

The Childcare Picture in Bottisham, Burwell and Soham

There are a lower number of registered places, 20.9 per 100 children aged 0-14 years compared to the county average of 25. 45% of parents use some form of childcare with more parents using informal than formal childcare. The most popular reason for using childcare was to enable parents to work. The type of childcare most frequently accessed were after-school clubs, 38%, private day care, 24%, and registered childminders 21%

Many parents in this locality rated the quality of the childcare that they used as excellent or very good or good. A large majority, 88%, also reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their existing childcare arrangements.

A high number of parents, 81%, in this locality were aware of working tax credits and 60% reported that the childcare element had helped make childcare more affordable. But more parents felt that childcare was sometimes difficult to afford. The take up of the childcare voucher scheme in this locality is third highest in the county. 53% of parents feel that they are very well or fairly well informed of the childcare provision in their locality.

Many parents in this locality were aware of the early years education entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds and were also aware of the increase of the entitlement to 15 hours, although more than half of parents reported that they would not take up the increased hours.

Key Actions

- Monitor the availability of early years places and vacancy levels in the locality and develop new places to 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.
- Improve the availability of out of school childcare for children with disabilities, including a better choice of mainstream or specialist childcare facilities.
- Ensure sufficient places available for the free entitlement for eligible 2 year olds.
- Raise awareness of the Childcare Information Service to ensure parents have access to information about childcare.
- Raise awareness of the Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit for families to help make childcare more affordable
- Increase the availability and uptake of the free entitlement for 3 – 4 year olds in hard to reach families.

ECF/5 East/ Fenland Bottisham, Burwell and Soham

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Inspection Update

Ofsted Outcomes

Outstanding	3
Good	47
Satisfactory	26
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	7133
Registered places per 100 children aged 0-14 years	25	20.9

Childcare Places and Vacancies

Provider Type	No of Providers	Reg Places	Vacancies
Day nursery	4	334	28
Maintained Nursery Schools and Classes	3	156	12
Private Nursery School	3	68	15
Childminder	51	249	34
Wraparound care, Breakfast Club, Out of school Care	16	213	63
Pre-School Playgroup	11	230	52
Extended Day Play Group	3	111	2
Holiday Scheme	5	128	5
Total	96	1489	211