



## Terms of Reference

### 1 Introduction

The Home Visiting Alliance is a collaboration of 5 Irish evidence-based early childhood home visiting programmes: Community Mothers, Infant Mental Health, Lifestart, ParentChild+ and Preparing for Life. We are motivated by a shared commitment to promoting effective use of home visiting as a mechanism to enhance the health and well-being of children, parents and families. We seek to provide primary prevention and early intervention for prenatal and early childhood through evidence-based home visiting on a national scale and to make early childhood home visiting from pre-birth or during pregnancy an integral service focused on promoting positive outcomes for all children

While each home visiting model is unique in intervention goals and outcomes, aspects of national, regional, and local mechanisms of early childhood home visiting from pre-birth or during pregnancy implementation pertain to all.

### 2 Status of Home Visiting Alliance

The Alliance represents the collective national voice of early childhood home visiting from pre-birth or during pregnancy. It is a space where representatives of each home visiting programme meet to pursue opportunities to inform policymakers, decision-makers, stakeholders, and the media about the positive impact of home visiting on children, parents and families. While recognising that each programme has its own mechanisms and structures, the Alliance's focus is on promoting common messages about home visiting and addressing cross-programme issues in a systematic coherent and collaborative way.

The Alliance is a working group of The Prevention and Early Intervention Network (PEIN) with its own Terms of Reference. It will have a representative on the PEIN Executive, who will keep PEIN informed of the Alliance's activities, including

- Policy/submission/other positions to ensure that they are aligned with PEIN
- Funding proposals to ensure that we are not in competition or working against each other
- Events planned so that there's not two events on the one day etc.

The Alliance will in turn contribute to policy papers and PEIN activities

The Alliance will be the representative body on all early childhood home visiting consultation and other related structures.

### **3 Role of the Home Visiting Alliance**

The purpose of the Home Visiting Alliance is to:

- Promote home visiting from pre-birth or during pregnancy as an essential early years vital service for children, parents and families.
- Support member organisations, collectively and individually, to strengthen and broaden the impact of home visiting in Ireland.
- Contribute to policy development and implementation in relation to early childhood home visiting from pre-birth or during pregnancy and parenting support locally, nationally and internationally.
- Share our common learning at programme, approach, implementation and policy levels.

### **4. Common Principles for Working Together**

- Collaborative, inclusive, strengths-based and welcoming
- Transparency, honesty and openness
- Recognise and respect differences
- Committed to early childhood home visiting from pre-birth or during pregnancy and working together to promote it
- Focus on early childhood home visiting from pre-birth or during pregnancy that enables
  - positive parent-child relationships and interactions
  - improved child developmental outcomes
  - safe healthy home learning environment.
- Sharing the learning and building on experience in terms of 'what works' in early childhood home visiting from pre-birth or during pregnancy
- On-going evidenced based/informed learning and development
- Focus on home visiting beginning pre-birth that enables positive parenting child relationships interactions and developmental outcomes in early years

### **5. Membership:**

Ordinary Membership is open to any and all members of the PEIN/attendees of PEIN events who have an interest in the area. Members can nominate other interested individuals/organisation to join the Alliance.

Executive membership is open to other organisations who meet the criteria outlined below and whose focus is primarily on evidenced based early childhood home visiting from pre-birth or during pregnancy to aged 5. Membership will be agreed by the executive committee with each home visiting programme entitled to have at least one representative at each meeting. In the event that a representative is unable to attend s/he can nominate an alternate to attend in her/his place.

### **6. Criteria for Executive Membership**

- Membership of Prevention and Early Intervention Network (PEIN)
- Deliver a robust established evidenced-based early childhood home visiting programme with clearly defined outcomes, which contains the following elements:

- Primarily delivered in the home with a clearly defined prescribed level of visits over a number of years (2+ years)
- Targets First 2000 days including pre-birth and pregnancy
- Supports parents as the primary carers and educators of their children
- Enables positive parent-child bonding, interactions and relationships within the home and the wider community
- Systematic programme manual with clearly outlined ethos, logic model, content, delivery methodologies, including – frequency of contact and engagement
- Community wraparound with an emphasis on collaborative/interagency and trauma-informed work practices
- Aligns with and supports national policy and plans, including First Five
- Agree to the Home Visiting Alliance terms of reference, including the importance of modelling best practice in relation to positive tone and positive relationships with other organisations.
- Willing to work collaboratively to develop a national model of early childhood home visiting as per First Five and to promote the expansion of evidenced-based early childhood home visiting programmes across Ireland.

## **7 Chairperson:**

Agreeing the position of Chairperson for the forthcoming year will be on the agenda at the last meeting of each calendar year.

## **8 Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee will lead the strategic development and oversee the implementation of the activities of the Alliance. It will report back to the Forum, which will focus on sharing the learning and building on experience in terms of ‘what works’ in early childhood home visiting.

## **9 Task Groups**

The Alliance may from time to time establish task groups to further the work of the Alliance

## **10 Frequency of Meetings:**

The Forum will meet a minimum of three times per annum with the Executive Committee meeting on a monthly basis. Further meetings may be held as agreed by the members.

## **11 Decision Making:**

Decisions shall be arrived at by consensus where possible. All decisions will be documented. Should a vote be required and there is an equal division of votes, the Chair shall have a casting vote.

## **12 Representation - Reporting back**

The executive committee, subgroups and members representing the Alliance on outside working groups will report back by circulating written notes in advance of Alliance meetings for discussion and formally presenting reports at Alliance meetings.

## **13 Executive Members (November 2022 in alphabetical order)**

Catriona Corcoran - Community Mothers Programme

Jill Sandvoss - Community Mothers Programme

Josephine Bleach – Early Learning Initiative, National College of Ireland

Mary Walker Callaghan - Lifestart

Michelle Moore – ParentChild+

Niall Sexton – Preparing for Life

Pauline McClenaghan – Lifestart

Sue Cullen - Preparing for Life

Tish Hurley – Infant Mental Health