

# 30 HOURS OF FREE CHILDCARE



May 2017 • Issue 8

## 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.

### Kent Provider Agreement:

The Kent Provider Agreement for the period September 2017 – March 2018 will be emailed to all providers of Free Early Education and Childcare very soon.

### Childcare Sufficiency Officer Visits:

Childcare Sufficiency Officers provider support visits: All Providers have been offered a face-to-face visit to discuss the 30 Hours delivery.

A further round of seminars will take place in June 2017, a list of these dates can be found on page 4.

Resources being provided:

- Posters
- Toolkit
- Leaflets
- Banner

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

## **School Admissions:**

### **Deferred entry to primary school:**

Parents have the right to start their child at school on a full time basis from the September following their fourth birthday, providing they have been allocated a school place.

They also have the right to delay their child's start date (known as deferred entry), until later in the school year, but not beyond the beginning of the term after they turn five and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year in April.

Their child may also start part time later in the school year, but not beyond the beginning of the term after they turn five.

If parents do defer their child's start date until later in the school year, they must still apply at the usual time for primary or infant school places. They should also speak to the schools they are applying for, to discuss how they would like their child to be admitted.

### **Summer-born children:**

Children born between 1 April and 31 August are sometimes referred to as summer born children. They have the same right to defer entry as any other child. This means they must start school at the beginning of the April term if they wish to keep their offer. Where parents wish for their summer born child to defer entry until the start of Year 1, they must refuse their offered place, which may be offered to a different child, and then reapply through the In Year process during the last month of reception year.

For a child to start reception year in the following September, a full year after they were first entitled to start, parents will need agreement from the admissions authority of the school. This is because a new application for a later admissions round would be needed for the child to be considered for a place to be taught outside of their age group and with a younger group of children. The admissions authority will make its decision taking into account the school admissions code and the advice of the Headteacher.

To request admission to reception year outside of the normal age group, parents should contact the Headteacher of each preferred school as early as possible during the application period for that child's date of birth. This will allow the school and admissions authority enough time to make a decision before the closing date.

Parents are not expected to provide evidence to support their request to defer application, but where provided, it must be specific to the child in question. This might include medical or Educational Psychologist reports. There is no legal requirement for this medical or educational evidence to be secured from an appropriate professional, but failure to provide it may impede a school's ability to agree to defer admission.

Parents are required to complete an application for the normal point of entry at the same time, in case their request is declined. This application can be cancelled if the school agrees to accept their request for deferred entry into reception year the following year.

Deferred applications must be made by completing a Primary Common Application Form to the local authority, with written confirmation from each named school attached. Deferred applications will be processed in the same way as all applications in the following admissions round, and offers will be made in accordance with each school's over subscription criteria.

## **KELSI Website**

30 Hours of Free Childcare page on Kelsi.

This page is designed to provide you with the information you need with ease. Each of the headings will take you to your desired page.

### **30 Hours of Free Childcare:**

- Eligibility Criteria
- Childcare Choices
- Provider Survey

### **District Information:**

- Countywide and District Presentations

### **Guidance Documents:**

- Changes to the EYFS
- Summary of key announcements
- Early Years Workforce Strategy
- Level 3 Early Years Educator

### **Q and A:**

- Provider Q and As

### **Monthly Updates:**

- 30 Hours of Free Childcare News

### **Promotional Materials:**

- Parent Leaflet
- Poster
- Postcard
- Images

**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>**

## **Disability Access Fund (DAF) Information for Early Years Providers:**

From April 2017 the Government has introduced new funding for early years providers, the **Disability Access Fund (DAF)**, to support children with disabilities or special educational needs.

The DAF aids access to early years places by, for example, supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their provision.

### **Eligibility for Disability Access Fund (DAF)**

Three and four year olds will be eligible for the DAF if they meet the following criteria: the child is in receipt of child **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)** and the child receives universal or extended free early education and childcare entitlement.

### **Identifying eligible children**

Early years providers are responsible for identifying eligible children by talking to parents in order to find out who is eligible for the DAF.

Funding is paid at £615 per year and is paid to **one childcare provider** nominated by the parent.

For more details and to download a claim form, please click here: [DAF Claim Form](#).

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## **Kent.gov website**

To access the Kent.gov website please type the following **“30 Hours of Free Early Education and Childcare”** in the search box, the following links and headings will be found on the page:

- **Free Early Education and Childcare Entitlement**
- **Tax-Free Childcare**
- **National benefits and Tax Credits**
- **Childcare Vouchers**
- **Who is eligible for the additional 30 Hours**
- **Providers offering the 30 Hours**
- **Tell us what you think about the 30 Hours**

## 30 Hours Seminars:

Kent County Council is delivering a further series of locality based seminars in June 2017. These seminars will focus on systems and processes for implementing 30 Hours of Free Childcare. This event will include:

- General update on 30 Hours nationally and in Kent
- Key issues from the Kent Provider Agreement
- Processes and systems for claiming funding, funding checking and the grace period
- Information about the SEN Inclusion Fund and Disability Access Fund

Due to limited space, we are restricting places to one representative per setting. Additional places may be requested and will be held on a waiting list to be confirmed closer to the date.

Link to CPD online home page:

<https://cpdearlyyears.kentcpdonline.org.uk/courses/bookings/default.asp>

### See below dates and venues:

<b>East</b>	05/06/2017	7.30 - 9.30 pm	The Spitfire Ground St Lawrence	EYC 17/117
<b>Ashford</b>	06/06/2017	09:30-11:30	Ashford International - Canterbury Suite	EYC 17/118
<b>Shepway</b>	07/06/2017	09:30-11:30	Hythe Imperial Hotel & Spa	EYC 17/119
<b>Dover</b>	08/06/2017	09:30-11:30	The Ark Christian Centre	EYC 17/120
<b>Gravesham</b>	09/06/2017	09:30-11:30	Best Western - Manor Hotel	EYC 17/121
<b>Canterbury</b>	13/06/2017	09:30-11:30	The Spitfire Ground St Lawrence	EYC 17/122
<b>Thanet</b>	14/06/2017	09:30-11:30	St Augustine's College Thanet	EYC 17/123
<b>Sevenoaks</b>	16/06/2017	09:30-11:30	Darenth Valley Golf Club	EYC 17/124
<b>Dartford</b>	19/06/2017	09:30-11:30	David Lloyd Leisure - Dartford	EYC 17/125
<b>North</b>	20/06/2017	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Mercure - Dartford Brands Hatch Hotel	EYC 17/126
<b>West</b>	22/06/2017	7.30 - 9.30pm	The Hop Farm - Dray	EYC 17/127
<b>Swale</b>	27/06/2017	14.00 -16.00	Holiday Inn Sittingbourne - The Coniston	EYC 17/128
<b>T/M</b>	28/06/2017	09:30-11:30	The Hop Farm - Dray	EYC 17/129
<b>South</b>	28/06/2017	7.30 - 9.30 pm	Holiday Inn - Ashford North	EYC 17/130
<b>Maidstone</b>	29/06/2017	09:30-11:30	Marriott Tudor Park Hotel and Country Club	EYC 17/131
<b>T/W</b>	30/06/2017	09:30-11:30	Salomon's	EYC 17/132

## 30 Hours Capital Projects:

On 21 June 2016, local authorities were invited to bid for capital funding to create new childcare places. Eligible local authorities were invited to submit applications for specific projects in their area by 31 August 2016. KCC submitted six projects which were in identified areas of development based on both the DfE estimations and further work from KCC Business Intelligence. Unfortunately, these projects were unsuccessful.

However, in 2017 the DfE allocated a further £50m nationally to this programme and were therefore able to fund a second tranche of projects and in this round of funding the original Kent bids were successful. Funding was allocated to projects that demonstrated clear evidence of capital need at the sub-local level to support the creation of new 30 Hour places to complement the existing 15-hour entitlement.

## Capital projects in Kent

Kent County Council	St John's Primary School	Extension
Kent County Council	Valley Invicta Primary School at Kings Hill	New build
Kent County Council	Abacus Nursery and Childcare Ltd - New Romney	New build
Kent County Council	Aylesham Project	New build
Kent County Council	Kiddicare Kindergarten	New build
Kent County Council	Gravesend Montessori	New Build

## Workforce:

### Recruitment Hub

As we are nearing the implementation of the 30 Hours of Free Childcare, you may find you have job vacancies to fill to meet the need of your extended hours and/or expansion plans.

The Threads of Success Recruitment Hub is nearing the first stage of completion and to support the sector in advertising their job vacancies we are offering a centrally funded online vacancy section. Details of the new site will be shared in the near future.

### Annual Conversation – 30 Hours question

During the Annual Conversation visits which settings receive, we will be including discussions around the delivery of the 30 Hours of Free Childcare, from a quality perspective. This will enable us to look at patterns and trends to inform future training and support packages to maximise Continuous Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for settings.



## The Eligibility Checking System:

### The Eligibility Checking System – update:

We are still testing our interim checking system and carrying out final checks.

### How will parents show that they are eligible for 30 hours?

The Government's Childcare Choices website [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) sets out all current and upcoming childcare offers and support available to parents, including the Tax-Free Childcare scheme, the 15 and 30 free hours entitlement, tax credits, Universal Credit and childcare vouchers. It is via this website that parents can apply and check if they are eligible for 30 Hours of Free Childcare. If eligible, parents/carers will be given an 11 digit eligibility code.

### What can childcare providers do to help?

Remind parents to bring their eligibility code, along with their National Insurance number and child's date of birth, otherwise you won't be able to verify their code and offer a place. Remind parents they will need to verify their continued eligibility when prompted by HMRC.

### How can providers check eligibility codes?

The childcare provider will then need to validate the code via the local authority's Eligibility Checking System before a place is offered to the child.

In the meantime if a parent/carer is eligible for the 30 Hours of Free Childcare and they have their Eligibility Code from HMRC to make a note of their details in preparation for having this validated once our local authority system is live.

## Open Objects:

We are currently updating provider profiles on Open Objects to indicate that they are intending to deliver the 30 Hours.

Over the coming few weeks we will close down the existing separate list and direct parents to search on the online (Open Objects) directory.

Providers may like to check their profile to make sure that it is showing current information, to do this please click [here](#).