

## 4. Childcare for Under Fives

### 4.1 Introduction

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment deals with childcare from birth to school age. Many parents of under fives use a combination of childcare (for which they pay) and funded early education for three and four year olds (funding for which is administered by the Local Authority). This section deals specifically with childcare; funded early education information is available in section six. Childcare for under fives is available at registered childminders, preschools and daycare nurseries. It is delivered by a combination of private, voluntary and independent providers and some schools. Information about services is categorised by Children's Centre area. Specific information about childcare for under fives for disabled children, for black and minority ethnic communities and in disadvantaged areas is available in sections seven, eight and nine of this assessment respectively.

### 4.2 The 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

The 2008 assessment identified a mismatch between over supply of childcare with childminders reporting excess vacancies, and unmet demand from parents who were struggling to find childcare, particularly for shift work or to cover hours outside of 8 – 6 Monday to Friday. As a consequence, Local Authority strategy for 2008 – 2011 was revised from focussing on new childcare place creation to working with existing providers to encourage services that are sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of Swindon's labour market.

### 4.3 Recession Impact

The downturn in the labour market in Swindon had a varied impact on local childcare provision for under fives. Some parents kept continuity in their childcare arrangements (often on reduced hours) with the view that they would need the childcare place at the point of returning to work. There was an increase in demand for baby places in some cases as mothers returned to work sooner. However, changes in childcare usage led to the need for more flexible staffing, and provision for bad debt increased where parents' financial position changed very quickly, leading to large unpaid nursery bills. There was little growth in childcare availability for under fives during this period as the Local Authority focussed on supporting existing provision to remain viable.

### 4.4 Supply of childcare for under fives

At the point of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2011 there are childcare vacancies in all areas of Swindon for the under fives age group.

Since 2008 there have been improvements in the information held about services for under fives offered by childminders. However, in 2011 in the region of only 60% of registered childminders provide information about their services. This includes the information parents need about opening times and flexibility of services for example to cover evenings and weekends. Further improvements are being implemented to increase the participation rate so that it will be possible to assess whether there is an issue about lack of availability of flexible services or lack of information available about services that do exist.

The main concerns and challenges about the immediate future expressed by providers of childcare for under fives differ according to the type of provision. Childminders' biggest concern is maintaining occupancy levels, followed by the amount of paperwork required of them, the likelihood of losing existing customers due to further job losses and coping with increased demand to support part time and shift work. Group providers, over and above concerns about the delivery of the flexible offer (see section 6 Funded Early Education), are concerned about premises issues, qualification levels of staff and maintaining occupancy.

For a breakdown of supply by Children's Centre area see below.

#### 4.5 Demand for childcare for under fives

Feedback from outreach work indicates that there are limited spaces for two year olds in some areas of Swindon, and general limited availability of childcare at evenings and weekends.

Feedback from parents about under fives childcare focusses mainly on the need for additional flexibility, followed by affordability and availability. There are also comments both positive and negative about quality of provision and about parental choice not to use childcare:

- I looked into childcare from 9 - 1pm but would have had to pay for a full day instead of hours wanted
- I don't work locally so I need a nursery that opens before 8am
- Cannot afford a childminder
- I cannot go to work as I cannot get my 20 month old child into nursery

Parents whose children are all under five are slightly less likely to be aware of the childcare element of tax credits than parents who have both under fives and school aged children. The difference is more marked with awareness of the Family Information Service with parents of under fives only being less likely to be aware of how to find out about childcare services.

	Under fives	Both age ranges	School aged
Tax credits	74%	77%	78%
Family Information Service	52%	63%	62%

Providers also play a key role in informing parents about potential sources of government funding for their services. Childminders are most likely to have a discussion with parents about either tax credits and/or childcare vouchers, or state that parents are already aware of funding availability. Groups use a wider variety of means to provide information about affordability including signposting to information as well as direct discussions. The most commonly used ways are signposting to Children's Centres and information in parent packs and on notice boards.

The information breakdowns by Children's Centre area below show the key responses from parents which differ significantly from the Swindon average.

#### 4.6 Consultation with children

Consultation with preschool children was carried out by distributing questionnaires to local preschool providers (both groups and childminders). The majority were completed by children between the ages of two and four. The questionnaire used was identical to the 2008 consultation and asked the children about their preferred activities. The outcome was not significantly different to the 2008 consultation response, highlighting that children of this age like physical and creative activities and above all, for boys and girls, playing outside.

Top three activities (boys):

- Playing outside
- Playing on bikes and scooters
- Sand and water play

Top three activities (girls)

- Painting
- Playing outside
- Sand and water play

Top three activities (all children)

- Playing outside
- Painting
- Playing on bikes and scooters

4.7 Childcare demand data (Swindon) Number of responses to the consultation:	Percentage Response in Swindon
There is one child aged 14 or under in the family	36
There are two children aged 14 or under in the family	51
There are three or more children aged 14 or under in the family	13
There are children aged under five only in the family	45
There are children aged both under and over five in the family	35
There are children aged over five only in the family	20
The parent works full time	56
The parent works part time	19
The parent is in education or training	3
The parent is not working	23
Childcare is a barrier to work	37
• Cost of childcare is a barrier	33
• Quality of childcare is a barrier	5
• Activities at childcare is a barrier	2
• Availability of childcare is a barrier	10
• Finding childcare places for more than one child is a barrier	5
The parent wants there to be more childcare for under fives	13
The parent wants there to be more childcare for over fives	8
The parent wants there to be better childcare for under fives	7
The parent wants there to be better childcare for over fives	8
The parent prefers to use a childminder	22
The parent prefers to use a group	48

The parent prefers to use informal childcare (friends or family)	26
The parent prefers to use registered childcare in their own home	1
The parent prefers to use a combination of childcare types	31
The parent prefers not to use childcare	9
The parent is aware of the Family Information Service	58
The parent is aware of tax credit support	76

#### 4.8 Recommendations

- Increase the percentage of childminders who return their information about their services in order to be able to assess whether there are sufficient flexible services for children aged 0 – 14
- Work with Children’s Centres to increase awareness of how to find out about childcare information and support for paying for childcare

#### 4.9 Butterflies (North Swindon, Abbey Meads, Priory Vale Area)

Butterflies Children’s Centre is a phase three Children’s Centre. It is located on two sites at Abbey Meads Primary School and Catherine Wayte Primary School and is delivered by Abbey Meads School governing body.

##### Childcare Supply - Group Childcare

There are two daycare nurseries, two preschools and four maintained nurseries in the Butterflies Children’s Centre area.

- Childcare and funded early education services are available for 0 – 5 year olds.
- There are no evening or weekend services.
- Vacancy and charging information for childcare services is fragmented.

##### Childcare Supply - Childminders

There are 58 registered childminders in the Butterflies Children’s Centre area. 26 (45%) of them have provided information about their services:

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.64
- There are childminding services that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- Eighteen childminders provide services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Eighteen offer services earlier and / or later in the day. Three childminders work part time. There are no childminders offering services at weekends.
- 11 childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
4	6	5	11	8	5

##### Parent Comments

- Need to be more flexible hours wise
- Childcare is expensive.

Childcare demand data – key findings	Percentage Response in Butterflies Area	Percentage Response in Swindon
Number of responses to the consultation:122		
The parent works full time	62	56
Childcare is a barrier to work	43	37
Cost of childcare is a barrier	41	33
The parent prefers to use a childminder	26	22
The parent prefers to use informal childcare (friends or family)	13	26
The parent is aware of the Family Information Service	70	58

#### 4.10 Croft (Old Town, Wroughton and Ridgeway Areas)

Croft Children’s Centre is a phase three Children’s Centre. It is located on the site of Croft Leisure Centre and is delivered by the Children’s Society.

##### Childcare Supply - Group Childcare

There are six daycare nurseries and seven preschools in the Croft Children’s Centre area.

- Childcare and funded early education services are available for 0 – 5 year olds.
- There are no evening or weekend services.
- Vacancy and charging information for childcare services is fragmented.

##### Childcare Supply - Childminders

There are 28 registered childminders in the Croft Children’s Centre area. 21 (75%) of them have provided us with information about their services:

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.49
- There are childminding services that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- Sixteen childminders provide services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Fifteen offer services earlier and / or later in the day. One childminder works part time. There are two childminders offering services at weekends.
- 12 childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
4	10	13	15	9	5

##### Parent Comments

- Pre school education in the Old Town area is of a high quality but there are insufficient settings
- I am very happy with the childminder I use who is excellent and feel very happy with my preschool too.

Childcare demand data – key findings Number of responses to the consultation: 138	Percentage Response in Croft	Percentage Response in Swindon
The parent wants there to be more childcare for under fives	17	13
Availability of childcare is a barrier	12	10
The parent prefers to use a childminder	25	22
The parent prefers to use a group	60	48
The parent prefers to use a combination of childcare types	34	31
The parent is aware of the Family Information Service	65	58

#### 4.11 Drove (Eastcott Area)

Drove Children’s Centre is a phase two Children’s Centre. It is located at Drove Primary School and is delivered by the school governing body. The Children’s Centre supports an ethnically diverse community.

##### Childcare Supply - Group Childcare

There are two daycare nurseries, three pre schools and one maintained nursery in the Drove Children’s Centre area.

- Childcare and funded early education services are available for 0 – 5 year olds.
- There are no evening or weekend services.
- Vacancy and charging information for childcare services is fragmented.

##### Childcare Supply - Childminders

There are 21 registered childminders in the Drove Children’s Centre area. 12 (57%) of them have provided us with information about their services:

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.69.
- There are childminding services that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- Eight childminders provide services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Eight offer services earlier and / or later in the day. Two childminders work part time. There is one childminder offering services at weekends.
- Six childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
6	5	6	7	4	2

##### Parent Comments

- I think it is important to consider the child's needs
- More information regarding services please

Childcare demand data – key findings	Percentage Response in Drove	Percentage Response in Swindon
Number of responses to the consultation: 49		
The parent works full time	45	56
The parent works part time	24	19
Childcare is a barrier to work	22	37
The parent wants there to be better childcare for under fives	14	7
The parent prefers to use informal childcare (friends or family)	35	26
The parent is aware of tax credit support	65	76

#### 4.12 Eldene (Liden, Eldene, Covingham and Nythe Area)

Eldene Children’s Centre is a phase two Children’s Centre. It is located at Eldene School and is delivered by The Children’s Society.

##### Childcare Supply - Group Childcare

There is one daycare nursery and five pre schools in the Eldene Children’s Centre area.

- Childcare and funded early education services are available for 0 – 5 year olds.
- There are no evening or weekend services.
- Vacancy and charging information for childcare services is fragmented.

##### Childcare Supply - Childminders

There are 28 registered childminders in the Eldene Children’s Centre area. 16 (57%) of them have provided us with information about their services:

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.27.
- There are childminding services that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- Ten childminders provide services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Ten offer services earlier and / or later in the day. One childminder works part time. There are no childminders offering services at weekends.
- Nine childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
7	8	9	8	10	6

##### Parent Comments

- I believe a mother should be at home bringing the children up before school age.
- I sometimes find it difficult to find childcare that fits in with shifts and patterns

Childcare demand data – key findings Number of responses to the consultation: 92	Percentage Response in Eldene	Percentage Response in Swindon
The parent is not working	15	23
Childcare is a barrier to work	32	37
The parent wants there to be more childcare for under fives	10	13
The parent prefers to use informal childcare (friends or family)	32	26
The parent prefers to use a combination of childcare types	24	31
The parent is aware of the Family Information Service	53	58

#### 4.13 Goddard Park (Walcot, Park North and Park South Area)

Goddard Park Children’s Centre is a phase one Children’s Centre. It is located at Goddard Park Primary School Academy Trust and is delivered by the school governing body. Full daycare is also provided by Goddard Park School.

##### Childcare Supply - Group Childcare

There are two daycare nurseries, two pre schools and three maintained nurseries in the Goddard Park Children’s Centre area.

- Childcare and funded early education services are available for 0 – 5 year olds.
- There are no evening or weekend services.
- Vacancy and charging information for childcare services is fragmented.

##### Childcare Supply - Childminders

There are 11 registered childminders in the Goddard Park Children’s Centre area. Five (45%) of them have provided us with information about their services:

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.44.
- There are childminding services that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- Four childminders provide services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Three offer services earlier and / or later in the day. No childminders work part time. There are no childminders offering services at weekends.
- Two childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
1	2	1	2	0	0

##### Parent Comments

- For people to come off full benefits they need to work 16 hours a week so funded education should be for 16 hours.
- Childcare and education provided by my child’s nursery is outstanding. The staff are friendly helpful and relate well to the children.

Childcare demand data – key findings Number of responses to the consultation: 47	Percentage Response in Goddard Park	Percentage Response in Swindon
The parent works full time	62	56
The parent works part time	9	19
Cost of childcare is a barrier	26	33
Quality of childcare is a barrier	0	5
The parent prefers to use a group	57	48
The parent prefers to use a combination of childcare types	21	31

#### 4.14 Gorse Hill (Ferndale and Rodbourne Area)

Gorse Hill Children’s Centre is a phase two Children’s Centre. It is located at Gorse Hill Infant School and is delivered by the school governing body.

##### Childcare Supply - Group Childcare

There are three daycare nurseries, three preschools and one maintained nursery in the Gorse Hill Children’s Centre area.

- Childcare and funded early education services are available for 0 – 5 year olds.
- There are no evening or weekend services.
- Vacancy and charging information for childcare services is fragmented.

##### Childcare Supply - Childminders

There are 21 registered childminders in the Gorse Hill Children’s Centre area. 11 (52%) of them have provided us with information about their services:

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.50.
- There are childminding services that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- Seven childminders provide services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Six offer services earlier and / or later in the day. One childminder works part time. There are no childminders offering services at weekends.
- Five childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
2	4	4	5	7	4

##### Parent Comments

- Childcare costs are too high. Help should be provided for all parents who want to work.
- As a single parent I am better off working than not and cannot understand why more single parents don't work.

Childcare demand data – key findings Number of responses to the consultation: 63	Percentage Response in Gorse Hill	Percentage Response in Swindon
Childcare is a barrier to work	43	37
Availability of childcare is a barrier	13	10
Finding childcare places for more than one child is a barrier	11	5
The parent wants there to be more childcare for under fives	19	13
The parent prefers to use a childminder	6	22
The parent prefers to use a group	62	48

#### 4.15 Greenmeadow (Haydon Wick Area)

Greenmeadow Children’s Centre is a phase three Children’s Centre. It is located at Greenmeadow Primary School and is delivered by Greenmeadow School governing body.

##### Childcare Supply - Group Childcare

There are three preschools in the Greenmeadow Children’s Centre area.

- Childcare and funded early education services are available for 3 (2?) – 5 year olds.
- There are no evening or weekend services.
- Vacancy and charging information for childcare services is fragmented.

##### Childcare Supply - Childminders

There are 34 registered childminders in the Greenmeadow Children’s Centre area. 26 (76%) of them have provided us with information about their services:

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.38.
- There are childminding services that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- Fourteen childminders provide services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Seventeen offer services earlier and / or later in the day. One childminder works part time. There is one childminder offering services at weekends.
- 16 childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
12	16	13	16	8	6

##### Parent Comments

- We work different hours and so have not needed a great deal of childcare.
- We have to use a childminder as no other choice starts before 7am
- We struggled to get a place due to high demand for places in North Swindon so more places would be beneficial
- Childcare prices are ridiculous

Childcare demand data – key findings Number of responses to the consultation: 109	Percentage Response in Green - meadow	Percentage Response in Swindon
The parent works part time	23	19
Childcare is a barrier to work	44	37
Cost of childcare is a barrier	41	33
The parent prefers to use a childminder	28	22
The parent prefers to use a combination of childcare types	40	31
The parent prefers not to use childcare	5	9

#### 4.16 Ladybird (Highworth and Blunsdon Area)

Ladybird Children’s Centre is a phase three Children’s Centre. It is located at Westrop Primary School and is delivered by Westrop School governing body.

##### Childcare Supply - Group Childcare

There is one daycare nursery and three preschools in the Ladybird Children’s Centre area.

- Childcare and funded early education services are available for 0 – 5 year olds.
- There are no evening or weekend services.
- Vacancy and charging information for childcare services is fragmented.

##### Childcare Supply - Childminders

There are 20 registered childminders in the Ladybird Children’s Centre area. 11 (55%) of them have provided us with information about their services:

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.75.
- There are childminding services that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- Eleven childminders provide services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Eleven offer services earlier and / or later in the day. No childminders work part time. There is one childminder offering services at weekends.
- Six childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
3	3	5	6	3	2

##### Parent Comments

- When looking to find a childminder there didn't seem to be a website that had a list of childminders.
- Although some childcare costs are supposed to be covered by tax credits this is very minimal and makes it hardly worth returning to work.
- Flexibility due to shift work is nigh on impossible. My work ends up working around childcare.

Childcare demand data – key findings Number of responses to the consultation: 102	Percentage Response in Ladybird	Percentage Response in Swindon
The parent works part time	24	19
The parent is not working	17	23
Availability of childcare is a barrier	12	10
The parent prefers to use a combination of childcare types	38	31
The parent is aware of the Family Information Service	65	58

#### 4.17 Moredon (Moredon Area)

Moredon Children’s Centre is a phase two Children’s Centre. It is located at Moredon Nursery and Primary School and is delivered by the school governing body.

##### Childcare Supply - Group Childcare

There is one daycare nursery two preschools and one maintained nursery in the Moredon Children’s Centre area.

- Childcare and funded early education services are available for 0 – 5 year olds.
- There are no evening or weekend services.
- Vacancy and charging information for childcare services is fragmented.

##### Childcare Supply - Childminders

There are 14 registered childminders in the Moredon Children’s Centre area. Five (36%) of them have provided us with information about their services:

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.75.
- There are childminding services that provide for the age range birth to 15 years.
- One childminder provides services between 8am and 6pm Monday – Friday. Two offer services earlier and / or later in the day. One childminder works part time. There is one childminder offering services at weekends. Three childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
2	3	1	1	1	1

##### Parent Comments

- Happy with provision - excellent pre school and primary school.
- It would be useful if there were more flexible childcare options to accommodate shift workers.
- Just to say that I will only leave my daughter with my mum.

Childcare demand data – key findings Number of responses to the consultation: 56	Percentage Response in Moredon	Percentage Response in Swindon
The parent works full time	50	56
The parent is not working	27	23
Childcare is a barrier to work	32	37
The parent wants there to be better childcare for under fives	2	7
The parent prefers to use informal childcare (friends or family)	29	26
The parent is aware of the Family Information Service	54	58

#### 4.18 Robert le Kyng (Central Area)

Robert le Kyng Children’s Centre is a phase one Children’s Centre. It is located at Robert le Kyng School and is delivered by Barnardos. Full daycare is provided by Headstarts at Robert le Kyng.

##### Childcare Supply - Group Childcare

There are two daycare nurseries, three preschools and one maintained nursery in the Robert le Kyng Children’s Centre area.

- Childcare and funded early education services are available for 0 – 5 year olds.
- There are no evening or weekend services.
- Vacancy and charging information for childcare services is fragmented.

##### Childcare Supply - Childminders

There are 13 registered childminders in the Robert le Kyng Children’s Centre area. Eight (62%) of them have provided us with information about their services:

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.63.
- There are childminding services that provide for the age range birth to 14 years.
- Six childminders provide services between 8am and 6pm Monday – Friday. Four offer services earlier and / or later in the day. One childminder works part time. There are two childminders offering services at weekends.
- Two childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
2	2	2	6	1	1

##### Parent Comments

- We are very happy with the standard of care provided but would prefer more flexibility in sessions available.
- Don't understand difference between preschool and nursery.
- Generally childcare in this country is too expensive.

Childcare demand data – key findings Number of responses to the consultation: 44	Percentage Response in Robert le Kyng	Percentage Response in Swindon
The parent works full time	59	56
Childcare is a barrier to work	41	37
The parent wants there to be better childcare for under fives	11	7
The parent prefers to use informal childcare (friends or family)	18	26
The parent prefers to use a combination of childcare types	27	31
The parent is aware of tax credit support	82	76

#### 4.19 Saltway (Freshbrook, Grange Park and Shaw Area)

The Children’s Centre in the Saltway area is a phase two Children’s Centre. It is located at the former Saltway School and is delivered by the Children’s Society. Koalas opportunity group and Portage are located on the site.

##### Childcare Supply - Group Childcare

There are two daycare nurseries and six preschools in the Saltway Children’s Centre area.

- Childcare and funded early education services are available for 0 – 5 year olds.
- There are no evening or weekend services.
- Vacancy and charging information for childcare services is fragmented.

##### Childcare Supply - Childminders

There are 35 registered childminders in the Saltway Children’s Centre area. 24 (69%) of them have provided us with information about their services:

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.73.
- There are childminding services that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- Fourteen childminders provide services between 8am and 6pm Monday – Friday. Ten offer services earlier and / or later in the day. Two childminders work part time. There are no childminders offering services at weekends.
- Nine childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
5	4	5	9	8	3

##### Parent Comments

- I tend to use family and friends who don't mind odd hours on odd days.
- Very satisfied with quality that our children have received.
- Very limited preschool places - have to travel by car everywhere - nothing within walking distance.

Childcare demand data – key findings Number of responses to the consultation: 130	Percentage Response in Saltway	Percentage Response in Swindon
The parent works full time	65	56
The parent is not working	16	23
The parent wants there to be more childcare for under fives	10	13
The parent prefers to use a childminder	26	22
The parent prefers to use a group	54	48
The parent prefers not to use childcare	4	9

#### 4.20 Saplings (Stratton St Margaret and South Marston Area)

Saplings Children’s Centre is a phase two Children’s Centre. It is located at Grange Infant School and is delivered by the school governing body.

##### Childcare Supply - Group Childcare

There are four daycare nurseries and seven preschools in the Saplings Children’s Centre area.

- Childcare and funded early education services are available for 0 – 5 year olds.
- There are no evening or weekend services.
- Vacancy and charging information for childcare services is fragmented.

##### Childcare Supply - Childminders

There are 35 registered childminders in the Saplings Children’s Centre area. 20 (57%) of them have provided us with information about their services:

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.59.
- There are childminding services that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- Thirteen childminders provide services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Sixteen offer services earlier and / or later in the day. No childminders work part time. There are three childminders offering services at weekends.
- 12 childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
8	7	13	23	14	5

##### Parent Comments

- In my area preschool provision is reasonably good providing you know where to look.
- We use both (a childminder and a preschool) and are very happy.
- The information on the SBC site is not very easy to access or very user friendly.

Childcare demand data – key findings Number of responses to the consultation: 254	Percentage Response in Saplings	Percentage Response in Swindon
The parent works full time	50	56
The parent is not working	28	23
Childcare is a barrier to work	34	37
The parent prefers to use a group	39	48
The parent prefers to use informal childcare (friends or family)	30	26
The parent is aware of the Family Information Service	53	58

#### 4.21 Sure Start Penhill and Pinehurst (Penhill and Pinehurst Area)

Penhill and Pinehurst Children’s Centre is a phase one Children’s Centre. It is located in premises in Penhill and Pinehurst and is delivered by Swindon Primary Care Trust. Full daycare is provided at Bright Start Day Nursery.

##### Childcare Supply - Group Childcare

There is one daycare nursery, one preschool and two maintained nurseries in the Penhill and Pinehurst Children’s Centre area.

- Childcare and funded early education services are available for 0 – 5 year olds.
- There are no evening or weekend services.
- Vacancy and charging information for childcare services is fragmented.

##### Childcare Supply - Childminders

There are five registered childminders in the Sure Start Penhill and Pinehurst Children’s Centre area. Three of them have provided us with information about their services:

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £4.00
- There are childminding services that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- One childminder provides services between 8am and 6pm Monday – Friday. Two offer services earlier and / or later in the day. No childminders work part time. There is one childminder offering services at weekends.
- One childminder has vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
1	1	1	1	1	1

##### Parent Comments

- I looked into childcare from 9 - 1pm but would have had to pay for a full day instead of hrs wanted.
- I find it hard to pay for childcare as you can only claim the cost back from tax credits if both parents are working full time.

Childcare demand data – key findings Number of responses to the consultation: 20	Percentage Response in Penhill and Pinehurst	Percentage Response in Swindon
The parent works full time	20	56
The parent is not working	45	23
Childcare is a barrier to work	55	37
Cost of childcare is a barrier	55	33
The parent wants there to be more childcare for under fives	25	13
The parent prefers not to use childcare	15	9

#### 4.22 West Swindon (Toothill and Westlea Area)

West Swindon Children’s Centre is a phase two Children’s Centre. It is located at and delivered by the West Swindon Family Project.

##### Childcare Supply - Group Childcare

There is one daycare nursery, four preschools and two maintained nurseries in the West Swindon Children’s Centre area.

- Childcare and funded early education services are available for 0 – 5 year olds.
- There are no evening or weekend services.
- Vacancy and charging information for childcare services is fragmented.

##### Childcare Supply - Childminders

There are 34 registered childminders in the West Swindon Children’s Centre area. 23 (68%) of them have provided us with information about their services:

- The average hourly charge for a childminder is £3.47.
- There are childminding services that provide for the age range birth to 16 years.
- 21 childminders provide services between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Sixteen offer services earlier and / or later in the day. No childminders work part time. There is one childminder offering services at weekends.
- 13 childminders have vacancies which are shown in the table below broken down by age range:

0 – 1 years	2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 8 years	9 – 11 years	12+ years
10	12	10	14	12	7

##### Parent Comments

- Too expensive. More flexibility in hours would be great.
- I've been lucky to have found a brilliant childminder, but when I had been looking, I found it difficult as most only wanted to work part time.

Childcare demand data – key findings Number of responses to the consultation: 66	Percentage Response in West Swindon	Percentage Response in Swindon
The parent works full time	50	56
The parent is not working	32	23
Childcare is a barrier to work	32	37
The parent prefers to use a group	30	48
The parent prefers not to use childcare	15	9
The parent is aware of tax credit support	83	76