

This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin



Issue 38: 14th – 18th September 2026

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 14th– 18th September 2026



DEADLINES/IMPORTANT DATES

17th September 2026

QIP Plan opens for programme year 2026 / 2027

9th October 2026

Learner Fund Bursary for Graduates and Childminders close

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Fee Table and Parent Statement Approvals Process 2026/2027



The Fee Table & Parent Statement Approval Process has begun for 2026/27. Pamela will be in contact with you once she has reviewed the fee table & parent statement for your service. This new process is more complex than approval processes we have completed in previous years. Every effort is being made to review fee tables and parent statements promptly, your patience will be greatly appreciated over the coming weeks and months. Further information on the approvals process can be found in the DCDE announcement, attached.

2026/2027 Quality and Inclusive Plan (QIP)



The 2026/27 Quality and Inclusive Plan (QIP Plan) template opened on the Core Funding Contractual Requirements Reporting System www.cfcrrs.ie this week. The deadline for submission of the 2026/27 QIP Plan is Monday 2nd November 2026. The 2026/27 QIP Plan guidance document and Technical Guidance Videos can be found [here](#). The CCC's are available to support with the submitting QIP's.

Learner Fund Graduate and Childminder Bursary 2026



The 2026 Learner Fund Graduate and Childminder Bursary opened for applications on Monday 14th September and will close at 5pm on Friday 9th October 2026. For applications forms email eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com Completed applications must be received within the deadline by your local County Childcare Committee (CCC) who will process applications, for appraisal by the DCDE.

AIM Level 1 Application Process for new Graduates

The AIM Level 1 application process has opened on EY Hive for services with new graduates of the LINC programme. Applications received by 5pm on Thursday 22nd October 2026 will be awarded the additional capitation from the Inclusion Co-Ordinator's employment start date relevant to the 2026/2027 programme year. Applicants are encouraged to apply early, as any applications received after this date will not be backdated. Guidance on applications can be found [here](#).



Service Need Review (AIM Level 7)

As you are aware AIM Level 7 has been redesigned this year. AIM Level 7 support is automatically awarded during NCS hours for children with a confirmed NCS claim once their AIM Level 7 confirmation form has been confirmed. Services need to complete a Service Need Review where a child does not require AIM Level 7 support during their National Childcare Scheme (NCS) hours, including NCS Wraparound and NCS Only hours.

The process has changed from an opt-in model to an *opt-out model*. Where a service determines that a child does not require AIM Level 7 support for some or all their NCS hours, a Service Need Review must be submitted. The review functionality for the 2026/2027 programme year is not yet available on Early Years Hive. Reviews can be submitted through the [Requests](#) page using the following categories: Programme: AIM Level 7 Request Type: Review Request Type Detail: Standard

Bia Blasta

If you are an existing Bia Blasta service or are a new Bia Blasta service who has received an invite from DCDE to participate, please review the Announcement on Hive dated 31st August 2026 to check the next steps needed to ensure funding is allocated.



Equal Start

Equal Start Staffing Supports programme year 2026/2027 is now open and will operate from 1st September 2026 to 31st August 2027.

Services eligible for Equal Start Staffing Supports will have received a notification on the Early Years Hive. Further information on Equal start can be found [here](#).



2026 Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Forum

The 2026 Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Forum takes place in Croke Park, Dublin on 17th November 2026. Information on the forum and links to register your interest in attending can be found [here](#)

Free online CPD Webinars

Kerry CCC and Child & Adolescent Psychotherapist Hayley Rice are excited to host two online webinars for ELC and SAC Educators and Childminders.

Participants may book onto one or both webinars.

One form per participant

Details on the webinars are below.

Supporting Big Emotions - Online

Sept 4th, 2026

19.00 – 21.00

This practical session will explore what's happening beneath children's big emotions and how we can support regulation, connection and sensory needs.

Join the session and go away with:

- A clearer understanding of what's happening in the nervous system during big emotions
- Greater confidence in recognising regulation and dysregulation
- An understanding of how sensory needs can influence emotions and behaviour
- An introduction to the eight sensory systems and why they matter
- Practical sensory and movement-based strategies to support regulation
- Simple ways to create environments that help children feel safe, regulated and ready to engage

Understanding and Responding to Behaviour - Online

8th Oct 2026

19.00 – 21.00

Explore how we can look beneath behaviour, respond rather than react, and support children with clear, relational and developmentally appropriate boundaries.

Join the session and go away with:

- A better understanding of what children may be communicating through their behaviour
- Practical tools for responding rather than reacting in challenging moments
- Greater confidence in setting and holding clear, appropriate boundaries
- Strategies for moving from punishment towards teaching and skill-building
- Relational approaches that balance connection with accountability
- Practical language and responses you can use in everyday situations

Bookings: [Hayley Rice Webinars – Fill in form](#)



CPD Webinars

for ELC, SAC Educators and Childminders

Join Child & Adolescent Psychotherapist Hayley Rice for two practical online webinars:

Supporting Big Emotions

 **Sept 24th 2026**
 **19.00 – 21.00**

This practical session will explore what's happening beneath children's big emotions and how we can support regulation, connection and sensory needs.



Understanding and Responding to Behaviour

 **8th Oct 2026**
 **19.00 – 21.00**

Explore how we can look beneath behaviour, respond rather than react, and support children with clear, relational and developmentally appropriate boundaries.



Bookings via MS Forms
Participants can book one or both webinars
Please specify webinar/s you are booking and ensure your email address is included to receive the links.



Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice



Tusla have published a Regulatory Notice regarding First Aid Requirements in pre-school services. This notice applies only to pre-school services not to School Age of Childminding services. [Click here for notice.](#)

Road Safety Week



Takes place 05th – 12th October 2026. The RSA has helpful information and resources available via their [webpage](#). Packs for national Beep Beep Day are available to order, please note stocks are limited.

Nurturing Skills

This website is your central hub to find information on how the Government is supporting your profession, how you can advance your skills, how you can



plan your career and how you can enter the profession. You will find information on Career development, Qualifications, the learning hub with learning programmes and an array of resources to support your further development, support practice, and personal growth. You can access the nurturing skills webpage [here](#).

Exploring and Understanding the Updated Aistear in practice:

A National Webinar Series



The NSAI hosted several webinars earlier this year on understanding the updated Aistear in practice. The recording of the webinars is on the Nurturing Skills website and can be accessed [here](#)

QQI Level 5 Early Learning and Care

Free part time QQI Level 5 in Early Learning and Care. Delivered 3 mornings per week and based in Ardfert. Contact Kerry College or scan the QR code for further information.

The poster for the Early Learning & Care Certificate features a blue background with yellow and orange geometric shapes. It includes logos for the Board of Education, Kerry Education and Training Board, and Kerry College. The main title is 'Early Learning & Care Certificate' in large white font, followed by the tagline 'Shape Young Minds, Build Your Future'. Three bullet points with checkmarks describe the benefits: gaining knowledge and skills to work independently or as part of a team with children aged 0-6, part-time delivery (3 mornings per week), and the opportunity to progress to the Level 6 certificate. It states the program starts on 4 November 2026. At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'For further details' with a play button icon, the email 'business@kerrycollege.ie', the phone number '066 7149686', and a QR code.

Early Learning & Care Certificate
Shape Young Minds, Build Your Future

- Gain the knowledge, skills and competence to work independently and as part of a team with children aged 0-6 years across a range of Early Learning and Care settings.
- Part-time delivery: 3 mornings per week.
- Opportunity to progress to the Level 6 Early Learning & Care Advanced Certificate.

Starting 4 November 2026

For further details business@kerrycollege.ie | 066 7149686 | or scan the QR code

CPD Webinar for Lead Educators, Assistant Managers and Managers



Childcare Committee
County Kerry
Coliste Cúram Leanaí Chiarraí

CPD Webinar
for Lead Educators, Assistant Managers and Managers

Leadership – Communicating with Clarity and Confidence

Tuesday 6th October 2026
7.00pm – 9.00pm

Join Maureen McOwen (Soft Skills Success) for this online interactive workshop aimed at developing your leadership skills and providing practical tips on communicating effectively with colleagues, parents, team members, Board members and other key stakeholders.

Limited spaces available

Bookings :
✉ eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com
☎ 066 7181582

Kerry CCC and Maureen McOwen (Soft Skills for Success) are excited to host this online webinar for Lead Educators, Deputy Manager and Managers.

Limited Spaces Available

Bookings: eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com

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.

Kind regards,

Kerry County Childcare Committee

