



## Volume 1 Issue 2

**Welcome to our bulletin.**

**These are the deadlines, Important dates, and announcements and new resources for 15-19<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

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

- **Gina Daly, Programme Information Officer**  
Ph: 087-1972084 or email [gina@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:gina@fingalcountychildcare.ie)
- **Mairead Tucker, Lead Development Officer Swords and Surrounding Areas**  
Ph: 087 7477553 Email: [mairead@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:mairead@fingalcountychildcare.ie)
- **Eimear Furlong, Development Officer, Balbriggan and Surrounding Areas**  
Ph: 087-1884191 or email [eimear@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:eimear@fingalcountychildcare.ie)
- **Nicola McKernan, Development Officer, Dublin 15, and Surrounding Areas**  
Ph: 087 6025263 or email [nicola@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:nicola@fingalcountychildcare.ie)
- **Karen Comiskey- Development Officer (Core Funding Support Lead)**  
Ph: 087 4705805 or email [karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie)
- **Aoife Ball, AIM Project Officer and Ukrainian Support contact.**  
Ph: 087 3429757 Email: [aoife@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:aoife@fingalcountychildcare.ie)
- **Sarah McKenna, Regional Childminding Development Officer (CMDO)**  
Ph: 087-4485558 or email [sarah@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:sarah@fingalcountychildcare.ie)
- **Helen Campbell, Finance & Office Manager**  
Ph: 087 104 5197 or email [helen@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:helen@fingalcountychildcare.ie)
- **Linda Sammon, Finance Officer**  
Ph: 087-7882688 or email [linda@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:linda@fingalcountychildcare.ie)
- **Adrienne Doyle, Operations Manager**  
Ph: 087- 9217918 or email [adrienne@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:adrienne@fingalcountychildcare.ie)

## Note 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 COUNTY  
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE  
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL

**Parent & Toddler Group**

Calling all Parent & Toddler Groups in the Fingal Area  
Fingal County Childcare Committee is here for you

**FCCC Provides:**

- ✓ Information
- ✓ Support & Advice
- ✓ Support to access Grants

Scan the QR code To get in touch

An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Línpháirtíochta agus Oige  
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

FINGAL COUNTY  
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE  
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL

## DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

Deadline for Submission of the Finance and Impact Returns (FIRs)(community services only)

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**

Financial reporting deadline for Core Funding

## For your information

### Core Funding Income & Expenditure Materials & Videos

The DCEDIY have agreed a transitional arrangement for financial reporting to cover year 1 and year 2 of the Core Funding scheme. Financial reporting requirements in this transitional phase have been significantly simplified and streamlined and the material now available on the [Early Years Hive](#) reflects those changes. It should be noted that the Financial Management Tool is optional and the financial reporting deadline for Core Funding **22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**.

The revised reporting requirement during the transitional phase will consist of a **sector specific Income and Expenditure Report**. This Income and Expenditure Report will significantly reduce the reporting requirement on partner services.

Please refer to the attached documents

- Recent changes to original reporting requirements
- Core Funding Financial Reporting Documents FAQ
- Income and Expenditure Report-How to Complete

#### 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](mailto:karen@fingalcountychildcare.ie)

#### **Finance and Impact Returns (FIRs)**

The FIRs can be completed now and should be submitted through Pobal Online. The DCEDIY has advised the importance for all community services to continue to submit FIRs as this allows the DCEDIY and Pobal to identify and resolve problems. FIRs also act as an informative tool for future financial planning. The deadline for submission is **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 at 5pm** and submissions should include information relating to September to December 2023.

#### **AIM Rules for 2023/2024**

The AIM Rules for 2023/2024 have now been published on the AIM website. These can be accessed through the following link: <https://aim.gov.ie/aim-supports/aim-policy-and-rules/>

#### **AIM Level 1 2023/2024 Reminder**

It is still possible for services with new and existing Graduates of LINC to submit your AIM Level 1 application. As AIM Level 1 is an annual application, if you currently have a qualified LINC Graduate working in your service as an Inclusion Coordinator and have not submitted your AIM Level 1 2023 application, then we encourage you to apply for the 2023/2024 programme call. Please note: AIM level 1 funding will commence from the Monday following approval of your application. Applications must be submitted electronically via the Early Years HIVE portal. Applicant guidelines can be found [here](#).

Should you have any queries in relation to the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM), please contact the Early Years Provider Centre by raising a Request on HIVE as follows:

Request Programme: AIM Level 1.

Request Type: Application.

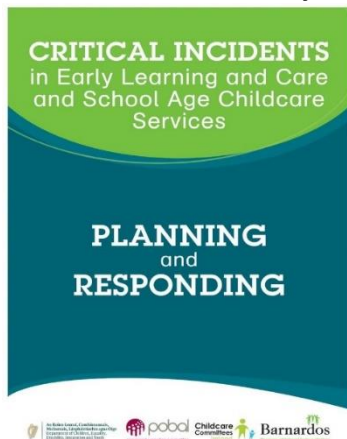
Request Type Detail: How To.

#### **Nurturing Skills Learner Fund Pilot**

The Nurturing Skills Learner Fund will run as a pilot scheme in 2024 and applications will open in May 2024, for early years educators who have applied to a approved higher education institution with a view for the selected educators to receive financial support for studies starting/commencing in September 2024. The pilot scheme will run in conjunction

with the current Learner Fund scheme which will continue to be administrated by the Childcare Committees. The Learner Fund bursary award contribution for 2024 will rise from €750 to €1000 to assist those who are not part of the pilot Nurturing Skills Learner Fund. Further information is available in the Press Release, which you can access [here](#).

### **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. Please see guidance below.

#### Critical incidents



#### **First 5 Implementation Plan**

The DCEDIY published the implementation plan for 'First 5', the ten-year whole of government strategy for babies, young children and their families which describes the ambitious steps that will be taken over the period 2023 to 2025 to ensure children get the best start in life.

Click on the below link for full press release.

[http://westmeathchildcare.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/24.11-PRESS-RELEASE\\_New-First-5-implementation-plan.pdf](http://westmeathchildcare.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/24.11-PRESS-RELEASE_New-First-5-implementation-plan.pdf)



## **Viral Infections: HSE Guidance for the ELC Sector**

Dear provider,

We are writing to you today (17/11/23) with a memo from the HSE and supporting poster which provide advice for ELC settings on Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

Regards,

Early Years Division, DCEDIY

### Guidance



**TÚSLA**  
Inspection and Review  
Early Years Inspectorate

**Webinar**  
Inspection Findings  
Review and Multiple Provider  
Overview Project

**Monday 29th January 2024**  
**4pm - 6pm**  
**Microsoft Teams**

**Booking Essential**  
[Click HERE for details](#)

In relation to the new Inspections  
Finding Review process:

- Explain what is meant by an Inspection Findings Review
- Outline the process for making a request for an Inspection Findings Review
- Describe how requests for Inspection Findings will be processed
- Explain how outcomes of an Inspection Findings Review will be communicated.

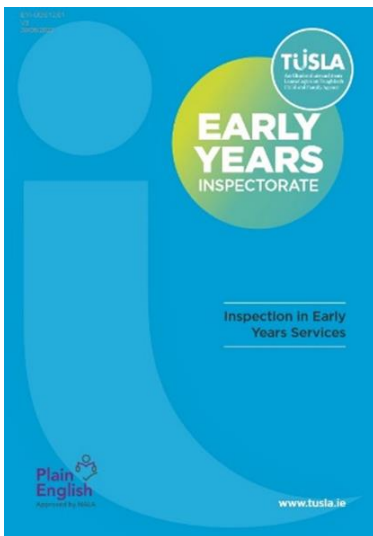
Multiple Providers Overview Project

- Explain the project and how it will function
- Outline how this will affect providers

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/7785dbe0-14f5-4f9f-a518-f78071544f37@ee9e12c7-bca1-44a2-bff4-8fb8667b6be1>

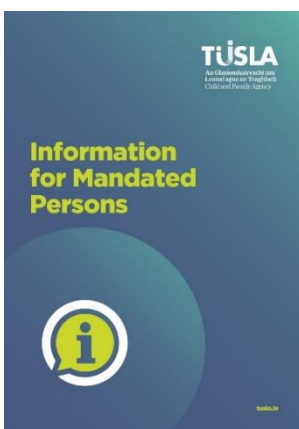
**Reminder** - from January 2024, all adults in early years settings working directly with children are required to have a vetting disclosure dated within the previous 3 years (dated January 2021 or later).

### Renewal of garda vetting



This new leaflet provides information for parents on the different types of inspections and other work carried out by Tusla and the Department of Education inspectorates. [Leaflet](#)

### Link to vetting booklet



## First Aid Responder (FAR) requirement

Due to recent Tusla inspections outcome we would like to remind Providers that:

- At least one person trained in first aid (FAR) is available to the children while the service is in operation.
- At least one person trained in first aid (FAR) is available to the children when on outings.
- A list of people trained in first aid (FAR) is available.
- In-date certification for each trained FAR is available.

The number of people trained in first aid for children (FAR) and available for first aid response is based on the service's risk assessments, including the size of the service and the hazards identified.



## Guidance for the Early Learning and Care sector on sleep provision for children under 24 months



Tusla has introduced a new guidance document, which sets out the revised position of Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate on sleep provision for children under 24 months in early learning and care services.

There is also a webinar available for your convenience using the following link: <https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/elearning-webinars-and-resources/webinars/>



### What to do if worried about a child

Dear Provider,

Please see the press release below regarding the publication today by Minister Roderic O'Gorman of the findings from an independent evaluation of the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM).

Regards,  
Early Years Division.

<https://www.gov.ie/ga/preasraitis/90564-new-report-shows-positive-impact-of-early-years-access-and-inclusion-model/?>

## 1 Day Webinar- Healing Trauma in Children

Webinar presenting the use of the Healing Trauma in Children Picture Book, focused on what we can do to help our/refugee children alleviate trauma.

There is a relationship between trauma and the body (how the ANS and the sensomotoric system work together), we will learn about threat response, regulation and co-regulation, learn to notice and observe our own and the child's physiology, our patterns of tension and seek methods for release and stabilization,

There is response to trauma, it is a normal human response to traumatic life events . With informed care, trauma symptoms can go away.

**31 January 2024 via Zoom**

**Time 9am-5pm with breaks during the session**

Webinar will be recorded (with permission) for revision purposes for participants who attend the webinar in entirety and as it is interactive, Camera & Mic are required. Given the nature of the topic, attendance at the entire webinar required.

### Webinar Programme:

The webinar will be interactive and informative and will include the following:



- Introduction: Development of the book, Erasmus project background, related materials, elements of Somatic Experiencing approach to trauma
- Theory: Basics of trauma and its impact on the nervous system, brain, mind and body, the threat response cycle, fight-flight-freeze responses, dissociation, regulation
- Tracking bodily sensations/feelings/emotions, break out rooms
- Guidance on Use of the Trauma Picture Book
- Practical examples of self-regulation and co-regulation, how to set up a game/activity so that it can be used to regulate the nervous system and help children move through trauma
- Page by page guide through the Trauma Picture Book
- Questions and answers

**Booking for Webinar:** <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/healing-trauma-in-children-tickets-776192301067>

**Cost:** €15 per participant

### [Healing Trauma in Children- Picture Book and Handbook](#)

<https://cesiprosyrii.org/>

#### **WHO ARE WE?**

We are a small non-profit organization, **Czech People for Syria, z.s.**, Humanitarian Initiative. In 2015, we felt the need to try to help Syrian refugees, because the international help was minimal. It has not changed much since then, although they are in the 11th year of a horrible war and the situation recently even worsened due to the devastating earthquake.

With the kind support of Peter Levine, Maggie Kline and their publisher, we translated the publication 'Trauma Proofing Your Kids' into Arabic and thought we would bring it to refugee parents. However, soon we found that 271 pages of a book are too much for refugee parents. Therefore, with the consent of the authors of the original book, we decided to create an excerpt from Trauma Proofing Your Kids to make it more accessible to refugee families, i.e. the Trauma Handbook, containing the main principles and about 40 games and activities that the parents or caregivers can do with children to alleviate the traumatic stress.

We also created the Trauma Picture Book, the easiest version of all, with pictures and main principles, mainly for refugee parents.

**The publications are available for open access download in up to 9 different languages from**

<https://cesiprosyrii.org/publications/>

## **Publications:**

### **Healing Trauma in Children – Picture-books for Parents**

The Picture Book -Healing Trauma in Children was created for parents of refugee children and support professions and individuals. It is based on the book by Peter Levine and Maggie Kline 'Trauma Proofing Your Kids'. It contains simple yet professional information about what trauma is and how parents can help their children, often without the additional help of specialists who may be in short supply.

### **Healing Trauma in Children – Handbooks for Supporting Professionals**

An information and activity handbook for both parents and supporting professionals containing concepts, skills and activities designed for parents and caregivers of traumatised children to help release the energy of traumatic events.



Environmental labels are signs used to identify learning and play areas, equipment and resources in an early year setting. They support children to effectively use and learn about their preschool environment and to identify the different play and learning areas available for them to explore and play in.

See Better Start's tip sheet: [Environmental labels](#)



Betterstart is delighted to launch the new AIM information video. This video was designed to tell the story about the role of the Early Years Specialist when delivering Expert Educational Advice and Support. It provides details

about how to access AIM supports as well as what can be expected from the mentoring journey. Have a look here <https://www.betterstart.ie/access-and-inclusion-model/>



### **Little Book at Bedtime:**

A free bedtime storybook and library card wallet is available at the library for all children of 4 years and under, to pick up and keep. This exciting initiative aims to engage all parents of young children to read stories with them at bedtime. Parents and their children can pop into their local library to pick up their free bedtime story book and join the library. Bedtime story books are available in English and Irish.

[Little Book at Bedtime press release](#)

## **For Childminders**



FINGAL COUNTY  
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE  
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL

**FINGAL COUNTY  
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE**  
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL

**Advice and Information for  
Parents and Childminders**

**For Parents**

- National Childcare Scheme
- ECCE
- AIM Model of Inclusion

**For Childminders**

- Becoming a childminder
- National Action plan for childminding

Illustration of four diverse children and a green spiral notebook labeled 'NOTES'.

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

**AIM**  
ACCESS & INCLUSION MODEL

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

[Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth](https://www.gov.ie/childminding) will launch a consultation on the upcoming childminding regulations in January 2024 and we want to hear from you!  
Follow us on socials and visit [gov.ie/childminding](https://www.gov.ie/childminding) for more information on how you can make your voice heard

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth will launch a consultation on childminding regulations in **January 2024!**

Soon you will be able to share your opinion on them.

Follow [gov.ie/childminding](https://www.gov.ie/childminding) and this page for more information on how to make your voice heard!

More information : [gov.ie/childminding](https://www.gov.ie/childminding)



**FINGAL COUNTY  
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE**  
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL



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

**These regulations have been  
developed together with  
childminders and with the  
home-setting  
in mind.**

**They aim to  
support children,  
families and  
childminders.**



**Childminding Newsletter**



FINGAL COUNTY  
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE

COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL



FINGAL COUNTY  
CHILDCARE COMMITTEE  
COISTE CÚRAIM LEANAÍCHONTAE FHINE GALL



## 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



## 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 with 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](mailto: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](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 \*new information\*

Please find below links to information from the HPSC in relation to 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 can share this information with parents, guardians, and staff.

<https://www.hpsc.ie/news/title-23357-en.html> (updated 11th August 2023)

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/preventing-the-spread/>

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/preventing-the-spread/child-returning-to-school-or-childcare/>

In addition, please find link below to the Management of Infectious Diseases in Childcare Facilities guidance resource.

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/lifestages/childcare/File,13444,en.pdf> 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 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am – 5pm Saturday and Sunday or visit the HSE website <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/>

**Should you have any queries on the above, our contact details are 01- 4851727 or [info@fingalcountychildcare.ie](mailto:info@fingalcountychildcare.ie)**

**Kind Regards, Fingal County Childcare Committee**