

## Programme support payment announced for early years services who sign up to More Affordable Childcare measures from September 2017

An extra €3.5m for Early Years services in the form of a Programme support payment (non-contact time payment) was announced in June 2017 by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. Katherine Zappone. This is in addition to €14.5 million in non-contact time payments Minister Zappone negotiated in Budget 2017 and which was paid to services delivering various Government childcare schemes from June 26th.

All Early Years services participating in the Community Childcare Subvention (CCS and CCSP) Training and Employment Childcare (TEC) programmes signed up to deliver these schemes from September are invited to apply.

The purpose of the payment is to contribute towards the costs of the wide range of work carried out by providers in providing quality childcare including the additional administration involved in changes to the childcare schemes in 2016-17. In particular, the new funding recognises the time services need to spend familiarising themselves with the more affordable childcare measures, signing contracts, meeting regulatory and compliance requirements and assisting parents with understanding how they can benefit.

The measure provides for a payment equivalent to an additional seven days' funding for services. This will be calculated based on maximum approved registrations to each programmes follows:

- CCS approved registrations during eligibility window;
- CCSP at any point from 21<sup>st</sup> Aug (when registrations commenced) to end November;
- TEC at any point from 28<sup>th</sup> Aug (when registrations commenced) to end November.

A short application form will be made available from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November on PIP, that the PAU (Primary Authorised User) completes on behalf of the service, in order to receive a payment. One application form must be completed per service by the PAU.

The payment will be made automatically in the next payment run following completion of this form. The form will appear as below:

<b>Non-contact time/Programme supports payment December 2017.</b>	
<b><i>The PAU for the organisation is requested to complete one application per Early Years facility.</i></b>	
<b>DCYA Reference No:</b>	<b>17/ZZ/100</b>
<b>Service Name:</b>	
<b>Service Address:</b>	

I confirm that I wish to apply for the Non-contact time/Programme supports payment in respect of contracted funding programmes 2017-2018 on behalf of the above organisation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I confirm that we have addressed/resolved any outstanding compliance/verification issues.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I accept that this payment is subject to recoupment by deduction from programme funding payments where a compliance visit in the 2017-2018 cycle finds this service to be 'major non-compliant' in a category in which this service has also been found to be 'major non-compliant' during the 2016-17 programme year. I acknowledge that decisions in this regard will be at the sole discretion of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Once approved for funding, I confirm that the non-contact time/Programme supports payment can be made into one of the bank accounts that have been set up for my service on PIP.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Q&A for services:

#### What is this payment intended to cover?

The payment to services is intended to make a contribution towards the administration and non-contact hour costs involved in providing quality childcare. In particular, the new funding recognises the time providers need to spend familiarising themselves with the new affordable childcare measures, signing contracts, meeting regulatory and compliance requirements and assisting parents with understanding how they can benefit.

#### What are the conditions in relation to this payment?

The principal condition attached to this payment is that services must certify that they have rectified any compliance issues highlighted by Pobal compliance visits during the 2016-17 compliance cycle. Pobal will be conducting follow-up visits to major non-compliant services as a priority in the 2017-18 compliance cycle, and where the issue or issues identified in the previous year are found to have not been adequately addressed, the service will be liable to refund the full amount of the non-contact time/Programme supports payment received.

#### Will all categories of 'Major Non-Compliance' result in a liability for refund arising?

No – the Department is continually revising and improving the compliance cycle, and issues raised by services will be taken into account in the 2017-18 cycle. The Department will publish the revised compliance framework prior to the 2017-18 compliance cycle.

#### Will the payment be a one-off payment, or will there be further non-contact/programme supports payments in the 2017-18 cycle?

DCYA has secured funding to ensure that services are paid for the administration associated with all the schemes on an annual basis. A total of €18m will be available in 2018 and thereafter to pay services for the administration associated with the targeted schemes and the ECCE scheme.