



Contact Us

NICMA – the Childminding Association
Suite 3
Elizabeth House
116-118 Holywood Road
Belfast BT4 1NU
T: 028 9181 1015
E: info@nicma.org
www.nicma.org



www.conordiversion.com



Foreword



The past 2 years have seen some very big changes here at NICMA.

We finally waved goodbye to our old premises in Newtownards which was no longer fit for purpose. We also saw some major changes to staff with some old faces leaving and some new posts and staff arriving.

Being in our new premises has encouraged much more footfall with childminders calling in for a wee coffee and chat. The addition of a designated training room has allowed us to explore and expand our services, particularly around training.

NICMA's main priority continues to ensure that the voices of registered childminders are heard and we continue to lobby and advocate for all of our childminders across Northern Ireland. We have met with all political parties, relevant Government Depts, MP's and MEP's to make sure that the needs and benefits of childminders are kept firmly on the agenda.

What I have also made as a priority is to build new friendships and alliances with like minded organisations as well as strengthening long established ones such as PlayBoard and Early Years.

NICMA is a dynamic organisation that will continue to meet change and challenge the ever growing changes to policy and legislation. We are building up our suite

of training and further developing areas of support for our amazing registered childminders who promote such loving care and support to thousands of parents across the province.

I will finish by sincerely thanking all of the staff old and new who are vital to the organisation, their commitment and support are the backbone of all that we have and will accomplish.

I would also like on behalf of the staff and I to extend our sincere thanks to the Board of NICMA, to all the childminders who support us, our funders and last but by no means least the Childminding Advisory Council for their dedicated support throughout the past year.

Finally, we look forward to the coming year and the challenges it will bring to everyone in NICMA.

Patricia Lewsley-Mooney CBE
Chief Executive Officer



Development and Engagement Officers

Development and Engagement Officers main objective is to represent the childminding community by promoting, improving and enhancing the quality of registered childminding provision and raising the profile of the sector as a viable childcare option for families.

They also work in partnership with relevant statutory agencies, community and voluntary groups to promote the benefits of registered home based childcare, identify areas of need and opportunity for training and development. NICMA information stands were held throughout the year in shopping centres, libraries, parent and toddler groups and job fairs. Staff in Jobs and Benefits offices, SureStarts, Health Visitor Teams and childcare partnerships have also been provided with NICMA information and publications.

The team continues to support registered childminders and NICMA members, dealing with queries by phone, text, WhatsApp, email, Facebook and face to face at a range of Buddy groups and childminding support groups across the province while providing fun and enjoyment for registered childminders and the children they care for.

The NICMA Team have five Development and Engagement Officers who provide support to prospective and registered childminders across Northern Ireland. They are home based and work within the Health Trust areas ensuring there is a local presence, able to address local issues relating to the community.

We are happy to welcome 3 new Development and Engagement Officers to our team this year, they are Paula McLaughlin who will be in the Northern Trust, Grainne Scullion who will be in the Northern and Lower Western Trust and Katie Turkington who will be in the Southern Trust.



NICMA - Supporting Childminders throughout Northern Ireland

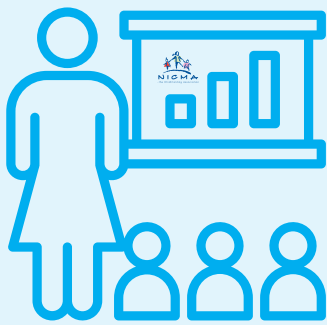


Training and Quality

Minimum Standards in Childminding and Daycare Core Training

NICMA has had yet another successful year in delivering the three core elements- Safeguarding Children, Health and Safety in the Childminding Setting and Introductory Paediatric First Aid to prospective childminders. We were delighted to obtain further funding from the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) which enabled us to deliver **36** courses to **532** prospective childminders.

We are also meeting the needs of the childminding sector by delivering refresher training across Northern Ireland. Over the last Year we have delivered **27** Health and Safety in the Childminding Setting courses to **341** as well as **30** Safeguarding Children courses to **501** registered childminders. This training was delivered to both NICMA members and non-members.



Quality Assurance Programme

A total of **6** cluster sessions delivered to 2 Registered Childminders and a further **2** condensed sessions delivered to **8** Registered Childminders in the Southern Trust, resulting in **10** Registered Childminders achieving certification for NICMA's Childminding Quality Assurance Programme.

The impact of the programme:

- Increased confidence in childminders regarding their inspection visits.
- Less fear and frustration over paperwork requirements regarding minimum standards.
- Increased knowledge on the minimum standards and how these link to childminding practice.
- Improved quality of practice in childminding settings resulting in better outcomes for children.
- Reduction in number of panel meetings with Trust Early Years Teams.
- Improved inspection visits as childminders are better prepared.
- A reduction in the number of childminders leaving the sector.
- Partnership working between NICMA and the Health and Social Care Trusts.
- A reduction in referrals from the Trust.
- A reduction in the number of self-referrals made by childminders for support.

"I have learnt so much though this programme, it has given me more confidence and I feel that I will be offering the best service I can".

"I found that here was a lot of information and I was concerned that I wouldn't have time to complete the portfolio but with the help and support from NICMA it wasn't as difficult as I was expecting".

"The Quality Assurance Programme

has opened my eyes so much. I now understand where and why the minimum standards relate to my practice! I am now a lot more confidence when it comes to the paperwork side of running my business and I feel more prepared for my inspection visits! I would recommend the Programme to any registered childminder".

Events throughout the year



Conference

On 19th October 2019 the NICMA Annual Conference took place celebrating the 30 Year Anniversary of the UNCRC at the Derry City Hotel.

Dr Siobhan Fitzpatrick MBA, MSc,CBE was our keynote speaker who told us about her experience at Early Years- the organisation for young children.

There were a number of workshops held including 'Let's get Talking', 'Children and Grief', 'Food Hygiene' and ' Outdoor play for older children'. We also had a lot of prizes and awards to be won for our members and a wonderful lunch. We look forward to hosting another conference next year.



Bake Off

Wednesday 4th December 2019 we held the 'Great NICMA Bake Off' which was a great day for all registered childminders and the children to enjoy.



Office opening

What a great day we had on Saturday 18th November 2019, celebrating our new office!

Professor Laura Lundy, the co-director of the centre for children's rights of Queen's University helped us open our new office alongside two of our members Dora and Olive who spoke so passionately on their experiences of being a childminder.

It was a wonderful day with many of our members there to help us celebrate.



Many other events held throughout the year included Jump Jiggle and jive, Registered Childminder of the Year and much more. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that attended these events and to all our members whose commitment and support makes all of this possible.

NICMA Staff Team

Patricia Lewsley-Mooney, CBE - Chief Executive
Karena McErlan - Deputy Chief Executive

(Resigned Jan 2020)

TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Andrea Knocker - Regional Development Team Leader
Hannah Robinson- Organisation Development and Learning Team Leader
Fiona Clendinning - Development and Engagement Officer, SECCP
Michelle Grant - Development and Engagement Officer, SCCP & Arke SurStart
Katie Turkington - Development and Engagement Officer, SCCP
Maria Magee - Development and Engagement Officer, WCCP
Grainne Scullion - Development and Engagement Officer, Lower WCCP
Clare McGillion - Development and Engagement Officer, Upper WCCP
Paula McLaughlin - Development and Engagement Officer, NCCP

(Resigned July 2019)

(Resigned July 2019)

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Emma Bayliss - Finance Assistant
John Tracey - Finance Manager
Eimear O'cailate - Finance Manager
Sonia Tomblin - Membership and Engagement Administrators
Rhonda Hunter - Membership and Engagement Administrators
Karan McCullough - Membership and Engagement Administrators
Lyn Bradley - Membership and Engagement Administrators

(Resigned August 2019)

(Resigned June 2020)

(Resigned December 2019)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Suzi Gray - Chairperson
Norma Shearer - Treasurer
Dr Margaret Baumann - Secretary
Catherine Cook
Karen Hanna
Drew Haire
Marlene Kingan - Vice Chair



Acknowledgements

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of a large number of organisations who have funded staff posts and supported registered childminding initiatives over the last year. We would like to extend our thanks to those organisations and to our members for your continuous support as it is very much appreciated. In 2019/20 our stakeholders include:

- ✓ Arke SureStart
- ✓ Belfast Childcare Partnership
- ✓ Childminding members
- ✓ Department of Health
- ✓ Department of Education
- ✓ Early Years- the organisation for young children
- ✓ Gold SureStart
- ✓ Health and Social Care Board
- ✓ NICMA Childminding Advisory Council
- ✓ NICMA Support Groups

- ✓ Northern Childcare Partnership
- ✓ Northern Health and Social Care Trust
- ✓ Charlie Howes with Emergency Care NI
- ✓ Shantallow SureStart
- ✓ South Eastern Childcare Partnership
- ✓ South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
- ✓ Southern Childcare Partnership
- ✓ Western Childcare Partnership
- ✓ Western Health and Social Care Trust

