



## March Survey – Local Childcare Services

Every month we invite a response to our online survey. Our survey for March 2015 was about the provision, type and cost of local out of school childcare services. As childcare is a major issue for one-parent families, we wanted to find out how this issue affects parents, what services are available and how much they cost.

### The Questions

1. How would you rate the out of school childcare services in your local community/neighbourhood?
2. If you have experience of out of school care services, who are they provided by?
3. If you use an out of school care service, what are the costs per session?

### The Results

**Q1** When asked to rate the out of school services in their local area, 46% of respondents answered 'very poor', with 24% stating that their local services are 'poor'. 12% of respondents rated local services as 'good' and less than 3% of respondents rated local services as 'Excellent'.

These results show that people are hugely dissatisfied with local childcare services available to them and there needs to be greater investment in the provision of adequate afterschool childcare in local community areas.

**Q2** Question two asked who provides afterschool childcare services for parents. The results show that 36% of respondents see grandparents as their primary childcare provider, with 8% citing other family members as their childcare provider. This means nearly 45% of respondents must rely on family members to mind their children after school.

Some respondents stated that there were no local childcare services available in their area so they used private baby sitters. 26% of respondents use a private sector provider and 20% cited using either volunteers or a specialist community group to provide childcare.

**Q3** With regard to the cost of childcare in the locale, 47% of people cited that they pay between €11.00 and €25.00 per session for afterschool care. 9% pay over €26.00 per session for this service. 11% of respondents receive services for free, and a further 27% avail of a low-cost service for up to €10.00 per session. One respondent noted that while the service available in their area is affordable, it is not available for older children.

*'Subvented and very cheap... but only available up to 12 years'*



Childcare costs are a major barrier to parents returning to the workforce or to education, particularly for one-parent families. One Family continues to highlight this. The results and comments received in our monthly surveys are incorporated into our policy and budget submissions.