

Wraparound Childcare (WAC) – Questions & Answers

Questions	Answers	Further detail
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>
What is the deadline for applying to take part in the pilot?	<p>RAF High Wycombe and RAF Halton - If SP have report for duty dates between 1 September 20 and 31 July 21 then they are eligible so by inference they would have needed to apply by 31 July.</p> <p>Catterick Garrison and Plymouth Area – If SP have report for duty dates between 4 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</p>	<p>The pilot for the Army and Navy will run for one academic year, January 2021- December 2021.</p>

	extended to include Catterick and Plymouth.	
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, but from JPA figures it is estimated, using JPA data, suggest there may be 500 eligible children in the High Wycombe and Halton area.	
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?	This is a topic that will be going to the Steering Group with a recommendation that the pilot follows TFC.	
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 form for each of our children?	There is an option on the application form to add more children, and different providers if you use more than one. If you use TFC each child has their own account number which will need to be added to the form.	
Can civilian email addresses be used on the application?	Yes, civilian email addresses can be used.	Partners can also be cc'd, so they have all the information too.

Where do we send the applications to?	Completed applications must be sent to the Childcare Support Team: DCYP-HQ-WACP-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk	Applications that are not sent to this multiuser box may not be processed.
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 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.	Registered providers include schools, nurseries and childminders
Is the rate based on a national average? Costs in	Costs are based on the Coram and NI childcare cost survey .	

Bucks, especially Marlow, are generally more expensive than elsewhere - is there an x-factor for the SE of England? Is that the case for Childcare Vouchers?		
If the provider costs more than the DIN hourly rate, are we ok to proceed?	You would only get up to max rate anything over and above you would have to fund yourself.	
Is there a maximum number of children per family who can claim the 20 hrs per week?	No maximum of number of children so long as they meet the eligibility criteria.	
What happens in payment if we pay upfront, do we use TFC to pay upfront or do we pay from bank account?	If signed up for TFC scheme we will reimburse. If you have paid provider with TFC we pay 80%	
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) DCYP-HQ-WACP-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk The CST will arrange for the invoice value to be paid either into the parent's TFC account or directly to the provider.	Payments may take up to 14 working days to reach the TFC account, the parent then pays the provider.
The provider offers a forces discount, should the discount still be applied?	Yes, any discounts that the providers offer should still be applied.	
At Independent schools, the invoice for WAC comes at start of each	The number of hours must be clearly articulated on the invoice, and whether it is	

<p>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>before or after school care. The unique reference number must be on the invoice.</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 you would put into the online childcare account would contribute as the £8 into that account?</p>	<p>Yes, £8 the MOD will fund £8 into the TFC account.</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>
<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?</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>

3) Will they be able to claim for a refund for any unused vouchers?		
When can bookings start to take place once the unique ref number has been issued as places are booking up fast for September so to secure a place the bookings will need to be made soon.	As soon as Chief Clerks have carried out JPA checks, the authority to claim will be issued. As soon as you have the authority to claim, you can book.	
Will it be possible to change the requested hours that we will be entitled to claim if circumstances change?	Requested hours can be changed, but only up to 20 hours max per child can be claimed.	
How easily can you change providers? My provider is currently grappling with how to handle Covid restrictions and may reach capacity very quickly.	You can change provider at any time, but they need to be Ofsted registered or equivalent.	
<p>Is the WAC paid directly to the provider or is it paid into our wages?</p> <p>Is there a tax implication if paid into wages?</p>	<p>Payment will be made to the provider or we pay into a Tax-Free Childcare account.</p> <p>If we pay the provider directly, we pay 100% of WAC up to the maximum rate.</p> <p>If you have a TFC account, we can pay 80% of the invoice into TFC which will be topped up by government with 20% and the parent can then use that money to pay the provider.</p>	
We have an individual contract with the provider, if the CST are paying on our behalf where is the assurance	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

that payments will be made on time?		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 than 50% 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 posted away from the pilot location during the pilot?	Eligibility will cease at the end of the term closest to the departure date (max 6 weeks).	
I am posted early October 2020 and have been told I can claim for the one term. Does this mean I can claim for my child's new place (Not High Wycombe) up to December 2020?	Eligibility will cease at the end of the term closest to the departure date (max 6 weeks).	In this instance, if you are posted in October you can claim until the end of that term, which will be December.
The Service parent is 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	

	<p>must be working (or taking up work in the next 31 days etc).</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>If a Service parent dies in Service, will children remain eligible?</p>	<p>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).</p>	
<p>When will the MOD be opening up the new wraparound childcare provision?</p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p>I work full time and my partner is in full time education; will we be eligible to join the pilot scheme?</p>	<p>At present, in line with existing Government policy, you will not be eligible to join the pilot scheme however this will be reviewed during the course of the pilot.</p>	
<p>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?</p>	<p>There is no plan to extend the eligibility criteria and the pilot is open only to Regulars which includes those on FTRS FC.</p>	
<p>Are dual serving parents eligible to take part in the pilot?</p>	<p>Dual serving parents are eligible to apply as long as they are assigned to the pilot area and have children aged 4-11.</p>	

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 most of the time (more than 50%). This will usually put them in PSTATs 1 and 2.
Do families need to live on base to take part in the pilot?	Families do not need to live on base to take part in the pilot. The SP must be assigned to a UIN for HW or Hal 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 at RAF HW or RAF HAL but located away from the pilot area, are they still eligible?	SP would need to be assigned to RAF HW or RAF HAL, and therefore someone that is parented 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	If a child started school in England and then moved to	

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?	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 RAF HWY are all aware, the Local Authority / Childcare providers have been written to, to raise awareness of the scheme, however because of COVID-19 not everybody has been open. 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. CST will pay providers so the invoices should be forwarded to the team.	
Is there an appeal process?	There will be an appeals process, this is yet to be determined.	
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 academic year will be made at that point.	
When will information be available about the pilots in Catterick and Plymouth?	The DIN for the Catterick and Plymouth pilots will be published in late Autumn.	The DIN will inform when applications can be accepted for those pilots.
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 recruit at HMS Raleigh, am I eligible?	No. Not until you have completed your Phase 1 training.	
I am on the pilot and getting my wraparound	MOD is settling the tax and National Insurance	

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?

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.