



Annex D: information sheet for local authorities - National Wraparound Childcare Programme

Programme features

The government's aim is for all parents of primary school children who need it to be able to access childcare in their local area from 8am – 6pm. This will help to ensure that parents have enough childcare to work full time, more hours and with flexible hours.

Parents of primary school aged children will still be expected to pay to access this provision, as this programme aims to increase the availability of childcare, rather than subsidise childcare, but support with costs will be available to eligible parents through Universal Credit childcare and Tax-Free Childcare.

Delivery

This programme and funding will be delivered through local authorities, given your existing responsibility to ensure sufficient childcare for children.

There will be funding for local authorities to use internally to build capacity within your teams ('LA capacity funding'), and funding for local authorities to set up new provision and ensure sufficient places are available ('programme funding').

The programme funding aims to remove key barriers to setting up new provision or expanding current provision. By providing funding upfront ('pump-prime funding') we aim to remove/minimise the financial risk that is often a barrier to setting up or expanding provision. Pump priming involves introducing relatively small amounts of government funds to spur growth.

Local authorities will be expected to work with primary schools and private, voluntary and independent providers including childminders to introduce or expand wraparound childcare provision in their area, to test flexible ways of providing childcare and to gather evidence of what works.

Local authorities will have flexibility to adopt delivery models that work for their area, for example you may choose to work with local childminders, hubs/clusters, community-based provision, or adopt other delivery models, as well as more traditional schools-based models, whether run by schools directly or by Private Voluntary or Independent Providers (PVI's).

Timings

Parents should expect to see an expansion in the availability of wraparound care from September 2024, with every parent who needs it able to access term-time wraparound childcare by September 2026.

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