



What have we learned so far? Childcare for children aged 0-2

Background

Ten nurseries in the project area accept children aged under one year. Of the six Glasgow City Council nurseries, two accept children from age two years, and one accepts children from age three years, leaving three services who accept children under two.

Children aged one and two-years old account for the highest proportion of the waiting list at local authority nurseries within the CHANGE area.

The higher number of staff required to deliver childcare for children aged 0-2 means that providers face higher costs to deliver this service. This impacts on how much providers charge parents and childcare for children aged 0-2 is the most expensive of registered childcare.

Key points are:

Staffing

Most third sector and private providers in the CHANGE area stated that they had difficulty recruiting staff. The impact of staffing issues directly affects quality and service delivery as managers tend to be covering vacant posts.

Parents said they value the quality of the care provided to their children and the support practitioners offer to them as parents.

Provision

- There is very little childcare choice for families who may prefer their very young child to be in a home from home environment as childminders are very limited in the project area.

- Private and third sector nurseries reported a high turnover of children with some being used as a stopgap while children waited for a local authority place.
- There is a reported need for deliverable short-term childcare options designed to respond to families at the right time to enable them to access the wider support they need, for example, medical/legal appointments.

Cost

- Many parents expressed the view that it was easier to get a place at a private or third sector nursery than a local authority setting, although recognised that this was often more expensive.
- Some practitioners in the project area have indicated that parents of 2-year-olds do not know if they are eligible to access the statutory entitlement for Early Learning and Childcare.

Sources

A summary of childcare in the east end of Glasgow. This report describes childcare provision in the CHANGE project area.

CHANGE 0-2 paper. This paper provides a detailed outline of the current levels of childcare provision for children aged 0-2 across the project area. It also highlights some of the specific challenges experienced by families and childcare providers in relation to this age group.

CHANGE Scoping paper. This paper outlines the need for a supportive service which could provide childcare, during stressful or difficult time. Often families in the project area need to attend emergency appointments, sometimes at short notice, and require a safe childcare option they can access, with qualified professionals.

CHANGE Childminding Scoping Paper. This paper outlines the landscape of Community Childminding in the project area.

CHANGE Community Engagement Phase 1. This report summarises the feedback the CHANGE team received from children and families about their experience of accessing childcare. It covers summary of the initial community engagement work between October 2016 and June 2017.

Seldom Heard Voices report. This report provides a summary of the second phase of community engagement activity carried out by CHANGE. This explores some of the issues faced by families who may have additional barriers to accessing childcare.

Family Voices. Family Voices is an audio resource where parents, carers and grandparents talk about their experience of accessing childcare and other services.

Audit Scotland ELC Expansion Audit. This report explores the progress of the ELC expansion programme and details key findings to date. Some of these findings are specifically related to children who are eligible for funded ELC at age 2.

Engagement with providers. CHANGE has developed strong working relationships with childcare providers across the project area. Staff regularly meet with providers directly and attend all local childcare forums and to hear about issues currently affecting services in North East Glasgow.

CHANGE Evaluation. The Glasgow Centre for Population Health has been evaluating the CHANGE project since October 2016 and has four key research questions. Using a mixture of qualitative and quantitative methods they have explored the level of provision and use of childcare across the CHANGE area.