissioning arrangements for service responses to meet the identified needs of children and young people in a CYPSC area, between two or more CYPSC member organisations.
- The rationale for this working group was queried and it was noted that
 - Joint Commissioning is an important part of the future development for CYPSC to be referenced in the revised Blueprint for CYPSC.
 - Joint Commissioning through CYPSC is an objective in the Tusla Business Plan agreed with DCYA
 - While Tusla has a Commissioning Strategy, with SG member Eifion Williams as Head of Commissioning in Tusla leading out on this; definitions, interpretations and understandings of "Commissioning" vary across sectors and disciplines
- The proposed working group will seek to agree a Joint Commissioning approach for CYPSC, delivering a common understanding within CYPSC. Detail includes how we might share funds across agencies and plan service responses in an evidence informed way.
- SG members are requested to nominate a person from their organisation with knowledge pertinent to this working group to Colma by Friday 28th September.
- It was agreed that the Community & Voluntary sector would be included in membership of the working group.



10. Update from Local CYPSC:

- CD raised the concern from local co-ordinators regarding a lack of general administrative support.
- CD acknowledged the benefit of having a representative from Dept of Employment Affairs and Social Protection on the NSG but stressed the importance of ensuring that there is a representative from DEASP on each local CYPSC.
- The discussion on the above concern highlighted the need to address local membership challenges. The importance of relevant agencies and sectors participating at the CYPSC table in order to build strong, productive and effective local partnership foundations and partnership working was emphasised. Good working relationships between CYPSC and LCDC, and participation by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection at local level in order to address issues, especially those under Outcome 4, were emphasised. Conor Rowley will follow up on these issues.
- CD noted that work from the Roscommon CYPSC on a consultation with young children has been selected to represent Ireland at an upcoming EU conference in Croatia. Caroline circulated the Happy & Healthy Volcano poster.
- A School Refusal Resource Pack – Information for schools and parents - has recently been added to the Roscommon CYPSC website page in order to recognise on time, issues with school that can arise for children and young people. (see www.cypsc.ie/roscommon) The parental Mental Health sub group of Roscommon CYPSC is working to ensure that appropriate services and supports are available in Roscommon for children and young people who are affected by issues in relation to their parent's mental health and to support parents with mental health issues.
- The video made by young people in Athenry on issues concerning them and highlighting lessons for services will be shown after the meeting.
- Caroline is in the 4th year of her PhD course and will be circulating surveys on the theme of influencing outcomes for children that the members may wish to complete to help with her research.
- Caroline thanked the members for being a part of the NSG and for their support for CYPSC.

11. Messaging and Items for the attention of the Consortium:

- In the absence of the Chairperson at this meeting, Conor will discuss items for the attention of the Consortium at a later date with the Chairperson.

12. Any other Business:

- SL noted that Dept of Employment Affairs and Social Protection with the support of NALA have an adult literacy programme for September.
- The dates for the meetings of this group for 2019 will be circulated by DCYA shortly.



Appendix 1 Task list from CYPSC NSG meeting 18th September 2018

Actions from meeting:	Responsible:
Engagement from Government Depts at local CYPSC level	DCYA
Circulate dates for 2019 NSG meetings	DCYA (sent out 20 th Nov)
Nominate members for working group on Joint Commissioning	All
Convene working group on Joint Commissioning for CYPSC	National Co-ordinator/Tusla
Confirm vacancies filled for NSG	DCYA (letters issued 22 nd Nov to nominees)
Circulate update on QCBI	DCYA (sent 8 th Oct)
Arrange DCYA/CYPSC update meeting Q4 2018	DCYA (arranged for 3 rd Dec)

CYPSC Planning and Reporting

Children and Young People's Plans: Children and Young People's Services Committees develop and oversee the implementation of a three-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) for the county / CYPSC area that is designed to improve outcomes for children and young people. The National Co-ordinator for CYPSC manages the quality assurance process for CYPPs and convenes a CYPP Review Group comprising of DCYA and Tusla. In 2018 three rounds of QA have been scheduled.

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Completed 2 CYPP quality assured and published on www.cypsc.ie	Ongoing 4 CYPP screened 4 CYPP submitted for QA Review Group meeting 15 th October 2018	Commenced 3 CYPP submitted for screening Review Group meeting 13 th December 2018

CYPSC Co-ordinators' National Network

Forum of local CYPSC Co-ordinators' that meets four times a year. The Network is convened and facilitated by the National Co-ordinator for Children and Young People's Services Committees. It's main role and purpose is to support the strategic and operational development of CYPSC by bringing CYPSC Co-ordinators together to share information on practice, learning and national and local developments.

2018 Meeting Schedule

14 th March 2018	26 th June 2018	11 th September 2018	11 th December 2018
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Prevention Partnership and Family Support - Tusla

National Co-ordinator for CYPSC is a member of a number of PPFS groups including PPFS Senior Managers Network and the Tusla Outcomes4Children Data and Information Hub Project Team. Training for eleven CYPSC in the forthcoming Data Hub has been scheduled

September Pilot of O4C training to be re-scheduled	18 th October, Kilkenny	23 rd October, Dublin	26 th October, Donegal
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CYPSC National Event 2018; *CYPSC: Enhancing child and youth well-being*, 3rd & 4th October 2018

Registration is going well. This is a significant current piece of work for the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC and CYPSC Project Support. Leading an Event Planning Group comprising DCYA, local cypsc co-ordinators and the national CYPSC Team. Further detail regarding the event programme will be presented under agenda item 6.

Challenges

Healthy Ireland 2018

Funding very welcome and a significant asset to supporting local inter-agency working.

CYPSC have received notification of allocation. Funding has not yet transferred. Risk to timely delivery and to HI Round 3 2019. Communication level with National CYPSC office is low.

Staffing of National CYPSC Team

Work on integrating the national CYPSC office into Tusla is going well and some supports are being leveraged from Tusla business supports e.g. Finance and Communications. Connections with Tusla Research Unit and Tusla Prevention Partnership and Family Support are being strengthened.

The volume of work is greater than the personnel resources available. The pace of progression of work is accordingly slower. Opportunities for development are being identified however there are inadequate personnel resources available to respond.

Items arising

LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy

The Strategy seeks to ensure a cross-governmental approach to put additional measures in place to further enhance the lives of LGBTI+ young people, and address some of the key challenges they may face as part of their day-to-day lives. There are two objectives that refer to CYPSC.

Goal 1: Create a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for LGBTI+ young people						
Ref.	Action	Responsibility		Timeline		
		Lead	Partner	2018	2019	2020
Objective 3: Make all youth services more inclusive of LGBTI+ young people and provide accessible LGBTI+ youth services nationally						

3(b)	Address gaps in provision, with particular reference to access to services and groups in rural areas.	Department of Children and Youth Affairs	CYPSC, relevant NGOs and youth sector	✓✓✓
Objective 9: Address fragmentation in funding and support networking of organisations to work collaboratively				
9(a)	Ensure a coordinated approach to the delivery of effective LGBTI+ services and funding of services for young people through inter-agency cooperation.	Department of Children and Youth Affairs	NYCI, NGO and youth sector partners, ETBI, CYPSC, LCDCs, HSE	✓✓✓

Parallel processes

Local Creative Youth Partnership

“The Department of Education and Skills together with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Creative Ireland Programme are running a pilot scheme to support 3 Education and Training Boards (ETBs) to establish local partnerships to foster collaboration and information-sharing between local creative and cultural initiatives and providers with a focus on children and young people. It is anticipated that this will bring about an improved use of existing resources, practices and programmes in the ETB area. Each successful pilot area will receive approx. €100,000 to develop their partnership over the course of the coming year.” (Local ETB)

“What are LCYPs?

At their core, LCYPs are networks which enable information sharing, collaboration between local creative youth service providers to bring about better use of existing resources, practices and initiatives in an ETB area.

“Why do we need them?

The aim is that by establishing and building these networks, the following can be achieved:

- collaborative plans can be developed across local communities and between schools and creative out-of-school activities;
- these networks can facilitate and develop new local creative initiatives, targeting different groups more effectively to ensure wider coverage,
- duplication of effort will be avoided and resources and impact of members efforts will be maximised. “

Targeted Youth Funding Scheme

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) is involved in the reform of three targeted youth funding schemes (which it manages):

- Special Projects for Youth (SPY)
- Young People’s Facilities and Services Fund (YPFSF 1 & 2)
- Local Drugs Task Force (LDTF) funding

The focus of this reform is to ensure that funds are achieving positive outcomes for young people aged from 10-24.

The Department is currently developing and trialling a tool called ‘the area profiling and needs assessment tool’ with a sample of ETBs. This aim of this tool is to ensure that projects funded under the TYFS are focused on working to meet the identified needs and key issues in the area, and are working with young people in need in line with the stated objectives of the TYFS. It is hoped that the area profile template will enable a systematic assessment of needs to inform judgements about priorities for service provision.