



Registered
Childminding
Through a Pandemic.

Annual Review 2020-2021





Foreword

I would like to welcome you to our 2021 Annual Review.

2020-21 was a very difficult year for everyone with the first lockdown happening because of COVID-19, but as usual Registered Childminders rose to the challenge delivering 71% of the childcare provision needed.

Supporting Key workers who delivered front line services such as Doctors, Nurses, hospital staff and emergency services but to name a few. Often at times putting themselves and their families at risk. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for facing the challenge the pandemic brought with it.

NICMA worked tirelessly throughout the year with the Dept of Health and Education to ensure RCMS had the right guidance in place to keep themselves safe along with the children they were minding.

During the Pandemic many RCMS found themselves facing financial hardship and along with others from the Childcare sector we lobbied for funding to be ring fenced for the sector. Thus successfully seeing the introduction of the Sustainability Fund and the Temporary closure fund..... Added to this we saw the Self Employed Income Support Scheme from HMRC.

NICMA staff also rose to the challenge and transformed their delivery of services especially to our members, many services went online including training, along with a huge increase in phone calls to the office. None of this would have been possible if it wasn't for the commitment and hard work of all of our Staff and Board members and for that I wish to thank them.

I would also like to thank all of NICMA's funders who supported us during this challenging time period.

PATRICIA LEWSLEY-MOONEY CBE

Chief Executive Officer

Registered Childminding Development and Engagement Officers

Our NICMA team consists of 6 Development and Engagement Officers whose main objectives are to represent the registered 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.

This year our Development and Engagement Officers role changed along with many others around the world due to the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic. The Development and Engagement Officers could no longer meet Registered Childminders face to face and therefore they began to do support groups, workshops and training via Zoom and this was a big adjustment for everyone.

Our Development and Engagement Officers helped many Registered Childminders through this difficult time with new guidance, policies, funding and especially helping with the mental health of many Registered Childminders. The Development and Engagement Officers worked long hours in order to contact everyone who needed help through this difficult time.

The team continues to support all Registered Childminders and NICMA members, dealing with queries by phone, text email and Zoom.

We are also happy to welcome one new Development and Engagement Officer to our team this year called Jane McKibbin who will be taking care of the Belfast Trust and Northern South Eastern Trust.

Please see all of our Development and Engagement Officers contact details.

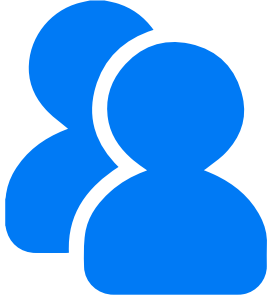
NICMA Contact Details	
MEMBERSHIP & GENERAL ENQUIRIES	SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST
NICMA OFFICE 02891 811015	Fiona Clendinning M: 07837734825 E: fiona.cleddinning@nicma.org Covering: Lisburn, Downpatrick, Newcastle, Castlewells, Bangor, Newtownards, Donaghadee, Portaferry, Comber, Holywood
WESTERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST	SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST
Clare McGillion M: 07533514789 E: clare.mcgonllion@nicma.org Covering: Derry/Londonderry, Strabane, Limavady	Katie Turkington M: 07739753187 E: katie.turkington@nicma.org Covering: Armagh, Craigavon, Lurgan, Portadown, Dromore, Banbridge, Dungannon, Newry
Grainne Scullion M: 07517472271 E: grainne.scullion@nicma.org Covering: Omagh and Fermanagh, Magherafelt and Cookstown	BELFAST HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST
NORTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST	Jane McKibbin M: 07593581542 E: jane.mckibbin@nicma.org Covering: North Belfast, West Belfast, South Belfast, East Belfast, Dundonald, Carryduff, Moneyreagh
Paula McLaughlin M: 07593131039 E: paula.mclaughlin@nicma.org Covering: Ballymena, Causeway Coast & Glens.	SURESTART CATCHMENT AREAS
Jane McKibbin M: 07593581542 E: jane.mckibbin@nicma.org Covering: Carrickfergus, Larne, Newtownabbey, Doagh	Gold Surestart catchment area
	Tina McKeown M: 07738119648 E: tina.mckeown@nicma.org Covering: Cookstown, Maghera
	Shantallow Surestart catchment area
	Joanna Legg M: 07759816933 E: joanna.legg@nicma.org Covering: Shantallow



Social Media



At the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic NICMA had 4,396 Facebook followers and by the End of March 2021 NICMA had 5,584 Facebook followers. Many Registered childminders found the NICMA Facebook page helpful to get up to date information regarding the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Facebook private messenger also became a popular way to contact one of the NICMA team.



NICMA had 1,565 members by the end of March 2021.

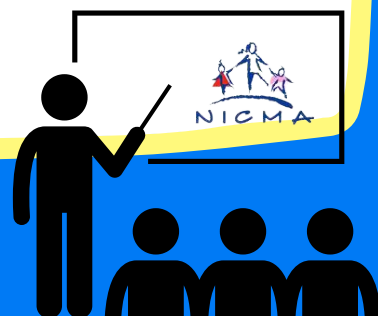
NICMA had 530 Twitter followers by the end of March 2021

Throughout Lockdown beginning in August 2020 NICMA sent out weekly updates of the changes to Government Guidance.



Training and Quality

- Pre-registration Briefings, Core training and Refresher training took place via Zoom.
- QIP has been completed in the Western Trust, Northern Trust, Belfast Trust and Southern Trust.
- 13 Mental Health and Wellbeing workshops took place across all the trusts via zoom between January 2020 and March 2021. Mental Health and Wellbeing was and continues to be a major issue for registered childminders following the effects of the pandemic and the workshops have been in high demand.
- 6 Playdates with PlayBoard NI and 2 webinars took place in March 2021 which also received a high demand and lots of positive feedback.
- 14 training sessions were completed via the Pathways project in the Belfast HSCT and the Northern South Eastern HSCT.



Number of pre-registration briefings sessions, Core and Refresher training held during the period April 2020 – March 2021

Course	No. of courses taken
PRB	33
Core Health & Safety	9
Core Safeguarding	8
Core Paediatric First Aid	8
Refresher Health & Safety	18
Refresher Safeguarding	19

Training and Workshops that took place from January 2021 – March 2021

Month	Training/Workshop	No. Attended
Jan	Autism Awareness	19
Jan	ADHD/Sensory	12
Jan	Business Development	2
Feb	Makaton	12
Feb	ADHD/Sensory	19
Feb	Makaton	10
Feb	Autism Level 1	20
Feb	Autism Level 1	12
Feb	Follow up Mental Health	19
Feb	Connection Counts	11
Feb	Promoting Positive Behaviour	13
Mar	Follow up Mental Health	15
Mar	Child Development	10
Mar	Helping Children Manage Their Emotions	15
Mar	Business Development	3
Mar	Mental Health (0-12yrs) x7	57
Mar	Follow up Mental Health (x2)	23
Mar	Stress & Impact of Wellbeing (x2)	20
Mar	Autism Level 1 + AQA	15



QIP

Trust	Signed Up	Completed
Northern Trust	31	18
Western Trust	21	15
Southern Trust	25	12
Belfast Trust	17	8

‘ 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





Research and Advocacy

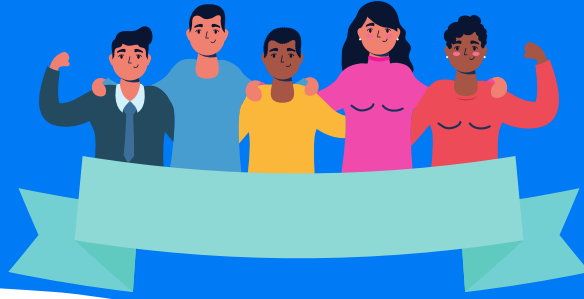
NICMA created 24 surveys between April 2020 and March 2021 with a total of 6,311 responses. 9 of these surveys were in regards to the Covid-19 pandemic and the thousands of responses all helped towards creating our proposals to the Department of Health and the Department of Education which resulted in the funding Registered childminders received during the pandemic. Again, Patricia and the NICMA Team want to thank all those registered childminders who filled out and shared our surveys.



Survey	Date Created	Responses
Covid-19 Financial Support	11/05/2020	988
NICMA Covid-19	18/05/2020	947
Registered Childminders & The Effect of Covid-19	20/05/2020	996
Covid-19 Survey	11/06/2020	170
Covid-19 Childcare	16/06/2020	772
Childminding Pilot Study - evaluation questions	06/07/2020	7
Childminding All In	07/08/2020	8
Covid-19 Survey	12/08/2020	294

Survey	Date	Responses
Loss of Earnings	23/09/2020	731
Caring for Children With Additional Needs	03/12/2020	115
Stress & Wellbeing Workshop	09/12/2020	57
Parent Survey	14/01/21	37
Training Evaluation	18/01/21	25
NICMA Funding Survey	28/01/21	403
Covid-19 Survey Jan 2021	28/01/21	657
Child Development Evaluation	03/02/21	9
Connection Counts Evaluation	03/02/21	9
Promoting Positive Behaviour	18/02/21	10
Training Evaluation	08/03/21	29
Playdate Feedback Session 2	09/03/21	12
PW Helping Children Manage Their Emotions	09/03/21	12
Playdate Feedback Session 3	14/03.21	6
Playdate Feedback Session 4	29/03.21	8
Playdate Feedback Session 5	31/03/21	8

NICMA Staff Team



Patricia Lewsley-Mooney CBE - Chief Executive
Officer

Training, Development and Engagement Team

Andrea Knocker - Regional Development Manager

Hannah Robinson - Organisation Development and Learning Team Leader

Fiona Clendinning - Development and Engagement Officer, SECCP

Katie Turkington - Development and Engagement Officer, SCCP

Grainne Scullion - Development and Engagement Officer, Lower WCCP

Clare McGillion - Development and Engagement Officer, Upper WCCP

Paula McLaughlin - Development and Engagement Officer, NCCP

Jane McKibbin - Development and Engagement Officer, BCCP & NCCP

Tina McKeown - Gold SureStart Co-Ordinator

Joanna Legg - Shantallow SureStart Co-Ordinator

Finance and Administration Team

Eimear O'Cailate - Finance Manager

Rhonda Hunter - Membership and Engagement Administrator

Karan McCullough - Membership and Engagement Administrator

Board of Trustees

Suzi Gray - Chairperson

Norma Shearer - Treasurer

Dr Margaret Baumann - Secretary

Marlene Kinghan - Vice Chair

Catherine Cook

Karan Hanna

Acknowledgements



Our work would not have been 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 to NICMA and also to everyone who has used your service throughout this pandemic, as it is very much appreciated. In 2020/2021 our stakeholders include:

- Registered Childminding Members
- NICMA Childminding Advisory Council
- NICMA Support Groups
- Department of Health
- Department of Education
- Early Years – the Organisation for young Children
- Business Services Organisation (BSO)
- Gold SureStart
- Shantallow SureStart
- Belfast Childcare Partnership
- Northern Childcare Partnership
- Western Childcare Partnership
- Southern Childcare Partnership
- South Eastern Childcare Partnership
- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
- Northern Health and Social Care Trust
- Western Health and Social Care Trust
- Southern Health and Social Care Trust
- South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

