

30 hours free early education and childcare Monthly update Issue no. 5 - July 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

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Provider Agreement and Guides

The [Kirklees Agreement and Provider Guides](#) have now been updated to reflect changes in the free entitlement and the revised statutory guidance. Providers from the Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector and Academies will need to renew their Kirklees Agreement before 1 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** as soon as possible.

Guaranteed 30 hour places in the Autumn term

We have recently been informed by the newly appointed Director for Early Years and Childcare at the Department for Education (DfE) that the 'guaranteed first term' has been confirmed. This means that if parents who currently hold an eligibility code but on renewal lose their 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.

30 hours form

Thank you to all those providers who have told us what their 30 hour offer will be - so far over 320 providers across Kirklees will be offering 30 hours free childcare.

Eligibility Checking System (ECS)

As at 10 July, **1161** valid codes have been issued to parents in Kirklees. It is important to note that the ECS checker will only be available to those providers who have submitted their 30 hour form via the [Provider Portal](#)

Encourage parents to apply early

It is worth noting that some applications are taking 10 days+ to process by HMRC. Please remind parents that they need to apply early and receive an eligibility code for 30 hours **before 1 September** if they want a place in the Autumn term (September to December). Parents who receive their eligibility code on or after 1st September will not be able to access their 30 hours place until the Spring term (January to March 2018).

Applications are now open to 4 year olds

Eligible parents of 4 year olds will be able to apply for 30 hours free childcare and Tax-Free Childcare through the Childcare Service from 14 July.

Please note that only parents of 4 year olds who will not be attending reception in a state-funded school in September should apply for 30 hours free childcare. Parents who have already completed a childcare service application for their 4 year old, because they have been able to access the service due to having a younger child, need not apply again.

Clarification of the grace period – when it can and can't be used

The grace period enables parents to retain their childcare place for a short period if they become ineligible for 30 hours. If a parent falls into their grace period before their child has started a 30 hours place, they cannot start claiming their 30hours place. A grace period will not continue beyond the age that a child has achieved compulsory school age (the term following their fifth birthday).

Update on temporary codes

These codes are easily recognised because they start with “11”. They need to be verified in exactly the same way as any other code, but due to their nature there can sometimes be a delay in them being loaded into the ECS, as opposed to permanent codes which are loaded instantly. So, if you get a “Not Found” with a temporary code, you may have to wait a couple of days and then try again, especially if the parent has only just received it from HMRC. The other thing to realise about temporary codes is that they can’t be reconfirmed – a temporary code is just a stop-gap before a parent’s permanent code is issued to replace it. They last a minimum of 3 months which normally allows plenty of time for the permanent code to be issued.

Permanent codes

Please be aware that some codes may now also start with 5001 in addition to 5000.

Reasons for a ‘Not Found’

Please remember that if a parent has received their permanent code from HMRC then it will always be present on ECS and that the reason a check is Not Found is that one or more of the data items used on the check is incorrect, e.g. the code, the child’s date of birth or the national insurance number. So if you get a Not Found, we highly recommend you verify the details either directly with the parent or against documentary evidence before raising a query.

Are your provider details up to date?

Why not take this opportunity to update your information and let us know your vacancies for September 2017 – simply complete the ‘Vacancy Update’ form online using the [Provider Portal](#)

Have you submitted the following forms?

- 30 hours
- Revised Kirklees Agreement 2017-18 for PVI & Academies only
- Vacancy update

Log-in now to the [Provider Portal](#)

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017

We plan to publish the 2017 assessment within the next few weeks which will include our latest 30 hour gap analysis.



Reminder of eligibility criteria

- Both parents, or sole parent in a lone parent family, must be working and expect to earn (on average) at least £120 a week for each parent over 25 years old or £112.80 a week for each parent between 21 and 24 years old. (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage.) Parents do not have to be working 16 hours.
 - Either parent has an income less than £100,000.
 - Only HMRC can decide if a family is eligible so parents must apply for the additional hours through the on-line childcare service www.childcare.tax.service.gov.uk/
 - HMRC helpline for parents experiencing problems with the application process - Customer Interaction Centre 0300 123 4097
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Events

If you are holding a special event we can advertise this on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/familiesinkirklees/>

Next bulletin

We plan to publish the next bulletin during the first week in September.
Have a lovely summer!