Gateshead Council

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

March 2011

Working to provide equal chances, challenge disadvantage and promote best practice in services for children and families since 1999

Contents

Appendices

1 Introduction

The Childcare Act (2006) requires Gateshead Council, like all other local authorities in England, to ensure a sufficiency of childcare for working parents, parents studying or training, and for disabled children.

The duties in the act require the council to shape and support the development of childcare provision in Gateshead (section 11) in order to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. This role is described as a 'market management' function, whereby the local authority supports the sector to meet the needs of parents, children and young people, along with other stakeholders.

The council also has a duty to undertake a detailed childcare sufficiency assessment (CSA) of the supply and demand for childcare in the area. In doing so, the council should consult with a range of stakeholders including parents/carers, children and young people, employers, community groups, schools and providers of childcare. In addition, the childcare sufficiency assessment should include a detailed analysis of local demographics. The assessment should generate an overall up-to-date picture of the supply, parents' use of, and demand for, childcare in the local authority area. The assessment's purpose is to then form a gap analysis identifying where childcare supply does not match the needs of families and communities.

Sufficient childcare is defined as[1]:

> "Sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in the [local authority's] area who require childcare in order to enable them –
>
> a) To take up, or remain in, work, or
> b) To undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work."

In determining whether provision of childcare is sufficient a local authority:

a) Must have regard to the needs of parents in their area for:

[1] Securing sufficient childcare DCSF April 2010

- the provision of childcare in respect of which the childcare element of the working tax credit is payable, and;
- the provision of childcare which is suitable for disabled children

b) May have regard to any childcare, which they expect to be available outside their area.

Gateshead Council commissioned Hempsall's consultancy agency to undertake a telephone survey of parents and carers to establish levels of childcare need across the borough. After which Hempsall's were also asked to work with the Early Years and Childcare Service to support the collation of information required to complete the full childcare sufficiency assessment; analyse childcare provider questionnaire survey data and review collated data to bring all elements into a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment report.

1.1 Methodology

Work has been undertaken with reference to four key areas:

- the supply of local childcare provision;
- parental demand for childcare and the views of employers;
- current and future trends including an area contextual analysis;
- a gap analysis identified through an analysis of supply, demand and trends.

Hempsall's, working with Morgan's Research Ltd, was commissioned in May 2010 to undertake a telephone survey of 850 parent/carers of children aged 0-14 years (up to 18 years for disabled children).

Gateshead Council Quality Childcare Team undertook qualitative research with parent/carers and children and young people and a questionnaire survey of targeted employers. Fieldwork was completed between August and September 2010.

Desk research was undertaken by Hempsall's in November 2010 to compliment data supplied by Gateshead Council to inform a contextual assessment of the local authority area.

Details of the methodology used to inform the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment are included in the appendices.

2 Gap analysis

Gap analysis

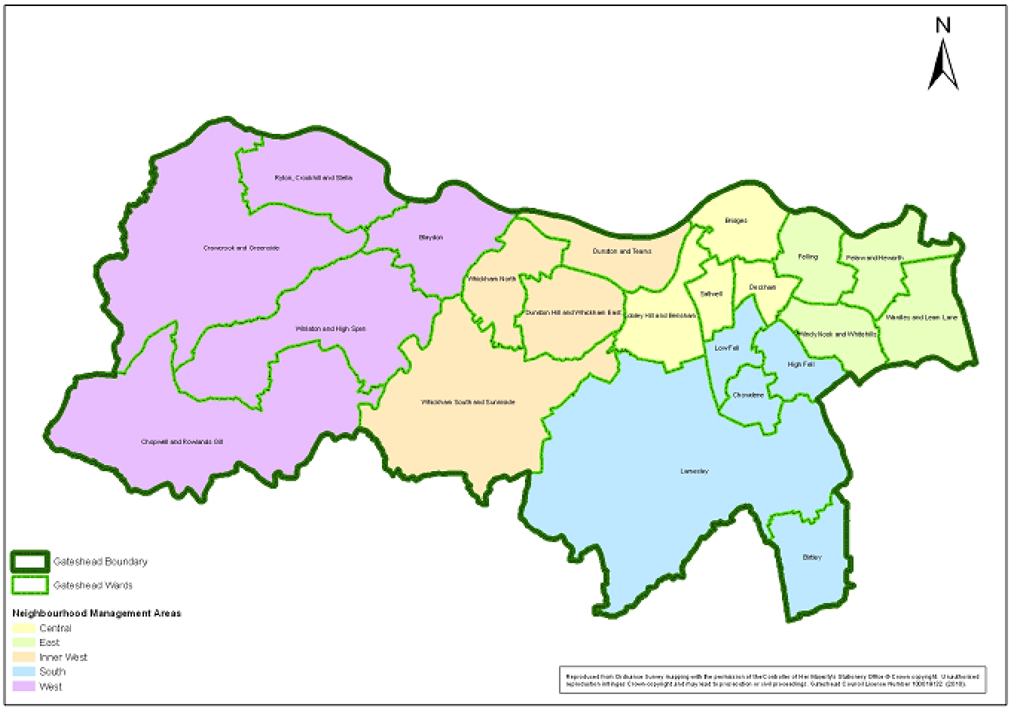
Geographical Gaps: where a geographical area has a general shortage of supply.	East Gateshead (all provision); West Gateshead (day nursery and holiday provision).
Income Gaps: where there is a shortage of affordable childcare for the income groups populating an area.	The cost of childcare is identified as a barrier to take-up in particular by those not currently accessing formal childcare and workless families. Take-up of the childcare element of Working Family Tax Credit (WTC) is relatively low.
Specific Need Gaps: where there is a shortage of suitable places for disabled children, or children with other specific needs or requirements, including those from particular faiths or community groups.	Cultural norms and expectations may act as a barrier to accessing childcare provision that is not specifically provided to the needs of community groups.
Time Gaps: where there is a shortage of childcare at a time that parents would wish to use childcare.	There are relatively high levels of employment outside of standard office hours with little childcare provision to cater for those working patterns (including early mornings, evening, weekends and shift patterns).
Age Gaps: where there is a shortage of childcare suitable to the needs and requirements of a certain age group (for example, school-aged children up to 18 years, if they are disabled). This may be difficult to detect if it is masked by overprovision of childcare suitable for other age groups.	There is evidence of unmet need across all age ranges of children. In particular, after school provision for children aged 5-14 years. There is also evidence of capacity within childcare provision; a high percentage of all provision is operating below capacity and with vacancies.

Type Gaps: where there is a shortage in the type of childcare for which parents may be expressing a preference.	Holiday provision, after school (for children aged 5-14 years) and special provision in school holidays.
Information Gaps: where information and knowledge is not reaching parents, or understanding is not developing into knowledge about provision and services on offer.	Promote availability of childcare provision (specifically out of school) where unmet demand is identified but providers report operating below capacity.

3 Key findings

Gateshead has experienced significant regeneration in recent years, including development of the Gateshead International Stadium, The Metro Centre, Millennium Bridge and the Baltic; regeneration is planned to continue to develop housing and local environments. Following years of population decline, the population is now predicted to show modest growth, largely fuelled by an increasing child population.

There has been a continued rise in the birth rate in Gateshead since 2001 and by 2015 the child population is predicted to reach 32,200, an increase of nearly 2% over 2008 figures. The Black and Ethnic Minority population is relatively small, accounting for an estimated 4% of the overall population. The largest Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups are Black African and Indian, each accounting for 0.6% of the population[2]. There is a significant established Jewish community, concentrated mostly in Bensham and Saltwell wards.



The number of children living in low income families has decreased in recent years however; there are still areas in Gateshead where over 70% of children live in workless households. Wards where the proportion of children in low income families is highest are Dunston and Teams,

[2] ONS 2007 experimental statistics

Lobley Hill and Bensham, Bridges, Felling, Saltwell, Deckham and High Fell, areas concentrated in Central and East Gateshead. In common with other local authority areas in the North East a relatively high percentage of Gateshead's population live within the top 20% most disadvantaged areas in England.

The disappearance of mining and shipbuilding and the decline of heavy engineering activity (traditional sources of employment) has brought about a change to the economy of the area. The largest types of employment are now public administration, education and health, distribution and hotels and restaurants, accounting for over 26% of employee jobs. Unemployment levels are relatively high, particularly when compared to GB averages, and higher for women than for men.

Regeneration, a changing employment market, significant pockets of deprivation and growing child population present challenges to the management of the childcare market.

3.1 Employment patterns and the times at which childcare is required

A high percentage of parent/carer survey respondents, and where appropriate, respondents' partners were working. The majority of these reported working 'normal' office hours (defined as between 8.00am and 6.00pm Monday to Friday). There were however relatively high proportions of parent/carers working non-standard hours, including weekends and in particular, shift work. Nearly one in five (21%) respondents reported that they and/or their partner worked shift patterns, 13% at weekends and 11% fixed times mainly outside normal office hours.

Shift working patterns were particularly high in Inner West Gateshead (where 26% of respondents and/or partners worked shift patterns). Non-standard working hours generally were more evident in Inner West and East Gateshead.

There is very little childcare provision available to cater for non standard working hours, in particular evening and weekend work. Childminders offer the greatest flexibility in terms of hours of availability, offering early morning care and in fewer numbers evening, overnight and weekend care.

There is potential to increase or amend opening hours, particularly within day nurseries and childminders; potential to increase or amend opening hours in out of school provision is almost non-existent according to provider survey findings.

3.2 Household income and support for childcare costs

Household income varied across survey respondents and neighbourhood areas. Just over a third of respondents (37%) reported an annual household income of between £20,000 and £39,999; just over one in four respondents (26%) had an income of £40,000 a year or more; a similar proportion (24%) had an income of less than £15,000 a year.

Conventionally low income households are defined as those with a household income of less that 60% of the national median household income[3]. The median household income for the whole population in 2008/09 was £407 per week (before housing costs), equating to £21,164 per annum. Using the conventional definition, low income families would be those with a household income of less than £12,698 a year (£244.20 a week) before housing costs[4].

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) May 2010 report 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) notes that families with children, particularly lone parent families, are more likely to be in low-income households than their childless counterparts.

According to Gateshead 2010 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)[5], 49% of children in Gateshead are in low income families compared with 49% across the North East and 42% for England as a whole. This equates to 15,600 children living in low income families. Half of these children live in families receiving workless benefits and half live in families receiving tax credits. Over half of children living in families receiving workless benefits live in lone parent households

[3] Definition of low income www.poverty.org.uk
[4] Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Resource Centre May 2010: 'Households Below Average Income' www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai.asp
[5] Gateshead 2010 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Data annex – version 11 Final QAd pp54 www.gateshead.gov.uk/DocumentLibrary/Care/JSNA/2010FullDocument/JSNA-LINKED.pdf

Wards where the proportion of children in low income families is highest are Dunston and Teams, Lobley Hill and Bensham, Bridges, Felling, Saltwell, Deckham and High Fell. These areas are concentrated in Central and East Gateshead.

Analysing data by neighbourhood area shows a lower percentage of households in Central and East Gateshead with higher income levels (above £40,000 per annum) and correspondingly a higher percentage with lower income levels (below £19,999).

Respondents living in Inner West Gateshead reported the highest income levels.

Take-up of the childcare element of WTC has increased in Gateshead over the past few years but as at 2007/2008 was still behind regional and national averages. Relatively few respondents to the parent/carer survey reported being in receipt of Working Tax Credit. Across all respondents to the parent/carer survey, 31% were in receipt of WTC and 13% in receipt of the childcare element of WTC.

There was little evidence of employer support for childcare costs amongst survey respondents however, the majority of employers contributing to the sufficiency assessment offered some form of childcare vouchers or salary sacrifice scheme to their employees and reported that such schemes had attracted substantial interest from employees.

3.3 Overall use of childcare

29% of all respondents were using formal childcare, either in isolation or in combination with informal childcare. A high proportion of respondents (41%) were not using any form of childcare and 30% informal childcare only.

Patterns of childcare use were broadly similar across Gateshead. A higher percentage of respondents living in Central Gateshead used formal childcare (20% compared to 15% overall) and a higher percentage of respondents in Inner West Gateshead did not use any form of childcare.

Use of childcare was considerably lower within workless households (67% compared to 41% overall reported not using any form of childcare), with lower levels of reported use of informal childcare in particular.

Use of childcare (formal and/or informal) increases with reported household income. 48% of households with an annual income of less than £20,000 did not use childcare compared to 28% of households with an income of over £40,000. Households with an income of more than £20,000 were more likely to use informal childcare.

3.4 Use of childcare by age of child

Use of formal childcare by parent/carers of children aged 3 - 4 years, and to a lesser extent 0 - 2 year olds, is higher than for all other ages, probably reflecting the impact of the free early years entitlement. A higher percentage of parent/carers of older children (aged 5 – 14 years) report not using any form of childcare.

3.5 Use of childcare for disabled children

Use of formal childcare for disabled children and children with additional needs was lower and correspondingly, use of informal childcare higher. The proportion of parent/carers who were not using any form of childcare for their disabled child/child with additional needs was the same as found overall (41%).

3.6 Types of childcare used

Of the 59% of respondents who were using childcare at the time of the survey, all were using term-time childcare and 42% were planning to use holiday childcare. Extended families, and in particular grandparents, play an important role in childcare arrangements both in term time and during the school holidays. Of those using informal childcare, 80% relied on grandparents during the school term and 85% during the holidays.

The most commonly used type of formal childcare during the school term is private day nursery provision; the most commonly cited type of formal childcare planned for use in the school holidays was holiday club/childcare provision, cited by 18% of those planning to use childcare.

3.7 Reasons for using childcare

The most commonly cited reason for using childcare is out of necessity - because parent/carers are working, training or studying (cited by 76% of all respondents using childcare). This was particularly evident amongst parent/carers of older children- 78% of parent/carers of a child aged 5 – 10 years and 74% of parent/carers of a child aged 11-14 years used childcare out of necessity.

3.8 General opinions about childcare in Gateshead

A high proportion of parent/carers report childcare provision in their local area is of good quality, regardless of whether they use childcare.

A higher percentage of respondents living in Central Gateshead reported the quality of childcare in their local area generally as good than found overall (69% compared to 62% overall). Parent/carers of younger children were more likely to report the quality of childcare generally as good than parent/carers of older children. In general terms, use of childcare of any type is lower for parent/carers of older children and use of formal childcare decreases with the age of the child.

Overall, 38% of respondents felt there were enough childcare places in their local area. Only 1% thought there were too many and nearly a third (31%) thought there were not enough childcare places locally.

Despite findings showing high levels of vacancies and occupancy levels of below 100%, one in four providers (26%) reported feeling that there were not sufficient childcare places to meet the needs of parents and carers. There is a clear mismatch between perceptions of childcare sufficiency and reported vacancy and low occupancy levels. This may be attributable to a number of factors: the hours for which childcare is available; affordability issues; available provision not meeting parents' and children/young peoples' preferences; geographical distribution of provision and/or lack of information and knowledge.

Provider consultations identify low levels of childcare provision in East Gateshead across all types of provision and West Gateshead for day nursery and holiday provision.

Quality of provision amongst those using childcare is rated very highly but perceptions of quality in the general parent/carer population (including those not using childcare) is lower; similarly the cost of childcare appears to be a barrier to those not currently using childcare but not necessarily to the same extent for those using childcare.

3.9 Satisfaction with current childcare arrangements

Overall 90% of parent/carers using some form of childcare (formal and/or informal) were satisfied with their childcare arrangements and only a small percentage (3%) were dissatisfied.

Levels of satisfaction with current childcare arrangements were uniformly high across all neighbourhood areas. Similarly there were high levels of satisfaction with current childcare arrangements across all age ranges of children cared for and amongst parent/carers of disabled children and children with additional need of all ages.

A very high percentage of respondents using childcare reported being satisfied with the quality of their current childcare arrangements (97%, 480 respondents). 97% of parent/carers of a disabled child or child with additional need also reported being satisfied with the quality of their current childcare, however data shows a difference between the percentage being very satisfied and the percentage being quite satisfied.

Satisfaction levels with the cost of current childcare arrangements were high (84%) however a small percentage of respondents (8%) were dissatisfied with the cost of their childcare arrangements.

Satisfaction levels with the cost of current childcare were similar across all ranges with a slightly higher percentage of parent/carers of children aged 11 – 14 years reporting being satisfied (89% compared to 84% overall).

Satisfaction levels with the cost of current childcare arrangements were highest within the group of respondents using only informal childcare (89% were very satisfied compared to 60% overall). A higher percentage of respondents using both formal and informal childcare reported dissatisfaction with the cost of their current childcare arrangements (23% compared to 8% overall).

3.10 The extent to which current childcare arrangements met needs

Of those that were using formal and/or informal childcare, 93% (468 respondents) reported that their current childcare arrangements were meeting their needs.

The proportion of respondents stating that current childcare arrangements met needs was similar across all age ranges, household income types and amongst parent/carers with a disabled child or child with additional need, and by type of childcare used. A slightly higher percentage of parent/carers using informal childcare reported that current childcare arrangements met their needs (95% compared to 91% of parent/carers using formal childcare, or a mix of formal and informal childcare).

Where respondents stated their current childcare arrangements did not meet their needs, the majority cited lack of preferred care; lack of provision at hours/times required and cost as barriers.

3.11 Unmet need

Findings suggest that for the majority of parent/carers using formal and/or informal childcare, their current childcare arrangements meet their needs. However, findings suggest unmet demand for some parent/carers, in particular for non-users of childcare and workless households.

- 33% of those not using formal childcare would do so if suitable and affordable childcare were available;
- Cost is cited as a barrier to the take-up of childcare, and in particular holiday childcare (8% of childcare users are dissatisfied with the cost of their childcare arrangements and 11% of respondents not using holiday childcare cited cost as a barrier);
- A higher percentage of workless households not currently using formal childcare would consider doing so if suitable and affordable childcare were available

Data suggests unmet need in particular for holiday provision, after school clubs (for children aged 5-14 years) and special provision during the school holidays.

3.12 3 and 4 year old free early years entitlement

The Department For Education's (DFE) Statistical First Release data shows a total of 4,215 part-time equivalent early education places filled by 3 and 4 year olds in Gateshead in 2010. 73% of those places were in the maintained sector (3,085 places) and 27% (1,130 places) in the PVI sector.

The majority of parent/carers of children aged 3 and 4 years old (82%) responding to the telephone survey were aware of the free early years entitlement.

Of those aware of the entitlement:

- 72% (94 respondents) were using the full entitlement;
- 2% (3 respondents) were using some of their entitlement;
- 13% stated were not using their entitlement, however data from DEF shows a 97% take-up of free entitlement in Gateshead. This inconsistency may be due to a misinterpretation of the question.

A higher percentage of respondents using formal childcare, either in isolation or in combination with informal childcare, were aware of the early years entitlement than non users of formal childcare (88% compared to 64%).

From September 2010 all 3 and 4 year old children are entitled to a free early years place for 15 hours a week. Nearly half of all respondents with a child aged 3 or 4 years old were unaware of the extension to the number of hours or were unsure (44% unaware, 4% unsure). One in five respondents (20%, 32 respondents) were already accessing the additional hours and 31% (50 respondents) were aware of the additional hours but were not yet accessing them. (N.B. universal extension to 15 hours commenced Sept 2010, the survey took place June /July 2010).

3.13 Stretch

Currently (August 2010) the free early education entitlement can be taken over 38 week (equating to 15 hours a week for all from September 2010). From September 2012 the 15 hours a week free early years place can be stretched to allow parent/carers to take fewer than 15 hours a week but for more weeks a year (for example, 12 hours a week for 47 weeks).

39% of respondents stated they would take up the option of fewer hours over more weeks if it were available now; 52% would not and; 9% were unsure.

There are high levels of take-up in the maintained sector and relatively high percentages of PVI settings reporting they may not be able to enable parents to take their entitlement over more weeks (as a result of operating term-time only). This may present challenges delivering a stretched offer. Currently childminders are not registered to provide the free nursery education entitlement however 33% (49 childminders of which 33 have been graded as good/outstanding by Ofsted) would be interested in doing so.

4 Gateshead in context

Gateshead is located on the southern bank of the river Tyne, bordered by Newcastle-Upon-Tyne to the north and Durham to the south. Gateshead also has borders with Northumberland and South Tyneside. The area encompasses both rural and urban communities. Gateshead has experienced significant regeneration in recent years, including development of the Gateshead International Stadium, The Metro Centre, Millennium Bridge and the Baltic. Regeneration is planned to continue to develop housing and local environments. Following years of population decline, the population is now predicted to show modest growth, largely fuelled by an increasing child population.

The overall anticipated picture is one of growth and regeneration, with corresponding considerations for employment support and childcare sufficiency.

4.1 Ethnicity and Faith Groups

The 2010 Gateshead Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identifies the North East region as the least ethnically diverse of the nine Government Office Regions. However, the population demographic is changing with the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population estimated to account for 6.3% of the total population in the North East in 2007 compared to 3.7 in 2001.

In Gateshead the BME population was estimated to account for 11,200 people in 2007 compared to 6,200 in 2001.

It is estimated that ethnic minority groups account for approximately 4% of the overall population; the largest Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups are Black African and Indian, each accounting for 0.6% of the population[6]. There is a significant established Jewish community, concentrated mostly in Lobley Hill and Bensham, Bridges and Saltwell wards.

4.2 Population trends

The population in Gateshead has been falling over the past 20 years; however, this decline has recently levelled off and the population is forecast to grow again over the next 20 years

[6] ONS 2007 experimental statistics

(Source: 2010 Gateshead Joint Needs Assessment). The total size of the (estimated) population of Gateshead in 2025 was revised upwards between the release of the 2004-based and 2006-based (ONS) population projections. The 2025 population of children and young people (0-14 years) has been revised upwards by 4,000.

As at 2009, there were an estimated 190,800 people living in Gateshead (ONS mid-year population estimates). The population declined over the period 2001-2009 by 0.2% compared to overall population growth in Tyne and Wear of 1.8%.

Population projections suggest there will be marginal population growth in the borough, to circa 192,000 by 2016[7].

4.3 Child population

There are an estimated 31,622 children aged 0-14 years old living in Gateshead, a decrease of 2,319 (7%) since 2002[8]. The highest numbers of children live in South Neighbourhood area (7,281, 23% of total); Inner West has the lowest number of children (5,197, 16% of total).

Child population by neighbourhood area

Neighbourhood area	Central	East	Inner West	South	West	Overall
Number	6,212	5,860	5,197	7,281	7,072	31,622
Percentage	20%	19%	16%	23%	22%	100%

Percentages rounded. source ONS mid-year population estimates, 2007

Older children, aged 11 to 14 years, account for 28% of the child population; children aged under 5 years account for a third (33%):

[7] 2004-based English sub-national population projections, ONS, updated December 2006
[8] ONS mid-year population estimates 2007

Child population by age of child (0-14 years)

Age range	Estimated number of children	Percentage of all children
0-1 years	4,371	14%
2 years	2,026	6%
3-4 years	4,002	13%
5-7 years	6,012	19%
8-10 years	6,408	20%
11-14 years	8,803	28%
Total	31,622	100%

Percentages rounded

There has been a continued rise in the birth rate in Gateshead since 2001. The increase is reported to be as a result of an increase in birth rates rather than an increase in the number of women of child bearing age. The general fertility rate is 62.2 (the number of live births among females aged 11-49 years per 1,000 females aged 15-44 years), which has increased from 51.2 in 2001. [Source: ONS, accessed within the Clinical Health Outcomes and Knowledge Base at www.nchod.nhs.uk in Gateshead 2010 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Data Annex – Version 11 final]

By 2015 the child population is predicted to reach 32,200, an increase of 1.9% over 2008 figures.

4.4 Disabled children and children with additional needs

In November 2010 there were 756 disabled children and young people aged 0 to 18 years registered on the Gateshead Children with Disabilities Network. It is thought that there may be many more who are not registered on the network, an exact number has been difficult to quantify (source: Children with Disabilities Network):

Children and young people registered on Gateshead Children with Disabilities Network (Nov 2010) by age range

Age range	Number	Percentage of total (0-18 years)
0-1 year	9	1%
2 years	7	1%
3-4 years	38	5%
5-7 years	100	13%
8-10 years	170	22%
11-14 years	244	32%
15-18 years	188	25%
Overall	756	100%

Percentages rounded

In 2009 there were 290 Looked After Children aged under 18 years old in Gateshead, ranking the borough fourth highest in the region. In January 2011 the number of Looked after Children in Gateshead had risen to 324, figures are not yet sourced from neighbouring counties. Numbers of Looked After Children fluctuate (for example, there were 305 in 2007).

4.5 Household composition

In 2001 there were 84,300 households in Gateshead, of which 6,500 (7.7%) were headed by a lone parent with dependent children.

There are currently a total of circa 89,000 households in the borough. Source Acxiom (2009)

4.6 Socio-economic disadvantage

49% of children in Gateshead are in low income families (similar to the North East average and higher than England's 42%). This equates to 15,600 children living in low income families. This is a reduction of 22% since 2003 (compared to the North East 20% and England's 15% reductions). Half of these children live in families receiving workless benefits and half live in families receiving tax credits. Between 2003 and 2008 there has been a 22%

reduction in the number of children living in families dependent on income support in Gateshead.

Over half of children living in families receiving workless benefits live in lone parent households. There are 2,800 lone parents in Gateshead claiming benefits (a higher proportion of the working age population than England's). The proportion is falling over time in Gateshead, but at an identical rate when compared to England. The inequality gap is therefore remaining constant over time.

Within small areas, the proportion of children living in families receiving workless benefits or tax credits varies from under 5% to over 70%. Wards where the proportion of children in low income families is highest are Dunston and Teams, Lobley Hill and Bensham, Bridges, Felling, Saltwell, Deckham and High Fell, areas concentrated in Central and East Gateshead. [Source: 2010 Gateshead Joint Needs Assessment][9]

4.7 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

According to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007 (IMD) 35% of Gateshead's population live within the 20% most disadvantaged areas in England; (this compares to 46% in South Tyneside, 43% in Sunderland and 20% in England).

Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level IMD are summarised at district level using six different measures which allows districts (local authority areas) to be ranked according to how deprived they are relative to other districts. The North East region generally has high levels of relative deprivation; nearly 18% of its LSOAs are amongst the 10% most deprived in England. Whilst Gateshead fairs better than some of its neighbouring local authorities overall, and there are strong indications of an improving picture, there are concentrations of very deprived LSOAs across the borough[10].

The measures are:

- **The local concentration** measure shows the severity of multiple deprivation in

[9] http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/DocumentLibrary/Care/JSNA/2010FullDocument/section5.pdf

[10] English Indices of Deprivation 2007, Communities and Local Government

each authority, measuring 'hot spots' of deprivation

- **The extent** measure is the proportion of a district's population that lives in the most deprived LSOAs in England
- **The 'average scores'** and **'average ranks'** measures are two ways of depicting the average level of deprivation across the entire district
- **The income scale** and **employment scale** measures show the number of people experiencing income and employment deprivation respectively.

In terms of the Rank of Average Score – which can be regarded as approximate to an overall measure of deprivation across the borough, Gateshead ranked 52 in 2007 (a rank of 1 indicates the most deprived in England).

Gateshead's position in each district level measure

	Local concentration	Extent	Average Score	Average Rank	Income Scale	Employment Scale
Rank	36	48	52	50	58	47

Source: Communities and Local Government, English Indices of Deprivation 2007

4.8 Household income

21.5% of employees in Gateshead are paid less than £7 per hour (Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, average 2007-2009 updated to 2009[11]. The national minimum wage in 2009 was £5.80 per hour. This ranks Gateshead at 187 out of 377 local authorities in Great Britain (with 1 being ranked as the highest in terms of percentages of employees earning less than £7 an hour).

Whereas Gateshead does not rank particularly highly in terms of the percentage of employees earning less than £7 an hour, household income data shows a wide spread in terms of household income with 25% of households having an income of less than £10,000 a year and 19% in excess of £40,000 a year.

Household income is lowest in Central and East Gateshead.

[11] www.poverty.org.uk

Household income by neighbourhood area

Household income	Percent of households					
	Central	East	Inner West	South	West	Overall
£0 - £9,999	30%	29%	21%	24%	21%	25%
£10,000 - £19,999	27%	25%	22%	22%	22%	24%
£20,000 – £29,999	16%	17%	15%	16%	17%	16%
£30,000 - £39,999	14%	16%	16%	18%	18%	16%
£40,000 - £49,999	6%	6%	9%	8%	8%	8%
£50,000 and over	8%	7%	17%	17%	14%	12%

Base: 88,823 households. Percentages rounded

Source: Acxiom (2009)

4.9 The labour and employment market in Gateshead

The disappearance of mining and shipbuilding and the decline of heavy engineering activity (traditional sources of employment) has brought about a change to the economy of the area. The largest types of employment are now public administration, education and health and distribution, hotels and restaurants, both accounting for over 26% of employee jobs. Employment in manufacturing and construction remains above the regional and national average.

Employee jobs by industry (2008)

Industry	% of total employee jobs		
	Gateshead	North East	Great Britain
Manufacturing	14.4%	12.0%	10.2%
Construction	7.0%	5.6%	4.8%
Services	78.4%	81.0%	83.5%
Of which:			
Distribution, hotels and restaurants	26.2%	22.1%	23.4%
Transport and communications	6.0%	5.3%	5.8%
Finance, IT and other business activities	15.9%	16.6%	22.0%
Public administration, education and health	26.4%	32.2%	27.0%
Other services	3.8%	4.8%	5.3%

Source: ONS annual business enquiry employee analysis (NOMIS)

There are higher levels of full-time work in Gateshead than found regionally or nationally, and corresponding lower levels of part-time work.

Patterns of work: total employee jobs

	Gateshead	North East	GB
Full time	72.4%	68.2%	68.8%
Part time	27.6%	31.8%	31.2%

Source: ONS annual business inquiry employee analysis (NOMIS)

4.10 Economic activity

Economic activity refers to the number or percentage of people of working age who are either in employment or who are unemployed. Economic activity rates in Gateshead are higher than the North East region and GB as a whole. A lower percentage of people in employment are self employed compared to GB as a whole but higher than for the North East. Unemployment levels in Gateshead are relatively high (9.2% compared to 9.8% in the North East and 7.9% in GB, March 2010). Unemployment levels are higher for women than for men.

Economic activity rates April 2009 – March 2010

	Gateshead	North East	Great Britain
All people:			
Economically active	74.6%	73.0%	76.5%
In employment	67.9%	65.8%	70.3%
Employees	61.2%	59.4%	60.9%
Self employed	6.5%	5.9%	9.0%
Unemployed	9.2%	9.8%	7.9%

Source: ONS annual population survey (NOMIS). Percentage is a proportion of economically active

4.11 Economic inactivity

Economic inactivity refers to people who are neither in work nor employed. This group includes, for example, those looking after a home or retired. Economic inactivity rates in Gateshead are lower than found across the North East region and higher than found across GB.

Economic inactivity rates April 2009 – March 2010

	Gateshead	North East	Great Britain
All people: economically inactive	25.4%	27.0%	23.5%
Wanting a job	6.5%	7.0%	5.6%
Not wanting a job	18.9%	20.0%	17.9%
Males: economically inactive	20.5%	21.8%	17.3%
Wanting a job	6.8%	6.4%	4.8%
Not wanting a job	13.7%	15.4%	12.5%
Females: economic inactivity	30.2%	32.0%	29.7%
Wanting a job	6.3%	7.5%	6.4%
Not wanting a job	24.0%	24.5%	23.3%

Source: ONS annual population survey (NOMIS)

Annual Population Survey data (average 2006-2008, 30 September 2009, updated to 2009) shows that 12.4% of the working age population in Gateshead want, but lack, work. This ranks Gateshead at 42 out of 377 local authority areas in GB.

4.12 Working age benefits

Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for, and actively seeking, work. As of October 2010 there were a total of 5,467 people claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) in Gateshead, 4.4% of the working age population. JSA claimant levels were relatively high particularly amongst men, in keeping with the region as a whole:

JSA claimants by age and gender (September 2010)

	Gateshead	North East	Great Britain
All claimants	4.4%	4.7%	3.5%
Males	6.4%	6.7%	4.9%
Females	2.5%	2.7%	2.2%
Aged 18-24 years	29.3%	31.8%	29.3%
Aged 25-49 years	55.6%	53.4%	55.3%
Aged 50 and over	14.9%	14.6%	15.1%

Source: ONS claimant count (NOMIS)

Department for Work and Pensions data (2009) shows that 19.9% of the working age population were in receipt of key out of work benefits. This is high in comparison to the North East region and rates across the country as a whole, with Gateshead being ranked at 43 out of 377 local authority areas in GB. Key out of work benefits include JSA, Income Support, Incapacity Benefits, Lone Parent and others on income related benefits.

4.13 Housing and regeneration

Gateshead continues to invest in regeneration; a number of initiatives have been identified, including:

East Gateshead

- The development of around 117 affordable houses and flats close to Gateshead International Stadium;
- Commencing in 2010 a £7.6 million programme to refurbish and improve the Gateshead International Stadium arena

Inner West Gateshead

- Redevelopment of the Ravensworth estate

Gateshead-wide

- Neighbourhood renewal (parts of Bensham and Saltwell, Deckham, North Felling, Sunderland Road and Teams identified as areas most in need of additional support to deal with housing problems);

Plans to provide 2,500 new homes over the next 15-20 years (25% of which will be affordable)

'Affordable housing includes social rented and intermediate housing, provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Affordable housing should:

- Meet the needs of eligible households including availability at a cost low enough for them to afford, determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices.
- Include provision for the home to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or, if these restrictions are lifted, for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.'
- Regeneration of Gateshead Town Centre

Planning approval has been granted to redevelop Trinity Square.

Plans for the new shopping development include:

- Over 45 new retail units for high street chains, independent shops and banks
- A Tesco Extra Superstore (over 180 thousand sq ft)
- Provision for cafes, bars and restaurants
- A new town square
- Accommodation for more than 900 students
- Space for offices
- Pedestrian links to connect the scheme to the rest of the town centre
- Underground parking for approx 700 cars including disabled and parent and child spaces as well as motorcycle and bicycle parking spaces.
- Potential for a 120 bed hotel facing the town square

[Source: Gateshead Council www.gateshead.gov.uk]

5 Consultation with childcare providers

Gateshead Council Early Years and Childcare Services staff worked with registered childcare providers to complete a questionnaire, findings from which would inform the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

All registered providers were included in the data collection:

Participation/response by type of childcare provision

Type of provision	Number of settings participating	Percentage of all participating settings
Breakfast club	22	9
Childminding	148	57
Day nursery/nursery	22	9
Holiday playscheme	16	6
Out of school club	25	10
Sessional care/pre-school	25	10
Total	258	100%

Percentages rounded

Data from the provider questionnaire has been analysed and key findings are presented in the following sections. It should be noted that not all providers completed all questions; where appropriate the base for calculations has been adjusted to account for 'no responses'.

Childminders – length and continuation of service

Childminding respondents were asked to indicate how long they had worked in the sector and for how long they planned to continue. Responses show a great deal of stability in the childminding sector with the majority (74%) having worked as a childminder for more than 3 years. 19% had been working in the childminding sector for between 1 and 3 years and 7% were new to the profession. There is an extensive range of experience and service; the newest childminder has only just started in practice and the longest serving childminder has worked in the sector for 33 years.

The childminding sector shows stability in terms of the length of time childminders anticipate continuing to work as a childminder: 76% expect to continue for more than 3 years, and of those with more than 3 years current experience, 69% expect to continue for another 3 years or more.

Provision by neighbourhood area

Whilst comparison to the population of children (aged 0-14 years) is a crude assessment of sufficiency, it does provide an overview of the geographical distribution of childcare provision. Day nursery and holiday playscheme provision is well represented in the Central neighbourhood area; out of school provision (including out of school clubs, holiday and breakfast provision) has a strong presence in the Inner West neighbourhood area. Numbers of childminders are concentrated in the West neighbourhood area.

Number of settings by neighbourhood area compared to the child (0-14 year old) population

Type of provision	**Neighbourhood area – number and percentage of registered childcare providers**					
	Central	**East**	**Inner West**	**South**	**West**	**Overall**
Breakfast club	2 (9%)	3 (14%)	7 (32%)	5 (23%)	5 (23%)	22 (100%)
Childminding	16 (11%)	25 (17%)	22 (15%)	39 (26%)	46 (31%)	148 (100%)
Day nursery	8 (36%)	2 (9%)	3 (14%)	5 (23%)	4 (18%)	22 (100%)
Holiday playscheme	5 (31%)	1 (6%)	4 (25%)	2 (13%)	4 (25%)	16 (100%)
Out of school club	4 (16%)	2 (8%)	8 (32%)	5 (20%)	6 (24%)	25 (100%)
Sessional care	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	7 (28%)	8 (32%)	8 (32%)	25 (100%)

Percentages rounded

Number of registered places

Settings were asked to indicate the number of places they were registered for. Based on survey responses there are a total of 5,494 places in registered childcare provision in Gateshead. Day nursery provision accounts for 33% of total registered places, representing the largest sub-sector:

Registered childcare places by type of provision

	Breakfast club	**Childminding**	**Day nursery**	**Holiday playscheme**	**Out of school club**	**Sessional care**	**Overall**
Number	741	805	1,810	559	893	686	5,494
% of total	13%	15%	33%	10%	16%	12%	100%

Percentages rounded

There are relatively few registered places across all types of provision in the East neighbourhood area with relatively high levels of provision in Central and Inner West neighbourhood areas.

Registered provision by neighbourhood area

Type of provision	Neighbourhood area – number and percentage of registered childcare places					
	Central	**East**	**Inner West**	**South**	**West**	**Overall**
Breakfast club	88 (12%)	56 (8%)	238 (32%)	208 (28%)	151 (20%)	741 (100%)
Childminding	85 (11%)	134 (17%)	120 (15%)	214 (26%)	252 (32%)	805 (100%)
Day nursery	812 (45%)	184 (10%)	272 (15%)	344 (19%)	198 (11%)	1,810 (100%)
Holiday playscheme	184 (33%)	30 (5%)	164 (29%)	76 (14%)	105 (19%)	559 (100%)
Out of school club	188 (21%)	54 (6%)	258 (29%)	198 (22%)	195 (22%)	893 (100%)
Sessional care	30 (4%)	21 (3%)	181 (26%)	216 (31%)	238 (35%)	686 (100%)

Percentages rounded

Childcare providers choose, for a variety of reasons, not to operate to their registered level – they may make available fewer childcare places than they are registered to provide. Commonly, childminding will, as a sub-sector, operate at below registered capacity and this is true in Gateshead. Survey responses indicate that childminders are operating at circa 85% of registered capacity. This percentage may be lower than the real figure as responses suggest that some childminders indicated the number of places taken up rather than their operating capacity. It does however highlight the need to adjust registered capacity levels to take account of operating capacity when assessing the stock of childcare actually available.

Generally group childcare settings (nurseries, out of school clubs etc.) will have an operating capacity that is closer to the registered capacity and this is true of breakfast clubs, out of school clubs and sessional care in Gateshead (see the following table for detail). Nursery provision however has a low operating capacity – estimated at 80% of registered capacity. This means there are 371 fewer places available in nursery provision than registered places would suggest. 60% of those places (248 places) are in children's centre nurseries provision and numbers are capped as a result of council policy.

The following decisions were made on the 16 Nov 2010 with regard to the Children's Centre Nurseries:

- the Council will cease being the provider of the five children's centre nurseries;
- the Council will continue to reduce the budget deficit;
- the Council will identify potential alternative providers of the service, working closely with stakeholders to this end;
- if there are no alternative provider(s) secured for the children's centre nursery provision, operation will cease no later than December 201;
- the Council will ensure all appropriate consultations with staff and unions are undertaken during this period.

The impact of these decisions are yet to be investigated.

Operating capacity compared to registered capacity by type of provision

Type of provision	Breakfast club	Childminding	Day nursery	Holiday playscheme	Out of school club	Sessional care	Overall
Number registered places declared	741	805	1,810	559	893	686	5,494
Number places operated	684	700	1,439	512	840	651	4,826
Operating capacity as percentage of registered capacity	92	87	80	92	94	95	88

Percentages rounded

There are differences in operating capacity levels across different neighbourhood areas, both within different types of provision and overall. The East neighbourhood area has the lowest number of registered places across all types of provision and the lowest operating capacity.

Operating capacity compared to registered capacity by type of provision

Type of provision	Central	East	Inner West	South	West	Overall
Number registered places declared	1,387	479	1,233	1,256	1,139	5,494
Number places operated	1,143	329	1,141	1,180	1,033	4,826
Operating capacity as a percentage of registered capacity	82	69	93	94	91	88

Percentages rounded

Allocation of places by age range

It is difficult to obtain an accurate estimate of the number of places by age range of child as often the response would be different at different times of the day, day of week or time of year.

17% of providers did not provide an indication of the allocation of places by specified age ranges. Where estimates were provided in a number of cases they were provided across a number of age ranges rather than being broken down to specified age ranges (as required in the CSA Guidance).

The following table provides an estimate of the number of places available for children in different age groups, in different types of childcare provision. The figures have been calculated by applying the place allocation provided by those providing data as a percentage of operating capacity. It should be noted these figures are estimates and may be subject to a fairly high degree of error.

Estimated number of places by age range by type of provision (calculated against declared operating capacity)

Age range	Type of provision – estimated % of places for children in age range (estimated total stock of places based on declared operating capacity)					
	Breakfast club	Childminding	Day nursery	Holiday playscheme	Out of school club	Sessional care
0-1 year	0% (0)	16% (112)	17% (245)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)
2 years	1% (6)	15% (108)	32% (462)	0% (0)	0% (0)	12% (80)
3-4 years	15% (103)	22% (152)	51% (732)	19% (96)	19% (159)	88% (571)
Under 5 years total	**16% (109)**	**53% (372)**	**100% (1,439)**	**19% (96)**	**19% (159)**	**100% (651)**
5-7 years	35% (236)	32% (221)	0% (0)	30% (156)	31% (259)	0% (0)
Under 8 years total	**50% (345)**	**85% (593)**	**100% (1,439)**	**49% (252)**	**50% (418)**	**100% (651)**
8-10 years	35% (237)	11% (74)	0% (0)	32% (163)	36% (306)	0% (0)
11-14 years	15% (102)	5% (32)	0% (0)	17% (87)	14% (117)	0% (0)
15-17 years	0% (0)	0% (1)	0% (0)	2% (10)	0% (0)	0% (0)

Note: differences in figures will be as a result of rounding

Occupancy rates and vacancies

Survey responses identify very high levels of vacancies across all types of provision and all neighbourhood areas. Overall, 65% of settings had a vacancy at the time of the survey (autumn 2010). It is recognised that the survey took place during October which is traditionally when provisions have lowest occupancy. Vacancy levels across all types of provision were particularly high in South neighbourhood area.

Vacancies by neighbourhood area

Neighbourhood area	Central	East	Inner West	South	West	Overall
% of settings overall with vacancies	66%	47%	60%	76%	68%	65%

Base: all settings, 258

Vacancy levels were lowest in childminding provision (54% of childminders reported having a vacancy or vacancies at the time of the survey) and high in all other types of provision.

Vacancies by type of provision

Neighbourhood area	Breakfast club	Childminding	Day nursery	Holiday playscheme	Out of school club	Sessional care	Overall
% of settings overall with vacancies	86%	54%	80%	80%	80%	73%	65%

Base: all settings, 258

It follows, on the basis of vacancy levels that a high percentage of providers are operating below capacity. Providers were asked to estimate their occupancy levels at two points: June 2010 and October 2010. Across all provision reported occupancy levels were similar in both periods, with slightly higher levels of overall occupancy in June 2010.

Childminders report relatively low average occupancy levels in both periods: 30% of childminders report occupancy of below 50% in June 2010, and 34% estimate their occupancy levels to be below 50% in October 2010. This probably reflects the autumn school intake. Occupancy levels also decrease in sessional/pre-school and nursery provision between June and October, again reflecting the autumn intake to school. Highest occupancy levels are recorded for sessional care in June 2010.

Estimated average occupancy rates – June 2010

Type of provision	Percentage of respondents with occupancy rates of:					
	Below 30%	**31% to 50%**	**51% to 70%**	**71% to 90%**	**91% to 99%**	**100%**
Breakfast club	9%	23%	23%	23%	18%	4%
Childminding	16%	14%	24%	19%	10%	17%
Day nursery	0%	0%	21%	38%	25%	17%
Holiday playscheme	13%	40%	7%	20%	20%	0%
Out of school club	4%	29%	25%	21%	13%	8%
Sessional care	9%	0%	9%	0%	9%	73%
Overall	12%	16%	21%	20%	13%	19%

Base: 232. Percentages rounded.

Occupancy levels show greater consistency between different types of provision in October 2010:

Estimated average occupancy rates – October 2010

Type of provision	Percentage of respondents with occupancy rates of:					
	Below 30%	**31% to 50%**	**51% to 70%**	**71% to 90%**	**91% to 99%**	**100%**
Breakfast club	9%	14%	27%	27%	18%	5%
Childminding	17%	17%	21%	16%	8%	21%
Day nursery	4%	8%	33%	25%	21%	8%
Holiday playscheme	13%	40%	7%	20%	13%	7%
Out of school club	4%	21%	25%	25%	17%	8%
Sessional care	0%	18%	36%	9%	9%	27%
Overall	13%	17%	24%	20%	11%	16%

Base: 232. Percentages rounded.

The times at which childcare is available

Responses to the parent/carer questionnaire survey identified relatively high levels of people working non-standard hours, including weekends and shift patterns. Provider data shows that there is very limited provision to cater for non-standard working hours and in particular evening and weekend work.

Childminders show the greatest flexibility in terms of hours of availability, with relatively high numbers offering early morning care (pre 7.30am) and after school care (3.00pm to 6.00pm). There is also provision in childminding for evening childcare, overnight and weekend childcare.

The times at which childcare is available

Time of day/day of week	Percentage of respondents offering provision:						
	Breakfast club	Childminding	Day nursery	Holiday playscheme	Out of school club	Sessional care	Overall
Overnight care	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%
Saturday care	0%	19%	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%
Sunday care	0%	13%	4%	0%	0%	0%	8%
Pre 7.30 am	0%	46%	12%	0%	0%	0%	28%
6pm to 10pm	0%	21%	8%	0%	0%	0%	13%
3pm to 6pm	0%	89%	92%	80%	80%	8%	74%
Other*	5%	4%	0%	0%	0%	8%	3%

Base: all respondents, 258. Percentages rounded

*Other includes: 8am-9am; if needed/necessary; until 6.30pm; breakfast club Wednesday and Thursday 7.45am to 8.45am; depends on demand; no child at premises; respite

Opening hours

Breakfast club provision

Breakfast clubs operate Monday to Friday, generally between 7.30am/7.45am and 8.50am/9.00am

Childminding

The vast majority of childminders offer all day provision. The earliest provision is available is from 6.00am/6.30am and the latest finish time is 9.00pm. The most common hours of availability are between 7.00am/7.30am and 6.00pm.

Some childminders may offer additional hours for existing children at their own discretion.

9% of childminders (n=13) report offering Saturday care (this contradicts data presented in the previous table; it is possible that in the previous table childminding respondents were reporting on what places they were currently filling rather than what was potentially available). Available times were stated as between 6.00am – 6.30am/7.00am and 5.00pm/6.00pm with one childminder available until 10.00pm.

5% of childminders (n=7) report offering Sunday care (again contradicting data presented in the previous table). Here hours of availability were described as between 6.30am and 10.00pm with the majority available between 7.00am/8am and 6.00pm.

Day nursery provision

Day nurseries operate Monday to Friday typically from between 7.00am/7.30am and 6.00pm. One setting reports offering Sunday care between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

Holiday provision

Available in half term and end of term school holidays, holiday provision is typically available Monday to Friday, 7.45/8am to 5.30/6pm.

Out of school care

A small number of out of school settings are operating breakfast clubs, after school and holiday provision. Mostly out of school care available is Monday to Friday 3.00pm/3.30pm to 5.30pm/6.00pm term time only.

Sessional care

Sessional/pre-school care is available at a range of different times, Monday to Friday. Start times tend to cluster around 7.45am/8.00am and 8.45am/9.00am until 11.30am/11.45am and 12.00/12.45pm. A number of settings (n=9, 41%) also offer afternoon sessions up to around 3.00/3.15pm.

Childcare providers were asked, based on their current staff numbers and assuming there was demand, if there was any potential to increase or amend their opening hours: 16% indicated they would be able to.

In percentage terms a high percentage of day nurseries indicated they could increase or amend their opening hours (28% compared to 16% overall) but this represents a low number (n=7). 19% of childminders could increase or amend opening hours, equating to 29 settings.

Potential to increase or amend opening hours was largely non-existent in out of school provision:

Potential to increase or amend opening hours

Percentage with potential to amend or increase opening hours						
Breakfast club	Childminding	Day nursery	Holiday playscheme	Out of school club	Sessional care	Overall
0%	19%	28%	0%	4%	18%	16%

Base: all respondents, 258. Percentages rounded

Where settings had the potential to increase or amend opening hours it was mainly by opening half an hour to an hour earlier and/or closing half an hour to an hour later.

8 providers (3% of total) who were not currently offering weekend care could potentially do so (all could open on a Saturday and 5 could open on a Sunday). This capacity was in childminding.

Provision during the school holidays

The majority of settings (70% overall) operate during the school holidays.

Percentage of childcare providers operating during the school holidays

Type of provision						
Breakfast club	**Childminding**	**Day nursery**	**Holiday playscheme**	**Out of school club**	**Sessional care**	**Overall**
0	91%	100%	100%	0	0	70%

Base: all respondents, 258. Percentages rounded

Levels of provision in half term and end of term holidays are very similar.

Capacity to develop or extend provision to meet new or changing demand

There is capacity across all types of provision to develop or extend to meet new or changing demand, particularly within childminding, day nursery and sessional provision.

Percentage of childcare providers able to develop or extend provision to meet new or changing demand

Type of provision						
Breakfast club	**Childminding**	**Day nursery**	**Holiday playscheme**	**Out of school club**	**Sessional care**	**Overall**
18%	42%	56%	27%	24%	59%	40%

Base: all respondents, 258. Percentages rounded

Where providers are unable to develop or extend provision the majority (58%) report they are operating at capacity. This can be variously defined: in terms of the number of hours worked or prepared to work; numbers of children currently cared for or; with reference to competing commitments. Premises constraints and a lack of demand are also relatively commonly identified as barriers.

Where providers are able to develop or extend provision 64% are able to offer more flexibility; 30% expand the age range they care for and; 27% by increasing the number of places offered.

Charges

Charges for childcare provision vary; between providers, types of provision and the age ranges of children cared for. Data supplied by childcare providers has been summarised in the following table to provide an overview of charges, by age range and type of provision, showing minimum, maximum and average charges (for those responding to the survey).

Respondents gave details of charges by age range of children – this data was not standardised against prescribed age ranges (e.g. 0-2 years; 3-4 years etc.) therefore for comparison purposes has been collated into broad age bands that reflect how respondents presented charges data.

Charges

Type of Provision	Per Hour	Per Session	Per Day	Per Week
Breakfast Club Average		£3.89		
Childminders Average	£3.44	£12.89	£28.47	£123.33
Daycare Average		£21.15	£34.89	£159.87
Holiday Play Scheme Average		£9.25	£17.78	
After School Club Average	£3.81	£7.25		
Sessional Care Average		£9.28		

Source: childcare provider survey October/November 2010

Please note not all providers charge on all the various bases

Opinions regarding childcare and support

Providers were asked to read a small number of statements relating to childcare provision and support and to indicate for each one the extent to which they agreed with it, ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

Providers gave mixed responses, with some indicating a sufficiency of childcare provision with a good mix to offer parents choice, whilst others indicated there were insufficient places and a lack of choice.

Availability and choice of childcare

Despite findings showing high levels of vacancies and occupancy levels of below 100%, one in four providers (26%) reported feeling that there were not sufficient childcare places to meet the needs of parents and carers. A break down of responses into Neighbourhood Areas is available in appendix 2. Two-thirds of providers (66%) felt there was sufficient provision:

	Percentage of providers who:				
Statement: There is sufficient childcare provision to meet the needs of parents and carers	**Strongly agree**	**Agree**	**Not sure**	**Disagree**	**Strongly disagree**
	14%	52%	9%	22%	4%

Base: 240. Percentages rounded

Similarly, two-thirds of providers (67%) disagreed with the statement 'there is too much childcare locally' with 17% agreeing:

	Percentage of providers who:				
Statement: There is too much childcare provision locally	**Strongly agree**	**Agree**	**Not sure**	**Disagree**	**Strongly disagree**
	5%	12%	15%	61%	6%

Base: 241. Percentages rounded.

The majority of providers (75%) felt that parents have sufficient choice in terms of the mix of childcare available to them, however one in five (20%) reported this was not the case:

	Percentage of providers who:				
Statement: There is a good mix of childcare to offer parents and carers choice	**Strongly agree**	**Agree**	**Not sure**	**Disagree**	**Strongly disagree**
	14%	61%	5%	17%	3%

Base: 240. Percentages rounded

Support and sustainability

Less than two-thirds of providers (61%) felt that the development of new childcare provision has taken into account existing provision:

	Percentage of providers who:				
Statement: The development of new childcare has taken into account existing provision	**Strongly agree**	**Agree**	**Not sure**	**Disagree**	**Strongly disagree**
	4%	57%	23%	13%	4%

Base: 239. Percentages rounded

Please note the local authority has no power to prevent new childcare provision starting up.

Despite the questionnaire survey taking place at the end of a recession and as job losses were predicted as a result of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, the overwhelming majority of childcare providers were confident their settings was sustainable over the next 1 to 2years.

	Percentage of providers who:				
Statement: I am confident that my setting is sustainable over the next 1 to 2 years	**Strongly agree**	**Agree**	**Not sure**	**Disagree**	**Strongly disagree**
	43%	46%	5%	4%	2%

Base: 239. Percentages rounded

Families Information Service (FIS)

The majority of providers (82%) agreed that the FIS provide a comprehensive source of information for parents and carers. A small percentage (5%) did not agree and 13% were unsure:

	Percentage of providers who:				
Statement: The Families Information Service provide a comprehensive source of information	**Strongly agree**	**Agree**	**Not sure**	**Disagree**	**Strongly disagree**
	16%	66%	13%	4%	1%

for parents and carers					

Base: 239. Percentages rounded

Nursery Education Places (the free flexible early years entitlement)

Currently there are no childminders in Gateshead registered to deliver the free nursery education entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds. 33% (49 childminders) would be interested in doing so, however, of these 49 childminders not all would meet the required eligibility criteria.

In the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) childcare sector the free entitlement is delivered in day nursery and sessional settings. According to survey responses 100% of these settings are delivering the entitlement.

Currently parents and carers are eligible to access 15 hours a week free nursery education entitlement for children aged 3 and 4 over 38 weeks a year; this equates to 570 hours a year. From September 2012, parents will be able to 'stretch' their 570 hours over more weeks, e.g. by taking 12 hours a week but over 47 weeks a year.

Settings were asked if they would be in a position to enable parents to take their free nursery education entitlement of 570 hours over more than 38 weeks; 55% indicated they could (92% of day nurseries and 14% of sessional care providers). Sessional settings will be constrained by operating term-time only.

Quality of provision

The following statistics indicate the quality of provision based on Ofsted inspection outcomes and show the percentage of Outstanding, Good, Satisfactory, Inadequate and no response returned for each neighbourhood area.

Quality of provision by area and type:

	Central	East	Inner West	South	West	Overall
Breakfast club	**2** 1 G 1 S	**3** 1 O 2 S	**7** 5 G 2 S	**5** 2 G 2 S 1 N	**5** 4 G 1 S	**22** 1 O (4%) 12 G (55%) 8 S (36%) 1 N (5%)
Childminders	**16** 1 O 7 G 5 S 1 In 2 N	**25** 15 G 7 S 1 In 2 N	**22** 4 O 7 G 9 S 2 N	**39** 19 G 15 S 5 N	**46** 2 O 22 G 14 S 1 In 7 N	**148** 7 O (5%) 70 G (47%) 50 S (34%) 3 In (2%) 18 N (12%)
Day nursery	**8** 6 G 2 S	**2** 1 G 1 S	**3** 1 O 2 G	**5** 1 O 1 G 3 S	**4** 4 G	**22** 2 O (8%) 14 G (65%) 6 S (27%)
Holiday playscheme	**5** 2 G 3 S	**1** 1 S	**4** 4 G	**2** 1 G 1 S	**4** 4 G	**16** 11 G (69%) 5 S (31%)
Out of school club	**4** 2 G 1 S 1 N	**2** 2 S	**8** 5 G 2 S 1 In	**5** 2 G 2 S 1 N	**6** 5 G 1 S	**25** 14 G (56%) 8 S (32%) 1 In (4%) 2 N (8%)
Sessional care	**1** 1 G	**1** 1 O	**7** 1 O 5 G 1 N	**8** 7 G 1 S	**8** 1 O 6 G 1 N	**25** 3 O (12%) 19 G (76%) 1 S (4%) 2 N (8%)
Percentages per area	3% O	6% O	12% O	2% O	4% O	
	53% G	47% G	55% G	50% G	62% G	
	33% S	38% S	25% S	37% S	22% S	
	3% In	3% In	2% In	0% In	1% In	
	8% N	6% N	6% N	11% N	1% N	

Key:

O = Outstanding

G = Good

S = Satisfactory

In = Inadequate

N = No Report

Based on registered provision Oct 2010 and Ofsted data for Jan 2011

Gateshead Council Play Development Service

The Play Development Service provides a wide range of inclusive play provisions in the five neighbourhood areas of Gateshead and is involved in a wide variety of programs supporting Positive Activities for Young People. This includes delivering weekly term time, after school and lunchtime play sessions in both school and community venues, alongside local half term holiday schemes and Active Kidz Spring and Summer programs. The Play Development Service aims to provide young people with opportunities to access a wide range of activities such as arts and crafts, cookery, sport and games.

The service works as part of a multi-agency approach, working alongside projects such as Amber, Family Support and Looked after Children and Children with Disabilities team to provide one to one support for young people with additional support needs.

[Source: Gateshead Council www.gateshead.gov.uk]

The Play Development Service offers a range of inclusive play provisions for children aged between 5 years and 19 years of age. Sessions charge a nominal fee of £1. Over week commencing 11 October 2010, 509 children and young people attend sessions (some children and young people may attend more than one session and therefore be double counted in this figure).

[Source: Gateshead Council Play Development Service, November 2010]

Gateshead Council Extended Services

All schools as part of the Government's commitment to extended services in and around schools were awarded Disadvantaged Subsidy funding. As part of its extended services offering, every cluster offered a comprehensive range of exciting, high-quality out-of-hours activities to its pupils. These activities vary from music and arts to sports and cookery and were either low cost or free to help ensure they were accessible to those pupils who would not otherwise be able to afford them (the 'target group') but not exclusively to this target group.

These activities were driven by demand from the target group and were not necessarily on the school site or provided by schools themselves. In fact, schools opted to commission many activities from third-party providers, including the voluntary sector.

Not all school clusters provided complete audit information to allow statistically valid analysis. However an example is inserted here to show the range of activity on offer in a typical cluster:

School 1

Name of Activity	Day	Location of Activity	Start Time	End Time	Age Range	Cost	Attendance per session	Attendance over the week
Culture Club	Tues	School 1	3.10	4.30	11 - 16	Free to attend	10	10
Newcastle Community Football	Wed	Sports Hall	2.00	3.00	11 - 16	Free to attend	15	Figure unavailable
Gymnastics	Wed	Gymnasium	2.00	4.00	11 - 16	Free to attend	10	10
Film Club	Wed	School 1	2.00	3.30	11 - 16	Free to attend	15	15
Rugby	Wed	Sports Field	2.00	3.00	11 - 16	Free to attend	20	20
Girls Football	Wed	MUGA	2.00	3.00	11 - 16	Free to attend	15	15
Aim Higher Careers Challenge	Wed	School 1	2.00	3.00	11 - 16	Free to attend	10	10
Games and Puzzles Club	Wed	School 1	2.00	3.00	11 - 16	Free to attend	6	6
Big Ideas Youth Challenge	Wed	School 1	2.00	3.00	11 - 16	Free to attend	5	5

School 2

Name of Activity	Day	Location of Activity	Start Time	End Time	Age Range	Cost	Attendance per session	Attendance over the week
Newcastle Community Football	Mon - Fri	School 2	15:15	16:15	9-11	£1.00	15	30
Guitar Lessons	Wed &Thurs Lunchtime	School 2	12:15	13:00	9-11	£2.00 pw	10	20
Violin Lessons	Tues Lunchtime	School 2	12:15	13:00	9-11	£2.00 pw	8	8
Keyboard Lessons	Tues after school	School 2	15:20	16:20	9-11	£2.00 pw	7	7
School Choir	Thurs	School 2	15:20	16:20	5 - 11	Free	20	20
School Football Team	Tues	School 2	15:20	16:20	9-11	Free	14	14

School 3

Name of Activity	Day	Location of Activity	Start Time	End Time	Age Range	Cost	Attendance per session	Attendance over the week
Film Club	Mon	School 3	3.20	5.00	5 - 11	Free to attend	74	74
Football	Tues / Wed	School 3	12.05	12.35	9 - 11	Free to attend	20	40
Wii Club	Thurs	School 3	12.00	12.30	9 - 11	Free to attend	8	16

Hockey	Thurs	School 3	12.00	1.00	7 - 11	Free to attend	40	40

School 4

Name of Activity	Day	Location of Activity	Start Time	End Time	Age Range	Cost	Attendance per session	Attendance over the week
Flicker's Animation Club	Tues	School 4	3.15pm	4.15	11 - 16	Free to attend	10	10
Stomp: Music / Drama	Tues	School 4	3.15pm	4.15	11 - 16	Free to attend	12	12
Karate	Wed	School 4	3.15pm	4.15	11 - 16	Free to attend	14	14
Gymnastics	Thurs	Gateshead Leisure Centre	3.30pm	5.45	11 - 16	Free to attend	6	6
Film Club	Thurs	School 4	3.30pm	5.45	11 - 16	Free to attend	30	30

School 5

Name of Activity	Day	Location of Activity	Start Time	End Time	Age Range	Cost	Attendance per session	Attendance over the week
Newcastle Community Football	Mon	Outside Area	12:15	13:00	8-11 Girls	Free to attend	20	20
Karate	Wed	School 5	07:45	08:45	7-9	£3.00	30	30
Spanish	Tues	School 5	15:20	16:15	7-11	Free to attend	30	30

International Club	Tues	School 5	15:20	16:15	7-11	Free to attend	30	30
Active Club	Tues	School 5	15:20	16:15	7-9	Free to attend	15	15
Multi Skills	Wed	School 5	15:20	16:15	7-9	Free to attend	25	25
Cross Country	Tues	Outside Area	15:20	16:15	7-11	Free to attend	30	30
Football	Fri	Outside Area	15:20	16:30	9-11 Boys	Free to attend	30	30

School 6

Name of Activity	Day	Location of Activity	Start Time	End Time	Age Range	Cost	Attendance per session	Attendance over the week
Active Kidz	Mon/ Wed/Fri	School 6	12:00	13:00	Whole school	Free to attend	Figure not available	1200
Karate	Mon	School 6	08:00	08:45	Y1 /Y2	£40 per term	12	12
Cheerleading	Tues	School 6	08:00	08:45	KS2	£30 per term	13	13
Dance Club	Tues	School 6	15:20	16:20	Y5/6	£5 per term	27	27
Karate	Wed	School 6	08:00	08:45	Y3/Y4	£40 per term	11	11
Newcastle Community Football	Wed	Yard	15:20	16:20	Y5/6	£12 per course	24	24
Funfit	Thurs	School 6	08:00	08:45	Y1/2	£30 per term	7	7

Gymnastics	Thurs	School 6	15:20	16:20	KS2	outside tutor - pay direct	12	12
Karate	Fri	KS1 Hall	08:00	08:45	Y5/6	£40 per term	8	8
African Drumming	Fri	KS2 Hall	15:20	16:20	KS2	£30 per term	13	13

Further work will need to be carried out to identify and in-turn to clarify sufficiency

All schools carry out regular consultation exercises with parents/ carers regarding the activities on offer.

Most activities take place after school until 5.30 / 6.00pm although some are available at lunchtimes.

Across Gateshead there is extensive provision of child care and safe places for children to be before and after the school day. After school provision is monitored within the Early Years and Childcare Service (only if separate registration) in partnership with the Extended Services Lead Officer. There are also very good and developing relationships between Children's Centres and schools across Gateshead.

6 Parent/carer telephone interviews – key findings

Respondent profile

Response levels

A total of 850 randomly selected parent/carers were interviewed from across the local authority area

Response levels by neighbourhood area

Neighbourhood area	% of all responses (number)
Central	24% (206)
East	17% (144)
Inner West	15% (131)
South	21% (182)
West	22% (187)
Overall	100% (850)

Base: 850, percentages rounded

Ethnicity and Faith of respondents

According to the 2001 Census, White British accounted for 98.4% of the population of Gateshead. The largest ethnic minority group at that time was Indian (accounting for 0.3% of the population). Whilst the Black and Minority Ethnic community is relatively small, according to NHS data[12] the population of Gateshead has become more ethnically diverse over the past 8 years and there is a significant established orthodox Jewish community.

Across all respondents, 95% were White British. The highest proportion of Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) respondents were located in the Central area (accounting for 12% of total respondents in Central), which has a higher BME population than other neighbourhood areas.

Ethnicity of respondents is shown in the following table:

[12] NHS Information Centre: www.ic.nhs.uk

Ethnicity of respondents

White British	95%
Other White	2%
Mixed Heritage	1%
Black/Black British	0.6%
Asian/Asian British	0.4%
Other ethnicity	1%
Refused	1%

Base: 850, percentages rounded

Gender

76% of all respondents (650 parent/carers) were female and 24% (200 parent/carers) were male.

Age of respondents

Respondents were drawn from across all age ranges: the majority of respondents (56%, 473 respondents) were aged between 35 and 44 years old:

Age of respondents

Age range	% of respondents	Number
16 - 24 years	2%	15
25 – 34 years	17%	146
35 – 44 years	56%	473
45 – 54 years	23%	192
55 – 64 years	2%	15
65+ years	0.5%	4

Base: 845, excluding non responses

Households

17% of respondents (144) headed a one parent family. Of those two-thirds (67%, 97 households) were working and a third (33%, 47 households) were not working at the time of the survey. In two parent households both parents were working in 72% (511) of households; one parent was working in 23% (161) of two parent households and non-working couples accounted for 5% (34) of two parent households.

Working status of households

Percent of all respondents (number)				
Two parent households - both parents working	**Two parent households - one parent working**	**Two parent households - non working couples**	**One parent households - parent working**	**One parent households - parent not working**
60%	19%	4%	11%	6%
511	161	34	97	47

Base 850: percentages rounded

Relationship to children

Respondents were asked their relationship to the children they cared for. In the majority of cases the respondent was the mother (74%, 633 respondents); fathers accounted for just over 1 in 5 of those interviewed (22%, 188 respondents).

Relationship between respondents and children cared for

Relationship	% of all respondents	Number
Mother	74%	633
Father	22%	188
Grandparent	2%	14
Mixed relationship	1%	7
Step Parent	0.4%	3
Other	1%	5

Base: 850, percentages rounded

Half of all respondents (50%, 425 respondents) were caring for one child and 39% (335 respondents) were caring for two children:

Number of children cared for

Number of children cared for	One	Two	Three	Four	Five or more
% of respondents (number)	50% (425)	39% (335)	7% (63)	2% (14)	2% (13)

Base: 850, percentages rounded

In total respondents were caring for 1,416 children.

Ages of children cared for

Age range	% of children	Number
0 -1 year	6%	78
2 years	4%	58
3 - 4 years	12%	164
5 - 10 years	43%	612
11 - 14 years	35%	493
15 - 17 years (disabled children)	1%	11

Base: 1,416, percentages rounded

Comparing the percentage of children in each age band cared for by survey respondents to the child population data (0-14 year olds) shows a lower percentage of children under 5 years and a correspondingly higher percentage of children aged 5-10 years:

Age of children cared for by respondents compared to estimated child population 0-14

Age range	% of children by age range cared for by respondents	% of children by age range in the child population[13]
0-4 years	21%	33%
5-10 years	43%	32%
10-14 years	35%	38%

Base: 1,405: percentages rounded

[13] Gateshead data

Disabled children and children with additional needs

6% of all respondents (49) were caring for 88 disabled children or child with additional needs. The most common disability or additional need was a learning disability (41% of parents/carer caring for a disabled child or child with additional need were caring for a child with a learning disability), 37% were caring for a child with a physical disability and 40% for a child with a behavioural or emotional need.

Employment and household income

Respondents were asked to describe their employment status, and that of their partner if appropriate.

A high percentage of respondents were working at the time of the survey (76%, 648 respondents) and of those the majority (341, 53% of those working and 40% of all respondents) were working full time – in excess of 30 hours a week.

A small percentage of respondents (4%, 33 respondents) were registered as unemployed. 15% of respondents were looking after the home/family.

83% of respondents were living with a partner and 90% of partners were working. A higher percentage of respondents' partners were working full time (77% compared to 40% of respondents and a lower percentage was working part time (13% compared to 36%).

Employment status - respondent and respondents' partners

Employment status	Respondents %	Partner of respondent (where appropriate) %
Working full time (30+ hours a week)	40%	77%
Working part time (16-29 hours a week)	27%	10%
Look after home/family	15%	4%
Working part time (under 16 hours a week)	9%	3%
Registered unemployed	4%	3%
Student	2%	1%
Retired	1%	*
Unemployed but not registered	1%	1%
Voluntary work	0.5%	0%
Other**	3%	2%

Base: 850 respondents; 706 partners. Percentages rounded
* indicates very low percentage – 0.01
** Other includes: Incapacity benefits/off sick/disabled; maternity leave; hours vary

Employment patterns

Respondents were asked what their, or their partner's, working patterns were in a normal working week. Just under three quarters of respondents who were in work (74%, 573 respondents) were working 'normal' office hours (defined as between 8.00am and 6.00pm Monday to Friday); a further 10% reported they and/or their partner worked normal office hours plus overtime. Responses indicate relatively high proportions of parent/carers working non-standard hours, including weekends and in particular, shift work.

Patterns of work (respondent and partner) in a normal working week

Times of work	% of all respondents where respondent and/or partner works	Number
Normal office hours (e.g. 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday)	74%	573
Shift work	21%	163
Weekends	13%	103
Fixed times mainly outside of normal office hours	11%	89
Normal office hours plus overtime	10%	75

Base: 706 excluding non responses, percentages rounded. Multiple responses

The proportion of respondents and partners working non standard hours was lowest in the Central and South Gateshead and highest in Inner West and East Gateshead. Shift work was particularly high in Inner West Gateshead.

Patterns of work (respondent and partner) non standard hours by neighbourhood area

Times of work	Neighbourhood area					
	Central	East	Inner West	South	West	Overall
Shift work	18%	23%	26%	17%	22%	21%
Weekend work	10%	16%	16%	11%	15%	13%
Fixed times mainly outside normal working hours	8%	14%	12%	11%	13%	11%

Base: 778, percentages rounded. Multiple responses

Jobcentre Plus

In June 2010, Jobcentre Plus analysed information over a 2 week period regarding the type of childcare sought by Jobcentre Plus customers and the barriers to childcare faced by those customers, giving an indication of the issues faced by parents trying to get into/back to work.

The information shows that the most requested childcare type sought for 5-7 years olds and over 8's was Holiday Clubs, and for under 5's, it was Day Nurseries. The main barriers faced by parents included lack of provision for early morning/evening care and cost.

Appendix 3 provides full details of the analysis.

Household income

Just over a third of respondents providing information about household income had an annual income of between £20,000 and £39,999 (37%, 280 respondents. Just over one in four respondents (26%, 200 households) had an income of £40,000 a year or more; a similar proportion (24%, 183 households) had an income of less than £15,000 a year.

Household income

Income band	Less than £10,000	£10,000 to £14,999	£15,000 to £19,999	£20,000 to £39,999	£40,000 to £65,999	Over £66,000
% of respondents	12% (92)	12% (90)	12% (93)	37% (280)	20% (152)	6% (48)

Base: 756 excluding non responses, percentages rounded

Conventionally low income households are defined as those with a household income of less that 60% of the national median household income[14].

The median household income for the whole population in 2008/09 was £407 per week (before housing costs), equating to £21,164 per annum. Using the conventional definition, low income families would be those with a household income of less than £12,698 a year (£244.20 a week) before housing costs[15].

[14] Definition of low income www.poverty.org.uk

[15] Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Resource Centre May 2010: 'Households Below Average Income' www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai.asp

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) May 2010 report 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) notes that families with children, particularly lone parent families, are more likely to be in low-income households than their childless counterparts.

According to Gateshead 2010 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)[16], 49% of children in Gateshead are in low income families compared with 49% across the North East and 42% for England as a whole. This equates to 15,600 children living in low income families. Half of these children live in families receiving workless benefits and half live in families receiving tax credits. Over half of children living in families receiving workless benefits live in lone parent households

Wards where the proportion of children in low income families is highest are Dunston and Teams, Lobley Hill and Bensham, Bridges, Felling, Saltwell, Deckham and High Fell. These areas are concentrated in Central and East Gateshead. Analysing data by neighbourhood area shows a lower percentage of households in Central and East Gateshead with higher income levels (above £40,000 per annum) and correspondingly a higher percentage with lower income levels (below £19,999).

Respondents living in Inner West Gateshead reported the highest income levels:

Household income by neighbourhood area

	Income band		
Neighbourhood area	**Under £20,000**	**£20,000 to £39,999**	**Over £40,000**
Central	41%	35%	24%
East	37%	40%	23%
Inner West	32%	31%	36%
South	34%	41%	25%
West	37%	38%	26%

[16] Gateshead 2010 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Data annex – version 11 Final QAd pp54 www.gateshead.gov.uk/DocumentLibrary/Care/JSNA/2010FullDocument/JSNA-LINKED.pdf

Overall	37%	37%	26%

Base: 756 excluding non responses, percentages rounded

Opinions about childcare

Respondents were asked two general questions about childcare regardless of whether or not they used it: their opinion on the quality of childcare in their local area and; if they felt there were enough childcare places.

Perceptions of quality

In terms of quality, 62% of all respondents reported that the quality of childcare provision in their local area generally was quite or very good. 11% of respondents thought it was poor and 27% (229 respondents) did not have an opinion.

A higher percentage of respondents living in Central Gateshead reported the quality of childcare in their local area generally as good than found overall (69% reporting quality generally to be quite or very good compared to 62% overall). A higher percentage of respondents in East Gateshead did not offer an opinion. Findings suggest a slightly higher use of informal childcare only in this neighbourhood area compared to overall (32% vs. 30%)

Respondents views on the quality of childcare in their local area - by neighbourhood area

	Overall quality of childcare				
Neighbourhood area	**Very good**	**Quite good**	**Don't know**	**Quite poor**	**Very poor**
Central	21%	48%	20%	7%	3%
East	17%	38%	37%	5%	2%
Inner West	31%	33%	26%	8%	2%
South	21%	40%	30%	5%	4%
West	18%	44%	24%	9%	5%
Overall	21%	41%	27%	7%	4%

Base: 850, percentages rounded

Parent/carers of younger children were more likely to report the quality of childcare generally as good than parent/carers of older children. In general terms, use of childcare of any type is lower for parent/carers of older children and use of formal childcare decreases with the age of the child.

Respondents views on the quality of childcare in the their local area - by age of child

	Overall quality of childcare				
Age of child	**Very good**	**Quite good**	**Don't know**	**Quite poor**	**Very poor**
0-2 years	28%	43%	19%	6%	3%
3-4 years	33%	41%	18%	6%	3%
5-10 years	23%	40%	26%	8%	3%
11-14 years	19%	40%	31%	8%	3%
Disabled children – all ages (0 to 18 years)	21%	41%	27%	7%	4%
Overall	21%	41%	27%	7%	4%

Base: 850, percentages rounded
Note: A parent/carer with children in different age ranges will have responded in general terms and not by age of child and therefore be double counted in the table above

Perceptions of availability

Overall, 38% of respondents (324) felt there were enough childcare places in their local area. Only 1% (6 respondents) thought there were too many and nearly a third (31%, 263 respondents) thought there were not enough childcare places locally. 30% of respondents were unable to offer an opinion - 41% of all respondents surveyed were not using any form of childcare and the relatively high percentage of 'don't know' responses may reflect this.

A higher percentage of respondents living in Inner West and West Gateshead reported sufficient childcare places locally than found overall (44% and 42% respectively compared to 38% overall). Respondents living in West Gateshead however showed a more polarised view with a higher proportion of respondents also reporting insufficient childcare places overall. This may be due to the larger geographical spread of the communities in the West area.

Respondents views on whether there are enough childcare places generally in their local area by neighbourhood area

	In general terms are there enough childcare places in the local area?			
	Too many	The right number	Not enough	Don't know
Neighbourhood area				
Central	0.5%	37%	33%	30%
East	0%	35%	27%	38%
Inner West	2%	44%	26%	29%
South	2%	34%	32%	32%
West	0%	42%	35%	23%
Overall	1%	38%	31%	30%

Base: 850, percentages rounded

Responses showed a similar pattern across all age ranges albeit there is a decreasing percentage of respondents' reporting the right number of places associated with increasing age of child and a higher percentage of 'don't know responses' associated with increasing age of child.

Respondents views on whether there are enough childcare places generally in their local area - by age of child

	In general terms are there enough childcare places in the local area?			
Age of child	Too many	The right number	Not enough	Don't know
0-2 years	1%	46%	33%	20%
3-4 years	2%	44%	33%	21%
5-10 years	1%	39%	32%	28%
11-14 years	0%	35%	28%	37%
Disabled children (all)	1%	33%	33%	34%
Overall	1%	38%	31%	30%

Base 850: percentages rounded.
Note: A parent/carer with children in different age ranges will have responded in general terms and not by age of child and therefore be double counted in the table above

Current use of childcare

A high percentage of respondents (71%, 600 respondents) did not use formal childcare and 41% (348 respondents) were not using any form of childcare. Use of formal childcare is correspondingly low: 15% of respondents (n=129) used formal childcare only and 14% (n=121) used a combination of formal and informal childcare.

Patterns of childcare use were broadly similar across Gateshead. A higher percentage of respondents living in Central Gateshead used formal childcare (20% compared to 15% overall) and a higher percentage of respondents in Inner West Gateshead did not use any form of childcare:

Use of childcare

	Respondents' reported use of childcare			
Neighbourhood area	**Formal childcare**	**Informal childcare**	**Both formal and informal childcare**	**None**
Central	20%	27%	15%	38%
East	15%	32%	13%	40%
Inner West	15%	26%	14%	45%
South	14%	31%	13%	41%
West	11%	32%	16%	41%
Overall	**15%**	**30%**	**14%**	**41%**

Base: 850, percentages rounded

Use of formal childcare by parent/carers of children aged 3 - 4 years, and to a lesser extent 0 - 2 year olds, is higher than for all other ages, probably reflecting the impact of the free early years entitlement. A higher percentage of parent/carers of older children (aged 5 – 14) report not using any form of childcare:

Use of childcare - by age of child

Age of child	Respondents' reported use of childcare			
	Formal childcare	Informal childcare	Both informal and formal childcare	None
0-2 years	27%	27%	23%	23%
3-4 years	39%	11%	34%	16%
5-10 years	18%	30%	17%	36%
11-14 years	7%	33%	8%	52%
Disabled child (all ages)	12%	34%	12%	41%
Overall	15%	30%	14%	41%

Base: 850, percentages rounded
Note: A parent/carer with children in different age ranges will have responded in general terms and not by age of child and therefore be double counted in the table above

Use of formal childcare was lower amongst parent/carers of disabled children and children with additional needs.

Where parent/carers are using childcare the majority (80%, 403 respondents) used it for all children and 20% (99 respondents) were using childcare for some but not all children.

Use of childcare was considerably lower within workless households (67% compared to 41% overall reported not using any form of childcare), with lower levels of reported use of informal childcare in particular:

Use of childcare – working household in comparison to workless households

	Respondents' reported use of childcare			
	Formal childcare	**Informal childcare**	**Both informal and formal childcare**	**None**
Working households	15%	31%	15%	39%
Workless households	15%	11%	7%	67%
Overall	15%	30%	14%	41%

Base: working households 769, workless households 61. Percentages rounded

Use of childcare (formal and/or informal) increases with reported household income. 48% of households with an annual income of less than £20,000 did not use childcare compared to 28% of households with an income of over £40,000.

Households with an income of more than £20,000 were more likely to use informal childcare:

Use of childcare by household income

Household Income	Respondents' reported use of childcare			
	Formal childcare	**Informal childcare**	**Both informal and formal childcare**	**None**
Under £20,000	18%	25%	9%	48%
£20,000 - £39,999	8%	35%	16%	41%
Over £40,000	18%	35%	20%	28%
Overall	15%	30%	14%	41%

Base: all respondents 850, household income 756. Percentages rounded

Types of childcare used

Of the 59% of respondents that were using some form of childcare, the vast majority (99%, 496 respondents) used childcare during term time and 42% (355 respondents) were planning to use holiday childcare.

Extended families, and in particular grandparents, play an important role in childcare arrangements both in term time and during the school holidays. Of those using informal childcare, 80% relied on grandparents during the school term and 85% during the holidays.

Term time use

The most commonly used form of formal childcare accessed during term time is private day nursery provision, used by 13% of all childcare users and 25% of those using formal childcare or a mix of formal and informal childcare.

Term time use of childcare – formal childcare

Type of childcare	% of respondents using any form of childcare	% of respondents using formal childcare
Private day nursery	13%	25%
After school club	12%	23%
Nursery class attached to a primary/infant school	9%	18%
Breakfast club	7%	15%
Childminder	6%	11%
After school activity run by the school	4%	8%
Maintained nursery school	2%	4%
Pre-school playgroup	2%	3%
Special provision for disabled children and children with additional needs	1%	2%
Crèche	1%	2%
Workplace nursery	0.4%	1%
Other*	1%	1%

Base: all users of childcare 502, users of formal childcare 250; percentages rounded. Multiple responses

In terms of informal childcare, care is provided by the extended family and particularly by grandparents:

Term time use of childcare – informal childcare

Type of childcare	% of respondents using any form of childcare	% of respondents using informal childcare
Grandparent	55%	80%
Other relative/friend/neighbour	9%	12%
Older sibling	6%	11%

Base: all users of childcare 502, users of informal childcare 252; percentages rounded. Multiple responses

Use of childcare during school holidays

Given the scheduled timing of the survey (July 2010) respondents were asked if they intended to use childcare during the school holidays to provide an assessment of use and unmet need. 42% of all respondents (n=355) and 71% of those currently using childcare were planning on using childcare in the holidays. Given that a lack of holiday provision is commonly identified it is interesting to look at the reasons given by respondents for not using holiday provision.

Nearly two-thirds of those not planning to use childcare during the summer holidays (64%, 308 respondents) stated that either one parent was always at home or that one parent works from home; 19% reported working term time only and 11% expressed a preference to look after their child/ren themselves.

Cost was raised as an issue by 11% of respondents not planning on using holiday childcare (53 respondents) and whilst other barriers were identified they were in relatively small numbers.

In addition to the reasons stated above, of those not planning to use childcare during the school holidays:

- 11% (53 respondents) cited cost as a barrier;
- 6% (29 respondents) stated their child/ren was old enough to look after themselves;

- 4% (17 respondents) reported there was no childcare available;
- 3% (14 respondents) indicated their child/ren did not want to attend provision;
- 3% (14 respondents) felt their child was too young;
- 2% (9 respondents) reported available childcare did not meet their needs and the same percentage indicated times were not suitable;
- Others reasons included reliance on family (2%); poor quality (1%); lack of reliability (0.2%); lack of religious care (1%) and; on maternity leave (1%)

Base: 483, percentages rounded. Multiple responses

The highest proportion of those planning to use holiday childcare were planning to use grandparents, cited by 60%. 15% were planning to use holiday provision, although it should be noted planned use of formal childcare during the school holidays was low:

Planned use of childcare in the school holiday – formal childcare

Type of childcare	% of respondents using any form of childcare	% of respondents using formal childcare
Holiday club/childcare	15%	18%
Summer playscheme run by the local authority (active kidz)	8%	10%
Private day nursery	8%	18%
Childminder	6%	13%
Out of school club that operate holiday provision	5%	8%
Activities run by the school during the school holidays	3%	5%
Special provision for disabled children or children with additional needs	1%	3%
Crèche	1%	1%

Base: all users of holiday childcare 355; base current formal/informal childcare users 147, percentages rounded. Multiple responses

Planned use of holiday childcare – informal childcare

Formal childcare used	**% of respondents using any form of childcare**	**% of respondents using only informal childcare**
Grandparent	60%	85%
Other relative/friend/neighbour	12%	16%
Older sibling	6%	8%
Parent/carer (respondent/partner)	5%	8%

Base: all users of holiday childcare 355; base current users informal childcare only 158, percentages rounded
Multiple responses

Reasons for using childcare

Respondents were asked why they used childcare (either formal or informal). The most common reason cited was out of necessity as they were at work, training or studying (76%, 380 respondents using childcare). This was particularly evident amongst parent/carers of older children- 78% of parent/carers of a child aged 5 – 10 years and 74% of parent/carers of a child aged 11-14 years used childcare out of necessity.

Reasons for using childcare

Reason	% of respondents using childcare citing	Number
Necessity – working, studying or training	76%	380
To enable child to socialise	13%	64
Free (use of informal childcare only)	10%	49
For flexibility/convenience	9%	43
Free entitlement	8%	41
Prefer to leave the child with someone child/parent knows or parent at home	8%	41
To get the child ready for the school environment	7%	33
Respite	4%	20
Use informal childcare as costs of formal childcare are too high	4%	19
Something to do in the holidays	3%	13
Low cost	2%	9
Work around school hours	1%	3
Other *	2%	11

Base: users of childcare 502, percentages rounded. Multiple responses
*Other includes because of special needs (4); lack of options (3); family enjoy looking after (2); child doesn't want to attend (1); give child exercise (1)

Satisfaction with current childcare arrangements

A high proportion of respondents (41%) were not using any form of childcare. Those using some form of childcare, formal and/or informal, were asked how satisfied they were with their current arrangements. Overall 90% were satisfied (either very or quite satisfied) and only a very small percentage (3%) was dissatisfied.

Levels of dissatisfaction with current childcare arrangements were uniformly low across all neighbourhood areas:

Overall satisfaction with childcare arrangements – by neighbourhood area

	% of respondents using childcare who were:				
Neighbourhood area	**Very satisfied**	**Quite satisfied**	**Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied**	**Quite dissatisfied**	**Very dissatisfied**
Central	65%	25%	7%	2%	1%
East	67%	19%	10%	2%	1%
Inner West	65%	25%	7%	2%	1%
South	70%	23%	5%	2%	1%
West	61%	26%	9%	3%	1%
Overall	65%	25%	7%	2%	1%

Base: all users of childcare excludes non responses 498, percentages rounded

Similarly there were high levels of satisfaction with current childcare arrangements across all age ranges of children cared for:

Overall satisfaction with current childcare arrangements – by age of child

Age range of child/ren	% of respondents using childcare who were:				
	Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Neither satisfied not dissatisfied	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
0-2 years	71%	20%	6%	2%	1%
3-4 years	63%	29%	8%	0%	1%
5-10 years	63%	27%	8%	2%	1%
11-14 years	70%	23%	4%	1%	1%
Disabled child (all)	65%	25%	7%	2%	1%
Overall	65%	25%	7%	2%	1%

Base: all current users of childcare, excludes non responses, 498. Percentages rounded

Satisfaction with quality and cost

Responses indicate high levels of satisfaction with the quality of childcare used currently, generally speaking across all neighbourhood areas and across all age ranges of children.

Quality

A very high percentage of respondents using childcare reported being satisfied with the quality of their current childcare arrangements (97%, 480 respondents).

97% of parent/carers of a disabled child or child with additional need also reported being satisfied with the quality of their current childcare, however data shows a difference between the percentage being very satisfied and the percentage being quite satisfied:

Satisfaction with the quality of current childcare arrangements

	% of respondents reporting they were:				
	Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
All respondents	80%	17%	2%	1%	0.4%
Parent/carers of disabled children and children with additional needs	67%	30%	2%	0%	0%

Base: excludes non responses, all respondents 496, parent/carers of disabled children 46. Note: low base

Satisfaction levels with the quality of current childcare arrangements were high for respondents using both formal and informal childcare:

Satisfaction with the quality of current childcare arrangements – type of childcare used

	% of respondents reporting they were:				
Type of childcare used	Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Formal childcare	75%	20%	5%	0%	0%
Informal childcare	88%	9%	1%	0.4%	0%
Both formal and informal childcare	64%	30%	2%	2%	2%

Base: 498, percentages rounded

Cost

A relatively high proportion of respondents chose not to respond to the question about cost (47 respondents, 9% of those using childcare) and these have been excluded from the following analysis. The majority of respondents declining to answer a question about cost (72%) were not using formal childcare.

Satisfaction levels with the cost of current childcare arrangements were high (84%) however a small percentage of respondents (8%) were dissatisfied with the cost of their childcare arrangements.

Satisfaction with the cost of current childcare arrangements – users of childcare by neighbourhood area

	% of respondents using childcare who were:				
Neighbourhood area	**Very satisfied**	**Quite satisfied**	**Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied**	**Quite dissatisfied**	**Very dissatisfied**
Central	62%	21%	7%	8%	2%
East	69%	21%	7%	2%	0%
Inner West	65%	17%	9%	6%	3%
South	69%	15%	6%	7%	3%
West	63%	18%	11%	7%	1%
Overall	66%	18%	8%	6%	2%

Base all current users of childcare, excludes non responses, 455. Percentages rounded

Satisfaction levels with the cost of current childcare were similar across all ranges with a slightly higher percentage of parent/carers of children aged 11 – 14 years reporting being satisfied (89% compared to 84% overall).

Satisfaction levels with the cost of current childcare arrangements were highest within the group of respondents using only informal childcare (89% were very satisfied compared to 60% overall). A higher percentage of respondents using both formal and informal childcare reported dissatisfaction with the cost of their current childcare arrangements (23% compared to 8% overall).

Satisfaction with the cost of current childcare arrangements – users of childcare by type of childcare used

Type of childcare used	% of respondents using childcare who were:				
	Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Formal	50%	31%	12%	7%	0%
Informal	89%	6%	4%	0.5%	0.5%
Both formal and informal	38%	29%	10%	17%	6%

Base: 455, percentages rounded

Respondents with a household income of between £15,000 and £39,999 were most satisfied with the cost of their current childcare. Only a small percentage within each household income bracket reported being very dissatisfied.

Satisfaction with the cost of current childcare arrangements – users of childcare by household income

Household Income	% of respondents using childcare who were:				
	Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Less than £10,000	58%	17%	19%	6%	0%
£10,000 - £14,999	57%	20%	16%	7%	0%
£15,000 - £19,999	75%	12%	6%	4%	4%
£20,000 - £39,999	72%	14%	6%	5%	3%
£40,000 - £65,999	65%	19%	7%	8%	0%

£66,000 and over	50%	34%	6%	9%	0%
Overall	66%	18%	8%	6%	2%

Base all current users of childcare, excludes non responses, 455. Percentages rounded

Support for the cost of childcare

Respondents using childcare were asked if they received any support for the cost of childcare. A wide range of support was identified albeit in very low numbers for many types (e.g. 'foster carers allowance'; 'disability allowance'; direct payment scheme).

Child Tax Credit was the most commonly cited support identified (by 63% of respondents using childcare) followed by Working Tax Credit, the childcare element of Working Tax Credit and the free early education entitlement.

Respondents in receipt of support for the cost of childcare

Type of support	**% of respondents using childcare receiving**	**Number**
Child Tax Credit	63%	303
Working Tax Credit	31%	147
Childcare element of Working Tax Credit	13%	61
Free early education entitlement/nursery place	8%	37
Childcare vouchers	3%	15
Salary sacrifice scheme	2%	10
Fair access to care for disabled children	1%	6
Other*	2%	11

Base: excludes non responses, 480. Percentages rounded
Multiple responses

Relatively few respondents reported being in receipt of Working Tax Credit (WTC). Across all respondents 31% (147 respondents) were in receipt of WTC and 13% (61 respondents) in receipt of the childcare element of WTC.

3 and 4 year old entitlement

Respondents caring for a child aged 3 or 4 years old were asked a specific set of questions exploring awareness, use and preference for the early years entitlement of a free place for every child aged 3 and 4 years of age for 12.5 hours a week.

A total of 160 respondents were caring for a child aged 3 or 4, of those, 82% (131 respondents) were aware of the entitlement. Levels of awareness were highest in West Gateshead and lowest in South Gateshead.

Levels of awareness of the free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds – by neighbourhood area

	Central	**East**	**Inner West**	**South**	**West**	**Overall**
Yes	85%	81%	78%	73%	90%	82%

Base: 160, percentages rounded

Of those aware of the entitlement:

- 72% (94 respondents) were using the full entitlement;
- 2% (3 respondents) were using some of their entitlement;
- 13% were not using their entitlement

A higher percentage of respondents using formal childcare, either in isolation or in combination with informal childcare, were aware of the early years entitlement than non users of formal childcare (88% compared to 64%).

From September 2010 all 3 and 4 year old children will be entitled to a free early years place for 15 hours a week. Nearly half of all respondents with a child aged 3 or 4 years old were unaware of the extension to the number of hours, or were unsure (44% unaware, 4% unsure). One in five respondents (20%, 32 respondents) were already accessing the additional hours and 31% (50 respondents) were aware of the additional hours but were not yet accessing them.

Stretch

Currently (August 2010) the free early education entitlement can be taken over 38 weeks (equating to 15 hours a week for all from September 2010). From September 2012 the 15 hours a week free early years place can be stretched to allow parent/carers to take fewer than 15 hours a week but for more weeks a year (for example, 12 hours a week for 47 weeks).

39% of respondents (n= 62) stated they would take up the option of fewer hours over more weeks if it were available now; 52% (83 respondents) would not and; 9% (15 respondents) were unsure.

The extent to which current childcare arrangements meet needs

Respondents who were using childcare were asked if their current childcare arrangements met their needs. A high proportion of respondents were not using any form of childcare (41%). Of those that were using formal and/or informal childcare, 93% (468 respondents) reported that their current childcare arrangements were meeting their needs.

Do current childcare arrangements meet your needs?

	Central	East	Inner West	South	West	Overall
Yes	95%	87%	94%	95%	93%	93%

Base: 502, percentages rounded

The proportion of respondents stating that current childcare arrangements met needs was similar across all age ranges, household income types and amongst parent/carers with a disabled child or child with additional need, and by type of childcare used. A slightly higher percentage of parent/carers using informal childcare reported that current childcare arrangements met their needs (95% compared to 91% of parent/carers using formal childcare, or a mix of formal and informal childcare).

Where respondents stated their current childcare arrangements did not meet their needs, the majority cited a lack of preferred care; a lack of provision at hours/times required and; cost as barriers:

Reasons why current childcare does not meet needs

Reason	% respondents agreeing
Preferred care is not available	53%
Cannot get times/hours required	47%
Cost/cannot afford	26%
Location	18%
Poor quality	12%

Base 34, percentages rounded
Note: low base

Non-users of formal childcare

Nearly three quarters of respondents (71%, 600 respondents) were not using formal childcare at the time of the survey. A relatively large proportion of those (42%, 252 respondents) were using informal childcare and very few indicated that a lack of available childcare or childcare quality was a barrier to take up.

Data suggests that for the majority of those not using formal childcare, 66% do so by choice – they would not use formal childcare even if suitable and affordable childcare were available. Potential take-up amongst non users is higher in Central and East Gateshead and lowest in West Gateshead.

Percentage of respondents not currently using formal childcare who would do so if suitable and affordable care was available

Central	East	Inner West	South	West	Overall
40%	37%	32%	33%	25%	33%

Base: 600, percentages rounded

Taking working status into account, a higher percentage of workless households not currently using formal childcare would do so if suitable and affordable childcare were available:

Percentage of respondents not currently using formal childcare who would do so if suitable and affordable care was available – working vs. Workless households

Workless households – would consider	43%
Working households – would consider	32%

Base: 600, percentages rounded.

Respondents were asked the reason or reasons why they did not access formal childcare. For many non-use of formal childcare is a choice, or made possible by the extended family. The most commonly cited reason was that one parent was always at home to care for the child/ren (this included working from home). 30% reported that grandparents and other family members are available to help and 11% preferred their child to be looked after by someone they knew. Responses also suggest that parent/carers adjust working hours to ensure childcare needs are met.

Findings identify that some parent/carers are however facing barriers to using formal childcare. The cost of formal childcare was identified as a barrier to nearly one in five not currently using it (19%, 112 respondents) and a lack of suitable provision was identified by 8% (47 respondents). Other barriers are identified affecting a relatively small proportion of respondents, as shown in the following table:

Reasons for not using formal childcare - non-users of formal childcare

Reason	% of all respondents not using formal childcare	Number
One parent is always at home	39%	234
Grandparent/family always available	30%	181
Cannot afford it	19%	112
Parents juggle work so one parent is always at home	11%	67
Prefer my child/ren to be looked after by someone the child knows	11%	63
One parent works school hours only	9%	55
Prefer to look after my child/ren myself	9%	53
Children are old enough to look after themselves	8%	50
Available childcare doesn't meet needs/is not suitable	8%	47
Choice/preference	5%	28
Lack of trust	2%	13
Poor quality	1%	7
Preferred childcare full	1%	3
My child has additional needs and available provision does not meet those needs	1%	3
My child is too young	1%	3
Other*	3%	18

Base 600: percentages rounded. Multiple responses
Note: Parents/carers with children in different age groups will be double counted in the table above
* other includes: not needed; not flexible enough; child doesn't want to attend; unemployed; lack of information; child in school; not appropriate for religious/cultural reasons; maternity leave; do not want to pay

Children being old enough to look after themselves is restricted to parent/carers of children aged 11 and over.

Preferences for formal childcare amongst those not currently using it

Respondents who were not using formal childcare were asked if suitable and affordable formal childcare were available, would they use it.

The majority (66%, 394 respondents) would not - this suggests that not using formal childcare is a preference for the majority rather than a reflection of barriers to take-up.

Parent/carers with older children (aged 11-14 years) indicated a lower demand for formal childcare. Just less than a quarter of parent/carers of a child aged 11-14 years would use formal childcare if suitable and affordable care were available (24%) compared to 33% overall and much higher proportions of parent/carers of children in other age ranges:

Proportion of parent/carers not currently using formal childcare that would if suitable and affordable care was available - by age of child

	0-2 years	3-4 years	5-10 years	11-14 years	Disabled child (all)	Overall
Would use	49%	38%	42%	24%	33%	34%
Would not use	49%	62%	56%	75%	66%	65%
Don't know/unsure	2%	0%	2%	1%	0%	1%

Base: 600, percentages rounded
Note: Parents/carers with children in different age groups will be double counted in the table above

Potential for using formal childcare amongst those not currently using it is higher amongst current users of informal care (41% would consider formal childcare compared to 27% of non-users of childcare).

For those not currently using formal childcare who would consider it if it were available to them, highest demand would be for holiday care in a variety of settings:

Preferences for formal childcare amongst non-users (responses with greater than 1% of respondents citing are shown)

Type of provision	% of non users who would consider using	Number
Holiday provision		
Holiday club/childcare	18%	34
Childminder (holiday)	6%	12
Summer playscheme run by the local authority (active kids)	6%	11
Activities run by the school during the school holidays	6%	11
Private day nursery (holiday)	4%	8
Creche (holiday)	2%	4
Out of school club operating holiday provision	2%	4
Special provision for disabled children/children with additional needs	2%	3
Term time		
Preschool	2%	4
Special provision for disabled children/children with additional needs	2%	3

Base: 194, percentages rounded

Demand for additional childcare

Findings suggest that for the majority of parent/carers, current childcare arrangements suit their requirements:

- 90% of those using childcare (formal and/or informal) were satisfied with their current childcare arrangements and only a small percentage (3%) were dissatisfied;
- There was very little difference in satisfaction levels between areas or age ranges of children;

- A very high percentage of those using childcare were satisfied with the quality of the childcare used(97%) and a relatively high percentage (84%) satisfied with the cost of their current childcare arrangements;
- 93% of those using childcare reported their childcare arrangements met their needs;
- Data suggests that for those not using formal childcare, 66% do so by choice – they would not use formal childcare even if suitable and affordable childcare were available

However, data does indicate unmet demand for some parent/carers:

- 33% of those not using formal childcare would do so if suitable and affordable childcare were available;
- Cost is cited as a barrier to the take-up of childcare, and in particular holiday childcare (8% of childcare users are dissatisfied with the cost of their childcare arrangements and 11% of respondents not using holiday childcare cited cost as a barrier);
- A higher percentage of workless households not currently using formal childcare would consider going so if suitable and affordable childcare were available

Respondents using formal childcare who stated that their current arrangements did not meet their needs were asked if they would like to use more or different formal childcare in the future. Whilst a small number of respondents indicated that they would prefer to use more of the same formal childcare, or additional formal childcare, numbers were very small and the overall impact of the hours required by type of provision would be minimal.

Non-users of formal childcare were asked what formal childcare they would use (in an 'ideal world', if suitable and affordable formal childcare was available). Here data suggests that there is unmet need, particularly for holiday provision, after school clubs (for children aged 5-14), and special provision during the school holidays.

To provide an indication of unmet demand, in the following table data from users of childcare has been collated with data from current non-users to provide an overview of unmet demand. For each age range of children shown, and for each type of provision listed, the table shows the current percentage of parent/carers with a child in the relevant age range that are currently using each type of provision, and for how many hours on average. The table also shows the percentage of respondents stating they would use each type of childcare, and for how many hours on average (this second figure includes those already using it).

For example, currently 25.3% of respondents with a child aged 0-4 years are currently using day nursery provision for an average of 20.2 hours (average is for each parent/carer). Taking existing users and adding those that would like to use more day nursery provision and those not currently using but would like to do so, the percentage of parent/carers with a child aged 0-4 years that would like to use day nursery provision increases to 32.5% and the average number of hours increases to 21.2.

	Current use of formal childcare: Percentage of respondents with a child in the relevant age range using each type of childcare and the average number of hours used a week		Estimated percentage respondents with a child in the relevant age range who would use/would like to use each type of childcare and the average number of hours required per week	
Day nursery (term time)				
0-4 years	**25.3%**	**20.2**	**32.5%**	**21.2**
0-2 years	14.6%	21.1	26.1%	19.1
3-4 years	28.7%	18.2	31.3%	19.6
Day nursery (holiday)				
0-4 years	**10.8%**	**18.11**	**14.4%**	**19.4**
0-2 years	13.8%	17.23	18.5%	17.1
3-4 years	5.0%	12.3	6.9%	18.9
Nursery class attached to a primary school (term time)				
0-4 years	**18.0%**	**13.6**	**14.4%**	**19.4**
0-2 years			0.8%	10.0
3-4 years	28.1%	13.4	30.0%	15.4
After school club				
5-14 years	**7.7%**	**7.95**	**20.1%**	**8.77**
5-10 year olds	12.3%	6.2	29.7%	7.4
11-14 year olds	2.8%	5.3	10.0%	6.5
Breakfast club				
5-14 years	**4.9%**	**5.46**	**9.7%**	**5.23**
5-10 year olds	8.2%	3.9	15.5%	4.1
11-14 year olds	1.4%	4.3	2.5%	6.9
After school activity run by the school				
5-14 years	**2.5%**	**3.1**	**5.6%**	**6.4**
5-10 year olds	2.3%	2.0	4.9%	6.3
11-14 year olds	2.1%	3.6	4.2%	5.9
Childminder (term time)				
0-14 years	**3.3%**	**18.46**	**5.6%**	**21.8**
0-2 year olds	6.1%	18.1	9.2%	25.8
3-4 year olds	4.8%	18.4	5.6%	18.8
5-10 year olds	4.4%	10.3	8.5%	12.5
11-14 year olds			0.2%	18.0

Childminder (holiday)				
0-14 years	**2.5%**	**33.4**	**5.6%**	**25.1**
0-2 year olds	4.6%	21.2	7.5%	25.2
3-4 year olds	2.5%	27.0	3.1%	23.6
5-10 year olds	3.8%	24.6	6.1%	24.9
11-14 year olds	0.2%	25.0	7.0%	29.0
Holiday club				
5–14 years	**7.2%**	**31.8**	**11.9%**	**28.0**
5-10 year olds	9.9%	23.4	15.7%	22.4
11-14 year olds	4.6%	21.5	9.1%	20.5
Out of school provision operating a holiday club				
5-14 years	**2.2%**	**37.3**	**3.0%**	**32.2**
5-10 year olds	3.4%	21.9	4.4%	20.0
11-14 year olds	1.8%	35.6	2.3%	31.6
Summer playscheme				
5-14 years	**3.8%**	**35.8**	**6.2%**	**30.0**
5-10 years	4.4%	27.8	7.2%	20.5
11-14 years	3.5%	25.9	5.8%	26.9
Special provision (term time)*				
5-17 years	**6.0%**	**14.0**	**9.7%**	**14.75**
5-10 year olds	2.0%	15.0	4.0%	15.0
11-14 year olds	8.5%	13.8	12.7%	14.6
Special provision (holidays)*				
5-17 years	**6.0%**	**14.0**	**9.7%**	**14.75**
5-10 year olds	4.0%	18.0	18.0%	10.6
11-14 year olds	6.4%	11.3	10.6%	17.2

7 Qualitative research – key findings

Details of qualitative research undertaken by members of Gateshead Council Quality Childcare Team are shown in the appendices.

Here key findings from each element of the qualitative research have been collated from individual reports prepared by the team.

7.1 Consultations with members of the Jewish community

Gateshead Council's previous Childcare Sufficiency Assessment identified a gap in up-to-date information about the views and childcare needs of Gateshead's Jewish Community. Focus group discussions were undertaken to inform the 2010 CSA, led by a children's centre manager with specific responsibilities for working with the Jewish community.

The orthodox Jewish community in Gateshead is concentrated in the Central Area, mostly within the Bridges, Lobley Hill and Bensham and Saltwell Wards.

Because of cultural sensitivities, collecting data to identify faith groups, particularly the Jewish faith group has been difficult. Therefore statistics gathered in this area are often skewed with regard to the needs of the different sectors within the community. For example, Jewish schools have very high attendance figures whereas the other four schools in the area have much lower figures. Attendance figures will show the area to have good attendance, the figures being skewed by the high attendance level of the Jewish community.

Consultations focussed on the views of children and of parent/carers.

Key findings

Participants reported feeling that they have no choice in the childcare on offer to them because of their anxieties over non-Jewish facilities catering for their specific cultural needs.

The Jewish community currently have specific daycare available from 9.00am – 4.45pm and wraparound provision to cover the lunch period and after school to 4.30pm for children aged 0-5 years in Ohel Rivka nursery (Gateshead Jewish Nursery) and an after school club named Ashrei-nu for 8 – 12 year old females only .

Parents are regularly requesting holiday childcare and additional after school provision finishing at 6.00pm. The 0-3 year old facility has limited spaces and there are waiting lists.

Location is an important factor for this community, as a relatively high percentage of families do not have access to cars and find travelling on public transport difficult due to the large numbers of children often in each family.

Recommendations

The Jewish community should be provided with further information regarding available childcare in their area. There is no actual gap in childcare places in the Bridges, Lobley Hill and Bensham and Saltwell wards However further work may need to take place to identify the barriers to accessing the existing provision and if appropriate work carried out to overcome these barriers.

7.2 Consultations with parents and carers from a (Black and Minority Ethnic (BME))

There is a small and diverse BME population in Gateshead; the two largest BME groups are Black African and Asian/Indian, each accounting for an estimated 0.6% of the population. A focus group was arranged to explore any specific needs of BME parents/carers and to provide an overview of any barriers to accessing childcare.

Key findings

A total of 7 families participated in a focus group discussion. Collectively participants were caring for 12 children across a range of age groups. 71% of the parents who took part in this study stated that they did not use any childcare, either formal or informal and their concerns seemed centred around the quality of the care that would be offered to their children:-

> "No, I don't need it at the minute. But if I do need to I strongly believe that it is expensive for a part timer and as a mum would not feel that they take care of my child as much as I do"

> "No I am not accessing education right now. When I do access short courses I can't get my childcare the same place and therefore it's very disruptive to him. I have to choose carefully the course I go on in order to meet his needs."

The families originated from many countries including Cameroon, Iran and Tanzania and for all participants, English was their second language.

90% of participants thought their childcare needs were not fully met. The following reasons were given:

> "Cost is expensive and most …..need courses in the evening when nursery and childcare are not easily available"

> "I would like to go to college to access ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) lessons. They have no free childcare. This would mean 2 full days."(paying for 2 full days of childcare)

None of the participants' children had any additional needs.

A number of participants identified that their childcare needs had changed over the past 12 months however none put this down to the change in the economic climate but instead to the change in the other circumstances such as wanting to access training or children starting school. These statistics were mirrored for whether participants thought their needs would change over the following 12 months.

Participants were asked to grade in order the factors most important to them whilst choosing childcare. The identified factors were location, quality, cost, flexibility and availability. Quality of care ranked most highly.

71% of participants were unaware that Gateshead's Family Information Service could provide free advice and information regarding childcare and 71% of participants were unaware of the childcare element of Working Families Tax Credit.

The following comments were made regarding general childcare in Gateshead:

> "Yes the childcare should be more flexible and more people from other cultures should be in that field"

> "More free childcare should be available for people accessing education in order to access the job market"

Recommendations

Further work needs to be carried out with the BME community to raise awareness of the services on offer and to further instil confidence in the already available childcare, all of which consider themselves to be fully inclusive. In addition to this further work to develop knowledge and skills of childcare practitioners with regard to inclusion will need to be carried out.

7.3 Consultations with older children, parent/carers attending out of school events and staff members

Throughout the summer of 2010 members of the Quality Childcare Team visited 3 out of school clubs and attended Gateshead's National Play Day Event held at Saltwell Park. This supported consultation with over 100 children aged 3 -15 years and additionally parents/ carers and out of school staff working with some of these children.

The majority of the children's consultation took place at Gateshead's National Play Day however 14 children were consulted on a one-to-one basis at out of school clubs.

Key findings

From the consultation with the children the following likes and dislikes were identified:

Likes:

- Playing with and making friends
- Outdoor activities in particular football and water play
- Snack times
- Arts and Crafts

- General sporting activities such as pool and running.

Dislikes:

- Dance
- Dressing up
- Waiting to go outside
- Noise
- DVDs

Some children specified that they would like additional activities e.g.

- Sumo suits
- Outings
- BBQ
- Swimming
- Cooking
- Archery
- Boxing
- Rugby
- More outside play.

One child commented they were disappointed at not always being allowed to access the 'MUGA (Multi-use Games Area) and Trim Trail' on site. The reason for this is restrictions implemented by the school in which they are based.

Provider comments:

The childcare providers views of the main barriers to using their service are as follows:

- Parents working less hours
- Children reaching age of 11/12 years leaving out of school clubs
- Changes in personal family circumstances e.g. divorce, separation
- Possible changes to the employment market
- Pick ups and drop offs with other schools
- Activities offered in schools (Varied menu of activities)

All of the out of school staff were aware of the need to continually promote their own services. Good links with the schools is the main form of advertising, via newsletters and word of mouth, however, signage, events, Jobcentre Plus and colleges were identified as areas of possible development.

Parents' comments

All parents who contributed to the questionnaires used the out of school club to enable them to work, either part time or full time, both during school holidays and term time.

Other reasons given by parents for using out of school provision are:

- Age of child

  When the child is of school age and full daycare is no longer available.

  When the child reaches the age of 11/12years and the parent feels they are not ready to allow the child to have responsibility for themselves after school.
- Location

  Some parents identified that they preferred the use of Out of School Care (OOSC) located on school grounds and within the community for safety reasons.
- Attend club with siblings/friends
- Quality of staff

  Parents commented on the good relationships with the staff including the two way sharing of information and the quality of the staff teams in general.
- Child with additional needs

  Staff have an understanding of children with additional needs and offer greater opportunities for activities and socialising whilst still receiving high quality care.

All parents commented on the good quality of the staff and the value for money for the service offered to them. The transition from primary school to secondary school seemed to be the cut off point for some parents accessing the provisions, however there were parents who still planned to use the services for their children in their teens.

Play Day Event

Artists used a giant paper roll and coloured pens and asked the children participating to draw their favourite play activity. Whist doing this a very general questionnaire was complete asking the age and sex of the child, what their favourite play activities are and where they do these activities.

In order to analyse the data collected was broke down the consultation from Play Day into 4 age brackets.

- 0-4 year olds
- 5-7 year olds
- 8-11 year old
- 11+ year olds

And then split into gender categories to monitor any trends.

Findings are collated in the following table:

Age and gender	Favourite activity	Location preference
0-4 year old males	Football and toy cars	Home
5-7 year old males	Football	Home
8-11 year old males	Football	Garden
0-4 year old females	Bikes and swings	Home Garden
5-7 year old females	Dolls	Home
8-11 year old females	Friends	Home or friends home

7.4 Conclusions

Out of school clubs consultation

Following the consultation with out of school clubs it was established that children attending the groups enjoyed similar activities in particular they enjoyed outside play including water based activities.

Although there is a reduction in out of school provision during school holidays, there has been no identified demand as provision for holiday care is met by those clubs that are open during school holidays (some of which run at reduced numbers).

Out of school clubs expressed that there were no barriers to children from multi-cultural backgrounds accessing their provision, however there were differences is the numbers of children from ethnic minorities accessing provision between those consulted with, this may be because of locality.

There were quite a high percentage of lone parents accessing out of school provision across all areas.

Feedback from parents of disabled children was positive; they acknowledged good relationships with staff as the most important reason for leaving their child in the care of the out of school club.

Play Day consultation

Very few children identified that they did their favourite activity at a childcare setting – this may be due to the structure of the question. The favourite activity by far was football for males throughout all age groups whereas the girl's favourite activity's altered as they got older.

The consultation showed that the majority of children began "street play" between the ages of 8 and 11 years. There was a greater emphasis on the importance of playing with friends, especially with the females as they got older.

8 Questionnaire survey of parent/carers of a disabled child or child with additional needs

Gateshead Council's 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment identified a gap in information regarding the childcare needs of parents of disabled children. A questionnaire survey was undertaken to inform the 2010 CSA, with data collated by a member of the Quality Childcare Team with a responsibility for inclusion.

Key findings

The survey found that the majority of parents chose not to use formal childcare (i.e. that registered with Ofsted) but instead preferred to rely on family and friends or take on the responsibility themselves.

The response to 'not needing childcare' because 'I'd rather look after my children myself', or prefer to use family and friends 'because I know them', was highest.

However, of those parents who currently use formal childcare, the vast majority indicated:

- The provision is safe and secure.
- Staff are well qualified and have appropriate skills and experience.
- The provision is reliable, of high quality, and meets my child's needs.

The cost of childcare was also a significant factor, with 10 parents citing cost as a definite barrier and 15 stating they would rather use family and friends 'because they are free'.

Conclusion:

The large majority of parents of disabled children currently using formal childcare who responded to the questionnaire appeared satisfied with the quality and suitability of provision. In fact, the vast majority who indicated a response gave the highest rating provided for all nine areas of quality researched.

However, the majority of respondents said they didn't need childcare, with a large number preferring to use family or friends, or preferring to look after their children themselves. This high dependence on informal childcare might indicate a lack of confidence in formal childcare by parents and, possibly, a lack of information available to them (three indicated lack of information as a definite barrier).

There are a small number of parents who find the location or transport to the location of suitable childcare a barrier and, likewise, a small number who indicated suitable childcare was not available at the times they required.

9 Questionnaire survey of employers

Gateshead Council sought to consult with local employers to encourage discussion around the impact of childcare on their organisations. A small scale survey was targeted at a range of small, medium and large employers, aimed at: identifying the views of employers regarding employees' childcare requirements; how much support is available to their staff with regard to childcare; whether childcare issues have an impact on retention of staff and; to evaluate their awareness levels of Gateshead's Family Information Service.

Key findings

Current systems of childcare support

This section outlines policies that the respondents have in place to support the childcare needs of their staff. Interviewees were asked to describe policies and practices that have been established to:

- Provide their own childcare
- Encourage take-up of tax credits
- Promote flexible working
- Support the costs of childcare
- Provide other childcare-related benefits
- Disseminate information about support and benefits to workforces

On-site childcare

Out of the 8 respondents only the large NHS employer provided childcare on site for employees. The large NHS employer has one nursery on-site for children aged 0-5 years and is open from 7.00am until 6.30pm. This childcare facility is exclusively for its own staff and has a total of 95 places (of which 30 are holiday only places) available. All the places were full at present and there is a waiting list until 2012. Fees for the on-site nursery were deducted directly from the employee's salary as part of the salary sacrifice scheme, therefore, no tax or National Insurance is payable.

Take up of tax credits

Both large public sector employers' representatives and one small voluntary employer gave advice to their employees regarding tax credits by sign posting them to HMRC website. No employers gave direct individual advice to employees as they felt it was out of their field of expertise and the employee's personal responsibility to gather such information.

Flexible Working

100% of employers who participated indicated that they were willing to accommodate flexible working for their employees although only 50% had specific flexi time policies in place. One small voluntary organisation stated that they treat individual working requests on an individual basis.

All employers offered some or all of the following flexible working patterns:

- Part time hours
- Flexi time arrangements
- Compressed hours
- Term-time only working
- Job Share
- Working from home

Two respondents stated that their flexible working policies were restricted due to operational demands. For example, some roles had set hours of operation to the public. Similarly, two employers interviewed stated working from home was only possible for certain members of their workforce.

One of the issues mentioned by three employers was that by agreeing to work flexibly some employees were under the impression that they had priority to take annual leave during school holidays when many other staff also requested this period of annual leave. These decisions were down to manager's discretion rather than the rights of individuals.

Supporting the cost of childcare

Six of the nine respondents who participated in this study offered childcare vouchers or childcare sacrifice schemes. For most employers this was the only or main form of childcare benefit which they provided to their staff, although, the NHS employer provides an on-site nursery in addition.

- All of the 8 respondents offered enhanced maternity leave.
- 6 of the 8 respondents offered enhanced paternity leave.
- All of the 8 respondents offered enhanced adoption leave.
- All of the 8 respondents offered parental leave to their staff.

Employers were asked their opinions/ views on anything in addition to what support they already had on offer which may change in the following 3 years. The majority of those thought that what they currently offered would remain consistent. However, some commented that they felt unable to provide this information because they were unsure of future budgets due to the current economic climate.

Conclusions

All respondents acknowledged that support with childcare issues was important for their workforce and made a valuable contribution to staff welfare. They were all keen to encourage flexibility and work-life balance and all had policies and benefits in place which went beyond their statutory obligations towards their staff in this area.

The majority of respondents offered some kind of childcare voucher scheme for their employees, and these had attracted substantial interest. The attraction of such a benefit is its flexibility and the fact that it is easy to implement consistently.

All of these employers encourage flexible working within the operational constraints of their business, and this is also popular amongst employees. Flexible working patterns reduce the need for working parents and carers to find alternative childcare provision.

The employers who took part in this study recognised that support with childcare is essential to ensure retention of staff.

Employers were unsure about where to signpost their employees for information regarding childcare providers, including costs, location, flexibility and quality.

There was a lack of knowledge regarding working tax credits and where to signpost employees.

Appendix one Methodology

1 Parent/carer telephone interview survey

The parent/carer telephone survey aimed to provide:

- A statistically robust telephone survey using an agreed questionnaire to determine levels of childcare need across the Borough as well as specific barriers to the take up of childcare; to be completed in June /July 2010.
- Analysis of the data in accordance with the requirements of the guidance

1.2 Methodology

Hempsall's working with Morgan's Research Ltd was commissioned in May 2010 to commence the research project in June 2010.

The project was based on random telephone survey of 850 parent/carers of children aged 0-14 years (up to 18 years for disabled children).

1.2.1 Initial work

A questionnaire was developed for the project that took account of the questionnaire used in the 2008 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) with additional questions to reflect current practice and Government guidance[17]. The questionnaire was piloted with local authority staff between 14th and 21st June 2010; the survey went live on the 22nd June 2010.

The sampling frame for telephone interviews was purchased for the use of the project. Sample data was sourced from Acxiom.

1.2.2 Telephone interviews

Quotas were set for each neighbourhood area based on the resident number of parents with children. Initial quotas were set against a target of 750 parent/carer interviews. It was agreed that an additional 100 interviews would be undertaken but that these additional interviews would be targeted according to requirements. It was decided that the additional

[17] DCSF April 2010 'Securing Sufficient Childcare: statutory guidance for local authorities in carrying out their childcare sufficiency duties. DCSF Publications, Nottingham

interviews would be targeted at wards where there was a relatively large orthodox Jewish community, aiming to ensure that the views and requirements of that community were reflected in the overall sample. The orthodox Jewish community is concentrated in three wards: Bridges, Saltwell and Lobley Hill and Bensham, all of which are in the Central neighbourhood area.

Contacts were randomly selected from the contact database by computer prior to interviewing. Telephone interviews took place between 22nd July and 2nd August 2010. Calls were made during afternoons and evenings Monday to Friday throughout the data collection period and some mornings at the request of individual parent/carers.

1.2.3 Data processing

Data were processed by Morgan's Ltd.

2 Qualitative research

A series of focus group discussions were undertaken with specific groups representing harder to reach members of the parent population, or those with specific needs. Consultations included:

- Members of the Jewish community – focus group discussions were undertaken with a group of 9 parent/carers who are members of the established Jewish community in Gateshead (September 2010);
- Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community parents and carers – focus group discussions were undertaken with 7 families from a BME background, including Asian/Asian British and Black African parents and cares;
    - Consultations with older children and young people – members of the Quality Childcare Team visited 3 out of school clubs in the summer of 2010 and attended Gateshead's National Play Day event, consulting with over 100 children aged 3-15 years old. Additional consultation was undertaken with parents/carers and out of school staff at the venues/event. Consultations were undertaken using 3 methods:

      - individual and group discussion with children and young people;

- staff and parent/carer questionnaire survey;
- art-based consultation using a specially commissioned artist

Qualitative research was led by members of the Quality Childcare Team.

3 Consultation with employers

A survey questionnaire was distributed to a targeted representative group of employers in the borough, ranging from large multi-national companies to small voluntary organisations. 15 questionnaires were distributed; 8 completed questionnaires were returned.

Employer research was led by members of the Quality Childcare Team.

4 Consultation with parent/carers of disabled children

A questionnaire survey was widely distributed to parent/carers with a disabled child or child with additional needs. The sample was identified from: the Aiming High database; Lets Start Learning Support Group and; Barnardos. 810 questionnaires were distributed and 99 completed questionnaires returned, representing a response rate of 12%.

Research was led by members of the Quality Childcare Team.

5 Desk research

Desk research was undertaken by Hempsall's in November 2010 to provide a contextual assessment of the local authority area. Desk research built upon data supplied by Gateshead Council.

Appendix two Neighbourhood Area Summaries

Central Gateshead

Perceived availability of childcare in the local area

	Too many	The right number	Don't know	Not enough
Central Gateshead	0.5%	37%	30%	33%
Overall	1%	38%	30%	31%

Base: 206, percentages rounded

Use of childcare

	Formal	Informal	Both informal and formal	None
Central Gateshead	20%	27%	15%	38%
Overall	15%	30%	14%	41%

Base: 206, percentages rounded

The extent to which current childcare arrangements meet needs

	Meet needs %	Do not meet needs %
Central Gateshead	95%	5%
Overall	93%	7%

Base: excludes non responses, 127. Percentages rounded

Satisfaction with current childcare arrangements

	Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Central	65%	32%	2%	0%	1%
Overall	65%	25%	7%	2%	1%

Base: excludes non responses, 125. Percentages rounded

East Gateshead

Perceived availability of childcare in the local area

	Too many	The right number	Don't know	Not enough
East Gateshead	0%	35%	38%	27%
Overall	1%	38%	30%	31%

Base: 144, percentages rounded

Use of childcare

	Formal	Informal	Both informal and formal	None
East Gateshead	15%	32%	13%	40%
Overall	15%	30%	14%	41%

Base: 144, percentages rounded

The extent to which current childcare arrangements meet needs

	Meet needs %	Do not meet needs %
East Gateshead	87%	13%
Overall	93%	7%

Base: excludes non responses, 86. Percentages rounded

Satisfaction with current childcare arrangements

	Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
East Gateshead	67%	19%	10%	2%	1%
Overall	65%	25%	7%	2%	1%

Base: excludes non responses, 86. Percentages rounded

Inner West Gateshead

Perceived availability of childcare in the local area

	Too many	The right number	Don't know	Not enough
Inner West Gateshead	2%	44%	29%	26%
Overall	1%	38%	30%	31%

Base: 131, percentages rounded

Use of childcare

	Formal	Informal	Both informal and formal	None
Inner West Gateshead	15%	26%	14%	45%
Overall	15%	30%	14%	41%

Base: 131, percentages rounded

The extent to which current childcare arrangements meet needs

	Meet needs %	Do not meet needs %
Inner West Gateshead	94%	6%
Overall	93%	7%

Base: excludes non responses, 72 . Percentages rounded

Satisfaction with current childcare arrangements

	Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Inner West Gateshead	65%	24%	8%	3%	0%
Overall	65%	25%	7%	2%	1%

Base: excludes non responses, 71. Percentages rounded

South Gateshead

Perceived availability of childcare in the local area

	Too many	The right number	Don't know	Not enough
South Gateshead	2%	34%	32%	32%
Overall	1%	38%	30%	31%

Base: 182, percentages rounded

Use of childcare

	Formal	Informal	Both informal and formal	None
South Gateshead	14%	31%	13%	41%
Overall	15%	30%	14%	41%

Base: 182, percentages rounded

The extent to which current childcare arrangements meet needs

	Meet needs %	Do not meet needs %
South Gateshead	95%	5%
Overall	93%	7%

Base: excludes non responses, 107. Percentages rounded

Satisfaction with current childcare arrangements

	Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
South Gateshead	70%	23%	5%	2%	1%
Overall	65%	25%	7%	2%	1%

Base: excludes non responses, 106. Percentages rounded

West Gateshead

Perceived availability of childcare in the local area

	Too many	The right number	Don't know	Not enough
West Gateshead	0%	42%	23%	35%
Overall	1%	38%	30%	31%

Base: 187, percentages rounded

Use of childcare

	Formal	Informal	Both informal and formal	None
West Gateshead	11%	32%	16%	41%
Overall	15%	30%	14%	41%

Base: 187, percentages rounded

The extent to which current childcare arrangements meet needs

	Meet needs %	Do not meet needs %
West Gateshead	93%	7%
Overall	93%	7%

Base: excludes non responses, 110. Percentages rounded

Satisfaction with current childcare arrangements

	Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
West Gateshead	61%	26%	9%	3%	1%
Overall	65%	25%	7%	2%	1%

Base: excludes non responses, 110. Percentages rounded

Appendix 3

Gateshead Cluster Childcare Barriers to Work Themed Fortnight Data Analysis

Number of Children

Childcare Type Requested

Postcodes	Day Nursery			Nanny			Breakfast Club			After School Club			Holidy Club			Home Child Carer Scheme			Informal			Child Minder			Playgroup		
	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +
Blaydon	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	8	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	3	0	0	0
Gateshead	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	5	1	10	7	2	12	10	0	0	1	2	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Felling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	13	1	11	17	2	13	22	0	0	1	2	2	7	3	1	3	0	0	0

Barrier To Accessing Provision

Postcodes	Provison/places required			Early Morning/Evening/ Weekend Care			Cost			Transport Links Required			Disabled Children			Cultural Needs			Other		
	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +	under 5's	5yrs - 7 yrs	8yrs +
Blaydon	1	2	3	1	1	7	1	1	6	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Gateshead	8	9	6	7	8	5	9	8	6	5	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Felling	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	11	10	8	9	14	10	9	12	5	2	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	10