**Delivering the new extended free entitlement (EFE) in partnership: an overview of the legalities**

**Working in partnership**

A partnership can involve two or more providers, often from different sectors (nursery or primary schools, private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers, childminders, children’s centres, out of school (OOS) providers, holiday clubs) and in some cases the local authority and/or training providers.

Working in a partnership enables providers to offer a flexible and tailored service to families. However, a successful partnership needs to be planned and managed to deliver effectively over the long term.

The [**Delivery Models**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/delivery-models-dfes-30-hours-mixed-model-partnership-toolkit)case studies contained in this toolkit identify a variety of models for working together and collaboration to meet the needs of local families. The [**Relationship Management section**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/relationship-management-toolkit) of the toolkit provides a number of tools to help you identify, establish and maintain an effective partnership.

Private sector or charitable providers (including childminders) are able to develop their own services without the need to consider formal [**Procurement**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/sites/default/files/Procurement%20and%20partnership%20arrangements.docx) processes. However, the key driver will be the sustainability of the organisation. Careful costing and financial forecasting is needed. Partnership working will enable more rigorous [**Demand Assessment**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/sites/default/files/Assessing%20demand%20guidance%20for%20providers.docx) and collective place planning which will give more certainty for the financial viability of new services.

**Effective partnerships**

Effective partnership working relies on transparency and honesty and any partnership should have a clearly defined set of arrangements. It is also important that the partnership considers the legal and financial implications of any new arrangements entered into.

The arrangements should reflect the level of commitment being made by the partners. A detailed legal agreement will be needed if the partnership wishes to enter into any contractual relationships (more information can be found in the [**Legalities**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/legalities-toolkit)section of this toolkit)**;**in other circumstances a [**Memorandum of Understanding**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/sites/default/files/Sample%20Memorandum%20of%20Understanding.docx) or [**Service Level Agreement**](http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/sites/default/files/Sample%20Service%20level%20agreement.docx) may be appropriate.

**Key issues to consider:**

* Identifying aims and objectives
* Who is involved and is the partnership open to expansion?
* Is a Lead Partner needed?
* What kind of partnership arrangement is appropriate – how formal does it need to be?
* Structure and governance
* Legalities
* Scope – place planning; who offers what; marketing; pricing
* Working together