Family and Childcare Trust
Creating a family friendly UK

# Na h-Eileanan an Iar

## Childcare – a constituency profile

• 19 per cent of children lived in poverty in 2013 (after housing costs)

### Childcare costs in Na h-Eileanan an Iar

Nursery and holiday childcare tends to 5-15 per cent cheaper than the Scotland-wide average, while after-school clubs are generally about the same price. Holiday childcare is very expensive which may reflect a lack of supply.
• Scotland average prices are £110.01 per week for a part-time nursery place for a child under two, childminders = £4.00 per hour, after-school clubs = £49.03 per week and a holiday club = £104.28 per week.
• The costs for nursery places and child minders are 10 per cent below the Scottish national average, while afterschool clubs are 10 per cent higher and holiday clubs are 20 per cent higher.

### Gaps in provision in Na h-Eileanan an Iar

The most acute gaps in provision are for after-school and holiday childcare.

### Free early education in Na h-Eileanan an Iar

• There are 18 local authority nurseries and 6 partnership private/not-for-profit providers of early education in this local authority.
• Almost all three and four year olds are registered for free early education.
• Lower proportions of children who are receiving free early education in local authority or partnership centres have access to a registered teacher in this local authority – 49.7 per cent, compared with a Scotland average of 74.3 per cent. Access to a teacher promotes the quality of early education, so it is important that as many children as possible receive some early education from a qualified teacher.

### Comment

Eilean Siar is a sparsely populated area, where private and voluntary sector nurseries, clubs and pre-schools may struggle to break even. It can be particularly challenging to ensure that there is sufficient childcare in rural areas.

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