

Early Years Key Messages

16th December 2024

Please share Key Messages with **all** staff in your provision. Previous Key Messages available at: <https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/early-years-key-messages>

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Wraparound Childcare Revenue Grant

The Round 5 window to apply for **Wraparound Childcare Revenue Grant Funding**, for the creation or expansion of wraparound childcare places, runs from **Monday 16th December 2024 until noon on Friday 17th January 2025**.

Please note that the deadline for capital grant funding applications has now closed.

Who is eligible to apply for wraparound childcare revenue grant funding?

- Schools that do not currently have an offer of before and/or after-school childcare.
- Wraparound childcare providers who do not currently meet the DfE requirements of term-time, Monday-Friday, 8am – 6pm, for children in Reception-Year 6.
- Wraparound childcare providers who are working at full occupancy and need to increase the number of places they can offer.

How do I apply for wraparound childcare revenue grant funding?

The Wraparound Childcare Application Guidance document ([attachment one](#)) must be read in full prior to applying. The links to the Initial Question form (to be completed by all applicants) and the online application forms are on page 3 of the document. All applicants will need to refer to the grant funding calculator ([attachment two](#)) to determine the amount of funding they are eligible to apply for. The application declaration form ([attachment three](#)) will need to be signed and returned to wraparoundchildcare@northyorks.gov.uk. If applying for Grant Type 3 for the expansion of places, evidence of parental demand will be required. This can be provided in the form of parent survey data, records of requests from parents or a daily register.

Please do ensure that everything on the Supporting Evidence Checklist ([attachment four](#)) is provided and where necessary, emailed to wraparoundchildcare@northyorks.gov.uk.

What support is available?

Applicants in need of advice and support should contact wraparoundchildcare@northyorks.gov.uk to request a meeting.

Spring Term 2025 Sufficiency Tab

Don't forget the Sufficiency tab closes this **Wednesday 18th December 2024**.

Please submit **both** the total number of places you are registered for and how many vacancies you estimate will be available per session in a standard week in Spring Term 2025 on the FIS Provider Portal. Please see attached our new guidance on how to submit your data. ([Attachment five](#))

Funding Code Reminders

Please remember that parents do **not** need an eligibility code to access 15 hours of Universal 3 & 4 Year old government funding for their child. This process has not changed, and parents can access Universal government funding when eligible in agreement with the individual provider. Families receiving government funded childcare for their 2 year old child under the additional support criteria (previously known as Disadvantage Funding) do **not** need to re-confirm every term. The code they received through NYC confirming their eligibility remains valid until the end of the term in which the child turns three years old.

Spotlight on the Childcare Works Resources HUB

The [HUB](#) is a free to access, one-stop shop for Early Years or Wraparound Childcare providers, and it now has a new look. The new layout makes it easier for providers to navigate the growing bank of resources, which includes toolkits, case studies, DfE guidance and more!

Last week, seven new recorded presentations have been added to the HUB to support providers with key activities and skills:

- **Recruitment and Retention in Early Years and Wraparound Provision** - Effective recruitment and retention are vital for maintaining high standards of care and education. Ensuring that we have the right staff who are committed and well-supported is crucial for providing consistent, quality care to children. This short recording aims to provide viewers with actionable strategies to attract and retain high-quality staff. Hear a provider discuss the current landscape, effective recruitment strategies, and practical retention techniques. [Recruitment and Retention in Early Years and Wraparound Provision - childcareworks.org.uk](#)
- **Characteristics of effective leadership** - The aim of this short recording is to provide practical tips for effective leadership and team building. Hear from a provider who will discuss key leadership qualities, strategies for building a cohesive team, and practical techniques to enhance teamwork and resolve conflicts. [Characteristics of Effective Leadership - childcareworks.org.uk](#)
- **Marketing and Promotion: Finding and Keeping Customers** - This short recording considers marketing from a childcare providers perspective. It considers strategies to attract new families and retain existing ones. It highlights how effective marketing activity which includes digital and community-based marketing/events, social media, customer feedback, and compelling content can build a strong, appealing brand that resonates with families to ensure a steady flow of enquiries and new starters. [Marketing and Promotion - Finding and Keeping Customers - childcareworks.org.uk](#)
- **Supporting Providers to have Courageous Conversations** - Courageous conversations are essential for maintaining a healthy and transparent environment in childcare settings. They help address issues promptly and build trust among staff and parents. This recording discusses how to conduct difficult discussions openly and constructively, so we enhance relationships with parents and staff. [Supporting Providers to have Courageous Conversations - childcareworks.org.uk](#)
- **Breaking Down Barriers: Helping Providers See Opportunities, Not Challenges** - This session explores how tools and frameworks can shift our perspectives to view perceived challenges as opportunities for growth and improvement. The short recording explores how SWOT analysis and the 5 Whys Method can be used to identify opportunities and overcome challenges. We take you through how to use the problem-solving frameworks step by step using two case studies. The session also considers how we can use scenario planning and strategic thinking to anticipate and mitigate potential problems. [Breaking Down Barriers – Helping Providers See Opportunities, Not Challenges - childcareworks.org.uk](#)
- **Invoicing, Consumables, and Charging Structures** - Effective management of invoicing consumables and charging structures is crucial for maintaining transparency and fairness as required by the DfE statutory and operational guidance. This recording considers the requirements of the operational guidance and explores invoicing good practice. Hear first-hand a provider's experience of defining Consumables vs. Equipment and Resources, how to develop fair and transparent charging structures as well as considering the importance of monitoring and Reviewing Charging Practices. [Invoicing, Consumables, and Charging Structures - childcareworks.org.uk](#)
- **Meet Lucy Lewin** - Lucy features in some of the recorded presentations. In this video clip she introduces herself and her background in early years and childcare. [Meet Lucy Lewin - childcareworks.org.uk](#)

FEAST Christmas Activities

Please find attached details of FEAST activities happening over Christmas. [Attachment six](#)

HDFT 0 – 19 Healthy Child Team SPOC Contact Details

Please find attached a poster detailing the contact details for the HDFT 0 – 19 Service (including the Health Visiting team). This includes the Single Point of Contact telephone number for the service. Providers can contact the service to discuss and share information about children and to arrange two year old Integrated Review conversations with the Healthy Child team. [Attachment seven](#)

Children starting school in September 2025

All Early Years Providers have been sent an email from The Schools Admission Team regarding children who were born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 and are due to start school in September 2025. Please encourage parents to apply for school places on line on the North Yorkshire Council website at www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions. Applications opened on 12th October 2024 and closes on **15th January 2025**. Families living outside North Yorkshire will need to contact their home authority to obtain their information regarding school admissions. If you have any queries, please email: schooladmissions@northyorks.gov.uk

Christmas Opening Hours

Please note the Families Information Service and Early Years team will finish for Christmas at 5pm on Monday, 23rd December 2024. In line with NYC policy, the service will then be closed for the Christmas period and will re-open at 08:30 on 2nd January 2025.

Thank you to everyone for everything you have done this year to ensure children receive the best possible childcare and education. Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and the very best for 2025.