

Cheshire West & Chester Council



Parent Questionnaire About 30 Hours  
Free Childcare for 3 and 4 year olds.



Cheshire West  
and Chester

## Parent Questionnaire about 30 Hours Free Childcare for 3 and 4 year olds

### Background:

All 3 and 4 year olds are currently entitled to up to 15 hours free childcare per week the term after they are 3 (there is no eligibility criteria as this is a universal offer). However, if you are a working parent you may be able to increase your free childcare entitlement from 15 hours to 30 hours per week for your 3 or 4 year old child from September, 2017.

### For the purposes of this criteria:

- A 'parent' means a person who has parental responsibility for the child, or cares for the child. In cases where a parent has remarried or is living with a partner, the step-parent or partner must also meet the earnings threshold. Foster carers are eligible for the extended entitlement if they meet the criteria set out below for their own children. Foster carers are not eligible for the extended entitlement for the children that they foster.
- Working parents includes employed persons, self-employed persons and parents on zero hours contracts who meet the criteria.

### Eligibility criteria to increase your free childcare entitlement to 30 hours per week:

Both parents are working (or the sole parent in a lone parent family is working) subject to the following criteria:

- Each parent (or sole parent) has a weekly minimum income equivalent to at least 16 hours at national minimum wage and neither parent (or sole parent) has an income of more than £100k per year. At present hourly wage rates vary, therefore you may be eligible if you earn the equivalent to:
  - A. Over 24 year olds on National Living Wage of £7.20 an hour - the minimum income requirement is £115.20 a week.
  - B. 21 to 24 year olds on National Minimum Wage of £6.70 an hour - the minimum income requirement is £107.20 a week.
  - C. 18 to 21 year olds receiving £3.87 an hour - the minimum income requirement is £61.92 a week.
- Both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on parental, adoption, maternity or paternity leave, on statutory sick pay.
- One parent is employed and one parent has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring.
- One parent is employed and one parent is disabled or incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits.

A national online eligibility checking service will be put in place shortly. Details of how to access this will be available in the near future on the Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) website and on the Local Offer website: <http://www.westcheshirelocaloffer.co.uk>

## **When could your child be eligible:**

### **Child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday:**

1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March

1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> August

1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December

### **When you can claim:**

The beginning of term on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April

The beginning of term on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September

The beginning of term on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January

## **How will your responses be used:**

Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) and childcare providers will use your feedback to help us to ensure that there are enough childcare places available at the times you need them from September 2017 onwards. The information that you provide will be used by CWaC and by local childcare providers but all answers will be kept anonymous.

## **How to take part:**

There is a range of ways for you to express your views. Either complete this survey by **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017** and return it in the attached envelope, or you might find it more convenient to complete this survey online by going to: <http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/30HoursFree>

You can also:

Email: [Nicola.White2@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:Nicola.White2@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

Telephone: Information, Advice and Support Service on 0300 123 7001

Write to:

Information, Advice and Support Service,  
Cheshire West and Chester Council  
Ground Floor,  
4 Civic Way,  
Ellesmere Port,  
CH65 0BE



**When you complete the survey, please consider the following:**

If you have more than one child, think about the child who will get free childcare as a 3 or 4 year old in September 2017. If you have more than one child of this age, answer for the youngest of these children.

**Q1a. Is your child currently accessing the 15 hours universal free childcare?**

Please cross one box.

Yes ☐

No ☐ (go to Q2a)

**Q1b. If you have answered yes to Q1a, which type of childcare provider are you currently using? Please cross all that apply.**

<b>Nursery School</b> (A school in its own right with most children aged 3-5.) Sessions normally run for 2.5 to 3 hours in the morning and/or in the afternoon)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Nursery class attached to primary or infants school</b> (Often a separate unit within school, with those in the nursery class aged 2, 3 or 4. It may be owned by a private, voluntary or independent provider on a school site and may also offer before and after school provision and/or holiday provision. Sessions normally run for 2.5 to 3 hours in the morning and/or in the afternoon)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Day nursery</b> (Runs for the whole working day and may be closed for a few weeks in the summer, if at all. May be run by employers, private companies, community/voluntary group or the Local Authority and can take children who are a few months to 5 years old)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Playgroup or pre-school</b> (The term 'pre-school' is commonly used to describe many types of nursery education). For the purposes of this survey; pre-school is used to describe a type of playgroup. This service is often run by a community/voluntary group, parents themselves, or privately. Fees are usually charged, with sessions of up to 4 hours)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Childminder</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q1c. Please tell us the village/town and/or postcode(s) of your childcare provider(s) in the box below:**

**Q2a. The government currently provides 15 hours of free childcare per week for some 2 year olds. Do you currently receive any free hours under this scheme? Please cross one box.**

Yes ☐

No ☐ (go to Q3)

**Q2b. If yes, please tell us the village/town and/or postcode(s) of your childcare provider(s) in the box below:**

**Q3. Looking at the eligibility criteria in the background section, which of the following do you think will apply to you and your family for September 2017?**  
Please cross one box.

Eligible for 15 hours universal free childcare (not eligible for the additional 15 hours top up).	<input type="checkbox"/> (Go to Q11)
Eligible for the additional 15 hours per week, giving a possible total of 30 hours free childcare per week.	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q4. Looking at the criteria, if you think you will be eligible for up to 30 hours free childcare per week, when would you need your child to start their place with a childcare provider?**  
Please cross one box.

The beginning of the term on or after 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2017	<input type="checkbox"/>
The beginning of the term on or after 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018	<input type="checkbox"/>
The beginning of the term on or after 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2018	<input type="checkbox"/>
The beginning of the term on or after 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2018	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q5a. If eligible for the additional 15 hours per week would you take up the full entitlement?**  
Please cross one box.

Yes ☐ (go to Q6)

No ☐

Not sure ☐

**Q5b. If you are entitled to the additional hours and you have said no or you are not sure, please explain below.**

**Q6. If eligible for the additional free childcare offer and you would like to take the full entitlement, how would you like to use your hours?**

Please cross one box.

Standard offer over 38 weeks at 30 hours	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stretched offer of 45 weeks at 25.3 hours per week	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stretched offer of 51 weeks at 22.25 hours per week	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please tell us in the box below - any combination adding to 1140 hours per year may be considered, up to a maximum of 10 hours per day between the hours of 06:00 and 20:00.)	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q7a. If you and your family will be eligible for the additional free childcare offer, would you need more than 30 hours childcare each week? (i.e. will you need to pay for extra hours childcare?)** Please cross one box.

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

**Q7b. If you have answered yes to Q7a, please state how many additional hours per week you think you will need.**

**Q8. Please say which days and the start and end times you need for childcare.**

Please cross all that apply.

DAY	Start of session times				End of session times						
	6-7am	7-8am	8-9am	12-1pm	12-1pm	1-2pm	2-3pm	4-5pm	5-6pm	6-7pm	7-8pm
Monday											
Tuesday											
Wednesday											
Thursday											
Friday											
Saturday											
Sunday											

Please state any different times that you require if not listed above.

**Q9. If you and your family will be eligible for the additional free 15 hours how would you prefer to use your hours?**

Please cross one box

With one single provider	<input type="checkbox"/>
Split between two providers (e.g. Pre-school and Childminder)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q10. What impact could the additional free 15 hours childcare have on you and your family?**

Please select all that apply.

Could significantly reduce the cost of childcare for our household	<input type="checkbox"/>
Could enable me/us to increase the number of hours worked	<input type="checkbox"/>
Could reduce the amount of time I / we rely on extended family for childcare	<input type="checkbox"/>
Could improve my child's readiness for school	<input type="checkbox"/>
Could support me further as a Carer	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q11. Please tell us your postcode:**

**Q12. Does your child have any special educational needs and / or disabilities?**

Please cross one box.

Yes ☐

No ☐

**Q13. Does your child receive Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or have an Education Health Plan (EHC)? Please cross one box.**

Yes ☐

No ☐

**Thank you for taking part. Please return your completed form by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in the envelope provided, or send to The Research Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE.**

### **Accessing Cheshire West and Chester Council information and services.**

Council information is also available in Audio, Braille, Large Print or other formats.  
If you would like a copy in a different format, in another language  
or require a BSL interpreter, please email us at:  
**[equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)**

**Telephone:** 0300 123 8 123  
**Textphone:** 18001 01606 275757  
**Email:** [equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)  
**Web:** [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)