

Department for Education Childcare Reforms Expansion Members Briefing

April 2024

Purpose of Briefing

An overview of the changes in childcare announced by the Government in the March 2023 budget and what this means for residents.

This is an opportunity to understand the changes and what this means and provide you with details if you are contacted by your residents as this is a complex area of policy, which will directly affect parents, early years settings and schools.

Overview of the Early Years and Childcare offer

LA Childcare Sufficiency Duty up to 31 March 2024

The Childcare Act 2006 places a legal duty on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare (so far as is reasonably practicable) for working parents or parents who are studying or training for employment.

This refers to Ofsted registered childcare provision for babies up to 8 years old

This childcare is offered by: -

Pre-schools

Day Nurseries

Childminders

School run nurseries, including Academies

Maintained Nursery Schools

Independent Schools

Wraparound childcare providers

LA Childcare Sufficiency Duty up to 31 March 2024

This duty also includes the provision of Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) places. The DfE provides funding to LAs to passport out to their early years providers offering funded places

3 and 4 year olds

Universal offer to access a funded place for up to 15 hours per week termtime (this can be stretched over the full year up to a maximum of 570 hours each financial year)

Eligible working parents can access up to an additional 15 hours per week (30 hour offer)

2 year olds

Parents in receipt of certain benefits can access a a funded place for up to 15 hours per week termtime (this can be stretched over the full year up to a maximum of 570 hours each financial year)

Pressures on the Early Years and Childcare Sector

Financial

- Increases to cost of food and utilities
- National Living Wage
- Business Rates
- Staff Recruitment and Retention
- Funding levels for 3 and 4 year olds

Recruitment and Retention

Increasing level of additional needs of children

We also know that parents are struggling with the cost of paying for childcare

Early Years and Childcare Quiz

1. How many under 5's do we have in Essex?

66,789

82,893

105,364

2. How many childcare settings do we currently have in Essex?

496

1,059

1,769

3. This Financial Year's annual budget for the funded entitlements for 3 and 4 year olds is £89m, what do you think the hourly rate we pay to the early years sector is?

£5.23

£6.93

£7.44

4. Of the 1,769 childcare settings, how many are registered to provide wraparound care?

64

566

1,100

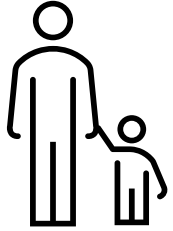
National Childcare Reforms

In March 2023 the Chancellor announced a significant package of reforms to the childcare sector with the primary purpose of enabling more women into / back into work. Once implemented this will result in the Government essentially purchasing around 80% of the available childcare hours in the market and has been characterised by the Institute for Fiscal Studies as making the childcare system as [a new branch of the welfare state](#). The package includes:

- Increasing the availability of funded childcare hours for working parents – over time making these universally available to all working parents of children from 9 months (ending the current chasm between the end of maternity leave and 3 when the majority of working parents become eligible for funded hours at present)
- An uplift in the money paid by Government for funded hours care
- Changes to universal credit childcare payments to remove barriers and increase the cap on claims
- Changing childcare ratio requirements for two year olds so that settings can care for more children per worker
- Incentivising people becoming childminders
- Supporting the development of wrap around childcare for primary schools where this does not already exist
- Creating a specific ‘less burdensome’ version of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework including a specific slimmed down version for childminders – extended to make it ‘easier’ to run settings and lessen burdens on staff



March 2023 Budget Childcare Reform Announcements



FEEE2W

15 Funded Early Education Entitlement hours available for eligible working parents for children from the term after their second birthday. Available from April 2024.



Funding for local authorities to be used to establish wrap around childcare at the beginning and end of the school day for all schools by September 2026



FEEE1W

15 funded early education entitlement hours available for eligible working parents for children from the term after they turn 9 months. Available from September 2024.



Piloting of a scheme to provide incentive payments to encourage people to sign up as childminders (£600 per childminder or £1,200 if signing up via a childminder agency)



30 hours

The 15 hours for eligible FEEE1W & FEEE2W children will extend to 30 from September 2025.



Revision to Universal Credit childcare payments so that these are paid upfront.

Overall intention:

Reform the childcare system with the aim of supporting more people particularly women, back into work.

2 and under childcare expansion overview

Summary of entitlement levels from April 24

Age
3-4
years

ALL PARENTS

15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025

WORKING FAMILIES

30 HOURS	30 HOURS	30 HOURS	30 HOURS
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025

Age
2
years

FAMILIES RECEIVING SOME ADDITIONAL FORMS OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025

WORKING FAMILIES

15 HOURS	15 HOURS	30 HOURS
APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025

Age
9-23
months

WORKING FAMILIES

15 HOURS	30 HOURS
SEP 2024	SEP 2025

*38 weeks a year. Eligibility criteria apply. Providers may ask for additional charges.

Early Years Places Capital Funding Available



Our recent childcare sufficiency analysis has indicated we need to create 1,308 new places

The DfE has allocated ECC a capital budget of circa £3M.

This capital is for the creation of new early years funded places for children aged from 9-month-olds to 23-month-olds at up to a maximum of £3,500 per new place created.

On top of the funding above, new places will also be created via the Section 106 funding received from local housing developments to create new places

Overview of the Wraparound Expansion

A large, solid red shape on the right side of the slide, resembling a stylized wave or a curved vertical bar, extending from the top to the bottom of the frame.

What is Wraparound childcare?



- Provision directly before and after the school day, during school **term time**, for primary school age children.
- Can be offered by schools and private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers (including childminders and early years settings) and can be run on a school site or at another setting in the area (transport dependant)
- Delivered from 8am to 6pm
- Financially sustainable, paid for by parents.



- Is not an enrichment activity such as sport or art club. Such clubs may work in partnership; however, they will not currently be delivered in a way which meets the definition of wraparound childcare.
- Parents should not be required to pick their children up from school and drop them off at another location.
- The childcare is not free nor subsidised by schools or Dfe.

Delivery models

NB. These are illustrative examples and are neither 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).



School-based provision, delivered by school

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.



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.



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 EY 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.

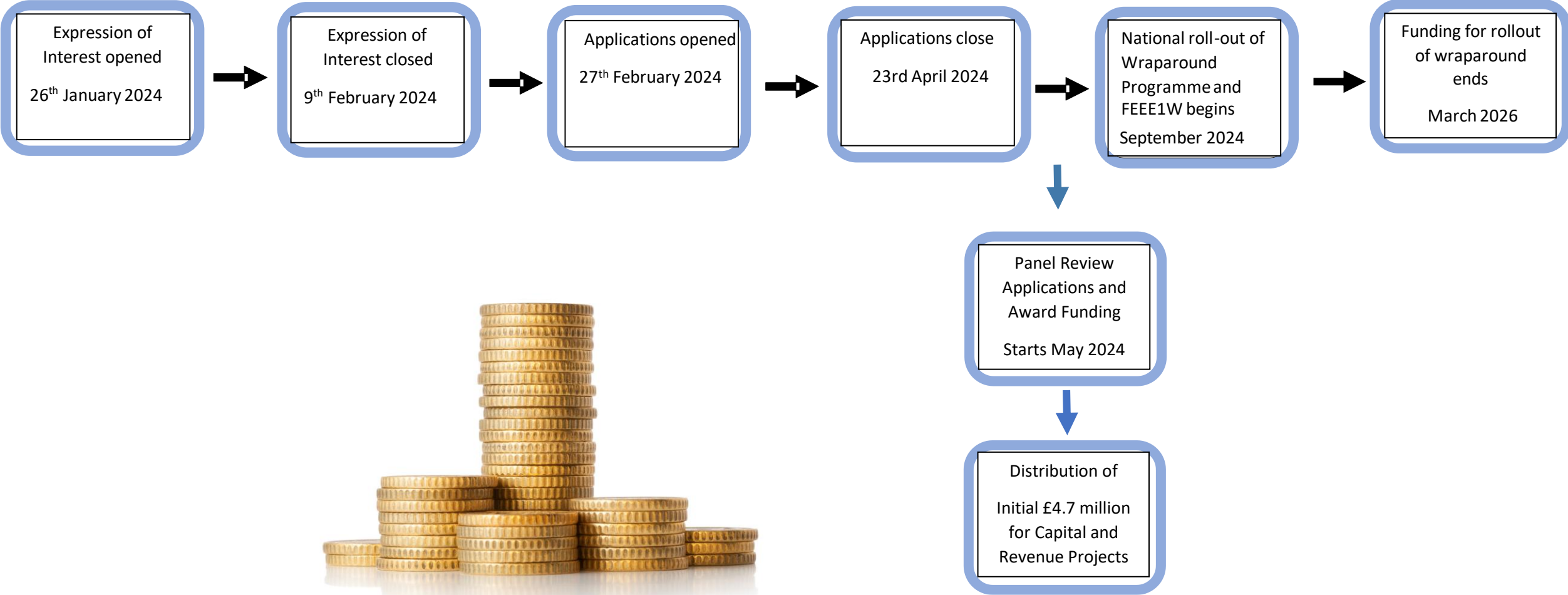
Wraparound Funding

ECC have been allocated £6.9million between now and 31st March 2026 to rollout Wraparound Childcare within the County. The funding will be split between revenue and capital streams.

- **3,678** places identified as being needed:
 - 205 requiring breakfast club only
 - 821 requiring afterschool club only
 - **2,652** requiring both breakfast and afterschool club

Parent Survey Results

Childcare Reforms Funding Timeline



Essex Recruitment Campaign

Make a Change : Build a Future

[Make a change. Build a future.](#)

[provider toolkit \(essex.gov.uk\)](#)

Essex Early Years Poppins Bursary

[New bursary supports training in Early Years](#)

[| Essex County Council](#)

**Support for the
early years and
childcare sector**



Information and guidance regarding FEEE1W and FEEE2W



Wraparound childcare

Childcare reforms - FEEE1W, FEEE2W and wraparound childcare

Information about the childcare reforms

Welcome to the Essex early years and childcare website.
Information for all those working in the early years and childcare sector.

Sign-up for EYFS newsletter

Provider Portal

Essex Early Years & Childcare Charter



Discover or return to a career in early years and childcare

Interested in a career in early years and childcare, or want to return to the sector? You can find all the information, advice and guidance you need here.

Find out more

Information, Advice and Guidance from ECC

[Early years and childcare \(essex.gov.uk\)](http://essex.gov.uk)

[Childcare reforms - FEEE1W, FEEE2W and wraparound childcare \(essex.gov.uk\)](http://essex.gov.uk)

Help and support available

BMC's

The Essex Early Years Business Management Consultants can offer information, advice and guidance on business planning and cash flow forecasting. They can also advise on business and company models. BMC@essex.gov.uk

CCDL's

The Essex Children's Community Development Leads can advise on the local childcare sufficiency situation and provide links to facilitate partnership working with other childcare providers, schools and local organisations. CCDL@essex.gov.uk

Funding Team

The Essex Early Years Funding team will support with information and guidance on the Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) provision and contract. FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk



**Any questions or
feedback?**



This information is issued by:
Essex County Council

Contact us:
wraparound.enquiries@essex.gov.uk

Essex County Council
County Hall, Chelmsford
Essex, CM1 1QH

 [Essex_CC](#)

 facebook.com/essexcountycouncil

The information contained in this document
can be translated, and/or made available in
alternative formats, on request.

Published 14/02/2024

Childcare Reform Quiz

1. When is the Government's ambition for all parents and carers of primary aged children to access term time childcare?

2024

2025

2026

2. When are eligible parents able to access funded early entitlement education places?

The term before child turns eligible age

When the child turns eligible age

The term after the child turns eligible age

3. From September 2024, how many funded hours can babies aged from 9-23 months access?

7 hours

15 hours

30 hours

4. Who is eligible for wraparound provision?

0-5 year olds

Primary school aged children

Secondary school aged children

5. DfE have stated wraparound should be delivered before and after school, but what are the hours?

8am till 5pm

8am till 6pm

8am till 7pm