

Redcar & Cleveland Childcare Sufficiency Report 2023



Children & Families Directorate
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

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1. Overall assessment and summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

Overall the picture for childcare sufficiency in Redcar and Cleveland is healthy. There are currently sufficient places and the quality is good. However, it must be noted that 3 providers have closed, 7 childminders have resigned but 3 new childminders have started to offer childcare.

The local childcare market in Redcar and Cleveland is facing the following several business challenges:

- a declining birth rate
- in increased number of parents using informal childcare
- increased competition, in some wards, where more settings offering 2-year-old and 3-and-4-year-old 30 hour extended hours settings have opened
- increased costs of living where parents struggle to afford childcare and providers not making an income after their costs are covered.
- Providers struggling to recruit and retain staff.

In the Spring Budget 2023 the Chancellor announced new measures for early years and childcare:

- From April 2024, all working parents of 2-year-olds can access 15 hours per week.
- From September 2024, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3 years old can access 15 hours per week.
- From September 2025 all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3 years old can access 30 hours free childcare per week
- The government will also provide start-up grants for new childminders, including for those who choose to register with a childminder agency. Childminders who register with Ofsted will receive a start-up grant of £600, whereas those who register with a childminder agency will receive £1200.

Also, the government is investing in a Wraparound Childcare Programme over the next two academic years, from September 2024, to enable schools and local areas to set up provisions. The government's ambition is for all parents of primary school age children to be able to access affordable childcare in their local area from 8am – 6pm. This funding will be for schools and local authorities to introduce or expand childcare provision.

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

The start up grants for new childminders may encourage more people to become a childminder; as in recent years we have seen a steady decline in the number of childminders in Redcar & Cleveland as well as nationally.

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

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

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

The results of the childcare occupancy audit demonstrate that overall, there are still sufficient childcare places across the Borough but a decrease in the number of spare childcare places for 0-4 year olds available across the borough compared to in 2022. The number of spare places in the childminder market of Central Redcar has reduced by 13% and East Cleveland by 57%. This may cause problems for parents who would prefer a childminder in these localities and despite there being some childminders and other day nurseries in the surrounding areas which do have capacity to offer childcare spaces, some

parents may not have the means or desire to travel to another village and would prefer to stay in their immediate community, especially if school pick-ups and drop-offs are required.

The take up of places for eligible 2 year olds for free childcare places who come from low income or non-working households has decreased slightly again this year from 87% in Spring 2022 to 84% in Spring 2023. However, during the Spring Term 2023, the number of eligible 3 and 4 year olds, taking up extended entitlement places for children of working parents was 97%, an increase of 2% from Spring 2022.

The number of two-year-old children registered at settings has decreased this year, 428 in Spring 2023 compared to 523 Spring 2022. This is likely to be due to parents using more informal childcare arrangements (grandparents etc), the falling birth rate and families falling out of eligibility as the income criteria has not been reviewed since 2014.

The number of universal 3 and 4 year olds attending settings (not including school nurseries) across the Borough has increased slightly in 2023 to 230 children attending settings compared to 191 in 2022. The number of 3 and 4 year olds attending school nurseries in Spring 2023 was 1563 children, compared to 1653 in Spring 2022. The total number of children accessing 3 and 4 year universal funding across all providers in Spring 2023 was 1793 compared to 1844 in 2022. This represents a shift of universal childcare places from schools to nurseries and childminders.

The number of children accessing the 30 hours extended entitlement for working parents has increased slightly this year with 443 children using a funded place in Spring 2023 compared to 437 in 2022 which is a 1% increase.

The number of children attending breakfast and after school clubs in schools has increased across the Borough by 11% in 2023 compared to 2022. In the Greater Eston area, there was only a 3% decrease compared to 37% increase in East Cleveland and a 9% increase in Redcar. The increase in East Cleveland may reflect concerns by childminders that within this area an increasing number of schools opening Breakfast and After School Clubs at cheaper rates affects their ability to maintain their business sustainability as they are unable to compete on price.

Information around childcare places is sufficiently accessible. Day nurseries, playgroups and childminders can be found via the Families' Information Service (FIS) telephone helpline, email or through the Peoples' Information Network (PIN) website.

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

Childcare places are of high quality. This is evident due to the number of childcare providers across the Borough achieving judgements of 'Good' or above by Ofsted in their inspection of registered service providers. In June 2023, 93% of the 76 registered childminders were rated 'good' or 'outstanding'; and 26 out of the 28 day nurseries were good or outstanding. This is a positive reflection of the support given to these settings by the Local Authority's Quality Improvement Team.

However, there are currently two childminders who have received an Inadequate grading in this year's Ofsted inspection and one PVI has received a Requires Improvement grading.

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

In terms of childcare for children with complex special educational needs, the Early Years SENCO and FIS have to date always been able to identify a childcare option for a child with SEND, trying to find the most suitable and accessible placement has, on occasions, been very challenging. The extended entitlement has placed an additional pressure on one-to-one funding and identifying childcare providers who have trained staff that can meet the individual requirements of children with complex additional needs. This continues to be potential area of significant pressure for the local authority as the extended entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds becomes more embedded. This year has seen four children with more complex needs having to access places in a neighbouring Local Authority due to lack of spaces in our Borough.

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

- liaise with childcare settings to ensure they are making the best use of the government financial support available to them via the Tax- Free Childcare scheme and the changes announced in the Spring 2023 Budget. This support may help their business remain sustainable and secure jobs in the sector.
- continue to work with partners such as Health Visitors and Job Centre Plus to identify and engage families eligible for the two-year-old early years entitlement.
- continue to ensure that working parents know about the extended childcare offer (up to 30 hours for 3- and 4-year olds) and apply in good time for the following term. The Families' Information Service (FIS) team will continue to work with corporate communications to raise awareness of the extended entitlement, tax-free childcare and the forthcoming changes in 2024.
- offer support to childcare providers that are identified as inadequate/requires improvement for an improved outcome which will allow them to make a funding claim for new children to their setting.

2. Demand for Childcare

In the 2021 census Redcar and Cleveland had a population of 136,531 of which 97.7% were White British. There is a greater level of diversity in the school-aged child population than suggested by the Census data (2021). As at June 2023 (<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-pupils-and-their-characteristics>), 8.45% of children attending state-funded secondary schools and 6.52% of children attending a state-funded primary school in Redcar and Cleveland were from a BME background.

Schools	All pupils	BME Minority	Percentage
State-funded primary	12,482	815	6.52%
State-funded secondary	8,305	702	8.45%
State-funded special school	475	35	7.36%
PRU	67	1	1.49%
Total	21,329	1,553	5.95

The resident population in 2021 was 136,536 (www.nomisweb.co.uk). The resident population has been in decline since the early 1980's. This decline has had an impact on the child population and forecasts predict that the 0-4 year old child population would decrease by 7% over the period 2020 to 2024, from approx. 7,200 to 6,700 children.

Changes to population of children in our area

The table below shows the child population and population as a whole in 2021, compared to 2019.

	All residents	Aged 0-4 years	Aged 5-7 years	Aged 8-9 years	Aged 10-14 years	Child population (aged 0-14 years)
2021	136,616	6747	4506	3303	8025	22,581
2020	137,228	6954	4827	2462	7990	23,233
2019	137,150	7106	4975	3320	7877	23,278
% change 2019/2021	-0.39%	-5.06%	-9.43%	-3.52%	+1.85%	-3.00%

Source: ONS mid-year estimates 2019

Child population projections

	Age range (000's)			
	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	Total 0-14 years
2020	7.1	8.4	8.1	23.6
2021	7	8.2	8.2	23.4
2022	6.8	8.1	8.5	23.4
2023	6.7	7.8	8.6	23.1
2024	6.7	7.7	8.7	23.1
% change 2020 to 2024	-9.0%	-9.1%	6.9%	-2.2%

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

The predicted decline in the child population and the challenges faced by the local authority to increase growth, will impact on the childcare market within the borough and will need to be closely monitored through the annual childcare sufficiency report. The UK has hit a record low birth rate. It is predicted by 2025 that the UK's natural population will start to decline with more deaths than births; the birth rate for England and Wales was 1.61 children per woman, well below the 2.1 that is required to keep the population stable.

Source: ONS

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

Data suggests the gap between the most deprived and least deprived wards is widening. The health of people in Redcar and Cleveland is generally worse than the England average. Redcar and Cleveland is one of the 20% most deprived districts/unitary authorities in England and about 27% (6,538) of children live in low income families. Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average.

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

The settings across the borough support children's special educational needs and disabilities up to the end of the May 2023. In total, there were 204 children accessing 1:1 support, being intensively supported (an increase of 68% from 121 in May 2022), 106 in school nurseries (an increase of 85% from 57 in May 2022 and 98 in private day nurseries and with childminders (an increase of 53% from 64 in May 2022).

Throughout the last 12 months, schools have found it especially difficult for children who were on the Early Years SEND teams waiting list to be seen and some have waited up to seven months for assessments and have had to start school nurseries without an assessment. Since the recruitment of two additional full-time posts the waiting time has

now been reduced for Early Years assessments and schools are able to access additional inclusion sessions to support with children’s transitions.

Children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to support with childcare up to the age of 18 (age 14 for children who do not have a special need or disability). There are 55 children in Early Years with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan in our local authority.

Children’s needs change over time and are identified at different ages. Among the youngest children, SEND may only be identified when they start in childcare or school, and it can take some time from problems being identified to an EHC plan being issued. It is therefore possible that the number of children with SEND aged 0-4 is an underestimate. Some children have SEN but do not have an EHC plan. They may have a SEND Support Plan in place which is written together with practitioners, parents and their childcare provider. Funding can be accessed through higher needs funding by completing termly SEND support plans.

Within the sector, the following four specialist settings provide early years’ education places for 23 children with complex additional needs. The current occupancy is detailed below:

Woodlands School Nursery in Redcar		Dots 'n' Spots Private Day Nursery in Skelton	
2-year-olds	2	2-year-olds	0
3- & 4-year-olds	11	3- & 4-year-olds (including 1 child who accesses 30 hours a week)	7
Total	13	Total	7
Pennyman Primary (Nursery SEND)		Discovery Special Academy Nursery	
3- & 4-year-olds	2	3- & 4-year-olds	2

Capacity in Dots N Spots Specialist provision has been decreased recently, as one child is in receipt of 30 hours funding, due to their parents working. The places at Pennyman Primary and Discovery Special Academy Nursery were bought by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council as there were insufficient places within our borough.

It was identified that an assessment nursery at KTS would support children within a specialist nursery who live in East Cleveland. Funding has been secured and a specialist assessment nursery will open in September 2023.

Economic activity rates January to December 2022

	Redcar and Cleveland %	North East %	Great Britain %
All people:	136,600	2,646,800	65,121,700
Economically active	71.5%	74.0%	78.5%
In employment	69.8%	70.5%	75.6%
Employees	62.4%	63.1%	66.0%
Self employed	7.3%	7.1%	9.3%
Unemployed	4.0%	4.6%	3.6%

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

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

Earnings by place of residence (2022)

	Redcar and Cleveland	North East	Great Britain
Gross weekly pay	£568.40	£580.30	£642.20
Hourly pay	£13.15	£14.66	£16.37

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings – residence analysis

Economic inactivity rates January to December 2022

	Redcar and Cleveland %	North East %	Great Britain %
All people: economically inactive	28.5%	26.0%	21.5%
Not wanting a job	72.8%	77.6%	81.9%
Wanting a job	27.2%	22.4%	18.1%

Source: ONS annual population survey (NOMIS)

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157062/report.aspx?town=redcar#tabempunemp>

It should be noted that a relatively high percentage of economically inactive residents (of working age) are on long term sick; 40.7% compared to 32.0% in the North East and 25.0% in Great Britain.

As at June 2023 4.0% of Redcar and Cleveland’s resident population aged 16-64 years old were claiming out of work benefits, compared to 4.1% regionally and 3.7% nationally.

21.5% of households in Redcar and Cleveland are workless, compared to 19.1% in the North East and 14.0 % across Great Britain (January 2021 to December 2021).

Source: ONS annual population survey.

3. Supply of Childcare

Early years vacancies

The table below shows the various different types of Ofsted registered childcare provision across the borough, as obtained from the Families’ Information Service in May 2023:

Provision Type	Number
Childminders	76
Day Nurseries	27
Pre School Playgroups	2
After School Clubs	20
Breakfast Clubs	37
Holiday Clubs/schemes	11
School 2 Year old Provisions	18
Total	191

Geographical Distribution of Childcare Provision

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

Provision Type	West Cleveland Area	Redcar Area	East Cleveland Area
Childminders	22	34	20
Day Nurseries	8	10	9
Pre School Playgroups	1	0	1
After School Clubs	9	6	5
Breakfast Clubs	16	10	11
Holiday Clubs/schemes	3	6	2
School 2 Year Old Provision	7	3	8
School 30 hour Provision	5	5	11

As at May 2023, 18 school-based 2 year old settings were operating from the following primary schools: St Peters, Hummersea, South Bank, Handale, Lakes, Grangetown, Dormanstown, Ormesby, Overfields, Bankfields, Lockwood, Lingdale, Whitecliffe, St Mary's New Marske, St Joseph's, Chaloner, St Gabriels.

To understand the extent and capacity of all provision within the borough it was fundamental that all providers were included within the audit process. An occupancy questionnaire was developed to ascertain the capacity of the provision and the take-up of places by age of child. The audit was undertaken by the Families' Information Service in April 2023, covering the holiday week of 10th April – 14th April and the term time week of 17th – 21st 2023. Please see appendix 1 for results.

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

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

Additional data within the report was collected by the Families' Information Service and considered when producing the Childcare Sufficiency Report to give a broader picture of childcare in the Borough. This included the number of childcare enquiries received during the period April 2022 and March 2023 (62), and the pricing policies within settings as well as their Ofsted judgements.

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

It is acknowledged that a provision should be as flexible as possible to support those parents working typical hours, as mentioned above. There are currently 5 childminders registered to provide overnight care and 4 who stipulate that they offer weekend provision; however, the majority of childminders do state that they offer 5 or more days a week and can be contacted regarding specific requests from parents/carers.

To date, all enquiries for out-of-hours provision made through the Families' Information Service childcare search facility have been responded to unsuccessfully. It should be noted, however, that the number of such enquiries (5 out of 62) is very low so cannot be relied upon as an accurate reflection of demand. Our parent/carer survey reveals that some parents, especially those on shifts, cannot find childcare on the early morning (before 7.30am) and evening (after 6pm) and holiday childcare

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

4. Funded early education

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

- All children aged 3 and 4 are entitled to 15 hours per week until they start reception class in school
- Children aged 3 and 4 where both parents are working, or from lone parent families where that parent is working, are entitled to 30 hours per week until they start reception class in school
- Children aged 2 whose families receive certain benefits (including low income families in receipt of in-work benefits), or those who meet additional non-economic criteria, are entitled to 15 hours per week. Nationally, about 40% of 2 year olds are entitled to this offer, but the proportion varies by area.

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.

The number of children in Redcar and Cleveland accessing a 2 year old place showed a slight decrease this year compared to 2022. For example, at the end of Spring term 2023, 428 children were taking up a place which was 84% of those eligible according to the DWP, compared to 506 children the end of Spring term 2022 which was 87%. The slight decrease in the number of two year olds registering for two year old places will also be impacted by the falling birth rate.

However, in Redcar and Cleveland the 2 year old take-up of free childcare places by eligible children is 84% which is still above the national average of 74.0% (last published in 2022).

	Redcar and Cleveland %	North East %	National %
2 year old take up rates by eligible children	84.00%	84.50%	74.0%

3 and 4-year-old funded entitlement applications

In January 2023, 61% of children in the North East took up their place in a school nursery compared to a lower national figure of 35%. It is apparent that Redcar and Cleveland continue to have a significantly higher proportion of children (87.25%) accessing school-based universal nursery provision. This is because all our 44 primary schools have attached school nurseries and some schools even take children on their 3rd birthday (rather than the term after). In addition, more of our schools are now offering the extended entitlement of up to 30 hours childcare for 3 & 4-year olds of working parents.

	Redcar and Cleveland %	North East %	National %
3 & 4 year olds receiving 15 hours universal funding	97.1%	98.6%	93.70%

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

The number of 30 hours (extended entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds) places paid to childcare providers increased from 605 (spring term 2022) to 660 (spring term 2023). Most places for 30 hours were registered within private day nurseries, although this has decreased from 2022 when it was 50% of the market share, to 48% in 2023 and reflects the fact that the childminder’s proportion of the market for 30 hours decreased from 22% in 2022 to 19% in 2023. Schools proportion of the market increased to 33% in 2023 compared to 28% in 2022. In 2023, more parents chose to use the 15 hours extended alongside the universal 15 hours at a school setting (where school offered 30 hours provision).

The tables below summarise this data:

30 hours Extended figures Spring Term

Places	Childminders	PVIs	Schools	Total	% Market Share	CMs	PVIs	Schools
2022	136	301	168	605	2022	22	50	28
2023	124	319	217	660	2023	19	48	33

Key:

CM is abbreviation for Childminder

PVIs is abbreviation for Private, Voluntary & Independent Settings

Providers offering funded early education places

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

In the Spring Budget 2023 the Chancellor announced 30 hours childcare for every child over the age of 9 months with working parents by September 2025, where eligibility will match the existing 3-4 year old 30 hours offer. This will be introduced in phases, with 15 hours childcare for working parents of 2-year olds coming into effect in April 2024 and 15 hours childcare for working parents of 9 months- 3years old in September 2024.

5. Prices

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

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

Provision Type	Average Rate
Childminder*	£171.25 (per week full time)
Day Nursery	£264.96 (per week full time)
Pre School Playgroups	£8.95 (per session)
After School Clubs	£14.37 (per session)
Breakfast Club	£2.48 (per session within school)
Breakfast Club	£6.16 (per session)
Holiday Clubs	£160.00 (per week full time)

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

The average cost of childcare per week in our region is lower than the national average at £171.25, compared to £269.86. However, the average weekly gross pay in Redcar and Cleveland of £568.40, is £73.80 lower than the England average of £642.20 per week.

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

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

6. Quality of childcare in our area

Ofsted inspection grades

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

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

Ofsted Inspection Judgements for Provisions

Provision Type	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Met/No grade	Inadequate
Childminders	11	60	0	3	2
Day Nurseries (incl. playgroups)	1	26	0	1	0
Schools Delivering 2 Year Places	3	12	2		1

Please note: Ratings are as at July 2023. ‘No grade’ means that the provision is newly registered and has not yet received an Ofsted judgement. ‘Met’ means there were no early years children present when the inspector called. ‘Requires Improvement’ is the grade formerly known as ‘Satisfactory’.

One of the schools judged by Ofsted as 'Requires Improvement' in November 2017, remained 'Requires Improvement' in September 2021 which included their Early Years Provision. The other school received a 'Requires Improvement' grade in December 2019, including their Early Years Provision. One school received an 'Inadequate' grading in June 2022 and this included the Early Years Provision

Type of provision	Total number of providers	% achieving good or outstanding
Childminders	76	93%
Private and voluntary nurseries (including playgroups)	27	89%
Schools Delivering 2 Year Old Places	18	83%
<i>Total</i>	122	90%

(July 2023)

Note Childminders 60/76 childminders have been inspected and graded. 56 of them achieved good and outstanding and $56/60 = 93\%$

PVI Settings 23/27 settings have been inspected and graded. 21 settings have achieved good and outstanding $21/23=91\%$

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

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

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

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

The data demonstrates that although this area has the highest number of registered childminders (43% of the total boroughwide), 4 childminders have stopped providing childcare in the last 12 months. In this area, 70%, which is 23 out of the 33 of childminders completed the forms.

There are a total of 29 spare pre-school aged places available to children in this area amongst registered childminders compared to 53 in 2022. Even though there are fewer childminders and spaces available this year, there is still spare capacity within the childminding community in the Redcar area to offer additional places for children aged 0-4 years old.

There are 9 day nurseries in the Redcar area and 7 of them responded to the occupancy survey this year. In the period 2022- 2023 occupied places has increased to 279 from 232 (20%) and spare places decreased from 153 to 96 (37%) so it seems that day nurseries are operating at an increased occupancy but there is still some capacity to take additional children. It must be noted that the data includes figures from a nursery which has since closed at the end of the Summer Term and from the numbers that attended there is capacity for them to be absorbed into surrounding settings.

14 out of 15 primary schools in Redcar responded to the occupancy audit. However, even taking this into account, it is clear that the number of children attending breakfast and after school clubs has increased further since last year with 310 breakfast club places taken in 2023 compared to 283 in 2022; 117 after school club places were taken in 2023 compared to 107 in 2022. Childminders within this area have expressed concern of competition from an increasing number of schools opening Breakfast and After School Clubs.

The parent survey confirmed that 87% - 57 out of 65 of parents answered that the childcare was in the right location in the Redcar area. However, 67% - 44 out of 66 parents who replied said the cost of childcare in Redcar was not affordable.

Parents comments from the survey include:

"I am an NHS worker and childcare in my area is only for 9 to 5 jobs which do not suit my needs. When children were younger it was more difficult to find childcare and a quality one. Now use school after school club/breakfast club"

"For us to return to work and put 4 young children into childcare across the week (each child does different hours depending on age) - no child attends full-time private nursery. It costs us over £2,000 a month (this include accessing 15/30hrs free). The school nursery is of excellent quality but unfortunately the private nursery although lovely and try their best they seem to be 'getting by' within minimum resources. We have used different private nurseries and all seem to have issues".

"I found it impossible to find wraparound care so my daughter could attend John Batty's 30 hours provision. We were forced to ask grandparents; don't know what we would have done if they weren't available because all the childminders and nurseries were full and said they couldn't help us!!!"

"Becoming too expensive. Despite having 30 hours free we still pay a substantial amount for our oldest. I didn't think there was much choice for available services for the days we need."

"Nowhere is affordable compared to wages but this area is more affordable than other parts of the country"

"It's more than our mortgage per month. We both work full time so have to juggle with our employers to collect"

"Cannot find childcare for child with special needs"

"Childcare is very expensive particularly for those working full time and not entitled to support, even with the 20% off, the cost is too high. Some private nurseries do not pick up from School which made finding childcare difficult for my son. Luckily, his school opened their own wrap around care which has been fantastic."

I do think childcare costs are expensive which forces a lot of people to leave work while they have young families. I also work shifts so no childminder or nursery places are open 13 hours a day which is obviously understandable just difficult"

Although, the Families' Information Service has not received feedback in terms of unmet need for any aspect of childcare in the Redcar area, some parents struggle with affordability, opening times and choice of provision type.

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

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

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

The data demonstrates that in the East Cleveland area, 12 of the 20 registered childminders responded to the audit, this equates to 16% of the total active childminders in the borough at this time.

These childminders told us that they had 17 spare pre-school places this year compared to 42 in 2022, this is 60% less than last year. This means there is spare capacity within the childminding community to offer additional places for children aged 0-4 years old. The East area has the least number of registered childminders working in the borough, as only 26% of the total population of childminders are based here.

There are 10 private day nurseries in the East Cleveland area. In total, there were 31 spare pre-school aged places available through private day nurseries in Spring 2023 compared to 103 in spring 2022 (70% fewer this year). In addition, 160 pre-school places were occupied in Spring 2023 compared to 242 pre-school aged places were occupied in July 2022 which is a 33% decrease. It must be noted that the data includes figures from a nursery which has since closed at the end of the Summer Term and from the numbers that attended there is capacity for them to be absorbed into surrounding settings in villages nearby.

There were 13 of the 15 primary schools in East Cleveland who responded to the occupancy audit. The number of children attending breakfast and after school clubs has increased to 276 (2023) breakfast club places taken compared to 208 in 2022. This is an increase of 32% on last year. In April 2023, 85 after school club places were taken; compared to 55 in 2022. Overall, this is a 55% increase in children attending before and after school club provision in the East Cleveland area between 2022 and 2023.

East Cleveland is a rural area and although the data shows there is capacity amongst day nurseries, there is still a sufficiency concern in terms of choice and location across some specific towns and villages in the area and the reduction in the number of childminder places available generally across the locality. Brotton is a sufficiency concern as there is only one childminder and no day nursery since its' closure in July 2023. Despite there being some childminders and other day nurseries in the surrounding areas which do have capacity to offer childcare spaces, some parents may not have the means or desire to travel to

another village and would prefer to stay in their immediate community, especially if school pick-ups and drop-offs are required.

From the survey replies, parents who were asked if childcare was in the right area, 49 out of 53 (92%) said it was in right area. However, when asked if affordable 38 out of 54 (70%) said it wasn't and 16 out of 100 (16%) said it was affordable.

Parents comments include:

"Hospital shift starts at 7.30am no childcare opens before 7.30am so I would be late. Also no childcare after 6pm so finishing at 8pm I need help from my parents for my children"

"Difficult to find childminders in the saltburn area"

"Limited choice, not competitive rates, not enough hours."

"Flexibility is the main issues mixed with costs especially private nursery "

"The cost of childcare is a huge burden on working families. Unfunded periods such as summer holidays can be a real strain holidays"

"We couldn't find a childminder in Saltburn so have had to go to Guisborough. The quality is excellent but childcare is one of our biggest expenses, there was basically no choice and one of the childminders we use is term time only."

"Childcare is expensive- I have twin girls. I'm a single mum working full time hours on minimum wage provides me with very little."

"Daily rate for one child is £60 - that's over 50% of my wage."

"I have 3 children and in September when they are all in full time school and I don't have access to free hours of childcare anymore. It would cost me £33 a day for 1 hour after school childcare. £45 for 2 hours. I simply can't afford that per day. I am also paying £8.25 per day for breakfast club"

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

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

The Greater Eston Area includes the following council wards:

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

The occupancy audit identified that childminders in Greater Eston have capacity to offer additional places for pre-school aged children. The response rate from childminders in this area was 65%. The data shows there were a total of 30 spare pre-school aged places available to children amongst registered childminders, compared to 29 spare places available at the time of the 2022 childcare occupancy audit. The number of childminders in the area remain at 23 (2022), and there are still sufficient spare places available for pre-school aged children, presumably still meeting demand.

All of the 10 day nurseries in the area responded to the survey (100% response rate). They have a total of 218 spare pre-school places available which demonstrates there is sufficient childcare places should demand increase. The number spare places may appear higher in this area due to the 100% response rate for the survey.

93% of primary schools/academies responded to the survey in Greater Eston and it is clear that the number of children attending breakfast and after school clubs has decreased from last year to 279 (2023) compared to 283 (2022) breakfast club places taken and 148 (2023) compared to 160 (2022) after school club places taken; these decreases could be due to affordability and parents choosing informal childcare.

In the survey 77% of parents felt that childcare was in the right location to meet their needs. This is a decrease from 90% seen in 2022. The closure of a school's breakfast and afterschool club maybe a factor even when this closure was due to low numbers it will have affected some families. Replies from the parents' survey;

"No private nurseries within Eston"

"My son goes to private nursery out of area in Hemlington."

"The more you work, the more childcare you pay so you end up being worse off so you're punished for working "

"Childminders full"

"too expensive and outweighs actually working to earn the money to pay for childcare."

“When my school stopped offering afterschool club I struggled to find a child minder and when I did they closed down after a short period. The day nurseries in the area had no capacity to pick up from his school or if they did were full. No childminders would take him. I had to rely on elderly relatives so that I could work. Luckily in recent weeks the school now offer afterschool again”

“I don't require childcare. My family help”

“Unable to support the timings of work for my wife and myself to be able to comfortable say that my daughter would not be dropped off picked on time”

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

The Families' Information Service has not received any direct feedback in terms of unmet need for any aspect of childcare in the Greater Eston area.

8. Appendix 1 Results of Occupancy Audit Data by Area

REDCAR AREA CHILDCARE PROVISION

Session	Under 2 years		Age 2 years		Age 3-4 years Universal		Age 3-4 years Extended		Age 3-4 years Holiday		Age 5-7 years Holiday		Age 8-11 years Holiday		Age 12-14 years Holiday		Age 15-17 years Holiday		TOTALS
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
CHILDMINDERS																			
Available Places	17	16	17	12	7	7	12	14	24	22	30	21	11	11	3	3	1	1	229
Occupied Places	12	11	12	9	3	3	10	12	15	13	14	11	6	6	0	0	0	0	137
Spare Places	5	5	5	3	4	3	2	2	9	9	10	10	5	5	3	3	1	1	85
DAYCARE PROVISION (day nurseries, school 2 year old provisions & pre-school playgroups)																			
Available Places	32	33	70	68	75	59	27	38	36	36	25	24	18	18	3	3	3	3	571
Occupied Places	27	27	52	48	60	43	18	31	22	23	15	14	10	10	0	0	0	0	400
Spare Places	5	6	18	20	15	16	9	7	14	13	10	10	8	8	3	3	3	3	171

SCHOOL PROVISION - CHILDCARE PROVISION (occupied places)			
Breakfast Places 3-4 years	9	After School Places 3-4 years	1
Breakfast Places 5-10 years	129	After School Places 5-10 years	51
Breakfast Places 8-11 years	172	After School Places 8-11 years	65

HOLIDAY PROVISION (across all childcare types)			
Available Places	293	Occupied Places	160
Spare Places		133	

EAST CLEVELAND AREA CHILDCARE PROVISION

	Under 2 years		Age 2 years		Age 3-4 years Universal		Age 3-4 years Extended		Age 3-4 years Holiday		Age 5-7 years Holiday		Age 8-11 years Holiday		Age 12-14 years Holiday		Age 15-17 years Holiday (Disabled Only)		TOTALS
	Session	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM		
CHILDMINDERS																			
Available Places	11	11	9	8	8	8	6	6	5	5	9	10	3	3	0	0	0	0	102
Occupied Places	9	9	7	6	5	6	4	4	3	3	6	7	2	2	0	0	0	0	73
Spare Places	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	29
DAYCARE PROVISION (day nurseries, school 2 year old provisions & pre-school playgroups)																			
Available Places	22	18	28	27	18	18	29	31	31	31	8	8	4	4	0	0	0	0	277
Occupied Places	20	16	24	19	18	18	24	21	17	17	8	8	3	3	0	0	0	0	216
Spare Places	2	2	4	8	0	0	5	10	14	14	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	61

SCHOOL PROVISION - CHILDCARE PROVISION (occupied places)			
Breakfast Places 3-4 years	11	After School Places 3-4 years	5
Breakfast Places 5-10 years	114	After School Places 5-10 years	34
Breakfast Places 8-11 years	151	After School Places 8-11 years	46

HOLIDAY PROVISION (across all childcare types)			
Available Places	123	Occupied Places	80
Spare Places		43	

GREATER ESTON CLEVELAND AREA CHILDCARE PROVISION

	Under 2 years		Age 2 years		Age 3-4 years Universal		Age 3-4 years Extended		Age 3-4 years Holiday		Age 5-7 years Holiday		Age 8-11 years Holiday		Age 12-14 years Holiday		Age 15-17 years Holiday (Disabled Only)		TOTALS
	Session	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	
CHILDMINDERS																			
Available Places	10	12	16	16	6	8	6	7	23	22	17	17	17	17	5	5	1	1	206
Occupied Places	7	8	9	9	3	5	5	5	8	7	5	5	4	4	1	1	0	0	86
Spare Places	3	4	7	7	3	3	1	2	15	15	12	12	13	13	4	4	1	1	120
DAYCARE PROVISION (day nurseries, school 2 year old provisions & pre-school playgroups)																			
Available Places	64	57	125	117	82	86	79	92	32	31	33	31	20	20	19	19	0	0	907
Occupied Places	39	35	98	89	57	54	52	63	8	7	12	11	4	4	1	1	0	0	535
Spare Places	25	25	27	28	25	32	27	29	24	24	21	20	16	16	18	18	0	0	372

SCHOOL PROVISION - CHILDCARE PROVISION (occupied places)			
Breakfast Places 3-4 years	13	After School Places 3-4 years	4
Breakfast Places 5-10 years	113	After School Places 5-10 years	60
Breakfast Places 8-11 years	153	After School Places 8-11 years	84

HOLIDAY PROVISION (across all childcare types)			
Available Places	382	Occupied Places	96
Spare Places			286

9. Action Plan

Key Actions	Target Delivery Date	Measure of Success	Outcome	Who is responsible
Work with early years providers across all sectors to encourage more flexible supply of childcare places.	Termly	Sufficient childcare places delivered at times to suit those who wish to work or train.	Meet statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient childcare.	Early Years Sufficiency Advisor
Promote all types of Tax Free Childcare to ensure working parents are informed and able to access provisions.	Termly/ September 2024	<p>Number of children accessing extended 3 and 4 year old entitlement increases (30 hours) from levels at September 2023.</p> <p>Increased take up of Free Childcare places for 2-year olds from levels at September 2023 and, from April 2024, further increased take up when all working parents of 2-year olds can access 15 hours per week.</p>	<p>More working parents are supported by this childcare initiative to provide more affordable childcare.</p> <p>Childcare setting numbers increase and childcare providers are sustainable.</p> <p>Improved outcomes and transitions into education for the most disadvantaged early years children.</p>	<p>FIS Lead Officer</p> <p>Early Years Sufficiency Advisor</p> <p>Families' Information Service Assistant</p> <p>Families Information Service Team</p>
Closely monitor resignations of childminders across the borough and encourage new childminders to register.	September 2024	<p>Monthly management information available on Childminder turnover and availability.</p> <p>Increase in registered childminders.</p>	Sufficient childminders across the borough.	<p>FIS Lead Officer</p> <p>Early Years Sufficiency Advisor</p> <p>Families' Information Service Assistant</p> <p>Early Years Quality Team</p>

Key Actions	Target Delivery Date	Measure of Success	Outcome	Who is responsible
Carry out annual Early Years Census of available places for funded children aged 2, 3 and 4 years old across the Borough and determine the number of places available.	January 2024	There will be enough childcare places to meet the needs of working families in Redcar and Cleveland.	The local authority will meet its statutory duty to conduct the DfE census and provide sufficient childcare places.	Early Years Sufficiency Advisor Intelligence team
Encourage partnership working between schools and other providers to deliver a flexible 30 hour entitlement for working parents.	Dec 2024	Childcare provision is flexible and meets the needs of working parents (not just available term time only).	Increase in affordable childcare for working parents in the Borough.	Early Years Sufficiency Advisor Early Years Quality Team
Carry out a wide-reaching parent survey to inform the Childcare Sufficiency Report in 2023.	April 2024	Parents' views about childcare in Redcar and Cleveland are reflected within the Childcare Sufficiency report and are representative of parents in all the local authority area.	There is sufficient/ the local authority is working towards building sufficient childcare places to meet parent's needs.	Early Years Sufficiency Advisor
Complete Childcare Sufficiency Report update for 2024.	December 2024	CSA report update available on RCBC website and PIN.	Local authority will meet duty to complete annual review of current CS report.	Education Capital Projects and Place Planning Lead FIS Lead Officer/ Early Years Sufficiency Advisor
Work with those childcare providers that are identified by Ofsted as 'Requires Improvement' or 'Inadequate'	As required	Improved Ofsted inspection outcomes.	Improved social, emotional and educational outcomes for children who are ready to start school.	Early Years Quality Team

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

