

Oxfordshire County Council

Consultation with  
parents/carers & children on  
childcare

January 2008

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## Key findings from the questionnaire

- 32.5% of parents/carers do not use childcare.
- Of the 67.5% that do, the most popular are family and friends (24.8% of those who use some form of childcare), day nursery (15.8%) and pre-school or playgroups (13.9%).
- 48.3% of respondents use childcare during the school holidays.
- 95.7% of childcare used is based within Oxfordshire.
- On average parents/carers use 15.5 hours of childcare per week.
- For those who spend something on their childcare, the average weekly spend is £87.19, although the range within our sample was £2.50 to £850, with a median of £60.
- The main reasons for using childcare are to go to work (69.4%), social and learning benefits for the child (30.4%) and for the parent/carer to have time to themselves (11.6%).
- The main reasons for not using childcare were because parents/carers choose not to (44.3%) or because a partner or other family member looked after the children (29.4%). 17.7% of respondents highlighted cost as a barrier to take-up.
- Childcare for 71.4% of children fully meets the needs of parents/carers.
- 31.3% of respondents report that childcare during school holidays fully meets needs.
- Generally, respondents tend to have high levels of agreement that the quality of childcare is high, that respondents are satisfied with childcare arrangements, that it caters for their children's needs, and is well located.
- In terms of improvement priorities:
  - Childcare for 26.7% of respondent children could be improved by being more affordable.

- Childcare for 17.0% of respondent children could be improved by being more flexible.
- Childcare for 15.6% of respondent children could be improved by being available at different times. Of respondent children who highlighted this, 136 wanted improvements within the 8am to 6pm time slot, 83 wanted improvements in the 7am to 8am time slot, 71 wanted improvements after 6pm and 23 wanted before 7am.
- Childcare for 13.6% of respondent children could be improved by having more or different childcare. The highest number of responses was for after-school clubs (104 respondent children) and breakfast clubs (74 respondent children).
- Childcare for 5.6% of respondent children could be improved by being in a different location. Of these, 27 responses wanted childcare closer to home.

## Key findings from the focus groups

### Parents/carers

- The majority of parents/carers who took part in the focus groups used family or friends for childcare purposes, although a significant number also used formal providers such as crèches, after-school clubs and nursery classes. Reasons given for this usage were numerous, but in the main were linked to convenience, cost and quality of provider.
- When asked about improvements to current services, cost was brought up as a major barrier to using certain types of childcare.
- Some parents/carers wanted more information about support (financial and otherwise) that was available to them.
- Intertwined with cost were the related issues of flexibility and availability of places, especially for disabled children.
- Some Asian parents/carers had concerns about providers' current levels of cultural sensitivity and awareness.

### Children

- Children liked engaging in activities with their friends which they perceived as 'fun', including a range of physical and more sedentary/indoor pursuits.
- All attended the after-school club as their parents/carers worked, and most children said that their parents/carers had chosen the service for their children.
- Although most children had positive experiences and comments about the club that they attended, most could cite a place that they would rather be, if they were given the choice. This could include their own or a friend's homes, or engaging in other formal activities (e.g. sport).
- Children listed a number of proposed improvements to the clubs including the purchase of additional equipment and games, but also being treated with a greater deal of respect, autonomy and fairness.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

This report presents an analysis of the outcomes of consultation exercises with parents/carers and children on childcare. It consists of:

- A detailed analysis of questionnaire responses from 1,341 parents/carers in Oxfordshire (sections 2 to 7).
- An analysis of focus groups undertaken with parents/carers (section 8) and children (section 9).

## 1.2 Questionnaire methodology

### 1.2.1 Administration

A questionnaire was developed in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council to gather information about the use of childcare in Oxfordshire and parents' / carers' views of the childcare market. Questionnaires were distributed via childcare providers, a community survey and an online survey. A copy of the questionnaire is included in Appendix 1.

### 1.2.2 A note about calculations used in the questionnaire analysis

Throughout the analysis we have treated missing responses as missing. As a result, the percentages shown relate to the percentage of respondents who answered that particular question.

We have tested the majority of variables for statistically significant differences between 13 different groups and categories of parents/carers and children<sup>1</sup>. A significance level of .05 was used. This means that there is only a 5% chance that these findings occurred by chance. Only these statistically significant findings are reported in the sections below.

The groups and categories for which significance tests were conducted were:

- Family composition
- Ethnicity
- Number of children

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<sup>1</sup> When a finding is shown to be statistically significant it means that we can be very sure that the finding is reliable. It is unlikely to have occurred by chance. Significance is a statistical term that tells us how sure we are that a relationship or difference exists between variables. If findings are statistically significant the finding is likely to be true not just in the sample, but also in the population from which the sample is drawn. If findings are significant in a sample, then they are generalisable to the wider population from which the sample is drawn.

- Age of children
- Locality
- Six types of household employment status
- Household income
- Disabled children

### **1.2.3 An important note about respondent children and respondent parents/carers**

The questionnaire examined childcare needs on two main dimensions:

- Needs of individual children within a family.
- Needs or views of the family as a whole as reported by individual respondent parents/carers.

The report highlights which type of analysis is used in each section.

## **1.3 Focus group methodology**

Focus groups were conducted with parents/carers and children in Oxfordshire. The focus groups were designed to gather the views and experiences of stakeholders on childcare and how it may be improved in the future.

A total of seven discussion groups took place between October and November 2007, involving 27 parents/carers; and 28 children<sup>2</sup>.

The focus group template was designed in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council (see Appendix 1 for a copy of the focus group questions). Each focus group was facilitated by staff members of Oxfordshire County Council. As well as evidence from focus groups, some stakeholders who couldn't attend a focus group emailed their views and feedback. These responses have been included in the analysis.

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<sup>2</sup> See separate report on the focus groups carried out with childcare providers.

## 2 Profile of respondents to the questionnaire

### 2.1 Representativeness of the sample

Figure 1 compares the questionnaire sample with the overall Oxfordshire population. The latter data is drawn from the Census 2001 (unless otherwise stated). Please note that the Census data refers to the whole population and not just those with dependent children. As a result, the comparison is indicative only.

Figure 1: Sample compared to overall Oxfordshire population

Group	Comparisons with Oxfordshire
Gender	Our sample is more likely to reflect the views of mothers. 90.9% of our sample was female, compared to 50.6% across Oxfordshire.
Ethnicity	Our sample is in-line with the overall ethnic profile of Oxfordshire. 88.5% of our sample was from White British backgrounds, compared to 89.9% in Oxfordshire.
Family composition	Our sample under-represented lone parent families. 10.9% of our sample was lone parents, compared to 23.1% of <u>households with children</u> across Oxfordshire.
Employment	23.7% of respondents to the questionnaire worked full-time, compared to 45.1% of the overall population. 46.9% of respondents worked part-time compared to 12.0% across Oxfordshire.
Age of children	Our sample over-represented the younger age groups. For instance, 27.1% of respondent children were aged 0-2 years, compared to 16.7% according to population projections.

### 2.2 Number, gender, ethnicity & location

A total number of 1,341 parents/carers completed the questionnaire. Of these: 90.9% were female and 9.1% were male. The majority (88.5%) of respondents were from a White British background. Figure 2 provides a full breakdown by ethnic group.

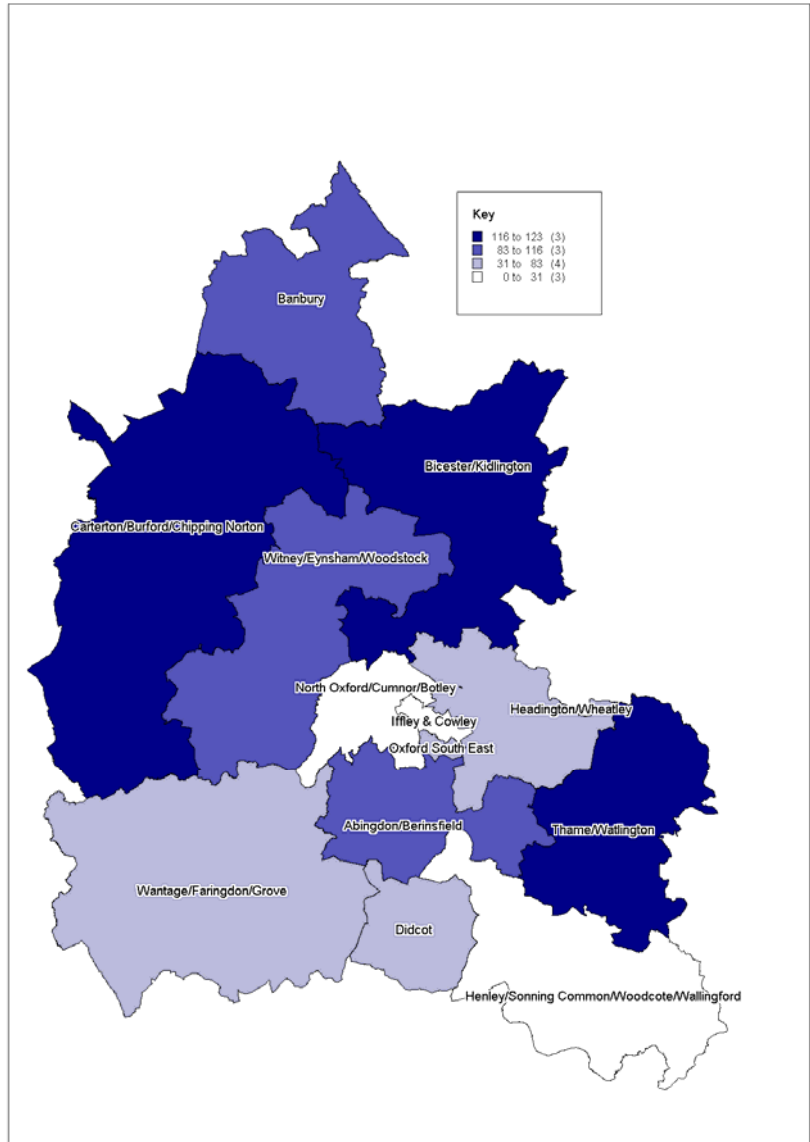
Figure 2: Ethnic breakdown of respondents

Group	Percentage of respondents
White British	88.5%
White Irish	1.5%
Other White background	4.1%
Black Caribbean	0.2%
Black African	0.6%
Indian	1.0%
Pakistani	1.0%
Bangladeshi	0.2%
Other Asian background	0.5%
White and Black Caribbean	0.2%
White and Asian	0.2%
Other Mixed background	0.6%
Chinese	0.1%
Any other ethnic group	0.4%
Don't know or prefer not to say	1.0%

The map below shows the locality of residence of respondents (this is based on those respondents who provided their full postcode – 80.7% of respondents). Figure 3 shows the number of respondents from each locality.

In addition, 21 respondents did not live in Oxfordshire, but used childcare within the county. These respondents lived in Stratford-on-Avon, South Northamptonshire, Wycombe, Reading, the Cotswolds, Aylesbury Vale, Milton Keynes and Swindon.

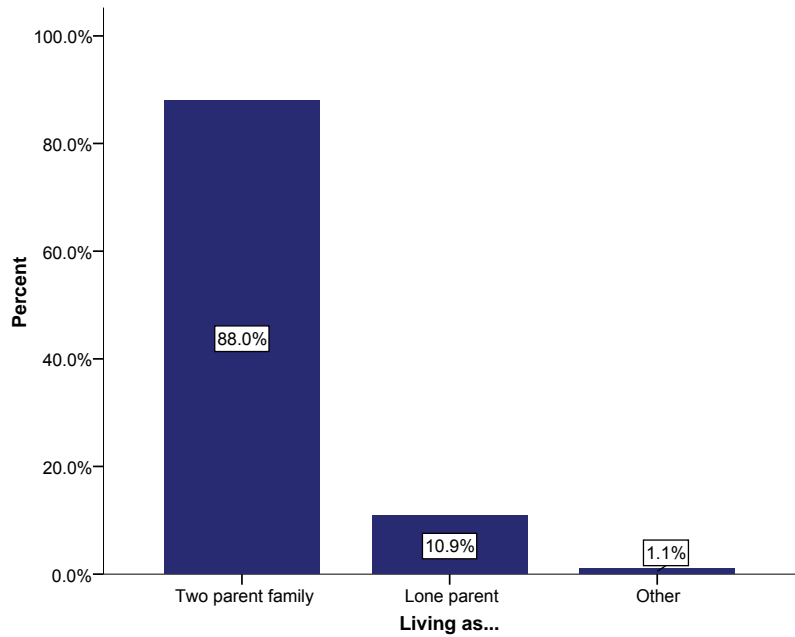
Figure 3: Number of respondents by locality



### 2.3 Family composition

Figure 4 shows that 88.0% of respondents lived in two parent families. 10.9% were lone parents. 1.1% of respondents reported that they lived in another type of family.

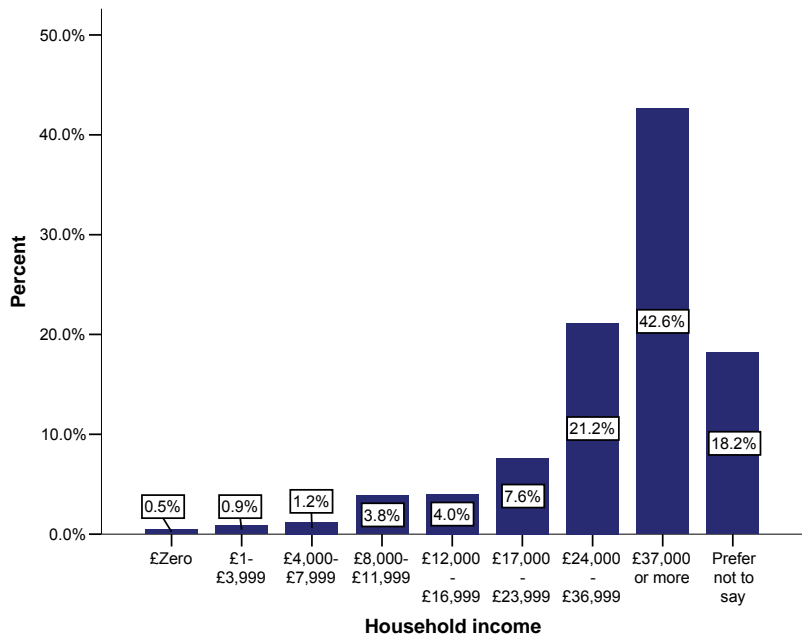
Figure 4: Family composition



## 2.4 Household income

Figure 5 shows that 42.6% of respondents stated that their household income was above £37,000. Less than 10% of respondents reported a household income of less than £12,000.

Figure 5: Distribution of household income



The following statistically significant differences were found in relation to household income:

- Lone parents are more likely to have a lower household income than two parent families. 4.6% of lone parent households reported an income of £37,000 or more, compared to 47.3% for two parent families. 24.4% of lone parent households had an income between £8,000 and £12,000, compared to 1.4% of two parent households<sup>3</sup>.
- Respondents from Black and minority ethnic (BME) groups<sup>4</sup> reported a slightly lower household income than White British respondents. For instance, 30.7% of BME respondents had a household income of above £37,000, compared to 44.5% for the White British population.

## 2.5 Employment

Figure 6 shows the employment status of respondents and (where applicable) their partners. 46.9% of respondents were working part-time with a further 23.7% working full-time and 20.9% a full-time parent/carer. Over 70% of respondents' partners (where applicable) were working full-time.

There were no statistically significant differences between employment status and family composition or ethnicity.

Figure 6: Respondents' and respondents' partners' employment status<sup>5</sup>

Employment status	Respondents		Respondents' partners	
	Count	%	Count	%
Working full-time	318	23.7%	998	73.7%
Working part-time	629	46.9%	89	6.6%
Working shifts	26	1.9%	32	2.4%
Working nights	38	2.8%	24	1.8%
Working weekends	60	4.5%	37	2.8%
Full-time parent/ carer	280	20.9%	19	1.4%
Looking for work	31	2.3%	5	0.4%
Studying/ training	77	5.7%	25	1.9%

Figure 7 below uses the information provided by respondents to categorise **households**. Please note that these categories have then been used to test for any significant differences in responses in the remainder of the report.

<sup>3</sup> For the purpose of analysing associations between family structure and household income, the 14 respondents that reported that they were living in 'other' living arrangements were excluded.

<sup>4</sup> The number of respondents from each Black and minority ethnic group is too small to be able to undertake individual tests for significance for each group. As a result, tests throughout this report compare responses from White British respondents to those from all other ethnic groups.

<sup>5</sup> The categories are not mutually exclusive. For example, a person could be working part-time and also be studying. Thus, the numbers in this table do not add up to 100%.

Figure 7: Employment status on a household basis

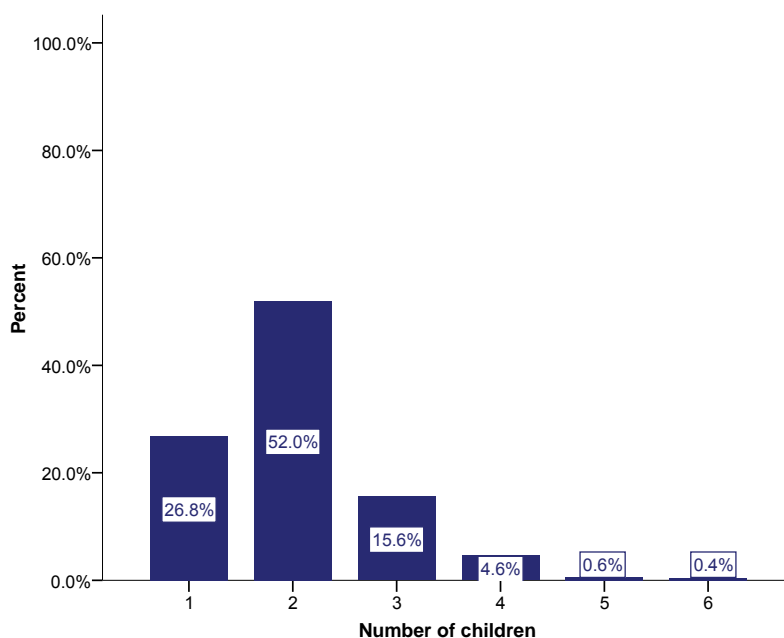
Employment status	Comment	Percentage
Households with at least one parent/carer in employment	This category comprises all those households with at least one parent/carer in any type of employment. It includes lone parents/carers who are in employment.	91.3%
Households with at least one full-time parent/carer	This category identifies those families in which at least one parent/carer is a full-time carer.	22.1%
Households in which all parents/carers are in full-time employment	This category includes all those households in which all adults are in full-time employment. It includes lone parents working full-time.	18.0%
Households with at least one parent/carer with irregular work patterns	Parents/carers working shifts, in the evenings or at weekends were included in this category. As in the other categories, this could be either the respondent or their partner.	10.9%
Households with at least one parent/carer studying or training	This category identifies all those households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training.	7.2%
Household with at least one parent/carer seeking work	If a respondent indicated that they or their partner were seeking work, they were included in this category.	2.5%

## 2.6 Children

### 2.6.1 Number of children by respondent

Figure 8 shows that 52.0% of respondents had two children, 26.8% had one child and 15.6% had three children. A further 5.6% had four or more children.

Figure 8: Number of children per respondent



Between them, the respondents had a total of 2,689 children. The following table shows the number of children by age cohort. 44.8% of respondents' children were aged 4 and under.

Figure 9: Age cohorts for total number of children

Age cohorts	Count	Per cent
0, 1 & 2	598	22.2%
3 & 4	609	22.6%
5	238	8.9%
6 & 7	374	13.9%
8, 9 & 10	416	15.5%
11, 12, 13 & 14	262	9.7%
15, 16 & 17	134	5.0%
18+	58	2.2%
TOTAL	2,689	100%

## 2.6.2 Profile of respondent children

Of these 2,689 children, parents/carers provided detailed information for 2,161<sup>6</sup>. Figure 10 shows the age ranges for these respondent children.

Figure 10: Age cohorts for children in the analysis based on individual children

Age cohorts	Count	Percentage
0, 1 & 2	585	27.1%
3 & 4	558	25.8%
5, 6 & 7	474	21.9%
8, 9 & 10	308	14.3%
11, 12, 13 & 14	166	7.7%
15, 16 & 17	70	3.2%
TOTAL	2,161	100%

In total, the childcare needs of 119 disabled children were provided (5.8% of the cohort). Figure 11 shows that 43 children had a severe learning difficulty, 36 had a speech, language and communication need and 29 had an autistic spectrum disorder.

Figure 11: Types of impairments<sup>7</sup>

Type of impairment	Number of children	Percentage of disabled children	Percentage of total children's cohort
Severe learning difficulty	43	36.1%	2.0%
Speech, language & communication need	36	30.3%	1.7%
Autistic spectrum disorder	29	24.4%	1.3%
Behaviour, emotional & social difficulty	27	22.7%	1.2%
Physical disability	25	21.0%	1.2%
Moderate learning difficulty	19	15.1%	0.9%
Visual impairment	12	10.1%	0.6%
Hearing impairment	13	10.9%	0.6%
Specific learning difficulty	11	9.2%	0.5%
Profound & multiple learning difficulty	11	9.2%	0.5%
Multi-sensory impairment	6	5.0%	0.3%
Other <sup>8</sup>	20	16.8%	0.9%

<sup>6</sup> Detailed information – including childcare used and improvement suggestions - was gathered on the two youngest children.

<sup>7</sup> Multiple responses per child were possible

<sup>8</sup> Other impairments included: "born prematurely", "Down syndrome", "dyspraxia", "global learning delay", "complex special needs with behavioural problems and epilepsy", "diabetes", "haemophilia", "severe haemophilia", "temporary disability complex elbow fracture (6 months)", "tube fed" and "kidney disability"

## 3 Current use of childcare

### 3.1 Types of childcare used

As noted in Section 2.6.2, the childcare arrangements for 2,161 children were reported through the questionnaire. Of these, childcare was not used for 702 (32.5%) children. Figure 12 shows the types of childcare used by respondent children who were in some sort of childcare. 24.8% of respondent children used 'family and friends' for childcare, 15.8% used a day nursery and 13.9% used a pre-school or playgroup.

Figure 12: Types of childcare used for children in the children's cohort

Type of childcare	Count	Percentage
<b>No childcare used</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>32.5%</b>
<b>Some form of childcare used</b>	<b>1459</b>	<b>67.5%</b>
<i>Of those using some form of childcare...</i>		
Family or friends	537	24.8%
Day nursery	342	15.8%
Pre-school or playgroup	300	13.9%
Childminder	266	12.3%
After-school club	261	12.1%
Holiday playscheme	179	8.3%
Breakfast club	88	4.1%
Nursery class in school	87	4.0%
Nanny or au pair	54	2.5%
Crèche	20	0.9%
Other	54	2.5%

### 3.2 Overall likelihood of using childcare

Figure 13 shows statistically significant differences between groups in relation to their likelihood of using some form of childcare. Generally, parents/carers are more likely to use childcare for:

- Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time – 83.0% of respondent children are in some form of childcare.
- Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is in employment – 69.2% are in some form of childcare.
- Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training – 78.4% are in some form of childcare.
- Children in households with an income of above £37,000 – 76.0% are in some form of childcare.

- Children without siblings – 83.3% use some form of childcare.
- Children aged 3 and 4 – 85.3% use some form of childcare.

Children with a full-time parent/carer are less likely to be in childcare (48.5% use some form of childcare, compared to 73.6% of those without a full-time parent/carer).

Figure 13: Statistically significant differences in childcare usage between groups

Test	Findings	Group	% using childcare
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one full-time parent or carer:</i> If a child lives in a household with at least one full-time parent or carer, its parents/carers are less likely to use childcare for this child.	Children in households with at least one full-time parent or carer	48.5%
		Children in households without a full-time parent or carer	73.6%
	<i>Households in which all parents/carers work full-time:</i> If a child lives in a household in which both parents/carers work full-time, its parents/carers are more likely to use childcare for this child.	Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time	83.0%
		Children in households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time	64.4%
	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer in employment:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one parent/carer is in employment, its parents/carers are more likely to use childcare for this child.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is in employment	69.2%
		Children in households in which no parent/carer is in employment	45.9%
<i>Households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training, its parents/carers are more likely to use childcare for this child.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training	78.4%	
	Children in households in which no parent/carer is studying or training	66.7%	
<b>Household income</b>	If a child lives in a household with an income of above £37,000, its parents/carers are less likely to use childcare for this child.	Children in households with an income of below £12,000	62.2%
		Children in households with an income between £12,000 to £37,000	62.8%
		Children in households with an income above £37,000	76.0%
<b>Number of children</b>	Parents/carers are more likely to use childcare for children without siblings.	Children without siblings	83.3%
		Children with one sibling	67.8%
		Children with two or more siblings	56.4%
<b>Children of different ages</b>	Parents/carers are most likely to use childcare for children aged 3 and 4, and least likely to use childcare for children aged 15, 16 and 17.	Children aged 0-2	70.3%
		Children aged 3 & 4	85.3%
		Children aged 5, 6 & 7	60.8%
		Children aged 8, 9 & 10	64.3%
		Children aged 11, 12, 13 & 14	41.0%
		Children aged 15, 16 and 17	25.7%

Figure 14 shows that respondent children in the Headington/Wheatley locality are the most likely to use childcare (80.2%), while respondent children in the Wantage/Faringdon/Grove locality are least likely to use childcare (54.5%).

Figure 14: Percentages of children using childcare, by locality

Locality	Percentages
Headington/Wheatley	80.2%
Banbury	71.7%
Iffley and Cowley	71.7%
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	70.9%
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	69.7%
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	67.6%
<b>Oxfordshire average</b>	<b>67.5%</b>
Bicester/Kidlington	66.5%
Oxford South East	66.0%
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	64.4%
Abingdon/Berinsfield	61.5%
Didcot	60.7%
Thame/Watlington	56.9%
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	54.5%

### 3.3 Differences in the types of childcare used

Figure 15 summarises the main differences between groups of parents/carers in relation to the use of different types of childcare. It shows that:

- Children from lone parent households are more likely than those from two parent households to use breakfast clubs and after-school clubs. Whilst children from two parent households are more likely to use pre-schools and playgroups.
- Children with a parent/carer from a White British background are more likely to use pre-schools and playgroups and childminders. Children with a parent/carer from a BME background are more likely to use an after-school club.
- Disabled children are more likely to use after-school clubs and holiday playschemes than non-disabled children.
- An only-child is more likely to use family and friends, day nurseries and childminders, whilst those with one sibling are more likely to use after-school clubs and holiday playschemes.

- Children aged 2 years and under are more likely to use day nurseries and childminders. 3 and 4 year olds are more likely to use pre-schools and playgroups and childminders. Children aged 5, 6 and 7 are more likely to use holiday playschemes. Children aged 8, 9 and 10 are more likely to use family and friends, breakfast clubs, after-school clubs and holiday playschemes.
- There are a number of differences by employment status:
  - Those children from households with at least one parent/carer in employment are more likely to use family and friends, day nurseries, childminders and after-school clubs, than those from households where no parent/carer is in employment.
  - Those children from households where all parents/carers work full-time are more likely to use day nurseries, childminders, breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, holiday playschemes and nannies or au pairs.
  - Those children from households where at least one parent/carer is studying or training are more likely to use family and friends, compared to those with no parent/carer who is studying or training.
  - Those children from households where at least one parent/carer has irregular working patterns are more likely to use family and friends and childminders, compared to those children where no parent/carer works irregular working patterns.
  - Those children from households with at least one full-time parent/carer are more likely to use pre-schools and playgroups, than those children with no full-time parent/carer.
- Children from households with incomes over £37,000 are more likely to use day nurseries and childminders.

More detailed data is included in Appendix 2.

Figure 15: Summary of differences in usage between groups (+ indicates more likely to use, - indicates less likely to use)

Type of provider	Lone parent households	BME respondents	Disabled children	Without siblings	With one sibling	2 years and under	3 and 4 years	5, 6 and 7 years	8, 9 and 10 years	In employment	All work full-time	Studying or training	Irregular working pattern	Seeking work	Full-time parent/carer	Above £37,000
Family and friends				+					+	+		+	+		-	
Day nurseries				+		+				+	+			-		+
Pre-school or playgroup	-	-	-				+								+	
Childminders		-		+		+	+			+	+		+		-	+
Breakfast clubs	+								+		+				-	
After-school club	+	+	+		+				+	+	+				-	
Holiday playschemes			+		+			+	+		+					
Nannies or au pairs											+				-	

There are also geographical differences in the types of childcare used:

- **Family and friends:** respondent children in the Oxford South East locality are most likely to use family or friends (36.0%). Respondent children in the Henley/ Conning Common / Woodcote / Wallingford locality are least likely to do so (15.2%).
- **Day nurseries:** respondent children in the North Oxford/ Cumnor / Botley locality are most likely to be using day nurseries (25.2%). Respondent children in the Oxford South East locality are the least likely to be using day nurseries (4.0%).
- **Pre-schools and playgroups:** children in the Henley/ Sonning Common / Woodcote / Wallingford locality are the most likely to use pre-school or playgroups (25.5%). Children in the Headington/ Wheatley locality are the least likely to use pre-school or playgroups (4.2%).
- **Childminders:** children in the Banbury locality are the most likely to use childminders (19.3%). Children in the Henley/ Sonning Common / Woodcote / Wallingford locality are the least likely to use childminders (6.0%).
- **After-school clubs:** children in the Headington/ Wheatley locality are the most likely to use after-school clubs (13.3%). Children in the Bicester / Kidlington locality are the least likely to use after-school clubs (6.7%).

Appendix 2 provides a more detailed breakdown of responses by locality.

### 3.4 Location of childcare

95.7% of the childcare used by respondent children was located in Oxfordshire. 1.9% of children were in childcare outside of Oxfordshire, while 2.4% of children used childcare arrangements both within and outside of Oxfordshire.

### 3.5 Hours of childcare used

On average, parents/carers used 15.5<sup>9</sup> hours of childcare for each child in a typical week. The median stood at 12.5 hours.

<sup>9</sup> One parent indicated that they used 16,468 hours of childcare for their child in a typical week. Two more parents indicated that they used 120 hours of childcare per week. As these figures seem unrealistic, they were excluded from the analysis.

Figure 16 shows statistically significant differences in the number of hours of childcare used per week. The following groups tend to use more hours of childcare:

- Children where all parents/carers work full-time – on average they use 22.1 hours of childcare per week.
- Children from BME backgrounds – on average they use 17.9 hours of childcare per week.
- Children without siblings – on average they use 20.3 hours of childcare per week.
- Children from households with a household income of above £37,000 – on average they use 16.9 hours of childcare per week.
- Children under the age of 2 years and aged 3 and 4 years – on average they use 21.0 hours and 18.9 hours per week.

The following groups tend to use less hours of childcare:

- Children in households with a full-time parent/carer – on average they use 10.0 hours of childcare per week.
- Disabled children – on average they use 10.2 hours of childcare per week.

Figure 16: Difference in weekly hours of childcare used per child

Test	Finding	Group	Hours
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Children where all parents/carers work full-time:</i> If both parents/carers (or a lone parent) work full-time, they use more hours of childcare for their children than if one parent/carer does not work full-time.	Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time	22.1
		Children in households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time	13.9
	<i>Children in households with at least one full-time parent/carer:</i> If at least one of a child's parents/carers is a full-time parent or carer, children spend less time in childcare.	Households with at least one full-time parent or carer	10.0
		Households with no full-time parent or carer	16.7
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Children from BME backgrounds spend more time in childcare than children from a White British background.	Children from BME backgrounds	17.9
		Children from White British backgrounds	15.3
<b>Number of children</b>	The more siblings a child has, the less time it spends in childcare.	Children without siblings	20.3
		Children with one sibling	14.9
		Children with two or more siblings	13.2
<b>Disabled child</b>	Parents/carers use less childcare for disabled children than for non-disabled children.	Disabled children	10.2
		Non-disabled children	16.0
<b>Household income</b>	Children in households with a household income of less than £12,000 spend less time in childcare than those from households with higher household incomes.	Household income under £12,000	12.0
		Household income between £12,000 and £37,000	15.4
		Household income above £37,000	16.9
<b>Children's ages</b>	Children use significantly more hours of childcare when they are of pre-school age. Once they enter school, the hours they spend in childcare per week fall off sharply.	Children aged 0-2	21.0
		Children aged 3 & 4	18.9
		Children aged 5, 6 & 7	8.5
		Children aged 8, 9 & 10	8.6
		Children aged 11, 12, 13 & 14	7.8
		Children aged 15, 16 and 17	9.23 <sup>10</sup>

## 3.6 Cost of childcare

### 3.6.1 Average expenditure

On average, the 853 respondents who used childcare spent £76.97 per week on childcare. The highest amount spent on childcare was £850 per week, while the lowest was £0. The median was £50.

When the 100 respondents that do not pay for their childcare are excluded, the average weekly expenditure of those using childcare was £87.19, with a range of £2.50 to £850, and a median expenditure of £60. Figure 17 provides an overview of the cost of childcare.

<sup>10</sup> Several of the children aged over 15 were disabled, and were using high hours of childcare.

Figure 17: Weekly cost of childcare for those respondents that pay for their childcare

Weekly childcare expenditure	Count	Percentage
£1 - £49	321	42.6%
£50 - £99	176	23.4%
£100 - £149	122	16.2%
£150 - £199	63	8.4%
£200 - £249	33	4.4%
£250 - £299	17	2.3%
£300 - £349	2	0.3%
£350 - £399	5	0.7%
Over £400	14	1.9%
TOTAL	753	100%

### 3.6.2 Differences in expenditure between groups

Figure 18 shows statistically significant differences between groups. Generally, the following groups are likely to have a higher weekly expenditure for childcare:

- Parents/carers that only have children aged under 5 – average weekly expenditure of £110.93 per week.
- Households in which at least one parent/carer is in employment – average weekly expenditure of £88.81.
- Households in which all parents/carers work full-time – average weekly expenditure of £134.01.
- Respondents from BME backgrounds – average weekly expenditure of £121.15.
- Families with higher incomes. Those with a household income over £37,000 spend £108.95 per week on average.

Figure 18: Differences in average weekly spending on childcare for those paying for childcare

Test	Findings	Groups	Average expenditure
<b>Age of children</b>	On average, families that only have children under the age of 5 spend more on childcare than those families that only have children over the age of 5. Families that only have children over the age of five spend the least on childcare.	Only under 5s	£110.93
		Both under and over 5s	£88.27
		Only over 5s	£48.80
<b>Employment status</b>	Households with at least one person in employment are likely to spend more on childcare than those in which no parent/carer is working.	Households in which at least one parent/carer is in employment	£88.81
		Households in which no parent/carer is in employment	£48.10
	Households in which all parents/carers work full-time are likely to spend more on childcare than those in which at least one parent/carer is not working full-time.	Households in which all parents/carers work full-time	£134.01
		Households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time	£72.16
	Households without a full-time parent or carer spend more on childcare than households in which there is a full-time carer.	Households with at least one full-time parent or carer	£37.17
		Households without a full-time parent or carer	£96.02
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Parents/carers from BME groups are likely to spend more on childcare than White British parents/carers.	BME background	£121.15
		White British background	£83.64
<b>Household income</b>	The higher the household income, the higher the weekly spending on childcare.	Household income below £12,000	£53.07
		Household income between £12,000 to £37,000	£66.18
		Household income above £37,000	£108.95

Parents/carers in the North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley locality are likely to spend the highest amount on childcare, compared to the other localities (£131.24). Parents/carers in the Wantage/Faringdon/Grove locality are likely to spend the least on childcare (£60.18). Figure 19 presents the results by locality.

Figure 19: Average weekly spending on childcare for those paying for it, by locality

Locality	Average spending
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	£131.24
Bicester/Kidlington	£114.28
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	£97.61
Headington/Wheatley	£95.40
Thame/Watlington	£87.77
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>£87.19</b>
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	£86.64
Iffley and Cowley	£85.19
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	£80.60
Banbury	£69.02
Didcot	£67.94
Oxford South East	£65.73
Abingdon/Berinsfield	£65.38
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	£60.18

### 3.6.3 Help towards the cost of childcare

45.5% of those who pay for their childcare receive some kind of help towards the cost of childcare. Figure 20 shows that of those receiving some form of help, 45.0% have access to childcare vouchers, and 42.2% use the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit.

*Figure 20: Numbers and percentages of parents/carers receiving different types of help towards the cost of childcare*

Type of help	Number of parents	% of parents/carers receiving help
Childcare vouchers	176	45.0%
Working tax credit (childcare element)	165	42.2%
Nursery education funding	73	18.7%
Employer contribution	20	5.1%
Other, including family contributions, respite funding, salary sacrifice, help from university	25	6.3%

Figure 21 shows statistically significant differences between groups in relation to help received to pay for the costs of childcare. Generally, the following groups are more likely to receive help towards the cost of childcare:

- Families that only have children under the age of 5 – 53.5% receive support.
- Lone parents – 70.3% receive support for their costs of childcare.
- Households without a full-time parent or carer – 47.4% receive support.
- Households with low incomes – 72.2% of those with a household income below £12,000 receive support.

Figure 21: Differences between groups in support received to pay for childcare

Test	Finding	Groups	%
<b>Age ranges</b>	Families that only have children under the age of 5 are more likely to receive help towards the cost of childcare.	Only under 5s	53.5%
		Over and under 5s	47.1%
		Only over 5s	31.1%
<b>Family composition</b>	Lone parents are more likely to receive help towards the cost of childcare than two parent families.	Lone parents	70.3%
		Two parent families	43.3%
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households in which at least one person is a full-time carer:</i> Households in which at least one person is a full-time parent or carer are less likely to receive help towards the cost of childcare than those families in which no one is a full-time carer.	Households in which at least one person is a full-time parent or carer	34.3%
		Households without a full-time parent or carer	47.4%
<b>Household income</b>	The lower the household income, the more likely it is to receive help towards the cost of childcare.	Household income below £12,000	72.2%
		Household income between £12,000 to £37,000	50.7%
		Household income above £37,000	40.5%

### 3.7 Childcare arrangements over the holidays

48.3% of respondents reported that they required childcare that they pay for during school holidays. Figure 22 shows how childcare requirements differ from a typical work-day in school term time.

Figure 22: How childcare requirements differ over the holidays

Requirements	Numbers of respondents	% of respondents to this question
About the same	174	36.4%
More hours required	220	46.0%
Less hours required	36	7.5%
Different locations required	44	9.2%
Different types of childcare required	99	20.7%

## 4 Reasons for using childcare

### 4.1 Reasons for using childcare

Figure 23 shows that the main reasons for using childcare are to go to work (69.4% of respondents who use childcare) and for the social or learning benefits for the child (30.4%).

Figure 23: Reasons for using childcare

Reasons for using childcare	% of parents/carers using childcare
I go to work	69.4%
Social or learning benefits for my child	30.4%
To have time to myself	11.6%
To spend time with other family members	5.9%
To attend appointments (e.g. interviews, GP)	7.8%
I am studying	4.6%
To have access to activities/trips	3.4%
Other, including voluntary work, spend time with other children	1.6%

There are some statistically significant differences between groups in relation to the likelihood of them using childcare to go to work. Figure 24 shows that the following groups are more likely to use childcare in order to go to work:

- Respondents without disabled children – 70.3% use childcare to go to work.
- Respondents in two parent families – 73.6% use childcare to go to work.
- Respondents with only one child – 81.7% use childcare to go to work.
- Respondents with a household income of above £37,000 – 77.3% use childcare to go to work.
- Respondents who only have children over the age of 5 – 69.4% use childcare to go to work.

Figure 24: Reasons for using childcare - statistically significant differences between groups of parents/carers in the use in of childcare in order to go to work

Test	Finding	Groups	%
<b>Disabled child</b>	Parents/carers with at least one disabled child are less likely to use childcare in order to go to work than parents/carers without disabled children.	Parents/carers with at least one disabled child	58.8%
		Parents/carers without disabled children	70.3%
<b>Family composition</b>	Lone parents are less likely to use childcare in order to go to work than respondents in two parent families.	Lone parents	62.7%
		Two parent families	73.6%
<b>Number of children</b>	Respondents with only one child are more likely to use childcare in order to go to work than respondents with two or more children. Respondents with three or more children were less likely to use childcare in order to go to work than respondents with less than three children.	Families with one child	81.7%
		Families with two children	67.8%
		Families with three children	56.0%
<b>Household income</b>	The higher the household income, the likelier parents/carers are to use childcare in order to go to work.	Household income below £12,000	52.5%
		Household income between £12,000 to £37,000	68.4%
		Household income above £37,000	77.3%
<b>Age of children</b>	Respondents with children aged both over and under 5 are the least likely to use childcare in order to go to work. Respondents that only have children aged 5 and over are the most likely to use childcare in order to go to work.	Only under 5s	69.4%
		Both over and under 5s	62.2%
		Only over 5s	77.3%

Figure 25 shows that parents/carers living in the Didcot locality are the most likely to use childcare in order to go to work, with 88.5% of respondents indicating this reason. Respondents in the Wantage/Faringdon/Grove locality are the least likely to use childcare in order to go to work, with only 58.8% of respondents stating so in the questionnaire.

Figure 25: Percentages of parents/carers using childcare in order to go to work by individual locality

Locality	Per cent
Didcot	88.5%
Headington/Wheatley	83.0%
Thame/Watlington	80.2%
Bicester/Kidlington	79.8%
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	78.2%
Iffley and Cowley	77.8%
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	70.5%
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>69.4%</b>
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	69.3%
Banbury	66.3%
Oxford South East	64.0%
Abingdon/Berinsfield	62.9%
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	60.0%
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	58.8%

## 4.2 Reasons for not using childcare

Figure 26 shows that the main reasons for not using childcare are: because the parent/carer chooses not to (44.3%), because a partner or family member has childcare responsibility (29.4%), because childcare is too expensive (17.7%) and because children are old enough to look after themselves (10.3%).

*Figure 26: Non-users' responses to the question of why they do not use childcare*

Reasons for not using childcare	% of non-users of childcare
I choose not to use childcare	44.3%
My partner / family look after my children	29.4%
Childcare is too expensive	17.7%
My children are old enough to look after themselves	10.3%
There is no childcare available that is suitable for the age of my child	5.3%
There is no childcare that can be flexible in response to unpredictable attendance, e.g. medical appointment, illness	5.3%
There is no childcare available at the times that I need it	5.0%
I only use childcare on a short-term basis and it is impossible to plan	4.3%
There is no childcare that can cater for my child's disability or additional needs	3.9%
There is no childcare in the right location	3.9%
There is no childcare of sufficient quality	3.5%
There is no childcare with appropriately qualified or trained staff	2.0%
There is no childcare that caters for my child's cultural needs	0.4%

There were no statistically significant differences in relation to those groups who did not use childcare because it was too expensive.

## 5 Meeting the needs of parents/carers

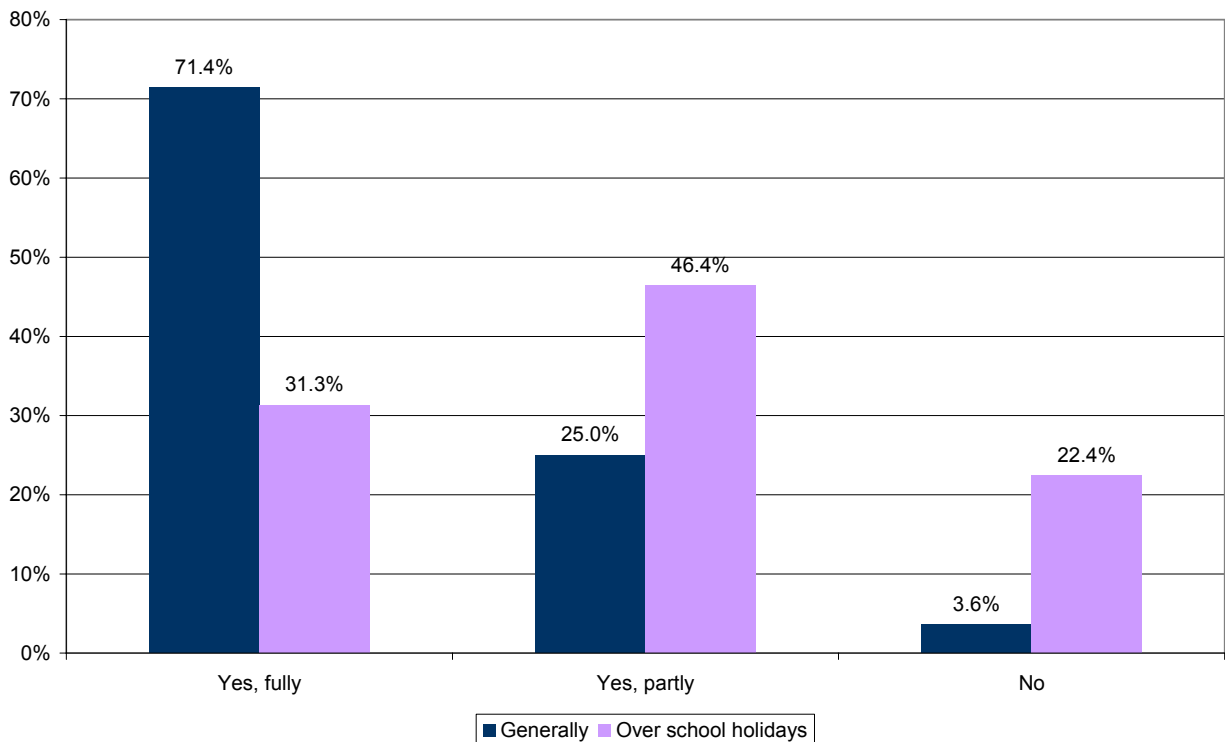
### 5.1 Do childcare arrangements meet need?

Figure 27 shows that:

- The childcare for 71.4% of respondent children fully meets the needs of parents/carers. The childcare for 25.0% of respondent children partly meets needs. Childcare for 3.6% of respondent children does not meet need.
- 31.3% of respondent parents/carers report that the childcare during school holidays fully meets needs. A further 46.4% of respondent parents/carers report that their needs are partly met and 22.4% report that they are not met.

Please note that the data below needs to be interpreted with caution. The data on whether childcare arrangements generally meets needs refers to individual respondent children. The data on school holidays refers to overall family needs for all children in the household.

Figure 27: Percentage of respondent children (general) and respondent parents/carers (school holidays) that meets needs



## 5.2 Differences between groups

Generally, parents/carers are more likely to say that their childcare means are not being *fully*<sup>11</sup> met for the following groups of children:

- Children from households with at least one parent/carer studying or training – 45.6% report that their childcare needs are not being fully met.
- Children from households where at least one parent/carer has irregular work patterns (40.0%).
- Children from households where at least one parent/carer is seeking work (52.8%).
- Disabled children – 45.5% report that their childcare needs are not being fully met.
- Children aged 15, 16 and 17 and aged 11, 12, 13 and 14 are more likely to state that their childcare needs are not being fully met (52.6% and 34.8% respectively).

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<sup>11</sup> There were not enough "No" responses to allow for meaningful significance testing of all three categories of "Fully", "Partly" and "No". Therefore, this report uses only a test for whether needs are not being fully met.

Figure 28: Differences between groups in relation to whether childcare meets their needs either 'partly' or 'not at all'

Test	Finding	Group	%
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer is studying or training:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one person is training or studying, its parents/carers are more likely to say that the childcare needs for this child are not being met fully.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is training or studying	45.6%
		Children in households in which no one is studying or training	27.8%
	<i>Households in which at least one parent/carer has irregular work patterns:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one person has irregular work patterns, its parents/carers are more likely to say that childcare the childcare needs for this child are not being met fully.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer has irregular work patterns	40.0%
		Children in households in which no parent/carer has irregular work patterns	27.9%
	<i>Households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one person is seeking work, its parents/carers are more likely to say that their childcare needs for this child are not being met fully.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work	52.8%
		Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work	28.6%
	<i>Households in which at least one person is a full-time carer:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one person is a full-time parent or carer, its parents/carers are less likely to say that their childcare needs for this child are not being fully met.	Children in households in which at least one parent is a full-time parent or carer	24.5%
		Children in households in which there is no full-time parent or carer	30.2%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Parents/carers from BME backgrounds are more likely to say that their childcare needs are not being met fully for their child.	Children from BME backgrounds	36.7%
		Children from White British backgrounds	28.6%
<b>Disabled child</b>	If a child is disabled, its parents/carers are more likely to say that their childcare needs for this child are not being met.	Disabled children	45.5%
		Non-disabled children	28.5%
<b>Age of child</b>	Generally, the older the child, the more likely parents/carers are to report that their childcare needs are not being fully met.	Children aged 0-2	27.3%
		Children aged 3 & 4	25.4%
		Children aged 5, 6 & 7	33.5%
		Children aged 8, 9 & 10	31.7%
		Children aged 11, 12, 13 & 14	34.8%
		Children aged 15, 16 and 17	52.6%

### 5.3 Differences between groups for school holidays

Figure 29 shows that there are differences between groups in relation to whether childcare during school holidays meets the needs of those **who use childcare that they pay for over this period**:

- Families that only have children over the age of 5 years are more likely to not have their needs fully met, i.e. 82.0% compared to 55.4% for those with children aged under 5 years and 69.0% for those with children aged under 5 and over 5 years.

- 86.0% of households in which at least one person is studying or training report that their childcare arrangements over school holidays are not meeting need (compared to 68.6% of households without a parent/carer who is studying or training).
- Families with three or more children are more likely to report that their childcare arrangements over the school holidays are not meeting needs: 82.2% compared to 62.7% for those with one child, and 69.6% for those with two children.

Figure 29: Differences between groups in relation to whether childcare during school holidays meets needs

Test	Finding	Groups	%
<b>Age ranges</b>	Children that only have children over the age of 5 are the most likely to say that their needs are not being fully met over the school holidays.	Only under 5s	55.4%
		Over and under 5s	69.0%
		Only over 5s	82.0%
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one person studying or training:</i> Households in which at least one person is studying or training are more likely to say that their needs are not being fully met during the holidays.	Households in which at least one person is studying or training	86.0%
		Households in which no one is studying or training	68.8%
<b>Number of children</b>	Respondents with three or more children are the most likely to report that their childcare needs during school holidays are not being fully met.	Respondents with one child	62.7%
		Respondents with two children	69.6%
		Respondents with three or more children	82.2%

## 6 Views on the childcare market

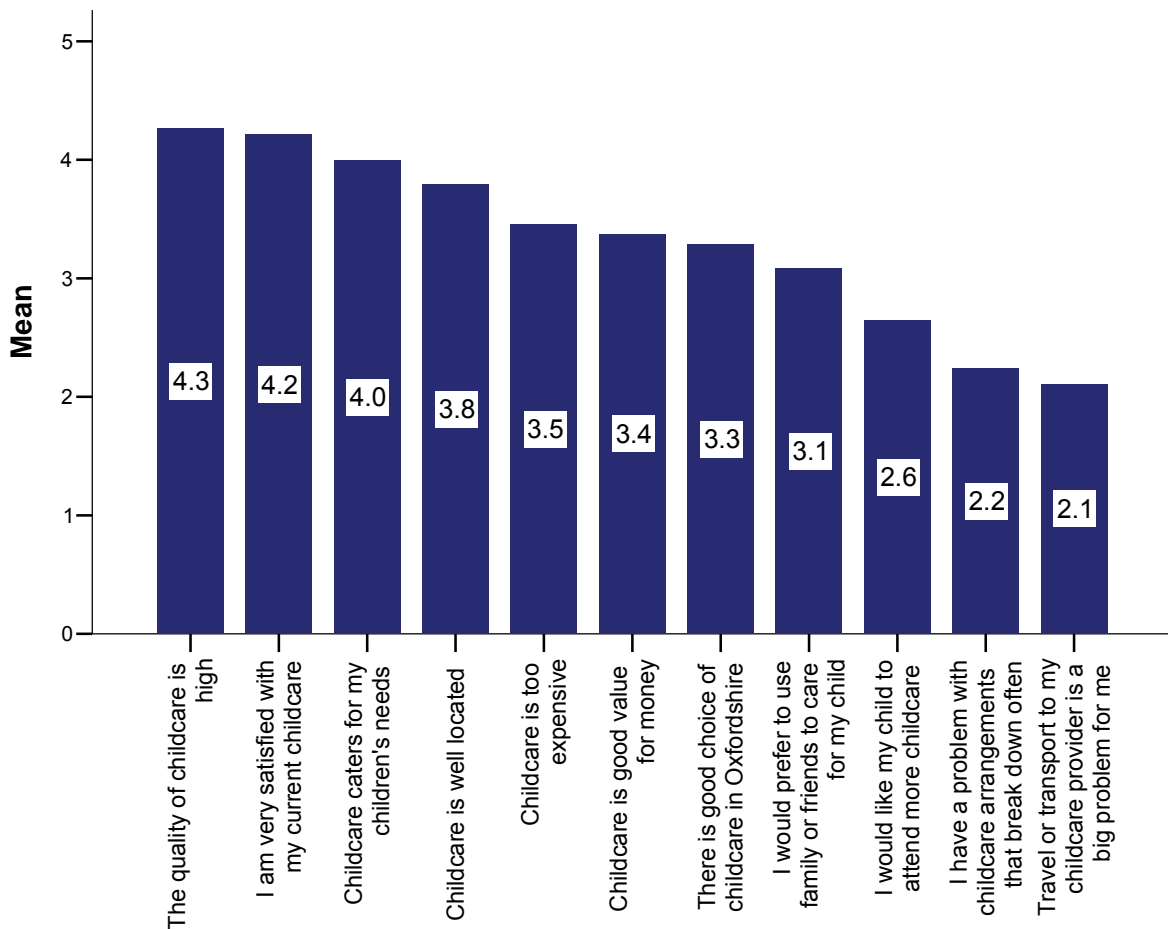
### 6.1 Overall picture

The survey asked respondents to report their views on a range of statements on childcare. For every statement, respondents could indicate their agreement on a scale, from “strongly agree” (a rating of 5) to “strongly disagree” (a rating of 1)<sup>12</sup>.

Figure 30 shows the average rating for each statement (the higher the score the higher the level of agreement).

Generally, respondents tend to have high levels of agreement that the quality of childcare is high, that respondents are satisfied with childcare arrangements, that it caters for their children’s needs, and is well located.

Figure 30: Average levels of agreement to statements on childcare in Oxfordshire



<sup>12</sup> The full scale was: “strongly agree” (5), “tend to agree” (4), “neither agree nor disagree” (3), “tend to disagree” (2) and “strongly disagree” (1).

## 6.2 Differences in ratings between groups

Figure 31 shows those groups where there is at a 0.5 difference in ratings and where those differences are statistically significant. A more detailed examination of all differences is included in Appendix 3. The data shows that:

- BME respondents are more likely to agree that childcare is too expensive. BME respondents give an average rating of 3.9 (close to 'agree'), whereas White British respondents give an average rating of 3.4 (closer to 'neither agree nor disagree').
- Households with disabled children are less likely to agree that they are satisfied with their current childcare (3.8 compared to 4.3 for respondents without disabled children); that it caters for their children's needs (3.4 compared to 4.1); and that there is good choice of childcare in Oxfordshire (2.7 compared to 3.3). They are more likely to agree that they would like their child to attend more childcare (3.4 compared to 2.6). They are less likely to disagree that they have problems with childcare arrangements that break down often (2.7 compared to 2.2); and they are less likely to disagree that travel or transport is a big problem for me (2.6 compared to 2.1).
- Households with children aged both under 5 years and over 5 years are less likely to disagree that they have problems with their childcare arrangements breaking down (2.6) and that travel and transport is a big problem (2.4).
- Households only with children aged over 5 years are:
  - Less likely to strongly agree that the quality of childcare is high (3.9, compared to 4.4 for those with under 5s only and 4.4 for those with under5s and over 5s).
  - Less likely to strongly agree that they are satisfied with their current childcare (3.9, compared to 4.4 and 4.3).
  - Less likely to agree that childcare caters for their child's needs (3.5, compared to 4.2 and 4.1).
  - Less likely to agree that childcare is well-located (3.4, compared to 4.0 and 4.0).
  - More likely to disagree that there is good choice of childcare (2.9, compared to 3.4 and 3.5).

- Respondents from households with at least one parent/carer in employment are less likely to agree that childcare is too expensive (3.4 compared to 3.9 for those without a parent/carer in employment). They are also less likely to agree that they would like their child to attend more childcare (2.6 compared to 3.4).
- Households with at least one parent/carer seeking work are less likely to agree that they are satisfied with their current childcare (3.7 compared to 4.2 for those respondents who are not seeking work). They are more likely to agree that they would prefer to use family and friends for childcare (3.6 compared to 3.1) and they would like to use more formal childcare (3.9 compared to 2.6). They are also less likely to disagree that they have problems with childcare breaking down (2.7 compared to 2.2).
- Respondents who are studying or training are more likely to agree that they would prefer to use family and friends for childcare (3.5 compared to 3.0 for those where no one is studying or training).
- Respondents from households with incomes below £12,000 are more likely to agree that they would like to use more childcare, excluding family and friends (3.4 compared to 2.8 for those with incomes between £12,000 and £37,000) and 2.4 for those with incomes above £37,000).

Figure 31: Summary of views on the childcare market (+ indicates more likely to agree, - indicates less likely to agree)

Statement	BME parents/carers	Disabled children	Only under 5s	Both under 5s and over 5s	Only over 5s	At least one parent/carer in employment	Parent/carer seeking work	Studying/training	Household income below £12,000
The quality of childcare is high					-				
I am very satisfied with my current childcare		-			-		-		
Childcare caters for my children's needs		-			-				
Childcare is well located					-				
Childcare is too expensive	+					-			
There is good choice of childcare in Oxfordshire		-			-				
I would prefer to use family and friends to care for my child							+	+	
I would like my child to attend more childcare (excluding family and friends)		+				-	+		+
I have a problem with childcare arrangements that break down often		+		+			+		
Travel or transport to my childcare provider is a big problem for me		+		+					

### 6.3 Differences by locality

There were some statistically significant differences in responses by locality within Oxfordshire in relation to: (a) how expensive childcare is; (b) value for money; and (c) wish to attend more formal childcare. In summary:

- Respondents in the Oxford South East locality are most likely to agree that childcare is too expensive (average rating of 4.1, i.e. 'agree'). Respondents in the Wantage/Faringdon/Grove; Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford; and Abingdon/Berinsfield locality are least likely to agree with this statement (average rating of 3.1, i.e. closer to 'neither agree nor disagree'). See Figure 32 for further information.
- Respondents in the Abingdon/Berinsfield and Wantage/Faringdon/Grove localities are more likely to agree that childcare is good value for money (average rating of 3.7, i.e. close to 'agree'). Respondents in Oxford South East are less likely to agree with this statement (average rating of 3.0, i.e. 'neither agree nor disagree'). See Figure 33 for further information.
- Respondents in the Henley/Sonning Common/ Woodcote / Wallingford locality are more likely to disagree that they would like their child to attend more formal childcare (average rating of 2.3, i.e. 'disagree'). Respondents in the Oxford South East locality are least likely to disagree with this statement (average rating of 3.4). See Figure 34 for further information.

Figure 32: Average levels of agreement with the statement "Childcare is too expensive" by locality

Locality	Average level of agreement
Oxford South East	4.1
Didcot	3.8
Iffley and Cowley	3.7
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	3.7
Headington/Wheatley	3.6
Thame/Watlington	3.5
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	3.5
<b>Average level of agreement for Oxfordshire</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Banbury	3.4
Bicester/Kidlington	3.4
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	3.4
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	3.1
Abingdon/Berinsfield	3.1
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	3.1

Figure 33: Average levels of agreement with the statement “Childcare is good value for money” by locality

Locality	Average level of agreement
Abingdon/Berinsfield	3.7
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	3.7
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	3.6
Iffley and Cowley	3.6
Bicester/Kidlington	3.5
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	3.5
Banbury	3.5
Didcot	3.4
<b>Average level of agreement for Oxfordshire</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Headington/Wheatley	3.3
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	3.2
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	3.1
Thame/Watlington	3.1
Oxford South East	3.0

Figure 34: Average levels of agreement with the statement “I would like my child to attend more childcare (excluding family/friends)” by locality

Locality	Average rating
Oxford South East	3.4
Banbury	3.0
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	2.9
Thame/Watlington	2.9
Didcot	2.8
Iffley and Cowley	2.7
<b>Average level of agreement for Oxfordshire</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Abingdon/Berinsfield	2.6
Bicester/Kidlington	2.6
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	2.5
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	2.5
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	2.5
Headington/Wheatley	2.4
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	2.3

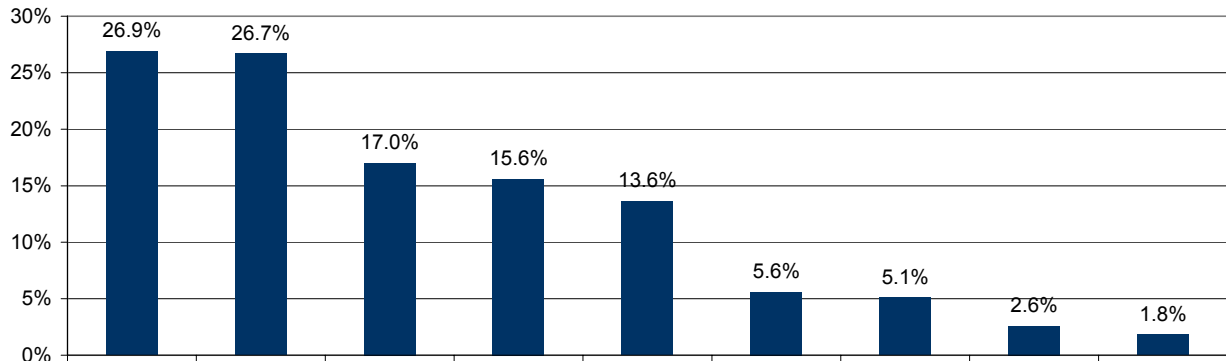
## 7 Improvement suggestions

### 7.1 Priorities for improvement

Figure 35 shows the priorities for improvement:

- Childcare for 26.7% of respondent children could be improved by being more affordable.
- Childcare for 17.0% of respondent children could be improved by being more flexible.
- Childcare for 15.6% of respondent children could be improved by being available at different times. Of respondent children who highlighted this, 136 wanted improvements within the 8am to 6pm time slot, 83 wanted improvements in the 7am to 8am time slot, 71 wanted improvements after 6pm and 23 wanted before 7am.
- Childcare for 13.6% of respondent children could be improved by having more or different childcare. The highest number of responses was for after-school clubs (104 respondent children) and breakfast clubs (74 respondent children).
- Childcare for 5.6% of respondent children could be improved by being in a different location. Of these, 27 responses wanted childcare closer to home.
- Childcare for 26.9% of respondent children required no improvement.

Figure 35: Percentage of respondent children who use childcare who would benefit from each improvement



Of those who wanted a different location...

	Number of children
Closer to home	27
Closer to sibling's school	14
Closer to work/study	11
Other, including close to school	8

Of those who wanted more or different provision...

	Number of children
After-school club	104
Breakfast club	74
Childminder	35
Pre-school or playgroup	30
Day nursery	25
Other	19
Nursery class in school	18
Nanny or au pair	18
Crèche	13

Of those who wanted different times...

	Number of children
Before 7am	23
Between 7am and 8am	83
Between 8am and 6pm	136
After 6pm	71

2.6% of responses were classified as 'other'. Some of the suggestions included:

- Improvements needed specifically to holiday provision (number of hours, preferred location on school-site, number of places available).
- More lunch-time places available.
- Childcare that extends access to music, sport, drama and the arts.

## 7.2 Differences between groups

Figure 37 summarises differences between groups in relation to improvement suggestions. Further detail is given in Appendix 4. The main differences between groups are:

- Respondent children with a BME parent/carer are more likely to benefit from more affordable childcare and to be better quality (38.8% and 8.8%, compared to 25.1% and 4.7% respectively).
- Childcare for 12.4% of disabled children could be improved by being in a different location, compared to 5.3% of non-disabled children.
- Respondent children from households where all parents/carers work full-time are more likely to request the following improvements: more affordable (37.5% compared to 24.2%); availability at different times (19.6% compared to 14.7%); and more or different types of childcare (17.4% compared to 12.8%).
- Respondent children from households where at least one parent/carer works irregular patterns are more likely to request more affordable provision (35.4% compared to 25.6%).
- Respondent children from households where at least one parent/carer is studying or training are more likely to want improvements to affordability (38.2% compared to 25.7%), availability at different times (27.9% compared to 14.6%), and access to more or different types of childcare (22.1% compared to 12.9%).
- Respondent children from households where at least one parent/carer is seeking work are more likely to want improvements to availability at different times (33.3% compared to 15.2%) and access to more or different childcare provision (37.5% compared to 13.1%).

- Respondent children from families that only have one child are more likely to benefit from more affordable provision (38.8%) and availability at different times (20.8%).
- Respondent children aged 2 years and under are more likely to want more affordable provision (37.6%). Whilst respondent children with 3 and 4 year olds are more likely to request greater flexibility (21.5%). Those aged 8, 9 and 10 year olds are more likely to request availability at different times (20.6%) and access to more or different types of provision (19.7%).

### 7.3 Differences between localities

There were also statistically significant findings for different localities. Parents/carers are more likely to want improvements for their children to affordability in Headington/Wheatley (36.9%). They are less likely to request these improvements for their children in Wantage/Faringdon/Grove (13.2%).

A full breakdown is provided in Figure 36.

*Figure 36: Statistically significant differences by locality in relation to affordability*

Locality	% agreeing with statement
Headington/Wheatley	36.9%
Thame/Watlington	33.8%
Oxford South East	32.5%
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	31.9%
Didcot	30.8%
Banbury	27.9%
<b>Average response for Oxfordshire</b>	<b>26.6%</b>
Iffley and Cowley	26.4%
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	25.4%
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	25.2%
Bicester/Kidlington	24.8%
Abingdon/Berinsfield	22.0%
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	14.7%
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	13.2%

Figure 37: Differences between groups in relation to improvement suggestions

Improvement suggestion	BME parents/carers	Disabled children	All parents/carers work full-time	Irregular working patterns	Studying / training	Seeking work	Full-time parent / carer	Children without siblings	Children with one sibling	Children with two or more siblings	Aged 0-2 years	Aged 3 and 4 years	Aged 5, 6 and 7 years	Aged 8, 9 and 10 years	Aged 11, 12, 13 and 14 years	Aged 15, 16 and 17 years
Affordability	+		+	+	+		-	+			+					-
Greater flexibility												+				-
Availability at different times			+		+	+	-	+						+		-
Use more or different types of childcare			+		+	+	-				-			+		
Different location		+														
Better quality	+															

## 8 Focus groups with parents/carers

### 8.1 Introduction

Four focus groups were carried out with a total of 27 participants between October and November 2007. These were targeted at specific groups of parents/carers and collected the views of:

- Those seeking work.
- Black and minority ethnic (BME) parents/carers.
- Young parents/carers.
- Speakers of English as an additional language.

In addition, five parents/carers sent through individual feedback via email.

### 8.2 Current usage of childcare

When asked about their current usage of childcare, the majority of parents/carers used family or friends. Out of formal childcare, crèche was the most popular form of childcare that was used, followed by after-school clubs, and nursery classes in school. This is shown in Figure 38 below.

Figure 38: Parents'/carers' current usage of childcare

Type of childcare	Number of parents/carers <sup>13</sup>
Family or friends	17
Crèche	9
After-school club	6
Nursery class in school	4
Religious instruction (e.g. Sunday school, classes at mosque)	4
Day nursery	3
Childminder	3
Holiday play scheme	3
Pre-school/playgroup	1
Breakfast club	1
None	1

### 8.3 Reasons for using (and not using) childcare

Parents/carers were asked why they use the forms of childcare that they currently access and whether (and if so why) they might tend *not* to use certain forms of childcare.

<sup>13</sup> These numbers do not total the 32 participants since parents could choose more than one option to reflect their pattern of current usage.

### 8.3.1 Family or friends

The overwhelming reason to use friends and family for childcare was cost and not being able to afford formal types of childcare. For those who used family and friends, trust and convenience were also seen to be important reasons.

For those parents/carers who would not use family and friends, one reason cited for this was that the Working Tax Credits system would not allow for informal carers to be paid to carry out these duties.

### 8.3.2 Crèche and pre-school/playgroup

Both types of service were seen as very convenient as the sessional nature of the provision meant that parents/carers could drop in and see their children (or for example, breastfeed them) if required and could also use the crèche when they had other responsibilities or appointments to attend to. Five parents/carers accessed the crèche that was attached to their English class.

### 8.3.3 After-school club

Parents/carers thought that after-school clubs were good since they offered surroundings and staff which were familiar for their children and which eased the transition from school to formal childcare at the end of the school day. One parent/carer said that although she didn't use after-school clubs at the moment, she would consider doing so in the future.

### 8.3.4 Nursery classes

Nursery classes were seen as beneficial for children as their location on the school site, facilitated a more seamless transition when entering formal schooling.

### 8.3.5 Day nursery

Reasons that parents/carers gave for using day nurseries were numerous and included:

- Good staff and relationships with parents/carers
- Safe environment for children
- The socialisation and interaction opportunities it provided
- Had extended/convenient opening hours
- Provided meals to their children
- Good location

Other parents/carers felt that day nurseries often had too many children for the number of staff and size of rooms available and there was a tendency for large chains to feel '*...like a police station*'.

### 8.3.6 Childminders

Those parents/carers that used childminders liked the home environment and flexibility that childminders could give.

However, many parents/carers had reservations about using childminders for their children and this was attributed to (in the main) having a fear of abuse/neglect, or that childminders were not adequately vetted. Secondary reasons included both a lack of interaction for their children and a lack of awareness about childminder services on the part of parents.

## 8.4 Suggestions for improvement

Provided below are improvement suggestions that parents/carers thought may overcome some of the barriers or inhibitors they currently face in accessing childcare. The suggestions are presented in decreasing order of priority.

### 8.4.1 Cost

Cost was an issue that was brought up in all four of the focus groups. Specifically nurseries and after-school clubs were seen as very expensive, and it was felt that those that were cheaper were at times offering a lower quality of service.

Two parents/carers commented that it could be very difficult for working parents/carers who earned just above the Working Tax Credits threshold as a substantial proportion of their salary would be spent on childcare which could serve as a disincentive. It was also suggested that greater help could be given within the tax credits system to those parents/carers with large families.

Finally it was felt that more and better quality information is needed on what funding and support is available for parents/carers (especially about provision that is free).

### 8.4.2 Opening times

A comment that was made by two parents/carers is that often parents/carers end up looking for work that ties in with their childcare rather than vice versa. It was therefore felt that opening hours should cater for the shift patterns of local employers which serve the dual purpose of helping local employers and parents. In general, extended opening hours were seen as a good thing, and convenient for parents, especially those who worked.

### 8.4.3 Availability

It was felt that greater availability of places was needed especially those that were flexible and those that were attached to courses. With respect to course-based childcare,

parents/carers noted that when such childcare places were limited, it prevented parents/carers not only from using that form of childcare but also to undergo any further training.

Parents/carers who provided individual feedback via email mostly did so in the context of not being able to find suitable available places for their children and the knock-on effect this had on their lives (e.g. on their working lives, finances, etc).

#### 8.4.4 Flexibility

Flexibility was seen as important and featured in discussions around both opening times and availability of places. It was thought that nurseries needed to be less rigid in their provision and in particular more flexible places in nurseries should be made available. This would enable parents/carers to use provision that fully catered for their particular needs.

#### 8.4.5 Other issues

##### BME parents/carers

An issue arose amongst some Asian parents/carers that providers should be more culturally sensitive, and that in not being so, choice for some parents/carers could be limited. This was not always seen to necessitate any training or expertise, but was more about having an open and welcoming attitude to all parents/carers and children. In one discussion about why parent/carers did not access certain forms of childcare, one Asian parent/carer said that when she had visited one particular day nursery, she was treated '*...like an alien*'.

In addition, some parents/carers wanted to see greater recognition that children (and their parents) may also speak languages other than English.

A more generic issue that came up was about how to most usefully and effectively get information across to parents/carers about services that were available, since one mother commented that even when she received information from OCIS, she '*...threw it in the bin*'. In the BME focus group, this was felt to be more of an issue for Asian parents/carers who were perceived to have lower levels of awareness about OCIS and the services it provides.

##### Childcare for disabled children

Many of the issues highlighted above have particularly strong repercussions for parents/carers of disabled children.

Parents/carers highlighted the restricted choice that they experience. One parent/carer provided a very detailed account of the difficulties she faced trying to find appropriate childcare for her son – this was a very stressful process and she documented the difficulties that providers had in fitting her son's additional needs into their daily scheduling. She felt that for her,

full time employment was incompatible and unrealistic given the needs of her son. This account resonates with both providers' feedback (see above), and with a literature review carried out by Oxfordshire County Council, earlier in the year<sup>14</sup>.

Summing up her experiences, this mother commented,

*'...It is difficult to access childcare that is willing to take on children with special needs. It is depressing to ring round unwilling providers who want nothing to do with our world. It is hard work and time consuming to educate and train those who are willing to have a go. The school transport may not be able to be flexible to accommodate other children (e.g. siblings') school run to mainstream school. [Lots of] Paperwork.'*

### Improvements to specific services

Some parents/carers wanted to feedback about particular difficulties they had encountered when trying to find childcare in certain areas. These were:

- Lack of after-school care or childminders in Finstock village (OX7).
- Lack of good wrap-around childcare attached to St Christopher's School, or Temple Cowley more widely.
- Very few childminders in the Watlington area (although this feedback relates to 2006).
- No breakfast club/ childcare provision between 8-9 in Chipping Norton – this was seen to be especially strange given that pre-school provision is available from 8am in the area.

### Other suggestions

Parents/carers put forward other suggestions/comments which were related to improving childcare provision in Oxfordshire. These were:

- The importance of reputation.
- Having an appropriate sized nursery for the maximum number of children accommodated.
- Some parents/carers had concerns with too much age mixing within service, whilst others thought this could be beneficial for their children.

<sup>14</sup> Hoskins, V (2007) Literature review – childcare needs of families with disabled children, Oxfordshire Early Learning and Childcare

- The importance of a loving and caring environment.
- The need for high quality and safe surroundings, but balancing this with an already perceived high cost.

## 9 Focus groups with children

### 9.1 Introduction

Three focus groups were carried out with a total of 28 children who were aged between 5 and 10 in October 2007.

### 9.2 Likes and favourite activities

In answer to the question, *'What do you like doing here?'*, and *'What is the best thing you do here?'* children outlined a range of games and activities. Responses ranged from generic such as *'having fun'* and *'playing with friends'*, to specific activities as listed below:

- Sport/physical activities such as
  - Basketball
  - Football
  - Cricket
  - Tennis
  - Dodgeball
  - Playground games
  - Ambush games
  - Hall games
- Group games.
- Arts and crafts, including painting, drawing and sticking.
- Reading and writing.
- Table top games (e.g. Chess, Connect 4, Magnetix).
- Hot wheel cars

### 9.3 Reasons for and frequency of attendance

Most children said that the reason they attended the service was because their parent(s) work, and that their parents/carers had chosen it for them. Three children, however, specifically mentioned that they liked coming here and that they had made the choice to attend.

Most children tended to attend the clubs between 3-5 days a week. Attendance of 2 days or less a week was only found in one discussion group.

## 9.4 Accessibility

Most children lived fairly close by and either walked or cycled to the club. A significant minority were picked up by parents/carers in their car, although some conceded that they did actually live close enough to walk.

## 9.5 Improvements to the clubs

Children were asked what they would like to change or improve about the club they attended. Whilst two groups listed specific changes or enhancements, the other group also listed broader changes relating towards the way they were treated and the control they had within the club.

These broader changes were:

- Staff to engage more and join in with play rather than just watch.
- Greater freedom around what activities they do.
- Have some space and/or time to be on their own, or engage in a quiet activity.
- Children would like to be listened to more and treated fairly and with respect – some felt that they were being told off without a good reason.

Specific activities which would improve current provision included:

- Electronic games.
- More trips and sport.
- Dancing, dance mat and singing.
- Better and more control over snacks.
- More chairs.
- Greater choice of DVDs and games.
- Less work to do.
- Bouncy castle.

## 9.6 Alternatives to provision

Children were asked if there was anywhere else that they would rather be (than the provision they used). Although in one group all children said that they were content to be in the club, in the other two, answers included both their own homes (and those of other relatives or friends), and alternative activities which they would like to engage in more often. These included karate, swimming, football, and tennis.

One focus group facilitator commented on a perceived difference in response between the younger and older children and felt that whilst the younger children were less sure and were ambiguous in their answers, older children seemed to have clear preferences as alternatives to the club. One child who was also very sure about what else they would like to be doing was noted to be attending the club five days a week.

When asked about other activities children engaged in (apart from after-school club), sporting activities were mentioned (tennis, karate, swimming, football, rugby, trampolining), as well as going to friend's houses, going home, or other groups such as Beavers, Woodcraft Folk, Spanish classes. One child also mentioned going to a childminder.

## 9.7 School holidays

Participants were asked about arrangements over the school holidays.

A mixture of immediate or extended family support and formal schemes and activities were described. Some parents/carers tended to stop or reduce their working over holiday periods to look after their children. Some children described their parent(s) working from home.

Where parents/carers had to continue to work as normal, holiday play schemes such as Oxford Active or Comper were used instead. One child had a childminder.

Activities children engaged in during their holidays included:

- Going on holiday with family
- Going to friends' houses
- Visiting other relatives (e.g. grandparents)
- Playing on the computer or with computer games
- Listening to music and using an i-pod
- Reading
- Playing with friends
- Riding bikes and scooters
- Going to the park

- Playing on Heelies.



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## Glossary

Explanations of types of childcare are drawn from the Sure Start document *Looking for childcare? A SureStart guide to help you make the right choices*. It is available at:

[http://www.surestart.gov.uk/\\_doc/P0002413.doc](http://www.surestart.gov.uk/_doc/P0002413.doc)

Term	Explanation
After-school club	See out of school activities below.
BME	Black and minority ethnic group.
Breakfast club	See out of school activities below.
CDO	Childcare Development Officer
Childminder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered childminders look after your child along with other children, usually in their own home.</li> <li>They are allowed to care for up to six children under the age of eight, including their own – but only three of them can be aged under five.</li> <li>Self-employed, they decide on working hours. Most are willing to work early mornings, evenings and weekends, as well as part-time.</li> <li>All registered childminders are required to undertake a basic training course, including first aid, and most go on to do further training and professional development.</li> <li>Your child should experience learning and development activities suitable for their age.</li> </ul>
Children's Centre	See Sure Start Children's Centre below.
Day nurseries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A day nursery provides care and education for children between the ages of six weeks and five years. (Many also offer out of school care for five- to eleven-year-olds.)</li> <li>Day nurseries can be run by the council, the community, based in the workplace or privately run.</li> <li>Opening times are from around 7am to 7pm (hours vary but many nurseries may start before 8am), 50 weeks of the year. You can send your child full or part time.</li> <li>Your child should experience learning and development activities suitable for their age.</li> </ul>
DCSF	Department for Children, Schools and Families. Further information is available at <a href="http://www.dcsf.gov.uk">www.dcsf.gov.uk</a>
IDACI	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index. This is a subset of the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Further information is available at <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>
Nannies and other home-based carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nannies and other home-based child carers are employed by you to provide care for children, usually in your home.</li> <li>They will fit in with unusual working hours, and work part time or even live in. Some may agree to do additional jobs around the house (cooking, tidying etc.).</li> <li>Shared nannies work for you and another family.</li> <li>Most nannies and some other home-based child carers have a recognised childcare qualification or nursery nurse training, but this isn't compulsory.</li> </ul>
NEG/NEF	Nursery Education Grant or Nursery Education Grant. This is the grant to childcare providers in order to provide the free entitlement to 15 hours of childcare per week for 38 weeks for children aged 3 and 4 years.

Term	Explanation
Nursery schools and classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nursery schools and nursery classes provide early education and childcare for children between three and five years old (some will take children from two and a half).</li> <li>Some schools and classes are part of the state education system; others are run by private and voluntary sector organisations. Private provision charge fees which vary across the country.</li> <li>Nursery schools are open during school hours, usually 9am to 3:30pm in term time for full or half-day sessions. Many have extended their provision to cater for the needs of working parents.</li> <li>Your child should experience learning and development activities suitable for their age.</li> <li>Some may also offer out of school care before or after school during term time and in the school holidays, which could include a range of services for children under five and their families.</li> </ul>
OCIS	Oxfordshire Children's Information Service. Further information available from <a href="http://www.oxoncis.org.uk">www.oxoncis.org.uk</a>
Ofsted	Responsible for regulating and inspecting care of children and young people and education and skills for learners of all ages. Further information is available at <a href="http://www.ofsted.gov.uk">www.ofsted.gov.uk</a>
ONS	Office of National Statistics. Further information is available at <a href="http://www.statistics.gov.uk">www.statistics.gov.uk</a>
Out of school activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many schools offer a variety of formal childcare and other activities outside usual school hours. These range from formal childcare in primary schools to music, art, sport and other study support activities. As a result the school is often open from 8am to 6pm, including during holiday periods.</li> <li>Breakfast clubs are normally open from 8am. After-school clubs are typically open from 3.30pm and up to 6pm. Holiday play schemes tend to be open from 8am to 6pm and run outside of term time.</li> <li>Sometimes referred to as out of school clubs, these services are based on school sites, but may also be in youth clubs, community centres or nurseries. Some schools organise the childcare themselves, but others will work with local voluntary groups, private providers and childminders, who will provide staff and sometimes facilities.</li> </ul>
Pre-school and playgroup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-schools or playgroups provide care and most offer early education for children between two and five years old.</li> <li>A pre-school or playgroup can be organised by the community on a not-for-profit basis, often with help from parents.</li> <li>They offer sessions from two-and-a-half hours to four hours, during term time, every day or for several days a week.</li> <li>Your child should experience learning and development activities suitable for their age.</li> <li>Some are developing their services to offer longer sessions or full-time daycare.</li> </ul>
PVI	Private, Voluntary and Independent. Usually refers to a type of childcare provider that isn't run by the local authority.
SEN	Special Educational Need.

Term	Explanation
Sure Start Children's Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sure Start Children's Centres provide a range of easily accessible and flexibly tailored services for families and children from pregnancy until the age of five. Their services include integrated early years provision and health services for children.</li> <li>• They will also offer parenting education, family support services, outreach to parents, a base for childminders and links with Jobcentre Plus, Children's Information Services (CIS) and adult learning.</li> <li>• They are open a minimum of 48 weeks a year, five days a week, ten hours a day.</li> <li>• Many centres will be developed from Sure Start local programmes, Neighbourhood Nurseries and Early Excellence Centres, Maintained Nursery Schools and health centres, and will involve private/voluntary provision.</li> <li>• A Sure Start Children's Centre usually serves a community with about 800 children under five years old. In rural areas with a more dispersed population numbers may be smaller. Note: early years provision means early learning integrated with care.</li> </ul>

# Appendix 1 – Consultation materials

## Questionnaire to parents/carers



Making life better for children and families in our county

### Your views of childcare A survey of parents and carers by Oxfordshire County Council

If you have a child or children aged birth to 17 years then please complete this questionnaire

Oxfordshire County Council is researching the availability of childcare for families and would value your views, to ensure that all parents have choice and flexibility in balancing family and work life.

This questionnaire is anonymous and is being administered by a research organisation called Cordis Bright. Results will be presented to Oxfordshire County Council but no one will be able to identify you or your response from it.

Please complete and return this questionnaire by **Tuesday, 6 November 2007**. See the end of the questionnaire for details on how to return the form. For further information about this research, or if you would like access to this document in an additional language, please contact Liane Low at Oxfordshire County Council on 01865 810 517 or [liane.low@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:liane.low@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

#### Section A – Your children

(1) How many children do you have? (Please write in the number in the box)

(2) How old are your children? (Please write their ages in years in the boxes below)

Child 1	<input type="text"/>	Child 2	<input type="text"/>	Child 3	<input type="text"/>
Child 4	<input type="text"/>	Child 5	<input type="text"/>	Child 6	<input type="text"/>

**Section B – Childcare that you use for your youngest child**

Please answer this section thinking about your youngest (or only) child in your household.

(1) Age of child (please state):  (2) Is your child disabled? Yes  No

If yes, what type of impairment does your child have? Go to (3)

- |   |  |                          |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Learning Difficulty             | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate Learning Difficulty            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Learning Difficulty               | <input type="checkbox"/> Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behaviour, Emotional & Social Difficulty | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech, Language & Communication Need   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autistic Spectrum Disorder               | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Impairment                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Impairment                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Sensory Impairment                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Disability                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other.....                              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say                        |  |                          |

(3) Which of these types of childcare do you use for your youngest child? Tick all that apply

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No childcare used       | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to Section C           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childminder             | <input type="checkbox"/> Day nursery               | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-school or playgroup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery class in school | <input type="checkbox"/> Crèche                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Nanny or au pair        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast club          | <input type="checkbox"/> After-school club         | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday playscheme      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family or friends       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)..... | <input type="checkbox"/>                         |

(4) In a typical week how many hours of childcare (all types) do you use for this child?  hours

(5) Where is your childcare located?

- Within Oxfordshire  Outside Oxfordshire  A mixture of both

(6) Do your childcare arrangements for this child meet your needs?

- Yes fully  Yes partly  No

(7) How, if at all, could the childcare you use for this child be improved? Tick all that apply

- |   |                          |   |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Available at different times   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Before 7am <input type="checkbox"/>                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More flexible sessions, e.g. drop ins or a few hours   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7am-8am <input type="checkbox"/>                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More affordable  | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8am-6pm <input type="checkbox"/>                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Different location   | <input type="checkbox"/> | After 6pm <input type="checkbox"/>                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare that is better at meeting my child's additional needs or disability                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Closer to home <input type="checkbox"/>             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to use more childcare or a different type of childcare (excluding family and friends) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Closer to work or study <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better quality provision   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Closer to sibling's school <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No improvements needed   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other..... <input type="checkbox"/>                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state).....  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Childminder <input type="checkbox"/>                |
|   |                          | Day nursery <input type="checkbox"/>                |
|   |                          | Pre-school or playgroup <input type="checkbox"/>    |
|   |                          | Nursery class in school <input type="checkbox"/>    |
|   |                          | Crèche <input type="checkbox"/>                     |
|   |                          | Nanny or au pair <input type="checkbox"/>           |
|   |                          | Breakfast club <input type="checkbox"/>             |
|   |                          | After school club <input type="checkbox"/>          |
|   |                          | Other..... <input type="checkbox"/>                 |

**Section C – Childcare that you use for your second youngest child**

Please answer this section thinking about your second youngest child in your household. If you do not have any other children, please proceed to Section D.

(1) Age of child (please state):  (2) Is your child disabled? Yes  No

If yes, what type of impairment does your child have? Go to (3) ←

Specific Learning Difficulty	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate Learning Difficulty	<input type="checkbox"/>
Severe Learning Difficulty	<input type="checkbox"/>	Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty	<input type="checkbox"/>
Behaviour, Emotional & Social Difficulty	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speech, Language & Communication Need	<input type="checkbox"/>
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visual Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearing Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi-Sensory Impairment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>		

(3) Which of these types of childcare do you use for this child? Tick all that apply

No childcare used	<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Go to Section D
Childminder	<input type="checkbox"/>	Day nursery <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-school or playgroup <input type="checkbox"/>
Nursery class in school	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crèche <input type="checkbox"/> Nanny or au pair <input type="checkbox"/>
Breakfast club	<input type="checkbox"/>	After-school club <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday playscheme <input type="checkbox"/>
Family or friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please state)..... <input type="checkbox"/>

(4) In a typical week how many hours of childcare (all types) do you use for this child?  hours

(5) Where is your childcare located?

Within Oxfordshire  Outside Oxfordshire  A mixture of both

(6) Do your childcare arrangements for this child meet your needs?

Yes fully  Yes partly  No

(7) How, if at all, could the childcare you use for this child be improved? Tick all that apply

Available at different times	<input type="checkbox"/>	→	Before 7am <input type="checkbox"/>
More flexible sessions, e.g. drop ins or a few hours	<input type="checkbox"/>		7am-8am <input type="checkbox"/>
More affordable	<input type="checkbox"/>		8am-6pm <input type="checkbox"/>
Different location	<input type="checkbox"/>	→	After 6pm <input type="checkbox"/>
Childcare that is better at meeting my child's additional needs or disability	<input type="checkbox"/>		Closer to home <input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to use more childcare or a different type of childcare (excluding family and friends)	<input type="checkbox"/>	→	Closer to work or study <input type="checkbox"/>
Better quality provision	<input type="checkbox"/>		Closer to sibling's school <input type="checkbox"/>
No improvements needed	<input type="checkbox"/>		Other..... <input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state).....	<input type="checkbox"/>		Childminder <input type="checkbox"/>
			Day nursery <input type="checkbox"/>
			Pre-school or playgroup <input type="checkbox"/>
			Nursery class in school <input type="checkbox"/>
			Crèche <input type="checkbox"/>
			Nanny or au pair <input type="checkbox"/>
			Breakfast club <input type="checkbox"/>
			After school club <input type="checkbox"/>
			Other..... <input type="checkbox"/>

**Section D – Reasons for using childcare and costs**

(1) What are your main reasons for using childcare? Tick all that apply

- I do not use childcare  Go to Section G
- I go to work  To have time to myself
- To spend time with other family members  I am studying
- Social or learning benefits for my child  To have access to activities / trips
- To attend appointments (e.g. interviews, GP)  Other.....

(2) In an average week approximately how much do you spend on childcare for all of your children? £

(3) Do you receive any help towards the cost of your childcare? Yes  No

If yes, which of the following do you use:

- Working tax credit (childcare element)  Childcare vouchers
- Nursery education fund  Employer contribution
- Other.....

**Section E – School holidays**

Do you require childcare that you pay for during school holidays? For example, a summer playscheme? Yes  No

If yes, how are your requirements different from a typical work-day in school term time? Tick all that apply

- About the same  More hours required
- Less hours required  Different locations required
- Different types of childcare required  Other.....

Do your childcare arrangements over the school holidays meet your needs?

- Yes fully  Yes partly  No

**Section F – Your views on childcare**

(1) Please tell us how much you agree with the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
I am very satisfied with my current childcare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The quality of childcare is high	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is good choice of childcare in Oxfordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Childcare is well located	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Childcare caters for my children's needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Childcare is good value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Childcare is too expensive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would like my child to attend more childcare (excluding family / friends)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(2) Please tell us how much you agree with the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
<i>I would prefer to use family or friends to care for my child</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>I have a problem with childcare arrangements that break down often</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Travel or transport to my childcare provider is a big problem for me</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Section G – Reasons for not using childcare

Please complete this question if you have not used childcare in the past 12 months. If this does not apply to you please proceed to Section H.

Which of the following reasons best describe why you do not currently use childcare? Tick all that apply

<i>I choose not to use childcare</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>My children are old enough to look after themselves</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>My partner / family look after my children</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>There is no childcare available at the times that I need it</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>There is no childcare with appropriately qualified or trained staff</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>There is no childcare of sufficient quality</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>There is no childcare available that is suitable for the age of my child</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>There is no childcare that is in the right location</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>There is no childcare that can be flexible in response to unpredictable attendance, e.g. medical appointment, illness</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>There is no childcare that can cater for my child's disability or additional needs</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>There is no childcare that can cater for my child's cultural needs</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Childcare is too expensive</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>I only use childcare on a short-term basis and it is impossible to plan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Other (please state).....</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Section H – About you

This information is optional and will not be used to identify you. Your response will help us ensure that childcare addresses your needs.

- (1) What is your full home postcode?
- (2) Are you... Male  Female
- (3) Are you living as a... Lone parent  Two parent family  Other
- (4) Are you... (Tick all that apply)
- |                   |                          |                   |                          |                        |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Working full-time | <input type="checkbox"/> | Working part-time | <input type="checkbox"/> | Working shifts         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Working nights    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Working weekends  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Full-time parent/carer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Looking for work  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Studying/training | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other.....             | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**(5) If you have a partner, is he / she... (Tick all that apply)**

- |                   |                          |                   |                          |                        |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Working full-time | <input type="checkbox"/> | Working part-time | <input type="checkbox"/> | Working shifts         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Working nights    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Working weekends  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Full-time parent/carer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Looking for work  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Studying/training | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other.....             | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**(6) What is your total household income?**

- |                 |                          |                 |                          |                   |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| £Zero           | <input type="checkbox"/> | £1-£3,000       | <input type="checkbox"/> | £4,000-£7,000     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| £8,000-£11,000  | <input type="checkbox"/> | £12,000-£16,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> | £17,000-£23,000   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| £24,000-£30,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> | £37,000 or more | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**(7) What is your ethnic group?**

*Our ethnic background describes how we think of ourselves. Ethnic background is not the same as nationality or country of birth. You are asked to choose the ethnic group that is closest to you.*

- |                                      |                          |  |                          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <u>White</u>                         |                          | <u>Black or Black British</u>          |                          |
| White British                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Caribbean                              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| White Irish                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | African                                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any other White background           | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other Black background             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Asian or Asian British</u>        |                          | <u>Mixed</u>                           |                          |
| Indian                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | White & Black Caribbean                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pakistani                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | White & Black African                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bangladeshi                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | White & Asian                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any other Asian background           | <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other Mixed background             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Chinese or Other ethnic group</u> |                          | <u>Don't know or don't want to say</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chinese                              | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |                          |
| Any other group                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |                          |

**Section I – Any other comments**

If you have any other comments about childcare please include them here:

If you have any further comments about childcare please contact Liane Low on 01865 810517 or [liane.low@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:liane.low@oxfordshire.gov.uk). If you would like help in choosing childcare please contact the Children's Information Service on 08452 262636 or visit [www.oxoncis.org.uk](http://www.oxoncis.org.uk)

**Prize draw**

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. All those who complete a questionnaire are eligible to enter a prize draw to win £100 in high street vouchers. If you would like to be included please provide your details below. Your details will not be used for any other purpose.

Your name:  Telephone:

**Thank you for taking part in this survey.**  
Please return your questionnaire in the envelope provided or FREEPOST to  
Cordis Bright, FREEPOST LON19516, 25 City Road, London EC1Y 1AA.

## Focus groups with parents/carers

### 1. Use of childcare

We'd like to start off by finding out which types of childcare you are using at the moment. On the flipchart we've written a range of different types of childcare. Please stick the post-it notes on the childcare that you are using on a regular basis at the moment.

The types of childcare are:

- Childminder
- Day nursery
- Pre-school or playgroup
- Nursery class in school
- Crèche
- Nanny or au pair
- Breakfast club
- After-school club
- Holiday playscheme
- Family or friends
- No childcare used

### 2. Reasons for using childcare

Think about the types of childcare that you use. Why have you chosen this childcare for your child? What do you like about it? Are you satisfied with the childcare that you use?

### 3. Improvement suggestions

Option 1: We'd like to move onto ways that childcare could be improved in Oxfordshire. If you had a magic wand, what changes would you make to childcare? Why? How would you benefit?

Option 2: We'd like to move onto ways that childcare could be improved in Oxfordshire. The flipchart shows a number of ways that childcare could be improved:

- Opening times
- Cost / affordability
- Availability of places
- Location
- Flexibility (session lengths, drop-in)
- Choice of providers
- Childcare that caters for my child's additional needs
- Other suggestion

Using the post-it notes vote for the three areas that you would most like to see improved. You can use the post-it notes

however you like: you can vote for three different things or you can use all your post-it notes on one issue.

[Using the voting as a guide for which issues should be discussed first]: What specific improvements would you like to see made? Why? How would you benefit?

#### **4. Affordability and quality**

Is there a trade-off between cost and quality? Can you have low cost but high quality childcare? Which aspect is most important to you: cost or quality?

### **Focus groups with children and young people**

1. What do you like doing here?
2. What's the best thing you do here?
3. If you could change something about this place, what would it be and why?
4. Why do you come here?
5. Who chose it?
6. Would you rather be somewhere else? If so, where and why?
7. How often do you come here in a week?
8. Do you go to any other places after school? Where and why?
9. How easy is this place to get to? Is it close to school or close to home? What do you do after your time here? How do you get home?
10. Who looks after you over the school holidays? What do you do? Where do you go?

## Appendix 2 – Differences between groups in types of childcare used

Please note that this analysis is based on responses for individual children in families.

### Using family or friends

Figure 39 shows statistically significant differences between groups. Generally, parents/carers are more likely to use family or friends as a type of childcare for children in the following groups:

- Children in households without a full-time parent or carer
- Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is in employment
- Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training
- Children in households in which at least one parent/carer has irregular work patterns
- Children without siblings
- Children aged 8, 9 and 10

Figure 39: Statistically significant differences in the usage of family and friends between groups

Test	Findings	Group	%
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one full-time parent or carer:</i> If a child lives in a household with at least one full-time parent or carer, its parents/carers are less likely to use family or friends as a type of childcare for this child.	Children in households with at least one full-time parent or carer	11.7%
		Children in households without a full-time parent or carer	29.0%
	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer in employment:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one parent/carer is in employment, its parents/carers are more likely to use family or friends as a type of childcare for this child.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is in employment	25.7%
		Children in households in which no parent/carer is in employment	13.8%
	<i>Households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training, its parent/carer are more likely to use family or friends as a type of childcare for this child.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training	38.6%
		Children in households in which no parent/carer is studying or training	23.8%
	<i>Households in which at least one parent/carer has irregular work patterns:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one parent/carer has irregular work patterns, its parents/carers are more likely to use family or friends as a type of childcare for this child.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer has irregular work patterns	29.9%
		Children in households in which at least one parent/carer has irregular work patterns	24.2%
<b>Number of children</b>	Parents/carers are more likely to use family and friends as a type of childcare if they only have one child.	Children without siblings	35.3%
		Children with one sibling	23.6%
		Children with two or more siblings	21.0%
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers are most likely to use family and friends as a type of childcare for children aged 8, 9 and 10.	Children aged 0-2	22.4%
		Children aged 3 & 4	21.9%
		Children aged 5, 6 & 7	27.2%
		Children aged 8, 9 & 10	34.1%
		Children aged 11, 12, 13 & 14	22.9%
		Children aged 15, 16 and 17	17.1%

Respondent children in the Oxford South East locality are most likely to use family or friends as a type of childcare. Respondent children in the Henley/ Conning Common / Woodcote / Wallingford locality are least likely to do so.

Figure 40: Differences in the usage of family and friends as a type of childcare, by locality

Locality	Percentages
Oxford South East	36.0%
Banbury	33.1%
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	31.0%
Headington/Wheatley	30.2%
Didcot	25.0%
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>24.8%</b>
Iffley and Cowley	24.5%
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	24.4%
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	23.9%
Bicester/Kidlington	23.7%
Abingdon/Berinsfield	23.0%
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	20.6%
Thame/Watlington	17.4%
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	15.2%

## Use of day nurseries

Figure 41 shows statistically significant differences between groups. Generally, parents/carers are more likely to use day nurseries for the following children:

- Children in households in which all parents/carers work full- time
- Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is in employment
- Children in households in which no parent/carer is seeking work
- Children in households with an income of above £37,000
- Children without siblings
- Children aged 0-2

Figure 41: Statistically significant differences in the usage of day nurseries between groups

Test	Findings	Group	%
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households in which all parents/carers work full-time:</i> If a child lives in a household in which both parents/carers work full-time, its parents/carers are more likely to use day nurseries for this child.	Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time	19.5%
		Children in households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time	15.1%
	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer in employment:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one parent/carer is in employment, its parents/carers are more likely to use day nurseries for this child.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is in employment	16.5%
		Children in households in which no parent/carer is in employment	7.5%
	<i>Households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work:</i> Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work are less likely to use day nurseries.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work	7.3%
		Children in households in which no parent/carer is seeking work	16.0%
<b>Household income</b>	If a child lives in a household with an income of above £37,000, its parents/carers are more likely to use day nurseries.	Children in households with an income of below £12,000	9.2%
		Children in households with an income between £12,000 to £37,000	9.6%
		Children in households with an income above £37,000	23.2%
<b>Number of children</b>	Parents/carers are more likely to use day nurseries for children without siblings.	Children without siblings	27.3%
		Children with one sibling	15.0%
		Children with two or more siblings	10.3%
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers are most likely to use day nurseries for children aged 0-2, and 3 and 4.	Children aged 0-2	33.3%
		Children aged 3 & 4	24.6%
		Children aged 5, 6 & 7	1.9%
		Children aged 8, 9 & 10	0.3%
		Children aged 11, 12, 13 & 14	0.0%
		Children aged 15, 16 and 17	0.0%

Children in the North Oxford/ Cumnor / Botley locality are most likely to be using day nurseries. Children in the Oxford South East locality are the least likely to be using day nurseries. Figure 42 shows differences in usage of day nurseries by locality.

Figure 42: Differences in the usage of day nurseries, by locality

Locality	Percentages
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	25.2%
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	22.1%
Headington/Wheatley	20.8%
Banbury	19.9%
Iffley and Cowley	17.0%
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	15.9%
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>15.8%</b>
Bicester/Kidlington	14.4%
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	13.8%
Thame/Watlington	13.3%
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	12.4%
Abingdon/Berinsfield	9.6%
Didcot	5.4%
Oxford South East	4.0%

## Use of pre-school or playgroup

Figure 43 shows statistically significant differences between groups. Generally, parents/carers are more likely to use pre-school or playgroups for the following children:

- Children in two-parent households
- Children from White British backgrounds
- Non-disabled children
- Children in households with at least one full-time parent or carer
- Children in households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time
- Children aged 3 and 4

Figure 43: Statistically significant differences in the usage of pre-school or playgroups between groups

Test	Findings	Group	%
<b>Family composition</b>	Children in two-parent families are more likely to be in pre-school or playgroups	Children in lone parent households	7.7%
		Children in two-parent households	14.6%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Children from BME backgrounds are less likely to attend pre-school or playgroups	Children from BME backgrounds	8.4%
		Children from White British backgrounds	14.4%
<b>Disabled child</b>	Disabled children are less likely to attend pre-school or playgroups	Disabled children	5.0%
		Non-disabled children	14.4%
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one full-time parent or carer:</i> If a child lives in a household with at least one full-time parent or carer, its parents/carers are more likely to use pre-school or playgroups.	Children in households with at least one full-time parent or carer	20.4%
		Children in households without a full-time parent or carer	11.8%
	<i>Households in which all parents/carers work full-time:</i> If a child lives in a household in which both parents/carers work full-time, its parents/carers are less likely to use pre-school provision or playgroups as childcare for this child.	Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time	7.8%
		Children in households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time	15.1%
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers are most likely to use pre-school or playgroups for children aged 3 and 4.	Children aged 0-2	13.2%
		Children aged 3 & 4	38.9%
		Children aged 5, 6 & 7	1.1%
		Children aged 8, 9 & 10	0.3%
		Children aged 11, 12, 13 & 14	0.0%
		Children aged 15, 16 and 17	0.0%

Children in the Henley/ Sonning Common / Woodcote / Wallingford locality are the most likely to use pre-school or playgroups. Children in the Headington/ Wheatley locality are the least likely to use pre-school or playgroups. Figure 44 shows differences by locality.

*Figure 44: Differences in the usage of pre-school or playgroups, by locality*

Locality	Percentages
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	25.5%
Abingdon/Berinsfield	21.5%
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	21.1%
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	14.2%
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>13.9%</b>
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	12.5%
Banbury	12.0%
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	11.9%
Thame/Watlington	11.3%
Bicester/Kidlington	10.8%
Iffley and Cowley	8.5%
Didcot	7.1%
Oxford South East	6.0%
Headington/Wheatley	4.2%

## Using childminders

Figure 45 shows statistically significant differences between groups. Generally, parents/carers are more likely to use childminders for the following children:

- Children from White British backgrounds
- Children in households without a full-time parent or carer
- Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time
- Children in households in which at least one parent/carers is in employment
- Children in households in which at least one parent/carers has irregular work patterns
- Children in households with an income of above £37,000
- Children without siblings
- Children aged 0-2
- Children aged 3 and 4

Figure 45: Statistically significant differences in the usage of childminders between groups

Test	Findings	Group	%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Children from BME backgrounds are less likely to use childminders.	Children from BME backgrounds	7.9%
		Children from White British backgrounds	13.3%
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one full-time parent or carer:</i> If a child lives in a household with at least one full-time parent or carer, its parents/carers are less likely to use childminders.	Children in households with at least one full-time parent or carer	3.5%
		Children in households without a full-time parent or carer	15.1%
	<i>Households in which all parents/carers work full-time:</i> If a child lives in a household in which both parents/carers work full-time, its parents/carers are more likely to use childminders for this child.	Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time	18.9%
		Children in households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time	11.0%
	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer in employment:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one parent/carer is in employment, its parents/carers are more likely to use childminders.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is in employment	12.9%
		Children in households in which no parent/carer is in employment	4.4%
	<i>Households in which at least one parent/carer has irregular work patterns:</i> Children in households in which at least one parent/carer has irregular work hours are more likely to use childminders.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer has irregular work patterns	16.8%
		Children in households in which no parent/carer has irregular work patterns	11.7%
<b>Household income</b>	If a child lives in a household with an income of above £37,000, its parents/carers are more likely to use childminders.	Children in households with an income of below £12,000	7.6%
		Children in households with an income between £12,000 to £37,000	9.8%
		Children in households with an income above £37,000	15.1%
<b>Number of children</b>	Parents/carers are more likely to use childminders for children without siblings.	Children without siblings	19.5%
		Children with one sibling	11.6%
		Children with two or more siblings	9.1%
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers are most likely to use childminders for children aged 0-2, and 3 and 4.	Children aged 0-2	15.6%
		Children aged 3 & 4	15.2%
		Children aged 5, 6 & 7	12.7%
		Children aged 8, 9 & 10	8.8%
		Children aged 11, 12, 13 & 14	1.2%
		Children aged 15, 16 and 17	1.4%

Children in the Banbury locality are the most likely to use childminders. Children in the Henley/ Sonning Common / Woodcote / Wallingford locality are the least likely to use childminders. Figure 46 shows the results by locality.

*Figure 46: Differences in the use of childminders, by locality*

Locality	Percentages
Banbury	19.3%
Bicester/Kidlington	18.0%
Didcot	17.9%
Iffley and Cowley	17.0%
Headington/Wheatley	16.7%
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	12.5%
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>12.3%</b>
Abingdon/Berinsfield	11.1%
Thame/Watlington	10.8%
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	10.6%
Oxford South East	10.0%
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	7.7%
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	6.9%
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	6.0%

## Using after-school clubs

Figure 47 shows statistically significant differences between groups. Generally, parents/carers are more likely to use after-school clubs for the following children:

- Children in lone parent households
- Children from BME backgrounds
- Disabled children
- Children in households without a full-time parent or carer
- Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time
- Children in households in which at least one parent/carers is in employment
- Children with one sibling
- Children aged 8, 9 and 10

Figure 47: Statistically significant differences in the usage of after-school clubs between groups

Test	Findings	Group	%
<b>Family composition</b>	Children in lone parent households are more likely to use after-school clubs.	Children in lone parent households	20.6%
		Children in two-parent households	11.3%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Children from BME backgrounds are more likely to use after-school clubs.	Children from BME backgrounds	17.2%
		Children from White British backgrounds	11.8%
<b>Disabled child</b>	Disabled children are more likely to use after-school clubs than non-disabled children.	Disabled children	26.1%
		Non-disabled children	11.7%
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one full-time parent or carer:</i> If a child lives in a household with at least one full-time parent or carer, its parents/carers are less likely to use after-school clubs for this child.	Children in households with at least one full-time parent or carer	6.9%
		Children in households without a full-time parent or carer	13.7%
	<i>Households in which all parents/carers work full-time:</i> If a child lives in a household in which both parents/carers work full-time, its parents/carers are more likely to use after-school clubs for this child.	Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time	22.0%
		Children in households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time	10.1%
	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer in employment:</i> If a child lives in a household in at least one parent/carer is in employment, its parents/carers are more likely to use after-school clubs for this child.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is in employment	12.6%
Children in households in which no parent/carer is in employment		5.7%	
<b>Number of children</b>	Parents/carers are more likely to use after-school clubs for children with one sibling.	Children without siblings	12.1%
		Children with one sibling	13.4%
		Children with two or more siblings	9.0%
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers are most likely to use after-school clubs for children aged 8, 9 and 10.	Children aged 0-2	0.5%
		Children aged 3 & 4	5.0%
		Children aged 5, 6 & 7	22.6%
		Children aged 8, 9 & 10	30.8%
		Children aged 11, 12, 13 & 14	13.9%
		Children aged 15, 16 and 17	7.1%

Children in the Headington/ Wheatley locality are the most likely to use after-school clubs. Children in the Bicester/Kidlington locality are the least likely to use after-school clubs. Figure 48 shows the differences by locality.

Figure 48: Differences in the use of after-school clubs, by locality

Locality	Percentages
Headington/Wheatley	28.1%
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	14.5%
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	14.4%
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	13.6%
Abingdon/Berinsfield	13.3%
Iffley and Cowley	13.2%
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	12.9%
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>12.1%</b>
Thame/Watlington	10.3%
Oxford South East	10.0%
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	8.0%
Banbury	7.8%
Didcot	7.1%
Bicester/Kidlington	6.7%

## Using holiday playschemes

Figure 49 shows statistically significant differences between groups. Generally, parents/carers are more likely to use holiday playschemes for the following children:

- Disabled children
- Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time
- Children with one sibling
- Children aged 8, 9 and 10
- Children aged 5, 6 and 7

Figure 49: Statistically significant differences in the usage of holiday playschemes between groups

Test	Findings	Group	%
<b>Disabled child</b>	Disabled children are more likely to use holiday playschemes than non-disabled children.	Disabled children	26.9%
		Non-disabled children	7.2%
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one full-time parent or carer:</i> If a child lives in a household with at least one full-time parent or carer, its parents/carers are less likely to use holiday playschemes for this child.	Children in households with at least one full-time parent or carer	5.2%
		Children in households without a full-time parent or carer	9.3%
	<i>Households in which all parents/carers work full-time:</i> If a child lives in a household in which both parents/carers work full-time, its parents/carers are more likely to use holiday playschemes for this child.	Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time	13.4%
		Children in households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time	7.3%
	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer in employment:</i> If a child lives in a household in at least one parent/carer is in employment, its parents/carers are more likely to use holiday playschemes for this child.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is in employment	8.7%
		Children in households in which no parent/carer is in employment	3.1%
<b>Number of children</b>	Parents/carers are more likely to use holiday playschemes for children with one sibling.	Children without siblings	8.0%
		Children with one sibling	9.7%
		Children with two or more siblings	5.0%
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers are most likely to use holiday playschemes for children aged 8, 9 and 10.	Children aged 0-2	0.5%
		Children aged 3 & 4	5.4%
		Children aged 5, 6 & 7	14.1%
		Children aged 8, 9 & 10	17.5%
		Children aged 11, 12, 13 & 14	11.4%
		Children aged 15, 16 and 17	8.6%

## Using breakfast clubs

Figure 50 shows statistically significant differences between groups. Generally, parents/carers are more likely to use breakfast clubs for the following children:

- Children in lone parent households
- Children in households without a full-time parent or carer
- Children in which both parents/carers work full-time
- Children aged 8, 9 and 10

Figure 50: Statistically significant differences in the usage of breakfast clubs between groups

Test	Findings	Group	%
<b>Family composition</b>	Children in lone parent households are more likely to use breakfast clubs for these children.	Children in lone parent households	8.1%
		Children in two-parent households	3.6%
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one full-time parent or carer:</i> If a child lives in a household with at least one full-time parent or carer, its parents/carers are less likely to use a breakfast club for this child.	Children in households with at least one full-time parent or carer	0.6%
		Children in households without a full-time parent or carer	5.2%
	<i>Households in which all parents/carers work full-time:</i> If a child lives in a household in which both parents/carers work full-time, its parents/carers are more likely to use a breakfast club for this child.	Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time	6.7%
		Children in households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time	3.6%
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers are most likely to use breakfast clubs for children aged 8, 9 and 10.	Children aged 0-2	0.7%
		Children aged 3 & 4	3.0%
		Children aged 5, 6 & 7	7.0%
		Children aged 8, 9 & 10	10.4%
		Children aged 11, 12, 13 & 14	1.2%
		Children aged 15, 16 and 17	0.0%

## Using nursery classes in school

There were no statistically significant differences between groups in the use of nursery classes in schools.

## Using nannies or au-pairs

Figure 51 shows statistically significant differences between groups. Generally, parents/carers are more likely to use breakfast nannies and au pairs for the following children:

- Children in households without a full-time parent or carer
- Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time

Figure 51: Statistically significant differences in the usage of nannies and au-pairs between groups

Test	Findings	Group	%
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one full-time parent or carer:</i> If a child lives in a household with at least one full-time parent or carer, its parents/carers are less likely to use a nanny or au pair.	Children in households with at least one full-time parent or carer	0.8%
		Children in households without a full-time parent or carer	3.0%
	<i>Households in which all parents/carers work full-time:</i> If a child lives in a household in which both parents/carers work full-time, its parents/carers are more likely to use a nanny or au pair for this child.	Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time	5.6%
		Children in households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time	1.9%

## Appendix 3 – Differences between groups in their views of the childcare market

### The quality of childcare is high

Figure 52 shows that generally the following groups are less likely to say that the quality of childcare is high:

- Parents/carers from BME groups
- Lone parents
- Parents/carers of disabled children
- Parents/carers that only have children over the age of 5

Figure 52: Average levels of agreement with the statement “The quality of childcare is high” by individual group

Test	Findings	Group	Average rating
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Parents/carers from BME backgrounds are less likely to say that the quality of childcare is high.	Parents/carers from BME groups	4.1
		White British parents	4.3
<b>Family composition</b>	Lone parents are less likely to say that the quality of childcare is high.	Lone parent households	4.1
		Two parent households	4.3
<b>Disabled child</b>	Parents/carers with disabled children are less likely to say that the quality of childcare is high.	Parents/carers with at least one disabled child	4.0
		Parents/carers without disabled children	4.3
<b>Age of child</b>	Parents/carers that only have children over the age of 5 are less likely to say that the quality of childcare is high.	Only under 5s	4.4
		Both over and under 5s	4.4
		Only over 5s	3.9

### I am very satisfied with my current childcare

Figure 53 shows the statistically significant differences between groups. Generally the following groups are less likely to be satisfied with their current childcare:

- Households with at least one parent/carer seeking work.
- Lone parent households.
- Parents/carers with disabled children.
- Households only with children aged 5 years and over.

Figure 53: Statistically significant findings in the level of agreement between groups responding to the statement: "I am very satisfied with my current childcare"

Test	Findings	Group	Average rating
<b>Family composition</b>	Lone parent households are less satisfied with their current childcare than two parent households.	Lone parent households	4.0
		Two parent households	4.2
<b>Disabled children</b>	Parents/carers with disabled children are less satisfied with their childcare than parents/carers without disabled children.	Parents/carers with at least one disabled child	3.8
		Parents/carers without disabled children	4.3
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer seeking work:</i> parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work are less satisfied with their current childcare than households in which no parent/carer is seeking work.	Households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work	3.7
		Households in which no parent/carer is seeking work	4.2
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers that only have children over the age of 5 are less satisfied than parents/carers that only have children under 5, and parents/carers that have children aged both over and under 5.	Only under 5s	4.4
		Both over and under 5s	4.3
		Only over 5s	3.9

## Childcare caters for my children's needs

Figure 54 shows that generally the following groups show lower levels of agreement with the statement that childcare caters for their children's needs:

- Parents/carers with at least one disabled child
- Parents/carers in households with at least one parent/carer is studying or training
- Parents/carers that only have children over the age of 5

Figure 54: Statistically significant differences in the level of agreement between groups responding to the statement: "Childcare caters for my children's needs"

Test	Findings	Group	Average rating
<b>Disabled children</b>	Parents/carers with disabled children show lower levels of agreement with the statement that childcare caters for their children's needs.	Parents/carers with at least one disabled child	3.4
		Parents/carers without disabled children	4.1
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer studying or training:</i> parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training show lower levels of agreement with the statement that childcare caters for their children's needs	Households with at least one parent/carer studying or training	3.8
		Households in which no parent/carer is studying or training	4.0
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers that only have children over the age of 5 show lower levels of agreement with the statement that childcare caters for their children's needs.	Only under 5s	4.2
		Both over and under 5s	4.1
		Only over 5s	3.5

## Childcare is well located

Generally the following groups show lower levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is well located:

- Parents/carers with at least one disabled child
- Parents/carers in households without a full-time parent or carer
- Parents/carers that only have children over the age of 5

Figure 55: Statistically significant differences in the level of agreement between groups responding to the statement: "Childcare is well located"

Test	Findings	Group	Average rating
<b>Disabled child</b>	Parents/carers with disabled children show lower levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is well located.	Parents/carers with at least one disabled child	3.4
		Parents/carers without disabled children	3.8
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one full-time parent or carer:</i> Parents/carers in households without a full-time parent or carer show lower levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is well located.	Households with at least one full-time parent or carer	4.1
		Households without a full-time parent or carer	3.7
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers that only have children over the age of 5 show lower levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is well located.	Only under 5s	4.0
		Both over and under 5s	4.0
		Only over 5s	3.4

## Childcare is too expensive

Figure 56 shows that generally the following groups have higher levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is too expensive:

- Parents/carers from BME groups
- Parents/carers in households without a full-time parent or carer
- Parents/carers in households in which no parent/carers is in employment
- Parents/carers with a household income of under £37,000
- Parents/carers with one child, and parents/carers with three or more children
- Parents/carers with children aged under 5

Figure 56: Statistically significant differences in the level of agreement between groups responding to the statement: "Childcare is too expensive"

Test	Findings	Group	Average rating
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Parents/carers from BME backgrounds show higher levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is too expensive.	Parents/carers from BME groups	3.9
		White British parents	3.4
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one full-time parent or carer:</i> parents/carers in households without a full-time parent or carer show higher levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is too expensive.	Households with at least one full-time parent or carer	3.2
		Households without a full-time parent or carer	3.5
	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer in employment:</i> Parents/carers in households in which no parent/carer is in employment show higher levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is too expensive.	Households in which at least one parent/carer is in employment	3.4
		Households in which no parent/carer is in employment	3.9
	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer studying or training:</i> Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training show higher levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is too expensive.	Households with at least one parent/carer studying or training	3.8
		Households in which no parent/carer is studying or training	3.4
<b>Household income</b>	Parents/carers with a household income of less than £37,000 show higher levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is too expensive.	Household income below £12,000	3.6
		Household income between £12,000 to £37,000	3.6
		Household income above £37,000	3.3
<b>Number of children</b>	Parents/carers with one child, and with three or more children show higher levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is too expensive.	Parents/carers with one child	3.6
		Parents/carers with two children	3.4
		Parents/carers with three or more children	3.6
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers that only have children under the age of 5 show higher levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is too expensive.	Only under 5s	3.6
		Both over and under 5s	3.3
		Only over 5s	3.4

There were also statistically significant findings for individual localities. Parents/carers in the Oxford South East locality show the highest level of agreement with the statement that childcare is too expensive. Parents/carers in the Wantage/Faringdon/Grove locality show the lowest level of agreement with the statement that childcare is too expensive.

Figure 57: Average levels of agreement with the statement “Childcare is too expensive” by locality

Locality	Average level of agreement
Oxford South East	4.1
Didcot	3.8
Iffley and Cowley	3.7
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	3.7
Headington/Wheatley	3.6
Thame/Watlington	3.5
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	3.5
<b>Average level of agreement for Oxfordshire</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Banbury	3.4
Bicester/Kidlington	3.4
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	3.4
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	3.1
Abingdon/Berinsfield	3.1
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	3.1

## Childcare is good value for money

Figure 58 shows the statistically significant differences between groups. Generally the following groups show lower levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is good value for money:

- Lone parents
- Parents/carers in households without a full-time parent or carer
- Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training
- Parents/carers with a household income of between £12,000 and £37,000
- Parents/carers with children aged both over and under 5

Figure 58: Statistically significant differences in the level of agreement between groups responding to the statement: "Childcare is good value for money"

Test	Findings	Group	Average rating	
<b>Family composition</b>	Lone parent households show lower levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is good value for money	Lone parent households	3.2	
		Two parent households	3.4	
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one full-time parent or carer:</i> Parents/carers in households without a full-time parent or carer show lower levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is good value for money.	Households with at least one full-time parent or carer	3.7	
		Households without a full-time parent or carer	3.4	
		<i>Households with at least one parent/carer studying or training:</i> Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training show lower levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is good value for money.	Households with at least one parent/carer studying or training	3.1
		Households in which no parent/carer is studying or training	3.5	
<b>Household income</b>	Parents/carers with a household income of between £12,000 and £37,000 show lower levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is good value for money	Household income below £12,000	3.5	
		Household income between £12,000 to £37,000	3.3	
		Household income above £37,000	3.5	
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers that have children over and under the age of 5 show lower levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is good value for money.	Only under 5s	3.4	
		Both over and under 5s	3.3	
		Only over 5s	3.6	

There were also statistically significant findings for individual localities. Parents/carers in the Abingdon/Berinsfield locality show the highest levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is good value for money. Parents/carers in Oxford South East show the lowest levels of agreement with the statement that childcare is good value for money. Figure 59 shows the results by locality.

Figure 59: Average levels of agreement with the statement "Childcare is good value for money" by locality

Locality	Average level of agreement
Abingdon/Berinsfield	3.7
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	3.7
Didcot	3.4
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	3.6
Iffley and Cowley	3.6
Bicester/Kidlington	3.5
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	3.5
Banbury	3.5
<b>Average level of agreement for Oxfordshire</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Headington/Wheatley	3.3
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	3.2
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	3.1
Thame/Watlington	3.1
Oxford South East	3.0

## There is a good choice of childcare in Oxfordshire

Generally the following groups show lower levels of agreement with the statement that there is a good choice of childcare in Oxfordshire:

- Parents/carers with at least one disabled child
- Parents/carers in households without a full-time parent or carer
- Parents/carers in households in which all parents/carers work full-time
- Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work
- Parents/carers that only have children over the age of 5

Figure 60: Statistically significant differences in the level of agreement between groups responding to the statement: "There is a good choice of Childcare in Oxfordshire"

Test	Findings	Group	Average rating
<b>Disabled child</b>	Parents/carers with disabled children show lower levels of agreement with the statement that there is a good choice of childcare in Oxfordshire.	Parents/carers with at least one disabled child	2.7
		Parents/carers without disabled children	3.3
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one full-time parent or carer:</i> Parents/carers in households without a full-time parent or carer show lower levels of agreement with the statement that there is a good choice of childcare in Oxfordshire	Households with at least one full-time parent or carer	3.5
		Households without a full-time parent or carer	3.2
	<i>Households in which all parents/carers work full-time:</i> Parents/carers in households in which all parents/carers are working full-time show lower levels of agreement with the statement that there is a good choice of childcare in Oxfordshire.	Households in which all parents/carers are in full-time employment	3.1
		Households in which at least one parent is not in full-time employment	3.3
	<i>Households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work:</i> Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work show lower levels of agreement with the statement that there is a good choice of childcare in Oxfordshire.	Households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work	2.9
		Households in which no parent/carer is seeking work	3.3
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers that only have children over the age of 5 show lower levels of agreement with the statement that there is a good choice of childcare in Oxfordshire.	Only under 5s	3.4
		Both over and under 5s	3.5
		Only over 5s	2.9

## I would prefer to use family or friends to care for my child

Figure 61 shows the statistically significant differences between groups. Generally the following show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they would prefer to use family or friends to care for their children:

- Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time
- Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work
- Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training
- Parents/carers with a household income of below £12,000
- Parents/carers that have children aged over and under 5

Figure 61: Statistically significant differences in the level of agreement between groups responding to the statement: "I would prefer to use family or friends to care for my child"

Test	Findings	Group	Average rating
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households in which all parents/carers work full-time:</i> Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they would prefer to use family or friends to care for their children.	Households in which all parents/carers work full-time	2.9
		Households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time	3.1
	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer seeking work:</i> Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they would prefer to use family or friends to care for their children.	Households with at least one parent/carer is seeking work	3.6
		Households in which no parent/carer is seeking work	3.1
	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer studying or training:</i> Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they would prefer to use family or friends to care for their children.	Households with at least one parent/carer studying or training	3.5
		Households in which no parent/carer is studying or training	3.0
<b>Household income</b>	The lower the household income, the more likely it is that parents/carers will show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they would prefer to use family or friends to care for their children.	Household income below £12,000	3.3
		Household income between £12,000 to £37,000	3.2
		Household income above £37,000	3.0
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers that have children both over and under the age of 5 show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they would prefer to use family or friends to care for their children.	Only under 5s	3.1
		Both over and under 5s	3.2
		Only over 5s	3.0

## I would like my child to attend more childcare (excluding family/friends)

Figure 62 shows that the following groups show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they would like to their children to use more childcare:

- Lone parents
- Parents/carers from BME groups
- Parents/carers of disabled children

- Parents/carers in households with at least one full-time parent or carer
- Parents/carers in households in which no parent/carer is in employment
- Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work
- Parents/carers in low-income households
- Parents/carers that have children both over and under the age of 5

Figure 62: Statistically significant differences in the level of agreement between groups responding to the statement: "I would like my child to attend more childcare (excluding family/friends)"

Test	Findings	Group	Average rating
<b>Family composition</b>	Lone parent households show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they would like their children to attend more childcare.	Lone parent households	2.9
		Two parent households	2.6
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Parents/carers from BME backgrounds show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they would like their children to attend more childcare.	Parents/carers from BME groups	2.9
		White British parents	2.6
<b>Disabled child</b>	Parents/carers with disabled children show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they would like their children to attend more childcare.	Parents/carers with at least one disabled child	3.4
		Parents/carers without disabled children	2.6
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one full-time parent or carer:</i> Parents/carers in households with at least one full-time parent or carer show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they would like their children to attend more childcare.	Households with at least one full-time parent or carer	2.9
		Households without a full-time parent or carer	2.6
	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer in employment:</i> Parents/carers in households in which no parent/carer is in employment show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they would like their children to attend more childcare.	Households in which at least one parent/carer is in employment	2.6
		Households in which no parent/carer is in employment	3.4
	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer is seeking work:</i> Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they would like their children to attend more childcare.	Households with at least one is seeking work	3.9
		Households in which no parent/carer is seeking work	2.6
<b>Household income</b>	The lower the household income, the more likely it is that parents/carers will show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they would like their children to attend more childcare.	Household income below £12,000	3.4
		Household income between £12,000 to £37,000	2.8
		Household income above £37,000	2.4
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers that have children both over and under the age of 5 show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they would like their children to attend more childcare.	Only under 5s	2.6
		Both over and under 5s	2.9
		Only over 5s	2.5

There were also statistically significant findings for individual localities. Parents/carers in the Oxford South East locality show the highest levels of agreement with the statement that they would like their children to attend more childcare. Parents/carers in the Henley/Sonning Common/ Woodcote / Wallingford locality show the lowest levels of agreement with

the statement that they would like their children to attend more childcare.

*Figure 63: Average levels of agreement with the statement "I would like my child to attend more childcare (excluding family/friends)" by locality*

Locality	Average rating
Oxford South East	3.4
Banbury	3.0
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	2.9
Thame/Watlington	2.9
Didcot	2.8
Iffley and Cowley	2.7
<b>Average level of agreement for Oxfordshire</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Abingdon/Berinsfield	2.6
Bicester/Kidlington	2.6
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	2.5
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	2.5
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	2.5
Headington/Wheatley	2.4
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	2.3

## I have a problem with childcare arrangements that break down often

Figure 64 shows that the following groups have higher levels of agreement with the statement that they have problems with childcare arrangements that break down often:

- Lone parents
- Parents/carers with disabled children
- Parents/carers in households in which no parent/carer is in employment
- Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work
- Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training
- Parents/carers that have children both over and under the age of 5

Figure 64: Statistically significant differences in the level of agreement between groups responding to the statement: "I have a problem with childcare arrangements that break down often"

Test	Findings	Group	Average rating
<b>Family composition</b>	Lone parent households show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they have problems with childcare arrangements that break down often.	Lone parent households	2.6
		Two parent households	2.2
<b>Disabled child</b>	Parents/carers with disabled children show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they have problems with childcare arrangements that break down often.	Parents/carers with at least one disabled child	2.7
		Parents/carers without disabled children	2.2
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer in employment:</i> Parents/carers in households in which no parent/carer is in employment show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they have problems with childcare arrangements that break down often.	Households in which at least one parent/carer is in employment	2.2
		Households in which no parent/carer is in employment	2.6
	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer is seeking work:</i> Parents/carers in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they have problems with childcare arrangements that break down often.	Households with at least one is seeking work	2.7
		Households in which no parent/carer is seeking work	2.2
	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer is studying or training:</i> Parents/carers in households with at least one parent/carer is studying or training show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they have problems with childcare arrangements that break down often.	Households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training	2.6
		Households in which no parent/carer is studying or training	2.2
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers that have children both over and under the age of 5 show higher levels of agreement with the statement that they have problems with childcare arrangements that break down often.	Only under 5s	2.1
		Both over and under 5s	2.6
		Only over 5s	2.0

## Travel or transport to my childcare provider is a big problem for me

Figure 65 shows that generally the following groups have higher levels of agreement with the statement that travel and transport to their childcare provider is a big problem for them:

- Lone parents
- Parents/carers of disabled children
- Parents/carers with a household income of less than £12,000
- Parents/carers with children aged both over and under 5

*Figure 65: Statistically significant differences in the level of agreement between groups responding to the statement: "Travel or transport to my childcare provider is a big problem for me"*

Test	Findings	Group	Average rating
<b>Family composition</b>	Lone parent households show higher levels of agreement with the statement that travel and transport to their childcare provider is a big problem for them.	Lone parent households	2.5
		Two parent households	2.1
<b>Disabled child</b>	Parents/carers with disabled children show higher levels of agreement with the statement that travel and transport to their childcare provider is a big problem for them.	Parents/carers with at least one disabled child	2.6
		Parents/carers without disabled children	2.1
<b>Household income</b>	The lower the household income, the more likely it is that parents/carers will show higher levels of agreement with the statement that travel and transport to their childcare provider is a big problem for them.	Household income below £12,000	2.4
		Household income between £12,000 to £37,000	2.2
		Household income above £37,000	2.0
<b>Children's ages</b>	Parents/carers that have children both over and under the age of 5 show higher levels of agreement with the statement that travel and transport to their childcare provider is a big problem for them.	Only under 5s	2.1
		Both over and under 5s	2.4
		Only over 5s	1.9

## Appendix 4 – Differences between groups in relation to improvement suggestions

### Improving affordability

Figure 66 shows that parents/carers will be more likely to say that childcare should be more affordable for:

- Children from BME backgrounds
- Children with no siblings
- Children in households in which at least one parent/carer has irregular work patterns
- Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time
- Children in households without a full-time carer
- Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is studying or training
- Children aged 0-2 years

Figure 66: Statistically significant differences between groups in relation to affordability

Test	Finding	Group	%
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer is studying or training:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one person is training or studying, its parents/carers are more likely to say that childcare for this child should be more affordable.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is training or studying	38.2%
		Children in households in which no one is studying or training	25.7%
	<i>Households in which at least one person is a full-time carer:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one person is a full-time parent or carer, its parents/carers are less likely to say that the childcare for this child should be more affordable.	Children in households with at least one full-time parent/carer	13.5%
		Children in households without a full-time parent/carer	30.1%
	<i>Households in which all parents/carers work full-time:</i> If a child lives in a household in which all parents/carers (or the lone parent) are working full-time, its parents/carers are more likely to say that the childcare for this child should be more affordable.	Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time	37.5%
		Children in households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time	24.2%
	<i>Households in which at least one parent/carer has irregular work patterns:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one person has irregular work patterns, its parents/carers are more likely to say that childcare for this child should be more affordable.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer has irregular work patterns	35.4%
		Children in households in which no parent/carer has irregular work patterns	25.6%
<b>Number of children</b>	Parents/carers are more likely to say that childcare should be more affordable for children without siblings.	Children without siblings	38.8%
		Children with one sibling	23.4%
		Children with two or more siblings	26.1%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	If a child has a parent/carer from a BME background, its parents/carers are more likely to agree that childcare should be more affordable.	Children from BME backgrounds	38.8%
		Children from White British backgrounds	25.1%
<b>Children of different ages</b>	Parents/carers are most likely to state that childcare needs to be more affordable for children below 2 and for children aged 3 and 4.	Children aged 0-2	37.6%
		Children aged 3 & 4	28.8%
		Children aged 5, 6 & 7	17.1%
		Children aged 8, 9 & 10	24.3%
		Children aged 11, 12, 13 & 14	14.7%
		Children aged 15, 16 and 17	4.2%

There were also statistically significant findings for different localities. These are shown in Figure 67. Parents/carers are more likely to say that childcare should be more affordable for children in Headington/Wheatley.

Figure 67: Statistically significant differences by locality in relation to affordability

Locality	Average level of agreement
Headington/Wheatley	36.9%
Thame/Watlington	33.8%
Oxford South East	32.5%
Carterton/Burford/Chipping Norton	31.9%
Didcot	30.8%
Banbury	27.9%
<b>Average response for Oxfordshire</b>	<b>26.6%</b>
Iffley and Cowley	26.4%
North Oxford/ Cumnor/ Botley	25.4%
Witney/Eynsham/Woodstock	25.2%
Bicester/Kidlington	24.8%
Abingdon/Berinsfield	22.0%
Henley/ Sonning Common/ Woodcote/Wallingford	14.7%
Wantage/Faringdon/Grove	13.2%

## Improving flexibility

Figure 68 shows that parents/carers will be more likely to want to improve the flexibility of childcare for children under the age of 5.

Figure 68: Statistically significant differences between groups in relation to flexibility

Test	Finding	Group	%
<b>Children of different ages</b>	Parents/carers are most likely to state that flexibility should be improved for children under the age of 5.	Children aged 0-2	18.0%
		Children aged 3 & 4	21.5%
		Children aged 5, 6 & 7	12.3%
		Children aged 8, 9 & 10	16.5%
		Children aged 11, 12, 13 & 14	13.8%
		Children aged 15, 16 and 17	4.2%

## Improving availability at different times

Figure 69 shows that parents/carers will be more likely to say that childcare for children from the following groups should be available at different times:

- Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is training or studying
- Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work
- Children in households in which there is no full-time parent or carer
- Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time
- Children aged 8, 9 and 10
- Children with no siblings

Figure 69: Statistically significant differences between groups in relation to availability at different times

Test	Finding	Group	%
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer is studying or training:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one person is training or studying, its parents/carers are more likely to say that childcare for this child should be available at different times.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is training or studying	27.9%
		Children in households in which no one is studying or training	14.6%
	<i>Households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one person is seeking work, its parents/carers are more likely to say that childcare for this child should be available at different times.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work	33.3%
		Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work	15.2%
	<i>Households in which at least one person is a full-time carer:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one person is a full-time parent or carer, its parents/carers are less likely to say that the childcare for this child should be available at different times.	Children in households with at least one full-time parent/carer	9.2%
		Children in households without a full-time parent/carer	17.3%
	<i>Households in which all parents/carers work full-time:</i> If a child lives in a household in which all parents/carers (or the lone parent) are working full-time, its parents/carers are more likely to say that the childcare for this child should be available at different times.	Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time	19.6%
		Children in households in which at least one parent/carer does not work full-time	14.7%
<b>Number of children</b>	If a child is an only child, its parents/carers are more likely to say that childcare for this child should be available at different times.	Children without siblings	20.8%
		Children with one sibling	15.1%
		Children with two or more siblings	13.3%
<b>Children of different ages</b>	Parents/carers are most likely to state that childcare should be available at different times for children aged 8, 9 and 10, for children aged 3 and 4, and for children aged 11, 12, 13 and 14.	Children aged 0-2	11.3%
		Children aged 3 & 4	17.7%
		Children aged 5, 6 & 7	13.7%
		Children aged 8, 9 & 10	20.6%
		Children aged 11, 12, 13 & 14	17.4%
		Children aged 15, 16 and 17	8.3%

### I would like to use more childcare or a different type of childcare (excluding family and friends)

Figure 70 shows that parents/carers are likely to say that they would like to use more or different kinds of childcare for the following groups of children:

- Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is training or studying
- Children in households in which there is no full-time parent or carer
- Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time
- Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work
- Children aged 8, 9 or 10

Figure 70: Statistically significant differences between groups in relation to wishing to use more childcare

Test	Finding	Group	%
<b>Employment status</b>	<i>Households with at least one parent/carer is studying or training:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one person is training or studying, its parents/carers are more likely to say that they would like to use more or different types of childcare for this child.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is training or studying	22.1%
		Children in households in which no one is studying or training	12.9%
	<i>Households in which at least one person is a full-time carer:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one person is a full-time parent or carer, its parents/carers are less likely to say that they would like to use more or different types of childcare for this child.	Children in households in which at least one parent is a full-time parent or carer	9.5%
		Children in households in which there is no full-time parent or carer	14.5%
	<i>Households in which all parents/carers work full-time:</i> If a child lives in a household in which all parents/carers (or the lone parent) are working full-time, its parents/carers are more likely to say that they would like to use more or different types of childcare for this child.	Children in households in which all parents/carers work full-time	17.4%
		Children in households in which at least one parent does not work full-time	12.8%
	<i>Households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work:</i> If a child lives in a household in which at least one person is seeking work, its parents/carers are more likely to say that they would like to use more or different types of childcare for this child.	Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work	37.5%
		Children in households in which at least one parent/carer is seeking work	13.1%
<b>Children of different ages</b>	Parents/carers are most likely to state that they would like to use more or different kinds of childcare for children aged 8, 9 and 10.	Children aged 0-2	9.3%
		Children aged 3 & 4	14.6%
		Children aged 5, 6 & 7	15.7%
		Children aged 8, 9 & 10	19.7%
		Children aged 11, 12, 13 & 14	11.0%
		Children aged 15, 16 and 17	10.4%

## Improving the location of childcare

Parents/carers are likely to report that the location of childcare for disabled children should be improved.

Figure 71: Statistically significant differences between groups in relation to location

Test	Finding	Group	%
<b>Disabled child</b>	Parents/carers are more likely to say that the location of childcare should be improved for disabled children.	Disabled children	12.4%
		Non-disabled children	5.3%

## Better quality provision

Figure 72 shows that BME parents/carers are more likely to want better quality childcare provision for children from BME groups.

*Figure 72: Statistically significant differences between groups in relation to quality*

Test	Finding	Group	%
<b>Ethnicity</b>	If a child has a parent/carer from a BME background, their parents/carers are more likely to want better quality provision.	Children from BME backgrounds	8.8%
		Children from White British backgrounds	4.7%

## Improving childcare so that it is better at meeting children's additional needs or disability

There are no statistically significant differences in relation to responses about meeting children's additional needs or disabilities.





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