

2016/17

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report



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CONTENTS

PART A: A PICTURE OF DEVON

A Picture of Devon – Putting Childcare into Context	3
Key Changes to Early Years and Childcare Provision in 2015-16	4

PART B: SUFFICIENCY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION

Early Years and Childcare Providers.....	5
Supply of Childcare	6
Demand for Childcare	7
Quality of Early Years and Childcare Provision	8
Early Years Workforce	10
Affordability of Childcare	11
Location of Childcare	14
Sufficiency of Early Years and Childcare Provision	16

PART C: SUFFICIENCY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION FOR SPECIFIC GROUPS

Children aged two, three and four taking up early Years Funding	18
Children from families in receipt of the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit and those affected by changes under the Welfare Reforms	18
Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	19
Children Requiring Holiday Care	19
School-aged Children	20
Care for Children with parents who work atypical and irregular hours	20

PART D: THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Next Steps: Planning Sufficiency of Early Years and Childcare Provision in 2016/17	21
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INTRODUCTION

This report sets out to demonstrate how Devon County Council is meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare. Information on what childcare sufficiency means in Devon is explained in the [Childcare Sufficiency in Devon factsheet](#). This includes:

- What is childcare?
- The Early Years and Childcare Service
- The Childcare Sufficiency Duty
 - Duty to secure sufficient childcare
 - What Devon County Council considers to be ‘sufficient childcare’?
 - Duty to assess childcare

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PART A: A PICTURE OF DEVON

A PICTURE OF DEVON – PUTTING CHILDCARE INTO CONTEXT

Population

Over the last year the population of 0 to 16-year-olds has increased by 2.4% and now stands at 137039. South Devon saw a slight decrease in the population (-0.2%) whereas all other districts saw an increase. The largest increase in population of 0 to 16-year-olds was seen in Torridge (+4.4%), followed by Exeter (+4.2%) and East Devon (+4.0%).

However, the population of under-five-year-olds across Devon has slightly decreased by 0.8% over the last 12 months to autumn 2016 and is predicted to continue to decrease.

The population of two-, three- and four-year-olds eligible for the Early Years Funding has also decreased by 2.4% and is predicted to continue to decrease over the next 12 months.

Housing Developments

There are several areas in Devon where new housing developments will significantly increase the population and therefore the demand in childcare.

The Early Years and Childcare Service work closely with the School Place Planning Team to ensure requirements for early years provision is considered in responses to [District Council Local Plans](#) and [Section 106 requests](#).

Other information

Other information to help put childcare requirements into context includes:

- [Devon Facts and Figures website](#) - this brings together a range of statistics, gleaned from a number of sources, about the people of Devon, their social, employment, and economic circumstances, and the commercial and natural environment in which they live.
- [Devonomics website](#) – more information on Devon’s Economy.

All relevant data is used to inform decision making in relation to the sufficiency of early years and childcare provision in Devon.

To note:

- The Early Years and Childcare Service now receive population data from health on a termly basis. This helps with planning provision.
- The Early Years and Childcare Service now work closely with the School Place Planning Team to include requirements for early years provision on Section 106 requests relating to new housing developments.
- The Early Years and Childcare Service now have a weekly 'Digest' to keep providers up to date with the latest news and information. [Subscribe here](#)
- The [Working in Childcare campaign](#) has been launched to encourage more people to work in early years.
- There has been an increase in delayed entry requests to schools over the last 12 months, resulting in more children staying in early years provision.

PART B: SUFFICIENCY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION

EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

Types and descriptions of early years and childcare providers in Devon can be found on the [Types of Early Years and Childcare Providers factsheet](#)

Table 1: Number of childcare providers by type of care as at 31 March 2017

Type of Childcare	2015/16		2016/17	
	No. of Providers	No. of Places	No. of Providers	No. of Places
Day Nursery	128	10204.5	128	10667
Pre-school playgroup	249	5289.5	240	5444.5
Nursery unit of independent schools	15	516	15	584.5
Academy nursery class	17	504	22	720.5
Maintained nursery class	47	1651.5	50	1748
Out of school club	164	6069	176	6642
Weekend Club	5	37.5	5	40
Holiday Scheme	87	4405	82	5028
Childminder	632	3968.5*	562	3580.5*
Home Childcarer	142	-	131	-
All Provision	1486	32375.5	1411	34455

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2017), Early Years and Childcare Service

*Total number of places for under-5 -year-olds

To note:

- There has been an increase in academy nursery classes with more school converting to academies.
- There has been an increase in maintained nursery classes with schools lowering the age range of the school creating over 100 additional places.
- The number of childminders continues to decrease in line with the national trend.
- Voluntary sector pre-schools continue to close, but are often replaced by provision that is run by schools. This is particularly seen in rural areas. Despite having fewer pre-schools there are almost 200 more places available.
- The number of holiday providers continues to decrease although the number of places has increased. 142 group based day care providers are open all year round and 445 childminders report operating during school holidays.

SUPPLY OF CHILDCARE

The supply of childcare in Devon is measured in Full Time Equivalent Places (FTEs). More information on how FTEs are define and calculated can be found on the [Calculating the Supply of Childcare – FTE places factsheet](#)

Annual Survey of Providers 2017

The Early Years and Childcare Service conducts an Annual Survey of Providers in which all early years and childcare providers are asked the total number of children they can take at any one time. There are also questions relating to the childcare workforce, admission of two-year-olds, provision for the Early Years Funding and the extension to the entitlement, charges, care for atypical and irregular hours. For more information please see the [Annual Survey of Providers webpage](#), which includes the analysis of this years [Annual Survey of Providers 2017](#).

Level of childcare provision

This year there has been a slight increase in the level of early years provision for under-five-year-olds. This is due to a decrease in the population of under-five-year-olds and an increase in the supply of group-based childcare.

The level of provision for before school, after school and holiday care has remained relatively stable but a decrease has been seen in the level of weekend provision.

DEMAND FOR CHILDCARE

Information on childcare in Devon is available from the communications team through the [Education and Families website](#) and through the [online Community Service Directory, Pinpoint](#).

If you are a parent who is unable to find suitable childcare, it is important that you tell Devon County Council so that we can help you find childcare if it is available and it will help inform our sufficiency planning. To do this, please contact the [childcare brokerage service](#) by phoning 01392 385522 or email pinpoint@devon.gov.uk or complete our [online parent feedback form](#).

Parent Feedback Forms

20 online parent feedback forms have been submitted in 2016/17 relating to 31 children.

The majority of these were from parents in East Devon (7) mainly looking for childcare for under-five-year-olds, Teignbridge (4) mainly looking for childcare for primary school aged children or South Hams (3) looking for childcare for both under-five-year-olds and primary school aged children.

18 of the enquiries detailed the main reason for looking for childcare was to enable them to work.

13 parents requested to be contacted to further discuss their issues with finding childcare.

Childcare Brokerage

In 2016/17 there were 6 instances where the childcare brokerage service were unable to find suitable childcare for parents. These were:

- After school provision in Totnes
- Out of school provision in St Leonards (2 parents)
- Out of school provision in Silverton
- Weekday childcare in Ilfracombe
- Day care provision in Budleigh Salterton to access the early years education funding.

These have been followed up by the Early Years and Childcare Service. It must be noted that there has to be a large enough demand for childcare to make it a viable business proposition for providers.

Estimate Use

The estimated use of childcare for under-five-year-olds is calculated using data captured by the [Department for Education's Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents 2014-15](#) and economic data from the [Annual Population Survey](#). For more information please see [Calculating Demand for Early Years and Childcare Factsheet](#).

The Early Years and Childcare Service analyse this data on the supply and estimated demand of childcare to establish areas where there may be a lack of provision. These are discussed with the locality teams and [childcare sufficiency hot spot areas](#) are identified.

QUALITY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION

Ofsted outcomes

For an explanation on the role of Ofsted, the inspection framework and a description of the Ofsted judgements please see the [Ofsted Inspections and Outcomes factsheet](#).

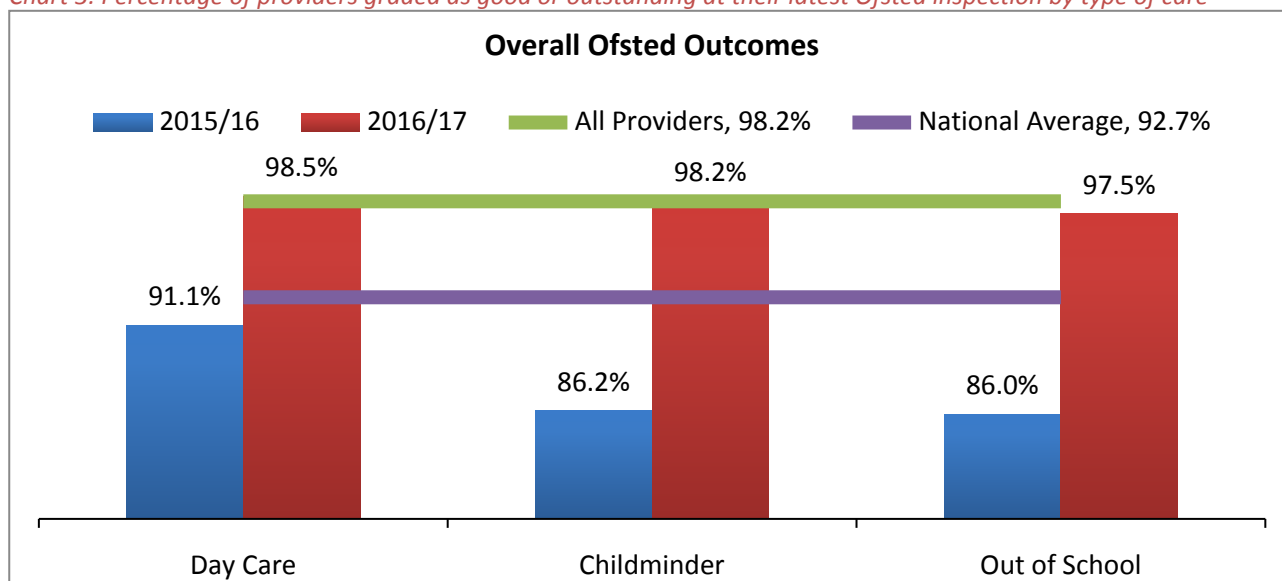
Provision run by schools is not included due to changes in the way the Early Years Foundation Stage is inspected and reported on. This equates to approximately 15.8% of day care providers and 12.9% of places.



Good news

- The percentage of providers in Devon graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted at their most recent Ofsted inspection has increased from 87.7%¹ as at March 2016 to 98.2%² as at March 2017. This remains higher than the national (92.7%) and South West (95.1%) average³.

Chart 3: Percentage of providers graded as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection by type of care



Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2017), Early Years and Childcare Service

¹ DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2017), Early Years and Childcare Service, Percentage of active providers graded as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection between 1 September 2008 and 31 March 2016 – percentage of all those inspected with children in attendance (does not include those providers graded as met or not met).

² DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2017), Early Years and Childcare Service, Percentage of active providers graded as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection between 1 September 2008 and 31 March 2017 – percentage of all those inspected with children in attendance (does not include those providers graded as met or not met).

³ OFSTED (2017), Ofsted Official statistics: Early years and childcare registered providers inspections and outcomes, Table 7: Overall effectiveness of active early years registered providers at their most recent inspection as at 31 December 2016, by region and local authority

Outcomes of inspections in 2016/17

From 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, Ofsted inspected 271 early years and childcare providers in Devon where there were children in attendance and the provider was graded.

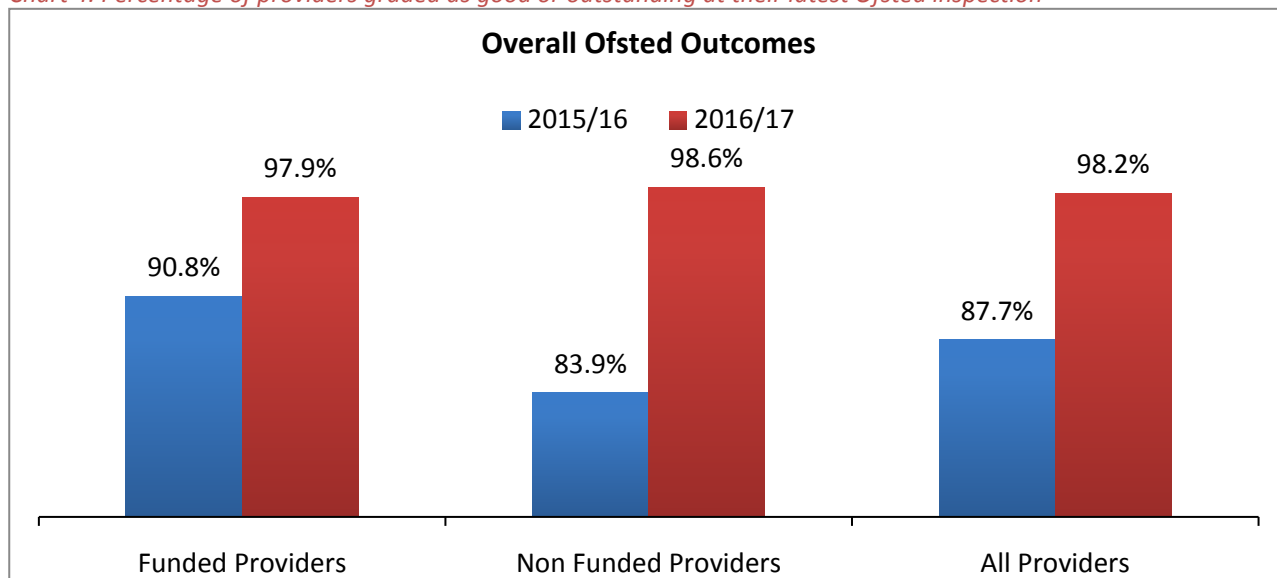


Good news

- 94.5% (86) of providers previously graded as inadequate or requires improvement have now been re-inspected and graded as good or outstanding. This is 37.4% of providers inspected in 2016/17.
- 97.8% (136) of providers previously graded as good or outstanding have now been re-inspected and are still graded as good or outstanding. This is 59.1% of providers inspected in 2016/17

Early Years Inspections

Chart 4: Percentage of providers graded as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection



Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2017), Early Years and Childcare Service



Good news

- The percentage of funded providers graded as good or outstanding has increased by 7.1% to 97.9% this year.

Educational Attainment

High quality early years and childcare provision leads to better outcomes for children. This can be monitored through the Early Years Foundations Stage Profile outcomes.

For further statistics and information on the outcomes of the 2016 EYFS profile please see the [EYFS Profile Headlines Factsheet](#).

The Workforce Strategy in Devon aims to ensure that early years practitioners have access to appropriate learning and development opportunities. Devon County Council deliver, provide, or signpost practitioners to professional development opportunities including qualifications, short courses, e-learning, structured visits and online advice and guidance.

April 2016 – March 2017 Overview

Recruitment continues to be a problem for providers at all levels, in particular at level 3. Almost half of providers responding to the [Annual Survey of Providers 2017](#), had difficulty recruiting in the last 12 months, with almost 90% struggling to recruit at level 3. In response to this, the Early Years and Childcare Service have delivered a 16 week marketing campaign aimed at supporting recruitment in the early years sector. The online campaign included a short film, 4 blogs, and paid advertising through Facebook, Google, and Instagram. The adverts were delivered to a large number of people in the target market – 168,425 through Facebook and Instagram, and 60,246 through Google. Overall, the social media campaign attracted over 5,000 visitors to our [Working in early years and childcare](#) pages. In the Annual Survey, 70 providers said they believed that the campaign had made a positive difference.

During the spring term Childcare Works (contracted by the DfE) and Hemsalls delivered 5 ‘Getting business ready for 30 hours’ workshops in Devon. The workshops attracted almost 300 providers in Devon to get them thinking about delivering the extended entitlement in their organisation. A range of providers attended including pre-schools, nurseries, childminders, maintained nurseries, academies, and out of school providers.

Key areas for April 2017 – March 2018

The new Early Years Foundation Stage was published in April 2017 and included some changes for the workforce. The GCSE requirement for level 3 Early Years Educator qualifications was removed and replaced with level 2 literacy and numeracy qualifications. This should improve recruitment, particularly at level 3. Paediatric First Aid (PFA) or Emergency PFA is now a requirement for new qualified practitioners at level 2 and level 3. The Early Years and Childcare Service have produced [a factsheet outlining these changes](#).

In partnership with Babcock LDP, the Early Years and Childcare Service is developing a suite of e-learning training to provide a range of easily accessible learning and development opportunities. The courses will be raising awareness and providing introductory training in approximately eight key areas.

The Government are making significant changes to apprenticeships in May 2017 to increase the number of apprenticeship starters. Small employers, including early years and childcare providers, can benefit from these changes. The Early Years and Childcare Service have produced a [‘Guide to taking on an Apprentice for Early Years and Childcare Providers’](#) to support employers with this change.

Devon County Council is consulting on changes to the Early Years Single Funding formula which could see the current lump sum funding for graduates and teachers being removed. For more information see [the funding consultation on our website](#).

AFFORDABILITY OF CHILDCARE

Day care provision

Parents will usually be charged between £4.00 and £4.50⁴ per hour for day care provision for an under-five-year-old depending on location, type of day care and age of child. On average, parents pay £4.10 per hour for day care provision which has increased from £4.00 in 2015/16 (an increase of 2.5%).

The most expensive average charge per hour for day care is found at nursery units of independent schools and day nurseries, with the least expensive charge per hour found in pre-schools.

Parents pay on average a higher rate for younger children with parents being charged an average of £4.25 per hour for an under-two-year-old which has increased from £4.00 in 2015/16.

Devon County Council has approved 605 childcare providers to offer funded places for two-year-olds. Outside of this entitlement, parents are charged on average £4.20 per hour for a two-year-old place, which has increased from £4.00 in 2015/16.

Devon County Council also currently fund 703 childcare providers to provide places for three- and four-year-olds as part of the early years funding. Outside this entitlement, parents are charged on average £4.00 per hour for a three- or four-year-old, which has remained the same as 2015/16.

Day care costs in Devon are less than those seen nationally⁵. However the weekly wages are lower in Devon⁶ and therefore parents are spending a higher percentage of one parent's weekly wage (18.2%) on day care (25 hours a week) than nationally.

Out of school provision

Parents will usually be charged between £4.00 and £10.00⁷ per session for out of school care depending on length of care, location and type of activity involved. On average, parents pay £4.20 for a before school session increasing from £4.00 in 2015/16, and £10.00 for an after school session which has remained the same as 2015/16.

Out of school care costs in Devon are less than those seen nationally⁸. However the weekly wages are lower in Devon and therefore parents are spending approximately 8.9% of one parent's weekly wages on out of school care (15 hours a week, 5 after school sessions) which is higher than seen nationally.

⁴ Based on responses to the [Annual Survey of Providers 2017](#)

⁵ FAMILY AND CHILDCARE TRUST (2016), Childcare Costs Survey 2016, Table 1: Average weekly childcare costs by region and nation, 2016 - <https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-survey-2016-0> [Accessed April 2017]

⁶ Based on full-time (mean) gross weekly pay – resident analysis 2016 (Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings)

⁷ Based on responses to the [Annual Survey of Providers 2017](#)

⁸ FAMILY AND CHILDCARE TRUST (2016), Childcare Costs Survey 2016, Table 1: Average weekly childcare costs by region and nation, 2016 - <https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-survey-2016-0> [Accessed April 2017]

Holiday care

Parents usually pay between £20.00 and £36.00⁹ per day for group-based holiday care depending on location, the needs of the child and activities involved. On average, parents pay £25.00 per day for group-based holiday care, which has increased from £20.00 in 2015/16.

On average, holiday costs in Devon are more expensive than those seen nationally¹⁰. This may be due to a large proportion of employment being seasonal, creating a greater market for childcare during holiday times. Also, holiday provision may offer a wider range of activities. These activities are more expensive for the childcare providers to offer and the costs are passed on to families.

Tax Free Childcare

[Tax Free Childcare](#) is a new government scheme to help parents with the cost of childcare. Eligible parents can open an online childcare account that they can use to pay for childcare. The government will top-up the money parents pay into the account. For every £8 parents pay in, the government will add an extra £2. Therefore parents with children under 12 can receive up to £2,000 per child, per year, towards their childcare costs (or under 17 and up to £4,000 for disabled children). Providers will only be able to receive Tax-Free Childcare payments from parents if they have [signed up to receive payments from the scheme](#).

41.3% of all providers responding to the Annual Survey of Providers reported that they had registered to be able to receive payments from the Tax Free Childcare scheme helping to make their childcare a more affordable childcare option for parents. This equates to 51.7% of all full time equivalent (FTE) places available for under-five-year-olds are available at providers who have registered.

However providers report that at the time the Annual Survey was undertaken, there were issues with the system and they had difficulty registering for the scheme. Some providers have reported that they have since registered and therefore the percentage of providers who have registered for the scheme is probably a lot higher.

Help with the costs of childcare

The HM Government Childcare Service has introduced its new Childcare Choices website:

⁹ Based on responses to the [Annual Survey of Providers 2017](#)

¹⁰ FAMILY AND CHILDCARE TRUST (2016), Holiday Childcare Survey 2016, Table 1: The weekly price of holiday childcare, 2016 - <https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/holiday-childcare-survey-2016> [Accessed April 2017]

Childcare Choices



All the government
childcare offers in one place

childcarechoices.gov.uk



This website brings together all the government childcare offers in one place, helping parents find the right childcare support to suit them. Childcare Choices also introduces two new government schemes which will be rolled out gradually in 2017 – Tax-Free Childcare and 30 hours free childcare.

Parents who experience difficulties in accessing childcare because of the affordability, should contact Devon County Council through the [childcare brokerage service](#) by phoning 01392 385522 or email pinpoint@devon.gov.uk or complete our [online parent feedback form](#).

For those parents of children with special educational needs or disabilities please see the [Paying for childcare: special educational needs and disabilities factsheet](#).

LOCATION OF CHILDCARE

Distribution of childcare

The location of childcare provision is one factor that determines the accessibility of childcare. The childcare option becomes less accessible if parents have to travel more than a reasonable distance to access it. Road and public transport links may also determine the accessibility of childcare. This in turn limits the available childcare options for parents and reduces choice.

Table 2: Percentage of Devon County Council's administrative area within a five-, three- and two-mile radius of day care provision by type of provider

Type of provider	Percentage of Devon County Council's administrative area ¹¹ within			
	5 miles ¹²	3 miles	2 miles	1 mile
All providers	100%	94%	78%	36%
Day care providers ¹³	100%	94%	77%	35%
Out of school providers ¹⁴	99%	86%	63%	28%
All funded providers	100%	92%	72%	33%
Providers approved to offer the early years education funding for eligible two-year-olds	100%	91%	70%	29%
Providers approved to offer the early years education funding for three- and four-year-olds	100%	92%	72%	32%

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2017), Early Years and Childcare Service

100% of Devon County Councils administrative area is within a five-mile radius of day care provision and 100% is within a five-mile radius of funded provision.

77% of Devon County Councils administrative area is within a two-mile radius of day care provision and 72% is within a two-mile radius of funded provision which is considered a reasonable walking distance for under 11-year-olds.

Almost all (99%) of Devon County Council's administrative area is within a five-mile radius of out of school provision and 63% is within a two-mile radius.

Premises

For more information on the types of premises of early years and childcare providers please see the [Early Years and Childcare Provider Premises factsheet](#). This analysis relates to information gathered on the [Annual Survey of Providers in Spring Term 2017](#).

Childcare provision is in convenient locations with 47.3% of day care providers located on school sites and 41.3% of Primary, Nursery and All-through schools have a nursery class or school run early years provision. This is convenient for parents who also have primary-school-aged children, as they can drop off and pick up children at the same time. 21.1% of day care providers are located in community buildings often within a reasonable walking distance of the family home. A further

¹¹ This analysis only refers to early years and childcare providers in the Devon County Council's local authority area and does not include providers situated in neighbouring local authorities.

¹² Distance is measured as a straight line from the child's home to the childcare provider.

¹³ Day care provision in this analysis includes day nurseries, pre-school playgroups, nursery units of independent schools, maintained nursery schools and classes, academy nursery classes and childminders.

¹⁴ Out of school provision in this analysis includes out of school clubs, weekend clubs, holiday clubs and childminders.

29.0% of day care providers are situated in other non-domestic buildings, which are often situated on travel-to-work routes.

There are a further 562 childminders in Devon who provide childcare provision in their own homes. Parents may choose childminders that are close to their home, close to their work or somewhere along their travel-to-work route. Many also provide out of school care and may offer drop-off and pick-up services to local schools.

SUFFICIENCY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION

The level of provision for under-five-year-olds has increased this year whereas the level of provision for out of school care has decreased again this year.

As there are a very low number of instances where the service has not been able to match parents to suitable childcare, it is assumed that there is sufficient early years and childcare provision in Devon to meet the needs of most parents.

Nonetheless, the Early Years and Childcare Service recognise that there will be areas where there may be a lack of childcare in the future. This is due to:

- Increased demand for three- and four-year-old places because of the introduction of the extended entitlement for working families from September 2017
- Places for two-year-olds as three- and four-year-olds may fill the capacity
- Planned housing developments – new housing increases the population in an area and therefore increases the demand for childcare.

This will be monitored and reviewed through Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots meetings.

Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots

The following data has been assessed by geographical area and discussed with the locality managers:

- Estimate of demand for funded two-, three- and four-year-old places compared to supply of childcare from funded providers to estimate where there might be surplus or shortfall of provision. This has been estimated for Autumn Term 2017, Spring Term 2018 and Summer 2018
- Estimate of additional demand from housing developments with planning permission and an estimate of whether this will cause a shortfall of provision
- Proposed new provision to estimate whether future demand may be met
- Level of provision for under two-year-olds to assess whether there is sufficient provision.
- Percentage of providers who report they will be offering the extended entitlement from September 2017 to help assess whether there will be sufficient provision
- Ofsted outcomes of providers to indicate whether there is a lack of good quality provision in the area which could impact on the provision of two-year-old places
- Average charges per hour to indicate whether this may be a barrier to parents accessing provision
- Location of providers to identify if there are geographical gaps
- Types of providers to identify if there is a choice for parents

This is discussed in a holistic way for areas across Devon and provides a comprehensive approach to planning sufficient provision. 'Hot Spots' are identified and agreed where there is a need for more provision or where further work is required by the Early Years and Childcare Service.

Hot spot areas identified in April 2017 are:

Table 3: Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spot areas

Locality	Area	When
Eastern	Axminster	With housing developments

Devon	East of Exeter	Now and further housing developments
	Stoke Canon	With housing developments
	Tedburn St Mary	With housing developments
	Cullompton	Now and further housing developments including the new Garden Village
	Littleham, Exmouth	With housing developments
	Budleigh Salterton	Now
	Tiverton	With housing developments
Northern Devon	Exwick, Exeter	Now
	Goodleigh	Now
	Sticklepath, Barnstaple	With housing developments
	South West Bideford	With housing developments
Southern Devon	Torrington	From Summer 2018 and with the housing developments
	North East Dawlish	With housing developments
	Sherford	Now
	Loddiswell	With housing developments
	Kingsbridge	Now
	Newton Abbot	Now
	Denbury and Ogwell	Now
	Boasley Cross	
	Hatherleigh	With housing developments
	Northlew	
	Okehampton	Now
	North Tawton	
	Kingsteignton	With housing developments
Harbertonford	Now	

EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE SERVICE (2017) – Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spot Meeting

To address these areas of need, the Early Years and Childcare Service will:

- Encourage existing providers to expand their provision. This could be by offering more hours in a day, opening more days per week or more weeks per year. Providers could also admit more children at any one time if space allows.
- Encourage childminders to employ assistants where applicable.
- Work with schools to invite providers to operate from school premises.
- Encourage partnership working to make a more cohesive childcare offer.

If the need was still not addressed, the Early Years and Childcare Service would stimulate the market to encourage new providers to develop childcare businesses in the area. For more information please see the [Childcare Sufficiency webpages](#).

PART C: SUFFICIENCY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION FOR SPECIFIC GROUPS

CHILDREN AGED TWO, THREE AND FOUR TAKING UP EARLY YEARS FUNDING



Good news

- The number of providers approved to offer the early years funding continues to increase.
- The take-up of the Early Years Funding for eligible two-year-olds has increased from 83.9% to 90.9% over the last year but has decreased slightly from 99.8% to 98.5% for three- and four-year-olds, although remains high.
- The take-up of the full entitlement of 570 hours, has increased from 71.2% to 73.8% for eligible two-year-olds and 82.0% to 83.0% for three- and four-year-olds.
- The take-up of the Early Years Funding by those two-year-olds in local authority care has increased from 53.3% to 69.2% and has increased from 97.0% to 100.0% for three- and four-year-olds in care.

Data suggests that overall there is sufficient provision to meet the current need for funded two-, three- and four-year-old places as the take up has increased and remains high. However, Devon County Council recognises that with the introduction of the extended entitlement for eligible three- and four-year-olds from September 2017 that there may be areas where there is a need for more provision.

Sufficiency of provision for funded places for two-, three- and four-year-olds to access the universal and extended entitlement is discussed as part of the [Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots](#) meetings. Please see the [Early Years Funding webpage](#) for more information on the entitlement.

CHILDREN FROM FAMILIES IN RECEIPT OF THE CHILDCARE ELEMENT OF THE WORKING TAX CREDIT AND THOSE AFFECTED BY CHANGES UNDER THE WELFARE REFORMS

The percentage of families benefitting from the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit in Devon has increased by 0.4% to 14.9% in 2014-15¹⁵, with all districts in Devon seeing an increase. This suggests that there is sufficient childcare to meet the needs of these families and Devon County Council ensure that there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of all families including

¹⁵ Child and Working Tax Credits statistics finalised annual awards - geographical analysis - Table 2: Average number of benefiting families and average annual entitlements in each local authority, 2014-15
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/personal-tax-credits-finalised-award-statistics-geographical-statistics-2014-to-2015>

those in receipt of the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit and those affected by changes under the welfare reforms.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

- All early years and childcare providers are required, through the [Equality Act 2010](#) and the [Children and Families Act 2014](#), to be inclusive.
- The [Disability Access Fund \(DAF\)](#) was introduced on 1 April 2017 for early years providers to support children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. The funding is intended to aid access to early years places for three- and four-year-olds by supporting providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings. Providers are entitled to receive a one-off payment of £615 per year.
- When considering Ofsted reports over the last year, there has only been one action set by Ofsted relating to inclusion.
- 950 children have been funded through the [SEN support funding](#) and 507 children have been supported through the [Nursery Plus](#) service.

As all early years and childcare provision is required to be inclusive and the Disability Access Fund is available to aid providers in making reasonable adjustments to their settings, Devon County Council considers there to be sufficient choice to meet the childcare needs of parents of children with additional needs.

If parents prefer for their children to access specialist provision, there are places available at a range of specialist provisions across Devon i.e. in Special Schools, specialist holiday play schemes and Saturday clubs. [To search for these visit Pinpoint – Community Services Directory.](#)

CHILDREN REQUIRING HOLIDAY CARE

- With the seasonal nature of employment opportunities in Devon it is important that the Early Years and Childcare Service ensures there is sufficient provision for parents needing to use holiday care in order for them to work.
- The number of places for holiday provision has increased slightly to one full-time equivalent place (30 hours per week) for 18.5% of the population of primary-school-aged children.
- 33.8% of Devon County Council's administrative area is within a three-mile radius of a holiday club, with those in more rural areas having to travel further. Childminders also offer holiday provision and 79.5% of Devon County Council's administrative area is within a three-mile radius of a childminder.
- Anecdotally, Devon County Council knows that a number of parents do not require childcare through the holidays as they juggle childcare and work arrangements. Some parents work term-time only and therefore do not require childcare during the holidays. Other parents use their annual leave entitlement to cover holiday periods to reduce the need for childcare, while other parents will use friends or relatives to care for their children.

As the Early Years and Childcare Service has not received enquiries from parents requiring holiday care for their children where they have been unable to find suitable childcare, it is assumed that there is sufficient provision across Devon to meet this demand.

From September 2017 there is likely to be an increased demand for places for three- and four-year-olds during the school holidays as parents will choose to 'stretch' their entitlement across the year.

SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

- The number of places for before and after school provision remains similar to last year. Approximately one before school place is available for 11.5% of primary-school-aged children and one after school place is available for 12.1%.
- 85.9% of Devon County Council's administrative area is within a three-mile radius of out of school provision.
- Devon County Council does not always know about non-registered school run before and after school care. As a result there may be more places available.
- Devon County Council assumes that the demand for out of school provision for school-aged-children will be met through the local schools that the children attend, where there is sufficient demand from parents to ensure sustainable provision.
- Parents have the right to request that schools provide childcare and childcare providers can request to use school buildings to operate childcare. It is the responsibility of the school governors or trusts to respond to these requests. This is set out in ['Wraparound and holiday childcare: parent and childcare provider 'rights to request''](#).

CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH PARENTS WHO WORK ATYPICAL AND IRREGULAR HOURS

- Devon County Council funds two-, three- and four-year-olds places at weekends and bank holidays.
- Over half (54.2%) of day care providers reported they had been asked to provide childcare before 8.00am and just under a third (29.9%) had been asked to provide childcare after 6.00pm. 17.4% reported that they had been asked to provide childcare at weekends.
- 41.8% of day care providers and childminders responding to the Annual Survey of Providers 2017 reported that they had been asked to provide childcare for irregular hours, with day nurseries and childminders more likely to report this.
- As the Early Years and Childcare Service has not received many enquiries from parents requiring childcare for atypical or irregular hours where they have been unable to find suitable childcare, it is assumed that there is sufficient provision across Devon to meet this need.
- Parents have the right to request schools to establish wrap around childcare if there is enough demand. This may include opening before 8.00am, after 6.00pm and at weekends.

PART D: THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

NEXT STEPS: PLANNING SUFFICIENCY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION IN 2016/17

To ensure there is sufficient early years and childcare, Devon County Council will:

- Continue to analyse data to assess sufficiency and conduct Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spot meetings to discuss the supply and demand of childcare
- Carry out the Annual Survey of Providers in January 2018
- Improve forecasting of predicted take-up of Early Years funding to identify areas of need
- Promote the take-up of the extended entitlement to 1140 hours of funded childcare for eligible three- and four-year-olds from September 2017
- Monitor the impact of the extended entitlement on the number of places for two-year-olds.
- Encourage more providers to open for longer hours and more weeks per year
- Encourage providers to work in partnership with other providers to ensure parents can access their full entitlement
- Explore how school sites and building can be used outside of term times
- Encourage childminders to operate on non-domestic premises and to employ assistants
- Increase the take-up of the Early Years Pupil Premium
- Work with schools on the 'right to request' and capture information on school run childcare that is not registered.
- Promote the new Disability Access Fund

Furthermore, Devon County Council will ensure there is sufficient early years and childcare provision to meet the needs of parents, through the [ongoing work of the Early Years and Childcare Service](#).

The challenges in ensuring sufficient early years and childcare provision in Devon in 2016/17 will be:

- Recruitment of sufficient high quality staff
- Planning for and the roll out of the extension of the funded entitlement for eligible three- and four-year-olds of working parents from September 2017 due to the unknown demand for this. Ensuring sufficient provision in rural areas will be a particular challenge.
- Formalising partnerships between providers so parents can access the full entitlement
- Ensuring the roll out of the extended entitlement does not impact on the availability of places for eligible two-year-olds and three- and four-year-olds accessing the universal entitlement.

2016/17



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