

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	TO:	Schools Forum
	DATE:	13 th December 2024
	LEAD OFFICER:	Aileen Chambers Head of Service Early Years and Childcare
	TITLE:	Early Years and Wraparound Expansion Update

1. Background

1.1 The purpose of this briefing is to provide an update on the range of developments currently taking place within early years including: The DfE Early Years Expansion; The DfE Wraparound Childcare Programme and the Schools Based Nurseries Programme.

1.2 **Early Years Expansion:** In the Spring Budget 2023 the Chancellor announced an expansion to the current early years entitlements – 30 hours childcare for every child over the age of 9 months with working parents by September 2025. The expansion delivery phases are:

Age of child	Number of funded hours per week	Date of implementation
Term after 2 nd birthday	15 hours per week	April 2024
Term after child is 9 months old	15 hours per week	September 2024
From term after child is 9 months old	30 hours per week	September 2025

Based on the 2024 childcare sufficiency analysis it is projected that an additional 1200 part time equivalent two year old / under 2 places could be needed to meet need by September 2025.

The following areas have been identified as areas for potential expansion:

	2 year old places needed	Under 2 places needed
Herringthorpe	x	
Greasbrough / Rockingham / Wingfield	x	x
Kimberworth / Kimberworth Park		x
Thorpe Hesley		x
East Dene / Clifton	x	x
Eastwood / Town Centre		x
Canklow	x	
Dinnington / Laughton	x	x
Woodsetts	x	x
Harthill / Kiveton / Wales / Todwick	x	x
Thurcroft	x	x
Bramley / Wickersley	x	
Rawmarsh		x
Swinton	x	x

	<p>The DfE provided a small amount of capital funding to support expansion however it is not enough to support large scale building work. Although a number of providers in the childcare sector are willing to expand / create new provision, lack of opportunity within existing buildings or availability of new buildings is restricting progress. Much action has been taken across RMBC to identify potential building opportunities. To date, capital funding has been awarded to 3 projects to create 86 additional places in Ravenfield, Swallownest and Kimberworth areas of the borough. Other planned developments are taking place at Waverley, Manvers and Dinnington.</p> <p>We will continue to monitor take-up / demand and actively work with existing providers and schools to identify opportunities for expansion.</p> <p>An early years recruitment campaign is underway to help support with the challenge of finding qualified staff to support expansion and promotion of childminding as a career is also being undertaken to increase childcare capacity.</p>
<p>1.3</p>	<p>School Based Nurseries Programme</p> <p>In September 2024 the Government announced plans to deliver 3,000 nurseries by upgrading spare classrooms in primary schools. From 17th October, schools have been invited to apply for up to £150,000 capital funding, to set up new or expand nurseries. The closing date for applications is 19th December 2024. Funding will be allocated to successful schools in Spring 2025 to support delivery for the first cohort of places. This funding can be used to create Foundation 1 classes for three year olds or to create provision for children from 9 months to 2 years in areas of need.</p> <p>In Rotherham there are 18 primary schools without a Foundation 1 class. The position has been reviewed for all of these schools. Seven are served by the three maintained nursery schools. A further five have PVI providers on site delivering three year old places. Four are in geographical areas where there is already adequate capacity within other schools / PVI providers.</p> <p>Aston All Saints C of E Primary already successfully applied to the DfE to lower the age range from September 2025 and a further two schools are in the process of submitting funding applications to create new Foundation 1 provision: Sitwell Infant School, Todwick Primary school.</p> <p>One school is underway with the submission of an application to create two year old provision and we are actively working with a further 5 schools.</p>
<p>1.4</p>	<p>Wraparound Childcare Programme: The 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 by September 2026.</p> <p>The wraparound programme 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 yet guaranteed. The aim for the programme is for the substantial majority of new/expanded provision to be self-sustaining from the end of the planned programme (i.e. 2026 onwards). The deadline to apply for the funding was slightly reduced by the new government and all applications must be approved before the end of the 2024/25 financial year to remain eligible.</p> <p>Engagement of schools in this opportunity in Rotherham has been excellent. The Wraparound and Early Years Expansion Co-ordinator has liaised with strategic leaders in</p>

	<p>Academy Trusts to help raise awareness and support with implementation as well as individual Head Teachers.</p> <p>We projected that 1120 wraparound places would be needed to meet needs. In total, 46 schools have a 10 hour wraparound offer in place. Twenty of which have successfully applied for funding to create 664 new wraparound places. Work is underway with a further 28 schools.</p> <p>There is a small cohort of 17 schools where further engagement is needed to make sure the funding opportunity is maximised where needed before the deadline.</p>
1.5	<p>Breakfast Clubs Early Adopter Programme</p> <p>On the 27th November the DFE announced the roll out of the application process for the breakfast clubs early adopter programme in up to 750 early adopter schools from April 2025 as part of a test and learn phase in advance of national roll out.</p> <p>Early adopters will offer all primary-aged children on roll at their school, no matter their circumstances, access to a free, universal breakfast club lasting at least 30 minutes that involves food, providing children with a supportive start to the day and helping families to have more choice about work. Parents and carers can choose to take up the offer although we encourage schools to promote the offer and drive take up, particularly within disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>Applications must be submitted by 20th December 2024. The DFE will confirm which schools in our area are participating in the early adopter programme in January.</p> <p>If schools are already receiving funding to deliver breakfast provision from another source, it is expected that you they will end current funding or engage with the relevant funder to agree how it can be used in a way that ensures there is no duplication of funding</p>
4. Recommendations	
4.1	Note and approve the content of the report