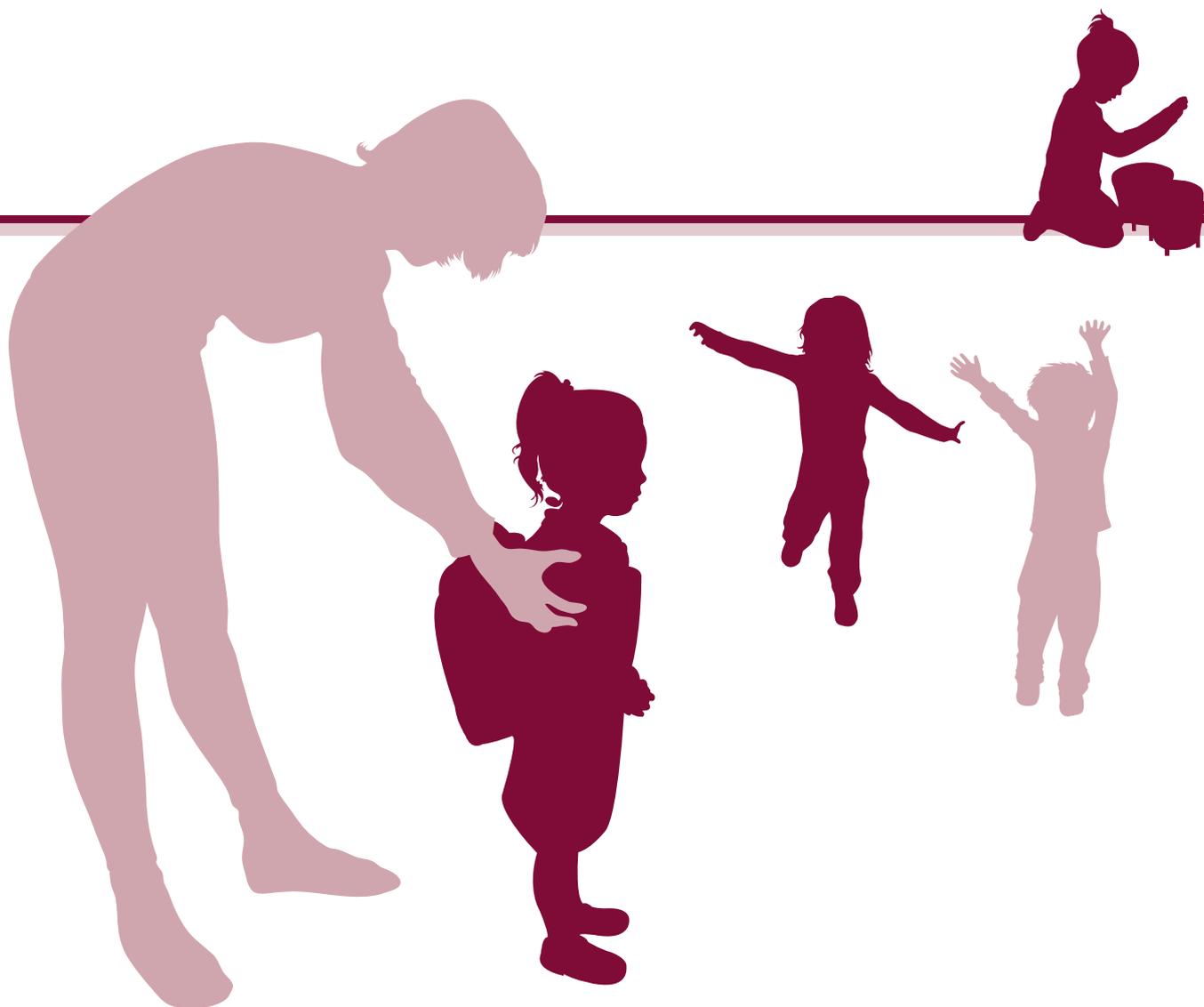


Proposed changes to the funding of free nursery places in Camden



Consultation on proposed changes to the way free nursery places are funded in Camden

Introduction

Camden has a proud history of investment in nursery places because the evidence shows that high quality provision helps children to thrive and succeed in later life.

All three and four year olds are entitled to a free 15 hour nursery place. Camden currently provides an extra 15 hours for these children in our school and Council-run nurseries (30 hours in total). We call this our 'enhanced offer' and we are the only council in the country that provides this.

The Government is keen to ensure that all nursery age children across England have access to high quality nursery provision and to support parents to take up paid work. It is therefore introducing changes to:

- the number of hours of nursery provision that children are entitled to
- the way that nursery places are funded.

These changes will affect the amount of free early education and childcare available to parents in Camden from September 2017. Below you will find more information on the changes and our proposals for a new offer in Camden. We want to know what you think. We are also asking schools, nurseries and childminders what they think about our proposals.



Extended free nursery places

From September 2017 the three and four year old children of working parents will be entitled to an additional 15 hours (30 in total) of free nursery provision in any registered childcare setting.

To be eligible for the additional 15 hours:

- both parents, or the sole parent in a one parent family, must be working
- each parent must have a weekly minimum income equivalent to 16 hours at the national minimum wage or living wage, and
- neither parent must have income of more than £100,000 per year.

The Department for Education estimates that 850 three and four year olds in Camden will meet this criteria.

New national funding formula

The way nursery places are funded in Camden is based on the Council's local priorities. Camden currently has the highest hourly rate of early years funding in the country because we have long recognised the importance of good universal provision.

The introduction of a national funding formula from April 2017 aims to achieve a fairer allocation of funding across the country. As Camden currently receives the highest level of funding, we are one of the few local authorities whose funding will decrease. The national funding formula also sets out how local authorities must pass on funds to providers of nursery provision.

- For more details on the new funding formula, visit gov.uk/dfe

What this means for Camden

The new national policies mean Camden will no longer be able to afford our current level of free nursery provision to those three and four year

olds who are in school or Council-run nurseries. If we kept the current offer, at the same time as introducing the new national policies, we would be left with a funding gap of more than £5 million. In the current climate of reducing public spending, we cannot afford to fund this extra amount. This means we will need to stop providing our additional 15 hours for the three and four year olds in school and Council-run nurseries from September 2017 (our 'enhanced offer').

No three and four year olds currently receiving the enhanced offer will be affected.

A revised offer of free nursery provision for Camden

We want to ensure that the borough continues to be a place where everyone can succeed and nobody gets left behind.

We are very proud of our nursery provision, and the positive impact it has made on the lives of many children and their families across the borough. We are proposing therefore to introduce a new, more targeted enhanced offer of nursery provision in Camden. We propose to fund an additional 15 hours of free nursery provision (30 hours in total) for three and four year olds who meet the current criteria for two year old free nursery provision. The criteria is:

Your child:

- has a current statement of special educational needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- receives Disability Living Allowance
- has left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order
- is looked after by a local authority.

Your family is receiving the following benefits:

- Income Support

- income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit
- tax credits and you have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- the Working Tax Credit four-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

This still represents a considerable investment by the Council in nursery places but targets that investment at those children we believe will benefit from it the most.

Question:

Do you agree with Camden’s proposal to change our current enhanced offer for free nursery places to focus on the most disadvantaged children from September 2017?

Yes No

If not, do you have another suggestion?

Summary of the current and proposed changes to how we fund nursery places

Age of child	Current free offer of nursery provision in Camden	Proposed free offer of nursery provision in Camden from Sept 2017
2 year olds	15 hours , subject to meeting eligibility criteria	15 hours , subject to meeting eligibility criteria
3 and 4 year olds in school and Council-run nurseries	30 hours (Camden enhanced offer)	30 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Government offer for working families ■ Camden offer for children previously eligible for 2 year old scheme
3 and 4 year olds in private, voluntary or independent settings and childminders	15 hours	30 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Government offer for working families ■ Camden offer for children previously eligible for 2 year old scheme

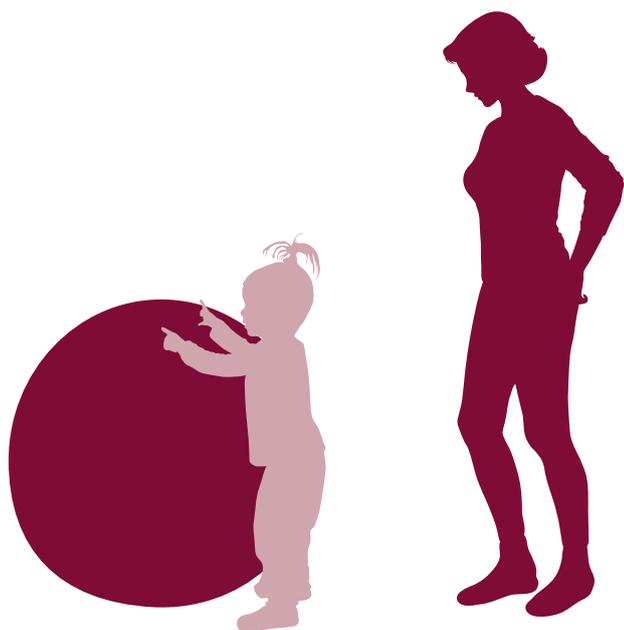
How to respond

This consultation runs from Monday 13 February until **midnight on Sunday 5 March** so you need to respond to our questionnaire before then.

You can respond to our questions online at camden.gov.uk/earlyyearsfunding or post your completed questionnaire in an envelope to the following freepost address (no stamp needed):

**Integrated Early Years Service, Floor 4, 5PS
Freepost RSLT-RJBR-TXAA
London Borough of Camden
Town Hall
London
WC1H 9JE**

If you have any queries about these proposals or the consultation, you can email your questions to earlyyearsfunding@camden.gov.uk



About you

Finally, it would really help us to know if we are hearing from a broad range of parents. Please answer the following few questions below.

**Which of the following best describes you?
Please tick all that apply.**

- Pregnant woman
- New parent (you or your partner has given birth in the last six months)
- Parent or carer of a child / children aged six months to two
- Parent or carer of a child / children aged two to five
- Parent with children aged five and above
- Local resident
- Other (please specify)

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? In other words, a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities?

- No
- Yes. If yes, please tick all that apply:
 - Physical impairment (including frailty)
 - Sensory impairment
 - Long-standing illness
 - Mental health condition (including dementia)
 - Substance misuse
 - Learning disability/difficulty
 - Other disability condition (please state)

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- Prefer not to say

Is your gender identity different to the sex you were assumed to be at birth?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

How would you describe your ethnicity?

- English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/ British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- White Other background (please state below)
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background (please state below)
- Caribbean African
- Any other Black/African/Caribbean background (please state below)
- White and Black Caribbean White and Black African White and Asian
- Any other mixed ethnic background (please state below)
- Arab
- Any other ethnic group or background (please state below)

What is your religion or belief?

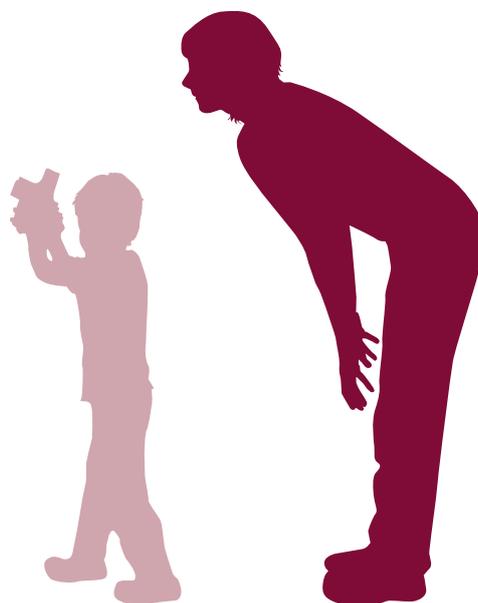
- Buddhist
- Muslim
- Christian
- Sikh
- Hindu
- Jewish
- No religion/belief
- Other (please state)

How would you describe your sexual orientation?

- Heterosexual or straight
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Prefer not to say

What is your relationship status?

- Never married and never registered a civil partnership
- Married
- Separated
- Divorced
- Widowed
- In a registered civil partnership
- Separated, but still legally in a civil partnership
- Formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved
- Surviving partner from a civil partnership



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