

Tusla Cork Update

Tusla continues to process child protection referrals at this time, and recognises that the current conditions pose particular risks for vulnerable children and families



Back to School

In June 2020 working groups were established in East Cork and North Lee areas to develop a practical response to support parents, children, agencies and schools in returning to school in September during Covid 19. This initiative arose as a need identified through established CFSN Networks in the North Lee area and through the Meitheal Programme under PPFS in Cork. Agencies, parents and PPFS staff member Nessa Barrett highlighted issues with anxiety and uncertainty in relation to returning to school during very uncertain times and a proposal was put to PPFS Manager Diarmuid O'Driscoll to address the need for support in this area. As a response two separate working groups were established to explore this in a very local and practical way. These working groups were chaired by Lynda Monahan Senior CFSN Cork and Nessa Barrett, under the PPFS Programme and PPFS Manager Diarmuid O' Driscoll. The groups consisted of representation from, TUSLA, HSE, CAMHS, Bridge way, EWO, School Completion, CYPSC, Mayfield NYP, Springboard, School Principals and CDYS.

These groups have now joined and become one North Lee Group and have formulated a pack which will be distributed through primary and secondary school networks, FRCs, School Clusters and Local CFSN networks. The pack contains, very relevant and practical information from the named services to prepare children to return to school. It includes practical information from CAMHS in relation to Mental Health and Bridge way to support children who may be on the Spectrum. We have also included information re. signposting for teachers and parents, where a child may present as in need of support. This leaflet includes information on local supports as well as Meitheal contacts in the local area. The aim being that children and families are supported in a timely practical and co-ordinated manner. The pack will also contain relevant up to date information on making a social work referral and will outline thresholds and DCP information.

This work is supported by CYPSC and we have plans to continue and develop these packs further to ensure that we reach all vulnerable groups that may need support. The pack will be available through email if you contact Lynda Monahan using details below. This is the beginning of this piece of work which is being piloted in North Lee. It is a working document. The working groups will remain in place to continue to develop this resource and also to support schools and children that may present as in need.

Further information contact
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TUSLA
An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

CYPSC
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEES
Cork

tusla.ie
cypsc.ie
hse.ie
gov.ie
corkcity.ie
corkcoco.ie

Useful resources

ISPCAN August newsletter available at
ispcan.org

The tyranny of distance: The social effects and practice adaptations resulting from Covid-19 lockdown rules Emily Keddell, Liz Beddoe
<https://t.co/am3trmaXMR>

Judging parental competence: A cross-country analysis of judicial decision makers' written assessment of mothers' parenting capacities in newborn removal cases
Jenny Krutzinna & Marit Skivenes
<https://t.co/q4qEEcKRYL>

Recent tweet from the UN:

Amid #COVID19, social workers, counsellors & helpline workers are a lifeline for countless vulnerable children. @UNICEF supports these frontline workers as they continue their job of keeping children safe and engaged. <https://t.co/INPp3gNc4i> <https://t.co/Rv4idBYWH>
(<https://twitter.com/UN/status/1295481278222012416?s=03>)



CMC Youth Initiative against Racism

CMC Youth Initiative against Racism Webinar Held on the 18th June

Over 500 members registered for a webinar set up by The Cork Migrant Centre (CMC) youth Against Racism Initiative in Collaboration with the Cork Children and Young People's Service Committee (CYPSC) The webinar was attended by Tusla CEO Bernard Gloster who made a commitment to work together to explore and address anti- racist/ inclusion practice.

The webinar was set in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, bringing the realities of racism and discrimination around the world and in Ireland to the forefront.

The webinar; The CMC Youth Initiative Against Racism was set up on the 18th of June via zoom. It was created to channel and amplify the voices of the youths (including those living in Direct Provision) freely and without fear, sharing their experiences in their own words while raising awareness.

Around us, we could see the healing and release that came along with sharing lived experiences. Together, working closely with many groups including CYPSC, UCC Africa Society, UCC University of Sanctuary, UCC Failte Refugees society, and Cork City Council's Social Inclusion Unite followed by many other allies and groups.

We invited people that we felt will not only hear, but listen and take action to influence much needed change. The panellists invited included some of the leaders in the community, we asked them both to answer some pressing questions and commit to doing more now! armed with more information and awareness around the barriers and challenges of black people in Ireland.

Those on the panel included:

Dr. Niall Muldoon, Children's Ombudsman; Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan was represented by Ronan Kennelly Inspector in Charge Togher, Community Engagement South and Sergeant Kay ODonoghue West Cork; Bernard Gloster, CEO Tusla; Cork Lord Mayor. Joe Kavanagh, County Mayor, Cllr. Ian Doyle, Damien White President of the Irish Primary Principals Network and Paula Cogan President of Cork Chamber of Commerce.

The response from the webinar was truly amazing. By using different forms of expression such as spoken work and rap, the youth people were able to have a great impact. It raised awareness about some of the ways in which racism exists in Ireland, emphasising the challenges in school environments especially amongst educators and pupils, but also those in various organisations and institutions. This led to a commitment by the Ombudsman for Children to review procedures that would allow his office to take complaints from children in experiencing racism. We continue to communicate with the panellist to ensure that changes are underway.

It is long past the time where racism is kept in confined spaces and private conversations. For true change to happen, the people that are directly impacted by racism need to be directly included as part of the discussion, they need to be at the table where decisions are being made and they need to be heard. No more tokenism, black people are not a box you tick for diversity and inclusion to say you have done something.

'Nothing for us without us'.

Since the webinar, with the continued support of many local groups and allies, we have set up three main subgroups.

A mentoring group to empower and support young people from migrant backgrounds.

A training group to utilize materials from the webinar and create a frame work to raise awareness about racism amongst primary school teachers and students.

A policy group working to separate racism from bullying but also working with existing structures to create practical actions that enforces policy. It is not enough to have a well written inclusive policy, there must be direct actions associated with it and a space/environment created that would allow enforcement.

Alongside this Cork CYPSC have set up an Anti- Racist subgroup linking with the above groups to ensure that in Cork we actively work towards anti -racist policy and practice within our services and institutions.

We are progressing work with the OCO and the IPPN to establish and implement anti- racist policies in our schools and work within Tusla is ongoing.

For more information on how you can get involved and make a difference contact CMCYIAR Youth Initiative Against Racism
youthagainstracismcork@gmail.com
or
Cork CYPSC Coordinator Tracey Holt
tracey.holt@tusla.ie 0876287944

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