



PRESS STATEMENT

Friday, 4th October 2024

“Disappointed and frustrated” – Family Resource Centre National Forum reacts to Budget 2025

The [Family Resource Centre National Forum \(FRCNF\)](#) has expressed the extreme disappointment and frustration of its members with the Government’s decision not to address properly the core funding of Family Resource Centres (FRCs) in Budget 2025.

Earlier this year, the FRCNF welcomed progress made by Minister Roderic O’Gorman to bring the lowest funded FRCs to a base funding of €160,000 but this merely addresses a historical inequity dating back to 2018 and incorporates funding required to implement a sector wide pay agreement. The FRCNF had identified the required level of funding per FRC as €240,000 for them to be able to provide the supports their communities need.

Commenting on Budget 2025, **Fergal Landy, CEO of the FRCNF** said, “Our local voluntary boards of management, centre managers and staff, are at breaking point. While we welcomed the increase in core funding earlier this year, this merely addressed a historical inequity dating back to 2018. The lack of investment in core funding in this budget leaves our 121 FRCs in a dire situation. We are extremely disappointed by the decision not to prioritise an increase in funding for all FRCs, and such limited investment will result in a reduction of vital supports and services to vulnerable children, families, individuals and communities nationwide.

“The decision to expand the FRC National Programme is a significant endorsement of the work of FRC in communities nationwide, and while the announcement of five additional FRCs in Budget 2025 is hugely important for the communities that will benefit from the additional centres, the Government needs to address the 121 centres currently established.

“The move to favour establishing new centres before addressing the funding of existing centres runs contrary to our call for an increase in core funding and undervalues the 121 FRCs currently going above and beyond to strengthen and empower their communities on a wholly inadequate level of funding.”

Jackie Landers, Chair of the FRCNF and CEO of Listowel FRC, said, “The current level of minimum core funding is intended to cover the salary of three full-time staff members, operational costs and the running of services in the centre. This is just not realistic nor sustainable. After many years of underinvestment, the ongoing shortfall in core funding has left our members feeling unheard. This is not about staff terms and conditions as this is being addressed through a separate process, this about FRC voluntary boards, managers and frontline staff being left exhausted and demoralised running centres on a shoestring budget

without adequate core staffing, running costs, often in buildings that are not fit for purpose. FRCs are saying, we have had enough!”

The FRC National Programme provides empowering supports to communities coping with challenges such as the housing crisis, poverty, the cost of living, and promoting inclusive communities for all. The National FRC Programme funding is allocated by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to Tusla Child and Family Agency, who administer the programme on the Government’s behalf.

Further information about the FRCNF is available here: <https://www.familyresource.ie/>

ENDS

Contact: Sorcha Mac Mahon / Meadbh Whelan, Alice Public Relations, Tel: 087-758 5337 / 085-203 9693, Email: media@alicepr.com

Notes to Editors

- Fergal Landy, CEO of the FRCNF is available for interview/comment.

About the FRCNF

The Family Resource Centre (FRC) programme is Ireland’s largest national family and community-based support programme, core funded by Tusla – the child and family agency. There are currently 121 Family Resource Centres (FRCS) in Ireland which the Family Resource Centre National Forum represents.

Last year, FRCs:

- Delivered 52,481 parenting and family support sessions.
- 34,447 participants were facilitated in adult education.
- 70,960 therapeutic sessions were provided.
- There were 129,305 beneficiaries of community-based initiatives.
- 57,154 children and young people were engaged in pre-school and afterschool initiatives.
- 15,578 participants benefited from group-based supports.

The FRCNF’s vision is that all children, families, individuals, and communities will actively participate and be included in a society that is equal, equitable, inclusive, and non-discriminatory and which will enable their optimal well-being.

Its mission is to support, empower and represent Family Resource Centres so that collectively it can deliver on its FRC Programme that creates and influences positive change in our communities.

Follow the FRCNF on Twitter, @frcnf, [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).