

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)

Kingston upon Thames

September 2018



achieving
for **children**

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1. Overall assessment and summary

Having sufficient childcare in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames means that families are able to find childcare that meets their child's learning needs and enables parents to make a real choice about work and training. This applies to all children from birth to age 14, and to children with disabilities.

In this report, we have made an assessment of sufficiency using data about the need for childcare and the amount of childcare available, we use information about childcare sufficiency to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.

In the last couple of years there have been a number of changes that have and will continue to impact on the provision of childcare and the demand for childcare in our borough.

Some of the key changes have been the:

- Introduction of the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) - which has positively impacted on the hourly rate payable to childcare providers for 3 & 4 year old provision in the Borough of Kingston upon Thames. The EYNFF formula was compiled by the DfE and the budgets were allocated to the respective boroughs calculated on the national base rate and a variant applied representative of the local area costs. Although the initial increase of 30% was well received, some childcare providers said it was still not representative actual costs.
- Introduction of 30 hours – which provides an extended 15 hours for children that meet the criteria for working households so the child will receive 30 hours of funded childcare. The number of Kingston parents that should be eligible for the extended 15 hours is estimated to be in the region of 1470. This means that childcare providers in Kingston have revised their business models to participate in delivering the additional hours. For some children that have already been receiving 30 hours or more the introduction of the funding would have meant a change in funding methodology rather than creation of new childcare places.
- Commencement of the Brexit process has provided an air of uncertainty so some future plans for expansion may have been delayed, but this will be more evident once that Brexit deadline has been reached.

At the time of writing this document there is sufficient childcare availability in Kingston upon Thames with continual changes of models available within the childcare market so that families can access a suitable model that meets their needs. Some new nurseries have opened, some nurseries have closed, some nurseries have been taken over and some have merged.

2 Demand for childcare

Population of early years children

In total, there are 11700 children under the age of five living in our local authority. These children may require early years childcare.

Numbers by age

Age	Number of children
Age 0	2300
Age 1	2300
Age 2	2400
Age 3	2300
Age 4*	2400

* Some four-year-olds will have started reception

Population data includes figures which are adjusted for the transient population as well as birth data. Figures show that Kingston upon Thames has a stable Early Years population.

Population of school age children

In total there are 16200 children aged 5-11, and 5700 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Numbers by age

Age	Number of children
Age 5	2400
Age 6	2500
Age 7	2400
Age 8	2400
Age 9	2300
Age 10	2100
Age 11	2100
Age 12	1900
Age 13	2000
Age 14	1800

Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (age 14 for children who do not have a special need or disability). The number of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in our local authority is:

Age	Number of children
Birth to school age	24
Primary school (reception to year six)	341
Secondary school (year seven to eleven)	383
Age 16+	258

Children's needs change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in childcare or school, and it can take some time from problems being identified to an EHC plan being issued. It is therefore possible that the number of children with SEND aged 0-4 is an underestimate. Some children have SEN but do not have an EHC plan.

In response to identified SEN settings are required to adopt a graduated assess, plan, do, review to support the child's needs. Providers must also have regard to the SEND Code of Practice (2014) and the Equality Act (2010). The SEND Code of Practice outlines four areas of special educational need that include a range of difficulties and conditions; communication and interaction, cognition and learning, social, emotional and mental health and sensory and/or physical.

The majority of children with additional or special educational needs will not require special resources or enhanced staffing to be successfully included in settings; most settings will be able to meet the initial need of most children. If a child is identified with more complex needs the childcare setting will receive appropriate support from the Local Authority to meet the child's needs, including, if necessary, support to commence the EHCP (Educational, Care and Health Plan) process.

3 Supply of childcare

Number of early years providers and places

In total, there are 301 childcare providers in our local authority, offering a maximum of 5876 early years childcare places:

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Number of registered places</i>
Childminders and Agency Childminders*	206	1199
Nursery classes in schools	25	1360
Maintained nursery schools	1	118
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries, pre-schools and out of school providers	69	3199

The data in this table was correct on: 31.03.18

* Some childminder places may also be available for older children.

For private, voluntary and independent nurseries and childminders, the number of registered places represents the maximum number of children who can be on the premises at any given time. In practice, many providers choose to operate below their number of registered places.

Children may attend childcare full time or part time. This table records places for children who are attending full time, or for as many hours as the setting is open. In some cases, two or more children attending part time may use one full time equivalent place. For example, one child may attend in the morning and one child may attend in the afternoon.

Early years vacancies

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Total number of vacancies</i>
Childminders and Agency Childminders*	206	157
Nursery classes in schools	25	50
Maintained nursery schools	1	0
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries, pre-schools and out of school providers	69	178

Vacancy rates are a snapshot, and often change rapidly. In some cases, providers may have a vacancy which is only available for a specific age group, or for a particular part time arrangement. We ask providers to report vacancies to us so we can help promote them.

Not all choose to do this, 32 providers responded to our request for information and the results have been scaled up to apply to actual provider numbers. In general, vacancy rates are higher in the autumn, when children move to school.

The information gathered demonstrates an estimated vacancy rate of 8.23%, this shows a healthy occupancy rate for the sustainability of providers whilst allowing for some vacancies and movement of places to support families - showing business for providers but movement for parents who are looking to access or change childcare provider.

Early years atypical hours

Childcare is most commonly delivered during the typical working day – between 8am and 6pm on weekdays. Some parents require childcare outside these times in order to fit with their work or other responsibilities.

The number of providers offering childcare for atypical hours in our local authority is:

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Available before 8am weekdays</i>	<i>Available after 6pm weekdays</i>	<i>Available weekends¹</i>
Childminders and Agency Childminders	206	34	11	10
Nursery classes in schools	25	12	6	0
Maintained nursery schools	1	0	0	0
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries, pre-schools and out of school providers	69	29	23	0

33 providers responded to our request for information, the results have been scaled up to apply to actual provider numbers

¹ This includes availability at any time during the weekend, not necessarily for the whole weekend

Number of school age providers and places

In total, there are 55 providers of childcare for school age children during term time, and 21 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. There are also 213 childminders who may provide care for school age children

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Number of registered places</i>
Breakfast club – primary school	25	957
After-school club – primary school	29	900
Breakfast club – secondary school	0	0
After-school club – secondary school	1	20
Childminders and Agency Childminders*	213	1227
Holiday club	21	832

Tracking supply of childcare for school age children is difficult because not all of this type of provision is registered with Ofsted – for example schools may deliver their own out of school provision which would not be separately registered. It is possible that we have under-counted the provision of breakfast and afterschool clubs and holiday clubs. Parents may also use provision which is not considered ‘childcare’, for example sports or arts clubs after school or in the holidays.

4 Funded early education

Introduction to funded early education

Some children are entitled to free childcare, funded by the government. These entitlements are for 38 weeks per year.

- All children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to 15 hours per week until they start reception class in school
- Children aged 3 and 4 where both parents are working, or from lone parent families where that parent is working, are entitled to 30 hours per week until they start reception class in school²
- Children aged 2 whose families receive certain benefits (including low income families in receipt of in-work benefits), or those who meet additional non-economic criteria, are entitled to 15 hours per week. Nationally, about 40% of 2 year olds are entitled to this offer, but the proportion varies by area.

Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded entitlement. They may choose to split them between providers. With the agreement of their provider, parents may also spread them across the year – for example, rather than taking 15 hours for 38 weeks a year they could take just under 12 hours for 48 weeks a year.

Proportion of 2-year-old children entitled to funded early education

In our local authority, 17.63% of 2 year olds are entitled to funded early education. This equates to around 423 children (Spring 2018).

Take up of funded early education

The proportion of eligible children taking up their funded place (for at least some of the available hours) in our local authority is:

Age	% of eligible children
Age 2	78%
Age 3 and 4	86%

Breakdown of funded early education take up by age of children

Age	% of eligible children
Age 2	8.87%
Age 3	66.00%
Age 4	25.12%

² Available to families where each parent (or one parent in a single adult household) are earning the equivalent of working sixteen hours per week on the minimum wage

The data in these tables are based on Department for Education data in January 2018 and excludes 4 year olds who have started school and are in a reception class.

3 and 4-year-old funded entitlement applications

Parents who think they are entitled to a 30 hour extended hours place apply for this online through the Government’s Childcare Support [website](#). The same website is used to apply for tax free childcare and parents can apply for either or both. If a parent is eligible, the system creates a code which they can use with their chosen childcare provider. If they are ineligible, they will still be entitled to the universal 15 hours of early education and childcare.

Children Accessing extended (30 hr) funding in Spring 2018

<i>Step</i>	<i>Number</i>
Children taking up extended funding	790
Providers delivering extended funding in Spring 2018	104
Providers offering extended funding	119

The actual number of applications for 30 hour funding and the number of those application confirmed as eligible cannot be determined without data from HMRC which is not currently available.

Providers offering funded early education places

Providers are paid directly by government for delivering funded early education. They are not required to offer them to parents, but of course parents may choose to use a different provider if they do not. Some providers offer a restricted number of funded places.

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Age 2 targeted</i>	<i>Age 3 and 4 universal 15 hours</i>	<i>Age 3 and 4 – extended 30 hours</i>
Childminders and Agency Childminders	206	27%	46%	38%
Nursery classes in schools	25	28%	100%	60%
Maintained nursery schools	1	100%	100%	100%
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries, pre-schools and out of school providers	69	59%	78%	62%

This table show the number of providers who offer funded places and may have availability, however within any term they may not have children who are actually accessing the funding.

5 Prices

Prices of early school years childcare

For early years childcare outside the funded entitlements, we report on average prices per hour, reported to us by settings.³ There may be variations to prices based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups. There may be additional payments for additional services, e.g. lunch and other meals which are not included in these prices.

Price per hour	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries			School and maintained nursery schools which make charges to parents			Childminders		
	Ave. £	Min. £	Max. £	Ave. £	Min. £	Max. £	Ave. £	Min. £	Max. £
0 and 1 year olds	6.14	5.66	8.87	-	-	-	6.61	6.00	7.50
2 year olds	6.54	5.17	8.87	-	-	-	6.61	6.00	7.50
3 and 4 year olds	6.22	5.17	8.44	-	-	-	6.61	6.00	7.50

Responses to request for fee information were received from a total of 17 providers, some types of provider were not represented in those responses and therefore information cannot be reported.

Prices of school age childcare

For school age children during term time, we report on average prices before school per day, after school per day, and for childminding per hour. For holiday childcare, we report on holiday club prices per week.

Setting and price unit	Price		
	Ave. £	Min. £	Max. £
Breakfast club per day	-	-	-
After-school club per day	-	-	-
School age childminder per hour	6.87	6.00	8.00
Holiday club per week	-	-	-

Responses to request for fee information were received from a total of 12 providers, some types of provider were not represented in those responses and therefore information cannot be reported.

³ Details of how we collect this data are in the methodology section below

6 Quality of childcare in our area

Ofsted inspection grades

All childcare providers must register with and be inspected by Ofsted, who give them an overall grade for the quality of their provision. Childminders and private and voluntary providers are on the Early Years Register, and schools and standalone maintained nursery schools are on the Schools register. The grades for both registers are equivalent. Schools with nurseries have an overall inspection grade for the whole school and most also have a separate early years grade.

Both schools and early years providers have four possible Ofsted grades: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement', and 'inadequate'.⁴ Some providers are still awaiting their first full inspection. These providers are excluded from our calculation.

Nursery classes in independent schools do not generally have an Ofsted grade.

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Providers with current Ofsted inspection grade</i>	<i>% achieving good or outstanding</i>	<i>Providers without current Ofsted inspection grade</i>	<i>Total number of providers</i>
Childminders	175	90.86%	31	206
Nursery classes in schools *	25	96.00%	0	25
Maintained nursery schools	1	100.00%	0	1
Private and voluntary nurseries	52	90.38%	17	69
<i>Total</i>	253	91.30%	48	301

* early years grade if available, otherwise overall school grade

The data in this table is based on Department for Education data in January 2018

⁴ For more information see <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/about-our-inspection-reports>

7 Methodology

- Number of children: based on GLA population projections from the London Data Store
- Children with EHC plans: Data held by Achieving for Children SEND Team at May 2018
- Supply of childcare: based on data provided to us by Ofsted, who regulate early years provision in schools and childcare provision. [In some cases, we have supplemented this with local intelligence where providers are not registered with Ofsted]
- Vacancy rates: Provider survey based at May 2018
- Childcare for parents working atypical hours: Provider survey at May 2018
- Funded early education: data on take up of funded early education entitlements is based on the Early Years and Schools Censuses, which are taken every January and published by the Department for Education in the statistical collection *Education provision: children under five years of age*. Data on entitlement to a funded early education place for 2 year olds is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions.
- Provider offering EEF – Local data, those providers who have signed the Local Directory of Providers (DOP) agreement to offer funding.
- Price of childcare: Provider survey May 2018
- Quality of childcare: data on childcare quality is provided by Ofsted.