

30 HOURS FREE CHILDCARE



February 2017 • Issue 5

MONTHLY UPDATE

Welcome to Kent County Council's 30 Hours of Free Childcare Monthly Update — this will be circulated by email and uploaded onto KELSI on the last Friday of each month. www.kelsi.org.uk

What is 30 Hours of Free Childcare?

The Childcare Bill 2015 is delivering the Government's election manifesto commitment to giving families (where parents are working and eligible) an entitlement to 30 Hours of Free Childcare for their three and four year olds.

A child qualifies for the extended entitlement if both parents are working (or the sole parent in a lone parent family is working) and each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours (National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage) and less than £100k a year.

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Kent Provider Survey Update :

The Kent Provider Survey was sent out in December 2016. We have had 922 responses to date and the survey remains open. If you have not already completed the survey you can access it here www.kent.gov.uk/30hoursurvey and we would encourage you to do so. If you have completed the survey but would like to change the information you first provided please speak to your Childcare Sufficiency Officer in the first instance.

Parent/Carer Survey Update:

The Parent/Carer Survey was sent out on the 9th February 2017 and has been uploaded onto the Kent.Gov website ([our anonymous 30 hours survey](http://our.anonymous.30.hours.survey)). We were mindful this was very close to the start of the half term holidays. For this reason, we have decided to keep the survey open beyond the stated deadline of the 27th February. To date we have had 744 responses, which is positive but the more we can get the better. We hope you will continue to encourage parent/carers to complete it. We are intending to extract information by districts and will be sharing this with providers at the 30 Hours Seminars during March.

News from the Department for Education (DfE)

We have been informed that the final version of the Statutory Guidance and the model Provider Agreement is expected soon.



Getting ready for 30 hours

Childcare Works

The Department for Education awarded **Mott MacDonald** and **Hempsalls (Childcare Works)** the national support contract for 30 Hours back in November 2016. They now have a website www.childcareworks.co.uk with a resource link providers might find useful.

Tax Credit Changes

Tax-free childcare

Tax-Free Childcare will be introduced in 2017. Parents will be able to set up an online account where they can bank payments for childcare. For each £8 a parent pays in, the Government will add an additional £2 up to a maximum of £2,000 per year per child. Families of disabled children receive help with their childcare costs to a maximum of £4,000 per year.

Tax-Free Childcare is being rolled out gradually and will eventually cover all families with children under 12, if they meet the required work and income criteria. There will be an upper income limit per parent of £100,000 to qualify, and a minimum weekly income level per parent equivalent to 16 hours worked at the National Living Wage.

Please click on the below link for more information; we will have more to follow in our next monthly update in March.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tax-free-childcare-10-things-parents-should-know>

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30 Hours Email Address

Our email address for any queries you may have is 30HoursFreeChildcare@Kent.gov.uk but please speak to your Childcare Sufficiency Officer in the first instance.

Delivering 30 Hours of Free Childcare – Provider Seminars

In order to work with and support providers to ensure that the proposed increase to 30 Hours is sustainable and can be accessed by eligible three and four year olds across the county, Kent County Council has arranged twelve 30 Hours District Seminars during March 2017. They will run between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. In addition, and to support childminders who are not able to attend a district seminar, we are holding four Saturday area based seminars. The dates and venues for the seminars are:

March Dates

Wednesday 1st –Mercure, 8, Tonbridge Rd, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells TN2 4QL

Friday 3rd - Gravesham

Best Western Manor Hotel Hever Ct Rd, Singlewall, Gravesend DA12 5UQ

Saturday 4th – Mercure, Dartford Brands Hatch, Dartford, DA3 8PE

Thursday 9th - Maidstone
Mercure Great Danes Ashford Rd, Maidstone ME17 1RE

Friday 10th - Thanet St
Augustine's College Thanet 125 Canterbury Rd, Westgate-on-Sea, CT8 8NL

Saturday 11th The Hop Farm, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood, TN12 6PY

Tuesday 14th - The Spitfire Ground St Lawrence Canterbury, Old Dover Rd, Canterbury, CT1 3NZ

Friday 17th - Hadlow Manor Hotel Maidstone Rd, Tonbridge, TN11 0JH

Saturday 18th – Eastwell Manor, Eastwell Park, Boughton Lees, Ashford TN25 4HR

Monday 20th - Mercure Dartford Brands Hatch Hotel Brands Hatch Rd, West Kingsdown, Dartford DA3 8PE

Tuesday 21st - Darenth Valley Golf Club Station Rd, Shoreham, Sevenoaks, TN14 7SA

Wednesday 22nd - Hythe Imperial Hotel & Spa Princess Parade, Hythe CT21 6AE

Friday 24th - Holiday Inn Sittingbourne The Coniston, 70 London Rd, Sittingbourne, ME10 1NT

Saturday 25th – The Spitfire Ground, Old Dover Road, Canterbury CT1 3NZ

Monday 27th - Holiday Inn Ashford Central, Canterbury Rd, Kennington, Ashford, TN24 8QQ

Tuesday 28th - Ramada Dover Hotel, Singledge Ln, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3EL