Family and Childcare Trust
Creating a family friendly UK

Doncaster Central

Childcare – a constituency profile

- 7,100 children aged 0-4
- 11,800 children aged 5-14
- 30% of children lived in poverty in 2013 (after housing costs)

Childcare costs in Doncaster Central

Nursery prices are generally about 5-15 per cent cheaper than the regional averages, which childminders and after-school clubs are usually similar in price to the regional average. Holiday childcare is expensive in Doncaster, with prices often 10-25 per cent higher than the regional average. This is indicative of insufficient supply. Yorkshire and Humberside average prices are £96.47 per week for a part-time nursery place for a child under two, childminders = £3.60 per hour, after-school clubs = £42.84 per week and a holiday club = £115.12 per week.

Gaps in provision in Doncaster Central

- The local authority undertook a childcare sufficiency assessment in 2014 which is available at http://www.doncasterchildrenandfamilies.info/sufficiency.html
- The main gaps in provision are for after-school and holiday childcare.

Free early education in Doncaster Central

- 2,150 two year olds were eligible for free early education in September 2014. Take up stood at 59 per cent in November 2014, a little lower than the regional (66 per cent) and national averages (60 per cent).
- Quality of early education provision is an issue in this local authority, with 25 per cent of three and four year olds receiving their free early education in settings judged by Ofsted to be inadequate or in need of improvement, compared with 13 per cent nationally.

Comment

This 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 its helps childcare providers to become more financially sustainable.

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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