

2015/16

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Annual Report



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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 set out 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 remained relatively stable and now stands at 133788. East Devon, Mid Devon and Teignbridge saw a slight increase in the population whereas all other districts saw a small decrease.

Overall the population of under-five-year-olds across Devon has decreased by slightly by 0.4% over the last 12 months. The population of two-, three- and four-year-olds eligible for Early Years Education Funding has decreased by 1.9% over the last 12 months.

The population of under-five-year-olds is predicted to continue to decrease over the next year along with the number of two-, three- and four-year-olds eligible for Early Years Education Funding.

Housing Developments

There are several areas in Devon where new housing developments will significantly increase the population and therefore the demand in childcare. This is discussed at the Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots meetings see page 15.

Other information

Other information that can be accessed to help put childcare requirements into context includes:

- [The Devon Story factsheet](#) – more information on the picture of Devon.
- [Geography and Transport factsheet](#) - Information on the geographical make up of Devon County Councils administrative area and transport around the county.
- [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.
- [Childcare Survey 2016](#) – Family and Childcare Trust have put together constituency profiles displaying the results of the national survey

WHAT IMPACT DOES THIS HAVE ON EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION IN DEVON?

Information on how the make-up of Devon impacts on early years and childcare provision can be found on the [Factors Impacting on Early Years and Childcare Provision factsheet](#).

KEY CHANGES TO EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION IN 2015-16

- The Golden Ticket was introduced in Autumn Term 2015 as proof of eligibility for the early years education funding for two-year-olds. It is sent to all families on the lists supplied by the Department for Work and Pensions. The ticket makes it much easier for parents to take up the funding and has significantly increased the take up places for two-year-olds. For more information please see page 17. The Golden Ticket is also available in Polish and Lithuanian on the [website](#).



- A Devon Early Years and Childcare Service Facebook page has been set up in order to improve communications with parents and providers. Like and follow the page at: www.facebook.com/devoneycs



- A non-attendance fee for fully funded courses was introduced from 1 January 2016 to improve attendance at training
- Paediatric First aid training is being offered by the Early Years and Childcare Service
- The Early Years and Childcare Service are offering a 5 day training package for prospective childminders.

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 2016

Type of Childcare	2014/15		2015/16	
	No. of Providers	No. of Places	No. of Providers	No. of Places
Day Nursery	124	9946.5	128	10204.5
Pre-school playgroup	260	5205.5	249	5289.5
Nursery unit of independent schools	15	533.5	15	516
Academy nursery class	10	312	17	504
Maintained nursery class	47	1556	47	1651.5
Out of school club	166	6110	164	6069
Weekend Club	8	68.5	5	37.5
Holiday Scheme	91	4337	87	4405
Childminder	689	3963*	632	3968.5*
Home Childcarer	157	-	142	-
All Provision	1567	32029	1486	32375.5

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2016), Early Years and Childcare Service

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

Points of Interest:

- 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.
- There was a notable expansion of 10 private day nurseries.

SUPPLY OF CHILDCARE

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

Annual Survey of Providers 2016

The Early Years and Childcare Service conducts an Annual Survey of Providers. All 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 of the Early Years Education Funding, charges, expansions and reductions of provision, care for atypical hours and care for irregular hours. For more information please see the [Annual Survey of Providers webpage](#), which includes the analysis of this year's [Annual Survey of Providers 2016](#).

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.

There has also been a decrease in the level of out of school provision, both group-based out of school provision as well as a decrease in the number of childminders.

DEMAND FOR CHILDCARE

DISC

[DISC, Devon's family information service](#), provide the main source of information for parents about childcare in Devon and help parents to find and choose childcare.

If you are a parent who is unable to find suitable childcare, it is important that you tell Devon County Council so that it can help to inform our sufficiency planning. To do this, please contact the DISC brokerage service by phoning 01392 385522 or e-mailing discinfo@devon.gov.uk or complete the [Parent Feedback Form](#).

Parent Feedback Forms

10 parent feedback forms have been submitted in 2015/16. Seven of these requested to be contacted by DISC. Nine reported that the reason they required childcare was for them to work.

DISC Enquiries

In 2015/16 there were three instances where DISC were unable to find suitable childcare for parents. One was for a parent needing after school provision in Upottery; this is due to there being insufficient demand to run provision in a rural area. Two were for parents looking for two-year-old places in Teignmouth who were eligible for the early years education funding and this has been followed up by the Early Years and Childcare Service.

Estimated 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 2014-15¹. 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 demand of childcare to establish areas where there may be a lack of provision and these are discussed at the [Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots meetings](#). For more information on Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots Meetings please see page 15.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-and-early-years-survey-of-parents-2014-to-2015> [Accessed April 2016]

QUALITY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION

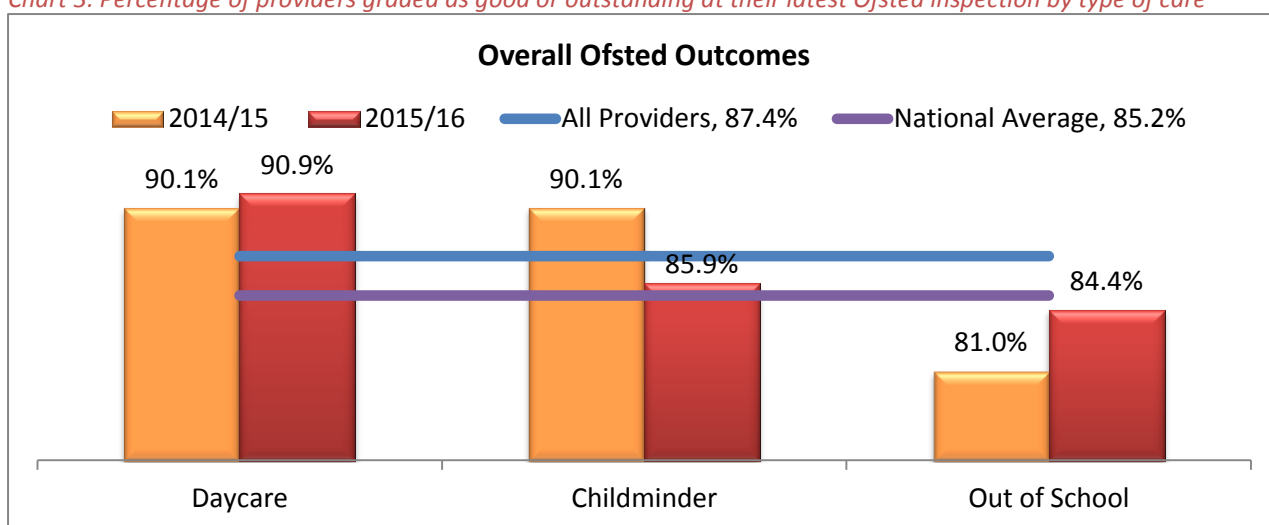
Ofsted outcomes

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 that the Early Years Foundation Stage is inspected and reported on. This equates for approximately 14% of day care providers and 12% of places.

The percentage of providers graded as good or outstanding by Ofsted at their most recent Ofsted inspection has decreased slightly by 1.3% this year from 88.7%² to 87.4%³ but remains higher than national (85.2%) and South West average (86.6%)⁴.

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



Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2016), Early Years and Childcare Service

² DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2015), Early Years and Childcare Service, Percentage of providers graded as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection between 1 September 2008 and 31 March 2015

³ DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2016), Early Years and Childcare Service, Percentage of providers graded as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection between 1 September 2008 and 31 March 2016

⁴ OFSTED (2016), 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 2015, by region and local authority

Outcomes of inspections in 2015/16

From 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, Ofsted inspected 404 early years and childcare providers in Devon where there were children in attendance and the provider was graded.

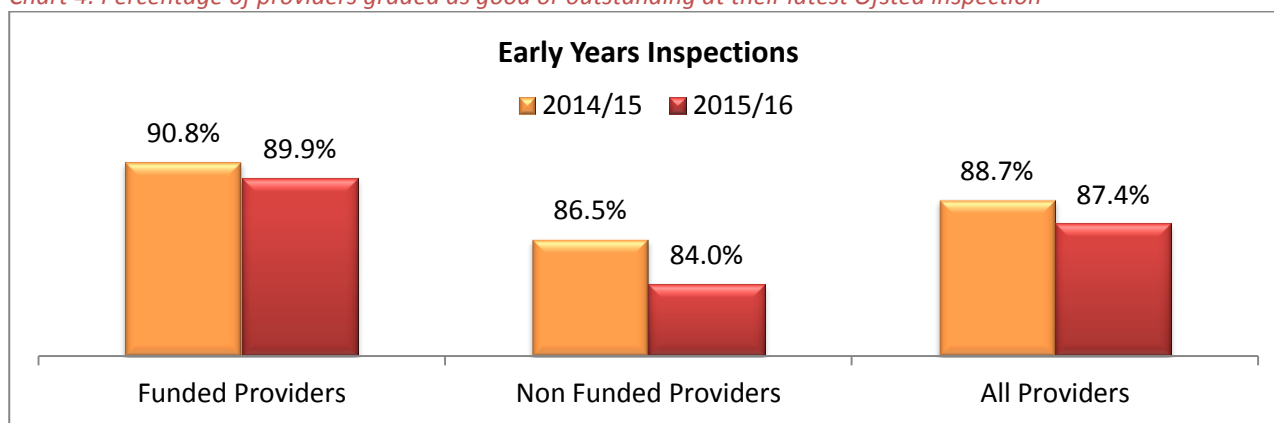


Good news

- 88.6% (31) of providers previously graded as inadequate or satisfactory have now been re-inspected and graded as good or outstanding. This is 8.4% of providers inspected in 2015/16.
- 89.2% (298) of providers previously graded as good or outstanding have now been re-inspected and are still graded as good or outstanding. This is 80.8 % of providers inspected in 2015/16.

Early Years Inspections

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



Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2016), Early Years and Childcare Service

- The percentage of providers approved to offer the early years education funding for two-year-olds graded as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection has increased this year by 3.8% to 95.9%
- The percentage of Early Years Entitlement funded providers graded as good or outstanding at their latest Ofsted inspection has decreased this year by 0.3% to 90.4%.

Educational Attainment

High quality early years and childcare provision leads to better outcomes for children. This can be monitored through the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile outcomes. More information on this can be found on the [Educational Attainment factsheet](#).

For further statistics and information on the outcomes of the 2015 EYFS Profile please see the [EYFS Profile Headlines Factsheet](#).

EARLY YEARS WORKFORCE

Over the last year there have been no changes to the funding for qualifications. For more information please see the [Working in Childcare webpage](#).

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

April 2015 – March 2016 Overview

Over the last year the number of practitioners undertaking level 3 Early Years Educator qualifications has reduced, with the requirement for GCSE's at grade C or above in English and maths having a significant impact on this. A recruitment survey was undertaken following many providers reporting that they are experiencing difficulty in recruiting good quality staff at all levels, and through this we gained feedback about the problems providers are experiencing.

Key areas for April 2016 – March 2017

A recruitment plan has been put in place to support settings with the problems they are experiencing in recruiting. We are also waiting for further guidance from the Department for Education who are looking into the requirements around GCSE's for practitioners wanting to undertake level 3 qualifications. New requirements around Paediatric First Aid will come into force from 1 September 2016; Devon County Council will ensure providers know about, and understand the changes, and know how to access appropriate training. Communication, Speech and Language, Behaviour training, and Working with Babies courses remain a focus for practitioners at all levels as part of their continuous professional development.

AFFORDABILITY OF CHILDCARE

Day care provision

Parents can pay usually pay between £3.75 and £4.50⁵ per hour for day care provision for under-five-year-olds depending on location, type of day care and age of child. On average, parents pay £4.12 per hour for day care provision which has increased from £3.86 in 2014/15.

The most expensive average day care costs are found at nursery units of independent schools and day nurseries, with the least expensive hourly costs found in pre-school playgroups and maintained nursery classes.

Parents pay on average a higher rate for younger children with parents paying an average of £4.46 per hour for an under-two-year-old at group-based day care providers which has increased from £4.34 in 2013/14.

Devon County Council has approved to fund 548 childcare providers to provide places for two-year-olds⁶. Outside of this entitlement, parents pay on average £4.14 per hour for a two-year-old at group-based day care providers, which has increased from £3.85 in 2014/15.

⁵ Based on responses to the [Annual Survey of Providers 2016](#)

⁶ www.devon.gov.uk/2gether [Accessed April 2016]

Devon County Council also currently funds 690 childcare providers to provide places for three- and four-year olds as part of the early years education funding⁷. Outside this entitlement, parents pay on average £4.00 per hour for a three-or-four-year-old at group-based day care providers, which has increased from £3.71 in 2014/15.

70% (762) of all day care providers report that they accept employer childcare vouchers in order to help parents with the affordability of day care.

Day care costs in Devon are less than those seen nationally⁸, with parents spending approximately 18.7% of one parent's weekly wages⁹ on day care (25 hours a week).

Out of school provision

Parents usually pay between £4.00 and £10.00¹⁰ per session for group-based out of school provision depending on length of care, location and type of activity involved. On average, parents pay £3.53 for a before school group-based session decreasing from £3.73 in 2014/15, and £8.22 for an after school group-based session decreasing from £8.25 in 2014/15.

37.0% (295) of all out of school care providers report that they accept the employer childcare vouchers in order to help parents with the affordability of out of school provision. A higher proportion of group based providers (47.0%) reported that they accept employer childcare vouchers.

Out of school care costs in Devon are less than those seen nationally¹¹, with parents spending approximately 7.5% of one parent's weekly wages¹² on out of school care (15 hours a week, 5 after school sessions).

Holiday care

Parents usually pay between £19.00 and £33.00¹³ per day for group-based holiday care depending on the location, the needs of the child and the activities involved. On average, parents pay £25.55 per day for group-based holiday care, which has increased from £24.67 in 2014/15.

On average, holiday costs in Devon are more expensive than those seen nationally. 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.

36.4% (262) of all holiday providers report they accept employer childcare vouchers in order to help parents with the affordability of holiday care.

⁷ <http://devon.cc/earlyyearsentitlement> [Accessed April 2016]

⁸ FAMILY AND CHILDCARE TRUST (2015), *Childcare Costs Survey 2015*, Table One: Average weekly childcare costs by region and nation, 2015 - www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-cost-survey-2015 [Accessed April 2015]

⁹ Based on full-time (mean) gross weekly pay –resident analysis 2015 (Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings)

¹⁰ Based on responses to the [Annual Survey of Providers 2016](#)

¹¹ FAMILY AND CHILDCARE TRUST (2015), *Childcare Costs Survey 2015*, Table One: Average weekly childcare costs by region and nation, 2015 - www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-cost-survey-2015 [Accessed April 2016]

¹² Based on full-time (mean) gross weekly pay –resident analysis 2015 (Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings)

¹³ Based on responses to the [Annual Survey of Providers 2016](#)

Help with the costs of childcare

Parents who experience difficulties in accessing childcare because of the affordability, should contact Devon's Family Information Service (DISC) on 0845 155 1013 or discinfo@devon.gov.uk or visit the [paying for childcare pages of the DISC website](#) for advice and guidance on help with the cost of childcare.

For those parents of children with special educational needs or disabilities please see the [SEND – Paying for Childcare – Information for Parents 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 reasonable distance to access it. The quality of 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 3: 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 ¹⁴ within			
	5 miles ¹⁵	3 miles	2 miles	1 mile
All providers	100%	94%	77%	36%
Day care providers ¹⁶	100%	94%	77%	35%
Out of school providers ¹⁷	98%	85%	63%	28%
All funded providers	100%	92%	72%	31%
Providers approved to offer the early years education funding for eligible two-year-olds	99%	90%	68%	28%
Providers approved to offer the early years education funding for three- and four-year-olds	100%	92%	72%	32%

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2016), Early Years and Childcare Service



Good news

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

Almost all (98%) of Devon County Council's administrative area is within a five-mile radius of out of school provision. 85% of Devon County Council's administrative area is within a three-mile radius of out of school provision and 63% is within a two-mile radius. However, 61% of out of school provision is run on school sites, so parents would not have to travel any further than they would if they were picking up and dropping off children at school.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ Distance is measured as a straight line from the child's home to the childcare provider.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ Out of school provision in this analysis includes out of school clubs, weekend clubs, holiday clubs and childminders.

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 2016.

Childcare provision is in convenient locations with 46% day care providers located on a school site. 22% of day care providers are located in community buildings often within a reasonable walking distance of the family home. A further 29% of day care providers are situated in other non-domestic buildings, which are often situated on travel-to-work routes.

There are a further 632 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 for local schools.

SUFFICIENCY OF EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE PROVISION

The level of provision for under-five-year-olds has increased slightly this year, mainly due to the continued roll out of the early years education funding for eligible two-year-olds. On the other hand, the level of provision for out of school care has decreased again this year. However, there have only been three instances where DISC has been unable to find suitable childcare for parents in 2014/15 (this is detailed on page 7).

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.

The new [Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015](#)¹⁸ has helped to enable further development and expansion of early years and childcare providers, increasing the supply of childcare and therefore help to ensure sufficient provision. This act:

- Removes the requirement for schools to register with Ofsted to admit two-year-olds. This has seen a larger number of schools now admitting two-year-olds from their second birthday.
- Allows one registration for providers operating on more than one site. This means that existing providers can offer further services from additional sites with ease which may see the amount of out of school provision increase.
- Allows childminders to also operate from non-domestic premises i.e. school sites, village halls, children's centres, for up to half of their operating time. Just over a third of childminders who responded to the Annual Survey reported that they would be willing to do this.

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 due to the increase in the entitlement to early education and childcare for working families to 30 hours a week.
- 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

Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots Meetings are held biannually with the Early Years and Childcare Commissioning Managers, Early Years and Childcare Sufficiency Lead and Early Years and Childcare Analysts. These meetings focus on new housing developments, commercial developments, provision for two-, three- and four-year-old places, new schools, quality of early years provision, openings, closures and expansions of childcare provision, take up of entitlements and any feedback from the Devon's Family Information Service of areas where they have been unable to find suitable childcare for parents. This is discussed in a holistic way for areas across Devon and provides a comprehensive approach to planning sufficient provision across the county. 'Hot Spots'

¹⁸ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/26/part/5/enacted [Accessed April 2015]

are identified and agreed at these meetings for areas where there is a need for provision or where further work is required by the Early Years and Childcare Service.

Hot Spot areas identified at the Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spot meetings held in February 2016 are:

Table 4: Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spot areas

Locality	Area	Reason for Hot Spot
Eastern Devon	East of Exeter	• Housing Developments
	Whipton	• Lack of 2 year old provision
Northern Devon	West Croft (Bideford)	• Lack of 2, 3 and 4 year old provision
Southern Devon	Chudleigh	• Housing Developments
	Dawlish	• Lack of 2 year old provision
	Newton Abbot	• Housing Developments • Lack of 2 year old provision

EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE SERVICE (2016) – Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spot Meeting

A detailed audit is then carried out of the hot spot area to further identify the issues. Actions and recommendations are then set to address the sufficiency issues in these hot spot areas.

For more information please see: <http://devon.cc/childcare-sufficiency>

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

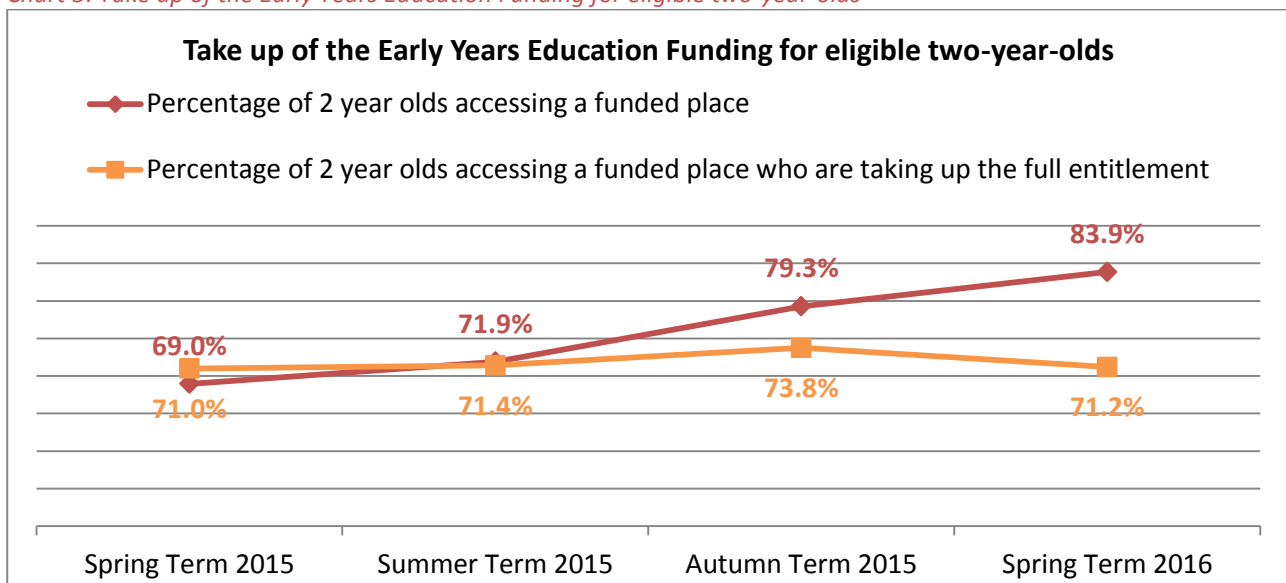
CHILDREN AGED TWO, THREE AND FOUR TAKING UP FREE EARLY EDUCATION

Early Years Education Funding for two-year-olds

For more information on the early years education entitlement for two-year-olds, the eligibility criteria and how to check eligibility please see the [webpage](#) or phone 0845 155 1019.

Take-up of the Early Years Education Funding for eligible two-year-olds

Chart 5: Take up of the Early Years Education Funding for eligible two-year-olds



Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2016), Early Years and Childcare Service, Early Years Entitlement Take Up Analysis – Spring Term 2016



Good news

- The take-up of the Early Years Education Funding for eligible two-year-olds has significantly increased over the last year by 14.9% to 83.9%.
- The take-up of the full entitlement to 570 hours, has remained relatively stable and is now 71.2%.

Two-year-olds in care



Good news

- The take-up of the full entitlement by those two-year-olds in local authority care has increased from 64.3% in spring term 2015 to 87.5% in spring term 2016.

Please note that the numbers of children in care eligible at any one time are very small (usually 17-22) and therefore a drop in take-up of one child has a significant impact on the percentage.

Approved providers



Good news

- The number of providers approved to offer the early years entitlement for eligible two-year-olds, has continued to increase this year by 80 to 568. 56 of these have been new funded childminders.

Table 5: Number of providers approved to offer the early years entitlement for eligible two-year-olds

Type of childcare	Number of providers 2014/15	Number of providers 2015/16
Day nursery	116	117
Pre-school playgroup	209	218
Nursery unit of independent schools	0	0
Academy nursery class	3	9
Maintained nursery class	12	20
Childminder	148	204
All providers	488	568

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2016), *Early Years and Childcare Service*– 31 March 2016

Sufficiency of provision for 2015/16

Data suggests that overall there is sufficient provision to meet the current need for funded two-year-old places across Devon and also for children to attend providers for additional bought hours if parents need this to enable them to undertake work or training.

There are a high number of different types of providers offering the early education for funded two-year-olds with a large proportion of places being available from the child's second birthday meaning that the full entitlement can be accessed over three terms.

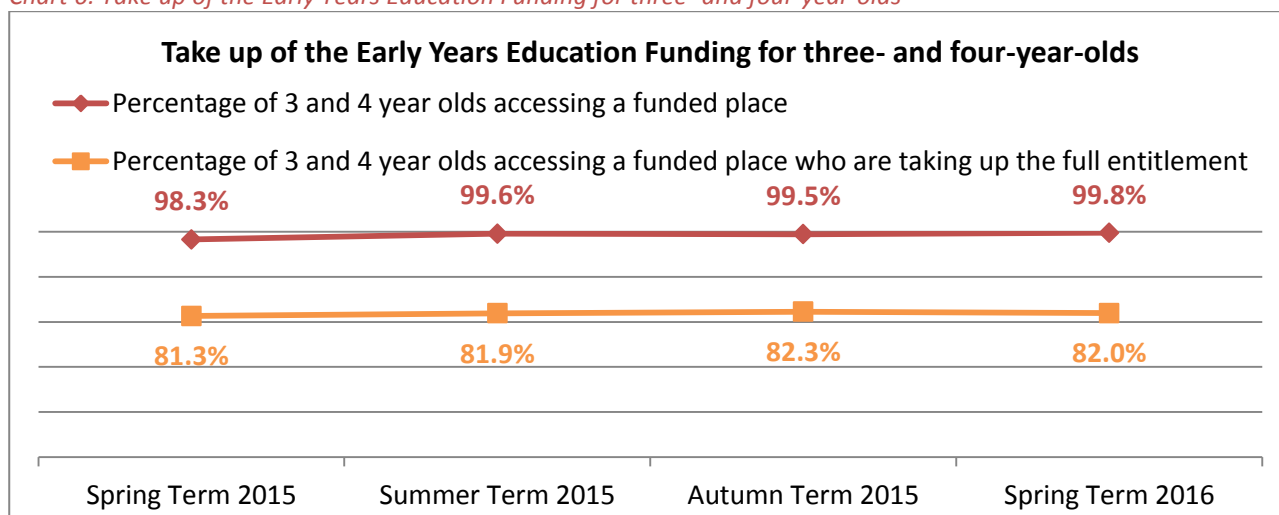
Sufficiency of provision for two-year-old places is discussed as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots meetings. Areas identified at these meetings where there is a need for more provision are detailed on page 15.

Early Years Education Funding for three- and four-year-olds

For more information and an explanation of the Early Years Entitlement please see the [Early Years Entitlement webpage](#).

Take-up of Early Years Education Funding for three- and four-year-olds

Chart 6: Take up of the Early Years Education Funding for three- and four-year-olds



Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2016), Early Years and Childcare Service, Early Years Entitlement Take Up Analysis – Spring Term 2016



Good news

- The take-up of the Early Years Education Funding for three- and four-year-olds has remained high at nearly 100%.
- The take-up of the full entitlement has continued to increase over the last year 0.7% to 82.0%.

Three- and four-year-olds in care



Good news

- The percentage of three- and four-year-olds in care accessing the Early Years Education Funding has increased by 2.5% over the last year to 97.0%. However this reached 100% in summer and autumn terms.
- The percentage of three- and four-year olds in care who are accessing a place who are taking up the full entitlement has also increased this year by 8.3% to 90.6%.

Please note that the numbers of children in care at any one time are small and therefore a change in take-up of one child has a significant impact on the percentage.

Funded providers



Good news

- The total number of funded providers has continued to increase this year by 38 to 693. This is mainly due to the increase in new funded childminders.

Table 6: Number of Early Years Entitlement funded providers

Type of childcare	Number of providers 14/15	
Day nursery	119	121
Pre-school playgroup (including Governor Run provision)	243	240
Nursery unit of independent schools	13	13
Academy nursery class	10	17
Maintained nursery class	47	47
Childminder	223	255
All providers	655	693

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2016), Early Years and Childcare Service – 31 March 2016

Sufficiency of provision for 2015/16

Across Devon, there is sufficient provision for three- and four- year olds to access the Early Years Education Funding and also to attend providers for additional bought hours if the parents need this to enable them to undertake work or training.

Sufficiency of provision for 2017 - Extension of the entitlement to 30 hours for working families

The government has committed to offering an additional 15 hours per week of funded childcare to three- and four-year-olds where both parents are in work by September 2017¹⁹.

61.1% of funded providers, who responded to the Annual Survey of Providers 2016, reported that they would be able to offer 30 hours. 79% of funded providers are open for 30 hours or more and therefore should be able to offer this entitlement. The main reason given by providers who reported not being able to offer the extension to the entitlement, is due to a limit in the availability of the premises. The Early Years and Childcare Service will work with those providers that are not open for 30 hours to address issues and increase the number of providers who can offer the entitlement, ready for the introduction in September 2017. This is likely to mean that providers work in partnership if they are unable to deliver 30 hours.

¹⁹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/5/enacted [Accessed May 2016]

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

What is the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit?

Information on the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit can be found on the [DISC factsheet](#) or on the [government website](#).

Table 7: Percentage of families benefitting from the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit

	Percentage of families benefitting from the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit		
	2012-13	2013-14	Difference
East Devon	14.6%	13.7%	-0.9%
Exeter	16.6%	16.7%	0.1%
Mid Devon	13.2%	13.9%	0.7%
North Devon	14.8%	14.9%	0.1%
South Hams	13.5%	12.1%	-1.4%
Teignbridge	13.8%	14.8%	1.0%
Torridge	10.5%	12.1%	1.6%
West Devon	11.8%	9.1%	-2.7%
Devon	13.9%	14.5%	0.6%
South West	14.2%	14.6%	0.4%
England	14.4%	14.9%	0.5%

Source: 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, 2013-14²⁰

Funding, Partners and Projects supporting families in receipt of the childcare element of the working tax credit and those affected by changes under the welfare reforms

- **Free School Meals** – children in families in receipt of the universal credit or working tax credit could be eligible to receive [free school meals](#) if they attend nursery provision in a school both before and after the lunch time period.
- **Children's Centres** – Devon's [Children's Centres](#) offer advice and support to all families and have links with Job Centre Plus and local housing associations.

²⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/personal-tax-credits-finalised-award-statistics-geographical-statistics-2013-to-2014> [Accessed April 2016]

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

The Local Offer

The SEND Code of Practice places a duty on Local Authorities to publish, in one place, information about provision they expect to be available in their area for children and young people from 0 to 25 who have special educational needs. This is known as the 'local offer'.

For more information on the Devon County Council's Local Offer please see:

www.devon.gov.uk/send

Devon Information, Advice and Support (DIAS) for SEND

DIAS offer legally based and easily accessible impartial information and advice, to support children and young people aged 0 – 25 years, with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parents and carers.

Early years and childcare provision for children with additional needs

All early years and childcare providers are required through the Equality Act 2010²¹ and the Children and Families Act 2014²² to be inclusive. These early years and childcare providers are Ofsted-registered, meaning that parents can claim the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit to help pay for childcare. There is also support to ensure that children are effectively included within the setting and that their needs are met.

For more information on how Devon County Council is supporting the inclusion of children with additional needs please see: www.devon.gov.uk/send

For more information on funding available to support the inclusion of children with special educational needs and disabilities please see: [Paying for Childcare: Special educational needs and disabilities factsheet](#).

Not all providers will be able to cater for all types of need. For more information on Ofsted-registered childcare for children with additional needs please contact DISC on 0845 155 1013 or e-mail discinfo@devon.gov.uk or visit the [DISC webpage](#)

For more information on specialist activities and services in your area please phone 0845 155 1013 or e-mail specialeducation@devon.gov.uk or visit www.devon.gov.uk/send

Sufficiency of early years and childcare provision for children with additional needs

Younger children with additional needs are generally included within mainstream provision. As more children are identified as having a SEND as they get older and they may then have an Education, Health and Care Plan in places, there may be a greater demand for out of school places than there is for specialist early years places. However, establishing sufficient demand to sustain a new specialist setting is a challenge as children with a variety of support needs are spread the county.

²¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents

²² www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted

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 the [Devon Community Directory](#).

Devon County Council considers there to be sufficient choice to meet the childcare needs of parents of children with additional needs.

At a recent Devon Parent Carers Voice event all parents appeared to find pre-schools welcoming to their children.

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.

There are a total of 87 holiday schemes across Devon and a further 632 childminders who offer childcare in the holidays. In addition to this, all-year-round provision such as day nurseries will also cater for younger children.

The number of places for holiday provision has remained fairly static with one full-time equivalent place (30 hours per week) for 16.7% of the population of primary-school-aged children. 43% of these places are group-based with the remaining 57% of places being provided by childminders.

Sufficiency of provision children needing holiday care

36% 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 with 80% of Devon County Council's administrative area being 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, we assume that there is sufficient provision across Devon to meet this need.

SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

There are a total of 164 out of school clubs and a further 632 childminders who also offer out of school provision for school-aged children.

Before and after school provision remains relatively the same as 2014-15. Nearly half the places are in group-based provision and half being provided by childminders. Approximately one place is available for 11% of primary-school-aged children.

Sufficiency of out of school provision for school-aged children

As schools do not have to register their out of school provision with Ofsted, the local authority does not necessarily know when a new provision has opened. This may lead to there being more provision available for out of school care than stated above.

85% of Devon County Council's administrative area is within a three-mile radius of Ofsted registered out of school provision.

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.

The government has now published the outcome of the ['Wraparound and holiday childcare: parent and childcare provider 'rights to request''](#). From September 2017, parents can request that schools provide childcare and childcare providers can request the use school building from where they can operate childcare. It is the responsibility of the school governors or trusts to respond to these requests.

CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH PARENTS WHO WORK ATYPICAL AND IRREGULAR HOURS

Atypical Hours

Atypical hours refers to care required before 8.00am, after 6.00pm, overnight or at weekends.

Day Care Providers

Table 8: Percentage of day care providers and places available before 8am and after 6pm

	% of all providers open for atypical hours	Percentage of places available in providers operating for atypical hours				
		Under 2 year olds places	All 2 year old places	All 3&4 year old places	Funded 2 year old places	Funded 3&4 year old places
Before 8am	33.9%	59.4%	43.8%	28.2%	45.6%	18.8%
After 6pm	9.1%	20.4%	13.8%	8.7%	14.8%	8.6%

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2016), Early Years and Childcare Service

There is a marked difference between the amount of provision available before 8.00am and what is open after 6.00pm. Feedback from providers reported 39.8% had children who required care before 8.00am whilst only 14.4% reported that they had children who required care after 6.00pm. No schools or pre-school reported offering care after 6.00pm.

Out of School Provision

Table 8: Percentage of out of school provision available before 8am and after 6pm

	Out of School Provision		Holiday Provision	
	Providers	Places	Providers	Places
Before 8am	45.7%	50.3%	44.1%	39.5%
After 6pm	10.5%	8.5%	11.7%	11.4%

Source: DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL (2016), Early Years and Childcare Service

There are seven providers running weekend clubs and a further 68 childminders who are open at weekends. There are also 53 childminders who report providing overnight care across Devon.

Sufficiency

39.8% of providers reported that they had children who required care before 8.00am compared to only 33.9% of providers offering care at this time. 14.4% of providers reported that they had children who required care after 6.00pm compared to only 9.1% of providers offering this. This suggests that more provision is needed.

Day nurseries and childminders are more likely to offer care before 8.00am and after 6.00pm and are able to offer care more flexibly therefore if parents want this type of care they will tend to use these providers. More parents want before school provision rather than after school provision. Childminders are more likely to offer flexible care and can more easily offer care at weekends. Day nurseries that also have their own premises may be more likely to run Saturday clubs.

Devon County Council will be considering funding two-, three- and four-year-old places at weekends and bank holidays over the coming year.

Irregular Hours

Care for irregular hours refers to the need for parents to access a different number of hours of care each week e.g. 10 hours care one week, 20 hours care the following week. These are often parents who work for an agency, have zero hours contracts or work shift patterns.

26.8% of day care and childminders responding to the Annual Survey of Providers 2016 reported that they had children who required care for irregular hours with day nurseries and childminders more likely to report this. This has increased from 23.1% in 2015.

Devon County Council will consider how the funding process can better accommodate the needs of parents that work irregular hours.

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 conduct Childcare Sufficiency Hot Spots meetings to discuss the supply and demand of childcare
- Carry out the Annual Survey of Providers in January 2017
- Develop Early Years Excellence for All to assess quality of provision and support those providers of low quality
- Encourage more providers to open for longer hours
- Explore how school sites and buildings can be used outside of term times
- Encourage childminders to operate on non-domestic premises
- Consider how early years education funding can be provided on bank holidays and at weekends
- Introduce the Citizens Portal for parents to check eligibility for two-year-olds from September 2016
- Increase the take-up of the places and hours by eligible two-year-olds
- Increase the take-up of the Early Years Pupil Premium
- Increase the take-up of Free School Meals in school nurseries
- Review processes so that Devon County Council can fund flexibly and meet the needs of parents working atypical and irregular hours.
- Work with schools on the 'right to request' and capture information on school run childcare that is not registered.

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 qualified staff
- The announcement of a national funding formula and new funding rates
- The impact of the national living wage, pensions and universal credit on childcare businesses.
- Planning for the extension of the entitlement to 30 hours of free early education and childcare for working parents from September 2017 – partnerships between providers and rural sparsity will be particular challenges.

2015/16



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