

The Draft Child Minding and Day Care Exceptions (Wales) Order 2026 and the Proposal for a Voluntary Approval Scheme for Childcare, Playwork and Activity Providers

Youth consultation: Response form

Please tell us what you think by **3 November 2025**.

Fil in this form and email to: Childcareandplayworkconsultation@gov.wales

Or download it and post to:

The Exceptions Order and Voluntary Approval Scheme
Early Years, Childcare and Play Division
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

About you

You don't have to tell us these details if you don't want to. You can fill in this anonymously.

What is your name:

Your email:

Your address:

Please tick the ones that describe you

I am a member of an umbrella body or work for a local authority	
I work in the childcare, playwork or activities sector	
I volunteer in the childcare, play or activities sector	
I am a parent or carer of a child aged 0 - 12	
I am a parent or carer of a child over the age of 12	
I am a child	
None of the above	
Prefer not to say	

Before completing this form, please can you let us know if you have also taken part in, or are due to take part in, one of the focus groups held as part of this consultation?

Yes		No	
------------	--	-----------	--

After we get all the feedback from this consultation, we'll write a report.

If you've given us your name but want your response to stay private, please tick here:

--

Part A: Who Should Not Have to Register

Parents, foster carers, relatives and people that live with the child

1: Do you agree or disagree that parents, those with parental responsibility, foster carers, relatives, and people that live with the child shouldn't have to register?

Agree		Disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Don't know	
Comments							

2: Do you agree or disagree that relatives and people that live with the child should be allowed to register if they want to – if they meet these requirements?

- They are not the child's parents and do not have parental responsibility,
- They are not the child's foster carer,
- The care does not take place at the child's home, and
- The care is available and on offer to children who are not related to them.

Agree		Disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Don't know	
Comments							

Babysitters, Nannies, and Au Pairs

3: Do you agree or disagree with the changes we want to make around babysitters, nannies, and au pairs?

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Don't know
To make the rules for them all the same, so it's easier for families				
To remove the time limit of 6pm-2am for babysitters				
To limit the number of families a babysitter can care for at once to 2				

Say that parents need to arrange the childcare with the babysitter, nanny or au pair				
To make it clear that care happens at the home of either of the families using the childcare				
To make it clear that care can happen at a non-domestic premises of the parents' choice (e.g. a hotel)				
Comments				

Youth Services

4: Do you agree or disagree that youth services should be able to work with 10-year-olds without needing to register, as long as it's about supporting the transition to secondary school or their personal, social and education needs?

Agree		Disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Don't know	
Comments							

Coaching and Tuition

5a: Do you agree or disagree that 2 hours is the right length of time children aged 4 or younger should be able to have coaching or tuition without their parent present?

Agree		Disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Don't know	
Comments							

5b: Do you agree or disagree that age 4 is the right cut off for treating children differently when they are having coaching or tuition?

Agree		Disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Don't know	
--------------	--	-----------------	--	-----------------------------------	--	-------------------	--

Comments

6: Do you agree or disagree that we should change the activities for coaching and tuition to be:

- (a) sport
- (b) expressive and creative arts
- (c) educational support
- (d) religious or cultural study?

Agree		Disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Don't know	
Comments							

7: Do you agree or disagree that a person should have to register as a day care provider if they offer coaching and tuition in more than **one** type of activity?

Agree		Disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Don't know	
Comments							

Schools with very young children

8: Do you agree or disagree that if schools take children aged 2 and under, that part of the school should register as day care?

Agree		Disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Don't know	
Comments							

Suspended Providers

9: Do you agree or disagree that people who have been suspended should not be able to offer childcare even for 2 hours or less a day?

Agree		Disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Don't know	
Comments							

--

Children Aged 2 and Under

10: Do you agree or disagree that any provider offering child minding, day care or coaching and tuition for children aged 2 or under should have to register if their parents aren't present, even if it is for 2 hours or less a day or 5 days or fewer a year?

Agree		Disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Don't know	
Would you like to explain why?							

11: Do you agree or disagree that the provider shouldn't have to register if the parents stay on the premises during session but aren't actually with the child, even if it is for 2 hours or less a day or 5 days or fewer a year?

Agree		Disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Don't know	
Would you like to explain why?							

About these proposals

12: Is there anything else you want to tell us about these changes?

Any other comments

Part B – The Voluntary Approval Scheme

The 3 aims

13: Do you agree or disagree with these three main aims for the scheme?

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Don't know
To help eligible families use Tax-Free Childcare and Universal Credit Childcare				
To require approved providers to meet basic safety standards so parents can have reassurance				
To have a better understanding of unregistered providers and give support and information to care providers who sign up to the Voluntary Approval Scheme.				
Comments				

What people need to join the scheme

14: What do you think people should need to join? (Tick as many as you want)

	Select
Being 18 or over	
Having completed an emergency children's first aid course	
Having completed a safeguarding course	
Having completed the "Childcare Essentials" course	
Having a current enhanced DBS safety check	
Not being barred from working with children	
Having public liability insurance	
Signing a self-declaration , to say that they will <ul style="list-style-type: none">• follow Wales' safeguarding code• use safe recruitment practices	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have proper complaints procedures • do risk assessments • follow any food hygiene rules • follow best practice guidance on staffing, premises, record-keeping. 	
---	--

15: Is there anything else you think should be included?

Managing the scheme

16: How do you think the Voluntary Approval Scheme should be managed? (Tick any you agree with)

	Select
The Scheme would be managed by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)	
CIW would not carry out inspections or judge the quality of care	
The approved provider would have to renew every year and pay an annual fee	
Details of the approved provider would be passed onto the Local Authorities so they can get support	
The approved provider would have to tell CIW if they change their name, address or contact details. They would also have to tell them if they break the law, or have a police caution	
CIW would not become involved in any day-to-day complaints	
CIW would take action if there's a safeguarding issue	
CIW would suspend approval or withdraw an approved provider from the scheme if there's safeguarding investigations or children may be at risk	
CIW would be able to refuse an application or withdraw an approval	
CIW would give the provider 28 days to say they disagree with a suspension, withdrawal of approval or refusal to approve them	
CIW would be able to suspend approval if necessary and appropriate	

Who could join

17: Who should be able to join the Voluntary Approval Scheme? (Tick as many as you want)

	Select
Local authority childminders or school-run sessions (2 hours or less)	
Child minders or day care providers (2 hours or less either side of school)	
All child minders or day care providers that run for a period of 2 hours or less at any point during the day.	
Babysitters, nannies, and au pairs	
Coaching and tuition providers (running longer than 2 hours in the proposed activity list)	
Short-term residential activities (like activity camps under 28 days, where parents aren't present)	
Child minders or day care providers who operate for 5 days or fewer per year.	
Childcare for 12–16-year-olds	

Cost to providers

18: Do you agree or disagree that there should be an annual joining fee?

Agree		Disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Don't know	
Comments							

Should we do this?

19: Having looked at all the details, do you agree or disagree that the Welsh Government should develop this Voluntary Approval Scheme?

Agree		Disagree		Neither agree nor disagree		Don't know	
Comments							

Part C – Impact assessment

Risks

20: What risks do you think there are to the proposals?

Benefits

21: What benefits do you think there are to the proposals?

Costs

22: What costs do you think there are to the proposals?

Different Groups

23: What impacts do you think the proposals would have on people's lives?

Welsh language

24: What effects (positive or negative) do you think these proposals would have on the Welsh language?

Other

25: Do you have any ideas about the possible changes to the exceptions or the development of a Voluntary Approval Scheme?