

Early Years & Childcare Business Newsletter

March 2023

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to read our latest Business Newsletter, we hope you find it useful to support with the ongoing sustainability of your business. If you have anything that you would like to see included in future editions do let us know and please contact us for any further support or advice.

Email: earlyyears@warwickshire.gov.uk

Website: [Early Years & Childcare Providers](#)

Team updates:- we have seen some substantial change to the business support team during 2022. We currently have two vacancies within the team for our Early Years & Childcare Sustainability Officer roles, which has unfortunately impacted capacity. Please direct any business related questions or queries to earlyyears@warwickshire.gov.uk and a member of the team will come back to you in due course. We will keep you updated once we have successfully recruited to the posts, which we hope to be later in the Spring Term 2023.

Cost of living—Business Energy Advice

Make energy your business

Warwickshire County Council have been providing support to local business to assist with reducing energy consumption. With so many challenges facing businesses, given the current energy situation WCC ran a number of webinars to help support businesses.

The sessions provide the opportunity to hear and learn from experts on how to reduce energy consumption, with practical tips and guidance on how to reduce energy bills and further information on funding and business support.

webinar: <https://youtu.be/WPKA2OSZWxA>



Information is correct as at the time of publishing. All legal requirements are the responsibility of the business to maintain, ensuring that they reflect the correct current business information and relevant legislation.



Business Advice & Support

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Energy webinar: [Warwickshire County Council Webinar](#)

Energy Bills Discount Scheme

The government has recently announced a new business energy scheme – the Energy Bills Discount Scheme (EBDS) – which succeeds the current EBRs scheme from April 2023 - March 2024.

All Early Years providers will continue to be eligible as they are now (childminders continue to get domestic energy support).

EBRS Scheme: • Unit costs of energy capped at £211 per MWh for electricity, and £75 per MWh for gas

EBDS Scheme: • Unit costs of energy discounted by:

- £19.61 per MWh for electricity if wholesale costs exceed £302 per MWh
- £6.07 per MWh for gas if wholesale costs exceed £107 per MWh

The overall level of govt support will be capped at £5.5bn

Additional guidance can be found here <https://www.gov.uk> or click on this link [Energy bill relief scheme - help for businesses](#) .

[Energy Bills Discount Scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Cost of Living

Further information on cost of living support can be found on the Warwickshire County Council website. There is a comprehensive list of organisations who can provide advice and support.

Link: <https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/>

Cash for Kids

Cost of Living Grants to support vulnerable children now available for application. This is to assist with emergency essentials that support physical and mental wellbeing of children who are struggling.

Please follow the link for more information:-

[Grants | Cash for Kids | Helping the children that need it most](#)

Sector support

A number of the key sector support organisations are now focusing on the recruitment and staffing pressures along with those created for the sector by the cost of living situation. Attached is a recently published guidance document that is available free of charge to the sector.

[Workplace-challenges-08.02.23.pdf \(parenta.com\)](#)

Tax Free Childcare

In 2022 the latest survey of Warwickshire childcare providers identified that 89% of providers are now promoting Tax Free Childcare to parents which is an increase of 4.8% since the last survey.

<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-808477336-717>

Millions of families remain entitled to this support with paying for their childcare costs alongside accessing the funded entitlements for 2, 3 and 4 year olds however information identifies that take up is still limited by many families.

Tax Free Childcare is a UK wide offer. Eligible parents with children under 12 can access up to £2,000 per child, per year, towards their childcare costs (or up to £4,000 for disabled children under 17).

Providers will be able to receive Tax Free Childcare payments from their customers once they have signed up to Tax Free Childcare. For more information on Tax Free Childcare please [click here](#).

[Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Free Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with Costs | GOV.UK](#)

The government have created the Childcare Choices website www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to raise awareness and provide parents with knowledge and information of childcare choices that are available to them. Below we have attached information of various toolkits and resources that settings can use to promote Early Education Funding. The free resources can be edited so that your settings details are on there.

Childcare Provider Information and Communications toolkit is [a step-by-step guide](#) for settings to ensure that they have all the relevant detail to enable them to accept families for government funded childcare. There are useful resources to help with publicity.

Toolkit 1—Childcare Provider and Communications Toolkit ([See here](#))
Toolkit for Baby and Family group to provide resource to [advertise offer](#) to parents.

Toolkit 2—Parent Information Toolkit ([See here](#))
Toolkit to help make parents/carers [aware of funding entitlement](#) with editable resources.

Toolkit 3—Parent facing Toolkit. ([See here](#))

NEW *Government response to the consultation on national funding formulae and increase in funding

—Following the DfE consultation over the summer 2022 on updating and amending the national funding formulae that determine local authorities funding rates for the free childcare entitlements. Over 400 responses to the consultation provided broad support for our proposals and we have implemented almost all of the changes we had set out. The Government response to the consultation has been published today, and explains the changes made to the formulae, that have been used to determine next years hourly rates. The response document can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-years-funding-formulae>.

Fundraising and Finding funds

The below links may prove useful to identify funding grants that may be available:

- Warwickshire CAVA—<https://www.wcava.org.uk/>
- Warwickshire CAVA Covid-19 Funding / Grants—[COVID-19 - Funding/ Grants | www.wcava.org.uk](https://www.wcava.org.uk/covid-19-funding-grants)
- Heart of England Community Foundation—<https://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/>
- Warwickshire County Council Grants and Local funding—<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/grants>
- The National Lottery—<https://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/funding>

Warwickshire Means Business

Warwickshire County Council produces a monthly Warwickshire Means Business newsletter with all the latest updates for Warwickshire businesses including information on funding grants, events and different business focuses each month. Please [click here](#) to read the latest edition from Dec 22 and subscribe to future newsletters.

Warwickshire Cost of Living fund

Applications have now reopened to support voluntary organisations and community groups to establish projects that address cost of living pressures. Eligible groups can apply for funding to support:-

- Food and other household essentials
- Improving community assets and their sustainability
- Improving access to services
- Improving financial capability
- Improving mental well being
- Tackling social inequalities

For eligibility and how to apply please visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/colgrant

Useful Business Support Websites & Contacts

Starting up a childcare business

Information and tips on setting up and running your own business

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/business>

Charity Commission

Useful information on setting up and running a charity

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>

Companies House

Information on starting up and running a company

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/companies-house>

Staff Employment – ACAS

Advice and information on staff employment matters

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

PACEY - Business Smart

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/business-smart/about-business-smart/>

Find useful briefings, DfE guidance and slides from events and training

<https://app-t1pr-seycp.azurewebsites.net/resources.htm>

Government help with childcare costs for parents

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Group setting cost calculator co-produced with Merton and PACEY through DSF funding

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/nurseries/group-setting-cost-calculator/>

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/working-in-childcare/nurseries/group-setting-occupancy-tool/>

Warwickshire County Council Warwickshire Insights

Warwickshire Insights provides statistical information about local areas in Warwickshire

<https://data.warwickshire.gov.uk/>

Out of School Alliance

Information and support to individuals and organisations setting up and running out of school clubs, holiday clubs and playschemes.

<https://www.outofschoolalliance.co.uk/>

The Pensions Regulator

Information and guidance on staff pensions and the responsibility of the employer

<https://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/>

Coram Family and Childcare's resources are designed to help professionals working in childcare and early years

<https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/resources-professionals>

NDNA – Business Zone NDNA Business Zone

http://www.ndna.org.uk/NDNA/News/Early_Years_Business_Zone.aspx

Early Years Alliance – Business and Management

<https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/business-and-management>

<https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/cost-delivery-calculator>

Foundation Years – Business Planning

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/2019/08/business-planning/>

Warwickshire County Council Family Information Service

Free advertising for your childcare business on the childcare directory.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis>

Support and advice for your early years business

<https://www.earlyyearsbusinesszone.org.uk/>

Early years business sustainability

Advice, examples and resources to help early years providers run a sustainable business

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-business-sustainability>

Warwickshire County Council Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childcaretypes>

Warwickshire County Council Support for businesses & suppliers

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/coronavirusbusinesssupport>