



Early Years & Childcare Provider Bulletin

EY and Childcare Provider Bulletin: Business & Funding Focus (BFF) 7 November 2025



Welcome

Hello and welcome to our new day for our bulletin – we have moved our provider bulletins to a Friday, so, we have changed the name of our bulletin to reflect this.

You will receive bulletins from the Business and Funding teams on alternate weeks to the Quality and Inclusion teams from today, 7 November.

We hope that this will make it easier for you to share the information with relevant staff as it will be the same day each week.

We thought it might be useful to re-cap the help and support our teams can offer providers.

Please get in touch if you need help or support from us, we look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

Early Years and Childcare Business and Funding colleagues

If you have any questions please email [EY Business Support](#), EYfunding@gloucestershire.gov.uk or [Wraparound Team](#)

Business and funding support for providers

Local Authority Support

- Access to EY and Childcare business officers, finance teams and childcare sufficiency teams
- Guidance on sustainability and expansion planning
- Help with understanding local childcare demand and demographics

Financial Planning & Budgeting

- Templates for cash flow forecasting and budgeting
- Advice on fee structures and funding streams (e.g., funded hours, grants)
- Support with cost analysis and break-even calculations

Marketing & Promotion

- Help with creating marketing plans and digital presence
- Advice on engaging with families and communities
- Support with branding and communication strategies

Training & Workshops (being updated)

- Business planning webinars and in-person sessions
- Leadership and management training for nursery owners/managers
- Access to CPD (Continuing Professional Development) resources

Digital Tools & Resources

- Business planning software or templates tailored to childcare settings
- Online toolkits for start-up and sustainability planning
- Access to sector-specific platforms (e.g., NDNA, PACEY, Early Years Alliance)
- Help with keeping provider information up to date via our online systems (e.g. Self-update Provider Portal – SUPP)

Policy & Regulation Guidance

- Updates on Ofsted requirements and EYFS framework
- Support with compliance and risk management
- Help with creating policies and procedures

Funding & Grants

- Information on local and national funding opportunities
- Support with grant applications and business cases
- Advice on managing funded places and eligibility

Peer Networks & Mentoring

- Opportunities to join local provider forums or networks
- Access to mentoring from experienced childcare leaders
- Sharing best practices and collaborative problem-solving

Early Years Entitlement

- Guidance on accessing and navigating the provider portal
- Support with applications for funding for disadvantaged 2-year-olds
- Advice on all funding entitlements

You can access this and lots more information on our new webpages here: [Early Years and Childcare Service](#) | [Early Years Service](#)

School Based Nurseries

School Based Nursery Phase 2 – updates from the EY and CC Business Team

Key dates:

- Applications open 22 September 2025 and close on 11 December 2025 (5pm)
- Decisions announced April 2026
- Funding released June 2026
- Projects need to be operational by September 2026
- Final deadline for spend September 2027

Schools must confirm the following:

- They did not receive funding in phase 1
- The project will deliver a net increase in childcare places
- The nursery will be operational before September 2027
- Local Authority approval has been formally obtained, and the approval form has been submitted.

All applicants for the SBN must receive approval from GCC before submitting their application. If you are interested in applying, please get in contact with us. We will need time to review your projects before we can approve your application.

We will send written approval to support your application as required, as long as, all details of your SBN project are submitted to ourselves by **5pm 28th November** to eybusinesssupport@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

We are more than happy to support these applications in any way we can so please get in touch if you require anything further from us.

Current Guidance

Initial page - [School-based Nursery Capital Grant 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

Subsidiary linked pages -

[Home - Apply for a School-Based Nurseries Capital Grant](#)

[School-based Nursery Capital Grant 2025 to 2026: information for applicants](#)

[School-based Nursery Capital Grant 2025 to 2026: grant funding agreement terms and conditions](#)

Local authority approval form –

[school-based-nursery-capital-grant-2025-to-2026-local-authority-approval-instructions-and-form.docx](#)

Success stories – EY and Wraparound creation/expansion

We are excited to share with you some of the success stories about the creation and expansion of Early Years and Wraparound childcare that has happened across the county over the past 12 months.

Wraparound Funding Case Studies

Case Study 1 – £65,040 awarded

A Forest of Dean based Trust received funding to create a new afterschool hub supporting four schools. Each had previously tried to run their own clubs but couldn't sustain them due to low demand. The funding covered:

- Staffing costs
- Vehicle running costs for transport between sites

- Consumables
- Capital funding for a minibus

Case Study 2 – £25,975 awarded

A school near Cheltenham found that the lack of wraparound care was affecting their reception intake. They partnered with a sports club to deliver breakfast and afterschool provision. The funding supported staff costs while numbers grew, helping the school achieve a full reception intake for the first time.

Case Study 3 – £56,539 awarded

An infant school's afterschool club was at full capacity. To expand provision, they collaborated with two Early Years settings to host younger children. The joint application funded:

- Staffing costs
- Resources to support collaboration (e.g. staff laptops for safeguarding)
- Resources for children
- Consumables

Wraparound updates

We still have revenue funding for wraparound providers. **Our next Grant Panel is 18 December 2025 and the application window is now open until 21 November 2025.**

Wraparound providers – MI data collection

It's that time of the year when we will be asking all our funded wraparound providers to complete the MI data return.

You will have had the information from us about this. Dates for your diary- with the reporting week when you need to be collecting attendance data and when this needs to be uploaded and sent to us highlighted.

- **Friday 17th October:** MI guidance & supporting documents sent to LAs.
- **Monday 10th - Friday 14th November:** Provider reporting week.
- **Monday 17th - Friday 21st November:** Provider reporting window
- **Friday 21st November:** Provider reporting deadline.
- **Monday 21st November - Friday 5th December:** LA reporting

window.

- **Friday 5th December:** LA MI template deadline.

Many thanks for getting this to us, it is wonderful to see how successful you have been at creating and expanding this childcare service for parents and families across our county.

Dates for training for wraparound providers

Tuesday 18th November (online) 9.30am - 11am - **The EYFS Environment in the context of wrap-around provision** - <https://www.pataglos.org.uk/event-6400018>

Tuesday 25th November (online) 9.30am - 11am - **Safeguarding for wrap-around provision in the context of the EYFS** - <https://www.pataglos.org.uk/event-6400029>

If you have problems accessing these links please email the wraparound inbox for help

Wraparound2@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Recruitment and retention of staff

Looking for Staff or apprentices?

We have teamed up with DWP and Gloscol to look at connecting potential employers with those interested in starting careers in childcare.

All the contact details are included [in this poster](#) – but please feel free to get in touch with the EY&CC Business team if you have any questions.

Annual Parent Carer Survey

Help please!

We have 5 weeks remaining until the survey closes and we would like to reach as many families as possible. Please share the link below with your parents and families

[Gloucestershire Parent Carer Survey 2025 \(Page 1 of 7\)](#)

We are almost halfway through our annual Parent Carer survey for 2025 and while we had a fantastic start, the momentum has slowed. We have distributed cards and posters to partners across health, education, early help, social care and the voluntary and community sector.

Please email localoffer@gloucestershire.gov.uk if you want any cards, posters or digital images for social media posts.

The full data from this survey provides a rich account of the experiences of families with SEND. It helps the Local Area Partnership understand things from the family's perspective and inform improvements. Evidence of this work is outlined in the annual 'You said, We did' report.

You can find this year's report here [GloSFamilies Directory | Support for Families with SEND - Gloucestershire's Local Offer for Parent Carers](#)

Early Years Funded Entitlements updates

The amendment task for the Autumn term opens on 3rd November and closes on 28th November. Payments will leave GCC on 12th December.

Starters and Leavers in the Autumn term

As part of the amendment task, please ensure that you enter start dates or leaving dates, where necessary, and adjust the number of funded weeks you are claiming of any children that join your setting or leave during the Autumn term. The task does not automatically recalculate the number of weeks funding to claim based on the dates you enter. To support this, please consider the following information:

Number of funded weeks in the Autumn term = 14 weeks

Week 1 = w/c 1st September

Week 14 = w/c 8th December

Half term = w/c 27th October (non-funded week)

With the amendment task currently open until 28th November, please

can we take this opportunity to ask you to review children's home addresses before you submit your tasks. Primary school place invitation letters are sent to families in November and the contact details used reflect those for their early years' placement. Your support with ensuring accurate data submissions would be much appreciated.

Further details to support you with your amendment task can be found in the Portal User Guide and our FAQs on our website at: [Early Years Funding](#).| [Early Years Service](#)

Let's talk business: A space for your questions

1. What are the termly deadlines dates for parents to apply for their Working Parents Entitlement eligibility codes?

Parents MUST apply before the following deadline dates and the code must have a start date on or before:

- *31st August for the Autumn term,*
- *31st December for the Spring term*
- *31st March for the Summer term.*

2. Why can't I enter extended/expanded hours on the headcount task?

If the eligibility code is not valid in the right term, you will not be able to add extended/expanded hours into the funding task. Please visit "Review previous checks" in the Portal and ensure the "Eligible from" date meets the correct range discussed in Section 5.5 of the Provider Agreement.

If you have added a new child to the headcount task before checking their eligibility code, you will not have access to the extended hours field until the code has been checked correctly and is valid in the term.

Always "Run a new check" for a WPE code for a new child, before you add them to the headcount task.

3. Do I have to provide an invoice if the child only claims their

funded entitlement?

Yes, it is advised that all families receive an invoice, even if their child is only accessing funded hours. The invoice should clearly highlight the number of hours being claimed on behalf of the child. This can be issued monthly, termly, or yearly, depending on your usual invoicing schedule.

Training

Training & Meetings - Book now!

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 10/11/2025 - 4:00 - 5:30pm - Hesters Way Children Centre, Dill Avenue, Cheltenham, GL51 0ES - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 11/11/2025 - 4:00 - 5:30pm - Steam Mills Primary School, Steam Mills, Cinderford, GL14 3JD [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 12/11/2025 - 6:00 - 8.00pm - Slimbridge Primary School, St John's Road, Slimbridge, Gloucester, GL2 7DD [Book here](#)

Leaders and Managers Network Meeting (Gloucester Farmers Club) - 12/11/2025 - 1:00 - 3:30pm - Gloucester Farmers club , Agricultural House, Greville Close, Gloucester, GL2 9RG - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 13/11/2025 - 4:30 - 6:00pm - Kings Stanley Playgroup, Kings Stanley Village Hall, Broad Street, Kings Stanley, Stonehouse GL10 3PN - [Book here](#)

Childminder Play Session - 18/11/2025 - 9:30 - 12.00pm - The Beacon Children's Centre, Valley Gardens, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 2AR - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 18/11/2025 - 4:00 - 5:30pm - Longford Primary Academy, Clock Tower Road, Gloucester, GL2 9FP - [Book here](#)

Early Years SENCo Cluster Meeting - 19/11/2025 - 4:00 - 5:30pm - The Rissington School (Upper Rissington Site) Mitchell Way, Upper

Rissington, Cheltenham, GL54 2PL - [Book here](#)

Childminder Network Meeting - Adult Education (GCC) - 19/11/2025 - 7:00 - 8:00pm - Online via TEAMS - [Book here](#)

SIOT Level 2 - Practical strategies: sensory processing in the Early Years (FULL) - 20/11/2025 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Great Oldbury Primary Academy, Veterans Way, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 3WH. - [Book here](#)

SIOT Level 2 - Practical strategies: sensory processing in the Early Years (FULL) - 27/11/2025 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Kingsway Primary School, Valley Gardens, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 2AR - [Book here](#)

SIOT Level 1 - 01/12/2025, 4:00 - 6:00pm at Oakwood Primary School. [Book here](#)

Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy training (SIOT) – Play to Ignite Development - 04/12/2025 - 4:00 - 6:00pm - Oakwood Primary School, Cotswold Road, Cheltenham, GL52 5HD - [Book here](#)

Childminder Play Session - 09/12/25, 9:30 - 11:30am - The Link Children's Centre, Matson Avenue, Matson, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL4 6DB. [Book here](#)

Childminder Network Meeting - 11/12/2025 - 7:00 - 8:00pm - Online via TEAMS - [Book here](#)

Childminder Play Session - 16/12/2025 - 9:30 - 12:00pm - The Beacon Children's Centre, Valley Gardens, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 2AR - [Book here](#)

Total Communication Training in the Early Years - This training is provided in house at your setting.

You can now book Total Communication in the Early Years through GCC+. To do this you will need to log into your setting's GCC+ account. Go to the **search bar** on the **home page**, and type in Total Communications and **press the search key**.

You will then see the link for the Total Communications for you to book.

(Please note – if you search in the ‘training section’ or the ‘services’ section, you won’t find it. It must be searched for in the home page search and the search key pressed). NB - If you just press enter, it

won't find it.

Once you have booked and checked out your training, you will be contacted by an EY Inclusion Advisor to arrange the date and time for the delivery of your course. If you have not heard from us within 2 weeks, please contact the EY Admin Team: eyservice@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

Please note: Most training and all events (excluding some meetings) are subject to a charge. Please check the price when you make your booking. If you are in any doubt, please email eyservice@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Please refer to the cancellation policy for your event, as charges may apply.

CANCELLATION POLICY

- 2 weeks before the training course is due to take place – 100% refund
- Less than 2 weeks before the training course is due to take place – 0% refund
- If GCC cancels a training course, we will issue a refund automatically. If you paid by credit card, the refund will be paid back to the same card. If you paid by invoice, you will receive a credit note.
- If you need to cancel your place on a training course within two weeks of the course and there are special circumstances, please contact eyservice@gloucestershire.gov.uk and we will consider your request on a case-by-case basis.



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

