



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

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

Date: Tuesday, 29th January 2019

In Attendance:	
Dr Noelle Spring	Chairperson of CYPSC NSG
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
David Dalton	Department of Rural and Community Development
Sonya Kavanagh	County and City Management Association
Dearbhla Lawson	CYPSC Vice Chairperson nominee
Greg Straton	Department of Health
Kate Lehane	Young Person nominee
Claire Gavigan	Community & Voluntary Sector
Willie McIntosh	Department of Education and Skills
Eileen Connolly	Tusla Programme Development and Cross Government Framework Unit, DCYA
Apologies:	
Conor Rowley	Tusla Programme Development and Cross Government Framework Unit, DCYA
Ann O'Dwyer	Education and Training Board Ireland (ETBI)
John Cole	Tusla Programme Development and Cross Government Framework Unit, DCYA
Siobhan Lawlor	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
Emma Berney	Local CYPSC Co-ordinator nominee

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



1. Welcome and Introductions:

- The Chairperson welcomed 5 new members to the NSG:
 - CYPSC Chairperson's Nominee - Joy McGlynn
 - CYPSC Vice Chairperson Nominee - Dearbhla Lawson
 - Local CYPSC Co-ordinator Nominee - Emma Berney (Apologies received)
 - Community & Voluntary Sector Nominee - Claire Gavigan
 - Young Person Nominee - Kate Lehane
- A short promotional video made at the recent CYPSC national event was shown. It is 2.5 minutes video at draft stage, drawing on interviews made at the event with key personnel including DCYA Principal Officer, local CYPSC Co-ordinators, CYPSC Chairperson and the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC. NSG members were asked for any observations and feedback prior to finalising the video and it was agreed that the video was very helpful as an introduction to the work of CYPSC and members were happy with the video content.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:

Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting 18th Sept 2018 were agreed and will be on the CYPSC website shortly. The Chairperson noted the importance of having accurate, full minutes to share clearly the interagency piece.

Matters arising:

- A revised Terms of Reference for the CYPSC Joint Commissioning Working Group was circulated. It now includes membership from the Community and Voluntary sector. The group's purpose is to explore options for realisation of the 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.
- There has been one nomination from the NSG to this group to date, and it was agreed that as work has been done in the Department of Rural and Community Development on commissioning at a cross government level, that David Dalton, NSG member from that Department would link with Eifion and Colma on this work.
- NSG members are encouraged to request again a representative with financial and service commissioning experience from their own organisation to sit on this working group and forward these names to the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC colma.niclughadha@tusla.ie .

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

- The update from the National Co-ordinator was circulated and covered:
 - CYPSC Planning and Reporting and key dates in the CYPSC planning and reporting cycle.
 - Developments regarding the CYPSC Co-ordinators National Network
 - Status of the Report on the 2018 CYPSC National Event.
 - Encouragement to members to engage with the CYPSC national website.



- Schedule of training in the Outcomes 4 Children Data and Information Hub (O4C) funded by DCYA and being rolled out by Tusla to 11 CYPSC areas participating in Phase 1 of the O4C project.
- The discussion that followed highlighted the substantial amount of work done by each CYPSC to produce their 3-year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). The development of a plan involves data collection, needs analysis, socio-demographic reports, consultations with children and young people, and agreeing priority actions under each of the 5 outcomes of BOBF across the range of CYPSC member organisations. The audience for the plan is not only the local community and it involves a rigorous process which indicates an evidence informed approach.
- The planning process is also onerous in Local Community and Development Committees (LCDC) to produce their Local Economic Community Plans (LECP) and there may be scope for aligning planning cycles with CYPP and reducing duplication on research. The different boundary areas between CYPSC, LCDC and Tusla areas are also a challenge for data research.
- The Chairperson thanked the National Co-ordinator for CYPSC and the members of the National Event Planning Group for their work in organising a very successful event on 3rd and 4th October 2018. The projects showcased were of a very high quality and the speakers were excellent. The Minister took a lot of time with each project and discussed the presented work with each of the local CYPSC Co-ordinators. The group viewed a 60 second National Event 2018 draft video and agreed that this was also a very helpful promotional piece.

4. CYPSC Finance 2019:

- The allocated funding from DCYA for 2019 per CYPSC is €28,000. This funding is to support CYPSC in progressing actions under the 5 National Outcomes of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures.
- The total amount of funding from DCYA is divisible evenly among the 27 CYPSC.
- Agencies or organisations on each CYPSC are encouraged to further invest in this funding from their respective funding streams and to combine or share other resources such as staff time and skills.

5. Update on Healthy Ireland (HI) projects and evaluation process:

- DCYA funding to the HI initiative has increased from €500,000 to €650,000 for 2019 and Department of Health funding has increased its funding to match this. This increases the HI funding per CYPSC from €37,000 to €48,000.
- The funding towards each LCDC has also increased from €75,000 to €85,000 so a CYPSC working with their LCDC can also benefit from this increase.
- The increased amounts from Healthy Ireland funding for CYPSC and LCDC were welcomed by NSG and some areas for consideration in the review of Healthy Ireland were highlighted e.g., the timeframe allowed to complete and submit proposals, the impact of extension dates, issues on reporting and partnerships, learning from the investment and the impact of the work, working with Pobal and other structures.
- EW also noted that there is considerable and separate compliance responsibility on C&V sector organisations receiving funds and reporting on their work to a range of funders including to Pobal, Tusla, ETB etc. It would be beneficial to utilise the capacity that IT developments, such as the Tusla portal, bring to streamline fund application and governance processes across the



range of funders; supporting C&V organisations to meet governance and compliance requirements and eliminating duplication across funding streams and systems.

- The NSG offered support for the HI fund review to help address the issues raised above.

6. Update on the Review of the CYPSC Blueprint:

- The working group to review the Blueprint met again on 24th January. DCYA also initiated a consultation exercise with CYPSC members, NSG members and senior members of DCYA to gather their observations on the challenges and the future direction for CYPSC and this feedback will be reviewed by the working group.
- The findings from the review of Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) will also help to inform this new document.
- A final draft of the new Blueprint will be circulated to members of the NSG for their feedback before final approval is sought from the Minister.

7. Review of NSG function and remit and work plan for 2019:

- The Chairperson requested that the group consider the possibility of meeting up before the next scheduled meeting of 30th May to discuss the work programme for the NSG.
- A facilitator could be used to chair the day and suggestions/themes can be forwarded to Eileen. Possible timeframe would be to meet during the Easter break.

8. Homelessness concern letter from Dublin City North:

- In November 2018, Dublin City North CYPSC wrote to the Chairperson to highlight increasing issues and concerns regarding children, young people and families experiencing homelessness. The Chairperson replied on behalf of the NSG and both letters were circulated to members of the NSG for discussion today.
- The Chairperson thanked Joy and the Dublin City North CYPSC for their work already done to alleviate hardship on children and young people impacted by homelessness. A number of other CYPSC also have programmes of work in operation to respond to the needs of children experiencing homelessness.
- The discussion highlighted the detrimental effects on children and young people living in accommodation other than their family home:
 - Not enough space for play
 - Not enough quiet space to do homework
 - No access to nutritional food
 - May be far from their friends and their school
 - The longer-term impacts on children and young people growing up in homelessness as a “normalised” aspect of their growing up experience has yet to be fully witnessed
 - The costs of student accommodation and access to grinds for Leaving Cert students can be barriers for students to access 3rd level education
 - The importance of the very early years in a child’s life for secure attachments
 - Pressure on mental health and physical health
 - The continued rising need may gridlock services already working at full capacity.
 - High levels of homelessness among young people leaving care.



- The group agreed that as a collective we can work to respond to some of these issues through working with the National Advisory Council and the Consortium.
- As this situation continues we need to do what is best for children and young people at this moment in their lives to limit the hardship they are experiencing.
- The theme of “Housing Inadequacy” could be used to integrate CYPSC responses to these concerns.
- Accessing support for children and young people through their schools or through initiatives with local libraries and with the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive were also suggested.

9. Messaging and Items for the attention of the Children and Young People’s Policy Consortium:

- The next meeting of the Consortium is on Thursday 14th February and the Chairperson will raise the issue of homelessness at this meeting.
- The Chairperson will feedback from the Consortium to the NSG.

10. Any other Business:

- The Chairperson received a request from a CYPSC to present to the NSG on one of their actions to build capacity within CYPSC agencies to be inclusive in the area of disability. The NSG will explore ways to have presentations/sharing practice from local CYPSC at these meetings to assist the NSG to be informed by developments at a local level.

Appendix 1 Task list from CYPSC NSG meeting 29th January 2019

Actions from meeting:	Responsible:
Forward nominations for Joint Commissioning working group to National Co-ordinator for CYPSC	All
Prepare for meeting on work programme for NSG	DCYA
Discuss homelessness issue with Chairperson of Advisory Council	Chairperson of NSG
Circulate updates from Advisory Council and the Consortium to members of NSG	DCYA

The next meeting of the NSG is scheduled for Thursday 30th May 2019.