Dear Colleagues,

These are the deadlines and announcements for the week of 06 October – 10 October 2025.

**DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES:**

**13 October:** New ERO effective from date

**13 October – 19 October:** Application change in the Core Funding Application for Staff Funding Additional Contribution

**17 October:** Deadline forthe Learner Fund Bursary for Graduates and Childminders.

**23 October:** AIM L1 application deadline to receive payments from employee start date for 25/26 programme.

**31 October:** Deadline for 2025/26 Quality and Inclusive Plan (QIPP)

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**New Employment Regulations Order**

The new employment regulation order will revoke the 2024 order and will commence on 13th October 2025. Details on the new hourly rates for Early Year Educators and School Age Practitioners can be found [here.](https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/press-releases/new-employment-regulation-order-for-early-years-educators-and-school-age-practitioners-ministers-dillon-and-foley/?fbclid=IwY2xjawNQnnFleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETBwWUlsNnlkaURPaWIwd0RjAR751y01E65V6k6eeYhMXpiBf9FkL3UfZfQ7abW_k4PNiHHt5QORLTA_WBQfiw_aem_iPmZcLTaeK9Z_-KXnyL8bQ)

**Staff Funding Additional Contribution**

To avail of the Staff Funding Additional Contribution, eligible partner services must submit an Application Change between 10am 13 – 19 October 2025 in order to generate the allocation for this funding. The Change Effective will be 13/10/2025 in the ‘Staff Member and/or Capacity Change Effective Date Field. Further information can be found on the HIVE under announcements.

**National Stakeholder Forum for ESD 2025**

The tenth National Forum on Education for Sustainable Development is being held in Maynooth University on Wednesday 29 October. This years Theme is ‘Accelerating Local Level Action’ the aim of this forum is to bring relevant stakeholders together to discuss and consider how targeted collaborations and partnerships can be progressed across the education sector to foster and increase local level action. If you are interested in attending please [register HERE](https://ti.to/education-for-sustainable-development-forum-2025/education-for-sustainable-development-national-forum-2025) in advance of the event by 12pm Wednesday 15 October.

**AIM Level 1 Application Reminder**

AIM Level 1 applications for **existing graduates** opened on the Early Years Hive on Tuesday, 22 July 2025. New graduates (i.e. graduating in October 2025) can apply when final exam results have been notified by Mary Immaculate College. The AIM Level 1 application supports the increased ECCE capitation, funded by DCDE in recognition of the leadership and mentoring role which is delivered by the Inclusion Co-ordinator during the 2025/2026 pre-school year. AIM Level 1 is an annual application process. Applications received by **5pm on Thursday 23 October 2025** will be awarded the additional capitation from the Inclusion Co-ordinator’s employment start date relevant to the 2025/2026 programme year. AIM Level 1 application guidelines can be found [here.](https://earlyyearshive.ncs.gov.ie/how-to-guides/better-start-aim/better-start-aim1/)

**2025/26 Quality and Inclusive Plan (QIPP)**

The QIPP template will open on 8th October and remain open until 31 October. The guidance document and videos can be accessed the [Core Funding – Documents  - Service Provider Portal](https://earlyyearshive.ncs.gov.ie/downloads/download-corefunding/)

**Tusla New Resource**

Guidance video which provides information on different types of inspections. You can access the video [here](https://www.tusla.ie/early-years-inspectorate/)

**Tusla updated regulatory notice**

New regulator notice relating to the use of nappy bins in Early Years Services, click [here](https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/early-years-providers/regulatory-notices/) to read the full notice.

**Pobal Compliance Inspections**

On-site compliance inspections for ECCE (including AIM level 1 & Aim level 7), CCSP and Core Funding will commence shortly. Pobal will deliver webinars on 13 & 16 October that cover compliance processes, invitations can be found in the Announcements section of the Early Years Hive. The Pobal Compliance team have uploaded programme compliance support documents which are available under each relevant section [here](https://earlyyearshive.ncs.gov.ie/downloads/).

**2025 Learner Fund Graduates and Childminder Bursary**

The Learner Fund Bursary is now open for application. Completed applications for the 2025 Learner Fund Graduate and Childminder Bursary must be received by Cork County Childcare Committee by **5pm on Friday, 17 October 2025.** Please submit applications to [info@corkchildcare.ie](mailto:info@corkchildcare.ie) or by post to Market House, Buttevant, Co. Cork, P51 FRD0.Please see attached the application rules & application forms for graduates and childminders. For more information, please visit:  [Learner Fund Graduate and Childminder Bursary 2025 | Nurturing Skills](https://www.nurturingskills.ie/career-development/learner-fund-graduate-and-childminder-bursary-2025/)

**Tusla Registration Renewal**

All Early Years Services are required to renew registration every 3 years. The registration date can be found on the current Tusla certificate or checked on the [Early Years Register](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Cork_May25.pdf) or the [School Age Register](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/External_Register_School_Age.pdf). Please note the following key points:

* Applications must be submitted no later than 2 months before your current certification expires.
* The process requires submission of in-date Garda Vetting for the Registered Provider and the Person in Charge (if different). Current timelines for vetting should be considered.

Failure to reregister in time will result in your removal from the register, and it is an offence to operate an unregistered service. Additional information on re-registration can be found [here.](https://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/early-years-providers/early-years-re-registration/)

**Updated Aistear Training**

Cork County Childcare Committee is planning to host a series of workshops to support providers understanding of the changes to Aistear, and we now invite you to apply to participate.

The workshop consists of two sessions. Participation in the online session is mandatory to attend the next in person session.

Session 1 is theory based and will be run online and session 2 is practical/group work so it will be an in-person session. To begin the online sessions will be run on the following dates:

Wednesday October 22nd @ 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Monday November 3rd @ 2:30pm – 4:30pm

To book your place on this workshop please access the link below and complete the booking form

[**https://forms.office.com/e/9kpquFx5n7**](https://forms.office.com/e/9kpquFx5n7?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBEwOHFLaW5YdWlFdWJyeFhMaAEeHAvdLU2SGYt9heaob-6bWn3z1fQLXk_4FQoWYC-MAL9HS2pSu5AX82C2E40_aem_6vV21Ik67HP8fO-_OIRxWw)

**Pre- Registration Training for Childminders:**

This is a mandatory training programme for existing or potential childminders who wish to register with Tusla. This training will support understanding of the new childminding regulations and will provide all the information required to register with Tusla. This is a FREE training course and takes approximately 7 hours to complete. There is no assessment, and participants will receive a certificate upon completion. There is no expiry date for this training certificate. Attendance at the training will support one to make an informed decision regarding registration with Tusla.  Training dates are as follows: November 2025: Saturday 15th November; Macroom; 9.30am – 5pm

If you are interested in attending this Pre-Registration Training course, please click on this link to book your place:  <https://forms.office.com/e/BK0xWmUmrY>

Any queries about the training or childminding can be made to [dquinlan@corkchildcare.ie](mailto:dquinlan@corkchildcare.ie/) / 022 23880.

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Description automatically generated**Cork County Childcare Committee Facebook Page**

We invite you to visit our website [here](https://www.corkchildcare.ie/) and like and follow our Facebook page Cork County Childcare Committee Ltd for updates and relevant content [here](https://www.facebook.com/people/Cork-County-Childcare-Committee-Ltd/100079059495356/), or scan the QR code

**Kind Regards**

**Cork County Childcare Committee**