

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday 26th January 2012

In Attendance:

Members Margaret Hayes (Chairperson), Brid Clarke, Fergus McCabe, Mary McGagh, Ann Carroll, Sarah Kelleher, Seanie Lambe, Glenn Perry, Tony Rock, Pauline Kane, Declan Good.

Staff Patrick Gates (coordinator), Frank Mulville (Protocol Coordinator).

Apologies: Tom O'Donnell

Introductions

The Chairperson welcomed and introduced two new members of the Steering Committee Glen Perry from the National Education and Welfare Board and Brid Clarke who will take over the Chairperson role as an independent Chairperson of YPAR.

Minutes 24th November 2011: Minutes accepted as a true reflection of the meeting

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising that are not on agenda.

YPAR Protocol

The YPAR Protocol Coordinator gave a brief summary of the activities of the Protocol Working Group. These include the following

- YPAR Protocol Coordinator continues to do session work with Social Work students,
- NWICN training two sessions on the use of the Protocol on November 23rd (40 people) and January 19th (10 people).
- Training on running Protocol meetings planned for Feb 20th.
- Have had a number of meetings with schools and individuals as an introduction to those beginning to use the protocol.
- Training session as part of Talbot Centre training with cross section of workers in the community, and in Rutland St School.
- Highlighted the issue of feedback for some frontline workers experiencing isolation and reluctant to open Protocol cases due to current workloads.

FNYPAR:

FMcC, Chairperson of the FNYPAR Working Group reported the activities FNYPAR Working Group:

- The International Youth Club facilitated by staff from SWAN and NYP2 operates every Saturday and has an increasing involvement of young people. There are efforts to encourage local indigenous young people to join the club.
- SWAN and NYP2 will look to organise a youth integration residential event in the spring.
- Feedback from the conference was very positive; we had a great turnout from both schools and local projects. Minister Fitzgerald was very supportive of the work of the FNYPAR and the general work of YPAR. All the local politicians offered their support. A report will be produced of the conference and distributed to YPAR groups and relevant government departments.

- Five local schools are delivering intercultural and anti-racism bullying programmes.
- FNYPAR Working Group will seek a meeting with the new government department the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration.

0-5 Working Group:

Ann Carroll gave a short report on the 0-5 working group;

- Group met with the HSE 14th December re support for parents of children aged 2-4 with special needs. The meeting explored the issue of respite for parents and access to preschool supports for the children. As an outcome of the meeting the following were agreed . . .
 - The early intervention workers/team should make contact with YPAR staff.
 - Inner city family and children support groups and services will respond to cases presented to them by the HSE and other agencies on case-by-case bases and assessed according to their capacity and ability to respond effectively.
- While it has been difficult for the 0-5 Working Group to find a time that suits all those that would like to attend it was agreed that group would continue to meet as, coming together to share information and experience is vital for this age group.
- The group will up-date the YPAR 0-5 Services Directory in the area as a way to identify new services and opportunities for greater collaboration and referral between local organisations and projects.
- Review of the 0-5 usage of the YPAR Protocol
- Jenny Heath from Hill Street Family Resource Centre is the new Chairperson of the 0-5 Working Group. Jenny and Ann Carroll will be the representatives of this group at the YPAR Steering Group.
- Any major cutback in Community Employment will have a serious affect on community services to this age group and this is something the 0-5 Working Group with take up at its next meeting.
 - There was a long discussion in relation to CE. It was recognised that CE has an impact on projects with a wider brief than YPAR and many of these are campaigning to have the cuts reversed. In this respect YPAR does not need to duplicate existing effort but should do something different and additional that will complement their work in having the cuts reversed.
 - It was agreed that YPAR should endeavour to get specific information to assess the impact the current cuts will have on young people and children at risk. The Coordinator will convene a meeting of local CE projects Friday 3rd February and prior to this meeting will send out a simple questionnaire seeking information from the projects on the impact and effects of the cuts to young people at risk and their families.

5-12 Working Group:

Tony Rock as Chairperson of the 5-12 Working Group gave a brief report on their activities;

- **Current activities** maintain support for the One- Book One Community initiative, after schools activities (discos, sports, arts and music), summer projects and intercultural activities. Maintain involvement in local Education Committee.
- **Promoting and supporting the delivery of the YPAR Protocol.** Many of the 5-12 participants are using the protocol and there is very good feedback on its impact. However there is a need to enhance this by working with the school principles and parents on the benefits of the Protocol.
- **Ensuring relevant agency participation on the Working Group.** At present there are a number of gaps including the Garda, DCC and the HSE Social Work Team. There is a need also to ensure the voice of the parent is included to support and inform the work of the 5-12 working group.

- **Identifying gaps in services.** The Working Group will continually endeavour to identify gaps in services for the 5-12 age groups and respond appropriately e.g. tackle bullying through the development of a 'say no to bullying programme'.
- **Monitoring the Work of the 5-12 Working Group.** This is in-line with the wider YPAR monitoring process and the need to show clear evidence that the interagency work of YPAR is making a difference to the lives of young people and their families and also having a positive impact on the work of the local agencies and their staff.

Youth Participation:

- There is good work happening through the various YPAR Working Groups, Schools, Youth Projects, Community Initiatives and Youth Bank etc. Many of these groups and initiatives would take a participatory and empowerment approach to involving young people in decision making structures. Also, there was very good youth attendance and participations in the recent FNYPAR Conference in Clonliffe College.
- However, we are not finding it easy to develop a sustainable and autonomous youth structure in the area. This is something that will remain on the staff agenda and we will continue to explore this.

It was agreed that the YPAR Coordinator would contact the local youth groups that had been approached in November and asked to explore the best way to support and sustain a youth forum in the area, to see if they would be willing to convene a meeting to further discuss progressing this.

Policy and Advocacy

- There is a new office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration. FNYPAR will be seeking a meeting with them in relation to many of the issues that came up at the conference on the 20th January
- The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs attended the FNYPAR conference 20th January. Contact will be ongoing as the Minister has also agreed to look at core funding for YPAR to maintain its current activities.
- Staff has met with the CEO of the NEWB to discuss the organisation's involvement in the YPAR structures. Glenn Perry will represent the organisation on the YPAR SG but due to restructuring and staff shortages it will not be possible for NEWB staff to participate on other structures. However, given that the School Completion Programme and the HSCL Officers are now under the management of the NEWB they intend to develop a more integrated approach between these groups to ensure greater impact at a local level which will include how best to connect as part of the YPAR network.
- YPAR should invite Gordon Jeyes to meet with the Steering Committee.

Strengthening Families

- The Strengthening Families Programme is due to start on the 21st of February. At present we are taking referrals and there will be an open day on the program Monday 30th January at 12.30 – 2.00pm in the Ballybough Community Centre.
- A management group of Mary McGagh, David Little, YPAR Administrator and the YPAR Coordinator has been established to oversee the delivery of the programme.

Finances & Funding

- ICRG (YPAR) Bank Balance at end of December 2011 €38,419.60
- ICON (YPAR) Bank Balance at end of December 2011 €45,161.71
- YPAR has received €15,000.00 from both the HSE and Probation Services towards the 2012 funding for the YPAR Coordinator's position. We are still waiting to hear back from the CDYSB to see if they will be in a position to complement this funding. Margaret said that the CDYSB are

seeking some clarification re the co-funders and work programme but hoped that the Board will come up with some funding for YPAR.

Website

- Just a reminder that the website is live. Unfortunately we have not had the time to do much work on this since the last meeting. If anyone knows of someone who would be prepared to do a bit of voluntary work on this in terms of editing, uploading documents, Photos, and inputting calendar dates etc, please let us know.
- It was agreed the Coordinator will advertise on Activelink for a volunteer to work on the YPAR website.

Independent Chairperson:

Margaret Hayes the departing YPAR Chairperson introduced Brid Clarke who will be taking over as the new independent Chair of YPAR. Brid thanked Margaret and the Steering Committee for inviting her to be Chairperson. Brid said that she will over the next month familiarise herself with the work of YPAR, maintain contact with the Coordinator and endeavour to meet some SG members.

Margaret told the participants that it has been a pleasure to have been the chairperson of YPAR and thanked the members for their commitment and achievements over the past number of years. She said there is increasing recognition of YPAR and that the work of YPAR will be even more vital in the next number of years given the difficult times ahead. Margaret also thanked the dedication of the past and present staff that have developed YPAR and in particular the YPAR Protocol.

Tony Rock thanked Margaret from a personal basis but also on behalf of the wider YPAR community and the NEIC community. Margaret has been a very committed and dedicated Chairperson, representative and advocate of YPAR. Fergus McCabe also thanked Margaret and reiterated all Tony had said and hopes Margaret will continue to be a strong advocate and valued participant on the YPAR steering committee.

AOB

Paddy Malone NYP2, leaving event 2nd March

The Next YPAR Steering Committee Meeting will be held on the 8th March 2012 @ 11am in Ozanam House.