**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**

**2nd February 2021**

**Present:** Evelyn Regan (SWAN), Mairead McDevitt (MCRI), Johanna Visser (Stoneybatter Youth Service), Martin Byrne (Ballybough Youth Service), Elaine Conroy (CDETB Youth Worker), Eric Collins (NYP2), Ellen Osomoku (SW Student Tusla Chidren in Care Team), Justyna Grabiec (SW Student CAMHS), Pat Gates (YPAR), Mary Meehan (YPAR).

**Apologies**

**Check in**

All participant were on Middle to High energy feelings.

**Minutes from 10th November 2020**

* Read and Noted
* Pat gave brief update on the group. Issues arising, home schooling – young people feeling isolated and not linking in with services, there is a lot of fear in the community. There has been a number of violent incidents lately. YPAR continuing to support young people and families.

**Issues arising for Services**

* NYP 2- Doing deliveries of school lunches for the young people. Prioritising work with the most vulnerable young people. Young people with technology difficulties are offered to do their school work in NYP 2 premises.
* Many young people struggling with lockdown. Many are not engaging and are becoming harder to reach.
* Need to focus on linking in with vulnerable YP and responding appropriately to their current needs.
* Critical Incident Group met in relation to the recent violent incident in which a young person was killed. Young person was of Colour but the incident was considered an attempted robbery rather than race motivated.
* Fast track counselling available to any service that needs to access this for a young person. Contact YPAR for further information.
* NEIC programme office – Funding re technology support for young people if needed. Being offered through the Schools. If there is anything else needed to support children in school or during the Covid restrictions such as food or access to other supports contact YPAR for sign posting.

**Working Group Terms of Reference**

* Pat read through few changes to be made – Pat to do and send to group
* Membership of group; Difficult to get agencies and services key to this group to attend. There is a need for Garda representatives, School and any services that have a particular role in supporting the social inclusion and integration of minority ethnic young people and their families.
* Need for HSCL representative – Eric to follow up
* Could look at inviting Outhouse - Outhouse is a LGBT community resource centre for LGBT+
* Group needs to be in a position to inform policy and practice. Normally the group would request annual meetings with Department of Children, Justice and Education to discuss relevant issues.
* Chairperson; Need to look at role of chair – how long is it for. Would be ideal if we have a representative from the minority ethnic community to Chair the group. People from the MI communities are encouraged to put their names forward for Chairperson. Participants are invited to ask others to put their name forward. Will review this at the next meeting.
* Need to look at convening a MI Young People’s seminar. We normally have Seminar/Consultation with MI YP every 3 years. However, this has been interrupted by COVID. Evelyn to convene a sub-group to explore progressing a consultation seminar this year.

**Priority Action for 2021**

* Consultation piece with the young people
* Roma Support need to link in with the Roma Support Group
* Need to ensure that issues for MI young people and issues of racism are constantly on the agendas of local fora.
* Need to lobby to increase the English Language support to young people and families experiencing language barriers. Need to link in with NEIC MI programme and their proposal for funding a panel of translators
* Need to develop cultural understanding and mediation to overcome ignorance and negative reaction to cultural differences. Also link in with the MI Ambassadors initiative.
* NYP2 are looking at a residential in August and have pre booked the Cavan Centre for this time.

**IYC (International Youth Club)**

* Zoom meeting Wednesday’s 5.30 to 6.10 and Saturday 12 to 12.30
* 40 minutes Zoom deemed enough for the young people. Hard to keep attention for longer periods.
* Young people are engaging and people are encouraged to ask young people to check in.
* Activities include Check-ins, conversations on how they are doing, offering support and games and quizzes.
* Offering support for the leaving cert students

**Next Meeting – 23rd March 2021 @ 10am**