

For immediate release – Monday, April 9th, 2018

EVENT NOTICE

Fiche Bliain ag Fás

What: The Family Resource Centre Programme 20th Anniversary Conference

When: 10:00am – 3:30pm, Thursday, April 12th, 2018

Where: Hibernia Conference Centre, Dublin Castle,

Who: **Minister for Children & Youth Affairs: Katherine Zappone**

Katherine Lynch Professor of Equality Studies UCD *Key Note Speaker*

“A renowned advocate for a fair, just and equal society, her work helped create a Theoretical Framework that people on the ground can use in practical ways”

Hosted by the National Forum of Family Resource Centres (FRCs) with the support of Tusla The Twentieth Anniversary Conference will recognise and celebrate the development of the Family Resource Centre Programme. The Event will shine a light on the extraordinarily broad range of supports, services and initiatives from cradle to grave provided by FRCs in communities across Ireland.

The Minister will launch our new National Website www.familyresource.ie and wider **social media platforms** enabling FRCs to connect to a greater number of people and share information easily and rapidly.

Volunteers form the backbone of the FRC Programme and as one explained, *“Volunteering in my local FRC has opened my eyes to the complexities of my community, whilst also being an exciting and enriching environment for me to participate in.”* We are delighted to have contributions to the conference by our Volunteers.

Recent investment in the programme reflecting the Minister’s and Tusla’s commitment to the expansion and sustainability of the programme will be examined on the day. We welcome the Ministers support in this and the conference will open questions as to what an enlarged programme might look like, how it can contribute to Better Outcomes Brighter Futures and promote a more equal society.

A recently commissioned report carried out by Social Researcher Brian Harvey, will also be launched at this Conference. Entitled; *“FRC Programme Fostering Brighter Futures for Individuals & Families in Local Communities in Ireland”* highlights the positive impact of having a Family Resource Centre in a local community and how it acts as a conduit for other Agencies and Government Departments to target programmes, interventions and resources within an area.

Mary McGrath FRC Chair states that “Following a difficult number of years for communities who have been affected by unemployment, poverty and austerity - it is hoped that with reinvestment in the programme, FRCs will be sustained and expanded to continue to do the valuable work they do in local areas. Now it is finally a time to look ahead and plan for the future.”

ENDS

Background Info.

The FRC programme is Ireland’s largest family support programme delivering universal services to families in disadvantaged areas across the country based on a life-cycle approach. There are 109 communities supported through the Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme providing services and supports to local communities. The aim of the programme is to combat disadvantage and improve the functioning of the family unit. FRCs involve people from marginalised groups and areas of disadvantage on their voluntary management committees. This approach ensures that each FRC is rooted in the community and this, in turn, makes it a vehicle for delivering other programmes in the community. FRCs are participative and empowering organisations that support families while building the capacity and leadership of local communities.

Contact:

Mary McGrath, Chair, National Forum of Family Resource Centre,
frcnfchair@eircom.net (061) 383 884

Notes to Editors:

The aim of the Family Resource Centre National Forum is to represent the views of all Family Resource Centres nationally and provide practical support to Family Resource Centres involved in family support and social inclusion initiatives