



Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

To Headteachers/Principals
Infant/Primary Schools/Academies
Special Schools

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

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Your Ref.

Please ask for: Lisa Morris

Our Ref. LM/kes

Date: 23 November 2017

Dear Colleagues

On 1st September 2017, 30 hours free early education and childcare for working parents of three and four year olds was rolled out nationally in England. This represents a major expansion in the free entitlement, and builds on the existing universal 15 hours free early education entitlement.

To support Councils with the first year of delivery, and to enable them to support providers to deliver sufficient 30 hours places, the Department for Education (DfE) has established a Delivery Support Fund (DSF). This fund will be made available to Councils via a bid round. Funding will be available for work that directly benefits 30 hours delivery and will create (directly or indirectly) new 30 hours places for the 2018 Summer Term.

It is important to note that this bid round is not aimed at large scale capital projects and it is expected that no more than £10,000 will be provided in total for capital funding. The guidance indicates that a Council is unlikely to be awarded more than £70,000 in total across multiple projects.

The DSF guidance, frequently asked questions document and a copy of the bid application form is available at <http://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/30-hours/>. If you are interested in making a bid please read the guidance which gives a clear outline of the types of projects that may be successful. In particular, you should be confident that you can meet the delivery timescales and requirements of the bid.

All submissions have to be made through Solihull Council, through one application form. The DfE closing date for bids is Friday 15 December 2017. In order to meet this deadline potential bids should be emailed to annpearson@solihull.gov.uk by no later than **Tuesday 12 December 2017**. I recognise that this is a really tight timescale, but this is set by the DfE and is outside of Solihull Council's control. Any queries about the bidding process should be sent to 30HrsDelivery.SupportFund@education.gov.uk. If we receive more bids than we are able to submit, successful bids will be selected subject to the national guidance document.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Morris
Early Years Adviser
Solihull Early Years and Education Improvement Service
Education and Skills Division

