

Appendix 2

Narrative for Parents and Guardians

The Welsh Government recognises that affordable, available and accessible childcare will enable parents to work, supporting our drive to increase economic growth, tackle poverty and reduce inequalities. It will also provide opportunities and long-term benefits for our children and improve their life chances.

Parents of 3 and 4 years olds can already access free early education for at least 10 hours a week during school term time - this is called the Early Years Foundation Phase.

The Welsh Government have now committed to offering working parents of 3 and 4 year olds free childcare on top of the Early Years Foundation Phase - to provide a total of 30 hours a week of free early education and childcare, for 48 weeks of the year.

Supporting families with free and flexible quality childcare puts money in parents' pockets, reduces the strain on family income and helps ensure childcare isn't a barrier to parents getting a job. In addition to helping parents' finances, early education and childcare can also provide children with positive opportunities to develop.

The Welsh Government are determined to get it right and are keen to hear the views of parents, including parents of under 3 year olds, parents of today's 3 and 4 year olds, as well as parents of older children, to learn about your experiences of childcare and involve you in developing this childcare offer over the next couple of years.

The Welsh Government recently launched the **Talk Childcare** campaign giving you a voice and the opportunity to let us know what childcare issues are important to you and what would have helped you.

The Welsh Government would like to hear if you know/knew of the childcare options available to you and where you go/went to find out about them, what childcare arrangements you have or had, how childcare supported or supports you to manage work commitments, what can make childcare plans or arrangements complicated or difficult, and if the childcare available in your local area is or was meeting your childcare needs.

The Welsh Government also want you to advise them on how the new childcare offer could work in the future, what would make it clear and easy to access, which childcare providers should be used, how quality childcare could be ensured and promoted, and how the funding should be managed.

The Welsh Government want their childcare offer to be as clear and easy to access as possible so that as parents you can continue to choose the providers that best suit your needs. Once the offer is developed, it will be tested in some local authority areas from the autumn of 2017 to make sure it works for parents and childcare providers, followed by wider roll-out.

Visit the Welsh Government webpage where you can find out more about the childcare offer and answer some short questions.

www.gov.wales/talkchildcare

www.llyw.cymru/trafodgofalplant