

# **Child Expansion and Wraparound Grant Selection Criteria**

## **Programme Background**

The Wraparound Childcare Programme was announced as part of the Spring Budget, 2023. Its aim is that by 2026 all parents and carers of primary aged children who need it will be able to access term time childcare in their local area from 8am to 6 pm, so that parents can access employment and improve labour market participation.

The Government announced a total of £289 million investment for the national wraparound programme. Norfolk was allocated a total of £7,420,906.69 for 2023/24/25 and 2026.

Alongside the Wraparound Scheme the government is introducing funding for the new working parent entitlements, which were also announced in the spring 2023 budget, and which are being introduced in phases.

- From April 2024, all eligible working parents of 2-year-olds (the term after their second birthday) can access 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of the year.
- From September 2024, all eligible working parents of children aged 9 months (the term after they turn 9 months) up to 3-years-old can access up to 15 hours free childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year.
- From September 2025, all eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access up to 30 hours free childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year.

Families also have the option to 'stretch' the offer by using less hours per week but over a longer period. Early Years Block allocations were announced in November 2023, and new rates will be in place from April 2024.

The Department of Education (DfE) are providing £100m of capital funding nationally in 2023-24 to support local authorities in delivering the expansion of the 30 hours working parent entitlement for working families and of wraparound provision for primary aged children.

In addition to the approved revenue spend, Norfolk has been awarded £1,578,584.04 Childcare Expansion Capital Grant Funding to be divided between the Wraparound Childcare programme and to support the expansion of places to support the delivery of the expanded working parent entitlements for children in the early years.

## **Childcare Expansion Capital Funding**

The £1.5m is being provided to meet the capital costs associated with projects that help ensure sufficient places for:

- Children taking up an early years place through the expanded 30-hours entitlement for qualifying working parents
- Increasing the supply of wraparound childcare for primary-school aged children

### **How the capital can be spent**

- 1.1 The capital grant must be spent on Capital Costs and focussed on projects that will increase the physical capacity of early years and wraparound provision in local areas where demand is likely to exceed existing supply. The focus will be to retain existing quality provision or create new places which are accessible to all children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.
- 1.2 The funding can be used to provide new places in a range of provider types, where these are offering the 30-hours early years entitlement and/or providing wraparound provision for primary-aged children.
- 1.3 To be considered capital expenditure the asset must bring an economic benefit, and able to be depreciated, over more than one financial year.
- 1.4 The joint capital funding will be considered in depth across both the free childcare expansion and wraparound childcare programme to create sufficiency of childcare places across Norfolk.
- 1.5 Examples of projects, for both childcare or wraparound places, could include those that:
  - create new childcare places, whether via the creation of new settings, or expanding provision in existing providers;
  - retain existing childcare places when existing environment is beyond repair
  - adapt, re-model or improve existing childcare places to make them suitable for a wider range of needs;
  - purchase fixed assets such as building modifications to enable use of space outside main school/setting operating hours, e.g., secure external access, outside lighting to enable outdoor space to be used year-round
  - purchase new physical assets such as minibus purchase (to support a hub model of wraparound provision), play equipment (including outdoor play equipment), or tables and chairs.
- 1.6 The capital grant funding is not intended for:
  - routine maintenance or refurbishment of premises;
  - capital works to maintain and improve the condition of the school estate
  - childcare providers not providing Early Years entitlements or wraparound care
  - revenue expenditure of any kind, such as training or staff costs, resources/assets that do not meet the definition of capital expenditure given above (such as toys, books, clothing)

### **Process**

It is recognised that £1.5m is not a significant capital grant and that the grant application process will need to be based on strict criteria and clearly promoted so all interested parties are able to apply. We will apply a scoring mechanism for all applications which will include a number of early years and wraparound childcare places, quality, inclusivity and affordability of provision, ability to match fund.

There will be a number of conditions applied to the grant which will include local authority visibility of monitoring spend against the purpose requested (and requirement to return capital not fully utilised for the purpose agreed).

### Timeline

We intend to publish the timeline of this process mid April, with the expression of interest process closing on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Shortlisting will be completed and published week commencing 3rd June advising timescale for full applications.

### Selection Criteria

Pass/Fail Criteria	Yes / No	Pass / Fail Criteria Description
Meet criteria of the programme		Application must fit with the outcomes of the programme. Where several applications are being considered, the highest scoring grants will take priority.
Meet definition of capital spend		Meet DfE definition of capital spend documented above
Ofsted Registration		In place or in the process of applying
Significant risk to sustainability		Any known impacts to long term sustainability to this provision or competition in the area Freehold/leasehold arrangements
Significant risk to delivery unable to be managed		Programme Board must be satisfied that there are no significant risks which can not be managed for example planning permission, recent quotes included within application for anticipated works, detailed plans for delivery, ability to deliver within timescales of programme
Potential to access other funding		Projects that have access to other funding sources are a lower priority
Food Offering		Nutritional Food offering available during session
Transport		Transport will be provided between school and wraparound provision
Support / Match Funding		Is the provision able to support/ match funding? Other income avenues
Considered a Subsidy		Are all four limbs of the subsidy test met?

Criteria	Raw Score (out of 5)	Weighting	Commentary
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<p><b>Early Years Places</b>  <b>Number of new places / retaining existing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 – over 20</li> <li>• 4 – 15 to 19</li> <li>• 3 – 10 to 14</li> <li>• 2 – 5 to 9</li> <li>• 1 – below 5</li> </ul>		10%	
<p><b>Wraparound Places</b>  <b>Number of new places / retaining existing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 – over 20</li> <li>• 4 – 15 to 19</li> <li>• 3 – 10 to 14</li> <li>• 2 – 5 to 9</li> <li>• 1 – below 5</li> </ul>		10%	
<p><b>Early Years, Breakfast, After School Provision and Holiday clubs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 - all four types</li> <li>• 4 – 3 types</li> <li>• 3 – EY or BC &amp; ASC</li> <li>• 1 – EY, BC or ASC</li> </ul>		20%	
<p><b>Quality Considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding</li> <li>• Quality of play/ child engagement</li> <li>• Training - Qualifications and experience of staff to facilitate the sessions</li> </ul>		15%	
<p><b>Inclusivity</b>  Accessibility of the provision to children with additional needs</p>		15%	
<p><b>Sustainability</b>  Analysis of supply and demand e.g. results of parent</p>		15%	

survey, evidence of waiting lists, promotion/marketing, support to local community and partnership working with existing providers (where relevant)			
<b>Affordability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost to parents (per session)</li> <li>• Promotion of tax free childcare and the childcare element of universal credit</li> </ul>		15%	

### Conditions

The following conditions will apply to the grant:

- the money awarded can only be used for the purpose of childcare expansion
- any unspent award will be recovered by the Local Authority
- any funding received should be shown separately in your annual accounts
- further information may be requested to support this application or further payments
- the expectation to work collaboratively in partnership with the local authority to deliver the project
- regular monitoring will take place to apprise progress of project and financial position
- termly data (incl. take up and demand) must be supplied to the local authority
- the requirement to provide case studies

## **Wraparound Revenue Funding**

Programme funding should be used to fund new and expanded wraparound provision, either to meet current demand or guarantee supply to build future demand. Childcare provision funded from this grant must meet the definition of wraparound childcare, i.e., be available directly before and after the school day, from 8am to 6pm (or equivalent, if data shows that local demand is for different hours) during school term time for primary school-age children. It may be run on a school site or at another setting. It should not require parents to pick their children up from school and drop them off at another location.

The £7.4m revenue funding is to be used to build temporary capacity time limited to the funding period within local authority teams. The vast majority of the funding is to be used to support the set up and expansion of provision.

### **How the revenue can be spent**

The funding is tapered over 5 terms (Summer 2024 to Spring 2026), which can cover:

- Staffing
- Training including specialist training for staff to ensure they feel equipped to support children with additional needs
- to provide free or subsidised places for children of wraparound staff
- transport costs
- resources
- running costs whilst demand builds (to remove any financial risk to providers of offering additional places before demand is guaranteed)

The revenue grant should not be used for:

- Subsidising cost of places as new places created by the programme as they should be paid for by parents
- Running costs for existing wraparound childcare places
- Equipment or supplies which have an expected shelf life of more than one year where either the purchase price is in excess of £500 or is a group of lower value items where the combined value is in excess of £500

The application process to allow schools and childcare providers to apply for revenue funding will use the following principles to inform decisions on amounts to be allocated:

- Existing supply and anticipated demand based on a survey of parents
- How proposals support the local community, including partnership working with existing providers where relevant. New or expanded projects should not have a negative impact on existing provision
- Ability and capacity of applicant to deliver against programme aims within the funding period

- Inclusiveness and quality of provision, including staffing and training
- Potential of long-term sustainability post funding
- Engagement with the LA during the programme, including sharing learning, supplying information, data and case studies during this period
- Value for money
- Affordability. All schools and providers who are supported through this programme will be expected to promote tax free childcare and the childcare element of universal credit

### Selection Criteria

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Meet criteria of the programme		Application must fit with the outcomes of the programme. Where several applications are being considered, the highest scoring grants will take priority.
Meet definition of revenue spend		Meet DfE definition of revenue spend documented above
Ofsted Registration		In place or in the process of applying
Significant risk to sustainability		Any known impacts to long term sustainability to this provision or competition in the area
Significant risk to delivery unable to be managed		Programme Board must be satisfied that there are no significant risks which can not be managed
Potential to access other funding		Projects that have access to other funding sources are a lower priority
Food Offering		Nutritional Food offering available during session
Transport		Transport will be provided between school and wraparound provision
Support / Match Funding		Is the provision able to support/ match funding?
Considered a Subsidy		Are all four limbs of the subsidy test met?
Quality Checklist		RAG Status Assessed

### Conditions

The following conditions will apply to the grant:

- the money awarded can only be used for the purpose of wraparound childcare
- any unspent award will be recovered by the Local Authority
- any funding received should be shown separately in your annual accounts
- further information may be requested to support this application or further payments
- the expectation to work collaboratively in partnership with the local authority to deliver the project
- termly monitoring will take place to apprise progress of project, demand and financial position
- termly data (incl. take up and demand) must be supplied to the local authority
- the requirement to provide case studies

## **Wraparound Capacity Funding**

This can be used for:

- Initial costs associated with setting up and establishing a new programme.
- Ongoing costs incurred by the local authority to deliver this programme including staffing, administration, and any other internal costs associated with the delivery of this programme.

Grant funding can be used to bring external short-term capacity into the local authority (e.g. due to recruitment challenges or delay) meanwhile building sufficient internal capacity and capability alongside any use of shortterm external expertise.