

21 January 2025



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Early Years
Business News Tuesday



Welcome to the Business News Tuesday bulletin.

News this week about funding and the upcoming consultation.

As always - if you have any questions please contact the [**EY Business Support Team**](#).

Funding Rates

This year, DfE have asked all LA's to publish their funding rates for 2025/26 by 28 February. Our proposed rates were considered by the Schools Forum group on Thursday 16 January and will be presented at the Cabinet meeting on 29 January. With this date in mind and if Cabinet accept our proposals, we are planning to issue our consultation to the Early Years sector by 31 January. The consultation will only be open for a week to allow us enough time to analyse the feedback and publish the

rates on time. Please make a note of this date and look out for the consultation.

Working Parents Entitlement - Eligibility Codes

Parents have to reconfirm their eligibility codes every 3 months in their gov.uk childcare accounts. Codes must be valid on the following dates to be eligible in the relevant terms:

31st August = for the Autumn term

31st December = for the Spring term

31st March = for the Summer term

These are also the dates by which that codes must be applied for. If these deadline dates are missed, we can only consider backdating codes in exceptional circumstances.

Providers must validate the eligibility code in the Nursery Funding Portal. This allows all providers to make instant checks for code validity and these details are fed from the DfE's Eligibility Checking Service (ECS). When validating new codes, the text will now confirm the term in which extended hours can first be claimed:

The “Review previous checks” table may show a result of “Not known” for codes that are not valid in the current term. The “Check status” result of “Eligible” relates to the parents working position confirming that they will be eligible once the code is valid in the correct term:

Earliest start date for Working parent entitlement place	Eligibility code	Check last run	Eligible from	Eligible to	Grace period end	Check status	From Citizen Portal	Further action needed
								<input type="checkbox"/> Show all
Not known	50146697847	07/01/2025	03/01/2025	17/04/2025	31/08/2025	Eligible		

If there is no “EH” in the “Funding” column on your task, you will not be able to claim the extended hours. If the “EH” is red, you will also not be able to claim as the code has now expired:

Funding	Date of birth	Funding Age	Start Date	Date Child Left	Weeks Attended for term	Average Hours Attended	Hours Attended for term	Funded/Universal Hours Claimed per week	Funded/Universal Hours Claimed for term	Expanded/Extended Hours Claimed per week	Expanded/Extended Hours Claimed for term
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				Setting (Blank if still there)	per week							
EH S	20/02/2023	1	06/01/2025		180.00	395.26	4743.12	30.00	360.00	200.26	2403.12	

Thereafter, Gloucestershire County Council is responsible for notifying a provider where a parent has fallen out of eligibility and inform them of the grace period end date. This information can be found on the “Expiration Dashboard” within the Nursery Funding Portal. We ask all providers to use this tool to support their parents with additional reminders to reconfirm their codes, which also protects your income.

Further details regarding eligibility codes and their Grace Periods can be found in Section 5 & 6 of the Local Provider Agreement.

Funding Timetable for the Spring Term

Spring Term 2024/25	
Claim Forms for Headcount Actual Issued	09 December 2024
Headcount Actual Task Opens	16 December 2024
Eligibility Code Deadline Date	31 December 2024
Term Starts	06 January 2025
Headcount Actual Task Closes	10 January 2025
Headcount Actual Payment Released from GCC (*) - 1st Instalment	24 January 2025
2nd Instalment received by	30 January 2025
3rd Instalment received by	28 February 2025
4th Instalment received by	30 March 2025
Headcount Actual payment breakdown lists issued	27 January 2025
Headcount Amendment Task Opens	24 February 2025
Headcount Amendment Task Closes	21 March 2025
Headcount Amendment Payment Released from GCC (*)	04 April 2025
Headcount Amendment payment breakdown lists issued	07 April 2025
Number of funded weeks	12 weeks
Term Ends	11 April 2025

PACEY regional event

The Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY) is hosting an early years regional networking event in Birmingham on **Saturday 01 February 9am-12.30pm**, at the Leonardo Royal Hotel Birmingham.

This event is open to both PACEY members and non-members, Childminders, Childminding Assistants, Nursery Managers, Nursery Workers, Nannies, Students, Teachers and other early years professionals.

For more details and to book your tickets please visit [PACEY's news and events page](#)

Childcare Works

Childcare Works have recently launched new 'Early Years Toolkit' [Early Years Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#) and 'Wraparound toolkit' - [Wraparound Childcare Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#). They have been curated by experts to bring together everything you need to grow, sustain or start, your childcare provision. It is designed for all types of providers at any stage of their journey. Whether you are just starting out, are sustaining your provision, or growing, you will find informative, relevant content.

The volume of information available to support providers can be overwhelming. The purpose of this toolkit is to bring this wealth of knowledge together in one place. It contains information specific to operating childcare provision, plus more general information for businesses, childminders and charities, including expert marketing, HR and leadership and management, partnership working and much, much more.

Content is organised into six 'topics':

- Business Planning
- Business Growth
- Running of Your Childcare Provision

- Leadership and Management
- Partnership Working
- SEND and Inclusive Practice

Each topic contains sub-topics to make finding relevant content easy. To support the different needs of providers Childcare Works have included information in a range of formats such as guides, learning, toolkits, templates, articles, case studies and much more. Each resource included in the toolkit is available without cost.

Access the Early Years Toolkit here: [Early Years Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#).

Childcare Works have also recently launched new 'Wraparound toolkit' - [Wraparound Childcare Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#).

Business Network Meeting 4 February

The next Business Network Meeting will take place on 4 February 2025 from 7 until 8pm. Please book [here](#).

The focus of the next meeting will be on Funding - nursery entitlements and we will be welcoming Sue Bodenham, Finance Support Manager.



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