

DCATCH: Context for the Consultation

Calderdale's commitment to the inclusion of children and young people accessing childcare and early education has been in place for many years and Calderdale MBC has gone above and beyond their statutory duty over the past 6 years, retaining the childcare and early education inclusion fund when many other Local authorities stopped such funding.

In April 2017, the government introduced changes to Early Education Funding requirements to ensure every local authority had an inclusion fund in place to meet the low and emerging needs of children accessing their Early Educational Entitlement.

This [guidance](#) shows a narrower offer than DCATCH currently provides given there is no statutory duty to provide inclusion funding for childcare. There is a statutory duty for the Local Authority to ensure sufficient childcare for children with SEND as far as is reasonably practicable.

Calderdale is looking at how to realign its current offer in order to balance the growing demand for inclusion funding against these statutory duties.

DCATCH currently supports 285 children across 106 different providers. There has been a year on year increase of 10% of children receiving DCATCH since 2011/12 and this projected increase continues.

In Calderdale, we have been improving our early identification and support of children with SEND. We have rising numbers of children whose needs are being met at the earliest opportunity and for whom this is making a real difference in reducing the impact of their emerging needs. In 2017 there has been the added demands of the extended entitlement (30 hours childcare) together with rising numbers of children / young people with SEND accessing childcare / Out of School childcare, known as wraparound care.

DCATCH is the name currently given to Calderdale's inclusion funding that;

- Supports children / young people with SEND to access their early education entitlement up until they start their statutory education in a Reception class. This is based on 570 hours per year for the universal entitlement or up to 1140 hours per year for those accessing their Extended Entitlement.
- Supports children / young people with SEND to access Childcare for children and young people aged 0 – 18years which is purchased by parents/ carers or funded by the Early Intervention Childcare Funding for children aged 0-5. This is based on maximum funding of 720 hours per year.
- Provides free training and professional development for practitioners and parents on a range of SEND and Inclusion topics, a dedicated Early Years

SENCO network and an annual conference for parents, practitioners and professionals.

- Provides specialist advice and guidance on inclusive practice and the implementation of a robust graduated approach to enabling children and young people to access Ofsted registered provision.

DCATCH is currently funded on three banding levels based on information included in the application and monitoring process. Funding levels are currently based on the number of hours a child attends for Early Education / childcare: Band A - 75%, Band B - 50%, Band C - 25% but capped at a maximum of £135 per week for up to 48 weeks per year.

The Specialist Educational Support Services are provided by the Local Authority from its High Needs funding. This High Needs funding is under national review.

DCATCH funding is made up of a number of funding sources which are all individually reviewed on an annual basis. DCATCH funding remains subject to changes in legislation, statutory requirements and council priorities.

Please click on the link to complete a short survey
<https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/survey/access-childcare/>

We appreciate that some of the wording in this email and consultation paper may be difficult to navigate particularly around the different funding arrangements and levels. Please do not hesitate in contacting us for further clarification and support or book onto a consultation drop in (dates below.)

Paper copies of the consultation are available on request and **the closing date for these responses is 5.12.17**

Opportunities to be a part of the consultation

- E consultation – closing date 1.12.17
- Consultation drop in sessions:
 - 1 x am 28.11.17 8am – 9.30pm
 - 1x pm 28.11.17 4pm – 5.30pm @ The Shay, Halifax
- Local Offer Live all day – 23rd Nov @ The Shay, Halifax
- All open to parents and professionals

To request a paper copy of the consultation and to book a place at a drop in session please email: jill.greenwood@calderdale.gov.uk