



London childcare network

The *London childcare network* project is funded by London Councils and managed by Daycare Trust. The project, which covers the 0-14 years age range (0-16 for disabled children), began on 1 September 2008. The following objectives were identified by London Councils:

- **London parents** are better informed regarding childcare, and are supported to access quality services
- **Childcare providers**
 - have access to information on such issues as sustainability, quality and the workforce
 - are able to influence strategic plans at borough, sub-regional and cross-London level
 - are supported to help families with home learning

- **Equality** for disadvantaged groups is promoted at all levels

Daycare Trust

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Daycare Trust information service

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www.daycaretrust.org.uk/london

Daycare Trust is the leading childcare charity campaigning for universal access to high quality, accessible, affordable childcare for all.

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London childcare network

sharing experiences,
influencing policy



The London childcare network project has been set up to support the childcare sector in London.

It provides:

Exchange

An opportunity to share experiences and best practice, across the age range, and across the private, voluntary, independent (PVI) and maintained sectors, through:

- an annual London childcare providers forum and survey
- a London e-bulletin covering news, events and services
- free workshops and seminars
- information on home learning, on the Daycare Trust website.

Expertise

- Daycare Trust's knowledge and perspective, as the leading childcare campaigning charity.
- The input of an expert Advisory Board, which can also take forward issues within their respective organisations: Children's Workforce Development Council, Department for Education, Greater London Authority, London Councils and Pre-school Learning Alliance.
- The input of a London Childcare Providers Consultative Committee



which identifies key issues, and helps engage members in project activities: National Childminding Association, National Day Nurseries Association, 4Children, Pre-school Learning Alliance, London Early Years Foundation and several local authorities.

- The Daycare Trust information service.

Influence

- The feeding in of key concerns and proposals to London boroughs, the Department for Education, London MPs, London councillors and other key players.
- Dissemination of the annual London childcare providers survey results and other project data.

“it is useful for policy makers to involve a range of grassroots providers – at the early stages – thereby giving a sense of ownership and understanding.”

– survey response

Key activities

The annual London childcare providers survey and forum involve providers from across London, across the PVI and maintained sectors, and across the age range. They are key mechanisms for exchange between, and consultation with providers themselves, and those who work with providers.

“this conference was one of the best I have been to ... the content was relevant, well presented and time for audience participation was exceptional. It gave delegates an opportunity to air their views, and learn from each others' experience.”

– providers forum feedback

Getting involved

Subscribe to the London e-bulletin

To hear about workshops, seminars and other London initiatives, sign up to our London e-bulletin, which



includes a quarterly update and periodic announcements of special events. You can subscribe online via the Daycare Trust website www.daycaretrust.org.uk/london or email dbrodie@daycaretrust.org.uk

Share your experiences

Please send us your experiences, and especially your success stories, which we can share through the various project activities.

Be a local authority representative on our London Childcare Providers Consultative Committee

We are keen to have regular local authority input to the committee. If you are interested in contributing, and can attend periodic meetings, please contact us.

Further information

You can find further information on the *London childcare network* project on the Daycare Trust website www.daycaretrust.org.uk/london

