

# SECURING SUFFICIENT CHILDCARE IN WEST SUSSEX

Published Spring 2023



# West Sussex County Council: Childcare Sufficiency Report

This report covers the period of March 2021 to April 2022

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## Introduction

The purpose of this document is to:

- Set out the policies and principles of West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of childcare places for 0-14 year olds (or up to 18 for children with a disability) to meet statutory requirements for working parents.
- Provide information on the current childcare market, identifying potential gaps including steps taken to address these.
- Identify opportunities that may exist for further expansion where required to meet the demands from changes to legislation, new housing and/or population increases.

## The Legislation

Sections 6 and 11 of the [Childcare Act 2006](#) place a duty on the Local Authority (LA) to both secure sufficient childcare for working parents and to undertake a childcare assessment at intervals not exceeding three years.

The first assessment, published in March 2008, measured the nature and extent of the need for, and supply of, childcare within the County. It also summarised the potential childcare gaps at District and Borough level. The second West Sussex Childcare Sufficiency Assessment was published in March 2011.

Requirements also set out that the assessment must be kept under review and updated as new data becomes available, but at least annually.

The Department for Education (DfE) introduced measures in the Children and Families Act 2014 to repeal the section 11 duty on local authorities to prepare assessments. This was confirmed in [Early Education and Childcare: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities](#) (September 2014). This was updated in June 2018 to reflect changes in legislation as set out in the Childcare Act 2016.

This document outlines the LAs responsibilities in assessing and ensuring sufficient childcare places. Please see Appendix 1 for the specific section on securing sufficient childcare.

The guidance requires LAs to report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and make this report available and accessible to parents.

## How is this achieved in West Sussex?

West Sussex carries out sufficiency monitoring within six District and Boroughs which is updated on a termly basis. The monitoring includes an action plan for how each area will address the potential gaps in childcare provision.

A countywide moderation meeting reviews these three times a year to ensure consistency and to make recommendations as required. This monitoring information is collated to inform this 'Securing Sufficient Childcare in West Sussex' annual report which is published online.

The six District and Boroughs are:

- Adur and Worthing
- Arun
- Chichester
- Crawley
- Horsham
- Mid Sussex

The assessments consider the following data sets and sources of information:

- Information from our database (Synergy) which includes information on:
  - Ofsted Outcomes.
  - Places and Vacancies.
  - Opening hours.
  - Flexibility – including information on how Free Entitlement (FE) places are offered.
  - The number of 2, 3 and 4 year olds accessing FE places.
  - Brokerage cases (supporting parents and carers who are experiencing difficulty in finding suitable childcare), including the success of brokerage specifically targeted at families where the child has special educational needs or a disability (SEND).
  - Area profiling including demographics, planned developments and potential premises.
- Local intelligence.
- Any relevant national or local consultation outcomes.
- [WSCC Planning School Places document](#).
- Housing Allocations as per District and Borough planning documents.
- Comparisons with relevant National data sets.
- Consultation with parent and carers.
- Consultation with providers, including regular Setting Review Meetings.

This assessment is then used to inform an area Action Plan including the identified potential gaps and progress made towards these, which is monitored termly.

Regular sufficiency updates and challenges are also shared with the Department for Education and Ofsted.

## Stimulating the childcare market

The duties in the Childcare Act (section 6) require LAs to shape and support the development of childcare in their area in order to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. We should encourage existing providers to expand their provision and new providers to enter the local childcare market (Appendix 1).

In West Sussex we currently achieve this by:

- Ensuring the requirements for new/additional Early Years places are included in all large scale building developments, and smaller developments where there is a clearly evidenced need. Please see Appendix 2 for details on how the need is calculated.
- Referring both new and existing providers to this document when planning new places to understand where there are potential gaps in provision.
- Offering [New Business Support](#) which can be requested by any individual, school or organisation wanting to start a childcare business. Full guidance.
- Providing support to existing childcare providers for a range of business issues which may impact on sustainability. This includes supporting providers who wish to expand.
- Offering local networks/events covering local issues to support the delivery of high quality, sustainable Early Years and Childcare provision.
- Both developing and signposting to [business tools](#) to support new and existing providers.
- Developing a [Consultation Toolkit](#) to empower new and existing providers to clearly assess need and demand for their current and planned services.
- Carrying out Free Entitlement audits to ensure parents are able to access their free places within the statutory guidance, ensuring that this is free at the point of delivery.
- Identifying suitable available premises in areas recognised as having a potential childcare sufficiency need.
- Including business related articles and information in the childcare providers' weekly broadcast email.
- Signposting childcare providers to relevant funding streams to support the development of new childcare places.
- Providing opportunity to subscribe to a flexible Early Years Training Programme including a variety of both face to face and online training courses.
- Sharing feedback from consultation with providers to inform their planning.
- Sharing any potential business opportunities to take on Early Years and Childcare through the weekly setting broadcast email.

## Working with schools

In order to encourage schools to explore the provision of out-of-hours childcare from 8.00am to 6.00pm, WSCC has written guidance to support setting up childcare:

- [Developing Childcare Provision: A guide for schools](#)
- [Selecting a high quality provider to run childcare at your school](#)

Schools can also [access support](#) with opening a high quality early years business.

This reflects the [Right to Request](#) publication (2016) which provides guidance from the Department for Education. It has been produced to help maintained schools and academies (including free schools) understand how to respond to:

- parents' requests that the school that their child attends consider establishing wraparound and/or holiday childcare, and
- childcare providers' requests to use school facilities for wraparound and/or holiday provision at times when the school is not using them.

This guidance aims to maintain school autonomy and avoid imposing unnecessary administration burdens on schools, whilst ensuring schools understand the basis on which they should be responding constructively to requests for wraparound childcare.

Ofsted has also produced a guidance document for schools called [registering school based provision](#) which gives advice and requirements for schools setting up their own wraparound childcare.

Schools and local childcare providers can provide wraparound and/or holiday care independently or by joining forces and working together.

There are four Maintained Nursery School in West Sussex based in:

- Bognor Regis
- Chichester
- Lancing
- Horsham

In July 2022, there were 83 group based Early Years providers operating from school sites, as well as 45 breakfast clubs, 24 holiday playschemes and 71 after school clubs.

## Countywide sufficiency overview

West Sussex is a mainly rural county with the South Downs National Park running through it. The main population centres are along the coastal strip and in the north of the county which includes Gatwick airport.

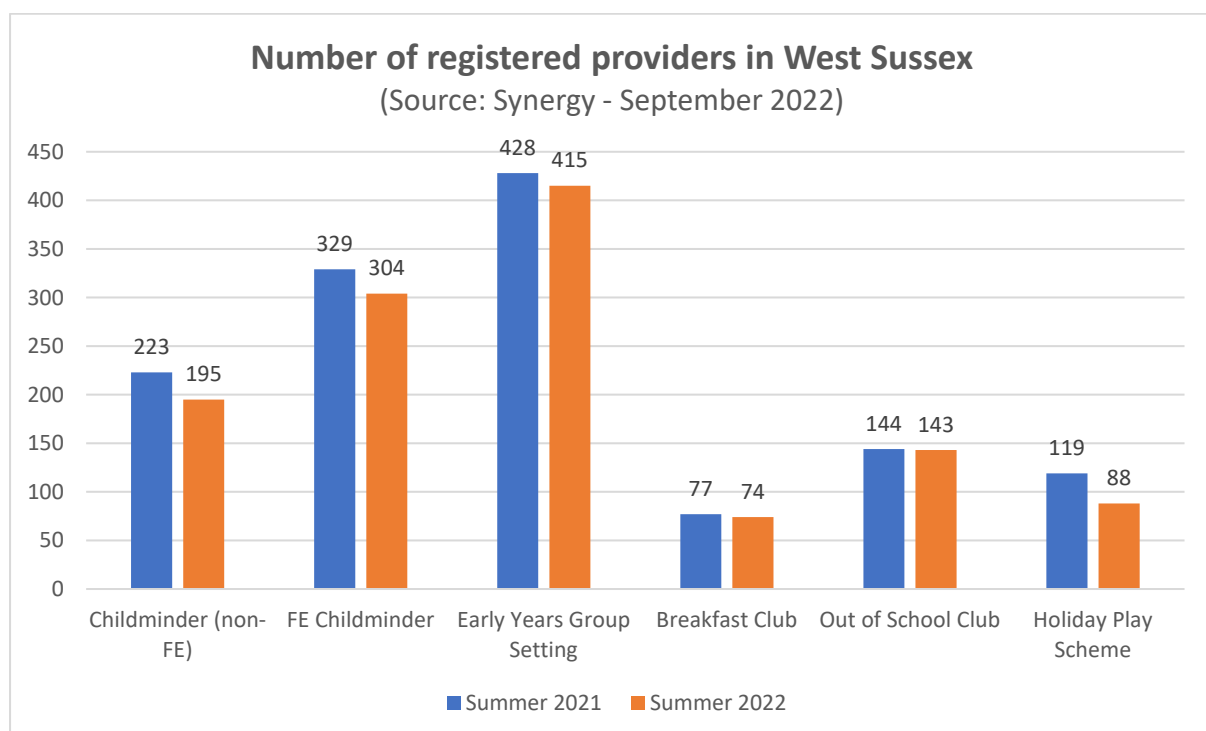
The county has a two-tier local Government arrangement with the county council and seven District and Borough councils.

The employment rate for 16-64 year olds in West Sussex is 80.1%. This is higher than both the South East and Nationally at 78.2% and 75.4% respectively. Employment levels are lowest in Chichester District (67%) and highest in Mid Sussex (85.8%).

### Registered Providers

Nationally, on 31 August 2022, there were 65,600 childcare providers registered with Ofsted, down by 5,400 since 31 August 2021. Most of this overall decline is shown to be due to a fall in the number of childminders.

At the start of the 2020, and prior to the pandemic, there were 1338 providers registered with Ofsted in West Sussex. This decreased to 1,219 in August 2022, reflecting the same trends seen nationally. This continues to be monitored closely to ensure sufficiency of places.



Over the 12 month period, there have been decreases in all types of provision across the county, with the largest losses being predominantly childminders and holiday playschemes.

The total number of registered childminders has decreased from 552 in July 2021 to 499 in July 2022, a total net loss of 10%. For the first time we have seen a decrease in the number of childminders offering funded places from 329 to 304 (8% decrease).

Out of school and breakfast clubs have remained relatively stable, however there has been a decline in Holiday Playschemes.

The NDNA recently reported that during the Summer Term 2022, 65% more nurseries have closed compared with the same months in 2021. This national

trend is reflected in West Sussex and could potentially be a continuing trend for the next financial year with rising utility costs and inflation.

### **Places available**

The total average number of daily Early Years and Childcare places decreased between July 2021 and July 2022 from 36,484 to 35,232. This is a 3.4% decrease overall, across all provider types.

There has been, however, an increase of 826 in places in Early Years Group based provision, despite a decrease in the total number of providers. Most of the losses of places were from childminders either closing or decreasing the number of children they care for.

### **Free Entitlement (FE) places**

WSCC has a statutory duty to ensure that there is access to 570 hours per year of free high quality early education for all eligible 3 and 4 year olds whose parents would like to take up a place for their child.

From September 2014, in line with national criteria, [this offer](#) was extended to the most disadvantaged 40% of 2 year olds (2 year old Free Entitlement) relating to family income criteria and/or children with specific characteristics such as children looked after, adopted or with special guardianship orders and/or children with SEND in West Sussex from the term after their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

This offer was further extended to 1140 hours a year (30 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year) for eligible 3 and 4 year olds in working families from September 2017. The additional 15 hours is available to families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family), and each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage or national living wage, and less than £100,000 per year. Working will include employed and self-employed persons.

In West Sussex we use the terminology Universal FE for 3 and 4 year olds accessing the 570 hours and Extended FE for those eligible for the 1140 hours.

From September 2018, access to Extended FE was made available to foster carers who work in addition to their role as foster carers, where accessing the extended hours is consistent with the child's care plan.



## Education provision: children under 5 years of age (January 2022)

Nationally, an average of 72% eligible 2 year olds benefitted from a funded place in 2022, up from 62% in 2021 and 69% in 2020. This increase is attributed to COVID-19 meaning that parents are now more likely to take up a place for their child, following the uncertainty of the pandemic.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
England	72%	68%	69%	62%	72%
West Sussex	80%	87%	84%	76%	88%

Source [Education provision: children under 5 years of age](#), January 2022 (published June 2022)

In West Sussex, this trend was also seen, however take up was considerably higher than nationally by 16%.

3 and 4 year olds benefiting from the Universal Free Entitlement has increased by 2% nationally this year.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
England	94%	93%	93%	90%	92%

Source [Education provision: children under 5 years of age](#), January 2022 (published June 2022)

Across both the 15- and 30-hour entitlements, the falls in the numbers registered in 2021 and the subsequent rises in 2022 likely reflects the impact of COVID-19 uncertainty on providers and parents followed by some reversal as the uncertainty eased.

However, the increases in the numbers registered for the 15-hour entitlements in 2022 have not offset the falls in 2021.

The rises in the take-up rates for the 15-hour entitlements in 2022 have been driven not only by increases in the numbers registered, but also by decreases in the relevant populations (particularly for eligible 2-year-olds).

## Extended Free Entitlement (30 hours)

Nationally, in January 2021, 328,662 3 and 4 year olds benefitted from the Extended Free Entitlement (FE). In January 2021, 348,100 3 and 4 year olds accessed the Extended FE – an increase of 6% from the previous year, following a 5% decrease the year before that.

In Summer 2022 in West Sussex 6,888 3 and 4 year olds accessed the Extended FE hours. This is an increase from 6,456 in spring term 2021. This mirrors the national trend and also shows a 6% increase in take up.

Data for this year shows that for families accessing the Extended FE on average, children accessed 12.4 hours of their 15 hours extended entitlement. This is unchanged from the previous monitoring period.

The government recorded that nationally, in 2022, both the number of 3 and 4-year-olds registered for the Extended FE and those in receipt of the [early years pupil premium \(EYPP\)](#) were the highest on record.

## Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

Children who meet the eligibility criteria will attract additional funding to the hourly base rate. EYPP **must** be used in ways which improve the quality of the provision for all children but with particular regard to the children it has been paid for. Providers **should** produce a written policy or statement which outlines how they plan to utilise the EYPP funding. It is up to the provider to demonstrate to Ofsted, during an inspection, how the EYPP has been spent and evidence how this has improved the learning outcomes for the children in attendance.

1,479 children benefitted from EYPP in the spring term 2022, taking up on average 14.6 hours per week of the Universal 15 hours, which is 0.3 hours higher than all children access the Universal FE.

A deprivation supplement £0.47 per hour is also automatically applied to all children in receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium.

## Disabled Children's Access to Childcare

All childminders and Early Years and Childcare settings must operate an inclusive admissions policy in accordance with Ofsted requirements and must have a [Local Offer statement](#).

A specialist brokerage service is offered to families which can support by:

- Organising additional support to attend visits with families when looking at different childcare options.
- Working with the families' chosen childcare provider to ensure that the child's specific needs are met by staff with the right training and equipment.
- Working in partnership with a wide range of agencies.

A tool has been developed on the Local Offer website specifically to support families to find out more about [Accessing Childcare](#) for children with SEND.

The majority of children with additional or special educational needs will not require special resources or enhanced staffing to be successfully included in a setting. Most providers will meet the additional needs of their children very well. However, some children require adjustments to be made to practice and provision to be enabled to participate with their peers.

Funding can be awarded to support the inclusion and participation of children with severe/complex needs and/or a disability that are accessing a Free Entitlement place with an Early Years provider.

These children may be in receipt of Inclusion Funding for a time limited period only, or for the duration of their place with the Early Years provider.

Early Years providers can also access funding through the Disability Access Fund (DAF). This aids access to early years places by, for example, supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings and/or helping with building capacity (be that for the child in question or for the benefit of children as a whole attending the setting).

3 and 4 year olds will be eligible for the DAF if they meet the following criteria:

- the child is in receipt of child Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and
- the child receives Free Entitlement for 3 and 4 year old funding.

The settings of 3 and 4 year olds eligible for the DAF are entitled to receive a one-off payment of £800 per year, an increase from £615.

Over the monitoring period, 169 children accessed DAF funding. This is a slight increase from 160 last year, however still lower than the 258 in the year prior to the pandemic. The eligibility criteria of being in receipt of DLA may have impacted on this take up due to delays in diagnosis as a result of the pandemic.

## **Childcare Costs and Affordability**

The cost of childcare has been identified as the greatest barrier to employment for parents by several surveys, including the DfE 2015 Review of Childcare Costs. A Childcare Survey carried out with Families in West Sussex in September 2022 also highlighted this a significant challenge around accessing childcare (see p.15 for more information).

There are several sources of funding to [help families with childcare costs](#). These include:

- Free Entitlement (Early Education) places for 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds.
- Childcare Element of Working Tax Credit (WTC)/Universal Credit.
- Childcare Vouchers: employers may offer a salary sacrifice scheme saving families Tax and National Insurance Contributions on some, or all of childcare costs. Please note this scheme is now closed to new applicants.
- Tax Free Childcare.
- Care to Learn – support whilst you study.

These are promoted to families via the West Sussex County Council website, the Family Information Service and other publications.

## Vulnerable Children

Spring Term Data 2022 shows that 68% of 2 year olds and 92% of 3 and 4 year olds who are on Early Help Plans access an FE place. This is around 63% and 66% respectively for Children In Need (CIN) and those on Child Protection Plans.

For those not attending provision, WSCC proactively work with these families to encourage take up of a place, as appropriate, and offer support and learning resources to use at home.

A specialist brokerage process is in place to support vulnerable families to access a childcare place.

## Holiday Activity and Food Programme

The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme is a DfE funded programme designed to enable children who receive benefit related free school meals to take part in activities that they would not normally have access to and receive a healthy meal.

The aims of the HAF programme are to support children to eat healthy and be more active during the holidays, reduce isolation and support them to take part in engaging and enriching activities.

Within West Sussex the HAF programme ran for 4 weeks during Summer 2021 and 1 week at Christmas 2021. We worked with 40 different providers offering a wide range of activities including, forest schools, sports clubs, holiday clubs cooking and theatre and drama sessions. The West Sussex HAF programme supported 2284 children to access the HAF programme during these 5 weeks totalling nearly 16,000 individual attendances.

For more information on the HF programme please visit [www.westsussex.gov.uk/HAF](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/HAF)

## Challenges

Nationally it is acknowledged that the main challenges for Early Years and Childcare providers are currently the impact of funding, the cost of living crisis, along with challenges around the recruitment and retention of staff.

If the challenges are not addressed nationally a two-tier market could emerge as provision in more prosperous areas where parents may be more able to afford fees for additional hours and services, is more sustainable than those in disadvantaged areas. Provision in areas of disadvantage could be at greater financial risk and closure meaning parents would not be able to go out to work and any positive achievements made in closing the gap for young children in could be reversed.

Sessional (term time only) pre-schools often meet the needs of families only wanting to access the funded entitlement and not wanting additional hours or all year round care. However, many pre-schools are struggling financially as they are not able to offset losses from the funded hours by additional fee paying places. Closure of these sessional groups will therefore reduce the flexible offer

available to families and affect those only wanting to access the funded hours, usually across term time only.

Historical underfunding of the early years and childcare sector and lack of financial support to address the impact of covid costs means the early years and childcare market, locally and nationally, remains very fragile as the longer-term impacts of Covid-19 on jobs and changes to working patterns remain a challenge for the sector.

The providers are also impacted by the cost of living crisis including, but not limited to, increases to National Living Wage and the increased utility and food costs.

Whilst the challenges for the early years and childcare sector are significant there is still some optimism about the local childcare market. For example, the local authority still receives approaches from prospective providers wishing to set up in the county. Where settings have low occupancy or staffing shortages they can sometimes benefit from the closures of other settings as they can offer places to parents seeking alternative provision and recruit staff who had been made redundant.

## Ofsted Outcomes

Nationally, as of 31 August 2022, 97% of providers on the Early Years Register (EYR) were judged to be good or outstanding. West Sussex currently has 97% of providers judged to be good or outstanding which is in line with both the national figures and the South East Region. The number of inadequate providers remains low at 2%, however this is higher than nationally. A Targeted Setting Support process is carried out by the LA to support these providers to improve their practice and provision.

		Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Number of Inspections
Overall effectiveness of active early years registered providers	West Sussex	16%	81%	2%	2%	700
	South East Region	16%	81%	2%	1%	10,075
	England	15%	82%	2%	1%	53,788

Source: [Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 August 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2022)

## Training and Development

- 3625 total training places were taken up in April 2021 to March 2022
- 211 courses were delivered excluding online self-led courses
- 62% of places were filled, on average, per course
- 113 delegates attended the annual Early Years Conference, 'Putting Children First' in March 2021, which was run virtually
- 62 delegates attended the annual Childminder Conference, 'Putting Children First' in May 2021 which was run virtually

- 25 Network events ran with 687 attendees, supporting early years practitioners within locality areas
- 33 Area Inclusion and Improvement Board Workshops ran with 310 attendees
- 19 Transitions Events held, with 235 early years settings and 140 schools in attendance discussing 3,206 children

Settings are struggling with staff recruitment and retention. As a result of this settings are either not booking or cancelling courses because they cannot release staff for training as their staff ratios will not allow this.

## **Childcare Survey September 2022**

Parents and carers of children aged 0-14 (up to 18 with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)) were surveyed from 1 to 30 September 2022 to understand their current and future childcare needs.

739 surveys were completed, 49% included children who were 0-4 and 78% included school age children.

27% included a child with SEND.

Over 90% of families with children under 5 felt their child's setting had a positive impact on their child's development. And 83% could access all the formal childcare they required. Those who could not was reported to be in the main due to cost, not availability of places.

The survey has identified that the main challenges for families in West Sussex are around:

- Affordability of childcare
- Availability of childcare places for children with SEND, with high quality experienced staff who can meet the needs of the child
- The flexibility of childcare providers to meet the changing needs of families
- Availability of wrap around care for school age children

## **Countywide Sufficiency Priorities for 2022-23**

Based on the analysis of the data, the priorities moving forward are to:

1. undertake further analysis of the supply and demand of childcare places for disabled children across the county and continue to improve access to childcare by ensuring providers have the knowledge and skills to support children with special educational needs or a disability (SEND).
2. develop and pilot a clear and transparent process around S106/Community Infrastructure Levy funding for the development of new Early Years and Childcare Places to ensure sufficiency of places within those areas for all types of childcare, in response to planned housing development.

3. support the affordability of Early Education and Childcare by auditing providers on their administration of the Early Years Entitlements to ensure that the conditions of the funding are being met and parents are able to access their entitlements flexibly through a range of providers.
4. review the supply and demand of wrap around care and work to stimulate the market in areas identified as having potential gaps for school age children.
5. develop and implement a strategy to support the recruitment and retention of a high quality early years workforce.

## **Commentaries by district/ borough councils**

### **Introduction**

The county is divided into seven Districts and Boroughs within which there are eight planning authorities including the South Downs National Park. The information below sets out how WSCC is planning to secure sufficient childcare across the county in the District and Borough areas. There is a greater level of certainty in the short term, with many of the proposed schemes already coming forward. However, this document seeks to give an indication as to possible requirements to mitigate future planned development in the longer term.

Funding to support these projects will be made up of private investment, Government grants and contributions from developers.

### **District and Borough Local Plans**

Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) must prepare and maintain an up-to-date Local Plan for their area covering a 15 year period from adoption. The LPAs in West Sussex are at different stages of Plan preparation. There are key stages that every authority needs to undertake when preparing a Local Plan.

These include:

- Early consultation (Regulation 18)
- Pre-Submission Representation Period (Regulation 19)
- Submission
- Public Examination
- Proposed Modifications – if required by Inspector
- Adoption

The table over the page sets out which stage in the Plan preparation process each of the LPAs had reached in May 2022.

WSCC prepares Strategic Infrastructure Packages (SIPs) that set out the improvements required to enable the provision of County Council services to meet the needs of new strategic development. They reflect WSCC's statutory responsibilities including education provision. The SIPs inform the preparation of each LPA's Local Plan and supporting evidence including the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

This document sets out the requirements for Early Years and Childcare places to mitigate allocated strategic sites in the Local Plans. Further Early Years and Childcare places will be required to meet the needs of development across the county in order to deliver the overall housing requirements.



## Local Plans

(Source: WSCC planning Policy and Infrastructure Team - May 2022)

### Adur District

- [Adur Local Plan](#) Adopted - December 2017
- [Shoreham Harbour Joint Area Action Plan](#) Adopted by ADC/BHCC/WSCC - November 2019
- 3,718 dwellings 2011 - 2032

### Arun District

- [Arun Local Plan](#) Adopted - July 2018
- Local Plan Review has commenced
- 20,000 dwellings 2011-2031

### Chichester District

- [Chichester Local Plan](#) adopted - July 2015
- [Chichester Preferred Approach Local Plan Review](#) Regulation 18 consultation - Dec 2018 to Feb 2019
- Local Plan Review Consultation (Reg 19) - Spring 2022
- [Chichester Site Allocation Development Plan](#) adopted - January 2019
- 7,388 dwellings 2012-2029

### Crawley Borough

- [Crawley Local Plan](#) adopted – Dec 2015
- [Crawley Local Plan Review](#) – Regulation 19 - Jan-March 2020
- Representation Period - Jan-June 2021
- At least 5,100 dwellings 2015-2030

### Horsham District

- [Horsham Local Plan](#) adopted – Nov 2015
- [Horsham Local Plan Review](#) Regulation 18 Consultation – Jan-Mar 2020
- Regulation 19 Consultation – TBC
- At least 16,000 dwellings 2011-2031

### Mid Sussex District

- [Mid Sussex Local Plan Adopted](#) - March 2018
- [Mid Sussex Site Allocations DPD](#) currently at Examination - June 2021
- 16,390 dwellings 2014 - 2031

### South Downs NPA

- [South Downs National Park Local Plan](#) Adopted – July 2019
- 4,750 dwellings 2014 – 2033

## Worthing Borough

- [Core Strategy](#) Adopted April 2011
  - [Local Plan Review](#) Submission Draft Consultation Jan – March 2021
  - [Reg 19](#) consultation Jan – March 2021
- 
- 3,200 dwellings 2010 - 2026

## Neighbourhood Plans

Neighbourhood planning is a new way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work. The Government introduced the community right to neighbourhood planning through the Localism Act, enabling local people together with the local authority to produce their own Neighbourhood Plan, which reflects their particular needs and priorities.

An adopted Neighbourhood Plan must be considered alongside the local plan by planning officers when making a decision on development applications.

Below is a summary of Neighbourhood Plan preparation across the County as of May 2022:

Note that COVID-19 has caused delay to Neighbourhood Plan Referendums, as a result a number carry weight as a plan but are not formally 'made').

- [Adur District neighbourhood plan](#): Two are being prepared, with no additional housing allocations within them at this time.
- [Arun District neighbourhood plan](#): Sixteen 'made' plans. One made plan review, three made plans under review, and one plan under preparation.
- [Chichester District neighbourhood plan](#): Numbers are allocated for Parishes in the Local Plan. There are nine 'made' plans, six are in preparation and three made plans are under review.
- Crawley Borough: Not parished - none.
- [Horsham District neighbourhood plan](#): Local Plan allocates overall number, but not distribution, to come forward through Neighbourhood Plans. Seven 'made' plans, 10 awaiting referendum results, 7 in preparation, and five areas not preparing plans.
- [Mid Sussex District neighbourhood plan](#): Local Plan allocates overall number, but not distribution, to come forward through Neighbourhood Plans. Seventeen 'made' plans and two in preparation.
- [South Downs National Park neighbourhood plan](#): Local Plan allocates numbers for settlements across the Park area with a number of Neighbourhood Plans coming forward across the plan area. Ten 'made' plans, two at referendum and six areas not preparing plans.
- Worthing Borough: Not parished - none.

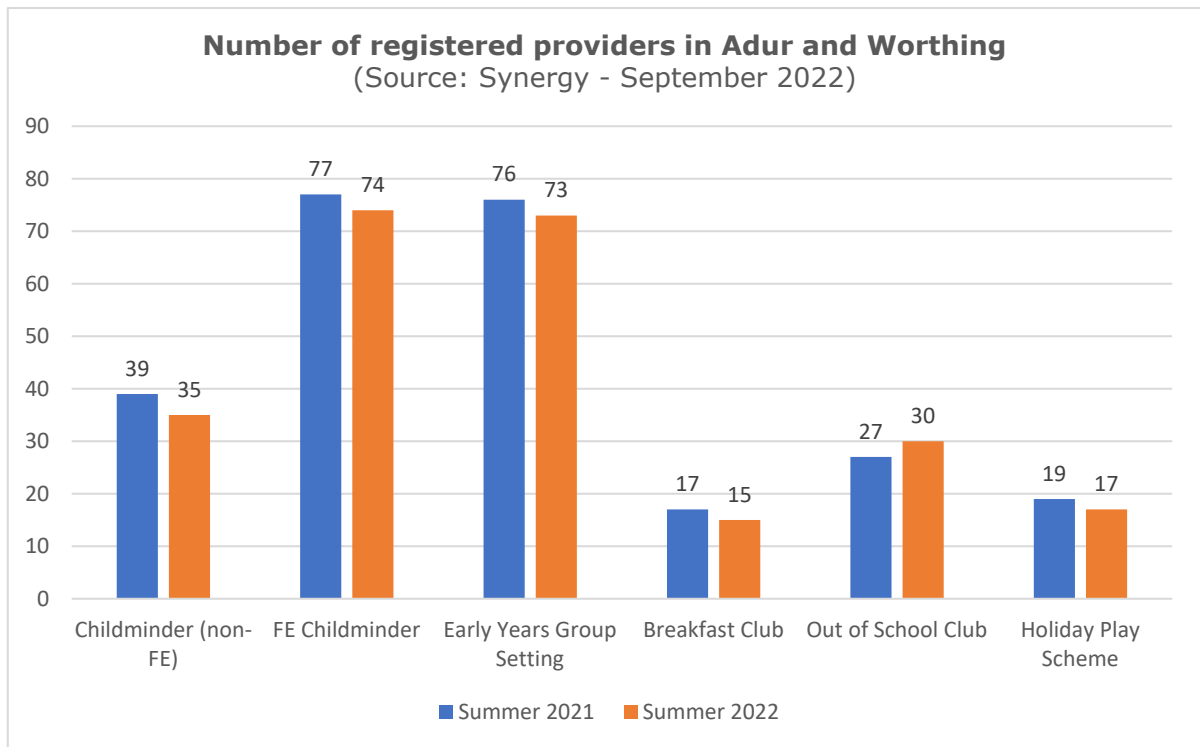
## Adur and Worthing

### Area Overview

There are approximately 3,356 children who are under five years of age in the district of Adur (mid-year population figures 2020). The number of under 5's has decreased by 188 since the 2019 figures.

There are approximately 5,556 children who are aged under five across the District of Worthing. In Worthing the numbers of under 5's has decreased by 188, when comparing to the 2019 figures.

The employment rate for 16-64 year olds in Adur is 75.4% and 77.4% in Worthing. This is lower than the average for the county at 80.1%.



In line with the rest of the county and nationally, the total number of registered providers has decreased in Adur and Worthing from 255 to 244. However, there has been a slight increase in Out of School provision.

### Planned Housing Developments - Adur

There is an overall housing requirement of 3,718 dwellings over the plan period 2011-2032.

The Adopted Adur Local Plan identifies strategic site allocations at:

- Shoreham Harbour – a minimum of 970 dwellings (western arm)
- New Monks Farm – a minimum of 600 dwellings
- West Sompting – a minimum of 480 dwellings

Other requirements:

- Expected development of 1,538 dwellings within the built-up area

It should be noted that some sites have already been built or have planning permission.

## Planned Housing Developments - Worthing

There is an overall housing requirement in Worthing of 3,200 dwellings in period 2010–2033 in adopted Local Plan. A new Local Plan preparation underway, early consultation identified that Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) is 636 per annum rather than the 200 per annum currently planned for.

The Local Plan identifies housing through the existing urban area:

- West Durrington (700 dwellings)
- 12 'areas of change' identified as regeneration opportunities for a variety of uses
- Aquarena (including dwellings)
- Marine Parade: Stagecoach Site (including dwellings)
- Grafton Site (including dwellings)
- Union Place South (including dwellings)
- Teville Gate (including dwellings)
- Newland Street Superstore Site
- British Gas Site – Lyndhurst Road (including dwellings)
- Land Adjacent to Martletts Way (including dwellings)
- The Warren – Hill Barn Lane
- The Strand
- Northbrook College, Durrington and Broadwater sites (including dwellings)
- Decoy Farm

## Sufficiency Overview and Area Priorities

Data shows that across Adur and Worthing, and despite the closures recorded in the reporting period, there is currently sufficient Early Years and Childcare provision to meet the needs of the families needing or wanting it. However, this will need constant monitoring to maintain levels. Changes to the level of development coming forward and the take up of places across the area may change this need and therefore the requirement for provision

Should the trend of setting closures continue in Adur and Worthing, and not be offset by new openings, there is a risk of a lack of sufficient provision in the affected areas which needs close monitoring.

In Adur, the overall housing requirement of 3,718 dwellings over the plan period 2011-2032 would generate a need for 186 Early Years and Childcare places in total.

Based on the 2020 housing trajectory, over the plan period we can expect that the number of Early Years and Childcare places required to meet the increased demand generated by the additional housing in Adur to be:

	<b>Years 1-5</b>	<b>Years 6-10</b>	<b>Years 11-15</b>
Planned number of dwellings	923	1282	107
Potential number of Early Years and Childcare Places required to meet increased demand	46	64	5

Please note that these are indicative and needs and current provision will be reassessed as applications are received and more details of the developments are known, including the proposed type of dwellings. This assessment will use methodology as per Appendix 2.

Worthing refers to 3,200 dwellings in the period 2010-2026, which would generate a need for 160 Early Years and Childcare places in total.

Based on the 2020 housing trajectory, over the plan period we can expect that the number of Early Years and Childcare places required to meet the increased demand generated by the additional housing in Worthing to be:

	<b>Years 1-5</b>	<b>Years 6-10</b>	<b>Years 11-15</b>
Planned number of dwellings	1441	437	0
Potential number of Early Years and Childcare Places required to meet increased demand	72	22	0

As above, please note that these are indicative and needs and current provision will be reassessed as applications are received and more details of the developments are known, including the proposed type of dwellings. This assessment will use methodology as per Appendix 2.

In addition to the countywide priorities, Adur and Worthing action planning for 2022-23 will continue to monitor the progression of all planned housing development across the area, including the vacancies and supply of places in West Durrington as the area develops. Priority will be given to working in partnership with the developers, where required, to support the development of high quality, sustainable childcare.

Adur and Worthing will monitor any impending changes to childcare policy and once known, work with local providers to identify potential gaps in the market in order to build capacity and to support the sustainability of existing provision. Any changes to policy could impact on the requirement from future planned developments and mean a potential increase in need for Early Years and Childcare provision. This will be reflected in subsequent documents.

The use of Out of School provision will be monitored closely to identify any changes in parental need and demand, particularly in response to higher numbers of people working from home and regularly review if those trends continue as hybrid working evolves.

Childminder places across Worthing will be monitored, with actions put in place as appropriate, to ensure sufficient flexible places for working families.

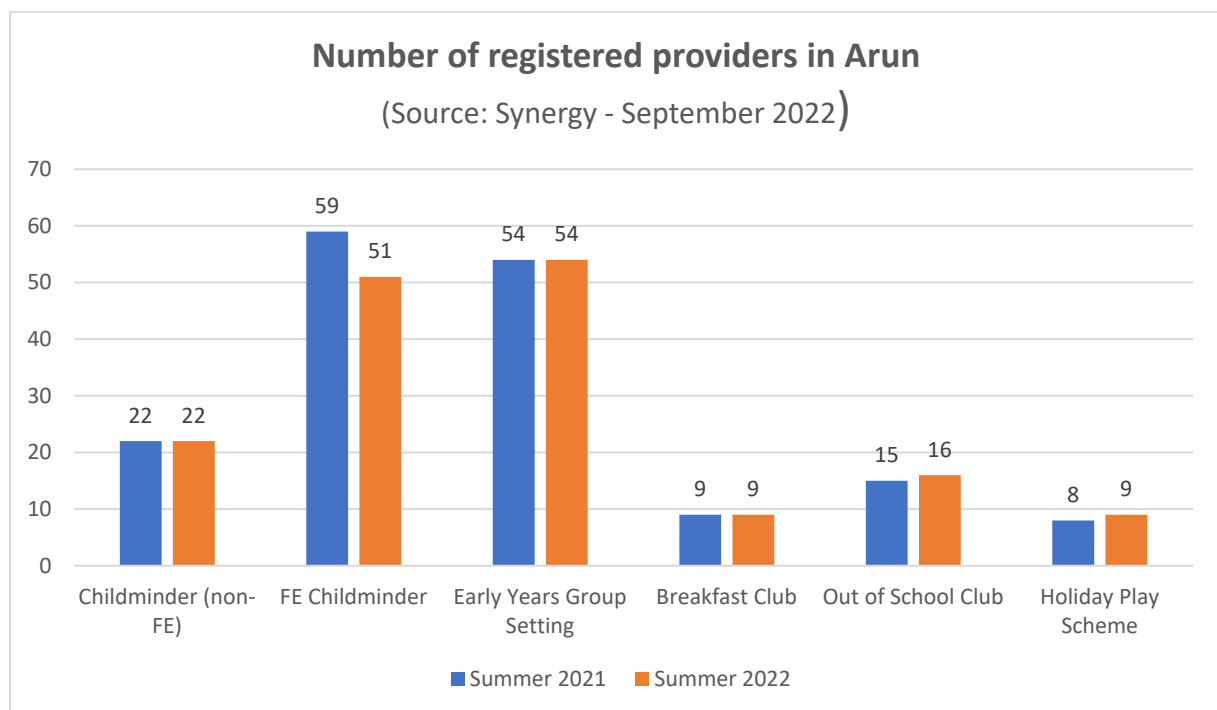
The sustainability of the sector will be monitored to ensure appropriate levels of support are available to providers in financial difficulty, including signposting to relevant partners as well as offering targeted support as appropriate, particularly where a potential sufficiency issue is identified.

## Arun

### Area Overview

There are approximately 7,533 children who are under five years of age in the district of Arun (mid-year population figures 2020). The number of under 5's has decreased by 180 since the 2019 figures.

The employment rate for 16-64 year olds in Arun is 82.2%. This is higher than the average for the county at 80.1%.



In contrast to other areas of the county, Arun has seen a slight increase in Early Years group settings. Childminders not offering funded places have remained relatively stable, however, there has been a net loss of 14% of those offering FE. Wrap around care for school children has remained stable.

### Planned Housing Developments

There is an overall housing requirement of a minimum of 20,000 dwellings over the plan period 2011-2031.

The Adopted Local Plan identifies strategic site allocations at:

- Barnham/Eastergate/Westergate – at least 2,300 dwellings
- Paghams South – 400 dwellings
- Paghams North – 800 dwellings
- West of Bersted – 2,500 dwellings



- Littlehampton West Bank – at least 1,000 dwellings
- Fontwell – at least 400 dwellings
- Yapton - at least 500 dwellings
- Ford – at least 1,500 dwellings
- Angmering North – at least 800 dwellings
- Climping – at least 300 dwellings
- Angmering South and East – 250 dwellings

Other requirements:

- Neighbourhood Plan Allocations of 421 dwellings

It should be noted that some sites have already been built or have planning permission.

### Sufficiency Overview and Area Priorities

Data shows that across Arun, there is currently sufficient Early Years and Childcare provision, in most areas, to meet the needs of the families needing or wanting it. However, this will need constant monitoring to maintain levels. Changes to the level of development coming forward and the take up of places across the area may change this need and therefore the requirement for provision.

Should the countywide trend of setting closures begin to be seen in Arun, and not be offset by new openings, there is a risk of a lack of sufficient provision in the affected areas which needs close monitoring.

In Arun, the overall housing requirement of a minimum of 20,000 dwellings over the plan period 2011-2031 would generate a need for at least 1,003 Early Years and Childcare places in total.

Based on the 2020 housing trajectory, over the plan period we can expect that the number of Early Years and Childcare places required, to meet the increased demand generated by the additional housing in Arun, to be:

	Years 1-5	Years 6-10	Years 11-15
Planned number of dwellings	6885	6223	2947
Potential number of Early Years and Childcare Places required to meet increased demand	345	312	148

Please note that these are indicative and needs and current provision will be reassessed as applications are received and more details of the developments are known, including the proposed type of dwellings. This assessment will use methodology as per Appendix 2.

In addition to the countywide priorities, Arun action planning for 2022-23 will continue to monitor the progression of all planned housing development across the area. Priority will be given to working in partnership with the developers, where required, to support the development of high quality, sustainable childcare.

Arun will monitor any impending changes to childcare policy and once known, work with local providers to identify potential gaps in the market in order to build capacity and to support the sustainability of existing provision. Any changes to policy could impact on the requirement from future planned developments and mean a potential increase in need for Early Years and Childcare provision. This will be reflected in subsequent documents.

The use of Out of School provision will be monitored closely to identify any changes in parental need and demand, particularly in response to higher numbers of people working from home and regularly review if those trends continue as hybrid working evolves. As this sector has been affected by most by closures in Arun, the sufficiency of places will be reviewed regularly to ensure demand continues to be met.

The sustainability of the sector will be monitored to ensure appropriate levels of support are available to providers in financial difficulty, including signposting to relevant partners as well as offering targeted support as appropriate, particularly where a potential sufficiency issue is identified.

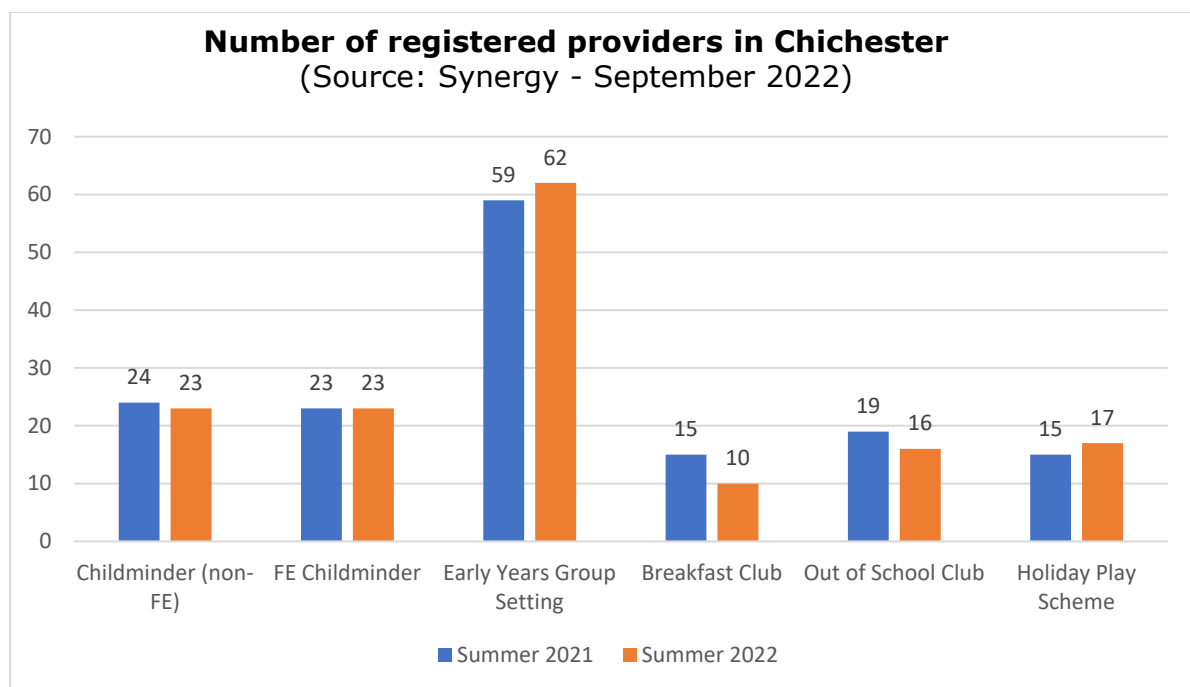
## Chichester

### Area Overview

Chichester is covered by two planning authorities, namely Chichester and the South Downs National Park.

There are approximately 5,496 children who are under five years of age in the district of Chichester (mid-year population figures 2020). The number of under 5's has decreased by 122 since the 2019 figures.

The employment rate for 16-64 year olds in Chichester is 67%. This is the lowest in the county and 13.1% lower than the county average.



In contrast to the rest of the county, Early Years provision in Chichester has increased over the reporting period, with childminders remaining relatively stable, following larger losses in the previous reporting period. The out of school sector has seen some decreases in breakfast and out of school clubs, however a slight increase in holiday clubs.

### **Planned Housing Developments**

There is an overall housing requirement of 7,388 dwellings over the plan period 2012-2029 for Chichester District.

In addition, there is an overall housing requirement of 4,750 dwellings in the period 2014-2032 for the whole National Park area, not just West Sussex.

The Chichester and South Downs National Park Local Plans identifies site allocations at:

- Westhampnett/North East Chichester - 500 dwellings
- Shopwhyke - 500 dwellings
- West of Chichester - 1,250 dwellings (in the plan period, 1,600 overall)
- Tangmere - 1,000 dwellings
- Southbourne - 300 dwellings
- Selsey - 150 dwellings
- East Wittering/Bracklesham - 180 dwellings
- Midhurst – 175 dwellings
- Petworth – 150 dwellings

Other requirements:

- Neighbourhood Plan Allocations of 860 dwellings.

It should be noted that some sites have already been built or have planning permission. Additional Early Years and Childcare places have been agreed at West of Chichester, Tangmere, Westhampnett and Shopwhyke developments.

### **Sufficiency Overview and Area Priorities**

Data shows that across Chichester district, there is currently sufficient childcare to meet the needs of the families needing or wanting it. However, this will need constant monitoring to maintain levels. Changes to the level of development coming forward and the take up of places across the area may change this need and therefore the requirement for provision. This will be reflected in subsequent documents.

Should the national and countywide trends of setting closures begin to be seen in Chichester, and not be offset by new openings, there is a risk of a lack of sufficient provision in the affected areas which needs close monitoring.

In Chichester, the overall housing requirement of 7,388 dwellings over the plan period 2012-2029 would generate a need for at least 371 Early Years and Childcare places in total.

Based on the 2020 housing trajectory, over the plan period we can expect that the number of Early Years and Childcare places required to meet the increased demand generated by the additional housing in Chichester to be:

	<b>Years 1-5</b>	<b>Years 6-10</b>	<b>Years 11-15</b>
Planned number of dwellings	3830	1686	779
Potential number of Early Years and Childcare Places required to meet increased demand	192	85	39

Please note that these are indicative and needs and current provision will be reassessed as applications are received and more details of the developments are known, including the proposed type of dwellings. This assessment will use methodology as per Appendix 2.

In addition to the countywide priorities, Chichester action planning for 2022-23 will continue to monitor the progression of all planned housing development across the area. Priority will be given to working in partnership with the developers, where required, to support the development of high quality, sustainable childcare.

Chichester will monitor any impending changes to childcare policy and once known, work with local providers to identify potential gaps in the market in order to build capacity and to support the sustainability of existing provision. Any changes to policy could impact on the requirement from future planned developments and mean a potential increase in need for Early Years and Childcare provision. This will be reflected in subsequent documents.

Increasing the number of Childminders, including those offering Free Entitlement places will continue to be prioritised, particularly in the rural areas.

The use of Out of School provision will be monitored closely to identify any changes in parental need and demand, particularly in response to higher numbers of people working from home and regularly review if those trends continue as hybrid working evolves.

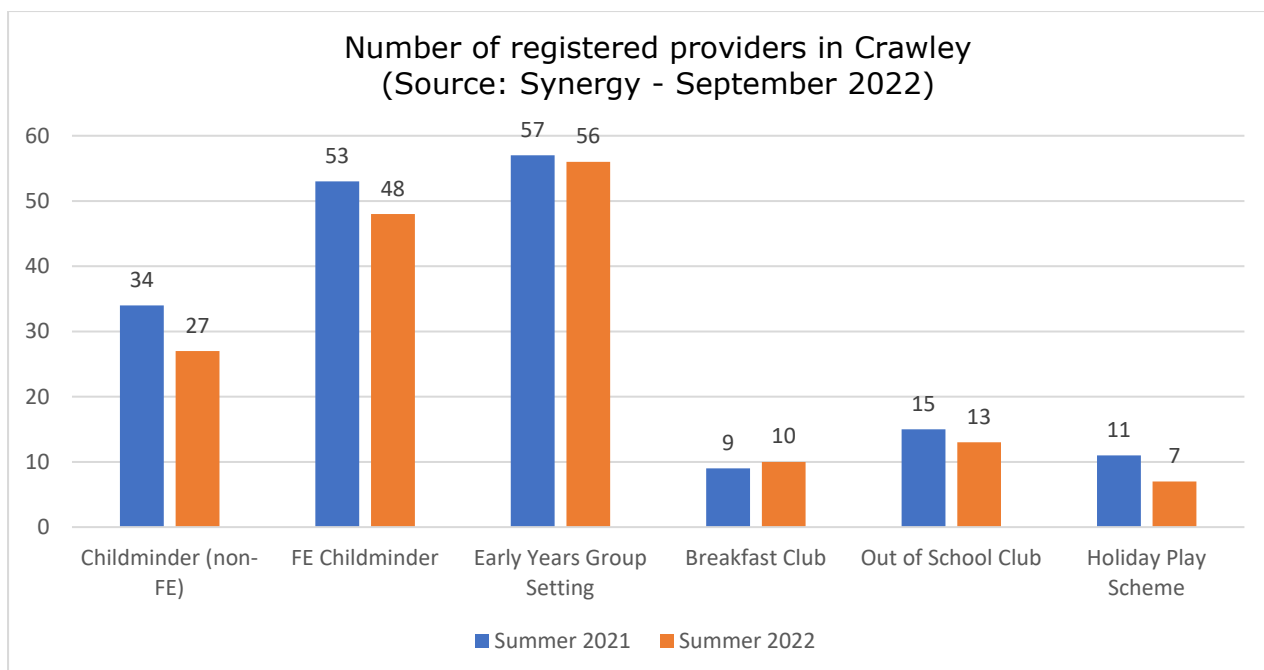
The sustainability of the sector will be monitored to ensure appropriate levels of support are available to providers in financial difficulty, including signposting to relevant partners as well as offering targeted support as appropriate, particularly where a potential sufficiency issue is identified.

## **Crawley**

### **Area Overview**

There are approximately 7,764 children who are under five years of age across Crawley (mid-year population figures 2020). The number of under 5's has decreased by 64 since the 2019 figures.

The employment rate for 16-64 year olds in Crawley is 82.1%. This is higher than the average for the county of 80.1%.



In line with the countywide and nationally picture, the total number of registered providers has decreased in Crawley from 179 to 161. The Early Years group settings have remained largely stable, with the most losses being childminders.

### Planned Housing Developments

The Crawley Borough Local Plan 2015-2030 was adopted on 16 December 2015 and sets out the planning framework for the Borough up to 2030.

There is an overall housing requirement of a minimum of 5,100 dwellings in period 2015-2030. There is also an additional approximate 5,000 'unmet' need not included in the Local Plan.

The Adopted Local Plan identifies site allocations at:

#### **Deliverable** (first five years of the plan 2015/16 to 2019/20):

- Forge Wood, Pound Hill - 1,900 dwellings
- Ifield Community College, Ifield - 125 dwellings
- Southern Counties, West Green - 218 dwellings, mixed use priority for residential
- Land adjacent to Desmond Anderson, Tilgate - 100 dwellings
- Fairfield House, West Green - 93 dwellings
- 15-29 Broadway Upper Floors, Northgate - 57 dwellings
- Kilnmead Car Park, Northgate - 40 dwellings
- Zurich House, East Park, Southgate - 59 dwellings
- Goffs Park Depot, Southgate - 30 dwellings
- Former TSB site, Russell Way, Three Bridges - 40 dwellings
- Land adjacent to Langley Green Primary School, Langley Green - 30 dwellings
- 5-7 Brighton Road, Southgate - 48 dwellings

#### **Developable** (in years 6-10 of the plan 2020/21 to 2024/25):

- Longley Building, Southgate - 48 dwellings

**Town Centre** Key Opportunity Sites - 499 net dwellings

Housing and Open Space Sites

- Tinsley Lane, Three Bridges (deliverable) 120 dwellings, mixed use recreation/residential.
- Breezehurst Drive Playing fields, Bewbush (developable) 65 dwellings, mixed use recreation/residential.
- Henty Close, Bewbush (developable) 24 dwellings.

The remainder of the land within the Town Centre Boundary (outside the identified Town Centre Key Opportunity Sites - above), residual land at Forge Wood, Pound Hill and Land East of London Road, Northgate are identified as broad locations for housing development in years 6–10 and 11–15 with the capacity to deliver a minimum of 156, 150 and 171 net dwellings respectively.

It should be noted that some sites have already been built or have planning permission.

**Sufficiency Overview and Area Priorities**

Data shows that across Crawley, and despite the closures recorded in the reporting period, there is currently sufficient Early Years and Childcare provision to meet the needs of the families needing or wanting it. However, this will need constant monitoring to maintain levels. Changes to the level of development coming forward and the take up of places across the area may change this need and therefore the requirement for provision.

Should the trend of setting closures continue in Crawley, and not be offset by new openings, there is a risk of a lack of sufficient provision in the affected areas which needs close monitoring.

In Crawley, the overall housing requirement of a minimum of 5,100 dwellings over the plan period 2015-2030 would generate a need for at least 256 Early Years and Childcare places in total.

The additional approximate 5,000 'unmet' need not included in the Local Plan would also generate a need for an additional 251 Early Years and Childcare places, if this were to come forward.

Based on the 2020 housing trajectory, over the plan period we can expect that the number of Early Years and Childcare places required to meet the increased demand generated by the additional housing in Crawley to be:

	<b>Years 1-5</b>	<b>Years 6-10</b>	<b>Years 11-15</b>
Planned number of dwellings	1678	2697	71
Potential number of Early Years and Childcare Places required to meet increased demand	84	135	4

Please note that these are indicative and needs and current provision will be reassessed as applications are received and more details of the developments

are known, including the proposed type of dwellings. This assessment will use methodology as per Appendix 2.

In addition to the countywide priorities, Crawley action planning for 2022-23 will continue to monitor the progression of all planned housing development across the area. Priority will be given to working in partnership with the developers, where required, to support the development of high quality, sustainable childcare.

Crawley will monitor any impending changes to childcare policy and once known, work with local providers to identify potential gaps in the market in order to build capacity and to support the sustainability of existing provision. Any changes to policy could impact on the requirement from future planned developments and mean a potential increase in need for Early Years and Childcare provision. This will be reflected in subsequent documents.

The use of Out of School provision will be monitored closely to identify any changes in parental need and demand, particularly in response to higher numbers of people working from home and regularly review if those trends continue as hybrid working evolves.

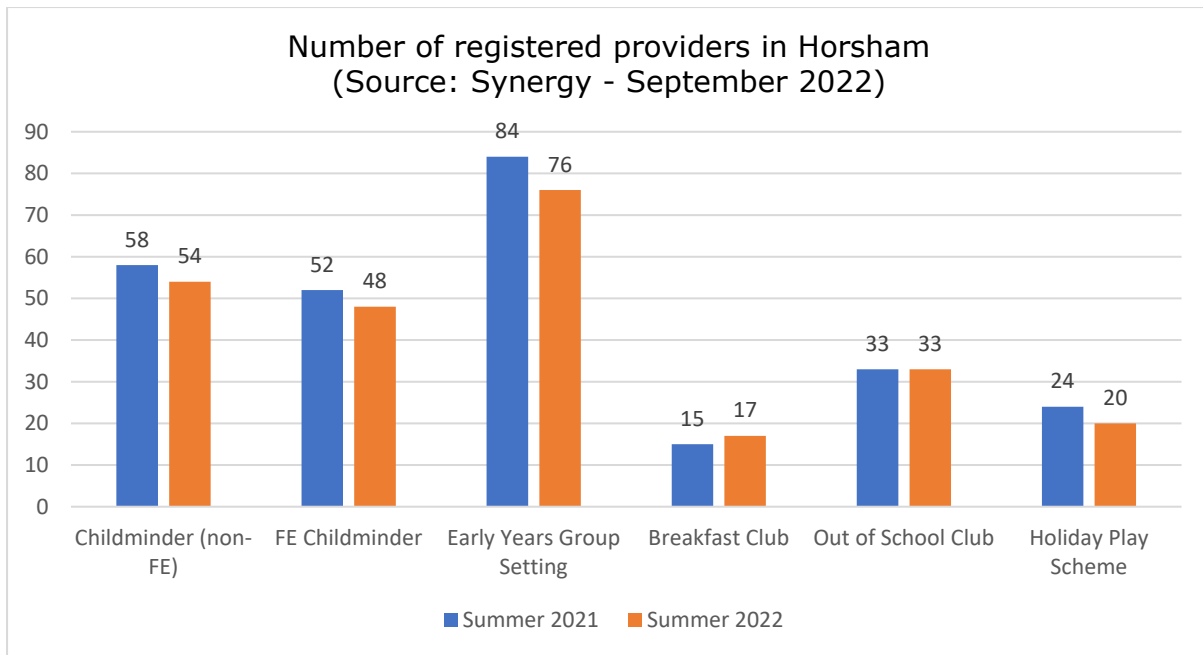
The sustainability of the sector will be monitored to ensure appropriate levels of support are available to providers in financial difficulty, including signposting to relevant partners as well as offering targeted support as appropriate, particularly where a potential sufficiency issue is identified.

## **Horsham**

### **Area Overview**

There are approximately 7,333 children who are under five years of age in the district of Horsham (mid-year population figures 2020). Horsham is the only area in the county that has seen the number of under 5's increase since the 2019 figures. The number of children under five years of age has increased by 57.

The employment rate for 16-64 year olds in Horsham is 84.8%. This is higher than the average for the county of 80.1%.



In line with the rest of the county and nationally, the total number of registered providers has decreased in Horsham from 266 to 248. Horsham has had the highest loss of Early Years group settings across the county. There has been a small increase in breakfast club provision.

### **Planned Housing Developments**

The Horsham District Planning Framework was adopted on the 27 November 2015 and sets out the planning framework for the District to 2031.

There is an overall housing requirement of a minimum of 16,000 dwellings in period 2011-2031.

The Adopted Local Plan identifies strategic site allocations at:

- Land North of Horsham - At least 2,500 homes
- Land West of Southwater – Around 600 homes
- Land South of Billingshurst – Around 150 homes

Other Requirements:

- Neighbourhood plans to identify at least 1,500 homes

It should be noted that some sites have already been built or have planning permission. Additional Early Years and Childcare places have been agreed at the Land North of Horsham, the Land West of Southwater as well as contributions towards the expansion of places in Billingshurst.

### **Sufficiency Overview and Area Priorities**

Data shows that across Horsham, and despite the closures recorded in the reporting period, there is currently sufficient Early Years and Childcare provision to meet the needs of the families needing or wanting it. However, this will need constant monitoring to maintain levels. Changes to the level of development



coming forward and the take up of places across the area may change this need and therefore the requirement for provision.

Should the trend of setting closures continue in Horsham, and not be offset by new openings, there is a risk of a lack of sufficient provision in the affected areas which needs close monitoring.

In Horsham, the overall housing requirement of a minimum of 16,000 dwellings over the plan period 2011-2031 would generate a need for at least 802 Early Years and Childcare places in total.

Based on the 2020 housing trajectory, over the plan period we can expect that the number of Early Years and Childcare places required to meet the increased demand generated by the additional housing in Horsham to be:

	<b>Years 1-5</b>	<b>Years 6-10</b>	<b>Years 11-15</b>
Planned number of dwellings	4115	2367	1000
Potential number of Early Years and Childcare Places required to meet increased demand	206	119	50

Please note that these are indicative and needs and current provision will be reassessed as applications are received and more details of the developments are known, including the proposed type of dwellings. This assessment will use methodology as per Appendix 2.

In addition to the countywide priorities, Horsham action planning for 2022-23 will continue to monitor the progression of all planned housing development across the area. Priority will be given to working in partnership with the developers, where required, to support the development of high quality, sustainable childcare.

Horsham will monitor any impending changes to childcare policy and once known, work with local providers to identify potential gaps in the market in order to build capacity and to support the sustainability of existing provision. Any changes to policy could impact on the requirement from future planned developments and mean a potential increase in need for Early Years and Childcare provision. This will be reflected in subsequent documents.

The impact of the decreasing number of Childminders, including those offering Free Entitlement places will continue to be prioritised, particularly in the rural areas.

The use of Out of School provision will be monitored closely to identify any changes in parental need and demand, particularly in response to higher numbers of people working from home and regularly review if those trends continue as hybrid working evolves.

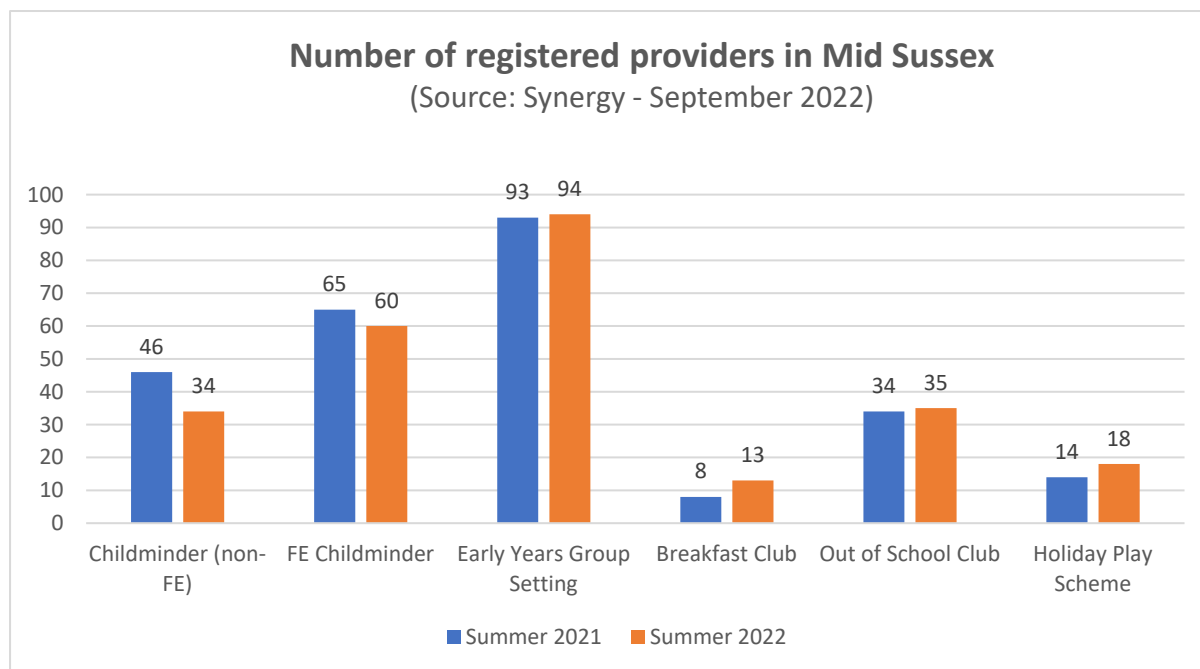
The sustainability of the sector will be monitored to ensure appropriate levels of support are available to providers in financial difficulty, including signposting to relevant partners as well as offering targeted support as appropriate, particularly where a potential sufficiency issue is identified.

## Mid-Sussex

### Area Overview

There are approximately 8,382 children who are under five years of age in the district of Mid Sussex (mid-year population figures 2020). The number of under 5's had previously increased the most significantly in the county, by 1,384 between 2017 and 2019, however has now decreased by 55.

The employment rate for 16-64 year olds in Mid Sussex is 85.8%. This is higher than the average for the county of 80.1%.



Early Years group settings have remained fairly stable in this district, with most losses being childminders. The out of school sector has seen increases in all three areas. The total number of registered providers has decreased from 260 to 254.

### Planned Housing Developments

Mid-Sussex District Plan was adopted in March 2018 and sets out the planning framework for the District up to 2031.

There is an overall housing requirement of a minimum of 16,390 dwellings in the period 2014-2031.

The Adopted Local Plan identifies strategic site allocations at:

- Development North and North West of Burgess Hill – approximately 3,500 dwellings
- Clayton Mills, Hassocks – approximately 500 dwellings

Other Requirements:

- Neighbourhood plans to identify at least 2,439 homes

It should be noted that some sites have already been built or have planning permission. Additional Early Years and Childcare places have been agreed at Clayton Mills, Hassocks and Pease Pottage.

### Sufficiency Overview and Area Priorities

Data shows that across the District, there is currently sufficient childcare, in most areas, to meet the needs of the families needing or wanting it. However, this will need constant monitoring to maintain levels. Changes to the level of development coming forward and the take up of places across the area may change this need and therefore requirement for provision.

Should the national and countywide trends of setting closures begin to be seen in Mid Sussex, and not be offset by new openings, there is a risk of a lack of sufficient provision in the affected areas which needs close monitoring.

In Mid-Sussex, the overall housing requirement of a minimum of 16,000 dwellings over the plan period 2014-2031 would generate a need for at least 802 Early Years and Childcare places in total.

Based on the 2020 housing trajectory, over the plan period we can expect that the number of Early Years and Childcare places required to meet the increased demand generated by the additional housing to be:

	<b>Years 1-5</b>	<b>Years 6-10</b>	<b>Years 11-15</b>
Planned number of dwellings	4939	4382	1083
Potential number of Early Years and Childcare Places required to meet increased demand	248	220	54

Please note that these are indicative and needs and current provision will be reassessed as applications are received and more details of the developments are known, including the proposed type of dwellings. This assessment will use methodology as per Appendix 2.

In addition to the countywide priorities, Mid Sussex action planning for 2022-23 will continue to monitor the progression of all planned housing development across the area. Priority will be given to working in partnership with the developers, where required, to support the development of high quality, sustainable childcare.

Mid Sussex will monitor any impending changes to childcare policy and once known, work with local providers to identify potential gaps in the market in order to build capacity and to support the sustainability of existing provision. Any changes to policy could impact on the requirement from future planned developments and may mean a potential increase in need for Early Years and Childcare provision. This will be reflected in subsequent documents.

The use of Out of School provision will be monitored closely to identify any changes in parental need and demand, particularly in response to higher

numbers of people working from home and regularly review if those trends continue as hybrid working evolves.

Out of School provision in rural areas, including Turners Hill, will be monitored and actions put in place as appropriate. For example, recruitment campaign for new childminders.

The sustainability of the sector will be monitored to ensure appropriate levels of support are available to providers in financial difficulty, including signposting to relevant partners as well as offering targeted support as appropriate, particularly where a potential sufficiency issue is identified.

The impact of the decreasing number of Childminders, including those offering Free Entitlement places will continue to be prioritised, particularly in the rural areas.

# Appendix 1: Early Education and Childcare: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (June 2018)

## Part B: Securing sufficient childcare

Outcome: parents are able to work because childcare places are available, accessible and affordable and are delivered flexibly in a range of high quality settings.

To secure sufficient childcare places, local authorities are required by legislation to:

**B.1** Secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

To secure sufficient childcare places, local authorities should take into account:

- what is 'reasonably practicable' when assessing what sufficient childcare means in their area
- the state of the local childcare market, including the demand for specific types of providers in a particular locality and the amount and type of supply that currently exists
- the state of the local labour market including the sufficiency of the local childcare workforce
- the quality and capacity of childcare providers and childminders registered with a childminder agency, including their funding, staff, premises, experience and expertise
- should encourage schools in their area to offer childcare from 8.00am until 6.00pm and in school holidays
- should encourage existing providers to expand their provision and new providers to enter the local childcare market if needed
- should encourage providers to take a sustainable business approach to planning and signpost providers to resources to support them, for example, the business sustainability tool kit published by the Department, and the National Day Nurseries Association Early Years Business Zone tools.

**B.2** Report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and make this report available and accessible to parents.

Local authorities are responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in their report, geographical division and date of publication. The report should include:

- a specific reference to how they 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 the childcare element of Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit; children with parents who work irregular hours; children aged two, three and four taking up free places; school age children; and children needing holiday care

- information about the current and projected supply and demand of childcare for particular age ranges of children, and the affordability, accessibility and quality of provision
- details of how any gaps in childcare provision will be addressed.

## Appendix 2: Early Years and Childcare requirements in major new developments

This document provides guidance for West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and other agencies in determining a requirement for Early Years and Childcare places to support new housing developments.

It is essential that an appropriate amount of Early Years and Childcare provision is available early in the development of the new community to meet the immediate needs of the residents.

WSCC has a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for children with SEND).

### Demand for places

The starting point is to calculate the number of children in each age group expected from the new housing. The West Sussex Section 106 planning obligations (2016) has indicated an adjusted population multiplied by average child product for houses of 14 children per year of age per 1,000 persons and for flats of five children per year of age per 1,000 persons.

Where there is an outline planning application or an allocated site, it is presumed that the development is a mixture of houses and flats ( $\frac{3}{4}$  houses and  $\frac{1}{4}$  flats). The average house size and average persons per household for that District or Borough is used in the calculation, with a 2011 census basis. Using this calculation, gives an average child product of 12 children per year of age, per 1000 homes.

Where the housing mix is not yet determined, the average occupancy rate used to calculate Early Years and Childcare requirements is 2.28 persons per dwelling.

Based on this, a development of 1,000 homes would indicate a population of 2,280 persons. Using a child product of 12 children per year of age per 1,000 persons gives 27 children per year of age ( $12 \times 2.28 = 27.36$ ).

Therefore, based on historic trends in take up data, on average, WSCC assume the need for 50 new Early Years and Childcare places per 1,000 houses:

Age	Percentage of Cohort	Number of places required
0 and 1 year olds	20%	11
2 year olds	40%	11
3 year olds	77.5%	21
4year olds	25.8%	7

Figures will be adjusted to take into account the proposed types of dwellings when known.

Where developments impact on existing/established Early Years and Childcare provision, developers must ensure they also take into consideration the impact of the loss of existing places when planning for childcare requirements.

Universal Free Entitlement (FE) is Government funding for free childcare for all eligible children regardless of their individual needs or their citizenship status. FE consists of up to 570 hours per year of flexible free childcare available to all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds. Some 3 and 4 year olds are eligible for an additional 570 (up to 1,140) hours per year, which we call Extended FE, if they meet the eligibility criteria.

Research shows that attending good quality early education and care can improve a child's learning and development. It also helps equip children with the skills needed for when they go to school, supporting them to do well in the longer term.

The demand for universal 3 and 4 year old funded places is high and trend data in West Sussex indicates that at least 95% take up this entitlement. It is therefore, expected that there will be continued high demand from this age group within any new housing development.

Although most 4 years olds take up their school place in the September following their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday, there is still a high demand for pre-school and nursery places which increases over the course of a school year as children turn 4. The take up of FE in West Sussex increases by approximately 1/3 in the summer term which evidences this on-going demand.

[Education provision: children under 5 years of age \(January 2022\)](#) outlines the trend that at least 95% of children have consistently accessed the Universal Free Entitlement within West Sussex. It is expected this will continue.

The demand for 2 year olds continues to grow with 40% of children eligible for families who meet certain low income level criteria and/or family characteristics. Take up for this entitlement within West Sussex is above the national average and it remains a priority to support eligible children to access early years provision.

The offer provides the same choices for parents as FE for 3 and 4 year olds. The exception is that the eligibility will primarily be based on an income assessment and/or other family characteristic. To qualify, children become eligible the term after they become 2 years old and the family is in receipt of one or more of the [benefits or family characteristics detailed online](#).

Where developments are to provide a high number of social housing residences, it is considered there will be the potential for greater demand for affordable childcare and access for 2 year old funded provision. It is likely that this childcare will be required to support employment activities and, therefore, any provision to support lower income families should have regard to the flexibility of opening and closing times of childcare to meet the employment or return to learning requirements of parents and carers.



## Space requirements and regulations

The space required to fulfil these requirements is stipulated within the [Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework \(EYFS\)](#).

Section 3 outlines the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements and sets out premises expectations for safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment. The minimum space requirement stated in the guidance indicates:

3.58. The premises and equipment must be organised in a way that meets the needs of children. Providers must meet the following indoor space requirements:

- Children under 2 years: 3.5 m<sup>2</sup> per child
- 2 year olds: 2.5 m<sup>2</sup> per child
- Children aged 3 to 5 years: 2.3 m<sup>2</sup> per child

Ofsted is the regulatory body that all Early Years and Childcare operators must register with. Ofsted will inspect an organisation's ability to meet expected standards that are covered within the EYFS.

It is expected that all Early Years and Childcare providers are able to meet requirements to deliver Free Entitlement places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds at the highest quality and West Sussex providers are expected to achieve and maintain "good" and "outstanding" inspection results.

## What developers should provide

Early Years and Childcare provision must include teaching rooms with wet play areas; adequate toilets (of which one would be fully accessible); kitchen area with cooking facilities; laundry facilities (required to be a separate area from the kitchen; office area; staff rest area (as well as separate adult WC); nappy changing area; sleep room; free flow access to outdoor play area; parking and setting down and picking up area for parents. The childcare planning should allow for flexible hours of opening and covering at least 7am to 7pm for full day care. Further guidance is available in the EYFS Statutory Framework and within a study undertaken by WSCC.

Out of school childcare for school age children could be met through this facility but a separate room would be required or use of school buildings, if available.

An acceptable alternative to the provision of a new purpose-built building to cater for early education and childcare would be the use of another building within the development (for example a community centre) with a formal hiring agreement. However, suitable facilities will need to be provided, in particular storage, direct access to secure toilets and a secure outside play area. Calculation of area requirements is based on the EYFS Framework.

For small developments, contributions may be sought for provision within the local area if a need is demonstrated. Such provision could, for example, consist of enhancing the use of existing early education and childcare facilities or other community buildings in the area through physical adaptations and extensions or through management arrangements.

It is known through Childcare Sufficiency Assessments (2008, 2011), that parents prefer their Early Years and Childcare within a one to two mile radius of their homes. Information from the take up of the Free Entitlements shows that 82% of 2 year olds and 78% of 3 and 4 year olds access their funded place within 2 miles of their home address. 66% of 2 year olds and 60% of 3 and 4 year olds travel 1 mile or less to access their place (Source: Synergy, Summer term data 2022).

The childcare market has also seen parents preferring provision that is close to, or on the site of, Primary schools.

## **Timing of the Early Years and Childcare development**

There should be early consideration of the allocation of the sites and/or premises for Early Years and Childcare. It is recommended that such provision is considered at the same time as that for Primary schools. This is especially important within developments that have little or no Early Years and Childcare provision adjacent to the new housing development.

The impact of a new housing development alongside current capacity in the Early Years and Childcare market should also be considered in terms of early occupation of families and their ability to access provision and whether any interim measures are put in place prior to thresholds of dwellings occupied being reached.

Scalable solutions may be suitable for large multi-phased developments, where appropriate.

## **How this should be provided**

The planners/developers should make provision for Early Years and Childcare facilities within their plans for the housing developments. Childcare facilities should either be associated within/alongside community facilities or in dedicated space identified and available for development. In either case, we suggest that there are advantages with locating adjacent to, or combined with, Primary school sites.

It is assumed that the sites would be made available through an open and transparent process to interested Early Years and Childcare providers or through the District Councils and community associations where it is expected that childcare will be operated within community facilities. Further information on this process is available here: [www.westsussex.gov.uk/childcaresufficiency](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/childcaresufficiency).

The location of any provision must enable good access for walking as well as having good public transport and motor-vehicle transport links and be within a 1-2 mile radius of the main housing development.

West Sussex is able to provide costs estimates for Early Years and Childcare provision. The figures provided are broad estimations to indicate relative order of costs likely to be required to support the delivery of early year's provision. It is important to note that the cost estimates come with a range of caveats and that more accurate costs will be applied to selective proposals as they progress through the development process.

It should be noted that Early Years and Childcare provisions of 40+ places are considered more economically viable and may attract the best investment opportunity from the sector.

The criteria that are set out in this document are intended to guide the identification and consideration of options. However, it is recognised that it may not be possible to identify sites which meet all criteria. In this case, the criteria will be used to guide thinking about the acceptability or otherwise of the available options and identification of the most suitable option.

## Contact

WSCC'S Family Information Service can be contacted to discuss any support requirement in selection of appropriate high quality Early Years and Childcare providers or any aspects of the regulation and legislation requirements.

- Telephone: 01243 777807
- Email: [family.info.service@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:family.info.service@westsussex.gov.uk)
- Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm