

Overview of local authority funding and support for early learning and childcare providers

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Introduction

1. [Funding Follows the Child](#) provides the underpinning policy framework to support delivery of funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). A key aspect of Funding Follows the Child is the payment of sustainable rates to providers in the private, third and childminding sectors for the delivery of funded ELC.
2. In April 2019, [guidance](#) was published to support local authorities to set sustainable rates. The guidance was produced based on feedback gathered from across the sector, and sets out the principles that should underpin any approach to setting sustainable rates; and options for taking forward the process.
3. The guidance highlights that the rates paid to providers in the private, third and childminding sectors for the delivery of funded ELC by local authorities should be sustainable and should meet the following:
 - the rate will support delivery of a high quality ELC experience for all children
 - it will be a rate that reflects the cost of delivery, including the delivery of national policy objectives
 - the rate will allow for investment in the setting – staff, resources and physical environment
 - it will enable payment of the real Living Wage for those childcare workers delivering the funded entitlement.
4. Reflecting the impacts of the pandemic there is currently Interim Guidance in place to support the implementation of Funding Follows the Child. This Interim Guidance was initially published in July 2020, with an update published in March 2021. This includes [Interim Guidance](#) on the payment of sustainable rates, which highlights, in particular, that local authorities ‘will work with their funded providers to understand the extent to which the costs of delivering funded ELC have changed due to COVID-19’.
5. The interim Guidance also highlights that ‘where there are additional costs for settings as a result of COVID-19 related measures, there are a number of approaches that local authorities may wish to consider in order to ensure that these additional costs are reflected in payments to funded providers. For example, a temporary top-up could be applied to the sustainable rate, or one-off (or less frequent) payments could be made to cover the costs’.

Data Collection

6. In summer 2019 the Scottish Government undertook an exercise to collect information on the rates paid by local authorities to their funded providers in the private, third and childminding sectors, with an [accompanying report](#) published in July 2019.
7. The Scottish Government wrote to local authorities on 21 May 2021 to request an update on the hourly rates that are currently paid to providers for the delivery of funded early learning and childcare and the rates local authorities have set for 2021-22. As part of this exercise the following information was also requested:
 - local authorities' approach to setting sustainable rates in line with the sustainable rates guidance published in April 2019;
 - the payments to funded providers for delivery of the free meal commitment; and
 - any additional support that local authorities have offered to their funded providers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
8. This paper sets out the data provided by local authorities in response to this request.
9. The sustainable rates data collection will be updated annually with the updated information published by the end of August each year.

Financial Sustainability Health Check

10. The information from this updated data collection on hourly rates has informed the Financial Sustainability Health Check of the childcare sector that the Scottish Government has undertaken.
11. The Health Check has gathered evidence of the impact of COVID-19 on the sustainability of all types of childcare providers, and assessed the impact of the range of the financial support which has been made available. This exercise has been informed by surveys of childcare services, with a separate survey for day care of children services, and for childminding services – and a series of case studies with a range of providers.
12. The findings from the Health Check, which includes actions that will be progressed to support the setting of sustainable rates, can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/ISBN/978-1-80201-319-1>.

Summary of the Returns

13. Annexes A-D set out the information provided by local authorities in the following formats:
- Hourly rates for 3 - 5 year olds, and eligible 2 year olds for delivery of the funded ELC entitlement in 2020-21 and 2021-22 [Annex A];
 - Payments for delivery of free meals to providers [Annex B];
 - A summary of approaches adopted by local authorities to setting sustainable rates for 2021-22 [Annex C]; and
 - A summary of the additional support for providers during the COVID-19 pandemic by local authority [Annex D].
14. To allow for consistent comparisons of sustainable rates across local authorities – and in line with [the guidance](#) (i.e. meeting the costs of delivering an hour of ELC to one child) – the rates presented in Annex A do not include any top-ups for the delivery of the free meal commitment and for snacks.
15. Some entries in the table in Annex A are marked as TBC (to be confirmed). This reflects, where some local authorities have not yet confirmed their rates for 2021-22.
16. Where local authorities provided additional explanations of the data, these are set out in the “comments” column of the respective tables. The “comments” column also sets out additional information provided by local authorities on specific rates offered to childminders and top-ups to the sustainable rate to cover meals and snacks where applicable.
17. The information set out in Annexes A-B indicates that:

Delivery of funded Early Learning and Childcare entitlement across local authorities

- 30 local authorities have confirmed rates for 2021-22, whilst, at the time of publication, 2 local authorities were currently in the process of finalising the rates to be paid to funded providers for the delivery of funded ELC in 2021-22.
- 16 of the 30 local authorities who have confirmed rates for 2021-22 pay a higher rate for 2 year old children than for children aged 3-5 years old. The other 14 local authorities pay the same hourly rate for 2 year old children as for children aged 3-5 years old.
- In the majority of local authorities, childminders receive the same rate as private and third sector funded providers. However, 5 local authorities offer a separate, slightly lower hourly rate for childminders delivering funded ELC.

- In 3 local authorities providers also receive an enhanced hourly rate, if additional support is agreed for a child in a funded provider setting.
- With regards to the 30 local authorities who have confirmed rates for 2021-22, 10 have increased their hourly rates in comparison with 2020-21 (although only 9 authorities increased rates for both 2 year olds and 3-5 year olds), 19 have kept the same rates as in 2020-21, and 1 local authority has decreased their rate for eligible 2 year olds.
- In 2020-21, the hourly rates paid to providers (excluding rates for childminders) to deliver funded Early Learning and Childcare entitlement for 3-5 year olds varied from £5.00 to £6.40.
- In 2020-21, the average rate across local authorities for 3-5 year olds was £5.35 per hour.
- Local authorities who have confirmed rates for 2021-22 report that from August 2021, rates for delivering an hour of funded ELC for 3-5 year olds will vary from £5.21 to £6.40.
- The average rate across those local authorities who have confirmed rates for 2021-22 is £5.44 per hour.
- The hourly rates for eligible 2 year olds (excluding rates for childminders) in 2020-21 varied from £5.31 to £8.50.
- The average rate across local authorities who placed eligible 2 year olds with providers was £6.07 per hour in 2020-21.
- In 2021-22, local authorities indicate that the hourly rate for eligible 2 year olds varies from £5.31 to £8.50.
- Based on the local authorities who have confirmed rates for 2021-22, the average rate for eligible 2 year olds is estimated to be £6.08 per hour in 2021-22.

Payments for delivery of the free meal commitment

- Every child attending a funded ELC session – which is any session that includes funded hours, regardless of whether they are mixed with 'paid for' hours – from August 2021 is provided with a free meal.
- Local authorities provide settings with the funding to deliver the free meals, unless, in cases where a setting does not have onsite catering facilities, there may be an agreement that the local authority will provide meals to the setting.
- Funding to deliver this commitment is additional to the sustainable rate and local authorities must ensure that they are transparent as to the funding being provided to private and third sector providers for the delivery of the free meal commitment
- The most common approach for 2021-22 is that local authorities will provide settings with a payment for each meal (with 24 local authorities following this

approach). 8 local authorities provide payments for meals through a top-up to the sustainable rate.

- The returns highlight some variations in the level of payment made to settings for delivery of free meals.
- Where a payment is made per meal/day this varies from £1.77 to £3.11 per meal. Where local authorities choose to provide an additional top-up to the sustainable rate for delivery of the meal commitment this 'top-up' to the sustainable rate varies from £0.35 to £0.50 per hour.

Summary of Approaches to setting Sustainable Rates

18. In April 2019, the Scottish Government published [guidance](#) to support local authorities to set sustainable rates for funded providers in the private and third sectors, including childminders. The guidance sets out the principles for setting sustainable rates, and provides a range of potential approaches that local authorities may wish to use in order to gather the evidence required to allow them to set sustainable rates for their funded providers.
19. A key principle set out in the guidance is that the rate should be evidence-based, taking account of the cost of providing ELC in a local area based on parameters which are clear and transparent.
20. Section 5 of the guidance sets out the following potential approaches for local authorities to set sustainable rates for their funded providers:
 - Survey (Costs) – Review detailed cost information provided by private and third sector providers;
 - Working Group - Agree, for each cost, a percentage (%) figure and indicative cost through a working group;
 - Survey (Prices) - Review current rates charged by private and third sector providers in the local area; and,
 - Cost Modelling – Develop costs based on modelling of an 'average' local ELC setting.
21. The guidance highlights that a local authority may choose to use a process, aligned with their available resources, that uses the principles and the points explained in Section 4 (Developing a Local Rate) of the guidance, but which differs from the four process set out above.
22. Annex C sets out the information that local authorities provided regarding their approach to setting sustainable rates for 2021-22. As highlighted in

paragraph 17, a small number of local authorities are currently in the process of confirming their sustainable rates for 2021-22.

Summary of Additional Support for Funded Providers during the COVID-19 pandemic

23. Annex D sets out the responses from each local authority regarding the work that they have undertaken to understand the impact of the pandemic on funded providers and any additional support measures that they have offered. The returns from local authorities indicated that the following areas of support were offered:

Covid-related guidance and support

- Regular contact with funded providers through meetings which provide an opportunity to discuss issues such as financial sustainability.
- A temporary increase to sustainable rates paid to funded providers.
- Disseminating information and support to consolidate understanding of changing public health guidance.
- Support with providing and sourcing PPE and cleaning materials.
- Support with Covid recovery plans and risk assessments for re-opening of the sector.
- Guidance developed to support funded providers with remote learning.
- Support from peripatetic nursery staff.
- Information sessions for positive case management.
- Needs-based financial assistance for settings who have demonstrated that Covid has impacted on their financial sustainability.

Grants to funded provides

- Administration of Scottish Government targeted financial support for the sector including the Transitional Support Fund and the Temporary Restrictions Fund; and supporting communication to ensure that providers were aware of the funds available to them.
- Grant schemes established by local authorities including grants targeted specifically at childminders; grants to make improvement to outdoor spaces; ICT grants to support home learning; grants to mitigate some of the additional costs incurred due to the pandemic and to support appointment of an additional Modern Apprenticeship.

Training and development

- A suite of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) resources developed to support funded providers.
- Organised sessions on sharing good practice in relation to learning at home, transitions and Care Inspectorate guidance.
- A range of training and development opportunities as well as professional qualifications.

Actions taken to understand the impact of the pandemic on funded providers:

- Working Groups were established to look at a methodology and survey questions to better understand the impact of Covid.
- A review of additional costs incurred by providers due to Covid, working with partners throughout the pandemic to understand the pressures they have faced to stay in business.
- Regular communication on an individual / group basis which ensured the local authorities were aware of the impact of Covid on individual services.

Next steps

24. Alongside this report we have also published the Financial Sustainability Health Check, which, drawing on the Health Check evidence and analysis and the information set out in this report, sets out the further actions that will be taken to strengthen the process for setting sustainable rates including:

- reviewing and updating the sustainable rates guidance, originally published in April 2019, to ensure it reflects the current delivery cost factors for services and the varying cost considerations for different types of services;
- working with COSLA and local authorities to support the sharing of good practice in the application of the sustainable rates guidance and in working with the sector to establish sustainable rates; and
- exploring the potential for making additional support and advice available to local authorities, where required, to support the sustainable rates setting process to ensure that rates reflect the costs of delivery, provide scope for reinvestment and enable delivery of the real Living Wage commitment.

25. We will work with COSLA to ensure that these changes are made in time to be reflected in the process for setting sustainable rates for August 2022.

Annex A

Summary of local authority data on rates paid to Funded Providers to deliver an hour of funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC)

- Table A1 sets out the hourly rates paid by local authorities to providers delivering the funded ELC entitlement to 3, 4 and 5 year olds and eligible 2 year olds in 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- To allow for consistent comparisons of sustainable rates across local authorities – and in line with the [guidance](#) (i.e. meeting the costs of delivering an hour of ELC to one child) – the rates presented in Table A1 do not include any top-ups for the delivery of the free meal commitment.
- The “Comments” column includes any additional information provided by local authorities, including on any higher/enhanced rates for some types of provision, any temporary top-ups in the rates, specific rates offered to childminders and any top-ups to the sustainable rate to cover meals and snacks.
- Where local authorities are currently in the process of finalising the rates to be paid to funded providers for the delivery of funded ELC in 2021-22 this is marked as TBC (to be confirmed) in Table A1.

Table A1: Rate paid to funded providers for an hour of Early Learning and Childcare in 2020-21 and 2021-22

Council	Year	Rate paid to funded providers for one hour of ELC		Comments
		2 year olds	3 - 5 year olds	
Aberdeen City	2020-21	£6.05	£5.45	
	2021-22	£6.05	£5.45	
Aberdeenshire	2020-21	£6.00	£5.31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers receive an enhanced hourly rate of £9.30 or £10.30 per hour, depending on the level of support required, if additional support is agreed for a child in a funded provider setting.
	2021-22	£6.34	£5.59	

Council	Year	Rate paid to funded providers for one hour of ELC		Comments
		2 year olds	3 - 5 year olds	
Angus	2020-21	£6.50	£5.07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childminders received £5.41 per hour for eligible 2 year olds and £4.91 per hour for 3-5 year olds in 2020-21. From August 2021 childminders will receive £5.55 per hour for eligible 2 year olds and £5.05 for 3-5 year olds. A £0.10 per hour top up to the sustainable rate will be added for snacks.
	2021-22	£6.68	£5.21	
Argyll and Bute	2020-21	£6.00 (increased to £6.18 on 01/04/2021)	£5.31 (increased to £5.47 on 01/04/2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3% uplift applied on 01/04/2021 - for eligible 2 year olds: £6.18, for 3-5 year olds: £5.47. Rates for 2021-22 to be confirmed by the end of October 2021. Where 1-2-1 support identified, additional hourly rate is paid to provider for ASN hours allocated: £13.63 per hour.
	2021-22	TBC	TBC	
Clackmannanshire	2020-21	£5.31	£5.31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021/22 a further payment of £0.50 per hour will be added on for meals.
	2021-22	£5.42	£5.42	

Council	Year	Rate paid to funded providers for one hour of ELC		Comments
		2 year olds	3 - 5 year olds	
Dumfries and Galloway	2020-21	£6.18	£5.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An hourly rate of £10.07 is paid to providers for children requiring additional support in 2021-22. This is in addition to the standard hourly rate of £5.26.
	2021-22	£6.20	£5.26	
Dundee City	2020-21	£5.60	£5.31	
	2021-22	£5.60	£5.31	
East Ayrshire	2020-21	£5.50	£5.50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childminders received £4.50 per hour in 2020-21 and 2021-22.
	2021-22	£5.50	£5.50	
East Dunbartonshire	2020-21	£6.40	£5.31	
	2021-22	£6.40	£5.31	
East Lothian	2020-21	£5.31	£5.31	
	2021-22	£5.31	£5.31	
East Renfrewshire	2020-21	£8.50	£5.31	
	2021-22	£8.50	£5.31	
Edinburgh	2020-21	£5.31	£5.31	
	2021-22	£5.42	£5.42	

Council	Year	Rate paid to funded providers for one hour of ELC		Comments
		2 year olds	3 - 5 year olds	
Falkirk	2020-21	£5.45	£5.45 - £5.70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2020-21 £0.35 per hour was added to the hourly rate to cover meals and snacks. A Covid uplift of £0.25 per hour was added to the rate for 3-5 year olds between August and December 2020; and a £0.10 per hour uplift has applied from January 2021 to date. From August 2021 £0.37 per hour will be added to the hourly rate to cover meals and snacks. From August 2021 Childminders will receive £5.05 per hour per child and £1.90 per child per day for meals.
	2021-22	£5.55	£5.55	
Fife	2020-21	£5.31	£5.31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £0.38 per hour is added to the hourly rate to cover meals.
	2021-22	£5.31	£5.31	
Glasgow City	2020-21	£6.40	£5.40	
	2021-22	£6.40	£5.40	
Highland	2020-21	£6.00	£5.31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rates from August 2021 to be confirmed.
	2021-22	TBC	TBC	
Inverclyde	2020-21	£5.31	£5.31	
	2021-22	£5.31	£5.31	
Midlothian	2020-21	£6.50	£5.31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £0.40 per hour is added to the hourly rate to cover meals.
	2021-22	£6.50	£5.31	
Moray	2020-21	£5.85	£5.00	
	2021-22	£7.57	£6.30	

Council	Year	Rate paid to funded providers for one hour of ELC		Comments
		2 year olds	3 - 5 year olds	
North Ayrshire	2020-21	£5.31	£5.31	
	2021-22	£5.31	£5.31	
North Lanarkshire	2020-21	£5.80	£5.55	
	2021-22	£5.80	£5.55	
Orkney Islands	2020-21	£5.00	£5.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All non-local authority funded ELC entitlement is delivered by childminders.
	2021-22			
		£5.00	£5.00	
Perth and Kinross	2020-21	£5.50	£5.05	
	2021-22	£5.50	£5.31	
Renfrewshire	2020-21	£8.50	£5.31	
	2021-22	£8.50	£5.31	
Scottish Borders	2020-21	£5.65	£5.31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional information is currently being collected from providers and data is being analysed, building on the work carried out by Scotland Excel, to establish a fair and sustainable hourly rate.
	2021-22			
		£5.65	£5.31	
Shetland Islands	2020-21	£6.60 or £7.02	£5.08 or £5.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rates depend on whether the provider is in receipt of 'Building Support Package'.
	2021-22	£6.70 or £7.13	£5.16 or £5.48	
South Ayrshire	2020-21	£5.31	£5.31	
	2021-22	£5.31	£5.31	

Council	Year	Rate paid to funded providers for one hour of ELC		Comments
		2 year olds	3 - 5 year olds	
South Lanarkshire	2020-21	£8.50	£5.31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £0.50 per hour is added to the hourly rate to cover meals.
	2021-22	£5.90	£5.31	
Stirling	2020-21	£5.00	£5.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All eligible 2 year olds places are currently with childminders which is reflected in the hourly rate. No eligible 2 year olds places are offered within private or third sector nursery settings. Childminders received £5.00 per hour for 3-5 year olds in 2020-21 and £5.05 in 2021-22. Where childminders and nurseries provide their own meal, the additional £0.35 per hour is paid to cover this cost.
	2021-22	£5.05	£5.55	
	2020-21	£5.31	£5.31	
West Dunbartonshire	2021-22	£5.31	£5.31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childminders are also paid £5.31 per hour.
	2020-21	£6.40	£6.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childminders receive £5.90 per hour. A top-up of £0.30 per hour is added to the hourly rate paid to funded providers to cover meals and £0.10 per hour to cover snacks.
2021-22	£6.40	£6.40		
Western Isles	2020-21	£5.31	£5.31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will survey their partner nurseries this coming term and reassess their rate once all information is in.
	2021-22	£5.31	£5.31	

Annex B

Summary of Funding Arrangements for Delivery of Free Meals

- Table B1 sets out information provided by local authorities on the payments made to funded providers in the private, third and childminding sectors to deliver the free meal commitment for those children receiving funded ELC.
- Funding to deliver this commitment is additional to the sustainable rate and local authorities must ensure that they are transparent as to the funding being provided to private, third and childminding sector providers for the delivery of the free meal commitment.
- Local authorities either provide this funding as a separate payment per meal or as a ‘top-up’ to the sustainable rate.

Table B1: Overview of funding for settings delivering free meals to children receiving funded ELC

Council	Rate to deliver the free meal commitment
Aberdeen City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2.75 per meal.
Aberdeenshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2.50 per meal. • Aberdeenshire Council also provided meals directly to funded providers that do not have their own kitchen or resources to make meals.
Angus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rate of £3 per meal. • Angus will pay for up to 6 meals a week per eligible child receiving funded ELC during the 38 weeks of term, and 5 meals per week for children spreading their funded entitlement over 39 or more weeks per year. • A top-up to the sustainable rate of £0.10 per hour for snacks.
Argyll and Bute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £3.11 per meal. • The Council mainly provide the meal and not the funding as many funded providers are not equipped to provide the meal and it would only serve to further increase their costs and overheads.

Council	Rate to deliver the free meal commitment
Clackmannanshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3 per day in 2020-21 for eligible children. From session 2021-22 a top-up of £0.50 will be added to the sustainable rate for private nurseries and childminders for meals.
Dumfries and Galloway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £1.77 per meal. This rate is a cash payment to funded providers, but they can choose to have meals provided by the Council.
Dundee City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2.10 per session. If funded sessions extend over 52 weeks per year, then a payment is made for every day a child attends. This is to align with the provision of a free meal in Local Authority extended year settings where sessions are offered across 49 weeks.
East Ayrshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3.00 per meal. Two funded providers have their meals delivered from the Council's catering facilities.
East Dunbartonshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3.00 per meal.
East Lothian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3 per child per meal.
East Renfrewshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3 per child for daily food will be made as part of an addition to the hourly rate for funded providers from August 2021.
Edinburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3.00 per meal.
Falkirk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From August 2021 £0.37 per hour will be added to the hourly rate to cover meals and snacks.
Fife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hourly rate is topped up by an additional £0.38 per hour to cover the free meal commitment.

Council	Rate to deliver the free meal commitment
Glasgow City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £3.00 per child per meal. • From August 2021 Glasgow City are funding one meal per half day session up to a maximum of 5 meals per week. • This means that the child accessing their 1140 hours over 3 full days receives the same amount of funded food provision as the child accessing over 5 half days. • A provider offering a child a 10 hour day session would now receive £6.00 – i.e. two meals across the day.
Highland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing payment process of £2.30 per meal is being reviewed as with rates.
Inverclyde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £3 for each meal. • Not all funded providers were able to provide meals since August 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. All providers are on track to deliver meals from August 2021.
Midlothian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £0.40 per hour is added to the hourly rate to cover the free meal commitment.
Moray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2.35 per meal.
North Ayrshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £3 per meal to funded providers in the private and third sector (£2.50 per meal for childminders). • The Council delivers the meals to around 50% of funded providers.
North Lanarkshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £3 per meal. • A small number of funded providers, that do not have their own kitchen or resources, receive hot meals directly for NLC Facility Support Service.
Orkney Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a top-up to the sustainable rate to cover meals. • From August 2021, the Council will be paying for meals taken at the childminders where the child stays all day. For split placements meals will be taken either at the local authority nursery or at the childminder.

Council	Rate to deliver the free meal commitment
Perth and Kinross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2.80 per meal.
Renfrewshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3 per meal.
Scottish Borders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2.30 per meal. The amount paid for lunches for 2021-22 is being increased to £2.40.
Shetland Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £1.80 per meal currently, increasing to £1.83 per meal from August 2021. Meals are provided by local authority school canteens for most of funded providers.
South Ayrshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2.87 per meal.
South Lanarkshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £0.50 per hour is added to the hourly rate to cover meals.
Stirling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stirling Council pay a £0.35 top up to the hourly rate to cover the free meal entitlement. Alternatively, providers can have the option to have the free meal provided directly by Stirling Council.
West Dunbartonshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £3.00 per meal.
West Lothian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £0.30 per hour is added to the hourly rate to cover meals and £0.10 per hour for snacks.
Western Isles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2.00 per meal. Only one funded partner is currently claiming the extra funding for meals. The Council provide meals to the other partner providers directly from local school canteens.

Annex C

Summary of Approaches to Setting Sustainable Rates for 2021-22

- [Guidance](#), published in April 2019, sets out the principles for setting sustainable rates, and provides a range of potential approaches that local authorities may wish to use in order to gather the evidence required to allow them to set sustainable rates for their funded providers.
- Section 5 of the Guidance sets out the following potential approaches for local authorities to set sustainable rates for their funded providers:
 - Survey (Costs) – Review detailed cost information provided by private and third sector providers;
 - Working Group - Agree, for each cost, a percentage (%) figure and indicative cost through a working group;
 - Survey (Prices) - Review current rates charged by private and third sector providers in the local area; and,
 - Cost Modelling – Develop costs based on modelling of an 'average' local ELC setting.
- The Guidance highlights that a local authority may choose to use a process, aligned with their available resources, that uses the principles and the points explained in Section 4 (Developing a Local Rate) of the Guidance, but which differs from the four process set out above.
- A small number of local authorities are currently in the process of confirming their sustainable rates for 2021-22.
- Some local authorities make reference to indicative figures used by the Scottish Government on sustainable rates. This refers to initial national estimates of sustainable rates, based on the 2016 [Financial Review](#), that were used to inform initial national estimates of the costs of delivering the expanded ELC entitlement. The process for producing these estimates was shared with local authorities to help inform initial estimates of sustainable rates for inclusion in their finance templates. These templates were completed in early 2018 and informed the funding agreement between the Scottish Government and COSLA, which was reached in May 2018.
- **Table C1** summarises the approaches that local authorities have used to set sustainable rates for 2021-22.

Table C1: Summary of Approaches by Local Authorities to Setting Sustainable Rates for 2021-22

Council	Summary of Approaches by Local Authorities to Setting Sustainable Rates for 2021-22
Aberdeen City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Costs) - Aberdeen City Council undertook a survey of costs approach. • In line with the Scotland Excel guidance, the Council issued a Provider Cost Survey to funded providers across Aberdeen in 2019/2020. • The survey collected detailed information about costs, income, capacity and occupancy. A total of 20 settings, comprising a mixture of private, third and public sector organisations responded. • Cost information was also collected from a small sample (n = 6) of childminders across Aberdeen.
Aberdeenshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A combination of approaches were used in order to ensure that the most robust evidence and the most suitable methodology could be applied. The combination of approaches included the following: • Survey (Costs) - Ipsos MORI data. • Working Group is in place and working to review current rate through use of Ipsos MORI and other data. 14 funded providers are part of the working group. • Survey (Prices) - Current rate survey was also carried out by Ipsos MORI. • Cost Modelling is taking place through working directly with funded providers. Challenge has been that there is a significant variation in the costs and models in funded providers across Aberdeenshire. Principles of setting sustainable rates are being used to guide the work with the Working Group.
Angus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Costs) - Ipsos MORI 2016 survey data was a starting point, as the Council would not have been able to generate this quantity of data locally. • There are approximately 35 non-local authority 'Day Care of Children' service providers in Angus. • Cost Modelling – Angus Council took Ipsos MORI 70th decile costs data and inflated it for 2020. • Local providers were consulted on this approach and inflation measures, and were asked to 'sense check' the resulting itemised costs.

Council	Summary of Approaches by Local Authorities to Setting Sustainable Rates for 2021-22
Argyll and Bute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January 2020, all PVI settings were invited to take part in an internal Cost Survey exercise to test the increased hourly ELC rate of £5.31 for 3 and 4 year olds and £6.00 for eligible 2 year olds (3% uplift applied April 2021 to £5.47 for 3 and 4 year olds and £6.18 for Eligible 2's). • Following analysis of data submitted, the data was found to not be sufficiently robust for rate setting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data variance is large and significant questions about data quality are evident ○ Sample size is small – 9 respondents ○ Rate would be set only on one or two nurseries – not representative. • Argyll and Bute, Early Years, Finance and Commissioning Teams are working to collate Accounts data from all partners, for review. The outcome of this work will set a sustainable rate for session 21/22, the rate will be backdated to August 2021. We would anticipate this work being completed by end September 2021.
Clackmannanshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Prices) - Review current rates charged by private and third sector providers in the local area. • The Council used the survey (prices) but will also benchmark their proposal with neighbouring authorities. • The increase proposed allows for contribution to the real Living Wage.
Dumfries and Galloway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other approach aligned with the principles for setting sustainable rates - in 2018 the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) carried out an independent financial review which informed the setting of the sustainable rate for funded providers. • This included an element to account for payment of the real Living Wage. • The local rate was uplifted to account for inflation for partner providers. • All providers and childminders are paid for the whole term in advance within 30 days of the start of that term.
Dundee City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Prices) - Dundee City Council recently completed a procurement exercise for new providers and all accepted the contract based on the current rate. • No funded provider has been in contact to advise they are experiencing financial difficulty.

Council	Summary of Approaches by Local Authorities to Setting Sustainable Rates for 2021-22
East Ayrshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other approach aligned with the principles for setting sustainable rates. • The ELC provider base is small in East Ayrshire so a meeting was held with the 7 ELC providers to discuss the sustainable rate and information on the procurement framework was set out for childminders.
East Dunbartonshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other approach aligned with the principles for setting sustainable rates – East Dunbartonshire completed an independent review by Ipsos MORI as part of the West Partnership collaboration. • Independent review carried out in 2019 with rate coming in at £5.12 for 3- 5 year olds. • A commitment to review the rate has been made to funded providers when the next funding allocation has been agreed.
East Lothian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Costs) – East Lothian Council have commissioned Scotland Excel to carry out this piece of work, with a timescale of August 2021 – November 2021.
East Renfrewshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Costs) - the West Partnership commissioned Ipsos MORI to survey funded providers costs, analyse findings and report on an appropriate and fair sustainable funded rate. • The Ipsos MORI report was considered by East Renfrewshire Council and a rate set and agreed by elected members. • The Ipsos MORI work was invaluable in making sure they could budget and have the monies available to deliver the entitlement to all children and families. • East Renfrewshire implemented 1140 hours from August 2020 in all local authority and funded provider settings.
Edinburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of Costs carried out by Scotland Excel in April 2021 (£5.42). • Survey of Prices on provider websites undertaken from January to April 2021 (£5.42). • Cost Modelling – local authority cost modelling of settings registered for over 40 children open full year (£5.10). • Other approach aligned with the principles for setting sustainable rates - survey of other local authorities (£5.36).

- The following was taken from the Council's report to the Education, Children and Families Committee in May 2021.
- As Edinburgh is in partnership with 39 childminders and 114 providers from the private, voluntary and independent sector, it was felt that the Working Group option would not reflect the diversity of or provide an opportunity for all partners to contribute to the review of the hourly rate. The Council therefore undertook the Survey of Prices, Cost Modelling and Survey of Costs options.
- In January 2021 Edinburgh carried out a survey of the prices charged by providers using the information available to the public from partner websites and the Edinburgh and Lothians Nursery Guide website.
- The Council were able to access information on parent charges for 77 partner settings.
- Edinburgh also commissioned Scotland Excel to carry out a Survey of Costs with partners. 33 providers responded to the Scotland Excel survey.
- A cost analysis was completed to ascertain the 'average' cost for a local authority establishment to deliver funded ELC. To be comparable with the majority of partner settings open all year round, the average cost is based on 63 local authority settings registered for 40 or more children also providing funded hour placements to 3 and 4 year olds on a year round basis.
- As well as using the options outlined in the Scottish Government Guidance published in April 2019, Edinburgh surveyed the hourly rate paid to partner providers in other local authorities across Scotland. 24 local authorities responded to the request for information.
Findings from the above were as follows (Number of providers/settings; Average rate):
 - Partner Provider Survey of Prices: 77; £5.42
 - Partner Provider Survey of Costs: 33; £5.42
 - Local Authority Cost Modelling: 63; £5.10
 - Survey of Scottish Local Authorities: 24 £5.36.

Council	Summary of Approaches by Local Authorities to Setting Sustainable Rates for 2021-22
Falkirk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Costs) – Review detailed cost information provided by private and third sector providers. • Working Group - Agree, for each cost, a percentage (%) figure and indicative cost through a working group. • Survey (Prices) - Review current rates charged by private and third sector providers in the local area. • Cost Modelling - Develop costs based on modelling of an 'average' local ELC setting – partly adopted by Falkirk Council. • Other approach aligned with the principles for setting sustainable rates.
Fife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey of prices was undertaken between January – March 2021. • This work was undertaken by Scotland Excel on behalf of Fife Council. Originally this was due to take place in 2020 but was delayed as a result of the pandemic.
Glasgow City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other approach aligned with the principles for setting sustainable rates – Ipsos MORI were commissioned to undertake an independent assessment of operating costs across a range of funded providers which informed the sustainable rate setting. This mirrored the exercise carried out by the Scottish Government nationally in 2016. • Glasgow set a sustainable rate for a three year period and started to commission at that level from August 2019 - a full year ahead of the original statutory commencement date for the expansion and supporting the financial viability of the sector during the transition period. • This was well received by funded providers at the time – providing confidence of funding, establishing a longer-term platform to support their expansion planning and associated staffing and recruitment decisions.
Highland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Prices) - included in the current review. • Other approach aligned with the principles for setting sustainable rates – a two stage process implemented being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a review of current base rate and effects of inflation

	<p>b) a detailed review of all factors using a combination of all 4 options set out in Section 5 of the Sustainable Rates guidance; and working alongside a sub-group of partners forum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review is considering the range of geographic and socio-economic profiles to see effects on rates and options to establish a fair, affordable and sustainable solution.
Inverclyde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Partnership 2019 collaborative approach with Ipsos MORI to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ jointly validate each authority's rate setting approach ○ benchmark data which may inform future rates. • Comprehensive survey of funded provider costs : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing a co-operative approach ○ Working with funded providers ○ Accessing actual, current, market (cost) data from funded providers ○ West Partnership benchmark to understand funded providers sustainability ○ Working with an independent, impartial third party ○ vi. Feedback from survey participants on shaping and building the approach in future.
Midlothian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Costs) - in the process of tendering for this exercise to be completed in time for a new rate from April 2022. • Midlothian were planning to commission Scotland Excel to conduct a sustainable rates analysis in 2020 but these plans were put on hold due to the pandemic. The present rates paid are aligned with the Scottish Government's indicative rate with an additional payment for meals. • A review will be carried out to ensure that the rates paid are sufficient to meet the requirements under Funding Follows the Child (including paying the real Living Wage to staff delivering funded ELC).

Council	Summary of Approaches by Local Authorities to Setting Sustainable Rates for 2021-22
Moray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Costs) - Ipsos MORI surveyed Moray private and third sector providers. This established the baseline for a revised rate. • Although Moray used the results of the Ipsos MORI survey as the evidence base for setting a sustainable hourly rate for 2021/22, there was a strong focus on co-production and consultation involved in this exercise. • The key points are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One of the PVI Managers operating in Moray has significant experience in developing an hourly rate. The Council supported this colleague to review the Ipsos MORI data and propose a rate ○ This rate was then verified and refined by Moray Council's Head of Finance ○ The process of establishing an hourly rate was overseen by the Moray ELC Financial Sustainability Group. This group includes representation from the Council as well as private and third sector representatives. The proposed rate was endorsed by this group before it was consulted ○ 86% of the 31 consultation responses supported the proposed rate; and ○ The final element of the process was that the rate was agreed by the Moray Council Education, Communities and Organisational Committee on 31 March.
North Ayrshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost Modelling – North Ayrshire Council has adopted the modelling carried out by Scottish Government and the suggested sustainable rate during the compilation of the Financial Template: £5.31 • North Ayrshire have worked closely with their funded provider sector throughout the 1140 expansion programme. • This rate was universally accepted by the funded providers group. This rate is applied across the private, voluntary and independent sectors and childminders.
North Lanarkshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other approach aligned with the principles for setting sustainable rates - a combination of survey, reviewed rates of local providers and cost modelling. • As part of the West Partnership funded providers were asked to participate in a survey developed by Ipsos MORI.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This took into account rates charged by private and third sector providers across the West Partnership area.
Orkney Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of sample charges (childminders). • There are no private providers in Orkney so all of funded providers are either local authority settings or 6 childminders offering split places.
Perth and Kinross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Costs) - currently undertaking costs survey to inform rates review.
Renfrewshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Costs) - in agreement with funded providers, the West Partnership undertook a local Ipsos MORI survey of providers. • The West Partnership Regional Improvement Collaborative committed to a collaborative approach to jointly validate each authority's rate setting approach - whilst providing benchmark data which may inform future rates. • A comprehensive survey of funded provider costs was undertaken, the approach also focused on benefits including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing a co-operative approach, working together with funded providers helping to further develop positive relationships ○ Accessing actual, current, market data - specifically cost data from funded providers ○ Providing a West Partnership benchmark to understand funded provider sustainability ○ The value of working with an independent, impartial third party ○ Gaining feedback from survey participants on the means to shape and build upon the approach in future years.
Scottish Borders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost Modelling – a survey and focus groups led by Scotland Excel.

Council	Summary of Approaches by Local Authorities to Setting Sustainable Rates for 2021-22
Shetland Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other approach aligned with the principles for setting sustainable rates – Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) related increase. • Sustainable rates from August 2020 were developed using survey costs method. • The Terms and Conditions for the Council’s Flexible Framework stated that an annual uplift would be applied in line with the CPI increase. • Sustainable rates from August 2021 have been increased by 1.5% (April 2021 CPI). • The Flexible Framework covers a 5 year period, Shetland Islands Council would look at carrying out a detailed cost survey again, ahead of renewing their Flexible Framework in August 2025.
South Ayrshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost Modelling - used an external consultant to support cost modelling. • Regular engagement and consultation with local funded providers with regards to Funding Follows the Child and setting of sustainable rates. • External consultant used to support cost modelling setting of sustainable rate in South Ayrshire. • As a small authority South Ayrshire drew on other local authorities cost modelling processes and other examples including Ipsos MORI survey conducted in 2016.
South Lanarkshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Costs) - Ipsos MORI work undertaken across the West Partnership. • Rates set / paid across all providers in accordance with 10 year procurement agreement. • Rate will be considered annually. • Work undertaken as part of the Regional Improvement Collaborative (West Partnership) for ELC using Ipsos MORI analysis from private partner providers and from third sector providers. This was done in 2019 and analysis provided effective profile for the sustainable rate. • Work to align across West Partnership may be a long term consideration for all parties however challenges exist.
Stirling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Costs) – Review detailed cost information provided by private and third sector providers. • The increase to the hourly rate in Stirling from April 2021 takes into account inflation at 1% and the increase in the real Living Wage.

Council	Summary of Approaches by Local Authorities to Setting Sustainable Rates for 2021-22
West Dunbartonshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the support of Ipsos MORI, the West Partnership funded private providers, were given the opportunity to provide an up to date assessment of their operating costs in order to set a sustainable rate. • Providers completed an online survey covering questions about costs and business models. • Working Group - West Dunbartonshire Council Finance Officer worked with partners to show how the cost per child was calculated, taking into account actual costs of providing an hour of ELC; based on cost per child, providers' costs, income, capacity and occupancy. • Current hourly rate and cost per meal has been set and agreed with providers for 2021/22. A commitment to review the rate has also been made to funded providers in West Dunbartonshire.
West Lothian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Costs and Prices). • Meetings with all private partner providers. • A short term working group (consisting of partner providers, Finance and Education). • Through consultation with private partner providers, Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) and local playgroup, agreed to set up a short term working group which then agreed the content of the survey which was issued on current costs/charges. • Individual meetings were then held to discuss content of the survey returned. • Cost modelling also undertaken.
Western Isles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey (Costs) - this approach is being used currently to review and set rates for 2021-22 onwards.

Annex D

Summary of Additional Support for Funded Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- **Table D1** summarises the information provided by local authorities on the work undertaken to understand the impact of the pandemic on funded providers, and any additional support measures provided by local authorities.
 - This is specific support offered by the local authorities, in line with the [Interim Guidance on Funding Follows the Child](#), initially published in July 2020 and updated in March 2021. This highlights that local authorities, in line with the principles for setting sustainable rates, will work with their funded providers to understand the extent to which the costs of delivering funded ELC have changed due to COVID-19.
 - **Table D1** captures both financial and non-financial support measures provided by each local authority.

Table D1: Summary of Actions by Local Authorities to Support Funded Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Council	Summary of Actions to Support Funded Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic
Aberdeen City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funded ELC entitlement introduced from August 2020. During the lockdowns the Council supported providers by continuing to pay them the sustainable rate; and from March 2020-August 2020 by placing children with providers. • Providers assistance offered in procuring PPE to mitigate against increased PPE costs from autumn 2020. • A suite of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) has been developed and delivered to support providers meet the needs of children and families. Officers from the Early Years team have been regularly meeting and supporting providers within their own Associated School Group network. • Administrated COVID-19 business support grants to providers and supporting communications to ensure that providers were aware of the funds available to them: the Transitional Support Fund for Childcare Providers and the Temporary Restrictions Fund (Round 1, 2 and 3).

Council	Summary of Actions to Support Funded Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic
Aberdeenshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childminder start up grants put in place to support new childminders to come on board as funded providers during the pandemic. • Fast tracking of applications for childcare providers to become funded providers in order to support financial sustainability of the sector and to support families with accessing emergency childcare. A total of 42 additional providers taken on during the lockdown periods. • Administrated COVID-19 business support grants to providers and supporting communications to ensure that providers were aware of the funds available to them: the Transitional Support Fund for Childcare Providers and the Temporary Restrictions Fund (Round 1, 2 and 3). • ELC assessment developed by Aberdeenshire Council and approved by Care Inspectorate, so that childcare providers could become funded providers before they receive their first inspection from the Care Inspectorate. • Regular meetings with partner providers – weekly between April 2020 to August 2020. Now regular separate meetings for private nurseries, childminders and playgroups given diversity of support requirements. Area based meetings for childminders due to number of childminders in partnership with the Council. • Additional funding to Early Years Scotland to support Playgroups throughout the summer in 2020, in preparation for August 2020. • Additional funding allocated to support funded partners during the first lockdown. Increase in rate from £5.30 per child to £7.14 per child and block funding to ensure financial sustainability during the pandemic. Families (keyworkers and vulnerable) were able to access beyond the statutory ELC funded hours. • Additional childcare funding allocated to funded partners during the second lockdown period. During both lockdown periods, if a key worker/ vulnerable child temporarily transferred to another provider due to their own nursery closing, the Council funded these children during their temporary transfer in addition to paying their main provider, as well as funded their meal payment. • Volunteer support scheme developed by Early Years in order to support staff of PVI settings whom are furloughed, to be able to keep in contact and support their families during the lockdown.

- Working with funded partners to ensure that those families who may be vulnerable are identified and supported by the Council.
- Providing information and advice to support the PVI sector through the many transitions presented during the lockdown.
- Pop up provision set up and funded by Aberdeenshire Council in areas across rural areas in Aberdeenshire in order to support third sector sustainability and to improve access to emergency childcare for families.
- Sustainability grants set up by Aberdeenshire Council to support Funded Providers with rising rental costs.
- Distribution of PPE by Aberdeenshire Council to Funded Providers during the first lockdown due to problems with accessing stock.
- Providers were all paid in full in Term 4 2019-20, despite many of them closing.
- Providers were all paid in full in Term 3 2020-21, despite several of them closing.
- Delivery of core training i.e. First Aid, food hygiene etc in funded provider settings, which was funded and coordinated by Aberdeenshire Council, to ensure that providers could continue to access essential training and development.
- All funded providers given access to Aberdeenshire Council's online training portal (ALDO). This includes GIRFEC courses that were developed via multi agency collaboration. This was to ensure that there were other avenues open to funded providers to be able to continue CPD and core training.
- Provided Risk Assessment template to all providers.

Council	Summary of Actions to Support Funded Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic
Angus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administered the Transitional Support Fund for services in Angus. The Fund opened for applications from providers of child day care services on 3 September 2020 with grants calculated on the basis of registered capacity. The maximum grant available was £8,000. • Angus also set up a Childminder Grant Scheme in September 2020 benefiting 28 local childminders. Total Childminder Grants amounted to £29,000. • Providers were asked to submit details of their actual additional costs incurred during August and September 2020. 14 local providers responded. The results showed no discernible pattern which led to the conclusion that a blanket increase to the sustainable hourly rate would not be appropriate. • A Quarterly Grants Scheme was set up instead that invited providers to submit details and evidence of actual additional costs incurred due to COVID-19. The Quarterly Grant Scheme has approval for one year (to 31 July 2021). Thanks to the Scheme the Council now have more costs data and a better understanding of the impact of the pandemic, particularly on the costs of consumable items such as PPE and cleaning materials. • The Council acknowledge that more work needs to be done on understanding the additional demands on ELC staff time due to Covid and the associated increased costs to some partner providers. • In light of new guidance published in June 2021, on 12 August 2021 the Children and Learning Committee will consider continuation of the Quarterly Grants Scheme, subject to ongoing review in line with changing COVID-19 guidance from Scottish Government. • To support the recovery and to enable some enhanced measures to continue even after restrictions are lifted, Committee will also consider forgoing a small reduction to the planned rates for 2021-22 resulting from lower than estimated inflation.

Council	Summary of Actions to Support Funded Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic
Argyll and Bute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular contact with all settings and childminders. • Continued high quality learning online and issued regular updated guidance. In settings of concern have offered support and advice. • The Council have placed Early Years team members in settings that have struggled with staffing. • Financial support – during periods of lockdown when settings had to close, Argyll and Bute continued to pay partners their full funded ELC payments, based on children registered. This also included payment for provisional enrolments (children who were not able to start their funded ELC due to closures). • Partners that operated hubs for families requiring critical childcare also received payment for the childcare provided.
Clackmannanshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the first week of lock down the Council bought all capacity of their funded providers. • Created an online classroom with training for staff furloughed or working from home to access.
Dumfries and Galloway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out of 1140 hours of funded ELC completed in August 2020 for all, so that families and providers benefitted from their full offer. • Providers were all paid in full in Term 4 2019-20, despite many of them closing. • Providers were all paid in full in Term 3 2020-21, despite several of them closing. • Providers who remained open during lockdown periods have been supported through an allocation of PPE and cleaning materials. • Where positive cases have been identified during lockdown, DGC have offered to carry out the deep cleaning required before re-opening. • Transition Support Fund and Temporary Restrictions Fund payments were made timeously, which was well received by providers. • Since a number of partner providers had closed, some childminders and a provider not already on the framework were supported to deliver emergency childcare. • PVI providers and childminders were supported with a payment in March/April 2020 to support implementation of 1140 hours.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All providers have been contacted regularly by their link officer in the central Early Years Team to offer advice and support. • Termly meetings are in place for providers to support quality of provision and share practice. • Professional training has continued to be offered virtually throughout the pandemic. • SWAYs have been produced to support Covid guidance/practice, Play and Learning at home, Communication and Language, Self-evaluation and Improvement Planning, Outdoor Learning and Transitions.
Dundee City	<p><u>Financial support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to fully fund all eligible children during both lockdowns including those settings that chose to close. • During the first lockdown period, if a key worker / vulnerable child temporarily transferred to another provider due to their own nursery closing, the Council funded these children during their temporary transfer (in addition to paying their main provider). • The Council funded an externally commissioned leadership programme for managers in funded providers. • Tayside Regional Collaborative funded two leadership events for middle managers. <p><u>Non-financial support measures</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support with Covid recovery plans and risk assessments for re-opening. • Training programme / resources: access to DCC e-learning modules, provided CPL grid listing a range of training that could be accessed from a range of sources (Ed Scot, CI, DCC). This included DCC PowerPoint for ABC and Beyond and SWAYs for staff to access. • PowerPoint and guidance sent to funded providers in relation to self-evaluation and improvement planning. • Training delivered to childminders on self -evaluation and improvement planning and individual support from LA officer. • Invited to LA sharing good practice sessions in relation to Learning at Home, Transition and Care Inspectorate guidance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing and recruitment support - continued access to My Job Scotland to advertise vacancies. • Funding for staff to undertake relevant qualifications – funded providers were offered funding for a range of award bearing qualifications. • Regular contact through local authority ELC meetings – funded providers forum, regular zoom meetings with childminders, 2 QA meetings for providers with LA officers, officers attended CI inspection feedback, support and advice with Covid cases. • School Support team provided support with NAMS, applications and funding and training on NAMS as and when required. • Support and guidance from Early Years team on admissions, funded hours and meal payment process. • Sent all information with regards to any external funding available e.g. outdoor clothes for children. • Training - information on various opportunities sent out to funded providers to apply if they wished e.g. Star Catchers, One World Centre sessions, STEM. • Educational Psychology and Accessibility and Inclusion Service support as required. • School Support team/Early Years team support for applications for Deferred Entry to Primary and Early Years Panel. • Administrative support from the Early Years team and School Support team to ensure funding and emergency payments were made timeously to ensure business sustainability.
East Ayrshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular contact with providers by phone. • Regular email updates have been issued and online MS Teams meetings taken place with all funded providers during session 2020-21. • Visits to ELC settings as and when appropriate. • Direct support from peripatetic teachers. • Financial support through the funds available via the Scottish Government in response to Covid and business support grants via the Council. • Provided placements in Childcare Hubs for children of key workers.

Council	Summary of Actions to Support Funded Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic
East Dunbartonshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular strategic meetings with one identified representative from each sector as well as full meetings with all providers. • Along with the processing of the Temporary Restrictions Fund grants, the Council also allocated additional funding to continue to support quality during this time to make improvement around purchasing outdoor clothing, improvement to outdoor spaces etc. • Provided access to a grant to support appointment of additional MA. • Continued payment of funded hours paid during closure. • Additional payment of keyworker childcare to centres who remained open during lockdown in 2020. • Support from Quality Improvement Officers on developing recovery planning. • Access to a comprehensive online training programme. Joint training with local authority centres. • Bespoke training calendar for childminders delivered in evening. • Business meetings with childminders to support recovery and guidance. • Aspire leadership training modules for middle and senior managers delivered – this was joint training with across local authority and funded provider centres and has provided open communication and sharing of knowledge. • Bespoke support from peripatetic support teachers - supporting centres with individual training sessions, with a focus on recovery and quality environments and interactions. • Sharing of Council communication and risk assessments to support recovery and centres communication with families, ensuring consistent approach around key messages.
East Lothian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funded providers have received a considerable amount of support in re-opening and ensuring that they were and remain Covid compliant. This included a check list and daily phone calls to talk through compliance. • Financial support to the sum of the amount paid through the Temporary Restrictions Fund was paid to funded providers. This one off payment was made in acknowledgement of the challenges they faced and to ensure sustainability for the future.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional payment for keyworker childcare to centres who remained open during lockdown in 2020. • All providers were paid in full, despite many of them closing during the lockdown periods. • Covid support grants were also paid to Childminders and Community Groups.
East Renfrewshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular and effective communication. • Funded providers attend ELC Forums, once each term for information, advice and support as well as for consultation and networking. • Drop-in sessions and additional meetings with funded providers based on their agenda and needs over the course of the year and including lockdown periods. • Individual telephone calls and teams meetings to offer support. • Assistance with developing Recovery Plans for re-opening in August 2020 which included extensive guidance in all aspects as well as networking sessions in Neighbourhood Groups (joint working with Funded Provider & local authority). • Support from the Educational Psychology team including a range of resources to support the mental health and well-being of staff and children. • Training and support materials based on the National Induction Resource and Building the Ambition. • On-going access to training materials on the Funded Providers Glow page. • Guidance developed to support funded providers with remote learning. • Further extensive support with remote learning, including a dedicated Glow page with a range of support materials. • Bespoke training for middle managers in funded provider settings. • Support and training for managers on Improvement Planning linked to recovery and renewal. • Support from peripatetic nursery teacher with a focus on recovery, literacy and numeracy. • Administration around nationally available grants and funds.

Council	Summary of Actions to Support Funded Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic
Edinburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed the Temporary Restrictions Fund grant funding process for providers. • Provided online information sessions for positive case management. • Issued resources for providers to use for positive case management. • Provided Risk Assessment template. • Provided template letters for parents. • Increased the frequency of Partner Monitoring Group meetings to highlight issues and share practice.
Falkirk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertook a review of additional costs being incurred with funded providers and agreed to pay temporary Covid support via an increase to sustainable rates to private partner nurseries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From August 2020 – December 2020: a top-up of £0.25 per hour (£0.15 for capital costs and £0.10 for revenue costs) ○ From January 2021 to date: a top-up of £0.10 per hour (revenue costs).
Fife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council have worked alongside their funded providers throughout the pandemic to ensure they were aware of the current guidance, enabling them to maximise the number of placements that they could offer and signposting them to the business support schemes that were available to them through other sources. • A funded provider reference group has been in place throughout the period to ensure that there is a conduit for information sharing. • The training calendar has been updated with online training courses, accessible to all funded providers. • Risk assessments have been shared to reflect the changing guidance from the Scottish Government. • On-line and in-person support visits have been provided from the Local Authority central support team. • At the start of the pandemic supported partners by ensuring any funded ELC that was not able to be provided continued to be funded in the services and was paid in the normal timescales. • Worked with partner providers to ensure they were aware that they could offer childcare for key workers and promoted them as places to offer this provision for services that decided to remain open.

	<p>Any new children who attended these services between March and August 2020 were also funded for the number of hours they attended over and above any funding paid for ELC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent sustainable rate survey undertaken reflects the current prices charged which would include any additional Covid related costs to the business. This report is being finalised and the findings considered.
Glasgow City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established a flexible rental policy for the release of community assets to PVI ELC providers to support expansion. Applications are assessed on service delivery, financial, community benefits and partnership criteria. Successful applicants can benefit from a subsidised rental. Four settings have now been successfully awarded to providers and interest remains buoyant. • Payment monthly in advance, and additional payment for those providers who responded to key workers and vulnerable clients during lockdown. • A Covid-related sustainability support framework has been established to assess the financial impact for providers who approach the Council in need. Specific Financial provision has been made for award of funding support where required. • The central Leaders of Learning team have been deployed to support settings in training and development of staff and production of learning materials in an effort to sustain their quality aspects of service delivery throughout the pandemic. • In response to reported stress on the part of nursery leaders, funded providers were invited to participate in a comprehensive mindfulness programme which was being made available to Council nursery heads. • An extensive outdoor ELC training programme for both Council and funded providers jointly has been established to support increased interest in outdoor delivery during the pandemic and to support services with aspirations to register outdoor ELC provision. • Regular email updates have been issued and online MS Teams meetings taken place with all funded providers throughout session 2020-21.

Council	Summary of Actions to Support Funded Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic
Highland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Highland Council (THC) worked closely with partners and agreed to honour contractual payments during the pandemic. • THC supported delivery of the Transitional Support Fund and the Temporary Restrictions Fund on behalf of the Scottish Government distributing some £564,228 in respect of the PVI sector. Childminders were supported with information and guidance in respect of support from SG distributed by SCMA. • The Council during the pandemic kept in active contact with all partners and discussed particular difficulties in settings or provision of services including key workers. Four partners came forward during the two lockdown periods seeking assistance and, working with them on an analysis of their real needs, funding support from THC was agreed. • This involvement is continuing through the local ELC liaison committee which continues to meet on a regular cycle of fortnightly meetings with all information relevant to providers timeously distributed on and issues identified or received by THC.
Inverclyde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inverclyde Council has worked closely with funded providers during the Covid-19 pandemic. • There has been open, honest and regular communication on an individual / group basis which ensured the local authority was aware of the impact of the pandemic on individual services. Almost all settings fully engaged with these processes. • Both financial and non-financial support has been given. <u>Non-financial Support:</u> • Regular COVID-19 Education Briefings • Regular meetings to discuss practical implementation on national guidance • Named Officer to provide day to day support • Shared Risk Assessments • Supported with providing and sourcing PPE • Provided Hub places for children of key workers • Support and challenge with home learning. <u>Financial Support:</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for ELC places continued throughout periods of closure in line with Scottish Government advice. • Funded key worker children with childminder for children / young people aged 0 – 18 years. • Provided grants to all funded providers including childminders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o ICT grant to support home learning and access to SEEMiS Early Years o Recovery grant to support health and wellbeing and family support o Outdoor learning grant to enhance opportunity and access.
Midlothian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers in the private and voluntary sector have a link principal teacher who has provided guidance and support throughout the past 18 months. • Monthly managers/owners meetings with funded providers which provide an opportunity to discuss issues such as financial sustainability. • Have invited funded providers to discuss any issue with financial sustainability with the Council and options can be discussed (to date no provider has approached the Council for this support). • Supported all Midlothian providers to apply for the SG grants that have been available to them (the Transitional Support Fund and the Temporary Restrictions Fund). • All funded providers have continued to receive ELC payments throughout any period of closure or restricted opening.
Moray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Moray Financial Sustainability Group has been the formal channel used to engage with the Moray ELC sector. • On a quarterly basis the Council provide financial support to all nursery and childcare settings for the costs of PPE and detergent. • On an annual basis (August to July) Moray provide financial support for the additional staffing costs for all nursery and childcare settings. This is in relation to cleaning costs resulting from Covid. • Provided financial assistance for a small number of settings who have demonstrated that Covid has impacted on their financial sustainability. The assistance provided wasn't to cover a shortfall of income but to help ensure that a provider could regain their viability. • Early Years Team are also in regular contact with all PVI settings in Moray.

Council	Summary of Actions to Support Funded Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic
North Ayrshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the pandemic-related closures, the Council continued to pay funded providers for all entitled children who would have attended under non pandemic circumstances, whether the establishment was open or not. This complied with the Scottish Government guidance. • The Temporary Restriction Fund and the Transitional Support Fund, provided by the Scottish Government were administered by Education on behalf of funded provider establishments. • Childminders received similar funding via the Business Development team. • Throughout the pandemic, funded provider owners and managers have been included in all relevant communication and have been supported with re-opening, risk assessments, training and support for staff. • The ELC team hold regular meetings with the sector to provide information, listen to issues arising within the sector and provide support to drive high quality ELC provision across all NAC settings.
North Lanarkshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular communication at the outset which then led to weekly contingency planning meetings at an operational level. • Ongoing support was provided by both the ELC core and quality team. • Full payment of 1140 hours continued to be paid to all providers irrespective of whether their service was opened or closed during the restricted period. • In addition, NLC administered both the Temporary Restrictions Fund and the Transitional Support Fund.
Orkney Islands	<p>Note – Orkney Islands Council currently have no non-LA nurseries. All their private providers are childminders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council have met regularly with the partnership childminders to offer time to discuss measures and also undertake professional learning. • During the first lockdown, the Council asked if any childminder would be interested in delivering emergency childcare, and guaranteed £10 per hour, up to £15 for two or more children in the same family.

Council	Summary of Actions to Support Funded Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic
Perth and Kinross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly support and development sessions are provided by the Early Years team to all funded providers. • Regular opportunities for funded providers to engage in ongoing dialogue and receive targeted support where the need is highlighted. • Consistent support and visits from a team of Early Years Support Teachers, both virtually and in-person. • Changing guidance and policies throughout the pandemic are implemented in partnership with funded providers and support is given where needed to consolidate understanding.
Renfrewshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the period of lockdown Renfrewshire Council provided the following support to funded providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ongoing payment for eligible children places to all funded providers, this payment was made even if the service was closed ○ A sustainability payment was made to those settings that were open to serve children of key workers ○ Children of key worker parents were temporarily relocated to funded provider settings where possible to support with sustainability ○ Through issuing documentation and guidance such as Risk Assessment templates in relation to the national COVID-19 guidance for early years. There was also frequent opportunity for discussion in relation to this, including advice on reporting of suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19.
Scottish Borders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant financial support during 2020 continuing with committed funded ELC placements plus covering loss of income from parental fees and providing free PPE. • Ongoing advice and support and regular contact with all funded providers.

Council	Summary of Actions to Support Funded Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic
Shetland Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A guaranteed weekly minimum payment was made to one funded provider to enable them to remain open and work in partnership with the local authority to provide critical childcare. • A grant scheme has been established to enable funded providers and childminders to access funding to make improvements to their settings, with an emphasis on outdoor spaces. • The local authority administered the Transitional Support Fund for Childcare Providers, on behalf of the Scottish Government, ensuring that all providers were aware of the scheme and applied and got paid the amounts due to them. • A close working relationship with funded providers and regular communications. Funded providers are encouraged to speak to the local authority if they are facing specific financial difficulties due to Covid.
South Ayrshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of 1140 hours of funded ELC from August 2020. • The continued payment of funded ELC hours during the periods of closures. • Virtual meetings to share information and support to manage Covid cases. • Payment for critical childcare provided to key workers. • Support with providing and sourcing PPE and cleaning materials. • Support with Covid guidance and sample risk assessments. • Support from peripatetic nursery teachers. • Administration of COVID-19 business support grants to providers (the Transitional Support Fund and the Temporary Restrictions Fund). • A programme of ongoing Continuous Professional Development (CPD) resources developed to support local authority and funded providers.
South Lanarkshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of central support available at all times for funded providers. • A wide, extensive range of training and development opportunities as well as professional qualifications all zero rated. • Access to opportunities for children and their parents again developed and provided for funded providers. • On call support 7 days per week for Covid support and advice.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and processing of the Transitional Support Fund and the Temporary Restrictions Fund. • Business development support. • Continued payments for 1140 hours for all contracted children. • Admissions support for processing applications during lockdown when services closed. • Sustained provision for children from funded providers in local authority hubs during period of closure of their provision. • Support, guidance, SWAY, updates continually provided. • Regular virtual meetings for sharing practice and providing support & guidance. • Support for virtual Care Inspectorate inspections. • Payment monthly in advance, and additional payment for those providers who responded to key workers and vulnerable clients during lockdown. • Continuing focus on outdoor ELC training and development jointly to ensure support for outdoor delivery during the pandemic. • Regular email updates issued on a range of subjects but also keeping in touch. • Assistance in highlighting important information for ELC providers
Stirling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the pandemic, funded providers were given a designated LA point of contact to offer support and guidance. • Regular meetings with Early Years Team were set up in response to guidance as it was released and developed. • All COVID-19 support guidance / risk assessments issued to LA settings was shared with funded providers. • Support has been provided by the Early Years team to settings when positive cases have been identified. • During lockdown in March 2020, hub provision for keyworker and vulnerable children was offered in 6 key LA hubs and supported by funded providers who elected to remain open (number of providers offering this provision reduced quickly over this time). • Funded hours are paid in advance to funded providers, this remained in place during lockdown with providers retaining payment for all forecasted funded hours for all children.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During lockdown in January 2021, ELC provision for keyworker and vulnerable children was retained in children’s individual settings, including the majority of funded providers (a small number chose to remain closed during this time). • All funded providers were informed and supported to apply for both the Transitional Support Fund and the Temporary Restrictions Fund. All eligible providers were successful in their applications.
West Dunbartonshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funded ELC 1140 entitlement introduced from August 2020 at all funded providers. • During lockdowns the Council supported providers by continuing to pay them the sustainable rate of £5.31 per hours. • West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) has worked with partner providers and childminders throughout the pandemic to understand the pressures they face to stay in business. WDC continues to meet 4 weekly as they had done in preparation for 1140/setting sustainable rate. • The West Partnership Forum also continues to meet, the focus for that is sustainable rate setting. • Partner providers did not express hardship and were keen to open if they could, in particular from August 2021 onward. • All partners applied for and received the Temporary Restrictions Fund and the Transitional Support Fund grants. • To aid the cost of recovery and to ensure the wellbeing of children, the Council provided a one-off grant payment for our funded Childminders. • Guidance shared: updated summary of all guidance including reopening, risk assessments, case management. • Virtual weekly learning drop in sessions for senior leaders throughout last session. • Support from peripatetic staff and central team.

Council	Summary of Actions to Support Funded Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic
West Lothian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular contact has been maintained with partner providers and childminders who remained open to provide childcare for keyworkers and vulnerable children during the initial lockdown period up to August 2020 and those who took the decision to close their settings. • All partner providers had their payments maintained for funded ELC placements throughout and those who remained open were funded for additional places used. • Support has been provided to all in relation to Covid risk assessments and information relating to the Transitional Support Fund and Temporary Restrictions Fund payments.
Western Isles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular contact with partners throughout the last year, ensuring they have been able to access all national additional funding, and offering help and advice with staffing and public health guidance. • Early Years Support Officers are in regular contact with these groups and offer assistance where needed. • None of partners have requested financial assistance over and above their normal 1140 funding and the national assistance funds. • The Council continue to offer all partners access to in-service and core training (such as first aid, child protection etc.) and advertise all online training offers as they become aware of them. • The local authority provides relief staff, ASN staff and ASN resources to partners where required and also continues to offer a top-up grant to the smallest of their partners to ensure ELC funding for a minimum of 10 full-time placements is provided.



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