

## Weekly Bulletin – This Week in Childcare: 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

Dear Colleagues

These are the deadlines, information, and announcements for the week of 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

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### DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Review and Confirm window for Core Funding window opens

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

New Garda Vetting Procedures come into effect

#### 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Kerry CCC/ Dr. Mary O' Kane Webinar

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### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

#### Kerry CCC / Dr. Mary O Kane Webinar

Kerry CCC are excited to provide the opportunity for you to attend a free online webinar with *Dr Mary O'Kane on Supporting Positive Behaviour in ECCE Settings.*



**The event will run on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 7.00pm – 9.00pm online.**

**Priority for places on the Webinar is being given to Early Years Educators in Kerry however, after Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 we will be advertising the webinar more widely so places cannot be guaranteed after this date.**

**We have attached a flyer for you to share with your staff team.**

ELC and SAC Educators often cite challenging behaviour as one of the most stressful aspects of their role. We know that supporting children to develop self-regulation skills is very important in terms of supporting their social and emotional development.

In this Webinar, Mary focuses very much on explaining the impact of brain development on behaviour, supporting Educators to frame behaviour management in a positive way, while giving practical advice on how to support children with self-regulation skills in educational settings.

You will also have an opportunity to ask Dr Mary O’Kane questions around this topic.

If you, or any of your staff team, are interested in attending, please email [eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com) and provide name/s and email address for staff who wish to attend.

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## Storm Eowyn – Force Majeure

ELC and SAC Services that closed on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January due to the red weather warning, **are not required** to apply for Force Majeure.

For any ELC or SAC service that closed for additional days, force majeure can be applied for those additional days. The Force majeure form is available [HERE](#). Completed forms should be uploaded to hive via Request and

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

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## New Garda Vetting procedures

New Garda Vetting procedures for ELC and SAC services are coming into effect on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The following changes will take effect:

- Early Childhood Ireland (ECI) will manage Garda Vetting services for all ELC & SAC employees. Membership with ECI is not a requirement to avail of vetting services.
- Tusla will manage Garda Vetting services for registered providers including Chairpersons of Boards of Management and Childminders.
- As part of these changes, Barnardos will no longer provide vetting services.

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

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## Core Funding February Review and Confirm

The February Review and Confirm window is open between **1<sup>st</sup> February -14<sup>th</sup> February 2025**. Partner Services can complete their Review and Confirm with two options available:

1. Review and Confirm with Changes
2. Review and Confirm without Changes



Before completing the Review and Confirm, please check the following:

- Ensure all data captured in the Service Profile is accurate and up to date for the 2024/2025 programme year.
- Ensure your Core Funding Application is at status 'Approved'. If your application is at 'Referred back', you will need to address the reason for the refer back and then complete the February Review and Confirm process.

If you have an Update Due Date populated on your most recently 'Approved' Core Funding application record equal to or before 1 February, you must action this as part of your Review and Confirm using the option of 'Review and Confirm with Changes' either replacing the departed staff member or reducing your capacity.

Core Funding supports and training materials can be found under the [Help and Support](#) section of the Early Years Hive.

### **Core Funding Payments**

After the Review and Confirm window is closed, Core Funding payments will only continue to be processed as per the payment schedule on the Early Years Hive, provided your February Review and Confirm is at an 'Approved' status.

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## **Kerry CCC Critical Incident Planning Information Session**

All Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School Age Childcare (SAC) services are required to have a service level Critical Incident Plan as part of your Safety Statement (outlined in the Tusla Quality and Regulatory Framework (QRF) and the National Quality Guidelines for School Age Childcare Services).

A guide has been developed from previous guidance on critical incidents planning, including the Critical Incident Plan Toolkit and the extensive work of the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), to support ELC and SAC services to think about and plan for critical incidents and to have practical supports in place should it be necessary to respond to a critical incident.

We will deliver a short briefing session to outline the requirements and to consider the guidance. This will take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm at the KCCC offices in Monavalley, Tralee.

If you would like to **attend, please email [info@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:info@kerrycountychildcare.com) with details of attendees no later than 20<sup>th</sup> February**. Please note places are limited so early booking is advised.

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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