

General Information/ Updates:

Ireland's Response to the situation in Ukraine: The Irish Government is committed to delivering a humanitarian response to welcome people fleeing the war in Ukraine and seeking protection in Ireland. Significant work is taking place across Government to provide accommodation and other essential supports to those who have arrived here already, as well as planning and preparing to receive and support the large numbers of further people expected to arrive. A webpage on the whole-of-Government response to the situation in Ukraine is now available at www.gov.ie/ukraine (and is updated regularly) which includes information on supports and services available to people arriving from Ukraine.

If you are a Ukrainian citizen or if you are fleeing Ukraine, the Irish Government will help you when you arrive in Ireland.

You can find information below on the supports and services available:

- [Реакція Ірландії на ситуацію в Україні](#)
- [Реакция Ирландии на ситуацию в Украине](#)

HSE Healthcare Services for Ukrainian nationals in Ireland:

If you arrive in Ireland from Ukraine, you can get support from the Irish State. This includes a place to stay, financial support (social welfare), the right to work, and healthcare services.

The HSE (Health Service Executive) is Ireland's public healthcare service.

To access the HSE Website containing details on Healthcare Services available [CLICK HERE](#)

This page is also available in other languages:

Ukrainian - [Медичні послуги для українців, які прибувають до Ірландії](#)

Russian - [Медицинские услуги для украинцев, прибывающих в Ирландию](#)

Talking to Children about War: With news of the war in Ukraine dominating headlines, social media platforms and conversations across the country, many children in early learning and care and school age childcare settings will have been exposed to information about the conflict. Barnardos have developed a guidance document entitled "Talking to Children about War".

To download this resource [CLICK HERE](#) or for further guidance and information [CLICK HERE](#)

Parents and Carers Guide to School Applications:

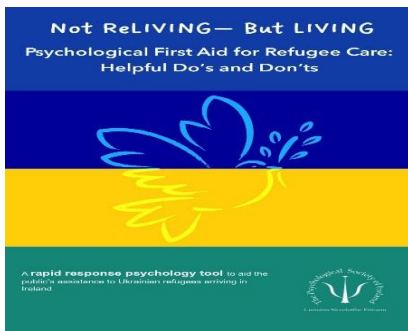
Tusla Education Support Service (TESS) have translated their guide containing "Tips for enrolling a child in school" to assist Ukrainian parents find a school placement for their child(ren) in Ireland.

To download the guide in English and/ or Ukrainian click on the links below.

[Parents and Carers Guide to School Applications](#)

[Посібник для батьків та опікунів щодо подання заяв до школи](#)





The Psychological Society of Ireland – Time of War Resources: Due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, many Ukrainians have had to leave their homes. With Ireland welcoming refugees, the PSI has set up a [dedicated resources section](#) on their website to provide assistance to refugees and those that have been affected by the war in Ukraine and other wars.

One such resource is a rapid response psychology tool to aid the public's assistance to Ukrainian refugees arriving in Ireland. [CLICK HERE](#) to view. To access the resources page for psychologists, refugees, and members of the general public [CLICK HERE](#)



Let's Get Set: The Healthy Ireland [Let's Get Set campaign](#) encourages us all to set a healthier routine, and to avail of simple easy steps to keep up or to create a new healthy habit, whether that is eating better, getting more physically active, or learning how to take care of our mental wellbeing.

To keep up to date on the Let's Get Set campaign [CLICK HERE](#), you can also visit the [Healthy Ireland](#) Keep Well webpage or for more information at a local level, check out your local Authority Keep Well Pages at the following links: [Longford](#), [Westmeath](#), [Laois](#), [Offaly](#) and a full list of [Local Authorities in Ireland](#)



Spring into Storytime: [Spring into Story Time](#) is a celebration of families reading together that is running in public libraries countrywide throughout April. Library story times are popular with many parents, who use them in the spring as a fun tester for pre-school and school.

[Children's story-time sessions](#) are also available online thanks to cooperation between local library services and Irish publishers!

For information on what is happening in your local area contact your local library [Longford](#), [Westmeath](#), [Laois](#), [Offaly](#), or you can also

check out the [Libraries Ireland website](#)



Creative Clusters – Funding allocation for Primary and Post Primary Schools:

The Minister for Education Norma Foley TD invites primary and post-primary schools across Ireland to apply for Creative Clusters, an initiative taking place as part of Creative Ireland and under the Schools Excellence Fund. The Department of Education's budget for Creative Clusters in 2022 is €595,000. Under this scheme to support schools to build capacity in creativity, schools in each cluster will enjoy access to a specialist facilitator, artist or creative expertise in whatever their chosen area of interest or theme might be. These resources will help the schools to build a project of learning and activities tailor-made for their students. As part of this funding allocation, a cluster may receive up to €15,000 funding to help bring their plans and ideas to fruition in 2022-2024. For application details [CLICK HERE](#)



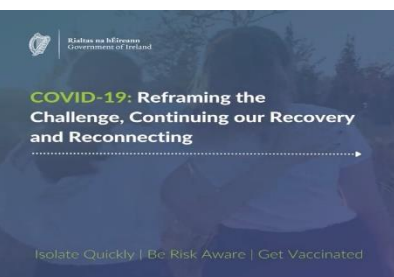
Sharing the Vision – Implementation Plan 2022 – 2024: The ‘Sharing the Vision Implementation Plan 2022-2024’ has been published this week. [‘Sharing the Vision - A Mental Health Policy for Everyone’](#) is Ireland’s national mental health policy which was published in June 2020. It is a policy framework for the continued development and enhancement of mental health services in Ireland from 2020 to 2030. Implementing the recommendations in the policy is a key commitment in the Programme for Government and a priority for the Department of Health and the HSE. The ‘Sharing the Vision Implementation Plan 2022 to 2024’ provides a high-level description of intended outputs between 2022 to 2024 and is available to download [HERE](#)



Hello, How are you? Mental Health Ireland Campaign: Hello, How Are You? is a campaign about connection and engaging in open conversations about mental health. The campaign asks individuals, communities, workplaces, friends & family to say Hello and ask the question ‘How Are You?’ in a meaningful way. You don’t need to be an expert to have a meaningful conversation. By using the HELLO Steps you can feel supported in asking the question. The five **H.E.L.L.O** steps are **H**ello, **E**ngage, **L**isten, **L**earn and **O**ptions:

- **Hello** - Say 'Hello, how are you?' to a friend, family member, neighbour or colleague, and ask if they want to chat.
- **Engage** - Engage with them by being as open as possible to conversation, and asking questions that don't just require yes/no answers.
- **Listen** - Actively listen to what the person has to say. Use words and body and language that show you are listening. Let them lead the conversations and don't worry if you don't have all the answers.
- **Learn** - Take time to learn about them and how they are feeling. Try look at things from their perspective and ask what has worked in the past.
- **Options** - Give the person time to talk through their options. Support them in identifying their next step, or let them know there are supports available if needed. Check in to make sure they're okay to end the conversation.

For further details about the Hello, How are you? Campaign [CLICK HERE](#)



Covid-19: Reframing the Challenge, continuing our Recovery and Reconnecting: The way we respond to Covid-19 has changed. For the most up to date information and advice with regards COVID-19 including how to recognise symptoms, public health advice as well as the full range of supports available [CLICK HERE](#)

Online Survey/ Consultations for completion/circulation:



Public Consultation - Review of the Regulations governing Early Learning and Care: The Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O’Gorman, has launched a public consultation on a review of the Regulations governing Early Learning and Care. The review will primarily focus on enforcement powers of the Tusla Early Years Inspectorate and the independent statutory regulator for the sector. A background document on this review of the ELC Regulations can be found [here](#) in English and [here](#) in Irish. To complete the survey [CLICK HERE](#).

The survey is active until 6th May

Webinars/ Training/ Events:



Let's Wobble – Yoga inspired movement for toddlers and all ages: Let's Wobble hosted by Westmeath Libraries is a yoga inspired movement for toddlers and all ages.

Let's Wobble is a FREE event which takes place in Mullingar Library the third Monday of every month for 20 minutes at 10am.

Spaces are limited so early booking is advised.

For further details and registration details [CLICK HERE](#)



Laois Offaly CYPSC Life Matters Podcast: Laois Offaly CYPSC have recently launched their new Podcast entitled 'Life Matters'. The initial six-part series is about "Life on the Spectrum" and the many issues and challenges for everyone involved. The Spectrum Series features International and local speakers on a range of autism related topics such as: Theory of Mind and Context blindness, ARFID, Assessment and the Diagnostic Process, Parent and Young Adults Perspectives and much more.

To listen to the 'Life Matters' podcast [CLICK HERE](#)



Coffee Mornings for Parents of Children with Additional Needs: Longford Coffee Morning for parents of children with additional needs is a collaboration supported by LW CYPSC with lead partners - AIRC Midlands, Longford County Childcare Committee and Longford Community Resources Clg.

This is FREE group for parents of children of all ages.

There is also a play area available for parents of young children. For details of upcoming dates and to book your place email aircmidlands@gmail.com or phone 086 150 6416



Edgeworthstown Parent & Toddler Group: The Edgeworthstown Parent and Toddler group is a LW CYPSC collaborative project with lead agencies Longford County Childcare Committee and Longford Community Resources CLG. The group meet at The Green, Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford and upcoming dates are **5th April; 3rd, 17th & 31st May and 14th June 2022**. All are welcome!

If you have any questions or would like to register your place for upcoming dates – please email enquiries@longfordchildcare.ie or telephone on 043 33 42505.

Many thanks to all for forwarding information and links,
please continue to forward your updates for sharing and continue to tag
LW CYPSC on [Facebook](#) and/or [Twitter](#), or LO CYPSC on [Facebook](#) and/or [Twitter](#)
or you can
email the coordinators at:
Longford Westmeath CYPSC: grainne.reid@tusla.ie or
Laois Offaly CYPSC: niamh.dowler@tusla.ie
www.cypsc.ie