

## **The Children's Fund**

### **Expert Panel**

#### **Meeting**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

#### **Minutes**

**Attendance (Expert Panel):** Professor Sheila Greene (Chair), Dr. Deirdre Horgan, Professor Saoirse Nic Gabhainn, , Professor Robbie Gilligan, Dr. Karen Smith, Alice Malone, Dr. Noelle Spring

**Secretariat:** Janice Donlon, Assistant Principal Officer, Child Rights Policy Unit, DCEDIY

**Apologies:** Dr.Muireann Ní Raghallaigh

**Guest Speaker:** Anne Pardy HSE

#### **1.2.3Welcome, Minutes and Opening Remarks**

Professor Greene opened the meeting of the expert panel by welcoming all panel members.

Apologies from Dr.Muireann Ní Raghallaigh were noted. Minutes from meeting on 30/03 and 25/04 were agreed.

The Chair welcomed Anne Pardy Programme Manager National Healthy Childhood Programme HSE to present to the panel

#### **4. Presentation**

Anne Pardy provided a presentation on the National Healthy Childhood Programme and wraparound community supports. Following the presentation there was a questions and answer session with the panel. Much of the discussion centred on the home visiting programme and the potential for sustaining and further growth of these programmes. The Chair thanked Anne for her presentation and time and she was excused from the remainder of the meeting.

#### **5. Discussion #1**

##### **Establishing and agreeing on criteria for fund**

The Chair began a discussion on establishing criteria for the fund. It was agreed that the criteria should set out the principles of being evidence based, rights orientated and participative. There was also a discussion on the ability to support sustainability of a programme and the potential to support scalability. It was also clarified that the term evidence based was intended to cover both the need

and the initiative in question. It was also noted that the criteria should be broad enough to be able to cover a range of uses of the fund both now and into the future. It was also noted that there should be some consideration of the funding being available to fill a gap and be capable of leveraging long-term funding. The potential to advance knowledge and/ or understanding should also be explored as part of the criteria.

The Chair also reminded the group of the connection to the Mother and Baby Homes and that the criteria should be reflective and resonates with the survivors in some way.

## **6. Discussion #2-**

### **How the panel will develop proposals;**

### **Information required to build proposals?**

A discussion then took place on potential uses of the fund particularly around the area of home visiting and supporting young parents of young children. It was discussed that whilst these programmes may not be able to specially target this cohort the nature of these programmes mean they naturally end up supporting a wide range of parents some of which would come from the cohort previously identified. The potential to use this fund to leverage mainstream funding was discussed, risks with this approach were also identified if mainstreaming could not be achieved. The ability to use the fund to stabilise some existing home visiting programmes was discussed and a discussion was had on using some of the funding towards stabilising and some towards innovating. In addition to home visiting, the potential use of libraries nationwide was noted as an opportunity that should be explored further. It was also decided that ~~that evidence~~that evidence into the potential use of family resource centres should be gathered.

The Chair suggested that members do some further research on areas of interest in order to help shape proposals for use of the fund further. It was also suggested that each panel member would map out the areas they suggest for the use of the Children's Fund and bring this to the next meeting. Professor Nic Gabhainn agreed to look into the potential use of libraries, Dr. Spring agreed to speak with Anne Parry again particularly around the potential for home visiting. The Chair indicated she would approach the chair of the Home Visiting Alliance in order to gather further information on needs and resource requirements. .

The Chair agreed to hold a further online meeting prior to the final in person meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> June, the Secretariat agreed to issue a doodle poll for this meeting.

## **7. Next steps and next meeting dates**

It was agreed that the panel would hold an additional meeting (online), a doodle poll will be issued by the Secretariat

The next and final in person meeting will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

**Actions**

Action	Person
Information on use of libraries	Professor Saoirse nic Gabhainn
Further discussion with Anne Pardy	Dr. Noelle Spring
Discussion with Chair of Home Visiting Alliance	Chair
Doodle Poll for online meeting t	Secretariat
Mapping out of ideas where fund should be spent	All Panel Members