

Sandwell Childcare Sufficiency Report

2019 – 2020



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INTRODUCTION

The Childcare Act 2006 gives local authorities a key role in shaping the childcare market in their area. Working with providers from the private, voluntary, independent and maintained sectors, the local authority will look to create a strong, sustainable and diverse childcare market that meets the needs of parents. It focuses on sufficient, sustainable and flexible childcare that is responsive to parents' needs.

The Department for Education published a revised Early Education and Childcare Statutory Guidance for local authorities in June 2018, this document also addressed changes with regards to securing sufficient childcare:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718179/Early_education_and_childcare-statutory_guidance.pdf

To secure sufficient childcare places, local authorities should:

Consider what is 'reasonably practicable' when assessing what sufficient childcare means in their area and:

- The state of the local childcare market; including the demand for specific types of providers in a 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.
- Encourage schools in their area to offer out of hours childcare from 8.00am to 6.00pm
- Encourage existing providers to expand their provision and new providers to enter the local childcare market.
- Encourage providers to take a sustainable business approach to planning and signpost providers to resources to support them.

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. However, the report should include:

- A specific reference to how they are ensuring there is sufficient childcare available to meet the needs of disabled children, 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 early education 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.

This report is Sandwell's sixth annual Childcare Sufficiency Report for Elected Council Members and will be made available and accessible to parents and includes the information required as outlined above.

Sandwell's fifth annual Childcare Sufficiency Report (CSR) was completed and published in July 2018. A Childcare Strategic Action Plan (CSAP) was developed based on the recommendations of the CSR. The plan was monitored by the Early Years Strategic Group; achievements against the actions are detailed later in the report.

Upon the completion and approval of this report, a CSAP will be developed, implemented and monitored termly by the Early Years Strategic Group. If relevant, outstanding actions from the previous CSAP will be included.

Aims and Objectives

Aims

To provide a report on how Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council is securing Sufficiency of Childcare.

To develop a Childcare Strategic Action Plan from the findings of the report and to include any relevant actions outstanding from the previous Childcare Strategic Action Plan.

Objectives

The Childcare Sufficiency Report will:

1. Provide sufficiency of childcare by wards using the following data:
 - a) analysis of demographic data
 - b) supply of childcare places in relation to children with special educational need and disabilities (SEND), low income families, children with parents who work irregular hours, school age children, holiday provision and places available for 2,3 and 4 year olds.
2. Provide an indication of quality and affordability of childcare across the borough.
3. Provide an update on the recommendations of the previous CSR.

Methodology

In undertaking the Childcare Sufficiency Report several research methods were adopted:

- Demographic data was provided by Public Health and from the Office for National Statistics.
- Quality data was provided from the Family Information Service database and from the Quality Early Years Team.
- Supply of childcare data was provided by the Family Information Service, a snapshot of the data held was taken in the spring term of 2018.
- The data for Early Education for 2, 3 and 4 year olds was taken from the local authority Capita One database and from a survey with childcare providers and schools.

The Strategic Context for Childcare Sufficiency

The Childcare Act 2006 requires local authorities in England to ensure a sufficiency of childcare or working parents, parents studying or training and for disabled children.

Section 6, of the 2006 Act gives local authorities a duty of securing, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the provision of childcare (whether by them) is sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in their area to enable them to:

- (a) Take up, or remain in, work, or
- (b) Undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work.

Section 7, of the 2006 Act gives them a related duty to secure free early years provision for pre-school children of a prescribed age.

Section 11 of the 2006 Act places a duty on local authorities to undertake a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA).

Section 12 places a duty on local authorities to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents relating to the provision of childcare, services or facilities that may be of benefit to parents and prospective parents, children and young people, something that is strengthened in the Childcare Act (2016).

The Education Act 2011 gives parents of disadvantaged 2 year olds a new right to free early years education and care.

The Children and Families Act 2014, states that local authorities should 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.

The Childcare Act of 2016 places a duty on local authorities to secure 30 hours free early years education and care for eligible working parents of 3 and 4 year olds.

The focus of childcare sufficiency is on supporting working parents/carers and those studying or training to do so, and supports a number of other policy priorities, including:

Child Poverty - Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential - The Government's Social Mobility Policy 2017, reasserts a commitment to tackle child poverty at its source. Affordable childcare supports families to work or train. Good quality pre-school supports children's development, aids transition between home and school and improves school readiness.

Supporting Economic Well-being - There are clear links between the Social Mobility Policy and supporting parents into work through the Work Programmes, Help to Work schemes and flexible support through Jobcentre Plus. These schemes rely upon the availability of good quality, affordable childcare. For some families, this need may be satisfied through informal childcare arrangements, but many families may not have access to informal childcare.

Supporting Children's Centre remit - The core purpose of children's centres is to improve the outcomes for young children and their families. Part of the children's centres role is to work with childcare providers offering free funded places to ensure that families who need it can access integrated support. The childcare market supports children's centres by signposting families to services and identifying where early intervention may be required.

ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE 2018 CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY REPORT

The 2018 CSR recommendations were developed into an action plan. The table below provides an update against the recommendations from 1 September 2018 to 31 July 2019.

Recommendations	Progress
1. Provide support to childcare providers to deliver high quality early learning and childcare.	<p>The childcare providers continue to receive a wide range of support including 988 support visits and termly Private, Voluntary and Independent provider (PVI) meetings. 338 providers contacted the team for information advice and guidance. 6 childminder briefing sessions were delivered to those interested in setting up childminder businesses. 220 training sessions were delivered to practitioners with 3265 delegates attending.</p> <p>(This recommendation is ongoing as it underpins the support to providers to achieve/ maintain quality provisions)</p>
2. Support to funded settings which are graded Requires Improvement (RI) or Inadequate	<p>The number of funded settings has increased from 218 to 220. In March 2019 84% were rated Outstanding or Good. Only 4 are graded Requires Improvement or Inadequate, intensive work with these providers is being undertaken to ensure that they improve their Ofsted grading.</p> <p>(This recommendation is ongoing as it ensure that specific support is provided to improve the quality of funded providers when required)</p>
3.To increase the number of pre-schools in Tipton and childminders in Wednesbury to provide more choice and flexibility	<p>There is 1 additional childminder in Wednesbury registered with a childminding agency. A survey of Wednesbury parents didn't identify childminders as a need. The number of pre-schools in Tipton remains the same, however no parent has expressed a need for more pre-schools over the last 3 years.</p> <p>(This recommendation is achieved)</p>
4.To encourage the take up of Childcare Element of Tax Credit in Wednesbury	<p>23 Outreach events took place in Wednesbury which promoted help with childcare costs. A survey of Wednesbury parents identified that help with childcare cost remains an issue. Extensive marketing of the FIS hub https://fis.sandwell.gov.uk will be undertaken in the area.</p> <p>(This recommendation will be carried forward)</p>
5. To work with schools and local providers in Wednesbury South ward to address the need for more holiday provisions	<p>The need for more holiday provision remains unresolved.</p> <p>(This recommendation will be carried forward)</p>
6. To encourage new and existing childcare providers in Friar Park, Langlely, Wednesbury North, Wednesbury South and West Bromwich Central wards to deliver childcare for children whose parents work irregular working hours pattern.	<p>All wards now have at least 1 provider offering irregular working hours</p> <p>(This recommendation has been achieved)</p>
7. To encourage the schools and local providers to	<p>No new before and after school provision has become available for these schools.</p>

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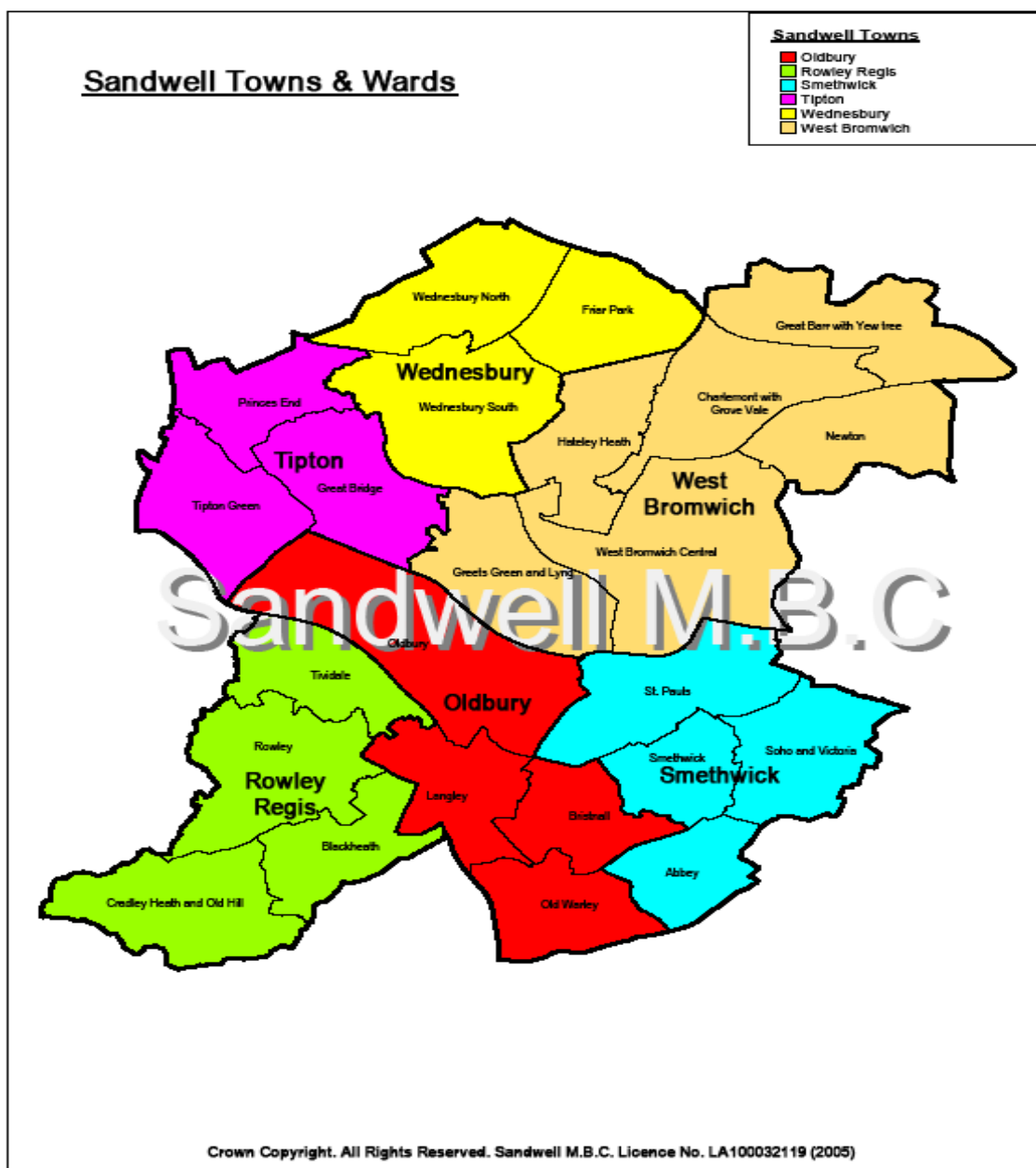
provide out of school care to Jubilee Park (before and after school) and St Martin's (after school)	(This recommendation will be carried forward)
8. To market and promote the 2-year-old offer in the following wards Abbey, Blackheath, Cradley Heath and Old Hill, Great Barr with Yew Tree, Friar Park, Greets Green and Lyng, Hateley Heath, Langley, Newton, Princes End, St Pauls, Smethwick, Soho and Victoria, Tividale, Wednesbury North and Wednesbury South to increase the take up.	<p>Extensive indirect marketing has been undertaken. 184 outreach events took place across the in the wards mentioned. Regular weekly sessions took place in the 4 Job Centre Plus Offices engaging with parents who were being transitioned to Universal credit the identified wards</p> <p>There were 5 FIS planned events which families from across the borough attended.</p> <p>The take up of the 2 year old entitlement across Sandwell has increased from 65% last year to 66% this year.</p> <p>(This recommendation will be carried forward as it underpins the 2 year old offer and outreach will continue to target the wards where take up could be improved)</p>
9. To termly monitor the take up of 3 and 4-year olds 15 hour funded places in Bristnall, Cradley Heath and Old Hill, Great Barr with Yew Tree, Langley, Wednesbury South and West Bromwich Central wards as there may be a need for more places.	<p>The number of places in these wards has changed:</p> <p>Bristnall increased from 274 to 454 Cradley Heath and Old Hill increased from 255 to 314 Great Barr with Yew tree increased from 246 to 302 Langley increased from 254 to 296 Wednesbury South increased from 135 to 155 West Bromwich Central increased from 335 to 377</p> <p>(This recommendation is achieved)</p>
10. To termly monitor the take up of 30 hour places against the demand for places to ensure that there are sufficient places to meet the needs of parents in the following wards: Bristnall, Great Barr with Yew Tree, Wednesbury South and West Bromwich Central.	<p>The number of places for these wards has changed:</p> <p>Bristnall now has an additional 24 places Great Barr with Yew Tree has an additional place Wednesbury South has not changed West Bromwich Central has an additional 8 places</p> <p>(This recommendation will be carried forward with regards to Wednesbury South, Great Barr with Yew Tree as well as any other gaps identified in this report)</p>
11. To prioritise the wards which have been identified as having multi-childcare needs to reduce the barriers to accessing childcare: Bristnall, Cradley Heath, Friar Park, Great Barr with Yew Tree, Great Bridge, Langley, Wednesbury North, Wednesbury South and West Bromwich Central.	<p>Irregular working hours is resolved in the following wards that previously had none; Friar Park, Langley, Wednesbury North, Wednesbury South and West Bromwich Central.</p> <p>Increase in the number of 15 hr places in Bristnall, Cradley Heath and Old Hill, Great Barr with Yew Tree, Langley, Wednesbury South and West Bromwich Central.</p> <p>Bristnall and West Bromwich Central have additional 30 hours places. There have been no complaints from parents unable to find 30 hours funded places.</p> <p>A survey of Wednesbury parents took place and there were no significant concerns regarding finding suitable childcare. Promotion of the FIS hub and information on help with childcare costs would be beneficial to the area.</p> <p>(This recommendation will be amended based on the gaps identified in this report.)</p>

SANDWELL SUB AREAS - WARDS

Sandwell is made up of 6 towns and 24 wards. For this report analysis of the sufficiency of

Towns	Wards
Oldbury	Oldbury, Langley, Bristnall and Old Warley
Rowley Regis	Tividale, Rowley, Blackheath, Cradley Heath and Old Hill
Smethwick	St Pauls, Smethwick, Soho and Victoria, Abbey
Tipton	Princes End, Great Bridge, Tipton Green
Wednesbury	Wednesbury North, Wednesbury South, Friar Park
West Bromwich	Greets Green and Lyng, West Bromwich Central, Newton, Hateley Heath, Charlemont with Grove Vale, Great Barr with Yew Tree

childcare will be undertaken at ward level.



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN SANDWELL

The 2017 mid-year estimates show that Sandwell has 325,460 residents, a rise of 14.4% since 2001. This compares with a rise of 12.2% in England & Wales. This increase reverses the declines in the 1980s and 1990s. Under 5's now make up 7.5% of Sandwell's population (24,286). The proportion of lone parent households (with dependent children) has increased from 8.0% in 2001 to 9.0% in 2011.

The ethnic makeup of Sandwell has seen extensive changes since 2001. 65.8% of Sandwell residents now classify themselves as being of White British origin, and a further 4.1% are of Other White origin (which includes Irish and Gypsy Travellers). 30.1% of Sandwell's population are from other ethnic backgrounds.

In 2011, 66% of Sandwell residents aged between 16 and 74 were economically active, compared with 69.7% in England & Wales. Sandwell's profile of economically active residents is similar to England & Wales in terms of full and part-time employees, and full-time students. However, only 6% of Sandwell's economically active 16-74 year olds are self-employed, compared to 9.7% for England and Wales. 7.3% of the economically active population in Sandwell aged between 16 and 74 were unemployed, compared with 4.4% in England & Wales. This group includes those who had never worked (1.6% of those aged 16-74), and those who reported long-term unemployment (3.2% of those aged 16-74).

A smaller proportion of employed residents aged 16 to 74 in Sandwell worked 49 hours or more per week than nationally (8.9% compared with 13.2% in England & Wales). A larger proportion worked 31 to 48 hours (62.4% compared with 57.7% in England & Wales).

Child Poverty

According to HMRC figures, in August 2016, 25.6% of children in Sandwell were living in what is considered "relative" poverty. This represents 21,370 dependent children, of which 18,495 (86.5%) are under 16 years of age. Child Poverty in Sandwell was 0.7 percentage points higher in 2016 (25.6%) than 2015 (24.9%). The gap with the national and regional levels increased slightly to 8.6% and stayed the same at 5.4% respectively.

Sixteen Sandwell wards had higher child poverty rates in 2016 than 2015 and eight were lower. Three wards had a lower rate than England (17.0%); Abbey (16.7%), Newton (16.8%) and Old Warley (16.2 %).

Percentage of Children in Relative Poverty in Sandwell 2008-2016 by ward

COMPARATORS	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Change 08-16	Change 15-16
England	20.9%	21.3%	20.6%	20.1%	18.6%	18.0%	19.9%	16.6%	17.0%	-3.9%	0.4%
West Midlands	23.3%	24.0%	23.3%	22.7%	21.2%	20.7%	23.2%	19.5%	20.2%	-3.1%	0.7%
Sandwell	30.8%	31.6%	30.4%	29.6%	27.6%	26.9%	29.5%	24.9%	25.6%	-5.2%	0.7%
Sandwell Wards											
Abbey	19.2%	20.9%	19.6%	19.5%	18.3%	18.4%	20.6%	18.3%	16.7%	-2.5%	-1.6%
Blackheath	27.1%	29.8%	27.2%	26.7%	23.8%	21.7%	24.3%	22.0%	22.8%	-4.3%	0.8%
Bristnall	24.0%	25.0%	23.8%	25.2%	23.8%	24.0%	24.1%	21.0%	23.1%	-0.9%	2.1%
Charlemont with Grove Vale	18.0%	21.3%	18.4%	19.4%	19.5%	19.4%	21.9%	20.7%	21.3%	3.3%	0.6%
Cradley Heath and Old Hill	28.1%	28.5%	29.1%	27.1%	25.3%	25.1%	28.5%	23.0%	25.5%	-2.6%	2.5%
Friar Park	40.3%	40.6%	38.6%	34.6%	33.5%	34.2%	33.1%	30.4%	30.6%	-9.7%	0.2%
Great Barr with Yew Tree	18.9%	21.0%	20.4%	19.5%	19.0%	18.7%	21.4%	17.9%	18.9%	0.0%	1.0%
Great Bridge	30.3%	31.8%	30.7%	30.9%	29.1%	27.3%	29.1%	24.6%	26.7%	-3.6%	2.1%
Greets Green and Lyng	35.7%	36.0%	34.5%	32.5%	32.4%	29.9%	35.5%	27.6%	30.2%	-5.5%	2.6%
Hateley Heath	35.2%	37.5%	34.8%	35.3%	33.5%	30.8%	33.4%	29.3%	30.2%	-5.0%	0.9%
Langley	30.0%	29.9%	31.9%	30.9%	31.3%	31.5%	32.8%	29.1%	28.3%	-1.7%	-0.8%
Newton	17.5%	19.2%	19.4%	19.5%	19.8%	19.5%	20.3%	17.3%	16.8%	-0.7%	-0.5%
Old Warley	18.6%	20.8%	19.7%	19.2%	19.4%	18.2%	20.0%	16.3%	16.2%	-2.4%	-0.1%
Oldbury	30.7%	30.1%	27.7%	28.8%	26.3%	25.5%	27.4%	22.7%	22.4%	-8.3%	-0.3%
Princes End	40.8%	43.3%	42.2%	42.5%	38.7%	39.9%	38.2%	36.6%	35.3%	-5.5%	-1.3%
Rowley	30.3%	31.5%	31.5%	30.4%	29.9%	28.6%	31.3%	27.3%	28.0%	-2.3%	0.7%
St Pauls	40.5%	37.7%	35.8%	34.0%	28.1%	28.3%	33.6%	26.5%	26.8%	-13.7%	0.3%
Smethwick	36.0%	35.9%	35.0%	32.7%	30.5%	29.5%	33.8%	27.8%	28.0%	-8.0%	0.2%
Soho and Victoria	48.1%	45.1%	42.2%	40.1%	35.8%	35.2%	39.8%	31.2%	32.0%	-16.1%	0.8%
Tipton Green	31.9%	32.7%	30.9%	29.5%	26.6%	24.4%	30.2%	24.3%	26.1%	-5.8%	1.8%
Tividale	27.3%	29.1%	27.5%	26.7%	24.4%	24.2%	24.2%	20.0%	22.9%	-4.4%	2.9%
Wednesbury North	32.5%	32.1%	31.5%	30.9%	27.7%	26.5%	33.0%	25.1%	26.0%	-6.5%	0.9%
Wednesbury South	25.4%	28.0%	27.1%	27.1%	25.3%	25.3%	24.8%	22.2%	21.8%	-3.6%	-0.4%
West Bromwich Central	27.6%	27.2%	28.6%	26.8%	24.2%	24.1%	28.2%	24.0%	23.0%	-4.6%	-1.0%

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Child and Working Tax Credits – NI 118 Take Up of Formal Childcare

According to HMRC figures for 2016/17, the take up of the childcare element of the tax credit was 12.0% in Sandwell compared to England at 14.3%. The take up in Sandwell represents only 2,300 families. England take up levels of the childcare element of tax credits stayed the same (14.3%) whilst Sandwell fell slightly last year (12.4% to 12.0%).

Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised Awards 2016-17 (HMRC)

The latest data for 2016/17 is at the Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level, rather than ward. Sandwell is made up of 186 LSOAs.

- 62 LSOAs (33.3%) in Sandwell have a take up of the childcare element which is above the England level.
- 6 LSOAs have a take up rate of 25% or above - five are in West Bromwich town and one is in Smethwick town.
- The lowest take up is in a LSOA within Smethwick town (1.9%).
- Ten LSOAs have a take up of below 5% - 4 are in Smethwick town, 3 in Wednesbury town, 2 in West Bromwich town and one in Rowley Regis town.

At a town level, take up is highest in Oldbury, with 53.3% of LSOAs within the town having a take up above the national level. Take up is lowest in Wednesbury town – where 87.5% of LSOAs have take-up levels below the national level. Smethwick has the greatest range of take up by LSOA (both the highest and the lowest take up by LSOA are within the town), but this may just reflect Smethwick being the second largest town.

Town	No. of LSOAs	Minimum NI 118 at LSOA	Maximum NI 118 at LSOA	LSOAs above England Level		LSOAs below England Level	
				No.	%	No.	%
Oldbury	30	7.8%	24.3%	16	53.3%	14	46.7%
Rowley Regis	31	4.8%	24.1%	11	35.5%	19	61.3%
Smethwick	32	1.9%	41.9%	9	28.1%	23	71.9%
Tipton	24	5.5%	18.1%	4	16.7%	19	79.2%
Wednesbury	24	3.4%	16.0%	3	12.5%	21	87.5%
West Bromwich	45	4.4%	30.2%	19	42.2%	26	57.8%
SANDWELL	186	1.9%	41.9%	62	33.3%	122	65.6%

Disability

The 2011 Census showed that there were approximately 2,627 0-15 year olds with either a long-term health problem or a disability.

The wards with the highest number of 0-15 year olds with their day to day activities affected are; Smethwick (156) followed by Soho & Victoria (151) and Princes End (150)

The wards with the lowest number of 0-15 year olds with their day to day activities affected are; Charlemont with Grove Vale (63) followed by Abbey (66) and Newton (72)

	All Ages	Total 0-15	Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Day-to-day activities limited a little	Total with day to day activities affected
Wards (2011)					
Abbey	11,752	2,198	18	48	66
Blackheath	12,292	2,446	29	58	87
Bristnall	12,151	2,512	35	54	89
Charlemont with Grove Vale	11,964	2,097	24	39	63
Cradley Health and Old Hill	13,565	2,735	46	68	114
Friar Park	12,625	2,852	54	79	133
Great Barr with Yew Tree	12,597	2,615	48	52	100
Great Bridge	12,962	2,740	47	59	106
Greets Green and Lyng	11,769	2,773	47	81	128
Hateley Heath	14,227	3,231	56	70	126
Langley	12,969	2,596	37	63	100
Newton	11,558	2,210	27	45	72
Old Warley	11,915	2,263	27	54	81
Oldbury	13,606	3,047	55	64	119
Princes End	12,981	3,000	58	92	150
Rowley	11,784	2,513	39	74	113
St Pauls	14,226	3,776	65	83	148
Smethwick	14,146	3,215	66	90	156
Soho and Victoria	15,042	4,211	69	82	151
Tipton Green	12,834	2,878	41	67	108
Tividale	12,616	2,754	47	65	112
Wednesbury North	12,682	2,665	48	63	111
Wednesbury South	12,510	2,350	41	59	100
West Bromwich Central	13,290	2,557	36	58	94
Sandwell Total	308,063	66,234	1,060	1,567	2,627

2011 Census: Long term health problem or disability

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Findings:

- The 2017 mid-year estimates show that Sandwell has 325,500 residents. Under 5's now make up 7.5% of Sandwell's population (24,286).
- In 2016 eight Sandwell wards had lower child poverty rates than 2015 and sixteen wards were higher.
- Three wards; Abbey (16.7%), Newton (16.8%) and Old Warley (16.2%) had a lower poverty rate than England (17.0%).
- The lowest take up of the Childcare Element of Working Tax Credits is in Wednesbury town, where 87.5% of LSOAs have take-up levels below the national level.
- The wards with the highest number of 0-15 year olds with their day to day activities affected by a disability are Smethwick, Soho & Victoria and Princes End.

QUALITY OF CHILDCARE

Sandwell Quality Early Years and Childcare Team provide information, advice, support and training to the early years and childcare workforce. In order to develop or create high quality childcare it is essential that there is a well-trained, qualified, professional early years and childcare workforce to understand the needs of the most vulnerable children and families who access 2, 3 and 4 year old funded childcare places.

Information, Advice and Support includes the following:

- Early Years & Childcare sector career options
- Setting up childcare provision
- Sustainability of childcare provision
- Funding opportunities
- Short course training programme
- Child Protection/ Safeguarding concerns
- Ofsted registration and inspection

Childcare Training

The Early Years Educator (EYE) qualification has impacted on Level 3 qualified practitioners. Practitioners are required to achieve functional skills at level 2 for both English and Maths, if they are unable to achieve this, practitioners will not be counted in ratios as a Level 3 member of staff. The Early Years Workforce Strategy identifies that Ofsted results and improved outcomes for children are linked to a highly qualified workforce. The Government are proposing to have Specialist Graduates and clearer childcare career pathways.

Demand for places for 30 hour funded provision for 3 and 4 year olds continues to increase, this has resulted in the demand for level 3 qualified practitioners. The Government identified that the early years and childcare workforce needs to be fit for purpose continually updating their knowledge and skills to ensure children reach a Good Level of Development (GLD).

We continue to receive requests to financially support practitioners in obtaining full and relevant level 3 qualifications as well as accessing higher level qualifications.

The results of Sandwell's 2018 Census identified that 78% of practitioners/ Childminders working within 2, 3 and 4 year old funded provision are Level 3 qualified and 5% of the workforce have achieved a level 6 qualification which includes QTS, Early Years Professional Status or Early Years Teacher Status.

Childminder briefing sessions are delivered to provide information to persons interested in self-employment, the session provides a brief overview of home based childcare and supports recruitment and retention of our childcare workforce in Sandwell. Childminder Briefing sessions continue to be well attended as people assess their career options. The Childminder workforce is integral for their flexibility and unique services offered to working parents/ carers across Sandwell.

There has been a 12% reduction in home based child carers (Childminders) from 155 in 2014/15 to 137 in 2018 (Information obtained July 2018), our information has identified that this was partly due to career progression. 84 home based child carers are registered in Sandwell to deliver 2, 3 and 4-year-old funded places.

A termly online training programme is produced to support the quality of teaching practices, raise awareness of how to manage and adhere to mandatory safeguarding requirements and support the ongoing development and sustainability of early years and childcare provision. The training programme is produced in partnership with the Inclusion Support Early Years (ISEY)

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Team, Play Service and Sandwell MBC Health and Safety. Training is delivered by internal/ external local support agencies and professional training providers.

All training reflects the local and national changing needs of the Statutory and PVI (Private, Voluntary and Independent) Early Years and Childcare sector. This enables providers to fulfil their legal duties as detailed in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, Ofsted registration and inspection and Local Authority requirements.

The training is available to Schools, Children Centres, Full Day Care Nurseries, Pre-Schools, Out of School provision, Childminders and Foster Carers. Charges are applied in accordance with the type and size of organisations, providers can purchase training packages to help them financially plan their staff development. Child Protection and SEND remain key priorities and are currently provided free of charge in partnership with Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP) and ISEY.

The original Graduate Leader Fund initiative provided opportunities for full day care settings to upskill employees in order for them to access Level 4, 5 and 6 qualifications. 80 practitioners including childminders originally accessed the Graduate Leader initiative.

Sandwell has previously offered Level 4 progression modules focusing on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and supporting the most vulnerable 2-year olds, since 2010 Sandwell has provided 13 modules at Level 4. Sandwell Quality Early Years and Childcare Team will continue to provide further Level 4 modules in accordance with current projects.

Sandwell's early years recruitment web pages attract numerous people considering childcare careers.

Quality Improvement

Sandwell Quality Early Years Team provide ongoing support to new and established early years and childcare provision. Support visits are undertaken to Ofsted early years registered providers who are graded Inadequate and Requires Improvement. Other providers in Sandwell who are graded Good and Outstanding receive termly visits from the Local Authority area QTS and can request support directly from the Funding, Workforce and Development Team.

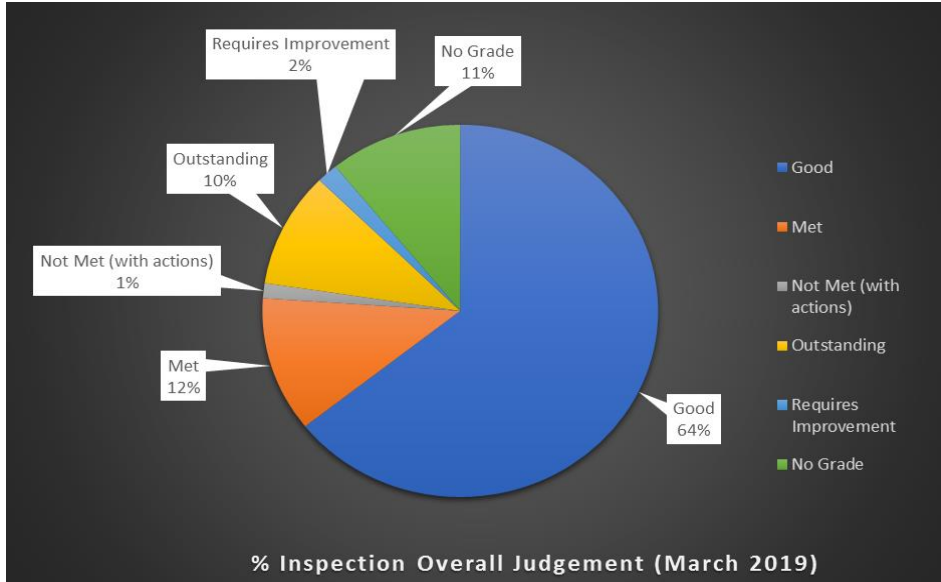
New providers are supported from the point in which they make an enquiry about setting up a childcare provision, the proposed provision will receive advisory site visits and recruitment support. Once the early years and childcare provider is Ofsted registered they can apply to access funded places.

2, 3 and 4 year old funded providers receive regular funding monitoring audits to ensure all children and families eligible for 2, 3 and 4 year old 15 or 30 hour places are accessing places in accordance with the Local Authority and DfE funding requirements. The Local Provider Agreement outlines the expectations of the DfE and Sandwell Local Authority in delivering high quality funded provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

Quality support is monitored as part of termly or intensive support visits to providers in accordance with Ofsted inspection outcomes, Local Authority Safeguarding concerns and local data indications identifying gaps in children's development.

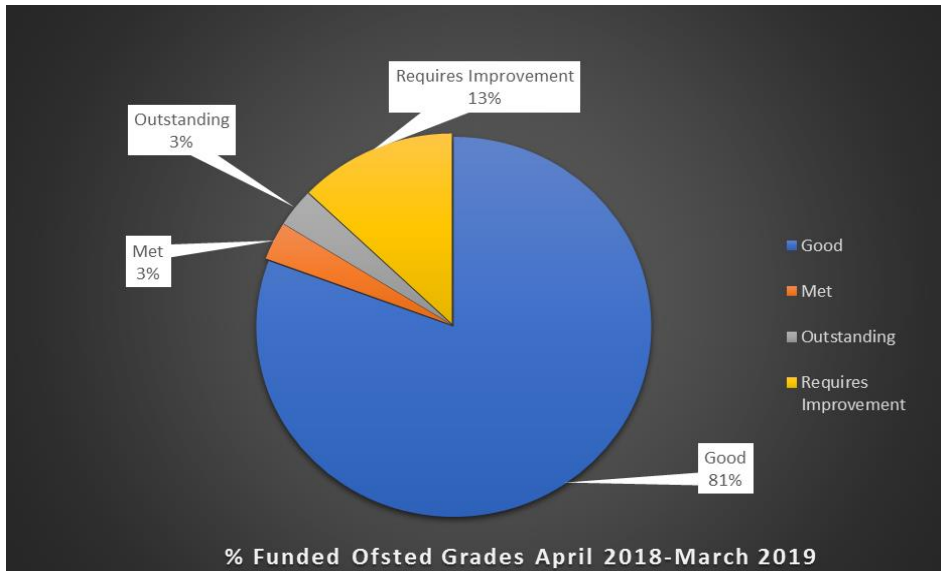
Ofsted Inspections

In March 2019, analysis of the data held in the Family Information Service (FIS) database (Open Objects) indicated that the Ofsted grades for providers were 23 outstanding, 148 good, 4 requires improvement, 27 met and 3 not met providers. Although there are 322 childcare services on the Family Information Service database, Ofsted inspects a provider which may operate more than one type of childcare service on the same site. There are also providers on the database which are not yet due for an Ofsted inspection. See Appendix 1 - local, regional and national data for Ofsted Early Years Inspections August 2018



Funded Settings Inspection

Ofsted inspected 31 providers that offer 3 and 4 year old funded places between April 2018 and March 2019 and 84% were rated as good or outstanding



Equality and Inclusion

The Quality Early Years and Childcare Team engage with childcare settings to promote and embed equality of opportunity into practice, as part of their legal duties under the Equality Act 2010. The Quality Early Years and Childcare Team support this by delivering a range of training

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programmes. Where required they will also support settings with one to one support, advice and guidance, identifying and delivering a range of training sessions to support with this. The team also work with the sector through network meetings, social media and other forms of communication to ensure information is accessible. The outcome is to support good quality practices and embed equality of opportunity as part of this process.

The Early Years Foundation Stage sets the standards that all early years' providers must meet to ensure equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported. Equalities in the early years and childcare sector are audited through OFSTED reports, and the local authority targets. These audits have highlighted that a significant amount of settings will continue to require support and appropriate training to embed equality and inclusion in all aspects of their childcare settings.

Department for Education guidance published in November 2014, expect schools/childcare providers to promote British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The Department also published The Prevent Duty in June 2015 which provides advice and guidance for schools and childcare providers, on how to deal with people being drawn into acts of potential terrorism. This is incorporated into the equality training programmes we offer to support practitioners to deliver their duties.

Grant Funding

The Local Authority still provides funding to settings who need sustainability support. This is limited and based on an assessment process relating to quality and including Ofsted judgements. The funding is an application process which is administered through our Early years Grant Panel which was established to assess grant applications received from childcare providers.

Sustainability and Holiday Play schemes

The local authority has also made grant funding available to childcare providers to help them to provide holiday play schemes and/or new childcare places including out of school provision to meet the needs of working parents and parents and carers that are returning to work, education or training. Funding is also available for providers experiencing sustainability issues and for start-up of new provision in areas identified as having childcare gaps.

During April 2018 to March 2019 the local authority supported 3 Childcare providers who were experiencing sustainability issues and 15 holiday providers to deliver places at 19 play schemes over the school holiday periods.

Findings:

- Childcare practitioners in Sandwell have continued to receive advice and support with training and entry into gaining qualifications.
- Childcare providers have continued to receive quality improvement support.
- The majority of funded providers (84%) that have been inspected by Ofsted in the last year have been rated as good or outstanding.
- Just over 74% of all providers are rated as outstanding or good.

CHILDCARE IN SANDWELL

The FIS maintain a database which contains comprehensive and up to date information on childcare provision across the borough. All 94 primary schools were contacted to update their details with regard to before and after school activities as well as holiday provision.

Information held in the FIS database, school's data and a survey of childcare and early years providers are used to assess the supply of childcare across the borough.

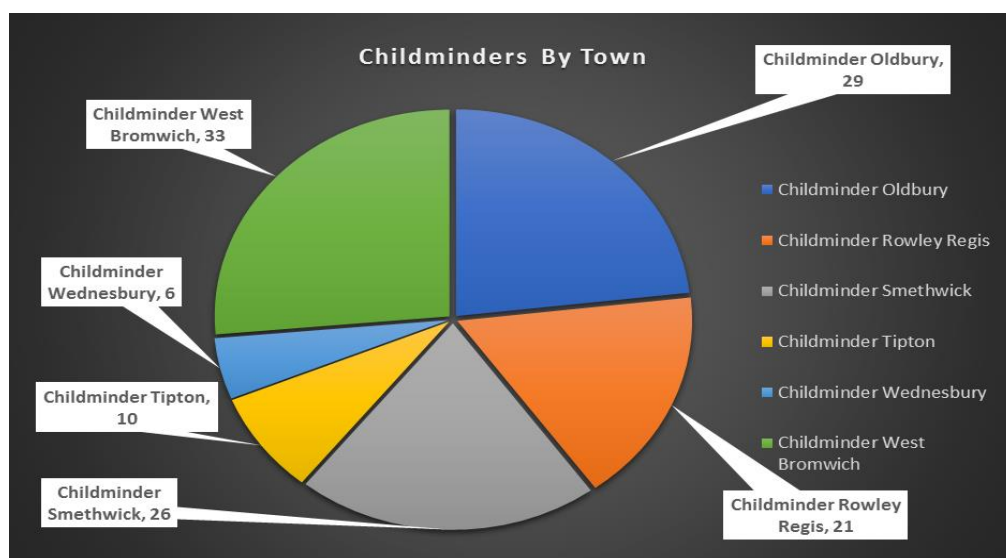
Childcare Provisions 0-5 years

There are 125 childminders, 77 day nurseries and 13 pre-school playgroups.

In addition, there are also 16 school site nurseries offering 2 year old funded places. These providers offer a total of 5544 full time childcare places for 0-5-year olds (Please note that for some 2,3 and 4 year olds, one funded full-time place may be counted as 2 part time places). The Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2017 mid-year estimates indicated that the 0-4-year-old population in Sandwell was 24286. There are also 4720 early education places in the maintained day nursery sector which gives us a total of 10264 places and would make the ratio 1:2.

Historically, it is unlikely that a child would start nursery any earlier than 6 months old and most 4 years old are in a reception class. Therefore, this would indicate that there is adequate 0-5 provision at a borough level.

However, further analysis of childcare providers was undertaken which showed that at town level there are only 6 childminders in Wednesbury and 10 childminders in Tipton which is significantly less when compared to the other towns in Sandwell.



Wednesbury Survey

Historically, Wednesbury Town has been identified as having various childcare gaps which have not been resolved. However, the Family Information Service has not received complaints/concerns from families and partners within the town. With this in mind, it was decided to undertake a survey for Wednesbury to obtain the views of the families in the area.

Between October 2018 and January 2019, a survey was undertaken across Wednesbury which looked at parents use of childcare. The survey was widely publicised, and parents had the opportunity to complete online or a paper version. 119 parents responded.

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Of those parents who said they were working or studying, 77% don't use formal childcare
 Of those that use formal childcare, their preferred choice was a day nursery.
 35% use family and friends for their childcare needs.
 83% were aware of the free funded childcare offers.
 75% indicated that they have not found lack of childcare to be a barrier to working or studying.

The survey indicated that parents in the area are high users of informal childcare (family and friends). However, extensive marketing and promotion of the Family Information Service website and the help available with childcare costs would be beneficial to families.

Funded Places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

The criteria for free funding for 2 year olds (15 hours) and 3 and 4 year olds hours (30 hours) free entitlement are available at: www.sandwell.gov.uk/freechildcare.

In April 2019, there were 12,160 funded childcare and early years places being offered by 263 early years and childcare providers (including the maintained sector).

	Schools	PVI's	Childminders	Total
2 year olds places	78	1776	121	1975
3 and 4 year olds (15hrs)	4720	3140	114	7974
3 and 4 year olds (30hrs)	482	1611	118	2211
Total	5280	6527	353	12160

Free funding for 2 year olds

The Department for Education (DfE) provided a list of eligible families with 2 year olds for the academic year September 2018, this figure is approximately 2,101. In Summer term 2019 (April), there were 1406 (67% of DfE figures) children accessing free funding for two year olds places. The number of children accessing has increased by 2% from the previous academic year take up of 65%. Nationally the take up is decreasing. Anecdotally this is likely due to the 30 hours offer.

For the academic year September 2018, the DfE figures for eligible children is 2,118 approximately 44% of the birth data (4782). In April 2019, there were 182 providers offering 1969 places for 2 year olds. The number of providers has increased by 6%.

**Based on the 2018/19 take up there are sufficient places boroughwide for 2019/20.
 Extensive marketing and promotion is required to increase take up.**

3 and 4 Year Olds Universal Entitlement (15 hours free funding)

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks of free funding from the term following their third birthday until they start in Reception Class in the September following their 4th birthday. Therefore, some children will access up to 5 terms of early education.

For the academic year September 2018, there were 7536 eligible children. In summer term (April 2019), there were 7183 children accessing universal 3 and 4 year old funded places. The take up for universal entitlement for the academic year September 2018 is 95.3%.

For the academic year September 2019, the birth data indicates that there are 7514 3 and 4 year olds across the borough who are eligible for the universal entitlement. In April 2019, there were 263 providers delivering 7974 places for 3 and 4 year olds (15hrs). The number of providers has increased by 7% on the previous year.

Based on the 2018/19 take up there are sufficient places boroughwide for 2019/20.

3 and 4 year olds Extended Entitlement (30 hours free funding)

The 30 hours free funding came into effect in September 2017 and is aimed at working families. Families who are eligible for free 30 hours are issued with a code from HMRC. In Summer term (April 2019), the DfE reported that there were 2018 codes valid for Sandwell. Sandwell validated 1855 codes. In the summer term, (April 2019) there were 1846 children accessing a place. This is an increase of approximately 19% (1499) on April 2018.

In April 2019, there were 215 providers offering 2211 childcare and early learning places for the extended entitlement (30 hours). The number of providers offering 30 hours has increased by 17%. There are no figures available for the number of children eligible for 30 hours, as there are no data sets that indicates how many 3 year olds are in families which meet the criteria for the 30 hour funding. However, there has been no feedback or complaints from parents that they are unable to find suitable childcare and early learning places for the 30 hours.

Based on the 2018/19 year take up there are sufficient places boroughwide for 2019/20.

School Age Provisions

Before school provision

86 of the 94 schools indicated that they provide breakfast clubs either themselves or through a private provider on the school site. 7 of the 8 other schools have access to community providers. 1 school has no access to before school provision (Hanbury).

After school provision

There are 70 registered out of school care providers either on school site or in the community providing 3726 childcare places. All 94 schools offer either registered out of school care or after school activities in school or with community providers.

School Holiday Provision

There are 52 holiday providers providing 2346 childcare places across the borough. There are also an additional 9 holiday clubs/activities that are provided by schools; the number of places that the schools provide is not available. Tividale and Wednesbury South are the only wards that have no holiday provisions.

Vacancies

185 out of 322 (57%) Ofsted registered childcare providers (excluding before school clubs), indicated that they have at least 1 vacancy. Tividale (100%), Friar Park (89%) and Tipton Green (88%) has the greatest % of vacancies. Langley has the lowest % of vacancies (25%).

Bristnall has the greatest number of providers with vacancies (20) and Wednesbury South has the lowest number of providers with vacancies (2).

Irregular Working Hours

Of the 202 childcare providers (childminders and day nurseries), 162 indicated they would be able to offer flexible childcare for working parents. 64% of Childminders and 36% of Day Nurseries would be able to offer childcare for parents working irregular hours.

All wards have providers offering irregular hours.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Provision

Of the 322 childcare services (excluding before school clubs) 271 (84%) have indicated that they would care for children with SEND. All wards have providers that would care for children with SEND, however the number of SEND providers has increased by 71 (26%) from 2018

The Inclusion and Early Years' Service works with providers to support children to integrate into childcare and early settings. They also administer the Inclusion Support Grant and the High Blocks Grant which enables children with SEND to have one to one support in a setting depending on the child's level of need.

There are also 17 short break services for children with a diagnosis / Education Health Care Plan who can access these services.

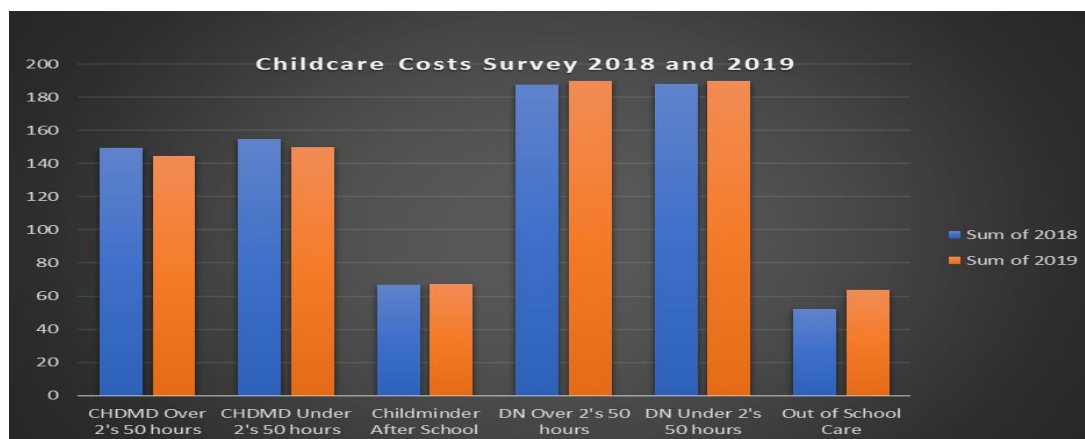
Affordability

The FIS database holds information on the average weekly cost of childcare, the information below is based on those providers in Sandwell who have indicated their childcare cost:

Type of provision	Average weekly costs (part time place = 25hrs)	Average weekly cost full time = 50hrs
Childminders = under 2's	£75	£150
Childminders = over 2's	£72.25	£144.50
Day nurseries= under 2's	£95	£190
Day nurseries= over 2's	£94.97	£189.95
Out of school care		£63.63
Childminder after school		£67.50

Source: FIS database December 2018

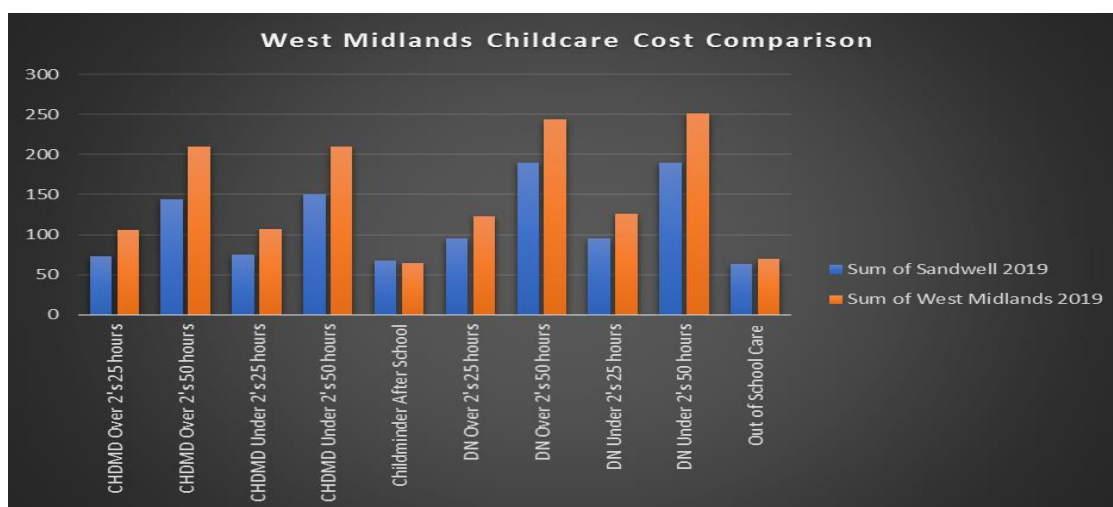
The cost of full time childminder places for under 5's has decreased by 3% from the previous survey in 2017. The cost of day nurseries places has increased by 1% from the previous survey. The cost of out of school care has increased both in after school's provisions and with childminders who provide after school care.



The Family and Childcare Trust undertook a childcare cost survey in December 2018, data from Family Information Services across the West Midlands region shows the average cost as:

Type of provision	Average weekly costs (part time place = 25hrs)	Average weekly cost full time
Childminders = under 2's	£106.46	£210.28
Childminders = over 2's	£106.11	£209.50
Day nurseries= under 2's	£125.87	£251.81
Day nurseries= over 2's	£123.37	£244.30
Out of school care		£69.34
Childminder after school		£64.29

Source: Family and Childcare Trust Annual Childcare Costs Survey, 2018



The above data shows that the average cost of childcare for the 0-2 age range for both part time and full time places is significantly lower in Sandwell than the rest of the West Midlands.

The average cost for out of school care is slightly lower than the rest of the West Midlands.

Holiday cost

In March 2019, the average holiday cost in Sandwell was £101.00 per week

The Family and Childcare Trust undertook a Holiday Childcare Survey in May 2018, data from Family Information Services across the West Midlands shows the average weekly holiday costs was £125.90

Holiday childcare cost in Sandwell remains significantly lower than the rest of the West Midlands.

Findings:

- For the 0-5 age range, there is 1 place to every 5 children (1:5 ratio) this indicates that there should be sufficient childcare across the borough to meet this age range. When the early learning places are added this ratio becomes 1:2
- A survey of parents identified that Wednesbury would benefit from extensive marketing and promotion of the Family Information Service Hub. Promotion of the help available with childcare costs to families across Wednesbury also needs to take place.
- Based on DfE figures 44% of 2 year olds are eligible for free funding for 2 year olds.
- The number of children accessing free early funding for 2 year olds has increased from 65% to 67%
- 1 school in Greets Green and Lyng ward (Hanbury) has no before school club.
- There is no holiday provision in Tividale and Wednesbury South wards.
- 57% of childcare providers indicated that they currently have at least 1 vacancy, this has reduced from 70% last year.
- 84% of childcare providers indicated they would care for a child with SEND. All wards have providers who would care for children with SEND.
- Overall, the cost of childcare in Sandwell is significantly lower than the West Midlands

Gaps Identified:

- To extensively market and promote the Family Information Service Hub and the help available with childcare costs to families across Wednesbury.
- 1 school in Hateley Heath ward (Hall Green) may require both before and after school club, whilst Hanbury may require before school club.
- Reddal Hill and St Martin's may also require after school clubs.
- There may be a need for more holiday provision in Tividale and Wednesbury South.

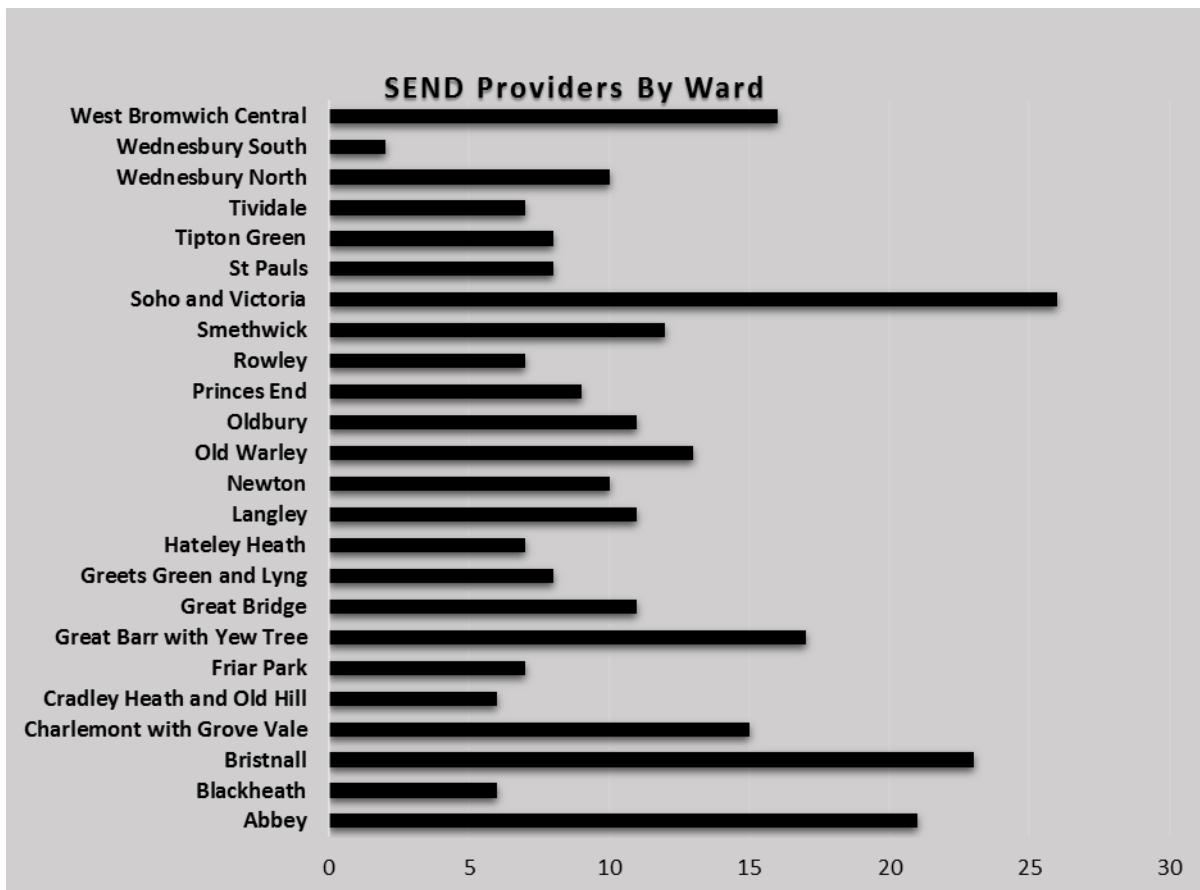
SUFFICIENCY OF CHILDCARE PLACES BY WARD

This section will look at the following by ward:

- Number of providers who indicated that they would care for children with additional needs
- Number of providers who indicated that they would be able to provide childcare for children whose parents work irregular working patterns
- Childcare places 0-5 Years olds including free funding for 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds
- Childcare for school aged children including school holidays

Childcare for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The table below shows the number of providers who offer care for children with additional needs. There is no data available for the number of children who have additional needs and would require childcare. The FIS monitors the request for childcare for children with additional needs and works with the Inclusion Support Early Years Services to support them to access childcare and early learning.

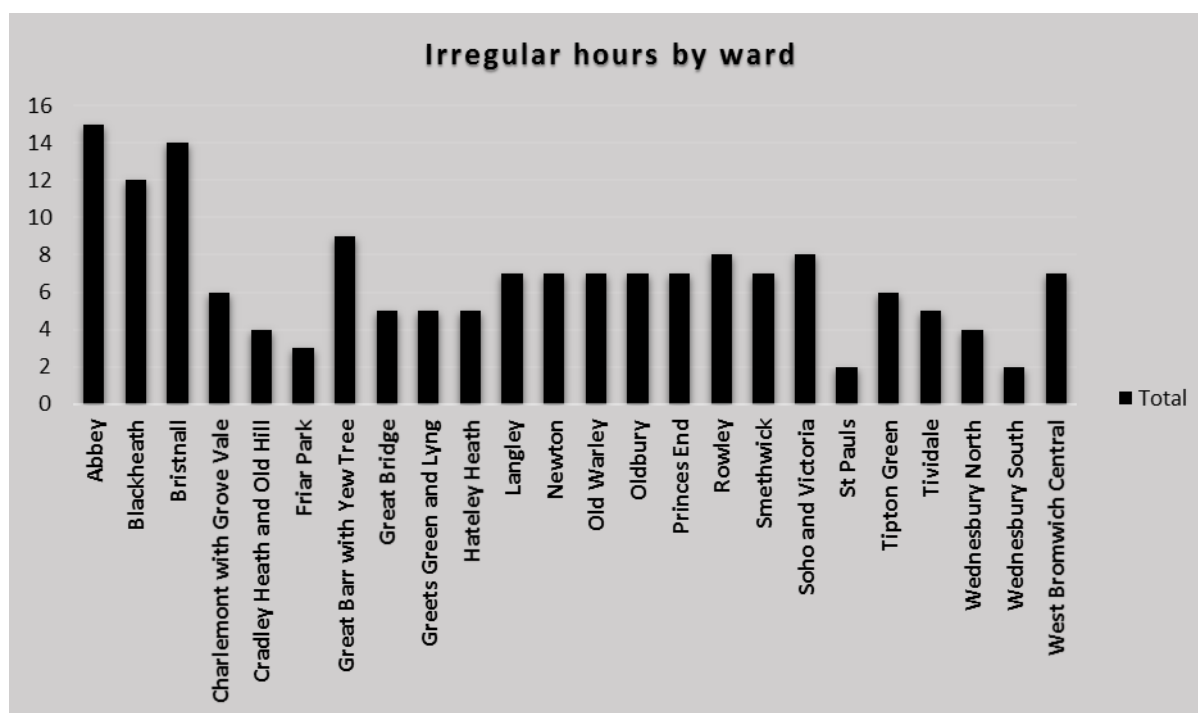


Key Findings:

- All wards have SEND providers

Childcare Places for Irregular Working Hours

This table shows the number of providers who provide care for children whose parents work irregular working patterns. There is no data available for the number of children whose parents work irregular working hours. The FIS monitors the request for childcare for irregular working patterns and work with individual families to identify providers who can meet the needs of the families.



Findings:

- All wards have childcare providers offering irregular working hours.

Childcare Places 0-4 Years Old, Free Funding for 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds

- **Table 1** shows number of children and number of childcare places for aged 0-4 by ward. The ratio of number of children to funded places available. A Ratio of higher than 1:2 (Sandwell ratio) is assessed further by looking at vacancy levels in each ward.
- **Graph 1** shows supply and demand for free funding for 2 year olds. The number of eligible children is obtained from DfE data for academic year September 2019-July 2020. To assess if a gap exists between those 2 year olds eligible for funding and those taking up a funded place, the figure for current take up is obtained from Early Years. In wards where there are more eligible 2 year olds than places available, overall funded places (including 3 and 4 year old places) and places in neighbouring wards is assessed. A marketing strategy will be developed to increase take up.
- **Graph 2** shows supply and demand for 3 and 4 year old universal entitlement (15 hours) The number of eligible children is obtained from birth data. To assess if a gap exists between those 3 and 4 year olds eligible for funding and those taking up a funded place, the figure for current take up is obtained from Early Years. In wards where there are more eligible 3 and 4 year olds than places available, overall funded places (including 2 year old places) and places in neighbouring wards is assessed. A marketing strategy will be developed to increase take up.
- **Graph 3** shows supply and demand for free funding for 3 and 4 year olds extended entitlement (30 hours). There is currently no data available for the number of families eligible for 30 hours funding for 3 and 4 year olds. Supply and demand can only be measured by looking at the number of funded places for 3 and 4 year olds in each ward and the number of children accessing places during the academic year 2018-19. Neighbouring wards are assessed if a gap is identified.

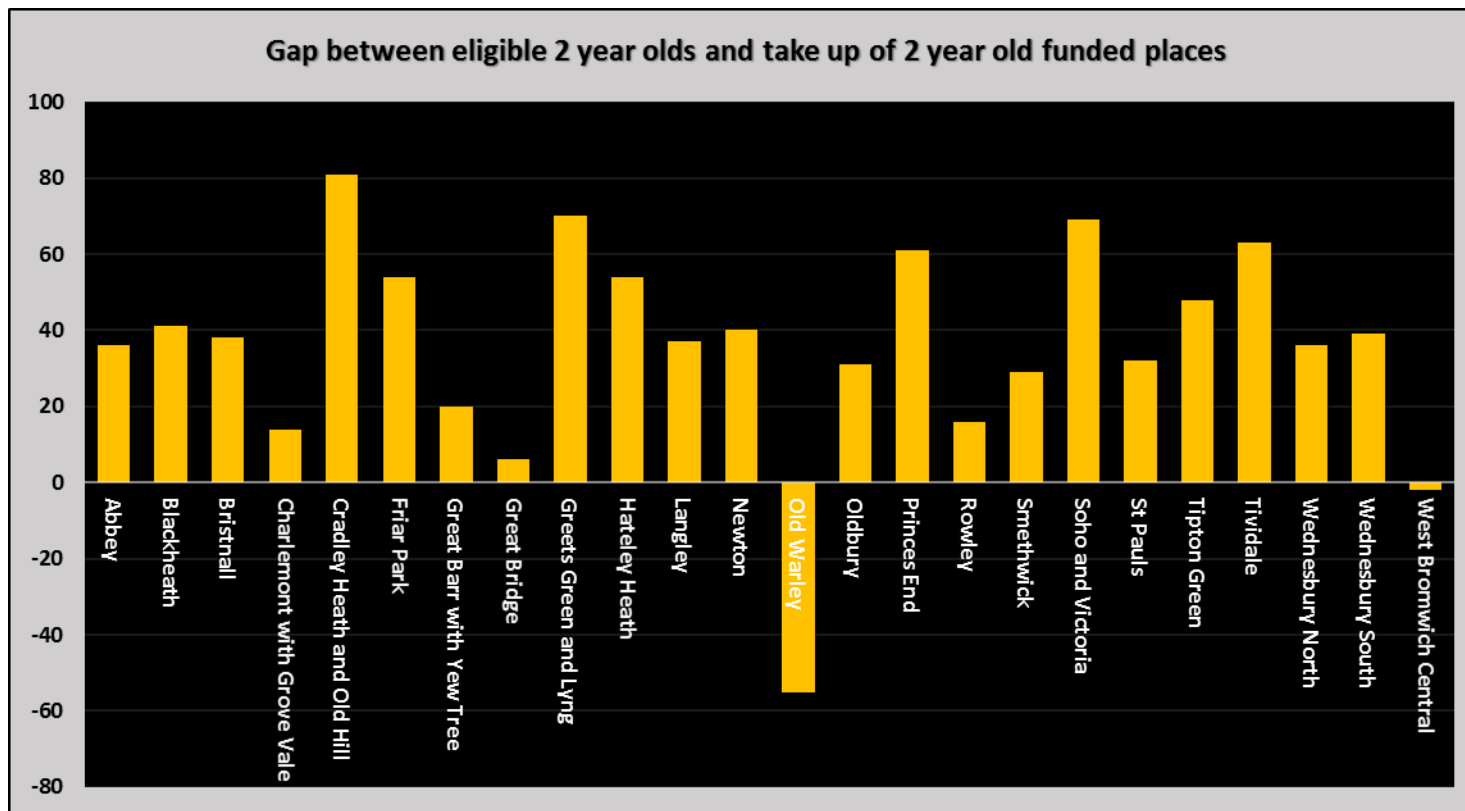
Table 1 Childcare places for 0-4 year olds

Ward	Estimated CHDMD Places	Estimated DN places	Estimated PG Places	Estimated MSN Places	Estimated Places 0-4 years	Birth 0-4	Ratio of Children to 1 estimated 0-4 place in Sandwell (Sandwell benchmark 2:1)
Abbey	84	211	60	208	563	1020	2:1
Blackheath	77	153	0	120	350	888	2:1
Bristnall	78	315	0	208	601	828	1:1
Charlemont with Grove Vale	43	101	96	134	374	792	2:1
Cradley Heath and Old Hill	12	100	0	224	336	1003	3:1
Friar Park	24	87	48	256	415	981	2:1
Great Barr with Yew Tree	60	199	16	156	431	861	2:1
Great Bridge	12	261	25	320	618	979	2:1
Greets Green and Lyng	18	110	0	242	370	1146	3:1
Hateley Heath	30	60	0	224	314	1091	3:1
Langley	60	136	0	180	376	950	2:1
Newton	48	102	0	150	300	776	2:1
Old Warley	42	74	124	104	344	759	2:1
Oldbury	27	277	0	320	624	1337	2:1
Princes End	28	99	0	182	309	1033	3:1
Rowley	36	171	20	138	365	804	2:1
St Pauls	12	141	70	164	387	1271	3:1
Smethwick	24	180	30	254	488	1201	2:1
Soho and Victoria	36	329	44	296	705	1723	2:1
Tipton Green	12	195	0	160	367	1134	3:1
Tividale	60	106	0	190	356	921	2:1
Wednesbury North	18	227	0	260	505	923	2:1
Wednesbury South	0	136	0	60	196	826	4:1
West Bromwich Central	18	382	0	190	590	1077	2:1

CM= Childminders; DN = Day Nurseries; PG = Pre-school Playgroup; MSN= Maintained School Nursery

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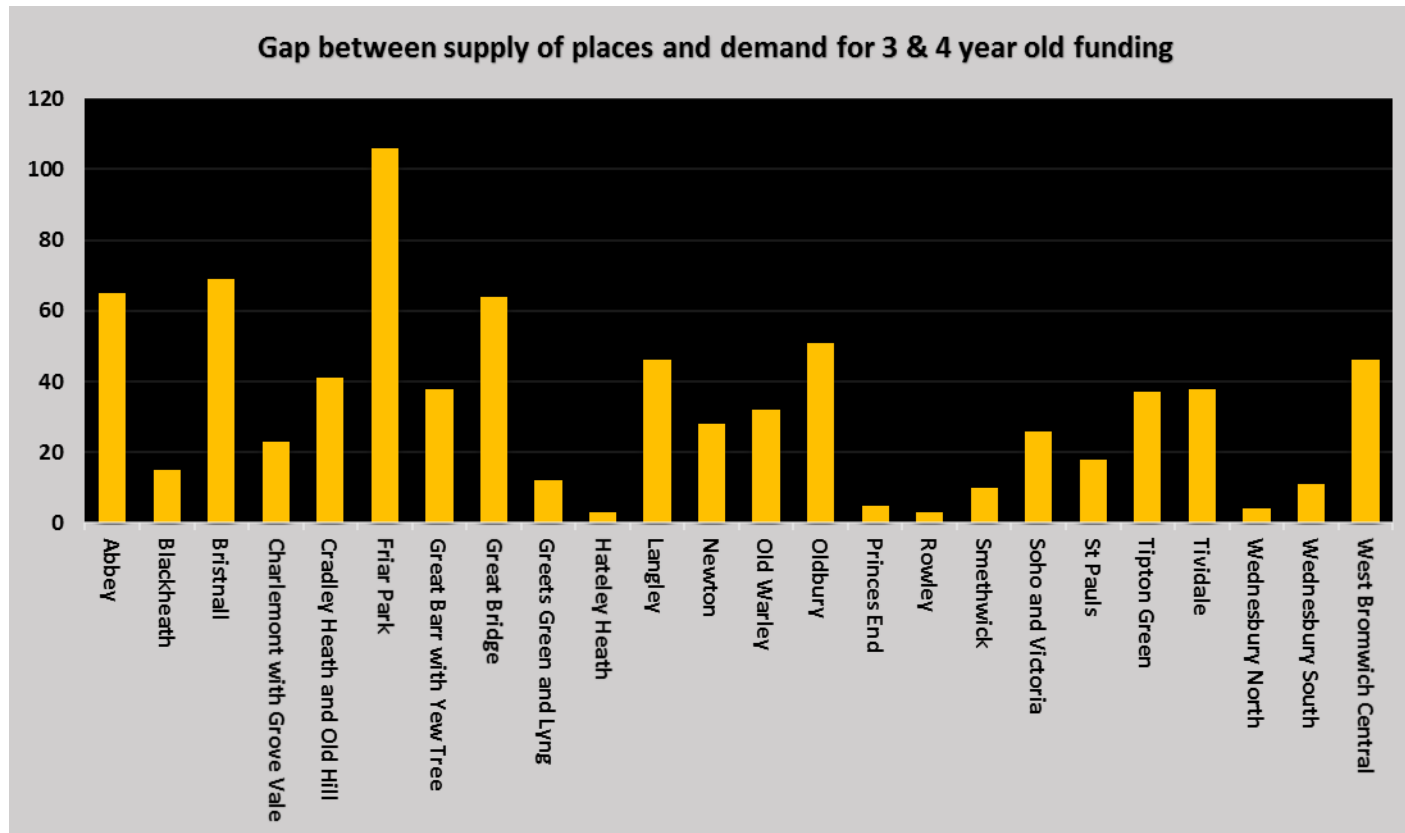
Graph 1 Gap between 2 year old eligibility and take up of funded places in each ward



There are 6 wards where no gap exists – Charlemont with Grove Vale, Great Barr with Yew Tree, Great Bridge, Old Warley, Rowley and West Bromwich Central.

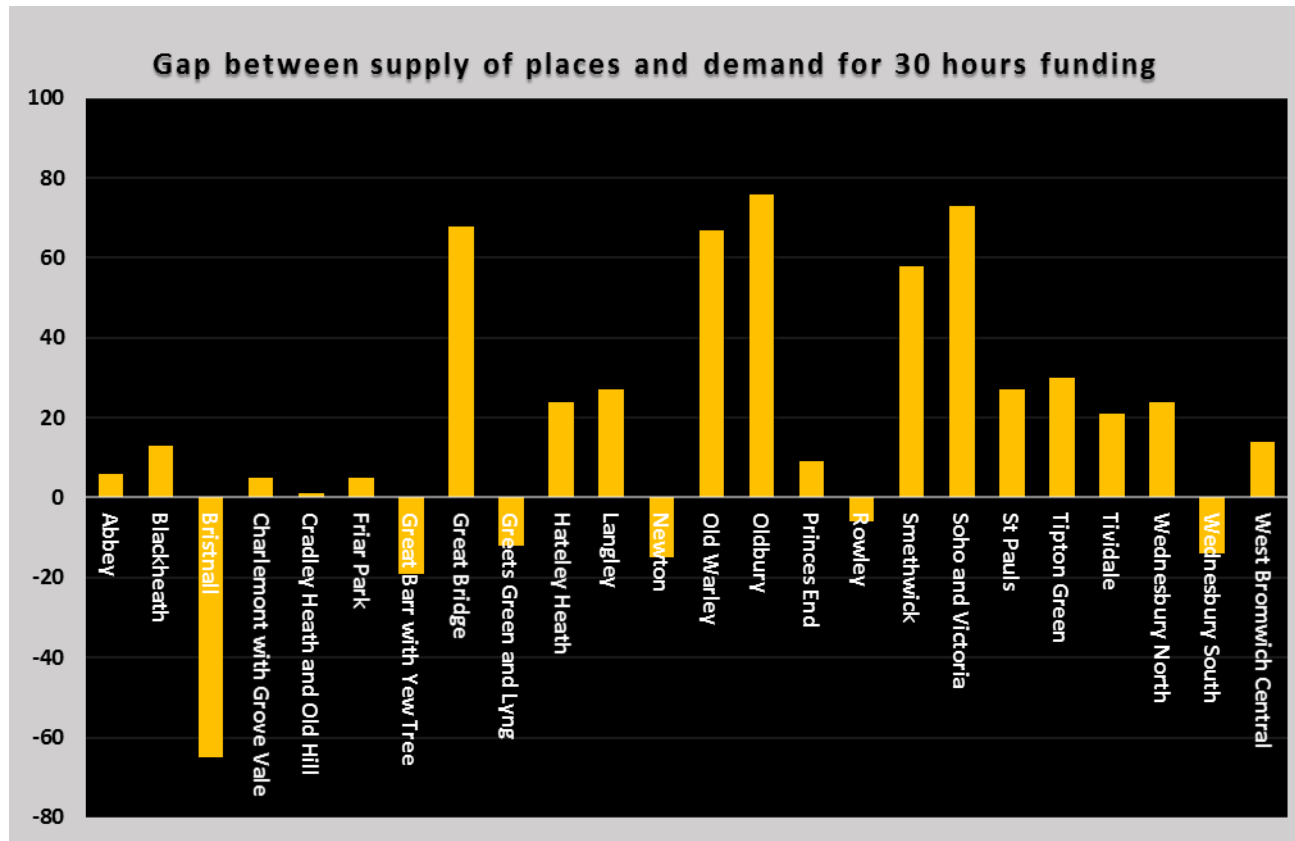
Marketing is required in other wards to increase the take up of 2 year old places

Graph 2 Gap between estimated places available and take up of 3 & 4 year old funded places in each ward



5 Wards – Hateley Heath, Princes End, Rowley, Wednesbury North and Wednesbury South have limited capacity. However, there are places in neighbouring wards. There are sufficient places for 3 & 4 year olds overall.

Graph 3 Gap between the estimated places available and 30 hours take up in each ward



There are 6 wards where take up exceeds estimated places – Bristnall, Great Barr with Yew Tree, Greets Green and Lyng, Newton, Rowley and Wednesbury South. In these wards, providers are likely to be using surplus 2 year old places. There are sufficient places but little capacity for growth in demand in these wards

Childcare for School Aged Children

This table shows supply of childcare for school aged children by ward.

Ward	Schools in Ward	School Site/Community Breakfast Club	School Site/Community After School Club	PVI Holiday Playscheme	Total Childcare for School Aged Children
Abbey	4	4	4	3	11
Blackheath	2	2	2	2	6
Bristnall	6	6	6	4	16
Charlemont with Grove Vale	4	4	4	2	10
Cradley Heath and Old Hill	5	5	4	1	10
Friar Park	4	4	4	1	9
Great Barr with Yew Tree	4	4	4	5	13
Great Bridge	5	5	4	3	11
Greets Green and Lyng	4	3	4	2	9
Hateley Heath	4	4	4	1	9
Langley	3	3	3	2	8
Newton	3	3	3	3	9
Old Warley	3	3	3	2	8
Oldbury	5	5	5	2	12
Princes End	4	4	4	1	9
Rowley	3	3	3	1	7
Smethwick	4	4	4	2	10
Soho and Victoria	5	5	5	8	18
St Pauls	3	3	3	4	10
Tipton Green	5	5	4	1	10
Tividale	3	3	3	0	6
Wednesbury North	5	5	5	2	12
Wednesbury South	3	3	3	0	6
West Bromwich Central	3	3	3	4	10

1 highlighted ward - Greets Green and Lyng has a gap with before school (Hanbury Primary). Reddal Hill Primary (Cradley Heath and Old Hill) has after school activities but no formal club; Jubilee Park (Great Bridge) has an after school club at Summerhill Primary St Martin's (Tipton Green) is working with a PVI setting to offer after school provision. Hall Green (Hateley Heath) has childminders offering before and after school
 2 highlighted wards – Tividale and Wednesbury South have no holiday playschemes
 2 wards – Soho and Victoria and West Bromwich Central have dedicated SEND provision.

Findings:

- 7 wards have a ratio of more than 2:1 (Sandwell's ratio) for 0-5 places: Cradley Heath & Old Hill, Greets Green & Lyng, Hateley Heath, Newton, Princes End, St Pauls and Wednesbury South. However, these wards have a high number of vacancies. No gaps identified.
- 1 ward: Greets Green and Lyng has a gap with before school
- 2 wards have no holiday playschemes: Tividale and Wednesbury South

RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure that sufficient childcare places are available, a detailed and comprehensive action plan will be developed to address the following 9 recommendations. These include actions that were not achieved in the childcare sufficiency action plan of 2018/19. The recommendations are:

1. To continue to support childcare providers to deliver high quality, sustainable provision.
2. To improve the quality of the providers which are judged by Ofsted as Requires Improvement or Inadequate by working intensively with them and those that deliver early education funded places.
3. To extensively market and promote the Family Information Service Hub and the help available with childcare costs to families across Wednesbury.
4. To work with schools and existing providers in Tividale and Wednesbury South ward to address the need for more holiday provisions.
5. To work with the school that has no access to out of school care: Hanbury in Greets Green and Lyng ward (before school club)
6. To use a wide range of direct and indirect marketing as well as extensive outreach, to increase the take up of 2 year old funding.
7. To monitor the take up of 3 and 4 year old 15 hour funded places in the maintained sector (schools) and gauge the impact of 2 year old funding and 30 hours funding on school nurseries.
8. To monitor the take up of 3 and 4 year old 30 hours funded places to address any potential shortfall.
9. To prioritise the following wards which have been identified as having more than one childcare gap: Greets Green and Lyng and Wednesbury South to increase access to childcare in these wards.

Childcare Gaps by Ward

The table below shows the wards which require action during 2019/20:

Wards (Highlighted wards have multi childcare gaps)	0-5 Provision	Before School Provision (Highlighted wards have gap)	After School Provision (Highlighted wards have gap)	Holiday Provision (Highlighted wards have gap)	SEND	Provide Irregular Working Hours Provisions	Termly monitor the number of places for 2 year olds - 15 hours	Termly monitor the number of places for 3 and 4 year olds - 15 hours	Termly monitor the number of places of 3 and 4 year olds - 30 hours (Highlighted wards have gap)
Abbey									
Blackheath									
Bristnall									
Charlemont with Grove Vale									
Cradley Heath and Old Hill									
Friar Park									
Great Barr with Yew Tree									
Great Bridge									
Greets Green and Lyng		Hanbury							
Hateley Heath									
Langley									
Newton									
Old Warley									
Oldbury									
Princes End									
Rowley									
Smethwick									
Soho and Victoria									
St Pauls									
Tipton Green									
Tividale									
Wednesbury North									
Wednesbury South									
West Bromwich Central									

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

Appendix 1

Number and % of Ofsted Early Years Inspections August 2018

Overall effectiveness: The quality and standards of the provision	Number of providers					
	EYR providers	Total number inspected	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
All England	63,460	51,202	9,741	38,667	2,256	538
West Midlands	5,262	4,398	770	3,386	197	45
Birmingham	959	802	110	623	53	16
Dudley	217	185	44	134	5	2
Sandwell	248	206	24	167	12	3
Walsall	156	134	14	113	6	1
Wolverhampton	165	135	12	106	12	5

Overall effectiveness: The quality and standards of the provision	Percentage of inspected providers			
	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
All England	19	76	4	1
West Midlands	18	77	4	1
Birmingham	14	78	7	2
Dudley	24	72	3	1
Sandwell	12	81	6	1
Walsall	10	84	4	1
Wolverhampton	9	79	9	4

Ofsted Early Years Inspections data is published annually in August. Currently only 2018 data is available. Tables on page 16 use Ofsted data received by the Family Information Service in their daily feed between April 2018 and March 2019. The 2 data sets therefore should be examined separately