

Early Years & Childcare Business Newsletter

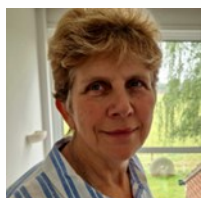
July 2023

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

In the last issue we said we had two vacancies within our team for Early Years & Childcare Sustainability Officers. Well GOOD NEWS the team have successfully filled both vacancies. Please meet your new Early Years and Childcare Sustainability Officers:



My name is Carolyn Fowler but some of you may remember me as Carolyn Busk. I worked alongside Mandy Latham in the good old days when we were Childcare Support Officers. I worked as a Childminder before joining WCC as a Registration Advisor and through all the changes until we were Business Support Officers, I then left WCC for 9 Years and I am now back with WCC as an Early Years & Childcare Sustainability Officer. We will be busy conducting Business Health Checks and Audits, so dig out those old Business Plans, make sure you update them and the cash-flow forecasts. It will be very interesting for me to see how settings have developed.



Hello, my name is Corinna Jones, and I am delighted to have joined the team as an Early Years & Childcare Sustainability Officer. I started my career as an NNEB nursery nurse and have worked in a variety of settings and roles over the years. Having gained an Early Childhood studies BA (hons) and QTLS I enjoyed some years teaching early years. Whilst more recently I have been a Business Support Team Lead, supporting staff within various departments of Education Services at Warwickshire County Council. I am now looking forward to visiting and supporting early years providers across Warwickshire in my new role.

Clear and Transparent Fee Information

A reminder as part of the WCC Provider Agreement and the Guidance & Requirements of Early Education Funding for 2-, 3- & 4-year-olds, providers are expected to have clear and transparent fees information available for parents showing the funded hours at £0 charge and any additional charges for extra hours or services including any voluntary charges, shown separately. It may be helpful to use the Sessions, Fees and Invoicing Checklist when reviewing your offers. You can find the checklist on our website here: [Sessions, Fees and Invoicing Checklist](#)

Returns and Requests

Over the last few months early years providers have been asked to complete several different forms. Whilst they may seem very similar it is important all Early Years providers have filled in all these forms so that it does not interrupt your early years funding. Completing the information required by the forms is important. If the information is not provided, it can have an impact on the amount of funding the Local Authority receives (and therefore the amount of funding providers may receive). Submitting such information is included in the contract for 2, 3 and 4 year-old funding which providers sign before being included in the Local Authority Directory of Providers.

Notifying the Local Authority of an Ofsted Inspection

Can we please remind all providers to inform us of the outcome of an Ofsted inspection. All early education funded providers must inform us within 3 working days as per clause 3.4.4 Ofsted on page 44 of the **Guidance and Requirements of Early Education Funding for 2-, 3- & 4-year-olds** document. Where the grading is below “Good” this could have implications to the funding entitlements the setting is able to deliver. Please use this link to the document to find out more about this requirement: [Guidance and Requirements of Early Education Funding for 2-, 3- & 4-year-olds](#)

Warwickshire County Council launches a Social Fabric Fund

The Warwickshire Social Fabric Fund is an innovative new fund that will enable the development of local projects and initiatives and offer an opportunity for investment that will have a positive impact on communities.

The Social Fabric Fund supports Warwickshire County Council's commitment to harness the power of communities to create opportunities and tackle inequalities, building on the strengths and assets that already exist.

Through the fund there will be dedicated support available to communities to develop proposals that look to invest and build social infrastructure, this could cover a range of services and facilities that meet local needs and contribute towards creating a good quality of life. Find out more about this here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4289/warwickshire-county-council-launches-a-social-fabric-fund>

New Funding Entitlements

In the government's spring budget, the Chancellor announced transformative reforms to childcare for parents, children, the economy, and women. By 2027 to 2028, this government will expect to be spending more than £8bn every year on free hours and early education, helping working families with their childcare costs. This represents the single biggest investment in childcare in England ever. This new offer will empower parents, allowing them to progress their careers and support their families. The new entitlements will be introduced in phases:

- From April 2024, all working parents of 2-year-olds can access 15 hours per week
- From September 2024, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 15 hours per week
- From September 2025, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years-old can access 30 hours free childcare per week

We will keep you updated as more information is shared with us by the Department for Education. In the meantime, do look out for a provider survey which will be coming to you soon.

...And whilst waiting for that survey to share your views with us, you may be interested in completing these surveys....

Views sought on Warwickshire's refreshed education strategy

Warwickshire residents are being encouraged to give their view on Warwickshire's Education Strategy for 2024 to 2030.

The council is currently reviewing its existing strategy and seeking views on whether the proposed principles and priorities are the right ones to inform the direction of travel on education until 2030.

Cllr Kam Kaur, Warwickshire County Council Portfolio Holder for Education, said: "We are inviting our residents to share their valuable perspectives on Warwickshire's refreshed education strategy for 2024 to 2030. Together, we can ensure that our principles and priorities align with the needs of our learners, families, and communities, shaping the direction of education in Warwickshire for years to come. Your views matter, let us know what you think."

Warwickshire residents can complete the survey here: <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insights-service/education-strategy-2023-2030/>

Parents and Carers Views on Childcare Provision Wanted

Warwickshire County Council is asking for the thoughts of parents and carers in the region who currently, or may in the future, use childcare such as childminders and day nurseries. The survey aims to gather information about the different childcare people use and how they use it, as well as their future intentions. The data collected will help identify specific areas for targeted support and development of early years and childcare provision in Warwickshire. By participating in the survey, parents and carers will contribute to what is on offer in the county. The online survey can be completed here: [WCC Parent /Carer - Early Years & Childcare Survey 2023](#)

Childminder Start Up Grants

In the Spring Budget a new start-up grant for childminders was announced. This will mean that there will be a £600 grant available for those who register with Ofsted, and £1200 for those who register with a childminder agency. These grants will be payable to any individual who has completed their childminder registration on or after 15 March 2023. New childminders will be able to apply for the grant from autumn 2023.

The grant is to support childminders by helping with the costs incurred when registering and to give them flexibility in choosing their own pathway into the sector. It can be more expensive to register with a childminder agency, and the grants reflect this, which ensures prospective childminders can choose the route that best suits their needs.

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 for the latest edition [June edition of Warwickshire Means Business](#), and subscribe to future newsletters.

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/>
- ♦ **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 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

Summer Break

As the final term of the academic year draws to a close some settings will be closing for a well-earned break, whilst many others will be continuing their year-round provision. We wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all a good summer and hope you are all able to take some time to rest and refresh over the summer holidays.

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>

Business Advice & Support