



Pathway of the Action Plan

The actions outlined below will happen in three phases over a number of years

	Phase 1: Preparatory (2-3yrs)	Phase 2: Transition (3-5yrs)	Phase 3: Full Implementation commencing by 2028
Cost analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further research and analyse numbers of childminders likely to come within the scope of regulation. Analyse likely increase in National Childcare Scheme costs due to higher number of children and families benefiting. Further cost estimates on Phase 2 and 3 actions. Regulatory Impact Analysis. 		
Legislation and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Advisory Group on Regulation and Inspection. Draft childminder-specific regulations, with consultation. Develop a proportionate and appropriate inspection system. Amend the Child Care Act 1991. Childminding Development Officers, City/County Childcare Committees and National Voluntary Childcare Organisations will support childminders already eligible to register with Tusla. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End current legal exclusion from regulation of non-relative childminders. Childminder-specific regulations come into force. Communication actions to raise awareness of the new regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the childminder-specific regulations following initial implementation.

	Phase 1: Preparatory (2-3yrs)	Phase 2: Transition (3-5yrs)	Phase 3: Full Implementation commencing by 2028
Qualification and training requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Advisory Group on Training and Supports. Develop Foundation Training Programme and Quality Development Programme. Foundation Training Programme available for childminders. Child safeguarding and first aid training continues to be available for childminders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Development Programme available for childminders who have completed Foundation Training Programme. The Foundation Training Programme will continue to be available for new childminders. Child safeguarding and first aid training will continue to be available for childminders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Development Programme complete for current childminders. Review timeline for registered childminders to complete the Quality Development Programme.
Quality Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine options for delivery of childminding supports through existing structures and new options, linked to Review of the Operating System. Research the options for the model of a staffed local childminding networks. Begin expansion of inspection services specific to childminders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand inspection services to accommodate childminders. Extend and reform quality supports for childminders. Pilot and phased introduction of staffed local childminding networks, depending on outcome of Phase 1 research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide quality supports on an equitable footing to childminders and centre-based providers. Staffed local childminding networks fully operational.
Funding and financial supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Advisory Group on Funding and Financial Supports. Support childminders who meet current regulatory requirements to participate in the National Childcare Scheme. Review other financial supports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open National Childcare Scheme to all childminders who meet regulatory requirements, including foundation training programme. Phased reform of other financial supports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Childcare Scheme open to all childminders who continue to meet regulatory requirements, including the Quality Development Programme. Complete reform of other financial supports.
Consultation and communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Advisory Group on Consultation and Communications. Consultation and communications strategy. Develop information and training resources on use of nannies and au pairs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement consultation and communications strategy. Make available information and training resources on the use of nannies and au pairs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation of consultation and communications strategy. Disseminate information and training resources on use of nannies and au pairs.