

WORCESTERSHIRE  
**CHILDREN FIRST**



# Market Engagement Session: Enhanced Early Year's Provision for South Worcestershire

June 2023

# Welcome & Agenda

1. Welcome, introductions & housekeeping
2. Background
3. NAU Review – parent carer and Provider feedback
4. The proposal
5. Requirements
6. When will this start from?
7. Ofsted registration
8. Quality of provision
9. Funding and contract
10. Next Steps, things to consider & questions

# Background

We completed a Nursery Assessment Unit (NAU) review in November 2022.

The review identified a need to consider the sufficiency of places, where children with complex needs, could access their full Nursery Education Funding (NEF) entitlement.

The local authority has a duty to ensure that there is sufficient early years provision to:

- Ensure all children can access their early years entitlement
- To meet the needs of working parents

Worcestershire are moving away from Nursery Assessment Units, to provide Enhanced Early Years Provision as identified within the Nursery Assessment Review.

# NAU Review – parent carer and Provider feedback

The same hours as school to allow working parents to work.

A full-time place would of been better rather than split placement

Accessible from an earlier age. More sessions.

There needs to be a clear local offer across the county

Access to more information for parent carers and how they could be supporting their child

Improved information sharing between providers and services

More places

Better communication. More parental involvement in where, how, and why the children get places in certain settings.

# The proposal

We are looking to develop enhanced provision, delivered by early year's providers or schools, which meet the requirements of children whose identified complex needs make it difficult to attend an early years provision.

These places will enable a child to access their full NEF entitlement, during their pre-school year. The provider will operate a full time provision offering services 8am – 6pm up to 51 weeks per year.

The aim is that the Enhanced Early Years Provision may be extended to include 2-year-olds in the future.

Places will be allocated by a termly multi agency planning meeting for children with identified complex needs.

# Requirements

**The provision should be run by experienced and qualified staffing, meeting the minimum requirement outlined within the Ofsted registration.**

Enhanced Early Years Provisions in South Worcestershire:

- Worcester City/Malvern = Up to 35 children a year (whom are currently unable to access NEF due to their level of need).
- Wychavon = Up to 25 children a year (whom are currently unable to access NEF due to their level of need).
- WCF are open to creative ways for this to succeed including multiple providers operating in each area e.g. 3 providers offering 10 places each. Providers are also able to apply together and offer a joint provision.

The following environment is suggested to meet the needs of the identified cohort:

- 1 main room (ideally 2 if venue allows)
- Ideally two breakout rooms for interventions / sensory area
- Changing area/toilets (with space for any necessary adaptations including portable hoist for children with complex profound and multiple learning disability (PMLD))
- Secure outside play area

## When will this start from

The contract will be awarded at the end of October 2023. It is anticipated that the Enhanced Early Years Provision will be operational from January 2024.

It is WCFs intention to enable a transition of pupils within the Spring term 2024.

The commencement of the Enhanced Early Years Provision will depend on the Ofsted registration.

For the interim period, we will be working to commission a provider to deliver a model of Outreach support to be delivered to assist transition.

# Ofsted registration

- Early Years Register:
  - Notify Ofsted of changes if part of currently registered accommodation, or
  - If registering new accommodation/location, up to 25-week process
- Maintained School
  - If early years provision is already in operation, enhanced provision can be offered as soon as staffing and environment are in place
  - If no early year's provision is in operation:
    - Consult to open Governor Led setting, or
    - Complete a Change of Age-Range process to include the children as pupils of the school
- Academy School
  - If early years provision is already in operation, enhanced provision can be offered as soon as staffing and environment are in place
  - If no early year's provision is in operation:
    - Complete a Change of Age-Range process to include the children as pupils of the school, or
    - Set-up a subsidiary company to operate provision outside of the school age-range; this may require registering on the EY's Register (up to 25 week process)



- Good or Outstanding Ofsted judgement, or if not yet inspected, able to evidence quality of provision through:
  - Completed Safeguarding Audit (WCF Template)
  - Completed Self Evaluation Audit (WCF Template)
  - Engagement with Early Years Team, including IA Support
  - Evidence of engagement with Inclusion, SEND Services, Specialist Services including Health
  - Evidence of CPD, including SEND training
  - Evidence of staff experience and qualifications

# Funding & contract

- What funding would be available per Enhanced Early Years Provision?
  - Full time equivalent place (1140 hours per year) will be funded at £10,000 per place.
  - Successful providers will be able to claim exceptional Inclusion Supplement Funding, in addition to the place payment received (£6.30 per NEF hour up to a maximum of the child's NEF eligibility)
  - Start up funding will be considered for providers to recruit staff / purchase resources etc, subject to tender application.
  - Capital funding may be available to support physical adaptations to accommodation.
- What will the contract period be?

5 years, option to extend 1 + 1 with contract review annually.

# Next Steps

Action/Stage	Target Date
Advertise Tender on Intend	WB 31/07/2023
Closing date for tenders	29/09/2023
Evaluations	WB 02 & 09/10/2023
Award contract & advise unsuccessful applicants	WB 30/10/2023
Contract start date	WB 11/12/2023

## Apply for eligibility to join us!

- If you have not already done so visit In-Tend to register your organisation onto [Worcestershire's Procurement Portal](#)
- <https://www.in-tendhost.co.uk/worcestershire.aspx/Home>
- Check that you are registered on In-Tend and are receiving emails to the right person/group
- Tender documentation will be made available together with all necessary supporting documents on In-Tend
- Any issues regarding Intend, contact [commissioning@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:commissioning@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

## Contacts in WCF ahead of Tender

*See the full details on In-Tend*

Sufficiency and Place Planning Team

*Email: [SPP@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:SPP@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)*

## Things to consider ahead of tender..

- We invite you to tell us what you think so far, what you think this could look like and any barriers you think could impact on this and your solutions for those.
- Final Service Specification will be provided as part of tender application. All considerations from the market engagement session will feed in to service specification and a frequently asked questions will be created.
  - What would your offer look like?
  - How would you set your fees for non-funded hours, to be affordable to meet the needs of working parents?
  - What impact would this provision have on your mainstream places?
  - What costs do you envisage for specialist resources, equipment and environment?
  - Your recruitment processes including cover for annual/ sickness
  - Feeding provision – meals
  - 2:1 changing / transition / fire drills.
  - What would your timescales be?

**Thank you for attending**

**ANY QUESTIONS ?**