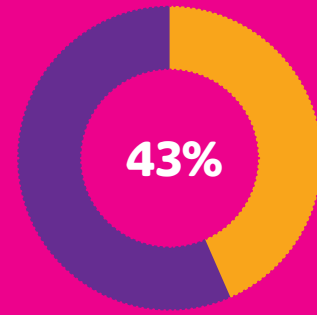
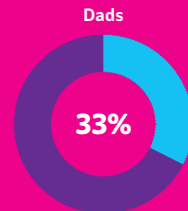
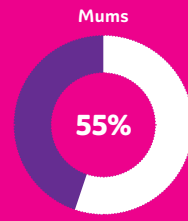


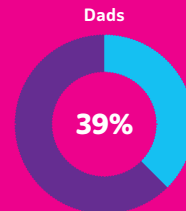
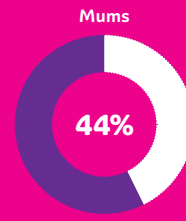
Childcare Costs – 2. Impact on Work:



50% of the parents reduced their working hours or left work altogether because of the cost of childcare. More mums (55%) than dads (33%) reduced their working hours or left work altogether due to the cost of childcare.



43% of parents changed the pattern of their working hours, for example choosing flexi-time, shift work or compressed hours.



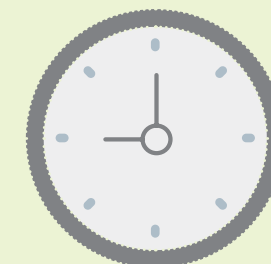
Quality and Provision of childcare:



of parents stated that they were **happy with the quality of the care provided** by their provider



of parents said there was **insufficient childcare** in their local area



41 hrs

Parents used an **average of 41 hours** of childcare each week

Childcare Costs – 3. Impact on Family:



The cost of childcare and its impact on work effects family relationships for many parents.

It is clear that parental and family wellbeing, including mental and emotional health, is affected.



81%
of all informal
childcare was
provided by
grandparents

The role grandparents play in supporting parents to work is crucial for families but can be detrimental to their own circumstances, **physically, mentally, socially and financially.**

Physical
Wellbeing

Mental
Wellbeing

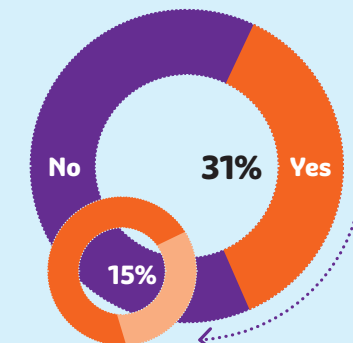
Social
Wellbeing

Financial
Wellbeing



50%
of parents are unsure
that they are claiming
all the family benefits
and entitlements
available for
their family.

Information:



Only **31%** of parents had an awareness of the new **Tax-Free Childcare scheme**, which will be introduced in 2017. Of these parents only **15%** had a good understanding of how it would work.

What can Government do?

When we asked parents what Government can do to address childcare provision the overwhelming majority suggested measures which could reduce the cost of childcare, such as **tax breaks, subsidies, capping costs or enhanced financial support**. Many also called for **universally free childcare provision**.

A number of parents said that the government had a lack of interest in childcare, despite it being an essential mechanism to enable them to work and support their families.

Conclusions:

Our findings demonstrate very clearly that childcare is both a social and economic issue. **Failure to address childcare contributes to many other issues**, such as the level of in-work poverty, family debt and economic inactivity.

We call on the Executive to publish and implement the full childcare strategy, with a commitment that adequate funding will be available to finance the strategy. We believe this should be the first step in working towards a system of universal childcare for Northern Ireland.

In particular measures should be included to **ensure that all parents are aware of and claiming all of the financial support available to them.** This is particularly urgent given the introduction of Tax-Free Childcare and Universal Credit from next year.

Northern
Ireland
Childcare Cost
Survey 2016

This booklet summarises the key findings of the 2016 Northern Ireland Childcare Cost Survey. The report details the cost of childcare and the impact it has on local families. This year over 900 childcare providers and 6,000 parents responded to the survey.

The full report can be downloaded at: www.employersforchildcare.org



Cost of childcare:

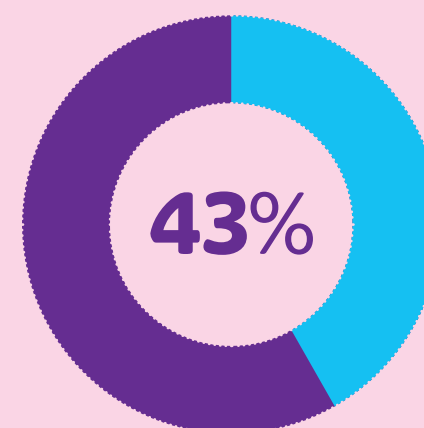
The cost of a full-time place has risen to **£168 per week**.

This is a **£4 increase** (2.4%) since 2015 and rise higher than the rate of inflation.



Childcare in comparison to income and household costs:

Weekly childcare costs consume **43%** of the median net weekly earning.



1 in 3 parents told us that the childcare bill was their largest monthly outgoing

After housing costs **the childcare bill was the largest monthly outgoing for families, exceeding grocery bills, heating, transport and other household costs.**

Childcare Costs – 1. Impact on Finances:



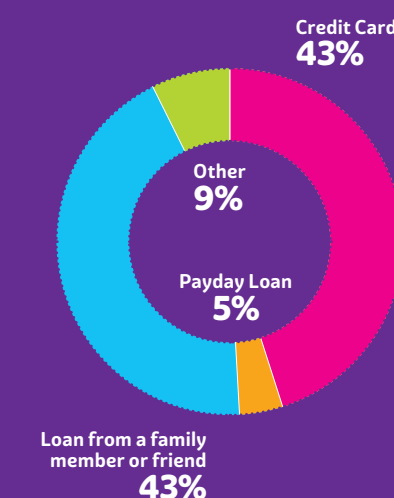
63% of parents struggled to meet their childcare bill either throughout the year or at some point during it

55% of parents said the cost of childcare put them under increased financial pressure

25% of parents regularly used credit cards, loans from family or friends or payday loans to pay their childcare bill

“It cripples us... we literally have no money left and regularly have to borrow from family... it puts us under so much stress we regularly row about it.”

Other means used to meet childcare costs:



Once again average childcare costs have increased over the last year. **A full-time average place now costs £8,736 per year.**