



30 Hours of Free Childcare Monthly Update



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.

Provider Survey Update

The Provider Survey was sent out on the 7th December 2016. We would like to say thank you to all the providers who were able to complete it. We know it was a very short turnaround time but we wanted to make sure it was sent before the close of the year.

We have had over 400 responses to date and will be collating the information and providing a summary of the findings in January 2017.

The first 10 providers who returned the survey will be entered into draw and the winner will receive 10% off Threads of Success services, training or products (excluding courses booked via CPD Online) plus a chance to win a free, award winning EFICL Toolkit (Enhancing Family Involvement in Children’s Learning).

The remaining providers who return the survey will receive 5% off Threads of Success services, training or products (excluding courses booked via CPD Online).

Parent/Carer Survey

This will be sent out in early February 2017. We will also upload it on the Kent County Council and KELS1 websites. We hope that you will make sure that all of your families are made aware of it.

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

Issue 2

December 2016

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30 Works



30 Hours of Free Childcare

The 30 Hours of Free Childcare updates will be uploaded onto KELSIS

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

the last Friday of each month.

Next: Bulletin

Update from the Provider Survey

News from DfE

Information on the 30 Hours planning seminars

News from the Department for Education (DfE)

The DfE has advised that the updated Statutory Guidance and the national model Provider Agreement should now be sent out in January 2017.

The Government's response to the national Early Years Funding Consultation has been released.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-years-funding-changes-to-funding-for-3-and-4-year-olds>

See the key points on page 4

Getting Ready For 30 Hours of Free Childcare

Implementing 30 Hours of Free Childcare planning seminars to take place in February and March 2017

To help meet the very challenging 30 Hours of Free Childcare agenda, Kent County Council will be delivering a series of locality based seminars in February and March 2017, details of which will be sent out in early January 2017. On this occasion, these will be replacing the already scheduled Briefing and Networking Sessions.

They will cover:

- Delivery ideas – how to support the 30 hour model
- Options for partnership working
- Business planning and charging to ensure sustainability



Emporium Plus provides high quality learning resources to support stimulating learning environments for young children. To find out more: <http://emporiumplus.co.uk/>

The 30 Hours of Free Childcare will become an entitlement for most working parents with three and four year olds from September 2017. We are now encouraging all Early Years and Childcare providers to look ahead in order to prepare for implementation.

In order to plan for these changes now is the time to think about how you can offer the 30 Hours of Free Childcare (either directly or in partnership with other providers).

It is an ideal time to have conversations with families to gauge numbers of eligible families for the future. This will help you to plan staffing and organise the through flow of children and future bookings/administration. A parent/carer survey will be carried out in January and we will share our findings.

Many families benefitting from FF2 will not be working. 30 Hours of Free Childcare will undoubtedly help many low income families. There may be some real opportunities to support families.

Start looking at different business models. For example, 'stretching' the 30 Hours of Free Childcare (fewer hours but over more weeks as opposed to a term-time offer) may work better and some parents may choose to purchase extra hours on top of the entitlement. It is worth noting that a parent who wants an all day (8am-6pm) and all year round (50 weeks per annum) offer for their child requires 2,500 hours of early education. Only 1,140 of these hours will be funded from September 2017 but that leaves 1,360 hours that will need to be purchased thereby generating a level of income for providers.

The 30 Hours of Free Childcare may result in more 'joint' childcare arrangements between settings. This provides an excellent opportunity to work in closer partnership with other settings and/or childminders to provide a seamless early education/childcare offer for children and families.

It is important to start thinking about the marketing of your provision now. Providers that have a plan of how 30 Hours can be offered and are advertising their places may find themselves more likely to be chosen by parents.

If providers have questions about how they can offer the additional hours or require further advice they can receive free support from their Childcare Sufficiency Officers and book on to one of the 30 Hours of Free Childcare planning seminars.

The Government's response to the national Early Years Funding Consultation

Key Points:

There has been no fundamental change to the proposals in the consultation. The factors used to determine the level of funding received by a local authority will consist of three elements:

1. A universal base rate
2. An Additional need factor, made up of three sub factors, Free School Meals, English as an Additional Language and Disability Living Allowance.
3. An Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) which has two drivers, staffing costs and premises costs.

However, the Qualifications Supplement, which in the consultation was proposed to be removed, is now being retained.

Efficiency and the Additional 15 hours supplements are no longer allowable, and a new factor is introduced for English as an Additional Language (EAL).

In relation to Maintained Nursery School protection there is an additional lump protection extended until 2019-20 and a commitment to review beyond this point.

Centrally retained expenditure limit is set at 93% for 2017-18 and 95% for 2018-19.

Children who meet the Disability Assessment Fund criteria will receive £615 per annum and there is a requirement on the local authority to consult with providers on the operation of the SEN Inclusion Fund.

There has been no change to Kent's new funding rate from 2017-18 of £4.48 per hour. This is a decrease of £0.05 per hour.