

Funding Forum

Q Are there plans to clawback funding in the Autumn 2020 term?

A Autumn term will be conducted in line with normal funding arrangements and the terms and conditions set out within the Agreement for funding, Providers should claim for children via the usual estimate and actual process unless notified to do differently, currently there is no guidance notifying the LA to operate under any other arrangements. Claw back of funding therefore will only take place under the terms and conditions within the 'Agreement for Funding' i.e. a child moves setting under exceptional circumstances. Any changes to the normal funding arrangements will be communicated.

Q Will the increased rates remain, or is there any plan to have another increase?

A Rates will remain the same for the financial year 2020/2021. A consultation took place at the beginning of the year and all childcare providers were asked to opt for their preferable hourly rate option. This will be reviewed in line with the grant terms and conditions.

Q Is there going to be additional funding available to purchase equipment and resources that we feel we require to open safely?

A Sustainability grant proposals have been made and information should be available soon with regards to what these look like and the options available. Providers are encouraged to access [Government financial support](#) where it is applicable.

Q We financially need to have x amount of number children to attend each session to cover running cost. If in September social distancing and small groups are still required and we cannot have this many number of children due to space and staff issue, what will happen then?

A To date, we have no guidance on what the Autumn term will look like with regards to operational issues however, all childcare providers should work on the basis of the information that they have currently and look at and prepare their business models with regards to sustainability, this may mean an increase in fees charged /sessional rates to ensure that costs are covered or operating different sessions that minimise children coming and going times. Childcare providers are private businesses and ultimately these will have to be decisions that you will have to make yourself.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q As of the 1st June, I have offered a funded child whom I claimed funding for a place in my setting, however the parent has declined the place and wants to keep the child at home, will the funding be clawed back?

A There is no intention to claw back any free entitlement funding paid to childcare providers for the summer term. We anticipate that parents will be apprehensive about sending their child back into childcare. We encourage you to keep in contact with the family and in line with the [Gov Guidance section 6](#) ensuring they are aware of all new measures put in place to reduce risk of transmission of coronavirus, how this impacts them and their responsibilities in supporting this. Where appropriate, review your policies and procedures with parents and carers and inform them of any updates you have made.

Q Do we only ask the children who would leave me and go to Reception if they want to come back to preschool?

A No, you should ask all children if they wish to return in line with section 7 of the Planning guide for early years providers and settings 26 May. Where numbers will be capped, you should prioritise places for vulnerable children, children of key workers and children aged 3-4, particularly those who will be transitioning to school in Sept.

Q If we have contacted all parents and they do not want their child to return will we still get full funding?

A Reopening will depend on 2 important factors 1; The risk to reopen and if it is safe to do so after conducting a risk assessment and 2; the demand for places and remaining sustainable, if any of these factors prevent you from opening for the summer term then yes your funding for the summer term that is due to be paid will be secured.

Q What if only 1 child wants to come into preschool, are we expected to open?

A This a decision that you/your committee will have to make as a business/ charity after considering your viable business model and sustainability ultimately the council want you to follow the following guided principles;

- **Safety, Safety, Safety.**
- **Safe solutions will look very different** in each school and early years settings. You all face unique challenges.
- A **gradual and phased return** will in most instances be a sensible approach. The aim is to open safely, rather than quickly.
- The **attendance of vulnerable children and the children of critical workers** should continue to be prioritised.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q We are a committee run preschool, our risk assessment must be approved by the committee for us to open. If the risk assessment is not passed and we feel it is not safe to open will we lose funding?

A If your risk assessment and committee decide it is not safe to open you will receive the FE funding for the summer term in line with the actuals that you have provided. At the minute we have no guidance with regards to the Autumn term and how providers will be funded so we can only assume it will be under the normal processes.

Q A parent wishes to move funding to a Rochdale setting as from the 1st June, will this be possible, and will we only lose the weeks they wish to transfer?

A Normal cross border/ exceptional circumstances will apply, so the funding will move with the child and you will only lose the weeks of funding that the child has not been attending with you.

Q A parent wants to split funding across 2 settings as from the 8th June can we claim for 12 hours and the other setting receive 18? this is due to the parents shifts changing and needing childcare before we open, she is a key worker.

A Yes a split funding claim can be made under the terms and conditions of grant however you will need to ensure that you have considered the risks around children whom are attending more than one setting in your risk assessment and you are able to demonstrate that this is safe to do so and the measures that are in place as the guidance section 7 states; *'To minimise contact between groups of children and staff, children should attend just one setting wherever possible and parents and carers should be encouraged to minimise as far as possible the number of education and childcare settings their child attends'*.

Section 8 of the guidance also talk about minimising contact by keeping staff and children in the same group 'bubble'.

Q Is the eligibility checker working now for September starters? Mine has not worked prior to the summer term.

A We are not aware of any issues with the 30 hours eligibility checker. Please ensure you only input the essential information required to carry out a check, these fields are marked with an asterisk and include; the code, parent's National Insurance number and child's date of birth. If too much information is input, the checker will report an error message.