

Early Years' Service Providers Information Sheet

April – May 2015

Early Years Capital Grants 2015 (EYC2015)

The EYC2015 will provide small grants for ICT equipment to existing private and community-based Early Years services to ensure all services are adequately equipped to fully engage in quality improvement programmes and to access the Pobal online administration system PIP (Programmes Integration Project).

In addition Early Years Capital 2015 will continue to support community facilities to remain fit-for-purpose, improve quality, and make community services more efficient and sustainable through improving the energy rating of these facilities.

There will be four funding strands under the EYC2015:

Funding Strands

Strand 1 – Relocation/Major Refurbishment

To provide for large scale works to allow community early years' facilities undertake relocation/major refurbishment in order to maintain/improve the quality of services to children and families.

Strand 2 - Essential Maintenance

General maintenance works that will ensure that the building remains fit-for purpose and maintain quality standards within the facility.

Strand 3 - Quality Improvement & Sustainability

Works to improve the quality and support the sustainability of community early years services to children and families by improving the energy efficiency of facilities.

Strand 4 – ICT Equipment

ICT equipment included in the list below which will be for use in early years' facility only:

- PCs, Laptops
- Satellite for Broadband access (where broadband is otherwise inaccessible)
- Printer, Scanners
- Cameras, Video equipment

NB Tablets and other mobile devices that cannot be used to access the PIP portal are not eligible under the programme

Eligibility to Apply:

Community- based services can make applications against **ONE** only of Strands 1, 2 or 3 and additionally against Strand 4.

Private providers can make **ONLY ONE** application against **Strand 4** per facility.

Application Process:

Applications must be completed and submitted on-line. Application forms can be accessed through PIP at www.pobal.ie. Once you have logged on to PIP you will be able to click on the EYC2015 link that will direct you to the application forms. All mandatory sections of the form must be completed in order to successfully submit an application

All funding must be fully spent and fully reported by 31st December 2015.

All queries about the programmes should be sent to onlinesupport@pobal.ie

If you require support in making an application please contact Áine on 057 9135878.

Domestic Violence Workshop – Wednesday June 3rd

A workshop has been organised with Offaly Domestic violence Support Services in Tullamore. This workshop is open to anyone who has completed the one day Child Protection and Welfare Training with Offaly County Childcare Committee. The workshop will provide information on the effects of domestic violence on children in your care. It will take place on Wednesday 3rd June in the offices of ODVSS in Tullamore from 7.30pm – 9pm. Training in domestic violence is recommended for services working with children and families as part of the new Child Protection and Welfare Training. The workshop is free of charge. Booking is essential as places are limited. Booking forms are available from Sheena on 057 9135878.

Effective Governance Workshop – Tuesday June 9th

This workshop will take place on Tuesday June 9th in the Centre for Independent Living, Tullamore from 7.00pm to 9.30pm. The workshop will explore all aspects of governing a service including

- Governance and Compliance
- Employment Responsibilities and Law
- Effective Communication with Staff
- Accountability
- Decision Making
- How to stay compliant within the Early Years Sector

The workshop is aimed at Owner / Managers and Board Members and Managers of Community Based Services and costs €10 per person. Booking forms are available from the office.

Management & Leadership Training Programme September 2015

Managing an early years setting has become a daunting task. Excellent communication and leadership skills are required to deal with the needs of parents, staff, children and external agencies such as TUSLA, Pobal etc.

As a support to services Offaly CCC will organise a Management & Leadership programme for Managers and Leaders of services commencing in September and finishing in November. This is advance notice if services are thinking of engaging in training this year. The programme will run out over eight weeks. The main purpose of the “Management and Leadership” Programme is to assist Managers face the challenges associated with effectively managing an early years’ service in an ever-changing, diverse and complex environment.

This programme focuses completely on the “personal development and improvement” aspects of management rather than policy and procedure implementation. The overarching purpose of the programme is to develop more confident, assertive and competent managers in the ECCE sector. Canavan & Byrne will deliver this programme in a very practical manner using real scenarios, exercises and case studies and will be highly relevant.

The programme will consist of 8 sessions x 3 hours per session under four broad topics
Leadership, Communication, Supervision and Motivation

The programme is aimed at early years workers who have a role in leading and managing their service. The cost of the programme is €50 per participant. The programme will commence on Monday September 21st and end on Monday November 16th and will be based in Tullamore. A minimum of fifteen participants is needed for the programme to go ahead. Booking forms are now available from Áine on 057 9135878.