

Parental Participation Seed Funding

2016-2018



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Parental Participation

Parental Participation means providing opportunities for all parents to have a say in decisions affecting their lives and the lives of their children, including participation in all aspects of their care and education. The aim of the Parental Participation Project is to encourage parents' participation in their own children's care and education and to enable their participation in the planning, delivery and evaluation of services. A Parental Participation Toolkit has been developed to support practice in this area.

Parental Participation Seed Funded Projects

In order to strengthen our partnership with parents and to build on existing good practice in this area, a budget of 340,000 has been allocated to the Parental Participation project in the years 2016 to 2018. Proposals were submitted by way of an Application Form to include details of a 'lead practitioner' (ideally the Prevention Partnership and Family Support Manager) and be submitted through, and approved by, the relevant Area Manager. Approved Projects address at least one of the five Parental Participation themes below: Enhancing Parenting Skills to support parents' participation in their children's care and education; Parental Participation in the Planning of Services; Parental Participation in the Delivery & Evaluation of Services; Parental Participation when there are additional challenges (for example, family conflicts, lone parenting, teen parenting, parenting when there is a mental health issue, etc.); Participation for others in a caring role (for example, grandparents, foster carers, childminders). There will be a requirement that all projects will submit a short progress report and financial report on a quarterly basis with end of year reports. The evaluation of the Parental Participation Seed Funding Scheme will form a part of the evaluation of the Parenting stream of the PPFS Mainstreaming Project which is being facilitated by UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, NUI Galway.

Background

The Parental Participation Project is an initiative of the Parenting strand of the Atlantic Philanthropies funded Partnership Prevention and Family Support programme of work. Tusla is committed to supporting parenting and to encourage meaningful parental participation in the planning and delivery of our services. This is in line with Government commitments to support parents and parenting through the Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures National Policy Framework for Children and Young People (2014-2020) where 'Support Parents' is included as a key enabler and also its High Level Policy Statement on supporting Parents and Families (Parenting and Family Support).

Dublin North East (DNE)		
<i>Area</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Name of Project</i>
Cavan/Monaghan	Plans & Strategies Participation	Parenting Support Strategy Building the Voice of Parents
Louth/Meath	Supporting Parenting	Champions for Change
Dublin North City	Supporting Parenting Supporting Parenting Supporting Parenting Participation	Home Visiting Supporting 'Strengthening Families' Capacity Building Balseskin Direct Provision Centre
Dublin North	Practice/Promo Tool Parenting Hub	'Seldom Heard' Technical Guide ASD Community Hub

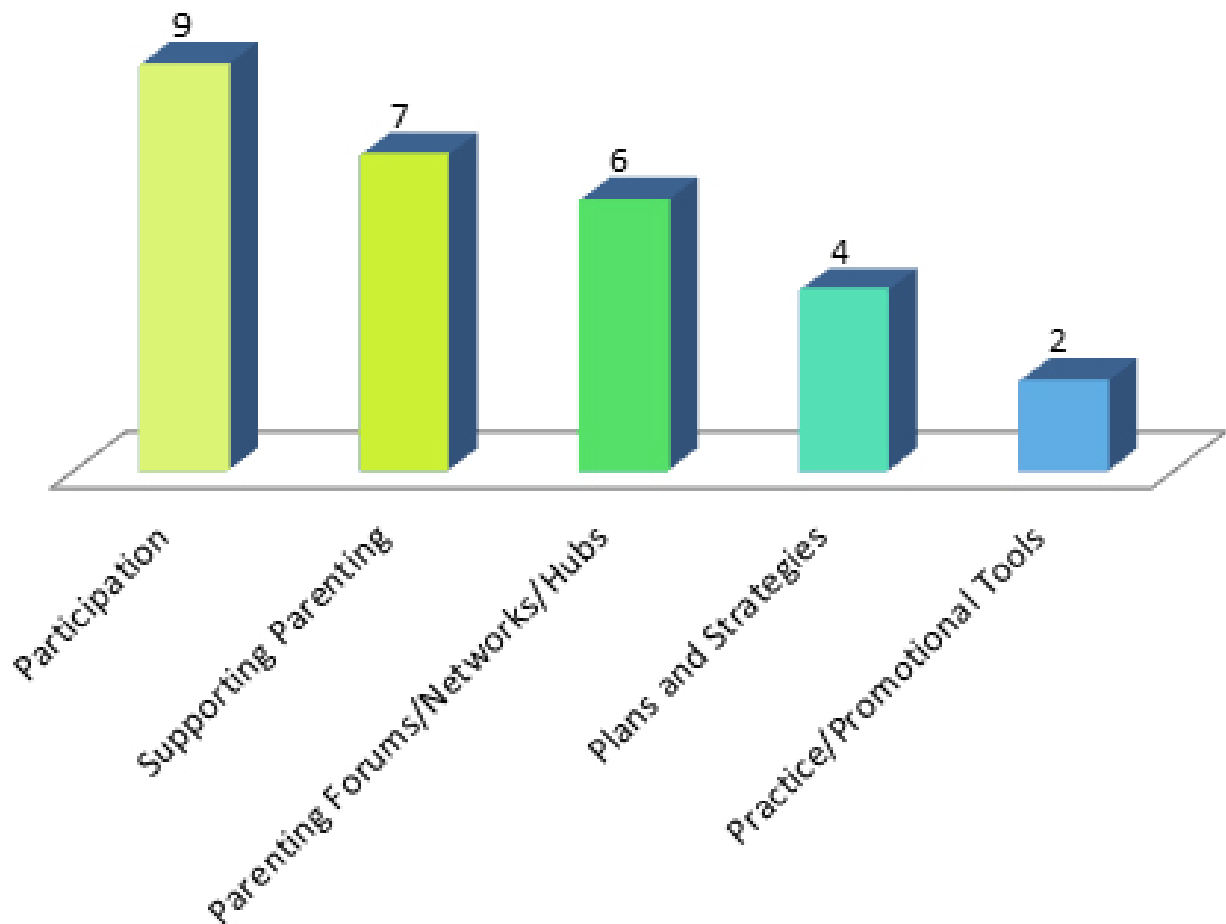
Dublin Mid Leinster (DML)		
<i>Area</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Name of Project</i>
Midlands	Participation Supporting Parenting Participation Plans & Strategies	Parent & Toddler Group Initiative 'Schools out' Family Learning Programme Design of Family Support/Activity Rooms Tus Nua Parents' Support Plan
Dublin South Central	Participation	'What Parents' Want' Needs Analysis
Dublin South East/Wicklow	Parenting Hub	Parenting Pod
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	Participation Parenting Hub Plans & Strategies	Parents' Voices Research Project Dunlavin Parenting Hub Evidence Informed Planning for PS

South		
<i>Area</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Name of Project</i>
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	Parenting Network	Advocacy Service
Cork	Supporting Parenting	Happy Families
Kerry	Participation	Hearing from parents
Waterford/Wexford	Parenting Hub	Parental Participation Hub

West		
<i>Area</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Name of Project</i>
Donegal	Parenting Hub	Parent Hub Co-ordinator
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	Practice/Promo Tool	App4U
Mayo	Supporting Parenting Participation	Universal Parenting Info & Advice Participation of Ethnic Minority Families
Galway/Roscomm on	Plans & Strategies	PSS through Participation
Mid-West	Participation	Partnership in Practice

Parental Participation Seed Funding

17 Areas
28 Projects



List of Seed Funding Projects for Parenting – DNE – 2016/2017

Area	Name of Project	Description of Project
Cavan / Monaghan	Parenting Support (PS) Strategy	<p>Development of an agreed Parenting Strategy through engagement with parents and agencies to enhance parenting capacity in Cavan & Monaghan by 2018.</p> <p>This strategy will provide agencies and professionals with information regarding the National Service Delivery Framework, parenting developments and the Parenting Strategy through a range of methodologies. The work will involve the establishment of a skills database for Cavan and Monaghan. Trained staff will also co-facilitate training sessions (once a year) for parents including families with additional challenges.</p>
	Hearing the voice of Parents	<p>Building relationships with parents who have experienced Tusla services and up skilling staff around parental participation</p> <p>This training will help to develop parental participation skills within Tusla so that staff and managers actively listen to parents' perceptions and take these perceptions into account in the design and delivery of services. The project will also facilitate relationship building with parents to facilitate the participation process.</p>
Louth / Meath	Champions for change Initiative	<p>The Champions for Change Programme</p> <p>The Champions for Change Programme involves a number of initiatives to facilitate parents' expression, and discussion and to address issues of concern to them and their families. The project, which is led by Louth and Meath Children and Young People Services Committee (CYPSC) and Tusla Parental Participation Initiatives, will also engage with local Family Resource Centres. The project involves a number of initiatives including a Parents Forum, a Transition Project, a Father's Project, a 'Swings & Slides' Parenting Programme, an Early Years project, a Parenting when Separated project and a Children and Young People's Cyber Safety project.</p> <p>Partners: Louth & Meath CYPSC's, Family Resource Centres</p>
Dublin North City	Promoting Parental Participation through Home Visiting	<p>Home Visiting Programme for parents of children in Early Years settings and Junior Infant Classes.</p> <p>This project will involve the training of practitioners working with young children to increase parental partnership. It is hoped in this way to enhance parenting skills and support parental participation in their own child's care and education. It is envisaged that the project will promote parental participation in the planning, delivery and evaluation of early year's care and education services</p>
	Supporting Strengthening Families Programme	<p>Supporting parents who have completed the Strengthening Families Programme</p> <p>This project is about providing ongoing support to parents who have completed the Strengthening Families Programme, to enhance their parental capacity and skills and generate a greater understanding of their children's needs</p>

	Capacity Building	Meitheal Awareness – Talks for Parents This proposal relates to the provision of eight two hour talks (4 x year one, 4 x year two) to parents in order to generate awareness of Meitheal and the manner in which Meitheal can support parents and improve outcomes for children. The target group will include parents whose children attend St Helena's Childcare Facility, Mellow Springs Childcare Facility and parents who have attended Triple P Training.
	Access Initiative Balseskin Direct Provision Centre	Parental Participation for Balseskin Direct Provision Centre This project seeks to ensure increased awareness of parents in the center to services in the area and to enable increased access by these parents to relevant services. It is hoped also to increase participation in Tusla activities and overall to support integration and cultural awareness. The Project aims to provide Triple P workshops to parents involved.
Dublin North	'Seldom Heard' Technical Guide	The development of a technical guide to working with 'Seldom Heard' parents and families. It is hoped that this project will help enhance collaboration with services working with 'seldom heard' families. Also, to support services to identify opportunities to change practice to better include 'seldom heard' families and enhance skills of 'seldom heard' parents to facilitate engagement. This project will also involve the establishment of, and hopefully the sustainment of, Parent Networks.
	Community Hub for parents of children with ASD	Creation of safe and supportive place for parents of children with ASD including parental wellbeing initiative. This project will provide opportunities for parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to get information on entitlements, application processes, support networks, practical safe interventions and responses to support their parenting appropriately. It will also identify and support access to occupational therapy and provide sensory activities for children with ASD to enhance their mental wellbeing and to enable their parents time to attend the project.

List of Seed Funding Projects for Parenting – DML 2016/2017

Area	Name of Project	Description of Project
Midlands	Parent & Toddler Group Initiative	<p>Parent & Toddler Group Initiative including Skill Building.</p> <p>Lus na Gréine FRC seeks to engage parents, (particularly those who are socially and economically disadvantaged), in a positive, happy and fun based environment. This environment will be one where parents are central in planning and developing their own parent and toddler activities and initiatives with practitioner support where necessary. The project will develop opportunities for parents to gain early childhood information and knowledge at the earliest stage in their child's lives to promote a holistic and positive family environment.</p> <p><i>Partner: Bridgeways Family Resource Centre</i></p> <p>Schools Out Family Learning Programme –</p> <p>This programme seeks to involve 20 families in an initiative to support children and parents' language, literacy and learning in a fun environment.</p> <p><i>Partner: Bridgeways Family Resource Centre</i></p>
	Involving parents in service delivery and enabling childrens' voices to be heard	<p>Design of Family Support and Activity Rooms</p> <p>The Family Resource Centre has extended its premises to include family support and family activity rooms. The next phase is the interior design. This project is about involving the parents who use the resource centre in the design of both these rooms.</p> <p><i>Partner: Arden View Family Resource Centre</i></p> <p>Tus Nua – Parents Support Plan.</p> <p>This project involves parents and guardians to be supported to give a 'voice' to the needs of their children and empower families through the sharing of relevant information in a meaningful way.</p>
Dublin South Central	'What Parents Want' Needs Analysis	<p>A needs analysis exercise to explore 'What Parents Want'</p> <p>This is a participation project with parents to find out what they need and want from Tusla. The information obtained from parents will inform the work of Tusla and others working with parents going forward. The analysis should give a very general overview of the needs of parents and also highlight the very specific needs of parents engaged with Tusla currently. This project will demonstrate to parents that Tusla means to fully implement the 'partnership with parents approach' in the delivery of services.</p> <p><i>Partner: One Family</i></p>

DSE/Wicklow	Parenting Pod	<p>The development of a Parenting Pod through needs analysis</p> <p>This initiative will ascertain the needs of the Parent Group for the Parenting Pod through preparatory work and focus groups and support the development and capacity of the group. It will also facilitate hearing the voice of a number of 'seldom heard' parents to influence and promote local development and service provision. The South Wicklow project will be developed in collaboration with the West Wicklow project.</p>
DSW/Kildare /Wicklow	Parents' Voices Research Project	<p>Parents' Voices' – research on parents' experience of parental support, their needs, what works and how accessible services are for them</p> <p>The 'Parents Voice' research will gather and analyse parents' experiences of parental support, their needs, what works and how accessible services are for them. The survey design will be agreed with partners and data collection training will be provided to parent and carer facilitators.</p> <p><i>Partner: CDI Tallaght</i></p>
	Dunlavin Parenting Hub	<p>A Parenting Hub for Dunlavin</p> <p>Focusing on the town of Dunlavin in West Wicklow, this initiative will promote and enhance the greater participation of parents in the care and education of their children. This will be achieved through the development of a locally based Parenting Hub that supports, empowers and gives a voice to all parents including seldom heard parents. Parents will be involved in this initiative from its inception to ensure that their voice is heard in the planning stage of this initiative and also that they take part in its future delivery and evaluation.</p>
	Evidence Informed Planning for Parent Support	<p>Planning for Parent Support: an evidence informed approach.</p> <p>This project will provide opportunities for parents, including 'seldom heard' parents, to influence planning, delivery and evaluation of services and supports designed to meet their needs. Feedback will be gathered from parents about their experiences of the services and supports they have received to identify how existing services can be improved. Also information will be gathered from parents who are not linked to any service about their unmet needs in order to identify how existing provision can be more responsive and accessible.</p> <p><i>Partner: County Kildare LEADER Partnership</i></p>

List of Seed Funding Projects for Parenting - West 2016/2017

Area	Name of Project	Description of Project
South Tipp Carlow/Kilkenny	South Tipperary Advocacy service	<p>The establishment of an advocacy service for parents who are engaged with, or have the potential to be engaged with, Alternative Care Services in South Tipperary</p> <p>The project intends to establish an Advocacy service for parents of children who are in alternative care as well as for parents who are liaising with Child Protection services. The service will be located in Tipperary town and will be delivered by Three Drives Family Resource Centre. The rationale for the location of this project is that Tipperary town has the highest proportion of children in care in the South County . There has also been a disproportionate number of Child Welfare & Protection referrals from Tipperary Town to the Child & Family services in recent years.</p> <p><i>Partner: Three Drives Family Resource Centre</i></p>
Cork	Happy Families	<p>A project to support language and literacy development.</p> <p>This is an initiative to enhance parenting skills in order to support parents' participation in their children's care and education. This will be achieved by the sharing of universal parenting messages and knowledge to parents through early years settings via the Happy Talk Initiative and other education settings via Cork CYPSC. Targeted individual parenting and family support will also be provided for some parents with additional or specific needs within those settings.</p> <p><i>Partner: Cork CYPSC</i></p>
Kerry	Parent Participation Initiative – hearing from parents	<p>A Parental Participation Initiative</p> <p>The Kerry Diocesan Youth Service (KDYS), in collaboration with various partner agencies, aims to establish a social media mechanism to gather parental feedback to review and develop their services for young people and their families. The project will entail facilitating meetings with parents from various backgrounds to explore the relevant feedback criteria. The project especially seeks feedback from teen parents, single parents, Traveller Community, Roma, Asylum Seekers, parents of early school leavers' as well as the general parenting population. Currently there are no inter-agency Parents Forums in Kerry, with the exception of the disability sector.</p> <p><i>Partner: KDYS</i></p>
Waterford/ Wexford	Waterford / Wexford Parental Participation Hub	<p>The Development of Parental Participation Hubs</p> <p>This initiative involves the development of a Parental Participation Hub in a number of identified disadvantaged neighbourhoods in both Wexford & Waterford. These areas have been identified by both of the Children and Young Peoples Services Committees and Local Community Development Committees as areas of high deprivation with very little social infrastructure and poor transport links. While the development of parenting hubs has been identified as a common theme by both CYPSC's, the delivery of the projects in each community setting will respond to local need.</p>

List of Seed Funding Projects for Parenting – West 2016/2017

Area	Name of Project	Description of Project
Donegal	Parent Hub Donegal	<p>Engage a co-ordinator for the Donegal Parent Hub</p> <p>The Parent Hub Co-ordinator will collate the successes of the Parent Hub to date, draw on the on-going work of all the partners involved and consolidate and maintain ‘all things parenting’ into an accessible and user-friendly information and support source. The Parent Hub is a sub-group of the CYPSC and will keep the CYPSC and the Coordinator informed of progress, outputs, and outcomes. The work of the Parent Hub Coordinator will be intensively focused on Parenting, Parenting Support and Education.</p> <p><i>Partner: Donegal CYPSC</i></p>
Sligo/Leitrim/ West Cavan	App4U	<p>An APP to help parents manage service engagement.</p> <p>This project will support the development of an App to assist parents to manage what services they are engaged with and what those services provide for each of their children. The project will also promote the use of the App to better enable parents to co-ordinate the involvement of services and attendance at appointments. It is envisaged that the App will also enable service providers to better coordinate appointments on behalf of parents and families</p> <p><i>Partners: Sligo Family Support (Lifestart), Sligo Leitrim CYPSC</i></p>
Mayo	Universal Parenting information and advice	<p>The provision of universal information and advice to parents in County Mayo.</p> <p>This initiative will endeavour to enhance parenting skills and to support parents’ participation in their children’s care and education. This initiative aims to provide information to all parents in the county and to raise awareness and help to develop strategies that will support parents’ participation with their child own child’s care and education from birth to age 5.</p>
	Participation of ethnic minority families	<p>A project to increase the participation of ethnic minority families</p> <p>The aim of this initiative is to increase the participation of ethnic minority families in the planning, delivery and evaluation of child and family services in Mayo. This will be achieved through consultation with ethnic minority and seldom heard parents. It is hoped in this way to enhance professional awareness and understanding in relation to cultural differences in parenting styles by listening to parents from diverse cultural backgrounds including Migrant families, Traveller families and parents in direct provision accommodation.</p>

Galway/ Roscommon	PS strategy through Participation	The Development of a Parenting Support Strategy The aim is to develop a coordinated strategy on parenting support across Galway/Roscommon to include outlining the role and responsibility of all partner agencies. It is planned that the voice of parents will be heard (especially 'seldom heard' parents) and promoted to shape the strategy. The aim is to embed parental participation practice into the service delivery framework of Tusla and partner agencies. Parenting Support Champions will be involved in the planning, participation and implementation. The focus of the Strategy will be on the five national outcomes for children and young people.
Midwest	Partnership in Practice Mid- West	Engaging with parents of Children in Care There are 599 children in care in the Mid-West area .This proposal seeks to engage with parents of children in care in Clare, Limerick and North Tipperary to promote partnership in practice in order to support parents' participation in their child/children's care and education. The project aims to consult parents and explore methods to promote engagement. It also hopes to produce tangible outputs for parents in relation to improved information materials on parent's rights. The project has also developed a strategic link with Dr. Trish Walsh, Trinity College Dublin and Professor Tor Slettebø (Institute of Social Work and Family Therapy), Norway. <i>Partners: Parents, Clarecare, Limerick Social Services, North Tipperary Community Services</i>