

The Childcare Picture in Wisbech

Parents are generally on lower levels of income in this locality than elsewhere in the district, and report higher incidence of overnight shift work.

There are a relatively low number of registered childcare places per 100 children aged 0 – 14 years.

Half of parents recently surveyed believe that there is sufficient local childcare, while half are concerned about the availability of childcare, and overall parents in Wisbech responded in the greatest number across the county to feeling there is a “significant lack of local childcare places” locally. Parents are generally pleased with the level of quality of local childcare provision.

There is a promising increase in awareness about working tax credits to help with childcare affordability, and the sense that they have made childcare more affordable. Also affordability is not a major concern for people living in Wisbech.

Parents needing additional support in this locality include single parent families and parents of children and young people with additional needs/disabilities, including learning difficulties.

Parental awareness about children’s centre services and childcare options and information is the lowest in the county, and parents also report the lowest awareness in Fenland about the free entitlement to early years education.

Key Actions

- Monitor early years places across the Wisbech locality
- Investigate further the need for out of hours childcare to meet the needs of shift workers, **including overnight.**
- Ensure sufficient places available for the most deprived 2 year olds free entitlement, and in the light of the increase in hours from 10 – 15 hours a week, ensure providers have the capacity to offer the additional hours.
- Improve the availability of out of school childcare for children with disabilities, including a better choice of mainstream or specialist childcare facilities.
- Publicise and support local children’s centres as the key resource locally for information, advice and guidance to parents on key issues of childcare affordability etc.
- Improve access to childcare for families of migrant workers and newly-arrived families, in particular, improve access to information about childcare and meeting the costs
- Increase provision for children over 7 years old, in line with the changes in social security benefits implemented September 2010

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Inspection Update

Ofsted Outcomes

Outstanding	0
Good	28
Satisfactory	10
Inadequate	0
Other*	18

* these could be Childminders (CMs) not yet graded by Ofsted, CMs offering only Out of School childcare (OSC), or schools offering OSC, for example.

	County	Locality
0-14 Population	103762	6372
Registered places per 100 children aged 0-14 years	25	16

Childcare Places and Vacancies

Provider Type	No of Providers	Reg Places	Vacancies
Day nursery	5	220	32
Maintained Nursery Schools and Classes	3	182	10
Private nursery school	1	24	2
Childminder	27	147	47
Crèche	2	70	-
Wraparound care, Breakfast Club, Out of School Care	6	70	8
Pre-School Playgroup	7	165	35
Extended Day Playgroup	3	70	16
Holiday Scheme	4	72	5
Total	58	1020	155