**YPAR 14s – 24s Hard to Reach Youth Working Group Zoom Meeting Minutes**

**9th March 2021**

**In attendance:** Aoife O’Regan (SWAN), Sheena O’Brien (Cavan Centre), Jonathon Dowling (Belvedere Youth Service), John Farrelly (CDETB), Dwayne Horace (Crinan), Stephanie Cleary (HAY), Tom Farrell (HSCL OCS), Charlie Armstrong (Garda), Greg McGovern (JLO), Deirdre O’Neill (JLO), Amy White & Ciara Murphy (Ballybough Youth Service), Daniel Rawat (Bradog), Sile Loughrey (Probation), Shane Boyne (DCC), Anto Corcoran (NYP 2), Eileen Vaughan & Lisa Graham (East Wall Youth Service), Aoife Reilly (Garda Community Policing), John Peelo & Elizbeth Walsh (NYP1), James Callaghan (ASP), Aine (Chair Larkin College), Mark Harding (CDYSB), Geraldine O’Driscoll (Ozanam House), Brid McMahon (Roosmini), Anne Murray, Melanie ??, Pamela Devereux, Pat Gates, Frank Mulville & Mary Meehan (YPAR)

Apologises: Maire Higgins (Larkin College),

**Update On Workshop and Consultation Report**

* YPAR Coordinator gave brief feedback from the Hard-to-Reach Report that was produced from the youth services Consultation Workshops with parents and young people and the Partitioners Workshops 16th February. Everyone who participated were thanked for their contributions.
* The Report was sent to the NEIC Programme office and forwarded to Department of the Taoiseach. The DoT requested further information on the specifics Services could deliver and what they needed to help and enable them to extend their services.
* It is hoped that the various funders would liaise with their funded projects to assess their needs and examine what is possible to offer young people by way of support and activities.
* It was agreed that when and where possible large venues and open spaces should be opened to enable youth projects provide activities for their young users.

**Updates from Services**

* **DCC** have put together a pilot initiative in partnership with SWAN and Belvedere YC to look at opening up some activities. Bruce McDevitt (DCC) is working on getting East Wall Water Sports open.
* **SWAN** has been running small groups since last week. Lucky that they have a large enough venue to accommodate this.
* **Adventure Sport North Strand** – Daniel contacting Willy Whelan to see if it is possible to open the Adventure Sports facilities at North Strand. There may be an issue with his insurance cover which may only cover the summer period. Daniel has been in contact with Willie and they are willing to open if they can get a derogations to open.
* **Ballybough Youth Service –** Will be using the prefab and outdoor pitch for small groups and will be engaging in Cavan Centre Breakout programme
* **NYP2.** There is are letter from Minister for Children advising youth services they can open up for small numbers. Anto to email letter to Aoife. We need to get sports facilities opened up for groups of 6.
* If projects have identified spaces let Pat know and he will bring it to the attention of NEIC/DCC. Any barriers and blockages to opening up also let us know

**Response to Knife Crime & Violence**

* Due to the rise in tensions, anti-social activities, increase knife violence the NEIC are seeking proposals on anti-knife and anti-violence programmes.
* Many of the identified actions in the Hard to Reach Report was an endeavour by this group to directly address this issue. We recognise that there is no simple solution to this issues and we need to look at long-term solutions that offer positive sustainable changes in the lives of many of our young people caught up in fear, crime, drugs, violence etc.
* However, there are a number of additional suggestions the group would make in building awareness to combat the fear and the reasons why young people may be carrying knifes.
* Need for Anti Violence, Anti knife crime training. There is a need for creative and attractive diversionary activities that will attract and reward young people.
* Could we link in with universities to explore possible options and anti-knife diversions.
* Look at training from Scotland and the Islandic model.
* We need to be running programmes with the young people – need to identify a preventative and consistent and common approach.
* SWAN street work team did self-care workshop with Aoife Bairead and found this very useful. Need for trauma informed and restorative approach.
* Dwayne has had some contact with the Causeway Cultural Exchange – Lewisham England. He will try to get information and pass it on to the group
* Sile – Probation looking at knife crime programme. They hope to be in a position to put a proposed programme for local services to Government.
* There is a need to align and reinforce programmes such as Restorative Practice, ACES, Trauma Informed, Garda and young people’s dialogue. Need to build on and extend these connections.
* Anto – Look at Scottish model re training and awareness. The Department of Education should roll out an anti-knife awareness programme in schools. They have access to all the children and young people. If necessary this could be done in partnership with the Garda and Youth Services.
* Shane – Community Safety Partnership – DCC and Department of Justice will be rolling out the CSP in the North Inner City. This is a partnership and integrated services approach and will involve local residents in the planning and delivery of community safety.
* Charlie – Community Safety Partnership – onus on Garda to put in place safety plans working with the community in each area.

**Actions**

* Look at setting up a sub-group to look at possible anti-knife & violence proposal for the NEIC
* Services to reflect over the next few days and get their ideas into YPAR.
* Aoife, Mary and Pat will collate the ideas and look to putting together a proposal to the NEIC to complement existing activities.
* Projects to send thoughts and ideas in by Friday 12th March

**Alignment of Youth Services**

* There has been a series of meetings held to discuss how best to align services to young people. The goal is to be able to create a more effective and responsive integration of services to young people and their families. To date we have had great support and collaboration from all the youth services.
* A Researcher has been employed to look at the youth services in the area and identify the gaps and blocks (out of hours service, street work) and come up with a first draft of an alignment plan.
* To help the researcher in her endeavours we are asking the local youth services and projects in the NEIC to support and enable her do this work by supplying her with key information in relation to your services programmes and activities. Eibhlin (SWAN YS) had sent an email to all projects on the 12th February which explains this further. The success of this piece of work will rely on the cooperation and participation of the youth services in the area.

**Emerging Issue**

* Frank (YPAR) – Looking at doing a review and learning piece on the supports and links re the 3 young people involved in recent homicides in the area. Exploring the background to why it happened, review of supports and what services were a part of these young people’s lives.
* Frank to do up a one pager on what is needed with the view of what learning could come from it and what gaps could be identified

**Next meeting 30th March 2021 @ 10am by Zoom**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82448747969?pwd=ZFFJZGZDYXBSTnJCNExRakhnb2RVUT09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82448747969?pwd=ZFFJZGZDYXBSTnJCNExRakhnb2RVUT09)