

# Report to Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

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**Decision to be taken on or after 30/82/19**

**Decision can normally be implemented at least  
3 working days after decision has been signed.**

**Cabinet Member Report No. ED09.19**

**Title:** Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

**Date:** 21 August 2018

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**Local members affected:** All members

*For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444*

[Guidance can be found on the intranet at the following link:  
<https://intranet.buckscc.gov.uk/how-do-i/member-services/decision-making/>  
Is the report confidential? Please contact Democratic Services.]

## **Summary**

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.

## Recommendation

The Cabinet Member to agree the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2019 (CSA) for Buckinghamshire and to note:

- The progress made against last year's key actions.
- The nature and the extent of the need for, and supply of, childcare within Buckinghamshire.
- The key actions that will be taken in 2019/20 in order to improve the sufficiency of places.

### A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

As reported above, the LA has a Statutory Duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to report on the state of the childcare market in Buckinghamshire and for this to be updated annually.

The 2019 report identifies our success over the last year in developing an additional 923 places to meet demand for the early education entitlements for 2, 3 and 4 year olds and despite significant housing growth, we only received two reports from parents of unmet need. In addition to assessing the childcare market in Buckinghamshire and the early education places available, the report also notes the quality of provision available in Buckinghamshire.

### B. Other options available, and their pros and cons

Not applicable.

### C. Resource implications

Not applicable.

### D. Value for Money (VfM) Self Assessment

Not applicable.

### E. Legal implications

Publication of the Buckinghamshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2019 is a statutory duty under the Childcare Act 2006.

### F. Property implications

Not applicable.

### G. Unitary Council

Not applicable.

### H. Other implications/issues

Not applicable.

### I. Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views

Not applicable.

**J. Communication issues**

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2019 will be published on the BCC website following agreement.

**K. Progress Monitoring**

Progress against actions identified in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2019 will be reported in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2020.

**L. Review**

The report forming part of this decision will be reviewed after one year.

***Your questions and views***

*If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.*

*If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on 29 August 2019. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to [democracy@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckscc.gov.uk)*