

The Childcare Picture in March and Chatteris

The number of registered childcare places per 100 children aged 0 – 14 years is slightly above the county average, although an early years shortage is evident in Chatteris, so the majority of places are likely to be in the town of March.

From recent research, parents are generally pleased with the level of quality of local childcare provision, and reported 100% levels of satisfaction with existing provision. More parents believe that there is sufficient local childcare than are concerned about availability.

Despite improved awareness of measures such as the childcare element of working tax credit, parents in this locality are still concerned about affordability of childcare. 100% of parents, however, are aware of their free early years entitlement.

Parents report being fairly well informed about childcare options locally, and there was a greater awareness in March and Chatteris about the local children's centres than in the rest of the district.

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

Key Actions

- Monitor the availability of early years places in March town
- Develop further early years places across some areas of Chatteris and surrounding villages in line with demographic change and new housing development.
- Ensure sufficient places available for the most deprived 2 year olds free entitlement, and in light of the increase in hours from 10 – 15 hours a week, ensure providers have the capacity to offer the additional hours.
- Investigate further the need for out of hours childcare to meet the needs of shift workers
- Improve the availability of out of school childcare for children with disabilities, including a better choice of mainstream or specialist childcare facilities.
- Increase the number of early years accredited Childminders in Chatteris town.
- Support children's centre as key resource locally for information, advice and guidance to parents on key issues of childcare affordability etc, especially those hardest to reach parents, or parents seeking additional support.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Inspection Update

Ofsted Outcomes

Outstanding	5
Good	50
Satisfactory	28
Inadequate	1
Other*	14

* 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	6972
Registered places per 100 children aged 0-14 years	25	18.1

Childcare Places and Vacancies

Provider Type	No of Providers	Reg Places	Vacancies
Day nursery	4	115	23
Childminder	64	329	101
Crèche	1	6	-
Wraparound care, Breakfast Club, Out of School Care	8	228	23
Pre-School Playgroup	6	154	3
Extended Day Playgroup	7	279	31
Holiday Scheme	7	148	35
Total	98	1259	213