



**Buckinghamshire's Childcare
Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)**
April 2018 – March 2019



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Introduction

Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) has a statutory duty under Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 to work in partnership with childcare providers to influence childcare provision, as far as reasonably practicable, to ensure that there is sufficient childcare for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 to 14 or up to 18 for disabled children.

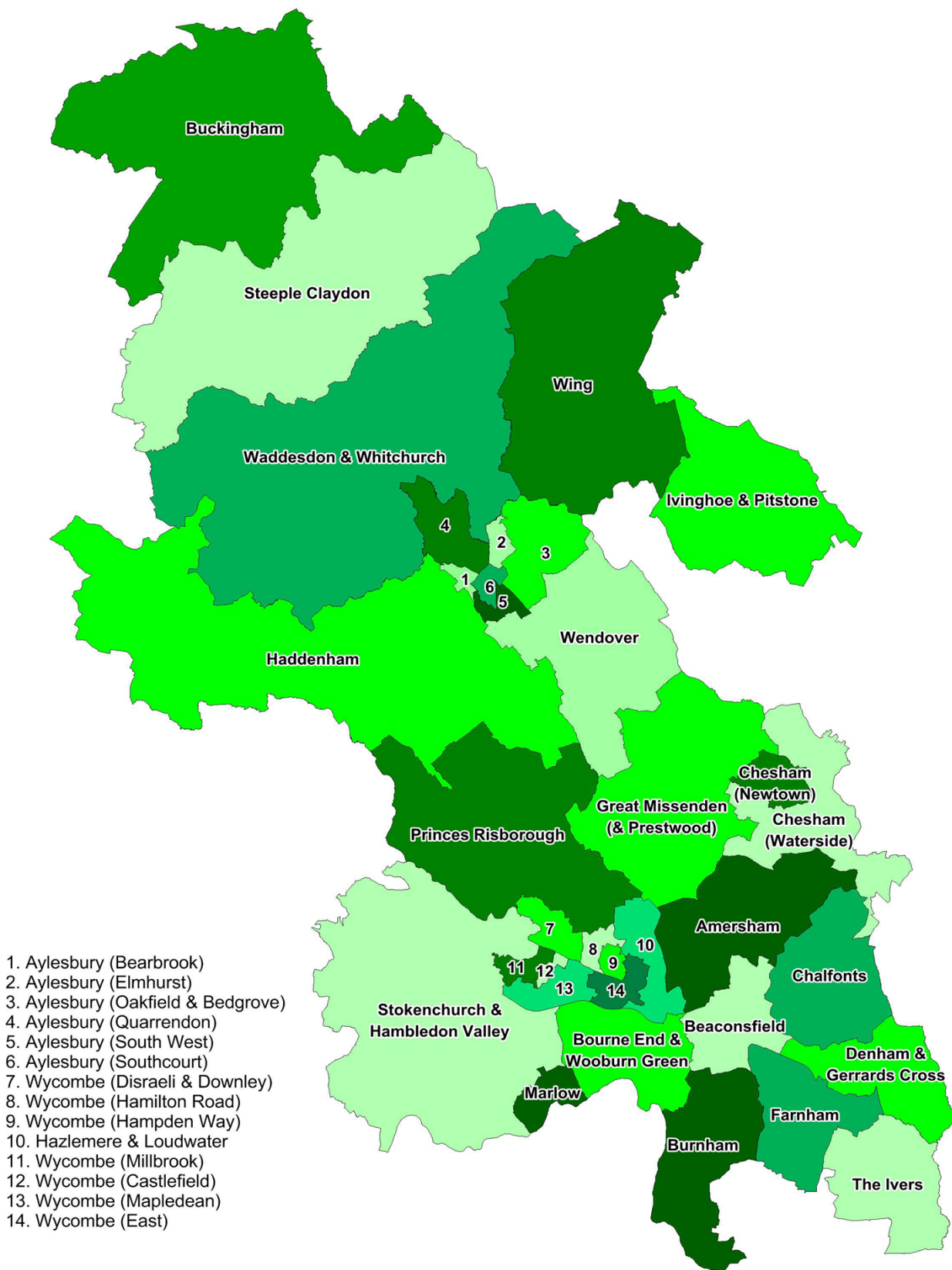
Local Authorities (LAs) are required to carry out an annual assessment of the sufficiency of childcare within their area to ensure they are meeting their statutory duty. The assessment is a measure of the nature and the extent of the need for, and supply of, childcare within each local area.

In carrying out this Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) LAs should assess:

- the state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers (including full day care, pre-school term time only provision, maintained nursery schools, schools with nursery classes and governor managed provision, independent schools and childminders)
- the state of the labour market
- the impact of planned housing development
- the impact of changes in demographics
- the impact of the introduction of the new 'Extended Entitlement' for eligible families.

In Buckinghamshire we use 'Children's Centre Reach Areas' as an appropriate geographic area to measure availability of places at a local area. This enables us to consider sufficiency across 35 local areas.

Buckinghamshire Children's Centre Reach Areas



Children's Centre Reach Areas are based on the wards as at 2004. The varying sizes reflect the Government requirement to create catchment areas of approximately 800 children under the age of 5 for each Centre.

Purpose of the report

This report provides baseline data to assist BCC in its statutory duty to understand the childcare market and plan how to provide support and facilitate changes in the market place to meet future demand. LAs are required to facilitate the childcare market to respond to childcare demand. LAs should only provide services themselves where they have not been able to secure alternative provision and, in this instance, school based provision is not deemed to be 'Local Authority' provision. Market management is the mechanism by which the LA will coordinate efforts to ensure the childcare market can respond to the needs of children and families and any future changes in Government policy. Information included in this report can be used to begin to understand the marketplace. Childcare providers and prospective providers should always undertake their own market research to understand local childcare needs and use the information in this report as an initial guide only. The childcare market is a fluid one and changes to provision may have occurred since this report was written.

The expansion of the free early education entitlement, to up to 30 hours for some working families of 3 and 4 year olds, caused considerable discussion both locally and nationally. Many providers would argue that the level of funding is insufficient for them to deliver on the government's agenda and objected to the term 'free'. After discussion with the Buckinghamshire Early Years Forum, which is made up of representatives from a range of Early Years providers, it was agreed that the terminology in Buckinghamshire would change to the Funded Entitlement (FE). This change is reflected throughout this document.



Buckinghamshire County Council – National winner for Sufficiency and Market Management 2018

Executive Summary

The CSA analyses and summarises the local childcare market in Buckinghamshire. It also reports on the activity undertaken over the year to address the actions identified in the CSA Action Plan 2018 -2019. Key challenges identified included the further expansion of the 30 hour offer (referred to as Extended Funded Entitlement - EFE) and ensuring this did not impact negatively on the take up of 2 year old funded provision and sufficiency, along with development of additional early years and childcare provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) supported by a Department for Education (DfE) grant.

Key Highlights

Overall the childcare and early education provision in Buckinghamshire continues to meet demand with only two incidents during the year of parents reporting difficulties in securing suitable care. Quality of services is the highest ever achieved with over 98% of group provision and 95% of childminders judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted.

Take up of the extended funded entitlement to 30 hours has increased in line with expectations as we completed the first full year of this offer. We are starting to see a possible squeeze on two year old and universal 15 hours for 3 & 4 year olds as there is a slight decline in the overall hours per week attended by these groups.

Providers are reporting difficulties with recruiting suitably qualified staff and some providers have had to reduce their number of places available due to recruitment issues.

Childcare Market:

- 26,798 childcare places available in Buckinghamshire, 1% increase on 2018
- Loss of 17 providers in line with national statistics but increase in places bucks the national trend
- Only 2 reports of unmet demand received

Funded Entitlement:

- Development of 923 new places to deliver funded entitlement for 2, 3 & 4 year olds
- 2231 surplus of Funded Entitlement places for 3 & 4 year olds across the county
- Development of 26 specialist childcare places for children with SEND
- Additional 96 childminders delivering the funded entitlements, 49% increase on 2018
- 2 more schools delivering early years provision with an additional 99 places available

Quality of Provision:

- Ofsted judgement of quality of provision on non-domestic premises (NDP) at 98.8% good or better
- Ofsted judgement of quality of provision on non-domestic premises (NDP) for Buckinghamshire higher than both statistical neighbours and nationally
- Ofsted judgement of quality of childminders at 95.1% good or better
- Ofsted judgement of quality of childminders for Buckinghamshire higher than national statistics; although not quite as good as our statistical neighbours

Workforce:

- 37% of settings in Buckinghamshire are graduate led compared with 36% nationally
- 63 students/apprentices supported to access an appropriate Early Years qualification
- 49% of funded 2, 3 & 4 year olds attend a setting which is graduate led in Buckinghamshire compared with 37% nationally
- Recruitment and retention of high quality staff continues to be a challenge locally and nationally due to the expansion of childcare, low salaries and changes to qualifications requirements

Future Impact:

- Significant housing growth and population expansion
- Oxford to Cambridge link with the associated housing growth
- Future funding considerations: The new government funding formula for funding local authorities for the 2, 3 & 4 year old entitlement, introduced in 2016, has not since increased in terms of per pupil allocations. Cost pressures on early years providers to manage costs against a backdrop of increases to the minimum wage, pension and business costs within a static budget will disincentivise expansion and may impact on provision and potentially our ability to meet the sufficiency duty

A visual representation of this information can be found in Appendix 3

Review of 2018/2019 Action Plan

Every year, as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, we capture further areas for analysis to improve our understanding of the changing childcare market. These points are set out in an action plan. A summary of last year's actions and outcomes are summarised in appendix 1. Future actions for this year are recorded at the end of each section and summarised in appendix 2.

Key Actions from 2018 CSA action plan carried forward to 2019-2020 (*where not covered later in the report*)

- Continue to promote childminding as a valuable career choice and actively work to reduce the decline in number of registered childminders.
- Undertake research at individual school level to understand why a number of pupils have been identified as not accessing their Universal Funded Entitlement (UFE) prior to joining a reception class. Take action to address, if necessary.

Population Changes and Projections

In Buckinghamshire, although we have seen an increase in the overall population of under 14's, there has been a 5% drop (322) in the population of 2 year olds during the last year and only a very small increase of 0.4% in the 3 and 4 year old age bracket. This drop in 2 year old population has potentially supported the market to meet demand for the additional Extended Funded Entitlement (EFE) places at 3 and 4 with providers changing their model to meet current demand.

Table 1: Buckinghamshire population figures by age

	Under 2	Age 2	Age 3-4	Age 5-7	Age 8-14	Total
2015-2016	11,978	6,306	13,655	20,778	45,376	98,093
2016-2017	12,106	6,060	12,989	21,039	46,030	98,224
2017-2018	12,316	6,248	12,997	21,283	49,064	101,908
2018-2019	12,323	5,926	13,050	20,930	50,384	102,613

Table 2: Actual and projected reception intake – Aylesbury Town

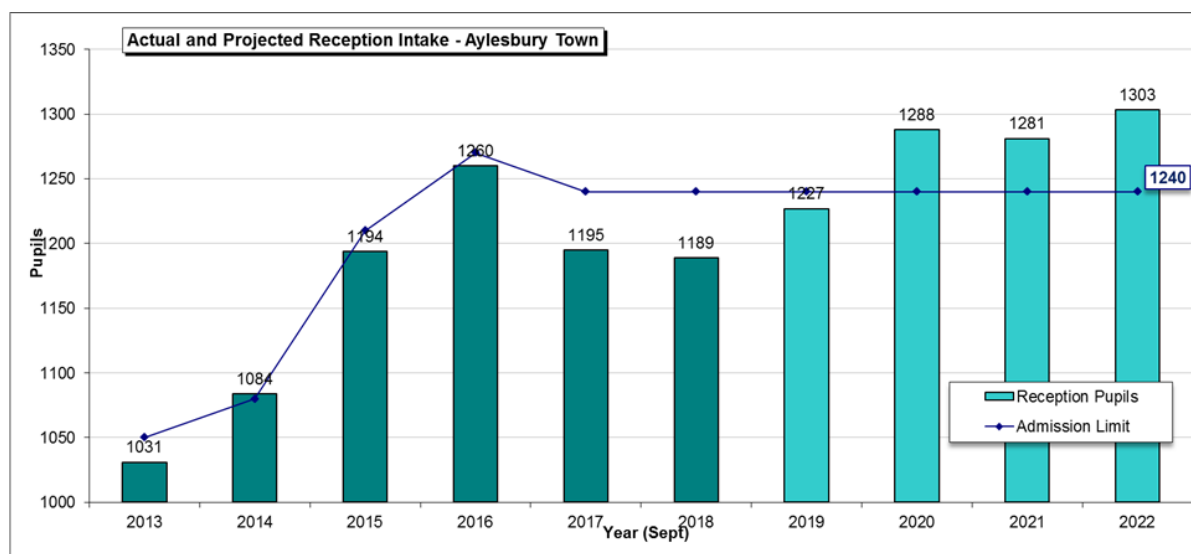
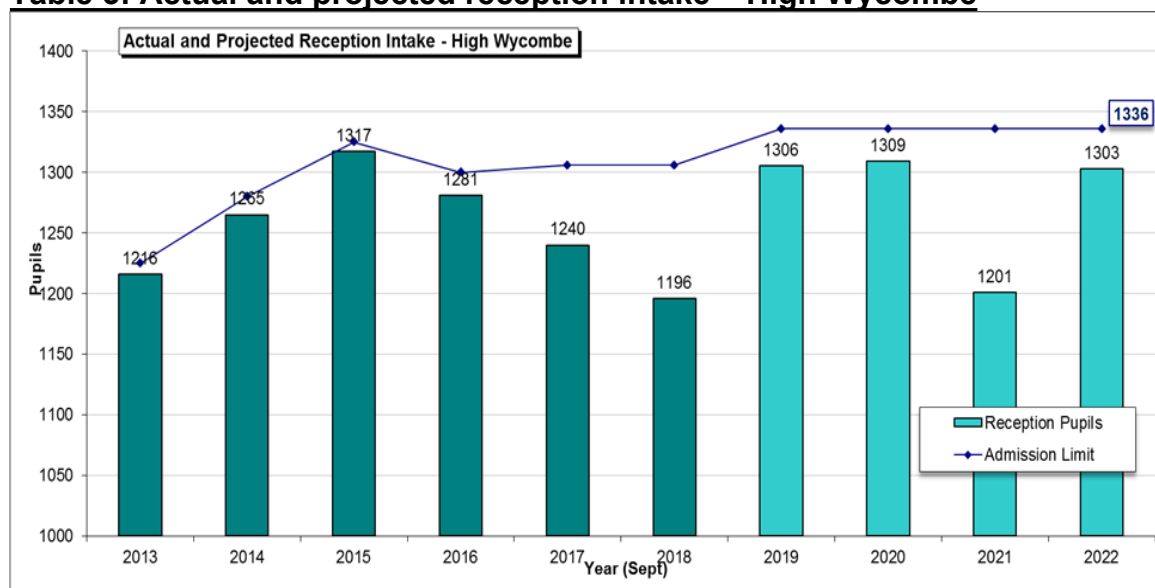


Table 3: Actual and projected reception intake – High Wycombe



The population of Buckinghamshire is projected to increase by nearly one fifth (17.4%) by 2037, although the projected increase for children and young people is much lower at just under 10%. The impact across the county as a whole varies. The population increase could potentially cause a demand for an additional 1500 funded entitlement places as well as additional childcare provision. Although the data in Table 2 and 3 reflects reception age pupils (impacting on the Early Years sector 2 years earlier than illustrated for reception pupils) it demonstrates the volatility in the market place in our urban centres. The data systems we have in place will enable us to track the accuracy of the predicted population increases and decreases and manage the market to meet this changing picture.

The significant housing developments across Aylesbury are distorting the market. As parents take occupation of the new housing they are not necessarily moving their children into local Early Years provision. Depending on their child's age they may wait till their child can access the local school. Evidence to support this is that we had no incidents of unmet demand but the new Green Ridge Academy for 2, 3 & 4 year olds in Aylesbury, Quarrendon had allocated all 92 places prior to opening, operating at 100% capacity on day one.

Childcare Places

Key points:

- Overall the number of childcare places in Buckinghamshire which are registered with Ofsted has slightly increased (0.04%) compared to nationally where there has been a slight decline (-1.3%)
- The number of childcare providers registered with Ofsted in Buckinghamshire has decreased by 4.07% and nationally by 4.45%. This is mainly due to schools that provide childcare are no longer required to have a separate registration with Ofsted
- The number of registered childminders in Buckinghamshire has continued to decline (-6.6%) but is in line with the nationally declining trend (-6.39%)

Table 4: Total Childcare Places in Buckinghamshire

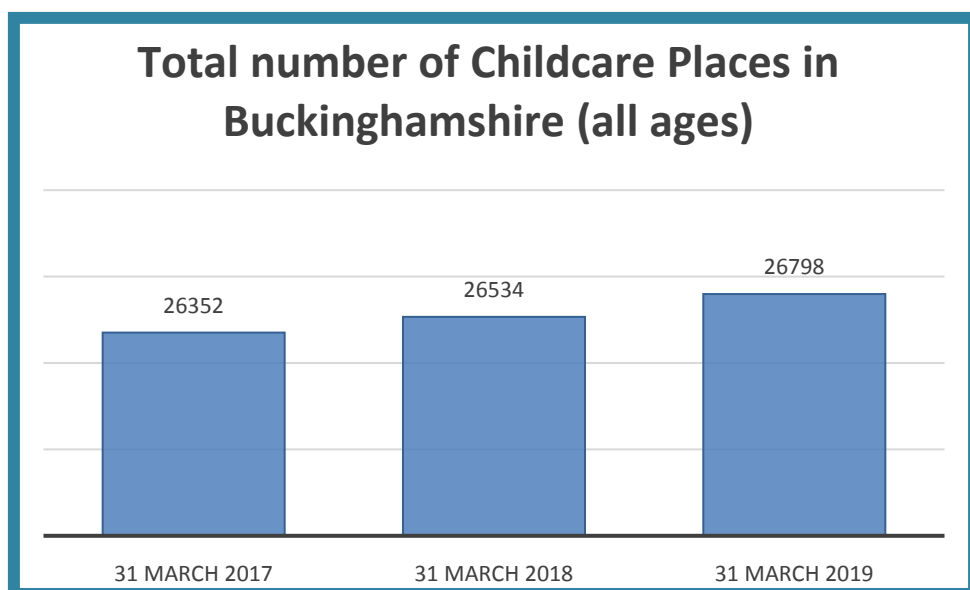


Table 5: Total Childcare Places by sector

Childcare Type	31 March 2018		31 March 2019		Net comparison	
	No. of Providers	Maximum No. of places at any one time	No. of Providers	Maximum No. of places at any one time	Providers	Places
0 - 4 Year olds						
Day Nursery	96	5,439	95	5,504	-1	65
Pre-School or Nursery School	145	4,174	140	4,121	-5	-53
Maintained Nursery School	2	356	2	356	0	0
School/Academy with Nursery Class	80	3,438	61	2,782	-19	-656
School Managed Pre-School	N/A	N/A	21	755	21	755
Childminder	616	3,523	573	3,395	-43	-128
Nursery Units of Independent Schools	17	882	17	882	0	0
Total 0 - 4 year olds	956	17,812	909	17,795	-47	-17
Out of School - 5 Years +						
After School Club	107	3,899	110	4,131	3	232
Breakfast Club	52	2,030	51	2,163	-1	133
Holiday Club	44	2,328	43	2,238	-1	-90
Total Out of school - 5 Years +	203	8,257	204	8,532	1	275
Other						
SEND	13	150	13	118	0	-32
Nannies (home based childcarer)	317	315	353	353	36	38
Inactive Childminders	28	0	21	0	-7	0
Total Other	358	465	387	471	29	6
TOTAL	1,517	26,534	1,500	26,798	-17	264

We have a statutory duty to ensure sufficient childcare to meet the needs of working parents and those undertaking training to enable them to work, as far as is reasonably practicable. In practice, this means childcare needs to be available locally but it might not be at a parent's first choice of provider.

In Buckinghamshire, taking all childcare places into account we have seen a very small increase of 1% in the number of childcare places which, is predominantly in services for school age children. School places for early years children, but exempt from registration, are included; however, places for out of school services for older children which are exempt are not, these are shown in table 7. There has been significant place development in the Early Years sector, however we have also seen a number of providers close due to low numbers. Reasons for such closures vary but in all cases there was no identified need to sustain the provision in the longer term. This is often the effect of changes to the local market and most of our closures were small pre-schools which were unable to adapt to longer hours to support the extended entitlement for 30 hours (EFE). The Department for Education (DfE) reports on Ofsted registered provision only and, despite matching the national trend with a loss of providers overall, there has been a very small increase of 0.04% in the number of places which is against the national trend. This supports the view that providers are closing in areas of low demand and expanding in areas with demand.

Following on from the change in registration requirements for schools we have updated the reporting of maintained Early Years provision. A school or academy with a nursery class will have a statutory age range of 2 or 3 years upwards. The children will appear on the school's roll, although entry at statutory school age is not guaranteed and is still subject to the schools admission process. A 'school managed pre-school' operates under Section 27 of the 2002 Education Act. The school's age range is 4 and over, and pupils under this age are not on roll. This accounts for the change in the number of schools delivering these services by type in the figures above; the net effect of which is an additional two schools delivering early education funding with an additional 99 places being available in the maintained sector.

Table 6: Childminder numbers comparison between Buckinghamshire and Nationally

Registered childminders	March 2016	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019	Total change
National	44,234	41,465	39,844	37,299	6935
% change		-6.26%	-3.91%	-6.39%	-15.68%
Buckinghamshire	652	629	606	566	86
% change		-3.53%	-3.66%	-6.6%	-13.19%

The number of registered childminders has continued to decline nationally and locally. PACEY (Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years) suggest that factors contributing to this decline include [“Recent decisions to end the childcare business grant for new childminders; registration delays at Ofsted, unnecessary bureaucracy and low income levels due to reduced government funding are putting more and more people off”](#)

In Buckinghamshire, we recognise the vital and unique role that childminders offer to working parents and their contribution to our flexible childcare market. We continue to offer subsidised face to face induction training for childminders which is a statutory requirement prior to Ofsted registration; many local authorities' signpost childminders to on-line learning at a much higher cost. We work with Job Centre Plus to promote childminding as a valuable career choice as well as promoting the role across public services and community venues. In this last year three Buckinghamshire childminders have chosen to join a childminding agency due to delays with individual registration with Ofsted and in spite of the added cost of using these services.

Table 7: Childcare for older children

Children's Centre Reach Areas	After School Clubs			Breakfast Clubs			Holiday Clubs			Childminders		
	Number in operation	Number with vacancies	% with capacity	Number in operation	Number with vacancies	% with capacity	Number in operation	Number with vacancies	% with capacity	Number in operation who offer vacancies	Number with vacancies	% with capacity
Amersham	11	5	45%	12	4	33%	8	3	38%	13	3	23%
Aylesbury (Bearbrook)	5	3	60%	5	3	60%	3	2	67%	8	2	25%
Aylesbury (Elmhurst)	1	0	0%	3	1	33%				6	0	0%
Aylesbury (Oakfield & Bedgrove)	8	2	25%	10	2	20%	2	1	50%	16	1	6%
Aylesbury (Quarrendon)	3	3	100%	3	2	67%	2	2	100%	13	2	15%
Aylesbury (South West)	2	1	50%	2	1	50%	2	1	50%	13	1	8%
Aylesbury (Southcourt)	3	0	0%	2	0	0%	2	1	50%	3	1	33%
Beaconsfield	7	4	57%	7	4	57%	3	3	100%	5	3	60%
Bourne End & Wooburn Green	6	3	50%	6	3	50%	3	2	67%	21	2	10%
Buckingham	7	4	57%	7	4	57%	4	2	50%	10	2	20%
Burnham	4	2	50%	3	1	33%	2	1	50%	9	1	11%
Chalfonts	4	3	75%	5	4	80%	6	6	100%	17	6	35%
Chesham (Newtown)	2	0	0%	2	0	0%				10	0	0%
Chesham (Waterside)	4	1	25%	2	0	0%	1	1	100%	5	1	20%
Farnham	5	3	60%	4	2	50%	2	2	100%	8	2	25%
Denham & Gerrards Cross	1	0	0%	1	0	0%				7	0	0%
Great Missenden (& Prestwood)	1	0	0%	1	0	0%	1	0	0%			
Haddenham	8	3	38%	9	4	44%	4	1	25%	11	1	9%
Hazlemere & Loudwater	2	0	0%	6	1	17%	1	0	0%	21	0	0%
Ivinghoe & Pitstone	1	1	100%	2	2	100%	0	0		10	0	0%
Marlow Town	4	2	50%	6	3	50%	3	2	67%	4	2	50%
Princes Risborough	8	2	25%	6	3	50%	3	2	67%	12	2	17%
Steeple Claydon	6	1	17%	9	2	22%	2	1	50%	10	1	10%
Stokenchurch & Hambleton Valley	9	2	22%	9	2	22%	4	2	50%	14	2	14%
The Ivers	5	2	40%	5	1	20%	3	2	67%	2	2	100%
Waddesdon & Whitchurch	3	1	33%	8	2	25%	1	0	0%	14	0	0%
Wendover	8	1	13%	9	4	44%	3	1	33%	16	1	6%
Wing	4	1	25%	6	2	33%	4	4	100%	5	4	80%
Wycombe (Castlefield)	1	0	0%	1	0	0%						
Wycombe (Disraeli & Downley)	4	2	50%	5	3	60%	3	1	33%	1	1	100%
Wycombe (East)	0			2	0	0%	1	1	100%	5	1	20%
Wycombe (Hamilton Road)	1	0	0%	1	0	0%				2	0	0%
Wycombe (Hampden Way)	2	0	0%	3	0	0%				7	0	0%
Wycombe (Mapledean)	5	2	40%	5	2	40%	5	4	80%	11	4	36%
Wycombe (Millbrook)	1	0	0%	2	0	0%	1	0	0%			
Buckinghamshire 2019 Total	146	54	37%	169	62	37%	79	48	61%	309	48	16%
Buckinghamshire 2018 Total	98	46	47%	123	43	35%	52	36	69%	403	389	97%

Table 7 details the out of school provision available to families in Buckinghamshire. For the first

time, in January 2018, the DfE required schools to report on their childcare provision and the audit data used to create Table 7 is therefore a more accurate reflection of the number of providers in Buckinghamshire. However, as the Early Years audit return rate was not 100% and the DfE Audit does not include academies submissions, it cannot be considered completely accurate. Action has been taken to ensure that records are created for unregistered provision we were not aware of prior to the audit. In addition, action to identify Academy run provision will be undertaken to improve the quality of the data held.

The vacancy data presents a mixed picture but must be viewed with caution as it relies on provider's accurate return and is a snap shot of availability during January census week, some providers chose not to answer this question.

In the childcare for older children we have seen a number of new providers entering the market to provide after school care which may be as a result of the 'Right to Request', a government initiative whereby parents can ask their school to provide or make available out of school childcare. Further investigation is needed to confirm this.

After school provision is available in every area except Wycombe East, however, checking via schools' websites confirms there is provision in this area too. This is an improvement on last year. There are more areas that do not have holiday provision but, in many of these, childminders have, or may have, capacity to deliver this. It should also be remembered that parents are more likely to travel to access holiday provision than they are for term time care. We are also aware that parents use activity clubs to support their childcare needs in the holiday period; especially over the summer. We have developed online surveys to support us in identifying unmet need for all types of childcare and the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service track childcare requests, to ascertain whether the family has found provision which meets their needs. As reported in the response to last year's actions, at the beginning of this document, we have not had any reports of unmet demand for out of school provision; except for children with SEND, where brokerage support was offered. We have had a number of proposed Out of School providers over recent months and the investigation into the impact of the Right to Request may explain the background to this. We will continue to monitor the reports from BFIS.

The significant reduction in the number of childminders delivering care for older children and the number with vacancies is likely to be as a direct result of the number of closures but also the increase of childminders delivering the funded entitlements.

We have updated the school records so that all school-run provision should be recorded but it does not take into account where a school delivers a service for other schools locally. If schools in one Children's Centre Reach Area deliver a service for a school in another area, this will not show in the data. It also under reports childminder data as they are only included if they specifically mention that they provide breakfast, after school and holiday care. According to the available data we have breakfast club provision in every area.

Funded Entitlement

Key Points:

- Overall, Buckinghamshire continues to meet the sufficiency duty with a surplus of 2231 places across the County for 3 & 4 year olds and 1372 for two year olds
- Over 75% of eligible 2 year olds accessed a funded place in Buckinghamshire every term; nationally the take up average is 68%
- The take up of the extended funded entitlement to 30 hours has increased by 24% since 2018, as this is the first full year of operation
- 923 new funded places were created in 2019 in line with our plan and supporting areas with an undersupply of places

Table 8: Total Early Education Funded Places

	3&4 Year Olds UFE		3&4 Year Olds EFE		2 Year Olds	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Eligible Population	8,592	9,044	*4,214	*4,034	1,356	1,266
Places at CC level	**14,733	**15,309	**14,733	**15,309	2,596	2,638
Surplus at County level	6,141	6,265	***+1,927	***+2,231	1,240	1,372

**eligible population in 2018 was based on DfE projections, in 2019 it was based on actual eligibility codes issued*

***These places are reported for use for both UFE and EFE provision*

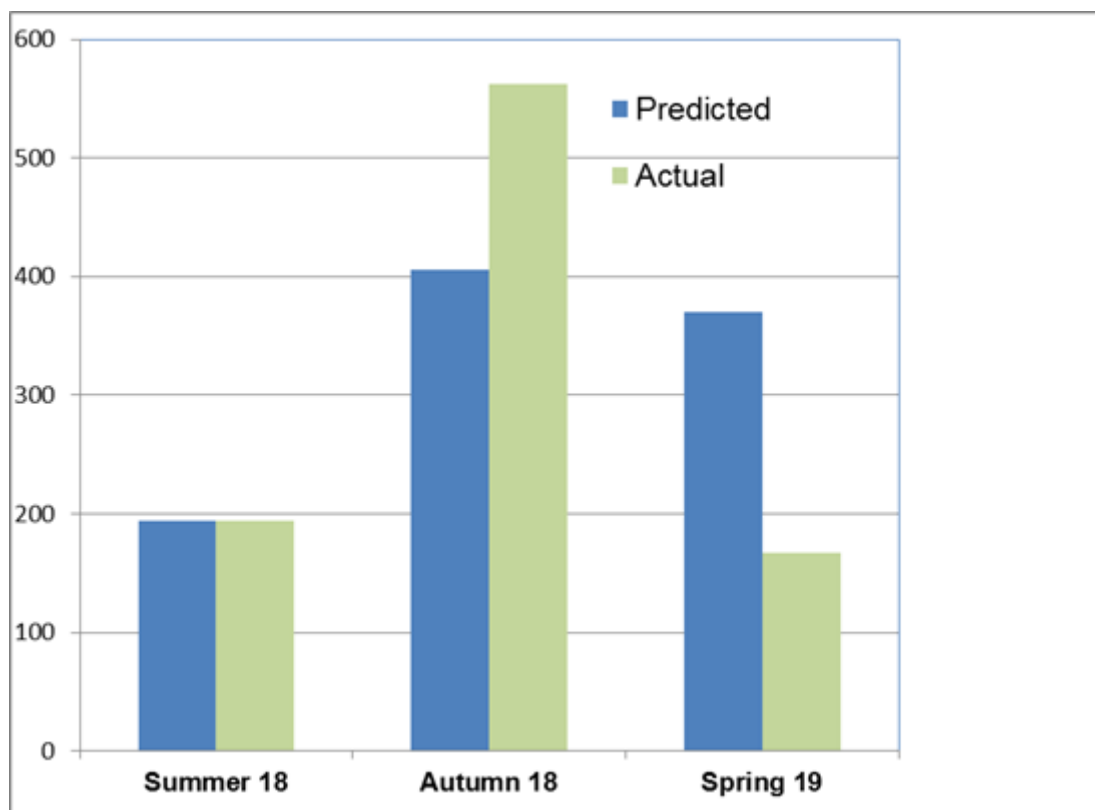
****Gap assumes UFE and EFE places will be used to meet demand*

Under the 2006 Childcare Act, the LA has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient funded places for all eligible children who wish to access them. During the reporting period, BCC developed an additional 923 early education funded places for 2, 3 and 4 year old children. Table 8 above demonstrates that, at County level, we have sufficient places to meet demand for both 2FE, UFE and EFE. Our childcare places data shown in Table 5 is based on Ofsted data and the maximum number of children a provider can have on site at any one time. This is not the same as the number of funded places a provider can offer which could be significantly higher, as a funded place is defined as the number of 15 hour places available across a week. A provider open for 50 hours could therefore offer 3 early education funded places for every childcare place they are registered for.

It must also be remembered that place numbers will flex between childcare and funded provision on a regular basis as children reach the age for eligibility and take up the entitlement. Providers indicate their intended place numbers when they join the *Buckinghamshire Directory of Providers eligible to deliver the Funded Entitlement* and are amended in accordance with any change in provision. It is the parent who dictates where their child takes their UFE and EFE. A provider may report no EFE places, for example, because they are not open for more than 15 hours; but a parent may choose to share the entitlement across providers and claim their EFE in a setting which reports to us it does not offer EFE.

To allow for demand, population changes, and significant housing development in some areas, we have developed additional places to build capacity. Tables 9 and 10 below details this development. Whilst we proactively develop provision in areas of undersupply we cannot prevent new providers joining the market in areas where there is already sufficient provision. However, the level of support which the LA offers such providers is limited to that which we are required to offer under statute. There can be some advantages to new providers entering the market in areas of oversupply as it can give parents additional choice, provide alternative offers of how they can access their child’s entitlement and even drive up quality or drive down charges.

Table 9: Funded Education Places Development – actual against planned



	Summer Term 2018	Autumn Term 2018	Spring Term 2019	Total
Planned places from the 2018/19 action plan	194	406	322	922
Delivered places	194	562	167	923

Table 10: Places developed at Children's Centre Reach level 2018-2019

Children's Centre Reach Area	2 year old places	3 & 4 year old places
Amersham		16
Aylesbury (Oakfield & Bedgrove)	4	
Aylesbury (Quarrendon)		84
Aylesbury (South West)	8	52
Aylesbury (Southcourt)		48
Beaconsfield		24
BEEYEH Bearbrook Site		
BEEYEH Elmhurst Site		60
Bourne End & Wooburn Green		
Buckingham		56
Burnham		36
Chalfonts		36
Chesham (Newtown)		20
Chesham (Waterside)	16	20
Farnham		32
Denham & Gerrards Cross		
Great Missenden (& Prestwood)	16	82
Haddenham		
Hamilton Road		
Hazlemere & Loudwater		10
Ivinghoe & Pitstone		
Mapledean (Wycombe)	12	
Marlow Town		
Millbrook (Wycombe)		78
Princes Risborough	24	72
Steeple Claydon		
Stokenchurch & Hamb Valley		10
The Ivers		
Waddesdon & Whitchurch		
Wendover	21	60
Wing		
Wycombe (Castlefield)		
Wycombe (Disraeli & Downley)		10
Wycombe (East)		16
Wycombe (Hampden Way)		
Total places developed 923	101	822

Two Year Old Funded Entitlement

A proportion of the 2 year old population are eligible to access up to 15 hours a week funded early years provision (2FE) for 38 weeks of the year. Eligibility is based on the following criteria:

The family must be in receipt of one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit

If the child was born after 31 December 2015 earned net income (additional money earned after tax not including benefits) of no more than £15,400 per year

- Tax credits

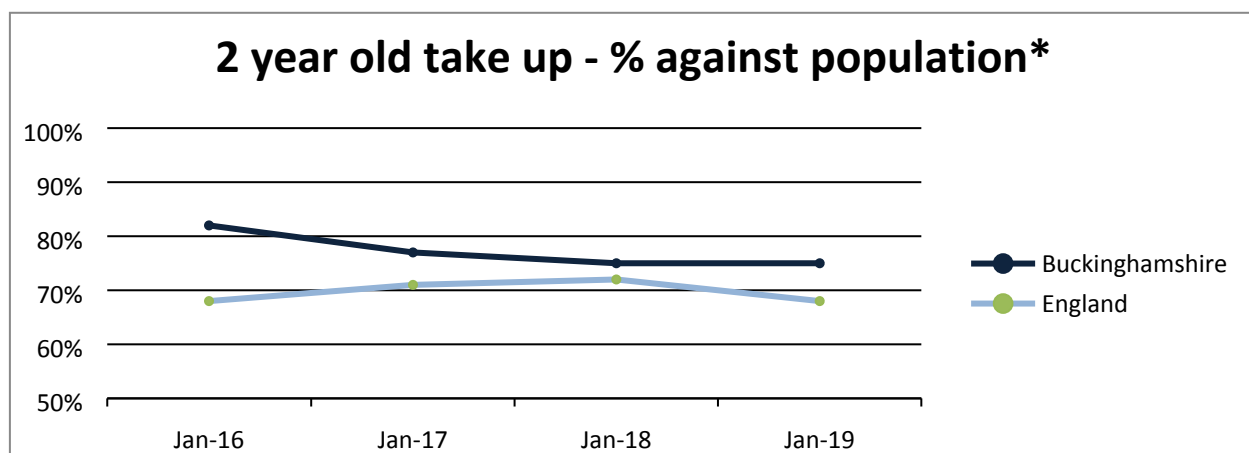
and have an annual gross income (before tax) of no more than £16,190 per year

- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part 6 (VI) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Children can also get free early education and childcare if any of the following apply:

- they’re looked after by a local authority
- they have a current statement of special education needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- they are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance
- they’ve left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order

Table 11: 2FE Take up in Buckinghamshire compared with national take up



***DFE Note:** Count of children aged 2 at 31 December in the previous calendar year. Numbers of 2-year-olds taking up places is expressed as a percentage of the 2-year-old population eligible for a funded early education. The estimated number of eligible children is derived from data supplied to the Department for Education (DfE) by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in November each year on the number of children believed to meet the benefit and tax credit eligibility criteria. It represents the best data available on the number of eligible children in each local authority area, but excludes universal credit claimants.

In Buckinghamshire, as part of our Education and Skills Strategy, we prioritise supporting eligible families into a 2FE place as these children are more likely to under achieve. Evidence shows

that where children attend high quality early education they are more likely to reach their full potential. Whilst take up of 2FE has dropped in Buckinghamshire since our height of 2016 we have been able to maintain our take up at a minimum of 75% despite a falling take up rate nationally. Indeed the gap between Buckinghamshire and nationally is widening. As a LA we have set ourselves an ambitious target of 80% of eligible 2 year olds accessing a place, as supporting our vulnerable families is a key priority for us. Issues with the introduction of Universal Credit and gaps in the data received from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), now resolved, were contributory factors to the lower take up over the last year.

Table 12: Take up and gap analysis for 2FE as at Spring 2019

Children's Centre Reach Areas	*No. of eligible 2 year olds	No. of Funded places	Variance	Average Hours taken 2019	Average Hours taken 2018	% Children taking full hours 2019	% Children taking full hours 2018	**No. of 2 year olds accessing hours based on setting address	**No. of 2 year olds accessing hours based on home address
Amersham	31	204	173	12.16	13.89	54.05	75.61	37	23
Aylesbury (Bearbrook)	22	28	6	14.38	13.75	88.89	93.10	18	14
Aylesbury (Elmhurst)	52	35	-17	14.00	14.10	81.82	92.31	11	33
Aylesbury (Oakfield & Bedgrove)	32	94	62	13.48	12.26	79.31	54.84	29	24
Aylesbury (Quarrendon)	120	116	-4	14.51	14.48	95.83	95.92	48	92
Aylesbury (South West)	50	113	63	13.67	13.05	74.19	54.17	31	48
Aylesbury (Southcourt)	59	217	158	14.07	14.31	91.27	90.38	126	53
Beaconsfield	19	67	48	13.54	13.32	73.68	81.82	19	15
Bourne End & Wooburn Green	24	80	56	13.46	13.10	68.57	69.44	35	22
Buckingham	42	81	39	12.39	12.81	65.52	60.00	29	28
Burnham	39	58	19	13.76	14.11	78.57	81.48	28	20
Chalfonts	21	76	55	11.08	10.58	50.00	38.46	14	12
Chesham (Newtown)	55	80	25	14.39	14.29	92.86	86.11	28	34
Chesham (Waterside)	20	45	25	11.84	13.61	50.00	73.68	14	16
Farnham	23	65	42	13.96	14.15	83.33	92.00	26	12
Denham & Gerrards Cross	14	19	5	12.58	13.80	80.77	80.00	12	14
Great Missenden (& Prestwood)	14	77	63	12.43	13.15	62.50	69.57	16	9
Haddenham	15	69	54	13.21	11.93	69.23	40.91	13	9

Children's Centre Reach Areas	*No. of eligible 2 year olds	No. of Funded places	Variance	Average Hours taken 2019	Average Hours taken 2018	% Children taking full hours 2019	% Children taking full hours 2018	**No. of 2 year olds accessing hours based on setting address	**No. of 2 year olds accessing hours based on home address
Hazlemere & Loudwater	18	66	48	12.00	12.92	66.67	58.82	15	15
Ivinghoe & Pitstone	9	38	29	12.00	11.40	60.00	60.00	5	4
Marlow Town	13	73	60	13.09	13.66	73.91	77.27	23	17
Princes Risborough	30	96	66	12.39	13.27	64.00	68.42	25	19
Steeple Claydon	18	78	60	11.69	12.33	57.69	50.00	26	19
Stokenchurch & Hambleden Valley	22	79	57	12.20	14.12	65.00	80.77	20	18
The Ivers	33	58	25	13.40	14.50	86.67	89.29	30	22
Waddesdon & Whitchurch	34	76	42	12.71	11.71	53.57	39.29	28	34
Wendover	25	65	40	11.75	12.26	56.00	67.74	25	23
Wing	19	42	23	13.31	14.47	75.00	72.73	20	15
Wycombe (Castlefield)	89	64	-25	14.67	15.00	95.45	100.00	44	67
Wycombe (Disraeli & Downley)	46	65	19	14.41	14.40	93.94	92.00	33	36
Wycombe (East)	89	82	-7	14.79	14.83	97.62	96.00	84	75
Wycombe (Hamilton Road)	28	34	6	13.32	14.52	73.33	94.44	15	15
Wycombe (Hampden Way)	65	87	22	13.04	13.42	66.67	77.78	12	37
Wycombe (Mapledean)	46	59	13	13.50	14.04	72.22	80.00	18	24
Wycombe (Millbrook)	30	52	22	14.50	14.84	100.00	100.00	43	25
TOTAL	1266	2638	1372	13.19	13.50	74.23	75.27	1000	943
Gap at CC reach level			-53						
TOTAL 2018	1356	2596	-104	13.50		75.27		983	973

* Eligible population taken from DWP list November 2018

**Number of children differs when taking home address as the basis as it excludes the children accessing a place in Buckinghamshire but who live outside of the County.

Table 13: Take up and gap analysis for 2FE as at Spring Term 2019 for Aylesbury & High Wycombe

Combined CC Reach Areas	No. of potentially eligible 2 year olds across whole area	Funded places available	Variance across whole area	Planned Place Development for 2,3 & 4 year old entitlements
Aylesbury	335	603	268	134
High Wycombe	393	443	50	107

The demand for 2FE places varies on a termly basis as children become eligible. Technically the number of eligible families and children changes on a termly basis but, in order for BCC to track take up effectively, the population number has been based on the November Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) download and used for the whole year. This is the figure the DfE uses in producing the statistics shown in table 12 above. The DWP supply us with a download seven times per year which identifies families with young children who may be eligible for a funded 2 year old place. The download of the information the DWP hold regarding families claiming a range of benefits is an indicative number only as family's circumstances can change.

In order to ensure our most vulnerable families access their entitlement and take the opportunity to support them in accessing work or study, as well as the learning experiences for their child, we undertake a range of actions to maximise take up. Using the information provided by the DWP we write out to those families we believe may be eligible for a place for their 2 year old. We currently use this information and work with our Children's Centre colleagues to visit those parents who have not applied to explain the benefits to them and their family of taking up this offer. We attend the Job Centre on a regular basis to support individuals with understanding the options available to them in relation to 2FE, UFE and EFE, promoting childcare and the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service (BFIS) whilst also promoting childcare as a career.

Table 12 above demonstrates that, whilst we have twice the number of 2FE places available at a county level for potential demand, there remain 4 Children's Centre Reach Areas, in Aylesbury and High Wycombe, where there is a potential lack of provision. Table 13 demonstrates that across these areas we have sufficient places. The planned additional places for development in 2019/20 are minimum numbers and are likely to be higher once the provision is open. In Castlefield there is a shortage of 25 places based on an eligible population of 89 children. 69 children (77%) are taking up a place and of those only 44 are taking it within the Castlefield area. 95% are taking up their full hours which is not surprising as the majority of the places in the area are school based. It would appear Parents are choosing to travel to access provision outside their local area. Further investigation is needed to understand why 25 children (36%) are accessing provision out of area.

Our records show that over 285 children had 2FE funding agreed but were not in a place. This is higher than the same point last year when the figure was just over 200 and we have undertaken some research in one specific area where there were places available. Face to face conversations were held with a number of parents and all of them reported that they did not want to attend the provider with the vacancies despite the provider's good Ofsted judgement and the easy access from their home. They would prefer to keep their child at home rather than send them to the provider identified. Officer support has been given to the provider to provide positive marketing support to promote their provision in the most effective way. The data shows that the number of individual children accessing a place has increased slightly from 983 to 1000 but both the average hours and the percentage of children accessing their full 15 hours per week has dropped. This may be as a result of the expansion of the extended funded entitlement (EFE) and providers prioritising their older children. Further investigation at setting level may help our understanding of this slight drop in take up.

There is a balance to be struck in ensuring that there is sufficient provision to meet the changing eligible population and developing provision which remains empty, creating sustainability issues for the provider. Increasing the number of funded childminders is a less risky strategy as they do not usually have the costs associated with staffing and premises and we have been successful in this regard with 53 additional childminders delivering provision for funded 2 year olds, an increase of 26% on the previous year.

Funded Entitlement for 3 & 4 years olds

All 3 year olds are entitled to 15 hours funded entitlement for 38 weeks of the year from the term following their third birthday and this is known as the Universal Funded Entitlement (UFE).

A proportion of the 3 & 4 year old population are eligible to access up to an additional 15 hours a week funded Early Years provision and this is known as the Extended Funded Entitlement (EFE) for 38 weeks of the year. Eligibility is based on the following criteria:

- Both parents, or sole parent in single parent households, must earn the equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum or Living Wage (£112.80 a week or £5,800 a year if aged 21 to 24 and £120 a week (or £6,000 a year) if you're over 25) and less than £100,000.
- Those in receipt of some benefits i.e. Carer's allowance may also be eligible.

Under both offers families may access less than the 15 hours available stretched over more weeks at providers who deliver the 'stretched' offer.

Table 14: Universal Funded Entitlement take up in Buckinghamshire compared with national take up

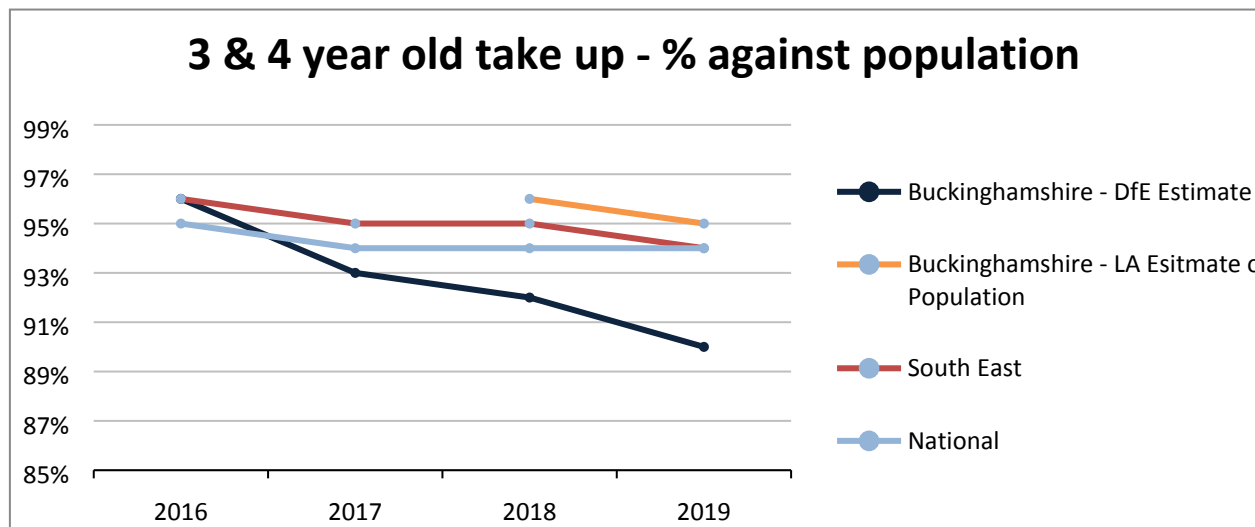


Table 14 shows the DfE published take up of 3 & 4 funded entitlement. We would challenge their population figures which do not reflect local data and have included an additional line indicating the position based on this for comparison. The DfE data is based on mid-year estimates which are 2 years out of date. The LA figures have proved accurate when cross checked against school population in reception adjusted for those who enter the private sector or who have not accessed early year provision prior to starting statutory schooling.

Table 15: Take up and gap analysis for UFE and EFE as at Spring Term 2019

Children Centre Reach Areas	*3 & 4 year olds UFE	**3 & 4 year olds EFE	TOTAL 3 & 4 year olds	Funded places available for both UFE and EFE	Variance at CC Area for UFE/EFE	Number of 3 & 4 year olds taking up universal hours	Number of 3 & 4 year olds taking up extended hours	Total number of 3 & 4 year olds taking up UFE/EFE
Amersham	397	137	534	810	276	434	128	562
Aylesbury (Bearbrook)	177	92	269	351	82	167	62	229
Aylesbury (Elmhurst)	261	94	355	173	-182	136	60	196
Aylesbury (Oakfield & Bedgrove)	89	81	170	648	478	408	148	556
Aylesbury (Quarrendon)	789	194	983	363	-620	249	74	323
Aylesbury (South West)	443	113	556	367	-189	205	100	305
Aylesbury (Southcourt)	308	147	455	668	213	404	139	543
Beaconsfield	167	74	241	487	246	267	79	346
Bourne End & Wooburn Green	227	87	314	485	171	307	149	456
Buckingham	308	113	421	637	216	375	153	528
Burnham	230	96	326	355	29	211	101	312
Chalfonts	269	100	369	661	292	372	107	479
Chesham (Newtown)	376	120	496	356	-140	197	56	253
Chesham (Waterside)	166	58	224	298	74	167	58	225
Farnham	279	67	346	458	112	232	100	332
Denham & Gerrards Cross	123	90	213	142	-71	91	11	102
Great Missenden (& Prestwood)	120	81	201	613	412	337	124	461
Haddenham	158	99	257	544	287	331	134	465
Hazlemere & Loudwater	270	107	377	440	63	210	68	278
Ivinghoe & Pitstone	115	51	166	225	59	114	30	144
Marlow Town	257	92	349	503	154	242	96	338
Princes Risborough	221	104	325	623	298	326	135	461
Steeple Claydon	187	77	264	471	207	228	83	311
Stokenchurch & Hambleden Valley	236	97	333	627	294	342	156	498
The Ivers	326	81	407	370	-37	186	59	245
Waddesdon & Whitchurch	54	48	102	455	353	274	100	374
Wendover	321	124	445	600	155	348	176	524
Wing	216	77	293	455	162	233	73	306

Children Centre Reach Areas	*3 & 4 year olds UFE	**3 & 4 year olds EFE	TOTAL 3 & 4 year olds	Funded places available for both UFE and EFE	Variance at CC Area for UFE/EFE	Number of 3 & 4 year olds taking up universal hours	Number of 3 & 4 year olds taking up extended hours	Total number of 3 & 4 year olds taking up UFE/EFE
Wycombe (Castlefield)	362	116	478	277	-201	154	19	173
Wycombe (Disraeli & Downley)	207	85	292	231	-61	180	55	235
Wycombe (East)	519	120	639	284	-355	287	101	388
Wycombe (Hamilton Road)	186	82	268	261	-7	137	38	175
Wycombe (Hampden Way)	305	99	404	407	3	101	24	125
Wycombe (Mapledean)	200	84	284	398	114	262	127	389
Wycombe (Millbrook)	175	60	235	266	31	197	78	275
TOTAL	9044	3348	12,392	15,309	2,917	8,711	3,201	11,912
Gap at CC Reach level					-1863			
Total 2018	8592	4214	12,806	14,733	-759	8,767	2,581	

* Eligible population for 3 & 4 year olds is based on published midyear estimates less those children aged 4 in a Reception class

**Population is calculated as the existing population of 3 & 4 year olds plus the additional potential take up of the full additional 15 hours based on EFE eligibility codes issued. We have assumed migration into and from Buckinghamshire is neutral for this exercise.

Table 16: Comparison in average hours and percentage taking full entitlement for UFE and EFE for 2018 and 2019

Children Centre Reach Areas	Average hours taken UFE 2019	Average hours taken UFE 2018	Average hours taken EFE 2019	Average hours taken EFE 2018	%children taking full hours UFE 2019	%children taking full hours UFE 2018	%children taking full hours EFE 2019	%children taking full hours EFE 2018
Amersham	13.74	14.09	12.92	11.95	82.72	81.88	75.00	64.23
Aylesbury (Bearbrook)	13.53	14.34	12.41	10.82	81.44	88.76	61.29	42.62
Aylesbury (Elmhurst)	14.07	14.66	12.33	10.96	90.44	94.66	66.67	48.78
Aylesbury (Oakfield & Bedgrove)	13.66	14.34	11.49	12.52	83.58	87.34	59.46	69.12
Aylesbury (Quarrendon)	14.34	14.76	13.68	13.52	92.37	97.62	82.43	77.78
Aylesbury (South West)	13.28	14.31	12.99	12.43	81.46	86.10	70.00	64.84
Aylesbury (Southcourt)	14.49	14.82	13.63	14.45	96.04	96.77	77.70	88.19
Beaconsfield	13.98	14.21	12.71	12.01	88.01	84.71	74.68	57.65
Bourne End & Wooburn Green	13.04	14.28	11.99	12.54	76.22	86.60	57.05	64.44

Children Centre Reach Areas	Average hours taken UFE	Average hours taken UFE	Average hours taken EFE	Average hours taken EFE	%children taking full hours	%children taking full hours	%children taking full hours	%children taking full hours
	2019	2018	2019	2018	UFE 2019	UFE 2018	EFE 2019	EFE 2018
Buckingham	14.01	13.86	11.52	11.85	84.53	82.45	58.17	47.37
Burnham	14.39	14.54	13.50	13.39	90.52	91.12	72.28	71.08
Chalfonts	13.83	14.54	12.59	12.65	84.14	86.74	65.42	64.29
Chesham (Newtown)	14.33	14.71	13.31	13.97	90.36	93.41	67.86	81.36
Chesham (Waterside)	13.92	13.84	11.84	12.10	79.04	74.73	63.79	61.90
Farnham	13.93	14.70	11.45	13.00	86.64	91.41	63.64	70.13
Denham & Gerrards Cross	13.59	14.24	13.28	11.66	70.33	83.33	74.00	62.50
Great Missenden (& Prestwood)	13.94	12.96	11.60	10.90	86.35	79.55	53.23	53.25
Haddenham	13.50	14.15	11.39	10.93	75.23	81.17	51.49	43.97
Hazlemere & Loudwater	13.64	13.91	11.93	11.97	81.43	77.14	61.76	57.75
Ivinghoe & Pitstone	13.03	13.59	10.48	10.10	70.18	70.87	26.67	23.08
Marlow Town	14.22	14.00	12.22	12.15	88.02	76.42	68.75	61.25
Princes Risborough	13.67	14.31	10.96	11.43	79.14	83.84	46.67	51.15
Steeple Claydon	12.12	13.55	10.96	9.19	63.60	71.88	42.17	26.09
Stokenchurch & Hambleton Valley	13.20	14.07	12.64	12.36	76.61	88.38	57.69	62.40
The Ivers	14.40	14.74	13.57	14.24	94.09	93.25	77.97	89.83
Waddesdon & Whitchurch	12.59	13.77	10.48	11.01	72.26	70.48	45.00	37.11
Wendover	13.74	14.15	11.00	10.70	75.29	74.81	44.32	34.53
Wing	13.50	13.63	13.20	12.65	77.68	72.77	72.60	55.56
Wycombe (Castlefield)	14.44	14.74	13.93	12.73	96.75	96.90	84.21	54.55
Wycombe (Disraeli & Downley)	13.93	14.55	9.97	10.16	87.78	89.19	41.82	41.51
Wycombe (East)	14.54	14.84	14.25	14.02	96.17	96.63	86.14	78.13
Wycombe (Hamilton Road)	14.04	14.70	14.37	14.06	91.24	96.24	92.11	91.43
Wycombe (Hampden Way)	14.43	14.75	13.93	14.91	93.07	94.00	87.50	100.00
Wycombe (Mapledean)	14.56	14.46	12.85	12.92	95.80	91.07	74.02	72.53
Wycombe (Millbrook)	14.70	14.88	14.48	13.83	97.46	99.48	93.59	82.35
TOTAL	13.84	14.29	12.45	12.29	84.46	86.05	65.63	61.51
Change 2019 from 2018	-3.3%		+1.3%		-1.9%		+6.7%	

Table 17: Take up and gap analysis for UFE/EFE as at Spring Term 2019 for Aylesbury, High Wycombe & Chesham

	No. of 3 & 4 year olds across whole area for UFE and EFE	Funded places available for both UFE and EFE	Variance across whole area	Planned Place Development for 2,3 & 4 year old entitlements
Aylesbury	2788	2570	-218	134
Chesham	720	654	-66	39
High Wycombe	2600	2124	-476	107
Total confirmed minimum places to be developed to meet unmet demand so far to date				280

Table 18: Planned place development by Children Centre Reach Areas

	Children Centre Reach Area	No of confirmed planned Funded places to be developed for 2, 3 & 4 year olds	Total
Aylesbury	Elmhurst	48	134
	Oakfield & Bedgrove	46	
	Quarrendon	40	
Chesham	Newtown	39	39
High Wycombe	Castlefield	45	107
	East	4	
	Hamilton Road	28	
	Hazlemere & Loudwater	30	
Total confirmed minimum places to be developed to meet unmet demand so far to date			280

As previously stated, place counts are challenging as they can flex between being used for childcare and funded provision and, sometimes, between age groups; depending on the needs and demand at individual providers. The place availability in Table 15 includes places to meet demand for both UFE and EFE. At a county level we have a 19% over supply in places. However 10 Children's Centre Reach Areas are showing a shortage in provision and unsurprisingly 8 of these are in the main urban centres of Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Chesham. In all three towns, despite some oversupply in other areas which can be accessed to meet demand, there is still a shortfall: see Table 17 above. The changing population, together with the impact of parental choice for a particular provider based on quality, location, flexibility or type, means that close monitoring of take up is required on an ongoing basis. The position in Denham is likely to be affected by its proximity to the border with parents choosing to access provision out of county. In addition it may be that wage levels mean that although there are working parents they fall outside of the criteria for the EFE. We had forecasted potential demand for EFE at 90 children but in spring 2019 EFE was only accessed by 11 children.

Our forecast demand for EFE was 3,348 children. Although Table 15 suggests a possible shortfall of 1,863 places as a local area level, 3,201 (95.6%) of all eligible children accessed a place suggesting that there is sufficient provision available at a local level.

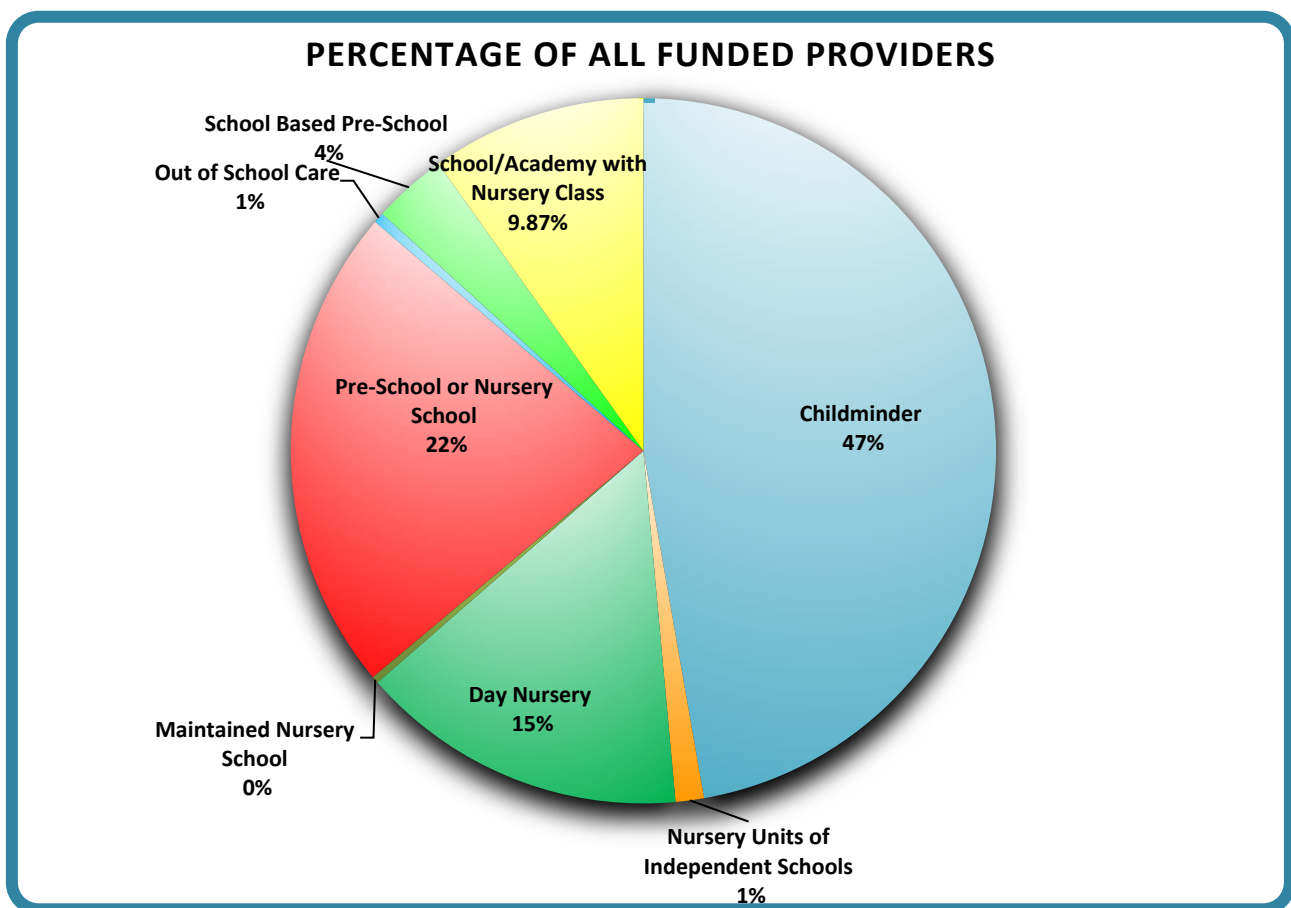
Although we are predicting some shortfall, and need to be mindful of the potential growth in population at this point, we have only had 2 reports of unmet demand suggesting that parents are finding places to meet their needs. What is of more concern is the slight drop in the average hours of UFE accessed and also the drop in the percentage accessing their full 15 hours as detailed in Table 16. It is not a surprise that the respective figures for EFE are showing an increase as this is the first full year of entitlement. Anecdotally we are aware there are some families who are accessing all their EFE and not all their UFE depending on their chosen provider and the offers available. We intend to investigate this further as this has implications for us in terms of the DfE reporting on our recorded take up and we need to ascertain the extent to which this may be occurring.

Ongoing Impact of the Extended Funded Entitlement

Since the introduction of the Extended Free Entitlement (EFE) we have seen a change in the distribution of providers delivering this entitlement. There has been a 49% increase in the number of childminders joining the 'Directory of Providers Eligible to Deliver the Funded Entitlement' (DOP) or agreeing to offer EFE such that childminders now make up nearly half of providers delivering the offer. The out of school sector has also made the move to deliver funded education; although at 0.5% of the total, they represent a very small percentage. There has been some interest from providers of holiday provision but the practicalities of funding providers who are not open in census week (the point at which the DfE counts the number of children and providers) means this is not something we have progressed. The DfE, in light of the difficulty with funding and census counts are now suggesting that LA's promote the use of Tax Free Childcare rather than offering EFE hours.. We continue to promote the use of Tax Free Childcare via the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service as a way for parents to manage their costs throughout the year.

We envisage that demand for EFE will grow slightly in 2019-20 as more parents are aware of the entitlement and reflecting growth in our local population. Our priority will be to better understand and take effective action to support families to fully access 2FE and UFE supporting our aim for all children to have received their full entitlement to early education and be school ready.

Table 19: Percentage of funded providers delivering EFE by type



We are not receiving reports of parents being unable to access their entitlement, however, we are getting an increasing number of calls questioning the 'consumables' charge which providers are able to levy from families accessing the funded entitlement. Despite making the decision, following consultation with providers, to drop the word 'free', parents are challenging these charges which they see as 'top ups'. Providing they are charged and invoiced in accordance with both the National and Local Guidance this issue is outside of BCC's control. Where there are potential breaches to the guidance, and we have permission, we investigate on the family's behalf. If, following investigation, providers are found to be in breach they are instructed to make the necessary changes and parents' invoices must be re-issued and payment adjusted as appropriate. Invoices are also inspected as part of the LA audit process, with all funded providers being subject to audit in a 3 year cycle as a minimum.

Although some providers are still struggling to adapt to the changing market place, the demand for sustainability funding has dropped from 5 to 3 requests in the past year and the level of grant support needed to sustain provision has also reduced from an average of £13,800 to just over £5K. In part this has been as a result of officer intervention at an earlier stage to support with reworking the provider's delivery model, identifying efficiency savings and encouraging co-operation between providers in a local area.

Last year we set a target to achieve 85% of setting based provision and 80% of funded Childminders delivering the offer. Although this has not been reached, achieving 82.6% for settings (coincidentally the same figure as for pre-school and nursery schools alone) and 65.1% for childminders, as we only had 2 reports of unmet need it is likely that, rather than continuing to try and increase the county % rate, we need to prioritise those areas where additional provision will fill identified gaps, identified in the section above, or improve the range of offers available.

Continuing improvements to our data management are being made to better reflect the interplay between the three offers and the need for additional funded entitlement provision which, together with the emerging take up data, will provide us the opportunity to examine the trends in take up, assumptions about migration and parental preferences for differing offers. This will enable us to better predict potential shortfalls in provision based on a local model. There are currently a number of BCC sites identified as vacant for which we will seek suitable Early Years Providers to deliver services as soon as possible and, once these are confirmed, we will be able to assess whether further capacity is required or if this will enable us to meet demand. The move to the Unitary Authority may also identify additional corporate buildings which could be repurposed.

Buckinghamshire Directory of Funded Providers

The Government's Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities: Early Education and Childcare March 2017, allows LAs limited scope to take a local approach to fulfil some of the recommendations within the guidance. The DfE updated the operational guidance in June 2018 and the [Buckinghamshire's Local Guidance for Providers on the Delivery of the 'Free Entitlement'](#) was updated and republished in September 2018.

Childcare providers in Buckinghamshire who are registered on the Ofsted Early Years Register may apply to become a member of the Buckinghamshire Directory of Funded Providers. Providers may apply to join the Directory before their first grading inspection by Ofsted and, once approved locally, are able to provide FE to eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds up until their first inspection. First inspections must be carried out by Ofsted within 30 months of registration. Early Years Officers work closely with new providers to enable them to ensure that their quality of practice and safeguarding knowledge meets the requirements of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) prior to their first inspection.

Grant Funding

BCC has continued to support sufficiency through our allocation of Early Years Dedicated Schools Grant to increase Early Years provision, the expansion of places, sustainability and to improve provider and workforce quality. Total expenditure for 2018-19 was £520,792.

- Place development - £285,123k awarded to 11 settings/schools to support the creation of 366 additional places. In some cases this was via expansion of existing Early Years provision and, in others, this was the development of new Early Years provision. Grants have supported small building works, resources for younger children and revenue start-up costs whilst services are established.
- Quality Improvement - £102,241k awarded to 9 settings/schools. Grants were used to improve a range of issues including improving outdoor play areas, addressing health and safety issues, providing appropriate resources for 2, 3 and 4 year olds and targeted training.
- Sustainability Grants - 3 grants awarded totalling £15,500 sustaining 132 places of which 40 were for vulnerable 2 year olds.
- Support for Qualifications, Apprenticeships and existing Buckinghamshire Quality Workforce Grant (BQWG) - £117,946 awarded to 51 students/Apprentices/Providers

Key Actions 2019 -2020:

- Further investigate why 36% of eligible families in Wycombe, Castlefield accessing a 2 year old place are doing so out of the local area
- Assess whether the current % of providers offering EFE meets market need. Take action if necessary
- Undertake an analysis to ascertain whether Parent's 'Right to Request' has supported the increase in providers entering the out of school sector
- Ensure providers of 2FE in Aylesbury – Elmhurst and High Wycombe – Castlefield are continuing to maximize their capacity. Challenging providers as necessary. Support identified provider to develop a 2FE offer
- Re-model predicted take-up of EFE for 2019/20 and 2020/21 taking into account demand data to date
- Develop a minimum 280 additional places for funded 2, 3 & 4 year olds to meet demand (as in Table 17)
- Undertake in-depth analysis of the shortfall in places for UFE and EFE in Aylesbury and High Wycombe Town, Chesham – Newtown and The Ivers taking into account planned developments, potential use of vacant buildings and migration patterns to identify any ongoing gap

Cost

Key points:

- Childcare costs are voluntarily reported by providers so the picture is incomplete and reflects approximately 90% of the market place
- Average childcare costs increased by 3.4 %, 1% for childcare of older children (out of school sector)
- Buckinghamshire Family Information Service continue to promote Tax Free Childcare to help families manage their childcare costs

Table 20: Average hourly childcare fees within Buckinghamshire

Children's Centre Reach Areas	Day Nursery Average hourly rate	Pre-School Average hourly rate	Childminder Average hourly rate	Afterschool Club Average hourly rate
Amersham	£6.75	£6.76	£6.08	£6.88
Aylesbury (Bearbrook)	£10.00	No Costs Given	£5.00	£6.45
Aylesbury (Elmhurst)	£3.62	£5.00	£5.00	£4.90
Aylesbury (Oakfield & Bedgrove)	£7.18	£5.70	£5.11	£5.12
Aylesbury (Quarrendon)	£5.60	£5.00	£5.05	£4.77
Aylesbury (South West)	£6.36	£5.00	£5.11	£4.90
Aylesbury (Southcourt)	£6.27	£3.70	£5.00	£5.00
Beaconsfield	£7.34	£9.40	£6.25	£6.46
Bourne End & Wooburn Green	£7.20	£5.94	£5.92	£5.95
Buckingham	£5.51	£4.00	£4.87	£4.52
Burnham	£5.63	£6.00	£5.25	£5.42
Chalfonts	£9.00	£6.05	£5.97	£6.83
Chesham (Newtown)	£7.25	£5.00	£5.89	£6.43
Chesham (Waterside)	£7.08	£7.33	£7.13	£6.81
Farnham	£8.37	£6.63	£6.10	£6.34
Denham & Gerrards Cross	No Costs Given	£7.95	£6.20	£6.33
Great Missenden (& Prestwood)	£7.66	£5.19	£5.93	£5.90
Haddenham	£6.15	£5.19	£5.27	£5.68
Hazlemere & Loudwater	£6.00	£6.96	£5.57	£6.06
Ivinghoe & Pitstone	No Costs Given	£5.25	£5.28	£5.20
Marlow Town	£6.32	£5.38	£6.00	£6.92
Princes Risborough	£7.93	£5.75	£5.43	£5.37
Steeple Claydon	£5.09	£4.98	£4.54	£4.45
Stokenchurch & Hambleden Valley	£6.50	£7.08	£5.22	£5.11

Children's Centre Reach Areas	Day Nursery Average hourly rate	Pre-School Average hourly rate	Childminder Average hourly rate	Afterschool Club Average hourly rate
The Ivers	£5.64	£5.08	£5.00	£4.79
Waddesdon & Whitchurch	£6.70	£5.42	£4.96	£4.83
Wendover	£6.65	£5.46	£5.29	£5.19
Wing	£5.30	£5.31	£5.13	£5.05
Wycombe (Castlefield)	£8.25	£4.92	£5.65	£5.78
Wycombe (Disraeli & Downley)	No Costs Given	£6.37	£6.00	£7.37
Wycombe (East)	No Costs Given	£5.33	£5.00	£5.00
Wycombe (Hamilton Road)	£6.91	No Costs Given	£6.17	£6.75
Wycombe (Hampden Way)	No Costs Given	£4.00	£5.29	£5.25
Wycombe (Mapledean)	£6.25	No Costs Given	£5.60	£4.87
Wycombe (Millbrook)	£7.00	No Costs Given	No Costs Given	No Costs Given
Buckinghamshire Average	£6.72	£5.71	£5.51	£5.67

Average hourly childcare fees in Buckinghamshire

Table 20, above, shows the average cost per hour for most childcare types in Buckinghamshire by Children's Centre Reach Area. This data is taken from fees captured from the annual childcare provider audit completed in January 2019 and is reliant upon providers choosing to share information about their charges with us. The return rate for setting based providers was 92% rising to 94% of those offering early education funding. This is a 10% higher response rate than last year. Childminders was lower at 75% but rising to 88% for funded childminders. The impact of a provider not sharing the information is that we have a number of areas without reported costs. The table shows that fees are variable throughout the county which reflects the diversity of Buckinghamshire. As expected, the areas in the north of the county are generally cheaper than the south of the county however the Day Nursery costs are more mixed.

Whilst delivery costs tend to be more expensive in the south of the county, where some areas have to offer outer London weighting or supplements to attract suitably qualified staff, we do have a number of areas in the south where the average hourly rate for a day nursery is less than the county average. Burnham, Marlow and The Ivers all report lower hourly rates than the Buckinghamshire average. Further investigation into this is required but in Marlow there is over capacity in the market and therefore some providers may be charging lower rates to maximise occupancy. There is also one area in Aylesbury where the average rate is less than the current funding rate (£4.25 for UFE and EFE) and this needs further interrogation to ensure providers are not using funding to subsidise their childcare offer or whether this is a reporting error. There are also 2 areas where Pre-schools are reporting rates lower than the funding rate these too will need to be investigated. For childminders all areas report averages higher than the funding rate.

Childcare Fees

Table 21: Average childcare fees for 25 hours of Care

Region	Nursery 25 hours (Under 2)	Nursery 25 hours (2 and over)	Childminder 25 hours (Under 2)	Childminder 25 hours (2 and over)	After School Club 15 hours
South East	£137.04	£135.50	£120.40	£117.62	£62.42
England	£128.98	£125.77	£114.37	£112.92	£57.36
Buckinghamshire	£176.50	£168.00	£136.25	£137.75	£85.05

*using average costs at full day care nursery

Table 22: Year on year comparison for the After School Club

Region	After School Club 15 hours 2018	After School Club 15 hours 2019
South East	£58.55	£62.42
England	£56.82	£57.36
Buckinghamshire	£84.15	£85.05

The Corum Family and Childcare (formerly known as the Family and Childcare Trust) undertake a national annual survey of childcare fees across the country. The [latest report in 2019](#) showed that, following a steeper increase last year average increase across all provider types for care for over 2's was 3.4%. See Table 21 above for data comparisons between Buckinghamshire and the national picture. For the under 2's it was 4.2% and 2.7% for day nurseries and childminders respectively. However last year's lower increase in the out of school sector has been followed by similar increase of just below 1% nationally. In Buckinghamshire this was just over 1%. Whilst the rate quoted for Buckinghamshire is high it is based on 15 hours at an average hourly rate. Many providers in Buckinghamshire offer care on a weekly rate with discounts for siblings. In order to make more accurate comparisons we have always asked for, or calculated, an hourly rate based on the providers offer and multiplied it by 15 hours as provider session hours vary so cannot be compared directly. Therefore it is highly likely that most parents will not be paying the amount quoted in Tables 21 and 22.

The increase in fees for the full day care sector in Buckinghamshire has been higher than the national average at 8.5% for care for under 2's and 6.5% for over 2's. Although the rates for childminders remain significantly higher than both the national and South East averages the increase has been lower than national at 1.7% for care for the under 2's and 2.4% for care for over 2's. The LA has no role in the determining or monitoring of fees for childcare only hours it is for the provider to determine however it is appropriate to ensure the funding received to deliver the funded entitlements is not used to subsidise a parent's childcare costs.

Key Actions 2019 -2020:

- Carry out an investigation into why the average hourly costs in 3 areas are reported as being less than the current funded rate, taking action where appropriate

Key Points:

- The quality of childcare across Buckinghamshire is higher than ever
- 98.8% of non-domestic provision (NDP) registered with Ofsted is either good or outstanding and higher than national and statistical neighbours
- 95.1% of childminders in Buckinghamshire have been judged to be good or outstanding, higher than national, slightly lower than our statistical neighbours

Increasing the number of providers in Buckinghamshire who are judged by Ofsted to be at least good is a key priority. Following the recent consultation and creation of a restructured Early Years Service, the Early Years providers are supported by EY Consultants and EY Advisors with a range of specialisms, whose focus is to support providers who are not yet good enough and improve outcomes for our most disadvantaged children. Support ranges from universal to targeted, depending on the type of provider, their latest Ofsted judgement and a provider partnership review of their capacity to maintain and improve their quality.

The Common Inspection Framework sets out the principles that apply to inspection and the main judgements that inspectors make when conducting inspections of maintained schools, academies, non-association independent schools, further education and skills providers and registered Early Years settings. The framework emphasises the impact of leaders' work in developing and sustaining an ambitious culture and vision in their setting. Inspectors will also look at leaders' work to provide a broad and balanced curriculum and they will continue to place the effectiveness of safeguarding at the heart of every inspection. When considering children's outcomes, inspectors will want to see that the children currently at the setting are making good progress. There are four judgements: effectiveness of leadership and management; teaching, quality of teaching, learning and assessment; personal development, behaviour and welfare and outcomes for children plus one overall judgement.

First inspections will normally happen within 30 months of a provider's registration date. All provision now judged as inadequate will be re-inspected within six months. Only provision judged as inadequate with enforcement notice will be monitored. Non Domestic Premises (NDP) settings judged to be Requires Improvement will be re-inspected within twelve months; however childminder re-inspections may take up to three years, which impacts on the opportunity to improve overall inspection grades.

Most settings on NDP and childminders will receive half a day's notice of their inspection. Providers that have been judged inadequate or those that Ofsted inspect as a priority arising from a concern will not receive notification of inspection.

The table below shows inspection outcomes for overall effectiveness of active Early Years registered providers at their most recent inspection:

Table 23: Ofsted published results for Providers on non-domestic premises (NDP)

ALL NDP PROVIDERS WITH JUDGEMENTS AS AT 31 st March 2019	Total number of providers	Number of providers with a judgement	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate		% Good or Better
			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
Buckinghamshire	317	252	55	21.8%	194	77.0%	1	0.4%	2	0.8%	98.8%
National	24,134	20,246	4,831	23.9%	14,716	72.7%	494	2.4%	205	1.0%	96.5%
SE Statistical Neighbours	3,271	2,683	762	28.4%	1,831	68.2%	65	2.4%	25	0.9%	96.6%

Table 24: Ofsted published results for Childminders

ALL CHILDMINDERS WITH JUDGEMENTS AS AT 31 st March 2019	Total number of providers	Number of providers with a judgement	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate		% Good or Better
			Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
Buckinghamshire	566	425	79	18.6%	325	76.5%	19	4.5%	2	0.5%	95.1%
National	37,299	30,372	5,223	17.2%	23,545	77.5%	1,313	4.3%	291	1.0%	94.7%
SE Statistical Neighbours	5,841	4,784	1,061	22.2%	3,554	74.3%	140	2.9%	29	0.6%	96.5%

Buckinghamshire's Early Years inspection results are the highest results ever recorded. The quality of provision for providers operating on non-domestic premises (NDP) remains well above both the national average and the average of our south east statistical neighbours. Although our percentage for outstanding judgements alone is lower than national, it is a 7% increase compared with our position in 2017 and 2.6% increase on last year. Our childminders receiving a good or better Ofsted judgement is at 95.1% which is above national; although this is still slightly lower than our statistical neighbours. However, of the 19 childminders with a last recorded judgement of Requires Improvement, 15 have been re-inspected but, as they had no children on role, they were deemed to have met the requirements of registration. This means their last judgement still stands although they may have improved their quality in the meantime.

Key actions 2019 – 2020

- Continue to support providers to maintain high Ofsted inspection judgement results with a minimum of at least 95% achieving good or outstanding judgements

Qualifications and Workforce

Key Points:

- 37% of settings in Buckinghamshire are graduate led compared with 36% nationally
- 49% of funded 2, 3 & 4 year olds attend a setting which is graduate led in Buckinghamshire compared with 37% nationally
- Recruitment and retention of high quality staff continues to be a challenge locally and nationally due to the expansion of childcare, low salaries and changes to qualifications requirements

Training Summary 2018 / 2019

Table 25: Training Days offered in Academic Year

	Academic year 2017-2018	Academic year 2018-2019
Training days offered	108	128.5
Delegates attended	2189	1924

Buckinghamshire County Council has a statutory duty relating to the provision of childcare training for providers who are judged by Ofsted to be Requires Improvement or Inadequate. This duty is supported through the provision of an annual training programme which aims to support the workforce to improve outcomes for children by providing opportunities to develop skills and build the expertise in providing high quality early years education. See Table 25 above.

Courses support providers with training to meet the statutory requirements of the EYFS for example, First Aid and Safeguarding Children courses. In order to support access to training, courses are provided at a subsidised cost. Ofsted inspection outcomes confirm that Early Years Services are of high quality.

The programme this year has included a wide range of courses supporting delivery of EYFS curriculum and courses for play and out-of-school provision. Course development this year has been informed by feedback from the sector, responsive to new Government initiatives and has provided for all levels, from entrants to the workforce, to EYFS leaders.

Courses have been very well received. Evaluations have been consistently positive with 97% - 100% of delegates rating the courses as good or excellent overall and commenting positively on the improvement in their skills and impact on their practice with children. Although the number of training days offered have increased the numbers of delegates has dropped this year. The introduction of a new management system for booking of courses, which will streamline the process in the longer term, has presented some challenges in the initial implementation stage. These have now been resolved.

Workforce Qualifications

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has the following qualification requirements:

- in group settings, the manager must hold at least a full and relevant level 3 qualification and at least half of all other staff must hold at least a full and relevant level 2 qualification

- childminders must have completed training which helps them to understand and implement the EYFS before they can register with Ofsted or a childminder agency

Table 26: DfE statistics of graduate led provision 2019

	Buckinghamshire	National
% of providers Graduate led	37%	36%
% of 2, 3, & 4 Year olds in graduate led settings	49%	37%

Note: the DfE documents do not report at LA level the number or percentage of qualified staff

Table 27: Buckinghamshire statistics on staff qualifications

Qualification	Providers on Non Domestic Premises	Childminders
Full and Relevant Level 3 Qualification in a management role	462	95
Full and Relevant Level 3 Qualification not in a management role	1151	26
EY Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)	103	7
Early Years professional Status (EYP)	85	30

The Early Years Workforce in Buckinghamshire is committed to becoming more qualified and progressing to higher levels. Providers have valued the bursary funding made available to them from BCC to help them meet statutory requirements for staff qualifications. The majority of funding awarded is for Level 3 qualifications; this year there has been downturn in applications see Table 28 below.

National challenges for the Early Years Workforce in the last 5 years have impacted on the workforce in Buckinghamshire leading to a reduced numbers of staff training. These challenges include:

- A sharp increase in costs of training to providers as Government subsidy funding for all qualifications has reduced.
- Changes in the requirements for Maths and English for staff included in the Level 3 EYFS ratios has led to a reduction in numbers progressing from Level 2 to Level 3. The requirements have now changed but the impact over the last two years has been a reduction in staff undertaking qualifications.
- The Government published an Early Years Workforce Strategy in 2017 which marked a commitment to supporting the workforce. However in 2018 it scrapped proposals to grow the early years' graduate workforce in poorer areas. Promises to change the rules to allow those with Early Years Teacher Status or Early Years Professional Status to lead nursery classes in maintained settings have been abandoned.
- Nationally it has been reported by the Government that for the first time there is a downturn in the proportion of staff qualified to level 3 working in Early Years settings.

To address these national challenges and to support the growing demand for early education provision we will continue to focus on promoting national funding streams available such as the national apprenticeships programmes for new entrants to the workforce. We will promote the new apprenticeship standards for Level 3, which attract higher levels of Government funding, making it more affordable for employers to support new staff who want to train.

Going forward we aim to support the sector to increase the number of staff progressing onto higher level of qualifications and provide additional support to aid their recruitment and retention of level 3 qualified staff.

Buckinghamshire Quality Workforce Grant (BQWG)

The aim of the Buckinghamshire Quality Workforce Grant (BQWG) was to develop and support graduate leadership in the EYFS. The grant was provided to support the progression of students wishing to undertake a childcare or Early Years degree and/or Early Years Teacher (EYT) Status pathway courses. Due to a reduction in budget and changes in the apprenticeship scheme this grant has been closed to new applicants from 1 April 2019. Existing students will be supported through to completion of their current course (subject to availability of funds) however students will still be able to apply for bursary support to undertake leadership qualifications.

The comparison table below shows the number of qualifications funded through BQWG, or a bursary and includes a separate section for Apprenticeships:

Table 28: Training supported through Early Years Funding and Bursaries

Qualification	2017-18	2018-19
Level 2	9	
Level 3	17	11
Level 4	2	3
OU Degree Students	3	2
Foundation Degree - Year 1 (L4)	12	
Foundation Degree - Year 2 (L5)	12	10
Honours Degree Students (L6)	10	7
EY Teacher Course	0	0
Apprenticeships Year 1	9	1
Apprenticeships Year 2		6
Apprenticeships Year 3		13
Apprenticeship Retention Grant		10
Total	74	63

Qualification funding remains the same as the last 2 years. Covering 80% of course fees, up to a maximum of £2500, this has meant that students are accessing student finance where additional funding and employer support is not available. Applications for graduate leadership grants have reduced by 10% compared to the previous year.

Workforce Recruitment

Recruitment to the sector continues to be a national challenge. The strategy remains the same to support the Early Years sector to remove barriers to attracting, retaining and developing the Early Years workforce.

BCC has developed a Buckinghamshire Early Years Workforce Plan which pulls together the findings from a range of studies nationally, a local pilot programme and developments in the Apprenticeship Programme to support childcare providers to recruit and develop a highly skilled workforce.

Key actions 2019 – 2020:

- Evaluate the impact of the bursary programme to assess its effectiveness in supporting the recruitment, development and retention of the childcare workforce
- Implement the Buckinghamshire Early Years Workforce Plan to support providers with recruitment, training and staff retention

Early Help

Key points:

- 454 children identified as having low level and emerging SEND needs, of which 350 children and providers received support and advice from the Early Years Service
- 80 children age 0-4 have been issued with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- 258 children supported through BCCN, 42% increase on 2018

To ensure that we all take responsibility for safeguarding children and considering their welfare, we want to identify vulnerable children and young people as early as possible, and work in a coordinated and integrated way to help them before things reach crisis point. We also want to ensure that children who are being abused or who are at risk of significant harm, are promptly referred to Children's Social Care.

The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board [Threshold Document](#) helps identify when a child may need additional support to reach their full potential. This is described through four levels of need:

- Level 1 – children whose needs are met within universal services
- Level 2 – children with additional needs showing early signs of vulnerability requiring early help
- Level 3 – children in need who require statutory or specialist services and targeted early help
- Level 4 – children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm

From September 2019 the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board will be replaced by new local safeguarding arrangements, led by three safeguarding partners. [Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) will be publishing their new arrangements in September 2019

Childcare for Children with SEND (Level 2)

All childcare providers are required to meet the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010 and work with parents to ensure they provide appropriate support to best meet children's needs. In addition, providers offering FE places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds must meet the requirements of the SEND Code of Practice 0- 25 years old, January 2015. These include:

- the need to involve children and parents properly in decision making, ensuring that parents receive the information and support they need
- responding quickly to children's emerging needs
- planning ahead and working towards positive outcomes for children
- a focus on inclusive practice - the great majority of children with SEND are successfully included in mainstream settings
- better coordination between services, with new joined-up assessments and plans for children who need support from several services

Early Years Service (Level 2)

The Early Years Service provides advice and support to Early Years providers who identify children with significant needs. Advice has been provided to support Early Years practitioners with meeting the needs of in excess of 350 children with SEND, 60% of which were new referrals. The significant majority of children's identified needs are communication & interaction, of which 29% have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Table 29: Children Supported through the EYS in Buckinghamshire settings

Type of provider	No. of children with SEN Support					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Pre-School	286	268	244	271	290	283
Day Nursery	74	98	93	139	144	144
Funded Childminder	48	14	10	18	14	27
Nursery Unit of Independent School	35	53	14	16	0	0
Total	443	433	361	444	448	454

Type of provider	No. of children with SEN/EHC Plan					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Pre-School	100	115	78	54	42	71
Day Nursery	14	35	20	34	22	23
Funded Childminder	32	19	0	13	6	12
Nursery Unit of Independent School	13	2	1	4	0	0
Total	159	171	99	105	70	106

Table 30: Total number of Buckinghamshire Children issued with an EHCP

Age of child	2018	2019
1 year old	1	0
2 year old	1	2
3 year old	10	8
4 year old	43	70
Reception age	129	132

Local offer

Since 2014 the LA has had a statutory duty to publish a Local Offer for children and young people from 0-25 years with SEND. This is intended to provide information to parents about the services children, young people and their families can expect from a range of local agencies, including education, health and social care. Changes to the way in which provider's Local Offer is recorded mean that direct comparison with last year is not possible. Considerable work has been undertaken to improve the publication of provider's offers as demonstrated in the table below. However there are still a number of providers who are not using the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service (BFIS) portal to share any information and this will be an area to address in the year ahead although we do not have the power to force providers to publish their offer, we can actively encourage them to do so as a marketing opportunity for their business.

Table 31: Local Offer Published

LOCAL OFFER (LO)	LO published	Number of providers displaying information on BFIS	%
Number of Full Day Care Nurseries offering the funded entitlement with LO Information	75	90	83.3%
Number of Pre-schools offering the funded entitlement with LO Information	154	169	91.1%
Number of Childminders offering the funded entitlement with LO Information	129	254	50.8%

Buckinghamshire Community Childminder Network (BCCN) (Supporting families at Level 2, 3 and 4)

Buckinghamshire Community Childminding Network (BCCN) is a network of high quality, experienced childminders across the county, which provides quality, flexible childcare for vulnerable children and young people aged from birth to 18 years (25 years with SEND). BCCN provides childcare to families who meet Buckinghamshire's threshold levels 3 & 4 for Early Help. Occasionally childcare will be provided for a family at level 2. The childcare provided is part funded by the Council and family contributions. Referrals are made by professionals or via the Early Help Panel. The purpose of the childcare is to support families through their crisis period in order to try and keep the families together. It is an intervention measure and not considered to be a long term package of care. It may enable families to access other services as part of an intervention plan or provide a safe and stimulating environment for a child in need. Support is also provided to families of children with disabilities, who are vulnerable or experiencing family crisis as part of a respite care package.

2,763 children and young people have been supported through BCCN since its inauguration in 2005. Details of the care provided over the last year can be found in Table 32 below.

Table 32: Children and young people supported through BCCN by referrer type

Referrals	2016 - 2017		2017 - 2018		2018-2019	
	No. of children	No. hours	No. of children	No. hours	No. children	No. hours
Social Care including CATCH	76	4667	85	3667	108	1344
Children with Disabilities	17	2833	30	1807	21	1561
Family Resilience Service/ Early Help/all other referrals	28	102	33	323	129	2287
TOTAL	121	7602	148	5797	258	5192
% change			+18%	-31%	42%	-11%

Since 2018 there has been a 42% increase in the number of children supported but the average hours of care has reduced. This is because we have maximized take up of funded entitlement and sign posted to alternative sources of funding. The change in the number of referrals in relation to the hours of care provided demonstrates the shift in approach to supporting families in crisis in a more targeted way. The Children and Teenager Community Help Service (CATCH) is no longer being used for emergency placements but as part of planned periods of respite. This has reduced the hours of care provided significantly as

planned care tends to be of shorter duration but the number of children supported has increased. We no longer track the hours of Early Education Funding offered by BCCN childminders as this is a statutory entitlement, although it may be provided by a BCCN childminder alongside a funded package of support for an identified family. There has been a shift in the distribution of referrals and this reflects changes to the Early Help approach and efforts to raise the profile of BCCN to professionals across Buckinghamshire.

Case Study of support provided by BCCN

BCCN received a referral from BCC Social Care for a young person who was described as having moderate learning disabilities, anxieties and who was highly emotional. At the time the family had reached crisis point and the specialist school the young person attended was struggling to meet their needs and keep them safe. The young person was regularly absconding from both school and home where the situation had escalated. While social care were looking into suitable residential school options they had requested some respite care be put in place to relieve tension within the home.

A BCCN Childminder who we felt had appropriate skills and experience and who could offer some overnight respite was identified. A meeting was arranged for the young person and parent to meet the childminder in her setting and it was agreed that we would initially provide some daytime respite and, if successful, would extend to occasional overnights.

From the outset the young person appeared to settle with the childminder and quickly progressed to the extended overnight respite, they developed relationships with other children at the setting and enjoyed the activities the childminder provided on a 1:1 basis. The childminder was also able to support the transition to the residential school. In between their visits to the childminder the young person seemed better settled at home.

During respite the young person wrote to BCCN ***'I am riting to tell you how I have done at *****. I have had fun, I have made friends A & B. I have had fun sleeping. I have had fun taking the teddy home. I like going swimming and to the cinimer. It has helped me being away from my family'***. The respite continued to go well until the young person left for residential school. Following the respite parents reported ***'The respite care had enabled us time as a 'normal' family and had given us 'time to breathe'***. They also added ***'this has been the most important county provided intervention we have received in the past 6 years-if only we had received this earlier we may not be in crisis'***

Key actions 2019 – 2020:

- Increase the number of childminders who have active records with local offer information on the BFIS portal to at least 80%. of all childminders delivering the Funded Entitlement

Key Points:

- 307,473 contacts received by Buckinghamshire Family Information Service (BFIS) in 2018/19
- 83 requests for support to find childcare of which 2 reports of unmet need

Buckinghamshire Family Information Service (BFIS)

LAs have a statutory duty to support working parents to find suitable childcare. BFIS provides a range of services to carry out this duty including the provision of information via website, telephone, social media and outreach. BFIS received a total of 307,473 contacts in 2018/19 (including unique website visitors and social media likes). Buckinghamshire County Council's Customer Service Centre (CSC) takes initial enquires and provides general information to families while more complex enquiries are passed to BFIS.

Parents are encouraged to inform the service if suitable childcare has not been found and periodically an exercise is undertaken to follow up enquiries. For 18/19 150 calls were received by the CSC and 82 contacts were received by BFIS by families searching for childcare. There were 2 reports of unmet demand and these were reported back to the Early Years Service.

Full statistics and achievements for the year 2018/19 are available below.

- 150 queries regarding childcare were handled by the CSC.
- 82 queries regarding childcare were handled by BFIS.
- 17 queries regarding 2 year old funding were handled by the CSC.
- 30 queries regarding 2 year old funding were handled by BFIS.
- 166 enquiries regarding 30 hours' childcare and 2 enquiries regarding tax-free childcare were handled by the CSC.
- 85 enquiries regarding 30 hours childcare and 13 enquiries regarding tax-free childcare were handled by BFIS.
- 19 Early Education Funding enquiries were handled by the CSC.
- 16 Early Education Funding enquiries were handled by BFIS.
- 83 Brokerage enquiries were handled by BFIS.
- The childcare landing page has had further review and improvement to enable families to find information more easily.
- The filter names have been amended to better reflect what families search for and now include '2 year old funded providers', '3/4 year old funded providers', '30 hours childcare providers' as well as other filters for before/ after school, holiday clubs, childminders, nurseries, pre-schools, crèches and classes.
- There has been a continued information campaign to explain 30 hours and tax-free childcare and keep families up to date with the various reminders and deadlines.
- There has been a push on promoting courses to become a childminder with some promoted posts on social media.
- Social media 'listening' allows a duty worker to provide information in chat groups where childcare queries arise.

Table 33: BFIS Page Hits by Category April 2018 – March 2019

Page/Category	Total Unique Page views 2018/2019	Total Unique Page views 2017/2018
Content pages (A&G): Unique Pageviews		
Funded childcare for 2 year olds	1,515	2,597
Funded childcare for 3 and 4 year olds	1,459	2,385
Tax-Free Childcare: for parents	355	938
Tax-Free Childcare: for providers	196	515
30 Hours Funded Childcare	3,110	7,966
30 Hours and Tax Free Childcare - What's the difference?	1,135	588
Choosing Childcare	681	732
Paying for childcare	388	416
Childcare and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	742	652
Working in Early Years and Childcare	1,321	1,913
Category Searches: Unique Pageviews		
Before/after school, lunch and holiday clubs	3,697	3,849
Childcare for children with a SEND	916	846
Childcare in your home	757	770
Childminders	23,185	23,678
Early Education Funding (EEF) Providers	1,157	2,451
Nurseries, Crèches, Pre Schools & Nursery classes	7,977	7,461
Childcare Support & Training	153	156
2 year old funded Providers (was Eligible 2 Year Old Funded Providers)	3,933	3,745
3/4 year old funded providers	1,004	New category in 2019
30 Hours funded Childcare Providers	2,826	4,790

*** Note: These statistics do not include individual search results; top category level only. Includes internal searches**

Comparisons of the number of website hits show a significant drop in some categories. Potential explanations for this include:

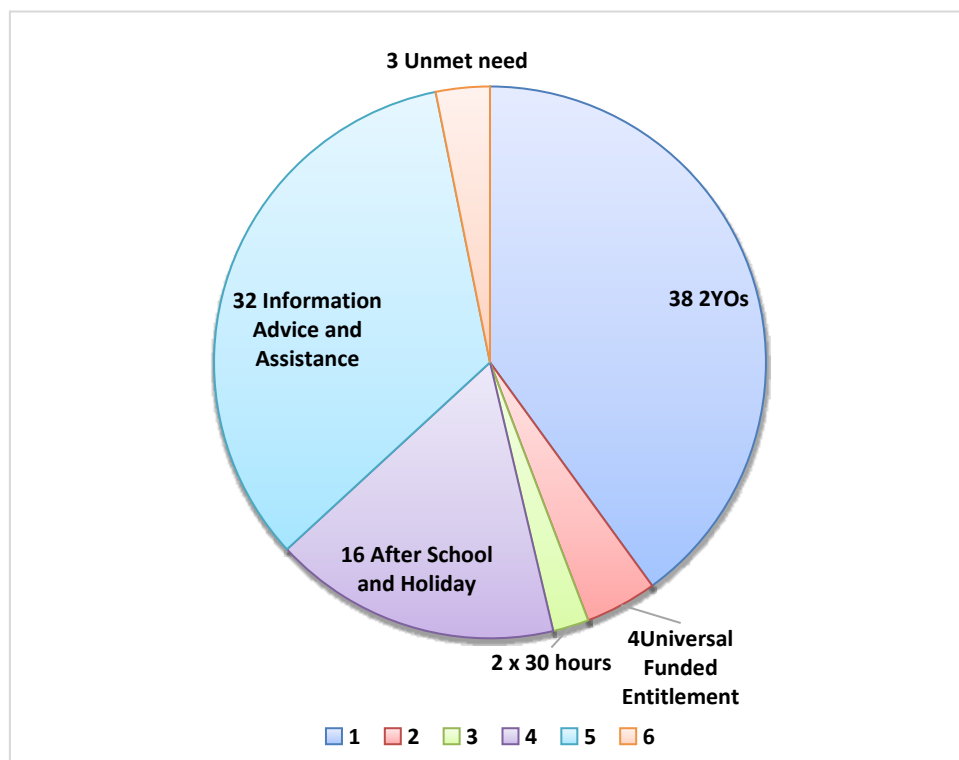
- The biggest drop in unique visitors is on the content pages, it could be that in 18/19 people were better informed and did not need to refer to the guidance as much. The category searches have dropped in number but nowhere near to the same extent as the content views, which would back up that theory
- BFIS have run promotional campaigns on social media and news articles using the government toolkits which signposted directly to childcarechoices, so this could have diverted traffic away from BFIS content
- Some of the pages were renamed (e.g. from 'free' to 'funded') which may have had a slight impact on the analytics available
- The search results are for top category levels only, so will not have captured searches where people input keywords or specific search terms

Early Years Service Brokerage Support

From the beginning of April 2018 to the end of March 2019 100 families, where there was a child with SEND, were supported with information advice and assistance in finding suitable childcare; including support to access out of school and holiday clubs, childminders and nannies. In addition, families were also directed to us from the Early Help Panel where it was felt they needed support to access appropriate childcare provision.

Of the 100 families, 38 had two year olds in receipt of DLA in their own right and are therefore eligible to access the 2YO offer. In addition there were 4 children who were supported to access their Funded Entitlement at 3 years old, 2 families were supported to access 30 hours as they were eligible for the EFE and 16 families were able to find after-school and holiday childcare. 32 families were offered information and advice to support them in making their own childcare choices without additional input from an Early Years officer.

Table 34: Brokerage for Families with children with SEND by type



Of the 100 individual families supported by the Early Years Service Brokerage Team there were only 3 cases where care to meet parents preferences could not be identified. For one family it was felt that the childcare solution that was offered wasn't suitable due to their child's complex medical needs. Despite the highly skilled workforce in Buckinghamshire many parents of children with SEND or complex health needs require a significant amount of support to accept that a childcare professional can provide the level of care and expertise needed to manage their child's condition or treatment.

Key actions 2019 – 2020:

- Continue to monitor the take up of 2FE by children in receipt of DLA to ensure individual children are able to access their full 15 hour entitlement

Future Priorities

This year has again seen considerable challenges for the sector which are unlikely to change significantly in the year ahead. We have continued to develop an additional 923 places in areas of need and minimized as far as possible the negative impact of the expansion of the extended free entitlement. Although this may have impacted on the take up of the 2 year old entitlement as it has dropped, it has nationally and we have continued to perform better than the national average at 75% of eligible families in a place. We have a surplus of places at county level but additional provision is planned in the 'hot spots' centered on Aylesbury and High Wycombe. We will also need to monitor the ongoing take up of the extended free entitlement as well as the anticipated increase in population. We have only had 2 incidents of unmet need reported to us but have had a significant increase in parental challenges to providers additional charges and unclear invoicing. Where this is in breach of the guidance for the delivery of the funded entitlement we will follow this up with the provider.

Full details of the actions identified from this report can be found in Appendix 2 but the highlights are below:

- Develop a further 280 places (as a minimum) in areas of need
- Deliver the Capital project identified (when DfE Grant Funding confirmed)
- Work with identified partners to take occupation of BCC premises for delivery of early years provision
- Identify potential accommodation for development as early years provision as a result of the move to a Unitary Authority
- Monitor the EFE take up data to identify emerging trends
- Modify projections of future demand as population data is becomes available taking into account new housing developments and the impact of the Oxford Cambridge link
- Sustain high quality provision at above 95% good or better as judged by Ofsted
- Promote recruitment and retention of high quality staff

APPENDIX 1:


CSA Action Plan 2018/2019

Action	Outcome	RAG Rating
1. Monitor the number of Childminders to ascertain potential reasons for decline in registration numbers and identify actions to address including active recruitment in areas of identified need	<p>New promotional material produced (September 2018) and posters shared across Buckinghamshire with BFIS promoting in targeted areas</p> <p>Target areas identified and Early Years (EY) Officers promoted Childminder recruitment in Children's Centre Reach Areas</p> <p>Ofsted briefing sessions and induction pre-registration courses promoted and attendance monitored</p> <p>Number of childminders March 18 was 606 which fell to 566 in March 19 a loss of 40 Childminders</p> <p>Nationally the number of childminders has dropped by 6.4% compared to a decrease of 6.6% in Buckinghamshire</p>	
2. Monitor the number of children joining reception in 2018 who have not accessed their Universal Funding Entitlement (UFE) entitlement, identify schools with a higher than average number of pupils and undertake specific research to ascertain any underlying cause	<p>308 Buckinghamshire children started school with no previous noted provision in 2018 compared with 292 in the previous year</p> <p>6 CC areas with a higher than average number of children not having accessed FE within Buckinghamshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Burnham CC area 24 children - Farnham 20 CC area 20Children - Ivinghoe and Pitstone CC area 17 - The Ivers CC area 17 - Aylesbury, Quarrendon 13 - Buckingham 13 <p>A significant number of the children in the areas (except Aylesbury) are living in locations close to our county borders so are likely to have accessed a place in another LA. Further analysis to be undertaken at individual school level.</p>	
3. Take action to address reasons for non-take up of UFE identified as a result of research undertaken in 2. above	<p>Analysis has identified non-attendance down to a school level. School level investigation to be carried out to improve understanding for non-attendance and then identify any potential issues to be addressed.</p> <p>Number is within 5% of last year.</p>	
4. Use Department for Education (DfE) Support Fund to develop 32 childcare places for children with SEND	6 grants awarded resulting in an additional 26 places	

<p>5. Further develop criteria for Inclusion Fund to support children with Special Educational Needs Disabilities (SEND) to take up UFE provision which meets their needs and reduces escalation to Education, Health Care Plans (EHCPs)</p>	<p>21 settings (251 children) in EY SENDIAN (SEN, disability and additional needs) Pilot using Inclusion Funding to support needs. Focus on whole setting approach and recognising the wider benefits of all additional funding. Pilot to be extended in 2019/20 No of children in Bucks settings with EHCP 115</p>	
<p>6. Support providers to develop provision which meets the needs of children with SEND and their families</p>	<p>SEND phone consultations by an Early Years SEND Advisor now offered twice weekly. Opportunity for general SEND advice and 'no-named' discussions which may result in Parental Agreement for child specific work Streamlined template developed to help providers submit their Local Offer developed in consultation with parents All Early Years Service visits spot check Local Offer visibility and support where needed.</p>	
<p>7. Use case study of successful partnership working between funded providers to promote and develop partnership working in areas of unmet need or where current offer does not meet parental demand</p>	<p>Action for Children facilitated a partnership event in Buckinghamshire Introductions facilitated between providers Analysis of informal partnerships has been undertaken</p>	
<p>8. Increase the number of childminders delivering the 30 hour offer (individually or in partnership) to 80% of funded childminders</p>	<p>The number of childminders on the Directory of funded providers has increased from 196 to 292 in the last year which represents 49% increase Targeted approach required to ensure that funded providers are in areas of need rather than an overall increase</p>	
<p>9. Increase the number of Private & Voluntary (PV) providers delivering the 30 hour offer (individually or in partnership) to 85% of funded providers</p>	<p>82.6% of all PVI providers delivering 30 hours which is an increase from 72% since commencement in September 2017</p>	

<p>10.Undertake an analysis of the capacity across High Wycombe and Aylesbury to meet the demand for 2 year old Funding Entitlement (2FE), UFE and Extended Funding Entitlement (EFE) taking into account planned developments, migration patterns and parental preference</p>	<p>Action plans developed for both areas identified Grant funding allocated to develop new offers Places developed 2FE – 12, UFE/EFE - 244 Plans underway for more provision by childcare type in the areas identified. No unmet need identified through parental feedback</p>	
<p>11. Undertake 'deep dive' activity into provision in the Chalfonts area taking into account migratory factors to ascertain the real picture of demand</p>	<p>Deep dive completed, conclusions: affluent area where there are a significant number of parents employing a Nanny or Au Pair for childcare and children then go on to attend independent schools. No unmet need reported.</p>	
<p>12. Re-model predicted take-up of EFE for 2018/2019 and 2019/20 taking into account demand data to date</p>	<p>Data re-modeled in October 2018 providing a more realistic forecast across the county based on emerging trends. This formula to be used for 2019/20 for consistency.</p>	
<p>13. Develop an additional 992 places for funded 2, 3 & 4 year olds</p>	<p>922 planned places to be developed. 923 new places actually developed A number of new places delayed by a term due to planning issues</p>	
<p>14. Create administration records for out of school provision identified through the Schools and EY audit</p>	<p>Data validity check completed at year end. Will need continual monitoring Admin records created where required New process maps introduced to ensure on going consistency</p>	
<p>15. Monitor feedback from parents to identify any unmet need for out of school provision particularly holiday provision</p>	<p>No parent feedback received from BFIS except for children with SEND where brokerage support was offered and all children successfully placed</p>	
<p>16. Ensure Grant criteria reflects both identified and emerging shortfalls in provision and takes into account flexibility for families</p>	<p>Grant criteria examined: grants currently officer led and submitted dependent on need for places /Quality Improvement (QI) or Health and Safety (H&S) Further criteria in development to reflect priorities for 2019/20</p>	

17. Actively promote Apprenticeships in childcare to help address the recruitment issue in the sector	Financial support given to providers to support 30 Apprentices, an increase of 21 from last year In addition we are aware of some apprentices in post without financial support from the LA.	
18. Carry out an investigation into the pre-school costs in High Wycombe, Hampden Way and Mapledean Children’s Centre reach areas to understand why the average is less than the LA funded rate	2 providers identified as charging less than the current funding rate but both have since increased fees; however they remain lower than the funding rate All voluntary sector pre-schools have been visited and an accurate understanding of their current financial position is secured Sufficiency of provision is examined at setting level Settings are supported to make appropriate changes to ensure ongoing sustainability Business event delivered for voluntary providers and sole traders and subsequent support in place for those at risk	
19. Undertake an analysis of the cost of Out of School care (OOS) in Buckinghamshire to understand the reasons for it being significantly above the national rate and identify an actions which might address this	Some analysis has been undertaken however not for the LA to interfere in the childcare charges levied by the provider Continued promotion of Tax Free Childcare to support families meeting their childcare costs Further investigation is needed 2019/20 to ascertain whether the picture is similar in other areas	
20. Promote the various funding streams available to support the development of a highly qualified workforce	Apprenticeship grants successful but total number of staff supported has fallen not increased All Training grants and bursaries are available on the EY website	
21. Evaluate the impact of the bursary programme to assess its effectiveness in supporting the recruitment, development and retention of the childcare workforce	Providers report that bursaries make a significant difference to their ability to train staff in qualifications. Amendments to the apprenticeship grant criteria implemented following feedback. Bursary criteria reviewed and new offer to be made available from September 2019. All funding streams to support qualifications will be available in one place following the realignment of early Years Commissioning and Early Years Service improving the application process and clarity of offers.	
22. Consult on, amend as necessary, publish and implement the Buckinghamshire Early Years Workforce Plan to support providers with recruitment, training and staff retention	Workforce Plan consultation completed and amended as necessary, to be published Recruitment project to improve recruitment and retention undertaken.	

<p>23. Increase the number of childcare providers who have published their Local Offer to at least 50%.</p>	<p>Full day care providers 83% Preschools 91.1% Childminders 50.8% Increase from 26% for all Childcare providers last year Significant work has been undertaken, providers targeted and LO discussed at visits. The questionnaire has been identified as a barrier – a new, more streamlined, questionnaire has been developed in consultation with parent groups</p>	
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Actions identified in main report	Success Criteria
1. Continue to promote childminding as a valuable career choice and actively work to reduce the decline in number of registered childminders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childminding numbers maintained in line with national statistics
2. Undertake research at individual school level to understand why a number of pupils have been identified as not accessing their UFE prior to joining a reception class. Take action to address if necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and confirm reasons for non- take up • Appropriate action taken where necessary
3. Further investigate why 36% of eligible families in Wycombe, Castlefield accessing a 2 year old place are doing so out of the local area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigations completed and action taken where necessary
4. Assess whether current % of providers offering EFE meets market need. Take action if necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers have an offer that meets the needs of the community in which they operate • Parents are able to access different offers at a local level • Sufficient provision for EFE available to meet parental needs
5. Undertake an analysis to ascertain whether parents 'Right to Request' has supported the increase in providers entering the out of school sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are able to report back to the Coram and Family Trust on the impact of the 'Right to Request' • We can use case studies to support further development in areas of need
6. Ensure providers of 2FE in: Aylesbury – Elmhurst and High Wycombe – Castlefield are continuing to maximise their capacity. Challenging providers as necessary. Support identified provider to develop a 2FE offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All eligible children with an active 2FE code are able to access a 15 hour place in their local area
7. Re-model predicted take-up of EFE for 2019/20 and 2020/21 taking into account demand data to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data reflects emerging trend data and provides an accurate forecast of demand and supply with any identified gaps in provision
8. Develop 280 additional places for funded 2, 3 & 4 year olds to meet demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places are delivered to meet forecast gaps in supply • No unmet demand

<p>9. Undertake in-depth analysis of the shortfall in places for UFE and EFE in: Aylesbury Town, High Wycombe Town Chesham – Newtown, Farnham and The Ivers, taking into account planned developments, potential use of vacant buildings and migration patterns to identify any ongoing gap</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no identified gaps in provision and where there are plans are in place to address them in the longer term
<p>10. Carry out an investigation into why the average hourly costs in 3 areas are reported as being less than the current funded rate taking action where appropriate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is an accurate reflection of costs locally • No provider is using funding to subsidise childcare • Providers are sustainable
<p>11. Continue to support providers to maintain high Ofsted inspection judgement results with a minimum of at least 95% achieving good or outstanding judgements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ofsted Inspection judgements are sustained at 95% of providers judged to be good or better
<p>12. Evaluate the impact of the bursary programme to assess its effectiveness in supporting the recruitment, development and retention of the childcare workforce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of EY staff undertaking qualifications • % of providers with a graduate leader continues to be similar or more than national • Increase in the number of EY apprentices
<p>13. Implement the Buckinghamshire Early Years Workforce Plan to support providers with recruitment, training and staff retention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations made in the BCC EY Workforce Plan are taken up by providers
<p>14. Increase the number of childminders who have active records with local offer information on the BFIS portal to at least 80%. of all childminders delivering the Funded Entitlement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target of 80% of childminders offering the funded entitlement have an active childcare record and a clear description of their local offer
<p>15. Continue to monitor the take up of 2FE by children in receipt of DLA to ensure individual children are able to access their full 15 hour entitlement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children identified as in receipt of DLA are accessing their full 15 hours entitlement except in cases where it is not in the best interests of the child (as agreed by the professionals supporting the child/ family) • There are no gaps in FE provision for children in receipt of DLA

Buckinghamshire County Council Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

The 2006 Childcare Act gave Local Authorities a number of statutory duties which include the requirement to ensure sufficient government funded early years places for eligible 2, 3 & 4 year olds, sufficient childcare for working parents or those undertaking training as a route back into work and undertake a sufficiency of childcare assessment. In addition it also requires that BCC provide information, advice and assistance to parents and carers in relation to early education and childcare and information, advice and training to providers and those planning to enter the childcare market.



Childcare Market

- 26,798 childcare places available in Buckinghamshire, 1% increase on 2018
- Loss of 17 providers in line with national statistics but an increase in places against the national trend
- Only 2 reports of unmet demand received



Quality of Provision

- Buckinghamshire's early years inspection results are the best results ever recorded
- Ofsted's judgement for quality of provision on non-domestic premises (NDP) which have a rating of good or better sits at 98.8%, higher than national and statistical neighbours
- Ofsted's judgement for quality of provision for Childminders which have a rating of Good or better sits at 95%, higher than national but slightly lower than statistical neighbours



Funded Entitlement

- Development of 923 new places to deliver Funded Entitlement for 2, 3 & 4 year olds
- 2917 surplus of Funded Entitlement places for 3 & 4 year olds across the county
- Development of 26 specialist places for children with SEND
- Additional 96 childminders delivering the Funded Entitlements, 49% increase on 2018
- 2 more schools delivering early years provision with an additional 99 places available



Early Years Workforce

- 37% of settings in Buckinghamshire are graduate led, compared with 36% nationally
- 49% of 2, 3 & 4 year olds attend a graduate led setting compared with 37% nationally



Future Priorities

- Develop a further 280 places in areas of identified demand
- Repurpose available BCC accommodation for delivery of early years provision
- Promote recruitment and retention of high qualified staff



Glossary

BCC	Buckinghamshire County Council
BCCN	Buckinghamshire Community Childminding Network
BFIS	Buckinghamshire Family Information Service
BQWG	Buckinghamshire Quality Workforce Grant
CATCH	Children and Teenager Community Help
CCA	Children's Centre Area
CSA	Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service
DAF	Disability Access Fund
DfE	Department for Education
DOP	Directory of Providers Eligible to Deliver the Funded Entitlement
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
EEF	Early Education Funding
EFE	Extended Funding Entitlement
ELG	Early Learning Goals
EPPE / EPPSE	Effective Provision of Pre-school Education
ESA	Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
EYC	Early Years and Childcare
EYCF	Early Years Contingency Fund
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage
EYFSP	Early Years Foundation Stage Profile
EYNFF	Early Years National Funding Formula
EYSFF	Early Years Single Funding Formula
EYS	Early Years Service
EYT	Early Years Teacher

FE	Funded Entitlement
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
HBCA	Home Based Childcare Award
IMD	Indices of Multiple Deprivation
JSA	Income based Job Seekers Allowance
LA	Local Authority
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
LLSOA	Lower Level Super Output Area
NDP	Non Domestic Premises
NLW	National Living Wage
NMW	National Minimum Wage
PACEY	Professionals Association for Childcare and Early Years
PPA	Primary Planning Area
PVI	Private, Voluntary and Independent
SEND	Special Education Needs and Disability
SN	Statistical Neighbour
TFC	Tax Free Childcare
UFE	Universal Funded Entitlement
2FE	2 year old Funded Entitlement