

The Childcare Picture in Cottenham and Swavesey

There are a lower 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. This locality has the 2nd highest percentage of parents accessing formal, rather than informal, childcare. The most frequently accessed type of childcare was equally pre-school and childminders followed equally by day nurseries and 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.

Parents in this locality were in one of the 3 localities least satisfied with their existing childcare arrangements. A significant percentage of parents reported that they felt that there were not enough childcare places in the locality. This needs to be investigated and carefully monitored with new housing developments.

A large percentage of parents (over double the average for the county) also reported that they want to access more provision in future so leading to increased pressure on places. This coupled with a very high level of awareness and uptake of the free entitlement may impact on availability of preschool places.

Although many parents in this locality were in the higher income brackets parents reported that affordability could be an issue. A significant number were unaware of the existence and use of Working Tax Credits.

Key Actions

- Monitor the availability of early years places in some areas of the locality in line with demographic data, given the anticipated demand in the locality.
- Develop further early years places where needed, in particular Cottenham, Longstanton and Waterbeach
- 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.
- Work with National Childminding Association to increase the number of early years accredited childminders in rural locations and areas of demographic pressure to meet parental demand.

SCC/5 South Cambs/City Cottenham and Swavesey

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Inspection Update

Ofsted Outcomes

Outstanding	3
Good	66
Satisfactory	14
Inadequate	0
No information/ Registration Exempt*	22

*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	7021
Registered places per 100 children aged 0-14 years	25	20.6

Childcare Places and Vacancies

Provider Type	No of Providers	Reg Places	Vacancies
Day nursery	7	276	14
Nursery Units of Independent Schools	1		5
Private Nursery School	1	24	0
Childminder	65	321	64
Wraparound care, Breakfast Club, Out of School Care	11	210	42
Pre-School Playgroup	9	228	22
Extended Day Playgroup	6	234	31
Holiday Scheme	5	154	10
Total	105	1447	188