



**An Roinn Leanaí, 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 – Train the Trainer Training on Trauma-informed Care

Joint EU-Council of Europe project

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

17-18th June 2026

University College Cork

O Rahilly Building, Main campus, Room 244, Floor 2

*The Project is co-funded by the European Union via the Technical Support Instrument, and implemented
by the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the European Commission.*

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 centres: 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 focus 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.

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This Barnahus Ireland **Train the Trainer program** consists of 8 sessions and is delivered over 2 days. It is scheduled for **June 17-18th 2026**, and will take place at University College Cork. This training is intended to strengthen the capacities of professionals working in Barnahus who have completed the Trauma-Informed Care training as participants, and to enable them to train their peers. Hence, this Train the Trainer session is only aimed at professionals who have participated in the pilot training sessions of the Foundation (April 2025) and Advanced (December 2025) levels of the Trauma-informed care training package. The training materials have been refined to incorporate feedback and comments gathered by participants during the pilot training sessions.

The **aims of the Train the Trainer session** are:

- To create a pool of trainers available across all relevant agencies (AGS, HSE, CHI and Tusla)
- To support professionals in training other professionals to implement trauma-informed care as part of the response through Barnahus Ireland
- 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.

Agenda Day 1 – 17 June 2026 (in person, University College Cork, O Rahilly Building, Main campus, Room 244, Floor 2)	
<i>Facilitators delivering the training:</i> • Dr Maria Lotty, Lecturer in the School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork • Bláthnaid McCabe, Principal Psychotherapist, Children's Health Ireland at Connolly	
9:00-9:30	Welcome and registration
9:30-11:00	Session 1: Overview, objectives, theoretical background
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	Session 2: Setting up- Preparation and evaluation - Foundation Level
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	Session 3: Facilitator's Skills - Foundational level – Day 1
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:00	Session 4: Facilitator's Skills - Foundational level – Day 2
18:00	Dinner – Market Lane, 5-6 Oliver Plunkett St, Centre, Cork, T12 T959, Ireland

Agenda Day 2 – 18 June 2026 (in person) (in person, University College Cork, O Rahilly Building, Main campus, Room 244, Floor 2)	
<i>Facilitators delivering the training:</i> • Dr Maria Lotty, Lecturer in the School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork • Bláthnaid McCabe, Principal Psychotherapist, Children's Health Ireland at Connolly	
9:30-11:00	Session 1: Setting up- Preparation and evaluation Advanced Level
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	Session 2: Facilitation Skills - Advanced level – Day 1
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	Session 3: Facilitation Skills - Advanced level – Day 2
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:00	Session 4: Review and Commitment to BI