

## Weekly Bulletin – This Week in Childcare: 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Colleagues

These are the deadlines, information, and announcements for the week of 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

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### DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

**\*Today\* 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025 Deadline for the Learner Fund Bursary for Graduates and Childminders.**

**13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025**      Application change in the Core Funding Application for Staff Funding Additional Contribution

**23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025**              AIM L1 application deadline to receive payments from employee start date for 25/26 programme.

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**              Deadline for 2025/26 Quality and Inclusive Plan (QIPP)

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### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

#### Pension Auto- enrolment Information Session



Kerry CCC, together with Canavan Byrne, are holding an information session for Providers on the new State Auto-enrolment pension scheme

Auto-enrolment is the new pension savings scheme for certain employees who are not paying into a pension. They will be automatically included in the scheme but can opt out after 6 months. Under the scheme, the employee, employer, and Government all pay a certain amount into the employee's pension fund.

The introduction of the Auto-Enrolment Retirement Savings Scheme, called My Future Fund, will start from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

#### Information Session Details:

**Date:**                              **13<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Time:**                              **06.30pm – 8.00 pm**

**Venue:**                            **The Meadowland Hotel, Tralee V92 DC83**

Topics to be covered:

- What auto-enrolment is and why it's being introduced
- Who will be included (and excluded) under the scheme
- Employee and employer contribution rates, with State top-ups
- How contributions will be invested and managed

- Opt-out and suspension options for employees
- The impact on existing pensions
- Key steps and suggested timeline for childcare providers and other employers
- Practical guidance on updating contracts, policies, payroll, and staff communication

If you would like to book a place please email: [elish@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:elish@kerrycountychildcare.com)

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## New Employment Regulations Order

The new employment regulation order revokes the 2024 order commenced on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Details on the new hourly rates for Early Year Educators and School Age Practitioners can be found [here](#).

For further support please contact Kathryn: [kathryn@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:kathryn@kerrycountychildcare.com)

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## Staff Funding Additional Contribution

To avail of the Staff Funding Additional Contribution, eligible partner services must submit an Application Change between 10am 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025 to generate the allocation for this funding. The Change Effective will be 13/10/2025 in the 'Staff Member and/or Capacity Change Effective Date Field. Further information can be found on the HIVE under announcements.

For further support email Pamela: [pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com)



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## AIM Funding

All services in receipt of AIM capitation will benefit from a 10 percent capitation increase from October 13<sup>th</sup> 2025. This will match the 10 percent increase in the minimum rates of pay for early years educators and school age practitioners, which have been provided for in a new Employment Regulation Order.



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## 2025/26 Quality and Inclusive Plan (QIPP)

The QIPP template will be opened on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and will remain open until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

The guidance document and videos can be accessed the [Core Funding – Documents - Service Provider Portal](#)

For further support please contact Rachel: [rachel@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:rachel@kerrycountychildcare.com)

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## AIM Level 1 Application Reminder

AIM Level 1 applications for existing graduates opened on the Early Years Hive on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025. New graduates (i.e. graduating in October 2025) can apply when final exam results have been notified by Mary Immaculate College. The AIM Level 1 application supports the increased ECCE capitation, funded by DCDE in recognition of the leadership and mentoring role which is delivered by the Inclusion Co-ordinator during the 2025/2026 pre-school year. AIM Level 1 is an annual application process. Applications received by 5pm on Thursday 23 October 2025 will be awarded the additional capitation from the Inclusion Co-ordinator's employment start date relevant to the 2025/2026 programme year. AIM Level 1 application guidelines can be found [here](#).



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## 2025 Learner Fund Graduates and Childminder Bursary

The Learner Fund Bursary is now open for application. Completed applications for the 2025 Learner Fund Graduate and Childminder Bursary must be received by Kerry County Childcare Committee by 5pm today Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Please submit applications to [info@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:info@kerrycountychildcare.com).



For more information, please visit: [Learner Fund Graduate and Childminder Bursary 2025 | Nurturing Skills](#)

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## Tusla Registration Renewal

All Early Years Services are required to renew registration every 3 years. The registration date can be found on the current Tusla certificate or checked on the [Early Years Register](#) or the [School Age Register](#).



Please note the following key points:

- Applications must be submitted no later than 2 months before your current certification expires.
- The process requires submission of in-date Garda Vetting for the Registered Provider and the Person in Charge (if different). Current timelines for vetting should be considered.

Failure to reregister in time will result in your removal from the register, and it is an offence to operate an unregistered service. Additional information on re-registration can be found [here](#).

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## Kerry County Childcare Committee Website and Facebook Page



New Positions have been added to our Jobs Board and promoted on our Facebook page (1.4k followers)

[Website Jobs Board](#) – Local Jobs Board for Kerry

If you would like to place an advert on our Jobs Board please email [kathryn@kerrycountychildcare.com](mailto:kathryn@kerrycountychildcare.com).

Follow our Facebook page [here](#) and visit our [Childcare Providers Information](#) and [Childcare Providers Training](#) sections of our website for information updates.

**Kind Regards,**

**Kerry County Childcare Committee**



**National Action Plan  
for Childminding  
2021-2028**