



Purpose	Equal Participation Model – Project Steering Committee – Meeting 3
Date	27 th March 2023
Venue	Webex
	Minutes
Attendance	<p>In attendance: Amy Anderson (DCEDIY, Access and Inclusion Unit), Anne-Marie Brooks (DCEDIY, Chairperson), Áine Brummell (CCI), Mark Considine (DCEDIY, Access and Inclusion Unit), Delia Goodman (Better Start), Fiona Healy (DCEDIY, Access and Inclusion Unit), Kate Levey (DCEDIY, Child Rights Policy Unit), Gillian Martin (DCEDIY, Sector Development Unit), Ryan McKay (DE, Social Inclusion Unit), Helena O’Brien (Tusla, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown CYPSC), Ciara Pidgeon (DCEDIY, Parenting Support Policy Unit), Roshin Sen (DSP)</p> <p>Secretariat: Amy O’Riordan (DCEDIY, Access and Inclusion Unit)</p> <p>Apologies: Louise Butler (Pobal), Micheál Killilea (DE, Social Inclusion Unit), Paul Norris (DSP, Social Inclusion Unit), Joanne Tobin (DE, Early Years Education Policy Unit), Toby Wolfe (DCEDIY, Quality Unit)</p>

Welcome including previous minutes, agenda:

The Chair welcomed all members to the third meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), noting the apologies as list above.

Decision: The minutes from the second meeting were approved.

Action: The minutes will be published online.

Progress update:

The PSC were provided with a short overview of progress since the last meeting.

Overview of Together for Better:

An overview of Together for Better, the new funding model for Early Learning and Care and School -Age Childcare was provided. Together for Better brings together the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme, the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) and Core Funding with the Equal Participation Model (EPM) to be the fourth element of the funding model. All four elements of the model interact and work together to achieve the objectives of accessible, affordability and high quality ELC and SAC.



Semi-structured Interview Findings:

A presentation was delivered on the findings from the semi-structured interviews.

The top issues of disadvantage and main impacts on children that arose in the interviews were discussed.

The barriers to access and participation, and possible supports and solutions were also highlighted.

Action: An email will be issued to PSC members seeking observations on draft EPM consultation report.

Workshop update:

A presentation was delivered on an overview of the planning and preparation for the workshops that have taken place so far, the topics discussed and to be discussed in the first batch of workshops. Some initial feedback from the first workshop was also provided.

Action: A further update on the workshops will be provided in the next meeting.

Meeting close and AOB:

Actions:

- The duration of the in-person PSC meeting in May is to be decided.
- Any suggested guest speakers to speak to the PSC are to be shared with the team.