

Family Resource Centres Budget 2018: PRESS RELEASE

The Family Resource Centre National Forum broadly welcomes Budget 2018 and in particular the additional funding to support children through Tusla. We also welcome the increased budget to recruit extra staff and look forward to some of these staff being recruited into the Family Resource Centre Programme.

Mary McGrath, Acting Chair of the FRC National Forum, spoke about the positive benefits for local communities to have 11 new additional FRCs joining the national programme and the new work to be accessed through Tusla. However, she stated this does not address the current budget deficits for the existing work of the 109 Family Resource Centres operating nationwide. The operating costs of FRCs have been cut 15% since 2008 and this budget does not address any restoration of this funding.

Family Resource Centres are currently stretched to the limit financially; they have no programme costs and many centres cannot meet their overheads. We have taken on extra work since the establishment of Tusla with no extra funding; our Centres are fully stretched attempting to meet the current needs of the children and families in our communities. While we welcome the opportunity for extra funding to the amount of €10,000 this does not take into consideration the impact of the cuts on our staff, volunteers and our communities who have experienced ongoing cutbacks for ten years. There is no further capacity in our Family Resource Centres for extra work without the restoration of funding and a substantial investment in both human resources and overheads.

Summary of Budget relevant to FRCs.

- €73 million for Department of Children and Youth Affairs
- €40 million increase for Tusla including
 - o mandatory reporting under Children First
 - o addressing gaps in out of hours services
 - o recruitment of over 300 staff

The additional funding will also allow Tusla develop capacity within the existing 109 Family Resource Centres and build on the strengths of the Programme, community counselling and psychotherapy services.

Tusla will establish 11 new FRCs at a cost of approximately €1.76 million in 2018 taking into account the set-up, running costs and staffing requirements.

109 existing FRCs will be asked to work with their local Tusla office to identify services needed in their community and up to €10,000 will be available to each FRC subject to approval of their proposal.

For any further information please contact: Mary McGrath, Acting Chair National Forum of Family Resource Centres: (061) 383 884 or (087) 247 3762

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