

**To live in a place of hope, equality and opportunity where young people and their family’s dreams are realised**

**YPAR Co-ordinator’s Report November 2020**

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| **YPAR Activity** | **Notes/updates** | **By Whom** |
| **Interagency Office Support –**  | * YPAR continuing to provide point of contact for information dissemination and information sharing to enable children, youth and family agencies to collaborate to provide support for children and families seeking practical and emergency support. Particularly during the Covid-19 Pandemic.
* Supporting the Coordination of access and practical support for vulnerable families in relation to Christmas.
 | YPAR Administration and Staff  |
| **Meitheal & Practice Working Group** | * Meitheal and Practice, there have been two useful meetings of the Meitheal and Practice Core group, which were well attended. Usefully Social Protection, Summerhill Medical Practice and HSE Social Inclusion Unit have joined with Rutland Pre School, NYP etc.
* Meitheals are increasing, and Elenora’s adapting of the training has increased the number of peoples understanding of Meitheal.
* There are more Meitheals than Lead Practitioners, however it has been agreed that with support from Elenora, Frank etc, people who have not completed the training can act as leads.
* One meeting of the Open Meitheal group where one service described its work with a family using Meitheal, which was useful to those attending, this may be the most useful format.
* A major ongoing concern from Meitheal is the lack of adequate assessments for children, limiting their access to appropriate supports in education and in their wider lives.
 | TUSLA/PPFSWG and YPAR Staff |
| **0-5 working Group**  | * The Group is focusing on the improvement pf the early childcare provision in the NEIC.
* Meeting on the 9th December with DCCC and Dept of Children to explore how to improve the capacity quantity and quality.
* Key Issues;
	+ Retentions of Staff
	+ Rate of Pay
	+ Skills and professional development
	+ Difficulties in the NCS particularly for providers who rely 100% State subsidy, accessibility for some families, On-line application process.
	+ Disadvantaged areas need to be treated differently we need DEIS for early years
	+ Supports for Special Needs
	+ Access to Therapeutic supports (SLT, OT, Play etc)
* Group frustrated as they have made a number of proposals on a way forward which have been rejected by the NEIC.
* Need to get a better picture of the supply and demand re early years. A number of providers have vacancies which are not being filled.
* Early years wellbeing proposal from ELI was discussed and it was agreed this should be part of the wider discussion re the improvement of the early yeas sector as set out above.
 | DCYA and DC Childcare Committee |
| **5-12 working Group** | * Group is working on a funding proposal as a follow on from the After School research. It is hoped that we can get a number of schools to buy-in to using their schools as pilot sites to demonstrate the merits and value of having a school-based after school service.
* There are some issues in relation to how support the current community after school services and how they should be integrated into a more comprehensive After School Services for the NEIC.
* The NEIC have invested in a number of new After School services but this it a bit patchy and hit and miss in relation to the needs of all children 5-10 in the area. What is needed is a more strategic and comprehensive approach.
* After Schools Research Steering Group will meet to look at progressing this proposal
* City Connects has begun to operate in the area. It has been a difficult start given the restrictions with Covid. CC Programme Manager is attending the 5-12 WG so we will continue to support this initiative, maintain and monitor progress.
* Group are support families access to the Christmas Hardship fund from Forsa being coordinated by ICON. Also accessible through YPAR office.
* Issues of the closure of the Sean McDermott St. swimming pool is causing some stress among schools and community services who used the Pool as activities but also for access to clean body washing water for children living in emergency accommodation. The group to get clarification re the reopening of Sean McDermott St Swimming Pool.
 | 5-12 Working Group  |
| **I-YPAR** | **Issues the group are focusing on*** Support for Roma Families
* Access to English language support to minority ethnic children under 16
* Looking at accessing interpreters of children and parents
* Mental Health is an emerging issues for some international students
* Need to ensure that minority ethic parents and young people are aware of the services that are available to them. Need to promote the YPAR directory of services.
* International Youth Club operating Saturday but with restrictions due to social distancing
* The issues of cultural mediation has been raised and the need to ensure that cultural diversity does not become a restriction to accessing public services. It was reported that in one school (not in the inner city) a young Muslim women was prohibited from wearing the Hijab.
 | I-YPAR, SWAN YS, NYP2 Schools |
| **Youth Mental Health Working Group** | **Coordination of mental wellbeing services*** The group in conjunction with Sub-group 6 continue to work on improving the coordination and collaboration of local youth mental wellbeing services. The groups hope to convene a meeting with the key services managers to explore ways we can improve assessment, referrals and access to appropriate mental health and wellbeing services with a focus on post primary pupils.

**Issues for services*** Jigsaw have had lower numbers of referrals in October. However they are operating a 6 month waiting list to access their service.
* SWAN YS operating with restricted number. Mental Health an emerging and increasing issue. Parents struggling living in cramped conditions and lack of activities or outlets for the under 10s
* School, most schools have 80% attendance. Issues emerging of low concentration levels in class making it harder for the teachers. Mental Health a big issue. Increasing referrals to Teen Counselling and other wellbeing services.
* ELI most of the services are operating on-line. Some face to face contact outdoors. Some parents not accessing services as they prefer to wait to have face to face contact.
* CAMHs is operating both face to face and on-line. 3-5 referral per day. Operating on low staff numbers. Emerging issues eating disorders, self-harm and suicide ideation.
* NYP1 are finding some children are finding it difficult to do full days in school. Parents reporting issues with children’s overuse of online platforms and gaming.
 | YPAR, NYP1, Camhs, Teen Counselling, NEIC Initiative, Schools, Youth Services |
| **YPAR Counselling** | * YPAR/NEIC Fast Track Counselling there is very high demand for counselling at present, at under 12 and at 12 to 18.
* Teen Counselling are moving from Clonliffe and in order to continue the accessibility their therapist will be working out of the Ballybough CC temporarily.
* There is the possibility of Romanian therapists joining the panel which would aid Roma children.
* There is music therapist available from 1st December.
* Issues of sustaining the services is being looked at by the NEIC Programme office. However, it is likely to be held again by YAPR in 2021.
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| **Hard To Reach Working Group** | **Issues emerging for the group*** Mental Health- Suicide, Drug selling/use – violence, Drug Debts and Intimidation of families, Worker Stress and Trauma.
* Restrictions in ability to have contact time with young people
* Staff feeling isolated
* There has been a loss of contact between services due to Covid. Services operating in isolation and it is difficult to find out what other services are doing.
* Some great work with the SWAN Detached Street Work team and the JLOs – cycles, fun runs, other sports events.
* Need to develop alternative and creative diversionary activities to keep engaging young people.
* Huge numbers of homeless children in local schools. Issues of language barriers. The ripple effect of this concentrations of vulnerable families impact on the whole school and leaks out to the wider community.
* Roma families being left behind. Need to make them aware of support services available to them.
* Young people are missing the close contact with workers they have good relationships with.
* Services need to find ways they can come together to have fun, feel connected and have some relaxed social contact with their peers.
* The Group organised (by SJ from DRI initiative) a Fun Quiz for workers on the 20th Nov. This was a very successful, fun and well attended event.
 | YPAR Hard to Reach Working Group |
| **Homeless Working Group**  | * Homeless Working Group, the group worked mainly via Whats App during the past months, however Paul Flynn has re-energised the group and the group has developed a Christmas Plan for families in emergency accommodation. This will include Activity packs, Shoe box gifts and a Santa experience, (ICON have been very active in the group drawing on their experience around the Big Scream). As well as the usual supports. New members of the group have joined who have added to it.
 |  YPAR Homeless Working Group |
| **Roma Support Group** | * Roma Practical Support group, the group has met twice and is well attended by people from primary schools, Dublin Inner City Co-op, Safety Net/Capuchin Centre, NEIC Initiative, City Connects, Social Protection amongst others. Grave concerns around health, education, and language issues. The group is developing a mini directory of services useful to Roma families, applying to the NEIC for interim funding for translators. The links between services has been useful even at this early stage. Good sharing of information.
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| **NEIC Initiative** | * Involvement in NEIC Sub-Groups
* Facilitating the delivery of the Fast-track Counselling service funded by the NEIC PIB
* Supporting the Development of an integrated and holistic social development strategy for the communities living around Liberty Park.
* Development of a Coordinated Mental Health Strategy
* Developing integrated support for parents
* Developing an integrated strategy to support the coordination of community and youth services.
* Support the delivery of the City Connects in Primary Schools
* Programmes YPAR are facilitating the delivering on behalf of the NEIC
	+ NEIC Critical Incident Initiative
	+ NEIC Initiative Counselling Hours
	+ NEIC Youth Leadership Programme
	+ NEIC After School Research Initiative
	+ Integration and alignment of Youth Service activities
 | NEIC Initiative |
| **Other Work Activities**  | * Looking at producing a history of YPAR and how the YPAR model support better interagency integration and collaboration. Funded by the Department of Justice. A number of key informant interviews have taken place with members of the SC. The next step is to organise a focus group meeting with the SC. This will take 2 hours and using the theory of Change model as the framework for the meeting.
* Updating YPAR Website
* Managing the delivery and finances of YPAR programmes funded by external agencies.
* YPAR continues to participate in CYPSC structures
* Working with the CDYSB Youth Services Network.
* Participating in the NEIC Community Coalition to ensure there is a local voice on the structures of the NEIC and other Initiatives.
* Maintaining financial and administration governance of YAPR.
 | YPAR Staff and SC |
| **Funding & Finances** | * **Eileen Smith is now Chairperson of the YPAR Finance Committee**
* **The Finance Committee are in the process of reviewing the Finance policy and procedures and the MoU with ICON.**
* **Application have gone to CDYSB (€20,000), Tusla (64,250) and IYJS (20,000) for 2021 funding**
* **With the current annual Income and Expenditure YPAR will be running a small deficit in relation to its recurrent costs. YPAR has a small reserve that will cover this short fall in 2021. However, this will need to be addressed going forward. The Finance committee will address this at the next Finance Committee meeting in December.**

**YPAR income and expenditure balances to the end of September 2020****YPAR Programmes;*** Impact Small Grants for YPAR WG activities
* NEIC Critical Incident Initiative
* NEIC Initiative Counselling Hours
* NEIC Initiative Hard to Reach Research
* NEIC Integrated Service Development
* NEIC Youth Leadership Programme
* NEIC After School research
* Department of Justice Integration Funding I-YPAR

**Programmes Income to the end of September 2020 - € 117,717.69****Programmes Expenditure to the end of September 2020- € 61,845.78****Programmes Balance to the end of September 2020- € 55,871.91****YPAR Core Costs; Wages and Overheads.****Core Funders*** **Tusla (Child and Family Agency)**
* **Irish Probation (Youth Justice) Service**
* **CDYSB**

**Core Cost Income to the end of September 2020- € 143,441.24** **Core Cost Expenditure to the end of September 2020 - € 84,278.90****Core Cost Balance to the end of September 2020 - € 59,162.34 (including €11,354.60 managing cost income and €13,147.52 accumulative reserves.****YPAR Balance Total end of September 2020 - € 115,034.25** | **YPAR Staff** |
| **YPAR 2021 Financial Income and Expenditure Projections** |

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| **Projected Core Costs Income and Expenditure for 2021** |
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| **Projected Income** |  **Including Reserves**  | **Excluding Reserves** |
| BF from 2020 |  26,186.40  |  |
| CFA 2021 Payments |  64,250.00  |  64,250.00  |
| CDYSB |  20,000.00  |  20,000.00  |
| IYJS |  20,000.00  |  20,000.00  |
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| **Total Projected income** |  130,436.40  |  104,250.00  |
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| **Projected Expenditure** |  |  |
| Inclusive Wage Cost |  103,428.60  |  103,428.60  |
| Overheads |  11,356.37  |  11,356.37  |
| **Total** |  **114,784.97**  |  **114,784.97**  |
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| **Shortfall/Surplus** | **15,651.43**  | **-10,534.97** |

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**Patrick Gates**

**YPAR Coordinator**

**November 2020**