

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)

November 2025

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1. OVERALL ASSESSMENT AND SUMMARY

Barking and Dagenham Council are required by law to report annually to elected council members on how we are meeting our duty to secure sufficient childcare. This report is prepared to fulfil our statutory obligations under sections 6 and 7 of The [Childcare Act](#) 2006, and is made available and accessible to parents as required.

Section 6 of The Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 to 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). Section 7 requires local authorities to ensure free early years provision for eligible children.

In Barking and Dagenham we are committed to giving children the [best start in life](#). Having sufficient childcare means that families can find childcare and early education places that meets their child's learning needs. Ensuring there is sufficient, high quality, affordable childcare 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.

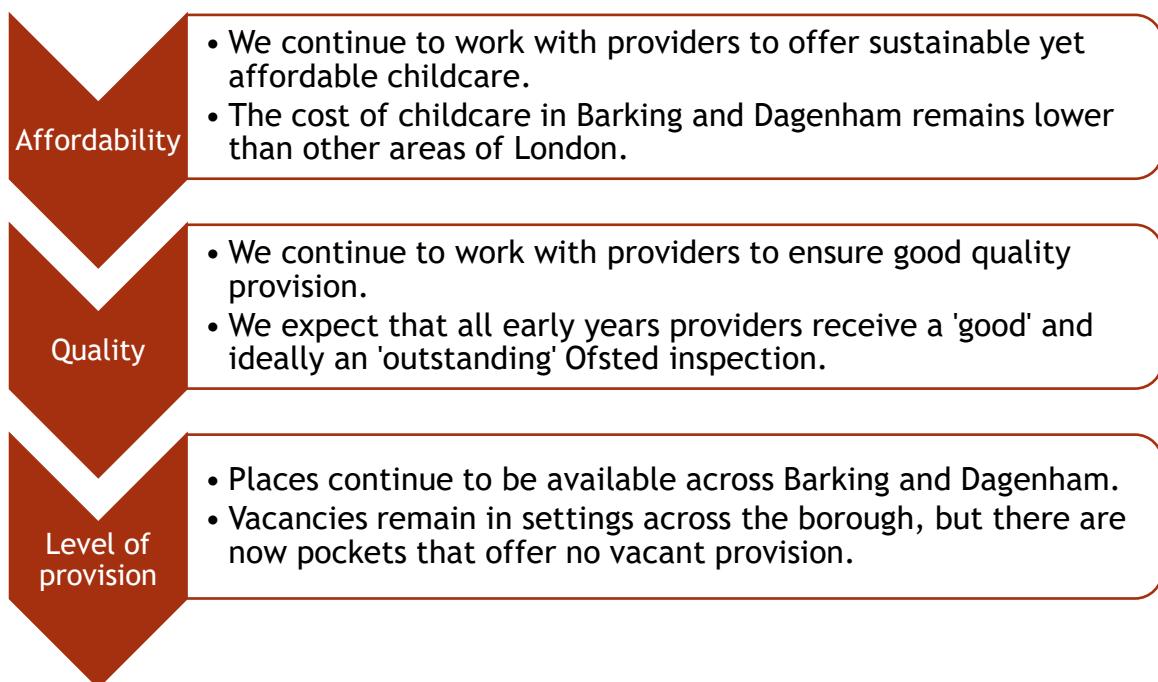
We use information regarding childcare sufficiency to plan our work supporting the local childcare economy.

Over the past year, the Council has worked in partnership with childcare providers, schools, and community organisations to:

- Support the expansion of childcare places where demand exceeds supply
- Promote the take-up of free early education entitlements for 2-3-and-4-year-olds
- Provide targeted support for families
- Monitor and improve the quality of childcare provision.



Each year, Barking and Dagenham conducts a comprehensive assessment of the availability, quality, and affordability of childcare across the borough. This includes an analysis of:



1.2 OUR PLANS FOR CHILDCARE

Due to the information above and the data highlighted in this report, Barking and Dagenham are committed to 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.
- Supporting the introduction of the increased early year entitlement offer for eligible parent/carers by extending our 30 hours free childcare offer from the point their child is 9 months old continuously through their early years to the start of school – removing the barriers to work.
- 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 vulnerable 2-year-old offer. 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 vulnerable 2-year-old offer 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 undertaken 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 welfare 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.



1.3 BEST START IN LIFE

The [Best Start in Life](#) programme is designed to ensure that every child receives high-quality early years education and care, with a focus on partnership working and continuous improvement. The approach centres on supporting providers to achieve strong Ofsted outcomes, delivering the universal and extended free early education entitlements, and actively promoting take up among eligible families. Additionally, the initiative champions wraparound childcare, specialist support for children with additional needs, and the ongoing expansion of services, all aimed at removing barriers to participation and supporting families across the borough. The Best Start in Life initiative replaces "Childcare Choices."

1.4 EARLY YEARS FUNDING - EXTENSION TO ENTITLEMENT

Early Education entitlement and funding

In April 2024, the expanded childcare offer went live. Eligible working parents could claim 15 hours of free childcare per week for 38 weeks of the year from the term after their child turns 9 months old. This was extended to 30 hours for working parents of 9 month to 3-year-olds in September 2025. Like the universal offer, depending on the provider, these hours can be used over 38 weeks of the year (during school term time), or up to 52 weeks if fewer hours are used in the total hours per week. To access the programme, parent/carers must apply for a code which is then validated by the provider. Once validated the entitlement can then be accessed.

Code validation rates in Barking and Dagenham

Age range (term after)	Code issued	Codes validated	Validation rate
9 months	415	347	84%
2 year-olds	823	742	90%
3 & 4-year-olds	1123	1033	92%

Data as of September 2025

In order to facilitate the planned expansion, LBBD was advised that a requirement of 283 additional childcare places would need to be met. Through strategic planning and utilisation of capital funding made available for this purpose, LBBD succeeded in creating 318 new childcare places. This achievement not only meets but exceeds the initial requirement, ensuring that local families have access to provision of high-quality childcare to support the ongoing programme.

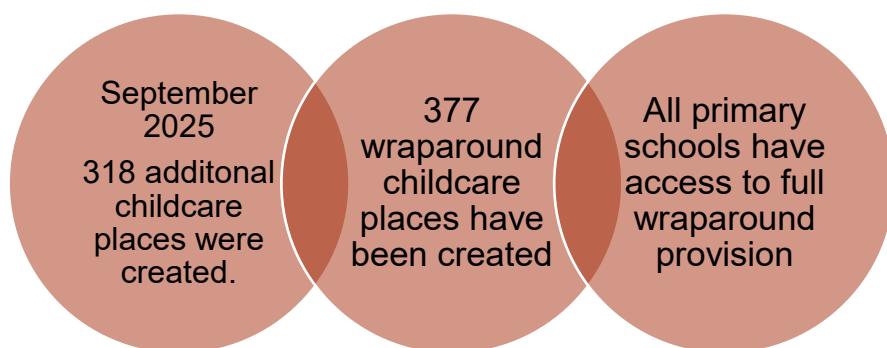
Wraparound Programme

The government has committed an investment of £289 million over two academic years to deliver the new [Wraparound Programme](#) initiative. The programme was launched in September 2024. The borough's Wraparound Co-ordinator was employed to lead on the programme. Following a strategic mapping exercise, the Wraparound Co-ordinator identified schools where place expansion or creation was required. Working closely with local schools and childcare providers, the Co-ordinator prioritised areas with no current provision and ensured that the development of wraparound services matched the needs of working families. This collaborative approach has enabled the establishment of new breakfast and after school clubs, ensuring more children have access to quality out-of-hours provision.

The National Wraparound Programme has made significant progress within LBBD, resulting in the creation and extension of 24 breakfast and after school provision. To date, a total of 377 wraparound places has been created across LBBD, with ambitions to develop a further 150 places by the end of the programme. This term alone has seen the launch of two full wraparound provisions alongside the establishment of a new after school club and breakfast club, further enhancing the range of support available to families.

All primary schools in LBBD now benefit from wraparound provisions supported by the national programme. For schools without a full on-site provision, staff are aware of local PVI providers who can collect children from their school, ensuring families are signposted to appropriate care options. These developments reflect LBBD's ongoing commitment to improving access to high-quality out-of-hours childcare for families across the borough.

The government grant funding to support the programme will end in March 2026. The focus of the programme from now until the funding end date is to support sustainability. The programme expects that all provision will become self-sustaining through parental demand. The Wraparound Co-ordinator is working closely with providers to increase their marketing campaigns and consultations.



Breakfast Clubs: Early Adopter Scheme

As part of the government's commitment for new free breakfast clubs in all primary schools, the DfE worked with 750 early adopter schools nationally from summer term 2025, to test and learn how best to implement the new breakfast clubs ahead of national rollout.

These breakfast clubs are designed to break down barriers to opportunity, as well as tackle the impact of child poverty. Free universal breakfast clubs give children a supportive start to the school day, ensuring they are ready to learn and make the most of the opportunity's schools offer.

In Barking and Dagenham 5 schools were chosen to be part of this pilot:

- John Perry Primary School
- Robert Clack School
- Richard Alibon Primary School
- Monteagle Primary School
- William Ford CofE Junior School

Early adopter schools are working with the DfE to shape the programme, to identify any barriers or challenges faced and to understand parental demand.

In October 2025, the government has announced extending the Early Adopter Scheme providing a further £80m for 2000 schools to be selected. This new cohort to the scheme would start in April 2026. The schools would be chosen on a selection basis as before.

The national wraparound childcare programme continues to run alongside our early adopter scheme for breakfast clubs. The borough's Wraparound Co-ordinator has been working closely with provision within Early Adopter schools to ensure continuity of provision.

Mapping – before and after school places per population aged 5 to 11

Location of childcare provision in Barking & Dagenham

SCHOOL LIST

- 1 Beam County Primary School
- 2 Becontree Primary School
- 3 Dorothy Barley Infant School
- 4 Dorothy Barley Academy (JUNIOR)
- 5 Eastbrook School
- 6 Eastbury Community School
- 7 Eastbury Primary School
- 8 Five Elms Primary School
- 9 Firs Infant School
- 10 Gascoigne Primary School
- 11 George Cawthron Church Of England Primary School
- 12 Godwin Primary School
- 13 Goresbrook School
- 14 Grafton Primary School
- 15 Greatfields Primary School
- 16 Henry Green Primary School
- 17 Hunters Hall Primary School
- 18 John Perry Primary School
- 19 Manor Infants School (Sandringham Road)
- 20 Manor Junior School (Sandringham Road)
- 21 Manor Primary Longbridge School
- 22 Marsh Green Primary School
- 23 Montegiac Primary School
- 24 Northbury Primary School
- 25 Parsloes Primary School
- 26 Richard Alibon Primary School
- 27 Ripple Primary School (Suffolk Road)
- 28 Ripple Primary School (Westbury Site)
- 29 Riverside Primary School
- 30 Robert Clack School (Primary - Lymington Fields)
- 31 Roding Primary School (Hewett Road)
- 32 Roding Primary School (Cannington Road)
- 33 Rose Lane Primary School
- 34 Rush Green Primary School
- 35 Southwood Primary School
- 36 St Joseph Catholic Primary School (Barking)
- 37 St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Dagenham)
- 38 St Margaret's Church of England Primary School
- 39 St Peter's Catholic Primary School
- 40 St Vincent's Catholic Primary School
- 41 Thames View Primary School
- 42 Thames View Junior School
- 43 James Combell Primary School
- 44 Ley's Primary School
- 45 St Teresa Catholic Primary School
- 46 The Sydney Russell School
- 47 Thomas Arnold Primary School
- 48 Valence Primary School (St George's Road)
- 49 Valence Primary School (Bonham Road)
- 50 Village Infant School
- 51 Warren Junior School
- 52 William Bellamy Primary School
- 53 William Ford Church Of England Junior School



Barking & Dagenham Insight & Innovation team (October 2025)

The map above indicates before and after school places available per population aged 5 - 11 within the borough. To support the government's Wraparound Programme and the ambition for all parents of primary school children to access childcare in their local area, the above maps and local data were used to highlight our targeted areas.

The borough's Wraparound Co-ordinator has been working closely with schools across the borough, particularly targeting schools within the Chadwell Heath, Parsloes and Heath wards to support the creation of new places or the expansion of places within current provision. Capital funding was made available and was banded into levels of need. Wards with higher demand and low supply received the higher rate of funding available.

2. DEMAND FOR CHILDCARE

2.1 POPULATION OF EARLY YEARS CHILDREN

In total there are 18,053 early years children living within Barking and Dagenham.

Age	Number of children
Age 0	3,514
Age 1	3,587
Age 2	3,729
Age 3	3,486
Age 4*	3,737

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

2.2 POPULATION OF SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

In total there are 26,018 children aged 5-11, and 11,024 children aged 12-14 living in our local authority. These children may require childcare before and after school, and/or during the school holidays.

Age	Number of children
Age 5	3,697
Age 6	3,715
Age 7	3,829
Age 8	3,755
Age 9	3,705
Age 10	3,531
Age 11	3,786
Age 12	3,675
Age 13	3,748
Age 14	3,601

2.3 EARLY YEARS WARD DATA - AGES 0-4

Ward	Number of children		
Abbey	407	Goresbrook	931
Alibon	666	Heath	644
Barking Riverside	1,102	Longbridge	871
Beam	578	Mayesbrook	1,249
Becontree	690	Northbury	1,124
Chadwell Heath	1,106	Parsloes	1,037
Eastbrook & Rush Green	565	Thames View	431
Eastbury	1,124	Valence	1,072

Gascoigne	1,170	Village	981
Whalebone	1,227		

2.4 NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18, whereas for children without a special need or disability, this support is available up to the age of 14. This ensures that families with SEND children can access appropriate childcare provision for a longer period, reflecting the additional support requirements these families may face.

The number of children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in our local authority is 3221 -

Age	Number of children
Birth to school age	3
Primary school (reception to year six)	1,237
Secondary school (year seven to thirteen)	1,263

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 two agreed EHC plans for the birth to school age category. In addition to the above, 342 children are going through assessment for an EHC plan.

Breakdown of children going through assessment

Birth to school age	41
Reception to Year 6	250
Year 7 to Year 13	48
Year 14 +	3

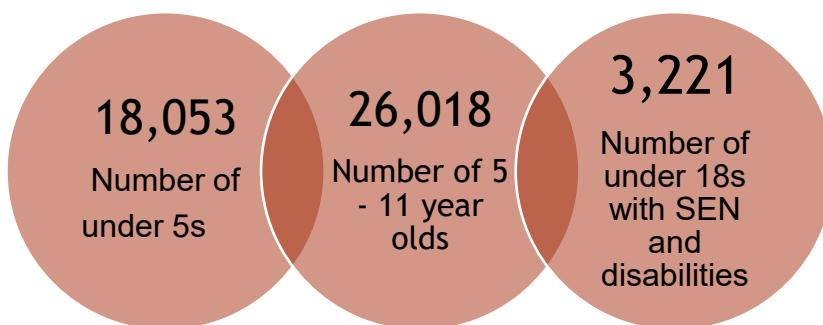
In order for an EHCP to be agreed, two specific criteria must be met:

- 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. Barking and Dagenham are currently providing SEND top up funding for 118 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 above the last year's figures 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 184 childcare providers in our local authority, offering a maximum of 6,248 early years childcare places.

Type of provision	Number of providers	Number of registered places
Childminders*	73	273
Nursery classes in schools	43	1,562
Maintained nursery schools	0	0
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	68	4,489

The data in this table was correct of September 2025



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.

In January 2024 the DfE launched a limited pilot to help deliver the childcare expansion at pace and test whether financial incentives in EY would help boost recruitment in a similar way that it has for school teachers. The scheme enabled settings to offer £1000 payments to recruit eligible new and returning staff.

This scheme was part of the DfE "[Do Something Big](#)" campaign. The initiative aim was to recruit more people, especially men, into the early years and childcare sector, highlighting the rewarding nature of working with young children and the significant impact early years professionals have on a child's future. The campaign used TV, online platforms, and billboards to promote early years careers.

Children may attend childcare full time or part time. The table above 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.

3.1 EARLY YEARS ATYPICAL HOURS

Childcare usually operates on weekdays from 8am to 6pm, but some parents need care outside these hours for work or other commitments. This can create difficulties for families with non-traditional work schedules, shift work, or unexpected obligations. To address these challenges, some childcare providers offer extended hours or flexible arrangements.

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 weekends¹</i>
Childminders	73	38	18	0
Nursery classes in schools	43	0	0	0
Maintained nursery schools	0	0	0	0
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	68	20	10	0

3.2 NUMBER OF SCHOOL AGED PROVIDERS AND PLACES

In total, there are 31 providers of full childcare for school age children during term time, and 5 providers of childcare for school age children during the holidays. There are also 73 childminders who may provide care for school age children.

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Number of registered places</i>
Breakfast club	31	639
After-school club	33	857
Childminders	73	273
Holiday club	5	153

This includes availability at any time during the weekend, not necessarily for the whole weekend.

Accurately monitoring the availability of childcare for school-aged children presents challenges, as not all providers are required to register with Ofsted. This means that some local provision may not be captured in official figures, leading to an underestimation of the true supply. Additionally, many families make use of arrangements that fall outside the formal definition of 'childcare', including on-site school clubs or informal holiday schemes.

3.3 FREE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme is free to children and young people who live or go to school in Barking and Dagenham and are eligible for free school meals, with paid places available for everyone.

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 2025 programme, the programme delivered 552 paid for spaces in addition to 119 spaces for vulnerable children and 249 SEND spaces. In total 920 paid for places were delivered.

	Primary-aged	Secondary-aged
FSM-eligible / SEND - in universal settings	157	22
FSM-eligible / SEND - in SEND Specialist provision	26	10
Non-FSM-eligible / SEND - in universal provisions	23	6
Non-FSM-eligible / SEND - in SEND Specialist provision	2	3
Other wise vulnerable	103	16
Other – paid-for	502	50

Case Studies

Your Sport

Promoting Inclusion, Confidence, and New Skills through HAF Activities

At Robert Clack Leisure Centre, our HAF programme featured a fully inclusive wheelchair basketball session led by a Paralympian. This unique experience enabled all children, regardless of ability, to participate equally. For many, it was their first time trying wheelchair basketball. The session encouraged teamwork, empathy, and problem-solving, as children adapted, supported one another, and embraced friendly competition. Staff noted increased confidence and cooperation, with children more willing to try new activities. Parents shared that their children spoke enthusiastically about the session and gained a deeper understanding of inclusion and adaptive sports.

Another highlight was a cycling workshop led by a World Champion BMX rider. Many children had never ridden a bike and were initially hesitant. With patient guidance and encouragement, they learned basic skills and were inspired by advanced tricks. Children showed resilience and celebrated each success. By the end, most could ride confidently and were motivated to continue. The session also fostered teamwork, with participants cheering each other on. These activities demonstrate how HAF provision can promote inclusion, build self-esteem, and inspire children to embrace new experiences.

ARTBASH

Keira's Journey from Participant to Aspiring Teacher

Keira joined ARTBASH during the summer HAF in 2021 while completing her final year at Barking and Dagenham College. Despite facing educational challenges, a chronic health condition, and mild additional needs, she found a supportive environment that transformed her self-perception. Through hands-on experience working with children, Keira gained confidence and discovered a passion for teaching—something she hadn't previously considered. Encouraged by the team and positive feedback from parents, she is now pursuing teacher training. Her calm, nurturing approach especially benefits shy or hesitant children, showing the lasting impact of inclusive creative programmes.

Inspiring a Parent's Creative Career Ambitions

A parent whose child regularly attends ARTBASH Camps credits the programme with inspiring her own career transformation. Exposure to creative industries through her child's HAF participation opened her eyes to new possibilities. She is now actively seeking a film course, something she hadn't considered before. Without ARTBASH, she says she wouldn't have realised that creative careers were accessible to her. This case highlights ARTBASH's broader community impact—empowering not just children, but parents too.

Fostering Inclusion and Collaboration – Girl, Age 14 (Autism/ADHD) Carter Co Productions

A 14-year-old participant with autism and ADHD demonstrated strong communication and creativity throughout the programme. She approached each activity with maturity and enthusiasm, excelling in both solo and group work. Her inclusive nature stood out—she consistently supported quieter peers and fostered a collaborative atmosphere. In group photography projects, she often took on a leadership role, encouraging contributions and offering constructive feedback. By the end of the week, her confidence had grown, and she expressed a desire to use her skills to support others in future creative projects.



4 FUNDING EARLY EDUCATION



4.1 INTRODUCTION TO FUNDED EARLY EDUCATION

Local authorities are required to secure fully funded places delivered over no fewer than 38 weeks a year, and up to 52 weeks of the year, for every eligible child in their area, until they reach compulsory school age (the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday).

Eligibility depends on a child's age and whether they meet certain funding criteria:

Funding	Offer	Criteria
Two-year-old funding - Some eligible two-year-olds	15 hours a week x 38 weeks a year. 570 hours a year until they start reception class in school.	For families who are on low income or are in receipt of income-based benefits
Three and four-year-old funding – All three- and four-year-olds	5 hours a week x 38 weeks a year. 570 hours a year until they start reception class in school. ²	Universal entitlement, no financial criteria to be met
30 hours funding – Eligible children from 9 months to four-year-olds	Extended Entitlement. 30 hours a week x 38 weeks a year. 1,140 hours a year	For working families resident where both parents are working, or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family

² 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

Special criteria will apply to children known to Social Care or Portage based on the following information.

- A 2-year-old child who is looked after by the local authority
- A 2-year-old child who receives Disability Living Allowance
- A 2-year-old child who has left care through special guardianship or residence order
- A 2-year-old who is supported by Social Care or Portage and Inclusion.

Parents do not have to use all the hours of their funded entitlement and 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.

Additional support with childcare costs		
Tax-free childcare	For families with children under 12 or under 17 if they have a child or young person with SEND.	Covers 20% of childcare costs up to £2000 per child per year or £4000 if they have a child or young person with SEND.
Universal credit	Children under 16 years	Universal Credit claimants can claim back up to 85% of their childcare costs.

4.2 PROPORTION OF VULNERABLE 2-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN ENTITLED TO FUNDING EARLY EDUCATION

In Barking and Dagenham, 23% of 2-year-olds are entitled to funded early education. This equates to around 863 children per year. When the programme started, 40% of 2-year-olds were entitled to this funding.

Take up of funding 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	85%
Age 3 and 4	93%

The data in this table is based on Department for Education data in August 2025

4.3 3 EXTENDED FUNDING 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.

Step	Number of families
Eligible for a place	N/A
9 months – 2 year-olds	485
2 year-olds	744
3 and 4-year-olds	995



4.4 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. This arrangement gives parents the flexibility to select childcare that best suits their needs, though it may mean that availability of funded places can vary between settings. As a result, families are encouraged to explore multiple options to secure their preferred provision and to utilise their funding once it becomes available.

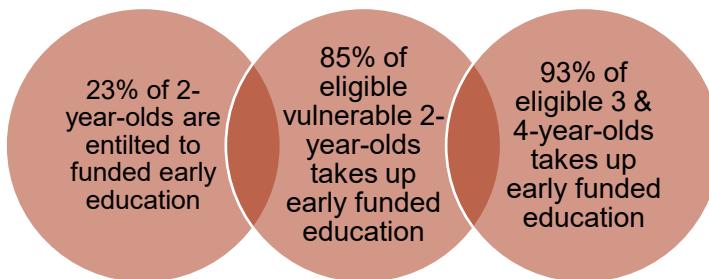
Type of provision	Number of providers	Age 2 targeted	Age 3 and 4 universal 15 hours	Age 3 and 4 – extended 30 hours
Childminders	44	2%	1%	3%
Nursery classes in schools	43	0%	49%	22%
Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	68	98%	50%	75%

Comparing take up over time

Age	2025	2024	2023
Age 2 – targeted	85%	88%	90%
Age 3 and 4	93%	94%	91%

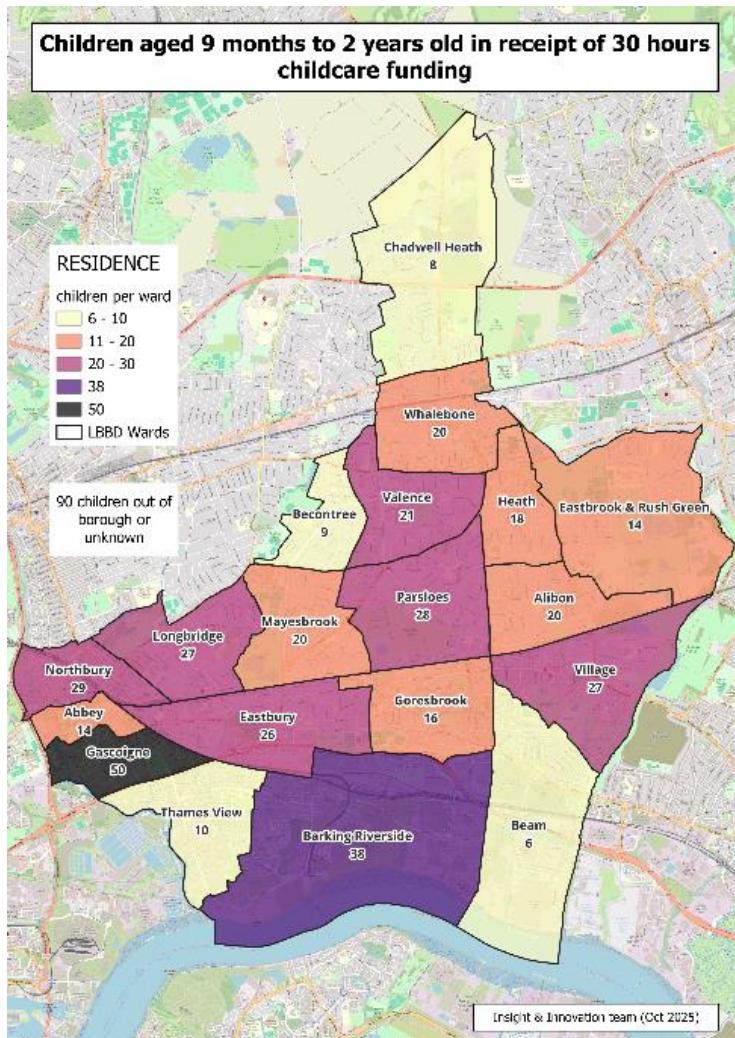
Comparison to other local areas

Age	LBB&D	London	England
Age 2 – targeted	85%	60%	65%
Age 3 and 4	93%	84%	94%



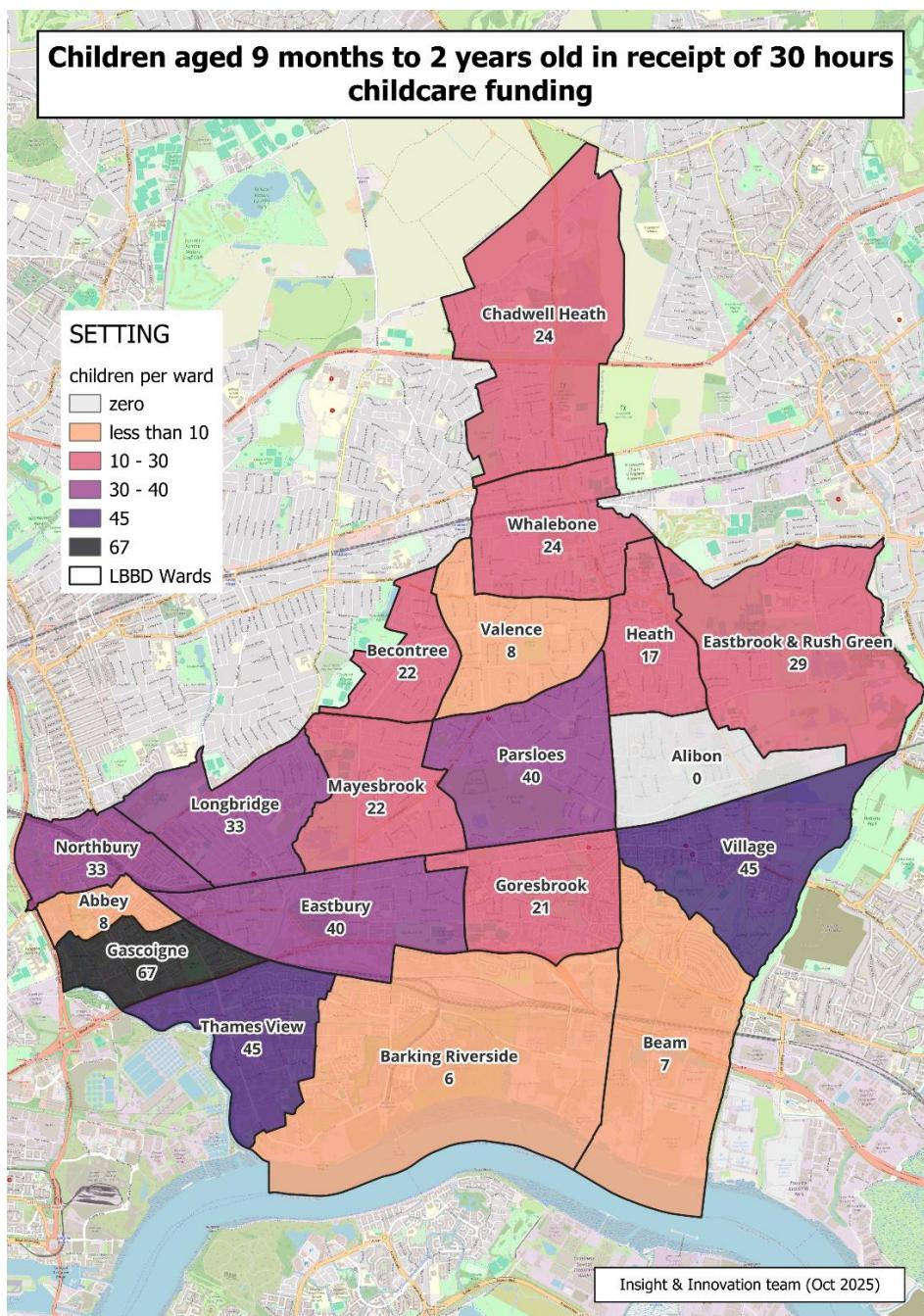
4.5 MAPPING

Extended entitlement – 9 month – 2-year-olds

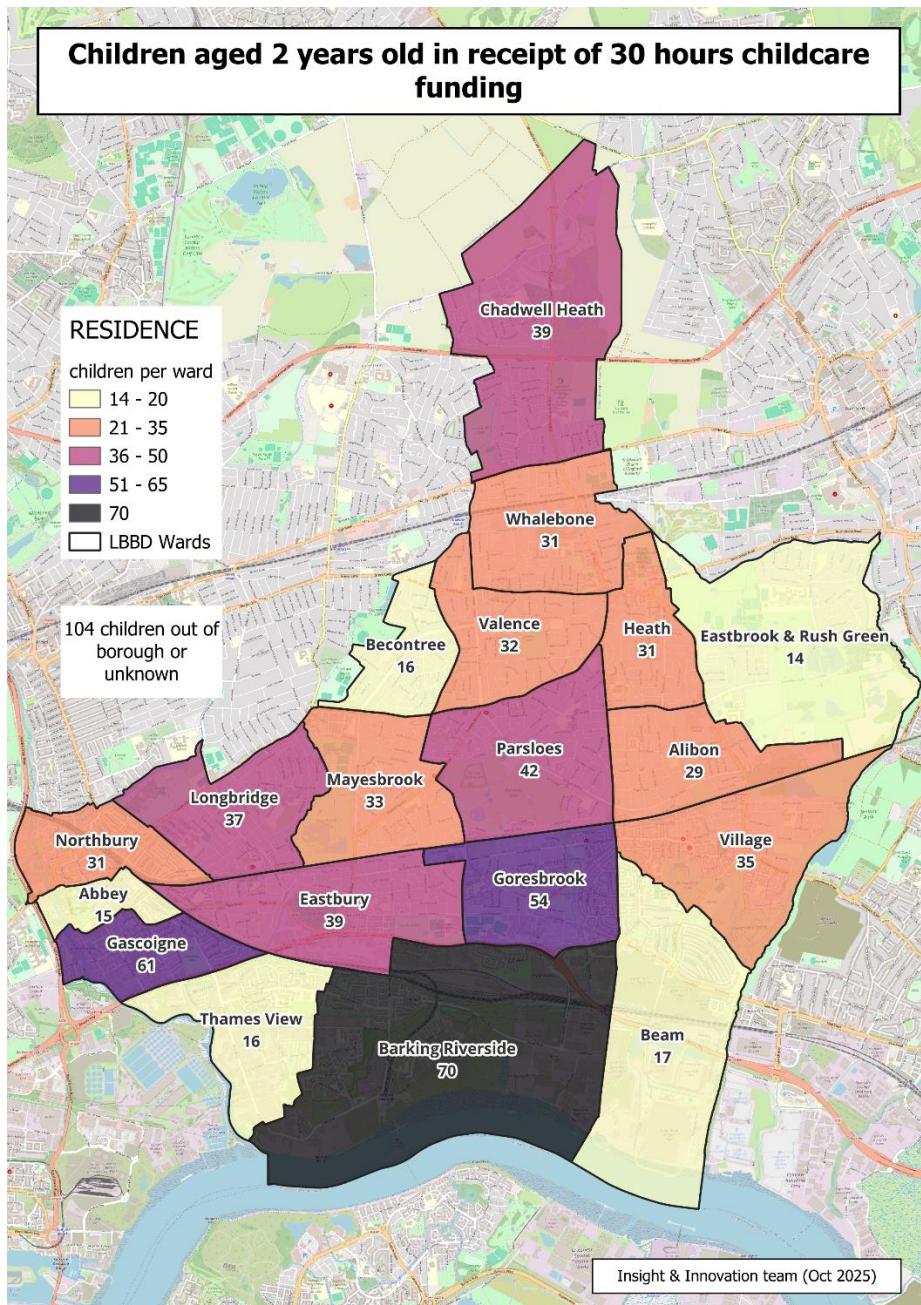


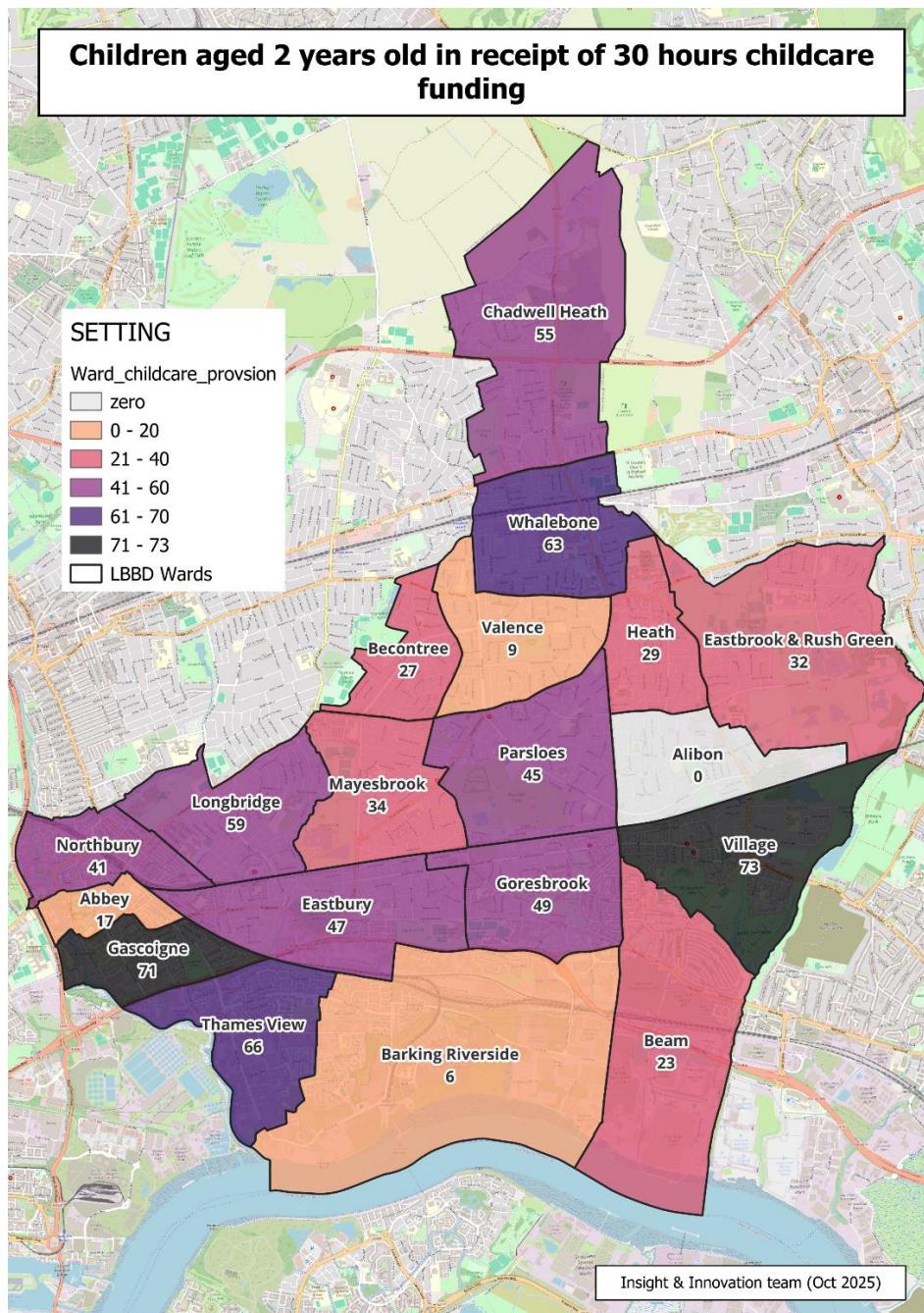
The above map indicates where eligible families of the extended entitlement for children aged 9 month – 2-years-old reside.

The below map indicates take up of entitlement via a setting. The data suggests that, while eligibility is greater in areas such as Gascoigne and Barking Riverside, there is a significant movement of families, particularly from Barking Riverside to settings in Thames View. This may indicate a preference for certain providers, availability of places, or other factors influencing parental choice.



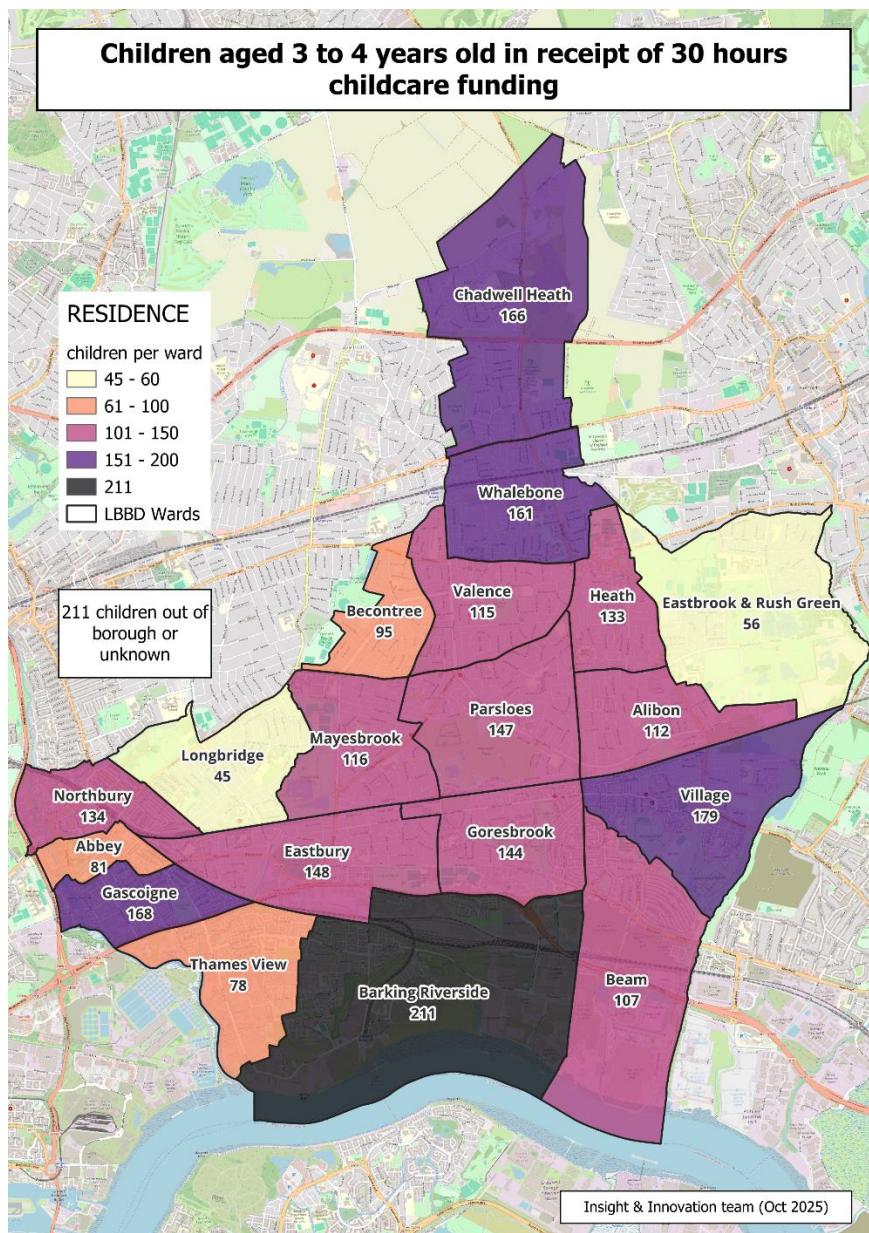
Extended entitlement – 2-year-olds

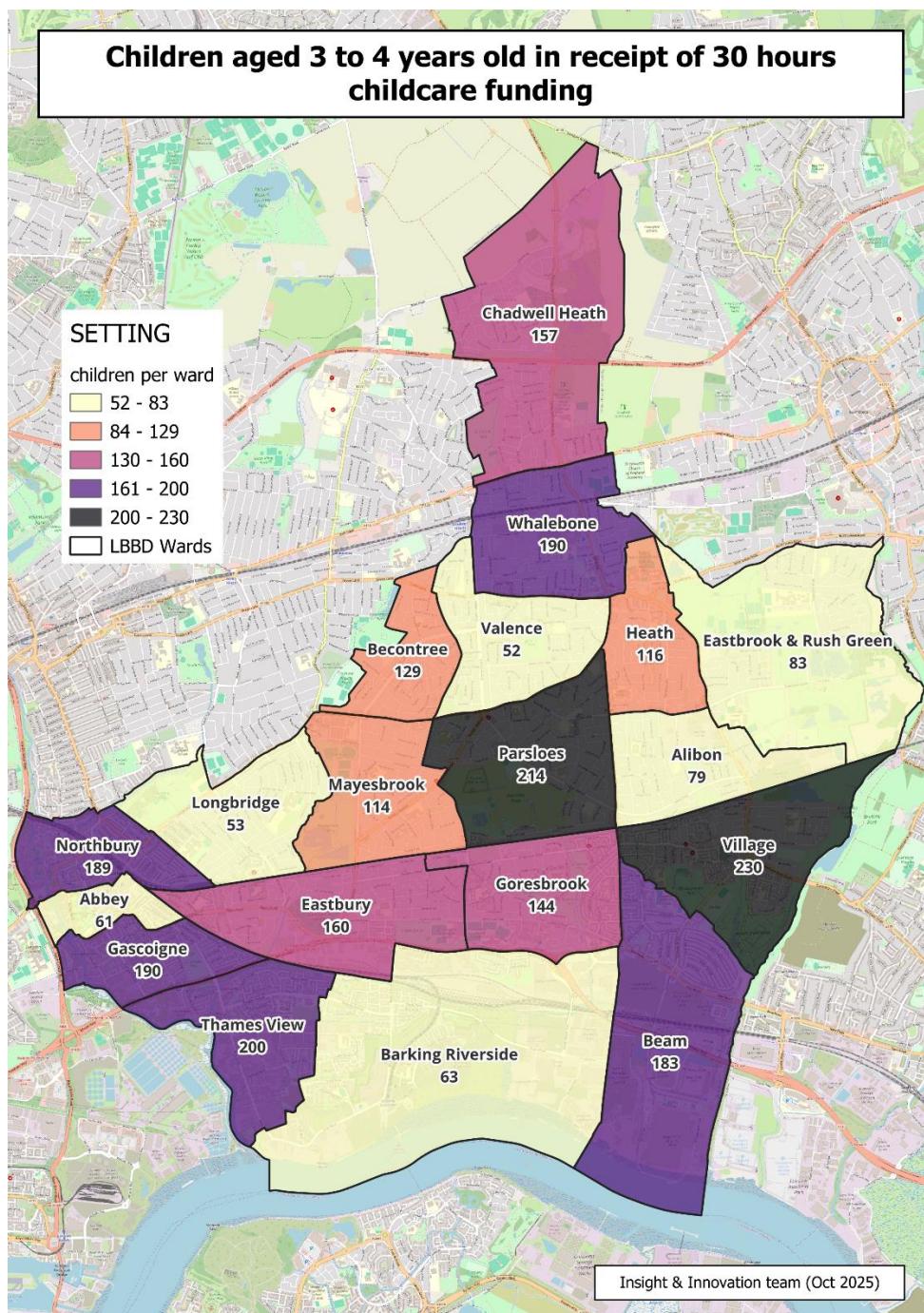




The above data indicates that while eligibility is concentrated in Barking Riverside, Goresbrook, and Gascoigne, families are actively choosing to access provision in neighbouring wards such as Thames View, Village, and Whalebone

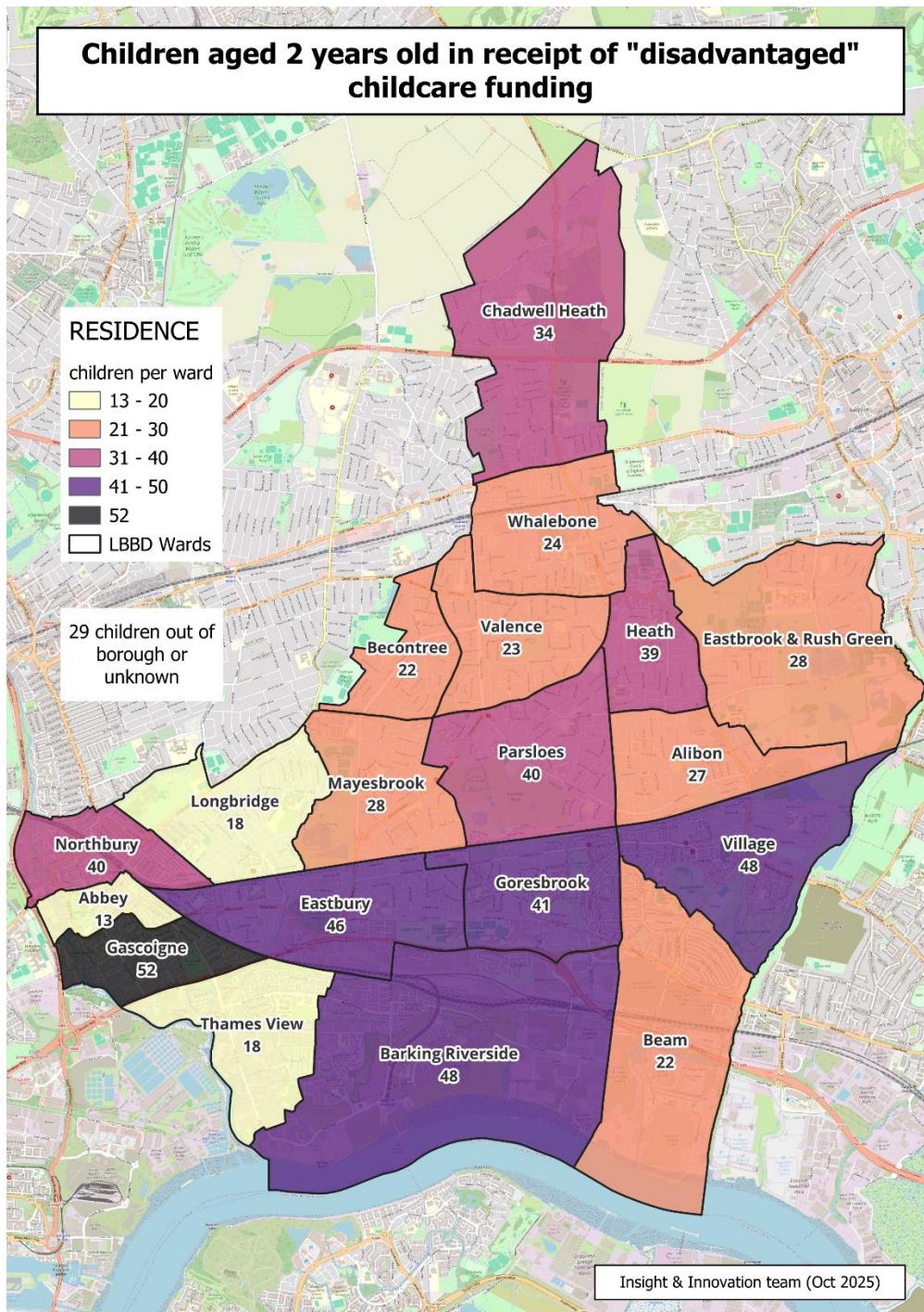
Extended entitlement – Three and Four-year-olds

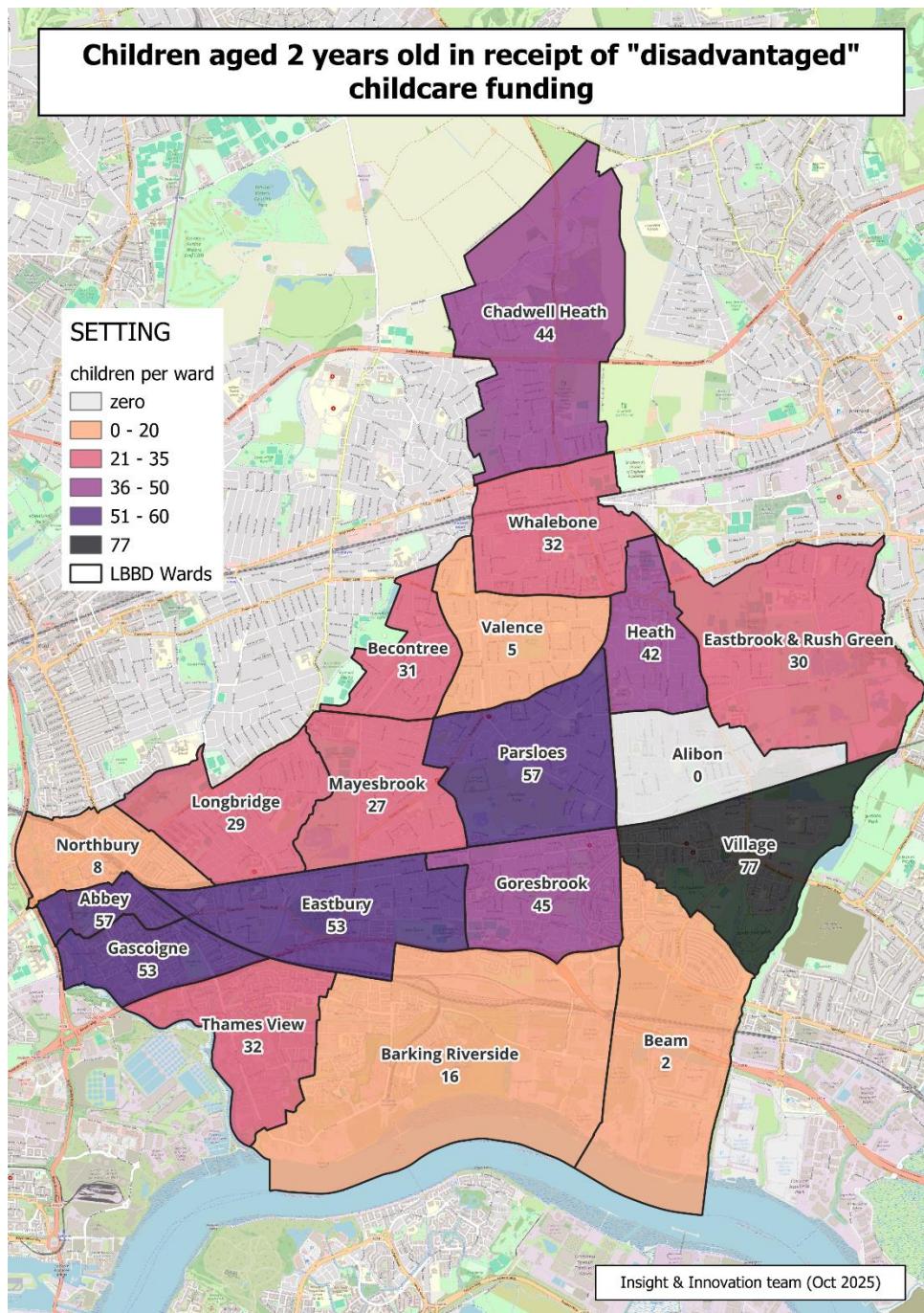




The above data highlights that Barking Riverside continues to have the highest number of families eligible for this extended entitlement, alongside Village, Gascoigne, Whalebone, and Chadwell Heath. Notably, Village and Parsloes wards have emerged as the most popular choices for families actually accessing their entitlement.

Targeted – “disadvantaged” two-year-olds entitlement





The above maps indicate most eligible families live within the Gascoigne ward, alongside Eastbury, Barking Riverside, Goresbrook and Village. Families entitled to the offer are accessing their funding mainly in Village, Abbey, Gascoigne, Eastbury and Parsloes.

Recognising these trends is essential for local authorities to ensure that childcare provision is both sufficient and appropriately located to meet the needs of eligible families, thereby reducing barriers to access.

5. COST

5.1 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. 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.

Prices in Barking and Dagenham had fallen for the first time in many years for 0–1 places in 2024 for childminder settings; however, this year prices have increased across all childcare settings. There has been a significant increase in cost for 2-year-old places, with a 17% rise compared to 2024. Costs in Barking and Dagenham continue to be lower than those in other London areas for group settings and childminders.

³ Details of how we collect this data are in the methodology section below

Price per week	Private, voluntary and independent nurseries	Percentage comparison from 2024	School and maintained nursery schools which make charges to parents
0 and 1-year olds	£346.78	4% increase	N/A
2-year-olds	£402.90	17% increase	N/A
3- and 4-year-olds	£357.55	12.5% increase	N/A

Childminders	Percentage comparison from 2024
£315.83	11% increase
£288.43	3% increase
£288.43	3% increase

5.2 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	£19.74
After-school club per week	£74.60
School age childminder week	£118.93
Holiday club per week	£205

5.3 COMPARING CHILDCARE PRICES PER WEEK WITH OTHER AREAS

Setting and price unit	LBB (50 hours a week childcare within nurseries and childminders in England, after entitlements have been taken into account)	Outer London (50 hours a week childcare for three- and four-year-olds at nurseries and childminders in England, after entitlements have been taken into account)	England (50 hours a week childcare for three- and four-year-olds at nurseries and childminders in England, after entitlements have been taken into account)
Private, Voluntary and Independent nurseries 0-1 years	£138.70	£274.48	£238.95
Private, Voluntary and Independent nurseries 2 years	£161.16	£266.15	£225.70
Private, Voluntary and Independent nurseries 3-4 years	£143.02	£159.22	£126.94
Childminders 0-1 years	£126.33	£253.20	£202.09

Childminders 2 years	£115.37	£251.28	£198.59
Childminders 3-4 years	£115.37	£114.39	£153.63

Setting and price unit	LBBG	Outer London	England
Breakfast club per week	£15.21	£ not available	£ not available
After-school club per week	£74.39	£79.30	£67.42
School age childminder per week	£92.63	£104.68	£72.36
Holiday club per week	£111.64	£170	£178

6. QUALITY OF CHILDCARE IN OUR AREA

6.1 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. The grades for both registers are equivalent.

Prior to November 2025, early years providers had four possible Ofsted grades: 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement', and 'inadequate'. Some providers are still awaiting their first full inspection. Childminders who do not have any early years children present during the inspection will receive a "Met" or a "Not met". These providers are not included in our calculation.

From 10 November 2025, Ofsted's revised inspection framework and report cards will launch, marking a significant shift in the way educational settings are evaluated. The new approach introduces a 5-point grading scale:

- Exceptional
- Strong,
- Expected
- Needs Attention
- Urgent Improvement

Replacing the previous single, overall ‘one-word’ judgement.

This change aims to

- Provide a more transparent assessment of schools and childcare providers,
- Enabling parents and guardians to understand the strengths and areas for development within each setting.

6.2 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.

Following the early years safeguarding consultation in 2024, the strengthened safeguarding requirements were introduced to the EYFS from 1st September 2025.

Strengthened safeguarding requirements

- amendments to promote safer recruitment, including:
 - new expectations to provide references
 - requirements to obtain references
 - a requirement for safeguarding policies to include procedures to help ensure that only suitable individuals are recruited
- new requirements for providers to follow up if a child is absent for a prolonged period of time, and amendments to ensure providers hold additional emergency contact details
- new requirements to ensure safer eating

- the creation of a safeguarding training criteria annex and a requirement for safeguarding policies to include details of how safeguarding training is delivered, including how practitioners are supported to put it into place
- amendments to ensure that early years students and trainees are required to have paediatric first aid (PFA) training for them to be included in ratios at the level below their level of study
- new requirements to support whistleblowing
- amendments to ensure that children's privacy during nappy changing and toileting is considered and balanced with safeguarding considerations
- a small number of other minor changes to the structure and wording of the safeguarding requirements to improve clarity

Under the current Ofsted Framework, if safeguarding is ineffective, then the overall Ofsted judgement would be inadequate.

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

Type of provision	Total number of providers	% achieving good or outstanding
Childminders	73	92%
Nursery classes in schools *	43	98%
Private and voluntary nurseries	68	95%

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

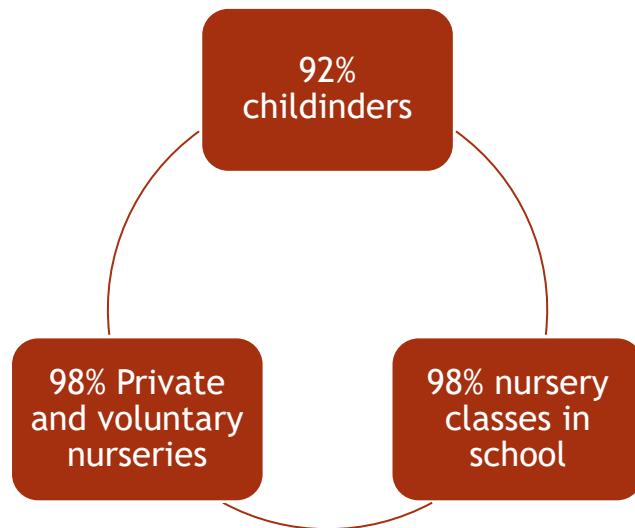
6.3 COMPARING INSPECTION GRADES

% of providers 'good' or 'outstanding'	2025	2024	2023
Childminders	92%	93%	95%
Nursery classes in schools	98%	98%	98%
Private and voluntary nurseries	98%	98%	92%

6.4 COMPARISON TO OTHER AREAS

<i>% of providers 'good' or 'outstanding'</i>	<i>LBB</i>	<i>England</i>
Childminders	92%	97%
Nursery classes in schools	98%	90%
Private and voluntary nurseries	98%	98%

Achieving 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted



7. 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.