**YPAR 0-5 Working Group Zoom Meeting Minutes 24th March 2021**

**Present:** Eileen Smith & Alison McCormack (Hill Street FRC) June Ann Kelly (DCCC), Lesley Strahan (LYCs Crèche), Mark Shinnick (Holy Child Preschool), Paula Mills (NYP1), Carol Dillon (DCCC), Debbie Keegan (Ozanam House), Regan Fahey (DCCC), Anna O’Connell (HSE), Deirdre Lee (St Brigid’s), Ali Pidgeon (ELI), Geraldine Brennan & Denise (Afterschool Sheriff Street), Louise Gillick (St Louise’s), Pat Gates (YPAR)

**Apologises:** Mary Meehan (YPAR)

**Minute Taker:** P

Minutes and Matters Arising

* Minutes of the 13th January noted and agreed
* PHNs unable to attend due to Covid

**Early Years Research**

* Pat gave a recap on the research proposal of the YPAR 0-5 research
* E-mail from Mark Considine DCEDIY was circulated to the group,
* Seeking for a meeting with the 0-5 WG. Asking the Group to set aside the Research for then present.
* The 0-5 WG have had a long timeline of meeting with the Government and the DCEDIY since the proposal was submitted in 2017.
* National policy not working for the early years we have constantly said this to the Policy makers but they don’t seem to be listening.
* Group not prepared to continually be met with Department as all they seem to want is to by-pass the YPAR Research Proposal.
* We had said in the December meeting ‘don’t ask us to meeting if you are not going to listen and respond positively’.
* Many of the participants expressed disappointment at the response of the DCEDIY.
* Research is 100% important we keep getting pushed back and the research will offer an knowledge and evidenced informed approach to addressing the complexity of the early years sector in the NEIC
* We have to push back from being taken round in circles and the failure to address the underlying issues of the early years sector.
* Each year they delay in addressing this issue is another layer of local children whose’ s developmental needs have been hindered and retarded. It is our children who are losing out here
* We have bent over backwards to accommodate the Department and this is like a slap in the face for all our work.
* Very little investment has gone into early years from the NEIC Initiative. The current model is not fit for purpose and we need a complete rethink for early years in the NEIC.
* The research proposal is still very relevant and fits with the strategy of the NEIC Initiative.
* Not willing to meet to MC until they agree to endorse the YPAR 0-5 Research Proposal to the NEIC PIB
* The reason the Group rejected the DCCC and the ABC proposals to the NEIC was the lack of consultation with the local providers who have many years of experience and also that to avoid a piecemeal and disconnected approach, investments need to be informed by an overall strategy.

**Additional needs that need to be informed by the research include**

* A new early years model for the NEIC that addresses the Supply and Demand (The need for additional places to meet the current demand e.g. the 64 childcare places that were lost in the North Wall area of the NEIC)
* The urgent need for access to therapeutic support of children under 3 years of age
* The provision of technical support for providers, such as training and mentoring of Childcare Boards of Management, Managers, and Workers

**Summary**

* The Working Group agreed that we want the research proposal supported and funded by the PIB. We want to inform National Policy. The Group are very happy and willing to work with DCCC re the other possible supports; disability and psychological supports, trauma and resilience training etc. This is a prevention and early intervention at an early stage in the lives of children and is essential to give them a early start in life.
* YPAR 0-5 WG and Early Years should have a representative on the NEIC Sub-group 6 as they seem to be the group dealing with this issues. Eileen to write to sub-group 6 and let them know that Maria Tyrrell will represent this group on Sub-group 6.

**Sharing information**

* Treasa has had a new baby. Maria was asked to offer Treasa the congratulation of the 0-5 Working Group.
* NYP WhatsApp
* ELI have a dad’s baby massage course Saturday 15th April
* Hill Street prep for pre-school starting next week
* Presentation by HSE Disability Service at next meeting

**Next 0-5 Zoom Meeting 26th May 2021 @ 12**