

## Wraparound Childcare – Frequently Asked Questions

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### **Q1. How do we know what provision is already in our area?**

We can tell you based on the information we have collated as we have gathered this from various sources and through a survey across primary schools and the PVI sector, however this may not be the complete picture.

We have collated information we have gathered from various sources, including our survey across primary schools and PVI-CMs (private, voluntary and independent sector providers and childminders). We will look at how we can share some of this information. However, whilst this gives us an indication of availability it may not be the complete picture due to the gaps in information that is being provided to us. We would recommend schools to carry out some market research to identify and obtain details of provision in their area and contact us if there are any queries or if you need help understanding the information.

The directory of local provision can be found on [MyChoice Leicester City](#). By scrolling down the page, you will be able to select the correct category to use and by using the appropriate filters you can search for local provision by postcode and distance.

### **Q2. Schools have limited space and there isn't going to be capital funding for everyone to build:**

- a. How can this work when we are offering free clubs at the moment for enrichment and if we have to use the same space for wraparound, it means potentially disadvantaged people don't have any enrichment opportunities.**
- b. We know there isn't demand and we are concerned it would be detrimental to parents who receive enrichment clubs for their children and can't afford to pay for this wraparound care.**

It is important to have surveyed parents to determine preferences and demand which gives you the evidence you need to put proposals together. Please note that the programme should be built on existing assets and understanding of the local community, which incorporates and does not disrupt and displace the existing wraparound childcare market, more information can be found on the [DfE guidance document](#).

If your school community has got little demand and you feel strongly that it would compromise or be detrimental to your enrichment offer for a high proportion of your school community then the survey might be your evidence to support not setting provision up directly in your school.

We would be keen to have that dialogue with you to collate and share with DfE to highlight this evidence, please contact Shahid Dagia, project manager on [shahid.dagia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:shahid.dagia@leicester.gov.uk).

**Q3. Do we have to survey in July, or can we do it when parents return in September to gain a better picture of preference and demand?**

Many schools have agreed it would be useful to use the covering letter and parent survey templates we will be issuing in the EOI pack. Considering it is now coming close to end of term it would make sense for schools to wait and survey altogether early in the new academic year, for example to capture new admissions and that might also give more time to do the groundwork. You won't be penalised in terms of funding allocation.

**Q4. Are schools liable if they are signposting to a provider?**

If you go for a community-based model and where you're signposting to provision in your community, those providers have the safeguarding responsibilities, and the registered provider (by the nature of their registration) has safeguarding responsibilities.

You should consider whether you would want to adopt some kind of partnership agreement with the providers in your area about expectations and responsibilities and make it clear where those boundaries lie.

You may choose to put out the information to parents in the same way that the family information directory works where there is a caveat that you are not endorsing any particular provider, that it remains the parents' responsibility to check their Ofsted registration and the responsibilities under that.

We are developing example frameworks which may be helpful as a resource to support partnership working within your area.

**Q5. Is there any information on working patterns for parents?**

We do not believe there is anything locally that we are aware of that collects that sort of information, and it will be unique to your own community.

The guidance recommends that schools should survey parents, including prospective parents, to understand demand. The survey should include various questions which will give you an indication of the working patterns and other useful indicators such as activities which they would like and affordability.

- We will include relevant questions in the parent survey template, for example:
- current informal or formal childcare used, and whether demand is already being met
- the hours and days parents need wraparound childcare
- the consistency of likely demand
- age and needs of children who may attend wraparound childcare
- what activities parents and children expect
- affordability to pay market-rate fees for the wraparound services
- Schools should also monitor the number and types of requests for childcare made by parents.
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**Q6. What are the qualifications and the Job Description in terms of wraparound childcare staff? It would help if schools had an agreed/common Job Description?**

There are some example JDs available within the job evaluation schools bundle that might help provide a guide.

- [Before/after school worker \(JD E9028\)](#) [pdf file]
- [Before/after school leader JD \(JD E9027\)](#) [pdf file]

Eteach also provide JDs and recruitment activity from other schools which may be useful.

**Q7. Are Special Schools and Primary Pupil referral units required to provide wraparound childcare as well?**

We are checking this with the DfE and will provide a response shortly.

The guidance recommends that all wraparound providers, including schools and trusts, should make wraparound inclusive and accessible for all children. This includes children with special education needs and disabilities and children considered vulnerable.

**Q8. What is 'signposting' and what would be considered adequate signposting? Eg a website section or posters up in the office? Are there penalties for schools who don't adequately signpost?**

Schools that are unable to have wraparound on the school site are expected to ensure parents are, at a minimum, signposted to appropriate provision. These must not require parents to pick up or drop off their children between the school day and wraparound.

Schools can use their website, posters, social media and other communication channels they use to inform parents and carers of the available childcare options within their locality.

There is no penalty for schools who do not signpost. However, it is in the interest of the school to ensure they support parents by signposting to wraparound childcare.

**Q9. Is it compulsory for schools to extend existing wraparound until 6pm?**

There is no current UK government policy or legislation that makes it compulsory for schools to extend existing wraparound care until 6:00 pm. However, primary schools would have to justify why they will not provide wraparound childcare in their school. This might include evidence of insufficient demand, not having space, or where there is already similar provision in the area which can be signposted to.

We encourage schools to provide this information to us which we will share with the DfE. Please contact the project manager, [shahid.dagia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:shahid.dagia@leicester.gov.uk).

**Q10. Can providers approach schools to use their grounds for wrap around care and is it compulsory for us to agree?**

Yes, providers can approach schools and ultimately it will be for the school to determine how their grounds are used. This is a matter of negotiation and mutual benefit. Childcare providers who approach schools will need a detailed proposal, demonstrating the advantages for both parties and addressing any potential concerns. Open communication, collaboration, and a focus on the best interests of children through signed partnership agreements is encouraged.

Refer to the Guidance [Responding to requests for wraparound childcare \(GOV.UK\)](#)

**Q11. Is the funding intended to reduce the costs to parents? We are hoping to start provision in September and obviously the uptake will be affected by the funding plans.**

The funding programme is not intended to reduce the costs to parents. Parents of primary school aged children will still be expected to pay to access this provision. This funding programme aims to increase the availability of sustainable childcare, rather than subsidise childcare for parents\*.

Parents may (if eligible) be able to have support with costs through Universal Credit childcare and Tax-Free childcare. More information can be found on the [Childcare Choices website](#).

\*Programme funding could subsidise places for children of wraparound staff if schools identify this as necessary as part of their wraparound recruitment strategy.

Where appropriate and financially sustainable, schools can use other funding sources to support certain children to access wraparound provision.

**Q12. Will there be a model/ framework for the business case to support schools and providers ensuring you have the information needed.**

Yes, as part of the Expression of Interest pack we will issue all templates and other documentation such as guidance to help access the funding. We will only ask for information which is necessary. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Project Manager by email on [shahid.dagja@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:shahid.dagja@leicester.gov.uk).

**Q13. If the school is Ofsted registered and it is a school-based wraparound care I am assuming the wraparound would fit into the schools Ofsted inspection rather than a separate inspection?**

Ofsted regulates and inspects services that care for children and young people, including schools and their extended services. Wraparound care, managed directly by a school, typically falls under the school's existing Ofsted inspection rather than requiring a separate inspection.

Provision on a school site run by a PVI provider or Childminder will normally require separate Ofsted registration. There may be circumstances where the provision comes under the '2-hour rule' but schools should encourage the PVI provider to register using the exception to the 2-hour rule. For more details refer to [Providing childcare and the 2-hour rule \(GOV.UK\)](#).

Having a registered wraparound provision will ensure that eligible parents can access government support such as Tax-Free or Universal Credit childcare. This will help make the wraparound provision more affordable and financially sustainable.

**Q14. If after the parent survey we have the demand for wraparound, but parents can't afford to pay, what happens then?**

As explained in Q5 above, the parent survey should include a question on the parental affordability to pay market-rate fees for the wraparound services. For this it will help if you are able to indicate what the fees are likely to be based on your business plan for running a sustainable service beyond the duration of the funding programme.

To make the charges as affordable as possible, the school should support and promote the use of government funding such as Universal Credit childcare and Tax-Free childcare to help parents with the costs.

The programme funding will help with the initial setup or expansion of wraparound provision, where there is clear demand, and remove the financial risk where sufficient demand is not guaranteed to sustain provision from the start but with an expectation that the demand will grow over time and the new/ expanded provision may be self-sustaining from the end of the planned programme.

**Q15. If we currently offer wraparound care 8am - 6pm but it's not financially viable, can we use some of the funding to promote and enhance our current provision?**

The programme grant funding cannot be used to contribute to the running cost of existing wraparound childcare places. This does not prevent use of funding to contribute to costs of expanding existing provision to create new childcare places.

The family information professional's area has information on [how to market childcare provision](#). This may help you to consider options.

You can also refer to information and resources made available by Childcare Works, who are the national support partner for the wraparound childcare programme, via [HUB for providers](#).

**Q16. Any advice on how to mitigate against a lack of data I can collect from parents?**

There are several ways this can be mitigated. Firstly, to encourage parents to use online response platforms. By asking parents to complete the survey, you can potentially increase response rates.

Leicester is a multi-cultural city and to collect data from various cultural backgrounds can be challenging, offering multi-language support for wraparound childcare surveys. You may wish to consider helping parents complete their surveys as you will be familiar with your school community.

### Q17. Do the school and providers need to develop their own survey?

The Expression of Interest pack will contain a cover letter and parent survey template, however if settings wish to use their own parental survey, they must cover all relevant questions from our suggested template.

#### Useful Links:

- [Wraparound Childcare: Everything you need to know about before and after school childcare The Education](#)
- [Wraparound Childcare: guidance for schools and trusts in England](#)
- [Leicester Employment Hub](#)
- [Do Something Big](#)
- [Tax Free Childcare](#)
- [Leicester City Council MyChoice Directory](#)
- [Family Hubs](#)

#### Provider business planning support:

**Childcare Works** is the national support partner for the early years expansion and wraparound programmes and they have launched a learning site which contains the [HUB for providers](#) which has a bank of resources for Early Years and Wraparound Childcare.

The early years resources include a page for [Provider business planning support \(childcareworks.org.uk\)](#) from where providers can access information and resources based on the **PREPARE** model for business planning.

PREPARE is an acronym for a series of steps organised in a way to review a business, take stock of the current business and its finances to help with decision making. To assist with each step, there is a series of **short, recorded videos**, to support providers.

Providers should make use of these very useful HUB resources for their business planning and keep visiting the website regularly to access any updated and new resources which are made available there.