Abstract for Submission to present at the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre 7th Biennial International Conference: Building Family Support Systems

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Theme: Connecting Child Protection and Family Support Systems

The Differential Response Model – Partnership in Practice

The overall aim of the presentation is to present the Differential Response Model (DRM) in operation in Dublin North and Dublin North City as an effective model which links child protection systems with the implementation of family support practice principles.

The presentation will meet the following objectives:

1) To present the core partnership approach between Tusla and the partner agency the Daughters of Charity Child and Family Services (DoCCFS) and Barnardos in Dublin North and Dublin North City.
2) To identify the positive outcomes of the DRM on meeting the needs of children and families within child protection and family support.

Summary

The presentation will outline the development of the DRM model between Tusla and the DoCCFS from 2010 to date. It will identify how the success of this partnership and collaboration led to the replication of the model in Dublin North City, with the later inclusion of Barnardos as a partner agency in 2012.

A recently published report evaluating the North Dublin DRM model operated by Tusla and DoCCFS entitled ‘North Dublin Differential Response Model – Final Evaluation Report (UNSECO Child and Family Centre, 2015)’ identified that DRM was successful in meeting its aims and identifies the strength for Tusla in working with the partner agency, DoCCFS. The findings of the report, coupled with input from Tusla, DoCCFS and Barnardos will be used as a basis for the presentation.

The presentation will contribute to knowledge and learning in the following ways:

- Presentation of a robust, effective model which is reflective of national policy and the national service delivery framework;
- Presentation of the learning from Tusla and the partner agencies in developing a unified approach to meeting the needs of children and families resulting in positive outcomes.