

APPENDIX E

TEMPLATE USED FOR FOCUS GROUPS WITH PARENTS/CARERS

CHILDCARE FOR ISLINGTON: CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2007

FOCUS GROUP:
x Islington parents of y children
at setting/of particular group

xxxday y month, time
address where focus group took place

Overall theme: Your experience of childcare in Islington

Theme 1: Current use of childcare

Q - What sort of childcare are you using at the moment (for what ages of children)?

(prompts of type of childcare to be asked about below):

Childminder:

After school club:

Holiday playscheme (in which case, which holidays?):

Friends / family

Nanny / Aupair

Carer (direct payment re SEN):

Other

Q - What is the main reason you use childcare or want to use childcare?

Q - Has this changed or is it likely to change in next few years?

Q - Have you used childcare outside the borough?

Q - Why? Why not?

Q - How far in minutes are you prepared to travel to childcare/let your children travel?

Q - What's most important to you when choosing your childcare?

(go through each of prompts below – put up on flipchart paper, then ask the group to come to a consensus, if they can, on **top 4**) -

Safety and security:

Close to home:

Close to sibling's school/childcare:

Close to work:

Close to place of study:

At home:

Qualified staff:

Atmosphere:

Quality of facilities

Opening hours and days:

Caters for SEN / disabilities:

Ofsted registered:

Inclusive

Costs and charges:

Q - Why? What else?

TOP FOUR:

Theme 2: Satisfaction/Quality issues

Q - At the moment, how happy are you with your childcare overall?

Q - Which aspects are you happy with?

(go through each of prompts below – put up on flipchart paper, then ask the group to come to a consensus, if they can, on **top 4**) – this can be a bit repetitive from previous question, so use discretion on how long to spend on this question. Should get at least **top 4**.

- Safety and security
- Close to home
- Qualified staff
- Atmosphere
- Quality of facilities

- Opening hours
- Caters for special needs
- Caters for other needs – religion etc

TOP FOUR:

Q - Which are you not so happy with/what could be improved?

Theme 3: Barriers and support

Q - How difficult have you found it to find the right sort of childcare?

Q - How do you usually find out about childcare?

Q - Have you heard of the CIS? (count the number of yeses and nos)
(at this point we give out A5 CIS flyers, also show the 'Children and Money' pack, and if poss the SEN directory, and mention the online Children's Directory)

Q - If you have used the CIS, what have you used them for?

Q - Is there anything else you would like to tell us about childcare in Islington?

Additional questions (time permitting):

We are also looking at developing integrated services for young people, aged 11 to 19 or to 24 with special educational needs. So we have two supplementary questions to ask you if you have children of that age.

Q. What are the barriers to your child/ren (if aged 11 to 24) accessing mainstream activities (such as youth clubs, leisure and sports facilities, drama, dance, music, etc)?

Q. What information, advice and guidance do you access or would you like to access in relation to education, employment and training to help your child/ren make positive choices?