

Market Engagement

Enhanced Early Years Provision for Worcestershire

October 2025

Welcome, agenda & housekeeping

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Background

The local authority has a duty to ensure that there is sufficient early years provision to:

- Ensure all children can access their early years entitlement
- To meet the needs of working parents

Following the pilot provision in the south, we have identified gaps in enhanced provision for children with social communication difficulties and medical needs.

Parent Carer and Provider Feedback

"Since moving to the new building, my child is running in in the morning, he is happy and excited to attend and the positive change in him is amazing."

"We are really happy with the care and support that both my child and myself are receiving"

"My child is thriving at Dingley's. It has been our lifeline. I didn't think he would be able to attend a nursery setting but the support myself and my child have received is above and beyond."

"Really positive and happy environment for the children to explore"

"He is thriving, happy and I feel supported and listened to. The new nursery is perfect for their needs, it is clean, fresh and spacious and we feel extremely lucky and grateful to be able to attend"

"It was probably the best afternoon I've had with X, no judgement or older children knocking the younger ones over."

The Proposal

WCC are looking to continue the development of enhanced provision, delivered by early year's providers or schools, to meet the requirements of children whose identified complex needs make it difficult to attend a mainstream early year's provision for their full NEF entitlement.

These places will enable a child to access their full NEF entitlement and offer the flexibility of offering dual provision to enable children to remain included in their local community.

Places will be allocated by a monthly multi agency planning meeting for children with identified complex needs.

Demand for Provision

Enhanced Early Years Provisions in North Worcestershire:

- Redditch/Bromsgrove: Up to 12 children a year (who are currently unable to access NEF due to their level of need).
- Wyre Forest: Up to 12 children a year (who are currently unable to access NEF due to their level of need).

Enhanced Early Years Provisions in South Worcestershire:

- Enhanced Early Years Provisions in South Worcestershire:
- Pershore/Evesham: Up to 12 children a year (who are currently unable to access NEF due to their level of need).
- Malvern: Up to 6 children a year (who are currently unable to access NEF due to their level of need).

WCC are open to creative ways for this to succeed including multiple providers operating in each areas.

Requirements

The provision should be run by experienced and qualified staffing, with enhanced staff: child ratios and additional accommodation to provide a high quality, enhanced provision.

Ratios should be at least 1:3 with flexibility to provide higher staff/child ratios as required to meet need as well as liaison with other provider to support needs should dual provision be in place.

The following environment is suggested to meet the needs of the identified cohort:

- A minimum of 2 appropriately sized rooms or 1 main room with the ability to divide into age-appropriate sections
- At least 1 breakout rooms for interventions
- Designated sensory area appropriately resourced
- Changing area/toilets with space for any necessary adaptations including portable hoist for children with complex profound and multiple learning disability (PMLD)
- Secure outside play area

Venues

For providers that do not have venues in the preferred locations, WCC may have a number of properties that could be leased to deliver the enhanced early years provision.

More information will be made available during the tender.

Contract Start Date

The aim is for the contract to be awarded to begin at the latest September 2026.

It is anticipated that the Enhanced Early Years Provision will be operational from September 2026, subject to OFSTED registration and any required adaptations to buildings being complete.

OFSTED Registration

- **Early Years Register:**

- Notify Ofsted of changes if part of currently registered accommodation, or
- If registering new accommodation/location, up to 12-week process

- **Maintained School**

- If early years provision is already in operation, enhanced provision can be offered as soon as staffing and environment are in place
- If no early year's provision is in operation:
 - Consult to open Governor Led setting, or
 - Complete a Change of Age-Range process to include the children as pupils of the school

- **Academy School**

- If early years provision is already in operation, enhanced provision can be offered as soon as staffing and environment are in place
- If no early year's provision is in operation:
 - Complete a Change of Age-Range process to include the children as pupils of the school, or
 - Set-up a subsidiary company to operate provision outside of the school age-range; this may require registering on the EY's Register (up to 12-week process)

Quality of Provision

Good or Outstanding Ofsted judgement, or if not yet inspected, able to evidence quality of provision through:

- Completed Safeguarding Audit (WCC Template)
- Engagement with Early Years Team, including IA Support
- Evidence of engagement with Inclusion, SEND Services, Specialist Services including Health
- Evidence of CPD, including SEND training
- Evidence of staff experience and qualifications

Funding & Contract

The funding available per Enhanced Early Years Provision:

- Full time equivalent place (1140 hours per year) will be funded at £12,000 per 30-hour place.
- Successful providers will be able to claim exceptional Inclusion Supplement Funding, in addition to the place payment received (£6.30 per NEF hour up to a maximum of the child's NEF eligibility)
- Providers will be able to claim EYPP, Deprivation Supplement and Disability Access Fund (DAF) as applicable
- Start up funding will be considered for providers to recruit staff / purchase resources etc, subject to tender application.
- Capital funding may be available to support physical adaptations to accommodation.

The contract period will be:

3 years, with an option to extend for up to 2 years with contract review annually.

Next Steps

Feedback survey from WCC please complete
Post survey
Amend the Specification
Out to Tender



<https://forms.office.com/e/d29QJ0Z6aN>

Apply for Eligibility to Join Us

- If you have not already done so visit In-Tend to register your organisation onto [Worcestershire's Procurement Portal](#)
- Check that you are registered on In-Tend and are receiving emails to the right person/group
- Tender documentation will be made available together with all necessary supporting documents on In-Tend

Contacts within WCC Ahead of Tender

Full tender details will be published on In-Tend but if you have enquiries leading up to the tender being advertised please contact:

– chscommissioning@worcestershire.gov.uk

Any questions in relation to In Tend can be directed to:

– procurement@worcestershire.gov.uk

Sufficiency and Place Planning Team

– spp@worcestershire.gov.uk

Thank you for attending

Any Questions?