



Haringey Council

**Agenda Item
10**

Report Status

For information/note
For consultation & views
For decision

Commissioning Unit

Report to Haringey Schools Forum – 8th July 2015

Report Title: Preparing for the 30 hour Extension to the Free Entitlement for the 3 and 4 year olds of working parents.

Authors:

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Purpose: To provide Schools Forum members with an update on the Governments proposals for extending the free entitlement for working parents

Recommendations:

1. That Schools Forum notes the contents of the report and the actions being undertaken by the Council

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to Schools Forum on how provision for the Government's planned extension of the free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds is being considered in Haringey.

2. Background

- 2.1 The recently elected government has introduced the **Childcare Bill** which places a duty on the Secretary of State for Education to secure the availability for 'qualifying children of working parents' of free childcare for a period equivalent to 30 hours in each of 38 weeks in any year.
- 2.2 This duty will take into account any free childcare entitlement places which are being secured by local authorities under the Childcare Act 2006 s7(1).
- 2.3 The Bill delegates powers to the Secretary of State to make regulations for the purpose of discharging his duty to secure the 30 hour free entitlement to qualifying children of working parents.

3. Summary of proposals

- 3.1 Much of the details of the proposed extension are still to be determined and the government has recently launched a consultation on the cost of delivering childcare, ending in August 2015. What is known about the proposals is outlined below:
- 30 hours per week of free childcare/early education for eligible working parents
 - Initial indication that minimum working hours are 8 per week
 - Initial indication that if a two-parent household, both parents must be working
 - Household income up to £150k
 - Children of non-working parents and households with only one working parent/carer will continue to be entitled to 15 hours per week free early education.
 - No change to the 15 hour per week free entitlement for disadvantaged 2 year olds.
 - Full implementation from Sept 2017; some early implementation from Sept 2016

4. **What we still need to know from the Government**

- If the 30 hour offer is a simple extension of the current 15 hours
- How the eligibility criteria will be assessed and checked
- What the funding rate will be
- Whether settings will be able to choose between accommodating children for 15-hour or 30-hour provision or a mix of both
- Expectations about the flexibility of the offer e.g. stretched across school holidays
- How lunch time will be classified
- If the government will introduce a minimum payment regime
- How parents on zero-hour contracts will be treated
- How maternity leave will be treated
- What will happen if there are changes to parental employment status once a child has taken up a place (15 hours or 30 hours)
- How much capital funding will be available

5. **What we need to find out in Haringey**

5.1 As part of understanding our local preparedness for the 30 hour extension, it is clear that there are key areas of information that will need to be gathered in order for use to fully assess the implications of the new arrangements. The Council will need to be able to:

- Estimate how many parents are likely to be eligible and where they are located in the borough
- Understand the capacity within all types of childcare and early education settings in the borough to accommodate the 30 hour offer.
- Build a good picture of the cost implications of maximising provider capacity – capital and revenue

6. **Current Activity**

6.1 The Council are currently undertaking a number of activities that will help us to plan for the implementation of the new offer and also establish what needs to be done in the borough to meet the requirements of the new Childcare Bill. These include:

- Completion of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)
- From CSA raw data, gather information about levels of household income across the borough

- Mapping of 3 and 4 year old take-up by type of provision and postcode
- Mapping the hours provided over and above the current 15 hours entitlement (non-funded hours) by provider and postcode area
- Collation of numbers of 3 & 4 year olds children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
- Gathering of information about the proportion of working parents to non-working parents - to be mapped according to postcode
- Completion and submission of the Department for Education's Voluntary Survey: LA readiness
- Preparation of Haringey-wide provider survey

7. **Actions going forward**

7.1 It is anticipated that over the next few months, further information and guidance will be issued by the government via the Department for Education (DfE). Whilst we await this, the outcome of the national childcare costs survey and the outcome of DfE's consultation with the childcare sector on how they might implement the programme, we will continue to work on our preparedness through the:

- Completion of **Haringey-wide provider survey** – September 2015
- Development of **Haringey's Implementation Plan**. Regular updates on progress to full implementation to be provided to Schools Forum, Schools Forum Early Years Working Group as well as the Council's Senior Leadership Team, Lead Member for Children and Families and the Leader of the Council
- Establishment of a project group to drive forward the planning and implementation process.
- Engagement of key stakeholders through existing forums e.g. Schools Forum, Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Forum, Primary Heads.