

Roscommon CCC Weekly Bulletin for ELC and SAC services in County Roscommon



Supporting
parents &
families & the
ELC and SAC
sector



Roscommon County Childcare Committee Details

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Roscommon CCC Resources

Roscommon CCC has uploaded a variety of useful resources for services and parents on our resource page on our website. www.roscommonchildcare.ie

In this edition

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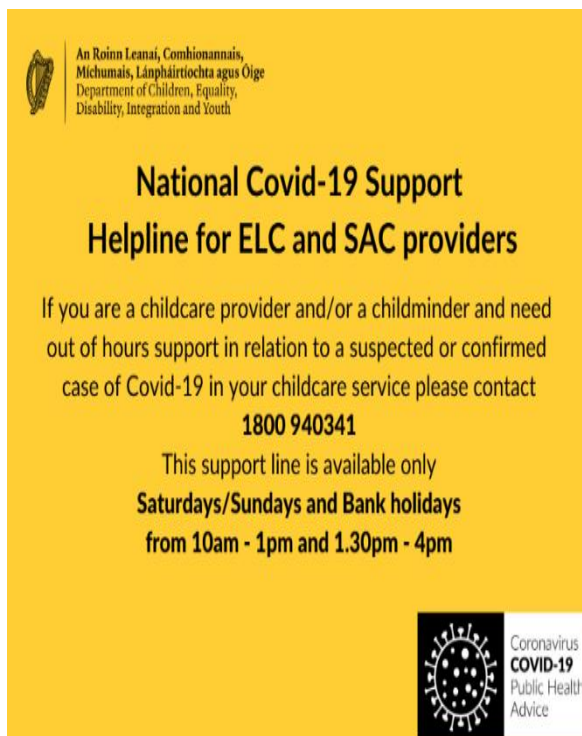


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TIP. Please remember AIM level 5 applications remain on PIP.

Roscommon CCC updates

In this week's bulletin you will find the most recent announcements from DCYA and the PIP Portal. Please note the information in these bulletins is based on official communications from DCYA and Pobal as well as notices on PIP. However, information is subject to change from week to week so please check our most recent bulletin for the most up to date information. Do not forget this bulletin should not replace checking PIP & HIVE- it is merely a reminder of important deadlines and information.




An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Michumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Oige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

**National Covid-19 Support
Helpline for ELC and SAC providers**

If you are a childcare provider and/or a childminder and need
out of hours support in relation to a suspected or confirmed
case of Covid-19 in your childcare service please contact
1800 940341

This support line is available only
**Saturdays/Sundays and Bank holidays
from 10am - 1pm and 1.30pm - 4pm**

**Covid Case Support Helplines**

There are two helplines available to services who have a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 in their service.

1. The HSE have a helpline to advise service providers if they have been informed of a Covid-19 case in a child or a staff member. The number is 01 511 9777 It is open Monday –Friday 8.30 – 4.30 and 10 –4.30 Saturdays, Sundays, and Bank Holidays.
2. For those services who need support on engaging with the relevant authorities due to a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19, there is an out of hours helpline. The number is 1800 940 341. The service will be available Saturday, Sunday, and Bank Holidays from 10.00 –13.00 and 13.30 –16.00.

**Tusla online DLP Briefing Session 19th May 2021 to be rescheduled due to Cyber-attack - new date announced.**

Unfortunately, due to the recent cyber-attack and the impact this has had on Tusla IT systems, Tusla have informed Roscommon CCC that they will not be able to proceed with the Tusla online Briefing Sessions on the Role and Responsibilities of the DLP on 19th May as planned.

Please note that this DLP briefing session will now instead go ahead on 2nd June at 6.30pm.

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All bookings already confirmed by Irene here in Roscommon CCC will automatically receive a link for June 2nd from Irene so there is no need to do anything.

HSE cyber attack

Earlier this week, you would have received a communication from Tusla regarding procedures to follow whilst their computer systems are out of action. The main points are as follows:

The Early Years Inspectorate Registration Office system has been shut down as a precaution.

Therefore, internal systems and the portal are down, and the staff do not have access to email.

-  If you need to submit a **notifiable incident** or if you have a query regarding an existing incident, please call Tusla on 061 461706 or 061 461711.
-  **New registrations** have been temporarily suspended. Liaison with those who have already **submitted** a registration will continue by phone.
-  **New school age registrations** have also been suspended. If you have **submitted a school age** registration, the time limit on resubmissions has been suspended. Tusla staff will continue to liaise with services who have already submitted registrations by phone.
-  **Cessation/change in circumstance forms** should not be submitted. Keep on file and wait for updates.

We have attached a **poster** listing the main contact phone numbers that can be used.

Anyone with **child protection and/or welfare** concerns should continue to follow their policies and procedures and seek informal advice or make reports through the dedicated contact points, which can be found at this link <https://www.tusla.ie/get-in-touch/duty-social-work-teams/>

All concerns should be reported to Tusla or the Gardaí as appropriate. Please see <http://childsafeguardingelc.ie/> and <https://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/> for further information

Interim Covid-19 notification procedure

If you have a case of Covid-19 within your service but haven't heard from the HSE, contact the HSE Childcare facility line on 01 511 9777. They will give you the number to contact the local Departments of Public Health. These numbers are subject to change at the moment, so ring the HSE childcare line first to make sure you are calling the right number.

If someone is symptomatic but has not yet got a test result, they should continue to self-isolate. No-one with Covid-19 symptoms should be in the service. You don't need to exclude close contacts until a confirmed result is received. Whilst there is a slight delay, positive results are being rapidly provided to patients.

Calls to the HSE Childcare facilities line or Departments of Public Health directly are for confirmed cases only please.

The Covid-19 guidance for childcare settings can be found at:

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/childcareguidance/>

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Q. What should I do if I have a Child Protection and Welfare Concern if the Tusla Portal is down?

A. As you may be aware, there has been a cyber-attack on the HSE's IT system. This has resulted in the Tusla Portal, through which Child Protection Reports are generally made, being unavailable. In the absence of the Portal, those with Child Protection and Welfare Concerns should continue to follow their organisational procedures and seek informal consultation or make reports or through the Dedicated Contact Points, which can be found at this link <https://www.tusla.ie/get-in-touch/duty-social-work-teams/>

All practitioners should continue to ensure that the safety and welfare of the child remains of paramount importance and that all concerns are reported to Tusla and An Garda Síochána, where appropriate.

Please see <http://childsafeguardingelc.ie/> and <https://www.tusla.ie/services/child-protection-welfare/> for further information
Child and Family Agency - Tusla



Please find attached and below some important updates for you as owner/manager and your voluntary management committees (if community services)

DCEDIY, HIVE & PIP DEADLINES/IMPORTANT DATES**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:****April FIRs**

Friday 28 May 2021-April FIR submission deadline

- NCS survey closes (see below for further details)

**AIM applications.**


2021/2022 Applications for AIM levels 4, 5 and 7 are now open.

AIM level 4 & 7 are now available on the HIVE.

Aim level 5 remains on PIP.




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Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

**National Covid-19 Support
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 Coronavirus COVID-19 Public Health Advice

Covid-19 isolation guidelines

There has been an increase in queries to the national Covid support helpline in relation to the isolation of children who are suspected/confirmed to have Covid-19 or are close contacts. Attached are the quick guides to the isolation of adults and children over 13 and for children under the age of 13.

The Covid-19 guidance for childcare settings can be found at:

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/childcareguidance/>



The transition to school remains especially difficult again this year because of Covid conditions. Attached to this email are some transitions resources that have been developed for parents. This year the NCCA have also developed an additional parents' template for children starting in ECCE. Services are being asked to print them for the parents of children starting school, to help them to support the children with the transition. Please contact us if you have any difficulties accessing the resources. Equally we would love to hear of ways you have used them with parents.



The Mó Scéal templates linked below have been developed for parents to fill in to share information for their child's new pre-school or primary school.

Links to Mó Scéal templates in English:

- Moving to Pre-School: <http://bit.ly/MoScealPreSchool>
- Moving to Primary School: <http://bit.ly/MoScealPrimarySchool>

Links to Mó Scéal templates in Irish:

- Ag aistriú ar an réamhscoil: <http://bit.ly/MoScealReamhscoil>
- Ag aistriú go dtí an bhunscoil: <http://bit.ly/MoScealBhunscoil>

Also attached is a postcard for the children to draw themselves or anything else for their new teacher and leaflets for parents to support the learning of new skills and developing independence skills for starting pre-school and school.

These NPC resources have been developed to support parents and children through the transition from their early years' service to primary school.

If you require any assistance with printing the attached documents, please contact your assigned CDO or email info@roscommonchildcare.ie. Also a webinar is being hosted this evening at 7pm Transition from Preschool to Primary School, services can Register via:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mSkd2zvcQWuGgim3V0UI5w.

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As part of the National Action Plan for Childminding (2021-2028), the DCEDIY have put together a short survey on training and supports for childminders, particularly asking for views on the organisation of childminding networks locally. We would greatly appreciate your participation in this survey which can be accessed through <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DD9552T>.

**NCS survey update**

The NCS survey has been updated with an additional question. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete and will be used to inform the review of the programme.

The survey can be found at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/NCS-Provider-Survey>

NCS applicant validation

Pobal will be undertaking compliance checks on the information submitted by a random sample of parents who have applied under NCS. Where the information submitted cannot be verified, a recoupment process may be undertaken. This will be between Pobal and the applicant and service providers will not be contacted or involved in the process. This may result in an award being given a new end date.

More information can be found in the NCS applicant terms and conditions (available on the Hive) and the updated NCS applicant FAQ which can be found here <https://www.ncs.gov.ie/en/faqs/>

Child-initiated outdoor play webinar

Hibernia College are offering a free webinar focussed on child initiated outdoor play in early childhood settings. The presenter is Dr. Margaret Kernan, an expert in outdoor play.

You can register for the webinar here: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/early-childhood-educator-online-webinar-series-webinar-1-tickets-155929610663>



Parents Resources - The National Parents Council (NPC) have developed some useful resources to support you and your child through the transition from their early years' service to primary school.

There is also a link to the Mo Scéal template, which has been developed for parents by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) to fill in to share information with your child's new pre-school or primary school. Mo Scéal means "My Journey" in Irish.

If you have any questions about these resources or any aspects of your child's pre-school or primary school education, you can contact our parent Helpline by telephone Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm Tel: **01 8874477** or by email helpline@npc.ie



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3rd June 2021, 10am – 12noon.

The event is Free, but you will need to register for a ticket. Please register [here](#)

The webinar is for anyone who comes into contact with children and young people during the course of their work and aims to give a voice to the children who live with Domestic Violence and Abuse ...

The Little Library initiative

The Little Library initiative has been launched by DCEDIY. The bags will be with the libraries next week and the librarians will then start making contact with the services in their area asking the services to come and collect the bags.

There are two book bag types produced containing five books each:

- a book bag for general ELCs containing one Irish title and the remainder in English
- a book bag of all Irish titles for providing to the Naíonraí.
- each bag contains 5 story books for children selected by the national library service for children up to five years.

The bag also contains a number of resources from the libraries including a service library card and a guide to that local library. There are also two specially developed booklets developed by Barnardo's for the First 5 Little Library project, one on using books and stories with children under 5 and the other a guide to developing a little library in the early learning and care setting.

Early Learning & Care settings are allocated bags according to the number of children in the setting and services with less than 38 children are allocated one bag, services with 39-100 children are allocated two bags and services with 101 plus children registered are allocated 3 bags.

A second provision of Little Library Book Bags is planned to take place in the autumn to tie in with Children's Book Festival and it is hoped that SACs will be included at that time.

Please to contact your local library in County Roscommon