

## **30 hours free early education and childcare**

### **Monthly update                      Issue no. 6 - August 2017**

#### **What is 30 hours free early education and childcare?**

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours of [free early education](#). From September 2017 there will be an additional 15 hours of free childcare available for families that meet the Government's eligibility criteria

#### **This issue covers**

- Updates from the DfE
- Provider Agreement 2017/2018
- What is your offer? - 30 hours form
- 30 hour gap analysis for Autumn 2017, Spring and Summer 2018
- Eligibility Codes
- Case Study – Shepley Pre-school

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#### **Updates from DfE**

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

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#### **Provider Agreement – have you submitted yours?**

Providers from the Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector and Academies registered to offer Free Early Education and Care (FEEC) are required to complete the Kirklees Provider Agreement 2017-18 **before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017**.

To renew your agreement please log into the [Provider Portal](#) click on 'Forms' and submit the **Revised Kirklees Agreement 2017-18 – PVI & Academies**.

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#### **What is your offer? 30 hours form**

Have you let us know whether you will be offering 30 hours? If not, please complete the 30 hour form on the [Provider Portal](#)

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#### **30 hour gap analysis for Autumn 2017, Spring and Summer 2018**

The gap analysis is by ward and takes into account changes in provision (openings and closures) since the 2016 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. Previously published gaps were based on peak summer demand, we have made this assessment based on next Autumn, Spring and Summer terms to help providers with planning. Please note that there are risks associated with this analysis.

[See the latest 30 hour places gap by ward](#)

## Eligibility Codes

If there are any issues with respect to parents obtaining their eligibility code they must contact HMRC Customer Centre on 0300 123 4097 – **please do not signpost parents to the FEEC Team.**

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### Case Study - Shepley Pre-school

Shepley Pre-school is a successful committee run community organisation managed by Sue Thorpe in a rural area of the Kirkburton ward. Sue has worked closely with her committee to build the reputation and services offered by the organisation and was keen to develop the 30 hour offer for local working families.

Sue was quick to survey the parents currently using Shepley Pre-school and those from wider afield at an early stage to gauge their needs and was rewarded with a positive response with many being interested in the idea of 30 hours care. Parents of two year olds currently using their setting were also interested in the 30 hours offer.

This prompted the committee to think about bringing forward their plans to extend their property in preparation for the start of 30 hours free childcare from September 2017.

Once committed to the idea of offering 30 hours Sue wanted to make sure that parents were fully informed of what was required of them in applying for 30 hours and no barriers stood in their way.

Sue was appointed the member of staff responsible for engaging with parents and passing on key messages. Initially, she directed parents to the 'Childcare Choices' website, mainly because it was the most user friendly interface. She spent time explaining what they would have to do, especially with regard to having to set up a gateway account if they did not have one. Initially there were 5-6 parents who experienced difficulties at this stage, however, Sue encouraged them to contact HMRC again if they had not heard a decision about their application within two weeks. All but one of the interested parents were then successful in meeting the eligibility requirements and were very good in presenting the date of birth of the child with the code and National Insurance number of the applicant parent to Sue. There are currently 18 parents booked with the nursery for 30 hours and another 6 booked for January 2018.

Sue puts this successful outcome down to being available to answer questions and taking time with parents to help if they get stuck. Sue has also talked to a number of parents who are thinking about returning to work and has encouraged them to plan for the 30 hour offer before they start work by explaining the timescales they need to be aware of.



**For their child to be eligible for the September term, parents must have applied for and received a valid voucher code before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017.**