

Funding update from 1st June 2020

Additional information on Summer Terms 2020 funding claims.

In line with Government advice for providers to re-open from 1st June 2020 we have put together some funding scenarios that we hope will answer some questions that you may have regarding Free Early Education (FEE) Funding for the Summer Terms 2020:

Question:

Will providers have to pay the funding back if they cannot open on 1st June 2020?

Answer:

Kent County Council (KCC) has communicated to providers that it will not be claiming any funding back for the Summer Term 2020 if providers have claimed correctly at headcount and have the relevant evidence to support their claim.

This includes when providers are not able to open for reasons such as insufficient children, venue issues, or clinically extremely vulnerable staff.

Where providers do not re-open KCC may ask a provider to reconsider if the demand for places exceeds the number of places being offered.

Scenario:

The Funding Guidance supplement sent to providers on 28th April 2020 stated if a Parental Declaration Form is not completed by 22nd July 2020 the funding for that child will be reclaimed.

Question:

Will this still be applied if a parent decides **not** to send their child back to the provider during the summer term and will not be returning in the autumn term?

Answer:

A provider should only have submitted a headcount claim **without** a signed Parental Declaration Form if they had dated evidence from the parent in the form of a letter/email/text confirming they wished their child to attend when the provider re-opens and for how many weeks and hours.

If the provider is **unable to make contact** with the parent to obtain a Parental Declaration Form and the child does not return in the summer term and won't be returning in the autumn term, the dated evidence given by the parent before headcount week will be sufficient to allow the provider to keep the headcount funding for the Summer Terms 2020 so long as the correct number of hours and weeks have been claimed in line with the dated evidence.

Scenario:

A provider has submitted a headcount claim for a child due to attend the setting in the summer terms 2020 and the parent has the signed Parental Declaration Form. The child will now be staying with their temporary/new setting.

Question:

Does the original provider need to repay the funding?

Answer:

If a child does not return to their original provider but a Parental Declaration Form has been signed or dated evidence has been given by the parent confirming they wish for their child to continue to attend the original setting, then headcount funding will **not** need to be repaid to KCC.

If a parent gave the original provider **written notice by 1st May 2020** that they intended to stay with their temporary/new setting, then the original provider should **not** have claimed for this child on their headcount and the funding will need to be repaid. This will need to be completed via an adjustment claim on the Synergy Provider Portal.

Scenario:

A provider has submitted a headcount claim for a child; however, the parent is stating they did not sign a Parental Declaration Form or give evidence in the form of letter/email/text confirming they wish their child to return when the provider re-opens.

The child has now moved to a new setting from 1st June 2020

Question:

Can the new provider claim the funding for the child?

Answer:

In this case as the funding has already been paid to the original setting the parent will need to contact CFIS on 03000 41 23 23 to appeal to be funded at the new provision.

If it is discovered that the original setting did not have any evidence from the parent confirming they still wished their child to attend, then KCC will require the original setting to repay the funding so the new setting can be funded in line with normal funding arrangements.

Scenario:

A provider is open and has a temporary critical worker/vulnerable child attending the setting who now wishes to stay until the end of term and **not return** to their original setting.

The parent has **not** given notice to the original provider by the 1st May 2020 and their funding has been paid to their original setting.

Question:

Does the temporary critical worker/vulnerable child have to return to their original setting, or can the new provider claim the funding from 1st June 2020?

Answer:

If the provider has capacity for the child to remain in addition to children returning from 1st June 2020, then the child does not have to return to their original setting.

However unused headcount funded hours **must** be used to support this child before any additional funding claims can be made.

Providers will need to calculate the total number of unused headcount funded hours from 16th April – 1st June 2020 for all non-attending and previously non-attending children.

If there are enough unused headcount funded hours to cover the child until the end of term, then

an adjustment claim **cannot** be submitted.

If there are not enough unused headcount funded hours to cover the child to attend until the end of term, then an adjustment claim can be submitted via the Synergy Provider Portal.

Providers should add a comment in the reason box identifying the child as “*a critical worker/vulnerable child remaining at setting, additional hours not covered by unused headcount funded hours*”.

Please see funding examples at the end of this document.

Scenario:

A child wishes to attend a new provider as their original provider is **not** going to re-open on 1st June 2020 and they are not a vulnerable/critical worker child.

Question:

Can the new provider claim the funding for them?

Answer:

If the original provider has a signed Parental Declaration Form or has dated evidence for this child and the parent did not give notice by 1st May 2020, then the funded hours for this child have already been paid to the original setting and will not be reclaimed if they are unable to open.

The new provider can therefore accept this new child, however unused headcount funded hours **must** be used to support this child before any additional funding claims can be made.

Providers will need to calculate the total number of unused headcount funded hours from 16th April – 1st June 2020 for all non-attending and previously non-attending children.

If there are enough unused headcount funded hours to cover the child until the end of term, then an adjustment claim **cannot** be submitted.

If there are not enough unused headcount funded hours to cover the child to attend until the end of term, then an adjustment claim can be submitted via the Synergy Provider Portal.

Providers should add a comment in the reason box identifying the child as “*a new child unable to return to their original setting, additional hours not covered by unused headcount funded hours*”.

Please see funding examples at the end of this document.

Scenario:

A child's new provider has enough unused headcount funded hours to cover the child's attendance until the end of term, therefore unable to submit an adjustment claim via Synergy.

Question:

Can the new provider ask the child's original provider to transfer the paid headcount funding?

Answer:

As previously stated, funding will not be reclaimed from the original setting where funding has been claimed correctly.

However, if the new provider wishes to contact the original provider to ask if they are prepared to

transfer the funding, they **can** do so. If agreed this is a decision between the two businesses and KCC/The Education People will not get involved.

Scenario:

A child normally attends two providers but following Government guidance from 1st June 2020 the parent or provider has requested that the child only attends one.

Question:

Will the second provider have to return funding or transfer the funding to the other provider?

Answer:

If a child does not return to one of their original providers but both have a Parental Declaration Form signed or dated evidence which has been given by the parent confirming they would have attended the setting, then headcount funding will **not** need to be repaid to KCC or transferred to the other provider.

However, if the new provider wishes to contact the original provider to ask if they are prepared to transfer the funding, they **can** do so. If agreed this is a decision between the two businesses and KCC/ The Education People will not get involved.

Scenario:

A new child that is entitled to FEE funding wishes to attend a provider for the remainder of the term. They have not been attending anywhere previously and not had a headcount claim made for them in Kent during the Summer Terms 2020.

Question:

Can the provider claim for them?

Answer:

If the child has not received any FEE funding in Kent for the Summer Terms 2020, then a Late Joiner adjustment claim can be submitted via the Synergy Provider Portal as per the normal process.

Scenario:

A provider opening on 1st June 2020 is unable to offer the same funded hours as claimed on the headcount due to a phased return or reduced hours based on Government guidelines.

Question:

Will the funding need to be returned for the hours the children are unable to attend?

Answer:

It is the Government's intention that providers should re-open from 1st June 2020 and it is down to the provider to establish the best way to do this in line with Government guidance.

If the setting is opening for fewer hours per day or less days per week in accordance with their risk assessment or to meet the requirements of parents, funding will **not** be reclaimed.

Funding examples to demonstrate when an adjustment claim for additional hours can/cannot be submitted:

Example One – an adjustment claim can be submitted:

A provider has claimed headcount funding for 3 children due to attend in the Summer Terms 2020:

Child A = 15 hours x 13 weeks = 195 hours claimed

Child B = 15 hours x 13 weeks = 195 hours claimed

Child C = 15 hours x 13 weeks = 195 hours claimed

Child A and B are critical worker children who have attended since the start of term

Child C returns from 1st June for 7 weeks therefore using 105 hours (15 hours x 7 weeks)

The provider takes on **Child D** from 1st June for 15 universal and 10 extended hours x 7 weeks = 175 hours

The provider has claimed 585 hours, 495 hours have been used with **Child A, B and C**, leaving 90 unused funded hours remaining.

Child D requires 175 hours, the provider has 90 unused funded hours, therefore $175 - 90 = 85$ hours that **can be claimed via an adjustment claim** to cover all the funded hours needed.

Example Two – no adjustment claim can be submitted:

A provider has claimed headcount funding for 2 children due to attend in the Summer Terms 2020:

Child A = 15 hours x 13 weeks = 195 hours claimed

Child B = 15 hours x 13 weeks = 195 hours claimed

Child A is a critical worker child and has attended since the start of term

Child B is not a critical worker child and is **not** returning on 1st June 2020

The provider takes on **Child C** from 1st June 2020 for 15 universal and 7 extended hours x 7 weeks = 154 hours

The provider has received 195 hours of funding for **Child B** that has not been used.

As **Child C** requires less hours (154) than those received for **Child B** (195) **an adjustment claim cannot be submitted.**