

# KILDARE COUNTY CHILDCARE COMMITTEE LTD

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

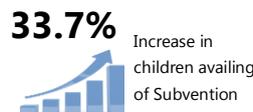
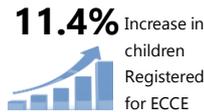
### Year in Review

By Kildare County Childcare Committee

# 2016



#### Childcare Programmes



#### Capital Funding Awarded



**€234,608.04** Capital Grants  
**€12,344.68** Childminder Grants  
**€8,805** Parent and Toddler Grants

#### Communication



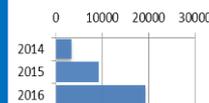
#### Events/Training



#### KCCC Online



#### Website Hits



I've found KCCC so helpful with courses they have ran & providing us with the answers to help us run everything smoothly.

#### KCCC Capacity



#### Outreach Support - Quality and, Business and Financial



Found KCCC help and support during the year a great help to us in all areas of our childcare setting, and look forward to working closely with KCCC in the coming year.

KCCC are an excellent support to me and my service. Great work

I think that the KCCC do an excellent job, they are very informative, helpful, understanding and caring.

## Chairperson's Message

I am delighted to report to you this year in my capacity as Vice Chairperson of the Board of Kildare County Childcare Committee having been a Director of KCCC since 2010. Throughout 2016 KCCC has continued to deliver services based on our guiding principles of collaborative working and the provision of excellent quality services to our stakeholders throughout the County, while always putting children first.

In 2016 KCCC continued to focus on strengthening our Board of Directors with the recruitment of one new Director in 2016 with an expertise in government, voluntary and community, education and not for profit.

KCCC completed the registration process with The Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA) in 2015 and uploaded our Annual Report including our Financial Report to the Authority's website. The reports for 2016 will be uploaded both to the CRA website and our own website subsequent to the AGM scheduled for Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

Through the execution of our Local Implementation Plan, we continue to make significant progress on our mission statement – “promoting quality and accessible childcare provision for all children from birth to 14 years in Co Kildare in partnership with all stakeholders”. This work is carried out by our CEO and staff team and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the team for their enthusiasm, hard work and dedication in progressing the work of KCCC both in the County but also the contribution they make at national level also.

We continue to work closely with Early Childhood Ireland developing Community of Practice hubs in Kildare, identifying centers of best practice in the county and sharing that practice amongst the wider Early Years community.

KCCC's Better Business Outreach Programme was launched in 2016 which offers outreach support to Childcare Services in the county. KCCC will work with the Early Years services to identify any issues impacting on service sustainability and develop appropriate support structures based on their needs.

In 2016 KCCC welcomed and supported the roll out of the national Access and Inclusion Model (AIM). AIM is a model of supports designed to ensure that children with disabilities can access the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. Its goal is to empower service providers to deliver an inclusive pre-school experience, ensuring that every eligible child can fully participate in the ECCE programme and reap the benefits of quality early years care and education.

We enter 2017 stronger and confident that we will continue to provide the high level of service now routinely expected of us.

**Thaddeus Murray**

**Vice- Chairperson**

**Kildare County Childcare Committee**

## CEO Statement

I am once again honored to present the Kildare County Childcare Committee (KCCC) Annual Report for 2016. The report provides an overview of the work carried out by KCCC to date and in the year 2016 highlighting our objectives/goals and achievements.

KCCC has achieved, and in many instances exceeded, all planned objectives for 2016 with regard to actions and operational goals. The organisation reached the end of 2016 on target and within budget.

As we entered 2016, we awaited the impact of a number of changes for the early childhood sector in Kildare. This included the new education focused inspection system, the new model to support access to Free Pre-School (ECCE) for Children with a Disability: Access and Inclusion Model (AIM), the expansion of the ECCE year to include 3 year olds. I am proud to report that KCCC have supported the Early Years Services in Kildare to embrace these changes with both the Early Years Education focused inspections and AIM being welcomed by the sector. The ECCE sector in Kildare has expanded their services to meet the demand of the ECCE places to include 3 year olds with demand in the main being met in the county. Maynooth continues to have an undersupply of childcare places in the county.

The timely administration of childcare funding programmes on behalf of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs continued to be the mainstay of KCCC's work in 2016. Our responsibility for the administration of childcare funding schemes was expanded by the introduction of Community Childcare Subvention Scheme for Private Childcare services and the expansion of the ECCE year.

A range of objectives were successfully achieved including data management, the introduction of a communications strategy, the launch of our Better Business Outreach Programme and the continuous professional development of KCCC staff. KCCC continues to be wholly committed to raise quality practice standards through continuing professional development.

I would like to pay tribute to a capable and professional staff team, who despite the ongoing challenge of a rapidly developing Childcare sector succeeded in delivering our planned programme of activities and responsibilities for 2016.

I would also like to acknowledge all those who contribute to the overall success of KCCC as an organisation. In particular, I would like to thank our vice-chairperson Ted Murray and the Board of Directors for their commitment to KCCC.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard working early childhood sector in County Kildare especially those who engage in KCCCs initiatives and professional development opportunities.

## Introduction

Kildare County Childcare Committee was formed in 2001 to promote the cross-agency co-operation and co-ordination of Childcare in County Kildare. Our mission statement is to promote quality, accessible childcare for all children aged 0 – 14 years in County Kildare in partnership with all relevant stake-holders.

Kildare County Childcare Committee is a Company limited by guarantee and a registered Charity. It is currently made up of 9 Board of Directors.

- Thaddeus Murray: Vice Chairperson, Clane Project Centre
- Anthony Egan Community and Voluntary Forum
- Kathleen Cash Chairperson, Tír Na Nóg Childcare Centre
- Eilis Quinlan Quinlan Accountants
- Dr Catriona O'Toole NUI Maynooth
- Breda Cullivan Breda Cullivan & Co Solicitors
- Terry Dignan CEO, EPIC/ Trinity Consultants
- Albert Perris CEO, Respond
- Réiltín McCall Simply People: HR and Organizational Development

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016 - ATTENDANCE RECORD

NAME	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	AGM	JULY	SEPT	OCT	DEC	TOTAL	
Kathleen Cash (Chairperson.)	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	7	
Anthony Egan	1	0	1	1	1		1	1	6	
Thaddeus Murray (V.C)	0	0	1	1	1		0	1	4	
Catriona O'Toole	1	1	1	1	1		0	1	6	
Eilis Quinlan	1	1	0	0	1		1	1	5	
Mary Waters	0	0	0	0	1		1	R	2	Resigned
Breda Cullivan	1	1	1	1	0		1	1	6	
Terry Dignan					1		1	0	2	

1 = Attended

0= Apology non-attendance

Blank space = no apology rcd

**Resigned - Date notified**

We are currently seeking Directors with:

- PR/Communications/Media experience to support KCCC in the implementation of our Communications Strategy.

Kildare County Childcare Committee is made up of 6 permanent staff as follows:

CEO	Julie McNamara
Administration Officer:	Michael P Quirke
Development Officers:	Fidelma Martin
	Marianne Casey
Programme Administrator:	Emily Moore
AIM Information and Training Officer:	Marie Dowdall

In 2016, Marie Dowdall became our AIM Information and Training Officer under the Access Inclusion Model funding. KCCC also recruited two temporary staff persons in 2016, Jane Beatty, Communications Officer and Jackie Ryan, Assistant Administrator.

## Objectives/Goals

## Key Achievements

The key achievements since the inception of Kildare County Childcare Committee in 2001 include:

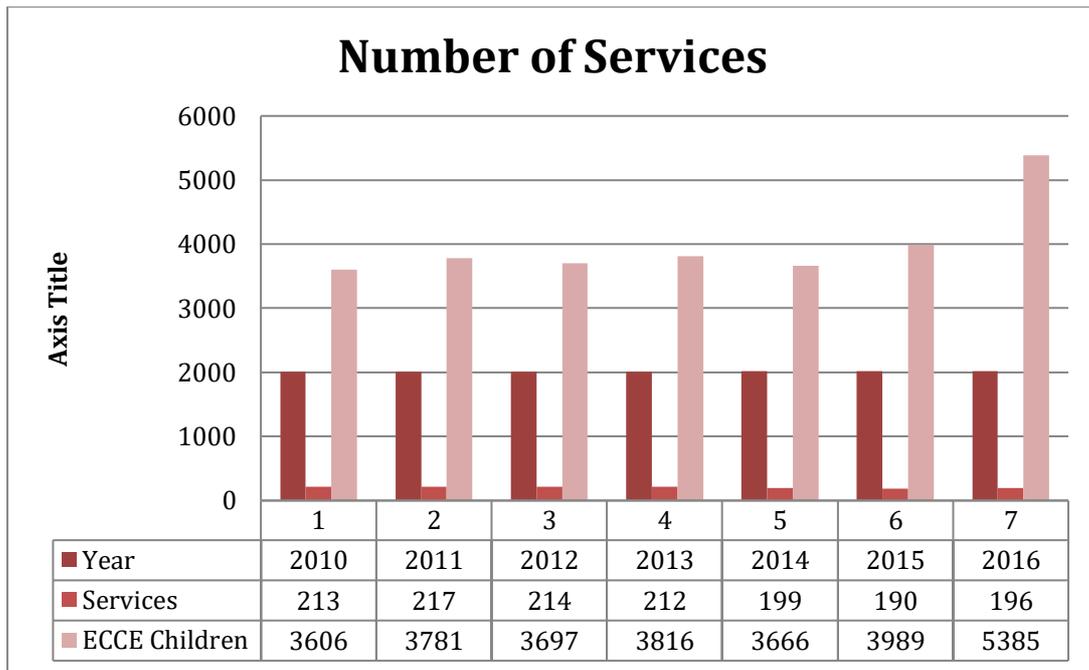
## National Programmes

On behalf of the Childcare Directorate of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) Kildare County Childcare Committee administer the National Programmes. The National Programmes are:

## ECCE Programme

Since 2009 children have been able to avail of the ECCE Programme from 3 years 2 months and less than 4 years 7 months on 1<sup>st</sup> September of the year that the child will be starting school. From September 2016, children were able to start ECCE when they reach 3 years of age and continue until they transfer to primary school (provided that they are not older than 5 years and 6 months at the end of the pre-school year). This increased the number of weeks available on the ECCE scheme. Children are now able to enrol in pre-school at 3 different points in the year (September, January and April) in order to access the scheme.

Kildare currently has 196 services participating in ECCE Programme with 5385 children registered from the September 2016 cohort. This is likely to double in the coming years with the expanded age-range eligibility. Since the Programme was introduced in 2009 over 26,000 children have availed of their universal preschool year in Kildare.



#### Community Childcare Subvention Programme

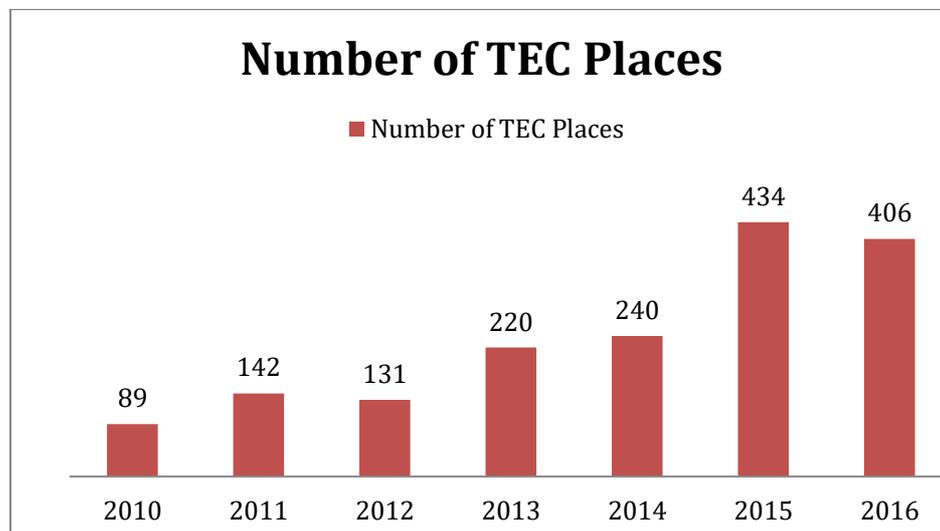
Traditionally the Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) Programme supports disadvantaged parents by providing support for parents in low paid employment and training or education by enabling eligible parents to avail of reduced childcare costs at participating community childcare services. There are 6 community/not-for-profit childcare services participating in the CCS Programme in Kildare located in Newbridge, Athy, Maynooth and Allenwood, catering for up to 217 children. Since the Scheme's introduction in 2008, over 2,200 families have benefited from the scheme in Kildare. Two additional community/not-for-profit childcare services went in contract to offer CCS to disadvantaged parents from September 2016 in Kilcullen and Kildare town.

The announcement in February 2016 of the CCS expansion to Private services was welcomed by KCCC as Kildare has always had lower (at 21:1) than the national average of Community Childcare services offering the scheme. Those services were spread unevenly across the county which meant a significant number of parents were unable to access the programme. To ensure that there was a good take up of the scheme in Kildare KCCC contacted all eligible services by phone to encourage them to apply and to ensure there was an even spread of CCSP places across the county. 76 services applied, with 61 Services currently in contract. 263 eligible children in Kildare have availed of the programme in 2016. However, the number of CCS registered places in community childcare services have reduced from 256 in

2015 to 116 in 2016. Although the number of children availing of CCS has increased in total to 379 places, the reduction in take up at community childcare services is a matter of concern and KCCC will work closely with the CCS Community services to support them with any sustainability issues that arise.

### Childcare Education and Training Support Programme

The Childcare Education and Training Support (CETS) Programme was introduced in September 2010. The objective of the Programme is to support parents on eligible training courses and eligible categories of parents returning to work, by providing subsidized childcare places. The TEC Programmes consist of 3 strands: the Childcare Education and Training Support Programme (CETS), the After-school Childcare Programme (ASCC) and the Community Employment Childcare Programme (CEC). The allocation of childcare places under the Programme is managed by the DCYA, via the City and County Childcare Committees (CCCs) and local childcare service providers. Kildare has up to 400 child places registered for the 3 strands.



### Capital investment in Early Childhood Care and Education Services

Since 2000, 104 capital grants have been received by service providers in Kildare. In Kildare approximately €8.75million had been invested in the Childcare Sector through Capital funding to date. In February 2016, the DCYA announced capital funding to the value of €4

million for the expansion of places under the Early Childcare Care and Education (ECCE) Programme. In July 2016, the total approved funding was increased to €6.5 million. 36 childcare services in Kildare were awarded funding with a total allocation for the county at €234,608.04.

### **Quality Outreach Programme**

The Quality Outreach Programme aims to equip childcare providers with suitable information and skills to respond to the unique needs of all children and their families. The purpose of the Quality Outreach Programme is to empower and support providers to develop quality within their childcare services. All support on-site visits, consultation, on-going mentoring and supporting tools have “empowerment and support” as the underlying ethos. All Quality Outreach work is underpinned by the principles of Siolta and Aistear and childcare providers will have increased skills in meeting compliance with Childcare Regulations and National Schemes. Supports are provided to services under a number of strands including:

- Quality on site consultations based on a system of prioritisation using a base-line assessment tool.
- Sustainability supports based on a system of prioritisation using evidence based tool-kits.
- Guidance on the implementation of the Governance Code to Boards of Community Services
- Leadership/Coaching to Managers of Community Services in relation to Planning, Staff Support and Supervision, Monitoring and Reporting.
- Development of a HR/Leadership/Mentoring training programme

This approach enables KCCC to provide a broad spectrum of support to providers focusing on key areas impacting on the overall quality of the service. It enables a number of KCCC staff members to engage with services imparting their own expertise therefore building key relationships and trust.

### **Development of Resources**

### **Step-by-Step Guide for setting up a childcare Service**

This Guidebook was developed by Kildare County Childcare Committee in conjunction with Galway City & County Childcare Committee who researched and consulted extensively to make the guidebook as comprehensive as possible. Its aim is to provide a step-by-step guide highlighting the different stages necessary to ensure that a service will provide quality childcare experiences for children and their families. The guidebook is comprehensive and aims to answer the most common questions that KCCC staff have been asked by new and existing childcare providers.

### **Playful World**

A booklet and DVD containing a selection of Games from Around the World was designed and produced with funding obtained from the FAS County Childcare Committee Grant Scheme. Playful World was the result of an innovative project facilitated by KCCC with Athy Travellers Group and Kildare Youth Services, Star Girls Youth Group, in Athy Co. Kildare. It aims to raise awareness of the role that games can play in promoting inclusiveness amongst children in our increasingly diverse society.

### **Children First Training**

KCCC have delivered 31 workshops on Children First Accredited Training to 523 from Early Years Practitioners across 174 Services have been trained by KCCC Children First Accredited Trainers since 2014 plus 10 Childminders. KCCC also delivered 2 workshops on Child Protection Policy development and implementation to 37 Childcare Practitioners from 22 Childcare services.

### **Community of Practice**

KCCC worked collaboratively with Early Childhood Ireland to develop a model of Community of Practice for Kildare Childcare Services. The aim is to have a community of practice hub in each of the five Electoral Divisions in Kildare with the pilot commencing in Athy in 2014. The objective is to identify models of best practice in the provision of high quality childcare in County Kildare and for this best practice to be shared with other childcare services in the 5 Electoral Division by practitioners to their peers. Tír Na Nog Childcare service in Athy was

the first service to be identified as demonstrating exemplary best practice, followed by Best Beginnings, Maynooth, Busy Beavers, Castledermot, Tiny Tots, Athy and Phils School Around the Corner in Celbridge. 62 participants engaged with the Community of Practice since 2014 from 20 Childcare Services

## Key Priorities 2016

For 2016, the Childcare Directorate (DYCA) named the following areas as priorities:

### **Key Priority: Type 1 – Operations:**

- Support the delivery and implementation of the three national childcare programmes (Early Childhood Care and Education Programme, Community Childcare Subvention Programme, Training and Employment Childcare Programmes), including any changes / extensions to these programmes and a review of fee payment policies.
- Support the delivery and implementation of the Programmes for Implementation Platform, including the on-going development of the data infrastructure to inform the development of policy and programmes.
- Support the delivery and implementation of the Early Years Capital Programme (if any), including the Childminding Development Grant and the Parent & Toddler Group Grant. Provide on-going support to providers (including Childminders and Parent & Toddler Groups) in accordance with the Better Start Model through the provision / promotion of training and Continuing Professional Development supports, quality supports, information and advice, sustainability and financial planning supports and through training eligible CCC staff as Siolta Mentors
- Roll out service quality profiling (phase 1) via the Better Start System.
- Develop and implement internal governance arrangements, including financial management and human resource management.
- Continuation of CCI, which will be resourced to provide a collective delivery, implementation and consultative body to the DCYA
- Communicate policy/regulation updates on behalf of DCYA to parents, services and stakeholders

### **Key Priority: Type 2 – Quality**

- Provide on-going support to providers (including Childminders and Parent & Toddler Groups) in accordance with the Better Start Model through the provision / promotion of training and Continuing Professional Development supports, quality supports, information and advice, sustainability and financial planning supports
- Provide on-going support to parents (e.g. information and advice)
- Support the on-going delivery of the National Early Years Children First Programme.
- Contribute to the roll out of Siolta QAP (including training of eligible CCC staff as Siolta Mentors and raising awareness of Siolta QAP and opportunities for services to gain validation)

### **Key Priority: Type 3 – Policy**

- Contribute to the development of the Better Start Strategy / contribute to the work of the Better Start Strategy Steering Group
- Undertake research and/or consultation to inform policy/programme development, where required
- Support the delivery and implementation of the Early Years Strategy
- Work collaboratively together with all other stakeholders/initiatives/projects, nationally and (subject to availability of resources) locally (e.g. Area Based Childhood Programme , the Child and Family Agency, the Children and Young Peoples Services Committees, the Early Years Specialist Service, the Health Service Executive, the Inspectorate at the Department of Education and Skills, the National Early Years Inspectorate, the National Voluntary Childcare Organisations and Pobal, among others).

### **Key Priority: Type 4 – New Developments**

- The administration of a Learner Fund to support Continuing Professional Development
- The development of a national information resource for parents 'Choosing Childcare'
- The development and implementation of a national system to enable non formal childminders to migrate from voluntary to mandatory requirements
- Contribute to the working group who will develop quality standards for after-school and out-of-school care
- *Support the delivery and implementation of the model to support access to the ECCE Programme with children with a disability through:*
- The administration of a Learner Fund for designated Inclusion Officers

- The development of revised Diversity and Equality Guidelines for Childcare Providers, the development of a National Code of Inclusive Practice and a review and incremental roll out of the Equality and Diversity Programme
- The development of a national information resource for parents and providers 'ECCE Supports and Services for Children with a Disability'
- *Support providers to comply with forthcoming Childcare Regulations/ National Quality Standards through:*
- The administration of a Learner Fund for all remaining unqualified staff
- The development and implementation of a support plan for community-based early years services to address current dependency on Community Employment (Collaborative CCCs only)
- Support the consultation on the National Quality Standards

#### **Key Priority: Type 5 – Collaborative Actions**

- Plan for the roll out of service quality profiling (phase 2) via the Better Start System
- Develop a national information resource for service providers 'Governance and Management of Early Years Services'
- Contribute to the roll out of Siolta QAP (including training of eligible CCC staff as Siolta Mentors and raising awareness of Siolta QAP and opportunities for services to gain validation)
- Develop a complaints management system
- The development of a national resource for parents 'Choosing Childcare'
- Provide on-going support to providers (including Childminders and Parent & Toddler Groups) in accordance with the Better Start Model through the provision / promotion of training and Continuing Professional Development supports, quality supports, information and advice, sustainability and financial planning supports and through training eligible CCC staff as Siolta Mentors
- The development of revised Diversity and Equality Guidelines for Childcare Providers, the development of a National Code of Inclusive Practice and a review and incremental roll out of Equality and Diversity Programme
- The development of a national information resource for parents and service providers 'ECCE Supports and Services for Children with a Disability'
- The development and implementation of a support plan for community-based early years services to address current dependency on Community Employment

## Key Successes 2016

### Information Gathering

In 2015 KCCC implemented a client relationship management system called *OnePageCRM*. The system enables KCCC to keep all communications with our childcare services in one central system accessible to all staff. It also enables us to log all calls received by KCCC. The following is a table outlining the numbers and types of phone-calls received by KCCC up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

Query Type	Number
National Programmes	2395
Capital	189
Quality	141
Governance/Sustainability/HR	200
Child Protection	111
Learner Fund/Qualifications	363
General	241
Special Needs	103
Collaborations	25
New Services	17
Other	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>3846</b>

As is evident the majority of our calls relate to the National programmes and KCCC have dedicated one full-time staff member, our programme administrator, to this role who is supported in the first instance by our Information/Communications officer, and all staff during peak administration periods. In 2016 our Information Officer also took responsibility for the administration of the Learner Funds which has the second highest number of calls.

### Governance Code

The Code of Governance for the Community and Voluntary Sector was published by the Working Group of the sector in March 2012. Organisations in the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector are now asked to schedule time to adopt the Code and work towards

complying with the implementation actions that underpin each of the five (5) principle's. KCCC have commenced working on the code and it is estimated that the document should be completed in 2017. Our Administrator and a Director of our Board have attended The Wheel's Governance Code Bootcamp.

### **Communications Strategy**

In 2016, KCCC have developed a Communication Strategy. This has given us a clear focus on how we communicate with our providers. As part of our strategy KCCC aim to reduce the number of emails to priority emails only, such as the administration of the national programmes and AIM. In 2016 KCCC introduced our weekly bulletin with provides succinct timely information to providers. Since KCCC launched our new website in March 2015 we have seen significant improvements in engagement with the site. KCCC have taken on recommendations to keep the content on the site simple, relevant and user friendly, which in turn ensures more engagement with the content. KCCC have now developed a dedicated parents page on our website. This has been receiving a large number of visits.

### **Better Business Outreach Programme**

In 2016, KCCC launched our Better Business Outreach Programme which aims:

- To identify issues impacting on service sustainability and develop appropriate support structures given the resources available.
- To support services in evaluating sustainability in their services.
- Services will have increased understanding of the basics of "sustainability".

The "Better Business" Outreach Programme and the tools used cover the business practice areas of human resources, sustainability and compliance. To date there have been 50 on-site visits to 41 early years' providers under the umbrella of governance and operational supports. 19 services have received support under Human Resources, 19 services have received support under Sustainability and 10 services have received support under Compliance.

The feedback from these services has been very positive to date. Some comments include:

*"I just wanted to let you know that after your visit you really, truly boosted my confidence. I now have my full 16 children in the morning and 10 in the afternoon. I rallied all my past parents, childminders I know and put flyers up in parent/toddler groups. These lovely people*

*have gone out of their way to support me, as you did. I am full for mornings September 2017 and starting to fill afternoons. I have children booked in for 2018, '19 and 20. The one thing I learned from you is never take anything for granted. So I'll keep it up. I'm putting together my major incident p&p and wrapping up some of the policies you suggested. I've also put up the leaflet and document holders"*

### **Human Resources and Leadership Programme**

Following on from its success 2014 and 2015, KCCC offered a Human Resources and Leadership Training Programme to early year's services. This year KCCC collaborated with Kildare Local Enterprise Office who provided additional funding to the rollout of the programme allowing the inclusion of a comprehensive module on Assertive Communication and provide experiential role play exercises. The programme was run on 5 days in duration and was attended by 12 participants from 8 services. The Programme included individual mentoring sessions with the trainer and KCCC Development Officer.

Evaluations from 2016 indicate that the 70% of participant's identified that their knowledge, skills and confidence were increased in all learning areas. Comments include:

*"The training was excellent and I really enjoyed the course."*

*"I would recommend this training to others, as it shows you how to be more aware of how you present yourself and business in the best possible way".*

### **2016 Quality Conference**

Kildare County Childcare Committee Annual Conference was held in a new Community venue outside Kildare Town. The topic of the conference was chosen by Childcare Services through our 2016 Annual Action Plan survey - "The promotion of Resilience and Well Being for childcare providers and the children in their care". Key Note speakers included Dr Mary O'Kane and workshops included well-being and resilience for the practitioner and how they can support well-being and resilience in children. The Conference was opened by KCCC Director Dr Caitriona O'Toole with a presentation by KCCC's CEO. KCCC also took the opportunity of the conference to mark the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of CCCs.

*Fig 1. Some photos from our conference (Left to Right – Marianne Casey and Dr Catriona O'Toole; Participants and KCCC Staff; Julie McNamara KCCC CEO speaking at the conference).*



### Access and Inclusion Model

The commencement of the **Access and Inclusion Model** nationally was a welcome development in supporting Early Years Service's to include children with a disability in their services. KCCC restructured internally in order to accommodate the implementation of the model in Kildare. The responsibility for leading the model was assigned to our Information Officer who trained as an Equality and Diversity trainer along with our CEO. Two additional staff were appointed on a temporary basis to back-fill the Information Officers role and to support the CEO.

### Refugee Programme

KCCC continued to work collaboratively locally and nationally in developing child-care support for programme refugee children.

## Financial Report

KCCC are committed to the highest standard of governance. A comprehensive analysis of KCCCs funding is available in the company's audited financial statements. These statements are available from KCCC and are also on our website [www.kildarechildcare.ie](http://www.kildarechildcare.ie).

The total allocation from Central Government funds in 2016 for Early Childhood Programme amounted to €385,000. In addition, we received other funding:

Parent and Toddler - €8,805

Learner Funds - €47,420

Child-minding Development Grant - €12,344.68

## Board Meetings

The Board of Directors held six meetings and our AGM. One new Director was recruited. A General Purpose Sub-Committee was established to optimise the capacity of KCCC to deliver on its mission and strategic objectives. The GP Sub-Committee remit is broad in scope with its key objective being to provide a coordinated and coherent sub structure for the Board and cover the areas of Governance/Finance/HR/ Grant Applications/Facility management.

## Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA) - CHARITIES ACT 2009

The CRA was established on the 16th of October 2014 under the terms of the Charities Act 2009. The Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA) is Ireland's national statutory regulatory agency for charitable organisations and is an independent agency of the Department of Justice and Equality. Each Charity is required to register with the CRA and create an individual "online account". KCCC registered with the Authority in 2015.

## Challenges

Since January 2016 there has been a significant increase in the number of calls looking for support in relation to **childminding**. This is a challenge for KCCC as the childminding advisory officer who would have supported these Childminder's post has been subsumed into Túsla. KCCC do not have the resources to fully support Childminders. We rely on sending them best practice guides and offer an annual QAP which is delivered by our Information officer.

The sustainability of Community Childcare Services continues to be of a concern to KCCC. 5 community services have closed in the county since 2014. Planned training with community childcare services by the KCCC administrator (who has successfully completed training in *Certificate in Charity Law, Trusteeship & Governance* – Law Society of Ireland) in compliance with the governance code has been delayed. This was due to the increased administration associated with the Learner Funds, AIM and the work involved in KCCC implementing the governance code.

The key challenge for KCCC continues to be our annual budget allocation which reduced over 5 years from 551,663 in 2008 to 385,000 in 2013/4/15/16, a cut to our operational budget of 166,663. KCCC made significant reductions to our action and administration overheads to absorb these cuts. However, with increased demands and responsibility together with increased over-heads to meet these demands KCCC will require an increased core budget moving forward.

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**AGM 4/05/2017**