This Week in Childcare Weekly Bulletin

Issue 43: 19th-23rd October 2026

Dear Colleagues

These are the announcements for the 19th – 23rd October 2026

DEADLINES/IMPORTANT DATES

2nd November 2026 QIPP Plan closes for programme year 2026/2027

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Kerry CCC Office Closure – Contact Arrangements

Please note that our office will be closed on the following dates to facilitate painting and maintenance.

- Tuesday 27th October
- Wednesday 28th October
- Monday 2nd November
- Tuesday 3rd November
- Monday 9th November
- Tuesday 10th November

Staff will be working remotely and you can contact us as normal on our office line 066 7181582 and your call will be directed to the relevant member of staff. Alternatively individual staff members can be contacted via email or on their mobile numbers.

Mid Term – EY Hive

If your service offers additional care for children over the mid-term break, your calendar and children's registrations should reflect this for the week. You can adjust the hours of attendance if required for the week.

2026/2027 Quality and Inclusive Plan (QIP)

The deadline for submission of the 2026/27 QIPP is **Monday 2 November 2026**. The 2026/27 QIPP guidance document and Technical Guidance Videos can be found here.

Rachel is available to support with the submission of QIP's - rachel@kerrycountychildcare.com

Be Winter Ready

Be Winter Ready page provides important details for services on being prepared, keeping informed of weather updates and advisories and decision making on possible service closures.

Please be aware that an application for Force Majeure, including evidence of the requirement to close, must be submitted to Pobal in the event of a service closure within 5 working days.

You can find the application form here, and it must be submitted by a Request on the Early Years Hive, selecting the following dropdown options:

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

Guidance on Maintaining a Core Funding Application and Service Profile for Programme Year 5

In advance of the commencement of Core Funding Compliance Inspections 2026/2027, the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) has developed a document on Maintaining a Core Funding Application and Service Profile for Programme Year 5.

This guidance is a support and reminder for Partner Services to keep their Core Funding Application and Service Profile data up to date to comply with the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement for the provision of Core Funding in Programme Year 5 (2026/2027). The document can be found here.

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.

For further information or support please contact Pamela: pamela@kerrycountychildcare.com

Compliance Support: Child Attendance Record

The Department of Children, Disability and Equality has developed a suite of compliance support on child attendance records for the Early Learning and Care (ELC), School-Age Childcare (SAC) sector.

The resources include:

- A Video Demonstrating a Range of Child Attendance Recording Scenarios that May Arise Within a Service.

- A Child Attendance Record Infographic.
- A Guide to Formatting Child Attendance Records.

The resource can be accessed here.

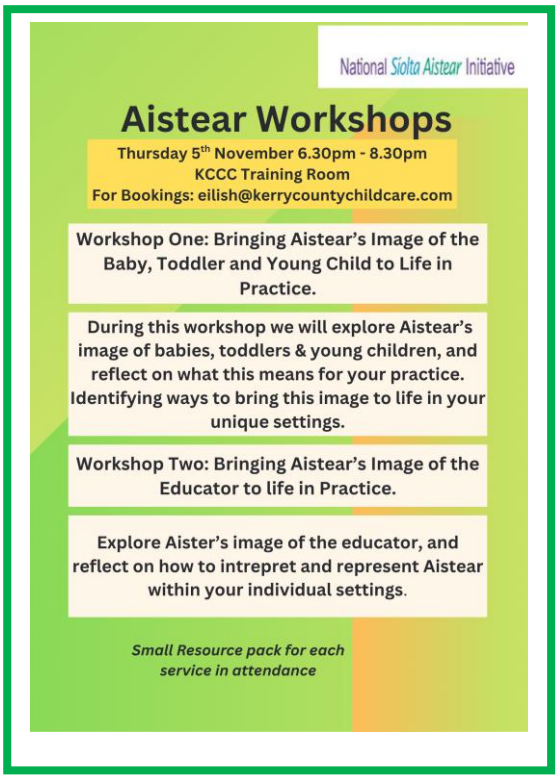
Budget 2027 FAQs for Providers

An Roinn Leanaí, Míchuma agus Comhionannais
Department of Children, Disability and Equality

The Department of Children, Disability and Equality Communication has shared a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the impacts of Budget 2027 on the Early Learning and Care and School-Age Childcare sector. The document is available here.

New Aistear Workshops - Kerry County Childcare Committee

Childcare Committee County Kerry
Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chiarraí





Thursday 5th November 18.30 – 20.30 ****6 places remaining****

1. ***Bringing Aistear's Image of the Baby, Toddler and Young Child to Life in Practice &***
2. ***Bringing Aistear's Image of the Educator to Life in Practice***

Thursday 19th November 18.30 – 20.30 ****10 places remaining****

3. ***Strengthening Emergent and Enquiry based Practice***
4. ***Exploring Education for Sustainable Development in Practice***

Further your knowledge and understanding of the updated Aistear (2024) and explore how the framework can support meaningful learning and development for babies, toddlers, and young children.

These practical workshops will also help services complete their Core Funding Quality and Inclusive Practice Plan for the 2026/27 programme year, as all areas of practice are aligned with the curriculum pillars of the Aistear Síolta Practice Guide.

✉ **Bookings:** eilish@kerrycountychildcare.com Max 3 per service

Webinars for Early Years Educators

1. ***Science in STEAM - Getting Started with Ideas for Science Week 2026 for Early Childhood Educators & Junior/Senior Infant Teachers & SNAs 4.11.26***

   This webinar will provide practical ideas and inspiration to help early childhood educators and infant teachers foster curiosity, exploration, and scientific thinking in meaningful and age-appropriate ways.

   Wednesday 4th November 2026, 7-8 pm, Facilitator: Dr Paula Walshe

   Preschool staff registration link only:

   https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__5M1SbLFSpKjQ-QTb5iWww

2. ***Exploring AI and AI Literacy with Our Youngest Learners for Early Childhood Educators & junior/Senior Infant Teachers & SNAs 18.11.26***

   This webinar explores how early childhood educators and infant teachers can begin introducing age-appropriate concepts of AI and AI literacy, helping young children develop the skills to engage with emerging technologies thoughtfully, critically, and responsibly.

   Wednesday 18th November 2026, 7-8 pm, Facilitator: Dr Paula Walshe

   Preschool staff registration link only:

   https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__5M1SbLFSpKjQ-QTb5iWww

GROWWell - Free online Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) training for Educators and Parents/Guardians

GrowWell is an Erasmus+ cooperation partnership project focused on supporting preschool educators in nurturing children's resilience, wellbeing, and social-emotional learning through engaging educational materials, creative activities, and practical tools for early childhood settings.

GrowWell, is offering free online and in-person Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) trainings and workshops for educators, parents, and guardians in three different languages: English, Croatian, and Serbian. Educational materials for use with children will be available free of charge in English, Croatian, Serbian, and German.

The programme will provide practical tools, activities, and guidance that participants can use both in preschool settings and at home to support children's emotional wellbeing, communication, empathy, resilience, and positive relationship-building through everyday interactions and experiences.



Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend!

Kind regards,

Kerry County Childcare Committee

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County Kerry
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