YOUR Early Years hive SNAPSHOT

2 June 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	• 25-31 May returns due Tuesday 2 June 2026. • 1-7 June returns due Tuesday 9 June 2026.

Due 2 June: 2025/26 Annual Early Years Sector Profile (AEYSP) survey	
Who	All services.
What	The AEYSP 2025/26 survey is available on the Early Years Hive and is mandatory for all existing Core Funding Partner Services. Services must first update their Service Profile to ensure the most up to date information is included in the AEYSP. For assistance, please contact your local City/County Childcare Committee (CCC) or consult the Early Years Hive.
When	Deadline extended! The survey will now remain open until 3:00pm on Tuesday 2 June 2026 and can be accessed through the Early Years Hive.

Programme Readiness 2026 Training to be held 2-3 June 2026	
Who	All services.
What	Three identical 1-hour programme readiness training sessions will be held that cover details for the fee table, the parent statement, Core Funding, the National Childcare Scheme (NCS), Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), and the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Levels 1, 4, 5 and 7. A recording and PowerPoint slides will be made available on the Early Years Hive once the training has been completed.
When	To register, please click the link to the session of your choice. All sessions will cover the same content. • 2 June 2026, 2:30 pm - Session 1 Registration Link • 2 June 2026, 6:30 pm - Session 2 Registration Link • 3 June 2026, 10:30 am - Session 3 Registration Link

Summer NCS Maintenance	
Who	Services offering NCS 2025/2026.
What	Services are advised to make necessary important changes on the Early Years Hive as soon as possible to ensure there are no issues with returns or payment processing. Refer to the announcement on 19 May 2026 for detailed information. Guidance is also available on the Early Years Hive to help with this process.
When	Closures to service calendars are due in advance of the closure.

The 'upcoming tasks' 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…

Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Level 4 and 5 applications now open	
Who	Services participating in AIM Levels 4 or 5.
What	The AIM Level 4 and 5 application process for the 2026/2027 programme call is now open. Applications should be submitted in line with the processes currently in place. Guidance on submitting AIM Level 4 applications and AIM Level 5 applications can be found on the Early Years Hive.

Temporary arrangements for Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Level 7 applications	
Who	Services participating in AIM Level 7.
What	AIM Level 7 is undergoing a planned remodel that will simplify the application process and reduce administration. See the 13 May 2026 announcement on the Early Years Hive for full details of the changes. As part of this remodel, the level of support for a child will be decided after their AIM Level 4 application has been submitted, and an initial review of the child's needs has been completed by Better Start. Service providers can expect to receive a preliminary decision on this in July. All AIM Level 7 applications for the 2025/2026 programme call should be submitted in line with the existing application processes, prior to the published closing date. Service providers may share the linked letter for parents, legal guardians and carers to provide them with further information on the redesign of the AIM Level 7 application form.

Nurturing Skills Learner Fund (NSLF) Training for Continuing Students	
Who	Existing students who successfully received NSLF funding for the 2024/2025 and/or 2025/2026 academic year and wish to continue receiving NSLF funding for the 2026/2027 academic year.
What	Training sessions were recently held outlining actions required of continuing students on the NSLF student portal. The recording and slides are now available on the Early Years Hive.