



**An Roinn Leanai, Míchumais
agus Comhionannais**
Department of Children,
Disability and Equality

Co-funded
by the European Union



Co-funded and implemented
by the Council of Europe

Barnahus Ireland - Advanced Pilot Training on Trauma-informed Care

Joint EU-Council of Europe project

“Support the implementation of the Barnahus project in Ireland” (Phase II)

9-11th December 2025

**University College Cork
Main Campus, O'Rahilly Building
First Floor - Room number 1.01**

Context

The European Union-Council of Europe Joint Project “**Support the implementation of the Barnahus project in Ireland**” (Phase II) aims to strengthen the country’s response mechanism to child sexual abuse, to ensure that undue delays in the treatment of such cases is diminished, and that all children who are victims of sexual violence benefit from a child-friendly access to justice.

In 2017, Ireland successfully implemented the **Children First Act 2015**, which introduced mandatory reporting for suspected cases of child abuse. It was followed by the development of a **pilot Barnahus project in Galway in 2019, which began receiving referrals in November 2020**. During Phase I of the Project (2022-2025), the goal of the project was to expand the Barnahus model by supporting the Irish government to open two additional centers: Barnahus South in Cork and Barnahus East in Dublin.

The objective of Phase II is to ensure the success of Phase I by continuing to support the Irish authorities in the setting up of the three Barnahus sites. In this context, Phase II aims to concentrate on the development of key interagency tools to establish clear governance structures amongst the four main agencies involved in Barnahus in Ireland as well as provide tailored training for staff working with and for children in the context of Barnahus and amplify awareness around the Barnahus model in Ireland.

The project is co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and is implemented by the Council of Europe’s Children’s Rights Division in close co-operation with the EU SG Reform and the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) from 1st September 2025 to 28th February 2028.

This Barnahus Ireland- **Advanced Pilot Ttraining** consists of 9 modules and is delivered over 2.5 days. It is scheduled for **December 9th to 11th of 2025**, and it will take place at the University College Cork. This training is intended to strengthen the capacities of professionals working in Barnahus who already have a strong understanding of Barnahus and trauma-informed care.

The **aims of the advance pilot training** are:

- To drive a child rights-based participatory response to child sexual abuse in Barnahus Ireland
- To embed a shared multidisciplinary interagency response in Barnahus Ireland
- To establish trauma-informed practices to informing intervention at each stage of child and family’s journey through the Barnahus Ireland care pathway.

NB:

This pilot training is part of a wider project to develop Barnahus Ireland Trauma Informed Care training. The feedback from this group is essential to support the team to refine and develop this training programme. We therefore request that *all participants* commit to providing feedback on their experience of participating in this pilot. Time will be allocated to facilitate this. There will also be an opportunity to provide further feedback to the facilitators if participants feel they have further to add via email. Following this pilot, the training programme will be refined in tandem with any feedback received regarding the Foundational Level Training at a later date.

Agenda – 9 December 2025 (in person)	
<i>Facilitators delivering the training:</i> • <i>Dr Maria Lotty, Lecturer in the School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork</i> • <i>Bláthnaid McCabe, Principal Psychotherapist, Children’s Health Ireland at Connolly</i> • <i>Eimear Lacey, Principal Social Worker, Children’s Health Ireland at Tallaght</i>	
9:30-10:00	Welcoming remarks & Introduction to Day 1
10:00-11:30	Session 1 – Barnahus, a Trauma-informed Model of Care
11:30-11:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:45-13:05	Session 2 – Understanding the lived/living experience of child sexual abuse
13:05-13:50	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:50-15:00	Session 3 – Collaborative Practice in Barnahus
15:00-15:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:15-16:45	Session 3 – Collaborative Practice in Barnahus (continued)
16:45-17:00	Summarising Day 1

Agenda – 10 December 2025 (in person)	
<i>Facilitators delivering the training:</i> • <i>Dr Maria Lotty, Lecturer in the School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork</i> • <i>Bláthnaid McCabe, Principal Psychotherapist, Children’s Health Ireland at Connolly</i> • <i>Eimear Lacey, Principal Social Worker, Children’s Health Ireland at Tallaght</i>	
9:00-9:10	Welcome & Check-in to Day 2
9:10-10:20	Session 4 – Strategies for Embedding Trauma-informed Practices in 4 Rooms
10:20-10:35	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:35-12:05	Session 5 – Strategies for Embedding Trauma-informed Practices in 4 Rooms
12:05-12:30	Session 6 – Working with Families
12:30-13:15	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:15-14:15	Session 6 – Working with Families (continued)
14:15-14:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
14:30-15:45	Session 6 – Working with Families (continued)
15:45-16:00	Summarising Day 2

Agenda – 11 December 2025 (online)	
<i>Facilitators delivering the training:</i> • <i>Dr Maria Lotty, Lecturer in the School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork</i> • <i>Bláthnaid McCabe, Principal Psychotherapist, Children’s Health Ireland at Connolly</i> • <i>Eimear Lacey, Principal Social Worker, Children’s Health Ireland at Tallaght</i>	
10:00-10:20	Welcome & Online Check-in
10:20-11:10	Session 7 – Placing the child at the Centre in the 4 Rooms
11:10-11:20	<i>Coffee break - online</i>
11:20 -12:30	Session 8 – Practitioner Resilience
12:30-13:00	<i>Short Lunch break - online</i>
13:00-14:00	Session 8 – Practitioner Resilience (continued) –
14:00-14:30	Session 9 – Review of Training, key learnings and concluding remarks