

30 Hours Free Childcare Entitlement Newsletter

ISSUE 1

MARCH 2017

WHAT IS IN THIS NEWSLETTER?

- **Preparing for the implementation of the 30 Hours Free Childcare Entitlement offer.**
- **Statutory Guidance**
- **Model Agreement**
- **Useful links and resources**
- **Dates for your diary**

September 2017, are you ready?

The 30 Hour Free Childcare Entitlement will be available to parents from the 1st of September 2017. As we prepare for the implementation, the School Readiness Team will be continuing to hold events, meetings and training to support settings and schools. We will also be releasing regular newsletters, this being the first, to keep you abreast of any updates and news, so you feel fully informed.



The Model Agreement and Statutory Guidance

The DFE released the Model Agreement and Statutory Guidance on the 3rd of March 2017. These long-awaited documents will now guide the Local Authority in their preparations for September. The Model Agreement sets out what should be included in a Local Au-

thority agreement between settings and the Local Authority for all funded places. This model agreement now has to be amended to ensure that it reflects the practice and policy of Sefton. This takes time as it requires input from a range of depart-

ments and needs to be ratified by our legal department. We understand the appetite for the document, however we ask for your patience at this time. Links to the documents are on the back of the newsletter.

'It takes a village to raise a child'

African Proverb

Frequently asked questions...

Q - Do providers offer 15 or 30 hours and nothing in-between?

A - Providers can offer up to 30 hours.

Q - What will be the funding rate in Sefton?

A - The funding rate will be £.4.00 per child, per hours, with deprivation supplements, if eligible of 10p, 15p or 20p.

Q - How do parents apply or check eligibility?

A - Parent will be able to check their eligibility on the Eligibility Checking Service webpage, which will generate a voucher code if eligible, which can then be taken to the provider. This should be available online in the next two months.

Q - What is being done at a local level to analyse sufficiency?

A - Various data gathering exercises have taken place to establish the projected number of vacant places for the offer. This has involved discussion with the sector, questionnaires and liaison with business intelligence. We have established overall sufficiency for local authority, however more detail is now needed at a ward level to ensure that there are places for children in the greatest areas of demand.

Eligibility

The additional hours will be available to children in families where:

- Both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family)
- Each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW), and less than £100,000 per year.
- It is a one parent household and the working parent meets the income rules.
- Working will include employed and self-employed persons.

Parents **will not necessarily need to actually work 16 hours a week**, but rather their earnings must reflect **at least 16 hours of work** at NMW or NLW. This means that, when the new entitlement goes live, a working parent who is over 25 will need to earn a weekly minimum equivalent of £115.20 whereas a working parent who is 21 will need to earn weekly minimum equivalent of around £107 (at this year's rates). Parents on zero contract hours who meet the criteria are included in the entitlement criteria.

