NEWS

Kildare County Childcare Committee
Coiste Cúram Leanaí Chantae Chill Dara

A Word from the KCCC Manager

Welcome to the third edition of our 2014 newsletter. This edition has been dedicated to the National Programmes with the aim of bringing you up to date on the relevant government schemes open to Childcare providers. A number of changes have been made to the former CETS now known as Training and Employment Childcare (TEC) Programme to take effect from 14th July and are detailed on page 4 under the relevant strands.

CCI (Childcare Committees Ireland) a representative body for CCCs nationally have been working with Pobal and the DCYA to try and ensure that services remain informed and up to date on the development of the Programmes Implementation Platform (PIP) which aims to reduce the administrative burden of the volume of paperwork currently experienced by Early Years services and CCCs. Our own staff will be receiving training during the last week of August and we will provide information sessions and and/or workshops to services before the 'Child Register' (previously the ECCE e-returns) in September. In order for us to plan effectively for this it would assist us greatly if you or any of your colleagues who are operating a Childcare service and have limited access to broadband or envisage that

you may need support in operating the online system inform KCCC as soon as possible so we can put in place the necessary supports.

From a Kildare perspective we have begun our planning phase for 2015 and thanks to all of you who have submitted your thoughts on what you would like to see included in our plan. These will be aligned, where possible to the National Objectives and key priorities set by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

In 2014 KCCC restructured how we deliver our Quality Outreach supports, splitting core responsibilities for key support areas amongst our staff team including Quality, Sustainability, Policies & Procedures, HR Management & Leadership and Governance. Feedback has been excellent with 100% of evaluation received stating that the Quality Outreach Programme was good/excellent. 93% stated that the advise given was very appropriate to their needs.
I have also received a number of 'Thank You' letters from Early Years services for the supports that you have been receiving from KCCC staff and I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that all feed-back is valued and the positive feed-back that we are receiving of late is very much appreciated

by myself, the Board and the staff of KCCC.

Also in 2014 KCCC began to deliver the Children First Child Protection training in Kildare. Our aim is to train all Childcare services within 3 years. In 2014 we will be delivering 10 Child Protection training days to 172 practitioners from 101 services.

Kildare has had 102 eligible applications to the National Learner fund with funding of €108,000 euro being allocated to bring 126 Childcare practitioners up to the minimum qualifications criteria required by September 2015.

KCCC are delighted to have two new directors on our Board, Eilis Quinlan and Dr. Catriona O'Toole (see page 2 for more information), who will support and guide the staff of KCCC in continuing to provide quality accessible childcare for all children from birth to 14 years in Co. Kildare.

The staff and Board of KCCC would like to welcome our Information Officer Marie Bagnall back from maternity leave and to congratulate our Development Officer Marianne Casey on obtaining a first class degree in her H.Dip in Early Childhood Education and Care.

New KCCC Board Members

KCCC have recently recruited two new Board members who were nominated to the Board to fill skills deficits identified in relation to finance and Early Years Policy.

Eilis Quinlan is a Principal, Qualified Accountant & Registered Auditor and Tax Specialist. Eilis worked in accountancy practice until starting her own firm in 1992. She holds a Certificate in Computing from DCU and is a member of MENSA. She also holds an Accredited Commercial Mediator award from the Mediation forum of Ireland. Eilis sits on the National council of ISME where she was appointed Chairman in May 2009. Eilis was also appointed by Minister Michael Martin to the Government's SME Management Development Council in the Republic of Ireland. She is also a member of the Institute of Directors in Ireland (IoD) and President of the North Kildare Chamber of Commerce and was a Finalist in the Network Ireland Business Woman of the year awards in 2010. In 2011 Eilis was invited to join the ACCA Global Forum for SME's as Ireland's representative. In 2012 Eilis was appointed as the ACCA   representative to the FEE SMP Forum in Brussels. Eilis' main expertise lies in all areas of tax planning and small and medium enterprise development. Her interests include show jumping, cooking, theatre and classical music.

Dr Catriona O'Toole is a lecturer in child and adolescent development and educational psychology at NUI Maynooth. She has been involved both in research and practice with various psychological services in Ireland, and has also worked in the field of Early Childhood Education both in Ireland and The Netherlands. Catriona holds Certificate Early Childhood care and Education (DIT), Psychology BA Hons (NUI), PhD in Psychology (NUI), Professional Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, Registered Psychologist – Psychological Society of Ireland, Chartered Psychologist - the British Psychological Society, Competence in Educational and Personality Testing (Level A and B) accredited by the BPS and registered with RQTU, Resilience for LIFE facilitator training, NICE approved Mindfulness-based Cognitive Behaviour Therapy

Catriona is currently working on two funded research projects:

- Working Out? Family strategies in household employment and childcare and the impact on child well-being, with Delma Byrne

- Accessing Initial Teacher Education: An exploration of best practice in the support of student teachers with disabilities on school placement, with Maeve Daly

Research Interests

- The impact of risk and disadvantage on children and their families

- School and community interventions to support resilience and wellbeing

- Early Childhood Care and Education and how it impacts child development

- The role of values, mindfulness, and cognitive-behavioural strategies in promoting and sustaining positive mental health.

- The experiences of learners with special educational needs and the use of evidence-based strategies to support positive outcomes

- Metacognition, self-regulated learning, and the role of psychological flexibility in learning and cognition

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme

The objective of the ECCE programme is to make early learning in a formal setting available to eligible children in the year before they commence primary school. To achieve this, services participating in the pre-school year are required to provide age-appropriate activities and programmes to children in this age group.

As you all know the free Pre-School Year in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme was introduced with effect from January 2010. Children qualify for the free pre-school year where they are aged more than 3 years 2 months and less than 4 years 7 months at 1 September in the relevant pre-school year.

To avail of the programme at any stage during the pre-school year commencing:	Children must have been born between the following dates (both dates inclusive).
September 2014	2 February 2010 and 30 June 2011
September 2015	2 February 2011 and 30 June 2012

Minimum Enrolment Requirements
The service provider must have a minimum of 5 children between the ages of 2.5 and 6 enrolled in the service. It is not a requirement that all five children are participating in the ECCE programme. However, it will not be considered sufficient to have, for example, 3 children attending five days per week, and two children attending only two days per week

Qualifications
Last year new qualification requirements were announced by the Minister of Children and Youth Affairs as part of the Quality Agenda. From September 2015, all childcare workers will require to be qualified to a minimum of FETAC level 5, and all ECCE pre-school leaders will require to be qualified to a minimum of FETAC level 6.
The new qualification requirements will apply to new services which register with the Child and Family Agency (CFA) from 1st September 2014.
However, services who receive a contract under the current process (provided they have already registered with the CFA) only require the current qualifications for this year.

Higher Capitation

A higher capitation fee is payable to pre-school service providers where **all the pre-school leaders** delivering the pre-school service hold a nationally accredited major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or equivalent and have 3 years experience working in the sector, and where all the pre-school assistants in the service hold a relevant major award in childcare/early education at level 5 on the NFQ or its equivalent.

Please note that **not all Level 7 or 8 awards are acceptable** as qualifying for the higher capitation fee. In order for an award to qualify, it must include significant content in core knowledge areas such as **child development 0-6 years and early childhood education theory and practice.**

To find out if your qualification entitles you to apply for the Higher Capitation rate for your service, please log onto the DCYA website and see the FAQ section on qualifications.

To apply for the Higher Capitation please use ECCE form *10 – Application for Higher Capitation .* This form is available on www.dcya.gov.ie under the ECCE section.

Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) Programme

*Participation in the Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) programme is restricted to community/not-for-profit childcare services

> The CCS Programme provides quality childcare services at a reduced rate to parents. It is a programme which enables Community Childcare facilities to give parents in receipt of certain social welfare payments (the majority of which are covered under the CCS Programme), Family Income Supplement and holders of medical cards and GP visit cards, a reduction in their childcare fees.

Funding

The amount of CCS funding that a service will qualify for will depend on the number of children attending the service whose parents qualify for one of the CCS subvention rates. The service will use the subvention funding to operate a tiered fees policy based on the cost of the service(s) less the various subvention.

Example

Parent A is on One Parent Family Payment requires sessional care for their child. Weekly Sessional fee of the service is €60. The charge for the parent will be €28.65 (€60– 31.35 [Band A Sessional payment]) per week.

Appeals

The services will be notified of the verified subvention band for each parent. If a service or parent wants to appeal a decision on the band awarded there will be a strict 2 week window to appeal a band rewarded. Appeals should be made in writing to:

CCS Appeals,
Childcare Directorate,
Department of Children and Youth Affairs,
43-49 Mespil Rd,
Dublin 4.
FREEPOST F5055

Appeal should be accompanied by a DSP/Túsla letter stating parents name and allowance being received and evidence of the parent and child's PPSN

Subvention Band and Rates

Level of Service	Band A (with medical card)	Band AJ (with medical card)	Band B
	• One Parent Family Payment • Widows/Widowers Pension • Pre-retirement Allowance • Farm Assist • State Pension • Blind Pension • Guardian's Payment • Illness/Injury Benefit*** • Disability Allowance • Carer's Benefit/ Allowance • Back to Work • Enterprise/Education Allowance • Community Employment / Rural Social Scheme • Domiciliary Care Allowance • Family Income Supplement • Secondary School students • Invalidity Pension • Disablement Pension	• Job Seekers Benefit/ Allowance • Supplementary Welfare • Allowance • Tús • Part-time Job Incentive Scheme • Gateway	• Medical Card • GP Visit Card • Parents who are in receipt of Social Welfare payments listed under Band A/AJ but have no medical card • Parents who no longer qualify for Band A/AJ this year but who were verified as being on Band A/AJ at the end of the previous school year
	• HSE Referrals (no medical card required)		
Full-Day Payment (5 hrs. +)	€95	€50	€50
Part-time Payment (3:31-5:00)	€47.50	€47.50	€25
Sessional Payment (2:16-3:30)	€31.35	€31.35	€17
Half Session Payment (1:00-2:15)	€15.20	€15.20	€8.50

Information source: "An easy guide to the National Funding Programmes 2013/2014

Training and Employment Childcare (TEC)* Programmes

*(*formerly called CETS*)

The Programme consists of three distinct strands:

Strand 1: Childcare Education and Training Support (CETS) Programme
Strand 2: After-School Child Care (ASCC) Programme
Strand 3: Community Employment Childcare (CEC) Programme

Strand 1: Childcare and Education Training Support (CETS) Programme

This strand formerly catered for FÁS and VEC training course participants. Following the establishment of the **Local Education and Training Boards**, Strand 1 is now administered on behalf of the Department of Education, who have sole responsibility for deciding who is eligible to avail of this strand of the Programme.
To avail a place under Strand 1, parents must obtain a letter of eligibility provided by their local Education and Training Board or SOLAS.

For ETB/SOLAS places the letter must contain:
√ The name of the parent
√ The name of the eligible course
√ The start date of the course
√ The number of weeks of the course and/or the end date of the course
√ Confirmation that they are eligible for subsidised childcare under the CETS programme for this course.

What next for Childcare Provider?
Once a parent has obtained a letter of eligibility you may then make an application for a CETS place to the Kildare County Childcare Committee. To do this you must complete and sign a CETS Application and Declaration Form (New form available from KCCC from 14th July 2014) for each child and send it to Emily Moore, Programmes Administrator on programmes@kildarechildcare.ie. Alternatively the application form can be posted to the KCCC office.

Each application must be accompanied with:
√ Parents letter of eligibility
√ Proof parent's PPSN
√ Proof child's PPSN

Please Note: Places cannot be applied for without these documents

The rates of payment for ETB/SOLAS places are:

Full-time	**€145**
Part-time	**€80**
Afterschool	**€45**
Afterschool with pickup service	**€80**

Pro rata amounts are paid for places of less than 5 days duration

The maximum amounts that services may charge parents per week for ETB/SOLAS places are:

Full-time	**€25**
Part-time	**€15**
Afterschool	**€5**
Afterschool with pickup service	**€15**

Strand 2: After-School Child Care (ASCC) Programme
(changes to take effect from 14th July)

This strand is known as the **After-School Child Care (ASCC) Programme** and is administered on behalf of the Department of Social Protection (DSP). This scheme provides afterschool care for primary school children for certain categories of working parents. There up to 800 places available on this strand. DSP have sole responsibility for deciding who is eligible to avail of this strand of the Programme. This strand can cover children from 5-13 years

Eligibility:

From 14 July 2014 the ASCC scheme will be available to customers of the Department of Social Protection who:
- are currently getting Jobseekers' Benefit (JB) or Jobseeker's Allowance (JA) or One -Parent Family Payment (OFP) or are on a DSP employment programme; and
- have been in receipt of JB, JA or OFP or on a DSP employment programme (or any combination of the 4) for at least 3 months;
  and
- have one or more children aged between 4 and 13 who are in primary school,
  and either:
- start a new job; or
- increase the days currently worked; or
- start a DSP employment programme (except CE see strand 3 below)

For those in part-time employment, subsidised after-school childcare will be provided on a pro-rata basis.

The letter of eligibility For ASCC places must be provided by the DSP and contain:
√   the name of the parent
√   the start date of entitlement to childcare support
√   confirmation that the parent is eligible for the ASCC

What next for Childcare Provider?

Once a parent has obtained a letter of eligibility you may then make an application for a ASCC place to the Kildare County Childcare Committee. To do this you must complete and sign a the new ASCC application and Declaration (available 14th July 2014) form for <u>each child </u> and send it to Emily Moore, Programmes Administrator programmes@kildarechildcare.ie. Alternatively the application form can be posted to the KCCC office.

Each application must be accompanied with:
√   Parents letter of eligibility for ASCC from DSP
√   Proof parent's PPSN
√   Proof child's PPSN

Please Note: Places cannot be applied for without these documents

The rates of payment for ASCC places are *(from 14th July 2014):*

Type of Service	DCYA Contribution	Max. Parental Contribution
Basic ASCC	€40	€15
ASCC with Pick-up	€80	€15
10 weeks holidays (Christmas, Easter, Summer) (no pick up)	€105	€15

Pro rata amounts are paid for places of less than 5 days duration (Minimum of 3 days)

This strand is known as the **Community Employment Childcare (CEC) Programme** and is administered on behalf of the Department of Social Protection (DSP). It caters for parents participating on Community Employment Schemes. Childcare Places will be allocated to children up to 13 years of age. There will be 1,200 part-time places available for CE participants with children up to 5 years of age (as CE is a part-time programme), and 800 places available for CE participants with children who require after-school childcare.

Children on the ECCE programme can access this programme for afternoon cover opposite to their ECCE hours.
Please note: DSP have sole responsibility for deciding who is eligible to avail of this strand of the Programme.

For a place under Strand 3 (CEC) a letter of eligibility will be supplied by the CE sponsor organisation
Letter of Eligibility For CE places must contain :

√   The name of the parent
√   The name of the CE sponsor organisation
√   The address of the CE sponsor organisation
√   The start and end date of the parents CE placement

What next for Childcare Provider?
Once a parent has obtained a letter of eligibility you may then make an application for a CEC place to the Kildare County Childcare Committee. To do this you must complete and sign a the new CEC application and Declaration (available 14th July 2014) form for each child and send it to Emily Moore, Programmes Administrator programmes@kildarechildcare.ie. Alternatively the application form can be posted to the KCCC office.

Each application must be accompanied with:
√   Parents letter of eligibility for ASCC from DSP
√   Proof parents PPSN
√   Proof child's PPSN

Please Note: Places cannot be applied for without these documents

Type of Service	DCYA Contribution	Max. Parental Contribution
CE Childcare	€80*	€15
CE Afterschool (no pickup)	€40	€15
10 weeks holidays (Christmas, Easter, Summer) (no pick up)	€80	€15

*This payment will be made regardless of how the actual hours may be worked by the CE participant, as long as the childcare provider is agreeable to provide childcare at the times required by the CE participant.

If you have any queries on any of the information in this newsletter please contact us here at the Kildare County Childcare Committee on 045-861307 or email info@kildarechildcare.ie .

thank you!

Early years services have sent back in their ECCE TECS and CCS contracts to KCCC by June 27th 2014. All signed contracts have been returned to the DCYA.

KCCC is presently working with services on the return of the ECCE and CCS/ECCE fee policy forms, parents letters and calendars; the deadline for return of these documents is Friday 18th July. If you have any queries or issues with these forms please contact us here at KCCC.

Next Steps for ECCE

The next step in this process will be the online return* that providers will be completing in early September 2014. The DCYA will notify KCCC of the timeline and dates the ECCE online webpage will be live near the end of August. Around this time the ECCE pack should be received by all childcare service. KCCC will update all services when we have been advised by the DCYA.

*It is anticipated that this process will be done on the new PIP system. See below for more information

Next Steps for CCS

The next step in this process will be the online return* that providers will be completing in October 2014. The DCYA will notify KCCC of the timeline and dates the CCS online webpage . Around this time the CCS pack should be received by all childcare services. KCCC will update all services when we have been advised by the DCYA.

*It is anticipated that this process will be done on the new PIP system. See below for more information

Next Steps for TEC

The next step in this process will be the submission of your TEC fees policy. Please note that at the time of developing this newsletter the TEC fees policies had not been issued by the DCYA for circulation to Childcare Providers. You will be informed by email when this process begins.

pobal
government supporting communities

DCYA Announces New PIP System

An Roinn Leanaí
agus Gnóthaí Óige
Department of
Children and Youth Affairs

? What is PIP?

The Programmes Implementation Platform (PIP) is a new online system which will streamline the administrative processes across the three national childcare funding programmes (ECCE, TEC and CCS).

The objectives of PIP are to reduce paperwork and duplication of effort, simplify administration and enable the programmes to be managed more effectively and efficiently.

PIP is an integrated web-accessible system which has been designed to enhance the service experience of childcare service providers and the other stakeholders involved; City/County Childcare Committees, Pobal and DCYA.

? What will PIP do for me?

When PIP is fully functioning, services will be able to log-on, complete and view all their service details in one accessible place. Some of the functions PIP will cater for will allow services to:

• Register children for each applicable funding programme
• Check whether places have been approved
• Appeal decisions
• Register transfers
• Submit Tax Clearance Certs (TCCs)
• View payment status

? What happens next?

PIP will be rolled out incrementally. The first stage of PIP will allow services to complete the annual service return, now known as the 'Child Register' for all Programmes. The 'Child Register' process will open for each of the funding programmes on specific dates, which will be notified to service providers electronically. These dates will also be advised when set (PIP Homepage) .

Services will be instructed how to log into the PIP Portal and what steps to take when completing the 'Child Register'. All other processes will stay the same until they are phased into the PIP system. At each step services will be given clear instructions in relation to each process, prior to its implementation on PIP.

? What do I need to do now?

In order to prepare for the new system, right now, all services need to do is ensure that they have access to the internet and email facilities and, on a regular basis, check in on the PIP Homepage for updates of the next steps.

Supports Available

Support and guidance will be available to all services before, throughout and beyond this first phase. Regular updates on the development of the PIP system will be issued on the PIP Homepage and circulated by KCCC via email. See FAQ on *www.pobal.ie* for more information .

Please advise KCCC if you have any problems with Internet Connectivity or anything that might make this process difficult for you and we will do what we can to support you.