

## National Wraparound Childcare Programme

### What does the wraparound guidance for schools and trusts mean for me as a private, voluntary, or independent provider (PVI)?

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#### The programme

The government is investing £289 million to support the expansion of wraparound childcare for primary school-aged pupils in reception to Year 6.

In October 2023, we published a [handbook for local authorities \(LAs\)](#) that sets out our ambition for all parents of primary school children who need it to be able to access term-time childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm. This will help to ensure that parents have enough childcare to work full time, more hours and with flexible hours.

The programme aims to improve the availability of wraparound childcare for parent/carers and is designed to fund the initial setup or expansion of wraparound provision where there is clear demand. The funding will also remove the financial risk of setting up or expanding wraparound provision where sufficient demand is not guaranteed to sustain provision from the start, but where the guarantee of places could help build sufficient demand over time as parents/carers are assured of the supply of places.

Parents should expect to see an expansion in the availability of wraparound care from September 2024, with the programme ambition being that every parent who needs it will be able to access term-time wraparound childcare by September 2026.

Parents will still be expected to pay to access this provision, as this programme aims to increase the availability of childcare rather than subsidise childcare.

Support with the cost will continue to be available to eligible parents through Universal Credit childcare and Tax-Free Childcare. LAs, schools, trusts and private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers, including childminders, are expected to make parents aware of this support and be set up in a way to enable parents to use it.

#### The role of PVI providers in the programme

We know PVI providers, including childminders, represent a significant proportion of the market, are experts in the field, and have a wealth of resources and experience.

PVI providers already deliver the childcare so many parents need. They are essential to the availability of wraparound childcare, delivering childcare on or off school sites, and are therefore critical to the successful delivery of the programme.

Providers themselves will also have an important role in communicating the offer to parents/carers with whom they have existing relationships. They should continue to build on the good working relationships that they have with their local authority.

The programme is an opportunity for providers to build connections and form strong partnerships with schools and trusts, as well as to explore opportunities to work with other providers to maximise the sustainability of wraparound provision.

## What do I need to know as a PVI provider, from guidance for schools and trusts?

In October 2023 government published the [National Wraparound Childcare Programme Handbook](#). The handbook set out the vision for delivery of the programme:

- Local authority-led: building on their existing duty to ensure that there is sufficient childcare in their local area, they will lead the strategy and delivery of the programme locally.
- School-centred, with provision delivered by a variety of childcare providers: Schools are uniquely placed to understand their communities and families. As happens now, we expect that the majority of parents will access childcare either through provision on a school site, or through the school signposting them to alternative local provision, for example PVIs and childminders. This approach reflects the diversity of delivery models for wraparound childcare and the need for coherence for parents.

This vision remains and we are committed to the programme being built on existing assets and understanding of the local community, which incorporates and does not disrupt and displace the existing wraparound childcare market but has been established to enhance and ensure demand is met.

In February 2024, the government published [wraparound childcare guidance for schools and trusts](#). In this guidance, we continue to encourage schools to work with PVI providers, including when setting up wraparound on a school site.

The wraparound guidance for schools and trusts sets out that schools may wish to work in partnership with local PVI providers, including early years providers and childminders, on or off the school site. For example, it states that PVI providers may be able to support schools to improve access to wraparound childcare by:

- delivering provision on a school site, on behalf of a school;
- engaging with a school to ensure parents are signposted to local provision;
- working with schools or trusts to facilitate access to off-site provision.

In order to support parents to access the childcare they need, and PVI providers to deliver wraparound in a way which meets the needs of working parents, the government has set an expectation that all schools educating primary aged pupils have school or PVI provider run wraparound childcare on the school site, unless there is a reasonable justification not to. For example, in areas where off-site provision, including PVI led provision, which meets the needs of all parents already exists, this may be a reasonable justification for schools to not have wraparound provision on school site. Where this is the case, schools should communicate local wraparound options to parents and support access to existing provision, for example, where needed, working with providers to support transport to and from provision.

### Actions for PVI providers

We have asked schools to consider the role of PVI providers when setting up or scaling up provision, so you should expect to be involved in these discussions where relevant.

The guidance for schools and trusts outlines considerations schools may wish to make when working with PVI providers. PVI providers should be aware of this advice in preparation for working with schools and trusts.

If you are planning on setting up PVI provision it is important that you register with Ofsted unless exempt, to receive funding through the programme. Registration with Ofsted will also enable parents to use government subsidies such as Tax-Free Childcare and the childcare entitlement of Universal Credit. PVI providers are expected to promote Tax-Free Childcare and Universal Credit Childcare, and support parents to use these subsidies, to help parents and carers with the affordability of childcare.

Wraparound PVI providers should work collaboratively with local authorities, schools, trusts and other PVI providers as part of the national wraparound programme.

As the programme is being delivered through local authorities, you may wish to contact the relevant wraparound lead in the local authorities in which you operate, to understand their proposed approach and to discuss how your provision could support an expansion of new wraparound places.

If you have any queries about the wraparound programme, please contact us by emailing [wraparound.programme@education.gov.uk](mailto:wraparound.programme@education.gov.uk).