

Briefing Note

The government will invest £289m over two academic years, from September 2024, to enable schools and local areas to set up wraparound childcare provision. This is the first step in the government's ambition for all parents of primary school children who need it to access childcare in their local area from 8am – 6pm. This funding will be for schools and local authorities to introduce or expand childcare provision on either side of the school day and enable them to develop flexible ways of providing childcare and gather evidence of what works.

Parents will be expected to pay for the provision and the intention is they can use Universal Credit childcare support for up to 85% subsidy of their costs, and eligible parents can use Tax Free Childcare to subsidise costs, covering 20% of costs up to £2k a year.

There are five key delivery models for how this provision can be offered but these are not mutually exclusive (i.e. there may well be overlap between different models) nor are they exhaustive (i.e. there may well be other options available). These are:

School based provision delivered by schools – Delivered by school staff on school site, open to all children in that school.

Private provider-run provision, on or off school site - Operated and delivered by staff employed by private provider. If on school site, they may pay school to operate wraparound provision on their premises and advertise via school channels. Could operate on other sites too.

Childminders - Provision delivered by childminders, signposted to parents by LA and schools. Could be a group of CMs working together on a single/community site.

Other Early Years Providers - Existing EY providers may take older children (i.e. of school-age) during wraparound hours. For example, a play group operating on a school site may run the provision, or a local nursery.

Community Model – LA co-ordinates a community-focused cluster/hub model, with children from multiple schools on one site. Not necessarily linked to any one school. Could be run by private provider, community organisation or any other appropriate body.

KCC will shortly receive details of its funding allocation and must provide a written and fully costed plan about how it will ensure sufficient childcare to meet parents' needs.

We therefore need to map existing provision and identify any gaps. The Childcare Sufficiency Officer will ask what provision (if any) exists at the school currently and whether this is offered by the school or a third party provider.

Where schools previously ran provision but it closed, the CSO will explore the reasons for this closure. It is really important for us to understand if provision that

once existed was unsustainable; whether parents were not prepared to pay for the provision or there was lack of interest from parents.

Schools will also be asked if children from other local schools attend their provision or if children from their school attend provision at another local school.

If there is someone specifically within the school that you would like the CSO to contact please email the details to sufficiencyandsustainability@theeducationpeople.org.

Similarly, if you are part of an Academy Trust and would like the CSO to contact someone at the Trust rather than individual schools then please notify the team in the same way.