



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

Venue: Minister's Conference room, DCYA.

Date: Tuesday, 26th September 2017

In Attendance:	
Dr Noelle Spring	Chairperson
Martina Moloney	Independent nominee and Vice Chairperson
Breda O'Dowd	Interim National Co-ordinator, Tusla
Dr Julie Heslin	Health Service Executive
Conor Rowley	Policy Innovation Unit, DCYA
Shay Fulham	Community & Voluntary Sector
Eifion Williams	TUSLA, Child and Family Agency
Siobhan Lawlor	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
Caroline Duignan	Local CYPSC Co-ordinator nominee
John Cole	Policy Innovation Unit, DCYA
Eileen Connolly	Policy Innovation Unit, DCYA
Apologies:	
Sinead Carr	Local Authority representative & CYPSC Vice Chairperson nominee
Ann O'Dwyer	Education and Training Board Ireland (ETBI)
Greg Straton	Department of Health
Willie McIntosh	Department of Education and Skills
Angela Toolis	Local CYPSC Chairperson nominee
Vacancy:	
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government	
Young person aged 18-24	

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



1. Welcome and Introductions:

- The Chairperson welcomed the representative from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Siobhan Lawlor.
- The Chairperson noted that with the re-configuration in August 2017 of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government into two new Departments that we may need representatives from both Departments on the NSG. The new Departments are the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Department of Rural and Community Development. The latter Department has responsibility for Local Community and Development Committees (LCDC) who work closely with CYPSC. DCYA will follow up on this.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:

Minutes of last meeting:

There were two amendments put forward to the minutes.

- Under item 6, 2.1 Julie Heslin amended the wording to include- “pending the provision of some initial resource to support this work”
- Under item 8, Siobhan Lawlor noted that Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection is not involved with school engagement so this wording is incorrect and will be removed from the minutes.

Caroline Duignan noted that one of the school engagement concerns from co-ordinators was that some parents may need literacy support. Eifion Williams noted that Tusla manage school completion issues. The minutes will be amended accordingly and re-circulated to members.

Matters arising:

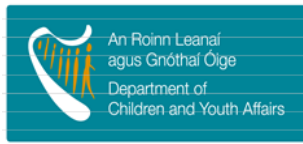
National Co- Ordinator post:

The Vice Chairperson asked for an update on the NCO post, noting the importance of this post especially with the recruitment of the new co-ordinators recently.

- Eifion Williams noted that Tusla Recruit has experienced a delay in the recruitment of this post and it is hoped that this would be resolved by the end of November 2017.
- Tusla is fully supportive of this key post.
- Breda O'Dowd will continue to cover the NCO role temporarily.
- The Chairperson requested that if the recruitment is delayed further, we should look at establishing an interim role.

HSE and CYPSC:

The Chairperson noted that it is important to build on the work done between the HSE and Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) and to have a similar connection between the HSE and CYPSC. Julie Heslin noted that this must be done within current human resources in the HSE and is a challenge.



Commissioning:

Eifion Williams noted that the Tusla Commissioning Strategy is now on the Tusla website and any comments on it are welcomed and can be sent to Eifion Williams.

3. Funding Streams:

Programme Funding for 2017: John Cole updated the group on the funding available to CYPSC:

- In July 2017, €100,000 was distributed among 27 CYPSC giving €3,700 per CYPSC for their administrative costs such as printing leaflets, booking events, publishing costs etc
- Some CYPSC nominated Tusla as their fiscal agent and others nominated local organisations as their fiscal agents.
- Those who nominated Tusla will see the drawdown of funding from the cost centre allocated to that CYPSC.
- All co-ordinators will follow the governance guidelines from Tusla to account for the funding even if they have nominated a fiscal agent other than Tusla. These guidelines will be built into the Memorandum of Understanding between DCYA and Tusla for CYPSC.

Seed funding for 2017:

The following points were noted:

- There will be no further seed funding available from DCYA to CYPSC in 2017.
- Timely announcements about seed funding are vital to give CYPSC time to plan and complete expenditure by year end.
- The funding available to CYPSC from Healthy Ireland has its own focus and was not intended for other projects, however CYPSC do have programmes from their plans, like mental health programmes, which require funding.
- Regular seed funding allows CYPSC to benefit from buy in from other agencies to benefit the local community and some very good initiatives come from small amounts of regular funding, (for example, the seed funding in 2015 to Meath CYPSC helped to expand the school completion/ transitions project country wide.)
- CYPSC can use the Commissioning strategy and creative community alternatives to seek funding.

Healthy Ireland Initiative funding:

The following points were noted:

- The total funding for HI for CYPSC was €1m: - €600,000 from Department of Health and €400,000 from Department of Children and Youth Affairs.
- All CYPSC applications for HI funding were due to Pobal by 15th September.
- Some CYPSC made joint applications with their Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).
- Pobal will inform each CYPSC of application outcome by mid November 2017. The timeframe for the expenditure of funding is up to March 2018.
- The funding under HI was made available late in the year and the derogation to March 2018 from the Department of Expenditure and Public Reform is welcomed.



- The short timeframe between the Pobal workshop on the 31st August 2017 and the deadline of the 15th September 2017 made it very difficult for each CYPSC to meet the deadline and to be collaborative with other members of their CYPSC. In some cases, CYPSC meetings were held after the application was made.
- The actions for funding from HI should be taken from those actions already agreed in each CYPSC's 3 year plan and therefore Pobal allowed for the application to be agreed retrospectively at the next meeting of the CYPSC.
- The pressure to spend by year end can be the difference in planning and saving and this should be challenged as it is not the best use of resources.
- Small NGOs and community and voluntary organisations are trying to evaluate their work within very limited resources. The QCBI (Quality Capacity Building Initiative) could be a positive option to support evaluation and innovation.
- DCYA will be in negotiations with Department of Health on 2018 funding and the NSG can inform DCYA if it is felt that mental health programmes should be in the domain for 2018. Themes of homelessness, evidence based initiatives/interventions could also be kept in mind.
- DCYA will work with the Department of Health to ensure early notification to CYPSC on the timeframe, amounts and focus of any 2018 funding. John will follow up with Greg Straton on this.
- DCYA will keep the CYPSC NSG informed of the applications being funded and any learning from the application process.
- A cross Government launch of HI will take place in October/November and an invite will be sent to members of NSG.
- The Chairperson acknowledged the work done to achieve the matched funding by DCYA, Department of Health and Tusla.

Funding for 2018:

The following points were noted:

- DCYA will continue to seek funding for CYPSC in the estimates process and with national coverage of CYPSC will aim to increase programme costs. After the Budget announcements, DCYA will be in a position to advise CYPSC of funding available, possibly in time for the Network meeting on 7th November.
- The Chairperson suggested an audit to be carried out into the needs of co-ordinators for administrative support and how Tusla might respond to this need.
- Co-ordinators could, where possible, look at ways of working to reduce administration: - use conference calls, shared platforms, shared services, role profiles; assign sub-groups secretarial roles to reduce admin workload on co-ordinators. This could be discussed at the Co-ordinators network meeting on 7th November.
- Conor Rowley updated the group on the upcoming launch of the funding available under QCBI (Quality and Capacity Building Initiative) from the Dormant Account Funding.
- €2m will be available under QCBI to fund innovative initiatives which will be required to be aligned with CYPSC and their Children and Young People's Plans.



4. Update from DCYA and Minister Zappone's meeting with CYPSC co-ordinators:

- Conor Rowley noted that this meeting held on 27th July provided an opportunity to get a sense of the issues faced by the co-ordinators. DCYA and Minister Zappone were very appreciative of the caliber of people around the table and their enthusiasm, and noted also the challenges faced by the co-ordinators by the lack of resources and funding.
- Caroline Duignan noted that the co-ordinators welcomed the meeting and the opportunity to update Minister Zappone on their work and would welcome further similar meetings in the future.

5. Update on Youth funding and Value for Money policy review:

Conor Rowley updated the group on questions raised at the 1st June NSG and again at the 27th July meeting about the review of youth funding.

- Clarification was received from the Youth Affairs Unit in DCYA that no decision has yet been made that funding for youth clubs would be subject to operating fully at Hardiker Level 2.
- ETB engagement with the CYPSC has been very beneficial to date in a number of instances.
- Youth Affairs Unit has strongly advocated for ETB Youth officer participation in CYPSC.

Caroline Duignan welcomed this update as the CYPSC focus is on the universal context and not only at Hardiker Level 2.

6. Guidance document for CYPSC on Participation:

The following points were noted:

- Ireland is the first country to have a National Strategy on Participation and we can appreciate the merits and challenges of this. The principle of Participation is crucial for CYPSC.
- It is a resource intensive issue and will need support and funding for the co-ordinators.
- The engagement of children and young people is very valuable and can change our thinking and accessible language.
- It was agreed that the document should be circulated to all co-ordinators as a non-prescriptive draft and request their feedback and experiences at the Network meeting on 7th November 2017.
- DCYA will follow up on a vacancy for a young person on the NSG.

7. Update from local CYPSC:

Caroline outlined concerns from other co-ordinators:

- need for administrative support for co-ordinators
- delay in appointing the National Co-ordinator
- work could be progressed in Tusla on the CYPSC website to make items "news" while remaining attached to the local CYPSC page. The website should be used more to advertise CYPSC work, planning projects and communications.



Caroline Duignan outlined some projects in progress nationally and in the Galway and Roscommon CYPSC:

- Sub-group on mental health with CAMHS (Child and Mental Health Services) link and psychology piece.
- PPFS (Prevention, Partnership and Family Support) event held 19th October.
- Childhood cancer support pack is in development with Tusla parent support pack. Advice for schools when children return to school after treatment.
- LGBT workshops held.
- Internet safety module on Galway CYPSC site and will be piloted at the end of November.

The Chairperson thanked Caroline for this update.

The psychology and CAMHS pieces will be forwarded on to Conor Rowley as requested.

Eifion Williams circulated an email received by Martin Keeney (Cavan and Monaghan CYPSC co-ordinator) from the NYCI (National Youth Council Ireland) in relation to involving CYPSC in a youth arts programme under Creative Ireland. Eifion will follow up on this item.

8. Memo of Understanding between DCYA and Tusla re CYPSC:

John Cole updated the group that the MoU will be signed today by Conor Rowley and Eifion Williams. Appendix 2 in the MoU will be amended to include governance detail and when this is finalised, the MoU will be circulated to the members of NSG.

9. Capacity Building Event:

- John Cole updated the group that a sub-group had been established to organise this event, however in the absence of a National Co-ordinator, it was agreed to defer the event until March/April 2018.
- The event will be internal to co-ordinators and Chairpersons in order to consolidate work done and practices available to CYPSC rather than a showcase event.
- The venue will be in Dublin, most likely Dublin Castle.

10. Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures Mid Term Review:

John Cole updated the group on the mid term review:

- A survey with approx. 8 questions will be sent to NSG and co-ordinators to review the implementation and effectiveness of BOBF.
- This survey will help assess the impact and awareness of BOBF and its commitments
- The mid term review will allow for a reflection on BOBF and an analysis of what we have learnt.
- Two reports are going to Government on 26th September, the 2017 BOBF Annual report and the BOBF Indicator Set. The Annual report contains a comment from the Chairperson of the NSG.



11. Messaging and Items for the attention of the Children and Young People's Policy Consortium:

The Chairperson updated the group on the last Consortium meeting held on 29th June 2017:

- Child Poverty was discussed to update on the work done by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and the National Children's Advisory Council.
- The Chairperson reported to the Consortium on the work of the NSG, the increased membership from the Department of Health and the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and the ongoing commitment from the HSE.
- It was agreed that for the next Consortium meeting on 28th September that the Chairperson could provide an update on the MoU with Tusla and highlight the link between the Community and Voluntary (C&V) sector and Government departments.

12. Children First:

- The launch of the Revised Children First National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children will be held shortly. It will reference mandatory reporting thresholds. This is causing some concern in the C&V sector. Tusla is developing an e-learning module and briefing sessions for its staff to assist people to understand their responsibilities.
- Conor will meet with Marie Kennedy to clarify CYPSC role and will meet with Eifion further on this issue.

13. Any other Business:

- The Chairperson noted that this was the final meeting for 2017. The current Terms of Reference for the CYPSC NSG are in place to 31st December 2017. Eileen will prepare a review of the Terms of Reference and membership terms.
- The dates for the meetings for 2018 will depend on the dates scheduled for the Consortium meetings and these will be circulated as soon as possible.

Appendix 1 Task list from CYPSC NSG meeting 26th September 2017

Actions from meeting	Responsible	Timeline
Progress membership from two departments and young person	DCYA	In progress
Amend 1 st June minutes and recirculate	DCYA	Done 3rd October 2017
Circulate Participation draft guidance to co-ordinators	DCYA	Done 3rd October 2017
Check CYPSC website	Tusla	7 th November 2017
Clarify Children First and CYPSC	DCYA and Tusla	7 th November 2017
Check terms of office of NSG	DCYA	In progress
Circulate meeting dates for 2018	DCYA	Done 3 rd October 2017
Circulate MoU to NSG	DCYA	To NSG 7 th November 2017. To Co-ordinators 7 th December 2017
Book Dublin Castle for April 2018	Tusla	5 th October 2017
Contact NYCI re Creative Ireland	Tusla	7 th November 2017
Audit of need for administrative support for co ordinators	Tusla	7 th November, 2017