

This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



Issue 4: 2026 Week: 26th – 30th January 2026

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 26th – 30th January 2026.

DEADLINES/IMPORTANT DATES

1st February 2026	Core Funding Review & Confirm opens
6th February 2026	EOI CLIL/FCÁT
20th February 2026	Completed Parent & Toddler Group applications
27th February 2026	Portal opens for submission of year 3 Core Funding Trial Balance

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Core Funding Review & Confirm



The February Review and Confirm window will open from 1st February to 14th February 2026.

There are two options available for Review and Confirm:

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

Before completing the Review and Confirm please ensure the following:

- All data captured in your Service Profile is accurate and up to date for the 2025/2026 programme year.
- Make sure your Core Funding Application is at status 'Approved'. If your application is at 'Referred back', you must address the reason for 'refer back' prior to completing the February Review and Confirm process.

If you have an Update Due Date populated on your most recently 'Approved' Core Funding application record, on or before the 14th February 2026, prior to the date you complete the Review and Confirm process, you must action this as part of your Review and Confirm.

To do this, choose 'Review and Confirm with Changes' and either: replace the staff member who has left, or reduce your service's capacity.

For support with Review and Confirm please contact Pamela on: 066 7181582 / pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com

Core Funding Payments

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

If your service requires support, additional resources are available under the [Core Funding Documents](#) and [Help and Support](#) sections on the Early Years Hive.

For further support with completing your Core Funding Application Module please contact Pamela on: 066 7181582 / pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com.



Core Funding Financial Reporting Requirements for 2024/25

Programme Year

Any service provider in receipt of a Core Funding grant during the 2024/25 Programme Year is required to engage an accountant to submit a full Trial Balance for Year 3 of Core Funding. This is in line with the Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement 2024/25.

These financial reports provide a tangible foundation for the analysis of the cost drivers within the sector, providing evidence-based financial data to support the development of future policy. The portal will open from Friday 27th February www.cfcrrs.ie

An FAQ is available [here](#)

Core Funding allocations can be sourced on hive by following the steps in the below link;
<https://earlyyearshive.ncs.gov.ie/How-to-extract-your-allocation-information-for-Year-3-Financial>Returns-Technical-Guide.pdf>



Critical Incident Plan – Kerry CCC Workshop

Four places remaining

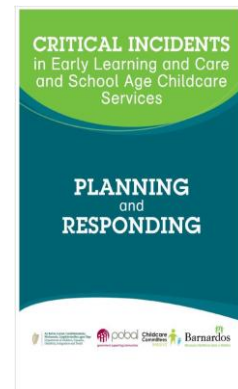
All Early Learning and School Aged Care and Education services are required to have a service level Critical Incident Plan.

We are running a workshop to support providers and managers to develop this.

The workshop will take place on Thursday 5th February between 6.30pm – 8.30pm in the Kerry County Childcare Office (V92 Y8C5).

If you would like to book a place on this workshop, please contact

Eilish: eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com



QIPP Report Template 2025/26 is Open for Completion

The Core Funding Quality and Inclusive Practice Plan (QIPP) Report Template 2025/26 is now open on the Core Funding Contractual Requirements Reporting System Portal <https://www.cfcrrs.ie/>.



Progress can be documented and saved on an ongoing basis.

The PAU (Primary Authorised User) or QAU (Quality Authorised User) can begin to document and save any progress that has been made toward achieving the actions as outlined in their QIP Plan. To do so log into the CFCRRS portal, open the QIP Plan submitted at the start of the programme year, begin to answer the reporting questions and save the document as you go.

The deadline for completion of the 2025/26 QIPP Report is Friday 31st July 2026.

Once complete the PAU or QAU can submit the report by selecting the green check mark at the top of the template. For step-by-step guidance see the [Quality and Inclusive Practice Plan \(QIPP\) Annual Report Return](#) Technical Guidance Video.

Should you require support getting started, if you experience technical difficulties, or at any stage of your Quality and Inclusive Practice Planning process please contact Rachel:

rachel@kerrycountychildcare.com

Parent & Toddler Group Grants 2026

DCDE has announced the launch of the 2026 Parent and Toddler (P&T) Grant. This year the focus for the 2026 Parent and Toddler grants is to support groups in providing assistance to



young parents and children in establishing connections and to promote the inclusion of families from all backgrounds, abilities and cultures.

The closing date for receipt of complete applications from Parent & Toddler groups is Friday 20th February 2026. For a Grant Application Form please contact us on 066 7181582 or email pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com

Expression of Interest now open for CLIL/FCÁT 2026



Better Start is inviting Early Learning and Care settings to take part in introducing Irish as part of the daily routine through the Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) / Foghlaim Chomhtháite Ábhar agus Teanga (FCÁT) programme. This approach supports children to encounter Irish naturally through meaningful everyday experiences — including routines, stories, play, exploration, and social interaction.

To register your interest: [Click here](#) Closing date 06th February 2026

For more information contact: professionaldevelopment@betterstart.ie

Barnardos: FREE Early Years Practice Development webinars



Attached is a flyer from Barnardos on their free upcoming Early Years Practice

Development webinars. If you are interested book you place here: [Early Years Development Training - Barnardos](#)

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.

Enjoy the Bank Holiday Weekend

Kind Regards

Kerry County Childcare Committee