



30 Hours – Extended Entitlement

Provider Update – November 2016

We are now live with delivery and a huge thank you to all types of providers who are helping to get us off to a strong start by delivering a great number of places across the city to meet the needs of eligible parents.

Parent Applications

Across the country over 3,000 eligible children are benefiting from places. In York 1,231 (83%) of parent applications have been approved from a total of 1,480 eligible families. Towards the end of the Autumn Term we will be verifying the number of places actually taken up and we will share this with you once complete. There will also be short parent/provider surveys to understand if parents were able to access the hours to meet their working patterns or if they had to settle for what could be realistically offered during these early days of implementation.

Provider Commitment

Provider commitment to taking part in the trial has increased significantly since May and has now reached 197 (86%) out of 229. This breakdown is;

- 40 out of 40 (100%) Private Day Nurseries
- 39 out of 39 (100%) Voluntary Playgroups
- 94 out of 124 (76%) Childminders
- 4 out of 5 (80%) Independent Schools
- 20 out of 21 (95%) Schools with nurseries/nursery schools

New Early Years Minister, Caroline Dineage MP

Since our last update a new Minister has been appointed for Early Years. She met with each of the 8 early implementers at a national meeting in September and is keen to understand local challenges for Local Authorities in delivering the extended entitlement. She has also set out the manifesto commitment to the 30 hours and confirms it still has one of the highest priorities in government.

New National Support Contractor – Childcare Works

The DfE have now awarded the national support contract for 30 Hours. It has been awarded to the same team that supported us with Achieving Two Year Olds.

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 in ways in which high-quality childcare is accessible, flexible and affordable. In doing so, Childcare Works will work directly with providers, local authority early years teams, other partners, and central government.

Early Years Single Funding Formula Consultation

Over 3,000 responses to the consultation were received by the DfE who may publish a response later this month.

In the meantime the DfE have urged Local Authorities to start discussions with their providers as soon as possible about what the proposals might mean to our local Early Years Single Funding Formula.

We are therefore, proposing to resurrect the Early Years Reference group which was set up several years ago when our local Early Years Funding Formula was developed. We are currently seeking representatives from each of the sectors (private, voluntary, independent and schools) and have written to members of the previous group to see if they are willing to continue. If you were not a representative on the original group and wish to be considered as a member please contact us at 30hrs@york.gov.uk as soon as possible. It is important to attend each of the meetings.

We are also seeking 2-3 childminder representatives as there are currently gaps for this sector and it is important that the reference group has a strong and balanced representation to help ensure that our revised local funding formula is developed inline with feedback from all sectors

As the timescales for the development of a revised early years funding formula are very short, with new funding arrangements to be commence from 1st April 2017, we would like to hold an initial meeting of the resurrected EYNFF Reference group on **Monday 14th November 2016, 1.30-3.30pm in CYC, West Offices**, with a further two meetings, one on Monday 12th 1-3 pm CYC West Offices December and a further one late January (date to be confirmed shortly) so that we will have a proposed revised EYNFF to take to the Schools Forum meeting on the 13th February 2017.

continued...

DfE 30 Hours Consultation

The government have just published their response to the 30 Hours consultation. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/565668/Government_response_-_30_hours_delivery_consultation.pdf. Next steps are for us to understand the implications of their response for delivery in York.

National Evaluation

This is underway and is being led by Frontier Economics. They will be capturing the learning about early implementation from local authorities, providers and parents. The findings relating to York will be shared with us late Spring 2017.

HMRC – On Line Tax Free Childcare

York is taking part in the HMRC trial on a new tax free childcare system and it is intended that the system will go live in February 2017.

As a registered childcare provider in the York local authority area you should have received a letter in the post from HM Government inviting you to sign up to Tax-Free Childcare. This is a new government scheme which is being delivered by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and which will be available to around two million working families to help with their childcare costs.

Tax-Free Childcare will commence from early 2017 and eligible working parents with children under 12 (under 17 for disabled children) who apply for the scheme will be able to set up an online childcare account to pay their childcare providers directly. For every £8 parents pay in, the government will add £2, up to a maximum contribution of £2,000 per child, per year (£4,000 per year for disabled children). Parents can use this money to pay for childcare directly to your bank account, as long as you have signed up to Tax-Free Childcare.

Further information for childcare providers on Tax-Free Childcare can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tax-free-childcare-top-things-childcare-providers-should-know>

As part of the Department for Education and HMRC trial to test the eligibility checking processes for 30 hours' free childcare starting from mid-November, a small group of parents in the York local authority area will be entitled to start claiming Tax-Free Childcare before the full childcare service is introduced nationally next year. If you provide childcare to a parent in the trial, you may be paid via Tax-Free Childcare from this autumn if you have signed up.

If you wish to sign up to Tax-Free Childcare it is very important that you take action, as the invitation letter contains your unique 'user ID' and tells you how to sign up. It also provides details of where you can get further help and information if you need it.

The invitation letter will have an HM Government letterhead and was sent in a white envelope addressed to the main contact that Ofsted hold on their database. The link below provides further guidance if needed on how you can check that you've received a genuine HM Revenue and Customs communication: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/genuine-hmrc-contact-and-recognising-phishing-emails/genuine-hmrc-contact-and-recognising-phishing-emails>

Charging for Additional Goods or Services

Under current guidance providers are able to make a charge for goods and additional services. However parents should not be charged any fee for their child's funded place and it must not be a condition of children taking up their place.

Therefore, charges can be made if they are fair and reasonable and are not a condition of a place. We would also recommend that there is clear billing and parents are notified well in advance of taking up a place. If you need support with billing please contact craig.waugh@york.gov.uk

We do not recommend any particular approach to charging apart from considering the principles set out above. If considering charging for goods and services also take into account any increased administration of those goods and services to minimise any financial risk to the sustainability of your provision.

We understand the DfE will make the current guidance clearer as part of a proposed Model Agreement with providers.

Finally

The DfE are pleased with our excellent progress and that we are sharing our learning with other local authorities at national and local events. York continues to be in the national spotlight and the DfE are always keen to hear more good news stories from York parents and providers. If you are willing to share any stories please contact us by emailing 30hrs@york.gov.uk.

It's important that we keep our positive momentum and build on the good work so far. So thank you for your continued support on behalf of myself and the rest of the Childcare Strategy Team and we look forward to continuing to work with you closely on the implementation of this policy.

Barbara Mands

Head of Childcare Strategy

November 2016