

West Partnership Cross Boundary Funding Leaflet



Prior to Covid-19 the Scottish Government and local authorities within the West Partnership committed to increasing the early learning and childcare (ELC) funded entitlement from 600 to 1140 hours per year from August 2020 for all 3 and 4 year olds, and eligible 2 year olds.

As a consequence of Covid-19 the statutory duty to provide 1140 hours was delayed, all authorities are delivering up to 1140 hours dependent on capacity and workforce constraints, with the aim of providing high quality, flexible early learning and childcare that is accessible and affordable for families and supports their recovery from the pandemic.

In order to ensure that the funded ELC entitlement is delivered in high quality settings, it was the intention of the Scottish Government to introduce a Funding Follows the Child approach from August 2020. This approach is 'provider neutral' and is underpinned by The National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare and all settings who are funded providers - regardless of whether they are in the public, private, third sector, or childminders will meet.

The criteria in the National Standard focus on what children and their families should expect from their Early Learning and Childcare experience, regardless of where they access their funded entitlement.

The Scottish Government is keen that the principles of the Funding Follows the Child approach are implemented from August 2020. The West Partnership's Cross Boundary Protocol is designed to support this, where physical and financial capacity allows.

A significant number of parents / carers are opting for this level of flexibility and choice to meet childcare and family requirements; in particular they are requesting early learning and childcare funding from a local authority that they are **not** resident in. For clarity of purpose we will refer to these authorities as **host authorities**.

The duty for providing early learning and childcare lies with the authority where a child lives. These authorities are referred to as **resident authorities**.

PROCEDURE

Please Note: **Resident Authority:** authority parent/carer and child live in.
Host Authority: authority in which your child attends nursery.
All Funded Providers: private, voluntary, 3rd sector, childminders in contract with the host authority to provide funding

Parents/carers can ask a funded provider working in partnership with any of the named authorities to make a request on their behalf to the host local authority of a child for early learning and childcare "funding follows the child". **The funded provider must be in partnership with the host local authority.** The timing of this request should be considered to ensure it complies with existing host local authority timelines for allocating funding to funded providers (**details of which can be obtained from individual local authorities**).

A **West Partnership Cross Boundary Admission Group** inclusive of representatives from all participating local authorities will meet in May each year to review funding requests and agree levels of cross boundary funding for the new session commencing August. Funding requests will be granted in the first instance on a reciprocal basis: i.e. the resident authority will match the host authority with funding requests, therefore eliminating the need for payment between local authorities.

The funded entitlement i.e. up to 1140 hours will be determined by the policy within the resident authority.

No funding will be provided for lunches. Where parents wish to access lunch in the nursery setting they should make arrangements with the funded provider directly.

Parents/carers should be made aware that "funding follows the child" for children aged 3-5 years will commence the month after the child's 3rd birthday, irrespective of the Admission Policy of the named authority. Cross boundary funding is granted for each session and returning children remaining with a funded provider are required to make a funding request for each session. Funded providers must follow the host authorities' application process and ensure that information in respect of returning children is available for discussion at the West Partnership Cross Boundary Admission Group meetings.

All eligible 2, 3 and 4 years olds will become eligible for cross boundary funding as follows:

If your child is born on or between:	They will be eligible for a funded early learning & childcare place from:
March to August	Autumn term (August)
September	October
October	November
November	December
December	January
January	February
February	March

Under part 6 of the Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, an entitlement was introduced in August 2014 for some 2 year olds.

Children aged 2 years are eligible for a funded place if a parent is in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Job Seeker's Allowance
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity or Severe Disablement Allowance
- State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit and income is £16,105* or less
- Child tax Credit and Working Tax Credit and income is £7,320* or less
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit with household take-home pay, is £610 a month or less

Additionally, children aged 2 are eligible for funded ELC where they are looked after by the Council, or are the subject of a kinship care order or the subject of a guardianship order, along with children whose parents have been care experienced in the past.

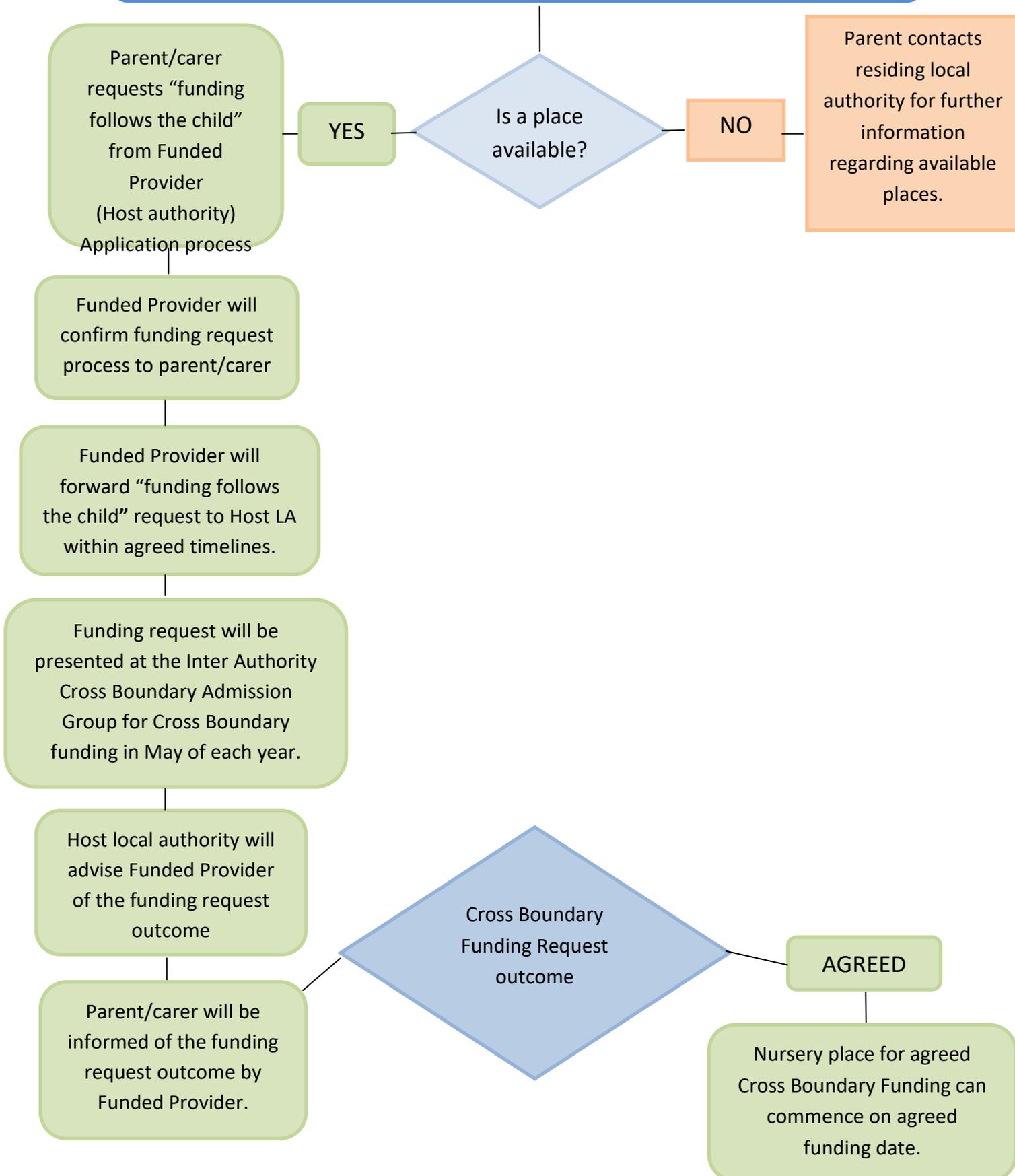
* This applies to children who have turned two on or after 1st March 2019. The income thresholds for Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit can vary annually.

Host authorities will notify their funded providers of the funding outcomes for request received. Thereafter, providers or local authorities (depending on resident authorities existing protocol) will notify funded providers and/or parents/ carers of the decision.

Parents /carers will be notified of the funding outcome by end of June each year.

Application Process for Cross Boundary Funded Providers (As per Host Authority Application Process)

Parent / Carer contacts the Funded Provider directly to enquire if there is a place available "with Funding Follows the Child"



INTER-AUTHORITY CROSS BOUNDARY FUNDING
PARENT/CARER AND PARTNER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PLEASE READ THIS LEAFLET IN CONJUNCTION WITH HOST AUTHORITY FUNDING PROCESS

- 1 My child is 3 years old, when can I have a funded nursery place from for my child?**
When a funded place has been approved by your resident/host local authority, funding will be granted in the Funded Provider Nursery from the month following the child's third birthday.
- 2 If my child is entitled to eligible 2 funding when can I have a funded nursery place form for my child?**
When a funded place has been approved by your resident/host local authority, funding will be granted in the Funded Provider Nursery from the month following your child's second birthday.
- 3 Do I have to apply for a "cross boundary" place or does the Funded Provider apply on my behalf?**
"Cross Boundary" requests have to be made to the host authority by the parent/carer or Funded Provider in accordance with the host authority request process and closing date. Please contact your host authority for confirmation of application closing date and funding process for next nursery session.
- 4 What is the application process for Cross Boundary applications?**
Inter Authority Cross Boundary applications can be obtained from your chosen Funded Provider, Host authority Early Learning and Childcare Service direct or website.
Please note: Closing dates and process for Inter Authority Cross Boundary applications for the following session differ across authorities.
- 5 Are Cross Boundary places only considered once per year?**
Requests for cross boundary funding will be considered in accordance with the host local authority request process. Inter authority requests for cross boundary funding received throughout the year will be considered by individual local authorities where physical and financial capacity allows.
- 6 Why as a Cross Boundary parent/carer do I receive funding for my child aged 3-5 years from the month following my child's 3rd birthday when resident authority children receive funding from a different date?**
Scottish Government requested Scottish Local Authorities have a reciprocal arrangement in funding Cross Boundary Children and funding date "1st month following has been agreed by all participating authorities within the West Partnership Cross Boundary Protocol Group.

7 What are my options if I am not granted a funded place out with my resident authority in order to get a funded place for my child?

If a cross boundary place cannot be funded in a Funded provider nursery you should contact your resident authority and the nursery of your choice and you will be considered for a funded place in accordance with your resident Local Authority Admissions Policy.

8 My child has attended a private nursery since he was 1 year old. The nursery is out with the local authority area where I live. He will turn 3 years in March: will I be entitled to a funded place from the following session commencing August? How do I access funding?

A request for Cross Boundary funding has to be submitted before the Host Authority Application closing date and will be considered at the West Partnership Cross Boundary Admission Group Meeting in May of each year. The flow chart on the previous page explains the process.

9 If I am successful in applying for a cross boundary Nursery place - when will my child aged 3 years start nursery?

A child can start in a Funded Provider Nursery when the parent/carer wishes if a place is available. When a request for cross boundary funding is granted, Cross Boundary funding will commence the month following the child's 3rd birthday.

10 If I am a resident in an authority that is not part of the West Partnership Cross Boundary Funding Protocol and want to place my child out with authority how do I get funding?

Please contact your host authority who will contact your choice of resident authority and request cross boundary funding for your child on your behalf.

11 If I have already been granted Cross Boundary Funding in an out with authority Funded Provider and I move my child to another out with authority Funded Provider will my cross boundary funding transfer with my child.

If another funded child within the same resident authority has left/reduced their funded place within the Funded Provider you have moved your child to then the nursery may allocate a funded place to you. Otherwise a request has to be submitted to the host authority of your chosen nursery in accordance with the host authority request process.

13 If my child is placed in a resident local authority Funded Provider Nursery, I already receive a funded place for my child and I move my child to an out with authority Funded Provider Nursery, can I still get funding in the out with authority Funded Provider Nursery during the same school session.

Answer as per Question 12 above.

14 If I already have a part time funded place weekly in an out with authority Funded Provider Nursery and I want to increase my child's placement weekly will I automatically receive increased funding?

No. If another funded child within the same resident authority has left/reduced their funded place within the Funded Provider Nursery that your child is placed in then the nursery may allocate a funded place to you. Otherwise a request has to be submitted to the host authority of your chosen nursery in accordance with the host authority request process.

15. Will my child be provided with lunch at their funded provider?

There has been no agreement to fund lunches between local authorities. If you wish your child to receive lunch from the nursery you should make arrangements directly with them.

LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTACT DETAILS:

EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL	Education Service, Early Years, The Marina, Suite F4, Strathkelvin Place, Kirkintilloch, G66 1XT Tel : 0300 123 4510 extension:8707 Email: earlyyears@eastdunbarton.gov.uk
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL	ELC Administration Team, 211 Main Street, BARRHEAD G78 1SY. Tel: 0141 577 3288 Email: earlylearningandchildcare@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk
GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL	Early Learning and Childcare Services, City Chambers East Building, 40 John Street, GLASGOW, G1 1JL. Tel: 0141 287 4887 Email: gfis@glasgow.gov.uk
INVERCLYDE COUNCIL	Education Services, Wallace Place, GREENOCK, PA15 1JB, Tel 01475 717171 Email: admin.educationhq@inverclyde.gov.uk
NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL	Education, Youth & Communities, Intervention & Inclusion, Municipal Building, Kildonan Street, Coatbridge , ML5 3BT. Tel: 01236 812281 Email: llsearlyyears@northlan.gov.uk
RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL	Children's Services, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, PAISLEY, PA1 1TZ Tel: 0300 300 0170.
SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL	Education Resources, Almada Street, HAMILTON, ML3 0AE Tel: 0303 123 1023 Email: earlyyears@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

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