

## **The Children's Fund**

### **Expert Panel**

### **Meeting**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Via Webex**

### **Minutes**

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

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

**In attendance:** Karen Kiernan, Louise Bayliss, Stephen Moffatt representing National One Parent Family Alliance (NOPFA)

#### **1. Welcome/Introductions**

The Secretariat opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance. A round of introductions were made and it was noted that the Chair was having difficulty in accessing the online meeting and that the meeting should progress to agenda item 2 with a presentation from the National One Parent Family Alliance.

#### **2. Presentation**

A PowerPoint presentation was provided by NOPFA and is available to be shared with all panel members. The presentation covered the origins of NOPFA as an alliance, legacy issues for one parent families and the priorities for 2023.

#### **3. Opening remarks from Chair/Questions and Answers session with NOPFA following presentation**

The Chair thanked NOPFA for their presentation and provided some background information on the origins of the Children's Fund and outlined the role of the expert panel.

The panel were then invited to ask any questions of the invited guests.

A question came from the panel on the makeup of a coordinator type role that NOPFA discussed in their presentation. It was noted by NOPFA representatives that they would see this role as a mix of advocacy, campaign and policy.

A query came from the panel as to whether there was any specific information or needs identified with younger lone parents? NOPFA indicated that this wasn't a group they were looking at specifically and that the area of teen parents was managed through the Teen Parent Support Programmes which are centrally managed through Treoir.

One final query was put to NOPFA in relation to an issue they identified as a lack of joined up thinking in policy development. NOPFA indicated that the development of an advocacy and coordination role would focus on and be able to progress this issue further.

The Chair thanked the members of NOPFA for their engagement and they were excused from the rest of the meeting.

#### **4. Panel discussion and next steps**

The panel had an open discussion on the presentation and engagement with NOPFA and this brought up a discussion on the need to firmly establish criteria for the fund that purposeful proposals can be formed from.

Noelle Spring informed the meeting of a discussion she had with Anne Pardy of the Child Health Programme in HSE. There are a number of priorities and programmes of work under Child Health that the panel are interested in hearing about.

It was agreed that the panel would invite Anne to present on specific vulnerabilities that are present for the young children of lone parents within the area of child health. This will allow the panel to gain insight into the wider landscape with the aim of identifying gaps and potential opportunities as it may relate to the target beneficiaries.

The secretariat noted existing commitments on dedicated child health workforce under First Five and that there may be work underway on specific actions. The secretariat agreed to circulate any relevant material to the panel on related papers/programmes of work in the area of child health.

The next in person meeting will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 11am-1pm.

#### **Actions**

Action	Person
Circulate relevant papers/information relating to Child Health and any other issues of note	Secretariat
Invitation to Anne Pardy to present to panel	Dr.Noelle Spring