Family and Childcare Trust
Creating a family friendly UK

Erith and Thamesmead

Childcare – a constituency profile

- 10,200 children aged 0-4
- 16,100 children aged 5-14
- 33 per cent of children lived in poverty in 2013 (after housing costs)

Childcare costs in Erith and Thamesmead

Bexley
- Nursery and childminder prices are generally 20-30 per cent cheaper than the London-wide average price, while after-school and holiday childcare tends to be 5-15 per cent more expensive than the regional averages.
- 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 Erith and Thamesmead

Bexley
- The local authority undertook a childcare sufficiency report in 2014 and is available from fis@bexley.gov.uk.
- The main gaps in provision areafter-school and holiday childcare, and for families who with disabled children or parents who have atypical work patterns. There emerging gaps in under-fives daycare.

Free early education in Erith and Thamesmead

Bexley
- 1,166 two year olds were eligible for free early education in September 2014. Take up stood at 66 per cent of eligible children in November 2014, significantly higher than the London average of 50 per cent and also higher than the national average (60 per cent).
- Uptake of free early education among three and four year olds stood at 99 per cent in 2014 compared to 96 per cent across England.

Comment

Bexley
Many families in this local authority need childcare early in the morning as they commute into London.

Childcare costs in Erith and Thamesmead

Greenwich
• All types of childcare are generally 10-20 per cheaper than the London-wide average price for that type of childcare.
• 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 Erith and Thamesmead

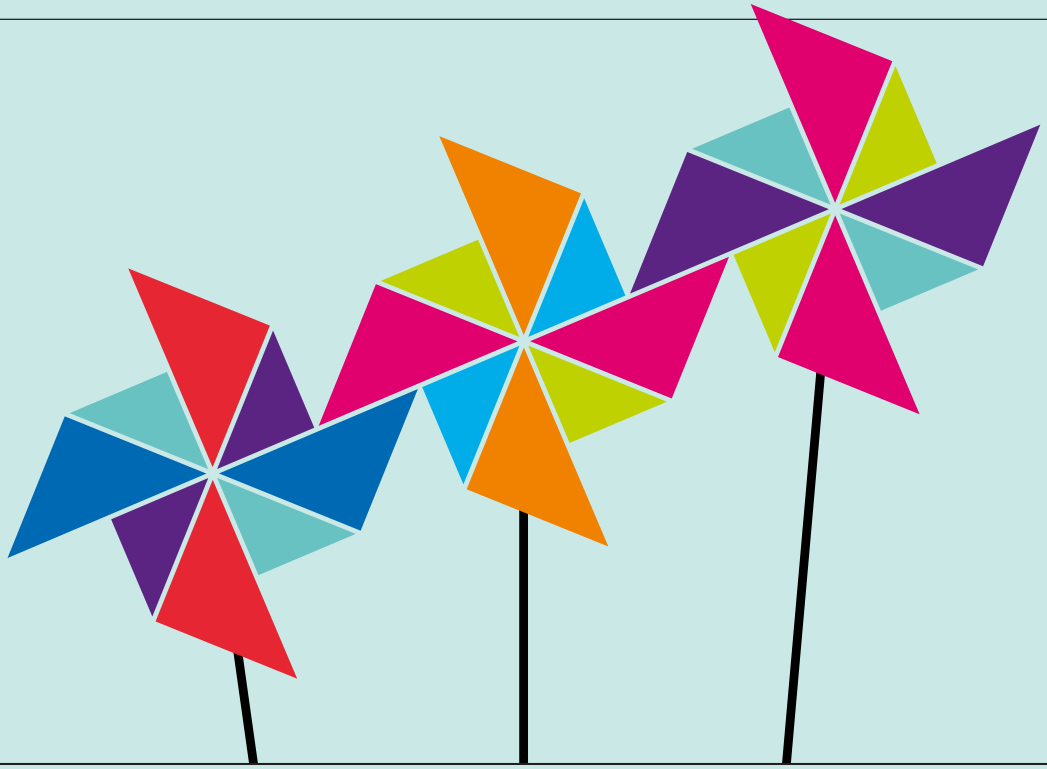
Greenwich
• Local authorities are obliged to carry out an annual childcare sufficiency report that examines the supply of and demand for childcare and also provides and action plan explaining how any gaps might be filled. This report is meant to be made available to councillors and parents. Greenwich Council has not undertaken any childcare sufficiency reviews since 2011, so it is difficult to see if previous gaps have been filled.
• Previous childcare sufficiency reports have indicated gaps in childcare for the under twos, two year olds who qualify for free provision, after-school childcare, childcare for disabled children and for those whose parents have atypical work patterns.

Free early education in Erith and Thamesmead

Greenwich
• 1,709 two year olds were eligible for free early education in September 2014. Take up stood at 54 per cent in November 2014, a little higher than the London-wide average (50 per cent) but lower than the national averages (60 per cent).
• 91 per cent of three and four year olds have taken up their free early education compared to 96 per cent across England.

Comment

Greenwich
This local authority was part of an interesting pilot for the two year old offer where the most vulnerable families received 10 hours of free nursery education, plus additional parenting support. Some local authorities in London are arguing that this option should be more widely available for vulnerable families.



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.

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