

## **Appendix: Extract from AIM Rules to highlight all updates made for 2020/2021 (changes shaded)**

**a) Update 1 to ensure that children on saver schemes, CCSP and TEC, can continue to access AIM, as can children on NCS who are also in receipt of ECCE**

### **2. 1 Registration on ECCE programme or other eligible DCYA programme**

AIM is designed to ensure that children with disabilities can participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. As such, in order for a child to access AIM supports, s/he must be registered on the **ECCE programme** in an ECCE-registered preschool service **or** be eligible to avail of the ECCE programme and be registered and approved on the **Community Childcare Subvention Plus (CCSP)** scheme or the **Training and Employment Childcare (TEC) Scheme**. In either case, the maximum number of hours of support available in the case of AIM Level 7 additional assistance is 15 per week, in line with full time attendance in ECCE.

Both CCSP and TEC **were** replaced by the National Childcare Scheme **in 2019** and no new registrations for these schemes are being accepted. However, the CCSP and TEC schemes remain for those parents or providers who benefited from CCSP or TEC prior to the introduction of the NCS and who choose not to transfer to the NCS (“savers”), to ensure that no one loses out in the transition to the NCS.

Under Budget 2020, the “saver” arrangement for this cohort was extended beyond August 2020. Persons who were registered on the CCSP or TEC schemes before they closed, and who retain their eligibility, will be able to remain on them indefinitely, for example until they no longer require early learning and care or school age childcare services.

The NCS is designed to ‘wrap around’ ECCE and there is therefore no rule providing for AIM during hours subsidised by NCS.

Where a child avails of the National Childcare Scheme as well as ECCE, it is permitted for her or him to avail of AIM during the hours she or he takes part in ECCE, up to a maximum of fifteen hours per week.

**b) Updates 2, 3, 4 and 5 to include arrangements for new EWSS**

### **3 Availing of other State supports**

When applying for targeted AIM supports, parents **and service providers** are requested to inform Better Start of any other supports already in place for the child. This may include supports provided by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) (e.g. Home Tuition Grant Scheme), or supports or grants provided by the HSE (either directly or by voluntary agencies on behalf of the HSE).

In seeking AIM level 7 funding for the purpose of additional assistance in the pre-school room, approved service providers are confirming that they will **not** use funding from the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) to support the wages of any employee whose wages are being supported through AIM level 7 funding.

### **3.3 Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme**

The wages of an employee may be supported through either the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) or AIM Level 7 funding, but not both. Where EWSS funding is subsidising the wages of an employee, AIM level 7 funding may not be sought in relation to that employee. In accepting AIM level 7 funding, the service confirms that they will not use funding from the EWSS to support the wages of any employee whose wages are being supported through AIM level 7 funding.

#### **3.3.1 Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme compliance**

Where a service is in receipt of AIM Level 7 additional assistance funding, the service consents to making available payroll statements for the purpose of compliance checks to confirm that funding from the EWSS is not being used to support the wages of an employee whose wages are being supported through AIM Level 7 funding. Where a service is found to be non-compliant with rule 3.3, AIM funding will be suspended until such time as

- a) Proof of corrections to EWSS funding in relation to the relevant employee is provided; and
- b) AIM funding for the period of double funding is reconciled.

### **9.15 Payment of AIM Level 7 additional capitation**

In order to receive AIM Level 7 additional capitation, the provider must:

- have an ECCE-registered child, or an ECCE-eligible child approved on CCSP or TEC, whose application for AIM Level 7 additional capitation has been approved;
- have met any pre-payment conditions outlined in the approval notification; and
- be tax compliant with a valid tax clearance number.

In the case of additional assistance, in order to receive the AIM Level 7 additional capitation the provider must have appointed or recruited a staff member to provide additional assistance in the preschool room. If there is a delay in appointment or recruitment of the staff member, it is the responsibility of the provider to inform Pobal.

Payments in relation to AIM Level 7 additional capitation will be made in line with the payments schedule available on the PIP Portal.

The service shall make their payroll statements available to facilitate compliance checks. This is for verification that EWSS funding is not being used to support the wages of any employee whose wages are being supported through AIM Level 7 funding. Where records of payroll documentation are required, photographic records of redacted payroll statements will be made.