

## FAQ 1 April 2020

- Can the Summer 2020 term payment date be brought forward?

Essex are unable to bring payment dates forward from the usual process, and the contractual date for the Interim payments to be made by is the beginning of Summer 2020 term and the balance of payment will be paid within 6 weeks of headcount submission deadline date (by 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020).

However, we can confirm the payment process has now started and it is expected the payments **should** be finalised and in bank accounts by 17 April 2020. Please note we cannot guarantee this timeframe

- Insurance companies are requesting proof of closure due to COVID-19.

ECC have produced a response for providers to give to insurance companies. Please email [free.entitlementfundingqueries@essex.gov.uk](mailto:free.entitlementfundingqueries@essex.gov.uk) to request a copy.

- Can a setting still claim FEEE for the Summer 2020 term if they have taken the option to furlough staff?

We are aware that there has been some recent conflicting advice on this: -

The Department for Education guidance for early years providers published on 24 March 2020 states "Providers can access [the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme] while continuing to be paid the free early entitlements funding via local authorities."

The general guidance for all businesses published by HMRC on 26 March 2020 stated: "Where employers receive public funding for staff costs, and that funding is continuing, we expect employers to use that money to continue to pay staff in the usual fashion – and correspondingly not furlough them. This also applies to non-public sector employers who receive public funding for staff costs."

ECC have raised this conflict as an urgent query with the DfE, as we understand some of the national membership organisations also have done and will update as soon as we receive a response. In the meantime, we are continuing to make the FEEE funding payments as we recognise the sector is expecting to receive the FEEE funding. Depending on the outcome from the DfE and HMRC, ECC will work with you to find solutions if this continues to be an issue

- What additional financial support is there for providers who are trying to remain open to support Key Workers and vulnerable children?

Please let us know if you are struggling financially to stay open, and we will work with you to try and find solutions. Please email [free.entitlementfundingqueries@essex.gov.uk](mailto:free.entitlementfundingqueries@essex.gov.uk) to request support

- Insurance liability companies are refusing to insure attendees of EY provisions (both children and adults) who have any underlying medical condition. In view of this, how can we remain open?

This issue has been raised with the DfE, and as a result HM Treasury have convened a working group to look at insurance issues across the board. The DfE are part of this working group and are raising insurance issues in relation to a number of service areas including early years PVI providers. We will update as soon as we receive an outcome of these discussions

- How will we will be able to submit actual headcount data at the start of the Summer 2020 term if we are not providing our usual service?

ECC are currently reviewing the options available to providers to submit the actual Summer 2020 headcount and will provide guidance on this as soon as possible

- Will the Inclusion, EYPP and DAF funding still be paid for the Summer 2020 term?

Where a setting is continuing to provide an appropriate level of support to a child in relation to Inclusion, EYPP or DAF funding and hasn't furloughed their staff, ECC will still make the above payments. We will be in touch with settings directly to clarify whether any support is continuing to be made to individual children