

Parent Pack



I. Introduction

The Scottish Government recognises that good quality, accessible out of school care is important for many families. It gives children opportunities to play, make friends, and build confidence and it can enable parents to take up work, training or study with the knowledge that their children are being cared for.

We have published a draft framework on Out of School Care which sets out what we know about the sector in Scotland and asks questions about what the Scottish Government can do ensure that out of school care better meets the needs of children and families. You can find the draft framework and respond to each of the questions online here:

<https://consult.gov.scot/children-and-families/out-of-school-care/>

The consultation closes on Friday 6th of December. We will not be able to accept any responses after this date.

We want future policies on Out of School Care to be shaped by the people who would benefit from them. That is why it is crucial that we hear from parents and carers across the country about their views. It doesn't matter if you currently use out of school care, if you have used it in the past, or if you have never used it at all – we want to hear from you about how out of school care can better meet your needs.

This Parent Pack has been produced to support people who would like to talk about the consultation questions in a group. You can use this guide to help you facilitate a discussion with a group of parents or carers and use the form to record your answers and feed into the consultation process. We have provided some conversation starters and things to consider for the questions that are particularly relevant for parents and carers. If you would like to provide a response to all of the questions, please complete the online form at the website above.

After the closing date, responses to the consultation will be analysed independently and we will publish a report with the results in Spring 2020. The information we gather through the consultation will be used to develop future policy on out of school care which we will set out in our final framework before the end of this Parliament.

2. Having Conversations

Conversations, discussions or workshops (whatever you prefer to call them) can take place anywhere. All that matters is that you have space and time to talk through your group's thoughts on out of school care. You don't need to hold a special event to discuss the consultation, in fact it may work best to include this discussion as part of your regular meetings or at an event or gathering that already happens in your community. You can decide what would work best for you.

Conversations can take place between as many or as few people as you like. It's important that everyone is able to contribute and share their views, so if your group is large you may find it helpful to split into smaller groups for discussion. If you do split into smaller groups you will need to make sure that notes are taken from each of the discussions so that everyone's views are captured in the final response.

You can choose to work through all of the questions on the form, or you can choose a smaller number to respond to if you have particular interests or priorities.

People may have different or even opposing views on some of the questions so it is important to listen to each other respectfully. You can note down differing opinions in your response if this reflects the views of the group.



3. Recording information

Remember to record what people are saying throughout your conversations.

You can type up your answers on the form if you have access to a computer or you can fill it out by hand – feel free to add additional pages if you need more space for your answers.

Please give us as much detail as possible in your answers so that we get the full picture of the views of your group. You can use direct quotes from people as well if you have their permission to do so.

So that we can process your form and include it as a consultation response we ask that you complete the permission form at the end of the questions to confirm that you understand that your answers will be used as part of a Scottish Government consultation and that you give permission for us to process your response.

Please send completed forms to outofschoolcare@gov.scot or, if you do not have access to a computer, post to:

Eilidh Henry
Victoria Quay
Area GD South
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

4. Consultation questions and discussion points

The full consultation asks 18 questions in total. Some of these are particularly relevant for parents and carers. This pack focusses on these questions, but if you or anyone in the group would like to respond to the other questions please do so online.

There are two broad things we want to find out from parents and carers:

- What sort of out of school activities do families want/need?
- How can we make out of school care accessible to all families and children?

A number of questions sit under each of these themes and they are set out below along with some conversation starters or things to think about. You don't have to answer the conversation starters, they are simply there to help you consider the questions in more depth. What's important is that you respond to the question with the views of your group. The ideas noted here might help you to explore your ideas, but they are not compulsory.

The questions are numbered as they appear in the draft framework. We have grouped them here in a way that brings the questions most relevant for parents and carers together.

What sort of out of school activities do families want/need?

Q1. What range of services are needed: regulated out of school care, childminders, activity-based clubs and programmes such as sports clubs, creative arts clubs, outdoor activities, other types of activities? Can you tell us why these services are important?



Think about the wide range of activities and clubs children might take part in before and after school and during the holidays – what's important about particular types of service?



Is there a difference between what's important during term-time and in the school holidays?



Think about why these services are important – why are they important for your child? Why are they important for you as a parent/carer?

Q13. What ages of children do parents/carers need provision for?



Up to what age do you feel you need childcare for your child/children?



Do you feel differently about access to activities out of school time – up to what age do you feel children and young people should be able to access these?

Q11. What flexibility do parents and carers need from out of school care services? Can you tell us why this flexibility is important?



Do you have different needs in term-time and during school holidays in terms of flexibility?

Q12. What is important for parents and carers in terms of location of out of school care services? Should they be delivered in school, community facilities, outdoors?



Think about the benefits and disadvantages of different locations.



What about transport?

Q14. Do parents/carers need food provision as part of after-school and holiday clubs?



Are needs different during term-time and holiday time?



If food provision is needed, is it important that it is provided as part of the service rather than parents/carers providing food themselves?

How can we make out of school care accessible to all families and children?

Q.8 How can we make sure out of school care is an affordable option for more families? (e.g. subsidised provision, remove barriers in accessing benefits, help with upfront costs)



What does affordability mean for you?



What would be a good approach to make out of school care affordable for more parents in a fair way?

Q.5 How can we help to ensure that all families have access to an out of school care place for their children if they want it?



Is there enough childcare provision available in communities? Are they in the right places? Do they cater for your needs?

Q.9 How can services be more effectively delivered in rural/remote areas to meet the needs of families?



Are different types of provision needed in different areas? What are they?



Is it helpful to provide out of school care alongside other community services?

Q.10 How can we ensure that children with disabilities and additional support needs can access out of school care services?



What are the barriers to children with disabilities and additional support needs accessing out of school care and how can these be addressed?

Q.2 What can we do to support community based approaches to delivering out of school care?



Think about different models of out of school care and how these can be supported.



How could out of school care link with other community services?

What do children and young people want from out of school care?

These questions are not directly aimed at parents and carers, but you may wish to comment on the types of services and activities that your children would like to take part in.

Q.6 What do children and young people want from out of school care services and does this differ depending on age?

Q.7 What different activities or provision might secondary school aged children want?

