

Eligibility Criteria for Sure Start Out of School Funding 2010 - 11

Any applicant for out of school childcare funding must be able to demonstrate their project can meet the following three criteria in order to be eligible for a childcare grant:

1. Does the project meet the Local Authority definition of childcare for out of school funding?

Each of the following four components must be features of the proposed service:

- **Duration:** The combination of care and education provided must mean that a parent is able to leave their child for a continuous period of at least four hours in order to be able to access work or training. In most instances in out of school development this is the case e.g breakfast then school.
- **Escort:** At the beginning or end of the school day children must be able to get to or from the childcare setting without the intervention of their parents. For example, if a setting is not located on the school site appropriate arrangements must be made for children to be supervised on that journey.
- **Reliability:** Parents must be able to rely on the availability of the service. The expectation is that the service would only be cancelled in extreme circumstances where opening would cause a breach of Ofsted regulation, for example where back up plans for meeting staff ratios have failed or where heating systems have broken.
- **Sustainability:** Funding is intended to assist with the initial start-up phase of a project only, usually for a one-year period. Applicants must be able to demonstrate how the project will be sustainable once they come to the end of the funding period. This is usually achieved through fee income from parents.

2. Does the project make a strategic contribution to the development of Extended Services in Swindon schools?

An out of school grant can only be awarded to a project that contributes towards meeting the requirements of extended services provision in accordance with Swindon's extended services strategy. Where this contribution has been established, funding can be awarded to groups in the private, voluntary or maintained sector where parental need has been identified. Awards to the private and voluntary sector can only be made where there is an extended agreement with a school in place relating to the childcare development.

3. Does the project make a strategic contribution to the Local Authority's requirement to deliver childcare sufficiency?

Where a project meets the criteria for childcare (1) but not for extended services provision (2), consideration will be given to whether need for additional provision has been identified under the Local Authority's assessment of Childcare Sufficiency.

March 2010

Review date: March 2011