



Public Participation Network Feedback Form: County Longford Childcare Committee

PPN Community & Voluntary elected Representative: Kerrie Prendergast

Date of Meeting: 14th June 2021

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome

2. COVID National Helpline for providers

3. Co-ordinator Report

4. Provider Update

5. Agency Update

6. AOB

In Attendance: Antonella Taaffe (Chairperson), Tony Kemple, Melissa Eager, Kerrie Prendergast,

Carrieann Belton (Staff)

Apologies: Apologies: Brian Higgins, Ann O'Connor, Clement Shevlin

Absent:

Presentations: Yes / No (details if Yes)

Agenda item	Member	Discussion	Actions / Who
<u>Welcome</u>	Chair		
Covid-19 National Helpline	Carrieann	DCEDIY have requested to extend the out of hours helpline until Sept 12 th . DCEDIY is happy with the roll out of the helpline.	

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<u>Co-ordinator</u> <u>Report</u>	Carrieann	Staffing in service is a concern nationally. LCCC support recruitment through our website and social media.
		CMDG is open for applications until 15 th July. Meath CCC will administer the grants again this year – the role of local CCC in process is to sign off that childminder is known to them.
		Annual Sector Profile deadline has been extended and CCCs are supporting Pobal to get profile completed by all services in the county.
		NCS Pobal Compliance workshop – the feeling on the ground from providers is that they felt the wording used was threatening. The wording came directly from legislation.
		Workforce Development Plan Report due to be completed at end of July and published end of November.
		Tusla SAC Registrations – difficulties due to HSE Cyberattack.
		FH expressed concern regarding staff shortages in Childcare.
Provider Update	Melissa Eager	Community – Many providers are working on the Governance Code and find the information circulated from LCCC to be very helpful. The Little Library Book Bags distributed by the Co. Library were a very good and I expressed her thanks to the Library.
	Antonella Taaffe	Private – AT reported that the balance bikes provided by the Sports Partnership were very popular at the service and most used equipment by the children some learning to ride a bike at 2 years. The collaboration between local agencies is very important.
		The NCS does not support all parents in the way CCSP does. EWSS is carrying the service this year. When CCSP ends there will be a sustainability issue and staff AL and other costs will not be met. EC said work needs to be done to identify children who should be in childcare but do not meet the criteria for NCS. A case needs to be put for those families.

Agency Updates	Frank Horne Kerrie Prendergast	Longford Co. Co. A map of Longford's Playgrounds has been produced with information on local amenities. FH to get Playground Pass to LCCC for share with providers/parents in the county. PPN continue to share information through its bulletin.	
	Tony Kemple	DSP – Dept. has extended CE until end of October 21. Meeting next week to see where to go from there. Tony will report back to this committee. 3000 more places are being made available. There is no update on the recruitment and eligibility issues. The ending of CE staff placements in Childcare Services, will be a big issue for providers and further impact the staffing crisis. There are no new recruits to replace those ending. Eligibility criteria is key to recruitment and needs to be addressed. There are people who wish to be placed in Childcare but are prevented from doing so. The 12 months unemployment before becoming eligible is a barrier. EC will report this issue to Dept.	
AOB		CB proposed that the Committee meet again in July (date TBA) to review staffing	