



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

A Chara,

We are writing to inform you of an important development regarding financial reporting requirements for Core Funding Partner Services.

At the request of Minister O’Gorman the DCEDIY has, in recent weeks, engaged with the Early Learning and Childcare Stakeholder Forum (ELCSF) on issues raised by providers on the financial reporting requirements under Core Funding.

To date, three meetings have taken place on 7th, 20th November and again on 27th November involving members and nominees from Childhood Services Ireland (CSI), Childminding Ireland, Early Childhood Ireland (ECI), the Association of Childhood Professionals Ireland (ACPI), the Federation of Early Childhood Providers (FECF), the National Childhood Network (NCN), the National Community Childcare Forum and Seas Suas as well as representatives from City/County Childcare Committees (CCC), Ernst and Young, and Pobal.

Arising from these meetings, the DCEDIY has developed and discussed proposals to significantly simplify and streamline the reporting requirements under Core Funding and to support providers in preparing and submitting these returns.

We are now in the process of finalising updated financial reporting requirements and templates, which will be shared with members and nominees of the ELCSF in advance of publication. Once finalised, updated financial reporting requirements will be shared with providers and all communications, including templates and training material will be updated.

While this work is underway, we have asked CCC to pause any ongoing training. We would ask any providers currently in the process of completing the financial reporting using the current list of nominal codes in the Core Funding Chart of Account to pause this work, pending updates. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

The Minister and the DCEDIY acknowledge the new demands this financial reporting requirement places on providers and the importance of taking steps to simplify and streamline these requirements, where possible. We would like to thank all providers for their recent feedback and for the very constructive engagement of members and nominees of the ELCSF on the matter.

Financial reporting requirements attached to Core Funding was a recommendation of the Expert Group in their report ‘Partnership for the Public Good’ who identified the need for robust data to underpin funding policy. These essential data will inform the allocation model for year 3 of Core Funding as well as our preparations for the next Estimates process, ensuring we can continue to make progress on our shared objectives of affordable, quality, inclusive and sustainable early learning and childcare services.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we finalise updated financial reporting requirements in conjunction with ELSCF members and nominees.

Yours sincerely

The Core Funding Team