



National Family Resource Centre Programme

2019 SPEAK

Annual Report

Quantitative Information

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Introduction

SPEAK is the national system, commissioned by Tusla, to collate qualitative and quantitative information about the 121 Family Resource Centres (FRCs) across Ireland.

SPEAK has a 16-year history developing information systems for the 121, Tusla funded, Family Resource Centres. During 2019 the SPEAK system further developed to become more *outcomes focused*. A critical aspect of SPEAK success is the commitment, continuity and work of Paul Butler and Dave Redmond. Their hard work, commitment to *community development* and *collaborative working* is a model of good practice.

Uniquely within Tusla, FRCs provide *cradle to the grave*, community development, professional and voluntary work across the continuum of care, from targeted to universal. Family Resource Centres are part of the continuum of care in targeted communities for children and families, who may be otherwise marginalised from mainstream, statutory services. Family Resource Centres, are both Tusla '*strategic partners*' and contracted services. For example,

- a. FRCs and Tusla have the common goal of developing individual, family and communities.
- b. FRCs help Tusla to *identify* and to *promote* the welfare of children in a *timely, effective* and *proportionate* manner. Those Tusla Area's where there are established FRC – Tusla relationships & collaborative working (e.g. Roscommon, Kerry and Cork) report a positive impact on referrals to Social Work and on outcomes.
- c. Tusla provides '*core funding*' to FRCs to employ staff act as '*animation / stimulation funding*' in targeted communities. With that core funding marginalised communities can access other non Tusla funding e.g. Intern Fund for Ireland, Cross Border funding, Leader.

This SPEAK Annual Report provides an introductory, summary, overview of quantitative 2019 data about the 121 FRCs operating across Ireland. The Report shows the range work FRCs carry out in targeted communities. This Reports is indicative, not the final word, on what FRCs do. There are always important issues not captured in statistics. Patterns over time and *collaborative relationships* are important. FRCs vary greatly in terms of their sizes and resources available to them.

This SPEAK Annual Report should be used to prompt *discussion*, *understanding* and *collaborative working* between Area Tusla and individual

FRCs. The Report offers an opportunity to explore what FRCs are doing now and how they want to develop in the years to come.

Tusla Mangers can access the SPEAK reports relevant to their area by emailing the details of nominated staff to paul@nexus.ie or dave@nexus.ie. If you have any questions about the SPEAK system please contact Paul 087 989 3288 or Dave at 086 816 6241.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this SPEAK Report.

Thank you to all 121 FRCs for your work for children, families and communities.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eifion Williams', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eifion Williams,
Head of Commissioning

Overview of FRC actions undertaken in 2019

In describing all actions undertaken with different target groups within their communities, each FRC selects relevant action types and then updates any work in this area over the course of the year.

The following tables indicate the range and extent of activities, projects and programmes that have been undertaken in 2019 across all types of FRC related work with all target groups both within the centres and in the wider community. ¹

For the purposes of this summary of the quantitative data, the actions are grouped under the following main headings:

1. Informing, Directing, Referring
2. Provision of Administrative Support and Space for Groups
3. Education Courses and Initiatives
4. Counselling Services
5. Community-Based Initiatives
6. Child and Youth Programmes and Activities
7. Parenting Supports
8. Group-Based Supports
9. Family Support Work
10. Meitheals
11. Volunteer Training
12. Policy Work
13. Other Initiatives

¹ Further data checking and liaison will continue to take place with FRCs. This may lead to minor changes in some of the table contents as the 2019 dataset is finalised.

1. Informing, Directing, Referring

Type of Support Offered	Number of Beneficiaries
Total number of adults for whom a need, issue or entitlement was identified this year	41,791
Total number of children for whom a need, issue or entitlement was identified	9,671
Total number of families for whom a need, issue or entitlement was identified	9,033
Total number of adults directed to a service/support/course this year	31,512
Total number of children directed to a service/support/course	7,667
Number of appointments/referrals to other services/organisations- adults	9,643
Total number of appointments/referrals to other services/organisations- children	2,484

2. Provision of Administrative Support and Space for Groups

Type of Support Offered	Number of Beneficiaries
Total number of adults provided with administrative support (e.g. use of IT, interview skills, grant applications etc.) this year	48,742
Total number of children provided with administrative support (e.g use of IT, interview skills, grant applications etc.)	7,163
Number of groups helped with administrative work	1,225
Total number of groups helped with funding/fundraising work	564
Total number of consultations with external agencies this year (FRC providing space)	4,873
Total number of groups accessing FRC space for events (i.e. groups not established by FRC) this year	494
Total number of events held by these groups	1,265
Total number of groups accessing FRC space for meetings (i.e. groups not established by FRC) this year	1,196
Total number of sessions held by these groups	14,670

3. Education Courses and Initiatives

Type of Education Initiative Provided	Total number of sessions/ classes	Total number of participants
Adult and Community Education	8,915	8,074
Afterschool Group	4,775	2,732
Art Classes	2,248	1,469
Breakfast Club	1,226	173
Community Health and Wellbeing	13,026	20,718
English Language Courses	1,343	1,183
Homework Club	4,377	1,436
IT and Computer Courses	2,739	2,152
Study & Grinds	2,079	882

4. Counselling Services

Project Type	Number of Sessions	Number of Men	Number of women	Number of children
Addiction Counselling	1,329	161	205	40
Art Therapy	1,975	15	75	364
Bereavement Counselling	2,354	169	436	29
Child and Adolescent Counselling/Therapy	2,308			499
Domestic Violence Counselling	638	7	289	35
In-House Counselling	30,124	1,903	4,800	1,507
Music and Movement Therapy	68	6	25	4
Play Therapy	7,160	6	10	1,064
Relationship Counselling	392	25	42	

5. Community Based Initiatives

Project Type	Number of Sessions	Total number of adult beneficiaries	Total number of child beneficiaries
Bingo in the Community	291	6,614	0
Career Development Mentoring Services	4,906	1,762	481
Community Mediation Service	28	28	0
Creative Community Alternatives	3,568	1,727	
Food Bank and Cloud Initiatives	2,780	11,155	12,686
FRC Employment Service	7,850	6,759	156
Home-based Services for Older People	20,222	1,446	
Homeless Support Initiatives	1004	552	32
Intergenerational Projects	620	4,029	5125
Meals on Wheels	9,359	2,035	2
Neighbourhood Watch Initiatives	248	4,252	606
Peace and Reconciliation Initiative	19	37	5
Rural Transport Initiatives	946	1,959	214
Social Prescribing	2079	976	52
Telephone Befriending Service	2,145	354	520
Voter Registration and Awareness Initiative	89	2,403	845

6. Child and Youth Programmes and Activities

Type of Project	Number of Sessions	Total number of children attending
ECCE Childcare	Na	1,567
Full-time Childcare	Na	1,493
Sessional Childcare	Na	1,340
Registered Afterschool Care	Na	865
Kid's Camps (Under 10s)	616	1,650
Creative Youth Group	734	801
Play Groups (Under 10s)	206	184
Summer/Easter Camps	1,474	8,815
Under 10s Groups	1,769	1,614
Youth Café	1,570	769
Youth Club	1,008	1,032
Youth Group	2,142	2,874

7. Parenting Supports

Number of FRCs	Type of Project	Number of Sessions	Adults	Children
70	Parent and Toddler Groups	4,005	3,220	3,893
25	Parent and Children Groups	805	1,225	1,322
8	Strengthening Families	124	90	148
4	Community Mothers	6	62	21
9	Incredible Years	372	150	247
36	Parents Plus	1,119	794	649
10	Positive Parenting	201	255	219
31	Rainbows	498	151	350
17	ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training)	28	216	0
6	Common Sense Parenting	52	71	145
1	Mol an Óige	6	9	34
25	SafeTALK	44	601	18
2	Marte Meo	20	9	7
13	Triple P Parenting Programme	107	269	55
34	Other Parenting Programme	526	857	335
0	<i>Odyssey Parenting Programme</i>	0	0	0

8. Group-based Supports

Number of FRCs	Type of Group	Number of Sessions	Adults Supported	Children Supported
51	Men's Support Group	3,012	1,064	2
60	Women's Support Group	2,431	1,509	71
16	LGBTQI+	224	115	421
17	Tenants & Residents Group	488	1,517	1,437
13	Addiction Support Group	1,291	599	156
6	Lone Parents Group	79	58	54
57	Older People's Group	2,532	2,943	55
14	Carers Support Group	244	349	70
50	Health and Wellbeing Group	3,066	7,344	1,312
8	Bereavement Support Group	200	192	na
32	Parenting Support Group	693	1,146	1,274

9. Family Support Work

Number of FRCs	Type of Project	Number of Sessions/ Clinics/ Meetings	Adults Supported	Children Supported
44	Drop-In Family Support Clinic	4,329	3,243	2,642
84	One-to-One Family/ Individual Support	17,487	6,321	4,814
21	Migrant Family Support	984	1,080	843
24	Child Contact Service	1,581	238	735

10. Meitheals (65 FRCs involved)

Total number of sessions	1,264
Total number of referrals received by FRC from Meitheals this year	267
Total number of Meitheals instigated by FRC	210
Total number of adults involved in Meitheals	711
Total number of children involved in Meitheals	411

11. Volunteer Training

Number of FRCs	Type of Project	Number of Sessions Provided	Number of Participants Involved
39	Training Volunteers	1,359	689
16	Training Board Members	50	78

12. Policy Work

Number of FRCs	Type of Project	Number of Events/ Seminars Organised	Number of Participants Attending/ Engaged
74	Organising Awareness Raising Events	643	29,360
18	Organising Conferences and Seminars	44	2,223

13. Other Initiatives (118 FRCs involved)

FRCs have an opportunity to record their actions under this heading if they feel that the above action types do not adequately capture the specific work being carried out.

Promote Mental and Physical Health	
Total number of sessions	5,937
Total number of adult beneficiaries	8,535
Total number of children beneficiaries	5,129

Activities under this heading include the promotion of local sporting events, such as Community Games and Fun Runs.

Promote Learning Opportunities	
Total number of sessions	1,859
Total number of adult beneficiaries	3,024
Total number of children beneficiaries	830

Activities under this heading include the provision of library services or targeted learning supports for groups within the community.

Support Economic Security of Community	
Total number of sessions	7,917
Total number of adult beneficiaries	6,339
Total number of children beneficiaries	1,271

Some such activities focused on assisting families over the Christmas period with Toy Appeals, as well as supporting adults with specific job readiness programmes.

Respond to Safety Concerns	
Total number of sessions	1,717
Total number of adult beneficiaries	3,236
Total number of children beneficiaries	667

Under this national outcome heading, FRCs were linking in with community members and groups in relation to issues such as domestic violence.

Promote Social Participation	
Total number of sessions	3,794
Total number of adult beneficiaries	14,343
Total number of children beneficiaries	7,829

FRCs have included initiatives here such as their provision and support for day care centres and organisation of community festivals.

The following table presents the total numbers of sessions and beneficiaries in relation to these “other initiatives”.

All National Outcomes Focused “Other Initiatives”	
Total number of sessions	21,224
Total number of adult beneficiaries	35,477
Total number of children beneficiaries	15,726