# **Wraparound Childcare Grants Guidance**

**Wraparound Care Expansion**

Wraparound childcare is childcare that ‘wraps around’ the conventional school day. This provision can be offered by schools and private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers (including childminders and early years settings) and can be run on a school site or at another setting in the area. It should not require parents to pick their children up from school and drop them off at another location.

The government’s ambition is that by 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need it will be able to access term time childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm. North East Lincolnshire Council has been allocated just over £950,000 over two academic years to enable schools and local areas to set up wraparound childcare provision.

This programme will only focus on primary school-aged children from reception to year 6, Monday to Friday during term time. The funding period will run until April 2026, and the government expects that most schools will be able to deliver wraparound childcare that is self-financing and sustainable by September 2026.

1. **What type of delivery might be required?**

The majority of primary phase schools in North East Lincolnshire already have some kind of offer in place, but schools are invited to work with us to look at what needs to be developed to meet parental demand.

Funding will be available to expand existing provision which might be an increase in the number of places offered, additional staff or an extension of session timings. We want to fill gaps where they exist based on estimates of demand, and work with schools to ensure that children who are currently on a waiting list have access to the places that they need. We anticipate that in some areas neighbouring schools may wish to work collaboratively to secure provision across a range of providers/schools.

Funding could support innovative delivery options and help meet shortfalls between expenditure and income from parental fees in the initial establishing phases. Funding will be tapered, with the majority paid in year one. Provision is expected to be financially sustainable through income from parental fees going forward.

Fees and charges will need to take into account affordability for working parents and offer the ability for parents to access financial support through the government’s [Childcare Choices.](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/) Many schools and childcare providers are already registered to receive this childcare support. Parents will be able to use Universal Credit childcare support for up to 85% subsidy of their costs, and eligible parents can use Tax Free Childcare to subsidise costs, covering 20% of costs up to £2000 a year.

Schools and providers are invited to apply for Wraparound childcare grant funding but must ensure that their intended offer does not duplicate or replace existing provision available in their local area. If childcare providers are applying, they must be endorsed by the school they seek to work with.

1. **Delivery models**

Example delivery models could include the following and there may well be overlap between some of these models:

* **School-led provision delivered by school staff on a school site**

Provision that operates on school premises, managed by staff employed directly by a school. The provision is open to all children in that school.

* **Private provider-led provision, on or off school site**

Provision that is operated and delivered by staff employed by a private provider. If based on a school site, the private provider may rent space from the school to be able to operate provision. Provision could also be operated on another site rather than on school premises.

* **Community/cluster model**

A community-focused model with children from multiple schools attending provision on one site. This could be operated by a lead school, a private provider, a community organisation or any other appropriate body.

* **Childminders**

Provision delivered by childminders (registered with Ofsted or a childminder

agency), which schools and local authorities signpost to. This could consist of a group of childminders working together on a single site or childminders working individually from their homes.

* **Early years providers**

Provision delivered by early years providers which may take school aged children during wraparound hours. For example, a local nursery or a pre-school operating on or off a school site may run the provision before and after school hours.

1. **Who is eligible?**

The grant is available to all schools and trusts educating primary school aged children within the North East Lincolnshire Council local authority area.

Childcare providers, including childminders, may apply if a school endorses them to deliver provision.

To ensure minimum safe standards in wraparound childcare provision, all PVI providers and childminders funded through the wraparound programme must be registered with Ofsted, or in the case of childminders, Ofsted, or a childminder agency. Dependent on the nature of the provision and the age range of children, this includes registration on the General Childcare Register (GCR) and the Early Years Register (EYR).

Schools providing wraparound childcare directly, as part of their governance arrangements, do not need to register on either the GCR or EYR, however they must adhere to the same standards. More information on Ofsted registration, including exemptions, is available here: [Registering school-based provision with Ofsted (publishing.service.gov.uk).](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/factsheet-childcare-registering-school-based-provision)

1. **Applications**

There will be two opportunities to submit applications for wraparound childcare grants during the current financial year:

1. 5th July – 26th July 2024
2. 2 September – 27 September 2024

All applications for grants need to be submitted using the NEL Wraparound Revenue Funding Application form complete with the costed delivery plan, which will be available during the above periods on request. Schools and providers who have already submitted an expression of interest form will be e-mailed the funding application documentation directly.

After the end of each application period above, a grant evaluation panel will consider applications for funding and will aim to let applicants know the outcome within four weeks after the closure of the application window. Payments can be expected within one week of notification following Officer and Executive Lead Member approvals and receipt of your signed grant agreement.

All grant applications must comply with the DfE criteria outlined in the [Wraparound childcare guidance for schools](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wraparound-childcare-guidance-for-schools)

1. **What can be funded with this grant?**

Childcare provision funded from this grant must meet the definition of wraparound childcare, i.e., be available directly before and after the school day, from 8am to 6pm (or equivalent, if data shows that local demand is for different hours) during school term time for primary school-age children. It may be run on a school site or at another setting. It should not require parents to pick their children up from school and drop them off at another location.

The grant evaluation panel will ensure that the allocation of the wraparound childcare complies with the grant criteria and is seeking applications for grant funding that fit within the criteria.

Examples of eligible spend include:

* Starting new wraparound childcare at or near schools where there is no current provision
* Expanding existing provision either by increasing the number of places offered, employing additional staff or an extension of session timings
* Collaborative working between schools to secure provision across a range of providers/schools.
* Working with local childminders, hubs/clusters, community-based provision, or adopt another delivery model
* Covering costs including staffing, training, and transport costs such as minibus hire (not purchase), as well as resources.
* Contribute to running costs whilst demand builds, to remove any financial risk to providers of offering additional places before demand is guaranteed.
* Pay for training for wraparound staff, including specialist training for staff to ensure they feel equipped to support children with additional needs
* Provide free or subsidised places for children of wraparound staff, where local authorities identify this as necessary as part of wraparound recruitment strategy

Grant funding cannot be used to:

* Subsidise parental fees and charges
* Replace existing provision delivered by another childcare provider, unless that provision is due to close
* Start provision in direct competition with an existing provider, unless there is proven demand
* Subsidise existing provision where no expansion is required

1. **How will the grant be evaluated?**

Each grant application will be evaluated by a panel and a decision made based on the extent that:

* The application is approved by the school on which it operates/is in the local catchment area
* Childcare providers and childminders delivering wraparound childcare must be registered with Ofsted, or in the case of childminders, Ofsted, or a childminder agency.
* The grant supports the grant criteria as detailed in section 3 and eligible spend in section 5.
* The funding will be used to create or expand wraparound childcare provision.
* The panel is confident of delivery within the timescales.
* The application matches our understanding of supply and demand from the school census and Council surveys
* All questions on the application form have been completed

1. **How long will it take to find out if I have been successful with my application?**

A grant evaluation panel will consider applications for funding and will aim to let applicants know the outcome within four weeks after the closure of the application window.

1. **What reporting and management information is needed as part of the funding?**

Applicants will need to provide complete management information as part of the grant agreement on a termly basis and self-monitor to the wraparound childcare quality framework. Failure to provide this information may result in the withholding of funding for year 2.

Whilst management information is still to be confirmed, a monitoring return template will be provided for completion which we expect to contain the following:

* Number of children on waiting lists
* Detail on the days & times of provision including start and finish times for each day provision is available
* Number of places that need to be created to meet demand, both current and anticipated future demand in September 24 and September 26;
* Take up of additional funded places and additional places filled
* Information on cost to parents per hour / session;
* Number of staff currently delivering wraparound and required to meet anticipated demand, any barriers to engaging with staff to meet current and future demand;
* Training provided to staff
* Charging information, both charging structures i.e. flat hourly rate, flat session rate, variable rate and charge.
* Complaints/compliments received

Grants awarded will be subject to a grant agreement which sets out the Council’s expectations of organisations in accepting grant funding. The Grant Agreement will be sent out for completion once the panel has approved the application and during the time that the Officer and Executive Lead Member are making the final decision.

Three weeks before the end of the grant period, 4 March 2025, you will be asked to confirm that you have used the funding as set out in your grant application.  Any unspent grant funding must be returned to the Council.

The school or provider receiving funding must maintain reliable, accessible and up to date accounting records with an adequate audit trail in case HCC, the Secretary of State or an appropriately qualified auditor require access to or copies of the accounting records.

If North East Lincolnshire Council has any grounds for suspecting financial irregularity in the use of any grant paid under this Grant Agreement, an investigation will take place. For these purposes ‘financial irregularity’ includes fraud or other impropriety, mismanagement, and the use of grant for purposes other than those for which it was provided.

1. **I have questions or need some advice.  Who do I ask?**

Please contact us on the following e-mail wac@nelincs.gov.uk.