

Nursery Education Grant, The Code of Practice and Local Conditions of Grant

Next steps for the Local Authority and Early Years Providers



Richmond upon Thames
Children and Young People's Trust



The Code of Practice

- The new Code of Practice and extension to 15 hours came into place from September 2010.
- In response to this Richmond Early Years team have written our own internal policy document to meet the needs of PVI providers in the borough.
- The Policy document was consulted on with providers, has been discussed with our legal team and an education legal expert.
- The Policy has been discussed at Education DMT and approved and will now go to Education Cabinet Members for agreement.
- The Policy document is available for your viewing and has been distributed to all providers.
- New Local Conditions of Grant have been written incorporating new policy and distributed to all.

Links to documents

- Conditions of Grant and Code of Practice

[http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/education and learning/early years education and childcare/ey info for practitioners.htm](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/education_and_learning/early_years_education_and_childcare/ey_info_for_practitioners.htm)

- Conditions of Grant 2010/11 pdf file
- Annex A pdf (internal CoP)

Key Goals of policy document

- 1. Assuring providers in all sectors remain financially sustainable, therefore maintaining the places and quality of Richmond's childcare provision.
- 2. Assure completely free childcare is available to those families that are most in need where the child can be placed.
- 3. To have transparency between the Local Authority and providers regarding what is expected by the L.A from providers to be eligible to apply for the NEG. Also transparency between providers and parents regarding the free 15 hour offer and what any additional payments contribute to.

As a reminder – the changes providers needed to make

- Open for a minimum of 3 hours per day and 15 hours per week to remain on DoP.
- Open beyond 3 hours per day and 15 hours per week if requiring additional parental contributions.
- Offer completely free places to the following number of the most disadvantaged families in the Richmond Borough (as consulted at meeting);
 - Sessional provider with 24 places or under = 1 free place.
 - Sessional provider with over 24 places = 2 free places.
 - Full Day care = 3 free places.
- Set up Parental Contracts in line with the new local conditions of grant/ provider agreements.
- All NEG funding must be taken off at point of delivery and not refunded to parents in term time when the NEG is delivered.

What if a parent asks a provider for a completely free place?

- If a parent wants their child to attend a setting and nowhere else and you have no more free places available, you need to make clear they can only do so if willing to pay for additional services.
- It can be explained the sustainability issues that offering free places would cause a setting.
- Highlight the extra benefits and additional services their child will receive at a setting.
- If the parent demands a free place and you are unable to offer them one at a setting, then they can contact the Family Information Service who will strive to find a free place elsewhere, should it be available.
- This is why it is crucial we are aware of the number of free places you have offered and have available.
- Brokerage of free places is only possible in partnership



Examples of Queries around NEG received by the FIS team

- Brokerage Cases where parents are not able to secure a free place. Settings some times seem unaware of the number of FREE spaces they should be offering.
- Parents do not understand the consequences of withdrawing from a PVI place after Head Count Day. Either moving to another provider or the maintained sector.
- Where a child does move and attends two settings in one term we cannot get involved in splitting the payment. Providers should negotiate this between themselves.



Frequently Asked Questions

- Lists of FAQ's are on the website both for providers and parents
- http://www.richmond.gov.uk/neg_faqs_for_web_site_-_providers-2.pdf
- http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/education_and_learning/early_years_education_and_childcare/nursery_education_grant/nursery_education_grant_information_for_parents.htm

