

Introduction

- My name is Martina Ward McNulty.
- I have worked in the childcare sector for over 7 years.
- Experienced a setback during a TULSA inspection which resulted in job loss with immediate effect.
- Discovered VPL Programme through the Donegal ETB which was pivotal for my progression and career mobility.

Personal Transformation

- Initial apprehension due to academic hiatus and lack of digital skills.
- Mentored by Cary, who facilitated face-to-face meetings.
- Completed outstanding awards in 8 weeks and I was able to return to work.

Collective Action

- Change in childcare sector funding prompted fear of closure of our childcare service. Proposed collective upskilling of 11 colleagues to complete our Level 6 through VPL to safeguard jobs.
- Mentored by Grace, completed Level 6 despite challenges, this led to career advancements and community benefits

VPL's potential

- Opens pathways to higher education democratically.
- VPL provided us with opportunities once deemed unimaginable

