

YPAR Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday 8th March 2012
Ozanam House

In Attendance:

Members Margaret Hayes (Chairperson), Tony Rock, Fergus McCabe, Mary McGagh, Ann Carroll, Pauline Kane, Derek Farrell

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

Apologies: Tom O'Donnell, Brid Clarke, Glen Perry, Jenny Heath, Grainne Foy, Seanie Lambe, Sarah Kelleher

Announcements:

- Declan Good the Garda representative will be leaving the YAPR Steering Committee due to his promotion and relocation to a different area. Declan was thanked for his contribution. Declan will be replaced by Inspector Gerry Donnelly
- There have been changes in HSE Senior personnel and Mark Yalloway is the new Children and Family Services Manager replacing Tom O'Donnell. YPAR will seek a meeting with Mark.

Minutes 26th January 2012: 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

- Five new cases opened
- Need for work on orientation of new people working on the Protocol of the sensitivities of language and keeping trust between agencies.
- Work continuing with North Wall group
- Protocol meeting training delivered
- Developing links with HSE early intervention team
- Meeting with Garda re involvement in Protocol Steering Group
- Meeting with the Duty Social Work Team Leader re the Protocol
- Providing on-going advice and support to groups in relation to the YPAR Protocol
- Meeting with groups from other areas seeking to replicate the Protocol (Blanchardstown, Cabra and Dublin 8.)

FNYPAR:

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

- FNYPAR met with the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration (OPMI) on the 7th March. This was formerly the Department for Integration. The OPMI felt many of the issues that FNYPAR are dealing with were outside their remit. However, they do have a role in relation to promoting integration and we agreed that we would keep in contact in relation to possible future areas of collaboration.
- Working on the production of the Conference Report this will be proofed agreed by the FNYPAR WG and sent out to the YPAR partners. The report will set the priority actions and inform the work of the group for the next number of years.
- International Youth Club operates Saturday from 11.30 to 1.30pm age group 13+ and on Monday's from 4.30 to 6.30. Presently on average there are 17 young people attending. The Club is planning an inter-national residential over Easter.
- Roma Children at Risk: FNYPAR will organise a one-off meeting to discuss this issue to explore how best to address this group.
- The issue of the state removing children from their school, community and social support networks when they turn 18 is causing major problems and is considered counter to the human rights of the young people involved. It is a practice the Minister for Children Frances Fitzgerald spoke out against at the FNYPAR conference but as thus far has not meaningfully addressed the issue. The FNYPAR Group intends to develop an alternative model to present to the relevant Ministries as a solution to the current policy and practice.

0-5 Working Group:

- Cuts in Community Employment could result in the closure of some community children's services i.e. CASPr and LYCS. The changes in CE have created a disincentive for local people to apply for places on the programme and this will threaten the ability of some services to survive.
- Issues of Medical Cards was highlighted as a serious issue as people are being left without health cover and families reluctant to have illnesses treated due not having the cost of GPs and hospital costs. There is a huge backlog of applications and renewals. The time it takes to process the medical cards is also impacting on childcare subventions.
- HSE early intervention team has agreed to participate in the 0-5 WG and will make a presentation of their services at the next working group meeting.
- With the help of a volunteer student we will up-date the YPAR directory of services of the 0-5 age group.

5-12 Working Group:

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

1. Current activities

1. Two Discos have been held in February with an average of 60 children people participating. Two more are planned after Easter.
2. One Book One Community which is being delivered through the local schools has been very successful.
3. The 5-12 WG will coordinate the events, activities and joint programmes for the summer project. The Group is looking at extending activities to community games, Family Olympic Fund Day, Football Blitz and Swimming Gala. CoDYSB has some resources to support summer activities.
4. CASPR are delivering an Arts and Music programme. The group will explore how this could be replicated to others groups

2. Promoting and supporting the delivery of the YPAR Protocol.

- There are a number of Protocol cases operating from the 5-12 W Group Participants
- Protocol needs to link in with the Differential Response Model
- YPAR should seek a meeting with Mark Yalloway the new Children's Services Manager for this area in relation to how the DRM may be delivered.

3. Ensuring relevant agency participation on the Working Group.

- HSE have agreed to send a new representative to the 5-12 working group
- Coordinator following up with Garda to have community Garda representation on the 5-12 WG

Youth Participation:

A meeting of the local youth projects and other relevant projects will take place on Friday the 9th March to explore further how a north inner city youth forum could be developed and maintained.

Policy and Advocacy

- A meeting took place with the office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration on Wednesday 7th March (see FNYPA above).
- HSE are rolling out the Deferential Response Model in this area. This is something that should connect to and complement the work of YAPR and particularly the YPAR Protocol.
- YPAR has written to Gordon Jeyes (HSE Children's Services National Director) to invite him to meet with the Steering Committee at their next meeting on the 19th April. We are still waiting a reply to this letter.
- YPAR convened a meeting on the Friday 3rd February in relation to the CE cuts which are threatening the closure of some local projects. At this meeting it was agreed that the YPAR coordinator would contact the CE projects asking them to forward specific information on the likely impact of the cuts to children at risk. YPAR would then call a meeting with the local TDs to endeavour to gain their support for the reversal of the CE cuts. This work is on-going; the Coordinator has connected in with other groups campaigning for the reversal of the cuts. There has been a meeting with the local TDs in which all the relevant issues re the CE cuts and how they impact on services to the vulnerable families has been clearly presented. However, there does not seem to be huge confidence that the local TD will be in a position to influence the final decisions. One of the key difficulties in getting an agreed position on CE is how it is viewed by the different stakeholders. While the state view and measure the programme as an ALMP. The community would argue that the prevention and early intervention work which are major outcomes of the programme are rarely captured by reviews of CE. Neither is its role as a subvention for community services, drug rehabilitation nor income support measured, all of which go to combat poverty, enhances the local economy and support community development.
- YPAR will continue to lobby local politicians and the relevant ministries to urge them to protect those services to young people at risk being provided through CE.

Strengthening Families

- The Strengthening Families Programme commenced on the 21st of February. 16 Families have signed up to the programme of which 14 participated on the first evening. This is an interagency programme in which many of the local projects have provided volunteer facilitators to deliver the programme.

Finances & Funding

- ICRG (YPAR) Bank Balance at end of February 2012 €34,429.05
- ICON (YPAR) Bank Balance at end of February 2012 €45,761.71
- CODYSB will inform YPAR in the next day or two as to the allocation from them.
- Coordinator to do out a cash projection for 2012 to help project future financial needs.

Volunteering

- Through our advertisement on Activelink and the Dublin City North Volunteer Centre seeking volunteers to support some of the work of YPAR, a number of people offered to volunteer for YPAR to help them with the up-date of the YPAR website, support the delivery of the SFP and to work with Youthbank. We also hope to through the Protocol Coordinator have a student to work with the 0-5 WG to up-date the directory of services to this group.
- It was agreed that the Coordinator would prepare Job Descriptions and Contracts for volunteers and ensure that they had Garda Clearance.

AOB

YPAR General event

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