



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

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

**Date:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019

<b>In Attendance:</b>	
Dr Noelle Spring	Chairperson of CYPSC NSG
Conor Rowley	Tusla Programme Development and Cross Government Framework Unit, DCYA
Claire Gavigan	Community & Voluntary Sector
Dr Julie Heslin	Health Service Executive
Colma Nic Lughadha	National Co-ordinator for CYPSC
Eifion Williams	Tusla - Child and Family Agency
Joy McGlynn	Chairperson nominee
Dearbhla Lawson	CYPSC Vice Chairperson nominee
Greg Straton	Department of Health
Emma Berney	Local CYPSC Co-ordinator nominee
Geraldine O'Hara	Community & Voluntary Sector
Deirdre Kelly	Department of Rural and Community Development
Sonya Kavanagh	County and City Management Association
John Cole	Tusla Programme Development and Cross Government Framework Unit, DCYA
Eileen Hurley	Tusla Programme Development and Cross Government Framework Unit, DCYA
<b>Apologies:</b>	
Ann O'Dwyer	Education and Training Board Ireland (ETBI)
Willie McIntosh	Department of Education and Skills
Kate Lehane	Young Person nominee
<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 two new members to the NSG:
  - Geraldine O'Hara works with the Daughters of Charity organisation and with 3 CYPSC and is the second representative of the Community & Voluntary sector on the NSG.
  - Deirdre Kelly is the representative from the Department of Rural and Community Development working on the Local Community Development Committee policy side of that Department.
- Conor Rowley thanked Dr Spring for all her work, leadership and wisdom to develop the future steps for CYPSC since 2016 which is much appreciated.
- Colma Nic Lughadha and other members of the group also thanked Dr Spring for all her advice and noted their appreciation also.
- Dr Spring noted that meeting with members of the CYPSC during her term of office was beneficial and enjoyable and that CYPSC are now recognized and in a good place for the future.

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

### Minutes of last meeting:

- The minutes of the meeting 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were agreed.

### Matters arising:

- Two actions for DCYA from 6<sup>th</sup> June meeting will be completed shortly.
- Eifion Williams noted that a draft response to Dr Spring's August letter to Tusla re admin support is currently with the Chief Operations Officer and he expects the reply to issue shortly.

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

- The update from the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC noted the key points from the recent National Network meeting:
  - DCYA response to CYPSC concerns on National Childcare Scheme.
  - Community Mental Health Funding through Healthy Ireland while extremely welcome poses challenges for CYPSC in relation to notification and short timeline for submissions.



- Future development of CYPSC requires adequate personnel resourcing to include Project Development and Administration (local and national).
  - Need for multi-annual funding for CYPSC project work.
  - CYPSC participation in Ombudsman for Children Office conference, 19<sup>th</sup> Oct.
  - Workshop with Parenting Support Policy Unit, DCYA on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.
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- It was also noted that 5 CYPSC plans have completed the quality improvement process to date in 2019 and 8 CYPSC plans are moving through the 2-stage quality improvement process.
  - A short summary paper on the range of responses by CYPSC to the needs of children and young people experiencing homelessness was circulated.
  - An update on CYPSC communications, learning pieces from the National event 2018 and a CYPSC paper in consideration of financial investments into CYPSC were also circulated by the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC.

#### **4. Update on Healthy Ireland:**

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

- Extensions to the deadline for submissions to the Community Mental Health fund were agreed with Pobal.
- HI has a good track record in learning from feedback given. Greg will liaise with the Mental Health Unit of Dept of Health to improve communications and arrange a meeting with NSG members and DCYA.
- Aim is to position HI into the community and make it more co-ordinated with LECPs and CYPPs and avoid duplication with other Departments and to pool resources.
- It was agreed that mental health issues are a priority and will remain on the agenda for the NSG.

#### **5. Current CYPSC issues:**

##### **National Childcare Scheme (NCS):**

- The response from the Early Years Unit of DCYA to the concerns raised by CYPSC re the NCS was circulated to CYPSC Co-ordinators and Chairpersons and members of the NSG.

##### **Homelessness:**

- The Joint Oireachtas Committee for children were briefed by the Secretary General of DCYA on the CYPSC response to homelessness issues. Learning can be taken from the work done by CYPSC in this area.



**Dept of Education CYPSC forum:**

- A meeting planned for October between DES and DCYA and National Co-ordinator for CYPSC was postponed by DES and will be re-scheduled as soon as possible.

**6. CYPSC Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019-2024:**

- DCYA thanked the members of the working group who reviewed the CYPSC Blueprint 2015-2017, and those on the NSG who provided feedback on the new document *CYPSC Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019-2024*.
- The new document was approved by Government on 17<sup>th</sup> September and can go to the print stage now. The Minister will launch the document on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November in DCYA, Miesian Plaza.

**7. NSG Work Plan 2020:**

- The key actions in the new document marked for the National Steering Group members will inform an updated work plan for the group and this will be finalised at a full day meeting to be arranged by DCYA in 2020.
- A separate meeting will also be arranged for further discussions of the Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures review and the plans for the next BOBF document.

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

- Items from this meeting for discussion at the next Consortium meeting will be Homelessness, the National Childcare Scheme and the new document *CYPSC Shared Vision, Next Steps 2019-2024*
- The next Children and Young People's Policy Consortium meeting is on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and DCYA will raise the CYPSC items in the absence of a new Chairperson.

**9. Any other business:**

- The report from Julie Heslin and colleagues on the serious impact of inadequate housing on the health and well-being of children, young people and their families will be launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.
- It was noted that it is important to strengthen the links between Advisory Council, the CYPSC NSG and the proposals for the second Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures document from 2020 and this could be an agenda item for the next meeting.



**Appendix 1 Task list from CYPSC NSG meeting 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

<b>Actions from meeting:</b>	<b>Responsible:</b>
Arrange a meeting with Mental Health Unit of DH and DCYA	DCYA/DH
Circulate update from Consortium meetings to members of NSG	DCYA
Circulate list of key documents that reference CYPSC	DCYA
Circulate reply from Tusla COO to Chairperson's letter of 12 <sup>th</sup> August	Tusla
Follow up on the appointment of a new Chairperson for NSG	DCYA
Circulate the schedule of meetings for 2020 to members	DCYA