Children and Families, Early Years Division

Weekly News Bulletin: 27th December 2021

**Early Years Funding rates consultation 2021-22**

Local authorities are funded for early years provision through the early years block in the dedicated schools grant (DSG).  The formula continues to allocate funding to local authorities for the existing entitlement for all two, three- and four-year-olds.  
  
The Early Years Service must consult with the early years sector regarding annual funding rates and any decisions made must be ratified by Schools’ Forum. Schools' Forum Early Years task group have reviewed a range of options presented by the local authority and agreed to run a consultation on the following two options.

Please vote on your preferred option, the results will be shared with providers at the end of the consultation period, once a final decision has been made. The consultation period is active between Friday 22nd January until Friday 5th February 2021.

The chosen funding rates will be introduced in Slough from **1st April 2021**. Both options outlined in the survey include a decrease to the SEND inclusion grant, please note this is based on previous years spending of the allocated budget.

**To access the consultation please click on the following link**: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EYFundingratesConsultation2021-2022>

For any questions about this consultation please contact [earlyyears@slough.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyears@slough.gov.uk)

## **February half-term** Schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week. Schools do not need to provide lunch parcels or vouchers during the February half-term. There is wider government support in place to support families and children outside of term-time through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools#support-for-families). The £170 million scheme is being run by local authorities in England, with at least 80% of the funding earmarked to support with food and essential utility costs and will cover the period to the end of March 2021. It will allow local authorities to directly help the hardest-hit families and individuals over the winter period. Local authorities have local ties and knowledge, making them best placed to identify and help those children and families most in need.

**Contact tracing over the February half-term**

Schools continue to play an important role in contact tracing for those pupils and staff who continue to attend their school. We recognise the challenges of this responsibility during holidays. Given limited numbers on-site, we expect contact tracing activity to be reduced but this remains vitally important in the continued national effort to limit the spread of the virus.

Where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) during the holidays, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, schools are not required to take any action. Staff, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. However, where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school. Staff responsible for contact tracing are not asked to be on-call at all times and may designate a limited period in the day to receive notification of positive cases and advise close contacts to self-isolate (this can be done by text or email). Where schools can do so, staff assuming responsibility for contact tracing during half-term can be offered equivalent time off at an agreed point during term time.

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**February half-term continued ….**

Where **early years setting** are closed during the holiday period please ensure parents/carers are aware that they must notify you if their child test positive for Coronavirus 6 days after they last attended. The setting must be contactable for 6 days after you close and this could be via email or telephone. In this scenario providers must ensure they have all of the relevant details to contact other parents to notify them of a positive case where their child will need to isolate. This arrangement should be in line with your policy regarding Communicable diseases and closure periods.

Please also follow other procedures for notifying the DfE and email: [CV19notifications@slough.gov.uk](mailto:CV19notifications@slough.gov.uk) to report the positive case

**Reported coronavirus (COVID-19) notifications by registered early years and childcare settings**

This data is published fortnightly. It gives the number of registered early years and childcare providers reporting one or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) by week.

Change made:  
Updated the number of cases for the week beginning 21 December as this was incomplete due to closures over the Christmas period. Also added data for weeks beginning 28 December 2021 and 4 January 2021.

Time updated:  
9:30am, 25 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reported-coronavirus-covid-19-cases-by-registered-early-years-and-childcare-settings?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=dd57bf58-f1d7-4b92-9551-31641bb92fea&utm_content=daily>

**Advertising vacancies**

Does your setting currently have vacant places for early years children?

If you would like the Early Years Service to promote your vacancies on our [early years facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/sloughearlyyears/) or the Slough Borough Council [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sloughcouncil/) and [twitter](https://twitter.com/SloughCouncil?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor) pages please email [earlyyears@slough.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyears@slough.gov.uk) and we will include your details in future posts about vacancies. Deadline this week Thursday by 11am

Alternatively please call Raj Braich on 07395 258 096

**Guidance for staff testing in primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools**

Primary schools (including school-based nurseries) should expect to receive an initial delivery of home testing kits. If you have not received your delivery by Wednesday 27 January, please complete this [contact form](https://form.education.gov.uk/service/rapid-testing-contact). You will need the URN for your school to complete this form. We are planning to begin deliveries to maintained nursery schools from week commencing 1 February.

Home testing of staff in primary schools (including school-based nurseries) can begin from week commencing Monday 25 January, once schools have received and distributed kits to staff.

**Short term funding for CYP with LD/autism**

Short term prevention funding available (CYP with LD or autism and behaviours that challenge)

NHSE have made available a small amount of Winter Pressures funding to support avoiding mental health inpatient admissions for children and young people who have a learning disability or autism. This might be through additional provision of respite care, short breaks or personalised approaches to support (including equipment, activities or other creative solutions). The funding acknowledges the extra pressures the pandemic has placed on children who have a learning disability or autism and behaviours that challenge (including mental health needs), and on their families, for example many may be unable to attend their normal educational setting and maintain essential routines.

I have attached a very short form and would like to invite applications between now and the end of March for support for individual children and young people up to age 25. The budget is limited and grant applications will close once this is fully utilised, which may be before the end of March. The child/young person must have a learning disability or autism and behaviours that challenge (including mental health needs) and there must be significant concern for the sustainability of supporting the child at home without additional support. Maximum funding application is £1000 per child and it must be used in addition to (not to replace) other support and short breaks already provided.

NHS East Berkshire CCG

**What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges**

Page summary:

Information for parents and carers about going back to schools, nurseries and colleges in January 2021.

Change made:

This guidance has been updated following the PHE position statement on daily contact testing.

Time updated:

5:37pm, 21 January 2021 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=fa24abd6-2008-495a-ba48-a8ebf891dde1&utm_content=daily>

**Getting Help Service**

Please find attached the new leaflets for the Slough MHST/Getting Help Team.

**Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update**

Page summary:

Ofsted guidance and information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for schools, early years, children’s social care and further education and skills providers.

Change made:

Updated ‘Early years and childcare’ section with details of a survey Ofsted has sent to wraparound childcare providers.

Time updated:

2:38pm, 26 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofsted-coronavirus-covid-19-rolling-update?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=a8af7890-633e-41e2-b66f-14f8f8dc627f&utm_content=daily>

**Flow Chart from Public Health England**Please find attached an updated Flow Chart (from Public Health England) for the management of positive COVID-19 cases in your setting and a COVID-19 Resource Pack for Educational Settings.  A pro forma to support with COVID-19 notifications to the Slough Borough Council drop box [CV19Notifications@slough.gov.uk](mailto:CV19Notifications@slough.gov.uk) is also attached, as all notifications of any positive COVID-19 cases still need to be made to the drop box.

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**Connect** **FREE courses for parent/carers: Home Start Slough**

Dates for 2021 - every Wednesday

Delivered over ZOOM

21st April 2021 to 26th May 2021

9th June 2021 – Wednesday 14th July 2021

15th September – Wednesday 20th October 2021

**3rd November – Wednesday 8th December 2021**

FREE courses for parent/carers who have children or young people who are pre- and post- assessment for **Autism**

To register your place, please contact:- Lorraine Tritton

lorrainetritton@hsslough.co.uk

ring 01753 572958

*We are registered charity supporting families in Slough and Burnham*

*Please see the attached flyer*

**Deferring Ofsted inspections**

Page summary:  
Ofsted’s policy for determining that an inspection of a provider should not go ahead on the planned dates.

Change made:  
This policy has been revised to reflect the most recent government COVID-19 guidance and changes to Ofsted’s inspection activities from 25 January 2021 during national restrictions.

Time updated: 1:53pm, 20 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/deferring-ofsted-inspections?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=cc7a327e-bedf-463a-8b07-3e3f7406ba1e&utm_content=daily>

**Assurance inspections 2021: registered early years providers**

Page summary:  
An operational note for Ofsted inspectors carrying out assurance inspections of registered early years providers.

Change made:  
Updated to clarify that we will not carry out assurance inspections until national restrictions allow us to inspect on site.

Time updated: 1:00pm, 20 January 2021

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/january-2021-registered-early-years-providers?utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\_source=49a41511-99c1-4a8c-b410-716055442787&utm\_content=daily

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): financial support for education, early years and children’s social care**  
Page summary:  
Funding and financial support available for education, childcare and children’s social care organisations.

Change made:  
Updated to remove outdated sector specific guidance for early years providers and reflect detail on public and private income from school-based nursery provision for mainstream state-funded schools.

Time updated:  
4:20pm, 21 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=a643d8a1-17be-4283-9218-89306ad2da44&utm_content=daily>

## **The Early Childhood Unit at NCB** [Foundation Years: COVID-19 resources hub](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=9e8968bdb6&e=6e26d5602e) The Foundation Years [hub](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=d44802f741&e=6e26d5602e) supports all early years providers during the COVID-19 outbreak. It includes the latest policy updates, Government guidance, and free resources from across the early years sector all in one place.

[Working for babies: Lockdown lessons from local systems](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=213ea87dc3&e=6e26d5602e)  
A report published by the [First 1001 Days Movement](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=8affb028e3&e=6e26d5602e) provides insight into the impacts of COVID-19 and the Spring 2020 lockdown on babies in the first 1001 days and their families, and the experiences of systems and services which support them.  
  
[Understanding the influence of the preschool home learning environment on early mathematics and literacy attainment](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=2f16519044&e=6e26d5602e)  
Research from the Liverpool Early Number Skills Project (LENS) at Liverpool John Moores University, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, reports that pre-schoolers who spend more time discussing letters and sounds with their parents are better at reading and mathematics when they start school.

## SEND

[Family workshops - Contact](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=3f9c672b6c&e=6e26d5602e)

Contact run free family workshops for families with children with additional needs. They are currently running workshops on various dates in February and March

[National Strategy for disabled people – survey](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=fc01659a8c&e=6e26d5602e)

The government has launched a public survey as part of developing a National Strategy for Disabled People. The Disability Unit in the Cabinet Office is working with government colleagues, disabled people, disabled people's organisations, charities and businesses to develop the strategy, to be published in Spring 2021.

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**Funded Early Education**

Census week was 18th to 22nd January and census day on Thursday, 21st January 2021.

The Early Years census collects two set of data: PLEASE ENSURE YOU COMPLETE

1. Information about your Establishment, these include: LA number, LA URN, OFSTED URN, establishment name, postcode, contact details, EY Provider category, EY Setting type. EY daycare, maintained school relationship, establishment partnership, weeks open per year, EY funding weeks, opening and closing times.

• **Staff Information** – contains the following information about the staff working at the early years setting: number of staff with relevant qualifications, teacher status, professional status. It does not include volunteers.

• **Child Statistics** – any setting that have any funded children (aged 2, 3 or 4 as at 31st December 2019) at the time of the census. In such settings, a separate count is required of 2, 3 and 4-year-old children, both funded and unfunded.

This information will be collected via the Early Years Portal through the ‘Self Update’ tab. The census tab is open and will be available until 29th January 2021.

1. Child level data relating to children accessing funded early years education.  This information is collect via the Early Years Portal through the ‘Actual’ headcount which is currently open with a deadline of 26th January 2021.  THE HEADCOUNT IS NOW CLOSED and we collected 99% child level data.

If you require any assistance please contact us:

Balli Grewal or Sandra Andrews

01753-476575 or 07523-933028                    01753-875719 or 07749709909

**Foundation Years team, NCB**

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Early Years Professional Development Programme (PDP) update**  In light of the latest national lockdown and rise in infections due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department for Education (DfE) have decided to postpone the next phase of training delivery of the Early Years Professional Development Programme (PDP) until such time as the majority of participating settings are better able to engage with CPD activity. DfE are currently revising the delivery plans and will be working towards restarting training after the Easter holidays.  The PDP is a £20m DfE programme of training and professional development for pre-reception early years staff in disadvantaged areas in 51 participating local authorities, selected on the basis of their levels of deprivation and outcomes in the EYFS Profile. Delivered by training partners Education Development Trust (EDT) and Elklan, the programme aims to raise practitioners’ skills in supporting young children’s development in early language, literacy and mathematics. | | |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Promoting NSPCC safeguarding resources during lockdown**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=c210b39ed7&e=6e26d5602e)  Data shows that children face an increased risk of suffering from abuse at this challenging time, and that it is more likely to go unreported. It is vital that the general public are able to step up in their duty to report any concerns about child welfare.  We need to amplify the message that, whether it be worries about a child in your family, or others outside your bubble, it is important that everyone is aware of the signs that indicate when something is wrong. We also need to make sure that the public is aware of the correct avenues to report any concerns, which are via Local Authorities, the NSPCC, or the police.  In order to increase awareness of the warning signs to look out for, as well as the advice available should anyone have concerns about a child, please actively direct people in your networks [**here**](https://ncb.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=93ca41ab24380caf57761bd37&id=c36f23892c&e=6e26d5602e). | | |

**COVID-19: personal protective equipment use for non-aerosol generating procedures**

Please use this link to keep up to date

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-use-for-non-aerosol-generating-procedures>

Please note: if you attend to a child in isolation or in the setting and are wearing PPE and less than 2meters away you will have to isolate if that child tests positive.

**Training and Continuous Professional Development**

**MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING OFFER 2020-21 is under review (Level 2 Safeguarding)**

Covid 19 has presented many challenges for our workforce and has taught us a lot about Virtual working together!

We are currently revising all our training and developing virtual modules. We have committed to virtual training September through to March 2021 unless it is safe to have face to face training.

<https://www.sloughsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk/scsp/scsp/training/multi-agency-training-offer-2020-21-refreshed-in-light-of-covid-19>

**Safeguarding basics and COVID-19**

Below is a link to a video which has been developed to cover the basics of safeguarding during COVID-19.  It covers safeguarding for both children and adults at home and also includes domestic abuse and exploitation.

It takes less than 10 minutes to view and may be particularly useful as a resource for:-

* redeployed staff
* staff or volunteers  working in different ways within the safeguarding arena during this period
* volunteers who do not read English very well as there is no requirement to read the slides.

The messages are simple - “There is no excuse for abuse during Lockdown” and “Help is available -It is business as usual for safeguarding services”

Link to Slough Safeguarding basics <https://youtu.be/RDc4mBGbRmA>

**Safeguarding Level 3**

*It is always recommended that Designated Safeguarding Leads complete a localised Safeguarding course to ensure they have up to date information about local policy’s and procedures. Due to COVID 19 the Slough Safeguarding Partnership are currently unable to offer face to face training but will endeavour to review other options such as online training in the future. In the meantime there are a number of other organisations who offer Level 3 Safeguarding training online which you could access, however we strongly recommend that you ensure you are aware and up to date with Slough’s Safeguarding procedures* [*https://berks.proceduresonline.com/slough/index.html*](https://berks.proceduresonline.com/slough/index.html)

**Please note these courses are not recommendations and we are not endorsing the training. This list is not exhaustive**

**Level 3 Safeguarding Children: Paediatric First Aid Training Online**

This online safeguarding training level 3 course programme is aimed at all childminders, nursery staff, but also school teachers & support staff working with children & infants who could potentially assess and evaluating the needs of a child, infant or young person, who may be potentially at risk of harm.

<https://www.onlinepaediatricfirstaid.co.uk/product/level-3-online-safeguarding-children-course-childminders-nursery-staff/>

**Designated Safeguarding Lead (Level 3): The National Nursery Training**

As part of the National Nursery Training Designated Safeguarding Lead course you will learn:

* Understand the safeguarding structure and have an understanding of the law, policy and recommended guidance to uphold the highest safeguarding standards
* Understand the roles and responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead
* Be able to identify signs of possible abuse
* Understand the process to follow when a safeguarding issue is identified
* Understand the correct procedure for dealing with disclosures.
* Understand the varying levels of need of individuals and processes to follow.
* Understand the correct procedure for recording information and following due process beyond referral to external agencies.

<https://nationalnurserytraining.com/product/designated-safeguarding-lead-level-3/>

**Designated Safeguarding Lead online Course: EYFS Resources**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead course covers the following:

◦the definition of safeguarding and child protection,

◦recap on signs and symptoms of abuse

◦how to report concerns

◦how to respond to allegations of abuse

◦recording information correctly

◦roles and responsibilities of people and agencies

◦creating a child protection policy

◦the role of a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

<https://www.eyfsresources.co.uk/training/early-years-safeguarding-courses/designated-safeguarding-lead-online-course>

**NSPCC Safeguarding Training**

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/training>

**Prevent**

Prevent should be seen as part of the existing safeguarding framework;

While it remains rare for children and young people to become involved in terrorist activity, young people from an early age can be exposed to terrorist & extremist influences or prejudiced views. As with other forms of safeguarding strategies, early intervention is always preferable.

Slough Borough Council working with other local partners, families and communities, play a key role in ensuring young people and their communities are safe from the threat of terrorism.

Prevent training, aims of session.

• Understand Prevents aims

• Think about who may be vulnerable to Extremism and Radicalisation – all forms

• See why some people are able to influence and manipulate others to commit crimes

• Recognise when a vulnerable individual may be in need of help

• And be clear on what help and support looks like in this area, and who you should turn to if you have concerns

• Look at the threats, risks and vulnerabilities

9th December 2020 @ 10am – 12pm

12th January 2021 @ 10am – 12pm

9th February 2021 @ 10am – 12pm

9th March 2021 @ 10am – 12pm

To book a free space please email [Philip.Dobson@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.Dobson@slough.gov.uk)

Alternative evening session will run on 23rd February 2021 @ 6.30pm – 8pm bookings via the Link <https://thelink.slough.gov.uk/events/early-years-prevent-training-1>

**Strong Home Learning Experience to support children’s learning and development**

**National Literacy Trust – Words for life /New digital platforms for families and teachers**

The virtual school library will help primary schools give children who have been most adversely affected by COVID-19 access to books all year round. The words for life website supports with the home learning environment for children <https://wordsforlife.org.uk/?mc_cid=ea64f10f58&mc_eid=dfacb06fa7>

The websites are packed with free books, fun activities and exclusive author content.

For more information look [here](https://literacytrust.org.uk/news/to-celebrate-international-literacy-day-hrh-the-duchess-of-cornwall-opened-ivydales-new-school-library-and-launched-our-virtual-school-library-for-all-uk-schools/?mc_cid=ea64f10f58&mc_eid=dfacb06fa7)

**For Happy Healthy Early Years** - Support from trusted NHS professionals <https://healthforunder5s.co.uk/>

**Simple, fun activities for kids, from newborn to five** <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

**Talk to your baby**

[www.talktoyourbaby.org](http://www.talktoyourbaby.org)

**Building a happy baby - a guide for parents**

[www.unicef.org.uk/babyfriendly](http://www.unicef.org.uk/babyfriendly)

**Education Endowment Foundation**

NEW: Supporting reading at home - we have made some of our resources available in Polish, Punjabi, Urdu, Bengali, and Lithuanian. <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/support-resources-to-share-with-parents/>

**Improving the Home Learning Environment** guide by the Department of Education and National Literacy Trust <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756020/Improving_the_home_learning_environment.pdf>

**The Toddler Meal Planner is a must have in every kitchen!**

Created in collaboration with parents to solve a real need, it makes it easy for parents to get the balance right, helping to take the guesswork out of toddler meals and set up healthy habits for life at a critical time in children’s development. You can find the meal planner [here](https://infantandtoddlerforum.org/blog/new-resource-inspired-by-parents-for-parents-the-toddler-meal-planner-is-a-must-have-in-every-kitchen/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=August%20email)