



YOUR *Early Years* hive SNAPSHOT

26 January 2026

Upcoming Tasks

National Childcare Scheme (NCS) attendance returns

Who	Services offering NCS 2025/2026.
What	Complete weekly attendance returns for the previous week on the returns page.
When	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 19-25 January returns due Tuesday 27 January 2026.• 26 January-1 February returns due Tuesday 3 February 2026.

Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Level 1 application reminder

Who	Services with new and existing graduates of the Leadership for Inclusion (LINC) programme wishing to avail of AIM Level 1 support for eligible children for 2025/2026.
What	Services currently employing a qualified LINC graduate as an Inclusion Coordinator, that have not yet submitted an AIM Level 1 2025 application, may still apply for the 2025/2026 programme call. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You must have an active ECCE funding agreement.• Submit AIM Level 1 application here.• A guide is available here.
When	Apply as soon as possible. AIM Level 1 funding will start from the Monday following application approval.

February Core Funding Review and Confirm

Who	Partner services that have submitted their original Core Funding application module on or before 31 January 2026.
What	Complete the February Review and Confirm process.
When	The February Review and Confirm window is open from 1-14 February 2026.

Quality and Inclusive Practice Plan (QIPP) report template open for completion

Who	Core Funding partner services 2025/2026.
What	The QIPP report template 2025/2026 is now open on the Core Funding Contractual Requirements Reporting System Portal: https://www.cfcrrs.ie/ . Progress can be documented and saved as you go. For step-by-step guidance, see the QIPP Annual Report Return technical guidance video.
When	The deadline to complete the 2025/2026 QIPP Report is Friday 31 July 2026. More information can be found in the announcement posted 23 January 2026.

The above are for general guidance only. You may have additional tasks outstanding. Check the announcements and notifications pages of the Early Years Hive regularly.



You may have missed...

Changes to split place exemption provision for 2026/2027 Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme

Who	Services offering ECCE 2026/2027.
What	<p>Split place exemptions will no longer be available for the ECCE programme, from the beginning of 2026/2027 ECCE programme year.</p> <p>To support the transition, those that have already been granted a split place exemption for the current 2025/2026 programme year can continue to use this provision for their second year of ECCE in 2026/2027 if they choose to do so.</p>

Closures and changes reporting now available through Early Years Hive

Who	All service providers.
What	<p>A new process is available on the Early Years Hive for services to report closures, changes of owner/legal structure/address, or to exit a programme. This was designed to reduce the administrative workload on childcare services by automating tasks which had been done manually before.</p> <p>Requests should be submitted as soon as a service is aware of a closure or change.</p> <p>See the recorded webinar or the Early Years Hive Resources for more information.</p>

Core Funding Year 4 (2025/2026) Financial Management Tool

Who	Core Funding partner services 2025/2026.
What	The Financial Management Tool Year 4 (2025/2026) is now available on the Core Funding Documents page of the Early Years Hive. If you have any queries, please contact your local City/County Childcare Committee (CCC) .

