

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021

- The LA are required to produce an annual assessment on childcare sufficiency within the borough
- Data is drawn from a range of sources including new birth data and information provided by school and EY providers –
- Assessment provides a snapshot of early years provision; data reflects the position as of 20th Janua 2021 and further verified by the census
- The sector has been impacted by Covid, however this is not as significant as expected
- In LBHF, there are **4,387 Ofsted registered places** of which **approximately 3,503** are currently activ
There are **4,887 active places if maintained places are included**.
- There are 11,161 children under 5 in the borough meaning that there are 31 places per every 100 children in the non-maintained sector and 44 per 100 children if all settings are considered. The 20 IPPR Report 'The Future of Childcare in London' suggests that the London average for non-maintained places is 32 places per 100.
- **There is sufficient childcare in the borough, in line with or higher than London average.**
- There are significant vacancies across most wards, which further suggests there are sufficient places in most areas.



Recommendations and Next Steps

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment has shown that there is not currently a need to create new places in the borough. Instead, we will focus on the following:

Aim	Actions
Ensuring access to affordable childcare	We will do this by increasing our Extended Offer for those 2, 3 and 4 year olds who would benefit from childcare but are unable to access the 2-year-old entitlement or the 30 hours offer. We will ensure that this is on offer to families wherever they live in the borough. We will also do more to publicise funded hours and tax-free childcare to ensure more parents are aware of and take up their entitlements
Monitoring wraparound care	One immediate impact of the COVID pandemic appears to be a reduction in wraparound care on offer. We will monitor this during the year and consider whether there is a need to put in place additional support.
Ensuring we retain a vibrant childcare offer	We will do this by increasing business support on offer to settings to ensure that they continue to operate during this difficult period. We will also create a North and South cluster for providers through which we will offer increased training, support and networks to enable them to develop staff and access training and support where needed. Our outstanding Maintained Nursery Schools will be at the heart of this and will use their expertise to support other settings.
Focusing on individual wards	We will use the data from this report to identify individual wards where there are concerns. We will work with providers including schools in these areas to create plans to address; insufficient childcare, lack of affordable childcare, insufficient wraparound care, attainment that is lower than average for the borough, quality of settings.

Recommendations and Next Steps cont.

Aim	Actions
Improving support for families	We will improve our Family Information Service so that it holds more current information about childcare vacancies, wraparound care and support for families experiencing difficulties and becomes a one-stop-shop for information. We will also create a guide to support parents in finding suitable childcare and will ensure more clear and consistent pathways for accessing support including parenting support.
Monitoring the long-term impact of COVID on childcare	We will repeat our Parent and Provider surveys next year and will track data throughout the year to ensure we understand whether the changes we are seeing in take-up of childcare are short-term or will have ongoing implications for supply and demand in the borough. We will support the sector to react to changing childcare patterns.

Early Years Strategy will be revised on the completion of report from the Early intervention Foundation Trust



Together we aim to deliver:

An outstanding Early Education and Childcare offer that enables all children to have the best possible start in life and achieve their full potential by focusing on 5 Priority Areas:

Early Identification and Support

A vibrant and high-quality childcare offer for all

All children reach their potential and start school ready to learn

Families aware of and taking up free entitlements

Joined-up support and information for families that enables all children to thrive

Strategy - Action Plan

* Progressed

Early Identification

- **Pilot borough wide transition protocol for vulnerable children**
- Develop Learning partnerships and network to share good practice
- Better identification of vulnerable 2 years olds
- **More training for settings**
- Website for providers
- **Increase take-up of SENIF**
- **Launch EY Partnership Board**

High-quality offer

- **Business support for settings**
- Gap analysis of training available in borough
- **Launch new training offer for all settings**
- **Annual Quality Audit tool launched**
- Advice and Guidance for parents on how to find childcare published
- Build networks for sharing good practice and learning led through MNS

Take-up

- **More support for vulnerable families to help them find childcare**
- Family Information Service platform Improved
- Marketing campaign across borough
- Termly monitoring of data
- **Targeted work in Children's Centres**

Joined-up family support and Information

- Campaign to encourage parents to use library
- Parenting support
- **Clear pathways for families and practitioners**
- **More join up between services**
- Relaunched Family Information Service

School readiness

- Shared understanding across borough of school readiness
- **Training in new EYFSP**
- Data sharing with providers
- Increased extended offer for vulnerable children
- **Develop Transition Passports**