Minister Katherine Zappone 11th July 2017

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

Dún Aimhirgin,

43-49 Mespil Road,

Dublin 4.

***Our Ref M01/0517***

**Re Motion Agreed at May Meeting of South Dublin County Council (M01/0517)**

Dear Minister,

The following Motion was AGREED at meeting of South Dublin County Council held on the 08th May 2017.

Members of South Dublin County Council are calling on the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Katherine Zappone to increase investment in Early Childhood Care and Education to ensure that children have access to quality, sustainable and affordable childcare with decent pay and conditions for professionals in the sector.

The Council recognises that Early Years Educators are hugely dedicated professionals who care for and educate children during the most crucial years of their development. However the Irish Government lags behind other European countries in terms of how much we invest in Early Years Education. As a result, many qualified professional are struggling to make ends meet and providers are struggling to stay open.

We call on Minister Zappone to put children first and invest in quality childcare and Early Years Education.  We ask the Chief Executive to forward a copy of this motion to Minister Zappone and to copy it to all other City and County Councils.

I should be grateful for your comments at your earliest convenience. Please quote reference M01/0517 on any correspondence.

Yours sincerely

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Colm Murphy

Meeting Administrator,

Corporate Performance and Change Management.