



# Grow and Learn

## New 2yr Funding Process – Q&A session

September 2020

# Agenda

1. Introductions and welcome
2. Grow and Learn Pilot overview (Ruth) 5 mins
3. Summary of Behavioural Insights work (Simone) 5 mins
4. Rationale and new 'Golden Ticket Letter' Process Overview (Helen) 15 mins
5. Finance and headcount overview (Joanne) 15 mins
6. Submitted Questions – (Helen/Joanne/Ruth/Simone) 15 mins
7. Summary – Helen (5 mins)



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

# Grow and Learn Pilot Overview

Ruth Little



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

# Aims

## The aims of the pilot are:

- An increase in the number of children reaching Good Level of Development (GLD) in speech, language and communication, in the pilot areas.
- Families, settings and communities to have increased knowledge of how to support children's speech, language and communication development.
- Key agencies will work together to identify families' needs early, monitor progress and provide intervention for the children who need it most.
- The use of libraries amongst pre-school age children and their families will increase.



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

This will be achieved through the following key activity:

- Common assessment approach across NYCC, Health and Early Years Providers
- Improved integrated working across Health, Voluntary and Private sectors around School Readiness
- Enhanced intervention pathway and offer to families
- Marketing campaign promoting positive parenting messages
- Behavioural insights approach to improving the effectiveness of the 2 year childcare offer
- Introduction of performance framework and predictive risk identification tool.



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

Access to quality early years' education is the golden thread going through all education. It is more effective, cost effective and beneficial to give all children the best possible start in life.

High quality early education can make a dramatic difference to children's life chances. High quality nursery can improve later results – generating a term and a half's progress for some children.



**Grow  
& learn**



**North Yorkshire  
County Council**

Research tell us that 26% of children from low income families will not reach a good level of development at the end of their reception year compared to 4% of children from the highest earning households. This gap is likely to grow even wider following the Coronavirus Pandemic making the need for us to maximize the uptake of EYF2 even more of a priority.

*“Demographic profile of Covid 19 mortality rates suggests pandemic will reinforce existing deprivation and inequality hitting low income households particularly hard.” CEEDA.*



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

# Behavioural Insights Project

Simone Wilkinson



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

As part of the School Readiness Pilot we have been working with the Behavioural Insights Team- a social purpose organisation that generates and applies behavioural insights to inform policy and improve public services.

Test – November 2019

Explore – February 2020

Solution – March 2020

Next Steps – June 2020



**Grow  
& learn**



**North Yorkshire  
County Council**

# Recommendations from BIT

‘Auto-enrolling eligible parents to receive EYF2 (with the option of opting out if they do not want to use the offer) is the most powerful way to simplify the process for parents. It is well-established that auto-enrolment can dramatically increase the probability that people participate in a scheme...

Other councils in the UK have encouraged parents to take up EYF2 by sending eligible parents a ‘golden ticket’ in the post. Parents can take the ticket to their chosen childcare setting, where staff will call the council to validate the ticket and claim the funding. Dorset County Council reported that take-up improved by 6 percentage points (from 81% in 2018 to 87% in 2019) when they introduced the golden ticket scheme.’

BIT Solution Report



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

# New 'Golden Ticket Letter' Process Overview

Helen Smith

# Were our internal systems and processes creating potential barriers take up of two year old funding?

Yes! An accumulation of our internal processes enabled families to drop out of the two year old application process at various points:-

There is an intensive/complicated internal matching process at the start which takes 2 ½ weeks to complete (LA only allowed a 3 week period from DWP to process data)..

The initial letters sent to families asking them to apply is complicated due to needing detailed information about benefits etc.

Whistle envelopes used for letters too formal and look like bills.

NYCC places responsibility on families to apply.

NYCC link to online application takes parents through to the schools application form. This confuses families and generates many calls to FIS for clarification, advice and support.



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

## Potential barriers to take up of two year old funding

Online application requires certain details. Some families forget their password and need to reset password for the Parental Portal or cannot access this as they do not know their NI number.

Some families do not have the IT available to them to complete the online process including running out of credit on mobile phones.

Anomalies in application forms are not processed and require further follow up work by Business Support. Often this is a simple mistake in completing the application form (eg wrong date of birth) or change of address. This causes further delays in processing application.

The terminology used can be a barrier for parents and other professionals eg “term after”.

Processed applications are notified by email to parents. These often go into parents’ spam/junk folders.

Parents do not think they are eligible for funding and do not take up a place.

Local authority is seen to be in a position of power and some parents lack the confidence to follow up their applications and wrongly assume they are not eligible.

Families Information Service receives queries from parents and other professionals about applications which have not been processed or which have gone missing.

The current process is labour intensive and creates unnecessary barriers, frustration and worry for families.

**Most importantly, it means that some children miss out on their childcare place.**

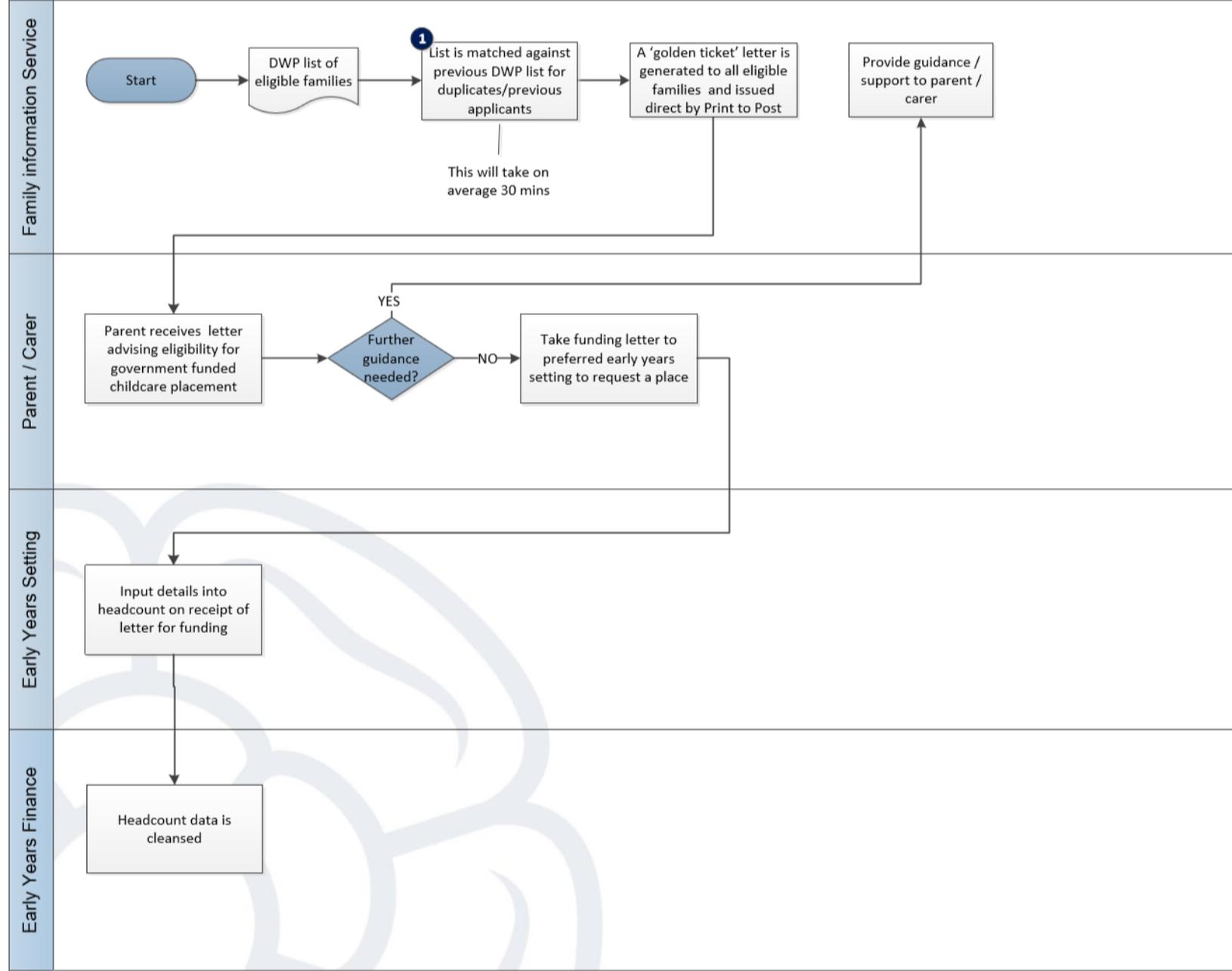


**Grow  
& learn**



**North Yorkshire  
County Council**





# Proposed new process

1. Local Authority receives the list of potentially eligible families via the DWP data list. Three new lists + four update lists per year.
2. List is matched against previous DWP list for duplicates/previous applicants – much simpler and quicker process.
3. A golden ticket funding letter is generated and issued quickly to all parents on the DWP list.
4. Parent receives a golden ticket funding letter individually addressed to the recipient by post in a family friendly designed envelope.
5. Parent takes golden ticket funding letter and child's birth certificate to childcare provider as proof of eligibility.
6. Childcare provider and parent discuss and agree taking up a childcare place.
7. EY provider submits 2 year old claim for child on headcount at headcount details into headcount data on receipt of letter
8. Headcount data is cleansed.
9. **Most importantly, a simpler and quicker process for families will enable more children to access their two year old funding places.**



**Grow  
& learn**



**North Yorkshire  
County Council**

# Important to remember

- Early years providers must only offer a place if they have seen proof of eligibility for two year old funding:-
  1. Parental golden ticket funding letter
  2. Child's birth certificate.
- Parents can access Families Information Service for advice and guidance through the new process
- Applications for funding for families not on the DWP list will remain unchanged.



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

# Which families are on the DWP list?

The list will only contain the name and address of families that are potentially eligible for the entitlement based on a parent having an open claim to:

Income Support;

Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;

Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;

The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit;

Child Tax Credit and/or Working Tax Credit and have an annual income no more than £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs;

The Working Tax Credit four-week run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit); or,

The child attracts the Disability Living Allowance.

Universal Credit (Full Service only) – Universal Credit and have an annual net earned income equivalent to and not exceeding £15,400, assessed on up to three of the parent's most recent Universal Credit assessment periods.



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

# Which families are not on the DWP list?

The following applications will still be made through the current manual process through Families Information Service:-

- Supported under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Looked after by the local authority;
- Have left the care of the local authority;
- Have a statement of Special Educational Need or an Education, Health and Care Plan
- Out of county.



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

# Finance and Headcount Overview

Joanne Webster

# Early Years Funding

How is funding and headcount submission affected?

- Good News – no changes!
- The hourly rate of £5.28 will remain the same.
- A funded place must be free at the point of delivery
- Hours can be shared between childcare providers.
- A parental agreement must be completed by the parent who is named on the Golden Ticket Letter, and must include their details as this will help to monitor take-up.
- .



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

# Evidence from parents...

- A child in receipt of a Golden Ticket can access their two year old funded place the school term after they are 2 years old.
- The Golden Ticket will be issued to parents who meet the economic criteria, or whose child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.
- Some parents who have not received a Golden Ticket will still be able to apply through the parent portal so they will get a voucher code.



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

Headcount submission will be the same, but please include the parent details on the Parent/Carer details tab...

Home Forms Funding Sufficiency Staff Ofsted

Summary Estimates Actuals Adjustments Eligibility Checker

Child Details Parent / Carer Details Funding Details Notes

Details are optional but if entered then at least Forename, Surname and NI or NASS Number must be filled in.

| Parent / Carer Details  |                      | Partner Details   |                      |
|---|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| Forename  | <input type="text"/> | Forename  | <input type="text"/> |
| Surname   | <input type="text"/> | Surname   | <input type="text"/> |
| DOB   | <input type="text"/> | DOB   | <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NI or <input type="checkbox"/> NASS Number | <input type="text"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> NI or <input type="checkbox"/> NASS Number | <input type="text"/> |

Save Cancel

\*denotes mandatory fields

# Invoices

Reminder about invoicing...

Please be mindful of the impact of additional charges on the most disadvantaged parents.

Statutory guidance states that childcare providers must ensure invoices are:

- *clear*
- *transparent*
- *itemised*
- *enabling parents to see that they have received their child's entitlement completely free of charge and understand fees paid for additional hours or services*



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

# Submitted Questions

Helen/Ruth/Simone/Joanne



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

# FAQs

What are the benefits of young children attending a childcare provider?

Do families have to take the full entitlement of 15 hours per week?

When can a child start?

The child has turned three, can they still use the two year old funding?

Does the two year old funding stop if parents circumstances change? For example; benefit changes or a new job?

Can the funding be split between two providers?

If the childcare provider does not offer two year old funding what can a parent do?



Grow  
& learn



North Yorkshire  
County Council

# Thankyou

[eyft@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:eyft@northyorks.gov.uk)

[fis@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:fis@northyorks.gov.uk)

[growandlearn@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:growandlearn@northyorks.gov.uk)



**Grow  
& learn**



**North Yorkshire  
County Council**