

## **Terms of Reference – Consultative Forum**

### **1. Purpose**

Tusla's, Early Years Inspectorate Consultative Forum provides an opportunity for relevant representatives and stakeholders to contribute to the on-going reform and development of the Early Years Inspectorate.

### **Aims & Objectives of the Consultative Forum**

- a) To provide advice, recommendations and input where appropriate that will support the functions and operations of the Early Years Inspectorate. It is important to highlight that decisions relating to practice policy and protocols remain within Tusla governance.
- b) To develop and strengthen multiagency and multidisciplinary connections between statutory, voluntary and community agencies working within the early years sector and the Inspectorate.
- c) To facilitate the pooling of knowledge that is representative, relevant and reflective of policy direction, evidence-based practice and current thinking with respect to the inspection and quality assurance mechanisms.
- d) To offer information, advice and input that supports the strategic direction of the Inspectorate.
- e) To support the development of a transparent, robust and quality assured Early Years Inspectorate that ensures better outcomes for children.

### **2. Roles and Responsibilities**

The Early Years Inspectorate Consultative Forum's primary responsibilities include:

- a) The consultation agenda will be set by the National Manager of the Early Years Inspectorate and the allocation of time period required to the agenda item will be set.
- b) Identification of relevant stakeholders to ensure that forum membership is representative of the early years' sector. For operational reasons, the maximum capacity of the group will be limited to 14 members.
- c) Contribution of expertise and knowledge to assist Tusla in the development and review of the early years inspection and regulatory services.
- d) To offer advice, information and feedback from their respective agencies, networks and key stakeholders that will contribute to the development of the Early Years' Inspectorate.



