

LOCAL RECOVERY GUIDANCE FOR EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE – 12 June 2020

Frequently Asked Questions and Information from 1 June 2020 Regarding Wider Opening of Settings

Contact us: childcare@hants.gov.uk

This guidance is subject to change and will be updated as further guidance is received from the Cabinet Office and the Department for Education (DfE).

Maintained Nursery Schools/Primary Schools with Nursery Units should note that these FAQs are written primarily to childcare providers in the Private Voluntary and Independent Sector, although much of the content will be relevant. Specific advice and guidance for schools will be through Schools Communications and School Improvement Partners.

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What's New?

1.4	Data Collection
	Added updated snapshot of childcare market. Details of survey to understand the impact of the pandemic on local businesses.
2.3	Staffing Responsibilities
	Added information about staff with caring responsibilities.
2.4	Admissions and Group Sizes
	Included additional information about furlough for those with caring responsibilities and how this may change priority placements.
2.5	Working with Parents/Carers
	Added updated guidance link for parents and carers.
2.6	Shared Care Considerations
	Added update from DfE and information about upcoming Out of School Care Webinars.
3.1	Social Distancing
	Added FAQ about use of public outdoor places
3.4	Sickness in Provision
	Added details of PHE letter sent to all providers. Section regarding Test and Trace removed, and links added to 4.6
3.5	Pick Up/Drop Off & Transport
	Included reminder about face coverings becoming mandatory on public transport from 15 June. Included information about children who do not need to wear face coverings.
4.2	Communications with Parents/Carers
	New information about 30 Hours Entitlements Added information about coping in the heat during COVID-19, and about water & garden safety.
4.5	Further Support
	Added information about Companies House new temporary digital upload service. Updated an email address for the self-sustaining network.
4.6	Helpful Links
	New links added.

1. Introduction

1.1 Government Recovery Plan

On 28 May 2020 the Prime Minister announced that the Government's five tests for easing the lockdown in England have been met, enabling all children to be welcomed back to early years settings and a phased return of children in priority year groups to school, from Monday 1 June.

The welfare of children and staff has been at the heart of all decision making and Ministers want to thank all those involved in preparing for this milestone.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy#our-approach-a-phased-recovery>

1.2 Government Guidance for Early Years and Childcare

The full guidance regarding the actions settings must take during the Coronavirus outbreak can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

There is further more specific guidance about the additional opening from 1 June:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

This is complemented by a supporting collection of information for parents and carers: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Along with further details around implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings for additional opening:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

On 14 May 2020 further guidance was released regarding safe working arrangements: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

The Government's expectation is that all providers will reopen from 1 June. The purpose of this document is to help our providers understand how this guidance can be used to prepare what this might look like. **YOU MUST READ THE GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE AND PLAN YOUR NEXT STEPS TO OPEN.**

A Planning Guide for the Early Years sector has now been created by the Government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider->

[opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-early-years-and-childcare-settings](#)

As of 3 June 2020 the DfE has **withdrawn** [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for educational settings](#). This guidance is now out of date and has been superseded by information at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

The Services for Young Children Team is unable to approve policies/risk assessments or make business decisions on your behalf. These must be made by your business owner/committee/trustees/directors or yourself if you are a sole trader. We can provide advice, guidance and support you at these changing and unprecedented times. Please also bear with us as we too only receive the Government guidance at the same time as it is published on the GOV.uk website.

If you have read these guidance documents in full, and do not believe you would be able to be ready to reopen on 1 June or thereafter, for any reason, you must contact Services for Young Children via childcare@hants.gov.uk as soon as possible.

Additional Guidance and FAQs:

This guidance is part of the Government's wider Recovery Plan document, which includes elements that supports early years and schools. The full document can be read here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/884171/FINAL_6.6637_CO_HMG_C19_Recovery_FINAL_110520_v2_WEB_1_.pdf

All relevant DfE guidance can be found here as one collection:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>

We advise you to sign up for updates on specific topics via Gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/email-signup?link=/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

1.3 Webinars – Getting Ready for 1 June

In the lead up to 1 June 2020 we ran webinars for providers to attend to provide further support and advice regarding additional opening of your settings. Some of these sessions were co-delivered with childcare facilities who have been operating during the “lock down” period. These sessions were well attended, and many have found them to be helpful.

There are resources that are available, and can be found, along with the slides for the webinar, through the Business and Welfare Support section of the SfYC Moodle. <https://sfyctraining.hants.gov.uk>

The responses to the questions raised at these webinars can be found throughout this document, as well as in our supplementary Webinar FAQs on the Moodle and Services for Young Children [website](#).

1.4 Data Collection

Please do continue to complete the required data collection. This information is used to inform the DFE.

Please be advised that we have a new form for the daily return, which is to be used for **all children** attending your setting from 1 June. We will review the continued need for a daily return as we move through June.

Data Collection	Frequency	Purpose	Who needs to complete?
CHILDMINDERS, PRIVATE VOLUNTARY INDEPENDENT & SCHOOLS			
New form for use from 1 June 2020 SfYC daily return for settings concerning children in attendance	Daily	Data is being used by us to inform the DfE how many early years children are in care across the PVI and school-based sector, and so we can determine how many settings are open/closed/dormant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All early years' providers • Nursery schools, pre-schools, childminders, nursery units of ind. schools • Maintained/governor-run nursery units of schools • Schools providing for children younger than Year R <p>This form needs to be completed daily by all open settings with early years children in attendance. Closed and dormant settings only need to complete once until they are reopened.</p>
Vulnerable children weekly return	Weekly	To ensure we can monitor the whereabouts of our most vulnerable children and families	This is sent directly to those providers who are required to complete it.
Headcount Return for Keyworker / Vulnerable Children	When completing funding claim under Summer head count.	To confirm the actual key worker / vulnerable children attending those settings claiming EYE funding so that funding can be correctly apportioned.	All open EYE providers who are claiming funding for Key Worker/Vulnerable children as part of their Summer head count.
Revision to early years delivery (Survey to be sent with adjustment task)	Revision to early years delivery (Survey to be sent with adjustment task)	Revision to early years delivery (Survey to be sent with adjustment task)	Revision to early years delivery (Survey to be sent with adjustment task)
SCHOOLS ONLY			
There are additional data collection requirements for all schools, and school-based provisions. These are being carried out by the DfE and Hampshire County Council Children's Services Schools Team. Details of these can be found on Schools Comms. Specific communications can be found on SC017742 and SC017642.			

ACTION FOR CLOSED OR DORMANT SETTINGS:

Those who are closed or dormant MUST inform us of a planned date of reopening. If you are closed or dormant, please make sure to complete an additional return with your expected reopening date in light of the new guidance. You can do this through the daily return survey: [SfYC daily return for settings concerning children in attendance](#)

Below is a snapshot of how the childcare market looked as at Thursday 11 June. A massive “Thank You” to all settings who have continued to stay open, and the ones that have opened this week. We now have 70% of settings open across Hampshire. Over 3,000 children are attending provision this week.

Provider type	Closed	Dormant	Open	Unknown	Grand Total	% open
Childminder	70	26	551	151	798	69%
Non EYE Childminder	7	2	13	341	363	4%
Grand Total	77	28	564	492	1161	29%

Provider type	Closed	Dormant	Open	Unknown	Grand Total	% open
After School club			1	1	2	50%
Day Nursery	40	8	221		269	82%
Holiday Playscheme			1		1	100%
Nursery Unit of Ind. School	8	2	13	3	26	50%
Pre-school	57	21	256		334	77%
Grand Total	105	31	492	4	632	78%

Provider type	Closed	Dormant	Open	Unknown	Grand Total	% open
Maintained Nursery			11	1	12	92%
Governor Run EYE	1		23		24	96%
Grand Total	1	0	34	1	36	94%

New survey to understand impact of coronavirus pandemic on local businesses

The University of Portsmouth, working with the [Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum](#) (LRF), has launched [a new survey](#) to help understand the initial impact of the coronavirus pandemic on local businesses in our area, and more importantly where further support might be needed, and where opportunities can be created. As part of the LRF, organisations from across Hampshire and the IOW are working together to help businesses and the local economy to recover and thrive.

Please help by completing the survey, which will take about 10 minutes, at https://portsmouth.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_82qoj7setyXCqNv

2. Preparing for Reopening

All providers are encouraged to continue to review their settings along with required policies, risk assessments and processes to ensure that they can remain open safely and provide care for children.

Details of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS) framework, including disapplications made as a result of Coronavirus can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

The latest Ofsted guidance and information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update>

The Government has released a planning framework for schools will help providers think through steps and provide the starting point for developing your plans: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/opening-schools-for-more-children-and-young-people-initial-planning-framework-for-schools-in-england>

2.1 Planning Resources

We have created a discussion tool to aid the strategic planning to support the recovery of early years and childcare following the COVID-19 pandemic. This can be found here:

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/SfYC-Discussion-tool.pdf>

The DfE published a planning guide for early years and childcare settings on 24 May 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-early-years-and-childcare-settings>

On the SfYC Moodle you will also find some example risk assessments and tools that can be used to help with your preparation.

Here are some priority areas you may wish to consider prior to 1 June 2020.

2.2 Access and Arrangements

You will need to consider your venue and the space that you have available to you. This will inform the number of children you are able to safely provide care for. It may be necessary to amend start and end times to safely provide care. If this is necessary, ensure that these are published for parents.

Pack-away settings may wish to have a discussion with their landlord about other activities at the venue. If no other activities are running, then providers could ask if resources can be kept out.

What should I do if the building from which I usually operate is closed, such as a community centre or church hall?

The Government guidance has been updated to allow church halls and community centres to open for the purpose of early years provision which usually operates from those premises.

Extract from DfE Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures> (Updated 2 June)

From 1 June, community centres or places of worship will be allowed to open for providers on the early years register which usually use those premises. Providers should ensure they are acting in line with the [protective measures](#) and [safe working guidance](#) as well as the [planning guide for early years and childcare settings](#). They should also ensure they are managing risks related to other users of the premises.

If your landlord is unable to help or is unwilling to open, then please contact us via childcare@hants.gov.uk

2.3 Staffing Requirements

You will need to consider how many staff you have who are able to come in to work and provide care, as this will affect your ability to meet ratios.

If you have staff who are shielding, new letters have been issued which advise individuals to shield for a further 12 weeks from the date of the letter. You will need to establish this with your staff, and this may reduce the number of children you can safely provide care for.

As an employer you will need to ensure your staff can return to work safely. The social distancing requirement apply to staff as well as the children you will be providing care for. You will need to consider employment contracts, and there is further guidance on return to work processes from ACAS:

<https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

Where can I find more information about Shielding?

Some childcare staff are shielding. This link provides some information regarding shielding: <https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/shielded-patient-list>

Public Health England has updated its guidance about Shielding, and this can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

What should I do about staff returning to work?

It important that you keep in touch with any staff who are currently not working and consider how staff will return to work and how they will be familiarised with any new policy and procedures. Take advice from ACAS or your HR advisors/Legal team if you are unsure how to deal with specific matters should staff be reluctant to return to work. Those who have furloughed staff should review the guidance from HMRC regarding returning staff and matters relating to any training in these periods.

2.4 Admissions and Group Sizes

The DfE guidance states that “*Where the physical layout of a setting does not allow small groups of children to be kept at a safe distance apart, we expect practitioners to exercise judgement in ensuring the highest standards of safety are maintained. In*

some cases, it may be necessary for providers to introduce a temporary cap on numbers to ensure that safety is prioritised.” (Extract [Implementing Protective Measures in Education and Childcare Settings](#))

You should decide the maximum number of children you can safely provide care for whilst maintaining social distancing principles and adhering to the EYFS. Details of the EYFS, including ratios can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

We would recommend that you consider writing down and inform any changes you are making to your admissions to allocate these spaces on a priority basis. Key worker and vulnerable children should remain a priority. The DfE guidance also states that for early years’ settings this should be “*3 and 4 year olds followed by younger age groups*”.

Where your revised capacity is not able to meet the needs of your parents, and you are considering your priority for places, you could consider that those who have caring responsibilities caused by Coronavirus are eligible to continue on the furlough scheme by their employer.

Extract from Government guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-which-employees-you-can-put-on-furlough-to-use-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme> (Updated 5 June)

If your employee has caring responsibilities

Employees who are unable to work because they have caring responsibilities resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19) can be furloughed. For example, employees that need to look after children can be furloughed.

Childminders will be able to look after children of **all ages**, in line with usual limits on the number of children they can care for, so will need to consider the impact this may have on their demand from parents. Childminders are reminded that up until the 1 June 2020, they can provide care to the children of one household in any circumstance, unless they are already providing care to children of key workers and vulnerable children, in which case they should continue to do so.

What is the maximum number of children that should be in a “bubble” within my setting?

The guidance clarifies the maximum size of small groups in relation to EYFS ratios. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-early-years-and-childcare-settings#Section2>

Settings should consider how they can keep the groups consistent in terms of children and staff throughout each day and week. As a part of your risk assessment, settings should plan the activities they provide to reduce contact between individual “bubbles”. All staff will need to understand and be engaged with any revised policies and procedures regarding this.

Keeping the groups small reduces the risk of transmission and the impact if an outbreak occurs.

2.5 Working with Parents/Carers

You should speak with your parents/carers to understand and identify the likely uptake on 1 June 2020 to help you confirm your admissions arrangements and staffing requirement. Demand for childcare is likely to be lower than usual at first.

You will need to understand the home circumstances of the children who usually attend your provision, to come to a decision on attendance with parents/carers. The DfE guidance, [Actions for Educational and Childcare Settings to Prepare for Wider Opening](#), outlines which children are and are not expected to return to provisions on 01 June 2020.

Where children who usually attend your provision may have relocated as a result of the COVID-19 response, you should communicate directly with the parents and the temporary childcare provider to confirm the arrangements for the child to return.

Following these conversations, please inform Services for Young Children via childcare@hants.gov.uk if you have parents who are looking for care that you will be unable to provide as a result of your revised admissions arrangements.

The guidance below has been updated (11 June) it provides information for parents and carers about changes to schools and educational settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

2.6 Shared Care Considerations

The DfE outline in their guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june> Section 7

“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. Childminding settings should consider how they can work with parents and carers to agree how best to manage any necessary journeys, for example pick-ups and drop-offs at schools, to reduce the need for a provider to travel with groups of children.”

Ada Simpson from the DfE at the National Children’s Bureau Vodcast, published on 24 May, outlined

“If possible, we are asking parents and carers for their child to attend one setting at this time. We do understand that some children do need to attend two settings and that it may be important for their parent’s working arrangements or for the child’s health and wellbeing needs. In some cases, this may need to continue, but should be avoided where it can be. This will be for parents and settings to consider how they can make this work.”

Hampshire County Council, in view of this latest guidance asks that parents, childcare providers and where appropriate, schools work together to review and evaluate risk and put in place agreed arrangements of shared care arrangements can work within the new infection control arrangements to minimise COVID-19 transmission.

Link to Vodcast by NCB:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIFSY5pBJFo&utm_source=Foundation+Years&utm_campaign=ae206d07b6-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_03_21_05_01_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8f9a6de061-ae206d07b6-321603797&mc_cid=ae206d07b6&mc_eid=4c4c988124

Are before and after school clubs allowed to operate?

Wrap around care which operate on school premises are encouraged to open, provided they are following protective measures guidance. This is outlined in the DfE guidance, set out below.

Extract from DfE guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures#considerations-for-settings> (Updated 2 June)

Providers which are registered with Ofsted or with a Childminder Agency which have before and after school clubs on school premises and can ensure they follow the protective measures guidance, are able to operate.

This is only the case for registered providers which operate on school premises. All other out of school settings are not able to reopen.

This is further expanded upon in the guidance for schools.

Extract from DfE guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing> (Updated 3 June)

3.8 What is expected of schools in terms of opening hours?

We expect schools to operate for their normal hours. Where possible, we would encourage breakfast club and after school provision, to help support the children of workers critical to the coronavirus response.

2.4.4 Will this apply to out of school settings?

*While we have set out that schools should be preparing to welcome back some of their pupils on a phased basis from the week commencing 1 June, **this is not the case for out of school settings.***

Out of school settings cover ‘any institution that provides tuition, training, instruction or activities for children in England, without their parents’ or carers’ supervision, that is not a school, college, 16 to 19 academy or provider caring for children under 8 years old, which is registered with Ofsted or a childminder agency’, and would include for example settings such as supplementary schools, community activities, after school clubs and tuition, as well as holiday clubs.

It should also be noted that where providers, with the exception of childminders who may continue to look after children in their care, are caring for children over 5 and are registered with Ofsted (either on the compulsory or voluntary part of the General Childcare register), they should also **not be preparing to welcome back pupils where they are either operating outside of school premises, or caring for children from more than one school.**

24.5 What does this mean for school-based wraparound provision?

School-based wraparound providers, such as breakfast and after school clubs, can operate for children in eligible year groups (those in Reception, year 1 and year 6) or those within priority groups (such as children of critical workers and vulnerable children) if they are:

- **operating on the same premises as the school those children are attending; and**
- **only caring for children of that school and no others.**

Those who do open should ensure they are following the same protective measures being taken by schools during the day and work with schools to follow their arrangements, **such as keeping children in the same small consistent groups that they are in during the school day.**

If wraparound providers are unable to implement the same protective measures as the school, they should remain closed for the time being.

Shared Care/Wraparound Update

The Department for Education's Early Years team is aware that there continues to be some confusion in the sector around the status of some wrap-around care, and that this may be causing concern for both primaries and EY settings. They've shared the following statement with us:

"The department acknowledges the queries being raised regarding wraparound care for children in early years and schools. The current guidance for school aged children can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers> and the guidance for early years can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>.

As education settings open to more pupils, it is crucial that we minimise the risk of transmission. It is for this reason that we are asking schools and early years providers to ensure children are kept in small consistent groups throughout the school day, and why we want to ensure children are as far as possible kept in the same consistent groups in any wraparound provision they attend. As from 1 June, early years settings can welcome back all early years children and childminders can look after children of all ages, in line with usual limits on the number of children they can care for. Currently the department has stated that registered wraparound provision for school-age children and early years children can only open if it is on a school or early years site and only for the children attending the same early years provision / school. We have been made aware of the challenges this may pose for providers of wraparound childcare for school-age children and will keep the current position under review.

As soon as we have an update, we will share it with relevant stakeholders and ensure it is reflected in any COVID19 guidance."

Out of School Childcare Provider Webinars – Hampshire and Isle of Wight;

Services for Young Children is hosting a range of webinars to support the Hampshire Out of School Childcare providers. At this session we will outline the current Government guidance and engage with you about what the future may look like for the sector, both in the short and longer term. We will also hear directly from a Hampshire Out of School provider.

You will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments throughout the session and take part in on-line polls.

You can book using the link below, the password is **SfYC**:

Tuesday 16/06/2020	7-9pm	PM Webinar
Thursday 18/06/2020	10am-12pm	PM Webinar

2.7 Risk Assessments and Policies

The DfE guidance states that “*Every setting should carry out a risk assessment before opening. The assessment should directly address risks associated with coronavirus (COVID-19), so that sensible measures can be put in place to control those risks for children and staff. All employers have a duty to consult employees on health and safety, and they are best placed to understand the risks in individual settings.*” (Extract [Actions for Educational and Childcare Settings to Prepare for Wider Opening](#))

You could also prepare a *social distancing statement* which will outline how you will ensure social distancing is upheld in your provision.

It would be pertinent to review sickness and behaviour policies in line with the guidance and you may wish to prepare *Parent/Carer agreements* which will outline the service you will provide and the standards you expect them to uphold in return, ensuring the safety of you, your staff and the children in your care.

These documents should be openly communicated with parents/carers. Further details on communicating with parents can be seen later in this document.

It is important that you undertake a review of how you deliver childcare in your setting when reopening. There are resources that may be helpful to you in the SfYC Moodle. It is advisable to liaise with your insurance company if you are unsure if your risk assessment meets their requirements at this time.

Is it necessary for settings to update their child protection policies in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak?

Extract from DfE Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures#safeguarding-and-welfare> (Updated 2 June)

Settings should consider whether any refresh or review of their child protection arrangements is needed in light of coronavirus (COVID-19). This could take the form of a coronavirus (COVID-19) annex and include:

- how to identify and act on new safeguarding concerns about individual children as they return to childcare
- Designated Safeguarding Lead (and deputy) arrangements
- any updated advice received from the local safeguarding partners
- any updated advice received from local authorities, for example EHC plan risk assessment, attendance and keep-in-touch mechanisms
- working arrangements with children's social workers and the local authority virtual school head (VSH)
- what staff and volunteers should do if they have concerns about a staff member or volunteer who may pose a safeguarding risk to children
- how the updated policy links to the broader [risk assessment](#) to be conducted before opening, described in the guidance on [actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening](#)

All staff and volunteers should be made aware of the new policy and be kept up to date as it is revised.

What is the current situation with Paediatric First Aid?

Information about the changes to Paediatric First Aid Certificate requirements can be found in the guidance.

Extract from DfE guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update>

If your paediatric first aid certificate is due to expire, [the Health and Safety Executive has announced](#) a final deadline of 30 September 2020 for re-qualification of first aid requirements, which applies to certificates expiring on or after 16 March 2020.

The DfE has updated its [guidance around early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) disapplications](#) to state that providers, if asked to do so, should be able to explain why the first-aider has not been able to requalify and demonstrate what steps have taken to access the training. Employers or certificate holders must do their best to arrange requalification training at the earliest opportunity.

2.8 Preparing Your Provision

If your setting is closed, staff can return to settings from now to prepare for the return of children provided they are not on furlough.

The DfE has included a list of ways to prepare in its guidance [Implementing Protective Measures in Education and Childcare Settings](#). Specifically, for early years' settings this includes:

- If your setting has outside space, consider any activities which could take place outside
- Consider how to keep small groups of children together throughout the day and to avoid larger groups of children mixing

- Consider how play equipment is used ensuring it is appropriately cleaned between groups of children using it, and that multiple groups do not use it simultaneously
- Remove unnecessary items where there is space to store it elsewhere
- Remove soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean (such as those with intricate parts)

Further information about safe working in childcare settings can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

3. Business Operations

The DfE guidance, [Implementing Protective Measures in Education and Childcare Settings](#), provides a helpful starting point for how you might run your provision from 01 June 2020. Some key points from the current guidance have been highlighted - see below.

3.1 Social Distancing

Extract from DfE Guidance – Updated 12 May 2020 [Implementing Protective Measures in Education and Childcare Settings](#)

We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff....It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups....

For pre-school children in early years settings, the staff to child ratios within [Early Years Foundation Stage](#) (EYFS) continue to apply as set out here, and we recommend using these to group children....

Keep cohorts together where possible and:

- *ensure that children and young people are in the same small groups at all times each day, and different groups are not mixed during the day, or on subsequent days*
- *ensure that the same staff are assigned to each group and, as far as possible, these stay the same during the day and on subsequent days*
- *ensure that wherever possible children and young people use the same area of a setting throughout the day, with a thorough cleaning of the rooms at the end of the day*

Reduce mixing within education or childcare setting by:

- *accessing rooms directly from outside where possible*
- *considering one-way circulation, or place a divider down the middle of the corridor to keep groups apart as they move through the setting where spaces are accessed by corridors*
- *staggering breaks to ensure that any corridors or circulation routes used have a limited number of pupils using them at any time*
- *staggering lunch breaks - children and young people should clean their hands beforehand and enter in the groups they are already in, groups should be kept apart as*

much as possible and tables should be cleaned between each group. If such measures are not possible, children should be brought their lunch in their classrooms

- *ensuring that toilets do not become crowded by limiting the number of children or young people who use the toilet facilities at one time*
- *noting that some children and young people will need additional support to follow these measures (for example, routes round school marked in braille or with other meaningful symbols, and social stories to support them in understanding how to follow rules)*

Can early years providers take groups of children to outdoor public places, for example if there is not private outdoor space in the setting? *(Information from Local Government Association email dated 2 June)*

Settings should maximise use of private outdoor space, while keeping small groups of children and staff away from other groups. Childminders and early years providers may take small groups of children to outdoor public spaces, for example parks, provided that a risk assessment demonstrates that they can stay 2m away from other people at all times. This should be restricted to small groups and should be done in line with wider government guidelines on the number of people who can meet in outdoor public places. Providers should not take larger groups of children to public outdoor spaces at one time.

3.2 Cleaning and Hygiene

Extract from DfE Guidance – Updated 12 May 2020 [Implementing Protective Measures in Education and Childcare Settings](#)

For cleaning and hygiene:

- *follow the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#)*
- *ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available. Where a sink is not nearby, provide hand sanitiser in classrooms and other learning environments*
- *clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters, more regularly than normal*
- *ensure that all adults and children:*
 - *frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly. Review the [guidance on hand cleaning](#)*
 - *clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing*
 - *are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose*
 - *use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')*
- *ensure that help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently*
- *consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition*
- *ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day*
- *where possible, all spaces should be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) or ventilation units*
- *prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation*

- *get in touch with public sector buying organisation partners (for example ESPO, YPO, NEPO) about proportionate supplies of soap, anti-bacterial gel and cleaning products if needed*
- *there is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in an educational or childcare setting*

Your risk assessments and protocols need to consider which resources are more difficult to keep clean in the current context of infection control and you should make your decisions on the basis of that risk. It is your decision to consider what stays and why, and how you will observe infection control measures in your setting.

3.3 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Extract from DfE Guidance – Updated 12 May 2020 [Implementing Protective Measures in Education and Childcare Settings](#)

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- *children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way*
- *if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn*

Education, childcare and children’s social care settings and providers should use their local supply chains to obtain PPE. Where this is not possible, and there is unmet urgent need for PPE in order to operate safely, they may approach their nearest local resilience forum.

Current DfE guidance for safe working in childcare settings does not require additional PPE to be worn. If needed, childcare providers should obtain PPE from existing suppliers.

Hampshire County Council is following government guidance in respect of PPE for Early Years settings.

Extract from DfE guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings> (Updated 1 June)

Education and childcare settings and providers should use their local supply chains to obtain PPE. Local authorities should support them to access local PPE markets and available stock locally, including through coordinating the redistribution of available supplies between settings according to priority needs.

If you have an **urgent**, unmet need for PPE which means you will not be able to operate safely, then you may contact us via childcare@hants.gov.uk.

Further guidance regarding the use of PPE can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

3.4 Sickness in Provision – Suspected & Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

Public Health England has written a letter to all Early Years' providers regarding what to do if a child or member of staff displays coronavirus symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19. On 11 June we sent this to all email addresses held for childcare providers.

Further resources will be available in due course.

The full letter can be read here: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/2020-06-08-Letter-EYSettings.pdf>

There is also an accompanying flow chart to outline the process that should be followed: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/PHE-SE-HPT-GuidanceforCCandEdusettings.pdf>

3.5 Pick Up/Drop Off & Transport

You should consider how children arrive at and leave the setting. Ensure social distancing is adhered to when parents/carers drop off and pick up children.

You should make sure that parents/carers follow the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for passengers](#) when planning their travel. Parents/carers should be encouraged to walk or cycle where possible. If car sharing is required, then the following guidance should be followed.

Extract from DfT Guidance – 12 May 2020 [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for passengers](#)

Where people from different households need to use a vehicle at the same time, good ventilation (keeping the car windows open) and facing away from each other may help to reduce the risk of transmission. Where possible, consider seating arrangements to optimise distance between people in the vehicle.

If you are in close proximity to people outside your household, you should:

- *avoid physical contact*
- *try to face away from them*
- *keep the time you spend close to them as short as possible*

Those travelling via public transport are reminded that from 15 June it will be mandatory to wear face coverings whilst travelling on public transport:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/face-coverings-to-become-mandatory-on-public-transport>

Extract from DfE guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers> (Updated 11 June)

When deciding whether children wear a face covering on school transport, it is also important to remember:

- *school transport is unlike public transport, in that it generally carries the same group of children to and from the same destination each day – this may help reduce the risk of cross infection*
- *children and staff won't be expected to wear face coverings in school*
- *it is important that those using face coverings are able to do so properly – guidance on [how to wear and make a cloth face covering](#) is available*
- *face coverings should not be used by children under the age of 3 or those who may find it difficult to manage them correctly*

Marking Up the Highway Outside Your Provision

Many parents will now be used to social distancing in queues and will take their own responsibility to do this for the protection of their own child as well as others in the setting. You should remind parents of this responsibility when communicating with them.

If you feel additional markings are required, you could explore the following options:

- Use markers on a fence with chalk or ribbons at the social distance of 2m
- Put cones outside at the distance of 2m
- Review their drop off and collection practice in view of the new approach and enforce staggered drop off and pick up times so only a few parents are there at any one time
- Use mobiles and encourage parents to text when they are there and the child is presented at the door for collection

If none of these options is viable for your setting then please do contact childcare@hants.gov.uk so that we can provide the relevant details of permitted markings and materials for marking up the pavement.

4. Business Support

The Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy publishes a regular bulleting regarding support for businesses. You can sign up to this by following this link:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDECC/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKDEC_C_155

Please contact childcare@hants.gov.uk if you are concerned about the viability of your provision.

4.1 Furlough

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is still being run by the Government. For updates and further details about this, you should check the Government guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wages-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

Where childcare settings are going to be reopening, we would expect many staff to be removed from furlough and be back to work full time. You will need to consider how staff will return and seek HR/employment advice if you are unsure. If you have staff who are unable to return to work because of shielding, then the furlough scheme might be a viable option for your business in this scenario.

When returning staff to the workplace you should consider employment contracts. ACAS has produced some Coronavirus guidance, including regarding returning staff to work from furlough: <https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

4.2 Communications with Parents/Carers

As well as providing parents with clear information about updated policies, you should also share with them how your provision will be running, and how it may look different from 1 June 2020. This will include how the layout of the setting may be different but could also include any staffing updates. You should also ensure that you have clear communication arrangements to let them know what will happen should the Government's arrangement change, and you are not required to open all children.

You may wish to consider additional posters and signs around your provision.

Please issue your parents/carers with any normal communications you would be issuing at this time, such as reminding them to apply for 30 hours codes and 2-year-old funding codes.

30 Hours Entitlement

The DfE has updated its guidance around eligibility for 30 hours for the summer period only. It is recognised that some parents may have missed renewing their codes by 31 March 2020 in these exceptional times.

The latest guidance, issued 9 June 2020, indicates that, provided parents meet the eligibility criteria, providers and local authorities will need to confirm that the child taking up the place, did in fact attend before 1st April 2020 to ensure they are eligible for a 30 hours place in the summer term. If you have a child who was attending and taking up their 30 hours in the spring and their eligibility/grace period lapsed on 31 March and you are unable to claim in the adjustment task, please contact us on chilcare@hants.gov.uk so we can check the details and, where eligible, enable you to make a claim.

We are still encouraging parents to continue to apply for, and reconfirm, their 30 hours entitlement, even if they choose to keep their child away from their childcare

setting, to help them prepare for their transition back into childcare attendance in September.

Coping with heat and COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is especially important that you know what actions to take to keep yourself and others safe from high temperatures. The heat can affect anyone, but some people run a greater risk of serious harm. Many people who are at higher risk of ill health due to heat are also at higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19). People recovering from COVID-19 may also be at increased risk. As people are likely to be at home more, it is important to keep homes as cool as possible. It is important that even during hot weather that anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 self-isolates and that when using outdoor space people continue to maintain social distancing and hand hygiene.

Specific resources for heat risk and COVID-19 have been developed and are available in the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heatwave-plan-for-england>

Key documentation includes:

- Beat the Heat: Coping with heat and COVID-19 (poster)
- Beat the Heat: Coping with heat and COVID-19 (leaflet)
- Beat the Heat: Keeping residents safe and well during COVID-19 (poster and checklist)
- Heat-health risks and COVID-19: Actions to prevent harm (slide set)

Further information regarding keeping safe during hot weather has been published in the June provider bulletin which can be accessed [here](#).

Water & Garden Safety

When providing care using outside spaces, please do take some time to remind yourself of the various safety implications of ponds, paddling pools, and domestic swimming pools: <https://www.capt.org.uk/garden-safety>. This also outlines other hazards that could arise in outside spaces.

Home Learning

There is an expectation that you are remaining in regular contact with those parents who are not attending. This will enable you to continue the weekly vulnerable children return if you are required to do so. You should also be continuing to provide virtual support and learning where you are able to do so.

The Government has released advice for parents of early years' children to help with children learning at home which can be shared with your parents: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-aged-2-to-4-to-learn-at-home-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=d4aed7a4-ce4e-4aea-a281-51efb1d48070&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

There are further resources on the SfYC Moodle to support the Home Learning Environment: <https://sfyctraining.hants.gov.uk>

Should I also begin to prepare for September?

Yes, here are a few ideas for things you can do to ensure you have uptake in September:

- Update your website with key information in preparation for September
- Display photos of what is on offer from your setting regarding the EYFS
- Where possible, create a virtual tour of the space, including outdoor areas
- Ensure your business Facebook page and other social media are up to date
- Include parent testimonials and children's words/pictures of why they like the setting
- Highlight staff skills, qualifications and experiences i.e. supporting children with specific SEN needs
- Make your setting available virtually if parents need help in filling in forms etc.

Start also to consider your wider business planning for the future and revise your plans. Here is a link to a business planning resource from the resources section of our website.

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/BSplanningforbusinesssuccessfoundationmodule.pdf>

Visit the SfYC Moodle for more resources: <https://sfyctraining.hants.gov.uk>

Transitions to School during COVID-19 conditions.

Many of you will provide care for children who will be starting school in September and will be concerned about how transition can happen effectively over these changed circumstances.

With thoughts of the new cohort we have developed a new section on our Moodle site to give advice and support on Transition. This includes many short videos, top tip leaflets, links to resources and our updated "*Hampshire Expects*" transition document. Please click on the 'transition tile' and follow the steps below:

- Link to site -<https://sfyctraining.hants.gov.uk/>
- Click on the Home Learning or Transition tile on the front page
- Self-enrolment option will appear
- Press continue
- Enter your normal password to access the section
 - username: moodle.ofstednumber (**ensure all lower case**)
 - password: M00dle!! (**NB. zeros not the letter o**)

This email address and password will need to be share within your setting, so all your staff have access to the site.

If you have any problems accessing the site please email

SFYCMoodle@hants.gov.uk

4.3 Hampshire County Council Family Information and Services Hub (FISH)/ Local Offer

When the Government confirms that the 2nd Step of their recovery plan is now able to be implemented, it is important to ensure that your information in the public domain is correct. To be ready with your new messages, take the time now to draft your updates for your own website, social media pages, and also your entry on our Family Information and Services Hub if you have one:

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page>

If you do not have a record in the FISH directory, then please contact us via childcare@hants.gov.uk.

If you have a Local Offer for children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities, you should consider how this will change in light of social distancing:

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=6>

We will be providing further guidance on the best information to include in your Local Offer at this time shortly.

If you need assistance in writing your Local Offer, please do contact us on childcare@hants.gov.uk.

4.4 Early Years Education Funding

If you have new children joining you on 1 June, then please claim them in these new adjustment periods. The headcount dates for claiming funding are below:

PROVIDER PORTAL OPENING DATES Summer funding period: 1 April to 31 August 2020	PAYMENT EXPECTED TO BE MADE BY DATE
15 – 19 June closes at 5pm due to essential maintenance	17 July
3 – 7 Aug	28 August

Full details of the arrangements for Early Years Education funding from 1 June were emailed to providers on 3 June 2020. Please see below key information contained in this letter below. A copy of the full letter can be found here:

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/EarlyYearsFunding-from-010620.pdf>

Where providers are unable to deliver some or all of their childcare places through no fault of their own, such settings will not be financially disadvantaged in respect of EYE funding. This means that we will not recoup any EYE funding for the summer term in the event that:

- a) The landlord does not allow current building use
(SfYC will contact and support setting to challenge landlord for earliest date);
- b) There are insufficient staff due to COVID related illness or shielding

- (SfYC will liaise with the setting leadership team and establish date setting can open);
- c) There is temporary closure due to staff isolating or due to a COVID outbreak in the setting
(SfYC will liaise with the setting leadership team and establish date setting can open);
- d) Application of Government guidance to adhere to social distancing and risk assessment does not allow all places to be delivered and there is reduced capacity.

If you are open and your setting is unable to provide childcare at any time from 1 June onwards you must contact SfYC childcare@hants.gov.uk to notify us and we will support you. Where appropriate and where government/public health guidance permits any parent who still requires childcare we will support to find alternative arrangements.

Where providers could open but choose not to, and where none of the exclusions set out in paragraph (a-d) apply we will take action as outlined in the table below.

This table sets out the various potential scenarios and the funding implications of those scenarios from 1 June 2020:

Potential funding scenarios	Proposed Response
1. A child usually attends two providers for shared care. Both Provider 1 and Provider 2 are open. Based on Government guidance, parents should choose one setting. The parent chooses Provider 1.	Both Provider 1 and Provider 2 retain their summer EYE funding already claimed. If Provider 1 can offer additional hours of childcare (i.e. the hours ordinarily delivered by Provider 2), Provider 1 will be funded for these additional hours from the date the child moves to the temporary provider.
2. Provider opens on 1 June but limits the capacity (evidenced by risk assessment for their environment) and puts in place their priority for placements, which means that some parents are unable to access their childcare and have to take up the place at another provider.	There will be a discussion with the provider to understand the limitation(s). If there is no ability to provide the places for particular children, there are two options: (i) Parents don't seek an alternative provider. Provider retains summer funding. (ii) Parent needs to access alternative childcare. Provider 1 retains the funding already claimed and Provider 2 claims for attendance from the date the child starts attending.
3. The Provider opens on 1 June but limits capacity (evidenced by limitations on staffing due to illness or shielding, or date for ending furlough) which means that some parents are unable to access their childcare and have to take up the place at another provider.	
4. Temporary closure of part or all of the setting due to staff isolating, or due to a COVID outbreak in the setting.	Provider retains the summer funding already paid. There is no requirement for the provider to re-provide the hours at a later date.
5. Provider 1 is unable to open due to landlord restrictions.	There will be a discussion with the provider to understand the limitation and support negotiations with landlord if appropriate. Provider 1 will retain summer EYE funding and if parents require alternative childcare, Provider 2 claims for attendance from the date the child starts attending.
6. Provider remains closed after 1 June until the autumn period and no parents wish to attend during the summer period.	Provider retains the summer funding already paid.

	If during this time, there is demand for the setting to provide places then SfYC will contact the provider and request them to open.
7. Provider 1 remains closed after 1 June for the summer term (and does not meet the exceptions set out in a-d above) but plans to open in the autumn term. There are parents that wish to attend but, to access childcare, these children have to attend a second provider for the summer period.	HCC position in line with Government guidance is that the setting should be open and providing childcare for some, if not all children.
8. Provider 1 remains closed after 1 June (and does not meet the exceptions set out in a-d above) but plans to open within a few weeks of this date. Parents require early years education before this date and move to a second provider for the period until the provider reopens/until the end of the summer term.	For those parents who need childcare immediately or during their provider's closure in relations to scenario 7 & 8 will need to take up hours at another setting then the following will apply: Moving child will be end dated at Provider 1 from 1 June or date parent has moved. Provider 2 makes claim in the adjustment task.
9. Provider 1 remains closed after 1 June but plans to open within a few weeks of this date and is able to fully meet the childcare requirement and parents have confirmed they are happy to wait until later opening time.	Provider retains the summer funding already paid. If during this time, there is demand for the setting to provide places then SfYC will contact the provider and request them to open earlier.

4.5 Further Support

Information about the help and support available for businesses, including videos and webinars, can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-if-your-business-is-affected-by-coronavirus-covid-19>

Companies House Digital Uploads

As an emergency response to coronavirus (COVID-19), a temporary online service has been created to allow businesses to upload a number of completed forms and send them to Companies House digitally. Further details of this can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sending-your-forms-to-companies-house-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Coronavirus Community Support Fund

Details of existing financial support available to settings can be found in our Coronavirus FAQs: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/CoronavirusFAQs.pdf>

Applications for the Government's Coronavirus Community Support Fund opened on 22 May. Full details of the scheme can be found here: [Coronavirus Community Support Grant](#)

This new funding stream makes available £200m in Government funding that will be aimed primarily at small to medium organisations in England.

The Fund has two key objectives:

1. **To increase community support to vulnerable people** affected by the COVID-19 crisis, through the work of civil society organisations.

2. **To reduce temporary closures of essential charities and social enterprises,** ensuring services for vulnerable people impacted by COVID-19 have the financial resources to operate, and so reduce the burden on public services.

Self-Employment Support Scheme

The Government has announced that it will be extending the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme. Details of this scheme can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

Local Authority Discretionary Grant Scheme

The Government has set up a discretionary fund to accommodate certain small businesses previously outside the scope of the business grant funds scheme:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-coronavirus-local-authority-discretionary-grants-fund>

In Hampshire, these are administered by the local district and borough councils. Links to these schemes, along with deadlines, can be found below.

District	Link	Deadline
Fareham	https://www.fareham.gov.uk/business/business_rates/ladgf.aspx	16 June 2020
Gosport	https://www.gosport.gov.uk/businessrates	Not yet open
Havant	https://www.havant.gov.uk/discretionary-grant-scheme	11 June 2020
Basingstoke	https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-business-support-and-grants#elem_63418	05 June 2020
New Forest	http://newforest.gov.uk/Discretionary	12 June 2020
Eastleigh	https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/business/coronavirus	12 June 2020
Winchester	https://www.winchester.gov.uk/business/discretionary-grant-fund	15 June 2020
East Hants	https://www.easthants.gov.uk/discretionary-grant-scheme	11 June 2020
Hart	https://www.hart.gov.uk/the-council/news/discretionary-business-fund-applications-open	22 June 2020
Rushmoor	https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/businessgrants	16 June 2020
Test Valley	https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/business/businessgrantsandsupport/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-businesses	Not yet open

Statutory Sick Pay

The Government has released further details about claiming back Statutory Sick Pay that may have been paid to employees as a result of Coronavirus. You can check if

you are eligible for the scheme here: [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-back-statutory-sick-pay-paid-to-employees-due-to-coronavirus-covid-](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-back-statutory-sick-pay-paid-to-employees-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=e78fa457-1f82-42bd-aa90-25eb45fd7edd&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

[19?utm_source=e78fa457-1f82-42bd-aa90-25eb45fd7edd&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-back-statutory-sick-pay-paid-to-employees-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=e78fa457-1f82-42bd-aa90-25eb45fd7edd&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

Requests for Additional Grant Funding

At this time, Hampshire County Council has responded to the early years' sector to assist their early summer cashflow through paying a proportion of the summer term funding during the first week of April. We are also enabling all child claims to be continued for the Summer period as well as supporting funding for keyworker/vulnerable children that have needed to temporarily join another setting enabling both settings to continue to be funded during the summer term.

Each Council has considered its own approach to the various implications of the COVID-19 response and there is no national requirement for grants, although some authorities may be responding in this way. Our understanding is that Central Government has not provided additional funding into the Early Years' budgets. The funding that has come to the County Council that has been focused on additional mortuary provision, additional social care for the elderly and frail, PPE etc.

We have raised and continue to raise issues in respect of the funding situation for the early years' sector nationally through the Director of Children's Services. He has also personally followed the issues through his professional association - the Association of Directors of Children's Services - where they have been raised in meetings with DfE officials and highlighted the problems with local MPs. At least one of those MPs has now highlighted the issues with HM Treasury. Over the past weeks there has been updated and additional access made available to the early years' sector to the range of COVID-19 business support packages which should be your first port of call if you are in need of any specific financial assistance at this time.

Peer to Peer Support

If you are not already a member, you may wish to join the Hampshire Childcare Provider Support Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1859273727655040/>

Also, the Hampshire Provider Self-Sustaining Networks have been set up to provide peer support on a range of topics specific to running and developing childcare and early years services.

'Leads' for the networks are practitioners from childminder and group settings who are passionate about their work and providing the best outcomes for children. As well as sharing their experiences and good practice, network leads are sign-posters to further support and guidance. This may be delivered through the dedicated closed district network Facebook Group or meetings that are convened specially for network members.

The following are details of the network leads, contact email/telephone and Facebook Group. To become a network member please contact the lead of your district network or sign up to your area Facebook Group.

Lead Name	Area	Email	Facebook Group Address	Telephone
Charlotte Sherwood	Fareham & Gosport	Info@sprouts-childcare.co.uk	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1931545483793878/	01329 845954
Nicci Atkinson	Fareham & Gosport	nicci@oaktreefamilygroup.org	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1931545483793878/	02392 513777

Sarah Dewhurst	Test Valley (S)	romseycentrepreschool@gmail.com	https://www.facebook.com/groups/120219315342491/	07946 113678
Emma O'Reilly	Basingstoke	eloreilly@gmail.com basingstokeproviders@gmail.com	https://www.facebook.com/groups/176782159552740/	01256 895977
Carey West	Basingstoke	mertonpresch@gmail.com basingstokeproviders@gmail.com		01256 353100 07935 267232
Jackie Restell	East Hants & Havant	orangetreechildminding@gmail.com	https://www.facebook.com/groups/677702619093170/	07794 343176

Where there is not a network operating in your area, you are welcome to join another network or consider volunteering to co-ordinate one for your area.

Email childcare@hants.gov.uk if you would like to know more.

4.6 Helpful Links

Guidance	Link
General Government Coronavirus Guidance Documents	
Guidance Collection	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings
Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 01 June 2020	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020
Information for parents and carers about re-opening schools and settings from 01 June 2020	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june
The Government's Rebuild Strategy Document	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/884171/FINAL_6.6637_CO_HMG_C19_Recovery_FINAL_110520_v2_WEB_1_.pdf
Planning guide for early years and childcare settings	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-early-years-and-childcare-settings
Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings
Riddor Reporting: Coronavirus	https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/riddor-reporting-coronavirus.htm
Test and Trace: Workplace Guidance	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-workplace-guidance
Guidance regarding contacts of those with possible or confirmed infection	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person
Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care settings, including the use of	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe

personal protective equipment (PPE)	
Guidance for cleaning of settings	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings
Coronavirus: Getting Tested	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested
Test and Trace in the workplace	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-workplace-guidance?utm_source=3ad1e505-7776-4963-b366-f718239cf904&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate
Guidance for contacts of people with possible or confirmed Coronavirus if you do not live with the person	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person
Guidance for staying at home if your household has possible symptoms	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance
Guidance for shielding vulnerable groups from Covid-19	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19
Guidance for employers with apprentices	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-programme-response
Business Support, Information & Advice	
Government information regarding support available to business	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care
Guidance on how to calculate 80% of wages	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/work-out-80-of-your-employees-wages-to-claim-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme
Government guide to the nursery business rates discount available	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-rates-nursery-childcare-discount-2020-to-2021-coronavirus-response-local-authority-guidance
Government's Tax Helping to support businesses	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tax-helpline-to-support-businesses-affected-by-coronavirus-covid-19
Government's advice regarding Statutory Sick Pay	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-back-statutory-sick-pay-paid-to-employees-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19
Government advice for employees	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-for-employees
Government Information for Charities	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission
Business Hampshire Guide	https://businesshampshire.co.uk/support/covid-19-support/
Information for Voluntary and Community groups	www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/information/coronavirus
ACAS Coronavirus Pages	https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus