



**Childcare
Committee**
County Sligo
Coiste Cúram Páistí Chonta Shligeach



Winter Newsletter



A Word from Sharon



Wishing you all a very Happy
Christmas.

Just a short message to say thank you for all the work, training, mentoring that you have all been involved with this year.

The year has seen its challenges for you but as always you as a sector have risen to those challenges. I have had the good fortune to work very closely with many of you this year and the level of commitment to the children in your care is amazing, evidence of wonderful practice was obvious throughout your settings.

As we move into 2017, we will see changes to the way the government is planning to support families and children in their very precious early years, the introduction of the single affordable childcare programme we hope will support a greater number of families and while it is not a fix within the sector, it is one foot forward.

*P1&2 Sharon's
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Pieces*

*Manager-
Sharon Boles
Development
Workers
Viola Craig,
Joan McGrath,
Nicola
McCormack
Administrator-
Suzanne Scanlon
Reception—
Laura Norman &
Barry Sullivan*

Also the introduction of non-contact hours is the start of acknowledging the role of the practitioner.

In January 2017 Sligo County Childcare Committee will be the local delivery agent for the 15 hour Equality Diversity & Inclusion programme which will be delivered to Early Years Practitioners. We will have a schedule of training throughout the year commencing in January. It is important that 2 practitioners from each ECCE setting complete the training as embedding equality & diversity practice is key to providing quality early years experiences for children. This training will also support a whole team approach as part of the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) for ECCE services.

On behalf of Sligo County Childcare Committee board and staff I would like to wish you all a very happy safe and peaceful Christmas and we look forward to working with you in 2017.

Congratulations to the service Managers in County Sligo who graduated with their level 8 ECCE from IT Sligo on the 5th November.

Sinead McQuaid – Toadstool Cottage

Castlebaldwin

Karen Folan – Little Buddies Riverstown

Louise Kilbane – Lollipop Lane Tubbercurry

Magdalena GasiorekPodpora- Spraai

Ballymote

Catrina Doherty – Ballisodare Montessori



L/R Louise Kilbane, Karen Folan & Sinead McQuaid



Child Protection Training



*Now why would I want to do
Child Protection Training?
Nothing like that could ever
happen in my service*



SOME KEY FACTS

The National Audit of Neglect cases found that parental alcohol misuse was a factor in 62% of neglect cases and that domestic violence featured in almost two-thirds of the sample cases

15,383 people under 15 years were discharged following an admission to hospital for injury, poisoning or other external cause.

1% or less of mothers used smacking 'regularly' or 'always' to discipline their children. Only about half said they 'never' smacked their children (2009, 2013)

In both 2012 and 2013, there were over 40,000 referrals to child welfare and protection services in Ireland.

Source: DCYA (2014) *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures. The national policy framework for children & young people 2014 – 2020*. Dublin: Government

As a professional within our organisations whose work brings us into contact with children on a daily basis, we all have a responsibility to be aware of the signs, symptoms and risk factors which increase the possibility of neglect and abuse. We also need to know who to share these concerns with and who we can seek advice from, how to make a formal report and share Information.

Children First Foundation Training is essential for everyone working in the Early Years sector and this training is provided throughout the year by Sligo County Childcare Committee. A total of 45 services and 105 staff undertook Child Protection Training in Sligo in 2016. This reinforces a clear understanding that child protection must be at the core of any organisation working with children, what needs to be done protect children, how to do it and the key people within their organisation to do this. The outcome of this knowledge and understanding will result in greater protection for children.

Children First Refresher Training

For those who undertook Children First Foundation training 3 years ago, we are now in a position to provide Refresher training and details of the dates will be included in our Training Calendar which will go out to services over the coming weeks.

Child Protection Policy Development

A key element of effective Child Protection, is the development and Implementation of a robust Child Protection and Welfare Policy. To support the development of your Child Protection Policy, we facilitate workshops to assist our services to do so and ensure compliance during Tusla inspection. We will continue to run these in 2017 and encourage any service that has not had a senior member of staff attend the training to put this in your diary for 2017. Dates will be included in the Training Calendar which will issue during the first week of January.

A wide range of information is available on the Tusla website to guide organisations, parents, young people and the general public. This can be found at <http://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/children-first/>



Children First

Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children [2011] provides the national guidance for the protection and welfare of children in Ireland.

The guidance is a roadmap to help parents, professionals, organisations and the general public to identify and report child abuse and welfare concerns.

Society has a duty of care towards children and everyone should be alert to the possibility that children with whom they are in contact may be being abused or be at risk of abuse. You can find out more general information in respect of Children First from the following, copy and paste into your toolbar.

<http://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/children-first>

**Organisations
&
Individual**

**Parents
&
Guardians**

**Young
People**

**General
Public**

WELCOME TO

Parenting24seven

Parenting 24 seven is a TUSLA online resource for Parents of Children of all ages. It focuses on evidence based messages to support Children and families at different stages of childhood and in different situations. Each message is also beneficial to professionals working with Children and families.

The resources are designed around 7 key messages and 3 age ranges 0-5 years, 6-12 years and 13+ years. Each message and age range has a number of interesting resources related to the topic.

The seven key messages are:

- ◆ **Parent Child relationship is key**
- ◆ **Buy well, Be well, Eat well**
- ◆ **A Positive Parenting Style Works**
- ◆ **Child Safety Practices reduce Injury**
- ◆ **Baby See, Baby Do**
- ◆ **Name it and Tame it**
- ◆ **Parents need Good Social Networks**



An introductory video, further information and resources is available at <http://www.tusla.ie/parenting-24-seven/>.

Aistear

SCCC have had another busy year during 2016, delivering Aistear Stage One and Stage Two Programmes by the Quality Development Team.

The programme was run over four sessions with a different Aistear theme being covered each session in addition to links being made specifically to different areas of quality practice.

Everyone who participated in the training programme were also able to contribute on aspects of their own practice which added to the rich learning experience for all participants.





In completing the training programme participants gave feedback on different changes in their approaches and practice which included:

'Documenting has become a more valuable tool to help us further develop our service. The children always benefit when the practitioners are fully equipped with knowledge.'

'Expanding on play - allowing children to lead more'

'I try to spend more time outside which makes a huge difference in my group, I added more items for example tyres and items to the mud kitchen'

SCCC will run a final Aistear Stage Two training programme during the early part of 2017, details of which will be available in the SCCC Training Calendar from January 2017 or email [**viola@sligochildcare.ie**](mailto:viola@sligochildcare.ie)

The Managers Network recently hosted an information session with the local Meitheal team. This was a very informative session which gave great insight into the service and what it has to offer for children and families. See details of the service below:

Meitheal is a national practice model led by TUSLA. It enables the needs and strengths of children and their families to be properly identified and understood. This way of working will ensure that the proper supports and services are made available to children and families when they are required.

The model brings local services together to help improve well-being for children and their families. Parents are central to the Meitheal process, all work is guided by parents at every stage and children are also encouraged to play a central role in Meitheal process.

Sligo has a local Meitheal team, for more information contact meitheal@sligosocialservices.ie or phone 071 91 45682. Further information and relevant forms can also be found online at: <http://www.tusla.ie/services/family-community-support/guidance-documents/>





Parent & Toddler Groups

Parent & Toddler groups receive funding to support their work within communities at local level.

SCCC, in collaboration with the Department of Children & Youth Affairs and Pobal were delighted to announce that € 3,390 in funding has been allocated to 6 Parent & Toddler groups in County Sligo.

This year we also had the pleasure of funding 2 new Groups.

SCCC would like to congratulate these Parent & Toddler groups, and acknowledge the effort that went in to preparing the applications. SCCC will be following up with all groups who received the funding to further support them throughout 2017.

The logo for 'Childminder Development Grants' is displayed in a green box. The words 'Childminder', 'Development', and 'Grants' are stacked vertically. Each word is in a different color: 'Childminder' is purple, 'Development' is red, and 'Grants' is blue.

Childminder Development Grants 2016

What is the Childminder Development Grant?

The aim of the grant is to enhance the safety/quality of the childminding service through the purchase of childcare equipment, safety equipment and toys. It may also give financial assistance to new or prospective childminders with their initial set up costs.

How much funding is available under the Childminder Development Grant?

The maximum grant available to the childminder who fully meets the criteria of the scheme is 90% of the total receipted childcare expenditure, subject to a maximum grant of €1,000. i.e. spend €1,111 and claim back 90% = €1,000.

SCCC are currently processing 4 successful childminder development grants (CMDG) in 2016.

Christmas Payments

ECCE Payments

On the 9th December 2016 groups will be paid a max of 6 weeks up to 20/01/2017, this payment will be based on registrations and higher capitation approved on PIP by COB Monday 5th December 2016.

The last weekly catch up payment to the 20/01/2017 will be made on Friday 16th December, registrations will have to be input by COB 12th December 2016 to be paid before Christmas

There will be no weekly catch up payments on Friday 23rd December or Friday 30th December, weekly catch up payments will resume

on Friday 6th January 2017. The next major payment will then be Friday 20/01/2017 which will be or 4 weeks and the payment calendar will then resume as published with the major payment of 5 weeks on 17/02/2017.

TEC Payments

Payment on the 16/12/2016 up to 13/01/2017 and payment on the 13/01/2017 up to 27/01/2017

CETS Payments

Payment to be made week ending the 9th of December are based on registrations that have been approved.



CCS Appeals

CCS Appeals are open till ***Friday the 20th of January.***

What can be appealed?

1. If you wish to **appeal the band** awarded to a particular registration you must complete a registration (appeal) request attaching the relevant CCS eligibility documents, during the CCS eligibility window.
2. If you wish to appeal the band approved using a **different parent's eligibility** you must cancel the original registration and submit a new registration with registration request 'late entrant appeal' (referencing the original registration ID number) attaching the relevant CCS eligibility documents for the new parent during the CCS eligibility window. You must ensure the new parent signs the new PIP parent declaration form.
3. If you find an error in the original registration, for example, in the level of service provision (number of days, weeks etc.) during the snapshot window, you will have to cancel the registration. Please refer to page 12 in the CCS 'how to guide' for help.

Please don't leave it till the last week!!!

Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Charter and Guidelines for Early Childhood Care and Education.



Sligo County Childcare Committee will

run a training programme on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion as part of the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) – Level 3. This training programme is funded under the AIM Model and is therefore free of charge to all staff working under the ECCE Programme.

The goal of AIM is to empower Early Years' service providers to deliver an inclusive pre-school experience, ensuring that every child can fully participate in the ECCE programme and reap the benefits of quality early years care and education.

In order to incorporate a deeper level of understanding around the subject of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for all staff and to assist in meeting some of the challenges which it will pose, Sligo County Childcare Committee will support services through the proposed training programme which is now being delivered nationally.

The first training programme will take place in SCCC training room in January and two further Programmes will be rolled out over the Spring. The dates for January are as follows:

Saturday 14 th	-	9.30am – 3.30pm
Thursday 19 th	-	6.30 – 9.30pm
Thursday 26 th	-	6.30 - 9.30pm
Tuesday 31 st	-	6.30 - 9.30pm

This training programme will support other members of your team to gain more in depth awareness and understanding on the subject and will support and enhance a full team approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within your Early Childhood Care and Education service.

Important notice on PIP - Early Years Capital Grant 2016

Expenditure Report- Each grantee is required to submit an EYC 2016 Expenditure Report via the PIP Portal before the 31ST of December 2016. Once the report is submitted correctly, the grantee will be reimbursed the final 10% of the grant. Please note any expenditure post 31st December 2016 will not be eligible and will not be reimbursed.

Note - Registrations

New child registrations for January 2017 can be input 7 days prior to the child's start date, the earliest a child can be registered for this period is 26th December and the first payment will be on the 6th January for the period up to the 20th January 2017.

Please note services will not be paid in respect of entered non-payment weeks between 12/12/2016 - 20/01/2017

[Compliance Checklist 2016/2017](#), available on PIP

NEW Feature on PIP

Pobal has created a user guide to help PIP Portal users receive email alerts informing them when documents are added to the notifications area. When successfully completed, PIP users will receive a notification through their designated email address. For more information see notice on PIP.

10 years of service



Huge Congrats to our Development workers Joan McGrath and Viola Craig on their 10th Anniversary working in Sligo County Childcare Committee.



& ALSO



Huge Congrats to Yvonne Lynch and Kay Duffy on their 10 year Anniversary working in Globe House Childcare.





Congratulations to Sharon Boles and Viola Craig who recently graduated from Sligo IT with a BA Honours Degree in Early Childhood Care and Education, Viola Craig also received the governing body award for the highest grade in her class.



Congratulations to our Receptionist Barry and his partner Eira on the birth of their beautiful baby girl Chloë.





From Sligo County Childcare Committee



**Check out our new Website at
www.sligochldcare.ie**

