

Wraparound Childcare Programme

Key Messages

Forum members are asked to:

- Note details of the programme and the funding allocation.
- Endorse the proposal to seek Committee approval for developing delivery capacity and spend of the 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 and funding will run from early 2024 to March 2026. 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 special educational needs and disabilities (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, alongside £102K Capacity Support Grant to help LAs to deliver the extended free early learning entitlements.
- 1.5 A paper is being prepared for the Education, Children and Families Committee in February 2024 which will provide an overview of the childcare reforms and how Sheffield will respond.

2. LA capacity funding and role in delivering the wraparound programme

- 2.1. 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 DfE; 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

- 3.1. The remaining £1,636,056 will be distributed to the sector in 2024/25 to enable schools, private, voluntary and independent providers (PVIs) and childminders to develop new provision or expand existing provision. A provisional amount of £747,742 will then be distributed in 2025/26.
- 3.2. The detailed process for distributing the funding is being developed and will be publicised during the spring term 2024.
- 3.3. Focus groups are being planned with schools/settings to discuss barriers to setting up or expanding provision.
- 3.4. Further updates will be provided to Schools Forum in due course.

4. Recommendations

Forum members are asked to:

- **Note** details of the programme and funding allocation.
- **Endorse** the proposal to seek Committee approval for developing delivery capacity and spend of the allocation.