

The 2017 General Election: Are your candidates committed to make childcare work?

Childcare should be a key priority this election and you can help to make sure it is. Tell your candidates how improved childcare could help you and your community and your constituency. It is time to make sure your parliamentary candidates are family friendly.

Key childcare facts:

- The average price of 25 hours of childcare per week for a child under 2 is £116 for a nursery place, or £110 for a childminder. That's £6,000 a year.
- Parents of primary school age children will pay an average of £53 a week for an after school club.
- Only half of local authorities in England have enough childcare in their area for working parents, and the shortages are even greater for disabled children and for children whose parents work non-typical hours such as shift workers.
- From September, three and four year olds with working parents will be eligible for 30 hours of free childcare per week during term time – but only a third of local authorities believe that there will be enough childcare in their area for families who are eligible for the extended entitlement.

The election brings an opportunity for you to hold your local candidates to account. Before you vote, make sure you ask them what they want to do to improve childcare in your constituency. Some questions you could ask are:

- What would you do to make sure every parent is better off working once they have paid for childcare?
- Locally, how do you plan on helping provide enough childcare to those who are in need of it?
- Will you commit to making sure early education has parity with that of school education?
- Will you be campaigning to extend 15 hours of free childcare to all two year olds, helping mums and dads to not be frozen out of work?
- How will you make sure no disabled child is refused a childcare place?

How do I approach my local candidates?

Local press and community outlets will advertise possible hustings. You can contact political parties and independent candidates via their official websites and social media such as Facebook pages. You can also find out your candidates via the local electoral registration office or the website, Your Vote Matters, <https://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/> gives their contact details.

For more information on how to hold your local candidates to account, contact Jimmie Franklin on 020 7940 7538 or email jimmie@familyandchildcaretrust.org.