

## The Childcare Picture in Whittlesey

The number of registered childcare places per 100 children aged 0 – 14 years is slightly lower than the county average.

Whittlesey parents exhibit the highest incidence of working outside of normal working hours (e.g. shift work) in the district of Fenland, therefore it can be assumed that childcare here needs to be available beyond the normal hours of 8am-6pm.

From recent research, parents are generally pleased with the level of quality of local childcare provision, but there was a notable dissatisfaction among some parents about their existing childcare arrangements, which needs exploring further.

From parental responses we can assume that supply of and demand for childcare are in balance, but this needs monitoring, especially in the light of new housing development in the town.

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. 94% of parents, however, are aware of their free early years entitlement.

Parents report being fairly well informed about childcare options locally, but nearly half (48%) of parents in Whittlesey were not aware of the existence of children's centre programmes.

### Key Actions

- Monitor the availability of early years places in some areas of the town in line with demographic change and housing development
- Support the sustainability of childcare provision
- Investigate further the need for out of hours childcare to meet the needs of shift workers
- 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.
- Enable better access to information on Working Tax Credits
- Target information around childcare provision and meeting the cost, to migrant families, Teenage Parents, Traveler families and BME.
- Improve the availability of out of school childcare for children with disabilities, including a better choice of mainstream or specialist childcare facilities.
- Support children's centre to publicise itself better as the key resource locally for information, advice and guidance to parents on key issues of childcare affordability etc.

**ECF/3 East Cambs/Fenland Whittlesey**

**Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Inspection Update**

**Ofsted Outcomes**

Outstanding	2
Good	18
Satisfactory	8
Inadequate	0
Other*	8

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

	<b>County</b>	<b>Locality</b>
0-14 Population	103762	2617
Registered places per 100 children aged 0-14 years	25	22.2

**Childcare Places and Vacancies**

<b>Provider Type</b>	<b>No of Providers</b>	<b>Reg Places</b>	<b>Vacancies</b>
Day nursery	1	54	2
Maintained Nursery Schools and Classes	1	104	2
Private Nursery School	1	24	4
Childminder	21	114	32
Wraparound care, Breakfast Club, Out of School Care	6	118	17
Pre-School Playgroup	2	48	3
Extended Day Playgroup	1	16	5
Holiday Scheme	3	102	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>93</b>