

**To:** Education and Children Policy Board

**On:** 18 August 2016

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**Report by:** Director of Children's Services

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**Heading:** Early Learning and Childcare Consultation - Winter 2015

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act places a duty on local authorities to consult representative populations of parents and carers on how the mandatory early learning and child care, day care and out of school care and discretionary services should be made available. There is a requirement to consult every 2 years and to publish plans in response to these consultations.
  - 1.2 This report advises of the findings of the early learning and childcare consultation carried out by Renfrewshire Council during winter of 2015. The consultation report is attached as an appendix.
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## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1. The education and children policy board is asked to note the findings of the early years and childcare consultation.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1. Part 6 of the Children and Young People Act (2014) places a duty on local authorities to consult representative populations of parents and carers on how the mandatory early learning and child care should be made available and to publish plans for future delivery in response to the consultations. Parts 7 and 8 of the Act also requires an authority to consult representative populations of parents on how discretionary early learning and childcare (under the 1980 Act) and discretionary day care and out of school care for children not in need (under the 1995 Act) should be provided and supported. There is also a requirement to consult representative populations of parents on how mandatory day care and out of school for children in need (under the 1995 Act) should be made available.

- 3.2. There is a requirement to consult every 2 years and to publish plans in response to these consultations.
  - 3.3. Renfrewshire Council carried out an initial consultation in 2013, in response to the requirements under part 6 of the Act, through undertaken a survey to establish the needs of parents of children under the age of five years. The findings from this survey was reported to the education policy board on 16 January 2014.
  - 3.4. The second consultation conducted by the Council addressed the full requirements of the Act and sought the views of parents on both mandatory and discretionary services, including early learning and childcare, out of school care and breakfast club provision. This consultation which was carried out during October 2015.
  - 3.5. The survey aimed to identify the demand, barriers, perceptions and future use of early learning and childcare services for parents of children aged 0-14 years to assist in future planning and delivery of services.
  - 3.6. As the scope of the survey was wide and ambitious, it was imperative to ensure that responding did not prove cumbersome or overly complex for parents in order to gain maximum engagement. The consultation was designed and developed with support from the researchers within Psychological Service. It was agreed the most effective method would be via the online Survey Monkey programme with the opportunity for parents to submit paper responses if required.
  - 3.7. Questions were set within two categories: needs and services for parents of children aged birth to five years and 5 -14 years. The survey included a number of closed and opened questions, therefore enabling parents the opportunity to make comments on the issues they wished to bring to Renfrewshire Council's attention and to enable effective analysis of the responses.
  - 3.8. A marketing campaign commenced one week before the survey opened to raise awareness of the consultation with posters and flyers distributed across all early years' services, including pre-five nurseries and centres, childminders, out of school care services and places where parents frequent such as libraries and GP surgeries. Text messages were sent to parents of primary aged children with direct links to the online survey.
  - 3.9. The consultation report attached provides the overall findings from the survey, including an executive summary and headline results.
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#### **4. Key Findings**

- 4.1. A total of 677 parents took part in the survey and the demographics inform that just less than half of the respondents live in the Paisley area. 80% of respondents had children aged between 5 and 11 years old and 37% had children currently in a nursery or pre-five centres.
- 4.2. The findings indicate that family and friends continue to be the most commonly used childcare option among families with 53% of parents selecting this option.
- 4.3. Parents were asked to identify their reasons for using childcare services and responded as follows:

- early learning and childcare (0 to 5 years) – 81% indicating that it was good for their child's development, 65% stating to enable them to work, 54% because their child was entitled to a place and 5% to enable them to train or study;
  - out of school care (school age) - 73% of the respondents indicating it enabled them to work and 5% enabling them to train or study, with 11% stating it was good for their child's development ;
  - breakfast clubs (school age) – 72% indicated that the service provided a before school childcare service, 12% because their child enjoyed attending and 8% because breakfast is provided.
- 4.4. While 59% of parents agree that early learning and childcare services are too expensive, 34 % of parents specifically report that the reason they do not use early learning and childcare services is due to it being too expensive.
  - 4.5. 65% of children requiring early learning and childcare use council nurseries and centres and 43% attending a voluntary or independent provision.
  - 4.6. With regards to patterns of delivery, there was no clear preference however; an all year round option did seem to be preferential for the majority of parents. 46% of parents with pre-school aged children feel full day sessions (8hours) of childcare would be most suitable.
  - 4.7. Regarding common perceptions of early learning and childcare, 61% of parents agree that they should have more choice in the type of childcare available and an additional 59% agree that they feel it is difficult to afford the childcare they require.
  - 4.8. Reputation of provider is the factor considered most highly by parents of children under 5 years when choosing a childcare establishment, with 80% of parents selecting this. Other highly considered factors include: trust in the provider (79%) and a good quality inspection report (78%). 81% of parents state that they send their child to childcare because they feel it is good for their development and 65% report it allows them to work.
  - 4.9. Clear patterns emerged with regards to parental predictions about the future use of early learning and childcare, out of school care and breakfast clubs. An average of 49% predicted that they would use early learning and childcare, 66% out of school care and 64% breakfast clubs in the future.
  - 4.10. The full results from this survey are available in the appendix attached to this report.

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## 5 Planning for the Future

- 5.1 The Tackling poverty in Renfrewshire report (2014) noted that a key barrier to maximising family income was expensive and inflexible childcare and that childcare provision had not kept pace with changing work patterns so parents, particularly lone parents, are unable to move into work, increase work or progress at work. One of the recommendations made by the tackling poverty commission is to ensure 'high quality, affordable childcare is widely used by low income families, and is designed to reflect the specific needs of those at highest risk of poverty such as lone parents and disabled families.

- 5.2 In response to this recommendation Renfrewshire Council procured a consultant to map out childcare provision to identify gaps and to develop alternative flexible childcare delivery models to support low income families in a sustainable way within local communities.
- 5.3 Children in Scotland were successful through the tender process and are currently undertaking further consultation, researching demand and need for childcare, exploring and identifying gaps or barriers preventing parents from accessing childcare. The findings from the early learning and childcare consultation carried out in 2015 will be considered during this process.
- 5.4 A report detailing the consultant's findings will be available in November 2016 and will be used by the Council to develop an early learning and childcare plan. This plan will be reported to the Education and Children's Policy Board in due course.
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## **Implications of this report**

### **1. Financial Implications**

None

### **2. HR and Organisational Development Implications**

None

### **3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications**

Children and Young People	- Ensuring the best start in life for children and young people.
Community Care, Health and Well-being	- Earlier intervention will lead to healthier outcomes for young children.
Empowering our Communities	- Children, young people and families will benefit from local services in the community.
Jobs and Economy	- Flexible childcare placements will support parents back into and sustain employment, training or education.
Safer and Stronger	- The quality of community life is enhanced by supporting parents, children and young people.

### **4. Legal Implications**

None

### **5. Property/Assets Implications**

None

### **6. Information Technology**

None

**7. Equality and Human Rights Implications**

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because there is no decrease to the level of funding being proposed therefore no diminution of service. Services comply with the Equality Act 2010.

**8. Health and Safety**

None

**9. Procurement Implications**

None

**10. Risk Implications**

None

**11. Privacy Impact**

Personal information will only be held as required in order to deliver the service. This will be done in accordance with all data protection legislation.

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**List of Background Papers**

None.

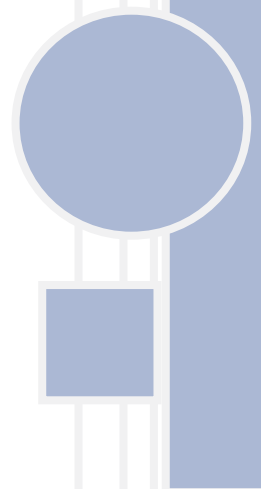
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*Children's Services  
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# EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE CONSULTATION WINTER 2015



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## **Executive Summary**

### **Introduction**

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to consult with parents every two years on how early learning and childcare should be made available and publish a plan for how it intends to make early learning and childcare available. Renfrewshire Council conducted its first consultation under this requirement in October 2013 with parents of children aged under 5 years. This, the second consultation which took place in October 2015, has been widened to include seeking the views of parents of school aged children (up to 14 years) who need out of school care and breakfast club activity.

### **Key Findings**

#### ***Overall Findings***

The demographics inform that just less than half of the parents who undertook the survey live in Paisley and 80% of the parents that responded have children aged between 5 and 11 years old.

Clear patterns emerged with regards to parental predictions about the future use of early learning and childcare, out of school care and breakfast clubs. An average of 63% predicted that they would use early learning and childcare, out of school care or breakfast clubs in the future and around 22% of parents reported that they did not expect to use these services in the future.

Regarding common perceptions of early learning and childcare, 61% of parents agree that they should have more choice in the type of childcare available and an additional 59% agree that they feel it is difficult to afford the childcare they require.

#### ***Findings for children 0-14 years***

The most commonly reported type of childcare used by parents with school age children was a friend or family member, with 53% of parents selecting this option. 73% stated they use out of school care services because- it permits them to work. The reasons why parents use breakfast clubs was also explored and the results demonstrate that 72% of parents report using breakfast clubs because it provides before school care for their child.

Renfrewshire Children's Services were interested to know why parents do not use Early Learning and Childcare services. When asked this question, 35% of parents reported it was not required and a further 34% stated it was too expensive for them. Other explanations offered by parents included: not all schools offer breakfast clubs; a lack of places available; and, confusion around whether or not their child is entitled to early learning and childcare.

### ***Findings for children 0-5years***

Reputation of provider is the factor considered most highly by parents of children under 5 years when choosing a childcare establishment, with 80% of parents selecting this. Other highly considered factors include: trust in the provider (79%) and a good quality inspection report (78%). 81% of parents stated that they send their child to childcare because they feel it is good for their development and 65% report it allows them to work.

With regards to patterns of delivery, there was no clear preference however; an all year round option did seem to be preferential for the majority of parents. 46% of parents with pre-school aged children feel full day sessions (8 hours) of childcare would be most suitable.

### **Headline Results**

- 53% of the parents reported that they use a family member or friend for childcare.
- 59% of all parents agreed that early learning and childcare services were too expensive.
- 34% of parents specifically reported that the reason they do not use early learning and childcare services was because they are too expensive.
- 73% of parents claimed that they use childcare in order to allow them to work.
- 65% of children requiring early learning and childcare use council nurseries and pre 5 centers.
- Just under half of the parents answering the question “providers are not flexible enough about hours of use” agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.
- 38% of parents preferred childcare pattern for under five years was a set pattern, all year round with 46% of parents rating full day childcare sessions of 8 hours to be preferential.
- The most strongly agreed with statement regarding childcare was, “I would like more choice in the childcare available to me”.
- 80% of parents reported that reputation is the most considered factor when choosing childcare.
- 72% of parents reported the reason for using breakfast clubs was that it acted as before school childcare.
- 49% report of parents reported that they predict they will use early learning and childcare in the future.
- 66% predict they will use out of school care in the future.
- 64% report that they would use breakfast clubs in the future.

## **Methodology**

The survey was designed and developed by a small team from Early Years and researchers from Psychological Services. It was agreed that an online survey using Survey Monkey would be the most effective model to maximise participation however paper copies were also made available if required.

The steps involved in implementing the survey were as follows:

- Planning stages: research proposal, meetings, question development, questionnaire development
- Distribution
- Analysis
- Report Writing

The design of the survey was complex as the aim was to seek the views of parents using a broad range of childcare services covering a spectrum of ages. Initially the group used branching questions however on testing these this made the survey cumbersome and difficult to follow. The end result of a combined survey with 2 parts was the preferred option. Parents of pre-school age children were asked all questions, questions 1-17 and parents with children in primary and secondary school (age categories 2 and 3) were asked questions 1,2,3,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17 only.

A marketing campaign was implemented to raise full awareness of the survey with a wide distribution of posters, emails and texts to parents. A QR code was used in all marketing materials to enable parents' instant access to the online survey.

Distribution of the marketing materials was through all standard council education services, private and voluntary childcare services, health teams, parent and toddler groups as well as general points of contact such as GP surgeries and libraries. A total of 688 respondents replied to the survey.

## Findings

### Section A: Overall Results

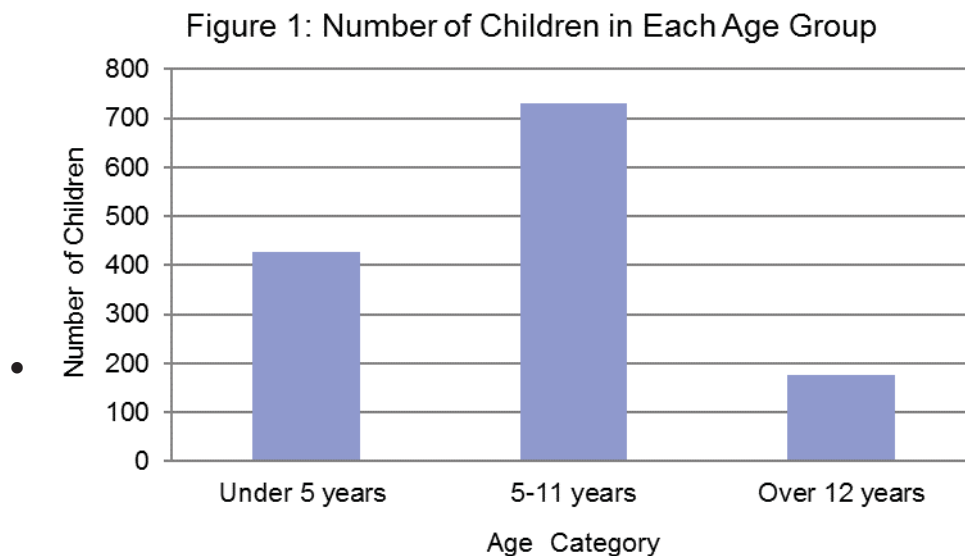
This section of the report details the results for the questions answered by parents with children from 0-14 years old.

#### **Children's Age**

*Please indicate the number of children in your family who fall into the following age categories:*

- 0 - 5 years
- 5 - 11 years
- Over 12 years

Figure 1 demonstrates the results of this question.



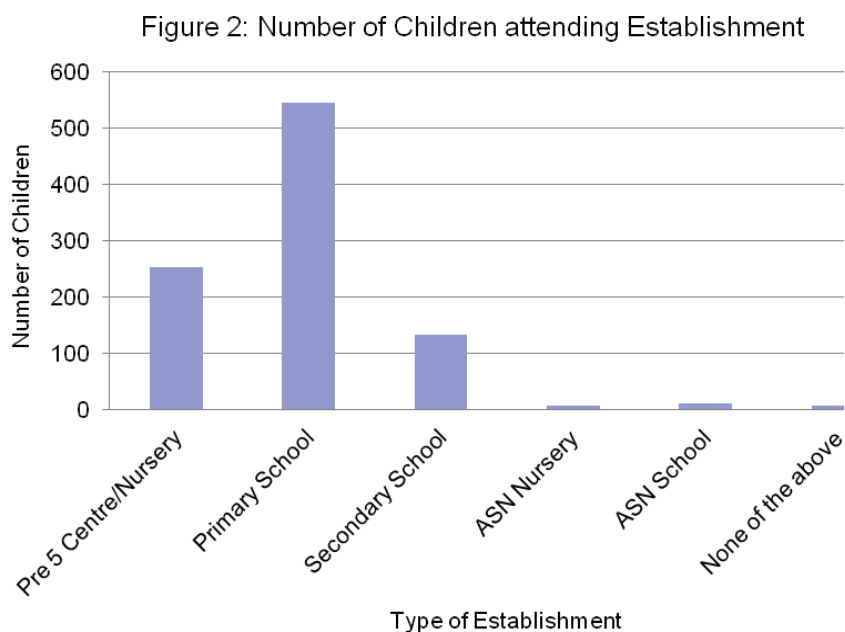
- The most populated age group was the 5-11 year category with 732 children reported to fall within this age range.
- The second most highly populated age category was the under 5 group, with 431 children between 0 and 5 years old.
- The least number of parents reported to have children aged 12 years and over, with 176 children reported to fall into this age category.

## Establishment Information

Please indicate which of the following your child/children currently attends:

- *Pre 5 Centre/Nursery*
- *Primary School*
- *Secondary School*
- *ASN Nursery*
- *ASN School*
- *None of the above*

Figure 2 the number of children attending each type of establishment as reported by their parents.



- 80% of the children currently attend Primary School.
- 37% children are currently in a Nursery or Pre 5 centre.
- 19% of children were attending Secondary School.
- Only 11 children (2%) were reported to attend ASN Schools.
- 1% or 7 children, attending ASN Nurseries.
- 1% of children did not attend any of the establishments listed.

Parents were asked to state the name of the establishment their child attends and these results tables can be viewed in the appendix section of this report (appendix 1).

## Demographics

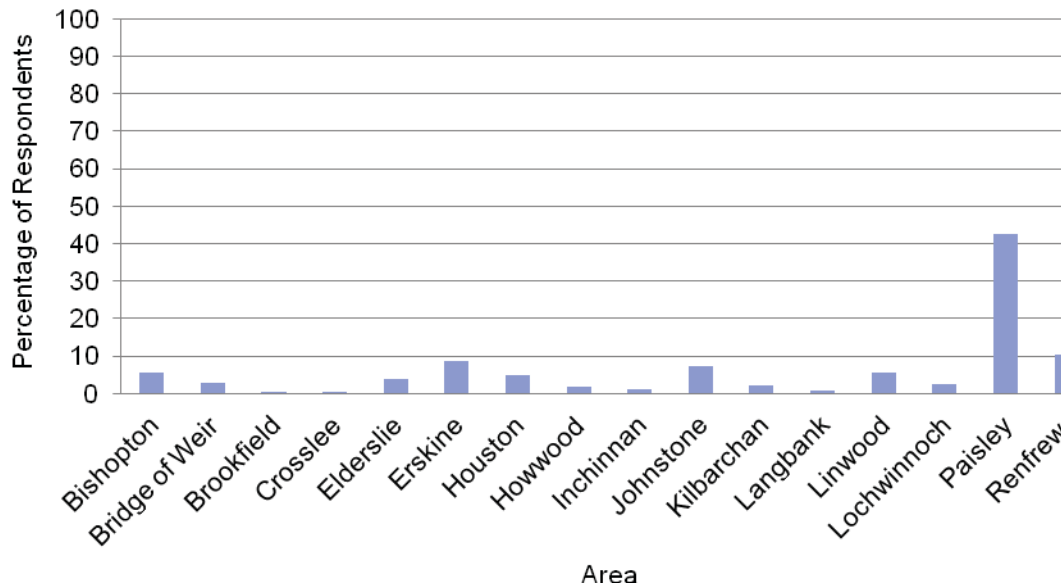
*Where do you currently live?*

The table below presents the different areas in which the parents who answered this question live.

**Table 1**

<b>Town</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bishopton	37	5.5%
Bridge of Weir	19	2.8%
Brookfield	3	0.4%
Crosslee	3	0.4%
Elderslie	25	3.7%
Erskine	59	8.7%
Houston	32	4.7%
Howwood	12	1.8%
Inchinnan	7	1.0%
Johnstone	50	7.4%
Kilbarchan	14	2.1%
Langbank	4	0.6%
Linwood	38	5.6%
Lochwinnoch	16	2.4%
Paisley	287	42.4%
Renfrew	71	10.5%

Figure 3: Percentage of Respondents Living in each Area of Renfrewshire



From table 1 and figure 3, it is evident that although someone from every area of Renfrewshire took part in this survey, the distribution of respondents is not evenly spread throughout the different areas of Renfrewshire. A large proportion of the respondents, around 42%, live in Paisley whilst a significantly lower number of respondents, in some cases as low as 3, live in areas such as Crosslee.

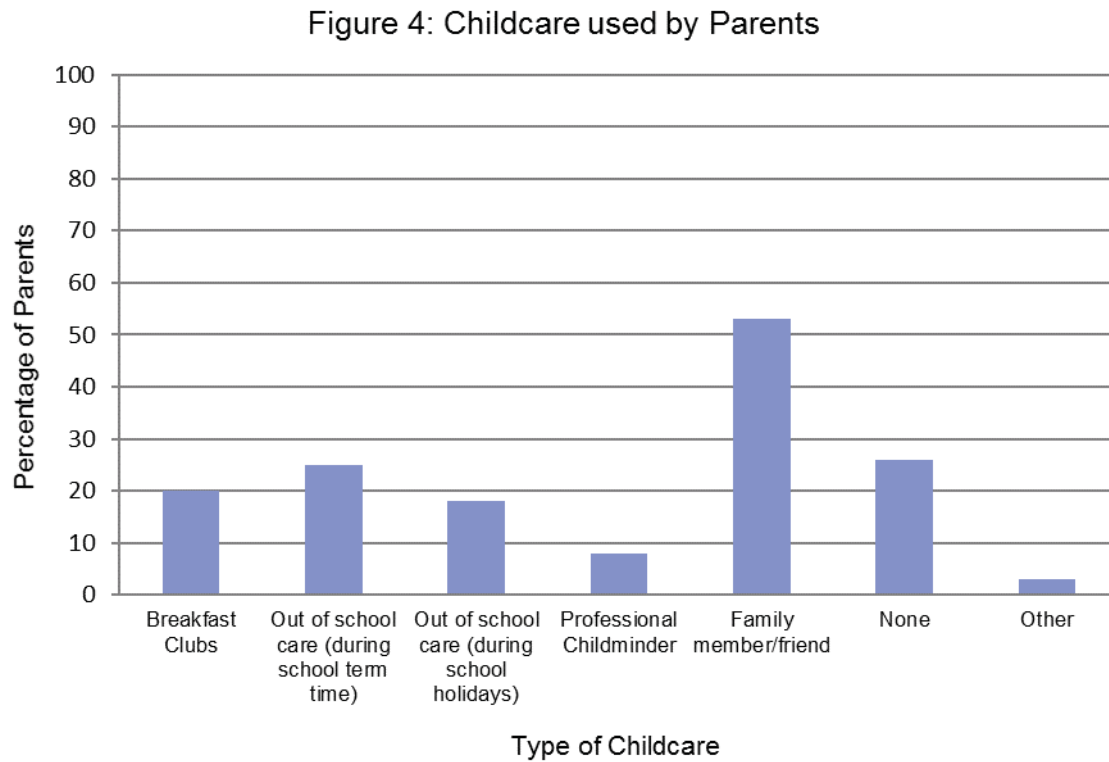
### Childcare Used

*Please indicate which of the following services you currently use:*

- *Breakfast clubs*
- *Out of school care (during school term time)*
- *Out of school care (during school holidays)*
- *Professional childminder*
- *Family member/friend*
- *None*
- *Other*



Figure 4 below demonstrates the results.



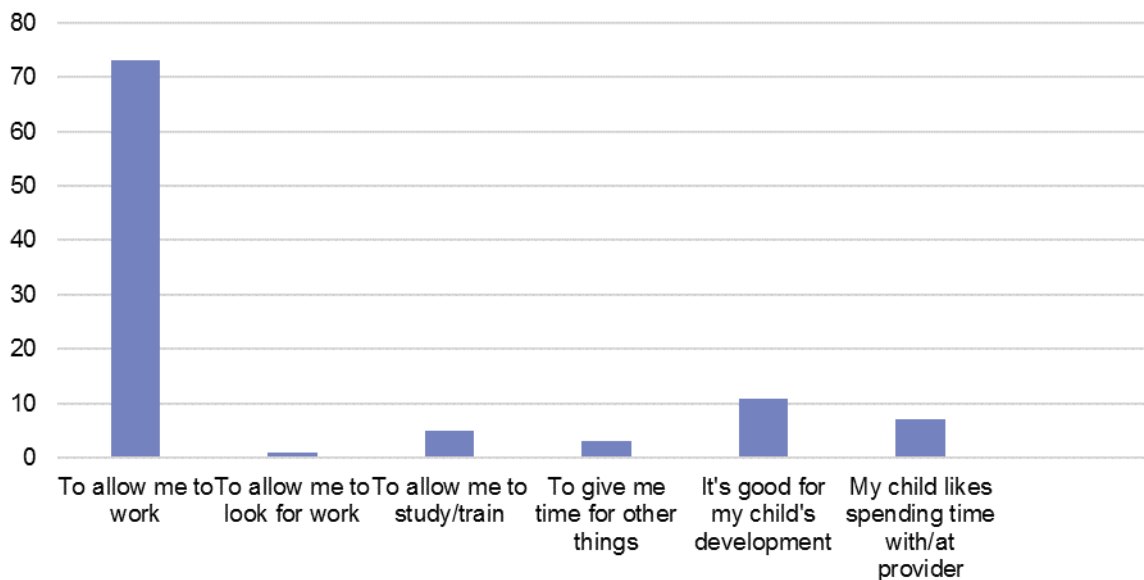
- 53% of the parents reported that they use a family member or friend for childcare.
- 26% reported that they did not use any childcare
- 25% use out of school care during term time.
- 20% use breakfast clubs.
- 18% use out of school care during school holidays.
- 8% use a professional childminder.
- 3% of parents use other methods of childcare.

## Reasons for using Out of School Care Services

*If you use Out of School Care Services, please indicate the reason(s) why from the list below:*

- *To allow me to work*
- *To allow me to look for work*
- *To allow me to study/train*
- *To give me time for other things*
- *It's good for my child's development*
- *My child likes spending time with/at the provider*

Figure 5: Reasons for Using Out of School Care Services



The graph above demonstrates parent's responses.

- 73% of parents reported they used these services to allow them to work.
- 11% of parents felt it was good for their child's development.
- 7% use the service because their child likes spending time at the providers.
- 5% of parents stated that sending their child to out of school services allowed them to train or study.
- 3% commented that using these services allowed parents to do other things.

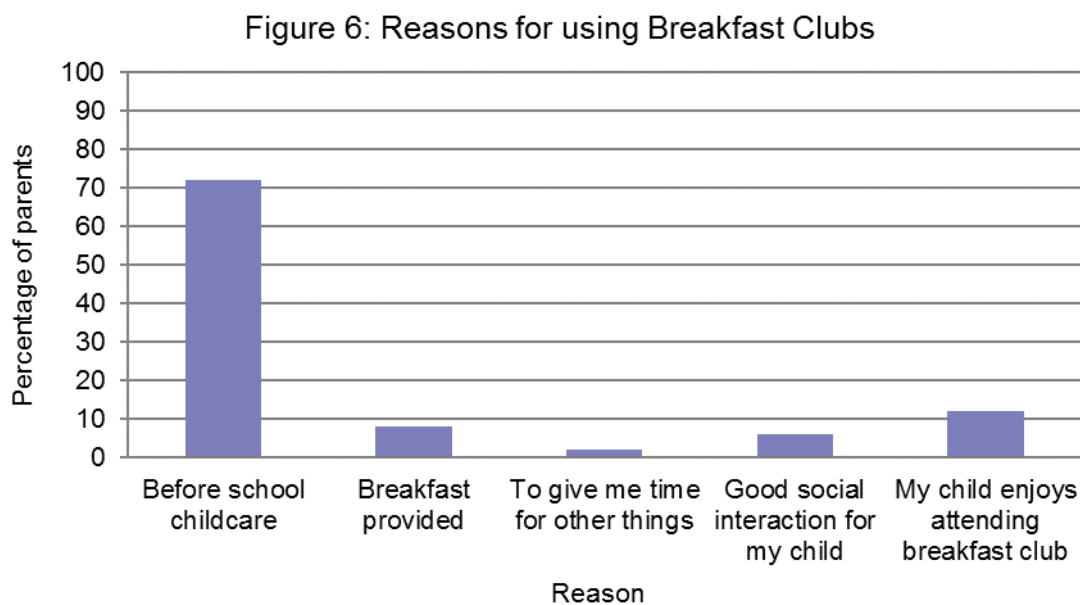
- 1% of parents said it allowed them to look for employment.
- Some parents reported this question was not applicable to their situation.

### Reasons for using Breakfast Clubs

*If you use breakfast clubs, please indicate the reason(s) why from the list below:*

- *Before school childcare*
- *Breakfast provided*
- *To give me time for other things*
- *Good social interaction for my child*
- *My child enjoys attending breakfast club*

Figure 6 below displays the responses from parents.



- 72% of parents reported that they use breakfast clubs as a form of before school childcare.
- 12% selected the option 'my child enjoys attending breakfast club'.
- 8% use breakfast clubs because breakfast is provided.

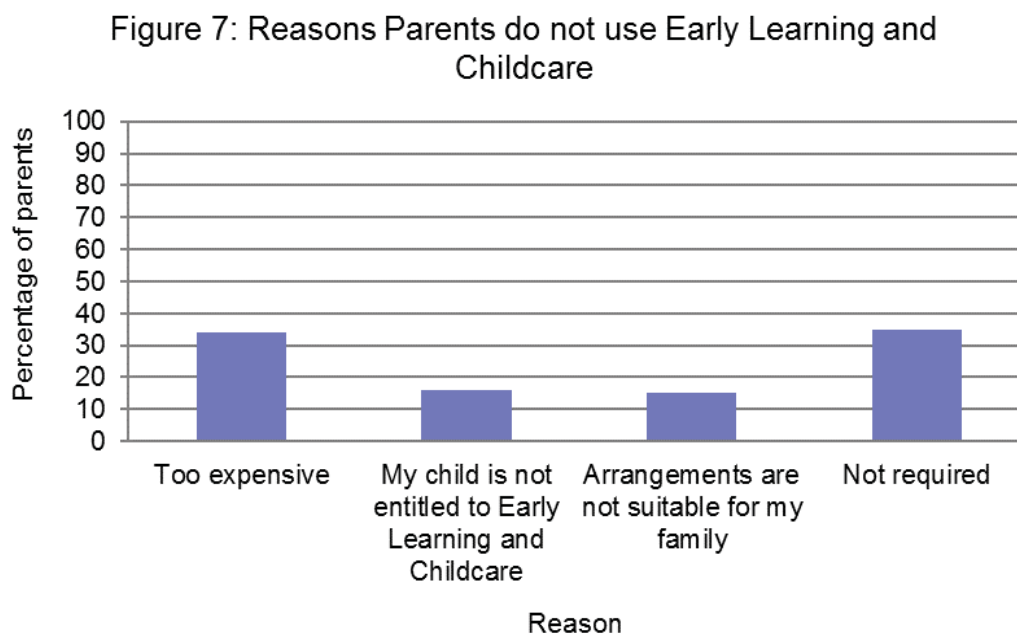
- 6% said they believed it was good social interaction for their child.
- 2% said it gave them time to do other things.

### Reasons for not using Early Learning and Childcare

Please indicate the reasons why you do not currently use early learning and childcare:

- Too expensive
- My child is not entitled to early learning and childcare
- Arrangements are not suitable for my family
- Not required

Figure 7 demonstrates the parent's responses to this question



Of the parents who did report using early learning and childcare;

- 35% of parents said the service was not required.
- 34% of parents reported that the services were too expensive.
- 16% stated that the arrangements were not suitable for their family.

- 15% felt their child was not entitled to early learning and childcare.

Parents were provided with the opportunity to comment on this question and thematic analysis was conducted on the data obtained. Some parents report that their children do not attend early learning and childcare services because it is not necessary, for example, they have family childcare, are on maternity leave or have arranged their work around having children. Many of the parents also provided comment on the expense, and restricted number of places.

### ***Expense***

Affordability of childcare was an issue raised by multiple parents in the comments section. One parent stated, “I cannot afford more days at nursery and breakfast club and I wish I could” and another writes, “I do use it and it is too expensive. £4 per morning but no breakfast club at school”.

“I already pay nursery fees for my 2 year old son which cost half my monthly wage.”

- Parent

### ***Entitlement***

Some parents were unclear regarding their child’s entitlement to early learning and childcare with one parent stating “(I’ve)...not been told or informed that our child is eligible for early learning....” Another parent commented that they “do not qualify for nursery place due to both parents working, don’t qualify for childcare credit as second adult does not work enough hours. Don’t quite understand if both parents were unemployed, (why) children would be eligible for a free place.”

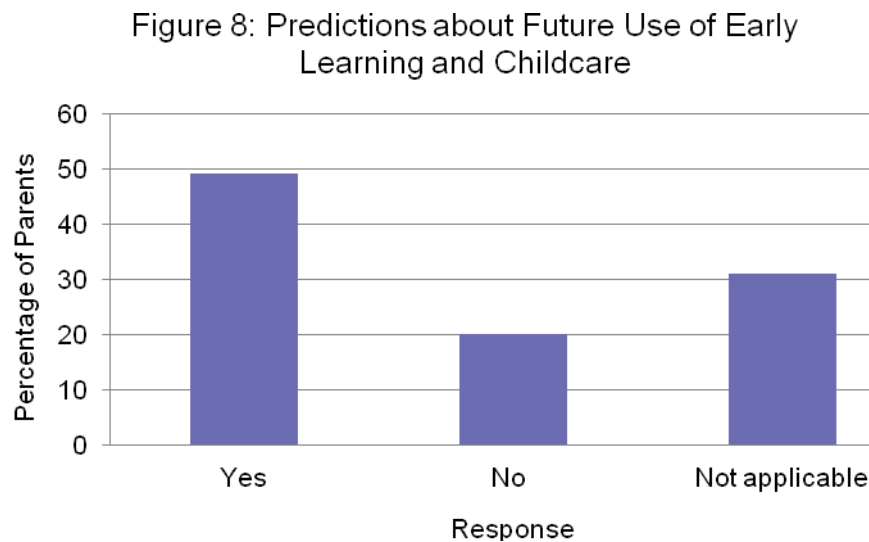
### ***Arrangements***

Several parents commented that they felt the hours of childcare were unsuitable for working parents as childcare is required 8am -6pm to suit the working day. More than one parent stated they felt breakfast clubs do not start early enough to allow parents to get to work on time and therefore they have to use and pay for a private childminder. Other parents report that they require longer periods of childcare to cover full-time working patterns.

## Future Use

*Do you think you would use early learning and childcare in the future?*

Figure 8 presents the results of this question.



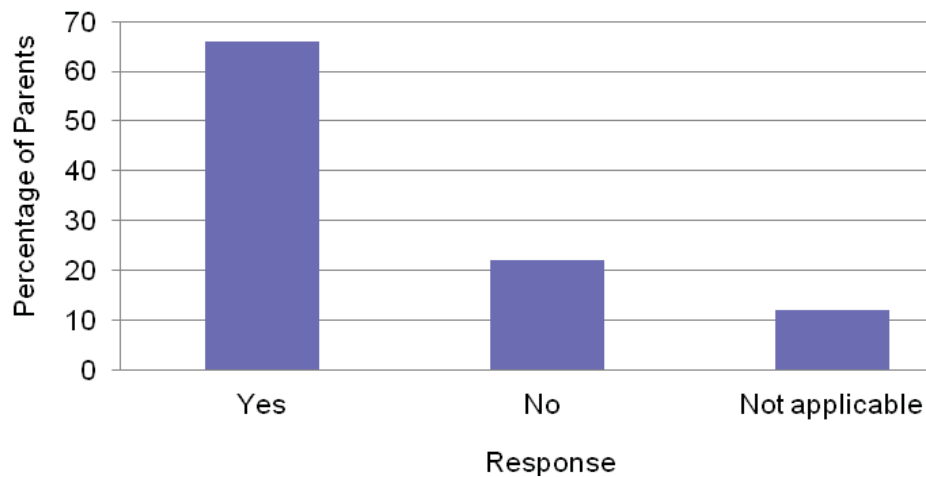
- 49% of parents said they would use early learning and childcare in the future.
- 20% reported that would not use early learning and childcare in the future.
- 31% of parents reported this was not applicable to their situation.

*Do you think you would use out of school care in the future?*

Results are displayed in figure 9.

- 66% of parents answered 'yes' they would use out of school care in the future.
- 22% felt that they would not use this service in the future.
- 12% stated this question was not applicable to them.

Figure 9: Predictions about Future Use of Out of School Care

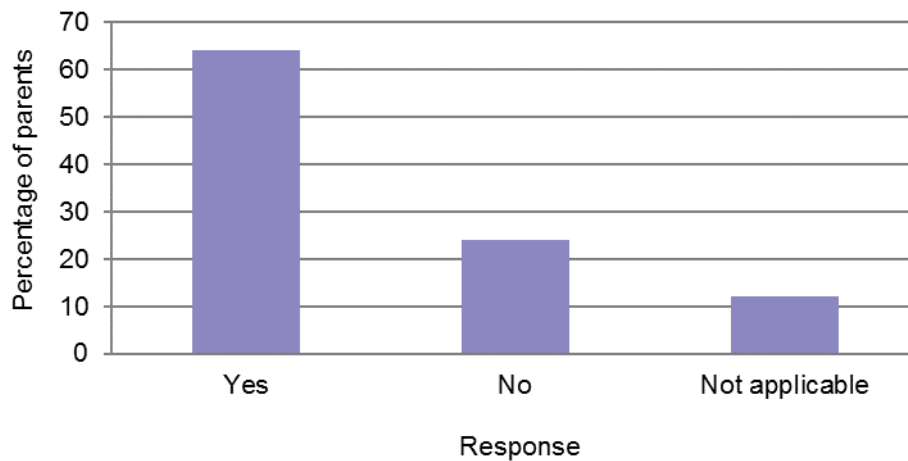


*Do you think you would use breakfast clubs in the future?*

As demonstraed in figure 10:

- 64% of parents said they would use breakfast clubs in the future.
- 24% of parents reported they would not use breakfast clubs in future.
- 12% of parents reported this question was not applicable to them.

Figure 10: Predictions about Future Use of Breakfast Clubs



Many parents commented that breakfast clubs were not available at their local school but that such clubs would be of great use to them. Specifically, St James's Primary was mentioned as one school that does not currently offer Breakfast Clubs and parents from the areas of Inchinnan, Howwood and Houston also reported this issue.

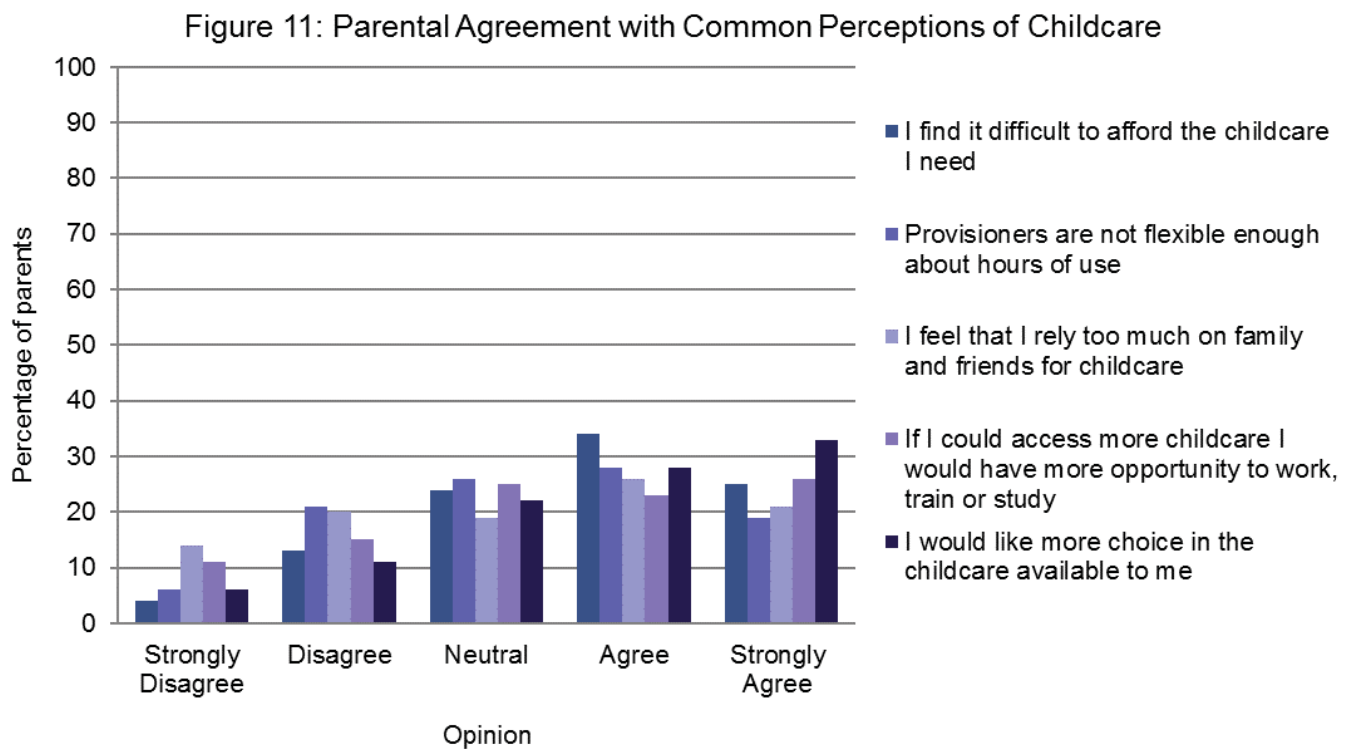
Numerous parents reported that they had tried and failed to secure a place for their child at a childcare provider due to the lack of places and request that more childcare spaces are made available.

Breakfast club in school is excellent but doesn't start early enough for me to get to work so I have to use a private childminder."

- Parent

### Levels of Agreement with Common Views of Childcare

Lastly, parents were presented with some common views regarding childcare and asked to rate to what degree they agreed or disagreed with the statements. Figure 11 displays the responses from parents.





The first statement parents were asked to rate their agreement with was, “I find it difficult to afford the childcare I need”.

- 59% agreed to some extent.
- 34% of parents said they agreed with this statement.
- 25% of parents strongly agreed.
- 24% of parents selected the ‘neutral’ answer.
- 17% of parents disagreed with this statement regarding childcare.
- 4% chose the ‘strongly disagree’ option and 13% selecting ‘disagree’.

The second common perception to be rated by parents was, “provisioners are not flexible enough about hours of use”.

- Just under half of the parents answering this question agreed or strongly agreed with this statement.
- 28% of parents agreed with this statement.
- 19% strongly agreed that providers are not flexible enough.
- 26% selected the ‘neutral’ option.
- 21% of parents disagreed.
- 6% strongly disagreed with this statement.

With regards to the third statement, “I feel that I rely too much on family and friends for childcare”:

- 21% strongly agreed.
- 26% of parents selected the ‘agree’ option.
- 19% of parents opted for the ‘neutral’ option with regards to feeling they rely too much on family and friends for childcare.
- 34% of parents stated they disagreed with the third statement.
- 20% disagreed.
- 14% strongly disagreed.

Parents were requested to rate their agreement with the following fourth statement, 'If I could access more childcare I would have more opportunity to work, train or study'.

- 26% of parents strongly agree.
- 23% of respondents agreed with this common view.
- A quarter of parents stated that they did not agree nor disagree with this perception of childcare.
- 15% disagreed with this view.
- 11% strongly disagreed.

The most strongly agreed with statement regarding childcare was, "I would like more choice in the childcare available to me".

- Over half of the parents answering this question agreed to some extent.
- 33% strongly agreed with this common view.
- 28% agreed with this statement.
- 22% of parents neither agreed nor disagreed with having more choice in childcare available for them to use.
- The remaining 11% selected the 'disagree' option.
- 6% of parents strongly disagreed with this statement.

## **Section B: Results of findings for children aged 0- 5 years**

This section of the report details the results of the questions specifically tailored to those with children from birth to five years old. Around 250 parents were involved in this part of this consultation.

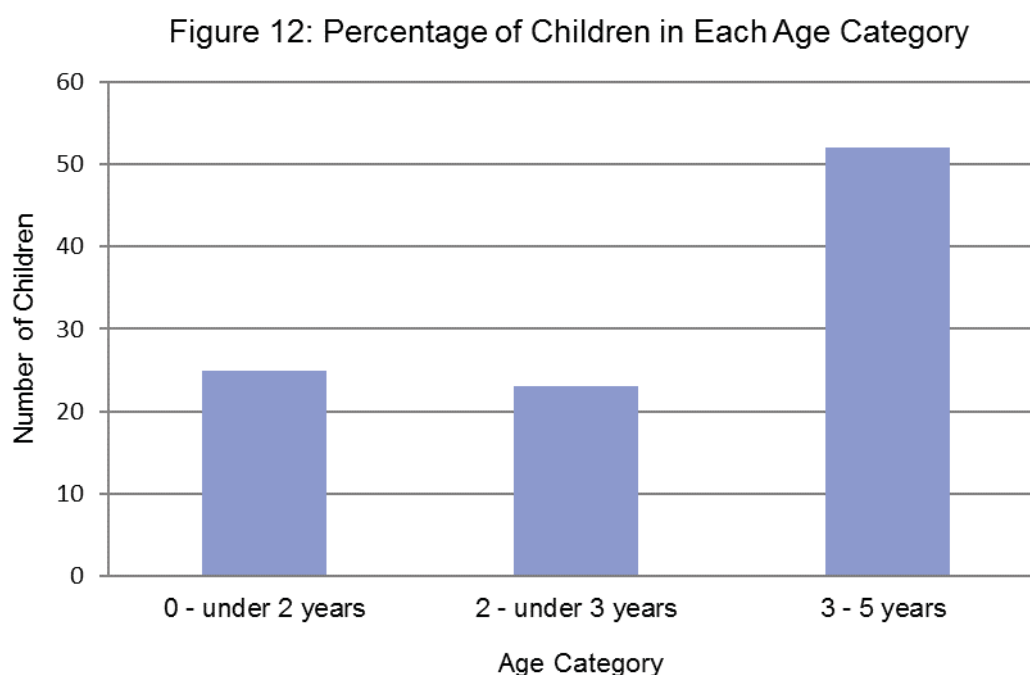
### ***Age Range of Children***

Firstly, parents with children under 5 years old were asked to specify how many of their children fell into the following age categories:

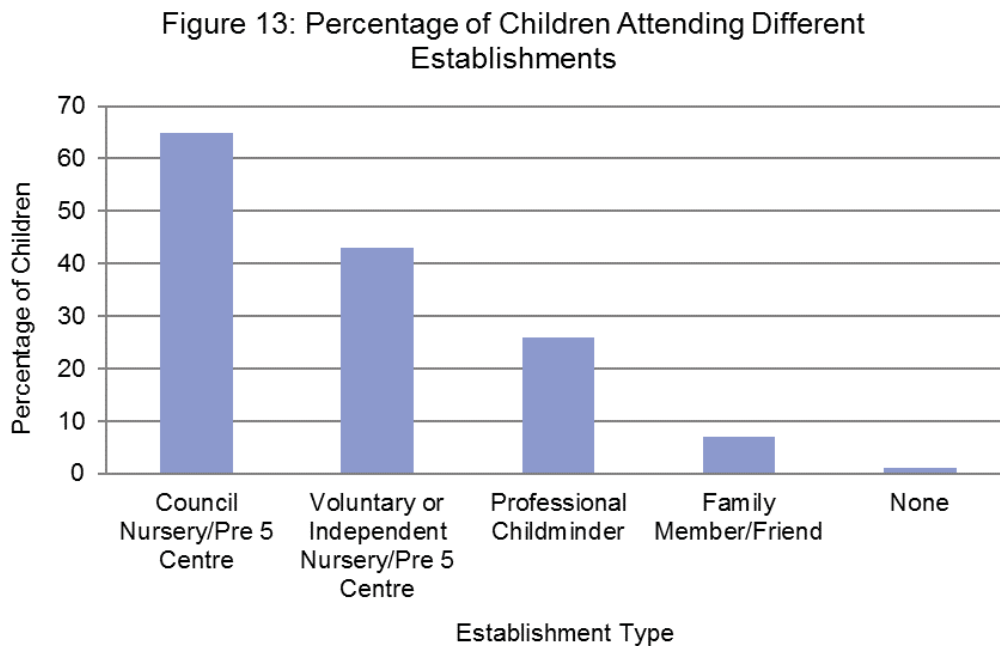
- 0 – under 2 years
- 2 – under 3 years
- 3 – 5 years

The results showed:

- 52% of children were within the 3-5 year old category
- 25% of children fell into the 0-2 year age group
- 23% of children were aged between 2 – under 3 years



### *Type of Establishment Attended*



Parents of children from birth to five years of age were then asked to state which type of establishment their children attended. Figure 13 demonstrates the percentage of children attending each type of establishment.

- 65% of children attended Council Nurseries or Council Pre-5 Centres.
- 43% of children attended Voluntary or Independent Nurseries and Pre-5 Centres.
- 26% of pre-school children were looked after by a family member or friend.
- 7% of children had a childminder.

It was reported that 3 children under 5 did not attend any of the establishment options but due to the fact that an 'other' option was not supplied, the explanation behind this is unknown.

### *Considerations when Selecting Childcare*

Parents were asked what they considered to be most important factors when choosing a childcare provider and were provided with the following options, from which they were permitted to select multiple answers:

- Affordability
- Convenience

- Good quality inspection report
- Qualifications of staff
- Reputation
- Social and educational opportunities for my child
- Trust in the provider

Figure 14: Parental Considerations when Choosing Childcare



Figure 14 shows that all of the identified factors are considered by parents when choosing a Nursery or Pre-5 centre or other childcare to some degree.

- 80% of parents stated the factor most highly considered was reputation.
- 79% of parents felt ‘trust in the provider’ was highly important.
- 78% felt that a ‘good quality care inspection report’ was a significant factor to consider.
- 72% agreed that social and educational opportunities available for the children were important when choosing a nursery.
- 62% of parents stated they considered staff qualifications.

- 57% of parents considered affordability of the childcare provider.
- 51% of parents noted that convenience was something they would consider when choosing a childcare provider.

### ***Reasons for Using Childcare***

Parents were asked the reasons for using childcare service for their 0 – 5 year old children. 155 parents answered this question and had the choice of selecting multiple answers. The results of this question are displayed in Figure 15 below.

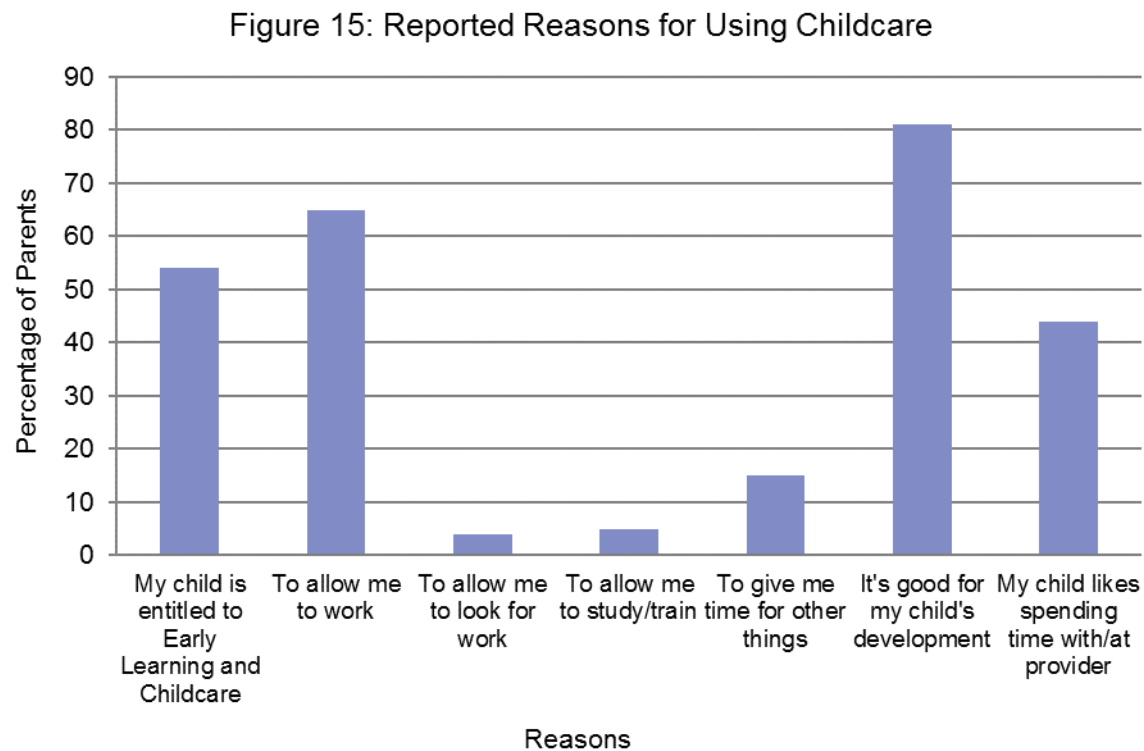


Figure 15 indicates:

- 81% of parents who send their child to childcare because they believe it is good for their child's development.
- 65% of parents claimed that they use childcare in order to allow them to work.
- 54% of parents said they used childcare because their child is entitled to it.

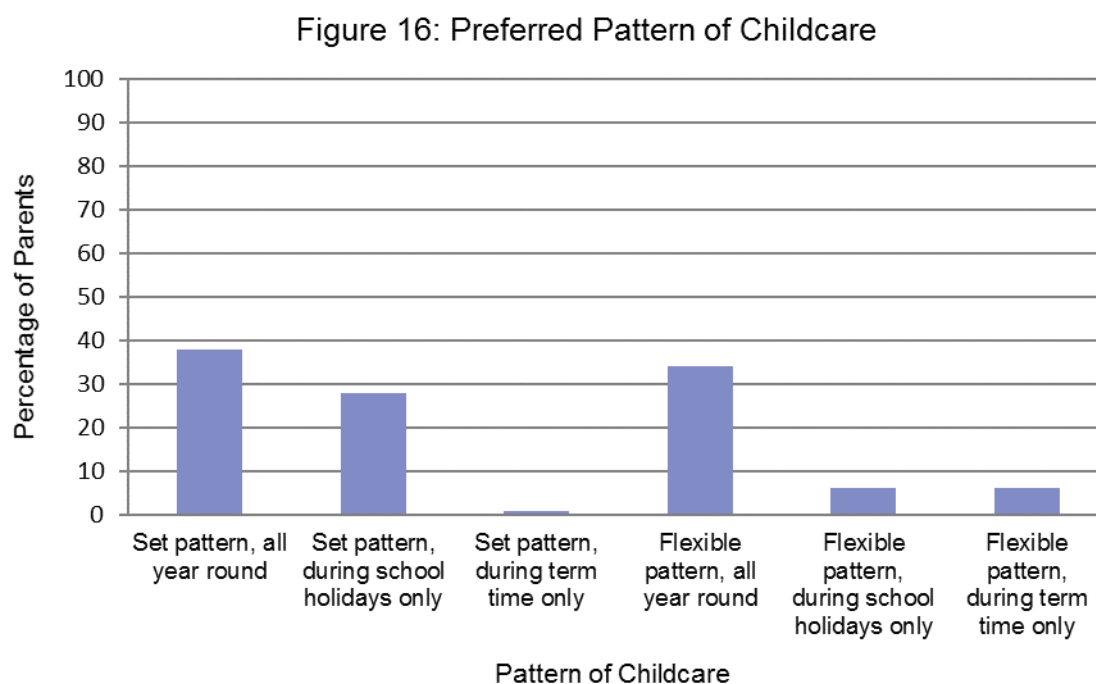
- 44 of parents noted the child's enjoyment of childcare was the reason for choosing to use childcare.
- 14% said that they used it to give themselves time to do other things, such as socialise or attend appointments.
- 5% of parents selected the option 'to allow me to train and/or study'.
- 4% of parents selected the 'to allow me to look for work' option.

### ***Preferred Pattern of Childcare***

Parents were asked to give information about what pattern of childcare they would prefer. The options given were:

- Set pattern, all year round
- Set pattern, during term time only
- Set pattern, during school holidays only
- Flexible pattern all year round
- Flexible pattern, during term time only
- Flexible pattern, during school holidays only

Figure 16 demonstrates parents' preferences with regards to patterns of childcare.



From the graph, it can be observed that:

- 38% of parents stated a set pattern, all year round was the preferred type of childcare
- 34% of parents felt that a flexible childcare pattern for the whole year would be the most appropriate option for them

However, although these options were seen as being favourable, none of the preferred options stood out as being significantly suitable.

- 28% of parents felt that a set pattern of childcare during the school holidays would be best
- 6% of parents felt a flexible pattern during school holidays was the most appropriate option
- 1% of parents rated the idea of a set pattern of childcare during term time only being preferential

Although the results from parents with regards to patterns of childcare are mixed, they do suggest that one pattern of childcare all year round would be preferential for these parents of children from birth to five years old.

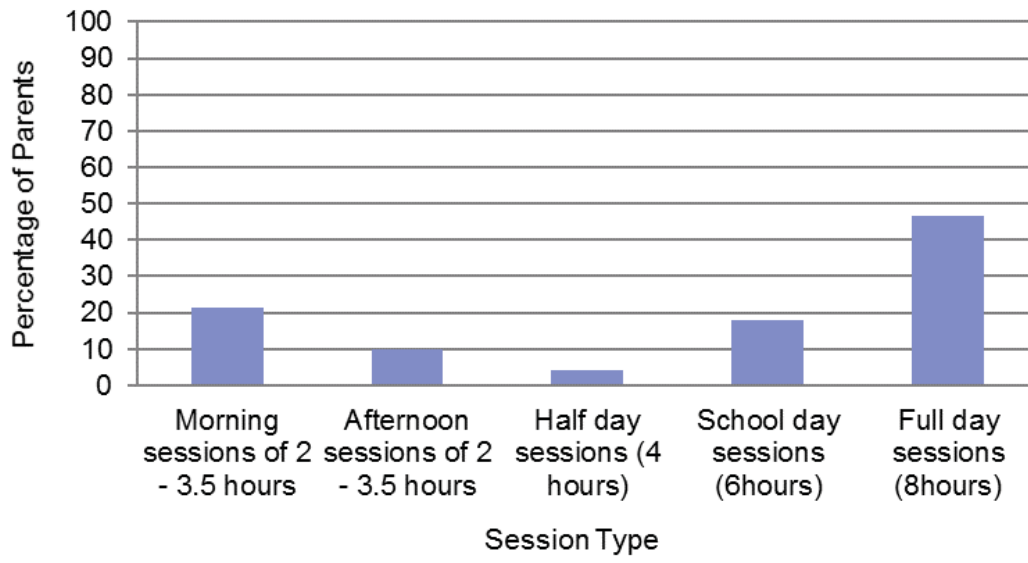
### ***Preferred Length of Childcare Sessions***

Further questioning with regards to the type of childcare preferred by parents resulted in the respondents detailing what length of childcare they would find most suitable. Figure 17 presents the responses to this question

- 46% of parents rated full day childcare sessions of 8 hours to be preferential
- 21% of respondents reported morning sessions of between 2 and 3.5 hours to be the best option
- 19% of parents reported they would be happy with school day sessions lasting 6 hours
- 10% of parents felt that afternoon sessions lasting between 2 and 3.5 hours were desirable
- 4% believed half day sessions, lasting 4 hours, was the best option



Figure 17: Preferred Childcare Session



## **Summary of Findings**

### **Objective**

The objective of the consultation was to consult with parents of children between the ages of 0 and 14 years about Early Learning and Childcare services in order to establish the extent to which these services are meeting the needs of parents.

### **Consultation with Parents**

#### ***Use of Services***

A total of 688 parents participated by completing the survey. It was apparent that the type of childcare most commonly used by respondents was a friend or family member, with 53% of parents selecting this answer. The most commonly reported reason for using childcare services was to allow the parents to work, with half of the respondents selecting this reason. Of the parents who did use out of school care services, 50% reported that this was the case because it allowed them to work. It was highlighted that breakfast clubs are used by parents as a form of childcare before school with 28% of parents selecting this as the reason their child attends these clubs, and although the clubs are intended to provide children with breakfast, only 3% of parents said they used the service for that reason. With regards to why parents do not use Early Learning and Childcare Services, 22% of parents said that these services were not required and a further 20% reported that they do not use these services because they are too expensive.

#### ***Future Use of Early Learning and Childcare Services***

Just less than half of the participants predicted that they would use early learning and childcare services in the future. 66% of the parents who completed the survey reported they believed they would use out of school care in the future, with 64% predicting use of breakfast clubs. Parents who reported that they did not use breakfast clubs at the time of the survey often explained that this was the case due to a lack of places or lack of provision of breakfast clubs in their area.

#### ***Parents Agreement about Common Perceptions of Childcare***

With regards to common perceptions of childcare, the most agreed with statement was, “I find it difficult to afford the childcare I need”, with 59% of parents agreeing with this statement to some extent. Slightly less than half of the parents also agreed that; they rely on friends and family too much for childcare; childcare providers are not flexible enough in terms of hours of use; and, that if they had more access to childcare, they would have more opportunities to work, train or study. Over half of the respondents agreed that they would like more choice in the childcare that is available for them.

### ***Early Learning and Childcare Services Provision for Preschool Age Children***

65% of parents with children under 5 years old reported that their child attends a Council Nursery or Pre-5 establishment. 81% of these parents chose to use early learning and childcare services because they believed it was good for their child's development and 65% reported that doing so also permitted them to work. A high percentage of parents, over 60%, considered qualifications of staff, reputation, good quality inspection report, social and educational opportunities for the child, and trust in the provider when selecting a childcare provider. The most highly considered factor was reputation of the provider with 80% of parents selecting this option. Convenience and affordability of the childcare provider were the least considered factors with 51% and 57% of parents selecting these options.

### ***Pattern of Childcare***

No one pattern of childcare stood out to be particularly favoured by the majority of parents and responses to the question regarding a preferential pattern of childcare was mixed. 38% of parents reported they would favour a set pattern all year round, but 34% of parents preferred the option of a flexible childcare pattern all year round. It can be concluded that the majority of parents do prefer a pattern of childcare which is consistent throughout the year (72% of parents), as opposed to during term time only (34% of parents) or school holidays only (7% of respondents). Just less than half of the parents completing this survey agreed that a full day (8 hours) of childcare is the best option for them.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1

#### **i. Table 1: Nursery and Pre 5 Centres**

<b>Establishment</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>
Abbey Nursery	6
Abbey Mill Childcare	4
Barsail Playgroup	1
Bridge of Weir Nursery	1
Bushes Nursery	1
Carli's Kindergarten	1
Carriagehall Nursery	2
East Fulton Nursery	4
Enchanted Forest Nursery	5
Erskine Community Nursery	2
Foxlea Pre 5 Centre	1
Gallowhill Nursery	3
Glencoats Nurture Unit	1
Glenfield Pre 5 Centre	3
Glendee Nursery	6
Happitots	2
Heriot Nursery	3
Houston Primary Nursery	6
Hugh Smiley Nursery	1
Kilbarchan Nursery	4
Leaps and Bounds Nursery	1
Linwood Community Childcare	1
Little Flowers Nursery	1
Little Learners	2
Little Panda's Nursery	3
Lochwinnoch Nursery	3
Maxwellton Park Nursery	1
Mid Gavin Nursery	8
Moorpark Pre 5 Centre	3
Moorvale Nursery	1
Nursery Times	6
West of Scotland Nursery	1

Other Private Nursery	3
Ralston Nursery	2
Rainbow Nursery	1
Spateston Pre 5 Centre	3
St Anne's Nursery	9
St Margaret's Nursery	1
Strawberry Fields Nursery	2
Three Bears Nursery	8
Todholm Nursery	10
Wee Friends	3
West Nursery	2
Williamsburgh Nursery	15
Childminder	3

## ii. Table 2: Primary Schools

Establishment	Number of Children
Arkleston Primary	3
Bargarran Primary	4
Barsail Primary	3
Bishopton Primary	12
Brediland Primary	6
Bridge of Weir Primary	10
Bushes Primary	4
Cochrane Castle	4
East Fulton Primary	3
Fordbank Primary	8
Gallowhill Primary	6
Glencoats Primary	2
Heriot Primary	5
Houston Primary	19
Howwood Primary	4
Inchinann Primary	2
Kilbarchan Primary	8
Kirklandneuk Primary	12
Langbank Primary	2

Langcraigs Primary	10
Lochfield Primary	6
Lochwinnoch Primary	5
Mary Russell	2
Mossvale Primary	2
Newmains Primary	9
Our Lady of Peace	3
Ralston Primary	4
Rashielea Primary	1
St Anthony's Primary	3
St Catherine's Primary	4
St Charles Primary	8
St David's Primary	1
St Fergus Primary	1
St Fillan's Primary	5
St James's Primary	13
St John Bosco	2
St John Ogilvie Primary	6
St Margaret's Primary	3
St Mary's Primary	5
St Paul's Primary	4
St Peter's Primary	7
Thorn Primary	5
Todholm Primary	11
Wallace Primary	14
West Primary	13
Woodlands Primary	15

### iii. Table 3: Secondary Schools

Establishment	Number of Children
Castlehead High	8
Glennifer High	1
Gryffe High	7
Johnstone High	5
Paisley Grammar	6
Parkmains High	1
Renfrew High	4
St Andrews Academy	7
St Benedict's High	3
Trinity High	4

## **Appendix 2**

The table below displays quotes of comments made by parents on questions in this consultation for which additional comments were possible.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>9: Which of the following childcare arrangements are most suitable for you?</b>	<p>“My children currently are in childcare from 8 am to 6 pm. I'd prefer at 7:30 start. Anything less is infeasible with a commute to Glasgow”</p> <p>“I was forced to cut down my work hours because the 3.5 hours of free childcare was not enough for my then full time work and the private nursery fees were too expensive. My kid goes to a local authority nursery in the morning and in a private nursery in the afternoon, so I can work 4 days. Not ideal for his development but the best we could do given the expensive private nursery fees”</p> <p>“We work longer than 8 hours and have to rely on family to take my son to nursery”</p> <p>“8am till 6pm to allow me to work. Childcare should be in place to allow parents to work a full "normal" day in a quality establishment”</p> <p>“morning sessions from 8-1”</p> <p>“For now we pay a private nursery so we can work. Next year our daughter will be in school and we need after school care for up to 2 hours but there is nothing available in Howwood!!!”</p> <p>“We need a nursery that is available from 8am to 6pm to allow time to drop off and pick up around working hours”</p> <p>“Afternoon sessions (4+ hours) however I would prefer if there was an element of lunch included within this as I would prefer them to eat with peers. I would be happy to pay for this”</p> <p>“My daughter attends 1 full day and 2 AM sessions at the nursery she currently attends with extra AM sessions depending on if I need them”</p> <p>“Breakfast club for nursery and after school care! Nursery provision is out of date in Erskine! We need longer hours available for working mothers!!!”</p> <p>“Currently have morning sessions, but have a child in primary so would suit best if both children start and/or finish at similar times when both establishments share buildings/are in proximity”</p>



"I use private and council nursery as I need a longer day when I am at work. Even with wraparound I still need more time than council nursery offer"

"Full school day would allow me to return to work but it was not available to me"

"Need at least 5hrs a day – no nursery provides this and have to pay full session – also flexible on a weekly pattern as I do have family members who are off and could watch but have to have set days in a nursery"

**10: Please indicate which of the following services you currently use.**

"Breakfast club run by teacher at school only 2 days per week"

"Sports camps run by Renfrewshire Council during school holidays"

"RL Sports Camp (holidays)"

"Can't get afterschool care but need it"

"my husband and I use our annual leave to cover some school holidays as out of school care costs are so expensive"

"private nursery"

"Nanny"

"Just about to use breakfast clubs, start work Monday 12th October"

"On maternity leave from work"

"Private Nursery"

"No breakfast club or out of school care available at all in Howwood"

"Parents"

"the provider I use is private as the school does not have one"

"There is currently NO School care facility in Kilbarchan"

**13: If applicable, please indicate the reasons why you do not currently use early learning and childcare**

"Local school nursery not flexible enough. I work full time so opening times do not suit-only option is private nursery. The primary school also has no provision for breakfast club and or after school"

"My job allows flexible working hours. I feel it is a long enough day for my young children who then need homework support. This is not offered by after school care so we work around this to better support our children. I don't agree that anyone aged P1-P3 should have to be in after school also"

“Not been told or informed that our child is eligible for early learning and there’s a primary school across road from where we live with a nursery and not once have they or anyone from there been in touch via phone or email or in person to say my child is eligible”

“Both my husband and I work full-time and we were unable a full-time place for our child”

“Only place suitable can’t take my son due to transport from school no after school care near the school, all a bus ride away”

“There is no wrap around care at Lochwinnoch nursery.  
WHY NOT?”

“I feel the costs are too expensive, the childcare is too inflexible and I truly believe it is not necessary if on the job front more jobs would be available that allow parents to work within the school hours. The children are in school for a long time, longer than in most European countries and with that in mind maybe the problem is not or not only childcare but the inflexibility of the system as such”

“There is no breakfast club available at my children's school - St James Renfrew”

“I work term time therefore do not need childcare”

“Both my children attended a private nursery from 9 months for a minimum of 2 days a week till the started/start school”

“No spaces when I was looking for care”

“I cannot afford more days at nursery and breakfast club and I wish I could”

“I do use it and it is too expensive. £4 per morning but no breakfast club at school”

“I have recently changed career from a midwife as long shifts & lack of funded childcare were too difficult to manage”

“I work from home so do not need them”

“Wasn't any spaces left”

“Would prefer if after care was in the school so don’t use after care at the moment”

“No breakfast clubs available at the schools in this area”

“I would use a breakfast club of Inchinnan primary provided it”

“I would use breakfast club if provided in my children's schools”

“It's full there is no room”

“More spaces needed!”

“St James Renfrew does not offer breakfast club”

“Breakfast club in school is excellent but doesn't start early enough for me to get to work so I have to use a private childminder”

“I already pay nursery fees for my 2 year old son which cost half my monthly wage”

“Time of breakfast school it open at 8.20 will most people starting work at 9 this does not leave enough time to get to work also the breakfast club is also full within the school so no places available anyway”

“As previously stated no out of school are exists in Howwood”

“Children are taxi from St Fergus to Shortroods during school holidays. Taxi time does not suit me or the extra journey time taking my child to and from Shortroods. Afterschool care should be in Ferguslie all times”

“Does not run at my schools”

“My kids aren't keen to go to after school club”

“I have family childcare out with school hours”

“No breakfast club available in my area”

“Do not qualify for nursery place due to both parents working - don't qualify for childcare credit as second adult does not work enough hours. Don't quite understand if both parents were unemployed children would be eligible for free place”

“I have to rely on the good will of family & friends to collect my children as there is no availability in formal after school care for my children. I would prefer to use formal services”

“Don't know of any that would suit my work pattern, school one starts at 830.... I start work at 8. I would be delighted to use a breakfast club/after school linked to my child's school”

“The after school club that both my children attended was very poor in terms of stimulation”

“I really need 3 days but can only afford 1 half day a week”

“Used after school care until June 2004 when son left primary school. Now goes to family member after school”

“I have just been able to take full advantage of local authority nursery as my Mum has retired. Previously I have had to pay private nursery as I had nobody to take my children to nursery or pick them back up”