

Early Years & Childcare

Capital Grant Funding Allocation 2025-26

Application Guidance for PVI Providers and Schools

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1. Introduction

From September 2025, eligible working parents in England will be able to access 30 hours of funded childcare per week, for 38 weeks of the year (or fewer hours stretched over more weeks of the year), from the funding period following their child turning 9 months old until they start school. This is known as the Working Parent Entitlement (WPE).

Implementation of the WPE for working families has been phased as follows:

- From April 2024, eligible working parents of two-year-olds began to access 15 hours childcare (over 38 weeks a year) from the funding period following their child's 2nd birthday.
- From September 2024, eligible working parents of children aged 9 months up to three years began to access 15 hours childcare (over 38 weeks a year) from the funding period following their child turning 9 months.
- From September 2025 the WPE offer will be rolled out in full, with eligible working parents of children aged 9 months and above able to access 30 hours (over 38 weeks a year) from the funding period following their child turning 9 months.

There are no changes to existing funded entitlements for two-year-olds or three and four-year-olds.

In order to meet the demand for the expansion to WPE entitlement, the city council is looking to expand provision. Following analysis of occupancy and predicted levels of eligible children, priority areas have been identified and can be found in section 3 of this guidance document.

The Local Authority is inviting applications for capital funding from innovative and motivated childcare providers to deliver change to the childcare market to meet the increase in demand.

What is the grant funding for?

- To increase the number of quality childcare places for children aged 0-2 years and 2-year-olds, without affecting the number of places available for disadvantaged 2-year-olds. Funding will be prioritised in those areas identified with potential shortages in supply, reflected in the criteria for funding.
- "Increasing provision" refers to:

- physical expansions of facilities and a subsequent increase to the number of places available at any one time;

Who can apply?

- Private, voluntary managed, independent (PVI) and maintained Ofsted registered providers of early years education and childcare in Peterborough. Applications can be made for existing or new provision;
- Childminders who are eligible and are offering the funded early education entitlements.

How do I apply?

Details of the application process are contained within this pack. For any further enquiries please email childcaresufficiency@peterborough.gov.uk .

Are there any conditions of offering funding?

Any provider awarded funding will be issued with an agreement detailing terms and conditions of funding. All successful applicants will be required under the agreement conditions to provide monitoring information, based on the agreed outcomes outlined in the application.

2. Funding objectives

Capital grant funding is now being made available to childcare providers in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector and maintained settings who can bring about a positive change in the market place. The city council is looking for applications that will increase capacity to meet the need for funded children as detailed within the decision criteria in section 3 of this guidance, which outlines the geographical areas that will be treated as priority for development.

Grant applications are welcomed from providers already in these areas and from other providers with an interest in expanding their provision into these areas. Proximity to qualifying areas will also be considered and reflected in scoring.

Childcare providers may wish to consider:

- Expanding provision into a room or building not currently used, including vacant community space
- Small scale building works to increase space in a setting. For example, by knocking through into unused rooms or cupboards
- Any other creative ideas you may have to expand provision

As the funding is limited, it is unlikely to stretch to large scale building works or alterations unless additional investment is being made by the provider themselves. The focus for this grant opportunity is on existing quality providers. However new registrations will be considered depending on circumstance, particularly timescales for delivery.

Peterborough's Early Years remaining capital funding allocation is £218,327.

3. Decision criteria

Applications will be scored against the following decision criteria. Funding will be allocated to applications which score highest, up to the limit of the funding available:

Criteria			Weighting
Value for money – cost per childcare place created			20%
Location of provider by ward – scored will reflect demand for places at a local level. Demand for approximate target number of 30-hour equivalent places is prioritised below:			50%
Ward	Place requirements (FTE)	Date required	
Barnack	6 x 0-2-year-old places 5 x 2-year-old places	September 2025	
Bretton	7 x 0-2-year-old places	September 2025	
Fletton & Stanground	6 x 0-2-year-old places	September 2025	
Glinton & Castor	3 x 0-2-year-old places	September 2025	
Gunthorpe	10 x 0-2-year-old places	September 2025	
Hampton Vale	8 x 2-year-old places	September 2025	
Great Haddon	9 x 0-2-year-old places 12 x 2-year-old places 28 x 3 & 4-year-old places	September 2026	
Hargate & Hempsted	12 x 2-year-old places	September 2025	
Paston & Walton	9 x 0-2-year-old places	September 2025	
Ravensthorpe	12 x 0-2-year-old places	September 2025	
Stanground South	10 x 0-2-year-old places 10 x 2-year-old places	September 2025	
West	9 x 0-2-year-old places 5 x 2-year-old places	September 2025	
Wittering	9 x 0-2-year-old places	September 2025	
Commitment to ensuring places for disadvantaged two-year-olds			10%

Criteria	Weighting
Ability to demonstrate long term sustainability	5%
Ability to demonstrate appropriate care for children with additional, behavioural and complex needs	5%
Ability to demonstrate successful community awareness, engagement and maximising take up of places	5%
Ability to be operational in terms of accommodating children in additional places from September 2025 or soon thereafter	5%
Setting is good or outstanding: Where the funding is to establish a new setting, the provider must be able to demonstrate that they have experience in a good/outstanding setting.	Pass/fail
Commitment to participate in monitoring and auditing of the project	Pass/fail

Applications will be judged by a grants panel against the decision criteria. This will take account of the applications and the target number of places required. The council may also consider its childcare sufficiency strategy when allocating funding to avoid flooding the childcare market and creating local areas of oversupply. The council is looking to develop a range of new places across the range of geographical areas. Applications will therefore be evaluated on the basis of individual geographical areas.

The local authority reserves the right to apply terms and conditions it sees fit to payments issued to childcare providers. Breach of contract conditions may result in non-payment or funding being clawed back. Please note that the decision of the grants panel is final and there is not an appeals procedure.

Grant scoring

The following scoring criteria will be used when assessing your application form and responses:

Rating of response	Score
Excellent: Provides real confidence based on experience of the requirement; indicates that the provider will add real value to childcare market with excellent skills and deep understanding of the service needs.	10 Outstanding - High 9 Outstanding - Low
Good: Demonstrates understanding of the requirement and provides evidence of ability to meet it.	8 Very Good - High 7 Very Good - Low
Adequate: Suggests potential with some evidence given of experience/skills. There may be some concerns that proposal lacks certain requirements. Overall the submission is weak and/or poorly explained.	6 Satisfactory - High 5 Satisfactory - Low 4 Fair - High 3 Fair - Low
Failed to answer the question or lacks convincing evidence of skill/experience sought; lack of real understanding of requirement or evidence of ability to deliver.	2 Poor - High 1 - Poor - Low 0 - Unacceptable

4. How to apply

The closing date for applications is midday on Friday 30th May 2025. Applications can be submitted at any time up to this date, but will not be accepted after this date.

You can apply by completing the application form by following the link

<https://forms.office.com/e/uphNXFTKiP>

It is important that all questions are answered in full and within the word limits specified.

An example of the application form is included on the following pages for your information and to help you plan your application before you use the online form. Please do not complete the form in this document as we can only accept applications submitted on the online form.

Where additional information is requested such as copies of financial information, it is essential that all this information is also supplied. This is important to ensure that all applications can be judged fairly and comprehensively. Supporting documents can be submitted via email to childcaresufficiency@peterborough.gov.uk.

If you have any difficulties accessing the online application or submitting additional information, please contact Laura Adams (laura.adams@peterborough.gov.uk).

If you have any queries about the grant process, please contact:

Laura Adams laura.adams@peterborough.gov.uk / 01733 863925) or

Pam Setterfield pam.setterfield@peterborough.gov.uk / 07920 160394

5. Application questions to help you prepare

Below are the questions requested on the application form. Please use this to help prepare your application only – please submit your application using the online form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/uphNXFTKiP>

Early Years Capital Grant Application 2025-26

Please answer all questions to show your understanding and ability to satisfy the criteria you are being asked to demonstrate. Additional information and evidence should be emailed to childcaresufficiency@peterborough.gov.uk - please contact Laura Adams or Pam Setterfield if you have any queries.

Scores can only be awarded for information provided on your application so please ensure you read and answer the question fully. This application form should be completed having first read the Early Years Capital Grant Funding Guidance. Proportion of scores and word limits are indicated for each question.

Applicant details

1. Name of Setting
2. Person completing the application
3. Telephone contact
4. Email contact

About your proposal

5. Please provide a clear and full summary of your proposal to increase capacity in your setting. Where building work is proposed, plans will be required to support your scheme (submission via email to childcaresufficiency@peterborough.gov.uk).
(300 words - not scored)
6. Please provide details of the total cost of your proposal and how many additional places (broken down by age) will be created for that cost.
Include:
 - Grant amount requested and a detailed breakdown of how the grant amount will be spent on the project;
 - Any additional investment to be made from other sources;
 - The number of places to be created (by age);

- Details of any decrease to the number of part time equivalent (15 hour) disadvantaged two-year-old places and three and four-year-old places offered as a result of your proposal;
- Partnership arrangements (if applicable to proposal);
- The models of delivery you intend to make available to families.

(500 words - 20% of the total score cost per place; 10% of total score for impact on disadvantaged two-year-old places)

7. Please provide the full postal address of your childcare setting or proposed childcare setting. (75 words - 50% of the total score)
8. Please confirm that you have a secure lease agreement in place that will ensure continuation of early education and childcare (clawback will apply for any approved projects which cease operating between the start of the grant term and up to 15 years, depending on the value of the project).

We also require confirmation that you have the full support of the premises/land owner. A written letter of support for any proposals which include alterations or additions to premises that are not owned by the childcare provider is required and should be emailed to childcaresufficiency@peterborough.gov.uk

- ☐ No applicable - applicant owns the premises
- ☐ A lease/rental agreement is in place
- ☐ A letter of support has been obtained from the owner of the premises and will be sent via email
- ☐ Support has not yet been obtained
- ☐ Other

9. Please describe how you will ensure your proposal and childcare business will be sustainable in the long term. You may provide an additional one page budget forecast in support of your answer to this question via email to childcaresufficiency@peterborough.gov.uk. (200 words - 5% of total score)
10. Please demonstrate your ability to support children with additional, behavioural and complex needs. (300 words - 5% of total score)
11. Please demonstrate your ability for successful community engagement and maximising the take up of places. (300 words - 5% of total score)

12. Please provide the date when your proposed project would be completed /implemented (300 words - 5% of total score)

13. Please demonstrate how you will ensure that your proposal and practice will deliver high quality early education. Please set out existing measures of quality at your setting, and plans for continuous quality improvement. (400 words)

14. Is your setting Ofsted graded Good or Outstanding?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ New setting – not yet graded

Declaration

Please confirm the following statement
(Pass/Fail)

☐ I confirm that if this application is successful, I will complete all monitoring and evaluation requirements and enter into an agreement with the city council.