**YPAR 0-5 Working Group Zoom Meeting Minutes 24th June 2020**

**Present:** Eileen Smith (Hill Street FRC) Chairperson, Mark Shinnick (Holy Child Preschool), June-Anne Kelly (DCCC), Alison McCormack (Hill Street FRC), Joanne Byrne (SAOL Project), Sinead Jones (St Brigid’s), Denise Hogan (Ozanam), Eleonora Sozzi (Tusla), Claire O’Buachain (ELI), Treasa Cunningham (Larkin Creche), Pat Gates & Mary Meehan (YPAR)

**Apologies**: Frances O’Keeffe & Jillian Deady (PHN)

**Minute Taker:** P&M

Minutes from 27th May 2020 taken as read and noted

**Updates on reopening of childcare services**

* Readiness protocols for staff and children have been widely circulated to providers
* Child Play Pod will be adopted – No clear guidelines re how many children can be in the pods. The smaller the numbers the easier to manage. However, concerns in relation to the ability of children to play and mix.
* Some participants reported that some staff are nervous about going back to work. There is a need for reassurance and to build confidence in returning.
* At present the protocols for reopening are very are rigid with little or no room for flexibility.
* Services and staff will also have to use their common sense while working with in the guidelines.
* There will be difficulties in relation to leaving off and collecting with children having to be left at the door and brought in by staff member. This will put a strain on the staff and the expected number od staff needed top perfume these roles.
* The procedure will impinge on the relationships with parents which up to now have been relaxed.

**Financial implications:**

* Lots of changes to funding. The temporary wage subsidy end Friday and the CCSP, TECH and NCS will be back from Monday 29th
* Services will be required to re-register all children – needs to be done this week. The. NCS will put up more information for providers. The Pobal information webinar is available online.
* Covid Capital Grant – 1st payment date is this Friday Next date 10th July (1,000 to 6,000) Closing date 28th August 2020.
* Reopening Support Grant – Standard is part-time (1,000 to 5,000) – Enhance is full-time (2,000 to 10,000) – Closing date 23rd August 2020
* Further information will be posted on Early Years Hive

**Feedback re services & providers:**

* No guideline re parents and children being in the one place for parent and toddler groups - Julie-Ann to check
* Holy Child Preschool – will offer a July Education Programme. There is an issue of assessments being cancelled until January – Need top highlight this to the Primary Care Team
* Capacity in services – what level of capacity and can it be maintained – it is highly likely there will be reductions in intake numbers for September
* Mental Health Issues is emerging for parents and children – Counselling, Meitheal and YPAR Fast Track Counselling are all avenues to support families. There are some difficulties with meeting families/parents face to face. YPAR are endeavouring to compile a list of possible meeting spaces large enough to aloe for physical distance meetings.
* Eleonora linking in with lead practitioners of to support the convening of Meitheals. Practitioners should contact Eleonora if they have a family needing interagency support.
* ELI continuing Summer programme and are hoping other programmes will also run through the summer
* NYP1 still working remotely but are hopeful they will be moving into temporary premises at Liberty Corner in the next few weeks. They will continue to do family day outings and possibly respite outing to Cavan centre when it is back operating
* Hill Street – Opening next week. Will be running 3 summer camps first 2 weeks and last week in July. Will be primarily (weather permitting) doing outdoor activities
* School Meals finish this week – Nothing has been put in place at present to offer a continuity of these services. YPAR has been lobbying the local politicians and Government to extend the school meals over the summer.
* It was suggested that Vouchers for food would be a more ethical and respectful way to offer support to families. This was discussed at the PIB – Statutory agencies did not seem to be very support of this approach.

**AOB**

* DCCC – Expression of Interest on web – Service practitioners encouraged to link in to talk through issues.

**Next 0-5 Zoom Meeting Wednesday 156h September 2020 @ 12**