

A summary of childcare in the east end of Glasgow

Executive summary

Background, aims and methods

‘Childcare and Nurture, Glasgow East’ (CHANGE) aims to grow childcare services that best support children and families in the local area, working in partnership with the local community. The work is led by Children in Scotland, with Glasgow City Council and is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. The Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH) is the evaluation partner.

The CHANGE project area (Appendix 2) comprises three neighbourhoods: Calton & Bridgeton; Tollcross & West Shettleston; and Parkhead & Dalmarnock. Small parts of the Springboig & Barlanark, and Mount Vernon & East Shettleston neighbourhoods also sit within the CHANGE area.

This report is the third in a series of monitoring reports that the GCPH has compiled to describe childcare provision and usage in the east of Glasgow as part of the wider evaluation of the CHANGE project. This report aims to:

- a) describe pre-school nursery provision in the CHANGE project area.
- b) summarise the use of pre-school nurseries in the CHANGE area in relation to different demographic dimensions (e.g. age, gender, ethnic group, asylum/refugee status, geography, and area-based deprivation) in comparison with Glasgow as a whole; and compare the characteristics of children with a nursery place to those on a waiting list.
- c) compare and summarise changes in pre-school nursery provision and use of services from the previous years (2018) report.

Data were derived from the following sources: child nursery registrations at June 2019 from Early Learning and Childcare at Glasgow City Council; and population data at June 2018 from National Records of Scotland.

Findings and discussion

Registrations

At June 2019, 22% of the population of children aged 0-5 years living within the CHANGE area had a registered place across the 13 nurseries in the CHANGE area. Since the closure of the voluntary-run Family Legacy Nursery in January 2019 there has been a 5% decrease in nursery capacity in the CHANGE area. Compared with the previous year the proportion of children who had a registered place (76%) and who were awaiting a nursery place (24%) remained the same.

There has been a slight decrease in the population of children aged three- and four-years-old in the CHANGE area, yet an increase in registrations at CHANGE nurseries among three- (+6%) and four- (+13%) year-olds living within the area. This could be attributed to provision of 1,140 hours funded ELC across the six GCC nurseries within the CHANGE area.

While there was a slightly higher demand for GCC nurseries there was only a small (2%) increase in the proportion of children living in the CHANGE area attending GCC nurseries. Notably there was increasing demand for private nurseries as registrations among children living in the CHANGE area increased by 16% from the previous year. There was a 11% increase compared with the previous year in the number of children living in the CHANGE area attending nurseries *outwith* the CHANGE area.

The population in Tollcross & West Shettleston has increased by 17%, while the population has decreased in Calton & Bridgeton (5%) and Parkhead & Dalmarnock (14%). Yet the proportion of children living in these three neighbourhoods who are attending CHANGE nurseries has increased by 5% from the previous year

Compared with the previous year, there was a decline in population levels of children aged 0-5 years living in SIMD decile 1 (-10%) and SIMD 4 (-21%) and increases in population levels among SIMD 5 (+58%), SIMD 8 (+74%), and SIMD 9 (+71%).

While there are considerable percentage increases within the least deprived deciles, the actual *numbers* of children living within deciles is low compared with the numbers

of children living in SIMD 1, where the majority of children in the CHANGE area reside.

Furthermore, these shifts in population levels in the SIMD deciles do not denote that inequalities are narrowing within the CHANGE area and instead could be explained by local area-level factors (i.e. new housing). However, population levels across the SIMD deciles has impacted on the proportion of children in each SIMD decile registered with a CHANGE nursery. For example, 23% of children from SIMD 8, 9, and 10 held registered places at CHANGE nurseries while in the previous year there were no children from these SIMD deciles.

A higher proportion of children from SIMD 1 in the CHANGE area were attending GCC nurseries (23%) compared with private (3%) or voluntary (2%) nurseries. Although GCC nurseries continue to be in higher demand among families in the CHANGE area regardless of SIMD decile.

Waiting lists

At June 2019 there was a slight (1%) decrease in the proportion of children awaiting a nursery place at CHANGE nurseries compared with the previous year. There was a 10% decrease in the proportion of two- and three-year-olds awaiting a place at a CHANGE nursery compared with the previous year which could be attributed to the newly introduced 1,140 hours funded ELC rolled out across GCC nurseries and the subsequent increased demand for places for eligible children.

In June 2019, 99% of children awaiting a place at a CHANGE nursery were awaiting a place at GCC nurseries. While the waiting list for private and voluntary nurseries remained small it is notable that in the previous year, the waiting list for nurseries in the CHANGE area were solely for GCC nurseries.

The majority (81%) of children awaiting a place at a CHANGE nursery also lived within the CHANGE project area. This figure has remained static since June 2018. The key difference from the previous year was that in June 2019, the waiting list for a place at a CHANGE nursery comprised children who lived within all five CHANGE neighbourhoods, while in the previous year the waiting list solely comprised children living within the three main CHANGE neighbourhoods.

Similar to the previous year there were no children living in the CHANGE area from SIMD 9 and 10 and awaiting a place at a CHANGE nursery in June 2019.

There was a 50% reduction in the proportion of children from SIMD 1 who were awaiting a place at a nursery in the CHANGE area (10%) and no children from SIMD 1 were awaiting places at private and voluntary nurseries. The proportion of children from SIMD 1 on the waiting list across all Glasgow nurseries (39%) remains higher compared with the CHANGE area (10%) suggesting that children in SIMD 1 in the CHANGE area are more likely to secure a nursery place compared with the rest of the city.

Conclusion

Findings highlighted that one fifth of children aged 0-5 years living within the CHANGE area were registered with a CHANGE nursery. Nursery registrations were highest among children aged three- and four-years-old, and registration rates have increased in these age groups from the previous year. Meanwhile there was a small overall decrease in children awaiting a place at a CHANGE nursery.

Within the CHANGE area GCC nurseries are still in high demand which is likely to be attributable to their competitive fees and their early introduction of 1,140 hours funded ELC one year before the 2020 Government deadline. Private and voluntary nurseries will be expected to follow suit by August 2020. This increase ahead of Government target is likely to improve affordability for low-income groups, one-parent households, and families with multiple children living within the CHANGE area.

Nevertheless, compared with the previous year, there is increasing demand for private and voluntary nurseries as evidenced by the small but growing waiting list for places. Furthermore, the proportion of children living within the CHANGE area and attending nurseries outwith the CHANGE has increased from the previous year. There have also been distinct changes in population levels across some SIMD deciles in the CHANGE area, although as a proportion, most children living in the CHANGE area are still living in SIMD 1. The proportion of children in SIMD 1 on the

waiting list for a CHANGE nursery has halved from the previous year, yet across all nurseries in Glasgow the proportion of SIMD 1 children awaiting a nursery place remains high.

Key findings

Childcare provision in the CHANGE area

The operating hours of nurseries in the CHANGE area were likely to benefit families working within the hours of 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday. Parents working outwith these hours may experience difficulties accessing nurseries or using their full funded childcare entitlement (known as 'early learning and childcare' or ELC).

- Private and voluntary nurseries, and four out of six GCC nurseries are open all-year round, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8am-6pm.
- Nurseries in the CHANGE area had a waiting list of 408 children.
- All private and voluntary, and three GCC nurseries accepted children aged under one year.

Early learning and childcare

Children in Scotland aged three- and four-years-old, and some eligible two- and five-year-olds, are currently entitled to 600 hours of registered childcare provision funded by the Scottish Government. This is termed 'early learning and childcare' (ELC).

- Currently, eligible children are entitled to 600 hours funded ELC per year. Over a full-year (i.e. 50 weeks) this equates to 12 hours of free childcare per week or 15 hours of childcare per week based on a term-time year (i.e. 38 weeks).
- From August 2020, funded ELC will increase to 1,140 hours per year for all eligible children. Over a full-year this equates to approximately 23 hours of childcare per week or 30 hours per week based on a term-time year.

- At June 2019, all GCC nurseries and three voluntary nurseries in the CHANGE area were delivering 1,140 hours funded ELC in advance of the Government 2020 target.
- All GCC nurseries in Glasgow pledged to deliver 900 hours funded ELC to families living within GCC boundaries and whose household incomes are less than £45,000 per year from August 2019. Over a full year this equates to 18 hours childcare per week or 23 hours childcare per week based on a term-time year.
- Funded ELC follows the child rather than the nursery and is designed to be free at the point of access.
- Parents whose children attend a registered childcare provider and receive funded ELC will only pay for the childcare hours they use over and above their funded ELC entitlement.

Registrations

Since the closure of the Family Legacy nursery in January 2019, nursery capacity in the CHANGE area has reduced by 5%. The number of children aged 0-5 years in the CHANGE area has declined, however, nursery registrations have increased compared with the previous year. The proportion of children living in the CHANGE area but attending nurseries outwith the CHANGE area has increased from 6%-17% from the previous year.

- 51% of the population of children aged 0-5 years living in Glasgow were registered with a nursery in June 2019: 76% had a registered place and 24% were on the waiting list.
- Across Glasgow, 75% of children had a registered place and 25% were on the waiting list.
- In the CHANGE area, 73% of children had a registered place and 27% were on the waiting list.
- 71% of registered places at CHANGE nurseries were taken up by children aged three and four years (i.e. children entitled to funded ELC).

- 83% of children attending CHANGE nurseries lived within the CHANGE project area.
- 54% of children aged 0-5 years living in the CHANGE area were from SIMD 1 but only 28% of children in SIMD 1 in the CHANGE area had a registered place at a CHANGE nursery. The highest proportion of children with a registered place at a CHANGE nursery was among SIMD 7 (33%).
- A higher proportion of children in SIMD 1 were attending GCC nurseries (23%) compared with private (3%) or voluntary (2%) nurseries. Although higher rates of registrations at GCC nurseries were found across every SIMD decile.

Waiting lists

Compared with the previous year, there has been a small overall decrease in the number of children awaiting a place at a CHANGE nursery. This decrease was most prominent among children aged two and three years. The high demand for Glasgow City Council (GCC) nurseries across the SIMD deciles was attributed to the lower cost of fees despite some offering less flexibility compared with private and voluntary nurseries.

- 408 children were awaiting a place at CHANGE nurseries at June 2019.
- 54% of the waiting list at CHANGE nurseries was for children aged one- and two-years-old.
- 99% of the waiting list at CHANGE nurseries was for GCC nurseries.
- 81% of the waiting list at CHANGE nurseries were for children who lived within the CHANGE area.
- The highest proportion of children awaiting a place at CHANGE nurseries lived in SIMD 4. There were no children living in SIMD 9 and 10 on the waiting list for a CHANGE nursery.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this report it is recommended that future effort focus on the following three areas:

1. Changing how child places at nurseries are recorded may improve understanding of capacity and use. For example, recording the number of *hours* the child is using rather than recording the number of sessions (i.e. day or half-day). This level of data may enable future development of childcare services to suit family's needs and meet local demand.
2. Demand for childcare within the CHANGE project is growing despite a slight decrease in population levels. Increasing capacity to meet this demand and providing flexible childcare options for families who require them needs to be addressed.
3. Extending funded ELC to children who are not currently eligible should be considered for improving affordability for low-income groups, one-parent households, and families with multiple children; as well as increasing women's participation in the workforce.