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NOTE FOR ALL SERVICES WHO PROVIDE SCHOOL AGE CHILDCARE

From 15 March SAC providers were able to reopen fully to all primary age children. We know that the last year has been particularly challenging for you and that you will have enjoyed welcoming back the children and families you care for.

Specific Funding for School Age Childcare providers

We have announced up to £3 million of dedicated funding for the school age childcare sector through the next round of the Temporary Restrictions Fund (TRF). This funding will cover the four week period from 1 March– 26 March 2021 and will target **support specifically to the school age childcare sector** in the light of prolonged restrictions on their services due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Round 3 of the TRF will open to all school age childcare providers who are registered with the Care Inspectorate on **7 April 2021** and will close to applications on **4 May 2021**.

All open school age childcare providers will be able to access a support grant for each week in which they are open over the period 1 March to 26 March 2021. The size of the grant will vary depending on the registered capacity of each setting and how many weeks the setting was open.

In recognition of ongoing challenges facing the school age childcare sector, all registered settings, whether open or closed, will also be able to claim an additional restart grant based on their capacity to support reopening following the end of restrictions. This includes settings with combined ELC and SAC services and larger childminding settings (12 or more children) which also remained restricted until 15 March.

School age childcare providers will be able to apply through the [Temporary Restrictions Fund application site](#).

School Age Childcare Progress Report

We have also published the School Age Childcare Progress Report. The [School Age Childcare Progress Report](#) captures what has been learned from our [public consultation](#) and sets out the steps we are taking to move closer to our vision for school age childcare in Scotland. It provides an insight into the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on children, families, and the childcare sector. Within the report, we have committed to continuing to work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop a strategic framework for school age childcare, establishing a public panel to inform policy development, undertaking a financial sustainability health check of the sector, and supporting pilot projects to test the changes needed to deliver accessible, affordable and flexible school age childcare for families in Scotland. A

particular thanks to SOSCN, SAC Reference Group Members and SAC providers for their input to this report.

Last week Maree Todd, Minister for Children and Young People recorded a short video for the SAC sector, you can watch that video [here](#). I'd like to add my thanks for all that you continue to do to support children and families.

Alison Cumming
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