

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) For Enhanced Early Years Provision

General Information

Q: What is the profile of children that would be supported by the Enhanced provision?

A: The children will need support for their social communication needs, as well as physical and medical needs.

Q: Can the setting offer non-commissioned hours/non-funded hours around the commissioned place?

A: Yes, an Early Years Enhanced provider can offer non-commissioned hours to support working parents and/or parental choice.

Q: Can a setting specify the type of need they are able to support?

A: No, to enable equity across the county WCC will commission all Early Years Enhanced provisions to be able to support children with social communication needs and/or physical and medical needs.

Q: What age range is the provision for?

A: In the main children in the year before they are due to start Reception, however, WCC would refer any child two to four years of age who cannot access their full NEF entitlement. Young children from 9 months old could be referred.

Q: Will dual provision be considered?

A: Yes, dual provision (with split NEF) will be encouraged to support as many children as appropriate to access mainstream early years and be able to move into Reception class provision.

Q: Will deferred entry for children attending Enhanced Early Years provision be considered?

A: WCC would prefer to enable children to enter Reception in line with their peers, so deferred entry will not be encouraged. If it is appropriate for a child to defer entry to school e.g. a summer born child, WCC would expect the provision for the child to be provided in their mainstream early years provision.

Process & Timelines

Q: What is the tender process timeline?

A: We are looking to advertise the tender in the second part of the Autumn Term. A full timeline will be included in the tender documents.

Q: Will there be a cap on the number of providers in a particular area that can bid?

A: No, WCC will not be capping the number of providers that can submit a bid.

Costs & Funding

Q: Will there be additional funding if a child requires 1 to 1 support?

A: Child led funding (Early Years Inclusion Supplement), based on the child's needs, will be paid on top of the place-led funding.

Q: Will there be capital funding to support the setup of accommodation and capital resources?

A: Yes, within reason. WCC have capital funding to support the setup of further Enhanced Early Years provision.

Q: Can any Section 106 (housing developer contributions) be allocated to create the Early Years Enhanced accommodation?

A: This will depend on the wording within S106 Agreements but will be determined by WCC where this is appropriate.

Q: Is the place funding for Term Time only provision?

A: Yes; the place funding is based on 9am – 3pm, 5 days per week, term-time only. However, children could access provision in a way that meets their and their families' needs, with funded and/or paid for hours accessed outside the 9am-3pm provision.

Type of Setting and Venue

Q: Do the additional spaces (sensory/breakout) need to be with the main accommodation?

A: Yes, to enable free flow of provision, and access is available at all times of attendance.

Q: Will children be placed by need or location?

A: The decision to place children is based on need but, where the child is placed will take into account their locality and parental choice, where possible.

Q: Which Early Years Enhanced setting will children attend, e.g. their nearest or the setting in the district they reside in?

A: We expect the Early Years Enhanced provision across the County to be consistent, so the children would usually be placed within their nearest location, however, the monthly panel would consider the needs of working families.

Q: If the building we have is rented, are we still able to bid for the tender?

A: Yes, however, the provider will need to consider the risk of a short term lease. Enhanced Early Years providers who require capital investment will be required to sign a Grant Agreement for the capital funding, which will have a period of claw back depending on the scale of capital investment agreed.

Ofsted requirements

Q: What would a provider need to evidence if not yet inspected?

A: The provider will need to evidence that their provision will be high quality, with experienced staffing and a commitment to continuous improvement. Using national

and/or local tools and templates, the provider must be able to outline how they intend to achieve this.

Q: How would quality be assessed within the new Framework?

A: It's unlikely that settings will have been inspected under the new Inspection Framework before the tendering process takes place, however the quality expectations will mirror the Nursery Education Funding requirements; providers will be expected to achieve 'Expected Standard' or above in 'Leadership and Governance', as well as a Safeguarding out of 'Met'.

Q: Would the setting need to be set up for all needs including disability?

A: Yes.
