Family and Childcare Trust
Creating a family friendly UK

Walthamstow

Childcare – a constituency profile

- 10,600 children aged 0-4
- 14,500 children aged 5-14
- 37 per cent of children lived in poverty in 2013 (after housing costs)

Childcare costs in Walthamstow

- Nursery and childminder prices tend to be 20 per cent lower than the London-wide average prices
- The price of after-school and holiday childcare tends to be similar to the London average.
- London average prices are £152.06 per week for a part-time nursery place for a child under two, childminders = £5.85 per hour, after-school clubs = £53.65 per week and a holiday club = £111.78 per week.

Gaps in provision in Walthamstow

- Local authorities are obliged to carry out an annual childcare sufficiency report that examines the supply of and demand for childcare and also provides and action plan explaining how any gaps might be filled. This report is meant to be made available to councillors and parents. Waltham Forest Council has not undertaken any childcare sufficiency reviews since 2010, so it is difficult to see if previous gaps have been filled.
- Previous childcare sufficiency reports indicated a shortage of places for two year old children who qualify for free early education. The need for places for two year olds is most acute in the south of the local authority, whereas most nursery and pre-school provision is in the more prosperous north of the borough.

Free early education in Walthamstow

- 2,066 two year olds were eligible for free early education in September 2014. Take up is lower than the national average (60 per cent).
- 93 per cent of three and four year olds have taken up their free early education compared to 96 per cent across England.

Comment

This is a mixed local authority with a poorer south and a more prosperous north and where the availability of childcare places does not always match the demand for free places for two year olds.

Sources: ONS Mid -year population estimates, End Child Poverty Campaign, Family and Childcare Trust costs survey dataset, Department for Education Provision for Children Under Five 2014 statistics.

Registered charity number: 1077444 Registered company number: 3753345