

## **Funding questions**

We have received a lot of questions about the FEEE funding and whether it will need to be paid back to ECC or transferred onto another setting for the remainder of the Summer 2020 term from 1 June 2020 if a setting is closed or only partially open

The DfE original guidance said that the FEEE funding should continue to be paid to all childcare settings for the Summer 2020 term, even if they are closed or only partially open. Subsequent guidance issued said that LAs could transfer funding to another setting if all other options have been explored to fund a child's place and this does not cause financial hardship. At this point, the DfE have not changed this guidance and ECC are in the process of finalising the Headcount to generate the second FEEE payments for the term.

ECC want to do everything they can to enable, where possible, childcare settings to keep their FEEE funding for the remainder of the Summer 2020 term and will work to the following principles: -

- Where possible FEEE funding will remain with the provider that has claimed the FEEE funding via the Headcount (subject to there not being any changes of guidance from the DfE)
- ECC will take steps to ensure that the FEEE funding that has already been paid to settings is used in the first instance to cover children's funded hours, including new children attending and / or additional hours being accessed. This means:-
  - Where a child transfers to a new setting, in the first instance the new setting need to identify if they are in receipt of any FEEE funding that is not being utilised whether this could be used to cover the hours of the child transferring in
  - If the new setting does not have any FEEE funding not being utilised that can cover the funded hours for the new child, they should contact ECC, who will have a conversation with the original childcare to see if it is possible to transfer the funding to the new childcare provider
  - If it is not possible to transfer the FEEE funding as this would cause the original setting financial hardship, ECC will seek to provide additional funding to cover these hours but these situations need to be a last resort
  - Should a child start to attend the setting later in the term, whose funding has been utilised with another child, ECC will seek to provide additional funding to cover these hours

## **Examples of funding queries received**

If parents choose not to send their child back for the rest of term but we are open does the funding still remain in place?

*Yes, if the setting is open and parents choose to not send their child back to the setting, ECC will not claim the FEEE funding back*

If I have to reduce numbers attending and therefore can't offer the number of funded hours to everyone will I be expected to submit an adjustment / return funding?

*The current guidance issued by the DfE, to date, says that the FEEE funding for the Summer 2020 term should continue to be paid even if a setting is closed and we would expect this to remain the same if a setting could only open for a smaller number of children or shorter hours.*

If I can't accommodate everyone, will funding still be paid for those who choose not to attend or can't accept space I can offer them?

*The current guidance issued by the DfE, to date, says that the FEEE funding for the Summer 2020 term should continue to be paid even if a setting is closed and we would expect this to remain the same if a setting could only open for a smaller number of children or shorter hours. However, parents may choose to access their FEEE funding at another setting if they are unable to access this with their current setting. If this is the case, ECC will liaise with the new setting to ascertain if they are in receipt of FEEE funding that is not being utilised that could be used for any new children attending. If this is not possible, ECC will liaise with you to see if you are able to transfer the funding*

If I am unable to open because premises are not available, will I have to return funding?

*Based on the current DfE guidance ECC will not be looking to claim funding back from settings that are unable to open due to their premises not being available. However, parents may choose to access their FEEE funding at another setting if they are unable to access this with their current setting. If this is the case, ECC will liaise with the new setting to ascertain if they are in receipt of FEEE funding that is not being utilised that could be used for any new children attending. If this is not possible, ECC will liaise with you to see if you are able to transfer the funding*

If I am unable to open / fully open: -

- because it is not financially viable or have no staff available and I have some parents who need childcare, will I be expected to transfer funding for any children who attend an alternative childcare provider? or
- and children attend a setting which is open, will I be expected to transfer funding for any child or just Key Worker and Vulnerable children to the new provider? or
- and I only offer a place to certain age range eg 4 year olds, as part of phasing in, will this affect funding for 3 and 2 year olds? If I am able to keep funding, will I be required to transfer funding for these children if they attend another provider? Or
- and I offer a parent hours that are not their usual hours and they decide to go to another provider, do I lose the funding even though I have offered them what I am able to?

- I do not have enough staff to cover opening usual hours and days, can I offer a limited service and still retain the funding? Will I be expected to transfer funding if families subsequently attend an alternative provider?

*The DfE has said that the FEEE funding should continue to be paid to all childcare settings even if they are closed or only partially open; and should only be transferred to another setting if all other options have been explored to fund a child's place and this does not cause financial hardship. Therefore, ECC will liaise with the other setting in the first instance to identify if they have been paid FEEE funding that they are not currently utilising that can be used to cover the funded hours for any new children*

If a child currently attends 2 providers and parents choose to only use one, what happens to the funding? Should providers transfer or can we charge parent for additional hours?

*In this instance, the parent will need to decide which setting they want to use. The setting chosen will need to see if they have any FEEE funding they are not utilising ie for a child not attending, that can be used to cover the additional hours the child will be attending. If this is not possible, they should contact ECC who will liaise with you to see if you are able to transfer the funding*

If I am unable to offer full 15 hours or 30 hours whilst phasing in, what will happen to funded hours not being offered to children.

*The current DfE says that the FEEE funding should continue to be paid to all childcare settings even if they are closed or only partially open and on that basis ECC would not be looking to remove any FEEE funding that wasn't being utilised. However, if children as a result attend another setting please see response above*

If a parent does not accept the offer of hours and days, will funding have to be transferred if the child attends an alternative provider who meets the family's needs?

*The new setting will need to see if they have any FEEE funding they are not utilising ie for a child not attending, that can be used to cover the hours for any new children will be attending. If this is not possible, they will need to contact ECC who will liaise with you to assess if you are able to transfer the funding to the new setting. If this is not financially possible, ECC will look to provide additional funding to cover these costs*

If a child returns to their original provider from 1<sup>st</sup> June and we have received full terms funding, do we have to transfer funding from 1<sup>st</sup> June to end of term to the original provider?

*Yes, if the full FEEE funding has been paid to a new temporary setting and the child returns to their original setting from 1 June 2020 the balance of funding will need transferring to the original setting for the remainder of the term*

If I am unable to open until autumn term, will there be any repercussions now or later on?

*The DfE has said that the FEEE funding should continue to be paid to all childcare settings even if they are closed or only partially open; and should only be transferred to another setting if all other options have been explored to fund a child's place and this does not cause financial hardship.*