

# London Borough of Barking and Dagenham



## Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)

November 2022

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## 1. OVERALL ASSESSMENT AND SUMMARY



Our council is required by law to 'report annually to elected council members on how they are meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and make this report available and accessible to parents'. We have prepared this report to meet this duty.

Having sufficient childcare means that families can find childcare that meets their child's learning needs and enables parents to make a real choice about work and training. This applies to all children from birth to age 14, and to children with disabilities.

Sufficiency is assessed for different groups, rather than for all children in the local authority. Usually, we would assess sufficiency using data about the potential need for childcare and the amount of childcare available. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are not reporting on demand this year. This report will set out local childcare supply and also outline childcare usage during the pandemic.

We use information regarding childcare sufficiency to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.

To ensure overall childcare sufficiency, we will continue to work on the following:

- Affordability
  - We continue to work with providers to offer sustainable yet affordable childcare. The costs in Barking and Dagenham remain lower than in other areas of London.
- Quality
  - We continue to work with providers to ensure good quality provision and expect that all early years settings get at least a 'good' and ideally an 'outstanding' Ofsted outcome. The quality in Barking and Dagenham has improved and is above London and England in all areas.
- Level of provision
  - Places continue to be available in many areas. Vacancies remain in settings across the borough, but there are now pockets that offer no vacant provision.



## Our plans for childcare

Because of the information above and the data in this report, the local authority will undertake the following:

- Ensuring the delivery of the free entitlement of 15 hours early education for all 3- and 4-year-olds whose parents require it. We will actively promote the universal offer for 3- and 4-year-olds to continue to increase the take up rate.
- Actively promoting the 30 hours of free childcare for eligible families to ensure that as many families as possible take up this offer.

- Maintain our very good take up of the 2-year-old offer, which is now above pre-pandemic levels. We continue to be one of the best performing local authorities in England and have the highest take up of places in London. We will continue to market the 2-year-old programme through a variety of channels.
- Continuing to provide financial support to settings to increase staff ratios as necessary to support individual children with the highest levels of additional needs.
- Providing training, mentoring and inclusion support for childcare providers.
- Maintain a sustainability officer to work with childcare providers to ensure low reliance on council funding and to continue to measure the impact of the pandemic and the recovery of businesses.
- Ensure that all childcare provisions work to a SMART business plan which is submitted to the local authority.
- Work closely with potential providers to ensure they have done adequate market research and understand the costs of opening a childcare provision.
- Undertake continuous monitoring of quality via Ofsted inspection ratings and Advisory Teacher support to ensure that all settings in the borough are aiming for consistently good provision.
- Maintain a training programme for good providers to work towards becoming outstanding.
- Work closely with Ofsted to close provision that fails to meet statutory welfare requirements.
- Work towards the overarching objective in the Education Strategy that every child attends a good or outstanding early years setting to give every child the best start in life.
- Provide continuous delivery of common core training to raise quality standards.
- Deliver regular in-house training on the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Provide curriculum support for settings and childminders by Advisory Teachers.

## 2. DEMAND FOR CHILDCARE



### Population of early years children

In total, there are 17,251 children under the age of five living in our local authority. These children may require early years childcare.

*Numbers by age*

Age	Number of children
Age 0	3,156
Age 1	3,427
Age 2	3,387
Age 3	3,617
Age 4*	3,664

*\* Some four-year-olds will have started reception*

## Population of school age children

In total there are 25,645 children aged 5-11, and 10,918 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

### *Numbers by age*

Age	Number of children
Age 5	3,700
Age 6	3,527
Age 7	3,592
Age 8	3,734
Age 9	3,778
Age 10	3,714
Age 11	3,600
Age 12	3,689
Age 13	3,639
Age 14	3590

## Number of children with special educational needs and disabilities

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). The number of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in our local authority is:

Age	Number of children
Birth to school age	1
Primary school (reception to year six)	677
Secondary school (year seven to thirteen)	968

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 a childcare setting or school. It can take some time from needs being identified to a formalised statutory assessment taking place, which is why there is only one agreed EHC plan for the birth to school age category. In addition to this, 96 children are going through assessment for an EHC plan.

In order for an EHCP to be agreed, two specific criteria must be met:

- Whether the child or young person has or may have special educational needs; and
- Whether they may need special educational provision to be made through an EHCP.

Sometimes with very young children, it is difficult to predict what special educational provision they may need in the future. This is why the numbers of EHCPs in the early years is low.

To support settings to manage young children with a range of complex needs, financial support is provided by way of early years SEND top up funding. This money enables settings to provide additional staff or resources to support individual children. Settings are also able to apply for a one off payment to purchase specialist equipment for children meeting set criteria (Disability Living Allowance). This means there is minimal impact on childcare sufficiency. However, the number of children supported in settings has increased significantly over the last year and some settings are unable to care for additional children with SEND due to staffing pressures.





### 3. SUPPLY OF CHILDCARE



#### Number of early years providers and places

In total, there are 193 childcare providers in our local authority, offering a maximum of 5,435 early years childcare places:

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Number of registered places</i>
Childminders*	90	181
Nursery classes in schools	39	2,844
Maintained nursery schools	0	0
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	64	2,410

*The data in this table was correct on 18 November 2022*

\* Some childminder places may also be available for older children.

For private, voluntary and independent nurseries and childminders, the number of registered places represents the maximum number of children who can be on the premises at any given time. In practice, many providers choose to operate below their number of registered places particularly at present, where providers have real difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff. This is a national issue but support has been provided locally in the way of a recruitment fair to try to support providers.

Children may attend childcare full time or part time. This table records places for children who are attending full time, or for as many hours as the setting is open. In some cases, two or more children attending part time may use one full time equivalent place. For example, one child may attend in the morning and one child may attend in the afternoon.

### Early years atypical hours

Childcare is most commonly delivered during the typical working day – between 8am and 6pm on weekdays. Some parents require childcare outside these times to fit with their work or other responsibilities.

The number of providers offering childcare for atypical hours in our local authority is:

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Available before 8am weekdays</i>	<i>Available after 6pm weekdays</i>	<i>Available weekends<sup>1</sup></i>
Childminders	90	16	26	0
Nursery classes in schools	39	0	0	0
Maintained nursery schools	0	0	0	0
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	64	22	17	0

### Number of school age providers and places

In total, there are 28 providers of childcare for school age children during term time, and 15 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. There are also 35 childminders who may provide care for school age children.

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of registered places
Breakfast club	26	263
After-school club	28	348
Childminders*	35	75
Holiday club	15	153

<sup>1</sup> This includes availability at any time during the weekend, not necessarily for the whole weekend.

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.

The Holiday and Food (HAF) programme has continued to support holiday provision for the most vulnerable families, while also offering childcare for working parents over the holiday periods. The provision is flexible providing a range of start times and hours across each day. During the HAF summer programme, we were able to deliver 79 paid for spaces in addition to x spaces for vulnerable children.

193 early education providers offering max 5,435 early years childcare places





No early years childcare providers offer their services at the weekend

28 childcare providers for school age children during term time and 15 providers during the holidays



## 4. FUNDED EARLY EDUCATION



### Introduction to 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<sup>2</sup>
- Children aged 2 whose families receive certain benefits (incoming low income in receipt of in-work benefits), or those who meet additional non-economic criteria, are entitled to 15 hours per week. Nationally, about 40% of 2-year-olds are entitled to this offer, but the proportion varies by areas.

<sup>2</sup> Available to families where each parent (or one parent in a single adult household) are earning the equivalent of working sixteen hours per week on the minimum wage

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.

### **Proportion of 2-year-old children entitled to funded early education**

- In our local authority, 41% of 2-year-olds are entitled to funded early education. This equates to around 1,400 children per year in 2022.

### **Take up of funded early education**

The proportion of eligible children taking up their funded place (for at least some of the available hours) in our local authority is:

Age	% of eligible children
Age 2	92%
Age 3 and 4	87%

*The data in this table is based on Department for Education data in January 2022 and September 2022.*

### **3 and 4-year-old funded entitlement applications**

Parents who think they are 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.

<i>Step</i>	<i>Number of families</i>	<i>% of families applying</i>
Eligible for a place	1,600	N/A
Accessing a place	967	60%

The data in this table is based on Department for Education data in July 2018 and local data dated November 2022.

### **Providers offering funded early education places**

Providers are paid directly by government via the local authority for delivering funded early education. They are not required to offer places to parents, but of course parents may choose to use a different provider if they do not. Some providers offer a restricted number of funded places.

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Age 2 targeted</i>	<i>Age 3 and 4 universal 15 hours</i>	<i>Age 3 and 4 – extended 30 hours</i>
Childminders	48	2%	1%	3%
Nursery classes in schools	39	0%	49%	22%
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	64	98%	50%	75%

### **Comparing take up of funded early education over time**

<i>Age</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2020</i>
Age 2 – targeted	92%	81%	84%
Age 3 and 4	87%	84%	87%

## Comparisons to other local areas

Age	LBBB	London	England
Age 2 – targeted	92%	62%	72%
Age 3 and 4	87%	86%	92%



41%

of 2-year-olds are entitled to funded early education



92%

of eligible 2-year-olds take up early funded education



87%

87% of eligible 3-4-year-olds take up early funded education

## 5. COST



### Cost of early years childcare

For early years childcare outside the funded entitlements, we report on average prices per week, reported to us by settings.<sup>3</sup> 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 extra services, e.g. lunch and other meals which are not included in these prices.

Prices in Barking and Dagenham have fallen for the first time in many years for group settings but have risen significantly in childminder settings. However, costs continue to be lower than those in other London areas for group settings but are significantly above London and England prices for childminders. Our childcare costs are now above England averages for most types of childcare.



<sup>3</sup> Details of how we collect this data are in the methodology section below

Price per week	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	School and maintained nursery schools which make charges to parents	Childminders
0 and 1-year olds	£252.34	N/A	£347.52
2-year-olds	£258.31	N/A	£353.01
3- and 4-year-olds	£254.84	N/A	£353.01

### Prices of school age childcare

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

Setting and price unit	Price
Breakfast club per week	£20.10
After-school club per week	£65.43
School age childminder week	£101.53
Holiday club per week	£136.99

## Comparing childcare prices per week with other areas

Setting and price unit	LBBB	Outer London	England
Private, Voluntary and Independent nurseries 0-1 years	£252.34	£303.04	£273.57
Private, Voluntary and Independent nurseries 2 years	£258.31	£308.79	£265.38
Private, Voluntary and Independent nurseries 3-4 years	£254.84	£ not available	£ not available
Childminders 0-1 years	£347.52	£294.27	£237.58
Childminders 2 years	£353.01	£291.90	£236.01
Childminders 3-4 years	£353.01	£ not available	£ not available

Setting and price unit	LBBB	Outer London	England
Breakfast club per week	£20.10	£ not available	£ not available
After-school club per week	£65.43	£72.28	£66.75
School age childminder per week	£101.53	£92.85	£71.21
Holiday club per week	£136.99	£ not available	£ not available

## 6. QUALITY OF CHILDCARE IN OUR AREA



### Ofsted inspection grades

All early years 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, which is part of the early years effectiveness grade within a whole school inspection.

Both schools and early years providers have four possible Ofsted grades: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement', and 'inadequate'.<sup>4</sup> Some providers are still awaiting their first full inspection. These providers are not included in our calculation.

<sup>4</sup> For more information see <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/about-our-inspection-reports>

### Safeguarding

The Early Years Service carries out regular safeguarding checks in all settings. This is to assure us that settings are compliant and meet the statutory welfare requirements as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory guidance. This includes level 3 training for all designated safeguarding leads and update training for all other staff every 2 years. Each setting, when inspected will receive a judgement on safeguarding. This will either be 'safeguarding is effective' or 'safeguarding is ineffective'.

If safeguarding is ineffective, then the overall Ofsted judgement would be inadequate. We have no settings with this grade. In all settings currently with an inspection judgement safeguarding is effective.

Settings work closely with social care when vulnerable children are accessing childcare.

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Total number of providers</i>	<i>% achieving good or outstanding</i>
Childminders	90	100%
Nursery classes in schools *	39	100%
Private and voluntary nurseries	64	97%

\* this is part of the overall EYFS grade for the school

### Comparing inspection grades

<i>% of providers 'good' or 'outstanding'</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2020</i>
Childminders	100%	100%	100%
Nursery classes in schools	100%	92%	97%
Private and voluntary nurseries	97%	98%	98%

## Comparisons to other areas

% of providers 'good' or 'outstanding'	LBBB	London	England
Childminders	100%	95%	96%
Nursery classes in schools	100%	93%	86%
Private and voluntary nurseries	97%	95%	97%



## 7. COVID-19 RECOVERY

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, many early years providers remained open and we continued to monitor take up. However, attendance has more or less reverted to pre-pandemic levels and we have shifted our support emphasis to Covid recovery.

In line with the Department for Education (DfE) recovery priorities, we are participating in the following programmes:

- Experts and Mentors Programme that offers support to settings to strengthen teaching in early years settings.
- Data driven inclusion and transitions workshops with an emphasis on developing action learning sets to support transitions for children with SEND.
- Participation in the Early Years Professional Development Programme that will offer training for practitioners working in the early years with a focus on improving outcomes on school readiness, early language, mathematics, and Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED).

## 8. METHODOLOGY

- Number of children: based on GLA population projections from the London Data Store Children with EHC plans: based on data held by our local authority
- Supply of childcare: based on data provided to us by Ofsted, who regulate early years provision in schools and childcare provision. [In some cases, we have supplemented this with local intelligence where providers are not registered with Ofsted]
- Childcare for parents working atypical hours: based on information collected on a termly basis by us
- Funded early education: data on take up of funded early education entitlements is based on the Early Years and Schools Censuses, which are taken every January and published by the Department for Education in the statistical collection *Education provision: children under five years of age*. Data on entitlement to a funded early education place for 2-year-olds is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions. Price of childcare: based on information collected on a termly basis by us.
- Quality of childcare: data on childcare quality is provided by Ofsted.
- Data from providers: based on information collected on a termly basis by us.