

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001777
Date 8 December 2017

Impact of 30 Hours of Free Childcare on Disadvantaged Children

Request:

The following questions pertain to schemes OTHER than the Government's free entitlements for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. For example, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets has over the past few years offered full-time nursery places for 80 per cent of all disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds and all those identified with SEND.

We are interested in all schemes dating from April 2015 onwards, which provide early education and childcare for disadvantaged children aged under 5 years, offered over and above statutory free entitlement requirements.

1. Please state which local authority your answers pertain to
[Wolverhampton](#)
2. Do you offer, or have you offered at any time since April 2015, any scheme providing early childhood education and childcare places specifically targeted at the most disadvantaged 3 and 4-year-olds in your borough, ASIDE from the national free entitlement?
 - * Yes
 - * [No](#) (please go to **section 2**)
3. In which year and month did the scheme start?
4. What is the name of the scheme?
5. What are/were the eligibility criteria at the start?
6. Up to how many hours per week were children able to access provision under this scheme, at its start?
7. How many places were provided under the scheme at the start?
8. Have you had to cut this provision, or are there any plans to cut this provision?
 - Yes

- No (please **go to section 2**)
9. When did/will this reduction take place and by what proportion of originally eligible children? Please give details for each stage of scheme reduction, if there are several e.g. The scheme was reduced to 60% of all originally eligible 3-4 year olds from Sept '17 and to 40% by Sept '18
10. When the final scheme reductions are in place, how many places will be offered?
11. When the final scheme reductions are in place, how many hours will each child receive?
12. Where have the funds that were spent on the scheme been re-allocated?
- To finance 30 hours
 - To finance 30 hours + other areas of early years activity
 - To finance other areas of education activity aside from early years
 - To finance other areas of council activity aside from education
 - To finance other areas of early years activity (if so please state what)

Section 2. Impact of 30 hours on disadvantaged children: all pre-school ages (0-5 inclusive)

13. Do you offer, or have you offered since April 2015, any other scheme providing early childhood education and childcare places specifically targeted at the most disadvantaged 0-5-year-olds in your borough, ASIDE from the national free entitlements?
- Yes
 - **No** (please go to 17)
14. If so, please give details: who was eligible for the scheme, the number of hours provided, and the number of places available.
15. Have you had to cut this provision, or are there any plans to do so?
- Yes
 - No (please go to 17)
16. Where have the funds that were spent on the scheme been re-allocated?
- To finance 30 hours
 - To finance 30 hours + other areas of early years activity
 - To finance other areas of education activity aside from early years
 - To finance other areas of council activity aside from education
 - To finance other areas of early years activity (if so please state what)

17. What do you think the impact the 30 hours policy will be on access to childcare for the most disadvantaged children in your borough generally? (This is an invitation to comment, so not covered by the FOI act).

The children accessing 30 hours are more likely to be in areas of the city where there is a higher proportion of working families, currently there is sufficient supply to accommodate these extended hours for parents wishing to take up their full entitlement. Therefore the 30 hours policy will not impact on those disadvantaged children as they are able to access local provision for their universal entitlement, where there is also sufficient supply to meet demand.