**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**

**23rd March 2021**

**Present:** Evelyn Regan (SWAN), Adekunle Gomez (African Cultural Project), Johanna Visser (Stoneybatter Youth Service), Fiona Neill (HSCL Larkin), Emma Wheatley (NCI), Jo O’Donoghue (Trinity Student), Joy Eniola (NEIC Intercultural Coordinator), Martin Byrne (Ballybough Youth Service), Ellen Osomoku (SW Student Tusla Chidren in Care Team), Pat Gates (YPAR), Mary Meehan (YPAR).

**Apologies:** Mairead McDevitt (MCRI),

**Check in**

Middle to High

**Minutes from 2nd February 2021**

Read and Noted

**Issues arising for I-YP**

* School participation
* Emergency accommodation
* Language and communication
* Access to Language translators

**SWAN** - Trying to increase youth participation – reaching out to the young people to encourage them to engage in youth supports and the International Youth Club

**AdeKunle –** Developing cultural awareness and building on commonalities. Mainly information about Africa. Working with adults and focusing on young people in schools. Developing a ‘Getting to know you’ Programme – sharing information on your culture – seeing what is the same or different interculturally. How do we embrace our sameness or difference

**Stoneybatter YS- -**Dublin 7 community very international – Have referred young people to the I-YC

Working on art project at the moment which will be exhibited in the National Art Museum

**ELI RP** - Working with organisations in the area who work with the young people in schools and projects to build Restorative Practice. Have ran a virtual listening circle for Leaving cert students around hopes, issues. 3 international young people attended the listening circle

**Larkin CC** - Larkin College have 400 students – 30 different nationalities. One of the main issues is school attendance.

**Ballybough YS** - Looking at expanding engagement with international young people in the Ballybough area

**NEIC Intercultural Project** - Language and engagement are problematic. Racial tensions

School and language support. Need to look at new intakes in schools for September

**Seminar and I-YPAR Consultation**

* The Group have agreed to work towards a I-YPAR Seminar in the Autumn Covid notwithstanding.
* We need to consult with young people to plan going forward
* Looking at August for a residential in the Cavan Centre
* Not possible at the moment re covid restrictions
* The idea for the seminar is to bring policy makers and young people and their parents together to listen to the issues they are facing

**Consultation with I-Young People and Parents**

* Look at doing online focus groups with the young people to discuss their hope, dreams and issues, to bring to the seminar
* Sub-group to look at focus groups – Evelyn to look at dates and come back to group re a possible timeline and questionnaire. Similar to the consultation carried out by the Hard to Reach WG

**Roma Support Group**

* Large population of Roma in the NEIC
* Issues re school participation
* Cultural and Social exclusion issues
* Issue re places in secondary schools for young people leaving primary school
* There is a group looking to find places for all pupils who do not have a place in secondary school
* If you know of any I-YP who do not have a place in second level school contact YPAR with he details.
* Roma translator proposal – has been approved in principle by the NEIC

**English language supports**

* This is still a major issues for some I-YP especially Roma
* DCETB offering English language during summer in community youth projects. Further information contact Jessica Farnham at ETB
* Many of the youth projects would be aware of the supports needed
* NCI looking at the number in the NCI English language support workshops – “English language Café” this is an informal and formal English language discussions.
* We need to map the existing English language support to ensure people are aware of what’s available and to prevent duplication.
* We need to ensure that City Connects are picking up on the language/cultural needs of the children in the primary schools

**International Youth Club**

* IYC is back in the building (St Agatha’s) – operating smaller groups
* Looking to promote and reengage the young people
* Hoping for residential in August
* Summer programme similar to last year – NYP2 and SWAN will facilitate

**Intercultural Ambassadors Programme**

* Develop leaders in the community – 18+ age group
* 16 people – 15 different nationalities have signed up to the programme
* Looking at areas of change
* 2 young people from the International youth club engaged in the process
* Endeavouring to establish a consultative forum
* Contact Joy for more information

**Meitheal & Practice**

* People need to be aware of the Meitheal & Practice as this is a useful tool to support vulnerable young people and parents.
* Meitheal offers a consensual approach to Wraparound support for the families and young people.
* People are encouraged to get to understand the meitheal process and engage with it.

**AOB**

* NCI RP project will be offering an online workshop on self-care and restorative practice on Thursday, April 8th at 10am — it’s open to all community members and professionals. Contact Emma Wheatley for more information

**Next Meeting – 18th May @ 10am by Zoom**