

Championing childcare

Annual Review 2006



Review of the year

Daycare Trust is the national childcare charity, campaigning for quality, accessible, affordable childcare for all and raising the voices of children, parents and carers.

2005/06 has been a watershed year for Daycare Trust with major developments in the childcare and children's services field, most notably progress with children's centres and the first ever Childcare Act. Alongside these changes Daycare Trust has been developing a new team to take our work forward.

Policy and Campaign work

Our campaigning work continues to focus on childcare affordability, listening to parents and keeping children at the centre. We ran a popular programme of help with childcare costs workshops in the autumn and winter and our pack of materials for advisers is used throughout the country.

Our work on this vital topic was also supported by HM Revenue and Customs, enabling us to launch a new section of our website.

We continued to draw on international comparisons in many areas of our work. The 'Learning



Beverley Hughes MP and the art competition winners during National Childcare Week

with other countries' policy paper, published early in the financial year, provided a reference point for debate and discussion and influencing Government thinking on the future of childcare in Britain.

Policy and campaigning work centred on lobbying on the Childcare Bill and unprecedented coverage of our annual childcare costs survey in January and February. We again focussed attention on the challenges parents and childcare services face in being accessible and meeting the needs of families.

Later the launch of the 'Ensuring Equality' report, supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, renewed our focus on improving childcare services for black and other minority ethnic families.

Our campaigning is underpinned by a focus on the Every Child Matters outcomes. Amongst the national childcare organisations we have a

unique focus on parents and children and ensure their voices and opinions continue to shape services.

Partners newsletter continued to highlight key policy and practice developments in the sector for local authority colleagues. The publication came to an end in April 2006.

Events

Partners in Excellence attracted record levels of entries this year and in December the awards ceremony at Lancaster House was addressed by the patron Cherie Booth QC and presentations were made by Beverley Hughes MP, Minister for Children and Naomi Eisenstadt.

Winning entries demonstrated innovative and exciting work from across the country and helped raise the profile of children's services locally and nationally.

Our Annual Conference in November was

addressed by Beverley Hughes MP and Estelle Morris looking to the services and workforce of the future. Leadership and the Danish pedagogical model were also examined.

Our Children's Centres Conference drew a wide audience to hear perspectives from the Council for Disabled Children and One Parent Families as well as private, public and voluntary sector perspectives on multi-agency working.

National Childcare Week focussed on the theme of 'Children at the Centre'. We held a reception at 11 Downing Street hosted by Ed Balls MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury. Presentations were made to local activist Childcare Champions in an awards scheme supported by Calpol.

We also launched 'RAMPS: a framework for listening to children' to encourage practitioners in listening and ensuring active participation for children. Children's own vision of their ideal childcare was the theme of our Art Competition. Winners received their prizes from Beverley Hughes MP at Tate Britain.

We continued our

work for NHS Employers producing NHS Childcare News and a new edition of the guide for NHS parents 'Working in the NHS'. We have also undertaken a major piece of research assessing the impact of childcare provision and other support is having on maternity returners and wider recruitment and retention.

People

Daycare Trust has gone through some major staff changes during the year. Chris Walton stood down as a Trustee and acted as Interim Chief Executive following Susan Crane's departure in September. Chris gave strong leadership across the autumn and winter and

began recruiting to some key posts as we entered the new financial year.

Daycare Trust was delighted in April to announce Alison Garnham and Emma Knights as job sharing Chief Executives. The organisation is already benefiting from their complementary skills and experience. Their appointment underlines the organisation's commitment to family-friendly employment.

Lisa Harker, who made an enormous contribution to our work, stood down as chair and was succeeded by Rita Stringfellow who brings a wealth of experience in childcare services and local government.



Ed Balls MP with Emma Knights, Alison Garnham and Rita Stringfellow

“Daycare Trust has played a vital part in the National Childcare Strategy and is a valuable critical friend to the government as we move forward” Ed Balls MP

Daycare Trust is:

● **Influential** in leading the national childcare campaign through high quality research, developing credible policy recommendations through publications and the media, and by working with others.

● **Expert** at promoting quality childcare and providing information and support to parents, carers and others involved in the childcare sector to enable them to make good choices and improve services.

● **Representative** in ensuring the childcare needs and entitlements of children and parents are voiced and heard.

Daycare Trust: Moving On

Under the leadership of Alison Garnham and Emma Knights our Strategic Plan for 2006-09 has been developed. The organisation will focus on being the leading childcare campaigning organisation with a renewed emphasis on research and communication.

We will continue to develop partnerships to raise the profile of childcare issues. Improving information to parents and enabling them to make well-informed choices about childcare will be a key part of our on-going work. Our particular focus is on parents and children and speaking independently from childcare provision. Good outcomes for families are the cornerstone of our work. This means emphasis on good quality childcare and a continued focus on tackling child poverty.

Our vision remains one of affordable, accessible, high quality childcare for all families and a children's centre in every community. Childcare needs to be a part of wider services for children and families across the age range. Parent's choices and roles can be further enhanced by improved parental leave and flexible working which play a part in strengthening families and communities.

With the Childcare Act coming into force we will be focussing on the needs and entitlements of children and families. Local authorities will have a duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents. This will mean a regular process assessing local childcare needs and this must involve parents and children.

Crucial to building on the ambitious plans for children's centres and extended schools is the current Comprehensive Spending Review. We are undertaking work on the Transformation Fund and have submitted evidence to the review of services for disabled children.



Daycare Trust: Services

Daycare Trust continues to provide a range of services and we are undertaking a number of projects for funders.

- Our helpline 020 7840 3350 provides information to callers on a wide array of childcare issues and is helping parents on a daily basis with finding and paying for childcare.
- Our website www.daycaretrust.org.uk provides key information and factsheets on childcare, including a special section on help with childcare costs. Our press and campaigns work and publications are also on the site.
- Our consultancy service provides expert analysis, evaluation and recommendations on childcare and related issues to a range of organisations and services. Recent projects have included policy and organisational analysis, needs assessment exercises and option appraisal. We carry out high quality work which is well regarded by our clients and supports our major projects.
- We maintain a high profile with press, policy and campaigning work. We provide informed comment on key issues in the childcare sector to the media, ensuring that the benefits of childcare and the issues faced by parents are well understood.
Our publications on key policy issues have given a focus on listening to children which is being taken further in our Listening to Families project. We have also renewed the debate about good quality accessible childcare for black and minority ethnic families with the launch of our Ensuring Equality publication.

All our services can be contacted on 020 7840 3350

Daycare Trust People

Thanks to all those who have worked for Daycare Trust over the last year

Barbara Arnold
Veena Batra
Monica Bayldon-Lewis
Carmen Betteridge
Thom Crabbe*
Susan Crane
Alison Garnham*
Kate Goddard*
Pauline Graham*
Georgina Hackney
Carla Jacobs*
Emma Knights*
Emma Kirk*
Mark Merrill*
Peter Morgan*
Ann Marie Nicholls
Selina Orleans-Foli*
Kate Pulman
Daniela Reale
Beth Reid
Gordon Vallance
Ros Vidler*
Christine Walton
Lucy Yankson*
(*our current staff)

And to Trustees serving during the current year

Shabana Ahmed
Pam Calder
Lisa Harker
Susan Hay (Vice chair)
Melian Mansfield
Sue Martin
Tony Munton
Rosa Napolitano
Surma Shah
Tom Shea (Treasurer)
Jane Streather
Rita Stringfellow (Chair)
Gwen Vaughan

Thanks too to our interns and temporary staff who have provided vital support during the year.



Daycare Trust would like to thank all our funders and supporters during 2005/06 in particular

BBC Children in Need

Calpol

Department for Education and Skills

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

Hickling & Squires

HM Revenue and Customs

London Councils (formerly Association of London Government)

London Development Agency

Munro & Forster

NHS Employers

The Nuffield Foundation

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Thanks to all our consultancy clients during the year which have included

3SE

Birmingham Sure Start

Cardiff City Council

Improvement and Development Agency

London Borough of Haringey

Manchester City Council

Sure Start Chinbrook

Sure Start Hounslow

Welsh Assembly Parliamentary Service

West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Thanks to our members and subscribers for continuing support. We will be launching a new membership scheme in early 2007. Members will receive our new topical e-mail bulletin.



Daycare Trust is the national childcare charity, campaigning for quality, accessible, affordable childcare for all and raising the voices of children, parents and carers. We advise parents and carers, providers, employers, trade unions and policymakers on childcare issues.

We recognise that everyone is unique and we value the difference in our communities. We listen to all views and are committed to act without prejudice. We oppose all discrimination and promote equality in all we do.

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Daycare Trust's full accounts for 2005/06 are available on request from the Company Secretary

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