

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: 25th May 2017

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

Governance: PPN seat on board vacant after departure of Miriam O'Regan. Board seeks to welcome new members to comply with best practice, and ensure diversity in board's character and expertise. Asks PPN members with expertise relevant to children/early years sector to consider joining.

WCCC Affordable Childcare Scheme campaign to be rolled out from early June: This payment will replace the existing childcare subsidisation schemes, except ECCE scheme. Parents will qualify for a subsidy based on their net income, payable directly to childcare services – MUST BE TUSLA REGISTERED. Info available on WCCC webpage.

Grants:

Childminding Development grants - closing date 30th June: Childminders may apply for 90% of the cost of items that are approved for funding up to a maximum of €1,000. Costs cover: Safety items; Childcare equipment; Indoor/outdoor play equipment; Minor adaptations.

Parent and Toddler Grants – applications now open, closing date extended until September 30th.

Capital grants 2017 – now closed. Majority of services applied for outdoors strand – which relates to creation of “natural” outdoor play areas, which will contribute to improving the quality of early years' services.

Training: Training focussing on quality and diversity/inclusion for services in the coming months. Excellent feedback from participants so far on completion of equality, diversity and inclusion training.

Date of Next Meeting: 29th June 2017