

49701

How many children with additional needs will be impacted by the decision to withdraw local funding from private care settings for out-of-area children?

All children are supported to have high quality transitions when moving from any early years settings. Children with additional support need would receive an enhanced transition with all professionals involved.

How many children under local authority care will be impacted by the decision to withdraw local funding from private care settings for out-of-area children?

All children of Edinburgh residents will be able to access Early Learning and Childcare centre either in local authority or partner provider settings.

How many children total will be impacted by the decision to withdraw local funding from private care settings for out-of-area children?

From August 2024, existing funded children who are not Edinburgh residents will continue to be funded in Private, Voluntary and Independent settings.

If parents have a younger sibling who attends the setting and will be eligible for funding during session 2024-25 Edinburgh will also fund this child to prevent the need for the parent to use more than one Early Learning and Childcare setting.

Edinburgh will continue the no charging approach for cross boundary places and will provide funded Early Learning and Childcare places for children in our local authority settings. We will be extending the opening hours of local authority settings and introducing the option to purchase additional hours to better meet parent needs.

Where parents have previously made use of providers in the Partner, Voluntary or Independent sector, they will have the option to transfer to a local authority setting to receive their funded hours and this will be managed through a supportive transition.

Parents who are non Edinburgh residents can also choose to access childcare in their own local authority.

Has there been a consultation process for the decision to withdraw local funding from private care settings for out-of-area children?

Every local authority is required to review their plan for the delivery of early learning and childcare every two years and take account of the views expressed by parents and carers through consultation. This took place in Edinburgh in November 2023.

Who was involved in the consultation process: Number of parents, Number of early years providers, Number of Teachers and Number of Health Care Professionals.

The Education, Children and Families Committee (ECF) on 23 January 2024 considered the Early Years Service (EYS) as part of reports. (<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=6787&Ver=4>)

What evidence informed the decision to withdraw local funding from private care settings for out-of-area children?

Section 47 (1) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, states that each education authority must ensure that the statutory funded early learning and childcare entitlement is made available for each eligible young child belonging to (i.e. residing in) it's area. Therefore, parents who are not Edinburgh residents and choose to access their funded hours in a private nursery within Edinburgh should contact their own local authority and ask them to arrange payment to the provider.

How long was this decision in consultation before the final decision was to withdraw local funding from private care settings for out-of-area children?

PVI settings were informed of the decision on 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2024 to allow time for parents to make informed choices. The decision to make this change was made by the council's Strategic Programme Board which is in place to deliver best value to Edinburgh's residents. The Strategic Programme Board has delegated responsibility to meet the financial strategy and Medium Term Financial-Plan to address the council budgetary challenges. Non-Edinburgh residents are not consulted on matters relating to Edinburgh's budget decisions.