

### **Latest News**

The DfE have released the funding allocations for local authorities for 2013-14. Norfolk has received funding for providers at **£4.85 per hour** for 1,668 fulltime equivalent places. The press have widely publicised a figure of £5.09 per hour, however, this is a national average figure which includes the London weighting.

### **Hourly rate**

### **Other funding**

We have also received limited capital and revenue funding for the development of additional places to meet the September 2013 & September 2014 requirement.

### **Take up**

Currently there are **971 Norfolk children accessing** a two year old funded childcare place, which means that 267 children joined since September.

### **Lots of places available now**

These children are only filling 395 out of 1,000 fulltime equivalent places so there is funding for **605 places available** for disadvantaged two year olds. It is crucial that Children's Centres, Early Years Providers, Local Authority staff, Health Visitors and other professionals work together to increase take up across the county.

## Current provision

### **What is the two year old childcare scheme?**

Norfolk County Council Children's Services is delivering a scheme of free early learning and childcare for children from the 20% most economically disadvantaged families in Norfolk. Children from families who meet the eligibility criteria become eligible for a place the term after their second birthday. Children receive up to 15 hours per week free early learning and childcare, up to 38 weeks a year. These free places are also available to all two year old children who are currently being looked after by the Local Authority, or have recently been adopted.

### **How do the Sure Start Children's Centres fit in?**

Places are currently allocated to Children's Centres, with those in areas of most disadvantage getting the most places allocated. The Children's Centre staff, including Health Visitors, have an important role in identifying families who would benefit from this service and by providing support and childcare for these children - either through their own nurseries or at specifically approved \* settings or network childminders in their area. When their allocation of places has been taken up, the Centres can apply to a county panel for further places.

### **Children outside these areas**

Places are available to disadvantaged children who fall outside the disadvantaged areas. These places are currently allocated when the local Children's Centres submits an Application Form 1 to a monthly allocation panel.

## New developments

### Increasing Provision

New legislation in September 2013 will make this a statutory provision for disadvantaged two year olds and further funding for a total of 1,668 places will then be available. In anticipation of this there is a need for us to increase the number of childcare places. In September 2012, we more than doubled the number of places we were able to offer - to 1,000 free places for disadvantaged 2 year olds in Norfolk. These places constitute up to 15 hours a week for each child (38 weeks worth) but can be spread over a 50 week period.

### Increasing Capacity

In our last newsletter we mentioned that more detailed research was taking place to identify the areas of greatest need where we will need to focus our efforts. The Children's Centre Lot areas have been used as the sub geographical areas on which to base development. These areas were ranked based on a number of indicators to identify the twelve priority areas. The indicators used were:

- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile results
- The number of Out of Work Households
- The number of registered childcare places per 100 children
- Number of 2 Year Olds
- Eligible 2 Year Olds in the 10% Most Deprived areas
- Eligible 2 Year Olds in the 10-20% Most Deprived areas
- Social Care Referrals 2011
- Quality

### Phase 1 Priority areas

In November 2012 Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Panel approved our priority areas of development for Phase 1 as:

- 1 CFM CC (Norwich - Catton, Fiddlewood & Milecross)
- 2 Great Yarmouth / Greenacre CC
- 3 Signpost CC + Woottons + Gaywood N Bank (King's Lynn)
- 4 Seagulls / Gorleston & Hopton CC
- 5 North City CC (Norwich)
- 6 Bowthorpe, W Earlham & Costessey Area CC (Norwich)
- 7 Earlham EY CC (Norwich)
- 8 Thetford / Thetford Drake CC
- 9 East City & Framingham Earl Areas CC (Norwich)
- 10 Thorpe Hamlet & Heartsease / Dussindale CC (Norwich)
- 11 Vancouver CC + Springwood (King's Lynn)
- 12 City & Eaton CC (Norwich)

Early Years Development Workers are working with childcare providers and Children's Centres to develop additional capacity and take up in the 12 priority areas.

**It is important to note that two-year olds meeting the eligibility criteria in any of the other Children's Centre Lot areas will still be entitled to receive a free early education place.** The priority areas are where we will initially focus efforts on developing capacity.

### Phase 2

Phase 2 of the project will develop capacity and take up in the rest of Norfolk, increasing the number of children accessing free two-year old education by a further 2,200.

## Quality Approved Providers

Currently settings or childminders must have an Ofsted rating of 'good' or 'outstanding' to be approved onto the Directory of Providers for 2 year olds. For childminders, there is also an expectation that they have an NVQ Level 3 qualification or are 'working towards' this qualification so that children in the care of a childminder can also access their 3-4 year old entitlement from the same childminder.

We also expect 2 year old providers to be 'Green' RAG rated under the Local Authority's Quality Improvement Scheme – *Towards Excellence*. The number of approved providers in Norfolk has greatly increased. Providers wishing to be considered for approval need to submit a Form 4 Expression of Interest form to the monthly Quality panel. This form is available from their Early Years Advisor.

## Help with Additional Needs

If a 2 year old child needs additional help and further funding is necessary for support, such as a higher staffing ratio, we have a process to apply for help. Please let your Early Years Advisor know if you have a child with additional needs and they will explain the process for applying.

## New Processes for 2013 and 2014

### From September 2013

From **September 2013** families will meet the criteria for eligibility if: -

- They meet the eligibility criteria also used for free school meals (annual gross household earnings of no more than £16,190 and receipt of various benefits); **or**
- Their families receive Working Tax credits and have annual gross of no more than £16,190; **or**
- The children are currently being looked after by the Local Authority, or recently adopted.

### And from September 2014

The Government has identified that children who are in the 20 – 40 % group of disadvantage are actually the group **least** likely to access pre-school provision. Therefore, in September 2014 the scheme for funded 2 year old early learning and childcare, will be extended further to include an additional 2,200 children. This will require further development of childcare places for these additional children on a large scale, so all providers are asked to consider how they can help us to fill this gap.

## Contact

### Need any help?

For any queries please contact your Development Workers and Early Years Advisors who will visit Children's Centres or Providers linked to the scheme at your request, to offer support.

Early Years Teams:

West & Breckland Division – Tel 01553 614931

North & East Division – Tel 01692 502300

City & South Division – Tel 01603 306300

### Feedback on the Scheme

Please let us know your thoughts on the scheme. Email the Family Information Service (FIS) at [fis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:fis@norfolk.gov.uk) and tell us how can we improve it for you?

\* Childcare settings, including childminders must have an Ofsted rating of 'Outstanding' or 'Good', plus a 'Green' Local Authority Quality rating and must also have applied and been successful in being approved on to the Directory of Providers for Two year Olds.