



Dear Early Childhood Care and Educator/Service Provider,

This is the last bulletin of 2017 and the Board and staff of Roscommon County Childcare Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your staff and the children and families that attend your services a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a wonderful New Year. We look forward to working with you all again in 2018.



I want to take this opportunity to wish two of our colleagues here Majella Mc Govern and Louise Woods the very best of luck as they move on to new opportunities. Many of you will have benefited from their support and advice and I am sure you will echo my sentiments when I say we will certainly miss them. It has been a great pleasure working with colleagues like Majella and Louise and now as they both turn the next pages in their life's story, we join together in wishing both of them every success in their future endeavors." Good luck and farewell girls!



Roscommon County Childcare Committee offices **will close at 2pm Friday 22nd December** and will reopen on **Tuesday 2 January 2018 @ 9.30am**



Please keep updated through our new website 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 will also have a feature on the national schemes in the Roscommon Herald on the week of 18th December so keep an eye out for that.

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

30th December 2017 Early Years and School Age Capital 2017 Returns

Please be advised, all outstanding EYC and SAC capital returns must be submitted to Pobal by the 30th of December 2017. Any returns not submitted by that date WILL NOT receive the final 10% of the grant. Services that do not submit returns will be subject to a funding de-committal and risk having to return the 90% of the grant that has already been paid.

15th January 2018 – Túsla Quality and Regulatory Framework Consultation Closes

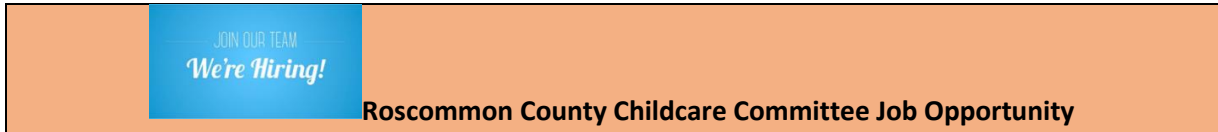
The consultation with the sector on the new guidelines for the Childcare Regulations closes on this date. See below for more information.

2nd February 2018 – CCS Appeals Window Closes

All CCS registration appeals must be completed by this date. Please see below for further details.

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Roscommon County Childcare Committee wish to recruit personnel that will further support the provision of an effective and responsive advisory and support service to early year's services and parents under the local remit of Roscommon CCC on behalf of the Department of Children & Youth Affairs. The roles are varied and present an opportunity for those wishing to progress their career within the early years sector.

- 1. Early Childhood Care & Education Childcare Development Officer (CDO) Full Time**
- 2. 1 x Early Childhood Care & Education Childcare Development Officer (CDO) Part Time**
- 3. Childcare Project Worker (Supporting Programme Refugee in collaboration with Tusla) Part Time**

Full Job Descriptions and Application Forms are available for download from our website www.roscommonchildcare.ie

Closing date for the receipt of applications is 12.00pm Wednesday 20th December 2017. Successful candidates will be contacted by phone and Interviews will be held on Thursday 21st December 2017 in the offices of Roscommon County Childcare Committee, Castlerea.



To further support childcare services in the recruitment of staff a new jobs board will be available on Roscommon CCC website in January. It will enable childcare service to manually post job vacancies on Roscommon CCC website.

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Presentation to The Children's Medical & Research Unit at Our Lady's National Children's Hospital, Crumlin.

Roscommon County Childcare Committee in collaboration with Roscommon County Council, Football Association of Ireland, GAA, Lough Key Forest Park, Castlerea Inflatables, Roscommon Integrated Development Company raised € 1,696.19 in respect of donations collected from our 10th Annual Roscommon County Play Day 2017 for Crumlin Children's Early Medical Research Foundation.

The theme 'Fun and Active play' was reflected through the activities available on the day. Soccer and the GAA games provide children with an opportunity to engage in active play in a fun and meaningful way. The storytelling sessions incorporated interactive storytelling and encouraged children's participation creating a fun element. The face painting reflected children's choices and also Castlerea Inflatable's such as Spider Man that were present on the day. Children had the opportunity to engage in art activities on the Big Blue Bus. There were a number of Irish dancers present representing a wide age range displaying how cultural inclusion can really enhance a fun Playday as these were very popular on the day.



Left to right: Louise Wood (CDO), Irene Cafferky (Manager), Carmel Dunne (CDO), Martina Towey (Administrator) and Majella Mc Govern (CDO)

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The Children First Act and Mandated Reporting



From December 11, 2017 Early Years Services including staff, service owners, board of management and volunteers will have new legal obligations under the Children First Act 2015.

The following resources contain information on the new requirements:

- 1) [Children First National Guidance for the Protection & Welfare of Children](#). The new Guidance includes information on the new legal requirements and contains important information for professionals working with children and organisations providing services to children. Everyone working in an early years' service should read and be familiar with the new guidance document. This Guidance will operate from Dec 11, 2017. Any previous guidance should be disposed of from this date.
- 2) [Questions and Answers – Early Years Services and the Children First Act, 2015](#).

ECCE January Registrations

Please be advised that the ECCE January registration window has been extended to allow Registrations be made up to two weeks in advance of childcare start date.

Therefore, ECCE registrations with a Start Date of 01/01/2018 may be registered from Monday 18th December, and similarly, registrations with a Start Date of 08/01/2018 may be registered from 25/12/2017.

ECCE Payments - Christmas Period

Please find details below of the ECCE Payments schedule and an update on registrations over Christmas:

Payment Dates:	Payable To:	Covering Maximum:
01 st December 2017	19 th January 2018	7 weeks
08 th December 2017	19 th January 2018	7 weeks
15 th December 2017	19 th January 2018	7 weeks
05 th January 2018	19 th January 2018	7 weeks
12 th January 2018	19 th January 2018	7 weeks
19 th January 2018	23 rd February 2018	5 weeks

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If Registrations Approved By Close Of Business On:	You Will Receive Payment On:
27 th November 2017	01 st December 2017
04 th December 2017	08 th December 2017
11 th December 2017	15 th December 2017
02 nd January 2018	05 th January 2018
08 th January 2018	12 th January 2018
15 th January 2018	19 th January 2018

PLEASE NOTE:

- Payments made on a Friday will cover registrations, Higher Capitation, and AIM Level 1 (LINC) allocations approved by close of business on the previous Monday.
- Services will be paid in accordance with submitted service calendars therefore non-payable weeks should be taken into consideration.
- Following discussions with the DCYA it has been agreed to allow early registration for the January intake - Children being registered from 1st January can be entered on the system from **Monday 18th December** (14 days in advance of start date).

If you have any queries please contact Pobal Online Support on 01-5117122, or Roscommon County Childcare Committee

CCS 2017 Registrations and Appeals

This applies to CCS registrations only, not to CCSP.

All 2017 CCS registrations have been approved and the bands awarded, there is a notice on PIP to this effect. Pobal are asking services to review the bands that have been awarded to families. Where there are documents already attached to a registration that prove eligibility for a different band, Pobal are currently reviewing these. Pobal will let you know via the comment section or registration request if the band stays as is or has been changed. Services do not need to appeal these registrations until they have received a response from Pobal.

If the registration is still provisional it may be due to:

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- A PPSN not validated
- Overlapping registration dates
- Initial checks have not been able to confirm eligibility and a band could not be awarded.

Pobal will review any attached documents. Attach any documentation you have as soon as possible if you haven't already done so.

If you wish to appeal the band awarded, you must supply the correct eligibility documentation. You have until 2 February to complete an appeal.

Túsla Quality and Regulatory Framework Consultation

The Early Year's Inspectorate is now inviting all interested parties to give their feedback on this draft of the QRF. The purpose of this consultation is

- To provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to give their views
- To understand any potential concerns or challenges emerging
- To identify potential training and other needs arising.

For more information and an invitation to participate and give feedback via an online survey on the Túsla Early Years Inspectorate Draft Quality and Regulatory Framework (QRF) click on the following [link](#).

The consultation is open from 30th November to the 15th of January 2018.

Early Years Education Policy Consultation

The Early Years Education Policy Consultation draft document for consultation is available by clicking on the following [link](#)



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