

Technical Appendix 2: Education (Early Years)

1.0 Service Overview

1.1 The county council currently has a number of statutory duties it has to meet regarding free early education (FEE) and childcare:

- Free early education for 2 year olds:
Parents who meet national criteria as set by central government are entitled to fifteen hours of free early education. The aim of this scheme is to narrow the gap for the most disadvantaged families.
- Free early education for 3 and 4 year olds:
All children from the term after they are three until they start reception are entitled to fifteen hours of free early education
- Thirty hours free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds:
Working parents who meet a national criteria as set by central government are entitled to an additional fifteen hours of free childcare in addition to the fifteen hours of free early education.
- All working families with children up to the age of 14 (18 for children with special education needs and disability) can expect the local authority to ensure there are sufficient childcare places available for their children to ensure they are able to continue to work.

The various providers falling under Early Years Education are described below. In some instances it is possible that the same facility can provide more than one service.

- 1.2 Nursery provision (Free Early Education) is a central government funded scheme whereby all children from the term after which they are three until they reach school age are eligible for a free place for 570 hours per year. This free place can be offered in a maintained school or in a PVI provision, such as a preschool or day nursery. Where new primary school sites are identified, nursery provision will be sought as part of the on-site provision. The county council has a statutory responsibility to provide 15 hours early education to eligible 2 year old children across Hertfordshire.
- 1.3 Maintained Nursery Schools are schools funded by the state where children aged from two until they reach statutory school age receive their FEE entitlement. There are 14 such schools in Hertfordshire. Maintained Nursery Classes are classes based in primary schools where children aged from two until they reach statutory school age receive their free early education entitlement.
- 1.4 Preschool/playgroups educate children between the ages of 2 and statutory school age. These settings are able to offer FEE to eligible 2 year olds as well as all 3 and 4 year olds. They are run by PVI providers in local communities and some children attending will be accessing their FEE place and others will be accessing additional services for which parents pay. These settings will often be set up in community buildings or schools and will usually be open term time only.

- 1.5 Day nurseries offer childcare and early education for children from 0 to 5 years old. These settings are used predominately by working parents for childcare purposes. They can also offer FEE for eligible children but with most children accessing additional services for which parents pay.
- 1.6 As well as nursery (FEE) provision the county council has a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient childcare for working parents. This duty covers 0 to 14 year olds (19 years for children with SEND¹). Childcare can take place in preschools; day nurseries; childminders; and out of school provision, such as holiday clubs and after school clubs, depending on the age of the child. It can therefore take place in school or community buildings. New schools should be designed to be able to offer childcare to all children (aged two years upwards).

2.0 Assessing need and calculating demand

- 2.1 Annually Hertfordshire County Council publishes a Childcare Sufficiency Report which details where places are required across the county. It should be noted that unfilled places at one type of provider cannot be taken as evidence that provision in an area is sufficient. The work patterns and incomes of parents are all different and so are their needs.
- 2.2 In addition to working with maintained schools, the county council can work with the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector to ensure sufficient childcare and free early education places. All registered childcare providers who care for children from birth to five years old have to comply with the Early Years Foundation Stage and are registered with Ofsted.
- 2.3 Planning obligations towards Early Years Education services are assessed using the Hertfordshire County Council Demographic Model which forecasts the number of children likely to emerge from different types, sizes and tenures of dwellings. An overview of the model is available alongside this Guide.
- 2.4 Planning obligations will be determined on a case by case basis and may take the form of on-site provision (including build costs and land), subject to procurement and competition rules. In these instances the facility must adhere to an Ofsted compliant specification provided by Hertfordshire County Council and any tenant, and their business model, must also be approved.
- 2.5 Where a new primary or first school is proposed as part of a development site, nursery provision will be sought as part of that school.
- 2.6 Following advice outlined within the Department for Education (DfE) guide '[Securing developer contributions for education](#)' (April 2019), Hertfordshire County Council will seek nursery provision commensurate with the cost of primary school provision as shown within the DfE Scorecard. At October 2020, these costs were £20,508 per place for new settings.
- 2.7 In circumstances where it can be evidenced that the cost to expand or redevelop a site is in excess of the DfE Scorecard funds to be achieved through the application of these charges, such as might be the case for sites located in conservation areas, on

¹ Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

constrained sites, or sites with other planning limitations e.g. located on a flood plain, then a proportionate bespoke cost of providing the new site or expanding the existing site and/or purchasing additional land to do so may be sought from the developer.

- 2.8 See Technical Appendix 3 for nursery contribution calculations which are calculated in accordance with the DfE Scorecard.
- 2.9 Childcare projects vary significantly by location and promoter. The methodology for childcare projects results from space standards from the Department for Education as follows:

Table 1 - Build costs for childcare projects

Age group	m ² per place	£ per place
For children under 2 years old	3.5	£9,625
For children aged 2	2.5	£6,875

- 2.9 Build costs are £2,750 per m² based on BCIS 1Q2019. This produces an average build cost rate of £8,250 ((£9,625+£6,875)/2) per place.
- 2.10 Based on previously supported projects, typical equipment costs average £10,000 for 10 places which produces an average of £1,000 per place.
- 2.11 In total the cost per place is £9,250. Using the Hertfordshire Development Model, the following table indicates costs which might likely be sought from an application for childcare for 0 to 2 year olds:

HOUSES				FLATS			
1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4+ bed	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4+ bed
£403	£1,353	£1,990	£2,125	£493	£1,475	£1,315	£1,574