



Pictured at the launch were Deputy Mayor of Waterford City & County Cllr. Eamonn Murphy, Minister John Halligan, Sgt. Finbar O'Sullivan, Julie Somers, Tusla, Claire McNamara, Tusla, Garda Oliver O'Flynn, Vincent Daly, Chair, CYPSC and Cllr. Joe Conway. Photo: John Power

Children's plan and Snuggle Books initiative launched

WATERFORD Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) has launched its Children and Young People's Plan and Snuggle Books Initiative. The overall purpose of Children and Young People's Services Committees is to ensure better outcomes for children and young people around the country through enhanced co-ordination of local services and organisations.

The plan was launched by Minister John Halligan. Also in attendance were Cllr. Eamonn Quinlan, Deputy Mayor, Joann Power from the WWETB, Vincent Daly from TUSLA and Tracy and Jackie who spoke about their experience of the Snuggle Stories Initiative.

Speaking at the launch Mr. Vincent Daly, Chairperson of the CYPSC, congratulated all those involved. He spoke about the successful interagency project Snuggle Stories, which brought together the HSE, Waterford Childcare Committee, Respond, the Sacred Heart Family Resource Centre, Foroige, WWETB, Waterford City and County Council and TUSLA under the CYPSC umbrella and put in place an additional support for families with young children.

Snuggle Stories encourages parents and children to snuggle up and get com-



Pictured at the launch were Deputy Mayor of Waterford City & County Cllr. Eamonn Murphy, Minister John Halligan, Rosemary Cusack, Noirin Healy Magwa, Jean Power, Faróige, Joanne Power, WWETB, Emma Tobin, Claire McNamara, Tusla, Fiona McKeown, Snuggles Book Initiative and Niamh Baldwin, Central Library and Snuggles Book Initiative. Photo: John Power

fortable reading and rhyming together. Each pack includes free books and free library membership. During the launch a parent and grandparent spoke of their personal experience of using the snuggle book pack and the enjoyment it gave both themselves and their children.

The launch was attended by parents who were involved in the snuggle stories pilot programmes delivered in the Sacred Heart Family Resource Centre and the Respond Centre in Tramore. Also in attendance were professionals who work with children, young people and families in Waterford as well as representatives from organisations involved in Waterford CYPSC.

The event also saw the launch of the Waterford CYPSC website, www.waterfordcypsc.ie, which brings together information on a range of services available for children, young people and families in

Waterford, including mental health support for children and young people; health services for children, young people and families; education and training opportunities; and help and support for families.



Jolly Ronan and Henry Ronan, Spot On. Photo: John Power

Child services seed funding welcomed

THE approval of €25,000 in seed funding for a group who support those working on the frontline with children and young people has been welcomed by Minister John Halligan.

At the launch of the 'Children and Young People's Plan for Waterford' in Central Library, the Minister of State for Training, Skills and Innovation said the Children and Young People's

Services Committee (CYPSC) provides crucial supports to the many services working to improve the lives of children and young people in the county. Amongst these, the Minister said, was the Snuggle Stories family learning courses at Sacred Heart Family Resource Centre and Ard na Ghleanna Childcare Service in Tramore.

"This funding will support three actions of the Committee's plan: to manage mental health concerns; to promote internet safety and training on social media; and provide support programmes for parents," Minister Halligan added. "All of these are clearly vital pieces of work and require interagency working at a local level."