

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motion 3 in the name of Councillor Hooks to be seconded by Councillor Bourne	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: January 20 2016

“This Council believes:

- Childcare is an essential component of the infrastructure of the modern state.
- High quality, affordable and sufficiently available childcare options are beneficial both to parents (and guardians and other carers) and children, and should be available to all families.
- This Council is proud of our success in supporting children’s development with 5 year olds in Lewisham, achieving a good level of development at a higher rate than anywhere else in England. But the position is not so positive in terms of the support we are able to give to working families.
- Many parts of the country have insufficient childcare options to meet the demands of their residents, particularly parents with “non-standard” working hours, and changes to the welfare system are likely to exacerbate this.
- The affordability of childcare is a particular issue – as the cost of childcare continues to rise while wages remain static, the cost of childcare means, for many families, it is not possible for parents and guardians to work.

This Council resolves:

To write to the Secretary of State for Education and request that she:

- (i) make the implementation of a high-quality, flexible and affordable nationwide system of childcare a government priority;
- (ii) develop a strategy to expand the availability of childcare nationally, particularly in light of welfare reforms which will lead to more parents working, and working for longer hours;
- (iii) undertake a thorough assessment of after-school and holiday childcare provision, accounting for the welfare reforms, and devises a strategy for ensuring all parents and guardians can access affordable and quality childcare;

- (iv) extend the review of childcare funding to examine options for reform and look at how childcare can be made more affordable on a realistic and sustainable basis across the country; and
- (v) carry out a national programme raising awareness of childcare options.