



Purpose	National Action Plan for Childminding – Steering Group – Meeting 2
Date	1 st December 2021
Venue	Webex
	Minutes
Attendance	In attendance: Sharon Boles (DCEDIY), Saoirse Brady (Children’s Rights Alliance), Anne-Marie Brooks (Chair, DCEDIY), Clare Downey (National Parents Council Primary), Michelle Grant (Childminding Development Officer, Westmeath County Childcare Committee), Graeme McAlister (Scottish Childminding Association), Fiona McDonnell (Tusla EY Inspectorate), Martina McGovern (Better Start), Sinéad Moran (Childminder), Bernadette Orbinski Burke (Childminding Ireland), Treasa Quigley (Childcare Committees Ireland), Becky Sullivan Lynch (Childminder), Toby Wolfe (DCEDIY). Secretariat: Amy O’Riordan (DCEDIY) Apologies: Marc Bailie (Department of Health, Northern Ireland)

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Matters Arising

It was noted that a shortened meeting would be held, mainly comprising of updates as there is no documentation required to be reviewed.

The TOR were accepted.

Discussion took place regarding advance circulation of documents. It was agreed that one week’s notice will remain, and additional time will be given where possible.

It was noted that a standing agenda item on Updates on Related Policy Issues will be included on future agendas.

DCEDIY provided an update on the Workforce Plan (WP) which is due to launch on the week beginning Monday 6th December. Some of its commitments have an impact on childminding and are in line with the NAPC.

The OECD Country Policy Review, which gives a strong endorsement to the approach set out in the NAPC, is due to launch on 2nd December.

A report by the Expert Group on the new funding model will also be published on the week beginning Monday 6th December.

Actions: The finalised version of the TOR will be circulated.

A link to the OECD Country Policy Review will also be disseminated.



Advisory Group Updates

○ Training and Supports Advisory Group

The Training and Supports Advisory Group have convened twice, with the most recent meeting held on 29th November.

The WDP Childminding sub-group had previously developed a Role Profile for a Childminder as well as a proposal for Foundation Training. Both documents are being used as a basis for the Training and Supports Advisory Group to reflect and build on.

It was agreed that the Role Profile of a Childminder should be finalised first before working on the proposal for Foundation Training. This document is being revised and will be submitted to the Advisory Group again for additional feedback and a third draft is due to be completed before Christmas.

Action: The Role Profile of a Childminder document will be brought to the Steering Group for review in Q1 2022.

○ Stakeholder Engagement, Communications & Consultation Advisory Group

The Stakeholder Engagement, Communications & Consultation Advisory Group has been established and one meeting has been held, with a second scheduled for 13th December. There is clear recognition of the challenge of engaging childminders, especially those who have not engaged previously.

The Advisory Group supported the Steering Group's decision to wait until there is a concrete message to communicate before engaging in further communication actions.

An initial proposal will be brought to the Advisory Group's next meeting for a Request for Tender for the development of a strategy for stakeholder engagement, communications and consultation.

NAPC Workplan 2022: Presentation by National Coordinator

A presentation was made on proposed actions for 2022 as follows:

Work will begin on the development of childminding-specific regulations upon the establishment of the Regulation and Inspection Advisory Group in spring 2022.

A Funding and Financial Supports Advisory Group will be established to consider the potential redesign of the Childminding Development Grant and other financial supports.

A Stakeholder Engagement, Communication and Consultation Strategy will be developed.

The Foundations Training programme will be developed and is planned to commence in Q3.

It was noted that timelines are provisional.

Action: Presentation will be shared with the Steering Group.

AOB

GMCA informed the Steering Group of the "Early Learning and Childcare Audit 2021" that was recently published by the Scottish Childminding Association. Among other findings, the report highlights significant exit of childminders from the sector in Scotland over recent years (26% fall in numbers over 5 years).



As TQ has been appointed National Childminding Lead for the City and County Childcare Committees, a replacement representative from CCI will be selected for the Steering Group. TQ will in future attend some Steering Group meetings as part of the NAPC implementation team.

Action: GMcA will send a copy of the Scottish Childminding Association report to be circulated. GMcA was invited to present the report at the next Steering Group meeting as an agenda item.

Dates for meetings 2022

9th February has been proposed as the tentative date for the next meeting.

It was suggested that meetings are rescheduled to Wednesdays from 5pm for 2022.

Action: A schedule of dates for 2022 will be issued.