

Out of School Care Start Up and Support Information for Local Authority Establishments



The purpose of this information leaflet is to provide details of the support available for those interested in setting up Out of School Care (OOSC).

Setting up Out of School Care - Support Available

Aberdeen City Council's policy is not to establish and manage out of school care directly, but to support other organisations to do this on our behalf.

Aberdeen Early Years and Childcare Partnership's (AEYCP) role is to work collaboratively with its Partners to promote, support and develop affordable, accessible, quality childcare services for 0-18 year olds in line with parental demand and within available resources.

The AEYCP Early Years Development Officers support the development of new and existing OOSC provision. They can provide advice, information and support to groups in setting up and running OOSC provision. They also co-ordinate and deliver appropriate training for OOSC staff and management committees, and assist groups with business planning.

The Out of School Care Policy 2008 has been updated to take into account the integrated children's services agenda and the strategy to develop integrated early years, childcare and family support services using a hub and cluster model. Out of school care can now be developed in child and family centres as well as educational establishments.

For further information on Aberdeen Early Years and Childcare Partnership or support for OOSC settings, contact:

Grace Brown, AEYCP Co-ordinator on 01224 443366 or graceb@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Context

Out of School Care continues to be at the heart of national and local policy to ensure that every child and young person is healthy, happy, safe and achieving their potential. OOSC is an important service for all working families, whatever their circumstances.

What is an Out of School Care Club?

Out of School Care is defined as a safe environment for children, with play and stimulating developmental activities within a high quality care setting that parents pay a fee for. OOSC provides care for school aged children, mainly for parents who are working, but increasingly to provide respite care and additional activities before and after school and during school holidays. Some OOSC clubs can provide care for children during school in-service days.

Out of School Care Clubs - Benefits for Schools

Approximately 50% of Out of School Care Clubs are based in primary schools and there are many clubs in Aberdeen operating successfully in schools, with the school's support. Schools can provide the ideal location for OOSC Clubs. It avoids having to take children to other premises and provides a better link between education and childcare. The school may be more attractive to parents because it provides childcare and the image of the school may be enhanced in the community.

