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I am concerned about consulting with parents on the basis of inaccurate information – Early Education is not free childcare and it is not for 15 hours but a minimum of 10 hours per week during term time. Flying Start provides 12½ hours of free childcare for 2 – 3 yr olds in identified geographical areas based on tackling poverty. Many LAs have or are encouraging the development of childcare around some of their early education provision (although the childcare element is not free it is usually affordable).

In Monmouthshire (and I am sure most other LAs too) there is a mix of provision approved to provide Early Education – playgroups, clych meithrin, private nurseries, independent schools and LA nurseries. All have to reach high standards and attend training especially on the Foundation Phase. In Monmouthshire parents can choose which setting they use - provided it is approved. They do not have to use LA provision.

Regards,

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