

# Access and Inclusion Model

Annual Report 2016/2017



An Roinn Leanaí  
agus Gnóthaí Óige  
Department of Children  
and Youth Affairs



# Glossary of terms

AIM	Access and Inclusion Model
DCYA	Department of Children and Youth Affairs
ECCE	Early Childhood Care & Education
LINC	Leadership and Inclusion Coordinator
PIP	Programme Implementation Platform
EYS	Early Years Specialist
CCC	City/County Childcare Committee
HSE	Health Service Executive



## Table of contents

Executive summary .....	4
1 Introduction .....	5
2 Background .....	5
3 AIM Levels .....	6
3.1 Level 1: An inclusive culture – Leadership for Inclusion in the Early Years (LINC).....	6
3.2 Level 1: An inclusive culture – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training Programme .....	8
3.3 Level 2: Information for parents and providers .....	10
3.4 Level 3: A qualified and confident workforce .....	10
3.5 Level 4: Expert early years educational advice and support.....	10
3.6 Level 5: Appliances and minor alterations grants .....	12
3.7 Level 6: Health service supports.....	15
3.8 Level 7: Additional assistance in the pre-school room .....	15
4 Application patterns.....	18
5 Gender breakdown .....	19
6 Impact of AIM .....	19
7 Conclusion .....	20
8 Appendices.....	21

## Executive summary

The Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) was launched in June 2016 to enable the full inclusion and meaningful participation of children with disabilities in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. AIM is a child-centred model, involving seven levels of progressive support, moving from the universal to the targeted, based on the strengths and needs of the child and the early years setting.

This report, prepared by Pobal's Monitoring, Analysis and Outcomes Unit, provides a statistical overview of progress made under all levels of AIM from June 2016 to the end of August 2017, focusing particularly on supports provided by Pobal and Better Start.

### Key findings

- In the 2016/2017 academic year, 1,283 services (30% of all services providing ECCE) were supported under the Access and Inclusion Model, in respect of 2,486 children (2% of all children registered on ECCE in that period).
- 94% of AIM supported services (1,211) received Level 4 supports, in relation to 2,423 children.
- 257 Level 5 applications were approved for 201 services in respect of 223 children. This 257 includes 48 minor alterations and 327 pieces of equipment (one application may include more than one piece of equipment), prescribed by disability health service staff from the HSE and voluntary organisations.
- 1,335 children progressed in the model from Level 4 to also receive Level 7 support. This figure represents slightly over 1% of children accessing ECCE and is in line with the estimates in the *Report of the Inter-Departmental Group* (DCYA, 2015) that 1% to 1.5% of preschool children would require more intensive and targeted support at Level 7.
- 800 services received supports under Level 7, though it should be noted a significant proportion of these had more than one child receiving Level 7 supports, with 39% (310) receiving support for two or more children and 7% (56) receiving support for four or more children.
- A higher proportion of community services compared to private ones availed of support under AIM. 24% of facilities delivering ECCE are community services, while almost a third of services (30-32%) supported by AIM were community services.
- During the academic year 2016/2017, 886 early years practitioners enrolled in the Leadership and Inclusion programme with 96% graduating with an NQF Level 6 qualification. As of the start of January 2018, additional capitation is being paid to 747 facilities in respect of the LINC qualification of their staff.
- Corresponding to the launch and rollout of the Access and Inclusion Model, Pobal have also observed an increase in the percentage of services who have reported having at least one child with a disability attending their facility (from 48% of services in April 2016 to 57% of services in May 2017), which is likely to be at least in part a result of the introduction of the Access and Inclusion Model.

## 1 Introduction

This report provides a brief overview of the Access and Inclusion Model's (AIM) first year of implementation in relation to levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. The data used in this report was taken from Pobal's Programme Implementation Platform (PIP), Better Start and also information was provided by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA).

The time period covered corresponds to ECCE 2016 (June 2016 – August 2017). The report provides information on the number of children accessing AIM at the different levels as well as their geographic distribution. Where possible, this information has been cross referenced with the Early Years Sector Profile (2016 /2017) to provide further information about services and children accessing AIM. While this report describes the operation and outputs of the first academic year of operation, the DCYA has commissioned RSM (a research company) and Trinity College Dublin to complete an independent review of the first year of operation of AIM on its behalf which will look more closely at the experience of services and parents who had contact with the AIM programme.

## 2 Background

AIM was launched in June 2016 to enable the full inclusion and meaningful participation of children with disabilities in the state funded Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. The goal of AIM is to empower early years services to deliver an inclusive pre-school experience, ensuring that every eligible child can fully participate in the ECCE Programme and avail of the benefits of quality early years care and education.

AIM is a child-centred model, involving seven levels of progressive support, moving from the universal to the targeted, based on the strengths and needs of the child and the early years setting.

Levels 1 to 3 include universal supports for childcare settings and parents, including training for childcare staff and information resources for parents. These supports are delivered through City/County Childcare Committees, the LINC consortium and the DCYA. Pobal administers funding in relation to Level 1 (LINC). This is described in more detail in sections 3.1 - 3.4.

Level 4 relates to expert educational advice, mentoring and support offered to service providers by Better Start specialist advisors.

Level 5 supports include access to specialist equipment and/or funding for alterations to buildings and is administered by Pobal.

Level 6 relates to the provision of targeted health service supports which are delivered by the HSE and its partner voluntary organisations.

Level 7 funding enables services to maintain sufficiently low child-adult ratios in the ECCE room that staff can support the child's meaningful participation and that all children can benefit from that child's full participation. This can be achieved either by employing an additional member of staff or registering fewer children to maintain a reduced ratio in the room. There are two levels of capitation available under Level 7: lower (equivalent to 10 hours support) or higher (equivalent to 15 hours support).

Applications for Level 4 and 7 supports are made jointly by the parent and the service through Pobal's PIP system. This is also the case for Level 5 supports, although there is a separate application process for Level 5. A service can receive Level 5 support for both specialist equipment and alterations.

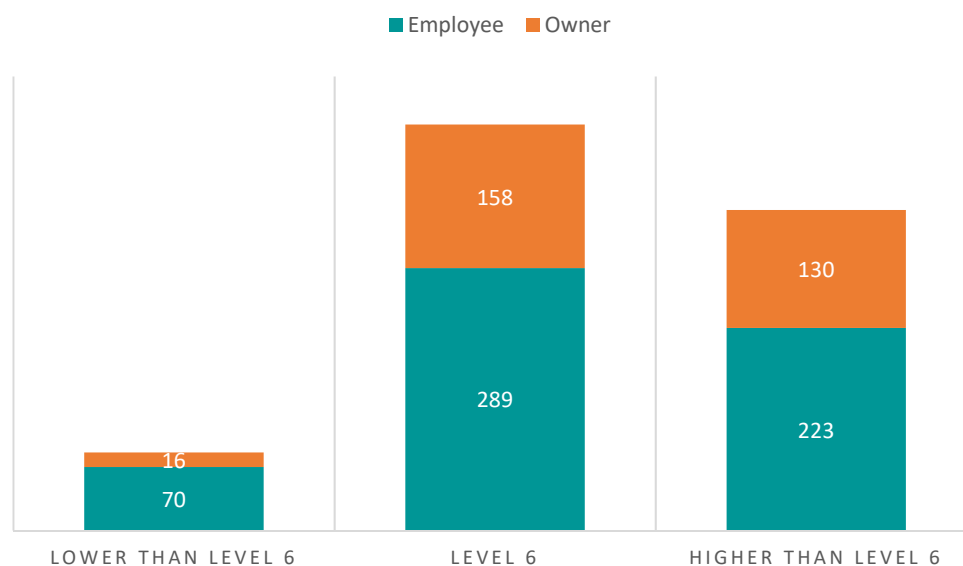
### 3 AIM Levels

#### 3.1 Level 1: An inclusive culture – Leadership for Inclusion in the Early Years (LINC)

Leadership for Inclusion in the Early Years Higher Education Programme (LINC) is an NFQ Level 6 Special Purpose Award designed to support inclusion of children with a disability in free pre-school settings provided under ECCE. The LINC Programme is being delivered by a consortium, led by Mary Immaculate College in Limerick, Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education at Maynooth University and Early Childhood Ireland (ECI). Starting in September 2016, 900 free places were made available to early years practitioners on the LINC programme.

In total, 886 early years practitioners enrolled in the programme in 2016, with 847 graduating with an NFQ 6 qualification. A breakdown of previous qualifications of LINC participants is provided in Figure 3.1. The large majority of practitioners participating in the programme (90%) were qualified to NFQ Level 6 or higher.

Figure 3.1 Number of LINC participants grouped by previous qualifications and employee / owner status



An early years service can apply for additional capitation of €2 per child registered for the ECCE programme if they employ a practitioner with a LINC qualification in an ECCE setting. As at 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, 757 services had applied for increased capitation on this basis and 748 had been approved for additional capitation. Of the 748 services approved for LINC capitation, 436 (58%) are also in receipt of Level 4 support and 216 (28%) are in receipt of Level 7 support.

Using the DCYA reference number of the childcare service in which each LINC student was working at the time of enrolment on the course, it was possible to determine whether staff with LINC qualifications have stayed in their original facility or moved to another service. The large majority of LINC graduates (89%) in January 2018 were employed in the same service in which they were

working at the time of enrolment on the course, with the remaining 11% having moved to another service. This figure is below the national average staff turnover rate of 28.2%<sup>1</sup>.

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, €673,505 was paid to services in the form of capitation for employing staff with a LINC qualification in an ECCE setting. Just under 18% of ECCE services were in receipt of additional capitation under LINC at the start of 2018.

Table 3.1 shows the urban/rural location of services with LINC capitation. At present, services in rural areas are more likely to employ staff with LINC qualifications, as compared to their urban counterparts. This is in line with the consortium's strategy of targeting rural areas in the initial round of training. As the programme progresses and the overall percentage of services with LINC qualified staff increases, the consortium intends on increasing the number of places available in urban centres.

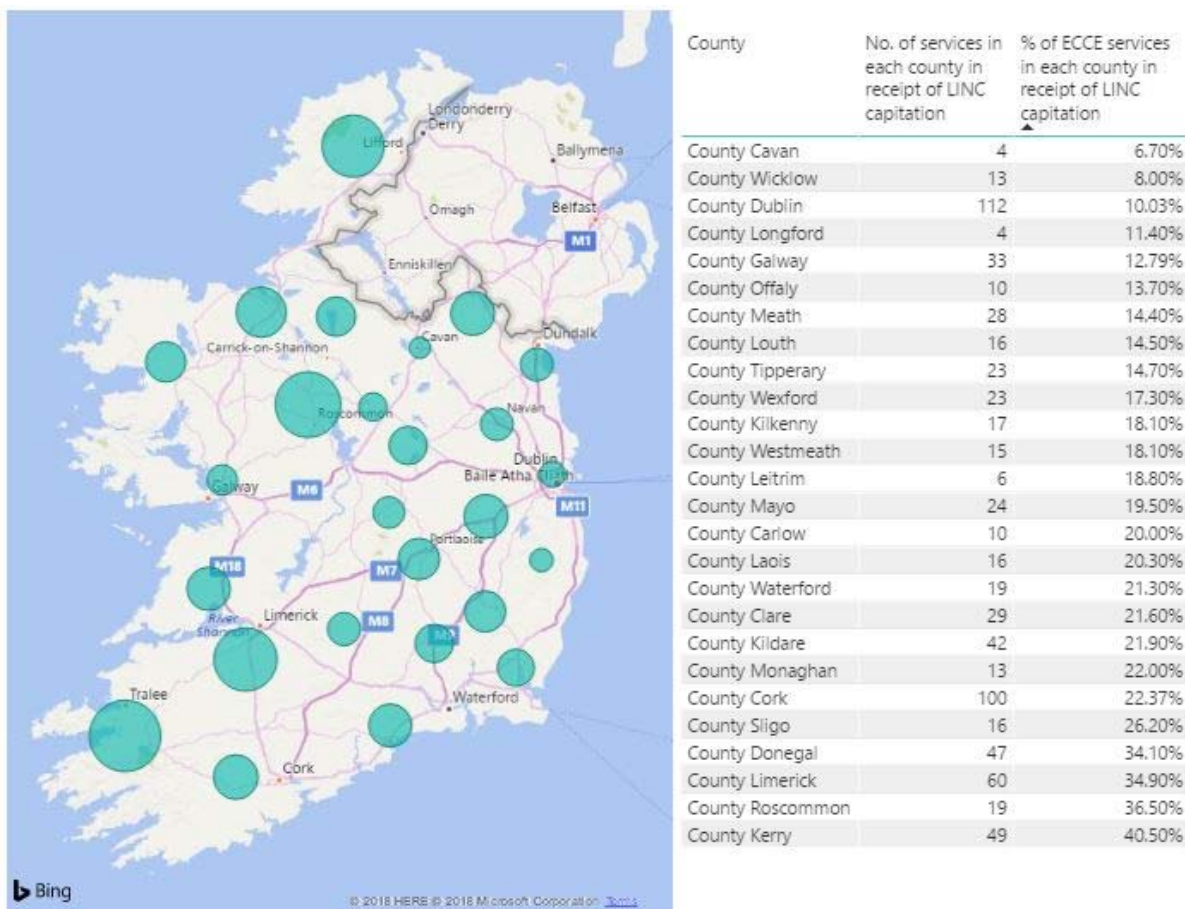
Figure 3.2 and Appendix I present a breakdown by county.

*Table 3.1 Percentage of services by urban/rural location*

	Urban	Rural
All services	60%	40%
Services in receipt of LINC capitation	53%	47%

<sup>1</sup> Early years sector profile 2015 – 2016, Pobal

Figure 3.2 Number and percentage of ECCE services in receipt of LINC capitation at county level



### 3.2 Level 1: An inclusive culture – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training Programme

In 2016/2017, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs offered a broad multi-annual programme of formal and informal training for pre-school staff in relation to disability and inclusion. Level 1 of AIM recognises that a strong culture of inclusion must be fostered and embedded to support all children’s maximum participation in the ECCE Programme.

A new Inclusion Charter for the Early Years Sector has been developed and the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Guidelines have been updated and published. A nationwide training programme based on these Guidelines was delivered by the City and County Childcare Committee’s (CCCs), in collaboration with the HSE and other agencies. By the end of June 2017 a total of 1,084 pre-school staff had completed this training and a further 201 pre-school staff were in the process of completing the course. Table 3.2 provides a breakdown of these figures by county.



Table 3.2 EDI Training Programmes delivered by CCCs up to end of June

CCC	Courses complete	No. of services	No. of participants	Courses in progress	No. of services	No. of participants
Carlow	2	14	23	0	0	0
Cavan	2	13	24	0	0	0
Clare	2	9	27	1	8	12
Cork City	2	12	20	0	0	0
Cork County	3	21	35	2	18	32
Donegal	3	16	42	0	0	0
Dublin - Dublin City	6	59	84	2	9	19
Dublin - Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	3	28	35	0	0	0
Dublin - Fingal	5	55	75	1	10	16
Galway	3	28	38	2	14	23
Kerry	3	25	37	0	0	0
Kildare	5	36	46	1	10	16
Kilkenny	1	11	12	1	4	8
Laois	3	19	33	0	0	0
Leitrim	1	8	14	0	0	0
Limerick	3	30	45	0	0	0
Longford	2	15	30	1	6	12
Louth	4	32	51	0	0	0
Mayo	4	52	52	0	0	0
Meath	5	36	60	0	0	0
Monaghan	2	17	27	0	0	0
Offaly	2	16	26	0	0	0
Roscommon	2	11	14	0	0	0
Sligo	3	20	35	0	0	0
Dublin - South Dublin	2	19	31	1	11	15
Tipperary	5	28	81	1	8	16
Waterford	2	16	27	0	0	0
Westmeath	2	17	19	1	14	16
Wexford	1	14	20	1	11	16
Wicklow	2	19	21	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>201</b>

### 3.3 Level 2: Information for parents and providers

A dedicated website has been launched under this level to ensure that parents and early years practitioners have clear, consistent and up-to-date information available to them. This website can be found at - [www.aim.gov.ie](http://www.aim.gov.ie).

### 3.4 Level 3: A qualified and confident workforce

In May 2017, DCYA established a Training Working Group to develop and support the delivery of a suite of training courses for early years practitioners under AIM Level 3. These courses will be funded by DCYA and will be provided on a multi-annual basis. Level 3 recognises the requirement to continue to develop a qualified workforce that can confidently meet the needs of all children participating in the ECCE Programme.

### 3.5 Level 4: Expert early years educational advice and support

Better Start provide early years services with expert educational advice, mentoring and support to enable a child with a disability to fully access the ECCE scheme.

To avail of this support, service providers, in partnership with parents, complete an online Access and Inclusion Profile through the PIP portal. The profile provides information on the strengths, abilities and needs of the child, as well as the strengths and needs of the pre-school setting. On receipt of a profile, an Early Years Specialist (EYS) contacts ECCE services to identify what, if any, additional supports might be required to enable the child's full participation in pre-school. Level 4 educational advice and mentoring is offered to all services who submit a profile. This can range from telephone support recommending universal strategies to more tailored advice based on an observation visit to the setting.

The degree of support offered by EYS depends on the needs of the child and the service provider. In some cases, this may involve developing an individual Access and Inclusion Plan for the child within their pre-school setting together with the parent and the provider. The purpose of the Access and Inclusion Plan is to support the development of enriched learning environments to enable all children's meaningful participation in the ECCE setting. It may also involve liaising with HSE health and social care professionals to obtain their input and expertise.

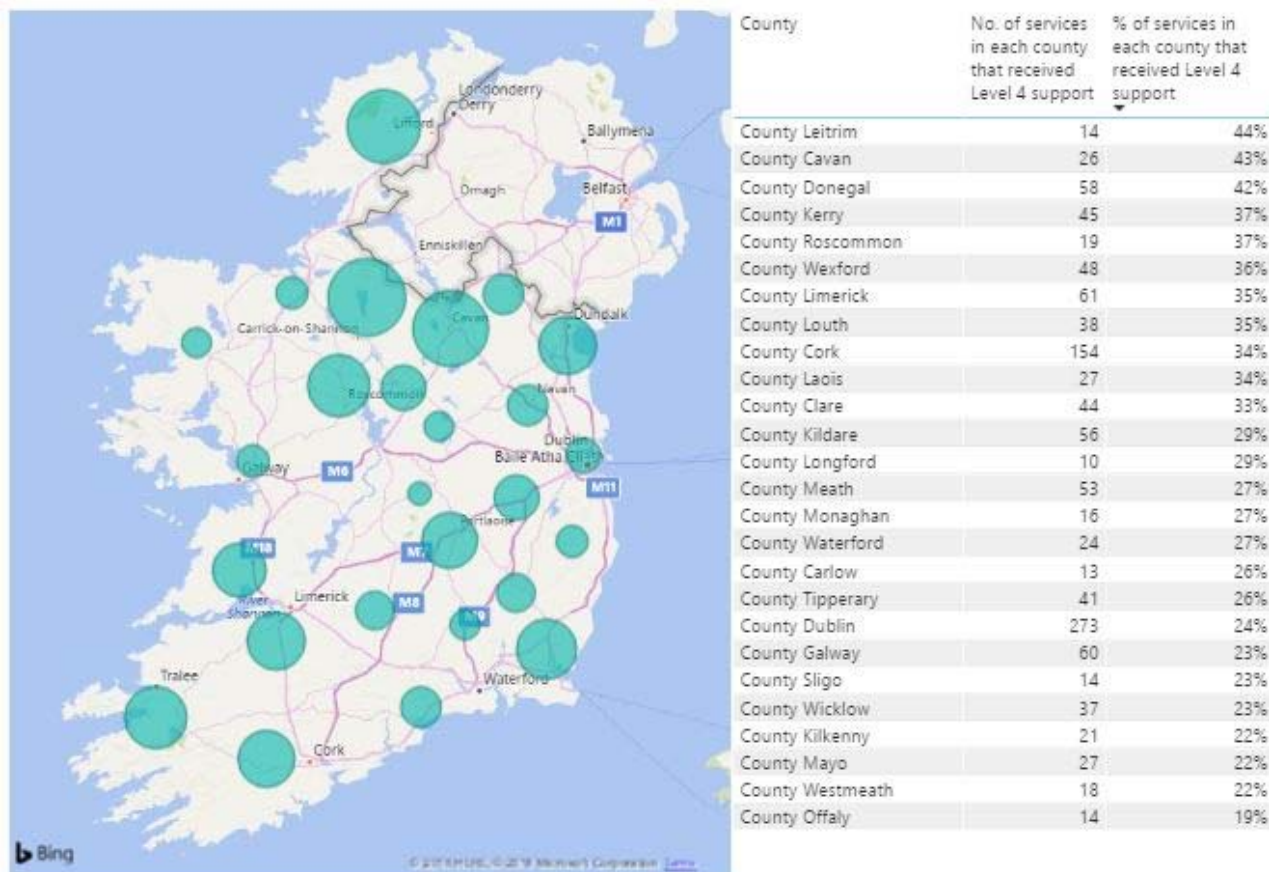
Since the commencement of AIM in June 2016, Better Start have recruited 60 Early Years Specialists. 45 were recruited in 2016 and a further 15 were recruited in 2017 to meet the additional demand created by the extension of the ECCE programme to two years. The specialists are based in seven Pobal offices across the country and have an average case load of 40 to 60 children.

During the 2016/2017 academic year, Better Start reviewed 2,530 Level 4 applications, relating to 1,253 services and 2,489 children. Of these, 1,211 services and 2,423 children received Level 4 support. Early Years specialists made contact with services on 7,900 occasions providing a range of mentoring and advice. As part of their Level 4 engagement with services, Early Years Specialists made 46 Level 6 referrals to the HSE. Early Years specialists also reported that 596 of the children receiving Level 4 support were also in receipt of other supports from the HSE.

For Level 4 applications the average (mean) turnaround time, from submission of application to decision on level of support is 9.5 days but most applications (median) take 7 days.

A breakdown of services in receipt of Level 4 support by county, is provided in Figure 3.3 and in Appendix II. The uptake of AIM Level 4 support is uneven across the country, with over 40% of services availing of Level 4 support in counties Leitrim, Cavan and Donegal, while for Dublin City and Offaly the take up is less than 20%.

Figure 3.3 Number and percentage of ECCE services in receipt of Level 4 support



### 3.6 Level 5: Appliances and minor alterations grants

Level 5 supports include the provision of specialised equipment, appliances or capital grants towards minor building alterations, where these are necessary to support access and facilitate a child's meaningful participation in pre-school.

Applications for these supports are made by a service provider in partnership with a parent. In ECCE 2016 Pobal's AIM team appraised 347 Level 5 applications, of which 48 were for alterations and 299 for equipment. In total, 257 of these applications were approved, assisting 201 services and 223 children.

Under the "Joint Working Protocol between HSE, Better Start and DCYA for provision of health service supports for children with a disability under AIM", healthcare professionals of the HSE or HSE funded voluntary agencies assess the equipment needs of children with a disability which are critical to their accessing and participating meaningfully in a preschool setting. This requires a visit to the preschool where the child is not already known to the health services. Where appropriate, the prescribing healthcare professional completes the relevant section of the AIM Capital Report Form, including the recommended equipment, and confirms that it is not already available in the preschool or transferable to that preschool. The request for an equipment assessment may be generated by the healthcare professional working with the child, the preschool service provider in collaboration with the parent, or Early Years Specialists.

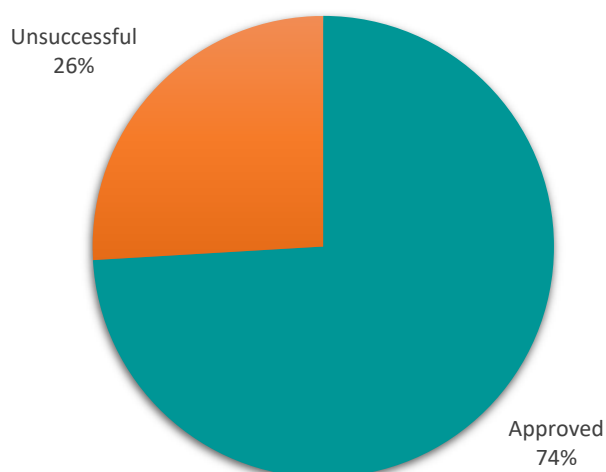
A breakdown of the type of equipment supplied is provided in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3 Type, number and cost of equipment provided under AIM Level 5

Type of equipment	Number of items	Total cost
Assistive technology & equipment	60	€108,170.47
Changing table/nursing bench	31	€45,421.92
Duplicate items	1	€154.8
Gait trainers, standers and standing frames	13	€25,247.71
Hoists and slings	5	€5,967.07
Play & learning material	21	€14,164.46
Portable ramp	2	€1,012.2
Positioning supports	30	€8,333.28
Specialised chairs	87	€105,783.15
Therapy related items	54	€10,351.58
Toileting supports	23	€19,957.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>€344,563.80</b>

The majority of Level 5 applications reviewed by Pobal were approved for funding. See Figure 3.4

Figure 3.4 Percentage of Level 5 applications which were approved or unsuccessful

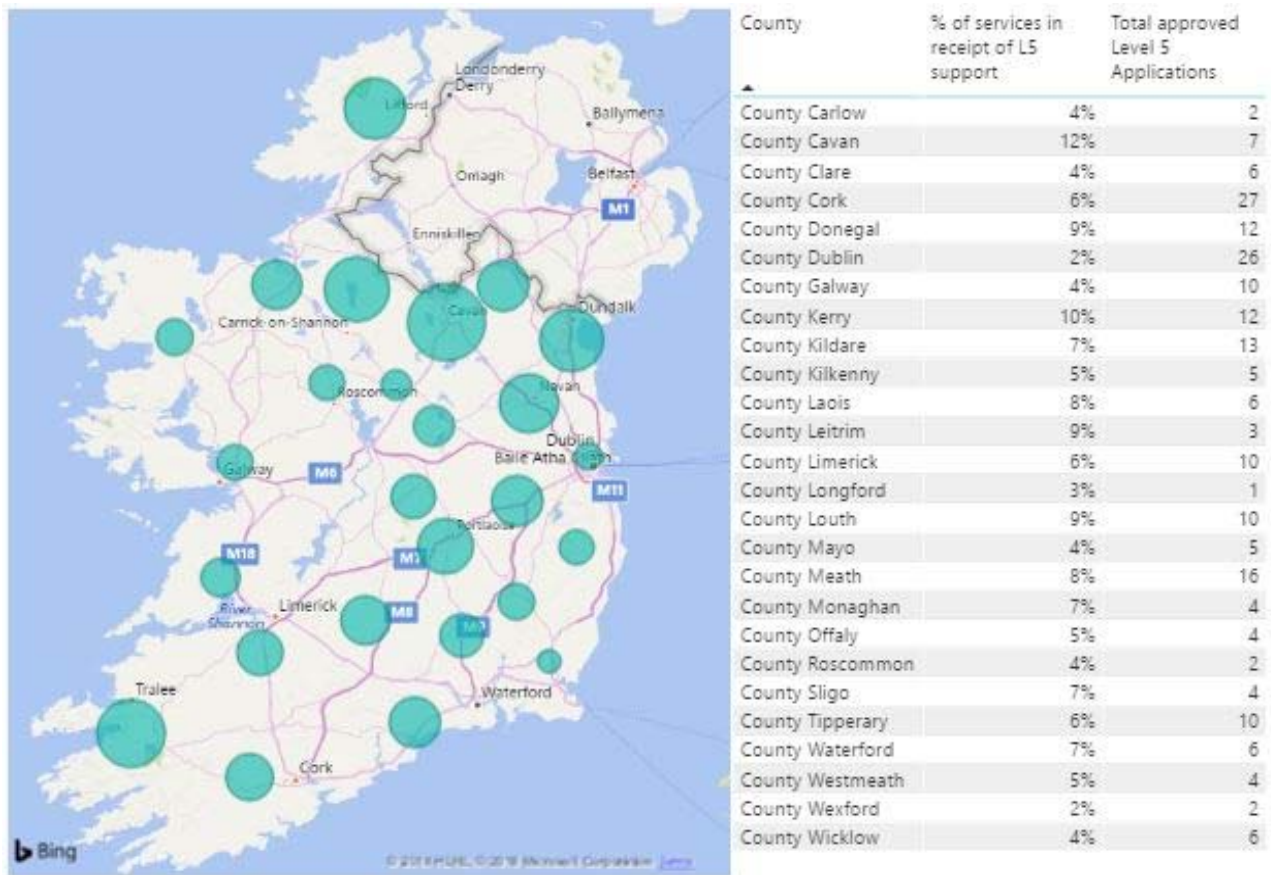


Once an application for equipment is approved, the equipment is sourced by Pobal and delivered directly to the child's pre-school setting. As per the Joint Working Protocol previously mentioned, healthcare professionals from the HSE or HSE funded voluntary agency may be involved in the equipment set up and training for preschool staff. This is agreed at the time when the healthcare professional is assessing the child's equipment needs in the specific preschool. Where an application for minor building alterations is approved, a capital grant towards the cost of these alterations is made available to the service provider. Under the Joint Working Protocol, relevant staff of the HSE or HSE funded voluntary agency review and confirm the requirement for minor adaptation needs that are critical to the child's access and meaningful participation in ECCE in their specific preschool setting. Again, this will usually require an on-site assessment by the healthcare professional of the preschool setting prior to completing the relevant section of the AIM Capital Report Form.

The proportion of applications for Level 5 supports in some counties is not consistent with their share of ECCE services. In particular, the percentage of Level 5 applications for the four Dublin counties (Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin and Dublin City), Wexford, Wicklow and County Galway is below what would be expected given the number of ECCE services in these counties (see Appendix III). This may be partly due to higher levels of support from external agencies, like the Central Remedial Clinic, already being available to families and children in the Dublin region. In addition, AIM is still in the early stages of implementation and it is anticipated that applications will increase as the programme gathers momentum and becomes better known to services. Figure 3.5 and Appendix IV provide a breakdown of the number of Level 5 supports by county.

For Level 5 applications the average (mean) turnaround time, from submission of application to decision on the level of support is 32 working days but most applications (median) take 35 working days.

Figure 3.5 Number of approved Level 5 applications and percentage of ECCE services in receipt of Level 5 support by county\*



\*please note that the number of approved applications will be different to the number of services provided support as some services will have more than one level 5 application approved. The number of services in receipt of support is provided in Appendix IV.

### 3.7 Level 6: Health service supports

Under Level 6, HSE and HSE funded disability service providers offer specialist supports and services for children with a disability, which are critical to their access to and active participation in the ECCE programme. In 2016, prior to the roll out of AIM, HSE developed in partnership with DCYA and Better Start a joint working protocol to define the pathway and process for access to health service provision. This protocol was implemented across early intervention disability and primary care services. This includes an agreed definition of health service supports which are *critical* to a child's access to and meaningful participation in the ECCE programme in a specific preschool setting.

These health service supports are either initiated by the healthcare professional already working with the child, or they are sought by the preschool and parent directly from the healthcare professional or via the Early Years Specialist (EYS). When the EYS receives an Access and Inclusion Profile, they contact the healthcare professionals working with the child to review health strategies in place and provide universal strategies where not already in place. If this approach does not support the child's optimal participation in their preschool programme, the healthcare professional progresses to targeted interventions.

The Level 6 Health Forum also produced a *Suite of Health Services Supports for Children with Disabilities attending Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programmes*. The document captures a baseline of health service supports currently provided by early intervention services aimed at enabling access and participation of children with disabilities to mainstream preschools. It also includes evidence based practice for early intervention services supporting children with disabilities, in this case in collaboration with parents and early years services.

In year 1 of implementation of AIM, the additional demands on health services and the corresponding increase in the service provision arising from the introduction of AIM were not fully captured. In response, the Level 6 Health Forum developed a suite of 6 Key Performance Indicators to be measured monthly by healthcare professionals in Disability Services.

### 3.8 Level 7: Additional assistance in the pre-school room

Where other levels of support are not sufficient to meet the needs of the child, service providers, in partnership with parents, can apply for additional capitation to fund extra support in the pre-school room or to enable a reduction in the child to staff ratio. Two different rates of Level 7 capitation are payable as follows:

- A rate of €130 per week where needs are identified as complex, such that a setting would need to supplement their staffing by approximately 10 additional staff hours per week.
- A rate of €195 per week where needs are identified as highly complex, such that a setting would need to supplement their staffing by approximately 15 hours per week.

Applications for Level 7 additional capitation are made through the Level 4 application process. The service provider, in partnership with the parent completes the Level 7 section of the Access and Inclusion Profile through the PIP portal. Following this, an Early Years Specialist (Access and Inclusion) contacts the service provider to progress the application. Existing professional healthcare reports are also provided by the HSE or HSE funded agencies with parents' consent. The application process takes into account any views expressed by the parent and the provider.

Where an application for a Level 7 support is approved, Pobal notifies the service provider of the approval outlining the basis on which the capitation is being approved, i.e. the type of support which should be provided on foot of the additional capitation. Parents are notified of the outcome

of their application separately. A Level 7 capitation can also be approved on a pro rata basis, where there is a clear justification for doing so (e.g. the child cannot attend the service on a full-time basis or other supports are available on a part-time basis). A diagram outlining the application process for Level 7 capitation is provided in Appendix XI

During the 2016/2017 academic year, Better Start EYSs completed 1,827 observations to support Level 7 applications. Following appraisal by the Pobal AIM team, 1,344 (74%) were approved for funding. In total, 1,335 children received Level 7 support across 800 services.

Overall, 1.03% of all children participating in ECCE received Level 7 support in 2016-17, which is in line with the estimates made in the Report of the Inter-Departmental Group (DCYA, 2015). The report estimated that 1% to 1.5% of preschool children will require more intensive and targeted support at Level 7. The share of ECCE registrations receiving Level 7 support vary at the county level (see Figure 3.7, Appendix V and Appendix VI). For example, in Wicklow only 0.5% of registrations received support – less than half of the national average, while in Clare the figure was 2.1%, which was double the national average (see Appendix VI).

The majority of Level 7 approved applications (69%) were for 15 hours supports with the remaining 31% for 10 hours support (see Figure 3.6).

Figure 3.6 Percentage of approved Level 7 applications by hours of support

- % of approved L7 applications at 10hrs
- % of approved L7 applications at 15hrs

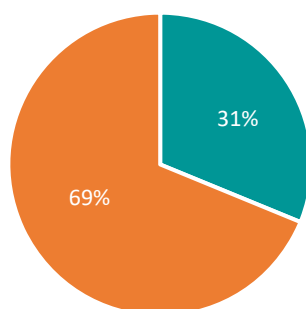
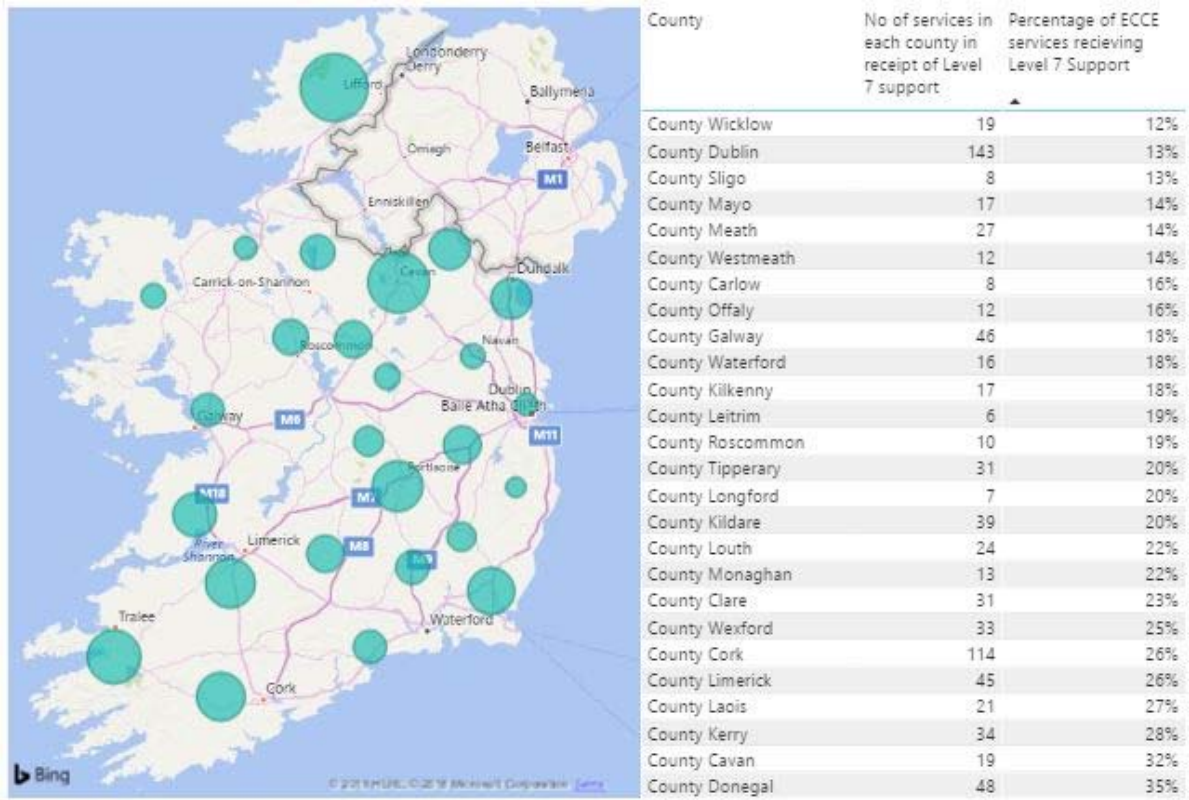




Figure 3.7 Number and percentage of ECCE services in receipt of Level 7 support by county



## 4 Application patterns

A feature of the first year of implementation was the consistency with which applications were made throughout the year. With the current ECCE process of three entry-points per year, the majority of ECCE registrations take place at the start of September in a given year, with a significant number of children also being registered in January and April (see Figure 4.2). However, as can be seen in Figure 4.1, the rate and frequency of AIM applications remained relatively constant through the year, only falling off at the end of the academic year in April/May.

Appendix VIII to Appendix XI depict the application process for Level 1 capitation payments and for Level 5 and 7 supports.

Figure 4.1 Percentage of applications received for Level 4, 5, 7 by month

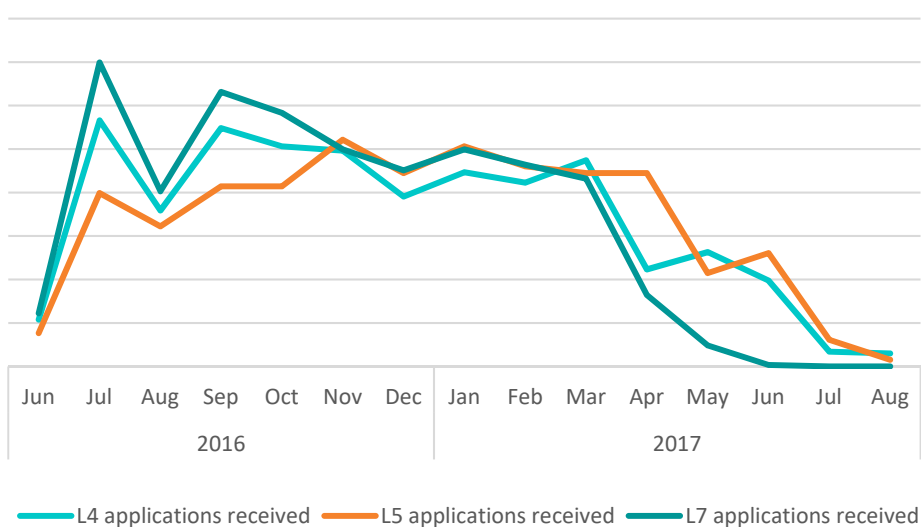
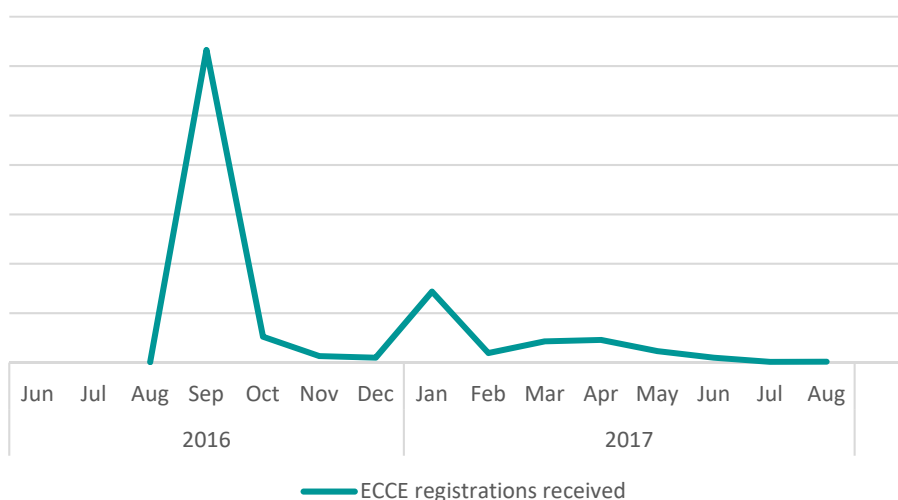


Figure 4.2 Percentage of ECCE registrations received by month



## 5 Gender breakdown

The majority of children supported under AIM (Levels 4 & 7) were male (71%), with females accounting for less than a third (29%) – see Table 5.1. According to Census 2016, the gender breakdown of ECCE aged children with a disability is 63% male and 37% female – see Table 5.2.

Table 5.1 Gender breakdown of children in receipt of Level 4 and Level 7 supports

Gender	No. of level 4 supports provided	Level 4 supports provided as a % of total Level 4	No. of Level 7 supports provided <sup>2</sup>	Level 7 supports provided as a % of total Level 7 supports provided
Male	1,755	71%	1,146	71%
Female	709	29%	462	29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,464</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,608</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 5.2 Gender breakdown of ECCE aged children with a disability from the 2016 census

Gender	ECCE aged children with a disability	ECCE aged children with a disability as a % of total ECCE aged children with a disability
Male	6,072	63%
Female	3,515	37%
<b>All</b>	<b>9,587</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 6 Impact of AIM

Children supported under AIM do not require formal diagnosis with a disability. However, to allow comparison with previous years a proxy measure of “the number of childcare services reporting at least one child with a disability as diagnosed by the HSE” has been used to provide insight for this section of the report.

It has been observed that the introduction and rollout of AIM has been accompanied by an increase in the percentage of childcare services reporting at least one child with a disability as diagnosed by the HSE. In April 2016, several weeks before the launch of AIM, 48% of Ireland’s childcare facilities reported having at least one child with a disability attending their services (Early Years Sector Profile 2015 - 2016). The following year (May 2017), when AIM had been in place for almost a full academic year of the ECCE programme, the share of services with at least one child with a disability had increased to 57%.

While it is likely that this increase in the number of services having children with a disability is due to a number of factors, this section of the report uses existing administrative data from PIP, Better Start CRM and the Service Profile to explore a causal relationship with AIM. Pobal’s Annual Service Profile data indicates that 753 services had no children with additional needs attending their

<sup>2</sup> Level 7 source data in this section of the report is different to the data used for section 3.8 Level 7: Additional Capitation, so the numbers indicated will not correspond in each section. The information in section 3.8 is taken from contracts with service providers and gives accurate information in relation to the number and value of approved L7 contracts with services, however this data source does not contain data about the children i.e. age or gender. Data about children in receipt of level 7 support came from a different source and the two sources are not reconciled.

service in 2016 and one or more such children in 2017. Matching this data with information from PIP and Better Start, it was found that 39% of these services were supported under at least one of the targeted levels of AIM. This figure (39%), is higher than the average level of engagement with AIM (30%), indicating that it is likely that AIM is responsible for some of the increase.

Figure 6.1 Percentage of services with at least one child with a disability from 2013 to 2016



## 7 Conclusion

Even though it is in the very early stages of implementation there has already been a high level of engagement from parents and services with the AIM programme, particularly with levels 4 and 7. It is anticipated that as the programme develops and operational systems and processes improve, engagement with all the AIM levels will continue to grow and support the development of enriched learning environments to enable all children’s meaningful participation in the ECCE setting.

## 8 Appendices

*Appendix I Number and percentage of ECCE services in receipt of LINC capitation by county*

County	Number of ECCE services in each county	No. of services in each county in receipt of LINC capitation	% of ECCE services in each county in receipt of LINC capitation
Kerry	121	49	40%
Roscommon	52	19	36%
Limerick	172	60	35%
Donegal	138	47	34%
Sligo	61	16	26%
Cork County	365	87	24%
Monaghan	59	13	22%
Kildare	192	42	22%
Clare	134	29	22%
Waterford	89	19	21%
Laois	79	16	20%
Carlow	50	10	20%
Mayo	123	24	19%
Leitrim	32	6	19%
Kilkenny	94	17	18%
Westmeath	83	15	18%
Wexford	133	23	17%
Cork City	82	13	16%
Tipperary	156	23	15%
Louth	110	16	14%
Meath	194	28	14%
Dublin - South Dublin	228	32	14%
Offaly	73	10	14%
Galway	258	33	13%
Longford	35	4	11%
Dublin - Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	191	19	10%
Dublin - Fingal	315	28	9%
Dublin - Dublin City	383	33	8%
Wicklow	162	13	8%
Cavan	60	4	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,224</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>18%</b>

*Appendix II Number and percentage of services in receipt of Level 4 support by county*

County	No. of ECCE services in each county	No. of services in each county that received Level 4 support	% of services in each county that received Level 4 support
Leitrim	32	14	44%
Cavan	60	26	43%
Donegal	138	58	42%
Kerry	121	45	37%
Roscommon	52	19	37%
Cork County	365	132	36%
Wexford	133	48	36%
Limerick	172	61	35%
Louth	110	38	35%
Laois	79	27	34%
Clare	134	44	33%
Dublin - South Dublin	228	68	30%
Kildare	192	56	29%
Longford	35	10	29%
Dublin - Fingal	315	89	28%
Meath	194	53	27%
Monaghan	59	16	27%
Waterford	89	24	27%
Cork City	82	22	27%
Tipperary	156	41	26%
Carlow	50	13	26%
Galway	258	60	23%
Sligo	61	14	23%
Wicklow	162	37	23%
Kilkenny	94	21	22%
Dublin - Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	191	42	22%
Mayo	123	27	22%
Westmeath	83	18	22%
Dublin - Dublin City	383	74	19%
Offaly	73	14	19%

*Appendix III Percentage share of Level 5 supports compared to percentage share of ECCE services by county*

County	Percentage of all ECCE services by county	Percentage of all Level 5 supports by county
Dublin - Dublin City	9%	4%
Dublin - Fingal	7%	3%
Dublin - Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	5%	1%
Galway	7%	4%
Wexford	3%	1%
Dublin - South Dublin	5%	4%
Wicklow	4%	3%
Cork City	2%	1%
Mayo	3%	2%
Longford	1%	0%
Clare	3%	3%
Roscommon	1%	1%
Carlow	1%	1%
Westmeath	2%	2%
Kilkenny	2%	2%
Offaly	2%	2%
Sligo	1%	2%
Monaghan	1%	2%
Limerick	4%	5%
Leitrim	1%	1%
Waterford	2%	3%
Laois	2%	3%
Tipperary	4%	5%
Kildare	5%	6%
Cavan	1%	3%
Louth	3%	5%
Donegal	3%	6%
Kerry	3%	6%
Meath	5%	8%
Cork County	9%	12%

*Appendix IV Number of services that received Level 5 support under AIM by county*

County	No of services in each county who received level 5 Equipment support	No of services in each county who received level 5 Alterations support	% of all level 5 applications by county
County Cork	24	1	12%
Meath	15	1	8%
Kildare	12	1	6%
Donegal	6	6	6%
Kerry	9	3	6%
Louth	9	1	5%
Limerick	7	3	5%
Galway	9	1	5%
Tipperary	9	1	5%
Dublin - Dublin City	8	1	4%
Dublin - South Dublin	9	0	4%
Cavan	7	0	3%
Clare	5	1	3%
Laois	6	0	3%
Wicklow	5	1	3%
Dublin - Fingal	5	1	3%
Waterford	5	1	3%
Kilkenny	4	1	2%
Mayo	5	0	2%
Monaghan	4	0	2%
Offaly	4	0	2%
Sligo	4	0	2%
Westmeath	4	0	2%
Leitrim	1	2	1%
Cork City	2	0	1%
Carlow	2	0	1%
Roscommon	0	2	1%
Wexford	1	1	1%
Dublin - Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown	1	1	1%
Longford	1	0	0%



*Appendix V Number of services in receipt of Level 7 support and percentage of ECCE services receiving Level 7 support by county*

County	No of services in each county in receipt of Level 7 support	No. of ECCE services in each county	% of ECCE services in each county in receipt of Level 7 support
Donegal	48	138	35%
Cavan	19	60	32%
Kerry	34	121	28%
Cork County	99	365	27%
Laois	21	79	27%
Limerick	45	172	26%
Wexford	33	133	25%
Clare	31	134	23%
Monaghan	13	59	22%
Louth	24	110	22%
Kildare	39	192	20%
Longford	7	35	20%
Tipperary	31	156	20%
Roscommon	10	52	19%
Leitrim	6	32	19%
Cork City	15	82	18%
Kilkenny	17	94	18%
Waterford	16	89	18%
Galway	46	258	18%
Dublin - South Dublin	39	228	17%
Offaly	12	73	16%
Carlow	8	50	16%
Westmeath	12	83	14%
Meath	27	194	14%
Mayo	17	123	14%
Dublin - Fingal	42	315	13%
Sligo	8	61	13%
Wicklow	19	162	12%
Dublin Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	21	191	11%
Dublin - Dublin City	41	383	11%

## Appendix VI Number and percentage of Level 7 applications by county

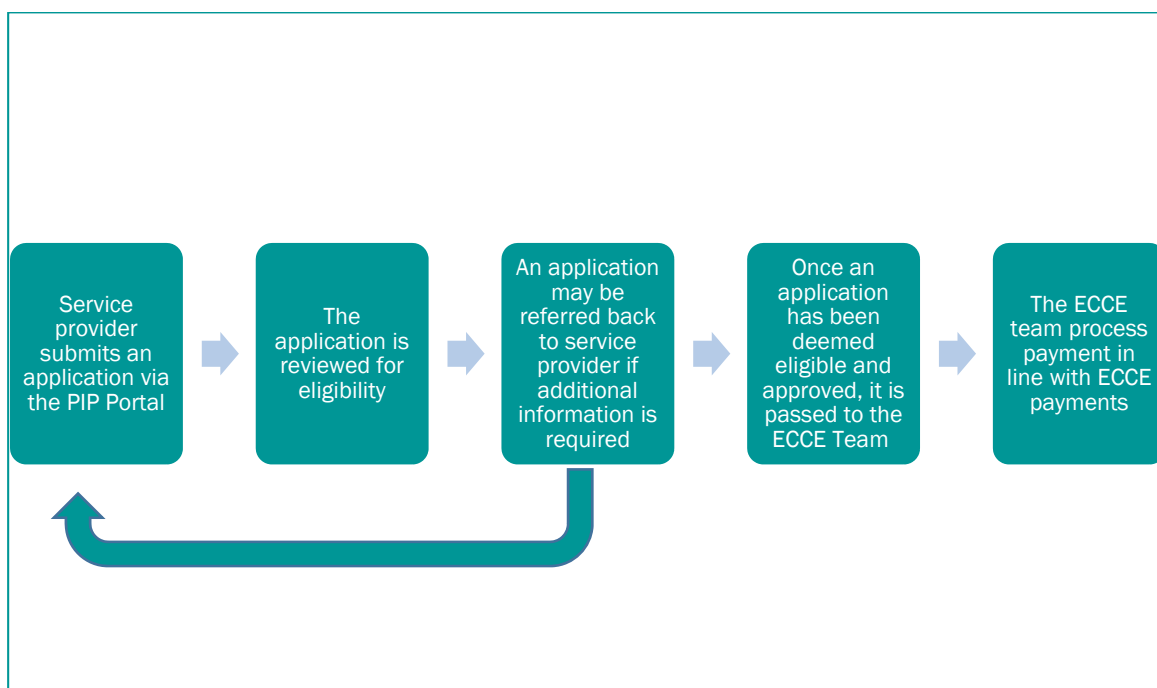
County	No. of approved Level 7 applications	% of approved L7 applications at 10hrs	% of approved L7 applications at 15hrs	% of ECCE registrations that received Level 7 support
Clare	64	33%	67%	2%
Donegal	76	21%	79%	2%
Kerry	63	41%	59%	2%
Limerick	83	33%	67%	2%
Cavan	32	25%	75%	1%
Tipperary	59	42%	58%	1%
Cork County	177	21%	79%	1%
Laois	36	17%	83%	1%
Longford	15	13%	87%	1%
Wexford	57	40%	60%	1%
Monaghan	21	43%	57%	1%
Offaly	25	24%	76%	1%
Waterford	33	18%	82%	1%
Galway	79	16%	84%	1%
Kildare	71	32%	68%	1%
Louth	34	41%	59%	1%
Kilkenny	25	24%	76%	1%
Cork City	26	4%	96%	1%
Carlow	14	0%	100%	1%
Roscommon	13	46%	54%	1%
Sligo	13	46%	54%	1%
Dublin - Dublin City	81	27%	73%	1%
Dublin - South Dublin	57	60%	40%	1%
Dublin - Fingal	68	47%	53%	1%
Leitrim	6	0%	100%	1%
Westmeath	20	30%	70%	1%
Mayo	23	22%	78%	1%
Meath	34	35%	65%	1%
Dublin Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	26	42%	58%	1%
Wicklow	20	45%	55%	1%

Appendix VII Percentage of services by community / private for all ECCE services and those accessing Level 4, 5, and 7 AIM supports

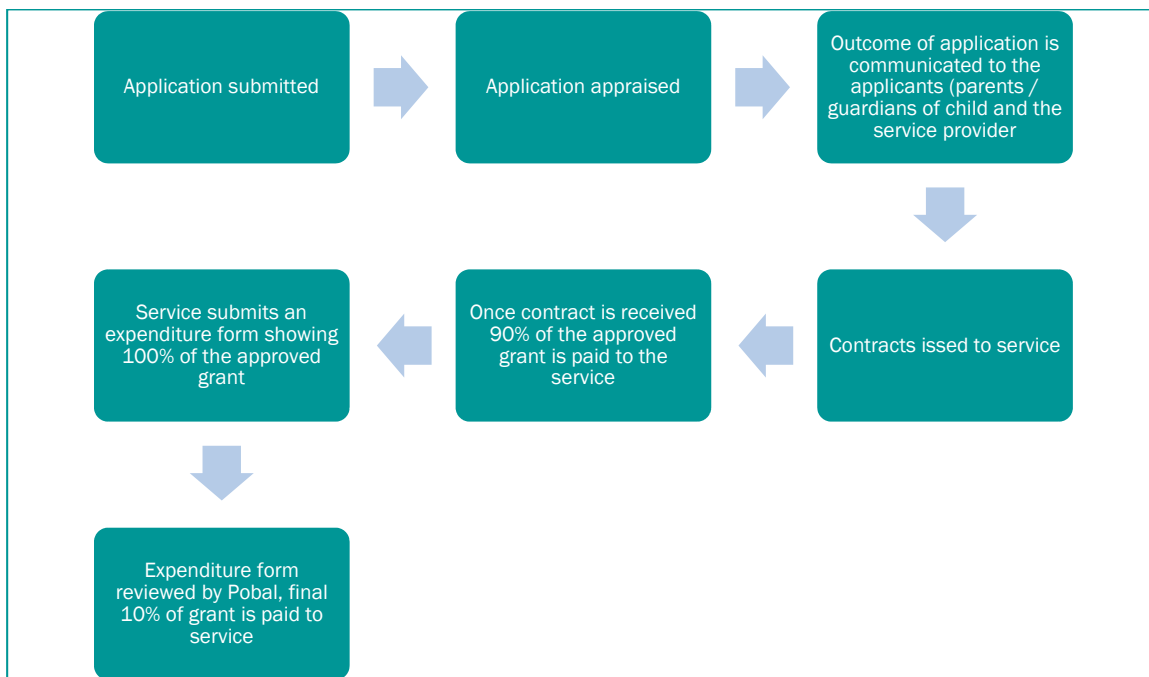
	All ECCE services	Services accessing L4	Services accessing L5	Services accessing L7
Community	24%	32%	30%	32%
Private	76%	68%	70%	68%

**Application Process**

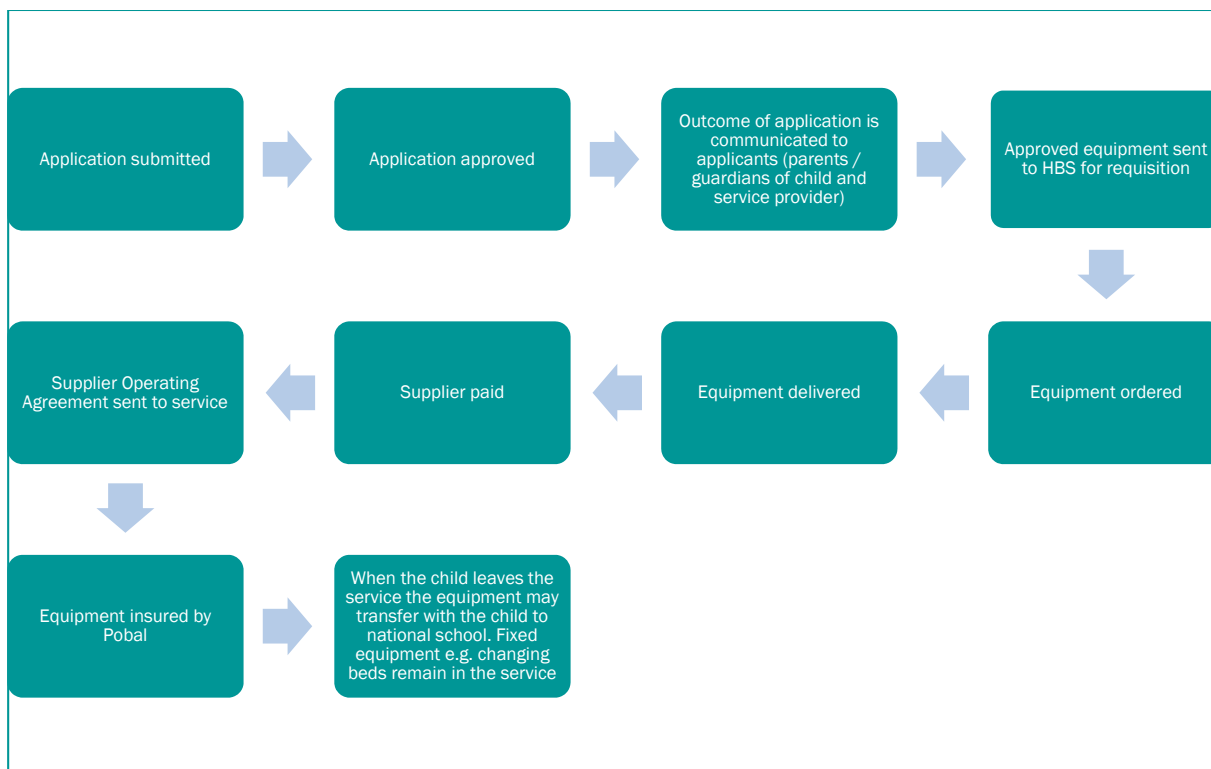
Appendix VIII Application process for Level 1 LINC capitation



Appendix IX Application process for Level 5 Alterations



Appendix X Application process for Level 5 Equipment



Appendix XI Application process for Level 7 capitation

