

COVID 19 SERVICE UPDATE Louth Meath

During the current public health Crisis, Bernard Gloster CEO has made a decision to focus on the three critical areas including -

1. Child Protection and Welfare Concerns

Tusla continues to accept and respond to all referrals of reasonable grounds for child protection or welfare concern.

This can be done via the secure portal on the Tusla Website or by contacting us at our:

Dedicated Point of Contact at Tel 046 9098560.

2. Support to Children in Care & After Care

Louth Meath are responsible for 410 children in care, the majority who live with foster families with a small number living in residential centres. We continue to provide support to all of these children and their parents during this difficult time.

We are working on an emergency foster carer plan as the current crisis will potentially have an impact of foster carer availability.

3. Domestic, Sexual & Gender Based Violence Services

Tusla funded Domestic, Sexual & Gender Based Violence Services provide free and confidential services: emergency shelter, legal advocacy, support groups and domestic violence education. The services include-

- Women's Aid Helpline (24 hours) 1800 341900
- Rape Crisis Centre National Helpline (24 hours) 1800 778888
- Drogheda Women's Refuge: Refuge/Support Service Tel: 041 984 4550
- Women's Aid Dundalk: Refuge/Support Service Tel: 042 933 3244
- Meath Women's Refuge: Refuge/Support Service Tel: 046 902 2393
- Men's Aid Ireland (formally AMEN) : Support Service & Confidential Helpline – 01 554 3811
Email: Hello@mensaid.ie

While the above three areas have been prioritised, Tusla continue to provide the following -

4. Tusla Education Support Service (tess)

Tess has three strands namely the Statutory Educational Welfare Service (EWS) and the two school support services the Home School Community Liaison Scheme (HSCL) and the School

Completion Programme (SCP). Tess continues to provides supports to families during this time

and have worked with the Department of Education to ensure that School Lunches have are been made available to DEIS schools.

There are 4 EWO's who are working remotely at present. They are maintaining contact with the families and are liaising with other professionals who are involved with these families.

Senior Manager: Georgina.traynor@tusla.ie Tel 087-7601955

5. Prevention, Partnership and Family Support

The Family Support Teams are continuing to provide remote support to families & are also supporting their colleagues on their more critical work.

The Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) have developed a community response plan which will now align where appropriate with the county council plans. Some of the key areas being progressed are –

- Audit of current service delivery in the Community and Voluntary Sector to ensure that information is shared across the network
- Targeted families in need of practical support
- Delivering play packs to targeted families & sharing of key resources to children / parents on internet safety / safety card etc.
- The Tusla funded services across Louth Meath continue to provide support in line with Public Health advice

6. Children and Young Peoples Service Committee

The Louth & Meath CYPSC have developed a response plan which will now align where appropriate with the County Council Plans. The key areas being progressed are –

- Audit of Service Delivery in the Statutory Sector to ensure that information is shared across the network
- Service Activity at a local level including work on Hidden Harm, Positive Play, Mental Health Toolkits in including bereavement resources, Physical Activity for children, NVR- Key Messages communicate.
- Sharing of information/Communication between CPYSC Members, the PPN and the development of resources on internet safety / safety card
- There is Regional Collaboration on finalising a Critical Incident Protocol.

Tusla also provide Early Years Inspection Services and Adoption Services.

Grainne Sullivan, Area Manager 2 April 2020