



SOUTH ROSCOMMON
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

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The South Roscommon Family Resource Centre (SRFRC) is a service of Vita House Services Clg. Our aim is to provide a welcoming place that contributes to the dignity of every person, where families and individuals would be encouraged and supported to develop their true potential.

The SRFRC does this by providing family support groups as well as community development and community education groups and programmes with the support of our many funders. These include but are not prohibited to Parent & Toddler Groups, Parent & Baby Groups, Women's Groups, Children's groups and social groups. Programmes we run include a vast amount of Parenting programmes including Parenting when Separated, Baby Bonding, Parents Plus the early years. We coordinate and facilitate the Rainbows programme. We started a Peer Support group for Parents Parenting alone in late 2023 and are planning to build on this peer support group and indeed begin other peer support groups based on the needs of the community in 2024. We also meet families and individuals for one to ones which often results in us referring them to relevant services such as counselling, GP, Employment Support services etc.

Many of the people we work with are migrants, unemployed and underemployed, live in unsuitable accommodation due to the lack of housing available within the town and its environs and also the price of rental accommodation at the moment. We strive to include everyone in activities which they are interested in at a nominal cost.

The content in this submission comes from the experiences we hear from the people in the community of Roscommon Town.

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South Roscommon Family Resource Centre

Submission to the Roscommon Town Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030

- As part of the Roscommon Town Draft LAP 2024-2030, a local transport plan should be prepared for the town and its immediate environs to demonstrate a commitment to enhancing access for all. The plan should incorporate pedestrian walking facilities (e.g. include ramps on all footpaths for easy access), consistent cycle lane facilities, and enhancement of infrastructure to ensure access for those with mobility issues (e.g. improved access for children's buggies, wheelchair (including electric) access, those with walking challenges). The plan should include an audit of parking spaces to create more family, disability and age-friendly parking spaces. Provision also needs to be made to develop local transport infrastructure such as bus/taxi lanes, allowing those living outside the core to access the town's services and facilities.
- It is of paramount importance that included in this local transport plan should be a public transport service for the town. Families with multiple school drop offs and in particular pickups can find it difficult to collect all their children at the specific school pick up times especially in the inclement weather. This would increase school attendance in the town schools. In addition to this, many must pay for taxis so to bring home shopping and/or bulky items from the town. Some people have illnesses or disabilities preventing them from accessing the town on foot from their homes.
- Many of the families we work with live in residential areas within the town. Some of these families have large families and little space within their homes and they spend a lot of time in the space outside their homes. They have expressed the need for both 'Children at Play' and 'Residential Areas' signage outside of these residential areas. Also, a pedestrian crossing would be ideal to cross St. Ciaráns Road making access to Loughnaneane Park much safer.



- There are no public toilets in Loughnaneane Park or its environs. This can be stressful for families with small children, pregnant women and others with health conditions.
- The Young People of Roscommon, supported by the Roscommon Youth Service previously expressed interest in building a skatepark in the town. This would not only enable young people to skate in a purpose build area but it will also give them an area to 'hang out'.
- As part of the Roscommon Town Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030 we ask that an area be identified which would see a community garden or allotments facilitated. There is a growing interest in growing our own food and knowing what has been used in the harvesting of the food we eat. However, not everyone has the space, the time or the capacity to do it alone.
- With the ever increasing amount of people living in our town, necessary services such as Schools, GPs, Dentists and all other health related services need to also increase so all people living in Roscommon Town are able to get educated and have access to medical care, as is their Human Right.
- There are references of social, cultural and community infrastructure within the plan and this is welcomed. However, there is need for funding to staff these infrastructures professionally. There are many opportunities for funding, however, not to fund professional staff. The community and voluntary sector is underfunded and understaffed. There needs to be more professionally educated community development workers in the sector, especially with the influx of migrants in our town to support the integration and the individual needs of these families.



