

Childcare Expansion Provider Forum

Early Years Invitation



Your opportunity to be part of the Childcare Expansion Provider Forum



- Are you creative and passionate about Early Years?
- Would you like to work with the Local Authority to develop information, advice and support for providers and families around the childcare expansion in West Sussex?

If YES, we invite you to apply to be part of our new Childcare Expansion Provider Forum!

About the project

Starting from April 2024, existing childcare support to families will be expanded in phases. By September 2025, most working families with children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare support. We are keen to use this opportunity to consider new ideas as we shape the way funding is offered and ensuring that Early Years providers are involved and informed is a top priority for us.

What you will need to do

- Contribute your expertise through sharing your experiences, challenges, and suggestions, which may include case studies.
- Be creative and work through potential solutions to the challenges of the expansion plan.
- Attend online and face to face meetings (as detailed below).
- Engage in discussions, review information, provide feedback, and identify best practice ideas to support specific areas of project planning.
- Act as an advocate for Early Years providers across West Sussex.
- Join networks/briefings to support engagement and information sharing with other Early Years providers across West Sussex.
- Provide a platform for West Sussex County Council to share information and receive provider expertise and feedback.

What you will receive

- **£1500** to cover the cost of being part of the Childcare Expansion Provider Forum (including, travel and expenses for attendance at meetings, as well as time for pre-meeting preparation and any agreed actions).
- The opportunity to influence decisions* where provider perspective is vital. Your input will enable co-production of publications, information and support for both settings and families as well as helping to increase awareness of Childcare Funding in West Sussex.
- Access to a small network of colleagues with the opportunity for peer support to enable you to bring best practice ideas into your setting.

* in line with relevant statutory government guidance.

Meeting dates and venues

- Monday 11 December 2023, 10.30-12.30, online via Microsoft Teams.
Focus: Welcome and introductions. Project information and updates, feedback from setting survey, timelines, FAQs.
- Wednesday 17 January 2024, 10.30-14.00, Horsham in person (lunch will be provided).
Focus: Statutory Framework, communication with parents, networks.
- w/c 29th January 2024 (dates and venues to be agreed on 11 December). Attendance at a minimum of two Spring EYFS Leader Networks.
- Thursday 21 March 2024, 10.30-12.30, online via Microsoft Teams.
Focus: Planning for under 2s, Childcare Funding pack for providers, financial planning, funding delivery, website.
- Thursday 6 June 2024, 10.30-12.30, Horsham in person (lunch will be provided).
Focus: Reflection, opportunities, planning for next phases of the roll out.

How to apply

1. Complete the attached Expression of Interest
2. Send by email to free.entitlement@westsussex.gov.uk
 - please include 'Childcare Expansion Provider Forum' in the subject line
3. Submit by the **deadline - Wednesday 6 December 2023.**

Please be aware the first meeting will be online on Monday 11 December 2023. All applicants **must** ensure they will be available on this date, and all other listed dates.

We are seeking eight applicants to be part of the forum and we will consider applications in a variety of categories to ensure all types of provision are represented. As far as is practical there will be a mix of:

- childminders,
- pre-schools and day nurseries from across the Private, Voluntary and Independent sector
- maintained nursery schools/classes
- a mix of rural and urban locations

Applicants **must** be from settings who are rated by Ofsted as either Good or Outstanding and hold a leadership or management position, if applying from a group setting.

Applicants must evidence, through a brief statement, no longer than one side of A4, why you would like to take part and what skills you would bring to the group, such as:

- creativity and flexibility in delivery of Free Entitlement and/or business development.
- a good understanding of the current Free Entitlement scheme, planned expansion and intended impact for families.
- evidence a good history of partnership working with parents, professionals and the local community.

We will also cross reference provider Expressions of Interest against our own records, such as Free Entitlement audits and parental complaint records.

We very much look forward to hearing from you.

We will inform the successful applicants by 6pm on Friday 8 December 2023.



Expression of Interest:

Name	
Role	
Telephone Number	
Email Address	
Setting Name	
Setting Address	
Ofsted URN	
Date of last inspection	
Outcome of last inspection	

Please evidence below, through a brief statement, no longer than one side of A4, why you would like to take part and what skills you would bring to the group:

