

# how do we make childcare affordable whilst maintaining quality?

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# what is happening with affordability?

- Fees up year on year, but in real terms down 3% over past 10 years (Laing & Buisson)
- Pressure on providers' costs – VAT, utilities, wages, rates, LA support for training/quality reducing, free nursery education shortfalls
- Squeeze on parents' pockets – inflation, wage restraint
- Reduction in support – Tax Credits, Child Benefit to come

# solutions

- National
- Local
- Providers

# national

- School funding review – opportunity for reform
- Early Education and Childcare consultation – including code of practice and sufficiency – reduce burdens
- Two year old offer – need a sustainable model for providers
- Admissions code – choice for parents
- Universal credit – direct payment
- The Covenant – set a framework for a vibrant, quality mixed economy – think about impact of other government departments eg business rates
- Qualifications review – professor Cathy Nutbrown

# local

- Political will to prioritise early intervention/early years
- Commissioning for quality, without extra burdens
- Quality costs – 2, 3 and 4 year old funding
- Creative solutions for workforce development/training – online learning and quality improvement
- Engage the workforce in its own CPD – ensure this is good quality
- Engage the ‘hard to reach providers’

# providers

- Leadership and management skills
- New culture – ownership of own quality improvement and workforce development
- Understand the return on investment (ROI) of investing in quality
- Networks and peer to peer learning
- Parent power – the localism agenda; getting employer support/vouchers

# final thoughts

- New environment means need new attitudes and approaches
- Partnership approach – Government/LAs/providers/national organisations – we all have common aims for Families in the Foundation Years