

DfES Consultation

Childcare: extending protection and broadening support

The information you send us may need to be passed to colleagues in the Department for Education and Skills and or published in a summary of responses received in response to this consultation. We will assume that you are content for us to do this, and that if you are replying by email, your consent overrides any confidentiality disclaimer that is generated by your organisation's IT system, unless you specifically include a request to the contrary in the main text of your submission to us.

The Department may, in accordance with the Code of Practice to Access to Government Information, make available on public request, individual consultation responses. This will extend to your responses unless you inform us that you wish them to stay confidential.

Please tick if you want your response to remain confidential

Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Address:

If your enquiry is on the policy content of this consultation you can contact: Liz Brooks

Telephone: 0114 259 3560

Email: childcare.approval@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact the Consultation Unit on:

Telephone: 01928 794 888

Fax: 01928 794 311

Email: consultation.unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Please tick one of the boxes that best describes you

Parent/carer

Provider of childcare on domestic premises

Other childcare worker

Agency providing childcare on domestic premises

Provider of group-based childcare

Local Education Authority officer

Union/Professional body

Employer with employees who need childcare

Childcare Voucher provider

Other (please give details below)

Questions

Approval of an individual carer

1a. Do you agree that the proposed criteria for the approval of an individual carer are appropriate?

Agree

Disagree

Comments:

1b. We propose to make available a "Guide to employing an approved carer" for parents. Do you think this would be helpful? What should this cover?

Agree

Disagree

Comments:

Approved childcare on non-domestic premises

2a. What should be the minimum duration of care/activities provided by a regular school term time club or activity in order for it to be eligible for approval for tax credits or tax and NICs exemptions?

4 hours per week? 5 hours per week? 6 hours per week? Other?

Comments:

2b. What should be the minimum duration of care/activities provided by a club or activity operating during school holidays in order for it to be eligible for approval for tax credits?

20 hours per week? 25 hours per week? 30 hours per week? Other?

Comments:

2c. How best should we establish that a service would be reliable?

Should the manager applying for approval be required to provide details of management and staffing arrangements to ensure the service is one that parents can rely upon?

Agree Disagree

Comments:

OR

Should we simply ask for a declaration that the service will be guaranteed as always available on the basis for which it is approved?

Agree

Disagree

Comments:

2d. Do you agree that the proposed criteria are appropriate for approved childcare outside the home that otherwise is not required to be registered?

Agree

Disagree

Comments:

Responsibility for the quality of the environment and the quality of care

3a. Do you agree that approval of care outside the regulated sector should not extend to premises checks?

Agree

Disagree

Comments:

- 3b.** Do you agree that commitment to quality standards over and above those required for approval could be demonstrated through qualifications, membership of provider organisations and quality assurance schemes?

Agree

Disagree

Comments:

Renewal of approval

- 4.** Do you agree that approval should be renewed on an annual basis?

Agree

Disagree

Comments:

Cancellation of approval

- 5.** Do you agree with the proposed provisions for the cancellation of approval?

Agree

Disagree

Comments:

Right of appeal

6. Do you agree with the proposed provisions for providing a right of appeal?

Agree

Disagree

Comments:

Regulatory Impact Assessment

7a. Are you satisfied that the information given in the RIA is presented in a way that accurately portrays the costs and benefits of each option?

Agree

Disagree

Comments: (please specify any corrections along with your rationale or evidence)

7b. Do you feel that more information should have been included?

Agree

Disagree

Comments: (please specify or provide the information)

8. We are very interested in other suggestions you have for these forms of childcare and would welcome your views on these areas.

Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend replying to individual responses unless you put an 'X' in the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply

Here at the Department for Education and Skills we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be alright if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

Yes

No

Code of Practice on Consultation

All UK national public consultations are required to conform to the following standards:

1. Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
2. Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
3. Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely available.
4. Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
5. Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator.
6. Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.

Further information on the process can be accessed through the Cabinet Office Website:

<http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/regulation/consultation/code.htm>

Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.

Completed questionnaires should be returned, using the envelope supplied, by 16 August 2004