

Childcare Works Briefing 5: Delivering 30 hours in out of school settings

Introduction

This paper aims to clarify the ways in which out of school childcare settings can deliver (or support delivery of) 30 hours of free childcare. It also offers some example actions you might consider.

Out of school childcare settings offer a vital service to working parents, supporting children to access provision which typically wraps around the school day. Although traditionally focussed on supporting school age children, providers can and do support the delivery of childcare in the early years too.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Provision for children from birth to August 31st following their fifth birthday must be registered on the Ofsted early years register, with the exception of school providers where children who attend are registered as pupils of the school. This means that out of school providers who offer provision to children under five, may register on both the early years and childcare registers (again, with the exception of schools). The cost of registering on both registers is the same as for registering for one.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) must be used as the framework for operation when working with children below statutory school age. However, delivery of the EYFS learning and developmental goals is not required if the provision wraps around the typical school day only.

The staff ratios used in delivering provision which includes two-, three- and four-year-olds will need to follow the EYFS for those age groups, with some flexibility for providers who only deliver for reception aged and older children (four-year-olds). Out of school providers who are managed and delivered directly by schools (and for registered school pupils of that school), are not required to maintain qualified teacher direct delivery outside of the school

day. Typically then, out of school providers who offer provision for three- and four-year-olds alongside older children will operate a 1:8 ratio. Please refer to the EYFS Framework 2014 for further detail.

Why should out of school providers offer 30 hours free childcare?

30 hours of free childcare is likely to increase demand for childcare provision which meets the needs of working families. Out of school provision can offer much needed supply to meet this new demand.

Out of school childcare settings can be smaller in scale than other group providers, particularly in sparsely populated or rural areas. Providers who have previously only delivered services for school age children will be somewhat restricted by the location of the school (or schools) their children attend. The catchment (or travel to childcare) area will be smaller than for some other forms of childcare. Transport may not be financially viable, or limited to a very small number of school pick-ups and drop-offs. The nature of out of school provision also means that some families are able to juggle part time working around a typical school day or sessional provision. All of these factors result in less demand for out of school childcare than some other forms of provision. Consequently, achieving and maintaining financial sustainability can be a challenge. A challenge that could be alleviated by the funding available through 30 hours of free childcare. Offering for many out of school providers the first opportunity to receive Government early years revenue funding via the local authority.

In some areas there will be a shortage of full day care supply. Out of school providers can work in partnership with existing sessional providers to create a quality 'wrap around' service for families. In short the new entitlement could increase the number of children attending out of school care, and therefore increase income and the sustainability of the out of school sector (along with sessional providers too). Excellent communication and solid joint planning will be critical to ensuring smooth and positive transitions for children.

Some ideas for local actions

Local authorities should:

- be including out of school providers to any briefings on early years and 30 hours
- be considering specific briefings/training/support for out of school providers on delivering 30 hours, practice implications, and the business/sustainability benefits
- share this briefing sheet with out of school providers, schools and the whole early years sector
- broker partnerships and new developments between different types of settings and schools
- ensure families are aware of the options to take some or all of their 30 hours of free childcare through two providers, which could include an out of school setting – especially by briefing all staff and information colleagues

Providers should:

- grow partnerships by mapping local provision and contacting other providers and schools nearby to share information and identify opportunities to join-up
- ensure families are aware of the options to take some or all of their 30 hours of free childcare through two providers, which could include an out of school setting