

Dear Early Childhood Care and Educator,

Please see below our bulletin for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) sector in County Roscommon with relevant information for you regarding deadlines, training and updates.

As always, we welcome any feedback on our communication with you and if you need to have something clarified or discussed in more detail, then please contact a member of our staff team through email or on our main number at 094 9622540.

Please keep updated through our new website [www.roscommonchildcare.ie](http://www.roscommonchildcare.ie) and on our face book page at <https://www.facebook.com/roscommonchildcare/> where we will continue to post relevant information for our sector as the central local information hub for the ECCE sector in County Roscommon.

***We aim to as wide an audience as possible and would be grateful if you could distribute this to each member of your staff teams. We hope you enjoy this bulletin and find it informative and beneficial.***

Kind Regards,

*Irene Cafferky, Manager and Roscommon CCC Staff Team Carmel, Majella, Martina & Louise  
Roscommon County Childcare Committee*

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## UPCOMING DEADLINES OF IMPORTANCE

### **30 July 2017 Non-Contact payment forms**

You must have completed your non-contact payment eform on PIP by **30 July 2017**. See below for details.

### **22 August 2017 – Contracts Activated**

All services must be in contract for each of the programmes they wish to offer by **22 August 2017**. As the DCYA must also activate the contract, make sure your contracts are activated well in advance. This deadline can be found in the appendix of each contract.

### **25 August 2017 – Calendars Submitted**

All service calendars must be submitted by **25 August 2017**. This deadline can be found in the appendix of each contract.

### **30 September 2017 – Fee lists submitted**

All fees lists must be submitted by **30 September 2017**. This deadline can be found in the appendix of each contract.

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## Information Updates

### Non-Contact time Payment

The deadline for applications for non-contact time payments has been **extended by a week to midnight on 30th July 2017**. The eform can be found in your PIP readiness section – which is on the ‘my service’ tab, where your red/green lights are found. The payments will be made weekly by Pobal.

In order to ensure services are paid the correct non-contact time amount due under CCSP, Pobal will make payments relating to CCSP when CCSP registrations cease and approvals are finalised.

This means that the payment made is calculated based on the **final** value of each service’s approved CCSP registrations.

For queries in relation to finalisation of CCSP approvals please contact the CCSP team via client services.

### ECCE Service Calendar -Amendments

Some service providers are experiencing difficulties in meeting the minimum days/weeks requirements on the ECCE calendars, in particular those services who are based on Primary School Premises. Pobal are rectifying the issue by allowing service providers to make week 2 (week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> August) a payable week. This means that services who wish to open on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August, will be able to amend their calendar to ‘uncheck’ this as a Non Payable Week. Services must still be open for 183 days and have 38 Payable weeks. This change will be available from July 15<sup>th</sup>

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Good Friday was pre populated as a bank holiday on the ECCE Service Calendar. Pobal have now removed it as a Bank Holiday. Any service who does not close on Good Friday but have already submitted their calendar should email [pipdocuments@pobal.ie](mailto:pipdocuments@pobal.ie) to request having the calendar deleted and a new calendar will be available to them to create.

### CCS/P and TEC Fees lists and service calendars

CCS/P and TEC Fees Lists and Service Calendars are now available on PIP. **You are being asked to ensure you have submitted your service calendar before registering children.** How to Guides for CCS/P and TEC Fees List and Service Calendars 2017/2018 are available on PIP, including the FTE (full time equivalent) worksheet for 2017/2018.

### CCS Plus Universal Payment

The universal payment for children 6mths to ECCE age is available for up to **52 weeks per year**. Services will be paid based on weeks open according to their submitted calendar. You will be able to register children on **CCS Plus from 21 August**. CCS Plus payments will be made fortnightly and will be separate from ECCE and TEC payments.

### Tusla Registered Childminders permitted to sign up to CCSP

Childminders registered with Tusla will be permitted to sign up to the CCSP Grant Agreement 2017/2018. However only the CCS Universal element will be available to childminders under this agreement. To sign up to the grant agreement, childminders should contact Roscommon County Childcare Committee.

### New Programme Measures for September 2017

A new FAQ page has been added to the affordable childcare website

[www.affordablechildcare.ie/faq](http://www.affordablechildcare.ie/faq)

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Hopefully this will answer many of the questions that you have about the changes to the programme. If you have questions that don't appear in the FAQ section, you can contact us and we will pass them on to the DCYA. We won't copy and paste all of the Q&As here, we are just including answers to those questions that we have received most often since the announcements – you can find them all, in full, on the website. The FAQs are not being offered in soft copy. This is to ensure that the only version available, is the online one, which will be updated as necessary.

### Early Years Capital Funding

Irene Cafferky Manager of Roscommon CCC was 'delighted with the announcement on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of July by the Minister for Childcare and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone that more than €8.4 million in capital funding has been allocated through the DCYA to 2,200 childcare providers in Ireland.

Irene went on to say that twenty childcare providers in Roscommon received a total of €246,227.31, 2.7% of the overall funding. 60% of the funding allocated to services in our county went to community childcare providers and 40% went to private childcare providers.

This investment by the state and commitment to early years will greatly assist childcare providers in County Roscommon to expand on their service and provide additional childcare places. It will also allow existing services to improve their buildings and develop outdoor play areas.

The Board, Manager and staff of Roscommon CCC would like to congratulate the following childcare services on their successful applications. Manager Irene Cafferky acknowledges that over the summer services will need to work on the drawdown of their allocation to ensure the deadline requirements are met and assure providers that our staff team will support them to meet deadlines if required'.

Service	Funding Awarded
Tulsk Community Childcare Limited	€18,874.15
Toddle In Childcare Centre	€10,093.00
Cruan Bhríde	€16,317.17

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Croghan Fairy Bush Limited	€11,607.05
Cam Community Pre-school	€10,000.00
Frenchpark and District Childcare Ltd	€19,589.00
Hollyhocks Creche	€50,000.00
Little Rascals	€50,000.00
Hopes and Dreams Playschool	€5,000.00
Chatterland Playschool & Creche	€4,880.00
Kiltoom Playgroup	€4,994.00
Brightsparks Pre-school	€4,959.00
Greenfields Childcare & Montessori	€4,994.00
Ballagh Montessori pre-school	€5,000.00
Juniper Tree	€5,000.00
Greenfields Childcare & Montessori	€4,937.25
Croghan Fairy Bush Limited	€4,999.44
Eileen's Pre-school	€5,000.00
Right Start Montessori	€4,983.25
St. John's Pre School	€5,000.00

### Parent and Toddler Group Initiative Grant 2017

Irene Cafferky Manager of Roscommon CCC was delighted with the announcement by the Minister for Childcare and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone that under the National Parent and Toddler Group Initiative Grant 2017, Parent and Toddler Groups in County Roscommon were allocated €4,360.47 in funding. The following Parent and Toddler Groups were approved grants:

- Boyle Parent and Toddler Group
- Stepping Stones Parent and Toddler Group
- High Five Club Parent and Toddler Group
- Tippytoes Parent and Toddler Group
- Kiltoom Parent and Toddler Group
- Sunflowers Parent and Toddler Group
- Croghan Parent and Toddler Group
- Rahara Parent and Toddler Group

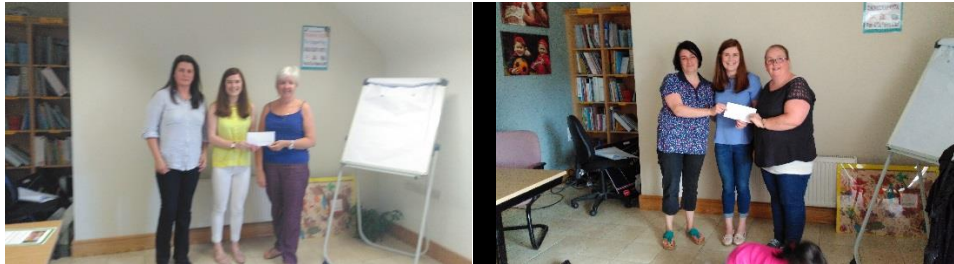
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- Frenchpark Parent and Toddler Group

Roscommon CCC would like to congratulate all the successful Parent and Toddler Groups in the County and we look forward in working closely with them in the coming year. A list of Parent and Toddler Groups in Roscommon are available on Roscommon CCC's website by clicking on the following link <http://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Parent-Toddler-Group-Contact-Details.pdf>



Stepping Stones Parent & Toddler Group    Frenchpark Parent & Toddler Group

### Contractual requirements re: submitting financial accounts

Services were very concerned about this requirement in the programme contracts because there was no explanation as to what it meant. An answer has now been posted as part of the FAQ section on the website. Basically if you are not currently required by an organisation such as CRO to produce audited accounts, then the DCYA will not ask you to.

In previous contracts service providers have been asked to make appropriate accounts available on request, the difference in the new contracts is that you will have to submit them to Pobal within four months of the end of your financial year.

However, because the guidelines regarding 'appropriate' accounts are still being developed, there won't be any compliance requirements for services to submit financial records until the guidelines have been issued. The DCYA have also stated that there will be a lead-in time once the guidelines have been published.

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## Compliance Notification

The Pobal Compliance team will continue to conduct unannounced visits to services that are operational over the summer months as per the service calendars uploaded to PIP for the 2016/2017 programmes cycle. For those services still operating, please ensure that all records relating to other programmes which may have ceased for the summer months (e.g. ECCE) are also available for review during such visits. The Service Provider Compliance 2016/2017 checklist should assist in collating the relevant information that forms part of the compliance checks. In addition, it is essential that all Roll books /Attendance records and fee records where applicable are accessible, as the information contained within will also form part of the compliance checks.

## Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Applications for 2017/18 Open

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 [majella.mcgovern@roscommonchildcare.ie](mailto:majella.mcgovern@roscommonchildcare.ie)

For further information on the AIM programme, please visit [www.aim.gov.ie](http://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.)**

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Roscommon County Childcare Committee are hosting another training course on the implementation of the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Charter and Guidelines for early childhood care and education. By completing this training it will support the Inclusion Officer appointed within your service or if a one of your staff is participating on the LINC programme. Support will be given by RCCC to ensure your Inclusion policy is in line with the Early Childhood Care and Education Charter and Preschool Regulations 2016 to meet the individual needs of your service when the training is completed. **This training is free of charge**

**All session must be attended to receive your certificate of attendance.**

**Dates for your Diary –Second Session - Venue: Athlone**

- **Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 10am – 4.30pm**
- **Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 6.30pm – 9.30pm**
- **Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 6.30pm – 9.30pm**
- **Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 6.30pm – 9.30pm**

To book your place please contact Majella in the office on 0949622520 or email on [majella.mcgovern@roscommonchildcare.ie](mailto:majella.mcgovern@roscommonchildcare.ie)

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