

## The Childcare Picture in Ely, Littleport and Witchford

There are a lower number of registered places, 21.5 per 100 children aged 0-14 years compared to the county average of 25. 36% of parents use some form of childcare with more parents using formal than informal childcare. Although a high number of parents use childcare to work, more parents in this locality, 56%, use childcare to enable their children to socialise than any other locality. The type of childcare most frequently accessed were registered childminders 28%, after-school clubs 24% and pre-school/playgroups 20%.

Most parents in this locality rated the quality of the childcare that they used as excellent or very good or good. A large majority also replied that they were very satisfied with their existing childcare arrangements.

Parents reported differing views of whether there were enough childcare places childcare places in the locality. Data shows that there are vacancies in the majority of types of childcare provision in the locality.

Most parents in this locality were aware of working tax credits and 72% reported that the childcare element had helped make childcare more affordable. Only a very small number of parents in this locality make use of the childcare voucher scheme. 64% of parents feel that they are very well or fairly well informed of the childcare provision in their locality

### Key Actions

- Monitor the availability of early years places and vacancy levels in the locality and develop new places when required to meet demand.
- Support the sustainability of childcare provision in areas where demographic change indicates a lower child population especially those in remote rural locations.
- Support the development of new childcare places to meet the need of housing developments and new communities.
- Improve the availability of out of school childcare for children with disabilities, including a better choice of mainstream or specialist childcare facilities.
- Increase the availability and uptake of the free entitlement for 3 – 4 year olds in hard to reach families.
- Work with childminders specifically to address the need for childcare for parents who work weekends and shifts
- Ensure sufficient places available for the free entitlement for eligible 2 year olds.

## ECF/4 East Cambs / Fenland Ely, Littleport and Witchford

### Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Inspection Update

#### Ofsted Outcomes

Outstanding	6
Good	82
Satisfactory	24
Inadequate	0
No information/ Registration Exempt *	30

\* 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	8049
Registered places per 100 children aged 0-14 years	25	21.5

### Childcare Places and Vacancies

Provider Type	No of Providers	Reg Places	Vacancies
Day nursery	5	320	30
Maintained Nursery Schools and Classes	2	110	1
Private Nursery School	1	48	
Childminder	104	479	159
Wraparound care, Breakfast Club, Out of School Care	16	234	40
Pre-School Playgroup	13	305	21
Extended Day Playgroup	4	87	7
Holiday Scheme	6	132	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1727</b>	<b>278</b>