

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Scottish childcare costs levelling off, survey finds**

**A survey of childcare costs by Children in Scotland and the Daycare Trust has recorded a slight fall in the cost of childcare in Scotland.**

A typical nursery place for a child aged under two in Scotland is now £141 and £128 for a child aged two and over – both figures three per cent down on last year. Childminder fees are typically £139 for a child aged under two and £141 for a child aged two and over. The typical cost of an out-of-school club in Scotland is £38 for 15 hours a week – the same as 2007.

Bronwen Cohen, chief executive of Children in Scotland, said: “We are pleased to see that last year’s trend of rapidly rising costs has been slowed with a small drop of three per cent. However, childcare costs in Scotland are still too high. The survey results again underline the need to integrate pre-school education with childcare, and ensure that all young children have access to full-day provision when required in neighbourhood services. This would build better community cohesion and ultimately support more secure childhoods.”

“The fragmented nature of pre-school services for children and the high costs of childcare for parents are two of the key issues needing to be addressed in the national early years strategy currently being developed by the Scottish Government. The continuing divide between childcare and education in the UK is also one of the issues highlighted by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development’s (OECD’s) Starting Strong II report, released in 2006.”

The results are part of Children in Scotland and the Daycare Trust's annual survey of childcare costs for 2007, published today. They follow the steep cost increases in Scottish childcare found in last year's survey.

Daycare Trust produced the survey from data provided by Children's Information Services in England, Wales and Scotland, with sponsorship from Imagine Childcare and help from Children in Scotland.

The survey can be downloaded from the Daycare Trust's website:  
[http://www.daycaretrust.org.uk/mod.php?mod=userpage&menu=1003&page\\_id=352](http://www.daycaretrust.org.uk/mod.php?mod=userpage&menu=1003&page_id=352)

**For more information contact Chris Small: tel 0131 222 2419 / email [csmall@childreninscotland.org.uk](mailto:csmall@childreninscotland.org.uk)**