



Addysg gynnar a gofal • Early education and care

Flintshire

Introduction

To help working parents access affordable, available and accessible childcare all eligible families can apply for the funded Welsh Government Childcare Offer for Wales, Flintshire. This is a phased implementation across Wales. The aims of the Offer are to increase economic growth, tackle poverty and reduce inequalities.

The Offer

The Offer will provide working parents of 3-4 year olds with up to 30 hours of funded early education and childcare per week, up to 48 weeks of the year, at settings of the parent's choice, subject to availability. The term time will be treated as 39 weeks, meaning the other 9 weeks pro-rotata of the 48 week Offer will be treated as non-term time or 'holiday provision'. During these 9 weeks holiday, eligible children will receive up to 30 hours of childcare, pro-rotata.

Children of eligible working parents will receive government-funded childcare from the term following the child's third birthday until September after their fourth birthday.

All parents, or co-habiting couples, in households that work the equivalent of at least 16 hours or more at national living wage or national minimum wage or over will be eligible for the Offer.

Employment Status Exemptions

Even though parents may not qualify for the Offer based on their employment status, detailed above, they may qualify for the Offer under the following employment status exemptions:

- One parent in the household is employed and one parent has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring.
- Both parents in the household are employed but one or both parents are temporarily away from the workplace on parental, maternity, paternity or adoption leave.
- Both parents in the household are employed but one of both parents are temporarily away from the workplace on statutory sick pay.
- One parent is employed and one parent is disabled or incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits.



The Childcare Offer for Wales, Flintshire

The Childcare Offer will be accessible to qualifying parents throughout the whole of Flintshire. This will allow testing of the Offer in areas of low and high employment, across travel to work routes, including travel outside Wales, and through a mixture of maintained and non-maintained settings. They will test capacity and demand of childcare along with fit with the Foundation Phase and Welsh medium provision.

Payment

Payment for childcare provided through the Offer will be made directly to providers. Parents will not be asked to pay for their Childcare Offer hours in advance. The new Childcare Offer is aimed at supporting working parents.

Holiday Weeks

The Welsh Government will not be specifying which of the 14 weeks non-term time are designated as the 9 weeks of holiday provision in order to allow flexibility for parents who are in different occupations, such as those who have to work over the summer or Christmas holidays. However parents would not be able to 'stretch' their entitlement across weeks or transfer unused hours across weeks. The 9 weeks of holiday provision weeks are allocated on a pro-rotta basis according to how many terms the child accesses the Offer for.

9 weeks pro-rotta holiday weeks entitlement table:

| Number of terms Childcare Offer is accessed | Number of Holiday Weeks entitlement |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Three terms | 9 weeks |
| Two terms | 6 weeks |
| One term | 3 weeks |

Parent Choice

The Welsh Government wants the Offer to be as clear and easy to access as possible, for parents and providers. It must also allow parents to continue to choose the providers that best suit their circumstances, subject to availability, as long as they are registered with CIW or equivalent in England and therefore meet the national minimum standard for registered childcare.

The Offer online eligibility checker and application form can be accessed on the Flintshire County Council at: www.flintshire.gov.uk/childcareoffer

If you have any queries regarding the Childcare Offer, please do not hesitate to contact the **Childcare Offer Team** on **01352 703930**.

