

## The Childcare Picture in Sawston and Linton

There are a high number of registered places per 100 children aged 0-14 years compared to the rest of the county, and a far greater number of parents using both formal and informal childcare. Of those parents using childcare a high percentage accessed formal, rather than informal, childcare. The most frequently accessed type of childcare was day nurseries followed by after school clubs.

The majority of parents in this locality rated the quality of the childcare that they used as excellent or very good, which is reflected in the number of providers who are rated outstanding or good by Ofsted. A large majority also replied that they were very satisfied with their existing childcare arrangements.

The largest percentage of parents reported that they felt that there were not enough childcare places in the locality. However the data shows there is a reasonable level of vacancies, especially in the south of the locality. Childcare providers in Sawston and Linton may not be situated in the right location to serve the needs of local communities.

There was a very high level of awareness and uptake of the free entitlement which may have resulted in the decrease in vacancy levels in preschool and extended preschool groups this year.

Although many parents in this locality were in the higher income brackets and therefore responded that the childcare provision was very affordable, cost for a small percentage of parents, especially those in the southern part of the locality, is a significant factor. There was also poor knowledge by parents of the existence and use of Working Tax Credits despite efforts since the last Sufficiency Assessment. This may be linked to the fact that higher numbers of parents are in higher income bracket and so not eligible for Working Tax Credits.

Parents felt poorly informed about children's centres; however this locality was one of the last to have its children's centres designated.

### Key Actions

- Monitor the availability of early years places and vacancy levels in the locality.
- Support the sustainability of childcare provision in areas where demographic change indicates a lower child population especially those in remote rural locations.
- Develop further early years places where needed especially in the villages around Sawston where demographic data indicates pressure on early years places.
- Improve the availability of out of school childcare for children with disabilities, including a better choice of mainstream or specialist childcare facilities.
- Provide further information and support in accessing the childcare element of Working Tax Credit working through children's centres.

## SCC/3 South Cambs/City Sawston and Linton

### Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Inspection Update

#### Ofsted Outcomes

Outstanding	4
Good	44
Satisfactory	10
Inadequate	0
No information/ Registration Exempt *	19

\* 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	5438
Registered places per 100 children aged 0-14 years	25	26.7

### Childcare Places and Vacancies

Provider Type	No of Providers	Reg Places	Vacancies
Day nursery	4	294	12
Maintained Nursery Schools and Classes	1	15	0
Private Nursery School	1	30	2
Childminder	29	142	35
Wraparound care, Breakfast Club, Out of School Care	18	321	51
Pre-School Playgroup	8	215	23
Extended Day Playgroup	5	133	16
Holiday Scheme	11	304	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1454</b>	<b>170</b>