

CSA Annual Update March 2012

Introduction

The Childcare Act (2006) requires Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, like all other local authorities in England, to ensure a sufficiency of childcare for working parents, parents studying or training, and for disabled children.

The duties in the act require the council to shape and support the development of childcare provision in Stockton-on-Tees (section 6) in order to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. This role is described as a 'market management' function, whereby the local authority support the sector to meet the needs of parents, children and young people, along with other stakeholders.

Section 11 of the 2006 Act requires local authorities to prepare an assessment at intervals not exceeding three years but also to keep it under review until it is superseded by a later one. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council has undertaken an annual review of the assessment as recommended in Section 11 of the 2006 Act.

Sufficient childcare is defined as: -

“Sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in the (Local Authority’s) area who require childcare in order to enable them: -

- a) To take up, or remain, in work or
- b) To undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work.

In determining whether provision of childcare is sufficient a local authority:

- a) Must have regard to the needs of parents in their area for:
 - the provision of childcare in respect of which the childcare element of the working tax credit is payable, and;
 - the provision of childcare which suitable for disabled children.
- b) May have regard to any childcare, which they expect to be available outside their area.”

Childcare places

Supply of Childcare Places 2011-12

The 2011 CSA reported a total of 4,115 registered places for children aged under 8 years old. Comparing registered provision for children aged 0-7 years in 2012 over 2010 shows that the number of childcare places in Stockton-on-Tees has increased by 228 places.

Registered childcare places (0 to 7 years) 2012 compared to 2010

Type of provision	2010 number (reported in the CSA)	2012 number (provided by FIS March 2012)	Increase/Decrease in places
Childminding	1,125	1,155	+30
Crèche	207	274	+67
Day nursery	1,674	1,817	+143
Out of school care	662	736	+74
Pre-school/playgroup	451	365	-86
Nursery unit independent school	117	117	n/a
Overall	4,236	4,464	+228

Source: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2011; FIS 2012

3 & 4 year old free nursery entitlement

From April 2010 (Sept 2010 for schools) all 3 and 4 year olds were able to access 15 hours free nursery education.

Free entitlement provision summer 2011 compared to summer 2010

Provider Type	Summer 2010		Summer 2011	
	No. of providers	No. of PTE places available	No. of providers	No. of PTE places available
Nursery Class (maintained)	59	3,220	59	3,229
PVI (private, voluntary, independent)	36	541	34	547
Total	95	3,761	93	3,776

2 year free nursery entitlement

The free nursery education for 2 year olds is specifically linked to economic disadvantage and parents/carers must qualify for national and local criteria before a place is allocated. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council provides places through 18 providers who have had a good Ofsted inspection outcome, or who had satisfactory and were willing to work with the Local Authority on a focussed quality improvement plan.

Parents can access 10 hours care over 38 weeks. Over the period 2011/12 152 children have accessed the two year old entitlement in Stockton-on-Tees.

From September 2013 all disadvantaged 2 year olds will be able to access 15 hours of free nursery entitlement.

Quality Improvement

The quality of provision in Stockton-on-Tees is generally good, however is below the national average. The following table shows the latest inspection ratings against each type of provider: -

Type of provision	Childminding	Pre-school	Day Nursery	Out of school
Number included in review	172	12	29	9
Of which, rated:				
Outstanding	15	0	2	0
Good	85	11	16	6
Satisfactory	69	1	11	3
Inadequate	0	0	0	0

Stockton-on-Tees has now developed its own quality improvement programme, "A Journey to Outstanding", in line with Government guidance. Settings who sign up to the programme will be able to demonstrate their commitment to excellence by going above and beyond the requirements of the Early Years foundation stage (EYFS). Currently 47 settings and 11 childminders have signed up to the programme.

The Way Forward 2012-13

There are a number of actions that need to be taken forward during 2011-12. These include: -

- to have a sufficient range of quality childcare settings, childminders and schools to meet the requirements of the 1400 places for the 2 year free nursery entitlement.
- work needs to continue with childcare providers in order to effectively communicate parent demand and provision of vacancy data to the Families Information service
- ensure childcare is fully inclusive and accessible for all children
- ensure childcare in the borough is affordable and sustainable
- improve the knowledge and information available to parents
- ensure there is a sufficient range of flexible provision within the borough to meet demand
- improve and raise the quality standards in all childcare settings
- provide specialist advice and support to all settings in relation to the Statutory Duty for Local Authorities on delivery of Free Early Years Provision for 2, 3 & 4 year olds

Final Comments

For more information about the childcare market in Stockton-on-Tees contact the Families Information Service as below. If you would like copies of the previous CSA, it is available online at: -

<http://www.stockton.gov.uk/resources/education/surestart/cccsa/CSA2011.pdf>

The Families Information Service

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Or visit: www.stocktonfiz.org.uk