

30 hours

EXTRA

free childcare NEWS

Welcome to the 4th edition of 30 hours news update.

Messages to families – BIG news!!

“Childcare choices” launch kick-starts national promotional campaign

[Childcare Choices](#) is a new website for parents launched by the Government. It brings together all the national childcare offers for the first time, helping parents find what's available for them.

Childcare Choices

The website provides information on both the existing and new offers, including Tax-Free Childcare and 30 hours free childcare. From the end of April, parents will begin to apply for both schemes at the same time through a new digital childcare service.

30 hours free childcare **NEW! COMING SOON**

Age **3&4**

- For working families in England
- With 3 and 4-year-old children
- An extra 15 hours a week of free childcare - so 30 in all

[Is it for me?](#)

Tax-Free Childcare **NEW! COMING SOON**

Age **0-11** or 16 if disabled

- For working families, including the self-employed, in the UK
- With children under 12 (or under 17 if disabled)
- For every £8 you pay in, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child

[Is it for me?](#)

Tax credits for childcare

Age **0-15** or 16 if disabled

- For working families, in the UK
- With children under 16 (or under 17 if disabled)
- 70% of childcare costs, up to a cap

[Is it for me?](#)

CAN I GET HELP WITH MY CHILDCARE COSTS

What's on offer

The user-friendly website covers all the existing and new childcare offers, including 15 hours free childcare, tax credits, universal credit, support for studying parents and childcare vouchers. This includes a service to calculate childcare costs and potential savings.

<https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

Benefits and ways of getting the message out

The council has access to lots of related promotional materials such as posters, logo, graphics and message templates, to help spread the word to parents and staff. The materials can be used to spread the message for example via social media or email.

We will be making these available via our 30 hours web page and through future editions of 30 hours news.

30 hours

free childcare **NEWS**

For queries, please contact: 30hourschildcare@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Provider briefings

Over 3 days in late March, more than 200 provider representatives from across the sector attended four special briefings on preparing to deliver the 30 hour childcare offer.

Leaders, owners and practitioners from day nurseries, pre-schools and schools, along with childminders and out of school club representatives, heard presentations from Barbara Wilson from the national Childcare Works team and input from local authority teams on the Cambridgeshire picture.

The sessions offered an opportunity to ask questions about everything from parental eligibility to business support, and to consider the options and opportunities to work in partnership to meet the needs of parents for a flexible offer.

The key message remains that providers need to **make a clear business decision** about offering the 30 hours, **based on their finances** and the new funding rates. **Parents then need to know** that decision, and **any restrictions or limitations** on your 30-hour offer.

There was also an opportunity to acknowledge the exceptional contribution made by providers to meeting the needs of families, and the challenging pace at which this policy is being implemented nationally.

Brand-new information about the systems parents will use to register for the 30 hours, and the national Childcare Choices website, was shared with providers as soon as it became available.

The materials presented at the events are available for download from the 30 hours page on Learn Together Cambridgeshire.

What to do now

- Check your details on the [Childcare Service](#) website, to ensure that you are registered for Tax-Free Childcare. Call the HMRC helpline on **0300 123 4097** if you are not!
- **Pass on the information** from the briefings to key colleagues or committee members.
- **Use the planning tool** to develop your forecast or model different options for offering 30 hour places. http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/learntogether/homepage/348/30_hours_free_entitlement_factsheet_and_business_tools;
- Book your place on the **Leadership and Governance briefings** (25/26/27 April) to hear the latest in relation to reviewing admissions policies and local authority support in developing your 30 hours places.

Useful links

<https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/>

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

<http://www.childcareworks.co.uk/resources>

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/learntogether/homepage/348/30_hours_free_entitlement_factsheet_and_business_tools