

Fourth Meeting of the Children and Young People Working Group

Friday, 21 September 2007

Members present: Sorcha McKenna (c) ,

Anna Lo,

Lindsay Conway,

Sue Ramsey

Apologies: Paddy Kelly, and Paula Bradshaw.

Guest Speaker: Goretti Horgan

Start of meeting delayed until 11am to accommodate one member.

Update for members

- In response to the lack of attendance at the Women, Children & Young People working group and the subsequently small membership of the sub groups Chris Sidoti decided to formally split the group into two separate working groups each to comprise of ten members. This proposal was sent to the Forum members for approval with responses to be received by 26th Sept.
- Rather than hold up the work of the working group Sorcha and Margaret agreed to proceed on the basis of our existing sub groups until a formal decision had been taken by the Forum.
- Forum members were also asked to nominate new members to the women and children working groups to ensure ten members in each.
- In discussions with the Secretariat Sorcha strongly requested that any new members appointed to the Children's WG have a strong commitment to the process as well as

Next meeting for the Children's' WG will be held at 10:30am , 5th Oct, Interpoint. 1

Fourth Meeting of the Children and Young People Working Group

Friday, 21 September 2007

to children's rights in particular. In addition Sorcha asked that new members both have a professional or voluntary background in children's issues and a willingness to bring themselves quickly up to speed on existing international standards. Sorcha also pointed out the serious gender imbalance in the current membership and requested that forum members consider this when making nominations. These requests were to be expressed to the Forum and considered by the secretariat etc when approving new members to the WG.

- The Secretariat advised Sorcha that as yet no human rights advisor has been appointed to the children's working group. A number of suitable candidates were suggested by the children's sector and the secretariat was to follow up on this .
- Potential dates for the remaining meetings are as follows;
 - o Fri 5th Oct 10.30-12.30 Interpoint
 - o Fri 19th Oct 1-3pm Children's Law Centre
 - o Fri 9th Nov 1-3pm Interpoint
 - o Fri 23rd Nov 10.30-12.30 Interpoint

It was suggested that the 23rd November be allocated as a full day meeting for the purposes of writing up the final document. An away day was proposed and Sorcha raised this with the Secretariat who were sympathetic to the particular circumstances of both the Women and Children's Working Groups . It was agreed that Sorcha would return to the Secretariat with a plan for an away day to include lunch (no overnight) .

Expert Speaker

- **Goretti Horgan**, UU gave a presentation on the specific circumstances of children in NI with regard for the need for a BoR. (Power point presentation and paper to be circulated).

Next meeting for the Children's' WG will be held at 10:30am , 5th Oct, Interpoint. 2

Fourth Meeting of the Children and Young People Working Group

Friday, 21 September 2007

- Goretti engaged in discussion with members of the group around a number of specific issues including poverty, access to personal and social services, education, mental health, and youth justice.

Members Assignments for 21st sept

- **Lindsay** gave a brief oral presentation on his assigned topic of education. He highlighted gaps in the NIHRC base document as well as drawing on existing international and regional standards on access and provision.
- Lindsay's recommendations will be emailed to Sorcha by Tuesday for circulation to the rest of the WG.
- **Sue** gave a brief presentation on her assigned topic of health including mental health which identified gaps in the 2001 NIHRC document in particular around provision of mental health services and early intervention/prevention services.
- Sue's recommendations will be emailed to Sorcha by Tuesday for circulation to the rest of the WG.
- **Anna** was unable to present on her assigned topic of migrant workers/asylum seekers/refugees as she had not received the email with materials.
- Anna will review the material and email her recommendations to Sorcha by Tuesday for circulation to the rest of the WG.
- **Sorcha** briefly discussed the issue of sexual exploitation which had not been dealt with by the 2001 NIHRC document. Drawing from international standards namely the UNCRC and Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography she suggested either to include the issue under a general protection provision or as a separate issue.
- Sorcha will email her recommendations to the rest of the WG by Tuesday.
- Both **Paddy** and **Paula** were absent and so will be asked to email suggestions to Sorcha by Tuesday for circulation.

Next meeting for the Children's' WG will be held at 10:30am, 5th Oct, Interpoint. 3

Fourth Meeting of the Children and Young People Working Group

Friday, 21 September 2007

ACTIONS

1. Members to email suggested venues for away day to Sorcha.
2. Members to email recommendations as per assignments to Sorcha by 5pm Tuesday 25th.
3. Sorcha to collate recommendations and circulate to WG group members by 5pm Thursday 27th.
4. Members are asked to read recommendations and highlight any further gaps or issues to be raised in advance of discussions to be held on 5th Oct where an attempt will be made to agree on the draft content of several provisions.
5. Sorcha to circulate relevant materials in respect of new assignments (see below) to all members by Friday 28th.
6. Members to prepare written response to new assignment, email to Sorcha by 4th Oct and prepare to give a brief (5min) oral presentation to the WG on Oct 5th.
7. Sorcha to circulate Goretti's presentation to WG members.

Date of Next Meeting

Fri 5th Oct 10.30-12.30 Interpoint

Next meeting for the Children's' WG will be held at 10:30am, 5th Oct, Interpoint. 4