



Local Authority Funding to Foundation Phase Nursery Non -maintained Providers

Cwlwm' brings together the five leading childcare organisations in Wales to deliver a bilingual integrated service that will ensure the best possible outcomes for children and families across Wales.

Background

Following the attendance at the Children and Young People Committee at the Senedd on 24th May 2018 to give evidence on the Childcare Funding Bill Wales, Cwlwm partners have been asked to provide the committee with a list of the different funding levels provided across Wales to Early Years providers who deliver the funded Foundation Phase Nursery (FPN). Cwlwm partners welcome the opportunity to discuss the information in this paper further.

Every child in Wales is entitled to a minimum of 10 hours per week of funded, part-time, Foundation Phase nursery provision. This could be in a non-maintained setting (which can be a day nursery, playgroup, Cylch Meithrin or childminder) approved by the local authority or in a school (maintained). A child starts Foundation Phase nursery from the term following their third birthday.

Non-maintained early years settings must be approved by a local authority (LA) to be funded to deliver the Foundation Phase either through a commissioning or a tendering process. Some LAs appear to commission 1 setting in a location and that is where parents can access their early education (EE) offer by paying the setting to deliver Foundation Phase sessions which will have a minimum number of places available. This may contribute to preventing childminders, as well as full day care nurseries and sessional providers from ever being able to offer FPN which could impact on the Welsh Government's ambitious Childcare Offer for Wales and parental choice is lacking in this model. In other LAs, a tendering process is used to approve providers. These models do not encourage parental choice. Although the majority of LA's fund non-maintained providers for Foundation Phase Nursery (FPN) there are still huge inconsistencies in the number of those LA's who will consider increasing the number of funded non-maintained settings to deliver the Foundation Phase or funding registered childminders to be a non-maintained provider.

The table below shows the different delivery models and funding provided by each Local Authority. This information has been collected and collated by Cwlwm partners based on information from early years providers. We do not have access to comparative information on the delivery and funding to the maintained sector for delivery of Foundation Phase nursery.

The information on the attached table demonstrates that across Wales the average funding to non-maintained providers for the delivery of the Foundation Phase nursery entitlement per child per hour is £3.13 per hour*

It should be noted that in most LAs, this funding has not been increased for many years, if at all, and at least one LA has decreased their EE funding to non-maintained providers. During this time, early years providers, have faced increasing costs due to the National Living wage, Employer pension contributions and business rates as well as inflationary increases for resources. One voluntary managed provider has been told by a local authority to fundraise if they could, (and not manage on the funding alone).

*Average hourly rates have been calculated by using an average 39week academic year or 2 terms/24 weeks to make comparisons of the different funding scenarios possible.

Local Authority	Funded; Autumn	Spring	Summer	Hours per week	Contribution per hour	Contribution per session	Contribution per child, per term/year	Av. Hourly Rate	Contribution towards sustainability
What the local authority funds									Many LA offer sustainability grants but criteria vary in each authority and most are only available to voluntary managed providers
Blaenau Gwent	✓	✓	✓	5 x 2 hrs			£446.00 per term	£3.43	
Bridgend	x	✓	✓	10 hrs			£428.00 per term	£3.57	Sustainability grant available.
Caerphilly	x	✓	✓	10 hrs			£450.00/£480 per term	£3.75/4.00	
Cardiff	x	✓	✓	5 x 2 hrs		£8.28		£4.24	
Carmarthen	✓	✓	✓	10 hrs -5 x 2hrs or 4 x 2.5hrs)	£3.00 per hr			£3.00	Sustainability grant of £1000 available
Ceredigion	✓	✓	✓	10 hrs			£290.00 per term	£2.23	Sustainability grant of £1000 available
Conwy	x	✓	✓	10 hrs			£300.00 per term	£2.50 plus allowance for voluntary managed setting	Sustainability for all voluntary settings per places: 0-5 = £1000/5-10 = £750 10+ = £500

Denbighshire	x	✓	✓	10 hrs 4 x 2.5 hrs			£350.00 per term	£2.92	Occasionally – varies from yr-yr	
Flintshire	x	✓	✓	10 hrs 4 x 2.5 hrs			£350.00 per term/ per child (reduced from £360 in April 2017)	£2.92	Sustainability- up to £1000 per annum for voluntary managed settings	
Gwynedd	x	✓	✓	10 hrs			£5717 based on 16 children	£ 1.49	+ Variable additional payments per head for numbers above minimum	
Merthyr	✓	✓	✓	5 x 2 hrs		£7.64 per session		£3.82		
Monmouthshire	✓	✓	✓	Up to 10 hrs		£6.50 per session	£422.50 per term	£3.25		
Neath Port Talbot	Non- maintained settings are not funded to deliver Foundation Phase									
Newport	✓	✓	✓	Up to 5 x 2.5 hrs per week		£6.70 per session	.	£2.68		
Pembrokeshire	✓	✓	✓	10 hrs per week			£390.00 per term (13 wks.)	£3.00		
Powys	✓	✓	✓	Up to 12.5 hrs		Contribution to staff wages depending on no. children placed e.g. for 24 children Leader salary 16 hrs/week & 2 Assistant 14.5 hrs/week = £15498 a year plus premises costs up to £1500 for non- LA premises. Day nurseries given additional £500		£1.86 per/hr per child in group of 24 (inc staff and rent)		
Rhondda Cynon Taff	x	✓	✓	5 x 3hrs	15 hrs - Term after 3 rd birthday		£900.00 per term	£5.00		
Swansea	Non- maintained settings are not funded to deliver Foundation Phase nursery									

Torfaen	✓	✓	✓	10 hrs per week			£397.00 per term	£3.05	
Vale of Glamorgan	✓	✓	✓	Up to 5 x 2.5 sessions per week	Matches the fees of the setting	Up to max £11.50 per session		Max £4.60	
Wrexham	x	✓	✓	10 hrs			£350.00 per term	£2.92	
Ynys Mon 2 settings receive funding 3 terms	x	✓	✓	10 hrs			Funding is fixed per quota: Eg. Up to 16 places - £8064. i.e £504 per child /year	£2.10	+ £300 for equipment. 17-24 places- £11689.00 + £600.

Average Fee Received £3.13

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