

**14<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**NCSE welcomes launch of In-School Therapy Support Project**

The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) today welcomed the Government initiative to provide speech and language, and occupational therapy support in 75 schools for the 2018/2019 school year. Additional funding has also been provided by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to extend the project to 75 pre-school settings during the same period.

The NCSE will manage the delivery of the in-school therapy support project. Therapists will work with NCSE support service staff to ensure that the therapy support provided complements other resources already allocated to schools.

Welcoming the initiative, Teresa Griffin, CEO of NCSE, said: "This is a fantastic initiative and the NCSE is delighted to manage the In-School Therapy Demonstration Project. We believe expanding the range of supports available in schools to include speech and language therapy and occupational therapy will enable students with special educational needs to achieve better outcomes."

The Demonstration Project will take place in the South West Dublin, Kildare and West Wicklow areas. With support from the Educational Research Centre, a number of schools were randomly selected and invited to participate in the project. The random selection process ensured that these schools are representative of the school types in the education system. These schools have already been contacted by NCSE and asked to indicate their willingness to be involved in the Demonstration Project.

The Demonstration Project will be formally evaluated to assess its effectiveness and identify any potential improvements to the model of delivery.

Further information on the Demonstration Project announced by Ministers Bruton, Harris and Zappone can be accessed on the websites of the Departments of Education and Skills, Health, and Children and Youth Affairs through the following links:

Education: <https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2018-press-releases/PR18-05-14.html>

Health: <http://health.gov.ie/news-centre/>

Children and Youth Affairs: <https://www.dcy.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?CatID=11>

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