

# Childcare Partners Scheme - Blackpool

## **Background and context**

In April 2007, Blackpool launched its Childcare Partners Scheme, designed to bring all local childcare providers together to enhance the benefits of quality childcare available to children and families.

## **Detail**

This scheme was developed in response to consultation with Blackpool private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector childcare providers, including those offering group and sessional care, and childminders.

The development work was undertaken by members of the Blackpool Sure Start Partnership, which is made up of representatives from all private, voluntary and independent childcare providers, the local authority, head teachers, Health, Jobcentre Plus, Blackpool and Fylde College of Further Education, BOSCA (Blackpool Out of School Association) and Blackpool Council members.

The Scheme is a formal partnership between Blackpool Children's Centres, and the PVI sector. There are currently approximately 200 PVI sector childcare providers in Blackpool.

By signing up to the Scheme, PVI childcare providers and Children's Centres can benefit from sharing each other's skills and expertise, good practice, professional development, resources and facilities. To join the Scheme, a childcare provider has to show that they are meeting agreed quality criteria. This will mean that parents will have more informed choice of good quality childcare.

## **Outcomes**

Within two months of the scheme launch, in excess of 50 providers had been signed up and certificated. At the time of writing, the scheme is too new to record outcomes, but these will be monitored closely.

## **Any future developments**

The Partnership is considering developing workshops to share the scheme with other local authorities.

## **Contact**

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