

11 February 2025



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Early Years
Funding Consultation



Business News Tuesday

Welcome

Thanks to all those who have submitted applications for the Early Years Expansion and Wraparound Grants. The teams are working hard to get these triaged and ready for the Grant Panel reviews. The Grant Panel will meet on the 24 and 26 Feb 2025 and we will be getting in touch with everyone in March to let them know the outcomes.

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

VAT AFFECTING PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Since 1 January 2025, all chargeable education services provided by private schools have been subject to VAT. This has raised some queries regarding the Early Years funded entitlements for children at these schools.

Gloucestershire County Council are currently looking into this, and we hope to be able to update settings shortly with a planned procedure to address this issue.

12 WEEKS FUNDING – SPRING & SUMMER TERM

From the academic year 2024/25, we have reverted to the pattern of 14-12-12 funded weeks. We are aware that in the current Spring term, there are 13 academic weeks and only 11 weeks in the Summer term. Term time only providers should claim 12 weeks in both the Spring and the Summer terms to ensure they receive the correct entitlements for their children.

The starting point of eligibility, detailed in section 5.4 of the Local Provider Agreement, will apply for the Summer term, with 28 April being the start date of that term:

5.4 Children become eligible for the funded entitlement from the term after they reach the age of eligibility and up until statutory school age, which is the term after their 5th birthday (as long as they remain at an Early Years provision and do not accept a place at a school, see 13.12). The following table shows when a child is eligible to receive funding, these dates are consistent with those used for determining the start of compulsory education (all dates are inclusive):

When child turns the relevant age (9 months, 2, 3 or 4 years)	When they can get their hours from
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January

REMINDER - EARLY YEARS PROVIDERS FUNDING RATE CONSULTATION 2025/26

The consultation for the funding rates for 2025/26 is now open and closes on 14 February. Please can we encourage as many of you as possible to complete this survey.

Start Consultation

Survey closes in:

02 : 09 : 41 : 39
days hours minutes seconds

Early Years and Wraparound settings- Changes to National Insurance April 2025

The government has announced several significant changes to National Insurance contributions (NICs) and the Employment Allowance, set to take effect from April 2025.

Changes to National Insurance Contributions and Employment Allowance from April 2025:

- 1. Secondary Threshold Adjustment:** The earnings level at which employers become liable to pay secondary Class 1 NICs will decrease from £9,100 to £5,000 per year. This means employers will start paying NICs at a lower earnings threshold: [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)
- 2. Increase in NICs Rate:** The rate of secondary Class 1 NICs will rise from 13.8% to 15%. This change will increase the cost of employing staff for businesses, including early years settings: [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)
- 3. Employment Allowance Changes:** The maximum Employment Allowance will increase from £5,000 to £10,500. Additionally, the £100,000 eligibility threshold for claiming the allowance will be

removed, allowing more employers to benefit.

Employment Allowance for Early Years Settings: Organisations such as the National Day Nurseries (NDNA) and Early Years Alliance (EYA) continue to campaign for clarity from the government regarding eligibility for settings to access the Employment Allowance.

We will continue to put any updates into the newsletter as they become known.

Wraparound News

DfE MI data collection is due this week

If you have received a grant for your wraparound care then you need to complete the data collection for the number of places you are using this week – 10 Feb to 14 Feb 2025.

Please use this [guidance](#) to help you complete the data return.

All data must be back into us by **21 Feb 2025** to enable us to report back to DfE.

If you need help with submitting this data, please contact the [Wraparound Team](#).

Updates to webpages

We are regularly updating our webpages so please remember to check them out

[Wraparound care childcare | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Breakfast Club Early Adopters

Early Adopter schools should now have been notified by DfE. We are happy to provide any help or support for schools undertaking this task.

Schools and providers can also find out more information using the following link

[Breakfast clubs early adopters scheme - GOV.UK.](#)

Please contact the [team](#).

SEND training for wraparound providers

Places still available on the February course for those providers who have received funding from the wraparound grant but not yet accessed the training. Please find below the booking links and dates for February course and the one in March/April 2025.

February - Churchdown: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/inclusion-needs-you-13th-and-27th-february-2025-tickets-1090988288339>

March/April – Shurdington/Cheltenham:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/inclusion-needs-you-26th-march-and-9th-april-2025-tickets-1091000896049>

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

Training

Recruitment and training for staff in Early Years and Wraparound provision

Some providers have been in touch saying they are struggling to recruit staff. We have added some links that may help with advertising for staff. They can be found on our webpages using the link below

Or by using the direct links here

[Do something big](#)

[Find a job](#)

Experience-based route for early years staff qualifications

To support early years settings to recruit and retain staff, from 3 March 2025 eligible educators will be able to access an experience-based route to working in the Staff:Child ratios at level 3. This new route recognises the significant contribution that skilled and experienced staff can make to the education and care of young children. This is an opportunity for educators without currently approved qualifications to develop their careers, and for providers to maximise the potential of their talented staff in a way that works best for the children in their care. The full consultation response can be found [here](#).

[Experience-based route for early years practitioners - GOV.UK](#)

When using this route, early years providers must follow all requirements included in the Early Years Qualification Requirements and Standards document. Early years qualification requirements and standards

Please note: The experience-based route and this guidance do not yet represent the law, until the related statutory instrument has been made and comes into force, expected on 3 March 2025.

[Experience-based route for early years staff - GOV.UK](#)

Early Years Teacher Degree Apprenticeship Standard

The DfE have also announced the publication of the Early Years Teacher Degree Apprenticeship standard. This new, graduate-level qualification will give everyone from school leavers and junior staff to senior leaders the opportunity to easily move into a specialist career in the early years sector.

In addition, useful tools for all aspects of Early Years and wraparound provision can be found on the Childcareworks website where they have

an 'Early Years toolkit' and a 'Wraparound toolkit'.

The toolkits can be found here - [Early Years Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#) [Wraparound Childcare Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#).



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