

Aims Of This Research

1. To carry out a comprehensive needs analysis in relation to childcare in North Tipperary as per the specific information deficits identified by North Tipperary County Childcare Committee.
2. To provide comprehensive base-line data on existing childcare provision.
3. To identify possible resources within the county to respond to specific needs profiled.

Specific Objectives

1. To collate and analyse the information (quantitative and qualitative) available from the range of existing local information sources.
2. To identify in consultation with the designated working group mechanisms for information gathering with all key stakeholders about current and future needs for childcare provision and services in North Tipperary, using a combination of:
 - Telephone interviews
 - Focus group and issue based groups interviews
 - One to one interviews
3. To analyse the information gathered from primary and secondary sources
4. To document draft and final reports

Methodology

Confidential survey of fifty four Service Providers.

Consultation with twenty five childcare practitioners through facilitation of three network meetings.

Confidential survey of forty parents who are current users of notified services in North Tipperary.

Individual consultations with four members of management committees of childcare services in North Tipperary.

Household survey of four hundred and eighteen households with a total of eight hundred and seventy children between the ages of 0 and 12.

As part of the Household Survey –

- (1) contact was made with forty nine families who use childminders.
- (2) contact was made with eleven single parent families.

Presentation of key findings to members of the Board of management as a planning session for developing a workplan for 2003