

Member Report

Childcare Sufficiency Report 2024



Report to: Cabinet
Report from: Executive Director Children & Families
Portfolio: Children & Families
Report Date: November 2024
Decision Type: Executive
Council Priority: Start Life Well

HEADLINE POSITION

1. Summary of report

The purpose of the report is:

- To respond to our statutory obligations in respect of the Childcare Act 2016 which requires local authorities to report annually on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and funded early years education places.
- To provide members with information regarding the supply and take up of childcare and the free early years' education entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year children across Redcar & Cleveland,
- To gain cabinet approval for the Redcar & Cleveland annual Childcare Sufficiency Report 2024.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves the Childcare Sufficiency report 2024 so we can publish as required.

DETAILED PROPOSALS

3. What are the objectives of the report and how do they link to the Council's priorities?

- 3.1 The results of the childcare occupancy audit demonstrates that overall, there are sufficient childcare places across the Borough, with a further decrease in the number of spare childcare places for 0–4-year-olds available across the borough compared to 2023.
- 3.2 In most areas, parents are generally able to choose from a range of childcare options when selecting a provider, except for East Cleveland, in particular Loftus, Brotton and Saltburn where there are fewer providers.

- 3.3 The number of two-year-old children registered at settings has increased this year, 428 in spring 2023 compared to 442 in Spring 2024. The take up rate for 2-year-old funding was 85.7% in 2024 and Redcar & Cleveland's take up rate remains above the national average of 74.8%. Work is being undertaken to target those on the list received from the DWP as eligible not taking up the funding in order to increase the take up rate.
- 3.4 The number of 3- and 4-year-olds claiming 3 year old universal funding in settings (not including school nurseries) across the borough has slightly decreased in 2024 to 227 compared to 230 in 2023. However, schools still have a significantly higher proportion of children 1464 (91.3%) accessing school-based universal nursery provision.
- 3.5 The number of children accessing the 30 hours extended entitlement for working parents has increased slightly in 2024 with 726 children accessing a funded place compared to 660 in 2023.
- 3.6 In terms of childcare for children with complex special educational needs, whilst the Early Years SENCO and Families Information Service (FIS) have to date always been able to identify a childcare option for a child with SEND, trying to find the most suitable and accessible placement has, on occasions, been very challenging. The extended entitlement has placed an additional pressure on one-to-one funding and identifying childcare providers who have trained staff that can meet the individual requirements of children with complex additional needs. This continues to be potential area of significant pressure for the local authority as the extended entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds becomes more embedded, and the new entitlements roll out.

4. What options have been considered?

- 4.1 The Families Information Service will continue to promote the range of childcare and funding options available to parents with children of all ages, whether they are working or not, to maximise the benefits and possible savings for our working families in the Borough and help the Early Years Providers remain sustainable.
- 4.2 The Families Information Service will continue to monitor the quality of childcare at settings and offer ongoing support to all providers to ensure the best outcome for all children.
- 4.3 Based on the findings of the occupancy audit, we can conclude that the local authority is currently meeting its childcare sufficiency duty, as far as is reasonably practicable but given the continuing roll out of the early years entitlements expansion, future demand may exceed capacity.
- 4.4 The results of the occupancy audit demonstrate that overall, there are sufficient childcare places across the borough, but there are certain areas that remain vulnerable, in particular East Cleveland where there are fewer providers, limited choice and capacity to offer additional places for pre-school aged children. This will be closely monitored by Families Information Service, Early Years Sufficiency Advisor and Early Years Quality team. There is an ongoing

recruitment drive to encourage more people to consider childminding.

- 4.5 Although demand for pre-school aged places has decreased slightly compared to 2023 it is expected that the recent roll out of new funding entitlements will create further demand. There are also fewer spare places available than in 2023.
- 4.6 Family Information Service and the Early Years team will continue to promote early years funding, in particular take-up of 2-year-old places for the most disadvantaged children which will need carefully monitoring over the next academic year, if the predicted increase in overall future demand for places in settings creates competition.
- 4.7 Closely monitor the impact of changes to early years funding being introduced in 2024/2025 has on providers to ensure sustainability and capacity through delivery of bespoke business support.

5. Impact Assessment

5.1 Social Value

It is of paramount importance that the Local Authority is able to ensure affordable, flexible childcare is available throughout the Borough to enable parents and carers to access work or education and make a difference to the lives of their families.

5.2 Financial

The council receives funding from the DfE to implement the childcare requirements.

6. Implementation plan

The plan is included within the Childcare Sufficiency Report (appendix).

7. Consultation and Engagement

The Families Information Service carried out a survey with schools and childcare providers to gather up to date information on children accessing childcare during one week of the Easter Holidays and one week at the beginning of summer term. We also sent out a Parent/Carer Survey asking for their views on childcare provision in the borough.

8. Appendices and Background Papers

Childcare Sufficiency Report 2024

The Childcare Act 2006

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/21/pdfs/ukpga_20060021_en.pdf

The Childcare Act 2016

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/5/enacted

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Children & Families Directorate



Redcar and Cleveland
**Childcare Sufficiency
Report 2024**

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1. Overall assessment and summary

The Childcare Act 2006 and subsequent Childcare Act 2016 place a duty on local authorities to report annually on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare.

Sufficient childcare means securing the right type and volume of provision, so far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents or those undertaking training with the intention of returning to work, for children aged 0 - 14 (up to 18 for a disabled child).

There is also a separate, but linked duty, to secure sufficient early years provision, so that families can access their free early education entitlement (570 hours per year over a minimum of 38 weeks for qualifying 2 year olds and all 3 and 4 year old children). From 1st September 2017 the Childcare Act 2016 placed a duty on local authorities to secure 30 hours free early education and childcare for qualifying children, over a minimum of 38 weeks per year for working parents. The 30 hours includes the universal 15 hours free early education entitlement and an additional 15 hours for working parents who meet the eligibility criteria, determined by the HMRC.

In March 2023 the government announced it would extend funded childcare to support more parents to return to work or increase their working hours.

- from April 2024, working parents of 2 year olds were able to access 15 hours funded childcare
- from September 2024, 15 hours funded childcare will be extended to all children from the age of 9 months
- from September 2025, working parents of children from the age of 9 months to 4 years old will be entitled to 30 hours funded childcare per week.

Families often access both their free early education entitlement and childcare together; many providers offer places to meet these requirements. Therefore, this report contains information about the supply and take-up of all free early education entitlement.

Childcare sufficiency is not just about having enough childcare places, it is about ensuring the provision is of a high quality; that it improves the outcomes for children, narrows the gap in attainment and is inclusive and flexible to meet families' needs.

Childcare provisions need to ensure continuity of care and service by being a sustainable business with affordable fees. A sufficient, sustainable, quality childcare market underpins the poverty agenda, supports local economic development and the Council's Early Help Strategy, which is delivered through the Council and its partner organisations.

Overall, the picture for childcare sufficiency in Redcar and Cleveland is currently healthy, however the roll out of the early years entitlements may create extra pressure on the supply of early years childcare places. The Families Information Team will carefully monitor the take up of the new early years entitlements roll out and work with providers to address any areas of concern.

Although, there are currently sufficient places and the quality is good, the local childcare market in Redcar and Cleveland is facing the following several business challenges:

- a declining birth rate. Live births in England and Wales in 2022, has seen a 3.1% decrease from 2021 and the lowest number since 2002; the number remains in line with the recent trend of decreasing live births. Source:ONS
- Parents continuing to use informal childcare. 38.1% of parents surveyed used informal childcare solely or as part of a blend of different types of childcare.
- increased competition, in some wards, where more settings have started offering 2-year-old and 3-and-4-year-old 30 hour extended hours.
- increased costs of living where parents struggle to afford childcare and providers not making an income after their costs are covered.
- Providers struggling to recruit and retain staff.
- Future demand for places is likely to increase, given the continuing roll out of entitlements in September 2024 and September 2025 and with new families starting to occupy the new housing developments in the South Bank ward.

Also, it must be noted that although 1 provider has closed the same site has been re-opened by a new owner, and 5 childminders have resigned but 3 new childminders have started to offer childcare.

The government will invest in a Wraparound Childcare Programme over the next two academic years, from September 2024, to enable schools and local areas to set up provisions. The government's ambition is for all parents of primary school age children to be able to access affordable childcare in their local area from 8am – 6pm. This funding will be for schools and local authorities to introduce or expand childcare provision. The new Labour government who came into power in July 2024 have also announced the intention for every school to provide a breakfast club from April 2025.

The government now provide start-up grants for new childminders, including those who choose to register with a childminder agency. Childminders who register with Ofsted receive a start up grant of £600, whereas those who register with a childminder agency receive £1200. In recent years we have seen a steady decline in the number of childminders in Redcar & Cleveland as well as nationally. Unfortunately, to date, this national incentive does not appear to have an impact on the number of new childminders in our Borough.

It is hoped that some of the measures introduced will encourage more parents/carers to access childcare with providers in Redcar & Cleveland and this will be monitored carefully by the FIS team to ensure that sufficient childcare places are available.

Moving forward it is still of paramount importance that the Local Authority is able to ensure affordable, flexible and quality childcare is available throughout the Borough to enable parents and carers to access work or education and make a difference to the lives of their families.

In order to inform the basis of the childcare sufficiency report, data was gathered relating to:

- baseline socio-economic information including population profiles;
- analysis of all known childcare places within Redcar and Cleveland; and
- demand for childcare services across the Borough.

The results of the April 2024 childcare occupancy audit demonstrate that overall, there are still sufficient childcare places across the Borough however there has been a 6% decrease in the number of spare childcare places for 0–4-year olds available across the borough compared to in 2023. The number of spare places in the childminder market of Central Redcar has decreased by 26% compared to 2023 however, in East Cleveland the number of spare places in the childminder market has increased by 60% (this increase could be explained by receiving 95% of childminders returning data compared to 57% in 2023). Some parents face the problem of accessing childcare in their locality and despite there being some childminders and other day nurseries in the surrounding areas which do have capacity to offer childcare spaces, some parents may not have the means or desire to travel to another village and would prefer to stay in their immediate community, especially if school pick-ups and drop-offs are required.

The take up of places for eligible 2 year olds for free childcare places who come from low income or non-working households has increased slightly this year from 84% in Spring 2023 to 88% in Spring 2024. However, during the Spring Term 2024, the number of eligible 3 and 4 year olds, taking up extended entitlement places for children of working parents was 93%, a decrease of 4% from Spring 2023.

The number of two-year-old children registered at settings has increased slightly this year, 442 in Spring 2024 compared to 428 Spring 2023.

The number of universal 3 and 4 year olds attending settings (not including school nurseries) across the Borough decreased slightly in 2024 to 227 compared to 230 in 2023. The number of 3 and 4 year olds attending school nurseries in Spring 2024 was 1464 children, compared to 1563 in Spring 2023. The total number of children accessing 3 and 4 year universal funding across all providers in Spring 2024 was 1691 compared to 1793 in Spring 2023.

The number of children accessing the 30 hours extended entitlement for working parents (not including schools) has decreased slightly this year with 425 children using a funded place in Spring 2024 compared to 443 in 2023 which is a 4% decrease. The total number of children accessing 30 hours in school nurseries in Spring 2024 is 282 compared to 217 in Spring 2023 (23% increase). This represents a shift of extended childcare places from private providers to school nurseries, as more schools offer the extended hours for 3-4 year olds.

The number of children attending breakfast and after school clubs in schools has decreased across the Borough by 18% in 2024 compared to 2023. In the East Cleveland area, there was only a 3% decrease compared to 27% decrease in Greater Eston area and a 21% decrease in Redcar. The decrease could be accounted for by 65% schools returning data requests

compared to 85% in 2023). Childminders continue to express concerns of an increasing number of schools opening Breakfast and After School Clubs at cheaper rates which affects their ability to maintain business sustainability as they are unable to compete on price. The government's National Wraparound Childcare Programme proposes that by 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need wraparound childcare will be able to access term time childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm, so that parents can access employment and improve labour market participation

It is the ambition of the RCBC Wraparound Team that at least 75% of schools that do not currently offer breakfast childcare and/or after school childcare to begin offering wraparound provision and access funding by January 2025.

As of October 2024, approximately 50% of the Early Years Entitlement Capital funding awarded to Redcar and Cleveland from the DfE for the expansion of early years spaces has been awarded to providers within the borough to help with creating additional capacity for children under 3 years old. This should create approximately 73 additional spaces. The remaining capital grant funding to be allocated by March 2025.

Information around childcare places is sufficiently accessible. Day nurseries, playgroups and childminders can be found via the Families' Information Service (FIS) telephone helpline, email or through the Redcar & Cleveland Information Directory.

In most areas, parents are generally able to choose from a range of childcare options when selecting a provider, with an appropriate balance between the various types of provision to meet local demand.

Childcare places are of high quality. This is evident due to the number of childcare providers across the Borough achieving judgements of 'Good' or above by Ofsted in their inspection of registered service providers. In July 2024, 90% of the 78 registered childminders were rated 'good' or 'outstanding'; and 25 out of the 26 day nurseries were good or outstanding. This is a positive reflection of the support given to these settings by the Local Authority's Quality Improvement Team.

However, there is currently one childminder who has received a Requires Improvement grading in this year's Ofsted inspection as well as one PVI which has also received a Requires Improvement grading.

Findings around flexibility are inconclusive. There are a range of childcare options available to fit the needs of various working patterns, and to date there have been a low number of requests from parents looking for childcare to cover an atypical working pattern. However, 40% of parents surveyed said that childcare did not cover the hours they needed. There are only a few providers currently offering evening, weekend or overnight services in line with the national picture, and the majority of 3 and 4 year old nursery places are sessional and term time only, as they are school based.

In terms of childcare for children with complex special educational needs, the Early Years SENCO and FIS have to date always been able to identify a childcare option for a child with SEND, trying to find the most suitable and accessible placement has, on occasions, been very challenging. The current extended entitlements has placed an additional pressure on

one-to-one funding and identifying childcare providers who have trained staff that can meet the individual requirements of children with complex additional needs. This continues to be potential area of significant pressure for the local authority as the extended entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds becomes more embedded. Recent feedback from providers shows increasing numbers of requests for children with additional needs which, with the further entitlement roll outs, only increase demand further.

During August 2024, feedback from a Staff Recruitment and Retention Survey with our 27 PVIs showed:

- 33% had current staff vacancies.
- 40% (11 out of 27) having a waiting list which include funded spaces for the new entitlements from September 2024. Our providers are confident that they can accommodate this increased demand during the Autumn term.
- 19% have had to reduce childcare spaces due to problems with staffing
- Many applicants for vacancies did not having enough qualifications or experience or did not turnup for interview.

Following the further entitlement roll outs in September 2024 and 2025, providers concerns and comments regarding childcare sufficiency, included:

- Using Waiting lists as they await enough demand to justify recruiting whilst others are full due to capacity dictated by the space of the building.
- Existing parents at settings increasing their hours due to the entitlement expansion.
- Not being able to provide childcare for children who require 1:1 support due to staff shortages.
- Apprentices seeing Early Years Childcare as an easy option and not understanding the long hours and minimum wage rates of the childcare sector.
- Older staff remaining in the settings as they are fully trained but newer staff leaving.
- Using staff ratios at the allowed maximum even though they'd rather not, given the needs of the children.

The FIS Team, Early Years Sufficiency Advisor and Early Years Quality Team are best placed to keep a watchful eye on the number and type of childcare providers, including childminders resigning and registering, and will be proactive in terms of any sufficiency issues raised by parents. In addition, they will:

- liaise with childcare settings to ensure they are making the best use of the government financial support available to them via the Tax- Free Childcare scheme and the changes announced in the Spring 2023 Budget. This support may help their business remain sustainable and secure jobs in the sector.
- continue to work with partners such as Health Visitors and Job Centre Plus to identify and engage families eligible for the two-year-old early years entitlement for families on low incomes.

- continue to ensure that working parents know about the extended childcare offers for children aged from 9 months to 4 years and apply in good time for the following term. The Families' Information Service (FIS) team will continue to work with corporate communications to raise awareness of the extended entitlements, tax-free childcare and the forthcoming changes in 2024/2025.
- offer support to childcare providers that are identified as inadequate/requires improvement for an improved outcome which will allow them to make a funding claim for new children to their setting.
- Carry out extensive mapping of supply and demand to inform the expansion of early years entitlements to ensure we have sufficient childcare to deal with the additional funded places required.

2. Demand for Childcare

In the 2021 census Redcar and Cleveland had a population of 136,531 of which 97.7% were White British. There is a greater level of diversity in the school-aged child population than suggested by the Census data (2021). As at June 2024 (<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-pupils-and-their-characteristics>), 8.38% of children attending state-funded secondary schools and 8.57% of children attending a state-funded primary school in Redcar and Cleveland were from a BME background.

Schools	All pupils	BME Minority	Percentage
State-funded primary	12,121	953	8.57%
State-funded secondary	8376	702	8.38%
State-funded special school	499	37	7.41%
PRU	75	10	13.3%
Total	21,071	1,702	8.08%

The resident population in 2021 was 136,600 (www.nomisweb.co.uk). The resident population has been in decline since the early 1980's. This decline has had an impact on the child population and forecasts predict that the 0-4 year old child population would decrease by 5.7% over the period 2021 to 2025, from approx. 7,000 to 6,600 children.

Changes to population of children in our area

The table below shows the child population and population as a whole in 2023, compared to 2021.

	All residents	Aged 0-4 years	Aged 5-7 years	Aged 8-9 years	Aged 10-14 years	Child population (aged 0-14 years)
2023	137,938	6,627	4,442	3,130	8,311	22,510
2022	137,168	6,632	4,541	3,175	8,176	22,524
2021	136,605	6,741	4,501	3,301	8,025	22,568
% change 2022/2023	+0.56%	-0.08%	-2.23%	-1.44%	+1.62%	-0.06%

Source: ONS mid-year estimates April 2023

Estimates of the population for England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (mid 2011-mid 2023)

Child population projections

	Age range (000's)			
	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	Total 0-14 years
2021	7	8.2	8.2	23.4
2022	6.8	8.1	8.5	23.4
2023	6.7	7.8	8.6	23.1
2024	6.7	7.7	8.7	23.1
2025	6.6	7.6	8.8	22.9
% change 2022 to 2025	-3.0%	-6.6%	+3.4%	-2.2%

Source: 2018-based sub-national population projections, five year age groups. Population data rounded. Percentages rounded

The predicted decline in the child population and the challenges faced by the local authority to increase growth, will impact on the childcare market within the borough and will need to be closely monitored through the annual childcare sufficiency report.

The UK has hit a record low birth rate. It is predicted by 2025 that the UK's natural population will start to decline with more deaths than births; the birth rate for England and Wales in 2022 was 1.49 children per woman, well below the 2.1 that is required to keep the population stable. Source: ONS

The area has a unique social and economic mix with areas of disadvantage situated alongside affluence. The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 shows that the borough ranks an average score of 40 out of the 317 local authorities in the country and ranked 29th within the 10% most deprived areas nationally.

Data suggests the gap between the most deprived and least deprived wards is widening. The health of people in Redcar and Cleveland is generally worse than the England average. Redcar and Cleveland is one of the 20% most deprived districts/unitary authorities in England and about 25.2% (6,080) of children live in low income families. Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average.

Source: Public Health England

Economic activity rates January to December 2023

	Redcar and Cleveland %	North East %	Great Britain %
All people:	136,600	2,647,8500	65,121,700
Economically active	79.9%	75.8%	78.8%
In employment	74.3%	72.8%	75.8%
Employees	66.6%	65.1%	66.3%
Self employed	7.3%	7.4%	9.3%
Unemployed	3.7%	3.9%	3.7%

Source: ONS annual population survey (NOMIS). Percentage is a proportion of economically active Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Labour Market Statistics (nomisweb.co.uk)

Across Redcar and Cleveland gross weekly pay and hourly pay (excluding overtime) are lower than across the North East and compared to Great Britain as a whole.

Earnings by place of residence (2023)

	Redcar and Cleveland	North East	Great Britain
Gross weekly pay	£564.00	£613.70	£682.60
Hourly pay	£14.42	£15.65	£17.49

Economic inactivity rates January to December 2023

	Redcar and Cleveland %	North East %	Great Britain %
All people: economically inactive	23.1%	24.2%	21.2%
Not wanting a job	76.6%	80.3%	82.4%
Wanting a job	23.4%	19.7%	17.6%

Source: ONS annual population survey (NOMIS) ONS annual survey of hours and earnings – residence analysis <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157062/report.aspx?town=redcar#tabempunemp>

It should be noted that a relatively high percentage of economically inactive residents (of working age) are on long term sick; 36.6% compared to 33.0% in the North East and 27.2% in Great Britain.

As at May 2024 4.0% of Redcar and Cleveland’s resident population aged 16-64 years old were claiming out of work benefits, compared to 4.0% regionally and 3.8% nationally.

21.1% of households in Redcar and Cleveland are workless, compared to 19.7% in the North East and 13.9 % across Great Britain (January to December 2022).

Source: ONS annual population survey.

Childcare for those with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

The settings across the borough support children’s special educational needs and disabilities up to the end of the May 2024. In total, there were 232 children accessing 1:1 support, being intensively supported (an increase of 68% from 121 in May 2022), 133 in school nurseries (an increase of 85% from 57 in May 2022 and 99 in private day nurseries (an increase of 53% from 64 in May 2022).

Throughout the last 12 months, schools have found it especially difficult for children who were on the Early Years SEND teams waiting list to be seen and some have waited up to six months for assessments and have had to start school nurseries without an assessment. Since the recruitment of two additional full-time posts the waiting time has now been reduced from seven to four months for Early Years assessments and schools are able to access additional inclusion sessions to support with children’s transitions.

Children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (age 14 for children who do not have a special need or disability). There are 61 children in Early Years with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in our local authority.

Children’s needs change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in childcare or school, and it can take

some time from problems being identified to an EHC plan being issued. It is therefore possible that the number of children with SEND aged 0-4 is an underestimate. Some children have SEN but do not have an EHC plan. They may have a SEND Support Plan in place which is written together with practitioners, parents and their childcare provider. Funding can be accessed through higher needs funding by completing termly SEND support plans.

Within the sector, the following four specialist settings provide early years' education places for 24 children with complex additional needs. The current occupancy is detailed below:

Woodlands School Nursery in Redcar		Kilton Thorpe Academy Nursery in Brotton	
3 & 4-year-olds	12	3 & 4-year-olds	8
Pennyman Primary (Nursery SEND)		Discovery Special Academy Nursery	
3 & 4-year-olds	2	3 & 4-year-olds	2

The places at Pennyman Primary and Discovery Special Academy Nursery were bought by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council as there were insufficient places within our borough.

From September 2024, three Early Years SEND practitioners will deliver the Earlybird course that has been accredited by The National Autistic Society. The training is for parents and carers whose child (under 5 years) has a diagnosis of autism. The programme offers advice and guidance, strategies, and approaches to support their neurotypical child.

From September 2024, support will be offered from the Early Years SEND practitioners for children transitioning, who are presenting with a SEND need and or who have an EHCP, from nursery to reception.

3. Supply of Childcare

The table below shows the various different types of Ofsted registered childcare provision across the borough, as obtained from the Families' Information Service in June 2024:

Provision Type	Number
Childminders	78
Day Nurseries	26
Pre School Playgroups	2
After School Clubs	13
Breakfast Clubs	37
Holiday Clubs/schemes	7
School 2 Year old Provisions	13
School 30 hour Provisions	20
Total	196

Geographical Distribution of Childcare Provision

For the purposes of the report, this information is displayed by areas:

Provision Type	West Cleveland Area	Redcar Area	East Cleveland Area
Childminders	24	32	22
Day Nurseries	10	8	8
Pre School Playgroups	1	0	1
After School Clubs	5	5	3
Breakfast Clubs	18	11	8
Holiday Clubs/schemes	3	2	2
School 2 Year Old Provision	3	3	7
School 30 hour Provision	5	7	8

As at June 2024, 13 school-based 2 year old settings were operating from the following primary schools: Chaloner, Grangetown, Handale, Hummersea, Kirkleatham, Lakes, Lingdale, New Marske, South Bank, St Josephs, St Marys, St Peters and Whitecliffe.

To understand the extent and capacity of all provision within the borough it was fundamental that all providers were included within the audit process. An occupancy questionnaire was developed to ascertain the capacity of the provision and the take-up of places by age of child. The audit was undertaken by the Families' Information Service in April 2024, covering the holiday week of 1st April – 5th April and the term time week of 15th – 19th 2024. Please see appendix 1 for results.

The figures submitted by the childcare providers for the 15 hours entitlement included children who were accessing the provision on a full-time basis or other part-time arrangements. Therefore, for the purposes of the audit, one full time place was defined as being available over 5 days, either morning or afternoon Monday to Friday.

Vacancy rates (number of spare places) are a snapshot, and often change rapidly. In some cases, providers may have a vacancy which is only available for a specific age group, or for a particular part time arrangement. In general, vacancy rates are higher in the autumn, when children move to school. In summary, even though both occupancy rates have increased and vacancy rates have fallen there is sufficient childcare places to meet the current demand for places across Redcar and Cleveland (Spring 2024).

Additional data within the report was collected by the Families' Information Service and considered when producing the Childcare Sufficiency Report to give a broader picture of childcare in the Borough. This included the pricing policies within settings as well as their Ofsted judgements.

Childcare is most commonly delivered during the typical working day – between 7.30am and 6pm on weekdays. Some parents require childcare outside these times in order to fit with their work or other responsibilities.

It is acknowledged that a provision should be as flexible as possible to support those parents working typical hours, as mentioned above. The majority of childminders do state that they offer 5 or more days a week and can be contacted regarding specific requests from parents/carers which may include overnight weekend provision.

The Families' Information Service also provides a bespoke brokerage facility to match the needs of families with registered childminders.

To date, all enquiries for out-of-hours provision made through the Families' Information Service childcare search facility have been responded to unsuccessfully. It should be noted, however, that the number of such enquiries is very low so cannot be relied upon as an accurate reflection of demand. Our parent/carer survey reveals that some parents, especially those on shifts, cannot find childcare on the early morning (before 7.30am) and evening (after 6pm) and holiday childcare.

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

Expansion of Early Year Entitlements and Wraparound

The DfE announced £100m of capital funding in 2023-2024 to support local authorities in delivering expansion of the 30-hours early years entitlement for working families and wraparound provision in primary schools. DfE have awarded Redcar and Cleveland £175,898.40 for Early Years Entitlements Expansion

Following extensive mapping of supply & demand using data from the DfE and headcount data, the FIS team have identified Loftus and Brotton wards in the East locality along with South Bank and Normanby in the West locality as areas that will have a sufficiency shortfall for early years places as the new entitlements are rolled out. New data from the DfE is due to be available from end of October.

Schools and childcare providers will have the opportunity to apply for funding and access support from the Families Information Service Lead and Wraparound Lead for RCBC to identify individual school and provider needs.

As of October 2024, approximately 50% of the capital funding for the expansion of early years entitlements has been awarded to providers within the borough to help with creating additional capacity for children under 3 years old. This should create approximately 73 additional spaces. The remaining capital grant funding to be allocated by March 2025.

In addition to the Capital Funding for the Wraparound, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council has been provisionally allocated £892,978.79, in Wraparound Programme Funding from DfE, subject to approval of the Delivery Plan by DfE. This funding can be used to pay for

staff costs and staff training, including specialist training to support children with SEND accessing Wraparound Childcare.

Our Childcare Reform Grant Panel consisting of the Families Information Service Lead Officer, Early Years Lead Professional, Lead for Achievement, Educational Accountant, Legal Officer and School Capital Senior Officer meet regularly to review applications and bring specialist knowledge and expertise.

The government's National Wraparound Childcare Programme proposes that by 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need wraparound childcare will be able to access term time childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm, so that parents can access employment and improve labour market participation.

The key focus of the National Wraparound Programme is to build strong links between schools and private providers to ensure parents can access nearby wraparound services. The Families Information Service will also continue to actively signpost parents/carers to wraparound services.

Currently, from our 44 Primary Schools

- 14 primary schools offer the wraparound provision from 8am-6pm, or the equivalent opening hours to meet the requirements of the programme, as stated in the National Wraparound Programme Funding guidance.
- 9 primary schools that offer breakfast childcare and after school childcare, however their opening/closing times do not currently meet the times of 8am-6pm, as stated in the National Wraparound Programme guidance,
- 19 primary schools currently offer on-site breakfast childcare, but do not currently have after school childcare available.
- 2 primary schools do not offer either breakfast childcare or after school childcare.

It is the ambition of the RCBC Wraparound Team that at least 75% of schools that do not currently offer breakfast childcare and/or after school childcare to begin offering wraparound provision and access funding by January 2025.

4. Funded early education

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

- All children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to 15 hours per week until they start reception class in school
- Children aged 3 and 4 where both parents are working, or from lone parent families where that parent is working, are entitled to 30 hours per week until they start reception class in school
- Children aged 2 whose families receive certain benefits (including low income families in receipt of in-work benefits), or those who meet additional non-economic criteria, are entitled to 15 hours per week. Nationally, about 30% of 2 year olds are entitled to this offer, but the proportion varies by area.

Source: Institute of Fiscal Studies

In the Spring Budget 2023 the Chancellor announced the following new additional 38 weeks per year entitlements for early years and childcare:

- From April 2024, all working parents of 2-year-olds can access 15 hours per week.
- From September 2024, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3 years old can access 15 hours per week.

In addition, the following other measures were also announced:

- The government will also provide start-up grants for new childminders, including for those who choose to register with a childminder agency. Childminders who register with Ofsted will receive a start-up grant of £600, whereas those who register with a childminder agency will receive £1200.
- From September 2025 all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3 years old can access 30 hours free childcare per week.

Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded entitlement. They may choose to split them between providers. With the agreement of their provider, parents may also spread them across the year – for example, rather than taking 15 hours for 38 weeks a year they could take just under 12 hours for 48 weeks a year.

2 year-old applications for disadvantaged (pre April 2024)

The number of children in Redcar and Cleveland accessing a 2 year-old place showed a slight increase this year compared to 2023. For example, at the end of Spring term 2024, 442 children were taking up a place which was 85.7% of those eligible according to the DWP, compared to 428 children the end of Spring term 2023 which was 84%. Although there has

been a slight increase in Spring 2024, the number of two year-olds registering for two year old places has seen a 12% decrease compared to 2022 when 506 children took up a place which was 87% of those eligible.

The number of disadvantaged 2-year-olds eligible and registered for the 15-hour entitlement has continued to decrease due to three factors

- falling birth rate in recent years,
- the transition to universal credit from legacy benefits, and
- income thresholds for the eligibility criteria remaining unchanged whilst average incomes have risen in recent years.

Despite the fall in 2024 of 2-year-olds registered for the 15-hour entitlement, the estimated national take-up rate, of 74.8%, has increased to the highest level seen. This has been driven by a larger decrease in the eligible population.

However, in Redcar and Cleveland the 2 year old take-up of free childcare places by eligible children is 85.7% which is still above the national average of 74.8% (July 2024).

	Redcar and Cleveland %	North East %	National %
2 year old take up rates by eligible children	85.7%	85.6%	74.8%

As from April 2024, working parents could apply for Childcare Funding for children aged 2 years old. In May 2024, 423 children were receiving up to 15 hours funded childcare per week.

From September 2024, children 9 months up to 23 months of working parents may be eligible up to 15 hours funded childcare per week. As of August 2024, 239 codes had been issued of which 157 childcare codes were validated at our providers. This equates to 65.9% take up.

3 and 4-year-old funded entitlement applications

In January 2024, 74% of children in the North East took up their place in a school nursery compared to a lower national figure of 57%. It is apparent that Redcar and Cleveland continue to have a significantly higher proportion of children (91.3%) accessing school-based universal nursery provision. This is because all our 44 primary schools have attached school nurseries and some schools even take children on their 3rd birthday (rather than the term after). In addition, more of our schools are now offering the extended entitlement of up to 30 hours childcare for 3 & 4-year olds of working parents.

	Redcar and Cleveland	North East	National
	%	%	%
3 & 4 year olds receiving 15 hours universal funding	96.1%	100.4%	94.9%

Parents who think they may be entitled to a 30 hour extended hours place apply for this online through the Government’s Childcare Support website. The same website is used to apply for tax free childcare and parents can apply for either or both. If a parent is eligible, the system creates a code which they can use with their chosen childcare provider. If they are ineligible, they will still be entitled to the universal 15 hours of early education and childcare.

The number of 30 hours (extended entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds) places paid to childcare providers increased from 660 (spring term 2023) to 726 (spring term 2024). Most places for 30 hours were registered within private day nurseries, although this has decreased from 2023 when it was 48% of the market share, to 45% in 2024 and reflects the fact that the childminder’s proportion of the market for 30 hours decreased from 19% in 2023 to 15% in 2024. Schools proportion of the market increased to 40% in 2024 compared to 33% in 2023. In 2024, more parents chose to use the 15 hours extended alongside the universal 15 hours at a school setting (where school offered 30 hours provision).

The tables below summarise this data:

30 hours Extended figures Spring Term

Places	Childminders	PVIs	Schools	Total	% Market Share	CMs	PVIs	Schools
2023	124	319	217	660	2023	19	48	33
2024	106	319	282	707	2024	15	45	40

Key:

CM is abbreviation for Childminder

PVIs is abbreviation for Private, Voluntary & Independent Settings

The Families Information Service monitors the take up of Working Families validated codes by providers, from the recent new working families’ entitlements for children aged 9

months to 2 years, to update the mapping and supply and demand for childcare in the borough.

	Under 1 (from 9 months)	1 Year Olds	2 Year Olds
Number of Codes Issued	95	476	244
Number of Codes Validated	87	435	206
% of codes validated	91.58%	91.39%	84.43%

In the Autumn term (7th October 2024), 89.33 % codes had been validated which is above the national average of 84% and the regional average 86.0%.

Providers offering funded early education places

Providers are paid directly by government for delivering funded early education. They are not required to offer them to parents, but of course parents may choose to use a different provider if they do not. In the private, voluntary and independent sector, all providers offer free places for the universal entitlement and the majority of providers also accept eligible two year olds and the extended entitlement. It should be noted however, that providers can restrict the number of funded places.

5. Prices

There may be variations to prices based on the number of hours a family uses, with reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups. There may be additional payments for additional services, e.g. lunch and other meals which are not included in these prices.

The Families' Information Service holds detailed charging information for all childcare providers. Establishing average charges for childcare is difficult as there may be additional payments for additional services, e.g. lunch and other meals which are not included in these prices and reductions for longer hours, or discounts for sibling groups. however, an average for each setting type has been calculated below:

Provision Type	Average Rate
Childminder*	£201.85 (per week full time)
Day Nursery	£285.16 (per week full time)
After School Clubs	£15.30 (per session)
Breakfast Club	£2.40 (per session within school)
Breakfast Club	£6.57 (per session)
Holiday Clubs	£209.23 (per week full time)

**The childminder average costs figure is influenced by some of our childminders preferring to discuss prices with parents rather than publish a set weekly amount.*

The average cost of a childminder per week in our region is lower than the national average at £201.85, compared to £247.19. However, the average weekly gross pay in Redcar and Cleveland of £577.80, is £104.80 lower than the England average of £682.60 per week.

Source: Money Advice Service, Family and Childcare Trust 2021; and Office of National Statistics 2020)
<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/childcare-costs#full-time-childcare-costs> and
<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157062/report.aspx?town=redcar#tabempunemp>

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

6. Quality of childcare in our area

Ofsted inspection grades

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

Both schools and early years providers have four possible Ofsted grades: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement', and 'inadequate'. Some providers are still awaiting their first full inspection.

Ofsted Inspection Judgements for Provisions

Provision Type	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Met/No grade	Inadequate
Childminders	10	60*	1	7	0
Day Nurseries (incl. playgroups)	2	23	1	0	0
Schools Delivering 2 Year Places	3	8	1	1	0

**Total includes two childminders who are registered with a childminding agency whose Ofsted is Effective.*

Please note: Ratings are as at July 2024. 'No grade' means that the provision is newly registered and has not yet received an Ofsted judgement. 'Met' means there were no early years children present when the inspector called. 'Requires Improvement' is the grade formerly known as 'Satisfactory'.

Type of provision	Total number of providers	% achieving good or outstanding
Childminders	78	90%
Private and voluntary nurseries (including playgroups)	26	96%
Schools Delivering 2 Year Old Places	13	85%
<i>Total</i>	117	92%

(July 2024)

7. Parents and providers views of sufficiency in our local area

Findings from the Occupancy Audit and Overview on Childcare Sufficiency in the Redcar area

The Redcar Area is located in the centre of the borough and comprises of the following council wards:

- Coatham
- Dormanstown
- Kirkleatham
- Newcomen
- West Dyke
- Zetland
- Longbeck
- St Germain's
- Wheatlands

The data demonstrates that although this area has the highest number of registered childminders (39% of the total boroughwide), 3 childminders have stopped providing childcare in the last 12 months. In this area, 94%, which is 32 out of the 34 of childminders completed the data forms.

There are a total of 21 spare pre-school aged places available to children in this area amongst registered childminders compared to 29 in 2023. Even though there are fewer childminders and spaces available this year, there is still spare capacity within the childminding community in the Redcar area to offer additional places for children aged 0-4 years old, however, this may change with the further roll outs of entitlement.

There are 8 day nurseries in the Redcar area and all of them responded to the occupancy survey this year. In the period 2023- 2024 occupied places has increased to 347 from 279 (24%) and spare places increased from 96 to 197 (37%). This suggests that day nurseries have some capacity to absorb part of the DfE's predicted future increase in demand.

10 out of 15 primary schools in Redcar responded to the occupancy audit. Even though the Breakfast Clubs had 210 occupied places this is lower than last years (283) and the After School Club of 80 compared to 117 in 2023, this could be attributed to the reduced number of data returns from schools which operate these clubs. Childminders within this area have continued to express concern of competition from schools Breakfast and After School Clubs.

The parent survey confirmed that 80% - 64 out of 80 of parents answered that the childcare was in the right location in the Redcar area. However, 72% - 72 out of 99 parents who replied said the cost of childcare in Redcar was not affordable.

Parents comments from the survey include:

“Although I was a full time qualified teacher, it was more economical to not work after the end of maternity leave and until my daughter was 3 and the 30 free childcare started.”

“It's difficult for minimum wage families to afford any childcare.”

“For a lot of people, childcare is more expensive than what parents are earning at work.”

“Too expensive however all childcare is expensive so not exclusive to Redcar & Cleveland.”

“Higher levels of support for children with additional needs is not available and when it is its about £90 per day”

“I use a large percentage of my wage on childcare. Just before and after school for two days for two children is over £300”

“Full time childcare is similar to a working wage, if I was to have children not in school I'm not sure I would be able to afford to continue to work in the current climate.”

“I work as agency staff and I have to weigh up what's more cost effective. Sometimes I can afford to pay for 2/3 days of childcare a week but any more than that and it's too expensive and I'd be spending more on childcare than bringing home. I rely heavily on family for childcare but still need school time childcare some days a week.”

“Breakfast and after-school is affordable once or twice a week but not much more. Nursery day care fees and holiday club fees are not affordable at all.”

“When I first moved to the area I emailed the family information service they linked me up with a child minder. They were really supportive and helpful.”

“Not enough SEN childcare in the borough.”

“After school clubs offer the bare minimum and offer tiny snacks and anywhere else costs too much.”

“Child care really need to start to adapt to the changing needs of parents. It doesn't accommodate for shift workers. Most close at 6pm. I only ever found one that would accommodate an over night service. Many jobs are not 9-5 Monday to Friday. There is absolutely no weekend child care services. This really restricts parents getting into work.”

Due to the more recent roll out of entitlements some parents will have benefited from additional funded childcare, however, some parents still struggle with affordability, opening times and choice of provision type. There have been recent reports of waiting lists at settings which may be due to more parents becoming eligible and/or switching from informal childcare to funded childcare and settings struggling with recruitment and retention which may affect the number of places that can be offered. To date providers are suggesting that they will be able to meet demand throughout the Autumn term.

Findings from the Occupancy Audit and Overview on Childcare Sufficiency in the East Cleveland area

The East Cleveland area of the borough comprises of the following council wards:

- Brotton
- Guisborough
- Hutton
- Lockwood
- Loftus
- Saltburn
- Skelton East
- Skelton West
- Belmont

The data demonstrates that, 21 of the 22 registered childminders in the East Cleveland area responded to the audit, this equates to 27% of the total active childminders in the whole borough at this time.

These childminders told us that they had 68 spare pre-school places this year compared to 17 in 2023, this is 75% more than last year. This means there is spare capacity within the childminding community to offer additional places for children aged 0-4 years old. The East area has the least number of registered childminders working in the borough, as only 26% of the total population of childminders are based here.

There are 8 private day nurseries in the East Cleveland area. In total, there were 62 spare pre-school aged places available through private day nurseries in 2024 compared to 31 in 2023 (100% increase this year). In addition, 373 pre-school places were occupied in Spring 2024 compared to 160 pre-school aged occupied places 2023 which is a 133% increase. The increases could be attributed to the entitlement expansion in April 2024 where 2 year olds with working parents became entitled to 15 hours funded childcare especially from the more affluent areas in the East area and providers being prepared for the increased demand.

There were 13 of the 15 primary schools in East Cleveland who responded to the occupancy audit. The number of children attending breakfast and after school clubs has slightly decreased to 273 (2024) breakfast club places taken compared to 276 in 2023. This is a decrease of 1% on last year. In April 2024, 81 after school club places were taken; compared to 85 in 2023. Overall, this is a 5% decrease in children attending before and after school club provision in the East Cleveland area between 2023 and 2024.

East Cleveland is a rural area and although the data shows there is capacity amongst day nurseries, there is still a sufficiency concern in terms of choice and location across some specific towns and villages in the area and the reduction in the number of childminder places available generally across the locality. Loftus and Brotton are a sufficiency concern as there is only one childminder and no day nursery since its' closure in July 2023. Despite

there being some childminders and other day nurseries in the surrounding areas which do have capacity to offer childcare spaces, some parents may not have the means or desire to travel to another village and would prefer to stay in their immediate community, especially if school pick-ups and drop-offs are required.

From the survey replies, parents who were asked if childcare was in the right area, 89 out of 106 (84%) said it was in right area. However, when asked if affordable 77 out of 100 (70%) said it wasn't and 33 out of 100 (30%) said it was affordable.

Parents comments from the survey include:

"Only a couple of childminders, my choice was full initially. No nursery/daycare in Loftus. One other childminder close by is very expensive."

"Funded hours definitely help but we only just manage and I only work two days so I can look after the children for three days. We have three children."

"It costs me over 100 pound per week for before and after school childcare, as a single parent this is a huge cost out of my wages. There needs to be more funding for school aged children so parents can afford to work."

"It is too expensive for the working parents."

"We pay because we have no choice but it isn't at a price point many would find affordable by choice."

"It's not worth working by the time you pay for childcare."

"Across the country it is too expensive."

"Our local childcare provider in the area is £35/40 a day and in school holiday is £150 per week over the month is more than house rent."

"It's very expensive especially when you have more than one child attending."

"Expensive daily fees. Consumable fees and additional hours in addition to available funding."

"It's not affordable, I pay a lot of my salary towards childcare. The only thing that makes it affordable is the free hours and the money I get back from universal credit. Families without this would really struggle."

"To put 2 children in children in childcare is unaffordable. It is financially not worth going to work to put both children in childcare."

"Because it's expensive. Luckily, we don't need childcare as our children's grandmother doesn't work. But if we did, I'm not sure It would be worth my while going to work."

The Families' Information Service are aware of the sufficiency concerns and there have already been several childminder enquiries where searches have had to be widened to include childminders who would be willing to pick up and drop off outside of their own community; or where day nurseries were offered instead. We continue to be active to attract more childminders.

Findings from the Occupancy Audit and Overview on Childcare Sufficiency in the Greater Eston Area

The Greater Eston Area includes the following council wards:

- Eston
- Grangetown
- Normanby
- Ormesby
- South Bank
- Teesville

The occupancy audit identified that childminders in Greater Eston have capacity to offer additional places for pre-school aged children. The response rate from childminders in this area was 100%. The data shows there were a total of 59 spare pre-school aged places available to children amongst registered childminders, compared to 30 spare places available at the time of the 2023 childcare occupancy audit. A new childminder started in May which takes the number of childminders in the area to 24, and there are still sufficient spare places available for pre-school aged children, presumably still meeting demand.

All of the 10 day nurseries in the area responded to the survey (100% response rate). They have a total of 296 spare pre-school places available which demonstrates there is sufficient childcare places should demand increase.

80% of primary schools/academies responded to the survey in Greater Eston and it is clear that the number of children attending breakfast and after school clubs has decreased from last year to 221 (2024) compared to 279(2023) breakfast club places taken and 91 (2024) compared to 148 (2023) after school club places taken; these decreases could be due to affordability, parents choosing informal childcare or data not received from schools.

In the survey 89% of parents felt that childcare was in the right location to meet their needs. This is an increase from 77% seen in 2023. However, when asked if affordable 75% said it wasn't and 25% said it was.

Parents comments from the survey include:

“My child has SEN needs and currently is in school and grandparents provide childcare. However, I am aware that there is little provision for children like my daughter to access safe care should we ever need it”.

“Affordable means that it’s reasonably not going to affect your lifestyle financially in a big way. My children go to nursery part time, three days a week, it’s near enough £1500 per month. I don’t think this is affordable to the average person’s wage!”

“I work full time my monthly salary being £1400. A full day at private nursery is £65; 5 days 4 weeks equals to £1300. That is not affordable. My child is now in school nursery they charge £6 a day to cover his lunch hour. Why is he not entitled to free school meals I don't know. The school he attends also does not offer breakfast or afterschool club for nursery children, so I'm still spending roughly £300 per month on after school club at the private nursery whilst also now paying lunch fees. Childcare is unaffordable and unrealistic in the Redcar and Cleveland area.”

“It’s difficult to find a childminder who can meet the needs of the children, cover the school you need for pick ups etc and also being affordable”

“Healthcare workers find it more difficult to sustain 12.5 hour shifts”

“Not enough SEN provisions available.”

“Not a lot of variety, such as more nurseries offering better outdoor facilities etc “

“I don’t need the full entitlement grandparent like to help out and I also work part time so like to spend time with my child”

The data demonstrates that childminders and day nurseries/schools in the Greater Eston area still have capacity to accommodate additional demand for all early years’ age groups however the cost, type of provision choice, opening times and location of childcare maybe be a barrier for parents. Some parents are trying to meet their requirements through flexible options which may include a blend of local childcare provisions, informal childcare or seeking childcare outside the area.

The Families’ Information Service has received feedback about potential future unmet need as some providers have waiting lists. To date providers are suggesting that they will be able to meet demand throughout the Autumn term but have concerns for 2025 as staffing levels may prevent them meeting further demand; especially with the development of two housing estates in South Bank which will create additional demand for early years childcare spaces in South Bank and neighbouring wards.

8. Action Plan

Key Actions	Target Delivery Date	Measure of Success	Outcome	Who is responsible
Work with early years providers across all sectors to encourage more flexible supply of childcare places.	Termly	Sufficient childcare places delivered at times to suit those who wish to work or train.	Meet statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient childcare.	Early Years Sufficiency Advisor
Promote Tax Free Childcare and new Early Years Entitlements introduced from April 2024: to ensure all working parents are informed and able to access provisions.	Termly/ September 2025	Number of children accessing all funded childcare for working parents with children aged 9 months to 4 years	More working parents are supported by this childcare initiative to provide more affordable childcare. Childcare setting numbers increase and childcare providers are sustainable. Improved outcomes and transitions into education for the most disadvantaged early years children.	FIS Lead Officer Early Years Sufficiency Advisor Families' Information Service Assistant Families Information Service Team
Closely monitor resignations of childminders across the borough and encourage new childminders to register.	September 2025	Monthly management information available on Childminder turn-over and availability. Increase in registered childminders.	Sufficient childminders across the borough.	FIS Lead Officer Early Years Sufficiency Advisor Families' Information Service Assistant Early Years Quality Team

Key Actions	Target Delivery Date	Measure of Success	Outcome	Who is responsible
Carry out annual Early Years Census of available places for funded children aged from 9 months to 4 years old across the Borough and determine the number of places available.	January 2025	There will be enough childcare places to meet the needs of working families in Redcar and Cleveland.	The local authority will meet its statutory duty to conduct the DfE census and provide sufficient childcare places.	Early Years Sufficiency Advisor
Encourage partnership working between schools and other providers to deliver flexible places for working parents of children accessing Early Years entitlements.	December 2025	Childcare provision is flexible and meets the needs of working parents (not just available term time only).	Increase in affordable childcare for working parents in the Borough.	Early Years Sufficiency Advisor Early Years Quality Team
Carry out a wide-reaching parent survey to inform the Childcare Sufficiency Report in 2025.	April 2025	Parents' views about childcare in Redcar and Cleveland are reflected within the Childcare Sufficiency report and are representative of parents in all the local authority area.	There is sufficient/ the local authority is working towards building sufficient childcare places to meet parent's needs.	Early Years Sufficiency Advisor
Complete Childcare Sufficiency Report update for 2025.	December 2025	CSA report update available on RCBC website and PIN.	Local authority will meet duty to complete annual review of current CS report.	Education Capital Projects and Place Planning Lead FIS Lead Officer/ Early Years Sufficiency Advisor
Work with those childcare providers that are identified by Ofsted as 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate'	As required	Improved Ofsted inspection outcomes.	Improved social, emotional and educational outcomes for children who are ready to start school.	Early Years Quality Team

Key Actions	Target Delivery Date	Measure of Success	Outcome	Who is responsible
Increase information available about childcare provision/short breaks to parents of children with SEND, via the Local Offer website.	April 2025	More detailed information about SEND skills and experience of childcare providers (including childminders) available on the Local Offer website.	Families of children with SEND have access to information to make informed childcare choices.	Commissioning Officer for Children's Services Local Offer Administrator
Support childcare providers to remain sustainable through delivery of bespoke business support and by coordinating their access to the DfE national support contracts.	Quarterly	The Borough has a sustainable supply of childcare to meet the demand of families.	A choice of childcare places is available for parents to work or train.	FIS Lead Officer Early Years Sufficiency Advisor Early Years Lead Professional
Promote Redcar and Cleveland Information Directory (RCID)	Termly	Up to date source of information for residents to access	Increased use	FIS Lead Officer Early Years Sufficiency Advisor Families' Information Service Assistant
Closely monitor the impact of changes to early years funding being introduced in 2024/2025 has on providers.	September 2025	Increased Take up of funding in all settings.	Providers remain sustainable and parents have choice of settings	FIS Lead Officer Early Years Sufficiency Advisor Families' Information Service Assistant

9. Appendix 2 Results of Occupancy Audit Data by Area

REDCAR AREA CHILDCARE PROVISION

Session	Under 2 years		Age 2 years Disadvantaged		Age 2 years Working Families		Age 3-4 years Universal		Age 3-4 years Extended		Age 3-4 years Holiday		Age 5-7 years Holiday		Age 8-11 years Holiday		Age 12-14 years Holiday		Age 15-17 years Holiday (Disabled Only)		TOTALS
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
CHILDMINDERS																					
Available Places	21	22	8	8	13	12	9	8	22	22	20	20	18	18	14	14	2	2	0	0	253
Occupied Places	17	18	4	4	10	9	7	5	19	19	15	15	12	12	11	11	1	1	0	0	190
Spare Places	4	4	4	4	3	3	2	3	3	3	5	5	6	6	3	3	1	1	0	0	63
DAYCARE PROVISION (day nurseries, school 2 year old provisions & pre-school playgroups)																					
Available Places	60	57	65	62	51	53	51	45	70	63	35	36	29	29	14	15	0	0	0	0	735
Occupied Places	33	32	49	45	42	39	23	19	50	48	20	20	13	13	8	9	0	0	0	0	463
Spare Places	27	25	16	17	9	14	28	26	20	15	15	16	16	16	6	6	0	0	0	0	272

SCHOOL PROVISION - CHILDCARE PROVISION (occupied places)			
Breakfast Places 3-4 years	11	After School Places 3-4 years	3
Breakfast Places 5-10 years	87	After School Places 5-10 years	30
Breakfast Places 8-11 years	158	After School Places 8-11 years	47

HOLIDAY PROVISION (across all childcare types)			
Available Places	268	Occupied Places	160
Spare Places		108	

EAST CLEVELAND AREA CHILDCARE PROVISION

Session	Under 2 years		Age 2 years Disadvantaged		Age 2 years Working Families		Age 3-4 years Universal		Age 3-4 years Extended		Age 3-4 years Holiday		Age 5-7 years Holiday		Age 8-11 years Holiday		Age 12-14 years Holiday		Age 15-17 years Holiday (Disabled Only)		TOTALS
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
CHILDMINDERS																					
Available Places	16	15	9	9	29	28	18	17	17	18	8	8	8	8	3	3	1	1	0	0	216
Occupied Places	13	12	3	3	20	19	9	8	10	11	7	7	7	7	3	3	1	1	0	0	144
Spare Places	3	3	6	6	9	9	9	9	7	7	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	72
DAYCARE PROVISION (day nurseries, school 2 year old provisions & pre-school playgroups)																					
Available Places	43	43	28	27	49	51	34	29	65	66	32	32	22	22	12	4	0	0	0	0	559
Occupied Places	37	36	23	21	43	42	27	20	62	62	24	24	14	14	4	4	0	0	0	0	457
Spare Places	6	7	5	6	6	9	7	9	3	4	8	8	8	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	102

SCHOOL PROVISION - CHILDCARE PROVISION (occupied places)			
Breakfast Places 3-4 years	14	After School Places 3-4 years	4
Breakfast Places 5-10 years	105	After School Places 5-10 years	25
Breakfast Places 8-11 years	154	After School Places 8-11 years	52

HOLIDAY PROVISION (across all childcare types)			
Available Places	181	Occupied Places	140
		Spare Places	41

GREATER ESTON CLEVELAND AREA CHILDCARE PROVISION

Session	Under 2 years		Age 2 years Disadvantaged		Age 2 years Working Families		Age 3-4 years Universal		Age 3-4 years Extended		Age 3-4 years Holiday		Age 5-7 years Holiday		Age 8-11 years Holiday		Age 12-14 years Holiday		Age 15-17 years Holiday (Disabled Only)		TOTALS
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
CHILDMINDERS																					
Available Places	21	21	13	11	20	19	11	8	16	16	9	9	7	7	6	6	1	1	0	0	202
Occupied Places	11	11	8	7	14	14	7	3	11	11	5	5	3	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	117
Spare Places	10	10	5	4	6	5	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	1	0	0	85
DAYCARE PROVISION (day nurseries, school 2 year old provisions & pre-school playgroups)																					
Available Places	69	65	86	75	82	74	72	70	72	87	38	38	38	39	24	24	20	20	0	0	993
Occupied Places	50	46	50	42	49	44	42	40	36	57	7	7	15	15	3	3	0	0	0	0	506
Spare Places	19	19	36	33	33	30	30	30	36	30	31	31	23	24	21	21	20	20	0	0	487

SCHOOL PROVISION - CHILDCARE PROVISION (occupied places)			
Breakfast Places 3-4 years	7	After School Places 3-4 years	3
Breakfast Places 5-10 years	93	After School Places 5-10 years	38
Breakfast Places 8-11 years	121	After School Places 8-11 years	50

HOLIDAY PROVISION (across all childcare types)			
Available Places	341	Occupied Places	80
Spare Places		260	