

Wraparound Childcare (WAC) – Questions & Answers

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| Who is eligible? | <p>Regular Service personnel (including FTRS FC) who have dependent children aged 4-11.</p> <p>In order to be eligible, at the start of the pilot the Service person and their partner must be in paid employment or restarting work within the next 31 days (or a sole parent in a lone parent family), working at least 16 hours each per week and have a weekly income equivalent to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage.</p> | <p>SP do not need to be married to be eligible for WAC.</p> <p>If a partner can't work and is in receipt of certain Government allowances, they will be able to take part in the pilot if all the other eligibility criteria are met.</p> |
| What is the deadline for applying to take part in the pilot? | <p>For The pilot in RAF High Wycombe and RAF Halton, if SP have report for duty dates between 1 September 2020 and 31 March 2021 then they are eligible so by inference they would have needed to apply by 31 March.</p> <p>For the pilot in Plymouth area and Catterick Garrison, if SP have report for duty between 1 January 2021 and 30 June 2021 then they are eligible so by inference they would have needed to apply by 30 June 2021.</p> | <p>Retrospective claims will be considered, eligibility checks will be carried out.</p> |
| What is the time frame for the pilot? | <p>The first pilot will start in the Autumn term 2020 and include Service personnel assigned to RAF High Wycombe and RAF Halton and will run for one academic year September 2020 - July 2021. In January 2021, the pilot will be extended to include Catterick</p> | <p>The pilot for the Catterick and Plymouth area sites will run for one academic year, January 2021- December 2021.</p> |

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| | Garrison and the Plymouth area. | |
| What is the definition of a dependent child? | A child which usually lives with the parents and which the parents have financial responsibility for. | This includes stepchildren, adopted children and any child brought into the family. Foster children are not eligible. |
| Is there a maximum number of children who can be accepted onto the scheme? | No maximum, however cost control measures are in place to ensure that the pilots are kept within budget; this means that there are cut off dates for eligibility - these could be extended if take up is low. | |
| Which children are eligible? | Children become eligible in the academic year they start school after turning 4 until the end of the academic year they turn 11. | For pilots outside of England, differing school starting ages in devolved administrations will be taken into consideration. |
| Will children over 11 years with a SEND be eligible? | The age limits for all children on the pilot is 4-11- years. | There is no separate provision for children with SEN. Disabled children are eligible for extra funding on the pilot if they get a Disability Living Allowance (DLA, including the new Scottish DLA), Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Armed Forces Independent Payment (AFIP), or an EU equivalent of any of these; or are certified as blind or severely sight-impaired by an ophthalmologist. |
| Are children with a SEND that attend special schools eligible. | Yes, as long as the eligibility criteria is met. | |
| Do we need to complete a separate application | There is an option on the application form to add more | |

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| form for each of our children? | children, and different providers if you use more than one. | |
| Can civilian email addresses be used on the application? | Applications must be sent from an MOD email address. | Subsequent correspondence can be received from a civilian email address |
| How do we apply? | Register your Expression of Interest by sending an email to DCYP-HQ-WACP-mailbox@mod.gov.uk from your MOD email address, clearly stating 'EOI-Plymouth Area' or 'EOI-Catterick Garrison' in the title of your email. | Following this you will be contacted to complete the full registration which is an online form; if you are unable to complete an application online using your MOD account you should also provide an explanation of why not when you register your Expression of Interest. |
| Do children at Boarding school qualify for the entitlement? | No, for the purpose of the WAC pilot, children have to live at home and attend school (including home school). | |
| If SP or their partner are on maternity leave, are they still eligible? | If they are on paid maternity leave, they will be eligible. If they are unpaid maternity leave, they will not be eligible. | |
| If SP or partner are on a career break, are they eligible? | No, they will not be eligible. | Both parents (or sole parent in a lone parent family) must be in paid employment, working a minimum of 16 hours each per week and have a weekly income equivalent to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage. |
| What can parents claim? | The cost of up to 20 hours per week of WAC including breakfast and after school clubs per child, term time only, delivered by OFSTED (or equivalent) inspected | Registered providers include schools, nurseries, childminders, nannies, sports and youth clubs or voluntary |

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| | providers. Capped using the regional average and maximum hours rate. If meals or activities are a cost on top of the cost of childcare, this is payable by the parent. | organisations such as charities |
| Is the rate based on a national average? Costs can vary from area to area, is there an x-factor for the more expensive areas? | Costs are based on the <u>Coram</u> and <u>NI childcare cost survey</u> . | There is no x-factor for more expensive options. |
| If the provider costs more than the DIN hourly rate, are we ok to proceed? | You would only get up to max hourly rate. You would have to fund anything over and above the hourly rate yourself. | Claims are calculated on an hourly basis. If the claim includes before and after school care at different hourly rates, where one is below cap and one is above, you are responsible for paying the excess hourly rate. |
| Is there a maximum number of children per family who can claim the 20 hrs per week? | No maximum number of children so long as they meet the eligibility criteria. | |
| Can we pay for our WAC upfront using our TFC account, Armed Forces Childcare Vouchers (AFCVS), or bank transfer / cash? | Yes, AFCVS (Sodexo), other salary sacrifice childcare voucher schemes, TFC or bank transfer /cash can be used to pay for your WAC upfront. | If you pay via cash / bank transfer or AFCVS we will reimburse 100% of the costs. If you use your TFC account, we reimburse 80% as the government will reimburse 20%. |
| How do parents apply for a TFC account? | Visit https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare to open an account and confirm eligibility. | It takes approx. 20 minutes to open a TFC account. Parents will have to re-confirm their details for the TFC every 3 months. |
| How do parents claim? | Parents should forward WAC invoices to DCYP Childcare Support Team (CST) | Once parents have informed the CST how they pay for their WAC, |

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| | <p><u>DCYP-HQ-WACP-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk</u></p> <p>The CST will arrange for the invoice value to be paid either directly to the provider or will reimburse parents that pay upfront or using a TFC account or AFCVS.</p> | <p>further information will be given to them about that method of payment. Payments may take up to 14 working days (sometimes a little longer at busy times) once the CST has processed the invoice.</p> |
| <p>The provider offers a forces discount, should the discount still be applied?</p> | <p>Yes, any discounts that the providers offer should still be applied.</p> | |
| <p>At Independent schools, the invoice for WAC comes at start of each term comes alongside the invoice for school do I just send the whole invoice, or do I ask the school to separate it out?</p> | <p>The number of hours must be clearly articulated on the invoice, and whether it is before or after school care. The unique reference number must be on the invoice.</p> | <p>If you are in receipt of CEA, you will not be eligible for the WAC pilot.</p> |
| <p>If you have a statemented child in childcare, the government will pay £2 against every £8 we pay towards their WAC. Does this mean the money that the MOD would put into the online childcare account would contribute as the £8 into that account?</p> | <p>The MOD is unable to pay directly into a TFC account, the parent will pay the invoice and the MOD will reimburse the £8 to the parent for them to pay into their TFC account (where the Government will pay £2 for every £8 paid in).</p> | |
| <p>If a parent earns £100K or more and the other earns less than £100K, do they qualify for WAC?</p> | <p>No, if either parent earns £100K or more they do not qualify for WAC. If both parents earn less than £100K each, however, they will be eligible to join the WAC pilot.</p> | <p>The upper income limit for WAC is based on the £100K figure dictated by HMRC in terms of TFC eligibility (this is also where the personal allowance starts to decrease). Parents not eligible for TFC will not be able to take part in the pilot.</p> |

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| <p>If a parent leaves the Armed Forces Childcare Voucher Scheme (AFCVS) with a certain amount of vouchers purchased and unused:</p> <p>1) How long do they have to spend the vouchers? 2) Do they have to spend all their vouchers before they are able to start using their TFC account? 3) Will they be able to claim for a refund for any unused vouchers?</p> | <p>1) There is no limit on when they need to spend the vouchers, as they have been received prior to them joining the TFC scheme. 2) No, they do not. 3) Yes, they can do this, and the vouchers would be paid back through salary as per the normal process.</p> | <p>Parents can remain in the AFCVS while taking part in the WAC pilot, vouchers could be used for holiday care. Parents cannot be in the AFCVS and use TFC.</p> <p>If parents choose to leave the AFCVS they must note that they cannot re-join the scheme.</p> |
| <p>When can bookings start to take place once the unique ref number has been issued as places are booking up fast so to secure a place the bookings will need to be made soon.</p> | <p>As soon as HR staff have carried out JPA checks, the authority to claim will be issued. As soon as you have the authority to claim, you can book.</p> | |
| <p>Will it be possible to change the requested hours that we will be entitled to claim if circumstances change?</p> | <p>Requested hours can be changed, but only up to 20 hours max per child can be claimed.</p> | |
| <p>How easily can you change providers? My provider is currently grappling with how to handle COVID-19 restrictions and may reach capacity very quickly.</p> | <p>You can change provider at any time, but they need to be Ofsted registered or equivalent.</p> | <p>If you change your provider, you will need to tell the CST, the new providers details and OFSTED number.</p> |
| <p>Is the WAC paid directly to the provider or is it paid into our wages? Is there a tax implication if paid into wages?</p> | <p>There are 2 payment methods, payment can be made directly to the provider, or parents can pay upfront using their TFC account or AFCVS and claim a reimbursement.</p> | <p>If we pay the provider directly, or if parents pay the provider directly or use the AFCVS we pay 100% of WAC up to the maximum rate. If parents pay using a</p> |

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| | | TFC account, we will reimburse 80% as the Government top up TFC accounts at a rate of £2 for every £8 paid in by the parent. |
| We have an individual contract with the provider, if the CST are paying on our behalf where is the assurance that payments will be made on time? | The contract remains between the parent and the provider, not the MOD and provider. Providers will have means of getting in touch with us. | Ultimately a longer-term solution would be to use JPA like T&S. This is not possible during the pilot as it takes a while to make JPA changes. |
| If parents are separated or divorced, which income is the qualifying trigger for WAC? | WAC eligibility is based on TFC criteria set by HMRC. Income tests apply to the applicant and their partner, if any. Partner means someone you live with as husband and wife (or equivalent). If one parent has moved out, they don't count as partner for the other parent. But anyone else who has moved in does. | To qualify, the child will have to be living with the Service parent for more the majority of the time and the child must be recorded as a dependent child on JPA. |
| What happens if the Service parent leaves the Service during the pilot? | Entitlement ceases from the end of the term closest to the termination date. | Service veterans are not eligible to join the scheme |
| What happens when parents get assigned / posted away from the pilot location during the pilot? | Eligibility will cease at the later of six weeks from the date of the assignment order or the end of the academic term in which the Service person moves; provided neither date extends beyond the end of the pilot period in which case that date shall apply. | |
| I am assigned / posted close to the pilot start date and have been told I can claim for the one term. Does this mean I can claim for my child's | Eligibility will cease at the end of the term closest to the departure date (max 6 weeks). | |

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| new place (not in the pilot area)? | | |
| The Service parent is assigned / posted unaccompanied to the pilot location, but the family resides elsewhere – is the family eligible? | Yes, as long as the family is only separated due to work commitments/stability for the family. | If the parent is in a non-Pilot area, but the family resides in a pilot area, the family will not be eligible because WAC eligibility is based on the posting location of the Service parent. |
| If SP deploys and a partner has to give up work, will eligibility for the scheme cease? | The entitlement would cease; not because the service person is deployed, but because both parents must be working (or taking up work in the next 31 days etc). Generally, were the service person to be deployed, they would continue to be eligible to take part in the scheme so long as their partner continues in work. | |
| If a Service parent dies in Service, will children remain eligible? | If a Service person dies in Service, then their child would retain the benefit until the end of the pilot period or for six months whichever is the longer (assuming the child remains eligible). | |
| When will the MOD be opening up the new wraparound childcare provision? | The MOD will not be providing the wraparound childcare but will be providing funding to those eligible Service Families with children aged 4-11 who make use of wraparound childcare. | A decision about whether the scheme will be rolled out for all eligible Service personnel will be taken no later than April 2021 although it may be possible that this will be brought forward; either way parents will be kept informed. |
| I work full time and my partner is in full time education; will we be eligible to join the pilot scheme? | At present, in line with existing Government policy, you will not be eligible to join the pilot scheme. | |

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| Will the eligibility be opened up to FTRS (LC or HC), mobilised reservists serving a minimum period e.g. 12 months, or MOD civil servants once the pilot transitions to full roll out? | There is no plan to extend the eligibility criteria and the pilot is open only to Regulars which includes those on FTRS FC. | |
| Are dual serving parents eligible to take part in the pilot? | Dual serving parents are eligible to apply as long as the parent making the application is assigned to the pilot area and have children aged 4-11. | |
| Where the DIN indicates a single parent (SP), is that only Personal Status Category (PSTAT Cat) 2 or does it include PSTAT Cat 3? | As long the single parent is a Regular (including FTRS FC) then they will be able to apply as long as the other eligibility criteria are met; no matter what PSTAT Cat they are in. | The trigger will be that they must have the eligible child recorded on JPA and living with them the majority for the time (more than 50%). This will usually put them in PSTATs 1 and 2. |
| Do families need to live in the pilot area to take part in the pilot? | Families do not need to live in the pilot area to take part in the pilot. The SP must be assigned to a UIN for High Wycombe, Halton, Plymouth area or Catterick Garrison to take part. | |
| My child is 4 in September 2020, and will start school in September 2021, can I apply to take part in the pilot? | Children must have started school to be eligible for the pilot, children with a date of birth of 01/09/15 - 31/08/2016 will be eligible as they would be starting school in September 2020. | |
| What is the process if the child is not recorded on JPA? | To be eligible to take part in the scheme, SP must ensure their children are recorded on JPA. | |
| If SP are parented / their accounting base at RAF HW, RAF HAL, | SP would need to be posted / assigned to RAF HW, RAF HAL, Plymouth area or | |

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| Plymouth area or Catterick Garrison but located away from the pilot area, are they still eligible? | Catterick Garrison and therefore someone that is parented / not located at their permanent accounting base would not be eligible. | |
| Will the scheme be rolled out across the UK or is it only available in England? | The pilot scheme is available to eligible SP whose families are situated within the UK. | There are no plans to roll this out overseas. |
| Will SPP be removed for the children of parents claiming WAC? | The SPP and the WAC are completely separate and will remain unaffected. | CEA cannot be claimed at the same time as WAC, other allowances will not be affected by claiming WAC. |
| If a child has started school in England and the parents are eligible for and claiming WAC, then they move to a devolved administration where they were then below the school age, would they be eligible? | If a child started school in England and then moved to Scotland and was no longer eligible, there would be some protection during the transition period. | |
| Have the major school wraparound care providers next to the patches been informed of this initiative in order to prepare? There could be a surge in uptake of wrap round care as a result, and demand may outweigh supply. Do providers need to register? | Providers close to the pilot areas are all aware, the Local Authority / Childcare providers have been written to, to raise awareness of the scheme. Providers don't need to register; we have written to providers and as soon as a provider has been identified we will also write to them again. | |
| Is there an appeal process? | There will be an appeals process for the pilot and further details will be made available on this. | Complaints and appeals should be submitted by the SP in writing to DCYP-HQ-WACP-mailbox@mod.gov.uk |
| How confident are you that this will go beyond the pilot stage? | It is not our decision, but CST will be providing a report on uptake and a decision for the next | |

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| | academic year will be made at that point. | |
| Can I split my WAC between before and after school childcare? | Yes, the WAC can be split between before and after school care, and also between different providers. | All providers must be registered with OFSTED or equivalent. |
| I am a new, am I eligible? | No. Not until you have completed your Phase 1 training. | |
| I am on the pilot and getting my wraparound care paid for; I have to submit a tax return at the end of the tax year how do I record this on the self-assessment tax return? | MOD is settling the tax and National Insurance contributions arising from payments made by the WAC pilot by way of a departmental PAYE Settlement Agreement (PSA) with HMRC. If you are part of the WAC pilot and benefit from a WAC payment you do not need to enter it on your Self-Assessment tax return. | |