



# GLASGOW WEST CHILDCARE FORUM

REPORT FOR NW AREA PARTNERSHIP ON CHILDCARE IN THE WEST OF GLASGOW – MARCH 2016  
REPORT WRITTEN BY AUDREY EDMONDS, CHAIR, GLASGOW WEST CHILDCARE FORUM

## KEY ISSUES

Whether you are a voluntary, private or local authority childcare provider, we are all here to provide a service for parents/carers and children. No difference should be made as to whether you are a private organisation as the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector also has to make some sort of profit to ensure jobs and provision of the service for the future.

## PARTNERSHIP NURSERIES

We have 5 partnership nurseries in this area (private nurseries that are in partnership with GCC) recently 2 nurseries (Gowanlea and Munro House) lost their partnership places – we ensured that they were kept and given out in our area. Following a review in December 2015, GCC allocated additional places in order to ensure that all Glasgow children who wished a funded place were able to receive this.

NURSERY	NUMBER OF FUNDED PLACES
All Tots	40 (12 awaiting potential increase in registration)
Buddies Club Nursery	44
Little Me Nursery - Temple	45
My Little Fishes Nursery	35
Netherton Nursery (Busy Bees Childcare)	24

All Tots is looking to increase the amount of Partnership places within the nursery and has had the Care Inspectorate out with a view to increasing the numbers, the nursery is getting quotes for the work needing done – it could be as much as £5,000. Is this something that this Area Partnership would consider part funding – not asking for the full amount but a donation towards the works would really help.

## LOCAL AUTHORITY NURSERIES

As you know, we have parents/carers that prefer to send their child to a LA nursery when their child gets to age 3 or 4. GCC have offered nursery placements in Drumchapel and Blairdardie to parents who live in Yoker (we do have a shortage of LA nurseries in Yoker). Unfortunately you need to get 2 buses from Yoker to Drumchapel as there are no direct routes. If you take 2 buses up to drop your child off in Drumchapel then you need to get 2 buses back to Yoker and then another 2 to pick up your child and 2 buses back to Yoker. Most people cannot afford this as again Yoker is a high poverty area. This is totally unacceptable and I feel that this is a matter of urgency as the shortage of nursery places in Yoker will not be sorted overnight.



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## HOUSING BENEFIT AND REAL TIME CHECKS

Over the past 6 months or so I have had parents/carers in crying and panicking as they have received bills of £4,000 - £5,000 in rent arrears in fear that they will lose their home if it doesn't get paid. This is partly due to Child Tax Credits and the real time checks that have been introduced at GHA. If you pay rent and you have childcare costs, you can apply to your local housing co-op and/or GHA for a reduction in your rent. We feel that the form needs changing, as it has not changed in 16 years that I have been doing this job. The form has a "childcare provider" part that we complete. They ask for the previous **5 weeks** of childcare costs only and then apply that to the claimant until the claimant advises them about any changes. Weekly costs vary by as much as £82.50. With the real time checks via Child/Working Tax Credits and HMRC – this has now come to light. I contacted GHA to ask about this and why the housing form only asks for the previous 5 weeks of childcare. I was told that they apply it to the claimant and only take it off if the claimant advises them too, this could go on for years. As a lot of our parents/carers are already in In-Work Poverty this is just another bill that will take forever to pay. Something as simple as changing the form could stop a lot of these bills.

## AFTER/OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

As you know, After School Cares in the area are still very busy and that numbers of children attending has increased. Some After School Cares are running waiting lists. As parents/carers struggle to pay the fees at the end of the week some of them (mostly young single mums) are paying the fees and then going to the foodbank as they have no money left. We do our best to help them out at Christmas and with non food items such as new clothes for the kids. We cannot do this indefinitely but at this moment in time we cannot see an end to it. Please feel free to read the recently reported document Cost of the School Holidays by the Child Poverty Action Group commissioned by Glasgow Life on the CPAG website. A survey by the Family and Childcare Trust's annual Childcare Survey revealed that the cost of an after-school club shot up by 8.5 per cent during the past year – this is a Scotland wide survey but makes interesting reading.

## NEW REPORTS:-

Cost of the School Holidays by the Child Poverty Action Group commissioned by Glasgow Life on the CPAG website

Family and Childcare Trust's Scotland annual Childcare Survey on their website.

*Parents/Carers used in the case studies are happy for their names, addresses and children's details to be given over.*

*The parents/carers in the case studies are not the only parents in the area going through this or something similar.*

*Childcare is intrinsically linked with In-work poverty. Forum Chair is happy to meet up and/or discuss ideas on this.*



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## CITY WIDE ISSUES

The Chair of the West Childcare Forum also Chairs the Glasgow Childcare Forum Chairs meetings. Items that the Glasgow Chairs are discussing are as follows;

6 of the After School Cares in Glasgow do not get a subsidised let, the Chairs have now decided that ALL After School Cares that are based within a GCC primary school will all get a subsidised let whether or not you are a private or voluntary provider. We have agreed that the money that GCC use for the lets will not increase but we will all pay more to ensure that everyone shares the subsidy. Very pleased about that as we are all providing a service for the children of Glasgow and it ensures equality for all providers.

Glasgow City Council is putting on a conference in Parkhead on 18/05/16 for After/Out of School Cares only. We are very much looking forward to it as we have great speakers lined up.

Questions please.

**Audrey Edmonds**

**Chair Glasgow West Childcare Forum**

**Chair Childcare Forum Chairs Glasgow**

**Peripatetic Manager at Blairdardie Out of School Service and Corpus Christi Out of School Service**



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