



Solihull
METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Solihull
2007



Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for Solihull - 2007

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Ten Year Strategy for Childcare "Choice for parents: the best start for Children" set out the Government's intention to create a sustainable framework for high quality integrated early years and childcare services for all children and families. This was enshrined in law in the Childcare Act 2006, which placed a duty on local authorities to conduct an assessment of the sufficiency of childcare in their area, as a first step to securing sufficient childcare for parents in Solihull, as far as is practicably possible.
- 1.2 This report is the outcome of the work undertaken to:-
- map the current supply of childcare in Solihull,
 - consult on the demand from parents and employers,
 - identify the gaps between supply and demand,
 - highlight the action to be taken to meet the childcare needs of parents in order that they can work, or undertake education or training leading to work.
- 1.3 There have been previous audits of the childcare market before, but this is the first time we have been legally required to produce the analysis in this depth. This report will provide the baseline, and we will build on this information for future sufficiency assessments, which will be conducted every three years, with an annual update.
- 1.4 The focus here has been on childcare provision registered by Ofsted, and on the private, voluntary and independent sector, which play such an important part in providing choice for parents. Future audits will aim to capture more information about unregistered provision for over eight's, as this provision is an important part of the childcare picture. There is now a voluntary register for this type of childcare, which means that parents can claim Working Tax Credits, as well as be confident that certain safeguards should be in place.
- 1.5 The childcare market, like any market, can be volatile, and while the childcare market in Solihull has been relatively stable in recent years, market forces can mean that some provision is not sustainable in the longer term, while new providers join the market each year. It is therefore important to regard this information as a snap shot in time, and not as the basis for business decisions, or as a guarantee that childcare is available to meet all needs.

2. Children in Solihull

- 2.1 Solihull is home to 200,000 people, identified in the 2001 Census, which also indicated that there were just over 51,000 children and young people aged 0 - 19, 25% of the total population. See Fig.1

Fig 1 Children by Age and Ward

CENSUS 2001	All people	People aged 0 - 4	People aged 5 - 7	People aged 8 - 9	People aged 10 - 14	People aged 15	People aged 16 - 17
00CT Solihull	199,517	11,196	7,817	5,647	14,441	2,708	5,339
00CTFA Bickenhill	13,561	757	528	390	921	174	335
00CTFB Castle Bromwich	11,857	486	370	304	831	179	353
00CTFC Chelmsley Wood	10,927	935	545	381	890	133	282
00CTFD Elmdon	9,796	469	290	199	547	108	225
00CTFE Fordbridge	8,748	661	425	307	772	129	285
00CTFF Kingshurst	8,126	538	400	324	784	139	283
00CTFG Knowle	10,823	487	354	257	776	143	351
00CTFH Lyndon	10,004	563	374	267	660	121	219
00CTFJ Meriden	11,811	631	409	312	818	145	292
00CTFK Olton	11,508	551	406	289	721	141	288
00CTFL Packwood	14,523	802	620	448	1,091	202	350
00CTFM St. Alphege	13,966	651	529	397	1,051	213	415
00CTFN Shirley East	11,816	618	454	345	843	157	289
00CTFP Shirley South	16,905	876	681	438	1,254	233	465
00CTFQ Shirley West	11,802	663	456	314	801	177	283
00CTFR Silhill	12,401	661	428	288	723	140	286
00CTFS Smith's Wood	10,943	847	548	387	958	174	338
Notes: * 'Age' is age at last birthday.							

- 2.2 Populations projections, based on the revised 2004-based subnational population projections, show that the child population in Solihull is relatively stable, with no increase in the 0-4 population projected, and a small decrease projected for the 5-9 age group by 2012. The assumption is that there is not likely to be a need for an expansion of places over the next few years.
- 2.3 Overall outcomes for children and young people in Solihull are good, as there is much economic success, high levels of employment, schools are mostly very popular, there is access to a wide range of leisure and cultural activities, and the majority of people enjoy good health outcomes. However, there are areas of the Borough, most notably in the northern wards of Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst, Fordbridge, and Smith's Wood, where evidence shows that in health, educational attainment and employment, residents face significant disadvantages.
- 2.4 5.4% of the Solihull population is from a minority ethnic background, though 14% of school age children and young people identify with a black or minority ethnic heritage, and this is forecast to increase.¹

¹ Solihull Annual Performance Assessment Progress Report 2007

- 2.5 The number of children with disabilities is estimated at 1300, based on a very broad definition of disability, including children who may be temporarily disabled due to accidents.²
- 2.6 The proportion of children looked after by the local authority is rising, mainly attributable to rising numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), whom now form over a third of the Borough's total number of looked after children.
- 2.7 There are 25,518 households in Solihull with dependant children, 8,929 households with dependent children 0 – 4, and 4,951 lone parent households³ – 6.1 % of households, which is below the national average of 6.9 % though in parts of the borough, this is much higher.
- 2.8 There are 2,265 lone parents claiming Lone Parent benefit as the primary benefit claimed, over 60% of whom live in the 3 wards in North Solihull.
- 2.9 Take up of the childcare elements of working tax credits is high in Solihull when compared nationally (19% compared to national average of 16% in 2005-2006)⁴. This is seen as an indicator of take up of formal childcare, and is linked to the government's target to reduce the proportion of children living in households where no one is working.
- 2.10 Teenage pregnancy rates in Solihull are low, and reducing, however, take up of Care to Learn, is very limited, with only 16.22% of under 19's taking up the opportunity for support with childcare costs to attend higher education or 6th Form College⁵.

3. **Local Labour Market Information**⁶

- 3.1 Situated at the southerly edge of the West Midlands conurbation, Solihull borders Birmingham to the north and Warwickshire to the south. The Borough is bordered by the M6 and the M40 and has the M42 running through it. The M42 divides the urban centre of the Borough from the rural south and east. Similarly, the A45 divides the south from the north of the Borough. Around 70% of the Borough's 44,000 acres is greenbelt land. Solihull is served by very good road, rail and air links and is home to the world-famous National Exhibition Centre, which attracts over 4 million visitors each year. Just four miles from the heart of the Borough, the National Exhibition Centre is located next to Birmingham International Airport and Birmingham International Railway Station. The Borough is also home to Land Rover, Birmingham Business Park, Monkspath Business Park and Blythe Valley Business Park.

² Solihull Health Inequalities Data 2003

³ ONS Dec 04

⁴ HMRC May 2007

⁵ Care To Learn Take Up July 07- DCSF Teenage Pregnancy Unit.

⁶ Solihull Access to Employment Group Action Plan (August 2007)

- 3.2 Solihull's central location has proved advantageous in terms of the excellent national and international connectivity by different modes of transport that make it easily accessible to the West Midlands and the rest of the UK.
- 3.3 Solihull MBC is the largest employer in the Borough, with the number of employees accounting for approximately 35% of the combined total of the top ten employers (in terms of numbers employed). Land Rover equates to approximately 34%, and the other eight employers in the top ten are; John Lewis, Birmingham Heartlands and Solihull NHS Trust, Solihull Primary Care Trust, National Exhibition Centre, Hilton Metropole, Fujitsu, Taylor Wimpey and Computer Sciences Corporation Ltd. Major employment areas in Solihull include; Birmingham International Airport, NEC, Birmingham Business Park, Solihull Town Centre and Blythe Valley Business Park. Neighbouring employment opportunities include; Hams Hall, Birmingham City Centre and the Fort Shopping Centre.
- 3.4 The North Solihull wards of Smith's Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Chelmsley Wood are characterised by low educational attainment, low skills and higher than average unemployment - despite its proximity to major employment sites. The area is predominantly residential and (along with neighbouring Castle Bromwich) was mainly developed in the 1960s to accommodate overspill population from Birmingham. Much of the area is made up of mixed high and low-rise Radburn style estates and the housing mix is limited with a predominance of smaller properties. 44% of households are renting from the Council's Arms Length Management Organisation (Solihull Community Housing).
- 3.5 Employment links have traditionally been stronger between North Solihull and the industrial areas of east Birmingham than with the rest of Solihull. Whilst major employment areas have developed nearby in the M42 corridor at Hams Hall, Birmingham Airport, the NEC, Birmingham Business Park, and in Solihull Town Centre, economic and employment links between those areas and North Solihull remain limited. In February 2007, 7000 working age residents in North Solihull were in receipt of a workless benefit⁷.
- 3.6 North Solihull is the focus of a 15 year regeneration project designed to transform the area. The investment will improve the physical infrastructure as well as deliver improvements to the environment. The North Solihull Partnership is supporting initiatives which address a reduction in worklessness through the Social & Economic Programme. Delivered by the North Solihull Partnership, this is one of the UK's largest regeneration programmes and aims to:
- Change approximately 40,000 people's lives for the better
 - Invest £1.8 billion public and private monies over 15 years (2005 – 2020)
 - Build 8,500 new modern homes
 - Build new state of the art primary schools for all children
 - Create 5 vibrant village centres to deliver key services

⁷ ONS Nomis, February 2007

3.7 The local economy of North Solihull is weak, generating a limited number and range of local job opportunities.

The 2001 Census information shows the following percentages of working age population as being in employment (Full-Time, Part -Time or Self Employed):

- Chelmsley Wood 55.15%
- Kingshurst 54.94%
- Fordbridge 53.75%
- Smith's Wood 55.99%

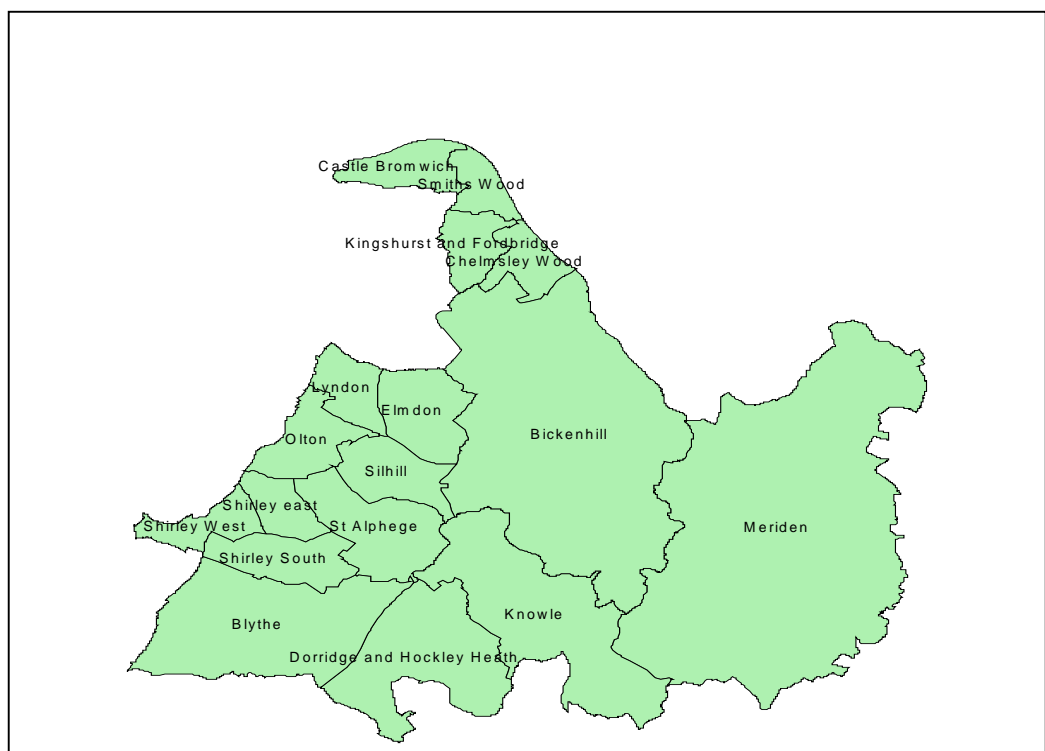
3.8 Looking at the same data on a local, regional and national level (Solihull- 63.48%, West Midlands-59.67% and England-60.94%) shows the disparity between employment in North Solihull and other areas.

3.9 Developments such as Chelmsley Wood Town Centre, the 5 village Centres in the regeneration area and a proposed casino are expected to stimulate growth and provide employment opportunities. These proposed developments, coupled with the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, will create a demand for workers from a broad spectrum of sectors, including construction.

3.10 Despite the number of employment sites in and around the Borough, North Solihull is isolated from key employment areas by three major roads (M6 to the North, M42 to the East and the A45 to the South). Though these highways act as incentives to investors, they also restrict public transport routes particularly outside normal working hours.

Based on the 2001 Census, the majority of working residents in North Solihull travel to work by driving, following this bus, minibus or coach is the next most popular method of getting to work.

Fig 2 Map of Solihull showing Wards



4. **Childcare in Solihull – Background**

- 4.1 There has been a steady growth in the number of childcare places across the Borough since the National Childcare Strategy was launched in 1997. In 2001, there were 5600 registered places, which by March 2007 had risen to 6,590 places through childminders, full day care and out of school provision, and up to 7662 including sessional day care and crèche places.
- 4.2 While there has been growth overall, the picture has been one of fluctuations, as places have come and gone in some areas, with provision opening and then closing down, particularly in sessional care. There has been a high turnover of places in childminding, which has some implications for training if experienced childminders move on to other careers, though it is usually newer childminders who move on.
- 4.3 Since 1997 there have been a number of childcare audits to check out the views of parents about their childcare needs, and this has been complemented by information from enquiries to the Children's Information Service to identify gaps in provision and inform planning of places.
- 4.4 In 2000 a survey of Solihull employers and employees⁸ identified the following issues :-
- 45% of respondents chose childcare that was close to home
 - 38% used informal, unregistered childcare with family and friends as the most frequently cited type of childcare provision used
 - 57% were satisfied with their existing arrangements, 38% had mixed feelings, and 1% were not satisfied
 - Problems with existing arrangements centred around
 - Perceived high costs of childcare,
 - unreliability of informal arrangements
 - inflexibility of provision, particularly relating to pick up and drop off times, opening hours to support shift work, and being able to book places at short notice to cover overtime
 - lack of provision during school holidays
 - need for provision for older children and children with additional needs
 - provision when children are ill
- 4.5 In 2004 The Citizen's Panel in Solihull was asked a similar range of childcare questions, identifying the following issues:
- The most commonly used form of childcare was provided by family and friends (again, the figure was 38% who used informal childcare)
 - 88% were aware of financial assistance to support childcare costs
 - 90% claimed to be satisfied with their current childcare arrangements, higher than in 2000, which may be due to the increase in places over that period, particularly in out of school provision and improvements in inclusive childcare

⁸ Solihull Childcare Needs Study, Labour Market Solutions October 2000

- 57% of parents said they would use out of school activity clubs for older children if this was available
- 4.6 The Childcare Places Plan 2004-6 therefore had the following priorities;
- more inclusive childcare to meet the needs of families with a disabled child
 - improved provision for older children, particularly 11+
 - new day care provision in North Solihull, as part of the Neighbourhood Nursery initiative.
- 4.7 While there has been a real improvement since 2004 in the range of inclusive provision, supported by training for childcare practitioners, and through the Support Scheme which uses the Sure Start Grant from Government to provide support for a setting to include a particular child, there is still more to be done in this area.
- 4.8 Childcare for older children remains very difficult to find, as demand is patchy, and a pilot project with the Youth Service to create 11+ childcare proved unsustainable due to poor take up.
- 4.9 A recent review by the LSC⁹ identified childcare as the single biggest factor which impacts on the ability of lone and teenage parents to access education, training and employment, despite recent increases in the number of childcare places. The challenges identified were:-
- mixed feelings about leaving children, especially very young children
 - mistrust of the quality of childcare
 - lack of affordable childcare
 - lack of on site provision
 - growing use of Care to Learn by young parents, but drop out rates on courses was high
- 4.10 During 2006, 320 parents filled in a questionnaire as part of consultation around the Phase 2 developments of Children's Centres. This did not extend to parents right across the Borough, but it did show that parents in Castle Bromwich and central Solihull felt there was insufficient holiday provision.
- 4.11 Extended services in schools across the Borough, where childcare from 8-6 every day is part of the core offer to be in place by 2010, have grown from the good pattern of out of school clubs which were already in place following funding from the New Opportunities Fund from 2002. Schools are increasingly working together to see how holiday provision in their community can be more sustainable, rather than every school having childcare on site.
- 4.12 Access to affordable childcare has been a key issue for parents, particularly in North Solihull. While a large number of new childcare places have been created, affordability remains an issue as does the ability of childcare provision to fit in with hours worked outside of traditional working hours. 270 new childcare places were

⁹ Lone and Teenage Parent Review, Birmingham and Solihull LSC April 2006

created through a network of Neighbourhood Nurseries supported by funding from ERDF, AWM and the East Birmingham North Solihull (EBNS) Regeneration Zone , as well as Solihull Council, increasing the provision of full day care in North Solihull.

5. **Childcare In Solihull – Mapping Supply of Childcare**

- 5.1 Information about current childcare provision in Solihull has been drawn from the data held by the Children's Information Service.

The following tables show the current provision of childcare across Solihull, by ward.

5.1a Total number of registered childcare places and the number of settings in Solihull

Ward	Total number of Registered Places	Number of settings						
		Childminder	Day Nurseries	Crèche	Holiday Scheme	Out of School	Pre-school	Wraparound
Bickenhill	547	13	6	1	2	4	2	1
Blythe	770	21	3	1	3	6	4	3
Castle Bromwich	247	28	0	0	1	3	0	1
Chelmsley Wood	528	11	3	0	3	4	1	2
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	442	14	2	0	2	3	4	1
Elmdon	581	29	4	0	1	4	2	1
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	650	15	6	1	3	4	1	2
Knowle	345	14	2	0	1	1	3	1
Lyndon	334	16	4	0	1	3	0	1
Meriden	434	19	3	0	2	3	1	1
Olton	560	12	3	0	3	5	3	0
Shirley East	258	16	1	0	0	2	1	0
Shirley South	597	19	4	2	1	5	3	1
Shirley West	486	33	5	0	0	2	1	0
Silhill	279	7	4	0	1	3	0	1
Smiths Wood	410	23	3	0	1	2	3	2
St Alphege	744	13	2	1	3	5	2	0

The childcare element of working tax credit can be claimed for childcare costs when using any registered childcare provision in Solihull

Data provided by Solihull Children's Information Service September 2007

5.1b Total number of registered childcare places by carescheme in Solihull

Ward	Total number of Registered Places	Number of registered childcare places by carescheme						
		Childminder	Day Nurseries	Crèche	Holiday Scheme	Out of School	Pre-school	Wraparound
Bickenhill	547	63	203	26	56	130	49	20
Blythe	770	91	170	28	128	185	102	66
Castle Bromwich	247	135	0	0	16	72	0	24
Chelmsley Wood	528	49	161	0	110	134	26	48
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	442	63	66	0	74	109	106	24
Elmdon	581	136	178	0	40	146	57	24
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	650	74	276	10	126	100	24	40
Knowle	345	67	67	0	50	50	61	50
Lyndon	334	73	93	0	40	88	0	40
Meriden	434	97	103	0	56	78	24	20
Olton	560	58	162	0	80	190	70	0
Shirley East	258	128	30	0	0	74	26	0
Shirley South	597	91	166	33	16	172	103	16
Shirley West	486	146	263	0	0	52	25	0
Silhill	279	34	101	0	26	102	0	16
Smiths Wood	410	102	125	0	26	48	61	48
St Alphege	744	62	61	9	428	138	46	0

Data provided by Solihull Children's Information Service September 2007

5.1c Total Number of vacant places in Solihull

Ward	Current number of Vacant Places					Total Vacancies per Ward
	Childminder	Day Nurseries	Crèche	Out of School	Pre-school	
Bickenhill	15	11	0	0	5	31
Blythe	30	23	4	5	11	73
Castle Bromwich	24	0	0	12	0	36
Chelmsley Wood	16	24	0	10	2	52
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	8	0	0	19	5	32
Elmdon	30	17	0	38	5	90
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	18	22	3	8	4	55
Knowle	11	5	0	0	3	19
Lyndon	23	7	0	0	0	30
Meriden	28	5	0	0	8	41
Olton	12	9	0	10	7	38
Shirley East	18	5	0	0	0	23
Shirley South	25	31	3	16	8	83
Shirley West	33	50	0	15	0	98
Silhill	18	12	0	0	0	30
Smiths Wood	17	19	0	4	9	49
St Alphege	10	5	2	0	2	19
Total	336	245	12	137	69	799

Data provided by Solihull Children's Information Service September 2007

5.1d **The percentage of childcare places per ward that are currently vacant**

Ward	Current number of Vacant Places				
	Childminder	Day Nurseries	Crèche	Out of School	Pre-school
Bickenhill	24%	5%	0%	0%	10%
Blythe	33%	14%	14%	3%	11%
Castle Bromwich	18%	0	0	17%	n/a
Chelmsley Wood	33%	15%	0	7%	8%
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	13%	0%	0	17%	5%
Elmdon	22%	10%	0	26%	9%
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	24%	8%	30%	8%	17%
Knowle	16%	7%	0	0%	5%
Lyndon	32%	8%	0	0%	n/a
Meriden	29%	9%	0	0%	33%
Olton	21%	6%	0	5%	10%
Shirley East	14%	17%	0	0%	0%
Shirley South	27%	19%	9%	9%	8%
Shirley West	23%	19%	0	29%	0%
Silhill	53%	12%	0	0%	n/a
Smiths Wood	17%	15%	0	8%	15%
St Alphege	16%	8%	22%	0%	4%

Data provided by Solihull Children's Information Service September 2007

5.1e The number of “free” part time 3 and 4yr old places available per ward in Solihull in the Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector

Ward	Number of Funded Places Available		Total number of funded places
	Day Nursery	Pre-school	
Bickenhill	180	49	229
Blythe	170	76	246
Castle Bromwich	0	0	0
Chelmsley Wood	119	0	119
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	36	62	98
Elmdon	154	57	211
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	276	24	300
Knowle	67	61	128
Lyndon	81	0	81
Meriden	103	24	127
Olton	162	70	232
Shirley East	30	26	56
Shirley South	166	103	269
Shirley West	263	0	263
Silhill	89	0	89
Smiths Wood	75	24	99
St Alphege	43	46	89

Data provided by Solihull Children's Information Service September 2007

5.1f The number of nursery places available per ward in the Maintained sector (school nurseries)

Ward	Number of School Nursery Places Available
Bickenhill	140
Blythe	170
Castle Bromwich	110
Chelmsley Wood	190
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	200
Elmdon	120
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	230
Knowle	60
Lyndon	160
Meriden	160
Olton	180
Shirley East	120
Shirley South	140
Shirley West	140
Silhill	90
Smiths Wood	150
St Alphege	90
Totals	2450

Data provided by Solihull Children's Information Service September 2007

5.1g The number of childcare places currently available before 7:30am and after 6pm outside of the normal full day care hours

Ward	Number of available places	
	Before 7.30am	After 6pm
Bickenhill	58	73
Blythe	4	57
Castle Bromwich	12	17
Chelmsley Wood	184	9
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	0	35
Elmdon	80	13
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	18	6
Knowle	5	0
Lyndon	6	0
Meriden	12	9
Olton	12	6
Shirley East	5	0
Shirley South	8	9
Shirley West	7	2
Silhill	4	0
Smiths Wood	26	4
St Alphege	11	0
Totals	452	240

Data provided by Solihull Children's Information Service September 2007

5.1h The distribution of out of hours childcare places as a percentage of the total number of places

Ward	Number of available places	
	Before 7.30am	After 6pm
Bickenhill	13%	30%
Blythe	1%	24%
Castle Bromwich	3%	7%
Chelmsley Wood	41%	4%
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	0%	15%
Elmdon	18%	5%
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	4%	3%
Knowle	1%	0%
Lyndon	1%	0%
Meriden	3%	4%
Olton	3%	3%
Shirley East	1%	0%
Shirley South	2%	4%
Shirley West	2%	1%
Silhill	1%	0%
Smiths Wood	6%	2%
St Alphege	2%	0%
Totals	102%	102%

**This chart shows the percentage breakdown of out of hours childcare places from the total number of places available out of hours not the total number of registered places. NB figures rounded up to nearest whole number therefore totals more than 100%*

Data provided by Solihull Children's Information Service September 2007

5.1i The number of registered places available for each different type of session per ward

Ward	Number of places available for each session length						
	Before School Club (term time)	2-3 hrs sessional (term time)	After School Club (term time)	Full daycare (inc.childminders) (all year)	Overnight care	Wraparound sessions (term time)	Holiday Scheme Full Daycare Places (school holidays)
Bickenhill	130	49	130	266	5	20	56
Blythe	185	102	185	261	0	66	128
Castle Bromwich	72	0	72	135	0	24	16
Chelmsley Wood	134	26	134	210	0	48	110
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	109	106	109	129	0	24	74
Elmdon	146	57	146	301	3	24	40
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	100	24	100	350	0	40	126
Knowle	50	61	50	134	0	50	50
Lyndon	88	0	88	166	0	40	40
Meriden	78	24	78	199	0	20	56
Olton	190	70	190	220	0	0	80
Shirley East	74	26	74	104	5	0	0
Shirley South	142	103	172	259	0	16	16
Shirley West	148	25	148	411	0	0	0
Silhill	76	0	102	135	0	16	26
Smiths Wood	48	61	48	228	0	48	26
St Alphege	138	46	138	123	0	0	428

Data provided by Solihull Children's Information Service September 2007

5.1j The average costs of a full day care place in Solihull by ward per hour, day and week and the difference in charges for under 2s and over 2s

Ward	Average cost of Childminder			Average cost of a Day Nursery			
	Per hour	Per day	Per week	Under 2s Per day	Under 2s Per week	Over 2s Per day	Over 2s Per week
Bickenhill	£3.50	£25.00	Not given	£31.86	£152.30	£28.47	£136.08
Blythe	£3.48	£27.50	Not given	£46.23	£186.88	£42.50	£177.13
Castle Bromwich	£3.23	£23.00	£117.50	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Chelmsley Wood	£3.06	£26.67	Not given	£32.12	£154.57	£30.67	£147.23
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	£3.70	£30.00	£150.00	£38.00	not given	not given	not given
Elmdon	£3.26	£26.40	£123.00	£27.36	£132.35	£25.85	£121.95
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	£3.43	£26.42	£112.50	£32.13	£153.33	£30.88	£148.33
Knowle	£3.63	£33.00	£162.50	£35.00	£165.00	£35.00	£145.00
Lyndon	£3.36	£27.50	£137.50	£29.67	£127.50	£27.00	£122.50
Meriden	£3.93	£35.67	Not given	£30.62	£142.50	£29.90	£130.00
Olton	£3.64	£28.00	£100.00	£30.48	£162.50	£30.00	£135.00
Shirley East	£3.49	£27.00	£123.00	£33.00	£150.00	not given	not given
Shirley South	£3.27	£25.22	£104.00	£35.00	£158.25	£34.67	£156.00
Shirley West	£3.24	£27.50	£136.00	£35.00	£157.00	£34.75	£152.50
Silhill	£4.13	£28.67	£150.00	£29.50	£157.50	£26.75	£130.00
Smiths Wood	£2.95	£23.55	£103.13	£30.93	£149.75	£29.37	£141.45
St Alphege	£3.28	£27.75	£150.00	£37.13	£184.25	£36.13	£174.25

lowest
highest

Data provided by Solihull Children's Information Service September 2007

5.1k The average costs of sessional and out of school places in Solihull by ward

Ward	Pre-schools	Out of School Clubs	
	Average Cost Per session	Before School	After School
Bickenhill	£8.00	£2.75	£8.88
Blythe	£8.38	£2.81	£5.87
Castle Bromwich	n/a	£3.10	£5.10
Chelmsley Wood	£4.25	£3.38	£8.43
Dorridge & Hockley Heath	£7.81	£3.33	£9.23
Elmdon	£6.75	£4.00	£7.38
Kingshurst & Fordbridge	£5.00	£2.50	£5.50
Knowle	£8.90	£3.50	£8.00
Lyndon	n/a	£3.43	£7.97
Meriden	£6.00	£3.65	£8.12
Olton	£7.97	£3.28	£3.20
Shirley East	£5.20	£2.50	£3.70
Shirley South	£6.82	£3.23	£6.85
Shirley West	not given	£3.65	£8.45
Silhill	n/a		£5.80
Smiths Wood	£4.00	£2.50	£5.50
St Alphege	£8.50	£3.55	£9.40

lowest
highest

Data provided by Solihull Children's Information Service September 2007

5.11 The current number of childminders who collect and drop off children at each school in Solihull by ward

School name	Number of childminders
Alcott Hall	1
Balsall Common	16
Bennetts Well	2
Bentley Heath	12
Berkswell	1
Bishop Wilson	1
Blossomfield	11
Bosworth Wood	8
Burman	9
Castle Bromwich Infants	27
Castle Bromwich Juniors	26
Chapel Fields	4
Cheswick Green	8
Coleshill Heath	4
Coppice	6
Cranmore	7
Damson Wood	7
Daylesford	6
Dickens Heath	1
Dorridge Infants	7
Dorridge Juniors	7
George Fentham	2
Greswold	6
Haslucks green	7
Hatchford Brook	13
Hatchford	6
Hockley Heath	5
Kineton Green	7
Kingfisher	3
Kingshurst Infants	5
Kingshurst Juniors	5
Knowle	7
Lady K	0
Langley Primary	3
Marston Green Infants	5
Marston Green Juniors	5
Meriden	1
Mill Lodge	5
Monkspath	11
Oak Cottage	2
Our Lady of Compassion	5
Our Lady of the Wayside	6
Peterbrook	11
Sharmans Cross	6
Shirley Heath	12

School name	Number of childminders
St Alphege Infants	7
St Alphege Juniors	2
St Andrews	6
St Annes	6
St Anthony's	4
St Augustine's	2
St George & St Teresa's	5
St James	2
St John the Baptist	4
St Margaret's	1
St Mary & St Margaret's	3
St Patrick's CE	7
St Patrick's RC	1
Streetsbrook	5
Tidbury Green	1
Ulverley	4
Valley	10
Widney	7
Windy Arbor	0
Woodlands	10
Yew tree	2
Yorkswold	3
Alderbrook	2
Archbishop Grimshaw	0
Arden	2
Heart of England	1
Langley Secondary	0
Light Hall	1
Lode Heath	0
Lyndon	0
Park Hall	0
Smiths Wood	2
St Peters	1
Tudor grange	0
Grace Academy	1
Forest Oak	0
Hazel Oak	0
Lanchester	0
Merstone	1
Reynalds Cross	0

Data provided by Solihull Children's Information Service September 2007

5.1m The current number of childminders who collect and drop off children at nursery and pre-school sessions across Solihull

Provider name	Number of childminders
Coppice Playgroup	1
Elmdon Playgroup	1
Hampton in Arden pre-school	1
Happy Hands Pre-school	1
Kingshurst Caterpillars	1
Kingswood	1
Lighthall Under 5s	1
Little Learners	1
Little Poppets	1
Olton Friary Pre-school	2
Ruckleigh	1
Shelly Farm Pre-school	1
Solihull School	1
St Alphege Pre-school	2
St Augustine's Nursery	1
St Margaret's Pre-school	1
St Martins School	1
St Ninian's	1
Windmills Pre-school	1
Out of borough schools	11

Data provided by Solihull Children's Information Service September 2007

6. Assessing Demand for Childcare -Childcare Assessment Methodology

6.1 While it is clear that there is a significant amount of information available, about childcare in Solihull, the new Sufficiency Duty stipulates that this information is robust and current, so as well as local demographic information about the local population ¹⁰, and the information about local childcare, taken from CIS data, the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment has actively sought the views of parents and employers to gauge current and future demand for childcare.

6.2 The following methods have been used to provide the most representative up to date picture.

6.3 Parental Consultation - Telephone Survey

6.3.1 An external Market Research agency was commissioned to conduct a telephone survey of parents across Solihull during June 2007 (See Appendix 2). This was in order to ensure that the consultation met the requirements of the Childcare Sufficiency statutory duty and also the need for up to date local information on demand/need.

6.3.2 The findings needed to be statistically valid to minimise the risk that the results were due to chance or bias. Sample sizes needed to ensure the collection of a sufficient amount of data to produce robust and reliable findings.

6.3.3 The specific research objectives therefore included investigating the following:

- Existing use of childcare provision (both formal and informal)
- Parents and carers needs for childcare (particularly un-met needs)
- Perceptions of the quality, availability and affordability of childcare.
- Awareness and use of financial help (eg. tax credits or free entitlement to childcare).

6.3.4 The methodology adopted consisted of the following:

- 850 telephone interviews with parents and carers.
- All respondents were the primary guardian of a child aged 0-14 (up to 17 if child was disabled).
- Interviews lasted approximately 12 mins.
- Interviews were conducted in all wards across the Borough.
- The 850 respondents had 1519 children between them.

6.3.5 The demographics of the sample were as follows

- 659 of the interviews were conducted with women (77% of the total)
- 107 were lone parents (13% of total)
- 52 were from Black and minority ethnic groups (6% of the total)
- 320 had one child (38% of the total)
- 408 had two children (48% of the total)

¹⁰ Understanding Solihull 2006

- 106 had three children (12 % of the total)
- 16 had 4 or more children (2% of the total)

6.4 Parental Consultation – Focus Groups:

6.4.1 In addition to the telephone survey, 6 Focus Groups of around 6-8 parents or carers were identified, in order to get qualitative data in participants own words which would give a deeper insight into the thoughts, feelings attitudes and ideas of parents on childcare related topics.

6.4.2 The 6 parent and carers focus groups taking part were:

- Parents with children (aged 0-17 yrs) with disabilities (2 groups)
- Parents from low-income backgrounds (1 group)
- Dads group (1 group)
- Parents from middle income backgrounds (1 group)
- Parents with children 6-11 yrs (1 group)

6.4.3 To ensure consistency similar questions were asked to each group.

- What do you understand by the term childcare?
- Have you used childcare in the last 6 months?
- What would put you off using childcare as a parent?
- What opportunities does childcare offer you as a parent?
- How did you find childcare?
- How much an hour would you expect to pay?
- What services would you expect for your money?
- How much do you think childcare is worth?
- What does quality childcare mean to you?
- How can we improve childcare in your area?
- Have you heard of the Children's Information Service?

6.5 Consulting with Children – Focus Groups

6.5.1 6 other focus groups were identified to give local children an opportunity to express their views. A variety of methods were used, depending on such factors as the age, gender, ethnicity and disabled status of children within the group. Consultations were conducted with children aged between 3yrs and 11yrs in the North, South and Rural areas of Solihull Borough, and wherever possible, we linked into other groups who have or are already consulting with children as appropriate.

6.5.2 During this process it became clear that there are many services and teams who are consulting with children for a wide variety of reasons. We have

recognised that we need to be more joined up with this process or we run the risk of consulting too much which could have a negative effect on the children and the responses they give.

- 6.5.3 Links have been developed with SOLO and Parent Champions and these reflect the interests of children with disabilities and their families. Links have also been developed with Solihull community based groups including libraries (Family Learning), Children Centres, Children's Fund, and these links will support the annual refresh of this element of the childcare assessment.
- 6.5.4 Childcare settings across the Borough were asked to consult with the children in their care using a variety of mediums integrated into activities depending on the age and understanding of the children. To support this they had a one to one discussion and then given a crib sheet and information from the National Children's Bureau publication "Listening as a way of life" *Listening to Babies* and *Listening to children*.
- 6.5.5 Other groups had formulated their own methods of consulting which also used a variety of mediums; therefore the methodology for gathering data was different in each environment.
- 6.5.6 Children's Fund recently consulted with children at a Primary School through the School Council on Out of School Activities. This is to be evaluated during the Autumn Term.
- 6.5.7 SOLO recently consulted with children on Summer Holiday Activities. This has been evaluated , and represents the views of children, parents, staff and volunteers involved with the programme, to inform future planning.
- 6.5.8 Childcare settings who consulted with their younger children did so by using observations done in the course of their daily routines and planning. For the older children they used group-time and asked the questions on an individual basis.

6.6 Consultation with Employers

- 6.6.1 Good links have been established with local employers through the work of the Work Life Balance Co-ordinator, appointed in 2002 to work with small and medium enterprises in family friendly practices and work life balance for employees, particularly women with caring responsibilities.
- 6.6.2 Information about the Sufficiency Assessment was placed in the Spring 2007 Work life Balance Newsletter, and a small survey with 17 employers was conducted with attendees at the quarterly network meeting in June 07.
- 6.6.3 In addition, Birmingham and Solihull Chamber of Commerce conducted a small childcare survey with the employers on their data base, also during June 07, though the response to this questionnaire was very poor.

6.7 Engagement with Childcare Sector

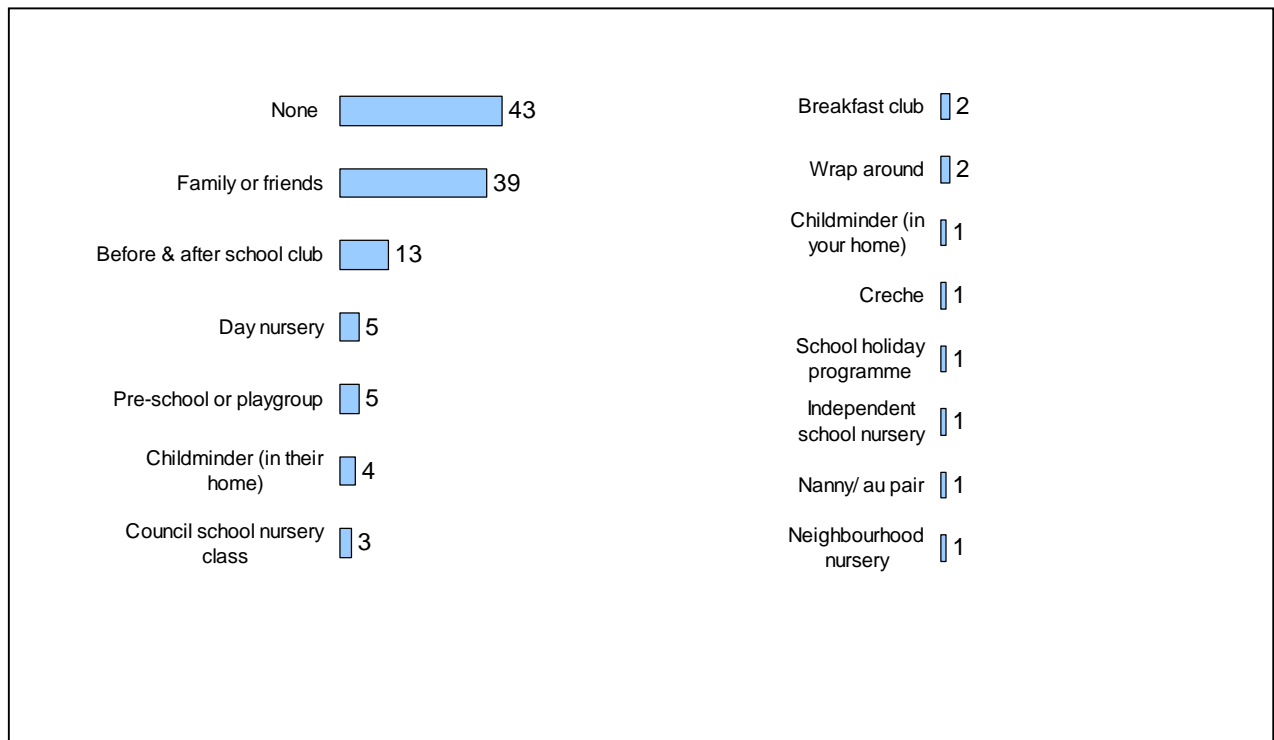
6.7.1 The vast majority of childcare in Solihull is delivered by the private, voluntary and independent sector, with the exception of some school run childcare. As an important step to inform the relevant partners about the Sufficiency Assessment, a briefing was held in June 2007 to which over 100 practitioners attended. As well as sharing information about the Sufficiency Assessment, we asked providers for information to support the childcare mapping exercise, particularly around vacancies, where information held by the CIS was patchy.

6.7.2 The Local Authority has a good knowledge of new provision opening in the Borough through its support for Pathways to Registration, where new and prospective providers obtain information, advice and support from the Childcare Team to facilitate the registration process. However, there is provision that sets up within the Borough without recourse to the Childcare Team, which is their right to do, as open market forces are in play. However, Ofsted notifies the Children's Information Service about all new registered childcare in the Borough on a regular basis, so all registered provision is on the CIS data base for enquiries from parents.

7 Demand for Childcare – Responses from Parents

7.1 Current Use of Childcare

Which types of childcare have you used in the last 6 months?



Analysis of telephone questionnaires

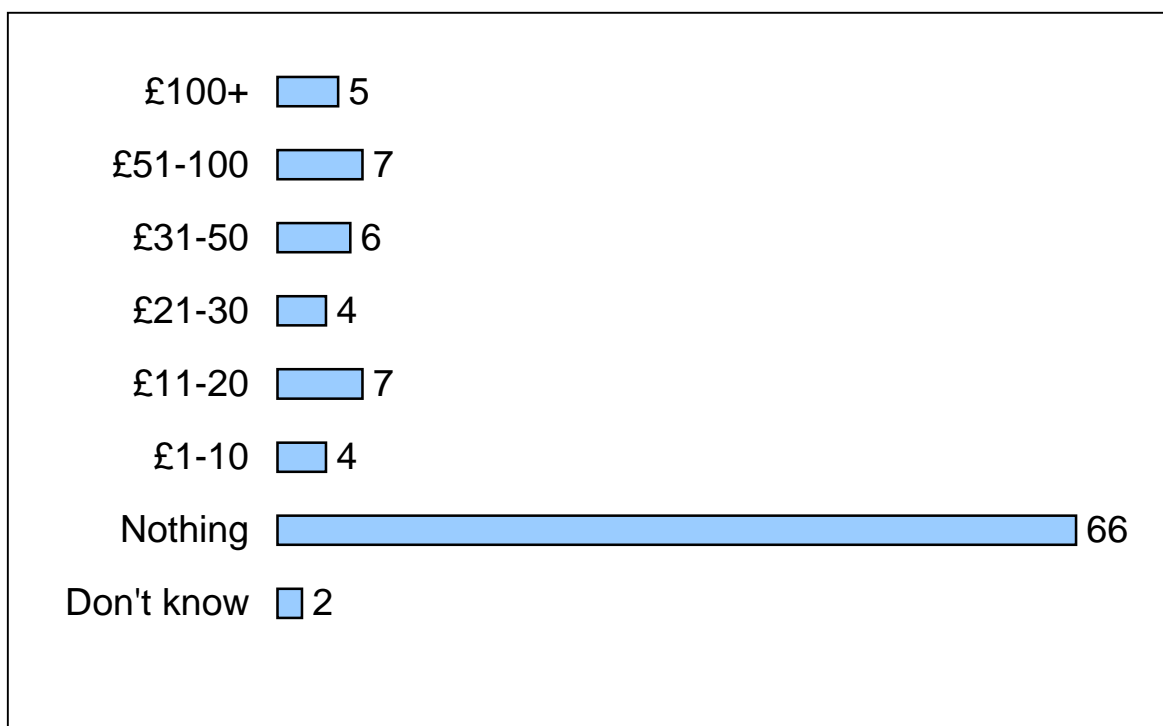
- 7.1.2 These are average figures across all ages, and the remaining 10% of usage was evenly spread across provision such as a crèche, a nanny or au pair, a breakfast club or holiday club.
- 7.1.3 When these figures are broken down further by age, two thirds of 0-2 year olds are in some form of childcare, 36% with family and friends, 22% in full day care, 10% at pre school, and 5% with a childminder.
- 7.1.4 It is clear that 3 and 4 year olds were the most likely to be in some form of childcare, (90 %) , mostly in pre- school (33%), school nursery (24%) or Day Nursery (23%), which is not surprising given that there is a “free” entitlement to 12.5 hours of childcare per week . *Assumption- It is likely that parents would welcome an extension of the 12.5hr free entitlement, when it rises to 15 hours by 2010.*
- 7.1.5 34% of 3& 4 year olds are cared for by Family and Friends, but this rises to 46 % for school age children 6-11 years. 21% of this age group are in Before and After School Clubs, and 4% with a childminder, but 41% of parents say they don't use childcare at all.
- 7.1.6 For 12- 14 year olds, 25% of parents are relying on family and friends, though 72 % are using no childcare at all. *Question- is this that childcare is not required for this age group, or that they don't use the provision as it doesn't exist, or meet their needs?*
- 7.1.7 Amongst those using childcare 9 hours was the average and over two thirds of children 2/3 were using 1-12 hours. Over 60 % of 3&4 year olds were using more than 12.5 hours a week, again due to the free entitlement.
- 7.1.8 Disabled children were using on average 5 hours of childcare per week, and not surprisingly were the only users of special needs nursery (2%), home programme (2%) or respite care (2%). *Assumption-Disabled children were spending less time in childcare, perhaps due to lack of choice?.*
- 7.1.9 The greatest demand for childcare fell between 8am and 6pm weekdays and in school holidays.

7.2 Costs of Childcare

- 7.2.1 Two thirds (66%) of the sample did not pay anything towards childcare in an average week, reflecting the high use of informal childcare across all ages, where there is likely to be no cost.
- 7.2.2 5% of parents were paying more than £100 per week, with 7% paying £ 50 - £100
- 7.2.3 Single child households were significantly more likely to pay nothing towards childcare (76%), compared to multi child households (60%). Similarly, respondents working full time were less likely to pay nothing than those

working part time – *Assumption- it is more difficult to find informal arrangements for more than one child, or to cover full time hours.*

How much are your total childcare costs in an average week?



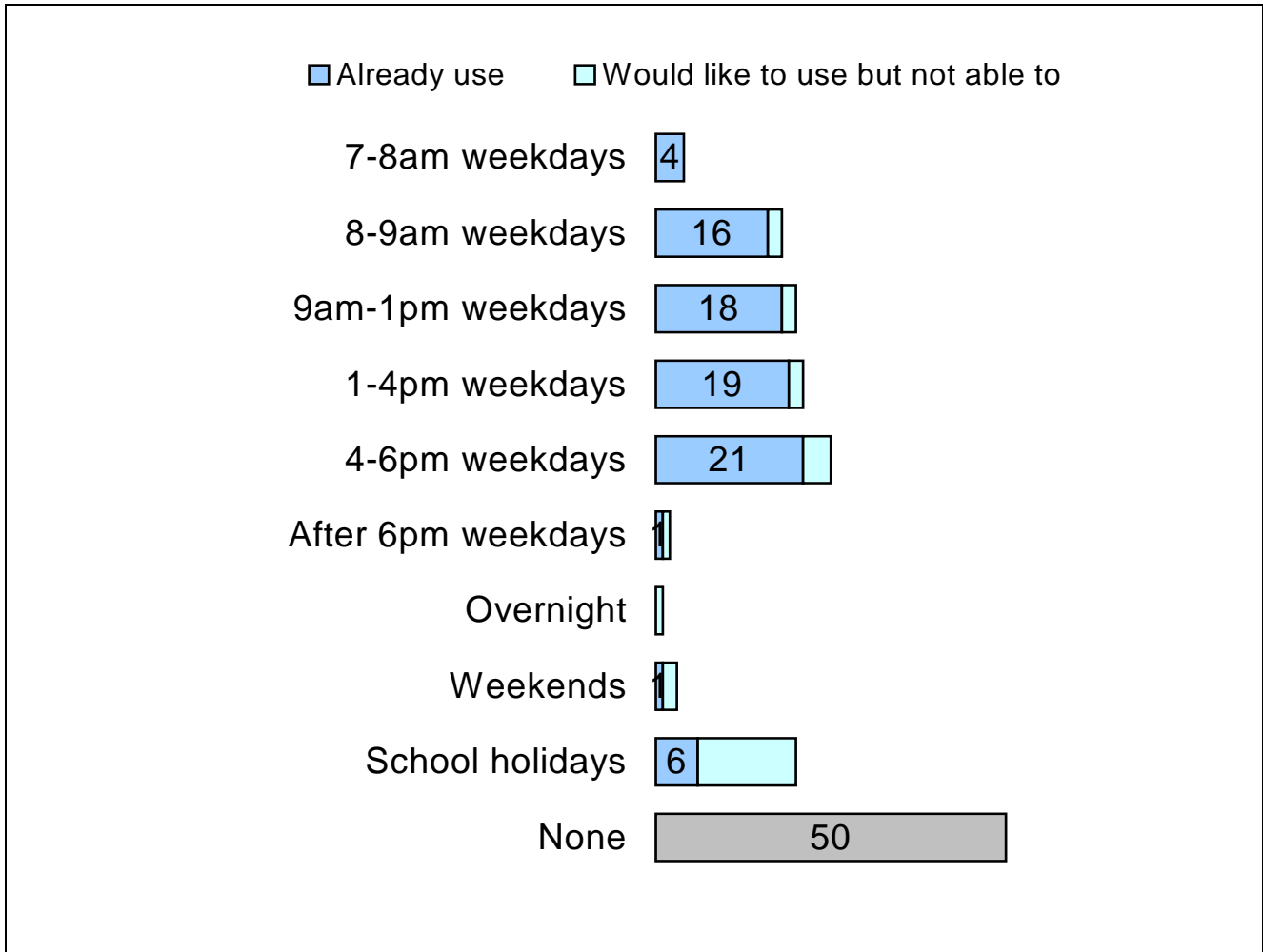
Analysis of telephone questionnaires

- 7.2.4 Few parents / carers could withstand a substantial increase in childcare cost. £12.11 per week was considered on average to be the maximum they could withstand.
- 7.2.5 Naturally there was a direct correlation between household income, and the increase they could stand, which means that low-income families and lone parents would be most affected by increases. On the whole, parents from wards in North Solihull were able to stand a smaller increase (£7.54) than wards in West Solihull (£13.62) or South & East Solihull (£13.49) Lone Parents were able to stand a smaller increase (£8.10) than two parent families (£12.64).
- 7.2.6 Just over half of the respondents were claiming some sort of financial assistance, the most common being child tax credit (48%), followed by Working Tax Credit (26%)
- 7.2.7 Respondents in North Solihull and lone parents were the most likely to receive any form of financial help.
- 7.2.8 Households with children under five were more likely to be receiving financial help than not.

7.2.9 Just over 60% of households (59 respondents) with a disabled child were claiming some sort of specific entitlement, the most common being disabled living allowance.

7.3 Times when childcare used

At what times do you use childcare / would you use childcare but are not able to?



Analysis of telephone questionnaires

7.3.1 The greatest demand for childcare fell between 8am & 6pm weekdays and in school holidays. In most cases these needs were being fulfilled by existing childcare arrangements, except for school holidays, where there was a significant deficit between those wanting to access childcare at this time, and those who are able to.

7.3.2 Parents in Dorridge and Hockley Heath, Knowle and Olton were most likely to use childcare in school holidays but were not able to. Unsurprisingly, parents working full time or shifts were most likely to want to use holiday schemes. 61% of parents would like more hours in the school holidays.

- 7.3.3 This is an area that needs further investigations because anecdotal evidence from providers suggests that there have been vacancies in many holiday clubs.
- 7.3.4 There was very little demand for weekend care, only 3% of respondents. Parents with disabled children were most likely to want to use childcare at weekends but were not able to.
- 7.3.5 Only 2% of respondents said they would like to use childcare after 6pm. Assumption – there is currently little demand for childcare after 6pm or overnight (only 1%).

7.4 Free entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds

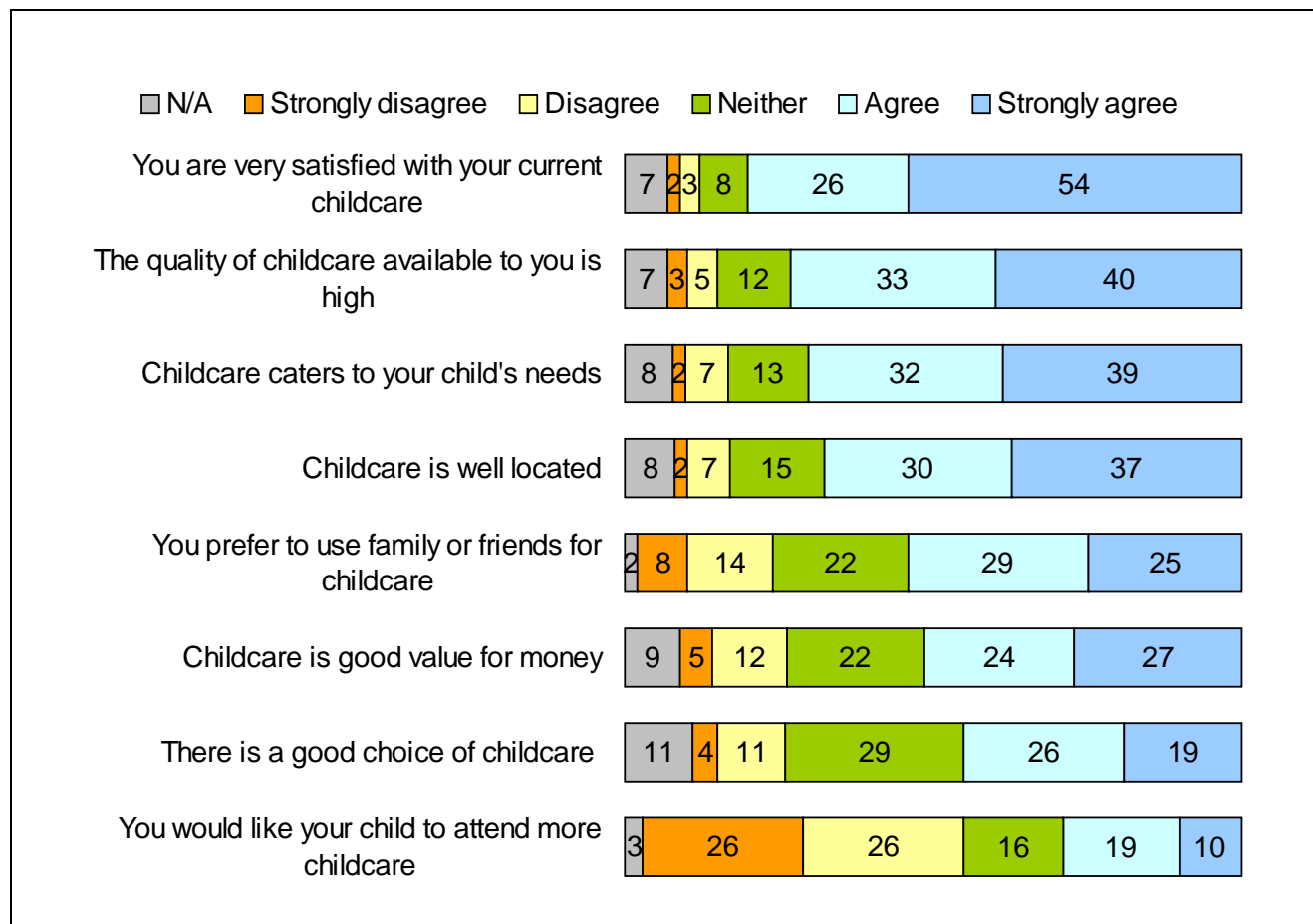
- 7.4.1 46% of eligible parents in the telephone survey used at least part of their free entitlement to 12.5 hours of early education, 38% taking their entitlements in full. This corresponds to figures on take up in Solihull, which stands at 101%, which clearly includes a small number of out of Borough children who take up their entitlement in Solihull. Figures for Solihull, published in 2006¹¹, show that for 3 year olds, 54% of children take up their provision in the maintained sector, with 24% in the PVI sector, though for 4 year olds, the figure for the maintained sector is 95%
- 7.4.2 24% of eligible parents felt they were not eligible, which suggests we need to do more to ensure that parents are fully aware.
- 7.4.3 In this telephone survey, 44% of those who use their free entitlement, use the maintained (school) sector. 30% a day nursery and 29% a pre-school.
- 7.4.4 When asked if they would use a childminder to access their free entitlement if this option was available, 30% of those who currently use the free entitlement said yes, over half of whom were parents at home with their child.
- 7.4.5 In terms of how parents would use an increase in hours in a typical week once the entitlement becomes 15 hours, Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, as well as Tuesday & Thursday afternoons, were the most popular times.

¹¹ Provision for Children Under Five Years of Age in England :January 2006 DfES Aug 2006

7.5 Views on Childcare

7.5.1 All those parents who currently use childcare were asked their views:

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

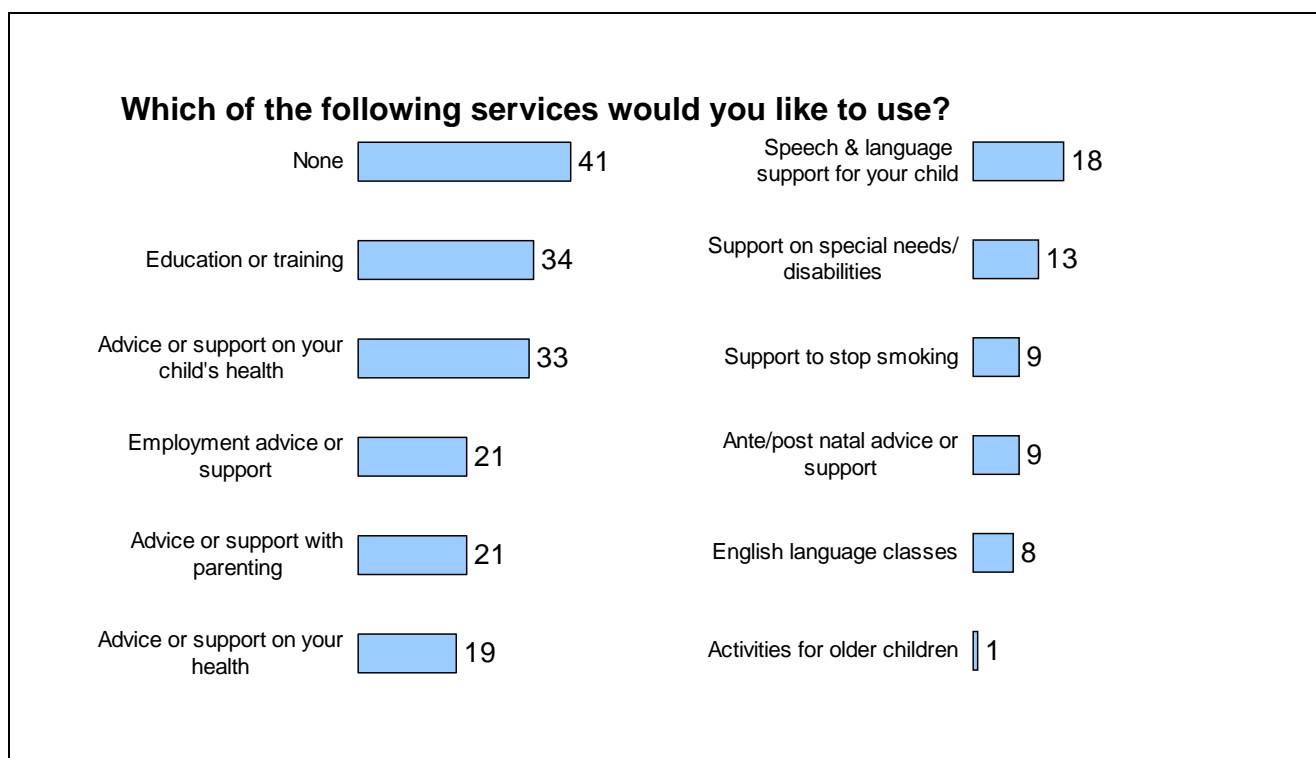


Analysis of telephone questionnaires

7.5.2 8 in 10 parents agreed that they are satisfied with their current childcare which is very positive, with three quarters of parents agreeing that the quality of childcare available is high. 51% agreed that childcare was good value, and only 45% felt there was a good choice of childcare. Only 29% of parents would like their child to attend more childcare, but parents with a disabled child were significantly more likely to agree that they would like their child to attend more formal childcare (46%).

7.5.3 Satisfaction with childcare was high across nearly all wards, and was highest in Kingshurst and Fordbridge, Blythe and Shirley South. The lowest satisfaction was in Shirley West (only 50%) but this was a low base size, so should not be seen as conclusive evidence that there is a problem in this ward. [Assumption- one factor could be issues of choice, as in Shirley West there are 34 childminders, one-day nursery and 3 school nurseries. Ofsted outcomes do not point to a particular issue about quality in this area.](#)

7.6 Other Services



Analysis of telephone questionnaires

7.6.1 All of the parents involved in the telephone survey were asked the question about other services. Just under 60% of parents would like to receive some sort of support. The main areas were advice and support on your child's health, and advice or support with parenting, and speech and language support. This was significantly higher for parents of young children who may be parenting for the first time, and for parents with a disabled child, who in addition also expressed a need for specialist advice and support.

7.6.2 Interestingly, 8% of responders would like to use English Language classes.

8. Summary from Telephone Survey

- 8.1 The existing standard of childcare is considered to be high
- 8.2 Around half agree that childcare is good value for money
- 8.3 45% agree that there is good choice of childcare available
- 8.4 Use of informal childcare remains at around 39%, and has been consistent since 2000, despite the growth in childcare places.
- 8.5 Group based care is used most often, with low use of childminders and nannies.
- 8.6 Before school age, nursery and playgroup are the most popular types of childcare.

Between the ages of 6-11, provision that extends the school day is the most popular (before & after school club).

- 8.7 The greatest demand for childcare is between the hours of 8am & 6 pm on a weekday and in school holidays.
- 8.8 While the demand for weekday childcare appears mostly catered for by existing provision, there appears to be a gap in provision during the school holidays.
- 8.9 A high percentage of parents appear unaware of their entitlement to free early education for their three and four year olds despite statistics which show high take up in Solihull. This may be explained by lack of understanding, i.e. parents who take up their provision in the maintained sector may not realise this is 'childcare', but there is potential to improve awareness and understanding of the free entitlement, particularly when this extends to 15 hours by 2010.
- 8.10 Families with a disabled child make up a small proportion of the Borough (around 7%) but they are probably most in need of childcare support. They are also:-
- More likely to be lone parents
 - More likely to stay at home with their child and not work
 - Lower than average household income
 - More likely to want their child to attend more formal childcare
 - More likely to want more advice and support on their child's health

9. **Focus Group Feedback from Parents**

The comments from parents in small groups were broadly in line with the responses to the telephone survey, but give more detail about the individual views of parents.

9.1 **What is childcare?**

"It helps build my child's confidence"

"My child has to go, there's not a lot of choice"

"It's an opportunity for children to learn in a different environment"

"It's about getting the best care for your child while you are not there"

"Where I know my child is happy and safe and the staff understand my child's needs"

9.2 **What does childcare offer you as a parent?**

"I can do a better job as I am not concerned about my child"

"I've been able to get back to work"

"You can get a lot done in 21/2 hours"

"It allows me to meet new people and make friendships"

"You need to trust people who look after your child"

"Time to yourself – to relax"

9.3 How did you find childcare?

"The school provided childcare"

"Word of mouth – you're more confident if it comes from someone you know"

"Through friends"

"It is very difficult to find childcare"

"I'd heard of the CIS, but didn't think what it meant"

9.4 How much an hour would you expect to pay?

"It's more than money, it's staff, consistency for the child and quality"

"Childcare is too expensive, particularly if you have more than one child"

"You have no control over what you pay"

"Children with special needs should have more support and shouldn't pay"

"I prefer family to look after my child"

"It's family members or nothing"

9.5 What do you expect for you money?

"I expect them to serve up nutritious meals"

"Why not pay parents to stay at home"

"The staff are more important than the building"

"My child's well being is my number one priority"

"The best you can get"

9.6 What would put you off using childcare as a parent?

“If it was not close to school”

“A high turnover of staff”

“The calibre of people working in childcare”

“If they don’t understand child’s needs”

“The fear of who’s looking after your children when the door is closed”

“Not a clean and friendly environment”

“If the staff are not properly trained”

“Childcare not offering extra support to my child”

“If issues weren’t being addressed – if issues kept arising it would question the care of the child”

9.7 What does quality childcare mean to you?

“A safe, stimulating environment”

“My child wants to go in”

“Good quality toys, books and activities”

“The staff’s age and qualifications are important”

“If I know my child is happy”

9.8 How can we improve childcare in your area?

“We need a holiday club or playscheme to support me during school holidays”

“There is very little here – we need childcare for older children”

“Special needs delivery doesn’t match up to the promise – need to do more work in practice”

“Children should be able to use childcare if not potty trained”

“We need help and support with information”

“More male workers in the area”

9.9 Have you heard of the Children’s Information Service?

“I have contacted them for lists of childcare”

“Brilliant pack”

“Yes – seemed ok”

“No”

“Not aware of the freephone number”

10. **Summary from focus groups**

- 10.1 Most parents had a positive view of childcare.
- 10.2 Parents of a child with a disability had most concerns about whether childcare could meet the needs of their child.
- 10.3 Parents don't just use childcare to get back to work, but to allow them time to do their own things, or meet new people.
- 10.4 Word of mouth is very important for parents when choosing childcare.
- 10.5 Parents generally thought childcare was expensive, especially if you have more than one child, hence the reliance of family and friends.
- 10.6 Issues relating to the quality of staff were most likely to put parents off using childcare.
- 10.7 Parents had differing views of what quality meant to them, though most agreed their child's wellbeing was paramount.
- 10.8 There was a range of views about how childcare could be improved, but again, holiday provision , provision for older children and the needs of disabled children were highlighted.
- 10.9 Knowledge of the CIS was patchy, suggesting that more needs to be done to support parents to find the information they need.
- 10.10 Parents of children with a disability had more concerns about the ability of existing childcare provision to meet their needs.

11 **Views of Employers**

- 11.1 In total 22 employers responded to the childcare questionnaires, 17 via the Solihull Work Life Balance Network for employers, (see Appendix 2) and 5 via the Birmingham and Solihull Chamber of Commerce Network.
- 11.2 In answer to a question about shift patterns, 65% of businesses had a 8.30-5.30 day, and this was higher for the Chamber survey responders.
- 11.3 While job satisfaction and motivation was the most important factor in employee retention (59%), followed by issues relating to pay (47%), childcare

and other caring responsibilities counted for 65% (41% childcare alone). Ease of commuting was also an issue in the chamber survey.

- 11.4 While 53% of employers offered no childcare support, 41% offered childcare vouchers, and 35% offered flexible working practises to support employees with children.
- 11.5 However, due to small sample size, it's difficult to tell what impact this has had in terms of retention, staff moral and reduced absenteeism, and the response to this was very mixed.
- 11.6 The most significant barriers to implementing childcare business practices appears to be the burden of additional costs, but it appears that, where employees who are parents have requested to work flexibly, this has been granted in 10 out of 11 cases. (Solihull Network).
- 11.7 65% of employers would like to receive information about childcare to support their employees (Solihull Network).
- 11.8 There were few additional comments, and indeed, the low return from the Birmingham and Solihull Chamber may suggest a lack of interest in this topic by local businesses, but the following comments were offered:
- 11.9 "To date we have found a combination of flexible start dates and part time working has been satisfactory, however we have very few female employees and this would not work otherwise".
- 11.10 "It's too early to assess the impact of childcare vouchers. We have had part time working for some years which will have helped retain some staff".
- 11.11 "Childcare and flexibility is positive for the employee, but is challenging for small businesses".

12. Issues raised by the Sufficiency Assessment

- 12.1 A number of issues have been highlighted, which may need further investigation;
- 12.2 Parents of disabled children have identified many challenges in terms of accessing appropriate childcare to meet their needs, even though the survey suggests that they are more likely to want their child to attend more formal childcare should it be available.
- 12.3 Holiday provision is patchy, with Shirley and Castle Bromwich having very little provision. This is an area where demand appears to outstrip provision. However, this is an area that needs further investigations because anecdotal evidence from providers suggests that there have been vacancies in many holiday clubs.

- 12.4 Castle Bromwich appears to have less childcare places per child than any other area in Solihull, with no provision of free early education except in the maintained sector.
- 12.5 Informal childcare has consistently remained the most popular form of childcare for local parents.
- 12.6 Out of hours provision is not available in some areas of the Borough, particularly Knowle, Lyndon, Shirley East, Silhill and St Alphege.
- 12.7 There is very limited overnight care available, but demand from parents does not imply that this is an area of concern.
- 12.8 There are variations in the cost of childcare across the Borough, which may be as a result of costs in premises, wages, and market forces, but which may influence parental perception of affordability.
- 12.9 42% of eligible parents didn't realise they were entitled to 12.5 hours of free childcare for 3 & 4 year olds. This is at odds with figures for take up of the free entitlement, which is at over 100% between maintained and PVI sector.
- 12.10 Also 24% declared themselves to be ineligible, which suggests we need to do more to market the free entitlement, perhaps using the increase in hours as a focus for new publicity.
- 12.11 While the existing standard of childcare is considered to be high, there is perhaps some issues in terms of choice, with less than half of parents agreeing there is good choice available.
- 12.12 More work needs to be done to ensure that local children have opportunities to express their views on what they see as the strengths, weaknesses and gaps in childcare.
- 12.13 There is little evidence here of any particular issues facing parents from black and minority ethnic groups beyond an expression of interest for English Language classes by 8% of respondents. While the sample size for the telephone survey was in line with the % of people from BME groups in Solihull, more may need to be done to check out if there are any specific needs that aren't being met.

13 Next Steps

- 13.1 As a result of the consultation on the Assessment with parents, providers and partners, there is an Action Plan for 2008/9 on how to address the issues arising from the Assessment, which includes the following strands: -
 - a) Actions to address the particular issues faced by parents of disabled children, including further work with existing providers to ensure parents concerns are taken on board, and to involve both parents and providers in developing potential solutions to current barriers. This strand of activity will also be linked to work being undertaken to commission improvements

in short breaks provision for disabled children and their families, as part of a flexible offer to meet needs.

- b) Further investigation into the demand for childcare in the early mornings, evenings and at weekends, including an exploration of who is using the provision that exists at the moment and their reasons for doing so to see if there are any patterns emerging
- c) Increased activity designed to encourage parents to take up formal childcare, including raising parental confidence in childcare provision, by, for example offering childcare taster sessions, and further promotion of Working Tax Credits and associated benefits, to ensure that parents are fully aware of the financial support they may be able to claim to help meet their childcare costs.
- d) Actions linked to the Information duty within the Childcare Act 2006, to ensure parents and intermediaries, such as staff in Children's Centres and advisors in Job Centre Plus can easily access information about the range and quality of childcare provision in the Borough have
- e) Work with the childcare market in Shirley and Castle Bromwich to explore the potential for increasing sustainable holiday provision in those areas.

13.2 For more information about the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment contact the Early Years and Childcare Service by emailing childrensinfo@solihull.gov.uk or phone 0800 389 8667

March 2008

Appendix 1 Glossary

Childcare Provision - An individual, body or organisation that has the responsibility of caring for a child outside of the child's home.

Registered childcare – An individual, body or organisation that is Inspected and registered with OfSTED Early Years and deemed qualified to care for children under 8yrs under the following categories:

- Full Day care –any Provider who offers childcare for more than 4 hours a day. e.g. Childminder (on domestic premises), Day Nursery (not on domestic premises).
- Sessional care – any Provider who offers childcare for less than four hours but more than two hours not on domestic premises. e.g. Pre-school/Playgroup, Private Nursery School.
- Out of School care – any provider who offers childcare for more than two hours a day, more than five times a year not on domestic premises. e.g. before school, after school and during school holidays.
- Crèche care – any provider who offers childcare in particular premises for more than five times a year or for more than two hours a day not on domestic premises. e.g. sport and leisure premises or shopping areas.

Maintained Sector – Local Authority run provision e.g. School, Nursery School.

Free entitlement – 12.5 hrs free Nursery Education for children aged 3 and 4, funded by the Government, and paid directly to the provider by the Local Authority.

Children's Information Service – A Local Authority service which has the responsibility for collecting and disseminating information about existing childcare and other services for children.

Childcare Vouchers – Employers tax incentive for employees using registered childcare.

LSC – Learning Skills Council

ERDF – European Regional Development Fund

AWM – Advantage West Midlands

SOLO – Solihull Leisure Opportunities

Appendix 2 Telephone Questionnaire

Hello my name is ... I am calling from Brahm Research. We are calling on behalf of Solihull Council to talk to residents about their childcare needs. It will take no more than 10 minutes to complete, and your involvement would be extremely helpful. Is now a convenient time for you to take part in the survey?

Yes: Thank and proceed

No: Where possible arrange a more convenient time with the respondent.

S1 Please can you tell me your postcode?

INTERVIEWER WRITE IN FULL IN BOX THEN SINGLE CODE BELOW

Castle Bromwich	B36	1
Smiths	B36	2
Kingshurst	B37	3
Chelmsley Wood	B37	4
Fordbridge	B37	5
Marston Green	B37	6
Bickenhill	B92	7
Hampton in Arden	B93	8
Eastcote	B93	9
Meriden	CV7	10
Balsall Common	CV7	11
Berkswell	CV7	12
Temple Balsall	B93	13
Knowle	B93	14
Dorridge	B93	15
Bentley Heath	B93	16
Hockley Heath	B93/B94	17
Earlwood	B94	18
Tidbury Green	B90	19
Dickens Heath	B90	20
Shirley	B90	21
Solihull	B91	22
Olton	B92	23
Elmdon	B92	24
Cheswick Green	B90	25
Monkspath	B90	26
Chadwick End	B93	27
B Barston	B93	28

S2. Do you have any children aged 14 or under in your household, or 17 or under if they are disabled?

SINGLE CODE

Yes	1	CONTINUE
No	2	THANKS AND CLOSE

S3. How many children are in this age group in your household?

SINGLE CODE

One	1
Two	2
Three	3
Four	4
Five	5
Six	6
Seven	7
Eight	8
Nine	9
Ten or more	10

INTERVIEWER READ OUT: I am now going to ask you a few basic questions about each child in your household, starting with the youngest and working up to the eldest. This will allow Solihull Council to understand trends in childcare by type of child.

Child one – youngest child

Q1a. How old is your youngest child? (INTERVIEWER: If child is 4, please clarify whether they are in school and code appropriately)

SINGLE CODE

0-2 years old	1
3-4 (not in school)	2
4-5 (in school)	3
6-11 (in school)	4
12-14 (in school)	5
15-17 (with disability)	6

Q2a. Just to confirm, does this child have a disability?

SINGLE CODE

Yes	1
No	2

COMMENT IF CODES YES, ASK Q3a OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q4a

Q3a. Do they attend any of the following?

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE

Mainstream school	1
Special school	2
Split placement	3
None of these	4

Q4a. Thinking about this particular child, which of the following types of childcare have you used in the last six months?

MULTI CODE

Before & after school club	1
Breakfast club	2
Childminder (in your home)	3
Childminder (in their home)	4
Council school nursery class	5
Creche	6
Day nursery	7
Family or friends	8
Independent school nursery class	9
Nanny or au pair	10
Neighbourhood nursery	11
Pre-school or playgroup	12
Wrap-around	13
Other, please specify	14

None of these 15

COMMENT IF CODES NONE GO TO NEXT CHILD OR IF THIS IS THE LAST CHILD GO TO Q6 OTHERWISE ASK Q5a

Q5a. How many hours of childcare would you say you use on average for this child, per week?
WRITE IN (HOURS)

COMMENT IF THIS IS THE LAST CHILD GO TO Q6

Child two – second youngest child

Q1b. How old is your second youngest child? (INTERVIEWER: If child is 4, please clarify whether they are in school and code appropriately)

SINGLE CODE

0-2 years old	1
3-4 (not in school)	2
4-5 (in school)	3
6-11 (in school)	4
12-14 (in school)	5
15-17 (with disability)	6

Q2b. Just to confirm, does this child have a disability?

SINGLE CODE

Yes	1
No	2

COMMENT IF CODES YES, ASK Q3b OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q4b

Q3b. Do they attend any of the following?

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE

Mainstream school	1
Special school	2
Split placement	3
None of these	4

Q4b. Thinking about this particular child, which of the following types of childcare have you used in the last six months?

MULTI CODE

Before & after school club	1
Breakfast club	2
Childminder (in your home)	3
Childminder (in their home)	4
Council school nursery class	5
Creche	6
Day nursery	7
Family or friends	8
Independent school nursery class	9
Nanny or au pair	10
Neighbourhood nursery	11
Pre-school or playgroup	12
Wrap-around	13
Other, please specify	14

None of these	15
---------------	----

COMMENT IF CODES NONE GO TO NEXT CHILD OR IF THIS IS THE LAST CHILD GO TO Q6 OTHERWISE ASK Q5b

Q5b. How many hours of childcare would you say you use on average for this child, per week?

WRITE IN (HOURS)

COMMENT IF THIS IS THE LAST CHILD GO TO Q6

Child three – third youngest child

Q1c. How old is your third youngest child? (INTERVIEWER: If child is 4, please clarify whether they are in school and code appropriately)

SINGLE CODE

0-2 years old	1
3-4 (not in school)	2
4-5 (in school)	3
6-11 (in school)	4
12-14 (in school)	5
15-17 (with disability)	6

Q2c. Just to confirm, does this child have a disability?

SINGLE CODE

Yes	1
No	2

COMMENT IF CODES YES, ASK Q3c OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q4c

Q3c. Do they attend any of the following?

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE

Mainstream school	1
Special school	2
Split placement	3
None of these	4

Q4c. Thinking about this particular child, which of the following types of childcare have you used in the last six months?

MULTI CODE

Before & after school club	1
Breakfast club	2
Childminder (in your home)	3
Childminder (in their home)	4
Council school nursery class	5
Creche	6
Day nursery	7
Family or friends	8
Independent school nursery class	9
Nanny or au pair	10
Neighbourhood nursery	11
Pre-school or playgroup	12
Wrap-around	13
Other, please specify	14

None of these	15
---------------	----

COMMENT IF CODES NONE GO TO NEXT CHILD OR IF THIS IS THE LAST CHILD GO TO Q6 OTHERWISE ASK Q5c

Q5c. How many hours of childcare would you say you use on average for this child, per week?
WRITE IN (HOURS)

COMMENT IF THIS IS THE LAST CHILD GO TO Q6

Child four – fourth youngest child

Q1d. How old is your third youngest child? (INTERVIEWER: If child is 4, please clarify whether they are in school and code appropriately)

SINGLE CODE

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 0-2 years old | 1 |
| 3-4 (not in school) | 2 |
| 4-5 (in school) | 3 |
| 6-11 (in school) | 4 |
| 12-14 (in school) | 5 |
| 15-17 (with disability) | 6 |

Q2d. Just to confirm, does this child have a disability?

SINGLE CODE

- | | |
|-----|---|
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2 |

COMMENT IF CODES YES, ASK Q3d OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q4d

Q3d. Do they attend any of the following?

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Mainstream school | 1 |
| Special school | 2 |
| Split placement | 3 |
| None of these | 4 |

Q4d. Thinking about this particular child, which of the following types of childcare have you used in the last six months?

MULTI CODE

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Before & after school club | 1 |
| Breakfast club | 2 |
| Childminder (in your home) | 3 |
| Childminder (in their home) | 4 |
| Council school nursery class | 5 |
| Creche | 6 |
| Day nursery | 7 |
| Family or friends | 8 |
| Independent school nursery class | 9 |
| Nanny or au pair | 10 |

Neighbourhood nursery	11
Pre-school or playgroup	12
Wrap-around	13
Other, please specify	14

None of these	15
---------------	----

COMMENT IF CODES NONE GO TO NEXT CHILD OR IF THIS IS THE LAST CHILD GO TO Q6 OTHERWISE ASK Q5d

Q5d. How many hours of childcare would you say you use on average for this child, per week?
WRITE IN (HOURS)

COMMENT IF THIS IS THE LAST CHILD GO TO Q6

Child five – fifth youngest child

Q1e. How old is your third youngest child? (INTERVIEWER: If child is 4, please clarify whether they are in school and code appropriately)
SINGLE CODE

0-2 years old	1
3-4 (not in school)	2
4-5 (in school)	3
6-11 (in school)	4
12-14 (in school)	5
15-17 (with disability)	6

Q2e. Just to confirm, does this child have a disability?
SINGLE CODE

Yes	1
No	2

COMMENT IF CODES YES, ASK Q3e OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q4e

Q3e. Do they attend any of the following?
READ OUT. SINGLE CODE

Mainstream school	1
Special school	2
Split placement	3
None of these	4

Q4e. Thinking about this particular child, which of the following types of childcare have you used in the last six months?

MULTI CODE

Before & after school club	1
Breakfast club	2
Childminder (in your home)	3
Childminder (in their home)	4
Council school nursery class	5
Creche	6
Day nursery	7
Family or friends	8
Independent school nursery class	9
Nanny or au pair	10
Neighbourhood nursery	11
Pre-school or playgroup	12
Wrap-around	13
Other, please specify	14

None of these 15

COMMENT IF CODES NONE GO TO NEXT CHILD OR IF THIS IS THE LAST CHILD GO TO Q6 OTHERWISE ASK Q5e

Q5e. How many hours of childcare would you say you use on average for this child, per week?
WRITE IN (HOURS)

COMMENT IF THIS IS THE LAST CHILD GO TO Q6

Child six – sixth youngest child

Q1f. How old is your third youngest child? (INTERVIEWER: If child is 4, please clarify whether they are in school and code appropriately)

SINGLE CODE

0-2 years old	1
3-4 (not in school)	2
4-5 (in school)	3
6-11 (in school)	4
12-14 (in school)	5
15-17 (with disability)	6

Q2f. Just to confirm, does this child have a disability?

SINGLE CODE

Yes	1
No	2

COMMENT IF CODES YES, ASK Q3f OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q4f

Q3f. Do they attend any of the following?

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE

- Mainstream school 1
- Special school 2
- Split placement 3
- None of these 4

Q4f. Thinking about this particular child, which of the following types of childcare have you used in the last six months?

MULTI CODE

- Before & after school club 1
- Breakfast club 2
- Childminder (in your home) 3
- Childminder (in their home) 4
- Council school nursery class 5
- Creche 6
- Day nursery 7
- Family or friends 8
- Independent school nursery class 9
- Nanny or au pair 10
- Neighbourhood nursery 11
- Pre-school or playgroup 12
- Wrap-around 13
- Other, please specify 14

- None of these 15

COMMENT IF CODES NONE GO TO NEXT CHILD OR IF THIS IS THE LAST CHILD GO TO Q6 OTHERWISE ASK Q5f

Q5f. How many hours of childcare would you say you use on average for this child, per week?

WRITE IN (HOURS)

Costs of childcare

Q6. Thinking of an average week, how much are your total childcare costs, for **all** your children?

WRITE IN (POUNDS)

COMMENT IF ANSWERS ZERO GO TO Q8 OTHERWISE ASK Q7

Q7 If your weekly childcare costs were to increase by the following amounts, what would be the largest increase that you could still afford to pay? **READ OUT**
SINGLE CODE

Less than £5	1
£5-10	2
£10-20	3
£20-30	4
£30+	5
Couldn't afford any increase	6

Q8. Do you claim working tax credit?
SINGLE CODE

Yes	1
No	2

Q9. Do you claim child tax credit?
SINGLE CODE

Yes	1
No	2

COMMENT IF CODES YES ASK Q10 OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q11

Q10 Do you claim the childcare element of the child tax credit?
SINGLE CODE

Yes	1
No	2

COMMENT IF CODES YES AT Q2a/b/c/d/e/f/ ASK Q11 OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q12

Q11. Do you receive any of the following for your disabled child?
MULTI CODE

Disabled Living Allowance	1
Carers allowance	2
Other direct payment for disabled child	3
None of these	4

ASK ALL

Times of childcare

Q12. At which of the following times do you currently use formal childcare for any of your children? Formal childcare does not include main school times, family or friends. **READ OUT**
MULTI CODE

Q13. At which of the following times would you like to use formal childcare for any of your children but currently don't or can't? **READ OUT**
MULTI CODE

	Q12	Q13
Weekdays before 7am	1	1
Weekdays 7-8am	2	2
Weekdays 8-9am	3	3
Weekdays 9am-1pm	4	4
-----	-----	-----
Weekdays 1-4pm	5	5
Weekdays 4-6pm	6	6
Weekdays after 6pm	7	7
Weekdays overnight	8	8
-----	-----	-----
Weekends	9	9
School holidays	10	10
None of these	11	11

IF CODES WEEKENDS AT Q12 OR Q13 ASK Q14 OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q15

Q14. You mentioned that you currently use or would like to use childcare at the weekends. How do your childcare needs compare to a typical day during the week? **READ OUT**
MULTI CODE

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| About the same | 1 | } Please choose only one from codes 1-3 |
| Less hours required | 2 | |
| More hours required | 3 | |
| Different types of childcare required | 4 | |
| Different locations required | 5 | |
| Other, please specify | 6 | |

IF CODES SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT Q12 OR Q13 ASK Q15 OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q16

Q15. You mentioned that you currently use or would like to use childcare in the school holidays. How do your childcare needs compare to a typical day during the week? **READ OUT**
MULTI CODE

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| About the same | 1 | } Please choose only one from codes 1-3 |
| Less hours required | 2 | |
| More hours required | 3 | |
| Different types of childcare required | 4 | |
| Different locations required | 5 | |
| Other, please specify | 6 | |

Entitlement to free childcare

ASK ALL WHO CODE 2 AT Q1a/b/c/d/e/f (HAVE A CHILD AGED 3-4 AND NOT IN SCHOOL) OTHERWISE SKIP TO Q21

Q16. Do you use your entitlement for 12 ½ hours of free childcare per week?

SINGLE CODE

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Yes – in full | 1 |
| Yes – in part | 2 |
| No | 3 |
| Don't know | 4 |

IF CODES YES IN FULL GO TO Q18, OTHERWISE ASK Q17

Q17. Why do you not use your full entitlement for 12 ½ hours of free childcare each week? **DO**

NOT READ OUT

MULTI CODE

- | | |
|--|---|
| Didn't realise was entitled to free childcare | 1 |
| Not happy with the type of childcare available | 2 |
| Not available at times when you need it | 3 |
| Prefer existing childcare arrangements | 4 |
| Don't need any more childcare | 5 |
| Other, please specify | 6 |
-
-

IF CODED YES IN PART AT Q16 GO TO Q18, IF CODED NO OR DON'T KNOW AT Q16 GO TO Q21

Q18. What type of childcare do you use for your free entitlement?

MULTI CODE

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Breakfast club | 1 |
| Council school nursery class | 2 |
| Creche | 3 |
| Day nursery | 4 |
| Neighbourhood nursery | 5 |
| Pre-school or playgroup | 6 |
| Other, please specify | 7 |
-
-

None of these 8

Q19 If the free entitlement increased to 15 hours per week, how would you use these 15 hours of free childcare entitlement in a typical week? **INTERVIEWER PROBE FOR NUMBER OF HOURS PER MORNING AND AFTERNOON AND WRITE IN BELOW WRITE IN (HOURS)**

Monday morning		Monday afternoon	
Tuesday morning		Tuesday afternoon	
Wednesday morning		Wednesday afternoon	
Thursday morning		Thursday afternoon	
Friday morning		Friday afternoon	

Q20 If it were available in Solihull, would you use a childminder to access your free entitlement?
SINGLE CODE

- Yes 1
- No 2
- Don't know 3

Views on childcare

IF CODES NONE AT Q12 AND Q13 SKIP TO Q22, OTHERWISE ASK Q21

Q21 To what extent do you agree with the following statements about childcare in Solihull?
READ OUT
SINGLE CODE PER STATEMENT

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly agree	N/A
You are very satisfied with your current childcare	1	2	3	4	5	6
The quality of childcare available to you is high	1	2	3	4	5	6
There is a good choice of childcare in Solihull	1	2	3	4	5	6
Childcare is well located	1	2	3	4	5	6
Childcare caters to your child's needs	1	2	3	4	5	6
Childcare is good value for money	1	2	3	4	5	6
You would like your child to attend more formal childcare	1	2	3	4	5	6
You prefer to use family or friends for childcare	1	2	3	4	5	6

Other services

Q22 Which of the following services would you like to use?
MULTI CODE

- Speech and language support for your child 1
- Advice or support on your child's health 2
- Support on special needs/disability 3
- Employment advice or support 4
- Education or training advice or support 5
- English language classes 6
- Advice or support on your health 7
- Support to stop smoking 8
- Antenatal and postnatal advice or support 9

Advice or support with parenting 10
Other, please specify: 11

None of these 12

READ OUT: Just a few final questions about yourself to make sure we speak to a variety of people.

D1. Do not ask - interviewer to code gender

SINGLE CODE

Male 1
Female 2

D2. Which of the following age groups are you in?

SINGLE CODE

17 and under 1
18 – 24 2
25 – 34 4
35 – 44 5
45 – 54 6
55 and over 7

D3. Do you have a disability or long term illness?

SINGLE CODE

Yes 1
No 2

D4. Are you living as a lone parent or two parent family?

SINGLE CODE

Lone parent 1
Two parent family 2
Other 3

D5. Are you ... ? READ OUT

SINGLE CODE

Working full time 1
Working part time 2
Working shifts 3
Full time parent/carers 4
Looking for work 5
Studying/training 6
Other 7

**D6. What is your total annual household income? READ OUT
SINGLE CODE**

£0-10,000	1
£10,001-20,000	2
£20,001-30,000	3
£30,001 – 40,000	4
£40,001-50,000	5
£50,001-60,000	6
£60,001-70,000	7
£70,001-80,000	8
£80,001-90,000	9
£90,001-100,000	10
Over £100,000	11

**D7. Which of the following best describes your ethnic group?
SINGLE CODE**

White

White British	1
White Irish	2
White Traveller (Irish background)	3
Gypsy/Roma background	4
Any other white background	5
Black or Black British	
Black African	6
Black Caribbean	7
Any other black background	8
Asian or Asian British	
Indian	9
Pakistani	10
Bangladeshi	11
Any other Asian background	12
Far East	
Chinese	13
Japanese	14
Other Far Eastern background	15
Mixed	
White/Asian	16
White/Black	17
White/Far Eastern	18
Other mixed background	19
Don't know/ prefer not to say	20

D8. Are you happy for us to contact you in the future in case we need to check something on this questionnaire?

SINGLE CODE

Yes	1
No	2

IF YES, TAKE RESPONDENT DETAILS

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

If you have any queries about the survey, please do not hesitate to contact Samantha Lilley at Brahm Research on 0113 220 0535

I certify that this interview was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Market Research Society's Code of Conduct, and the briefing instructions from Brahm Research.

Interviewer's signature _____

Date

Appendix 3 Children's Views

In Summary

From the Information gathered and analysed the following statistics on what children liked and didn't like were collated:

LIKED

0-3yrs

- 1) Cuddles
- 2) Toys
- 3) Staff, Outside
- 4) Other children, painting, water
- 5) Colours, Being talked to, Books
- 6) Sand, Sticking, Music Man, Building Blocks/Lego, Light & Sound
- 7) Jigsaws, Bikes, Cars, Tents& Tunnels, Small world, Soft Play

3-5yrs

- 1) Colouring, Outside, Books
- 2) Bikes, computer
- 3) Puppets, Writing, Everything, Trampoline, Cutting, Wendy House, Small World, Climbing, Sticking, Water, Nature Tray.

5-8yrs Out of School Club

- 1) Toys, Outside, Building blocks/Lego, Football
- 2) Art,
- 3) Cars, Jigsaws, Dance.

8-11 Out of School Club

- 1) Outside
- 2) Building Blocks/Lego, K-nex
- 3) Drawing

Reading, Small World, Tumbling Dominoes, Painting, Sticking, Snack time.

8-11yrs

- 1) Computer, Colouring
- 2) Playing in the Park
- 3) Swimming, Exercise
- 4) Football
- 5) Art & Craft
- 6) Spending time with Family, Cycling
- 7) Remote Control Cars
- 8) Dancing
- 9) Marbles
- 10) Music, Clubs (Brownies, Guides, Cubs, Scouts)

DISLIKED

0-3yrs

- 1) Sleep time
- 2) Strangers, Waiting, Sharing
- 3) Fire Alarm, Masks, Tidying up, Outside, Water, Music & movement, Sitting at story time, Things took off them

3-5yrs

- 1) Nothing
- 2) Staying Outside, Feeling sick and Mommy not there, Drawing Patterns

5-8yrs Out of school Club

- 1) Nothing
- 2) Getting Hurt, Sticking, Getting Hurt, Being bossed by other children.

8-11yrs Out of School Club

- 1) Nothing
- 2) Wendy House, Not enough books to read, Going home lots of fun at club.