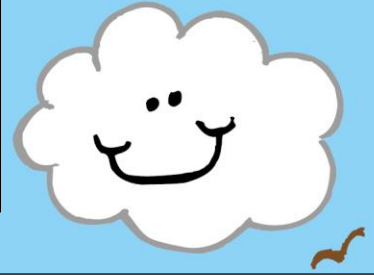




March Update 30 Hours Free Childcare for 3 and 4 Year Olds



We are now receiving lots of queries about the 30 hour free childcare offer, in response to this we have put together 2 lists of frequently asked questions that will hopefully cover many of your queries; one for providers and one for parents. The frequently asked questions have been sent to all schools and childcare providers and can also be found by following this link:

<http://www.westcheshirelocaloffer.co.uk/kb5/cheshirewestandchester/directory/home.page>

If you have a question that is not answered please do not hesitate to contact the Advice and Information Service on: **0300 123 7001**, alternatively you can email Nicola.white2@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

A quick reminder:

Our parent survey for 30 hours free childcare is still up and running and I would like to say a big THANK YOU to nearly 600 parents who have completed the questionnaire so far. If you have not already done so, could you please take time to complete the survey to help us ensure that there are enough childcare places available where you need them for September 2017 onwards. The information that you provide will be used by Cheshire West and Chester and by local childcare providers to enable us to build a clear picture of the level of demand for 30 hour places. All answers will be kept anonymous.

To complete the online questionnaire please go to: <http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/30HoursFree>

The questionnaire will be available until 24/03/17

In case you have not heard about the new entitlement for September 2017, you may be eligible if your family meet the following:

- 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 or national living wage, approximately £115.20 per week / £5,990.40; and less than £100,000 per year.
- one or both parents is either on maternity/paternity or adoption leave; or where one parent has substantial caring responsibilities and is in receipt of carers allowance, or where one parent is employed and one is disabled or incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits.

Online eligibility checking service for parents - update:

The latest information from the Department for Education suggests that the online eligibility checking service for parents will be ready towards the end of April; we will continue to keep you informed on it's progress in the April 30 hour update.

