

Email from Carolyn Terry to Essex early years and childcare and childcare providers

From: Free Entitlement Funding Queries

Sent: 29 April 2020 19:54

Subject: Urgent - Please Read - Covid-19 Update 29 April 2020 ****Headcount****

Dear All

As promised on Monday, below is the Headcount timeline and process for the Summer 2020 term actual headcount: -

- The Headcount opens on the Essex Funding Portal on Monday 4 May and closes on Monday 13 May 2020
- Where possible, all providers should submit their actual headcounts in the usual manner onto the Portal; if there is any reason why you are not able to do this please email the Early Years Data mailbox (Earlyyearsdata@essex.gov.uk) for advice
- Where settings have been completely closed during the Covid-19 shutdown period we are not expecting there to be significant differences to numbers and / or hours claimed on the Interim Headcount (unless there was a specific omission / error at the interim headcount)
- Where open settings have taken on new children due to their existing childcare provider being closed, they should **not add** new critical worker children and / or vulnerable children to the Portal. Instead, please email the Free Entitlement Funding Queries mailbox (Free.EntitlementFundingQueries@essex.gov.uk) and request a form to complete for these children – once these forms are received, we will work with both the closed and current settings to explore the most appropriate way to ensure the funding is allocated. Once this is agreed, ECC will then ask both the closed and current settings to make any necessary adjustments on the Portal – **please note ECC will not agree to transfer FEEE funding from any closed setting to the temporary new setting without first discussing all of the options with both settings to ensure the child is able to access a funded place***
- The contractual payment date for the Actual Headcount payment for the Summer 2020 term is on or before 24 June 2020, but please be assured ECC will do everything in its power to make these payments as early as possible after the Headcount is closed and all claims validated

*This is in line with the updated guidance that the DfE issued yesterday on the use of FEEE funding to ensure there are enough childcare places for the children or critical workers and vulnerable children – [Use of free early education entitlements funding during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

SEN Premium Funding

Once Headcount is completed, we will be in touch with all settings that have children registered with them that are eligible for the SEN Premium funding, to clarify what level of

support has been being offered to these children during the Covid-19 lockdown period. Where support has continued to be offered to these children, the SEN Premium funding will be paid

Micro Business Loans

And finally, you may have seen that the Government have announced a new Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBL), for small/medium size businesses with a turnover up to £200k.

The loans are for between £2k and £50k, are 100% under-written by the Government and will be interest free for the first year. Key headlines of the bounce back loans are:

- Up to 25% of business turnover
- Interest free, with no payments for the first 12 months
- Business can apply for a COVID Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) or a BBL, however banks may allow you to transfer you CBILS in to a BBL
- **Applications open on the 4 May 2020 at 9am.**
- Businesses are still eligible for the Small Business Grants (SBG) £10k & £25k and the Covid-19 Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)
- After Bank approval, businesses will receive cash to bank within 24hrs.
- Businesses must have been trading from the 1 March 2020

The guidance and press coverage on the BBL indicate that this may be a suitable alternative to the current CBILS loans, and the criteria is better suited to small and medium sized businesses.

The full guidance can be found at the following link: -

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-coronavirus-bounce-back-loan>

We will continue to provide you with updates as any additional information is provided.

Best wishes

Carolyn

Carolyn Terry

EYCC Sufficiency and Sustainability Manager

Strategy, Planning and Performance

Education Directorate

Essex County Council

<https://eycp.essex.gov.uk/>

Please note my normal working days are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

T: 033 3013 6481

Mob: 078 2586 0004

E:: carolyn.terry@essex.gov.uk

