



## **Louth County Childcare Committee**

### **Mission Statement, Ethos and Working Methods**

***“Louth County Childcare Committee will lead the development and sustainment of quality child centred childcare in County Louth that is inclusive, accessible and affordable.”***

#### **-- The Guiding Principals**

Underpinning the County Childcare Plan are the following guiding principles:

#### **-- The needs and rights of children**

All childcare provision should be child-centred in its ethos, policies, practices, curricula, premises, personnel/carer attitude and environment. Outcomes of the plan should be linked to the National Children's Strategy and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Provide a co-ordinate mechanism at County level.

#### **-- Equal opportunities and equality of access and participation**

The provision of quality, affordable and accessible childcare is one mechanism to achieve equality of opportunity in education, training and employment for men and women. All children should have equality of access to, and participation in, quality childcare.

#### **-- Diversity**

The childcare environment must reflect a diverse intercultural and anti-discriminatory approach. The provision of childcare must acknowledge and appreciate the value of diversity in Irish society.

#### **-- Partnership**

A partnership approach is essential to ensure cohesion, co-ordination and effective collaboration at all levels: policy, planning and local implementation. The development of good quality childcare responses depends on the active engagement and the development of relationships between all stakeholders involved.

#### **-- Quality**

The EU Network 'Quality Targets in Services for Young Children' (1996) states that 'defining quality should be seen as a dynamic and continuous process, involving regular review'. Clear targets and review processes should be defined within the Plan. The impact and outcomes should be measured against the targets set.