



## 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.

### Inside this issue:

- Surveys - page 1 and 2
- 30 Hrs email address page 2
- News from DfE - page 3
- Capital Project update - page 2
- Provider Seminars - page 3

## Provider Survey Update and Summary

The Provider Survey was sent out on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 to all day nurseries, pre-schools, school run provisions and childminders in Kent who are registered to provide funded early education places.

The aim of the survey was to get an understanding of the current market and how Kent County Council can work with and support providers to ensure that the proposed increase to 30 Hours is sustainable and can be accessed by three and four year olds across the county.

The survey went out to 1,373 childcare providers, which consisted of 760 group provisions (including schools with maintained nurseries) and 609 childminders. Of these, 475 were returned. The overall response rate was 34%. The following table details the response rate by provider type:

Provider	Invites	Returned Surveys	Response Rate
Day nurseries	320	114	35.6%
Pre-schools	337	178	52.8%
School run provisions	103	18	17.5%
Childminders	609	165	27.1%
Total	1373	475	34.6%

If you have not already completed the survey you can access it from the following link:

[www.kent.gov.uk/30hoursurvey](http://www.kent.gov.uk/30hoursurvey)

We are mindful as we get more information about 30 Hours this might influence your initial answers. The Provider Survey will therefore remain open. 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. We will be sharing information about the survey at the 30 Hours District Seminars; dates are on page 3.

## Parent/Carer Survey

The parent/carers survey will be uploaded onto the Kent.Gov website: [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) in due course. We hope you will make sure that all your families are made aware of it and encourage them to complete it.

The survey should help to gauge the likely initial take-up by families and to help identify the actual number of childcare places required by September 2017. It should also support your own childcare planning process as this will give you a clear idea of how many of your parents will look to take up the new offer.



The 30 Hours of Free Childcare updates will be uploaded onto KELSI the last Friday of each month.

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

## 30 Hours Email Address

We now have an email address for any queries you may have; but please speak to your Childcare Sufficiency Officer in the first instance.

[30HoursFreeChildcare@Kent.gov.uk](mailto:30HoursFreeChildcare@Kent.gov.uk)

## News from the Department for Education (DfE)

We are still waiting for the final version of the Statutory Guidance and the model Provider Agreement. Once this is received we will notify all providers.

### 30 Hours of Free Childcare Funding Rate

Kent County Council is required to seek the views of Early Years providers on the supplements in the formula that are discretionary and also on the establishment of an SEN Inclusion Fund.

The survey <http://www.kent.gov.uk/earlyyearsfundingsurvey> was sent out on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The closing date is the Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017. We hope you have been/will be able to complete it.

## Capital Project Update

Unfortunately, Kent was not successful in securing capital from the DfE to support 30 Hours of Free Childcare. The DfE has stated that it is unable to provide feedback on reasons why. We are currently looking into other possible sources of capital funding.

## 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 is arranging twelve 30 Hours District Seminars during March 2017. These 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 will be holding four Saturday area based seminars in March.

Dates and venues for the district seminars are:

<u>March Dates</u>		
<p><b><u>1st</u></b> - Mercure 8, Tonbridge Rd, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells TN2 4QL</p>	<p><b><u>14th</u></b> - The Spitfire Ground St Lawrence Canterbury, Old Dover Rd, Canterbury, CT1 3NZ</p>	<p><b><u>22nd</u></b> - Hythe Imperial Hotel &amp; Spa Princess Parade, Hythe CT21 6AE</p>
<p><b><u>3rd</u></b> - Gravesham Best Western Manor Hotel Hever Ct Rd, Singlewall, Gravesend DA12 5UQ</p>	<p><b><u>17th</u></b> - Hadlow Manor Hotel Maidstone Rd, Tonbridge, TN11 0JH</p>	<p><b><u>24th</u></b> - Holiday Inn Sittingbourne The Coniston, 70 London Rd, Sittingbourne, ME10 1NT</p>
<p><b><u>9th</u></b> - Maidstone Mercure Great Danes Ashford Rd, Maidstone ME17 1RE</p>	<p><b><u>20th</u></b> - Mercure Dartford Brands Hatch Hotel Brands Hatch Rd, West Kingsdown, Dartford DA3 8PE</p>	<p><b><u>27th</u></b> - Holiday Inn Ashford Central, Canterbury Rd, Kennington, Ashford, TN24 8QQ</p>
<p><b><u>10th</u></b> - Thanet St Augustine's College Thanet 125 Canterbury Rd, Westgate-on-Sea, CT8 8NL</p>	<p><b><u>21st</u></b> - Darent Valley Golf Club Station Rd, Shoreham, Sevenoaks, TN14 7SA</p>	<p><b><u>28th</u></b> - Ramada Dover Hotel, Singledge Ln, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3EL</p>

There will be a further four area seminars for childminders who were not able to make the district sessions. They are:

**Saturday 4th March**

**Saturday 11th March**

**Saturday 18th March**

**Saturday 25th March**

The area and venue information will be sent out via Prospects shortly.