

Policy name: Creche facilities

Date Presented: 02/11/17

Lapse date: December 2021

Student Council notes:

There are no crèche facilities.

Student Council believes:

Having facilities in place for parents would appear to be an obvious service that should be available.

For many parents this could be a lifeline. For single parents this could mean the difference between attending a course or not.

There are courses that have a Monday to Friday timetable where students are in for nearly 8 hours each day. Childcare is a placement that parents pay for and it is very restrictive. Covering 8 hrs a day for 5 days is usually a child minders legal limit. To be entitled to help with these costs both parents, also a single parent, are required to work a minimum of 16 hours a week. In this example that equates to 8 hours a day, every day, and we have not even begun to consider parental duties and course requirements regarding reading, essays, etc.

Student Council resolves that:

More support is desperately needed in this area.

As a complex issue in regards to costs, logistics and a constantly changing requirement for this in regard of numbers it would seem sensible that this issue be taken to the student body as a whole to find out what people think about this. It would also seem sensible that this issue be discussed with university staff involved with deciding on issues like this. Also, it would seem necessary to develop an understanding of the legal framework and government support regarding the issues that govern the implementing of a crèche service on campus as well as educating students/staff on the real difficulties faced by parents.

That said, this appears to be a service that is needed, wanted and supported by students (with and without parental responsibilities) engaged on the issue at present. With this in mind it appears necessary to ask for a return of these services as the main proposal for this issue.

Proposer Name (and Student Number): Chris Devine B00709935

Seconder Name (and Student Number): Shannen Maher B00692005