



Public Participation Network Feedback Form: Longford County Childcare Committee Meeting



PPN Community Representative: **Stephanie Igoe**

Date: **09.11.2015**

Meeting Agenda

1. Coordinators Report
2. Finance Update
3. Presentation
4. Provider and Agency Updates

In Attendance: Eimear Carron (Manager), Maudie Kenny (Support Worker), Louise Lovett (Chairperson), Frank Horan, Mae Sexton, Aine Bohan, Breege Campbell, Stephanie Igoe

Apologies: Carol Shaw

Absent:

Presentations: Yes / No (details if Yes):: Longford County Childcare Committee is one of 30 city/county childcare committees throughout Ireland. The Committee coordinates a strategy to develop appropriate childcare services which respond to and cater for the childcare needs of local parents and their children and meets the key priorities of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, and to continue to support and work with childcare providers, parents and other key stakeholders at local level.

Eimear took the committee through the various programmes the LCCC is involved in, including "Better Start Initiative", "Childcare Committees Ireland", "Local Implementation Plan 2016", as well as LCCC structure, what we do, areas of support, operations, quality, policy and new developments.

Agenda item	Member	Discussion	Actions / Who
<u>Item 1</u> Co-Coordinator Report	Eimear Carron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1100 childcare places allocated in County Longford • Small equipment and resources grants for special needs coming up April 2016 • Affordable childcare scheme policy to be made available around Sept 2017 • Learner Fund 3: level 5 qualification to meet minimum standard, online Pobal website to mid December 	Eimear to co-ordinate
<u>Item 2</u> Finance	Maudie Kenny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial budget on target for year end 2015 	Maudie Kenny
<u>Item 3</u> Presentation	Eimear Carron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above, attached 	
<u>Item 4</u> Provider/Agency Update	All members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eimear to attend national Childcare Network meetings to discuss identified issues with the changes to the ECCE (Free Pre-School Year) which were announced in the budget. New guidelines indicate that a pre-school child can uptake their place at 3 points in the year, September, January and April and that they can avail of 2 free years. This has not been thought out at policy level. Crèches run as a business and will try to have their numbers filled in September which means little or no capacity for children wishing to uptake their place at the later entry points. Equally it will cause problems for smaller crèches which may have only one room. Children should be expected to move from one free year to the next free year to a different curriculum and environment. • The other area causing concern is the expected directive from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs that required standards in the provision of Childcare effective from September 2016 will determine that staff will need to have the minimum standard qualification of Level 5 to be counted in staff ratios. As the CE participants are training to level 5 in the first two years of their three year programme, they will not be counted in child to adult ratios in the first two years. This is indeed a problem for Childcare providers. 	Eimear Carron

Item 4; con't		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local detail of all issues will be collected by the National Network Committee and proposed mitigation put forward to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs for urgent decision. 	
Item 5			
A.O.B Cloud service vs Back-up	Eimear Carron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eimear will get advice from local computer provider. Some money in budget to put towards new system. Fire safety system pertaining to documents and information imperative. 	Eimear Carron