



**HARTLEPOOL**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL**

# Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

**2016- 2017**



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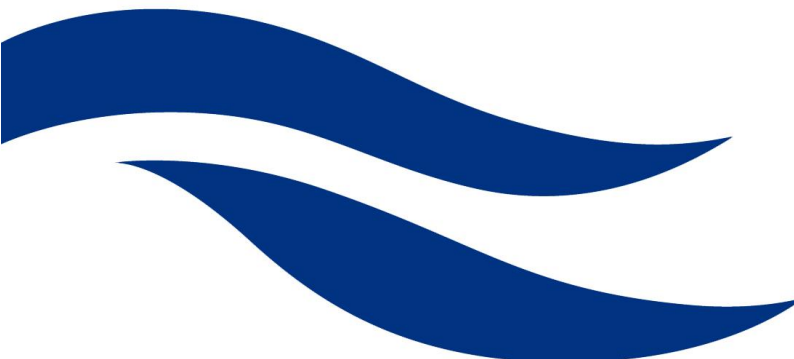
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## Acronyms List

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|      |  |
|------|--|
| CSA  | Childcare Sufficiency Assessment         |
| CHub | The Children's Hub                       |
| DLA  | Disability Living Allowance              |
| FNE  | Free Nursery Entitlement                 |
| FSD  | Family Service Directory                 |
| FTE  | Full time equivalent                     |
| HMRC | Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs        |
| LA   | Local Authority                          |
| NEET | Not in Education, Employment or Training |
| PVI  | Private Voluntary and Independent sector |
| SEND | Special Educational Need Disability      |

## List of Definitions

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**After school care:** registered or approved childcare that takes place after school has finished – usually between 3.00pm and 6.00pm term time only.

**Approved childcare:** childcare run by a school on school site which does not have to be registered with Ofsted.

**Before school care:** registered or approved childcare that takes place before school and ends when school starts – usually between 7.45am and 9.00am term time only.

**Childcare provider:** registered, unregistered or approved provider of childcare.

**Childminder:** registered childcare provider that operates childcare in their own home on a self employed basis catering for a wide age range of children.

**Daycare:** for the purposes of this report the registered provision of group-based childcare ('day nursery') for children aged under 5 years from early in the morning until early evening – usually between 7.30am and 6.00pm, 50+ weeks of the year.

**Extended school service:** a service offered on school site or through school signposting which is available outside of the school curriculum and beyond the school day, usually term time only.

**Holiday care:** registered or approved childcare that operates each day of the school holidays – usually between 8.30am and 6.00pm.

**Integrated care:** the care of children aged 3 and 4 years old before and/or after their free nursery entitlement – eg childcare on an afternoon following morning nursery session.

**Free nursery entitlement:** statutory provision of 570 hours of free nursery education per year for all eligible children aged 2/3/ 4 years, often offered by schools as an am or pm session (term time only) and by private providers as part of their full daycare offer.

**Ofsted:** Office for Standards in Education with overarching responsibility for the registration and inspection of registered childcare.

**Registered childcare:** childcare that operates for more than 2 hours per session and is inspected and approved by Ofsted.

**Special Educational Need:** for the purposes of the report this includes perceived and formally identified physical and learning disabilities.

**Tax credit:** administered by HMRC, a preferential tax rate offered to eligible individuals depending on a number of factors including hours worked and gross income earned; can include a Childcare Element with funding for up to 70% of registered childcare for parents that meet eligibility criteria.

**Unregistered childcare:** childcare that operates for less than 2 hours per session or for a limited number of sessions in a year or cares for children aged over 8 years and therefore cannot be registered with Ofsted.

## Introduction and Local Authority Legal Requirements

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The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) is a measurement of the nature, extent and supply of childcare within the borough. It is intended to help the Local Authority (LA) identify where there are potential gaps in the childcare market and plan how to support the market to address them. It remains a legal duty for the LA to undertake an assessment at least every three years and to keep their current assessment up-to-date with a published copy available for parents, carers and elected members.

A range of legislative changes have taken place since the last CSA including The Children and Families' Act 2014 (which repealed certain aspects of The Childcare Act 2006) and The Childcare Act 2016 making LAs responsible for 30 hours of free early years entitlement to eligible children.

In summary the LA remains responsible for a number of key duties including (but not limited to) –

- Securing prescribed early years provision free of charge.
- Securing sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 or up to 18 for disabled children.
- Providing information, advice and assistance to parents and carers.
- Providing information, advice and training to childcare providers.

Childcare information is available to parents and carers via Hartlepool's 'Family Service Directory' (FSD) which can be accessed at <http://hartlepool.fsd.org.uk>. Parents and carers that do not have access to the internet can contact The Children's Hub on 01429 284284 for all their childcare information needs.

The process of managing the childcare market is a difficult one not least because the LA does not control the schools or the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector that provides the majority of childcare in the town. This report therefore provides the LA with essential detail on the supply of childcare in Hartlepool and makes clear any actions the LA needs to take to effectively manage the market.

## Methodology

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In order to prepare the assessment the following research methodology was used:

- An analysis of Ofsted childcare data was undertaken in October 2016. This data includes all childcare that is registered on the Early Years Register and on the Compulsory and Voluntary part of the Childcare Register. The LA has access to this information via a daily information feed from Ofsted into The Children's Hub.
- An analysis of the availability and take up of Free Nursery Entitlement (FNE). October is a key headcount period for PVI and maintained early years providers with information collected on under 5s participation in FNE.
- Collection of vacancy information from childcare providers in order to understand their occupancy levels compared to their available places.

It should be noted that this analysis represents a brief snapshot in time and the childcare market is constantly changing. Providers tend to have low take up of places in the Autumn term (September) as children take up their full time school places but build their capacity as the year progresses.

## Context

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Hartlepool is a small unitary authority on the North East coast of England. The overall population is c92,500 (ONS Population 2016) of which c17,775 are children aged 0-15 years (19.3%). Despite significant regeneration over the past twenty years the town continues to experience high levels of deprivation. According to the Government's Child Poverty Unit 31% of our 0-15 year olds live in poverty.

## Childcare supply

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The following tables provide a snapshot of Hartlepool's childcare supply. It should be noted that childcare providers, available childcare places and vacancies change on a regular basis. There is often a difference between the numbers of registered/ approved childcare places compared to those that the childcare provider actually makes available to the public. This is often due to staffing availability or by provider choice in order to maintain levels of quality.

**Table 1: Carescheme types, available childcare places, cost of care, October 2016**

| Carescheme type                             | Number of active carescheme providers | Number of registered/ approved childcare places | Range in cost of care    |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Childminder                                 | 56                                    | 336   | £3.50 - £6.00 per hour   |
| Daycare (day nursery)                       | 15                                    | 699   | £32.00 - £38.50 per day  |
| Holiday care (excludes ad hoc play schemes) | 6                                     | 255   | £17.50 - £37.00 a day    |
| Before school                               | 26                                    | 875   | 50p - £7.00 per session  |
| After school                                | 20                                    | 713   | 50p - £22.50 per session |
| Sessional (ie playgroup)                    | 1                                     | 12  | £7.00 per session        |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>124</b>                            | <b>2890</b>                                     |                          |

In 2016 the number of daycare settings decreased from 16 to 15 settings however the number of childminders increased from 53 to 56. During the same period the number of holiday clubs decreased from 8 to 6. The number of sessional settings, breakfast clubs and afterschool clubs has remained static.

**Table 2: Atypical childcare, October 2016**

|                                       | Weekend care | Pre 7:30am | After 6pm | Overnight care | Bank Holiday | Professional Dev (PD) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Total number of care scheme providers | 6            | 10         | 8         | 4              | 16           | 97                    |

Some childcare providers are working hard to improve the flexibility of their childcare. 19% of childcare providers open before 8am and 14.5% of providers offer care on an evening and weekend. A high proportion of childcare providers take children to and pick up from local schools.



**Table 3: Carescheme types by ward, October 2016**

| Ward                 | Childminder | Daycare   | Before School | After School | Holiday  | Playgroup |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|----------|-----------|
| Hart                 | 8           | 0         | 2             | 1            | 0        | 0         |
| De Bruce             | 1           | 1         | 3             | 2            | 1        | 0         |
| Jesmond              | 3           | 2         | 3             | 3            | 1        | 0         |
| Victoria             | 8           | 4         | 3             | 3            | 1        | 0         |
| Burn Valley          | 10          | 1         | 1             | 0            | 1        | 0         |
| Rural West           | 2           | 1         | 1             | 1            | 0        | 0         |
| Foggy Furze          | 6           | 1         | 2             | 3            | 0        | 0         |
| Manor House          | 5           | 2         | 3             | 3            | 1        | 0         |
| Fens and Rossmere    | 11          | 1         | 4             | 2            | 0        | 0         |
| Headland and Harbour | 1           | 1         | 2             | 1            | 0        | 1         |
| Seaton               | 1           | 1         | 2             | 1            | 1        | 0         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>56</b>   | <b>15</b> | <b>26</b>     | <b>20</b>    | <b>6</b> | <b>1</b>  |

The childcare market has shown a high level of resilience throughout turbulent economic times. Based on enquiries into The Children's Hub the geographical spread of places reasonably matches families need.

### Occupancy

Careschemes that are registered by Ofsted have an agreed number of childcare places that can be made available. Some providers choose to offer less places than Ofsted allows. The following table provides a snapshot of Hartlepool's childcare occupancy levels in October 2016 and gives an indication of available vacancies. It should be noted that carescheme vacancies change on a regular basis and that not all providers responded to the survey.

**Table 4: Carescheme Occupancy Levels, October 2016**

| <b>Carescheme type</b>                            | <b>0-20%<br/>occupancy<br/>level</b> | <b>21-40%<br/>occupancy<br/>level</b> | <b>41-60%<br/>occupancy<br/>level</b> | <b>61-80%<br/>occupancy<br/>level</b> | <b>81-100%<br/>occupancy<br/>level</b> |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Childminder                                       | 3                                    | 1                                     | 11                                    | 18                                    | 23                                     |
| Daycare   | 0                                    | 0                                     | 9                                     | 5                                     | 1                                      |
| Holiday care<br>(excludes ad hoc<br>play schemes) | 0                                    | 0                                     | 5                                     | 0                                     | 1                                      |
| Before school care                                | 0                                    | 3                                     | 6                                     | 6                                     | 11                                     |
| After school care                                 | 1                                    | 2                                     | 5                                     | 6                                     | 6                                      |
| Sessional (i.e<br>playgroup)                      |                                      |                                       |                                       | 1                                     |  |

## Quality

Ofsted inspects relevant schools and childcare settings. The following table shows the available inspection results as at October 2016.

**Table 5: Ofsted Carescheme Inspection Results, October 2016**

| <b>Setting type</b> | <b>Outstanding</b> | <b>Good</b> | <b>Meets<br/>Requirements</b> | <b>Requires<br/>Improvement**</b> | <b>Only<br/>registration<br/>visit carried<br/>out</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Childminders        | 6                  | 43          | 1                             | 2                                 | 4  |
| Daycare             | 4                  | 8           | 0                             | 0                                 | 3  |
| Sessional care      | 0                  | 1           | 0                             | 0                                 | 0  |
| Holiday care        | 1                  | 5           | 0                             | 0                                 |  |
| Before school       | 4                  | 18          | 0                             | 3                                 | 1  |
| After school        | 4                  | 13          | 0                             | 1                                 | 2  |

\*\* Before and after school provision that requires improvement in schools.

In some settings there has been an improvement in quality. The market has a higher proportion of good and outstanding providers. The evidence indicates:

- 10.7% of registered childminders are graded outstanding.
- 76.8% of registered childminders are graded good.
- 26.7% of registered daycare providers are graded outstanding.
- 53.3% of registered daycare providers are graded good.

### Extended School Provision

There are 5 secondary schools (of which 3 are academies), 30 primary schools (of which 7 are academies), the Pupil Referral Unit and 2 special schools in Hartlepool. The majority of schools in Hartlepool are extended schools providing services to children, families and in some cases the wider community beyond the school day. 18 primary schools in the town provide childcare including before, after, holiday and/or integrated care. In addition a wide range of extended services are available outside of the school day and many parents take advantage of this provision in order to support their childcare choices.

### Comparison of childcare places

The table below shows the development of the market from 2007 through to 2017. In summary there has been a reduction in careschemes in 2015-17 however the number of places remains relatively stable.

**Table 6: Comparison of childcare places 2014 – 2017**

|   | 2014/2015 | 2015/2016 | 2016/2017 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>No. of active care-schemes</b>                   | 125       | 124       | 124       |
| <b>Total number childcare places</b>                | 3,045     | 2774      | 2890      |
| <b>No. of childminders/no of places</b>             | 59/288    | 53/270    | 56/336    |
| <b>No. of daycare providers/no of places</b>        | 16/815    | 16/720    | 15/699    |
| <b>No. of holiday providers/no of places</b>        | 8/355     | 8/345     | 6/255     |
| <b>No. of before school providers/no of places</b>  | 23/724    | 26/780    | 26/875    |
| <b>No. of after school providers/no of places</b>   | 19/602    | 20/647    | 20/713    |
| <b>No. of sessional care providers/no of places</b> | 1/12      | 1/12      | 1/12      |

## Free Nursery Entitlement (FNE)

### Two Year Old Free Nursery Entitlement

Hartlepool has been delivering free nursery entitlement places for the past eight financial years to the most vulnerable two year old children. The statutory duty to deliver two year old places commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013. In 2013/14 eligible children were from the 20% most income deprived families – this was estimated to be approximately 400 eligible children in Hartlepool using this criteria. In 2014/15 eligibility was extended to the 40% most vulnerable families which included those on a low income. Places are now available to families that are in receipt of Universal Credit, working but on a low income, children in foster care, children looked after, children under special guardianship, adopted children, children with additional needs (DLA) bringing the total estimated number of eligible two year old places in Hartlepool to 648. Places must be allocated to eligible two year old children the term *after* their second birthday.

**Table7: Current and proposed two year old free nursery entitlement provision, October 2016**

| WARD         | No. of careschemes currently taking 2 year old funded children (October 2016) |         |              |           | No of 2 year olds placed | Proposed new two year olds care schemes providers | No of proposed new places |
|--------------|---|---------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|
|              | SCHOOLS   | DAYCARE | CHILDMINDERS | SESSIONAL |                          |   |                           |
| Hart         | 0   | 0       | 0            |           | 0                        | 0   | 0                         |
| *De Bruce    | 1   | 1       | 0            |           | 60                       | 0   | 0                         |
| *Jesmond     | 0   | 2       | 2            |           | 52                       | 0   | 0                         |
| *Victoria    | 2   | 4       | 6            |           | 131                      | 1   | 4                         |
| *Burn Valley | 1   | 1       | 4            |           | 61                       | 0   | 0                         |
| Rural West   | 0   | 1       | 2            |           | 9                        | 1   | 4                         |

|                       |          |           |           |          |            |          |           |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|
| *Foggy Furze          | 0        | 1         | 3         |          | 26         | 1        | 4         |
| *Manor House          | 2        | 2         | 2         |          | 94         | 0        | 0         |
| *Fens and Rossmere    | 1        | 1         | 2         |          | 34         |          |           |
| *Headland and Harbour | 0        | 1         | 1         | 1        | 40         | 0        | 0         |
| Seaton                |          | 1         |           |          | 37         | 1        | 4         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>7</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>544</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>16</b> |

Wards marked \* have higher levels of disadvantage and therefore may have a higher demand for two year old places. Hartlepool has responded well to the offer of free early years entitlement for two year olds and has the best take up across the country. Participation is currently at 92%. Participation has increased by 4% from 2015 – 2016.

### Three and Four Year Old Free Nursery Entitlement

Every eligible 3 or 4 year old child has access to 570 hours of Free Nursery Entitlement (FNE) across the year in either a maintained or approved setting. This is universal provision that is not affected by the circumstances of the parent or child, including their parents' income. Children are eligible for a place the term *after* their third birthday. In October 2016 15 schools were fully flexible in delivering their FNE and 11 offered flexi sessions where parents can adjust their nursery care to suit their family needs.

The table below shows the take up of free nursery entitlement in both the maintained and PVI sectors. Traditionally parents have used maintained providers for FNE as attendance at a school nursery is thought to aid transition into full time school, however some parents prefer PVI providers to provide the service as they can top up their free hours with paid for care.

**Table 8: Comparison of Free Nursery Entitlement places 2014 – 2017**

|                   | No of children taking up an FNE place in the maintained sector | No of children taking up an FNE place in the PVI sector |
|-------------------|--|---|
| <b>2014 -2015</b> | 1,075  | 106   |
| <b>2015-2016</b>  | 1,250  | 108   |
| <b>2016-2017</b>  | 1,223  | 106   |

The Childcare Act 2016 has legislated for an *additional* 570 hours of free 3 and 4 year old childcare for qualifying children of working parents. The government expects the extended entitlement to be available across England by September 2017. Work is underway to determine how this new commitment will be delivered in Hartlepool.

### **Priorities for the Local Authority**

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Legislative changes will require action by the LA. Based on enquiries into The Children's Hub together with knowledge and experience of Officers working in the early years and childcare sector the following priorities have been identified:

#### **Funded places for two, three and four year olds**

Take up and demand for early years places needs to be closely monitored. Where providers begin to reach capacity, the opportunity to increase provision needs to be explored.

***Action – work with existing and new providers to develop provision where there is evidence of demand.***

#### **Extended early years entitlement**

Some three and four year old children will be eligible for an additional 15 hours of entitlement from September 2017.

***Action – develop a plan to ensure that providers can meet demand and ensure parents are aware of the new offer.***

## Early Years Pupil Premium

Some children are eligible for additional funding which is paid to their early years provider to support children to reach their full potential.

***Action – ensure eligible children are identified early and funding is awarded to providers in a timely manner. Ensure funding follows the child (where appropriate) throughout their statutory education.***

## Costs of childcare for SEND

Generally, there are enough childcare places to match parental demand. However, the cost of care for a disabled child remains above the cost of standard care and finding suitable ways to fund this continues to prove challenging. The government has introduced new funding for children with SEND in their revised 2017/18 Early Years formula.

***Action – identify potential funding sources from relevant partners to support SEND children's access to childcare and make appropriate use of the new early years disability fund.***

## Childcare costs

Whilst HMRC Tax Credits offer up to 70% funding and Universal Credit up to 85% funding of childcare costs to eligible parents, national figures show that there are still a significant number of parents not getting the childcare money they are entitled to. New legislation has introduced tax free childcare for some parents.

***Action – ensure parents aware of the help available towards childcare costs and are fully informed of their options.***

## Impact of welfare reform

Welfare reforms continue and more and more families will see their benefit entitlements reduced. This may result in an increase in the number of children eligible for a free two year old place. In addition the extended entitlement offer of an extra 15 hours for working parents with children aged 3 and 4 may see more parents take up employment and therefore increase *demand for places*.

***Action – carefully track take up of 2,3,4 year old places and keep abreast of legislative changes that impact on families and their demand for places.***

## Final Comments

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Childcare in Hartlepool continues to be a strong market and fulfils a vital role for parents that train and work. 124 carescheme providers are registered to deliver 2260 childcare places. Whilst it is impossible to ensure every parent is accommodated according to their specific needs, generally childcare in Hartlepool meets the needs of parents and their children. Where it does not The Children's Hub works hard to come up with practical solutions.

For more information about the childcare market in Hartlepool contact Penny Thompson or Lorraine Hutchinson. If you would like copies of any of the previous CSAs please contact The Children's Hub on 01429 284284 alternatively email [childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk).

## Contact Officers

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Penny Thompson,  
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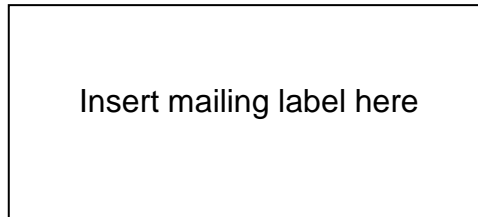


**Appendices**

**Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Childcare Audit 2016-2017**

Hartlepool Borough Council has a duty to undertake an annual childcare audit. The purpose of the audit is to gain comprehensive information on the supply of childcare in Hartlepool. Please complete the survey below. **If you offer more than one childcare service then you need to fill in a separate form for each.** Your responses will be used to update The First Contact and Support Hub database and The Directory. Your response will remain anonymous and you will not be named within the childcare sufficiency report. It will also be included in the next Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. Please return completed surveys using the prepaid envelope enclosed no later than **8<sup>th</sup> November 2016**. For more information on childcare sufficiency contact Lorraine Hutchinson Business Support Officer, 01429 523195 / email [lorraine.hutchinson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.hutchinson@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**Please check the label below and make any necessary amendments.**



**1. Please tell us what type of childcare you offer (circle all that apply) -**

- registered childminder      day nursery      before school club
- after school club      holiday club      'wraparound' / integrated care
- playgroup      other .....

**2. Your OFSTED grade is:**

3. Registered/ approved to deliver a maximum of  childcare places.

4. For a number of reasons we/ I choose to make available  childcare places.

5. We/ I offer childcare in the following age ranges:

| By age range  | 0-2 years | 3-5 years | 5-8 years | 8+ years |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Total number of registered/ approved childcare places |           |           |           |          |

6. We/ I offer childcare at the following times:

| Day   | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Open  |        |         |           |          |        |          |        |
| Close |        |         |           |          |        |          |        |

I am/ we are open -

school PD days

Bank Holidays

weekends

overnight

term time only

week days only

7. We/ I estimate our occupancy levels to be approximately %.

8. We/ I currently have a waiting list.            Yes / No

9. We/ I currently have vacancies.            Yes / No

| By age range | 0-2 years |    | 3-5 years |    | 5-8 years |    | 8+ years |    |
|--------------|-----------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|----------|----|
|              | AM        | PM | AM        | PM | AM        | PM | AM       | PM |
| Monday       |           |    |           |    |           |    |          |    |
| Tuesday      |           |    |           |    |           |    |          |    |
| Wednesday    |           |    |           |    |           |    |          |    |
| Thursday     |           |    |           |    |           |    |          |    |
| Friday       |           |    |           |    |           |    |          |    |
| Saturday     |           |    |           |    |           |    |          |    |
| Sunday       |           |    |           |    |           |    |          |    |

\*please amend this table as appropriate

10. Charges for childcare are as follows -

£..... per hour            £.....per session            £.....per day            £.....per week

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire – your input is appreciated.

Completed questionnaires should be returned by **8<sup>th</sup> November 2016** using the reply paid envelope enclosed.

