

# **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)**

**Sunderland 2021/22**

## CONTENTS

1. Introduction	3
2. Our City	4
3. Demand for childcare	5
4. City Wide Supply of Childcare	6
4. Locality Occupancy	8
4a. Coalfields	8
4b. East	9
4c. North	11
4d. Washington	12
4e. West	14
5. City Wide Summary	15
6. Funded early education	16
6a. Take up of Funded Early Education	17
7. Prices	17
8. Quality of childcare in our area	18
9. Support for Providers	19
10. Conclusion	20
12. Methodology	20
Appendix A. Action Plan	21

## 1. Introduction

Section 11 of the Childcare Act 2006 placed a duty on all local authorities to undertake a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA). This assessment is seen as a means to identifying the availability of and demand for childcare provision. Through undertaking the CSA Together for Children, working on behalf of Sunderland Council will be able to identify gaps in childcare provision and begin to develop a strategy to understand and meet the childcare demands of working parents so far as is reasonably practicable in order to fulfil the Section 6 Childcare Sufficiency Duty.

The Department for Education (DfE) require councils to “report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and to make this report available and accessible to parents”.

Sufficient childcare, in Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006, 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: -

- a) take up, or remain in work;
- b) undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them in obtaining work.’

Childcare for sufficiency purposes is not that used for parents for respite or to help in times of need or crisis.

Section 6 (2) of the Act also provides that, when determining whether the provision of childcare is sufficient, the Local Authority must have regard to the needs of parents for the provision of childcare for which the childcare element of Working Tax Credit can be claimed, and childcare **suitable** for disabled children.

Although a local authority must take action to secure childcare to meet unmet needs of local parents as a group, it will not be failing to fulfil the duty solely on the grounds that an individual parent’s particular need is not being met at a particular time.

When completing the CSA local authorities are responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in their report, geographical division and date of publication.

The CSA for Sunderland will explain the:

- make up of the local childcare market by identifying the number and type of childcare places available (supply) for the various age range of children;
- current demand levels which will be done by reviewing occupancy levels
- quality of existing childcare provision
- cost of childcare for working families

## 2. Our City

Sunderland is a fantastic, forward-looking city undergoing significant transformation and economic regeneration. It has a global reputation as a welcoming and inclusive place in which to live, work, invest and play.

Sunderland has a bold and ambitious City Plan over the next decade to address the economic and social challenges that Sunderland faces so that the city and its people can achieve their full potential.

Challenges include ensuring:

- the city and its residents emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic in a strong and competitive position
- health and wellbeing outcomes are significantly improved
- residents have the skills and qualifications to secure good jobs, matching the needs of employers
- the city centre including the flagship Riverside Sunderland development, drives transformational economic growth
- Sunderland offers the opportunities that families and individuals need to achieve their ambitions, and
- families are resilient and resourceful and can achieve the best possible outcomes for their children
- Sunderland plays its role in tackling the global challenge of climate change

To achieve this vision of **creating a connected, international city with opportunities for all**, the City Plan has three themes:

- by 2030 Sunderland will be **a dynamic smart city** with more and better jobs, a low-carbon economy and a great choice of housing. It will be a leading digital city, deploying smart and sustainable technologies for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors;
- it will be **a healthy smart city** where people will live healthier, independent lives for longer. It will be a clean and attractive city with great transport and travel links;
- and it will be **a vibrant smart city** with more resilient people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods. There will be a range of opportunities for people to participate in their communities and in cultural events and activities

The city's people and communities are at the heart of the City Plan, which is already being delivered at pace, with significant investment and developments recently announced, with more to come.

[City Plan - Sunderland City Council](#)

### 3. Demand for childcare

#### Population in the city

Current population estimates for Sunderland show that there is a population of 277,846. (Data Source: ONS 2020). The birth rate in our city fell from 2,903 in 2017 to 2,623 in 2020. (Data Source: ONS 2017-2020).

#### Population of early years children

In total, there are 14,370 children under the age of five living in our local authority. These children may require early years childcare. Not all families choose to use formal childcare as not all families need to. Therefore, this information is not used to predict demand for childcare places, it is used only to show the size of the population/possible future childcare market in the city.

##### *Numbers by age*

Age	Number of children
Age 0	2570
Age 1	2724
Age 2	2911
Age 3	3071
Age 4*	3094

\* Some four-year-olds will have started reception  
(Data Source: ONS 2020)

#### Population of school age children

In total there are 22,347 children aged 5-11, and 9,471 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

##### *Numbers by age*

Age	Number of children
Age 5	3091
Age 6	3105
Age 7	3111
Age 8	3602
Age 9	3171
Age 10	3139
Age 11	3128
Age 12	3197
Age 13	3207
Age 14	3067

(Data Source: ONS 2020)

#### Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

Children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (age 14 for children who do not have a special need or

disability). The number of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in our local authority is: (Data source: Capita One 2022)

Age	Number of children
Birth to school age	43
Primary school (reception to year six)	839
Secondary school (year seven to thirteen)	1070

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

#### 4. City Wide Supply of Childcare

##### Number of early years providers

In total, there are 153 childcare providers in our local authority across five localities: Coalfields, East, North, Washington and West. The total number of places available in the 0-5 year age range is 6,323.

The table below identifies the number and type of early years education and childcare providers currently operating in the city.

Type of Provider	Coalfields	East	North	Washington	West	Total
Day-care Nursery	8	12	9	6	9	44
Childminder	12	15	26	27	14	94
Out of School Childcare	0	2	1	1	0	4
Holiday Childcare	0	2	0	0	0	2
Nursery Schools	2	2	1	2	1	9

In comparison, the table below identifies the number and type of early years education and childcare providers operating in the city in 2019.

Type of Provider	Coalfields	East	North	Washington	West	Total
Day-care Nursery	9	11	10	9	9	48
Childminder	18	24	37	35	22	136
Out of School Childcare	2	2	2	3	0	9
Holiday Childcare	1	1	1	1	0	4
Nursery Schools	3	2	1	2	1	9

This shows a 26% decline in early years providers in the city, from 206 providers in 2019 to 153 in 2021. This decline is predominately childminders, with 42 childminders (31%) leaving the profession over the past 2 years. The 2 main reasons childminders report for

leaving the profession are retirement and the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic resulting in reduced need for school age childcare.

Other providers include 4 x Daycare Nursery (8%); 5 x Out of school Childcare (55%); 2 x Holiday Childcare (50%). Nursery Schools remain the same.

### Occupancy in Sunderland

Demand for childcare places in Sunderland has been assessed by looking at the number of places available and the number of vacancies listed per age group per type of provider.

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

The demand rate for childcare places is calculated for each age group using the following method:

*No of places available – No of vacant places = No of occupied places*

*No of occupied place/no of places available x 100 = occupancy figure as a %*

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

Vacancy rates are a snapshot, and often change rapidly. In some cases, providers may have a vacancy which is only available for a specific age group, or for a particular part time arrangement. In general, vacancy rates are higher in the autumn, when children move to school.

The citywide occupancy rate is displayed as an average percentage figure for the type of provider in the table below.

### Citywide occupancy rate by provider type 2021:

Provider Type	Coalfields	East	North	Washington	West	Average City Wide 2021
Childminder	94%	82%	76%	90%	76%	84%
Private Day Care Nursery	79%	65%	81%	77%	66%	74%
Nursery School/Class/School Daycare	78%	83%	82%	85%	78%	81%

In comparison, the citywide occupancy rate for 2019 is displayed as an average percentage figure for the type of provider in the table below.

### Citywide occupancy rate by provider type 2019

Provider Type	Coalfields	East	North	Washington	West	Average City Wide 2019
Childminder	78%	80%	62%	83%	71%	75%
Private Day Care Nursery	80%	56%	72%	75%	69%	70%
Nursery School/Class/School Daycare	77%	74%	78%	85%	78%	78%

This identifies that there is an increase in take up rate for childcare places since 2019 and that there are sufficient spare/vacant places to meet a future increase in demand.

### 4. Locality Occupancy

Our city is divided into five localities; the Coalfields, East, North, Washington and West. We review locality as well as city wide occupancy to highlight if there are any gaps or unmet needs in specific areas of the city.

The data in each of the five localities below is based upon the information provided by those childminders, day nurseries, nursery schools and schools when submitting their childcare sufficiency return via Capita One in January 2022.

#### 4a. Coalfields

The Coalfields locality is divided into 4 wards: Copt Hill, Hetton, Houghton, Shiny Row.

The Table below shows a 94% occupancy rate for childcare provided by Childminders in the area and no children on the waiting list. 10 out of 12 Childminders in this locality completed the survey (83%).

Coalfields	Childminder				
Age Range	No of CM's offering places to this Age Group	Number of places Available	Number of Vacant Places	Occupancy %	No of Chn on Waiting List
0-2 yrs	9	9	2	78%	0
2-3yrs	10	10	1	90%	0
3-5yrs	10	14	2	86%	0
5-8yrs	9	26	0	100%	0
8-11yrs	8	25	0	100%	0
11+	1	1	0	100%	0
Totals =	10	85	5	94%	0



The table below shows a 78% occupancy rate within Private Daycare. 4 Private Daycare Nurseries out of 4 in this locality completed the survey (100%)

Coalfields	Private Day-care Nurseries				
Age Range	No. of DC offering places to this Age Group	Number of places Available	Number of Vacant Places	Occupancy %	No of Chn on Waiting List
0-2 yrs	4	45	7	84%	7
2-3yrs	4	64	12	81%	7
3-5yrs	4	92	20	80%	2
5-8yrs	1	5	3	40%	0
8-11yrs	1	5	3	40%	0
11+					
<b>Totals =</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>16</b>

The table below shows a 78% occupancy rate within Nursery School/Class/School Daycare in this locality. All 14 Nursery School/Class/School Daycare completed the survey(100%)

Coalfields	Nursery School/Class/School Daycare				
Age Range	No. of providers offering places to this Age Group	Number of places Available	Number of Vacant Places	Occupancy %	No of Chn on Waiting List
0-2 yrs	4	47	1	98%	6
2-3yrs	5	140	14	90%	3
3-5yrs	14	641	160	75%	10
5-8yrs	0	0	0	%	0
8-11yrs	0	0	0	%	0
11+					
<b>Totals =</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>19</b>

### 2 Year Old provision in schools

2 schools provide 2 year old provision in this locality.

### Provision for school age children in the Coalfields Locality

There are 12 Breakfast Club's and 13 After School Clubs available for school age children in this locality. 9 Childminders also provide childcare for school age children.

### Coalfields Summary

The data collected indicates that there is sufficient childcare in the Coalfields area.

### 4b. East

The East locality is divided into 5 wards: Doxford, Hendon, Millfield, Ryhope, St Michael's

The Table below shows an 82% occupancy rate for childcare provided by Childminders in the area and 2 children on the waiting list. 12 out of 15 Childminders in this locality completed the survey (80%).

East	Childminder				
Age Range	No of CM's offering places to this Age Group	Number of places Available	Number of Vacant Places	Occupancy %	No of Chn on Waiting List
0-2 yrs	11	16	5	69%	1
2-3yrs	11	18	1	94%	1
3-5yrs	12	20	3	85%	0
5-8yrs	11	43	8	81%	0
8-11yrs	11	38	6	84%	0
11+	4	12	3	75%	0
<b>Totals =</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>2</b>

The table below shows a 64% occupancy rate within Private Daycare. 9 Private Daycare Nurseries out of 9 in this locality completed the survey.(100%). 1 Independent school also completed the survey.

East	Private Day-care Nurseries				
Age Range	No of DC offering places to this Age Group	Number of places Available	Number of Vacant Places	Occupancy %	No of Chn on Waiting List
0-2 yrs	9	206	88	57%	13
2-3yrs	9	232	79	66%	1
3-5yrs	9	310	101	67%	4
5-8yrs	1	8	0	100%	0
8-11yrs	1	8	0	100%	0
11+					
<b>Totals =</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>18</b>

The table below shows an 83% occupancy rate within Nursery School/Class/School Daycare in this locality. 10 out of 12 Nursery School/Class/School Daycare completed the survey (83%)

East	Nursery School/Class/School Daycare				
Age Range	No of providers offering places to this Age Group	Number of places Available	Number of Vacant Places	Occupancy %	No of Chn on Waiting List
0-2 yrs	1	6	0	100%	4
2-3yrs	4	62	14	77%	0
3-5yrs	10	625	103	83%	39
5-8yrs	0	0	0	%	0
8-11yrs	0	0	0	%	0
11+					
<b>Totals =</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>43</b>

## 2 Year Old provision in schools

3 schools provide 2 year provision in this locality

## Provision for school age children in the East Locality

There are 10 Breakfast Clubs and 9 After School Club provision available for school age children in the East locality. 11 childminders also provide childcare for school age children.

## East Summary

The data collected indicates that there is sufficient childcare in the East area.

## 4c. North

The North locality is divided into 4 wards: Fulwell, Redhill, St Peter's, Southwick

The Table below shows a 76% occupancy rate for childcare provided by Childminders in the area and 2 children on the waiting list. 21 out of 26 Childminders in this locality completed the survey (81%).

North	Childminder				
Age Range	No CM's Offering Places to this Age Group	Number of places Available	Number of Vacant Places	Occupancy %	No of Chn on Waiting List
0-2 yrs	20	24	6	75%	1
2-3yrs	21	27	7	74%	1
3-5yrs	21	27	6	78%	0
5-8yrs	21	58	10	83%	0
8-11yrs	16	55	15	73%	0
11+	8	18	6	67%	0
Totals =	21	209	50	76%	2

The table below shows an 81% occupancy rate within Private Daycare. 7 Private Daycare Nurseries out of 8 in this locality completed the survey (88%).

North	Private Day-care Nurseries				
Age Range	No DC's Offering Places to this Age Group	Number of places Available	Number of Vacant Places	Occupancy %	No of Chn on Waiting List
0-2 yrs	7	92	19	79%	0
2-3yrs	7	137	30	78%	0
3-5yrs	7	141	20	86%	2
5-8yrs					
8-11yrs					
11+					
Totals =	7	370	69	81%	2

The table below shows an 82% occupancy rate within Nursery School/Class/School Daycare in this locality. 15 out of 15 Nursery School/Class/School Daycare completed the survey (100%)

North	Nursery School/Class/School Daycare				
Age Range	No DC's Offering Places to this Age Group	Number of places Available	Number of Vacant Places	Occupancy %	No of Chn on Waiting List
0-2 yrs	1	6	0	100%	0
2-3yrs	4	70	1	99%	8
3-5yrs	15	660	125	81%	30
5-8yrs					
8-11yrs					
11+					
Totals =	15	736	126	82%	38

## 2 Year Old provision in schools

2 schools and 1 nursery school provide 2 year provision in this locality.

## Provision for school age children in the North Locality

There are 12 Breakfast Clubs and 13 After School Club provision available for school age children in the East locality. 21 childminders also provide childcare for school age children

## North Summary

The data collected indicates that there is sufficient childcare in the North area.

## 4d. Washington

The Washington locality is divided into 5 wards: Central, East, North, South, West

The Table below shows a 90% occupancy rate for childcare provided by Childminders in the area and 7 children on the waiting list. 23 out of 27 Childminders in this locality completed the survey (85%).

Washington	Childminder				
Age Range	No CM's Offering Places to this Age Group	Number of places Available	Number of Vacant Places	Occupancy %	No of Chn on Waiting List
0-2 yrs	23	31	4	87%	3
2-3yrs	23	32	4	88%	2
3-5yrs	23	37	1	97%	2
5-8yrs	21	72	5	93%	0
8-11yrs	20	54	8	85%	0
11+	5	8	2	75%	0
Totals =	23	234	24	90%	7

The table below shows an 82% occupancy rate within Private Daycare. 5 Private Daycare Nurseries out of 6 in this locality completed the survey (83%).

Washington	Private Day-care Nurseries				
Age Range	No DC's Offering Places to this Age Group	Number of places Available	Number of Vacant Places	Occupancy %	No of Chn on Waiting List
0-2 yrs	5	82	24	71%	5
2-3yrs	5	119	30	75%	1
3-5yrs	5	250	26	90%	0
5-8yrs					
8-11yrs					
11+					
Totals =	5	451	80	82%	6

The table below shows an 85% occupancy rate within Nursery School/Class/School Daycare in this locality. 15 out of 16 Nursery School/Class/School Daycare completed the survey (94%)

Washington	Nursery School/Class/School Daycare				
Age Range	No DC's Offering Places to this Age Group	Number of places Available	Number of Vacant Places	Occupancy %	No of Chn on Waiting List
0-2 yrs	0	0	0	0	0
2-3yrs	5	80	0	100%	11
3-5yrs	16	739	118	84%	8
5-8yrs					
8-11yrs					
11+					
Totals =	16	819	118	85%	19

## 2 Year Old provision in schools

2 schools and 2 nursery school's provide 2 year provision in this locality.

## Provision for school age children in the Washington Locality

There are 13 Breakfast Clubs and 13 After School Club provision available for school age children in the Washington locality. 21 childminders also provide childcare for school age children.

## Washington Summary

The data collected indicates that there is sufficient childcare in the Washington area.

#### 4e. West

The West locality is divided into 6 wards: Barnes, Pallion, St. Anne's, St Chad's, Sandhill, Silksworth.

The Table below shows a 76% occupancy rate for childcare provided by Childminders in the area and 0 children on the waiting list. 10 out of 14 Childminders in this locality completed the survey (71%).

West	Childminder				
Age Range	No. of CM's offering Places to this Age Group	Number of places Available	Number of Vacant Places	Occupancy %	No of Chn on Waiting List
0-2 yrs	8	8	1	88%	0
2-3yrs	10	13	7	46%	0
3-5yrs	10	16	5	69%	0
5-8yrs	9	24	2	92%	0
8-11yrs	7	13	3	77%	0
11+	3	4	1	75%	0
Totals =	10	78	19	76%	0

The table below shows a 65% occupancy rate within Private Daycare. 7 Private Daycare Nurseries out of 7 in this locality completed the survey (83%).

West	Private Day-care Nurseries				
Age Range	No. of DC's Offering Places to this Age Group	Number of places Available	Number of Vacant Places	Occupancy %	No of Chn on Waiting List
0-2 yrs	7	76	32	58%	3
2-3yrs	7	152	46	70%	0
3-5yrs	7	174	63	64%	0
5-8yrs	1	7	0	100%	0
8-11yrs					
11+					
Totals =	7	409	141	65%	3

The table below shows an 78% occupancy rate within Nursery School/Class/School Daycare in this locality. 14 out of 14 Nursery School/Class/School Daycare completed the survey (100%)

West	Nursery School/Class/School Daycare				
Age Range	No. offering Places to this Age Group	Number of places Available	Number of Vacant Places	Occupancy %	No of Chn on Waiting List
0-2 yrs	1	9	0	100%	0
2-3yrs	7	108	13	88%	0

3-5yrs	14	689	162	76%	0
5-8yrs					
8-11yrs					
11+					
<b>Totals =</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>0</b>

## 2 Year Old provision in schools

5 schools provide 2 year provision in this locality.

## Provision for school age children in the West Locality

There are 13 Breakfast Clubs and 12 After School Club provision available for school age children in the West locality. 9 childminders also provide childcare for school age children.

## West Summary

The data collected indicates that there is sufficient childcare in the West area

## 5. City Wide Summary

### Childminders:

- A total of 94 childminders operate city wide. They operate all year round between 47 and 52 weeks of the year. 76 of the 94 (81%) childminders submitted a sufficiency return.
- These childminders look after children between the age of 3 months and 14 years.
- Out of the 94 childminders in the city, 76 offer DfE funded places for two- three- and four-year-olds.
- There are currently 693 children accessing a place with a childminder
- All childminders offer places for children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disability).
- There are currently 32 (5%) children with SEND accessing a place with a childminder.

### Day-care:

- There are 44 private day-care nurseries operating in the city. All day-nurseries offer funded early education places for two- three- and four-year-olds.
- There are various operating models which cover the extended 30 hours of free childcare for three- and four-year-olds (30H). All-year-round flexible childcare operates between the hours of 8am and 6pm for between 48 and 51 weeks of the year.
- There are currently 2635 children accessing a childcare place in the city 190 (7%) of whom have a special educational need or disability.
- There have been no reports to the Families Information Service of unmet childcare needs by working parents,

### Schools:

- There are 60 providers of childcare for school age children during term time and 2 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. There are also 71 childminders who may provide care for school age children.
- 62 (83%) of schools offer DfE funded places for three- and four-year olds and 17 (23%) offer places for two-year-olds.
- 54 schools report that they offer flexible 30H places to meet the needs of families. This is either term time only or all year round.
- Of the 3287 children on the register 206 (6%) have SEND.
- There are a wide range of before and after school places available for school age children city wide.

#### Before school childcare in schools:

- There are 60 schools offering before school childcare.
- Breakfast clubs offer places from 8am which meets the needs of working parents.

#### Out of school activity/club provision in schools:

- There are 60 schools offering out of school activity. Whilst this type of provision may not be childcare, it is known that parents use this type of activity to support their childcare needs.
- Out of school activity is available up until between 4:30pm and 5pm which helps parents who work.

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

## 6. Funded early education

### Introduction to funded early education

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

- All children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to 15 hours per week until they start reception class in school
- Children aged 3 and 4 where both parents are working, or from lone parent families where that parent is working, are entitled to 30 hours per week until they start reception class in school.

Children aged 2 whose families receive certain benefits (including low income families in receipt of in-work benefits), or those who meet additional non-economic criteria, are entitled to 15 hours per week. Nationally, about 40% of 2 year olds are entitled to this offer, but the proportion varies by area.

Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded entitlement. They may choose to split them between providers. With the agreement of their provider, parents may also



spread them across the year – for example, rather than taking 15 hours for 38 weeks a year they could take just under 12 hours for 48 weeks a year.

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

In our local authority, 58% (1,223) of 2-year-olds are entitled to funded early education.

### 6a. Take up of Funded Early Education

Out of the eligible 2 year olds in our local authority, 904 children took up their funded place (for at least some of the available hours) in 2021. This equates to 74%.

95% of 3 and 4 year olds took up their funded universal and/or extended funded hours in Sunderland in 2021. 5% of 3 and 4 year old's may have taken their place up in a different local authority or chosen not to attend an early years provision. (Data Source: Department for Education January 2021) [Education provision: children under 5 years of age, Reporting Year 2022 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk)

### Providers offering funded early education places

Providers are paid directly by government for delivering funded early education. It is parents' choice where they decide to take up their funded childcare place. Some providers may not offer this and parents may decide to pay privately for a childcare provider of their choice. Some providers may also offer a restricted number of funded places.

The table below shows the number of childcare providers offering a funded place for at least one child during the data collection in January 2022.

Type of provision	Number of providers with funded children in 21	Number of providers offering 2 year old funding	Age 2 %	Number of providers offering 3 & 4 universal funding	Age 3 and 4 universal 15 hours %	Number of providers offering 3 & 4 extended funding	Age 3 and 4 – extended 30 hours %
Childminders	59	20	34%	22	37%	53	90%
Nursery classes in schools	63	20	32%	63	100%	46	73%
Maintained nursery schools	8	8	100%	8	100%	8	100%
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	34	33	97%	34	100%	31	91%

### 7. Prices

### Prices of early years childcare

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

### The Average Cost for 25hrs of Childcare Per Week in Sunderland

The tables below show that the average cost of childcare in Sunderland is below the national average cost.

Provider Type	Sunderland		North East		England	
	Under Two Years	Two- to Three- Years	Under Two Years	Two- to Three- Years	Under Two Years	Two- to Three- Years
<b>Childminder</b>	£103.50	£103.00	£106.92	£106.79	£109.02	£117.86
<b>Private Day Nursery</b>	£120.43	£115.34	£130.64	£128.10	£140.27	£134.73

National Childcare Cost data taken from: *Childcare Survey 2021*; Jarvie, M; Shorto, S; and Parlett, H: *Coram Family and Childcare. 2021*. [Childcare Survey 2021 | Family and Childcare Trust](#)

### Prices of school age childcare

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

Setting and Price unit	Price
Breakfast club per day	£4.50
After-school club per day	£8.00
School age childminder per hour	£4.50
Holiday club per week	£145

## 8. Quality of childcare in our area

### Ofsted inspection grades

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

Both schools and early years providers have four possible Ofsted grades: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement', and 'inadequate'.

The information in the table below shows recent inspection as at 31.08.21. These results reflect quality of provision in relation to the Early Years Foundation Stage in the inspection cycle up to the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021. (Source: [Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 August 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2021))

Type of Provision	Total number of providers inspected	% achieving good or outstanding
Childminders	90	99%
Nursery classes in schools *	44	98%
Maintained nursery schools	9	100%
Private and voluntary nurseries	45	100%
<i>Total</i>		%

\* early years grade if available, otherwise overall school grade

### The National Picture:

The picture nationally shows that 98% of day-care nurseries have been judged to be either good or outstanding by Ofsted and 96% of childminders has been judged to be either good or outstanding by Ofsted at their last inspection.

### Quality of Childcare Provision in Sunderland:

The table shows that at the time of the assessment, 100% of the day-care nurseries operating in Sunderland have been judged to be either good (60%) or outstanding (40%) by Ofsted. This is 2% above the national figure for daycare nurseries.

The same table shows the quality of childminder provision in Sunderland. This currently stands at 99% of childminders being judged to be either good or outstanding at their last inspection. This is 3% above the national figure. There are currently 10 new child-minders who are waiting for their first inspection. These are excluded from our calculation.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, Ofsted suspended all routine inspections of registered early years provision in March 2020 but continued with regulatory work during this time. From September 2021, Ofsted inspections have been in line with the requirements set out in the revised Early Years Foundation Stage framework 2021 for all early year's providers. The Early Years Team have delivered training on the EYFS 2021 reforms to all providers of the childcare market in the city.

The Early Years Team will continue with ongoing monitoring of future inspection outcomes in relation to the new EYFS framework over the coming year in relation to quality and the reforms.

## 9. Support for Providers

Provider support for the sector has continued over the last year from the Together for Children Early Years Team. The Early Years Team consists of a Childcare Team Lead, 2

Childcare Development Officers, an Early Years Consultant and 3 Early Years Advisory Teachers.

Support offered include:

- Termly Daycare Network Meetings and monthly childminder catch ups. These provide regular up-dates from the Early Years Team, Funding, Regulatory Updates and other updates and relevant topics from the sector.
- Audits. Three audits are offered on an annual basis: Safeguarding and Welfare requirements Audit, Teaching and Learning Audit and a SEND audit. Schools setting up a 2-year-old provision are also offered a 2-year Audit.
- Training. Most training has been delivered virtually with more opportunities for face-to-face training over the past few months.
- Priority support is allocated where more intensive support is required.
- A monthly newsletter and 1-minute guides support providers to keep their safeguarding knowledge refreshed and up to date.
- An online Early Years Hub and Facebook page has been produced to further support.

## 10. Conclusion

Indicators show that there is currently sufficient capacity to meet current demand city wide. Locality occupancy does not highlight any gaps or unmet need. Although there is an increase in occupancy rate city wide since 2019, we have seen an increase in providers leaving the profession; this has particularly affected childminders.

Current issues around recruitment and retention within the sector and the pandemic may have a negative impact on some sectors of the childcare market. Together for Children intends to continue to monitor and evaluate the market position. This will be achieved through ongoing engagement with providers to ensure sufficiency of places over the coming months and to assist with sustainability.

Please see Appendix A for the 2021-22 Sufficiency Action Plan

## 12. Methodology

- Number of children: based population statistics from the Office for National Statistics.
- Children with EHC plans: based on data held by our local authority
- Supply of childcare: based on data provided to us by Ofsted, who regulate early years provision in schools and childcare provision.
- Vacancy rates: information collected from all early year's providers in Sunderland through the Capita One system.
- Funded early education: data on take up of funded early education entitlements is based on the Early Years and Schools Censuses, which are taken every January and published by the Department for Education in the statistical collection *Education*

*provision: children under five years of age.* Data on entitlement to a funded early education place for 2 year olds is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions.

- Price of childcare: information collected from all early year's providers in Sunderland through the Capita One system.
- Quality of childcare: data on childcare quality is provided by Ofsted.
- Consultation with and feedback from providers: verbally through Termly Daycare Network meetings and monthly Childminder Catch Ups and support meetings.
- Intelligence gathered through Early Years Sector

## Appendix A. Action Plan

Action No	Action	Person Responsible	Deadline Date	RAG	Update
1	Carry out further research with providers around their issues and experiences of recruitment and retention in the current climate.				
2	Continue to monitor the number of childminders leaving the profession to ensure sufficient, accessible childcare places are available for working parents				
3	Carry out research with parents re existing and future childcare requirements and whether this meets their needs in a changing employment market.				
4	Monitor sufficiency and accessibility of out of school and holiday club provision to ensure it meets current demands				

