

The Childcare Picture in St Neots

Overall the sufficiency needs for childcare are being met. There are new housing developments taking place which are being monitored for their impact on places, there are pockets for potential development especially around the Priory Park area.

There is a need to look at the supply of childcare provision covering hours considered outside normal working hours of 8am-6pm.

From recent research, parents are generally pleased with the level of quality of local childcare provision, and reported 98% 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. 92% of parents, however, are aware of their free early years entitlement.

Key Actions

- Monitor availability and if appropriate, develop further early years places in Bushmead, Priory, Roundhouse and Winhills.
- Explore solutions for developing out of hours childcare
- Create opportunities to hold consultation sessions with parents to discuss childcare issues.
- Support children's centre as key resource locally for information, advice and guidance to parents on key issues around childcare

H/1 Huntingdonshire St Neots

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Inspection Update

Ofsted Outcomes

Outstanding	10
Good	42
Satisfactory	21
Inadequate	0
Other*	15

* 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	7241
Registered places per 100 children aged 0-14 years	25	27.3

Childcare Places and Vacancies

Provider Type	No of Providers	Reg Places	Vacancies
Day nursery	8	357	57
Maintained Nursery Schools and Classes	4	234	5
Childminder	37	180	63
Crèche	1	10	-
Wraparound care, Breakfast Club, Out of School Care	19	481	59
Pre-School Playgroup	4	102	17
Extended Day Playgroup	9	343	22
Holiday Scheme	8	267	31
Total	90	1974	254