

## Introduction

The Childcare Act 2006 fulfils the government's commitment to give every child the best start in life and parents a greater choice about how to balance work and family life. The Act places duties on all local authorities to improve outcomes for children and young people; secure sufficient childcare to enable parents to work; and to provide information to parents about childcare and a wide range of other services that may be of benefit to them.

The Childcare Act 2006 gives all local authorities a key role in shaping the childcare market in their area. We will, work with providers from the private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors, looking at how we can create strong, sustainable and diverse childcare market that meets the needs of our parents/carers.

From April 2008, all local authorities will have a duty to secure sufficient childcare in their area. The childcare sufficiency assessment will be used as an evidence base to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of childcare. This report aims to provide Haringey council with an assessment of the supply and parental demand for childcare. This includes the number of places in each ward and the demand for particular types of childcare in Haringey.

At its core, the assessment provides an analysis of supply and demand that highlights the following potential gaps in the local childcare market:

- **geographical gaps:** a lack of childcare places in an area (wards have been used in this assessment);
- **income gaps:** a shortage of affordable childcare;
- **specific needs gaps:** a shortage of childcare for disabled children, or children with other specific needs;
- **time gaps:** a shortage of childcare when it is required by parents;
- **age gaps:** a shortage of care suited to children of a certain age group.

## Consultation

During September to November 2007, consultation took place to establish the views of parent/carers in Haringey regarding childcare. Through a mixture of questionnaires and focus groups the views of parents/carers, as to the availability and accessibility of childcare was sought.

Over 15,000 questionnaires were distributed to parent and carers through schools, children centres, health visitors, job centre plus and play centres. Officers spent sessions at the children centres and other events to help parents fill out the questionnaire and answer any questions. A total of 735 questionnaires were received back.

To compliment the questionnaires focus groups were held during November 2007 with parents/carers who were Turkish, Kurdish, Somali and parents whose children had a special educational need or disability.

Information on the supply of childcare and early years education was collected from the Family Information Service (FIS). This was supplemented was a telephone survey to all childcare providers to ensure the information was still up to date. Questionnaires were sent to both childcare providers and Haringey employers asking them about their views of the local childcare market.

Presentations were conducted at a number of forums to raise awareness and seek views from childcare professionals. The forums attended were:

- 0-5 forum;
- 5-11 forum;
- annual Health Carer visitor forum;
- Children's centres and Headteacher meeting.