

Childcare Reforms- Wraparound Childcare Programme and Extended Entitlement Update

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to:

- Note updates on progress of the overall programme and funding allocation.

1. Introduction/background

- 1.1 The Department for Education (DfE) funded Wraparound Programme announced as part of the Government's childcare reforms, aims to increase the availability of primary school-age childcare before and after the school day between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday, during term time. This is to enable parents to go into new work, return to work, extend their hours or work more flexible hours. It will be a universal offer, open to all children and families, and will be paid for by families (with support from existing Government subsidies such as tax-free childcare and the childcare element of Universal Credit).
- 1.2 DfE guidance and funding allocations have been announced. National roll-out of provision will be from September 2024, with the expectation that **every** family requiring wraparound care will be able to access provision by September 2026. This includes families of children with SEND and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- 1.3 Sheffield has been allocated programme funding of £2.68M over three financial years as set out in the table below; to create new or expand existing wraparound provision, and to consider flexible, creative and innovative approaches to wraparound provision. 11% of the allocation is for LAs to build their capacity and increase resource to deliver the programme. By September 2026 all wraparound childcare should be sustainable.
- 1.4 There is also an allocation of capital funding for both expansions related to the extended entitlement and wraparound. This is £849,000. Alongside, £102K Capacity Support Grant to help LAs to deliver the extended free early learning entitlements.

- 1.5 A paper was approved by the Education, Children and Families Committee in February 2024 which provided an overview of the childcare reforms and how Sheffield will respond.

2. LA Capacity Funding and role in delivering the wraparound programme

- 2.1. For wraparound, the programme delivery requires Sheffield City Council (SCC) to map provision and demand, work with and support schools and childcare providers to deliver new/expanded provision, prepare for delivery and send periodic Delivery Plans to the DfE. In addition, allocate funding to providers, ensure that settings meet quality and safeguarding standards, collate data and set up monitoring and reporting processes and promote wraparound to providers and parents.
- 2.2. Funding will be provided termly following DfE approval of delivery plans.

3. Programme Funding: Updates

- 3.1. SCC's first delivery plan has been submitted for approval and will trigger payment of the programme funding once approved.
- 3.2. An expression of interest process was initiated during May where schools and childcare providers could apply for available funding. Following this, the next stage is that interested parties complete a business case setting out the projects in more detail. These will be assessed with recommendations to the Childcare Reforms Governance Board for approval. It is envisaged that schools and childcare providers will be operational over the period September 2024 and April 2025.
- 3.3. SCC has procured a service to provide specific advice/guidance and support to schools and childcare providers setting up provision. This support will be targeted.
- 3.4. Family Hub Coordinators will work with schools and childcare providers to establish area forums. This will support the development of cohesive local area plans to facilitate childcare being set up where needed.

4. Capital Funding updates

- 4.1. An expression of interest process was initiated during February where schools and childcare providers could apply for available funding. Following this, interested parties completed a business case setting out the projects in more detail. These are being assessed with recommendations to the Childcare Reforms Governance Board for approval.
- 4.2. Further updates will be provided to Education Forum in due course.

5. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to **note** details of the programme and process for funding allocation.