

# Early Years and Childcare

Stakeholders briefing sheet no. 7 (December 2019)

## 30 Hours Childcare and Tax-Free Childcare

The deadline for new applications for 30 Hours Childcare and Tax-Free Childcare to start in the spring term, is the **31 December**.

Parents applying for help with childcare funding after this date will not be able to receive this until April 2020.

The Department for Education have updated their 30 hours '[Check you're eligible](#)' page on GOV.UK. This now includes a 'When best to apply' table, based on when a child turns 3.

Parents who are already in receipt of 30 Hours or Tax-Free Childcare must ensure that they reconfirm their eligibility to HMRC when requested to.

To help decide what childcare scheme is best for their circumstances, parents can use the [Childcare Calculator](#).



## Contact info

30 Hours Childcare/ Tax-Free Childcare helpline: Childcare Service Helpline **0300 123 4097**  
[tax-free.childcare@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tax-free.childcare@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk)

## Other types of support with childcare costs

As well as [Childcare Choices](#), information about support with childcare costs can be accessed from the [Services for Young Children website](#).

## Something ... F.I.S.H.(y)?

Welcome to the Family Information and Services Hub including Hampshire Local Offer and Hampshire Gateway. Here you will find information about what is going on in your area, details on how to access services, organisations and activities in Hampshire, and the advice and support that is available.

**"What's new?"**  
Department for Education Campaign: 'Happy 1st Birthday' - Ideas to support children's learning at home, or as part of everyday activities like catching the bus or doing the shopping. Hampshire districts also offer some great groups and activities for families to enjoy.

Hampshire's Family Information and Services Hub and Hampshire Local Offer Info Hublet. For a downloadable version contact us.



<https://fish.hants.gov.uk>

The *Hampshire Family Information and Services Hub* (F.I.S.H.) is an online directory of services for families with children and young people, aged 0 – 25 years.

There is advice, information and details of services; ranging from family support, activities, leisure, employment, learning and training. There is also a section for young people as well childcare and early years education services, applicable for Hampshire.

## What is the (SEND) Local Offer?



The *(SEND) Local Offer* is published within the Hampshire Family Information and Services Hub and contains details of services and information for children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities.

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/localoffer>

The topics included are education/childcare, respite/support, equipment/therapies, health, preparing for adulthood, and leisure/play (appropriate for the Hampshire Gateway card).

Both local (Hampshire districts) and national (country-wide) information has been included.

The Local Offer gives Hampshire residents the opportunity to provide feedback about the services and support that they have used or would like to access.

Details of how to get in contact to provide feedback can be found at <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/contact.page>



Hampshire  
County Council

[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

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Parents can access tips and activities from [www.hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk](http://www.hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk) and search for activities in their area using a new postcode finder service.



Organisations are encouraged to support the campaign, share content on social media and link to the campaign website from their sites, making it easier for parents to get the latest advice.

## Deadline looming – Starting school in September?

For parents to apply for their child to start school in September 2020. The closing date for applications is **15 January 2020**.

Full information about the application process can be found at:

[www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/yearR](http://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/yearR).

Parents visiting the website will also find guidance on how to choose a school, what to do if they are moving house, starting school options including decelerated admission for summer born children, and lots of other useful information. If parents require further information or need help with their application, they can contact the Admissions Team by e-mailing [admissions.team@hants.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.team@hants.gov.uk) or calling 0300 555 1377.



## Universal Credit - childcare update

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is working with Citizens Advice through the *Help to Claim* partnership to ensure that support is signposted for claimants and partners: this is not a fund, but a support offer for claimants making their claim to Universal Credit through to receiving their first payment.

The Flexible Support Fund (FSF) is a discretionary fund that Jobcentre work coaches can use to support eligible claimants to get closer to or move into work.

The FSF can be used more widely to pay for upfront childcare costs until the claimant receives their first wage. The availability of this fund is actively promoted in jobcentres and to all claimants who might benefit.

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

## Free School Meals and welfare benefits

To be eligible to receive free school meals (FSM), a pupil or their parent must be in receipt of any one of the following listed benefits on this web page.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Claims for FSM are made through the school. If a client no longer qualifies on the grounds of Universal Credit because of excess earnings, then the FSM entitlement would continue until the end of the school phase, e.g. primary or secondary.

If you no longer want to receive this briefing, please email:

[alice.warr@hants.gov.uk](mailto:alice.warr@hants.gov.uk)