



Department
for Education

National Wraparound Programme

Introduction for providers of wraparound childcare

Wraparound programme overview



The government is investing **£289 million** to support the expansion of wraparound childcare for primary school-aged pupils.



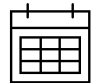
The government's ambition is for all parents of primary school children who need it to be able to **access childcare in their local area from 8am – 6pm**. This will help to ensure that parents have enough childcare to work full time, more hours and with flexible hours.



This funding will support local authorities to work with primary schools and private, voluntary and independent providers including childminders to **introduce or expand childcare provision between 8am and 6pm** and enable them to **test flexible** ways of providing childcare and **gather evidence of what works**.



Parents of primary school aged children will still be expected to pay to access this provision, as this **programme aims to increase the *availability* of childcare, rather than subsidise childcare**, but support with costs will be available to eligible parents through Universal Credit childcare and Tax Free Childcare.



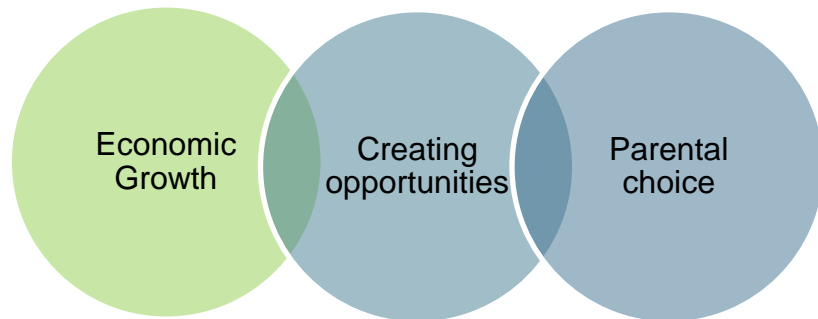
Parents should expect to see an expansion in the availability of wraparound care from **September 2024**, with every parent who needs it able to access term-time wraparound childcare by September 2026.

What do we hope to achieve through programme?

To increase parents' participation in the labour market, by ensuring that every parent/carer of primary age children who needs wraparound has access to wraparound childcare in their local area. We will do this by increasing the availability of provision.

Theory of change

- 1 Ensuring sufficiency of supply locally to meet demand (current and future)
- 2 Increasing level of take-up for wraparound provision – driving demand
- 3 Thereby creating a more sustainable market with flexible models for delivery



The programme funding aims to remove barriers to setting up new provision or expanding current provision, including removing the financial risk of setting up new provision when demand is not guaranteed.

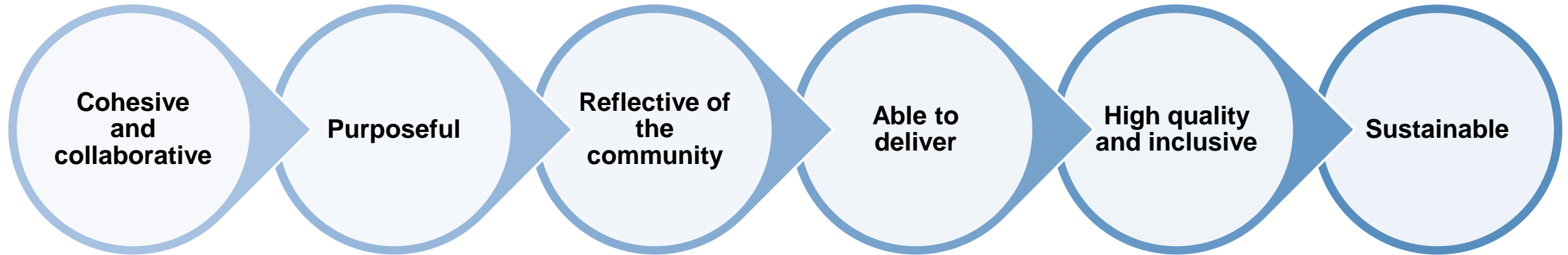
The initial funding will ensure that local areas can **increase the supply** of wraparound places without risk – and without needing to have 100% of places filled from the start.

Over time, we expect to see an **increase in the take-up** of wraparound provision as parents are assured of the availability of places.

This will create a more sustainable market in the long run, leading to more parents being able to access wraparound, and more provision being financially viable.

Vision for the programme

Local authority led, school centred, with provision delivered by a number of providers



- the programme is an opportunity to build new relationships and strengthen existing relationships across local authority boundaries and with professionals.

- the programme needs strong leadership, with passion and shared motivation to provide the right support for families.

- the programme should be built on existing assets and understanding of the local community, which incorporates and does not disrupt and displace the existing wraparound childcare market.

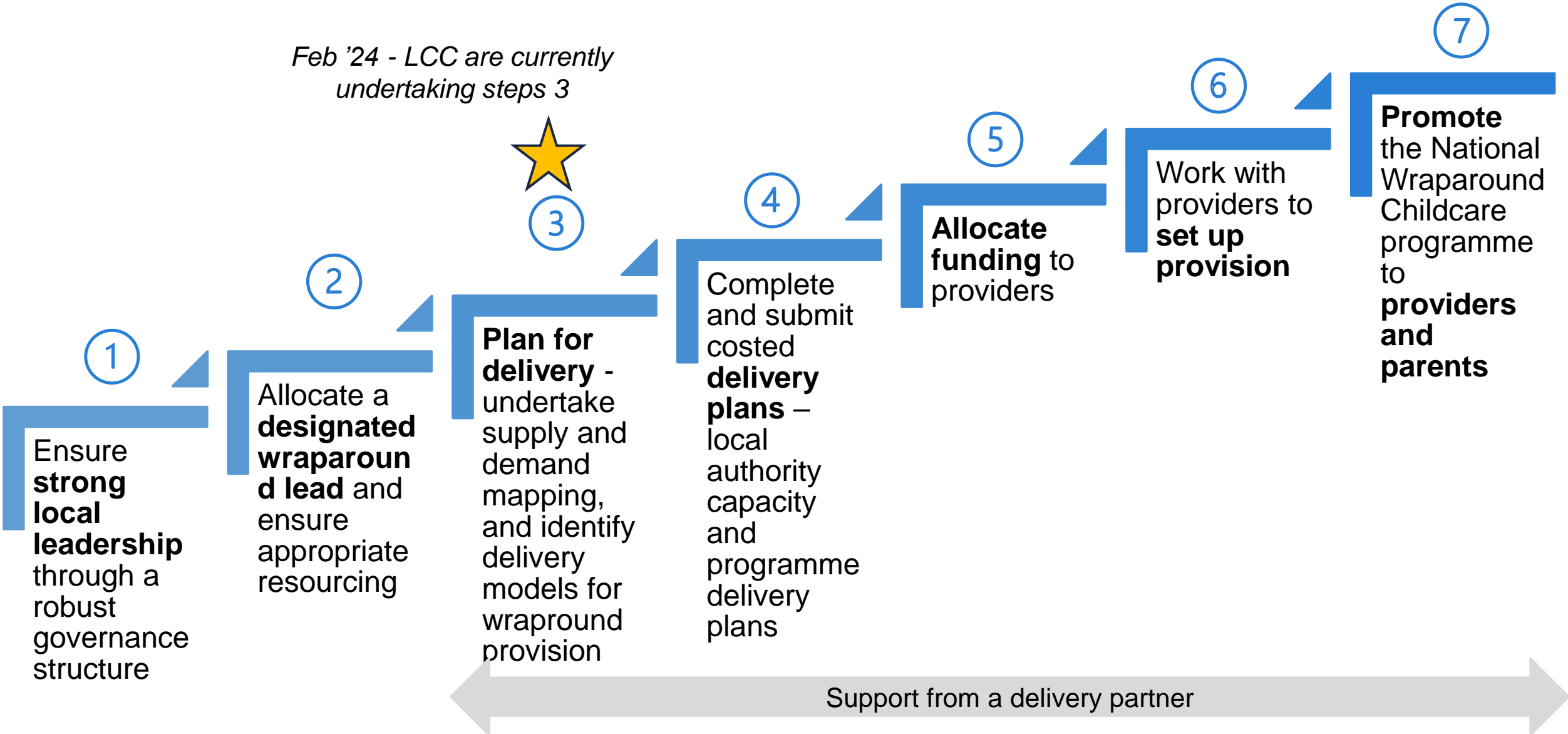
- the programme needs to be led by skilled staff and develop the skills and the capacity of the workforce.

- the programme should provide provision that is child centred, easily accessible and listens to the needs of families.

- the programme needs to be sustainable for families and providers with the future always in mind.

7 key steps to delivering the programme: how should local authorities deliver this programme?

Feb '24 - LCC are currently undertaking steps 3



Delivery models: provision does not just have to happen in schools, but schools do have a role to signpost parents to local provision



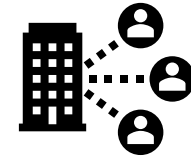
School-based provision, delivered by school

Delivered by school staff on school site, open to all children in that school.



Private provider-run provision, on or off school site

Operated and delivered by staff employed by private provider. If on school site, they may pay school to operate wraparound provision on their premises and advertise via school channels. Could operate on other sites too.



Community model

Local authority co-ordinates a community-focused cluster / hub model, with children from multiple schools on one site. Not necessarily linked to any one school. Run by private provider, community organisation or any other appropriate body.



Childminders

Provision delivered by childminders, signposted to parents by local authority and schools. Could be a group of CMs working together on a single/community site.



Other EY providers

Existing EY providers may take older children (i.e. of school-age) during wraparound hours. For example, a play group operating on a school site may run the provision, or a local nursery.

Creating places and the hours that parents need for wraparound childcare

Funding is available for providers to create **additional places** and ensure existing places are available for the **hours that are required**, to:



Expand

- expanding the number of places where provision exists but not meeting demand.
- expanding the time that provision is available (if not already from 8am to 6pm) where financial support is needed to do this (unless evidence to suggest right hours are different for that locality).



Create

- creating new provision and places where these don't currently exist (these should be offered 8-6 unless evidence to suggest right hours are different for that locality)



Test

- new approaches, where traditional models of wraparound may not support sustainable provision to identify what works in their local area and identify the level of risk.

Use of funding

The programme funding aims to remove key barriers to setting up new provision or expanding current provision. By providing funding upfront ('pump prime funding') we aim to remove/minimise the financial risk that is often a barrier to setting up or expanding provision.

The programme funding is tapered over 5 terms. This reflects the expectation that as take-up of provision increases, and therefore income from parental payments increases, the level of grant funding needed to contribute to running costs to ensure sustainability reduces.

Programme funding can be used to cover costs including:



Staffing



Training, including specialist training for staff to ensure they feel equipped to support children with additional needs



Transport costs such as minibus hire (not purchase, although capital funding could be used for this)



Resources



Running costs whilst demand builds, to remove any financial risk to providers of offering additional places before demand is guaranteed

Capital funding (provided separately) can be used so providers can ensure that inclusive provision is set up from the beginning, by using it to establish inclusive spaces and buy inclusive equipment and resources.

How to get involved?

There are a number of steps involved in setting up new or expanding existing wraparound childcare provision, including registering with Ofsted or a childminder agency, which your local authority can support with.

As set out in the [programme handbook](#), all childcare providers who want to take part in the programme, regardless of whether they are schools, private or voluntary organisations, or childminders, should:

- **Work collaboratively** with local authorities.
- Respond to **data collection** requests from local authorities promptly.
- Adhere to **statutory guidance**, including to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Ensure their provision is inclusive and has considered the needs of all children, including those with **SEND and additional needs**.
- Where appropriate, **promote availability of government childcare subsidies to parents**, including [Tax-Free childcare](#) and Universal Credit childcare element. For more details inc guidance and resources see [Childcare Choices](#)
- Where in receipt of funding for the programme comply with funding and assurance requirements as set out in the funding agreement with their local authority.
- Deliver provision that aligns with the **quality principles**, including the requirement for all private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers to be **Ofsted registered**, or in the case of childminders, to be **registered with Ofsted or a childminder agency**.

What Next

- Fill in the questionnaire which you received in Comms week beginning 5th February
- Discuss with your local authority the places that are, or can be, available from your provider and how this could support the wraparound expansion
- Register, if not already, with Ofsted or childminder agency
- Register, if not already, for a Tax Free Childcare account
- Add your wraparound vacancies to [Find a Job](#), a free government owned site to advertise job vacancies. DfE will be signposting anyone interested in working in Childcare to look on Find a Job for vacancies in their local area. Alternatively use [Childcare Recruitment Leicestershire](#) to advertise locally
- If you have any questions, please contact childcare.expansion@leics.gov.uk

Annex 1: Childcare support packages

The eligibility criteria of the different forms of government childcare support packages that parents can access are as follows:

Tax-Free Childcare

- For **working families**, including the self-employed, **in the UK**
- Earning **under £100k** and **at least £152** per week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage) each
- Who **aren't** receiving Tax Credits, Universal Credit or childcare vouchers
- With children aged 0-11 (or 0-16 if disabled)
- For every £8 they pay into an online account, the government will add an extra £2, **up to £2,000 per child per year (or up to £4,000 per child if disabled)**

Can be accessed through your registered providers and childminders who have activated their Tax-Free Childcare accounts.

Universal Credit support

- For working families claiming Universal Credit, **in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales**
- With **children under 17***
- Up to 85% of eligible childcare costs
- Who **aren't** receiving Tax-Free Childcare

Can be accessed through registered providers or childminders.

Annex 2: Guide to activating your Tax-Free Childcare account

Find more TFC resources at
[Guidance Zone | Childcare choices](#)



Once registered with a regulator in the UK, you can boost your business and help reduce cost for working families by activating your Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) account. **Setting it up is free and only takes around ten minutes.**

After the registration process with the regulator has been completed, you should receive an invitation letter containing your unique 11 digit user ID, along with instructions on how to sign-up online to TFC. If you are already registered and haven't received your invitation letter, you should contact the [Childcare Service helpline](#).

Activating your TFC account:

You'll find everything you need on the [GOV.UK Tax-Free Childcare if you're a childcare provider page](#).

To sign up you'll need your:

- unique 11-digit user ID
- business bank account details, so you can receive payments
- business postcode (the one registered with your regulator)

Once you've signed up, you can:

- Accept Tax-Free Childcare payments and get a childcare provider account which you can use to keep your details up to date
- Manage payments online 24/7 (using your provider account)
- Promote the financial benefits to your customers
- Still accept payments from parents using childcare vouchers and other methods

[Visit the Childcare Choices information for providers page](#) to learn more about Tax-Free Childcare and how it can help your business