



## Roscommon County Childcare Committee (CCC) Annual Report 2019



An Roinn Leanaí  
agus Gnóthaí Óige  
Department of Children  
and Youth Affairs



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## Table of Contents

Acronyms and terms	2
2019 at a glance	3
The Role of Roscommon CCC	4
Mission Statement	4
Our Ethos	4
Roscommon CCC committee and governance details	4
Roscommon CCC board sub-committees	5
Roscommon CCC Governance and Finance	6
Organisational structure	7
Overview of the childcare sector 2019	7
Capacity and Challenges	8
Roscommon CCC supporting DCYA operations and communications unit	9
Roscommon CCC supporting DCYA finance and governance unit	10
Roscommon CCC supporting DCYA's quality unit	12
Roscommon CCC supporting DCYA's national childcare scheme (NCS) projects unit	19
Roscommon CCC supporting DCYA's operational and communicational unit	20
Roscommon CCC support to parents in County Roscommon	21
Roscommon CCC local and national collaborations	22
Childcare Committees Ireland	27
Appendices	28

## Acronyms & Terms

Term	Description	Term	Description
AGM	Annual General meeting	AIM	Access & inclusion Model which is designed to ensure that children with disabilities can access the ECCE Programme.
ASCC Programme	After-school Childcare Care Programme	CAPA	Corrective Actions & Preventive Actions
CCI	Childcare Committees Ireland	CCS Scheme	Community Childcare Subvention Scheme
CCSP Scheme	Community Childcare Subvention Plus Scheme	CCSR Scheme	Community Childcare Subvention Resettlement Scheme
CCSRT Scheme	Community Childcare Subvention Resettlement (Transitional) Scheme	CCSU Scheme	Community Childcare Subvention Universal Scheme
CE	Community Employment	CEC Programme	Community Employment Childcare Programme
CETS programme	Childcare Education and Training Support Programme		
CMDG	Childminding Development Grant	CPD	Continuous Professional Development
CYPSC	Children and Young People Services Committee		
DCYA	Department of Childcare and Youth Affairs		
DEI	Diversity, Equality and Inclusion	ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
ECCE Scheme/Programme	Often referred to as the 'Free Pre-school Year', it is a universal childcare programme designed to give children access to up to 2 years free pre-school education before starting primary school.		
ELC	Early Learning & Care	EROC	Emergency Reception Orientation Centre
FAR	First Aid Response		
FIR	Financial Impact Returns		
GRETB	Galway Roscommon Education & Training Board		
HSE	Health Services Executive	IS	Inclusion Specialist
IIRP	Irish Refugee Protection Programme	LINC	Leadership for Inclusion
NCN	National Childhood Network	NQF	National Qualification Framework
NQF	National Qualification Framework	NSAI	National Síolta Aistear Initiative
P & T Group	Parent and Toddler Group		
Part-time Care	A service offering a structured day care service to children for more than 3.5 hours but less than 5 hours.		
PIP	Pobal Implementation Platform	QBCI	Quality and Capacity Building Initiative
QSS	Quality Support Service	REIS	Roscommon Early Intervention Service
Roscommon CCC	Roscommon County Childcare Committee CLG		
SAC	School Aged Childcare (Afterschool)		
Sessional Care	A service offering a structured day care service to children for more than 2.15 hours and less than 3.30 hours.		
TEC Scheme	Training and Employment Scheme		



## 2019 at a Glance

### Roscommon CCC Support to funding programmes and processes Early Learning and Care & School Aged Childcare services in County Roscommon received support in the following areas:

Number of registrations on National Childcare Funding Programmes 18/19:  
ECCE: 1,565  
CCSP: 1,322  
TEC: 48

Better Start information & support

Childcare Capital Programme : Early Years Childcare Services in County Roscommon received a total of €94,809 in Capital funding & were supported by Roscommon CCC throughout the application process

Learner Fund, Compliance with Pre-school regulations & funding programmes

PIP Information & support

#### CHILDMINDING ACTION PLAN :

1 Tusla registered Childminder & 3 Voluntary notified childminder

Minister Zappone launched the Draft Childminding Action Plan in 2019

#### PARENT & TODDLER GROUP GRANTS :

17 Parent & Toddler groups across the county

11 Parent and Toddler Groups received funding under Parent & Toddler Grant initiative  
Funding Allocated to P & T Group Grants 2019: €4,500



44 services received ongoing one to one compliance support throughout 2019



63 services received one to one support in relation to financial planning/sustainability and developing fee payment policies.

#### ALWAYS CHILDREN FIRST

Roscommon CCC delivered 8 Full day Tusla Always Children First Foundation level courses to a total of 142 participants from 69 ELC/SAC services.

Supports and Safeguarding statements: Roscommon CCC supported services with Always Children First queries, signposted to Tusla and Safeguarding statements

#### Parents supported & funding allocated in relation to the following DCYA programmes:

Total amount of ECCE funding received for Programme Year 18/19: €3,424,701

Total amount of funding received for Legacy programme Year 18/19: CCSP= €2,076,307.90  
TEC= €132,113.00

Number of parents supported with the National Childcare Scheme, ECCE and Legacy Schemes: 657

#### ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO SERVICES:

FAR : 25 Early Learning and Care Services were allocated €4,712.50

25 Learner Fund applications were approved in line with National Guidelines

24 services supported following outcome of Pobal compliance visit.

63 services were supported with Tusla re-registration

#### TRAINING & COMMUNICATIONS

Roscommon CCC held 110 training workshops/one to one sessions throughout 2019.

A Total of 770 participants were supported through Roscommon CCC Training supports

There were 23,713 visitors to Roscommon CCC website throughout 2019.

A Total of 3847 interactions took place between Roscommon CCC and services/ key stakeholders.

#### ACCESS AND INCLUSION MODEL (AIM)

52 ELC services were informed of AIM updates throughout 2019

3 Diversity, Equality & Inclusion (DEI) Training delivered to a total of 31 participants from 16 services

Total number of AIM interactions with parents: 294

#### ROSCOMMON CCC LOCAL COLLABORATIVES 2019

Dept. Children & Youth Affairs, Pobal, Tusla  
Galway Roscommon Education  
& Training Board, Roscommon Public Participation Network,  
Roscommon County Council,  
Brothers of Charity, Roscommon Integrated Development Company, HSE, Dept. Justice,  
Childcare Committees Ireland, Dept Education & Skills  
Roscommon Leader Partnership,  
County Roscommon Childcare Providers

### The role of Roscommon CCC is to:

- (a) Act as the local agent of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in the coordination and delivery of the national early education and childcare programmes and the implementation of Government policy at a local level in County Roscommon
- (b) Facilitate and support the development of quality, accessible early learning and care and school age childcare services for the overall benefit of children and their parents.
- (c) Provide support and guidance to local service providers and parents in relation to the childcare programmes, and support quality in keeping with national frameworks and policy objectives.
- (d) Facilitate the development of Early Learning and Care and School Age Childcare in a strategic and coordinated manner.

### Mission Statement

The mission of Roscommon County Childcare Committee is to develop, support and enhance a wide range of high quality, inclusive, integrated, accessible and affordable childhood care and education services responsive to the rights and needs of children and provide support to parents/guardians/families. We recognise the role of Quality Early Childhood Care and Education in Strengthening Families, Communities and Society in County Roscommon. The Board will support management in overall governance in line with the Governance Code.

We will work in partnership to achieve positive change with our partners, providers and key stakeholders while coordinating the implementation of National Childcare Policy at local level on behalf of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

### Our Ethos

- ✚ To be child and youth friendly in all its policies and actions
- ✚ To promote an integrated, responsive service to children, young people and their families from birth, which has at its core the wellbeing and welfare of the child and treats all persons as equals
- ✚ To have a commitment to high quality, flexible and locally-based services
- ✚ To facilitate the development of childcare services as a partnership between children, parents, the community, providers and statutory agencies.
- ✚ To operate in an efficient and effective manner
- ✚ To support, maintain and continuously improve a culture of learning and professional development among the staff of Roscommon County Childcare Committee CLG

### Roscommon CCC Governance details.

<b>Name of City/ County Childcare Committee</b>	Roscommon County Childcare Committee Company Limited By Guarantee
<b>Address</b>	Knock Road Castlerea Co Roscommon
<b>EIRCODE</b>	F45 P959
<b>City/County Childcare Committee website address</b>	<a href="http://www.roscommonchildcare.ie">www.roscommonchildcare.ie</a>
<b>Legal Structure</b>	• A Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG)
<b>CRO Number</b>	360103
<b>Registered Charity Number</b>	20058623



## Roscommon CCC Voluntary Management Committee

Board Member Name	Position on the Board or Management Committee
Sean Crehan	Chairperson/Director
Lynn Keery	Vice Chairperson/Director
Louise Ward	Treasurer/Director
Sinéad Devine	Director
Martina Earley	Secretary/Director
Kate Walshe	Monitoring Board Member/Committee Member
Marie Murphy	Staff Liaison Officer
Marian Keigher	Committee Member/Director
Georgina Kilcoyne	Committee Member

## Roscommon CCC Board - Sub-committees

During 2019 Roscommon CCC reviewed the effectiveness of its sub structures and now have the following in place:

Name of sub-committee or advisory committee	Main purpose of the sub-committee or advisory committee	Detail how often the committee reports to the Board (monthly, bi-monthly, six monthly, annually or other)
Code of Governance & Board Monitoring	To Support the company on its governance Journey and ensure that the company financial procedures are implemented in accordance with best practice.	The Sub Committee meet yearly or as required and report directly to the board of Roscommon CCC
Health & Safety Works Committee	Oversees the Health & Safety role to ensure the company is compliant with regulations. A report is then collated and is an agenda item at the next board meeting. Recommendations are followed up on with assigned Board/Management/Staff personnel identified.	Bi-annual
Project Evaluation Sub Committee (PESC)	Responsible for the evaluation of all applications for funding at Roscommon County level.	The Sub Committee meet yearly or as required and report directly to the board of Roscommon

Roscommon CCC is compliant with the Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisation in Ireland and the following statement is on all of our company emails ***"We confirm that our organisation complies with The Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector in Ireland"***

RCCC has been added to the Governance Code Registry of Organisations and are compliant.

<https://www.governancecode.ie>

Roscommon CCC have extensive protocols, policies and procedures in place including data protection policies and procedures. Reviews and updates are overseen by the Code of Governance and Monitoring Sub Committee and Roscommon CCC Manager. The following documentation is also available:

1. Roscommon CCC From Governance to Practice - A Guide for Board Members
2. Roscommon CCC Employee Handbook
3. Roscommon CCC Financial Procedures

## Roscommon CCC Governance & Finance

**Board Meetings** – The Board regularly throughout 2019. The Project Evaluation Sub -Committee (PESC) met to review FAR, learner fund bursary and Parent & Toddler group funding. Standard Operating Procedures were reviewed for these funding initiatives and approved by the board.

**AGM & Audited Accounts** – The AGM was held in May 2019 and 2018 audited accounts presented to the Board for ratification. The accounts were approved by the Board on 22nd May 2019.

**CRO** – There have been no changes to Directors of the Company in 2019. No changes were presented to the CRO in the annual return.

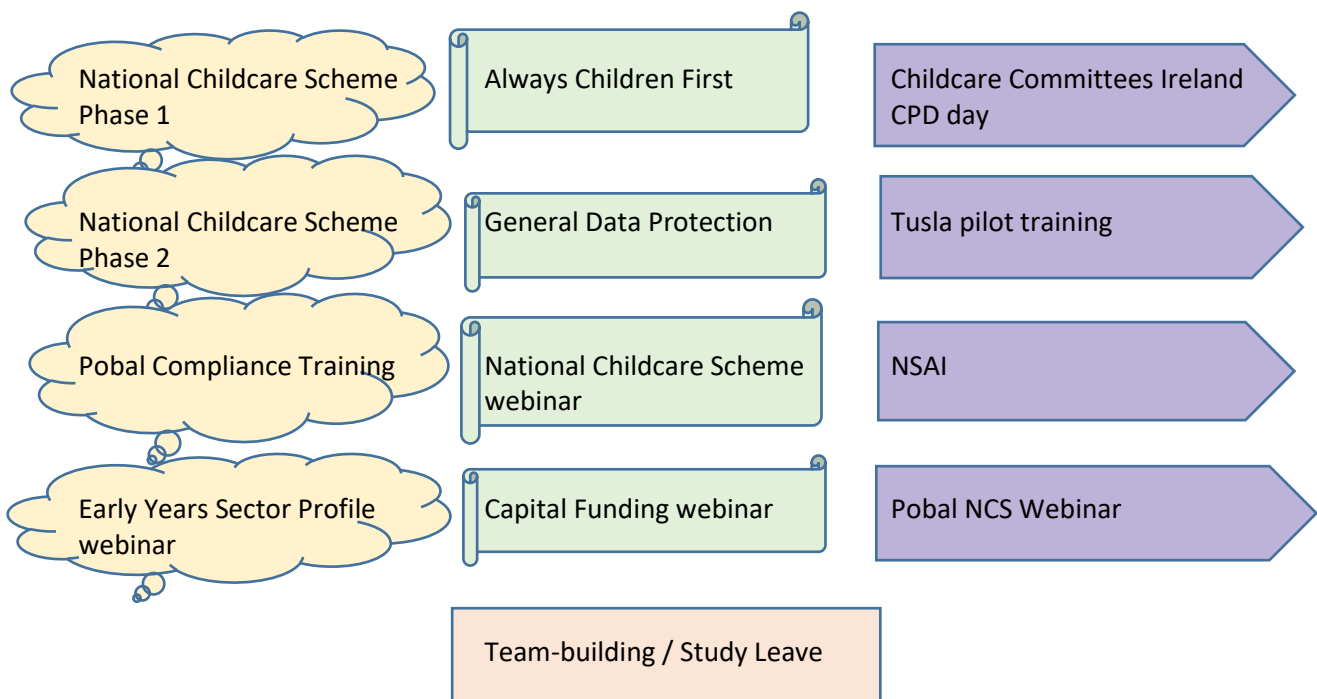
**CRA**- Annual report was filed with the CRA in October and a copy of the abridged accounts was uploaded to the CRA website.

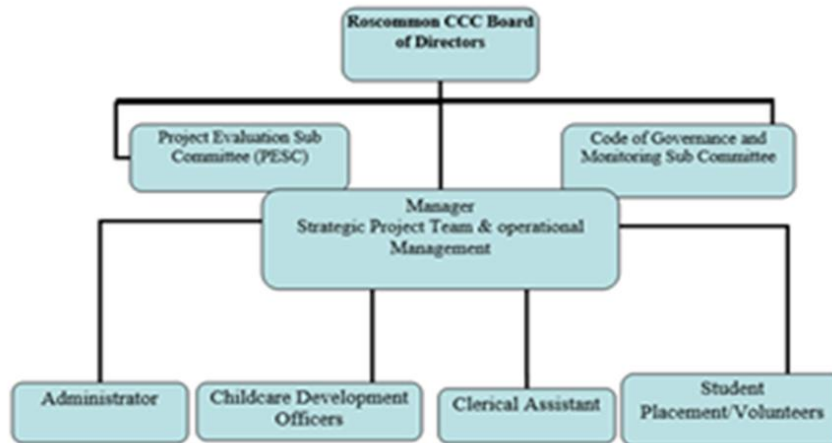
**Revenue** –Revenue returns are submitted each month following salary run with real-time PAYE reporting.

**RBO** - Returns to the CRO regarding beneficial ownership of the Company was filed on 19th November and the Beneficial Owners approved by the CRO/RBO.

**Human Resource Management & Staff CPD** – Staff attended continuing professional development opportunities applicable to their roles throughout 2019 and a staff team building event took place in Lough Key Forest Park.

**Examples of CPD training the team took part in are:**





Roscommon County Childcare Committee CLG is a partnership of individuals and organisations working together for the enhancement of Early Learning and Care Sector in the County.

**Above: Roscommon County Childcare Committee CLG Voluntary Management Committee CLG.**



#### Roscommon County Childcare Committee CLG Staff

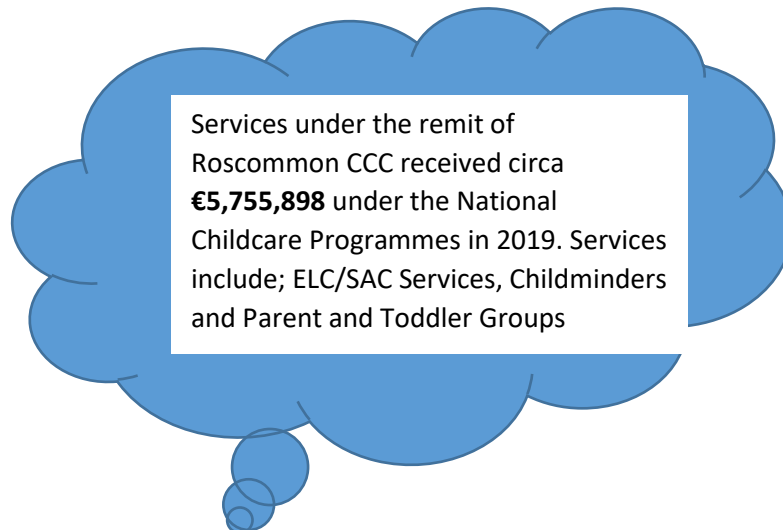
The staff team consist of a County Childcare Coordinator/Manager, Administrator, Childcare Development Officers and Clerical Assistant. Student Placements are supported in line with annual work plans.

**Above: Roscommon County Childcare Committee CLG Staff team.**

### Overview of the childcare sector 2019

In recent years Ireland's childcare sector has undergone major developments in response to the sociological changes in the family, work life and overall evolution of childcare. Roscommon County Childcare Committee CLG (Roscommon CCC) has been at the forefront supporting and assisting both parents and childcare services. Roscommon CCC's work is underpinned by our roles, mission and ethos. With the support of Roscommon CCC, **63** childcare services were supported to make **1,565** Early Childcare Care and Education (ECCE) registrations, **1,322** Community Childcare Subvention (CCSP) registrations and **48** training and Employment Childcare (TEC) registrations. Roscommon CCC also supported **3** childcare settings to apply for capital funding in 2019 with an allocation of **€98,809** being distributed to the three services. A total of **657** parents were supported with childcare queries throughout 2019 by Roscommon CCC. Through the ongoing support and work of Roscommon CCC, below is the end of year statistical information compiled from both the Pobal annual sector profile and Roscommon CCC recording systems to illustrate the childcare sector in county Roscommon.





**Services Update** – 63 services 1 closure.

### Capacity and Challenges

The following are areas of concern in relation to County Roscommon:

- Capacity is still an issue in some parts of the county including Ballaghaderreen where a community childcare service closed during 2019. Efforts are ongoing to reopen this community childcare service. Unable to secure childcare places in some areas for refugee families when being resettled and moved from direct provision centres. There is an impact on children's development where there is non-attendance of vulnerable and disadvantaged children.
- County Roscommon do not have enough baby places to cater for the demand with some existing services advising that they may need to close their baby room due to the high running costs. There is concern about the ability of centre based services to meet this demand under the current childcare funding programmes.
- The capital funding programme is inadequate for expansion or to support start-ups.
- Insurance costs, audit costs, rates and overall running costs have increased.
- There is evidence that early years graduates are not staying in the sector which has a knock on effect on retention and sourcing of staff within the sector.

	Roscommon CCC support <b>63</b> Early Learning and Care and School Aged Childcare Services throughout the county.	Roscommon CCC support <b>17</b> Parent and Toddler groups in county Roscommon.	Roscommon CCC support <b>4</b> Childminders in the county.	
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<p>Roscommon CCC supported services to make <b>1,565</b> ECCE registrations. 30 services provided AIM level 4 support, 5 services provided AIM level 5 support and 25 services in the county provided AIM level 7 support to children in the county.</p>	<p>Roscommon CCC supported 48 TEC registrations with over €100,000 TEC funding received by services in the county.</p>
<p>Roscommon CCC team supported services and key stakeholders through <b>2,847</b> interactions via email, phone and face to face meetings</p>	
<p>There were 1,322 CCSP registrations made in 18/19 which Roscommon CCC supported services to receive over €2 million in CCSP funding. Roscommon CCC supported 657 parents/families in relation to the ECCE and Legacy schemes.</p>	<p>Roscommon CCC supported 770 stakeholders with CPD training over 110 sessions in 2019.</p>

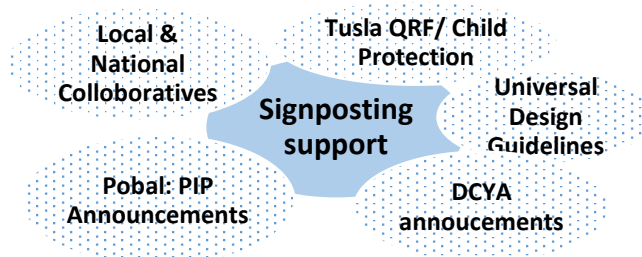
## Roscommon CCC supporting DCYA Operations & Communications Unit

### Roscommon CCC Communication Strategy 2019

<p><b>23,713</b> visitors to Roscommon CCC website in 2019</p>	<p><b>42</b> weekly bulletins published</p>	<p><b>164</b> website posts published on Roscommon CCC website and linked and scheduled on Roscommon CCC Facebook</p>	<p><b>846</b> Social Media signposting posts to other organisations/services on Roscommon CCC Facebook</p>
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Roscommon CCC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/roscommonchildcare/>

Roscommon CCC website: <https://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/>



## Roscommon CCC Supporting Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA) Finance & Governance Unit

### Capital Funding 2019

58 Early Learning & Care Services were notified via email & bulletin of the Grants and received guidelines

3 information events were held to inform services of guidelines and Grant process

11 services attended information events

14 services received one to one support in relation to their applications

5 services applied for strands in Capital Grants 2019

**Strand A:**  
Creation of new places for 0-3 year olds

**Strand B:** Fire Safety for community early years services

**Strand C:** Creation of new school age places

3 services received Capital under strands A,B & C

A Total of **€94,809** was funded in the County Roscommon

As per the beginning of 2019, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs announced the Capital funding programme 2019. Services were supported to make applications under three strands of the programme through workshops, one to one support, email and phone support. Roscommon CCC held one to one support clinics also to assist services to submit applications before the deadline. Three services were successful with their applications and received support from Roscommon CCC in the drawdown of funds. A combined total of **€94,809** was received by the services.

Roscommon People Friday 14 June 2019

## Over €200,000 in funding for local childcare providers

Six childcare providers across Roscommon and East Galway have between them received capital funding of €214,807 to create more places for U-3s, school age children and for fire safety improvements. The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone, announced a total national allocation of €6.25m to create an additional 3,600 childcare places through capital funding for providers of Early Years and School Age Childcare services.

The successful local applications were – Strokestown Community Playchool: €19,903 to provide new places for school age children; Roskilly Community Company: €70,000 to provide new places for school age and 0-3 year olds; Mountbellew Community Childcare Centre: €50,000 to provide new places for 0-3 year olds; Ballinderry Childcare Crèche, Kilconnell: €49,998 to provide new places for 0-3 year olds; Lanesborough Community Development Group: €20,000 to provide new places for school age children and Croghan

Fairy Bush: €4,904 for fire safety improvements. Welcoming news of the funding, Senator Maureen Hopkins said: "Access to childcare has been an issue for many families but I hope that investment such as this will help to ease that pressure". Independent TD Denis Naughten said: "While those providers who were not successful in this round of applications will be disappointed, the allocation of funding to the six successful applicants is welcome. More childcare places will be of huge benefit to the communities, local schools and families that they serve". Cllr. Tom Cronin also welcomed news of the grants.

**Roscommon CCC manager 'delighted with the announcement'**

Irene Caffrey, Manager of Roscommon CCC, said she was "delighted with the announcement" by Minister for Childcare and Youth Affairs, Dr. Katherine Zappone that a total of €6.25m in Capital funding to be awarded to providers of Early Learning and Care and School Age Childcare this summer. There are a number of local recipients (see story, page 13).

The Board, Manager and staff of Roscommon CCC would like to congratulate the local childcare services on their successful applications.

Manager Irene Caffrey acknowledges that over the summer services will need to work on the drawdown of their allocation to ensure the deadline requirements are met and assures providers that their staff team will support them to meet deadlines if required.

If you have any queries regarding this information, please contact Roscommon County Childcare Committee on 094-9625540 or see [www.roscommonchildcare.ie](http://www.roscommonchildcare.ie)



## Childcare programmes compliance



44 services received one to one ongoing support from Roscommon CCC with programme compliance throughout quarter 1,2, 3 and 4. This support was conducted through phone, email and one to one clinics/meetings. A further 19 services received compliance information regarding the national childcare programmes

3 compliance workshops were held throughout the year and 13 services attended. The objective of the workshops were to bring updated information and support to childcare services. Roscommon CCC also held one to one support clinics with services to support them to complete their fees lists and service calendars for 2019/2020 programme call and to support services to adhere to the programme guidelines to ensure compliance.

29 childcare services were supported by Roscommon CCC post Pobal compliance inspection.

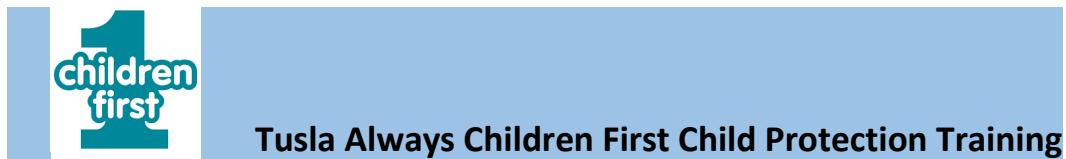
Roscommon CCC provided information to 63 Early learning and care and School Aged Childcare services regarding sustainability issues.

Roscommon CCC supported 20 services with ongoing sustainability. Roscommon CCC provided one to one supports to 14 early Learner and Care and School Aged Childcare services in line with Pobal's 2019 Integrated Case Management Processes.

## Code of Governance

- Roscommon CCC supported 9 community services on the code of governance journey, 8 of which are registered with the charities regulator.

## Roscommon CCC supporting DCYA's Quality Unit



Roscommon CCC held 8 Full day courses

142 participants from 69 services attended the training from services and agencies across the county and outside

Roscommon CCC held 8 Full day Foundation level Children First training programmes throughout 2019. In total 69 services with 142 participants took part in the training sessions. The majority of participants that received Always Children First training came from both private and community services and in addition some participants were from local services such as the Brother of Charity early years services.



**Above: Participants receiving their certificates following the completion of the training.**

**Below: Feedback from participants following the training**

*"I found the training really good especially clarifying my role in reporting concerns"*  
 Children First Participant

*"Thank you for a very interesting, informative training especially explaining in detail the mandated reporting process and my role in safeguarding children"*  
 Children First Participant

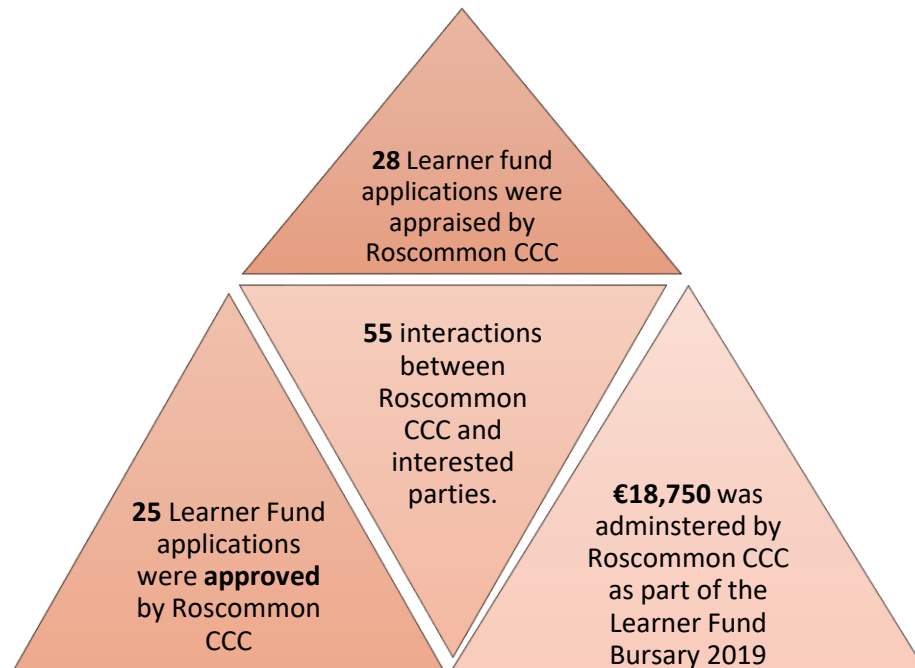
*"The way this was delivered has made me more confident in my role in safeguarding children"*  
 Children First Participant

*"Thanks for a great day, the information was clear and concise and participant pack and other resources will be useful for me to refer to again"*  
 Children First Participant





## Learner Fund bursary 2019



Roscommon CCC published updates on Roscommon CCC website and Facebook to inform qualifying recipients of the Learner Fund Graduate bursary levels 7, 8 and the Childminder Bursary. 27 graduate applications were received and 25 applications were recommended at the PESC sub-committee meeting with two being referred to other CCCs. 1 childminder learner fund bursary application was received and declined. From the total number of applications 11 of the applications came from community services while 14 applications were from private childcare services. A total of € 18,750.00 was administered through the fund for 2019.

## First Aid Response (FAR) reimbursement

Under the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016, a new regulatory requirement will come into force from June 1st, 2020. A total of 25 ELC/SAC services were successful in their applications for FAR funding. A total of €4,712.50 was approved by Roscommon CCC.

Roscommon CCC informed 63 services & 4 childminders of the reimbursement

Services/Childminders could obtain a reimbursement of €225 per full FAR course **OR** €175 for refresher course

25 Early Learning and Care Services in County Roscommon were allocated **€4,712.50** in funding in Phase and 1,2 &3.

## Access & Inclusion Model (AIM)



The Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) is a model of supports designed to ensure that children with disabilities can access the ECCE programme. AIM is a child centred model, involving seven levels of progressive support moving from the universal to the targeted, based on the needs of each child. The Diversity, Equality and Inclusion training programme enables and assists services to provide universal AIM support once completed by staff members from the setting. According to the Pobal sector profile in 2018/19, 2,388 services nationally were supported under AIM. (Pobal, 2019 p.39)

53 services were informed of AIM updates via Roscommon CCC website, Bulletin, through email and via phone through 387 interactions with Roscommon CCC. 30 ELC services in County Roscommon provide AIM level 4 support to children while 5 services provide level 5 support to children. A further 25 services provide level 7 AIM support to children.

3 Diversity, Equality & Inclusion (DEI) Training have taken place with a total of 16 services and 31 participants.

354 parents received support from Roscommon CCC in relation to AIM and complex needs via Roscommon CCC website, Facebook, Phone and information clinics.



**Participants from Diversity, Equality and Inclusion training receiving their Certificates in 2019.**

### Feedback from end of course evaluations.



*"Excellent, I have learned lots of valuable information and I can now put into practice"*  
 DEI participant



*"Very interesting programme. Really enjoyed shared experiences from other group members"*  
 DEI participant



*"Excellent, really enjoyed this programme. Bonus that it was in our own area"* DEI Participant

## Roscommon CCC Training 2019

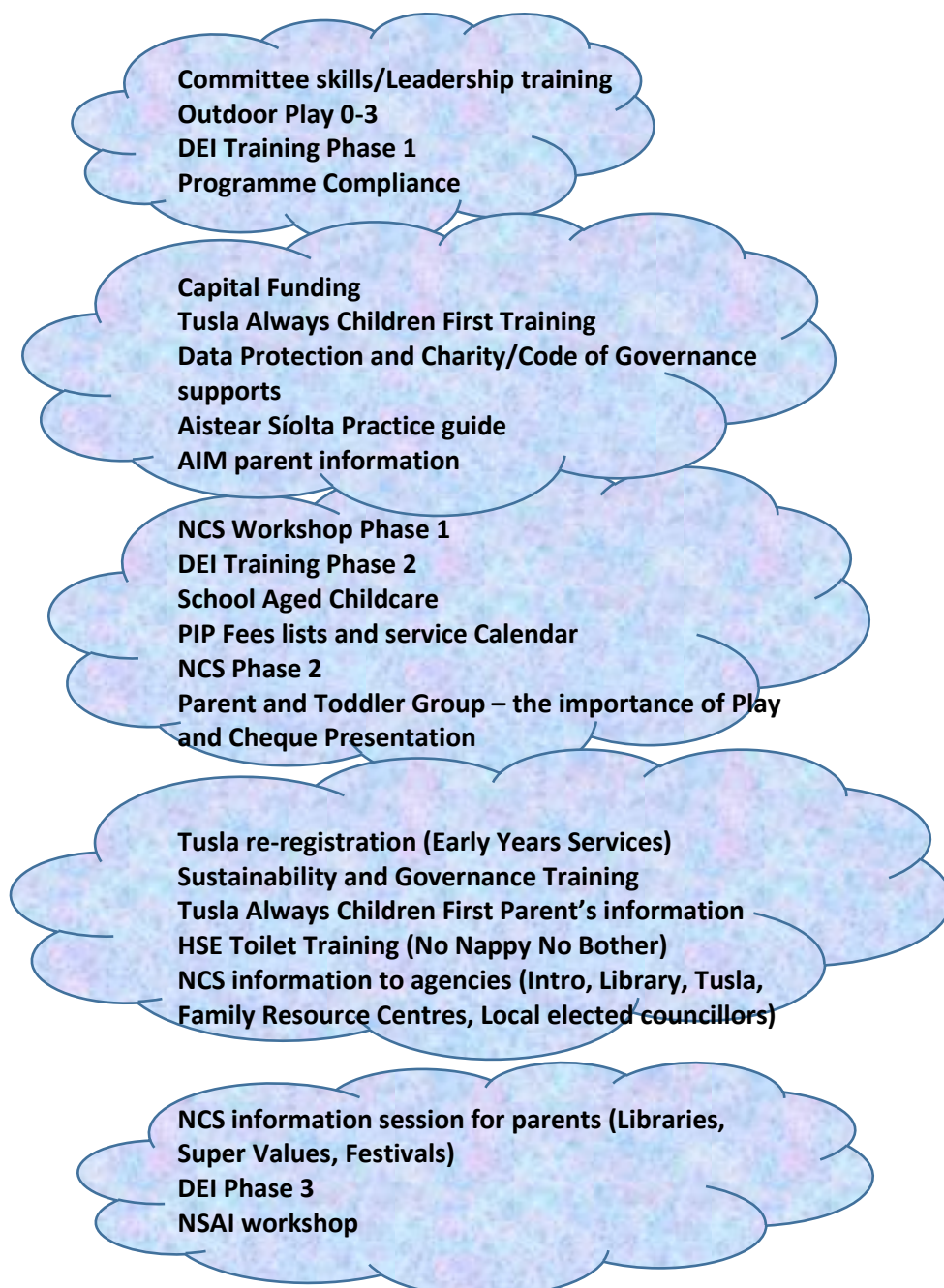


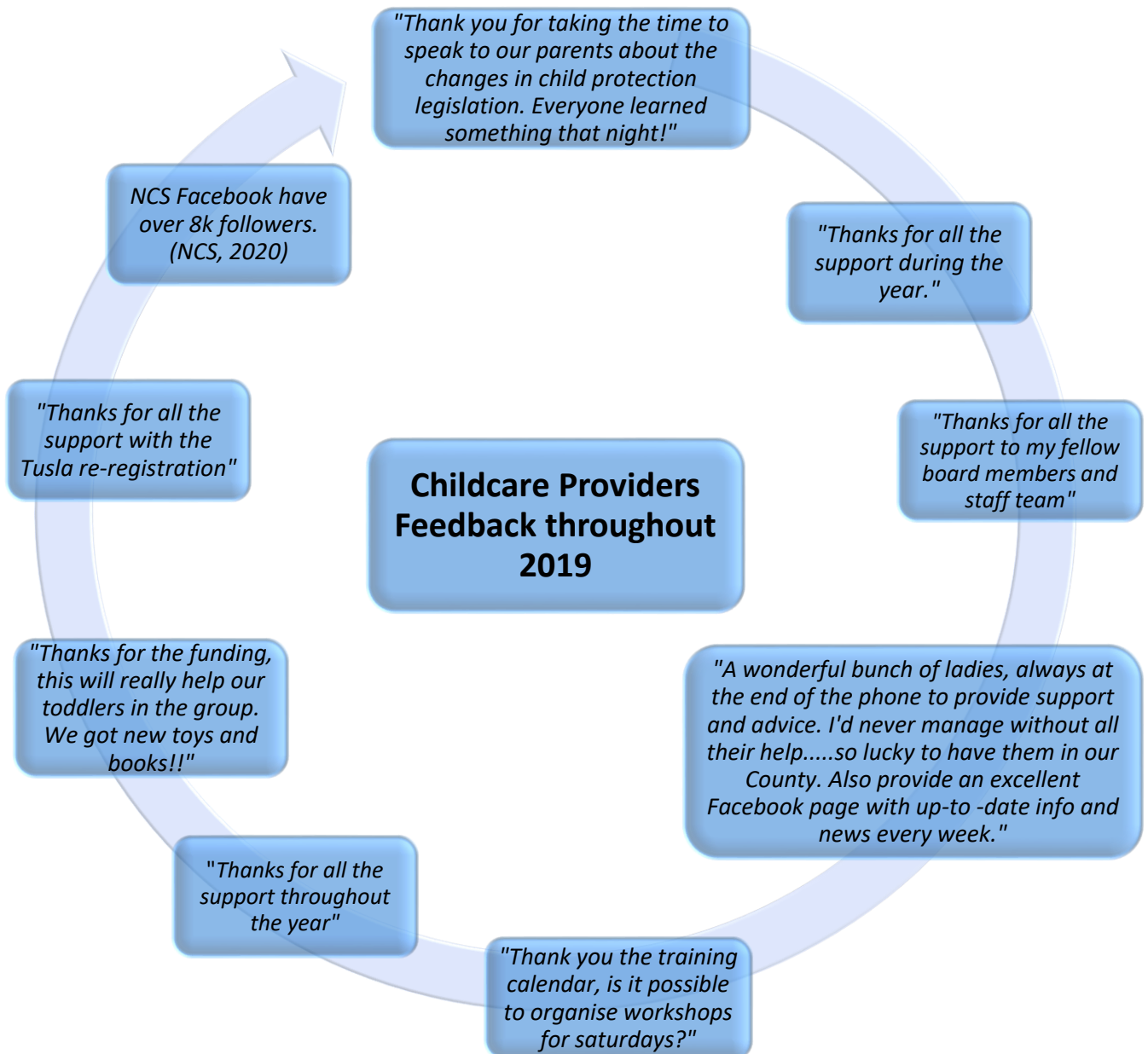
Roscommon CCC held 106 training and one to one sessions throughout 2019.

A total of 770 participants attended training throughout 2019.

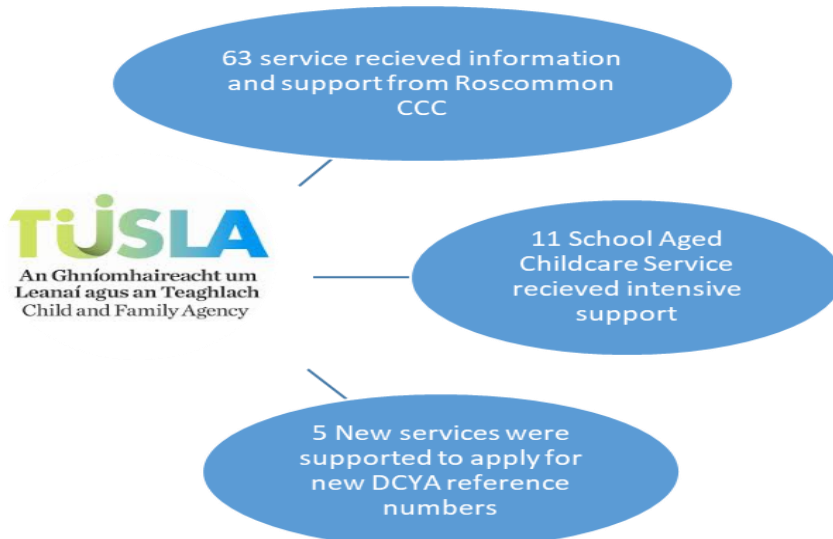
Participants included Early Learning and Care Services, Childminders, Parents and agency staff.

### Training/Programme Supports Roscommon CCC provided throughout 2019:

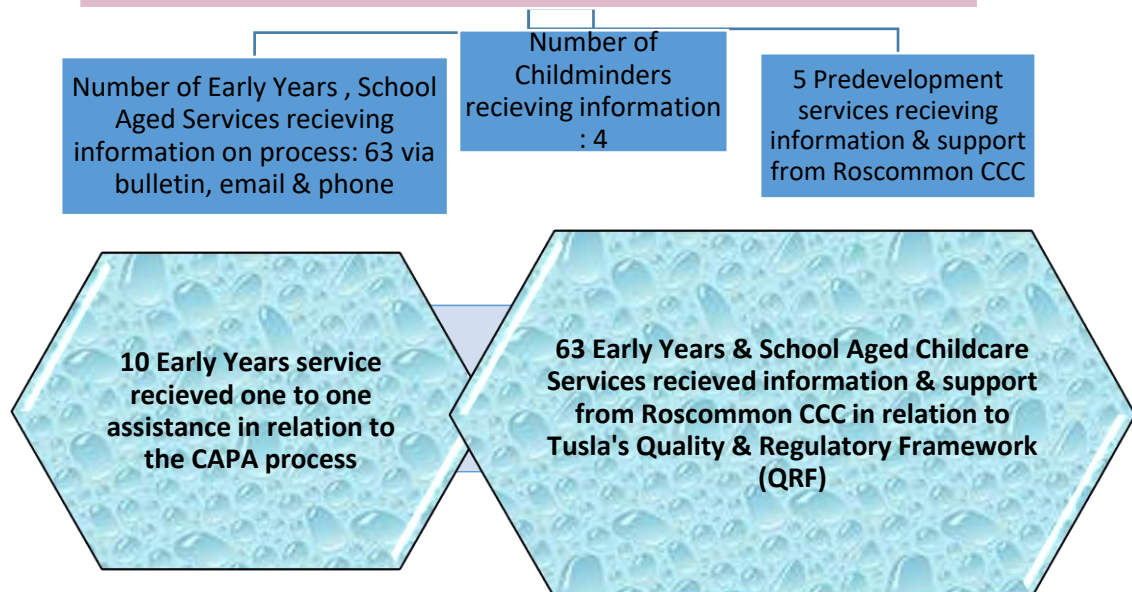




## Tusla registration & re-registration process



## Tusla registration & re-registration process



Roscommon CCC distributed information regarding Tusla registration to 63 services throughout 2019. 5 of these services received intensive support in registering with Tusla and applying for their DCYA reference number. 11 services received one to one support with the Tusla registration and re-registration process. Roscommon CCC supported services through 166 phone calls in relation to the Tusla re-registration process. The National Childcare Scheme (NCS) launched in November 2019, this has resulted in a change in the application process for a DCYA reference number. Service providers now apply directly through the NCS portal via the on-boarding process.



## National Aistear Siolta Initiative (NSAI)



**6 services engaged with  
5 Aistear & Sfolta  
introductory &  
awareness raising  
workshops with 15  
participants.**

**2 community services recieved support under the Quality Assurance Process (QAP). 5 QAP support visits took place throughout 2019.**

## Roscommon CCC supporting quality practice

5 NSAI workshops were delivered in 2019, 6 services participated in these workshops with a total of 15 participants. Roscommon CCC delivered the 'Aistear Síolta Practice guide –An Introduction' to one service on site with 8 participants. This service caters for 75 children and Roscommon CCC referred them to the Better Start Quality Development service following delivery of this workshop. The other 4 workshops were attended by 5 services with 4 participants from community services, 1 participant from a predevelopment service, 1 participant from a Resource Centre and 1 participant from a private service. This training impacted on 61 children and an additional 22 children will benefit when the pre-development service opens in September 2020.

Two community services engaged in NSAI support under the QAP programme in the first part of 2019 but later withdrew from the process. 5 support took place in 2019 under the QAP to the 2 community services benefiting 132 children.

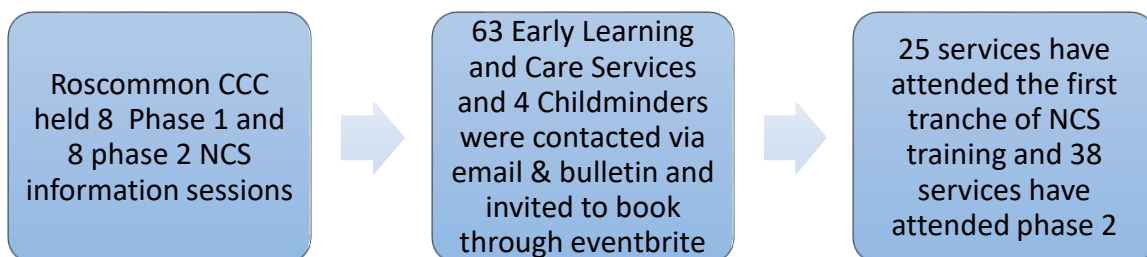
The childcare environment in 6 services with approximately 270 children was further enhanced by services participation in the Roscommon CCC NSAI programme throughout 2019.

## Roscommon CCC supporting DCYA's National Childcare Scheme (NCS) Projects Unit

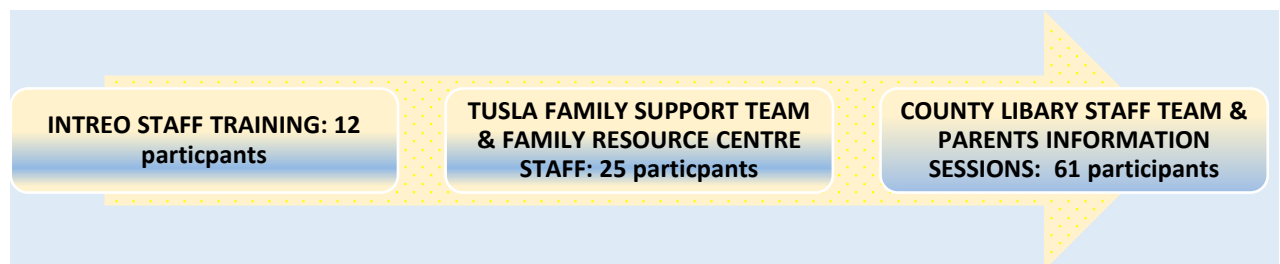


The New National Childcare Scheme Launched in October 2019.

During the course of 2019, Roscommon CCC received and delivered training and supports to ELC/SAC Services in preparation of the launch of the new scheme and the on-boarding process. Roscommon CCC also worked collaboratively with agencies in the county to deliver information sessions to local agency staff working with parents who would be interested in the new scheme.



## Information sharing to other agencies workshops on National Childcare Scheme



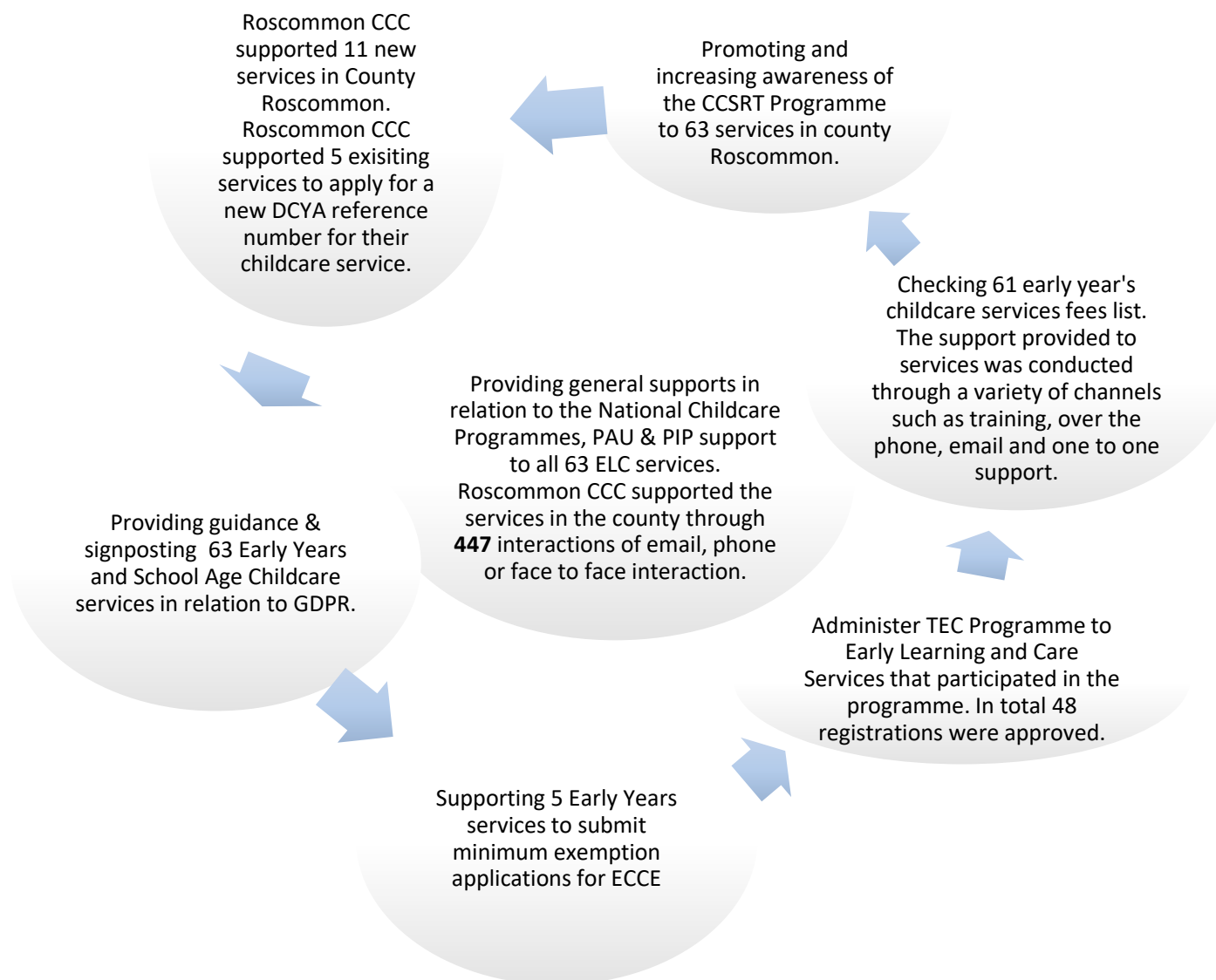
*Below are photos of Roscommon CCC sharing information across the county at local supermarkets, events and festivals prior to the launch of the National Childcare Scheme.*



**Minister Zappone DCYA and Taoiseach Varadkar at the launch of the National Childcare Scheme**

[For more information click here](#)

## Roscommon CCC supporting DCYA's Operational and communications unit



## Roscommon CCC support to parents in County Roscommon

657 parents were supported in relation to general queries and accessing childcare places under the national childcare programmes throughout 2019.

294 Parents received information and support in relation to the AIM model.

11 Parent and Toddler groups were allocated a total of €4,500 of funding under the Parent and Toddler Group Grant initiative 2019.

*Below are some of the parent and toddler groups receiving their funding cheques. Funds were delivered via support visits, post and a presentation night for groups.*



A total of 17 Parent and Toddler groups are operating in county Roscommon. Roscommon CCC approved a total of €4,500 in 2019 following the Parent and Toddler group grant application process. Many groups used their funding to replenish their toy and activity base, insurance costs, day trips and training for parents.

[Click here to view Roscommon CCC supporting Parent and Toddler Groups leaflet](#)








## **Children and Young People Services Committee (CYPSC)/Roscommon CCC -0-3 Outdoor Play Initiative**



Roscommon CCC were responsible for the delivery of 3 actions under objective 2 of the CYPSC Plan

-  Free play 0-3 years
-  Outdoor play 0-3 years
-  Physical activity 0-3 years

This initiative included workshops and a visit to an outdoor playschool in Roscommon Town. Services participating in this programme also had activities to carry out with the children between workshops and their findings were also used as part of the programme. This programme was delivered to 6 community services in Roscommon catering for approximately 245 children under the age of 3 years.

Services in Roscommon had identified a lack of outdoor were for young children as a barrier to outdoor play. As part of this initiative the 6 services that participate in this programme each received 15 outdoor suits as part of the resource pack for services who attended this training programme.



### **Healthy Ireland Smart Start**

Roscommon CCC supported the National Childhood Network Healthy Ireland Smart Start programme by advertising on the Roscommon CCCs social media.

### **Pobal Early Years Sector Profile**

Roscommon CCC supported Early Years services in county Roscommon to complete the Pobal Early Years Sector Profile for the programme year 2018/2019. Notices and notification of the survey closing were published on Roscommon CCC website, Facebook and in Roscommon CCC weekly bulletin. The results of the survey were published in December 2019 and are available here: <https://www.pobal.ie/app/uploads/2019/12/Annual-Early-Years-Sector-Profile-Report-AEYSPR-2018-19.pdf>



### **Roscommon County Library and Roscommon CCC**

#### **Lifelong Love of Books initiative**

Roscommon CCC collaborated with Roscommon county library to facilitate one book per Parent and Toddler group in the county with reference to the Aistear tip sheet book list. Roscommon CCC received the books and distributed the books to the groups.

***Above: Roscommon County Library presenting a book to Lisacul Parent and Toddler group as part of the Lifelong love of Books initiative.***

### **No Nappy No Bother collaboration with HSE**

Following on from last year's collaboration Roscommon CCC in collaboration with HSE, REIS and Brothers of Charity Roscommon services worked together to deliver a new toilet training initiative to support children with additional needs in the county. Roscommon CCC shared the events and sent it to Early Learning and Care centres in the county Roscommon.



### **National Parents Council**

The National Parents council in collaboration with Roscommon CCC organised an event for parents. The event was published on Roscommon CCC website, Facebook and in our weekly bulletin.



### **Artists in school Programme 2019**

Roscommon CCC in collaboration with Roscommon County Council supported the Artist in school Programme 2019 to include one community ELC service. The successful service received an artists for a period of 7 weeks to work with the ELC service.



### **Healthy Ireland**

Roscommon CCC in collaboration with Healthy Ireland have advertised the initiative on Roscommon CCC website and Facebook.



### **Roscommon County Council Cruinniú na nÓg**

Roscommon County Childcare Committee CLG advertised Roscommon County Council's Cruinniú Na nÓg event on Roscommon CCC Facebook and website of the county play day event.

### **Roscommon County Play day 2019**

Roscommon County Playday took place on Saturday 7th September in lough key forest park, Boyle, Co.Roscommon.

Roscommon CCC organisaed the event in colloboration with Roscommon County Council, Lough key forest park and Castlereaa inflatables.

Approximately 600 children registered with Roscommon CCC on the day.

The emphasis was on back to basics outdoor and natural play with most of the activities taking place outdoors. There was science demonstrations, t-shirt and bag design, Lego block building along with storytelling and face painting. Parents expressed their thanks for the number of activities on offer and stated they would like to see more days like this organised on a county level.



Roscommon County Childcare Committee CLG in association with Roscommon County Council held their annual Playday on Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup> 2019. The day was extremely successful with approximately 600 young people in attendance. Many families travelled to the event from outside the county as they had attended on previous years and had really enjoyed them. The collaboration of the different local agencies contributes to the success of this play day on an annual basis. Roscommon CCC was also available to speak to parents about the new National Childcare Scheme giving them information leaflets about the scheme.

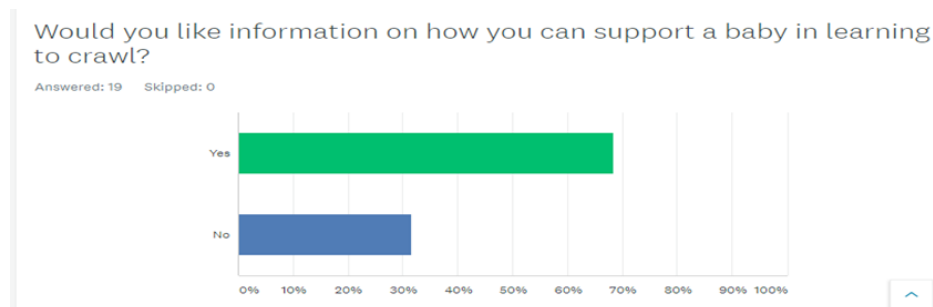
## Crawl and Learn initiative Tusla



Arising from consultation with early years practitioners, parent and toddler groups and parents, Roscommon County Childcare Committee have developed an information poster on the benefits of crawling in collaboration with Tusla and as part of a level eight early years student placement project.

As part of this project, Roscommon CCC carried out research to gain an understanding in to what parents already knew about the benefits of this stage of development for babies and if they thought it would be important for them to learn more. To do this, Roscommon CCC used quantitative research and designed an online survey to gain responses and feedback from practitioners, parent and toddler groups and parents.

The feedback from the survey revealed that most people were aware of the benefits crawling had on a child's development and they encouraged this stage of development by praising them, putting their favourite toy in reach, giving them space to move, lots of tummy time and giving them freedom to explore. All respondents reported that they do encourage floor time but believed that children do spend too much time nowadays in walkers, high chairs and car seats. The respondents to this survey did feel that parents and practitioners do acknowledge how important this stage is for a child's development. There was a positive response in the number of people who believed that it would be helpful if childcare services had a poster displayed that outlined the importance and benefits of the crawling stage for babies. The poster is available for all early learning and care services, parent and toddler groups, family resource centres, childminders and local and national agencies that support children and families.



Above is a sample of the results from the research that Roscommon CCC conducted.

[Click here to view Crawl and learn poster](#)



### Elected representatives

Roscommon CCC invited the newly elected county councillors of county Roscommon to a meeting to discuss sectoral updates and the new National Childcare Scheme. Following the meeting Roscommon CCC continues to update the representatives through Roscommon CCC bulletin, Facebook and website.



## **IT Sligo Student Placement Collaborative Action**



Roscommon County Childcare Committee in collaboration with IT Sligo facilitated one Early Childhood Care and Education third year student a thirteen week placement from January 2019- April 2019. Throughout the student's placement a broad range of skills and knowledge was gained through the work completed.

### **IT Sligo presentation to childcare students**

Roscommon County Childcare Committee in collaboration with IT Sligo delivered a presentation to a group of incoming 1<sup>st</sup> year students regarding the childcare sector and sector updates as part of their induction there were approximately 30 students present.



### **EROC**

Roscommon CCC supported The Growing Tree Childcare service onsite in the EROC centre Ballaghaderreen. In late 2019 there were 20 refugee children receiving childcare supports ranging from 1 year to 5 years. By supporting childcare within the centre it allows the parents to attend orientation classes such as English. This is an interagency collaboration supported by Tusla and Roscommon Integrated Development Company. Roscommon CCC chair the Interagency Management Committee with other local and national agencies including Roscommon Leadership Partnership, Tusla, Irish Refugee Protection Programme- Department of Justice, Galway and Roscommon Education Board (GRETb).

#### **For Children:**





To provide a high quality, child centred, play based environment which values the human rights of children, recognises each child as a unique individual and empowers young children to actively pursue their own learning.

#### **For Parents:**






The opportunity to attend English classes and orientation and training opportunities within the centre.

### **Benefits to children & families**

#### **Children**

-  Interact with their peers in an age appropriate child friendly environment.
-  Learn to interact with peers and adults in a non-aggressive manner
-  Children learn to play and overcome the trauma they have experienced due to the intense disruption and upheaval they have suffered in their lives due to war, bereavement, family separation and severe hardship before their arrival in Ireland.
-  Learn English through interacting with staff team

#### **Parents**

-  Have access to orientation programmes.
-  Supports attendance to English classes, training and workshops.
-  Introduced and advised on the benefits of childcare in the Irish context.
-  Avail of behaviour management, nutrition advice and help supports.
-  Attendance at healthcare appointments

In 2019, the Growing Tree has extended its provision of care from sessional (3 hours) to Part time (up to 5 hours). The service is in receipt of CCSR DCYA funded programme and also the new National Childcare Scheme.



After a review of the service, the Growing Tree increased the level of childcare support as required to meet the needs of the refugee families. It has shown better outcomes for the refugee children and their families. Language development and physical development are many of the key supports being implemented within the Growing Tree service.

A new modular building funded under the Department of Justice and Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) to provide full time childcare for refugee children and families is currently in the process to open in September 2020. It is envisaged that this service will also support children and families in the wider community.

### **Quality and Capacity Building Initiative (QCBI)**

In 2018, Roscommon CCC in conjunction with Tusla applied for the QCBI innovation fund. The aim of this project is to provide residents of EROC with cultural sensitive information regarding family support, child welfare and early childhood care and education. In 2019, it was planned to develop an app that would provide a resource meeting the aims of the project. The overall impact of this project is to support better outcomes for refugees and their families. The finished app aims to be launched in April 2020.

### **Childcare Committee Ireland (CCI)**

**CCI Strategic Planning Task Group** – Roscommon CCC is an active member of this national task group. CCI Strategic plan completed and submitted to DCYA. National initiatives are delivered through CCI with the support of DCYA and Pobal.



## Appendix (i)

Click on the following websites, useful for additional information on the National Childcare Programmes:

[AIM](#)

[Better Start](#)

[Children and Youth Peoples Services Committee](#)

[Department of Childcare and Youth Affairs](#)

[Department of Education and Skills](#)

[Department of Justice](#)

[First Five – A Whole of Government Strategy](#)

[Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board](#)

[Healthy Ireland](#)

[HSE](#)

[Irish Refugee Protection Programme \(IRPP\)](#)

[IT Sligo](#)

[My CCC](#)

[National Childcare Scheme](#)

[National Childhood Network](#)

[National Council for Curriculum and Assessment](#)

[National Parents Council](#)

[Pobal](#)

[Roscommon County Childcare Committee CLG Eventbrite](#)

[Roscommon County Childcare Committee CLG Facebook](#)

[Roscommon County Childcare Committee CLG website](#)

[Roscommon County Council](#)

[Roscommon Leader Partnership](#)

[The Brothers of Charity Services Roscommon Ltd.](#)

[Tusla](#)

## 2019 in photos

