

# 30 HOURS OF FREE CHILDCARE



August 2017 • Issue 11

## MONTHLY UPDATE

### What is 30 Hours of Free Childcare?

30 Hours of Free Childcare goes live nationally on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017.

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.

### Updates from the DfE:

#### HMRC Childcare Website:

The DfE has received a number of reports of technical issues which have resulted in some parents/carers experiencing difficulties applying for the 30 Hours code.

HMRC is advising parents that have not been able to complete their application to call them on **0300 123 4097**.

#### Government Childcare Service compensation:

Parents/carers may be eligible for these payments if they have:

- been unable to complete their application for Tax-Free Childcare
- been unable to access their childcare account
- not received a decision about whether they are eligible, without explanation, for more than 20 days.

### Inside this Issue:

<u>What is 30 Hours of Free Childcare?</u>	<u>P1</u>
<u>Updates from the DfE</u>	<u>P1</u>
<u>Important Information from the DfE</u>	<u>P2</u>
<u>Accepting 30 Hours codes</u>	<u>P2</u>
<u>Deadlines for codes</u>	<u>P3</u>
<u>30 Hours Email Address</u>	<u>P3</u>
<u>Reconfirming Eligibility</u>	<u>P3</u>
<u>Information for Parents/Carers</u>	<u>P4</u>
<u>KELSI Website</u>	<u>P4</u>
<u>Eligibility Checking System</u>	<u>P4</u>
<u>Validating Eligibility Codes</u>	<u>P4</u>
<u>Provider Agreement and Payment</u>	<u>P5</u>
<u>Workforce Conference</u>	<u>P5</u>

#### To make a claim parent/carers must send:

- HMRC a brief description of the issues they have had
- copies of receipts for payments to childcare providers
- their full name, home address
- National Insurance Number
- bank name, account number and sort code.

#### They then send this information to:

Childcare Service  
HM Revenue and Customs  
BX9 1GR

If they are eligible for compensation, the HMRC will write to them and make a payment directly into their bank account.

#### [Childcare Service Compensation Guide](#)

## Important Information from the DfE

Michelle Dyson, Director of Early Years and Childcare at the DfE has confirmed the process for parents/carers who are concerned they will not receive their code in time to take up a 30 Hours of Free Childcare place in September. The DfE has advised that the childcare service helpline is now able to provide a temporary code to eligible parents who are experiencing ongoing technical issues. Parents/carers will need to contact the helpline on **0300 123 4097**, who will check eligibility and provide them with a code if they qualify for 30 Hours of Free Childcare in the event that they cannot resolve their issue(s) with their on-line application.

The DfE has confirmed that providers can validate these codes via the Eligibility Checking System (ECS) in the same way as standard codes, although please note they will begin with '11' as opposed to the '500'.

In addition, the DfE has confirmed parents/carers who have applied before 31 August may receive their 30 Hours code in September, because HMRC may have required additional information before determining their eligibility. **For this term only**, the local authority will fund a 30 hours place for these parents for the autumn term where they have received a code from HMRC after 31<sup>st</sup> August.

[Letter from the Director of Early Years](#)

## Accepting 30 Hour codes and confirming start dates of funded places:

Parents/Carers may receive an eligibility code for children who will not be entitled for another term. The word "eligibility" in this instance refers to the "eligibility" of the code, not the "entitlement" to a place.'

A parent can only take up 30 Hours the term following their child's third birthday. We would advise providers to check the child's date of birth prior to offering a potential place (with a presented code).

Born between:	30 Hours Eligibility Check completed by:	Eligible for a free place from:
1 <sup>st</sup> April and 31 <sup>st</sup> August.	31 <sup>st</sup> August	The start of the autumn term after their 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday
1 <sup>st</sup> September and 31 <sup>st</sup> December	31 <sup>st</sup> December	The start of the spring term after their 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday
1 <sup>st</sup> January	31 <sup>st</sup> March	The start of the summer term after their 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday

## Deadlines for Codes:

The DfE has had reports there may be confusion around the difference between the deadline for families to have made their application for 30 Hours, and code validation.

Parents/carers' eligibility starts at the point of the code being issued, and **not** the date it is checked by a provider.

### A guide to help parents locate their code:

The DfE has a guide to help those advising parents who have registered for their 30 Hours of Free Childcare code and need to access the code.

[Step by Step guide to finding your 30 Hours code](#)

## Parents/carers reconfirming their eligibility:

KCC has produced an eligibility reconfirmation 'reminder' poster you can download and display.

[30 Hour Eligibility Code Poster A4](#)

[30 Hour Eligibility Code Poster A3](#)



### 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)

WORKS  
FOR  
ME

## **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

### **District Information:**

- New June Seminar Slides
- Countywide and District Presentations

### **Q and A:**

- Provider Q and As

### **Promotional Materials:**

- Parent Leaflet
- Poster
- Postcard
- Images
- **NEW Digital Badges**
- **NEW Eligibility Code Poster**

## **30 Hours of Free Childcare - information for parents/carers:**

We have updated the parent/carer 30 Hours of Free Childcare information on the Kent.Gov page [www.kent.gov.uk/30Hours](http://www.kent.gov.uk/30Hours)

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## **The Eligibility Checking System:**

Management Information will be sending out information on the new eligibility checking system. Please look out for this email.

If you have any questions regarding the eligibility checking system please email: [eyfe@kent.gov.uk](mailto:eyfe@kent.gov.uk)

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## **Validating eligibility codes:**

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.

Kent County Council is in the process of confirming the process and will communicate this soon.

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

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



## The Kent Provider Agreement and Payment:

The Kent Provider Agreement was due to be returned by **21st July 2017**. As this agreement forms a formal contract between Kent County Council (KCC) and Kent's childcare providers, if this has not been received we will not be able to release the estimate payment for 3 and 4 year old funding, FF2 or 30 Hours of Free Childcare.

[View The Kent Provider Agreement.](#)

If you have not yet returned this please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions please contact [eyfe@kent.gov.uk](mailto:eyfe@kent.gov.uk) or speak to your Childcare Sufficiency Officer.

You can scan and email the signed Provider Declaration to [eyfe@kent.gov.uk](mailto:eyfe@kent.gov.uk) or post it to:

Management Information (CYPE)  
2nd Floor  
Invicta House  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME14 1XX

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## Workforce Conference:

In April 2017 the Department of Education published its Early Years Workforce Strategy, setting out how it plans to support the Early Years sector to remove barriers to attracting, retaining and developing the Early Years workforce.

Building leadership capacity and supporting the development of a highly-skilled and capable workforce is essential in delivering high-quality services and achieving the best outcomes for children.

Kent Early Years and Childcare Service is holding a workforce conference on **the 14th November 2017 at The Mercure (Maidstone)**. Delegates will have the opportunity to attend two workshops (morning and afternoon).

### Objectives:

- To support the Early Years Workforce Strategy to build an increasingly highly-skilled and capable workforce, which is essential to deliver high-quality services and achieve the best outcomes for children
- To strengthen and develop leadership
- To bring together a range of Early Years providers to debate workforce issues
- To share best practice
- To provide tangible solutions to a number of workforce challenges.

For more information about the workshops and to book on, please follow this link [Kent CPD Online](#), on the top right hand side of the booking screen please click on '[1 Attached Document](#)' once opened click on '[Conference Workshop Options November 2017](#)' and download the document.