

Delivering 30 hours in out of school settings

Out of school clubs offer a vital service to working parents and could benefit from signing up to 30 hours free early education and childcare – below are some points to consider.

We only take older children

Although out of schools clubs have traditionally cared for school aged children most out of school clubs are registered with Ofsted on the Early Years Register as well as the Compulsory and Voluntary Registers and so could take children from 3 years old.

We can't get Early Years Funding

Any childcare provider on the Early Years Register (unless Ofsted rated Inadequate) will be able to register with the council for early years funding.

We only operate before and after school so cannot offer a full working day to parents

Out of school clubs often work the hours around those settings only able to offer a school day such as nursery classes in schools and playgroups/pre-schools. By teaming up and working in partnership out of school clubs can work collaboratively to provide a seamless full day of care for younger aged children of working parents. In doing so they could either share funded hours or benefit from the extra income from fees that working parents will need. Parents will benefit because, overall, they will be paying less in fees but will be accessing the full day care that they need.

Parents do not like the idea of younger children mixing with older school aged children

Parents often do not realise that out of school care is planned and managed. Out of school staff are trained to organise the delivery of activities for children's differing needs in organised areas of the rooms and outside play spaces.

We probably will not be sustainable operating at the 1:8 ratio required for this age group

The average fee rate for out of school clubs in Yorkshire and Humberside is around £3 per hour. The income per hour for Early Years Funding is set this year in Kirklees at £4.19 per hour, generally speaking higher than most current fee rates.

If the children were all funded

Income from 8 children per hour would be £33.52, if one member of staff was earning £10 per hour that is a surplus of £23.52. Breakeven would be $\frac{£10}{4.19} = 2.4$ or 3 children, so to justify a member of staff you would only need to take 3 funded children.

If the income was due to extra fees paid by parents taking funded hours in school or playgroup.

Income from 8 x fee paying children (at £3/hour) would be £24. Breakeven would be $\frac{£10}{3} = 3.33$ or 4 children.

Any income generated above breakeven would be surplus because these children are not creating any extra costs, all your other costs would be covered by your normal operation.

We use the same premises as the playgroup, we can't get in until they have cleared up

This is where the management of each group need to come together to discuss any possible barriers to the joint operation and seek solutions. For a small number of children for half an hour there maybe another room or a part of the hall in which they can be cared for, they may be able to use the time to access outdoor activities etc. Establishing partnerships doesn't just happen overnight, they need work, commitment and an open and honest approach to developing relationships, routines and trust. In any partnership or collaborative model the experience of the child, especially in terms of quality of provision, transitions and continuity of care must be of primary importance. There is learning available from the 4Children Early Learning and Childcare Hubs project <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/hubs/> or from the newly published DfE 30-hour mixed model partnership toolkit which can be found at: <http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/getting-started-dfes-30-hour-mixed-model-partnership-toolkit>

Kirklees Community Hubs

There will be opportunities for childcare providers to come together and explore the possibility of working in collaboration at a series of events being held shortly in different venues around Kirklees.

More information is available from Childcare Works briefing 5 – Delivering 30 hours in Out of School <http://www.childcareworks.co.uk/resources>