

**Provision of Early Years and Childcare Places**

**Project Name:**

EY&C Braintree Central

**Total funds available:**

£281,424

**Ward:**

Braintree Central & Beckers Green and Bocking South

**Development Location:**

CM7 3JW, CM7 2QT

SERVICE SPECIFICATION

Issued: 30th September 2024

**Key Dates:**

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| **launch** | Monday 30th September |
| **Last date for BMC or CCDL support\*** | Friday 6th December |
| **Closing date** | Friday 20th December |
| **Quality visit** | Monday 20th January – Wednesday 12th February |
| **Site visit to assess build project** | Monday 20th January – Wednesday 12th February |
| **Moderation Panel** | Friday 14th February |
| **EY Resource Panel** | Thursday 20th February |

\*Business Management Consultant (BMC)

Children’s Community Development Lead (CCDL)

1. **Essex County Council**
   1. Essex County Council (ECC) is dedicated to improving Essex and the lives of our residents. Our ambition is to deliver the best quality of life in Britain. We will achieve this by providing high-quality, targeted services that deliver real value for money.
   2. Everyone’s Essex, our plans for Levelling Up (2021-2025)
   3. Strategic Aims:

* Strong, inclusive and sustainable economy
* High quality environment
* Health, wellbeing and independence for all ages
* A great place for children and families to grow.

1. **National Context**
   1. Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) funding is at the heart of the Government’s vision for all children to have access to high quality early years education.

* FEEE for **all** three and four-year olds - universal funded provision for every child from the term following their third birthday up until they reach compulsory school age.
* FEEE for eligible two-year olds from the term after their second birthday.
* Extended Funded Entitlement (EFE - 30 hours) for eligible working families of three and four-year olds (term following their third birthday up until they reach compulsory school age subject to meeting eligibility criteria).
  1. As part of the new Department for Education (DfE) Childcare Reforms Expansion being implemented from April 2024, younger children will also be able to start accessing an early years funded place through the expanded 30-hours entitlement for qualifying working parents from the term after the child turns 9-months up to the term in which they turn 3-years-old. This will be rolled out in phases.
  2. These changes are being introduced gradually to support providers to meet the anticipated increase in demand from working families. This means that:
* From **April 2024**, eligible working parents from the term after their child turns 2-year-old have been able to access 15 hours childcare support. (FEEE2W)
* From **September 2024**, 15 hours childcare support will be extended to eligible working parents of children from the from the term after their child turns 9 months to 3-year-olds. (FEEE1W)
* From **September 2025**, eligible working parents of children from the term after the child turns 9 months will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare a week.

1. **The Project**

Legislation Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, commonly known as s106 agreements, are focused on site specific mitigation of the impact of development. S106 agreements are often referred to as 'developer contributions'.

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| * 1. Developments in the Braintree Central ward (postcodes CM7 3JW and CM7 2QT) have generated a pot of capital funding (Section106) for childcare expansion.   2. Essex County Council has receivedtotal contribution of **£281,424** capital funding which is to be used to support childcare providers to create a minimum of **12** additional childcare places. The additional resource must be located **within** Braintree Central ward.   3. The section 106 agreement is legally binding and therefore non-negotiable. In this case it states: “early years and childcare purposes” means the use of the contributions towards the provision of facilities for the education and/or care of children between ages 0-4 (both inclusive) including those with Special Education Needs within Braintree Central ward.   4. We are looking for Good or Outstanding Ofsted registered childcare providers, who would be interested in creating new places by expanding or modifying an existing provision to meet local childcare demand, or by opening a new provision (dependant on need).   5. New providers will be required to provide evidence of how they will achieve and maintain a Good or Outstanding Ofsted judgement.   6. The project must be located within the specified area and evidence must be provided as to how it will meet the needs generated by the new development.   7. The project must provide value for money.   8. The provider will enter a contract with Essex County Council to deliver flexible range of FEEE places, meeting high quality standards.   Please email FEEEQueries@essex.gov.uk for a copy of the current Essex FEEE provider handbook |

1. **The Scope**

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| 4.1 Based on identified current local need and with consideration given to potential future demand, the scope for the project MUST provide some or all of the following:   * Flexible provision of FEEE2 places (15 hours) for eligible disadvantaged 2-year-olds from the term after their second birthday. * Flexible provision of FEEE2W places (15 & 30 hours) for working families. * Flexible provision of FEEE places for 3- and 4-year-olds (15 hours universal offer) * Flexible provision of EFE places (30 hours) for eligible children aged 3- and 4-year-olds. * Flexible provision of FEEE1W places (15 & 30 hours) for eligible working families from the term after their child turns 9 months. * Provision of a breakfast, afterschool and holiday places. * Work with partners to facilitate community services.     4.2 Providers will hold a current ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ Ofsted judgement and ensure that all regulatory legislation (Ofsted Framework) is adhered. For new providers or those that are awaiting their first inspection, they will need to provide evidence as to how this will be achieved.    4.3 The Provider must have regard for the Equality Act 2010 which places a legal duty on practitioners to eliminate discriminatory practice and to promote equality of opportunity and access for all children, regardless of their own or their parents’ Race, disability, religion, gender, age, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity or sexual orientation.  4.4 The provider must have regard for the 0-25 SEND Code of Practice which requires Early Years settings to actively promote equality of opportunity for children with special educational needs or disabilities, remove barriers to participation, make reasonable adjustments to prevent disadvantage and ensure that children with medical conditions receive the support they need. Providers are required to promote their service for children with SEND on the Essex Local Offer  4.5 The provider will provide monitoring information on a quarterly basis for the first year of operation (schedule – monitoring template). This will cover performance against the mobilisation plan, staff recruitment and training; take up of places and marketing strategies. |

1. **Technical Requirements**

5.1 Regulation

The provider will be expected at all times to be meeting their registration requirements under Ofsted’s Inspection framework, specifically under the following headings:

The quality of education

* Behaviour and attitudes
* personal development
* leadership and management

6.2 Early Education Funding Contract

* Sign up to an ECC Early Education Funding Contract
* Provide a flexible FEEE offer for eligible children with consideration given to increased eligibility for FEEE places
* Offer EFE places for 30 hours for eligible children
* Comply with the terms of the ECC Early Education Funding Contract at all times

6.3 Compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2023 (GDPR

* Registration with the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO). A registration number will be required.

6.4 Safeguarding

Adhere to Southend Essex and Thurrock Safeguarding Children and Adult Guidelines <https://www.escb.co.uk/media/2739/set-procedures-may2022.pdf>

6.5 Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

* Provide monitoring (as per schedule – monitoring form) for the first year.
* Update the Essex Early Years Provider Portal as changes occur and submit childcare sufficiency data during the summer term.

6.6 Health and Safety Requirements

Providers will be expected to hold and maintain the appropriate Health and

Safety policies and they be embedded into service delivery.

6.7Insurance

* public liability insurance with a limit of indemnity of not less than five million pounds (£5,000,000) in relation to any one claim or series of claims arising from the Project; and
* employer's liability insurance with a limit of indemnity of not less than five million pounds (£5,000,000) in relation to any one claim or series of claims arising from the Project.
* Professional Indemnity Insurance with an indemnity limit of two hundred and fifty thousand pounds (£250,000) (optional as required by the Council).