

## RESEARCH AIMS:

To **review** the provision of not-for-profit, community-based childcare in Fingal.

To **evaluate** the impact of the NCS on childcare places and the financial sustainability of community-based early childhood settings in Fingal.

To **provide insights** into the impact of NCS on stakeholders (early childhood educators, parents, board of management and others).

NCS = National Childcare Scheme

IN IRELAND MORE THAN 1 in 4 PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY IS A CHILD.

Fingal has the **LOWEST** proportion of not-for-profit community childcare services in Ireland

6% COMPARED TO THE NATIONAL AVERAGE of 26% IN BALBRIGGAN IT'S 2%

"The lack of childcare provision is the most significant barrier for the people that we serve."

Adeline O'Brien  
Empower, Fingal

"So much of our work is **invisible**; It's great to hear we're being listened to. **FAMILIES NEED THESE SUPPORTS.**"

Ann Murray  
Service Provider

"There must be a balance."

- Grainne McKenna | DCU



# DOUBLE DISADVANTAGE

REDUCED ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AT RISK OF POVERTY IN FINGAL

Community-based childcare settings **reduce the harmful impact of poverty** on children's development.

NCS does not make any special provision for children and families experiencing long-term employment.

A significant number of families that were previously eligible are being **LEFT BEHIND.**



Particular concern has been expressed for:  
**SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES**  
CHILDREN FROM THE TRAVELLER and ROMA COMMUNITIES  
**FAMILIES EXPERIENCING LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT**

9/10



services reported that they would **not be financially viable** following the withdrawal of The Community Childcare Subvention Scheme.

Led by children, family and the community need.

ECEC = Early Childhood Education and Care

"WE HAVE A SYSTEM THAT **LOCKS OUT** the POOREST and MOST VULNERABLE."



Accessing the system is time-consuming and complicated for families.

**ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES DIRECTLY IMPACT CHILDREN.**



"This research gives us a really strong framework to build on."

- Clodagh Carroll | Barnardos Ireland



Fingal