



Purpose	National Action Plan for Childminding – Steering Group – Meeting 3
Date	9 th February 2022
Venue	Webex
	Minutes
Attendance	In attendance: Sharon Boles (DCEDIY), Saoirse Brady (Children’s Rights Alliance), Anne-Marie Brooks (Chair, DCEDIY), Áine Brummell standing in for Karen O’Sullivan (CCI), Clare Downey (National Parents Council Primary), Michelle Grant (Regional Childminding Development Officer)), Graeme McAlister (Scottish Childminding Association), Fiona McDonnell (Tusla EY Inspectorate), Martina McGovern (Better Start), Sinéad Moran (Childminder), Bernadette Orbinski Burke (Childminding Ireland), Becky Sullivan Lynch (Childminder), Toby Wolfe (DCEDIY). Invited speaker: Rachael Ryan (Regional Childminding Development Officer) Secretariat: Niall Traynor (DCEDIY) Apologies: Marc Bailie (Department of Health, Northern Ireland)

1. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. Matters Arising

Treasa Quigley has taken up the role of CCC Lead for the CMDOs. She has been replaced as the CCI rep on the Steering Group by Karen O’Sullivan from Cork County Childcare Committee. Áine Brummell from Offaly CCC stood in for Karen O’Sullivan in this meeting as KO’S was unable to attend. This meeting was convened as an additional meeting to the standard quarterly meeting, with a specific focus on review of draft proposals on training and on stakeholder engagement. DCEDIY noted that GMcA had kindly offered to give a presentation on developments in Scotland. The presentation will take place at the next standard quarterly meeting, in March. The next meeting will also revert to the regular agenda items, including updates on progress.

Actions: None.



3. Documents from Advisory Group

○ Childminder Role Profile & Features of Childminder Foundation Training

Rachael Ryan (Regional Childminding Development Officer and member of the Training and Supports Advisory Group) joined the meeting as a guest speaker to present the work of the Advisory Group on role profile and features of the foundation training programme.

RR gave a presentation on the work of the Training and Support Advisory Group, noting its membership, and the approach it took to developing proposals for a Role Profile of a Childminder – to form a basis for development of the planned training programme – and Features of a Foundation Training programme.

Members of the Steering Group provided feedback after the presentation. It was noted that, even though the documents are internal (for the purpose of helping to design the training programme) and not intended for public communications, care was nevertheless needed to avoid language that could be misinterpreted and to make explicit principles that are set out in the National Action Plan for Childminding (e.g. that recognition of prior learning should be built into training programmes, and that training programmes should be significantly smaller in scale than a major Level 5 award). It was also noted that the title of the training programme needs further consideration. It was agreed that detailed feedback can be sent to DCEDIY by 15th February.

The Training and Support Advisory Group will examine the feedback and then come back to the Steering Group with a revised role profile and foundation training plan for discussion at the 9th March Steering Group meeting.

Action: Members who wish to provide feedback should do so to AO'R by 15th February.

○ Draft Request for Tenders for a Stakeholder Engagement, Consultation & Communications Strategy

SB gave a presentation on the work of the Advisory Group on Stakeholder Engagement, Consultation and Communications, noting its membership, and the approach it took to developing a draft Request for Tenders for a Stakeholder Engagement, Consultation and Communications Strategy.

There was discussion of the proposal. The importance of building on engagement and communications that are already undertaken through existing structures was noted.

It was also noted that the Advisory Group's Terms Of Reference states that the Advisory Group will continue to engage with the consultants throughout the development of the strategy, and that in addition, the consultants would be expected to meet with key stakeholders.

It was agreed that amendments would be made to the Draft Request for Tenders to reflect the experience already available in the childminding sector in relation to stakeholder engagement, consultation and communications, and that DCEDIY would then proceed with a issuing a Request for Tenders.

Action: DCEDIY to amend the Draft Request for Tenders and proceed with the tendering process.



4. AOB

It was noted that there is inconsistency between CCCs in presentation of voluntary notified childminders on CCC websites. DCEDIY agreed to raise the issue with the CCCs.

SB provided an update on the next phase of the Little Libraries book bags programme. Last year the Minister announced a collaboration with Libraries Ireland on the Little Libraries programme. Book bags were provided to centre-based and school age childcare services and registered childminders to support them in building their resources and linking with libraries. DCEDIY is now extending the programme so that all childminders, registered and unregistered, can access the programme. The Minister will launch this latest stage in the initiative in early March and the Department is currently working with colleagues in CCCs and CMI and the regional childminding development officers in preparation.

It was agreed that the CCC Childminding Lead (Teresa Quigley) would attend future quarterly meetings to provide a regular update on the work of the Childminding Development Officers. This update will be added to the agenda as a standing item.

Actions: (1) DCEDIY to discuss with CCCs the presentation of voluntary notified childminders on CCC websites. (2) The CCC Childminding Lead would be invited to attend future quarterly meetings to provide an update.

5. Scheduled meeting dates

9th of March has been scheduled as the date for the next meeting.