

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau / Petitions Committee
 Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
 Caerdydd / Cardiff
 CF99 1NA

Monday 30th April 2012

Dear Committee members

I am a working parent with two young children living in the Vale of Glamorgan, and I would like to support P-04-346: Petition on provision of early years education. I did not sign the petition as I was unaware of its existence. I understand that although the petition is now closed for signatures you are still collecting evidence.

I understand that you are interested in three main areas:

1) Are you able to access early years education for your 3-4 year old in a way that is convenient to you?

No as both parents work full time and we do not have family support available. We cannot change our working hours 5 days a week to fit around the provision as it exists at the moment.

2) Does the provision of early years education for your 3-4 year old enhance or hinder your opportunities to work or study?

It hinders it completely because if I did not work I would be unlikely to find a job that allowed me to work for the short time that the children are in the early years education or a course which only required an hour or so study or attendance at college a day. I am also aware that many people do not return to work because they will lose out financially by not being able to take advantage of the provision of early years education without wrap around care. The use of wrap around care makes the cost of sending a child to provision of early years education the same as, or more than, not sending them at all and leaving the child in nursery.

3) Have you declined to take up provision for early years education for your 3-4 year old as it is inconvenient for you to do so? If so, what childcare provisions have you made instead?

We are deciding what to do at present but are likely to turn it down due to the difficulties and cost of the wrap around care and may continue to use our private nursery on a full time basis. Certainly we cannot accommodate taking our children there ourselves 5 times a day. If it was 2 full days it may be possible but the voucher system is by far the best and most flexible for working parents I would have thought, especially as many

private nurseries follow the required curriculum. It would also take the burden off the state provided early years establishments if not all families had to use them but could continue to use their private nurseries via a voucher system.

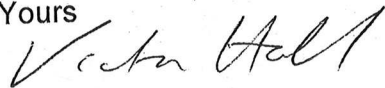
The issue is very emotive because working parents are contributing to the economy and being penalised for doing so. My Partner runs a small business and could give up that business due to this and make 2 other employees redundant. How would that help? There is also the ongoing campaigns to get women back to work and to support working families. This is a nonsense in relation to the provision of early years education. It could not be less supportive of working parents and mothers in particular.

I hope that there is a serious review of this provision and a more sensible common sense approach is adopted. I have written to the Vale about this issue and was very insulted by the lack of effort in their response and their comment that they could not be expected to meet my personal needs. My personal need is that I have to work to support my family. I hope that a more constructive response is achieved through this route.

Thank you for taking the time to review this issue

sincerely,

Yours



Victoria Hall