



COMMUNITY CHILDCARE AND EARLY LEARNING HUBS

Improving the availability and flexibility of childcare in
a local area

Why do we need Hubs?

Childcare Hubs are a solution to the limited availability of high quality and flexibility of childcare and early education that many parents face. Now being piloted by 4Children around the country, they bring together different kinds of childcare for children 0 – 11 in one local area to offer a blended range of options for parents that are flexible, co-ordinated and high quality in a **‘community childcare and early learning hub’**.

Community childcare hubs resolve a number of problems for parents who are looking for good quality, flexible childcare:

- Local childcare is often confusing with many different providers offering different services but with no co-ordination between them
- Childcare is often quite inflexible with set opening times around the traditional nursery hours of 9.00 to 12.00 and 12.30 to 3.30, leaving parents to make their own arrangements with childminders and others to cover shifts, irregular working hours and even a “normal working day of 9 to 5”
- Parents want their childcare to be high quality and like the idea that professionals in their local area are working together to give their child the very best care and early learning
- Families will need different types of childcare depending on their child’s needs as they grow up, at different times and as their circumstances change.

Childcare Hubs offer:

- One stop hub of information for parents to find out about and access childcare
- A choice of co-ordinated childcare each week including nursery, childminders and out of school childcare blended to suit the families needs that week
- A guarantee of high quality with all providers benefiting from training and support

Piloting Childcare Hubs

Childcare Hubs are being piloted through a DfE VCSE grant (2013-15) by 4Children in partnership with 8 providers around the country. These will:

Prototype the Hub

Building partnerships in local areas to develop a Hub approach and develop a blueprint which can be replicated

Delivery and testing

Testing out the model in practice – gathering information and feedback from parents and revising the approach accordingly

Sharing learning

Sharing our experience and learning to enable other areas and providers develop their own Community Childcare Hubs.

Sustainability

Creating a sustainable model that will allow the Hubs to become self generated and maintained

Information about the 9 Childcare Hubs



Name of Hub	Location	Hub lead setting	Types of providers part of the Hub	Website	Notes
Homerton Childcare Hub	Cambridge, Cambridgeshire	Homerton Children's Centre and Nursery School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childminders • PVI daycare • Maintained Nursery Classes • Children's Centre • Maintained primary schools 	http://www.homerton.cambs.sch.uk/	Homerton is an Outstanding larger than the average sized nursery school and children's centre located outside Cambridge City Centre
Haslemere Childcare Hub	Merton, London	Haslemere Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childminders • Pre-school/after school • Children's Centre • PVI daycare • Maintained primary schools 	http://www.haslemereprimary.co.uk/	Haslemere school is located in a more deprived part of Merton and has a pre-school located at a nearby children's centre
Sheringham Childcare Hub	Newham, London	Sheringham Nursery School and Children's Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childminders • Community Nurseries • PVI Nurseries • Maintained schools including one offering two year old provision in a primary school • Children's Centre 	http://www.sheringham-nur.org.uk/	Sheringham Nursery School and Children's Centre is situated in an area of deprivation. There are a large number of disadvantaged 2 year olds. Unemployment and wellbeing are below the national average.
Ebor Childcare Hub	Strensall, Yorkshire	Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childminders • Pre-school • PVI nurseries • Children's Centre • Academy School 	http://www.rwprimary.uk.org/	Strensall is a village located outside the City of York with low unemployment. The school has recently become an Academy school and is the only school in Strensall.

Name of Hub	Location	Hub lead setting	Types of providers part of the Hub	Website	Notes
Severn View Childcare Hub	Stroud, Gloucestershire	Severn View Primary Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playgroups • PVI nurseries • Children's Centre • Childminders • Academy School 	http://www.severnviewacademy.org/	The school is located in a small countryside town. There are quite high levels of deprivation and high unemployment.
Bluecoat Childcare Hub	Torrington, Devon	Bluecoat Children's Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-schools • Toddler group • Maintained Schools • Children's Centre 	http://www.bluecoat.childrencentre.org/	The children centre is located in a rural town with low levels of employment, education, training and low wages. There is an increasing number of children in the area.
Wooler Childcare Hub	Wooler, Northumberland	Wooler Children's Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Centre • Maintained First Schools • Community Powers Nurseries • Pre-school • Childminders 	http://www.wooler.northumberland.sch.uk/site/1459-our-school/page-20493-extended-school-woolers-childrens-centre	Wooler is a rural area with large distances between providers and low numbers of children.
DragonFisher Hub	York City, Yorkshire	St Georges RC Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PVI Nurseries • Maintained Schools • Children's Centre 	http://www.stgeorgesrc-york.org.uk/	The area has high mobility due to the close proximity of a university, army barracks and families are housed in the area temporarily on a short term basis.