



Family and Childcare Trust



Annual Review 2017

Foreword

We are delighted to introduce this review of the Family and Childcare Trust's achievements in 2017. We worked with parents, policy makers and providers to continue to deliver on our mission to make the UK a better place for all families.

We are proud of our parent-led programmes that continue to grow and offer support to more parents. We have also continued to shine a light on childcare policy in the UK through our research and media reach.

While we have seen improvements for families, there is still work to be done to make sure that every child gets access to high quality childcare that boosts their outcomes and that no parent is frozen out of work by childcare costs and availability. We look forward to working together with the team at the Family and Childcare Trust in the coming year to build a better UK for families.

Ellen Broomé
Chief Executive

David White
Chair of the Board of Trustees

How you can help

Each year we need to raise just over £1 million to deliver our vital work for families. We need your help to create a better society where all children thrive and where parents have genuine choices about working and caring.

We are also very grateful for all the generous support we received this year from the Greater London Authority, Legal and General, Community Playthings, Esmée Fairburn, Department for Education, John Ellerman, Young Women's Trust, Trust for London and Tedworth Charitable Trust.



Individual

As a charity we rely on your support. You can donate to us to help us continue our vital work through a regular donations, a one off donations, fundraising for us, or leaving a gift in your will.

Corporate

If you're a company, supporting the Family and Childcare Trust acts as a great opportunity to reach and support families across the UK. Our Corporate Fundraising Manager will work with you to develop and tailor an opportunity that meets your CSR and employee engagement objectives:

- ▶ **Charity of the Year:** By nominating us as your Charity of the year, your employees can help us make sure parents across the country have real choices about work and care.
- ▶ **Sponsorship:** Our strong brand and extensive media reach can provide you with a great opportunity to reach parents and be seen making a positive impact for families. In 2017 our annual Childcare Survey had a media reach of over 36 million which is just one of the sponsorship opportunities available.
- ▶ **Strategic partnership:** Our expertise and experience has a lot to offer organisations. We can advise how you can support your employees to balance work and caring, making for a stronger workforce for employers and a stronger economy for all of us.

Trusts and foundations

Charitable Trusts and Foundations can make a vital contribution sustaining and developing our current programmes or enabling us to pilot new ideas. For example, our long-term relationship with Esmée Fairbairn enabled us to develop our award winning Young Dads Collective. Funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation has enabled us to expand our Parent Champions programme to focus support of migrant and refugee families.

If you would like to find out more about our work or have any questions please don't hesitate to call us on 020 79407510, or email us at info@familyandchildcaretrust.org.

Programmes

Young Dads Collective

The YDC has had a fantastic year – our consultants, all young dads themselves, engaged with over 300 practitioners from over 100 organisations, supporting them to reflect on their practice with young dads and commit to adopting more inclusive practice.

"The dads were really, really helpful in talking through what had worked for them, how somebody made contact with them, places they felt excluded, useful ways of getting to speak to them, what worked for them at a group." **Workshop attendee**

The YDC consultants have also had access to a comprehensive support and mentoring programme throughout the year. This has equipped them with the skills, knowledge and confidence to speak in public, deliver YDC workshops, and take a more active role in planning and evaluation, giving them transferable skills to support employability.

One YDC consultant, a young dad with autism and attention deficit disorder, initially only wanted to work in the background as he was not comfortable talking to others. However, has since presented his experiences of fatherhood to over 130 professionals.

Reflecting on this he said: 'I'm doing things I never thought I'd do and it's been ok! I feel like I can push myself now to do new things. Who knows what I'll do next!' **James – YDC Consultant**

Parent Champions

Parent Champions are parent volunteers who give a few hours a week to talk to other parents about the local services available to families. A total of 49 schemes – including 16 launched in 2017 – now run across the UK, including, for the first time, schemes in Wales.

Almost 400 Parent Champions volunteers engaged with 9,300 disadvantaged families in communities where families find it difficult to access services. As a result, many more two year olds are now accessing the early education they are entitled to.

The Social Mobility Commission's 'State of the Nation' report (November 2017) referenced the Parent Champions Lincolnshire scheme as it helped to achieve a 10 per cent increase in the take up of the two year old offer, and an increase of 22 per cent in the number of visitors to children's centres.

*"It helped me find out about all the things that children's centres provide, as well as meeting new people and having something to put on my CV." **Parent Champion, Camden***

This year we have used this successful, peer to peer model to promote home learning activities, as well as helping families with children with SEND, those living in rural areas, and ethnic minority communities. For example, we have piloted Parent Champions for Refugees and Migrants with the Parent House in Islington, funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, focusing on supporting migrant and refugee parents to find their feet in their local community and build a bright future for their children.

The Parent Champions peer to peer model can be used to reach and support families with a broad range of information and can be an effective way to reach families with particular needs.

Parent-led Childcare

Parent-led childcare is not for profit childcare designed and co-delivered by parents, for parents. We completed the research phase of this project, funded by Trust for London and the Young Women's Trust in partnership with the New Economics Foundation, to find models of parent-led childcare that would work in the UK.

The second phase of this project will be to test out this model with pilot sites.

Our programmes are parent-led and, as a result, reach some of the most disadvantaged families in the UK to help parents improve outcomes for their children. If you would like to find out more about setting up, or working with, our programmes, get in touch with Ruth on ruth@familyandchildcaretrust.org

Policy

This year two ambitious new childcare policies were introduced – Tax Free Childcare and the doubling of free entitlement to early education for three and four year olds with working parents to 30 hours per week. Our policy work has continued to push for longer term reform of the childcare system, as well as working with the Government to make sure that new policies work for families.

Parliament

Our policy calls were picked up in two major party manifestos before the General Election. We produced briefings for candidates and voters on the changes we want to see to improve the quality and affordability of childcare.

We continue to work closely with parliamentarians from all parties to brief them on childcare policy and look for opportunities for improvements to be made. Several MPs visited their local Parent Champions schemes and the APPG for Families in the Early Years, which we provide the secretariat for, held two well attended and thought provoking meetings.

National Association of Family Information Services (NAFIS)

NAFIS continues to support best practice in local authorities as well as influencing national and local policy making. We held a useful conference for local authority staff, hosted live Q+A sessions with civil servants and met with senior civil servants to discuss policy development and roll out.

Communications

Visitors to our new website now stay on the site for longer and look at more pages. We continue to have an impressive media coverage with our press reach totalling 232 million, including coverage in national newspapers, radio and TV.

For more information on our policy, parliamentary and communications work, get in touch with Megan on megan@familyandchildcaretrust.org

Research

We continue to deliver high quality research on a range of issues relating to childcare and family life. The findings from our research are cited widely by Government, the media, local authorities, politicians, childcare providers and academics.

Annual Surveys

In 2017 we published our annual Childcare Survey and Holiday Childcare Survey, now in their sixteenth and thirteenth years respectively. These continue to be vital tools for monitoring the price and availability of childcare across Britain, and for tracking changes year on year. The findings are used for calculating the Living Wage and the Minimum Income Standards. We also completed our second Older People's Care Survey in 2017.

The Childcare Survey revealed that the average price for a part time nursery place for a child under 2 is now £6,000 per year. Only half of local authorities in England have enough childcare for parents working full time in their area.

Specialist reports

Our research also looked into innovative approaches to childcare from across the world, how academisation might impact early years education and the quality of information about childcare for children with additional needs. One report examined how families with young children view family services, and involved local parents in the planning, design, data collection and analysis of the research.

Our expert research team can help you to build your understanding or improve how you are working with families. We have completed high quality projects for local authorities, regional government, national and international organisations, trusts and foundations that meet their specific needs. This has included data analysis, surveys, literature reviews and qualitative research with families, parents, local authorities and providers. For more information, get in touch with Claire on claire@familyandchildcaretrust.org

Key points on childcare

- ▶ Five million children use formal childcare. Childcare is provided through nurseries, childminders, breakfast, after school and holiday clubs, nannies and au pairs.
- ▶ Childcare helps parents to work and is also used to support children's learning and development.
- ▶ Many families also use informal childcare – most commonly children being looked after by their grandparents (about 1.7 million children).
- ▶ Parents can get help paying for childcare but the system is very complicated – there are seven different types of support available depending on families' financial and work circumstances, where they live, and the age of their children.
- ▶ Government investment in childcare has risen over the past 20 years to help support parents to work and to boost children's outcomes. The Government now spends £6 billion per year on childcare.
- ▶ A part time childcare place for 25 hours a week for a child under 2 costs about £122 per week or over £6000 per year. Our Childcare Survey and Holiday Childcare Survey provide the most trusted information on childcare prices and availability.
- ▶ Only half of local areas have enough childcare for families working full time.
- ▶ Government also provides additional support for some children with disabilities or additional needs. This is usually paid directly to childcare providers.
- ▶ 370,000 people work in the sector. About 50,000 of these work in maintained nurseries or school nurseries, 50,000 are childminders, and the rest work in private or voluntary nurseries or holiday/ afterschool clubs.