

## Weekly Bulletin – This Week in Childcare: 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Colleagues

These are the deadlines, information, and announcements for the week of 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

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### DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

#### 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 @12 noon

Deadline for Building Blocks Extension Grant Scheme

#### 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025

New Garda Vetting Procedures come into effect

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### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

#### Service Closure due to Severe Weather

We are aware many services were forced to close this week due to the severe snow and ice.

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth issued notification earlier in the week regarding [Be Winter Ready](#). Please be aware that an application for Force Majeure, including evidence of the requirement to close, must be submitted to Pobal in the event of a service closure **within 5 working days**.

The application form can be found [HERE](#) and must be submitted via a Request on the Hive by selecting the following dropdown options:

- Request program type: User Account Management
- Request type: Force Majeure
- Request type detail: Standard Force Majeure

If you require any support or assistance with your application please contact Pamela on 087 979 8611 / [pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com)

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#### Building Blocks Extension Grant Scheme

The application process for the Building Blocks Extension Grant Scheme is now open and will close for applications on **27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 12pm**. Information on the Scheme can be found

[HERE](#) with detailed application templates, applicant guidelines and FAQ's available [HERE](#) in the resources section on the Hive.

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## New Garda Vetting Procedures

Important changes to the Garda Vetting procedure for the Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School Aged Childcare (SAC) sector are coming in February 2025. Starting from 1st February 2025, the following changes will take effect:

- Early Childhood Ireland (ECI) will manage Garda Vetting services for all early learning and care, and school-age childcare employees (ECI membership is not required).
- Tusla will manage Garda Vetting services for registered providers including Chairpersons of Boards of Management.
- As part of these changes, Barnardos will no longer provide vetting services.

Guidance in relation to Garda vetting for childminders will be available soon.

More detailed information on the new Garda Vetting procedures can be found on the gov.ie website [HERE](#).

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## Aistear Update

An updated version of *Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework* has been prepared by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). You can access the updated framework [HERE](#)



## Core Funding Financial Management Tool Update

An updated version of the Financial Management Tool (FMT) for 2024/25 is now available on the Early Years Hive [HERE](#). The FMT was developed by The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY)



as an optional support for services that do not have their own accountancy software packages. It can be used to prepare a trial balance, which Core Funding Partner Services will be required to submit to fulfil their financial reporting obligation after the end of the 2024/25 programme year.

The FMT can be used on an ongoing basis now to record financial information and make this report easier to generate when it is due for submission. Using the FMT can also help an

organisation to make informed and timely financial decisions and take corrective actions where needed.

This update fixes some bugs that were discovered in the tool. Guidance documents relating to the tool are also available on the Hive and as always please contact your Development Worker if you have any queries.

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### **Childminding Registration**

Tusla have continued to expand the resources and support documentation available on their Childminding webpages [//tusla.ie/early-years-inspectorate/childminding-services](https://tusla.ie/early-years-inspectorate/childminding-services).

To contact Tusla's childminding helpline ring (061) 440600 (option 9) or email [cm.registration@tusla.ie](mailto:cm.registration@tusla.ie) or view their [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section on the website.

If you require any further information or support please contact Amy on 087 788 5114 // [amy@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:amy@kerrycountychildcare.com)

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### **Kerry County Childcare Committee Website and Facebook Page**

We invite you to visit our website [here](#) and like and follow our Facebook page [here](#) for lots of updates and relevant information.

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### **Covid Case Advice**

Please see below links to relevant information:

[Preventing the spread of covid 19 in school or childcare - HSE](#)

[Pre\\_School\\_ManagementInfectiousDisease.pdf](#)

General Covid-19 queries: Contact HSE on 1800 700 700 between 8 am and 8 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am - 5 pm Saturday and Sunday / [HSE Covid-19](#)

Kind Regards,

Kerry County Childcare Committee

