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The Impact of the London Childcare Affordability Programme (CAP)

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CAP Overview

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- **Existing programme (November 2005- March 09) to subsidise Full Day Care and Flexible Care places for children aged 0-14 to enable parents on low incomes to return to, remain in, or take up training and/or sustainable employment. In inner London, more than half of children are in poverty.**
- **It's aim is to make childcare more affordable and flexible for lower income parents in London and to provide parents with greater access to childcare.**
- **Funded by the London development Agency (LDA) and the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF)**

Why is help with the cost of childcare needed?

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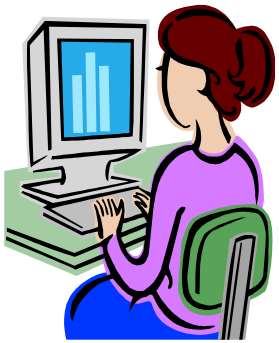
Childcare is regularly cited as the reason for female economic inactivity

Narrowing the gap between male and female employment could boost GDP by 8%

The cost of childcare in London is 25% more expensive than elsewhere

Availability and take up of part time work is lower in London than elsewhere

Low take up of childcare tax credits



Who has CAP helped - outcomes

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Children supported

‘over 9000’

Families Supported

‘over 8500’

Economic Impact

Benefit

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Lessons Learned (1)

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- Supply side funding is an incentive to providers as it guarantees payment
- Supply side funding is an incentive to parents as it encourages them to remain at a setting, creating stability for the child
- Childcare subsidies increase the catchment group of parents who can afford high quality childcare, which also increases nursery take-up and sustainability.
- Client-focused employment support ensures that the advisers identify the parents needs and prioritise them based on the most basic and the most urgent.
- Advisers are able to give the accessibility and flexibility that parents require

Lessons Learned (2)

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- Parents find the support from the adviser essential to motivate them to move on to the next stage in their employment journey
- Parents need support from an Adviser that they can trust to advocate on their behalf.
- Advice and support on childcare is vital for parents who are returning to work
- Advisers are able to offer intensive support to move clients forward, especially moving hard-to-reach parents to the job-ready point as quickly as possible.
- Est saving of £15,500 per parent against unit cost of £4000

Maintaining Excellence and Quality

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Not 'rocket science'

- **highly qualified workforce = high quality**
- **raising pay and conditions = a more diverse, skilled and quality workforce**

Wholesale improvement won't happen until there is an equitable playing field between the PVI and the Maintained sectors

Looking forward

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CAP's success recognised in the Child Poverty Budget Report

CAP09 will extend the principles of the original Programme

CAP09 will 'test' a mix of interventions to tackle the complexity and inequality of access to affordable, flexible childcare, support and advice

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