**YPAR 0-5 Working Group Zoom Meeting Minutes 13th January 2021**

**Present:** Eileen Smith & Alison McCormack (Hill Street FRC) Ann Carroll (CASPr), June Ann Kelly (DCCC), Lesley Strahan (LYCs Crèche), Mark Shinnick (Holy Child Preschool), Paula Mills (NYP1), Joanne Byrne & Megan Dunne (SAOL), Deirdre Lee (St Brigid’s), Ali Pidgeon (ELI), Treasa Cunningham (Larkin Creche), Louise Gillick (St Louise’s), Maria Tyrrell (Larkin Centre), Pat Gates & Mary Meehan (YPAR)

**Minute Taker:** P&M

**Minutes from 18th November 2020 taken as read and noted**

**Check In**

* Mark – Holy Child Preschool - Still unsure on a timeframe for opening.
* Paula – NYP1 working remotely difficult for families. Project has new premises on Foley Street
* Deirdre – St Brigid’s hoping to open Monday – 15 children. Taking referrals.
* Ann – CASPr is still closed at the moment – Maintaining contact with families. Parents and staff anxious – Staff Training has continued inhouse
* Ali –ELI all work is currently being carried out online
* Lesley – LYCS back open – a bit crazy – very few staff – lots of parents looking for places.
* Alison – Hill Street FRC check-in calls to parents – running groups online.
* Joanne - SAOL – Open 9.30 to 4 – Very quiet, low numbers, people are anxious and afraid
* Treasa – Larkin closed at present – Staff uncomfortable to come back – have contacted families re vulnerable and essential worker children’s places
* Louise – St Louise’s closed at present – Doing activity packs for the families – Zooms, Food parcels etc.

**Feedback from meeting with NEIC/DCEDIY on the 9th December**

* Coordinator gave a feedback on the meeting from the 9th December with the NEIC Sub-group 6 on identifying the priority early year and childcare provider needs in the NEIC
* Very good attendance and discussion. Good delegation from the 0-5 working group – who met before hand to discuss the key priorities they agreed to bring to the meeting
* Two discussion group came up with similar recommended priorities.
  1. Needs for research to identify the totality of the needs for the sector in the NEIC
  2. Need for access to assessment and one-to-one therapeutic support for the under 3s
  3. Need for development of a DEIS type model for early years informed by the research and needs assessment (1 above)
  4. Support for professional and capacity development of staff in CB Childcare providers.
* The outcome from the meeting was to ask the YPAR 0-5 in partnership with the DCCC to look at key priorities with the aim of bring forward a funding proposal to the NEIC Sub-group 6 & the DCEDIY.

**Working Group Discussion**

* Some members of the 0-5 WG felt that it was unfair to put the responsibility back to YPAR 0-5 to come up with a plan and ask people who are already overburdened to do this work . It was generally recognised the importance of local practitioners on the ground informing investment and programmes to support the early years sector but that it is the responsibility of the State and the NEIC to deliver this.
* The feedback from the YPAR 0-5 had been responsible for the rejection of a couple of early years proposal to NEIC Sub-group 6 and the Chairperson is keen that a more inclusive and transparent process in used going forward. Given that YPAR does convene a lot of the providers and practitioners it is hoped that they in conjunction with DCCC can develop a proposal that would progress the issues for early years in the NEIC.
* The NEIC have agreed that they would offer some technical assistance to help the group come up with proposals.
* In relation to the development of a DCCC representative pointed out that there has been wide spread consultation re input into further funding model for early years lead by Una Fleming in the Department. Looking at a National generic type DEIS model and that it is unlikely they will allow a separate model for the NEIC
* The YPAR 0-5 should have some input into this. It was also stated that if the model is a one size fits all it is unlikely to meet the needs of the sector in the NEIC. Therefore it will need flexibility to allow it to adopt to local circumstances.
* There is a need for knowledge-based information for a clear understanding of what is needed for this area. That is why we need the research which is also one of the actions in the NEIC Strategic Plan in relation to early years.
* Feedback form the PHS have also highlighted the issues of access top therapy for the children under 3 but crucially the access to assessment which at present has a 24 plus month waiting list. Mark agrees with this and has argued consistently that there should be a City Connects type programme for pre-school and children 3.
* There is a need to expand the Early Intervention and Multi-Disciplinary Teams for early years.
* Department want all services to open for children of essential workers and vulnerable children. Services should be looking for relief staff. Force Majeure leave – has to be done on a weekly basis and evidence provided to Pobal – Need to be able to show you have contacted parents and replies from parents re not sending the children (WhatsApp screenshots to be sent to DCEDIY)
* The Community Based Childcare providers are under huge stress both financially and operationally. The sector in the NEIC needs a radical overall and properly resourced.
* The mainstreaming of the 30 hour Childcare Workers is an essential first step and this needs to be brought to the Chairperson of the NEIC Sub-group 6 to get them to support this and advocate for it with in the DCEDIY.

**Agreed Actions**

* A sub-group would be established to progress the identified priorities that had emerged from the meeting on the 9th December. This group will include the YPAR 0-5 Chairperson Eileen Smith, Mark Shinnick (Holy Child Pre-school), Maria Tyrrell (Larkin Community Childcare) PHS (to be identified) YPAR Coordinator Pat Gates.
* Issues to ne progressed - Early Years Research including, Early Years DEIS Model, Therapeutic and City Connects Assessment model and the investment in the sustainable professionalisation of the childcare sector in the NEIC (mainstreaming of the 30 hour childcare social employment positions)
* Need to emphasis to the powers that be; that while the YPAR 0-5 Working Group will work with the NEIC and the DCEDIY to inform the development of progressive investment to enhance and sustain the early years sector in the NEIC, it is the responsibility of the state agencies to ensure the equality of families and children in the NEIC to have access to qualitative early years services that enable NEIC children to develop and grow like their counter parts in more affluent areas of the state.

**AOB**

* Vaccinations – PHNs not registered yet re vaccinations. PHNs are on the frontline working with vulnerable families in an area where they are high incidents of Covid-19. They should be prioritised for vaccinations.
* Coordinator also give the apologies of the PHS for their none attendance at the WG meetings as they are flat out working with families due to the current pandemic.
* Childcare workers number 11 on the list for vaccination.
* Joanne will be attending Pobal User Forum and if there is anything people would like her to bring forward to this forum please let her know.
* DCYA Compliance Training to take place – Contact June Ann if you are interested in attending

**Next 0-5 Zoom Meeting Wednesday 24th March 2021 @ 12pm**