



7th November 2013

The following details were given at a briefing session on the Announcement of Impending Amendment Legislation Part VII, of Child Care Act 1991, - Registration of Early Years Services today:

Registration:

- All early years services will be moving to a registration system from 1st Jan 2014.
- Services that are currently notified with the HSE will be deemed to be registered (unless a person chooses not to register and thus close their service).
- Montessori services that are not currently notified to the HSE will possibly be deemed registered although this needs to be confirmed with the DCYA.
- All new services must be registered before they can open.
- Services must re-register every three years. No fee set at present.
- When registering the service must be compliant with all regulations.
- Afterschool services will eventually be required to register but this won't happen in the immediate future as separate regulation will have to be developed.
- Notified childminders will also move to registration system but no proposal to include all childminders at this time.
- There will be an appeals process in place if services disagree with the decision of the Registrar not to register them or to register them with conditions attached.
- Registrar's book of services will be a public document.
- No details yet on how the re-registration system will be rolled out i.e. by county, risk category, etc.
- The focus of registration will be on adherence to regulations whereas the focus of inspections will be on national standards (dealing with quality interactions etc).
- Services will have to register as sessional, part time, fulltime, etc and they will have to operate as such and apply for funding according to how they are registered.

Inspection:

- The inspectorate will be called the early years inspectorate.
- Early years services will continue to be inspected using the current inspection tool.
- Revised national standards are due to be published in the coming weeks but these won't be the focus of inspections until inspection tools are developed and piloted and until inspectors are trained in their use. It is likely that this will be around mid to late 2014.
- Still aiming for yearly inspections but will commit to at least one every three years.

- Inspectors currently being recruited in areas where there are no inspections teams in place.
- System of recording inspections has changed since July 2013 to a more evidence based report. This will continue to evolve as inspectors continue to be trained in writing detailed reports.
- Inspectors continue to receive training in consistency of interpretation of regulations and documents supporting this interpretation continue to be reviewed and updated.

Garda Vetting:

- All employers are required to hold the processed Garda Vetting Form for all people working with the children in their centre. This includes students.
- There is ongoing discussion with Data Protection Agency re whether colleges can issue processed forms to students but no resolution as yet. The inspectorate will continue to look for the processed form and failure to produce this will result in non compliance.
- There are moves to have colleges, etc designated as employers and this should help resolve the issue.
- They are/have removed the tick box for compliance/non compliance on this issue and will put in a statement instead.

Many details are still to be worked out. Fiona McDonnell will continue to brief us on developments and is gathering a database of email addresses so that there will be direct communication with services.

Power point presentation and Q&A notes will be forwarded to us within the next two weeks and will be posted on our website when available.