Coronavirus (Covid-19)
Statement from Children's Group Link – Wednesday 25th March

In light of the announcements and advice issued by the Government on Tuesday 24th March relating to new measures to be implemented; the Board wishes to announce the following – effective immediately.

- All small group activities (less than 5) which had been offered and undertaken over the past 2 weeks have been cancelled until further notice.
- Online, digital and phone activities and supports to members will continue. One to one emergency supports with members and parents will continue. These will be arranged by phone (051-833036 or 087-2510333) and by appointment.
  We ask members and parents not to arrive at the premises without prior appointment.
- The premises on Military Road will be closed to the public, visitors, members (except one to one emergency support) and parents.
- In order to maintain vital administrative and reporting requirements together with core supports to members and necessary maintenance and up-keep of the facilities – core staff will continue to work from behind closed doors on a staggered, rostered system whilst fully complying with strict hygiene and social distancing measures already operational within the organisation. Staff will be available most days to take calls on the numbers listed above.
- Some staff will be facilitated / encouraged to work remotely or from home.
- All non-essential personnel including Tús workers, CE workers and volunteers will cease activity until further notice.
- From Monday 30th March Children's Group Link will be offering a home delivery lunchtime menu option to our members and their families at cost or below cost price to include free delivery. Utilising our fully equipped HSE approved catering kitchen and the resources of our staff, bus drivers and company vehicles – the aim is to provide affordable lunchtime food options to our members and their families who cannot get out or may have limited financial resources. (see separate post for more details).

- The Board, through its CEO, has offered the resources of Children's Group Link (facilities, rooms, catering kitchen, vehicles, staff etc) to the HSE and Waterford City & County Council – who are co-ordinating the community response – should these be required in the current crisis.

Conclusion:
These are difficult and stressful times for many families and Children's Group Link will do our very best to maintain contact with and support for our members, their families and the wider community. Our Board feels it is important to demonstrate our organisation's community & civic pride as well as empathy and support to those who most need it. We are mindful that multiple Government Departments, State Agencies, Local Businesses and the General Public have, for many years, supported Children's Group Link through good and challenging times and even though our organisation is currently experiencing significant financial and service provision challenges – we feel it is our duty to do what we can to help our citizens, our City and Communities get through this crisis. The Board wishes to thank the DCYA, WWETB, Pobal, Bausch & Lomb Ire. & our many supporters for their continued support during this difficult time. Hopefully Children's Group Link, Waterford youth Transport Service and Waterford Traveller Youth Support Project will be back to full service provision very soon.

In the meantime, we encourage all our members, volunteers, staff, supporters and their families to take all the necessary and responsible steps required to limit the spread of the Coronavirus.

Stay Safe…

Signed: Mark Fenton, Chairperson of the Board *Brendan Halligan, CEO*