



**Partnership for the public good-**  
A new funding model for ELC and SAC childcare  
Delivering on a first five action



- ▶ *The vision for the sector is for one that is increasingly publicly funded and publicly managed, delivering a service for the public good, through a partnership approach between the State and providers, to the benefit of children, parents, practitioners and society overall.*

# 25 Recommendations - executive summary

**Core funding**

**Tackling  
disadvantage**

**Affordability  
measures**

**Fee  
Management**

**Role of the  
State**

# *Core funding:*    Ambition

*New supply side funding is designed to support quality (including improved staff pay) sustainability, and enhanced public management, with conditions on fee control and cost transparency, incorporating funding for administration, and to support employment of graduate staff.*



*Provision of high quality, sustainable services (staffing and consistent funding) for the public good.*

# Funding models:

Large scale capital - €70 million investment in 2023 - 2025. Further funding from 2026.

Move to supply side Core funding stream to:

Ensure policy levers can be used to support, quality, affordability, availability, access and sustainability, increased **public management** is the overarching goal.

Move from an over reliance on **provider competition** and a marketized approach to the development of childcare.

Core funding direct to services will generate sustainability and provide for state, provider partnership.

Sign up to core funding will unlock further supports and funding; including capital grants, quality.

*Action plans will require a localised, operating structures, currently under review, 'Childcare Ireland'.*

# Core funding budget



€221 million (full year) allocated to Core Funding



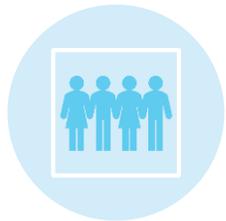
€138 million to support staffing costs and pay conditions



€25 million to support to support administration



€20 million to reflect increases in non staff overheads



€38 million to support the employment of graduates

- ▶ **Capacity planning**, establishing demand, identifying gaps in supply, and actions to address gaps.
- ▶ Offering families an information source
- ▶ **Planning guiding, and supporting the development** of an optimal ELC and SAC sector, both in terms of size and service offering.
- ▶ Supporting providers to operate sustainable, high quality, affordable services.
- ▶ **Managing centre closures**, e.g. sourcing alternative places, alternative providers, and supports for re-opening.
- ▶ **Public provision** - the Minister should mandate the Department to examine whether some element of public provision should be introduced alongside the private provision. {page 20}

## Role of the state - enhanced public management

# Role of the state: supply management

Develop *capacity to better analyse supply and demand* at national and local level.

Develop responses to *supply challenges*, including possible changes in core funding payments to address under supply.

Monitoring of supply and demand with a range of responses - core funding for new providers or for *public provision* as agreed by Government.

- ▶ **FUNDING:** New universal and targeted approaches to address socio - economic disadvantage, with accompanying funding streams.
- ▶ **Targeted funding** for concentrated areas of disadvantage and examining individualised funding for complex needs.

*Funding would provide:*

- ▶ **Other in kind supports** - food, resources, outdoor play, activities and outings.
- ▶ Enhanced quality provision, broadening of inclusion charters to support parental/family interactions and inclusion. {Practitioner training, higher qualified staff, child/adult ratios}
- ▶ **AIM** - expansion of AIM model supporting child with disabilities
- ▶ Operating model - increased outreach to families
- ▶ Language supports - in service

Tackling  
disadvantage:

# Affordability

▶ **Fee management:**

*Fee freeze* is in place on 2021 rates

In depth *financial analysis* - costs, fees and income to be submitted via Pobal sector profile.

3 Year *evaluation of NCS funding* to examine affordability and control measures.

**Role of the state** - in fee approvals based on legitimate costs.





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