

25 February 2025



Gloucestershire  
COUNTY COUNCIL

Early Years  
Business News Tuesday



## Business News Tuesday

### Welcome

**Next Application window for EY capital and Wraparound funding**

**Please note that we will be looking to open the next window for applications on 2 April until 30 April 2025.**

If you need support completing applications or would like to discuss with the EY and wraparound teams please get in touch – see emails and weblinks below.

If you are applying for capital funding for building work, extension or remodelling internal structures we have put together a [Project Sheet](#) to help you. This has questions and guidance about what information you need to provide.

If you have any questions please email [EY Business Support](#).

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## **STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES 2025/26**

The guidance document for LA's regarding Early Education and childcare funded hours was released on 21 February. The team are now working through the document to understand the main changes and the impact of these changes. We will share a summary with you all as soon as we can and will be working towards updating and issuing the Local Provider Agreement for 2025/26, based on this new guidance.

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## **AMENDMENT TASK – ADDITIONAL COLUMN**

The funding amendment task for the Spring term opened on 24 February 2025 and closes on 21 March 2025.

You may notice an additional column on the task with the heading “Entitlement Weeks”. This is linked to the Early Years Census and will only form part of your Spring Term submissions.

This column should reflect the number of weeks per year that a child is accessing their funded entitlement over. If you are a term time only setting, this will be 38 weeks. If you are open all year round and stretch the funding, the number of weeks can be anything between 39 – 52 to reflect the number of weeks your setting stretches the child's entitlement over. Please note that if you do not enter anything in this column, we will use 38 weeks as the default figure.

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## Fantastic free resources for providers regarding meal planning in your setting

Guidance: [Example menus for early years settings in England](#)

Example menus and useful guidance for early years settings to help meet the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements for food and drink.

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## Hourly Funding Rates - Gloucestershire County Council Guidance for Early Years Sufficiency Grant 2024

As part of the business support offered to all Early Years providers in Gloucestershire, a Sufficiency Grant may be considered to support one off/short term costs to ensure business sustainability and subsequently to ensure sufficient childcare provision. The Sufficiency Grant Funding is funding allocated from the Dedicated Schools Grant underspend.

This sufficiency grant is for revenue only and not for capital items. If you identify a need for support with capital funding to extend your provision for additional or new places for under 3's please refer to the early years' expansion capital funding application criteria. [Expanded entitlement | Early Years Service](#)

Sufficiency Grants will only be awarded where the application demonstrates that it meets the conditions of the grant:

- The setting is in an area identified as of potential risk of insufficient EY provision and must provide evidence of the current and future occupancy of the setting.
- The provider can evidence that the business will be sustainable following the grant award.
- The provider must be willing to engage in business support before and following the allocation of the award.
- The provider must commit to updating the Self Update Provider

Portal (SUPP) on a termly basis.

- The provider commits to engaging in a robust monitoring process following grant allocation, to ensure the grant has been used for the purposes agreed and has delivered the intended outcomes and annual review, ensuring the business plan is kept up to date and that the business remains sustainable.

What the sufficiency grant funding can be used for:

- Staffing costs for a maximum of one term to enable the setting to increase occupancy to aid future sustainability.
- Training to support operational and business requirements.
- Resources to support delivery of early years childcare places this may include marketing / promotional material / business management software, IT connectivity.
- Resources required to support delivery of the Early Years Foundation stage requirements.
- This is not an exhaustive list.

Link to webpage: [Sufficiency Grant 2024-2025 | Early Years Service](#)

The application window for those wishing to apply for Sufficiency Grants will run from now (28 Jan 2025) until the 14 February 2024.

Applications will be made through the [Expanded entitlement portal](#).

Please find a business plan document [here](#) for your use.

Any questions, please contact [EY Business Support](#).

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## **SEND training for wraparound providers**

We have teamed up with Active Impact to offer SEND training to providers of wraparound care. The Inclusion Needs you course is a two-day course which is free of charge. The course will give you:

- An Introduction to Inclusive Practice and the Social Model of Disability.

- Practical Inclusion including adapting activities, providing assistance and giving good quality advance information.

Please find below the booking links and dates for Spring 2025 courses.  
March/April – [Shurdington/Cheltenham](#).

Please feel free to contact the [wraparound team](#) should you wish to discuss this further.

## **Funding and Support to help meet the needs of children and families**

Did you know that there are currently 122 Grants and charitable support records on [Glosfamilies Directory](#)?

The page content can be filtered by location and age groups (SEND Local Offer ages) using the filters to the right of the page.

We would recommend using a key word search to focus your search. For example, if you were to enter “**funding respite**” you would see 17 linked records. This could save a huge amount of time when researching. Please note the same records would appear if you searched “**respite funding**”, the word order is not essential for this function.

We include below a few services which may be of interest:

### **Nicola Cory Support Foundation**

The Nicola Corry Support Foundation is a registered charity that helps families with children where either parents has been diagnosed with cancer. The Charity gives preference to families with young children living in the South West, although, as funds permit, we will consider requests from all over the UK. We may help families with:

- Childcare costs e.g. child minding, after school clubs, nursery
- Money to help families afford a treat together - weekend away or holiday to help in stressful times
- Grants to ease financial pressure caused by the disruption to income due to the illness

### **Buttle Chances for Children Grant ( Age 2-18 years old)**

Chances for Children grants are individually tailored grants of up to

£2,400 for children and young people who have experienced a crisis that has recently had a significant and enduring impact on their wellbeing and educational engagement. We fund items and activities to help improve children and young people's wellbeing and increase their capacity to engage in education and learning.

### **Gloucester Relief in Sickness Fund**

The Gloucester Relief in Sickness Fund is intended to assist any person who is resident in the city of Gloucester and who is both sick and suffering from financial hardship.

### **Gloucestershire Welfare Support Scheme**

The fund provides practical support to eligible adults and families for food, gas/electricity top ups and household items such as furniture including white goods/appliances and furniture

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## **Training**

**Provider Portal Training - Claiming the funded entitlements and using the Self Update Portal - 7 March 2025 - 10am until noon - Face to face at Shire Hall. Book via [link](#).**

This training is now full, but if we have sufficient interest on the waiting list, we will organise another event. Please add yourself to the waiting list if you could benefit from this training.

Thank you.



Gloucestershire County Council, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2TJ

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