

Changes to childcare vouchers

Support for childcare costs is changing – act now to ensure you get the best deal for your circumstances

From 4 October 2018, employer-supported childcare voucher schemes will close to new applicants. After this date Tax-Free Childcare will be the only scheme open to support with childcare costs.

Tax-Free Childcare is government supported scheme where for every £8 you pay, the government will contribute £2 – their contribution is capped at £2,000 per year. However you cannot join this scheme if you are claiming Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit or if only one parent works.

Childcare vouchers are a Government-approved, tax-efficient way of paying for childcare. By joining your employer's scheme you can exchange up to £243 a month for childcare vouchers. The money you choose to spend on childcare vouchers is taken from your gross pay. This means it's taken before tax and National Insurance is deducted, so you save up to a maximum of £933 a year.

If you are a parent, it is important to work out which scheme works best for you. Please use the childcare calculator below to work out which scheme will be the most beneficial to your situation.

<https://www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator>

What do I need to do to register for the childcare voucher scheme?

If childcare vouchers are the best option for you, you need to act now, as you'll need to sign up and have your first childcare voucher deducted from your salary **before 4th October**. Due to payroll deadlines, this will mean you need to register with Computershare in the first week of September, so that the first voucher is deducted from your September wages.

For more details of the childcare voucher scheme, please visit:

www.computersharevoucherservices.com

Parents can either join online or by telephone on **0345 002 1111** (8am - 6.30pm, Monday to Friday). Please remember to quote Bradford Metropolitan District Council and the scheme ID of 18091.

What if I'm already registered for the childcare voucher scheme?

If you are already in the childcare voucher scheme, you will be able to remain in the scheme:

- If you stay with the same employer
- If you do not take an unpaid career break of longer than a year
- until your youngest child turns 15 years old

If you decide that Tax-Free Childcare is the best option, then you will no longer be eligible for childcare vouchers and will need to cancel your registration.