

Make a Real Difference for Young Children

European Parliament Elections 2019 Manifesto

1

PEACE+ Programme funding to provide for shared, cross border early childhood and school age care, learning and development services, workforce initiatives and infrastructure that supports and builds upon actions under previous PEACE programmes.

2

Early Childhood and school age care, learning and development providers in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to have the opportunity to access multi-annual funding sources linked to the European Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), particularly in relation to areas concerning the ECEC workforce.

3

The Government(s) to ensure that all existing protections for children and family rights in the EU legislative framework are protected and preserved.

Express recognition of Article 12 of the UNCRC - ensuring that all children and young people, including young children, are included in discussions and their rights and views on Brexit are heard, taken seriously and championed.

The promotion of the mobility of the workforce across countries with regard to vetting and qualification equivalency.

The protection of Erasmus Plus and Horizon programmes, as well as the LEADER Rural Development Programme, which represents one of the areas identified for North/South co-operation within the Good Friday Agreement in support of rural and community led childhood services.

4

The elections for the new European Parliament in May 2019 comes at a significant turning point for the European Union.

The departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Brexit) has proved to be an area of considerable debate and uncertainty both internally within the UK and at UK-EU level.

5

We ask the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to protect and defend children's rights when elected in May.

We call on our European Parliamentary representatives to foster initiatives that will protect and support the rights of all children in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

We ask the six areas above are progressed and prioritised.

6

Early Years – the organisation for young children, PlayBoard NI, NICMA – the childminding association, the National Childhood Network (NCN), Early Childhood Ireland, Altram and the Early Years, Care, Education and Play Employer's Forum work together towards the provision of a united voice on key early childhood and school age care, learning and development service delivery, training, accreditation and professional workforce related issues.

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