

Note for LCDC Members following the meeting with Minister Zappone 16th November 2017

Present: Minister Zappone, three DCYA officials, Emma Berney CYPSC, Patricia Finlay Tusla, Tom Dunne KYS, Susan Bookle LCDC

Outcome:

- Discussion took place in relation to Kildare's growth, level and numbers of children and young people, service deficits and challenges
- The collaboration that exists between stakeholders was emphasised and acknowledgement of the work of the LCDC and CYPSC was highlighted by the Minister
- It was highlighted that the process to allocate funding does not fit with the needs presented in Kildare as a growing commuter belt county. The deprivation indices do not consider the poverty evident in Kildare e.g. families living in rent supplement accommodation, the lack of basic service and support
- All priorities outlined in the costed proposal submitted in October were discussed:

1. Family Resource Centres

Two FRC have been funded in 2016, however a mechanism to fund/expand the programme does not currently exist. A review is planned for 2017 to identify gaps.

It was agreed that Kildare will commence preparation of the business case for the three FRCs proposed to input into this review.

2. Youth work provision and posts

Discussion took place in relation to the impact of budget reductions for youth services in recent years, the need to redress these reductions and increase funding to provide adequate youth work services across the county.

3. Hive

It was acknowledged that the purchase of the Hive building from An Post is very cost effective and makes sound business sense. DCYA will enact a capital scheme in 2017; however it is unlikely to provide for the purchase of premises. It was urged by the Kildare representatives that this would be considered as part of the criteria for this scheme.

4. Youth Officer post for the county

DCYA confirmed that a budget line exists for a dedicated post for Kildare. Contact has been made with the ETB. All agreed that this presents a very positive opportunity to fill this post.

5. Preparing for life

Reviews of programmes such as ABC identify the possibilities for expanding programmes such as preparing for life. The gaps in services to support vulnerable parents with babies were stressed.

It was suggested by Minister Zappone that other relevant Ministers are met with to discuss the other priorities raised in relation to youth mental health, primary care social work, youth unemployment programmes and community Gardai. Minister Zappone committed to highlighting the priorities raised with her colleagues.

The Minister also proposed that the group present re-convene before the end of the first quarter 2017 to review progress.