



**Early
Childhood
Ireland**

City and County Childcare Committees

Early Childhood Ireland Explainers

What are City/County Childcare Committees?

City/County Childcare Committees (CCCs) support and help families, and Early Years and School Age Care (EY and SAC) providers at local level. CCCs are funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth (DCEDIY) and are located throughout the country.

Thirty CCCs were set up in 2001. They coordinate the national early years policy and programmes at a local level on behalf of the DCEDIY. They facilitate and support the development of quality, accessible services by taking a child-centred and partnership approach. CCCs are supported by Childminding Development Officers to work with existing and potential childminders to deliver a high-quality Early Years and/or School Age Care service.

CCCs and Pobal

Pobal, on behalf of the DCEDIY, manages the funding of CCCs, supervises their work, and provides developmental supports. Pobal also undertakes financial audit and verification visits to CCCs. CCCs and Pobal also work together through a case management process to ensure that local EY and SAC services facing challenges are closely supported.

CCCs and Parents

CCCs can assist parents in their search for an EY and SAC provider for their child. They can also discuss with parents what would be the best option to suit them, such as part-time or full-time service. CCCs can also help explain to parents the different programmes funded by the DCEDIY that help to reduce fees, including the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. CCCs can also provide information on parenting courses.

CCCs and Providers

CCCs can supply EY and SAC providers with information on government programmes, sustainability, and governance. CCCs can also offer support to those who want to set up an EY and SAC service. CCCs also offer assistance regarding inspections and regulations.

Providers are required to have their fees list approved by their local CCC. A setting that provides the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme (which is free

to parents) must submit a fees list on the *Early Years Hive* online portal. The relevant CCC will then review the fees list and will liaise with the service to support and advise if amendments are necessary. CCCs also monitor the fees of settings that provide the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) and the Community Childcare Support Programme (CCSP) via the online portal.

The Children First Act 2015 places certain obligations on professionals to report child protection concerns to Tusla. Providers of relevant services must perform an extensive risk assessment of their service and develop a Child Safeguarding Statement. CCCs can provide further information on training that can help EY and SAC providers to meet their obligations. CCCs can also offer a range of training to improve the delivery of Early Years and School Age Care.

Contact details for the City and County Childcare Committees can be found [here](#).

