Early Years and Childcare Service
Information for Suffolk's List of Provider (LoP) Members
Registered users of the Provider Portal (PVI & Schools)

Please pass this information to relevant colleagues in your provision.

Early Years Broadcast 29 – 24 August 2021

Important please note: The early years provider information pages will be moving to a new website during September. We will alert you as soon as the new site goes live. Until this time the current site remains available.

Provider Portal & Early Education Funding (EEF)

Please remember to email **provider.portal@suffolk.gov.uk** with any queries regarding the Provider Portal or Early Education funding, EYPP and Deprivation funding.

Headcount Task - Autumn Term 2021

Headcount week will be week commencing Monday 13 September 2021; the task will be issued on this date. The deadline for submitting your claim will be Sunday 26 September 2021.

30 Hours Funded Childcare – Applications & Reconfirmations for Autumn Term

Please encourage parents to apply so they get their code in good time. HMRC sometimes need more information from the parent to check whether they are eligible, so parents should allow time for this to ensure a valid code is received well ahead of the termly deadline (31 August).

Also remind your parents who have 30-hour code to check if their reconfirmation is due so they can continue to use the code for Autumn Term. **Codes that have fallen out of eligibility and are reconfirmed after 31 August will not be valid for use in the Autumn Term.**

2-year-old Checker

The new 2-year-old eligibility checker is now part of the Suffolk Citizens' Portal which is already used by parents when applying for a school place, school transport and free school meals. There are written and video 'how to' guides for parents on the SCC website. You can signpost parents to this link: https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/two.

Assisted 2-year-old eligibility check

For parents who are unable to carry out a check themselves, the registered portal user at your setting will be able to do an assisted check using the parents' details within the Provider Portal.

Childcare provider guidance and video 'how to' guides

Please review the guidance (link below) produced to assist childcare providers when using the provider portal.
https://www.suffolklearning.co.uk/early-years/claiming-funding-for-2,-3-4-year-olds/provider-portal-registered-user-information.

Provider Portal – important reminder for users

- Registered portal users MUST NOT share their login details. To do so is classed as a data breach. Registered portal user absence- if your registered portal user has left your provision or will be absent during the task period, you must let us know **as soon as possible.** Please email: provider.portal@suffolk.gov.uk, failure to let us know will affect our ability to process your claim. A £100 administration charge will be applied where a data breach is identified (effective from 01 April 2021).

Early Years and Childcare Service general enquiries
Email: childcare.planning@suffolk.gov.uk – Tel: 0345 60 800 33

Please pass this information to relevant colleagues in your provision.

Early Years SEND (EYCSEN@suffolk.gov.uk)

****New Claim process** High Needs Funding (Early Years)**
The submission period will be the first 2 weeks of the term. The deadline will be **Sunday 19 September 2021**.

- The process for claiming Early Years High Needs funding has changed. Please make sure the relevant person at your setting or school is aware of this change.
- The new application process and guidance notes can be found at the link below. **https://www.suffolklearning.co.uk/early-years/inclusion/high-need-funding**
- There will be an online application form to complete, and the appendix for the child will then need to be emailed.
- You will need to read the guidance notes before you start so you are fully prepared. If you want to keep your own record of the information you have provided, then please download and use the documents provided via the link.

SEND update – New Inclusion Referral form (specialist assessment nursery or specialist units)

The Inclusion Referral form has been updated. Please use this form if you need to make a request for consideration of placement for a child for specialist assessment nursery or specialist units at reception age. This new form is now available via the link below:
https://www.suffolklearning.co.uk/early-years/inclusion/referrals/specialist-provision

For further information on specialist education in Suffolk see here:
https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/advice.page?id=5XcR7C-LNUs

Early Years and Childcare Workforce Development (EYC.WFD@suffolk.gov.uk)

Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) training
To find the 2-hour virtual training on Specialist education and Education, Health & Care Plans for Early Years settings in Suffolk, please search www.suffolkcpd.co.uk using **course code E-EHCPV**.

Alerts from Department for Education (DfE)

Please subscribe to receive alerts directly from DfE, the link is below:
https://www.gov.uk/help/update-email-notifications

Contacting NHS Test and Trace on 119 for issues and queries about the supply, ordering and delivery of test kits for all settings that are part of the education rapid testing programme.

From Wednesday 18 August, please contact NHS Test and Trace on 119 for any issues or queries about the supply, ordering or delivery of test kits. The helpline is open 7:00am to 11:00pm, Monday to Sunday. Please note that from 18 August, the DfE COVID-19 helpline will no longer be able to respond to queries about test kit supply and logistics. For all other enquiries about the rapid testing programme in education, please continue to contact the DfE COVID-19 helpline on 0800 046 8687. The helpline is open 8:00am to 6:00pm, Monday to Friday and 10:00am to 6:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Please pass this information to relevant colleagues in your provision.

Close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case in all education and childcare sectors

From Monday 16 August unvaccinated young people up to the age of 18 years and 6 months and fully vaccinated adults, are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19.
Those identified as a close contact will be informed by NHS Test and Trace that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We strongly encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. There is no requirement to self-isolate while awaiting PCR test results and so individuals can attend their setting as usual.

Children and young people who attend an education or childcare setting and who have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend their setting as normal.

18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children and young people until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

We have updated the frequently asked questions on changes to contact tracing of close contacts and self-isolation. These can all be found on the document sharing platforms for primary and early years, secondary schools, further education and higher education and children's social care.

We have also updated the following guidance to reflect the change:

- Actions for early years and childcare providers during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak
- Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak
- What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19

Contingency planning in education and childcare sectors

We have now updated the contingency framework, which outlines what should be covered within your setting's contingency plans. There is no expectation for you to create new documents or reformat any existing plans to specific templates, but plans should be up to date. We need to continue to find the right balance between protecting public health and living with COVID-19 as more of the population is vaccinated. The updated framework also includes:

- the new thresholds at which you might consider seeking public health advice and taking further action
- updates to the circumstances in which local health protection teams or directors of public health might recommend you introduce some additional measures, (for example, in response to a COVID-19 outbreak)
- annexed guidance for managing cases in settings from 23rd August

Please pass this information to relevant colleagues in your provision.

Information for routine vaccination or teething side effects in children

The NHS has updated their guidance on baby-teething-symptoms. This guidance confirms that teething may cause a mild fever in children. The guidance for vaccines has not changed and provides advice for parents on how to treat a high temperature after a vaccination.

Vaccines and teething may cause a mild fever in children. This is a common and expected reaction, and self-isolation is not required unless COVID-19 is suspected. Find out more from vaccination tips for parents and baby-teething-symptoms. Parents and carers should monitor side effects from a vaccination or teething, and if they are concerned about their child's health, they should seek advice from their GP or NHS 111. If COVID-19 is suspected the child should start isolating and get tested.

Early years initial teacher training (ITT) changes

The early years ITT criteria will also revert to the criteria in place prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The full requirements for assessment against the Teachers' Standards (early years) will apply from Wednesday 1 September 2021. This means that assessments can no longer be based on progress.

Please see the early years ITT requirements and supporting advice for the full requirements relating to early years ITT courses.

Early Years COVID information and updates (EYC19@suffolk.gov.uk)

https://www.suffolklearning.co.uk/early-years/covid-19

COVID Reporting -Test and Trace Procedure

Report positive cases as soon as possible - do not delay.

You can find the most recently updated information at the link below:

https://www.suffolklearning.co.uk/early-years/covid-19