



Newsletter

Fingal County Childcare Committee

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AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE SCHEME

You will at this stage have received your information pack from DCYA in relation to the Affordable Childcare Scheme being introduced in September 2017. This is DCYA first step towards the introduction of the new Affordable Childcare Scheme, the comprehensive new scheme of financial support for families towards the cost of their childcare, which was made possible through funding secured in Budget 2017.

The Affordable Childcare Scheme will eventually combine all the existing targeted childcare schemes, including the Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) and the Training and Employment Childcare (TEC) Schemes, into one easy-to-use and more efficient online system.

Here's what you need to know about the Affordable Childcare Scheme (ACS):

- Measures introduced this September will provide both universal and targeted subsidies towards the cost of childcare.
- Every child between the ages of 6 months and 36 months in Tusla-registered childcare services will be eligible for some level of childcare support.
- The child can be in full or part-time registered childcare. There will be no minimum number of hours and no maximum number of weeks for eligibility.
- The financial supports will be provided directly to you as the Tusla-registered childcare provider.
- Existing targeted childcare supports provided under the CCS and TEC Schemes will be enhanced significantly, some by up to 50%.
- All Tusla-registered childcare providers, community and private, can sign up to provide these Schemes.

DCYA will be hosting information events over the coming weeks in a number of locations throughout the country.

DCYA new website affordablechildcare.ie has a dedicated section for childcare providers with information on eligibility, subsidy rates and how to sign up for these Schemes.

Dates to Watch

- 22nd May** - How to Guides and Videos on PIP
- 26th May** - PAU*, Contract(s) and Certification on PIP
- 15th June** - ECCE Fees List and Calendar on PIP
- 13th July** - TEC, CCS & CCSP Fees List
- 18th August** - CCSP Registration Form and CCSU Auto Approval
- 21st August** - ECCE & CCSU live on PIP
- 31st August** - TEC live on PIP

*If there has been a change to the Primary Authorised User (PAU) you must contact FCCC immediately for a new PAU form otherwise you will not be able to re-certify or go to contract.

If you require further information please contact Fingal County Childcare Committee by phoning 01 4851727 or email info@fingalcountychildcare.ie

AIM - Access and Inclusion Model (Programme) - Applications for 2017/18

The Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Programme will be accepting new* applications for children commencing / returning to the ECCE programme in 2017/2018 from Friday 12th May 2017. We advise applicants to ensure that they submit their application as soon as possible**

Childcare providers already in receipt of AIM L7 capitation for children returning in September will be eligible for support. Information on this process will be available in the forthcoming weeks.

If you require any additional support, please contact pobalonline@pobal.ie For further information on the AIM programme, please visit www.aim.gov.ie

* (New applications refer to children who have not applied to the AIM programme before or children who are in receipt of AIM support but will be changing preschool in 2017/18.)

** (Please note, in relation to AIM Level 5 applications, it can take up to 8 weeks for equipment to be delivered.)

Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Training



FCCC recently advertised 3 Diversity, Equality and Inclusion training courses being delivered in Swords, Blanchardstown and Balbriggan in May and June. There was great demand for this training and unfortunately not all applicants were successful in getting places. An email was sent to those that were successful.

The good news is that FCCC are delighted to confirm that this training course will be rolled out again in the near future. The training will be advertised in the usual manner via email, Facebook and FCCC website. The training is 15 hours over 4 sessions, it is free of charge and attendance at each session is required. Remember our booking policy is that places are allocated on a first come, first served basis, places are limited and only on the submission of a booking form.

Regional Clusters

Earlier this year the early years, after school services, Parent & Toddler Groups and registered childminders in Fingal were informed that the FCCC Development Officers will be responsible for 3 specific areas in Fingal.

The rationale behind this change is that FCCC recognizes the different and broad range of localized challenges across the county. To enable FCCC respond effectively to localized concerns or challenges it has been decided to bring the childcare providers together in cluster groups in the 3 separate areas. These cluster meetings will have a dual purpose (a) localized peer support and networking and (b) focused training and workshops.

It is proposed that Cluster Meetings will take place in June, September and November and the agenda for each meeting will be guided by the funded programmes, national policy and localized concerns or challenges. If there is a particular local issue or concern that you feel would be a topic for a cluster meeting please contact the DO for your area. Details below:

Adrienne Doyle – Dublin 15 - Blanchardstown, Castaheaney, Carpenterstown, Castleknock, Clonee, Clonsilla, Mulhuddart, Porterstown, Laurel Lodge, Huntstown, Hartstown, Ongar, Phibblestown,

Pelletstown, Rosemount Business Park, Hollystown, Tyrellstown, Ashtown. Phone Adrienne at 01-4851727/ 087 9217918 or email Adrienne@fingalcountychildcare.ie

Jacinta Cooke – Balbriggan & surrounding areas Balbriggan, Ballyboughal, Balscaddan, Garristown, St.Margarets, The Ward, Oldtown, Naul, Skerries,Loughshinney, Rush, Lusk, Donabate. Phone Jacinta at 01-4851727/ 087 7722228 or email Jacinta@fingalcounychildcare.ie

Mairéad Tucker – Swords & surrounding areas - Baldoyle, Balgriffin, Bayside, Sutton, Howth, Swords, Kinsealy, Portmarnock, Malahide. Phone Mairead at 01-4851727/ 087 7477553 or email Mairead@fingalcountychildcare.ie



OUTDOOR PLAY

May already and the weather is starting to improve. Whether it's May and the sun is splitting the trees or January and raining buckets every opportunity should be provided for the children in your setting to spend as much time as possible outdoors. Using nature and the outdoors to stimulate children learning is crucial to their development. The recent EY and SAC capital funding had specific focus on applications for "the creation of "natural" outdoor play areas. EYC Strand 3 was specifically for natural outdoor space constructed using natural products to provide opportunities to facilitate children's ability to learn about risk, exploration and challenge. An objective of the 3 strands of SAC capital stated that services have available a suitable and age appropriate outdoor space for use by the children attending the school age service. In addition Tusla and DES Inspectorate will be looking for evidence of appropriate outdoor play areas and DES inspectorate will look for evidence of Aistear/Siolta linked to curriculum.

FCCC in line with their ethos of supporting the early years and school age sector in Fingal will shortly announce a series of "Outdoor Play" workshops. We are aware that there is a wealth of knowledge and experience within both sectors in Fingal and would welcome your input into what works for the ages ranges you cater for i.e. 0 – 3 years, 3 -6 years and 6 – 12 years.

The outdoor play workshops will link into the cluster meetings above as we support providers who are developing their outdoor play area.

CHILDMINDING – ARE YOU A CHILDMINDER OR INTERESTED IN CHILDMINDING?

There are an estimated 30,000+ childminders in Ireland and we here in FCCC have no indication as to the numbers of childminders operating in the Fingal area. The figure of 30,000+ indicates the reliance parents have on childminding to ensure that they can participate in the labour force or access education or training opportunities. Budget 2016 announced the introduction of the Affordable Childcare Scheme (ACS) for parents. This Scheme will be available to all childcare providers including childminders. However, childcare providers participating in the ACS will be required to register with Tusla and to obtain Garda Vetting. It is within the remit of Fingal Childcare Committee to engage with all childminders in Fingal – Tusla registered or not. We have a considerable amount of information and expertise that may be useful to existing childminders or anyone interested in becoming a childminder. If you wish to speak to one of FCCC Development Officers in confidence please do not hesitate to call us at the following:

Adrienne Doyle – Dublin 15 - Blanchardstown, Castaheaney, Carpenterstown, Castleknock, Clonee, Clonsilla, Mulhuddart, Porterstown, Laurel Lodge, Huntstown, Hartstown, Ongar, Phibblestown, Pelletstown, Rosemount Business Park, Hollystown, Tyrellstown, Ashtown. Phone Adrienne at 01-4851727/ 087 9217918 or email Adrienne@fingalcountychildcare.ie

Jacinta Cooke – Balbriggan & surrounding areas Balbriggan, Ballyboughal, Balscaddan, Garristown, St.Margarets, The Ward, Oldtown, Naul, Skerries,Loughshinney, Rush, Lusk, Donabate. Phone Jacinta at 01-4851727/ 087 7722228 or email Jacinta@fingalcounychildcare.ie

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Legislation

Childminders who cater for any more than 3 preschool children are legally required to register with Tusla (there are exceptions for multiple births). Childminders who fit this category come under the Child Care (Pre-School Services) 2016 Regulations and as such are legally obliged to register with Tusla that they are providing a childminding service – they must be Statutorily Registered. Childminders who care for 3 children or less are exempt from registering.

Information on childminding supports and subsidies:

Childminders Tax Relief – <http://www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/reliefs/childcare-relief.html>

Quality Awareness Programme – delivered by Fingal Childcare Committee

Childminders Development Grant Scheme - childminders may avail of a capital grant of up to €1,000 through Fingal Childcare Committee that can be used to buy safety equipment, toys or to make minor adjustments to the childminder's home to enhance or establish the childminding service.

Upcoming FCCC training, workshops, information, support and advice.

National Guidelines for Childminders:

The National Guidelines for Childminders outlines the Legislation in relation to childminders and details a system whereby those childminder who are not required to register with Tusla of their service (those who care for less than 3 pre-school children) For more information please contact the Fingal County Childcare Committee Office on (01) 4851727. info@fingalcountychildcare.ie

DCYA states that universal payment under the Affordable Childcare Scheme will not be available if parents use unregistered childminders or relative care.

Come along to our Information Stands and find out more on the following dates:

9th June 9.30am – 12.30 Pavilions Shopping Centre, Swords

22nd June 9.30am – 12.30 Blanchardstown Shopping Centre

For regular updates see www.fingalcountychildcare.ie or on Facebook