



**Knowsley**  
**Childcare Sufficiency**  
**Annual Assessment**  
**2020 /21**



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## Introduction

The Childcare Act 2006 fulfils the government's commitment to give every child the best start in life and parents greater choice about how to balance work and family life. The Act places duties on English local authorities to improve outcomes for children and young people and reduce inequalities between them; to secure sufficient childcare to enable parents to work; and to provide information to parents about childcare and a wide range of other services that may be of benefit to them.

The Childcare Act gives local authorities a key role in shaping the childcare market in their area. They will, working with providers from the private, voluntary, independent, maintained sectors and academies, look to create a strong, sustainable and diverse childcare market that meets the needs of parents. Under the Childcare Act, local authorities have a duty to secure sufficient childcare for parents in their area. In preparation for this duty, a detailed assessment of the supply of and demand for, childcare in their area is required.

The Local Authority are required to undertake a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment on an annual basis and report the findings to the elected members and to make the report available and accessible to parents.

## Aims and Objectives

This report aims to provide KMBC with an assessment of sufficiency regarding the supply of childcare and the demand of parents, carers and children & young people for childcare to enable the Local Authority to perform its Childcare Duty as outlined in the Childcare Act (2006 and subsequent amendments to the Act)

Sufficient childcare, in Section 7 of the 2006 Act, is defined as 'sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in the local authority's area who require childcare in order to enable them –

*To take up, or remain in, work, or*

*To undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work.*

In determining whether provision of childcare is sufficient a local authority:

- a. Must have regard to the needs of parents in their area for –
  - the provision of childcare in respect of which the childcare element of the working tax credit is payable, and
  - the provision of childcare which is suitable for children with SEND

- b. May have regard to any childcare which they expect to be available outside their area.'

## Knowsley Demographics

Knowsley is one of six Local Authority districts that comprise the Liverpool City Region (the others being Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens, Wirral, and Halton). It is located at the heart of the North West, between Liverpool and Manchester and covers an area of 33 square miles; just over ten miles from south to north, and up to seven miles across. There are rural areas, affluent areas as well as deprived areas with Knowsley being the 4<sup>th</sup> most deprived borough in the country.

For the purpose of reporting and of assessing supply and estimating demand for the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment the analysis will be split into 3 areas of the borough consisting of North Kirkby - South Kirkby (Area 1), North Huyton – Prescott, Whiston and Cronton (Area 2) and South Huyton – Halewood (Area 3)

The areas are also divided into 15 wards for more detailed analysis:

Cherryfield, Halewood North, Halewood South, Northwood, Page Moss, Prescott North, Prescott South, Roby, Shevington, St Gabriels, St Michaels, Stockbridge, Swanside, Whiston and Cronton, Whitefield

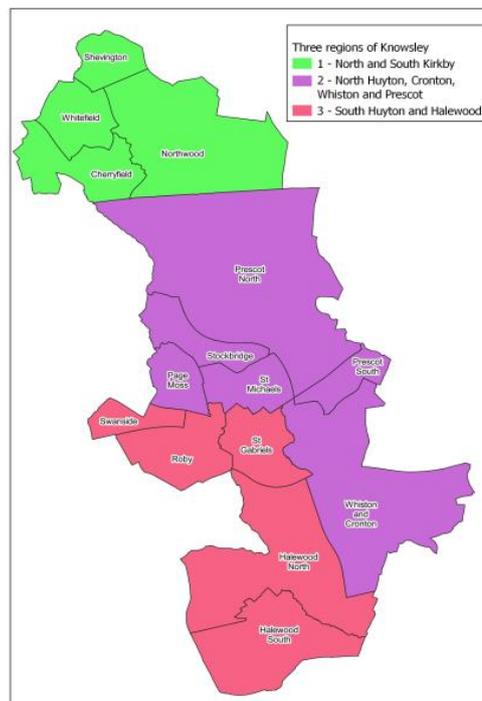


Table a – Knowsley Wards @ June 2020

## Population

In recent years, Knowsley has experienced further population loss and now has around 146,000 people living in 65,000 households. However, the rate of decline has decreased and national projections indicate that the population should grow by approximately 4,000 between 2011 and 2021.

In broad terms, the population is distributed across the borough as follows: 38% in Huyton; 28% in Kirkby; 14% in Halewood; and the remaining 20% split between Prescot, Whiston, Cronton, and Knowsley Village.

The age profile of Knowsley's population resembles that of Merseyside, the North West and Great Britain. Although the working age population (age 16-64) is on parity with the latter, a slightly higher proportion of residents are in the 0-14 age group than regionally or nationally.

As is the case in many parts of the UK, the number of older people (over 65) in the borough has steadily increased over the last 21 years. It rose by 24% between 1991 and 2012.

Other notable characteristics of the borough's resident population include its comparatively small Non-White Ethnic population, representing only around 3% of residents; a higher than average proportion of lone parent households, which are particularly concentrated in the Kirkby area; and a relatively low proportion of single person households

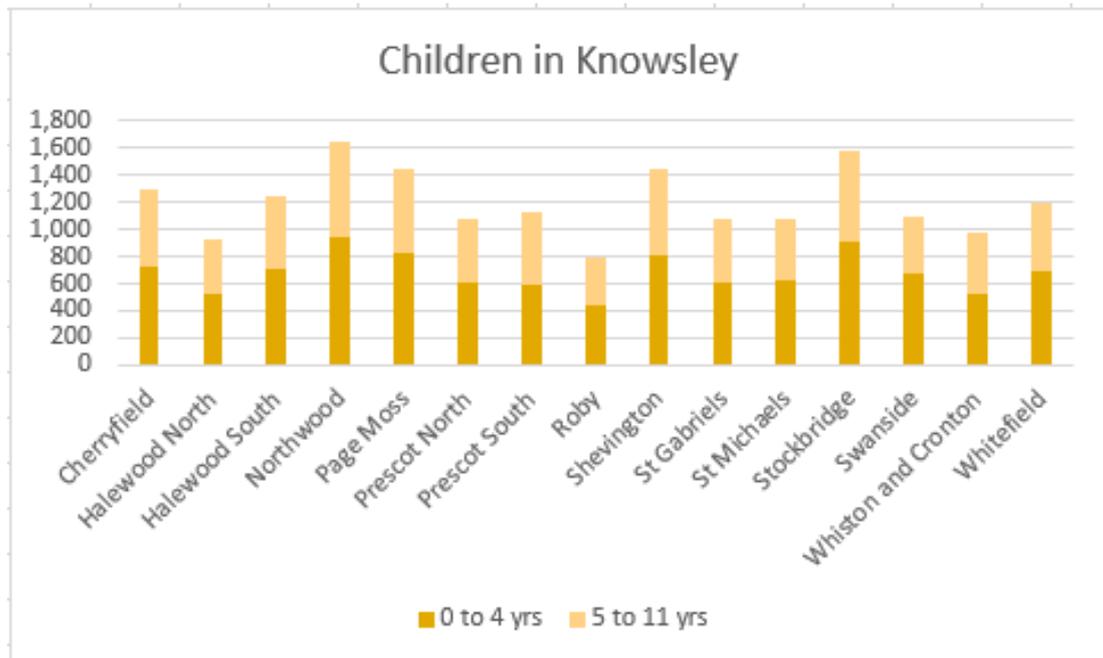


Table b - ONS Data 2018

	All Ages	Estimated Babies	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Cherryfield	10,877	147	157	144	145	141	128	158	143	138	157	129	147
Halewood North	9,766	107	101	120	98	107	97	93	110	95	92	95	97
Halewood South	10,858	142	132	148	136	153	124	140	131	147	124	149	147
Northwood	11,130	187	171	174	203	201	165	174	181	190	175	173	174
Page Moss	10,229	166	155	188	163	157	147	175	149	150	164	151	141
Prescot North	9,637	122	125	130	119	115	109	103	134	120	102	100	84
Prescot South	9,906	119	92	116	123	145	116	136	123	152	134	137	111
Roby	8,918	89	87	95	78	94	94	81	76	105	86	85	84
Shevington	10,113	162	164	155	155	172	158	151	165	173	151	154	150
St Gabriels	9,511	123	119	124	114	134	113	112	110	128	118	100	131
St Michaels	9,198	125	98	131	130	142	111	106	129	110	117	117	102
Stockbridge	11,000	184	164	168	199	203	174	150	177	158	138	146	118
Swanside	9,294	134	147	119	127	141	111	95	96	121	95	104	97
Whiston and Cronton	9,245	105	123	92	104	101	110	111	117	117	122	106	129
Whitefield	9,889	139	142	142	147	124	125	114	119	138	120	88	95
Total Children	149,571	2,049	1,977	2,046	2,041	2,130	1,882	1,899	1,960	2,042	1,895	1,834	1,807

Table c – ONS 2018

### So what does this mean?

Some pockets of the borough have a higher demand for childcare than others so as a Local Authority we need to monitor this to ensure there are enough childcare places in the higher demand areas. As the population is increasing we need to ensure that we are able to maintain the childcare provision we currently have and increase this to meet the future demands where necessary.

### Economy

Knowsley's excellent strategic position contributes to its importance as a location for employment in the Liverpool City Region. The borough is home to several large industrial and business parks, including Knowsley Business Park (in Kirkby), the Jaguar Land Rover car plant (in Halewood), and Kings, Huyton and Prescot Business Parks in the central belt of the borough.

Together they play a crucial economic role as the base for around 3,000 businesses. This number has remained relatively stable in recent years, with an average of around 340 new businesses registering for VAT in the borough each year.

Knowsley has a working age population of 93,800, of whom around 72% are economically active, and 67% (62,600) are in employment. The borough has historically had a high proportion of public sector workers amongst its residents and, currently, a third of employed Knowsley residents work in public sector job roles. A further 42% of residents work in industries related to the SuperPort, Visitor Economy, Advanced Manufacturing and Financial and Professional Services sectors; demonstrating the importance of the Liverpool City Region's growth sectors to Knowsley residents. However, Knowsley's residents are also important to the City Region, as more working residents commute to jobs outside of the borough, than within it.

Knowsley does experience higher than average levels of economic deprivation, with around 20% of the working age population receiving some type of out-of-work benefit. However, the current worklessness rate in Knowsley is the lowest it has been in at least 10 years and the reduction is significantly greater than that nationally and sub-regionally over that period.

Due to the COVID-19 impact this may affect the working population but as yet the full impact is unknown. Some working families possibly will not require childcare going forward if their circumstances have changed but if they have a 2 year old there may be a higher demand for 2 year old funded places due to the families income changes.

### Housing developments within the borough

SCAP Planning Pri Ref Name	Plan_H_2021/22	Plan_H_2022/23	Plan_H_2023/24	Plan_H_2024/25
Central East	350	288	223	218
Central West	286	242	155	124
Cronton Primary	0	0	0	0
Halewood Primary	100	140	140	140
Kirkby Primary	177	127	115	52
Knowsley Village	0	0	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>534</b>

Table d – Knowsley Housing Development Plan 2020

### So what does this mean?

Because of the current situation with COVID-19 this may have an impact on the demand for childcare within the borough. The COVID-19 outbreak may also impact on the economy of the childcare provision within the borough and affect sustainability of the businesses.

The housing developments within the borough will bring in additional childcare requirements over the next 10 years based on the plans currently in place.

### Summary of Key Findings

Overall there is a good mix of childcare provisions across the borough to cater for the needs of parents and families to meet the current demand. This is based on available birth data, projections of future demand and information of available childcare provision within the borough. There is a level of flexibility in the childcare market, which enables most families to find a provider that meets their childcare requirements. This is supported by the Childcare Information Service which reports very low numbers of parents or families unable to find childcare to meet their needs.

This is however dependant on the childcare market remaining as it currently stands. Should the number of childcare places or provisions within the borough decline, depending on the area they are based, then this may affect the balance of having sufficient places for parental choice for some families.

The COVID-19 outbreak has had an impact on the childcare sector across the borough in the main affecting the out of school provision. This needs monitoring closely to ensure parents can access the childcare they need as some provision is not opening until October half term. The Childcare Information Service is currently using the brokerage service to ensure parents are able to access the provision they need to ensure they can get the childcare they need to enable them to go to work or to access training.

Our analysis tells us there is immediate action that will be required to increase sufficiency in Area 1. Whilst there are enough places right now, we know that the impact of new developments within the Kirkby town centre and housing developments in the north of Kirkby may increase demand.

There is a surplus of childcare provision currently in the Area 2 mainly around the Whiston and Cronton ward but due to housing developments due to start soon within this ward we may need to maintain or extend the childcare provision we currently have to meet future demands. Quarterly monitoring will enable us to plan effectively for this.

In the short term current projections suggest there is sufficient provision in Area 3 of the borough( South Huyton & Halewood) to meet immediate demand but demand will increase due to housing developments due to start in the near future and planning is underway to address this.

The impact of the COVID-19 crisis is currently unknown so will need to monitor the childcare sector closely and regularly over the next 12 months to ensure the sector remain sustainable and that we have sufficient childcare places available going forward to meet the demands of parents as they return to work and the 'New Normal' and for those families whose circumstances have changed due to COVID-19 and may need 2 year old early education places.

It is important that the childcare market retains sufficient capacity to respond swiftly to the changing needs of families and it is anticipated that through surplus places families needs can be met.

## **Demand for Childcare**

### **Travelling in and out of Knowsley for childcare needs.**

Whilst we can monitor the demand versus the supply of childcare for parents and families within the borough, we must also take into account those parents and families that commute in and out of the borough for work. This has an impact on the childcare places being accessed by families migrating. This cannot be measured exactly as we do not have access to the data for all 0 to 4 year olds to be able to do a detailed analysis.

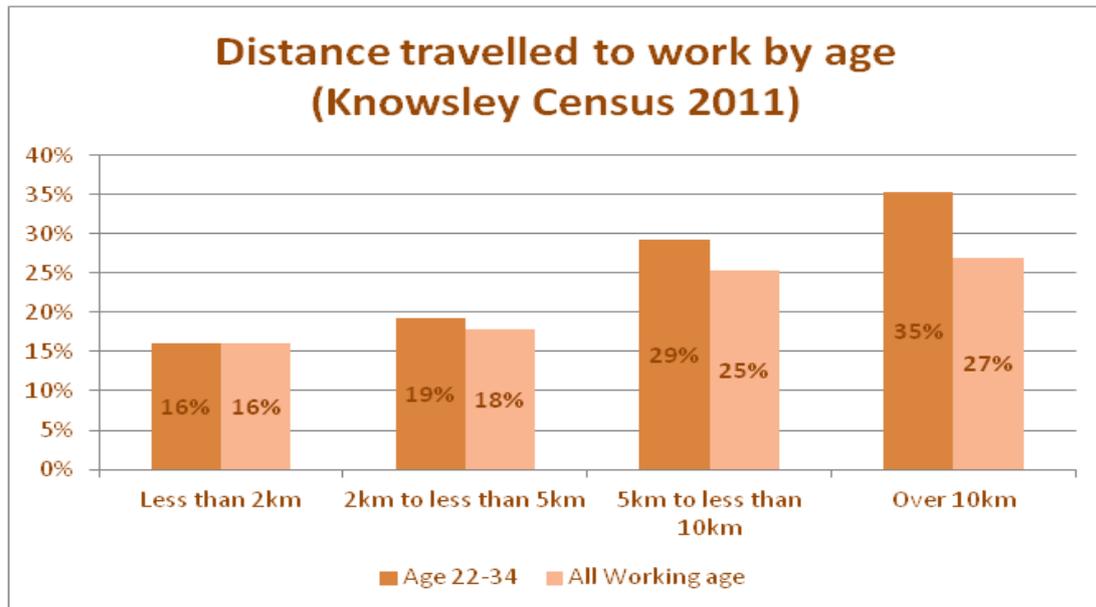


Table e – Census 2011

This may reflect the convenience of care provision *en route* to the work place; and may further explain the popularity of centrally located providers, not just their proximity to areas with a high concentration of employers.

A child’s travel to care from home often passes several other providers, suggesting distance from home is not the only consideration when choosing provision.

This is the complete opposite for children where parents/carers are not working. In the main, these families will choose childcare as near to where they live as possible. This will be due to those parents that don’t drive or just because it is convenient to use a provision close to home where they can walk their children to the provision or drop off quickly.

Since the introduction of the 30 hours extended childcare entitlement in September 2017 we have seen an steady increase in the demand for these places.

## Supply of Childcare

Between all of the childcare providers in the private, voluntary and independent sector, the opening times range from between 6.30am to 8.00pm depending on the demand for childcare and the opening times vary between areas. There is a good mix of childcare throughout the borough to enable parents to access the childcare they need. For maintained schools and academies this varies but in the main they are open between 8.30am to 3.30pm with some offering out of school provision between 8.00am to 5.30pm.

## Summary of Childcare Places aged 0 to 4 years (Private and Voluntary Sector)

### Area 1

North Kirkby	0-4 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Northwood	936	201	6	207	73	2	75	36
Shevington	808	98	25	123	11	6	17	14
Total	1744	299	31	330	84	8	92	25
South Kirkby	0-4 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Cherryfield	734	221	6	227	87	0	87	38
Whitefield	694	105	4	109	30	0	30	28
Total	1428	326	10	336	117	0	117	33

Table f – data as @ June 2020

### Area 2

North Huyton	0-4 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Page Moss	829	155	6	161	37	2	39	24
St Michaels	626	155	9	164	68	3	71	43
Stockbridge	918	199	5	204	46	3	49	24
Total	2373	509	20	529	151	8	159	31
Prescot & Whiston	0-4 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Prescot North	611	158	18	176	77	1	78	44
Prescot South	595	134	24	158	51	10	61	39
Whiston & Cronton	525	190	18	208	46	7	53	25
Total	1731	482	60	542	174	18	192	36

Table g – data as @ June 2020

### Area 3

South Huyton	0-4 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Roby	443	199	12	211	33	3	36	17
St Gabriels	614	143	6	149	80	2	82	55
Swanside	668	70	30	100	38	2	40	40
Total	1725	412	48	460	151	7	158	37
Halewood	0-4 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Halewood North	533	51	24	75	10	4	14	19
Halewood South	711	182	17	199	48	3	51	26
Total	1244	233	41	274	58	7	65	22

Table h – data as @ June 2020

## Summary of Childcare Places 5 to 8 years Out of School Provision (Private and Voluntary Sector)

### Area 1

North Kirkby		5-8 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Northwood	710	30	4	34	0	2	2	6	
Shevington	647	0	23	23	0	3	3	13	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1357</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	
South Kirkby		5-8 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Cherryfield	567	16	5	21	0	0	0	0	
Whitefield	496	64	2	66	3	0	3	5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1063</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	

Table i – data as @ June 2020

### Area 2

North Huyton		5-8 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Page Moss	621	0	6	6	0	3	3	50	
St Michaels	456	0	9	9	0	5	5	56	
Stockbridge	659	12	6	18	1	2	3	17	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1736</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>41</b>	
Prescot & Whiston		5-8 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Prescot North	466	0	17	17	0	5	5	29	
Prescot South	527	0	19	19	0	4	4	21	
Whiston & Cronton	455	0	18	18	0	5	5	28	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1448</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>26</b>	

Table j – data as @ June 2020

### Area 3

South Huyton		5-8 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Roby	356	46	12	58	4	4	8	14	
St Gabriels	463	20	6	26	16	3	19	73	
Swanside	423	40	30	70	5	4	9	13	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1242</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>	
Halewood		5-8 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Halewood North	395	48	23	71	6	2	8	11	
Halewood South	542	130	16	146	24	4	28	19	
<b>Total</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>15</b>	

Table k – data as @ June 2020

## Summary of Childcare Places 5 to 8 years Holiday Provision (Private and Voluntary Sector)

### Area 1

North Kirkby		5-8 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Northwood	710	30	4	34	10	2	12	35	
Shevington	647	0	23	23	0	3	3	13	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1357</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>48</b>	
South Kirkby		5-8 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Cherryfield	567	90	5	95	15	0	15	16	
Whitefield	496	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1063</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	

Table l – data as @ June 2020

### Area 2

North Huyton		5-8 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Page Moss	621	0	6	6	0	3	3	50	
St Michaels	456	0	9	9	0	5	5	56	
Stockbridge	659	60	6	66	1	2	3	5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1736</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>37</b>	
Prescot & Whiston		5-8 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Prescot North	466	0	17	17	0	5	5	29	
Prescot South	527	0	19	19	0	4	4	21	
Whiston & Cronton	455	126	18	144	66	5	71	49	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1448</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>33</b>	

Table m – data as @ June 2020

### Area 3

South Huyton		5-8 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Roby	356	12	12	24	12	4	16	67	
St Gabriels	463	10	6	16	6	3	9	56	
Swanside	423	0	30	30	0	4	4	13	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1242</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>45</b>	
Halewood		5-8 yrs	Total Care PVI	Total Care CM	Combined Total	Vacancies PVI	Vacancies CM	Combined Total	Vacancy %
Halewood North	395	30	23	53	15	2	17	32	
Halewood South	542	70	16	86	10	4	14	16	
<b>Total</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>	

Table n – data as @ June 2020

It is known that 44 (86%), up by 2% from 2016, of schools/academies also operate out of school care (Breakfast Club), with 30 (59%), up by 16% since 2016, of schools offering afterschool clubs that are not required to be

registered. This has increased since September 2012 when 84% of schools/academies offered breakfast clubs and 43% offered After School care. There are also 4 (8%) maintained schools offering childcare places for 2 Year Old Early Education offer, this is a slight decrease since 2016 as it was 5 (10%) in 2016. There are also 4 schools/academies offering holiday care.

Holiday care/activities can also be accessed across the borough that are delivered by various external agencies. This information can be found via the Knowsley MBC website under Family Information Service - <http://youthactivitiesinknowsley.co.uk/>

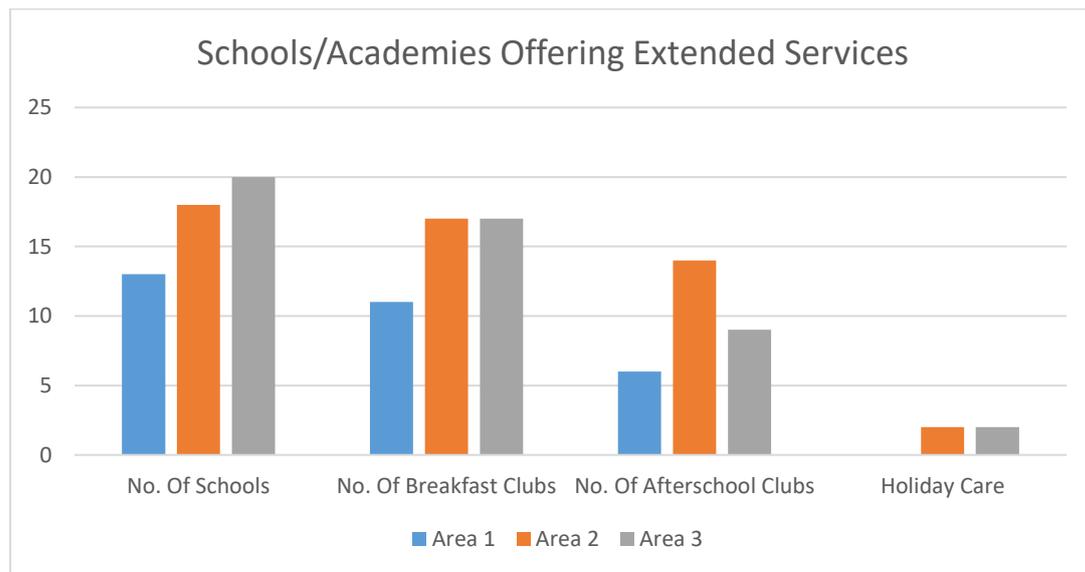


Table o – data as @ June 2020

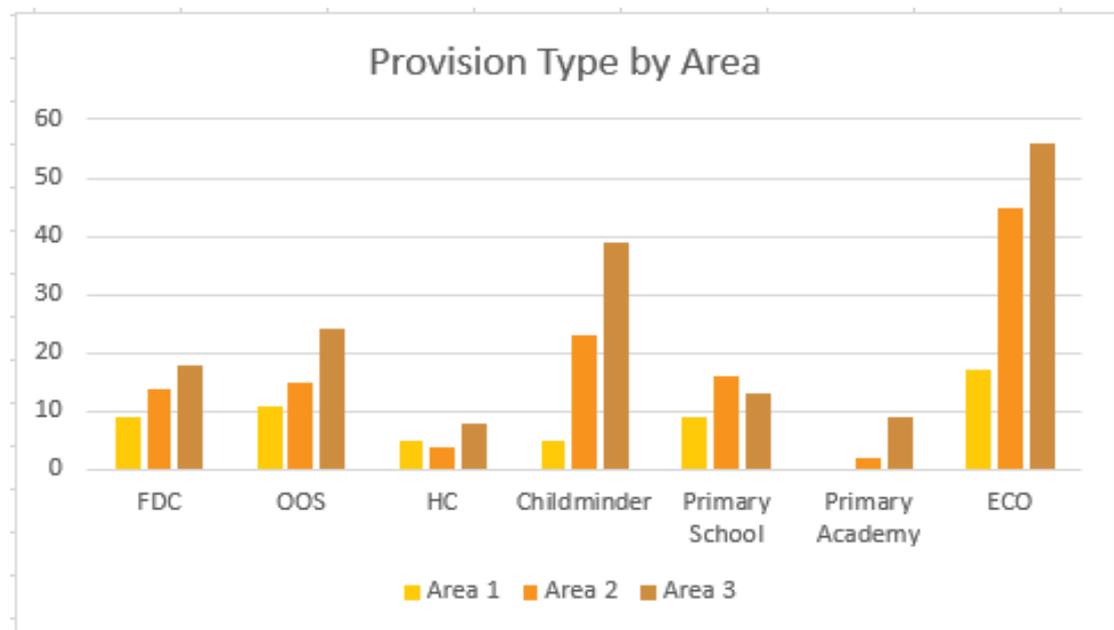


Table p – data as @ June 2020

The number of childcare places recorded across all care types by Knowsley Early Years in June 2020 were 3314 (compared to 3711 in September 2016). This is an overall reduction in 397 private and voluntary provision places currently on offer. If the demand grows again some of the providers are able to increase their numbers to accommodate this change. This decrease is due to the loss of 48 childminders since September 2016 and also some nurseries have reduced the number of places offered due to changes circumstances and also changes in the way families access childcare. Schools and academies have increased their provision in out of school provision and also there are also 32 of the 51 schools/academies offering the extended childcare offer (30 hours provision). The population of children and young people aged 0 to 4 is 9245 and 5 to 8 is 7783 compared to 6955 0 to 4 and 7603 5 to 8 in September 2016. There is an increase of 11% 0 to 4 year olds and 2% increase of 5 to 8 year olds compared to September 2016.

The availability across the Borough of different types of provision is varied but well spread across the 3 areas. 6 out of the 15 Wards have no Out of School Childcare (however there is extended school provision and childminders) and we have no Crèches in any of the wards. All 3 areas have limited holiday care provision available.

After School clubs operate in and around school sites to care for children at the end of the school day. There were 20 Out of School Childcare providers listed as active on the Knowsley Early Years database in June 2020 offering 600 places compared to 644 places in September 2016. These include day nurseries (however, only a small number cater for children over the age of 5 years). Many of our childminders will also offer this service.

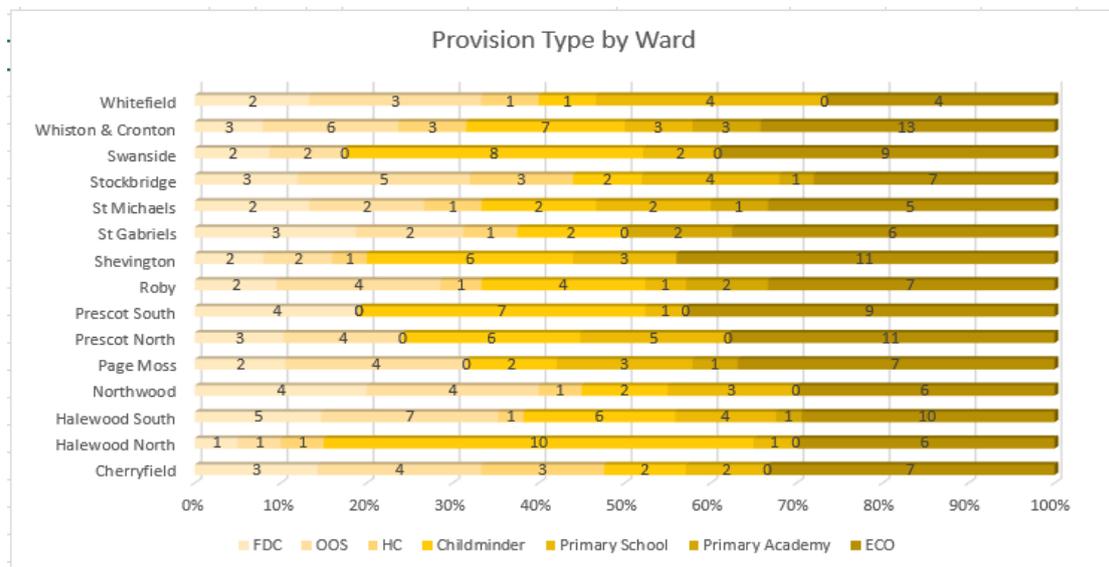


Table q – data as @ March 2020

The childcare sector provides places to support the LA’s Two Year Old Early Learning Education Offer, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 7496 children have benefited from this provision since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016, supporting early intervention and providing children with the skills needed to be ready for school. 4 maintained

schools/academies are now also offering places to support children and families in their local area.

## Take-up of Funded Early Years

Take up of eligible two-year-olds has remained steady though slightly lower than this time last year but this is consistent with the national figures overall. The changes in the benefits system to Universal Credit may have contributed to this change.

Take up of the Extended Entitlement (ECO – 30 hours) continues to grow as do the number of places available as knowledge of the entitlement increases. There is currently sufficient supply to meet the demands across the borough in schools/academies as well as the private and voluntary sector.

<b>National Data</b>	National take up of ECO <b>90%</b> @ 27.06.19	National take up of universal <b>94%</b> @ 27.06.19
<b>Knowsley Data</b>	Knowsley take up of ECO <b>94%</b> @ 27.06.19	Knowsley take up of universal <b>112%</b> @ June 19

Table r – data as @ June 2019

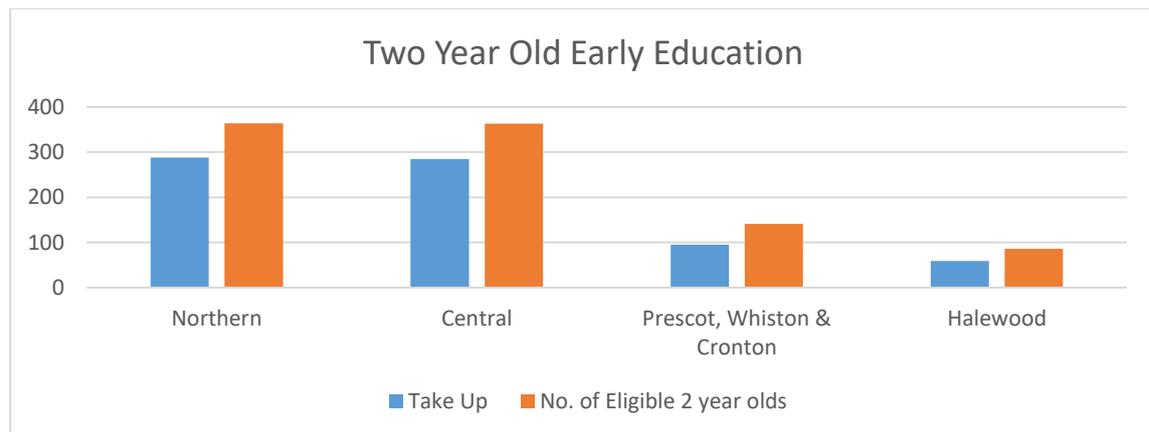


Table s – as @ June 2020

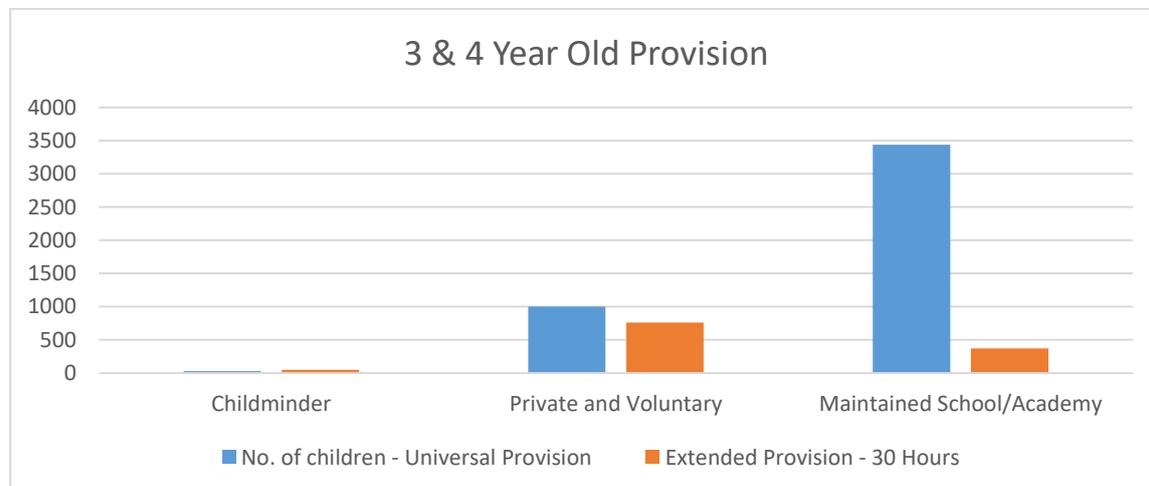


Table t – as @ June 2020

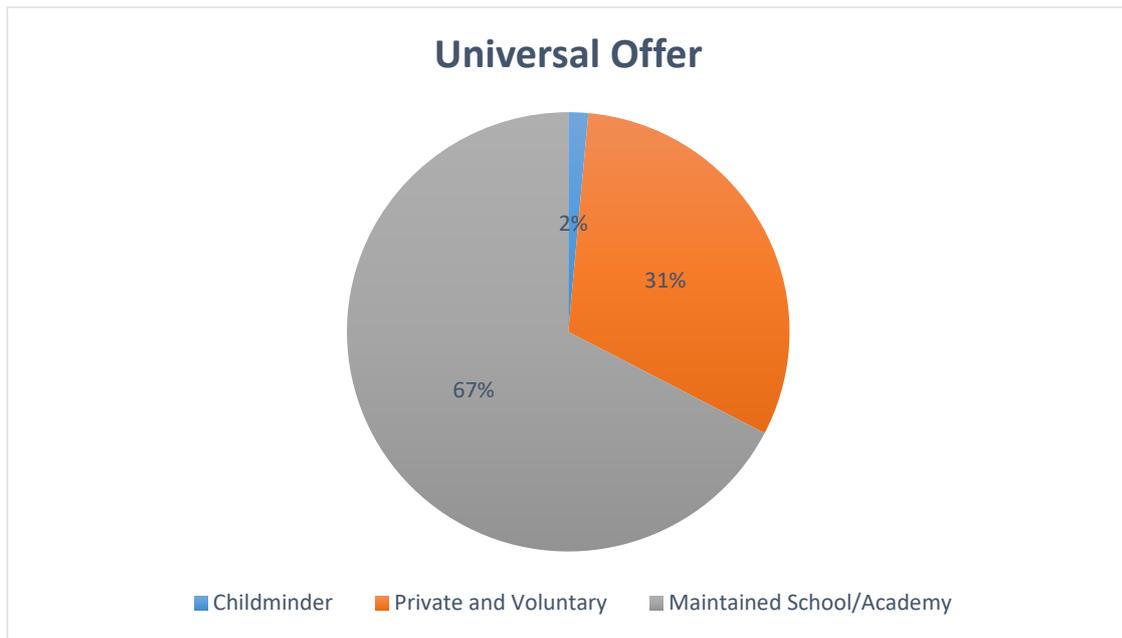


Table u – as @ June 2020

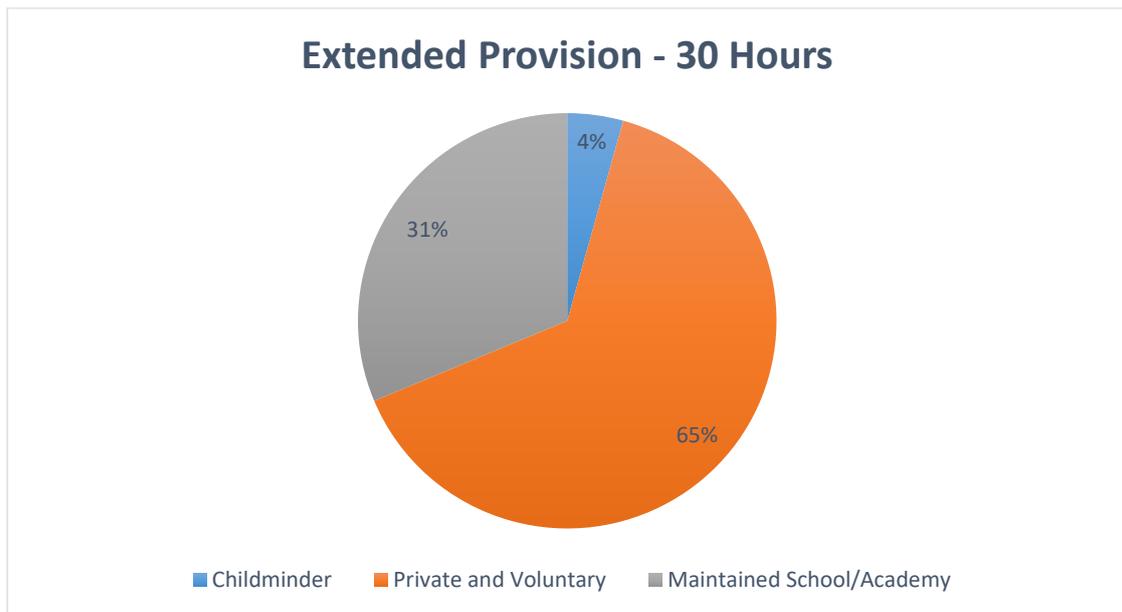


Table v – as @ June 2020

## Children with SEND

All settings registered with Ofsted, promote inclusive practises and all settings including childminders provide facilities and resources to meet the varying needs of children who require additional and specialised support. In addition 20% of childminders have undertaken specialised training provided by the Early

Years' Service enabling them to offer the correct level of support needed for children with additional needs; this increases the choice to parents. Customer focused childcare provision for disabled children are funded mostly by parents who also access financial support from various agencies and accessing Disability Living Allowance Grants.

Whilst it is difficult to judge potential demand, in particular for working parents, the current data demonstrates the increase in demand for children who are beneficiaries of the Two Year Old Early Learning Education Offer (currently 25% of all children @ March 2020) who require additional resources and support from specialist services requiring additional funding against the base rate of the funded place.

Main Area of Need	Audit of Private and Voluntary Sector	1 Year Olds				2 Year Olds				3 Year Olds				4 Year Olds				Total	Total by Area of Need
		Targeted Support	SEN Support	EHCPA	EHCP	Targeted Support	SEN Support	EHCPA	EHCP	Targeted Support	SEN Support	EHCPA	EHCP	Targeted Support	SEN Support	EHCPA	EHCP		
Cognition and Learning Need	MLD																	0	0
	SLD																	0	
	PMLD																	0	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties	ADHD					1				2	1	1						0	6
	SEMH												1					6	
Communication and Interaction Need	SLCN	4				16	18	5	2	25	23	11	13	2	7	5	6	137	149
	ASC Diagnosis												5		1	1	4	11	
	ASC/ND Pathway															1		1	
Sensory + Physical Need	VI																	0	9
	HI					1												1	
	MSI																	0	
	PD		1				3	1		1			1	1				8	
	Other/Medical			1		1	1											3	
<b>Total for Age Group</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>167</b>

Table w – SEN audit data as @ March 2020

## Disability Access Fund

What is Disability Access Fund?

The Disability Access Fund (DAF) is new funding for early years providers to support children with disabilities or special educational needs. It aids access to early years places by supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings.

During the last 3 terms 40 children have benefited from this funding. Knowsley Early Years aims to increase this figure by 20% year on year. This will be done via the childcare sector consulting with parents that may be eligible to enable support to their child's needs.

All settings registered with Ofsted, promote inclusive practices and all settings including childminders provide facilities and resources to meet the varying needs of children who require additional and specialised support. In addition 20% of childminders have undertaken specialised training provided by Knowsley Early Years Service enabling them to offer the correct level of support needed for children with SEND, increasing choice for parents. Provision for these children is funded mostly by parents who also access financial support from various agencies and supported by Disability Living Allowance Grants.

- All settings have the ability to provide childcare for children with SEND in their settings.
- All settings are supported by the LA's Early Years Quality Assurance Team, Portage, Flexible Support and Senco Team.
- All settings undertake, as part of the LA's Local Agreement, a 3 day Training for setting SENCo's, and attend Inclusion Multi Agency Networks, along with ongoing observation and assessment of the setting SENCo's competencies against the Code of Practice Framework .

## Childcare Costs

Childcare providers in Knowsley have a range of services for which they charge differing amounts e.g. by age-group in most day nurseries; and furthermore, there are a range of charging structures e.g. hourly, daily, weekly etc. To ascertain a broad perspective of fees, the average fee rates charged by providers across the range of services have been converted to a common unit and then taken averages across childminders and full day care.

Cost of childcare in Knowsley is below national average by 10% meaning that childcare is in the main affordable in the borough. This also reflects in the average earnings of the borough as per diagram below from Census 2011. This shows that average earnings in Knowsley are 14.5% below the national average.

In September 2016 Knowsley childcare charges were on average 12% lower than the averages for the Northwest. Overall the Northwest has the lowest rates for childcare across Britain.

	<b>Knowsley (£)</b>	<b>North West (£)</b>	<b>Great Britain (£)</b>
<b>Gross weekly pay</b>			
Full Time Workers	428.70	471.20	501.80
Male Full Time Workers	441.00	504.30	541.90
Female Full Time Workers	417.80	418.10	440.00

Parents can claim for the costs of childcare arrangements if the childcare is provided by a person or organisation that is:

- a registered childminder, nursery or playscheme, or
- an out of hours club on school premises run by the school or local authority, or
- a childcare provider who is approved by OFSTED to care for a child or children in the parents' own home,

- a child carer approved under the Child Care Approval Scheme.
- a domiciliary worker or nurse from a registered agency who cares for the child or children in the parents' own home.

## **Quality of Early Education and Childcare**

Quality of early education and childcare is high with all private, voluntary and independent providers on non-domestic premises ie nurseries, pre-school playgroups, out of school clubs and holiday care being 100% good and above as rated by Ofsted as at 30th June 2020. This has been maintained since March 2016.

Childminders ie childcare on domestic premises also have 96% good and above Ofsted ratings as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Compared to 86% in March 2016.

As parents rate quality as a significant factor when choosing childcare, all settings are quality assured by the LA who have responsibility in the Early Years Outcomes duty to ensure settings are 'ready' for inspection by the regulatory body. Should a setting fall below acceptable quality standards and be required to close, this could have an effect on the Sufficiency Duty, along with the Enjoy and Achieve Duty to ensure children are ready for school.

The Early Years and Childcare Advice, Support and Challenge process support to the settings and Childminders, along with the Childcare Review Meetings for the PVI sector and the Moderation and support visits held by the LA's Early Years Service, has embedded the expectations set out by the LA and government and led to a measurable improvement in the quality of provision.

## Actions and Priorities 2020-2021

Action	Responsibility	Timescale
Monitor the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the childcare sector to ensure that the market remains sustainable.	Early Years Service / Performance and Business Intelligence Team	Monthly
Continue to support the childcare sector with delivery models to ensure that the market is sufficiently diverse and meets demand.	Early Years Service / Commissioned Business Training	September 2021
Monitor the childcare places available within the Borough to ensure that settings can continue to meet the demand for parents including fee-paying parents and funded childcare places.	Early Years Service	Quarterly monitoring
Ensure that there is equitable access to out of school provision across the Borough.	Early Years Service	September 2021
Ongoing analysis and planning of the impact of new housing developments on provision.	Early Years Service	September 2021
Detailed analysis to consider working families travelling in and out of the Borough and how this impacts on the childcare requirements within the Borough.	Early Years Service / Performance and Business Intelligence Team	September 2021

Further analysis of out of school childcare and holiday care across the Borough.	Early Years Service / Performance and Business Intelligence Team	September 2021
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## Glossary of Terms

Term Description	
Childcare	the care, education and supervision of a child or multiple children by someone who is not their parent or carer, usually including pre-school and school-aged children
Early Years	from a child's birth to school age
Nursery	childcare provided in a group setting, with several early years professionals looking after a group of children. For children under five years of age and can include pre-school, day nurseries, and school nurseries
Private, voluntary and independent nursery	Nurseries not run by the local authorities or schools
Maintained nurseries	stand-alone local authority nurseries that provide early education and childcare to children under five years, normally during school hours in term time

Nursery classes in schools	provide early education and childcare to children usually aged between two or three and four years. They are usually closed in school holidays
Wrap-around childcare	childcare to help working parents, where children are looked after before and after school. This includes breakfast or after school clubs and childminders
Out of school provision	childcare to help working parents, where children are looked after before and after school or during the school holidays. This includes breakfast or after school clubs and childminders
Childminder	a registered child carer who works with children for more than two hours a day in their own home
Registered Childcare	childcare providers that are registered for quality assessment by the childcare regulator. In England this is Ofsted, in Wales, it is the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and in Scotland, the Care Inspectorate. To receive government funding for childcare, providers must be registered
Ofsted	Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. Services providing education and skills for learners of all ages are inspected and Ofsted regulate services that care for children and young people
Funded childcare for 2 year olds	15 hours a week for 38 weeks a year (or 11.4 hours per week stretched across 50 weeks a year) offer for parents in receipt

	of certain benefits (including in-work benefits) or children who are disabled or looked after
Universal funded childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds	15 hours a week for 38 weeks a year (or 11.4 hours per week stretched across 50 weeks a year) for all 3- and 4-year-olds
Funded childcare for 3 and 4 year olds with working parents (extended childcare offer – ECO)	3 and 4 year olds with working parents are entitled to an extra 15 hours a week for 38 weeks (or 11.4 hours per week stretched across 50 weeks a year) funded childcare, meaning they get 30 hours a week in total or 22.8 hours per week if stretched across 50 weeks a year
Special educational needs and disability (SEND)	A child or young person has special educational needs and disabilities if they have a learning difficulty and/or a disability that <b>means</b> they need special health and education support