

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

**YPAR Co-ordinator’s Report March 2021**

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| **YPAR Activity** | **Notes/updates** | **By Whom** |
| **Interagency Office Support –** | * YPAR continuing to provide point of contact for information dissemination and information sharing to enable children, youth and family agencies to collaborate to provide support for children and families seeking practical and emergency support. Particularly during the Covid-19 Pandemic. * Supporting the Coordination of access and practical support for vulnerable families such as clothes, furniture, foodetc. | YPAR Administration and Staff |
| **Meitheal & Practice Working Group** | * See YPAR Meitheal and Practice Coordinator Update, March 8th 2021. Below | TUSLA/PPFS  WG and YPAR Staff |
| **0-5 working Group** | * 0-5 working Group working with the DECDIY and the NEIC Sub-group 6 to look at developing support for the Early Years sector and providers. * Looking at a proposal on a number of issues   + Research to identify the totality of the needs for the sector in the NEIC   + Need for access to assessment and one-to-one therapeutic support for the under 3s   + Need for development of a DEIS type model for early years informed by the research and needs assessment   + Support for professional and capacity development of staff in CB Childcare providers (mainstreaming of the 30 hour social employment workers) * Group are waiting for a meeting to be agreed with DECDIY and the DCCCC to progress this initiative. | DCYA and DC Childcare Committee |
| **5-12 working Group** | * Group has bad an application through the NEIC to PEC to help the WG develop a funding proposal to look at a comprehensive after schools strategy in the NEIC. * The After School initiative will be progressed in partnership with the schools, Community Childcare projects and City Connects. | 5-12 Working Group |
| **I-YPAR** | **Issues the group are focusing on**   * The group is hoping the hold a I-YPAR seminar this autumn. The group is planning a number of workshops in August and hope to take a group of IYP to the Cavan Centre for an activities and consultation residential. * There are ongoing issues with English language for some IYP and in particularly but not exclusively the ROMA YP. * IYP living in homeless accommodation is also very concerning. | I-YPAR, SWAN YS, NYP2 Schools |
| **Roma Practical Support Group** | * Roma Group See YPAR Meitheal and Practice Coordinator Update, March 8th 2021. Below |  |
| **Youth Mental Health Working Group** | * The anecdotal reports that Covid is having a serious impact on young people particularly adolescents. The YPAR Hard to Reach consultation document has confirmed this. Many local services continue to offer services on-line and remotely and are reporting that many children are experiencing anxiety, stressed, eating disorders and an increased aggression leading to violence. * The Group are planning a meeting of Senior NEIC mental health Manager to explore how we can enhance the alignment of MH services and in particular how we can reduce the waiting lists for assessment and referral to services. * Young mothers finding this lock down particularly difficult particularly if they are double jobbing and support their children in on-line learning. * City Connects and the Multi-Disciplinary Team endeavouring to carry out assessment on children. Difficult under Covid.  Worries about families where addiction is a issues and how they are accessing support. * Other action include; NVR, ACEs Film, Restorative Practice & Parenting, Practitioner Mindfulness, Mental Health Flag and Supporting the Meitheal. | YPAR, NYP1, Camhs, Teen Counselling, NEIC Initiative, Schools, Youth Services |
| **Hard To Reach Working Group** | * Hard to Reach group met intensively over the January and February period. They carried out consultations with young people on how they were feel at present given Covid and the recent spike in violence and crime in the NEIC. * The Group produced a report which recommended a number of actions that the Government should implement to address some of the identified issues by young people, their parents and service practitioners. * The Report we circulated to SC members, local Politicians, the NEIC PIB and the Taoiseach’s Office. * We have had very positive feedback and local services are liaising with their funders and local Agencies such as the schools and DCC to identify outside spaces that can be opened to enable youth services offer group activities to young people. * One of the predominant issues to emerge from the report was young peoples fear of knife crime and the Hard to Reach Working Group are looking at developing a programme in the schools in response to this. | YPAR Hard to Reach Working Group |
| **Homeless Working Group** | * See YPAR Meitheal and Practice Coordinator Update, March 8th 2021. Below | YPAR Homeless Working Group |
| **NEIC Initiative** | * Involvement in NEIC Sub-Groups * Development of early years strategy * Facilitating the delivery of the Fast-track Counselling service funded by the NEIC PIB * Supporting the Development of an integrated and holistic social development strategy for the communities living around Liberty Park. * Development of a Coordinated Mental Health Strategy * Developing integrated support for parents * Developing an integrated strategy to support the coordination of community and youth services. * Support the delivery of the City Connects in Primary Schools * Programmes YPAR are facilitating the delivering on behalf of the NEIC   + NEIC Critical Incident Initiative   + NEIC Initiative Counselling Hours   + NEIC Youth Leadership Programme   + NEIC After School Research Initiative   + Integration and alignment of Youth Service activities | NEIC Initiative |
| **Other Work Activities** | * In response to the recent violence and fatal knife incidents, the YPAR Coordinator as the YPAR Representative on the NEIC Community Coalition Conveners Group has been meeting with Coalition colleagues representatives of Government; the Taoiseach, Minister of Justice, Minister for Children, Minister for Finance, all out local TDs, rrepresentatives from the Garda; Chief Superintendent Store Street, Assistant Garda Commissioner and the new Chairperson of the Community Safety Partnership. We were urging actions in relation to current situation and the fear of crime in the community. The need to have a new policing strategy and to have more visibility of Garda on the ground to ease the concerns and fear of local residents. We have had very supportive responses in our meeting. However, it remains to be seen if there will be any change in the current strategy or investment in crime prevention, removing the scourge of drug selling on our streets and programmes to build awareness of anti- violence and anti-knife crime. * Managing the delivery and finances of YPAR programmes funded by external agencies. * YPAR continues to participate in CYPSC structures * Working with the CDYSB Youth Services Network. * Maintaining financial and administration governance of YAPR. | YPAR Staff and SC |
| **Funding & Finances** | * **The Finance Committee continue to review the YPAR Finance Policy and Procedures and the MoU with ICON.** * **They will also review the contracts of the two YPAR Staff** * **Funding for 2021 Core Cost have been secured from CDYSB (€20,000), Tusla (64,250) and IYJS (20,000).**   **YPAR income and expenditure balances to the end of January 2021**  **YPAR Programmes;**   * Impact Small Grants for YPAR WG activities * NEIC Critical Incident Initiative * NEIC Initiative Counselling Hours * NEIC Initiative Hard to Reach Research * NEIC Integrated Service Development * NEIC Youth Leadership Programme * NEIC After School research * Department of Justice Integration Funding I-YPAR   **Programmes Income to the end of January 2021 - € 83,008.91**  **Programmes Expenditure to the end of January 2021- € 6,780.00**  **Programmes Balance to the end of January 2021- € 76,228.91**    **YPAR Core Costs; Wages and Overheads.**  **Core Funders**   * **Tusla (Child and Family Agency)** * **Irish Probation (Youth Justice) Service** * **CDYSB**   **Core Cost Income to the end of January 2021- € 85,533.26**  **Core Cost Expenditure to the end of December 2021 - € 9,554.03**  **Core Cost Balance to the end of January 2021 - € 75,979.23**  **YPAR Account Balance Total end of January 2021 - € 152,208.14** | **YPAR Staff** |
| **YPAR 2021 Financial Income and Expenditure Projections** | **Project income for 2021 - 114,250.00**  **Projected Expenditure 2021 - 116,951.88**  **Short fall 2021 I&E - 2,701.88**  **Current Reserves - 29,908.26**  **Targeted Reserves for 2021 - 29,237.97**  **Projected Funding in Bank End of 2021 - 27,206.38** |  |

**Patrick Gates**

**YPAR Coordinator**

**March 2021**

**YPAR Meitheal and Practice Coordinator Update, March 8th 2021.**

**Meitheals**

Review of Meitheals was carried out, on Zoom, with two groups of people who have been involved in Meitheals to date, by Eleonora Sozzi, CFSNC, and myself. Key strengths and recommendations were identified, some can be locally adapted and others will be ned the attention of TUSLA. In general, it was seen as very positive, feedback will be made available in the next few weeks.

Some very difficult and distressing experiences for families at present, even with support from a range of experienced workers, are ongoing, and in the most part being held virtually, mainly on Zoom.

The change is staff across the network since last June has been an issue.

**Meitheal Briefings**

Eleonora has provided a number of Meitheal briefings with people interested in working on Meitheals, with some interest in beginning to use the model. This has helped address the change in staff, see above.

**Counselling and Psychotherapy**

Requests have been very high in the past months, with concerns such as anxiety and loss the most common concerns, though the level of distress is generally higher that in pre-Covid times.

As usual every counselling request involves a discussion about wider needs, and where useful Meitheal is considered.

Funding has been provided by the NEIC for a further period.

Music therapy is now available, as well as Drama, Creative Art, Play, Art and Psychotherapy.

Under separate funding people effected by trauma, violence, criminal acts and homicide, counselling/trauma support is also available

**CYPSC Protected and Safe from Harm Sub-Group**

Frank attends these meetings, every two months, on behalf of YPAR, minutes are available.

**Critical Incident Response group**

Ongoing support is provided through this group to services impacted by violence and critical incidents. Recently following the deaths of a young person and a woman, a service was offered a session with Colleen Browne, Barnardos and Kevin Murphy, Senior Psychologist HSE.

Training for a small group of managers, in Trauma Awareness was also provided in the last few weeks. Further training in Trauma Awareness is being developed in the near future. Although the group is not a YPAR working group, its membership includes members and YPAR staff.

**Support for staff and agencies**

This is ongoing, including requests for information on social work processes, concerns about children, group behaviour and general service information. Present concerns include family conflict, thresholds for child protection, needs of the Roma children, housing, particularly the sub-standard accommodation available to migrant families.

**Children in Emergency Accommodation Working group,** previously the Homeless Working Group.

This group over Christmas provided a number of supports to families, including: activity packs, Santa experience, shoe boxes, vouchers.

**Roma Practical Support group**

His group was organised to look at the educational needs of children from the Roam community. Its membership includes teachers, youth workers, SCPs, DCCC, doctors, homeless services and nurses. The group has shared information between the members, and is putting a proposal for translation services to the NEIC, the fund will also be for services outside of schools and Roma families themselves.

**Brown Bag Lunches**

Next Brown Bag lunch is by Dublin city Council, 25th March, on the housing system.

**Frank Mulville**

**March 2021**