

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 places in West Sussex?

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

About the project

In 2023 we set up the first Childcare Expansion Provider Forum. We have been working with a group of 8 Early Years providers to share and discuss the challenges and opportunities around the expansion to help us to provide the support the sector needs during this time of change.

Ensuring that Early Years providers are involved and informed is a top priority for us. As such we are extending our Childcare Expansion Provider Forum and are looking for new members to join some of our founder members.

Our current representatives provided the following feedback on their experience:

Very constructive and open minded

I really enjoyed pushing myself personally out of my comfort zone, but equally having an input and using it to make changes.

I enjoyed the contact with other settings and being able to promote the capabilities of childminders in delivering the funded hours,

I felt it interesting to get to meet the guest representatives, it helped to get the answers first hand and instantly...

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.
- Provide a platform for West Sussex County Council to share information and receive provider expertise and feedback.

What you will receive

- **£150 per face-to-face meeting and £50 per online meeting** 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 Support 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

- Thursday 26 September, 10am-12pm (online)
- Tuesday 12 November, 10am-2.30pm (face to face - Horsham)
- Thursday 30 January, 10am-12pm (online)
- Wednesday 20 March, 10am-2.30pm (face to face - Horsham)
- Friday 2 May, 10am-12pm (online)
- Thursday 19 June 10am-2.30pm (face to face - Horsham)

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 - Friday 9 August 2024.**

Please be aware the next meeting will be online on 26 September 2024. All applicants **must** ensure they will be available on this date, and all other listed dates.



We are seeking ten providers in total to be members of the forum, joining some of our existing members who we have worked with over the last 9 months. 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
- 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 Early Years Funded Entitlements (EYFE) and/or business development.
- a good understanding of the current EYFE 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 EYFE audits and parental complaint records.

We very much look forward to hearing from you.

We will inform the successful applicants by 6pm on Friday 16th August 2024.



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:

