

Nottinghamshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) 2017



Aim: To shape and support the development of childcare in Nottinghamshire in order to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community; supporting the sector to meet the needs of parents, children and young people, parents and stakeholders.

Why do we need a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment?

The Childcare Act (2006) requires local authorities in England to ensure a sufficiency of childcare.

There is a requirement on local authorities to produce an annual sufficiency report on the availability and sufficiency of childcare in their area. This information is made available to parents and elected members.

Methodology:

- Information from the new Self-update module of Capita One
- Online survey of local Early Years providers
- Data from the Family Information Service (FIS)
- An on-line parent/carer survey
- Desk research has been undertaken to:
 - Provide a context for the CSA
 - Examine take up of funded places by some 2 and all 3 & 4 year olds
 - Provide an assessment of sufficiency of funded 30 hours places for 3 & 4 year olds from September 2017

Recommendations

- Improve data returns from early years providers
- Establish additional childcare places in identified "Hot Spots"
- Increase the take up of funded places by 2 year olds
- Increase the sufficiency of 30 hours funded places to meet demand from parents, whilst monitoring the impact of the programme
- Encourage schools to offer places to younger children and offer childcare before and after school and particularly during holidays
- Increase the proportion of settings rated as good or outstanding
- Increase and promote the provision of flexible childcare to meet the needs of working parents
- Implement, monitor and review the revised EY funding formula, including supplementary funding for children with disabilities

Objectives:

- to identify current and future potential needs and demands
- to identify and verify current supply to meet identified needs
- to identify potential supply
- to highlight challenges in meeting either sufficiency or quality of such provision
- to propose alternative delivery models to meet flexible needs of eligible parents/families

Key Findings:

- 84% of families said it was easy to find suitable childcare and at the times and days it was needed, with a preference for care to be close to home
- 88% of early years provision is assessed as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted. This has risen by 2% since 2016.
- 75% of eligible 2 year-olds were taking up their funded 15 hours place in July 2017, up from 70% at the end of 2015.
- 100% of 3 and 4 year olds from working families were accessing their free entitlement of 15 hours a week.
- The greatest demand for pre-school children is for all year round provision. Extended childcare (defined in the survey as childcare to fit in with shifts i.e. before 8am and after 6pm) is needed by parents and generally delivered by childminders.
- More schools are directly delivering before and after school childcare but there has been a fall in childcare delivered during school holidays, though parents need it.
- 35% of parents use family members for childcare, citing cost and flexibility as the key reasons for not using formal childcare.
- The publicised cost of childcare has gone down, but many providers are concerned that the funding rate paid for 30 hours programme will mean they have to charge parents for "extra services" to meet the funding gap.

The latest Childcare Sufficiency Assessment will be published on-line at the end of September 2017. For further information please contact the Early Childhood and Early Help Services Team **email:** earlychildhoodservices@nottscc.gov.uk **Tel:** 0115 977 2510