

CHILDCARE FUNDING FOR  
NEW AND EXISTING  
CHILDCARE PLACES



# Creating new childcare places in Devon

The government Sure Start Unit (SSU), an interdepartmental unit of the DWP and DfES, has allocated Devon County Council funding for the development of childcare places in Devon. The SSU is not prescriptive in the type of childcare places to be created but leaves this to the local authority to decide in the light of the childcare audit of existing places, analysis of market conditions and consultations with parents and carers.

The range of childcare includes:

- Out of school care – Breakfast Clubs, After School Clubs and Holiday Playschemes;
- Wrap-around care for pre-school aged children;
- Daycare for under-three year olds;
- Childminding care.



The Early Years and Childcare Service District Co-ordinators work with groups and potential new providers in areas identifying a need for new childcare places. Consultation with parents/carers is an essential part of the process in order to establish that the need exists. When an



established need is confirmed, Early Years and Childcare Service Development Workers and Assistant Business Support Officers provide support to groups through the application stage for Sure Start funding. The applications for funding are assessed by the Sure Start Appraisal Panel and grants are given to successful groups.

# Section 1: New Childcare Places for 0-14 year old children

## Sure Start Childcare Start-up funding

### 1.1 Developing Existing Provision:

#### *Nursery Classes in schools and sessional Pre-school Playgroups*



Childcare settings have a considerable contribution to make to the development of integrated provision and the creation of childcare places. In many areas existing provision has a long history of delivering services to the local community but now needs to develop to meet the changing needs of families.

**Revenue Funding** – The Early Years and Childcare Service is continuing to make revenue funds available for nursery classes and sessional Pre-schools that wish to extend their opening hours and offer care for parents who wish to work or train. Schools may well want to extend the offer from a nursery class by integrating early education with childcare; either directly themselves or in partnership with others.

**Capital Funding** is also available to support Pre-school playgroup and nursery class conversion. For many Pre-school playgroups and nursery classes a particular obstacle to providing an enhanced service is lack of



equipment, facilities or accommodation. Early Years and Childcare Service is offering to assist groups wishing to extend their services to at least 4 hours of care by providing capital funding. In order to create additional childcare, funding can be made available to sessional playgroups who wish to extend their hours to provide full daycare. Capital funding can support groups in the voluntary, private, independent or mainstream sectors.



Capital funding should enable the conversion of places to provide 4 or more hours of daycare, it cannot be used to support the lengthening of existing daycare places e.g. from 4 to 8 hours. There are two levels of grant, one for disadvantaged areas and pockets of disadvantage and

one for other areas. Revenue and Capital funding can be used in conjunction with each other to develop existing provision.

## **1.2 Creating new childcare places**

The type of childcare required will be assessed in the light of the audit of existing places and the analysis of local market conditions including the findings of consultation with parents. Local factors will influence the pattern of delivery – for example, childminders may be more appropriate in rural areas. Nevertheless, parental choice is a key consideration. Parents should be able to access a range of provision and be able to exercise choice.

The types of childcare providers which can access funding for new childcare places include Out of School Clubs, Day Nurseries and Pre-schools.

These types of childcare providers can access revenue funding for creating new childcare places. Capital funding is also available to group providers (i.e not childminders) that are located in a disadvantaged area or pocket.



### 1.3 Extended Schools and Childcare

An extended school is one that provides a range of services, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community.

Childcare start up funding for creating new childcare places (see page 3) is available for schools to provide Out of School Childcare. Schools can either provide childcare themselves or work in partnership with a voluntary or private provider.

### 1.4 Childminders

Childminders provide a uniquely flexible and supportive service to children and their families.

#### *Start Up Grants*

Start Up Grants are likely to continue to be key to attracting and supporting new childminders.

- Registration and inspection fees
- Public Liability Insurance
- First Aid training
- Safety costs such as, fire blanket, smoke alarms & Safety film



In exceptional circumstances the Early Years and Childcare Service will make a contribution towards materials needed for minor alterations to a childminders premises if these are an essential requirement in order to complete Ofsted registration.

Childminders living in disadvantaged areas (including pockets) will also receive funding in years two and three to cover annual inspection costs and any business costs such as NCMA or equivalent membership, insurance and contracts.

# Section 2: Supporting Existing Provision

## 2.1 Sure Start Sustainability Scheme

### *Sustainability Support Grant:*

Early Years and Childcare Service offers funding to provide short-term support during occasional periods of threatened business viability after start up funding has expired.



Eligible provision includes all of the following:

- Out of school clubs
- Nurseries
- Early Years settings providing day-care or sessional care
- Childminders (Networks and disadvantaged areas only)

Support is available to voluntary, private and maintained sectors.

### *Marketing Grant:*

As part of the sustainability scheme support is also available to help childcare providers with the promotion of their business. Up to £500 is available for the purchase of items under the Marketing Grant. The money can be used to pay for promotional materials such as posters and leaflets.

Eligibility is the same as the support grant above.



## 2.2 Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Disability Funding

This funding is used to support/facilitate the use of inclusive childcare places for children with SEN/disability:

**Individual support** – Funds to support children with severe and complex needs requiring a high level of support to access a mainstream Out of School setting.

**Additional group support** – Funds to provide an increased staff level to support a group of children within an Out of School play setting.



## 2.3 District Forum Funding



This funding is available for supporting and developing ‘childcare’, family support provision, and other voluntary groups/activities working with children 0-14 years.

The funding is provided by and managed through Devon County Council and usually takes place 3 times per year. Only those groups that are voluntary are eligible. The funding is not intended for capital expenses unless as a result of Ofsted ‘Action needed’ or Health & Safety issue.

# Annexe – Definitions of Childcare places and eligibility for funding

**Day nurseries** provide care for under-fives for a period up to the length of the adult working day. They can be run by a variety of organisations e.g. voluntary organisations, private companies or individuals, co-operatives, employers and schools. Children attend part time or full time



depending on their parents' needs. Day nurseries have to comply with the National Standards and be inspected by Ofsted. Funding is available to develop new childcare places for under 3 year olds and before and after early education provision.



**Pre-schools / playgroups** providing sessional care for children between three and five years old are not eligible for funding. Sessional care does **not** count as childcare. However Pre-schools/playgroups that register for full day care and are/will be opening for 4 hours or more per day are eligible for funding.

**Childminders** look after under-fives at any time and school-age children outside school hours and in the school holidays. They usually care for the children in their (the childminder's) own home. The parent and childminder negotiate the terms and conditions of employment and care themselves. Under the Children Act, childminders must comply with the National Standards if they are caring for children who are under eight years old.

**Out-of-school childcare** provides, for school-age children (3-14s), good-quality care, based around a programme of well-planned activities suitable for the age range. This category includes all the following types of childcare which are all eligible for new childcare places funding:

- **Holiday schemes**, which provide all-day care during some or all of the school holidays. Summer holiday childcare must be opening for at least three weeks or more and last for more than four hours per day and operate for at least three days per week.



- **Out-of-school childcare clubs (or kids' clubs)**, which provide term-time care for four or five days a week either before school (breakfast clubs) or after school (after-school clubs);
- **Integrated care**, which provides care that is integrated with an early education session.
- **All-year services**, which combine out-of-school care or integrated care with holiday care.
- Individual **childminders** offering out of school care to young children attending early education sessions elsewhere and older children around school hours.



Out-of-school childcare does not usually include “out-of-school hours learning” programmes, provided or initiated by the school (unless specifically included within a care service). These programmes consist of learning activities and are an extension of the school’s educational provision. They are

normally free and available on the basis of the needs of and the likely benefits to individual children. “Out of school hours learning” is not eligible for the childcare places funding.

## FAQ's:

**Q1. Can a setting where children come and go as they please be eligible for Start-up funding?**

**A.** No, these places do not provide actual 'care', by nature of the fact that the child can leave as and when they choose, Sure Start Funding cannot be used to create such places.

**Q2. For unregistered out of school places is there a minimum length of time they must operate for to be eligible for funding?**

**A.** Yes, breakfast clubs will be expected to run for at least one hour and After School Clubs for at least two hours. However, the key question is the usefulness of the provision to parents seeking work or further training.

**Q3. Is there a minimum number of days a week and per term that an unregistered breakfast or after school club must run for before it is eligible for funding?**

**A.** Yes, places should provide term time care for four or five days a week either before school (breakfast clubs) or after school (after school clubs).

Unregistered holiday play schemes must run for at least 4 hours per day to be eligible. Summer holiday playschemes should last a minimum of 3 weeks and 3 days per week. Holiday playschemes running at other times of the year should last more than 5 days. This would exclude holiday playschemes that only run for one half term a year.

**Q4. Can new places revenue funding be used to extend an existing childcare place from 3.5 hours to 4 hours or more?**

**A.** No, such places will have been counted as childcare places previously and will not add to existing stock levels.



# Contact us

To find out more and to check your eligibility contact the Early Years and Childcare Service District Co-ordinator in your area:

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