

# 30 HOURS OF FREE CHILDCARE



July 2017 • Issue 10

## 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.

### Updates from the DfE:

The DfE has published the updated Operational Guidance (July 2017) on how local authorities (LAs) and early years settings should provide the early years entitlement [Operational Guidance](#).

### Key Additional Information

#### The Guaranteed First Term:

Michelle Dyson, Director of Early Years and Childcare at the DfE has reassured providers that if parents lose eligibility before September, they will be permitted to take up the additional 15 hours for the autumn term only and funding will be provided by the Department to cover the cost of this commitment. This approach will not be repeated for subsequent terms as it is intended to provide certainty for providers for this key first term.

Parents/carers must reconfirm that they still meet the eligibility criteria every three months.

[DfE Guaranteed First Term Questions and Answers](#)

### Inside this Issue:

<a href="#">What is 30 Hours of Free Childcare?</a>	P1
<a href="#">Updates from the DfE</a>	P1
<a href="#">Updates from the DfE continued</a>	P2
<a href="#">Workforce Development Conference</a>	P2
<a href="#">Parent Declaration Form</a>	P2
<a href="#">The Kent Provider Agreement</a>	P2
<a href="#">30 Hours Email Address</a>	P2
<a href="#">KELSI Website</a>	P3
<a href="#">The Interim Eligibility Checking System</a>	P3
<a href="#">Eligibility Codes</a>	P3
<a href="#">KCFIS Directory</a>	P4
<a href="#">Childcare Choices</a>	P4
<a href="#">Tax-Free Childcare Update</a>	P4

### Four year olds:

Eligible parents/carers of four year olds can apply for 30 Hours of Free Childcare and Tax-Free Childcare through the Government's Childcare Service from 14 July 2017. The DfE will provide further information on the application process shortly.

Parents/carers of four year olds who will not be attending reception in a state-funded school in September, should apply for 30 Hours of Free Childcare.

Parents/carers who have already completed a Government's Childcare Service application for their four year old (because they have been able to access the service due to having a younger child), need not apply again.

Continued.....

## **Workforce Development Conference: Key issues for early years - building the workforce and extending free childcare.**

The Early Years and Childcare Service will be holding a Workforce Conference on the **14th November 2017 at The Maidstone Mercure Hotel.**

This will bring together a range of providers to debate Early Years and Childcare workforce issues, including a focus on workforce leadership for 30 Hours of Free Childcare.

During the programme we will be sharing best practice, and will also look to identify tangible solutions to workforce challenges.

**Further details and joining information will be sent out in early September 2017.**

[Parent Declaration Form.](#)

### **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

## **Updates from the DfE continued:**

### **Parent Queries:**

HMRC has received a high volume of calls from parents asking how they can access their childcare account after they have applied for 30 hours funding. To reduce the number of phone calls, HMRC has produced the attached guidance.

[How to access your 30 Hours of Free Childcare/Tax-Free account](#)

**HMRC telephone number: 0300 123 4097**

### **Other news:**

The DfE has announced that the new minister responsible for childcare and the early years is Robert Goodwill. The portfolio will cover children's social care, early years policy (including inspection and regulation), delivery of the 30 Hours offer, social mobility, the pupil premium and safeguarding in schools. [Minister's letter.](#)

Michelle Dyson is the new Director of Early Years and Childcare at the Department for Education. [Michelle Dyson's Letter.](#)

.....

## **The Kent Provider Agreement:**

All providers registered to offer Free Entitlements have been sent the Kent Provider Agreement. This agreement forms a formal contract between Kent County Council (KCC) and Kent's childcare providers within KCC's geographical boundaries.

This was due to be returned by 21st July 2017. If you have not yet returned this please do so as soon as possible.

[The Kent Provider Agreement.](#)

## 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

## The 'Interim' Eligibility Checking System:

The interim checking system is now in place. In order for providers to validate 30 Hours/DERN (Department for Education Registration Number) codes, they need the following information:

- The 30 Hours code (11 digits)
- The National Insurance Number of the parent who is registering
- The child's name and date of birth
- Permission by the parent to use this information (Parent Declaration)

### [Eligibility Checking System](#)

.....

## Eligibility Codes pre-audit August:

We are still planning to carry out an audit of eligibility codes (even though the DfE has confirmed they will honour codes prior to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 ). We will send this information via email in August.

Please be reminded if there are any issues with respect to parents/carers obtaining their Eligibility code/DERN they must contact: **HMRC Customer Interaction Centre on 0300 123 4097**. **Please do not pass on to parents the contact details of any KCC adviser/officer.** Parents should be signposted to HMRC as above.

**If you receive queries or questions from parents where they might need further advice please signpost them to Childcare Choices website:**

**[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) or [kentcfis@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentcfis@kent.gov.uk)  
CFIS Phone Number: 03000 41 23 23**

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>

## Provider details on Kent Children and Families Information Service (KCFIS) Directory

We have been working with the Kent Children and Families Information Service (KCFIS) to review the 'parent/carer' facing directory so it is clearer.

This forms part of the Provider Agreement, integral to which providers are required to register and keep their details up to date with the KCFIS.

This information will be accessed by parent/carers who are looking for childcare, including up to 30 Hours of Free Childcare. If you have any questions please contact: [kentcfis@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentcfis@kent.gov.uk)

[Provider Directory](#)

---

### Childcare Choices:

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



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.

---

### Tax Free Childcare Update

The Tax Free Childcare is now live so parents may be requesting your provider number to set up their accounts. Please visit [www.childcare.tax.service.gov.uk](http://www.childcare.tax.service.gov.uk)

To sign up, childcare providers should visit [www.childcare.tax.service.gov.uk](http://www.childcare.tax.service.gov.uk) and will need:

- The unique code included in their invitation letter
- The bank account details for the account they wish to receive payments into
- Their Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) number – or their National Insurance number, if they don't have a UTR.