



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

Venue: Minister's Conference room, DCYA.

Date: Thursday 1st June 2017

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

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



1. Introductions:

The Chairperson welcomed the appointment of four new members to the Steering Group.

- The Chairperson noted that it is very significant to have two more Departments represented on the Steering Group and hopefully this input will ripple through to local committees: Greg Straton represents the Department of Health and Siobhan Lawlor represents the Department of Social Protection.
- The Chairperson also welcomed Eifion Williams from Tusla and John Cole from the Policy Innovation Unit in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:

- *Guidance on the Participation of children and young people in CYPSC:*
Feedback on the proposed guidance document was received from members of the NSG. This feedback will require further discussion prior to finalisation. The proposed guidance and feedback provided could also be circulated to the members and to the co-ordinators network to get the CYPSC view and to assist with completion.
- *Community and Voluntary sector guidance document:*
Tusla will provide feedback on this document when the Memorandum of Understanding between Tusla and DCYA has been signed off. This MoU is due to be agreed shortly.
- *Status of CYPSC Co-ordinator appointments:*
Eifion Williams noted that all CYPSC co-ordinators are now employed by Tusla and managed by Area Managers, except in one area which is in progress. Eifion also informed the group that the advertisement for the recruitment of the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC was placed on the Tusla Recruit website on 25th May 2017, with a closing date for applications of 15th June 2017. It is anticipated that the interviews will be held in early July, and the appointment will be made by August.

The minutes of 9th February 2016 were agreed and will be published online:
<http://www.cypsc.ie/governance-of-the-cypsc-initiative/national-steering-group.1917.html>.

3. Update on Quality and Capacity Building Initiative (QCBI)

Ruth Doggett, from Policy Innovation Unit, DCYA gave a presentation on the work of QCBI.

- QCBI is a cross-policy and sectoral initiative focusing on systems change to improve outcomes for children and young people by embedding and enhancing best practice learning in prevention and early intervention. (The slides will be circulated after the meeting.)
- The Chairperson of the CYPSC NSG has been invited to the QCBI Implementation Group's meeting on 13th June 2017.

The discussion that followed highlighted the following:

- Need to identify what data and evidence is available for example in Health Economics, cost benefit analysis and this may result in need to commission studies.



- Concern re patchwork service delivery, critical for CYPSCs to play a role in identifying gaps in service provision or data and feed that back to the QCBI. The PEIP subgroups of CYPSC could feed into this. The need to balance targeted and universal service provision was also emphasised.

The Chairperson thanked Ruth for the presentation and update.

4. Update on Commissioning

Eifion Williams will circulate the Tusla Commissioning Strategy to the members after the meeting. This is at draft stage, but along with the toolkit and training, it is close to being finalised.

- In developing the strategy, the overarching statement was to ensure local needs were met and to avoid uneven distribution of funding.
- Tusla will ensure the connections with other agencies through the work of each CYPSC.
- The QCBI and Outcomes for Children Project will help with this and there will be 10 staff appointed to the National Commissioning Unit (NCU) to complete the roll out by the end of 2018.

The discussion that followed highlighted the following:

- Shay Fulham while welcoming the strategy, noted that there is concern among smaller groups that their funding and commitments will not be acknowledged. He noted that a level playing field is needed to address boundary inequalities and service inequalities.
- Eifion noted that while there is competition for funding, the strategy will target funding in new areas, while others will remain the same. Openness to including work with other cohorts to meet unmet needs could assist organisations. While CYPSCs are multiagency plans, this commissioning strategy is a Tusla plan, however Eifion will take on board the emphasis from the Steering Group that a co-ordinated approach is required.
- How to identify gaps in an area, for example home assistance for children or in relation to youth work where there is a lack of providers.
- Use CYPSC to identify local resources. CYPSC has local knowledge and Tusla is a member of CYPSC.
- The Chairperson emphasised the need for continual clarity and reassurance as the strategy is implemented.

5. Presentation on Outcomes for Children Project (O4C)

Amy Mulvihill and Peggy Ryan, from the National Project Office, Prevention, Partnership and Family Support in Tusla, gave a presentation on the Outcomes for Children Project. (The slides will be circulated after the meeting).

The discussion that followed highlighted the following:

- The availability of data to populate the maps.



- Restrictions on data from Tusla, must be anonymized in certain cases.
- While at pilot stage at the moment, it is envisaged that there will be public access to this information.
- 11 CYPSC are involved in the pilot plan and resourcing should be in place by Q3 of 2017 with recruitment of posts in Tusla by then also. The 11 CYPSC are: Sligo/Leitrim, Donegal, Waterford, Wexford, Kildare, Wicklow, South Dublin, Dublin City South, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, Dublin City North.
- A governance group will be in place once recruitment is finalised.
- Youth Officers in ETB and in DCYA could be a helpful link with CYPSC.
- Issues relating to the Value for Money (VFM) review in youth work should be brought to the attention of the Policy Innovation Unit and Youth Affairs Unit of DCYA.

6. Implementation of CYPSC Steering Group Work Plan 2016 – 2017

A monitoring report for the CYPSC National Steering Group Work Plan was circulated at the meeting. Colma, the National Co-ordinator, took the group through this report. Progress and items for follow up were discussed:

1.1 Members were requested to return feedback on the planning cycles and any CYPSC references in the plans of their organisations to Eileen. The national piece is needed from Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. The Group needs to be clear on policy opportunities in order to be able to advise practitioners and local committees of them.

2.1 Julie Heslin updated the group that it was agreed that the Health and Wellbeing Division would take the lead, at this stage, to coordinate the work of the HSE on CYPSCs, pending the provision of some initial resource to support this work. This will also require support from managers at local and national levels.

3.2 Ann O' Dwyer updated on the sub group established to progress Outcome 4. A teleconference was held and items were raised as follows:

- What can CYPSC do to help families in crisis?
- How to get information in order to assist families?
- Need to identify the services that are providing support.
- Education is key to economic security so examine supports under education locally and nationally.
- Progress on participation and early school leavers is important.
- List the aims under Outcome 4 and reflective questions that CYPSC could use.

The Vice-Chairperson suggested using the Enterprise Offices as a link also.

The Chairperson noted that she has received an invite to the Advisory Council launch of the child poverty paper on 22nd June. DCYA will circulate the paper from NGOs on child poverty to the members after the meeting.



7. Update on Planning & Reporting Framework for CYPSC

Colma circulated the revised version of the Planning and Reporting Framework.

- This will be reviewed again in two years.
- Colma proposed that this version would be adopted by the Steering Group and the next phase will be to approve suggested tools.
- Proposal includes maintaining current 3-year CYPP timeline while aiming to sequence the plans into the future.
- Colma acknowledged the feedback received and emphasised that this is a framework and will use indicators from O4C project and BOBF indicators.
- Further feedback and resources may be progressed through the CYPSC National Implementation Group.
- The Chairperson thanked Colma for all her work to bring this to completion and the framework was adopted.

8. Local View on CYPSC implementation

Caroline Duignan updated the group on local CYPSC work:

- Una Mulally, Chair of National LGBT Youth Strategy, launched the Roscommon CYPSC LGBT initiative. Postcards and materials were published for the initiative which aims to have a young person's support group and awareness sessions for young people and parents
- Two Galway CYPSC projects were selected for presentation at NUI Galway: *Clifden initiative* which involved work with An Garda Síochána and young people and *Parental views on child protection conferences, what everyone can do better?*
- All providers of parenting programmes are now trained in internet safety

Caroline and Angela noted this feedback from CYPSC colleagues:

- As Local Economic Community Plans (LECP) run for 6 years, could CYPP timelines be aligned?
- Request from CYPSC for administrative support is a recurring and urgent theme.
- Homework support, literacy support for parents and school completion issues were some of the concerns raised by co-ordinators.
- Standardised annual budget needed to help CYPSC planning.
- Changes to youth services under VFM is giving rise to the fear that universal provision is being depleted due to focus on Hardiker 2 and 3 levels. Rural areas very concerned regarding gaps in provision.
- High suicide rates among young people and 1 in 3 suffering anxiety emphasises importance of youth clubs.
- Contact between HSE and CYPSC is improving.
- Contact between LCDC and CYPSC is fragmented in some areas.

The Chairperson thanked Caroline and Angela for input and requested that these concerns are raised with Conor Rowley and Olive McGovern in the relevant DCYA units and with the Director for Education and Welfare Support for reporting back at the next meeting.

John Cole and Greg Straton will link up on this through the LCDC members on the Inter Departmental Group.

Angela Toolis will raise CYPSC concerns at the next Area Managers meeting.



9. CYPSC 2017 Event/Capacity Building Event

The CYPSC National Implementation Group has discussed themes for this event and it will set up a planning group and request a volunteer from the CYPSC local co-ordinators at the next network meeting on 6th June.

DCYA will support the event financially and logistically.
It is proposed to hold the event in November 2017.

10. Update on Healthy Ireland Initiative

Greg Straton updated the group on the funding available under the Healthy Ireland Fund:

- €5m was allocated to this fund in 2017 and the majority of this funding is through LCDCs.
- €500,000 is being allocated to CYPSC and this amount is being matched by DCYA. A total of €1m is available to CYPSC from July 2017.
- The funding must be spent on local programmes that deal with obesity and physical activity.
- Pobal will administer the funding and further assessment criteria and application guidelines will be issued shortly.
- This initiative is seen as a partnership to encourage all structures to work together, to avoid duplication.
- This will also strengthen Healthy City and Counties initiatives.
- Generally, the CYPSC funding should be directed towards obesity, healthy nutrition and food while the LCDC funding should be directed towards physical activity, but this is not prescriptive.
- John Cole will circulate the paper prepared on this to the members.

This initiative and funding was warmly welcomed by the Steering Group. The Chairperson thanked Greg for this update and emphasised the importance of a clear mechanism to distribute the funding. Pobal has the experience to do this. Care will be needed in relation to the timing of allocating the funding and providing clarity on expenditure timelines.

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

The Chairperson updated the group on items raised at the February Consortium meeting:

- Advisory Council and DSP child poverty paper.
- Presentation by DES on DEIS and review of DEIS.
- Importance of CYPSC and linking them in with Department and Agency plans.

The Chairperson will bring the following items to the June Consortium meeting:

- With membership of NSG now including Dept of Health, we can encourage HSE link
- CYPSC will work to progress solutions for child poverty at local level.

12. Any other business

- John updated the group on the *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* mid-term review. The paper on this to monitor the effectiveness and implementation among stakeholders of BOBF is currently with the Secretary General. The Annual report on BOBF and the priorities going forward will be published in July.
- Colma noted that the data analysis on child youth and mental health from the CYPSC co-ordinators network will be ready shortly.
- The Chairperson thanked the members for their attendance today. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 26th September 2017.

Appendix 1 Task list from CYPSC NSG meeting 1st June 2017

Actions from meeting	Responsible	Timeline
Progress guidance document on Participation	DCYA	By 5 th July 2017
Finalise MoU between DCYA and Tusla	DCYA and Tusla	By 30 th June 2017
Circulate Tusla Commissioning Strategy	Tusla	Circulated 20 th June 2017
Follow up on youth strategy piece with Youth Affairs Unit in DCYA	DCYA	By 30 th June 2017
Circulate Advisory Council Poverty paper to members	EC	Circulated 1 st June 2017
Link with IDG and LCDC on youth issues	John Cole and Greg Straton	IDG meeting scheduled for summer 2017 cancelled
Link with Tusla Area Managers on CYPSC concerns	Angela Toolis	At next Area Managers meeting
Planning Group to meet on CYPSC capacity building event	CNL, EC and JC	By 30 th June 2017
Circulate paper on Healthy Ireland	JC	Circulated 6 th July 2017
Circulate slides on QCBI and O4C presentations	EC	Circulated 1 st June 2017