

# 30 Hours of Free Childcare Monthly Update



**Welcome to the Kent County Council's 30 Hours of Free Childcare monthly update – this will be circulated by email and uploaded onto KELSI on the last working Friday of each month**

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

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## 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) 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 audit and parent/carer survey:

In order to assess the likely demand for places from September 2017 under the 30 hours offer and to identify where more places may need to be created, we are carrying out two surveys, one for childcare providers and one for parents and carers.

We hope that the parent and carer survey will also help to support providers with their understanding of possible demand and support long term business planning.

The first **ten providers** who return their forms will be entered into a draw and 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 pack (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).

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# 30 Works



30 Hours of Free Childcare

The 30 Hours of Free Childcare updates will be uploaded onto KELS!

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

the last Friday of each month.

## News from the Department for Education (DfE)

There has been a response to the consultation by the Department for Education called: **30 Hours free childcare entitlement: delivery model**. This is not the statutory guidance itself — this will be issued early in 2017.

See pages 4 & 5 for the key points.

The Department for Education has awarded **Mott MacDonald** and **Hempsalls** the national support contract for 30 hours. The contract is to work with providers and local authorities on the implementation of the extended entitlement to 30 Hours of Free Childcare for working parents.

The new project is called **Childcare Works** with the aim of achieving the delivery of childcare for two, three and four year olds. **Childcare Works** will work directly with providers, local authority early years teams, and partners, as well as central government.

## Next: Bulletin

Updates from Department for Education

Suggestions on delivering 30 hours free entitlement

Provider case studies: suggestions on planning and implementing 30 hours

## The provider agreement

We are still awaiting confirmation from the DfE.

## Enhancing Family Involvement in Children's Learning (EFICL)

Working in close partnership with parents and families, as the primary educators of their children, will be essential to the success of the 30 Hours of Free Childcare. Our EFICL Pathways to Excellence training and Toolkit will support you to develop inspiring and meaningful relationships with your families. Express an interest in accessing the EFICL training as well as our other excellent training opportunities on [www.threadsofsuccess.co.uk](http://www.threadsofsuccess.co.uk)

## Keeping You Up-To-Date:

### What we have done so far:

- Four Briefing and Networking sessions have taken place across the county in October and November 2016 which provided information on the 30 Hours of Free Childcare
- A Collaboration Leaders' day took place on 10 October 2016
- A question and answer sheet has been produced for parents and carers
- Produced the 30 Hours of Free Childcare update - this will be emailed and posted on KELSI on the last Friday of day each month
- Kent County Council website has been updated with information on the 30 Hours of Free Childcare.

## Delivering 30 Hours of Free Childcare

**As we start to put the required plans and structures in place to meet what we all see as a very challenging agenda, we know for many providers this will present issues.**

**We hope in the coming weeks and months we will work together to come up with ways to deliver sustainable services that continue to provide high quality early education and childcare to children and families across Kent.**

Imagery

## Threads of Success

**To view our full range of support, training and products please visit:**  
[www.threadsosuccess.co.uk](http://www.threadsosuccess.co.uk)



Early Years and Childcare Excellence

## 30 hours free childcare entitlement: delivery model

### **Funding and Eligibility – the Government will:**

Set a national grace period to ensure simplicity and clarity for parents and providers, and fair, consistent arrangements for children and families irrespective of where they live.

Develop the existing national Eligibility Checking Service (which local authorities already use to check eligibility for Free School Meals, the Pupil Premium and free early learning for two-year-olds) to automatically calculate the grace period, minimising administrative burdens on local authorities and providers.

Carry out further informal consultation on the length of the grace period, before setting out final decisions in statutory guidance in the new year.

### **Flexibility – the Government will:**

Make clear in statutory guidance that, while the free early years entitlements must be provided over no *fewer* than 38 weeks, local authorities are expected to work with childcare providers to enable, as far as possible, parents to ‘stretch’ their free childcare over the full year where that is what they wish.

Extend the hours over which the funded hours can delivered, to between 6am and 8pm (increased from between 7am and 7pm).

Limit to two the number of sites on which children can take up their free entitlement in a single day, to avoid the potential negative impact on children of multiple transitions between sites.

Remove the minimum session length, in response to the view of the majority of consultees that providers and parents are best placed to agree the appropriate length of time that a child should be in a setting.

The maximum session length of 10 hours will remain unchanged.

### **Reformed LA Delivery Model – the Government will:**

Amend statutory guidance to set a clear expectation that by September 2018 childminders should be paid monthly; and all other providers should also be paid monthly unless they request an alternative payment model. This will ensure that cash flow does not prevent smaller providers, including childminders, from offering the extended entitlement.

Proceed with plans to develop a model agreement template, working closely with providers, local authorities and representative organisations, to bring clarity and consistency to agreements between local authorities and providers.

Make it clear in statutory guidance that government funding is intended to deliver 15 or 30 hours a week of free, high quality, flexible early education and childcare. It is not intended to fund the cost of consumables (such as drinks, meals and nappies) or additional services. Providers are already free to charge parents for such discretionary items provided they are not compulsory. So, for example, paying for additional services must not be a condition of taking up a free publicly-funded place.

### **Childcare Information for Parents – the Government will:**

Strengthen the regulations and guidance to make clear that local authorities will be required to update and publish their childcare information on a termly basis.

Require local authorities to publish the information by electronic means via their websites, and also to continue to provide the information in other formats where it is needed (such as where parents have no internet access) and to signpost parents to other information or services that will benefit them.

Make clearer in guidance where local authorities could publish other helpful information for parents beyond the list set out in schedule 1 to the Childcare Act 2006, such as where childcare providers work in partnerships to offer more wraparound services for parents, and stating the outreach activity they undertake to publicise the childcare offer, especially to under-represented groups that are not accessing their entitlements.