

<b>DECISION TITLE: Wraparound Childcare Offer – Award of Grant Funding</b>
<b>ENTER NAME OF CABINET MEMBER EXERCISING DELEGATED POWERS: Councillor Katy Cole, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services</b>
<b>ENTER MONTH IN WHICH DECISION IS BEING TAKEN: August 2024</b>
<b>Deadline date: August 2024</b>

Cabinet portfolio holder: Responsible Director:	Councillor Katy Cole, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services Chris Baird, Interim Director of Education
Is this a Key Decision?	YES If yes has it been included on the Forward Plan: YES Unique Key decision Reference from Forward Plan: KEY/03JUNE24/10
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	YES
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	NO

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
The Cabinet Member is recommended to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Authorise grant funding to the wraparound childcare providers detailed in paragraph 3.9 of this report.</li> <li>2. Delegate authority to the Director for Education to authorise funding to other wraparound childcare providers not currently included in para 3.9.</li> </ol>	

**1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

1.1 This report is for the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.4.1 of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the terms of their portfolio at paragraph 3.4.9

**2. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	<b>N/A</b>
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### 3. BACKGROUND

#### **The National Wraparound Programme**

3.1 In Spring 2023 the government launched the national wraparound programme. This programme is part of the childcare reforms announced in the 2023 Spring Budget. The government's ambition is that by 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need it, will be able to access term time childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm. This will enable parents to access employment and improve overall labour market participation. It aims to support working families by offering flexible childcare options. It should not require parents to pick their children up from school and drop them off at another location.

3.2 It is recognised that many schools offer enrichment activities, and these are valued, but these do not offer parents regular and consistent time that can enable parents to access employment. The aim of this programme is to address this barrier for parents, so there is a consistent offer of wraparound childcare.

3.3 Each local authority has been allocated funds over a three-year period to establish wraparound provision. Peterborough City Council has been allocated the following amount:

2023/24 - £11,532.48  
2024/25 - £620,856.81  
2025/26 - £293,667.89

**Totalling: £926,057.18**

3.4 The revenue is planned to fund the initial setup or expansion of wraparound provision to meet existing unmet demand. It is also designed to remove the financial risk of setting up or expanding wraparound provision where sufficient demand is not guaranteed to sustain provision from the start (but where sufficient demand may be built over time as parents are assured of the supply of places).

3.5 A small amount of capital funding has also been provided by the Department of Education of £83,000. Capital funding can be used for a number of areas which may include:

- Building modifications to enable use of space outside main school e.g., secure external access, outside lighting to enable outdoor space to be used year-round;
- Building modifications to adapt space for use to deliver inclusive wraparound childcare;
- Improvements to storage;
- New physical assets such as minibus purchase (to support a hub model of wraparound provision), play equipment (including outdoor play equipment), or tables and chairs.

#### **Peterborough Wraparound**

3.6 In Peterborough, a number of actions have been taken to address the delivery of wraparound services. The Council has:

- completed demand and supply mapping to ascertain where there are gaps in provision;
- undertaken a parent survey to assess potential demand for wraparound provision;
- undertaken a process, for schools or the private, voluntary or independent sector to apply for funding to expand the wraparound offer.

3.7 The information confirms that many of our schools already offer some level of childcare provision but many do not offer the full offer from 8am 6pm. In order to encourage the expansion of the current offer, funding has been offered to enable schools and other

providers to either establish new provision or expand on their existing services, to offer the full 8am to 6pm service.

3.8 The application process for obtaining the funding included a number of requirements to be met by childcare providers, including:

- Value for money;
- Review of existing provision available for families
- Inclusive and able to meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs;
- Commitment to parental engagement;
- Commitment to meet minimum operational hours [8am to 6pm];
- Commitment to enable parents to use government support such as tax free childcare;
- Commitment to participate in monitoring;

3.9 Following this process, seven applications have been received. Following review, approval is being sought for 3 projects, that meet the requirements.

	<b>School / Preschool Provider</b>	<b>Amount allocated [based on two terms revenue]</b>
1.	St John’s Church School [Orton]	£19,940.05
2.	Stars Day Nursery, Oakdale	£29,865.00
3.	Eyrescroft	£30,111.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£79,916.05</b>

3.10 The applications received will not meet all of the potential demand identified. Therefore, the next step will be to target particular areas, to look at potential projects that can be supported to enhance the wraparound in local areas.

#### **4. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

4.1 The recommendation links to the following of the Council’s Corporate Priorities:

**The Economy & Inclusive Growth** - The development of consistent, regular care from 8am to 6pm, for primary school aged children during term time, will support parents to access employment, who in turn, will support the economic growth of the city.

The CIA relates to the expansion of wraparound services, for school aged children, term time from 8am to 6pm.

The result of this grant funding will increase the places available for wraparound, or extended hours for existing provision. This is building on existing provision in the city and therefore the environmental impact on the city is deemed to be negligible. However, it may involve a slight increase in electricity and heating emissions due to extended delivery hours, as well as an increase in travel emissions from service providers and users.

**Our Places & Communities** – the wraparound care being developed will create a healthy and safe environment for children accessing the provision.

**Prevention, Independence & Resilience** – The provision of wraparound services will ensure that children can access services in a supportive environment, enabling parents to access employment. This, in turn, will support family independence and resilience.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 As part of this programme we have engaged parents to try to understand their needs, in each local area. This will inform the development of services in areas across the city.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 The grant programme for wraparound care is being established to support parents to access employment. Therefore, we would expect the outcome to be increased take up places, with parents accessing the workforce, either new to employment or enabled to extend their working hours.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 Approval of the funding will ensure that the Council will support the development of wraparound care and enable parents to take up employment opportunities.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 Whilst an alternative option would be not to support the development of the national wraparound programme, this is an opportunity to develop good quality wraparound services, that will not only support children before and after school, it will also provide opportunity for parents to access employment, potentially enhancing growth in the city.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **9.1 Financial Implications**

The Local Authority has been allocated funding to deliver programme objectives, including to distribute to schools and/or associated private, voluntary and independent sector to build on existing provision or develop new services.

### **Legal Implications**

9.2 The Subsidy Control Act 2022 sets out the rules when a public body provides financial or other forms of assistance to an organisation. The grants will be awarded in compliance with the provisions of the Act.

### **Equalities Implications**

9.3 No equalities implications have been identified.

## **10. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED**

10.1 None

## **11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

11.1 The following documents have been used in the preparation of this report:

[National Wraparound Childcare Programme Handbook - a guide for local authorities \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Wraparound childcare: guidance for schools and trusts in England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

## **12. APPENDICES**

12.1 N/A