

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Annual Summary

April 2019 to August 2020

This report covers a 16 month period to August 2020. This supports a move from financial to academic year reporting and also allows for key information relating to the impact of coronavirus on childcare sufficiency to be included.

The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) has made the assessment of the supply and demand for childcare more difficult.

Since April, the Early Years and Childcare Service have been monitoring the number of providers that are open (operating with or without children attending) or closed (not operating at all or operating over fewer days) as well as the number of children attending (including children of critical workers and vulnerable children) and reporting this to the Department for Education.

Going forward the Early Years and Childcare Service will introduce termly surveys for parents and providers to capture changes impacting on the supply and demand for childcare in an ever-changing environment.

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The funding rate has increased ✓ More providers have registered for Tax Free Childcare ✓ More enquiries received about becoming a childminder ✓ Greater take-up of funding by three- and four-year-olds ✓ Greater take up by children with additional needs ✓ More children received Disability Access Funding ✓ Increased connections via social media 	<p>Areas for Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduced take-up of two-year-old funding ● Decreased take-up of the Early Years Pupil Premium ● Fewer good or outstanding providers ● Less traffic to the Early Years and Childcare webpages ● Lack of feedback from parents ● Lack of data on the demand for childcare
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Potential baby boom from early 2021 ➤ More two-year-olds could become eligible for funding ➤ More childcare required in rural areas ➤ New early years provision in new schools ➤ Redundant staff become childminders 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Second wave of COVID-19 - Parents lack of confidence in using childcare - Potential closure of out of school provision - Less demand for childcare in towns, cities and on travel to work routes - Government's Furlough Scheme ending - Loss of capacity and flexibility in early years and childcare providers - Reduction in 3- and 4-year-olds eligible for the extended (30 hour) entitlement

For further information please see the Early Years and Childcare Service '[Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report April 2019 to August 2020](#)'.