



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

**Venue:** Ground Floor Conference Room, Miesian Plaza, DCYA.  
**Date:** Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019

<b>In Attendance:</b>	
Dr Noelle Spring	Chairperson of CYPSC NSG
Colma Nic Lughadha	National Co-ordinator for CYPSC
Conor Rowley	Tusla Programme Development and Cross Government Framework Unit, DCYA
Sé Fulham	Community & Voluntary Sector
Dr Julie Heslin	Health Service Executive
Ann O'Dwyer	Education and Training Board Ireland (ETBI)
Joy McGlynn	CYPSC Chairperson nominee
Dearbhla Lawson	CYPSC Vice Chairperson nominee
Greg Straton	Department of Health
Emma Berney	Local CYPSC Co-ordinator nominee
Claire Gavigan	Community & Voluntary Sector
Willie McIntosh	Department of Education and Skills
John Cole	Tusla Programme Development and Cross Government Framework Unit, DCYA
Eileen Connolly	Tusla Programme Development and Cross Government Framework Unit, DCYA
<b>Apologies:</b>	
Eifion Williams	Tusla - Child and Family Agency
David Dalton	Department of Rural and Community Development
Kate Lehane	Young Person nominee
Sonya Kavanagh	County and City Management Association
<b>Vacancy:</b>	
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	

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



## 1. Welcome and Introductions:

The Chairperson welcomed Emma Berney as the Local CYPSC Co-ordinator nominee to the group. The Chairperson extended the Group's appreciation and many thanks to Sé Fulham for all his hard work, time and support to the NSG since 2015.

The Chairperson wishes to record that her two year term is completed as she was appointed in November 2016. Succession planning is underway, with the next meeting in September being her final meeting.

## 2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:

### Minutes of last meeting:

- The minutes of the meeting 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were agreed.

### Matters arising:

- It was agreed that the feedback from the Consortium meetings should be circulated by DCYA to NSG members as soon as possible after each Consortium meeting.
- It was noted that work is continuing in Tusla and with the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC on Joint Commissioning. The Terms of Reference for the proposed working group on Joint Commissioning will be re-circulated to members of the NSG in order to ensure senior representation from organisations on the working group.
- It was agreed that Joint Commissioning is a very important issue and needs clarity between Departments as well as agencies on structural issues for funding. The Healthy Ireland funding can be used as an example between Departments and DCYA will follow up on engagement with Departments of Health and Rural and Community Development.

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

- Two documents were circulated - the CYPSC update and a summary of concerns re the new National Childcare Scheme. Early Years Unit in DCYA have been notified of the concerns highlighted by the CYPSC Co-ordinators and a written response has been requested by CYPSC.
- The National Co-ordinator circulated an overview of the work commenced to develop an online reporting tool for CYPSC for recording CYPSC Annual Progress Reports. This is based on the Planning and Reporting Framework which collects information from CYPSC and it can be used as a sharing hub for case studies. It was agreed that this was an excellent data capture tool and will interact with Outcomes 4 Children Data hub. The challenges section has the potential to be used to highlight emerging issues and implementation from local to national level.



#### 4. Update on Healthy Ireland:

Greg Straton from Dept of Health updated the group on Healthy Ireland funding:

- On 6<sup>th</sup> June, Dept of Health authorised Pobal to send out communications re the Round 3 funding.
- New timeframe of 2 years from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 for spending on projects has been approved.
- The amount per CYPSC is €96,000 (2 x €48,000) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.
- Previous actions will be considered eligible and a programme of work can be submitted by the September, 20<sup>th</sup> deadline.
- An Information event is scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> June – a CYPSC only event.
- Each LCDC will be allocated €184,000 (€107,000 + €77,000) with €30,000 to be set aside for promotional development resource to encourage community engagement.
- There is still scope for collaboration between CYPSC and LCDC as before.
- The evaluation of Round 2 will be completed by the end of the year and while evaluation is important, HI is actions focused.

The discussion that followed welcomed the new 2- year timeframe and that previous feedback from CYPSC was taken on board by Pobal and Dept of Health.

#### 5. Discussion on new CYPSC Blueprint:

John Cole gave a presentation on the process involved in drafting the new 'Blueprint' and the timelines required leading up to its publication scheduled for July, subject to Ministerial approval. The discussion that followed noted:

- The draft is at the final stage of design and is nearly ready for proof reading.
- Observations and amendments were made by members of the NSG to the text and charts and these will be incorporated into the document.
- A youth friendly summary document may be developed.
- It was agreed that the new name for the document should reflect the confidence for CYPSC going forward and to use a catch phrase re collaborative work, from the CYPSC website, through the document. The working title 'Blueprint' was not favoured by the Group.
- Lead responsibility for actions should be assigned and shared responsibility specified in the area of Joint Commissioning.
- The importance of measuring outcomes/impact, measuring the interagency piece and ensuring buy in from other agencies needs to be clear with this document and in the future for CYPSC, possibly through the work plan for the NSG.
- The timeline for publication of the new document will be after Ministerial approval in early July.
- DCYA agreed to take on board all NSG observations and incorporate into the document if feasible.



## 6. Update from DCYA/CYPSC meeting 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019:

The DCYA/CYPSC update meetings are an important link between Co-ordinators and DCYA and DCYA envisage holding two meetings each year. The next meeting is scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2019.

The meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May was also open to CYPSC Chairpersons.

There were two presentations at the meeting

1. A presentation by Pobal on the National Childcare Scheme
2. A presentation by Ms. Tanya Ward Chief Executive of the Children's Rights Alliance and Chairperson of the National Advisory Council. Ms. Ward gave an overview of the work of the Advisory Council and it's workplan for 2019. A discussion followed around how the Council can help CYPSC in relation to certain issues such as reduced timetables, poverty and deprivation and homelessness, amongst other important issues.

The main topics were:

- Concerns raised re the new National Childcare Scheme – The Early Years Unit in DCYA and Pobal were at the meeting and noted these concerns
- Engagement on CYPSC from Dept of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
- Administrative support for CYPSC co-ordinators
- Solutions available for families living in inadequate housing or experiencing homelessness.
- Child Poverty and Food Poverty work undertaken by the National Children's Advisory Council
- Education issues, reduced timetables, learning and equality
- Implementation of core strategies and new Parenting Support Policy Unit in DCYA
- Work under Outcome 4 - Economic security and opportunity
- LCDC/CYPSC working together
- DCYA will facilitate a mechanism, possibly through the new Blueprint, for further consultative pieces with CYPSC co-ordinators and Chairpersons (Tusla Area Managers) and Vice-Chairpersons in order to communicate emerging issues effectively, and to highlight best practice pieces being used in CYPSC.

The discussion that followed noted the importance of a mechanism to communicate issues for people working on front line, on CYPSC sub-groups and in C&V sector. Could a request to CYPSC for a synopsis of their solutions help the links between the National Advisory Council and the CYPSC? The link with Area Managers is very important, especially re PPFs, to avoid duplication.



## 7. Emerging Issues:

### Homelessness:

- The Chairperson noted that a meeting had taken place recently between Chairperson of NSG, Chairperson of National Children's Advisory Council and National Co-ordinator for CYPSC on the homelessness issue raised at the January NSG meeting.
- Dr Heslin, through her role in the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, HSE is working on a paper concerning the impact of homelessness on children's health and wishes to link with CYPSC, Advisory Council and NSG on this.
- National Co-ordinator, Colma Nic Lughadha and Emma Berney will work re capturing examples of CYPSC responses to the developmental needs of children experiencing homelessness.

### Administrative support for Co-ordinators:

- Emma Berney queried if it would be possible to resource CYPSC administrative support through a commitment for contributions from the range of CYPSC members e.g. Local Authority, ETB, HSE.
- It was noted that the case for administrative support was raised internally as a Business Case in Tusla and it was agreed that the Chairperson will write to the Chief Operations Officer in Tusla for an update on this issue.

### National Childcare Scheme/Early Years:

- Funding concerns for community services from the new NCS, changes in compliance reports to Pobal, reduction in Special Needs Assistants in childcare services are some of the challenges facing services.
- Early Years Unit in DCYA has been notified of these concerns and a written response has been requested by CYPSC.

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

- The Chairperson will raise the following issues at the Consortium:
  - New Blueprint update
  - Healthy Ireland update
  - Increasing engagement with Government Departments and CYPSC
- It was noted that there are actions in the DEIS Wellbeing Framework for CYPSC. Other key documents that reference CYPSC will be noted by DCYA and circulated to members. Feedback from the Consortium will be circulated to members by DCYA.



**9. Any other Business:**

- Reference to the upcoming new Blueprint for Education Welfare Services has been added to the new CYPSC Blueprint. The launch of What Works (formerly QCBI) will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> June in City Hall.
- The review of LCDC will be published shortly and there are plans for a conference/workshop between CYPSC and LCDC in November/December. There are actions in the new CYPSC Blueprint re improving links between CYPSC and LCDC.

**Appendix 1 Task list from CYPSC NSG meeting 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

<b>Actions from meeting:</b>	<b>Responsible:</b>
Circulate update from Consortium Feb and June meetings to members of NSG	DCYA
Circulate list of key documents that reference CYPSC	DCYA
Prepare letter to COO in Tusla re update on admin support	Chairperson

**The next meeting of the NSG is scheduled for Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**