



Volume 1 issue 16

Welcome to our weekly
bulletin.

These are the deadlines,
important dates, and
announcements and new
resources for the week 22nd-
26th April 2024.

FCCC staff are available via phone & email (Please see below).

- **Gina Daly, Programme Information Officer**
Ph: 087-1972084 or email gina@fingalcountychildcare.ie

- **Mairead Tucker, Lead Development Officer Swords and Surrounding Areas**
Ph: 087 7477553 Email: mairead@fingalcountychildcare.ie

- **Eimear Furlong, Development Officer, Balbriggan and Surrounding Areas (Currently on Maternity Leave – contact info on 01 4851727/info@fingalcountychildcare.ie)**
Ph: 087-1884191 or email eimear@fingalcountychildcare.ie

- **Nicola McKernan, Development Officer, Dublin 15, and Surrounding Areas**
Ph: 087 6025263 or email nicola@fingalcountychildcare.ie

- **Karen Comiskey- Development Officer (Core Funding Support Lead)**
Ph: 087 4705805 or email Karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie

- **Aoife Ball, AIM Project Officer and Ukrainian Support contact.**
Ph: 087 3429757 Email: aoife@fingalcountychildcare.ie

- **Sarah McKenna, Childminding Development Officer (CMDO)**
Ph: 087-4485558 or email sarah@fingalcountychildcare.ie

- **Helen Campbell, Finance & Office Manager**
Ph: 087 104 5197 or email helen@fingalcountychildcare.ie

- **Linda Sammon, Finance Officer**
Ph: 087-7882688 or email linda@fingalcountychildcare.ie

- **Adrienne Doyle, Operations Manager**
Ph: 087- 9217918 or email adrienne@fingalcountychildcare.ie

Notes from FCCC

The FCCC team will be visiting P&T groups, Libraries and Shopping centres in the Fingal area to provide information, advice and support to Parents and Childminders in relation to all areas of childcare. Keep an eye on our FB page for upcoming dates.



Fingal CCC have set up a network group (community of professionals)

Latest news in our Network(copp)

The network is growing each week, and we hosted a great information session in collaboration with Better start around the quality development programme. This evolved from discussions at our last face to face meeting. Lots going on the in the WhatsApp chat around making parent handbooks, inspections and supporting each other. We are looking for new ideas and topics so please feel free to call or email if you have ideas or want to join. Let's keep building on making a supportive network.

The goal of this network is to offer support to each other and share ideas. It will be the role of Fingal CCC to facilitate this group in the beginning. The vision is down the line to hand it over to the network group.

To begin with we hope to be meeting once a month or as the group requests. These meetings can be online, face to face or in each others services.

You all have a wealth of knowledge when it comes to ELC and SAC but it can often be isolating or lonely if you are on your own. This group creates a support network for all who join it.

The topics will vary and will be driven by what the group want to discuss or would like more knowledge on.

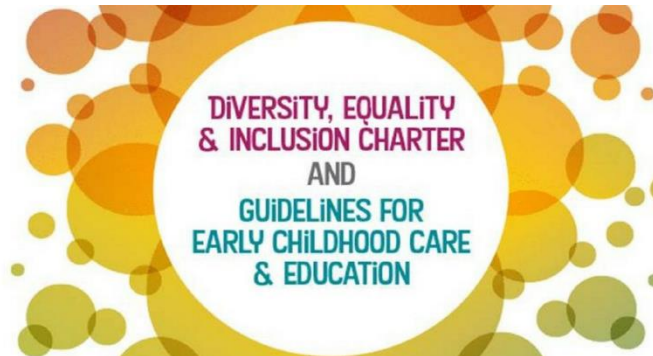
We have set up a whatsapp group and plan to meet again in March.

We have planted the seed and would love your help in making this grow



For more information please email: karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie or call : 0874705806

FCCC Training



The Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Charter and Guidelines for Early Childhood Care and Education are intended to support and guide all those working in the early childhood care and education sector to explore, understand and develop inclusive practices for the benefit of all children and their families.

Topics included in this Equality & Diversity training:

- Terminology
- Stages of discrimination
- Anti-bias goals
- Legislation
- Reviewing the Early Years environment
- Challenging discrimination

This **15-hour workshop delivered over 3 days** has been developed around the DEI Charter and Guidelines and is designed for providers and practitioners who are working in ELC/SAC services.

Venue	Dates	Time	Click link below to book place
Digital Office Centre, Balheary Industrial Park, Balheary Road Swords, Co Dublin Eircode: K67E5AO	Mon 13.05.2024	4.00pm-9.00pm	https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/890311304077?aff=oddttdt-creator
	Wed 15.05.2024.	4.00pm- 9.00pm	
	Sat 18.05.2024	9.00am- 2.00pm	

Note

- Refreshments and pastries will be provided on all three days.
- Attendance at all sessions is **mandatory** to obtain a certificate of attendance (which can be used as part of your core funding CPD) and a **resource pack**.

Series of Talks for Early Years Providers and Childminders



Dr Dorothy Armstrong (MSc PhD) is an Occupational Therapist who works with organisations to provide education and training about neurodiversity and the approaches and environmental changes that are necessary for inclusion in work, play and educational settings. Neurodivergence encompasses a wide range of differences including autism, intellectual disability, learning difficulties and ADHD. Dorothy has twenty years of clinical experience working with neurodivergent people.

Date	Venue	Seminar Title	Link to Register
Thursday 9th May 7pm - 8.30pm 2024	Online - Invite will be sent a day before to all attendees that have registered.	Difficulty processing sensory information during early childhood - Feeling overwhelmed, overloaded & not being understood.	https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/a-talk-for-early-years-providers-and-childminders-tickets-891516649297?aff=oddtcreator




YOUR *Early Years* hive SNAPSHOT

22 April 2024

Upcoming task	Who should do it?	What do I need to do?	When do I need to do it?
National Childcare Scheme (NCS) Returns	Services offering NCS 2023/24.	Complete weekly attendance returns for the previous week on the Returns page of the Early Years Hive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15-19 April returns due Tuesday 23 April. • 22-26 April returns due Tuesday 30 April.
Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF) Registrations and Employment Record	Services with early years educators interested in pursuing early learning and care (ELC) qualifications.	Ensure staff in the service are aware of this opportunity and the training webinars.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two training webinars are scheduled for Thursday 25 of April. Links to register available on the Early Years Hive. • A recording and PowerPoint slides from one webinar will be available once the training is complete.
Scheduled Maintenance to the Early Years Hive	All Early Years Hive users.	Note that the portal will be unavailable for a short amount of time during this maintenance.	Provisionally scheduled for 2 May.

The above tasks are for general guidance only. You may have additional tasks outstanding. Please check the announcements page and notifications page of the Early Years Hive regularly.

You might have missed:	Who is it relevant to?	Where can I find it?
Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Level 7 compliance checks begin on 22 April and training webinar materials available for viewing on the Early Years Hive	Services in receipt of AIM Level 7 payments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the Early Years Hive announcements section for full details. • Refer to the resources section for compliance support documents. • Training webinar recordings and PowerPoint slides available under 'recorded webinars' in the Training Videos section of the Early Years Hive. Q&A document also available here in due course.



DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday 1st May

A link to the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund will be available.

Tuesday 7th May 2024

The application process for Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) targeted supports will open.

Friday 26th June 2024

Deadline for submission of Core Funding Financial Reporting

For your information



The Core Funding Reporting Requirement for year 1 consists of an Income and Expenditure report. The completed report will be submitted on a new portal which will open in two stages.

Stage 1 – Providers register to link their nominated accountant on or before the **29th of April 2024**

Stage 2- The portal will be open on or before the **31st of May** to accept completed Income and Expenditure report templates.

26th June 2024 is the Income and Expenditure report submission deadline.

Further information is available on Hive> Resources> Programme Documents> Core Funding documents> Core Funding financial reporting requirement year 1.

Core Funding Reporting Requirement Year 1

FCCC Core funding support

If you have any question or need support please contact: Karen Comiskey, Development Officer – Core Funding: Mobile: 0874705806 | Email: karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie



Pilot Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF)

The new Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF) pilot, launched by Minister O Gorman in December last year, will open for Early Years Educators to make applications in May 2024, for the academic year 2024/2025. Those wishing to make an application in May must be working with children in a Tusla registered ELC/SAC service for the last 6 months (before their application). The service must also have a current Core funding contract with the DCEDIY.

From 1st May 2024, applicants with a current application/offer for 2024/25 entry to a Level 7/8-degree course approved by the Qualification Advisory Board (QAB) eligible for NSLF **should email Pobal**, at NSLF@pobal.ie to request a link to the Nurturing Skills Learner Fund Student Portal.

Further information, including the list of approved courses and the application process are available at [gov - Nurturing Skills Learner Fund \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov-nurturing-skills-learner-fund.gov.ie)

AIM Targeted Supports Application Process

The application process for AIM Level 5 (equipment, appliances and minor building alterations), AIM Level 4 (expert early years educational advice and support) and AIM Level 7 (additional assistance in the pre-school room) initial applications for the 2024/25 pre-school year will open on the Early Years Hive on **Tuesday 7 May at 12 noon**.

For a child who is remaining in the same service and requires a second year of AIM Level 7 support, an **AIM Review & Confirm** form will now be submitted instead of extension application.

Where any of the changes below are expected, a service provider must inform Pobal during the review and confirm the process:

- Changes to a child's session(s) including moving to a different session and/or a reduction or increase in days.
- Changes to children availing of support in the same session (shared support) or another session within the service i.e. a child leaving the service or session.
- Changes in the adult to child ratio in a session.
- Changes in additional assistance awarded from other sources i.e. Enable Ireland, Home Tuition or attendance at a specialised pre-school.

Where any of the above changes occur throughout the year, after you have reviewed and confirmed, you must inform Pobal by submitting a review within 10 working days advising of the change(s) that have occurred, through the Early Years Hive. Certain changes may affect the child's AIM Level 7 funding.

Services are reminded to submit AIM Level 4, 5 & 7 applications at least **three months** prior to a child's planned start date on the ECCE Programme.

Vacancy Survey

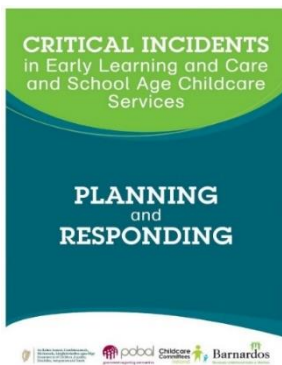
A nationwide vacant capacity survey is now taking place through the Childcare Committees. The survey is designed to gain valuable information on where there are vacant places and capacity across the country. The survey (which should take between 5 and 10 minutes of your time) aims to capture two categories of data:

1. Do you currently have any vacant places and in which age categories. (A vacant place means availability five days per week)
2. Are you currently operating at your Tusla registered capacity, and do you expect this to change by September 2024 and if so, why?

We would be grateful if you could take the time to complete the survey, even if you are operating at full capacity and have no vacancies, we would appreciate you making a return as we have been asked to get a response from 100% of our service providers. If you have queries about the survey or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation.



The eBulletin includes updates from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Department of Education, Pobal and Tusla. A link to the e-Bulletin may be found here [April 2024 Early Years Sectoral E-Bulletin](#)



Critical Incidents in Early Learning and Care and School Age Childcare Services: Planning and Responding

All Early Learning and Care (ELC) and school Age Childcare (SAC) services are required to have a service level Critical Incident Plan as outlined in the Tusla Quality and Regulatory Framework (QRF) and the National Quality Guidelines for School Age Childcare Services. A guide has been developed from previous guidance on critical incidents planning, including the Critical Incident Plan Toolkit and the extensive work of the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), to support ELC and SAC services to think about and plan for critical incidents and to have practical supports in place should it be necessary to respond to a critical incident. https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Critical_Incident_Plan_English_Feb2012.pdf



Viral Infections: HSE Guidance for the ELC Sector

Guidance

Measles outbreak

In recent months there has been a rise in cases of measles in parts of the UK and Europe. On 7th February the HSE reported the death of an adult with confirmed measles. This is the first confirmed measles case notified in Ireland in 2024. The HSE is writing to ask for your support in raising awareness among parents, guardians and staff about:

- Watching out for the symptoms of measles
- The importance of the MMR vaccine in protecting children.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/our-priority-programmes/child-health-and-wellbeing/hse-measles-a4-poster.pdf>



Tusla have published a regulatory notice related Services that are found to be Operating Outside of Registration
See Link to this notice : [Booklet](#)



If approval is required for the new academic year starting September 2024, please note the timeframes to submit applications to the Early Years Inspectorate:

- New service applications: 1 June 2024
- Change in circumstances applications: 1 July 2024

[change in circumstances](#)



Barnardos are delighted to share the news that registration for this year's Barnardos Big Toddle is now OPEN! Would you like to sign up your childcare setting, crèche, preschool or toddler group?

The Barnardos Big Toddle is a fun half-mile sponsored walk for crèche and pre-school aged children. This year we're very proud to be celebrating 21 years of Big Toddle fun and fundraising.

Click here for more details: Big Toddle 2024 – Barnardos <https://www.barnardos.ie/how-you-can-help/fundraising/fundraising-events/big-toddle/>

Once you register, we'll send you out your Big Toddle packs, full of activities and games for everyone.

We look forward to having you support us this year.

Happy Toddling.



For Childminders



FINGAL COUNTY
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL



National Action Plan
for Childminding
2021-2028

PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID FOR CHILDMINDERS

FCCC INVITES CHILDMINDERS
IN THE FINGAL AREA TO
ATTEND PAEDIATRIC FIRST
AID ON THURSDAY 30TH MAY
FROM 6.30-9.30PM

- FREE Training
- Gain a certificate in Paediatric First Aid
- Enter the draw for a free First Aid kit for your childminding Setting
- Meet your CMDO and other Childminders in your area

Venue
Digital Office Centre
Balheary Industrial Park
Balheary Road
Swords
Co.Dublin
Eircode: K67 E5A

Places are limited to
book your place
scan the QR code





MANAGING YOUR TAX FREE ONLINE WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDMINDERS

Do you find tax returns & bookkeeping stressful ?

Your CCC is here to help!

In collaboration the National Childminding Development team & SM Accounting Solutions have developed bespoke training for childminders free from confusing jargon.



- ✓ **7th May** Accounting Basics 7-9pm
- ✓ **14th May** Financial Records ,Books & Accounts 7-9pm
- ✓ **21st May** Income Taxes 7-9:30pm
- ✓ **28th May** Submitting Your Tax on ROS 7-9:30

Opportunities for Q & A

FREE





Childminding Newsletter

The National Action Plan for Childminding

Spring 2024

Public consultation on the new draft Childminding Regulations

The public consultation on the new draft regulations governing the childminding sector closes at 5pm on Thursday 2nd May.

Don't miss out have your say!

Contact your local City and County Childcare Committee to book your place on a local Focus Group on www.myccc.ie

In the meantime, you can make an individual online submission [here](#)

Your local Childminding Development Officer (CMDO) is available to support you with any queries or concerns you may have. They offer advice, information and provide training opportunities to support your childminding business

Within the new draft Childminding Regulations there are a number of supports offered to childminders assisting them through the registration process and beyond.

Training

A pre-registration training programme will be available to support childminders through the registration process



Childminding Service Handbook

This handbook will be a practical resource containing policies and record keeping templates that you can adapt to suit your individual childminding service



Together we can make a difference

Your insights, experience and suggestions are invaluable!

Your views and opinions will be captured and contribute to the draft childminding regulations

This is your golden opportunity to have your say and shape the future of childminding



National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-2028



Childminding events from around the country



Cavan CCC



Kildare CCC



Cork City CC



Carlow CCC



**Childminders
Brunch**

"Fantastic event enabling childminders to have the opportunity to engage in a relaxed environment sharing valuable relevant knowledge & experience enhancing the role of a childminder"

"Had an absolutely lovely time meeting with other childminders"

"I had a lovely afternoon thank you. It was lovely to chat to Helen and all the childminders, raise to discuss child related topics and exchange stories. I look forward to meeting up again soon"

South Dublin CCC



Kilkenny CCC

Fun Recipe Ideas



Follow the National Action Plan for Childminding on Facebook to keep up to date with all the latest developments! Just click on the Facebook logo to find us!



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



*****Attention All Childminders***Your Voice Counts....**

What will childminding look like in the future?

Make sure you have your say over the next week and take part in the consultations on the draft regulations for childminding. The consultations will close on **Thursday 2nd May**.

Please read the easy read regulation summary below and complete this short online survey.

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/aed77959-7825-b278-c220-df264c5b5748>



FINGAL COUNTY
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL



FINGAL COUNTY
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE



Are you childminding or thinking of becoming a childminder in Fingal ?



OUR CHILDMINDING DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
SARAH MCKENNA IS HERE TO PROVIDE
INFORMATION AND SUPPORT ON:

- ✓ Running a childminding business
- ✓ Accessing Grants/Funding
- ✓ Information sessions
- ✓ Networking with other childminders
- ✓ Training for childminders
- ✓ National Action Plan for Childminding

CONTACT US

087 -4485558

sarah@fingalcountychildcare.ie

Scan the QR code to join our mailing list



 National Action Plan
for Childminding
2021-2028

For Parents

**Remember NCS subsidies are not automatically renewed!
Check out our full Renewal Guide at:**

ncs.gov.ie

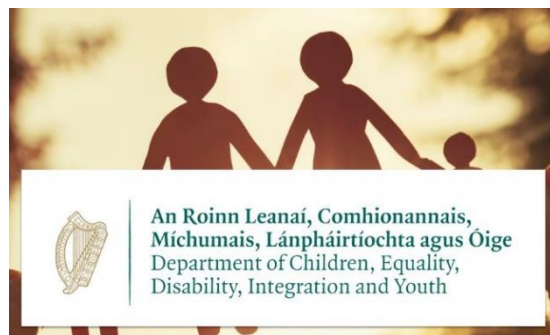


An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Michumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

Remember NCS subsidies are not automatically renewed! Each NCS award has an end date, and you must renew your application before this date, and give the new CHICK to your provider, to keep receiving a subsidy for your child. Check out our full Renewal Guide at: <https://bit.ly/44a1zRy>



Mother Tongues is conducting a survey aimed at parents who are raising bilingual babies and toddlers:
Click to open survey - [Survey](#)



ECCE - Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

Published by [Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth](#)

[FAQ](#)



Supporting Parents - A New Website from DCEDIY/Ag Tacú le Tuismitheoirí - Suíomh Gréasáin Nua ó DCEDIY

Supporting Parents - A new information and advice resource for all stages of parenthood from DCEDIY. Parenting is rewarding and challenging. But, whatever age your child is and no matter how experienced you are, all parents will benefit from a little support and advice. There's lots of information out there. The Supporting Parents initiative is bringing together trusted, high quality resources in one place, to help you navigate your parenting journey

DCEDIY-Supporting Parents
Website

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e5a96-supporting-parents-a-national-model-of-parenting-support-services/>

www.rollercoaster.ie

We've put together this handy guide to make sure you're asking the right questions!



[How to choose an Early Learning Centre and reduce your costs](#)

FCCC Jobs Board

Fingal CCC have updated their website to include an interactive Jobs Board. This Jobs Board will support early childcare providers to advertise their recruitment needs and to provide parents the opportunity to advertise needs with the aim of linking, early years, childminders, and parents in the Fingal area. The new FCCC Jobs Board facilitates the recruitment of staff into the ELC Sector in Fingal. To advertise a job simply go to our website and click on the jobs board tab. Employers with job vacancies can post a job by clicking on the link above and fill in the required fields. The jobs posted will go live immediately and will be visible on the site for 30 days and will then be archived. **Note - you don't need to set up a log in, just complete the form and click submit.**

Service Closures

We have been asked what the process is for services, if for whatever reason, you have decided not to reopen or closed within the current programme year. The steps are as follows:

- **Inform FCCC via email to info@fingalcountychildcare.ie**
- **Complete the Cessation of Services form for Tusla – click on the link below.**
http://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Cessation_of_Service.pdf
- **Inform Pobal & make any necessary changes to registrations on the HIVE. - Service Closure** If an Approved Provider closes its ELC service, or ceases to provide a DCEDIY childcare programme, notice must be submitted in writing immediately to the local City/County Childcare Committee and the Data Management Team in the Scheme Administrator by raising a service request on the EY HIVE and selecting the Request Programme Type “User Account Management”, then selecting the Category “How to” and the Sub-Category “Closures. FCCC will link in with individual services once the notification has been received.

Facebook

If you are a Facebook user, or would like to set up a Facebook account, we would be most grateful if you could please ‘Like’ our Fingal County Childcare Committee Facebook page, and please feel free to ‘Share’ it too.

We will post regular updates for ELC/ SAC services and Childminders.

Our Facebook page can be found at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/fingalcountychildcare/>

Covid Case Advice

Covid case advice

Please find below links to information from the HPSC concerning Covid-19 and information from the HSE for ELC and SAC providers on preventing the spread of COVID-19 and children returning to ELC and SAC settings. We would be grateful if you shared this information with parents, guardians, and staff. Preventing the spread of covid 19 in school or childcare - HSE In addition, please find the link to the Management of Infectious Disease in Childcare Facilities and Other Childcare Settings (2012) For general Covid-19 queries you can contact HSE on 1800 700 700 between 8 am and 8 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am - 5 pm Saturday and Sunday or visit the HSE website HSE Covid 19

Should you have any queries on the above, our contact details are 01- 4851727 or info@fingalcountychildcare.ie

Kind Regards, Fingal County Childcare Committee.