**YPAR 5-12 Working Group Meeting Minutes 28th March 2022**

**Present:** Emma Nugent (City Connects), Helen Reynolds (ELI), Katie Timmons (Foundations), Imelda O’Keeffe (NEIC Parents Programme), Debbie Keegan (Ozanam House), Fiona Gallagher (HSCL), Jack Miller (BASS), Pat Gates, Mary Meehan (YPAR).

**Apologies**: Gerry Cullen (City Connects), Alison Donohoe (SCP)

**Minute Taker:** P & M

**Check In – Energy Levels High**

**Minutes from 24th January:** Read and Noted

**Emerging Issues for Children 5-12:**

* **YPAR** - English Language, After school Supports and Transition to Second Level. Large number of children out of school. Children being caught up in Drug Gangs and being groomed into criminal activities.
* **ELI** – Programme for senior infants in EKI needs to be tweaked – Literacy, fine motor skills, school readiness
* **Ozanam House** – Staffing – need for staff panel consistency, emotional regulation, trauma. Parent and Toddler group linking in with One Family and Rainbow. Parenting with loss (separation or death)
* **Patents Coordinator** – Mapping of services who support parents, setting up an NEIC parents forum. Some issues include; Carrying out Needs Assessment Questionnaire. Children with additional needs – Autism. Some children not having school placements for September. Need for additional social activities for children with special needs. Tabletop discussions for parents to discuss what is going on for them
* **City Connects –** Children’s harmful behaviour, sexualisation. Complex needs for those living in homeless accommodation. Children are being exposed to adult language (sexualisation, suicidal, self-harm)
* **Fiona (HSCL)** – Staffing – children’s behaviour means they are missing out on their routines. Parents and children struggling with regulations. Difficult to engage parents in some programmes. Issue re different rules by different parents (going to Dads on weekend mixed messaging)
* **Foundations** – Child and Family programme. English languages for children experiencing language barriers. Many families not attending groups and have missed out. Outreach meeting people face to face. Some young people not linked into any services – Just returning to homeless accommodation. No stimulation. Not all families have case workers and as a result don’t have the required information to access some services.

**Working Group Terms Of Reference**

* Group read through the TOR and are happy to continue to accept these as a guide for the work of the YPAR 5-12 Working Group.
* Participating Projects/Agencies - Add City Connects to membership

**Afterschool Developing Community Response:**

* In response to the lack of After Schools support for the 6-12 year olds in the NEIC a Sub-group of the 5-12 Working Group have been meeting to endeavour to develop a proposal to address this need.
* The Group have consulted a number of Community Based AS projects and the Primary School Principals and have had a very positive response to look at developing a partnership between the schools and the community projects to increase the AS supports for children in the NEIC
* Further work is required to firm up these relationships. Emma, Gerry and Joanne looking a matching school to community services and will do further work with the schools to support this.
* The community agencies that are looking at their staffing and other requirement to enable them to increase their after school activities to partnering schools.
* Under the NCS there is a new core funding model being proposed to support children of school going age (up to 15 years) which should be an additional financial support to services seeking to provide after school activities.
* Imelda to send on information re CYW England which is a support programme for after schools.

**English Language proposal**

* Proposal worked on by I-YPAR to address the serious gap in English language supports for children who have English as a second language.
* Current EAL in schools are over stretched.
* These are likely to come under additional pressure with the influx of Ukrainian refugee children
* Transition Group looking at numbers of those with no English

**City Connects Update**

* Whole class review has been done
* All data on children accessing services is being recorded.
* Key function is to match supports to the young people
* Fast track counselling – has been a brilliant support for some young people
* Nurture rooms in schools are another very positive development
* Trauma and ACES support for parents and young people is being addressed but current services are over stretched.
* We need to continue to support the young people, families and schools to ensure that children attend school and that schools have the skills and abilities to respond to the current and emerging needs..

**Meitheal and Practice Model**

* The Meitheal and Practice model is an interagency community care approach to help address tailored support to children and families
* This to be kept on the agenda of all YPAR working groups
* Projects and Services are encouraged to use the model and convene it when necessary.
* There is a need for chairs and lead practitioners to support the model
* Contact Lorraine Cronan (Tusla) or Frank from YPAR for support

**Next meeting 26th April 2022 @ 11am Ozanam House**