

London childcare providers survey 2011

London childcare providers network - the voice of London childcare

WE NEED YOUR VIEWS!

As new policies develop, and budgets are cut, now more than ever we want to make sure your voices are heard - the more responses we get, the more powerful your voice!

This is our third London childcare providers survey, and it is thanks to all your previous responses that we have been able to highlight some of your top issues to London decision-makers. The 2010 results were quoted by Radio 4 during an interview with Sarah Teather, Minister of State for Education, and also in the Evening Standard, The Times, Children and Young People Now, Child Care Magazine and Nursery World.

All individual responses will remain confidential. If you fill in your contact details in the last section, we will make sure you are sent the survey results. They will also be presented at our annual London childcare providers forum on 28 June 2011.

ANSWERING JUST THE KEY FOUR REQUIRED QUESTIONS WILL ONLY TAKE A FEW MINUTES - IF YOU CAN ANSWER MORE, ALL THE BETTER! - most questions are tick-box.

Please complete by: Tuesday 31 May 2011

Thank you

Deborah Brodie

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The 'London childcare providers network' project works with childcare providers to share best practice and influence policy, to benefit families. It is funded by London Councils, and supported by Pre-school Learning Alliance, 4Children, National Childminding Association, National Day Nurseries Association, London Early Years Foundation, Children's Workforce Development Council, Department for Education, Greater London Authority and a number of local authorities. Daycare Trust is the national childcare charity, campaigning for quality, accessible, affordable childcare for all who need it.

* Questions with an asterisk require answers (Qs.1,3,4 & 7)

About you

* **1. What kind of childcare provider are you? (please tick the most appropriate option)**

Full daycare (private)

Full daycare (voluntary)

Full daycare (social enterprise)

Full daycare (independent)

Full daycare (maintained)

Sessional

Crèche

Childminder

Nursery school (private)

Nursery school (voluntary)

Nursery school (independent)

Nursery school (maintained)

Primary school with nursery and/or reception

After school and/or breakfast club

Holiday club

Other (please specify)

2. Do you provide childcare within a Children's Centre?

Yes

No

* **3. Which London borough do you work in? (please click on drop-down list)**

* **4. How many total full-time equivalent registered places are in your setting(s)?**

5. How many settings do you run in London?

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6. Which provider network are you a member of, if any? (please tick all that apply)

- National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA)
- Local childminding network
- Pre-school Learning Alliance
- Other voluntary sector networks
- 4Children
- Local authority networks
- National Childminding Association (NCMA)
- None
- Other (please specify)

Your views

7. * What are the top 5 issues currently facing you as a provider? (please tick up to 5)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improving outdoor play | <input type="checkbox"/> Balance of local authority funding between private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engaging with parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Local authority cuts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach work | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct cuts to your funding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging take-up of childcare by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BME) families | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability of your setting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting children with disabilities and special educational needs (SEN) | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents not being able to afford the fees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working in partnership with local authorities | <input type="checkbox"/> Rising rents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding tax credits and other help with costs, for parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Staff recruitment, pay and retention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Implementing the extended schools and 'safe place to be' initiative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improving quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by results | <input type="checkbox"/> Implementing the flexible 15 hours free entitlement for 3 & 4-year-olds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Measuring impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Level of free entitlement funding (Early Years Single Funding Formula) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ofsted inspections | <input type="checkbox"/> Implementing the free entitlement for eligible 2-year-olds |

Other (please specify)

8. Comments relating to the question above

9. What impact has the recession had on you? (please tick all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increased demand for places | <input type="checkbox"/> Increased fee arrears |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decreased demand for places | <input type="checkbox"/> Increased running costs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easier to recruit staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Harder to maintain quality of childcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harder to recruit staff | <input type="checkbox"/> No impact |

Other (please specify)

10. If fee arrears are an issue for you, how much money is currently owed in unpaid fees? (£)

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11. How much does this represent in percentage of turnover, if known? (%)

12. If rising rent is an issue for you, who is your landlord? (please tick)

Local authority

Other (please specify below)

Private

Not an issue

Church/diocesan

Comments (the size of the rent increase, etc)

13. If staffing is an issue for you, which of the following is causing you the most concern? (please tick)

New Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's workforce

Staff retention

Training

Paying staff salaries

Staff recruitment

Not an issue

Other (please specify)

14. If sustainability is an issue for you, what is putting most financial strain on your service? (please tick)

Rising rents

Level of free entitlement funding

Local authority cuts

Ability of parents to pay for childcare

Lack of business/management knowledge

Not an issue

Other (please specify)

15. How do you view your communications with your local authority? (please tick)

Very good

Good

Mixed

Poor

Very poor

16. What cuts, if any, have you noted in terms of local authority support? (please tick all that apply)

- Less training available
- More charging for training
- Fewer meetings between providers
- Less support for childminders
- Reduced capacity in the Family Information Service
- General reduced capacity in local authority support to childcare providers
- Children's centre closed or reduced its services
- Direct cuts to your own funding
- None

Other (please specify)

17. Overall, what has been the impact of the free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds on your setting?

- Very positive
- Quite positive
- Neither positive nor negative
- Quite negative
- Very negative

Comments

18. Do you have someone with Early Years Professional status in your setting?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

19. If yes, what impact do you think this has had on the quality of the childcare provided?

- Very positive
- Quite positive
- Neither positive nor negative
- Quite negative
- Very negative

Comments

20. What works best in terms of involving parents in their child's learning and development? (please tick all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Induction sessions | <input type="checkbox"/> Having staff with additional languages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular parents meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Handbooks and other materials for parents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quick chats at drop-off and pick-up | <input type="checkbox"/> Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities for them to help out in some way | <input type="checkbox"/> Email and SMS communication with parents |

Other (please specify)

Working together in the future

21. In 2013 the free entitlement for the 20% most disadvantaged 2-year olds will be rolled out nationally. What actions need to be taken by providers and local authorities to ensure that this is implemented effectively in your area?

22. What helps you link with other providers and share best practice, at a borough level? (please tick all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Borough provider network meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentors advising in the workplace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Borough provider network newsletters | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with paying for cover when participating in networking and training activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary sector networks | <input type="checkbox"/> Drop-in sessions and playgroups where providers meet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange visits with other providers | <input type="checkbox"/> Email forums/websites/information sent by SMS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint training opportunities | |

Other (please specify)

23. Is there anything else you would like to add, on how to help providers link more with each other, and engage with policy-making?

24. What is the most important thing local councillors or central government could do for childcare in your borough?

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25. Please describe a success story that you have had.

26. Any other comments?

Your details

27. Your details (all personal data will remain confidential)

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Organisation (if applicable):	<input type="text"/>
Job title:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>
Address 2:	<input type="text"/>
City/Town:	<input type="text"/>
Borough:	<input type="text"/>
Postcode:	<input type="text"/>
Email:	<input type="text"/>
Telephone:	<input type="text"/>

28. Future contact

The above details are to enable us to send you the survey results, and for the internal database of Daycare Trust. We may occasionally send you information on our events and services. Please tick here if you do not wish to be contacted.

29. Membership of Daycare Trust

Please tick here if you would like to be sent information about becoming a member of Daycare Trust.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY

The results will be launched at our London childcare providers forum on Tuesday 28 June. This is a free event and will provide an opportunity for you to meet peers from settings across London, and discuss issues of common concern. There will be a chance to put your points to leading decision-makers from London's childcare sector. You can register online at www.daycaretrust.org.uk/london

Contact: Deborah Brodie - dbrodie@daycaretrust.org.uk, 020 7940 7512 (direct) / 020 7940 7510