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

**YPAR International Working Group Zoom Meeting minutes**

**22nd September 2020**

**Present:** Evelyn Regan (SWAN), Eric Collins (NYP2), Anne Waithira Burke (AkiDwA), Fiona Gallagher (HSCL), Mairead McDevitt (MCRI), Joy Eniola (NEIC Intercultural Coordinator) Rares-Mihai Nicula (Inner City Co-op) Pat Gates (YPAR),

**Apologies** Mary Meehan (YPAR).

**Minute Taker:** PG

**Introductions and Check-ins and emerging issues**

* Evelyn from SWAN YS introduced herself as Chairperson of the I-YPAR Working Group. She welcomed all to the meeting and asked participants to introduced themselves and their role.
* **Pat Gates YPAR Coordinator** gave a short introduction to YPAR which is local Network of Children, Youth and Family Services. Key function to support interagency cooperation and collaboration to ensure better access and outcomes for families.
* Supporting the work of frontline practitioners.
* Key YPAR Support Structures
	+ Early years 0-5 Working Group
	+ Primary School 5-12 working Group
	+ Youth Mental Health Working Group
	+ Hard to Reach Youth Working Group
	+ Meitheal and Practice Working Group
	+ Homelessness Working Group
	+ International and Minority Ethnic YPAR Working Group.

**Anne AkiDwA Development Education Coordinator** – Some of the issues coming up for AkiDwA,

* Education provision no access to IT computers for families
* Students falling behind due to poor access to technology
* Parents frustrated re home schooling – kills the morale
* Domestic violence huge during the Covid 19 – who can people contact
* Employment and home support – working remotely
* Landlords – kicking people out of their accommodation
* People being left vulnerable

**Rares – Programme Officer Roma Programme.**

* Providing employment and training support to Roma Community
* Does not work with young people but works with the families
* Roma – DRHE accept applications on the housing list but very difficult getting Roma on the housing list
* PPS number is crucial as without this people’s inability to access services is causing misery and despair
* Supported by homeless services
* Schooling difficult due to language

**Mairead – Programme Worker MCRI**

* Come across a lot of the issues that were highlighted previously.
* Issues not just for the inner-city people but particularly for undocumented
* Positive move by immigration to enable migrants and refugees access work.
* Housing issues – and the difficulty of gaining a PPS numbers as previously mentioned

**Eric – Project Worker NYP2**

* Young people back in school
* Students no access to IT and internet to support on-line or remote learning.
* English language is a difficulty
* Many of the international students falling behind due to language and lack of access to supports
* NYP working throughout the lockdown
* Concerned the way schooling is going and the pressures they are under
* NYP2 are increasing supports to allow more YP access to after school grinds

**Joy** **NEIC Intercultural Coordinator**

* Do not work directly with young people but will work to support improved communication and information between services in supporting interculturalism
* All the issues have been highlighted
* Getting to know the NEIC and the services and intercultural issues
* Making contact with different services.
* Making the connections to ensure a good flow and sharing of information between services.
* Need to have a supportive and effective referral pathway to support people’s access to services

**Fiona HSCL St Vincent’s Girls School**

* English language is a real issue. Roma – can be difficult to participate in class with their hearing speech and language issues.
* Large numbers of international (minority ethnic) students are living in emergency accommodation
* Issue of poverty and low income, no access to uniforms and other material supports

**Evelyn SWAN Youth worker**

* SWAN runs the International Youth Club with NYP2. Operates Saturday mornings
* The number coming to the IYC at present are low due to the Covid Restrictions
* Many of the activities are taking place outdoors in small groups.

**Other emerging issues**

* I-YPAR has submitted a funding proposal to the NEIC to provide English language supports to young people under the age of 16 in schools. While the proposal was well received it was rejected as the DCETB section that works with migrants had agreed to support the provision or additional language supports to primary schools.
* There is a need to ensuring access to IT support for on-line and remote learning to address digital poverty among minority ethnic children living in emergency accommodation.

**Meitheal**

* Front line practitioners are encouraged to use the Meitheal which is a milti-agency approach to addressing specific wellbeing issue for children and families. The Metheal is a key Tusla support for families which is being coordinated in the NEIC by YPAR. Any key worker wanting to start a Meitheal on a child or family should contact YPAR for further information.

**Participation of young people in the I-YAPR Working Group**

* Participants were reminded that the participation of young people in the YPAR Working Groups is a key objective and that if any services or key workers know of any young person that would have the capacity and interest in participating in the I-YPAR meeting to let Evelyn or Pat know and we will arrange to have an induction and provider support for their participation.

**Actions**

* YPAR to follow up with the DCETB to ensure that they are following through on their commitment to provide English supports to minority ethnic school children under 16 who are struggling in class due to their poor English language abilities.
* Joy to look at producing a leaflet of social and community services for international and minority ethnic families. This could include a series of information sharing seminars between services or a YPAR Brown-Bag Lunch
* There is a need to have better clarity of the referral process for children and families in navigating local services.

**Sharing information**

* Webinar – Young Migrant Women in Sports
* AkiDwA Information Day 23rd September – Wynns Hotel Abbey Street 12.30 to 3pm

**NEXT Zoom MEETING:**

**Tuesday 10th November 2020 @ 10am**