



Public Participation Network Feedback Form: County Longford Childcare Committee



PPN Community & Voluntary elected Representative: **Kerrie Prendergast**

Date of Meeting: **1st February 2021**

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome new member
2. COVID Update
3. COVID EYS Update
4. Co-ordinator Report
5. Provider Update
6. Agency Update
7. AOB

In Attendance: Antonella Taaffe, Paula Mulry, Frank Horne, Clement Shevlln, Kerrie Prendergast, Melissa Eager, Tony Kemple.

Carriann Belton (LCCC Co-ordinator), Maudie Kenny (Staff)

Apologies: Liz Lavery

Absent:

Presentations: Yes / **No** (details if Yes)

Agenda item	Member	Discussion	Actions / Who
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<u>Welcome</u>	Carrieann	Carrie welcomed new SIPTU rep Clement Sheridan SIPTU, as the new Union representative followed by introductions all round. Clement is the Big Start organiser in our area. Liz Lavery has resigned from the committee and has submitted a nomination to replace her.	
Covid-19 Update	Carrieann	Staff and office. Staff continue to work from home with occasional visits to the office should the need arise.	
Covid 19 update EYS:	Carrieann	ECCE services are closed since 1 st January 21. Other services were required to open for frontline and essential workers. This has been a worry for providers with regard to safety for staff. Providers have been operating limited services or where there is no demand they remain closed. ECCE services are receiving 70% of the normal payment.	
<u>Co-ordinator Report</u>	Carrieann	Additional funding is to be made to providers who rely on parental fees. Childminding Initiative has not been published yet. We are sharing any reopening supports. Weekly bulletin is being circulated to libraries and PPN to extend reach to parents Capital Grants have been announced which will support work on Fire Safety	
<u>Provider Update</u>	Antonella Taffe Melissa Eager	Private: AT reported. All issues are Covid related. Services were given no choice about opening. This left many providers worried and anxious about their staff and families. Services who did not open due to no demand were able to apply for FM where as those that chose not to open were ineligible for funding for gov't programmes while they remained closed. Many services have opened but do not feel safe. A network meeting to be arranged to offer support to providers. Community: ME reported. Some services have not opened after Christmas and some have closed due to no demand. A letter from Community Providers was send to the Minister to outline issues and handling of the reopening after Christmas and a response was received	

		from the Minister. Providers were satisfied that their voices were heard at Ministerial level. It was agreed that the Private Providers network would also send a letter.	
<u>Agency Updates</u>	<p>Frank Horne</p> <p>Tony Kemple</p> <p>Clement Shevlin</p> <p>Paula Mulry</p> <p>Kerrie Prendergast</p>	<p>Co.Co. FH reported that repair works are ongoing at play facilities</p> <p>DSP: TK reported. DSP continues to make payment to those affected by Covid 19. CE schemes have been extended to 26/3/21, however it will leave large number of employers without staff after that date. It is decided to phase out the leaving date. Recruitment to CE is difficult as 21 is the minimum age to apply for CE. CE is not available to Private Providers but there are other supports available for people to train e.g. in childcare.</p> <p>Unions: CS reported. There is a lack of guidance from DCEDIY on where sector is going. Survey circulated to members last week. SIPTU are taking calls from providers on a daily basis who are finding it difficult to keep up with all the changes occurring. JLC to work on proposal for sector which IBEC believes is a good positive measure. Many new members have joined in the past months. Anniversary of protest last year is coming up and members are asked to wear red to remind Government that childcare issues are still around. LCCC will continue to promote union membership.</p> <p>Library Service: PM reported. Service is online only at this time. Staff are available by phone. Online initiatives available around creativity and story time. TTRS (Touch type, read and spell) is a free online program. It teaches the basic computer skills. No skills required. A promotional Book Bag campaign for Early years providers to begin soon. The libraries will contact providers in the coming weeks and the packs can be collected by early years providers from their local library once the packs are ready for distribution. Library has linked in with Music Generation. New Edgeworthstown library is delayed by 2 months, however staff are available on the phone for resources and advice.</p> <p>PPN: KS reported. PPN shares information as it comes in. e.g. First 5, Immigrant women, P&T Group information. There is sheer frustration among childcare services on how DCEDIY engaged with providers and this needs to be communicated to DCEDIY. CB said that any issue are communicated but there was no formal complaint sent. CCCs role is not a lobbying one. We are not given much lead time on new information which can be problematic. New information coming out on Friday is in bad taste and this is highlighted thru SIPTU. Staff</p>	

		shortages is a major issue and a working group has been established on this. CCCs promote any vacancies and use libraries and PPN to widen reach to childcare workers.	
<u>AOB</u>		CB has decided not to sit on any working groups through CCI as her position may end in June 21. Covid Helpline: No decision has been reached by DCEDIY on providing an out of hours helpline to providers. Next Meeting to take place on March 15 th 2021.	