

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 23 January 2024

TITLE	Wrap Around Childcare – in Primary Schools and Academies		
Ward(s)	All wards		
Author: Deborah Brown	Job title: Project Lead / Free Entitlement Development Officer		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Craig Cheney Deputy Mayor City Economy, Finance and Performance	Executive Director lead: Stephen Peacock Chief Executive		
Proposal origin: Other			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: To seek approval to accept and spend grant funding (£1.8M revenue + £170K capital) from the Department for Education (DfE) to support the creation / expansion of wrap around childcare places in Primary Schools and Academies.			
Evidence Base:			
Background			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government has pledged to support working parents by providing set up funding for primary schools and academies to provide wrap around childcare. The need is identified by the DfE and no data for demand has been shared with local authorities to date. 2. With full wrap around childcare, the Government aspires that working parents will be able to return to work / find better jobs / extend their working hours, and travel to and from school, and so therefore support the economy. 3. The premise is that starting in Sept 2024 (and ending in March 2026), Schools and Academies will create wrap around childcare provision which parents pay for, developing a sustainable model by the time the funding expires in March 2026. 4. Wrap around childcare means the provision directly before and after the school day covering the hours of 0800-1800, during term time for school age children at the school they attend. Parents should not be required to pick up their children from school and drop them off at another location. Enrichment and extracurricular activities provided in schools and academies do not therefore meet the definition of Wrap around childcare. 			
Objectives and Scope for Wrap Around Childcare			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Wrap around childcare should deliver provision that is child-centred, easily accessible, and responds to the needs of the families, including those of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). 6. To have sufficient wrap around childcare places for children in Reception to Year 6 where parents need support, starting in Sept 2024. 7. To map the supply and demand of wrap around childcare places by the end of February 2024, planning for 			

the future sufficiency

8. To create new and expand existing wrap around childcare places by providing programme funding in 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26 (ending in March 2026) with a 'front loaded' amount of funding to enable rapid growth.
9. To signpost parents to providers of wrap around childcare
10. To promote Tax Free Childcare (TFC) and Universal Credit (UC) as a means for parents to pay for wrap around childcare time.
11. To share with internal stakeholders all relevant information to enable them to support families to understand the availability of wrap around childcare in Bristol.

Funding

12. The £1.8M will be paid to BCC over 3 financial years comprising 23/24 already received £18K, 24/25 = £1.2M and 25/26 = 570K
13. The funding will be allocated in a 'pump prime' model (i.e. much of it up front to negate set up costs) through the Early Years ('EY') Team. The EY Teams were specifically targeted by the DfE as they carry the statutory duty for childcare sufficiency up to the age of 14, even though this funding is for primary school aged children only (not early years children).
14. The allocation of the funding will be based on a needs assessment, where only areas showing parental demand are evidenced. Schools and Academies can make an application against a set of criteria (yet to be finalised but essentially; whether wrap around childcare is present or not, where demand is evidenced or not, where the school and academy present a sustainable model). The DfE are providing support for the criteria in Spring 2024. Funding will be allocated from April 2024 on an application basis and decided upon by a board comprised of EY Senior Leaders, HAF Project Management and Bristol Association of Neighbourhood Daycare (BAND).
15. The £170,474 capital grant funding (from a larger allocation of £825K, where the remaining £655K is for the expansion of childcare places in early years), will support with the provision of non-revenue purchases and will be allocated on an application basis and decided upon by a board comprised of EY Senior Leaders, HAF Project Management and Bristol Association of Neighbourhood Daycare (BAND).

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the acceptance of funding for the financial year 23/24 of £18k.
2. Authorises the Executive Director Children and Education in consultation with the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for City Economy, Finance and Performance to take all steps required to accept and spend the grant funding allocations for 24/25 and 25/26 (including procuring and awarding contracts over £500k) necessary for the implementation of the programme up to March 2026, in-line with the maximum budget envelopes outlined in this report.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. Children and Young People Theme – where every child belongs and every child gets the best start in life (by being in working families and accessing safe and fun childcare experiences)
2. Economy and Skills – economic growth (where parents are able to return to work / work longer hours / achieve better employment)

City Benefits:

1. For children – quality and safe environment in which to prepare for and reflect on their school day.
2. For parents – flexible childcare which enables them to return to work / extend their working day / find a better job / travel to and from school; all with the security of knowing their child is cared for
3. For schools and academies – start up funding to improve the likelihood of establishing a sustainable wrap around childcare scheme
4. For Private Nurseries, Childminders, After School Clubs – the opportunity to be commissioned by a school or

- academy to deliver wrap around childcare
5. For BCC – additional funding to support the development of an area of education which has not had any financial support for 10 years +

Consultation Details:

None

Background Documents:

[Wraparound childcare: guidance for local authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wrap-around-childcare)

[Wraparound childcare programme: S31 grant determination letter \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/guidance/childcare-expansion-capital-grant-funding)

[Childcare expansion capital grant funding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childcare-expansion-capital-grant-funding)

Revenue Cost	£1,822,744.15	Source of Revenue Funding	DfE Grant
Capital Cost	£170,474	Source of Capital Funding	DfE Grant
One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice:

In March 2023, the government announced £289 million in funding over three FY, 2023- 24 to 2025-26, to ensure that all parents of primary school children who need it, are able to access wraparound childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm. On 27th October, allocations to LA's were published: Bristol's award is a maximum of: £1.823m and allocated over the three financial years as shown in the table below. Whilst the award is in the form of a non-ringfenced grant, expenditure is contingent upon the terms in the Memorandum of Understanding for the programme.

LA	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26 (Provisional)	Total
Bristol, City of	£18,641.54	£1,230,764.72	£573,307.89	£1,822,744.15

This activity is not expected to have any direct General Fund implications for the council, however support for this initiative will come from existing staffing and these are funded from general fund. These support costs will be recovered where eligible to do so, and all expenditure attributed to this scheme must be incurred within the conditions of grant.

Finance Business Partner: Travis Young, Finance Business Partner 1 December 2023

2. Legal Advice: The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones – Solicitor/Team Manager 8 January 2024

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity.

IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson – Lead Enterprise Architect 15 January 2024

4. HR Advice: The report is seeking approval to accept and spend grant funding from the DfE to support the creation and expansion of wrap around childcare places in Primary Schools and Academies. This request has no significant HR implications arising for Bristol City Council employees.

HR Partner: Lorna Lang, HR Business Partner 1 December 2023

EDM Sign-off	Reena Bhogal-Welsh	06 December 2023
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Craig Cheney	11 December 2023
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	15 December 2023

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	NO
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	YES
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO