

New Funding Model for ELC and SAC
Expert Group Meeting
Wednesday 24 November 2021
WebEx
9.00 – 12.30
Minutes

Participants:

Michael Scanlan (Chair)
Edward Melhuish
Eva Lloyd
Tove Mogstad Slinde
Tim Callan
Rory O'Donnell
Niamh Callaghan (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform)
Joanne Tobin (Department of Education and Skills)
Anne-Marie Brooks (Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth)
Hazel O'Byrne (Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth)

Gillian Martin (Secretariat, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth)
Andrew Burrows (Secretariat, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth)
Matthew Duffy (Secretariat, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth)
David Carabini (Secretariat, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth)

Present (for relevant parts of meeting):

Roderic O'Gorman TD, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Tom Sheppard, Special Advisor to Roderic O'Gorman, T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Eoin Wilson, Special Advisor to Roderic O'Gorman, T.D., Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Fergal Lynch, Secretary General (Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth)
Toby Wolfe (Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth)

Welcome

The Chair welcomed the Expert Group to the meeting. Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

Adoption of the Expert Group Report

The Chair led the formal adoption of the Expert Group Report, giving members the opportunity to raise any final issues or concerns.

Hazel O'Byrne updated the members on the timeline of events leading to the publication and launch of the Report.

Presentation of the Expert Group Report and Recommendations to the Minister and Secretary General of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth

The Chair welcomed the Minister and Secretary General to the meeting and invited the Expert Group members to introduce themselves. The Chair provided a presentation and overview of the report and recommendations.

The Chair invited Expert Group members to add or emphasise any particular points. Several members of the Expert Group proceeded to amplify the importance of sections of the report in the light of the evidence available. The Chair then invited questions from the Minister and Secretary General, and led the general discussion on the content of the Expert Group Report and its implications for ELC and SAC sector more broadly. There followed discussions of the value of the report for future policy in Ireland.

The Minister and Secretary General of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth thanked the Chair, the members of the Expert Group, and the Secretariat.

First 5 Reform Projects Update

Toby Wolfe gave an overview of the Workforce Development Plan (WDP) report and recommendations, which covered the planning and preparation processes of the WDP, its objectives, the measures set out in the WDP and the potential implications of these on the ELC and SAC sector.

Anne-Marie Brooks then gave an update on the progress of the Joint Labour Committee for the Early Years' Service Sector, and on the timelines of other major Departmental projects and reports, including the 12-Month Review of the NCS and the Review of the Operating Model.

AOB / Close

The Chair thanked the members of the Expert Group and the Secretariat.

The meeting of the Expert Group concluded.