

The Commission for Childcare Reform

Final Report

25 June 2015

Overview

- The work of the Commission
- Our key findings
- Main recommendations
- Hard issues
- What happens next?

The Work of the Commission

- Engaging with parents, providers, funders, government, local government, research, experts, third sector
- Reviewing evidence and building an understanding of existing provision and issues
- Developing and testing ideas and proposals
- Building consensus and identifying areas of disagreement and difficulty

Our Key Findings

- Many parents are able to access and afford high quality provision that meets their needs
- Real commitment from Scottish and UK Governments to invest in childcare
- But too many parents cannot access, or cannot afford, childcare that meets their needs
- Funding of childcare, for families and providers, is complex, confusing, unfair and lacks transparency
- There is no overall vision or agreed strategy

Main Recommendations

- Develop a long term vision and a strategy to deliver that vision. Stop dealing with individual issues in isolation.
- Establish an entitlement to access 50 hours per week of affordable flexible childcare and/or free education
- Make local arrangements to secure delivery of that entitlement
- Limit the amount contributed towards that 50 hours to 10% of household income: less for poorer families
- Simplify funding mechanisms so families can easily understand and access their entitlement and providers receive simple, fair, transparent funding from the state

Genuinely Difficult Issues

- Simplifying the tax and benefits systems and how they complement free provision to make the funding of childcare seem simpler and more rational to families
- Operating a mixture of free, subsidised and fully paid for provision, based on local decision making, in a way that enables a healthy market and delivers on entitlements
- Managing expansion and controlling costs to the state
- Balancing the needs of employers, parents, childcare providers and staff working in the sector without sacrificing the needs of the child.
- Deciding how best to provide financial support for families with very young children

Issues that should not be hard – but will be

- Scottish and UK Governments working together on funding issues
- Rebuilding trust between providers and funders
- Policy makers and local authority managers taking a holistic view of the needs of families (for available affordable childcare as well as for early education) – rather than dealing with elements in isolation
- Accepting the existence of real problems and fixing them, rather than finding justifications for existing actions that create problems for families

What happens next?

- Report published today – copy sent to First Minister and Secretary of State
- Alliance led by Children in Scotland and SCDI works with Scottish and UK Governments and other key stakeholders to develop a way forward
- Major event planned for September to start the next phase: development of vision, strategy and delivery
- Families are increasingly able to access and afford childcare that enables parents to work and study, confident their children's needs are being met.

Thank you

Please keep the conversation going:



Childcare Alliance



@Childcarescot

@ccreformscot

#childcarechallengescotland

www.commissionforchildcarereform.info