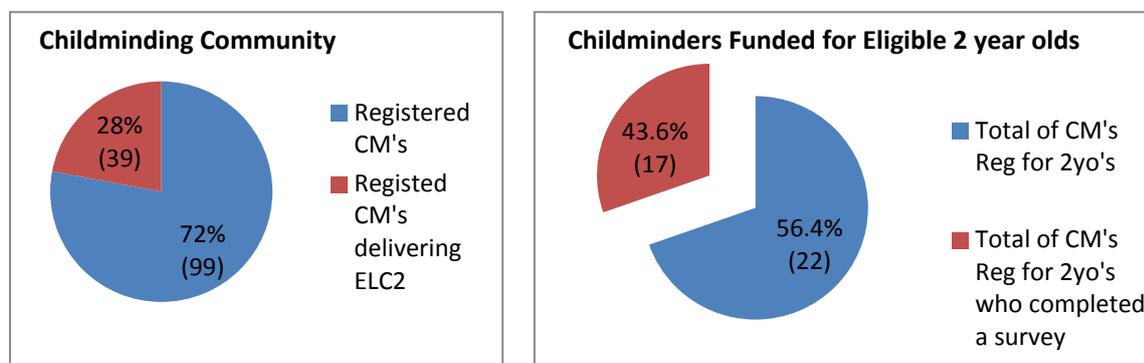


Across the Scottish Borders there are a total of 138 Childminders who are on the public list and 13 Childminders how are active but not on the public list. With approximately 28% (39) currently registered as a Partner Provider to delivery Early Learning & Childcare for eligible 2 year olds. At the time of consultation only one childminder is actively caring for a funded 2 year old, this reflecting parental choice in choosing where their child takes up their funded place.



A total of 46 (33%) completed surveys were from childminders, 19 of whom completed a survey as well as attending an information session with 6 childminders choosing to attend the session only and not submit a survey. Overall this gave us a total engagement rate of 37.7%

HS Area	No of CM's	CM's as PP for 2yo's	Total Surveys received	*Number of CM's Completed Survey only	*Number of CM's Both completing Survey & attending Information Session	*Number of CM's Attended Roadshow only	% Engagement by HS area (= total of *)
Berwickshire	14	5	7	2	5	2	64% (9)
Earlston	22	7	6	1	5	1	32% (7)
Eyemouth	10	6	5	1	4	0	50% (5)
Galashiels	14	4	9	8	1	0	64% (9)
Hawick	10	1	1	1	0	0	10% (1)
Jedburgh	5	1	1	1	0	0	20% (1)
Kelso	11	1	1	1	0	0	9% (1)
Peebles	38	13	15	10	5	3	47% (18)
Selkirk	14	1	1	1	0	0	7% (1)
Totals	138	39	46	26	20	6	37.7% (52)

Note: not all surveys were fully completed as some childminders chose not to respond to all questions

What childminders told us about their Business

From the 46 completed surveys 76% of childminders saw themselves being a childminder for the 'foreseeable future' or as long as there is a market for their services, a few were more specific 'the next 5-10 years' or when their youngest child is in secondary education. Childminding is the sole occupation for all but a few childminders. 32% have been in business less than 2 years, 33% between 3-10years and 35% between 10 and 22 years.

The number of children cared for varied according to individual circumstances, across the age range of 0-16 years of age. Of those who responded 57% were registered for six children (of whom no more than three not yet attending school, including one aged under a year.) with 33% catering for between 7-11 children. Of the remaining 10%, 2% were registered for four and 8% did not supply the information.

Generally, childminders offered their services between 7.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. Monday to Friday with some offering an earlier start (from 6.00 a.m.) or later finish (8.00 p.m.). Most were open to offering a responsive service, being flexible to parental need where/when possible. This included consideration of weekends and where parent's employment involved shift patterns. Equally, some operate a shorter day between 4-5 p.m., short week (4 days) or part-time/asymmetric style week.

Holiday periods varied between the Christmas period only or during school holiday periods, across two to six weeks.

Cost: Varies between £3.50 and £5 per hour. Some operate a higher hourly rate for drop off prior to 8.00 a.m. and pick up after 6 pm or an 'all in rate' for before school, breakfast and drop off at school, with 20% offering a sibling discount.

Meals: 22% of childminders choose to include all meals and snacks within their hourly rate, in some instances parents provided food. Where meal charges are separate, the costs ranged between £1-£2 for Breakfast, 50p - £2.50 for Lunch and £1-£2.50 for Tea some also paid between .50p and £1 for snacks.

Nappies/Wipes: Whilst some parents may be asked to provide both of these or nappies only, some childminders opt to provide both or wipes only.

50% of Childminders don't ask parents to pay in advance whilst others operate a mixed process of weekly or monthly in advance. 96% confirmed they accept Childcare Vouchers and 70% are registered under the Government's Tax Free Childcare Scheme

Deposits & Retainers: 17% of the 46 childminders operate some type of deposit schemes with approximately 7% stating it was non-refundable. Registration or administration fees are not something which childminders attribute a cost to.

Of the 46 respondents 48% charge some retainers for places over holidays on a varied level of 25% or 50% of usual fees. In some instances full fees or half fees were incurred dependent on circumstances or an increased rate for a term time only contract utilised.

Inspections: 76% of respondents have been inspected by the Care Inspectorate during the last four years 60% of achieving 5 & 6 across Support, Environment and Management.

Qualifications: Of the 46 Childminders who responded to the survey questions on qualifications 57% qualified between SVQ Level 2 and Degree level (one of whom has a BA Childhood Practice). With 57% qualified to SVQ Level 3 (including 9% with SNNEB/NNEB). A further 16% are working towards SVQ 3 Social Services (Children & Young People). 15% stated they had no qualifications

CPD: When asked how they ensure they complete relevant ongoing CPD the majority of childminders felt this was achieved by going to regular training sessions provided by SCMA/SBC. As well as attending mandatory training /refresher courses many choose courses they feel will improve their skills or if it is a new course. Some have a personal development plan, identify the areas where they could improve and find a CPD course which meets their need on a regular basis.

Quality: 72% stated that they evaluated and measured the quality of their setting by being registered with the Care Inspectorate and maintaining registration, annual Self-Assessment, Care Inspectorate grades, parent/children questionnaires and feedback.

Whilst a further few specified the use of 'Building the Ambition', weekly/monthly monitoring of changes in their business (e.g. policy updates), CPD courses and mandatory training needs, use of HGIOELC, monthly reflective practice and evaluation also contributed with developing the quality of their service.

When it comes to contingency planning childminders feel they have policies and procedures in place to support arrangements with their parents or other childminders / assistants or options to offer hours at a later date.

Planning for 1140 hours

From the surveys 87% of childminders feel that they would be able to offer the expansion of hours within their current business model with 16% stating they would not (others did not respond). 72% stated they had conversations with parents regarding the expansion of hours; discussing their needs/wishes/preferences and encouraging them to write to SBC to ensure their desire for a blend of Nursery and Childminding hours is possible.

67% of childminders identified various models as follows:

- Based on the asymmetric week to be the same as the LA Nursery and offering wraparound care, before and after to provide a full day service
- Offer a blended service for those using the local nursery
- Offering part funded /part fee based contracted hours full day or part day as required
- 1140 hours over 4 days.
- As parents and children need
- Full/part-time/wraparound
- a.m. or p.m. & pick up from nursery
- In line with their current service
- Already offer 50hrs a week - be a matter of adjusting to new monitoring
- Hours and days: 7.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday over 46 weeks of the year – “this is much broader than the school nurseries.” *Note: also matches what a day nursery can offer*
- Use any of the days and times that my service is open, depending on space.

There is a perception (real or perceived) that the expansion means too many hours in a busy, loud setting for a child and that a childminding setting offers quieter periods of time where they can still learn as much as at school nursery but in a less busy place, time where they can reflect on their day.

However there is also the recognition that some may prefer a part blended approach and some may prefer a complete use of childminder - the key is choice of what is the best for a child and parent's work needs/commitments. In one instance a CM is busy with 0-3 and feels this will still be the case when 1140 hours are in place.

Adjustments: 44% felt that no adjustments would be required and they would continue as they are, with a small percentage (13%) requiring more information or couldn't answer without knowing how things work

Cost Implications: 38% cited the difference in hourly rate versus funded rate as a potential issue. Snack and meal payment or resources would also have to be considered. Information about the funding process and what this involved was needed; 35% felt there would be none or are unknown

Other considerations were around

- Training on new/different paperwork
- getting the right balance between nursery and childminding setting for each child at each stage in consultation with the parent
- may think about applying for variation to take on extra 3 and 4 years olds as have the space and staff to do this
- Extra time allocated for paperwork, planning and evaluating