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11 March 2021

CHILDMINDING BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY FUND

NOTE FOR ALL CHILDMINDERS

This notice provides information about the [Childminding Business Sustainability Fund](#) which opened to applications on 11 March.

Childminders are a vital and valued part of our childcare sector, providing high quality care and learning in a safe and nurturing environment.

The unique and nurturing environment that childminders offer in their service also benefits from being a low-risk setting for childcare during this pandemic, and at times this has meant childminders have been able to operate when other providers have not.

Nevertheless, it is recognised that operating during the pandemic has been a challenge for all childminders, and that there have been increased pressures on their businesses as a result. This notice provides information about the opening of the Childminding Business Sustainability Fund.

CHILDMINDING BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY FUND

On the 9 February the Scottish Government confirmed that additional funding will be made available in order to increase the Childminding Business Sustainability Fund £3.2 million.

The increased funding allows us to provide a £750 business sustainability grant to **all childminding services** who are registered with the Care Inspectorate as of 1 February 2021.

Grants are available to childminding services registered with the Care Inspectorate. £750 grants will be paid per service, irrespective of the number of childminders registered to work with that service.

Eligibility

- The childminding service must have been registered with the Care Inspectorate on 1 February 2021
- You must be able to provide your name, contact information, registered address and CI registration number

- Only one grant can be made per registered service; if more than one childminder works under a single registration one application should be made.

Application Process

You can [apply](#) for the grant online. Applications open on 11 March and will close at midnight on 17 March, you have 7 days to submit your application, after this the application window will be closed and no late applications will be possible.

The application form is very simple, requiring your contact details, Care Inspectorate registration information, and a bank account where the grants can be paid.

However, you will first be asked to set up an account with your email address. Once complete you will be sent an email with a link for you to click to verify your email address. This process will help ensure we have your correct contact details and enable us to get in touch with you if we need to.

Please ensure the information in the application form is accurate and in the correct format before submitting to avoid delays to processing.

There is **no** requirement for a business bank account, although you must provide details of a bank account where payment can be made

All applications will be validated against Care Inspectorate records for accuracy and processed following the closure of the application window.

You will receive a confirmation email that your application has been submitted successfully.

A further email will follow after the fund has closed, either to:

- Confirm the application has been successfully validated against Care Inspectorate records, or
- Advise you that the information could not be validated. If this is the case you will be asked to double check that you meet all eligibility criteria and, once you are sure that they are, to email to reconfirm your details.

Information for Larger Childminding Settings only (registered for 12+ children)

Childminders registered for 12+ children are still subject to restrictions up until 15 March and are therefore eligible to apply for round 2 of the [Temporary Restrictions Fund](#) for the period 1-26 February (including week beginning 22 February). These settings will also be eligible for the additional support payment offered in Round 2 for open services affected by the temporary restrictions and any setting that remains closed can apply for the additional support payment only.

Larger childminding settings as eligible to apply for **both** the TRF and the Childminding Business Sustainability Fund.

Round 2 opened on 5 March. Full details and how to apply can be found on the [TRF webpages](#).

Further Support to the Sector

We remain committed to working with the whole childcare sector to respond to the challenges brought about by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this engagement, we will be reviewing support needs across the sector through the work of the Sector Recovery Group and wider engagement.

This may include a further sector-wide survey to inform our understanding of the impact of different levels of restrictions over the last year and looking ahead to how we stabilise and strengthen the sector to deliver the 1,140 hours expansion programme and our ambitions for a vibrant school age childcare offer securing positive outcomes for children and families across Scotland.

Further information

Further details on available financial support is provided on the Scottish Government's [information pages on financial support](#).

These pages will continue to be updated as more information becomes available.

Directorate for Early Learning and Childcare
Scottish Government
11 March 2021