Family and Childcare Trust
Creating a family friendly UK

Pontypridd

Childcare – a constituency profile

- 4,800 children aged 0-4
- 9,100 children aged 5-14
- 22 per cent of children lived in poverty in 2013 (after housing costs)

Childcare costs in Pontypridd

- Nursery and childminder provision in Rhonda Cynon Taf is around 10 per cent more expensive than the Welsh average, although out of school clubs are cheaper than average for Wales.
- In Wales the average prices are £104.32 per week for a part-time nursery place for a child under two, childminders = £3.90 per hour, after-school clubs = £49.74 per week and a holiday club = £109.66 per week.

Gaps in provision in Pontypridd

The local authority undertook a childcare sufficiency review in 2014 which is available at http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/en/relateddocuments/publications/fis/childcare-sufficiency-assessment-refresh-march-2013-final-draft.pdf
The biggest gaps in provision are free places for children who qualify for Flying Start help and Welsh medium childcare.

Free early education in Pontypridd

Some 82 per cent of eligible two year olds were receiving free early education through the Flying Start programme, which is similar to the Wales average and much higher than the equivalent programme in England.

Comment

The area has fewer childcare places per head of population than more prosperous areas. Demand for childcare is low because many parents struggle to pay for it. Childcare providers may also have difficulty making enough money to stay in business, which means that some parents who need childcare may struggle to find it. The local authority might consider how it could help private and voluntary sector businesses to become more economically sustainable.

Sources: ONS Mid -year population estimates, End Child Poverty Campaign, Family and Childcare Trust costs survey dataset

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