



ISLINGTON

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Dear Parents,

Increase in childcare charges

Islington Council has received very significant reductions in our funding from Central Government for all services, including those for children under five. This is forcing the Council to make a number of very difficult choices.

Childcare charges have been frozen for three years since April 2009 with no increase to reflect inflation. Unfortunately, this is no longer sustainable in a climate of rising costs and shrinking resources. Regrettably, charges will have to be increased and I am writing to provide you with advance notice that they will need to increase by 5%, around the rate of inflation, from Monday, 16 April 2012. This is in line with the Council's fees and charges policy which will be formally agreed by the Council in February. The detailed implications are attached to this letter.

Islington Council is doing all it can to support working parents, as well as vulnerable children, through subsidising a range of good quality child care provision in children's centres, schools and community nurseries. Despite the reductions imposed on the Council we have managed to keep all 16 of our children's centres open and are offering the full range of integrated services. No childcare places in any nurseries subsidised by the council have been lost.

Whilst we understand the pressure on family budgets many of you are currently experiencing, and regret that we can no longer sustain the freeze, hopefully you will agree that asking parents to share the burden of increased costs is a fair means to sustain a vital provision, on which we know parents depend.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you about the childcare voucher scheme. If you have not already done so, you can ask your employer to participate in the scheme whereby the cost of the voucher is deducted from your gross salary, and is therefore tax free. For more information, please contact the Family Information Services on 020 7527 5959.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Ruddock, Head of Early Years

If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotape or in another language, please telephone 020 7527 2000.



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