

---

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE

RHEYNN YNSEE, SPOYRT AS CULTOOR



**Isle of Man**  
Government

*Reiltys Ellan Vannin*

## Isle of Man Childcare

### A Consultation Document

# Contents

<b>Summary .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Overview .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Responding to this consultation.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Reasonable adjustments and alternative formats.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>What happens next .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Section 1: About you .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Question 1: .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Question 2: .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Question 3: .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Question 4: .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Question 5: .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Question 6: .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Question 7: .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Section2: Formal Childcare.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Question 8: .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Question 9: .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Question 10: .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Question 11: .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Question 12: .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Question 13: .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Question 14: .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Question 15: .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Question 16: .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Section3: Wraparound and Holiday Childcare .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Question 17: .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Question 18: .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Question 19: .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Question 20: .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Question 21: .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Section 4: Informal Childcare.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Question 22: .....</b>	<b>12</b>

Question 23: .....	12
Question 24: .....	12
Question 25: .....	12
<b>Section 5: Additional needs .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Question 26: .....	13
Question 27: .....	13
<b>Section 6: Affordability and Financial Support .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Question 28: .....	14
Question 29: .....	14
Question 30: .....	14
Question 31: .....	14
Question 32: .....	14
<b>Section 6: Childcare and Work.....</b>	<b>15</b>
Question 33: .....	15
Question 34: .....	15
<b>Section 7: What would improve childcare for your family? .....</b>	<b>16</b>
Question 35: .....	16

## Summary

### Overview

The Department of Education, Sport and Culture would like to hear from parents and legal guardians about childcare on the Isle of Man for children up to the end of primary school. It covers formal childcare, wraparound and holiday provision, informal childcare, affordability, and how childcare affects work and family life.

Feedback will help the Department understand what is working well, where there are gaps, and what changes may be needed.

### Why your views matter

The Island Plan highlights the need for a Secure, Vibrant and Sustainable future, ensuring there are Outstanding Lifelong Learning and Development Opportunities for all. It sets out success criteria whereby 'our children have the best possible start in life, including equal access to early years education and childcare' through the implementation of the Childcare Strategy and any necessary changes to employment law so that parents can access childcare at various stages and balance home and work commitments.

To work towards this priority, the Isle of Man Childcare Strategy was published in 2022. This aims to make childcare available and affordable to all. To achieve this, the strategy has a vision to ensure every child has an opportunity to access high quality childcare and early education and every parent has the choice to access childcare.

### Responding to this consultation

This survey is for parents and carers of children aged 0 to 11 who live on the Isle of Man. This survey should take around 20-25 minutes to complete.

Responses may be submitted online or alternatively; you may also submit responses by e-mail or post to:

**Name:** DESC Policy Hub

**Address:** Thie Slieau Whallian, Foxdale Road, St John's, Isle of Man, IM4 3AS

**Email:** [DESCPolicyHub@gov.im](mailto:DESCPolicyHub@gov.im)

## Reasonable adjustments and alternative formats

The department is committed to equal opportunities and our aim is to make our documents easy to use and accessible to all.

We will take steps to accommodate any reasonable adjustments and provide such assistance as you may reasonably require to enable you to access or reply to this consultation.

If you would like to receive this document in another format or need assistance with accessing or replying to this consultation, please email [Michaela.cowley2@gov.im](mailto:Michaela.cowley2@gov.im) or telephone +44 1624 685807.

## What happens next

Once the consultation closes, the results will be analysed and a 'We Asked, You Said, We Did' will be published to the public on the results of the consultations and how those results might now be used.

## Section 1: About you

This consultation is anonymous. Your response will be published as part of a larger summary response document.

If you submit a response, by clicking 'Submit Response' you will give us permission to analyse and include your response in our results. After you click Submit, you will no longer be able to go back and change any of your answers. However, there is an option for you to provide an email address and if you do provide this it will only be used to send a receipt and a link to a PDF copy of your response.

The Department of Education, Sport and Culture would encourage that no personal data is provided however any personal data erroneously or intentionally provided will be anonymised before a response is published. Anonymised results of the survey will be shared with the Childcare Strategy Working Group, which is made up of DESC Early Years Team, DfE and DHSC officers/ Please read our [Privacy Policy](#) for more details and your rights.

### Question 1:

Which area of the Isle of Man do you live in?

Agneash	Colby	Glen Vine	Peel
Andreas	Cregneash	Greeba	Port Erin
Baldrine	Crosby	Jurby	Port St Mary
Ballabeg	Dalby	Kirk Michael	Ramsey
Ballafesson	Douglas	Laxey	Sandygate
Ballasalla	Foxdale	Maughold	St Johns
Ballaugh	Glen Auldyn	Newtown	St Judes
Bride	Glen Maye	Onchan	Strang
Castletown	Glen Mona	Patrick	Sulby
		Union Mills	Other

If 'Other' was selected please specify the area you live in below:

### Question 2:

Are you a parent/legal guardian with one or more children aged between 0-11?

- Yes, I am
- No, I am not

### Question 3:

If applicable, how many children do you have aged between birth and 11 years who live with you?

### Question 4:

Which age groups do your children fall into?

- Under 1
- 1 to 2
- 2 to 3
- 3 to 4 (pre - school)
- 4 to 5 (Reception)
- 5 to 7 (Key Stage 1)
- 7 to 11 (Key Stage 2)

### Question 5:

What is your current work or study situation:

- Working full time
- Working part time
- Self employed
- In education or training
- Looking for work
- Unemployed and not looking for work
- Not currently working
- Other (please specify)
- Prefer not to say

If 'Other', please specify below:

--

### Question 6:

Which area of the Isle of Man do you work or study in?

Agneash	Colby	Glen Vine	Peel
Andreas	Cregneash	Greeba	Port Erin
Baldrine	Crosby	Jurby	Port St Mary
Ballabeg	Dalby	Kirk Michael	Ramsey
Ballafesson	Douglas	Laxey	Sandygate
Ballasalla	Foxdale	Maughold	St Johns
Ballaugh	Glen Auldyn	Newtown	St Judes
Bride	Glen Maye	Onchan	Strang
Castletown	Glen Mona	Patrick	Sulby
		Union Mills	Other

### Question 7:

May we publish your response?

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#) for more details and your rights.

- Publish anonymously – only your responses **may** be published on the hub
- Do not publish – **nothing will** be published publicly on the hub (your response will only be part of a larger summary response document)

Required

- Yes, you may publish my response anonymously
- No, please do not publish my response

## Section 2: Formal Childcare

This section asks about formal childcare so we can understand current use, gaps in provision, and whether location and availability meet families' needs.

Formal childcare means paid childcare provided by someone outside of the child or children's immediate family, such as a nursery, pre-school, registered childminder, nanny, or au pair.

### Question 8:

Do you currently use formal childcare for any of your children?

(Required)

- Yes, I do currently use formal childcare for my child/children
- No, I do not currently use formal childcare

### Question 9:

Please tell us how many of your children attend each type of formal childcare listed below:

	<b>Nursery Playgroup Pre- school</b>	<b>Registered Childminder</b>	<b>Nanny/Au Pair</b>	<b>Breakfast Club</b>	<b>After School Club</b>	<b>Other please state</b>
<b>Number of children</b>						

If you have at least 1 child attending 'other', please specify what type of formal childcare it is below:

--

### Question 10:

When does your child or children attend a formal childcare setting? (Select all that apply)

	<b>Morning Session</b>	<b>Afternoon Session</b>	<b>All day session (Up to 6 hours)</b>	<b>All day session (up to 10 hours)</b>	<b>Breakfast Club</b>	<b>After school club</b>
<b>Monday</b>						
<b>Tuesday</b>						
<b>Wednesday</b>						
<b>Thursday</b>						
<b>Friday</b>						

### Question 11:

Where is your child or children's childcare provider located? If you have more than one child, please tell us how many children use childcare in each area.

	<b>Same area as home</b>	<b>Near a place of work</b>	<b>Near a place of a relative</b>	<b>Different area</b>
<b>Number of children</b>				

Please specify location of your child/children's childcare provider

**Question 12:**

Is this the ideal location for your child or children's formal childcare?

- Yes
- No

**Question 13:**

How easy or difficult was it to find a suitable childcare place for your child or children?

- Very easy
- Fairly easy
- Neither easy nor difficult
- Fairly difficult
- Very difficult

**Question 14:**

Have you ever needed formal childcare that you could not access?

- Yes, I have
- No, I have not

**Question 15:**

If you could not access formal childcare when you needed, which of the following were the main reasons why? (Select all that apply)

- No places available;
- Waiting list too long;
- Not available at the times needed;
- Not available in my area;
- Too expensive;
- Not suitable for my child's additional needs;
- Transport difficulties;
- I could not find clear information;
- Other (please specify).

### Question 16:

Which age groups were affected when you couldn't access the formal childcare you needed?

- Under 1 year old
- 1 to 2 years old
- 2 to 3 years old
- 3 to 4 years old
- 4 to 5 years old (Reception)
- 5 to 7 years old (Key Stage 1)
- 7 to 11 years old (Key Stage 2)

## Section 3: Wraparound and Holiday Childcare

This section asks about wraparound childcare so we can understand current use, gaps in provision, and whether location and availability meet families' needs.

Wraparound childcare refers to provision before and after school during term time, and holiday provision outside term time.

### Question 17:

Do you currently use wraparound or holiday childcare for any of your children?

(Required)

- Yes, I do currently use wraparound or holiday childcare for my child/children
- No, I do not currently use wraparound or holiday childcare

### Question 18:

Please tell us how many of your children attend each type of wraparound childcare listed below:

	<b>Breakfast Club (At school or a</b>	<b>After school Club</b>	<b>School Holiday Club</b>	<b>Childminder</b>	<b>Family / Friends</b>	<b>Not required</b>

	<b>childcare provider)</b>					
<b>Number of children</b>						

**Question 19:**

Is the wraparound childcare sufficient to meet your needs?

- Yes, it is sufficient
- Yes, it is partially sufficient
- No , it is not sufficient
- Not applicable

If 'No' Please provide your reasons below:

**Question 20:**

Have you ever needed wraparound childcare that you could not access?

- Yes, I have
- No, I have not

**Question 21:**

If you couldn't access wraparound childcare when you needed, which of the following were the main reasons why? (Select all that apply)

- No places available;
- Waiting list too long;
- Not available at the times needed;
- Not available in my area;
- Too expensive;
- Not suitable for my child's additional needs;
- Transport difficulties;
- I could not find clear information;
- Other (please specify).

## Section 4: Informal Childcare

Informal childcare refers to care provided by a friend or family member.

### Question 22:

Do you currently use informal childcare for any of your children?

(Required)

- Yes, I do currently use informal childcare for my child/children
- No, I do not currently use informal childcare

### Question 23:

How often does your child or children attend informal childcare?

	<b>Morning Session</b>	<b>Afternoon Session</b>	<b>All day session (Up to 6 hours)</b>	<b>All day session (up to 10 hours)</b>	<b>Breakfast Club</b>	<b>After school club</b>
<b>Monday</b>						
<b>Tuesday</b>						
<b>Wednesday</b>						
<b>Thursday</b>						
<b>Friday</b>						

### Question 24:

Is informal childcare sufficient to meet your needs?

- Yes, it is sufficient
- Yes, it is partially sufficient
- No, it is not sufficient

If no, it is not sufficient please explain:

### Question 25:

Please share any further comments below:

## Section 5: Additional needs

### Question 26:

Does your child have any additional needs that affect the childcare arrangements your family requires?

(Required)

- Yes, they do
- No, they don't
- Not applicable
- Prefer not to say

### Question 27:

Has your child's additional needs or disability made it harder to find suitable childcare?

- Yes, it has made it harder
- No, it hasn't made it harder
- Prefer not to say

If 'Yes', please explain why:

## Section 6: Affordability and Financial Support

A Childcare Credit Scheme exists which provides for the payment of childcare credits to registered childcare providers for eligible children, by the Department of Education, Sport and Culture (DESC).

An eligible child is a child:

- Who is resident in the Isle of Man
- Attending an Isle of Man Government registered pre-school provider/childminder

### Question 28:

Have you done any of the following because of childcare costs? (Select all that apply):

- Reduced childcare hours
- Chosen not to use childcare
- Reduced working hours
- Chosen not to work
- Delayed study or training
- Experienced financial difficulty
- None of these

### Question 29:

What financial support do you currently receive towards childcare costs?

- Childcare Credit
- Other Government support
- Employer Support
- Support from family
- No support

### Question 30:

To what extent does the Childcare Credit help you to afford formal childcare for your children?

- Helps a great deal
- Helps somewhat
- Helps a little
- Does not help enough
- I don't receive Childcare Credit

### Question 31:

How affordable is childcare for your family?

- Very affordable
- Fairly affordable
- Neither affordable nor unaffordable
- Fairly unaffordable
- Very unaffordable
- Prefer not to say

### Question 32:

Has the cost of childcare affected any of the following?

- Whether I work
- My working hours
- The type of job I can do
- Whether I study or train
- Family finances
- None of the above

## Section 6: Childcare and Work

### Question 33:

If childcare better met your needs, what would you be more likely to do?

- Increase working hours
- Return to work
- Start work
- Take up study/training
- Change job
- Seek more flexible working
- Other (please specify)

If 'other' was chosen, please specify below:

### Question 34:

Does your employer offer any specific support to help with childcare?

- Yes, they do offer support
- No, they don't offer support
- Not applicable
- Prefer not to say

If 'Yes', please specify below:

## Section 7: What would improve childcare for your family?

### Question 35:

Please tell us anything else about childcare on the Isle of Man that would help us understand what needs to change.