Welcome to the Early Years and Childcare Newsletter.

Please circulate to all staff and committee members

This issue covers:

- Funding reminders
- Publicising 30 hours
- Childcare vouchers
- Admissions to Reception 2018
- Survey on childcare and early years
- Changes to National Living Wage/National Minimum Wage and Pensions
- Digital support for childminders
- Results of communication methods survey
- Ofsted updates
- Ofsted outstanding settings
- Summer holiday playschemes

### Funding reminders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimate claim deadline for option 2</th>
<th>Monday 30th April (payment date 14th May)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for submitting summer term ‘actual’ claim</td>
<td>Monday 21st May</td>
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### Publicising 30 hours

Do you offer 30 hours?  
Why not promote the offer on your website?  
Providers could, for example, consider including a link to Childcare Choices  
[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

### Ministers delay the closure of Childcare Vouchers (Posted on 20 March 2018)

On 13th March 2018, Damian Hinds the Secretary of State for Education announced a 6 month extension to the closure of the Childcare Voucher scheme.
An exact scheme end date is yet to be announced, but this is good news for parents that may have missed the April deadline. Employees can continue to register for Childcare Vouchers for a further 6 months.

Here is a poster to help you promote the scheme.

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**Admissions to Reception 2018**

Parents of children who are due to start Reception in September 2018 were informed of their allocated school place on 16th April. If you become aware of any parents of Kirklees children who have not applied for a place please direct them to https://enrol.kirklees.gov.uk/ENROL/default.aspx so that they can complete an application through the parent portal as a matter of priority.

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**Survey on childcare and early years**

The Department for Education (DfE) is consulting on:

- The Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents, which provides information on parents with children aged 0-14 in England. It covers parents’ and their children’s use of childcare and early years provision, and their views and experiences.
- The Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers, which collects information on the main characteristics of childcare and early years providers in England.

**Survey**

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**Changes to National Minimum Wage, National Living Wage Rates and Pensions**

The National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage increased on 1st April 2018.

National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates

By law, on 6 April 2018, employers must have increased the amount of their minimum contributions in their staff’s automatic enrolment pension to at least 2% of qualifying earnings.

The Pensions Regulator

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**Digital support for childminders**

HMRC is delivering a live webinar for childminders on Tuesday 1st May – 7pm to 8pm

Further information and to book
Results of communication methods survey

In February we carried out a communications survey - thank you to everyone who took the time to respond. Your views and opinions are important to us as it helps us to make improvements to our services. Of the eight specific communication methods outlined in the consultation, there was a clear overall preference for (1) emails, (2) text and (3) newsletter/regular bulletin. It is clear from the feedback received there is also support for a Facebook page specifically for childcare providers as another platform for sharing important messages from us. We hope to launch the new Facebook page this term – we will let you know when it is live.

Ofsted update

Ofsted has published an update to the Early Years Inspection handbook https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-registered-early-years-providers-guidance-for-inspectors

Outstanding Settings
The following settings have recently been inspected and have received an Outstanding Ofsted outcome. Many congratulations for achieving an excellent Ofsted report.

Claire Dillon (Clairey Poppins)
Ladybirds Day Nursery and Wraparound Care
Lepton CE Pre-School and Just for Fun Out of School Club
Little Scholars Nursery
Vicki Lowther-Knowles (Sunnydale Manor Childcare)
Zoe Frankland

Summer holiday playschemes
Are you running a holiday playscheme this summer?
Check to see whether you are listed in our directory www.kirklees.gov.uk/childcaresearch

If you would like to be included in our directory, please send the details to childcare.sufficiency@kirklees.gov.uk

Contact details
- feecteam@kirklees.gov.uk – for funding queries
- childcare.sufficiency@kirklees.gov.uk – for sufficiency and sustainability queries
- Enquiries.learningservices@kirklees.gov.uk – early years queries
- www.kirklees.gov.uk/childcareproviders