

This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



Issue 28: 2026 13th – 17th July 2026

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 13th – 17th July 2026



DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES

20 th July 2026	Close of Public Consultation on Review of Childminding Regulations
31 st July 2026	QIPP end of year report

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Hot Weather Guidance



Tusla have provided guidance for keeping children safe and comfortable indoors and outdoors in all weathers. You can access the guidance [here](#)

Keeping hydrated in hot weather

For information on keeping children hydrated in the hot weather visit: [Suitable drinks for children | Safefood](#)

New NCS Co-payment Functionality Training Invite

Service Providers are invited to attend online training on the new co-payment functionality to be incorporated into the NCS claim process, which is due to be available on 31 July 2026. The training will take place on Thursday 23 July 2026 at 10.30am to 11.30am. The new functionality will be mandatory for completion for all newly created and edited claim from 31 July 2026.

[Click here to register for the training on at 10.30am on Thursday 23 July 2026](#)

A recording of the training, a copy of the presentation and the webinar Q&A will be made available on the Early Years Hive on 24 July 2026.



ECCE Registrations 2026/2027 Programme Year

Registrations for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme 2026/2027 are now open on the Early Years Hive. The ECCE 2026/2027 programme will commence on Monday 24 August 2026. You can find guidance on how to register a child on ECCE on the ECCE Child Registration page under Resources on the Early Years Hive. If you are registering a child for ECCE 2026 who was registered in your service for ECCE 2025, please add an additional, separate registration for ECCE 2026 and do not cancel the ECCE 2025 registration.



Important: If you are registering a child who intends to avail of AIM Level 7 support, please select the correct ECCE AM/PM session they will attend. This information determines the AIM Level 7 capitation funding awarded to the service. Selecting the incorrect session may result in funding being allocated incorrectly or delayed.

QIPP End of Year Report

The deadline for submitting your QIPP end of year report is 31st July 2026.

The QIPP is completed and stored on the Core Funding Contractual Requirements

Reporting System: www.cfcrrs.ie

If you experience any technical issues, you can email support@cfcrrs.ie or use the “contact us” tab at the top left of the home page.

If you need to reset the password, you can do this by accessing the home page, click on “Service Provider”, and a tab at the top left of the page will allow you to Reset Password, an email with instructions will be sent directly to the PAU email address.

For additional support please contact Rachel: rachel@kerrycountychildcare.com

Understanding your AIM Level 7 Outcome Notification

Please see announcement dated 14 July which explains what the AIM notification means and how to understand the support approved for a child.



AIM Level 1 Application Process 2026/27 Opens for Existing Graduates

AIM Level 1 applications for existing graduates will open on the Early Years Hive on Monday, 06th July 2026 at 10am. Please note AIM Level 1 is an annual application process.

New graduates (i.e. graduating in October 2026) can apply when final exam results have been notified by Mary Immaculate College (expected September 2026)

Application guidelines can be found [here](#)



Aim Level 4 & 7 Preliminary Decisions

This year the level of support allocated to a child is determined following submission of their AIM Level 4 application and a further review of the child's needs by Better Start.

From early July; service providers will receive a preliminary decision for the following:

- all AIM Level 4 applications reviewed by Better Start to date, and
- applications where a child is eligible for a second or third year of AIM Level 7 support.

When the redesigned and simplified AIM Level 7 application form is available on the Early Years Hive, all service providers will need to submit the new application for all children availing of AIM Level 7 support for the 2026/2027 programme call. Guidance materials on the support levels awarded, along with common practical



examples are available on The Early Years Hive [here](#). Guidance on submitting an AIM Level 4 application can be found [here](#).

Support Levels for AIM Level 7

This document explains what the Support Levels for AIM Level 7 mean and what service providers need to do based on common scenarios.

Support Levels

1. Individual ECCE / Shared NCS
The child needs individual support during the ECCE programme, and shared support for any additional hours availed of under NCS.

2. Shared ECCE / Shared NCS
The child needs shared support (up to a maximum of three children) during both the ECCE programme and any hours availed of under NCS.

3. Not approved A status of not approved means no AIM Level 7 support has been awarded.

What you need to do?

AIM Level 4 application
Submit an AIM Level 4 application in partnership with child's parent/legal guardian/carer.

AIM Level 7 support level
View the AIM L7 Support Level (Confirmed) column on AIM Level 4 application.

AIM Level 7 application
Submit the redesigned AIM Level 7 application once available.


AIM
Early Learning & Care


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government supporting communities

Free Vacancy Advertising - Kerry CCC – Jobsboard



You can advertise your vacancies for free on our [Jobsboard](#).

E-mail Kathryn (kathryn@kerrycountychildccare.com) with the details and we will post the position for you. We can also design your advert if required.

We post regular links to the Jobsboard from our Facebook page (1.5K followers) and from our new Instagram account.

NCS Subsidies

NCS subsidies are paid once a CHICK has been registered **and** the parent/guardian has confirmed that all details are correct via the parent portal. For payments to flow, all claim weeks for a child must be confirmed. Any unconfirmed claims for your service need parental confirmation. Unconfirmed claims may be cancelled by the scheme administrator and will result in no payments. Parents can access the NCS parent website here <https://www.ncs.gov.ie/en/>. If you have any questions, contact the Early Years Provider Centre (EYPC). Raise a request on the Early Years Hive by selecting the relevant programme and request type from the dropdown menu.



Programme Readiness for Core Funding 2026/2027

The application for Core Funding 2026/2027 is now available on the Early Years Hive. All retrospective Update Due Dates(s) for the 2025/2026 Core Funding programme year must be actioned before beginning a new Core Funding application. Following submission, you will have 21-days to accept the Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement 2026/2027. The Overview of the changes to Core Funding Year 5 can be found [here](#). For further support contact Pamela: pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com



My Little Library 2026

Reminder: The book bags are for children finishing pre-school and starting primary school in September and have been delivered to libraries.

The DCDE would appreciate if the invitations could be shared with parents. The links to are here in [English](#) and [Irish](#), and [QR codes](#).

Folic Acid

The Department of Health are examining the potential benefits of the addition of folic acid to flour, to help reduce the number of babies who are born with neural tube defects.

The Department is carrying out a public consultation to get views on this proposal. The results of this consultation will help inform Government future policy decisions. If you wish to contribute to the consultation, please click on this [link](#).

Public Consultation on Review of Childminding Regulations

Minister Foley has launched 'Let's Talk Childminding', the public consultation on the childminding regulations. This is an open call for submissions as part of the National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-2028 and is open from 19th June – 20th July 2026. Submissions can be made by email to Qualitydevelopment@DCDE.gov.ie



The consultation seeks to

- Evaluate how the regulations are operating in practice
- Assess whether the regulatory model is appropriate and proportionate
- Examine the effectiveness of supports available to childminders
- Identify barriers to registration and compliance.

Further information on the consultations is available [here](#)

Autism and ADHD Diagnostic Journey Training - Aspire

[The Autism Spectrum Association of Ireland](#) together with the [Autism Services Group](#) are pleased to invite you to a **free 3-hour professional training session** designed to provide a practical understanding of the autism and ADHD diagnostic pathway and strengthen confidence in supporting neurodivergent children, young people and adults.

The session will cover:

- Understanding the autism and ADHD diagnostic journey
- When a referral is appropriate and what information is helpful
- An overview of the assessment process from referral through to diagnosis
- The assessment tools commonly used within diagnostic services, including observational assessments, developmental interviews and evidence-based rating scales
- How multidisciplinary teams work together to reach diagnostic decisions

- Understanding diagnostic outcomes and recommendations
- The importance of post-diagnostic support for individuals and families
- Signposting to appropriate services, reasonable adjustments and ongoing support
- An opportunity for questions and discussion with experienced clinicians

This session is ideal for:

- GPs, Paediatricians, Mental health professionals and Allied Health Professionals
- SENCOs, Teachers and education staff
- Social workers, Family support workers
- Charities and voluntary sector organisations

Please see the following dates which are available:

Training Dates :

- **Wednesday , 9 September** | 10:00–13:00 | Online
- **Thursday, 10 September** | 10:00–13:00 | Online
- **Tuesday, 29 September** | 18:00 - 21:00 | Online
- **Wednesday , 30 September** | 10:00–13:00 | Online

Cost: Free of charge

Our aim is to improve understanding of the autism and ADHD diagnostic process, strengthen collaboration across health, education and community services, and support professionals to make informed referrals and confidently guide individuals and families throughout the assessment journey in Ireland.

Please send your full name, preferred date and area of profession in order to book your date to Lyndsey at support@aspireireland.ie. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Kerry County Childcare Committee

We invite you to follow our Instagram page [here](#), visit our website [here](#) and like and follow our [Facebook](#) page for updates and relevant content.



Enjoy the sun!

Kind regards,

Kerry County Childcare Committee