



SUMMER Newsletter



A word from Sharon

Sligo County Childcare Committee would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Minister for Children & Youth Affairs Dr. Katherine Zappone.

Appointed Minister for Children and Youth Affairs on May 6th, 2016.

Dr. Katherine Zappone was nominated to the 24th Seanad Éireann by Taoiseach Enda Kenny in 2011. She was elected to Dail Éireann for the Dublin South West Constituency in February 2016.



Forbairt Cáilíocht
Luathbhlianta Náisiúnta
National Early Years
Quality Development



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Staff

Manager Sharon Boles

Development Workers

Viola Craig, Joan

McGrath, Nicola

McCormack

Administrator-Suzanne Scanlon

Reception—Laura

Norman & Barry

Sullivan



She is a former Commissioner with the Irish Human Rights Commission (2002-2012) and a former CEO of the National Women's Council of Ireland.

Dr. Katherine Zappone has spent her life campaigning on social justice issues to ensure that everyone is treated equally with fairness and justice.

She is co-founder of An Cosán, an organisation that combats inter-generational poverty through education and training, with her spouse Dr. Ann Louise Gilligan. Since its inception, An Cosán has grown into Ireland's largest community education organisation supporting over 1,000 families annually. An Cosán also runs early childhood education and care facility, Rainbow House and Fledglings social enterprise, which operates eight community pre-schools around the country.

Minister Zappone holds a PhD from Boston College, an MBA from the Smurfit Business School and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from UCD School of Law.





Child Care (Early Years Service) Regulations 2016.

The new Child Care (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 were recently announced and are due to come in to effect from June 30th 2016. Some of the main changes for service providers relate to:

Registration: details of the registration process and requirements are set out.

Management: clear management structures must be in place in services. This has implications on staff management and support.

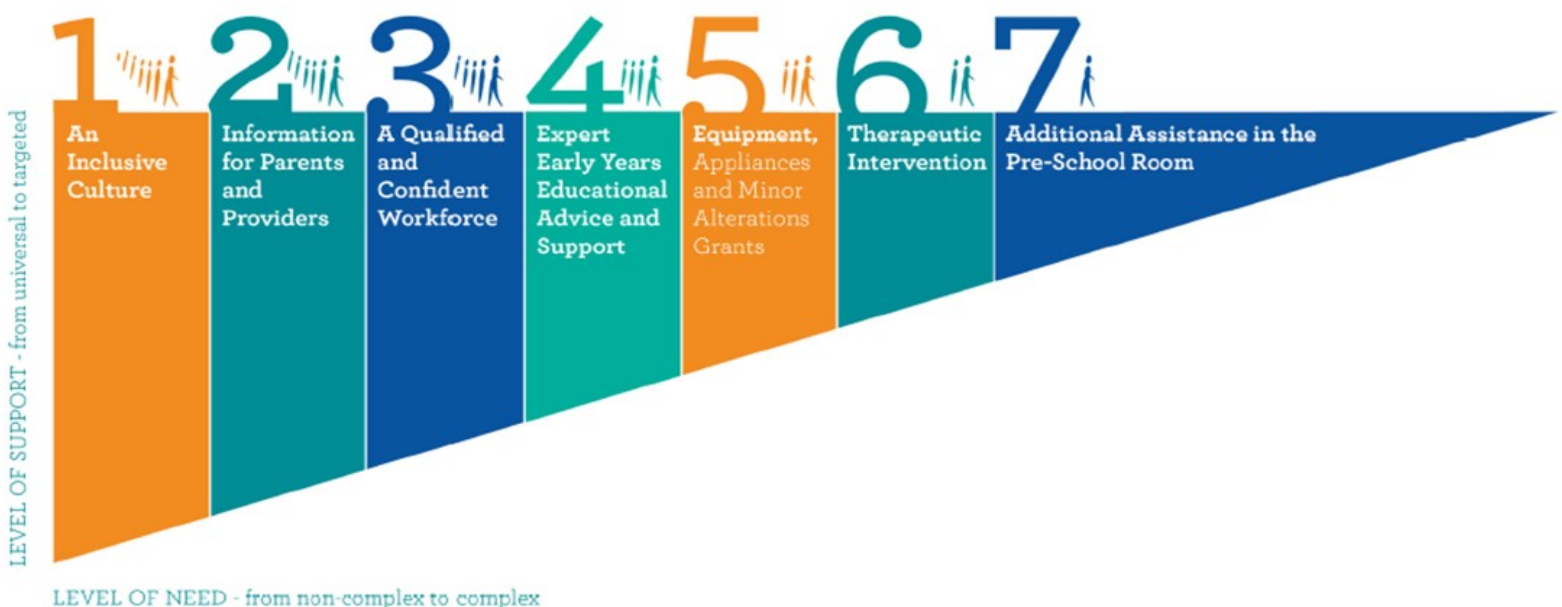
Minimum qualification requirements: all staff must be qualified to level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications by December 31st 2016 for existing services and June 30th 2016 for new services.

The full document can be accessed at: <http://www.dcy.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?fn=/documents/publications/20160510ChildCareActEarlyYrsRegs2016SI2210f2016.pdf> or on the TUSLA website.

Supporting Access to the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme for Children with a Disability.

This inter-departmental report was released in September 2015. It promotes a 7 stranded approach to meeting the needs of Children with a Disability accessing the ECCE Free Pre-School Year. It encourages a tailored approach to inclusion matching the level of support with the level of need required by an individual Child

A Model to Support Access to the ECCE Programme
for Children with a Disability



Supporting Access to the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme for Children with a Disability.

(Full Document)

http://www.hea.ie/sites/default/files/idg_report_-_supporting_access_to_ecce_for_children_with_a_disability_final.pdf

Smart Start Sligo in Action

A number of Early Years services in Sligo have been taking part in the Smart Start Programme. They have been busy carrying out different activities and hosting parents meeting as part of the programme.

Some wonderful ideas and activities have been taking place including children visiting services within the community, different health professionals visiting Early Years services, development of outdoor areas, an increase of outdoor play to promote children's physical activity as well as hosting parent's evenings to share information on the Healthy Ireland Smart Start programme.

Samples of change in practice within services have included the introduction of daily brushing of teeth.



Any Early Years' service interested in undertaking the Healthy Ireland Smart Start training programme or would like more details should contact National Childcare Network at 047 72469 or joanmcg@sligochildcare.ie



Gnashers are available along with a resource handout for a deposit of €10 which will be given back on Gnashers safe return.



SLIGO COUNTY CHILDCARE GO TO THE FOREST

As part of the Aistear Stage 2 training programme Sligo County Childcare Committee hosted an Exploring and Thinking workshop in Union Wood. This workshop was facilitated by Shirley Tutty from Galway who is qualified in Forest School Leadership. Shirley went through aspects of Health and Safety and Risk analysis in addition to several fun learning activities that can take place with children and which supports many aims and learning Goals of Aistear. This was a new and exciting venture for Sligo County Childcare Committee to deliver a workshop in a natural outdoor environment.

Comments from participants at this workshop included:

'Was great to know new ideas and how rewarding they are'

'Will be able to bring new ideas from forest to my early years setting'

'I am definitely thinking of planning a trip to forest with children attending my service'

'It was great to experience a different outlook on outdoor play and get ideas we can bring back and use in our setting, eg collecting samples and listening to different sounds'

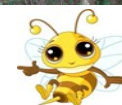
'Excellent session which will help me in developing my new outdoor environment'

'Was great to learn different ways in which children can explore outdoors'



Sligo County Childcare Committee followed on from this venture by hosting a second outdoor evening workshop which was specifically focused for practitioners working with School Age Children and Summer Camps. This workshop

Was facilitated by Trisha Mc Laughlin who is based in Sligo and is also a qualified Forest School Leader. Trisha is also available to work with staff teams and children in relation to exploring their natural environments and local forests.

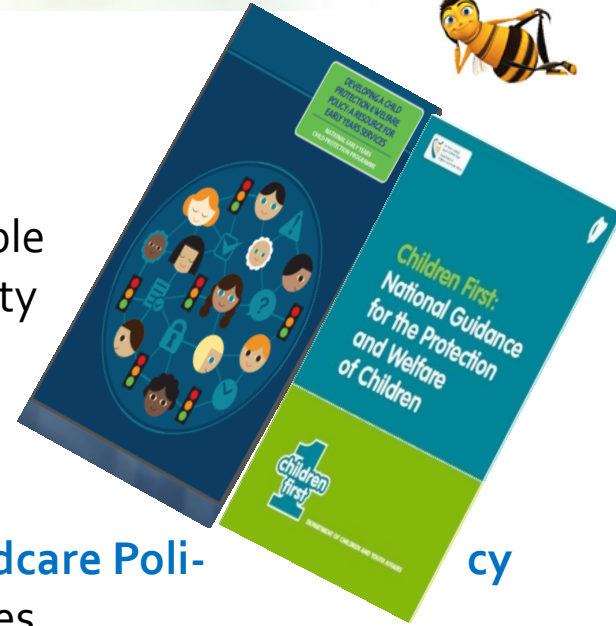


TRAINING

Child Protection training



Since the rollout of the new **Foundation Child Protection training** in 2014 a total of 10,000 people have been trained nationally. In 2015 Sligo County Childcare Committee have trained 131 staff from 44 services and 6 childminders from Sligo services.



We also provide training in **Developing your Childcare Policy** and to date 28 staff have attended from 18 services

The Student Programme is currently under pilot and we are awaiting the rollout of the Programme specific to Designated Liaison Person.

There has been an excellent uptake in Sligo and we would urge any service who have not engaged in the new Programme to contact us and reserve a place for training in the Autumn.

External Training



USEFUL CONTACTS FOR HACCP, FIRST AID ETC..

About Hygiene Ltd. 071 9645111, info@abouthygiene.ie for HACCP Training

Premier First Aid Training, 087 9664150

First Aid Plus. 087 1181992, info@firstaidplus.ie

Williams Medical & Safety, 087 6846500, williamsfirstaid@gmail.com

First Aid Solutions, 083 1665116, 074 9890112

Bsbtraining , info@bsbtraining



Early Years Education Focused Inspections



The early-years education-focused inspections are part of the wider quality agenda for the early-years sector. Both departments, the DES and DCYA, have been working closely together to improve the quality of provision in pre-schools. Further, the education focused inspections will complement the inspections carried out by TUSLA, the regulatory body for early-years provision.

The new inspections build on existing curriculum and quality assurance frameworks for pre-schools, most notably, *Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework*, and *Siolta: the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education*. During the inspections, the DES early-years inspectors will monitor the quality of the educational experiences provided for children in pre-schools and will give feedback and practical advice to practitioners about how, the quality of children's experiences can be improved.

Approval by both Ministers on the new inspections follows a comprehensive developmental and consultation process. During that process, pilot inspections were carried out in 55 pre-schools and the Inspectorate consulted with key stakeholder groups including early-years practitioners, owners/managers of pre-school services, parents, academics, and organisations that provide support to early-years services.





All EYEI inspections conducted from 11 April onwards will result in a written inspection report which will be published on the DES and DCYA websites. It is anticipated that the first reports to be published will be available from June 2016 and that the publication process will, in addition to making information available to parents and the early-years sector, bring about incremental improvement in education provision in pre-schools.

The guide to the inspections can be found on the Department's website:

[A Guide to Early-Years Education-focused Inspection \(EYEI\) in Early-Years Settings Participating in the Early Childhood Care and Education \(ECCE\) Programme \(2016\)](#)

<http://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2016-Press-Releases/PR16-04-13.html#sthash.M1JbH5lq.dpuf>





Garda Vetting

The following websites may be of assistance to you for international police clearance

United Kingdom

<http://www.acro.police.uk/ICPC>
www.disclosurescotland.co.uk



Australia

www.afp.gov.au

This website will provide you with information on obtaining a national police clearance certificate for Australia.

New Zealand

www.courts.govt.nz

This website will provide you with information on obtaining police clearance in New Zealand.

United States of America

Please note that valid Security/Overseas Clearance from the USA must be obtained from the FBI only,

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html>;

FBI Clearance is valid for all of the United States and convictions / remarks occurring anywhere in the United States would be noted.

Other Countries

For other countries not listed above you may find it helpful to contact the relevant embassies who could provide you with information

Is snack or mealtime a positive experience for children in your setting ?

The Early Years setting is the ideal venue to introduce children to the social aspect of sharing mealtimes with others, while introducing healthy eating habits. The pre-school years are a great time to help children form positive attitudes towards food and to develop good eating habits, attitudes and lifestyles. Here are some pointers which highlight positive methods for early years practitioners to implement, which will enhance snack and meal time for young children.

Do you sit, eat and speak with the children at snack or mealtime ?

This is a perfect time to engage children in conversation, explore a range of topics and demonstrate positive choices for healthy food and drink. This also gives children a sense of the value of the dining experience when adults engage in the process.

Do the children serve themselves or is the food served to them ?



Children having opportunity to serve themselves promotes independence and also provides opportunity for choice. Scale of size must be a consideration i.e. a small jug for water until children become confident in handling without spills. This can be graduated to a larger jug as children become confident.

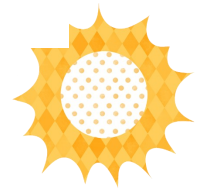


Is the environment inviting ?

Take time to reflect on the ambience which surrounds the Dining Experience ?

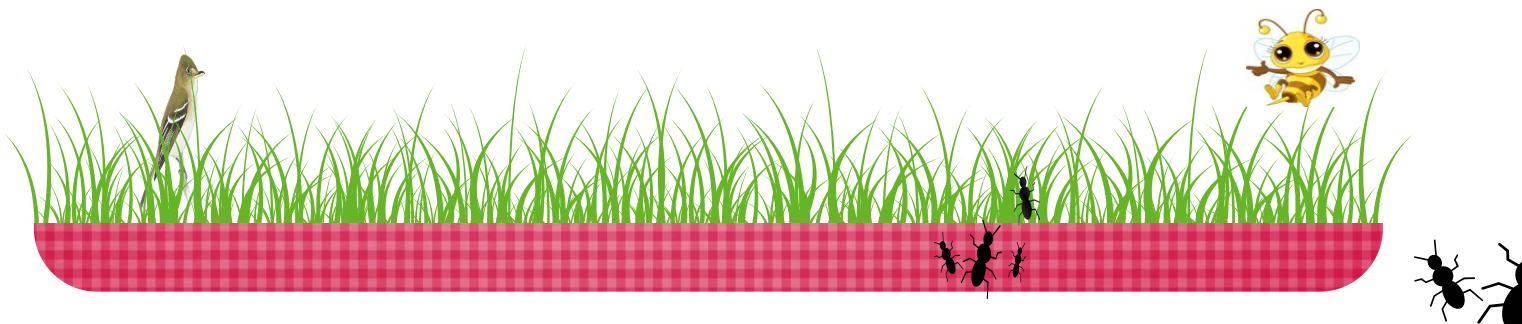
What material are your plates etc. made from ?

Plastic or Delph ? If they are plastic consider why can't we also use Delph - especially with the older children.



Do children have responsibility for and control of their environment ?

Having a role to play in the process helps to promote a sense of responsibility and self-efficacy - confidence in their ability to plan, carry out and complete a task





Learner Fund 3

Learner

Fund 3 (May 2016) is open for applications from
**Learner Applicants with a DCYA Qualification
Recognition Letter**

A Learner who has applied to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) for qualification status recognition, and who has received a letter from DCYA verifying that their current qualification is not a Major Award at Level 5, is eligible to apply for Learner Fund 3 (May 2016) in order to undertake a Major Award at Level 5 to meet future minimum regulatory qualification requirements.

Learner Fund 3 (May 2016) is open to applications from May 27th and will close on July 29th.

**Please see announcements on PIP for further
information.**



Learner Fund



Please be aware from 31st December 2016, all staff working directly with children in your early years' service must hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

In addition to this, staff working in an ECCE Room Leader capacity must also hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Learner Fund Round	Course Level	Course Completion Date	Compliance deadline for Early Years
LF 1 & LF 2	5&6	2/12/2016	31/12/2016
LF3	5	31/12/2016	31/12/2016
LF4	6	30/06/2017	TBC
LF3	5	31/12/2016	31/12/2016

Useful Document on PIP

On PIP, under Document type please see dcya programmes info and FAQ'S



Don't forget about our wonderful Library...



ECCE Eligibility for 2016

Children Born in 2013

Birth	ECCE 2015	ECCE 2016	Entry Point	No. Of Weeks for 2016 - 2017 pre-school year	ECCE 2017	Entry Point	No. Of Weeks for 2017 - 2018 pre-school year	Total Eligible Weeks	School Start Year	School Start Age
Jan-13	NO	YES	Sep-16	38	YES	Sep-17	38	76	Sept'18	5.8
Feb-13	NO	YES	Sep-16	38	YES	Sep-17	38	76	Sept'18	5.7
Mar-13	NO	YES	Sep-16	38	YES	Sep-17	38	76	Sept'18	5.6
Apr-13	NO	YES	Sep-16	38	YES	Sep-17	38	76	Sept'18	5.5
May-13	NO	YES	Sep-16	38	YES	Sep-17	38	76	Sept'18	5.4
Jun-13	NO	YES	Sep-16	38	YES	Sep-17	38	76	Sept'18	5.3
Jul-13	NO	YES	Sep-16	38	YES	Sep-17	38	76	Sept'18	5.2
Aug-13	NO	YES	Sep-16	38	YES	Sep-17	38	76	Sept'18	5.1
Sep-13	NO	YES	Jan-17	23	YES	Sep-17	38	61	Sept'18	5
Oct-13	NO	YES	Jan-17	23	YES	Sep-17	38	61	Sept'18	4.11
Nov-13	NO	YES	Jan-17	23	YES	Sep-17	38	61	Sept'18	4.10
Dec-13	NO	YES	Jan-17	23	YES	Sep-17	38	61	Sept'18	4.9

Expansion of ECCE programme



The Expansion of the ECCE programme was announced in Budget 2016.

Children who turn three years of age can avail of free preschool at the beginning of the term after their third birthday.

From September 2016, children who have turned three on or prior to 31st August can avail of an additional free preschool year. As children turn three years of age they can start at the beginning of the academic term following their third birthday as follows:

Children turning three year from 1st September – 31st December can avail of free pre school from beginning of January.





Fees Policies

It's nearly that time of year again... Fees Policy time!!! Please make sure to use templates that are provided on PIP and to make changes where necessary to suit your service. Please contact us if you have any issues before submitting especially CCSP services that may not be to familiar with the programme.



PLEASE REMEMBER the programme end year for ASCC, CEC and CETS is the 26th of August. If you have any Parents who's course or scheme runs after this date you will need to re-register the children again.



Changes to Garda Vetting

As you may be aware the Garda National Vetting Bureau Act 2012 has now been enacted.

The Act will introduce a number of changes to Garda Vetting procedures and the structures designed to implement the act are promised to reduce vetting application times quite significantly. The full text of the act can be found on www.irishstatutebook.ie and further details with respect to the application process can be obtained from your authorised signatory or vetting provider.

The Garda Vetting unit closed at the end of April and following a transition period, has re-opened as the National Vetting Bureau on May 3rd. This transition period allowed the bureau to make the change over to their new on line application system.



Childminding Developing Grant

What is the Childminder Development Grant?

The aim of the grant is to enhance the safety/quality of the childminding service through the purchase of childcare equipment, safety equipment and toys. It may also give financial assistance to new or prospective childminders with their initial set up costs.

How much funding is available under the Childminder Development Grant?

The maximum grant available to the childminder who fully meets the criteria of the scheme is 90% of the total receipted childcare expenditure, subject to a maximum grant of €1,000. i.e. spend €1,111 and claim back 90% = €1,000.

Criteria for the grant:

Childminders/Potential Childminders must have First Aid, Child Protection and insurance cover.

Registration to Child and Family Agency or Voluntary Notified to the CCC

Please note: If you care for 4 or more preschool children at any one time then you are obliged to register your Childminding service with the Child & Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate. If you care for three children or less then you can voluntarily notify Sligo County Childcare Committee of your Childminding service.

Childminders may re-apply for the CMDG after 2 years,



CMDG Applications will be available in the next number of weeks, if you are interested in applying please leave your details with the office and we will send application forms when available.

New funding applications for 2016:

**I am a NEW Service Provider wishing to participate in the DCYA
Childcare Funding Programmes – how can I do this?**

For new entrants (i.e.) service/facilities that do not have a DCYA reference number):

- A. From Wednesday 25th May 2016 - Contact your local City/County Childcare Committee for an application form for the childcare funding programme you wish to participate in.**
- B. Your CCC will request that you complete the application form in full and provide any supporting documentation required.**
- C. Once your CCC is satisfied that all the details are in order they will issue your application to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.**
- D. The Department of Children of Youth Affairs will check the application and once in agreement that you can participate in the childcare funding programme(s) they will issue an instruction to Pobal to set your organisation/service up on the Programmes Implementation Platform (PIP).**
- E. A PIP Username and Password will be issued to you (your unique email address with sole access by you).**
- F. Once you receive your password you can then proceed to follow Steps 3 and 4 as below.**



Please be advised that a communication in relation to the New Fees Policy and Service Calendar Process will be issued in the near future.



Childcare Funding Programmes Contracts 2016-2017

Processing of Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) Childcare Funding Programme Contracts for the 2016-2017 'Programme Call' will begin shortly.

The process this year will differ from previous years. As notified to service providers in previous funding programme contracts, contract agreements for the DCYA Childcare Funding Programmes will be processed through the Programmes Implementation Platform (PIP).



Q. What does this mean?

This means that when the time comes to 'sign' contracts for the funding programmes, this will be done online where service providers will certify that all their details are correct and will agree to the terms and conditions of the programme(s).

Q. How will this work?

As existing service providers using the PIP System will know, efforts have been made to ensure that the correct person authorised to sign contracts on behalf of the organisation has been identified and has provided a unique email address for their sole use.



However as we move to the online contracting process, we now need to confirm and update the identity and secured access for the correct person, which will be known as the PRIMARY AUTHORISED USER on PIP. Once the PRIMARY AUTHORISED USER has been assigned, they will be able to proceed to contract online.



Q. How do I prove my identity in order to process a contract online?

STEP 1- Ensure you are currently recorded as a PIP USER (i.e. have a password to manage PIP Child registrations etc) – if you are not, please complete the [PIP USER Mandate form](#) and submit it to pipdocuments@pobal.ie

STEP 2- Your local City/County Childcare Committee (CCC) will contact you in the near future to confirm:

a) that you are already a PIP User
and

b) you are the person legally authorised to sign-up to the DCYA Childcare Funding Programmes for your organisation

Your CCC may request that you present to the CCC Office with photographic ID (i.e. passport/drivers licence). In some cases your CCC may also search your details on the CRO website to confirm that you are in fact legally authorised to sign-up to DCYA Childcare Funding for the organisation.

STEP 3- Once step two is complete your CCC will confirm for you that they will be in a position to approve you as the PRIMARY AUTHORISED USER* on PIP.



*The approval of the CCC will only need to happen once for the PRIMARY AUTHORISED USER. If the PRIMARY AUTHORISED USER continues to remain in place over a number of years then in subsequent years you will only need to certify on PIP that you are the authorised person. In the event that your circumstances change steps 1-3 may need to be repeated. If the service facility details change then you may need to contact your CCC to engage as a 'brand new service'.



STEP 4- You will then 'nominate' yourself on the PIP System as the PRIMARY AUTHORISED USER, after which your CCC will approve this on the PIP System (Instructions to be provided in the near future).



Once Steps 1 – 4 are complete:

As the PIP PRIMARY AUTHORISED USER, you will be the person authorised to manage the programme contracts online. Your permissions on the PIP System will allow you certain controls for the organisation that the other PIP Users will not have e.g. you will be able to access your tax clearance details, financial/bank details, authorising user access rights against each of the facilities/services registered under the organisation.



Q. When will I actually process my funding programme contract on the PIP System?

- At the end of July 2016 the PIP System will be ready for you to manage the programme contracts online. **You must have completed Steps 1-4 in advance.**

- This process will require you to certify that all of the organisation contact details are correct on the system. - The process will then require that **for each service/facility** of your organisation (if multiple),



- The contract text for each childcare funding programme will be provided on PIP. You will be required to certify that you have read and agree to the terms and conditions of the programme and that you wish to 'activate' the contract for that facility. **Note: A copy of the programme contract texts will be available for service providers to view shortly.**



Q. I will be the PIP PRIMARY AUTHORISED USER for my organisation but I have multiple services/facilities across different CCC areas – which CCC do I confirm my identity to?

Please contact the CCC in which your Head Office is located.

Q. I will be the PIP PRIMARY AUTHORISED USER for a large organisation or as part of a legal partnership and would like others/ my business partner to be able to 'manage' the PIP Funding Programme Contracts on my behalf – is this allowed?

For PIP management and communication purposes there can only be one PIP PRIMARY AUTHORISED USER however where a legal partnership is involved or in the case of very large organisations (i.e. 5 or more services/facilities) then, at your request, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs may authorise that a 'secondary authorised user' is added to the system to act on your behalf and assist in 'managing' the online contract process etc.

Please be aware that 'secondary authorised users' will have all of the same access permissions as the PIP Primary Authorised User on the system i.e. bank details, tax clearance etc.

The PIP System will however issue confirmation emails with regard to any changes/significant activities on the system to the PIP Primary Authorised User's email address.

If you wish to have a 'secondary user' please speak to your CCC and they will advise you on how to manage this process.





Smoking – Protecting our Early Years Services

De-normalising tobacco use is viewed as one of the best ways to prevent young people from starting to smoke. Protecting our young people during their formative years from both second hand and third hand smoke while reducing the likelihood of older Children beginning to smoke, promotes a healthier Ireland (Tobacco Free Ireland, 2013).

Top tips for a best practice no-smoking policy:

Smoking should not occur on the grounds of an Early Years setting or within sight of Children or Parents attending an Early Years setting. This applies for Early Years Staff, Parents and all other service users including service agents e.g. boiler servicing.

No smoking paraphernalia should be visible on the grounds or in the immediate area of the facility.

Smoking should be limited to set break times only. However should not be encouraged.

It is recommended that all staff implement good hygiene practices after smoking or using tobacco products. This includes washing hands and teeth.

Uniforms should not be worn while smoking, if Staff do not wear uniforms at their work place, clothes should be changed after each smoke break.

Hair should be protected while smoking and using tobacco products with the use of protective head gear i.e. hair net.

Service Employees and Managers must not hold a baby or infant for 30-60 minutes after their last tobacco product was smoked.

Smoking signs should be placed throughout the grounds and building of the setting.

All Staff, Parents and service users should be made aware of the no smoking policy in operation. It should also be displayed throughout the service.

All Staff must be inducted on the policy when starting work at an Early Years setting and if the policy changes induction should be carried out on the new policy.

Breaches of the no smoking policy should be subject to normal disciplinary procedures.

Applicants should be made aware of no-smoking policy during the application process and again at interview and induction stages of recruitment.

Information about smoking cessation should be made available to Staff and service users. Guidance on cessation supports such as www.quit.ie and local cessation clinics should also be made available.

The Early Years services should promote smoke free homes, cars, parks and playgrounds.

Adapted from: http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/2345/early_years_setting_-_no_smoking_policy. Early Years Setting - No Smoking Policy



quit.ie 1850 201 203

 Irish Cancer Society  HSE Heilbrunnstraße 100 10119 Berlin



Gone, but never forgotten



R.I.P. Paula Gorman

4/07/63 - 24/04/2016

