



## Stay Connected with Early Years!

Issue 5 – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025

### Read me now – Urgent and important information

#### Early Years Funding Consultation 2025/26

This week we have launched our funding consultation on the local funding formula for the early years entitlements in Nottingham City for 2025/26. This consultation will close on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025, and we are keen to hear from all early years and childcare providers, schools and academies in Nottingham City. The consultation document can be found on the funding page of our website, under the section [‘What are the proposed funding rates for 2025/26 in Nottingham City?’](#) and the consultation questions can be completed [here](#).

#### Department for Education Early Years Provider Roadshows for 2025

January 2025 sees the return of The Department for Education **Early Education and Childcare Provider Regional Roadshows** for group-based setting leaders and managers. These roadshows are your opportunity to find out more about current and future policy, delivery and strategy and to share your views, ideas, best practice and challenges that settings face. The East Midlands Roadshow is on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at Leicester Tigers in Leicester. Please register your interest directly with the DfE via the [register your interests form](#) and for any queries, please contact [ey.stakeholders@education.gov.uk](mailto:ey.stakeholders@education.gov.uk)

#### Childcare Expansion Funding

The next deadline for funding applications to create new wraparound childcare places for primary school aged children or early years entitlement places for children under three is 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025. This was due to be our final funding round for this programme, however following confirmation of funding for 2025-26 for this programme, we are pleased to be able to **extend this funding** for further rounds in Summer 2025, Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026. For further information, updated guidance notes and the current application forms, check out the [wraparound programme](#) or [expansion of the early years entitlements](#) pages on the website. For any queries, please email [earlyyearexpansion@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyearexpansion@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

#### Headcount & Stretched Hours

A reminder that the headcount task for the early years entitlements will close on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Please also look out for an email which is asking for information on which children settings are providing the funded hours to in a ‘stretched’ capacity. This is in relation to the Capita upgrade and the entitlement weeks function which were unable to be added in for this headcount.

### Read what’s coming up next - Important but not urgent information

#### New Childcare Works Toolkits

The Childcare Works Toolkits bring together everything you need to grow, sustain and start childcare provision. With content curated by experts, you will find a wealth of useful and relevant information, all in one place. The toolkits contain information specific to operating childcare provision, plus general information for businesses, childminders and charities, including expert marketing, HR and leadership and management, partnership working and more. Content is organised into six ‘topics’ with each topic divided into sub-topics: Business Planning, Business Growth, Running of Your Childcare Provision, Leadership and Management, Partnership Working and SEND and Inclusive Practice. Have a look!

**Access the Wraparound Toolkit - [Wraparound Childcare Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#)**

**Access the Early Years Toolkit - [Early Years Toolkit | from Childcare Works](#)**

#### Early Years Funding Schools Briefing for Headteachers and Business Managers

Ahead of the new financial year, we thought it would be a good opportunity to share up to date funding information and a reminder on how to submit accurate portal claims to ensure schools receive accurate funding including EYPP. We will share the new funding rates, including examples to illustrate the importance of submitting correct claims to ensure schools don’t miss out on funding, look at the common mistakes when submitting headcount claims and revisit all the current early years entitlements. These free sessions are taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 8am-9am or 4pm-5pm session. For more information and to book, [please click here](#)

### **Free Play and Playwork Training for Out of School Providers & Wraparound Settings**

The Toy Library are offering 3 free training courses for playworkers in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Out of School Clubs and Wraparound Settings. Sessions can be accessed individually or booked collectively and will be running, face to face, during February and March 2025. With courses on the internal and external space and games and activities for all, please do find out more and make the most of these free opportunities by [clicking here!](#)

### **Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY) Regional Event**

PACEY are hosting an early years regional networking event in Birmingham on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 9am-12.30pm**, at the Leonardo Royal Hotel Birmingham. This event is open to both PACEY members and non-members, Childminders, Childminding Assistants, Nursery Managers, Nursery Workers, Nannies, Students, Teachers and other early years professionals. For more details and to book your tickets please visit [PACEY's news and events page](#)

### **Upcoming Training & Networks from the Early Years Team**

[Brilliant Babies](#) is our brand-new two-part training programme specifically support and extend the knowledge and understanding of practitioners working with the under twos. Delivered through a mixture of theory and practical activities, which spotlights the provision for this unique age group, join us for our sessions which are running 9.30am – 12.30pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 by [clicking here!](#)

#### **[Childminder Network](#)**

A perfect opportunity for Nottingham City Childminders to network with other local childminders and receive current information and updates. Join us online on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 6.30pm-8pm, by [booking here!](#)

### **Building Stronger Communities: Working in Partnership to Support Local Families**

Join the National Literacy Trust's Early Years Team at their free webinar on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 9.30am, where they will share their latest [early years research](#) and discuss how this influences their work. Hear from the National Literacy Trust's Team on the ground, as well as a range of local community partners, to outline how they work together to achieve common goals. Register directly with the Literacy Trust [here](#)

### **Read when you get a moment – Information you might find interesting**

#### **Free 'Talking Matters' Training - Notts Healthcare Speech and Language Therapy Training Service**

This is being offered online, for free, during 2025. It is aimed at practitioners working with children under the age of 5 and aims to raise awareness of the importance of speech, language and communication on children's mental health, attainment and longer-term outcomes. For details of the Spring Term Training being offered, including dates, times and booking links please check out the [Partner Training and Resources](#) page on our website.

#### **Supporting Our Families and Communities**

We have created a new [Information and Resource](#) page in our Equality and Inclusion Section of the Early Years website to help Early Years practitioners to support their parents and carers. Topics include: car seat safety, potty and toilet training and a range of other topics that were suggested at the last SENCO Network.

#### **Nottingham City Virtual School Early Years ePEP**

It is statutory that those children attending a school nursery, childminder or PVI early years setting must have a PEP meeting every term and Nottingham City Virtual School now uses Welfare Call's electronic Personal Education Plan (ePEP) for all of Nottingham City's looked after children in early years provision. To support with the completion of the early years ePEP, the Virtual School has organised training for early years providers, social workers and other professionals to provide participants with knowledge and understanding of how the ePEP system works through a live demonstration of the ePEP system and considering professional's statutory responsibilities in respect to PEPs. The training, lead by Education Support Officer, Marcus Reid, is via MS Teams and is running on:

- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025, 3pm – 5pm or
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 9.30am – 11.30am

You can book to attend the training [here](#) or via the link on the [Virtual School Website](#). If you have any issues booking, please contact [paula.harrison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:paula.harrison@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

#### **Please do not reply to this email.**

You have received this email because you are an Early Years Provider in Nottingham City or you have specifically requested receipt of this bulletin.

For the latest, and previous, copies of this bulletin, please go to '[Stay Connected with Early Years](#)' on our [Early Years Website](#). You can also follow us on X @Earlynottingham