

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGO FOR 28/1/09

Childcare costs rocket in Scotland

Daycare Trust publish the findings of the eighth annual childcare costs survey, sponsored by Imagine Co-operative Childcare.

Costs of nurseries and out-of-school childcare have risen sharply across Scotland and are continuing to rise above the level of inflation, according to the eighth annual Childcare Costs Survey published today by the Daycare Trust, part of the National Childcare Campaign.

The Survey, produced for Scotland with the assistance of Children in Scotland, shows that the cost of out-of-school childcare in Scotland has increased by 29 per cent within the last 12 months, while the cost of a nursery place has risen by 12 per cent.

Key findings:

- The cost of a nursery place for an under two year old has soared by 12 per cent to £158 per week and also by 12 per cent to £143 for a child two years or over.
- The cost of a childminder has also increased substantially, by 11.5 per cent for a child under two and 9 per cent for two years and over.
- Out-of-school childcare experienced a dramatic increase of 29 per cent and now stands at £49 per week for an average place, well above that in England.
- The yearly cost of a typical full-time nursery place for a child under two is now £8,216 in Scotland.

Chief Executive of Children in Scotland, Dr Bronwen Cohen, said:

“These soaring increases leave Scottish parents facing the steepest increases in Britain and underline the urgency of implementing Scotland’s early years strategy published last December [see Notes to Editors]. This ten-year vision supporting young children and their families makes a strong case for Scottish local authorities to direct resources into universal services that offer a holistic and integrated approach to meeting care and education needs for Scotland’s young children.”

“Children in Scotland has written to the Chancellor calling for the Treasury to make available new funding to governments and devolved assemblies across the UK to bring our early years infrastructure into the 21st century. Without Treasury action we will be seeing significant increases in child poverty.”

Daycare Trust joint chief executive Alison Garnham/Emma Knights said:

“The cost of pre-school childcare has increased above inflation across Great Britain, but the sharp increases in Scotland are a serious cause for concern.

“Over the last 12 months the cost of a nursery place in Scotland has risen by almost four times the rate of inflation, whilst the costs of childcare for school age children rose at almost ten times the rate of inflation. There can be no doubt this will hit Scottish parents in the pocket.”

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

1. In December, the Scottish Government’s Concordat along with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) published the **Early Years Framework**, a new initiative which included the following policy recommendations for Scotland:

- The engagement and empowerment of children, families and communities
- Using universal services to deliver prevention and early intervention
- Renewed focus on 0-3 as the period of a child’s life that shapes future outcomes
- Breaking down barriers between education and childcare through a move to more integrated, flexible services.

2. The full Childcare Costs Survey is available on the Daycare Trust website at www.daycaretrust.org.uk. For an advance copy of the report email jcalouri@daycaretrust.org.uk or call the Daycare Trust press office on 07736 311082.

3. **Children in Scotland** is the national agency for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals working with children and their families in Scotland. It exists to identify and promote the interests of children and their families and to ensure that relevant policies, services and provision are of the best possible quality and able to meet the demands of a diverse society. For further information visit: <http://www.childreninScotland.org.uk>

4. **Daycare Trust** is the national childcare charity, campaigning for quality affordable accessible childcare for all and raising the voices of children, parents and carers. We advise parents and carers, providers, employers, trade unions and policymakers on childcare issues. We recognise that everyone is unique and we value difference in our communities. We listen to all views and are committed to act without prejudice. We oppose all discrimination and promote equality in all we do.

For further information:

Children in Scotland

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Daycare Trust

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