



Childcare and Family Information Team (Cfit) newsletter

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Specified Adult Childcare credits

Grandparents and other adult family members play a big role in looking after grandchildren or the children of other family members so the children's parents can continue to work. This may have meant that some were sacrificing their own incomes in retirement. To ensure grandparents' and certain adults' caring responsibilities count towards entitlement to the basic State Pension, the Government introduced a new National Insurance credit in April 2011.

The weekly Class 3 National Insurance credit can be awarded to grandparents and other family members aged 16 or over, but under State Pension age, who care for a child (or children) aged under 12 usually because the child's parents are working. The parent must be entitled to, but not need, their parents credit (linked to their claim for child benefit) and be willing to pass on the credit to the family member looking after their child.

The tax year 6 April 2011 to 5 April 2012 is the first year for

which the National Insurance credits are available. Applications can only be made after the end of the tax year in which they were caring. HMRC have been accepting applications for the 2011/12 tax year since October 2012. There is no upper time limit for applying but it is in the customer's interest to make a timely application.

The National Insurance credits will be added to the individual's National Insurance contribution record and will count towards basic State Pension and bereavement benefits for spouses and civil partners in the same way as a paid voluntary Class 3 National Insurance contribution.

For further information visit:
www.gov.uk/national-insurance-credits/eligibility.



'More Great Childcare'

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education and Childcare

published the report, 'More Great Childcare', on 29 January 2013 which sets out a ten year plan of action for how the Government will achieve its vision of a dynamic childcare market, delivering high quality early education. The report incorporates the Government's response to Professor Cathy Nutbrown's independent review, *Foundations for Quality*. The report addresses:

- raising the status and quality of the workforce;
- freeing high quality providers to offer more places;
- improving the regulatory regime;
- giving more choice to parents.

A copy of the report is available from the Department for Education website:
www.education.gov.uk/DFE-00002-2013

The next edition of the Cfit newsletter will be published in July. If you no longer wish to receive this publication please email childcare@hants.gov.uk to remove your details from the Cfit contacts database.



Hampshire
County Council

www.hants.gov.uk

For information and regular updates visit: www.hants.gov.uk/childcare

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Consultations for working parents

ACAS (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) has launched a consultation on a code of practice for the right to request flexible working. Under proposals included in the Children and Families Bill, the right to request flexible working will be extended to all employees who have worked for their employer for 26 weeks or more. Employers are obliged to consider all requests in a reasonable manner.

www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4105

The government have launched a consultation on the detailed administration of shared parental leave and pay. Shared parental leave and pay will enable working parents to have more choice and flexibility in how they share the care of their child in the early stages following birth.

www.gov.uk/government/consultations



Closing date for both consultations is Monday 20 May 2013.

For further details regarding working parents rights visit:
www.workingfamilies.org.uk



NHS information service for parents

More than 100,000 people have already signed up to receive online advice about looking after their baby, and a quarter of these are fathers. The NHS Information Service for Parents, an online service for help and advice about all aspects of parenthood, was this month extended from covering pregnancy and the first 6 months, to now giving relevant information on bringing up babies up to 9 months old. By April 2013 it will also cover children up to 18 months of age.

www.nhs.uk/InformationServiceForParents/pages/home.aspx

Cfit Stakeholders Annual Satisfaction Survey

Last call please for partners to complete our short survey.

Results will be available next month. Thank you.

www.surveymonkey.com/s/XSYPFBX



Useful Resources



KIDS have produced: *'Taking a Personal Approach: A Parents Guide to Personal Budgets'*; linking in with their 'Making It Personal' project. This can be downloaded from:
www.kids.org.uk

Load2Learn is a free service providing accessible textbooks and images to support dyslexic, partially sighted or blind learners who have difficulty reading standard print. Visit: <http://load2learn.org.uk>

The Childcare and Family Information Team continues to provide free resources for parents, carers and services working with families.
www.hants.gov.uk/cfit-publications.htm

For the latest news, views and helpful information visit the Childcare and Family Information Team blog!

<http://sfycffit.wordpress.com/>

For more information, please contact the Childcare and Family Information Team (Cfit) on **0845 603 5620** or email childcare@hants.gov.uk. To find childcare and family related services visit the Hampshire Family Information Directory at www.fid.hants.gov.uk.