

Date: 19th July 2023



Children Services

Town Hall

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Early Years Funding increases September 2023- March 2024

Dear colleagues,

In the Spring Budget 2023 the Chancellor announced reforms of Childcare including additional funding to increase the hourly rates for early years providers to deliver the existing early years entitlements for 2-3-4-year-olds from September 2023.

We have now received the detail of those increases, that will take effect from 1st September 2023 to March 2024.

It is usual practice for the Local Authority to go out to formal consultation with Schools Forum and wider stakeholders; however, this additional increase is being paid to Local Authorities through a separate grant "Early Years Supplementary Grant". This grant means that the LA will not have to undertake a formal consultation and the funding can go straight out to the sector from September 2023.

For ease of payment, we will add to the existing payment arrangements and simply increase the hourly rates paid from September.

Boltons increases and new hourly rates are detailed below: -

| | April – August 2023 | Increase | Sept 2023- March 2024 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| | Per Hour | Per Hour | Per Hour |
| 3- & 4-year-old | £4.52 | £0.32 | £4.84 |
| 2-year-olds | £5.53 | £1.77 | £7.30 |
| Early years Pupil Premium | £0.62 | £0.04 | £0.66 |
| | Lump Sum | Lump Sum | Lump Sum |
| Disability Access Fund | £828 | £30.92 | £858.92 |

There are no changes to the supplements.

There are going to be significant changes that we will need to plan for within the reforms of Childcare. The range of measures announced include: -

- Change in the entitlements.
- Increase in Wraparound provision through Primary schools and with LAs support.
- Market reforms; Changes to the EYFS
- Changing Staff: child ratios from 1:4 to 1:5 for two- year -olds
- Childminder grants to attract people to childminding.
- Universal credit reforms to support paying of childcare up-front.

These will be rolled out in stages and each LA is being asked to prepare for the changes ahead and to develop plans to ensure sufficiency for the entitlements and for wraparound care.

| Date | Description of change |
|----------------|---|
| Autumn 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Childminder grants become available.• Existing funding rates to increase.• Staff: Child 2yo ratio change |
| April 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15hrs for working parents of 2-year-olds introduced.• Increase in 3-4 yo and 2-yo funding rates |
| September 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Wraparound support begins.• 15 hours for working parents of children 9 months to primary school aged introduced |
| September 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 hours for all working parents of children from 9 months to primary school are introduced |
| September 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All schools to offer 8am-6pm wraparound on their own or in partnership |

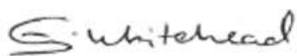
To prepare for these changes we will plan to work together to understand how these reforms will be met, we will be in touch in the Autumn term to begin this important work.

If you have any questions please email Helen Shearer, Head of Start Well; Strategic Lead Early Years Helen.shearer@bolton.gov.uk or Julie Edwards Schools Finance Manager julie.edwards@bolton.gov.uk .

Yours sincerely



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