

County Wicklow Public Participation Network

Representative Reporting Template

This template aims to support CWPPN representatives who sit on local social partnership structures in County Wicklow in providing a report to the wider membership. Please complete the template and return to countywicklowppn@gmail.com **within one week after each meeting**. Please keep responses to 1 page if at all possible.

Name of Committee: Wicklow County Childcare Committee

Name of Representative(s): Margaret Coen

Date of Meeting Attended: 30th May 2019

Most important actions or issues to emerge from a County Wicklow PPN perspective:

National Childcare Scheme: This new scheme will replace the existing targeted childcare programmes with a single one. It will provide financial support for parents towards the cost of childcare. Subsidies will be both universal (free preschool year for all) and targeted (amount will be means tested). WCCC will communicate and support services and parents in accessing this. Information sessions and training sessions are planned for the summer and can be found on the website. This scheme is intended as a labour activation initiative and as such may give rise to some serious anomalies for vulnerable families and community (not for profit) services. Serious concern was expressed that unemployed families may not qualify for after school services as they may only have an entitlement to a subsidy for 15 hours. Afterschool services may include activities, homework clubs, parental involvement, a meal. There are a number of bodies that may sponsor a child and refer them to the scheme, meaning such children will not have to satisfy eligibility requirements. Sponsor bodies will be: Tusla – child protection/welfare issues; Dept Ed – under 18's returning to education; Dept Justice – refugees/asylum seekers; HSE – medical grounds; Local Authorities – homelessness. In total between 500 - 600 children (12 services) could potentially be affected. In addition childminders who are not registered with TUSLA cannot offer the scheme – parental demand may drive an increase in registration.

Date of next meeting – 28th June 2010