

## Updated FAQs 12 November 2020

Is there any new / additional funding to support a setting through this second lockdown?

*Currently there is no additional funding specifically to support early years and childcare settings during this second lockdown. Current guidance states that early years and childcare providers can continue to operate, so places remain available for children and their families. As such, if early years and childcare settings were expected to be closed, further guidance on funding and support would be expected.*

*If there were to be a local lockdown that required early years and childcare settings to close, then as a business they would be able to apply for a 'Local Restrictions Support Grant' from the local authority, which in Essex would be the district councils.*

*For staff that have been told they need to self-isolate, the setting can claim back the Statutory Sick pay*

*As and when new guidance is received, information will be cascaded to settings as quickly as possible.*

Does the revised guidance now mean that settings can do show arounds for new families?

*The revised guidance states:*

### **Visitors to the setting**

*Settings should restrict all visits to the setting to those that are absolutely necessary.*

*Therefore, we still would recommend that show arounds do not take place, as we interpret the guidance that they are not absolutely necessary. Consider other ways this can be achieved other ways for example virtually using video chat or making a 'show around' video that can be sent to any perspective parent. If you feel this is not possible, you should ensure that any decisions made for visits to take place are underpinned by your risk assessment and systems of control you have put in place are adhered to tightly.*

## **What happens to the Free Entitlement funding when...?**

A setting needs to close due to receiving notification on shielding during the November lockdown (will also apply if this is extended beyond 2 December 2020).

*The setting can retain the Free entitlement for the Autumn 2020 term.*

- *FEEE funding can be claimed by another setting for the period of lockdown whilst shielding and same number of hours per week, if the parents are key workers and unable to work from home.*

- *The setting who is closed will need to provide evidence of shielding to [FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk](mailto:FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk)*
- *The setting the child goes to will need to confirm that parents are key workers and unable to work from home. Send requests for funding to [FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk](mailto:FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk)*

Setting A: Positive case has resulted in Staff and children from a bubble needing to self-isolate for 14 days. Some children in the bubble were not in attendance, so do not need to self-isolate. What happens to FEEE funding?

*In the first instance it would be expected to see if the child can be accommodated in another bubble at setting A.*

- *If this is not possible Setting A can retain the Free entitlement for the Autumn term.*
- *FEEE funding can then be claimed by setting B for the period of self-isolation only and same number of hours per week, if the parents are key workers and unable to work from home.*
- *Setting A needs to inform [Early.Years@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Early.Years@essex.gov.uk) of bubble self-isolating*
- *Setting B will need to confirm that parents are key workers and unable to work from home and send request for funding to [FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk](mailto:FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk)*