

# One-Parent Families in Kilkenny Voice and Visibility

## At A Glance

This leaflet provides an at a glance overview of the One Parent Families in Kilkenny Voice and Visibility report, specifically focusing on the action plan and its five central goals. Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee established the Lone Parent Task Group which led to Kilkenny LEADER Partnership undertaking a needs analysis to develop an integrated action plan with focused driven outcomes in response to the needs of lone parents living in Kilkenny. The consultation and report process led by Grainne O' Toole and Lorraine Mc Mahon sought input and experience from organisations and lone parents across the county. The action plan will be achieved through on-going interagency collaboration and development and the empowerment and support of one-parent families across the county.

## July 2020 - What is achieved so far?

- Lone Parent Steering Group established
- A Community Engagement Facilitator funded through Healthy Ireland is in place for a pilot phase
- One Parent Family Network is in development

## One-Parent Families in Kilkenny

One-Parent Families are diverse and include parents who parent alone, share parenting and parent in blended families.

In Kilkenny, there are 6,790 one-parent families. 5,813 are headed by women and 977 by men. Children in one-parent families make up 18.6% of all children in Kilkenny.

## Findings

Lone parents identified nine key issues that need to be addressed to improve the quality of their lives and their well-being in Kilkenny.

- Access to affordable and flexible childcare
- Income poverty
- Access to training and employment
- Stigma
- Health and mental health
- Barriers to participation
- Lack of information
- Transport
- Maintenance



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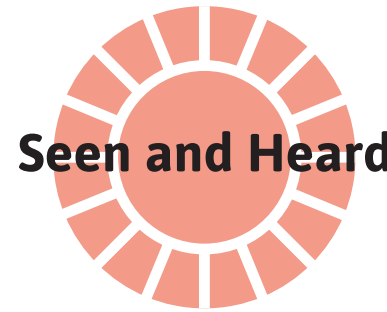
**THEMES**



**Develop**



**Awareness**



**Seen and Heard**



**Childcare**



**My Supports**

**GOALS**

**An Action Plan to meet the needs of Lone Parents**

**Lone Parent-led information and awareness workshops**

**A campaign to highlight the experiences of One-Parent Families**

**Availability, access and affordability of Flexible Childcare**

**Information on supports and services available to Lone Parents in Kilkenny**

**LEAD**

Lone Parent Steering Group, Local Community Development Committee, Kilkenny LEADER Partnership

Lone Parents Steering Group and One Parent Family Network

Lone Parents Steering Group and One Parent Family Network

Kilkenny County Childcare Committee

Lone parents Steering Group and One Parent Family Network

**ACTIONS**

**1**

Select the agency to deliver the Action Plan and employ 2+ community support workers.

An 18-month campaign to share the experiences of lone parenting.

Develop and test an information and awareness toolkit that includes posters, fact sheets and video clips

Survey the access and uptake of childcare places by lone parents with regards the impact of the NCS scheme

Create an information booklet about the services available for lone parents and how to access them.

**2**

Secure funding for 2+ community support workers

Provide 10 lone parents with training to deliver information and awareness workshops, enhancing their capacity and involvement in the campaign.

Conduct a poll in Kilkenny at the beginning and end of the campaign to measure its impact.

Explore specific allocations for lone parents in education and training courses with matched childcare.

Tour an information signposting stand to 10 areas in Kilkenny as part of Social Inclusion Week for increased links between lone parents and services.

**3**

Establish meaningful links between services and lone parents for a collaborative approach.

Information and awareness training sessions in 4 schools, 4 state agencies and 4 community organisations

Develop an evaluation sheet for the information/training sessions to record the increase in knowledge of lone parenting.

Provide information to school principals and support schools in developing plans to increase the availability of afterschool supports.

Establish a peer-led signposting initiative for lone parents seeking information and support.

**4**

Synchronise the Action Plan with existing supports and services in Kilkenny and other examples in Ireland.

A seminar to raise awareness of the lack of mental health supports for lone parents.

**5**

Reflect and review the Action Plan through independent evaluation throughout its delivery and a closing seminar at its end.

Contribute the findings from the campaign and seminar to the Kilkenny Health Community Plan strategies