

Information Classification: Normal
Audience: All Early Years Providers
Action Required: Information only
Deadline: None
File/Attachment: No
Contact Names: None

Dear All

Welcome to the **Extended Entitlement (1140 hours) Newsletter July 2017**. Hopefully this newsletter will give you further information about the delivery of the extended entitlement and answer some questions you may have. If you have any further questions, please contact the Families Information Service on: 01609 533483
email: fis.information@northyorks.gov.uk

1. Updated Operational Guidance

DfE have updated their operational Guidance for the delivery of the extended entitlement. You can find a copy on the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/30-hours-free-childcare-la-and-early-years-provider-guide>

What are the main changes to the Guidance?

Following feedback from local authorities, providers and sector organisations, they have re-ordered and clarified the text throughout the guidance. In addition, they have updated the sections on local authority audit process and the chapters on Eligibility and Charging. They have reflected new information in some of the case studies.

2. Letter from the Minister of State for Children and Families

Minister Goodwill has expressed his thanks to all North Yorkshire providers and schools for being part of the early roll-out of the extended entitlement funding. You can read his letter on the link below:

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2017/07/Minister-Goodwill-letter-to-early-years-providers.pdf>

3. Evaluation of the Early Implementer Trials

The evaluation of the trials from the 8 early implementers of the extended entitlement has been published.

You can find a copy of the evaluation here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/30-hours-free-childcare-early-implementation-evaluation>

A slide pack from Frontier Economics is also available:

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2017/07/Frontier-EI-Evaluation-Final-Findings-Slidepack.pdf>

Our evaluation of the early roll-out will be available in the Autumn term.

4. Eligibility Codes

Please remind your parents to apply for their code for their Autumn term place by the 31st August and to validate their code with you as soon as possible, otherwise they may miss out on their place. Please direct them to: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

5. Childcare Works

The following website has a wealth of information around the delivery and implementation of the extended entitlement along with case studies and good practice guidance: <http://www.childcareworks.co.uk/resources>

6. Autumn Term Questionnaire

A huge thank you to those of you who have completed the questionnaire about your plans for delivery of the extended entitlement in the autumn term. If you haven't completed it, you haven't missed your opportunity, an email will be sent out in the next few days with the questions which need to be answered. Every Local Authority is required to provide information to parents about the providers in their area who are delivering extended entitlement provision and to update this termly. The information from the questionnaire will enable us to ensure we can meet parental demand across the county, and signpost them to your school or setting accordingly.

7. FAQs from the Funding Agreement Meeting

On 21st June, a meeting was held with providers to discuss the new provider funding agreement. These are the responses to the questions raised:

1. If children attend a NY site and a site across border, what are the processes for this?

The same as it is now – the parent must use the parental declaration at both sites to ensure that each provider knows the split of hours i.e. universal hours or extended hours.

2. Can schools insist on which part of the entitlements are claimed by them ie. for EYPP, DAF?
No, it is the parent's choice of who they wish to claim for the hours, this must be noted on the parental agreement.
3. Although the DfE are saying that there is no minimum session length – can providers set the hours they offer?
The DfE Operational Guidance July 2017 states: "Providers should ensure that they are completely clear and transparent about which hours/sessions can be taken as free provision and this should be consistent for all parents taking up a place."
4. Stretched offer – what should providers do if parents opt for a stretched offer but then decide to leave at the end of July, or ask to use occasional hours of their entitlement during August?
Further guidance is due to be sent. Stretching offers flexibility to those children who are accessing their funded entitlement only, and these children can benefit from attending an early education provision all year round without the need for parents to purchase additional childcare. Providers have discretion on how they offer the stretched entitlement and therefore parents must be made aware of the limitations of stretching
5. If providers are offering stretched offer only in holiday periods – how is this claimed for?
Further guidance is due to be sent out on this.
6. Do the LA need to see the parental declarations?
Only in the event of an over claim when there is a dispute on what the parent has signed for.
7. Sufficiency audit – on the portal it doesn't work to ask how many places are available- how many hours would be better.
We are working with our Systems Team to correct this.
8. Are headcount dates fixed? The 30 hour entitlement increases the financial risk for providers?
Yes in line with the DfE Census, always the 1st Thursday in October and 3rd Thurs in January and May.
9. Can adjustments be made on small numbers if children leave or arrive after headcount – now that the amounts for 30 hours are greater?
Revised estimates can be submitted to enable more accurate monthly payment – providers must use the indicative budget statement (produced in March) to enable them to forecast for the terms.
10. Banking hours across the whole year or just within terms? What happens if parents lose eligibility?
Banking of hours is not permitted. Funding is given for children within the grace period.
11. Can providers claim full 30 hour entitlement if parents need a different pattern each week, eg. Nurse?
There are staffing implications of alternative week models of place demand.
Headcount is based on the hours that child is 'normally attending'. A parent who is a shift worker – we would recommend that the child attends some of their hours during headcount week.
12. Will the LA be asking for parental feedback / provider feedback of the 30 hour early roll-out experience?
This has already been done on our behalf as part of the early roll out evaluation by Frontier Economics but we always welcome feedback, thank you.
13. Electronic format for provider agreements and signatures would be preferred.
The Signing Hub is being used for September 2017.
14. The new contract needs to specify what the service provided is – for clarity (slide 7) What is the funding paying for and what are additional charges
This will be clarified in the new agreement.
15. Need to clarify charges for lunch – it is the food and snacks that are not funded by 15 nor 30 hours funding; the EYFS delivery is part of the entitlement.
This is clarified in the revised operational guidance (attached)
16. When will the agreements be sent out and need to be returned?
Due out week commencing 24th July and to be returned before 11th August 2017.

THANK YOU for your support in delivering the extended entitlement over the Summer Term. We recognise it has been challenging at times and we truly appreciate the work that you do to ensure that you provide the high quality early education and care to which the children and families across the county are entitled, and expect from us.

Alana Miles, Early Years Policy and Development Officer.
July 2017