

West Sussex Early Years and Childcare Providers: Contain Outbreak Management Fund

Earlier this year, West Sussex County Council secured £500,000 to support Free Entitlement (FE) Providers with the challenges of operating during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are delighted to announce that WSCC have now secured an additional £100,000 for After School Clubs, Breakfast Clubs, Holiday Playschemes and Childminders who are not signed up to offer FE places.

This is a temporary package of financial support in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, taken from the West Sussex Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF).

What is the grant for?

The grant aims to help address the increased costs of running your setting due to the pandemic. This includes ensuring your premises are safe for children and staff, whilst continuing to offer high quality care and learning in these exceptional times.

We are aware that this funding will not be able to cover every aspect of the impact of the pandemic on your business. Any award will be a contribution towards supporting the future sustainability of the early years and childcare sector.

Possible uses for the grant could include, but are not limited to:

- Cleaning supplies/deep cleaning of the childcare environment;
- Purchase of supplies and resources where a risk of cross-contamination exists;
- To support with any additional costs that have been incurred as a direct result of the pandemic.

The grant cannot be used to:

- increase payments to staff members who are furloughed;
- offer financial support where a provider is fully or partially closed, against the current government guidance;
- support with additional costs that are not a direct result of the pandemic;
- cover the financial costs of something you have received financial support from the government for already.

How much could I get?

To ensure that the full pot of funding reaches providers as quickly as possible, we will ensure that the total funding allocation will be split fairly between all providers who successfully apply.

Successful applicants must clearly demonstrate how the grant will be used to offset the logistical costs of running their provision during the pandemic. Any funding awarded will be **proportionate** to the time the provision was open throughout the different restrictions.

Eligibility criteria

- Applicants must be a currently Ofsted-registered private, voluntary or independent early years and childcare provider, based in West Sussex.
- Applications can only be made by:
 - After School Clubs
 - Breakfast Clubs
 - Holiday Playschemes
 - Childminders
- Applicants must **not** be signed up to offer Free Entitlement (FE) Funding. Please note: Where a group provider offers out of school care as a **separate entity** to the care for under fives in receipt of FE then they may apply for this grant, even if they have successfully applied and received funding from the previous COMF fund. The application responses must refer to out of school provision only and any funding received must only benefit the children attending the out of school provision.
- Applicants must be currently operating as per the current government guidance (unless temporarily closed due to positive COVID-19 cases).
- Only one application per registration is permitted.
- Applicants must have been open, in line with the government guidance for that time, during at least one of the following time periods:

Out of School clubs and Childminders

- 27 March – 31 May 2020 (minimum of 5 weeks)
- 1 June – 31 August 2020 (minimum of 5 weeks)
- 1 September – 31 December 2020 (excluding school holidays for term time only providers)
- 1 January - present (excluding school holidays for term time only providers)

Holiday Playschemes

- Easter holidays 2020 (minimum of 3 days)
- Summer half term 2020 (minimum of 3 days)
- Summer holidays 2020 (minimum of 2 weeks)
- October half term 2020 (minimum of 3 days)
- Christmas Holidays 2020 (minimum of 3 days)

- February half term 2021 (minimum of 3 days)
- Easter holidays 2021 (minimum of 6 days)

Please note, if your provision had to close temporarily as a result of positive cases during any of the time periods, you can count your provision as open during that time for the purpose of this application. There is space to explain any temporary closures on the form if needed

How do I apply?

Out of School Clubs, Holiday Playschemes and eligible Childminders are invited to apply via a short online [application form](#).

- The application process will open on Tuesday 30 March 2021.
- Applications will close at midnight on Wednesday 21 April 2021.
- Applications will be assessed on 22 April 2021 and any queries followed up.
- Providers will be informed of the outcome w/c 26 April 2021, including the amount they are being awarded where successful.
- Payments are planned for w/c 3 May 2021.

Applications are considered on a case-by-case basis. Decisions are final and cannot be appealed. Applications received after the deadline cannot be considered in any circumstances.

WSSC will reserve the right to audit applications and ask for further evidence if required. WSSC may also confirm details given in your application against details held on our database.