

Weekly Information Bulletin – 23rd Oct 2020

General Information/ Updates:



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) Press Release:

The Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O’Gorman, launched the Independent Review of the Cost of Providing Quality Early Learning and Childcare in Ireland earlier this week. The Independent Review set out to:

- analyse the current costs of providing early learning and childcare and the factors that impact on these costs;
- deliver a model of the unit costs of providing early learning and childcare that allows analysis of policy changes and variation in cost-drivers, and
- provide a high-level market analysis of the sector in Ireland.

The process involved engagement with key stakeholders from the sector, and the administration of a survey to centre-based providers nationally. [CLICK HERE](#) for the full PRESS RELEASE, [CLICK HERE](#) to download the report or [CLICK HERE](#) for the [Executive Summary](#)

Another Press Release this week released by The Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O’Gorman TD, and the Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD, announced the report by the Advisory Group on the Provision of Supports, including Accommodation, to Persons in the International Protection Process. [CLICK HERE](#) for the PRESS RELEASE and [CLICK HERE](#) to download the report.



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science

Department of Further and Higher Education, Research,

Innovation and Science Press Release: Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD

has announced a once-off COVID-19 contingency fund of €1.9m to support

the delivery of access and support services to vulnerable students from target groups. The funding will assist access offices in HEIs to implement supports to meet the needs of particularly vulnerable students, with priority given to National Access Plan Target groups, who have been most impacted by COVID-19.

This includes:

- entrants from socio-economic groups that have low participation in higher education
- Irish Travellers
- first time-mature student entrants
- students with disabilities
- part-time/flexible learners and further education award holders entrants
- lone parents
- ethnic minorities

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Full Press Release.



First 5 Ireland: [First 5](#) continue to promote the new [Children’s Food Pyramid](#) on their Social Media Platforms.

For information and advice on healthy eating visit the gov.ie *Eat Well* webpage [HERE](#).

Weekly Information Bulletin – 23rd Oct 2020



Tusla Fostering:

Tusla have published a booklet, written/ illustrated by Caoilfhionn Shortt (9). Caoilfhionn states "Fostering is about sharing. You share your family, your home, your toys and your friends, but you get a lot in return!" To download a copy of the booklet, [CLICK HERE](#)
To find out more about Tusla fostering services contact www.fostering.ie, by ringing freephone 1800 226 771 or by emailing tusla.fostering@tusla.ie.



Mind Yourself – the Mental Health and Wellbeing Reading Guide: The Covid-19 pandemic is a considerable source of worry for children and families, and young people are having to cope with big changes at home and at school. In response, **Children's Books Ireland**, in partnership with **Jigsaw** and **ISPCC Childline**, has created *Mind Yourself – the Mental Health and Wellbeing Reading Guide*. The *Mind Yourself* reading guide is a resource that can be used by adults – parents, guardians, caregivers, teachers – to support and educate young people in relation to mental health and wellbeing. The guide contains reviews and recommendations of over 400 books for children and young people from birth to age eighteen and is designed as a 'first-aid kit' for worries, sadness, loneliness, anxiety and any number of feelings that a young person may want to explore. *Mind Yourself*

also contains mental health and wellbeing information from Jigsaw and ISPCC Childline, including tips and coping strategies for young people and advice for adults on supporting children to build resilience. The guide is available free of charge through libraries in the Republic of Ireland and a digital version of the **Mind Yourself Reading Guide can be viewed or downloaded here.** Should you wish to purchase a copy [CLICK HERE](#)



Family Resource Centre National Forum: The Family Resource Centre National Forum launched '[Our Story](#)' earlier this week. It locates the work of Family Resource Centre's within current Government policy and demonstrates how FRCs work with individuals, families and communities responding to locally identified needs. To find out more about what the FRC's do to support communities across Ireland [CLICK HERE](#) or to download a copy of 'Our Story' [CLICK HERE](#).



College Connect News: The first ever issue of College Connect News was released this week and can be read [HERE](#). Four Colleges (Athlone Institute of Technology, Dundalk Institute of Technology, Dublin City University and Maynooth University) are working together with Community Organisations & Groups who

believe educational opportunities are for all. In the first issue, you can sample a taster of some of the work they are currently engaged in. College Connect are also calling on Community Organisations to connect with them through their Community mapping and engagement tool! College Connect have teamed up with AIRO (the All Island Research Observatory) at Maynooth University to build an online intuitive map. This map will help the College Connect team and the colleges they represent to **build relationships with local community organisations**. They believe that local organisations can act as a doorway to link the regions colleges (AIT, DkIT, DCU and MU) with potential students from underrepresented groups. Community Connectors are ready to engage with local organisations and potential students from local areas. To help them make the connection, **College Connect are inviting Community Organisations to complete a short five minute survey telling them about your organisations work and where you are located.** To complete the College Connect – Community Engagement Survey, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Weekly Information Bulletin – 23rd Oct 2020

Public Health Information: Ireland are currently on Level 5 of the Plan for Living with COVID-19. [CLICK HERE](#) for full details.

For the *most up to date information* and advice on Coronavirus, please see:

- **Department of Health DOH:** Covid 19 information and campaigns [CLICK HERE](#). You can view the latest national public health measures [here](#).
- **Health Service Executive HSE:** Covid 19 information including symptoms, testing and how to manage Coronavirus at home [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Health Protection Surveillance Centre HPSC:** Covid 19 Information including advice for general public, return to work, resources and posters [CLICK HERE](#)
- For information on protecting your child from COVID-19, please see: www.gov.ie/adviceforparents

Online Survey for completion/circulation:

College Connect - Community Engagement Survey: As highlighted above, College Connect are inviting Community Organisations to complete a short five minute survey telling them about your organisations work and where you are located. To complete the College Connect – Community Engagement Survey, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Webinars/ Training/ Online Events:

Athlone Family Resource Centre YouTube Channel: The Athlone Family Resource Centre have recently launched their new [YouTube Channel](#). This week saw the launch of their Storytellers Programme which will run every day at 2.45pm for the next two weeks! The stories are from books on mindfulness and helping children to deal with their emotions, stress and anxieties. All of the stories are available to view on their YouTube Channel [HERE](#). A free Halloween Programme will also be hosted on the YouTube channel on 31st October.

WonderFest 2020 – Ireland's first digital book festival for children : WonderFest is a brand new digital book festival taking place 20th-22nd November, boasting 28 events with over [60 artists](#).

[All events are LIVE](#) (with some pre-recorded elements) – giving children all over Ireland (and the world!) the chance to interact with favourite writers and illustrators, and in particular to engage with [new Irish children's books published during 2020](#). For full details of the festival visit the WonderFest website [HERE](#).

Supporting young people's sexual health and wellbeing through evidence and practice Webinar: This event which will take place on Tuesday 10th November at 13:00 will see the launch of the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)/Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP), HSE Health and Wellbeing research report '*Talking about sex and sexual behaviour among young people in Ireland*' and discuss the related SHCPP resources that encourage and support parents and children to talk together about relationships, sexuality and growing up. The publications will be launched by Minister of State with responsibility for Public Health, Wellbeing and National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan T.D., and the webinar will include a presentation of findings by the authors of the ESRI report and responses by Moira Germaine, HSE SHCPP Education and Training Manager, and Annette Honan, Education Officer, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. To Register, Please [CLICK HERE](#)

Alcohol Marketing and Young People: Causes for Concern: The Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network supported by the Alcohol Forum, are hosting a webinar entitled 'Alcohol Marketing and Young People: Causes for Concern'. The free webinar will take place on 3rd November and its aim is to address the impact that alcohol advertising is having on children and young people. The event will be of interest to parents, teachers, coaches, youth workers, Drug and Alcohol Task Forces and those working in the area of public health. To register for this event [CLICK HERE](#)

Festival of Learning: The 'Festival of Learning' is taking place as part of What Works, an initiative designed by the DCEDIY and the Dormant Accounts Fund, to maximise the impact of prevention and early intervention to improve outcomes for children and young people living in Ireland. For the full programme of events, which run from 3rd – 11th November, please [CLICK HERE](#)

Connected for Life Webinar: Connected for life will host an online webinar for parents entitled *How Early Experiences Can Impact Us Throughout Our Life- Webinar*. This 2-hour webinar is one of a series of online events aimed to provide support and reassurance to parents, wherever they are on their parenting journey. The webinar will take place on 10th November. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for registration details.

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