



## Expansion of Early Years Funding Communication Briefing

November 2022



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



The Deputy Minister for Social Services Julie Morgan MS and Plaid Cymru Designated member Sian Gwenllian MS visited Cylch Meithrin Abergele where they announced the Welsh Governments plans to improve childcare availability, boost Welsh language provision, and expand Flying Start childcare.

### Early Years Childcare

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that every child in Wales has the best start in life.

The early years are vitally important in a child's life, providing formative opportunities and setting the course for longer term learning and development. Investment in early years care and education, as set out in the Welsh Government vision for an integrated Early Childhood Education and Care system, is key to children's happiness and well-being and sets children on the path to achieve their full potential.

The Programme for Government maintains our commitment to the Flying Start Programme, which historically has supported 36,000 children aged 0-4 years and their families living in some of the most deprived communities across Wales. In line with the Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru this commitment has been extended to deliver a phased expansion of early years provision to include all two-year-olds with a particular emphasis on strengthening Welsh-medium provision. This expansion of early years provision will be delivered by Local Authorities across Wales through the Flying Start Programme, and they will continue to use a geographical approach highlighting those communities most in need.

Phase one of this expansion began in September 2022 and includes the delivery of all four core elements of the Flying Start Programme to an additional 2,500 children across Wales.

- Free quality, part-time childcare for two- to three-year-olds
- An enhanced Health Visiting service
- Access to Parenting Support
- Speech, Language and Communication Support

Phase two will commence in April 2023 and will focus on delivering the high-quality childcare element of the Flying Start Programme to around 3,000 more children aged between two to three years. Children living in communities identified by each Local Authority will be eligible for 12.5 hours of childcare per week for 39 weeks of the year. In addition to a minimum of 15 sessions of flexible childcare and/or play during school holidays.



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## **Increasing Welsh Provision**

An essential element of this expansion is to expand and strengthen Welsh-medium childcare and increase the numbers of children who are able to speak Welsh across Wales. Funding is being provided to support existing settings to expand into Welsh-medium provision as well as enabling new settings to open.

CWLWM which is the umbrella body for the five main childcare groups (National Day Nursery Association; Mudiad Meithrin; Pacey Cymru; Early Years Wales and Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs) are being provided with additional funding of up to £3.787m to provide support via development officers to existing Welsh-medium settings and childcare workers, as well as those wanting to enter the childcare workforce including childminders.

Support will be provided for Welsh language training and dedicated support will be given to increase the use of Welsh language in settings. The funding will support an increase in the numbers of Welsh speakers within the existing workforce and those entering the workforce. It will aim to improve Welsh Language skills and deliver a continuous programme of professional development for Welsh speakers within the childcare workforce.

## **Childcare and Early Years Capital Programme**

The Welsh Government has committed £70m over the next three years to support the expansion of Early Years Childcare under the Childcare and Early Years Capital and Small Grants Programme.

The funding is to support the expansion of Flying Start childcare, the Childcare Offer and/or Foundation Learning within a childcare setting. The expansion of Welsh-medium provision, co-location of services and increasing the numbers of childcare place available will be key criteria in accessing this funding.

Local Authorities will be able to apply for Capital funding and they will receive information on how to make an application.

Each Local Authority will have a process to administer the Childcare and Early Years Small Grant element of the programme. All registered childcare settings across Wales will be able to apply for a small grant to improve provision such as outdoor play spaces, replacement of equipment or general refurbishment.

These are exciting times, and we will update you at each phase of the expansion programme. More information can be found at [Phased expansion of Early Years Provision | GOV.WALES](#)

## **Thanks given to childcare workers across Wales**

Hear the Deputy Minister for Social Services express her appreciation and gratitude to the childcare and play workforce in this short video message.

[Welsh Government Communities on Twitter: "The Deputy Minister for Social Services, Julie Morgan has a message for the childcare and play workforce in Wales. <https://t.co/e6dsIUTNi7>" / Twitter](#)

**This Communication Briefing was prepared by the Welsh Government's Early Year's (Flying Start) Branch**

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