**YPAR 0-5 Working Group Zoom Meeting Minutes 8th September 2020**

**Present:** Eileen Smith & Alison McCormack (Hill Street FRC) Lesley Strahan (LYCs Crèche), June-Anne Kelly & Regan Fahey (DCCC), Deirdre Lee (St Brigid’s), Claire Devery (ABC/ELI), Louise Gillick (St Louise’s), Maria Tyrrell (Larkin Centre), Pat Gates & Mary Meehan (YPAR)

**Apologies**:

**Minute Taker:** P&M

Chairperson welcomed Deirdre Lee as the New manager of St Brigid’s Day Care .

**Minutes from 15th July 2020 taken as read and noted**

**NEIC Pilot Childcare program**

* Letter received from the DCYA in relation to the end of the pilot
* What was the value of the pilot?
* Department looking at what the impact has been and the usefulness of it. They hope to produce a report shortly.
* Did not really take off – lot of work put in but did not get a huge amount of investment in it.
* It was meant to be a flexible service in which 18 revolving places were allocated. However, turnover did not work that way as places were kept by the child for the year
* The pilot highlighted the acute need and deficit of places in the Dublin 1 area which has been fed back to the DCYA
* PHNs not engaging as the expectations of offering people places were not there.
* LYCS has 8 places for children under 1 – They have been held onto for the specific referrals from the PHNs unfortunately these did not materialize. Will look to fill places with local families
* Referrals from sponsors very disappointing. Maybe there is a lack of clarity on this
* Lorraine Doherty – Tusla the key person re Sponsors – Sponsor agencies - HSE, Homeless, Tusla, Local Authority, Direct Provision, Department of Justice and Equality, HSCL
* Look at identifying a key person in each to refer

**NEIC Early Years Provision – proposal have been put together from DCCC**

The DCCC and the DCYA have submitted a proposal to Sub-group 6 of the NEIC to support the capacity development and governance of NEIC Childcare providers

The following are some of the observations of the YPAR 0-5 WG

* Lack of consultation particularly with the YPAR 0-5 W Group who are an interagency group of practitioners working in childcare
* See DCCC as a monitoring and overseeing committee and it is not likely that services will volunteer in this process (issues of trust) with an overseeing body.
* Projects so over stretched this will be seen an additional work burden
* Services have no non-contact time to complete training which is a huge problem. Will there be additional resources for relief staff to allow existing staff complete training.
* Proposal does not articulate an understanding of the complexities and concentrations of the problems of families the providers are working with
* The proposal is focused on governance, finances and practice and not about increasing places of families.
* Projects are already the most monitored and regulated services in any sector.
* The YPAR research proposal was an attempt to develop a platform for progressive support of the sector which seem to have been ignored.
* The issues of premises and capacity to increase places has not been addressed in this proposal
* The proposal has not been well thought out and requires more work and much more involvement and consultation with services providers working on the ground.
* Need for greater collaboration between the 0-5 working group and DCCC to develop an agreed proposal.
* Pat to feed back to sub-group 6

**Childcare Act**

* Participants were asked to review the new Childcare Act and send feedback to YPAR Coordinator by the 16th September.
* Will convene a small action group if felt necessary to follow up
* Proposed that CYPSC will have a new statutory role as the Children’s Act Advisory committee

**Feedback from Providers and Services**

**ELI:** Still working remotely, Will be moving to new office across from the college which will be a bit of a challenge

**Hill Street FRC:** Back in building for some time, working in small groups 6 to a room, Continuing our Afterschool groups, Mindfulness, Prep for schools and parents’ courses.

**St Brigid’s Day Nursery:** Children back since the end of August – Reduced capacity 40 children instead of 60, All going well so far. Service adopting to the challenging and evolving situation. Exploring how to communicate more with the parents

**LYCS:** Short staffed but have settled in well. Very Challenging with new children – trying to settle them – issue re parents having to leave them at the door re guidelines etc.

**DCCC:** Still working remotely, If services have to close for 3 days re Covid testing – Force Majure can be applied for. Any queries or support contact June Anne’s office. Information re the sustainable grant will be released soon.

**Larkin Childcare:** Open fulltime, at present all is going well. Children delighted to be back

**St Louise’s**: Back since July. New children start September 8, 2020. Morning only sessions running

40 children being catered for

**YPAR:** Never stopped operating, back in office since July. All working groups up and running. Very challenging for services and families huge increase in stress and anxiety. Particularly older young people are finding it very hard to adjust to living with Covid.

**Support for workers**

Everyone is doing a fantastic job in the face of very challenging times. We need to acknowledge and appreciate the work of staff and how the local projects are adapting to emerging issues. We also need to continue to get workers to be conscious of self-care. YPAR Mindfulness every Wednesday 9.30. is a help.

The PHNs have not be able to attend the YPAR 0-5 meetings since February due to their work. The Chairperson of the Working Group will contact them re attending next meeting

**Next 0-5 Zoom Meeting Wednesday 18th November 2020 @ 12pm**