



An Roinn Leanaf  
agus Gnóthaí Óige  
Department of  
Children and Youth Affairs

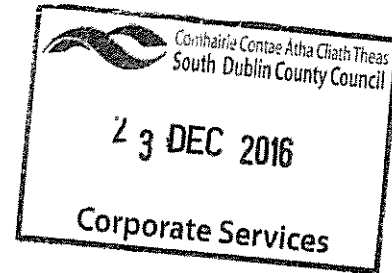
Oifig an Aire  
Office of the  
Minister



21 December 2016

Your Ref: MO24/0916

Mr Colm Murphy  
Meeting Administrator  
Corporate Performance & Change Management  
South Dublin County Council  
County Hall  
Tallaght  
Dublin. 24



Dear Mr. Murphy

Thank you for your letter concerning the Motion Agreed at the September Meeting of South Dublin County Council (M24/0916).

I am pleased to announce that significant additional funding has been allocated to Early Childcare in Budget 2017. The largest volume of additional funding has been provided to cover the full-year costs of the expansion of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme into a second year (€67.6m in total). In addition, the full year roll out of the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) within the ECCE scheme has been provided for with an allocation of €18.07m.

In addition, €12m has been provided to supplement existing funding provided for childcare available on a targeted basis to families from lower income backgrounds. This funding will facilitate the replacement of a number of schemes with a new Single Affordable Childcare Scheme from September 2017. A further €7m has also been provided for a universal subsidy which is to be made available to all children aged 6 months to 3 years (or if older when starting ECCE) using formal childcare.

I would also like to highlight that my Department has made €14.5m available to provide an additional payment to childcare providers to recognise the increasing volume of work done outside of direct contact hours with children. This funding will provide an additional payment of 7 days' funding to all ECCE Services with an equivalent level of payment to CCS and TEC services.

€1m has also been provided in order to enhance the level of inspection of childcare services provided by Tusla and the Department of Education and Skills and a fund of €1m will be available to facilitate research into the sustainability challenges faced by community childcare services in particular, and to develop a process for addressing these.

This additional funding will bring the DCYA budget for Early Years from €345m to €466.5m, an increase of 35% on 2016.

I would like to emphasise that additional funding will be required in 2018 to meet the full-year costs of some measures being introduced for September 2017. In the case of the new Single Affordable Childcare Scheme, estimated additional full-year costs in 2018 will be approximately €44m. Finally, factors such as demography and uptake of schemes will also be important in determining the exact amount of additional funding that will be required in 2018.

I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LH', written in a cursive style.

Lisa Hughes  
Private Secretary to Minister Katherine Zappone TD