

30 HOURS OF FREE CHILDCARE



June 2018 • Issue 18

MONTHLY UPDATE

What is 30 Hours of Free Childcare?

The Childcare Act 2016 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.

The national rollout of 30 Hours of Free Childcare commenced on the 1 September 2017.

Inside this Issue:

<u>What is 30 Hours of Free Childcare?</u>	P1
<u>Messages from the DfE</u>	P1
<u>Message from Management Information</u>	P2
<u>General Data Protection Regulations</u>	P2
<u>Applying/Re-confirmation of codes</u>	P3
<u>KELSI Website</u>	P3
<u>Consultation on the Early Years Payment Process</u>	P3
<u>30 Hour audit of codes</u>	P4
<u>The 30 Hour Update</u>	P4
<u>Childcare Choices</u>	P4
<u>30 Hours Email Address</u>	P4

Messages from the Department for Education:

Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for all local authorities

We are expecting updates to the Statutory Guidance and understand this will be sent out by the DfE by the end of June or early July 2018.

Foster Children – Entitled to 30 Hours of Free Childcare

The DfE had advised some foster carers are to become eligible for 30 Hours of Free Childcare from September 2018. However, it has been made clear this will only be made available when it is right to do so and in the best interests of the child. Children who are fostered can still access the Universal 15 Hours.

Once the DfE has confirmed the eligibility criteria we will update our information and notify you of the changes.

Message from Management Information:

Management Information (MI) would like to thank all the providers for their patience with the 30 Hour Codes that required further evidence to allow a summer term claim.

By identifying these cases early and working closely with MI and parents, this has allowed for over 80 children to be confirmed as eligible for the extended entitlement and funding claims to be processed in time for a headcount payment.

The summer term audit will be completed during the first week of June. This will contain updated information on the eligibility of all 30 Hour children claimed for at headcount only. The audit emails will be sent securely; if you cannot open the email, please contact MI on 03000 422828 or email eyfe@kent.gov.uk as soon as possible.

A couple of reminders:

- When completing KELSI checks for new codes, please remember the check must be completed by the setting claiming the extended entitlement on Synergy.
- If you have more than one setting, please ensure you use the correct URN for the setting the child is attending, otherwise it will appear that a KELSI check has not been completed for the setting claiming and payment will be withheld.
- Please remember twins will have separate codes and the correct code needs to be added to the headcount claim for the correct twin.

General Data Protection Regulation:

The General Data Protection Regulation came into effect on the 25 May 2018.

As a local authority we will continue to send you information of any relevant statutory and other national issues or changes plus relevant local information to make sure you are informed and are up-to-date. This will be sent via your email contact provided.

However, to make sure Kent Early Years and Childcare Service is complying with GDPR consent requirements, if you have not already done so you will need to confirm if you want to receive information from us on other services or products we provide or deliver e.g. Threads of Success (including Emporium Plus).

If you have not 'opted-in' to receive information you will need to make contact to confirm your consent.

KELSI Website

The 30 Hours of Free Childcare page on KELSI is designed to provide you with the information you need with ease. Each heading will take you to your desired page.

30 Hours of Free Childcare:

- Eligibility Criteria
- Childcare Choices
- Statutory Guidance
- Operational Guidance

Eligibility Checker:

Free Early Education

Guidance Documents:

- Open Objects Register
- Parent Declaration Form
- Disability Access Fund
- Transition and 30 Hours
- Further Information

Monthly Updates:

- 30 Hours of Free Childcare News

Promotional Materials:

- Eligibility Code Reminder
 - Poster
 - Postcard
 - Leaflets
 - Images
 - Banners

Applying/Re-confirmation of 30 Hours of Free Childcare Codes for the autumn term 2018:

The deadline to apply for and/or renew the 30 Hour Code is the **31 August 2018**. We have not been notified by the DfE to say if this is likely to change.

Please encourage parents, who are having difficulties completing their application or reconfirmation online, to contact the HMRC helpline on **0300 123 4097**, who will check eligibility and provide them with a temporary code if they qualify for 30 Hours.

Consultation on Kent County Council's Early Years Payment Process:

Further to the information sent out by the Early Years finance team.

The consultation was required due to the Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities September 2017 from the Department for Education (DfE) which recommends all authorities should consider paying providers monthly from 1 September 2018.

The consultation resulted in 65% of the respondents stating they wish to continue with the current method.

As stated in the consultation documents KCC is only able to provide one payment method, and therefore in line with the majority of respondents we are continuing with the current method.

KCC believes this current method gives providers a cash flow advantage as 50% of the termly funding is allocated at the beginning of the term and the balance paid midway through. Monthly payments would have therefore been less favourable.

The 30 Hours of Free Childcare updates are uploaded onto KELSI.

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

30 Hour audit of codes – February 2018

The statutory guidance specifies that local authorities should complete an audit check on eligibility codes at six fixed points in the year as set out in the table of LA audit dates:

23 October 2017	27 October 2017	(Completed)
24 December 2017	6 January 2018	(Completed)
11 February 2018	18 February 2018	(Completed)
24 March 2018	31-1 March 2018	(Completed)
27 May 2018	2 June 2018	
24 August 2018	1 September 2018	

The 30 Hour Update:

We will be sending out the final 30 Hour Update in early July. From September 2018 any news relating to the 30 Hour programme will be included in the Early Years and Childcare bulletin.



If parents encounter any problems with the application process or accessing the childcare account, they should direct their queries to the HMRC Childcare Service Customer Interaction Centre on: 0300 123 4097.

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

30 Hours Email Address

We 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

Please note if there is a change of contact in your setting please let us know by contacting:
EYC@kent.gov.uk