

Early Years Business Meetings

Questions and Answers

2nd February 2023 via MS Teams

The
Early Years
Team

Please find below the questions and answers raised across the 3 sessions held, for your information.

Q1: If I completed a Parent/Provider Agreement when a child started at my setting when they were 2 years old, do I need to complete a new one now they have turned 3?

If all information remains the same then this may not be necessary. However, please note that the Parent/Provider Agreement has been recently updated with new privacy notices and also if the child may be eligible for EYPP or Disability Access Funding (DAF) then it may be prudent to get them to complete a new Parent/Provider Agreement.

Q2. I am concerned how long term sustainability will be achieved when the base rate is not increasing at the same rate as the National Living Wage

We are aware that with our approximate 4% increase to the base rate and the average 9.5% increase to the National Living Wage, there is a shortfall in these figures that providers will need to address. We would encourage you to utilise all sources of funding available, including maximising occupancy, EYPP, DAF and support from relevant energy schemes. With changes in demand post-pandemic and with these increase in costs, we would encourage you to work out the real implications for your own settings, revising business models and forecasts for the forthcoming financial year as appropriate to work towards a sustainable position. It should also be noted that the base rate funding has never been at full cost recovery, the free early years entitlements funding has always been a **contribution towards** delivery costs. Please also note that it is at a provider's discretion to offer funded places, you are under no obligation to deliver them if you wish to operate your business without funded places.

Q3. Is there any opportunity to assess Business Rates as this would support with soaring energy costs?

This is a matter for Nottingham City Council's Business Rates Team. This page of Nottingham City Council's main website, <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-business/business-information-and-support/>, includes information on business grants, business support and finance and business property. It also includes information on Business Rates, valuation issues exemptions and reliefs, small business rate relief, discretionally revaluation relief scheme and local discounts and hardships. The Business Rates Team can be contacted on businessrates@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Q4. Why is uptake of DAF so low?

We know that some of the common barriers are around obtaining evidence from parents to support the application or the misconceptions that the child needs a diagnosis to apply for DLA, when they don't, it is purely around their additional needs, or that they can only apply for 1 funding stream. Settings in receipt of DAF can still apply for Higher Level Needs or Inclusion Funding as well. We would encourage settings to identify potentially eligible children and apply promptly and support parents with the DLA paperwork where needed. Further information, process guidelines and the application form for DAF can be found at <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/equality-and-inclusion/early-years-send-fund/the-disability-access-fund/>



Q5. How can I find out more about the Gender Gap information presented in the EYFSP slides?

The EYFSP 2022 data is hot off the press for the Business Meeting! We will be undertaking further in-depth analysis of this data over the coming months and expect to develop meaningful, workforce development opportunities for the sector in response to the gaps in data, including the gender gap.

Keep an eye out for further communications from the Team over the coming months and if you require any additional information in the meantime, please contact your EYFS Support Worker in the first instance.

Q6. Why don't Nottingham City pay for notice periods when other local authorities do?

This is a common question for providers with settings across more than 1 local authority area. Paying providers for notice periods is at the discretion of each local authority & largely dependent on resources available. When considering demographics, Nottingham City is very different to, for example, our nearest neighbouring local authority, Nottinghamshire. In Nottingham City every school has a nursery attached and also a rich and diverse PVI childcare sector, with there being much more movement between settings. The local decision in our authority is currently therefore not to pay for notice periods and to act prudently by the funding following the child and not funding empty places or double funding children. This is reflected in our Provider Agreement and local providers are required to adhere to these local terms and conditions in order to receive the free early years entitlements funding. Please note, providers are under no obligation to sign the Provider Agreement and do not have to deliver funded 2, 3 and 4 year old places locally.

Q7. Will you still be doing EYFS Briefings for Foundation Stage Leads?

Whilst we don't have any further EYFS Briefings for Foundation Stage Leads planned to date, we do offer a range of associated courses, including an Introduction to the EYFS, which can be found here - <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/cpd-training/new-cpd-opportunities-for-practitioners-working-with-the-eyfs-202223/>

Q8. Where can I find downloadable resources to support with my provision?

The main address for our Team website is <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/> Here you can find downloadable documents relating to early years funding, quality improvement in terms of the Provider Support Framework, safeguarding and welfare requirements audits, teaching and learning audits and pre-inspection toolkits, equality and inclusion resources around SEND, DAF and support strategies and business resources including occupancy monitoring, breaking even and financial planning.

Q9. When do the new base rates come into force?

The new rates will be applied from 1st April 2023



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Q10. Where can I find the Parent Agreement online?

The Parent Agreement is on the Early Years Funding Page of our website, <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/funding/provider-information-on-early-years-funding-for-2-3-and-4-year-olds/>. The Agreement can be found in the *Further Information and Example Documentation Booklet* that can be downloaded from this page and this will be updated for the latest documentation on 1st April 2023.

Early Years Team
February 2023