

If you have queries about any of the above, please email

✉ [eyservice@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:eyservice@gloucestershire.gov.uk) ✉



13 November 2023



## Autumn 2023

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to read our latest Business Newsletter.

The business and funding team continue to assist many early years providers who have benefited from our business support in recent months. This is a free, confidential service provided to any setting that feel they would benefit from independent support.

If you would like to access this service, please submit a business referral form using the link below and we will be in touch to arrange either a virtual or face to face meeting. Link to webpage:

[Business Support Forms link](#)

**Business Support & Funding Team**

## Team Update

Recently we have successfully recruited two new team members to the funding and business support team.

[Rio Barran- Early Years Funding Officer](#)

I joined the funding team at the end of July, and I have loved every minute and have enjoyed getting to know the funding side of nursery life. Previously I worked as a nursery practitioner

in some local nurseries. I am also Mummy to my 1-year-old daughter who takes up most of my spare time. I look forward to helping you with your queries and getting to know you all.

Louise Canning- Business Support Officer

I am delighted to have joined the early years business support team. Most of my working life has been in early years. More recently focusing on the business side, working in finance, nursery funding, future planning and HR which included the challenging Covid period. So, hopefully I understand some of the joys and challenges of working in early years, I am looking forward to meeting many of you over the coming weeks.

## **New Funding Entitlements**

In the government's spring budget, the Chancellor announced transformative reforms to childcare for parents, children, the economy, and women. By 2027 to 2028, this government will expect to be spending more than £8bn every year on free hours and early education, helping working families with their childcare costs. This represents the single biggest investment in childcare in England ever. This new offer will empower parents, allowing them to progress their careers and support their families.

DfE are still working on the details these new entitlements and we are keeping up to date with each of their announcements.

Until now, they have requested that the information remains sensitive and we have been unable to share it externally. However, this week they have confirmed that some information can now be shared with providers.

## Entitlements expansion

Increase in early education support for eligible working parents through free childcare hours

- **Eligible working parents in England will be able to access 30 hours of free childcare per week, for 38 weeks of the year** (although parents can use fewer hours over more weeks of the year), **from the term after their child turns 9 months old** to when they start school.
- **This will be rolled out in stages:**
  - **From April 2024**, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds can access their 15 hours childcare (over 38 weeks a year) **from the term after their child's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday**.
  - **From Sept 2024**, eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-year-olds can access 15 hours childcare (over 38 weeks a year) **from the term following their child turning 9 months**.
  - **From Sept 2025**, the offer will be rolled out in full, with eligible working parents of children aged 9 months and above able to access 30 hours (over 38 weeks a year) **from the term following their child turning 9 months**.
- The government will also substantially **uplift the hourly rate paid to providers** to deliver existing free hour offers. This will provide £204m of additional funding this year, increasing to £288m by 2024-25.
- This is **in addition to the £4.1bn that the government will provide by 2027-28** for the expansion of the new free hours.

## Changes to the statutory guidance

Regulations come into force and **statutory guidance will be published on gov.uk on 1 Jan 2024**

Given the short timescale, we will make small changes to include the expanded entitlements announced in the Spring Budget and some clarification points.

**We are testing areas in the guidance where there have been the most significant changes.**

**Approx 10-15 local authorities were chosen to review** and comment on draft statutory guidance - this testing is taking place over the next couple of weeks.

In this update, we are not changing existing policy for the following key areas:

- **Charging:** Rules around what additional charges providers can/cannot use.
- **Flexibility:** Children can take up their full entitlement at times which fit with the needs of their parents.
- **Quality and types of providers** who can deliver the entitlements for working parents.
- **Requirements** local authorities can place on providers.

The current eligibility checking system will be expanded to allow parents to apply for their codes to access the funding for 2 year olds from 2 January 2024. However, they will not be able to access a funded place until the start of the spring term, 8 April 2024. The system will be further extended for parents of 9 month olds ready for September 2024.

The existing application system for vulnerable 2 year olds will continue but parents can only qualify for this criteria or the working parents criteria and not both.

Funding for all children will be claimed in the same ways as your current funding claims. The IT developers are working with DfE to ensure that their systems meet the new requirements and are ready for January 2024.

The budgets and funding rates are not due to be issued to Local Authorities until December and at this point we consult with the sector regarding the funding options and the payment timescales.

## Training

Attending training events offered by the business support and funding team can be valuable for those settings wishing to review their current business models, including the introduction of new nursery funding entitlements.

Courses available include:

- Nursery Funding Portal / Self Update Provider Portal
- Recruitment & Retention
- Business Planning
- Managing your Team Effectively

Also available is training on Committee Roles and Responsibilities – (requests for this training via the Business support referral form).

Full course details, forthcoming dates and booking details are available via the new training directory:

[EY Training Directory - Autumn 23 - Spring 24](#)

## Childminders: Start Up Grants

In the Spring Budget a new start-up grant for childminders was announced. This will mean that there will be a £600 grant available for those who register with Ofsted, and £1200 for those who register with a childminder agency. These grants will be payable to any individual who has completed their childminder registration on or after 15 March 2023. New childminders will be able to apply for the grant from autumn 2023.

The grant is to support childminders by helping with the costs incurred when registering and to give them flexibility in choosing their own pathway into the sector. It can be more expensive to register with a childminder agency, and the grants reflect this, which ensures prospective childminders can choose the route that best suits their needs.

[Grants Scheme Update](#)

## Gloucestershire County Council Sufficiency Grant 2023/24

As in previous years we do still have a small pot of Sufficiency funding available to support Early Years providers. To find out more about this support funding please submit your expression of interest via email to [EY Business Support](#)

The process is aimed to identify and support providers who will benefit from a range of mechanisms including, but not exclusively, a one-off grant payment to support sufficiency.

The sufficiency grant will be awarded to those providers who are in an area of sufficiency need as identified by GCC.

Please see the [Childcare Sufficiency Report June 2023](#).

## Key dates for Nursery Funding claims for the Autumn term:

Funding pack issued	17 July 2023
Headcount actual task opens	17 July 2023
Term starts	4 September 2023
<b>Week 1</b> of funded period starts w/c	4 September 2023
<b>Headcount actual task closes</b>	<b>15 September 2023</b>
Headcount actual payment released from GCC	29 September 2023
Headcount actual payment breakdown lists issued	2 October 2023
Headcount amendment task opens	9 October 2023
<b>Headcount amendment task closes</b>	<b>1 December 2023</b>
Headcount amendment payment released from GCC	15 December 2023
Headcount amendment payment breakdown lists issued	18 December 2023
<b>Week 14</b> of funded period ends w/e	15 December 2023
Term ends	22 December 2023

## Useful Business Support Websites & Contacts

### National

Useful information on setting up and running a charity.

[Charity Commission](#)

Companies House - Information on starting up and running a company

[Companies House](#)

Staff Employment – ACAS - Advice and information on staff employment matters

[ACAS](#)

Pensions Regulator

[Workplace pensions law - auto enrolment](#)

Early Years Business Sustainability

[Early years business sustainability](#)

**Gloucestershire**

[Gloucestershire Interim Sufficiency report – January 2023](#)

[Gloucestershire Business Support Referral Form](#)

[Gloucestershire Family and Information Service](#)

[Glofamilies Directory](#)

[Gloucestershire Business Support Toolkit](#)

[Gloucestershire Business Health Check](#)



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