

DONEGAL CYPSC

Scally Place,
Justice Walsh Road,
Letterkenny

Email:

Anne.TimonyMeehan@tusla.ie
Gearoid.Horkan@tusla.ie

Website:

www.cypsc.ie

Facebook

@CYPSCDONEGAL

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@CYPSCDONEGAL



@CYPSCDL

The Donegal Children & Young People's Committee (CYPSC) aims to improve outcomes for children and young people aged 0-24 years in County Donegal.

The purpose of CYPSCs are to bring statutory, community and voluntary agencies providing services to children and young people together to cooperate and plan and work in a coordinated way. CYPSC's are funded through the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Chaired by Tusla. The local authority holds the position of Vice Chair. They work to support children, young people and their families to achieve the five national outcomes set out in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020.



Useful Helplines: Community Support Helpline 1800-928- 982

HSE 180024 1850

TravelWise 01 613 1733

Alone 0818 222 024

Seniorline 1800 804 591

Samaritans 116 123

Pieta House 1800 247 247

Woman's Aid 1800 341 900

Donegal Domestic Violence Service:
Helpline open 24hrs 1800 262677

Flac 1890 350 250

CARI Helpline 1890 924567

Worker's Rights Centre 1890 747 881

Threshold 1800 454 454

MABS 0761 07 2000

Jigsaw: help@jigsaw.ie

Childline: www.childline.ie 1800 66 66
66 Text: 50101

Lifeline Inishowen: support@ldvs.org
Helpline 074 9373232 Mon-Fri 10 –
1.30

STILL HERE Campaign for people who
are suffering Domestic Abuse at this
time - <https://www.stillhere.ie/>

National Traveller Helpline 083 100
6300

National HSE Roma Helpline
0871264606

Donegal Parent Supportline 1800 11 22



DONEGAL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Is CYPSC Dhún na nGall muid i gcuideachta le chéile

NEWSLETTER

Special Edition 11— June 2020

Donegal Community Resilience & Response to COVID19

Pramerica's generous response to CYPSC Laptop Appeal re COVID19



11th June 2020

Pramerica joined forces with Donegal CYPSC to help students get the New Academic Year off to a good start. Pramerica has kindly donated 10 refurbished laptops to support 10 students through COVID19.



It was just a few weeks into lockdown when the Donegal Youth Council started to raise awareness about the impact COVID19 restrictions were having on their peers at school. They described how, many of our young people in Donegal were struggling to continue their school work remotely, trying to access Google Classrooms and school material via their phones as they didn't have access to a PC or laptop, or they were juggling the use of a laptop or PC with siblings or a parent working from home. This was causing increased stress and anxiety for young people and their families.

Donegal CYPSC reached out Toni Forester, Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce, seeking options to try to address this need and Pramerica quickly offered their assistance.



Martin Gallen Donegal ETB and Chair of CYPSC Education & Learning Subcommittee in accepting the laptops commented "The COVID19 restrictions brought about a major shift in how

learning happens. Remote learning, the use of on-line resources, Google classrooms and classes via Zoom, these new means of learning have necessitated the development of new skills and ways of communicating. Unfortunately, not all students have access to a digital device. On behalf of Donegal CYPSC, I would like to thank Christopher Lynch of Pramerica for this generous donation which will make a real difference for those young people who will use these laptops. Also special thanks to Toni Forrester and the Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce for their support in this collaboration."

Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce also celebrated the Re-opening of Local Businesses and retail outlets with a photoshoot at the Pole Star roundabout. The easing of COVID19 restrictions is welcomed by the whole community. A sincere thank you to all the Donegal business owners and their staff who volunteered so much time, energy and resources to supporting the community throughout Lockdown. Now its our turn to support local enterprise **So Think Local, Support Local, Shop Local, Love Local.....**

Minister Doherty Eases Access to Rent Supplement for Victims of Domestic Violence

Important Information: The Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Regina Doherty, announced changes to make rent supplement available more easily to victims of domestic violence. The Minister's announcement follows proposals from SAFE Ireland for such assistance. Under these changes, victims of domestic violence can get immediate access to rent supplement for a three month period to ensure that they are not prevented from leaving their home because of financial concerns. The usual rent supplement means test will not apply for this three month period. The process will work based on referrals from Tusla-funded services; referrals from An Garda Síochána and the HSE will also be possible.

After the three-month period, a further three-month extension may be provided, subject to the usual rent supplement means assessment. After six months, if the tenant has a long term housing need, they can apply to their local housing authority for social housing supports and, if eligible, will be able to access HAP.

Minister Doherty said *"An agreed protocol will be drawn up with TUSLA to enable services funded by the agency to make referrals to my Department for access to rent supplement for victims of domestic violence through a dedicated channel. My Department will also accept direct referrals through nominated contact points in An Garda Síochána and the HSE. I would like to pay particular tribute to SAFE Ireland who worked with us and advised us on the best approach to take."*

'Let's Get Ready' Early Learning & Care settings set to Re-Open

As Early Learning and Care settings plan to re-open from 29 June, the **Let's Get Ready web-site** provides guidance for children and parents preparing to return these settings. There is a particular focus on new public health requirements introduced in response to COVID-19. For more information see <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/1e8a3-lets-get-ready/>

The Let's Get Ready website also focuses on children preparing to attend pre-school or primary school for the first time from this September. Let's Get Ready includes guidance for parents on practical steps they can take to support their children over these coming months and tips on what children and parents can expect on their transition or return to pre-school and primary school.

A transitions pack for children starting primary school is soon to be distributed through a range of channels, including **Donegal County Childcare Committee**, Early Learning and Care settings and Home School Liaison Officers. This pack includes a tip sheet for parents, a transitions card for children and a 'Mo Scéal' transitions template developed by the National Council of Curriculum and Assessment for completion by parents.

This template enables parents to share key information with their child's teacher and the school. This initiative provides parents and guardians with useful tips & suggests fun play-based activities parents can do to support their children with these important transitions. www.donegalchildcare.com

A Fund for Families— Community Collaboration at its Best



'A Fund for Families', a successful Donegal collaborative effort to support families experiencing hardship as a result of COVID19.

'A Fund for Families' was a direct response to the hardship being experienced by families in County Donegal. It started out as a Go Fund Me page set up by Mary Walker Callaghan Lifestart Services CLG. **Donegal CYPSC re-directed €5,000** from the Better Outcomes Brighter Futures Implementation Fund and with the donations received from the Go Fund Me page, Letterkenny Rugby Club and All Seasons Charity Shop the total fund reached just over €10,000. To date this fund has supported families with a variety of items - home heating oil, coal, electricity, cots, cot mattresses, stair gates, beds, kitchen table and chairs, weighted blankets, cups, plates, cutlery, basketball stand and ball, MP3 Player, food, cleaning materials, saucepans, bedding, clothes, vouchers, sensory packs etc. The requests for support have been countywide and from across services.

A sincere Thank You to all those who have contributed to the Fund, and a special Thank you to the dedicated staff Team at Lifestart Service CLG who have continued to support families in need throughout the Lockdown. Well Done Guys !

Consultation & Planning process CYPSC Plan 2021-2023 UPDATE



Despite the restrictions imposed by COVID19 the Donegal CYPSC team have continued to progress the Consultations and Planning process to develop the new Children & Young people's Plan 2021-2023. Dr Celia Keenaghan, has compiled the data from the Youth Survey (210 respondents) and the Parent survey (232 respondents) and this information together with the Socio-demographic Profile of the County is being presented to the CYPSC Sub-committees in Week 25. The feedback from these 2 surveys has informed the Questions asked in the CYPSC Partner/Service providers Survey which will also be circulated during Week 25. We would ask all CYPSC Partner organisations to take part. Discussions have already begun to focus on Priority Themes emerging from the consultation process.

The feedback from these 2 surveys has informed the Questions asked in the CYPSC Partner/Service providers Survey which will also be circulated during Week 25. We would ask all CYPSC Partner organisations to take part. Discussions have already begun to focus on Priority Themes emerging from the consultation process.

Thank You to all who contributed to the surveys, especially the Donegal Youth Council who gave feedback, piloted the Youth Survey and encouraged their peers to take part. The Prize Draw for the Survey respondents will take place shortly. **Watch this Space!**

