

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report



April 2019 to August 2020

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Information about where to get advice and support on finding and paying for childcare is available in [appendix 1](#).

Introduction

Each Local Authority is required [to publish](#) a [Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report](#) for [elected members](#) and parents.

Reporting period

This report would usually provide information for the financial year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. However, during March the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic hit England and this had a significant impact on the work of the Early Years and Childcare Service (EYCS). Provision within the community also significantly changed, new reporting to national departments was introduced and Ofsted inspections ceased. The period from 1 April 2020 to 31 August 2020 is therefore included within this report. This not only provides a more up to date picture, it also enables the reporting schedule to be changed to bring it in line with the academic year. This will be beneficial in the future as much of the early years provision is now based in schools. The next report will cover 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

What you can expect to see in this report

[Statutory guidance](#) states that Childcare Sufficiency Assessment reports should include information about the current and projected supply and demand of childcare, including specific references to how the Local Authority are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of:

- [children with special educational needs and disabilities](#);
- [children from families in receipt of Universal Credit](#);
- [children with parents who work irregular hours](#);
- children aged [two](#), [three](#) and [four](#) taking up funded places;
- [school age children](#);
- [children needing holiday care](#)

When planning for sufficient childcare, Local Authorities must ensure that places are accessible, affordable and delivered flexibly, in a range of high-quality settings, so that parents can work or participate in training activities. This year, the EYCS has focussed on [areas where we know there is not enough provision and on those areas where, due to COVID-19, there is not enough information to enable an assessment to be made.](#)

From 2021, the EYCS will introduce a termly schedule of surveys (until now there has been an Annual Survey of Providers). This will ensure information from both providers and parents is captured, to better inform the ever-changing supply and demand of childcare in Devon.

For more data on the coronavirus outbreak in Devon please see [Devon County Council's Covid-19 dashboard](#).

Summary of Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency in Devon

Strengths

- ✓ **The funding rate increased** – from £4.90 to £4.98 for two-year-olds and increased from £4.08 to £4.16 for three- and four-year-olds. The Government awarded an 8p increase to the two-, three- and four-year-old funding rates to all local authorities from April 2020. In Devon, this increase was passed straight to providers to increase the funding base rates. The three- and four-year-old funding rate continues to be uplifted to £4.16 which includes the universal SEND funding (4p) and universal deprivation (2p).
- ✓ **More providers registered for Tax Free Childcare** – Over the past year there has been an increase from 66.0% to 71.7% of providers registered for Tax Free Childcare as at March 2020. This enables more families to make savings on the cost of the childcare they use.
- ✓ **More enquiries about becoming a childminder** – Over the past year there have been more enquiries about becoming a childminder and more people attending the 'Preparing to be a childminder course'. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this course has now been developed as a virtual rolling programme, making it far more accessible across the county. There is also a local campaign running to increase the number of childminders is having a positive impact despite the national trend showing that childminders are in decline.
- ✓ **Greater take-up of funding by three- and four-year-olds** – the percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the Early Years Funding has increased, along with the take-up of the full hours of the universal entitlement, the take up of the extended entitlement and the take-up of the full hours of the extended entitlement. Consistent attendance for the full 570 hours has been shown to improve outcomes for children. Confidence in the extended entitlement has grown and more parents are using this 30-hour (term time) or 1140-hour (all year) entitlement to enable them to work.
- ✓ **Greater take up by children with additional needs** – the percentage of two-year-olds with additional needs accessing funding has increased from 69.6% in Spring 2019 to 76.0% in Spring 2020 and the percentage of three- and four-year-olds with additional needs accessing a funded place has increased from 94.9% in Spring 2019 to 95.6% in Spring 2020.
- ✓ **More children received the Disability Access Funding** – 232 children were paid Disability Access Funding in 2019/20; an increase of 71 children from 2018/19. This could be due to more settings knowing about the funding.
- ✓ **Increased connections via social media** – the number of likes and followers to the Early Years and Childcare Service Facebook (22% increase), twitter (76% increase) and linked in pages (32% increase) have increased over the last year. The number of subscribers to our weekly digest/newsletter has also increased by 266. This means our messages are being seen by more parents and providers.

Areas for Action

- **Reduced take-up of two-year-old funding** – The take-up of two-year-old funding has decreased from 89.0% in Spring 2019 to 86.4% in Spring 2020 but remains higher than the national average of 69%. The take-up of the full entitlement has also decreased from 73.4% in Spring Term 2019 to 72.5% in Spring term 2020. This could be due to providers prioritising 30 hours places for three- and four-year olds instead.
- **Decreased take-up of the Early Years Pupil Premium** – The take-up of the Early Years Pupil Premium has decreased from 9.1% in Spring 2019 to 8.8% in Spring 2020. The reason for this decrease is not clear.
- **Fewer good or outstanding providers** – The percentage of providers graded good or outstanding by Ofsted has decreased from 97.5% as at 31 March 2019 to 96.8% as at March 2020. A new inspection framework was introduced in September 2019 and could account for the 0.7% decrease in providers graded as good or outstanding. There have been no Ofsted inspections since March 2020. Inspections are due to resume in January 2021 and it is expected there will be more good and outstanding outcomes as a result.
- **Less traffic to the Early Years and Childcare webpages** – the number of users who have initiated at least one session on our webpages has decreased by 10.2% from March 2019 to March 2020. This could be due to the increased use of our social media, the weekly digest subscribers and providers using the [early years COVID-19 page](#). Also, if a user does not accept cookies on a webpage, they will not be included in the website analytics.
- **Less understanding of the demand for childcare** – Parental demand is changing because of the influence of the pandemic. The Early Years and Childcare Service need to find out what demand looks like now.



Opportunities

- **Potential baby boom from early 2021** – This could create an increase in demand for under-two-year old provision and an increase in demand for two-year-old provision from 2023 and an increase in funded provision for three- and four-year olds from 2024. Online reports seem to suggest that it will not happen, although this remains to be seen.
- **More two-year-olds could become eligible for funding** – due to more people becoming eligible for the Universal Credit as a result of the impact of COVID-19.
- **More childcare required in rural areas** – With more people working from home and the potential for these changes to be permanent, there could be an increase in demand for childcare nearer to where people live. Demand for childcare could become more evenly spread across the county rather than concentrated in larger towns and cities.
- **Early years provision in new schools** – where a new school is built, as part of a large housing development, early years provision will be included. The housing market is moving slowly and will need to be monitored. The Early Years and Childcare Service will work with the planning team on developing provision in new schools.
- **Redundant staff become childminders** – as the governments furlough scheme comes to an end, there could be early years and childcare staff who are made redundant. In these instances, the Early Years and Childcare Service will encourage them to register to become childminders in order to retain the skills and knowledge within the sector and to meet the demand. This could result in the dispersing of available childcare as staff move from a setting that is contracting in size to make provision in their homes, closer to where families live, and to where parents are now working. Childminders can often be more responsive to parents needs offering greater flexibility in their provision.



Threats

- **Second wave of COVID-19 and localised lockdowns** – The possibility and impact of a second wave is unknown. Plans are in place to manage a second wave if it happens.
- **Parents lack of confidence in using childcare** – Parents may still have concerns, fears and worries relating to COVID-19 about sending their child to childcare. This could result in a decrease in demand for childcare and the take-up of funding which in turn will impact on the viability of providers.
- **Potential closure of out of school provision** – More parents may be working from home with no commute and shorter working days and so do not require out of school provision. This could result in a lower demand for out of school provision making some providers unviable. This could cause issues for those parents who still need childcare. Most provision is run by schools and is one reason why parents choose a school, the knock effect could be to the school's intake where provision has closed.
- **Less demand for childcare in towns, cities and on travel to work routes** – With more people working from home and the potential for these changes to be permanent, there is less demand for provision in areas of work or on travel to work routes. This could see a closure of provision or the reduction of places in these areas.
- **Government Furlough scheme ending in October** – Businesses could become financially unstable when the government furlough scheme finishes at the end of October. Childcare businesses could close, as fewer parents will need childcare if they are made redundant; although more parents may become eligible for Universal Credit that could increase the demand for funded two-year-old places.
- **Loss of capacity in early years and childcare providers** – as the government Furlough scheme ends, childcare businesses may become financially unstable and need to make staff redundant. This could see a reduction in capacity and/or the closure of provision. Reduction in the operational hours, days and weeks and so reduced choice and flexibility for families. Added to this is the loss of experience and skills within the sector.
- **Reduction in three- and four-year-olds eligible for the extended (30 hour) entitlement** – An increase in Universal Credit claims is likely to result in a reduction in the number of three- and four-year-olds eligible for the extended entitlement. This could reduce the income for providers that rely mainly on the funded entitlements for their income.



A Picture of Devon – Putting Childcare into Context

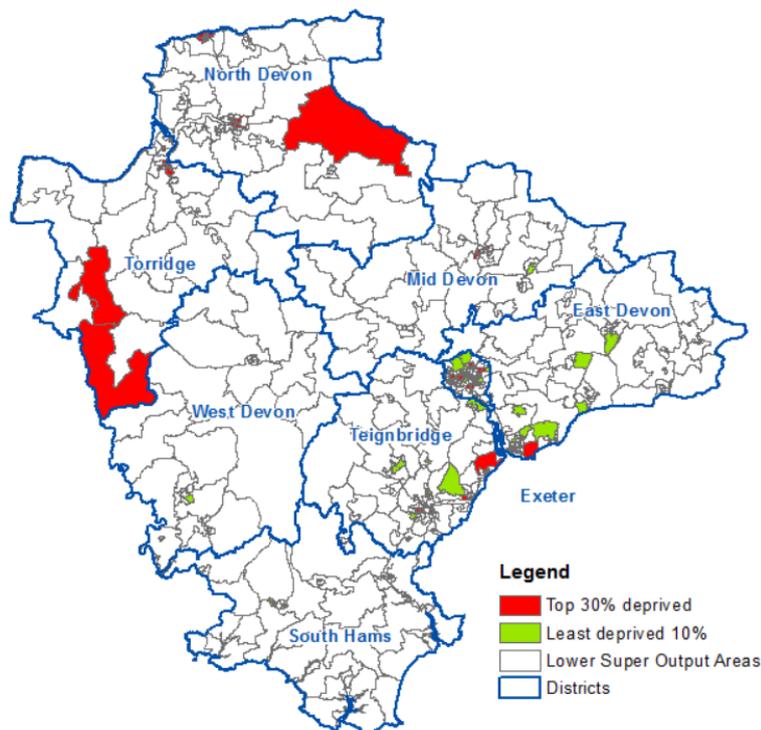
Devon has eight District Council areas and this report uses these areas to describe what provision is available and what demand there is for childcare. The District Council areas are Exeter, East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, Torridge, South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon.

Socio-economic Differences

Disadvantage is often defined using the [Index of Multiple Deprivation \(IMD\) 2019](#)¹. The IMD 2019 provides a relative measure of deprivation in small areas, known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's), across England. The overall picture for Devon remains very similar to the 2015 edition that was updated last year.

- The most deprived areas are in the wards of Ilfracombe Central, Barnstaple Central Town and Forches and Whiddon Valley in North Devon. These three areas are in the 10% most deprived areas in England. Around 4,800 people live in these areas.
- There is a noticeable north-south division with much of East Devon, Exeter, South Hams, Teignbridge being less deprived than North Devon, Torridge and West Devon.
- Levels of income deprivation affecting children and older people are below the average for England.
- There are 27 areas in Devon in the least deprived 10% of areas nationally – this is three more than in 2015. The least deprived area is in Ivybridge in South Hams. With a rank of 32,466, it is in the least deprived 2% of areas nationally.

Map 1: Top 30% most deprived areas and 10% least deprived areas in Devon



Lower Super Output Areas are small geographical areas used for statistical analysis and are generated to be consistent in population size (approximately 1500).

For more information on deprivation in Devon, please see the [deprivation section of the Devon Facts and Figures webpages](#), including the [Analysis of Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019](#)

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2020), Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019

¹ The IMD 2019 provides a relative measure of deprivation in small areas, known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs), across England.

Population

Over the last year² the population of 0 to 16-year-olds had increased by 0.6% (133 children) to 140,059.

- All districts³ had a slight increase in the population of 0 to 16-year-olds apart from Torridge, which saw a decrease (-1.1%, 130 children).
- The population of under-five-year-olds in Devon has continued to decrease by 1.4% (533 children) and is predicted to continue to decrease.
- The population of two-⁴, three- and four-year-olds eligible for the Early Years Funding is predicted to continue to decrease over the next 12 months

The impact of COVID-19 on the population is not yet known.

- There could be a baby boom from early 2021 due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic lockdown.
- The impact of COVID-19 may lead to a drop of 0.5% in the live birth rate as In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) treatment was shutdown⁵.
- National data on abortions in April 2020 showed just over 4,500 more abortions were carried out compared with April 2019. However, in May and June 2020, the number of abortions performed was less than the corresponding month in 2019⁶

Further population data on under five-year olds is available in [Appendix 2](#).

Housing Developments

There are several areas in Devon where new housing developments will significantly increase the population and therefore the demand for childcare.

The Early Years and Childcare Service (EYCS) work closely with the School Place Planning Team to ensure requirements for early years and childcare provision is considered in responses to District Council Local Plans and Section 106 requests. For more information please see the [Education Infrastructure Plan](#).

There are currently 38 signed [Section 106 agreements](#) that include a contribution for early years places to be created:

- just over half of the money requested relates to developments in Torridge
- just under a quarter relates to developments in North Devon
- a further 80 applications are pending decisions with:
 - 20% of the money requested relating to developments in South Devon
 - 17% in Mid Devon
 - 15% in North Devon
 - 15% in Exeter
 - 14% in Teignbridge.

² Population of children as at 31/03/2019 compared with population as at 31/03/2020 – Health Data

³ Devon is divided into 8 districts. These are Exeter, East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, Torridge, South Devon (sometimes referred to as South Hams), Teignbridge and West Devon. See Map 1.

⁴ Based on DWP Eligibility list for Summer Term 2020

⁵ <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-08-lockdown-impacted-women-ability-birth.html> [Accessed September 2020]

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/abortion-statistics-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic-january-to-june-2020/abortion-statistics-for-england-and-wales-during-the-COVID-19-pandemic> [Accessed 1 October 2020]

The Early Years and Childcare Service will work with the planning team on developing provision in new schools.

Devon County Council is exploring a number of options to increase the offer in Ilfracombe including the potential use of the new community building being delivered by housing development.

Early Years and Childcare Providers

The [types of Early Years and Childcare Providers factsheet](#) explains the differences between provision in Devon.

Table 1: Number of childcare providers by type of care as at 31 March 2020 compared with 31 March 2019

	2018/19	2019/20
Day Nursery	124	129
Pre-school playgroup	202	187
Nursery unit of independent schools	15	15
Academy nursery class	42	57
Maintained nursery class	53	55
Out of school club	171	167
Weekend Club	4	4
Holiday Scheme	78	77
Childminder	492	486
Home Child carer	115	126
All Provision	1296	1303

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2020), Early Years and Childcare Service

Changes to provision between 31 March 2019 and 31 March 2020:

- There has been a net decrease of 5.1% in the number of childminders in England which has been mirrored across the South West with a decrease of 5.6%. However, in Devon, there has only been a net decrease of 2.8%⁷
- Five new day nurseries have opened.
- Two pre-schools closed and nursery classes in maintained schools opened in their place.
- 15 pre-schools have become academy run.
- Four providers offering wraparound care for school-aged children have closed.
- A change of management at one Exeter nursery resulted in places doubling to 104.
- The school sector is the fastest growing, followed by the private sector.
- Voluntary sector pre-schools are continuing to close.

Changes to provision between 1 April 2020 31 July:

- Three day nurseries and one academy nursery class have opened
- Three day nurseries and four pre-schools have closed
- 10 childminders have registered with Ofsted
- 11 childminders have resigned.

It is unclear whether these changes have been as a result of the impact of the coronavirus. Where providers close, we encourage and support childcare staff who are

⁷ Ofsted Registered Childcare Providers 31 March 2019 compared to 31 March 2020 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-and-childcare-statistics> [Accessed September 2020]

made redundant, or become unemployed, to become childminders to help fill gaps in demand.

Despite the economic impact of COVID-19, the Early Years and Childcare Service have continued to receive enquiries from existing and new providers proposing to open or expand provision across the county and are supporting them to do so where we believe there will be a demand for places.

Sufficiency of Provision

Parent Feedback forms

1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020

The ['Unable to find Childcare'](#) form enables parents to tell Devon County Council when they cannot find the childcare that they need.

- 56 online parent feedback forms relating to 69 children were submitted
- Most parents lived in Exeter (11), followed by Exmouth (10).
- Parents reported that were struggling to find childcare for under-two-year-olds (18 children), followed by two-year-olds (16) and three- or four-year-olds (15).
- 39 parents requested to be contacted to further discuss their issues with finding childcare. [The Family Information Service](#) followed up on these enquiries. There were no instances where the Family Information Service were unable to find suitable childcare for parents.
- Any unresolved issues raised by parents to the Family Information Service have been followed up by the Early Years and Childcare Service so the problems could be addressed, and actions taken.
- There must be a large enough demand to make it a viable business proposition for providers to offer places. For example, if a parent wants childcare from 7.00 am each morning and there are no other parents that want the same service, the demand cannot practicably be met.
- Where demand is low, the Early Years and Childcare Service often rely on childminders to meet the need as they can be flexible and operate with lower numbers. There is an ongoing recruitment campaign to promote childminding as a career.

1 April 2020 – 31 July 2020

- 84 forms were submitted relating to 117 children – this was a significant, but not unexpected, increase on the numbers shown above
- Most were looking for childcare for four- to 11-year-olds either during the day (62 children) or before and after school (24 children) as schools and their out of school clubs had closed and parents needed to work
- This was followed by parents looking for provision for their three- and four-year-olds (14 children)
- 74 parents requested to be contacted to further discuss their issues. The Early Years and Childcare Advisors followed up on these enquiries and in 53 instances a suitable childcare option was found.
- As the further national restrictions were put in place many parents started working from home so the demand for childcare reduced.

Information will continue to be gathered from the ['Unable to find childcare'](#) forms as well as the new termly parent surveys.

Sufficiency of provision for two-year-olds taking up early years funding

Funding for two year olds is based on [economic and social criteria](#). Not all two-year olds will be funded for 570 hours a year. Every 6 weeks the EYCS receives a list of eligible parents' names and addresses from the department for Work and Pensions (DWP). These parents are sent [Golden Tickets](#). Parents who do not receive a Golden Ticket should check their eligibility through the [Citizen's Portal](#).

It is important that as many eligible children as possible access a place so that they get the best start in life. Only providers that Ofsted consider to be good or outstanding are funded to receive these children. There are one or two exceptions - where there is no alternative provision and local advisers are supporting the setting to improve and also where children have attended the provider since they were a baby. The parent can choose to continue to use the provision to avoid disruption to the child and the family.

- The take-up of funded places by eligible two-year-olds in Devon is 17.4% higher than the national average of 69.0% (January 2020)⁸.
- There was, however, a local decrease from 89.0% in spring term 2019 to 86.4% in spring term 2020. A possible reason for this could be the exclusion of eligible parents, that were in receipt of Universal Credit, from some of the lists sent to the EYCS by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) earlier in 2020.

The EYCS matches the DWP list of parent's names and addresses against the Devon County Council database to verify that a child of eligible age lives at the address stated on the DWP list.

If a child is matched with Devon County Council records, and they are not already claiming funding, a [Golden Ticket](#) is sent to the parent that they can take straight to the childcare provider.

If a match cannot be found, a [Purple Ticket](#) is sent prompting the parent to verify their eligibility through the [Citizen's Portal](#).

Sufficiency of provision for three- and four-year-olds taking up early years funding

- The take-up of universally funded places by three- and four-year olds has increased over the last year from 96.0% in Spring Term 2019 to 97.1% in Spring Term 2020 and remains higher than the national average of 93% in January 2020.
- The increase in take-up could be because more providers have signed up to receive early years funding.
- Almost half (47.7%) of all funded three- and four-year olds (spring term 2020) are also taking up some of the extended entitlement up from 44.3% in Spring Term 2019.
- Data on the take-up of funded provision can be found in [Appendix 2](#).
- Take-up remains high and data suggests that overall, there is sufficient provision to meet the current need for funded two-, three- and four-year-old places.
- Since April 2020, there has been an increase in the number of two-year-olds eligible for funding. As the number of claimants on universal credit increases the number of eligible families is expected to grow. This may result in areas where there is a need for more provision.

⁸ <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-provision-children-under-5>

- A possible decrease in take-up may occur because of parents' anxiety about sending their children to provision during the pandemic.
- The Early Years and Childcare Service recognise that there will be times of the day and weeks of the year when some families may not be able to access the places they need. Parents can report this to the Early Years and Childcare Service by using the ['unable to find suitable childcare feedback form'](#).

Please see the [Early Years Funding webpage](#) for more information on the entitlement.

Sufficiency of provision for children from families in receipt of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit

The Early Years and Childcare Service (EYCS) work with Job Centre Plus and early years and childcare providers to ensure that there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of all families including those in receipt of the childcare element of the [Working Tax Credit](#) and those affected by changes under the welfare reforms.

A family in receipt of Universal Credit is eligible for:

- [Funded childcare for their two-year-old](#) of up to 570 hours a year.
- [Free school meals \(FSM\)](#) including children attending a nursery class in a school who are also eligible.

[Early Years Pupil Premium \(EYPP\)](#) for their three- and four-year-old, which is additional funding for early years providers to improve the education to help narrow the gap in children's outcomes.

Impact of COVID-19 on Universal Credit

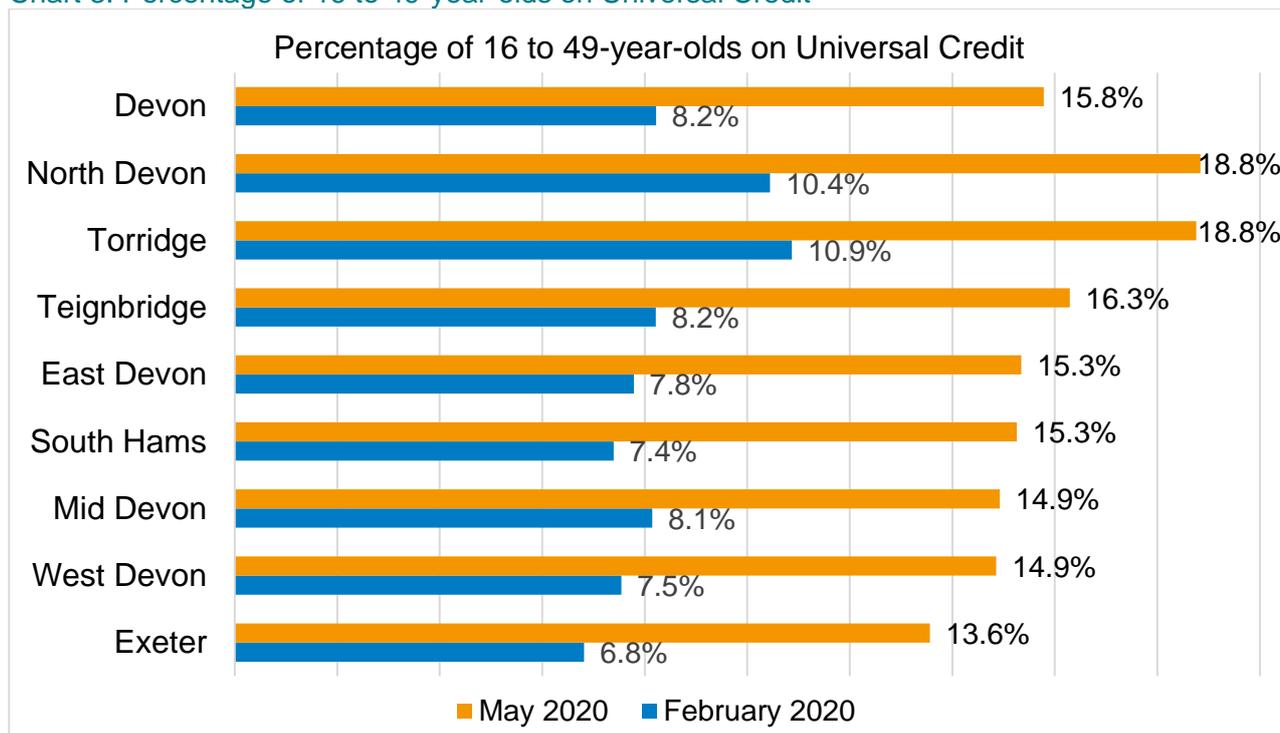
As a result of the impact of the coronavirus, data shows that more families are becoming eligible for Universal Credit (UC).

- In February 2020, 8.2% of the population⁹ of 16- to 49-year-olds in Devon were on Universal Credit¹⁰.
- In the three-month period to May 2020, this increased to 15.8%.
- East Devon, Exeter, South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon saw a similar pattern of increase. This was due to the large number of people in employment who were unable to work due to the restrictions of COVID-19.
- Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge saw the lowest proportionate increase, but North Devon and Torridge still have the overall highest percentage of claimants. This is could be due to several factors including fewer job opportunities.

⁹ Mid-year population estimates 2019 <https://www.devon.gov.uk/factsandfigures/the-people/population-estimates/> (subtracting number of 15 year olds from Health Data Summer Term 2019)

¹⁰ Job Centre Plus – Stat Explore – It is assumed that over 50-year-olds are less likely to have young children, therefore the analysis just looks at people on universal credit aged between 16 and 49.

Chart 3: Percentage of 16 to 49-year-olds on Universal Credit



Source: DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS (2020), Stat-Xplore, People on Universal Credit, Table 4 – Local Authority by Employment Status

- All districts have increased by between 6.7% and 8.4% in the percentage of the population of 16- to 49-year-olds on Universal Credit which now ranges between 13.6% and 18.8%.
- The retail and hospitality industries are being hardest hit by the pandemic; it is assumed that there may be more claims from employees in those sectors.

What does this mean for childcare in Devon and future sufficiency?

The impact of this increase in Universal Credit claimants could mean:

- More families become eligible for a funded two-year-old place which would increase the demand for places. These families may be new to the childcare market.
- Families that have lost their jobs and moved onto Universal Credit (UC) may have been using childcare when they worked. Funding for a two-year-old place will replace some, or all, of the hours that they previously paid for. In these instances, the demand for places remains the same.
- The increase in the number of UC claimants in employment suggests they could be eligible because they have a low income. This may mean that they are less likely to be able to afford childcare. This could result in fewer parents choosing to pay for additional childcare outside of the funded entitlements and a greater reliance on informal childcare arrangements from family and friends.
- A 1.3% increase in the number of people on universal credit but not in employment suggests there may be a decrease in the demand for childcare as parents will look after their children whilst at home. However, this is hoped to be temporary and at some point, in the future, there could be an increase in the demand for childcare as the economy recovers and more people get back in to work. Recovery to pre-COVID-19 employment levels is likely to take until 2022-2024.

- Providers often respond to parents' requests for places based on the space and staff that they have available (there are different requirements for a two-year-old than for a three- and four-year-old). There has been a perception that caring for funded two-year-olds can involve more work than caring for an older child and that it costs the provider more to meet the higher staff ratios. Therefore, on occasions, providers have shown a reluctance to offer funded places for two-year-olds. Providers may charge more than is given for a funded two-year-old place and it may be more lucrative for them to give places to older children. When calculating supply, it is difficult to determine how many places will be available for funded two-year-olds when almost all providers manage their own admissions and the numbers of 2,3- and 4-years olds are fluid.
- Working families in receipt of universal credit are likely to be eligible for the two-year-old funding as well as the [extended entitlement \(30 hours\)](#) for three- and four-years-old if both parents are working.
- In spring term 2020, there were 610 funded three-year-olds attending Devon providers that were previously funded as two-year-olds. Of these 610 children, 129 (21.1%) were funded for the extended entitlement.
- Being a UC claimant is one of the [qualifying criteria for Early Years Pupil Premium \(EYPP\)](#). This is additional funding, given to a setting, for eligible three- and four-year olds. As the number of UC claimants rise more children will be entitled to this funding which must be used to support the individual child.
- The take up of the EYPP has not been as high as we would have hoped. Some providers have cited administration time as a barrier for them in applying. As more children will be benefiting from the funding, it is hoped that as many providers as possible will make claims. When the claims are combined, the EYPP funding could, potentially, fund another member of staff.
- Similarly, the take up of [Free School Meals in nursery classes](#) in maintained and academy schools has been both low and inconsistent. With higher numbers of eligible children, it is hoped there will be more [applications](#) being made by families. There is more work to be done to promote Free School Meals in nursery classes as many families are unaware that they are available.
- A funded two-year-old could also receive a Free School Meal if they attend a school nursery class. At three, they may be eligible for the extended entitlement too. These funding streams are there to support families and will also help providers to continue to offer the best services to our children in Devon.

[More information on eligibility criteria for Early Years Pupil Premium, Free School Meals, Disability Access Fund and two-year-old funding](#)

Sufficiency of provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities

Early years and childcare providers are required to be inclusive¹¹. Support for group childcare providers with inclusive practice is available through the Babcock Early Years Consultants and for childminders through the Early Years and Childcare Advisers. The Early Years and Childcare Service considers there to be sufficient choice of provision to meet the childcare needs of parents of children with additional needs. There have been no enquiries to the service made by families who cannot find the childcare that they need.

The below outlines the support available to providers:

Early Years Funding for children with additional needs

- 76.0% of two-year-olds and 95.6% of three- and four-year-olds with additional needs¹² were accessing the Early Years Funding in spring term 2020.

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

The [Disability Access Fund \(DAF\)](#) is intended to aid access to early years places for three- and four-year-olds, by supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings. Providers are entitled to receive a one-off payment of £615 per year.

- 232 children have been funded through the [Disability Access Fund \(DAF\)](#) for early years providers to support children in receipt of the Disability Living Allowance.

SEND Individual Inclusion Fund

The [Early Years Consultants](#) have actively publicised the SEND Inclusion Funding application process to ensure all providers are fully informed of this support. In addition, new forms have provided more detailed information regarding children's levels of need and helped the panel establish a more consistent approach to funding allocations. Early years practitioners are showing more skill and confidence in identifying needs and areas for further support which is reflected in the applications.

- 1028 children have been funded through the [SEND Individual Inclusion Fund](#) in 2019/20. This is an increase of 231 children from 797 children in 2018/19.

Nursery Plus

[Nursery Plus](#) is an educational outreach service, supporting early years settings in receipt of Early Years Funding to meet the needs of individual children identified with additional or Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

- 587 children attending 205 providers have been supported through the [Nursery Plus](#) service in 2019/20.

¹¹ Required through the [Equality Act 2010](#) and the [Children and Families Act 2014](#).

¹² Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are defined as children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan or SEN Support (this means they are supported by Devon County Council for special needs and disabilities).

Early Years Complex Needs (EYCN) Service

The [EYCN service](#) is an education-based service for children with significant or complex developmental delay in two or more areas of development. One of these areas must be cognition (acquiring knowledge or understanding).

- The service is affiliated to the National Portage Association (NPA) and is based on the principle that parents and carers are the key figures in the care and development of their child.
- It works closely with a wide number of professionals from health, education and care and is made up of a service lead, specialist teachers and practitioners.
- The child and family will be supported by the EYCN team in the following ways:
 - regular home visits by practitioners, providing parents with strategies, skills and ideas to help their child's development,
 - support to access community settings (such as children's centres, preschool, and nursery), and
 - the specialist teachers contribute to the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) process, transitions into settings and schools, including requests for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Local Offer

Information on education, health and social care services and support for children and young people (0-25) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), can be found in [Devon County Council's Local Offer](#), with more information on [what is available for 0-4 year olds in Devon](#).

There is a range of specialist provisions across Devon i.e. specialist holiday play schemes and Saturday clubs. [To search for these visit Pinpoint – Community Services Directory](#).

Sufficiency of provision for children requiring holiday care

With the seasonal nature of employment opportunities in the tourism and hospitality sectors it is important to ensure there is sufficient provision for parents needing to use holiday care to enable them to work.

The way early years and childcare provision is attended, changes through any summer as some parents choose to use holiday provision whilst others do not require it. Some parents work term-time only and therefore do not require childcare during the holidays. Other parents use their annual leave entitlement to cover holiday periods to reduce the need for childcare, whilst others will use friends or relatives to care for their children.

The Early Years and Childcare Service received feedback from parents that they were unable to find holiday provision for three children living in Devon in the financial year 2019/20. There were no instances reported where the Family Information Service was not able to help a parent find suitable childcare in 2019/20.

April to August 2020

- Nationally¹³ there was a 32% decrease in the number of children attending providers between 16 July and 30 July 2020 when the summer term ended whereas Devon saw a 50% decrease.

¹³ <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/attendance-in-education-and-early-years-settings-during-the-coronavirus-COVID-19-outbreak/2020-week-31> [Accessed August 2020]

- However, nationally the percentage of providers open dropped from 62% to 46% between 16 July and 30 July whereas for Devon, this only dropped from 68.9% to 64.1% and as at 20 August there were still 63.5% of providers open.
- Since 1 April, there have been four parents who reported that they were struggling to find holiday provision, all were contacted, and suitable childcare was found.

Given the above, the Early Years and Childcare Service assume that there was sufficient childcare to meet the needs of children requiring holiday provision in all holiday periods. However as almost all sport-based holiday schemes remained closed and the clubs and activities that did open did so with reduced places, it is likely that children who would usually participated in these activities did not have alternative options even though it did not result in a requirement for child care.

Sufficiency of provision for school aged children

Demand for out of school provision for school-aged-children is usually met through the local schools that the children attend, where there is sufficient demand from parents to ensure sustainable provision. If the school does not or cannot deliver childcare provision where a need has been identified, an external provider can set up in partnership with the school to provide this service from the school site. Many childminders offer breakfast childcare dropping off children at school and collecting them when the school day ends.

Parents have the right to request that schools offer childcare and providers can request to use school buildings from where they can operate childcare. It is the responsibility of the school governors or trustees to respond to these requests. This is set out in ['Wraparound and holiday childcare: parent and childcare provider 'rights to request''](#). Devon County Council has asked schools to inform the Early Years and Childcare Service if they receive requests from childcare providers and parents.

Although the number of out of school clubs decreased by four during the financial year 19/20 there were still sufficient places. It should be noted that the Early Years and Childcare Service (EYCS) does not always know about school run before and after school care as there is no requirement for it to be registered separately with Ofsted. As a result, there may have been more places available.

The position changed considerably over the summer 2020 period with most school-based provision being closed over the summer.

- Since 1 April 2020, there have been 65 parents reporting that they were struggling to find provision for their school aged child.
- There were four instances (1 in Torrington and 3 in Stokenham) where the Early Years and Childcare Service were unable to find suitable before and after school childcare.
- The pandemic has exposed the fragility and vulnerability of the out of school sector, in particular how it is affected by access to school sites, its reliance upon paid-for fees, and changes in demand, need and preferences of families.

This Autumn, a data review exercise is underway to ensure that the most up to date information is held on childcare provision run by schools¹⁴.

¹⁴ 42% of out of school provision in Devon is run by schools

Sufficiency of provision for children with parents who work irregular hours

The Early Years and Childcare Service will fund two-, three- and four-year-olds places at weekends and bank holidays enabling providers to claim funding whenever they are open between 6.00am and 8.00pm.

Of the providers responding to the Annual Survey of Providers 2020:

- 54.3% had been asked to provide childcare before 8.00am
- 26.6% had been asked to provide childcare after 6.00pm
- 13.9% had been asked to provide childcare at weekends
- 42.1% had been asked to provide childcare for irregular hours

As the EYCS has received very few enquiries from parents requiring childcare for atypical or irregular hours where they have been unable to find suitable childcare, it is assumed that there is sufficient provision across Devon to meet these needs. Although the EYCS suspect there will be a few families who struggle to match their working times with the availability of childcare.

Parents have the right to request schools to establish wrap around childcare if there is enough demand. This may include opening before 8.00am, after 6.00pm and at weekends.

Support for providers and the impact of COVID-19

Monitoring the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Early Years and Childcare Service applied to the COVID-19 fund the council had received from central government and were granted £600,000 to encourage providers to remain open for children of critical workers and vulnerable children during lockdown. A grant application process was successfully put in place that enabled a significant number of providers to open as shown in the data below.

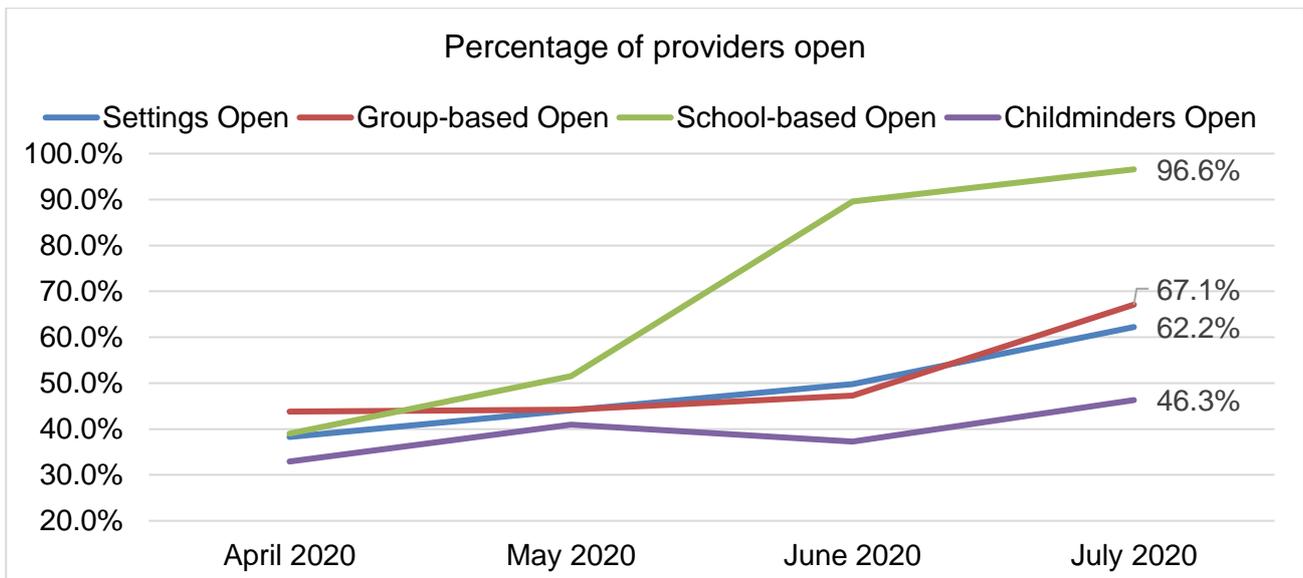
Between March and June 2020 all early years and childcare provision were closed to all except critical workers children and those children classed as vulnerable. During this time comprehensive reporting systems were put in place to allow us to monitor those children attending and ensure the safety of those who were not. On average 3112 were attending regularly of which, 2065 (66.4%) were children of critical workers and 394 (12.7%) were vulnerable children. This represented about 5% of the entire two- to four-year-old cohort.

During the above period, approximately 38% of providers remained open. The majority of those not open were childminders, who were concerned about caring for other children in their family home at this time.

At the beginning of June changes in national regulations allowed childcare providers to once again open their doors to more children. From **this point onwards, the numbers attending gradually began to increase.**

The graph **below shows how the number of open providers changed over this period.**

Chart 1: Percentage of providers open by type of provider

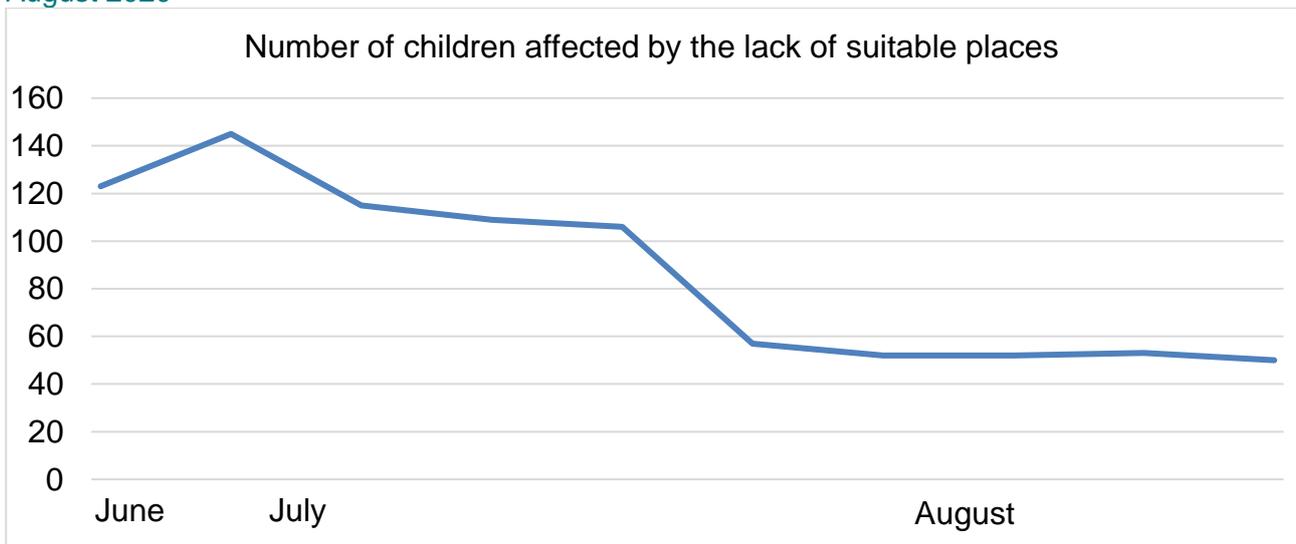


Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2020), Early Years and Childcare Service– DfE attendance return.

The greatest percentage increase, over this time, was seen in the number of school-based providers open 39.0% in April to 96.6% in July 2020. Childminders remained the most likely type of provider to be closed with 46.3% open in July.

During this period, the highest proportion of providers responding to Devon County Council that they could not meet all requests for a place, was 3%. This was followed up by the Early Years and Childcare Service. The chart below shows the number of children that could not be accommodated by providers which decreased over time as the service helped families find a place. It should be noted that in the majority of cases the Early Years and Childcare service were able to find suitable provision for the child.

Chart 2: Number of children affected by the lack of suitable places at open settings – June to August 2020



Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2020), Early Years and Childcare Service– DfE attendance return. Date period: 25/06/2020 – 20/08/2020

Where providers were not able to meet requests, the reason was identified as one of the below:

- due to working in bubbles and staff restrictions
- because they were prioritising vulnerable and critical worker children

- as they were not opening on all their usual days/hours, or
- not taking on any new children not already on their register
- Childminders concerned about caring for other children in the family home.

The unable to find childcare feedback form remained in place for families who were seeking provision over the summer either in early years settings or holiday provision for school age children.

September saw the majority of providers re-open but the number of children attending has not yet reached pre-COVID-19 levels.

Informal Childcare

Although there is no data on informal childcare, it is nationally accepted and known that parents rely on care provided by family and friends to enable them to work and that this informal care accounts for a significant proportion of childcare.

During the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, the availability of informal childcare was reduced. Restrictions on meeting with other people, shielding vulnerable groups and parents not wanting to put other family members at risk will all have had an impact on the amount of childcare available. Some families use grandparents for childcare; the availability of grandparents to care for grandchildren will have been compromised due to some of this older age group being vulnerable and needing to shield. This will, undoubtedly, have impacted on parents' ability to work.

However, in some circumstances, parents who would not normally use formal childcare, did so in order to continue working, particularly those who were critical workers.

As restrictions ease, it is unclear whether those who have started using formal childcare will continue to use formal childcare or whether they will return to their informal childcare arrangements posing a threat to childcare providers resulting in a lower demand and loss of income.

The good news is that the government have announced that [childcare will be exempt from interhousehold mixing restrictions in local areas of intervention](#). This means if there is another local lockdown, informal childcare arrangements will be allowed to continue.

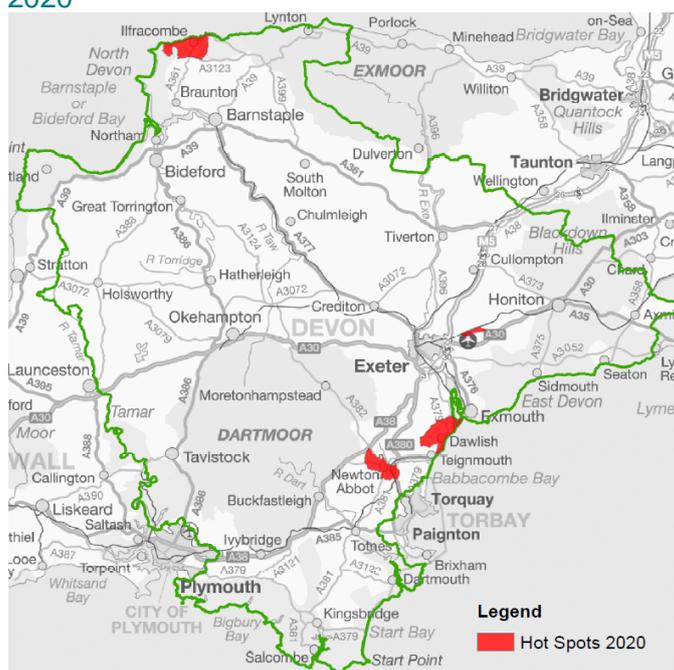
Sufficiency of Early Years and Childcare Provision

Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots

Data held by the Early Years and Childcare Service about provision in Devon is assessed in a holistic way which provides a comprehensive approach to planning sufficient provision. 'Hot Spots' are identified and agreed where there is a need for more provision or where further work is required by the Early Years and Childcare Service to better determine whether the current provision meets the potential demand.

Hot spot areas identified in August 2020 are:

Map 2: Hot Spot Areas 2020



Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2020)

- Cranbrook – potentially a need for more under-two-year-old provision
- Dawlish – potentially need for more under-two-year-old provision
- Newton Abbot – potentially a need under-three-year-old provision
- Ilfracombe – a need for under-five-year-old provision
- Out of school provision across the county

The Early Years and Childcare Service are aware that there may be more hot spot areas that are currently unidentified due to the uncertainty of parental demand as working patterns change, the economy adjusts after the pandemic and supply of childcare alters as a result. The Early Years and Childcare Service will monitor the childcare market and respond where necessary.

Further information on work to be undertaken to address issues relating to these hot spot areas can be found in the [Action Plan](#).

Summing up sufficiency

As there were a very low number of instances where the service has not been able to match parents to suitable childcare, it is assumed that there is sufficient early years and childcare provision in most parts of Devon to meet the needs of the majority of parents.

Monitoring of Early Years and Childcare

Monitoring and Reporting on sufficiency, quality, affordability and accessibility

The Early Years and Childcare Service internal Termly Reports for managers, enable the monitoring of data relating to the local authority's sufficiency duty and market management. These reports also help managers to measure how the targets, within the Service Action Plan, are being addressed and met in a timely manner throughout the year.

A COVID-19 Recovery Plan has been drawn up and sits alongside these established systems and is regularly reviewed and updated so that the service is prepared to respond should there be localised lockdowns.

The Early Years and Childcare Service monitor the following data:

- Population of under five-year olds
- Numbers of providers
- Ofsted outcomes and actions¹⁵
- Providers supported by [Early Years ONE Devon](#)
- Providers offering the stretched offer
- Providers registered for [Tax Free Childcare](#)
- Numbers of enquiries relating to becoming a childminder
- Parent feedback through 'unable to find childcare' forms
- Take up of two-year-old funding, including children eligible for funding due to the receipt of Universal Credit, Disability Living Allowance and take up by two-year-olds in care
- Three- and four-year-old funding including take up of the extended entitlement and take up by three- and four-year-olds in care and by children in need
- Take up of Early Years Pupil Premium and Free School Meals in nurseries in schools
- Communications including social media, website and newsletter

Please see [appendix 2](#) for 2019-20 end of year report.

One Devon

The [statutory guidance for local authorities](#) on securing sufficient childcare states 'childcare places' should be made available in 'high quality settings'. Places for 2-year olds should only be funded by the local authority in good or outstanding provisions unless there is a sufficiency issue.

[Early Years ONE Devon](#) is the overarching strategy to support early years setting effectiveness in Devon. The strategy supports all early year's settings to become 'good' or 'outstanding' and ensure they meet the needs of all children. There will be a strong focus on disadvantage as the aim is to support children to access their right to education, good quality care, and achieve their full potential.

¹⁵ In September 2012 Ofsted introduced an Early Years outcome for the Foundation Stage provision in the school (reception and nursery), in addition to the overall outcome for the school. Several Devon schools were last inspected in 2012 or 2013 and as a result the data used is for the whole school. More recently the Early Years outcome is used to give a more accurate reflection of the quality of provision. Therefore, it will take some time before the same outcome can be used as a measure of quality.

Action Plan

To ensure there is sufficient provision in 2020/21 the Early Years and Childcare Service will carry out the actions set out in the [Action Plan in Appendix 3](#).

In next year's report (1 September 2020 – 31 August 2021) the Early Years and Childcare Service will consider what changes there have been:

- to family circumstances due to COVID-19
- to working patterns
- relating to the eligibility for funded places
- to the demand for childcare because of parental anxiety
- to the flexibility given to parents on how and when they use the funded time
- as a result of the furlough scheme

APPENDIX 1: Information about Childcare

Where do I find out about childcare?

Information on childcare in Devon is available from the Family Information Service through the [Education and Families website](#) and through the [online Community Service Directory, Pinpoint](#).

What if I can't find suitable childcare?

If you are a parent who is unable to find suitable childcare, it is important that you tell Devon County Council's Early Years and Childcare Service so that we can help you find childcare if it is available. Feedback from parents helps inform our sufficiency planning so that the Early Years and Childcare Service can make sure there is enough childcare in your area. To do this, please contact the [childcare brokerage service](#) by phoning 01392 383000 (and ask for Pinpoint) or email pinpoint@devon.gov.uk or complete our [online parent feedback form](#).

I need help paying for childcare

Childcare
Choices

All the government
childcare offers in one place

childcarechoices.gov.uk



This website brings together all the government childcare offers in one place, helping parents find the right childcare support to suit them including Tax-Free Childcare, two-year-old funding, universal funding for three- and four-year-olds and extended (30 hours) funding for eligible three- and four-year-olds.

Parents who experience difficulties in accessing childcare because of the affordability, should contact Devon County Council's [Family Information Service](#) by phoning 01392 383000 (ask for Pinpoint) or email pinpoint@devon.gov.uk or complete our [online parent feedback form](#).

APPENDIX 2: Early Years and Childcare Service End of Year Report

Early Years and Childcare Service: Excerpt from the End of Year Report 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Indicators relating to SEND children are colour coded as follows:	SEND
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Population

	Baseline 2018/19	Target	Summer Term 19	Autumn Term 19	Spring Term 20	End of Year 19/20	Direction since 18/19
Population of under-five-year-olds	37151		36803	36359	36367	36367	↓
Population of two-year-olds	7515		7427	7301	7301	7301	↓
Population of three- and four-year-olds (not eligible for school)	10343		12234	13644	10315	10315	↓

Early Years and Childcare Providers

	Baseline 2018/19	Target	Summer Term 19	Autumn Term 19	Spring Term 20	End of Year 19/20	Direction since 18/19
Number of all early years and childcare providers	1182		1205	1199	1177	1177	↓
Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) places for under-five-year-olds at all early years and childcare providers	21821.5		21073.5	20861.5	20408 ¹⁶	20408	↓
Number of funded providers	761		785	761	754	754	↓
Number of FTE places for two-, three- and four-year-olds at funded providers	17184		17383.5	16603.5	15563	15563	↓
Number of providers registered to offer two-year-old funding	645		668	646	642	642	↓
Number of FTE places for two-year-olds at providers registered to offer two-year-old funding	5034.5		4991	4771.5	4584	4584	↓
Number of providers offering the extended entitlement	709		699	686	674	674	↓

¹⁶ If operating to capacity – does not take into consideration closures due to COVID-19

Ensure high quality early years and childcare provision

Ofsted Outcomes

	Baseline 2018/19	Target	Summer Term 19	Autumn Term 19	Spring Term 20	End of Year 19/20	Direction since 18/19
Percentage of all early years and childcare providers graded as Good and Outstanding (at their latest Ofsted inspection) ¹⁷	97.5%	100.0%	97.2%	97.9%	96.8%	96.8%	↓
Percentage of all early years and childcare providers graded as Requires Improvement	1.9%	0.0%	1.8%	1.0%	2.2%	2.2%	↑
Percentage of all early years and childcare providers graded as Inadequate	0.6%	0.0%	0.8%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	↑
Percentage of funded providers graded as Requires Improvement or Inadequate	2.8%	0.0%	2.8%	1.7%	4.0%	4.0%	↑

Ensure early years and childcare provision can be made affordable

	Baseline 2018/19	Target	Summer Term 19	Autumn Term 19	Spring Term 20	End of Year 19/20	Direction since 18/19
Percentage of funded group providers making the stretched offer	27.6%	30%	28.6%	26%	26.4%	26.4%	↓
Percentage of all providers registered for Tax Free Childcare	66.0%	100%	75.3% ¹⁸	71.7%	74.6%	71.7%	↑

Ensure sufficient early years and childcare provision

	Baseline 2018/19	Target	Summer Term 19	Autumn Term 19	Spring Term 20	End of Year 19/20	Direction since 18/19
Number of enquiries relating to becoming a childminder	76		26	43	11	80	↑
Number of 'Unable to find childcare' forms submitted	93		14	8	34 ¹⁹	56	↓

¹⁷ Only includes active providers, does include schools

¹⁸ This data is taken from Tax Free Childcare DfE list (not the Annual Survey as previous)

¹⁹ Some of these enquiries will be as a result of provision closing due to implications of COVID-19

Ensure sufficient provision for two-, three- and four-year-olds to take up the free early education

Two-year-old funding

	Baseline 2018/19	Target	Summer Term 19	Autumn Term 19	Spring Term 20	End of Year 19/20	Direction since 18/19
Number of two-year-olds eligible for funding as per the DWP list	2013		2001	2172	1860	1860	↓
Percentage of the population of two-year-olds eligible for funding	26.8%		26.9%	29.4%	25.5%	25.5%	↓
Percentage of two-year-olds accessing a funded place (percentage of the DWP number) ²⁰	89.0%	91.0%	84.4%	90.6%	86.4%	86.4%	↓
Percentage of two-year-olds who are accessing a funded place who are taking up the full entitlement	73.4%	75.0%	73.3%	73.1%	72.5%	72.5%	↓
All two-year-old funded children allocated inclusion funding	99		42	30	35	107	↑

Three- and four-year-old funding

	Baseline 2018/19	Target	Summer Term 19	Autumn Term 19	Spring Term 20	End of Year 19/20	Direction since 18/19
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the Early Years Education Funding ²¹	96.0%	99.0%	96.8%	96.8%	97.1%	97.1%	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds who are accessing a place who are taking up the full universal entitlement	85.3%	80.0%	86.2%	85.9%	86.7%	86.7%	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the Early Years Entitlement who are taking up the extended entitlement	44.3%		45.6%	46.3%	47.7%	47.7%	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds who are accessing the extended entitlement who are taking up the full extended entitlement	55.9%		56.9%	54.4%	56.1%	56.1%	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the extended entitlement as a proportion of those estimated to be eligible (60% of population)	70.9%		73.6%	74.6%	77.2%	77.2%	↑

²⁰ Two-year-old take-up is based on the number of children on the last DWP list of the term and EY hours taken up; no individual children are matched. The DWP list seems to have less two-year-olds on it now and it is estimated that there are more children funded through the Citizen's Portal that are not on the DWP list, hence the increase in percentage.

²¹ EYEF take-up is based purely on health data and EY hours taken up, no individual children are matched.

Percentage of previously funded two-year-olds taking up the extended entitlement	22.1%		21.1%	26.1%	21.1%	21.1%	↓
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds who are accessing the extended entitlement across the year (stretched offer)	42.5%		42.6%	41.2%	41.2%	41.2%	↓
Number of three- and four-year-olds with an EHCP	107		182	48	119	119	↑
Percentage of three- and four-year-olds accessing the Early Years Funding who have been funded for the Early Years Pupil Premium	9.1%	10.5%	10.3%	8.0%	8.8%	8.8%	↓

Ensure sufficiency of provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities

	Baseline 2018/19	Target	Summer Term 19	Autumn Term 19	Spring Term 20	End of Year 19/20	Direction since 18/19
Number of children under five who have an Education, Health and Care Plan ²²	109		182 ²³	38	62	261	↑
All children funded through Early Years Inclusion Funding	797		428	227	373	1028	↑
Number of children accessing Disability Access Funding	161		76	66	90	232	↑

²² This excludes reception children

²³ The majority of these children were due to start school in autumn 2019 and the EHCP had been set just prior to this happening but before the end of term (31/08/2019)

APPENDIX 3: Action Plan

To ensure there is sufficient, high quality, affordable and accessible childcare early years and childcare, the Early Years and Childcare Service will:

Population

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible baby boom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of under-one-year-olds to identify future demand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is a large increase in births, stimulate the childcare market to expand provision

Early Years and Childcare Providers

Observation	To Monitor:	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enquiries still being received from providers to open or expand provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of early years and childcare providers and places Openings, closures and expansions of providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support providers where appropriate Raise the awareness of providers right to request the use of school sites for early years and childcare provision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown capacity of the childcare market as the country readjusts following the lifting of restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of childcare providers open or closed The number of places available for different ages of children, at different times of the day and weeks of the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the Department for Education (DFE) attendance register for as long as is required. Carry out a termly survey of providers to capture data more regularly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in capacity and closure of childcare providers that are no longer financially viable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of childcare providers Capacity information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage staff who have been made redundant to register as childminders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better data on out of school and holiday providers required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of childcare providers Capacity information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the data review of out of school provision to ensure accurate data is held Capture information on school-run childcare that is not registered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providers only accepting children that do not attend other providers due to COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children funded to attend more than one provider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In areas where children are using more than one provider, work with providers to see whether it is possible for parents to use just one provision, to help

		give children greater consistency with their early learning and care
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Ensure high quality early years and childcare provision

Observation/Assumption	To Monitor:	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer good or outstanding providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of providers graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted Areas/towns where provision is consistently requires improvement or inadequate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support providers through Early Years ONE Devon to become good or outstanding Support new providers to move into areas where there is low quality provision with limited capacity to improve. This is particularly important for funded two-year-old places.

Ensure early years and childcare provision can be made affordable

Observation/Assumption	To Monitor:	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer providers making the stretched offer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of funded group providers making the stretched offer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage providers to offer the stretched offer Work with providers to build greater flexibility and affordability into their provision for parents, where provision is open all year round but does not enable parents to stretch their funding for two-, three- and four-year olds. Work with providers to develop all-year-round places in areas where there is term time only provision. Promote the stretched offer to working parents to help with spreading the cost of childcare across the year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 71.7% of providers registered for Tax Free Childcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of providers registered for Tax Free Childcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the 28.3% of providers that have not yet registered for Tax Free Childcare and encourage them to do so. This will help to make childcare more affordable for families.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsure of current charges and whether this is affordable for parents in all parts of Devon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charges made by providers. Parents views on affordability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey parents termly to find out if affordability is a barrier to using childcare. Survey providers termly to establish their charges.

Ensure sufficient early years and childcare provision

Observation/Assumption	To Monitor:	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of understanding of the demand for childcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of requests not met Data on working patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey parents to gain a greater insight into the demand for childcare where there is insufficient provision or there are issues raised through data, by the locality teams or local families Providers to continue to report on 'requests not met' through the DfE attendance register Raise awareness of parents right to request that a school provides childcare Use data from the Devon County Council Economy team to help inform demand for childcare as working patterns change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of feedback from parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of 'Unable to find Childcare' forms submitted, number of parents contacted and whether suitable childcare arrangements have been found 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of the '<u>unable to find childcare form</u>' to parents as a way of feeding back to Devon County Council when they cannot find childcare, particularly in areas where places are limited, so that Devon County Council are informed when more places are needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More childcare required in rural areas and outside of traditional areas of work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of childminders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the 'Childminding as a Career' campaign Promote childminding as a career, particularly in rural areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified lack of provision in Hot Spots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to find childcare forms submitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the unable to find childcare parent feedback form in these areas to confirm if these areas are hot spots Stimulate the market to encourage new providers Encourage existing providers to expand Continue to assess sufficiency and identify hot spots through data analysis and discussion on the supply and demand of childcare with locality teams and providers. Stimulate the market in hot spot areas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of out of school provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of out of school providers Number of places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If schools with early years provision have wraparound care, work with the school to ensure two-, three- and

		four-year-olds can access longer hours if there is local demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned housing developments increasing the demand of childcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and location of S106 agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the School Place Planning Team to establish Early Years Provision in new schools and request Section 106 for early years provision where appropriate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential increase in elective home education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of the population of primary school aged children who are home educated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use as an indicator of a percentage of population who may not require formal childcare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown impact of a future lockdown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an Early Years and Childcare Lockdown action plan in case of further lockdown restrictions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government piloting free before and after school provision for the armed forces from September 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number and location of service families that will use this service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey parents.

Ensure sufficient provision for two-, three- and four-year-olds to take up the free early education

Observation/Assumption	To Monitor:	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents worried about sending their children to provision due to fear around COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take-up of two, three- and four-year-old funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage providers to market themselves to instil parents' confidence in using childcare again
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced take-up of two-year-old funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take-up of the two-year-old funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Golden Ticket process with a view to sending a single Golden Ticket to all parents on the DWP list. Work with providers who only admit three- and four-year-olds to establish whether two-year-old places are needed and support them to make this change. This will mean that children have fewer transition points between providers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More two-year-olds could become eligible for funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of two-year-olds eligible for funding due to Universal Credit criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulate the market to encourage more providers to offer funded two-year-old places.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreased take-up of the Early Years Pupil Premium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take-up of the Early Years Pupil Premium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the take-up of the Early Years Pupil Premium to parents and providers and highlight the benefits to the child and the setting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipated increase in the number of people on Universal Credit especially when the government furlough scheme comes to an end in October. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people on Universal Credit in Devon to inform eligibility for two-year-old funding, Early Years Pupil Premium and Free School Meals in school nurseries Take up of Early Years Pupil Premium Take-up of Free School Meals in nursery classes Number of previously funded two-year-olds taking up the extended entitlement at three and four. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote the take-up of Early Years pupil premium Promote Free School Meals in nursery classes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of foster carers funded for the extended entitlement has remained the same 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of foster carers funded for the extended entitlement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine if there are more foster carers who are eligible for the extended entitlement

Communication

Observation/Assumption	To Monitor:	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less traffic to the Early Years and Childcare website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and refresh the Early Years and Childcare webpages Promote webpages Continue to promote the use of social media

The Early Years and Childcare Service will monitor these actions through the termly report.

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