



Funding for Early Learning and Childcare

West Partnership
cross boundary agreement

Background

From August 2021 all children aged 3 and 4, as well as eligible 2-year-olds, have been entitled to access increased free early learning and childcare provision. Each child is provided with 1,140 hours each year, which can be accessed in either Council-run nurseries or private nurseries and childminders which meet the required criteria.

The ability for families to access high quality funded early learning and childcare with the provider of their choice is known as Funding Follows the Child.

The West Partnership – which is made up of 8 Councils – has designed a cross boundary funding protocol to support the implementation of Funding Follows the Child. As well as the 8 local authorities that make up the West Partnership (Glasgow, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, South Lanarkshire, North Lanarkshire, East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire), neighbouring local authorities in South, North and East Ayrshire and Argyll and Bute Councils are signed up to this protocol.

This means that, where capacity allows, these councils will work together to support families to access their funded hours in a different Council area from where they live.



Procedure and timeline

- Parents/carers can ask a funded provider working in partnership with any of the Councils above to make a request to the Council where they live for cross boundary funding.
- All requests made before the deadline are considered at a meeting in May each year.
- Late applications will be considered from the date the funding request is received.
- Once a decision is made, families will be notified.

February 28:	Closing date for new session applications
End of May/June:	Inter Authority Cross Boundary Admission Group make decision
End of July:	Parents/carers informed of funding request outcome

Eligibility

Children aged 3 and 4 years

Successful cross boundary funding requests will start from the first Monday of the month following the child's 3rd birthday, irrespective of the Admission Policy of the resident authority.

All eligible 3 and 4 years olds become eligible for Cross Boundary Funding as follows:

If your child is born on or between:	They will be eligible for a funded early learning & childcare place from the 1st Monday of the Month of
March to August	Autumn term (August)
September	October
October	November
November	December
December	January
January	February
February	March

Children aged 2 years that meet the eligibility criteria

- Children who are 2 between 1 March and 31 August are eligible for a funded place from August (Autumn term) occurring in that year
- Children who are 2 between 1 September and 31 December are eligible for a funded place from the start of the term in January;
- Children who are 2 between the 1 January and the last day in February are eligible for a funded place from the start of the term in April.

Children aged 2 years are eligible for a funded place if a parent is in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Job Seeker's Allowance
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity or Severe Disablement Allowance
- State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit and income is £16,480* or less
- Child tax Credit and Working Tax Credit and income is £7,500* or less
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit with household take-home pay, is £625 a month or less

Deferred Entry Cross Boundary Funding

The application process for Deferred Entry children remaining with a funded provider for a further session will be determined by the host authority.

More information

To find out more about cross boundary funding, contact your local authority.

* *This applies to children who have turned two on or after 1st March 2019.*

The income thresholds for Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit can vary annually, therefore you should check the following website for the most up to date information on eligibility for funded ELC

<https://www.mygov.scot/childcare-costs-help/funded-early-learning-and-childcare>.

Inter-Authority Cross Boundary Funding

Parent/Carer and Partner Frequently Asked Questions

Please read this leaflet in conjunction with host authority funding process

- 1 My child is 3 years old, when can I have a funded nursery place from for my child?**

When a funded place has been approved by the local authority where you live, funding will be granted in the Funded Provider Nursery from the first Monday of the month following a child's 3rd birthday.
- 2 If my 2 year old child is entitled to funding when can I have a funded nursery place from for my child?**

When a funded place has been approved by the local authority where you live, funding will be granted in the Funded Provider Nursery from the term following your child's second birthday.
- 3 Do I have to apply for a "cross boundary" place or does the Funded Provider apply on my behalf?**

"Cross Boundary" requests have to be made by the parent/carers or Funded Provider by the closing date for applications in the Council area where you are applying to.
- 4 Can I apply for Cross Boundary Funding at any time throughout the school session?**

Yes. Requests for cross boundary funding are considered in May/June each year. Requests received after the deadline will be considered at other points in the year, although there is no guarantee that late applications will be approved.
- 5 If there is a delay in my current nursery submitting a funding application to be considered by the local authority where I live, will the funding be backdated to the eligible funding start date?**

Late applications for funding will be considered from the date the funding request is received.

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| 6 Why as a Cross Boundary parent/carer do I receive funding for my child aged 3-5 years from the first Monday of the month following a child's 3rd birthday when resident authority children receive funding from a different date? | The Scottish Government requested that Councils have a reciprocal arrangement in funding Cross Boundary Children and a funding date of the 1st month following a child's birthday has been agreed by all participating councils within the West Partnership Cross Boundary Protocol Group. |
| 7 What are my options if I am not granted a funded place out with the council area where I live, in order to get a funded place for my child? | If a cross boundary place cannot be provided you should contact the council where you live to discuss what funded providers are available in the area. |
| 8 My child has attended a private nursery since he was 1 year old. The nursery is out with the local authority area where I live. He will turn 3 in March: will I be entitled to a funded place from the following session commencing August? How do I access funding? | A request for Cross Boundary funding has to be submitted before the closing date of the council area where the private nursery is and will be considered at the West Partnership Cross Boundary Admission Group Meeting in May of each year. |
| 9 If I am successful in applying for a cross boundary nursery place - when will my child aged 3 start nursery? | A child can start in a Funded Provider Nursery when the parent/carer wishes if a place is available. When a request for cross boundary funding is granted, Cross Boundary funding will commence from the first Monday of the month following a child's 3rd birthday. |
| 10 Will my child be provided with lunch and a snack at their funded provider? | Yes. Children will be provided with 1 free meal, 1 free snack and milk every day. |

ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL	Community Services: Early Years, Argyll House, 91 Alexandra Parade, DUNOON, PA23 8AJ Tel: 01369 708503 Email: earlyyears@argyll-bute.gov.uk
EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL	Economy and Skills, Education Service, Council Headquarters, London Road, KILMARNOCK, KA3 7BU Tel: 01563 576004
EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL	Education Service, Early Years, The Marina, Suite F4, Strathkelvin Place, KIRKINTILLOCH, G66 1XT Tel: 0300 123 4510 extension: 8707 Email: earlyyears@eastdunbarton.gov.uk
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL	ELC Administration Team, 211 Main Street, BARRHEAD, G78 1SY Tel: 0141 577 3288 Email: elcfundedproviders@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk
GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL	Early Learning and Childcare Services, City Chambers East Building, 40 John Street, GLASGOW, G1 1JL Tel: 0141 287 4887 Email: gfis@glasgow.gov.uk
INVERCLYDE COUNCIL	Education Services, Wallace Place, GREENOCK, PA15 1JB Tel: 01475 717171 Email: EYHQ@inverclyde.gov.uk
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL	Education and Skills, Cunninghame House, IRVINE, KA12 8EE Tel: 01294 324942 Email: leethomson@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL	Education & Families, Early Learning & Childcare, Civic Centre, Windmillhill Street, MOTHERWELL, ML1 1AB Tel: 01236 812281 Email: elc@northlan.gov.uk
RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL	Children's Services, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, PAISLEY, PA1 1TZ Tel: 0300 300 0170 Email: elc@renfrewshire.gov.uk
SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL	Early Years Team, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, SOUTH AYRSHIRE, KA7 1DR, Tel: 01292 612162 Email: edservicesELC@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL	Education Resources, Almada Street, HAMILTON, ML3 0AE Tel: 0303 123 1023 Email: earlyyears@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL	Education, Learning & Attainment, Second Floor, West Dunbartonshire Council, 16 Church Street, DUMBARTON, G82 1QL Telephone: 01389 737309 Email: earlyyears@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

West Partnership



East Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir an Ear



sustainable thriving achieving

East Dunbartonshire Council

www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Inverclyde
council



North Ayrshire Council

Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath



south
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